



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

2001-2010

BOOK 14 | VOLUME 3

Historical Papers and Documents

ADDRESSES AND SPEECHES

Inaugural Address of President Arroyo, January 20, 2001

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

[Delivered at Our Lady of EDSA Shrine, Mandaluyong on January 20, 2001]

In all humility, I accept the Presidency of the Republic.

I do so with both trepidation and a sense of awe.

Trepidation, because it is now, as the Good Book says, a time to heal and a time to build. The task is formidable, so I pray that we will all be one – one in our priorities, one in our values and commitments, and one because of Edsa 2001.

A sense of awe, because the Filipino has done it again on the hallowed ground of Edsa.

People Power and the oneness of will and vision have made a new beginning possible. I cannot but recall at this point, therefore, Ninoy Aquino's words:

"I have carefully weighed the virtues and the faults of the Filipino, and I have come to the conclusion that he is worth dying for."

As we break from the past in our quest for a new Philippines, the unity, the Filipino's sense of history, and his unshakeable faith in the Almighty that prevailed in EDSA '86 and EDSA 2001 will continue to guide and inspire us.

I am certain that Filipinos of unborn generations will look back with pride to EDSA 2001, just as we look back with pride to Mactan, the Katipunan and other revolts, Bataan and Corregidor, and EDSA '86.

I am certain that pride will reign supreme as they recall the heroism and sacrifices and prayers of Jaime Cardinal Sin, former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, the legislators who fought the good fight in Congress, the leaders whose principles were beyond negotiation, the witnesses in the impeachment trial who did not count the cost of testifying, the youth and students who walked out of their classes to be here at EDSA, the generals in the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police, and the Filipino out there who stood up to be counted in these troubled times.

The Filipino, crises and all, is truly worth living and dying for.

Ngunit saan tayo tutungo mula rito?

Jose Rizal, the first to articulate self-determination in a free society, provides the answer.

Rizal counseled the Filipino to lead a life of commitment. "He must think national, go beyond self."

"A stone is worthless," Rizal wrote, "if it is not part of an edifice."

We are the stones, and the Philippines is our edifice.

On many occasions I have given my views on what our program of government should be. This is not the time or place to repeat them all. However, I can tell you that they converge on four core beliefs.

1. We must be bold in our national ambitions, so that our challenge must be that within this decade, we will win the fight against poverty.
2. We must improve moral standards in government and society, in order to provide a strong foundation for good governance.
3. We must change the character of our politics, in order create fertile ground for true reforms. Our politics of personality and patronage must give way to a new politics of party programs and process of dialogue with the people.
4. Finally, I believe in leadership by example. We should promote solid traits such as work ethic and a dignified lifestyle, matching action to rhetoric, performing rather than grandstanding.

The first of my core beliefs pertains to the elimination of poverty. This is our unfinished business from the past. It dates back to the creation of our Republic, whose seeds were sown in the revolution launched in 1896 by the plebeian Andres Bonifacio. It was an unfinished revolution, for to this day, poverty remains our national problem. We need to complete what Andres Bonifacio began. The ultimate solution to poverty has both a political and an economic aspect.

Let me first talk about the political aspect.

In doing so, I will refer to one of my core beliefs, that of the need for new politics. Politics and political power as traditionally practiced and used in the Philippines are among the roots of the social and economic inequities that characterize our national problems. Thus, to achieve true reforms, we need to outgrow our traditional brand of politics based on patronage and personality. Traditional politics is the politics of the status quo. It is a structural part of our problem.

We need to promote a new politics of true party programs and platforms, of an institutional process of dialogue with our citizenry. This new politics is the politics of genuine reform. It is a structural part of the solution.

We have long accepted the need to level the playing field in business and economics. Now, we must accept the need to level the playing field in politics as well. We have long aspired to be a world class economy. Now, we must also aspire to develop a world class political system, one in tune with the 21st Century.

The world of the 21st Century that our youth will inherit is truly a new economy, where relentless forces such as capital market flows and advances in information and communications technology create both peril and opportunity.

To tap the opportunities, we need an economic philosophy of transparency and private enterprise, for these are the catalysts that nurture the entrepreneurial spirit to be globally competitive.

To extend the opportunities to our rural countryside, we must create a modernized and socially equitable agricultural sector.

To address the perils, we must give a social bias to balance our economic development, and these are embodied in safety nets for sectors affected by globalization, and safeguards for our environment.

To ensure that our gains are not dissipated through corruption, we must improve moral standards. As we do so, we create fertile ground for good governance based on a sound moral foundation, a philosophy of transparency, and an ethic of effective implementation.

Considering the divisions of today, our commitment will entail a lot of sacrifices among us all, as we work to restore the dignity and pre-eminence of the Filipino.

Join me, therefore, as we begin to tear down the walls that divide. Let us build an edifice of peace, progress, and economic stability.

People Power has dramatized the Filipino's capacity for greatness.

People of People Power, I ask for your support and prayers. Together, we will light the healing and cleansing flame.

This we owe to the Philippines. This we owe to every Filipino.

Thank you and may the Good Lord bless us all.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Vin d'Honneur Speech of President Arroyo on Deepening Democracy and Competitiveness, January 23, 2001

**Vin d'Honneur Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On deepening democracy and competitiveness**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, January 23, 2001]

For the second time in 15 years, democracy in the Philippines was lifted up to the light of global scrutiny and was found remarkably, singularly, swift yet decisive, prudent and vigorous, bloodless yet uncompromising. The political crisis that culminated in the dramatic events of the past week was a political crisis that sent the economy into a downspiral. And in a new century where democracy and the market have become inextricably linked, where democracy and the market have become the truest currencies, the political consequences of economic decline are dire and unequivocal. This is true for the nation as it is true for the rest of the world.

In the last few months, we have seen democracy in action and in defense of the market. During my administration, I hope to invigorate the market in order to deepen democracy. Democracy and the market will be the guiding principles of my domestic and foreign policies.

Today, the Philippines faces several realities that characterize its international and regional environment to which we have to respond in order to achieve our goals. The first reality is that China, Japan and the United States and their relationships will be a determining influence in the security situation and economic evolution of East Asia. Second, more and more Philippine foreign decisions have to be made in the context of ASEAN. Third, the international Islamic community will continue to be important for the Philippines. Fourth, the coming years will see the growing importance of multilateral and inter-regional organizations to promote common interest. Fifth, the defense of the nation's sovereignty and the protection of its environment and natural resources can be carried out only to the extent that it asserts its rights over its maritime territory and get others to respect those rights. Sixth, the country's economic growth will continue to be friendly to both domestic and foreign direct investment. Seventh, a country like the Philippines can benefit most quickly from international tourism. And eighth, overseas Filipinos will continue to be recognized for their critical role in the country's economic and social stability.

These realities have been with us for varying lengths of time. As in other matters of state, my administration will resist the temptation to take adventurous initiatives and directions for the sake of appearing to be innovative.

In the Department of Foreign Affairs, I shall avoid the practice of using ambassadorships as political concession. Non-career appointments will only be made at the ambassadorial level and those who will be appointed will be selected on a basis of competence alone. In this regard, I would like to announce the appointment of Mr. Roberto Romulo as Senior Adviser on International Competitiveness. Bobby Romulo, known to most of you as former Secretary of Foreign Affairs of President Ramos and Chairman of the e-ASEAN Task Force, will assist me in developing policies related to enhancing the Philippines ability to harness the full benefits of participating in the global new economy. His brief includes foreign policy, international trade, finance and investment as well as information and communications technology strategy.

I have also designated former President Fidel V. Ramos as my personal and special representative with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the World Economic Forum in Davos. President Ramos has also agreed to continue representing me and the country in other important international events.

And inasmuch as immediately securing the support of our friends and allies is critical, I am asking the following distinguished members of Philippine society to serve as my special envoys: former Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco, Special Envoy to China, Japan and Korea; former Secretary Rizalino Navarro, Special Envoy to Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam as well as Australia and New Zealand; Mr. Paul Dominguez, Special Envoy to Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia; and, former Ambassador Raul Rabe, Special Envoy to the Americas and the Organization of Islamic Conference; and, Ambassador Cesar Bautista, Special Envoy to Europe.

Your Excellencies, we are indeed faced with a remarkable opportunity to advance the cause of the Filipino people in the new millennium. Under this administration, I am committed to build on what has been accomplished – the democracy that was worked for and fought for by President Aquino, the competitiveness that was worked on by President Ramos; and I hope to move the country forward deepening democracy, deepening the democratic process, deepening our competitiveness and bringing prosperity to the greatest number of our people.

I ask you, therefore, to raise your glasses in a toast for the good future of the Philippines and the friendship between the Philippines and the countries that you all represent.

Mabuhay!

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

Address of President Arroyo on the signing of the Solid Waste Management Law, January 26, 2001

**Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the signing of the Solid Waste Management Law**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, January 26, 2001]

**THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT:
ADDRESSING THE GARBAGE CRISIS**

When I spoke to our people after my oath taking at the EDSA Shrine, I said that the world of the 21st century that our youth will inherit is truly a new economy, where relentless forces such as capital market flows and advances in information and communications technology create both peril and opportunity. I said that to address the perils, we must give a social bias to our economic development. And these are embodied in safety nets for sectors affected by globalization and safeguards for our environment. That was in my oath-taking speech.

And it is with distinct pleasure today, that the first piece of legislation that I will be signing as President is one of those safeguards for our environment. Indeed, the new law that we are signing today symbolizes the reforms we would like to implement. These reforms must produce as much as possible immediate and concrete benefits in the daily lives of our people, because there are so many expectations and so little time. Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the Solid Waste Management Act, deals with the increasing garbage that results from our rapid urbanization and economic activities.

I am glad to sign this landmark legislation that seeks to address the alarming problems we have over our solid wastes. By instituting mechanisms of waste minimization, resource recovery, appropriate collection and transport services, and environmentally-sound treatment and disposal, the new law seeks to address the major causes of the current garbage crisis in Metro Manila, and to arrest similar problems throughout the country.

Indeed, the past years have been replete with destructive effects of poor refuse management in a highly-urbanized center. Uncollected garbage thrown into esteros, rivers and other waterways, or even dumped in streets, or in open areas, which become a constant nuisance.

The tragedy at Payatas last year taught us this painful lesson. Even more tragic is the fact that the persons most vulnerable to environmental disasters are the poor who are exposed to pollution, the unhealthy become ill more easily and more seriously. Their inability to access medical care and medicines multiplies their problems. When viewed in this light, environmental abuse becomes an issue of justice and equity.

Environmentalism promotes just and equitable access to resources. It safeguards the Constitutional right of our citizens to a healthy ecology and to live in harmony with nature.

The Solid Waste Management Act or R.A. 9003 highlights features, which lend better hope on how we should address our problems on solid waste. These are some of the features:

First, it stresses the importance of environmentally sound techniques of waste minimization, such as but not limited to resource conservation, segregation at source, recycling, resource recovery, reuse and composting;

Second, it provides for the mandatory segregation of waste at the household level, with collection vehicles to have the appropriate compartments of sorted wastes or separate collection schedules for specific types of wastes;

Third, it prohibits the open dumping of solid wastes and the establishment of sanitary landfills for final disposal;

Fourth, it mandates the establishment of recycling centers at every barangay nationwide;

Fifth, it calls for the integration of solid waste management concerns in the school curriculum, starting at the elementary, high school and up to the tertiary level;

Sixth, it directs an inventory of existing markets for recycled materials and compost;

And, seventh, it requires the preparation of ten-year solid waste management plans by all local government units.

This law also empowers local government units to effectively pursue their respective solid waste management systems in their area of jurisdiction, by providing them the needed policy and technical support. This includes the establishment of the Solid Waste Management Fund – I hope not another unfunded law, and the National Ecology Center, to provide fiscal incentives and funding assistance. I am thinking of our 190 billion-peso budget deficit, as well as training, consulting information training and networking services on solid waste management.

The implementation of this law is expected to significantly reduce the volume of waste residual for final disposal and thus, alleviate the pressures on the capacity of our sanitary landfill. It shall address major negative aspects of solid wastes, which will discourage a community's hosting of a landfill.

I am told that no other country in the world has adapted this integrated ecological approach – the solid waste management. Thus, I congratulate our Lady and Gentlemen in the head table, the authors and sponsors, and the other members of the legislature, as well as the national and local sectoral agencies, the non-government organizations (NGOs) and the concerned individuals who committed themselves to ecological waste management for pushing for the passage of the Solid Waste Management Act.

Through the National Solid Waste Management Commission, which this law creates, to be chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and with members from various government agencies, NGOs, the private sector and the media, I urge all of you to hasten the laws' urgent implementation.

Once again, I extend our gratitude to all members of Congress for their dedication and hard work. Indeed, our signing today augurs well I hope, for good relations between the executive and the legislative branches of government. I feel this relationship is very important for the Administration to cultivate, for the Legislature is an important stakeholder in our people's victory along with other strategic sectors like civil society, the basic sectors and the business community.

My past good relations with Congress have allowed me to observe the hard work and dedication of many individual congressmen and senators. Some of them are high profile, many are low profile especially, congressmen from the farther parts of the Philippines. But nonetheless, I have seen their work to be substantive. This is why I have named several of them to the Cabinet for instance, Senator Raul Roco who will be the Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports, is well known to all of us and certainly, is not of the mold that is derisively called "trapo". Congressman Simeon Datumanong and Pantaleon Alvarez of Mindanao – who I see here today – who will be Secretaries respectively of Public Works, and Transportation and Communication, apparently have raised some eyebrows among leaders of the business community. But I believe that is because they are new faces, relatively unknown in the centers of financial power. But isn't that what we are also all about? We need new faces, and we need the face of Mindanao in the Cabinet. This has been the clamor of that long-neglected island, and they don't want token positions in the Cabinet. They want positions that really count – and for Mindanao, the positions that really count are the infrastructure agencies.

Let me say then, that even if there are questions as there are questions raised about them in Makati, largely because they are relatively unknown entities, there is grand euphoria in Mindanao because finally, Mindanao is in the mainstream of the Cabinet, in fact, in the very heart of the Cabinet.

I have not yet named my Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources and that is because for agencies like this, there are many sectors that need to be consulted, more departments like NEDA – you know, which is not so crucially and immediately important to the basic sectors. And so, I am making haste slowly because, when finally the Secretary of Environment is appointed, I want the approval to be almost universal.

In fact, up to yesterday, the approval of my other Cabinet members was almost universal. It was only yesterday when I started getting the criticisms about so many congressmen in the Cabinet, and that's why I felt it was because of Sim Datumanong and Bebot Alvarez. And that is why I am making a special appeal: please give Mindanao a chance.

And so, I am very happy that even as I raid Congress and bring out of Congress these two gentlemen and several others that I have appointed in the past, let me say that I am very grateful to Congress for the laws such as this that they have enacted, and I look forward to other bill-signing ceremonies that will realize our dream for a better life for the Filipino people.

Let us work together to improve the quality of life not only of ourselves in this generation, but of our future generations. And only if we stay united in instituting the needed reforms in our society will we succeed in giving our people what they have long deserve.

Thank you.

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the presentation of the Congressional Commission on Labor Report, February 10, 2001

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the presentation of the Congressional Commission on Labor Report**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, February 10, 2001]

**RAISING LABOR PRODUCTIVITY
THROUGH EDUCATION AND ICT**

In behalf of the Executive Branch and the Filipino people, I am pleased to receive the report of the Congressional Commission on Labor. As I understand it, this is the first draft because under the new dispensation, we have to review what we have inherited from previous work. This important document puts together not only the recommendations for labor and business, but also the roles that the Executive and Legislative Branches must play, to attain our common goal of swift economic recovery and growth.

I recall that in my meeting with the Labor Solidarity Movement last January 25, I listened to the concerns of labor. I also asked labor to sustain the unity it had shown in the last four months. Then, in my meeting with the business sector, I emphasized unity again as we pooled our energies together to revive our economy. With the assurances of cooperation from both sectors that I have received, this Congressional Report on Labor will serve as a draft framework that can be betted among our different stakeholders.

I have said many times – including in my own speech after the oath-taking – that in the new economy, we need transparency and a level playing field in order for the Filipino entrepreneur to compete successfully in the face of the global order. Transparency and a level playing field must also be enjoyed however by labor. And I also said that in the new economy, because we have inherited poverty from the past, we need to have a sectoral and social bias in our guiding development plan. And this includes safety nets for sectors affected by globalization, and, certainly labor is among those sectors that need safety nets.

The Philippines can compete best in a setting of transparency and private enterprise. The proper business of business is business. Whereas government's role is to ensure that a stable and predictable environment both for business and labor, and if the field is leveled for all players in all sectors, then, there would be no room for protecting vested interests. Neither will there be cronies who will enjoy presidential favors. As we rectify the mistakes of the past, all these practices – cronyism, vested interest protection – must be swept away.

As I understand it, the Labor Commission Report emphasizes that the creation of jobs, and an increase in national productivity are the country's most urgent concerns. These twin goals constitute also the basic mandate of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

Smooth and effective employee-employer relations are offshoots of the more important goals of increasing productivity, generating more jobs to keep up with our targeted productivity rate, and considering our workers are human beings and not just as economic resources. I have no doubt that DOLE, under Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, will see to it that the department will focus closely on its mandate.

Raising productivity ultimately means using the tools of information and communications technology (ICT) and increasing our capital base. This means that we will look closely into our available resources and identify all possible sources of capital. To increase our capital base, we must increase our savings rate, which is presently ranked as one of the lowest in the Southeast Asia. And that is why we are seeking to have a smaller budget deficit, increasing savings by increasing revenues. We must endeavor to solve this perennial problem of a low savings rate, so that we can source our capital funds from the Philippines itself and not keep borrowing from abroad. We have to

make our business climate more attractive to potential investors, given this fiercely competitive global environment today. Again, the climate of attractiveness is a climate that needs transparency and a level playing field.

We need a cycle that starts with an environment conducive to growth that creates confidence, which in turn attracts more investments that enhance the healthy environment for the creation of jobs.

We are starting to regain the trust of investors. We have arrested the free fall of the peso and the stock market is starting to rebound. These constitute the silver lining in our dark economic clouds. Because the dark economic clouds certainly are still there, we are still faced with a multitude of problems. These multitudes of problems include being hobbled by a Php225-billion deficit – the largest deficit in the entire history of our economy. That is why we need to tighten our belts significantly, to reduce this deficit even while government increases efforts to raise funds. We have raised our BIR and Customs targets. Customs is groaning that we increased our target from Php100 billion to Php120 billion, thus, they cannot leave no stone unturned, none of us can leave any stone unturned to check smuggling and other causes of inefficient revenue collection.

If you hear about our being able to conk Congress legislate some relief like tax exemption and the allowances of teachers, or like small increases in the pay of those who are killed in action, this is because their budgetary implication is relatively insignificant. But when we talk about large budgetary implications, then we have to really consider that this is maybe counterproductive in the long run, because the ballooning deficit will raise interest rates, reduce our competitiveness, reduce the viability of the business environment and will cause loss of jobs. So it is not easy for those in government to be able to work on a climate where we can create jobs.

It is easy to mouth the standard first prescriptions for a laggard economy, reducing spending and raising revenues, but these are really gargantuan tasks that require the full cooperation of government and civil society. Thus, I appeal for the full cooperation not only of the bureaucracy but of all our citizens as well.

Raising capital also means improving the quality of our human capital, our workforce, and preparing ourselves for the quantity and quality of manpower that will be necessary for our future growth. What we need to do now is to give the highest priority to education skills, training, and, may I add, information and communications technology or ICT in our national budget.

If there is something that I think might not have been thoroughly addressed in the Labor Com Report, to my mind it is that I think that we are in the 21st century, we must recognize the tremendous, almost infinite opportunities provided for employment by ICT. And, we must also recognize the almost infinite contributions to productivity that new ways of producing, selling, and working provided by ICT can bring about. So ICT will create both jobs and higher productivity. And I think that is something that is very important to address, as we vet this Labor Com Report.

We continue of course to recognize the invaluable help that our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have rendered to boost our economy. And while we put together the measures that will enable us to be back on the growth mode, and therefore, enable our OFWs to find jobs here where their families are, we will modernize our assistance to them as they work abroad. All these are urgent concerns.

I thank the Labor Commission that even while this administration tries to resolve all these issues, this report has been drafted to provide inputs to our economic road map. I view the submission of this report as a first draft, but a signal from Congress that both Houses intend to participate actively, in the crafting of policies that will enable our economic goals to be attained. In turn, I am asking Secretary Dante Canlas of NEDA, and of course Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas to review the recommendations in this report – to see what can be adopted in our new National Agenda.

In the spirit of true cooperation and in recognition of our shared aspirations for economic recovery and growth, I laud all those involved in this effort. I thank Congresswoman Luistro and all of her predecessors, I thank Senator Honasan and all of his predecessors, this Labor Commission Report has been the fruit of many fathers and mothers because there had been reorganizations in the House and in the Senate, and so I thank them and all who have done their work as chairmen of the Committees on Labor of the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as all

the members of the Congressional Commission. They worked hard to produce this report, and I assure them that this fruit of their labors – though it will not be totally accepted in its first pass – is being received and will be given due attention by the Government and, I'm sure, by civil society so that we can make this yet another venue of what we said should be part of new politics, the politics of institutionalized consultation with the people.

Maraming salamat at magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Annual Meeting of the Philippine Economic Society, March 26, 2001

Speech

of

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

President of the Philippines

At the Annual Meeting of the Philippine Economic Society

[Delivered at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City, March 26, 2001]

**PUSHING FOR ECONOMIC REFORMS
AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

On our 40th anniversary, I feel at home in this gathering as a fish in water, because I am a bonafide economist and I do treasure those years between 1987 and 1992 when I was a member of the Board of Directors of this professional group, whose membership is a list of who's who among the country's economists. It is only when I was elected senator that I discontinued sitting in the Board. But even in the Senate, my main legislative work was economic legislation. And now that I am President, you and I understand each other on the economic imperative that we must confront in this new government and in this new millennium.

When I took my oath of office as President of the Philippines, I said that we must be bold in our national ambitions so that our challenge must be within this decade. We will win the fight against poverty. To make this happen, we must recognize that the world that I inherited is truly the new economy, where capital market and information technology are forces that create both peril and opportunity.

To tap opportunities we must adopt an economic philosophy of transparency and free enterprise, for these create the entrepreneurial spirit to be globally competitive. To extend the opportunities to our rural countryside, we must create a modernized and socially equitable agricultural sector. To address the perils, we must give a social bias to balance economic development in the form of structural reforms, safety nets for globalization and safeguards for our environment. Finally, to preserve our gains against corruption and waste, we must improve moral standards in government and in society. In doing so, we promote good governance based on a sound moral foundation, a philosophy of transparency and ethics of effective implementation. Thus, we shall make market reliance and good governance, the twin pillars of our social and economic policy strategy. We will adhere to policies and institutions that work and discard those that had failed.

A quick look at the past offers many useful lessons. The last half of the past centuries have many fundamental changes. Many of the former colonies won their political independence from the large industrial countries after the Second World War.

Winning economic independence, however, was elusive for many. The exceptions are, setting aside Japan, the four Asian tigers: Hongkong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea. They became exporters of manufactured products on a global scale, beginning in the sixties. They achieved full employment and caught up with the real per capita income level of the industrial country. The Asian Tigers became models of successful outward-looking and export-led industrialization.

The 20th century also witnessed the collapse of central planning. At the start of the nineties, the former Soviet Union broke up, politically, that meant the end of the Cold War. On the economic side, it proved that qualities based on free enterprise and market reliance were superior to central planning. Then came the latter part of the nineties. In May of 1997, Thailand's baht was devalued. That ignited the contagion which resulted in shock devaluation of currencies in East and Southeast Asia. The peso, over a period of three months after the crisis erupted, lost about forty percent of its value as against the US dollar. As exchange rate volatility in the region continued, economic contraction set in.

The Asian crisis brought out many helpful but painful lessons. It cannot be denied that the crisis was a question of governance, too. Political factors, greatly influenced the channeling of bank loans to large enterprises. When the crisis simmered down, the investigation removed cronies and behest loans written all over the ledgers of the failed banks.

Many observers agreed that the Philippines, along with Taiwan and Singapore, was not as hardly hit by the Asian crisis as others. The non-performing loans of the Philippine banks for example were nothing compared to those in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and South Korea. And so, it proved disappointing to many that when the recovery emerged in the region, the Philippines own turned out to be mild.

In the aftermath of EDS A, the reasons are becoming quite clear, the reasons pertain to governance. That governance was not consistent and orderly. That, actions did not match rhetoric. That public favor is largely flowed not to the poor and helpless, but rather to the powerful and influential. That was the wrong way to confront the challenges of the 21st century. We cannot raise the quality of life of our citizens if we do not reject plunderous governance. We are committed to addressing the social and economic challenges of our country, and let me therefore, spell out our Administration's policy directions for the immediate and distant future.

Starting with our fiscal policy choices, we are committed to balancing the financial position of the public sector by the year 2004. At the center of these efforts is reducing the budget deficit of the national government to 3.8% of the GNP this year, from four percent last year. The past administration, in two years of large deficit spending, left government finances in a precarious state. When the government borrows from the public to finance its deficit, it absorbs funds that otherwise should go to private investments. This is not sustainable. It is private investments and equipment that raise productivity and create jobs.

In pursuit of a goal for a balanced budget, I have issued an executive order that mandates pending cuts in government. Luxury vehicles are the first to go. In addition, I have ordered the review of major capital projects of government agencies. The past administration left another unwanted legacy... government projects assisted by the Official Development Assistance were poorly implemented. The disbursements created new laws on joint and other unnecessary tie-ups that could have been released to other valuable uses. We will correct this situation with the ongoing review by inter-agency committees of the NEDA Board which I chair.

On the revenue side, we are starting with improving the tax collection machinery of the government, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. The current state of our tax administration needs fixing. Potential tax revenues are not being realized, instead, we see that small fixed income earners carry a disproportionate share of the burden of taxation. We also need a comprehensive review of our tax system, including special fiscal incentives. Studies indicated a sizeable amount of taxes being foregone as a result of tax breaks, tax holidays and exemptions from customs duties. These foregone revenues must be cut and reduced over time. Only by correcting the deficiencies in our tax system can we make adequate investments and improve on infrastructure like roads, bridges, schools and hospitals which are all in need of support.

In the near term, the most effective way of addressing the needs of the disadvantaged Filipinos is the tax and spending policies of the government. In this regard, we will be a prudent steward of public funds to obtain a peso worth of results for every peso that is spent. We will not use fiscal policy for short term, pump-priming measures. We will use it to protect our core values. To name a few, these are in information and communications technology; skilled intensive service industries like tourism; safety nets for sectors affected by globalization; safeguards for our environment; agricultural modernization and, land reform. In short, our budget deficit program will be a responsible one. As we will try to balance the budget, we protect our fundamental's priority. We will resist shortsighted solutions that will impair our long-term goal of growth of equity.

I am asking you to support our budget deficit program, fellow economists. With this, interest rates should decline. This is already happening as seen in the recent behavior of treasury bill rates. Cash decline will unleash forces in the private sector for investment which will ignite productivity improvements. In consequence, income and employment will grow. As for monetary policy, we respect the independence of the Central Bank. We will not compromise the Central Bank's efforts to reduce interest rates and exchange rate volatility. We will support Central Bank's efforts

by not allowing large deficit in the government budget to persist. We will also assist the Central Bank in securing efficient finances intermediation. We must get out of the watch-list of money laundering countries as soon as possible. We can do this by ensuring the passage of amendments to the Central Bank Act and the General Banking Act. With strong banks and a developed capital market, we can expect new savings instruments to emerge. Families are encouraged to raise their savings, enabling enterprises to fund increasingly their investment projects.

The best means for reducing poverty and providing safety nets for sectors affected by globalization is through investments, education and trainings. To begin with, we will invest in the increasing quality of basic education, especially in science and mathematics. But what we have learned in the lower grades is not enough. Rapid technological changes and globalization compel us to prepare workers for the long-term through lifelong education and training. As we do so, we must equalize access and expand the opportunities of the poor, to acquire the kind of education they want. We have piloted early childhood development, so that children from poor families are not disadvantaged, when they enter first grade. We will find the means, or at least pilot projects, that can be expanded and eventually implemented in a national scale. As for higher education, this must be led by the private sector. Instead of government subsidies which will remain modest, we must start thinking in terms of educational loan programs, so that entry into colleges and universities is not determined solely by family incomes. But we will increase government support to research and development, and science and technology. Our current level of growth and development is the result of fast technological choices. Technological developments have not been actively pursued. Our Administration intends to correct this. As a starter, I formed a Cabinet cluster on information and communications technology. This, I believe will help spur public and private investments in advanced technology. It is advanced technology, especially information and communications technology, as it creates high-paying jobs of the future and raise the quality of life of every Filipino.

World technological progress and productivity rises will be a boom to our exports. To sustain exports growth, we will be firm in our support for international trade based on fair and predictable rules. We will continue to take advantage of existing and emerging regional trading arrangements, to achieve our goals of export diversification, and opening new market destinations for Filipino exporters. The value added from our manufactured exports must be increased, and we should reduce our heavy dependence on a few country destinations. Through trade reforms, our micro-enterprises and small and medium enterprises will be able to purchase least cost capital equipment, raw materials, and components that are available in the world market. This would bring us near to full employment since small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have immense potentials for job generation.

All these efforts are meant to promote economic and social security. But we must do more, specifically with regards to our systems of social protection and help in medical insurance. The vision of universal coverage remains. In this regard, we will assist households to raise their savings so that they can share in the cost of expanding the coverage and benefits, from this social protection scheme. One way to do this is to help families especially the poor, exercise responsible parenthood consistent with our cultural and religious values. We must equip the poor couples with the means to equip their children with the education and help needed to be productive. If this is not done, poverty will continue to be transmitted across generation.

Moreover, we will carry out targeted poverty alleviation programs as safety nets. We will pursue food security for the poor. And as our budget resources improve, we will be able to provide temporary subsidies to some of their non-food basic needs. As we do so, we will open up opportunities for the poor to acquire employable skills and carry out livelihood activities. This is meant to reduce their dependence on government subsidies and ultimately be made responsible for their own well-being. Furthermore, we will pursue sustainable development, anchored on sound natural resource management and safeguards for our environment. We will make sure that the standards of living of unborn, unrepresented generations are not diminished by the financial requirements of mending a damaged environment. These commitments demand a new kind of governance.

A highly-centralized government which act as a provider of all services is no longer appropriate. We will forge new partnership with the local government units and with organizations outside the government. We are committed to a full flowering of decentralization and devolution. Local governments are in most instances well positioned to respond to the diverse needs of their constituents. We shall also seek the support of the civil society in monitoring implementation of government projects. Meanwhile private businesses, guided by the price system are capable of providing the many goods and services, that individuals and families demand.

We are conscious of the fact that private enterprises lie at the heart of all modern economy. But the national government will be there to regulate and protect consumer interests when competition by many small firms is not viable. For example, this is true in the electric and water utilities. We will cut bureaucratic red tape and engage in market-friendly regulations. But we also expect private concessionaires to heed their contractor's obligations and not throw unreasonable demands at government. In addition, we will send in the legal division and administrative system to minimize corruption and ensure contractor performance.

Peace and order is the responsibility of government. It is a public good. Development will not take root if this public good is not delivered. I have thus called for a reconstruction of the peace process of the MILF and NDF and I ordered a suspension of offensive military operations in Mindanao and Southern Tagalog, so that peace talks can proceed. Since the guns are silent in Mindanao and Southern Tagalog, I have asked the military to mobilize their assets instead co help the PNP in the war against crime.

We are fortunate that the people as a whole are now more enlightened; that we have a broader middle class, and that People Power II provided fertile ground for the development of a national consensus. In national consensus, we have to be more socially progressive, to keep pace with the rest of the world. Thus, I remain hopeful of this time around, we have the right condition in place, and finally, to win the struggle against poverty if we work at it as a united, unified nation. In this connection, I enjoin all economists, all members of the Philippine Economic Society, to be a part of nation building. This is a moment of great responsibilities and of great possibilities that must not be taken lightly. Since we took office, we have seen positive movements in stocks, foreign exchange and treasury bills market, interest rates are declining, the peso is stabilizing, inflation rate is slowing down.

Moreover, the Supreme Court has ruled in my favor on the legitimacy of my assumption to the Presidency promoting political stability. This development benefits us all. Therefore, I ask you to support our twin strategies of market reliance and good governance starting with our austerity measures. Compliance of stock obligation is a good start on the part of private sector. If we continue to save and invest for the future we will be rewarded with expanding economic and social opportunities and continuing improvement in the quality of our lives. Filipinos have stood up against dictatorship and against immorality in government. Let us continue to do this in the forthcoming elections by voting for candidates who championed core Filipino values like democratic, honest and good governance. Go for the champions of good governance. Vote for the champs.

Thank you.

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the 7th Meeting of the e-ASEAN Task Force, April 20, 2001

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 7th Meeting of the e-ASEAN Task Force**

[Delivered at the Oakwood Premier, Ayala Center, April 20, 2001]

**e-ASEAN:
INTENSIFYING REGIONAL ICT DEVELOPMENT**

I would like to thank and congratulate the members of the e-ASEAN Task Force and its members for a job well done; and for the strategy that would define our place and role in the post-Cold War, post-ASEAN financial world crisis, and for helping us mold the e-ASEAN initiative forward. In particular, I would like to commend you on your work on the ASEAN framework agreement on information and communications technology (ICT) products, services and investments. With this agreement, we have signaled to the world that here in Southeast Asia, there is commitment of the highest level to undertake the necessary steps to ensure prosperity in the global new economy.

I strongly support the Task Force's strategy of complementing policy advocacy with pilot projects. Pilot projects are important to gain widespread support among the citizens of ASEAN for this important initiative. We need to be able to demonstrate that today, even while the infrastructure has not been fully developed, ICT can make a difference in the daily lives of the people of Southeast Asia. I'm informed that the Task Force has already endorsed about 20 pilot projects in information infrastructure development, e-commerce, e-society and e-government. While this is a good start, I hope that by the time the ASEAN Summit in November, if held, there will be more e-ASEAN endorsed pilot projects. In particular, I would like to see more pilot projects in the field of infrastructure development and e-government.

I'm aware that what I'm asking is not easy, particularly in the period when dot coms and text messages have lost their luster and venture capitals are increasingly hard to find, but I have faith in your creativity and your dedication to the task. I know that you will work hard to ensure the continued success of the e-ASEAN initiatives. I am convinced, that the success of the e-ASEAN initiatives to date is largely due to the strength of public-private partnerships that is engendered, and I hope that will continue.

The Task Force has succeeded because it became a mechanism that allowed the private and public sectors to bring their respective comparative advantages together in preparing for the future. This in turn guaranteed that our e-ASEAN initiatives would be responsive to the real world demands, and not to what policy makers or academicians believe the market needs. The ASEAN leaders were indeed wise in creating a task force that is private sector-driven. And, as we move forward with the e-ASEAN initiatives, we must ensure that the private sector is meaningfully engaged in the process of creating e-ASEAN.

The benefits derived from public-private partnership in ICT development are also something that I hope we are able to reach in the Philippines. On numerous occasions in the past, I have spoken on the importance of ICT for the future of the Philippines. I have said that if the Philippines is to prosper in the 21st century, it must find its proper niche in the new economy. I am happy that the private sector has responded to the challenge of creating the new economy by organizing various bodies like the I-Tech and participation by the private sector to the Digital Philippines Foundation. The Digital Philippines Foundation, which has as its leading members business entities and the largest industry associations in the Philippines, the ICT sector, which aims to contribute towards national development, and the promotion of ICT utilization in all sectors of Philippine society, and the promotion of Philippine ICT worldwide. It supplements the work that has been started by the I-Tech, which is what we have inherited from the previous administration and which we continued to do today.

On the part of government, I have created the Cabinet Cluster on ICT, to ensure swift and coordinated government action on ICT concerns. This Cabinet Cluster which is composed of secretaries of relevant government departments will be the lead government body in ICT policy formulation and implementation. This Cabinet Cluster will also harmonize and coordinate all public ICT initiatives, and will attend to cross-cutting issues that cannot be handled by specific government agencies.

In formulating the new economic development strategy and plans for the Philippines, we must focus on the following: first, enhancing the country's information infrastructure; second, creating and enabling legal and regulatory environment; and third, developing human capital.

For a country like the Philippines, developing the information infrastructure is critical to Our future competitiveness. For this reason, our administration, my administration must pursue as a priority the building of the information infrastructure, or a network of broad-band multipurpose networks that will provide Filipinos affordable access to information and communication services to and from anywhere in the Philippines at anytime. Admittedly, this is a herculean task and we are working at a great disadvantage. Teledensity in this country is low even compared to the leading states in the region. Telephone distribution remains uneven throughout the Philippines. Filipinos in major cities and municipalities have more access in infocom services than their compatriots in the rural areas. But the good news is, we already know the right quality to roll out infocom's network are in the deregulation and liberalization of the telecom market, which clearly shows that these are the best policies to ensure the rapid and cost-effective delivery of communication services. More Filipinos get more telephones now than a decade ago under a competitive telecom markets than during numerous decades of monopoly. The market, however, is not a cure-all and does not address all issues. Of the 6.8 million telephone lines available to Filipinos last year, only 2.8 million lines were subscribed. Affordability of telephone services, particularly among low-income household living in the rural areas accounts for these deserving situations. It is, therefore, important that we look into how we can establish and use a universal access fund to ensure affordable infocom services in rural communities.

We must also seriously explore the concept of community-based and shared infocom resources, to bridge the information gap between the urban and rural areas. Already, our Department of Transportation and Communications is pursuing a strategy of broadening popular access to basic information and communication services through community e-centers or telecenters as they are popularly known. Unlike existing public call centers, these community e-centers will offer a range of services to local communities including communications facilities like phone, fax, voice messaging and e-mail, and business services ranging from photocopying, word processing and printing services. Eventually these community e-centers will become one-stop shops for online services for citizens. In the future, various transactions in government agencies such as filing of taxes, licensing applications and other similar transactions will be undertaken in these community e-centers. In the more populated areas, the e-centers can provide such ancillary services as Cyber Café, ATM services and other services pertinent to electronic commerce transactions. In remote areas, community e-centers can also function as strategic information bases where farmers for instance can access basic data, statistics and information on weather and meteorological forecasts, farm gate prices, transport schedules and other pertinent information. In order to ensure sustainability, these community e-centers must be managed by local community organizations, cooperatives or entrepreneurs. After the initial establishment of the community e-learning center, the role of the initiating parties will shift to local portal and content development, awareness, creation and capacity-building. I am convinced that the private sector and civil society must play a vital role if these e-centers initiative is to succeed. The establishment of community e-centers will also be facilitated by technological and business development that sees the blurring of the traditional boundaries that made cable TV, broadcasting, telephoning, satellite and new services distinct. Convergence or the coming together of consumer devices such as the telephone, television and personal computer can help make advance infocom services widely available ensuring that the benefits of the information society are eventually availed of by the majority of the Filipinos instead of only by a few.

For government, convergence implies a challenge. As it involves a process of market and industry structuring leading to the emergence of a single economic market based on digitization and networking, the integration of the content and information industries will mean radical changes. It will require a paradigm shift on how policy is made and industry is regulated. Much of the existing laws on communications were enacted with the assumption of single network, for specific services. It is therefore important that our laws are made more relevant to current economic and technological realities. Towards this goal, I will transmit to the next Congress as a priority measure, a

comprehensive convergence bill that will define the principle, qualities and administrative and regulatory framework that will allow digital convergence to flourish in this country. An important principle that will be inscribed in this proposed convergence law is competition.

Convergence can lead to full service companies that are even bigger than the ones that are currently existing. In the Philippines we are already seeing the merger of two leading cable companies, the telecom companies buying into a TV station, and telecom companies offering convergence services. While this development is in response to market developments, government must ensure that the emergent 'entities will not engage in anti-competitive practices. The proposed convergence law that I will transmit to our legislature will also include the creation of a government agency that will define policy for the ICT sector, as well as a regulatory body for this sector. The creation of a Department of Information Technology and Communications and the reorganization of the National Telecommunications Commission into a National Infocom Commission are important elements in our national new economy strategy. Beyond building the Philippine information structure and creating a policy and regulatory environment supportive of the new economy, the government should also focus on human development.

The demand for technology-savvy knowledge workers have increased as ICT continue to penetrate and transform organization of market in the workplace. This poses an enormous challenge to all education institutions, to be able to adopt both the contents and the method of the training that they provide in order to prepare their students for the digital economy. I am not talking here only of computer literacy but the development of higher order formative skills such as abstracting, planning, critical thinking and problem solving. For in the digital work places of today, the knowledge workers' comparative advantage does not simply lie in his word processing skills or his ability to do broadsheet, but in his ability to think strategically in a complex and highly flexible environment. Clearly, there is a purely technical imperative for bringing ICTs into the classroom, but e-learning promises more than technical competence. The essence of e-learning is developing critical, creative and strategic thinking through exchange and collaboration. The potential of ICT to enhance learner's efficiency, effectiveness and engagement are enormous. E-learning, therefore, cannot only increase the productivity of basic literacy skills but can also improve the planning, problem solving and analytical skills of the learner.

We have already taken the initial step in bringing technology to the classroom and e-learning in Philippine schools. The Government PC for Public High Schools Program will bring computers to a thousand public high schools in the country. This modest step is being complemented by various private sector and civil society initiatives aimed at bringing the power of the Internet into Philippine schools. Undoubtedly, there is much to be done, but I am confident that focus on infrastructure development creating and enabling legal and regulatory framework in human development in the Philippines can now begin earnestly, preparing for the global new economy.

The challenge that the Philippines faces in laying the foundation for prosperity in the new economy is unique. The promise of the information economy remains a dream for the vast majority in the developing world. Access to advance information and communication services is largely limited to those in the developed country, or those in the urban areas of developing country. The skills set required to be employed as knowledge workers is possessed only by a minority in the country. This Great Divide threatens to deepen the gap that already separate the rich and the poor in many countries, but we in ASEAN are fortunate. The governments of Southeast Asia are responding to the challenges of a new economy, from Brunei to the People's Republic of Vietnam, national ICT efforts are being intensified. At the regional level, we have the e-ASEAN initiative. Our e-ASEAN Agreement remains the only covenant among developing countries on coherent strategy for regional ICT development. We cannot afford, however, to be complacent because we cannot afford to be left behind. Fortunately, if recent events can serve as a clue to the future, there is reason to hope that as an individual nation and as a region, we will prosper in the new century – the century of information – the century of technology, and because we are doing what we are doing in e-ASEAN, I hope it will also be the century for Asia.

Thank you.

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2001 Educators' Congress

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2001 Educators' Congress**

[Delivered at Manila Midtown Hotel, Malate, Manila, April 23, 2001]

I am very happy to be here with all of you today. I feel quite at home in this gathering because I was a teacher too for many years. I taught at the Ateneo, the University of the Philippines, Maryknoll, St. Scholastica's. When I joined the government in 1986, I tried to teach for one more year, but the long hours in government, 16 hours a day, compelled me to give up my teaching load. However, my joining in the government paved the way for my entering in the government afterwards, paving the way for my becoming President of the Philippines; so that now, even if I am not a teacher, I can have a chance to be with my former fellow teachers once again. So I'm glad to be here with you.

When I took my oath of office as President last January, I said, we must be bold in our national ambitions, so that our challenge must be that within this decade, we will win the fight against poverty.

To make this happen, we must recognize that the world our students will inherit is truly a new economy, where capital markets and information and communications technology or ICT are forces that create both peril and opportunity.

To address the perils, we must give a social bias to balance our economic development plan in the form, among other things, of safety nets for globalization.

The best means for reducing poverty and providing safety nets for sectors affected by globalization is through investments in education and training. In this people power administration, we must invest in the increasing quality of basic education, especially in science and mathematics.

As we do so, we must equalize access and expand the opportunities of the poor to acquire the kind of education they want. We have piloted early childhood development so that children from poor families are not disadvantaged when they enter first grade. We must find the means so that these pilot projects can be expanded and eventually implemented on a national scale.

As for higher education, this must be led by the private sector. Instead of government subsidies, which because of the huge budgetary deficit we have inherited shall remain modest, we must start thinking in terms of educational loan programs that entry into colleges and universities is not determined solely by family incomes.

To tap the opportunities of the new economy, I have formed a cabinet cluster on information and communications technology which includes the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. Technology, especially ICT, is what will create the high-wage jobs of the future and raise the quality of life of every Filipino.

That is why your adopted theme, "Learning Through ICT", is a laudable step which is in line with the government's thrust to develop the Philippines as the knowledge center of Asia.

We can increase the impact of ICT in our country's economy by focusing on three areas of concern: physical infrastructure, policy and legislation, and human resource development.

On physical infrastructure. One of the country's disadvantages is the lack of telecommunications infrastructure to support high-speed productivity at relatively low rates so that ICT use can expand to include a greater majority of ordinary Filipinos, and thus, spur the growth of the domestic IT market. Of course, that one is the work of the Department of Telecommunications and Transportation.

On policy and legislation. Government and the private sector must work together in order to come up with a policy framework that will be conducive to the growth of the ICT industry, and that will be responsive to new ways of employment and commerce that are evolving. Of course, that is the work of Congress.

But on human resource development, which is your work, the demand for technology savvy knowledge workers has increased as ICT continues to penetrate and transform the organization of markets and the workplace. This poses an enormous challenge to all educational institutions to be able to adapt both the content and the method of training that you provide in order to prepare your students for the digital economy.

I am not talking here only of computer literacy but the development of higher cognitive skills such as abstracting, planning, critical thinking and problem-solving, the digital workplaces of today, the knowledge workers comparative advantage does not simply lie in his word processing skills or his ability to do breadsheets, but in his ability to think strategically in a complex, highly dynamic environment.

Clearly, there is a purely technical imperative for bringing ICT into the classroom. The essence of E-learning, however, is developing critical, creative and strategic thinking through exchange and collaboration. The potential of ICT to enhance learner efficiency, effectiveness and engagement is enormous. E-learning, therefore, will not only increase the productivity of basic literacy skills but also help improve the planning, problem-solving and analytical skills of the learner.

We have already taken the initial steps in bringing technology to the classroom and E-learning in Philippine schools. The government's "P.C. for public high schools" program will bring computers to 1,000 public high schools in the country. This modest step is being complemented by various sector and private sector and civil society initiatives aimed at bringing the power of internet into Philippine schools.

Undoubtedly, much needs to be done. But I am confident that with the focus in infrastructure development, creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment, and of course, your work, which is human resource development, the Philippines can now begin earnestly preparing for the global new economy.

Philippine education is everybody's business. In the matter of funding, it would not be difficult to seek partnerships in the communities, among education's stakeholders, and even foreign assistance to bridge the so-called "digital divide." Education is a top priority of your government.

Your leadership will give full support to developing Philippine basic education into one of the finest education systems in the world. When we achieve this, our dream of becoming Asia's knowledge center will only be a few graduating classes away.

I know for a fact that as teachers, a great deal is expected from you. I am aware that your calling entails a lot of sacrifices inside and outside the classroom because I've been there. I've been a teacher.

Let me assure you, that as your President, I have the same concern for you as my father, President Diosdado Macapagal, who did his best to uplift your sector during his term. In the time of my father, he approved Republic Act 3665, which upgraded the salaries of high school supervisors and teachers; R.A. 4128, which provided assistance to provincial high schools; and R.A. 3881, which increased the pensions of schoolteachers.

Now, as your leader and fellow teacher, I will do everything within the powers of my office that you have reposed in me to uplift your financial standing.

I am sure you have already heard that to increase the take-home pay of public elementary and secondary teachers during the months that cash is badly needed to pay for your children's tuition and other school needs, DECS has coordinated with the Department of Finance and the BIR to temporarily suspend the payroll deduction for withholding taxes. Hopefully, DOF and BIR will not post such great objections so that this scheme can take effect in May. This would increase the take-home pay for the affected month above the P2,000 threshold.

I am also happy to let you know that even outside the DECS community, our other cabinet members understand the need of teachers to be recognized for your work, which is not only education in the schools but also in the community.

I am happy, therefore, that even the Home Development Mutual Fund is finalizing the mechanics of a P1 B credit facility for teachers. This P1 B facility fund seeks to provide assistance for teachers for your short-term needs because, as know, you have all of these delays in the way that your pay gets to you.

In addition, DECS has been exploring ways and means to modernize your payroll system to address the problem of this delay in the payment of salaries as well as to check corruption. Among the measures considered is the use of automated teller machines through a bank chosen by the teachers of a particular school.

This checkless payroll system will minimize delays which have hampered the present system of delivering checks by mail. It will also insulate the system from "ghost teachers" and other forms of corruption. In the meantime, as I said, the Home Development Mutual Fund will try to help you make ends meet when that P1 B facility is worked out as far as the mechanics are concerned.

These, of course, are short-term measures. In terms of mid- and long-term measures, DECS is now designing a proposed new legislation to rationalize the salary structure for teachers. This initiative will be certified as a priority administration bill to rationalize the salary structure and tax exemptions of teachers to truly make teaching a professional career. The end-goal is a public school system with a professional corps so much so that when a 20-year old graduate becomes a teacher, she or he will have enough opportunity to move up the teaching career ladder, support a family after marriage, and by the time he or she retires at the age of 65, the education system would have optimized her or his accumulated creativity and experience. Under this legislation, we hope to make the salary structure in touch with inflation.

And pray with me, so that when Congress resumes, they will act on the five percent increase in salary that we are going to ask as part of the supplemental budget.

You are the molders of the minds, the intellect and the character and the ideals of our youth. You have in your hands the power to transform their future into a better and more progressive one. You are the role models for our people and perhaps, this is the reason why, of all sectors in our society, you have been chosen to help oversee the conduct of elections in this country.

You are looked upon by our people as moral, efficient, hardworking and trustworthy. People consider your character as unassailable, hence, the people look to you as the vanguards of the sanctity of the ballot, which they consider as the true expression of their will. No doubt some of your colleagues have even sacrificed their lives to ensure that the will of the people is not frustrated. This happened in past electoral exercises, we hope that it will not happen in this electoral exercise.

I have been told by some publishers, especially in Chinatown that so far, election violence and signs of election fraud had been much, much lower this elections than in the past. I hope that this will continue.

As teachers, I need not remind you that when you do your counting, you are I also supposed to be fair and non-partisan. As civil servants, I am supposed to remind you that you are not allowed to use your office to campaign for specific candidates. But as individuals, you can vote and I hope you will vote for the people power coalition candidates.

And, as in the past, I am confident that you will rise to the challenge of promoting and ensuring clean and peaceful elections on May 14th.

It is also my fervent hope that you will take advantage of the new learning opportunity that this conference is providing you on ICT. Take to heart the practical knowledge in ICT so that you may apply your knowledge in your teaching profession and pass it on to your students.

I hope that you will be effective advocates and great teachers of ICT as you go back to your respective workstations. May we, as a nation, be able to utilize ICT as a potent weapon in the fight against unemployment and poverty in our country.

I know many teachers in our country themselves are quite poor, and I hope that you, or at least your children will be able to find the great opportunities for employment, creativity in the new world of ICT. But for the next generation to be able to benefit from that, your generation, you, the teachers must first be the learners.

Thank you. Good luck and God bless all of us.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Message of President Arroyo on her visit to former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada [Filipino]

**Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa kanyang pagbisita sa dating Pangulo Joseph Ejercito Estrada sa kanyang kulungan sa Fort Sto. Domingo,
Sta. Rosa, Laguna**

[Ipinahayag sa Tanggapan ng Pangulo, Malacañang, ika 3 ng Mayo, 2001]

Kaninang umaga ay nagtungo ako sa Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, para dalawin ang dating Pangulong Estrada sa kanyang bagong kinalalagyan.

Nagpunta ako doon sa mungkahi ng isang kaibigan na isang alagad ng simbahan. Dumalaw din ako upang tiyakin na ang mga bilin ko tungkol sa kaligtasan at kalusugan ni ginoong estrada ay nasusunod.

Natutuwa akong ipaalam sa inyo na maayos ang kalagayan ng dating pangulo. Mainam ang kanyang kalusugan at ligtas ang kanyang seguridad.

Tulad ng nakita ninyo sa TV at mga diyaryo, ang bungalow ay katatagpuan ng mga bagong muwebles, refrigerator, microwave, at iba pang kasangkapan at kaghinawahan, kasama na ang dalawang airconditioning units.

Maikli pero malaman ang naging bunga ng aking pagdalaw kay Ginoong Estrada.

Inuulit ko na ang proklamasyon ng State of Rebellion ay naaayon sa batas at ito’y kapangyarihang ibinibigay sa pangulo ng pilipinas para ipagtanggol ang sambayanan at ang ating Republika.

Ang State of Rebellion ay isang tumpak na kasagutan na naganap sa karahasan noong mayo uno sa harap ng palasyo ng malakanyang ng lumusob ang mahigit na 50,000 demonstrador para pabagsakin ang isang lehitimong pamahalaan at magtayo ng isang “junta.”

Ang PNP at AFP ay nakasamsam noong araw na iyon ng mga matataas na kalibre ng baril, tear gas, patalim, molotov cocktail, sumpak, paltik, bato at pamalo sa mga raliyista.

Dineklara ko ang State of Rebellion nang mga mainit na sandaling iyon. Nanganganib ang buhay ng mga matataas na pinuno ng pamahalaan. Nahaharap sa kamatayan ang Republika. Ang hindi pagkilos ay mangangahulugan ng lalong malaking panganib.

Dahil sa nangyaring paglusob, apat ang nasawi, kasama ang isang pulis at mahigit na 100 ang nasaktan o nasugatan. Apat na pamilya ang nawalan ng ama ng tahanan. Sila’y aking tutulungan.

Mahigit na 100 pilipinong magkakaroon ng permanenteng pinsala sa katawan at isipan. Sila’y akin ding tutulungan.

Subalit walang tulong para sa mga power grabbers na ginagamit ang mga dukhang nagkilos protesta sa edsa para sa sariling kapakanan. Hahanapin natin sila hanggang sila’y humarap sa batas. Nakita natin kung papaano nila ginatungan ang mga demonstrador na lusubin ang malakanyang. Ngayon ay naghuhugas-kamay sila.

Natuklasan din namin ang ebidensya ng kanilang balak na pabagsakin ang gobyerno para iluklok ang kanilang mga lider. Ngayon ay nagpo-Poncio Pilato naman sila.

Milyun-milyong piso na ari-arian at sasakyan ang ninakawan, sinira at sinunog. Sila'y atin ding tutulungan.

Ang State of Rebellion ay paiiralin lamang sa loob ng Metro Manila, ito'y hindi lalabag sa karapatang pantao. At ito'y hanggang Mayo 7 lamang.

Bago ako umalis ay nagbilin akong muli sa mga awtoridad sa Fort Sto. Domingo na patuloy na tiyakin ang kaginhawahan, proteksyon at iba pang pangangailangan ng dating Pangulo.

Ipagdasal natin si Ginoong Estrada para maligtas siya sa anumang karamdaman o kapahamakan.

Maraming salamat po.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Message on her Visit to Former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada in his detention place at Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412235941/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8597&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo on the National Government Basic Sector's 100 Days Accomplishment Report,
May 4, 2001**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the National Government Basic Sector's 100 Days Accomplishment Report**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, May 4, 2001]

THE FIRST 100 DAYS: CARING FOR THE POOR

Kayo, mga leaders na kinatawan ng civil society, ang isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan kung bakit ngayon ako ay Pangulo ng ating Republika. Magkasama tayo doon sa EDSA II, at kayo rin at ang sambayanang kinatawan ninyo ang dahilan kung bakit may pangulo, maging ako man o ibang pangulong nakaraan, o iba pang pangulong darating. Sa isang lipunan, ang mayaman at makapangyarihan ay maaring mag-alaga sa sarili, ngunit iyong mga mahihirap, mga kapuspalad, iyon ang higit na nangangailangan ng pamahalaan na tumutulong, upang sila ay makabahagi ng sapat na atensiyon sa kayamanan at kapangyarihan ng bansa.

This empowering function of the government has become even more important in the last few days. Ang ating mga programa para sa dukha ay nabalangkas na natin noon pa. Kung naalala ninyo nagkita pa tayo doon sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas nung panahon na mainit pa iyong ating protesta. Matagal na nating nabuo itong mga programang ito at mayroon na naming mga naipapatupad na. Marami pa rin sa ating mga kababayan ay naiinip na at parang hindi na makapagtitiis. Para sa kanila, hindi katwiran na hindi pa ako nagtatagal bilang presidente. Hindi mahalaga sa kanila na isang daang araw pa lamang ako bilang presidente. Gusto nila, naiinip na sila. Nasaan na iyong mga resulta? Palagay ko hindi gagamit ng dahas ang tao kung kumbinsido siyang may mapayapa at mabisang paraan para makuha ang mithiin sa buhay. Palagay ko, ang isang mahirap ay hindi kakapit sa isang patalim na binibigay sa kanya ng pulitikong nagkukumplot kung kumbinsido siya na may gobyernong nag-aalok ng disenteng buhay, dangal, demokrasyang tunay, palagay ko hindi mag-aaway ang iba't-ibang sektor ng lipunan — mayaman at mahirap, babae at lalaki, taga-lungsod at taga-bukid — kung nagkakaunawaan at nagtutulungan ang lahat. Sa madaling salita, palagay ko, walang mahihirap na mag-aalsa kung walang nagdaramdam at nadedehado sa bansa.

Hindi lingid sa ating pamahalaan ang katotohanang iyon. Kaya muling nagpasya ang Gabinete na pabilisin at pag-ibayuhin ang pagtulong sa ating mga maralita. Nagdesisyon ang Gabinete na dodoblehin ang kalinga sa mga kapuspalad.

Itong ating meeting na ito ay matagal na itong naka-schedule, may riot o wala, talagang mag-uusap tayo kung paano pairalin ang makabubuti sa ating mga mahihirap. Pero ang Diyos, magaling siya sa “timing”, tamang-tama na bago ini-schedule natin ito, marami tayong puwedeng ipagnilay doon sa mga pangyayari noong mga nakaraang araw.

Kailangan nating ipabatid sa mga nag-demonstrasyon na ang pamahalaan ay masiglang tumutugon sa kanilang mga pangangailangan, maging trabaho, pagkain, tirahan, edukasyon, medisina, hustisya at iba pa. Dapat nating patunayan sa kanila na hindi kailangang pabagsakin ang gobyerno at maglaban ang mahirap at mayaman upang makaangat sa buhay.

Sa hangaring ito nanawagan tayo sa mga taong malapit sa mga nag-martsa sa Malakanyang. Walang ibubunga ang poot at hidwaan kundi ibayong kaguluhan at kahirapan sa ating taongbayan. Tayo ay magtutulong upang matugunan ang karaingan ng mga kasamahan ninyo. Iyon sana ang ating sabihin sa mga kaibigan, at mga kasama na nagmartsa sa Malakanyang.

When we also call on you, the leaders of the basic sectors to help us reach out to the people who rallied at EDSA and Mendiola along with other disgruntled elements in our society. In fact, kayo at mga organisasyon ninyo, you are the ultimate weapon in our battle against manipulative politicians and rioting mobs.

Kayo, you are the first line of defense against desperation and mass violence. Please help us reach out to our rallyists of past week whose legitimate grievances were exploited by ruthless politicians who don't mind seeing scores massacred in their evil gambit to make murderers out of our police and soldiers, and create a pretext for the government's violent overthrow. Thank goodness, the professionalism and mega-tolerance of our police and soldiers thwarted their dastardly plans. Paumanhin, tumulong kayo, dalhin ang mensahe sa mga sektor na kinatawan ninyo o sektor kung saan may impluwensiya kayo. Sabihin sa kanila, kumbinsihin sila na itong pamahalaan ay tunay na seryoso sa pagtulon at paglilingkod sa mahihirap at kapuspalad.

Ano ang nagawa ng bagong Administrasyong People Power sa unang isandaang araw ng panunungkulan lalo na para sa mahihirap at maliliit. Una sa lahat, nagtatag tayo ng gobyernong matino, malinis at iginagalang.

Noong ika-20 ng Enero, takot na takot tayo, hindi lamang sa hinaharap ng bansa kundi lalo na sa mga pakay at pakana ng pamahalaan mismo. Nagbago iyon sa pagsimula ng Administrasyong People Power at nakinabang ang buong bayan lalo na ang mahihirap. Dahil sa panunumbalik ng kumpiyansa sa pamahalaan, nakabangon ang piso. Nagsimulang sumigla ang ekonomiya at pumasok ang kapital. Sa gayon, napigilan ang pagtaas ng mga bilihan at bumugso ang pangangapital, halimbawa, dumoble ang halaga ng mga bagong negosyo na naaprubahan ng BOI at PEZA dahil doon lamang magkakaroon ng mahigit labimpitong libong trabaho.

Dahil walang palakasan sa bagong pamahalaan, malaki ang nabawas sa smuggling, nahinto nga ang mga smuggling ng mga negosyanteng malapit sa dating administrasyon. Nabawasan ang lubhang agos ng asukal mula sa ibayong dagat na dati ay pumapatay sa mga magtutubo.

Pinawalang-bisa ko ang Executive Order 313 na nagbigay ng malaking bahagi ng coconut levy sa isang grupong maliit ngunit makapangyarihan. Dahil ang talagang pakay natin ay itong pondong ito ay magamit para sa malilit na magsasaka ng niyog.

Napigil ang mabilis na paglaganap ng jueteng na siyang umuubos sa kita ng mahihirap. Sa loob ng tatlong buwan, mas maraming nagawa ang ating pamahalaan kontra sa jueteng kesa sa halos tatlong taon ng nakaraang administrasyon. At dahil sa peace initiatives ng pamahalaan sa problema sa mga rebeldeng Muslim at komunista, halos huminto na ang labanan sa maraming dako ng Pilipinas. Sa gayon, nakabalik sa kanilang mga komunidad ang mga iibo-libong mamamayan na itinaboy ng digmaan upang magpundar ng bagong buhay at kabuhayan. Sa kabilang dako, nilusob po ng pulis ang hukbo ng mga kidnappers, sindikato ng mga droga at ang teroristang Abu Sayyaf.

It is these hard war's gains that there would be power grabbers who threaten to destroy. And I am determined not to let them succeed. I believe, last May 1, you saw that determination. And I thank you for your support.

Ngayon nananawagan ako sa inyo at sa mga komunidad at mga sektor na kinakatawan ninyo na suportahan ang ating pamahalaan sa kanyang pakikibakang ipagtanggol ang mahalagang pamana at nakamit ng EDSA II. We also call on your support to push forward our anti-poverty agenda dahil sama-sama naman tayong gumawa nito noon pa at hanggang ngayon. And at its heart is addressing the inequities that make the majority powerless, marginalized and vulnerable.

We must pursue poverty reduction within the overarching frame of social justice so that policies and programs do not become mere palliatives, but instruments to reduce inequality and promote sustainable development. Hence, poverty reduction is not only an integral part of the medium-term plan in this administration. It is the overarching theme of the updated Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

We have also revitalized the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act, and I am proud that I was the principal author of that act in the Senate. At itong ginagawa nating ito, ito ang Simula ng mabisang implementation nitong ating anti-poverty law. And now, we shall make that anti-poverty law more effective.

First and foremost, we are reorganizing and constituting the National Anti-Poverty Commission, and working for an autonomous process of the basic sector representation in the NAPC.

We set up various bodies directly under my office to better address the concerns of marginalized groups. They include Mindanao for the rehabilitation of war-torn Muslim areas. The Office of the Presidential Adviser for Indigenous People's Affairs, and the Cabinet Cluster on Socially Equitable, Agricultural Modernization and Public Services, and on the safety nets for sectors affected by globalization.

We anchor our anti-poverty strategy on the five-core thrust that were enunciated by Ging Deles earlier. But let us repeat them so we can internalize them.

First, the redistribution of physical and resource assets; second, human development services; third, participation of the poor in governance and institution building; fourth, security and protection from violence and fifth, more opportunities for livelihood and social life.

Ang pamahalaan ay naglunsad ng dose-dosenang mga programa para sa mahihirap at kapuspalad. Sa unang isandaang araw ng pag-oopisina, hayaan ninyong banggitin ko ang ilan. Malamang ang programang pinakamaraming direktang nakinabang ay ang programa ng Kagawaran ng Agrikultura para sa mga magniniyog na nagpaabot ng bigas sa isang milyon dalawang daan at limampung libong pesante na natamaan ng mababang presyo ng kopra. One million two hundred fifty thousand peasants. Iyan ang nakinabang sa programa ng DA on rice assistance. At para naman sa kabuuan ng mga magsasaka, mangingisda, at iba pang umaasa sa biyaya ng lupa at dagat, mag-uukol tayo ng Php20 billion para sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura upang lumakas ang ani, lumaki ang kita at makalaban sa mga produktong dayuhan.

The Department of Labor and Employment through its public employment offices has helped more than 110,000 people find jobs nationwide. And it is revoking Department Order 10-97 to stop the oppressive practice of labor only contracting.

Upang matulungan ang mga sektor na apektado ng globalisasyon, gaya ng sabi ko kanina lumikha ako ng Cabinet Cluster on Safety Net for sectors affected by globalization. At ang namumuno nito ay ang Kalihim ng Paggawa at Trabaho. Bilang unang hakbang, maghahanay tayo ng Php27 million mula sa State Insurance Fund para sa nawawalan ng kita pati ang naghahanapbuhay ng sarili hindi sa kumpanya. At upang matulungan ang kailangang mag-aral ng ibang trabaho dahil sa globalization, bubuo and DOLE ng development fund for workers na may pondong Php50 million, kabilang ang Php18 million mula sa President's Social Fund.

The Department of Social Welfare's flagship program, the Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services, has served more than 270,000 families in 100 urban poor communities and almost 4,000 depressed barangays.

The Department of Agrarian Reform distributed titles to more than 10,000 hectares of land to more than 8,000 farmers including contentious private lands like Hacienda de los Reyes in Barangay Imuk, Calauan, Laguna. Sana umabot sa isandaang ektarya ang maipamumudmud natin itong taon na ito. Iyon ang aking panaginip na sana maging totoo.

For our retired soldiers, the Philippine Veteran's Affairs Office, settled monthly pensions of more than 260,000 pensioners for old age, death and disability would total disbursement of Php2.5 billion. Para sa ating mga guro sa ibabaw ng ginagawa ng DECS para sa kanila, pati na rin ang Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) ay nagtatabi ng isang bilyong pisong paluwagan para humaba ang pisi ng ating mga guro habang hinihintay ang madalas na nahuhuling pagdating ng suweldo.

The Health Department provided more than 230,000 TB patients with free medicine and more than 7 million children with vitamin A, 5 million children with the worming treatment and 45,000 youth with immunization.

The DENR reinstated its Community-Based Forest Management Program benefiting more than 400,000 household. At ipinag-utos ko na agad gawing mga lugar ng murang pabahay ang mga lupaing publiko na kasalukuyang tinitirhan ng mga maralita nating kababayan. Halos walumpung libong pamilya ay nakinabang na at mahigit tatlung libong pamilya pa ang matutulungan sa madaling panahon.

Para sa kababaihan, layunin natin ay mabigyan ang mga nagtatrabaho ng mahalagang serbisyo para sa kalusugan, proteksyon sa karahasan, pag-aalaga ng bata at iba pa.

Umpisa po lamang ang mga ito, marami pang kasunod. At tamang-tama itong workshop na ito dahil nga nagbigay tayo ng programa para sa susunod na dalawang daang araw. At dito tayo hahanap sa listahang ito ng mga doables na ipatutupad hanggang matapos itong taong ito.

Mahirap na trabaho ng gobyerno ang gumawa ng programa laban sa kahirapan lalung-lalo na pag mayroon tayong namanang budget deficit na Php 225 billion. Ngunit mas malaking hamon ang maging kabalikat ang pribadong sector sa pagtulong sa mga kapus-palad.

The privileged Filipinos must realize that true justice, development, democracy and reconciliation in our land will not happen without the willingness of the elite to share or give up some of their wealth and power.

I am not preaching communism. I am invoking Christian love, charity and social justice. In this regard and in the interest of leadership by example, let me reiterate my personal contribution to bridging the gap between those who have and those who do not have in our country.

Noong isang buwan, inatasan ko ang HUDCC na iproseso ang paglipat ng Macaraeg Estates — yaong dapat na mana ko mula sa aking yumaong ina sa Iligan City — para sa urban land reform. In addition, the family of my husband Mike is offering more than a thousand hectares of Arroyo sugarland in Negros Occidental for Agrarian Reform.

In the past, we saw how manipulative politicians stoke the flames of class warfare among our poor and oppressed brothers and sisters. That is the wrong way forward. Instead, I call on everyone to embrace the core values of our government — winning the battles against poverty, improving moral standards, promoting the politics of consultations, and leading by example not just in government but all across the society.

Our cause is just. Our objectives are clear. With God's grace and the people's interests in our hearts, we will not fail.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Message of President Arroyo for World Environment Day [Filipino]

**Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Para sa World Environment Day (icere sa Telekalikaan sa ika-4 ng Hunyo 4, 2001)**

[Ipinahayag sa Living Room, Presidential Suite, Manila Hotel, ika 2 ng Hunyo, 2001]

Mga kababayan:

Nakikiisa ang Pilipinas sa pagdiriwang ng World Environment Day.

Bilang tampok sa ating pagdiriwang sa taong ito, inilunsad itong telekalikasan upang magpahayag sa lahat ng Pilipino tungkol sa importansya ng ating kapaligiran at kung anu-ano ang ginagawa ng pamahalaan upang alagaan ito.

Marami ang ating mga suliranin tungkol sa pag-alaga ng ating kapaligiran. Nariyan ang basura, ang baha at ang maruming usok buhat sa mga pabrika at sa mga sasakyan. Ang lahat ng mga ito’y nagiging dahilan ng ating pagkakasakit. Nariyan din ang pagsasamantala at pag-aabuso ng ating yamang dagat at kabundukan na nagiging dahilan ng unti-unting pagkaubos ng mga ito.

Huwag nating payagan na maubos ang ating likas na kayamanan sanhi ng maling paggamit ng ating mga kababayan. Alamin natin kung papano alagaan at palawakin ang ating likas yaman, sapagka’t ang wastong paggamit ng ating likas yaman ang siyang magliligtas sa atin sa kahirapan, at ang pagpapatuloy ng mga maling paraan ng paggamit nito ang magdidiin sa atin at sa mga sumusunod na henerasyon sa lalo pang dusa at kahirapan.

Makiisa tayo at makialam sa pag-alaga at pagpanatili ng ating kapaligiran at likas yaman. Tinatawagan ko ang lahat na lumahok sa telekalikasan ng DENR. Magkakampi tayong lahat at magtulong-tulong sa paglutas ng ating mga problemang pangkalikasan.

Isipin nating mahalaga ang tulong ng bawat isa sa atin upang magtagumpay ang programang ito. Makiisa po tayong lahat tungo sa pag-alaga ng ating kalikasan hindi lamang ngayong World Environment Day kungdi sa araw-araw.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA’s Message for World Environment Day (to be aired during the Telekalikaan on June 4, 2001). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412235908/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8655&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 2001 Bagong Bayani Awarding Ceremonies Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2001 Bagong Bayani Awarding Ceremonies**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, June 7, 2001]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat acting secretary Brion. Si secretary Brion po ay acting secretary ngayon dahil si Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas ay nandoon po sa Geneva dahil nahalal siya bilang pangulo ng International Labor Organization kaya pinagmamalaki natin ang ating Secretary of Labor.

Other officials of the government; Captain Oca at yung ibang mga opisyal ng Bagong Bayani Foundation; Ambassador Rosting and Ambassador Escalona and the other members of the diplomatic corps; ating mga binigyan ng award itong araw na ito; ladies and gentlemen:

I am very happy that we are all together in this auspicious gathering today. It is very fitting that in paying tribute to the overseas Filipino workers, who are today's new heroes of the nation, the venue we have chosen is the Heroes Hall of Malacañang kasi talagang heroes kayo. And I would like to thank you and all of the overseas Filipino workers through you because yesterday in the cabinet meeting we just had a report na ang linaki ng tinatawag na net factor income from abroad na ito ay malaking bahagi nito ay yung kita nating overseas Filipino workers ay umangat ng 25 porsyento itong first three months of this year. At dahil umangat ng 25 percent ang net factor income from abroad ay umangat ang ating GNP by 3.6 percent. Kaya maraming salamat sa ating overseas Filipino workers. The 11 Filipino overseas working men and women as well as the Filipino crew of a Norwegian tanker who are being accorded the Bagong Bayani Award exemplify the best qualities of the Filipino workers.

These men and women to whom our administration pay tribute — and to whom our admiration goes — represent the world-class caliber our OFWs are collectively known for. They strive to bring out their best and excel wherever they may be. Iba-ibang lugar kung saan sila nagtatrabaho pero lahat sila ginagalang nung mga lugar kung saan sila nagtatrabaho at ginagalang din natin kagaya nitong araw na ito. They are the reasons why Filipinos are among the most preferred workers in any part of the world. What does the Bagong Bayani Award really mean? Many look upon our overseas workers as contributors to the national economy, particularly through their dollar remittances — kaya yan ang binanggit ko, 25 percent increase contributing to 3.6 percent increase in our GNP. The dollars sent back home run up to billions and form a substantial portion of the country's dollar reserves, as well as a substantial portion of our country's growth rate. In fact, in several instances when the economy had a foreign exchange crisis, the consistent dollar inflows from our OCWs saved the economy from collapsing but beyond the billions of dollars in remittances which have built homes, sent children to school, and started small businesses, the Bagong Bayani Award acknowledges the OCW's efforts to keep alive the Filipino values and promote our sense of nationhood wherever they may be.

It is also a test of their character and skills in balancing various roles. More than being OFWs, they are also mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, brothers, friends and most especially, Filipino citizens.

So many mothers have left home for the sake of a more stable future for their children. Likewise, many fathers have had to become unmindful of the perils that they may encounter while working at sea or some far away desert to pursue higher-paying jobs. Masarap pong magsumikap sa trabaho para sa ating mga mahal sa buhay. Subalit mas masarap ang maghanap-buhay sa sariling bayan kung saan tayo ay makakauwi sa bahay at makakapiling ang ating pamilya pagkatapos ng oras ng trabaho. Mas mahirap 'yung nandoon sa kabilang bansa kaysa 'yung nandito na naghahanap-buhay. Alam nating lahat na ang mahusay na trabaho sa ating bansa ay hindi pa makakamit ng ating mga kababayan dahil mahina pa ang ating ekonomiya.

And while we are doing our best to improve our economy, overseas Filipinos go on with their jobs abroad. And for now many of them have little choice for although our hopes remain undiminished — that someday, soon, our OFWs can work here in our country and still provide well their families with a more comfortable and decent life — I am saddened to hear about families who no longer receive regular financial support or even letters and phone calls from their OFW kins. Merong mga ganon. Whenever I come across cases of old mothers or very young children or angry and confused housewives at the presidential action center, I often ask myself if the Filipinos have cultivated enough values that will nurture not only love and devotion to family but our sense of the “other person” and his betterment.

Then I am told of some of our outstanding OFWs. Halimbawa, hindi ko babanggitin lahat ng nakakuha ng gantimpala itong araw na ito, pero bilang ilang mga halimbawa I am told for instance of what Petronilo Bergantino, maintenance supervisor in Abu Dhabi, who is father to 3 professionals and who has successfully invested in a rice mill, a warehouse, a rice and coconut plantation and a four-door apartment even as he continues to look after the needs of his old parents in Sibalom, Antique. Napakagaling na halimbawa ng OFW.

Or I am told of an Elpidio Quitevis whose professional organization in Bahrain sends scholars in accountancy to the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Or of a Dr. Quitquit who spends his off work hours providing free medical services and medicines to the sick and needy Filipino workers in the Sultanate of Oman. Then when I hear about all of them and all the others who have received an award today I realize there is hope, and that the Filipino OFWs indeed a family man or woman and at the same time a man or woman for others.

In return for their good deeds, their vital contribution to our economy and their personal sacrifices, the least we can do is to continuously find ways and means to help them better. Kaya halimbawa ilang linggo ng nakaraan — ‘di ba? — naglagay tayo ng pondo para makatulong sa mga legal problems ng ating mga OFWs. We must also strengthen the basic services that already cater to their needs.

And so therefore I’m looking forward to our overseas workers welfare administration to fortify the comprehensive workers education program. This is to correct long-held misconceptions about working and living overseas as well as plant the seeds from where strong moral values, an upright sense of family and citizenship, and excellence in work will grow and flourish. Kasi sa ‘pag pupunta ako eto ang ating mga outstanding, salamat at outstanding sila at ginagalang sila ng kanilang mga community pero meron diyan napunta doon umiiyak sa half-way house dahil hindi nila akalaing ganon ang mga aabutan nila. So kailangan open eyes ‘pag pumupunta doon, at kailangan alam kung saan ‘yung mga matitinong lugar na pagtatrabahuan at kung alam kung saan ‘yung alanganin at dapat iwasan. Napaka-importanteng trabaho ‘yan ng ating pamahalaan, yung edukasyon at impormasyon na ‘yan.

Even as my administration is determined to reciprocate the many good things that the OFWs have done for our country, we know that there is still much more work to be done. This is especially true for the workers who have returned home for good. The OWWA will hopefully continue with an integrated, practical, doable, and sustainable program that will ensure their successful psycho-social and economic reintegration in the mainstream of Philippine society.

I am also looking forward to the department of foreign affairs and the department of labor and employment that they will address the recurring gaps in the provision of prompt and reliable services and assistance to our workers and their families. Kaya nga ‘yung pondo natin tungkol doon sa legal problems ng ating mga OFWs ay dinagdagan. In paying tribute to our bagong bayani, we are showing to the country and to the whole world, that while there may be a few of our fellow Filipinos who have gone astray, there are certainly many, many more who are living examples of all that are good that the Filipino is and can be.

Let us always pray for the safety, well-being and success of our courageous overseas working men and women as they continue to epitomize the good values and work ethic of the Filipino race in their countries. May the grace of the almighty be with all of us lalung-lalo na ang ating mga bayaning OFWs.

Mabuhay ang mga bagong bayani ng taong 2001!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the 2001 Bagong Bayani Awarding Ceremonies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412235808/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8651&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 103rd Independence Day Celebration [Filipino]

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 103rd Philippine Independence Day celebration of the Filipino-Chinese Community**

[Delivered at the PICC Reception Hall, CCP Complex, Pasay City, June 8, 2001]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much Secretary Romulo. Up to eleven o'clock this morning Secretary Romulo was the Finance Secretary, up to eleven o'clock he is now the Executive Secretary, the little president.

Mr. Chua and the other leaders of the Filipino-Chinese Community; officers of the various organizations who are here tonight; members; ladies and gentlemen; minamahal kong mga kababayang Chinoy:

Sa ngalan ng lahat ng kasama kong opisyal ng pamahalaan, binabati ko kayo ng magandang gabi at isang makabuluhang pagdiriwang sa araw ng kalayaan.

Isa pong malaking karangan ang makasama ang mga pinuno at kasapi ng malalaki at respetadong organisasyon sa Filipino-Chinese community sa pagdiriwang ninyo ng kalayaan ng Pilipinas. Binabati ko kayo sa okasyong ito.

Ang programa at hapunang ito para sa araw ng kalayaan ay isa lamang sa mga aktibidades ng inyong organisasyon. Alam ko na ang Federation of Filipino Chambers of Commerce ay nangunguna rin sa pag-anyaya sa buong Filipino-Chinese community sa buong bansa na itaas ang bandilang Pilipino mula Mayo 28 hanggang Hunyo 12 bilang pagbati sa pambansang kaarawan.

Mahigit na 100 Chinoy NGOs ang kasama sa selebrasyon ng independence day ngayong gabi — at nagpapasalamat ako sa inyong lahat, 1800 of you who are here tonight.

Sa pagkaintindi ko sa araw na ito ay nag-deploy din kayo ng 10 medical at dental teams para magbigay ng libreng serbisyo sa mga residente ng metro manila. Binabati ko kayo doon sa ginagawa ninyo.

Anupa't ang mahalagang tulong ng Federation ay nadarama sa mga pambansang okasyon tulad ng araw ng kalayaan at sa pang-araw-araw na buhay sa bansa.

Ang pakikipagtulungang ito ay nagsimula may ilang siglo na — ang nakaraan mula nang ilunsad ang kalakal sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at Tsina noong ika-labing anim na siglo. Ang kalakalang ito ay sumagana, naging malusog at naging isang permanenteng bahagi ng relasyon ng dalawang bansa. Ngayon ay active trading partners and Maynila at Beijing.

At dahil sa kalakalang ito ay lalong lumakas ang ekonomiya ng dalawang bansa. Maraming Pilipino, Chinoy at chinay ang umunlad sa buhay, nakapag-pundar ng negosyo, at maraming inambag sa ekonomiya.

Marami ding chino ang naganyak na manirahan sa Pilipinas, nag-asawa dito, nagpalaki ng pamilya at pinalaki ang mga anak at mga apo sa lipunang Pilipino. Kasama na diyan ang pamilya ng aking kabiya, si Jose Miguel Tuason Arroyo.

Gaya nang aking sinabi sa binondo noong abril 23 bilang (kauna-unahang pangulo ng Pilipinas) na dumalaw sa chinatown, magaan ang aking loob tuwing kasama ko ang Filipino-Chinese community. Pakiramdam ko na ako ay bahagi ng inyong komunidad.

Ito ay dahil, gaya ng alam na ninyo — dahil ilang beses ko ng ikinuwento — ang aking butihing kabiyaq ay galing sa lahi ni Son Tua isang negosyanteng chino noong panahon ng kastila. Hindi nagtagal at ang Son Tua ay nagbago at ngayo'y kilala na bilang pamilyang Tuason.

Marami pong halimbawa ang mga kilalang Pilipino na ang ugat ay galing sa Tsina. Kasama na diyan ang ating national hero, si Jose Rizal at ang mga ninuno ni Pangulong Corazon aquino ay tubo sa Fookien.

Noong kabataan ako, natatandaan ko ang sikat na anthropologist na si Otley Beyer na nagsabing ang Pilipino ay 80 percent Malayan-Indonesian, 10 percent Chinese at 10 percent ng iba pang lahi.

Sa palagay ko'y nagbago nang malaki ang arithmetic ni Mr. Beyer. Tinataya na sa mga Pilipinong may dugong ibang bansa, ang Filipino-Chinese o tinatawag nating Chinoy ang pinakamarami sa buong Pilipinas — mas marami kaysa sa mga Filipino-Hispanic, Filipino-American, at Filipino-Indian.

Ang kasaysayan ng Chinoy sa Pilipinas ay isang drama ng sakripisyo at paghihirap. Ang mga Chinoy ngayon ay kinikilalang isa sa pinakamayaman sa buong bansa. Subalit ang kahapon ninyo'y isang kabanata ng pagsisikap at sakripisyo.

Kilala kayo sa kasipagan. Matipid din kayo. At kahanga-hanga ang inyong pagtutulongan. Walang kaparis ang inyong pagkakaisa.

Sapagkat may angking talino sa negosyo, napalaki ninyo ang inyong hanapbuhay. Karamihan ng negosyo ay nagtagumpay.

Nag-diversify kayo. Mula sa local, kayo ay naging nasyonal. At mula sa nasyonal, pinalawak pang negosyo sa maraming parte ng daigdig.

Ngayon karamihan sa inyo ay matagumpay na negosyante, model citizens at mga lider sa kabuhayan ng bansa.

Ang maganda'y hindi kayo nasiyahan sa tagumpay lamang ng negosyo. Binigyan din ninyo ng pansin ang inyong mga kapitbahay, ang buong lipunan. Kinilala ninyo ang utang na loob ninyo sa bansa at inyong binigyan ng diin ang pagbibigay ng ginhawa sa mundong nasa kapaligiran ninyo.

Sinuklian ninyo ang kabutihan ng inyong daigdig. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit aktibo ang Filipino-Chinese community sa community building at public service. Ngayon ay kilalang-kilalang halimbawa ang binondo Chinoy sa inyong volunteer fire brigade na tumutulong maski saan may sunog. Ginagamit ninyo ang inyong salapi at tinataya ang buhay para makatulong sa inyong kapwa.

Pinalakas din ninyo ang pagkakaibigan ng mga Pilipino at chino sa maraming paraan: mga peryodiko, cultural presentations, community festivities, sports sa inyong lugar, mga eskuwela at mga bahay-negosyo. Sa isang salita, malusog ang inyong social conscience, malakas ang civic commitment at matibay ang sense of community involvement.

Ang work ethic ng Chinoy — sipag, pagtitipid, sakripisyo, pagplano para bukas — ay isang bagay na dapat tularan ng maraming katutubong Pilipino.

Maraming matututuhan ang mga pinoy sa mga Chinese at Filipino-Chinese. Marami ding aral ang ating bayani maging Chinese blood o hindi Chinese blood dahil ito ay ipinagdiriwang natin ng June 12, alalahanin din natin ang ating mga bayani ay marami ring naituturo sa ating mga Pilipino tulad ng sakripisyo para sa bayan, pagbabago sa sarili, at pambansang pagkakaisa para umunlad ang lipunan.

Sa gabing ito at sa Hunyo 12, ang araw ng ating pambansang kaarawan, matuklasan sana natin ang mga aral na iniwan ng kabayanihan nina Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo, Apolinario Mabini, M.H. del Pilar, Tandang Sora, at si General Pawa, ang Chinoy na kabalikat ng mga katipunero sa pag-aalsa laban sa kastila.

Sa gabing ito ay may ilan akong magandang balita na gusto kong ibahagi sa inyo: naaprubahan na po ng Senado at Kongreso ang Administrative Naturalization Law.

Ang administrative naturalization law ang magbibigay ng Filipino citizenship sa mga qualified at deserving aliens. Ito'y isang paraan para maging legal na mamamayan ng bansa ang mga banyagang gustong maging Filipino citizen.

This law makes the naturalization process for native-born aliens in the country less restrictive, through a special administrative process, in order to facilitate their integration into the mainstream of Philippine society.

I understand the predicament of aliens born in the Philippines who find it difficult to share the spirit of nationhood when they feel that the government has been half-hearted in making them citizens of the country which they want to serve.

Despite their being born in the Philippines and their continuous residence here, they continue to be regarded and treated under the existing laws just like all other aliens, mainly because of their foreign parentage.

The requirements set by law for their naturalization are not much different from those provided for other classes of aliens.

Regardless of which foreign lineage he comes from, why should a respectable and responsible individual born and raised in the Philippines be not welcome into being a full-pledged Filipino?

And if that individual can prove that he loves the Philippines as the land of his birth, that he acknowledges the responsibilities of Filipino citizenship, that he is willing to be a productive member of our society, and, more importantly, that he is willing to fulfill and respect the duties and responsibilities of being a law-abiding citizen of this land, then he should be accepted with open arms as part of the Filipino nation.

Nagpapasalamat po ako kay Mr. Dante Go dahil siya ay nagbisita sa akin noong Marso 17 para ikwento sa akin na may panukalang batas sa Kongreso na tinatawag na Naturalization Bill. Marami siyang mga binigay na payo sa pagbuo ng batas na ito.

The passage of this law is a pivotal chapter in the history of local-born aliens in the country, majority of whom are Chinese Filipinos. With a faster and much-improved naturalization process, there will be less obstacles to those whose fondest wish is to live in the Philippines permanently and be acknowledged as productive members of our society.

Through this law, our country also hopes to reduce the brain drain caused by the flight of graduates educated and trained in this land but lured to work in countries where alien hiring is more liberal. We want these graduates to put their expertise to good use in this very nation where it is needed most.

The approval of this law is just part of the many improvements that my administration is working on to achieve unity, peace and stability for all sectors of our society.

Kanina po nagkaroon ng bill signing sa Malacañang. Dalawang importanteng panukalang batas ay pinirmahan ko at nating batas na. Iyong isa ay iyong power sector reform bill at iyong isa naman ay iyong pangdagdag ng sweldo sa ating government employees.

Kanina hindi nahabol itong panukalang batas ng naturalization dahil hindi pa natatapos ang imprenta. Kaya lang pagkatapos noong signing na iyon, natapos ang pagka-imprenta, napirmahan ng Speaker, napirmahan ng Senate President at tamang-tama pwede kong pirmahan ngayong gabi sa harap ninyong lahat.

At gaya ng sabi ko kanina, ito ay isang paraan lamang kung papano magkaisa ang bayan maging katutubong Pilipino o Chinese-Filipino. Marami pang ibang paraan kung papano tayo magkaisa.

Halimbawa, magpatayo tayo ng isang monumento ni general pawa, isang outstanding Filipino-Chinese leader noong panahon ng Philippine Revolution. Hihintayin ko ang inyong payo kung saan dapat itayo ang monumento ni General Pawa.

At humanap tayo ng paraan para maisalin sa mandarin ang “Noli Me Tangere at ang “El Filibusterismo. Gawin natin ito para lalong tumibay ang ating samahan at pagkakaunawaan.

Sa ating Konstitusyon, nakalagay na dapat ituro ang mga wikang Spanish at Arabic bilang optional languages sa mga kolehiyo. Dapat siguro ituro din ang wikang Chinese, lalo na ang Mandarin sa paaralan.

Bukod sa mayroon tayong 1.2 bilyong tao sa Tsina, kapit bansa natin sila at malaki ang kanilang potential para sa ating mga produkto. Sa Asya ay milyun-milyon ang mga Chinese. Ang wikang Chinese ay siyang pinakamalaganap na wika sa buong daigdig ngayon. Kung ganon ay dapat gawing optional language din ang mandarin sa mga kolehiyo.

Dapat mag-aral ng wikang Chinese ang mga Pilipino. Dahil dito balak kong atasan ang Commission on Higher Education o CHED na pag-aralan ang pagtuturo ng Mandarin sa lahat ng kolehiyo at unibersidad bilang optional language, kasama ng Spanish at Arabic.

Dapat ding gawing policy ng CHED na palaganapin sa mga kolehiyo ang kamalayan sa foreign language education. Ang makabagong Filipino ay dapat marunong sa iba-ibang mga wika — Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Bahasa at iba pa. Ang isang dahilan ay malaking bagay ang wika sa ating buhay sa international trade, foreign relations, cultural relations at general education.

Dahil sa globalization, kailangan ang mga eksperto sa iba’t-ibang wika. Sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa ibang gobyerno, negosyante, mga kapitalista, maraming pinto ang nabubuksan ng kaalaman ng maraming lengguahe.

Importante ang foreign languages hindi lamang sa mga international conferences at global conventions kung hindi sa mga corporate boardrooms at sa mga tanggapan ng gobyerno sa Beijing, Tokyo, Berlin at Paris.

At gawin nating modelo ang ating national hero, si Dr. Jose Rizal, Ingles, Pranses at Aleman. Na marunong sumulat at magsalita sa wikang Kastila,

Ang kailangan ko ngayon ay isang tutor sa inyong wika. Isang volunteer sa hanay ng aking mga kaibigang Chinoy.

At isa pa: magtabi tayo ng isang araw para sa deklarasyon ng Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day, para sariwain ang papel na ginagampanan ng mga Chinoy sa ating cultural enrichment and economic and social development of our country.

Meron akong personal na interes para ibigay sa inyo ang mga nasasabing plano. Matagal ko nang sinusundan ang giyera ng mga lahi sa kapwa lahi, ng mga tribo laban sa kapwa tribo sa buong asya, at nakakatakot ang gulong nangyayari.

Kailangan mapigil natin ang mga gulong nangyayari sa ating paligid. Kaya ang misyon ko ay tapusin ang gulong nangyayari ngayon sa may ilang bahagi sa Mindanao, at ang gulo sa pagitan ng komunista at ng pamahalaan.

Let us lay the ground for harmony right now. Let us think of what will unite us rather than what will divide us. We after all desire the same things: a stable and growing economy that will sustain the good life for ourselves and our families.

Cultural integration is a long process that needs to be nurtured not only through policy but more importantly through the day-to-day interaction between persons and groups.

Sana'y magkaisa tayo sa isang diwa, isang prinsipyo at isang damdamin. Ito ang panawagan ng aking administrasyon: bayan, magkaisa!

Magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat at maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's 103rd Philippine Independence Day Celebration of the Filipino-Chinese Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213633/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8649&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo on the Ceremonial Signing of the Omnibus Power Bill, June 8, 2001

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the Ceremonial Signing of the Omnibus Power Bill**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, June 8, 2001]

**THE OMNIBUS POWER BILL:
RATE REDUCTION
THROUGH GREAT COMPETITION**

Una'y gusto kong pasalamatan ang mga senador at kongresista na tumawid ng party line at nagtulung-tulong para maipasa ang Power Reform Bill. The passage of this bill demonstrates that healing is more productive than hatred. So, "To God be the glory".

Dahil sa batas na ito, matitigil na natin ang napakalaking ibinibigay ng gobyerno sa NAPOCOR bawa't taon bilang subsidy. Malaki pong halaga iyan. This law unburdens government from having to maintain and operate generating plants. At Php38 billion annually, government subsidies to the power sector could be used to fund other services. This amount can build more than a hundred fifteen thousand classrooms. This, almost a hundred twenty seven thousand hectares, can put up 76,000 low-cost houses or construct 6,300 kilometers of road. This aspect to me is most significant, for it enables government to stretch its finances to meet other basic needs that our people should have immediately.

Dahil sa batas na ito, sana hindi na magkakaroon ng problema ang gobyerno na maghanap ng dagdag na puhunan para sa energy sector. At the core of this law is the framework for greater competition and the provision of a level playing field for power generator.

Dahil sa batas na ito, ay malulutas ang utang ng NAPOCOR. Kung hindi pumasa ang Power Reform Bill, patuloy sana ang paglobo ng utang na ito. Iyan na po ang ilan sa mga dahilan kung bakit masyadong mataas ang presyo ng ating kuryente at isa sa pinakamataas sa buong Asya. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit napakamahal ng presyo ng mga bilihin. Sa pagpasa ng power reform bill, magkakaroon ng kumpetisyon. Inaasahan natin, bababa ang presyo ng kuryente.

Our reputation as having one the most expensive electricity rates in Asia will hopefully change, with the law's mandates of rate reduction of around 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour for residential consumers. The law also provides for a reduction in industrial power rates.

Kung bababa ang presyo ng kuryente, dapat susunod ang pagbaba ng presyo ng mga bilihin o kaya man lang maiwasan ang malubhang pagtaas pa ng mga presyo. Magiging competitive tayo sa ibang bansa. Marami po ang pabor sa batas na ito at marami din ang tutol. Pinakinggan ko pong mabuti ang dalawang panig. Pinakinggan din sila ng mga kongresista at senador. At sa isang makasaysayang boto, nagpasiya ang ating mga matatalinong mambabatas na ipasa ang Power Reform Bill.

Many of our countrymen and even some legislators who voted for this new law believed, that this new law can still stand some improvement. In particular, they want the law to level the playing field more in the power industry, and to institute additional safeguards to protect consumers.

I believe these are valid concerns. And I am directing the incoming Secretary of Energy, Vicente Perez, who is right here, to conduct public hearings to determine if further amendments are needed, and what amendments are needed to further protect the public interest. And with the indulgence of our senators and congressmen who have worked so hard, if the hearings come about with conscientious amendments, then I hope they will indulge me, when I certify in the 12th Congress as urgent, the enactment of this needed conscientious, amendment to the law.

May magkasama pong ginhawa at sakit ang batas na ito. May ginhawa po at ang mga ginhawa na nandiyan ay magsisimula kaagad, iyong pagbaba ng ating electric bills. Ang mga sakit naman ay inaasahan nating unti-unting mawawala. Ngunit kung hindi po natin inalis o ginamot ang karamdaman lalo pang gagrabe ang mga sakit. Gagamitin po natin ang perang mase-save gaya ng sinabi ko kanina, para sa mga prayoridad natin. Katulad ng murang pabahay, libreng gamot, imprastraktura, and mass education. Pasisiglahin natin ang ekonomiya at ang kalidad ng ating buhay.

Maraming salamat muli sa mga senador at mga kongresista. Ladies and gentlemen of the 11th Congress, aside from thanking you for passing this bill, I also offer you the deep appreciation of the Filipino people for all your accomplishments during this Congress.

This Congress has set many “firsts”. This is the first but hopefully, the only Congress of our country that has worked with two administrations.

And, it is this Congress that will finally see the passage into law of what is perhaps, the longest running bill in our history, because it spanned three administrations and two Congresses, indeed, the longest running bill in Philippine contemporary legislation, the Electric Power Industry Reform Bill, which will soon become Republic Act 9136.

I am glad, that the soon to be Republic Act 9136 is the product of the joint efforts of this immediate, past and the present administration. It was in the past administration that this bill reached the Bicameral Conference Committee level. This administration has ensured that the work done to push the bill would not come to naught. As the child of two administrations, this law should prove that when the interest of the Filipino people is at stake, Congress and the Executive Branch will readily set aside politics and join hands to benefit our people.

Let it also be said here that this administration will continue to implement sound policies started by previous administrations.

Maraming salamat din sa mga NGO na sumuporta sa atin. Ang pagpasa ng Power Reform Bill na pinagdebatehan noong nakaraang siyam na taon ay isang demonstrasyon ng bagong diwa ng pagtutulungan ng mga Pilipino. Ipagpatuloy po natin ang diwang ito ng pagkakaisa para sa ating bayan, para sa ating kabataan, para sa ating kinabukasan.

Today, we also witness the signing into law of Republic Act 9137, or the Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001. Nagagalak akong pirmahan ang panukalang batas na ito, na bukod sa ibang bagay ay magbibigay ng limang porsiyentong dagdag sa sahod ng mga government workers. This supplemental budget is vital to the operations of the bureaucracy of a total Php10.9 billion in the supplemental budget, Php1.45 billion will cover the second installation of the salary increases for the Philippine National Police, as mandated by Republic Act 8551; five hundred million pesos covers the increase in the monthly old-aged pensions of veterans and surviving spouses under Republic Act No. 7696; and, one billion pesos will go to the deficiencies in the appropriation of foreign-assisted projects, as well as a counterpart requirement of projects that will be implemented starting this year.

The bulk of the supplemental budget amounting to 7.95 billion pesos will cover salary deficiencies and adjustments. Of these amounts, 4.15 billion pesos will be used to pay 5,000 teachers hired in fiscal year 2000, the increase in government share of health and insurance premiums of government employees, retirement benefits for PNP

personnel, and the deficiency in the regular retirement benefits of our government personnel. The remaining amount of Php3.8 billion, will be used to cover the five percent across the board increase of all national government employees.

Ako na ang unang nagsasabi na hindi pa rin sapat ang umento para lubusang tapatan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilingin. Ako na rin ang unang aamin, na matagal nang dapat ibinigay ang nasabing umento sa mga government workers, dahil matagal ng nalampasan ng private sector salary scale ang salary scale ng public sector.

Isang napakaimportanteng bahagi ang government service sa ating programa para sa reporma. Hindi natin matatapos ang ating mga piano kung wala tayong matatag, masisipag, at edukadong government workers. Taun-taon ay nababawasan tayo ng magagaling na government workers, dahil sila ay lumilipat sa private sector, o di kaya naman ay umaalis patungong ibang bansa. Bilang isang ekonomista, hindi ko sinisisi ang kanilang desisyon dahil prayoridad nila ang interes ng kanilang pamilya. Makatuwiran ang kanilang desisyon. Pero sa katagalan, ang kawalan ng edukasyon at disiplina ng government workers ay makakaapekto sa paghahapit ng serbisyong bayan sa mga mamamayan. Ganoon pa man kailangan nating pataasin pa ang kalidad ng government service sa pamamagitan ng training, improved recruitment at better pay. Sinisikap natin ang sapat na sahod ng mga government workers sapagkat malaki ang kanilang serbisyo sa bayan. Kung sabagay, ay hindi laging salapi ang kabayaran ng public service. Ang makatulong sa pagbuo ng bansa ay isang uri ng tinatawag nating psychic income, isang kasiyahang loob na mahigit pa sa salapi. Pero nariyan pa rin ang pangangailangan sa perang nasa bulsa o nasa bangko.

Bukod sa Php3.8 billion na salary increase na binanggit ko para sa mga government workers, uulitin ko, dadagdagan din ng batas na ito ang sahod ng mga pulis, mga guro, ang pension para sa mga beterano, at popondohan din ang retirement benefits para sa mga kawani ng pamahalaan.

Kaya gusto kong pasalamat muli ang Kongreso sa kanilang pagpasa ng supplemental budget na nagkakahalaga ng Php10.9 billion. Pinasalamat ko ang mga magiging na senador at congressmen na nag-overtime para siguraduhing magkaroon ng dagdag na umento ang mga masisipag na empleyado ng pamahalaan. Salamat po sa inyong lahat, mga senador at congressmen.

You, the members of the 11th Congress have made your work as legislators and statesmen, with more than 400 new laws to your credits. These last two laws to be signed soon, are testaments to the sincerity and the political will of both the Legislative and Executive Branches in searching for enduring processes, systems and plans that has positive impact on our people's lives.

I am particularly happy that after I became President, Congress passed a hundred three bills including the last two bills, and 20 of them are of national application.

Since I have been President for only a hundred forty days, this means that during the time you worked together, congressmen and senators, you passed almost one law per day. And I hope that the 12th Congress wherein many of you will still sit, will be as productive.

Take a bow, ladies and gentlemen of the 11th Congress and a cheery applause of the Filipino nation. It has been my great honor to have worked with you. At sa lahat ng ating mga kapuwa Pilipino, bayan magkaisa.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the grand salute to the Filipino Flag by the Chinese Filipino Business Club Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the grand salute to the Filipino Flag by the Chinese Filipino Business Club

[Delivered at the St. Stephen's High School, Binondo, Manila, June 11, 2001]

Maraming salamat Mr. Go.

Please sit down.

Honorable Bishop; other officials of the Chinese-Filipino business club; other officials of St. Stephen's high school; students of the various Chinese schools; ladies and gentlemen:

Kok we chaw an'. Ta chia haw. A pleasant good morning to everybody. Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

Pasensiya na lang kayo kung medyo baluktot ang aking Chinese. Pero gusto ko malaman ninyo kung gaano kalapit sa aking pamilya ang Chinese. Alam ninyo naman na ang aking mahal na kaniyang, si Atty. Jose Miguel Arroyo ay may malakas na dugong Chinese. Ang kanyang ninuno, si Son Tua ay isang negosyanteng Chinese na napalapit naman sa mga kastila noong panahon ng 17th century.

Nasabi ko nga sa talumpati ko noong Biyernes sa Federation of Filipino Chinese chambers of commerce and industry — at ang buong Filipino-Chinese community — sa PICC na kung inuutos ng ating konstitusyon na gawing optional languages ang Spanish at Arabic sa mga kolehiyo, kailangan pag-aralang maisama din ang Mandarin. Ang Chinese language ay ang pinaka-malaganap na wika sa buong mundo. Ginagamit ito ng mahigit na isang bilyong Chinese. Ito ang wika ng milyon-milyong Chinese sa Pilipinas, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand at Indonesia.

Magpunta ka sa maraming bansa at lahat halos ay mayroon Chinatown. Every nation has its own Chinatown. Mayroong maliit na China sa bawat sulok ng daigdig. Ang isa sa ipinagmamalaki ng Chinatown ay ang narito sa Binondo, isang makasaysayang distrito ng Maynila.

Kaya balak kong atasan ang Commission on Higher Education o CHED na pag-aralan ang pagtuturo ng mandarin sa lahat ng kolehiyo at unibersidad bilang optional language, kasama ng Spanish at Arabic.

Ang totoo'y dapat palaganapin ng CHED ang Foreign Language Education sa ating bansa. Hindi na sapat na ang isang Pilipino ay mahusay sa tatlong lenggwahe — ang Tagalog/Filipino, English at ang kanyang regional language. Ang makabagong Filipino ay dapat marunong ng maraming wika, tulad ng Spanish, Japanese, Arabic, Bahasa at Chinese.

Mahalaga ang isang foreign language sa international trade, foreign relations, global security and defense. Mahalaga ito sa research at scholarship. Importante ito sa person-to-person relationships.

Kailangan ay marami tayong eksperto sa mga lenggwahe. Pero magsimula tayo sa Spanish, Arabic at Chinese. Ito ang gawin nating foundation ng ating "linguistic literacy." Tulungan po ninyo ako na mapatupad at magtagumpay ito.

Pero bago ako makalimot, hayaan ninyo munang batiin ko ang mga pinuno at kasapi ng Chinese-Filipino business, club, inc. At ang mga guro, estudyante at administration ng St. Stephen's High School.

Binabati ko kayo para sa inyong selebrasyon ng ating Independence Day. Nalulugod ako na naisipan ninyong isagawa itong “a grand salute to the Philippine Flag.” At ako ay nasisiyahan din sa inyong malaking kontribusyon sa ating mga kawal na namatay o lubhang nasugatan dito sa giyera sa Basilan.

Ang kalayaan ng Pilipinas, na ating nakamit noong Hunyo 12, 1898, ay galing sa sakripisyo ng mga bayaning Pilipino at ng mga kakampi nila noong rebolusyon ng 1896 at iba pang pag-aalsa bago pa doon.

Ang mga kakamping ito ay galing sa ibat-ibang lahi. Kinikilala nila ang ating panaginip at tumulong para tayo makalaya. Kabilang sa kanila si Dr. Ferdinand Blumentritt ng Germany at si General Pawa, Filipino-Chinese na nagbuhat ng itak at riple noong rebolusyon.

Pero bago pa sumapit ang rebolusyon ay may ilang siglo ng pagkakaibigan at kalakalan ang China at Pilipinas. Dahil sa kalakal ay naging malapit ang dalawang lahi. Maraming Chinese ang nag baka-sakali sa Pilipinas, tumira, nagtayo ng negosyo at nagpalaki ng pamilya dito.

At nagkaroon ng isang maliit na Chinese community na lumaki sa Pilipinas ng panahon. Lumago ang kanilang negosyo at lumaki ang mga anak dito. Naging leader sila sa business community at sa civic life. Naging isa mahalagang haligi ng ekonomiya at ng bansa.

Kayo, mga Filipino-Chinese, ay modelo hindi lamang sa kapwa Chinese kungdi lalo na para sa maraming Pilipino.

Modelo ang Chinese sa inyong work ethic — sipag, tiyaga, tipid, sakripisyo at pagpaplano sa kinabukasan.

Modelo kayo sa negosyo. Hindi kayo nasisiyahan sa pagiging empleyado. Ang karaniwang hakbang ay entrepreneurship, ang pagiging self-employed sa halip ng 9-to-5-employee. Ang pagiging employer ng tao sa halip na maging kawani ng iba.

Kaya saan mang industriya — maging banking, insurance, transportation, communication, energy, media, service, manufacturing — mayroong mga lider na Chino.

Modelo kayo sa civic service. Katulad ng binondo volunteer fire brigade. Kamukha ng civic leader at crime-fighter na si Teresita Ang See.

Modelo kayo sa kultura at sining. Karangalan ng bansa na itanghal bilang isang bayani o National Artist, si Ang Kiu Kok — ang bantog na pintor — bilang isang National Artist. Ang ina’t ama ni ang Kiu Kok ay 100 percent Chinese, pero siya ay lumaki sa Pilipinas at nagpamalas ng talino sa pagpinta na kinaiinggitan ng marami.

Anupa’t tukuyin mo ang anumang larangan at mayroong modelong Chinese na makikita.

Gusto ko ring makita ang mga Chinoy na modelo sa pagkakaisa, sa pagbibigkis ng mga lahi, katulong ng pamahalaan sa pagbuo ng isang bansang Pilipinas.

Marami na tayong Pilipino na may lahing Chinese na naglilingkod sa gobyerno. Dumami pa sana ang kanilang bilang.

Sana ay magkaroon tayo ng maraming second-generation Chinese sa executive at legislative tulad ni Congressman Harry Angping ng third district ng Maynila na nahalal na muli noong may 14 para sa kanyang second term.

Samantala’y hinihimok ko ang mga Chinese-Filipino na ipagpatuloy ang inyong papel sa ating lipunan. Palakasin ang inyong negosyo at palawakin ang dami ng trabaho sa komunidad.

Tumulong sa pag-anyaya sa mga investors. Himuking dalhin ang puhunan dito.

Palawakin pang inyong community involvement. Damihan ang mga medical at dental missions. Magtatag ng dagdag na volunteer fire brigades sa maraming parte ng Pilipinas.

Ipakilala pang lalo ang inyong cultural heritage sa mga Pilipino. Hanap nating maging kasapi kayo ng lipunan pero dapat ding pagyamanin ang katutubo ninyong kultura. Maraming natututunan ang mga Filipino o katutubong Filipino sa inyo, at kayo sa amin.

Nagagalak akong ibalita sa inyo na nung makalawa ay nilagdaan ko ang Naturalization Act of 2001. Maraming ideya sa batas ang galing kay Mr. Dante Go. Malaki ang kanyang tulong sa pagbalangkas ng naturalization law. Maraming salamat, Dante.

Ang Naturalization Act ay magbibigay ng citizenship sa mga qualified at deserving aliens na gustong gawing legal ang kanilang residence dito at gustong lumahok sa lipunan. Mapabibilis ang inyong citizenship — baka marami sa mga estudyante dito ay hindi pa Filipino citizen kaya ngayon mapapabilis ang inyong citizenship sa tulong sang batas.

Ngunit ang citizenship ay hindi nabubuhay sa isang piraso lamang na papel na nagbibigay ng pagka-mamamayan. Hindi ka tunay na citizen kung ipinagmamalaki mo lamang ang inyong naturalization papers. Hindi ka citizen dahil naging legal ang pagtira mo dito.

Ang citizenship ay pinagtatrabuhan, citizenship is earned. Citizenship is not hanging up your residence papers on the wall but living day to day as a true Filipino. It is earned by fulfilling the obligations of citizenship — like voting, paying taxes, obeying the laws and — if necessary — bearing arms and fighting for your country.

I know that most aliens — including Chinese nationals — who will opt for Filipino citizenship will honor their status and reciprocate the goodness of their new country. This is as it should be. And the Philippines welcomes its new citizens. Together, the new citizens and the nation can work in unity — toward a single purpose, under one flag, the flag that we honor this morning.

Nalaman ko na ‘yung batas na ito para pumasa sa House at sa Senate na isang anyo at hindi matatagalan na dumaan pa muli sa Bicameral Conference Committee ay hindi nakalagay ng budget para patakbuhin ‘yung opisina. Kaya hahanap ako ng budget sa aking discretionary fund para puwede nang magsimula kaagad ang Solicitor General na simulain ang proseso ng mga citizenship application papers.

Kaya marami sa inyo dito ay Filipino sa kaluluwa at Filipino sa diwa, ngunit hindi pa Filipino sa papeles. Sana sa madaling panahon, ‘pag tayo’y nakapag-celebrate na ng Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day, ay makikita kong buong-buong Filipino na kayo sa puso maging sa inyong mga papeles.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA’s Speech during the Grand Salute to the Filipino Flag by the Chinese Filipino Business Club. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213610/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8644&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 100th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of the Philippines Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 100th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, Manila, June 11, 2001]

Thank you very much, Chief Justice Davide; Mrs. Davide.

Speaker Belmonte; members of the diplomatic corps headed by his Excellency Archbishop Franco; Members of the Cabinet; Members of the Senate headed by Senator Rene Cayetano; Supreme Court Associate Justices; visiting Chief Justices and Justices; Supreme Court Officials; Judicial and Bar Council; retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Fernando and the other retired justices; Court of Appeals Justices; Sandiganbayan members headed by Justice Garchitorena; members of the Constitutional Commissions on Independent Bodies; Mayor and Mrs. Atienza; ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great honor to join in this celebration of the Philippine Supreme Court's centennial.

On this occasion, the message we proudly proclaim to all nations of the world is that good governance which is premised on justice and the rule of law is strong in the Philippines, defended by a judiciary that is fiercely independent by any international standard.

We proudly proclaim, as the bible's reading said today, that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, that god rules the Philippines, because we have a centennial supreme court that enjoys the great respect of our people because of its integrity.

Democracy cannot flourish without a free and credible judiciary. The Supreme Court is an essential pillar of Philippine democracy.

Apart from being the bastion of justice, the interpreter of the law, the official guardian of civil and human rights, and oftentimes, the unofficial government watchdog, the bench, especially the high court, is our people's conscience, the guarantor of its peace of mind, and our people's psychological comfort zone. The Supreme Court is the strongest judicial bulwark in our system. As long as the highest tribunal has the respect of the people, democracy will be safe in our country.

Chief Justice Davide was named the Filipino of the year 2000. His role in the impeachment trial and in the call for me to take my oath of office as president last January 20th and the role of the supreme court justices on three 13-0 votes regarding my legitimacy — the legitimacy of my president — have again thrust the supreme court into the highest consciousness of the people, and in so doing, the supreme court has underscored the ascendancy of the rule of law in our country.

The high standing of the Supreme Court in the hearts and minds of the Filipino today underscores our historical record as Asia's oldest democracy with the longest legal tradition. From Spanish law and American jurisprudence, we have now evolved our own legal culture with a wealth of precedents. The Supreme Court's ruling on the incapacity of the former to perform the functions of the presidency last January was one of its many landmarks over its hundred years of existence. And as it celebrates its centenary, the Supreme Court now has an auspicious opportunity for building the future of our judiciary. The judicial reform program instituted by the chief justice is bearing fruit and is appreciated by our people.

For instance, the expanded use of mediation which I helped launch last march as we saw in the video is a fitting tribute to the centennial celebration of the Supreme Court. It is an official recognition of mediation as a modern

form of conflict resolution engendered by the reemergence of democracies. And let me say that what we have seen tonight, the multi-visual, multi-media presentation and the way that the whole program has been conducted tonight is but an illustration that indeed, the Supreme Court is well on its way to e-justice — electronic justice, paperless justice — bringing the Philippine Supreme Court right into the third millennium.

Of the three branches of government, the judiciary is the one that provides constancy of direction. Members of congress have to face the judgment of their constituents every three years. Holders of the highest posts in the national and local levels of the executive branch must also present themselves to the verdict of the people through the ballot.

In contrast, the members of the judiciary are appointed almost for life. Thus, they reinforce the Filipino sense of continuity especially during changes of administration. Because its members are appointed for almost for life and are more carefully chosen, the judiciary reinforces, indeed, the Filipino people's sense of continuity because it is important that whenever we have a change of administration we have something that is continuing. We have the civil service but we also have the judiciary. In more ways than one, like the diplomatic corps and the military, it is a model of professional civil service. Its autonomy helps foster an internal culture of reward for excellence and penalty for mediocrity. For this reason, the members of the judiciary must indeed be carefully chosen.

When on January 20th of this year, I took the option provided by Chief Justice Davide to take my oath of office as president at noon of that day, I declared among my core beliefs that:

“We must improve moral standards in government and society in order to provide a strong foundation for good governance.”

Improving moral standards in government and society mainly involves the judiciary. This is so because it is the judiciary which interprets what is right or wrong and what is lawful and what is not. Thus, it is essential that the process of selection of the members of judiciary be in itself a model of high standards. It is essential that the screening process by the judicial and bar council be one of strict adherence to high moral standards, especially because the process is not as public as the screening process provided for Cabinet members, senior diplomats and ranking military officers in the commission on appointments.

I wish to quote Chief Justice Davide's words in the Davide watch. And he said: “members of the judiciary and court personnel must unerringly adhere to the constitutional precept that public office is public trust and he continues, dishonesty, immorality, incompetence, inefficiency and any form of unbecoming conduct are impermissible. Indeed, wonderful words to hear from the Filipino of the year 2000.

The same requirements of integrity and honesty should be applied to all other public servants. In the executive branch, I have consistently campaigned for the observance of the highest standards of integrity and morality, especially among my Cabinet members, for they must lead by example.

My first administrative order prohibits government agencies from entering into any business contracts with my relatives and those of my husband. I have also banned the use of luxury vehicles by government officials and ordered their immediate disposal through public bidding. These measures will not necessarily eliminate graft and corruption at once but they are essential to set the tone for integrity and a modest lifestyle which are important ingredients of honest and effective governance.

Under the executive order number 12, I have also created a presidential anti-graft commission, a stronger one than its predecessor body. This commission is designed to strengthen our institutionalized measures against graft and corruption. The body is composed of a chairman with the rank and privileges of a presidential assistant ii and two commissioners with the rank and privileges of presidential assistant I.

The commission is empowered to investigate or hear cases against all presidential appointees occupying starting from the positions of assistant regional director up to highest rank of Cabinet member. It has the power to administer oaths and issue subpoenas and it can also call upon and secure the assistance of any office, committee, bureau,

agency or department in the executive branch including government-owned and controlled corporations. It can conduct studies on its own and in cooperation with other government agencies or NGOs, on new measures to prevent and minimize the opportunities for graft and corruption at all levels of the bureaucracy. And to ensure its administrative efficiency, it is exempted from the prohibition against hiring of new personnel as prescribed in administrative order number 100.

The presidential anti-graft commission will put more teeth in our campaign against crooks and thieves in government.

In close partnership with other government agencies and non-government organizations, it can, and it will make the goal of good governance hopefully, a clear reality for our people.

I am also developing the concept of a governance advisory council to be composed of respected leaders from the private sector. I view this body as a key strategy for demonstrating that our country is transparent in governance and that it does not and will not tolerate corrupt practices.

The council will be a body of private sector industry statesmen and women appointed by the president for a fixed term. It will be advisory to the president on a range of governance issues. It would use its stature to reform corporate and government behavior using such instruments as codes of conducts, awards programs and policy round tables. It would seek system-wide solutions to the governance and corruption issues it is tasked with advising the president on.

Its members will be private and will receive no emoluments from government. It will be advisory to the president. Its secretariat will be funded privately.

Under the terms of reference of the council, governance shall be defined as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's resources for development and in an organization's resources for growth and profitability.

The holy bible, which states in proverbs 21:3: "to do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. Justice is the primary service delivered by the judiciary.

I am strengthening the anti-graft commission and forming the governance council because I am inspired by the leadership of the Supreme Court and its drive towards integrity.

There can be no nobler initiative than to ensure that all the courts are able to deliver justice efficiently, effectively and quickly. Justice is inseparable and indispensable to good governance and democracy.

Hopefully, the presence of an anti-graft commission and an advisory commission on governance will demonstrate the seriousness in which my administration takes good governance to heart because that is the least i can do with the Supreme Court rulings on the legitimacy of this government.

The scope and coverage of the commission will be the promotion of corporate governance within the private sector and industry, facilitation of reform among regulatory agencies, and the projection of a strong anti-corrupt practice of this government through the development of a strong code of ethics for organizations and individuals of all types.

Programs that may be developed and promoted by the council would include:

- 1) the promulgation of a Philippine code of corporate governance; 2) the development of a Philippine corporate governance awards program; 3) the promulgation of a code of ethics to guide anti-corruption practices; 4) a study of tax evasion and reforms in the area of tax process simplification; and, 5) a study of how to strengthen the judicial system in dealing with graft and corruption.

I commit the full support of the executive branch to the judiciary's worthy endeavors, especially the Supreme Court. We in the three branches of government have common aspirations, and our nation and people can only benefit from whatever cooperation we can extend to each other in the course of providing public service of the highest quality.

I proudly reaffirm this administration's commitment to justice and the rule of law. Nothing less than democracy itself has been on trial in this country, and I submit that it has survived stronger than ever, thanks in no small measure to the integrity and the probity of such men as Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

Tomorrow, we celebrate our independence day. It is providential that the Supreme Court's founding anniversary is so close to our country's commemoration of independence. An enduring judiciary, bound by the rule of law and not of men, is required of a truly independent and democratic nation. A high court with the highest integrity and capability guards not only the nation's sense of justice but also its freedom and liberty. I am heartened that the centennial Supreme Court is one that enjoys a reputation of the highest integrity and capability.

I celebrate with the Filipino people the centennial of one of the proudest judicial traditions in Asia. It is a tradition that produced some of our noblest statesmen.

In behalf of the Filipino people, I thank the Supreme Court for standing by the side of freedom, constitutional democracy and good governance in the finest traditions of Chief Justices Cayetano Arellano, Jose Abad Santos, Jose Laurel and Justice Claro Recto. I am one with the Filipino people in felicitating the members of the Supreme Court on its glorious centenary.

Mabuhay ang ating Korte Suprema! Mabuhay ang katarungan sa Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino! At bayan magkaisa tayo sa paggalang sa ating Korte Suprema, sa ating judiciary.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the 100th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213624/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8643&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Toast for Independence Day Vin D'Honneur

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Toast for Independence Day Vin D'Honneur**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, June 12, 2001]

Thank you very much.

Her Excellency, former President Corazon Aquino; the Vice President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teofisto Guingona; Chief Justice Davide; his Excellency Archbishop Antonio Franco; your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; heads of specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations; members of congress; members of the cabinet; other government officials; the armed forces chief of staff and the major service commanders; ladies and gentlemen:

We celebrate today the 103rd Anniversary of Philippine Independence amidst great changes taking place in the state of affairs among and within nations.

The economic fulcrum has shifted to North America, Europe is largely at peace with itself — a happy change after being the center of two world wars — the middle east continues to face and present challenges, Latin America seeks progress through closer cooperation among its member states, democracy is encouragingly taking hold in areas in Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia, the region where the Philippines belongs, strives for economic recovery even as new powers arise in the region.

There is a lesson to be learned as we examine the success and failure of nations at nation-building and this is that nations with a free and united people, and energized by effective governance, have the best chance of survival even under an adverse international situation.

For a combination of freedom and unity among a people, who are pulling together in the same direction to the cadence of a leader's call, creates a powerful, if not inexorable, force for creativity, productivity and achievement.

Therefore, as my five-month old administration takes on the task of reviving our economy and addresses the inherited problems of insurgency and crime, we are also laying the foundation for the long-term change of the Philippines into a nation of inner strength and resolve.

Unity is the theme of this year's independence day celebrations. This is also the basic theme that underlies my program of governance. Unity among our people must go hand-in-hand with the democracy we enjoy if our nation is to move forward.

Thus, we are embarked on a program of strengthening the moral fiber of Philippine society through leadership by example and the inculcation in our people, particularly the youth, of a deep sense of nationhood as well as the values of integrity, hard work and perseverance.

Thus, we are also embarked on programs to address poverty and the lack of education among many of our people so that no sector of society will feel alienated or separate from the rest.

Thus, we are also extending our hand of peace and reconciliation to those who have taken up arms against the government because of their political or ideological beliefs.

I am also happy to note the willingness of both the administration and opposition members of the Philippine congress, as well as our local officials, to work together for the nation's good, a sure sign that the political healing process has started.

I am also gratified to witness the collective resolve to deal with the threats to law and order which equally lessen us all.

Right now, we cannot confirm the report which was made over a radio station in Mindanao about the supposed killing of a hostage. The military has alerted its intelligence network in Mindanao to get a verification of the Abu Sayaff's claim that they have beheaded Mr. Guillermo Sobero.

If the Abu Sayaff's claim is accurate, it only emphasizes the fact that it is a merciless, ruthless group that has no qualms at all in murdering an innocent person for the sake of ransom money.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms this reported beheading of Mr. Sobero. To murder and even behead a helpless person is as ruthless as it is cowardly.

The reported murder of Mr. Sobero only strengthens our resolve to decimate once and for all this cold-blooded bandit group.

Sabaya's statements that the beheading of Sobero is a "gift" to our government on the occasion of our independence celebration, that our troops should fast look for the headless body before it is eaten by dogs, that they did the dastardly act to prove they are not "kids" making empty threats underline the ghouliness and viciousness of the Abu Sayaff.

They emphasize the depths of cruelty which this group is capable of. It shows that this terrorist group has trampled and will trample on all the values of humanity. Sabaya has even trampled on Islam, when he threatened to behead even the Ulama, or religious leaders, for appealing to him to release his victims.

We acceded yesterday to their request that a Malaysian citizen participate in the talks with them, after they threatened to kill an American hostage if we did not do so. After we made the announcement, the terrorist leader Sabaya even announced over radio that they would no longer push through with their threat to kill a hostage.

With his claim he has beheaded Mr. Sobero, Sabaya does not even honor his own word.

Nonetheless, I am confident that as a united people, we will surmount our difficulties and achieve the progress we so desire through our own efforts and in active cooperation with all your governments and peoples.

On this note, Excellencies, allow me to offer a toast to the understanding and friendship among our peoples and to the health and success of the heads of state of your respective countries.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the Toast for Independence Day Vin D'Honneur. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213559/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8637&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 103rd Philippine Independence Day celebration of the Filipino-Chinese Community

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagdiriwang ng ika-103 na anibersaryo ng Araw ng Kalayaan**

[Ipinahayag sa Quirino Grandstand, Luneta, ika 12 ng Hunyo, 2001]

Maraming salamat Secretary Richard Gordon.

Ang aking kabiyak, si Atty. Jose Miguel Arroyo; ang akin namang kabalikat sa pagpatakbo ng pamahalaan, si Vice President Teofisto Guingona, kasama na rin yung ibang mga kasapi ng gabinete; his Excellency Antonio Franco and the other members of the Diplomatic Corps; ating mga sundalo at mga pulis; mga kasapi ng senado; mga kasapi ng kamara; napakaraming narito, itong araw na ito — yung ating mga justices kasama na rin yung mga nagbibisita mga justice galing sa ibang bansa; mga opisyal ng pamahalaan; mga bisita; kayo, aking mga minamahal na kababayan:

Happy Independence Day sa inyong lahat.

Sa araw na ito ay ginugunita natin ang pagka-proklama ng kalayaan ng bayang Pilipinas.

Sa araw na ito ay tumatanaw tayo sa nakaraan.

Isandaan at tatlong taon na ang nakalipas mula noong nag-proklama sa Kawit, Cavite ang ating kasarinlan; at kung saan ay winagayway ang ating bandila, at tinugtog ang ating pambansang awit, bilang pagsilang ng isang bansang may karapatang maging malaya.

Bilang inyong pangulo, isang malaking karangalan para sa akin na batiin kayong lahat sa pagdiriwang ng 103rd na anibersaryo ng kalayaan ng ating bansa.

Muli pong mapagmalaki ng bawat Pilipino ang naging tagumpay kamakailan lamang ng demokrasya sa ating bansa.

Ang araw ng kalayaan itong taong ito ay dapat higit na makabuluhan dahil dito sa mga panibagong tagumpay ng ating kasaysayan. Ang pagpanalo ng taong-bayan sa EDSA dos. Ang nabigong pagsisikap ng mga ambisyosong puwersa sa pagsamantala sa madla, at ang ating halalang nasyonal at lokal noong Mayo katorse — lahat nito ay muling pinapatibay ang determinasyon ng Pilipino na manirahang malaya, demokratiko, at may dignidad sa bansa.

Sa araw na ito ay ginugunita natin ang nakaraan upang muling sariwain ang kagitingan ng lahing Pilipino. At sa pamamagitan ng alaalang ito ay manumbalik sa atin ang lakas ng pagkakaisa at determinasyong magtagumpay at manguna sa anumang hamon ating haharapin sa mga darating pang panahon.

Sa lugar na ito, kung saan iginarote sina Padre Gomez, Burgos at Zamora; kung saan pinaslang ang ating pambansang bayani na si Jose Rizal; kung saan pinatay ng mga kastila ang maraming miyembro ng katipunan, tayo'y pinapaalala na ang ating kalayaan by pinagbuwisan ng buhay ng ating mga bayani.

Dito sa Luneta, limampu't-limang taon nang nakaraan, ay itinaas muli ang bandila ng Pilipinas at ibinaba ang bandila ng Amerika at tayo'y naging isang malayang republika muli.

Dito rin sa Luneta ay prinoklama ng aking ama ang petsang ito bilang araw ng kasarinlan.

Habang nagdiriwang tayo nitong napaka-espesyal na pangyayari, alalahanin natin hindi lamang ang ating mga panibagong tagumpay kundi na rin ang mga hrap at pakikibaka ng ating mga ninuno upang gawin ang paraan para sa kalayaan ng Pilipinas. Hayaan ang kanilang dakilang sakripisyo maging inspirasyon natin habang tayo ay sumisikap ngayon na palakasin ang ating minamahal na republika bilang isang makapangyarihang ekonomiya at isang buhay ng dignidad at kapayapaan para sa bawat Pilipino. Hayaan natin ang mga aral ng nakaraan, kasama ng siglo ng kasalukuyan na magbigay sa atin ng sipag at inspirasyon na kailangan natin upang makamit natin ang ating bahagi ng responsibilidad bilang Pilipino sa siglo beinte-uno. Noon, nagkaisa tayo ng pagmamahal sa mga simbolo ng kasarinlan at kalayaan na ipinakita at narinig sa Kawit, Cavite: ang ating bandila, ang ating pambansang awit, ang ating mithiin na hindi na muling mapailalim ang ating tinubuang lupa sa anumang banyagang bansa.

Sa ating pagkakaisa noong mga nakaraang panahon, napakita ng Pilipinas na kaya niyang manguna sa sandaigdigan.

Ang pagdeklara ni heneral aguinaldo ng ating kasarinlan ang simula ng pagkatatag ng unang republika sa buong asya. Ito rin ang unang matagumpay na rebolusyon laban sa kolonyalismo sa buong kontinente. Ang ating republika at tagumpay laban sa kolonyalismo ang naging inspirasyon o simula ng pagnanais makawala ng iba nating karatig-bansa sa pananakop ng mga dayuhan.

Ang pambihirang pagkakaisa ng Sambayanang Pilipino sa edsa noong 1986 naman na People Power Revolution ay hindi lamang hinangaan sa buong mundo, ito rin ang nagsilbing inspirasyon upang matagumpay na makamit ng ibang bansa ang maging malaya at itanghal ang demokrasya sa mapayapang paraan.

Tunay nang nanguna ang ating bansa. Muli ay nagkaisa tayo sa Edsa dos upang mapalaya ang sambayanan mula sa malaganap na katiwalian. At nang ako ay naluklok bilang bagong pangulo, hiniling ko na isantabi na natin ang hidwaan at 'di pagkakaunawaan. Sama-sama tayo muling itayo ang ating pagiging isang bansa.

Sa pagkakataong ito ay inuulit ko ang panawagan sa lahat ng ating mga kababayan na muli tayong magkaisa. Ating higpitan ang pagkakapit-bisig upang malunasan ang kahirapan at manguna tayong muli sa mga demokratikong diwa at gawa sa ating rehiyon.

Mahirap ang ating pagsisikap. May lumabas na balita na ang American hostage na si Ginoong Guillermo Sobero ay pinugutan na ng ulo ng Abu Sayyaf bilang regalo sa akin sa araw ng ating kalayaan.

Hindi pa namin nakukumpirma hanggang ngayon iyung report sa isang radio station sa Mindanao. Ginagawa ng armed forces ang lahat para makumpirma ang alegasyon ng mga tulisan.

Nagdarasal ako na sana ay walang katotohanan ang balitang ito. Umaasa pa rin ako na mangibabaw ang takot ng mga miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf sa panginoon.

Magkaganon man, ito'y nagpapatotoo lamang sa pagiging berdugo at mamamatay tao ang mga Abu Sayyaf na walang awa at walang patawad sa buhay ng tao para lamang makakuha ng salapi. Lumalabas na salapi ang kanilang panginoon.

Ang galit ng taong-bayan ay umaapaw na. Ang ginagawang pandurukot ng mga Abu Sayyaf sa mga inosenteng civilian ay labag sa batas ng kristiyanismo at ng Islam.

Huwag sanang akalain ng mga bandido na lumalambot ang pamahalaan.

Minamahal kong kapwa Pilipino, ang ating pakikibaka para sa kapayapaan, katahimikan at kalayaan ay hindi lamang dapat maiwan sa isang kabanata ng ating kasaysayan. Ito ay dapat magpatuloy ngayon at araw-araw sa ating mga buhay hanggang makaya natin maligtas ang lahat ng Pilipino mula sa parusa ng labanan, pansamantala at kahirapan.

Wala pong katapusan ang ating pagsisikap tungo sa tunay na kapayapaan at kalayaan hanggang ang bawat Pilipino – lalung-lalo na ang maliliit at maralita — ay nabubuhay na mapayapa, marangal at maunlad.

Ito po ang natatanging mithiing inaasahan kong panggagalingan ng pagkakaisa nating lahat ngayon at sa harap ng anumang hamon ng panahon.

Itong araw na ito, sa ating pagdiriwang ng 103rd na anibersaryo ng kalayaan ng Pilipinas, nananawagan ako sa lahat ng Pilipino sa lahat ng lugar na tumulong sa pagtayo muli ng ating bansa tungo sa higit na kapayapaan, kaunlaran at prosperidad.

Ang araw na ito ang unang araw ng kalayaan sa Pilipinas sa bagong siglo at bagong milenyo. Ito rin ang unang araw ng kalayaan sa ilalim ng aking administrasyon. Sana ay magkaisa na ang buong bayan para makipagsabayan tayo.

Sa pagkakaisa ng layunin ng pamahalaan at taong-bayan, sa wakas ay sana makamit ng ating inang bayang Pilipinas ang kaginhawaan at kasiglahan na matagal na nitong pinapangarap.

Mga kababayan ko, sa gitna ng mga simbolo ng ating kasarinlan at kalayaan, humihingi ako ng inyong tulong at tulong ng poong maykapal. Samahan ninyo ako, magkapit-bisig tayong lahat upang ibalik ang kapayapaan at katahimikan sa ating kapuluan. Magkaisa tayo upang ganap na labanan ang kahirapan sa ating bansa. Magtulong-tulungan tayo upang mabilis na isulong ang ating ekonomiya at magdulot ito ng higit na kapakinabangan sa lahat ng ating mga kababayan.

Minamahal kong kapwa Pilipino, sa araw ng ating kasarinlan, mabuhay tayong lahat, mabuhay ang republika ng Pilipinas! Maligayang araw ng kalayaan sa inyong lahat! At bayan, tayo ay magkaisa!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the 103rd Independence Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213527/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8640&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Message of President Arroyo on the inauguration of the Kuala Lumpur Central Railway and LRT Station

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the inauguration of the Kuala Lumpur Central Railway and LRT Station**

[Delivered at the Office of the President, Malacañang, June 13, 2001]

Congratulations to his Excellency Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad and the people of Malaysia for the successful opening of the Kuala Lumpur central railway and LRT station or KL Sentral.

The construction of the central railway and LRT station is a major technological breakthrough in this era of global economy. The development of KL Sentral and its surrounding area as a new high technology business and commercial district will definitely bolster local and foreign tourism and investments in Malaysia.

We welcome the ingenious ‘city-within-city’ development concept of KL Sentral. This world-class undertaking serves as a model in information technology development for the Philippines and other countries in Southeast Asia.

The promotion and development of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector in the Philippines is among the priorities of my administration. With the inauguration of KL Sentral, I look forward to promoting cooperation between our two countries in the field of ICT.

Again, congratulations and more power to KL Sentral.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA’s Message on the Inauguration of the Kuala Lumpur Central Railway and LRT Station. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213513/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8632&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo

Message of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines

[Delivered at the Main Living Room, Malacañang, June 21, 2001]

Mga kababayan, kinausap ko ang pamilyang Cheng sa Malakanyang para sabihin sa kanila na ako'y nalulungkot sa mga maling paratang na kanilang tinanggap tungkol sa pagkakidnap kay Mary Grace. Ipinaliwanag ko rin sa kanila ang dahilan kung bakit ko ibinunyag ang report tungkol sa balak ng ilang tao na yanigin ang aking pamahalaan. At ako'y nagpaumanhin sa pamilyang Cheng.

There are two reasons why I revealed this report. First, there is a discernible pattern in these crimes even in text messages about crimes that did not happen. They seem to have been planned and executed for maximum media effect. The obvious reason is to destabilize the government.

Second, I want to be transparent. The public, to my mind, has a right to know all information that affects the stability of the country. My aim is to assure them that i know what is happening and that the concerned government agencies are taking the appropriate steps. Investigation is on-going.

I did not name anyone. While the political opposition has the right to deny complicity, it is not true that i am looking for scapegoats.

Let me assure the country that the government is in full control. No destabilization plot will succeed.

Maraming salamat po.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213505/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8628&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the League of Corporate Foundations

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the League of Corporate Foundations**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, July 2, 2001]

Thank you very much Vicky, founding president of the League of Corporate Foundations and, now, hopefully as head of the presidential management staff, I hope you feel even more empowered to help the poor than when you were in the NGO world.

Cecille Alcantara and the other officials of the League; chief executives of the Philippine's leading corporations; ladies and gentlemen:

Let me begin by welcoming you all to Malacañang and greeting the members of the League of Corporate Foundations on the occasion of the observance of the second corporate social responsibility week.

This is only the second time that we are marking this event. But I believe this year's celebration is especially significant because the times demand that we together send the message loud and clear that Philippine business is unequivocally committed to corporate social responsibility.

The philosophy behind corporate citizenship is the belief that the people, our people are more than consumers, more than laborers, more than hired help. Corporate citizenship acknowledges that we all belong to one society and that we are all responsible for the well being of one another, beyond business and even beyond politics. It recognizes the special role of institutions such as business corporations and being responsible for the welfare of our people beyond their role as consumers and employees.

Aside from celebrating the second annual corporate social responsibility week, I also congratulate you for choosing the theme of volunteerism.

The United Nations general assembly, in its 52nd session on November 20th 1997, proclaimed this year, year 2001 as the international year of volunteers. So it is so appropriate that this year's theme should be volunteerism.

The main objectives of the year of volunteerists are the recognition, promotion, facilitation and networking of volunteer contributions worldwide. As expressed by the U.N. general assembly, "the choice of the first year of the new millennium is not coincidental. It represents an eloquent message as to the paramount importance of volunteer contributions to the welfare and progress of all nations and through their role in helping address problems of global concern in the future."

Your theme of "putting volunteerism into action" appropriately guides us in what we have to do to translate this commitment to reality.

The traumatic events of the last 12 months have highlighted the enormous tasks and challenges that lie before us. I hardly need to recite the figures and indices of poverty in our society to remind us of what we are facing. And you,

because you are foundations, you know how your resources are being stretched to the limit by the growing demands for programs and services as poverty continues to encroach on our communities and as the poor increasingly find the voice with which to vent their frustrations against their poverty.

When I became president last January, many of you who are here today were also there at EDSA. And many of you heard me say that we should win the battle against poverty within a decade.

This decade brings in the 21st century, truly a new economy where relentless forces such as capital market flows and advances in information technology create both peril and opportunity.

In this setting, our government's blueprint for fighting poverty has four components.

First, to tap the opportunities we need an economic philosophy of transparency and free enterprise. For these are the catalysts that nurture the entrepreneurial spirit to be globally competitive.

Second, to extend the opportunities to our rural countryside, we must create a modernized and socially equitable agricultural sector.

Third, to address the perils, we must give a social bias to balance our economic development, and;

Fourth, to ensure that our gains are not dissipated through corruption, we must improve our moral standards.

Corporate social responsibility is the business embodiment of the third aspect of our blueprint, the social bias to balance our economic development.

On the part of government, the social bias to balance our economic development is embodied in safety nets for sectors affected by globalization, safeguards for our environment, and a national anti-poverty strategy which consist of five core strategic thrusts: asset reform or redistribution of physical assets to the poor, provision of financial and institutional requirements of human development services, provision of security and protection from violence of the basic sectors, increasing employment and livelihood opportunities for the poor, and strengthening of the capacity of organized groups to participate in social life.

I would especially like to seek your support for the thrust of increasing employment opportunities for the poor, not only in the work of your corporations but also in the work of your corporate foundations, particularly for out-of-school, out-of-work urban poor youth in Metro Manila. I want to put together a visible outreach program for this special sub sector under the operational implementation of the department of the interior and local governments and the Philippine national police.

This program will consist of providing emergency employment for the out-of-work, out-of-school urban youth in Metro Manila. Now, their number is estimated to be about 300,000. We are talking here about the kanto-boy-types who, if we cannot provide them with emergency employment, will always be available as cannon fodder for political adventurists.

And so even as we work on structural reforms through the four components in the blueprint to fight poverty, and give them lasting employment opportunities, someday, hopefully in the near future, as we are working on structural reforms which take some time we need this instant-gratification-type of emergency employment to pacify a social volcano.

We need to organize these out-of-work, out-of-school urban youth of Metro Manila into brotherhoods or gangs, not the sputnik gang type, who get-together to do drugs and to rape and to hold-up and to kidnap, but rather work gangs to repair the leaking roofs or broken railings of their community's tenement houses, or clean the drainage canals of their slum neighborhood, or act as sentry in the school premises of the community public schools.

This is similar to the emergency employment program of my father, the late president Diosdado Macapagal and also the Tennessee Valley Authority of Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the great depression. The difference is that, we are not doing this for the whole country, we are doing this for a very particular sub-sector of our society — the out-of-school, out-of-work, urban poor youth of Metro Manila.

In closing, let me once more commend the League of Corporate Foundations for consistently leading the business sector in addressing your social responsibilities. Vicky told me that you were barely ten when this was founded about ten years ago, and now you're 50, you have grown about five-fold.

And while we have been through some very trying times, your commitment to maintain, if not enhance the level of your exposure in various social development programs, provides our government with the flexibility it needs to focus its resources on other equally urgent national priorities, or provides our government the flexibility it needs even with our own priorities because you are there to support us.

Your continued support for our common agenda of winning the battle against poverty will give our people hope, strength, and faith in themselves. If our people see that other Filipinos care for them, then they will realize their own worth, and appreciate their own possibilities. In the process, they will be empowered. We build, in the process, a truly just and cohesive society, in whose progress all of us have a vital stake.

I can only hope that your good example, the members of the League of Corporate Foundations, will inspire other sectors of our national community to likewise make meaningful contributions to advance our nation building efforts.

My fervent wish is that you will continue to be actively involved in corporate social responsibility work, and tailor that work to partner with the government in our special outreach programs.

Congratulations and good wishes on all your activities. And may the League of Corporate Foundations grow by leaps and bounds even more as we go deep into the 21st century.

Congratulations! And thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the League of Corporate Foundations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213441/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8671&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 54th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force (PAF)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 54th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force (PAF)**

[Delivered at the 250th Presidential Air Wing Hangar, Villamor Air Base, July 2, 2001]

Thank you very much Secretary Reyes.

General Villanueva; General Defensor and the other officers of the Philippine Air Force, General Calimlim, the AFP major service commanders; the members of the diplomatic community; the former Air Force commanders and their ladies; the ladies of the Defense and of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I am happy to be back here at Villamor Air Base, the seat of our country's air power and home of our finest airmen and airwomen. Actually, I in this grounds, this very grounds almost every week of my presidency because this is where I take-off to wherever I must go, whenever it will take a flight either a fixed-wing flight or a helicopter flight.

And so, I am happy to be here again for the umpteenth time, countless times. I greet you all a very happy and meaningful 54th anniversary.

I also warmly congratulate the individual and unit recipients of this year's PAF awards headed by General 'Santi' Santillan. And I am happy to say, to note that captain Jaji who received a gold cross medal today received his 13th gold cross medal. So this is a record in the Philippine Air Force.

Aside from my almost weekly or even twice weekly trips to this particular airfield where we are having our ceremonies, I visited the Philippine Air Force in Villamor shortly before I became president. And I addressed the men and women of the Air Force then. Hence, I need not recant my gratitude for your role in EDSA Dos.

Since EDSA dos, we experienced new challenges to constituted authority, our freedom, our national direction, our unity as a people, our collective morality and the way we nurture our fragile peace. These have been continuously facing challenges. The failed siege of Malacañang and the revival of the Abu Sayyaf scourge – have especially been gripping concerns that called for PAF heroism.

Our nation saw the power of restraint and resolve during the times surrounding may 1st, the force of freedom was also seen, and, let us not forget, the divine power and the power of prayer. Through all these, we recognize the force of our air power, a force that has delineated the PAF's role as force multiplier and at the same time as peace-giver.

Last year, the PAF was a key player in five major offensives that led to our victory against the secessionists. Your pilots completed 1,800 missions in enemy-held areas, destroying 70 percent of enemy camps without sustaining damage to our aircraft. I was vice president, then, and I remember being able to greet your pilots in Cagayan de Oro airport just after their first day of their successful operation in Abubakar. Their spirits were so high, and on my part I was so proud of them. And I'm even more proud of you now as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the Philippine Air Force.

You also proved your mettle at Mendiola, where four trucks and a fire truck under your 710th special operations wing augmented by other units helped contain the May 1st rioters. Please accept once again the profuse thanks of a grateful president.

When I became president with your valuable support on January 20th with your commanding general, among the generals who were there to watch my oath taking, I said that we must be bold in our national ambition and seek to win the battle against poverty also means that within the decade. Our fight against poverty also means that within the decade we should have no more impoverished soldiers. Towards this end, I have asked Secretary Angelo Reyes to draft a bill for me which I shall submit to congress as an administration measure setting the pay of soldiers as equivalent to that of teachers.

I trust that the bill I signed into law last march granting exceptions, tax exemptions on benefits and allowances of the Armed Forces, I trust that that is now being implemented.

But I am sad that some elements have sensationalized the plight of the families of 224 active military personnel whose homes are within the area of a national shrine, specifically the Libingan ng mga Bayani. I have a special attachment to the Libingan ng mga Bayani. My parents are buried there. My mother rehabilitated it as part of her civic work as first lady when my father was president. But even then, even when my father was president, he already set aside a part of Libingan ng mga Bayani to serve as home lots for soldiers' families. His proclamation was set aside by his successor. And therefore, I have re-issued the proclamation, and I thank Secretary Reyes for volunteering to withdraw a notice of eviction issued earlier in order to give way for the proclamation. So indeed, we can carve out a portion of the Libingan ng mga Bayani as not being part of the national shrine. Because what is more important is the well-being of our living soldiers even as we pay homage to those who have died, the soldiers who have died, including the departed Commanders-in-Chief like my father who is buried in Libingan ng mga Bayani. I know that my father in his grave will be honored to have soldiers being his next doors neighbors, living soldiers not only the dead soldiers.

This proclamation will give the chance for our landless soldiers living in the designated area to buy the land and therefore, be squatters no more.

I am also taking this opportunity to renew my commitment to the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The first year of modernization implementation requires a budget of 10 billion pesos. Last year a SARO was released amounting to 5.4 billion pesos. Earlier when I spoke before the Armed Forces, I said that when you have spent one-third of this 5.4 billion, I would replenish it. But now I realize that this 5.4 billion cannot be spent until the end of the year because it is only the end of the year when the bidding process will be over.

And therefore, I have to revise my commitment. Now, I have given instructions to make the whole 10 billion pesos available this year. I instructed the department of budget and management that it should convert the 5.4 billion pesos SARO into an actual release to the modernization trust fund. I also instructed the Secretary of Finance to help the Department of National Defense find the balance of 4.6 billion pesos to make a total of 10 billion pesos for the year 2001 as available for modernization. Secretary Camacho is now working with Secretary Reyes regarding this and probably the means of making this available will be primarily through a lease package. Indeed, I welcome innovative approaches to get the AFP and the PAF modernization program going.

I am aware that the Philippine Air Force direly needs more aircrafts. I wanted to transfer one of my helicopters to the Philippine Air Force for your use, but given that, we haven't still identified who can afford to pay for the maintenance and given that, I have my weekly travel needs, what we now have is a time-sharing arrangement between the presidential wing and the rest of the Air Force.

Right now we have only one operational c-130. This has been your workhorse to meet your multifarious airlift missions. It carries troops and supplies to and from various battlefronts. And now, the only c-130 we have must also deliver relief goods to the victims of the Mayon eruption.

With only one c-130 in operation, still the Philippine Air Force has proudly achieved so much, way beyond the endurance of men and machines. What more if you have more C-130's?

Seeing the acute shortage of our airlift capacity, our government has made representations with our friends in the United States. And the U.S., too, our friends in the U.S. too, are aware of this need and how much you have done with so little.

I am happy therefore, to announce that our U.S. friends have responded favorably. The transfer on a grant basis of one more c-130 is now going through final processing by the U.S. congress and we are assured of approval and you can expect to have another C-130 soon, courtesy of our friends in the United States.

I am also happy to announce that we appealed to the United States to accelerate the delivery also on a grant basis of refurbished Huey helicopters that you requested from them last year. Again, they have favorably responded and promised to deliver 5 helicopters in the next few months.

I have also agreed in principle to the acquisition of air sensor surveillance capacity. The unfortunate hostage taking at Dos Palmas highlighted the need for sensor capability. Just like the officers and men of the PAF, I would like to see our aerial surveillance capability in place to ward off not just hostage-takers but also illegal fishers, smugglers and foreign poachers.

I know these needs are urgent, and I know we have to balance them with other similarly urgent concerns that demand attention and expenditure of our scarce resources. For instance, just as the law says that the first year of Armed Forces modernization should allocate 10 billion pesos for that. The law also says, that the first year of agricultural modernization should allocate 20 billion pesos for that. And so therefore, there indeed are competing uses for our scarce budgetary resources. To contribute further to the PAF modernization program, I have also instructed the Secretary of Defense to sell my presidential plane and use the proceeds for Philippine Air Force modernization.

On this therefore, your anniversary, I ask you once again to carry on with your dedication, professionalism and inspiring courage. And be assured that you have the full support of the second Macapagal who is Commander-in-chief of the Republic of the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the 54th Anniversary of the Philippine Air Force (PAF). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213454/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8672&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo for Partners: Mel & Jay 5th Anniversary Celebration [Filipino]

**Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagdiriwang ng ika-5 anibersaryo ng Partners: Mel & Jay**

[Ipinahayag noong ika 3 ng Hulyo, 2001]

Isa pong mainit na pagbati ang aking ipinaaabot sa lahat ng bumubuo ng “Partners: Mel & Jay” sa pagdiriwang ng inyong ika-limang taong anibersaryo, lalung-lalo na kina Mel at Jay.

Sa nakalipas na limang taon, ang inyong programa ay naghatid ng makabuluhang pagtatalakay sa mga napapanahong isyung pampamilya at pang-komunidad na patuloy na bumubuo sa ating buhay bilang isang bansa. Hindi lamang kayo nagdulot ng tuwa sa inyong manonood, kundi nagmulat din sa kamalayan ng ating mga kababayan sa iba’t-ibang aspeto ng buhay at nagturo ng mga ginintuang aral na binabahagi ng inyong mga panauhin. Sa pamamagitan ng buong pusong pagkukuwento at masusing pag-usisa sa mga indibidwal na karanasan ay nasasalaming ng “Partners” ang sinasaloob, pagpupunyagi, tagumpay at kasawian ng marami nating kababayan. Ang mga butil ng karunungan na ibinubunga ng inyong bawat pagtatanghal ay malaki ang naitulong sa pagbuo ng pagkatao at kamalayan ng inyong mga taga-subaybay bilang mga Pilipino.

Inaasahan ko na patuloy nating makakasama ang “Partners” upang magbigay ng makatotohanan na pagtatalakay sa mga paksang panlipunan at magtampok sa mga karanasang gumuguhit sa buhay at sikolohiyang pilipino. Nawa’y patuloy kayong magbigay ng inspirasyon sa inyong milyung-milyong taga-pagtangkilik upang magtagumpay sila sa mga pagsubok sa buhay.

Muli, maligayang anibersaryo at nawa’y lumawak pa at tumagal ang “Partners: Mel & Jay”. Binabati ko ang tambalan ninyo, Mel at Jay, para sa inyong serbisyo sa pamilyang pilipino at para sa inyong pagsusumikap na mabigyan ng makabuluhang panoorin ang ating mga kababayan sa loob ng nakalipas na kalahating dekada.

Mabuhay ang “Partners: Mel and Jay”!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA’s Message for Partners: Mel & Jay 5th Anniversary Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213432/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8668&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, July 6, 2001]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Ging.

My other cabinet members; our honorable bishops especially his Eminence, and also Reverend Cari'o who is the co-chairman of the CBCP, and also Bishop Villena; my former boss, Secretary Concepcion; Mr. Jaime who is honorary co-chair of BBC; Bishop Gutierrez; Ambassador Dy; Itto Carlos; Architect Ferrer; other participants of this conference; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to be once again with the bishops-businessmen's conference. I've been with you many, many times before. I remember being with you when I was newly elected as vice president of the Philippines and I'm glad to be with you again this time as president.

The bishops-businessmen's conference reminds us that we are not only citizens of a country, but as St. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:20, also "citizens of heaven.

Notwithstanding the separation of church and state, there is really no conflict in promoting the principles of both church and state, because both church and state aspire for righteousness and truth.

I am reminded of what his holiness Pope John Paul II stated while emphasizing the spiritual goals of the great jubilee. He said: "the Christian community is called to walk with Christ along today's man, sustaining him in the difficult search for truth and helping him in some way to perceive the presence of the redeemer where he lives out his daily life marked with uncertainty for tomorrow, injustice, disorientation and sometimes desperation.

This is also what I see as my mission for the people of the Philippines as president, especially for the people who feel injustice and desperation. I hope that what I can do as president will be to bring the face of the redeemer to these people. That is really what I would like to do as a Christian president.

And it is important to believe as, cardinal said earlier, Cardinal Vidal, about the timing of the lord, also that we may not know when the crisis will end, but the lord knows and his timing is perfect.

Some say it was wrong timing to arrest former president Estrada before the elections. Well, in the first place, that decision was not in my hands, it was in the hands of the Sandiganbayan. And if we are to practice new politics and morality in public service, if the constitution says the Sandiganbayan is separate and independent of the executive, we must respect that independence.

In fact there was a special committee of my cabinet members in charge of security who would meet on planning the details of having to carry out the arrest, and once or twice they met with me and they asked me, when do you think the arrest should be, before or after the elections, and I would say, that's not my call, that's the Sandiganbayan's call. And as far as I'm concerned, anything that is not within my call, anything that is not within my control, I consider as totally within God's control and I must accept whatever timing he gives because the Lord's timing is perfect; and the Lord's timing is perfect for when he will solve the crisis our country is in today.

If I could only tell you what I saw in the intelligence reports after elections! And how the timing saved the life of my government, but I cannot share them with you lest my critics will attack me again for revealing raw information. But I can say that what I learned afterwards affirm me in my trust and my faith that the timing of the arrest as dictated by the lord was the perfect timing. And so I ask all of you, bishops and businessmen, it is true, let us have faith, let us have faith in the Lord, his timing is perfect as there was each one of us will do our part. But if we will not do our part, if I will not govern well, and if the businessmen will say, wait and see, then the lord will not be obliged to give us his perfect timing. When the lord did his first miracle at Caena, first, he said that they must put the jug there. So before he could turn the water into wine, man had to do his part. And if we are to expect that god will exercise his perfect timing, let us all do our part. Businessmen and bishops have much power and the lord expects you to do your part. I know he expects me to do my part and everyday I seek to the song what my part is. So I'm very grateful for the prayer that was made earlier that it said give the president and her government the discernment to do what is right for the welfare of the people. I need that prayer because everyday I do that discernment.

Aside from despair and being unwilling to do our part. One of the evils of today's evil society is growing materialism, growing materialism feeds greed. The comforts and glamour of physical or material power abets man's natural desire for it. Earlier, there was much talk about corruption and, yes, we must fight corruption. But there are also things over and above corruption that we must fight because they may be not corrupt practices in themselves but they reveal a sense of materialism that is not right for public service.

It may not be illegal to earn P5-10 million a year from a government corporation position, that may not be corrupt in itself but it shows materialism if the executives continue to resist when the president has already called attention that it is too much for a bleeding people. I am speaking here of presidential appointees and nominees. I am not speaking of career executives who rose from the ranks and for whom the fruit of their labor is their only source of income. They, of course, deserve that fruit of their labor. And so career executives are not covered by the pay cut that I have asked for, only presidential appointees and nominees. I am stressing this because some recalcitrants in order to get support from the rank and file and the career executives are pretending to champion the career executives in their disguised counter-attacks against the drive for CEOs and board members to exercise simplicity and austerity. And so I call up on the CEOs and members of the board, do your part, do not drag the career executives into this quarrel because they are not involved at all.

On the other hand, I want to thank and appreciate and recognize those CEOs and members of the boards who have already agreed to their pay cut or have agreed to donate their excess pay to the government. There are a number of them and their names had been published in the newspapers.

Winning the battle against poverty within the decade is indeed the main goal of this administration. So I'm glad that the bishop-businessmen's conference and the government are exactly on the same wavelength.

My colleagues in the profession, in the economics profession, said that this government has been sidelining poverty. No, we are not sidelining poverty. That is the work that I spend most of my time doing but that is not the work that makes headlines. So let me say that our work is indeed poverty. I leave the war — except for a new major announcements — to my defense officials and my military officials. I leave prosecution and retribution — except that make so much headlines — to my prosecutors and the Sandiganbayan. My micro management goes to the fight against poverty.

The battle against poverty in the world of the 21st century is set in a battleground that is truly a new economy. In this new economy, relentless forces such as capital market flows and advances in information technology create both peril and opportunity. In this battleground, our road map in our fight against poverty consists of four components that I have announced many times before and I believe I cannot announce them too often.

First, to tap the opportunities of the new economy, we need an economic philosophy of transparency and free enterprise, for these are the catalysts that nurture the entrepreneurial spirit to be globally competitive.

And so I congratulate the community of Cebu, the bishops and the businessmen of Cebu, because of your transparency drive. And as Secretary Concepcion said that the rest should replicate this, may I ask the bishop-businessmen's conference to replicate this in the Bureau of Customs.

In the Bureau of Customs, well, I think, more or less, the smuggling has been reduced significantly. Why do I say this? Because the Bureau of Customs has exceeded its collection target — that means the leakage has gone down. But where, I think, the bishops and the businessmen can help in the transparency is in the daily transactions that the legitimate businessmen who need to import the raw materials and supplies for their ordinary business have to go through. Open drawers or whatever is the symbol of how they do it now that is where the bishops and the businessmen can help because lack of transparency not only erodes government coffers, it also erodes the working capital of businessmen and thus reduces profit margins, reduces jobs for our people.

Second component of our fight against poverty, to extend the opportunities to our rural countryside, we must create a modernized and socially equitable agricultural sector. Secretary Concepcion said that never have there been budgets for one percent, more than one percent of the budget goes to poverty alleviation. One reason perhaps is that agriculture really has never gotten more than P12 billion in any one year, and even in the year that it got P12 billion last year the release was about P6 billion. This year, because it's a reenacted budget, the allocation is still P12 billion but because of the power realignment and the power to be able to float bonds, the budget that we will provide for agricultural modernization is P20 billion for the year 2001.

Third component in our fight against poverty: to address the perils, we must give a social bias to balance our economic development, and these are embodied in safety nets for sectors affected by globalization, something we have always talked about but never really attended to. And that is why Pat Sto. Tomas is working on that — she has given as a framework for that. And I hope that we will be able, at last, to have a really focused program for these safety nets.

Another embodiment of a social bias is, of course, safeguards for our environment, and a sectoral anti-poverty strategy which is being put together by the national anti-poverty commission.

Fourth component of our fight against poverty — our blueprint — is to ensure that our gains are not dissipated through corruption. Indeed, JC cannot forget what I said when I became president, we must improve our moral standards because as we do so, we create fertile ground for good governance based on a sound moral foundation, a philosophy of transparency, and an ethic of effective implementation.

Let me go to the third component because our main task is to fight poverty and therefore, the direct battle, frontline battle, against poverty is the social bias to balance our economic development. The sectoral anti-poverty program was formulated by the national anti-poverty commission under Ging after several months of consulting with the people from the time we took office last January 20th.

And as a result of their consultation, our sectoral anti-poverty strategy has five core thrusts. One of them is asset reform and I was told by a businessman, you know I read your five core thrust if I couldn't understand what they mean, how can the poor understand what you are trying to do to them? So let me put asset reform in layman's language — concrete and quantitative. What we mean here, for example, is that secretary Sonny Alvarez is not only supposed to safeguard our environment but he is also supposed to redistribute 100,000 hectares of public agricultural land a year for land reform. That is a specific objective and a specific assignment under assets reform.

More fundamentally, the secretary of Agrarian Reform must also distribute, per year, 100,000 hectares of private agricultural land, and I am confident that notwithstanding the controversies that Nani Braganza is getting into — because these are all inherited problems — I've told him, Nani, you give those inherited problem about old cloas that got returned, or whatever it is, to your most hotshot undersecretary because to me, what you will answer for is whether you will be able to distribute 100,000 hectares to the poor this year. And it looks like he's on the way to doing it because we are now in July and he has already redistributed 70,000 hectares.

So the headlines may talk about the 5,000 hectares that we inherited that are still undergoing controversy. But there is no headline when he's able to redistribute them to the poor. 70,000 hectares of no headline is true attention to poverty more than any headline we can make about the Abu Sayyaf and Erap's detention.

To Mike Defensor, he set his own target because of what he has already accomplished. And I think because of what he has already accomplished, we will be able to grant security of land tenure to 300,000 urban poor families this year. Is that correct Mike? You'll be able to do that? Where is he? He ran away. But he's done it because when I was 100 days in office, I announced that we have distributed security of tenure documents for 100,000 families — a thousand families a day. When I finished my, now that I was looking and preparing for the SONA, I saw that he has done a 170,000 families so he's still doing a thousand families a day. So I guess, if we have roughly 300,000 days a year, then he'll be able to do 300,000 families. And that's why I believe that this kind, again, of asset distribution, while it doesn't make headlines — unless we do it right there in the community, and we have very nice photo opportunities — that is really putting the poor in center stage and not in the sidelines.

A second thrust of the anti-poverty strategy is, well — I erased the technical language but just to illustrate — it says, providing the financial and institutional support for strengthening human development services. Oh what does that mean? It simply means according to the targets I have given, I told Secretary Manolito Dayrit that within 12 months, my target for him is to reduce the price of basic medicines used by the poor to one-half of current prices. Also, I've also asked Secretary Raul Roco that when he constructs school buildings, he must make sure that every barangay will end up with at least one school building.

Then you have, as part of this sectoral anti-poverty strategy, safety nets for the poorest of the poor, such as livelihood, training, grameen financing; and in the P20 billion mentioned that we will be making available for agricultural modernization, when the budget was just P12 billion, the budget for irrigation was only P2 billion but the agricultural modernization law says that in the first year of modernization we should provide P6 billion for irrigation. So, the money was not for the mouth was. And three weeks ago, I asked Leony Montemayor, well, if we've only got P2 billion let's spend that first. How much have you spent? He said P700 million. No, I said Leony by this time, you should have spent P3 billion. And I am very happy to say that last week he came to me very proud and said, we already have P4.9 billion obligated. By the miracle of budget management Emy Boncodin made available to him nearly P5 billion and he is very confident he will get that last P1.1 billion, and we will have P6 billion for agriculture specifically for irrigation in the year 2001.

My personal pet project for the urban poor — and I mentioned this already to the league of corporate foundations — is a special emergency employment program for the out-of-school, out-of-work urban poor of metro Manila. I don't know exactly how many they are but I'm guessing there must be 300,000-strong, but I hope that we can give them some kind of employment whether it is fixing the leaking roof of their tenement house or the broken railing or cleaning the estero. And I am very happy to say that when I was flying over Manila today by helicopter, a lot of the flooding has gone down that's because since three months ago, we started cleaning up the estero. There were no headlines when we cleaned-up the estero I hope there will be some headlines about how fast the water has gone down.

Another portion of the anti-poverty strategy is to empower the poor, to participate in governance and decision-making. And in your bishops-business conference this morning you demonstrated how the poor can indeed participate. In the NAPC which we are making as the most important forum for our anti-poverty fight, we have started and will continue to have institutionalized consultations. This will be the main avenue for the poor to participate in governance — through their duly selected representatives in the national anti-poverty commission.

And finally, protecting the underprivileged sectors against violence and exploitation. What does this mean? Domestic violence, sexual harassment. For among the underprivileged sectors those who especially need this kind of protection are what they call the five fingers of social work: children like street children; youth like those who become victims of the drug pushers; women victims of rape, sexual harassment and even sexual exploitation in the home — incest; persons with disabilities who are discriminated against in the area of work; and older persons who are neglected and made to feel that they are no longer useful. Then we have in our prayers the poorest people in our country today, the indigenous peoples. And I am very happy that Ambassador Howard Dee is there to make sure that they are not marginalized.

With regard to the grameen, or microcredit system, indeed I hope this will proliferate. The government's direct contribution is supposed to be the people's credit and finance corporation. And this is supposed to be, indeed the grameen replication of the government, but I am sad to say that there is so much red tape in PCFC that up to now the P2 billion portfolio has not really reach the poor. What a waste, P2 billion. We placed an O.I.C. there while we were looking for a permanent head, and I looked at the successful grameen banks, and I wonder whether she's a member of the bishops-business conference but I think that I am really quiet impressed in Negros Occidental with its excellent grameen bank — the Negros women for tomorrow. So I hope the head of the Negros women for tomorrow grameen bank, Cecile del Castillo will agree to be head of the people's credit and finance corporation. Help me convince her to accept the position cause I don't know whether she will accept it yet.

Indeed the tasks are formidable but, as my former boss says, the Filipino can, yes, they are doable. And all of the quantitative schedule targets I have given are doable and all of the budgetary outlays that I have mentioned are doable because we vetted them in the cabinet. And from the examples of your plenary session on Tabang Mindanaw, the Payatas social housing initiatives, it is evident that our people may be poor but they have the sincere desire and the capability of helping themselves.

The theme of your assembly — “upgrading the quality of life through dialogue and partnership” conforms indeed with one of my core beliefs: the need to graduate from traditional politics of patronage to the new politics of institutionalized consultation with the people. As we dialogued, and we find out exactly what the people need in a particular community and we are able to together look for solutions, that is the new politics of consultation rather than the old politics of patronage.

And I am happy to note that the bishop-businessmen's conference is now working with and engaged in dialogue with our government on issues that pertain to the poor. And as you have seen from our anti-poverty strategy, your concerns on housing, employment, health and education for the poor, as well as the protection of the environment and our indigenous communities are among the priorities of this administration.

In my speech after taking my oath of office as president, indeed I said that one of my four core values is to improve moral standards in government and in society. And it was in pursuit of this value that I issued administrative order no. 1 prohibiting agencies, government agencies from dealing with my relatives on the matters of contracts, supplies, and appointments to positions. It was in pursuit of this value that I devolved to the NEDA the president's power to review contracts worth P50 million and above. And that resulted in something good because our ODA absorption which was terribly low last year has been praised now by your ODA sources as much better now. And according to Dante Canlas, one of the reasons for the bottleneck last year was that all those contracts P50 million and above were getting stuck in Malacañang so therefore the absorption capacity was low. But when I devolved it to an institutionalized agency which has its own set-up already mechanism for reviewing contracts and projects — the NEDA — then it move much faster.

One example were when you seek to promote morality, you also provide efficiency in government and better services. It has also in pursuit of this value that we are four-square behind the commissioner on Internal Revenue Rene Baez in his drive to clean-up his agency. The man is suffering for the good work he is doing. We are just grateful that in the TRO fight, the supreme ruled in his favor but no sooner did the supreme court ruled in his favor that now the very same people who sued him for the reshuffle are now suing him for plunder, no less, of a case that was done when he was still in the private sector and therefore he can only get a private lawyer he cannot even get a public lawyer to defend him in this case. And what you don't know is that he has also been receiving death threats. So, you can imagine the pressure from his family and his dearest friends. And because the bishops are very close to heaven, and the businessmen are concerned with transparency in government — especially the BIR and Customs — let us pray that Rene Baez will stay the course, keep working because we do not want a resignation of somebody who has been fighting so hard, we do not want him to surrender to the forces of evil. We must all be behind him in action, in declaration and in prayer.

It was also in pursuit of the value of improving moral standards in government and in society that I banned the movie Live Show. I remember the first opinion survey conducted after that which showed my approval and trust ratings down. And according to the analysts, one of the reasons indeed for my decline was certain unpopular decisions including the banning of “live show.” but if that is the sacrifice I have to make as a president — to

improve moral standards in government and in society — then I am willing to sacrifice my popularity all over again. Thank goodness, however, that in the last survey which just came out today — the lord's timing is really perfect — my approval ratings and trust ratings have jumped up again. So, the lord is affirming me that I must be doing something right.

Today in the gospel, Jesus Christ said, go and learn the meaning of the word I desire mercy not sacrifice, and in today's newspapers, the evaluation or the analysis of why my ratings improved again was the healing that I have been trying to do. So there may be some who demand retribution and they do not approve of what I do. But now I have been affirmed not only by the survey that came out but also by the gospel reading of today that healing is start of leadership.

Improving moral standards in government and in society includes fighting crime. We recognize the challenge of maintaining peace and order and a climate acceptable to the bishops and attractive to the businessmen. And the government, let me assure you, is not willing to be held hostage by kidnap syndicates. Thus we have gone full stride with a relentless pursuit of these syndicates.

I expect that the new anti-crime council that I am creating today — I asked Nonong Cruz to rush the papers so I can sign them today — led by the justice secretary and including the defense, interior, investigation, police and intelligence agencies, will boost the campaign against kidnapping. This council includes representatives of the Chinese-Filipino community whose advise is crucial and whose support is essential to our anti- kidnapping efforts.

And if you do not believe the statistics that show that notwithstanding the headlines of today, index crimes are down 10 percent since a year ago, perhaps I can cite some headlines from the first six months of the previous administration to refresh your memory: July 6, 1998, Inquirer, kidnappings up again, says anti-crime group; July 8, 1998, Inquirer, 2 Tsinoy Kids Kidnapped, 1998 not year 2001; July 8, 1998, 2 fil-chi schoolgirls abducted; Star, July 4, 1998, Muslim rebs kidnap 9 Zambo students; July 15, 1998, from the newspaper today, 30 jeepney passengers in Basilan abducted; Philippine Star, July 19, 1998, LTO auditor, 2 companions kidnapped; Inquirer, July 20, 1998, kidnappings result in -b capital flight; Philippine Star, Sept. 21, 1998, soldier's son abducted, captive auditor escapes; Malaya, Sept. 11, 1998, Taiwanese family of 3 snatched; Bulletin, Sept. 11, 1998, Abu Sayyaf men kidnap 3 Taiwanese; Inquirer, Sept. 12, 1998, kidnappers take 3 Hong Kong traders, different from the Taiwanese; Sept. 14 1998, Manila Times, 1998, kidnapped Taiwanese son warns: we'll close shop if Ma is not rescued; Times, Sept. 16, 1998, kidnappers strike again; today, Sept. 16, 1998, kidnappers test Erap, take 8th victim in just one week; Standard, Sept. 16, 1998, sixth kidnap victim in 7 days; Star, Sept. 26, 1998, DAR chief's daughter kidnapped by influential landlord; Star, Oct. 7, baker's daughter kidnapped; Star, Oct. 7, 1998, new kidnapping; Journal, Oct. 11, 1998, kidnap cases rise; manhunt on for killers of abducted Fil-Chi trader, that's different from the earlier Fil abductions in the headlines; Oct. 12, 1998, Filipino-Chinese groups score new kidnap wave; Manila Times, Oct. 12, 1998, hotel owner abducted by law enforcers?; Malaya, Oct. 12, 1998, no ransom means getting killed; Manila Times, Oct. 12, 1998, kidnap-for-ransom cases up under Erap; Oct. 15, 1998, negotiator slain; 3 more abducted; Oct. 19, 1998, kidnappers grab another trader; Manila Times, Oct. 19, 1998, kidnappers strike again; Inquirer, Oct. 22, 1998, kidnappers taunt Erap, grab two more; Businessworld, Oct. 22, 1998, another kidnapping reported; Philippine Star, Oct. 22, 1998, Sayyaf rebs snatch Zambo physician; Philippine Star, Nov. 22, 1998, kidnappers seek P8 M for 3 Hong Kong men; Sandard, Nov. 25, 1998, jeepney operator, aide kidnapped; Philippine Star, Dec. 20, 1998, 2 children killed; today, Dec. 29, 1998, kidnap cases in '98 up by 6.7%; Philippine Star, Dec. 21, 1998, kidnapping cases remain high; Inquirer, Dec. 29, 1998, kidnapping rose in '98, says solon.

So, even if the first six months of the previous administration, however, seem to be no better then our record after all if you recall. We are determined to stamp out violent crimes because we are not interested in just being better than the previous administration. We are determined to stamp out violent crimes particularly kidnappings. And we have scored some successes in this battle, in fact 70 percent of all cases have already been solved. And just recently, speaking of Cebu, you remember in Cebu there was this Japanese from a project that was shut up, well, the perpetrators has been caught but it's not in the headlines. That's the trouble: the kidnapping is in the headlines, the solution is not in the headlines. Seventy percent of the crimes have been solved. And oh I don't know if I should announce this, sasabihin na naman raw information. Well discount it as my information pero in fact I have raw information that Itto Carlos' kidnappers have already been arrested too — but that's raw information.

With the arrest of several criminal gangs in the last couple of weeks, we certainly have made a lot of in-roads. And with the new council giving top-level attention to the crime problem, we expect to apprehend more kidnappers and substantially diminish their nefarious activities.

In fighting crime, in fighting poverty, and in meeting the challenges of this new century, we must pursue an aggressive renewal of Christian values. Let us have faith in ourselves. The international creditor community, IMF, world bank, they still have faith in us; and, — well I will be getting ahead of him but he will give perhaps details to make more headlines — secretary Lito Camacho has takers for his million bond flotation and they are takers for ten years period. Usually Philippines only gets three years but he has takers for ten years. Others still have faith in us because of our good governance.

Businessmen of the Philippines, have faith. Let us all move forward together, united in god's will and armed with his mercy and compassion. Let us proceed to build a renewed and reinvigorated and god-loving Philippines both in the church and in the business world.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213421/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8662&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during her visit to urban and rural poor housing project [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa kanyang pagbisita sa proyektong pabahay para sa mga maralitang taga-rural at taga-lungsod**

[Ipinahayag sa Commonwealth, Lungsod ng Quezon, ika 6 ng Agosto, 2001]

Maraming salamat kapitan. Kagalang-galang na punonglungsod ng Quezon City, Mayor Sonny Belmonte; ang Congressman sa pinakamalaking distrito sa buong Pilipinas, Congressman Chuck Mathay; ating mga Cabinet Members, si Mike Defensor na namamahala ng pabahay; Secretary Sonny Alvarez, namamahala ng pagbibigay ng titulo galing sa national government; si Secretary Dick Gordon, godfather ng mga maraming maralitang taga dito sa Commonwealth; si Percy Chavez, ang Chairman for the Commission on the Urban Poor; nandito ang aking kabalen na nagpapatayo ng mga tahanan, si NHA Manager Ed Pamintuan; mga opisyal ng mga barangay na sakop daw sa ating mga beneficiaries, mga nag-graduate sa pagiging squatters na 1,300 families, congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Ang aking layunin nga ay 150,000 families ang mag-graduate mula sa pagiging squatter bawat taon. Itong taong ito nakumpleto na natin iyon. Kaya congratulations din. Kung kayo naka-graduate, si Mike Defensor, naka boundary. Kaya mayroon siyang bagong kukulitin ko, kailangan naman iyong housing. Pero alam ko kayo mayroon naman kayong tahanan, hindi iyon ang hinahanap ninyo. Ang hinahanap niyo katiyakan sa paninirahan sa lupa. Kaya iyong ibinigay sa inyo ngayon ay transfer certificates of title. Kung ano ang inyong hinahawakang papeles iyon din ang hinahawakan na papeles na taga Forbes Park. Kaya magiging full homeowners na kayo.

At sa darating na panahon, inaasahan ko makapunta naman sa kabila, sa National Government Center East dahil iyon ang susunod na bibigyan natin ng mga TCTS. Kaya salamat at tayo ay sabay-sabay na nagtrabaho. Hindi ba dito Chuck iyong pinopondohan mong technical working group, kaya noong nag-in-between elections at sa iyong ibang mga sumumpa, si Congressman ay nagbigay din ako ng pondo para maipagpatuloy ang pagpapatakbo.

At alam ko na pag mayroon tayong malaking mga komunidad ng maralitang taga-lungsod, marami diyang people's organizations. Marami diyang mga tumutulong. Marami mga urban poor leaders. Ang ginagawa natin ay, dahil ako ay pangulo ng lahat ng taongbayan, lahat ng mga people's organizations basta't matagal ng nakatayo at mayroon na talagang maraming mga kasapi ay kinikilala natin bilang mga lider ng urban poor.

Kaya upang mapabilis ang aming trabaho, ang ating trabaho, na mapabilis ang papeles ng proklamasyon; mapabilis ang papeles ng pagmumudmod ng mga titulo, sana huwag na kayong mag-away-away sa inyo-inyo. At kung may grupong kinakausap dahil may mga kasapi na magiging benepesaryo, huwag naman sanang magselos iyong ibang grupo, dahil kinakausap din silang lahat. Lahat ng grupo kinakausap.

Isang araw, itong samahan; sa isang linggo, iyong isang samahan. Lahat kinikilala natin dahil ang inyong lingkod ay Presidente ng buong Pilipinas. Kaya magkaisa tayo. At ako ay nasisiyahan din na sa ibabaw ng 1,300 families na itong araw na ito ay nag-graduate mula sa pagiging squatter at nagiging full homeowners. Nasisiyahin din ako na bago kami tumuloy dito, kami nila mayor, congressman, mga secretary ay nanggaling doon sa isang bagong complex natin, iyong labing apat na buildings. At doon ay mayroong bagong mga apartment units for almost 700 families. At sa 1,300 ngayon halos 700 doon, so 2,000 families ang ibinibigay natin nakakatiyak ang paninirahan.

So within two weeks, inaasahan natin na iyong mga bagong apartment units na mayroon ng papasok at matitira na roon.

At huwag ninyong kalimutan..., mayroon tayong sampung libo, iyong unoccupied. Para doon sa talagang nagahahanap ng tahanan at hindi kayo namimili kung saan, ngayon pa lang mag-apply na kayo. Kasi mayroon tayong 10,000 housing units sa iba't ibang bahagi ng pilipinas. Nakatayo na iyon, walang nag-o-occupy. Kaya kung

payag kayong lumipat basta't may bahay kayo kahit na saan, magsabi kayo sa ating mga housing authorities para sa ganoon pumunta kayo doon at magsimula ng bagong community ninyo.

Sabi nga ni Sonny, bakit mula noong umupo ang inyong lingkod, kami na rin, lahat kami bagong upo sa puwesto. Si Sonny bagong upo sa mayor. Si Chuck bagong upo sa pagka-congressman. At iyong mga cabinet members, sila po ay bago lahat, dahil nga ang pangunahing layunin natin ay labanan ang kahirapan. At noon pa man, alam natin na dito sa lungsod, ang pangunahing hiling ng mga maralitang taga-lungsod ang katiyakan sa lupa. Iyan ang ating binibigyan ng focus. Magkamali man tayo sa ibang programa, pumalpak man tayo sa ibang programa, basta't importante magtagumpay tayo sa pamamahagi ng katiyakan ng tirahan sa maralitang taga-lungsod.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during her Visit to Urban and Rural Poor Housing Project. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213353/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8710&Itemid=38

Departure Speech of President Arroyo for Malaysia

Departure Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines For Malaysia

[Delivered at the Villamor Air Base, August 7, 2001]

The most important realities that characterize our country's international and regional environment to which we have to respond in order to achieve our goal. First, more and more Philippine foreign policy decisions have to be made in the context of ASEAN. Second, the international Islamic community will continue to be important for the Philippines. Third, the country's economic growth will continue to involve direct foreign investments. Fourth, a country, like the Philippines, can benefit most quickly from international tourism. And fifth, overseas Filipinos will continue to create a critical role in the country's economic and social stability. Let me elaborate on each of these ...

On ASEAN: the commitment to ASEAN remains a cornerstone of Philippine foreign policy. The Philippines will remain firm in implementing its commitment in ASEAN as a strategy to achieve global competitiveness towards attaining sustainable growth and development. As charter members of ASEAN, the Philippines and Malaysia share a common task and look forward to a common future.

In our state visit, we will discuss with our Malaysian friends how we can put back on track the east ASEAN growth area and thus, make Mindanao – the most vulnerable of our regions – our gateway to ASEAN.

On the Islamic community: the Islamic community of nations is extremely important in the search for lasting peace and broad-based development in southern Philippines. The Philippines and Malaysia are specially, organically intertwined. We are not only the closest of neighbors, we are ethnic cognate with deep ... language culture and religion. Recognizing Malaysia's role both as an ASEAN neighbor and as an Islamic brother, my state visit is a journey for security and stability. While in Kuala Lumpur, I shall express appreciation to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad for Malaysia's assistance in fostering political stability in Mindanao.

My delegation will join hands, as well, with our Malaysian counterparts to collectively address the insidious threat of terrorism and piracy that lay siege to our common...

On investment: in an increasingly integrated global economy, foreign capital and technology and market are important for the development of the Philippines. While in Kuala Lumpur, I shall solicit Malaysia's cooperation in my administration's efforts to stimulate economic growth in the Philippines, especially southern Philippines. With industrialists and businessmen, my program for foreign investors is what we shall strive to communicate.

On tourism: the tourism industry which is a labor intensive, broad-based, geographically diffused sector that quick returns, will be made the top of our development priorities. In order to help achieve this, I shall propose intensification of cooperation in tourism, particularly in ... arrangement whereby Malaysia will encourage the tourists who go there to come to the Philippines as well. And the Philippines will encourage tourists who come here to go to Malaysia as well.

On overseas Filipinos: the Philippine economy will, for the perceived future, continue to be heavily dependent on overseas worker remittances. On the basis of this, and of the nation's humanitarian responsibility to its people – wherever they are – our government will work doubly hard to strengthen overseas workers' protection. We will strengthen bilateral relationships with countries hosting large numbers of Filipinos – including Malaysia. With the 600,000 strong Filipino community in Malaysia, I shall convey the gratitude of our people for their personal sacrifices and support of the economy of our nation.

I leave for Kuala Lumpur filled with hope that this visit will reinvigorate the precious ties of friendship between our two peoples and lay our bilateral relations on even firmer ground. It is a journey for peace and development, as my administration seeks to strengthen and broaden mutually supportive arrangements with Kuala Lumpur to advance reconciliation and secure abiding prosperity in southern Philippines.

In pursuit of these objectives, I shall endeavor to deepen the friendship and spirit of cooperation that I have been privileged to share with Prime Minister Mahathir since my days as vice president of our country.

While in Kuala Lumpur, I shall extend the fraternal greetings of our people to his Majesty, the young one among.

Have already laid the groundwork within the last six months, no less than ten high-level emissaries ... to Malaysia – Vice President Teofisto Guingona, former President Fidel Ramos, Finance Secretary Jose Camacho, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Senior Presidential Adviser Alberto Romulo, Special Presidential Envoy Paul Dominguez, Presidential Adviser Eduardo Ermita, Presidential Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Presidential Adviser Farank Hussein.

With the 21st century mode of teleconferencing, I have also personally addressed the Malaysian people on two occasions – the opening ceremony of the Kuala Lumpur Central Station and the world's Economic Development Congress.

All these undertakings had one common purpose – to convey to the government and the people of Malaysia our ardent appreciation for the work that pervades our relations.

Indeed, Malaysia plays a vital role in our development as a nation. Intimately linked as friendly neighbors, cultural brothers and regional allies, it is to our mutual interest to continually broaden and deepen our common connections.

Towards this end, I have adapted as the theme for my visit the vision of making the Philippines and Malaysia partners for peace and prosperity.

I seek the assistance of all involved to make this vision a reality in our time.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Departure Speech for Malaysia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213347/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8709&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo in Davao City [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Lungsod ng Davao**

[Ipinahayag sa Lungsod ng Davao, ika 10 ng Agosto, 2001]

...Marawi City bilang kinatawan ng Muslim Mindanao. Dahil kung ano ba tuloy hiningi ko kay Prime Minister Mahathir na binigyan naman niya, dahil ang malaking bahagi ng Mindanao at ang Malaysia ay kapuwang mga Muslim ang taungbayan. Kaya maraming tulong ang ibinigay ni Prime Minister Mahathir sa Pilipinas ay dahil sa mga Muslim ng Pilipinas, dapat ang malaking biyaya ng mga tulong niya ay pupunta rin sa Autonomous Region ng Muslim Mindanao. Dahil iyon ang kanyang malaking minamahal. Iyon ang malaking minamahal ng lahat ng Islamic countries dito sa ating bansa. Gusto nilang makita ang tagumpay ng Muslim Mindanao Region. At lahat sila ay binabantayan nila iyong ating darating na halalan sa August 14. At inaasahan nila na ang taungbayan ng Pilipinas ay buong-buong susuporta dito sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Ngunit papaano natin makukuha ang suporta ng buong Pilipinas at ang buong OIC at ang buong ASEAN, sa Muslim Mindanao kung hindi makita sila sa Pilipino at kaibigang muslim sa ibang bansa na mismo lahat ng Muslim Pilipino ay sila ang unang nagsusuporta sa Muslim Mindanao.

Kaya ako ay narito ngayon upang ipaalala sa inyo na may mahalagang halalan sa darating na martes para sa kinabukasan ng Muslim Mindanao. At upang ipaliwanag ang iba't ibang mga biyaya na hinihintay ng Muslim Mindanao sa ilalim ng bagong administrasyon ng anak ng Mindanao na si Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Una sa lahat, gaya ng sabi ko, doon sa Malaysia, anu-ano ang mga nakuha nating biyaya. Una na sa lahat doon ay iyong kapayapaan. Gaya sa malaking tulong ng Malaysia ay nagkasunduan ang Philippine Government at ang ating mga kapatid na Muslim na ituloy itong ating ceasefire agreement dito sa Mindanao. At nagkasunduan na rin ang MILF at ang MNLF na sabay, na imbes na nag-aaway at imbes na inaaway ang pamahalaan, sabay-sabay lalaban para sa mga prinsipiyo ng kapayapaan.

In other words, kapayapaan na ang hangarin ng dalawang dating rebeldeng grupo. Nagkaisa para sa kapayapaan. Nagkaisa para sa katarungan. Nagkaisa para sa pagsasama-sama at pagiging tapat at pare-pareho na lamang lahat ng Pilipino maging tagalog, maging bisaya, maging Muslim. Justice, equity, peace, iyan ang mga prinsipiyo na pinirmahan ng MNLF at ang MILF noong sila ay nagkaroon ng kasunduan doon sa Kuala Lumpur.

Ngayon na nagkaroon ng magagandang kasunduan tungkol sa kapayapaan sa pamamagitan ng MILF at MNLF, at noon pa ang MILF ay nagkasunduan na sa kapayapaan sa Pilipinas doon pa sa Jakarta. Iyon MILF naman ay nagkasunduan ng ceasefire dito sa Kuala Lumpur. Iyong MILF at iyong MNLF ay nagkaroon na rin ng kasunduan kaya lahat-lahat, government of the Philippines, MNLF, MILF, nagkakaisa para sa kapayapaan.

Ngayon at nagkaisa tayo para sa kapayapaan, magkaisa naman tayo para sa kaunlaran. Iyong davao maunlad na. Iyong Cagayan de Oro maunlad na. Iyong Zamboanga City maunlad na. Ang hanapin nating kaunlaran ay iyong kaunlaran ng Muslim Mindanao.

Noong nandoon ako sa Malaysia, isa sa malaking hiningi ko sa mga Malaysian government at Malaysian businessmen, maging doon sa anak ni president Khadaffy na nagpunta sa Malaysia para lamang makipagkita sa

inyong lingkod at malaman kung papaano tutulong sa Muslim Mindanao. Ang isa sa mga hiningi ko sa kanila ay sana, dahil ang Malaysia ngayon, ang Kuala Lumpur, ang Selangor noong malaking probinsiya sa kapaligiran ng Kuala Lumpur na noong araw punong-puno ng palm oil plantation ay naging malalaking siyudad na iyon, kaya inililipat na nila iyong kanilang palm oil sa ibang lugar. May nililipat sa eastern Malaysia, may nililipat sa Sabah, may inililipat sa ibang bansa. Basta ang importante hinahanap nila kung saan iyong 8 degrees latitude and below going towards the equator. Iyon ang magagandang lugar para sa palm oil. Sabi ko sa kanila, naghahanap lang din kayo ng ibang lugar kung saan ninyo dadalhin ang palm oil, dalhin naman niyo doon sa Pilipinas.

Kaya kahit na 160,000 hectares kung mahahanap natin iyong mga hectarage na iyon sa Muslim Mindanao ay payag pumasok ang Malaysia dahil sa ngayon ay naghahanap sila sa buong mundo 8 degrees latitude and down, kung saan ilalagay ang palm oil. Agawin natin iyong pagkakataon na iyon dahil kung hindi dito pupunta, pupunta rin naman sa ibang bansang karatig natin. Sana kaysa doon dito na lang sa atin.

At iyong anak ni Khadaffy ay nagbisita sa akin Presidential Suite sa Shangri-la Hotel, sabi niya iyong Khadaffy Foundation, handang-handa na ang aming salapi para mag-invest sa 35,000 hectares para sa palm oil. Handang-handa na iyong aming partner sa Malaysia na magbibigay ng kanilang technical expertise, pero nasaan iyong lupa sa Pilipinas. Marami akong tinurong lupa. Sabi ko, alam mo, ginoong Khadaffy, mayroon ng nabukas doon sa Agusan del Sur. Mayroon na doon sa Bohol. Mayroon na doon sa North Cotabato. Sabi niya, hindi. Ito ay Khadaffy Foundation, marami na kaming pera, pero ang layunin namin ay tumulong doon sa Muslim Mindanao. Kaya Muslim Mindanao ang ituro mong lupa.

Gusto ko ring sabihin iyong iba't ibang mga biyaya na inaalok. Alam ito ni Congressman Bobby Dimpapuro na iyong Islamic Development Bank ay handa ring tumulong, pareho ng tulong na ibinibigay ng World Bank sa maraming bansa. Pareho na ibinibigay ng Asian Development Bank sa maraming bansa ng asia. Ang Islamic Development Bank din ay handang tumulong, kaya lang dapat sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

...na ipaalam sa mga mamamayan ng marawi kung anu-ano ang mga biyaya na puwede ninyong hintayin, at kung anu-anong kondisyon para makamit itong mga biyaya. Ngayon ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong hospitality. Kasi noong una, sinabi ng Presidential Management Staff na ako ay pupunta dito, ang unang sinabi kay Governor Adiong at kay Mayor Ali na gusto ko ng private meeting.

Noong ako ay nasa Malaysia, makalawa, nalaman ko iyon hating-gabi, sabi ko, bakit private meeting, bakit ko ipaalam itong mga biyaya na nanggagaling sa Malaysia, Libya, OIC, Islamic Development Bank sa isang private meeting lamang. Gusto kong malaman lahat ng mamamayan ng Marawi City, kaya imbitahin na rin iyong iba makapunta doon sa programang ito.

Kaya kahapon, si Mayor Ali at si Governor Adiong ay nag-petition na hindi lamang private meeting. Kung sino ang makaalam ng meeting dahil very short notice, imbitado na rin. Nagpapasalamat ako na kahit isang araw lang ninyo nalaman na ako ay darating, one day notice, standing room tayo sa gymnasium. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Salamat rin kay Dr. Urva, ang pangulo ng MSU, kasi parati kayo ang host sa lahat ng meeting na pinupuntahan ko rito. At hindi ko makalimutan ang MSU. Siguro hindi ninyo makakalimutan sino ba ang nagtayo ng MSU? Alam ba ninyo kung sino ang nagtayo ng MSU? Kung sino ang pangulo? Oh, siguro alam na ninyo, hindi ko na babanggitin, para hindi ako magyayabang tungkol sa aking pamilya. Ipagyayabang ko na lang ang ikinabubuti ng Muslim Mindanao. Ngunit, siguro masasabi ko, na itong ating pagtitipon-tipon nitong araw na ito ay napakaganda. Wala pa akong ibang napuntahan na lugar para magkampanya para sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Kaya lang kung may isang lugar lamang po sana makapasok dito, sana iyon na nga ang Marawi City. At kung ang Marawi City ay hindi papasok sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, masyadong malungkot, masyadong mapapahiya ako dahil hindi ko maibibigay sa inyo iyong mga biyaya na ikinuwento ko sa inyong lahat dahil lahat doon ay talagang nakatukoy sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Kaya puwede bang maasahan ang Marawi City, na handa kayong umasa sa mga biyayang ito? Maraming salamat sa inyong suporta, at tuloy-tuloy magsuportahan tayo sa isa't isa sa ikinabubuti ng kaunlaran at kapayapaan sa Muslim Mindanao, sa buong Mindanao, sa buong Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech – Davao City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213313/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8707&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 21st National Prayer Breakfast

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 21st National Prayer Breakfast

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, August 16, 2001]

...Says, the Philippine national prayer breakfast has been a tradition or To give thanks and ask for God's blessing. This annual event reaffirms our heritage as a God loving nation.

It has been more than six months when I accepted the mantle of responsibility to lead our people as your president. And it is time for us to have this prayer.

My work ethic is guided by the philosophy, do what is right, do your best, and God will take care of the rest. But to do what is right, I need prayer to discern what is right. To do my best I need prayer for the grace, for the health and the energy. And to make sure that God takes care of the rest, I need prayer to ask God because he will answer if we ask Him.

God's taking care of the rest when we do what is right and do our best can also be summed up in the article of faith that all things work for the good of those who have a covenant with the Lord.

I believe, like Tita Cory, that my being president is part of the covenant with the Lord. While I do not believe in fate, I believe in divine providence. And as leaders of society, we are placed where we are because of a reason, because of a plan, a divine plan for all of us. And each one of us must pray to discern what that plan is, then act according to our best light to comply with that plan. And yet, always maintain a childlike faith, but it is not us but rather it is God who will have the final say in the fulfillment of his plan.

The key in manifesting God's plan in our lives lies in our ability through prayer to discern his divine wisdom and to apply it in our daily lives.

The theme of our celebration today reflects how we must go about fulfilling God's wonderful plan for all of us, as individuals, and as a people. Today's theme as read by Tita Cory, from 2 chronicles 7:14 says, if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sins and heal their land. This was the verse that we were singing in all the prayer rallies leading up to EDSA 2. It is still the verse that we still keep singing today whenever we get together to pray and to celebrate EDSA 2.

The first stanza of the song version quotes the verse. And the second stanza is our answer. It declares that we are complying with God's condition for hearing, forgiving and healing us. The second stanza of the song that we all sing in EDSA 2, in EDSA commemorations, tells the Lord that we are calling Him by name, that we are humbling ourselves and praying and seeking his face and turning from our wicked ways. Then we ask Him to hear from heaven and forgive our sins and heal our land.

What does it mean to humble ourselves? For each one of us there is a particular meaning. For me, it means staying detached from the trappings and perks of power. It means, reaching out to those who still carry hatred or cynicism in their heart. It means, forgiving those who have done wrong rather than using my power to do vengeance upon them. And what does it mean to pray?

Let us recall the four kinds of prayers and let us pray in all those different ways. First, there is a prayer of adoration. Let us worship God, simply because he is God, and not only because he is good to us.

Second, there is a prayer of thanksgiving. Let us indeed thank the Lord for all our blessings. Let us not think for a moment that these blessings that we have, we have achieved by ourselves. That we have achieved them because of our own talents and efforts. Because our talents come from God. And our efforts come from the energy provided by his grace. And when we reflect on it, we realize how much God's role is, and how little our role is in the blessings that we enjoy.

Again, when I reflect upon it myself, the best example is myself. It was God who planned that I would be vice president at the time of EDSA 2. It was God who orchestrated, revenge that made me president today. Indeed, in a sense, I'm more fortunate than Tita Cory because she had to lose her husband to martyrdom before she became eligible for the presidency. All I had to do was to be vice president at the right time. And therefore, that to me, is one great source of a gratitude to the Lord. And once again, I say, to God be the glory that I am president of the Philippines today.

Third, is the prayer of contrition. This is the prayer that we were singing in EDSA 2. This is the prayer that we are singing today when we gather together to celebrate our freedom, our democracy and the restored morality of our nation. Even today we ask God to forgive our sins. Indeed, the true God is such a forgiving God, so different from the God that the pagans worship or the gods of mythology whose vengeance makes up the bulk of the stories we read about them. But for our true God to forgive us, he said in chronicles and in many passages, that we must first call Him by name, humble ourselves and pray. This is the prayer of contrition.

Let us not pretend to be so perfect. Let us accept that we are imperfect, that there are times when we do wrong. And let us take advantage of our forgiving God by asking for his pardon.

Finally, there is a prayer of petition. And this is the prayer that almost everyone prays. People may forget to pray in worship, or to pray in thanksgiving, or to pray for forgiveness, but we are always asking God for so many things. But he is such a good God that he wants us to ask. He wants us to petition. He said: ask and you shall receive.

In today's theme, we are petitioning God to heal our land. Indeed, our land needs so much healing. But I give thanks to the Lord that the healing will probably be made easier from now on, because the mainstream of our society is united. The unity of our society's mainstream shows in the results of the last may elections. It shows in the eroded capability of those who have been seeking to grab or re-grab power. It shows in the way that the masses have been responding to our outreach. It shows in the fact, in the economy, that after all the reforms in the Bureau of Internal Revenue have been started with great difficulty, last month at last, the BIR exceeded its revenue target. The unity of our mainstream shows in the fact that notwithstanding the doomsayers, here to date, we are still p11 billion pesos below our deficit ceiling. And we can still overspend by p11 billion in the months to come, and still be within our targets. The unity shows in the fact that despite, again, the doomsayers, that the unofficial results of the ARMM elections indicate that Marawi City and the province of Basilan and possibly Cotabato City have voted to join the expanded Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

All these show that the mainstream is united. And when the mainstream is united, the healing is made more possible. But the healing that our land needs today is not really among the mainstream, it is the healing that is needed between those in the mainstream and those in the margins. Healing between the administration and the political opposition. Healing between civil society and those who attempted to do an EDSA 3. Healing between the indifference among the majority and the bitter among the poorest of the poor.

The Lord says in chronicles, that he will heal our land if we turn from our wicked ways. He will heal the hurts between the administration and the opposition if we show in our actions that while no one is above the law, yet no one in power exacts vengeance on the vanquished.

He will heal the cancer within the civil society and the minor but multitude of players of EDSA 3 if we turn away from sanctimony. He will heal the prejudice within the middle forces and the lumpen if we comprehend rather than condescend.

And today, I pray to the Lord, give us the discernment to differentiate between prosecution and persecution. The difference between being principled and being pharisaical. The difference between imposing our values on others and imbibing and emphasizing with their sentiments.

We are, at the moment, of great spiritual opportunities. To choose to do right in the light of God's will. Those of you who are here are devoted to the mission of leading the spiritual renewal and strengthening our people. There are many who are not here, but also devoted as well to that mission.

I call on all of you and all of them to continue the prayers that we are doing today. And I hope we will do it at least for the entire week. Let us make this week a week of prayer and fasting, for the intention of glorifying the lord, of praising Him for his goodness to our nation, of begging his forgiveness for our sins as a nation, and as individuals, and of asking Him to bless and heal our land.

When I read the bible this morning, as I do everyday, I purposely avoided reading what we had to read in the prayer breakfast today. And so, looking at other readings, I had a chance to reflect upon Matthew chapter 18 verses 21, up to chapter 19 verses 1, which tells of the episode, when peter approached Jesus and asked Him, Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive Him? And Jesus answered: I say to you not seven times but seventy seven times. Indeed, if God can forgive us, each time we repent, then we can do no less to those who hurt us especially those who are reaching out to us.

This is one reason why the Lord's Prayer is a perfect prayer. It asks God to forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. The Lord's Prayer is also the perfect prayer because it begins with worship before going into supplication. Hollowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, before he says, give us this day our daily bread. We are not perfect, but we can say the perfect prayer, the Lord's Prayer and other kinds of prayers that the Lord teaches us thru the bible. Indeed, we must say the perfect prayer. This is our duty and our privilege because we are God's special people.

In the chronicles verse that Tita Cory read, God says: if my people who are called by my name. We are that people called by his name. We are Christians. In fact, we are the only Christian nation in Asia. And yet, at the same time, we must remember that our country, our society is a multi-ethnic society. And even if our Muslim brothers call themselves by another name, we are all worshipping the same God; only he is called by a different name. We are his new chosen people. Let us live as his people who are called by his name. Let us humble ourselves. Let us pray. Let us seek his face.

How do we seek God's face? Again, for each one of us, we have a different inspiration on how we must seek God's face. And let me share my inspiration on how I must seek God's face. Where do we see the face of Jesus?

When I was praying as I was writing this speech in prayer, the answer came to me in the story of the last judgment, where the Lord said: when you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to me, says the Lord. And I ask you my friends, in this prayer breakfast, to pray for me — that I must always seek the face of God in the faces of the least of our brethren. In the faces of the like of Jason, Jomar and Erwin, the children from Payatas who sent me their message of petition in paper boats which they sent floating down the Pasig river. In the faces of those like them who look for a home, a school, a job. In the face of those who do not eat three meals a day. Pray for me because as President of the Philippines, it is imperative that I seek the face of God in their faces. It is imperative that I worship Him by serving them. It is imperative that I do not stumble as I seek to empower 150,000 urban poor families a year to be able to buy their own homes. As I seek to build schools for the unserved 4,500 barangays within the next three years. As I seek to create a million jobs in agriculture before this administration ends. As I seek to provide food for every table. I need you to help me to pray so that I can do what is right, do my best and let God take care of the rest, in providing the jobs, the schooling, the homes and the food on every table.

Let us then unite in the spirit of God's undying love. And reaffirm through prayer and action that moral and spiritual strength are, indeed, the key elements of God's good leadership.

For while the new century bring us a new economy, with all its new opportunities and new perils, the moral imperatives remain the same: to worship and love God with our whole heart, our whole mind, our whole soul and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Let us unite in faith that we may be able to generate the strength that we need to bring us to the fulfillment of God's promise of a land that has been tilled.

Today's gathering is a blessed way to start a day in prayer, united in the spirit of fellowship and proclaiming God's promises on the family. It is also a good way to start our work in the Lord.

Philippians chapter 4 verses 6 tells us, that in everything by prayer and by supplication, with thanks giving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of god which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. Let prayer, indeed, be our strongest bond as a people. Let us pray for each other. And as Philippians says, let our petitions be known to God. He knows, of course, what we want even before we have asked it. But we must ask it because we must humble. We must humble ourselves and pray. Because he is our God and we are his people.

Let our prayers be filled with praise and worship and adoration, for our dear Lordunceasingly rewards us with his grace and blessings. Let us pray for the fulfillment of our nation and our people as God's special nation, God's special people. Amen.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the 21st National Prayer Breakfast. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213154/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8704&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 48th Annual Convention of the PHILSUTECH

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 48th Annual Convention of the PHILSUTECH

[Delivered in Cebu City, August 16, 2001]

Thank you for inviting me once again to participate in your discussion of the Philippine sugar industry. PHILSUTECH is familiar to me, and I am a familiar face to PHILSUTECH. Because all these years that we have been having your conventions, almost every year, you would invite me because, as you all know, my husband's family is in the sugar industry, and you have always considered me as a member of the sugar industry. Now, you have the sugar industry in Malacañang.

And so, of course, it is important that in your first convention during my presidency, I should be here once again. As we all know, being members of this industry. For a long time, the sugar industry was a bastion of Philippine agriculture. Its history has, in many ways, been the history of our economy and our society. Its problems are the nation's problems. Its hopes are our people's hopes. Today, more than ever, we need to strengthen the link between the sugar industry, the government and the public.

We inherited very difficult problems. From 2.5 million jobs less four years ago, unemployment now stands at four million. From a budget surplus in 1997 of more than a billion pesos, now my government inherited a deficit exceeding P140 billion. I am only so grateful to the lord, and to my economic managers, that near to date, we are now P11 billion below our budget ceiling and, therefore, there is room to spend more on agriculture, more on the sugar industry.

Between 1997 and the year 2000, poverty incident rose from 37 percent of the population to 40 percent. And that is indeed a large number. And unlike the situation in 1997, when a battered Asia could still lean on the strength of the advanced economies, today, our main trading partners like Japan and America, which also is the main market for our sugar are slowing down as well. These are tremendous challenges enough to face any new administration, but I will not back down. I will not shirk responsibilities that any president of the Philippines must be prepared to assume and to discharge. However, I cannot do it alone. I cannot fight poverty alone. I am not a miracle worker. And all of us must do our share.

Our challenge is clear — fight poverty. To succeed, our national agenda must revolve around four components:

the first, is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century; the second, is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity and that includes sugar;

the third component is a social bias towards the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan;

and the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

So much remains to be done to modernize agriculture. Crucial to the modernization of the agricultural sector is the attainment of stability of productivity growth. And with the agricultural sector accounting for half of the population and 77 percent of the poor, it is most important to be able to broaden the base of rural development. We cannot accept that increasing poverty and inequality are necessary caused, a result of development. Therefore, the most vulnerable in these changing times must be sheltered from the pains of adjustment to the new economy. So, therefore, in agriculture, our specific objective is to create one million jobs in the agricultural sector. And we will do this through several means. The implementation of the agriculture and fisheries modernization act of 1997 is our

main means, specifically, targeting public investments in the identified key strategic agricultural and fisheries development zones, or SAFDZ.

Just now, before we were greeted at the airport by governor Garcia, Gerry Montemayor and I came from the tiny town of Pintuyan, in the far away island of In the Province of Southern Leyte. And we went there in order to launch the strategic agricultural and fishery development zone in that town of Pintuyan, because we want to begin the development of agriculture in a way by which it will produce one million jobs in the next three years.

When I was in Pintuyan, I instructed secretary Montemayor that hoping that the mayors of the 18 towns of southern Leyte will contribute P1 million through the identified agricultural projects in every development zone for agriculture and fisheries in their town, the D.A. will also contribute P1 million for every town. So in the 18 towns of southern Leyte, I instructed secretary Montemayor to distribute P1 million each or P18 million as the minimum contribution of the department of agriculture for agricultural modernization. We shall be doing this in every town in the Philippines. At 1,500 towns, the given minimum contribution of P1 million for the identified programs, already pre-identified programs for agricultural modernization. That means P1.5 billion. But since we are below our deficit ceiling by P11 billion as of last month, near to date, I told Gerry Montemayor, this is the time to release P1.5billion to start agricultural modernization to start the creation for the one million jobs. Because by releasing that money at this time, we will not suffer inflationary pressures and we will not suffer pressures to raise the interest rate. This is the best time to begin to spend on agricultural modernization, this particular month of august. So I think it is good that the PHILSUTECH convention is being held this month. Because, of course, of the 1,500 municipalities all over the country, I am sure many, many, many of these are in sugar. And therefore the project money that will be released, will be released for sugar modernization in those areas identified as key competitive areas for the crop of sugar.

Another way by which we will look for the one million jobs in agriculture is broad based development with targeted policies and programs to shelter the most vulnerable groups from their adjustment Attendance to development, especially safety nets for sectors affected by globalization. And to the extent that we will see that, indeed, sugar is affected adversely by globalization, then a great portion of that fund for safety net should go to sugar.

The agricultural and fisheries modernization act or AFMA, defines the principles that we followed in modernizing the agricultural sector and specified in detail the mandated programs and streams of public investments necessary. This is not a new law , but this is the first time that we will be implementing AFMA fully. Because the losses that in the first year of implementation, we must provide P20 billion for agricultural modernization. The budget we inherited provided only P14 billion. And while keeping with the difficult target of keeping our budget deficit at only P145 billion by making sacrifices in many other kinds of spending, we were able to increase the allocation for AFMA by P6 billion. And this year, we can, for the first time, comply with the law, that P20 billion should go to agricultural modernization. AFMA's major provisions include reforms and reorganization in the provision of public production and marketing services. For instance, there will now be a focus and concentration on public investment in what I have told you earlier, the identified strategic agriculture and fisheries development zone. These are defined geographical areas of competitiveness and comparative advantage based on bio-physical and socio-economic endowment. And I would suggest that PHILSUTECH should Immediately with the regional director of agriculture in your region to identify where the SAFDZS are in the various areas where sugar is being planted.

Another provision in AFMA is the crafting and execution of medium and long term agriculture and fisheries modernization plans in full consultations with all stakeholders and based on this strategic agricultural and fisheries development zones. I hope that this convention, PHILSUTECH, the biggest convention of the sugar industry, will be a way by which the department of agriculture and the sugar regulatory agency can consult with the stakeholders as we draw up the medium and long term plan for the sugar industry.

Another provision of AFMA is the phase out and consolidation of all directed credit into the agro industry modernization credit and financing program so that you will all know where to borrow. And right now where to borrow is the land bank of the Philippines.

Also in AFMA, there is a provision for strategic principles and guidelines for irrigation and watershed development providing for economic cost recovery and the devolution of communal systems to local government units, promotion of private sector led development of minor systems. For the first time, in the history of Philippine government, this year, we are providing P6 billion for irrigation. Of the P6 billion for irrigation, P5 billion 600 million is for ongoing large irrigation projects.

And I am happy to know that this September, we'll have three of those major irrigation projects graduating so that they can provide for irrigation for thousands of hectares of farmland. One of them is in Luzon, and that is the CASECNANDAM which shall be opened on September 28. The other two are the Cabulnan and the Malmar Irrigation System in Mindanao. Malmar is thirteen years in the making. And actually, I said, that if it will not be finished this September, I will give it to the army engineering brigade to complete. And lo and behold! It will be finished this September.

So we will inaugurate those. And what about the Visayas? I think the best way to do irrigation, the quickest gestation period is in communal irrigation systems, small water impounding projects and shallow tube wells and that is where we are putting the rest of the P400 million that are still available for spending this year. Of the P400 million, P300 million have been obligated. And the bidding started at the beginning of this month. P100 million is what is still available for new programming. And I hope that the sugar industry will work with the department of agriculture to see where you need to have new irrigation projects for this year, but even if you don't fit into the 100 for this year, next year there will be another P6 billion available for agriculture modernization and irrigation.

Another provision of the AFMA is the establishment of the national marketing assistance program and the national information network. And I believe these two together will make up over a billion pesos of expenditures. And this is important, therefore, that you all touch base with the marketing assistance units, although in sugar we don't have much of a problem in marketing, because you already have a sugar quota as your main market. But this portion, the marketing assistance program, includes assistance in negotiations, assistance in market access. And I think that the PHILSUTECH should take advantage of this so that you can hire the appropriate experts to give us a good bargaining leverage for negotiating for greater market access, or at least for protecting our market access, or even for protecting our domestic industry from undesired intrusions of market access into our own country.

Another provision of AFMA is the coordination between the department of agriculture, the DPWH and the local government units in the formulation and implementation of the agricultural and fisheries infrastructure plant. I hope that every province and every district will have an agricultural fishery plant jointly for the department of agriculture.

This is probably one of John-john Osmeña's first job, as chairman or presiding officer of the provincial development council of Cebu. Another provision is, product standardization and consumer safety, and establishment of the bureau of agricultural and fisheries product standards. And so, these are the main provisions of AFMA; and these are what we will seek to carry out. Because a law is a dead letter law. To a dead industry, if it is not implemented. And now we will begin to implement this law in full.

Agricultural modernization will include, of course, measures to modernize the sugar industry so that we can shift from what we refuse to accept? That this is a sunset industry. Remember many years ago, they were telling us that sugar is a sunset industry, but we have never accepted that, and we must not accept that. We must make it one that is competitive in the new economy by modernizing. And PHILSUTECH is a great vehicle for modernization.

Yes, the sugar industry has its challenges, but it also has its opportunity. The increase in sugar production, this crop year, for example, shows how Filipinos can surmount adversity and perform better. Imagine at that time, when our major markets, the U.S., slowing down, we experienced an increase in production. That is a good sign for this industry.

Our sugar farmers and millers worked harder to produce 1.8 million metric tons of sugar. And you increased your output this year by more than 11 percent from the previous year's production of 1.6 million metric tons. And that means we must give congratulations to the sugar industry for its increased production and increased productivity.

This performance is a collective effort of all the players in the sugar industry – from the field laborers to the planters, the male workers, the millers, the truckers, the shippers, the traders, all contributed to this exemplary performance.

The Philippine sugar technology association or PHILSUTECH, contributed much to this development. The primary function of PHILSUTECH, as I am aware, is to disseminate technology. And you have, by disseminating technology, contributed to the progress of the industry. The industry absorbs and adopts new technologies because of the thrust of PHILSUTECH to inform and to educate the players of the industry about this development.

So your theme for this year, “addressing challenges, exploring opportunities,” reflects the progressive thinking of the industry. PHILSUTECH, I recall, was established by the sugar industry on its own, with operations funded out of contributions from the producers. And now, we are beginning to see the results in productivity.

I understand that the distribution of high yielding sugarcane varieties was one of the reasons for the increase in production this crop year. I understand, too, that you expect productivity to improve further because the industry has already laid out its action plan for the next five to ten years. This is a model for other agricultural sectors to emulate. And because you have already laid out your five to ten years plan for the industry, this is what the department of agriculture should now examine and adopt in its own medium term plan because every sector is supposed to have a medium term plan that is done in coordination with the department of agriculture so that we can synchronize your own private investments as well as where the government will spend its P20 billion a year on agricultural modernization.

To provide initial funding for your action plan, I have facilitated the release of P278 million out of the total funding of P600 million from the sugar And because providentially, yesterday, Secretary Camacho gave a good news that we are P11 billion below our deficit ceiling, I think, Leony, you should work for the balance of the whole P600 million to be released to the sugar industry.

This fund will be used by the sugar industry through the PHILSUTECH, through your ...district development councils rather, to promote productivity. For such projects such as the setting up tractor pools for small farmers, the improvement of micro-propagation laboratory, the establishment of field nurseries, the purchase of road building equipment for the repair and maintenance of farm- to mill roads and the establishment of organic fertilizer plant using sugar by-products.

How will we To P600 million if it is spent on these things? Some of the money will be spent for farm-to-mill roads. This will actually be part of the P1.5 billion that we have allocated this year for farm-to-market-roads. And as for your nurseries and your laboratories, this will be part of the P2 billion that for the first time, the government is allocated for research and development in agricultural modernization.

Your leaders visited me in Malacañang a few months ago, and gave me a list of policy issues. Most of these issues are related to tariff, WTO and AFTA policies. You requested to modify your duties on fructose and sugar with flavoring or color. The tariff commission conducted a public hearing last June 28, that is two months ago. Therefore, I ask secretary Montemayor to convey my instructions to the commission to report the results to the Cabinet Committee of the Tariff and Related Matters immediately.

You ask to transfer sugar from the temporary exclusion list to the sensitive list of the CETT, AFTA, the Cabinet Committee has approved your request. Our negotiators will bring the proposal formally to the AFTA council meeting in the month of September — next month. However, they have already laid the groundwork for the transfer since they have discussed this at various meetings of the senior economic officials of the AFTA countries. I know also that we need to address your problems with regard to farm-to-mill road and the installation of irrigation systems. That is why I said, it is important to let you know, that for the first time in history, as I said earlier, the government is budgeting P1.5 billion for farm-to-market-road which will include your farm-to-mill-roads. And P6 billion with irrigation within the next twelve months. And that is why I advise you to work for the department of agriculture to make sure that a large part of your needs are included in the detailed program for farm to market road and irrigation of the department of agriculture.

In turn, I ask you to use labor intensive methods to contribute to the one million jobs that we need to find in agriculture. We need to create one million jobs in agriculture over the next three years. Our growth rate so far is above average. But if you only use the same old method, this growth rate can result in jobless growth. That is why we need to specifically use labor enhancing technology rather than labor displacing technology.

The global and political environment has been harsh and trying in recent times. It has been pushing us to the limits of our capability and resources, but we will prevail. We will prevail because the mainstream of our society is united. Sugar belongs to the mainstream of our society, and let us all therefore be united. Let us remain united, that we can work together to alleviate the pressures bearing down on our people. With the increased production of sugar, I hope the trend towards the reduction of sugar import will continue. And I hope this will eventually lead to the attainment of self-sufficiency in sugar. If we continue our unity, better times will lie ahead for our people, not just for a few planters and millers and traders, but for the many workers in the industry and other industries as well.

Let us therefore be united. United in vision. United in perseverance. United in hard and honest labor. If we continue our unity, we can win the battle against poverty within the decade and find the rightful place for our beloved sugar industry in the new economy in the 21st century.

Thank you

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the 48th Annual Convention of the PHILSUTECH. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213212/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8706&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Brunei State Dinner

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Brunei State Dinner

[Delivered on August 22, 2001]

I thank his majesty for the privilege of being here in your beautiful and prosperous country.

I thank his majesty for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality accorded to my delegation, and for the excellent arrangements made for the visit.

His majesty and the people of Brunei and the Philippines are continuously reinforced by frequent visits at the highest levels between our two countries. This is a tradition that is as old as many centuries. It dates back to the time of his majesty's ancestors and mine.

One such visit was that of Rajah Lakandula, my ancestor and a descendant of Sultan Bolkiah V. Around the year 1575, Rajah Lakandula came to Brunei to visit his cousin Sultan Saiful Rajah.

Previous Philippine presidents have visited Brunei as well, and his majesty has visited the Philippines several times. I thank his majesty for receiving me in Brunei in 1995 when I was still a senator, and I cherish the times that I had the privilege of welcoming his majesty to Manila when I was vice president.

Now, I come to Brunei again, this time as president and as your state guest. I come not only in the name of friendship and neighborliness but also to pay my respects to his majesty the sultan as the current leader of ASEAN. The original leader of BIMP-EAGA, as a member of the committee of eight of the organization of Islamic conference, as an economic giant, and as a benevolent host of overseas Filipino workers.

I am excited that my first ASEAN summit as head of state will take place in Brunei. Knowing that the Brunei government did an outstanding job hosting APEC last year, we are confident that Brunei's hosting of the ASEAN summit this year will be just as spectacular.

ASEAN is especially important to my administration for two special reasons. One is our high hopes in BIMP-EAGA and the second is our anxiousness for the early conclusion of the code of conduct in the South China Sea.

On BIMP-EAGA, my delegation and I express our faith in his majesty's leadership for the active revival of BIMP-EAGA, not only at a sub-regional level but also at a bilateral level. On the South China Sea, it gratifies me to know that Brunei agrees with the Philippines on the settlement of disputes in accordance with recognized principles of international law.

Your majesty, I thank Brunei for contributing to peace and development in the Philippines by being a member of the committee of eight charged by the O.I.C. to monitor peace and development in Mindanao. And I ask Brunei to be an advocate to help explain to the other O.I.C. members what we the Philippines is trying to do in Mindanao.

Your majesty, today, our two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation. I trust that the military cooperation provided for in this agreement will help to ensure peace in Mindanao. Hopefully, it will also lead to more collaboration in other areas such as fighting transnational crimes.

Your majesty, Brunei is a small country of 300,000 people but it is a petroleum giant. Tomorrow two Bruneian corporations and two Philippine corporations all associated with Shell will sign two agreements. One for joint

exploration and the other for training our people with regard to running our new gas pipeline. But the most welcome news I can bring home to our people is that his majesty is instructing his investment managers to study the petrochemical consortium proposed by the Philippines with a view to participating in the said consortium. Your majesty, my gratitude for this is boundless. This development is as important to my administration as Brunei's 0 million budgetary support loan was to the administration of then president Corazon Aquino. Incidentally, with regard to that loan, I am proud to report that since the grace period has expired, our government is now religiously paying it back.

I am grateful to his majesty for acknowledging that there is plenty of room for expanding and deepening bilateral linkages. For instance, I understand that there is a proposed agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to income. This and other cooperative endeavors can be pursued in the forthcoming Philippine-Brunei Darussalam joint commission for bilateral cooperation, which is scheduled to be convened next year. Another bilateral linkage is the training that Royal Brunei Airways is doing for Cebu Pacific, the Philippines newest international airline.

Tomorrow another Philippine international airline, air Philippines, will sign an agreement for chartered flights between Brunei and the Philippines. This will certainly boost tourism between us.

Your majesty, I come also to express the gratitude of my people to Brunei for being a second home to 20,000 Filipino workers. For almost 50 years now, Filipino workers have been part of Brunei's development. Brunei has been a benevolent and considerate host to the Filipino community.

And I thank his majesty for repeatedly acknowledging the contributions made by the Filipinos in Brunei and I am confident that my countrymen can continue to count on Brunei's open doors in the years ahead. One indication of this continuing benevolence is the agreement mentioned by his majesty to be signed tomorrow that will accredit Filipino seafarers for service on Bruneian vessels.

Your majesty, in this spirit of common historical and cultural heritage and mutual interests and goals, which are the anchors of our close bilateral relations, I am confident that the cooperation and friendship between our two nations will continue to flourish well into the future.

In behalf of the members of my delegations, I wish to reiterate our heartfelt gratitude for the hospitality accorded us and the excellent arrangements made for our visit. I look forward to your state visit to the Philippines as well. Meanwhile, my countrymen will wait for you, and in the meantime, they join me in wishing your majesty continued happiness and good health. May the blessings of god almighty be upon you as you lead your nation and people to even greater prosperity and success.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during Brunei State Dinner. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212955/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8700&Itemid=38

Departure Speech of President Arroyo for Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

Departure Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines For Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

[Delivered at NAIA, August 22, 2001]

Senate president Franklin Drilon, speaker de Venecia, the ASEAN ambassadors, members of the cabinet, the chief of staff of the armed forces and the commanding generals, other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, my countrymen.

Today, I am once again embarking on a journey to strengthen and reinvigorate existing fraternal ties with our ASEAN neighbors. This time with Negara Brunei Darussalam, and immediately thereafter, Singapore – my second and third state visits as President of the Philippines.

A feature of foreign relations is the universal practice of exchanging state and official visits. Generally, state visits are those made by heads of state and government. While official visits are those made by other officials. If circumstances do not warrant a formal state visit, visiting heads of state or government are accord of the courtesies given in official visits.

State visits are not primarily working trips, but are designed primarily to promote goodwill. In general, state visits are vehicles for improved or closer relations and better understanding between the nations concerned.

In making state visits, it is expected that the head of state assure the domestic conditions justify her travel abroad. Thus, I did not schedule any state visit during my first six months as president because we were still in the period of consolidation after EDSA II.

When I made my first state visit in this month to Malaysia, I had to satisfy myself that domestic situation justified our departure for abroad. Indication of a satisfactory local situation was the fact that we had started peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the National Democratic Front; our may elections were peaceful and its results validated the unity of the mainstream; Congress gave bilateral support to the power sector reform or law; and our program of government had been launched in my State of the Nation Address.

I intend to keep my state visits to a minimum, because I believe that my homework will not permit me to leave the country often. However, it is essential that I make state or official visits to, at least, the original ASEAN countries.

In Brunei, where I am visiting upon the invitation of his majesty the sultan, I will place particular emphasis on the intensification of activities in southern Philippines which forms part of the BIMP-EAGA.

The sultan of Brunei has been a leader in this sub-regional grouping. I will call for the reinvigoration of the BIMP-EAGA through collaborative projects which I hope to flesh out in the state visit.

I will also have meetings with regard to possible investments of Brunei in the Philippine petrochemical industry. I will discuss issues of defense in order to ensure a conducive security environment as is expected of the ASEAN community of nations.

After my state visit to Negara Brunei Darussalam, I will immediately proceed to Singapore, upon the invitation of his Excellency President S. R. Nathan.

The last time I visited Singapore as vice president, the prime minister go was enthusiastic about cooperation between our two countries with regard to information and communication technology. This will be the theme of my state visit to Singapore.

During the visit, we will also enter into a tourism twinning arrangement with Singapore, wherein Singapore will help us promote tourism to the Philippines, not only among Singaporeans but also among 3rd country tourists, as a package with visits to Singapore. To facilitate the expected increase in tourism traffic, the Philippines has decided to permit a larger sitting capacity for Singapore-manila flights.

I look forward to meeting with the members of the Filipino community both in Brunei and in Singapore. We have a strong presence of about 20,000 Filipinos in Brunei, many of whom are employed in skilled and semi-skilled industries.

In Singapore, with more than 100,000 overseas Filipino worker-investors, I will inaugurate a 28-room bayanihan center where they can upgrade their skills, to remain competitive and to prepare them for eventual reintegration into the Philippine work force upon their return.

I will bring our overseas countrymen encouragement from back home. As well as housing benefits to include them in the 100,000 economic low cost housing that they want to build every year.

I ask for your prayers and blessings and look forward to returning with meaningful results.

Thank you.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Departure Speech for Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213010/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8701&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Dinner hosted by the Philippine-Singapore Business Council, August 25, 2001

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Dinner hosted by the Philippine-Singapore Business Council**

[Delivered at the Mandarin Hotel, Singapore, August 25, 2001]

**PHILIPPINES AND SINGAPORE
AS ECONOMIC PARTNERS**

I would like to thank the organizers of this business forum for putting together this occasion to discuss the new developments happening in many sectors of our economy.

My Cabinet Secretaries who made their presentations have already expounded on the latest developments insofar as the Philippine economy is concerned.

You've heard about the progress made in several areas, as well as the reforms we have undertaken and other market corrections we intend to go through. You heard it from them, and I would like to confirm that they spoke with my full authority.

Some of the reforms are not easy. There is no single formula for the myriad of the complex issues that our economic sector faces.

But our policy goals are straightforward. We want to win the battle against poverty within the decade by being competitive, by finding our niche in the new economy, by creating jobs for the Filipino people.

To attain such goals, we are ready to reform, and reform with strong and serious political will.

Our competitive advantage is clear and direct: human capital is the most valuable resource of the Philippines. Its strength is in its rich pool of well-educated, highly trainable, culturally adaptable, and English-speaking work force.

We have government-declared economic zones within the confines of over a hundred industrial and business parks across our vast archipelago well-suited to a variety of economic activities from agro-industrial manufacturing to high technology, this is in addition to the tandem of Clark and Subic, our showcase freeport ecozones. The choice of feature and location is wide, like the menu in a good restaurant.

I am reminded of the call during the National Day Rally made by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, with whom I will meet after this forum to discuss what our two economies can do further together.

Prime Minister Goh saw the need to broaden the basis of Singapore's growth and the need for a new economic model for the future. The Prime Minister urged Singaporeans that as they had made great strides against the odds in the past, you can do so again in facing the longer term challenges for the new Singapore.

In consonance with that call, I urge you to include the Philippines as part of the basis for your growth.

The new economic model calls for going beyond the territory and into the region.

The Prime Minister also said that the years ahead will be very difficult. But we have done it before, and we can do it again. “We have the resources,” he said, “We have the ability, and you can do it.”

I believe your Prime Minister and I believe that together, we can be partners in overcoming the economic difficulties of the 21st century.

The Philippines can be Singapore’s partner especially in the high-growth sectors that inherently draw strength from human resources.

The Philippines has land and human resources. Singapore can be the Philippines’ partner as a provider of technology, capital, and marketing know-how.

The combined assets of “our two economies augurs well for business collaboration.

Thus, this is our call to you in the business sector – to rally and overcome the economic impasse that the world faces. And as you do this join us as we dare to be bold in our national ambitions. Join us as we boldly go forward to face both the perils and the opportunities of the 21st century.

Come to the Philippines. Thank you!

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Dinner hosted by Philippine-Singapore Business Council

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Dinner hosted by Philippine-Singapore Business Council**

[Delivered at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Singapore, August 25, 2001]

I would like to thank the organizers of this business forum for putting together this occasion to discuss the new developments happening in many sectors of our economy.

My cabinet secretaries who made their presentations have already expounded on the latest developments insofar as the Philippine economy is concerned.

You've heard about the progress made in several areas, as well as the reforms we have undertaken and other market corrections we intend to go through. You heard it from them, and I would like to confirm that they spoke with my full authority.

Some of the reforms are not easy. There is no single formula for the myriad of the complex issues that our economic sector faces.

But our policy goals are straightforward. We want to win the battle against poverty within the decade by being competitive, by finding our niche in the new economy, by creating jobs for the Filipino people.

To attain such goals, we are ready to reform, and reform with strong and serious political will.

Our competitive advantage is clear and direct: human capital is the most valuable resource of the Philippines. Its strength is in its rich pool of well-educated, highly trainable, culturally adaptable, and English-speaking work force.

We have government-declared economic zones within the confines of over a hundred industrial and business parks across our vast archipelago well-suited to a variety of economic activities from agro-industrial manufacturing to high technology, this is in addition to the tandem of Clark and Subic, our showcase freeport ecozones. The choice of feature and location is wide, like the menu in a good restaurant.

I am reminded of the call during the national day rally made by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, with whom I will meet after this forum to discuss what our two economies can do further together.

Prime Minister Goh saw the need to broaden the basis of Singapore's growth and the need for a new economic model for the future. The prime minister urged Singaporeans that as they had made great strides against the odds in the past, you can do so again in facing the longer-term challenges for the new Singapore.

In consonance with that call, I urge you to include the Philippines as part of the basis for your growth.

The new economic model calls for going beyond the territory and into the region.

The prime minister also said that the years ahead will be very difficult. But we have done it before, and we can do it again. "we have the resources," he said, "we have the ability, and you can do it."

I believe your prime minister and I believe that together, we can be partners in overcoming the economic difficulties of the 21st century.

The Philippines can be Singapore's partner especially in the high-growth sectors that inherently draw strength from human resources.

The Philippines has land and human resources. Singapore can be the Philippines' partner as a provider of technology, capital, and marketing know-how.

The combined assets of our two economies augurs well for business collaboration.

Thus, this is our call to you in the business sector – to rally and overcome the economic impasse that the world faces. And as you do this join us as we dare to be bold in our national ambitions. Join us as we boldly go forward to face both the perils and the opportunities of the 21st century.

Come to the Philippines. Thank you!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the Dinner hosted by Philippine-Singapore Business Council. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212948/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8697&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during her visit to Pampanga

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During her visit to Pampanga**

[Delivered on August 30, 2001]

A pleasant good morning to all of you. And I join Mayor Lazatin in welcoming you, not only to the Philippines but to my province of Pampanga.

I think I can also welcome you in behalf of the department of social welfare and development. Because when I was vice president, that was my work, I was secretary of social welfare and development . And now that the secretary is in Indonesia on official business, I told her, okay, dinky, I'll take care of welcoming them in your behalf. So in behalf of the DSWD, welcome too.

In fact, I was telling Lulu Pablo that it's a good thing — I am able to come today, because when I was in DSWD and we had this consultation in Subic, I could not make it. Now that I am president, I can make it. I am very glad to be here at last.

And so to all of you, I truly congratulate you for this laudable undertaking, the sixth global consultation on child welfare services, which is the fourth to be held in this country.

The enduring partnership which you have forged since the first global consultation in 1993 should continue to be nurtured and strengthened. This partnership includes the DSWD which is the current agency of the Inter Country Adoption Board, or ICAB; the child caring agencies, both NGOs and the reception study centers for children without whom the entire program of child care services would certainly not have taken off and, of course, the foreign adoption agencies, our international partners in a united effort to give to our children and all the children of the world a rightful home of their own.

I think it is very fitting that we are holding these consultations here in Angeles city. Because Mayor Lazatin has told you earlier about what he is very proud of — his street children's home. And let me say that the street children's home of Angeles city is the best street children home outside of Makati and Muntinlupa. And Mayor Lazatin also has his own proactive street children than program in Angeles.

When I was vice president and secretary of social welfare, you may not know it mayor, but I was always monitoring the activities. Because every time we would do something in metro manila, Mayor Lazatin would do it also in Angeles city. He would also do his own echo or replication, so it's a very good place to be in, in a city that loves children and takes care of them . Who among us does not have a soft spot in our hearts for children. The roman poet Cicero once wrote that, "of all natures gift to our human race, children are the sweetest." even our lord Jesus Christ was recorded in the bible to have said to his disciples when they tried to prevent children from coming to him, "let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for the kingdom of god belongs to such as this."

I read the bible everyday. And I remember on the day that we had our first meeting when I was still the DSWD regarding the launching of the long term plan for children, that was the reading of the day. And so I felt inspired—indeed we must not close our doors to children. And I still remember what my predecessor said — Lina Laygo, the previous secretary of social welfare, who said the most important part of her social welfare work was the work for the children. Thus, there should not be any reason for anyone to cause these innocent, sweet, and lovable members of our race any pain or sorrow. Sadly though, this is not the situation in the real world. The sad plight of many children can make many of us ashamed of ourselves — for either being indifferent, or contributing to the condition that we find these children in In this country as well as all over the world.

There is a ray of hope, however, in this day and age of computers and cell phones, of the internet, of distance education, and of teleconferences, now that we have come to realize that the youth, the most valuable resource of every country in the world, need above all, special care and protection. It is now undisputed that the state has an interest in the rights and welfare of children. With this recognition has come a consequent shift in their treatment by the state.

Whereas within the last decade or so, the primary objective of adoption laws and programs was to provide childless couples with children, now the paramount consideration in adoption is the promotion of the welfare of the child.

The two principles that now guide attempts to find homes for children eligible for adoption are:

first, decision shall be made in the best interest of the child;

and second, the goal should be for permanency in a secure, stable, nurturing and loving environment.

Today, while parents remain primarily charged with the upbringing of children, numerous laws have been passed not only by your state, but also the international community, directly and indirectly affecting children. Most important among international treaties are the convention on the rights of the child, signed on November 20th 1989, and ratified by the Philippines on July 1990. The Philippines was one of the first to ratify this convention. And then we have the Hague convention on the protection of children and cooperation in respect of intercountry adoption signed on may 29,1993, and ratified by the Philippines on June 7, 1995.

While we can say that much has been done in efforts to promote the welfare of children, much remains to be done, however. Adoption has long served as means of providing care for children whose natural parents are unable to raise them for economic or other reasons, including the fact that they may have passed away. It has also become an alternative means of building a family for couples who are unable to have their own children. Many cases of adoption have been successful, in fact, I would say most cases of adoption have been successful. And countless adopted children and adoptive parents have given immeasurable joy to each other. Presently, however, there remains a need to collect information on adoption trends, adoption demand, and characteristics of children waiting to be adopted or placed in permanent care arrangements, as this information is crucial for formulating adoption and child welfare policies.

Republic act no. 8043, or the intercountry adoption act, created the intercountry board, or ICAB, which is the Philippine central authority in matters relating to the placement of Filipino children who had been cleared for intercountry adoption. The DSWD, through its programs and special projects bureau, functions as the competent authority on intercountry adoption.

This year's theme for your global consultation, I understand, is "a child's right to a family," which focuses on current trends and practices on alternative family care. This is appropriate. While we in the Philippines and many countries all over the world have now realized that adoption is not meant mainly to serve the interest of the childless couple but rather to cater to the interest of the child, so also should we now address the issue of welfare, foster care, kinship care, privacy in adoption, and research and reunion issues.

I have been watching on TV these beautiful ads looking for foster parents. Please, just for a little while somebody to love me while I am looking for somebody permanent. I hope that many volunteers come forward because of that moving advertisement looking for foster parents.

Today, it is estimated that there are about 7,000 children residing in child caring institutions throughout the country including the ones here in Angeles city. And I understand now that the consultant of the Angeles city street children's home, Father Rocky Evangelista, has moved his own street children from Makati to the Muntinlupa, Alabang facility that we facilitated for him to build a really new and big one. Well, there is also the one of chosen children which is ran by my classmate Angelita Peypoch.

I remember one time, Gina Lopez, who also loves children. There was a time when she wanted to be the one to handle the RSCC. And she said, just watch me. I will transform this into a paradise for children. When I went to Lita Peypoch Fullerton's chosen children, I said, "this is the paradise for children. I found it." but well, Gina was unable to work out the terms and conditions for RSCC, but she is building her own now in Bulacan. And I hope therefore this will be another paradise that she will be able to provide.

Still and all, a great number roam the streets day and night, living with their parents in what may be farthest from what we know as permanent homes — or just living in the streets. There is a dearth of local adopted homes. Adoption continues to be primarily a kinship affair. And illegal adoptions through simulation of births continues to be practiced unabated.

What are the statistics? How many simulated births continue to be practiced regardless of the laws that we have enacted, regardless of the international treaties and conventions that we have ratified, regardless of the right of every child to a name and to true information regarding his or her birth family. How many children are still used and abused by the very parents whose major function in life should be to protect them, care for them, help them develop their full potential.

One time when I was still vice president, I went to this squatter area where there was a house smaller than the platform. And I went there because the newspapers had reported that the mother there, or the grandmother, was selling the children for she was giving birth to sell her children. And when I went there with the social workers, and I said, why are you doing this. And as we talked and talked, it dawned on us that she didn't realize that what she was doing was a crime. She didn't realize that there was something wrong with children being produced and being made a source of the family income. So indeed, much work remains to be done not only in regulation but in education.

We may not have all the answers today, but a group such as yours, of course, is expected to move in the direction we are all longing to achieve for our children — the joy and security of a permanent family.

Today, we are gathered to acknowledge. But though we take care of our own children, we cannot do it alone. Hence, the Hague treaty of 1993 was concluded, its main purpose being to protect children's rights, and for countries to cooperate in programs that safeguard and protect those rights and their persons.

We acknowledge with gratitude the role that our partner agencies and receiving states have done and continue to do, in assisting us to protect and care for our children. In turn, we try our best to improve our services at the state of origin, both in preparing our children for intercountry adoption as well as shortening the period of waiting, making sure that interim care of acceptable standards are provided the children, be they in child caring institutions or in foster homes, and in instituting more efficient process of applications. It is my wish that by the 7th global consultation next year, we will have satisfactorily put in place the solutions that may have been arrived at in this current consultation.

When I made my state of the nation address last July, I said that within 12 months, all agencies that render frontline services are required to submit a program whereby they will cut the number of steps required for their services by one half. Today when I was coming up the stairs, I told acting secretary Lulu Pablo, "the ICAB, the intercountry adoption process, is one of those areas where we must cut the number of steps by one half."

I hope that the issues regarding the appropriate alternative family care services and statistics on the Philippines as well as other states of origin particularly in the Asian region, will be truly online and effective.

And I would like to congratulate ICAB for signing an agreement today with Ireland, yet another country that will accept with love the children coming from the Philippines.

Our work is made more urgent by the dramatic increase in international adoptions, which have occurred in many countries. Intercountry adoption has now become a worldwide phenomenon involving the migration of children over long geographical distances from one society and culture to another very different environment. In the case of Ireland, it's a catholic country. In that sense, it's the same culture; English speaking, same culture; very I.T.-advanced. Hopefully we can say that's the same culture, but there are many other differences in culture also between Ireland and the Philippines. To begin with, one is Caucasian, the other is Malay. So let us all provide the leadership and cooperation needed for the achievement of excellence in the protection of children and in the promotion of their well-being within their adoptive families, communities, and countries.

So I am very glad to be here with you today. And I congratulate ICAB and this conference. And because I am in Pampanga, and I see the Pampanga media being here – usually they want to find out not so much about the conference but what's the latest thing I have to say. And I want to tell the people of Pampanga that starting yesterday, the dredging for the floods already started. You may not necessarily see it, because I think it begins in the mouth of the river, which is outside the Pampanga boundary. There is a There, and there is another That will be pulled out from another place – a bigger one than that – so that it can proceed faster.

So I hope that as we improve the lives of the people in central Luzon, as Mayor Lazatin and And the other mayors who are here – I saw several of them here – work to improve the lives of the children in their different municipalities and cities, and all of us work to improve the lives of the children worldwide, I hope that intercourty adoption will continue to be a transparent and welcome way by which we can spread love and friendship across the world.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during her visit to Pampanga. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212906/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8676&Itemid=38

Message of Sympathy of President Arroyo to the U.S. President

Message of Sympathy of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines To the U.S. President

[Delivered on September 12, 2001]

Nothing can describe the shock and horror of all humanity in the face of the unimaginable acts of terror inflicted on the United States today. All mankind is diminished by the extreme evil we saw unleashed on your cities. The mindless violence exceeds our most extreme fears about organized terrorism.

The Filipino people extend their most profound sympathies to all the victims of this unspeakable crime. We share your grief at this moment of unprecedented tragedy. We extend whatever support we can muster at this most horrific moment.

I have asked our security authorities to immediately secure all US nationals within our jurisdiction. We will help in whatever way we can to strengthen the global effort to crush those responsible for this barbaric act.

Organized terrorism threatens no country in particular. It is a specter that threatens every thread of civilized society. All humanity must now join hands to defend decency and defeat the insanity that has invaded our age.

Millions of people are now in prayer for good to triumph over evil. Your pain is ours, too.

This is a moment that summons the best in all of us.

This will be, we hope, the day that mankind musters its resolve to end the threat of organized terrorism.

Please accept my deepest condolence and my most ardent prayers for your people. This is a dark for all who abide by the basic kindness that makes communities possible and brotherhood a desirable condition.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Message of Sympathy to the U.S. President. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212858/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8716&Itemid=38

Arrival Speech of President Arroyo from Japan

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On her arrival from Japan

[Delivered at the Our Lady of Peñafrancia Basilica, Naga City, September 15, 2001]

I am honored to arrive from my official working visit to Japan in time to join our brother Bicolanos in commemorating our devotion to our Lady of Peñafrancia. Hindi makakaila na ang mahal na ina ang pinagdadasalan ng mga bikolano sa lahat ng bagay sa kanilang buhay, habang patuloy din siya sa pag-akay sa lahat patungo sa puso ng ating maykapal. Sa panahong ito na may pangmundong terorismo, pinagpala tayo dahil mayroon tayong ina na umaantabay at patuloy na nagsisilbing giya at gabay.

Bilang inyong Pangulo, umasa kayo na gagawin ko sa abot ng aking kakayahan na makiisa sa mga namumuno sa iba't ibang bansa upang bigyan ng lunas ang mga suliranin na nanggagaling sa napakasamang pangyayari noong nakaraang Martes.

During my trip to Japan, Prime Minister Koizumi and I jointly condemned the act of terrorism in the United States. We are united in grief and indignation with the United States and Japan, and other mourning nations, because innocent Filipinos, Americans, Japanese and other nationalities perished from the senseless violence.

As strategic allies of the United States, Prime Minister Koizumi and I confirmed our readiness to extend utmost assistance. And very importantly too, as charter members of the united nations and as part of the international coalition against terrorism, we must actively implement united nations' security council resolution number 1368 na pinasa unanimously noong September 12. Let me refer to specific paragraphs of said resolution.

Paragraph 3 calls on all states to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of these terrorist attacks, and stresses that those responsible for aiding, supporting or harboring the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this act, will be held accountable. Paragraph 4 calls also on the international community to redouble their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts.

We must take any possible executive actions against money laundering immediately related to this. Money laundering has moved into a new category. Last week it was an economic and commercial issue. From now on, it is an international political issue. It has moved from being a question of financial corruption, and has become a question of abetting terrorists. Let us not make the world believe that the Philippines is a haven for terrorists' money, and that the terrorists themselves are not far behind.

This perception will affect not only new investments, but also existing investments. We must get a credible money laundering bill passed by September 30th. Money is now linked in the investment community's mind to terrorism.

Before the Tuesday attacks, OECD sanctions would have hurt the Philippines with foreign investors for commercial reasons. Now it has moved far beyond that. We must not let financial sanctions group the Philippines with countries who are not fighting terrorism.

Prime Minister Koizumi and I noted the stabilizing presence of the United States in the Asia Pacific region. We confirmed that our respective alliances with the U.S. have contributed to this effort. I told the prime minister that a strong U.S.-Japan security cooperation would contribute to the continued peace and stability in the region.

As between the Philippines and Japan, the Prime Minister and I confirmed our two countries' resolve to continue the close relations between us, and to elevate our cooperation into a higher level of partnership. We reaffirmed the need

to immediately schedule the first politico security talks between our two countries as yet another forum to enhance dialogue between us. This politico security relationship elevates our cooperation beyond our current level of partnership, which even, as of now, is excellent; with Japan being our biggest source of Official Development Assistance, or ODA, our second largest investor, and host to a large number of Filipino workers and seamen. As our biggest source of ODA, the Japanese officials were gratified that my administration has maximized our capacity to utilize Japanese ODA. They congratulated us for bringing up the rate of disbursement on yen loan projects to 94 percent of target. This is the highest ratio in the history of ODA from Japan, and it is probably the highest in the region today.

We are encouraged by the response of Japan to our efforts and initiatives. Because even if Japan is now reducing its worldwide ODA by 10 percent in yen terms and 20 percent in dollar terms as a result of its economic difficulties, it seems that the level of its assistance to the Philippines will not be adversely affected by that global cut.

Among the projects we endorsed to JICA is a proposed resettlement project to Mt. Mayon evacuees. Among the candidate projects under the Obuchi Fund is the proposed engineering equipment project for local governments, which is strongly being pushed by the chairman of the league of governors, Camarines Sur governor Luis Villafuerte.

Japan is a major contributor to the world, which is considering the proposed Bicol river basin development project. And ongoing is the third elementary education project co-financed by the World Bank and the Japanese bank for international cooperation which involve the construction of school buildings in Bicol. In spite of the world economic slow down, major investments from Japan to the Philippines are forthcoming.

Sankyu Seiki will increase its investments in the Philippines by (US)200 million within three years. Sumitomo leads a consortium that will set up a nickel processing plant costing about (US)150 million with an expected foreign exchange revenue of (US)54 million every year.

Camabarra will expand its shipbuilding capability by (US)45 million. Honda will open a transmission plant in may next year to export 40,000 units per year to other ASEAN countries.

And as a female leader of our country, I am gratified that Prime Minister Koizumi acknowledged the issue of comfort women. He said that the Japanese government recognizes that the issue has affected the honor and dignity of former comfort women. He said that the Japanese government has provided atonement money and letters of apology from the prime minister. And I would read part of that letter as follows. And I quote: "on the occasion that the ASEAN women's fund, in cooperation with the government and people of Japan, offers atonement from the Japanese people to the former wartime comfort women, I wish to express my feelings as well. The issue of comfort women with an involvement of the Japanese military authorities at that time was a great affront to the honor and dignity of large numbers of women. As prime minister of Japan, I just extend anew my most sincere apology and remorse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experiences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women. We must not evade the weight of the past or should we evade our responsibilities for the future. I believe that our country, painfully aware of its moral responsibility with feelings of apology and remorse, should face up squarely to its past history and accurately convey it to future generations."

Prime Minister Koizumi said, that the government will continue to put concern on this issue. And now that the ASEAN women's fund project will be finished at the end of the year, I suggested to him that our 2 countries should think of innovative ways to extend support to the surviving comfort women.

I thank over 240,000 kababayans in Japan for their help in keeping our economy afloat and stable. Beinte singko porsiyento ng ating mga marino ay nakasakay sa bapor na mga hapon. At beinte singko porsiyento din ng ating remittances ay galing sa ating mga marino. Our overseas Filipinos in Japan generally contributed P650,000 for our poverty alleviation program.

My visit to Japan was also a sentimental journey because it gave me a chance to have a reunion with their majesties, the emperor and empress of Japan. Their majesties were guest of my father, President Diosdado Macapagal when

they were still crown prince and princess in 1962. Now as President, I had a chance to renew our friendship of 40 years, a friendship not only between families, but a friendship between our peoples.

It is fitting that in this new century, my visit to Japan paved the way for an enhanced strategic partnership between our two countries and peoples appropriate to the Asia-Pacific of the 21st century.

I thank you for all your support and prayers.

I have declared tomorrow as a national day of prayer and solidarity against terrorism in deep sympathy with the American people and all humanity. Tomorrow, let us take up again the torch of freedom as we assert our determination to conquer the forces of terrorism. Believing that the path to peace is through prayers, I call on all our countrymen to go to their churches, mosques and other places of worship tomorrow, Sunday, September 16, to pray to the almighty for the victims and help the world end this scourge of terrorism.

Nuestra Señora de Penafrancia, our lady of sorrows , pray for us, who have recourse to thee. Amen. Dios mabalos, saindo gabos.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Arrival Speech from Japan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212824/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8713&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo for the Overseas Filipino Workers of Japan

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
For the Overseas Filipino Workers of Japan**

[Delivered in Tokyo, Japan, September 15, 2001]

... Ang ating secretary of labor. Binabati ko rin ang ating balikbayan na ambassador, kilalang kilala ng Hapon – si Ambassador Jun Siazon. At gusto kong makilala ninyo ang iba't ibang mga opisyal na hinalal ninyo at hinalal ng mga kamag-anak ninyo. Sila ay narito ngayon bilang kinatawan na rin ng ating bansang Pilipinas para bumati sa inyo. Unang-una, si Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta. Nandito rin ang Congressman ... Sa Ilo-ilo — Cong. Raul Gonzales. ... Kanyang misis, former Congresswoman ng Zambales Pacita Gonzales. At nandito rin si Cong. James Gordon. ... Si Cong. Ace barbers. Ang pangulo ng lahat ng mga gobernador sa buong Pilipinas at gobernador ng Davao province – Gov. Dolfo del Rosario. Ang gobernador din ng Palawan na pinupuntahan ng mga turista – si Gov. Joel Reyes. Ang parating kausap ng ating mga kaibigan dito sa Hapon dahil ang laki-laki ng itinutulong ng Hapon sa ating Official Development Assistance – si Sec. Dante canlas. At kanina ay nakilala ninyo ang tumutulong na magbigay ng tulong sa pabahay, ang humahawak ng ating housing – si Sec. Michael Defensor. At ang ating Secretary of the Press Noel Cabrera. Mga Filipino community leaders dito sa Hapon, mga kababayan ko na narito sa Hapon, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat. Ang ating ka-pampangan... No agda ilocano... Doon sa mga ... Sa mindanao... Maayong buntag kaninyong tanan... Ilongo, maayong aga sa inyong mga tanan. Sa mga Waray, maupay nga aga ha iyo tanan. At meron bang Bikolano dito?... At Happy Peñafrancia Day, ang araw na ito ay Lady of Penafrancia, kung naa-alala pa ninyo nung kayo ay nandoon. At sa inyong lahat, ako ay natutuwa na nagkaroon tayo ng pagkakataong magsama-sama itong araw na ito dito sa magandang lunsod ng Tokyo.

Narito po ako sa Japan dahil sa imbitasyon ng kanilang gobyerno. Ngunit isa pang mahalagang dahilan kung bakit ako naririto ay para makausap ko ang overseas Filipino workers at seamen dito sa Japan. Gusto ko ring pasalamatan ang all Japan seamen's union na siyang tumatayong host natin ngayong umaga...

The all Japan seamen's union is not only hosting us today, they have taken into their field thousands of Filipino seafarers who act as crew for Japanese vessels.

25% ng ating mga marino ay nakasakay sa bapor ng mga Hapon. 25% din ng ating remittances ay galing sa ating mga seafarers. Saan man ako mapunta, labis ang aking pagmamalaki at pagpuri sa ating mga kababayan na andoon sa mga bapor. Ngunit nagmamalaki rin ako sa ating mga kababayang nakatira at nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa kagaya ninyo.

Pinupuri ko kayo sapagkat kayo, sa pamamagitan ng inyong husay sa pagtatrabaho, ina-angat ninyo ang pagkatao ng sambayanang Pilipino. At sa maganda at magaling at masipag na pagtatrabaho ninyo — matapat na pagtatrabaho ninyo — naipamalas ninyo sa mundo na ang Pilipino ay dapat ipagmalaki at hangaan.

Sa buong daigdig, nararamdaman ng mga bansa na may puhunan at mga magulang ang malaking tulong ng mga Pilipino. At sa Pilipinas, tinatanaw ng pamahalaan at ng taong bayan ang kontribusyon ng OFWs sa ekonomiya at sa kabuhayang bansa.

Ang inyong malaking tulong ay nagpapasigla sa ating ekonomiya at nagtutulak sa kaunlaran ng ating bansa. Milyon-milyong kabataan ang nakakapag-aral o nakakapagtapos ng edukasyon dahil sa mga ipinapadala ninyong tulong sa Pilipinas. Libo-libong bagong bahay ang naipapatayo — ganoon din karami ang nagkakaroon ng bagong buhay.

Halimbawa nga ay ang kaninang ginawa natin — nagbigay tayo ng isang housing unit sa isang OFW na taga-Quezon city. At sa pamamagitan ng ibinigay nating paluwang ay makakakuha siya ng housing unit doon sa smile project sa Quezon City.

Para sa mga kamag-anak ninyo at minamahal sa buhay, ... Saan galing ang ibabayad doon? Walang iba kung hindi ang inyong pagod dito sa Japan.

Dahil sa inyong tulong ay nakapag-lunsad tayo ng napakaraming negosyo. Iyong mga ipinapadala ninyong remittances ay nagiging puhunan sa mga negosyo ng inyong mga kamag-anak, minamahal sa buhay – mga small businesses na namumulaklak sa buong bansa dahil dito sa remittances ninyo. Ang matagumpay na negosyo na naipatayo dahil sa inyong remittances ay napakalaking haligi ng ating ekonomiya.

At dahil sa inyong remittances ay sumigla ang maraming barangay, maraming bayan, maraming lunsod, maraming probinsiya sa mga kontribusyon ng OFWs at kontribusyon ng mga seamen.

Kaya kayo ay hindi lang overseas workers or seamen. Kayo ay major economic investors ng ating bansa. Alam ninyo, pumupunta ako rito para humanap ng investments. Maglalagay daw ang sumitomi ng investment sa palawan, ipinagmamalaki natin — 0m. Pero kayo, sa kalahatan ng ating mga OFWs at mga seamen, b ang ipinapadala ninyo sa ating bansa. Kaya kayo ang mga bagong investors talaga sa Pilipinas.

Kaya dapat na baguhin ang bansag sa inyo ng bansa. Hindi kayo overseas workers at seamen lamang. Ang dapat na itawag sa inyo ay overseas Filipino investors.

Kayong mga overseas investors, ang araw-araw na puhunan ninyo para sa kaunlaran ng bansa ay ang inyong productive years alang-alang sa ating bayan. Nagsasakripisyo kayong malayo sa inyong mga mahal sa buhay para makamit ang mga pangarap nila. Ngunit, gaya ng sabi ko, ang kabuuan ng ipinapadala ninyo, hindi lang pangarap ng mga kamag-anak at minamahal ninyo ang binibigyan ninyo ng katotohanan, kung hindi pangarap ng buong Pilipinas. Kaya saludo ako sa inyo.

Kaya dapat lamang na suklian ng bansa ang inyong tulong. At doon sa kongreso, sa aking State of the Nation Address, sinabi ko nga ang mga prayoridad ng ating gobyerno. At nagpapasalamat tayo sa ating senadora at congressmen, dahil ang panukalang batas ng absentee voting para sa overseas workers ay nabibigyang malaking prayoridad doon sa kongreso at sa senado.

At sa kanilang masipag na sumuporta ay sana sa madaling panahon ay makakaboto at makakapili ng mga namumuno sa ating pamahalaan itong ating mga overseas Filipino investors.

Sa ibabaw ng karapatang bumoto na ngayon ay lumalakad doon sa senado at sa kongreso, meron ring ibang mga biyaya. Halimbawa, ang social security system recently launched a flexi-fund for OFWs. This is a voluntary provident fund type of program which could provide you, if you're a member, with additional sources of loans and retirement benefits.

Isa ring ginawa natin, we have a housing program for the OFWs. This is part of our goal to provide 100,000 housing units a year for workers a year – whether the workers are working in the Philippines or outside.

Kaya doon sa halimbawang ibinigay natin kanina, meron pang 10 sa ating mga OFWs and investors na dito naka-enrol sa programang ito – dito sa Hapon. Sana ay mas marami pa. Kaya sana ay mag-apply kayo sa embahada ng maging kasapi ng pag-ibig. Sa ganoong paraan, mula rito ay makakabili kayo ng murang pabahay sa Pilipinas, kahit na kayo ay narito sa ibang bansa.

We feel that we should try to give you whatever we can do in order to serve. Because the reality of the Philippine economy is that, for the foreseeable future, it will continue to be heavily dependent on overseas worker remittances.

Ang mga trabaho sa mga korporasyon at kagawaran ng Pilipinas ay mas kaunti kaysa sa mga trabaho na nanggagaling sa ibayong-dagat. May mga 7m Pilipinong nagta-trabaho sa ibang bansa. Hindi uma-abot ng 7m Pilipino ang nagta-trabaho sa industriya ng Pilipinas. Kaya mas malaki kaysa sa industriya ang ibinibigay ng mga nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa.

And so, on the basis of this big contribution of yours and only because even if you are not giving big contribution, it is still the country's responsibility to its people wherever you are, our government wants to work doubly hard to strengthen the protection of overseas Filipino workers.

For a start, the Philippine embassy will be open on Saturdays to take care of the needs of the Filipino workers.

And we will strengthen bilateral relation with countries hosting large numbers of Filipinos. Kasama na dito sa Hapon.

Alam po ninyo, nung isang araw ay nagkaroon ako ng malaking pagkakataon na makabisita sa kanilang emperador at emperadora. At nagkukuwentuhan nga kami tungkol sa kanilang pagbisita sa Pilipinas noon — nung ang aking tatay ay pangulo pa. Nung 1960's nagsimula ang ating magandang relasyon muli sa isa't isa pagkatapos ng giyera. At nagkukuwentuhan kami na mula nung panahon, lumawak ng husto ang relasyon ng ating dalawang bansa. Kinukuwento ko sa kanya na ang Hapon ang number one na pinanggagalingan ng oda ng Pilipinas, number two sa investment sa atin, number two sa trading partner, number two na pinanggagalingan ng turista at ang dami-daming mga Pilipino ang nagta-trabaho dito... Siya ang nagsabi. At ang sabi ng emperador, "ang dami-daming mga Pilipino na andito sa Hapon at minamahal namin sila".

Tapos sinabi ko, "Opo, marami tayong mga overseas Filipino workers na narito at maraming mga Pilipino ang nagtatrabaho sa mga barko ng mga Hapon". Tapos sabi niya, "at marami ring mga Pilipino ang nag-asawa na sa mga Hapon". Siyempre, dahil siya ay Hapon, iyon ang itinuturing niyang special na aalagaan dahil naging Hapon na rin ang mga nag-asawa sa mga Hapon — kagaya ni Ambassador Siazon.

Tapos sabi niya na marami doon sa mga nag-asawa ng Hapon ay hindi lahat nakatira sa Tokyo. Marami ang nakatira sa iba't ibang probinsiya. At sabi niya, isang panalangin niya na sana ay maganda naman ang adjustment sa buhay at kultura ng Hapon. So ganoon ang pananaw ng pamahalaan sa mga Pilipinong naririto — minamahal kayo at gusto nila na iyong matagalan na titira rito ay talagang hindi nahihirapan sa pag-adjust sa bagong klaseng buhay, sa bagong kulturang ina-abot nila, ngunit ina-angkin na bilang kultura na nila sa pangmatagalang buhay.

And on the multi-lateral front, we're intensifying our campaign for the ratification of the 1990 united nation's convention on the rights of migrant workers and their families and the adaption of the new U.N. Resolutions on the protection of women migrant workers.

Ang aking pagtungo dito sa Hapon ay napakahalaga upang pasulungin ang ating hangarin na lalong patibayin ang ugnayan natin sa bansang ito at makamit ang cooperation ng kanilang gobyerno sa ikakaunlad ng ating bayan.

In my State of the Nation Address last July 23rd, I cited the serious challenges facing the Philippines. Our economy, as of the time when I gave my state of the nation address, was — as far as our statistics our concerned — tight and daunting.

4m jobless Filipinos, compared to 2.5m jobless four years ago. And of course, when you have more jobless, there is a corresponding rise in poverty incidence. And now, the poverty incidence is now at 40% of the population compared to 1/3 of the population 4 years ago.

4 years ago, there was a budget surplus of 1B. When I came in, there was a budget deficit of more than 140B.

Kaya iyon ang ekonomiyang minana ko – ang kahirapan ng ating bansa. Ngunit, salamat sa inyo – mga overseas Filipino investors and other Filipinos in the country – thank you for proving our mettle as a nation and as a people, because our efforts are paying-off.

Noon nga, ang ating ekonomiya ay nahihirapan. Nung 1997 ay hira ang buong mundo, pero hindi gaanong hira ang Pilipinas dahil ang ating mga malalaking trading partners ay hindi nahihirapan. Nagkaroon ng asian crisis noon pero ang america na malaking bumibili ng ating produkto ay hindi – malakas. Pero ngayon, itong taong ito – 2001 – hindi lamang naghihirap ang asian countries kundi na rin pati ang ating major trading partners. Pati na ang Hapon, dahil sa kahirapan nila ay magbabawas na sila ng kanilang official development assistance sa iba’t ibang bansa. Salamat na lamang at mukhang hindi sila magbabawas ng tulong sa Pilipinas.

At dahil sa malaking tulong ninyo, at dahil na rin sa ating pagsisikap, pagkakaisa, nung lumabas ang statistics ng growth rate sa buong asia, maliban sa china yata, wala nang ibang mas mataas na growth rate kaysa sa ating bansang Pilipinas.

Marami sa ating mga karatig-bayan — Singapore at iba diyan — negative ang growth rate nila. Tayo, 3.3%, kung hindi kasama ang OFWs, ofis and seamen. Pero kung isasama kayo ay 3.4%. Kaya ang ibang negative or .01 or 1%, ngayon ay hinahangaan nila ang Pilipinas dahil ngayon ay mas mabilis ang ating pag-angat kaysa sa kanila.

Dahil sa inyo iyon. Salamat! Thank you for your kontribusyon to our real growth domestic products — which is 3.3%, gaya ng sabi ko — it’s part of the global economic weakness. Kasi, ang exports natin ay malaki ang bagsak. Kaya nung malaki ang bagsak ng exports natin, akala ko ay baka babagsak ang ating ekonomiya.

Kaya noon nga, nung pinag-uusapan namin ng mga economic managers nung February — nung nakikita naming nagkakaroon ng slowdown ang world economy, bumababa ang exports — sabi ko, “ano ang gagawin natin?” sabi nila, “mag-asa.. Tayo sa ating sariling mamamayan, agrikultura, small and medium enterprises, housing at ang remittances ay darating iyan. Hindi pumapaltos ang ating overseas Filipinos”. And so, including the remittances of overseas Filipinos, the Philippine economy displayed a resiliency that has been the result of your thinking Filipino, buying Filipino, investing Filipino. Maraming salamat sa inyong kontribusyon sa ating ekonomiya.

When I became president last January, I told our people about my vision of winning the war against poverty within the decade. Trabaho, edukasyon, sariling tahanan, pagkain sa bawat mesa – iyon ang sinabi ko sa kongreso, that this is the core of my vision.

And I also urged everyone listening to my SONA last July 23rd, to set aside bickering and politicking for at least one year. Sa halip na alitan, hiningi ko ang isang taong magtulungan sa ikakabuti ng taong bayan.

Salamat na lamang na napakarami sa ating mga leaders ay pumayag na magtatrabaho tayo muna sa ikakabuti ng ating bansa, itabi na muna ang politika.

In fact, marami nga ang nagtataka, actually sa house ay hindi masyadong nahahalata kung sino ang opposition or sino ang administration. Pero sa senate ay halatang-halata, kasi kaunti lang sila. At marami ang nagtatanong, bakit tinanggap ni Sen. Tessie aquino-oreta ang imbitasyon para pumunta sa Hapon? Iyon nga ang simbulo na sa ikakabuti ng ating bansa ay itabi na muna ang alitan at magkasama muna, para ipakita sa mundo – lalo na sa Hapon na parating nine-nerbiyos kapag maraming coup d’etat and instability – na makita ng Hapon na kahit na ibang partido o ibang panig ay nakiki-isa sa mga ipinapahayag ng ating gobyerno sa gobyerno nila. Mas luamalaki ang respeto at mas lumalaki ang tulong.

Dito nga sa Hapon, kilalang-kilala ang mga pamilyang aquino, kaya tamang-tama, hiniling kong sumama si Tessie at pumayag naman siya. Malaking kontribusyon...

In order to succeed, our national agenda must revolve around 4 components. Apat na elemento ng pakikipabaka sa kahirapan.

The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. Pagnenegosyo upang dumami ang trabaho.

The second component is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. Palalaguin ang kita at ani ng maralitang taga-bukid.

The 3rd component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. Pagkalinga sa mga bahagi ng lipunan na naiiwanan ng kaunlaran. And the 4th component is the improvement of moral standards of government and society. Moralidad sa gobyerno at lipunan bilang saligan ng tunay na kaunlaran.

We are promoting fast growing industries where high-valued jobs are most plentiful. One of them is information and communication technology or ICT. And also, aside from ICT, we have the competitive edge in tourism.

I have, therefore, identified tourism as one of the industries that can create tremendous opportunities for the Philippines' economic recovery. But tourism needs the help of all the 7m overseas Filipinos. Usually ay kasama ko si dot secretary dick gordon. Ngayon ay hindi siya kasama. Ang kasama ay ang kapatid niyang si Cong. James Gordon.

So sa pangalan na lang ni Dick, ako ay nananawagan sa inyo – the overseas Filipinos – to support the Philippine Department of Tourism which is looking for volunteer tourism promoters among our overseas Filipinos.

Sa turismo, may trabaho, may tahanan, may pagkain, may edukasyon. Sa isang turista lamang ay makakatulong ka na sa bayan.

Kaya kung kayo ay uuwi, magba-bakasyon ng disyembre, sana ay magsama kayo ng isang turista. O kung hindi kayo makakauwi, sabihin ninyo sa isang kaibigan ninyo na taga-rito, "I cannot go home this Christmas. Why don't you take a vacation in the Philippines and give my regards and my christmas gifts in the Philippines?" baka uuwi sila at pupunta bilang turista. Kasi iyan ang programa ng department of tourism – volunteer tourism promoters.

And, with all of our work that we are trying to do, we also want to have a million new jobs in agriculture and fisheries.

Upang lumikha ng 1m trabaho sa kanayunan, taun-taon ay gagastos tayo ng p20b para sa agrikultura. Ang hinihingi ko sa inyo, mga kababayan, ay inyong patuloy na pag-unawa sa mga nangyayari sa ating bayan at pagtitiwala na ginagampanan ng inyong pamahalaan ang aming tungkulin sa abot ng aming kakayahan. Ang hiling ko ay maki-isa kayo sa amin.

In closing, I wish to greet all the Filipino community leaders who are here with us. My greetings go to the various members of the various associations represented.

Marami tayong mga organizations at leaders dito sa Hapon. 37 yata ang ambassadors. Ngunit, ang magandang katangian ay nagkaka-isa kayo. You are united here in Japan and I am very happy about that.

Ito ay mahalaga upang maalagaan ang kapakanan ng bawat Pilipino sa bansang ito na ngayon ay halos 200,000 na. At kung bibilangin natin ang mga seamen ay in fact, mahigit sa 200,000.

You make us proud of your contributions in unifying the community here in Japan. We thank you for your leadership and your unwavering commitment.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all those responsible for the success of this gathering here this morning.

First, we have the Philippine embassy in Japan, the officers and members of the various organizations in Japan, the members of the organizing committee for this activity and all the OFWs and seamen who are now OFIS.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech for the Overseas Filipino Workers of Japan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212804/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8714&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Basic Sector Anti-Poverty Conference, September 21, 2001

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the National Basic Sector Anti-Poverty Conference**

[Delivered at the Golden Bay Hotel, September 21, 2001]

**SAMA-SAMANG PAGKILOS
KONTRA SA KAHIRAPAN**

Isang malaking kasiyahan para sa akin na makasama kayo. Maraming nag-isip na hindi mangyayari itong ating meeting. Kasi siyempre naman, sabi nila, hindi tayo magkakampi. Sabi nila, kakampi kayo ng dating pangulo. Sabi nila wala kayo sa EDSA 2. Sabi pa nga nila mayroon sa inyo doon sa EDSA 3.

Totoo man o hindi itong paratang na ito tungkol sa inyo, ako ay narito pa rin, dahil ako ay presidente hindi lamang ng mga taga-EDSA 2. Ako ay presidente ng buong Pilipinas. Kaya naman ako rin ay presidente ng mga taga-EDSA 3.

Laging sinasabi ko na isang matibay na haligi ng ating administrasyon ay ang pagkakaroon ng malawak na konsultasyon sa lahat ng sektor ng ating lipunan. Ako, sa abot ng kaya ng aking oras, bukas ang aking pintuan, at ako ay bukas parati ang aking mga tainga para makinig sa lahat ng may gustong sabihin sa akin, sa abot ng aking oras.

Kung tumagal itong meeting natin hanggang ngayon, ito ay hindi dahil iniwasan ko, ngunit iyong oras ay ngayon lang umabot iyong pagkakataon. Diyos naman ang pumipili ng oras, siguro sa palagay Niya ito ang tamang panahon. Napakahalaga ang prosesong nakikinig sa taongbayan, lalo na sa ating paglaban sa kahirapan.

Noong ako ay naging pangulo, sinabi ko ang aking apat na saligang paniniwala, una sa lahat, kailangan matapang tayo sa ating pambansang ambisyon. Kaya dapat ang hamon natin ay sa loob ng dekadang ito mananalò tayo sa laban kontra sa kahirapan. Pangalawa, kailangang iangat natin ang sukat ng moralidad sa gobyerno at lipunan upang magkaroon ng malakas na pundasyon para sa mabuting pamamalakad ng pamahalaan. Pangatlo, kailangang palitan natin ang karakter ng ating pulitika upang makagawa ng mabungang bungad para sa tunay na reporma. Ang ating pulitika ng personalidad at pera ay dapat bumigay sa bagong pulitika ng mga programa ng partido at proseso ng pakikipag-uusap sa taongbayan. At panghuli, naniniwala ako sa liderato sa pamamagitan ng halimbawa. Dapat pinaiiral natin ang matatatag na katangian kagaya ng kasipagan, estilo ng buhay ng may dignidad, pinapatunayan ang salita ng gawa, kumikilos kaysa pumapapel.

Itong ginagawa natin ngayon ay bahagi ng aking paniniwala sa proseso ng pakikipag-uusap sa taongbayan, at paniniwala na dapat puksain natin ang kahirapan sa loob ng dekada.

Noong ibinigay sa akin ni Ginoong Marano, iyong mga resolusyon ninyo, tiningnan kong mabilis at nakita ko eto nga iyong parating ipinapaabot sa akin tuwing pumupunta ako sa kung saan mang konsultasyon. Kaya sinumulan naman talaga ito ng ating pamahalaan na bigyan ng sagot at iri-review pa natin kung anu-ano pa ang dapat gawin.

Itong araw na ito ay araw upang pag-usapan nga iyong iba't ibang mga kinakailangan na mga batayang sektor, siguro naman sa nababasa ninyo ay hindi naman nagkukulang ang pamahalaan na humanap ng paraan upang masagot itong mga nasa inyong resolusyon. Kaya lamang nababasa ninyo sa peryodiko o nanonood kayo sa telebisyon ngunit malayo kaya hindi ninyo naririnig sa akin mismo, o hindi ninyo nakikita sa inyong sariling mata at hindi ninyo nasasabi face to face, at iyon ay nagkaroon ng problema, iyon ang kahirapan. Iyon, ang palagay ko, ang ating sinasagot itong araw na ito. Hindi kung ano iyong mga problema ng agrikultura, problema ng mangingisda,

problema ng may kapansanan, hindi iyon, eh. Kasi kung babasahin natin iyong mga sinasabi ninyo, nasabi na rin iyon noong ibang konsultasyon. So, ang palagay kong hinaharap ngayon ay hindi iyong nasa loob noong papel na ibinigay ninyo sa akin, kung hindi iyong proseso na mayroon kayong pagkakataon na ihandog iyong papeles sa akin. At iyon ang ating hinaharap itong araw na ito.

Kung dalawang saligang paniniwala ko na dapat may konsultasyon na proseso at dapat talagang sugpuin na natin ang kahirapan sa loob ng isang dekada, ito ang dahilan kung bakit ako ang laging principal author sa Senado ng National Anti-Poverty Act. Iba ang nag-defend, dahil hindi iyon sa loob ng aking komite, pero tignan nyo sa principal author, tignan ninyo kung sino iyong unang pangalan nandoon, iyon ay si Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Dahil noon pa man, sa aking tatay pa man, kinikilala na ang saligang problema ng ating bansa ay problema ng kahirapan.

At dahil sa aking malaking paniniwala, lalo na sa problema ng kahirapan, maging sa ibang mga problema sa ating bansa – maging negosyo, maging kultura, kailangan dapat may konsultasyon, proseso ng konsultasyon. Iyon din ang dahilan kung bakit isa sa importanteng bunga ng batas ng National Anti-Poverty Law ay iyong National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). At dahil ako ang author noong batas na iyon, alam ko ang laman noong batas na iyon. Alamko iyong prosesong inilantad ng batas sa pagpili ng mga kasapi ng saligang sektor sa NAPC.

Noong ako ay bise-presidente, iyong trabahong ibinigay ni President Estrada sa akin ay ibinigay ko kay Dinky ngayon at sinuportahan ko iyong prosesong iyon, hindi lamang sa salita, kung hindi na rin pipondohan ng DSWD sa aking liderato iyong proseso. Aba, tingnan ninyo kung ilang department ang nagpondo ng prosesong iyon kung hindi lamang ang DSWD. Kaya iyong social sectors ay kumikilos ang processing, ang iba ay hindi pa, ano ang ginawa ko, ma-ja-justify naman na tayo ang mag-o-organize, sabi ko sa aking mga undersecretaries, tayo ay puwedeng mag-host ng mga meeting para ma-organize iyong iba. Gastusan na rin natin iyong ibang sektor. Kaya halos lahat ng gastos sa proseso ng pagpili ng mga representante sa saligang sektor ay hindi lamang mga alaga ng DSWD kung hindi dahil iba pang mga sektor ang gumastos, ang nag-host on paper man lang para ma-justify iyong paggastos ng DSWD ay ang DSWD. Dahil ako, buong naniniwala ako sa proseso ng konsultasyon sa paglaban sa kahirapan at importansiya ng NAPC.

At dahil pinagkakagastusan ng DSWD at para ma-justify iyon, marami doon host on paper, DSWD, sinusubaybayan ko iyong proseso. At testigo ako kung gaano naging kasalimuot ang proseso. Kaya sana huwag kayong magalitsa akin. Kaya ako very honest ako, eh, more than diplomatic. Kaya kailangan masabi ko sa inyo ang katotohanan na nakita ko.

Nakita ko sa aking mata na ang dating pangulo ay nainip sa kasalimuotan ng proseso. At nagpasiya na siya kung sino ang ia-appoint niya dito sa National Anti-Poverty Commission, kung sino ang magiging kasapi ng NAPC. Ngayon, ako ang pangulo, tungkulin ko bilang pangulo na sundan ang batas, lalo na iyong batas na ako mismo ang author. Kung sabihin natin ang presidente, dating pangulo, baka hindi niya naiintindihan dahil hindi siya ang gumawa. Eh, ako ang gumawa noon, maja-justify ko ba sa aking sarili sa lipunan na hindi ko alam iyong prosesong kailangan. Kaya talagang tungkulin ko ito. Kaya inuulit ko ang proseso na natigil noon. Ngunit gusto kong bigyan-diin na sa prosesong ito, walang estsapuwera. Maging taga EDSA 2 o taga EDSA 3 kayo, kung kayo ay genuine na people's organization, lehitimong people's organization, kasama kayo sa proseso.

Kaya ang aking hinihingi sa inyo, magkaisa tayo. Makiisa kayo sa proseso na binigyan ko ng basbas bilang pangulo. Makiisa kayo sa pamahalaan upang mag-tagumpay tayo sa mga kailangan na mga batayang sektor ng ating lipunan. Ngayon ang paghinto ng alitan ay mas kailangan pa, kaysa kailan pa man.

Noong ako ay nagkaroon ng State of the Nation Address, iyon ang hiningi doon na sa halip ng alitan ay sana isang taon ay huwag tayong mag-away, magtulungan muna.

Ang pangyayari sa Nueva York noong ika-11 ng Setyembre, ay pinalitan na ang global mode. Ang mga kondisyon ng pangmundong negosyo ay hindi na gaanong katiyak. Ngayon higit na kailangang umasa tayo sa ating sariling sikap. Kailangang umasa tayo sa ating sariling ekonomiya.

Kung noong aking State of the Nation Address noong Hulyo, nanawagan ako sa halip na alitan, isang taon tayong magtutungan sa ikabubuti ng ating bayan. Isang taon ang hiningi ko sa mga pulitiko, ngunit kayo ay hindi pulitiko. Kung sa kanila isang taon lang ang hinihingi ko, sa inyo ang hinihingi kong tulong ay tulungan naman ninyo ako sa buong panahon habang ako ay pangulo ng ating bansa. Kaya magkaisa tayo. Magkaisa tayo sa proseso, magkaisa tayo sa basbas na binigay ko sa kasalukuyang in-appoint ko na mag-convene ng prosesong ito. At ako naman, sila naman, sinisigurado, tinitiyak sa inyo na iginagalang naming ang karapatan ng mga saligang sektor, at least makikinig sa lahat. Maging kayo ay nasa kabila, mga kasama, whatever it is, ang importante kayo ay lehitimong people's organization. Lahat ng lehitimong people's organization ay kasama sa proseso, sa pagpili ng kasapi ng National Anti-Poverty Commission na sa wakas ay ihahandog sa Pangulo. Sasabihin, Pangulo, ito iyong mga pangalan na lumitaw sa proseso. Ngayong kayo ang may kapangyarihan, kung tatanggapin itong mga nominees ng ating proseso, iyon po ang ating gawin. At pagkatapos po ay mag-aappoint ako ayon doon sa prosesong iyon. Ngunit huwag na nating hintayin iyong panahong iyon para magkaisa. Ngayon pa man tingnan na natin kung anu-ano ang mga puwede nating gawing magkasama sa paghahanap ng solusyon ng mga problema, suliranin ng ating kahirapan sa buhay.

Alam n'yo kanina sinabi ko na iyong mga negosyong nakabinbin, iyong malalaking infrastructure project, iyong mga malalaking rehabilitation. Rehabilitation ng PNP, National Steel Corporation, iyong housing, iyong Batangas Port, iyong LRT-3, sabi ko kailangan. Ituloy na natin talaga, bilisan na natin iyong pagproseso. Tanggalin natin iyong mga bottleneck, tanggalin natin iyong mga red tape. Ganoon. Kung sa mga malalaking proyekto kagaya noon, kailangan tanggalin ang bottleneck. Kailangang tanggalin ang red tape, eh, di mas lalo nga doon sa direktang paglaban sa kahirapan. Kaya't tanggalin na natin iyong ating mga alitan. Sama-sama na tayo sa prosesong pagpili kung sino dapat ang mangangatawan sa iba't ibang batayang sektor sa NAPC. At kung sino man ang mapili at sino man ang pipirmahan ko ang appointment, mayroon din akong isang sasabihin. Hindi ibig sabihin na porke't may labing-dalawang tao, ay nakaupo doon sa meeting na iyon na sila na lamang ang pakikikingan ko. Ako ay parating biglang pumupunta sa squatter area, biglang pumupunta sa probinsiya, biglang pumupunta sa opisina, kung saan-saan, dahil importante na ako mismo mula sa lupa naririnig ko kung ano ang nangyayari, naririnig ko kung ano ang daing ng taongbayan.

Ngunit mauubos naman ang oras ko kung iyon lamang ang aking paraan, kung papano malaman ang paninindigan at paniniwala at mga damdamin ng taongbayan, kaya mayroon tayong mga institusyon na nilalagay. At iyong pinakikingan ko, iyon ang magandang check and balance doon sa mga lumilitaw at lumulusot at dumadaan doon sa mga proseso na ginaganap sa mga institusyon.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na tayo ay narito. Importante na tayo ay nagtatapat sa isa't isa. Importante na nililitaw natin iyong mga nakatagong damdamin. Kaya hindi pa man nyo sinasabi, sinabi ko na. Kasi mahalaga na alam ko kung ano ang nasa likod ng inyong isip, at alam nyo rin kung ano ang nasa likod ng aking isip. Imbes na sasabihin ninyo sa akin kung ano ang gusto kong marinig. Kung sasabihin ko kung ano ang gustong ninyong marinig. Importante na tayo ay magkaisa, magkalinawan ng paninindigan. At mula doon hanapin natin ang paraan kung papano iyong kanya-kanyang paninindigan ay puwedeng ipagsama.

Siguro may ilang mga bagay na hindi tayo magkakasundo. Eh, kung hindi tayo magkakasundo sa ibang bagay, di itabi natin iyon. Gawin ninyo iyong gagawin ninyo, gagawin ko iyong gagawin ko. Pero hanapin naman natin iyong mga puwedeng pagkasunduan at doon tayo mag-concentrate ng ating gawaing mag-kasama.

Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat sa pagkakataong nagkita tayo itong araw na ito.

Iyong ibang mga grupo kung minsan sinasabi ko, iyong sinabi ko ngayon. Mayroon tayong hindi pinagkakasunduan, mayroon tayong pinagkakasunduan. Iyong ibang grupo sinasabi ko pa nga, eh, palagay ko, in fact, iyong kung saan tayo hindi nagkakasundo mas marami kaysa kung saan nagkakasundo tayo. Doon na lang tayo sa kung saan tayo nagkakasundo, doon tayo kumilos magkasabay. Pero dito, palagay ko, masasabi ko na mas marami ang pinagkakasunduan nating pag-iisip kaysa doon sa hindi tayo nagkakasundo. Kaya doon na tayo mag-concentrate sa hirap na hinaharap ng mundo, dahil umikot ang mundo mula noong Setyembre 11. Kilalanin natin ang pangangailangan ng mga panahon. Noong araw pa kailangan labanan ang kahirapan. Eh, mas lalo na ngayon, dahil iyong mga hamon, iyong mga sagabal ay mas seryoso. Kaya mas lalong kailangan na tayo ay magkaisa. At sana nga

mula itong araw na ito tayo ay hahanap ng paraan kung papano parati na lamang tayong magkakasama sa laban kontra sa kahirapan.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Speech of President Arroyo during the 40th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Constitution Association

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 40th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Constitution Association**

[Delivered at Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, September 28, 2001]

Thank you for this honor of joining your prestigious association on our 40th anniversary celebration. When Chairman Estrella was president of Philconsa in 1988, he also had my father as the guest speaker in the anniversary celebration. So this is a symbolic thing of entering into a new generation for the Philippines.

But over and above that. I welcome this opportunity to speak before you because you are the appropriate forum through which I can present to the Filipino people our policy regarding the most urgent issue in the world today, terrorism. And to give the people a formal idea of how we intend to carry out our policy.

The directions and parameters of the global war against terrorism are now taking shape. We are aware of the unique and challenging nature of this war. The enemy is often faceless and unseen, without uniform, flag or standing formation.

Its cells and members are loosely organized and affiliated, cruising the urban underground or plying the jungles in the company of criminal syndicates – kidnappers, drug dealers, and money launderers. Sometimes, they surface above ground among legitimate organizations. Some may even appear the paragons of virtue on humanitarianism. They identify with state sponsors developing and using weapons of mass destruction. They're in the internet, spewing hatred and fanaticism. They use the media and propaganda by spreading shock, terror, and fear.

As charter member of the United Nations, and as part of the international coalition against terrorism, the Philippines must actively implement the United Nations Security Council resolution no. 1368 passed last September 12. Let me refer to specific paragraphs of the said resolution:

Paragraph 3 calls on all states to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of these terrorist attacks and stresses; that those responsible for aiding, supporting, or harboring the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of this act will be held accountable.

Paragraph 4 calls also on the international community to redouble their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts.

In the international struggle against terrorism, the Philippine government is prepared to undertake the following specific measures:

First, to join the international counter terrorist coalition and to work with the United Nations.

Second, to work closely with the United States on intelligence and security matters concerning terrorism.

Third, to make available Philippine air space and facilities when the latter are required as transit or staging points.

Fourth, to contribute logistical support in the form of food supply, medicines, and medical personnel.

Fifth, subject to the concurrence of Philippine Congress, to provide combat troops if there is an international call for such troops.

Sixth, to prevent the flow of funds to terrorist groups to the Philippines by passing and implementing legislation against money laundering.

We cannot predict how events will unfold or how fast they will unfold. We must therefore make preparations for both quick response and long-term management. But one thing is sure, we are determined to go all the way if our security and survival demand it.

The impact of our involvement in the war against terrorism will not be measured by our contribution to the international coalition alone. To a greater degree, it will be measured by our own achievements in defeating terrorism within our own territorial boundaries. We must never lose sight of our immediate and overriding objective: identify the terrorists within our country, mop up their networks, stop them, and destroy their cause.

We must continue to preserve this objective unswervingly even as we assist the international coalition in the larger arena of counter action. In this war, as in my modern enterprise, we must think globally but act locally.

I shall flesh out now the directions to which we'll take in the following concrete policies and actions:

First, we must organize the whole enterprise and delineate clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

The Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security which is headed by Secretary Roberto Romulo shall be responsible for overseeing and supervising the implementation of our response to the war against terrorism. All special committees' task forces, and work groups' delineated responsibilities shall be placed within the ambit of the Cabinet Oversight Committee which is authorized to call upon any department, agency, or office of the government to support its functions and responsibilities.

Second, we need to anticipate events more efficiently and effectively. The National Security Adviser shall undertake special intelligence coordinating projects to consolidate all covert or overt, domestic or international kind of information relevant to our response in the war against terrorism. Such consolidated intelligence will be shared within the Cabinet, with Congress, with our allies in the international coalition and with the media as called for by the situation.

Third, we must strengthen our internal focus against terrorism. The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police shall go all out against the lawless violence engendered by the terrorist threats. Our local government units and institutions down to the barangay level shall be *part of the core of this* effort. And more often than not, it is the vigilance of ordinary citizens in the streets and in the countryside that makes the difference in this clandestine war.

Fourth, there is also a need to hold accountable all public and private organizations and personalities abetting or aiding terrorism. The DILG and the Securities and Exchange Commission shall conduct an immediate inventory of dubious organizations and agency elements that may be working as fronts for terrorists and criminal activities, expose them and neutralize their operations by legal sanctions.

Fifth, we must synchronize our internal efforts with the global outlook. The Department of Foreign Affairs shall fasttrack a regional consensus in the war against terrorism starting with our neighbors – Indonesia and Malaysia and extending to the larger community of ASEAN nations. By consolidating ourselves into compact blocs sharing common borders, concerns and interests, we can act more expeditiously and effectively to serve the global interests.

Sixth, we must combine a policy of tactical counterforce with a set of strategic legal measures. The Department of Justice must now anticipate all the legal issues and concerns that are expected to arise from the situation. The DOJ shall set up a special team to serve the special requirements of the campaign including the speedy prosecution, deportation, and extradition of suspects. But even as we engage stringent tactical measures, we must demonstrate the ascendancy of the constitutional system and its capacity for swift and impartial justice.

Seventh, we must pursue broader inter-faith dialogues to promote Christian and Muslim solidarity. Terrorists wish to instigate a religious war. We must take the opportunity to forge religious understanding, ecumenism, and solidarity. This shall be the responsibility of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

Eighth, all law enforcement agencies shall exercise the strictest vigilance against movements of suspected persons, firearms, explosives, raw materials of explosives, toxic materials, and biological materials. The Bureau of Immigration shall guard against the entry of suspected terrorists into the country. Congress has agreed to out a money laundering law in place at the soonest reasonable time so that we can consolidate the financial system to check questionable and dirty money transfers.

Ninth, we must now coordinate preparations and actions in the event of catastrophic terrorist attacks however remote this may be. The National Disaster Coordinating Council shall be on top of this effort. I would like to see our contingency plan in place at the earliest time possible.

Tenth, there must be a comprehensive security plan for critical infrastructure including power plant, power transmission and distribution facilities, oil and gas depots, key public works structures, vital communication installation, and public building as well as private buildings and facilities in the near centers of commerce and industry. The cabinet oversight committee shall generate these plans in coordination with the pertinent departments and agencies of the government and the private sector.

Eleventh, the interest of our overseas Filipino workers are paramount. The government shall support their immediate transfer out of harm's way in the event of tactical contingencies anywhere in the world.

Frontliners against terrorism and banditry get a big boost as the President acknowledges their bravery. A rebel from the MILF turns over his firearm to the Commander-in-Chief (left, below).

Twelfth, the modernization of the Armed Forces and the National Police must now take into consideration the current and emergent needs to contain the global terrorist threat.

The Secretary of Defense on the one hand, and the Secretary of Interior and Local Government on the other hand, shall submit a proposal for fund re-deployment to meet our most pressing objectives. Once I have approved them, I shall submit these proposals to Congress if warranted.

Thirteenth, the mass media assumes a paramount role in the overall strategy to defeat terrorism. I seek the media's support in the implementation of our policies and programs in enlightening the public of the rationale behind their actions in promoting consensus and constructive criticism in depriving terrorists of the benefit of glorified coverage in publicity, and most of all in maintaining calm, sobriety, prudence, and solidarity in our society.

The Office of the Press Secretary shall maintain close constructive contact with the media in the pursuit of our common objectives, and arrange periodic briefings to brief the media into the loop of collective action and information.

Fourteenth and finally, nothing justifies terrorism, but we must take cognizance of its political, social, and economic underpinnings.

The National Anti-Poverty Commission shall undertake an in-depth study of the spawning ground of terrorism in the country and recommend concrete and workable measures to act upon the perceived root of fanaticism and irrational violence.

Upon these 14 pillars of policy in action, we shall work with the community of nations to build a strong and formidable bulwark against terrorism.

In this quest, we shall be guided by the high principles of universality with the free and civilized world gaining our stamina from the unity of all Filipinos wherever they may be, regardless of religion, creed, ethnic origin, or social station. In our own land, we shall defeat terrorism on our own terms, with our own hands and in line with our own national vision.

We shall win this war, again, under the tenet of constitution democracy and the rule of law. We shall continue to draw our economic strength from the market system, the social concept of capital, and the capacity of our people to take command of their livelihood and their future.

Terrorists will try to divide us, to strike fear in us, to immobilize our institutions. But it is up to us whether they can succeed or whether they will fail. They will fail if by our unity and concerted action will not allow them to succeed. I ask every Filipino then to dig deep into the wellsprings of our common vision, our deep sense of patriotism, our abiding sense of national pride, our shared values and belief, grounded on high moral standard. I ask every Filipino to use this wellspring to grind the efforts to win this war for our people today and for our rising generation.

Members of PHILCONSA, lovers of the constitution, lovers of democracy, and all the other ideals and enshrined in the constitution, be with us in leading this effort. Thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

Speech of President Arroyo during the 40th anniversary celebration of PHILCONSA

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 40th anniversary celebration of PHILCONSA**

[Delivered at the Hotel Intercontinental, September 28, 2001]

Thank you for this honor of joining your prestigious association on your 40th Anniversary celebration. When Chairman Estrella was president of PHILCONSA in 1988, he also had my father as the guest speaker in the anniversary celebration. So this is a symbolic thing of entering into a new generation for the Philippines.

But over and above that, I welcome this opportunity to speak before you because you are the appropriate forum through which I can present to the Filipino people our policy regarding the most urgent issue in the world today, terrorism. And to give the people a formal idea of how we intend to carry out our policy.

The directions and parameters of the global war against terrorism are now taking shape. We are aware of the unique and challenging nature of this war. The enemy is often faceless and unseen, without uniform, flag or standing formation.

It cells and members are loosely organized and affiliated, cruising the urban underground or plying the jungles in the company of criminal syndicates – kidnappers, drug dealers and money launderers. Sometimes, they surface above ground among legitimate organizations. Some may even appear the paragons of virtue or humanitarianism. They identify with state sponsors developing and using weapons of mass destruction they're in the internet, spewing hatred and fanaticism. They use the media and propaganda by spreading shock, terror and fear.

As charter member of the United Nations, and as part of the international coalition against terrorism, the Philippines must actively implement the United Nations Security Council resolution no. 1368 passed last September 12. Let me to refer specific paragraphs of the said resolution:

Paragraph 3 calls on all states to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these terrorist attacks and stresses that those responsible for aiding, supporting or harboring the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this act will be held accountable.

Paragraph 4 calls also on the international community to redouble their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts.

In the international struggle against terrorism, the Philippine government is prepared to undertake the following specific measures:

One, to join the international counter terrorist coalition and to work with the United Nations.

Two, to work closely with the United States on intelligence and security matters concerning terrorism.

Three, to make available Philippine air space and facilities in when latter are required as transit or staging point.

Four, to contribute logistical support in the form of food supply, medicines and medical personnel.

Fifth, subject to the concurrence of Philippine Congress, to provide combat troops if there is an international call for such troops.

Sixth, to prevent the flow of funds to terrorist groups to the Philippines by passing and implementing legislation against money laundering.

We cannot predict how events will unfold or how fast they will unfold. We must therefore make preparations for both quick response and long term management. But one thing is sure; we are determined to go all the way if our security and survival demand it.

The impact of our involvement in the war against terrorism will not be measured by our contribution to the intentional coalition alone. To a greater degree, it will be measured by our own achievements in defeating terrorism within our own territorial boundaries. We must never lose sight of our immediate and overriding objective: identify the terrorists within our country, mop up their networks, stop them and destroy their cause.

We must continue to preserve this objective unswervingly even as we assist the international coalition in the larger arena of counter action. In this war, as in any modern enterprise, we must think globally but act locally.

I shall flesh out now the directions to which we'll take in the following concrete policies and actions: first, we must organize the whole enterprise and delineate clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

The Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security which is headed by Secretary Romulo shall be responsible for overseeing and supervising the implementation of our response to the war against terrorism. All special committees', task forces' and work groups' delineated responsibilities shall be placed within the ambit of the cabinet oversight committee which is authorized to call upon any department, agency or office of the government to support its functions and responsibilities.

Second, we need to anticipate events more efficiently and effectively. The National Security Advisers shall undertake special intelligence coordinating projects to consolidate all covert or overt, domestic or international kind of information relevant to our response in the war against terrorism. Such consolidated intelligence will be shared within the cabinet, with congress, with our allies in the international coalition and with the media as called for by the situation.

Third, we must strengthen our internal focus against terrorism. The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police shall go all out against the lawless violence engendered by the terrorist threats. Our local government units and institutions down to the barangay level shall be part of the core of this effort. And more often than not, it is the vigilance of ordinary citizens in the streets and in the countryside that makes the difference in this clandestine war.

Four, there is also a need to hold accountable all public and private organizations and personalities abetting or aiding terrorism. The DILG and the Securities and Exchange Commission shall conduct an immediate inventory of dubious organizations and agency elements that may be working as fronts for terrorists and criminal activities, expose them and neutralize their operations by legal sanctions.

Fifth, we must synchronize our internal efforts with the global outlook. The Department of Foreign Affairs shall fast track a regional consensus in the war against terrorism starting with our neighbors – Indonesia and Malaysia and extending to the larger community of ASEAN nations. By consolidating ourselves into compact blocs sharing common borders, concerns and interests, we can act more expeditiously and effectively to serve the global interests.

Sixth, we must combine a policy of tactical counter force with a set of strategic legal measures. The Department of Justice must now anticipate all the legal issues and concerns that are expected to arise from the situation. The DOJ shall set up a special team to serve the special requirements of the campaign including the speedy prosecution, deportation and extradition of suspects. But even as we engage intrigent tactical measures, we must demonstrate the ascendancy of the constitutional system and its capacity for swift and impartial justice.

Seventh, we must pursue broader inter faith dialogues to promote Christian and Muslim solidarity. Terrorist wish to instigate a religious war. We must — opportunity to forge religious understanding, ecumenism and solidarity. This shall be the responsibility of the presidential adviser on the peace process.

Eight, all law enforcement agencies shall exercise the strictest vigilance against movements of suspected persons, firearms, explosives, raw materials of explosives, toxic materials and biological materials. The Bureau of Immigration shall guard against the entry of suspected terrorists into the country. Congress has agreed to put a money laundering law in place at the soonest reasonable time so that we can consolidate the financial system to check questionable and dirty money transfers.

Nine, we must now coordinate preparations and actions in the event of catastrophic terrorist attacks however remote this may be. The National Disaster Coordinating Council shall be on top on this effort. And I would like to see our contingency plan in place at the earliest time possible.

Tenth, there must be a comprehensive security plan for critical infrastructure including power plant, power transmission and distribution facilities, oil and gas depots, key public works structures, vital communication installation, public building as well as private building and facilities in the near centers of commerce and industry. The cabinet oversight committee shall generate these plants in coordination with the pertinent departments and agencies of the government and the private sector.

Eleventh, the interest of our overseas Filipino workers are paramount. The government shall support their immediate transfer out of harm's way in the event of tactical contingencies anywhere in the world.

Twelve, the modernization of the Armed Forces and the National Police must now take into consideration the current and emergent needs to contain the global terrorist threat.

The Secretary of Defense on the one hand, and the secretary of interior and local government on the other hand, shall submit a proposal for fund redeployment to meet our most pressing objectives. Once I have approved them, I shall submit these proposals to congress if warranted.

Thirteen , the Mass Media assumes a paramount role in the overall strategy to defeat terrorism. I seek the media's support in the implementation of our policies and programs in enlightening the public of the rationale behind their actions in promoting consensus and constructive criticism in depriving terrorists of the benefit of glorified coverage in publicity, and most of all in maintaining calm, sobriety, prudence, and solidarity in our society.

The Office of the Press Secretary shall maintain close constructive contact with the media in the pursuit of our common objectives, and arrange periodic briefings to brief the media into the loop of collective action and information.

Fourteenth and finally, nothing justifies terrorism. But we must take cognizance of its political, social and economic underpinnings.

The National Anti-poverty Commission shall undertake an in-depth study of the spawning ground of terrorism in the country, and recommend concrete and workable measures to act upon the perceived root of fanaticism and irrational violence.

Upon these fourteen pillars of policy in action, we shall work with the community of nations to build a strong and formidable bulwark against terrorism.

In this quest, we shall be guided by the high principles of universality with the free and civilized world gaining our stamina from the unity of all Filipinos wherever they may be, regardless of religion, creed, ethnic origin or social station. In our own land, we shall defeat terrorism on our own terms, with our own hands and in line with our own national vision.

We shall win this war, again, under the tenet of constitutional democracy and the rule of law. We shall continue to draw our economic strength from the market system, the social concept of capital and the capacity of our people to take command of their livelihood and their future.

Terrorists will try to divide us, to strike fear in us , to immobilize our institutions. But it is up to us whether they can succeed or whether they will fail. They will fail if by our unity and concerted action we'll not allow them to succeed. I ask every Filipino then to dig deep into the wellsprings of our common vision, our deep sense of patriotism , our abiding sense of national pride, our shared values and belief, grounded on high moral standard. I ask every Filipino to use this wellspring to grind the efforts to win this war for our people today and for our rising generation. And members of PHILCONSA, lovers of the constitution, lovers of democracy, and all the other ideals and enshrined in the constitution , be with us in leading this effort. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the 40th anniversary celebration of PHILCONSA. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212750/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8711&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Annual Membership Meeting of the Financial Executives Institutes of Philippines (FINEX)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Annual Membership Meeting of the Financial Executives Institutes of Philippines (FINEX)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Intercontinental Hotel, Makati, October 2, 2001]

Thank you very much Secretary Camacho.

I'd also like to greet Secretary Lina who's in the table together with the other 23 paragons of corporate ethics; Rupert, Dennis, Lita, other members of FINEX and the FINEX Foundation; ladies and gentlemen:

Its very good to be with you once again. As Rupert said earlier, this is the second time this year, the last time you made me your guest was January 17th, if you remember that was the start of the final push that has now become known as EDSA Dos.

Many of you who attended that FINEX luncheon meeting had come straight from the EDSA Shrine where we started a midnight vigil the night before, and many of you went back to EDSA right after the meeting; and three days after, I took my oath as President of the Philippines. Thank you for FINEX's contribution to EDSA Dos.

During my State of the Nation Address last July, I called for a moratorium on politicking.

Today that moratorium is more urgent than ever.

The New York incident of September 11 has changed the global mood. World business conditions are more uncertain now.

Even before September 11, in the words of EIU's corporate update, the U.S., The biggest risk factor, was experiencing a hard landing. Concerns about a U.S. Recession had increased. The attacks on the World Trade Center and The Pentagon made matters worse. The likely scenario for the U.S. is a slower recovery.

Japan is in a worse shape. Other global risks include a decline in world tourism, lower foreign investment flows, debt woes of major emerging markets, and a potential cut in foreign aid. For Asia this means a prolonged slump in exports, a rising trade deficit, a decline in revenues from tourism, ambivalent direct foreign investments, less official development assistance and concessional loans, and increasing difficulty for Asian emerging markets to issue global bonds. In addition to this harsh external environment, most of Asia will be facing domestic challenges as well.

The good news is that based on macroeconomic indicators it seems that the Philippines is among the very few resilient countries in Asia in 2001. And therefore, we can and must rely now more than ever on our own efforts, our own domestic economy. We must avoid lapsing into a sense of drift and losing momentum.

The advancement of our national interest was the guiding framework of my visits to Kuala Lumpur, Brunei, Singapore, and Tokyo.

In the course of my state visit to Kuala Lumpur, the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed an Agreement for Unification, placing them firmly behind our common aspirations of peace, justice, equality, progress — in sum, the advancement of human security among Filipino Muslims under these lofty and shared standards.

While in Kuala Lumpur, our government and the MILF also signed an agreement containing the detailed guidelines for a durable ceasefire. The agreement advanced to a higher level the determination of both sides to stop the fighting on the ground, and enables the substantive issues of rehabilitation and development to take precedence on the negotiating table and, as far as I am concerned, on the ground. I think that that agreement came not a moment too soon because after September 11 we are very happy when we hear the milf distancing itself from Osama Bin Laden.

Our initiative to re-energize the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area initiative received the warmest reception from the Sultan of Brunei and the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

With Singapore, we reached agreements on almost P2 billion in investments in Information and Communications Technology as well as agreements with Sun Microsystems for certification programs for programmers, which are vital to our human resource development climate for promoting ICT.

The officials of Japan, our biggest source of Official Development Assistance, were gratified that my administration has maximized our capacity to utilize Japanese Oda. They congratulated us for bringing up the rate of disbursements on yen loan projects during the first three months of my administration, to 94 percent of target, the highest ratio in the history of our Oda from Japan, and probably the highest among today among recipients of Japanese Oda.

And we are encouraged by the response of Japan to our efforts because even if Japan is reducing its worldwide Oda by 10 percent in yen terms and 20 percent in dollar terms as a result of its economic difficulties, it seems that the level of its assistance to the Philippines will not be included in that global cut.

Beyond the usual glitter of welcome and departure ceremonies and state banquets, therefore, the results of our official trips reinforced our vision of winning the war against poverty within the decade. We must maintain our focus on that war on realizing that vision despite the uncertainty that besets all humanity. We must maintain and even sharpen that focus precisely because times are uncertain.

Thus, there is a need to renew the call for moratorium on politicking. There is a need to regroup and focus on actually accomplishing things, not distracted by bickering and sensationalizing.

Let us buckle down to work.

There are 16 bills in our legislative agenda to comply with global commitments or to achieve the goals of my State of the Nation Address. Let me take this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and profound congratulations once again to both houses of congress for a job well done in passing a well-crafted anti-money laundering law in record time.

Last August a newspaper editorial said: “it will be a miracle if Congress can pass such a vital controversial bill in just one month.” Well Congress made that miracle happen just as three months ago. Congress made another miracle happen, it passed the Power Sector Reform Law when we needed it after many administration and many congresses. And I would like to point out that the U.S. Department of Treasury and the head of the task force on money laundering in Japan congratulated the Philippines for the law that we have passed.

So I wish we would not have Filipinos keep pointing out the defects that they see if they see any in the Money Laundering Law because those in other countries the authority think it’s a good law. But if they keep hearing our own Filipinos saying it’s wrong because of this, it’s lacking because of that, they might come to believe us and put the sanctions once again. So I think this is one occasion where once again others see our accomplishments better than we do ourselves. I think at a time like this we should be united and not flagellating our country.

Congress has also agreed to work on the following seven other priority bills in this present session: the General Appropriations Act, the Revised Investment Company Act, farm land as collateral, Absentee Voting, creation of a Department of Housing and Urban Development, Government Procurement Act, amendments to the Dangerous Drugs Act; and aside from this we have set up a computerized monitoring system to track our actual accomplishments against our goals as highlighted in the state of the nation address. We will periodically report on these accomplishments.

I understand that FINEX is pushing for the Securitization Act. Speaker de Venecia has already filed this bill in the House of Representatives. I support this bill, because it is one of the 16 measures that I endorsed during my State of the Nation Address.

As for the computerized monitoring system to track our actual accomplishments against our goals that were highlighted in the SONA, because we intend to periodically report on these accomplishments let me share some updates right now:

For agricultural modernization, we committed to channel 20 billion pesos a year. As of August 31st, the Department of Budget and Management has released about P9 billion and the Land Bank more than P6 billion. So that's already 15 billion all-in-all.

I committed to work for one million new jobs in agriculture within the next three years. Between August and mid-September, agriculture generated over 120,000 jobs.

I committed to distribute 100,000 of private land for agricultural land reform within the next 12 months. And as of August 31st, after one month, the Department of Agrarian Reform had distributed over 12,000 hectares.

I committed to ensure that every barangay will have a school building. Survey and construction planning work is now ongoing for 1,590 barangays identified by the Department of Education as not being served by any school building. I instructed the Metro Manila Chairman during the SONA to address traffic problems. He is adopting a comprehensive approach to accelerate vehicle flow in key thoroughfares to 15 kilometers per hour. And as of September 14, average speed has increased slightly to 13.6 kilometers per hour.

I threatened to assign the Malitubog-Maridagao or Malmar project to the Armed Forces engineers if the contractor would not be able to start its operations by September. And last September 22, after 12 years, many lives, many slippages, and eight ceasefires, we finally inaugurated the project.

I committed to simplify and clarify the system of incentives. The task force on incentive rationalization has prepared a draft of the new Incentives Bill.

I committed to implement e-procurement. Three hundred forty-eight agencies in the government are now participating in the e-procurement service program. Government agencies and suppliers are both using the public tender board, the suppliers' registry and the electronic catalogue.

I committed to contain the budget deficit to 145 billion pesos this year. The deficit was below ceiling for January to July and exceeded the ceiling by 2.9 percent in August due to increased government spending for countrywide development, a one-time internal revenue catching up with previous obligations to the previous government, and priority projects such as the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Program. Advanced estimates for September indicate, that we are back to the programmed ceiling.

We will get major domestic business projects going such as those involving the National Steel Corporation, the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Bank, and the housing sector. We will reduce red tape and bottlenecks.

In our one-on-one talks in Kuala Lumpur, I discussed with Prime Minister Mahathir our need to re-open the National Steel Corporation Iligan Plant as soon as possible. Apart from this one-on-one discussion, Secretary

Manuel Roxas also met with the Chairman and Managing Director of Danaharta which is their apt, the Malaysian Government entity holding the ownership shares in the NSC. Danaharta shares our objective of finding both near- and long-term solutions to NSC. Accordingly they have agreed to enter and participate in a joint government-Philippine creditor banks-Malaysian owners process to receive proposals for the interim operation of NSC pending a more permanent solution.

The process led by DTI invited prospective investors or operators of NSC to submit their proposals and evaluate, negotiate, and award the best such proposal for an interim operation of National Steel Corporation while the final liquidation or whatever court cases are being settled.

The deadline for the submission of proposals was last September 21. However, Hottick, the Malaysian investor in NSC, who had signed a lease contract with a firm called Allengoal after the SEC had taken control of NSC, surprised everyone by pulling out of the process. Thus some prospective bidders also backed out.

But Danaharta has written us officially conveying their support for the process agreed upon during our meeting with them. Secretary Roxas will now take the following steps: convene a meeting with the Philippine banks creditors to inform them that there is once again stability in the process, that they should not back out; advise the Securities and Exchange Commission liquidator to again solicit any and all offers from interested parties, including Allengoal and those who backed out because of the uncertainty arising from Hotticks' earlier pullout; invite Danaharta to come and observe and participate in the decision-making; and, develop a timetable with all of the participants, mindful that our goal is the reopening of the plant at the soonest possible time.

On the formal housing sector, the program consists of the following schemes: end user financing; developmental loans; and the guarantee given out by the Home Guarantee Corporation.

I committed to provide funds for 100,000 economic mass housing and 50,000 socialized mass housing during the Sona. Pag-ibig has allocated 10 billion pesos per year. The DBP, Land Bank, and GSIS committed six billion pesos. While SSS, before Cora dela Paz got in — I hope she'll continue the commitment — committed nine billion pesos.

The General Appropriations Bill for 2002 provides another 3.7 billion pesos. All these amounts should be enough to build the committed number of units.

The problem is utilization. At present of the 10 billion pesos allocated by Pag-IBIG, it has spent 2.6 billion with another 1.3 billion to be released upon compliance with documentary requirements. — that's not so bad. But monitoring reports reveal minimal participation of the GSIS. From January last year to august this year DBP released 1.81 billion, GSIS 128 million, Land Bank 189 million and SSS 129 million — a very far cry from the billions that were committed. The GSIS blame the low figure on the conservativeness of the conduit banks. Thus, I appeal to the banking sector and the financial executives who are here to be more aggressive in the housing sector.

A large part of the blame also goes to the 188 signatures and two years required for housing permits. We are now finalizing an Executive Order proposed by HUDCC which provides for one-stop centers in each department to act on all applications for housing-related permits. This will cut the processing time from 12 months to three months.

The longest bottleneck here seems to lie in the environmental clearance certificate. Secretary of Environment Sonny Alvarez, who was supposed to be here, is reducing the number of signatures and aiming to cut down the ECC time to 30 days, but the housing sector tells me that the geological study alone takes 60 days. This is because of the Cherry Hills syndrome. So I am authorizing Sonny Alvarez to hire more Geodetic engineers to speed up this part of the paper chase.

Recently we have revived the Pag-IBIG city program which is basically a turnkey program compared to the take out mechanism we have done in the past. Last week in the Pag-IBIG board meeting in Cebu the board approved the medium rise housing program which is a more liberal program than Pag-IBIG city having a turnkey payment of 90 percent while Pag-IBIG city is only 70 percent upon completion.

I have also instructed the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes to allocate 100 million pesos out of the almost 200 million pesos which it still owes the comprehensive and integrated shelter financing act so that HUDCC can build an additional 1,000 houses for indigent families.

The passage of the Securitization Act will enable the setting up of an efficient secondary housing mortgage market. It will generate potential additional liquidity of between 10 to 20 pesos billion annually, which would redound to more funds for housing. So I hope that all of the financial executives involved in housing will welcome this. But on the other hand why wait for that when you have all those billions already waiting for you to conduit for our people who need their houses?

We will get specific big ticket infrastructure projects going, such as the Batangas port and the LRT-3 extension. Again, we will eliminate bottlenecks.

The primary scope of the work for the Batangas project consists of dredging and reclamation, construction of two container cargo berths, reconstruction of the general cargo berth at the earlier area, and other port amenities and support. It consists of three packages: package 1 worth three billion pesos covers civil and marine works; package 2 worth 126 million covers the supply and installation of passenger boarding bridges; package 3 worth 145 million covers the construction of the port access road and flyover.

Package 1 was bidded out as early as early last year, however, the final award and implementation of the project was delayed due to a right of way issue and a contract issue. The right of way issue has finally been settled in the court and upon my instructions, even as we speak right now the Philippine Ports Authority is expropriating the land needed for the right of way. Tomorrow the PPA board will meet to take up the award issue, and construction should commence not later than October 15.

Not a moment too soon this project was started when I was still Undersecretary of Trade and Industry. Since then I've become Senator twice, Vice President and President — it's about time the project starts. Well, it's the same case with Malmar it also started when I was in DTI, finally the water is flowing.

Package 2 is scheduled to be completed and turned over to PPA this week.

And the construction of package 3 — the access road and flyover — has not yet started even it's been awarded a long time ago pending the resolution of the right-of-way issue. So I have instructed DPWH to complete payment for the right-of-way this week so that construction can begin next week.

On the MRT line 3 extension, which will complete the MRT loop by connecting North Avenue to Monumento, the MRT Corporation has been given up to October 15th to exercise its pre-emptive option by submitting an acceptable proposal. Otherwise the Department of Transportation and Communications will implement the project with Official Development Assistance.

So you see we have collected the major bottlenecks in the major projects because we've got to get them going that is the way that we can show the world that even in the midst of uncertainty we can move forward.

And of course, we will not fail to address graft and corruption in key agencies and sectors, and I'm glad that your book Crip Yuson's book is being launched today because it's good that we are celebrating corporate governance as we are trying to do good governance also in the bureaucracy. And as I said in my State of the Nation Address: our models are the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs to be showcases in the fight against graft; and I am adding the National Food Authority imports, we indeed have to conserve our fiscal resources.

I'd like to congratulate Crip, by the way, for this book. And I was telling Rupert, "how long did it take Crip to do this work?" He said, two years in the making, and in between Crip was doing our P.R. Work when we were in the opposition during the impeachment trial. So congratulations Crip for doing work for the country and doing work for the business sector as well. In the BIR, aside from a high profile revamp, it is intensifying tax collection by

introducing the following reforms: computerized selection of audit candidates; non-filer detection program; printing of water-marked invoices and official receipts with uniform format; documentary stamp tax on-line; expansion of creditable withholding tax; computer linkages with the top 20 excise taxpayers; and finally, issuance of implementing rules and regulations for the 1997 tax code; reduced number of signatories under the documentation decentralization program; pilot testing the electronic filing system and e-payment through banks; e-bidding of services; public service awareness seminars and programs to enhance voluntary tax payments.

For its part, Customs has started implementation of over-the-counter transaction, ridding the transaction area of non-organic personnel, and strict implementation of I.D. and uniforms. It is intensifying its collections by: monitoring of frequently imported goods; resolution of cases within 15 days from reporting of findings; narrower ranges for import valuation tables; provision of updated reference values; strict collection of warehousing charges; post-entry audit system; auction sales are 122 percent higher than last year; installation of x-ray machines in the ports.

As far as the National Food Authority is concerned, imports can no longer be done through private warehouses. Moreover, these imports are subject to the scrutiny of the new anti-smuggling task force headed by former Commissioner Luciano Millan, Jr. who was recommended by former Commissioner Guillermo Parayno.

These are the things that we are doing: specific high profile in the sense that they were not moving for a very long time making the move once again because we need to show the world that the Philippines can move forward.

I am grateful that during the slow-down of the first part of the year, the Philippines still grew at 3.4 percent in GNP. I'm grateful that our peso has stabilized, I'm grateful that our employment figures have increased. The 70,000 decrease that they headlined in one newspaper, first of all, was inflated and doesn't cover what the employment that was increased. And so we've done well in the first semester of the year and I hope that whatever we did right in the first semester of the year. Whatever we did together in the first semester of the year we should do even with greater vigor and greater aggressiveness in the second part of the year.

If we were united in EDSA — FINEX, myself and many of those in the platform — we can be even more united now because the danger is not just danger coming from a lack or a loss of moral ascendancy within our country, the danger is coming from real threats to our way of life in the whole world. And therefore I urge the financial executives to make the priorities I mentioned as your own priorities as individuals and collectively as FINEX.

As aptly described in the timely and lofty theme of your conference you are catalysts for responsible leadership. I need you in the difficult task of national survival. I need you to promote unity. I need you to promote making things happen even the things that were not happening for a long time.

Thank you for this opportunity and let's move our country forward in the midst of the global uncertainty.

Thank you.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the Annual Membership Meeting of the Financial Executives Institutes of Philippines (FINEX). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212737/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8754&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the ADB International Conference on poverty growth and the Role of Institutions

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the ADB International Conference on poverty growth and the Role of Institutions**

[Delivered at Asian Development Bank Auditorium, Pasig City, October 10, 2001]

A very pleasant morning to all of you and welcome to all international participants in this conference. As you address the important relationships among poverty, growth, and the role of institutions, I hope you will also gain an insight into our vision of the Filipino future and a firm idea of what our people power administration is seeking to achieve in the Philippines and what it has sought to achieve in the last eight months.

Nine months ago, we faced a very different situation. Any honest discussion of Philippine situation would have had to acknowledge severe and almost hopeless prospects of dealing with poverty or achieving growth.

Today our political troubles are largely over. Our unemployment level improved somewhat. But the challenges of fighting poverty and achieving robust growth remain.

On the day I became President, I declared that we must be bold in our national ambitions, so that our challenge must be that within this decade, our country will win the fight against poverty.

To succeed, I said in my State of the Nation Address last July, our national agenda must revolve around four components.

The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. Not a pitiless free-for-all free enterprise but a free enterprise with a social conscience.

The second component is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity.

The third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan.

And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

Poverty can be defined as an outcome of a person's entitlements on command over output, income assets, and material goods.

On the other hand, poverty can also be defined as a process or situation of social exclusion, where individuals are constrained against full participation in social life due to barriers in ethnicity and race, gender, age, physical handicaps, and of course, economic and physical resources.

For instance, undoubtedly, economic exclusion is at the root of our nation security problems in Mindanao. The traditional view of Muslims and indigenous peoples as inferior to lowland Filipinos has been a hurdle for them to contribute to Filipino social and political life, and hinders their ability to gain access to economic opportunities.

The high level of income and asset inequality and the slow reduction in poverty incidence in the Philippines are due to the lack of entitlements and social exclusion. A large number of Filipinos face limited opportunities to improve their quality of life and face barriers to fully achieve their social and economic potentials.

We notice the following characteristics of Philippine poverty:

Poverty continues to be mainly a rural phenomenon and is agriculture-based. More than two-thirds of poor households in the Philippines live in the rural areas.

And while agriculture-dependent households consist now of only 40 percent of the total population, this sector accounts for over two-thirds of the poor. Thus, one of the four main components of our anti-poverty agenda as I mentioned earlier is the modernization of agriculture founded on social equity.

Inter-regional differences in poverty incidence are high. Among 16 regional areas of the Philippines, the National Capital Region has only a 9.7 percent poverty incidence. But three regions, Bicol, Central Mindanao, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, have a poverty incidence of greater than 50 percent.

I have said that one of the four main components in my administration's battle against poverty is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan.

This social bias is anchored on the redistribution of economic opportunities and enhancing the capabilities of the poor to participate in decision-making.

Redistributive reform is the primary framework in improving the level of human development and in articulating the direction of economic growth of the country over the next several years.

Thus, priority emphasis is given to several core strategies of this framework – the redistribution of economic resources and political opportunities and they include the following:

One, priority is being given to asset reform programs or the redistribute of physical and resource assets to the poor, especially land and credit. This entails funding the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program; implementing the Urban Development and Housing Act, especially the provisions on social housing for urban poor groups; quicker distribution of ancestral domain claims to indigenous people under the Indigenous People's Right Act; and ensuring equal ownership rights for women in all laws and executive orders.

Two, this government is working to provide fuller financial and institutional requirements of human development services, which strengthen the human capital base of the poor. It has set specific, concrete, and quantified targets in making available basic education, health, shelter, water, and electricity for the poor and marginalized sectors. It is working to distribute public spending progressively towards these areas.

Three, we are working to increase employment and livelihood opportunities for the poor over and above what the market would provide and to strengthen the capacities of marginalized groups to engage in productive activities. In this regard, the government is funding the requirements of the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act in the hope of providing one million jobs in agriculture. It is creating employment opportunities for out-of-school, out-of-work youth; it is providing micro-finance services for 300,000 new borrowers per year and following the classical Grameen Bank formula. Most of these borrowers will be women.

Four, the participation of the poor in governance and institution-building and civil society groups are included in policy-making in the national and local levels. We are working to strengthen the Party List Law and the legislation of sectoral representation in local governments. Our government is addressing the requirements of our women in Nation Building Law, the Accessibility Law, and the Senior Citizens' Act.

Five, this administration is working to provide social protection and security from violence for the basic sectors in order for them to fully exercise their political, social and economic rights and to be mainstreamed in society.

Social protection includes three components: social welfare assistance that are regular government programs that maintain a minimum standard of living among the poor and that reduce risks from such incidents as violence, illness, disability, old age, unemployment, resettlement, and harvest failure; safety nets or bridging mechanisms that mitigate the adverse impact of economic dislocations and shocks, disasters and calamities, and structural adjustments on specific disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; and, social security to diversify and mitigate the risks among the poor arising from retirement, unemployment, illness, and stability.

Security from violence means strengthening the implementation of the Anti-Sexual Harassment and Anti-Rape Laws; legislation against domestic violence; stricter enforcement of the law against illegal demolitions and strengthening the participation of urban poor groups in cases involving relocation; and prohibition of labor-only contracting. Through existing government structures, we recognize indigenous culture and practices, including communal-based management of resources and existing health and education practices. Security also means protecting the environment to ensure its long-term sustainability.

In order to implement these thrusts, I have asked Congress to pass a law that will recognize the property rights of the poor so that they can use them as collateral and I have asked my cabinet members to reduce the number of signatures required to transfer lands for redistribution.

In the governance chapter of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. I have instituted several governance reforms including the following:

Strengthening private sector participation in infrastructure development:

Developing greater partnerships among governance actors, government business and civil society in infrastructure and market development;

Improving the enforcement of anti-corruption laws; and

Government accounting and auditing reforms.

And finally, as I pledged during my inaugural address, I renew my commitment to lead by example to improve moral standards in government. This is my personal commitment in order to improve institutional standards in the country.

The creation and transformation of institutions to fight poverty is more urgent than ever today. Weak and ineffective institutions such as problematic laws and systems of property rights, fraudulent court, biased markets and entangled requirements for setting up business, more often hurt the poor and disadvantaged rather than the rich. As you can hopefully glean from my sharing the poverty reduction thrusts of my administration seek to transform and create new institutions in order to effectively respond to the marginalized groups in the country.

I am very grateful that we witnessed this morning the signing of a partnership between the ADB and the Philippine government in fighting poverty. This partnership has been going on for a long time now. As I entered the building, I am very happy I was made to stop by a picture of my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, during the groundbreaking ceremonies of the first ADB building in Roxas Boulevard. When I was a young teenager, my father used to tell us and that he wanted the Development Bank for Asia to be established in the Philippines and for that purpose they were enthusiastically offering land in Roxas Boulevard. Now ADB is in the Philippines. We have had a long partnership in fighting poverty and today, we renew that partnership. I hope that this will hew closely in its characteristics to the elements of the social bias for the poor that I have enumerated in my statement today.

To the delegates and participants of this conference, I hope that your discussions will help in understanding the relationships of poverty and growth, and the social, political, and economic institutions that underlie them.

In this new millennium where there is great hope because of information and communications technology and rapid advances in capital flows, but where there is also great uncertainty because of the new battle against terrorism in the world, I hope that with the new insights learned in this conference ADB will continue to be relevant and will increase its relevance in strengthening institutions, promoting growth, and eradicating poverty in the 21st century.

Thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st Philippine Local Governance Congress of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st Philippine Local Governance Congress of the Department of Interior and Local Government
(DILG)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Manila Midtown Hotel, Ermita, Manila, October 10, 2001]

Maraming salamat Kalihim Joey Lina.

Pangulo ng ULAP, si Governor Dolfo del Rosario; Chairman ng League of Provinces, si Governor Louie Villafuerte; Pangulo ng League of Vice Governors, Vice Governor Herrera; Presidente ng League of Municipalities, Mayor Guico; Presidente ng League of Cities, Mayor Tolentino; Your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; James Marty Lim, Presidente ng Liga ng mga Barangay; mga local executives; participants of the First Philippine Local Governance Congress; other guests; ladies and gentlemen; mahal kong mga kababayan:

Happy 10-10-10.

This is 10-10-10: October 10th 2001, the 10th anniversary of the local government code and on this day we begin by thanking and honoring the leaders who championed the passage of this the local government code 10 years ago — we start with President Cory Aquino who signed the bill into law 10 years ago today. We also thank Senate President Jovy Salonga and the late Speaker Ramon Mitra who exercised political leadership in shepherding the code through their respective chambers. We thank Senator Nene Pimentel and then Congressman Larry de Pedro who sponsored the bill in their respective chambers. And we acknowledge the Chairman of the League of Governors, Louie Villafuerte, who was a prime mover in forming the league of leagues which actively lobbied for the passage of this code.

These visionary leaders and their successors crafted a law that peacefully transformed our political system from a centralized government to a decentralized one.

Unlike many other nations like America, China, Germany, Japan, and Malaysia, where local governments existed before they banded together to create a central government, the Philippines' history is one of central colonial government antedating local governments. The Local Government Code of 1991, therefore, was a move against the tide and it started us towards devolution. Today, 10 years later, the local governments face unprecedented fiscal, political, economic and technological challenges even after all the gains that Joey Lina spelled out because of the Local Government Code dahil alam ko na kahit sa ilalim ng nakaraang sampung taon ang dami nang ginansiyang ginawa ng local governments sa ilalim ng local government codes marami pa ring naiiwan ng hamon.

Kaya naman, sa unang araw ng aking pagkaupo bilang Presidente, pinili ko para maging alter ego ko sa DILG ang isa sa inyo, ang dati niyong Pangulo ng ULAP, si Secretary Joey Lina. Alam ko na si Joey, bilang isa sa mga sumulat ng Local Government Code sa Senado ay nanguna sa inyo noon upang siguraduhin na maprotektahan ang local autonomy at matanggap ninyo ang inyong IRA shares. Hanggang ngayon nga eh kinukulit pa rin ni Joey si Emy Boncodin at ako tungkol sa IRA ninyo.

At noong una kong weekend bilang Pangulo, andami kong naabutang pending na permiso ng mga Barangay Captain para makabiyaha. Sabi ko, “ano ako pa ang nagbibigay ng permiso para magbiyahe ang Barangay Captains?” Kaya nagdesisyon ako na mula noon idi-delegate ko ang permiso ng mga local government executives para magbiyahe sa Secretary ng Interior at Local Government.

At sang-ayon sa payo ni Joey, isa sa unang ginawa ko nung ako'y naging Presidente ay pinawalang bisa yung tatlong executive order ng dating administrasyon na nagbabawas ng inyong kapangyarihan. I am referring to: the E.O. of the previous administration which required you first to submit your annual investment plan to DBM before you could get your 20 percent development fund. Upon the advise of Joey I also repealed the E.O. which authorized DBM to withhold part of your IRA intended for your contributions to the GSIS, Philhealth and other government financial institutions. And Joey also recommended to me that I should abolish the E.O. which required you to set aside five percent of your 20 percent development fund for anti-drug abuse programs — not that we are against anti-drug abuse programs, but we trust you, the local governments, to make your decisions by yourselves.

The law of course requires that you still submit your annual investment plans to DILG and DBM, but this time it is for monitoring and oversight purposes and not as a prerequisite for the release of your money.

Kamakailan, ako ay nakipag-ugnayan sa mga pinuno ninyo sa ULAP sa pamumuno ni Governor Dolfo del Rosario. Pinag-aralan nga namin tungkol sa IRA at alam ko na ito ang hinihintay ninyo sa akin. Alam niyo marami tayo magkakilala ng matagal eh, alam niyo naman ang aking style — direktso sa punto, wala masyadong motherhood statements — kaya ito ang aming mga kasunduan:

Una, beginning the year 2002 — in other words the budget we submitted now for next year — the President's budget that we submitted to Congress automatically appropriates the IRA. Kung ginagawa yon sa debt service, ba't hindi sa debts to local governments?

Pangalawa, we abolished the LGSEF in the proposed 2002 Budget. Alam niyo yung LGSEF tinanggal sa inyo, nilagay sa Malacañang, tapos kung gusto niyo ng project dahil kulang yung inyong IRA tatakbo kayo sa Malacañang, luluhod magmamakaawa para humingi ng sarili ninyong pera. Kaya ngayon 'pag may mga Mayors lumalapit sa akin para humingi ng projects sabi ko, "hindi na kayo kailangang pumunta rito, importante buo ang ira niyong natatanggap kasi yung LGSEF pera naman ninyo."

Number three, last year in the previous administration and this year — because our 2001 budget is only the reenacted 2000 budget — your IRA allocation was P106 billion. Of the P106 billion allocated last year, the year 2000, the previous administration released P103 billion, so kulang ang ni-release. This year, 106 billion pa rin ang allocation dahil reenacted lamang, but even if the IRA budget for this year as allocated is only P106 billion, we are releasing P121 billion. What does this consist in? Yung P106 billion, yon lalabas yon, now on top of the 106 billion provided by the previous Congress for this year, the following payments of obligations of the previous administration but which my administration is complying with even if the debt is not my fault, we are paying you the following:

P4.05 billion representing the IRA withheld way back in 1999. We'll be releasing this one billion pesos a month, and before this month ends, we will release the full and last of four tranches of this reserve.

Another release we are making is the P2.5 billion representing the unreleased balance of the LGSEF for last year, the year 2000.

And if you remember that last year you did not get your December IRA, so kahit na hindi ko kasalanan yon huhulugan namin yon, and that is why we will be releasing P2.25 billion representing one-fourth of the IRA for December 2000 because we know that you need money for Christmas bonuses.

And we are releasing five billion pesos representing the LGSEF for this year 2001. I have already instructed Secretary Romulo, the Chair of the Oversight Committee on Devolution, to convene the committee to effect the release of your LGSEF for the year 2001, and as much as possible, we try to base this on the codal formula as recommended by ULAP.

With regard to the unreleased balance of the regular IRA due last year amounting to P6.75 billion, uulitin ko kahit na hindi ko utang ito, utang ng predecessor ko, we stand foursquare and acknowledge this commitment as part of our national obligation. Dahil may malaki akong budget deficit na minana sa predecessor ko, your ULAP leaders and I

worked out a scheme to address this debt and at the same time address the financial situation in which we are right now.

We will treat this P6.75 billion as a contingent liability to the LGUs, in other words a guaranteed liability.

I have tasked the DBM, DILG, DOF, and the Executive Secretary, together with ULAP, to securitize this unreleased IRA as bonds for LGUs to enable you to use your uncollected IRA shares now and not wait for when the national government can afford to pay them. The bonds shall be floated by a government financial institution to fund your activities to the extent of your uncollected IRA. These bonds will be guaranteed by the national government.

And if the private banks, the commercial banks, buy these LGU bonds, they will be considered as complying with the Agri-agra law. That way they'll be encouraged to buy your bonds. In turn, I ask that you spend the proceeds of these LGU bonds on activities related to agriculture or agrarian reform para naman talagang sang-ayon sa Agri-Agra Law. And if you do this spend them for agriculture or agrarian reform, including the salaries of your MOUs, and your MAROs and the MOOE — so may things that you can justify as related to agriculture and agrarian reform — this will form part of your answer to the call of the times, as I enunciated in my State of the Nation Address last July.

If you remember in my SONA, I stated my vision and mission: to be bold in our national ambitions so that our country will win the war against poverty within the decade.

And to succeed, our national agenda must revolve around four components — apat na elemento ng pakikibaka sa kahirapan.

The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century.

Pagnenegosyo upang dumami ang trabaho.

And the local governments can do so much to promote free enterprise and job creation, and therefore I ask our local governments — as Joey said you are already doing — to streamline your operations and slash red tape in order to promote investments under a free enterprise system. There must be continuity between national and local governments in their efforts to be investor-friendly.

Sabi ng mga negosyante sa ibang bansa 'pag ako'y nakikipag-usap sa kanila ay noon pa ang daming repormang ginawa sa BOI, sa mga national agencies, kaya sanay sila na isa na lang account officer ang kausap nila. Kaya lang pag-abot sa local governments iba na naman ang kausap. Yon ang sinasabi nating seamless efforts. 'Yan ang sana ang BOI at ang local governments ang magkaroon ng isang unit lamang para isa na lamang ang kausap ng ating mga investors.

The second part of our agenda is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. Palalaguin ang kita at ani ng maralitang taga-bukid, at dito sana gastusin niyo ng husto yung proceeds ng LGU bonds na ibibigay, papagamit sa inyo ng mga bangko ngayon kaysa sa maghihintay pa hanggang kaya muli ng national government.

And the third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. Pagkalinga sa mga bahagi ng lipunan na naiiwanan ng kaunlaran. At alam naman natin na sa local government code, yung mga ahensya na-devolve sa inyo yon na nga ang ahensyang mga social bias — yung health, yung social welfare, yung agriculture — kaya talagang nasa inyo na, kayo na ang frontliner dito sa social bias sa ating development plan.

And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society. Moralidad sa gobyerno at lipunan bilang saligan ng tunay na kaunlaran.

And so having talked about these four components of our national agenda, may I take this opportunity to enlist the local governments to stand in the front line of this war against poverty as we take strides in delivering better services to our communities.

During my State of the Nation Address, I called for a moratorium on politicking.

Today that moratorium is more urgent than ever.

The New York incident of September 11 has changed the global mood. World business conditions are more uncertain now. And so more than ever, we must now rely more on our own efforts and our own domestic economy. And more than ever, we must avoid lapsing into a sense of drift and losing momentum.

After the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Philippine government pledged to support the international coalition in the new fight against terrorism. And let me just take this opportunity to thank the local governments of Lanao del Sur, the Mayors League, because they visited me yesterday to tell me that they are foursquare behind the position I have taken on international terrorism.

This shows that the battle is not against Islam. The battle is against terrorism whatever the religion of the terrorists.

After the military action of the United Nations in Afghanistan, I reiterated our commitment.

And so, because we are now in this battle, we must strengthen our internal focus against terrorism. The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are going all out against the lawless violence engendered by the terrorist threats. But you, the local government units and institutions down to the barangay level, are the core of this effort.

And so I urge all of you to take an active part and even take the leadership, if you wish, in this battle against terrorism in your own local government areas I urge all LGUs to adopt the Patrol 117 approach initiated by the DILG for the quick response to crimes and violence. I likewise urge you to involve the participation of citizens in crime prevention.

The international situation arising from the terrorist attacks in America and the military action in Afghanistan asks all of us to reenergize and refocus ourselves towards achieving our nation's priorities.

And because we have even added challenges because of these new events in the world today, we all realize that the IRA is inadequate to meet all the demands of devolution and all the demands of the new international situation. Thus, it is important that local governments must be bold in exercising your corporate powers to explore alternative financing options and increase your ability to raise local revenues. In this regard, I am happy to see the active participation of private financial institutions and the donor community in this gathering. They are celebrating with us and they are celebrating the role they have played in promoting devolution over this last 10 years

We and they are celebrating today the adolescence though not yet the full maturity of local government autonomy — well 10 years old is really just entering adolescence after all. As we celebrate a decade of devolution, let us buckle down to work once again and collectively address the challenges in our continuing journey for a meaningful autonomy so that this adolescence will turn into a truly mature autonomy in the next years to come.

Congratulations and Happy Decade Anniversary.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212705/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8751&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the ADB International Conference on Poverty, Growth, and the Role of Institutions

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the ADB International Conference on Poverty, Growth, and the Role of Institutions**

[Delivered at the ADB Headquarters Auditorium, Manila, October 10, 2001]

Thank you very much Secretary Romulo.

Mr. Chino and other officials of the Asian Development Bank, ADB Director and Chief Economist Mr. Alvin Panagarian; Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles; ADB officers and employees; members of the Philippine government; civil society leaders; friends; ladies and gentlemen:

A very pleasant morning to all of you and welcome to all international participants in this conference. As you address the important relationships among poverty, growth, and the role of institutions, I hope you will also gain an insight into our vision of the Filipino future and a firm idea of what our people power administration is seeking to achieve in the Philippines and what it has sought to achieve in the last eight months.

Nine months ago, we faced a very different situation. Any honest discussion of Philippine situation would have had to acknowledge severe and almost hopeless prospects of dealing with poverty or achieving growth.

Today our political troubles are largely over. Our unemployment level improved somewhat. But the challenges of fighting poverty and achieving robust growth remain.

Last January, as mentioned earlier, on the day I became president, I declared that we must be bold in our national ambitions, so that our challenge must be that within this decade, our country will win the fight against poverty.

To succeed, I said in my State of the Nation Address last July, our national agenda must revolve around four components.

The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. Not a pitiless free-for-all free enterprise but free enterprise with a social conscience.

The second component is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity.

The third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan.

And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

Poverty can be defined as an outcome of a person's entitlements, or command over output, income assets and material goods.

On the other hand, poverty can also be defined as a process or situation of social exclusion, where individuals are constrained against full participation in social life due to barriers in ethnicity and race, gender, age, physical handicaps, and of course, economic and physical resources.

For instance, undoubtedly, economic exclusion is at the root of our national security problems in Mindanao. The traditional view of Muslims and indigenous peoples as inferior to lowland Filipinos has been a hurdle for them to contribute to Filipino social and political life, and hinders their ability to gain access to economic opportunities.

The high level of income and asset inequality and the slow reduction in poverty incidence in the Philippines are due to the lack of entitlements and social exclusion. A large number of Filipinos face limited opportunities to improve their quality of life and face barriers to fully achieve their social and economic potentials.

We notice the following characteristics of Philippine poverty:

Poverty continues to be mainly a rural phenomenon and is agriculture-based. More than two thirds of poor households in the Philippines live in the rural areas.

And while agriculture-dependent households consist now of only 40 percent of the total population, this sector accounts for over two thirds of the poor. Thus, our anti-poverty agenda has as I mentioned earlier, one of its four main components the modernization of agriculture founded on social equity.

Inter-regional differences in poverty incidence are high. Among 16 regional areas of the Philippines, the National Capital Region has only a 9.7 percent poverty incidence. But three regions – Bicol, Central Mindanao and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao have a poverty incidence of greater than 50 percent.

I have said that one of the four main components in my administration's battle against poverty is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan.

This social bias is anchored on the redistribution of economic opportunities and enhancing the capabilities of the poor to participate in decision-making.

Redistributive reform is the primary framework in improving the level of human development and in articulating the direction of economic growth of the country over the next several years.

Thus, priority emphasis is given to several core strategies of this framework – the redistribution of economic resources and political opportunities and they include the following:

One, priority is being given to asset reform programs or the redistribution of physical and resource assets to the poor, especially land and credit. This entails funding the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program; implementing the Urban Development and Housing Act, especially the provisions on social housing for urban poor groups; quicker distribution of ancestral domain claims to indigenous peoples under the Indigenous People's Rights Act; and ensuring equal ownership rights for women in all laws and executive orders.

Two, this government is working to provide fuller financial and institutional requirements of human development services, which strengthen the human capital base of the poor. It has set specific, concrete and quantified targets in making available basic education, health, shelter, water and electricity for the poor and marginalized sectors. It is working to distribute public spending progressively towards these areas.

Three, we are working to increase employment and livelihood opportunities for the poor over and above what the market would provide and to strengthen the capacities of marginalized groups to engage in productive activities. In this regard, the government is funding the requirements of the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act in the hope of providing one million jobs in agriculture. It is creating employment opportunities for out-of-school, out-of-work youth, it is providing micro-finance services for 300,000 new borrowers per year, and following the Classical Grameen Bank formula most of these borrowers will be women.

Four, the participation of the poor in governance and institution-Building, and civil society groups are included in policy-making in the national and local levels. We are working to

strengthen the Party List Law and the legislation of Sectoral Representation in local governments. Our government is addressing the requirements of our women in Nation Building Law, the Accessibility Law, and the Senior Citizens' Act.

Five, this administration is working to provide social protection and security from violence for the basic sectors, in order for them to fully exercise their political, social and economic rights and to be mainstreamed in society.

Social protection includes three components: social welfare assistance that are regular government programs that maintain a minimum standard of living among the poor and that reduce risks from such incidents as violence, illness, disability, old age, unemployment, resettlement and harvest failure; safety nets or bridging mechanisms that mitigate the adverse impact of economic dislocations and shocks, disasters and calamities, and finally, structural adjustments on specific disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; and social security to diversify and mitigate the risks among the poor arising from retirement, unemployment, illness and stability.

Security from violence means strengthening the implementation of the Anti-Sexual Harassment and Anti-Rape Laws; legislation against domestic violence; stricter enforcement of the law against illegal demolitions and strengthening the participation of urban poor groups in cases involving relocation, and prohibition of labor-only contracting. Through existing government structures, we recognize indigenous culture and practices, including communal-based management of resources and existing health and education practices. Security also means protecting the environment to ensure its long-term sustainability.

In order to implement these thrusts, I have asked Congress to pass a law that will recognize the property rights of the poor so that they can use them as collateral, and I have asked my cabinet members to reduce the number of signatures required to transfer lands for redistribution.

In the governance chapter of the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan, I have instituted several governance reforms including the following:

Strengthening private sector participation in infrastructure development;

Developing greater partnerships among governance actors, government, business and civil society in infrastructure and market development;

Improving the enforcement of anti-corruption laws; and

Government accounting and auditing reforms.

And finally, as I pledged during my inaugural address, I renew my commitment to lead by example to improve moral standards in government. This is my personal commitment in order to improve institutional standards in the country.

The creation and transformation of institutions to fight poverty is more urgent than ever today. Weak and ineffective institutions such as problematic laws and systems of property rights, fraudulent courts, biased markets and entangled requirements for setting up business, more often hurt the poor and disadvantaged rather than the rich. As you can hopefully glean from my sharing, the poverty reduction thrusts of my administration seek to transform and create new institutions in order to effectively respond to the marginalized groups in the country.

I am very grateful that this morning we witnessed the signing of a partnership, a new partnership between the ADB and the Philippine government in fighting poverty. This partnership has been going on for a long time now ever since ADB was established. And I was very happy that when I came here, when I entered the building I was made to stop by a picture of my father the late president Diosdado Macapagal in the groundbreaking ceremonies of the first ADB building in Roxas Boulevard. I remember as a young teenager that my father was telling us and his family that he wanted so much the forthcoming Development Bank for Asia to be established in the Philippines and for that

purpose they were enthusiastically offering land in Roxas Boulevard. And it came to pass and now ADB is in the Philippines. We have had a long partnership in fighting poverty today we renew the partnership and I hope that that partnership will hue closely in its characteristics to the elements of the social bias for the poor that I have enumerated in my statement today.

To the delegates and participants of this conference, I hope that your discussions will help in understanding the relationships of poverty and growth and the social, political, and economic institutions that underlie them.

And in achieving greater understanding I hope that in this world of the new millennium where there is great hope because of Information and Communications Technology and rapid advances in capital flows but where there is also great uncertainty because of the new battle against terrorism in the world I hope that with the new insights that will be learned in this conference and with the old insight that will be renewed and given a new meaning for the 21st century, ADB will continue to be relevant and will increase its relevance in strengthening institutions, promoting growth and eradicating poverty in the 21st century.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the ADB International Conference on Poverty, Growth, and the Role of Institutions. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212654/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8752&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Ceremonial Switch-on of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power
Project, October 16, 2001**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Ceremonial Switch-on of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project**

[Delivered at Malampaya On-shore Gas Plant, Brgy. Tabangao, Batangas City, October 16, 2001]

**MALAMPAYA:
USHERING IN THE ERA OF NATURAL GAS**

This is a great moment in our country's history. At a project cost of almost \$5 billion, the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project is the largest and most important investment of its kind in the history of the Philippines.

Today, we are witnessing not only the start of the flow of gas from point a to b. This flow represents the beginning of a whole new industry – a natural gas industry that will give us clean and environment-friendly fuel while making us now 52 percent self-sufficient in energy.

Previous to this, we were consuming up to three billion dollars of imported fuel every year. Malampaya will reduce that burden by almost \$700 million a year. Over the 20-year period of operation of the project, we also expect to earn at least \$13 billion in royalties. These enormous sums should go a very long way towards financing our plans and programs for the conquest of mass poverty and for our country's modernization.

The Malampaya Project is a contribution to Philippine development of historic proportions. Its impact will be long and widely felt, far beyond the power and energy sector itself, in the daily lives of millions of Filipinos. Many of those Filipinos may have never heard of Malampaya, and maybe never will, because they are far in the hinterlands. But they will be reached and touched by the benefits of natural gas.

Let me therefore congratulate the officers, staff members, engineers, and of course the world-class workers of Shell Philippines Exploration, or SPEX, for the excellent first-class job they have done on this project. Let me also congratulate their partners — Texaco Philippines and the Philippine National Oil Company Exploration Corporation — Thelmo Cunanan is here representing the partners in the Philippines for sharing SPEX's optimism. The Department of Energy, the National Power Corporation, and the Manila Electric Company, or Meralco, also played key roles in ensuring the commercial viability of this project.

This project was completed before schedule and under budget — that is the way we want to do it in the Philippines. I am proudest, of course, of the fact that the Filipino workers were centrally involved in the construction of the project's upstream and downstream facilities.

Their core participation in this project is a testament to our world-class skills and our ability to produce first-rate work under the most demanding circumstances. Our friends from the United Kingdom have all been profuse with praise that our engineers and our workers, in fact, are better than many that they have encountered in their long

decades of experience all over the world. Let us be proud of them. Sa mga manggagawang Pilipino na tumulong sa matagumpay na pagtatapos ng proyektong ito, maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat!

And let me congratulate that Shell took great care to ensure that the environment is not compromised by such a massive undertaking. The 500-kilometer pipeline runs across some of the Philippines most environmentally-sensitive areas.

And I am glad to be assured by Shell officials that every precaution was taken to preclude damage to the environment. And in the process, they also undertook a number of significant sustainable development and social action projects around the country. And for this, Shell has received global acclaim for this initiative.

The Malampaya Project, which will span decades in its entirety, reminds us of the need to take a long-term view of our prospects and capabilities.

Long-term indeed, I still remember the time during the administration of President Corazon C. Aquino in 1989, I was at a meeting in the Central Bank and we got the great news that natural gas had been discovered off Palawan. And we were so excited and we said when do we inaugurate the completion of the pipeline. They said, 15 years from now, long-term indeed, but what was planted during the time of the Philippines' first female president, the product of EDSA 1, was inaugurated during the time of the Philippines' second female president. The product of EDSA, long-term indeed.

And it indeed shows us that we must remember to think long-term and plan long-term even as we seek to approach with a sense of urgency the immediate problems of our times.

And now therefore, speaking of the long-term, let me take this opportunity to set forth the directions and concrete actions that my administration will take to promote the natural gas industry.

First, to achieve the goal of enhancing natural gas utilization, it shall be the policy of our administration to promote activities in the downstream sector by opening the access for all land-based gas pipeline networks to ensure the inflow of investments in this area. I know that several Japanese, Philippine, European and Malaysian companies have already signified their interest of investing in a land-based gas pipeline network from Batangas to Manila and eventually to Bataan. And so therefore, to promote access to all, the Secretary of Energy will encourage these interested parties to organize a consortium for a land gas pipeline project.

Second, as part of the privatization plan for National Power Corporation assets, the government is willing to require the conversion of certain existing National Power Corporation plants into gas-fired power plants, in exchange, of course, for the Malampaya Consortium to consider reducing the gas price lower than their existing gas sales contract. This will provide a direct impact to the consumers through lower electricity rates and reduce future stranded cost under a competitive generation market. Anyway, we would like to point out to our friends from Shell that any drop in revenues from lower gas prices would be more than offset by higher gas sales volume for additional gas-power generation.

Third, in order to win the battle against air pollution and accelerate the benefits of cleaner air, the use of compressed natural gas, or CNG, for all public transport will be given top priority by this administration. We will start first with Batangas in the next two years, and ultimately for the whole of Calabarzon, including Metro Manila, by the year 2004 with the private sector taking the lead. I am calling on the DOE, DOTC and DENR to coordinate their actions to give this impetus by the private sector a boost and support the use of CNG for public transportation vehicles, but again for as long as the price of gas is significantly lower than the price of diesel to effect the conversion the government hopes to achieve.

Fourth, the development and use of small gas fields which have already been discovered and proven will be promoted for non-power applications. Initially, use of the Libertad Field in Cebu and the Sultan Sabarongis Field in Maguindanao shall be considered for use as bottled natural gas much like LPG for non-power applications by 2002.

There are substantial gas potentials from discovered and prospective fields in different parts of the country and the development of these resources shall be at the forefront of our agenda. To sustain the growth of the natural gas industry in this country in the long-term, however, we may need to explore the importation of LPG in the future to improve our energy base if no new gas fields are developed.

Malampaya's success, however, makes us hopeful that many things are still under our waters. This success elevates government and private sector partnership to a higher level of expectations and results. The natural gas industry in the Philippines is still in its initial stage. We should therefore continue with this formula for a better tomorrow and quality of life for the Filipino people.

Once again, to everyone involved — from the time of President Aquino when the gas was discovered, through the time of President Ramos when the contracts for sales and purchase of gas were signed, and up to the last ones whom we saw on the screen, those who are going to run this plant — to all of you congratulations; and congratulations to Shell and its partners; and congratulations to the people of the Philippines.

Thank you.

Source: University of the Philippines Diliman Library

**Speech of President Arroyo during the e-APEC Module of the CEO Summit Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the e-APEC Module of the CEO Summit**

[Delivered at the 2nd floor, Dalian Hall, Shanri-la Hotel, Shanghai, China, October 20, 2001]

Thank you very much Ambassador Romulo. Honorable Mujie Chuan; Mr. Levin; Honorable Ernesto Derves; Mr. Williams; members of the Philippine delegation; all of the friends from all over the APEC countries:

Good afternoon.

It is an honor to be with you today to discuss the challenges that we all face in adjusting to the fast-evolving new economy. All APEC economies are asking themselves: how can we position ourselves to most effectively participate in this new electronic era? It is an era where, increasingly, the economic dividends we reap are sown in the ground of the emerging global digital economy. It is an era where knowledge is supplanting commodities as the measure of wealth. It is an era where to pause or to prevaricate risks being left behind.

We in the ASEAN region recognize that information and communication technology or ICT — particularly the internet and electronic commerce — hold the key to economic prosperity and development across the board. Their critical role in adding value to traditional industries cannot be ignored. And it is especially critical at this time as we face significant economic security challenges.

Our longstanding companies and our small and medium enterprises must be online to compete in the global marketplace. Our rural entrepreneurs and our urban businesses must be online. We cannot leave any sector out. From agriculture to energy, from health to financial services, we need to integrate e-commerce and e-business technologies to streamline operations, access the global marketplace, and increase productivity and efficiency. The web of cross-sectoral networks that is the foundation of the new economy reaches everywhere, affects everything and will only become more extensive as this decade progresses.

Another important component of the new economy is our ability to deliver public services more efficiently: education, health care, agricultural extension services, environmental management, and knowledge about government. Access is the key to development. Through improving access we can empower our people and make them part of the governance process.

Developing economies have a long way to go before internet technologies become a truly integral part of our economic activity. The reasons are obvious. There is a lack of basic infrastructure in some places, there is a major skills deficit in other places, there is a lack of confidence in the regulatory framework that only a clear set of enforceable rules will improve. The challenge is getting widespread acceptance too by business and consumers of this new method of doing business.

ASEAN leaders have created an e-ASEAN initiative, which culminated in the signing of a framework agreement on e-commerce development. The strategy calls for a focus on three core cross-cutting areas:

One, enhancing our information infrastructure; two, creating a policy and regulatory environment that is supportive of the new economy; and, three, developing our human capital — all key objectives of e-APEC. The goal is to create, for ICT goods and services, a seamless market — now numbering half a billion people and with a combined GDP equal to china's. The hope is that this will spur our own entrepreneurs, together with international investors, to expand their stakes in the region and make us a very significant player in the new economy.

What we are doing in ASEAN is similar to what is happening under the e-APEC umbrella where the key tenets are: strengthening markets and creating the right policy environment for e-technologies to flourish; and, developing the human capacity to harness the technologies and turn them to productive use.

The Philippines has been prominent in the regional ICT policy debate for some time. We jointly spearheaded e-ASEAN and our private sector took the role of co-chair of the ABAC Technology Task Force. This level of regional engagement will continue. And my goal is that, in the future, the Philippines will be prominent in global ICT policy debates as well.

My administration understands that it must act realistically and strategically. In the past our nation lagged behind some of our neighbors in harnessing the potential of ICT to drive development and growth. To rectify this, and to foster a digital culture that maximizes the benefits of ICT, we initially concentrate our efforts in three areas that are not coincidentally in line with the e-ASEAN goals.

The first area is the building of physical infrastructure. We are working to speed up building the telecommunications and network infrastructure. Interconnectivity is a must at no cost and I will be supporting wider public access to a minimum set of communications and information services through the establishment of operational telecenters and through the provision of broadband services in cities and identified growth hub areas.

The second area is ensuring an appropriate policy and legal environment. It is not the role of government to determine technological outcomes — that is the role of the market. Our role indeed will be to provide the environment to create the growth of ICT.

The new economy requires a paradigm shift in the way governments and private sectors operate and interact. To that end, I created a cabinet level group, the Information Technology and e-Commerce Council, to lead our ICT policy formulation and implementation. It also harmonizes and coordinates all public ICT initiatives and attends to cross-cutting issues that cannot be handled by a specific government agency. I served as the Chairman and Bobby Romulo and Mar Roxas serve as my Co-chairs — one for the private sector and one for the government sector. Following the council's recommendation, I asked our Congress to enact laws to address internet privacy and security, allow for multimedia convergence, and create a Department of Communications and Information Technology. To be successful, the ICT sector must be driven by the private sector with minimal government intervention and regulation.

Finally, the third area development is the development of human capital to close the digital divide. The Asian computer directory notes that the Philippines is the second highest among Asian countries in the number of training facilities for computer programming and other computer-related courses.

A range of strategies is being employed to build on this advantage. We are working diligently to increase the training of ICT professionals and ICT-enable workers. We have an excellent basis on which to develop these skills. Sometime ago, way back last November 1998 President Fidel Ramos signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Oracle to launch Oracle's academic initiative in the Philippines as the first overseas extension of this hitherto American-based I.T. Professional initiative.

We are already seeing returns. High-tech companies have made significant investments in the Clark economic area — for instance, A.O.L. has a major call center there, bringing high wage jobs into the community.

Yesterday Bill Gates and I witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between Microsoft and Philippine entities on the Philippine government portal, the Microsoft-Clark Development Center, and to explore the development of e-learning in the Philippines.

I would like to share with you three ideas regarding ways in which we can start to close the digital divide especially through the work of the private sector. My thoughts stem from the belief that the technologies that have created the digital divide are also the tools for bridging it. That far from being charities, they present real opportunities for business.

First, the business sector can help provide cheaper access to basic internet applications like e-mail and web browsing. Investments in computers tend to be burdensome to lower income groups and even to governments. Access to communications networks is also a big handicap. The business sector can help by developing new and lower cost products that provide these basic applications and that use alternative means of connecting to the net — for example, television and radio or simple internet appliances. Wireless communication is also becoming more affordable and easily deployed. This is what I plan to do to bring learning to the distant Barangays in our country.

Second, the business sector can help develop local content. Providing relevant content will motivate individuals or local government units to invest in access to the internet and it will increase the value of the benefits that they would derive from it. Businesses will profit because they will be able to tap a significant portion of the population who may not be engaged otherwise.

Third, business can assist small enterprises to get online and participate in global e-commerce. Here the problem is less of affordability but more of ability. We need to lower the cost of procurement as well as the servicing of orders from retailers. Let us not lose the sight of the fact that some of these small enterprises may well be potential customers in the future.

We share the same goal of making the dividends from ICT applications and e-commerce in particular, available to all. Now we must recognize that our individual and collective new economy policy challenges can only be overcome if our public and private sectors work together at the domestic, regional and global level. As we do so, let us make this new era of unprecedented technological development one of unprecedented international cooperation.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the e-APEC Module of the CEO Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212642/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8750&Itemid=38

Arrival Address of President Arroyo

Arrival Address of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines

[Delivered on October 22, 2001]

Vice President Guingona and the other cabinet members who stayed up so late just to wait for me; Secretary Romulo welcome back, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and the major commanders, and the Chief of the PNP, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, mga minamahal kong kababayan:

Just before I took off from Shanghai a few hours ago, I had a meeting with our gracious host President Jiang Zemin. I was not scheduled to meet with him bilaterally because I am making a state visit next week. But he asked for a meeting and he expressed his warm felicitations to our country and people. Our meeting was congenial and constructive and he thanked me that the hostage crisis involving the Chinese national Zhonyi has finally ended. I assured him that in the future we will try our best to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals working on important projects in the Philippines.

My trip to Shanghai to attend the APEC summit is a forerunner of my state visit to China which will start next week. In the next four weeks in fact, I will travel from one end of the Pacific rim to the other. From China, I shall return home for All Saints Day, then pack up for Brunei for the ASEAN summit. Soon after I will go on another state visit to Indonesia, then to a visit to the United States and Mexico. All these trips are tied together by the common thread of our national interest for I consider it an urgent responsibility to consolidate our foreign relations during this period of conflict, crisis and uncertainty as the global economy continues to take retarded course in the face of an escalating war against terrorism. At this moment, the world faces the dual imperative of heightened vigilance on one hand and of economic revitalization on the other. The APEC meeting in Shanghai defined the paths we now have to take in the face of these challenges, greater security in the face of the terrorist threat, promoting sustainable growth, sharing the benefits of globalization in the new economy, and supporting the multilateral trading system. These paths are amplified in two historic documents that came out of the meeting: the APEC Leaders' declaration, entitled 'meeting new challenges in the new century', and the APEC Economic Leaders' statement on counter terrorism which is considered to be the first political statement made by this world body since its inception. These statements signal the urgency of the moment which has been captured by the APEC summit. In our meetings with 20 leaders, we discussed terrorism in the light of the future of the open market, the macro economic horizon and the human capacity building that has to be collectively mustered, both in defense of the global economy from current instabilities and in propelling it in the course of the new century. In behalf of our people, I carried the message to APEC that while we stand foursquare behind the United Nations and the international coalition against terrorism, we must now take active security measures to secure the ramparts of economic cooperation from further degradation. Most of these measures are obvious: those designed to combat money laundering and terrorist funds' movement, as well as to improve aviation and port security, cyber security, energy security, and customs' enforcement, among others. The less obvious yet equally vital measures relate to the security of our communities where the majority of our small and medium businesses, family farms and family life operations are based. We will further enable these operations, bring them into the regional and global economy and shore up their capacity to cope with economic shocks and to harness new technologies. The summit was also an occasion for me to make a strong pitch for a regional initiative to bolster the international coalition against terrorism. In this light our government will continue discussions within our immediate neighborhood, with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand on closer exchanges of information and intelligence. The focus is on tightening security cooperation, an initiative that could move to a higher level during the ASEAN summit next month. I took the opportunity to call for meaningful steps to ensure that the continuing penetration of cultures in the global milieu is rendered impervious to the influences of political and religious extremism. I explained to our APEC neighbors that our country has institutionalized the tools of autonomy, consensus and inter-faith dialogue to serve this end. I told them that our anti-poverty program is also closely focused on the communities vulnerable to fanaticism and irrational violence.

Traversing the multilateral meetings of the summit, I drove home the message that while our economy is prepared for a full and fair engagement with the world, we shall continue to support several key imperative.

First the next round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization or WTO must push through launching a new round of negotiations important to install global business confidence and momentum in the wake of the September 11 attacks. It is also a way to ensure that the WTO maintains its stature and credibility at this crucial time.

Second to ensure the itself does not lose credibility at this crucial time, our top priority is to ensure that the new round is truly a development round. The trade regime as a whole must accord developing countries sufficient flexibility to pursue vital development goals such as poverty alleviation, reinforce by human capacity building and technical assistance from the WTO.

Third our small and medium industries must be empowered by information and communication technology. Our rural entrepreneurs and urban business must be placed on-line. We cannot leave any sector out from agriculture to energy, from health to financial services, we need to integrate e-business and e-commerce technologies to streamline operations, access the global marketplace and increase productivity and efficiency.

Fourth we have to develop an integrated regional market in ASEAN plus-three to create economies of scale because the market demand in the US, Japan and Europe is suffering from steady decline.

In the sidelines of the summit, i had the opportunity to preside over the signing of an agreement, among others between the government and Microsoft corporation towards strengthening our electronic monitoring system in relation to the commitments contained in my first state of the nation address before congress. Microsoft and bill gates visited me at a hotel just to demonstrate this, is coming to the Philippines to provide e-learning, especially certification programs for programmers and bringing xml into our country. We also had the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest during our bilateral meeting with president Kin Dae-Jung of Korea, President Richard Lagos of Chile and Prime Minister Jean Chretien. On separate occasions, I met the leaders of ASEAN, addressed the APEC advisory council and the APEC CEO summit and presided over the inauguration of metro bank Shanghai, the First Philippine bank in China. Before I left home, I also met with the Filipino community in shanghai and I am glad to bring home their message of affection and concern for our people. A long road to consolidation lies ahead and I thank our people for their unremitting support for and faith in the presidency, Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Arrival Address. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212636/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8749&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Summit on Housing and Urban Development

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the National Summit on Housing and Urban Development**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, October 24, 2001]

Thank you very much, Secretary Romulo.

Senator Francis Pangilinan; Congressman Prospero Nograles; Secretary Defensor; Mr. Ric Domingo from the Luzon CMP-PO Network; Ms. De Leon-Yuson, the National Coordinator of the Urban Poor Colloquium; Mr. Fernando Zobel de Ayala; Mr. Thaddeus Liamzon; Mr. Terence Jones; Mr. Jan Meeuwissen; members of the Cabinet; Local Government officials, several of whom I see today; officials; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I wish to thank each one of you for participating in this first housing summit under my administration.

This summit is the culmination of a series of regional housing workshops which were conducted in Metro Manila and in the cities of Cebu, Baguio and Davao from September 20th to October 17th this year in preparation for the mapping out of an action agenda for housing for the years 2001 to 2004.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the HUDCC — the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council — and its attached agencies; the different departments of government such as the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management and the National Economic and Development Authority; the housing developers; the business and private sector groups such as the Shelter and Housing Advisory Group of the Makati Business Club; SHDA and CREBA — whom I understand from Mike have already united. That is a very big development in the housing industry, congratulations! — The urban poor colloquium and other representatives of civil society for making this summit possible.

I listened to all of the output of the summit — it sounds like a very long laundry list — and I think what we should do is to vet this some more, put timetables, put judgments and doabilities, so that this will be part of the inputs of the National Economic Summit that was proposed by Senator Ople that we will be doing. Where the summit will be on November 26th but prior to that, there will be activities leading up to that summit.

In that summit there were supposed to be 10 areas, and housing and infrastructure were in one area. I said, I don't want housing just part of infrastructure. Housing must be its own area because it is a major sector of the government, so therefore, we're 11 — 11th workshop in the housing.

Well, why do I say this? When I became President, I realized that I was entering the administration in a period of a world economic slowdown. In fact, I was telling the Lord, why did you make me President in a time like this when things are going down, looking bad? And in my prayer time he said, well that's why I put you there. You are an economist, you have extensive experience in the bureaucracy, you have experience in the legislature so this is the time to put all your experience together to help the country survive this slowdown.

And so, I started to discuss with the Cabinet Members and my fellow economists and the business sector — how do we survive this world slowdown? For sure our exports will plunge as they're already plunging. Therefore, we have to develop the domestic market; we have to build up domestic demand; and we have to do this while still maintaining a 145-billion peso budget deficit. So it is not unlimited pump-priming, it is pump-priming within our means.

And so we decided, first and foremost, Small and Medium Enterprises — and that's why we have Mel Alonzo here, who's going to do the miracles for the small and medium enterprises. Because when I was discussing with Mar, what's the most important thing that the SMEs need? And he said, what they need is a guarantee for their financing.

And so we removed the executive order that prohibits government guarantees because the purpose of that executive order on government guarantees was to avoid all the surprises that we got when the administration came in. We thought we had this amount of obligations but it turned out that the previous administration had so many government guarantees and B-O-T projects — continued liabilities that were becoming actual liabilities — so we said, let's put a stop to all of these. It was never meant to prevent SMEs from having access to guarantees so therefore we corrected the E.O.

And then the other matter, my fellow economists said I did right in saying that even if as a whole we must stay under deficit ceiling — which means keeping with the budget — for agriculture, I said, while we sacrifice and scrimp and save on the others, for agriculture, we must overspend. We must put that 20 billion pesos a year in agricultural modernization that had been promised by the law but for the budget only provided for what 14, 16 billion. So we did that and we put money in the countryside for agricultural modernization. And the business sector, I remember very well, a meeting with the Makati Business Club where they said another very important... They reminded of another very important source of domestic demand is the housing sector because the housing sector is very well known for the very big multiplier effect.

And so I said, yes that's very good. Problem is that Mike Defensor is complaining that while there's money available, the banks are not using the money for financing housing. So I asked Fernando, maybe you could help Mike Defensor work out a program on how the banks can use the financing that's available so that the money available lying in the vaults of SSS, GSIS, Landbank and DBP can be transformed into our housing targets. And he said, not only, not only in financing, we'll help mike work out a holistic program in order to make the housing industry viable. And I believe that the private housing sector has indeed been assisting Mike Defensor and the government housing sector in this regard.

I will not dwell specifically on the problems of the housing sector, I'm sure that in the consultations prior to the summit you already had enough dose of those housing problems, proof is the very long laundry list that mike read out. But let me summarize what I think... What I would like to do with the housing sector, and I have already told you earlier what I wanted to do and how the housing sector fitted into our program:

First, when I made my State of the Nation Address I was very clear, concrete and quantified in my targets, and I talked about four things the administration wants to do:

Number one, use the free enterprise system to create jobs. That means a good investment climate;

Number two, agricultural modernization founded on social equity, which is why we spent a lot of money on agriculture during this past several months;

And incidentally, indeed, I believe that our focus on building up domestic demand worked because when the statistics were out for the first semester, many other countries around the world, among our neighbors, among our major markets were entering recession or having their first quarter of negative growth or were having barely zero growth or flat growth, we grew at 3.4 percent. So therefore, we were an island together with China and, I believe, Indonesia — who was coming from way below — in having a good positive growth rate. So when I went to APEC it was really a source of pride. When they go around the table, how are you doing? And Hong Kong says, negative. Singapore says, negative. All these big economic giants say, negative. They go the Philippines, how are you doing?

So, but then, we can't rest on our laurels because September 11 happened, and September 11 has brought on more uncertainty. But not to go beyond that — first, the third item that I said in the State of the Nation Address was, that we must have a social bias in our development plan;

And the fourth being improvement of moral standards in government and in society.

When I talk about the social bias, this is where I talked about the rural poor and the urban poor. And the urban poor, of course, in all of my consultations — Senators, Vice President, President — everytime I go to a squatter area, to an urban poor area — alone or with others — whenever I ask them, what do you need first and foremost? And the first thing they always say is shelter security. So therefore, that's my number one goal for the urban poor — shelter security. And after looking at the finances available — because I don't want to set targets beyond our means — then that's where Mike Defensor's 300,000 shelter units came in. And these are divided into a 150,000 families who will have access to the land that they occupy or some other land in exchange for the land they occupy basically using the de Soto method. And I'm very glad that Hernando de Soto, who has heard about what we're doing, will be coming on November 13th and 14th at his own expense just to give us some of his expert advice on how to proceed. Then a 100,000 units a year for economic housing and 50,000 units a year for socialized housing.

This is the way I would want our 300,000 to be divided. And I hope that if we have a common goal and common quantitative targets, each one in the housing sector can figure out how he or she can contribute to these common goals.

Now, as I said, September 11 happened — and while housing... We looked at it, it's good for a multiplier, good and number one for having a social bias as far as the urban poor are concerned in our development plan — when September 11 happened, I said it is very important, even more important now to be focused. We survived the first half of the year, we dodged the bullet of the economic slowdown, but there's another bigger bullet coming our way, and this is the uncertainty that stems from the September 11 attacks and so we must be even more focused. And if we've already spent money on agriculture and is still being spent, and if we've already worked on unlocking the bottlenecks for the SMEs with regard to their guarantee funding, what we must do now — where do we get our additional new domestic demand to get into the economy and yet still maintain our 145-billion peso deficit ceiling? And I said, that what we must do is to unlock major infrastructure projects, major investment projects that have been tied up with bottlenecks in some way or another. And if you unlock those bottlenecks then these projects will move and then they will be the new spur to our economy. Among the major infrastructure bottlenecks that I would point out would be the Batangas port that's been there for so long. And one of the bottlenecks was that the landowners in the right of way wanted 6,000 pesos per hectare and the government's budget to make it viable was 600 pesos per hectare. Finally, we got a court ruling which we used as a basis to expropriate. And therefore now that Batangas port has already been awarded and it is now in Japan JBIC just for their confirmation. This is one major project that has been unlocked.

And what can I say about this? Expropriation is the key to many bottlenecks. So if there are going to be major infrastructure projects and we have greedy landowners — I cannot have 15 greedy landowners stop development for millions of people — then we will very, very quickly and decisively use the state tool of expropriation to make sure that we have good investment projects coming along. The other one is the MRT. Imagine how urban life will be much better if we had a whole mass transit loop that went around the Philippines. Right now we have only that last item, that last loop between — what is it? — SM North and Monumento, that's the last route. And the problem there was that the builders of the first MRT had a preemptive right to the extension. But I said, we can't wait for them to use their preemptive right forever. So, we gave them until October 15 to be able to give an acceptable proposal, otherwise, then we open it up for bidding. October 15 came and they had not gotten together on the technical proposal, so I told Bebot Alvarez, then advertise it for bidding.

And under the new bidding rules that we have — where the B-O-T Law that I authored is now being followed more strictly with regard to the new bidding rules — I couldn't understand why it would take so long because precisely I made the bidding rule so simple that they should take no more than two-and-a-half months. So I told Bebot Alvarez, make sure that the bidding rules that I put up in the B-O-T Law that I authored are going to be followed so that we can have that loop soon. And so I hope that soon we can really, in a couple of months from now, early next year, then we can start construction of that last loop and certainly life will be much better here in our urban area. Because

when more people can go anywhere in Metro Manila using that MRT loop, then we will have much, much less traffic in our neighborhoods.

Another very big bottleneck is the PNB rehabilitation. But I hope that soon it will be resolved. The different parties are down to the last remaining issues.

And another big bottleneck that I want to be resolved is the matter of the National Steel Corporation. And because there had been a long drawn out, long, long drawn out court case where the creditors and SEC already took possession of National Steel because of its failure to pay its debts but National Steel even as the SEC had taken over, gave a lease contract to an operator so therefore it's been under litigation. Now the owner of NSC is Malaysian, and I brought this whole matter all the way up to Prime Minister Mahathir. And so therefore, I'm very glad that as a result of his intervention — through the Danaharta, which is the apt of Malaysia — then the Hotick, the owner, agreed to participate in the evaluation process for an interim operator — somebody who can operate the plant and give jobs while the final ownership is still being worked out. Now, the lease of question says that they will throw a monkey wrench into this agreement to have an interim operator because they want to be the interim and final operator. And all I can tell the people of Iligan City is Allen Gold is an Iliganon and if Allen Gold puts a monkey wrench in this, it is an Iliganon who is stopping jobs from being given to Iliganons. So they better work it out themselves there in Iligan.

Outside of that I think we will proceed, we will proceed unless the court stops us. But it's really very important to be decisive and not to be afraid of a court lawsuit. We shouldn't be afraid of testing the law so that at least we know what the law means when it is tested in the end. Because of we are afraid of lawsuits all the time, we'll always be afraid of acting.

The worst that the court can tell us is, stop, don't do it, and we will obey. Like Nani Perez says, you cannot commute a death sentence. You cannot put back a death sentence that has been commuted. Okay, I'll follow the law. He says, of course, unless there were infirmities in the commutation. Well, okay, look for infirmities in the commutation if there are some infirmities, then we will see. And I'm enumerating here the major projects that have bottlenecks that if you unlock them then they will move — Batangas port, the MRT loop completion, National Steel, PNB, and the housing sector. So five major projects that I have identified where it is crucial to remove the bottlenecks if we want to survive the second semester of this year.

That's why the housing sector is so important not only because of the multiplier, not only because of the social bias for the poor which is an end in itself, but because at a time like this when we need to unlock bottlenecks there is such a big potential for the housing sector because there are so many bottlenecks in the housing sector, so it's a question of unlocking them.

The bottlenecks in financing had been pointed out. Imagine when I give a target of 100,000 economic housing and 50,000 socialized housing, that was supposed to cost 25 billion pesos. So... No, no, not 25... Yeah, 25 billion pesos. But in the banking sector alone, in the GFIs alone there's already 25 billion pesos, not to mention the 3.7 billion that will be put in the GAA for the year 2002.

So the money is not the problem, the problem is that bottleneck — how to translate that money into the actual housing. And yesterday in the Cabinet meeting we had a rundown — that's what Mike was pointing out earlier, the percentages — and Cora dela Paz wasn't there yet when I had a meeting with the GFIs, so I said, how come you're not using your money? And SSS said, because the conduit and the private banks are very prudent — prudent is a mild term. Or very conservative — maybe that's even a mild term. But so I guess, we have to ask the banking sector to be more aggressive. But, on the other hand, I guess we had to look for other conduits, that's what I said. And if Pag-IBIG itself could be a conduit, Cora, then maybe we should use Pag-IBIG as a conduit so that you have more options. And then GSIS, what was the complaint? Mike gave a complaint yesterday. And I just came from Laguna today, where Laguna has plenty of money for land, plenty of money for its own counterpart but they're complaining about GSIS. And without my asking them or giving details, they confirmed what Mike was saying — theirs is limited to 12 designs. And Laguna, they'd like to put medium-rise housing, they can put their own money to make up for the difference, why can't they use their imagination and creativity? And really that's wrong. So yesterday we

told... Lito Camacho was there and he said, it's wrong. And tomorrow he's going to have a meeting on the GFIs to sort out the bottlenecks within the GFIs with regard to the housing sector. For instance, I think GFIs should give free rein to designs as long as these designs are within the range of economic housing. Now, that Lito Camacho has finished working out the Power Sector Bill — thanks to our senators and congressmen — now that he's finished working out the Money Laundering Bill — again, thanks to our senators and congressmen especially Kiko who was a sponsor — now he can attend to housing financing.

So I think if we work out those bottlenecks and of course the other reason why the banks, I understand, are very conservative is that why wait two-and-a-half years because you know the red tape, the housing permits alone take two-and-a-half years to do — 188 signatures — and that's why during the State of the Nation Address I said, government agencies must reduce their signatures to one-half except housing which was reduced from 188 to 45. Today, Mike Defensor was talking about a surprise. And the surprise is an Executive Order that reduces the signatures not yet by 143 but by 20. But by removing these 20 signatures for CMP, it is cutting down the processing time of CMP from two years to — oh, excuse me — because you see this is after the cabinet meeting yesterday when it was inconclusive with regard to the E.O. And I said, well you've got between today and the housing summit tomorrow to work out. What you cannot do — because there's a law that constraints it — leave it out and put it in the E.O. That we will try to work for the law or something like that. But whatever can be done administratively must be done between now and tomorrow, I said. And so what Mike is giving me to sign today is an executive order that reduces any of whatever it is, it reduces it by 20 signatures and it reduces the processing time from two years to 90 days.

So I extemporized my speech because I saw the draft and it was full of highfalutin words and I figure that you've already had all your highfalutin' words all morning and during all the many workshops. So I decided that we'll just go down to the brass tacks and in the end we must remove bottlenecks and move all that housing money so that we can survive the second half of the year and move on to fighting poverty successfully in the years to come.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the National Summit on Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212625/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8748&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the East Asia Economic Summit, October 29, 2001

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the East Asia Economic Summit**

[Delivered at the Hong Kong Convention Center, October 29, 2001]

**LIFTING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
OUT OF LETHARGY**

I have the honor to have the chance once again to address the East Asia Economic Summit held under the auspices of the World Economic Forum. This forum is the foremost global community of business, political, intellectual and civil society leaders.

We are now traversing challenging and uncertain times. The events of September 11, coming as they were in the face of a slowdown, have pushed the global economy to the brink of full-blown recession.

If the world does go over the edge, this could lead to further loss of lives over and above the result of terrorist bombs or the reaction to terrorism, aggravated by the inability of governments to provide for their people if the global economy contracts. The World Bank estimates that as much as 100,000 human lives will be lost as a result of starvation and diseases should there be a full-blown recession.

But even as September 11 brought new levels of uncertainty, it has also brought countries closer together and injected urgency to the collective effort to combat terrorism.

A coalition is being built to eradicate terrorism. A coalition can also be formed to lift the global economy out of its lethargy.

After September 11, we realize just how closely global political and economic security have become intertwined, and how we must address both political and economic security. This renewed sense of global community could be the key to early recovery.

Dealing with terrorism is our most urgent priority. Given the impact of terrorism on the global economy, our first challenge is to deal with it and make this a safe and secure world. Directly after the attacks on New York and Washington, I assured President Bush that the Philippines stands behind American efforts to eradicate terrorism. Our decision to join the American fight against terrorism was not an emotional one because it was a strategic decision. The fight against terrorism is a global fight, it touches each and every one of our nations and indeed, we in the Philippines have first-hand experience.

The principles of the United Nations under recent APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, declaration against terrorism in Shanghai stands out as our most urgent priority. And, as I said, soon after the attacks in the U.S., we in the Philippines took steps to carry out measures to join the U.S. War. We took steps regarding six specific measures in support of the U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 1368 to combat terrorism. And these are the following:

To join the international counter terrorist coalition and to work for the United Nations;

To work closely with the United States on intelligence and security matters concerning terrorism;

To make available our air space and facilities when required as transit or staging points;

To contribute logistical support in the form of food supply, medicines, and medical personnel;

To provide with the consent of Congress, combat troops if there is an international call for such troops; and

To step up our offensive against the terrorist groups in the Philippines and prevent the flow of funds to them by passing and implementing legislation against money laundering.

The APEC Leaders Meeting ordained many economic security measures, including measures designed to curve money laundering, measures to develop a collective respond to aviation and port safety and security, and measures to combat cyber crime.

In another horizon, I believe that global efforts to stamp out terrorism can best be served by promoting cohesion and cooperation at the regional level.

In this regard, the Philippines initiated the establishment of a tri-nation anti-terrorist coalition between the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. Through this coalition, we intend to share intelligence on terrorist activities, tighten border patrols, and when necessary partake in joint peacekeeping operations. We are looking to do more at the ASEAN Summit in Brunei.

One pillar of dealing with terrorism is socio-cultural solidarity and harmony. East Asia is a conglomerate of myriad culture and creeds. The global war against terrorism have tended to bring these differences in close focus. In Shanghai, I took the opportunity to call for meaningful steps to ensure that the continuing inter-penetration of cultures in the global milieu is rendered in impervious to the influences of political and religious extremism.

Our country has institutionalized the tools of autonomy, consensus and interface dialogue to serve this end. Our anti-poverty programs are also closely focused on the hunting grounds for recruitment, the fanaticism and irrational violence.

These unprecedented cooperation and coalition-building at a national, regional and global level to ensure security and safety could work equally well to ensure economic security which globalization has both provided and, at the same time, threatened.

The challenge we face today is the same challenge that generations earlier have faced — to bring about stability, prosperity and progress in the world. However, we do so now under vastly deferred circumstances brought about by the increasing pace of globalization and the rapid advances in information and communications technology. And the September 11 tragedies add an additional and dangerous side to globalization. But in a sense, they reinforced the message that events outside one's border — be they economic or political — cannot now be treated as something that affects all them, not us.

The rapid export-led recovery from the 1997 financial crisis lulled us into a false sense of security that we have already mastered the challenge of adapting to globalization. Then, in just a short period of time, export markets collapsed again and exposed fundamental weaknesses in many economies. Many of the antidotes to a repeat of the 1997 financial crisis have not yet been administered. It is time that they do before it becomes too late.

It is time that the appropriate reform and strengthening of the institutions and regulatory systems that are supposed to handle international flows, particularly capital flows should be brought about. It is time to reform financial sectors.

Given the fact that global business conditions are uncertain, we have also to rely on our own respective domestic efforts to stimulate economic growth and provide social safety nets.

In the Philippines, we have also taken steps to make the Philippines as safe and desirable location for foreign investments and trade.

Many lessons have been learned by both governments and international organizations, which could prove to be valuable in dealing with the current crisis. One of them is the importance of cooperation and concerted action.

The efforts of the major economies — U.S., Japan, Europe — stimulate their domestic economies will have far-reaching consequences for the global economy. The current situation provides the right political conditions to take the proverbial bitter pills of oft-postponed reforms. In our region, hundreds of millions look to Japan to resume its traditional role as the engine for growth and stability.

Moreover, we in ASEAN also have a collective responsibility to contribute to global economic security. In this light, we have to make AFTA a reality not in some distant future but in the next few years.

We have a rare opportunity to build stronger, yet more equitable multilateral trading system as Doha.

Launching a new round of negotiations in the WTO has gained importance as a way to restore business confidence and momentum in the face of the current lethargic situation. This may also be a defining moment on how we face the issue of globalization.

We have seen more and more mass actions against globalization and free trade. However, globalization is not driven by people meeting in Seattle, in Geneva, or even in Shanghai, but by developments and technology and markets. But it is in these meetings that we can address the concerns of those affected by globalization and find ways to make sure that the policies we put in place will lead to sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty.

Some quarters have dubbed the new round as a development round. And I hope that this does not turn out to be a marketing gimmick to get developing countries to sign on. I think we should have a new round but we must make sure that we have a balanced agenda that benefits all participants.

As the financial crisis has demonstrated, we can maximize the benefits for globalization and minimize its adverse effects, if we have greater coherence in how we respond to its many dimensions — trade, investments, capital and labor.

It is therefore imperative that there is greater coordination and convergence of policies among international development institutions such as the WTO, World Bank, IMF and regional development banks. Such that trade is a mainstream in the development agenda and therefore capacity-building can be focused and targeted.

The event of September 11 were both shocking and horrifying for observers around the world. These events put us all on an uncharted course, both in terms of political and economic security and personal safety, and increased our sense of vulnerability and uncertainty.

Coming as we were, in the face of a slowdown, the event of September 11 could push the global economy over the edge towards a full-blown recession. This could lead to further loss of lives, not only as a result of conflict itself but also as a result of the inability of government to provide for their people as the global economy contracts.

The World Bank estimates that as much as 100,000 human lives will be lost as a result of starvation and disease should there be a full-blown recession. But September 11 has also brought countries closer together and injected urgency to the collective efforts. This meeting is no exception.

Just as we build an East Asia Coalition to eradicate terrorism, so too can we close rank to lift the global economy. We must address both political and economic security. This renewed sense of global community could be the key to early recovery.

It is one more manifestation of globalization and presents us with an added challenge. But these events also presented us with an opportunity to work together and come out stronger on a variety of fronts.

The coalition that has been built and the relationships that have been fortified in our collective response to terrorism can and must extend the global, regional and bilateral economic relations.

We face a rocky road ahead. That is certain. But the global economy can, and will, pull through if we approach our economic uncertainties with the same cooperative and integrated approach that we have applied to anti-terrorism.

The Philippines stands ready to work with its friends and neighbors to meet this challenge.

Thank you.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Keynote Address of President Arroyo at the 16th East Asia Economic Summit

**Keynote Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 16th East Asia Economic Summit**

[Delivered at the Hong Kong, October 29, 2001]

It is my honor to have the chance once again to address the East Asia Economic Summit held under the auspices of the World Economic Forum. The forum is the foremost global community of business, political, intellectual and civil society leaders.

We are now traversing challenging and uncertain times.

The events of September 11, coming as they were in the face of a slowdown, have pushed the global economy to the brink of full-blown recession.

If the world does go over the edge, this could to further loss of lives over and above the result of terrorist bombs or the reaction to terrorism, aggravated by the inability of governments to provide for their people if the global economy contracts. The World Bank estimates that as much as 100,000 human lives will be lost as a result of starvation and diseases should there be a full-blown recession.

A coalition is being built to eradicate terrorism. A coalition can also be formed to lift the global economy out of its lethargy.

After September 11, we realized just how closely global political and economic security have become intertwined, and how we must address both political and economic security. This renewed sense of global community could be the key to early recovery.

Dealing with terrorism is our most urgent priority.

Given the impact of terrorism on the global economy, our first challenge is to deal with it and make this a safe and secure world.

Directly after the attacks on New York and Washington, I assured President Bush that the Philippines stands behind American efforts to eradicate terrorism. Our decision to join the American fight against terrorism was not an emotional one – it was a strategic decision. The fight against terrorism is a global fight – it touches each and every one of our nations and indeed we in the Philippines have first hand experience.

Soon after the attacks in the U.S., we in the Philippines took steps to carry out six specific measures, in support of U.N. Security Council resolution no. 1368, to combat terrorism:

- To join the international counter terrorist coalition and to work with the United Nations;
- To work closely with the United States on intelligence and security matters concerning terrorism;

- To make available our air space and facilities when required as transit or staging points;
- To contribute logistical support in the form of food supply, medicines and medical personnel;
- To provide, with Congress's consent, combat troops if there is an international call for such troops; and
- To step up our offensive against and prevent the flow of funds to terrorist groups in the Philippines by more aggressive military action and passing and implementing legislation against money laundering.

Coupled with our participation in global efforts to stamp out terrorism, we are also working to promote cohesion and cooperation at the regional level. For example, we initiated an effort to create a tri-nation anti-terrorist coalition between the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. Through this coalition, we will work to share intelligence on terrorist activities, tighten border patrols and when necessary partake in joint peacekeeping operations. We are looking to do more at the ASEAN Summit meeting in Brunei.

We are pursuing broader inter-faith dialogues to promote Christian and Muslim solidarity. Terrorists wish to instigate a religious war. We must make this an opportunity to for religious understanding, ecumenism and solidarity.

At the recent concluded APEC Leaders' meeting in Shanghai, we agreed to take a strong stance against terrorism and discussed ways of prioritizing APEC's work to meet these challenges including money laundering, aviation and port safety and security, and cyber crime.

These unprecedented cooperation and coalition building at the national, regional and global level to ensure security and safety could work equally well to ensure economic security which globalization has both provided and at the same time threatened.

The challenge we face today is the same challenge that generations earlier have faced – to bring about stability, prosperity and progress in the world. However, we do so now under vastly different circumstances brought about by the increasing pace of globalization and the rapid advances in the information and communications technology. The September 11 tragedies add an additional and dangerous side to globalization but in a sense reinforce the message that events outside one's border – be they economic or political- cannot now be treated as something that only affects them, not us.

The rapid export-led recovery from the 1997 financial crisis lulled us into a false sense of security that we have already mastered the challenge of adapting to globalization. Then, in just a short period of time, export markets collapsed and exposed fundamental weaknesses in many economies. Many of the antidotes to a repeat of the 1997 financial crisis have not yet been administered. It is time that they do before it becomes too late.

It is time that internal systems, structures and institutions required to manage and ensure maximum benefits from global economic integration are in place.

It is time that the appropriate reform and strengthening of the institutions and regulatory systems that are supposed to handle international flows, particularly capital flows, it is time to reform financial sectors.

It is time to recapitalize crisis-affected banks, quickly resolve problem accounts as well as insolvent institutions and otherwise strengthen the financial system.

Given the fact that global business conditions are uncertain, we have to rely on our respective domestic efforts to stimulate economic growth and provide social safety nets. In the Philippines we have also taken steps to make the Philippines a safe and desirable location for foreign investment and trade.

Many lessons have been learned by both governments and international organizations which could prove to be valuable in dealing with the current crisis. One of them is the importance of cooperation and concerned action.

The efforts of the major economies—U.S., Japan, Europe—to stimulate their domestic economies will have far reaching consequences for the global economy. The current situation provides the right conditions to take the bitter pills of oft-postponed reforms. In our region, hundreds of millions look to Japan to resume its traditional role as the engine for growth in the Asian region.

We in ASEAN also have responsibility to contribute to global economic security. We have to make a reality not in some distant future but in the next few years.

We have a rare opportunity to discuss the current global trading environment at the W.T.O. Ministerial meeting in Doha. It may well be the defining moment on how we face the issue of globalization. We have seen more and more mass actions against globalization is not driven by people meeting in Seattle, Genoa, or even Shanghai, but by developments in technology and markets. But it is in these meeting that we can address the concerns of those affected by globalizations and find ways to make sure that the policies we put in place will lead to sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty. Some quarters have dubbed the rounds as a development round, and I hope that this does not turn out to be a marketing gimmick to get developing countries to sign on. I think we should have a new round but we must make sure that we have a balanced agenda that benefits all participants.

The following can make the Doha round truly a development round:

1. Greater coherence and convergence of policies among international development institutions such as the World Bank, I.M.F., W.T.O., and Regional Development Banks so that trade is mainstreamed in the development agenda and therefore capacity building can be focused and targeted; and
2. A review of special and differential treatment beyond just the phasing of commitments but also capacity building flexibility to pursue domestic development goals.

As the financial crisis has demonstrated, we can maximize the benefits of globalization and minimize its adverse effects, if we have greater coherence in how we respond to its many dimensions—trade, investment, capital, and labor.

The events of September 11 were both shocking and horrifying for observers around the world. These events put us all on an uncharted course, both in terms of political and economic security and personal safety, and increased our sense of vulnerability and uncertainty.

This is one more manifestation of globalization and presents us with an added challenge. But these events also presented us with an opportunity to work together and come out stronger on a variety of fronts.

The coalition that has been built and the relationships that have been fortified in our collective response to terrorism can and must extend to global, regional and bilateral economic relations.

We face a rocky road ahead, that is certain, but the global economy can, and will, pull through if we approach our economic uncertainties with the same cooperative and integrated approach that we have applied to anti-terrorism.

The Philippines stands ready to work with its friends and neighbors to meet this challenge.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Keynote Address at the 16th East Asia Economic Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212609/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8746&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippines-China Business Forum

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Philippines-China Business Forum

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Kerry Center Hotel, Beijing, PROC, October 30, 2001]

Secretary Roxas and the other members of the Cabinet; members of the Philippine Delegation: Senators and Congressmen, Mr. Varela, Mr. Yu, Mr. Chua, Mr. Ng; members of the Chinese and Filipino business community; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, I would like to thank the organizers of this business forum for this mutually constructive effort.

I last visited Beijing in March 2000, as the guest of Vice President Hu Jin Tao — I was Vice President of the Philippines then — and now I thank the people of China once again for the honors extended to me. Even at that time when I was Vice President, I had the opportunity to meet with China's highest leaders, President Jiang and (Premier) Zhu Rongji.

Ten days ago I was in Shanghai for the APEC Leaders' Summit. And let me congratulate once again the people of China for the spectacular hosting of that historic event.

Now it is my honor to be back in China again, for a State Visit. And I thank President Jiang for his gracious invitation and for the superb arrangements he has provided for my delegation. The APEC economic leaders last week, issued a declaration in the course of the summit, which reads in part, and I quote:

“We are determined to reverse the current economic downturn and maintain public confidence at a time of uncertainty by fighting protectionism and committing to the launch of a new round of the World Trade Organization ...”

China's bid for WTO membership created the impetus for the restructuring of China's state-owned enterprises, and has spurred the drive towards international competitiveness.

Thus, China's corporations make business decisions not based on what the political leaders of China say but on your own calculations of where it is profitable to go. And that is why we are here to speak not only to the officialdom of China but also to the business community of China.

I congratulate China for your accession to the WTO two weeks from now. Every nation, including the Philippines, is poised for the opportunities offered by this event.

China's accession to the WTO is both a welcome and a challenging development. On the one hand, some Philippine products face stiffer competition from China both in the world market and the domestic front. On the other hand, we also welcome the prospect of greater access and participation in China's highly promising domestic market.

I come to China once again after many, many other visits in the past to bring the message that the Philippines desires a healthy, comprehensive, long-term relationship with China.

There are limitless possibilities inherent in the relationship between our respective nations and peoples.

The historical basis of our ties is deep and abiding. Neighbors by geography, we have had regular and active trade relations dating back to the Sung dynasty.

This relationship, rooted in commerce, is reflected in the important role currently played by many Filipino-Chinese in business and industry — and many of them are in this hall today.

At no other time have our relations with China been more important than today. The rapid pace of events has placed China at the center of world attention, not only as the fastest growing economy, but also as a leading partner in the globalized regime.

The Philippine's proximity to China, our long trade relationship, and the active presence of Filipinos of Chinese descent in our own business arena are some factors that would certainly work to our advantage, we hope. On the other side of the horizon, the projective tariff rate reductions and improvements of channels of distribution in China, will definitely spur the volume of trade transactions between our two countries.

One of our traditional exports to China that will benefit most from these developments is tropical fruits. Philippine fruits are expected to become more affordable and accessible to a wider span of Chinese consumers. I was told earlier this year that when China enters WTO, all the rest of the world will collapse and that there's nothing we can sell to China because China can produce everything we can sell. Not so, because China is above 20 degrees latitude from the equator and there are tropical fruits that we produce below the 20 degrees latitude that we can sell to China. So therefore, unlike many other countries who think that their economy will die because China is entering WTO, we the Filipinos congratulate China and hope that we can do more business with each other because you're entering WTO.

Similarly, we can also expect an uptrend in exports of other traditional products such as minerals — and we signed an agreement today regarding that — marine-based products, and other resource-based commodities.

Aside from aggressively marketing its traditional exports, the Philippines is also looking forward to the introduction of non-traditional exports to the Chinese market, such as natural fiber, coco coir and professional services relative to education and marketing.

China is going to be the host of the Olympics in the year 2008 and there are many ways by which the Philippines can participate in your preparations including providing you — whether here in China or in our Philippine language schools — with teachers who will teach the Chinese people the English language.

On the investment side, the Philippine government will continue to adopt and implement policies along the line of enlightened liberalization, deregulation and privatization. It will also work towards further enhancing the business environment for both existing and would-be investors. This would include, among others, lowering the cost of doing business in the Philippines, improving the country's physical infrastructure, and affirming good governance.

Telecommunications is a primary area of reform and development, especially for purposes of improving interconnectivity. E-commerce will be broadened and deepened to meet rapid market paces attendant to the new economy.

The passage of our Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 is a government initiative towards restructuring the country's power sector, with the goal of reducing electric costs and consequently, the overall cost of doing business in the Philippines. The law provides for the division of the power industry into four sectors, namely generation, transmission, distribution and supply.

This law is expected to help spur economic activity, as it aims to accelerate the total electrification of the country; to ensure the quality, reliability, security and affordability of the supply of electric power; and to guarantee transparent and reasonable pricing of electricity. This will all be done in a regime of free and fair competition and full public accountability.

The Power Reform Act encourages private sector, and business and corporate sector participation to enhance the inflow of corporate capital and to broaden the ownership base of the power generation, transmission and distribution

sectors. To date, a total of eight foreign and three local companies have signified interest to take part in the privatization of the assets of our National Power Corporation.

We are also geared towards boosting Philippine competitiveness in electricity and we hope indeed that the Chinese business community will look at the opportunities for investments in the newly revitalized power sector of the Philippines. I am glad that we had our power sector officials on the stage this afternoon presenting memoranda of understanding with their Chinese counterparts.

The Philippines also seeks to be competitive in e-business. Our Electronic Commerce Act provides the legal framework to simplify domestic and international exchange of information, transactions, arrangements, and agreements through the use of electronic and optical media. Just earlier there was a signing between the Philippine Chamber and the China Chamber, and this is partly with respect to a website that will connect the two chambers with each other. The law also penalizes computer hacking and guarantees greater online security.

This law is expected to improve the e-business environment and hopefully bolster commercial traffic and the development of a critical mass of users.

We hope that the Chinese business sector will also take advantage of our Build-Operate-and-Transfer laws to invest in telecommunications infrastructure to support high-speed connectivity at low costs, or perhaps explore the use of satellites for our internet backbone, especially since our country is made up of more than 7,000 islands. I was glad to see earlier also in the Memoranda of Agreement presentation our leaders in the satellite industry in the Philippines doing a memorandum with their counterparts here in China. Investing in what is called the internet's "pipes and plumbing" is highly lucrative and imperative in the development of information and communications technology in the country.

The implementation of our ICT plans is overseen by the Information Technology and e-Commerce Council (ITECC), of which I am the Chairman.

We have liberalized the ICT sector in terms of various tax breaks and credits for foreign investors, the employment of foreign nationals and the development of ICT friendly regional centers. ICT is a leading component of the Philippines 2001 investment priority plan, thereby giving investors access to incentives offered under this plan.

At present, we have five ICT parks offering competitive financial and tax incentives for ICT businesses, and we hope to see our Chinese corporations locating there.

When I became President in January 2001, I told the people about my vision of winning the war against poverty within the decade. To succeed in this, indeed, one of them is to promote a good investment climate to promote the growth sectors of the future, and that includes ICT; and the investment climate includes also providing for better and less costly power infrastructure.

Another one of the components I listed in our national agenda is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity.

The Philippines is still, like China, predominantly an agricultural country. Approximately 50 percent of our population depends on agriculture for their livelihood and income. Our primary aim is to uplift the living standards of our farmers, through increased productivity. This will impact substantially upon the economic development of our country.

To further modernize our agriculture sector, we need to build many things: we need to build more water impounding structures and lower the cost of farm machineries and post harvest facilities. Likewise, we need to build additional farm to market roads to minimize post harvest losses. I was very happy that earlier this afternoon, I also witnessed the presentation of Memoranda of Agreement with regard to the supply of Chinese agricultural machinery for our

Philippine agriculture. Agricultural modernization is one area where broader cooperation with China would redound to our basic national interest.

Indeed I am very proud that we are now already piloting the hi-breeds coming from China, and we hope this will indeed increase the productivity of our agricultural sector.

In the overall scenario of this forum, I understand that our business delegates and their counterparts have extensively discussed possible ventures — not only the ones we signed today, but other ventures in agriculture and food; electronics and manufacturing services; ICT enabled and other professional business services; and tourism.

I hope that the tourists, especially from Shanghai and Beijing will be coming to visit the Philippines. We now have Philippine Airlines going to Shanghai and I have told the Department of Foreign Affairs officials — and I'm telling the Secretary of Justice — that in order to make it more convenient for Chinese tourists to go to the Philippines on package tours — and many of the tour groups organize package tours coming from Beijing and Shanghai — we will relax visa restrictions: you will not need to get your visas right here in Beijing or in Shanghai, you need to get them at the port of entry only when you get to the Philippines.

Incidentally, of course you still have to apply for your visa here, you get it there, but to make it also more convenient for the people of China, people of Shanghai to visit the Philippines, tour there and do business there, I am very grateful to the Chinese government that this afternoon, part of the exchange of notes will be on the establishment of a Philippine Consulate General in the City of Shanghai. I hope that my visit and this Business Luncheon will assure China's business leaders that as you join the WTO the Philippines is a good choice in which to do business.

With your support, and with our current crop of dynamic economic and business leaders in my country supporting good, clean and effective governance, we will be able to achieve and sustain a business climate attractive for doing business for the long term.

Earlier, you saw my Secretary of Energy speak Chinese, and as you can see from his face he's not even Filipino-Chinese and yet this is how much we value China. I am very proud that my Secretary of Energy speaks Chinese. I am very proud that I have Cabinet Secretaries who know the international financial system and business community — I have seven Cabinet members from Harvard, I have two Cabinet members from Wharton, I have three Cabinet members from Wall Street. And I hope indeed that as you, China, enter the world economy, you will find that these credentials will make life good for you as you do business in the Philippines.

I believe there are two priorities to regain stability and growth in east today.

The first and most urgent priority is dealing with terrorism.

The other priority is global and regional cooperation to lift the global economy from the brink of recession. The unprecedented cooperation and coalition building that was cemented at the APEC Leaders' Summit in Shanghai under the leadership of President Jiang Zemin to ensure security and safety could work equally well to ensure economic security which globalization has both provided and at the same time threatened.

We must seize this opportunity to turn the tide so that the world economy can be put back on track.

And just as China led the world leaders in forging a coalition against terrorism, when we were in Shanghai China is also now poised to lead the world economy into the 21st century out of recession because of its giant role that it will play in the World Trade Organization.

Congratulations, good luck in your new role and thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the Philippines-China Business Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212559/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8745&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 27th Philippine Business Conference

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 27th Philippine Business Conference

[Delivered at the Isla Ballroom, EDSA, Shangri-La, November 14, 2001]

Thank you very much Secretary Roco.

President Varela, Chairman Tan, President Chua, Vice-Chairman Bacani, Ambassador del Rosario, ladies and gentlemen:

I thank the organizers of this important annual event for the opportunity to address the captains of industry and business leaders of the country.

You know I was supposed to go straight from Indonesia to the United States but I came back for this one day because Jimmy Tan asked me to make sure I attend the Philippine Business Council.

Your theme is managing transitions: perspectives and strategies for the emerging economy, that when you sent it to me, I've seen the back between the e and the merging, so I was talking about the emerging economy. But I think however, there are many people who will talk about E-commerce in this conference. And from your President I think that I would rather remove the dot for the moment although I am very well-known to be pushing for I.C.T. As the number on growth sector for the future, I will dispense it that advocacy for today because you have heard me talked very much about that in the past and my chairmanship of the I-Tec council speaks for itself with regard to my personal attention to the development of e-commerce or the e-economy. I think to remove the dot and we talked about the emerging economy. What is the economy that is emerging now. And this must be interpreted in the light of the September 11 tragedy in New York and Washington which has changed the global mood.

Had I spoken before September 11, yes, I would have talked about I.C.T. I would have talked about the other sector similar to ICT In that they are human resource intensive, skills intensive service sectors because that is where our competitive advantage lies. But today in this annual meeting and when you look at the world around us now, it is important that we recognize and stress that world business conditions are more uncertain now. And our priorities have changed since early September. We have not removed the priority of e-commerce but we are adding another priority and that is economic security.

On December 10th, we are convening the National Socio-Economic Summit of 2001 to forge a multi-partisan and multi-sectoral two-year action agenda to counter the effects of global recession and terrorism. And I expect to see you there again.

I can only find comfort in the fact that the Philippine economy has proven remarkably resilient given the state of the regional and global economy. GNP growth is at 3.4%, better than most of our neighbors and trading partners. Inflation is down. It is the lowest in the last 12 months and our fiscal situation is stable. The IMF said that they were already lost their bet three times. They bet I could not pass the power sector reform law, they lost that bet. They bet that we could not pass the Money Laundering Law, they lost that bet. They have made a bet but we will not be able to keep our budget deficits ceiling and they're afraid they're going to lose the third bet as well. But they will be happy to lose that bet.

That said, the global uncertainty that has resulted from the tragic events of September 11 makes economic planning for any country very difficult. It has also impacted an essential element of global economic growth — confidence. Until businesses and consumers regain confidence in the economic system all countries remain affected by

September 11. No country is truly insulated from the global economic slowdown, but fortunately our country with its heavy agricultural and service composition has fared better than most.

And so, if you look at the indicators— GNP, inflation, employment which is rising, net employment, — our economy is strong, our democracy is stable, our role in the world becoming clearer. And I am focused on what needs to be done to address two wars: the war on crime, of which terrorism is only a part; and the war against poverty in the country. These two priorities are very linked as poverty fuels the willingness of those, of some to support criminal activities. Let me tell you what we are doing in these important areas:

In the battle against crime:

As a matter of policy, first, there can be no tolerance for kidnapping, no negotiations for ransom, and no back room deals. This is often a painful choice where innocent lives are at stake. Second, there must be swift justice to those who engage in this kind of sub-human behavior. Third, we must become well-organized in the government in order to respond to this threat-including cleaning house in our police, military and intelligence agencies as necessary.

As you know, this is a challenge with many causes. From bandits who hide behind religion — like the Abu Sayyaf, to those who prey on their own people — like the Chinese gangs many of whom had been arrested very recently, through to hard-core criminals. In all cases, we are putting the full force of our security forces against this challenge. We have recently arrested a large number involved in kidnap-for-ransom crimes. As a matter of fact, the solution rate to criminality is higher now. And of about 305 identified kidnappers, more than half have already been arrested.

And I am confident that more will follow as we continue. And because in recent times many of those arrested for kidnapping and drug trafficking turned out to be related to secessionist activities. We have signed ceasefire agreements with groups who have decided to give peace and development a chance. This is a clear sign that the war on crime and terrorism is not just won through the barrel of a gun.

And also because in recent times we have found that many of those arrested for kidnapping and drug trafficking were Chinese nationals, I also signed three treaties on crime-fighting with Beijing in my state visit to the People's Republic of China: one on extradition, one on narcotics, and one on transnational crimes. These are but a few examples of our cooperation with neighboring countries to solve our common problems of criminality.

As you very well all know in a much covert announcement, I lifted the moratorium on the death penalty to convicted kidnappers to strike fear on kidnap-for-ransom syndicates and show the government's resolve to deal with the kidnapping menace which is our number one menace in the country today.

I instructed Secretary Joey Lina to rid the police of scalawags. He has already initiated proceedings and he is willing report the results directly to the business community.

We are resurrecting also the community-oriented police system which used to work well in the past.

In the past, one of the reasons why earlier kidnapping spates were arrested was that the special action force of the police and the marines were brought into the fight. But now the special action force and the marines are there in Basilan. And because of this to replace them, what we are doing is recruitment. Recruitment of new policemen. We are encouraging the policemen who have no college degree to retire. And we are recruiting new policemen and we want as the very basic minimum that they must have a college degree. This is in accordance with our desire to professionalize the police force.

So far from the last time I talked to the Chinese community about the kidnapping problem, we've been able to hire 400 new policemen with the college degree and therefore professionally-oriented. But we truly effective Secretary Lina says, he needs 1,700 policemen to replace the special action force and the marines who are fighting another battle somewhere else.

This morning we had a meeting and after discussing the budgetary requirements, within the next two days the PNP is ready to hire the balance of the 1,300 that they need to have greater police visibility in the areas where you feel you need them.

I convened the national anti-crime commission this morning and instructed all the component agencies to work double time to solve the pending crime cases and to prevent more kidnappings from occurring. I am providing the NACC with the necessary equipment, including helicopters and surveillance facilities, and giving it the budget to enable it to function effectively.

As far as the surveillance equipment is concerned, for instance, the national anti-kidnapping task force headed by General Ebdane inherited surveillance equipment from the defunct PAOCTF. And he is making this available to the PNP mainstream including the task force at the PNP that's created within the PNP itself on fighting kidnapping.

And I think you have seen the headlines, there is a re-organization of the police, aside from their modernization and their professionalization. Emy Boncodin is also releasing additional money for surveillance. And as I said earlier, we are improving the screening process for policemen applicants, only college graduates can now be admitted to the police force.

Part of the re-organization is that we are putting back General Edgardo Aglipay from the National Capital Region because reviewing the records during the time when he was the head of the NCR the kidnapping was quite low. And he reported to me some of the things that he did during his time including a general term that would call hardening of targets. And what he did before which was effective he will do again now as the head of the NCR PNP.

Because the kidnapping problem is much more serious than many of other crimes that have been committed the usual crimes. I am asking him to leave the attention of the other crimes to the police districts, for it also very good. And as far as kidnapping is concerned that is where the renewed or the returning NCR Police Director will concentrate his efforts. We have also asked former DILG Secretary and former Mayor of Manila, Mayor Lim to be a full time consultant to the National Anti-Crime Commission.

When I was in Hong Kong, I asked the Hong Kong police experts to train our police force. To train our police force especially on anti-kidnapping activities. And this will also be done with Israel, Scotland Yard, and the U.S. In fact, part of what I will be discussing when I go to the United States tomorrow is how to enlist the FBI to beef-up their personnel right here so that they can help and have joint operations with the Philippines on anti-kidnapping. Kidnapping in the Philippines is not a local domestic industry. It is a transnational crime. We have the evidence of that because we have arrested other nationals. And that's why we are justifying in getting the not just the support but the participation of this various law enforcement and intelligence agencies from the other countries.

We have already set up an emergency response center to assist victims and their relatives. General Ebdane who is the head of the NACC Anti-kidnapping Task Force has already put up a nerve center right in Binondo. And this is very useful because they received the information from the Chinese community about what they think should be done. For instance, because of the 1,700 new policemen professional policemen, college graduate that we need to hire, they were only initially able to hire 400, they do their strategic placements. And because Valenzuela has lately been an area where the kidnappings occur, the police visibility will be concentrated in Valenzuela. But that's two days, it will be next two days, because two days from now there will be the massive recruiting. Why do I say two days from now? Because the payroll will be available on November 30th. So therefore, they can be hired starting November 16th because they will have their pay on November 30th.

And just as I set up a reward system for Abu Sayyaf leaders, which has resulted in many captures, I also have made a total of P100 million available as a reward pool for the capture of kidnappers for ransom. In fact, just as we have distributed about fifteen million already for those who helped us capture important Abu Sayyaf leaders. Joey Lina showed me earlier a lists that showed me already all five million pesos to those who have helped us capture in recent weeks some of the important kidnap for ransom personalities. And we will continue this.

We are mobilizing the peace and order councils more actively. I understand that the federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce has its own committee that acts together with the peace and order councils in Chinatown and the other places where the people are concerned with the problem of kidnapping. In places like Chinatown, I have authorized the organization of Bantay-Bayan self-defense units which are authorized to carry firearms and effect citizens' arrest. I asked Joey Lina also, have you already deputized people in Chinatown? He said, he's still waiting for the list of the people that he should deputized. So please give us that list. I don't think you want us to deputize every Barangay Tanod. So you've got to give a list of those you recommend — responsible enough to be able to carry firearms because if they do any monkey business at least I know the Chinese community will answer for them as well.

Let us all asked media once again not to report news about especially about live kidnapping cases. And I believed that there has already been a stoppage of the leaks from the PNP and who had on live kidnapping cases. It is important that when you have live kidnapping case, no leak comes out so as not to jeopardize the safety of victims still in the hands of kidnappers.

Using the National Anti-Crime Commission as the center, we are establishing closer coordination among all intelligence agencies so that we can maximize all mechanisms of the state to identify and locate kidnap for ransom groups. The intelligence coordinator is Col. Victor Corpus.

We are I think very close to resolving the problem of the Abu Sayyaf. In fact Admiral Blair of the CINCPAC is quite impressed with our commanders who're very aggressive, quite impressed with our men who are flying and our men on the grounds even they have a lot of their very, very experienced. And the men who came here earlier to the Philippines identified some of the hardware shortcomings and system shortcomings. And I think with that or even before that the problem of Abu Sayyaf will be solved. And when that happens, oh I can hardly wait for the Special Action Force of the police and the Marines to be available in Metro Manila again.

In the meantime, I am very pleased that we were recently able to pass the Anti-Money Laundering Bill. And I think the bill was keeping in accordance with the fears of the Chinese business community. In other words, it is not going to be a tool for harassment. The provisions you were afraid of are not there. On the other hand, there are enough provisions to make the fatf feel that we really have done forward which is not what they say about all the other anti-money laundering bills that were passed before the deadline. And this bill gives the government the tools it needs to track financial transactions that may have links to criminal groups. This is not a short-term initiative. This is now a permanent part of the process that we are taking to ensure the security of the people of the Philippines.

Mga minamahal kong kababayan, malaking pagsubok ang hinaharap ng sangkatutak sa pandaigdigang seguridad at ekonomiya.

Upang masugpo ang salot ng kidnapping, terorismo at iba pang krimen, kailangan natin ng pangkalahatang pagkakaisa.

And finally, we are working to address the root cause of crime — which is rampant poverty.

On the battle against poverty: our economic fundamentals as I said earlier remain stable despite an uncertain global environment and although immediate challenges remain, we have near-term fiscal and monetary measures to ensure stable prices, adequate liquidity and funding for our development initiatives. I would not dare say this if the statistics did not back me up. And you have already seen them in the business page.

Immediate contingency measures that we have put in place stand us in good stead to meet immediate needs for macro-economic stability. We are working hard so that our GDP and our deficit ceiling targets for this year will be met and so that we will have the funding options in place to meet next year's budget requirements.

We are committed to the long-term structural reforms that will ensure continued strength in domestic demand, continued diversification of our GDP and strengthening of the Philippines environment for investment.

I am committed to making the Philippines a safe and desirable place for business and investment.

Our administration is committed to good governance at all levels. We do not hesitate to investigate any serious allegation and we hold anyone accountable if corruption has been found to take place in his area. This is an important part of our efforts to identify and prosecute those who are corrupt and to change the mindset of those who support this practice by making payments that feed corruption. Corruption is not a soft crime, it impacts our ability to meet our economic targets and it impacts our ability to attract investment.

We are addressing this at all levels as I said. Our administration is working hard to promote good governance at all levels and we are working diligently to ensure that the people of the Philippines are getting the professional and clean government they expect and deserve. This includes the following:

To reduce corruption in the Executive branch, Cabinet Secretaries will have to deliver tangible results within 12 months from my SONA which is within eight months, from now in fighting graft. Our new e-procurement program, well, at last I'm talking about the e-merging economy is now saving billions and minimizing anomalies. And now we have now a working Presidential Anti-Graft Commission with an Executive Director with the board existing and they are investigating *moto proprio* corruption cases in high places all those that I passed on to them.

And we are making the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Customs showcases in our fight against graft and corruption. All the rice that has been seized, all the rice that has, the smuggled rice that has been seized — in the past they were auctioned off, and when they auctioned off. And in the past reports say that those who smuggled them in the first place were those who bought them. So I told Titus Villanueva, we will not auctioned off the rice that has been seized. We will hold them as part of our social welfare activities as part of the rice allowance as provided by law for the soldiers in hardship posts like Mindanao.

And at first they said, but the law requires that the office should ... No, look at the law. And the law talks about you auctioned off goods that are not contraband. But if the importation of rice is prohibited except when there is a shortage. When there is no shortage rice is contraband. Therefore, it does not have to be auctioned off. And there is a portion that says there: if the contraband goods have commercial value, they may be sold. That's what I pointed out to call you, see the word is — they may be sold it does not say they must be sold because I want to teach a lesson to those who are smuggling rice who think they can get the rice and sell it again in the open market by buying it in auctions. They will not be able to buy that at auction because it will not be auctioned off. So stop investing your money in rice smuggling.

To reduce corruption among elective officials, we are still committed to help honest people get elected by financing the full computerization of elections. We released two billion pesos of the needed 3.4 for computerization. And I believed Congress will add another half a billion in the 2002 budget, so that the funding release will be in time for computerization.

And to reduce red tape in the National government, within eight months, all government agencies will have implement measures to cut in half the number of signatures required for their service. And where legislation is required to effect this efficiency, the agencies concerned are drafting appropriate bills for my endorsement to Congress.

This morning, I had breakfast, Vicky Garchitorena and I have breakfast with Hernando de Soto who is the author of the *Mystery of Capital*. I thought all the he would teach me would be how to make the squatters become landowners by buying the government land that they occupy. But he showed me of his experience in many countries where in fact his work was how to cut down on red tape in housing, and in business. And therefore, this is what he is going to be doing for the Philippine government. And this is going to be a full time job to do the studies. It cannot be anymore that the head of the agency will work on his agency's problems. Yes, they have that, they will have to do that but some body must look at it from the outside going in, because it's very hard sometimes to see it when you are so subjective. And so this is what Vicky Garchitorena will be doing starting January next year. She will work with Hernando de Soto on cutting down on red tape or using subrosa documents bringing them out in the open and making them eligible for legal transactions. It is a revolutionary concept that has already worked very well in many

parts of Latin America and weaving very Latin. I think our culture is very, very suited to the reforms that de Soto told me he was able to achieve in many other Latin American countries.

I have also asked our local governments likewise to streamline their operations and slash red tape in order to have seamless efforts between national and local governments to be investor-friendly.

And I am glad that we gave an award today to one of those local governments that are investor-friendly and have seamless efforts with the national government. And I would like to congratulate Mayor Jimmy Fresnedi for making Muntinlupa an investor-friendly city. Jimmy Fresnedi is not only friendly to business, he is friendly to the poor because in our anti-poverty programs for housing, for de Soto empowerment, the City of Muntinlupa never fails to give a substantial counterpart. That's why it is so easy to do social reform as well in the City of Muntinlupa.

When we talk about the e-merging economy, the e-merging economy is characterized by two things before September 11 anyway, one is the emergence of e-commerce or information and communication technology as the main mode of doing things. And the other one is the inevitable emergence of globalization.

We support the launching of a new round of multilateral negotiations in the WTO, but Secretary Mar Roxas is there in Doha with very clear instructions to work hard and exercise leadership if necessary so that there will be a balanced agenda that addresses all concerns. I would like to see this round, I told Mar to be truly a development round where capacity building goes in step with liberalization and facilitation.

Mar Roxas gave me some documents, they worked in progress on the draft declaration. And I have instructed that, this time to Secretary Joe Concepcion so that he can bet it in behalf of the business community on whether it is contributing to the bringing about of a truly development round in WTO.

Even if I assure our people that the economy's fundamentals remain strong and that we are taking steps to stimulate domestic demand, I ask you to prepare for hard times ahead. We will do what we can do to make the economy grow by exerting influence on factors that we can control. But there are factors that are not within the governments control, there are factors that are outside of our country, there are factors inside of our country that is in the hands of the businessmen to control not the government itself.

The government is doing all that I have described and more to improve the business environment, create jobs, and improve the lot of the Filipino people. But I need the continued support of the business sector. We need to work in tandem. The business of government is governance and the business of business is business. We will attend to governance. Please take care of business.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the 27th Philippine Business Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212530/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8762&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 56th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 56th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

[Delivered in New York, November 16, 2001]

Let me begin by congratulating Your Excellency Han Seung Soo on your election as President of this Assembly. I am especially gratified to be addressing this Assembly when a distinguished Asian is again at its helm.

I congratulate as well Your Excellency Kofi Annan for the Nobel Prize you have received together with the United Nations. It is the international community's recognition of the indispensable role and the necessary work done by the U.N. under your watch towards peace and justice in the world.

At the most elemental level, we feel most deeply the sad and tragic impact of those inhuman acts of terrorism – the lives lost, the orphaned children, the widowed spouses, the parents struck with the unimaginable grief of outliving their children. Worse yet, of watching them die.

As we watched the horror unfold, we felt as though it was happening to us – as indeed it was, for this United Nations are in a sense one family. But the blow that was struck at this international city was felt as directly by the rest of the world.

As people the world over stopped to watch in horror as the twin towers came down, the world's economies ground to a virtual halt – business activity stopped, investments withdrew, markets shrank, tourism dried up, and jobs were further lost. Living standards dropped even further, destitution spread – the very conditions that favor terrorism spread and deepened.

Our misgivings about a world slowing down deepened into the certainty of a recession that will be felt most deeply by those least able to endure it. Not just by classes but by whole countries. The average GDP growth rate of developing countries could fall from last year's 5.5 to 2.9 percent. For most poor countries, that will translate to sub-zero growth.

Mr. President, the face of terrorism that this city saw over a month ago is a familiar one to Asians. It has taken a terrible toll in the lives of our people and in the economies of the region. It has destroyed our credit and deterred investments. It has caused Asian governments profound embarrassment at being caught flatfooted and unable to offer their citizens the most basic security. In the southwestern part of the Philippines, it has taxed our resources and our patience to the limit, for terrorism is the argument of those who are not really interested in reasoning but only in getting whatever they want, on their terms alone.

We know terrorism. We are fighting it in southwestern Philippines. The perpetrators of the first attack on the World Trade Center were apprehended by our police.

Short of dismembering our country and dispossessing our people of their homes, we have been negotiating with secessionist groups.

But we have thrown the full weight of the law, including the use of force, at those who have resorted to terrorism.

We know the enemy and we know that these are not people you talk to; these are people you fight. As the Secretary-General has pointed out, "there are those who will hate and who will kill even if every injustice is ended."

You must fight them in the field, when they take to the field, and hunt them in cities when they hide inside.

It was in the light of this experience in southwestern Philippines that we immediately condemned the terrorist attacks on the United States, for we recognized them immediately as the desperate and despicable act of that violent minority which seeks to enslave the world with fear. And indeed they have given the world good reason to be afraid. The attack on the World Trade Center which aimed to take the lives of the 50,000 people who worked inside it shows us an enemy without pity, without compunction, prepared to use any means to achieve the greatest destruction.

The Philippines did not need to join the war on terrorism, it was in that war already, in the southwestern part of our islands. The Philippines could not have done otherwise than renew her commitment to fight terrorism in a wider field, in the wake of September 11. We know that this is an enemy that must be fought everywhere so that it cannot strike at will anywhere it pleases again.

This is a fight between tolerance and bigotry, between reason and fanaticism, between law and anarchy, between justice and murder pretending to be just. In that fight, there is no other side to choose but the one where the civilized nations of the world — long-time allies and former enemies — have chosen to stand united, not least here in this plenary hall.

The Secretary-General has declared that the September 11 attacks “struck at everything our organization stands for: peace, freedom, tolerance, human rights, and the very idea of a united human family.”

I don't know if the future belongs to our side, but I am convinced that there will be no future if our side does not prevail in this fight — at least no future that any of us will care to live in. In fact, it will not be a future in which most of us will be allowed to live. It is a future where happiness is suspect, delight is blasphemy, beauty is a cause for shame, and independent thought a capital crime.

But while terrorism cannot be placated, and no terrorist should not be appeased, there is no doubt in our minds either that we must address the concerns that they pretend are the inspiration of their terrible deeds.

If the world can show that it will carry on, that it will persevere in creating a stronger, more just, more benevolent, and more genuine international community across all lines of religion and race, then terrorism will have failed.

No, terrorism will not stop but will have failed. To stop terrorism, the terrorists themselves will have to be stopped.

What we can do however is to strip them of their moral pretensions and take upon ourselves the causes that they have perverted.

No nation will indefinitely endure the yawning gap between rich and poor – a gap that is only growing bigger not just within but across the countries of the world. It is this growing disparity between the ever fewer richer and ever more poor that has given terrorism the freedom of movement and impunity from accountability that it has enjoyed.

Poverty can be reduced partly by national economic growth. But societies have to adopt deliberate policies to ensure that the income levels of the poor rise faster than those of the rich.

Recent developments in the global economy have displayed the perils of over-dependence on external markets. We must expand domestic demand and increase the purchasing power of the masses of our people.

This is largely the responsibility of each nation. We in the Philippines are addressing the affront of mass poverty through housing, education, lower medical costs, more efficient power, transportation and communications, infrastructure in the countryside, credit to small farmers and micro-industries, productivity, protection of the environment, and developing the areas farthest from our center of political power and economic activity.

The international community also has a responsibility for the elimination of poverty. The commitments to devote a certain percentage of GDP to official development assistance have a place. But the most effective and least costly anti-poverty measure on a global scale is for developed countries to open their markets wider to the products of the developing countries, including particularly those products turned out by the poor people in the poor countries – agricultural commodities, textiles, clothing and footwear, as well as electrical and electronic appliances, and components.

The global trading system cannot allow developed countries to subsidize heavily their agricultural exports while the developing countries are without the means to help their own farmers.

The recent ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization decided to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. To ensure that the WTO does not lose credibility at this crucial time, our top priority is to ensure that the Doha Round is truly a development round.

The effort to conquer poverty must embrace all cultures, all ethnic groups, and all religious communities. The nation must allow all to preserve their own cultures.

We must make political autonomy accessible to regions that want it. At the same time, no one must be allowed to resort to terrorism to further their political aims.

Respect for culture and religion, resources for development, openness to political autonomy within the sovereignty of the nation, and rejection of terrorism are the foundations of the Philippine approach to our ethnic diversity and the uplifting of our Muslim and tribal minorities.

The vision of nations where poverty is rapidly reduced cannot be attained in places where women and girls are mistreated and their rights trampled upon. As the woman head of state, woman head of government, and woman commander-in-chief of the world's 14th largest nation, I say: We cannot conquer poverty without liberating women and girls where they are oppressed. The gender gap is a part of the development gap and must be addressed with equal vigor.

The fight against terrorism, the struggle to eliminate poverty, the work on behalf of social and international justice, the strengthening of the rule of law, the promotion of tolerance and mutual respect, the practice of humanitarian compassion, the liberation of women, the never-ending toil for peace – these have long been on the UN agenda. We have been doing these in cooperation with our neighbors in our region.

The heightened virulence of terrorism, the renewed sense of insecurity among the world's people, and the alarming slowdown in the global economy have intensified the urgency and importance of our work. Together, let us get on with the job. It is serious. It is essential. It is urgent.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

**Speech of President Arroyo at the 56th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 56th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

[Delivered in New York, November 16, 2001]

LET me begin by congratulating Your Excellency Han Seung Soo on your election as President of this Assembly. I am especially gratified to be addressing this Assembly when a distinguished Asian is again at its helm.

I congratulate as well Your Excellency Kofi Annan for the Nobel Prize you have received together with the United Nations. It is the international community's recognition of the indispensable role and the necessary work done by the U.N. under your watch towards peace and justice in the world.

At the most elemental level, we feel most deeply the sad and tragic impact of those inhuman acts of terrorism-the lives lost, the orphaned children, the widowed spouses, the parents struck with the unimaginable grief of outliving their children. Worse yet, of watching them die.

As we watched the horror unfold, we felt as though it was happening to us-as indeed it was, for these United Nations are in a sense one family. But the blow that was struck at this international city was felt as directly by the rest of the world.

As people the world over stopped to watch in horror as the twin towers came down, the world's economies ground to a virtual halt.

Business activity stopped, investments withdrew, markets shrank, tourism dried up-and jobs were further lost, living standards dropped even further, destitution spread, the very conditions that favor terrorism spread and deepened. Our misgivings about a world slowing deepened into the certainty of a recession that will be felt most deeply by those least able to endure it. Not just classes but whole countries. The average G.D.P. growth rate of developing countries could fall from last year's 5.5% to 2.9%. For most poor countries that will translate to sub-zero growth.

Mr. President, the face of terrorism that this city saw over a month ago is a familiar one to Asians. It has taken a terrible toll in the lives of our people and in the economies of the region. It has destroyed our credit and deterred investments. It has caused Asian Governments profound embarrassment at being caught flat-footed and unable to offer their citizens the most basic security. In the southwestern part of the Philippines, it has taxed our resources and our patience to the limit. For terrorism is the argument of those who are not really interested in reasoning but only in getting whatever they want, on their terms alone.

We know terrorism. We are fighting it in southwestern Philippines. The perpetrators of the first attack on the World Trade Center were apprehended by our police.

Short of dismembering our country and dispossessing our people of their homes, we have been negotiating with secessionist groups.

But we have thrown the full weight of the law, including the use of force, at those who have resorted to terrorism.

We know the enemy and we know that these are not people you talk to; these are people you fight. As the Secretary-General has pointed out, "there are those who will hate and who will kill even if every injustice is ended."

You must fight them in the field, when they take to the field, and hunt them in cities when they hide inside.

It was in the light of this experience in southwestern Philippines that we immediately condemned the terrorist attacks on the United States, for we recognized them immediately as the desperate and despicable act of that violent minority which seeks to enslave the world with fear. And indeed they have given the world good reason to be afraid. The attack on the World Trade Center which aimed to take the lives of the 50,000 people who worked inside it shows us an enemy without pity, without compunction, prepared to use any means to achieve the greatest destruction.

The Philippines did not need to join the war on terrorism, it was in that war already, in the southwestern part of our islands. The Philippines could not have done otherwise than renew her commitment to fight terrorism in a wider field, in the wake of September 11. We know that this is an enemy that must be fought everywhere so that it cannot strike at will anywhere it pleases again.

This is a fight between tolerance and bigotry, between reason and fanaticism, between law and anarchy, between justice and murder pretending to be just. In that fight, there is no other side to choose but the one where the civilized nations of the world – long-time allies and former enemies – have chosen to stand united, not least here in this plenary hall.

The Secretary-General has declared that the September 11 attacks “struck at everything our organization stands for: peace, freedom, tolerance, human rights, and the very idea of a united human family.”

I don't know if the future belongs to our side, but I am convinced that there will be no future if our side does not prevail in this fight – at least no future that any of us will care to live in. In fact, it will not be a future in which most of us will be allowed to live. It is a future where happiness is suspect, delight is blasphemy, beauty is a cause for shame, and independent thought a capital crime.

But while terrorism cannot be placated, and no terrorist should not be appeased, there is no doubt in our minds either that we must address the concerns that they pretend are the inspiration of their terrible deeds.

“If the world can show that it will carry on, that it will persevere in creating a stronger, more just, more benevolent and more genuine international community across all lines of religion and race, then terrorism will have failed.”

No, terrorism will not stop but will have failed. To stop terrorism, the terrorists themselves will have to be stopped.

What we can do however is to strip them of their moral pretensions and take upon ourselves the causes that they have perverted.

No nation will indefinitely endure the yawning gap between rich and poor – a gap that is only growing bigger not just within but across the countries of the world. It is this growing disparity between the ever fewer richer and ever more poor that has given terrorism the freedom of movement and impunity from accountability that it has enjoyed.

Poverty can be reduced partly by national economic growth. But societies have to adopt deliberate policies to ensure that the income levels of the poor rise faster than those of the rich.

Recent developments in the global economy have displayed the perils of over-dependence on external markets. We must expand domestic demand and increase the purchasing power of the masses of our people.

This is largely the responsibility of each nation. We in the Philippines are addressing the affront of mass poverty through housing, education, lower medical costs, more efficient power, transportation and communications, infrastructure in the countryside, credit to small farmers and micro-industries, productivity, protection of the environment, and developing the areas farthest from our center of political power and economic activity.

The international community also has a responsibility for the elimination of poverty. The commitments to devote a certain percentage of GDP to official development assistance have a place. But the most effective and least costly

anti-poverty measure on a global scale is for developed countries to open their markets wider to the products of the developing countries, including particularly those products turned out by the poor people in the poor countries – agricultural commodities, textiles, clothing, and footwear, as well as electrical and electronic appliances and components.

The global trading system cannot allow developed countries to subsidize heavily their agricultural exports while the developing countries are without the means to help their own farmers.

The recent ministerial meeting of the world trade organization decided to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. To ensure that the WTO does not lose credibility at this crucial time, our top priority is to ensure that the Doha round is truly a development round.

The effort to conquer poverty must embrace all cultures, all ethnic groups, and all religious communities. The nation must allow all to preserve their own cultures.

We must make political autonomy accessible to regions that want it. At the same time, no one must be allowed to resort to terrorism to further their political aims.

Respect for culture and religion, resources for development, openness to political autonomy within the sovereignty of the nation, and rejection of terrorism are the foundations of the Philippine approach to our ethnic diversity and the uplifting of our Muslim and tribal minorities.

The vision of nations where poverty is rapidly reduced cannot be attained in places where women and girls are mistreated and their rights trampled upon. As the woman, Head of State, woman Head of Government and woman Commander-in-Chief of the world's 14th largest nation, I say: we cannot conquer poverty without liberating women and girls where they are oppressed. The gender gap is a part of the development gap and must be addressed with equal vigor.

The fight against terrorism, the struggle to eliminate poverty, the work on behalf of social and international justice, the strengthening of the rule of law, the promotion of tolerance and mutual respect, the practice of humanitarian compassion, the liberation of women, the never-ending toil for peace-these have long been on the UN agenda. We have been doing these in cooperation with our neighbors, in our region.

The heightened virulence of terrorism, the renewed sense of insecurity among the world's people, and the alarming slowdown in the global economy have intensified the urgency and importance of our work. Together, let us get on with the job. It is serious. It is essential. It is urgent.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech at the 56th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212519/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8758&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the 3rd National Congress of the Caucus of Development NGO Networks
(Code-NGO) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 3rd National Congress of the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (Code-NGO)**

[Delivered at the UP Diliman, Quezon City, November 30, 2001]

I am glad to be with you today in solidarity. It's such a good day to have this Code-NGO Affair. Because today is a day of heroism, the day of Andres Bonifacio.

Andres Bonifacio started the revolution of 1896. The revolution started was not just a revolution against the Spanish colonizer, it was also a revolution against poverty. And that is what you're doing, continuing the revolution against poverty so you are the heroes of the new millennium, the Andres Bonifacio of the new millennium.

We learned from the awards today — we didn't know it before — that Code-NGO was founded in the early days after EDSA-2. And for these past many years, Code-NGO has been a vanguard of civil society. Code-NGO has fought for democracy and good government. Code-NGO helped restore dignity to our nation in EDSA. Code-NGO has led the way in EDSA-1 individually and in EDSA-2 as a group together with other group that led to People Power-2.

You led the way and we, the politicians, followed.

Code-NGO played a crucial role as the secretariat of Kompil II, which was the spearhead of our struggle. That was the time when the NGOs and the political opposition got together. So in our unity, we gained strength and after several months, EDSA-2 occurred.

I want to extend my apologies if you feel that I stole your chairperson Dinky Soliman from you when I appointed her as Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, only to realize now that even your founding Chairperson has been taken away from you, she is now Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, that's Karina David. And even your current chairperson is not very far away from government.

This is perhaps the price we have to pay, and the price of Dinky and Karina have to pay for being leaders for change. And as you can see, Dinky and Karina are doing an excellent job in government.

Not to forget other leaders of Code-NGO like Danny himself and Ging Deles. I remember about this time last year, I had a dialogue with basic sector organizations in the University of the Philippines. And it was organized by Code-NGO. That was not the first time that I had such a dialogue, I had been having that as Senator and Vice President in my own venues. But that particular time was a special moment because it led to a coalition, a grand coalition, that led to where we are all today.

Indeed, it is important that in our work, you and I, even prior to your and my getting together that time last year, we had been consulting and listening to the concerns of people and groups that felt aggrieved and unheard.

Political leaders must have their ears close to the ground. Good governance is often a matter of listening well and responding with a clear mind, a stout heart, and a steady hand.

My dialogue with basic sector organizations at the U.P. together with you, organized by you, by Code-NGO, was truly a comprehensive orientation on your work. It contributed in a substantive way to the shaping of this administration national agenda. Because I remember that I found out from there, that the social reform agenda of

President Ramos was indeed contributed by the leaders of code-NGO. And all we really had to do was to look at the work that had been done and the work still left undone; and the work left undone is now our anti-poverty agenda.

These agenda straddle the full range of nation-building. Stretching across the affairs of the state and the affairs of the private sector. It is the agenda of civil society. It was the incident of May 1. Though well into our administration, that opened our eyes to a much larger segment of the poor, the unorganized poor, but are there in the underbelly of the metropolis.

We had a sense presence of this group. But May 1 showed us that we had not reached it as effectively as the others. Unlike organized people's organizations the concerns of this group are more basic. It does not bask in sophisticated policy pronouncement or reform. Its constituents do not ask for direct participation in government programs and decision-making processes. What they want are jobs, education, homes, and food on the table.

May 1 was a call for attention and action, I think not just government but for NGOs. The urgency was explicitly stated. There was a spate of violence, but beneath that anger, we saw, frustration and extreme desperation.

During my State of the Nation Address, my mind keeps leaping back to that event in May. And I asked myself, what were the roots of such explosive anger and indignation. I called for a moratorium on politicking to clear the landscape for reforms. But we do not only have to clear the landscape of excessive partisan politics; we also have to plant the seeds, more seeds of solidarity and social participation.

It is in this spirit that I commend Code-NGO for spearheading this very successful celebration of Social Development Week and for spearheading what so far has been a very successful launching of the peace bonds.

It is only fitting that your sector undertakes this celebration every so often. And it is only fitting that your sector undertakes the bonds to empower our constituents — yours and mine — in doing what they would have long ago been doing had they been so empowered.

Each one of the Code-GNO leaders and members are the prime movers of equity based development in our country. We need to reenergize — and we focus our concerns occasionally; and this is one good day to do it. We need to reinvigorate the spirit of volunteerism and active citizenship as our country goes through one of the most difficult periods in the history of the world — at least the recent history of the world. Because right now the global economy is in grave uncertainty. The most powerful economy of the world is in recession. There is an attrition in investments, consumption and jobs. The war against terrorism is unabated and citizens are challenged to look not upon the government but upon the collective resources of the community to sustain the path of positive change, reform and transformation.

In the past months that you and I have been in government — or at least many of you and I have been in government, what we have done together is unrelentingly to address poverty and uphold good governance. I have committed to work, with your support, for one million new jobs in agriculture within the next three years.

As of October 15, agriculture had generated over 136,000 jobs since the day of that commitment. We committed to distribute two hundred thousand hectares of private and public land for Agricultural Land Reform within the next 12 months. As of October 15, the Department of Agrarian Reform has been struggling with the distribution of over 17,000 hectares.

The problem is our budget deficit that we have keep down to P145 billion so that Lito Camacho will not have to suffer high inflation rates, high interest rates, a lower credit risk rating. And because of this, therefore, DAR is struggling to look for the funds to pay for the lands that they want to distribute over these next few months.

Yesterday, Ging Deles told me about a DPWH project whose social acceptance seems to be very low. And so I asked the DBM, Ging, if it's still possible to cancel that project and realign the funds to land reform instead? So this is what we are trying to do.

She said it depends on how far gone the contractors have started working on the project. I likewise committed to ensure that every barangay will have a school building. Survey and construction planning is now ongoing for 1,590 that do not have a school building.

We committed to provide funds for a hundred thousand affordable mass housing units. Pag-ibig has allocated P10 billion per year. The other GFLs committed a total of P15 billion but they're having a great difficulty of coming up with their commitments. And, first of all, because GSIS is sticking to individual financing for pre-designed housing. But yesterday I asked Secretary Lito Camacho to tell GSIS that they can't do this like this. They have to open up to all kinds of designs as long as the price is right. And therefore, they have to tie up with other agencies, LGUs, maybe even POs or NGOs so that we can have truly mass housing and not funding individual low cost housing.

The General Appropriations Bill for 2002 provides for another P3.7 billion for socialized housing. But if we are going to look at CISFA, the law that provided for socialized housing, even that is not enough; it should really be P5 billion. So this is the work that we have to do, that Lito Camacho has to do — look for the money to make up for these deficiencies.

In the meantime, I issued Executive Order 45 last October 25 prescribing the issuance of housing related certifications, clearances and permits. This aims to drastically reduce red tape in securing housing permits, so that now housing permits can be gotten in a period of three months rather than two and a half years.

Two weeks ago, together with Vicky Gatchitorena, another Code-NGO alumnae, I met with Hernando de Soto. We discussed how to spur our land to the landless programs and our small enterprise programs.

Starting January next year, Vicky will reduce her load in government, she will relinquish her PMS to another technocrat in government. And she will take on a number of special projects that are directly related to the work that she had been doing in Code-NGO. And one of them will be working with de Soto, not only to cut red tape and providing land to the landless, but also how to use Sub Rosa documents to bring the disadvantaged sectors out in the open and make them eligible for legal transactions.

This is a revolutionary concept that has been working in Latin America. And given that our country, our social structure is very Latin American, and with Vicky incharge, I am confident that this will also click in the Philippines.

We must set our mind in winning the war against poverty within this decade, and not some nebulous period in the far future. This has also something to do with the war against terrorism now. Because extreme poverty fuels the willingness of people to support terrorist activities.

We will accomplish the goal of fighting poverty and fighting terrorism while governing without fear or favor. I know that Code-NGO feels partly responsible for making me President of the Philippines. But I know that you will agree with me when I say that in my heart of hearts and in my conscience, I feel that I am beholden to no one except to god and to the people as a whole.

Even my husband, the favorite whipping boy of my political opponents, is not above the law. Any charge they hurl against him no matter how personally I think it's ridiculous, I still pass on to another body that is not within my constitutional control even if I consider the issues against him as an occupational hazard of politics.

We have agreed between him and me to have any issues against him investigated by, as I said, a constitutionally independent body were the evidence, if any, can be examined with objectivity and transparency. Perhaps because in the course of examination, the charges against him are turning out to be made up after all, now the target is no longer my husband, it is now me, myself. But I can tell you with a clear conscience that what I was before when you knew me, and that's why you decided that I'm just as good as anybody that you can work for to try to lead the country in a new era, that's still the way I am. I am still as honest and a person of integrity as my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal was, and raised me to be.

I became President on the shoulders of People Power. And so, as I said, my loyalty is not to any one group, but to the entire citizenry. I am not making decisions to gain votes in the year 2004. I believe that the presidency is a matter of destiny. How can I not believe that? Was it not destiny that made me President in January 20th? And so therefore my agenda is to ensure that we will end this administration with major accomplishments of fundamental and historic value in terms of nation building, in terms of the welfare of the people.

All I wish, as I said, on my first working day in Malacañang, is to be a good public servant and a good President. I know you will continue to help me be a good President. Civil society is the conscience of society. And I know that you will continue to point out what is wrong, and call attention to unfulfilled promises. We are counting on you to perform these tasks because we can never truly achieve good governance without being partners in quest of truth and right. However, government needs responsible fiscalizers. Without objective and accurate data, and solid alternatives to policy, advocacy at times becomes cheap sloganeering and fault finding. But that is what's good about Code-NGO. You go beyond that. In fact, you don't indulge in that. Instead of demagoguery, partisan sales talk, or trumped up charges, what you work on are facts, proposals, programs, new ideas forged in the crucible of enlightened debate. We do not need wild accusations that serve to demoralize the civil service rather than clean up the bureaucracy. In fact, now with the peace bonds, as father Vasquez said, the controversial peace bonds, now the shoe is on the other foot. You know what it's like to be at the receiving end of wild accusations.

I therefore ask you to lead in raising the standard of advocacy once again to the point that we can make government intently listen and become engaged in constructive policy discourse. I also ask you, as the largest network of NGOs in the country, to continue to help forge greater unity within civil society.

You've survived more than a decade of maintaining a diverse coalition of Non-Government Organizations. You have served as a model of coalition building in our country. I ask you to use this experience to continue and expand building bridges among civil society groups whose differences have once again become more and more pronounced. While I understand that the power of civil society lies in diversity, we know that too much diversity can result in a din of incoherence, in a Tower of Babel. Our country does not need that. Our country needs unity. And Code NGO, as it has led in the past, as it leads in the present, can now lead the way in bringing about unity once again in civil society. We must enhance our social capital as a nation. The foundation of our democracy is strong. Ultimately, it is our collective sense of values — courage, honesty, perseverance — that will fuel our productivity and bring us to prosperity.

You have helped bring this government to power. You have helped achieve this goal. Our administration shares your fight. So many of you are in the administration, to begin with. So we share a common vision. We share a common aspiration for the poor. Because this vision and the aspiration have, in fact, been shaped, in large degree, by Code-NGO.

Your colleagues who have joined us in government, your rich experience in development work, helped us to craft policies that will heighten the impact and spread the value of your work to other parts of the nation. Help us transfer land to the tiller, respect the ancestral domain of indigenous peoples, protect the fishing ground of our fisherfolk. Share with us your experiences in giving dignity to persons with disabilities and fighting for equal opportunities that women deserve.

But most of all help create more jobs, build homes and make food available at the table of our most depressed brethren.

In the end, our success will be measured by the number of people whose lives we have uplifted to whom we have brought back the power to determine their future and destiny.

I am confident that as you have done in the past, rising to all your challenges, you will rise to the new challenge of having the opportunity to share power with an administration. Let us all shape a sustainable future for all.

Congratulations to NGO. And on this day of heroes for the poor, may Code-NGO continued to be a hero for all, a hero of civil society in the Philippines.

Congratulations and thank you

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech at the 3rd National Congress of the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (Code-NGO). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212449/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8756&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the Urban Poor and Labor Sector Assembly [Filipino]

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Urban Poor and Labor Sector Assembly [Filipino]**

[Delivered at the Folk Arts Theater, November 30, 2001]

Binabati ko kayong lahat na nakikiisa ngayon sa ating paggunita ng 138th birthday ng ating bayaning si Gat Andres Bonifacio. Siguro naalaala natin, hindi natin makalimutan, na si Bonifacio ang nagsimula ng pakikibaka ng mga anak pawis para sa kalayaan ng mga mamamayang Pilipino mula sa pananakop ng mga dayuhan.

Ang pakikibakang inilunsad niya at ng mga Katipunero ay siya ring ugat ng pagsilang ng ating Bayan Pilipinas. Siya ang nagsimula ng ating himagsikan noong 1896, si Andres Bonifacio. Ang kasaysayan ng ating pambansang himagsikan ay nagsimula sa puso ng bayaning ating binibigyan ng parangal itong araw na ito. Si Bonifacio at ang kanyang mga kasamang katipunero ay nagbuwis ng kanilang buhay sa pagtatanggol sa mga dukha at pagtataguyod ng bansang kalayaan.

Ang mithiin sa kalayaan ay kakambal ng paglaban sa kahirapan. Iyan ang leksiyon natin kay Andres Bonifacio kasi nga si Andres Bonifacio ang nagsimula ng himagsikan ng 1896 kontra sa mga dayuhan. Ngunit dahil siyasa mga maralita, alam natin hindi lamang dayuhan ang kanyang nilalabanan sa kanyang himagsikan. Nilalabanan din niya ang kanyang hangarin na masugpo ang kahirapan ng ating bansa.

Kaya dalawang bahagi ang kanyang rebolusyon. Iyong revolution of the masses niya, rebolusyon kontra sa mga Kastila, at rebolusyon kontra sa kahirapan. At noon at hanggang ngayon, patuloy ang ating pakikibaka laban sa kahirapan upang mapabuti ang kabuhayan ng sambayanang Pilipino at patibayin ang pundasyon ng ating kalayaan.

Noong 1898, nagkaroon ng tagumpay iyong himagsik na sinimula ni Andres Bonifacio dahil napalaya tayo mula sa mga Kastila. Ngunit iyong isang bahagi ng kanyang rebolusyon ay hindi pa rin natatapos, iyong ating kalayaan kontra sa kahirapan.

Ang ating pagka-bansa at pangarap ng isang magandang kinabukasan para sa lahat ng Pilipino ay sinimulang bigyan buhay ni Andres Bonifacio. Iyon ngang kanyang himagsikan, ang tawag Revolt of the Masses. Dahil siya, kinatawan niya ang mga anak pawis at siya ay tinagurian the Great Plebian. Doon kasi sa Roma noong panahong Roman Empire may dalawang uri: iyong mga Patrician — iyon ang mga aristokrata; at iyong mga Plebian — iyong karaniwang mamamayan. Kaya si Bonifacio ang tinatawag nating the Great Plebian.

Iyong himagsikan ni Bonifacio na natapos iyong himagsikan kontra sa dayuhan pero hindi pa natapos iyong himagsikan kontra sa kahirapan. Iyon ang naging inspirasyon ng aking ama, si Diosdado Macapagal. Dahil si Diosdado Macapagal ang tanging Pangulo na nagmula sa hanay ng mga maralita.

Iyon ang kanyang sinasabi, naalala ko iyong tatay ko. Noong siya ay naging Pangulo, iyan ang sinabi niya. Ang rebolusyon ni Bonifacio ay hindi natapos. Nakamit ang kalayaan mula sa Kastila ngunit hindi ang kalayaan mula sa kahirapan. Kaya ang tatay ko, iyon ang ginusto niyang ituloy, iyong himagsikan kontra sa kahirapan.

Kaya si Bonifacio ay nanggaling sa hanay ng mga Plebian. Ang tatay ko naman ay nanggaling sa hanay ng mga maralitang taga-bukid, anak ng isang magsasakang kasama. Kaya ang tatay ko, ang pangunahing hangarin niya sa

konketrong mga prinsipiyo ay ipaglaban ang Land Reform Law upang bigyang laya ang mga magsasaka sa pagkakagapos sa lupa. At upang ipagpatuloy sa mapayapang paraan ang rebolusyon ni Bonifacio.

At ako naman, anak ako ng aking ama. Kaya minana ko rin ang hangarin ng aking ama. Kaya naman noong ako ay maupo bilang Pangulo, sinabi ko na ang bibigyang prioridad natin ay ang paglaban kontra sa kahirapan. Para marinig ng mga taga ILO, the elimination of poverty is our unfinished business from the past dating back from the creation of our Republic whose seeds were sown in the revolution launched in 1896 by the Plebian Andres Bonifacio. It was an unfinished business for up to today poverty remain our national problem.

Ang mga sakripisyo at paghihirap nila Bonifacio, ng kanyang mga kasamang katipunero, at ng iba pa nating mga bayani ang dapat maging gabay natin para mapabuti ang kalagayan ng ating mga kababayan. Matatag nating harapin ang mga hamon ng kasalukuyang panahon at magkapit-bisig tayo at magtulungan. Magtulungan tayo para wakasan na ang kahirapan sa ating bayan.

Sa panahong ito ng ilang kaguluhan na dulot ng pag-atake ng mga terorista noong September 11, higit na kailangan ang pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan. Ngayon, ang mga kondisyon ng pangdaigdig na ekonomiya ay walang katiyakan. Kaya lalo tayong dapat umasa sa ating sariling sikap, sa ating sariling talino, sa ating sariling ekonomiya.

Kaya ang aking panawagan sa lahat ay huwag na nating dagdagan pa ang ating mga problema. Manatili tayo sa hangganan ng demokratikong espasyo at bigyan natin ng pagkakataon ang demokratikong proseso sa ating paglaban sa kahirapan at paglutas ng mga suliranin at hidwaan.

Sa bahagi ng pamahalaan, patuloy nating bubuksan ang iba't ibang paraan ng konsultasyon at diyalogo sa iba't ibang sektor ng ating lipunan. Kailangang itugon natin ang character ng ating pulitika, iyong bagong pulitika ng mga programa at proseso ng pakikipagkonsultasyon sa taongbayan.

Maging masigasig tayong lahat sa pagbantay para alagaan ang ating mga demokratikong institusyon at paraan na siyang gabay ko sa pagpapatakbo ng ating pamahalaan.

Inumpishan natin ang paglaban sa kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng serye ng mga konsultasyon at diyalogo sa mga manggagawa at maralitang taga lungsod, matiyak ang tunay na hinaing at pangangailangan. At itong araw na ito ay mahalaga sa layunin nating iyan dahil itong araw na ito nagsama-sama tayong muli sa okasyong ito, nagsama-sama ang iba't ibang uri ng mga manggagawa – mula sa mga employed workers sa industriya, mula sa mga agrikultura at serbisyo. Iyong mga self-employed, pati iyong mga manggagawang may sariling hanapbuhay, at pati iyong mga manggagawang walang hanapbuhay, magkasama tayo itong araw na ito.

Ang iba't ibang sektor na ito ang bumubuo ng karamihan rin ng mga maralitang taga lungsod.

Sa inyong harapan ngayon mga kinatawan ng mga ahensiya ng ating pamahalaan na may kinalaman sa paghatid ng batayang serbisyo sa mga mamamayan sa larangan ng kabuhayan, kalusugan, paninirahan. Nandito sila para maalaala sa araw ng Great Plebian na tungkulin nilang magkonsulta sa sektor ng manggagawa at maralitang taga-lungsod sa antas na national at regional.

Mula sa mga konsultasyon ito ay mabibigyan ng konkretong anyo ang konsepto ng saligang benepisyo para sa mga formal at informal workers.

At sa aking panig, lahat ang aking kilos kahit iyong pagbiyahe ko sa Amerika, sa Malaysia, sa Hapon, sa Singapore, sa Brunei, ang nilalayan ay lumawak ang trabaho para sa mga mamamayang Pilipino.

Salamat sa inyo pang mga panukala at rekomendasyon. Ayon sa inyong rekomendasyon, idedeklara ko ang taong 2002 bilang Sentenaryo ng Kilusang Paggawa sa Pilipinas bilang pagkilala sa mahalagang papel ng labor movement sa ating ekonomiya, pulitika at seguridad ng bansa.

Dahil gaya ng ating naalala ngayon, unang tinatag ang unyon sa Pilipinas noong 1902 sa pangunguna ng magiting na misyonistang si Isabelo Delos Reyes.

Ang Department of Labor ay bumuo ng isang komite na mangangasiwa sa preparasyon ng nasabing selebrasyon. At inaatasan ko ang Office ng Presidential Adviser for Social Concern na makipag-ugnayan sa DOLE para maging mas lalong matagumpay ang naturang pagdiriwang.

Sa atin paglingon sa nakaraang sandaang taon na mayroon tayong labor movemet, makikita natin ang mga sakripisyong ginawa ng ating mga labor leaders. Inialay nila ang kanilang kabataan at habang buhay na commitment para sa manggagawang Pilipino. Yung mga pangalan na Johnny Tan at Democrito Mendoza, nang doon na iyon sa kasaysayan ng labor movement at ekonomiya ng ating bansa. Ang kanilang pagsisikap hindi dapat masayang; pagsikap ng ating labor movement leaders, pagsikap ng ating mga bayani yung nakaraang isang daan na mayroon tayong labor movement. Kailangan ding makilala ang ating mga manggagawa hindi lamang bilang pagtanggol ng inyong mga karapatan, kung hindi bilang epektibong kabalikat sa paghangad sa kasaganaan para sa lahat.

Kaugnay dito, irerekomenda ko na tingnan ninyo ang mga sumusunod na isyu bilang basehan ng mag pag-uusap. Una, nararapat nating suriin ang ating mga patakaran kung papano mapalawak ang trabaho na nagbibigay ng tunay na living wage. Ano ba itong mga trabahong ito? Ano ba itong mga industriyang ito? Yun ang ating ipairal sa Siglo Beinte-Uno.

Isa na nga dito ang Information and Communications Technology. At kailangan suriin natin kung papaanong makakadagdag ng non-wage benefits para umangat ang kaginhawaan ng ating mga manggagawa. Pangalawa, dapat din natin pag-aralan mabuti ang kakayahan Manggagawa na makasanay sa mga bagong trabahong na binibigyan ng pagkakataon sa mabilis na pagpapalit ng dalawang teknolohiya ng Siglo Beinte-Uno. Sa ganoon, maiiwasan natin yung manggagawang na-entrap siya doon sa kakayahang niyang gawin; at kung ang industriya niya ay hindi na kailangan sa ating mundo, wala na siyang magagawa. Dapat iwasan natin ang situwasyon na iyan. Iyan ang tinatawag na alienation of labor. At pangatlo, dapat nating makita ang kaibhan ng tahanan at lugar na puwedeng tigilan na malapit sa trabaho. Alam kong marami ang umaayaw na mailipat sa ibang lugar dahil napapalayo sa trabaho. Habang dumarami ang mga tao sa mga urban center, kahit lumalaki itong mga urban center na ito ay kailangan palawakin nga natin itong mga urban center na ito. Maglagay tayo ng mga imprastraktura upang lumawak talaga ang ginhawa sa urban center.

Halimbawa, dahil masyadong masikip ang Metro Manila, nakikita ko na hindi magtatagal na ang Metro Manila ay magiging Mega Manila. Itong Metro Manila magiging Mega Manila ay aabot hanggang sa Clark at Subic sa hilaga, at sa Calabarzon at Batangas Port sa katimugan. Iyon ay magiging isang Mega Manila lamang. At bilang preparasyon dito, minamadali na rin natin ang proyekto ng mass transit para mapabilis ang pagtungo sa trabaho at pag-uwi ng mga manggagawa saan man kayo nakatira dito sa Mega Manila. Sa ganitong paraan, saan man sa Mega Manila ang inyong lugar ng hanapbuhay ay mabilis pa rin kayong makakarating sa inyong lugar mula sa inyong tinitirahan.

Marami pa tayong kailangang gawin para sa kapakanan ng ating mga manggagawa. Pasiglahin din natin ang pagpapatayo ng mga tripartite bodies, iyon ang binanggit kanina nang mga nagsasagawa ng performance audit, at may rekomendasyon sa programa at personnel ng DOLE at National Labor Relations Commission.

Palakas din natin ang programa para sa employment generation, human resource development at job preservation, maging pampubliko man o pribado.

Kanina ang lakas-lakas ng palakpak noong sinabing maghanap ng pandagdag na hanapbuhay. Ang gusto kong ipaalala sa inyo ay mayroon tayong micro-finance, dalawang bilyon yata iyong kapital ng micro-finance. Sana magkaroon ng paraan kung papaano iyong mga grupo dito, mga organisasyon dito ay makaabot kayo doon sa programa ng micro-finance na iyon. Ito ay para sa mga kababaihan. Kaya palagay ko iyon ang isang malaking trabahong kailangan gawin ni Percy na ma-organize kayo — organized naman kayo — pero ma-organize para maka-access itong micro-finance na ito.

Ang ginagawa nating pagtulong sa ating mga kapatid na maralitang taga lungsod sa pamamagitan ng presidential proclamation and community mortgage program ay tumutugon din sa pangangailangan ng ating mga manggagawa na karamihan ay nasa mga maralitang komunidad.

Sa madaling panahon, may mga maralitang komunidad tayong pinuproklama bilang tirahan ng mga informal settlers. Sabi nyo, sana maglagay ng isang malaking community sa Rizal na mayroong amenities. Mayroon ng isang malaking community sa Rizal, iyong Montalban. Ang kulang ay iyong mga amenities. Kaya noong isa muli nagkaroon ng konsultasyon sa mga maralitang taga-lungsod ay binigyan ng inyong lingkod mula sa President's Social Fund, ang National Anti-Poverty Commission, si Ging Deles, ng P40 million para maglagay ng amenities doon sa Montalban.

At ngayon sabi ni Mike Defensor, ay mayroon ng elementary school, tinatayo na iyong mga.... At iba pang pangangailangan sa ganoon iyon na nga ang maging pinakamalaking community for resettlement ng ating urban poor.

Pero dito sa loob ng Metro Manila mismo — kasi iyong Montalban Mega Manila na iyan, Rizal na iyan. Pero dito sa loob ng Metro Manila, mayroon pa rin kinukumpleto na staff work para sa mga maralitang komunidad para maproklama bilang puwede ninyong bilhin ang lupang tinitirahan ninyo. Kabilang dito ang pag-aaring lupa ng GSIS sa D. Ampil Street, sa P. Burgos Extension, sa Quintin Extension, at Pureza Interior, na pawang nasa Sta. Mesa, Manila; ang lupang pag-aari ng BCDA — sixth and seventh sa Libis, Quezon City; at lupang pag-aari ng Napocor sa PVA, Bagong Silang, Sucat, Paranaque City. Ito ang bahagi ng mga halimbawa na sinasabi nating pag-abot sa saligang benepisyo na kailangan ng mga manggagawa. At maaaring ang pag-package na tulong ng gobyerno ay sa pamamagitan din ng mga benepisong makakabawas sa gastusin ng mga manggagawa.

Inuulit ko rin ang utos ko tungkol sa moratorium sa mga demolisyon sa mga lupang pag-aari ng gobyerno na walang kagyat na paggagamitan. Dapat ang lupa ay pag-aari ng gobyerno ay walang demolisyon kung walang maayos na relokalasyon.

Kaya kung sinong public work ang lumabag doon isumbong nyo kay Percy Chavez para mapag-usapan sa Cabinet. Iyong clinic day na hiningi ninyo, magkakaroon din tayo ng clinic day sa mga bawat maralitang komunidad para sa libreng konsultasyon sa doktor at libreng gamot sa araw na iyon.

Iyong Kadiwa Store, ang gagawin natin ay magpapasada ng mga rolling store sa mga maralitang komunidad para sa mga basic commodities lalo na ang bigas na kailangan ng isang pamilya na mabibili sa murang halaga. Hinahabol din natin ang may koriyente at malinis na tubig na dumadaloy mula sa mga gripo sa ating mga depressed communities.

Sa katunayan, noong ako ay nagbisita sa Rawis, di ba? Ano, nabayaran na iyong koriyente ninyo? Nabalik na ba iyong koriyente? Pero hindi na nakaputol. Kasi nga ang problema, collection, dahil iyong metro isa lamang. Kaya pinutulan matagal na, so binayaran na lang ng Malakanyang iyong nakaraang utang. Pero puwede ba, pagbalik ng mga metro, kayo na ang babayad ng mga susunod na bill, ha? Sa kabila, pina-iimbistiga ko ang mga sindikatong nagnanakaw ng mga lupain at gumagawa ng mga pekeng titulo, ang pangloloko sa ating mga kababayang mahihirap. Ito ay sa pamamagitan ng Land Registration Authority. Kaya hinihingi ko rin kay Percy na paalala kay Justicena pinuno ng LRA na dapat magtayo ng investigating body sa mga fake titles, lalo na iyong mga tinitirahan ng maralitang taga-lungsod.

Ang lahat ng ito ay ginagawa natin bilang bahagi ng kampanya laban sa kahirapan. Ngunit magtatagumpay lamang ang lahat ng ito at iba pang kailangan gawin kung tayo ay patuloy na magtutulungan. Kaya humihingi ako ng inyong tulong. Hinihiling ko na ako ay inyong tulungan sa buong panahon na ako ay pangulo ng ating bansa dahil ito naman ay para inyong ikabubuti. At dahil naman ito ay para sa magandang kinabukasan ng inyong mga anak.

Inuulit ko ang aking panawagan para sa moratorium sa politicking. Dahil ang moratorium na ito ay mas kinakailangan ngayon lalo na ang pangamba ng terorismo ay nagpapahina ng ekonomiya ng ating mundo. Bagamat

hindi kayo pulitiko, alam kong naniniwala kayo na mas magiging madali ang ating paglaban sa terorismo at kahirapan kung ititigil ang mga banggaan at lahat ay nagkakaisa.

Kapag tayong mga Pilipino ay nagkaisa, doon lamang natin mawawakasan ang dinadanas nating kahirapan. Marami pang mga pagsubok ang naghihintay sa atin. Sa ating pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan, doon lamang malalampasan natin ang lahat ng ito at doon lamang natin magagawang maunlad at masagana ang ating bayan.

Si Andres Bonifacio at ang mga Katipunero ay sinakripisyo ang kanilang buhay upang tayo ay maging malaya. Nararapat lamang na ipakita nating lahat na tayo rin ay may pagmamahal at nagmamalasakit sa... hindi hinihingi ng kasalukuyang panahon na tayo ay magbuwis ng buhay tulad nila Bonifacio. Ang kailangan ay maging masipag tayo at makipagtulungan upang makamit ang tunay na tagumpay ng mga programang ito.

Ang tagumpay sa pamahalaan sa paglaban sa terorismo at kahirapan, sa pagkakaroon ng katahimikan at kapayapaan sa ating bansa, sa pagsugpo sa katiwalian at anomalya, ay tagumpay din noong lahat at ng sambayanang Pilipino. Tiyakin natin na ang tagumpay ng sambayanang pilipino at para na rin nating tinupad ang pangarap ni Andres Bonifacio.

Kaya itong araw na ito, Happy Birthday kay Andres Bonifacio, ipagpatuloy natin ang kanyang laban para sa kalayaan kontra ng kahirapan.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech at the Urban Poor and Labor Sector Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212503/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8759&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 3rd National Congress of the Caucus of Development-NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), November 30, 2001

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 3rd National Congress of the Caucus of Development-NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)**

[Delivered in U.P. Diliman, Quezon City, November 30, 2001]

CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT: PARTNERS IN NATION-BUILDING

I am glad to be with you today in solidarity, it's such a good day to have this CODE-NGO affair. Because today is a day of heroism, the day of Andres Bonifacio.

Andres Bonifacio started the Revolution of 1896. The revolution started was not just a revolution against the Spanish colonizer, it was also a revolution against poverty. And that is what you're doing, continuing the revolution against poverty so you are the heroes of the new millennium, the Andres Bonifacio of the new millennium.

We learned from the awards today — we didn't know it before — that CODE-NGO was founded in the early days after EDSA 2. And for these past many years, CODE-NGO has been a vanguard of civil society. CODE-NGO has fought for democracy and good government. CODE-NGO helped restore dignity to our nation in EDSA. CODE-NGO has led the way in EDSA 1 individually and in EDSA 2 as a group together with other groups that led to People Power 2. You led the way and we, the politicians, followed.

CODE-NGO played a crucial role as the Secretariat of KOMPIL II, which was the spearhead of our struggle. That was the time when the NGOs and the political opposition got together. So in our unity, we gained strength and after several months, EDSA 2 occurred.

I want to extend my apologies if you feel that I stole your Chairperson Dinky Soliman from you when I appointed her as Secretary of Social Welfare and Development; only to realize now that even your founding chairperson has been taken away from you, she is now Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, that's Karina David. And even your current chairperson is not very far away from government.

This is perhaps the price we have to pay, and the price of Dinky and Karina have to pay for being leaders for change. And as you can see, Dinky and Karina are doing excellent jobs in government.

Not to forget other leaders of CODE-NGO like Danny himself and Ging Deles. I remember about this time last year, I had a dialogue with basic sector organizations in the University of the Philippines. And it was organized by CODE-NGO. That was not the first time that I had such a dialogue, I had been having that as senator and vice-president in my own venues. But that particular time was a special moment because it led to a coalition, a grand coalition, that led to where we are all today.

Indeed, it is important that in our work, you and I, even prior to your and my getting together that time last year, we had been consulting and listening to the concerns of people and groups that felt aggrieved and unheard.

Political leaders must have their ears close to the ground. Good governance is often a matter of listening well and responding with a clear mind, a stout heart, and a steady hand.

My dialogue with basic sector organizations at the U.P. together with you, organized by you, by CODE-NGO, was truly a comprehensive orientation on your work. It contributed in a substantive way to the shaping of this administration's national agenda. Because I remember that I found out from there that the Social Reform Agenda of

President Ramos was indeed contributed by the leaders of CODE-NGO. And all we really had to do was to look at the work that had been done and the work still left undone. And the work left undone is now our Anti-Poverty Agenda.

These agenda straddle the full range of nation-building. Stretching across the affairs of the state and the affairs of the private sector. It is the agenda of civil society. It was the incident of May 1. Though well into our administration, that opened our eyes to a much larger segment of the poor, the unorganized poor, but are there in the underbelly of the metropolis.

We had a sense presence of this group. But May 1 showed us that we had not reached it as effectively as the others. Unlike organized people's organizations, the concerns of this group are more basic. It does not bask in sophisticated policy pronouncement or reform. Its constituents do not ask for direct participation in government programs and decision-making processes. What they want are jobs, education, homes, and food on the table.

May 1 was a call for attention and action, I think not just from the government but also from NGOs. The urgency was explicitly stated. There was a spate of violence, but beneath that anger, we saw frustration and extreme desperation.

During my State of the Nation Address, my mind kept leaping back to that event in May. And I asked myself, what were the roots of such explosive anger and indignation. I called for a moratorium on politicking to clear the landscape for reforms. But we do not only have to clear the landscape of excessive partisan politics; we also have to plant the seeds, more seeds of solidarity and social participation.

It is in this spirit that I commend CODE-NGO for spearheading this very successful celebration of Social Development Week and for spearheading what so far has been a very successful launching of the peace bonds.

It is only fitting that your sector undertakes this celebration every so often. And it is only fitting that your sector undertakes the bonds to empower our constituents — yours and mine — in doing what they would have long ago been doing had they been so empowered.

Each one of the CODE-NGO leaders and members are the prime movers of equity-based development in our country. We need to reenergize and we focus our concerns occasionally and this is one good day to do it. We need to reinvigorate the spirit of volunteerism and active citizenship as our country goes through one of the most difficult periods in the history of the world at least the recent history of the world. Because right now the global economy is in grave uncertainty. The most powerful economy in the world is in recession. There is an attrition in investments, consumption and jobs. The war against terrorism is unabated and citizens are challenged to look not upon the government but upon the collective resources of the community to sustain the path of positive change, reform and transformation.

In the past months that you and I have been in government or at least many of you and I have been in government, what we have done together is unrelentingly to address poverty and uphold good governance. I have committed to work, with your support, for one million new jobs in agriculture within the next three years.

As of October 15, agriculture had generated over 136,000 jobs since the day of that commitment. We committed to distribute 200,000 hectares of private and public land for agricultural land reform within the next 12 months. As of October 15, the Department of Agrarian Reform has been struggling with the distribution of over 17,000 hectares.

The problem is our budget deficit that we have kept down to Php145 billion so that Lito Camacho will not have to suffer high inflation rates, high interest rates, and a lower credit risk rating. And because of this, therefore, DAR is struggling to look for the funds to pay for the lands that they want to distribute over these next few months.

Yesterday, Ging Deles told me about a DPWH project whose social acceptance seems to be very low. And so I asked the DBM if it's still possible to cancel that project and realign the funds to land reform instead. So this is what we are trying to do.

She said it depends on how far the contractors have started working on the project. I likewise committed to ensure that every barangay will have a school building. Survey and construction planning is now ongoing for 1,590 that do not have a school building.

We committed to provide funds for a hundred thousand affordable mass housing units. PAG-IBIG has allocated Php10 billion per year. The other GFIs committed a total of Php15 billion but they're having a great difficulty of coming up with their commitments. And, first of all, because GSIS is sticking to individual financing for pre-designed housing. But yesterday I asked Secretary Lito Camacho to tell GSIS that they can't do it like this. They have to open up to all kinds of designs as long as the price is right. And therefore, they have to tie up with other agencies, LGUs, maybe even POs or NGOs so that we can have truly mass housing and not funding individual low-cost housing.

The General Appropriations Bill for 2002 provides for another Php3.7 billion for socialized housing. But if we are going to look at CISFA, the law that provided for socialized housing, even that is not enough. It should really be Php5 billion. So this is the work that we have to do, that Lito Camacho has to do – look for the money to make up for these deficiencies.

In the meantime, I issued Executive Order No. 45 last October 25 prescribing the issuance of housing-related certifications, clearances and permits. This aims to drastically reduce red tape in securing housing permits, so that now housing permits can be gotten in a period of three months rather than two and a half years.

Two weeks ago, together with Vicky Garchitorena, another CODE-NGO alumnae, I met with Hernando de Soto. We discussed how to spur our land to the landless programs and our small enterprise programs.

Starting January next year, Vicky will reduce her load in government, she will relinquish her PMS to another technocrat in government. And she will take on a number of special projects that are directly related to the work that she had been doing in CODE-NGO. And one of them will be working with de Soto, not only to cut red tape and providing land to the landless, but also how to use *sub rosa* documents to bring the disadvantaged sectors out in the open and make them eligible for legal transactions.

This is a revolutionary concept that has been working in Latin America. And given that our country, our social structure is very Latin American, and with Vicky as in-charge, I am confident that this will also click in the Philippines.

We must set our mind in winning the war against poverty within this decade, and not some nebulous period in the far future. This has also something to do with the war against terrorism now because extreme poverty fuels the willingness of people to support terrorist activities.

We will accomplish the goal of fighting poverty and fighting terrorism while governing without fear or favor. I know that CODE-NGO feels partly responsible for making me President of the Philippines. But I know that you will agree with me when I say that in my heart of hearts and in my conscience, I feel that I am beholden to no one except to God and to the people as a whole.

Even my husband, the favorite whipping boy of my political opponents, is not above the law. Any charge they hurl against him no matter how personally I think is ridiculous, I still pass on to another body that is not within my constitutional control even if I consider the issues against him as an occupational hazard of politics.

We have agreed, between him and me, to have any issues against him investigated by, as I said, a constitutionally independent body where the evidence, if any, can be examined with objectivity and transparency. Perhaps because

in the course of examination, the charges against him are turning out to be made-up after all, now the target is no longer my husband, it is now me, myself. But I can tell you with a clear conscience that what I was before when you knew me, and that's why you decided that I'm just as good as anybody that you can work for to try to lead the country in a new era, that's still the way I am. I am still as honest and a person of integrity as my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal was, and raised me to be.

I became President on the shoulders of People Power. And so, as I said, my loyalty is not to any one group, but to the entire citizenry. I am not making decisions to gain votes in the year 2004. I believe that the presidency is a matter of destiny. How can I not believe that? Was it not destiny that made me president on January 20. And so therefore my agenda is to ensure that we will end this administration with major accomplishments of fundamental and historic value in terms of nation-building, in terms of the welfare of the people.

All I wish, as I said, on my first working day in Malacañang, is to be a good public servant and a good president. I know you will continue to help me be a good president. Civil society is the conscience of society. And I know that you will continue to point out what is wrong, and call attention to unfulfilled promises. We are counting on you to perform these tasks because we can never truly achieve good governance without being partners in quest of truth and right. However, government needs responsible fiscalizers. Without objective and accurate data, and solid alternatives to policy, advocacy at times becomes cheap sloganeering and faultfinding. But that is what's good about CODE-NGO. You go beyond that. In fact, you don't indulge in that. Instead of demagoguery, partisan sales talk, or trumped up charges, what you work on are facts, proposals, programs, new ideas forged in the crucible of enlightened debate. We do not need wild accusations that serve to demoralize the civil service rather than clean up the bureaucracy. In fact, now with the peace bonds, as Father Vasquez said, the controversial peace bonds, now the shoe is on the other foot. You know what it's like to be at the receiving end of wild accusations.

I therefore ask you to lead in raising the standard of advocacy once again to the point that we can make government intently listen and become engaged in constructive policy discourse. I also ask you, as the largest network of NGOs in the country, to continue to help forge greater unity within civil society.

You've survived more than a decade of maintaining a diverse coalition of non-government organizations. You have served as a model of coalition-building in our country. I ask you to use this experience to continue and expand building bridges among civil society groups whose differences have once again become more and more pronounced. While I understand that the power of civil society lies in diversity, we know that too much diversity can result in a din of incoherence, in a Tower of Babel. Our country does not need that. Our country needs unity. And CODE-NGO, as it has led in the past, as it leads in the present, can now lead the way in bringing about unity once again in civil society. We must enhance our social capital as a nation. The foundation of our democracy is strong. Ultimately, it is our collective sense of values — courage, honesty, perseverance — that will fuel our productivity and bring us to prosperity.

You have helped bring this government to power. You have helped achieve this goal. Our administration shares your fight. So many of you are in the administration to begin with. So we share a common vision. We share a common aspiration for the poor. Because this vision and aspiration have, in fact, been shaped, in large degree, by CODE-NGO.

Your colleagues who have joined us in government, your rich experience in development work, helped us to craft policies that will heighten the impact and spread the value of your work to other parts of the nation. Help us transfer lands to the tiller, respect the ancestral domain of indigenous peoples, protect the fishing ground of our fisherfolk. Share with us your experiences in giving dignity to persons with disabilities and fighting for equal opportunities that women deserve.

But most of all, help create more jobs, build homes, and make food available at the table of our most depressed brethren.

In the end, our success will be measured by the number of people whose lives we have uplifted to whom we have brought back the power to determine their future and destiny.

I am confident that as you have done in the past, rising to all your challenges, you will rise to the new challenge of having the opportunity to share power with an administration. Let us all shape a sustainable future for all.

Congratulations to CODE-NGO. And on this day of heroes for the poor, may CODE-NGO continue to be a hero for all, a hero of civil society in the Philippines.

Congratulations and thank you.

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the National Socio-Economic Summit Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the National Socio-Economic Summit**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, December 10, 2001]

I thank you all for the many weeks of hard thinking and earnest dialogue that you put into this summit. A good summit such as what we are having today is not a one day affair. It starts with many weeks of consultation, preparation, iteration, vetting. Finally, when we get together in the summit itself, it is a day when we affirm the agreements that we have arrived.

I thank especially the members of Congress starting with Senator Blas Ople for this idea. It was his idea to convene this gathering to address the challenges thrust upon the nation by the global economic crisis, particularly in the wake of the September 11 attack.

Allow me to start with candor and straightforwardness, for urgent matters are afoot and I do not wish to tarry. Some people have begun to criticize our meeting as just another exercise in hot air and propaganda. They say it is just a media event from which nothing substantive will ensure. They ask, will this bring more food to the table? Will this bring more shelter for the poor? Will this bring more schools for the children, and more jobs for their parents? And so on and so forth.

We can always dismiss these charges as the work of subversives or doomsayers. But today we will not do so. Today we will consider it not our job to answer our detractors with counter labeling or stereotyping. We shall determine what is most needed to fight poverty, provide focus and direction to all institutions involved, and get the job done.

Nevertheless, the air of public skepticism is real and foreboding. We cannot dismiss the hardships of the people from day to day, from hour to hour. Their problems are real, concrete and rending physically and psychologically.

The list of worries is long and arduous. Where will I get the money for the next meal? How can I pay for my son's next tuition installment on Monday? How can I fill up this prescription for my baby? For any leader who has a genuine heart for the poor, it is sad and frustrating to contemplate these questions being asked by the poor everyday.

But these questions precisely point to the perspective that has been captured by this summit. This perspective is based on action, concreteness, political will, and national solidarity to fight poverty and to beat it.

In proclaiming our agenda today, we place it in the fountain of the masses, in the hearts and minds of the poorest people and communities in our country. This is no ordinary political exercise. We are going to do what we say. We are going to back up our priorities with resources.

They said that summits turn up with nothing good. It depends. If a summit is a one day thing, and everybody does the brainstorming just on that one day, then nothing will really come out of it. Then, it's just an exercise for the media. But if the summit was prepared the way it's been prepared today, it can work. And I would like to remind everyone about such a summit that was prepared this way and that has worked — and that was the social reform summit that was called by President Ramos during his administration.

I attended the final day. But prior to that final day, there were also weeks of vetting interaction, consultation, debate, until finally what was considered doable by everyone, the common denominator, the things that united rather than divided were agreed on on that day; the things that united and were united in the idea that they could be done.

Thus, came out the social reform agenda. And when we were fighting for what eventually became Edsa 2 in civil society, in politics, the politicians and civil society, when we engaged with one another, we examined that social reform agenda that came from that social reform summit. We examined what have been accomplished, and what had not yet been accomplished. And we said, that if we ever became the administration, we would begin to accomplish the parts that had not been accomplished.

And so today, our social reform agenda, a big bulk of the socio-economic part of our socio-economic program, the socio part of it still comes from that social reform summit that was put together many, many years ago. So summits can work. Let us make this summit work.

Let me highlight the essential tracts in the pact that we have signed. Recessions usually hit the poor hardest, by throwing them out of jobs and homes, wiping out their meager savings, and eroding state revenues needed for redistributing land and providing basic social services. As far as we can, we mustn't let this happen.

Hence, I am very grateful that Congress agreed that they shall strive to index excise taxes to inflation. And the national government shall use its share of the increase in revenues coming from this indexation specifically for housing subsidies. By being able to earmark the additional proceeds of indexation of excise taxes, we will be able to devise the rent-to-own schemes to put homes within the reach of the working classes in these times of uncertainty. That is one concrete agreement that we have come to. And the question is: will it build more homes for the masses? The answer is, yes, this summit will if we can carry this out.

The distribution of land to the tillers and to the indigenous peoples, what we call asset reform, must also continue, for the great majority of the poor live in the countryside. Hence, the land bank shall return to its main mandate. The mandate of the law gave it when my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, established the Land Bank. Its main purpose and its purpose today must be once again to finance programs for land reform. Will the summit give more land to the farmers? Yes, it will, if we will carry out what we have agreed on regarding the Land Bank.

The tariffs collected from the minimum access imports must return and shall return to the rightful allocation, the agricultural competitiveness enhancement fund. And so we ask, will this summit make the farmers able to produce more? Yes, it will, if we carry out this resolution to earmark the proceeds from the minimum access volume to the fund to make farmers more competitive.

Mass housing, land reform, human development services are essential to our battle against poverty as well as the war against economic uncertainty. Providing homes and land for the poor creates jobs, raises productivity and augments long-term savings. Education, micro-finance, health and other similar services empower people to contribute to economic growth and live a life of dignity.

In this light, the leaders who joined the summit committed themselves, ourselves, to work together, to bring more of the poor under the umbrella of the national health insurance program, to address legal and social impediments to the availability of waste disposal systems, to provide sites for school buildings in the barangays where there are none, to promote micro-finance institutions in every province.

For our part, the administration is delivering on my SONA commitments with focus. We shall cut in half the prices of medicines commonly used by the poor. We shall expand the outlets for low cost remedies and reorganize the bureau of food and drugs to bring more of these low-cost medicines to poor Filipinos.

The question then, will this summit help? Juan dela Cruz, answer the question. Mabibili ko yata itong prescription para sa aking baby? Yes, it will answer that question if we carry out these reforms in the price of medicines that we have agreed on in this summit.

Retraining, on the other hand, will enhance the capability of our work force to continue to be relevant to the dynamic demands of a global economy. In this task, it is paramount to e-enable our workers and our small entrepreneurs. Where will I get my next job because I've been thrown out of work? Will the jobless worker find an

answer from this summit? Yes, if we carry out the massive retraining program that we agreed on we should carry out in this summit.

We cannot prescribe autarchy, our closing our doors to the world economy. Instead, we have no choice in the world today but be guided by the signals of the market because we cannot legislate the law of supply and demand. But what we can do is to explore further reforms to lower cost and improve services. One priority identified by Senate President Franklin Drilon is modernizing our cargo transport system. This is a must if enterprises across the archipelago, including farms and fishing communities, are to compete and grow vigorously.

Will we have cheaper food on the table? Will the Mañileno have cheaper food on the table coming from a product produced in Mindanao? Yes, if we carry out our commitment to do the reforms in cargo shipping and air transport as Senate President Franklin Drilon said in this summit that we must do.

Our present day cargo system is plagued by inadequate infrastructure which turns off investors. Another big turn off is inadequate peace and order. Hence, we are grateful for the initiative of House Speaker Jose de Venecia occasioned by this summit, to earmark funds in the 2002 budget to enhance the reward system for information on terrorists, kidnappers, drug traffickers, coup plotters and other perpetrators of major crimes. Mindanao will continue to be a special focus for peace and development and the battle against poverty. And I am grateful to the summit for the affirming this.

On the first working day of the new year, I shall install the newly elected officials of the ARMM. This will be the beginning of a strong rally against terrorism, banditry and corruption. We shall pour in more resources into the region to support good governance and to uplift the lives of the people.

Just last night, I happened to call Paul Dominguez to talk about something in preparation for today's summit. And just then, 11 o'clock at night, he was having coffee with a new ARMM governor Parouk Hussin to inform the new ARMM governor that as soon as the new government of the autonomous region is off and running, the usaid is ready with the initial \$20 million of the \$55 million that we were able to get during my official visit in Washington.

We shall resolve ideologically based secessionist movements, isolate terrorists and uproot crime syndicates embedded in the isolated communities of Mindanao, in addition to what we be will doing, of course, in the rest of the Philippines. In addition, we will redouble efforts to implement two other measures in the Eleven Point Anti-Crime Program that I announced last month. One is the close integration and coordination of intelligence activities and resources for which an intelligence summit will soon be held. The other is the training and deputization of community groups to fight crime. These community groups will be allowed to bear arms and make citizens' arrests, even as we will be stricter with the illegal possession of firearms.

This action agenda, of course, will count for nothing less unless all join hands to implement it fully. Hence, I am gratified that business and civil society have put forward major steps that they will take as well, including in the case of business, the promise and the commitment that they will use one and only one set of financial statements, both for their banks and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Narrow partisan, sectoral and personal interest must yield to the common good. Let me repeat my call for a one-year moratorium on politicking. And I thank business, labor and civil society for now echoing this call. And I noticed that in all the speeches and messages prior to mine, the most applauded passages were all the times that our speakers asked for unity and the moratorium on politicking. Perhaps, indeed, one way to achieve this is the political summit proposed to be held within six months, although this socio-economic summit itself already signals a major step forward in legislative-executive coordination, as well as in cooperation between the administration and the opposition for the greater good of our nation. The poorest of our people gain the most from these strides in the political maturity of our institutions. Every initiative, every new measure or program to which we have committed ourselves, is a building block for the broader pillars of a national strategic consensus. These pillars, as I have many times articulated, are the following:

First, a competitive economy capable of building wealth for our people in a more interactive global setting;

Second, a caring society ensuring the building of wealth is interlinked with equity for our people;

Third, a robust agricultural sector matching the global benchmarks of efficiency.

Fourth, modern institutions of public and corporate governance maintaining globally accepted standards of accountability and transparency in a secure, rules-based society, free from fear and confident in the effective enforcement of laws. We are now looking to clear the hundreds of bottlenecks that get in the way of enterprise and effective governance in all sectors. Many inadequate policies need to be revamped, many procedures and ways of doing things need to be changed. Dead capital and unrealized potential must be reincarnated by new thinking, as Hernando de Soto tells us, and as many Latin American countries have already begun to listen. These are immediate challenges.

The process that culminated in this summit is a triumph of intense cooperation and great patriotism. It is only in being together that we can build an economy that is robust, competitive, capable of providing for our people's needs. It is only in being together that we can build an economy that sustains growth rates that can dramatically reduce poverty. It is only in being together that we can build the society of peace and national community capable of applying forward looking solutions to our manifold problems.

I appreciate your sincere enthusiasm in this gathering. You not only made your voices heard. You sincerely listened to and learned from other voices. The global economy was slowing down even before the September 11 tragedy. The terrorist attacks piled even more uncertainty upon the already unpredictable trends we were seeing. Now we witness the deepest downturn in the world economy in over two decades.

I can only find comfort in the fact that the Philippine economy has proven remarkably resilient given the state of the regional and global economy. While our exports have declined sharply, our domestic demand has increased even more sharply so that the GNP economic growth rate is at 3.7 percent, better than most of our neighbors and trading partners. We were able to defend our peso against a speculative attack last July and stabilized it without asking for IMF support. Inflation is at 4.4 percent, the lowest rate in 16 months.

And last night, I called up Governor Buena Ventura late into the night, long after my call to Paul Dominguez, to ask him what is our interest rate right now. And he said, our overnight interest rate has gone down to 8 percent, the lowest in six years while even the most industrialized countries suffered an increase in their unemployment rate. I called up Pat Sto. Tomas last night and said, what's our comparative unemployment rate between last year and this year? Last year, our employment rate was 11.2 percent, this year is 10.1 percent. And we are spending well within our budget deficit ceiling. And this allows the government to give a modest extra Christmas bonus for our government employees. That said. The global uncertainty that has resulted from the tragic events of September 11 makes economic planning for any country very difficult. That is why we must use the momentum of whatever resiliency we have shown so far and chase the light at the end of the tunnel. The more optimistic projects our global recovery to be in the second or third quarter of next year.

The upturn could well be enhanced by what analysts expect to be a synchronized recovery. They attribute the synchronized recovery to the unprecedented policy coordination of governments and central banks world wide. In concert, the world's nations have stimulated their economies through interest rate cuts, increased public spending, and other policies designed to encourage investments and consumer demand in the major markets of the world. As we among ourselves in the Philippines today are synchronizing what we must do for economic recovery, or rather continuing our economic resiliency, the Philippines shall also be part, an integral part of the synchronized recovery with the rest of the world.

We draw strength in our synchronization with the rest of the world from the emerging global consensus to fight terrorism, spur economic growth and eradicate poverty. We are gratified in having contributed to this emerging consensus by initiating a sub-regional path among five founding members of Asean with, I understand, Australia expressing an interest in joining in having a sub regional grouping to battle terrorism together.

We are gratified too that our reaffirmed strong strategic ties with the United States have yielded gains on both the security and economic fronts. To improve the climate for business, part of synchronized recovery is greater economic integration and cooperation within Asean, and within Asean and the giant economies of Northeast Asia. Thus, we can, and must, exploit our proximity and affinities for the e-expansion of trade and investment. China's entry into the WTO is a challenge to retool, drive economically and capture a chunk of the mammoth Chinese market.

Our administration has, likewise, addressed a whole rate of issues at APEC and the WTO with a view to ending the scourge of poverty. Even as we ended a new round of negotiations in the multilateral trading system, Secretary Mar Roxas represented the Philippines, and spoke for the Philippines in deepening the discussion and lead in the call to enhance the development dimensions of trade. And as we traverse the economic capitals of the world, as to the cabinet to MOA out our policies and directions , as we work with our local governments to bring action to the grassroots, and as we stand with the legislature, the judiciary, the private sector in this summit, we have maintained our clear focus and our solidarity.

The pre-summit consultations drew forth the brightest ideas, the best practices , and the most workable proposals from all sectors. I am hopeful that this will further revive our enterprises, expand employment opportunities for our people, and attract investments to our economy. Our action agenda touches on the crucial aspects of our national life — not on all aspects — or the crucial aspects. We all recognize that the quality of governance, the stability of institutions and the credibility of leaders are all indispensable to our robust economic performance. And therefore, let me say once again, to you, to our people, to the world, I commit to maintaining the integrity of leadership. Because the integrity of our leadership has won international recognition of the seriousness with which we are trying to put our house in order. I am therefore, hopeful that this meeting of the best minds and most patriotic hearts will combine and multiply our efforts to liberate our people from poverty and violence and build a better future for our children.

I listened to the remarks of the honorable Mendoza representing the labor sector. We are gratified by the coming together of all sectors whose concerns we have all worked hard to address — even the difficult ones.

On the always contentious wage issue, we have strived to maintain the balance between giving workers a fair and decent recompense for their sweat, and ensuring the survival of employers in the face of the economic slump. And I thank mainstream and moderate labor for helping us in this regard. This process is necessarily subject to periodic review to fine tune the balance and reserve the social harmony necessary for the economic advancement of all. And I hope that organized labor, especially the mainstream organized labor, the moderate organized labor, the organized labor that seeks to have better terms for the workers rather than seeking the overthrow of our society, will always be with us in this endeavor.

We have also accommodated the broad spectrum of group subsumed under the rubric of civil society. While some of the basic sectors may have been inadvertently excluded — and I acknowledge the observations of Ms. Esmao in a number of sub panels. — their views have certainly shaped the key documents of this summit. We acknowledge the key role that boosting the domestic economy has played in our continued economic expansion. We pledge to continue the debate on development strategies and paradigms. And most important, I hope, to the basic sectors, the central goal of this summit and its action agenda is to protect our people, especially the poor, from the adverse impact in the face of the global economic crisis.

Ang mahihirap, ang puno't dulo ng kapulungang ito. Magsama-sama tayong lahat dahil gusto natin na sa loob ng isang dekada, iyong mahihirap ay hindi na sana mahihirap. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the National Socio-Economic Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212025/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8769&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Human Rights Day Celebration

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Human Rights Day Celebration

[Delivered at the Heroes hall, Malacañang, December 10, 2001]

General Villanueva, the Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the other officers of the Armed Forces, other officers of the PNP, ating mga panauhin, mga minamahal kong mga kababayan.

Fifty three years ago in 1948, the nations of the world gathered together and declared their commitment to human rights, this year we celebrate human rights day and human rights week with the theme “Ang Karapatang Pantao ay Buhay, Ipaglaban Natin.” May this day remind that us that life is worthless without the protective embrace of human rights, but of course those who are here, our public servants, need not be reminded of our duty, it is our duty to guarantee human rights not simply because it is a constitutional mandate but because it is part of our historical struggle for dignity and freedom. Long before the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights more than a hundred years ago, our national heroes and martyrs were already laying down their lives and treasures for our cherished freedoms. One of our beacons today is the Commission on Human Rights. This is the national institution mandated to uphold and respect the dignity of every human being, and to advance his well being, the community welfare, peace and national development. But human rights is a cause not only of the CHR but of everyone in our democratic society. And we who are here are here to renew our commitment to that cause.

His eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin once said and I quote, “All of us have an important role to perform. We are called to be guardians of human rights in society. That is what the world needs now.” I have faith in the institutions represented here that they will keep the cause alive. It is fitting and special that our soldiers and policemen are here with us on this occasion. Their presence here reminds me of a great moment of Philippine contemporary history — EDSA one — when human rights was the rallying cry, and the military and the police were on the side of the people. And so therefore, with them on the side of our people, today our human rights are secure. Today the system of accountability in the military and police is firm. We have no room for human rights violators in this system. Our soldiers fight and our policemen enforce, conscious of the ethic that human rights violators will be booted out, prosecuted, and jailed. I will be candid and say, and as they count, that at the time we decided to crack down on the Abu Sayyaf and their followers at the time when there was a big advocacy in Zamboanga and in western Mindanao for martial law to be declared, we discussed it with our soldiers and policemen, and they said we have enough constitutional tools, short of martial law, to be able to increase the enforcement of the law ok go ahead, crack down on them. The soldiers on the ground said, they reminded me that we have to be very careful about protecting human rights. It was not I who reminded them, but they reminded me. And that is why I am glad that they are here today. I want the world to know that our soldiers and policemen have internalized that devotion to the protection of human rights.

Indeed, there is no inherent conflict between national security and democracy there is no inherent conflicting between enforcing national stability. On the one hand, and protecting human rights, on the other. We, in this administration have the will, and together with you, the resources and the solidarity to protect human rights. A memorandum of agreement signed today forges the resolve of the Human Rights Commission and the various groups that are here today — Armed Forces, Police, DECS, CHED, DOJ and Civil Society — to carry on the vigilance for human rights. This instrument of solidarity which is important, especially now when there are forces that try to undermine our efforts. These forces pretend to be champions of human rights when they are violators. They pretend to be paragons of freedom and liberty while they engage with force, deception and violence to attain their ends. They use the guarantees of democracy to try to destroy democracy. We who are protectors of democracy must show the world that we are respectful of human rights; and that under us. Human rights are secure in a way that they cannot be secure in a dictatorship, whether a rightist or leftist dictatorship. Wherever it is in the spectrum of ideologies, in a dictatorship, violations of human rights are a function of ... And habit.

Our human rights today are secure in a way they can never be secure in a government run by fanatic extremism, like the a government that has just collapsed in Afghanistan. Today, our human rights are secure in a way they would never be secure in a world lorded over by terrorists, indeed today, the more formidable threat to our liberties is the threat of terrorism. The Secretary General of the UN declared that the September 11 attack struck at everything that the United Nations organization stands for – peace, freedom, tolerance, human rights. By now we all understand the terrorist message. If you don't obey us, you will die, if you do not surrender your belief in favor of our own, you will die. If you do not renounce democracy you will die. You cannot be free until you capitulate. Terrorism aims to take away the core of our existence, our right to live with our dignity and liberty. Thus, the war against terrorism is a war we must win. For the consequences of losing it are a return to the dark ages when barbarians and wolves were at the gate and human rights were unheard of. I don't know if the future belongs to our side. But I know there will be no future if our side does not prevail in this fight against terrorism. At least no future that any of us will care to live. In fact, it will not be a future in which most of us will be allowed to live in. It will be a future where happiness is suspect, delight is blasphemy, beauty is a cause for shame, and independent thought is a capital crime. We can only succeed in beating terrorism if we refuse to succumb to our fears, if we refuse to surrender the belief we hold in society today, if we keep faith in democracy and humanity.

These days I am focused on what needs to be done to address the war against terrorism. And in winning the battle against poverty in the Philippines. The 2 priorities are very linked, as human rights and development are very linked. Development facilitates enjoyment of human rights including freedom from want and deprivation. Democracy empowers people to defend their rights. The Philippines today is a fully functioning democracy with a free and untrammelled media. And it is almost impossible for any infraction of human rights to go unnoticed for an extended period. We are fortunate too that our people as a whole are more enlightened, that we have a broadened middle class, and that the global revolution and the dissemination of information and knowledge has provided a fertile ground for the development of a national concern that we have to be more protective of human rights to keep pace with the universal standards of democracy.

Good public information, as mentioned earlier, is one of the major keys to promote and protect the rights of every individual. And I hope that the programs and projects of the commission, the subject of the agreement today, will serve this purpose. The CHR has developed an extended information campaign for all students in the secondary and colleges levels called human rights schools, college and universities linkages, or hr schools, where they will become information desks where all students willing to participate in the dissemination of human rights information.

The second program is called Huriguide, which stands for human rights government unified information dissemination system. This program will cater to Filipino citizens through the respective government agencies and local government units. The DILG is included in our agreement. With these projects, the information, education and communication fund per agency may be used for our human rights desk and other related projects.

The masses are entitled to be deeply aware of their rights and liberties as well as their responsibilities as citizens. In this awareness, they will be adequately equipped to...tyranny and repression of yes, terrorism. The people should never again live under the cloak of dictatorship here in the Philippines. The beauty of democracy is that the liberty you have in your hands is the same liberty that I have in mine, .no more no less because human rights is a birthright. And as long as these are people like you who are in this hall today who believe in and work hard for the cause of human rights, our democratic way of life will be secure.

Finally, on the occasion of human rights day, I hereby declare a Unilateral Cease-fire with regard to the New Peoples Army starting today until the 6th of January.

Thank you and let us all continue to protect the human rights of our people.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the Human Rights Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212016/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8772&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during her Visit at Payatas Quezon City

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During her Visit at Payatas Quezon City**

[Delivered in Payatas, Quezon City, December 10, 2001]

Una sa lahat sa aking pagpunta dito, parang hindi kapani-paniwala na ito ang lugar sa Payatas na pinakamalapit sa dumpsite. Ang ganda ganda na ng kapaligiran. Congratulation sa inyong lahat. Sabi nga ni Mayor Sonny Belmonte, itong mga inhinyerong pumunta rito at gulat na gulat sila dahil nga iyong buhay dito ay hindi kagaya ng nalalarawan nila noong araw kung ano ba iyong Payatas. Iyon ang ating bundok. Pero kung pupunta ka rito ay hindi na masyadong pangit ang pagkakabuhay dito. Lalo na ngayon at mayroon na kayong tubig, lalong ginhawa ang buhay. At ang sabi nga ni Mayor Sonny Belmonte, dahilan kung bakit iyong mga inhinyerong dayuhan ay nagbisita doon ay sa ilalim para sa ganoon hindi na masyadong poisonous iyong hangin dito. At sa ganoon, iyong kalusugan ninyo ay magiging mas mabuti, mas konti ang magkakasakit. Gayun din ang isang magiging resulta ng mayroon na kayong mga patubig galing sa mga mabubuti at malinis na tubo. Kasi kinukuwento ni Congressman Mathay, noong araw, umiigib pala kayo at bumibili kayo ng tubig. At naalala ko tuloy ang mga ibang bansa na nagkakaroon ng giyera dahil sa tubig. Dito pa ang nakikipag-away pa kayo sa mga iba't ibang tao pag kumukuha kayo ng tubig, sa konti ng tubig at sa layo. Buong araw, imbes na magtatrabaho kayo ay pumupunta para umigib ng tubig. Ngayon nandito na ang tubig pumupunta sa inyong tahanan, may panahon kayo na maghanapbuhay at di hamak mas mura pa ang binabayad ninyo sa tubig.

Pinag-uusapan nga namin kanina at tinatanong ko ang isang pamilya dito, magkano ang binabayad niya noong araw sa tubig na binibili niya? Magkano ang babayaran niya ngayon sa tubig na dumadarating sa kanyang tahanan. Noong araw may mga pamilyang P750.00 per month ang binabayad, ngayon P40.00 per month na lamang.

Alam ninyo, iyan ay isang kabutihan na ang may ari ng Maynilad ay hindi gobyerno. Kasi nung gobyerno ang may-ari nung MWSS, ang gumagawa ng patubig ang gobyerno. Hindi marunong sa negosyo. Ang gobyerno marunong magpatakbo ng bayan, ng siyudad, ng barangay, pero hindi marunong magpatakbong negosyo. Kaya lugi parati ang MWSS, walang pera para ilagay sa mga lugar kagaya ninyo nung binenta sa private sector nung pa kayo nagkaroon ng patubig. Iyan ang ikinabubuti ng ating sistema ng private and free enterprise. Kaya pagka may pupunta rito, maririnig kayo sa telebisyon na nagra-rally na sinasabi privatization is bad for the country. Kayo siguro ang makakasagot na privatization has been good for your community. Kaya tumulong kayo na magtanggol dito sa patakaran ng ating pamahalaan.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan dahil ito ay isang patunay na iyong ating mga patakaran tungkol sa ekonomiya ay tunay na nakakatulong sa mga mahihirap. Kaya kayo na testigo o pag may bumabatikos sa ating ekonomiya, na kayo nakakuha ng ginhawa dito sa ating mga patakaran na ito. Kaya magtulongan tayo. Tulungan ninyong ipagtanggol ang mga patakaran ng pamahalaan. Tulungan ninyong ipaliwanag na ang inyong buhay ay maging mas maginhawa dahil sa mga patakaran na tinutupad natin. Tulungan ninyong ipatupad at tulungan ninyong ipaliwanag na lahat ng ito ay tumutulong para sa mahihirap. Kagaya ng mahihirap dito sa lupang pangako, mahihirap sa Payatas, mahihirap sa Quezon City, mahihirap sa buong Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat at congratulation sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech During her Visit at Payatas Quezon City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212035/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8766&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the National Socio-Economic Summit, December 10, 2001
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the National Socio-Economic Summit

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, December 10, 2001]

PUTTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

I thank you all for the many weeks of hard thinking and earnest dialogue that you put into this Summit. A good summit such as what we are having today is not a one-day affair. It starts with many weeks of consultation, preparation, iteration and vetting. Finally, when we get together in the summit itself, it is a day when we affirm the agreements that we have arrived at.

I thank especially the members of Congress starting with Senator Blas Ople for this idea. It was his idea to convene this gathering to address the challenges thrust upon the nation by the global economic crisis, particularly in the wake of the September 11 attack.

Allow me to start with candor and straightforwardness, for urgent matters are afoot and I do not wish to tarry. Some people have begun to criticize our meeting as just another exercise in hot air and propaganda. They say it is just a media event from which nothing substantive will ensue. They ask, will this bring more food to the table? Will this bring more shelter for the poor? Will this bring more schools for the children, and more jobs for their parents? And so on and so forth.

We can always dismiss these charges as the work of subversives or doomsayers. But today we will not do so. Today we will consider it not our job to answer our detractors with counterlabeling or stereotyping. We shall determine what is most needed to fight poverty, provide focus and direction to all institutions involved, and get the job done.

Nevertheless, the air of public skepticism is real and foreboding. We cannot dismiss the hardships of the people from day to day, from hour to hour. Their problems are real and concrete, ending physically and psychologically. The list of worries is long and arduous. Where will I get the money for the next meal? How can I pay for my son's next tuition installment on Monday? How can I pay up this prescription for my baby? For any leader who has a genuine heart for the poor, it is sad and frustrating to contemplate these questions being asked by the poor everyday.

But these questions precisely point to the perspective that has been captured by this summit. This perspective is based on action, concreteness, political will, and national solidarity to fight poverty and to beat it.

In proclaiming our agenda today, we place it in the fountain of the masses, in the hearts and minds of the poorest people and communities in our country. This is no ordinary political exercise. We are going to do what we say. We are going to back up our priorities with resources.

They said that summits turn up with nothing good. It depends. If a summit is a one-day thing, and everybody does the brainstorming just on that one day, then nothing will really come out of it. Then it's just an exercise for the media. But if the summit was prepared the way it's been prepared today, it can work. And I would like to remind everyone about such a summit that was prepared this way and that has worked, and that was the social reform summit that was called by President Ramos during his administration.

I attended the final day. But prior to that final day, there were also weeks of vetting, interaction, consultation, debate, until finally what was considered doable by everyone, the common denominator, the things that united rather than divided were agreed on that day.

Thus, came out the Social Reform Agenda. And when we were fighting for what eventually became EDSA 2 in civil society, in politics, the politicians and civil society, when we engaged with one another, we examined that Social Reform Agenda that came from that Social Reform Summit. We examined what have been accomplished, and what had not yet been accomplished. And we said, that if we ever became the administration, we would begin to accomplish the parts that had not been accomplished.

And so today, our social reform agenda, a big bulk of the socio-economic part of our socio-economic program, the social part of it still comes from that social reform summit that was put together many, many years ago. So summits can work. Let us make this summit work.

Let me highlight the essential tracts in the pact that we have signed. Recessions usually hit the poor hardest, by throwing them out of jobs and homes, wiping out their meager savings, and eroding state revenues needed for redistributing land and providing basic social services. As far as we can, we mustn't let this happen.

Hence, I am very grateful that Congress agreed that they shall strive to index excise taxes to inflation. And the national government shall use its share of the increase in revenues coming from this indexation specifically for housing subsidies. By being able to earmark the additional proceeds of indexation of excise taxes, we will be able to devise the rent-to-own schemes to put homes within the reach of the working classes in these times of uncertainty. That is one concrete agreement that we have come to. And the question is: will it build more homes for the masses? The answer is, yes, this summit will if we can carry this out.

The distribution of land to the tillers and to the indigenous peoples, what we call asset reform, must also continue, for the great majority of the poor live in the countryside. Hence, the Land Bank shall return to its main mandate. The mandate of the law gave it when my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, established the Land Bank. Its main purpose and its purpose today must be once again to finance programs for land reform. Will the summit give more land to the farmers? Yes, it will, if we will carry out what we have agreed on regarding the land bank.

The tariffs collected from the minimum access imports must return and shall return to the rightful allocation, the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund. And so we ask, will this summit make the farmers able to produce more? Yes, it will, if we carry out this resolution to earmark the proceeds from the minimum access volume to the fund to make farmers more competitive.

Mass housing, land reform, human development services are essential to our battle against poverty as well as the war against economic uncertainty. Providing homes and land for the poor creates jobs, raises productivity and augments long-term savings. Education, micro-finance, health and other similar services empower people to contribute to economic growth and live a life of dignity.

In this light, the leaders who joined the summit committed themselves, ourselves, to work together, to bring more of the poor under the umbrella of the National Health Insurance Program, to address the legal and social impediments to the availability of waste disposal systems, to provide sites for school buildings in the barangays where there are none, to promote micro-finance institutions in every province.

For our part, the administration is delivering on my SONA commitments with focus. We shall cut in half the prices of medicines commonly used by the poor. We shall expand the outlets for low-cost remedies and reorganize the Bureau of Food and Drugs to bring more of these low-cost medicines to poor Filipinos.

The question then, will this summit help? Juan dela Cruz, answer the question. Mabibili ko ba itong prescription para sa aking baby? Yes, it will answer that question if we carry out these reforms in the price of medicines that we have agreed on in this summit.

Retraining, on the other hand, will enhance the capability of our work force to continue to be relevant to the dynamic demands of a global economy. In this task, it is paramount to enable our workers and our small entrepreneurs. Where will I get my next job because I've been thrown out of work? Will the jobless worker find an

answer from this summit? Yes, if we carry out the massive retraining program that we agreed on we should carry out in this summit.

We cannot prescribe autarchy, our closing our doors x to the world economy. Instead, we have no choice in the world today but be guided by the signals of the market because we cannot legislate the law of supply and demand. But what we can do is to explore further reforms to lower cost and improve services. One priority identified by Senate President Franklin Drilon is modernizing our cargo transport system. This is a must if enterprises across the archipelago, including farms and fishing communities, are to compete and grow vigorously.

Will we have cheaper food on the table? Will the Manileño have cheaper food on the table coming from a product produced in Mindanao? Yes, if we carry out our commitment to do the reforms in cargo shipping and air transport as Senate President Franklin Drilon said in this summit that we must do.

Our present-day cargo system is plagued by inadequate infrastructure which turns out investors. Another big turnoff is inadequate peace and order. Hence, we are grateful for the initiative of House Speaker Jose de Venecia occasioned by this summit,, to earmark funds in the 2002 budget to enhance the reward system for information on terrorists, kidnappers, drug traffickers, coup plotters and other perpetrators of major crimes. Mindanao will continue to be a special focus for peace and development and the battle against poverty. And I am grateful to the summit for the affirming this.

On the first working day of the New Year, I shall install the newly-elected officials of the ARMM. This will be the beginning of a strong rally against terrorism, bandity and corruption. We shall pour in more resources into the region to support good governance and to uplift the lives of the people.

Just last night, I happened to call Paul Dominguez to talk about something in preparation for today's summit. And just then, 11 o'clock at night, he was having coffee with a new ARMM Governor Parouk Hussin to inform the new ARMM governor that as soon as the new government of the Autonomous Region is off and running, the USAID is ready with the initial \$20 million of the \$55 million that we were able to get during my official visit in Washington.

We shall resolve ideologically-based secessionist movements, isolate terrorists and uproot crime syndicates embedded in the isolated communities of Mindanao, in addition to what we be will doing, of course, in the rest of the Philippines. In addition, we will redouble efforts to implement two other measures in the Eleven-point Anti-Crime Program that I announced last month. One is the close integration and coordination of intelligence activities and resources for which an intelligence summit will soon be held. The other is the training and deputization of community groups to fight crime. These community groups will be allowed to bear arms and make citizens' arrests, even as we will be stricter with the illegal possession of firearms.

This action agenda, of course, will count for nothing less unless all join hands to implement it fully. Hence, I am gratified that business and civil society have put forward major steps that they will take as well, including in the case of business, the promise and the commitment that they will use one and only one set of financial statements, both for their banks and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Narrow partisan, sectoral and personal interest must yield to the common good. Let me repeat my call for a one-year moratorium on politicking. And I thank business, labor and civil society for now echoing this call. And I noticed that in all the speeches and messages prior to mine, the most-applauded passages were all the times that our speakers asked for unity and the moratorium on politicking. Perhaps, indeed, one way to achieve this is the political summit proposed to be held within six months, although this socio-economic summit itself already signals a major step forward in legislative-executive coordination, as well as in cooperation between the administration and the opposition for the greater good of our nation. The poorest of our people gain the most from these strides in the political maturity of our institutions. Every initiative, every new measure or program to which we have committed ourselves, is a building block for the broader pillars of a national strategic consensus. These pillars, as I have many times articulated, are the following:

First, a competitive economy capable of building wealth for our people in a more interactive global setting.

Second, a caring society ensuring the building of wealth is interlinked with equity for our people;

Third, a robust agricultural sector matching the global benchmarks of efficiency.

Fourth, modern institutions of public and corporate governance maintaining globally-accepted standards of accountability and transparency in a secure, rules-based society, free from fear and confident in the effective enforcement of laws. We are now looking to clear the hundreds of bottlenecks that get in the way of enterprise and effective governance in all sectors. Many inadequate policies need to be revamped, many procedures and ways of doing things need to be changed. Dead capital and unrealized potential must be reincarnated by new thinking, as Hernando de Soto tells us, and as many Latin American countries have already begun to listen. These are immediate challenges.

The process that culminated in this summit is a triumph of intense cooperation and great patriotism. It is only in being together that we can build an economy that is robust, competitive, capable of providing for our people's needs. It is only in being together that we can build an economy that sustains growth rates that can dramatically reduce poverty. It is only in being together that we can build the society of peace and national community capable of applying forward looking solutions to our manifold problems.

I appreciate your sincere enthusiasm in this gathering. You not only made your voices heard. You sincerely listened to and learned from other voices. The global economy was slowing down even before the September 11 tragedy. The terrorist attacks piled even more uncertainty upon the already unpredictable trends we were seeing. Now we witness the deepest downturn in the world economy in over two decades.

I can only find comfort in the fact that the Philippine economy has proven remarkably resilient given the state of the regional and global economy. While our exports have declined sharply, our domestic demand has increased even more sharply so that the GNP economic growth rate is at 3.7 percent, better than most of our neighbors and trading partners. We were able to defend our peso against a speculative attack last July and stabilized it without asking for IMF support. Inflation is at 4.4 percent, the lowest rate in 16 months.

And last night, I called up Governor Buena Ventura late into the night, long after my call to Paul Dominguez, to ask him what is our interest rate right now. And he said, our overnight interest rate has gone down to 8 percent, the lowest in six years while even the most industrialized countries suffered an increase in their unemployment rate. I called up Pat Sto. Tomas last night and said, what's our comparative unemployment rate between last year and this year? Last year, our unemployment rate was 11.2 percent, this year is 10.1 percent. And we are spending well within our budget deficit ceiling. And this allows the government to give a modest extra Christmas bonus for our government employees. That said global uncertainty that has resulted from the tragic events of September 11 makes economic planning for any country very difficult. That is why we must use the momentum of whatever resiliency we have shown so far and chase the light at the end of the tunnel. The more optimistic projects our global recovery to be in the second or third quarter of next year.

The upturn could well be enhanced by what analysts expect to be a synchronized recovery. They attribute the synchronized recovery to the unprecedented policy coordination of governments and central banks worldwide. In concert, the world's nations have stimulated their economies through interest rate cuts, increased public spending, and other policies designed to encourage investments and consumer demand in the major markets of the world. As we among ourselves in the Philippines today are synchronizing what we must do for economic recovery, or rather continuing our economic resiliency, the Philippines shall also be part, an integral part of the synchronized recovery with the rest of the world.

We draw strength in our synchronization with the rest of the world from the emerging global consensus to fight terrorism, spur economic growth and eradicate poverty. We are gratified in having contributed to this emerging consensus by initiating a sub-regional path among five founding members of ASEAN with, I understand, Australia expressing an interest in joining in having a sub-regional grouping to battle terrorism together.

We are gratified too that our reaffirmed strong strategic ties with the United States have yielded gains on both the security and economic fronts. To improve the climate for business, part of synchronized recovery is greater economic integration and cooperation within ASEAN, and within ASEAN and the giant economies of Northeast Asia. Thus, we can, and must, exploit our proximity and affinities for the expansion of trade and investment. China's entry into the WTO is a challenge to retool, drive economically and capture a chunk of the mammoth Chinese market.

Our administration has, likewise, addressed a whole range of issues at APEC and the WTO with a view to ending the scourge of poverty. Even as we ended a new round of negotiations in the multilateral trading system, Secretary Mar Roxas represented the Philippines, and spoke for the Philippines in deepening the discussion. The lead in the call to enhance the development dimensions of trade. And as we traverse the economic capitals of the world, as we work with our local governments to bring action to the grassroots, and as we stand with the legislature, the judiciary, the private sector in this summit, we have maintained our clear focus and our solidarity.

The presummit consultations drew forth the brightest ideas, the best practices, and the most workable proposals from all sectors. I am hopeful that this will further revive our enterprises, expand employment opportunities for our people, and attract investments to our economy. Our action agenda touches on the crucial aspects of our national life, not on all aspects or the crucial aspects. We all recognize that the quality of governance, the stability of institutions and the credibility of leaders are all indispensable to our robust economic performance. And therefore, let me say once again, to you, to our people, to the world, I commit to maintaining the integrity of leadership. Because the integrity of our leadership has won international recognition of the seriousness with which we are trying to put our house in order. I am therefore, hopeful that this meeting of the best minds and most patriotic hearts will combine and multiply our efforts to liberate our people from poverty and violence and build a better future for our children.

I listened to the remarks of the Honorable Mendoza representing the labor sector. We are gratified by the coming together of all sectors whose concerns we have all worked hard to address, even the difficult ones.

On the always contentious wage issue, we have strived to maintain the balance between giving workers a fair and decent recompense for their sweat, and ensuring the survival of employers in the face of the economic slump. And I thank mainstream and moderate labor for helping us in this regard. This process is necessarily subject to periodic review to fine-tune the balance and reserve the social harmony necessary for the economic advancement of all. And I hope that organized labor, especially the mainstream organized labor, the moderate organized labor, the organized labor that seeks to have better terms for the workers rather than seeking the overthrow of our society, will always be with us in this endeavor.

We have also accommodated the broad spectrum of group subsumed under the rubric of civil society. While some of the basic sectors may have been inadvertently excluded and I acknowledged the observations of Ms. Esmao in a number of subpanels. Their views have certainly shaped the key documents of this summit. We acknowledge the key role that boosting the domestic economy has played in our continued economic expansion. We pledge to continue the debate on development strategies and paradigms. And most important, I hope, to the basic sectors, the central goal of this summit and its action agenda is to protect our people, especially the poor, from the adverse impact in the face of the global economic crisis.

Ang mahihirap, ang puno't dulo ng kapulungang ito. Magsama-sama tayong lahat dahil gusto natin na sa loob ng isang dekada, iyong mahihirap ay hindi na sana mahihirap.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Year-end Media Economic Briefing, December 20, 2001

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Year-end Media Economic Briefing**

[Delivered at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, December 20, 2001]

**RESTORING THE COUNTRY'S FORTUNES
THROUGH THE ENGINE OF FREE ENTERPRISE**

The resilience that our economy showed this year is remarkable given the global economic slowdown. I therefore congratulate the economic team for doing a superb job. I congratulate them too, because the U.S. business communities tell me that I have the dream economic team.

It has been almost a year since I took up the challenge to restore our country's fortunes. It was a daunting challenge. We had inherited a fiscal deficit, that as Secretary Camacho said, had threatened to balloon to Php225 billion. Government revenues had fallen well below targets, thanks to massive leakages especially smuggling and uncut expenditures that truly just went out of control, borrowings that nearly tripled. And the loss of moral ascendancy of the government had destabilized the exchange rate. Investment confidence had plummeted. Thank God that these concerns have eased. We have a stable economy.

My economic plan for the Philippines starts with the goal of winning the battle against poverty within the decade. The plan, as you all probably know by now, revolves around four components. The first is the economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. The second is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. The third is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

Our discussion here today is of the first component of the plan, the economic philosophy of free enterprise. Because this component is premised on stable macroeconomic fundamentals. The macroeconomic plan that we have integrates a well coordinated set of fiscal and monetary policies that support a sound fiscal and debt position, stable prices, healthy balance of payments levels and steady flow of investments for job creation and further economic stimulation.

In implementing our plans, we have stood by our fiscal deficit ceiling. We held down the inflation and interest rates. We stamped out speculation against the peso. And we achieved a respectable economic growth in the midst of the global economy still reeling from the implosion of the information technology sector followed by the attack of September 11 on a key symbol and center of international finance. This event gravely increased the volatility of financial markets. And the attacks would have toppled our economy had we not so firmly anchored it to some fundamentals.

Leading international credit rating agencies and multilateral bodies recognize our efforts. Institutions such as NECSY, JBIC, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have endorsed our creditworthiness. J.B. Morgan and Chase reports that the prevailing decline in risk aversion has allowed the continuous improvement in economic fundamentals in the Philippines to finally shine through.

The market environment is ripe for repricing of Philippine asset prices based on improving fundamentals. President Macapagal-Arroyo is leading economic policy on a fundamentally better path. The Philippines has kept the budget deficit reined in. Economic growth has exceeded expectations. All these from J.P. Morgan.

But whatever is subjectively said by these different institutions, the most objective measure is the spreads that we have in the international capital market. And they are growing narrower and narrower by the day.

We had the audacity to make significant deficit reduction a cornerstone of our economic development plan. Audacity, indeed, in a global atmosphere of slower capital infusions, smaller appetite for emerging market issues and more insistent demands for budgetary support. But, we stuck by our plan and are now pleased to report that the combination of revenue enhancement measures and a disciplined expenditure program has positioned us to stay within our deficit ceiling of Php145 billion for the year 2001.

This is a major step towards what Lito Camacho said he wants to achieve by 2006, a balanced budget, an objective that is key to our goal of reducing poverty and promoting economic development.

Another factor in this equation is our success in exceeding our revenue targets. BIR exceeded its targets from January to November by 400 million. And now the latest figures, 4.4 billion, is the headroom we have overall as far as our budget deficit ceiling is concerned.

How did the BIR exceed its target? As a result of its anti-corruption reforms. Our efforts to achieve a balanced budget also includes new approaches to revenue collection such as the documentary stamp tax metering and tax audit acceleration.

Prudent management of the government's debt portfolio, which you have seen, also helped to achieve our deficit target. Resourceful credit initiative markets stood open to Philippine sovereign risk. These initiatives reduced our borrowing costs and maintained a manageable debt mix in terms of both maturity and creditor base.

For example, as part of our commitment to prudent debt management, we helped NAPOCOR source funds to carry out its privatization program with a recent Euro 500 million bond issue, an issue that is being praised in the international capital markets. And it should be, because it follows the act of the bill that was mentioned by Lito Camacho earlier, the \$220 million debt bill of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation which was cited by Finance Asia as the most innovative sovereign debt bill of 2001. This bill also got special mention in the best domestic currency bond bill category as the first-ever derivative transaction for the Philippines. And, as I said, the Euro bond for NAPOCOR is reaping laurels as well.

Our economic managers have also gone ahead and prefunded some of next year requirements again through innovative measures. They have sought credit enhancement from financial institutions that support our overall economic program, and have again fetched lower interest rates and longer maturities. You saw this in the charts. This is a well-timed move given the expectation of tighter international credit in the next 12 to 18 months.

In the light of this expected development, we are building our reserves to weather a long downturn in the global economic environment next year even though the optimistic projection say that it's not going to be a very long downturn. It's about another six months to go.

Inflation is insidious, and has a disproportionate impact on the poorer people of our nation. And early in my term, I told my economic managers that we must keep inflation down. And to keep inflation down, we must address both the supply side and the demand side. I see my former professor of macroeconomics in international trade and public finance, Vin Valdepenas nodding his head. Well, you gave me an "A" in class.

On the supply side, I said we must address the cost to the poor of rice, transportation and medicine. And we succeeded to the point that our inflation rate of 4 percent is at its lowest in the last 16 months — or even more.

On the demand side, responsible fiscal and monetary management also helped to reduce inflation, bringing down the cost of money, stamping out speculation against the peso and stabilizing it.

Our strong reserve position combined with projected dollar value should hold up the current value of the peso. A dynamic service sector, a large agricultural base, remittances from overseas Filipinos to their relatives in the Philippines, these are what have kept domestic consumption healthy. These have softened the impact of the plunge in exports and they explain the resilience of our economy.

I am also pleased to report that foreign direct investment levels, as Mar Rojas has pointed out, have exceeded targets despite the global slowdown. As Mar pointed out, investments reached Php132 billion by the end of November against a projection of Php100 billion for the entire year. These investments went mostly in telecommunications and manufacturing.

Given all that, I think we can approach the coming year with a reasonable expectation of achieving reasonable growth, maybe even higher growth.

Times will still be tough, but the stage has been set for them to get better. Given our country's potential, the 4 to 4.5 percent GDP growth projection set by Secretary Canlas would seem modest during normal times. But given the global slowdown, a 9-11, we would rather err on the side of conservatism rather than wild promise. There is good ground to hope for a better year, but equally compelling reason to try even harder in the year to come.

Our reforms will seek to strengthen the banking sector, address corporate governance deficiencies and expand our revenue sources and GDP base. As we improve public service, we call on the private sector to strengthen its role as the engine of the economy. Government will continue to do its part to make the environment more congenial to business as we continue to provide more public infrastructure, more rational power costs, and competitive investment incentive packages.

If we are to achieve our economic development goals, we must not limit our focus to external sources of growth. Domestic demand will continue to play an important role in delivering economic performances.

To encourage strength in the domestic economy, we are looking at bringing new financing vehicles to small- and medium-scale enterprises and the housing sector. Small-and medium-scale enterprises are too small for the attention of many traditional banks. Thus, we recently approved the proposal by the Development Bank of the Philippines to use Japanese ODA funds worth \$200 million for credit schemes for SMEs.

As for housing, private asset management initiatives will take on its non-performing loans and unlock its bottlenecks.

Let me mention other sources of domestic growth that we are developing. Agriculture, agricultural modernization especially with the hybrid coming from China and developed for Philippine conditions by Philrice, will hopefully increase the yield in the farms that will adopt the seeds by two and a half times. Then there are the major infrastructure and investment big-ticket items that have experienced bottlenecks in the past several years. And we are now unlocking these bottlenecks so that there will be more demand coming out of investment activity without having to increase budgetary allocations.

Among these major big-ticket items that we are unlocking bottlenecks now are in the Philippine National Bank and I am very happy to note that last night, the term sheet between the PDIC and the PNB was finally signed. So we now see the rehabilitation of the PNB underway.

Another big-ticket item that will increase domestic demand is the operation of the national steel corporation. Secretary Mar Roxas did some innovative ways of seeking to have interim operations. But now, it seems that the solutions will not just be interim but permanent operation as well.

Then we have the housing sector, which I have mentioned. We also have the MRT portion that will close the loop so that we can have an entire loop of MRT around Metro Manila. And I am happy to say that DOTC and the proponent have already come up with the appropriate understanding so that the one who held previous contract can exercise its option and go on.

Another bottleneck has been the Baticang Port. Finally, JBIC, after many years of delay because of disputes among bidders and because of disputes on land valuation, finally, the award has been confirmed by JBIC. And I have already my invitation for the groundbreaking. So that's going to push through.

Another bottleneck is with regard to the garbage. And I am very happy to note — I'm surprised it hasn't leaked out, so I might as well tell you about it — I was hoping that it would leak out. Finally the award has been granted and approved by the NEDA Board to pro-environment groups. So therefore, I said, we would solve the problem come Christmas time. And it has been solved in terms of the long-term solution. But even in terms of the short-term solution, please let me know where you still see piles and piles of garbage in Metro Manila.

And far from Metro Manila, another bottleneck that we have to address. And if we address this too we will add to consumer demand, and solve a long-term problem that we foresee, is the water system of Cebu. So therefore, if we unlock all these bottlenecks, then we will be having an additional source of domestic demand.

To make many of these moves possible, as Governor Buena Ventura said, the Central Bank is now going into inflation targeting. And, indeed, it is right to add inflation targeting to employment targeting as the focus of our strategy.

And for a good economy, you need good government and vice versa. So both in the national and local governments, we have been cutting down the red tape, that according to business, encourages corruption and discourages investments.

For example, we have computerized bidding in public works so as to take out the human element and substitute it with fairly incorruptible artificial intelligence. The result has been not just honest but faster contract awards.

We took an important step in the promotion of good governance by penalizing money laundering, sought to discourage international crimes by the drug trade abroad but also graft and corruption at home.

You have press a release in your kit of what we are supposed to have said in our speeches. But all press releases should be checked against delivery. And so, my apologies to the Central Bank, which I think wrote the first draft of my speech, and therefore wrote the press release based on the first draft. Check against delivery in the last paragraph of the press release.

Looking at 2002, the resiliency that we demonstrated for our economy in the face of a global economic crisis provides the fundamental setting in which we can work out a better life for the poor.

Now that your government has steered the Philippine economy towards calmer waters, allow me to call on all Filipinos to push our economy to greater heights. I call once again for a moratorium of politicking to safeguard the gains we have achieved so far and to translate these gains into blessings that the people can finally feel.

Thank you.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Year-End Media Economic Briefing Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Year-End Media Economic Briefing**

[Delivered at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, December 20, 2001]

I am happy to be here with you. The presentations given by Secretary Canlas, Governor Buenaventura, Secretary Camacho, Secretary Boncodin and Secretary Roxas underscore the fact that our country is back on the track of sustainable development.

The resilience that our economy showed this year is remarkable given the global economic slowdown. I therefore congratulate the economic team for doing a superb job. I congratulate them too, because the U.S. business communities tells me that I have the dream economic team.

It has been almost a year since I took up the challenge to restore our country's fortunes. It was a daunting challenge. We had inherited a fiscal deficit, that as secretary Camacho said, had threatened to balloon to P225 billion. Government revenues had fallen well below targets, thanks to massive leakages especially smuggling and uncut expenditures that truly just went out of control.

Borrowings that nearly tripled. And the loss of moral ascendancy of the government had destabilized the exchange rate. Investment confidence had plummeted. Thank god that these concerns have eased. We have a stable economy.

My economic plan for the Philippines starts with the goal of winning the battle against poverty within the decade. The plan, as you all probably know by now, revolves around four components. The first is the economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. The second is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. The third is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

Our discussions here today is of the first component of the plan, the economic philosophy of free enterprise. Because this component is premised on stable macro-economic fundamentals. The macro-economic plan that we have integrates a well coordinated set of fiscal and monetary policies that support a sound fiscal and debt position, stable prices, healthy balance of payments levels and steady flow of investments for job creation and further economic stimulation.

In implementing our plans, we have stood by our fiscal deficit ceiling. We held down the inflation and interest rates. We stamped out speculation against the peso. And we achieved a respectable economic growth in the midst of the global economy still reeling from the implosion of the information technology sector followed by the attack of September 11 on a key symbol and center of international finance. This event gravely increased the volatility of financial markets. And the attacks would have toppled our economy had we not so firmly anchored it to some fundamentals.

Leading international credit rating agencies and multilateral bodies recognize our efforts. Institutions such as Necsy, JBIC, the World Bank and the Asian development bank have endorsed our credit worthiness. J.b. Morgan chase reports that the prevailing decline in risk aversion has allowed the continuous improvement in economic fundamentals in the Philippines to finally shine through.

The market environment is ripe for repricing of Philippine asset prices based on improving fundamentals. President Macapagal-Arroyo is leading economic policy on a fundamentally better path. The Philippines has kept the budget deficit reined in. Economic growth has exceeded expectations. All these from J.P. Morgan.

But whatever is subjectively said by these different institutions, the most objective measure is the spreads that we have in the international capital market. And they are growing narrower and narrower by the day.

We had the audacity to make significant deficit reduction a cornerstone of our economic development plan. Audacity, indeed, in a global atmosphere of slower capital infusions, smaller appetite for emerging market issues and more insistent demands for budgetary support. But, we stuck by our plan, and are now pleased to report that the combination of revenue enhancement measures and a disciplined expenditure program has positioned us to stay within our deficit ceiling of P145 billion for the year 2001.

This is a major step towards what Lito Camacho said he wants to achieve by 2006, a balanced budget, an objective that is key to our goal of reducing poverty and promoting economic development.

Another factor in this equation is our success in exceeding our revenue targets. BIR exceeded its targets from January to November by 400 million. And now the latest figures, 4.4 billion, is the head room we have overall as far as our budget deficit ceiling is concerned.

How did BIR exceed its target? As a result of its anti-corruption reforms. Our efforts to achieve of a balance budget also includes new approaches to revenue collection such as the documentary stamp tax metering and tax audit acceleration.

Prudent management of the government's debt portfolio, which you have seen, also helped to achieve our deficit target. Resourceful credit initiative markets stood open to Philippine sovereign risk. These initiatives reduced our borrowing costs and maintained a manageable debt mix in terms of both maturity and creditor base.

For example, as part of our commitment to prudent debt management, we helped NAPOCOR source funds to carry out its privatization program with a recent euro-500 million bond issue, an issue that is being praised in the international capital markets. And it should be because it follows the act of the bill that was mentioned by Lito Camacho earlier, the \$220 million debt bill of Hong Kong and Shanghai banking corporation which was cited by finance Asia as the most innovative sovereign debt bill of 2001., This bill also got special mention in the best domestic currency bond bill category as the first ever derivative transaction for the Philippines. And, as I said, the Euro bond for NAPOCOR is reaping laurels as well.

Our economic managers have also gone ahead and pre funded some of next year requirements, again, through innovative measures. They have sought credit enhancement from financial institutions that support our overall economic program, and have again fetched lower interest rates and longer maturities. You saw this in the charts. This is a well-timed move given the expectation of tighter international credit in the next 12 to 18 months.

In the light of this expected development, we are building our reserves to weather a long downturn in the global economic environment next year even though the optimistic projection say that it's not going to be a very long downturn. It's about another six months to go.

Inflation is insidious, and has a disproportionate impact on the poorer people of our nation. And early in my term, I told my economic managers that we must keep inflation down. And to keep inflation down, we must address both the supply side and the demand side. I see my former professor of macro-economics in international trade and public finance, Vin Valdepenas nodding his head. Well, you gave me an A in class.

On the supply side, I said we must address the cost to the poor of rice, transportation and medicine. And we succeeded to the point that our inflation rate of 4 percent is at its lowest in the last 16 months — or even more.

On the demand side, responsible fiscal and monetary management also helped to reduce inflation, bringing down the cost of money, stamping out speculation against the peso and stabilizing it.

Our strong reserve position combined with projected dollar value should hold up the current value of the peso. A dynamic service sector, a large agricultural base, remittances from overseas Filipinos to their relatives in the Philippines, these are what have kept domestic consumption healthy. These have softened the impact of the plunge in exports and they explain the resilience of our economy.

I am also pleased to report that foreign direct investment levels, as Mar Roxas has pointed out, have exceeded targets despite the global slowdown. As mar pointed out, investments reached P132 billion by the end of November against a projection of 100 billion for the entire year. These investments went mostly in telecommunications and manufacturing.

Given all that, I think we can approach the coming year with a reasonable expectation of achieving reasonable growth, maybe even higher growth.

Times will still be tough, but the stage has been set for them to get better. Given our country's potential, the 4 to 4.5 percent GDP growth projection set by Secretary Canlas would seem modest during normal times. But given the global slowdown, a 9-11, we would rather err on the side of conservatism rather than wild promise. There is good ground to hope for a better year, but equally compelling reason to try even harder in the year to come.

Our reforms will seek to strengthen the banking sector, address corporate governance deficiencies and expand our revenue sources and GDP base. As we improve public service, we call on the private sector to strengthen its role as the engine of the economy. Government will continue to do its part to make the environment more congenial to business as we continue to provide more public infrastructure, more rational power costs and competitive investment incentive packages.

If we are to achieve our economic development goals, we must not limit our focus to external sources of growth. Domestic demand will continue to play an important role in delivering economic performances.

To encourage strength in the domestic economy, we are looking at bringing new financing vehicles to small-and-medium scale enterprises and the housing sector. Small-and-medium scale enterprises are too small for the attention of many traditional banks. Thus, we recently approved the proposal by the development bank of the Philippines to use Japanese ODA funds worth \$200 million for credit schemes for SMEs.

As for housing, private asset management initiatives will take on its non-performing loans and unlock its bottlenecks.

Let me mention other sources of domestic growth that we are developing. Agriculture, agricultural modernization especially with the hybrid coming from china and developed for Philippine conditions by Philrice, will hopefully increase the yield in the farms that will adopt the seeds by two and a half times. Then, there is the major infrastructure and investment big ticket items that have experienced bottlenecks in the past several years. And we are now unlocking these bottlenecks so that there will be more demand coming out of investment activity without having to increase budgetary allocations.

Among these major big ticket items that we are unlocking bottlenecks now in are: the PNB, and I am very happy to note that last night, the term sheet between the PDIC and the Philippine National Bank was finally signed. So we now see the rehabilitation of the PNB underway.

Another big ticket item that will increase domestic demand is the operation of the national steel corporation. Mar Roxas did some innovative ways of seeking to have interim operations. But now , it seems that the solutions will not just be interim but permanent operation as well.

Then, we have the housing sector which I have mentioned. We also have the MRT portion that will close the loop so that we can have an entire loop of MRT around Metro Manila. And I am happy to say that DOTC and the proponent

have already come up with the appropriate, understanding so that the one who held previous contract can exercise its option and go on.

Another bottleneck has been the Batangas port. Finally, JBIC, after many years of delay because of disputes among bidders, because of disputes on land valuation, finally, the award has been confirmed by JBIC. And I have already my invitation for the groundbreaking. So that's going to push through.

Another bottleneck is with regard to the garbage. And I am very happy to note — I'm surprised it hasn't leaked out, so I might as well tell you about — I was hoping that it would leak out. Finally the award has been granted and approved by the NEDA board to pro-environment. So therefore, I said, we would solve the problem come Christmas time. And it has been solved in terms of the long term solution. But even in terms of the short term solution, please let me know where you still see piles and piles of garbage in metro manila.

And far from Metro Manila, another bottleneck that we have to address. And if we address this too we will add to consumer demand, and solve a long term problem that we foresee, is the water system of Cebu. So therefore, if we unlock all these bottlenecks, then we will be having an additional source of domestic demand.

To make many of these moves possible, as Governor Buenaventura said, the Central Bank is now going into inflation targeting. And, indeed, it is right to add inflation targeting to employment targeting as the focus of our strategy.

And for a good economy, you need good government and vice versa. So both in the national and local governments, we have been cutting down the red tape, that according to business, encourages corruption and discourages investments.

For example, as Emy Boncodin said, we have computerized bidding in public works so as to take out the human element and substitute it with fairly incorruptible artificial intelligence. The result has been not just honest but faster contract awards.

We took an important step in the promotion of good governance by penalizing money laundering, sought to discourage international crimes by the drug trade abroad but also graft and corruption at home.

You have press a release in your kit of what we are supposed to have said in our speeches. But all press releases should be checked against delivery. And so, my apologies to the central bank, who I think wrote the first draft of my speech, and therefore wrote the press release based on the first draft. Check against delivery in the last paragraph of the press release.

Looking at 2002, the resiliency that we demonstrated for our economy in the face of a global economic crisis provides the fundamental setting in which we can work out a better life for the poor.

Now that your government has steered the Philippines economy towards calmer waters, allow me to call on all Filipinos to push our economy to greater heights. I call once again for a moratorium of politicking to safeguard the gains we have achieved so far and to translate these gains into blessings that the people can finally feel.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Speech during the Year-End Media Economic Briefing. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211952/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8764&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Vin D'Honneur

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Vin D'Honneur

[Delivered in Malacañang Palace, January 5, 2002]

The past year 2001 will be remembered for the high drama of political and economic events. It was a turning point for our country and the world. We had blessings and we had deep tragedy. 2001 saw the restoration of moral authority in our government through the instrument of people power, 2001 brought tragedy to mankind in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. 2001 was a triumph of the spirit as the people of Afghanistan were liberated from bondage.

For the Philippines, 2001 was a year of rebuilding, reinvigorating, and reshaping our democratic institutions, our governance and our economy, and of restoring international confidence in the Philippines and the Filipino people.

Shortly after I assumed the presidency of the Philippines last January 20th, the international community joined me in a vin d'honneur very much like tonight's occasion to express its recognition and support for our new government.

During that occasion, I said that the Philippines faces several realities that characterize its international and regional environment to which we have to respond in order to achieve our goals.

Let me reiterate them and place them in the context of today. The first reality is that China, Japan, and the United States, and their relationships, will be the determining influence in the security situation and economic evolution of East Asia.

September 11 redefined the inter-relationship among these three countries into one of solidarity against global terrorism. These countries led the nations of the Pacific realm in Shanghai in forging the APEC declaration against terrorism.

The warmth and camaraderie shown among the leaders of these nations, in particular, during that Shanghai Summit have underlined their role as a constructive force for peace and prosperity in the region.

Second reality: more and more Philippine foreign policy decisions have to be made in the context of ASEAN. Together with our regional partners of the 7th ASEAN Summit in November 2001, we adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism. And only recently, we completed the draft of a trilateral operational agreement against terrorism with Malaysia and Indonesia to secure and safeguard our common borders.

Third reality: the International Islamic Community will continue to be important for the Philippines. I am proud that our friends from the OIC and other parts of the world were with us this morning when I installed the new regional government in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. This augurs well for the peace and development of Southern Philippines. It is a testament to the growing strength and stability of our democratic institutions.

Our relations with the Islamic nations will continue to bear prime importance in our effort to defeat all forms of extremism, and to promote tolerance, interfaith solidarity, understanding and respect among our diverse peoples and ethnic traditions.

As we assisted East Timor, we are likewise committed to take part in the rebuilding of Afghanistan. We shall continue to be an integral part of international peace keeping and humanitarian endeavors.

Fourth reality: the country's economic growth will continue to be heavily dependent on foreign investments. Thus, Europe, a major source of investment in recent years especially with the operation of the Malampaya gas and oil fields, will continue to be an important partner in promoting international prosperity and stability. We have reason to be optimistic that projects like Malampaya will spur our economic growth.

This project is expected to significantly augment our country's power reserves and promises to be an important source of revenue.

I am pleased to declare to the foreign investment community that the Philippines is back on its feet, resolutely and resiliency battling global crisis.

We have gained the much-needed momentum to press on our path to development. We've firmly stabilized the domestic political situation while continuing to mop up residual problems of law and order. Confidence has been restored by good governance and leadership by example. We have infused, to a great degree, common sense, discipline, and accountability in public management and public service.

Leaders from government, the private sector, and civil society have committed to undertake a concerted effort to combat poverty and accelerate economic development. In pursuit of this, we forged a socio-economic pact during the national socio-economic summit last December.

The unity of our people is crucial to safeguarding the gains of 2001 and maximizing the opportunities of the new year.

I am confident that the foreign community will continue to be our partners in this enterprise of consolidation and unity.

In the midst of the recession in many countries of the world, our GNP grew by 3.7 percent in the first three-quarters of 2001, surpassing the predictions of the private sector. This is a significant turnaround considering that less than a year ago, our economy was about to go into a tailspin in the wake of domestic instability.

In 2001, the Philippines revitalized its ties with our global partners, a task I gave to the Department of Foreign Affairs and to the special envoys whom I introduced at the vin d'honneur last year. They have successfully done the job. They have informed the international community of the steady gains we have made, of the stability and viability of our political, social, and economic reforms. They have also secured commitments of bilateral and multilateral support for our domestic efforts.

This brings us to the fifth reality that guides our foreign policy, that the coming years will see the growing importance of multilateral and inter-regional organizations to promote common interest.

Our active participation in regional and international organizations is a concrete demonstration of our commitment to the international community. Aside from attending the APEC Leaders Summit in Shanghai, the ASEAN Summit, and the ASEAN plus 3 Summit in Brunei Darussalam, I also addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York. On this occasion, I conveyed the message that the Philippines is back in business, a reliable partner in the globalized realm and a committed and responsible vanguard in the most crucial issues of international affairs. We were one of the first to respond to the United Nations Security Council Resolution of 1368 based on a multi-pronged action program to combat terrorism both in the southwestern part of our own land and in the global arena.

Sixth reality: the defense of the nation's sovereignty and the protection of its environment and natural resources lie at the heart of foreign policy. We will continue to move in this direction as we seek consensual arrangements such as the regional code of conduct in the South China Sea.

Seventh reality: a country like the Philippines can benefit most quickly from international tourism. It is often said that human capital is our most valuable resource. The Philippines is the home of the great Filipino worker. This

statement gives rise to a number of conclusions. One conclusion is that, high growth business sectors that inherently draw on strength in human resources should now become very important. I can identify information and communications technology and tourism as two such sectors.

Another conclusion is our eighth foreign policy reality, that overseas Filipinos will continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability. In the entire amalgam of global affairs, the great Filipino workers stand out as our greatest resource. In every nook and corner of progress and development, our workers are there, turning the wheels of industry, managing the networks of global commerce, healing the sick and teaching the young.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the international community for hosting millions of our workers. They have contributed their share to the strengthened stability of your own nations as they have brought pride and economic benefits to our country.

We celebrate them as the heroes of the new millennium. And I dedicate the year 2002 to the great Filipino workers.

We will continue to face more challenges as the year 2002 moves forward. However, with sufficient political will and the spirit of cooperation, we in the international community should be able to weather such storms. But as we have built a global coalition to eradicate terrorism, so too can we close ranks to lift the global economy. We must address both political and economic security. This renewed sense of global community could be the key to early recovery.

This is one warm manifestation of globalization and present us with an added challenge. But the events of September 11 and following also presented us with an opportunity to work together and come out stronger on a variety of fronts. The coalition that has been built and the relationships that have been fortified in our collective response to terrorism can and must extend to global, regional, and bilateral economic relations.

We face a rocky road ahead, that is certain. But the global economy can and will pull through if we approach our economic uncertainties with the same cooperative and integrated approach that we have applied against terrorism.

The Philippines stands ready to work with its friends and neighbors to meet this challenge. I'm a believer of personal diplomacy which has become a primary instrument of national and collective interest in the modern world. I have met with leaders of several countries and I welcomed some of them in Manila. It has been my pleasure and privilege to represent our people in the close and meaningful interaction with leaders of other nations.

In 2002, I will visit several countries to further strengthen our network of bilateral relations and to assure our partners in Europe and Canada that the Philippines will continue to be an active and constructive force in global affairs.

In the coming year, in this year, the fight against poverty will remain the overarching vision of our agenda. I am hopeful that we will achieve our goals with a sustained confidence given our administration by the Filipino people and the world.

On this note, may I propose a toast to all the nations and peoples of the world, especially those represented in this gathering, that we shall continue to work together for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Mabuhay.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Grand Centennial Alumni Homecoming of the Ilocos Sur National
High School (ISNHS)**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Grand Centennial Alumni Homecoming of the Ilocos Sur National High School (ISNHS)**

[Delivered in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, January 10, 2002]

Thank you very much Congressman Nib Baterina, outstanding alumnus of Vigan, now Ilocos Sur national high school, donor of the Balay Alumni and one of the outstanding prosecutors in the trial, in the trial that led to my becoming President of the Republic of the Philippines. Apo Engineer Padernal and the other officials of the alumni association of the Ilocos Sur National High School. I will also greet the other members of the community of Ilocos Sur national High School, the principal, the teachers, dagiti estudyante who are the future of Ilocos Sur and the Philippines. And I would like to greet the officials of the province of Ilocos Sur headed by Governor Didi Savellano, who is not an alumnus of Ilocos Sur national high school but his father was an alumnus of Ilocos Sur national high school; Didi Savellano is the father of Ilocos Sur. I will greet also Chavit Singson, who is no longer the father of Ilocos Sur but I consider him the father of EDSA Dos. I would also like to greet Congressman Eric Singson; the chairman of PCSO Honeygirl de Leon; her brother also and Chavit's brother, Jerry Singson, the vice governor of Ilocos Sur; and my partner from the national government Secretary Dinky Soliman; my other partner from the national government, Presidential Assistant Renate Diaz; and my associate in Malacañang, Undersecretary Bobby Capco; outstanding alumni who all spoke tonight; and all of you alumni of Ilocos Sur National High School who I'm sure are all outstanding as well.

I am very happy to be here with you on the occasion of your celebration of the 100th anniversary of the life of Vigan now, Ilocos Sur National High School.

I will also be celebrating an anniversary soon together with Chavit, nib, dinky and all the other major players of EDSA Dos — our first year in this administration.

In this administration, as nib said, we believe in work ethic. We believe in matching rhetoric with action. We believe in performing rather than grandstanding. And we believe in having a clear vision and that vision is to be bold in our national ambitions and win the battle against poverty within the decade.

In order to do this in the 21st century we must look for our competitive advantage in the world of global competition. And that competitive advantage is our human resources. The great Filipino worker and anybody who attends this reunion tonight will have no doubt that indeed the Philippines is the home of the great Filipino worker.

And after seeing the roster of our outstanding alumni we can also say that indeed Ilocos Sur national high school is also a home of great Filipino workers no less great than any other Filipino worker from any other high school in the republic of the Philippines.

Let us examine who are some of these great Filipino workers produced by Ilocos Sur national high school.

There is one who is not here with us tonight because he got stranded doing his work — doing his work for our administration, doing his work so that we will have agricultural modernization which is one of our four main components for fighting poverty. I am talking about class 1979, dr. Leocadio Sebastian. He is not here tonight because he is doing work for me, but he sent us his representative presidential adviser on job creation in Agriculture Luisito Lorenzo. Cito and I are very proud of Leo Sebastian because the work he has done in philrice, the Philippine rice search institute, has adopted for the Philippines a very important hybrid rice from china that adopted in the Philippines, can increase the productivity of our rice farmers by two-and-a-half times. We are adopting the work of Leocadio Sebastian in 50 hectares for the year 2002. Ay, 50,000 hectares not 50 hectares, 50,000 hectares. And because of the work that Leocadio Sebastian has been doing not only has he received honors as an outstanding alumnus in the Ilocos Sur national high school he is also one of the ten outstanding young men of the Philippines for the year 2001.

I would like to ... And we look at the others that we have heard tonight truly they are great Filipino workers for Vigan, for Ilocos, for the Philippines for other parts of the world as well.

Tonight our invocation was given to us by father Joe Tacderas. He didn't make a speech about his memories but he is a great Filipino worker of god who has brought God to the people of Bolivia. An outstanding Filipino worker working among the people in Bolivia.

And we have heard of course an outstanding Filipino worker in governance who have shown good governance not only in the Philippines but in Hawaii as one of our two Ilocano state congressmen of Hawaii. And I would like to congratulate congressman Jun Abinsay for making us Filipinos proud of him.

And we talk about the great Filipino worker in other parts of the world, in other parts of the Philippines, tonight we saw an example of a great Ilocano worker who is showing governance not here in Ilocos Sur but as a city mayor of Sorsogon City, sally mandolin. I have had the opportunity of visiting sally many times in Sorsogon where she is not only the City Mayor of Sorsogon city but also the first lady of the province of Sorsogon because her husband is Governor Raul lee. And it was sally who kept nagging me about coming to your 100th anniversary. Thank you Sally for inviting me here.

And of course if we speak about the great Filipino worker I have mentioned father Tacderas, I have mentioned Leo Sebastian, I have mentioned already also if by way of thanking him for his introduction congressman Salecnib Bateria, whose mother is also the oldest living alumna of Ilocos Sur national high school from 99 years ago. We would have wanted her to be here tonight but of course if she graduated 99 years ago, I mean if she's 99 years old then that means that it's very difficult for her to be here. But she not only was a good alumna she produced a good alumnus and therefore that means that there's a good future for Ilocos Sur national high school. And we have greeted congressman Jun Abinsay.

I saved the best maybe for the last? Well, I am very grateful that Ilocos Sur national high school produced a man whom I can rely to defend the republic and that is general Narciso Abaya. General Abaya, I understand, he said who was class 64'. But he was too modest. He was class 64' valedictorian. And we learned he finished engineering but he was too modest he was number one topnotcher in the engineering exam. And he talked about his military career but he was too modest, he failed to tell us that he is a graduate of west point class 1971. A great example of an outstanding Filipino worker in defending the republic.

And so, tonight we see examples of the great Filipino worker, the great Ilocano worker, the great product of Ilocos Sur National High School.

As we celebrate 100 years we look at the next 100 years. What is the future that is the role of Ilocos Sur National High School? As these outstanding alumni have all shown an important work, important role in the life of the Philippines, of other parts of the world. What will be the role of Ilocos Sur National High School in the years to come?

I said earlier that our competitive advantage in the 21st century is our great human resources. And that is why if we are going to compete in the world of the 21st century our growth sectors are those sectors that are in the human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors. And the job of the Ilocos Sur national high school and the entire educational system of the Philippines it would be able to provide a new generation of knowledge workers who by the time they look for jobs and look for their careers they will be as outstanding as the alumni that we are honoring in this platform tonight and they will also make a great contribution as the great Filipino worker Vigan, to Ilocos Sur, to the national government and to other parts of the whole world.

The human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors are exemplified by information and communication technology and tourism. Let us take tourism first. Vigan is a natural attraction for tourism. Vigan was once known as ciudad Fernandina the capital of the entire Ilocos which used to cover Ilocos norte, Ilocos Sur, la union and even Abra the mountain province where I came from today. And being the capital for so long of Ilocos during the 400 years of the spanish period, ciudad Fernandina has been able to retain and maintain and sustain and preserve a culture that the whole world needs to see. And I am very glad that in previous times my friend Mina Gabor especially assisted the province of Ilocos Sur to put together the heritage village that should truly be an important spot for people to visit when they come to the Philippines.

Governor Chavit Singson has also told me that in his 70 hectare property where I am spending the night tonight there will soon be hopefully investments in a hotel and in a golf course so that more people will come to visit Vigan as they land from Laoag international airport.

Speaking of Laoag international airport, we now have regular flights from china — from shanghai to Laoag Philippine airlines three times a week, southern china airlines from canton to Laoag — and therefore we are able to cash in on a large, large new market, the market of china which just this past year has joined the world trade organization. China is a country with one-and-a-half billion people that has been growing at the rate of nine percent GNP for the past 20 years. Imagine what china will be in our future if we know how to make them visit the Philippines especially northern Philippines where there are only one hour or two hours away by plane. And this is what is in the future of tourism for Vigan; and that is why as our speakers were saying when their teachers used to get angry with them or hit them on the shoulder cause they didn't speak english well, it's important for us to continue our world skills in Ilocos Sur National High School so that we will make people come here feel the hospitality and feel at home as we show them the rich culture of ciudad Fernandina. That is one future that Ilocos Sur national high school should provide for.

The other future is information and communication technology. And so, I was asking Didi Savellano is this school computerized? He said yes, there are computers. Is this school wired with internet ? He doesn't know. But I think that if it is not wired with internet, as your special guest of honor that is what I would like to contribute to the future: we will transform your computers into internet sites, into a website so that the children of Vigan national high school or Ilocos Sur national high school as you graduate you will be good enough for the best in the world because it is information technology that will be the key to success in the 21st century.

And even as we prepare our high school students for the world of ICT, for the cyberworld, by helping you with your internet connection it is also important that we produce more and more knowledge workers, I.T. professionals in the years to come and for the children to enjoy going to ICT. To enjoy going to engineering like Engineer Padernal and general Abaya, they should enjoy while they are still very young, science and mathematics.

Right Engineer? That's why you became an engineer because you were good in science and math. And that's why it is important, as a part of the reform of the educational system of the Philippines, that we are strengthening science, math and english in our basic education.

And as Ilocos Sur National High School has produced such outstanding alumni that are here on our platform tonight I am sure that if you continue to devote yourselves to the requirements of the new century — Science, Math, English, Internet and History and all the graces that go with being a hospitable people — I am sure that in the next great homecoming there will be another batch of VIPs in the platform of Vigan National High School being just

examples of the many great Filipino workers within our auditorium today and all over the Philippines and all over the world.

Congratulations alumni of Vigan National High School.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Grand Centennial Alumni Homecoming of the Ilocos Sur National High School (ISNHS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231213/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7605&Itemid=38

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 5th Annual “Prospects for the Philippines’ Conference” of the Foreign Correspondents
Association of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Mandarin Hotel, Makati City, January 11, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Cabrera.

Bobby Tiglao; Lito Camacho; Cito Lorenzo; Manny Mogato; the other officials of FOCAP; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; other guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

I appreciate this opportunity to address FOCAP once again. In fact, I had to redo my whole schedule. I was supposed to be in Abra today but I skipped one day in Abra so that I could be with you because you couldn't change your date so I changed my date instead for FOCAP.

I would like to congratulate you for reflecting on global competitiveness, your theme in this event. This is also a fundamental matter of national survival today.

So, how is the Philippines in this, the end of the first year of my administration situated as far as being able to compete is concerned?

First, looking back over the past year, I would say the Philippines has become more competitive in terms of investments that have come in and labor productivity. And the fact that we have survived better than many of our neighbors and trading partners in this harsh external environment.

My administration has maintained and enhanced the determination to pursue the improvement of business conditions by maintaining the bedrock of any country's competitiveness — an adherence to a long-term vision, predictable and stable rules of the game, and most of all, rules and policies that are reform-oriented.

I presented my vision for the nation almost a year ago. On January 20th 2001, after taking my oath of office as president of the Republic of the Philippines at high noon, I said:

First, we must be bold in our national ambitions so that our challenge must be that within this decade we will win the fight against poverty.

Second, we must improve moral standards in government and in society in order to lay the strong foundation for good governance.

Third, we must change the character of our politics in order to create fertile ground for true reforms. Our politics of personality and patronage must give way to a new politics of party programs and process of dialogue with the people.

Finally, I believe in leadership by example. We should promote solid traits such as work ethic and a dignified lifestyle, matching action to rhetoric, performing rather than grandstanding.

I have the confidence and the discipline to make that vision a reality. I am committed to help lead the people of the Philippines to a better life.

Fiscal discipline, good governance, market-oriented reform —these are all linked to real targets and to poverty reduction. Our fiscal discipline — and here we have secretary Camacho who supervised that — allowed the inflation

rate to go down to 3.9 percent last December and the interest rates to go down to the lowest levels in seven months. And also as we read in today's papers, our bond flotation is two-and-a-half times oversubscribed with the corresponding reduction in interest rates. Thus, with this fiscal discipline, the prices of basic commodities like rice, transportation and basic medicines were stabilized. Small business especially in trade were set up so that services became the largest domestic source of growth in the past year.

Good governance starts with personal integrity and work ethic of the president herself. It radiates to the presidential family, which is why my first administrative order prohibited government agencies from dealing with my relatives on matters of contracts, supplies and appointments to positions. Which is why, though my detractors tried to pin black propaganda on my husband, my family they couldn't find concrete evidence because my family does not indulge in graft.

I am fighting waste and graft so that our poor will believe in the government and so that our small entrepreneurs will not waste their hard-earned income on pay-offs and corruption. We are taking decisive steps to fight corruption. For instance, anti-money laundering legislation; cracking down and jailing corrupt officials — and that is why I have asked again secretary Camacho, who was in turn instructed his undersecretary Cornelio Bison to investigate those allegedly involved in the smuggling of rice. There is an ongoing investigation right now in charge of finance undersecretary Gison.

Greater transparency in contracts is also another thing that we have done. Now, all contracts have to be bidden rather than negotiated. And because NEDA has gone over many of the past contracts that have come through my desk over the last 11 months. Now we have seen already how contracts should be done and NEDA now will no longer review signed contracts by the department secretaries and the O.D.A. agencies unless there are specific contracts required by law for presidential review which is the only ones that I will be devolving to NEDA.

We also are working as a government on improvements in the judicial system, but this is done under the leadership of Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

In addressing macro concerns, we are focused on long-term structural issues, and as I said earlier, market-oriented reforms. We started with the reform of the power sector. Last June, as you know, congress passed the power sector reform law after almost a decade since the bill was first filed. The law provides a competitive environment in the power sector which in the long run will keep prices down in power for the benefit of the poor.

Our determination to pursue market-oriented reforms is manifested by our continuing adherence to the tariff reform program and the opening up of previously protected industries to fresh investments. This has been the case in telecommunications and oil industries and the financial sector.

After addressing the power sector, we turned to other basics like infrastructure, productivity and the savings rate. On infrastructure, for instance, we finally got to an agreement on completing the metro manila M.R.T. loop. This will ease the commuting life of the poor because they can get on the M.R.T. from anywhere to anywhere else in Metro Manila.

Also, we will finally break ground on the Batangas port during the Batangas fiesta around January 19 after more than a decade of delays. That Batangas port is especially dramatic to me. It started as our project when I was undersecretary of trade and industry, a project that started when I was still undersecretary of trade and industry. And in between I became senator twice, vice president and now president, and now the project can finally be implemented. The Batangas port will be the international port for CALABARZON. It will improve transportation and logistics and reduce costs making Philippine products competitive and creating more and better paying jobs. It will decongest metro manila, and therefore also improve productivity by cutting down on the time wasted in traffic jams. This will also improve competitiveness and the lot of the working class.

As an illustration of productivity — oh! Cito Lorenzo is here. This is not because you are here. It's also already in the speech i wrote last night — we are promoting the use of an award-winning Chinese rice hybrids, one of the fruits of my state visit to china. This hybrid will increase farm productivity by two-and-a-half times. We shall be adopting

this in 50,000 hectares of land all over the Philippines. This will increase the income of the farmers, who make up the majority of the poor. And to those doomsayers who say that we will be another Argentina with food riots, not after this hybrid is planted in April and harvested in September, not after all the economic reforms that have been done that have kept prices and the inflation rate down and interest rate down. No, we are very, very far from Argentina.

On promoting savings, we are strengthening the financial sector. The highlight of this — and again I congratulate Lito Camacho — is the agreement we have reached on the rehabilitation of the Philippine national bank, the linchpin of our banking system.

I am dedicated to giving back to my country the honor it bestowed on me last January 20th, and to helping ease the poverty that afflicts so many.

I have a strong team. My cabinet is impressive, honest and very professional. The international business community finds them a dream team. And they get even more impressed when i say, “yes, of course. Why are they not behaving like a dream team, after all i have seven Harvard graduates – three of them are here today — Bobbie, Cito and lit. Ah, oh! No, no. Two, Bobi and Lito. I have three Wharton alumni. One of them is here, that’s Cito. I have four veterans of Wall Street. Two of them are here, Cito and Lito. And i doubt if any other government in the world can boast of a more academically and professionally prepared team. That is why we are back on the radar screen.

Yes, the Philippines is back. When I took office I said I would focus my energy on making the economy grow despite the harsh environment of 2001. I created a plan and have made a substantial downpayment to achieve that result in the first 12 months of our administration.

The plan consists of four components: the first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century; the second component is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity; the third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan; and the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

I have brought political stability and global relevance.

My macroeconomic policies are paying off: peso stability, low inflation, job creation. From an 11.6 percent unemployment rate a year ago, the latest unemployment figure has gone down to 9.8 percent. And from October last year — ah, no — from October 2000 to October in 2001, we have created eight hundred thousand jobs in agriculture.

Though the final accounting has not yet been completed, we will also probably meet our budget deficit goal of some 145 billion pesos instead of the projected 225 billion pesos that we started with a year ago. And we are set to balance the budget by 2006.

Our GNP. growth was 3.7 percent for the first 3 quarters of 2001 despite tough global economic times and the political turmoil I inherited.

We achieved this growth by diversifying our domestic product base. Knowing that we could not count on exports for 2001 because of the world slowdown, we strengthened the domestic market and achieved growth in services, as I said, especially trade, also in transportation and communications, agriculture, and starting last October, the Malampaya gas project which brought also a windfall of oil, and starting this year, the privatization of NAPOCOR.

We have taken terrorism head on in the Philippines, in the region with our alliance with our neighbors — Malaysia and Indonesia, and with the global anti-terrorist alliance.

We have neutralized the rash of kidnappings. This was achieved by carrying out the following recommendations of the Filipino-Chinese community:

First they said, we should implement the death penalty for convicted kidnappers to strike fear in kidnap-for-ransom syndicates and show the government's resolve to deal with the kidnapping;

They also suggested — and we're doing it — that we work with the Chinese government to fight kidnapping syndicates that are composed of Chinese nationals;

They also suggested that we rid the uniformed services of scalawags and reorganize the police. That has been done by secretary Joey Lina and PNP Chief Leonard Mendoza;

They suggested too that we should resurrect the community-oriented police system, which means police presence in the neighborhoods;

And they suggested — which we did — that we should provide the National Anti-Crime Commission with the necessary equipment, including helicopters and surveillance facilities, and give it the budget to enable it to function effectively. This includes the injection of 1 billion pesos for the Philippine national police which largely implements the directives of the NACC against kidnap-for-ransom syndicates;

They suggested — and we did — that we modernize the police organization. Basically we have improved the screening process for policemen applicants. Now, only college graduates can be admitted to the police force. And we have just hired 1,700 new policemen whom we introduced to the public during the Christmas shopping season. 1,700 new policemen, all of them college graduates. We are also expanding the programs with Hong Kong and the U.S.A. To hire foreign experts using the use of ODA. to train the police force;

And we have set up — upon the recommendation again of the Chinese community — emergency response centers to assist victims and their relatives. The anti-kidnapping task force, in fact, has put up a nerve center right in Binondo.

We have also implemented a reward system for people who give information about kidnapping. Just as i set up a reward system for Abu Sayyaf leaders, which has resulted in many captures and killing, so that where the Abu Sayyaf were thousands before they are just hundreds now. I also made a total of a hundred million available as a reward pool for the capture of kidnappers.

And we have mobilized the peace and order councils more actively. And we have organized community-based self defense units, which are authorized to carry firearms and effect citizens' arrest by accrediting them as special police deputies.

We have asked the media — and I would like to ask again. Just for those few who might have not gotten the request earlier — not to report news about live kidnapping cases, because we must ensure that no leak comes out of the PNP or the media so as not to jeopardize the safety of the victims still in the hands of kidnappers.

And finally, using the national anti-crime commission as the center, we have established closer coordination among all intelligence agencies so that we can maximize all mechanisms of the state to identify and locate kidnap-for-ransom groups and other criminal syndicates, which is why the December 30 anniversary of the December 30 bombing of the year 2000 had no anniversary blast because all those intended explosives were discovered by intelligence before D-Day.

I am charting a new course with the results of last year. I believe we are sailing into calmer waters. But much work remains to be done: root out terrorism; work with the international community.

Return the reputation of manila and the Philippines as a welcoming and safe place in which to live and do business.

Increase the benefits from our new global relevance and engagement after years of being isolated and adrift.

We will continue our long-term structural reform.

Preparing our growth sectors of the future enables us to tap the opportunities of the 21st century.

We are promoting fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful because our competitive advantage is our human resources. The Philippines is the home of the great Filipino worker. The world knows this. We are proud of it. Thus, we are promoting human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors. One of them is information and communications technology or ICT, ICT. Will be the linchpin for our drive for sustainable long-term growth.

Terrorism is a drain. I will root it out at its source so that we can live in peace and build a safe, productive society.

Under the economic philosophy of free enterprise, the way to fight poverty is to create jobs, not destroy them. To continue to create jobs, we will attract investments. We will continue to attract investments including foreign investments.

We will pursue new initiatives to weed out corruption. Cabinet secretaries will have to deliver tangible results within 12 months after my State of the Nation Address, or 6 months from now in fighting graft.

And so this is what we have done this past eleven months. These are some of what we intend to do in the next 12 months. And i want to thank you for allowing me to put forward my vision, my plan and my thoughts for the New Year.

And now, let us continue our dialogue the way i know you enjoy it best – no holds barred in the open forum.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 5th Annual "Prospects for the Philippines' Conference of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231154/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7604&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 5th Annual Conference of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 5th Annual Conference of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Mandarin Hotel, Manila, January 11, 2002]

Which is why though my detractors tried to pin black propaganda on my husband, my family, they couldn't find concrete evidence, because my family does not indulge in graft.

I am fighting waste and graft so that out poor will believe in the government, and so that our small entrepreneurs will not waste their hard earned income on payoffs and corruption.

We are taking decisive steps to fight corruption. For instance, Anti-Money Laundering legislation, cracking down and jailing corrupt officials. And that is why I have asked, again, Secretary Camacho, who, in turn, has instructed his Undersecretary, Cornelio Hizon, to investigate those allegedly involved in the smuggling of rice. There is an ongoing investigation right now in charge of Finance Undersecretary Hizon.

Greater transparency in contracts is also another thing that we have done. Now all contracts have to be bidden rather than negotiated. And because NEDA has gone over many of the past contracts that have come through my desk over the last eleven months, now we have seen already how contracts should be done. And NEDA now will no longer review signed contracts by the department secretaries and the ODA agencies unless there are specific contracts required by law for presidential review, which are the only ones that I will be devolving to NEDA.

We are also working as a government on improvements in the judicial system, so this is done under the leadership of Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

In addressing macro concerns, we are focused on long term structural issues and, as I said earlier, market oriented reform. We started with the reform of the power sector.

Last June, as you know, congress passed the Power Sector Reform Law, after almost a decade since the bill was first filed.

The law provides a competitive environment in the power sector, which in the long run will keep prices down in power for the benefit of the poor.

Our determination to pursue market-oriented reforms is manifested by our continuing adherence to the tariff reform program, and the opening up of previously protected industries to fresh investments. This has been the case in telecommunications and oil industries and the financial sector.

After addressing the power sector, we turned to other basics like infrastructure, productivity and the savings rate.

On infrastructure, for instance, we finally got to an agreement on completing the Metro Manila MRT loop. This will ease the commuting life of the poor, because they can get on the MRT from anywhere, to anywhere else in Metro Manila. Also, we will finally break ground on the Batangas Port during the Batangas Fiesta around January 19, after more than decade of delays. That Batangas Port is especially dramatic to me. It started as our project when I was still Undersecretary of Trade and Industry. And in-between, I became Senator twice, Vice President, and now President. And now the project can finally be implemented.

The Batangas Port will be the international port for CALABARZON. It will improve transportation and logistics, and reduce costs, making Philippine products competitive and creating more and better paying jobs. It will decongest Metro Manila and, therefore, also improve productivity by cutting down on the time wasted in traffic jams. This will also improve competitiveness and the lot of the working class.

As an illustration of productivity, we are promoting the use of an award winning Chinese rice hybrid, one of the fruits of my state visit to China. This hybrid would increase farm productivity by two and half times. We shall be adopting this in 50,000 hectares of land all over the Philippines. This will increase the income of the farmers who make up the majority of the poor. And to those doomsayers who say that we will be another Argentina, with food riots, not after this hybrid is planted in April and harvested in September; not after all the economic reforms that have been done that have kept prices and the inflation rate down, and interest rates down. No, we are very very far from Argentina.

On promoting savings, we are strengthening the financial sector. The highlight of this — and, again, I congratulate Lito Camacho — is the agreement we have reached on the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Bank, the linchpin of our banking system.

I am dedicated to giving back to my country the honor it bestowed on me last January 20th and to helping ease the poverty that afflicts so many. I have a strong team. My cabinet is impressive, honest, and very professional.

The international business community finds them a dream team. And they get even more impressed when I say, yes, of course, why are they not behaving like a dream team? After all, I have seven Harvard graduates. Three of them are here today. Bobbie, Cito and Lito. Oh, no, no. Two. Bobbie and Lito. I have three Wharton alumni. One of them is here, that's Cito. I have four veterans of Wall Street; two of them are here — Cito and Lito. And I doubt if any other government in the world can boast of a more academically and professionally prepared team. That is why we are back on the radar screen. Yes, the Philippines is back.

When I took office, I said I would focus my energy on making the economy grow despite the harsh environment of 2001. I created a plan and have made a substantial downpayment to achieve that result in the first twelve months of our administration.

The plan consists of four components:

The first, is an economic philosophy of Free Enterprise appropriate to the 21st century.

The second component is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity;

The third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan;

And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

I have brought political stability and global relevance. My microeconomic policies are paying off: peso stability, low inflation, and job creation.

From an 11.6 percent unemployment rate a year ago, the latest unemployment figure has gone down to 9.8 percent.

And from October 2000 to October in 2001, we have created 800,000 jobs in agriculture.

Though the final accounting has not yet been completed, we will also probably meet our budget deficit goal of some hundred forty five billion pesos, instead of the projected two hundred twenty five billion pesos that we started with a year ago. And we are set to balance the budget by 2006.

Our GNP growth of 3.7 percent for the first three-quarters of 2001, despite tough global economic times and the political turmoil I inherited. We achieved this growth by diversifying our domestic product base, knowing that we could not count on exports for 2001 because of the world slowdown. We strengthened the domestic market and achieved growth in services, as I said, especially trade; also in transportation and communications, agriculture. And starting last October, the Malampaya Gas Project, which brought also a windfall of oil; and starting this year, the privatization of NAPOCOR.

We have taken terrorism head on in the Philippines, in the region, with our alliance with our neighbors –Malaysia and Indonesia, and with the global anti terrorist alliance.

We have neutralized the rash of kidnappings. This was achieved by carrying out the following recommendations of the Filipino-Chinese community.

First they said, we should implement the death penalty for convicted kidnappers to strike fear in kidnap-for-ransom syndicates and show the government's resolve to deal with the kidnapping.

They also suggested — and we are doing it — that we work with the Chinese government to fight kidnapping syndicates that are composed of Chinese nationals.

They also suggested that we rid the uniformed services of scalawags and reorganize the police. That has been done by Secretary Joey Lina and PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza.

They suggested too that we should resurrect the community oriented police system, which means police presence in the neighborhoods. And they suggested, which we did, that we should provide the national anti crime commission with the necessary equipment, including helicopters and surveillance facilities, and give it the budget to enable it to function effectively. This includes the injection of P1 billion for the Philippine National Police, which largely implements the directives of the NACC against kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

They suggested – and we did –that we modernize the police organization. Basically, we have improved the screening process for policemen applicants. Now, only college graduates can be admitted to the police force. And we have just hired 1,700 new policemen, whom we introduced to the public during the Christmas shopping season. One thousand seven hundred new policemen, all of them college graduates.

We are also expanding the programs with Hong Kong and the U.S.A. to hire foreign experts, using the use of ODA to train the police force. And we have set up, upon the recommendation, again, of the Chinese community, emergency response centers to assist victims and the relatives. The anti- kidnapping task force, in fact, has put up a nerve center right in Binondo.

We have also implemented a reward system for people who give information about kidnapping. Just as I set up a reward system for Abu Sayyaf leaders, which has resulted in many captures and killings, so that where the Abu Sayyaf were thousands before, they are just hundreds now. I also made a total of a hundred million pesos available as a reward pool for the capture of kidnappers.

And we have mobilized the peace and order councils more actively, and we have organized community based self defense units, which are authorized to carry firearms and effect citizens arrests by accrediting them as special police deputies. We have asked the media — and I would like to ask again. Just for those few who might not have gotten

the request earlier — not to report news about live kidnapping cases, because we must ensure that no lead comes out of the PNP or the media, so as not to jeopardize the safety of the victims still in the hands of kidnappers.

And finally, using the National Anti Crime Commission as the center, we have established closer coordination among all intelligence agencies, so that we can maximize all mechanisms of the state to identify and locate kidnap-for-ransom groups and other criminal syndicates; which is why the December 30 anniversary of the December 30 bombing of the year 2000 had no anniversary blast, because all those intended explosives were discovered by intelligence before the day.

I am charting a new course with the results of last year. I believe we are sailing into calmer waters, but much work remains to be done. Root out terrorism, work with the international community, return the reputation of Manila and the Philippines as a welcoming and safe place in which to live and do business.

Increase the benefits from our new global relevance and engagement after years of being isolated and adrift.

We will continue our long-term structural reforms. Preparing our growth sectors of the future enables us to tap the opportunities of the 21st century. We are promoting fast growing industries where high value jobs are most plentiful, because our competitive advantage is our human resources.

The Philippines is the home of the great Filipino worker. The world knows this. We are proud of it. Thus, we are promoting human resource intensive, skills intensive service sectors. One of them is information and communications technology, or ICT. ICT will be the linchpin for our drive for sustainable long-term growth.

Terrorism is a drain. I will root it out at its source so that we can live in peace and build a safe productive society.

Under the economic philosophy of Free Enterprise, the way to fight poverty is to create jobs, not destroy them. To continue to create jobs, we will attract investments. We will continue to attract investments including foreign investments. We will pursue new initiatives to weed out corruption. Cabinet Secretaries will have to deliver tangible results within twelve months, after my State of the Nation Address, or six months from now in fighting graft. And so this is what we have done these past eleven months. These are some of what we intend to do in the next twelve months.

And I want to thank you for allowing me to put forward my vision, my plan and my thoughts for the New Year.

And now let us continue our dialogue the way I know you enjoy it best. No holds barred in the open forum.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 5th Annual Conference of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231204/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7603&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine Forum 2002

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Philippine Forum 2002

[Delivered at the Conservatory, Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City, January 12, 2002]

Thank you.

Thank you Mar.

And to all of you. I'm very happy to have this chance to address you because the last time you invited me, the schedule got mixed up. Somewhere along the way the time slot I accepted, overlapped with the time slot that President Estrada accepted. So you had to choose which speaker you wanted to listen to. Anyway, I'm glad that I made it at last this time because since he replaced me as the speaker then it had to take EDSA 2 for me to replace him as the speaker in front of you today.

And indeed I appreciate this opportunity to address you on the eve of the first anniversary of EDSA Dos. This past year we are dedicated to restoring moral authority in our government because we owe this restoration to the Filipino youth, because the Filipino youth was the major instrument of People Power II.

I think if there was one difference between People Power 1 and People Power 2, it was the dominance of the young people in EDSA during EDSA Dos.

But I believe most of you if not all of you were in EDSA Dos. After all you are also young, you are the new generation of leaders. That's why your nickname in fact is better known not as what's this Philippine foundation — whatever it is — but you're known as the successor generation, that's your famous name. Well, I think I'm slightly older than you are because I'm a part of the baby boomer generation. But many of you were Martial Law babies or Martial Law toddlers. And all over the world, we — my generation and yours, the postwar babies, including both the baby boomers and the Martial Law children — continue to have the greatest voice, the best ideas and the most energetic drive for change. This successor generation has started to rule the 21st century.

And I know, as I said, we owe it to you the leaders that came in the aftermath of EDSA Dos. We owe it to the young — to the successor generation — to provide moral authority.

Moral authority starts with the personal integrity and work ethic of the President herself, and it radiates to the Presidential Family. Which is why my first Administrative Order prohibited government agencies from dealing with my relatives on matters of contracts, supplies, and appointments to positions. That is why no matter how hard they try to destroy me by trying to destroy my husband, hard as they try to come up with concrete evidence they can't find any because there is none and my family does not indulge in graft and corruption.

And beyond the Presidential Personal Family, the moral authority also radiates to the official family, especially the cabinet. And you know that I have a strong team because many of you belong to that team. My cabinet is impressive, honest and very professional. It is a blend of youth and experience because youth does not have mean inexperience. In fact many of you are young but many of you have extensive professional experience. And my cabinet consists of men and women of integrity and competence because they were recruited on the basis of track record, reputation, and dedication.

As I said many of them come from you, I was reading your list and I saw the Office of the President, department of this, department of that — we have of course notably, the founder of the Philippine Forum Foundation, Mar Roxas

who's Secretary of Trade and Industry. We have Cito Lorenzo, my Presidential Adviser for the Million Jobs. Then there is Cerge Remonde who is the Head of Channel 13. Then there is Alex Magno, Director of the Development Bank of the Philippines. And I'm only looking at the first row. Well, the rest are hiding. And I always like to say that in this group I that there's so many of you in this group who are like that it's probably not as impressive you. But its certainly impressive to the world international community when I say that I have seven Harvard graduates, three Wharton alumni, and two of them are Cito and Mar; and four veterans of Wall Street. That's the two of them again Cito and Mar. And I have always said I doubt if any other government in the world can boast of a more academically and professionally prepared team.

We, my team and I, are fighting waste and graft so that the poor will believe in the government and so that our small entrepreneurs will not waste their hard-earned income, not to mention our large entrepreneurs on pay-offs and corruption. We are taking decisive steps to fight corruption. For instance, we took an important step in the promotion of good governance by passing a law to penalize money laundering, by cracking down on and moving to jail corrupt officials, such as those allegedly involved in the smuggling of rice and the great escape — there is an ongoing investigation in fact of that under the charge of Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Hizon upon the instruction I gave to Secretary Camacho; we are moving for greater transparency in contracts, now contracts have to be bid rather than negotiated; and we work for improvements in the judicial system, for this one is being done under the lead of the Supreme Court with Chief Justice Hilario Davide being in charge of that — that is his area and we'll just support where we can support. Also, we have computerized bidding in public works to substitute the human element with a fairly incorruptible electronic element. The result has been honest and faster contract awards.

Let us review what else we have already done, and where we are.

In 2001, we began a new a war against poverty, which we hope the country will win within the decade.

The Philippines is back. When I took office I said I would focus my energy on making the economy grow despite the harsh economic environment of 2001. My team and I created a plan and we have made a substantial down payment to achieve that result of being back in the radar screen in the first 12 months.

The Philippines resolutely and resiliently battled the global crisis. Our economic survival provided the much-needed momentum to press on now to press on with our battle to win against poverty. We have firmly stabilized the domestic political situation while continuing to mop up residual problems of law and order, and the mopping up that we are donning is by carrying out the following recommendations of the Filipino-Chinese community:

One, implement the death penalty to convicted kidnappers to strike fear to kidnap for ransom syndicates and show the government's resolve to deal with the kidnapping menace.

Two, work with the Chinese government to fight kidnapping syndicates composed of Chinese nationals.

Three, rid the uniformed services of scalawags and reorganize the police.

Four, resurrect the community-oriented police system that used to be there. And we did that by hiring 1,700 new policemen to be able to have a presence in the community. It was kind a commonsensical though I did spend some time studying how formerly crime-ridden cities like New York and Houston were able to turn around their reputation and one very, very simple solution was to increase the number of policemen. Well, simple for them not so simple for us because we have to look for the funds. But because of political will and because I have a great balancer in DBM Secretary Emy Boncodin we found a billion pesos to be able to finance the additional requirements of the Philippine National Police.

Also not just the Philippine national police the National Anti-Crime Commission were providing them with the necessary equipment, including helicopters and surveillance facilities, and giving them the budget to enable them to function effectively. As I said one billion pesos mainly for the Philippine National Police which largely is the implementing agency of the directives of the NACC against criminal syndicates.

Also we have modernized the police organization. Not only did we hire 1,700 policemen but also we have improved the screening process for policemen applicants so that now all those 1,700 had to be college graduates. Now only college graduates can be admitted to the police force. We introduced them to the general public last, I think, it was the first shopping day of Christmas, early December and in fact the launching was in one of the shopping malls so that our people would feel secure when they go shopping for their Christmas gifts. And as far as these policemen are concerned as well as the present crop of policemen, the older crop of policemen, we're expanding the training programs with Hong Kong police and the U.S.A. to hire experts to train the police force.

When I go to the U.K. at the end of this month I will also work out with Prime Minister Tony Blair, the Assistant of Scotland Yard, for additional training for our policemen.

We have set up emergency response centers to assist victims and their relatives especially a nerve center, which the anti-kidnapping task force has put up right in Binondo.

And we have implemented a reward system for people who give information about kidnapping. Just as I set up a reward for Abu Sayyaf leaders, which has resulted in many captures, congress has now made, and I thank congress, Nery, I didn't mention you among my official family because you're constitutionally independent. But I'd like to thank Nery Sacosta and his fellow congressmen because they made now a total of 250 million pesos available as a reward pool for the capture of kidnappers and other major criminals.

We have also mobilized the peace and order councils more actively. Even as we speak Joey Lina right now is presiding over a National Peace and Order Council Conference. And we have organized community-based self-defense units, which are authorized to carry firearms and effect citizens' arrest by accrediting them as Special Police Deputies.

And we have asked media not to report news about live kidnapping cases and to ensure that no leak comes out of the PNP so as not to jeopardize the safety of victims that are still in the hands of kidnappers.

Using the National Anti-Crime Commission as the center, we have established closer coordination among all intelligence agencies so that we can maximize all mechanisms of the state to identify and locate kidnap-for-ransom groups as well as other syndicates. I think it's a tribute to how good our intelligence is that we were able to foil any dreams of anybody to do a remake of the December 30, 2000 terrorist bombing.

And in government in general we have infused, to a great degree, common sense, discipline, and accountability in management and public service. And we are very fortunate that leaders from government, the private sector and civil society have committed to undertake a concerted effort to combat poverty and accelerate economic development. And many of those who have gone together and made the decision together are here in this hall this afternoon. Many of you were there when we forged a socio-economic pact during the National Socio-Economic Summit last December.

We are very grateful — I think we should be very grateful — that our GNP growth rate was 3.7 percent for the first three quarters of 2001 despite tough global economic times and the political turmoil that we inherited, thereby surpassing the predictions of the private sector, maybe some of you here. And this 3.7 percent GNP growth rate, in the setting of our recession in many of our neighbors and trading partners, is indeed a significant turnaround, considering that less than a year ago, our economy was about to go into a tailspin in the wake of political instability.

And today, foreign direct investment levels have also exceeded targets despite the global slowdown. Investments reached a 132 billion by the end of November against a projection of a 100 billion for the entire year. These investments went mostly to telecommunications and manufacturing.

In addition, leading international credit rating agencies and multilateral bodies such as NEXI, JBIC, Fitch, The World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank have endorsed our credit worthiness. J.P. Morgan reports that the prevailing decline in risk aversion has allowed the continuous improvement in economic fundamentals in the Philippines to finally shine through.

And what better seal of good housekeeping can there be than the two-and-a-half-pound oversubscription of our latest bond floatation, bringing down the spurge to almost nothing as international financing goes. And tomorrow you'll probably see a banner headline in one or two newspapers about layman brothers signing an MOU with the Department of Finance to bring in a hundred billion dollars of special purpose funds into the Philippines.

I just read an article today, I think its either in the Wall Street Journal or the Financial Times that said that our strong stand against international terrorism has made many of these international financial institutions line up to help our banking industry. Well, I told some of this bankers, it also helps that we are not in distress like the other countries with their very, very high 40 percent, 50 percent percentage of NPLs — we're certainly not anywhere near that. So we are good risk for these special purposes funds.

Why? Because of fiscal discipline. We have stood by fiscal discipline. Though the final accounting has not yet been completed, we will probably meet our budget deficit goal of some a 145 billion pesos instead of the projected 225 billion that we started with a year ago. And we are set to balance the budget by year 2006 — a balanced budget that is the key to our goal of reducing poverty and promoting economic development.

A factor in this equation, the staining of the budget deficit, is the fact that the Bureau of Internal Revenue exceeded its targets from January to November by 400 million pesos compared to being way below target in the middle of the year. Why? As a result of its anti-corruption reforms. That's how it was able to catch up.

Our efforts to achieve a balanced budget also includes new approaches to revenue collection, such as Documentary Stamp Metering and Tax Audit Acceleration.

And on my part personally, I am dedicated to giving back to our country the honor that it bestowed upon me last January 20, and helping ease the poverty that afflicts so many.

Our macroeconomic policies are paying off: peso stability, low inflation — yes, 3.9 percent last December, the lowest in the last 16 months — and of course job creation — from an 11.6 unemployment rate a year ago, the latest unemployment figure has gone down to 9.8 percent.

And I said I hope that we have million jobs created in agriculture. Well, the NSO statistics show that between October in year 2000 and October last year when we were nine months in the government actually there has already been about 800,000 jobs created in agriculture.

We have revitalized ties with our global partners. We have informed the international community of our steady gains, of the stability and viability of our political, social and economic reforms. We have secured commitments of bilateral and multilateral support for our domestic efforts.

Given all that, I think we can approach the new year with a solid expectation that, as I said yesterday in FOCAP, we are sailing into calmer waters.

Nonetheless, much work remains to be done:

Root out terrorism; work with the international community.

And that is why we have 27 U.S. Officers in Zamboanga today and maybe we'll have another hundred coming in the middle of January.

Return the reputation of Manila and the Philippines as a welcoming and safe place in which to live and do business.

Increase the benefits from our new global relevance and engagement after years of being isolated and adrift.

But the stage has been set for the times to get better.

To continue to create jobs, of course, we will attract investments.

To encourage strength in the domestic economy, we are looking at bringing new financing vehicles to small and medium-scale enterprises and the housing sector.

There are big-ticket items where we are unlocking bottlenecks to spur additional sources of domestic demand: the PNB, the National Steel Corporation — which is Mar's special assignment, in fact he will be leaving for Singapore and then on Kuala Lumpur to talk to the Maharta which is the ATP of Malaysia which owns part of National Steel; and I have instructed him that it is time, either to foreclose or for the various creditors to get together to form a special focus vehicle to take over the assets and manage the assets of the National Steel Corporation. We are also unlocking the bottlenecks in the MRT. Now they will begin to do the construction, not to get the financing, to do the construction to close the loop of the MRT in Metro Manila. And the Batangas port, where on the Fiesta Day of Batangas we will finally be breaking ground on the Batangas port after so many years of waiting. For me it's a special occasion because the project started in my planning office when I was Undersecretary of Trade and Industry. I had to become Senator two times, Vice President and now President to be able to see it start getting off the ground.

And as I mentioned earlier or alluded to earlier, we are unlocking the bottlenecks for the asset management system for the housing sector. Well you are finance men a lot of you so I might as well share you what's the dilemma here. Well, of course when you have an asset management company and you buy non-performing assets you do it with a discount. Question: how much is the discount? Since we have a number of those interested, layman brothers, ... Well, let the market determine the discount. The discount, of course, means that eventually in the books or the pension funds you will finally face the reality of how much the assets have depreciated. And because of that what will happen is that there are statutory limitations and ratios on how much the pension funds can invest related to their assets that reduces their flexibility to do their investments. Well, anyway in any case these special purpose funds will require legislation for many of the incentives. So I'm hoping, anyway Nery's here, that soon congress will pass the Securitization Law; and maybe, why not throw in for good measure, an increase in the flexibility of the pension funds with regard to the ratios and what they can invest so that we can liquefy the assets for housing and at the same time still allow the pension funds to do their investment so that they can assure our workers who are paying their premiums of their pensions and retirement benefits and salary loans for a long time to come.

Another bottleneck that we are trying to work out — I see many Cebuanos here — Cerge and Aboitizes, who else? Tommy is here, oh great, well, he knows about this, the water system of Cebu.

In agriculture, Cito take a bow, the rice hybrid coming from China, and developed for Philippine conditions by Philrice, will, through the leadership of Cito, hopefully increase the yield in farms by two-and-a-half times. That is certainly going to help, that will help feed our people and increase the income of our farmers.

The Philippines is also becoming a hub for Information and Communications Technology, thanks to our millions of educated, English-speaking people, and successor generation types like Cynthia Namon. Our strategy for human capacity building is to transform our labor force into the new economy workforce. Our competitive advantage is our human resources. I like to say that the Philippines is the home of the great Filipino worker. The world knows this and we are proud of it.

Every initiative, every new measure or program to which we in the government have committed ourselves, is a building block for the broader pillars of national strategic consensus. These pillars, as I have many times articulated, are the following:

The first is an Economic Philosophy of Free Enterprise appropriate to the 21st century.

The second pillar is a Modernized Agricultural Sector, with that hybrid and other things, founded on social equity.

The third pillar is a Social Bias Toward the Disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. And so I'm so keen on liquefying the funds for housing.

And the fourth pillar is to Raise the Moral Standards of Government and Society.

The problems we confront are many and diverse but, as we showed in EDSA, our greatest strength is our people power. People power to reform government. People power to make the economy move forward. And as we saw in EDSA that people power was powered by the young. And even in the business sector it is powered by you, the successor generation.

As the thinkers, achievers, and leaders who will navigate our country in the new millennium, I call on you, the successor generation, to stay with us in our bold aspiration to win the battle against poverty by tapping the new opportunities of the new economy because that is what you are: you, the successor generation are the new economy.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Philippine Forum 2002. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231147/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7601&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Batangas Port
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the groundbreaking ceremony of the Batangas Port

[Delivered at the Foreign Berth Area, Batangas Port, Batangas City, January 16, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Bebot Alvarez sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

I would like to greet the people of Batangas sa pamumuno ni Governor Dodo Mandanas, Happy Founding Anniversary ng probinsya ng Batangas. Gusto ko ring batiin ang mga taga-Batangas City sa pamumuno ni Mayor Eddie Dimakuha, Happy Fiesta sa Batangas City.

Gusto kong batiin yung iba't-ibang mga Governor na narito ng region 4, nandito si Governor Reyes, Carmencita; nandito si Governor Reyes, Joel; si Governor Ong; si Governor Marasigan; si Governor Madrona; si Governor Enverga; at yung adopted son ng Region 4, si Governor Vic Magsaysay ng Zambales.

Batiin ko rin ang iba't-ibang mga Ccabinet members na narito: nandito si Secretary Leony Montemayor — o umalis na ba siya — ayan pa. At nandito, gusto kong makilala, at nandito rin si Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, si Eddie Ermita. At gusto kong makilala ninyo yung Presidential Adviser for Southern Tagalog, si Secretary Cesar Sarino. Saan siya? I would also like to greet our friends from Japan: Shimitsu, JBIC, Japan Embassy. And yung ating mga Congress, isa lang yata nanditong Congresswoman, si Vicky lang ang nandito, si Vicky Reyes hindi siya Congresswoman dito; Congresswoman siya doon sa isang lugar ng Batangas na marami ring industriya. Ngunit ang Batangas port ay hindi nasa loob ni Congresswoman Vicky Reyes sa kanyang distrito, yung mga industriya sa kanyang distrito ay makikinabang sa Batangas International Port. Wala rito si congressman Frank Perez dahil nasa Hawaii, wala rito yung tatay niya dahil may hearing sa Commission on Appointments.

Ngayon gusto ko ring batiin si President FF Cruz ng FF Cruz and company, sila ang magpapatayo nitong ating port na ito.

At gusto kong batiin happy birthday BOI Governor Tony Leviste na malaki ang ipinaglaban niya para yung mga bottlenecks ng Batangas port ay mawala.

I would like to greet our friends from Asian terminal; yung mga punong lunsod ng bawat bayan sa probinsya ng Batangas; yung ating Southern Luzon Commander, si Major General Ernesto Carolina; yung ating regional director ng PNP, si General Reyes — yan ang caretaker ni Nur Misuari dito; at saka ating mga guro na nandito, susi ng kinabukasan dahil sila ang magpo-produce ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Binati ko na kayo lahat happy Batangas Foundation Day. Happy Fiesta ng Batangas City. Happy Birthday kay Tony Leviste.

Para sa akin itong araw na ito napaka-importante. So long have I waited for Batangas International Port to begin dahil yung mga pag-aaral na ito nagsimula pa sa Department of Trade and Industry nung ako ay Secretary pa... Ay city mayor Arnan Panaligan, batiin ko rin dahil yung mga constituents niya yon ang karamihan na nakatanggap nitong ating proyekto dahil sa proyektong ito, ito ay nanggagaling, sabi ni Al Cusi na binabati ko rin, doon sa aking instructions sa Philippine Ports Authority na porsiyento ng kanilang kita ay dapat pumupunta sa direct pro-poor programs hindi yung trickle down. Kaya itong mga push cart na ito ay nanggaling sa programa nating yon, at maraming nakikinabang ay yung mga nagtatrabaho doon sa kabila naman, sa pantalan sa Calapan port yung mga constituents si Al Cusi.

At meron diyan mga nandiyan na mga may tatak, mga teachers dito, sabi ko Al sigurado mo makikinabang sila dito ha. Baka akala mo humahawak lang sila doon. Kaya sabi ko lahat ng humahawak kailangan iuwi yon so make sure na talagang yon ang beneficiaries.

So anyway, so long have I waited. At dahil nung ako ay Undersecretary for Policy and Planning ng Department of Trade and Industry, noon pa noon 1989 ginawa yung programa para magkaroon ng Batangas International Port at yung aking Kagawaran — yung Office of Policy and Planning — yon ang gumawa nitong proposal para dito sa Batangas Port na ito. Linakad na namin sa JBIC, linakad ko sa maraming mga sakit ng ulo at sakit ng loob at sakit ng puso — unang-una yung mga nakatira sa port area na kinailangan na lilipat sila sa ibang lugar para magkaroon ng lugar dito sa pantalan. At sa wakas, pagkatapos ng matagal, ay nalipat din dahil meron mga pangako na inasahan na matutulungan sila.

Kanina nung nanggaling ako sa helicopter sakay sa kotse tinanong ko kay Governor Mandanas, kumusta na yung mga kinailangan lumipat dahil nga yung tinitirahan, tinitirikan ang mga barung-barung maliliit na bahay ay gagamitin sa pantalan. Nakalipat nga sabi ni Governor Mandanas pero meron pang ilang utang ang Philippine Ports Authority na livelihood na hinihintay pa nila. Eh sabi ni Governor Mandanas bilang tulong naman niya sa national government dahil siya ay buong-buong sumusuporta, siya na raw ang sasagot at tutulong sa livelihood na hinihintay nitong mga inilipat. Anyway, sa dami ng mga, yon ang unang-una lamang at para sa akin pinaka legitimo. Kasi lahat nito ay para sa kinabubuti ng mahihirap. Kayong mga mahihirap dapat hindi nila akalain na sila ay sinasakripisyo para sa kaunlaran, dapat nararamdaman nila ang pakinabang.

Pero maraming-maraming mga naabutang bureaucratic controversies, red tape, right of way, problema sa bidding, problema sa interpretation bidding rules, problema sa ... Hanggang sa ako ay pangulo, sabi ko hindi ba nasisisimulan yung Batangas International Port? 2001 na ngayon, 1989? 12 years.

So nung nangyari yung world economic slow down nung first half of 2001 at nakita ko hihina ang exports natin, sabi ko sa aking mga economic managers, papaano natin mapapanatili ang angat ng ating ekonomiya kung bagsak ang ating exports? Hanapan natin ng paraan na yung domestic demand ay aangat. Kaya yung unang panahon, yung unang half year o yung unang seven months inasikaso ang small and medium enterprises, agriculture at yung mga squatters na pwedeng bilhin yung lupang tinitirikan nila. Nagtagumpay yon kasi nung unang lumabas yung mga ating growth rate, yung ibang mga bansa nagsimula na ng recession angat pa rin tayo. Nagulat ang buong mundo. Tapos nangyari yung September 11. Sabi ko sa cabinet members tama yung ating strategy noon: nag-focus tayo sa domestic demand pero hindi natin pwedeng taasan ang gaston ng gobyerno dahil hindi tayo pwedeng taasan ng deficit natin dahil hihirapan ang ating bansa. Ngayon September 11 mas lalung hindi nakakasiguro ang ating bansa. Eh anong gagawin pa natin para lumabas yong domestic demand pero hindi dadagdag ang gastos ng gobyerno? Ano yung mga naka budget nakabinbin sa red tape na ilalabas natin? Big ticket items ng investment, o big ticket items ng infrastructure. At binilang yon, may mga kalahating dosena na sabi ko bibigyan natin ng espesyal na pansin para yung bottleneck ay maa-unclog para magsimula yung proyekto para magbigay ng domestic demand sa kabila pa ng long term fruits ng kaunlaran.

So nakatukoy, Philippine National Bank rehabilitation. Salamat sa panginoon naayos na, nagkasundo na sa Philippine National Bank rehabilitation.

National Steel Corporation doon sa Iligan, si Secretary Mar Roxas ay nandoon ngayon sa Malaysia upang pag-usapan kung papaano gumawa ng either foreclosure o kaya yung asset management company na hahawak ng assets ng National Steel para mapatakbo.

Yung MRT loop doon sa Metro Manila, may maliit na bahagi doon hindi nakakasarado tuloy yung loop ng MRT. Sa wakas, hindi ba Secretary Bebot Alvarez, nagkasundo na doon sa gagawa — pagkatapos ng mahabang kontrobersya magsisimula na sa ilang buwan yung pagtatayo at pagbubuo nung MRT.

At yung housing, yung housing na napakalaki ang multiplier effect — at ang dami-dami natin mga small workers na naghahanap ng housing pero sa daming taon na yung housing at mahina ang bayad marami na ang perang naipit — kailangan ng asset management company na bibili ng papeles para umikot muli yung pera para sa housing.

Nandiyan yung Layman Brothers nung isang araw at yon ang kanilang gagawin; pati Sir Bruce one billion dollars na investments para sa housing para umikot uli.

At binanggit ko National steel, Philippine National Bank, closing the MRT loop, housing, at yung Batangas port. Kaya talagang tinukoy yung mga bottleneck ng Batangas port. Kung kinailangan gamitin ang political will para mag-expropriate gagamitin ang political will dahil ang kapakanan ng buong CALABARZON, buong Pilipinas ang ating hinahanap at hindi yung kapakanan ng ilang may-ari ng lupa.

Kaya kanina kasama ko si governor Enverga galing doon sa Quezon doon sa tagkawayan liblib na lugar kung saan tinutulungan pa natin yung magsasaka ng niyog kung papaano magkaroon ng secondary income. Sabi ko Willy kung 1989 or a few years after that natayo na sana yung Batangas International port di sana ang dami-dami ng industriya at factory dito sa Quezon. Pero ngayon dahil sa tagal ng hinintay natin hanggang ngayon livelihood pa rin, micro-finance pa rin, self-employment pa rin ang binibigay natin sa magsasaka ng Quezon. Kaya anyway better late than never. Siguro dahil ako ay naging pangulo ngayon ito na nga siguro ang isang dahilan kung bakit one year ago on EDSA Dos ginawa ako ng Panginoon na isang maging isang pangulo dahil naalala ng Panginoon na ipinaglalaman ko yung Batangas port mula pa nung ako ay Usec. Biro n'yo Usec. Tapos naging Senador dalawang beses, tapos naging Vice president, tapos naging President — biro mo kung all that time hindi pa natin masisimula itong Batangas International port. Kaya itong araw na ito, gaya ng sabi ko, so long have I waited.

Kahit na itong araw na ito dapat nandoon ako sa EDSA dahil ito nga ang first day ng EDSA, sabi ko hindi, fiesta ng Batangas ito ang araw kung saan gusto ko ipagdiriwang natin yung isang napakalaking kaganapan hindi lamang sa Batangas city, hindi lamang sa batangas province, hindi lamang sa buhay ni Tony Leviste kung hindi sa buhay ng ating buong Pilipinas dahil ang Batangas port, ang Batangas port ang siyang magpapaangat sa buhay ng CALABARZON, sa buhay ng Pilipinas; ang Batangas port ang magbibigay ng mas maraming trabaho sa dakilang manggagawang Pilipino dahil hindi na dadaan ang traffic papunta doon sa Maynila para sa international trading dito na pag natapos na ito.

Kaya mga guro, turuan niyong mabuti yung mga estudyante n'yo, yung mga estudyante n'yong magagaling — sila ay magagaling na manggagawang Pilipino, maging sa blue collar o sa white collar dahil pagtamang-tama pag nag-graduate yung mga anak ninyo, mga tinuturuan ninyo, tayo na rin yung Batangas port sa ating asal at tamang-tama darating ang marami pang mga industriya na gagamit ng kagalingan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino sa Batangas, sa buong CALABARZON, sa buong Pilipinas na itong araw na ito bilang first day ng celebration ng EDSA Dos anniversary malaking karangalan para sa inyong lingkod na kasama ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino ng CALABARZON para sa ganoon ipagdiriwang natin ang kinabukasan ng Batangas port, ng CALABARZON at ang sambayanang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat at congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Batangas Port. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231140/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7600&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 12th Supreme National Congress of the Associated Labor Unions
(ALU)
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 12th Supreme National Congress of the Associated Labor Unions (ALU)**

[Delivered at the Cebu Plaza Hotel, Cebu City, January 19, 2002]

Ngayon ay bisperas ng pagdiriwang ng Unang Anibersaryo ng People Power 2, na madalas tinatawagan din ng EDSA 2.

Noong ako ay nagtayo ng aking Senatorial line up, sabi nila, ano kaya ang ticket natin, EDSA 2 Coalition. Sabi ko, hindi, kasi iyong EDSA 2 parang taga EDSA lang ang mga bayani ng Pilipinas. Kaya dapat People Power dahil ang EDSA 2 ay hindi lamang ginanap sa EDSA. Ito ay ginanap sa Cebu, sa iba't ibang lugar ng Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao at ng mga ginanap ng mga taga Maynila, taga Visayas, taga Mindanao, taga Luzon.

Kaya importante na sa ating pagdiriwang dito sa apat na araw ng People Power 2 – January 16 hanggang January 20, hindi lamang sa Manila ang selebrasyon kung hindi sa buong Pilipinas. Lalo na sa iba't ibang lugar na kung saan nagkaroon ng People Power. Kaya sa gitna ng pagdiriwang ng People Power 2, ako ay pumunta rito sa Cebu upang ipagdiwang ang kasing-halagang papel ng People Power 2 sa labas ng Maynila.

At pinili kong ipagdiwang ito kasama ng TUCP. Dahil gusto kong bigyang diin na ang People Power ay hindi mga personalidad kasama ko, kagaya ko, kung hindi ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. At kung ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino ang People Power, dapat ang makinabang sa mga patakaran ng People Power Administration ay ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Nahahanap natin ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino sa iba't ibang sektor ng ekonomiya at ng bansa. Halimbawa, sakop sa dakilang manggagawang Pilipino ang dakilang Pilipinong mambabaka, ang dakilang Pilipinong magniniyog, ang dakilang Pilipinong mangingisda, ang dakilang katutubo, ang dakilang manggagawang turismo, ang dakilang magsasaka, ang dakilang manggagawa sa industriya, ang dakilang manggagawa sa kamaynilaan, ang dakilang manggagawa sa probinsiya.

Kaya sinimulan ko ang pagdiwang ng People Power 2 pagpasok ng bagong taon, sa pagpunta sa iba't ibang lugar para ipagdiwang itong aking anibersaryo bilang Pangulo. Nagpunta ako sa Masbate, kung saan naroon ang maraming mambabaka, at doon alang-alang sa dakilang mambabakang Pilipino, inanunsyo ko na sa halip P200 per hectare na sinisingil ng nakaraang administrasyon sa kanila, binaba ko ito, binaba ito ng People Power Administration sa P40, from P200 to P40.

Pumunta rin ako sa malayong bayan ng Milagros, Masbate, isang bayan ng mangingisda at nag-inaugurate ako ng isang processing plant sa malayong lugar na iyon para sa alimango, dahil ito ay paraan upang iangat ang kita mula sa pangangisda. Gusto nating umangat ang kita sa pangangisda, dapat magdagdag ng value added sa pamamagitan ng processing.

Pumunta rin ako sa mangingisda doon sa malayung-malayong lugar ng Macunacon at Binalucan sa Isabela, walang processing plant doon. Wala naman silang kalsada na darating sa mga processing plant ng Cauayan, ng Isabela, kaya doon magtatayo ng kooperatiba doon mismo para may mga deep seaboard at cold storage, iyong mga maliliit na mangingisda sa dulo ng Pilipinas sa Binalucan at Macunacon.

Nagpunta ako sa Cordillera upang makipagdiwang sa mga katutubo na sa pamamagitan ng bagong organisadong National Commission on Indigenous Peoples ay bibigyan ng mas masinsinang pansin at maglalaan tayo ng P20 million para pabilisin ang pagbigay ng 100 titles ng ancestral domain. Kasi ito iyong isa sa target na sinabi ko sa

aking State of the Nation Address para sa dakilang katutubong Pilipino. Doon sa Isabela, pumunta rin ako upang magtanim ng bagong hybrid rice na mag-aangat ng ani by two and a half times at sa ganoon, mag-aangat rin ng kita ng dakilang magsasaka sa inaasahan nating pagtataniman ng China hybrid sa 50,000 hectares na tataniman simula itong Abril.

Itong Linggo naman pagkatapos ng aking provincial two weeks, doon ako sa Metro Manila. Pumunta ako sa iba't ibang lugar ng urban poor sa Metro Manila at Mega Manila, kasama na doon iyong sa Rosario, Cavite, upang tuparin ang iba't ibang mga inilunsad na karapatan na ang mga dating eskuwater ay may karapatang bilhin ang lupang tinitirikan nila. At ngayon, ako ay narito kasama ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino sa industriya sa dakilang lungsod ng Cebu.

Nagalak ako na ang inyong tema ngayon ay job creation and protection in the globalizing world. Sapagkat ito ay pagpapatuloy ng temang pang-anibersaryo ng TUCP, "Strengthening Solidarity for Nationalism, Development and Progress." At itong lahat ay nangangailangan ng matapat at mahusay na pamamahala.

Tulad ng nasabi ko sa inyo noong Disyembre noong tayo ay magkasama, hindi ba, kinuwento ni Tatang Tito noong magkasama tayo noong November 2000, pero ang dalas-dalas nating magkasama dahil mataas na mataas ang tingin ko sa TUCP. Magkasama tayo noong Disyembre at sabi natin pinakamalaking problema ng ating bansa ay kahirapan. Noong ako ay pumasok bilang pangulo, 40 percent ng ating mga kababayan ay namumuhay na mas mababa sa ating poverty line. Kaya ang giyera laban sa kahirapan, ang pangunahing hinaharap ng ating administrasyon. Sa labang ito, inaasahan ko ang tulong ninyo. At nagpapasalamat ako sa tulong na ibinibigay ninyo, ng TUCP, upang magtagumpay na maahon sa kahirapan ang ating bansa sa loob ng isang dekada. Lalaban natin ang kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng ating pinagkaisang plano, iyong Medium Term Philippine Development Plan kung saan nagbigay ako ng aking synthesis o summary doon sa State of the Nation Address. At itong planong ito ay isinusulong natin pagkatapos ng masusing konsultasyon sa lahat ng basic sectors kasama na ang sektor ng mga manggagawa.

Sa unang pagkakataon, may isang chapter ng medium term plan tungkol sa pagpaparami at pagpapabuti ng trabaho. Layunin ng plano: una, paglikha ng trabaho o mga bagong oportunidad para sa labor market. Pangalawa, pagpapabilis ng pagbigay ng trabaho maging sa loob o sa labas ng bansa. Pangatlo, pagpapabuti ng mga kondisyon sa trabaho kasama na ang pagpahusay ng mga kakayahan ng mga manggagawa at pagpapaganda ng mga benepisyo at working conditions ng manggagawa. At pang-apat, employment preservation o pagbigay ng seguridad, proteksiyon, gaya ng sabi nyo, sa trabaho para sa mayroon ng trabaho.

Noong disyembre kasama rin kayo doon sa Socio-Economic Summit. In fact, one of the leading convenors ay iyong TUCP. Doon sa National Socio-economic summit naggawa tayo ng National Socio-Economic pact of 2001, ay patuloy ng ating tapat na hangaring labanan ang kahirapan at gawing mahusay ang klima ng pangangalakal. Sa Socio-Economic fact, ang human resources ay critical na elemento sa pagpapaunlad ng ating ekonomiya at pagpapabuti ng ating lipunan.

Ang tanging landas upang makaahon sa kahirapan ay ang pagkaroon ng disenteng trabaho ng sinumang nais magtrabaho, trabahong nakakabigay sa manggagawa at sa pamilyang ito ng dignidad at seguridad, sapat ng pagkain, damit, bahay, edukasyon at marangal na uri ng pamumuhay.

Ito ang nais ng mga unyon na manggagawa. Ito rin ang nais ng administrasyon para sa lahat. Kailangang pag-iibayuhin pa natin ang ating pagkilos upang makamit ang mga ito. At ngayon nga sa bisperas ng anibersaryo ng EDSA 2 na siyang nagluklok sa akin bilang pangulo, repasuhin natin kung anu-ano na ang ating nagawa upang mapabuti ang kondisyon ng trabaho dito.

Cebuano- bisan pa duna'y 1.3 million nipuno sa atong job market. Nakiihiwas ang kita ug hapit 2 million na bag-ong trabaho. Niadto nga aging tuig 2000, 27.4 million ang dunay trabaho, apas sa tuig 2001, 29.15 million ng may trabaho. Dinaghan pa ang trabaho gikan sa agrikultura, tuig 2000, 9.9 million ang agriculture based workers. Apas sa tuig 2001, 11 million.... Nagtubo sab ang sektor sa industriya ug ang service sector.

Totoong may agam-agam tungkol sa pagsasara ng mga negosyo at permanenteng pagkakawala ng trabaho ng ilang trabaho. Ngunit ayon sa monitor ng dole, kung may nawalaan na 65,000 ng trabaho, doon sa dole mismo lamang, ang job placement na ginawa ng dole sa loob ng panahong iyon ay 300,000, hindi pa kasama iyong mga sariling or of the market ang nagbigay ng trabaho.

Kaya mas mabilis ang paglikha ng mga trabaho kaysa sa pagkawala ng trabaho. Mas marami ngayon ang nagkaroon ng tiwala na sila ay makakahanap ng trabaho. Nakagawa tayo ng 1.7 million na bagong trabaho kahit na humina ang pang-mundong ekonomiya at nagkaroon pa ng kaguluhan sa mundo. Kanina ang saya-saya ko dahil nabasa ko sa peryodiko kanina't kahapon, the Asian financial market, the World Financial Market, ang darling ngayon ay ang Pilipinas.

Napakahalaga sa atin naman ang tiwasay na relasyon ng manggagawa at iba pang sektor upang maging matiwasay and klima para sa investment at pangangalakal. Bagamat higit na mapag-alaga sa kapakanan ng mga manggagawa ang ating mga batas kaysa sa batas ng ibang mga bansa sa Asya. In fact, mayroon din lumabas na article na front page pa sa Manila Standard, na dito sa region natin ang pinakamalaking naangat na mga suweldo ng manggagawa ay dito sa Pilipinas for the year 2001.

Ngunit ganoon pa man, marami pa rin ang dapat gawin upang magkaroon ng tunay na katiwasayan sa lugar ng paggawa.

Tatlong punto ang binibigyang diin natin. Una, ay ang wastong paggamit ng mga mekanismo sa lugar ng trabaho or work place mechanism, maging ito man ay cooperative mechanism or corrective mechanism. Iyan ay parating ini-improve natin. Pangalawa, dapat igalang ang karapatang ng dalawang panig. At iyan ang isang talagang ina-admire ko ang TUCP, kasi very realistic kayo, ginagalang nyo ang dalawang panig.

Sabi nga ni ka Tito Mendoza, mayroon diyang iba salita, salita, salita, para sa kanila salita ng salita kahit na sa pagkasalimuot magsasara tuloy iyong kompanyang nagkakaroon ng pagsasalita. Tinanong ko kay Pat, tinanong kay President Mendoza, at sabi kong mag-congratulate sa TUCP, kasi alam namin ni Pat wala pang company kung saan TUCP ang union ang nagsara dahil sa labor dispute. Pangatlo, ang palagiang pagtutunggali ay maaaring lumala pa kung ipahahantong sa hukuman sapagkat napaka-legalistic ang ating dispute settlement system. Kaya ibayong pagsisikap din ang ginagawa ng DOLE upang mapahusay pa ang ating Dispute Settlement System. Inaasahan kong tutulong din ang mga unyon para mapabuti at mapalawak ang paggamit ng sistemang ito.

Maayos ang situwasyon ng labor relation sa bansa ngayon. At ito, gaya ng sabi ko, malaking utang na loob ng gobyerno sa TUCP.

Sabi nga ni Pat Sto. Tomas, in the last year, ang daming magiging strike na na-avert dahil sa magandang pag-uusap. Mayroong sa mga iba na na-avert pero nagsara ang kumpanya. Pero dito sa inyong union – kaya sabi ni ka Tito Mendoza, you have been called many things raw – moderate, conservative, and you are all but you are none. Masasabi ko dahil sa napakagaling ninyo sa pagproteksyon ng trabaho at mag-angat ng kondisyon ng mga kasaping manggagawa, I would say one important word to describe your union is, it is a mainstream labor union, na talaga ang kaisipan ay gumanda ang situwasyon ng manggagawa.

Kaya ako ay narito, sabi ko nga, for the first two weeks of January, ako ay nag-celebrate ng People Power 2 sa malalayong probinsiya at malalayong bayan. For this week, Metro Manila, iyong mga urban poor. Pero ginawa kong exception itong araw na ito, itong umagang ito dito sa Cebu para kasama ang TUCP.

By this time, last year, almost 11, nandoon ako kasama ni Bert Romulo at saka ni Rene de Villa sa Linden Suites, nagdedebate kami kung iyong EDSA crowd ay pupunta ba dapat sa Mendiola o hindi. By this time last year, 11 hours ago, may kasunduan na kami ni General Reyes. Hindi ko naman masabi kay Bert at kay Rene dahil hanggang maganap iyon hindi ko puwedeng sabihin baka masabotahe. Ang usapan kasi, tinanong ni General Reyes, tinatanong through Leo Alvez, the night before, about one o'clock in the morning this day last year, pinuntahan ako ni Leo Alvez sa aking apartment at sabi, I have a message from the Chief of Staff, give the time and the mechanism. Well, I said, mechanism hindi naman ako sundalo, kayo ang may alam. Pero the time, now. Ang sabi ko, now. Sabi naman

ni Leo hindi puwedeng now, one o'clock in the morning. Because, first of all, we have to fix the other side. Meaning, Crame, mag-uusap pa sa mga pulis. And second, so what's the time? Sabi niya, when does it peak at EDSA. Kasama ko si Nani Braganza. Sabi ni Nani, three o'clock in the afternoon. In that case, therefore, we meet two o'clock in the afternoon, General Reyes and you, and then you will go to EDSA. Tapos, so you have to meet in a nearby place. What is a place where you meet but you can be sure it's safe. I said, we meet at Linden Suites, pero I don't know if it is safe. Everybody knows we're meeting at Linden Suites, I think. We could meet in my brother's house at Valle Verde. But I've had a few meetings there also, I don't know if it's totally safe. Sabi ni Leo, kung mararapatin ako na lang ang pipili ng bahay doon sa kaibigan ko. And that the house of Eddie Jose where I will go now after this, to have our reunion of the safehouse where the top brass came to discuss the withdrawal of support.

So anyway, ang usapan 2 o'clock in the afternoon. So at noon, I was supposed to have lunch with Cardinal Sin and President Aquino. But at 11 o'clock, iyon na nga, at this time last year, urgent, kung puwede raw dumaan ako sa Linden Suites with Rene de Villa and Bert Romulo dahil nga sa debate. Gusto nila that I will exercise my leadership to convince the people to March to Mendiola, kasi hindi naman daw puwedeng limang araw o apat na araw na tayong ay nandoon na lang sa EDSA, and something's got to give otherwise people, the crowd will just get tired, go home na kung wala ng misyon, go to the next stage raw to make the military come out. I knew the military is coming out already. But I could not reveal a secret. So they kept forcing and forcing me to agree to ask the people to move to Mendiola. And in the meantime, Nani Braganza slipped a note to me in —you've got to go now because Secretary Reyes is already waiting for you. So I remember Rene de Villa making a sentence, you've got to exercise your leadership. But before he finished that sentence because I got the note, I stood up. Well, I'm exercising my leadership, I'm meeting General Reyes now. So I went to that house where I am going to now after this, and General Reyes was there, and it had to be much earlier, it couldn't be 2 o'clock because by that time he was already being called to Malacañang. In other words, there was already the intelligence report about what's being planned. So we were there. And I guess you have read the rest already in the various accounts. We had a very long discussion. And I remember General Reyes said that it was very painful for him. But he said, I'm not asking for anything except good governance. And I think nobody in EDSA 2, nobody here in Plaza Fuente Osmena asked for anything except good governance. And I hope that is what I'm giving the people of the Philippines.

And so today, I am very happy. Nalipay ko nakauban ang atong mga kaiguunang diri sa Cebu apela sa selebrasyon sa komemorasyon sa People Power. At ako ay nasisiyahan na kasama ang manggagawang Pilipino. Kasi gaya ng sinabi ko noong new year's message ko, itong taong ito 2002, this is a year that we will dedicate to the great Filipino worker.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 12th Supreme National Congress of the Associated Labor Unions (ALU). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231134/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7598&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the 2nd National Convention of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club, Inc. (CFBCI)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the 2nd National Convention of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club, Inc.
(CFBCI)**

[Delivered in Manila, January 24, 2002]

First, let me greet the Filipino-Chinese Business Club on the occasion of your National Convention.

The Filipino-Chinese are a cherished part of our multi-ethnic society. It is fitting to celebrate things that our Filipino-Chinese culture enjoys and cherishes. Just today on the occasion of the opening of your convention, I would like to announce that I have just signed a proclamation declaring June 9 of every year as Filipino-Chinese friendship day. June 9 coincides with the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between your home, the Philippines and your ancestral motherland, China.

I also wish to greet you a Happy Anniversary on the occasion of our 40-day celebration of People Power 1 and People Power 2. Many of you were there at EDSA, some were not. But today, whether you were there or not, you are all part of people power today. So this celebration is yours as well as mine.

Indeed, it is a year since I became president. I took the presidency as a gift from god. I accepted these challenges as my duty. On the day I became president, I said that it was time to bind the nations' wounds, heal its deep divisions and bring all the people together in a new shared hope for a better future in a moral society.

This is the first year that we are celebrating EDSA 1 and EDSA 2 together, combining the restoration of freedom with the vindication of truth and the triumph of justice.

EDSA 1 brought down tyranny, EDSA 2 took out plunder. What we need now is EDSA 3. A real EDSA 3, not the fake and unsuccessful one that occurred last April may. A real EDSA 3 to complete the circle of the Filipinos' unparalleled political achievement by putting an end to underdevelopment and poverty, and giving it a fresh start to progress and social justice.

I know how we owe the two events — EDSA one and EDSA two — to God, and also to the sense of justice that god planted in each one of us. We owe god thanks for making Filipinos intolerant of wrong and courageous enough to protect it.

EDSA two was a miracle as EDSA one was, but god works his miracles through men, bringing justice through the just, honesty through the upright and always ever a change for the better through men and women of faith and courage. He picked a woman to lead our country out of bondage into freedom, and he picked another woman to lead our country out of poverty back on the road to progress.

In 1986, the people would not take the manipulation of the polls to perpetuate tyranny. In 2001, the people would not take the disregard of proof of corruption to keep immorality in high office.

I see the hand of God in the acts of men. His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin said, in this event, we must celebrate the kindness of God and the greatness of the Filipino. During these 40 days, we celebrate the faith and courage of the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who kept vigil at the EDSA shrine and rallied to bring back honesty and honor to government.

We pay special tribute to the youth who outdid even their elders in a clamoring for national renewal. I rededicate myself during these forty days to the great project begun on EDSA 2, to make our country new, to make government honest, to lead our people out of poverty and realize the greatness that lies within the noble race that invented peaceful people power revolution.

I must insist on the truth. We have made significant progress. Where bigger and rigid economies failed, ours moved forward. Where bigger and stronger currencies collapsed, ours held firm. Say what they will, the only evidence of corruption in my government are the baseless charges of our enemies. Admittedly the country is still in a less than ideal state, but no one except the extreme reactionaries can deny that it would have collapsed if the government had not changed. Today, our economy is back on the road, back on track to the main battle, the battle against poverty.

We stopped the rampant speculation against the peso, now it's stable. We stopped much of the massive smuggling that is undermining local industry and stealing revenues while they enriched the former president's friends. Have we not forgotten? I hope we have not forgotten.

We slowed down the massive borrowing of the past and replaced it with willing investments in our country's future. Our bond offerings are readily taken up — 2 1/2 times oversubscribed the last round, because here and abroad, people believe in our country again.

Our stock market is at its five-month high. It is back to the levels before September 11. I was telling Dante Go that I was reading "The Analyst" today. And they said, it went up another 39 point. Yesterday because the Americans are here. But Dante Go said, no. It's not because the Americans are here, but because confidence is back.

I think I read the message right. Government is too serious to be handled like showbusiness. Some say I have no charisma, I have no "it". No I.T. I have I.T., information technology; but no I.T, "it". Only, you businessmen I would like to ask, would you rather have I.T. or I.Q.? My predecessor, on the other hand, may have had so much charisma, too much charisma. But i am not here to make people laugh; I am here to make peoples' lives better. What would you want? Someone who knows the job or someone who just pretends? Someone who works hard or someone who just drinks hard? The fate of the nation will not unfold on the silver screen, but in the unforgiving light of reality where only hardwork pays. Integrity is credit and intelligence saves the day. Now as ever, the main fight is against poverty. And the principle objective is to give the forty percent of the people who have little or nothing a material stake in their country so that it becomes, in their eyes, worth working for, so that they will realize and maximize the potential of the great Filipino worker, that they are. This fight against poverty is part and parcel of a new and unparalleled present.

Our mission is rooted in the new world, which is your theme today, — a new age, a new and global economy. There is now more wealth and yet, more poverty; more education and yet, more ignorance; more knowledge and, yet, less wisdom; more dialogue and communication at lightning speed; yet, less understanding and more wars. With those planes crushing into the world trade center, the technology of life that defines the modern age is now the symbol of the new terror. The fight against poverty does not merely call for daring. The fight demands intelligence and care. These qualities may not stir up the blood, but they will steer the country more surely to safety and progress.

I have said that we need a 3rd EDSA, but it cannot be in the sacred place of EDA shrine. Because we must restore the sacred places to their original purpose, which is prayer and not political action. And besides, we need more room.

EDSA was where we made desperate political changes. But it is in the rest of the country — in Binondo, in other places where wealth is created, in places where wealth can be distributed — that will make a difference in the way our economy works and our people live. Yes, we need another EDSA, this time for economic progress; and it must be bigger than the two EDSAs before. It must encompass the entire nation: rich and poor; Christians, Muslims and Buddhists; Chinese and brown Filipinos; winners and losers in the last political contest, because if this last EDSA does not succeed, we shall all be losers in the end.

I therefore reach out to all our people once again, whichever side of the divide the past two EDSAs left them and you. Join me now in the third, but probably, it must be the greatest peaceful revolution of all: people power against poverty, people power for progress.

It is time to set aside revenge so that the work of true justice can begin. The work of justice does not stop in the nation's courts. We must bring it as well to those who have renounced their country and held themselves above the law. We can disagree on how to govern our country; we can even disagree on which part of our country we want to call our own. But on one thing we cannot quarrel – and that is to respect our differences by respecting always the rule of law and the sanctity of human life.

There is no question that we cannot debate in peace; there is no issue that cannot be resolved constitutionally, yes, even the redistribution of political authority in our country. But there is no way we can hear each other above the sound of artillery. There is no way this government will listen at the point of the gun. And I am very happy that our allies and our enemies heard this. And I was telling the police last night, “thank you for doing such a good job of peacekeeping and averting mayhem.” The crowd control was so good, it was bigger than the crowd that they controlled.

Last year at the opening of the 12th congress, I asked the politicians for a moratorium on politicking. To some extent, they did. They gave that moratorium. And in fact, to a large extent, they gave us cooperation as well in essential reforms. Yes, even the opposition. Now I would like to ask for a moratorium on blame from some sectors of the public, and a measure of patience, as I lead the country in overcoming the greatest global economic crisis since the great depression of the 1930s.

I am not campaigning for myself this early for the 2004 election. It is my critics who are campaigning this early against me. Are they afraid if I succeed in helping our country? This is the only way they can succeed – by hurting our people? Let us stop it now. It is, indeed, too early. There is more than enough time before the 2004 election. On the other hand, there is no time to lose for a Philippine economic recovery this year. We have made so many strides in survival in the past year. We have the momentum for this year. Let us not lose it by blame tossing. Let us not lose it by campaigning against each other. We can quarrel over who the leader of this country should be after the next election, but we must work together to make this country worth quarreling about. We owe this to the people we all say we wish only to serve.

And from our people, from the business community, the Chinese community, the whole community, I ask for your patience and understanding. You have done your part in putting back morality and intelligence in government. It is now the government's turn to put faith in the future back in your hearts. Kaya kayo, mga Filipino-Chinese community, mga namumuno sa Chinese-Filipino Business Club, maraming salamat.

Mula pa noong unang araw ng aking pagka presidente, tumutulong na kayo, at kinikilala ko iyon. Kaya tuloy tuloy tayong magkasama para sa ganoon, sa pangunguna ng ating magagaling na negosyante na marami ay chinese-filipino, tuloy tuloy na sana ang ating pagabalik sa magandang kinabukasan ng ating bansa.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, congratulations sa inyong convention. Maraming salamat at mabuhay tayong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA'S Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2nd National Convention of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club, Inc. (CFBCI). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231127/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7597&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 20th anniversary of the Makati Business Club

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 20th anniversary of the Makati Business Club**

[Delivered at the Hotel Inter-Continental Ballroom, Makati City, January 25, 2002]

Let me greet the Makati Business Club on a Happy 20th Anniversary and also on the occasion of our 40-day celebration of People Power 1 and People Power 2. Because as Vic said, and as we all know, you were a very important part of those two great events.

And I also thank you for the kind words that you have been saying about my administration the last five days, about my one year old administration which, for instance, came out in several feature articles as part of the celebration of my first Anniversary.

Indeed, last week end, our nation marked the 3rd anniversary of EDSA 2. On the eve of this occasion, the Inquirer wrote an editorial that said the following; “thanks to the proclivity of the Filipinos to shoot themselves in the foot, they are the worst enemies of their country’s recovery and economic slowdown and political turbulence.

And I am glad that the Makati Business Club seems to agree because we have adopted applying this principle as the principle for moving our country forward.

Indeed, it’s very sad that we have a spectacle such that indeed, at the time when we as a nation should be pulling together aside from the occasional recognition of merit such as what we have been saying, hearing the last five days, we are instead pushing each other apart. What a sharp contrast to just 12 months ago, a unity and a sense of purpose brought us together.

I believe this is merely a result of attending interest and ambition above that of a country. Disunity, discordant voices and a sense of every man for himself whenever we don’t get what we want, these pose our biggest challenges for the country.

As a result of economic and social development, and as a result of its normal past two and a half or so, we have become a nation deeply divided and fractured. This is a lesson that we should have learned from May 1, but have we forgotten? Just a year ago, deeply mired in a hole, investment confidence had dropped, rampant corruption had taken over the institutions of the government and the very seat of power, political instability was all over the place, and the world had written us off.

Today, we have made significant strides to avert the deterioration and to even turn around. And as i did yesterday before the Chinese business community, i must insist on the truth. We have made progress. Where bigger and richer economies failed, ours moved forward. Where bigger and stronger currencies collapsed, ours held firm. We have gone a long way to bring our country back on the radar screens of the world.

Our new Cabinet, picked as much for their integrity as for their competence and qualifications, has brought professionalism and public service to new heights.

Much of what the world investment community has asked of us, we have thus far delivered: the power bill, the money laundering act, long considered litmus tests of our political will.... Into law, Overcoming years of delay. Our budget deficit has been placed under control. Interest rates and inflation rates have declined. Our economy continues to grow despite faltering economies all around us. Even recent unemployment rates have shown periods of decline despite widespread perception of increased lay-offs.

This paradox of macro-economic level statistics that don't jibe with ground level perceptions serves to highlight the importance of target driven efforts by government to achieve perceptible results at the ground level.

In my State of the Nation Address last year, i outlined numerous programs to address the issue of poverty reduction and development. I deliberately placed emphasis on target driven initiatives at the ground level as opposed to the macro-level.

You noticed I talked about how many jobs in agriculture? How many hectares of land to be distributed? I didn't talk about inflation rate, I didn't talk about GNP growth rates, I really talked about unemployment rate as my target in my State of the Nation Address. Because it is at the progress, it is progress at the ground level that directly impacts on the lives of the less fortunate in our society.

Perhaps because of this emphasis on ground level results, i have sometimes been criticized for lack in focus, or having no clear economic agenda. But i have always considered sound macro-economics to be an ever present precondition to achieving, and sustained ground results. And my year-end report, in fact showed that we did achieve those sound macro-economic fundamentals.

Our society is composed of different sectors. Some more fortunate in life than others. In this context, I don't think I would be exaggerating if I were to characterize this gathering today as the crème de la crème of our business sectors, and therefore, the elite of our society. As such, more than any other sector, one would expect that with your collective advantage of education, knowledge, experience and mature economic prospective. It is you, the country's business elite, who would realize the seriousness of the challenges our country faces today. It is you, more than any other sector, which should know that there are no quick fixes to our national problems.

As early as the day I became President, I said, that it is time to bind the nation's wounds, heal its deep divisions and bring all the people together in a new shared hope for a better future in a moral society. Which means that our national leadership will have to undergo a tedious period of balancing the needs and aspirations of most if not all, of our major sectors, otherwise, if our approach is exclusional, the resulting agitation of the major sectors left behind will intend to create instability which, in turn, hampers economic activity.

Unfortunately, the resulting process of reaching out to diverse sectors is also misunderstood to be politicking, or worse, a betrayal of principles. When I reach out to urban poor communities who still associate their aspirations with the fate and treatment of former President Estrada. I am not doing so with a moist eye towards the 2004 elections, rather I look to have stabilized social conditions today so that our country can forge ahead.

When I reach out to opposition personalities, it is not in order to create political For the 2004 elections, rather, i am seeking political stakes here and now, within which the opposition may contribute to efforts to get our economy moving.

There are purists who may not like it. But the fact is, my duty is to be President to all Filipinos whether like you, they were in EDSA 2, or whether they were in EDSA 3.

I am not campaigning for myself this early for the 2004 elections. It is my critics who are campaigning this early against me. Are you afraid if I succeed in helping our country? Is this the only way you can succeed by hurting our people? Let us stop it now. It is, indeed, too early. There is more than enough time before the 2004 elections. On the other hand, there is no time to lose on a Philippine economic recovery this year. We can quarrel as to who should lead this country up to the next election, but we must work together to make this country worth quarreling about.

We owe this to the people we are saying we wish to serve. We're in business. We can disagree on how to run our country; we can even disagree on which part of our country we want to call our own, as long as we respect our differences by respecting always the rule of law and the sanctity of human life.

There is no question that we cannot debate in peace, and no issue that cannot be resolved constitutionally, yes even the distribution of political authority in our country. And it is time, indeed, to set aside revenge so that the work of true justice can begin.

Thus I am challenging you to roll up your sleeves and renew the partnership for progress at the ground level. There are numerous areas that you could be involved in – if you're not yet involved right now. For example, one of our lingering problems is that of rural electrification. Of the 42,000 barangays nationwide, over 4,000 still do not have electric power. Access to electricity will dramatically change the lives of people within those 4,000 barangays, enabling them to do things we take for granted like eating, reading, doing house work comfortably at night. It will enable them to irrigate, make ice, refrigerate agricultural and marine products, process food. Indeed, it will enable them to enter the 21st century.

I hope that some of you will be able to join the effort to make electricity available to all barangays within the next few years. For example, I understand that migrant Philippines through its project beacon has made a billion peso commitment to electrify over a thousand barangays in the coming year.

Another challenge is to modernize and strengthen our public education system. With 4,000 public high schools and over 10,000 elementary schools nationwide, with school buildings in over 40,000 barangays. But there are 1,600 barangays that don't have a school building.

And for those that do have school buildings, many are in need of equipment and teacher training. Most of the companies represented here still draw the majority of your workers from the public school system. Our public school still account for the primary and secondary education of the vast majority of your students, your future workers. And therefore, it also serves you well to make our public schools enter the 21st century.

Last November, former Senator Ting Paterno invited me to launch the connected .ph project of PBSP, legal corporate foundations, Makati Business Club and a large network of companies. The project had succeeded in equipping wiring and training. A hundred public high schools with personal computer labs hooked up to the internet.

I urge you to continue this project and to expand it by having more companies support it. And for our part, the government has begun to roll out as a program which seeks to equip 1,000 more high schools with PC labs before the start of the next school year.

The Office of the President is also trying to work out distance learning for the most far away barangays where teachers don't want to go, but need the hardware for the distance learning, and even the software for doing the word content, the content for the curriculum.

With government providing the computers through a Japanese grant and the private sector providing connectivity, training and educational content our present roll out is an ideal project to demonstrate the partnership for progress that I am espousing.

A third area of need is housing for the poor. In the State-of-the-Nation Address, where I said I concentrated on ground level targets rather than macro targets. I've set a target of 100,000 low cost housing units and 50,000 socialized units by the end of July. These are ambitious targets. And so far, compared to many of our targets, I find these targets the most problematic. But you can contribute toward the achievement of these targets through such programs as housing for humanity. It provides housing for relocated squatters. You could donate to build a house, or even volunteer to build one. The habitat house costs P85,000. But we have DSWD models that cost P25,000. Therefore, your money could go a longer way, in fact, by adopting the more modest model.

A fourth challenge is job creation. Chito Lorenzo, one of your trustees, has signed up as Presidential Job Adviser for agricultural job generation. And he has helped develop a plan for generating one million jobs in agriculture. Kaibigan ninyo siya, you should help him out there. For example, Johnny Santos and Nestle are providing the technology and ready market for coffee growers in Mindanao. Our farmers are always in need of technology, credit and markets. Regardless of whatever business you're engaged in, you'll be able to contribute, you can probably contribute to be a part of the solution.

A fifth challenge is electoral modernization. Our archaic system of voting and manual counting of ballots cannot be allowed to persist in the elections of 2004. It is in your interest to get involved to support groups such as NAMFREL that are working to modernize our electoral system. Because the COMELEC is a Constitutional body, both the Executive and Congress have limited ability to involve ourselves in COMELEC's decisions and efforts regarding modernization. But the private sector can do so. You can play a constructive part of the solution.

Clearly there are a number of many other specific areas where concerned citizens can add value to society, to be among those who engage in the constructing, help generate jobs and create national wealth. Clearly this will be better than just idly uninvolved — though i don't see too many members of Makati Business Club uninvolved – but worse, complaining and complaining.

There is a story about the boxer Muhammad Ali — perhaps legend, perhaps true. Early in his career, he was engaged in a real struggle of a fight. And a man at the ringside just kept heckling him round after round. Finally, Ali turned to the heckler. He said, “you're down there shouting, I'm up here fighting.” And that's the way I feel. Like Ali, I'm up on the ring fighting. And like him, I'll be slugging away for a full fifteen rounds.

To those cheering me on – and many of them are here – I wish to express my deepest appreciation for your understanding and support. Our fight to create economic growth and thereby address the problem of poverty is as tough a struggle as any. And to those who are not cheering me on, I can only say that I am challenged and inspired to work even harder to meet the needs of our people.

I therefore reach out, once again, to the Makati Business Club; and aside from you, to all our people, even those on the other side of the divide, where the past two EDSAs left us and them. Join me now in a third and greatest peaceful revolution of all — people power against poverty, people power for progress.

Last year, at the opening of congress, I asked the politicians for a moratorium on politicking. To some extent, they give us that moratorium. In fact, to a large extent, they gave us cooperation as well in essential reforms. Yes, even the opposition.

Now, I would like to ask for a moratorium on blame from some sectors of the public, especially the business community, and a measure of patience as I lead our country in overcoming the greatest global economic crisis since the greatest depression of the 1930s. From our people, from our middle forces especially, I ask for your patience and understanding. You have done your part in putting back morality and intelligence in government. Now what must be done is for us to work together to put faith in the future back into your heart, back in my heart.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 20th Anniversary of the Makati Business Club. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231117/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7596&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Annual General Membership Meeting of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Annual General Membership Meeting of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association,
Inc. (PMAAAI)**

[Delivered at the AFP Theater (Tejeros Hall), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, January 26, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Maraming salamat Secretary Angelo Reyes sa iyong nakakatawang pagpapakilala sa akin.

Alam ninyo iyong aking pagiging Gloria labandera at mahilig magsabon, iyon ang subject matter ng aking New Year's resolution, na hindi na ako magsasabon lalo na ang aking cabinet members. Ngayon, tinanong sa akin ni Winnie Monsod kung, "papaano mong gagawin iyon?" eh di sabi ko, kung gusto kong magsabon magbibilang na muna ako one to thirty. Eh kanina, it so happened nandito na kayo tinawagan ko si Secretary Reyes about something else. So sabi niya, "ma'am, with your permission, pwede ba ito ang magiging diskurso ko?" so sinabi ko, pwede na. Kasi sa loob loob ko — nandoon pa ako sa Batangas nung sinabi niya iyon — I could count from 1 to 30,000 bago ako dumating dito. Para pagdating ko dito hindi na ako magagalit. Hindi ko na sasabunin si Angie Reyes. (laughter)

Nagpapasalamat ako rin kay General Monta o dahil inimbata niya ako ngayon at binabati ko siya. Naalala ko nung isang taon, hindi ba siya ang chairman? Pagkatapos alam ko nga na siya ang chairman, dahil noong Vice President ako, early days, siya nga ang chairman. Pagkatapos nung naging guest ako dito sa bulwagang ito, ah hindi na siya ang chairman. Sabi ko, "ano ang nangyari kay General Monta?" nag-resign bilang chairman. At kanina sinabi ko, "general, hindi ba nag-leave kayo?" "hindi," sabi nga niya, "nag-resign nga ako last year." kasi sabi niya, nanawagan ako sa resignation nung kasalukuyang pangulo. Eh siyempre marami sa PM Triple 'A' — sabi niya — ay nasa active service. So mahirap naman na dadalhin ko yung buong association sa aking panawagan alang-alang doon sa mga nasa active service pa. Pero ngayon natupad 'yung kanyang hangarin, nabalik siya bilang chairman. Sana huwag kang mag-resign, general monta,,o bilang chairman. Huwag mong hingiin yung aking resignation. (laughter)

Binabati ko rin si Chris Balaweng ang inyong pangulo at kinakatawan, 'yung incoming jubilarian, hindi ba Chris? At binabati ko rin siya dahil siya ang namumuno sa AFP modernization program. At ako ay nasisiyahan na sa wakas nalagay na natin yung 5 billion pesos sa inyong trust fund, at itong taong ito sa wakas nagkaroon ng budgetary allocation ng another 5 billion pesos, dahil supposed to be 10 billion pesos every year yung trust fund na ito.

Nagpanukala nga ako na 10 billion pesos sana yung ilalagay nila, ng mga congressmen and senator. Pero sabi nila meron pa namang 5 billion so magdadagdag na lang kami ng 5 billion at gagawin nating revolving fund. So as you spend the amount then they will keep adding also and allocating para ganoon 10 billion all the time meron kayong gagastusin sa AFP modernization. Eh pero kung nung araw pa siguro nagkaroon tayo ng AFP modernization, nung unang natupad 'yung batas, hindi sana siguro tayo nagededebate tungkol sa 'balikatan' doon sa western Mindanao. Ganoon pa man tamang-tama na magkasama tayo dito ngayon dahil tamang-tama pag-uusapan natin yung mga bagay kung saan nasa frontpage na naman ang Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Kanina binanggit ni General Monta,,o yung aking unang pakikipagsama dito sa pm triple 'A' nung ako ay naging pangulo na. Kasi bago ako naging pangulo ilang beses na nga ako naging panauhin ng PM Triple 'A' whether the association as a whole o nung mga iba't-ibang mga klase ninyo. At noon pa nga, nung unang pumunta ako sa anniversary ng PM Triple 'A' doon sa baguio at nakipag-martsa ako sa aking class, class '78. Yung tinatanong ni

Angie, “ba’t yon ang klaseng pinili?” eh maraming nagtatanong din. Sa katotohanan, pinili ko yung klase — no, inimbata ako ng class ’78 — dahil marami sa kanila doon nanggagaling sa class ’78 yung aking mga aide d’ camps. At so, naalala ko, kaya siyempre dahil kaugnay ko sila araw-araw ‘di nung nagkaka-reunion sila at gustong humanap kung sino ang i-adopt na classmate, ako nga ang pinili. Naaalala ko nga si General Wycoco —wala siya rito, ano? — class ’68. Sa katotohanan talagang mas matanda ako kaysa doon sa class ’78. Eh kasi sa college class ’68 ako. Kaya sabi ni Wycoco noon, “naku! Kung alam lang namin sana na available ka maging member of the class sana kinuha ka ng class ’68.” “well, sorry na lang wycs mas may foresight itong mga bagong generation.” (laughter) at pinili na nga nila ako hindi pa nga ako pangulo. Pero sa pamamagitan nila ang dami ko namang nakilalang iba’t-ibang mga klase. First, yung mga contingent classes — class ’76, class ’79, ganoon. Pagkatapos parami ng parami ang nakikilala ko. Kaya Angie, kung ako masyado nakiki-alam sa iyo sa mga promotion, sorry na lang, kasi ang dami-dami ko nang mga kilala. At kilala ko kung sino yung mabait, at kilala ko kung sino yung, yung, well, hindi naman masyadong mabait. Pero kilala ko rin ang buong PMA masasabi ko as a whole. At masasabi ko na kung yung pagkabayani ni Angie Reyes na ginawa niya together with the major service commanders nung January 19. Yung pagkabayaning pinakita nila ay yon talaga ang pagkabayani ng buong Philippine Military Academy Alumni. Ayun na nga yung halimbawa ni General Monta,,o. Kaya sabi nga ni general monta,,o nung ako’y naging pangulo, one week after, nandito ako kasama ninyo para magpasalamat.

Indeed, seven days, one week after I was sworn in as president, you made me guest of honor at your General Assembly and meeting, kagaya nito. And it was your way then of endorsing my assumption of the presidency. And since then, I am very grateful you have constantly stood by me. Even at times when rumor mills were used to confuse and intimidate the public, most of you openly supported my initiatives for our Armed Forces and for the Filipino people.

Fellow cavaliers, thank you for the unstinting support.

The nation is indebted deeply to the soldier. The Armed Forces’ support for a new president under the principle of constitutional succession, under the principle of people power, under the principle of the duty of the Armed Forces to be the guardian and protector of the people your act to protect the republic and the presidency not only last January 19 but also last may 1st, the bravery of our soldiers in Basilan and Sulu, and your unequivocal support in the face of another recent round of coup rumors — these are expressions of the professionalism and excellence that characterize the men and women of the command.

The PM Triple ‘A’ has played a central role in uniting our soldiers and keeping them beyond the pale of partisanship despite the tempting offers of political adventurers. This tempering role played by your organization has been indispensable to our national stability and growth.

The Filipino soldier is the complete professional — hardworking, easily trainable, resolute and duty-bound. This is a tribute to the PMA, and that is why I’m so happy to have had a chance to be with you so many times when I was senator, VP and now President.

At tuwing nagkikita tayo sa PMA — whether dito, sa alumni o doon sa kasalukuyang pma — meron akong parating souvenir, yung mga sundalo, yung mga toy soldiers. Sa dalas na ako’y nakikipag-ugnay sa PM Triple ‘A’ at saka sa PMA mismo, yung aking collection ng toy soldiers isang platoon na. (laughter) kaya nakakapag-lecture ako doon sa mga nagtatanong sa ‘balikatan’ kung ano ang platoon, ano ang squad, ano ang company, ano ang battalion, ano ang brigade, ano ang division, ano ang area command. Sabi nga nung aking bagong PSG head, si Colonel Esperon, class ’74. Nagugulat siya kung ako mag-lecture parang sundalo. Sabi ko, I must have been a soldier in my earlier life. Kaya lang I don’t believe in reincarnation. Anyway, whether I was a soldier in my earlier life or not — ‘cause there’s no earlier life, anyway — I am a soldier today because I am the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

And being your fellow soldier, and being your commander-in-chief certainly, I have had many moments to be able to observe you as an institution, as individuals, and I can truly say that you internalize and live out the values of courage, integrity and loyalty instilled in the Philippine military academy. Your patriotism shines through even

when you have hung up your uniforms. Many of you here are past the age of 56 and still you are there, professional as ever in your second career. Truly, you deserve the accolade of our people.

Today, once more, the Armed Forces is in the frontpage in view of the 'Balikatan Exercises in southern Philippines. And as president and commander-in-chief, I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight on this matter. And when I was thinking of what I would say today to set the record straight, I decided to organize the record into ten important policy guidelines:

First, 'Balikatan' is purely an exercise in joint military training involving professional troops of the Philippines and the United States. It is primarily designed to strengthen the AFP forces. U.S. forces are not authorized to conduct offensive operations.

Second policy, 'Balikatan' is also a facet of the global coalition against terrorism. It is strategically propelled this year by the pertinent U.N. resolutions calling on all member states to cooperate in and contribute resources to the campaign against a common threat. We have been consistent in our adherence to these resolutions, which are indispensable to our own national survival and stability.

Third, 'Balikatan' is sanctioned by the constitution and the Philippine-U.S. visiting forces agreement.

Fourth, 'Balikatan' is backed up by a consensus in the National Security Council, which includes the leadership of both houses of congress. This is an exercise in strengthening both our national security and the political will behind it.

Fifth, the command structure of 'Balikatan' consists of separate U.S. and Philippine units interfaced with the chain of command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. At no point in time will U.S. Forces be allowed to operate independently within Philippine territory. At any time the U.S. Forces will have to follow the command of the Philippine commander.

Sixth, the AFP chief of staff has complete control over all forces under 'Balikatan.' this is understood at the political and operational levels of both sides. In this exercise, I have the firm assurance of president bush himself that the American troops will take the cue from the Philippine government.

President Bush called me up about four nights ago, and I told him about these matters. And he said that he will be putting some of these things very clearly in writing in a letter to be forthcoming.

Seventh, the 'Balikatan' is time-bound. It will last for 6 months involving some 600 U.S. troops. The bulk of the U.S. troops will consist mainly of support service personnel — 250 of the troops will be deployed in Mactan, Cebu to train our personnel in maintenance.

Eighth, 160 U.S. trainors will be deployed in Basilan to observe our soldiers. Two American trainors of these 160 will accompany each AFP company. The Americans will not be involved in combat operations. And the terms of reference will include an injunction that they stay at the tactical headquarters when they go out with their troops in the operations of our troops.

Ninth, human rights violations committed in the course of the exercise, if ever — and I hope there will be none — will be severely sanctioned. For this purpose, to ensure this, i am reactivating the presidential commission on human rights headed by the secretary of justice. And I have asked the secretary of justice, in his capacity as chair of the presidential commission on human rights, to organize a western Mindanao committee to closely monitor the situation and to report any violations for proper action by the authorities. Civilian communities are to be protected and given utmost consideration.

Tenth, impact socioeconomic projects will be conducted in the second-half of the six-month cycle. Because, as it is in central Luzon, 'balikatan' has a military aspect and a community development aspect.

I would like the secretary of national defense and the AFP chief of staff — who is not here today, but who is on an unofficial mission — to integrate these guidelines in the detailed terms of reference of the exercise and disseminate them throughout the chain of command.

The more observant of our readers would have noticed that ‘exercise Balikatan’ has lifted the stock market to its highest level in one year. ‘Balikatan’ has notched up the prospects of our national security. And with security comes confidence, investment and a good business climate.

In celebration of this year’s General Assembly, I salute you once again my fellow cavaliers, for your contribution to the security that we are enjoying today for the confidence that has been restored today.

I thank you and congratulate you for your excellent work, and for the courageous lives you have lived very well.

And once more on this day, let me declare my unrelenting faith in the Filipino soldier, who is part of the great Filipino worker, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the PM Triple ‘A’.

Let me add, that in my gesture of respect and admiration for the great Filipino soldier on several occasions, I have expressed my hope of raising the salaries of our soldiers to the same level as our teachers. And I am glad to note that with the excellent testimony of Secretary Reyes and the chain of command of the Armed Forces, the bill increasing the pay of officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces to align this pay with the pay of our public school teachers has passed the committee level of the House of Representatives. And I hope you will all — especially those of you who are not, no longer in active service — will campaign with our legislators and help me persuade congress to pass this bill into law as soon as possible.

Ipagpatuloy natin itong napakahalagang samahan tungo sa makabuluhang pagbabago ng hukbong sandatahan at ng buong bansa.

At itong araw na ito, sa araw ng ating General Assembly ng PM Triple ‘A’ muli, of the countless times I have told you, i tell you once again, mabuhay kayo mga tunay na kaakibat para sa kaunlaran!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the Annual General Membership Meeting of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231105/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7595&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the departure ceremonies for an Official/Working Visit to the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the departure ceremonies for an Official/Working Visit to the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States**

[Delivered at the NAIA Terminal 1, Pasay City, January 27, 2002]

Mr. Vice president; Mr. Senate president; Mr. Speaker; executive secretary and all the other cabinet members; Mrs. Collins; Mr. Campbell, the charge d' affaires; General Camiling, acting chief of staff; Lt. Gen. Abaya; Lt. Gen. Defensor; De los Santos; Vice Admiral Hincó; PNP Chief Mendoza; Rear Admiral Lista; ladies and gentlemen:

After the September 11 tragedy last year, I traveled to several countries on a mission for national security and development. In Shanghai, last October, we issued the APEC declaration against terrorism just before I went back to Beijing to forge agreements with China related to the fight against transnational crime.

Thereafter, I went to Brunei to attend the 7th ASEAN Summit, where again, we issued a collective declaration against terrorism whose first draft was crafted by the Philippine delegation; then to Indonesia, where I pursued our trilateral agreement with that country and Malaysia to secure our common borders.

I then crossed the Pacific to the United States to wrap up our mission, with tangible results in terms of development and security assistance, whose fruits can be clearly seen today.

We have seen the fruits of action diplomacy. But continuity is important. That is why today, I leave again to seek confidence and support of the world for our country, as the global scenario rapidly changes from all-out war to all-out consolidation. The prize all nations seek is peace, stability and growth.

The Taliban has fallen, and Afghanistan is in the process of restoring the peace before the big push of nation building. The theater of conflict has shifted elsewhere, and now we are in the map once again, not just because of our resilient economy but because we have support for our fight against terrorism in some isolated parts of southern Philippines. After we shall have won the peace there, we shall also embark in a determined bid for community-building and permanent stability.

The process that started from massive armed action in Afghanistan, which has transformed into peacekeeping, and which will eventually shift to nation building, will be a consistent point of global focus. This transition of strategic policy from interdiction of terrorists, to development as a means to inoculate the global order against terrorism, is necessary to achieve a permanent and comprehensive solution that shall defeat terrorism and its twin, poverty.

Solutions to poverty are indispensable to the resolution of irrational violence. I am a firm believer in this emergent lesson — not because of Afghanistan but because we have seen it in our own history of conflict. That is why I spend most of my time in our own land, with the poor communities or at my desk thinking and working for them. Spending time with the poor was my primary manner of celebrating the first anniversary of EDSA 2. Until this morning, I was with the urban poor in Metro Manila, and I shall be with them again upon my return next week. The masses need constant and continuing care, concern, leadership.

Once again, the twin war against poverty and terrorism marks my journey to the United Kingdom, to Canada, and to the United States.

Prime Minister Blair invited me to London to discuss how to achieve lasting international peace and prosperity, how this can be achieved after winning the war on terrorism. I will share my views on the inter-linkages between the problems of poverty and terrorism in the light of enabling countries and peoples to become full participants in global economic development.

The U.K. is currently our biggest foreign investor. It is one of the largest stakeholders in the Philippines, being heavily immersed in the Malampaya project, which is the single biggest investment in our country.

Britain is now leading the peacekeeping phase in Afghanistan. I intend to get more details from Mr. Blair about the involvement of various countries in this phase.

Peacekeeping is an integral part of the global commitment to the war against terrorism. And so will be our involvement in post-conflict nation-building. In this, we shall continue to rely on the excellence of the great Filipino worker, whose quality and dedication are renowned.

At the same time, my trip to Great Britain has a special angle in terms of the fight against crime. We want Scotland Yard to train our policemen in the fine points of dealing with kidnappers. Scotland yard is known to be one of the best detective organizations in the world. We want our cops to imbibe proven lessons in surveillance and extrication of hostages and kidnap victims. This is essential for our current thrusts in law enforcement.

On top of all these, the Philippines and Britain have many shared values and political convictions ranging across vital global issues. On the people-to-people level, NGO collaboration between our two countries in the fields of environment, conservation, child welfare and micro finance has been active and effective.

This is also true in the case of Canada, which i shall visit upon the invitation Prime Minister Jean Chretien after my one-day sojourn to London.

The Philippines and Canada have forged a long and constructive relationship forged by shared ideals and interests, which include the promotion of human security, human rights, good governance, private enterprise development, and social empowerment.

We have an annual trade with Canada of half-a-billion dollars. In the last 15 years, Canada has provided us more than 300 million dollars in official development assistance or O.D.A.. through the Canadian International Development Agency or CIDA.

CIDA grants have targeted areas of concern that are important for our thrusts in poverty reduction and good governance, especially at the level of local government units. Much has also been coursed to development of small and medium enterprises, and social projects that benefit Mindanao and the ARMM, Western Visayas, and other poverty-stricken areas.

Canada is also the home of more than 300,000 Filipinos, who constitute a visible ethnic group in that country. Filipinos who migrate to Canada belong to the highly skilled categories in the service sector: professionals in information and communications technology, medical workers including doctors and nurses, and care givers among others.

Indeed, Canada is the host to the great Filipino worker.

The world knows our great Filipino workers and we are proud of them. In every nook and corner of progress and development, our workers are there, turning the wheels of industry, managing the networks of global commerce, healing the sick, and teaching the young.

In Canada and elsewhere, our strategy for human capacity building is to transform our labor force into the new economy work force. Internationally, we shall prepare our workers for the most productive, rewarding and fulfilling jobs. At home, we will promote fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful and which can use our most competitive resource — the great Filipino worker.

This will also be the thematic background of my meeting with the members of the Canadian business community as well as the British business community to whom I will present our continuing gains in economic stability in the face of an otherwise sluggish trend around the world. Aside from inviting more investments, I will encourage the growth of trade, which has a large potential for expansion. The Philippines can supply Canada fresh tropical fruits, electronics, garments and other products.

I also hope to be able to raise Philippine-Canadian relations to a new level of cooperation on security matters. In this vein, I will seek the extradition of Filipino fugitives who have sought refuge in that country.

Onward to New York, I shall attend the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, the world's most prestigious business forum. The thrust of the meeting is "Leadership in Fragile Time: A Vision for a Shared Future."

It has six themes: one, addressing security and addressing vulnerability; two, redefining business challenges; three, reducing poverty and improving equity; four, reevaluating leadership and governance; five, restoring sustained growth; and six, sharing values and respecting differences.

The themes of the summit fall squarely in line with the priorities of my administration. We are reducing our vulnerability to terrorism through joint training with American troops. We are fighting poverty with a wide array of political, economic and social tools. We have restored good governance. We are on our way to sustained growth.

I shall speak of my experiences in stabilizing the economy, deepening the political horizon and strengthening the political will against crisis. In the exchange, I hope I can earn for our nation and our people, the continuing credibility we need to gain more investments and more jobs.

Across my entire journey, I shall speak with our Filipino communities, informing them of our programs to nurture our political and socioeconomic gains through the current crisis, and seek their support for shoring up national stability and growth.

We shall interface the Philippines and the world in a manner that shall demonstrate genuine strategic partnerships, mutual respect and sincere friendship, an abiding vision of a new world of democracy, freedom, human security and equality.

Once more, leaders of the Philippine Congress and local governments will join me in these endeavors. And our business delegation will provide the vanguard of enterprise building.

I therefore look forward to boarding my flight, my commercial flight, bearing in mind the great stake that all Filipinos hold in the pursuit of aggressive, common sensical, and constructive foreign policy.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Departure Ceremonies for an Official/Working Visit to the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231055/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7594&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine Trade and Investment Business Briefing

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine Trade and Investment Business Briefing organized by the Trade Partners UK and the
International Financial Services of London (IFSL)**

[Delivered in Great George Street, London, U.K., January 28, 2002]

Thank you very much sir Anthony cleaver.

Secretary Vince Perez; Ambassador Bautista; Ambassador Collins; Mr. Potter; Mr. Guest; Ms. Clark; peter; other distinguished participants of this seminar; ladies and gentlemen:

I am pleased to be here with you this afternoon. And I hope that you find this briefing useful in providing a picture of the Philippine economy.

My administration is determined to provide good business conditions by maintaining the bedrock of any country's competitiveness: an adherence to a long-term vision, predictable and stable rules of the game, and most of all, policies that are reform-oriented.

I presented my vision for the nation a year ago. On January 20th 2001, after taking my Oath of Office as President of the Philippines at high noon, I said:

We must be bold in our national ambitions, so that our challenge must be that within the decade, we will win the battle against poverty.

I said I would focus my energy on making the economy grow despite the harsh economic environment of 2001. I created a plan and I have made a substantial down payment to achieve that result in my first 12 months.

The plan consists of four components: the first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. The second is agricultural modernization founded on social equity. The third is a sectoral and social bias toward the disadvantaged in our economic development plan. And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

The presentations here by Secretary Perez underscore the fact, I hope, that in 2001, we were successful in putting the economy back on track.

Where bigger and richer economies failed, ours moved forward.

Where bigger and stronger currencies collapsed, ours held firm. Indeed, we have gone a long way to bringing our country back on the radar screens of the world. A new Cabinet, picked as much for their integrity as for their competence and qualifications, has brought professionalism in public service to new heights. Much of what the world's investment community has asked of us, we have thus far delivered. For instance, the power reform bill and the money laundering act, long considered litmus tests of our political will to legislate reforms, were put into law, firmly overcoming years of delay. Our public deficit has been placed under control.

Interest rates and inflation rates have declined.

Even recent unemployment rates have shown a decline.

Our economic plan recognizes that sound macroeconomics must be an ever-present precondition to achieving sustained ground level results.

And so this is what we have done, and i suppose the best proof that the world applauds our macroeconomics is the good performance we have been having in the international financial market including the London market.

In addition to the credit-enhanced 50 billion yen passed through Shobosai bonds late last year, the latest global bond offering in January of this year raised a total of 750 million dollars, on subscriptions worth 2.5 billion dollars, and issued at a lower rate than guidance price.

Responsible monetary management also contributes to the stabilization of our economic environment. Steps taken by the central bank helped us reduce inflation and support a stable peso. The bank has also effectively stamped out the speculative activity that has hurt so many of the world's economies. Our strong reserve position, combined with projected dollar values, should continue to be supportive of current or even stronger peso valuation levels this year.

In sum, improving fiscal outlook, strong foreign reserves position, price stability, and a supportive monetary policy all point to the fact that we have created, we have achieved a good level of macroeconomic stability.

Leading international credit rating agencies and multilateral bodies such as NEXI, JBIC, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank have all responded by endorsing our enhanced credit worthiness.

In its January to February 2002 credit research, Salomon Smith Barney says: "increasing risk appetite in 2002 should favor the Philippines among Asian nations.

"We expect the Philippines' ratings to stay on the balance in 2002."

Salomon characterizes the Philippines as "gaining momentum."

It recognizes that "economic growth has been resilient largely thanks to strong personal consumption and some well-performing agriculture and service sectors ... This could be bolstered," it says, "by the government's growing credibility in the eyes of foreign investors ... Given the government's commendable performance in 2001," it says, "we expect it should stay close to its more difficult targets in 2002."

They further predict that "the biggest source of credit improvement for the sovereign this year will be the success of its power privatization program, part of its efforts to raise foreign direct investment and improve the public sector balance sheet ... The government is set to begin the sale of transmission assets in 2002."

Indeed, not quoting anymore, part of our commitment to prudent debt management is to assist the national power corporation, or NAPOCOR, in sourcing funds to carry out the power sector privatization program. 250 million dollars of our most recent 750 million dollar bond offer, coupled with the Euro 500 million bond issue last November, is being used to refinance the assets of NAPOCOR in preparation for the privatization. These very successful issues were made possible by the passage of the power reform bill that i mentioned earlier, one of the first and significant reform milestones of this administration in last year.

The privatization of NAPOCOR will unlock a major bottleneck to industrial development while providing long-term fiscal benefits, not only from asset sale receipts but also from reduction in the government's associated contingent and direct liabilities. As you have heard from Secretary Perez, we are pleased to say that the sale of transmission assets will begin by June of this year, as planned.

Foreign direct investment levels also exceeded targets during 2001. Investments registered with the board of investments reached a total of 102 billion pesos as of the end of last year, against projections of only 50 billion pesos for the entire year. Those investments were primarily channeled into telecommunications and manufacturing. The success in attracting these new investments also contributed to steady external balance levels.

While historically foreign investments in the Philippines have been dominated by the Americans and the Japanese, British investors have recently been at the forefront as more companies now follow pioneers such as UNILIVER, British gas, Glaxo, United Biscuits, among others. In the year 2000, 47 percent of total foreign investments to the Philippines came from the U.K., as the largest single project investment by shell exploration of 4.5 billion dollars went into the Malampaya gas project.

It is our goal to further strengthen our ties with European investors. It is in this light that late last year, we were heartened by the strong reception to the 500 million worth of Euro bonds, proceeds of which are on loan to NAPOCOR.

Europe as a whole market is a major trading partner, having overtaken Japan, and now ranking the second highest in our list of trading partners next to the U.S. and in Europe, our biggest partner is the U.K.

Total trade between the Philippines and the U.K. has been growing at an impressive rate of 12 percent per annum for the past six years. Philippine goods to the U.K. have increased by 18.31 percent per annum, in line with the increasing competitiveness of our technology products.

We are promoting fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful and which can use our most competitive resource — which is the great Filipino worker.

I understand that from the U.K. perspective, Southeast Asia is an important market totaling 3.8 billion pounds. It is a bigger market than Japan, or Australia and New Zealand combined, and four times bigger than China, although with half of its population. And the Philippines accounts for 10 percent of the region's imports from the U.K.

But of course much work remains to be done. We must work with the international community to root out terrorism. We must return the reputation of Manila and the Philippines as a welcoming and safe place in which to live and do business. We must increase the benefits from our new global relevance and engagement after years of being isolated and adrift.

And we will continue, therefore, our long-term structural reform.

Government will continue to do its part to make the environment more congenial to business as we continue to provide more public infrastructure, more rational power costs, and competitive investment incentive packages.

To encourage strength in the domestic economy — which is what propped us up over the last year — we are looking to bring new financing vehicles to small and medium-scale enterprises and the housing sector.

Small and medium-scale enterprises are too small for the attention of traditional banks. Thus we recently approved a proposal by the development bank of the Philippines to use Japanese O.D.A. funds worth 200 million dollars for credit schemes for small and medium enterprises.

On the part of housing, private asset management initiatives will take on non-performing loans and unlock bottlenecks in the housing sector.

To make many of these moves possible, we are having combined inflation targeting and employment targeting as a focus of our strategy.

Sustained growth will also strengthen our relationship with investors and our ability to provide you with the opportunities worthy of your confidence. Accordingly, I would like to invite you to come to my country as I am sure that you will not be disappointed by the initiatives we have taken. We shall continue to pursue these with consistency and determination.

And because we have had in these past few years great partnerships — Malampaya gas, number one trading partner in Europe, number one current investor — I hope that in the years to come, the U.K. and the Philippines will be closer than brothers.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Philippine Trade and Investment Business Briefing organized by the Trade Partners UK and the International Financial Services of London (IFSL). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231021/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7590&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Lecture at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Lecture at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)**

[Delivered at the IISS, Arundel House, Arundel St., Temple Place, London, U.K., January 28, 2002]

His Excellency Ambassador Bautista; Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Philippines, Ambassador Collins; excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps; officials of her majesty's foreign and commonwealth office; officials of the Philippine delegation; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I am delighted to have this opportunity to address the Institute of Strategic Studies during my one day visit to London.

The events of September 11, 2001 are now seared in our mind as the incarnation of horror and tragedy.

As a citizen of the developing world and as president of the Philippines, I can perhaps speak with some intimacy of the challenge and the opportunity before us as a result of September 11.

Long before September 11, the Philippines fought terrorism on its soil and gained the upper hand, isolating terrorism insurgents to a few small islands. We have felt the pain of terrorism first hand and knew it must not spread to the rest of the world. That is why we were the first in Asia to lend our support to the fight against international terrorism.

The Philippines and Britain stand shoulder-to-shoulder in the fight against global terrorism. Prime Minister Blair has been an extraordinary leader. He has brought a strong, decisive voice to the cause and genuine concern and subtlety brokering the many complexities of the coalition.

And as far as the coalition is concerned, instead of being blindsided by the horror of September 11, the international community confronted terrorism directly and took its fight to its citadels. In place of fear and helplessness, there is now confidence that the fight can be won.

Success in the war against terrorism is inevitable. But it is also likely that the coalition nations who got together to fight terrorism can slowly drift away. And unfortunately, poverty — the twin of terrorism — will linger. We must not let that happen. That is why I embrace the fresh thinking of Prime Minister Blair to seize the moment and keep our coalition together to create global prosperity.

In the uplifting sight of Afghan women crying in joy over their liberation from the cruelties of the Taliban, we see the shadows of the struggles to come in making Afghanistan a viable state and working economy.

Multiply Afghanistan's situation to about one-fifth of all humanity, and we can imagine the scale of the challenge. According to the World Bank, "half the developing world — some two billion people — live in countries that have seen little growth in the last two decades. And even in those developing countries that have been doing relatively well, hundreds of millions of people are marginal to the progress of growth. As a result, well over one billion people, around 20 percent of the population of this planet, live on less than one dollar a day."

This 20 percent are the constituency to whom terrorists and extremists sing their siren song — with great success. This is why some of us are anxious that the flush of military victory in Afghanistan will not stop at the edge of this larger struggle against poverty.

Your Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Gordon Brown, describes this phase of the war as the struggle to “win the peace.”

A new kind of war requires a new kind of peace. The hallmarks of any new global alliance to alleviate poverty must be market-driven, solve a real human problem, and demand accountability from those nations that benefit. It cannot be the same old formula of handouts to the have-nots. Rather, it must be a hand-up for the self-reliant.

I can speak only for the Philippines when I say that we pride ourselves on our national self-reliance and our regional Asian unity in addressing our problems. But we also recognize that we have much to learn and gain from our developed brothers and sisters.

We have put a face on terrorists, and now we must put a face on the poor. We will eliminate terrorism and we must eliminate poverty. If we do not, the breeding ground of resentment will begin again to plague another generation. At the dawn of the 21st century, we cannot go another generation in the history of mankind without slaying the dragon of poverty. Leaders of all nations, rich and poor, must harness the power of modern society and technology to advance the quality of life of every global citizen. We cannot do so with stars in our eyes but with determination in our hearts.

As the military effort against terrorism comes to a conclusion in the Philippines, we will be free to turn our sights to another form of terror, as I said, poverty. And again, Prime Minister Blair is leading the way with fresh new thinking on this age old plague.

The Prime Minister knows that terrorism will never completely go away in the Philippines or other poor countries unless we root out the handmaiden of terrorism which is poverty. And I applaud the Prime Minister and his government for seeking to turn the power of the global anti-terror campaign into a force for global prosperity.

The course laid out by the United Kingdom is a positive and commendable step forward. Prime Minister Blair has eloquently spoken of the need to build in the third world “enabling states” for sustained growth in place of “failed states” from which terrorism draws sustenance. And this has been extended by Sir Gordon Brown’s bold, new plan for “a global alliance for prosperity between developing and developed worlds.”

I have come to London to discuss with Prime Minister Blair and other leaders how this vision can be transformed into a practicable international initiative for spreading prosperity. Part of this process is reconciling the concerns of developing countries with the perspective of developed economies.

In my view, this ambitious agenda should at least include the following:

First and foremost, the agenda must address what has been called the silent emergency in the world today — the plight of the poorest of the poor who live on the edge of famine, disease, illiteracy and despair. Developed and developing nations should mount together a concerted effort to turn the situation around. The humanitarian effort now being carried out in Afghanistan must be replicated in many other distressed areas.

Second, the agenda must promote greater trade between developed and developing countries that must be used for poverty reduction and development. Trade liberalization can mean billions of dollars to poor countries, yet developed countries continue to exercise protectionism. We should now seize the new round of multilateral negotiations under the WTO as an opportunity to make trade serve development.

Third, the agenda must encourage the flow of greater private capital from the developed to the developing countries. Foreign direct investment — and the technology transfer it brings — stimulates development in poor countries. For this to happen, developing countries must open their economies to foreign investment. In turn, foreign companies and capital must get more engaged in developing countries that upgrade their policies and standards.

Fourth, the agenda should supplement debt restructuring with an increased level of financial aid. The proposal of Sir Gordon Brown for the creation of an investment fund of 50 billion dollars a year to help boost developing countries sustain development will be a great boost.

Fifth and finally, the agenda must actively support institutional capacity building in the developing countries to improve governance, empower civil society, increase transparency, and increase openness and pluralism. Weak administrative capacity hobbles many poor countries. It is not an accident that terrorism thrives in failed societies — communities where government has failed and citizens are alienated.

I agree that for this new initiative to succeed, developed and developing countries alike must accept new responsibilities to go with the new opportunities. Poor countries must meet the challenge of adopting standards of transparency and accountability and building market economies so as to become real partners in investment and trade. The answer to globalization is to get productively engaged in the world economy, not to withdraw from it.

In turn, developed countries must recognize their duty to open their markets, transfer resources and reform international institutions. It is a fact that how rich countries manage their economies determines stability in the world's financial system and the availability of resources for the development of poor countries.

And the entire agenda will work only if infused with a real spirit of cooperation. We must believe that in freeing the poor from the prison of poverty, all nations will reap the boon of a more tranquil and peaceful world.

In my lifetime, i want to be able to look into the eyes of a young Filipino and see a confident gaze, free from fear — free from the fear of terrorism, free from the fear of poverty. And free to live a life of dignity and prosperity.

Everyone must appreciate that our obligation to our people in the Philippines is to put food on the table for the hungry today and not merely promise a better life tomorrow. Just as we search out and destroy terrorism, we must search out and destroy the terror of poverty. There is evil in being hungry just as there is evil in being a destructive terrorist. We must work together as a family of nations to alleviate both.

To sum up then, we have reason to cheer that the ongoing war against terrorism is making significant progress. But victory in this struggle does not depend only on winning the battles of this war. We must also win the peace.

And winning the peace means in the last analysis winning the battle for development. As Pope John Paul II says, “development is the other name of peace.”

The peace and security we seek impels us to confront the conditions and also the reasons why terrorism can so easily spread.

We know that evil causes terrorism but the evil of terrorism would not be able to spread so much if we did not have so much poverty. And so it is important to realize that terrorism thrives whenever there is poverty and misery.

By extending our present coalition for peace into a coalition for prosperity — and by mounting an earnest program for poverty eradication and economic development — we could ignite hope and dynamism among the poor as they have never known in all our history.

And would it not be a great irony, indeed — but a beautiful irony — if this period which terrorists sought to turn into a time of destruction, becomes instead a time of building and raising all mankind towards progress.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Lecture at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231032/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7591&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during an Ecumenical Service

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During an Ecumenical Service

[Delivered at the Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street, U.K., January 28, 2002]

Maraming salamat Ambassador Bautista.

Bishop Roche; Lord Meyers; Ecumenical guests; members of the diplomatic corps; members of parliament; NHS administrators; mga kaibigan sa Philippine community dito sa United Kingdom; other guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Good afternoon to all of you. At sa ating mga kababayan, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat. Nung atin kung kapangpangan a kabalen keti mayap a gatganapun kekungan. No adda kakailayak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga malem yo amin, apo. Kun dunay mga nagikan sa mindanao kun asa ako nidako, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan. Kag kun may ara nga nga kasimanwa sa akong bana, maayong hapon sa inyo nga tanan.

Today is like no other: we have all found the time and the reason to gather together under one roof and marshal the power of our faith toward the dream of peace for all.

Maybe there's some of you who came because you were curious about the person of the Philippine president. I hope I have not disappointed any one among the curious.

But I think most of you came with a higher degree of curiosity: wondering whether we, coming from diverse backgrounds and faiths, can come together in common prayer.

In responding to the call to be part of today's service, we have enhanced our faiths by displaying our capability to build lasting channels of friendship, understanding and respect for one another. And I consider myself blessed and honored to be part of this unique celebration and service.

At siyempre isang malaking dahilan kung bakit ako'y dumalo rito sa pagdiriwang na ito, napakagandang pagkakataon na maki-isa sa ating kababayan na bumubuo sa Filipino community ng United Kingdom. Marami sa inyo ay tiga-Londress pero meron ding nanggaling sa Scotland, sa Northern Ireland at sa Wales, at gusto kong sabihin sa inyong lahat na pinagmamalaki ng mga Filipino sa Pilipinas ang mga Pilipino dito sa U.K.

Nung mga apat na taong nakaraan nagkaroon ng census: ang Filipino rito raw ay umaabot ng 50,000 at ang mga Filipino dito ay nasa mga critical na human resources areas ng Britanya, sa health sector, transportasyon, information technology, edukasyon at iba pang sektor na kinilala sa pambihirang husay at talino ng mga Pilipino. At ngayon mas lalo pa ngang kinikilala kayo: ngayon ang Filipino community sa loob ng apat na taon lumaki mula sa 50,000 umabot na ng 90,000.

Kamakailan lamang yung ating Senate pPresident, si Franklin Drilon, at saka yung ating Speaker, si Joe de Venecia, kasama ng ibang mga Senador at Congressmen, ay bumisita dito, inimbata ng British Interparliamentary Union, at sila'y pumunta sa Kingston Hospital at nakilala nila ang mahigit na 120 Filipino nurses at nakita nila, kwinento nila sa akin, kung papano nirerespeto ng hospital administrations ang ating mga kasamahan na Pilipino doon.

Sa Royal Free Hospital naman, sa pagkaintindi ko, may mahigit na 2,000 na Filipino doon at kayo rin ay kinikilala at hinahangaan.

Nalaman ko rin na merong 2,000 Filipinos na nasa Royal Mail, nadaanan ko nga sila kanina naka-uniporme, congratulations sa inyo.

May mga kasama rin tayong Filipino seafarer. Ang mga Filipino seafarer natin ay bahagi ng 200,000 na mga Filipino seafarer sa buong daigdig, in fact, sa pagkaintindi ko, number one yata tayo sa mga seafarers sa buong mundo. Wala yatang barko ngayon sa buong mundo na walang Filipinong crew member.

Kaya masasabi natin itong mga halimbawa wala nang duda kung gaano kahalaga ang papel ng dakilang manggagawang Filipino sa lipunan ng Inglatera.

At ngunit kahit pinili ng karamihan ninyo na mamuhay rito, alam ko na Pilipino pa rin kayo. Kasi ang Pilipino kahit na saan maninirahan ay nananatiling Pilipino sa puso at isipan. Alam ko rin na gusto niyong makabalita tungkol sa mga nangyayari sa Pilipinas lalo na sa mga pagbabagong nadudulot na doon sa ating bansa itong araw na ito.

A number of you have become very successful and have brought pride and honor to your adopted country, but at the same time you also bring pride and honor to our country because wherever the Filipino goes the Filipino worker is known for industry and the ability to do a good job. Wherever the Filipino worker goes, the Filipino worker shows extraordinary skill in the workplace and a resilience that makes the Filipino adopt to the culture of the new country.

Kaya tunay na pinagmamalaki kayo ng Pilipinas at kahit kami na mga government officials, halimbawa, nag-aalok ng investments sa ating bansa, ang sinasabi namin parati pumunta kayo sa Pilipinas dahil magagaling ang labor force, ang human resources ng Pilipinas, at madali silang maniwala dahil ang dami na nilang Pilipinong nakilala sa kanilang mga bansa. At sinasabi namin yung mga dakilang Pilipino na nakikita ninyo sa mga bansa ninyo doon sa Pilipinas sila nanggaling. The Philippines is the home of the great Filipino worker. Yon ang ating ginagamit para mag-alok sa ating ibang mga kaibigan.

Kaya nagpupugay ako, kasama ng mga kababayan natin nasa Pilipinas, sa mga Pilipinong nakatira dito sa U.K., sa lahat ng inyong ginagawa para tulungan ang ating inang bayan at para ipaalam dito at sa buong mundo ang kadakilaan ng Pilipino. Talagang pinagmamalaki kayo, napakagaling ninyo at hindi lamang yon, hindi lamang kayo ay ambassador ng Pilipinas sa iba't-ibang bansa kagaya dito sa Inglatera, kung gaano kagaling kayo yun ang larawan na binibigay niyo tungkol sa Pilipinas. Hindi lamang yon, binibigyan na ngayon ninyo ng magandang mukha ang ating bansa sa ibang bansa kagaya rito nagpapadala pa kayo ng tulong sa ating bansa. We have seven million Filipinos all over the world and you send our country seven billion dollars every year, kaya nagpapasalamat ang Pilipinas sa inyo.

Seven billion dollars a year. Alam niyo na yung Shell, yung investment nila sa Malampaya, five billion dollars yun at yun ang tinuturing natin na pinakamalaking investment, single investment — five billion dollars — nung taong 2000 — eh kayo taun-taon seven billion dollars. Kaya taun-taon gumagawa kayo ng Malampaya doon sa ating bansa.

Kaya ang mga Pilipino na nanggagaling sa iba't-ibang bansa, nagtatrabaho sa iba't-ibang bansa, hindi lang natin tinuturing Overseas Filipino Worker dapat bansagan din bilang Overseas Filipino Investors dahil sa seven billion na ini-invest ninyo sa ating bansa taun-taon. At yung investment ninyo kahit saan pumupunta pag pinapadala ninyo sa inyong mga lipunan, sa inyong mga pamayanan, nakakapag-aral ng ilang mga bata doon, nakakapagtayo ng mga eskuwelahan, ng mga health center, nagkakaroon ng puhunan ôyung mga taga sa inyong mga lugar at nagkakaroon ng mga negosyo nila. Kaya talagang puhunan ang pinapadala ninyo — yung perang pinapadala ninyo ay puhunan, perang pinapadala ninyo ay investments sa kinabubuti ng inyong mga community.

Kaya bilang inyong pangulo, bilang pangulo ng mga lugar na tinutulungan ninyo, maraming salamat sa inyong mga investments sa ating bansa. The great Filipino worker, the great Filipino investor.

Kaya pag naghahanap tayo kung papano ngayon tayo aangat sa mundo, ngayon na meron tayong kumpitensya sa 21st century at ngayon na merong mga kahirapan ang buong mundo mula nung September 11, at mula pa dun mas maaga pa mula pa nung nagkaroon ng slow down yung Amerika at saka yung Hapon. Papano tayo aangat, papano

natin mapapagpatuloy yung ating katatagan? Ang atin ngang inaasahan ay ang kadakilaan ng manggagawang Pilipino. Kaya ang pino-promote natin sa ating bansang Pilipinas ay Pyung mga industriya sa service sector na gumagamit ng kagalingan ng Filipino. Human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors, yan ang ating competitive advantage — kagaya ng information and communication technology, kasama ng turismo — dahil nga yun ang mga industriya na mabilis umangat, yun ang mga industriya na gumagamit ng kagalingan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Kaya mga kaibigan dito sa Inglatera, salamat sa inyong ginagawa para sa ating bansa. Salamat sa magandang mukhang binibigay niyo tungkol sa ating bansa. Salamat sa tulong na binibigay niyo na nagpapaangat ng ating ekonomiya.

Nung first quarter ng year 2001 ang ating GDP growth rate ay 3.1 percent, yun pag hindi kasama yung kontribusyon ng overseas Filipinos. pag sinama ang kontribusyon ng overseas Filipinos, yan na ang GNP, naging 3.7 percent. Kaya yung inyong seven billion dollars ay nagtutulong ng 0.6 percent sa ating 3.7 percent growth rate. Kaya napakalaki ang papel ninyo sa ating pag-angat ng ekonomiya sa Pilipinas kahit na kayo ay narito.

Kaya dahil kahit na kayo ay narito tumutulong kayo sa ating bansa, sa ating ekonomiya, talagang nararapat na bigyan kayo ng nararapat na atensyon at saka kapangyarihan. Kaya sinisikap ko na sana hindi tatagal na sana pumasa na sa wakas yung Overseas Filipino Voters' Rights. Eto ho ay natapos na doon sa committee level ng House of Representatives at nagdedebate na sila sa Plenary session. So sana po ito ay pagdasalan din natin para sa ganon yung inyong pinapadalang mga tulong sa Pilipinas ay babalik naman sa inyo sa kapangyarihan ng pagboboto sa mga official ng ating bansa.

At isa pang importanteng pinaglalaman ng inyong mga Congressmen at Senator ay yung Dual Citizenship dahil nga alam natin na kahit na kayo ay narito at maraming beses ay kumaha na kayo ng citizenship dito dahil yun ang paraan kung papano mananatili yung inyong iba't-ibang mga pribilehiyo ninyo, ang puso niyo ay nandun pa rin sa Pilipinas.

Magdasal tayo na itong dalawang panukalang batas na pinagkakaroon na ng debate sa Kongreso saka Senado ay papasa sa madaling panahon.

Ako ho ay nagpunta rito sa Inglatera para makita kayo at para ring makipagkita kay Prime Minister Tony Blair dahil ang Pilipinas at saka Inglatera ay kabalikat sa paglalaman kontra sa terorismo sa ating mundo. Sabi nga nila sa Europa ang pinakamatatag doon ay ang Inglatera at sa Asya ang pinakamatatag ay ang Pilipinas. Isang dahilan ay dahil sa ating malayong pulo, yung Basilan, kilala na natin kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng terorismo; at dahil kilala natin ang terorismo sa Basilan, alam din natin na ang terorismo at saka ang kahirapan ay magkakambal kaya pag nilalaban natin ang terorismo kailangan labanan din ang kahirapan at yun ang ating sinisikap na gawin.

At isa pa, itong problema ng terorismo, nung umpisa yung mga terorista sinikap nilang gawin na ito ay isang giyera ng mga relihiyon, ngunit sinasabi natin hindi yun giyera ng relihiyon kaya dapat magkaroon tayo ng lalong mas malawak na paguusap-usap sa iba't-ibang relihiyon.

The terrorists wish to make us believe that what is happening is a religious war. It is not a religious war, and what we must do is to turn the events of today and the response to those events into an opportunity for greater religious understanding and broader interfaith dialogue.

Ginagawa natin ito sa Pilipinas. Doon sa Pilipinas, mga Kristiyano at saka Muslim, lalong-lalo na pagkatapos ng September 11, ay ginawang mas matindi at mas masipag yung pag-uusap sa isa't-isa; at ginawang mas matindi yung pagsisikap na maintindihan ang isa't-isa.

At pagpunta ko rito nung binisita ko si Prime Minister Blair kanina, nagulat ako ngunit natuwa ako na sa katabi ng laban sa terorismo laban sa kahirapan, binigyan din pala ni Prime Minister Blair ng parehong kaimportansya yung interfaith dialogue. A few days ago Prime Minister Blair told me about the interfaith dialogue that was just concluded here in London. And so that is another commonality that the U.K. and the Philippines have — it is our devotion to the importance of interfaith dialogue.

So today in this church, this Catholic church which represents the majority of the Filipinos, we are here not in a Catholic mass but rather in an interfaith service because, as I said, during these times, these times of great challenge to peace, the more we understand the different faiths, the more we understand the different cultures, the more we will have universal understanding, the sooner we will have peace.

Kaya mga kaibigang mga Pilipino, kapwa Pilipino dito, salamat na kayo ay dumalo dito sa ating interfaith dialogue at higit doon, salamat na kayo ay dumalo dahil nagdadasal kayo para sa kapayapaan sa Pilipinas, nagdadasal kayo para sa kinabubuti ng Pilipinas. Pero higit sa lahat din, salamat dahil hindi lamang kayo nagdarasal, kayo ay nagsisikap, nagtatrabaho, nagpapadala ng puhunan, nagpapadala ng tulong sa ating bansa, talagang maging kayo ay nasa Pilipinas o nasa Inglatera, yung inyong kadakilaan ay nagbibigay ng biyaya sa inyong inang lupa.

Once again, fellow Filipinos, thank you for being here in this church with us today. Thank you for being wherever you are doing your work for the country you live in and for the country you come from.

And let me say once again, minamahal kayo ng inyong kapwa Pilipino, pinagmamalaki kayo ng inyong kapwa Pilipino. And therefore, may I pray also that you will have success always in your lives, in your careers for your good, the good of your family and the good of the Philippines.

Congratulations and thank you.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during an Ecumenical Service. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231042/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7592&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino community**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ottawa, Canada, January 29, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Alvarez sa pagpakilala.

And may I also take this opportunity to introduce to you the other members of our Official delegation. We have here the Senate President Pro-Tempore Senator Manny Villar, Senator Ralph Recto. We have Congresswoman Cynthia Villar of Las Pinas, Congressman Alipio Badelles of Lanao del Norte, Congressman Plaridel Abaya of Cavite, Congressman Edmundo Reyes of Marinduque. We also have Governor Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Governor Willy Enverga of Quezon province, Governor Josie dela cruz of Bulacan, Mayor Lito Gatlabayan of Antipolo City. At mula sa Cabinet, si Secretary Dante canlas, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Larry Baja, and Undersecretary of Trade Gregory Domingo.

Binabati ko siyempre ang nag-aalaga sa inyo dito, si Ambassador Benedicto at saka si Mrs. Benedicto. Mukhang mahal na mahal niyo siya kaya hindi ko siya pinalitan. I would also like to greet the Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines, Ambassador Collet; and former Ambassador to the Philippines, still a good friend of the Philippines, Ambassador John Treleaven; at sa inyong lahat mga kaibigan:

Magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat. Balamu atin kung Cabalen a Kapampangan keti. Ken no adda kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga rabii yo amin, apo. San saray kabaleyan, masantos ya labi ed sikayon amin. Sa mga taga-mindanao, murag ni congressman ..., Maayo gabi kaninyo tanan. Kag sa mga kasimanwa sang akong bana, maayo gabi sa iyo nga tanan.

Natutuwa po ako at nagkaroon tayo ng pagkakataong magkasama-sama itong gabing ito dito sa magandang lungsod ng ottawa. At salamat sa mga nanggaling sa iba't-ibang mga lugar ang layu-layo ng montreal dito pero nakaabot kayo por que nagbisita.

Ako po ay narito sa Canada dahil sa imbitasyon ni Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

Ngunit ang isa pang mahalagang dahilan kung bakit kami ay naririto ay para makipag-usap sa 300,000 Overseas Filipinos dito sa Canada sa pamamagitan ninyo. At gusto ko ring pasalamatan ang gobyerno ng Canada sa halagang binibigay nila sa mga Pilipinong nakatira dito.

I have met Filipinos in Canada many times in the past.

But this time, I am doubly honored because for the first time I come as your president.

Bilang inyong pangulo, sa ngalan ng lahat ng inyong kababayan sa Pilipinas, pinupuri kayo ng inyong mga kapatid sa Pilipinas sapagkat sa pamamagitan ng inyong husay sa pagtatrabaho, inaangat ninyo ang pagkatao ng sambayanang Pilipino. Napapamalas ninyo sa mundo na ang Pilipino ay dapat ipagmalaki at hangaan.

Sa buong daigdig, nararamdaman ng mga bansa, ng mga may puhunan, ng mga magulang ang malaking tulong ng mga Pilipino, ang malaking tulong ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. Kanya nalalagay nila sa isip nila na ang Pilipinas siguro nga ay tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Tinatanaw ng pamahalaan at ng taong-bayan ng Pilipinas ang kontribusyon ng mga overseas Filipinos sa ekonomiya at sa kabuhayang bansa, eto nga 'yung binigay niyo kanina 'yung isang halimbawa.

Ang inyong malaking tulong ay nagpapasigla sa ekonomiya at nagtutulak sa kaunlaran ng bansa.

Sa ibabaw ng magandang reputasyong na binibigay ninyo sa ating bansa bilang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino, milyun-milyong kabataan ang nakakapag-aral o nagtatapos ng edukasyon sa inyong tulong sa mga pinapadala ninyo sa Pilipinas.

Libu-libong bagong bahay ay napatatayo at nagkakaroon 'yung mga may bahay ng bagong buhay.

Dahil sa inyong tulong nakapaglunsad tayo ng napakaraming negosyo maging small business ng buong bansa.

Ang matagumpay na negosyo na napatayo sa ating bansa dahil sa inyong remittances ay isang malaking haligi ng ating ekonomiya.

Sumigla ang maraming barangay, bayan, lungsod, probinsiya sa kontribusyon ng mga overseas Filipinos.

Alam niyo ang pinakamalaking investment sa Pilipinas — foreign investment — ay five billion dollars, puhunan ng Shell sa Malampaya gas fields sa Pilipinas. Ngunit ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino ay taun-taon nagpapadala ng six billion dollars sa Pilipinas. Kaya hinahangaan natin ang Shell na nagbigay ng five billion dollars investment.

Ano pa ang mga Pilipino na nagbibigay ng six billion dollars investment every year? Kaya kayo'y major economic investors din sa ating bansa.

Kayo ang bagong economic investors ng bansa.

At sa aking palagay, dapat baguhin ang bansag na inyo sa bansa. Ang karaniwang tawag sa Pilipinong nasa ibang bansa ay overseas workers, pero palagay ko dapat kilalanin ang inyong kontribusyon, 'yung six billion dollars a year, dapat tawagin kayo bilang overseas Filipino investors.

Kayong mga overseas investors na araw-araw namumuhunan sa kaunlaran ng ating bansa. Pinupuhunan ninyo ang inyong "productive years" alang-alang sa ating bayan. Nagsasakripisyo kayo, ilan sa inyo malayo sa inyong mga mahal — mabuti na lamang dito sa Canada ay nadadala ninyo ang inyong pamilya, pero marami talaga sinasakripisyong malayo sa pamilya — para makamit ang mga pangarap para sa kanila. Kaya saludo ang inyong mga kababayang Pilipino sa inyo.

At dapat lamang suklian ng bansa ang inyong tulong.

Doon sa aking State of the Nation Address, sinabi ko na isang malaking prayoridad ng gobyerno ay ang pagpasa ng Absentee Voting Bill para sa mga Overseas Filipinos ay mabigyang kayo ng kapangyarihang makaboto at makapili ng mga mamumuno sa ating pamahalaan.

Nandito 'yong ating mga Senators at saka Congressmen. Kanina nung nagkaroon ng press conference pagkatapos ng aming bilateral ng Prime Minister ng Canada tinanong nga sa akin kumusta na ba 'yung kalagayan ng ating Overseas Filipino Voting Rights Bill na 1965 pa raw unang pinasok sa Kongreso. At ang ating mga Senador at Congressmen, sila ang sumagot at sabi nga nila ito ay tinatalakay na sa kongreso at inaasahan nila na sa wakas itong taon ay papasa.

Samahan niyo ako magdasal para pumasa na nga ito at maging batas na.

I also support the bill initiated by Congress and the Senate on dual citizenship.

You are a very important part of our economy as I illustrated earlier, and the Philippine economy will, for the foreseeable future, continue to be heavily dependent on overseas-worker remittances. Pitong milyong Pilipino ang nagtatrabaho sa ibayong dagat, mas marami pa sa mga nagtatrabaho sa mga korporasyon at kagawaran ng Pilipinas dahil 'yung mga nagtatrabaho sa mga korporasyon, mga opisina hindi umaabot ng pitong milyon dun sa Pilipinas.

On the basis of this and of the nation's humanitarian responsibilities to its people wherever they are, our government will work doubly hard to strengthen overseas Filipino workers' protection.

For instance, the department of foreign affairs is working on a "Tulong OFW" program whereby it has floated 100 million dollars-worth of "Bagong Bayani bonds" to support a new package of socioeconomic benefits for OFWs. The "Bagong Bayani Bonds" would raise funds to enable the OFWs to help them help themselves, to mobilize their savings to be invested in projects like housing programs back home.

We also have a housing program for overseas Filipinos under the housing and urban developing coordinating council. This is part of our goal to provide 100,000 housing units a year for workers, whether working in the Philippines or outside.

And I suppose by now you know that we have scrapped the requirement for overseas Filipino workers to file an income tax information sheet, and with that we have lifted the penalty for non-filing beginning tax year 2001.

We strengthen bilateral relations with countries hosting large numbers of Filipinos. Kasama na rito ang Canada.

Malaki ang inyong papel sa pagpapaunlad ng relasyon sa pamamagitan ng ating dalawang bayan. Kayong mga nagtatrabaho rito, kayong mga nakatira rito ang kinatawan ng Pilipinas sa Canada at inaasahan kayo na lalo pang magpapalakas sa ating magandang samahan.

In my State of the Nation Address last July 23rd, I cited the serious challenges facing the Philippines. The economy I inherited was stark and daunting. There were four million jobless. This has correspondingly led to a rise in poverty incidence to 40 percent of the population. The budget deficit threatened to balloon to 225 billion Pesos.

And the New York incident changed the global mood and world conditions became even more uncertain.

But despite the stark economy we inherited, and despite the uncertain world business conditions, in 2001, we made progress. Where richer and bigger economies failed, ours moved forward. Dante Canlas, our socioeconomic planning minister told me that we just finished accounting the figures for GDP and GNP for the year 2001. Our GDP growth rate was 3.4 percent, our GNP growth rate — which includes your remittances — was 3.7 percent — in a sea of countries that have zero growth rate, negative growth rate or even recession. Thank you for contributing to our growth rate.

And where bigger and stronger currencies collapsed, ours held firm.

Indeed, we have gone a long way to bringing our country back on the radar screens of the world. A new Cabinet, picked as much for their integrity as for their competence and qualifications, has brought professionalism in public service to new heights. Our public deficit has been placed under control.

Interest rates and inflation rates have declined. Interest rates are at their lowest in the last 15 years. Our economy continues to grow despite faltering economies all around us, as I've said.

Even recent unemployment rates have shown periods of decline.

But the days and months ahead will still be filled with daunting challenges, however, I do not fear as long as I have your support. And I thank you for expressing your support.

Indeed, now is once again the time to prove our mettle as a nation and as a people.

We can sustain our economic rebirth by thinking Filipino to the extent that you came from here, buying Filipino, and I know what you do very well, investing Filipino.

When I became President last January, I told the people about my vision of winning the war against poverty within the decade. Trabaho. Edukasyon. Sariling tahanan. Pagkain sa bawat mesa. This, in common sense and plain talk, is the core of my vision.

I also urged everyone listening to my State of the Nation Address last July 23rd to set aside bickering and politicking for at least one year. Sa halip ng alitan, hiningi kong isang taon tayong magtulungan sa ikabubuti ng taong-bayan.

To succeed, our national agenda must revolve around four components — apat na elemento ng pakikibaka sa kahirapan.

The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. Pagnenegosyo upang dumami ang trabaho.

The second component is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. Palalaguin ang kita at ani ng maralitang tagabukid.

The third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. Pagkalinga sa mga bahagi ng lipunan na naiiwanan ng kaunlaran.

And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society. Moralidad sa gobyerno at lipunan bilang saligan ng tunay na kaunlaran.

We are promoting fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful — service industries that mobilize the great Filipino worker. One of them is information and communication technology or ICT. Tomorrow I will speak before the Ottawa businessmen and the Toronto businessmen to let them know that Filipino workers are ranked no. 1 in the field of ICT, no. 1 among knowledge workers. Analysts have pointed to two developing countries as the likely world centers for ICT, software development and data management in this decade: India and the Philippines.

Aside from ICT, we also have the competitive edge in tourism.

And in agriculture, there can be a million new jobs which is what we're trying to look for. Upang lumikha ng isang milyong trabaho sa kanayunan, taun-taon gumagastos tayo ng dalawampung bilyong piso; in fact last year we spent 21 billion pesos.

Ang hinihingi ko po sa inyo, mga kababayan, ay ang inyong patuloy na pag-unawa sa mga nangyayari sa bayan natin at pagtitiwala na ginagampanan ng inyong pamahalaan ang aming tungkulin sa abot ng aming kakayahan. Ang hiling ko ay magkaisa tayo.

I am touched by your show of affection and support. And I ask that your unified sentiments and actions be also reflected in your continuing faith in your Philippine government. I am counting on all of you.

Muli, mga kaibigan, maraming salamat at mabuhay ang dakilang Pilipino na nakatira dito sa Canada.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech During a Meeting with the Filipino Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230945/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7587&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Dinner hosted by the Right Honourable John Cretien, Prime Minister of Canada and Mrs. Aline Chretien
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Dinner hosted by the Right Honourable John Cretien, Prime Minister of Canada and Mrs. Aline Chretien

[Delivered at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, January 29, 2002]

Your Excellency the Right Honorable Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada; Les Membres distingues du Gouvernement Canadien; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Colleagues in the Philippine Government; les representants de la Communaute Economique; members of the Filipino Community in Canada; Mes Amis, Mesdames et Messieurs:

Ma visite aujourd'hui de ce grand pays, le Canada, est bien une occasion propice pour renouer de fort liens amicaux et historiques. Depuis plus d'un siecle, nos relations temoignent d'un dynamisme croissant.

A ce propos, je suis reconnaissante au gouvernement Canadien pour sa gracieuse invitation et son Chaleureux Accueil.

Depuis plus d'un an, j'ai releve le defi d'assumer la presidence de mon pays dans un passage difficile. J'ai promis de restaurer la confiance du peuple philippin en son gouvernement, d'etablir une societe reellement democratique, et d'ameliorer la qualite de vie de chacun de ses membres. Je suis heureuse aujourd'hui de constater que nous sommes sur le point d'atteindre notre objectif. Malgre les problemes divers poses par la situation economique mondiale et ceux crees par l'onze Septembre.

The economic prosperity of Canada is remarkable. Information and communications technology or ICT, which I learned is centered in Ottawa, is one of the major reasons for this. I hope that Canada can share its expertise towards the development of the ICT sector in the Philippines.

Although the Philippines was not spared from the effects of the global trends of 2001, we gained resiliency through maintaining economic fundamentals while pump-priming domestic demand. As a result, our GDP growth of 3.4 percent and GNP growth of 3.7 percent was among the highest in the world.

Our country's growth relies on investments. This is where we look towards Canada and the international business community to spur the Philippine economy and to contribute to its long-term stability and security. And Mr. Prime Minister, I know that many Filipinos have investments in Canada, they have even residences in Canada. So it's a two-way street.

Trade and investment between our two countries can and must be developed further. Canadian businesses can continue to take advantage of the best of both worlds — knowledge from Canada and capital from Canada and skilled human resources from the Philippines, the home of the great Filipino worker.

Stronger partnerships will make Canadian companies more profitable, while giving our country the benefit of high technology and greater economic activity.

Thus I have extended an invitation to His Excellency the Prime Minister to visit the Philippines in the near future and lead another team Canada mission, similar to those he led in 1995 and 1997.

There is no better proof of the skills of the great Filipino worker than the contributions of Filipino migrants to Canada. This wonderful country is the adopted home of, as His Excellency said, some 320,000 Filipinos who have either taken up citizenship or residency in Canada. We are proud of Rey and we are proud that many other Filipinos have contributed to the well-being, cultural diversity, and economic prosperity of this great country.

Our meetings today reinforced the excellent relations that have existed between our two countries since that historical point mentioned by his Excellency when Sunlife assurance of Canada established a branch in Manila in 1895.

It is always a great honor and privilege therefore for Filipinos and Filipino leaders like me to be in the company of our Canadian friends, and strengthening a friendship that began more than a century ago and that without doubt, will continue for many centuries more.

Allow me also to express the gratitude of all Filipinos for the continued assistance the Philippines receives from Canada. Through CIDA, Canada continues to be a partner in our development efforts through projects pursued in tandem with both government and the private sector.

Tomorrow, after meeting the business community in Ottawa and Toronto, and after meeting the Filipino community in Toronto, we shall leave Canada confident that the goodwill between Canadians and Filipinos is steadfast and secure.

In the spirit of friendship then, I ask you all to join me in a toast to the government and people of Canada, to the enduring bonds between the Canadian and Filipino people, to his Excellency the Prime Minister and Madame Chretien.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Dinner hosted by the Right Honourable John Cretien, Prime Minister of Canada and Mrs. Aline Chretien. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231007/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7588&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Canadian Business Leaders at the I.T. Networking Session

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Canadian Business Leaders at the I.T. Networking Session**

[Delivered at the Tudor Room Mezzanine, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada, January 30, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Mr. Sykes; Mr. Garcia; Mr. Lim; other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I'm very happy to be here with you this afternoon in this I.T. forum appropriately held in the global City of Toronto. With your vibrant economy and your 3,000 ICT firms, your city is indeed tangible proof that technology is a major key to economic growth.

In the Philippines today, as you may have heard from my colleagues, we have also identified ICT — information and communications technology — as the key to finding our niche in the 21st century. This is because we feel that our growth sectors are in the human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors, like, as I said, ICT, tourism, health care and other similarly skill-intensive sectors. Thanks to our millions of educated, English-speaking and I.T. literate workforce, the Philippines is fast becoming a hub for information and communications technology.

Our strategy for human capacity building is to transform our labor force into the new economy workforce. And to this end to be able to continue the supply of knowledge workers to the next generation, to the next batch, we are placing more emphasis on improving basic education in math and science. And in the tertiary level, in human resource development activities to create a pool of ICT professionals to our certification programs for programmers. My administration is also committed to expanding the country's physical ICT infrastructure. Even now we already offer foreign investors dedicated I.T. zones and cyberparks with reliable telecom infrastructure and high bandwidth. We are continually working on initiatives to further improve high-speed connectivity at low cost. My administration is also concentrating on improving the policy and legislative environment for ICT. Already we have an e-commerce law one of the first countries in Asia to do so was the Philippines. Our e-commerce law regulates the use of electronic technology and penalizes cybercrimes such as hacking. And we are going to pass even more laws related to security issues and also to convergence.

In line with my administration's focus on I.T. as a priority sector, I hope that the Canadian community will be attending the e-services Philippines, the country's major I.T. services fair on February 7 to 9th, in Manila. I hope you will visit this fair to learn more about business opportunities in the I.T. sector and to network with Philippine I.T. companies. We know that many foreign companies will be visiting the Philippines for this event. With Canada being a world leader in e-commerce and ICT and we the Philippines possessing the highly skilled and trainable I.T. labor force to make it Asia's hub for back office operations and its services, promising business opportunities are open to both sides for business alliances in this sector. And considering the global revenue projections for world outsourcing of I.T. services is showing significance shift towards the Asian region where American and European companies are increasingly contracting out their services to take advantage of lower cost, it will be indeed a wise move for Canadian companies to be a step ahead of your competition by choosing the new economy — Philippines — your winning e-services partner.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Canadian Business Leaders at the I.T. Networking Session. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230855/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7582&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during a Luncheon hosted by the Empire Club and the Canadian Club of
Toronto Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Luncheon hosted by the Empire Club and the Canadian Club of Toronto**

[Delivered at the Ballroom, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada, January 30, 2002]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Mr. ... For your kind introduction.

Secretary of State ...; Gordon Mckyver, President of the Canada Club of Toronto; Mr. Wo, Vce Chairman of International Banking and Wealth Management of ...; Honorable Brenda Elliot; my colleagues in the Philippine delegation who are here in the head tables: Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Villar, Senator Ralph Recto, Congressman Alipio Badelles, Congressman Plaridel Abaya, Congressman Edmundo Reyes, Congresswoman Cynthia Villar; Ambassador Benedicto, Ambassador Colette, Consul General Castrense. And may I also introduce our officials who are not in the head table, we have the Governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Parouk Hussin; the Governor of Bulacan province, Josie dela Cruz; the Governor of Quezon province, Willy Enverga; the City Mayor of Antipolo, Lito Gatlabayan; my Cabinet members and other officials; other guests in the three head tables; ladies and gentlemen:

Yesterday, I had a productive and meaningful day in Ottawa. Prime Minister Chretien and I agreed that this is a good time to expand our trade and investment relations.

And today, thank you for this opportunity to speak at this prestigious forum with such a long and distinguished history more than a hundred years old. Many world leaders of the likes of Winston Churchill have had the privilege of addressing the members of both the empire club and the Canadian club of Toronto over the years. And considering the strong and friendly relations between Canada and the Philippines, I am not surprised to hear from Bill Laidlo that among the world leaders who have spoken before this forum are my two predecessors, President Corazon Aquino and President Fidel Ramos. President Aquino spoke here many, many years ago and so did President Ramos, but I am also very glad to hear from Gordon Mckyver that for a long time now this crowd has been the most sell-out crowd that they have had in this club. And i thank you very much for your support.

Our interaction is indeed meaningful especially today. Today we are strong allies in the fight against terrorism and in the fight against poverty. The Philippines has a special bond with Canada arising from our over 300,000 Filipinos whom Canada has welcomed as immigrants. And of the 300,000, 150,000 are here in Toronto.

Our economic relations are deep, solid, and robust.

Prime Minister Chretien accompanied his team Canada business delegation in January of 1997, where at that time 31 million dollars in commercial contracts and 469 million dollars in business agreements were signed. In November of that year, the team Philippines business delegation visited Canada and a total of 1.4 billion dollars-worth of agreements were signed.

Since then, Philippine-Canadian business relations have continued to grow even more.

Total trade between our two countries reached 1.2 billion dollars in the year 2000, an increase of 45 percent over 1997. And last month, SNC Lavalin, one of Canada's leaders in engineering and construction, signed an implementation agreement worth one billion dollars to finance, design and construct a light rail transit extension to

the suburbs of Manila, to the district of Congressman Plaridel Abaya. The deal represents one of the biggest agreements signed in Philippine-Canadian history.

And there is more in store for our economic relations.

Since I assumed the presidency a year ago, we have made progress. Where bigger and richer economies failed, ours has moved forward. Our gross domestic product grew 3.4 percent in 2001 and our gross national product increased 3.7 percent, one of the highest growth rates in this world today where many countries are suffering from recession.

And where bigger and stronger currencies collapsed, ours has held firm, even though, as the IMF acknowledges, I am the only president who assumed office following a period of political and economic turmoil who did not ask for an IMF program.

Indeed, we have gone a long way to bringing our country back on the radar screens of the world. A new Cabinet, picked as much for their integrity as for their competence and qualifications, has brought professionalism in public service to new heights. This professionalism in my cabinet is illustrated by the fact that in my cabinet there are seven Harvard graduates, three Wharton alumni, and four veterans of Wall Street. Something that I think very few governments can equal.

And much of what the world's investment community has asked of us, we have thus far delivered. The Power Bill and the Money Laundering Act, long considered litmus tests of our political will to legislate reforms, were put into law during my presidency, firmly overcoming years of delay. In fact just before we came to Canada the implementing rules and regulations for the privatization of the power sector under the power reform law were passed so that we can begin the road shows to privatize our power sector. And the Chairman of the House Committee who worked on those implementing rules is with us here today, Congressman Alipio Badelles. Our public deficit has been placed under control. Interest rates and inflation rates have declined. Interest rates are at their lowest in the last 15 years.

Even recent unemployment rates have shown decline. From 11.6 percent when I assumed the presidency a year ago, in nine months we were able to bring it down to 9.8 percent. And we intend to bring it down even more this year. Leading international credit rating agencies and multilateral bodies such as NEXI, JBIC of Japan, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank have all responded to our economic performance by endorsing our enhanced credit worthiness. J.P. Morgan reports that the prevailing decline in risk aversion has allowed the continuous improvement in economic fundamentals in the Philippines to finally shine through.

Even the less complimentary Salomon Smith Barney in its January to February 2002 credit research says: "increasing risk appetite in 2002 should favor the Philippines among Asian sovereigns."

"We expect the Philippines," they say, "the Philippines ratings to stay on the balance in 2002."

Salomon Smith Barney characterizes the Philippines as "gaining momentum."

It recognizes that "economic growth has been resilient largely thanks to strong personal consumption and some well-performing agriculture and services sectors ... This could be bolstered by the government's growing credibility in the eyes of foreign investors ... Given the government's commendable performance in 2001, we expect it should stay close to its more difficult targets in 2002."

They probably based their evaluation on our first semester growth, which was consumption-led. And I think that the analysis would have even been more upbeat now that it is clear that our full-year growth was investment-led rather than consumption-led because investment-led growth is more sustainable. Investment-led indeed was our growth with our domestic capital formation rising 4.3 percent amidst a world where there is disinvestment in many economies.

And as for Salomon's statement regarding well-performing agriculture and service sectors, I agree with the adjective with regards to our agricultural sector, which grew 3.9 percent in 2001. But I think the word "well-performing" is mild with regard to our service sectors, where there was a 20.5 percent growth in telecommunications and 7.9 growth in business services, which includes I.T. services. The high growth of our human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors like I.T. demonstrates that the Philippines is the home of the great Filipino worker. We are the third largest English speaking country in the world. And this great Filipino worker you know them because 300,000 of them are in Canada. We have a workforce that is I.T.-literate and multi-skilled. We have a large labor pool with an educational sector churning out 400,000 college graduates per year, 40,000 of these being knowledge workers like engineers and I.T. professionals. Filipino professionals are known for having the fastest learning curve of only about six weeks to learn technical skills.

With its highly skilled and highly trainable labor force, the Philippines is an ideal outsourcing partner for I.T. services. We have already enacted an e-commerce law, a first in Asia. This law regulates the use of electronic technology and penalizes cybercrimes such as hacking, and there are more bills to promote information technology in the pipeline to address other security issues and also the issue of convergence. I am pleased to announce that the Philippines will be hosting e-services Philippines, a major I.T. services fair, next month in Manila. And I would like to invite our Canadian friends to visit this fair.

We want to make the Philippines a welcome and safe place for our investors. To promote urban peace and order, the Philippine National Police last month increased its visibility by hiring 1,700 new policemen, all college graduates, all highly professional.

We are determined to promote efficient and transparent governance. Under the leadership of my Cabinet members, government agencies are implementing measures to cut in half the number of signatures required for the delivery of services such as licenses, permits, registration and franchises.

And our local governments — four of the leaders are here today to represent the local governments — have likewise agreed to streamline and slash red tape in order to provide seamless efforts between national and local governments to be investor-friendly.

Let us focus on some examples of trade and investment sectors that offer the brightest opportunities for Canadian businessmen.

As I mentioned earlier, we are promoting fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful and which can use our most competitive resource — the great Filipino worker — and that is information technology being a primary example. In the area of telecommunications where I mentioned we are growing at the rate of 20 percent, we are promoting investments in physical infrastructure for high-speed connectivity at low cost. We are also establishing municipal telecommunications centers, and working with mobile phone producers to disperse cell sites to make their services available all over the country. The Philippines has 7,100 islands, and this certainly offers solid opportunities for wireless telecommunications infrastructure.

Tourism is also a growing sector in the Philippines because it is also human resource intensive, skills-intensive. And we are developing eco-tourism and beach tourism sites and projects.

Related now to agribusiness, where in agriculture we grew 3.9 percent — a healthy agriculture growth rate compared to many other countries in the world today — in agribusiness my administration is committed to bring about countryside development through a modernized and socially equitable agricultural sector. Here there are opportunities for technology transfer in animal breeding stocks, food processing equipment, organic products and irrigation technology.

Opportunities also lie in the energy sector. As I mentioned earlier, we have an Omnibus Power Law enacted last year to privatize the state-owned national power corporation, break the monopoly of power generation and transmission and develop electricity in rural areas. This offers solid investment for Canadian firms that have excelled in the power sector whether it be in generation, transmission or distribution.

In the area of infrastructure, we are looking at private sector development of our mass transit systems very much like the billion-dollar opportunity that Lavalin found in our country. This is one of the areas indeed where Canadian expertise in engineering and transportation infrastructure would be welcome. We are also expanding and modernizing our airports and seaports, creating opportunities again for Canadian investments in design, construction, and equipment.

Housing construction also presents business opportunities, as low-cost housing is one of our key priorities. This offers opportunities for Canadian housing technology that is inexpensive, innovative and adaptable to a tropical climate. We want to build a 100,000 low-cost housing a year for our workers and we invite Canadian housing technology to try it out in the Philippines.

Indeed, this is the time to capitalize on deepening convergence of Philippine and Canadian interests by strengthening our commercial relations. For in a world where there is great uncertainty it is time for friends to work together. To create jobs together. To improve trade together. To invest in one another's economies. And if the old relationship between Canada and the Philippines — our relationship that started more than a hundred years ago, in 1895 when Sunlife of Canada first put its investments in the Philippines — if this old relationship can be made to grow and flourish even more in this century — this century of uncertainty but also this century of great coalitions and great opportunities — together we can weather the storm of global recession and achieve mutually profitable alliances. Come to the Philippines, Canada, as we the Filipinos have also come to Canada.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Luncheon hosted by the Empire Club and the Canadian Club of Toronto. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230904/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7584&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Breakfast with Canadian-Filipino Business Leaders

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a Breakfast with Canadian-Filipino Business Leaders

[Delivered at the Ballroom, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Canada, January 30, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Alvarez.

Before anything I would like to first greet our most prominent Filipino-Canadian, the Minister of Veterans Affairs Rey Pagtakhan. Before this he was Canada's Secretary of Foreign Affairs for Asia-Pacific. And we have plenty of time ... Opportunities to see him because the Philippines was part of the scope of his work. But now he is a full Minister for Veterans Affairs. His ... Be around Canada. We will miss him but we are very proud to have a member of the cabinet, a Filipino here in Canada. Congratulations, Rey. I would like to greet also Ambassador Benedicto; Ambassador Collete.

And to introduce to you if they had not been introduced earlier, the members of our official delegation. We have the Senate President Pro-Tempore Mr. Manuel Villar, Senator Ralph Recto; from the House of Representatives we have Congresswoman Cynthia Villar, Congressman Alipio Badelles who is the Chairman of the House Panel of the Committee on Energy that did the implementing rules for the energy presentation that we made today. We have Congressman Plaridel Abaya; Congressman Edmundo Reyes; Congressman Ed Zialcita. From the local governments we have from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, the regional Governor Parouk Hussin; from Quezon Wilfredo Enverga, Governor; from Bulacan, Governor Josefina Dela Cruz; and from the City of Antipolo Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan; for our Cabinet Dante Canlas, Rigoberto Tiglao; well, you've met Secretary Alvarez but I understand earlier Undersecretary Domingo already made a presentation before you; and we have the Senior Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Lauro Baja; members of the Philippine and Canadian Business Community; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am pleased to be here with you today and I thank Ambassador Benedicto for hosting this forum. The Philippines and Canada share a long history of political, social, and commercial relations. And we are strong allies today more than ever in the fight against global terrorism and poverty. The Philippines has a special bond with Canada arising from 320,000 Filipinos headed by our cabinet minister here whom you have welcomed as immigrants. We are very proud of our Filipino-Canadians who are contributing their share to the growth of the Canadian economy. Canada also has always been a strong supporter of our efforts to improve the quality of life of our people through its generous development assistance under the Canadian international development agency, or CIDA. One of the agreements that were signed this morning was enabled by the assistance program of CIDA for small and medium enterprises.

Our economic relations are deep, solid, and as minister ... Said, robust.

Looking back to the distant past, Sunlife established an office in Manila over a century ago in 1895. Sunlife and Manulife have been in the Philippines for more than 90 years.

And on a contemporary note, Prime Minister Chretien accompanied his team Canada business delegation to the Philippines in January 1997, where 31 million dollars in commercial contracts and 469 million dollars in business agreements were signed. And today we had six more signings. In November of that year, 1997, the team Philippines business delegation also visited Canada and a total of 1.4 billion dollars-worth of agreements were signed. Today team Philippines is here again.

Truly since those mission in 1997 Philippine-Canadian business relations have continued to grow even more.

Total trade between our two countries is more than a billion dollars and it has been increasing from 1997 up to today, it is larger by 45 percent. And last month, SNC Lavalin, whose President we had breakfast with this morning, one of Canada's leaders in engineering and construction, signed an implementation agreement worth one billion Canadian dollars to finance, design and construct a light rail transit extension to the suburbs of Manila going to the province of Congressman Abaya. In fact your district, right Congressman? Yes. The deal represents one of the biggest agreements signed in Philippine-Canadian history.

Indeed, this is a good time to expand our trade and investment relations.

Since I assumed the presidency a year ago, we have made progress. Where richer and bigger economies failed, ours has moved forward.

I'm very glad that today my economic planning minister sent me our statistics for our GNP growth rate that has just come out. For the year 2001 our GDP grew at 3.4 percent, our GNP grew at 3.7 percent in a sea of economies that we are growing at negative or zero percent. And therefore our growth rate for 2001 was one of the highest in the world and we are very proud of that. Where bigger and stronger currencies collapsed, ours has held firm.

In fact earlier, at breakfast one of the Canadian big businessmen said that because there were devaluations last year, the year before during the period of the last days, the last month of President Estrada, they were afraid of where our currency would go. Well it has gone and stayed where it should be so it has been stable during this past year and in fact stable just by our own efforts not by getting any support from any external source to finance our exchange rate.

When I was in Washington the IMF told me that I was the only president who became president under unusual circumstances who did not ask for an IMF program and yet our exchange rate remained stable.

Indeed, we have gone a long way to bringing our country back on the radar screens of the world. A new Cabinet, some of whom you see here, picked as much for their integrity as for their competence and qualifications, has brought professionalism in public service to new heights. Just to give an example of professionalism, I have seven Harvard graduates — one of them is my secretary of environment — three Wharton graduates and four veterans of Wall Street. I still have to see another government with that kind of Cabinet composition.

Much of what the world's investment community has asked of us, we have thus far delivered. The Power Bill — and I must thank Congressman Badelles for his work there — the money laundering act. Those two laws were long considered litmus tests of our political will to legislate reforms, they were put into law, firmly overcoming years of delay. For instance, in the case of the power bill, it got passed into law after nine years of long wait. Our public deficit has been placed under control.

Interest rates and inflation rates have declined. Our interest rates are at their lowest in the last 15 years. As for our inflation rate it's more than six percent when I became president, now it is down to 3.9 percent.

Even recent unemployment rates have shown decline. When I first became president the unemployment rate was 11.6 percent and after nine months of my presidency it went down to 9.8 percent, and we are working to bring it down even more.

Several financial institutions have lined up to strengthen our banking industry.

Foreign direct investment levels have also exceeded targets during 2001. I will not tell you the numbers because Undersecretary Domingo has already given them in his briefing.

Leading international credit rating agencies and multilateral bodies such as NEXI, JBIC, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank have all responded by endorsing our enhanced credit worthiness. J.P. Morgan reports that the prevailing decline in risk aversion has allowed the continuous improvement in economic fundamentals in the Philippines to finally shine through.

Even less generous rating agencies like Salomon Smith Barney in its January-February 2002 credit research says: “increasing risk appetite in 2002 should favor the Philippines among Asian sovereigns.”

“We expect the Philippines’ ratings to stay on the balance in 1ho2.” In other words, first half of 2002.

Salomon Smith Barney also characterizes the Philippines as “gaining momentum.”

It recognizes that, “economic growth has been resilient thanks largely thanks to strong personal consumption and some well-performing agriculture and service sectors ... This could be bolstered by the government’s growing credibility in the eyes of foreign investors ... Given the government’s commendable performance in 2001, we expect it should stay close to its more difficult targets in 2002.”

I think that Salomon was being very conservative when it said some well-performing service sectors because our figures just showed for instance telecommunications growing at 20 percent, business services including I.T. services grew at what Dante, seven percent. And when they said it was bolstered by strong consumption they were probably looking at our first half growth because our full year growth is an investment-led growth. And investment-led growth is certainly more sustainable than consumption-led growth.

In April 2000, a survey of the political and economic risk consultancy ranked the Philippines number one in offering the best quality of life for expatriates in Asia.

Indeed, the Philippines offers a productive environment for business people. Overall, we offer lower business costs. In the Philippines, multinational companies can expect as much as 40 percent cost savings for their operations versus average cost in North America and Europe.

The Philippines has several modern industrial estates, economic zones, as well as dedicated I.T parks and cyberparks with reliable physical and telecommunications infrastructure.

When I first became president and I talked about promoting I.T. I said one of the areas of concerns we should work on is the physical infrastructure because we need to promote inter connectivity at low cost.

When I went to New York last November there were so many call centers, memorandum of agreement signed and the investors told me the reason why they are going to the Philippines is because they like the infrastructure. We have good broadband facilities in the Philippines so therefore what we aim to do when I became president in January apparently we have not succeeded enough by November to bring the investors there for I.T.

The Philippines also offers attractive investments to investors and my administration is committed to work with Congress once again — and the Congressmen are here — to further enhance these investment incentives.

We realize of course that work remains to be done:

We are working with the international community to root out terrorism, including the terrorism in an isolated island in Southwestern Philippines.

We are committed to return the reputation of Manila and the Philippines as a welcoming and safe place in which to live and do business.

We are increasing the benefits from our new global relevance and engagement after years of being isolated and adrift.

To promote urban peace and order, the Philippine National Police last month increased its visibility by hiring 1,700 new policemen for metro manila alone, all college graduates, all highly professional.

We are determined to promote efficient and transparent governance. Under the leadership of my cabinet members, government agencies are implementing measures to cut in half the number of signatures required for the delivery of services such as licenses, permits, registration and franchises.

Our local governments — and we have two governors and one city mayor here — have likewise agreed to streamline and slash red tape in order to provide seamless efforts between national and local governments to be investor-friendly.

Today earlier you had briefings on I.T. and energy. Let us focus on some examples including those of trade and investment sectors that offer the brightest opportunities for Canadian businessmen.

Well our 20 percent increase in telecommunications and our seven percent increase in business services including I.T. show a result of a policy to promote fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful and which can use our most competitive resource — the great Filipino worker. We are the third largest English speaking country in the world. We have a workforce that is I.T.-literate and multi-skilled. We have a large labor pool with an educational sector churning out 400,000 college graduates a year, 40,000 of these being knowledge workers like engineers and I.T. professionals.

Filipino professionals are known for having the fastest learning curve of only eight weeks to learn technical skills.

With its highly skilled and highly trainable labor force, the Philippines is an ideal outsourcing partner for I.T. services. We have already enacted an e-commerce law, a first in Asia. The law regulates the use of electronic technology and penalizes cybercrimes such as hacking, even as more bills are in the pipeline to address the other security issues and also to promote convergence. And I am pleased to announce that the Philippines will be hosting — I think I has been announced earlier but I want to stress this — a major I.T. services fair next month in Manila. And I would like to invite our Canadian friends to visit this fair.

The other area — the 20 percent growing sector — telecommunications, we are promoting investments in physical infrastructure for high-speed connectivity at low cost, as I said. We are also establishing municipal telecommunications centers and working with mobile phone producers to disperse cell sites to make their services available all over the country. The Philippines has 7,100 islands, this certainly offers solid opportunities for wireless telecommunications infrastructure.

I was so glad to see a memorandum of agreement on tour packages for the Philippines because tourism is also a growing sector in the Philippines. We are developing eco-tourism and beach tourism sites and projects in particular.

And related to agribusiness, my administration is committed to bring about countryside development through a modernized and socially equitable agricultural sector. Here, opportunities for technology transfer in animal breeding stocks, food processing equipment, organic products and irrigation technology are available for investment areas.

Opportunities also lie in the energy sector as you have heard earlier in the briefing. As you know by now, I hope, we have an Omnibus Power law enacted last year after nine long years of wait to privatize the state-owned national power corporation, break the monopoly of power generation and transmission and to develop electricity in rural areas. This offers solid investment opportunities for Canadian firms that have excelled both in generation and transmission in the power sector.

We will be having the bidding for a transmission company in June of this year. And that investment is worth two billion dollars.

In the area of infrastructure, we are looking at private sector development of our mass transit systems. This is one of the areas where Canadian expertise in engineering and transportation infrastructure certainly is welcome. We are also expanding and modernizing our airports and seaports, creating opportunities for Canadian investments in design, construction, and equipment.

Housing construction, earlier we had a signing, for, what, 3,000 houses in Pampanga, my province. Housing also presents business opportunities: as low-cost housing is one of our key priorities, we want to build 100,000 low cost housing for the working class every year. This offers opportunities for Canadian housing technology if it is inexpensive, innovative and adaptable to a tropical climate.

Indeed, this is the time to capitalize on the deepening convergence of Philippine and Canadian interests by strengthening our commercial relations. I'm sure that as we have been friends commercially, culturally for so long now, over a century, this time in the 21st century, together, we can weather the storm of global recession and achieve mutually profitable alliances.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Breakfast with Canadian-Filipino Business Leaders. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230922/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7583&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Investment Roundtable Luncheon sponsored by the Credit Suisse
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Investment Roundtable Luncheon sponsored by the Credit Suisse

[Delivered at the St. Regis Roof, the St. Regis Hotel, New York City, New York, U.S.A., January 31, 2002]

Thank you very much Vince.

I'd like to greet and thank first of all Brady Dugan for hosting this affair, putting all of this together; and also Mr. Hilley, the member of the Board of Credit Suisse; also to thank Mr. Madrid for always being there to help organize the affairs to promote business credit in the Philippines and the U.S.; Ambassador del Rosario, Ambassador Yuchengco.

And I would like to greet the members of my official my delegation: Senate President Pro-Tempore Manny Villar, Senator Ralph Recto, Congressman Badelles who chairs the house panel on the implementing rules for the power sector reform, Congressman Plaridel Abaya, Congresswoman Villar, Congressman Reyes; then you are quite familiar with my economic team Lito Camacho who spoke earlier; Dante Canlas, my economic planning minister; Sonny Alvarez, my environment Secretary, Central Bank Governor Buenaventura; I rudely interrupted Board of Investments managing head Gregory Domingo.

I would like to greet all of you, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, a good afternoon.

And I hope that you found the previous briefings were useful. This is a good time to expand our trade and investment relations.

I am sure most of you heard President Bush in his State of the Union Address. And I can say as a response, that the Philippines will continue to be a partner of the United States in the war-to-the-end of terrorism. American troops are training side-by-side with ours in Basilan, the isolated island in Southwestern Philippines where the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf has its lair. The anti-terrorism partnership will continue until the whole world is secure against terrorists.

I also welcome President Bush's strong pitch to pull out America from recession. This will help in a big way to pull out the global economy from lethargy. We all anticipate this effort with great confidence and faith in the American people — to surmount crisis, to obtain security, and to have more jobs.

The drive against terrorism and poverty is now driven by a widening global consensus. A new kind of war needs a new kind of peace. As we shift from war to peacekeeping and nation-building in Afghanistan, nations are gearing their resources for a big push against poverty that will decisively strike at the breeding grounds for terrorism's recruits.

My battle plan for the war against poverty in the Philippines continues to revolve around four components:

Free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century, that's the first;

Second, modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity;

Third, a bias toward the disadvantaged to spread out the fruits of economic development to many and;

Fourth, a commitment to high moral standards in government and society.

Development is in full swing in the Philippines. Our stock market for the last two weeks say that.

Since I assumed the Presidency a year ago, we have made progress. Where bigger and richer economies failed, ours has moved forward. Gross Domestic Product grew 3.4 percent in 2001 and gross national product grew 3.7 percent, one of the highest growth rates in a world where many countries are suffering from recession.

Where bigger and stronger currencies collapsed, ours has held firm, even though, as the IMF acknowledges, I am the only president who assumed office following a period of political turmoil who did not ask for an IMF program. So we kept our currency stable without an IMF program and without instituting capital controls.

Indeed, we have gone a long way to bringing our country back on the radar screens of the world. A new Cabinet — many of whom you've met — picked as much for their integrity as for their competence and qualifications, has brought professionalism in public service to new heights. This professionalism is illustrated by the fact that in my Cabinet there are seven Harvard graduates including Lito Camacho, there are three Wharton Alumni including Vince Perez and even the BOI head Gregory Domingo, another Harvard graduate is Sonny Alvarez, my Secretary of Environment, there are four veterans of Wall street Lito and Vince, there are two Phds in economics, one is my secretary of planning and the other one is the President of the Philippines.

Much of what the world's investment community has asked of us, we have thus far delivered. The Power Bill and the Money Laundering Act, long considered litmus tests of our political will to legislate reforms, were put into law, firmly overcoming years of delay. Our public deficit has been placed under control and Lito told you about that.

Well, let me tell you also about a story that we had when we were discussing with the IMF the Philippine economic performance — and this has been discussed oh sometime in the last quarter of last year — and the IMF admitted to me that they had been betting against the Philippines. They bet I could not pass the Power Sector Reform Law. Thanks to our Congressmen and Senators here, we did so they lost that bet. They bet we could not do our Money Laundering Law before September 30th and they lost that bet. So, he said, "we were also betting that you won't make your fiscal deficit ceiling. And I'm afraid they're going to strike out." And they did strike out at the end.

So, we have tamed our deficit. We have passed important structural reforms legislatively. Results: interest rates and inflation rates have declined. Interest rates are at their lowest in the last 15 years — I must acknowledge the work of the Central Bank there.

And recent unemployment rates have also shown decline. From 11.6 percent when I assumed the presidency, in nine months we were able to bring it down to 9.8 percent and counting, I hope.

Foreign direct investment levels as you have seen from Gregory's interrupted presentation exceeded targets in 2001.

Leading international credit rating agencies and multilateral bodies such as NEXI, JBIC, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank have all responded to our economic performance by endorsing our enhanced credit worthiness. Sorry about this Credit Suisse but I'll just talk about everybody else. J.P. Morgan reports that the prevailing decline in risk aversion has allowed the continuous improvement in economic fundamentals in the Philippines to finally shine through.

Even the less complimentary Salomon Smith Barney in its January-February 2002 credit research says: "increasing risk appetite in 2002 should favor the Philippines among Asian sovereigns.

"We expect the Philippines' ratings to stay on balance in 1ho2."

And they further characterize the Philippines the Philippines as, again I quote, "gaining momentum."

They recognize that, quote again, "economic growth has been resilient largely thanks to strong personal consumption and some well-performing agriculture and services sectors ... This could be bolstered by the

government's growing credibility in the eyes of foreign investors ... And given the government's commendable performance in 2001, we expect it should stay close to its more difficult targets in 2002."

Salomon Smith Barney probably based its evaluation on our first semester growth which was consumption-led. But I think it should be more upbeat now that it is clear that our full-year growth was investment-led, with capital formation rising 4.3 percent amidst a world where there is disinvestment in many economies.

And as for its statement regarding well-performing agriculture and service sectors I agree with the adjective "well-performing" with regard to our agricultural sector, which grew 3.9 percent in 2001. But I think the word "well-performing" is mild with regard to our service sectors, where there was a 20.5 percent growth in telecommunications and 7.9 percent growth in business services, which include I.T. services.

And of course, more than any published evaluation of credit risk, I believe the most practical judgment of our economic viability is expressed in the international financial markets. Some of them have been discussed today in addition to the credit-enhanced 50 billion yen raised in Shobosai bonds last year, the latest bond offering in January this year raised a total of 750 million dollars over subscribed three times over, and issued at a lower rate than the guidance price.

Let us focus now on some examples of trade and investment sectors that offer the brightest opportunities. And also comply with my own priorities as the chief economic manager of the Philippines.

We are promoting fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful and which can use our most competitive resource — the great Filipino worker. In the area of telecommunications, we are promoting investments in physical infrastructure for high-speed connectivity at low cost. We are also establishing municipal telecommunications centers, and working with mobile phone producers to disperse cell sites to make their services available all over the country. The Philippines, with its 7,100 islands, certainly offers solid opportunities for wireless telecommunications infrastructure. And so, this is one great area for investment.

The high growth of our human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors demonstrates that the Philippines indeed is the home of the great Filipino worker. We're the third largest English speaking country in the world. We have a workforce that is I.T.-literate and multi-skilled. We have a large labor pool with an educational sector churning out 400,000 college graduates per year, 40,000 of these being knowledge workers like engineers and I.T. professionals. Filipino professionals are known for having the fastest learning curve of at the most eight weeks to learn technical skills.

With its highly skilled and highly trainable labor force, the Philippines is an ideal outsourcing partner for I.T. services. We've already enacted an e-commerce law, a first in Asia. The law regulates the use of electronic technology and penalizes cybercrimes like hacking, and now there are more bills in the pipeline to address other security issues as well as convergence. I am pleased to announce that the Philippines will be hosting e-services Philippines, a major I.T. services fair, next month in Manila. And I hope some of you who are in I.T. will go there.

Tourism is also a growing sector in the Philippines. We are developing eco-tourism and beach tourism sites and projects.

And as we have seen today, opportunities also lie in the energy sector. We have been assisting the National Power Corporation in sourcing funds to carry out its privatization program. We have been refinancing its assets to the tune of 250 million dollars of our most recent 750 million-dollar bond offer, coupled with the Euro 500 million issue this past November. These very successful issues were made possible by the passage of the Power Reform Bill which I mentioned earlier, one of the first and significant milestones of my administration last year.

The privatization of the National Power Corporation will be a major structural reform and it will provide long-term fiscal benefits. The sale of its transmission company, as you have heard from Vince, will begin by June of this year and the generation companies to follow.

We aim to expand the investment opportunities also related to infrastructure required to improve the competitiveness of industries in the form of not only electricity, but also mass transit systems, roads, bridges, telecommunications and ports.

Housing construction also presents business opportunities, as low-cost housing is one of our key priorities. This offers opportunities for American housing technology that is inexpensive, innovative and adaptable to a tropical climate.

In 2002, this year, our reforms will seek to strengthen the banking sector, further unlock bottlenecks to major infrastructure and investment projects that have been stuck in the pipeline for many years. So what we did with the Power Reform Bill which was stuck for so long and we unstuck it, we will be doing that with major infrastructure and investment projects. We will expand our revenue sources. We will also distribute more land to farmers, complemented by agricultural modernization measures, including investments to rehabilitate and expand irrigation, construct post-harvest facilities, and assist with marketing and research and development.

As we implement the Philippine economic plan, I cannot emphasize enough that economic growth is of no value if it is not linked to good governance practices. And that is why we are determined to promote efficient and transparent governance. Under the leadership of my cabinet members, whom I find that you are also impressed with, government agencies are implementing measures to cut in half the number of signatures required for the delivery of services such as licenses, permits, registration and franchises.

Our local governments have likewise agreed to streamline and slash red tape in order to provide seamless efforts between national and local governments to be investor-friendly.

This is the time to capitalize on the deepening convergence of interests by strengthening our commercial relations. And I am very sure that if we continue our long-term partnership, our long-term strategic partnership, in security matters, in economic matters, together, the U.S., the Philippines can weather the storm of the global recession and achieve mutually profitable alliances.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Investment Roundtable Luncheon Sponsored by the Credit Suisse. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230841/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7581&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during a Special Mass with the Filipino-American community Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Special Mass with the Filipino-American community**

[Delivered at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Chicago, U.S.A., February 3, 2002]

Maraming salamat Ambassador Albert del Rosario.

Most reverend Bishop Goedert; Father Headley, Consul General Pineda.

At gusto kong ipakilala sa inyo ang iba't-ibang mga elected officials na kasama ko sa ating delegasyon itong araw na ito. siguro bilang Pilipino pinapanood ninyo noong araw iyung mga pangyayari bago ako naging pangulo — iyung umabot sa January 20 People Power 2. Siguro napapanood ninyo sa telebisyon kung papano nag-umpisa iyung impeachment trial — kung papano iyung Speaker ng ating Kamara, House of Representatives ay nagsimula ng session noong November 30 year 2000, nagdasal nang mahaba pagkatapos tinuloy mula sa kanyang asal, nagulat lahat, tinuloy na niya iyung kanyang diskurso na pinapadala na iyung Articles of Impeachment sa Senado, iyun ay si Speaker Manny Villar, ngayon Senador Manny Villar kasama natin itong araw na ito. Nandito rin iyong kanyang maybahay na Congresswoman ng distrito ng Las Piñas; mula naman doon sa Cavite, nandito rin si Congressman Plaridel Abaya; at Gikan sa Iligan sa Lanao del Norte si Congressman Alipio Badelles. Nandito rin ang ating mga, ang ating bagong halal na Governor ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao si Governor Parouk Hussin. Meron ng mga Cabinet Member na naririto, Secretary of Energy si Vince Perez, at ang Presidential Spokesman si Bobby Tiglao, at ang ating Senior Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs si Larry Baja.

Kasama ko rin ngayong umaga ito ang aking kabiyak, si Atty. Jose Miguel Arroyo at ang anak kong si Diosdado Macapagal-Arroyo.

Thank you, Bishop Goedert, for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this holy celebration today. thank you also, Reverend Headley, for your warm hospitality and providing a welcoming home for Filipinos in this Parish.

At mga kababayan ko, magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat! Caring Cabalen cung capangpangan, mayap aldaw quecongan! dagiti kakailiac ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga aldaw yo amin appo! sa atong mga kaiguonon gikan sa mindanao asa ako ug Congressman Badelles ni dako, maayong buntag kaninyong tanan! Kag sa mga kasimanwa sang akong bana nga Ilonggo, maayong udto sa inyo nga tanan!

Nagagalak akong makapiling kayong mga mahal kong kababayan na nakatira sa Chicago, at sa mga kababayan na nanggaling pa sa ibang lugar lalung-lalo na sa mga taga-Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, at Ohio.

Mapalad po na tayo ay pinagtagpo muli ng Panginoon.

I appreciate this opportunity to be with all of you in this Windy City, which to its good fortune has been enjoying an unseasonably mild-winter. Demographers estimate that there are over two million Filipinos in the United States.

Because of your number, Filipino-Americans constitute a veritable second Philippines. Nowhere in the world outside of the Philippines can you find this mass of Filipinos. According to the 1990 Census report, Tagalog is the 6th most spoken foreign language in American homes.

And today's mass among Filipinos, today's mass for peace is most relevant to our times. The international community continues to face a clear and grave threat to its security and well being. As I did when I visited New York and Washington, D.C. last November, let me extend again my heartfelt condolences and that of the people of

the Philippines to all those who suffered the loss or injury of a loved one as a consequence of the September 11 attacks.

I also find it proper that we, through this mass and this assembly, seek comfort, tranquility, and peace for ourselves, for our countries, the Philippines and the United States, and for the rest of mankind.

Long before September 11th, the Philippines was already fighting terrorism on the southwestern part of its soil and gained the upper hand, isolating terrorism to one small island. We have felt the pain of terrorism first hand and knew it must not spread to the rest of the world. That is why we were the first in Asia to lend our support.

Much has been written about our protracted campaign to destroy the Abu Sayyaf terrorists in that remote island in southwestern Philippines in Basilan but headlines have been revved up recently with the arrival of U.S. anti-terrorist trainers and several hundred support troops who are there for joint military exercises. Predictably, their presence has stirred up passion among a vocal minority of our citizenry. Old rhetoric reminiscent of the U.S. bases debate and even Vietnam have again surfaced.

But as the first Asian leader to come out in support of the international coalition, I applaud the imperative to wipe out terrorism. That is why I took the politically risky action of recommending that this year's annual joint military exercises between the Philippines and the U.S. be adapted to enhancing the capability of Filipino soldiers to fight terrorism. This will help us go the last mile in destroying the Abu Sayyaf terrorists and have peace at last in our land. I have done so in what I believe is a responsible and lawful contribution of the U.S. military to ensure the stability and freedom of our people. The Americans are there to provide the intelligence and capability building, including the operation of sophisticated tracking equipment. And even though in my view the circumstances exist for them to be lawfully engaged in combat, we have taken the policy decision for the American soldiers not to do combat in the Philippines because our own soldiers will do the fighting.

We Filipinos bring a unique view to this issue: from a few small islands in southwestern Philippines to the grand island of Manhattan, we have seen what terrorism can do to our society, our economy, our security, and our sense of moral purpose.

But this is a war that must be devoid of any religious undertones. The Philippines has institutionalized the tools of autonomy, consensus, and interfaith dialogue with our Muslim brothers. We have a ceasefire with the Moro National Islamic Liberation Front, and I thank them for having renounced the Abu Sayyaf. A few months ago, our Muslim brethren in Mindanao reaffirmed their solidarity with the Filipino nation when they renewed the electoral mandate of the leadership of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao. They elected Parouk Hussin as the new Governor of the Autonomous Region — and he's here with us today.

We have put a face on terrorists, and now we must put a face on the poor. We will eliminate terrorism but we must eliminate poverty. If we do not eliminate poverty, the breeding ground of resentment will begin again to plague another generation.

My battle plan for the war against poverty revolves around four components:

First, free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century;

Second, a modernized agriculture founded on social equity;

Third, a bias toward the disadvantaged to spread out the fruits of economic development; and,

Fourth, a commitment to high moral standards in government and society.

With God's grace, under the custody of skilled economic managers like Vince Perez who's here today, and with the cooperation of our Senators like our Senate President Pro-Tempore Manny Villar and Congressmen like our Congressmen here Del Abaya and Tikbong Badelles, the plan we created is bearing significant and tangible results.

Where bigger and richer economies failed during the past year, our Philippine economy moved forward. Our Gross National Product grew 3.7 percent — 3.4 percent without your remittances, 3.7 percent including your remittances. And this growth rate is one of the highest growth rates in the world today where many countries are suffering from recession.

Where bigger and stronger currencies collapsed, ours held firm, even though, as the IMF acknowledges, I am the only president who assumed office during fragile times who did not ask for an IMF program. So, we stabilized our currency without an IMF program and without instituting capital controls.

Indeed, we have gone a long way to bringing our country back on the radar screens of the world. And for the month of January 2002, Bloomberg says that the Philippine Stock Market was the top performing stock market in the world — a first for the Philippines. Our public deficit has been placed under control. Interest rates are at their lowest in the last 15 years, and inflation rates have likewise declined.

Even unemployment rates have declined. From 11.6 percent when first I assumed the presidency, in nine months we were able to bring down the unemployment rate to 9.8 percent and we intend to bring it down some more.

This is a good time for you to put in your investment or to expand your business in your homeland.

I have come to talk to our kababayans in the United States and to extend to you the gratitude of the Philippine government and the Filipino people. Filipinos are indebted to our brothers and sisters in the United States, the great Filipino workers in the United States, for many reasons:

Sa ibabaw ng magandang reputasyon na binibigay ninyo sa ating bansa bilang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Filipino, milyun-milyong kabataan ang nakapag-aral o nakakatapos ng edukasyon sa inyong tulong.

Libu-libong bagong bahay ang napapatayo ninyo at ang mga mahal ninyo doon na nagkakaroon ng mga bagong bahay ay nagkakaroon din ng bagong buhay. Dahil sa inyong tulong ay nakapaglunsad tayo ng napakaraming negosyo maging ng small business sa buong bansa. Ang matagumpay na negosyo na napatayo sa ating bansa dahil sa inyong remittances ay isang malaking haligi ng ating ekonomiya. Sumigla ang maraming barangay, bayan, lungsod at probinsiya sa kontribusyon ng mga overseas Filipinos.

Ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino ay taun-taon nagpapadala sa ating bansa ng sixbillion dollars kaya kayo ay major economic investors sa bansa.

Alam niyo ipinagmamalaki natin, ngayon sa akin biyahe sa Amerika, Canada at U.K., meron na tayong nakuhang investments na 1.2 billion dollars ngunit kayo six billion dollars taun-taon.

Kaya sa aking palagay, dapat nang baguhin ang bansag sa inyo ng bansa. Kasi ang karaniwang tawag sa Filipinos sa ibang bansa, maging may kontrata or green card holder, ang tawag ay overseas Filipino workers. Palagay ko mas bagay na ang dapat itawag sa inyo ay overseas Filipino investors.

Kayo ay mga overseas investors na araw-araw ay namumuhunan sa kaunlaran ng ating bansa. Pinupuhunan ninyo ang inyong productive years alang-alang sa ating bayan.

The Filipino-Americans constitute 34 percent of overseas Filipinos, but you contribute 71 percent of all foreign exchange remittances to the Philippines in the last five years.

Filipino doctors, surgeons, dentists, nurses conduct regular medical and dental missions in many parts of our homeland.

And through your donations of books, food and medical supplies, Fil-Ams have made a great difference in the lives of poor school children and families in the barrios.

Our Senator and our Congressmen and women here have good news for your. Sabi nila, sabi ni Senate President Pro-Tempore Manny Villar at saka ni Congresswoman Villar at saka ni Congressman Abaya at Congressman Badelles na inaasahan nilang papasa iyung Absentee Voting Bill itong taong ito.

At sila rin ay lumikha ng panukalang batas on Dual Citizenship for Filipinos. Magdasal tayo na walang masyadong magbibigay ng oposisyon sa dalawang panukalang batas na 'to para sa ganon pumasa nga sa madaling panahon.

In the meantime here in the U.S., let us strive to build a National Coalition of Filipino organizations and forge greater unity to promote the interest of Filipino immigrants, contract workers, and Fil-Am in this great country.

Lakasan pa natin ang ating pagkakaisa, ang pagtutulungan, ang pag-iisang bisig, ang diwa ng bayanihan, ang balikatan, ang kapatiran.

Lakasan pa natin ang ating pagmamalasakit sa inang bansa, sa inyong bagong bansa, sa ating kinabukasan, at sa ating mga kabataan.

Mga Pilipino dito sa Amerika, alam ko na kahit kayo ay naririto at marami ay green card holder na, marami nga ay mga citizens na, alam ko ang puso ninyo ay nandoon pa rin sa Pilipinas. kaya kami, inyong mga nanunungkulan sa ating bansa bahagi ng aming tungkulin, bahagi ng aming kasiyahan ay nakakabisita sa inyo dito sa Amerika. Pinagmamalaki namin kayo at sana sa mga darating na panahon kahit na naghihirap ang ekonomiya ng mundo ay kayo ay manatiling matatag sa inyong mga hanapbuhay, sa inyong pagtatrabaho, sa inyong pagnenegosyo; at huwag nating kalilimutan ang ating bansa, at gusto kong malaman ninyo na kayo ay hindi kinalilimutan ng mga Pilipino sa Pilipinas.

Mahal namin kayong lahat.

Maraming salamat po.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Special Mass with the Filipino-American Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230818/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7622&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Luncheon hosted by the Economic Club of Chicago
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Luncheon hosted by the Economic Club of Chicago

[Delivered at The Peninsula, Chicago, U.S.A., February 3, 2002]

Thank you very much Mr. Moskow.

And I would just like to tell our journalists, inform them that you are the Chairman of the Economic Club of Chicago and the President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

May I also like to greet Ms. Gradier, representing Mayor Daly; Mr. Hanon, the Managing Director of the Illinois Trade Office.

And I would like to introduce to our friends from Chicago not only our Ambassador, Ambassador Del Rosario but also the other members of my delegation our Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator Manny Villar; Congresswoman Cynthia Villar; Congressman Alipio Badilles and Congressman Plaridel Abaya; as well as the Governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao; and we have members of my Cabinet Secretary Perez of Energy and my Presidential Spokesman, Mr. Tiglao; members and guests of the Economic Club of Chicago; ladies and gentlemen:

Good afternoon.

First of all I wish to thank you, Mr. Moskow, the Club Chairman, and Mr. James Mcclung, a very close friend of the Philippine Consulate, for bringing us together at such short notice and on a Sunday at that. Thank you for bringing your wives over to listen to a female president and it's a good way to spend Sunday together. And i hope you'll be ... I'm sure you'll get out in time for the Super Bowl. Am sure most of you heard President Bush in his State of the Union Address. I welcome his strong pitch to pull out America from recession because this will help in a big way to pull out the global economy from lethargy. We all anticipate this effort with great confidence and faith in the American people in your ability to surmount crisis, to obtain security, to have more jobs.

The drive against terrorism, which has been taking most of our attention, and the drive against poverty, these are now driven by a widening global consensus. We could see it in WEF. A new kind of war needs a new kind of peace. As we shift from war to peacekeeping and nation-building in Afghanistan, nations are gearing their resources for a big push against poverty that should decisively strike at the breeding grounds for the recruits of terrorism. In my country my battle plan for the war against poverty revolves around four components: first, free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century; second, modernized agriculture founded on social equity; third, a bias toward the disadvantaged to spread out the fruits of development; and, fourth, a commitment to high moral standards in government and society.

And I am happy and gratified that since I assumed the presidency a year ago, we have made progress. Where bigger and richer economies failed, ours has moved forward. Our gross national product in 2001 grew 3.7 percent of which gross domestic product grew at 3.4 percent, this is now one of the highest growth rates in a world where many countries are suffering recession.

For instance our neighbors, Singapore and Hong Kong, are suffering from negative growth rates.

Where bigger and stronger currencies collapsed, ours has held firm, even though, as the IMF acknowledges, I am the only President who assumed office following a period of political and economic turmoil who did not ask for an IMF program.

Indeed, we have gone a long way to bringing our country back on the radar screens of the world. A new cabinet, two of them are here, picked as much for their integrity as for their competence and qualifications, has brought professionalism in public service to new heights. This professionalism is illustrated by the fact that in my cabinet there are eight Harvard graduates — my Spokesman is one of them — three Wharton Alumni — my Energy Secretary is one of them — four veterans of Wall Street — my Energy Secretary is one of them again — and two Phds in economics, including the President of the Philippines.

Much of what the world's investment community has asked of us, we have thus far delivered. We have opened our retail trade sector to foreign ownership — and Amway has been able to take advantage of that. The Power Reform Bill and the Money Laundering Act, which were long considered litmus tests of our political will to legislate reforms, were put into law during the first months of this administration after many years of delay. Our public deficit has been placed under control. Interest and inflation rates have declined — in fact, interest rates are at their lowest in the last 15 years, and you as bankers — many of you are bankers here — I hope, would appreciate that.

Even recent unemployment rates have shown decline. From 11.6 percent when I assumed the presidency, in nine months we were able to bring it down to 9.8 percent inspite of the world's slow down. And we intend to bring it down some more.

Foreign direct investment levels have also exceeded targets in 2001.

Leading international credit agencies and multilateral bodies such as NEXI, JBIC, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank have all responded to our economic performance by endorsing our enhanced credit worthiness. J.P. Morgan reports that the prevailing decline in risk aversion has allowed the continuous improvement in economic fundamentals in the Philippines to finally shine through.

Even the less complimentary Salomon Smith Barney in its January-February 2002 credit research says: increasing risk appetite in 2002 should favor the Philippines among Asian sovereigns.

We expect the Philippines ratings to stay on the balance in 1ho2. The Philippines is gaining momentum.

Economic growth has been resilient largely thanks to strong personal consumption and some well-performing agriculture and services sectors. This could be bolstered by the government's growing credibility in the eyes of foreign investors. Given the government's commendable performance in 2001, we expect it should stay close to its more difficult targets in 2002.

Salomon Smith Barney probably based its evaluation on our first semester growth which was consumption-led. But if it had based its evaluation on our full year figures which just came out two or three days I think it would even more upbeat. For instance, it said that we grew thanks largely to strong personal consumption. But economies will say that's not sustainable. Well in the end our growth was investment-led, with domestic capital formation rising 4.3 percent amidst a world where there is dis investment in many economies — and many of your economies and bankers and you know that investment-led growth is more sustainable than consumption-led growth. So our growth is investment-led.

As for its statement regarding well-performing agriculture and service sectors, I agree with the adjective with regards to our agricultural sector because it grew 3.9 percent in 2001, again higher than expectation. And we also thank the Carageenan industry — of which FMC has been contributing — for the 3.9 percent growth. But i think the word well-performing' is mild with regard to our service sectors, where there was a 20.5 percent growth in telecommunications. And I think Motorola sales will be testament to that. And there was a 7.9 percent growth in business services, which includes information and communication technology services.

But more than any published evaluation of credit risk, I believe the most practical judgment of our economic viability is expressed in the international financial markets. The latest bond offering last January, last month, raised a total of 750 million dollars on subscriptions worth over 2.5 billion dollars, and issued at a lower rate than the

guidance price. And for the month of January, which was just finished, Bloomberg has just come out with a judgment that the Philippine stock market was the number one performer in the world — a first time for our country.

Let us now focus on some examples of trade and investment sectors that offer the brightest opportunities.

We are promoting fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful and which can use our most competitive resource — the great Filipino worker. In the area of telecommunications — where we grew 10.5 percent last year — we are promoting investments in physical infrastructure for high-speed connectivity at low cost. So I hope that Motorola instead of just selling to us will set-up shop in the Philippines. We are also establishing municipal telecommunications centers, and working with mobile phone producers to disperse cell sites to make their services available all over the country. The Philippines has 7,100 islands and that certainly offers solid opportunities for wireless telecommunications infrastructure. That's why we would like to invite you, the Chicago business community, to look into.

The high growth of our human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors demonstrates that the Philippines is indeed, the home of the great Filipino worker. We are the third largest English speaking country in the world. We have a workforce that is I.T.-literate and multi-skilled. We have a large labor pool with an educational sector that churns out 400,000 college graduates a year, 40,000 of them being knowledge workers like engineers and I.T. professionals. Filipino professionals are known for having the fastest learning curve — about only eight weeks to learn technical skills.

With its highly skilled and highly trainable labor force, the Philippines is an ideal outsourcing partner for I.T. services. We have already enacted an e-commerce law, which is a first in Asia. It regulates the use of electronic technology and penalizes cybercrimes like hacking, and there are more laws, more bills in the pipeline to address other security issues as well as convergence in ICT, in telecommunications. I am pleased to announce that the Philippines will be hosting an e-services fair, next month in Manila.

Tourism is also a growing sector in the Philippines. And we are developing eco-tourism and beach tourism sites and projects.

Opportunities also lie in the energy sector. We are assisting the national power corporation in its privatization program in sourcing funds to refinance its assets to the tune of 250 million dollars out of our most recent 750 million-dollar bond offer, coupled with the Euro 500 million bond issue last November. These very successful issues were made possible by the passage of the Power Reform Bill that I mentioned earlier, which we passed last June — one of the first and significant milestones of my administration. In fact the implementing rules and regulations have just come out for the sale of these assets, chaired by Congressman Badilles who is the chairman of the House Committee on Energy.

The privatization of the national power corporation will be a major structural reform and provide long-term fiscal benefits for country, and it's worth about five billion dollars all in all — different assets. The first one to go on the block will be the transmission company worth two billion dollars which will be bidded out in June this year.

We also aim to expand the investment opportunities related to infrastructure required to improve the competitiveness of industries in the form of electricity, mass transport systems, roads, bridges, telecoms and ports.

Housing construction also presents business opportunities, as low-cost housing is one of our key priorities. I want to build 100,000 houses for workers a year and 50,000 houses for the poorest of the poor. This offers opportunities for Chicago housing technology that is inexpensive, innovative and adaptable to a tropical climate.

We also need to increase further farm incomes and harvests. And I'm saying this here in Chicago, in the Midwest because the resources, expertise, and market savvy of Midwest agribusiness corporations would be of great value to our economy.

Also our country has already positioned itself as a major player in the air express industry. The air hub of Fedex in Asia is in Subic. Ups also recently announced it would develop its own facility in the Philippines which will open on April 5th this year.

In 2002 our reforms will seek to strengthen the banking sector — that should give more opportunities for some of the bankers who are here today — and we will further unlock bottlenecks to major infrastructure and investment projects that have been stuck in the pipeline for many years. We will also expand our revenue sources.

We are determined to promote efficient and transparent governance. Under the leadership of my cabinet members, government agencies are implementing measures to cut in half the number of signatures required for the delivery of services like licenses, permits, registration and franchises.

Even our local governments have agreed to streamline and slash red tape in order to provide seamless efforts between national and local governments to be investor-friendly. That includes the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

And so therefore I've come here for a few hours to meet the Philippine community and also to meet the movers and shakers of the Midwest business community and to let you know that this is the time to capitalize on the deepening convergence of interests by strengthening the strategic economic alliance between the United States and the Philippines. Together, we can weather the storm of the aftermath of September 11 and avert a global recession and achieve mutually profitable alliances.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Luncheon hosted by the Economic Club of Chicago. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230834/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7621&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the arrival ceremonies after a 7-day Official/Working Visit to Northern America, Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the arrival ceremonies after a 7-day Official/Working Visit to Northern America, Canada and the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

[Delivered at the NAIA Terminal 2, Pasay City, February 5, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Mr. Vice President; Mr. Senate President; Mr. Speaker; Secretary Romulo and the other cabinet members; U.S. Charge d' Affaires Bob Fitts; Canadian Charge d' Affaires Dougall Aucoin; members of the Senate and House Representatives; General Villanueva and the other Generals and Admirals; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

The weather on the other side has been quite cold and damp, but the reception for me and my delegation was consistently warm and hospitable. I Met Prime Minister Blair in London and Prime Minister Chretien in Ottawa. I met some of the world's top political and business leaders who went to New York for the World Economic Forum. I dropped by Chicago on the last leg of my trip to address a group of potential investors. I met our kababayans in all these places. They have all the best and encouraging words and sentiments for our country and our government.

Confidence in the Philippines is growing. This is because of the excellence of the great Filipino worker. The leaders and peoples of the world have seen our sense of sacrifice, our discipline and our universal ethics. They know and appreciate our unswerving stand against terrorism and poverty, our commitment to good governance.

There is a growing respect for what we have done and what we can do. The Filipino worker is shaping the destiny of the Philippines, but he is also Involved in shaping the global future.

It has been one year since I became President and four months since the September 11 tragedy. The pace with which we have been able to restore political and economic stability, and the pace of global consolidation have been extraordinary and exciting. Just as our economy began to show evidence of our resiliency, just as the Taliban fell, British peacekeeping forces moved into Afghanistan ahead of the installation of an interim government. And soon we will be meeting with the appropriate officials regarding our participation in the rehabilitation of Afghanistan. I spoke to Prime Minister Blair about Scotland yard assisting the efforts of our Philippine National Police in maintaining peace and order by helping them build up the capacity to fight kidnapping and other organized crimes. Prime Minister Blair has approved the proposal and one of our police generals is being invited to go to London soon to work out the detailed curriculum.

Our talks with Prime Minister Blair also dwelt on the need for social equity and inter-faith dialogue, long-term harmony and peace.

Canada's outlook is running along the same track as Britain. Prime Minister Chretien appreciates the need for more assistance to uplift Muslim communities in Mindanao. I brought the ARMM Governor, Dr. Parouk Hussein, with me on this trip so he could talk directly to the Canadians and the Americans, which he did. I am sure he will go back and tell his constituents that the West is really concerned about them.

But it is not only Afghanistan, not only the Philippines, that is moving into a new phase of consolidation.

President Bush in his State of the Union Address spoke of a new culture of responsibility — for upholding the non-negotiable values of human dignity everywhere — the rule of law, limits to the power of the state, respect for women, private property, free speech, equal justice, and religious tolerance.

At the World Economic Forum, I was asked to keynote no less than six meetings. The first was the Opening Plenary Session itself, where, before a standing room audience of the entire forum participants, I keynoted the panel discussion on hope, followed by Queen Rania of Jordan, the new Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, the hero of the battle against apartheid Archbishop Tutu, the singer and debt relief advocate Bono, and a Nobel Prize laureate in the person of professor Elie Wiesel. The second event where I was asked to take a leading role was a press conference arranged by the W.E.F. for selected personalities. The third was as Keynote Speaker at the luncheon of the W.E.F. fellows, media fellows, a selection of publishers and editors-in-chief of the top media organizations in the world. The fourth was an exclusive luncheon with the World Business Council whose membership consists of the top 100 CEOs of the world, with three guests of honor: the Prime Minister of Finland, to share on how Finland has become the most competitive country in the world; the King of Jordan, to give a Middle East perspective to the aftermath of September 11; and the President of the Philippines, to talk about how the business community of the developed world can help the developing countries fight terrorism and poverty. The fifth meeting was a panel discussion for the global leaders of tomorrow on leadership in fragile times, which I again keynoted, followed by a panel discussion by the CEOs of Enns and Young, Shell gas and power, Goldman Sachs, the International NGO Civicus, and a Young Arab tycoon. And the sixth was the standard country presentation for The Philippines.

In all these meetings, I brought the message that the coalition in the war against terrorism must now be decisively transformed into a coalition in the larger war against poverty.

And during these meeting in the fringes King Abdullah of Jordan and I had a chance to discuss the war against terrorism and he offered to provide the Philippines with intelligence fusion against the international terrorists who maintain cells all over our region. And he asked me to send the head of my intelligence to Jordan so that they can work out the intelligence fusion arrangements.

The World Economic Forum delivered the message that big business is earnestly striving to accommodate its critics. Equity for the developing world is the byword of the times. The wealthier nations are preparing to foot more of the bill in fighting poverty, for as long as the recipient countries show transparency, democracy, and good government practices.

We are ready for this. We have not only been a leader in the fight against terrorism and poverty, we have also bolstered our competitiveness on several fronts. I briefed the shakers and movers of the world on opportunities for business in our country. I told my audiences that we are cleaning up our democratic processes and procedures, hardening the chain of responsibility in governance, and enabling professionalism from the Cabinet down to the local governments.

Things are also looking up on the business side. It should be noted that Britain is the biggest current investor in the Philippines, by virtue of its five billion dollars exposure in the Malampaya project. Canada also has a big investment in the one billion-dollar LRT extension to Cavite. and this time, this past week time, we pinned down 1.2 billion dollars-worth of investments as follows:

Mace limited of Britain will put up in Clark an 850 million-dollar aircraft maintenance facility that will employ 28,000 workers.

Garsol Management of the United States will set up, also in Clark, an international flying school with a total investment of 300 million dollars that will employ 1,000 workers.

Royal ventures of Canada will invest 12 million dollars to construct 3,400 low-cost housing units especially for policemen, government employees, teachers, and overseas workers.

Finitech, a Canadian firm, will set up porcelain enamel coating service for steel and aluminum products. It will initially invest five million dollars And export value 12 million dollars a year.

An American firm, a large one, whose name will be announced upon the formal approval of their board, will invest five million dollars in yet another call center in the country.

Panox petroleum of the united States, Beluga tanks of Canada, and Stoneworks of the Philippines will manufacture and distribute petroleum equipment Tanks.

I launched the roadshow for the power sector privatization program, which should yield five billion dollars in investments. In London and New York, I met big players in the global power industry like national grid of the United Kingdom; Edison, Intergen, and mid-American of the United States, and Hydro Quebec of Canada — all prospective investors in the privatization of Napocor, its transmission company, and its generation companies.

There is growing consensus that the global economy is slowly reawakening from its lethargy. America itself is gaining more activity and employment in the face of a projected stimulus package slated by the Bush administration.

But business is cautiously optimistic, in awareness that much more has to be done for homeland security in the U.S., and global security for all nations.

I traveled with a congressional delegation, a delegation of local government executives, and a business delegation. I believe they can attest that people have confidence in the Philippines, and the world would be more upbeat about us if we stop tearing our nation apart by petty political squabbles.

If America is heaving a sigh of relief because the last quarter of 2001 showed a growth rate of 0.2 percent, we should be prouder of our last quarter growth of 3.9 percent for a full-year GNP growth of 3.7 percent. we should also be elated that in the month of January the value of our stocks in the stock market went up four times so the Bloomberg adjudged the Philippine Stock Market in January as the best buy in the whole world. The first time ever for our country. We should also be gratified that Moody's has just upgraded our rating from negative to stable.

So more than ever, it is important to capitalize and project the strengths of our nation in both realms of security and economic competitiveness. We must put our act together to show the world that we are a strong and determined ally in the fight against terrorism and poverty, and an active, principled player in the global regime.

I call on our people and our nation, and all our institutions, to close ranks for the big push forward.

Now is the time to consolidate.

Thank you.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Arrival Ceremonies after a 7-day Official/Working Visit to Northern America, Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230805/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7620&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 11th Anniversary of the Philippine National Police

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 11th anniversary of the Philippine National Police

[Delivered at Camp Crame, Quezon City, February 7, 2002]

Isang malaking pagbati ang pinaabot ko sa lahat ng mga pulis ng Pilipinas sa pagdiriwang natin ngayon ng Ika-11 anibersaryo ng Philippine National Police.

Ang panahon ng anibersaryo ay panahon ng pagpapasalamat. Unang-una, nagpapasalamat ako sa sistema ng inyong anibersaryo. Ang tema ninyo ngayon ay, “Sa Serbisyon Matatag, May Gloria Ang Katapat”. Hindi ako ay pumili noon, si General Mendoza ang pumili noon.

Pero totoong sinusubaybayan ko ang lahat ng ginagawa ninyo. Ngunit kahit hindi pa man Gloria ang aking pangalan, siguradong tayo ay haharap pa rin sa isang kinabukasan, may Gloria o may kaluwalhatian kung kayong mga pulis, tayong mga naglilingkod sa pamahalaan at lahat tayong Pilipino ay magtutulung-tulungan upang magapi ang kahirapan, masugpo ang kriminalidad, at makamit ang katahimikan ng buong bansa.

On may 1 last year, you defended the presidency and constitutional rule. You showed temperance, restraint and courage in the face of provocation and danger. You wielded the iron hand of the law, but in full human respect for human rights. This has been the hallmark of your work. Loyalty, reform and achievement, these have been, indeed, the hallmark of your work.

I am glad that you respect human rights. Kasi pag ang pulis nakakalimutan ang human rights, isang araw summary justice, susunod na araw kalaban na ninyo ang pinapatay, kaya hindi mabuti iyon. You wield the iron hand of the law, but respect human rights. And I am very glad that has been the characteristic of the Philippine National Police in the present administration.

I am gratified that the reforms being done in our national police, crime solution efficiency is high. You arrested 230 members of kidnapped for ransom syndicate this past year compared with only 51 the year before. I commend your PNP Chief General Mendoza and our anti-kidnapping task force Chief, General Ebdane, for producing this result quietly and professionally. And in the face of stiff constraints, I can see that your morale is enduring. I thank you for that and I congratulate you.

On the domestic side, you also enforced last New Year’s Eve a successful ban against fire crackers and the firing of weapons during the entire holiday season, which resulted in the most peaceful Christmas and new year celebration in many years.

And I am particularly proud of your contribution to the global and regional fight against terrorism. Careful sleuthing and efficient networking led to the seizure of explosives and arms in General Santos city and the arrest of 4 international terrorists — including Indonesian Roman Al-ghozzi who has been confirmed by the Singaporean authorities to be a key member of Jimaa Islamiya. These achievements mark our determination to operate unilaterally and trilaterally with Indonesia and Malaysia to constrict terrorism traversing our common borders. Your feat has not escaped the eyes of other countries.

King Abdullah of Jordan in the world economic forum said, that he specifically wanted to meet me because he knows and appreciates our efforts regarding this. He has offered to provide us with intelligence assistance regarding the Jimaa Islamiya and its operations and network in our region.

Indeed, as King Abdullah said, those guys you are fighting are the same guys I am fighting; and I'm willing to help you fight them. Fighting crime and terrorism is a globalized effort. Alliances are important, and we must strive to expand and deepen them. But much work remains to be done. Root out terrorism, work with the international community, return the reputation of Manila and the Philippines as a welcoming and safe place in which to live and do business. Increase the benefits from our new global relevance and engagements after years of being isolated and adrift. We will meet the new round of kidnappings with more intense focus and counter force.

I have ordered a clear cut delineation of the functions along anti-crime and anti-terrorism fronts. Let me make it clear, the police has primary responsibilities over operation against the pentagon gang while the military has primary responsibility over operations against Abu Sayyaf.

I am clearly drawing these lines of authority and responsibility. And with this, I hope we shall push on until all these groups are fully neutralized and accounted for.

To eradicate the recruitment ground of terrorists, criminals and destabilizers, I am instructing the police to take the lead in organizing visible, sustained outreach and emergency employment programs particularly for out-of-school, out-of-work urban poor youth in Metro Manila. When the police mean business, terrorists and criminal syndicates are put out of business.

We will continue our long term program to professionalize the PNP. The organization is being beefed up. Last June, I created the national anti-crime commission to make the agencies in-charge of fighting crimes more interactive. For instance, you may have arrests, but that doesn't mean that your work is over. Because it is interactive, it is also part of your interest to see to it that these arrests are followed through with the appropriate prosecution.

I instructed General Mendoza last year to hire 1,700 new personnel, all college graduates. They made their first appearance in mall assignments last Christmas. We are increasing the quality and quantity of training programs, including those promoting effective community relations.

I am instructing the public safety college to add a specialization course on crime investigation and detection. And I am directing the PAGCOR to provide a supplementary budget for this specialized course.

My recent visit to London, Canada and the U.S. Resulted in \$1.2 billion of new investments, but it also resulted in the formal commitment by Prime Minister Tony Blair for Scotland Yard to help the PNP, build up the skills and capacity to fight kidnapping and other organized crimes. Scotland Yard is waiting for our troop Commander General Fianza to go there to London to discuss the detailed curriculum with them.

I have also instructed General Fianza to make a similar formal proposal to the Hongkong police for a similar training program as a follow up on my talks with Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa during my official trip to Hongkong late last year.

I frequently keep in touch with our police officials through command conferences and some other informal assemblies to ferret out and resolve problems. These informal assemblies include 1:30 a.m. Telephone calls to General Mendoza.

Last year, I checked on your needs. And I gave myself target for providing those needs. I am proud, that as General Mendoza reported, I am complying with those targets.

For instance, RA-8551, the law to professionalize the PNP, ten years ago or eleven years ago, provided for a salary scale for policemen equal to that of teachers. But for ten years this was not implemented until last year, when I got a supplemental budget from congress to finally carry out the new salary scale of our policemen.

And this year, congress provided an even bigger additional budget. And I thank the congressmen and congresswomen, several of whom are here for that. This will enable us to implement the law fully this year.

I would also like to thank senator Nene Pimentel who is not here today, for supporting the formulation of the new PNP rules of engagement. Your new rules of engagement and your revised medium term plan for development will further improve your performance.

Indeed, last year, I also listened to your tales of woe about your retirement pay. As a result, the budget secretary released P5 billion to cover retirement gratuities up to January of 2001. Other obligations had been included in the 2002 budget. Your additional budget and the senators' support for your new rules of engagement exemplify the close executive-legislative partnership we need to shore up law enforcement. The partnership should even extend more widely to the entire community.

As we have seen, as an example from some of the awards you gave out today, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of civic, religious, and non-government organizations supporting the PNP.

For your health care needs, the Camp Crame hospital is now being upgraded with the support of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the national development company. We are acquiring modern hospital equipment amounting to P282 million funded by a loan facility ____ through the MBC.

We have increased the number of educational grants and scholarships to police dependents. The mechanism is now in place . Please avail of these opportunities.

Your president worked hard for these benefits for you. Because your president trusts in your sense of duty. I believe in the great Filipino worker, whether in government service or in the private sector, whether in the police force or in the civil service, whether in industries or in the services. The great Filipino worker including the great Filipino policeman is a pillar of excellence imbued with the strong sense of sacrifice, discipline and professionalism.

Pulse Asia's third quarter 2001 survey cited a 30 percent net approval rating for the PNP. Congratulations. And a 22 percent net approval rating for the PNP Chief, congratulations too. But we must take this as a signal to aim higher in our goals. Public trust must be the prime mover of achievement.

You have my unremitting faith and my commitment to push our common quest forward. In cooperation with all the pillars of the criminal justice system, we restrengthened the rule of law permanently throughout the republic. The task is difficult and full of pit holes, but we will not abandon it. Mastering a supreme sense of duty, the unity and support of the people and the institutions of good government, we will restore justice, law and order, and public safety in all corners of the land. Yes, the job is difficult, the sacrifices are stiff. Some succumb to corruption and abuse. This past year, the PNP dismissed and charged no less than 800 scalawags. But this should only go to show that the PND is capable of cleaning up its house and I know that most of you hold the line of courage and integrity. Shameful lessons of the past must not be repeated. For instance, we must never again..... Merit with patronage. We must never again divide the police force, between those who tow the political line and those who do not. Blind to partisan loyalties is what we must be. We must move forward in recognition of committed, earnest and effective performance. There is no gauge for excellence but achievement. There is no overlord but the people. Such principles infuse the awards we gave out today. Those who received these awards are our beacons of service. We emulate them because they show the way to our law-abiding, compassionate and just society. And i ask you once again to join me in fulfilling that vision of a law abiding, just and compassionate society.

Ito ang ibig kong iparating ng sabihin kong dapat tayong magtulungan. Sapagkat ang inyong tungkulin, tinutulungan kayo ng pamahalaan upang lalo pang mapahusay ang inyong trabaho at upang mapabuti pa rin ang inyong pamumuhay. At ang ating mga kababayan ay tumutulong din upang higit pang husay ang mapapakita ng pnp. Sa inyong serbisyo hindi lamang ang inyong pangulo ang inyong katapat kundi ang buong sambayanang Pilipino. Tinatapatan nila, tinatapatan ng pamahalaan nang suporta ang lahat ng inyong mga programa tungo sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran. At sa pagtutulungan ng lahat, malaki ang pag-asang darating na rin ang luwalhati ng ating kinabukasan.

Muli binabati ko ang mga binigyan nating parangal bilang outstanding policemen and policewomen ng taong ito at binabati ko lahat kayong narito. Lalo pa tayong sumikat para sugpuin ang kahirapan, sugpuin ang kriminalidad. Mabuhay kayong lahat mga dakilang pulis ng bansa Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 11th Anniversary of the Philippine National Police. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230755/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7619&Itemid=38

Closing Message of President Arroyo for the local roadshow conducted by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas called “Briefings 2002”

**Closing Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
For the local roadshow conducted by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas called “Briefings 2002”**

[Delivered at the Office of the President, Malacañang, February 8, 2002]

Good day, Ladies and Gentlemen.

A year ago, we accepted the challenge to return the Philippines to the path of progress. Our vision is promoting prosperity and improving the quality of life of our people.

I am pleased to say that this vision is bearing significant and tangible results. Through our collective work, we have put the Philippine economy back on the road to sustainable development.

We have gained a significant measure of control over our budget deficit, met our inflation and interest rate targets, stabilized the foreign exchange rate and posted a healthy growth rate last year of approximately 3.7 percent despite heavy constraints imposed by the global economic environment.

The implementation of our economic plan will continue to revolve around four components:

An economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the globalization of the 21st century;

A modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity and enhanced productivity;

A social bias toward the disadvantaged to ensure that our economic growth brings prosperity to many and not just a few; and,

An unwavering commitment to raising the moral standards of government and society.

For 2002, we will further strengthen the resilience of the economy in the face of domestic and external shocks. We shall fortify the banking sector, address corporate governance deficiencies and expand our revenue sources and GDP base. All of these shall be done in concert with steps to maintain a stable macroeconomic environment and continued support for our strong agricultural and service base.

The private sector must be the driving force of the economy. It must undertake this role by generating increased levels of productive employment opportunities and by enhancing the competitiveness of key industries.

On our part as a pro-business government, we aim to provide the country with the required public infrastructure in the form of electricity, mass transit systems, roads, bridges, telecommunications and ports, competitive investment incentive packages, and sector specific investments in training to support the private sector.

Furthermore, we are looking at creative efforts that will fuel the growth of small and medium enterprises, such as novel financing and technology transfer arrangements.

We shall also work with congress to pursue legislation to support private sector asset management initiatives and the stability of domestic interest rates. Since the start of the year, we have shifted to inflation targeting. This increases the accountability and transparency for monetary policies through a system of regular reporting.

These moves are complemented by initiatives in agricultural modernization, including investments to rehabilitate irrigation facilities, construct post-harvest facilities and assist with marketing and research and development.

I cannot emphasize enough that economic growth is of no value if it is not linked to good governance practices required to sustain it. Moreover, without peace and security, our efforts to encourage growth will also fall short. We must continue to work and deliver on both fronts.

An example is our continuing development thrusts in the regions of Visayas and Mindanao. Our regional development strategy seeks to reduce disparities by encouraging the growth of urban centers outside Metro Manila, so that they can become attractive investment destinations on their own. Our national economy will only benefit from a dispersed, but closely integrated system of urban centers.

In closing, I reiterate that we have a strong and unified plan in place and that it is working to successfully reform and build the Philippine economy. I now face 2002 with a sense of excitement and optimism, as our future looks much clearer than before. I enjoin everyone to work together and support our economic plan, which will ensure the sustainability of our precious gains in national development and most of all, in the fight against poverty.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Closing Message for Local Roadshow Conducted by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas called "Briefings 2002". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230733/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7617&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 16th Death Anniversary of the late Governor Evelio B. Javier

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 16th Death Anniversary of the late Governor Evelio B. Javier**

[Delivered at the Gov. Evelio Javier Memorial Auditorium, Del Angel Salazar Jr. Memorial School (DASJMS), San Jose Antique, February 11, 2002]

Damo gid nga salamat Governor Sally Perez.

Please sit down.

Si Sally anak ni Justice Perez na Executive Secretary ng aking tatay, the late Diosdado Macapagal.

I'm also happy to be here with Congressman Ex Javier, classmate naman siya akong bana, and si Mayor Fernando Corvera na dati pa Coordinator ko na rito; and from our Cabinet na nandito, si Secretary Raul Roco; 'yung nag-aayos nung pondo para mapondohan ang Airport ninyo, si Secretary Emy Boncodin; si Presidential Assistant Rene Villa; Special greetings sa atong members sang Veterans Federation of the Philippines, Antique chapter; kag sa mga members sang kaibigan ni Gloria kay GMA; Tanan atong mga Government Officials; mga pinalangga kong mga Antiqueño:

Maayong aga sa inyo nga tanan.

May I also greet Vivian Javier and the other members of the Javier family because today we commemorate today the 16th Death Anniversary of one of our country's heroes, one of our country's most courageous and inspiring political leaders, the late Governor Evelio Javier.

Today's commemoration is part of our 40-day celebration of People Power 1 and People Power 2. People Power 2 started on January 16, while People Power 1 culminated in February 25th. Between January 16 and February 25 is a period of 40 days, a period recognized in our culture and religion as a traditional period for prayer, much like a 9-day novena. Through this providential reckoning of time, I believe the Lord, the divine leader of both People Power 1 and People Power 2, is sending us a message that the two events of People Power are part of one and the same continuum, and should be commemorated together, including the significant events during this period that led to the climax of People Power. Whether People Power 1 or People Power 2. One of the great events was the assassination of Evelio Javier.

Thus, in our celebration of People Power, it is fitting that we commemorate January 16, 2001, the day of the spontaneous outpouring of outrage against plunder and its cover-up; January 19, the day that signalled the collapse of the discredited government; January 20, the beginning of a new People Power government; February 22, 1986, the day Cardinal Sin called on the people to protect Fidel Ramos and the other defectors against dictatorship; and February 25th, the day Cory Aquino began to lead a restored democracy, together with all these important dates of People Power 1 and People 2 There is February 11, 1986, the day Evelio Javier gave up his life for the sanctity of the ballot.

Today we commemorate how an assassin's bullets felled Evelio Javier on the morning of February 11, 1986 right here walking distance from where we are near the provincial capitol where the Provincial Board of Canvassers was completing the tally of Antique's 18 municipalities. It was a moment of crisis as an air of indignation was sweeping the land.

At that time I was a foot soldier in the anti-fascist united front. I was writing for the underground press, speaking in various symposia, helping organize mass actions. People Power was gaining momentum, to reach its peak on the four days starting February 22nd.

The treacherous killing of Evelio Javier, together with the walkout of the canvassers in the National Canvass in PICC, where major elements in the build-up of outrage that led to the gathering of two million people in Luneta a few days later for the Tagumpay ng Bayan and to the unity between the civilian and the military that began on the 22nd of February. Thus, the killing of Evelio Javier strengthened the resolve to fight for freedom, and further inflamed the spirit of EDSA 1 that ultimately returned democracy to the Philippines.

We are of course sad, however, that final justice still evades Evelio Javier, because the perpetrators continue to elude the final consequences of their terrible act. The extradition of the mastermind, I would like to report, was one of the things that I went to Canada about. It was one of the main items in my agenda during my official visit to Canada. I asked the Prime Minister of Canada to find out why the mastermind is not being extradited up to now to the Philippines. And the information shared by the premier is that the mastermind is hiding behind the cloak of political asylum, and therefore Canada being like the Philippines — a country of due process — the claim of the mastermind for political asylum is still in the Canadian courts undergoing hearing. And so as a result of the information that I found out from the highest levels of the Canadian government back here in the Philippines I am directing the justice department to mobilize fully its experts in international law to put an end to this notorious case wherever the legal battleground may be.

Governor Javier's successor, Governor Enrique Zaldivar, Sally's brother, described the political life of Evelio Javier in the following beautiful words, and I quote:

"Evelio Javier's life was built upon a dream — let freedom ring — a dream fondly shared by Antiqueños. With daring faith and vigor, he pursued that dream in the sleepy hinterlands of antique, in every mountainside and every Hamlet. He was not daunted by the poverty of the place where we was sprung nor by the Antiquenos' resignation to their tyrannized lot. Where there Was sloth, he gave labor; where there was silence, he gave speech; where there was timidity, he gave courage. And finally, where there was death, he gave his life."

Eloquent words about Evelio Javier, from Ike Zaldivar. And today, as I come to Antique, a province whose every town I have visited but where I am returning this time for the first time as President of the Philippines, I see Evelio's brother once again in the halls of Congress. I thank him for his support speaking for the people of Antique especially for our Balikatan, and I see Ike Zaldivar's sister in the provincial capitol.

I congratulate them and I congratulate you, all of you here for keeping Evelio's dreams alive.

Congratulations that your capital town, San Jose, is one of the outstanding Galing Pook awardees on programs and project implementation. Your work here in San Jose has brought progress which has brought more banks, and improved communication facilities much more than when I was a Senator of the Philippines, improved the colleges and trade schools, and sea ports. These are growth indicators that demonstrate a will to move up in the ladder of enterprise and stability.

And I congratulate you for balancing all these by aggressive and far reaching social amelioration programs. I congratulate you for improving the lot of the great Antiqueño worker — for his is known for his greatness combined with his humility as far as the sugarlands of Negros during planting and harvesting season and now to the urban services here in San Jose meant to improve the daily lives of the average citizen.

I support your efforts. That is why today I just want to let you know as a matter of, number one, information that from the typhoon Nanang we have released, Emy Boncodin has released, one million pesos to help in the relief and rehabilitation for the people of Antique. But I believe more important, more far reaching and more strategic, I just released a check of 40 million pesos from the office of the President to the Department of Transportation and Communication in order to immediately begin the upgrading of the Antique Airport, which, on this day, I am hereby renaming the Evelio Javier airport.

Governor Saldivar informed me that he has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the province of Aklan which, as we know, is world famous for Boracay, to have an eco-tourism partnership. And in our national government policy the Department of Tourism and the Cabinet have adapted for the year 2002 as the major thrust for our tourism development eco-tourism and beach tourism. And certainly the airport will go a long way.

General Adelberto Yap, who is here to receive the check in behalf of DOTC in order to begin immediately the upgrading of the airport now that the money is available, also wishes me to announce to you that Air Transportation Office is opening the airport for commercial flights and Asian Spirit and Sea Air are ready to come to San Jose with our tourists.

Evelio Javier may no longer be around to help us, but his idealism unto death must continue to inspire us in our work, particularly in the support of good governance for good governance was what he died for. Good governance essentially means sacrifice — the sacrifice of time, energy, honor and even life — so that others may find a life of dignity, freedom, peace and prosperity. Good governance is not the gung-ho type of public drama and propaganda because certainly there was enough, too much of drama in the killing of Evelio Javier. We would have preferred that he be alive today rather than go through that drama of his assassination. But nonetheless, that was the way destiny and history meant for Evelio Javier to contribute to democracy in the Philippines. Outside of great heroic acts like his though, good governance is the quite, day-to-day focus on a clear cut plan to build communities and empower people.

Governor Javier said in one of his valedictories, and I quote:

“For the past eight years, I have seen the fulfillment of my dreams, I have seen that there are more dreams to work for, and even to fight for. So if you ask me, what will you do now when you are not longer governor? Answer: I will continue to tilt against windmills, I will continue to reach the impossible dream even against unbeatable foes.”

Great words from Evelio Javier. And we were contemplating his beautiful statue earlier today the band was playing the “Impossible Dream” and through that band Evelio Javier was telling us once again these words in his valedictory speech.

Let us continue Evelio Javier’s dreams. Let us continue to tilt against windmills especially the windmills of poverty as we tilted windmills in Power 1 and 2. Let us continue to reach out even for dreams that seem impossible. They say the fight against poverty is impossible to be won because it’s been here for centuries, let us be bold in our ambition and seek to win that fight within the decade.

And let us continue to work for justice not only against the assassins of Governor Javier, but against all enemies of freedom and decency. And that is why I thank Ex Javier for expressing the support of the people of Antique for our looking for every way possible to fight against those who want to kill our freedom and our way of life in the jungles of Basilan. Let us not relent until our society is secure, until Basilan is secure, until Panay Island is secure, until good government is secure — in the hands of brave, upright, and decent leaders. Let us fight for peace, law And order and justice wherever the challenge takes us.

On this day, we bow our heads in memory of a great man. A hero of the Philippine peaceful People Power revolution.

At the same time, we acknowledge god’s sovereignty over life and death, his sovereignty over our lives.

Let us pray for the same courage and conviction to help us in carrying on Evelio Javier’s work. As we reflect on the contributions that Evelio Javier made to community and country, let us inspire them to do our part in Seeing his noble ideals become reality.

We cannot say mabuhay si Evelio Javier dahil wala na siya sa atin. Ngunit mabuhay ang paalaala na iniwan ni Evelio Javier sa atin — ang diwa ng pagkabayani, ang diwa ng mabuting pamamalakad ng isang probinsya, pamamalakad ng isang bansa.

Maraming salamat. And peaceful commemoration to all of us.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 16th Death Anniversary of the late Governor Evelio B. Javier. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230723/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7616&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 10th National Convention of the Provincial Board Member of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 10th National Convention of the Provincial Board Member of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel, Manila, February 18, 2002]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat Secretary Joey Lina at magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Binabati ko yung mga very supportive na Local Government Officers Leagues na narito ngayon: Si Governor del Rosario, ang presidente ng Governors' League of the Philippines at ang Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines; at maraming Vice Governors na narito, mga kabalikat ninyo doon sa Provincial Board kaya sila ang presiding officer sa pamumuno ni Vice Governor Julius Herrera. Nagpapasalamat din ako kay Board Member Palmero sa kanyang magandang pagbati kanina; at si Vice Mayor Louie Bustamante ang katangi-tanging delegado natin mula sa Metro Manila. Nandito rin si Joey Rufino ang aking Political Secretary; mga panauhin:

Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat. Kareng kabalen kong delegadu menibat Pampanga amu Tarlac mayap a gatpanapun kecongan. Dagiti kakailayak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga malem yo apo. Ken sa ating mga kaigsuonan gikan sa mindanao ug Central Visayas, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan. Kag sa mga kasimanwa sang akong bana na Ilonggo maayong hapon sa inyo nga tanan. Ang dami pa diyan. San saray kabaleyan, Pangasinan. And maumay nga kulok sa ating mga taga-Waray country. And of course to our Bicolanos, good afternoon also to all of you.

At ako ay nasisiyahan na tayo ay nandito ngayon.

Binabati ko ang mga Provincial Board Members ng Pilipinas sa okasyon ng inyong ika-sampung National Convention. Ten years yan ay napaka-importanteng masasabi nating Jubilee celebration.

At hindi lang ito espesyal dahil 10 years na itong League na ito. Espesyal din ang ating pagkakasama ngayon dahil itong araw na ito ay sakop sa kwaresma ng anibersaryo ng People Power 1 at People Power 2. Ang People Power 1 kung naaalala natin ay nag-culminate noong February 25, 1986 at ang People Power 2 naman ay nagsimula noong January 16, 2001. Mula sa January 16 hanggang sa February 25 ay apat-na-pung araw, at ang pagdasal na apat-na-pung araw ay tinatawag nating kwaresma yan ay bahagi sa ating kultura kasama ng siyam araw na tinatawag nating nobena. Para bang nagbigay ng mensahe ang Panginoon, dahil siya naman ang pinanggalingan ng People Power, na ang dalawang People Power ng ating kasaysayan ay bahagi ng isang pangyayari at diwa, at dapat ipagdiwang nang magkasama.

Kaya araw-araw sa loob nitong kwaresma ay pinagdidiwang natin ito People Power 1 at Power 2. Pinagdidiwang ko, kasama ng iba't ibang importanteng bahagi ng People Power. At ngayon, nararapat lamang na kasama ko kayo sa pagdiwang na ito dahil tinuturing ko at tinuturing ng sambayanan ng mga Provincial Board Members ng Pilipinas, ang mga gumagawa ng sa mga batas ng probinsya, ay tunay na alagad ng People Power.

Kaya kayo ay importanteng bahagi ng People Power. Kaya binabati ko kayong lahat, tayong lahat. 'Pag sinabi nating Happy People Power Anniversary, kasama doon ang Board Members ng bawa't probinsya ng ating bansa.

At noong ako ay dumadaan dito sa middle aisle, ang dami kong mga kilala sa inyo dahil marami sa inyo ay dating punong bayan, marami sa inyo ay re-elected na bilang board member. So hindi kayo mga baguhan sa pagpapatakbo

ng pamahalaan. Marami sa inyo beterano na sa paggawa ng batas. Marami sa inyo beterano na sa pagpapatakbo ng isang bayan. At alam ninyo kung ano iyong dapat mapasa na mga ordinansa ng probinsya na makakatulong sa magandang pagpapatakbo ng isang bayan.

Ako, malaki rin ang aking kahangaan sa mga local government officials. Gaya nga ng sabi ni Joey — actually si Joey ay talagang brinaso ko para maging Secretary ng Interior and Local Government, eh shoe-in na shoe-in iyan for re-election as Governor pero nagsakripisyo at biglang iniwanan niya iyong contest doon sa local at naging Secretary ng Interior and Local Government. At mabuti naman dahil dala-dala niya ang inyong mga pangarap, inyong mga hangarin. Kaya kung sinasabi niyang buong binibigay kong ira ninyo ngayon, kung sinasabi niyang wala ng 10 percent or 20 percent retention, wala nang LGSEF at binabayaran pa iyong utang noong nakaraang administrasyon eh kasi kinukulit ako ni Joey dahil nanggaling siya sa inyo.

Noong ako ay bagong pangulo noong araw sa entablado sa Edsa 2, January 20, 2001, ang sinabi ko noon pa, na ang ating pangunahing layunin dapat maging ambisyoso tayo. Matagal na kasing nilalabanan ng ating bansa ang kahirapan. Dapat ngayon mag-ambisyoso tayo, bigyan natin ang sarili natin ng deadline. Sabihin natin, sikapin natin na sa loob ng isang dekada masusugpo natin itong kahirapan ng ating bansa.

Papaano na natin gagawin iyon? Di titignan natin iba't ibang mga sukat ng kahirapan at sagutin natin. Halimbawa, marami sa inyo ay nasa probinsya. doon sa probinsya malaking kahirapan ay nandoon sa mga magsasaka. At isang malaking problema ng pagsasaka ay iyong Agrarian Reform. Mayroon pang dalawang milyong ektaryang hindi pa namumudmod sa Agrarian Reform. Kaya kung gusto nating sugpuin ang kahirapan ng ating bansa, di hangarin natin na sa loob ng isang dekada iyang two million hectares na iyan ay ipamumudmod natin. At kung two million ang ating hangarin sa sampung taon, di ang ibig sabihin noon taun-taun 200,000 hectares ang ating target.

Ganoon ang ibig sabihin na nagkakaroon ng ambisyon na mayroon deadline para sa ganoon sama-sama tayo sa road map na ito at bawa't isang sangay ng gobyerno, bawa't isang level ng gobyerno ay may kanyang tungkulin.

Noon nga ako ay pumunta sa State of the Nation Address ng Kongreso, sinabi ko iyong apat na bahagi ng ating paglalaban kontra sa kahirapan. Una sa lahat, ito ay 21st century na ito, at itong 21st century na ito papaano nilalabanan ang kahirapan? Higit sa lahat, trabaho. Dapat mayroong trabaho ang humahanap ng trabaho. At paano nating hahapin ang pagkakataon ng pagtatrabaho? Kailangan may investments. At papano tayo hahanap ng investments? Kailangan maganda ang macro-economic environment.

Kaya iyon ang sinikap kong gawin itong unang taon ng aking pagka-pangulo, iyong macro-economic development dapat maayos para papasok ang mga investments maging dayuhan o maging Pilipino. At anu-ano ang mga hinahanap nilang mga bahagi ng macro-economic environment? Kapayapaan isa doon, at malaking magagawa ng local government sa kapayapaan gawa ng kayo ang nandoon, kayo ang kinikilala kung sino ang masasamang elemento sa inyong lugar. Ang dami-daming local government units ang nakatulong sa paglaban kontra doon sa mga lumalaban sa ating kapayapaan.

Pero ang masasabi kong isang napaka-importante para sa ating mga macro-economic environment ng investments ay iyong red tape. Iyon ang isang talagang malaking inaayawan ng mga investors maging local, maging foreign.

At sa aking naalala bilang isang Government Official mula pa noong 1986, ang aking unang trabaho ay doon sa Department of Trade and Industry, at ako ang nag-set-up ng one-stop-shop for investors. So medyo over these past years, iyong one-stop-shop ay nagagawa sa national level pero ang investments ay hindi nangyayari sa national level. Ang investments ay nilalagay sa isang lokalidad — isang lugar maging Metro Manila o maging sa mga probinsiya.

Kaya ang hinahanap ng investors ay mula sa national haggang sa local, gusto nila na kung puwede isa lang ang kausap, isa lang ang nag-aalaga o kaya isang opisina lamang ang pinupuntahan so napaka-importante na kung ano iyong one-stop mga reforms na ginagawa o iyong maiikling panahon para makakuha ng approval, iyon ay kailangan mangyari rin sa mga local government units. Kaya importante na iyong mga Provincial Board Members, iyong mga provincial ordinances tungkol sa negosyo ay kailangan kayo, nasa kamay ninyo ito upang sa ganoon ay paikliin o

padaliin iyong mga proseso ng pagpasok ng investment maging lokal o maging international itong mga investments na ito.

At ako naman ay ginagalang ko nga na iyong mga investors they don't come to the Philippines, they go somewhere in the Philippines. So noong araw iyong mga State Visit ng mga presidente dinadala nila iyong mga Congressman at saka mga Senador. Madaling maintindihan iyon kasi iyong budget na nangagaling sa Congress at saka sa Senado kaya kailangang ipakita nila na hindi nasasayang 'yung budget na ginagastos doon sa mga State Visits.

Pero noong ako ay naging pangulo at kaupo kayo, kaupo ko iyong mga Leagues, mga government officials, sabi nga nila, "iyong mag-aalaga naman ng investors, iyong mga mag-aalok ng investors hindi naman iyong mga Congressman at Senators dahil nandoon sila sa Kongreso, gumagawa ng batas." Pagdating ng investments o mag-aalok ng investments, ang mag-e-entertain naman ay iyong mga local government officials. At iyong mga batas ay hindi lamang naman iyong mga national laws ang kailangan — na actually, ngayon halos lahat ng national laws for investment ay nandoon na pero iyong mga Local Ordinances and Provincial Ordinances. So kaya mula noon, noong malaman ko iyong insight na iyon, hindi lang Congressman at Senator ang dinadala pati na rin mga kinatawan ng local government units; ang governors at city mayors ay parating kasama na rin sa mga Official Visit at State Visit ng Pangulo ng Pilipinas.

Sa ganoon, 'pag nandoon kami ay sila, sila na rin ay binibenta iyong mga probinsiya sa ating mga investors, pero siyempre sa inyo rin kung papaano ang mga batas na dadalhan, kung papaano mga batas na maaabutan ng mga investors dahil kung ang Pilipinas ay nagko-contest sa ibang mga bansa para sa investors, including our own domestic investors. Kasi kung ang ating businessmen nakita nila na mas maganda ang batas ng Vietnam, lilipat sila doon kahit na Pilipino sila. O China, lilipat sila kahit Pilipino sila. Tayo ay nagpapaligsahan sa ibang mga bansa sa mga investments kahit na investments sarili natin negosyante. Eh ganoon din ang iba't ibang mga probinsiya nagpapaligsahan din kung saan magandang pumunta.

At alam ninyo, may mga investors na kung minsan umaalis. At 'pag umaalis sila, iyong dti ay nagkakaroon ng exit interview para malaman kung bakit umaalis. At sa mga resulta ng exit interview nakikita na malaking bagay iyong kung papano nila nararamdaman ang suporta ng local governments sa kanilang investments. Kaya ito ay napaka-importante na sana maging bahagi ng inyong mga workshop: how to have seamless efforts between national and local governments with regard to investment promotion.

Maraming ginagawa ang provincial board, maraming approvals. Halimbawa, hindi ba iyong mga environmental clearance certificate at ibang mga bagay na ganoon, may kinalaman ang mga provincial board. So sa mga proseso ng mga approvals ng iba't ibang papeles na kailangan ng investments, ang laking importansiya ng provincial board. At 'pag tayo ay humahanap ng mga Official Development Assistance para magkaroon ng infrastructure dahil hinahanap ng mga investors na mayroon tayong infrastructure — kalsada, pantalan, telepono, airport — marami dito hindi kaya ng budget natin dahil nagmana nga ako ng budget na magiging 225 billion pesos salamat na lamang naibaba natin iyong sa 147 billion. At kung gusto nating manatili pang maganda ang ating macro-economics, we should try to bring it down best efforts to 130 billion pesos.

So maraming infrastructure ay talagang manggagaling sa Official Development Assistance, at maraming gustong tumulong dahil maganda ang ating credit rating ngayon. Salamat sa panginoon na nakikita ng mga Official Development Assistance sources na ang ating utilization ay maganda. Kaya kung maganda ang utilization hindi sila nasasayangan.

Halimbawa, Japan, dahil nagkakaroon sila ng problema ay binabaan nila ang kanilang ODA by 10 percent, pero official na, hindi nila binawasan ang Official Development Assistance sa Pilipinas dahil maganda ang ating paggamit. Eh ang Japan 70 percent ng ating Official Development Assistance ay nasa Japan, nangagaling sa Japan at hirap na hirap sila sa sariling ekonomiya nila, tuloy pa rin ang kanilang tulong sa Pilipinas hindi binabawasan. Kaya nakakahiya naman kung sinasayang natin 'yang tulong na iyan sa pamamagitan ng red tape. At napaka-importante, 'pag provincial project — 'di ba Dolfo? — 'pag provincial project ang sina-submit sa Official Development Assistance, napaka-importante ang approval, ang concurrence ng provincial board. Kaya napaka-

importante talaga ang papel ng provincial board sa paggawa nung macro-economic environment na magbibigay ng trabaho sa ating taong-bayan.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na tayo'y magkasama para pag-usapan yoon. Iyon ang unang bahagi ng ating apat na bahagi ng laban kontra sa kahirapan.

Pangalawa, dahil gaya ng sabi ko kanina, nakararami sa ating mahihirap ay nandoon sa kanayunan, ating magsasaka. Kaya kailangan natin ang mga bagay kagaya ng reporma sa lupa at kagaya ng ating matatawag nating modernization ng agrikultura.

Actually, ito talaga ang isang bagay kung bakit talagang nilabas natin ang pera, ang IRA ninyo, nitong taong ito, at binayaran pa iyong IRA nung mga nakaraang taon.

Alam niyo ang ating exports ay bumaba ng 40 percent, dahil sa kahirapan ng mundo. Ngunit kahit bumaba ang exports natin ng 40 percent, tumaas pa rin ang ating GNP ng 3.7 percent. Bakit? Dahil inalagaan natin ang domestic demand.

Nuong ako ay nasa world economic forum, nung kinukuwento ko na bumaba ang ating export 39.5 percent at umakyat pa rin ang GNP ng 3.7, because I built up domestic demand and yet we kept the budget deficit at 147 billion, lahat sila kahanga-hanga. At talagang sabi nila, "how did you do it? How did you build up domestic demand?" Eh noong pinag-uusapan nila Dante Canlas — kasi kasama ko siya doon — what ways we built up domestic demand, ang number one na paraan kung papaano na-build up iyong ating domestic demand ay nung nilabas ang buong ira at binayaran iyong mga ira nuong mga nakaraang taon, kayo mga lgu, ginastos ninyo through the budget passed by the provincial board, you spent your budget on good productive income generating activities that gave income to the people kaya umangat ang ating domestic demand at nag-survive tayo ng krisis ng year 2001. marami dito ay iyong mga nagastos para sa agricultural productivity. Kaya naman iyong mga magsasaka, kahit papaano may nagastos; at hindi lamang may nagastos, umangat ang ating produksyon ng agrikultura dahil pinaggastusan ninyo iyong countryside.

Last year, ang ating import requirement, ang kakulangan ng ating production of rice was 650,000 metric tons, pero dahil sa ating pagtulung-tulungan sa paggastos ng farm-to-market roads, kung anu-anong mga kailangan for agriculture, ay umangat by 300,000 metric tons. Kaya this year ang ating shortfall na lamang ay 390 metric tons. Kaya bumababa nang bumababa.

At 'yun din siguro kung dinamutan ko kayo ng IRA at hinihintay ko sa Malakanyang kung sino ang magsisipsip at hihingi, eh, di mahina ang labas nung perang iyon, mahina ang gastos ninyo, mahina ang allocation. Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat na sa ganoong bagay ay nakatulong din tayo sa kanayunan at sa pag-angat ng ating GNP.

Iyong pangatlong bahagi ng ating paglaban kontra sa kahirapan ay iyong mga diretsong tulong sa mga pinakamahihirap. Halimbawa, binanggit ko na iyong land reform. Isa pang halimbawa, sinabi ko sa State of the Nation Address, gusto ko na makatayo ng 100,000 housing para sa mga manggagawa — iyong economic housing ang tawag dun sa marami sa inyo alam na ninyo 'yan — at 50,000 na housing sa mga pinakadukha. Eh 'yung economic housing bangko 'yon, maaayos natin iyon kung aayusin natin iyong Securitization Law; maayos natin iyon kung maayos iyong Asset Management Law; at ganung-ganong bagay; kung maayos natin iyong pag-ibig na mas mabilis ang kilos. Pero iyong bahay para sa mga pinakadukha, iyong talagang dukhang dukha na ang kaya lang nilang rent or amortization 300/ 500, iyon ay hindi mo mahahanap iyong 50,000 na iyong sa market o sa private sector, kailangang gobyerno ang magtatayo noon. Ngunit 50,000 na iyong magkano iyon at magkano ang buong budget nuon? Malaking malaki, bilyon bilyon ang pangangailangan, and never before did the government put money for that kind of housing in the budget. In fact, ang estimate ko dapat five billion pesos, but since never before was five billion pesos put in housing in the budget ... Hindi ba ang budgeting natin, ang budgeting ninyo hindi naman zero-based, it is present budget plus five percent, plus 10 percent, depending. So five percent or 10 percent of zero, wala talaga. So talagang we have to squeeze blood from stone. At pinilit ko si Emy Boncodin, palagay ko nakahanap siya ng 2.5 billion para sa housing for the poorest of the poor, kulang iyong, so kailangan mag-partner tayo — iyong

provincial government at iyong National Government hanapin ninyo iyong pinakamahirap sa inyong probinsiya at siguro iyon ang magagawa nating pagtutulongan.

Halimbawa, well, wala dito... Nandito ba 'yung tiga-Nueva Ecija? Sa alam ko, halimbawa, si Tommy Joson, mayroon siyang housing for his poorest farmers, at sa dinig ko, 5,000 iyong kanyang housing. Eh, kung 5,000 aba, kung may sampung probinsyang mayayaman na makakagawa noon at mag-partner tayo eh nakuha na iyong 50,000 housing for the poorest of the poor. Pero siyempre kailangan na iyong provincial board ibibigay niya iyong budget na iyon kagaya ng kailangan din na iyong kongreso ay bibigyan ng budget sa atin.

Tapos 'yung pang-apat, 'yung tinatawag nating good governance ay kailangan. raising moral standards in government and in society. At iyon ay isang dahilan kung bakit binigay ko na lahat ang ira ninyo kasi ayaw ko iyong sistema pulitika na patronage na pupunta pa kayo sa pangulo para magmakaawa na magkaroon kayo ng additional project money dahil in the first place dahil tinanggal kayo ng 10 or 20 percent. Dapat kayo ay magkakaroon ng salapi para sa inyong mga proyekto because it is your right and not because you begged for it. At dahil nga empowered ang lgus sa administrasyong ito dahil hindi kayo binabawasan ng ira ay biglang lumalaki nga iyong inyong perang imumudmod at iba-budget. Noong araw, Joey, 106 billion ang nire-release ng gobyerno, ngayon, 136 billion ang ni-release para sa local government. Ah 134.

Kaya ito siguro ang mapag-uusapan sa darating na dalawang araw: kung papaano kaya makakatulong ang provincial board sa pagdadala ng negosyo lalo na iyong cutting down on red tape and being investor-friendly sa pagtutulong sa mga magsasaka na sila ang napakahirap, maraming napakahirap, sa ating bansa; kung paano makakapagbigay ng mga derechong suporta sa pinaka-mahirap sa inyong iba't-ibang mga community at kung paano aangat ang sukat ng moralidad sa ating mga komunidad.

Kaya marami tayong kailangang gawin. Isang taon pa lang tayo nagkakasama bilang isang administrasyon, ngunit sa nakita ko ngayon, matagal na tayong nagkakasama bilang mga naglilingkod sa taong-bayan. Gamitin natin ang ating matagal ng pagkakasama, gamitin natin ang ating mga bagong mga pinagkasunduan na prayoridad nitong People Power administration. At sana nga, sa ating pagkakaisa, tunay na sa loob ng isang dekada masasabi natin sa 20th anniversary ng Board Members League of the Philippines, sana maka-celebrate tayo na nasugpo na ang kahirapan sa ating bansa.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 10th National Convention of the Provincial Board Member of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230622/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7611&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a State Dinner in Honor of President Ion Iliescu of Romania

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a State Dinner in Honor of President Ion Iliescu of Romania**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, February 19, 2002]

His Excellency President Iliescu; Vice President and Mrs. Guingona; Senate President and Mrs. Drilon; Speaker and Mrs. de Venecia; our Honorable Chairmen of the Committee of Foreign Relations of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Romania; friends in the Philippines; members of the delegation of his Excellency; Ladies and Gentlemen: His Excellency comes from a land far away but in a way very near to the hearts and the minds and the culture and the soul of the Philippines.

We have many things in common with Romania even if Romania may be so far away. For one, just as the Philippines is a Latin country in a sea surrounded by other Asiatic cultures Romania also is a Latin country surrounded by Slavik countries in Eastern Europe. So Romania is more akin to the Philippines culturally than it is to its neighboring countries in Eastern Europe.

This is an old relationship but a more contemporary one that we share together in this century and century just passed the century where we have reemerging democracies is our common journey from dictatorship to democracy.

The Philippines was able to achieve this during the People Power Revolution and we are now about celebrate the People Power Revolution from February 22nd to February 25th. In 1989 Romania also underwent the same journey from dictatorship to democracy.

His Excellency shares the same history as Ninoy Aquino and Cory Aquino put together because in 1971 when there was a re-beginning of the great depression in the country of Romania His Excellency was one of the intellectuals who thought too independently and therefore was sent to exile just like Ninoy Aquino. and now His Excellency is President of Romania as President Aquino became President of the Philippines.

So, we have in our midst a guest who brings therefore hopefully more knowledge about peoples from across lands but peoples who share with us many things in common, and this simply shows us that indeed the world is not such a big world after all. It is a small world because we see something in common with a country that many contemporary Filipinos really do not know so much about.

And so I'm very grateful your Excellency that you have come to the Philippines. It is a good time in this 21st century when the world is shrinking that our countries should get to know each other better. I have the great fortune of being able to visit your country in 1971 at the time in fact that Romania was entering a new chapter in your history and now you have come here, the first Romanian head of government to be able to come to the Philippines in this modern times.

Let us hope therefore that this visit of His Excellency will be the beginning of greater friendship, greater interaction and greater mutual assistance in the fight that both our countries are waging against poverty and towards the promotion of sustainable democracy.

And so I ask everyone tonight to join me in a toast: to His Excellency, President Ion Iliescu, President of Romania.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a State Dinner in honor of President Ion Iliescu of Romania.
Retrieved
from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230612/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7610&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of Amando Doronila's books

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of Amando Doronila's books, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story"
and "Between Fires: Fifteen Perspectives on the Estrada Crisis"**

[Delivered at the Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road Forbes Park, Makati City, February 21, 2002]

Thank you very much secretary Camacho.

Mr. Amando Doronila, our hero of tonight and of many days; ms. Bolasco; Ms. Prieto-Romualdez; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

in January last year, many of us, many of you who are here tonight were in the vortex of a storm. The experience of EDSA Dos combined with the May 1 riot have their lingering effects. It is only when these events are finally chronicled, as they have been done by Doro, that one feels a sense of settling down — that things have been put in their proper place.

The titles of the books themselves point to their message. One is an inside story, the other is a compendium of perspectives. This is the way a good story must move forward. One must first have a feel of the plot, then he must be aware of the future horizon. Here we are given a comprehensive and sweeping view of events for which we learn formidable lessons.

The most formidable lesson is that absolute power is an illusion. The presidency is a symbol of the power of the people, and of their time-honored aspirations and values of truth, of justice, and of moral rectitude. The presidency is nothing without the people. The Presidency is nothing if it fails to stand for the ideals of the people.

Some leaders think they can fool history, these leaders have failed. Some think they can conceal dirt in contrived virtue, when they cannot. Others would attempt to mesmerize, cajole and engage in distracting drama. But the simple fact remains: you cannot fool all the people all the time. This has been proven twice in our recent history, in extraordinary democratic upheavals in our country in the past 16 years.

Tonight's event comes in the transition between the first anniversary of EDSA Dos and the 16th anniversary of EDSA One. We chose to bridge these celebrations in a continuum of 40 days — our traditional cuaresma — from January 16th to February 25th, because we want to convey the message of two episodes with a single meaning that can be stated in one phrase: democracy and morality.

Democracy is our gift, our weapon, our profound blessing. Often we take it for granted like the air we breathe. But when it is taken away from us, we risk honor, treasure, life and limb to retrieve it. Such is our character as a people. And we must be proud of this.

Morality is our obligation to the divine giver of democracy. Philippine society is often looked upon as tolerant instead of puritanical. But we have shown that there is a limit where we must draw the line, and again, be willing to risk honor, treasure, life and limb to draw that line.

I speak not only for myself but also for my late father in expressing great admiration for Doro, the writer and editor of these volumes. My father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal considered Doro one of the most profound writers and political analysts of our times, and he pondered upon every word that he read in Doro. I have inherited some of that awestruck ness. I cannot remember anytime when my father ever disagreed with the analysis of Doro. On my part there are times when I do disagree. But this is irrelevant in tonight's setting today, tonight we celebrate

good journalism, which means we celebrate principled disagreement, enlightened debate, productive controversy. We celebrate the light that shines through events and mirrors them in the firmament of truth.

Truth is what EDSA was all about. And when we say truth responsible journalism cannot be far behind. People Power has always marched with the press in defeating despotism and corruption. And the press, despite its perceived failings sometimes, always comes to the rescue of democracy and of the bedrock of morality in the most critical times.

The world is keenly interested in how the distinguished, world famous author examines in detail the roles of our political and social institutions in a time of crisis — the military, the church, business, civil society, congress and the Supreme Court. Doro consistently suggests that Philippine democracy is strengthened by the exposure and the response of these institutions to crisis. And I agree with him.

The second volume applies the cold light of scholarship to what may have been to many an emotional upheaval. Fifteen of our leading academics, journalists and social critics contributed to the production of this book put together by Doro.

For many decades now indeed, Doro has graced and brought life to our papers with his thoughtful and incisive commentary. His insights are street smart and yet scholarly. His good sense forged in the crucible of incorruptibility.

Doro's presence is evident in a piece he wrote in March 1998 when he said, and I quote:

“Today, the real issue should be competence, the character of a presidential candidate, and the people the candidate is associated with. If a candidate is associated with shadowy characters, we have an early warning sign of crony corruption and compromises that could tie the hands of a new government in tackling the economic crisis in initiating reforms.” Unquote.

Very wise indeed, that's why you noticed before I became president and now as president when I come to parties such as this I don't bring a coterie of cronies with me anywhere.

For such meaningful insights, I always take Doro very seriously. He is an apostle of strategic outlook as well as common sense.

Let me therefore thank and congratulate also the people behind these two volumes — anvil publishing — which has always published some of the most important works in our country even when they were written by people who are not always as bankable as Amanda Doronila. And the Philippine daily inquirer, I congratulate them too. I congratulate both of them as I congratulate Doro for such worthwhile projects. And I pray that the substance of these works will enlighten and inspire all our people. It will certainly inspire this present administration to do more and to do right by the Filipino.

Doro, congratulations and Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of Amando Doronila's books, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story" and "Between Fires: Fifteen Perspectives on the Estrada Crisis". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230534/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7609&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 5th National Congress of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL)

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 5th National Congress of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL)

[Delivered at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, February 22, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Lina. ‘Yung ating Secretary of Interior and Local Government na dating pangulo ng ULAP. Kaya talagang alam na alam niya ang inyong pangangailangan kaya tuloy nung siya ang naging Secretary of Interior and Local Government lahat na hinahangad n’yo sa nakaraan ay pinilit niya akong ibigay sa inyo.

Kagalang-galang na host mayor ng Pasay City si Mayor Peewee Trinidad; Si Congresswoman ng Pasay City na dating kasapi ng Councilors League si Congresswoman Connie Dy; pangulo ninyo si National President Melendrez; EVP Benavidez; kablawan man Dakayo ti diskurso yo apo Chairman Datuin; Vice Chairman Veloso; Secretary General Alejandro; Pangulo ng Metro Manila Camila; Chairman ng Metro Manila si Jorge Banal, na mas kilala sa kanyang anak na bayani ng impeachment trial; mga kasapi ng executive committee at national board members; at nandito rin ang ibang mga panauhin mula sa DILG si Undersecretary Soliman; dating chairman ng PCI si Pinggoy Lagumbay aking kabaleyan; at dating pangulo si Mike Rama; at sa inyong lahat mga konsehal binabati ko kayo sa Okasyon ng inyong ika-limang congress. Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Kareng kabalen kong kapampangan maayap a gatpanapon kecongan. Dagit kakailyak ken kadwak ken ni Chairman Datuin naimbag nga malem yo amin apo. San saray kabaleyan, masantos ya ngarem ed sikayon amin. sa aton mga kaigsuunan gikan sa mindanao asa ako nidako, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan. assalamu alaikom pagariya. Sa mga kasimanwa sang akon bana nga ilonggo, maayong hapon sa inyo nga tanan. sa mga waray, maupay nga kulop ha iyo tanan. At sa mga bicolano, marhay nga hapon sa indo gabos.

Espesyal ang ating pagkakasama ngayon dahil ito, itong inyong anibersaryo hindi lamang anibersaryo ninyo. Espesyal na ginanap natin itong araw na ito dahil ito ang unang araw ng pagdiriwang natin ng ika-labing-anim na anibersaryo ng edsa 1. Lahat tayo, naaalala natin yung mga naganap noong ika-Beinte dos ng Pebrero 1986. Naalala natin nagsimula yung edsa people Power 1 nung yung malaking bahagi ng sandatahan sa pamumuno nang nung vice chief of staff Fidel Ramos at yung mga RAM sa pamumuno ni noon Colonel Gregorio Honasan ay kumalas sa gobyerno ni Ferdinand Marcos at kumampi sa sambayanang Pilipino.

Kaninang umaga, bilang pagdiriwang sa Fort Bonifacio, sa libingan ng mga Bayani binigyang galang natin si pangulong Ramos sa kanyang papel hindi bilang naging pangulo ng Pilipinas kundi bilang pinuno ng bahagi ng sandatahan na lumipat sa panig ng taongbayan noong araw na ‘yon, February 22, 1986. Nung tanghali naman kanina, for the first time sa selebrasyon ng People Power, nagkaroon ng unang fellowship ang mga RAM, mga kasama ni Senator Honasan at iyong iba’t ibang mga lider ng RAM upang ipagdiwang ang kanilang kontribusyon naman hindi lamang sa EDSA — iyong paglipat nila sa panig ng taumbayan itong araw na ito 16 years ago — kundi na rin dahil pagkatapos ng paghihiwalay ng landas after EDSA 1 nung EDSA 2 ay marami ay bumalik muli at naging bahagi ng EDSA 2. At ngayon naman kasama ko kayo sa pagdiwang ng araw na ito. Ang araw ng paglipat ng sandatahang pilipinas sa taongbayan. Eh papaano kayo napasok doon? Iba-iba ‘yung mga sandatahan ang ating pinagdiwang kanina? Dahil sila ay lumipat sa taongbayan. Kailangan may kinatawan ang taongbayan sa ating pagdiriwang at ang mga Konsehal ng pilipinas, kayo ang kinatawan ng taongbayan, ng karaniwang taongbayan na kinampihan ng sandatahan noong araw na ‘yon. Tinuturing ko kayo mga konsehal ng pilipinas na tunay na alagad ng People Power.

Napag-alaman ko na bagama’t 1,200 lamang ang dumalo nung 1st national Congress five years ago, itong bilang ay tumaas sa 7,000 sa 4th national Congress noong 1999, at ngayon ay mahigit na 8,000 ang delegates na naririto. Record attendance. Congratulations sa magandang attendance.

Ako ay nagalak na ang Philippine Councilors League ay buhay na buhay, aktibo at lalo pang lumalakas. Kailangan ng gobyernong nasyonal ang inyong tulong upang isulong ang kapakanan ng ating bansa. Kayo ang kabalikat ng panguluhan sa paglaban sa kahirapan at pagpapa-iral ng batas at katiwasayan.

Ang inyong liga ay sadyang malapit sa aking puso. Noong ako ay Senador at Bise-Presidente, parati akong dumadalo sa inyong mga PCL National Congress. Siguro sawang-sawa na kayo sa aking pagdating dito. May panahon pang dumalo rin ako sa ilan sa inyong mga Provincial at Regional Councilors Congresses. Dinaluhan ko ang inyong national assembly sa Cebu City noong February 3rd ng nakaraang taon, nang una akong dinaluhan ang inyong assembly bilang pangulo.

Nung tayo ay nasa cebu sinabi ko sa inyo na ang pagsulong at kaunlaran ng ating bansa ay nakasalalay sa ating mga lungsod at mga bayan. At tamang-tama pinagdiriwang nating ito sa unang araw ng people power. Dahil ang kaunlaran ng ating bansa ay nandoon sa people power. Hindi ito dinidikta o minamani-obra mula sa taas ng national government.

Ang mga yaman, kakayahan, imahinasyon at kasipagan na inyong kinakailangan ay matatagpuang lahat sa inyong komunidad.

Sa aking state of the nation address sa kongreso noong nakaraang Hulyo, Sinabi ko na upang masugpo natin ang kahirapan ng bansa, apat ang bahagi ng ating Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan: Una, pairalin ang sistema ng free enterprise na bagay sa siglo beinte-uno; Pangalawa, gawing modern ang agrikultura sa nakaraang nakapundar sa social equity; Pangatlo, asikasuhing espesyal ang mga kapuspalad; at Pang-apat, itaas ang sukat ng moralidad sa gobyerno at panlipunan. Kagaya ng sinabi n'yo sa Theme, "Advancing Good Local Governance Platform for Poverty Reduction" 'yon ang sang-ayon at kapareha nung aking pang-apat na bahagi ng laban kontra sa kahirapan, yung pag-taas ng sukat ng moralidad sa gobyerno.

Yung una, yung free enterprise na bagay sa 21st century. Sa free enterprise, ang pangunahing paraan kung papano sugpuin ang kahirapan ay magkaroon ng trabaho ang taongbayan. At upang magkaroon ng trabaho ang taongbayan, ang pangunahing kailangan ay mga investments. Kaya ito ang pangunahing kailangan ng national government sa mga local government. Magtulong-tulongan para bawasan ang red tape, dahil iyon ang pinakadaing ng mga investors na sumasagabal sa kanilang investments.

Pangalawa, tingnan din natin ang problema ng katahimikan at katiwasayan. Kitang-kita natin kung gaano sinisira ng terorismo at krimen ang ekonomiya. Kitang-kita natin kung paano binihag ng mga abu sayyaf hindi lamang iyung Mga nagbabakasyon sa dos palmas, hindi lamang iyung mga nurse sa lamitan, Kundi na rin binihag ang ating buong turismo at ekonomiya, at sinira pa ang buhay ng mga bihag, at tuloy pang sinisira ang buhay nila kagaya ng buhay ni deborah yap at Roland Ullah.

Gusto kong tiyakin si Deborah Yap at ang mga mahal sa buhay na hindi siya kinalilimutan ng gobyerno. Siya'y lagi sa aking alaala bilang isang babae. Kasama siya lagi sa aking dasal.

Gusto ko ring ipahatid ang mensaheng ito kay roland ullah at sa kanyang pamilya. At sana yung ating mga konsehal na bumati sa atin doon galing sa Sulu ay ipaabot ninyo itong mensahe ko sa pamilya ni roland ullah na hindi matatapos ang pakikibaka sa Abu Sayyaf hanggang maligtas si Roland Ullah.

Si ginang Deborah Yap ay nagtatrabahao bilang isang registered nurse sa Jose Torres Memorial Hospital sa lamitan nang siya at apat pang iba ay tinangay ng mga Abu Sayyaf na tumakas noon mula sa ospital.

Ang hukbong sandatahan ay may utos na tiyakin ang kaligtasan ni ginang Yap at ginoong Ullah habang tinutugis nila ang dumukot sa kanilang dalawa at kina Mr. And Mrs. Burnham ng Wichita, Kansas.

Kasabay nito, inatasan ko ang Department of Social Welfare and Development na asikasuhin ang kalagayan at problema ng apat na anak ni ginang Yap. Gawa ng sinabi ni ginang Elvira pamaran Valbuena, kapatid ni ginang

Yap, Na ang apat na anak ng nurse — sila Jonathan, Anthony, Mary Anne at Bonbon — ay tumigil na sa pag-aaral dahil wala nang salaping panggastos mula nang dinukot ang kanilang ina.

Si ginang Yap, napakatapang. Ayon sa balita, ay siya ang tumutulong ngayon bilang doctor at nurse nila Mr. And Mrs. Burnham na ngayon daw ay mahina ang katawan at kapwa'y may karamdaman. Magiting na babae si Deborah. Ayon sa balita, pati siya namayat na rin at nahulog ang katawan dahil sa hirap na kanyang nararanasan. Inaatasan ko rin ang DSWD na bigyan din ng tulong Ang pamilya ni Roland Ullah.

Samantala naman binabati ko muli ang mga kawal ng Armed Forces, lalo ngayon sa pagdiriwang ng February 22, araw ng pagsama nila sa taongbayan. Binabati ko sila sa kanilang matapang at tuluyang pagtutugis sa mga terorista sa Basilan.

And I would like to acknowledge once again the united states for their support to our soldiers in their capability-building so as to speed up the annihilation of the Abu Sayyaf. As we have realized from the helicopter crash that occurred this dawn, coming to the Philippines to train our soldiers is not a picnic for the U. S. soldiers. They also put their lives on the line and they came here knowing the dangers as well.

Ang tagumpay ng 'balikatan' ay tagumpay ng dalawang magkaibigang bansa na sa loob ng sandaang taon nagkaroon ng malalim na pinagsamahan. Kung minsan maganda ang pinagsamahan, kung minsan hindi gaano kaganda kapag nagkakaiba ang interes.

Pero ngayon nagkakaisa ang interes ng pilipinas at amerika laban sa terorismo, laban sa mga kaaway ng kalayaan, at laban sa mga kaaway ng demokrasya.

Hindi lamang kalayaan sa pananakot ang ating gantimpala kung hindi kalayaan sa kahirapan o mass poverty ang magiging resulta ng ating pagsasama. Ang magkatambal na kapayapaan at kaunlaran ang bunga ng tagumpay ng 'Balikatan'.

Ang kasabay niyan ay higit na matitiyak natin ang kaligtasan nila ginang Deborah yap, ni ginoong Ronald Ullah at Mr. and Mrs. Martin Burnham.

Kaya mga konsehal, kanina nagpalakpak kayo sa akin nung binanggit ko yung pagpasalamat sa mga Amerikano. Sana ipagpatuloy po ninyo ang inyong suporta sa 'Balikatan 2002'. Let us thank the American soldiers at saluduhan din natin ang kawal Pilipino.

Iwagayway po natin ang bandilang pilipino nang mas mataas sapagkat sa isla ng Basilan ay buhay na buhay ang diwa ng pagkakaibigan at kooperasyon ng mga bansa. Buhay na buhay ang tapang ng kawal Pilipino na handing magpakamatay at magsakripisyo ang kanilang mga mahal sa buhay para tayo'y maging muling malaya, mapayapa at nagkakaisa bilang isang dakilang bansa.

Iyon naman sabi n'yong advancing good local governance. 'Yung pag-taas ng sukat ng moralidad sa pamahalaan, ang inaasahan sa inyo mga konsehal ng ating mga mamamayan ay sa pamamagitan ng council resolutions at ordinances at sa personal na halimbawa ay tanggalin ang mga hindi nararapat, paghusayin ang serbisyo ng organisasyon, ipagtanggol ang katapatan, at maging estrikto sa kagandahang-asal. Ang matapat na pamamahala ay hindi puwedeng gawin lang ng ilan. Kailangan itong ipatupad sa lahat ng antas ng pamahalaan.

Ang matapat na pamamahala ay nagsisimula sa personal na integridad at work ethic. Halimbawa, bilang inyong pangulo 'yon ang aking paniniwala. Kung gusto kong magkaroon ng good governance kailangan magsimula sa akin. Ito ay sumasaklaw din sa pamilya ng namumuno, kung kaya't ang una kong Administrative Order ay nagbabawal sa mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan na makitungo, makipag-ugnay sa aking mga kamag-anak kaugnay sa mga kontrata, supply at appointment sa mga posisyon sa gobyerno.

Ang matapat na pamamahala ay tungkol din sa pagsugpo sa corruption, sa katiwalian. Na ang ibig sabihin ng masamang pamamahala ay nakaka-apekto sa mga mahihirap dahil hindi tama ang paggamit at pag-aabuso ng pondo ay tinatangalan sila ng pagkakataong guminhawa, gayundin sa mga serbisyong kanilang kailangan.

Kailangan nating labanan ang katiwalian. Sinisira nito ang tiwala sa ating mga institusyon, pinapalaganap ang krimen at kawalan ng katarungan, at ninanakawan ang mga mamamayan ng pag-asa sa kanilang kinabukasan.

Sa lahat ng ito, gaya ng sabi ni Joey Lina ang ating administrasyon ay patuloy na susuportahan at palalakasin ang ating local government units. Nakita na naman ninyo nung nakaraan, yung nakaraang administrasyon, kinaltas kayo ng 10, 20 percent ng inyong IRA at saka naglagay ng local government equalization fund para kayo ay luluhod bago bigyan ng pondong nanggaling din naman sa inyong bahagi ng internal revenue. At bago ma-release ang pondo sa inyo yung inyong IRA naiiwan kailangang mag-submit pa kayo ng mga work and financial plan na aaprubahan pa ng DBM. Lahat noon ay binaligtad nitong bagong administrasyon. Kaya naman kailangang gawin nating magkasabay ang ating mga gawain. Kailangan nating patibayin ang ating samahan upang matiyak ang tagumpay para sa kabutihan ng sambayanan.

Ang hinaing ng mahihirap ay kinakailangang patuloy na marinig sa mga bulwagan ng pamahalaan. Narinig ito sa EDSA labing-anim na taon na ang nakararaan, narinig natin muli ito sa edsa dos noong nakaraang taon. Matapat na pamamahala, good governance ang ating armas laban sa kahirapan. Good governance is our platform for poverty reduction. Ito ay isang prinsipyo ng serbisyo na dapat nating sundin sa lahat ng oras.

Tulad ng sinabi ko sa lecture sa international institute for strategic studies sa London kamakailan lamang, and I quote, “evil causes terrorism but the evil of terrorism would not be able to spread so much if we did not have so much poverty.” End of quote.

Dapat nating tandaan na ang terorismo ay mabilis na lumago kung saan laganap ang kahirapan at dalita. Hindi ito coincidence na ngayon yung terorismo ay nandoon na na-confine sa probinsya ng Basilan dahil ang Basilan ang pinaka-mahirap na probinsya sa buong Pilipinas. Kaya talagang kambal ang laban sa terorismo at laban sa kahirapan.

Kung kaya, habang hinihikayat ko ang mga world leaders na ipagpatuloy ang coalition against terrorism bilang paraan tungo sa global prosperity, tinatawagan ko rin ang ating mga pinunong lokal, mga konsehal na pag-ibayuhin ang paglaban sa kahirapan at terorismo. Kailangan ko ang inyong tulong at tulong ng bawa’t Pilipino para harapin ang mga hamong ito, at para palakas ang pundasyon ng pagpapaunlad ng ating bayan.

Patuloy tayong sama-samang magtulungan para tuparin ang ating mga pambansang pangarap. Patuloy nating palakas ang ating samahan para pabilisin ang kaunlaran sa kanayunan para lumaganap ang matapat na pamamahala o good governance gaya ng sinabi n’yo, at para bigyan ng mapayapa at masaganang buhay ang lahat ng ating mga mamamayan at darating pang mga henerasyon ng Pilipino.

Mabuhay ang Councilors ng People Power.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the 5th National Congress of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230518/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7608&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 16th Anniversary Celebration of the EDSA People Power Revolution

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 16th Anniversary Celebration of the EDSA People Power Revolution**

[Delivered at the People Power Monument, EDSA, Quezon City, February 25, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Bert Romulo.

Ating kagagalang na heroine ng EDSA at naging halimbawa ng walumpung pang mga EDSA sa buong mundo, President Cory Aquino; Ang pinuntahan natin dito sa EDSA noon nung 1986 at nagtanggol ng demokrasya ng ilang beses pagkatapos noon, President Fidel V. Ramos; Si Secretary Romulo; Si co-chairman ng People Power Commission, Ramon Del Rosario; yung iba't-ibang mga commissioner ng EDSA People Power; yung iba't-ibang mga Government officials na naririto; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; mga kasama natin dito itong araw na ito — at ako'y nasisiyahan na sa pagbasa ng inyong mga karatula mukhang ang mga pumunta rito ay nakararami ay yung mga kinatawan ng 150,000 families na nakabiyaya na sa ating pagbibigay ng karapatan na bilhin ang lupang tinitirikan dito sa Metro Manila at mga karatig na lugar, kaninang umaga nga yung huling-huling nakatanggap ng land titles itong araw na ito yung NAPICO ng Pasig; mga kinatawan ng civil society; mga giliw kong kababayan:

Sa araw na ito, Labing-Anim na Taon nang nakararaan, binawi ng sambayanang Pilipino ang ating kalayaan at demokrasya. Maaring sa kasaysayan ng isang Bansa, ang Labing-Anim na Taon ay isang kisapmata lamang, nguni't sa pagitan ng EDSA 1 at EDSA Dos ay isang henerasyon. Ang nakararaming dumalo Sa EDSA dos ay mga kabataan na sanggol pa noong ginanap ang EDSA 1.

Noong araw pagkatapos ako ay naging presidente labing-tatlong buwang Nakaraan, noong fiesta ng Sto. Niñong naganap ng January 21, 2002, sinabi ko kinukwento ko sa buong mundo na ang namulaklak sa EDSA 2, at dapat ang bunga, ay alang-alang sa mga kabataan. Sa ating kabataan, kahit na masyadong maliit pa sila upang dumalo sa EDSA 1, ay nakikita natin ang bagong henerasyon ng mga Pilipino na lumaki na walang takot; na kumilala sa demokrasya bilang karapat-dapat na sistema para sa pagpapatakbo ng ating Pamahalaan; at handang-handang hawakan ng buong taos-pusong kagitingan ang sugo ng kalayaan at pamamalakad ng pamahalaang hindi pag-aari ng iilan lamang kundi pag-aari ng lahat. Sa palagay ko, sa aking pagninilay isang dahilan marahil kung bakit nanguna ang mga kabataang ito sa edsa dos ay dahil lumaki sila sa ganitong kultura, kultura ng demokrasya, dahil iyon ang kapaligiran na pinagtanggol at inalagaan ng Pangulo ng EDSA 1, Pangulo ng People Power ng buong mundo, ang kagalang-galang na pangulong Cory Aquino. Kaya magpasalamat tayo sa kaniya.

At kung anuman ang papel na ginanap nung hindi binuksan ang pangalawang sobre ang papel niya sa edsa dos, iyon namang ginanap ng mga kawal na kumalas sa diktadura at upang sila ay samahan, milyong mamamayan ay dumalo sa EDSA, itong mga kawal naman ito na kumalas sa diktadura ay pinamunuan ng Vice-Chief of Staff ng Armed Forces of the Philippines, si General Fidel V. Ramos. Kaya magpasalamat rin tayo sa kaniya.

Sa makulay na kasaysayan ng ating bansa, maraming sakripisyo ang nagawa ng ating mga ninuno bilang katibayan ng kanilang pagmamahal sa bayang tinubuan. Binuksan nina Rizal at Marcelo H. Del Pilar ang mga mata ng kanilang kapwa Pilipino sa katotohanang may sarili tayong bansa at sa obligasyon nating lahat na walang magmamahal at mag-aalaga sa ating bayan kundi tayo na rin. Ipinaglaban nina Bonifacio at Aguinaldo ang ating kasarinlan; ipinaglaban sa paraang mapayapa ang hangarin nating maging malaya muli nina Quezon, Osmeña, Roxas, Recto; ipinaglaban ng isang buong henerasyon ang dangal ng Pilipinas noong Ikalawang Digmaang

Pandaigdig. At ang kasarinlan at kalayaan na nawala noong martial law ay ipinaglaban din sa mga barikada, sa lansangan, at, higit sa lahat, sa pamamagitan ng pagdepensa ng prinsipyo na sagrado ang bawa't boto ng bawat Pilipino, sa Snap Election noong 1986, kaya binigyan natin ngayon ng parangal si Evelio Javier bilang halimbawa at simbolo ng ganoong pagtatanaw sa boto ng Pilipino. Pinakita rin natin ang ating diwa siyempre sa pagtitipon ng mahirap at mayaman dito sa EDSA noong Pebrero ng taong iyon.

Hatol ng sambayanang Pilipino na ang pinaka makabuluhang pangyayari sa ating buong kasaysayan ay ang People Power noong 1986. The most important event in the Philippines in the 20th century, yung 1986. Ito ay nagpatunay na ang kalayaan at demokrasyang nilikha ng ating mga bayani ay binigyang halaga at ipinagtanggol ng mga sumusunod na henerasyon. Noong nagtipun-tipon at nagpulung-pulong ang sambayanang Pilipino dito sa EDSA, sa Baguio, sa Cebu, at sa iba pang dako ng ating kapuluan, ipinakita natin sa isa't-isa at sa buong mundo na hindi papayag ang Pilipino na maging alipin ng sino man.

Jose Rizal said a people who submit to slavery deserve to be slaves. We showed the world that the Filipino is not a slave or a coward. We showed the world that the Filipino not only treasures freedom, but is prepared to make the supreme sacrifice for freedom.

Sa lugar na ito ay nagkaisa ang sambayanan. Kawal, dukha, may pangalan o walang kaalaman, may pera o wala, ang nabibilang sa lahat ng uri ng pamumuhay at sektor ng lipunan ay nagtungo sa EDSA upang magsama-sama at makibaka.

Hindi dapat makakalimutan ng kasaysayan o ng mga darating pang henerasyon ng Pilipino ang mga ginawa noon ni Heneral na naging Pangulong Fidel V. Ramos. Nang dumating ang pagsubok ng kanyang konsiyensiya, malinaw at matapang ang kanyang sagot: hindi siya papayag na maisasantabi lamang ang hangarin ng kanyang mga kababayan. Sa kanyang pananaw, ipinakita niya na hindi siya takot na mamatay upang mabalik lamang ang puri at dangal ng kawal Pilipino. Pumunta siya sa Kampo Heneral Aguinaldo at doo'y pinahayag sa buong kapuluan na mamatay man siya, hindi niya matatanggap na isiping walang mga heneral at kawal na may tibay ang loob na ialay ang kanilang buhay para sa demokrasya at kalayaan.

Nang nanawagan ang ating minamahal na Cardinal Sin na magpunta tayo sa EDSA, milyun-milyon ay kusang-loob na umalis sa ating mga tahanan at iniwan ang seguridad ng ating mga pamilya upang manindigan.

Noong nagkatipun-tipon tayo, pamipamilya, nagkatipun-tipon ang sambayanan sa EDSA, ni minsan ay hindi naalis sa ating isipan ang dalawang dahilan kung bakit naghintay lamang ang bayang Pilipino ng pagkakataong ipakita na 'di tayo papayag na maging alipin pa ng diktadurya. Nasa isipan at damdamin ng marami sa atin ang dugong inialay ni Ninoy Aquino upang patunayan sa kanyang mga kababayan na ang buhay ng bawa't Pilipino ay nilikha ng Diyos upang ipaglaban ang kalayaan ng inang bayan. Sinabi nga niya the Filipino is worth dying for. Nasa isipan at puso ng bawa't Pilipino ang panawagan ni Cory Aquino, ang ating napakatapang na Bayani na tumakbo bilang pangulo kontra sa kalakasan ng diktadurya na huwag umatras sabi niya sa atin, huwag umatras sa harap ng mga armas, pananakot, at panunuhol ng diktadurya.

At kung si Fidel Ramos ay nagpamalalas ng dangal ng mga kawal, si Cory Aquino naman ang ating inspirasyon para sa buong sambayanan, konsiyensiya ng bayan at simbolo ng kalayaang malapit nang muling makamtan ng lahat nung nandoon tayo sa EDSA. At ganoon na ang nakamit nating muli ang Kalayaan.

Sa Manila, ang mga walang kapangyarihan, ang mga walang armas, ay nagbantay at tiniyak ang kaligtasan ng mga kawal; sa Cebu, nagsimula sa pamamagitan ng mga pahayag ni Cory Aquino, na ang panlaban sa kadiliman ay pananampalataya. Hiniling ni Cory Aquino na magdasal ang mga madre sa Cebu; nanawagan si Cardinal Sin na magdasal ang mga madre sa Maynila. Sa EDSA, at sa milyun-milyong mga bahay sa buong kapuluan, inialay ng mga pari at madre at mga pamilyang Pilipino ang ating mga panalangin sa Poong Maykapal.

Sabi natin sa kampanya nung 1986, tama na, sobra na, palitan na, sabi natin. Ito ang naging panawagan ng bayan nung mag-Snap Election, ito rin ang naging panawagan ng bayan sa EDSA.

Tama na sa pagtatakip sa kagustuhan ng lahat na tayo ay maging malaya.

Sobra na ang pang-aabuso ng karapatang pantao ng Pilipino.

Tama na sa pakikipagtulungan sa mga ahente ng kadiliman.

Sobra na ang baluktot kailangan palitan ang baluktot upang maituwid ang lahat.

We are here today because we believe the spirit of EDSA 1 and the spirit of EDSA 2 — which is only one spirit — continues to live. But the spirit of EDSA 1 and 2 has to be deepened and transformed, if it is to live on for generations to come.

People power must be transformed into a force for nation- building.

In 1986 and then in 2001, a million people trekked to EDSA and the EDSAs of our other cities. The people sacrificed, we all sacrificed our energies, our time, and even risked their lives first to topple a dictatorship, and then to topple a corrupt government.

16 years after EDSA 1, one year after EDSA 2, we still look with deep sadness at the plight of our poor, some of whom, unfortunately and understandably, have started to believe that EDSA doesn't really matter much for them.

There is now a call to our people, to our leaders who have kept aflame the spirit of people power.

This is now the call, it is not a call to summon our courage to fight just with prayers and flowers, a dictatorship or a corrupt regime.

It is not a call for massing at EDSA and committing to stay here for days until an enemy of the people falls.

The people power call of today to our people is: bare the heavier responsibility for building our nation not just for four days, but day in and day out, for years, even for a generation.

Kaya tama yung sabi jim paredes kanina, bawat isa sa atin kailangan may kabayanihan ng pang-araw-araw. Kaya meron tayong kahon at meron tayong mga papeles na sabi nitong kilusan ni jim na dapat ilagay natin ang ating pangako — at ilang pangako na ang binasa ni Joe Concepcion kaninang mga halimbawa, pangako ng iba't-ibang mga na-submit na ng kanilang resolusyon. Dito ang sabi nito isabuhay ang EDSA. Matapat na pamamahala tugon sa kahirapan.

At ito ang aking nilagay: bilang Pilipino ako ay higit na makikinig. Ako ay higit na magpapasensiya na makinig sa taong-bayan. Ito ang handog ko sa bansang Pilipino. Lagda, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

If we could put our lives on the line in EDSA in 1986 and 2001, we can certainly sacrifice just a small part of our character, or our wealth, or our time in building a new Philippines. If we can tap even just one-hundredth of the tremendous energy and patriotism of EDSA 1 and EDSA 2 in the next few years, we can build a better, prosperous Philippines.

This new people power, the real EDSA 3 — not the one that happened last may but the one that we will do together through our little pledges that will be fulfilled everyday of our lives the next few years — this real EDSA 3 will not be as dramatic, it will not even be as glorious as EDSA 1 and EDSA 2; and there will be no date, February 25 or January 20, when this real EDSA will be celebrated because it is for every day of our lives.

And its heroes unlike the very clear icons, Cory and Cardinal, FVR, the heroes of EDSA 3 will be anonymous. But its struggle cannot be undertaken in days, but in years, even decades. Its battlefield will not be here at EDSA but in

our country's shanty areas and in the poorest farms of our Country. And yes, even in Basilan where the ultimate enemy is not the Abu Sayyaf, but the ultimate enemy is poverty.

Thus, this new people power's enemy will not be a dictatorial regime or a corrupt government, this new people power's enemy will be the scourge of poverty.

The rich and the middle-class demonstrated their patriotism at the past two EDSAs. But the new EDSA will require more of the rich and the middle-class: for you to give your time, your energy, and your resources. even as the rich have found myriad forms of toppling two regimes, the rich and the middle-class, they will find ways and means to help our poor.

And the new EDSA's enemy will not only be the scourge of poverty, the new EDSA's enemy will also be ourselves. It will require changing the culture of corruption in our country, in such mundane things, as mentioned earlier, as refusing to pay bribes for traffic violation or for getting a clearance from a government office; and of course giving up the culture of bribe-asking.

It will require a real concern for capital to give more of their profits to their workers. But it will also require our unions to look with more realism their wage demands. It will require our politicians to look at their positions not as posts for rent-seeking and ego trips, but as opportunities to really serve the people. But also it will require the citizens looking at government not as something we demand benefits and dole-outs from, but a people's state we should always be asking, "how can we help the government do its job?"

Magtulongan tayo para labanan ang kahirapan, para paunlarin ang ating bayan.

Ito ang bagong People Power para sa unang dekada ng siglo biente uno. Ito ang pakikibakang inilulunsad natin. Tulungan ninyo ako sa pakikibakang ito.

Mga kaibigan, salamat sa inyong pagdalo itong araw na ito. Salamat sa inyong pagdalo nung People Power 2. At alam ko pinasasalamatan tayo sa ating pagdalo nung People Power 1. Magdasal tayo ngayon — nagdasal tayo nung People Power 1, nagdasal tayo nung People Power 2 — magdasal tayo muli ngayon dahil ngayon hindi drama ang hinihintayng taong-bayan kung hindi yung araw-araw na maliliit na sakripisyo sa bawat ating lahat.

Maraming salamat at happy EDSA Anniversary sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 16th Anniversary Celebration of the EDSA People Power Revolution. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230422/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7607&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Fire Prevention Month

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Fire Prevention Month

[Delivered at the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta, March 1, 2002]

Maraming salamat kay Secretary Joey Lina. Ang ating napakasipag at napakagaling magpahayag ng mga napaka-importanteng ideya ng pamahalaan, si Secretary Joey Lina, Secretary of Local Government.

Binabati ko rin si Undersecretary Wencilito Andanar na siya ang namamahala sa peace and order, at kasama na rin iyung kanyang pagtutulong sa pagpalakad ng Bureau of Fire Protection; at nagpapasalamat ako sa kanya at saka sa inyo, dahil noong may 1 ay nandoon kayo nagbabantay sa perimeter ng Malacañang. Binabati ko rin siyempre ang inyong namumuno, iyung nag-welcome sa akin kanina, iyung namumuno sa Bureau of Fire Protection, si Chief Superintendent or General Francisco Senot; iba't-ibang officials ng DILG, iba't-ibang mga namumuno sa iba't-ibang mga ahensya sa ilalim ng DILG. At gusto kong pasalamatan iyung ating mga volunteer friends, iyung chinese community napaka-masipag; at siyempre kayo mga babae at lalaki, ating mga napakasipag na mga kasapi ng bureau of fire protection; mga panauhin; mga kaibigan:

Gusto kong batiin kayo dito sa pagbukas natin ng fire prevention month. Itong araw na ito, gaya ng sabi ni Joey Lina at sabi ni General Senot, first time na ang pangulo mismo ay ang dumalo sa pagsimula ng fire prevention month. Para sa akin, importante na magkaroon tayo ng fire prevention month para maalala nating lahat na napakahalaga na mag-iwas ng sunog.

Ako, matagal na, hindi pa ako Presidente, ni hindi pa ako politician, hindi pa ako public servant, housewife pa lamang ako noon, tuwing fire prevention month, iyun ang ginagamit ko pagdating ng fire prevention month na bilang paalala na tatawagin iyung electrician para i-check iyung electrical connections ng aking tahanan. Kaya noon pa, para sa akin importante na ang fire prevention month bilang paalala. At sana ngayon bilang pangulo, kaya ako'y naririto, ako'y nananawagan sa lahat ng mga nagpapatakbo ng tahanan, nagpapatakbo ng gusali, na sana iyun ang ginagawa n'yo 'pag fire prevention month, gamitin ninyo yun bilang routine na tatawag ng certified electrician para tingnan ang electrical connection ng inyong mga gusali dahil napakaraming mga sunog ay nanggagaling sa faulty wiring. Kaya iyan ang isang magandang gawain 'pag fire prevention month.

Buong buwan natin itong ginaganap para itanim sa ating isipan na dapat nating gawin ang lahat ng paraan upang hindi tayo makaranas nang masunugan.

Napakalungkot iyung nasusunugan. Halimbawa, kahit na iyung mayayaman na nakita kong nasusunugan, napakalungkot dahil lahat ng mga sentimental aspects ng kanilang ari-arian ay nawawala. Although sila, usually may insurance kung pag-uusapan ho iyung pera, nababalik naman ang pera sa kanila, pero meron silang mga memories na hindi mababalik, na hindi mabibili muli.

Ngunit mas lalo naman iyung mahihirap 'pag nawawalaan ng tahanan dahil sa sunog. Ilang mga squatter area ang napuntahan ko na dahil nagkaroon ng sunog, ilang mga palengke ang kinailangang pondohan ko o nagko-contribute ako noong ako pa ay senador para matayo muli. At doon sa mga palengke usually, nakikita ko 'pag tinatanong ko, "bakit? Papano nagsimula? Bakit ba madalas na ang palengke ay nasusunog?" usually, nagsisimula doon sa mga karinderia, doon sa mga gas, mga gas, iyung mga oxygen tank, iyung mga gas tanks na pumuputok, kaya iyun din ang isang kailangang ginagawa natin 'pag fire prevention month: iyung mga gas cylinders ay kailangang kinocorrect. At siguro pagkakataon din na ang mga Department of Trade and Industry na magkakaroon ng spot inspection sa lahat ng mga gas cylinders na ibinebenta sa iba't-ibang mga lugar.

At iyun namang mga mahihirap doon sa mga liblib o kaya doon sa mga hindi naman talaga liblib pero nandito sa ginta na siyudad kaya lang makipot iyung mga daanan kaya kahit na meron tayong magigiting na fire volunteers ay hindi makakaabot ang mga fire truck, iyun din ay dapat ding hanapan ng paraan kung papano mareresulbahan iyung madaling umapaw, madaling kumalat na mga sunog sa mga lugar na iyon.

Isa na marahil talaga sa pinakamabigat na maaaring maganap kaninuman ay maging biktima ng sunog. Ilang ang namamatay sa sunog. Alam ko rin iyung mga ilang mga halimbawa ng namamatay sa sunog — iyung mga rehas na sarado. Kaya pagdating ng sunog hindi nila nabubuksan. At napakalungkot, nakikita natin sila, nakikita ng mga firemen, nakikita ng telebisyon sumisigaw, humihingi ng saklolo pero hindi makakalabas dahil iyung rehas ay nakatakip. Hindi naman masamang maglagay ng rehas sa mga bintana ngunit dapat iyung rehas ay nabubuksan. Kung kayo ay takot sa magnanakaw, well, pwede n'yong lagyan ng susi mula sa loob para sa ganon kapag may sunog ay mabubuksan din ninyo. Kaya iyan din ay isang dapat gawin sa fire prevention month: iyung mga tahanan, iyung mga gusali na may rehas iyung mga bintana. Hindi natin sinasabing tanggalin n'yo iyung rehas pero ibahin n'yo iyung design, lagyan n'yo ng konting butas na may pwerta at rehas pa rin iyung pwerta pero lagyan n'yo ng susi sa loob pero iyung pwedeng mabubuksan, 'pag ganon ay meron tayong matatakanan 'pag dumadating ang sunog.

May kasabihan tayong hindi na baleng manakawan, huwag lamang masunugan. Ang sunog ay walang pinipili at lahat ay kinukuha pati na ang buhay na kanyang nadadaan.

Kaya dito sa ating fire prevention month, marami tayong dapat gawin at maraming dapat gawin para mag-prevent. Pero isa ang dapat nating gawin ay 'pag dumating na nga iyung sunog at nandiyan na iyung hindi natin naiwasan, isang kailangang dapat nating gawin ay gamitin itong pagkakataon para magpasalamat doon sa mga nagtataya ng kanilang buhay para patayin iyung apoy at sagipin iyung sinusunugan, walang iba iyung ating mga fire fighters at saka iyung mga fire volunteers.

I salute our gallant fire fighters who risk life and limb to save persons and properties from fire. You have shown the true meaning of courage and commitment to public safety and welfare.

Iyung buong mundo noong September 11 ay isa sa nakita ng buong mundo kung gaano kadakila ang ating mga fire fighters ng buong mundo. Iyung New York Fire Department, sila ngayon ang bayani ng buong mundo. Ngunit kung anuman iyung New York Fire Department with all of their modern equipment ay ginagalang bilang bayani, ako rin, kayo, ating mga fire fighters ng pilipinas, ay hindi kayo nagkukulang sa kabayanihan dahil kayo hindi maganda ang equipment ninyo pero ganon pa rin kayo katapang.

Nine hundred pa raw ang ating bayan na walang fire truck. At kung pag-uusapan natin, magkano ang fire truck, iyung pinakamura two-and-a-half million, iyung nararapat, five million. Kaya sa nine hundred na bayan na wala pang fire truck ay kailangan ng bilyong-bilyong piso na wala naman doon sa budget. Kaya sabi ni Undersecretary Wency Andanar ay sinisikap na gumawa ng project proposal sa Obuchi Fund ng hapon para sa ganon makahanap tayo ng tulong.

Ngunit tinitingnan natin ang budget ng fire protection. Alam ba n'yo kung magkano ang kanyang capital outlay budget? 37 million pesos. Ilang fire truck ang mabibili ng 37 million pesos? Nagpapasalamat tayo sa mga congressmen at senators dahil nagdagdag sila ng mga 55 million pesos para sa kanilang mga paboritong distrito at constituency. So, kahit na saan naman 'yun, para sa atin basta makumpleto iyung nine hundred ay nagpapasalamat tayo. Ngunit talagang napakaliit iyung 37 million pesos ng Bureau of Fire Protection. Para sa akin kaysa may konting may magandang fire truck, ang iniisip ko sana sikapin na lahat na mga bayan, lahat ng mga community ay meron man lamang namang sanang fire pump para sa ganon lalo na iyung mga maliliit na bayan ay magkakaroon ng paraan kung papano maiwasan iyung mga sunog at kung papano iyung inyong trabaho, mga bureau of fire protection, ay magiging mas magaan.

Kaya doon sa 37 million na capital outlay ng ating bureau of fire protection ay tatapatan ko mula sa president's social fund ng 37 million para makabili tayo, hindi para sa fire truck — kontilang ang matutulungan ng 37 million na fire truck — pero sa fire pump para maraming mga maliliit na bayan at malalaking barangay na siksik ay

matutulungan natin at sa ganon, kayo ating mga gallant fire fighters ay makakatuloy ng inyong pagka-bayani na ang inyong mga buhay naman ay ligtas din.

Congratulations! happy fire prevention month. At gawin nating lahat, mamamayan at pamahalaan, kung ano ang dapat gawin para iwasan ang sunog.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Fire Prevention Month. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230402/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7635&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Intelligence Summit

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the National Intelligence Summit

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, March 6, 2002]

Thank you very much Roi, my National Security Adviser.

Senator Jun Magsaysay; Governor Dolfo del Rosario; Mayor Monching Gico; Secretary Bert Gonzalez; Commissioner Andrea Domingo and NBI Director Wycoco representing DOJ; Undersecretary Andanar Representing DILG; Undersecretary Brion representing DOLE; Undersecretary Cesar Garcia of NICA; Undersecretary Gacis Representing DND; Summit Participants; honored guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Parati kong sinasabi na ang Pilipinas ay tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. Ngunit itong manggagawang Pilipino ay mamumulaklak lamang ang kanyang kadakilaan at produktibidad kapag may kapayapaan sa kanyang tahananang bayan. at iyung kapayapaan, iyung pagmentene ng ating kapayapaan, malaki ang kinalaman kung gaano kagaling ang ating intelligence community.

And so, this is the reason why I asked Roi Golez to convene an Intelligence Summit.

In the field of security, the foremost enemy of any nation is surprise. It can happen anywhere — Sipadan, Dos Palmas, Cotabato, Manila. It can happen in Beirut or Paris, New York or Washington. The weapon involved could be a crude bomb or a car, or an entire plane. It could happen to the poorest country, or to the most powerful nation in the world.

Surprise is the advantage of small, clandestine cells operating beyond the primary focus of intelligence networks. Again and again, it has been proven that intelligence systems, no matter how elaborate and sophisticated, have loopholes somewhere. These loopholes are a result of either human or technical failure. They are somehow discovered by terrorist cells that gain an advantage, which enables them to strike at will, with deadly effect.

Intelligence simply means information — vital information that is collected, assessed and delivered in timely fashion. Timely is the key word, because a minute late could prove fatal.

Analysts who have looked into the September 11 attacks in the United States point out that the signs pointing to such an event were extant at the time. The possible use of aircraft was already being considered a long time before the event. This was borne out by intelligence gathered from terrorist cells right here in the Philippines. Deep intelligence from within Afghanistan also showed that something big was being hatched. Something ominous and foreboding was in the air, but no one could put a finger on it.

This only proves the point that pieces of intelligence are useless if they exist in isolation. Someone has to fit the pieces together, as in a jigsaw puzzle. Someone has to analyse the patterns to discover a definite form in them. Information has to be integrated to be useful at a strategic level.

The job of intelligence gathering is different from the job of integration. Gathering intelligence is like reaping the crop. Integrating it is like separating the chaff from the grain, and harvesting the nutrients from it. Both jobs require diligence, imagination, excellence and most of all, commitment to a high cause.

That is why we have some of the most dedicated and patriotic people in the intelligence services. We have eminent persons from the private sector like former DILG secretary Raffy Alunan. You, who are here are the people who

work to put a face to the enemy, deny him the advantage of maneuver, pinpoint where he lies and lead our forces to defeat him.

Integration is the key. The purpose of this summit is to put our minds together so that we can think as one, plan as one and act as one against the common enemy.

Two months ago, when I announced that I wanted this summit to take place — this was at the graduation ceremonies of the PNP Academy in Silang, Cavite — I said the basic purpose of intelligence is to enhance national security not only by supporting police and military operations, but by informing policy makers of the challenges that are relevant to effective governance. At that point, I also enumerated the objectives of this summit: reorganization; rapid threat assessment; determination of information requirements vital to military, political, economic and social imperatives, cyber security and law enforcement; data base integration, human resource development, international cooperation and counter intelligence.

Let me, however, define the challenge in simpler terms. We all know that there is a lot of information of intelligence value out there. The government has the most elaborately spread network to gather it, stretching from the national, regional, provincial, municipal and barangay levels. Theoretically, we have eyes and ears in every nook and cranny of the land. There is no organization that can beat the depth and breadth of the government.

But sad to say, we are a seriously fragmented organization when it comes to information sharing and management. We have a multiplicity of data bases. Departments do not always communicate with each other effectively and efficiently. Work tends to be compartmentalized and canalized within each department and agency. Turf issues abound. the prevalent attitude is that i-have-my-job-to-do-and-i-don't-care-how-you-do- yours.

Getting our act together. This is the basic problem we have to face, even before we go into the more esoteric issues. We have to unlearn the turf mentality and get into the team mode. This is the essence of the homeland strategy of the United States. Every agency of government, every sector of society, every state, every county, every citizen must lock into a single, overriding idea — the security of the country from terrorism.

We must build on the same concept, even if the challenges are different here. Every department and agency, every local government unit, every extension worker, every law enforcer or development officer, every group in civil society, every community, church and people's organization — everybody must be focused and determined to surmount the two most formidable enemies of our republic today — one is poverty and the other is crime and terrorism.

In the modern world, almost all aspects of development and security are interrelated. Agricultural development has a security content because joblessness in the rural areas leads to increased dissidence. Agrarian reform is vital to security because social injustice invites revolutionary fervor. The lack of education leads to irrational violence. Where there is poverty, ignorance, injustice — there is conflict. And where conflict acquires an ideological dimension, we have a problem of national security.

And there are new challenges that arise in the midst of every growing democracy like ours. Political and economic destabilization is fomented by rumor, intrigue, disinformation. Political partisanship becomes an occasion for subverting institutions of governance. Clandestine designs creep into the armed services and the law enforcement agencies. There is a sense of constant fragility that cannot be easily overcome.

But democracy, as we have seen, has its own great defenses. The rule of law, good governance, moral leadership — these foundations continue to stand fast impervious to the insidious agents of destabilization.

And so I commend you, the participants for coming up with this integrative effort. I continue to bear a solid respect for our intelligence agencies. We have been able to prevent a number of near tragedies through timely action on crucial information. We have contributed significantly to the international security through accomplishments such as the pre-emption of the plan to assassinate the pope in 1995. The arrest of the would-be assassins led to the discovery of Oplan Bojinka and the eventual arrest of one of the principals in the world trade center bombing of 1993. And

recently, the capture of Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi continues to unearth leads to the malevolence of the Jemaah Islamiya.

The international dimension of intelligence must be given utmost weight. Our trilateral agreement with Indonesia and Malaysia, our defense alliance with America, our role in the international coalition against terrorism and the whole range of our bilateral and multilateral relations must be funneled into the grand design of our nation's security and survival.

I am glad that participation in the summit is not limited to law enforcement and intelligence agencies, but expands to such sectors as the academe — i was very happy to see, for instance, Dr. Villacorta, Dr. Puno — the business sector — i saw Peter Wallace, I saw Bill Luz — NGOs engaged in national security-related issues such as environmental protection and policy research — I saw Vic here — infrastructure owners and security industry organizations. I am happy to see representatives of these sectors here.

There is a whole new environment within and outside our nation. We have to learn to deal with changes in relationships between and among states, between states and non-state actors and international organizations. Trends in global economics and technology continue to move in complex and dynamic ways. goods, services, capital, people and businesses are continually in flux; and even traditional concepts of the family, faith and governance are being challenged. To all these we must address our minds and energies.

I am aware that four inter-agency meetings have been held to discuss the format of this summit. The eight working panels set up pinpoint the corresponding responsibility of every sector or agency involved. May I acknowledge, with appreciation, the chairs, co-chairs and members of all these panels. Thank you very much for working so hard.

Every Filipino must understand that he is both beneficiary and stakeholder in what we are doing here. This should start off an earnest campaign to make our people pro-active and enthusiastic actors in the security and development process. I trust that such participation will be incorporated in the full spectrum of your concerns.

I am confident that the call of duty will enable you to come up with meaningful, relevant and integrated intelligence programs. and I expect your memorandum of outputs after mid-April when you meet again for the summit proper.

In the meantime, thank you for contributing to this great and important effort.

Maraming salamat at magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the National Intelligence Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230355/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7634&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 50th Golden Anniversary of the Lyceum of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 50th Golden Anniversary of the Lyceum of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Lyceum Quadrangle, Intramuros, Manila, March 7, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much Atty. Laurel, President of the Lyceum of the Philippines.

Chief Justice Davide and Mrs. Davide; Dr. Laurel, Chairman of Lyceum and Mrs. Laurel. I would also like to greet Vice President Laurel and Mrs. Celia Laurel. I would like to thank Dr. Africa for the welcome remarks; and to greet also my Ninang, Mrs. Beth-day Romulo; other members of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Lorna Laurel, Mr. Avanceña, Vice Governor Peter Laurel, Ambassador Abaquin, Mrs. Sarah Lopez and Bro. Andre Gonzalez; officers, teaching and non-teaching personnel, and students of the Lyceum of the Philippines; awardees and alumni; ladies and gentlemen:

Ako ay nasisiyahan na makabalik muli dito sa Lyceum. I have looked forward to this opportunity to be able to congratulate you all, on the 50th anniversary of this great institution. It is a very great honor for me to be invited by Lyceum, the institution founded by Dr. Jose Laurel.

Yes, the Laurel family are close friends of the Macapagal family. But even more than that, I would like to let the world know what a great influence Dr. Jose laurel played in the way that my father, the late president Diosdado Macapagal, learned to think.

President Jose Laurel was my father's teacher. And my father always taught me that we never take any single piece of action, or any single decision in isolation. It must always be viewed in the context of an organic whole.

Today we call that strategic thinking as opposed to tactical teaching. In my father's time, he called that fundamental thinking as opposed to expedient thinking. And for a young man like my father, who grew up in the barrio, who went to public school in the province, there was not much opportunity to learn strategic thinking, if you were living on hand-to-mouth existence. But when he came to college and studied law, and was able to be under the tutelage of the great thinker Jose P. Laurel, that was when he learned how to do fundamental thinking.

And so every time I remember or every time anyone talks about former, the late President Jose Laurel, I always remember this is the gentleman who introduced fundamental thinking to Diosdado Macapagal, who then passed on that kind of thinking to his daughter, and that is why I have learned also that everything we do must be part of an organic whole. And therefore, even me, in the way I have put together my own vision and program of government, I owe that through my father to the late president Jose P. Laurel.

Dr. Africa recounted many of the nostalgic and memorable experiences he shared between my father's family, the Macapagals, and President Laurel's family, the Laurels of Lyceum. For instance, my father and Dr. Laurels' father, as mentioned by Dr. Sotero Laurel's father, both became Philippine Presidents, and both were, as mentioned by Dr. Africa, part of the historic Belltrade mission. And both showed a genuine appreciation, not only for fundamental

thinking, but also for education which they passed on to their children. And Dr. Laurel or the late President Jose Laurel's love for education, in fact, led him to establish the institution called the lyceum.

As some of the old-timers here may recall, especially now that Dr. Africa mentioned it to us, it was a great honor for my father to be conferred the title "university professor" by the Lyceum. This gives me much pride, which I share with you on the occasion of your 50th anniversary, and incidentally, the 111th birthday of the founder of lyceum, President Jose. P. Laurel.

Kilala si Dr. Jose P. Laurel hindi lamang bilang pulitiko, yes, he became President. Minsan naging pangulo ng ating republika. Ngunit marami rin ang nakakaalam ng kanyang marubdob na pag-ibig sa bansang sinilangan, na kanyang ipinamalas hindi lamang sa larangan ng pulitika kundi na rin sa larangan ng edukasyon.

Si Dr. Laurel, kasama rin ni Senator Claro M. Recto, ang may-akda ng Rizal Law. Lahat tayo ay dumadaan sa kursong Rizal. Dahil dito, tayo ay namulat sa kagalingan, kagitingan, at sakripisyo ng ating pambansang bayani.

Kaya, hindi nakakapagtaka kung bakit marami sa inyo, mga Lyceans, ang nakibahagi sa dalawang EDSA noong 1986 at 2001. Bilang isang institusyong itinatag na may diwang makabayan, ang Lyceum ay naging bahagi ng laban sa diktadurya at katiwalian sa pamahalaan. Pinatunayan ninyo, mga Lyceans, ang inyong paninindigan noong 1986 at 2001. At tulad ng iba pang mga kabataang bumubuo ng bagong henerasyon ng mga Pilipino, kayo ay nagtipun-tipon sa EDSA sa loob ng apat na araw upang iparating sa ating mga kababayan na handa kayong ialay ang inyong buhay manumbalik lamang ang kinitil na kalayaan at bumabang moralidad sa pamahalaan.

Kayo ay nandoon at kayo ay parang inspirasyon sa mga makabayaning nagawa rin ng binibigyan nating isang parangal itong hapon ito, si Chief Justice Hilario Davide. Si Chief Justice Davide ang tinatawag nilang Filipino of the year. For the year 2001, ay maraming beses nang nakatanggap ng parangal, maraming beses ako ay naroon nung binibigyan siya ng parangal. Ngunit itong sa mga araw na ito, higit na dapat maalala natin ang kabayanihan ni Chief Justice lalo na ngayon na may mga bumabatikos sa kanya para sa kanilang sariling kapakanan. Itong binibigyan na parangal kay Chief Justice Davide ay isang paalala sa buong Pilipinas at sa buong mundo na kahit na binabatikos ang kanyang kabayanihan ay hindi makalilimutan, at parating lilitaw at magiging isang bituin bilang isang halimbawa sa ating mga susunod na henerasyon. Kaya congratulations once again, Chief Justice Davide for being a Filipino for all seasons. Sabi nga ni Dr. Africa, he played a great role in this most recent chapter of our history.

At ngayon naman itong mga araw na ito, muli kong inaasahan ang pakikipagtulungan ng mga kabataan ng Lyceum at ng bagong henerasyon ng kabataang Pilipino.

Kailangan muli tayong magkapit-bisig sa isang panibagong EDSA, ang pangatlong edsang hindi magtatapos sa ika-apat na araw. Ito ay magiging isang tunay na rebolusyong walang petsang kailangang gunitain. Bagkus, isang rebolusyong ating kakalabanin ng maraming taon, ngunit sana isang dekada na lamang. Isang rebolusyong hindi magsisimula at magtatapos sa EDSA, kundi magsisimula at magtatapos sa mga dampa at malalayong kabukiran ng ating bansa. Isang rebolusyon kung saan ang kaaway ay hindi isang diktadurya o hindi man isang tiwaling pamahalaan kundi ang daantaong-tanikalang suliranin ng kahirapan. At sa pagkakataong ito, hindi lamang bulaklak at rosaryo ang magiging panangga natin kagaya noong 1986, kundi ang taas ng ating talino at tatag ng ating paninindigan.

Sama-sama nating labanan ang kahirapan.

Nguni't hindi tayo maaaring sumugod sa laban ng walang dalang sandata. Naniniwala ako na ang susi sa isang mapayapang pagbabago ay ang pag-usbong ng bagong pag-ibig sa edukasyon ng bagong henerasyon.

Ako ay lubos na naniniwala na ang pagpapalawig ng edukasyon ang siyang magiging pangunahing armas tungo sa mataas na antas ng ating pamumuhay, partikular ang pagbibigay ng atensiyon sa agham at matematika.

Sa ngayon, ang Pilipinas ang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. At tamang-tama na itong araw na ito magbibigay din ng parangal ang Lyceum sa overseas Filipino worker, the great Filipino worker. At ako ay nasisiyahan na malaman na maraming nag-aaral sa Lyceum ay nakakapag-aral dito dahil sa napapadalang hanapbuhay ng ating great Filipino worker mula sa ibang bansa. Mayroong pitong milyong Pilipino na tumitira sa ibang bansa, at sila ay nagpapadala ng pitong bilyong dolyares sa Pilipinas taun-taon.

Iyon pong Kirin beer na itong araw na ito ay dumating ang kanyang investments, kahapon pala dumating sa ating bangko ang kanyang investments. 500 million dollars yon. Napakalaking bagay, pinakamalaking investment sa ating bansa for the year 2001. Iyon pong shell investment sa Malampaya, pinakamalaking investment sa ating kasaysayan ay five billion dollars. Pero taun-taon ang ating overseas Filipinos ay nagpapadala ng seven billion dollars. At dahil sa pinapadala nila, nakakapag-aral ang kabataan sa Lyceum, nakakapagtayo ng mga bahay ang maraming Pilipinong siguro hindi na makakapagtayo sa ibang paraan, nagkakaroon ng mga puhunan para magsimula ng mga maliliit na negosyo sa iba't-ibang lugar ng Pilipinas.

Kaya kung ihahambing natin yong mga maaring nangyari o nagkaroong mangyari ng overseas remittances at ihahambing natin dito sa mga wine-welcome nating ibang investments — kaya sinasabi kong overseas Filipino worker ay hindi lamang tinatawag dapat na overseas Filipino worker kungdi overseas Filipino investor. At itong ating overseas Filipino investor, sila ay nagbibigay ng patunay sa buong mundo tungkol sa kagalingan ng Pilipino, tungkol sa kung ano ang ating competitive advantage bilang isang bansa.

Ang ating competitive advantage ay ang ating human resource skills sa service sectors. Ayon sa iba't-ibang pag-aaral, ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino ang nangunguna bilang knowledge workers sa mundo. Walang makakatalo sa dakilang manggagawang Pilipino kung pag-uusapan ay kahusayan, dedikasyon at katapatan sa trabaho. Alam ito ng buong daigdig, at ito ay ating ipinagmamalaki. Kaya paghagis sa pagmamalaki natin ay yung parangal na ibinibigay itong araw na ito sa overseas Filipino worker.

Nguni't hindi ito dapat magsilbing dahilan upang tayo ay maging kampante na lamang. Huwag nating hayaang mawala ang tiwala at paghanga ng mundo sa dakilang manggagawang Pilipino — maging sa ibang bansa nakatira o dito mismo sa Pilipinas. Dapat nating palakasin ang ating edukasyon tungo sa hinaharap, tulad ng nangyayari dito sa Lyceum.

Kilala ang Lyceum bilang isang unibersidad na magaling sa larangan ng foreign service at law. Maraming opisyaales at kawani ng pamahalaan ang dito nagsipagtapos. At marami sa kanila ay bibigyan ng award itong araw na ito bilang outstanding alumni. Wala rito ngayon, pero hindi ba galing dito si Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.? Iyong sa court of appeals, si Justice Amelita Tolentino, hindi ba galing din dito? Si Senator Bobby Barbers, hindi ba galing din dito? At iyong iba-iba pang mga naririto ngayon na maririnig ninyo mamaya ang pangalan kasama ng kanilang pagtitindig upang matanggap ang parangal ng kanilang paaralan.

Hindi ito naging dahilan upang ang Lyceum ay manatiling kampante sa kanyang mga nagawa at nakamit na tagumpay. Ngayon ang buong mundo ay nasa panahong tinatawag na information age, nagkaroon din ng mga pagbabago dito sa Lyceum upang tugunan ang tawag at hamon ng panahon. I am glad to know that the lyceum is in the process of reinventing and reengineering itself.

Isa sa mga pagbabagong napapatupad ng Lyceum ay ang pagtugon sa hamon ng information technology.

The future of the world, the future of the 21st century that our youth will inherit, is truly a new economy spurred by relentless forces such as capital market flows and advances in information and communications technology, at nandoon ang pinakamaraming trabaho. Kanina ako ay naging guest of honor sa inauguration ng Eastwood Cyberpark, at pumasok ako doon sa Eastwood at pumunta ako doon sa isa sa mga maraming call center na naroon, at nilagyan ko ng earphone ang aking sarili at gumaya ako doon sa mga call center operators. Kunyari call center operator doon sa Black and Decker, iyong nagbebenta ng oven toaster, at doon sa scenario may tumawag, may complaint na iyong kanyang toaster ay sira. So tinanong nung operator, "I am Gloria, may I help you?" ganoon. "well I want to complain about my toaster, it's not working so I am calling the calling service or the recall service." may script na binabasa kasi sa computer. "how did you learn about the recall service?" sabi sa kabila, "oh I read it in

the newspaper.” okay, “what is your model?” binigay ang model. And so sa pagbabasa, sinabi, “well, we are very sorry about that. So we will now give you refund within so many days and then you can get your claim, your new unit in this particular place in New Jersey.” buong akala nung tumatawag sa Amerika ay tumatawag siya sa Black and Decker sa New Jersey, pero ang tinatawagan niya yung nandito sa Quezon City, sa Libis, sa Eastwood. At libu-libo ang ating mga kabataan na nagtatrabaho sa ganoon, and in the United States there are about seven million people who are employed in that kind of job but the United States is phasing out that kind of job within itself and it is now moving to other places, and the number one favorite place for moving out to is none other than the Philippines, the home of the great Filipino worker because we have two things now that we didn’t necessarily have before, well we have now, yes, the knowledge worker; secondly, we have now the infrastructure.

When I became President, and I gave my State of the Nation Address to Congress, I said, we must bring down the cost of interconnectivity if we want to promote information technology, where the broadband used to cost 30,000 dollars when I first became President now it costs about 8,000 dollars. That is why we have become competitive not only among our knowledge workers, but even in the infrastructure.

Any university operating in this setting will have to keep in step with these challenges and opportunities. Let me therefore congratulate you, the officials of Lyceum, for your reengineering efforts. I understand that you have streamlined your operations. Nalaman ko, halimbawa, na ang inyong enrollment system ay on-line na. Sa pamamagitan ng on-line enrollment system, ang enlisting time ay nababawasan nang husto at mas kakaunting abala ang naidudulot nito sa ating mga mag-aaral.

Binabati ko rin kayo dahil nalaman ko, nabalitaan ang improved I.T. system ng Lyceum ay lalo pang pinalakas sa pamamagitan ng partnership sa pagitan ng Lyceum at Sun Microsystems sa pagturo ng Java training courses, gayundin sa pamamagitan ng mga kursong may kinalaman sa computer science na ginagamit ng I.B.M.-as 400 environment. Kasi yon ang ating kailangan: kailangan natin ng I.T. professionals, ‘yung certified programs for programmers, kasi ‘yun ang marami ang india dati. Ngayon mayroon na tayong hardware, mayroon na tayong broadband, mayroon na tayong Call Centers, mayroon na tayong magagaling na magsalita at sumagot sa telepono, kailangan natin yung mga technicians na gagawa ng mga programs ng web content ng software — iyon ang mga I.T professionals. At salamat sa Lyceum dahil isa kayo sa pangunahing institusyon na naglalagay ng certified program for programmers — itong Java, itong IBM — iyon ang magbibigay ng trabaho sa ating mga kabataan na manggagaling sa Lyceum ‘pag sila ay nag-graduate na.

My dream is a truly interconnected nation. We must strive to build for the Philippines the highest internet penetration rate in our part of Asia. Such an accomplishment will open up new avenues of knowledge and opportunities for our people, particularly the young.

Tunay nga na ang tema ng inyong Golden Jubilee Anniversary na “Focus on the Future” ay lubhang makabuluhan. Ang ating hinaharap ay narito sa I.T. by fine-tuning your curriculum and preparing new courses to ensure relevance, all in the name of competitiveness, you are preparing your students for the 21st century. You are preparing the students not only to become great Filipino workers but also great Filipino entrepreneurs.

Kaya, hindi ako magtataka kung, sa mga susunod na taon, ang Lyceum ay hindi lang makikilala sa foreign service at law kundi pati na rin sa information technology at engineering. Kasi hindi ba sa inyo nanggaling ang topnotcher ng 2001 Electronics and Communication Engineer Licensure Examination?

Mga mag-aaral at opisyaes ng Lyceum, magtulungan tayo sa bagong EDSA sa unang dekada ng siglo beinte uno. Malaki ang aking paniniwala na sa ating walang sawang pagpupunyagi at sa ating patuloy na pananalangin sa maykapal ay makakamtan natin ang minimithing kaunlaran para sa bawa’t Pilipino. Magtulungan tayo para paunlarin ang ating bayan, ang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Let us all work together in building a new Philippines. Para naman iyong mga pinaghirapan ng ating mga OFWs, para ang kanilang anak ay makakapag-aral sa Lyceum at makakakuha ng napakagandang edukasyon, lahat nito gawin nating nararapat at bale sa ganoon kung masugpo natin ang problema ng kahirapan sa loob ng isang dekada

malaki ang ating maibibigay na pasasalamat sa ating OFWs, sa ating mga kabataan ngayon at sa ating mga institusyon na hindi nagpapaiwan ng panahon, mga institusyon kagaya ng Lyceum of the Philippines.

Happy Golden Anniversary and Thank You.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 50th Golden Anniversary of the Lyceum of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230340/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7633&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremonies of the Framework Plan for Women in celebration of International Women's Day

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremonies of the Framework Plan for Women in celebration of International Women's Day**

[Delivered at the Philippine Sports Arena, Pasig City, March 2, 2002]

Ang kapangyarihan ng kababaihan Pilipino ay napaka-importante sa pangkalahatang kapakanan ng ating tinatawag na *human resources*. Mahaba na ang ating naabot pero mahaba pa rin ang ating kailangang maabot bago natin masabi na buong-buo na ang kapangyarihan ng ating kababaihan.

Ang problema ng kahirapan sa Pilipinas ay meron pa ring mukha ng kababaihan. Maraming kababaihan ay tuloy pa ring nagdurusa from *physical and emotional battery*. Kaya ang mga asal ay kailangan pang mapalitan. Ang mga istraktura ng pamayanan at kultura ay kailangan pa ring maisaayos at magkaroon ng pagbabago.

Noong isang taon, nagbigay ako ng instruction sa *National Council on the Role of Filipino Women* na magsulat ng isang *draft framework plan for women* kasama yoong mga kasalukuyang patakaran at yoong tinatawag na *emerging women's* concerns at ating mga panukalang patakaran tungkol sa kababaihan.

Makikita ninyo ang *video* nitong *summary* ng sinulat nila. Hindi pa ito ang *launching* dahil bago ko i-formalize at i-release iyung *executive order*, meron pa akong ibang gustong kong siguraduhin ayon sa patakaran ng ating pamahalaan.

Ganunpaman, mabuti't meron na tayong isang matatawag na *penultimate draft*. At kapag mayroon na tayong plano, magkakaroon na ng mas konkretong saligan sa pagplano ng mga ahensya at para sa pag-budget sa mga *gender and development project*. At dahil may plano, pwedeng magkaroon ng sagot doon sa mga kakulangan sa kasalukuyang *gender mainstreaming activities*.

Itong bagong plano ay inaasahan natin makapagbibigay ng espesyal na atensyon sa dalawang bagay: una, *women's economic empowerment*; at pangalawa, *protection of women's rights*. Sa dalawang importanteng bahaging ito, idinagdag din ng *Commission on the Role of Filipino Women* ang *gender sensitivity* sa governance.

Sa planong ito, inaasahan natin na ang pinakamahirap na kababaihan at mga kababaihan sa kanayunan ang pangunahing magkakamit ng benepisyo.

Sa ngayon, isa sa malaking programa ng pamahalaan ay ang para sa kababaihan. Para sa akin, ang *economic empowerment* para sa kababaihan ay iyung tinatawag na *Grameen Banking Strategy* o *microfinance*. Ang ating hangarin ay matulungan ng NCRFW ang NAPC na makamit ng 300,000 kababaihan ang benepisyo sa *microfinance* taun-taon. Sa ganoon, sa loob ng *three-and-a-half years* ng kasalukuyang administrasyon, isang milyong kababaihan ang makapasok sa *microfinance* at magkakaroon ng pagkakataong makapag-hanapbuhay.

Sa pamamagitan ng planong ito, inaasahan din natin na mapaganda ang implementasyon ng mga patakaran na nagtatanggol sa karapatan ng kababaihan sa bagay ng *human rights*. In other words, through this plan, we shall

focus on abused women, violence against women, the protection of the girl-child, and measures to combat trafficking of women and children.

Noong ako ay nagsalita sa *United Nations General Assembly*, ang sabi ko ay habang hindi natin nasasagot ang pagbibigay ng kapangyarihan at karapatan ng kababaihan, hindi natin masasabi na nasugpo natin ang problema ng kahirapan ng mga bansa.

At sa loob ng isang taon mula noon, may isang malaking pangyayari – ang 9-11. Ang giyera kontra sa terorismo. At isa sa parati kong sinasabi sa buong mundo ay ang laban kontra sa terorismo ay kambal na laban kontra sa kahirapan. Ngunit ngayon, gusto kong idagdag na hindi natin masasabi na nasugpo ang kahirapan kung hindi natin mapapairal ang kapangyarihan at karapatan ng kababaihan. Ang laban kontra sa terorismo, ang laban kontra sa kahirapan ay kambal din ng laban para sa karapatan at kapangyarihan ng kababaihan.

Halimbawa, iyung mga bansa o ang mga pamayanan kung saan mas umiiral ang terorismo, iyon din ang mga lipunan kung saan mas umiiral ang abuso sa kababaihan. Tingnan ninyo ang Afghanistan sa ilalim ng Taliban. Tingnan ninyo ang Abu Sayyaf sa Basilan at pakinggan ninyo ang mga testimonya ng mga kababaihang *hostages*, *nag-testify* na sila ay ginahasa ng mga Abu Sayyaf.

Kaya kung pag-uusapan natin ang karapatan ng kababaihan sa Pilipinas, kailangang masugpo ang terorismo ng Abu Sayyaf kung gusto natin mapigil ang panggagahasa sa ating kababaihan sa katimugan.

Ngunit para bang nabaliktad ang mundo. Mayroong nagsasabi na kapag tayo ay humihingi ng tulong sa Amerikano na *i-train* ang ating sundalo para masugpo natin ang Abu Sayyaf, iyon daw ay kontra-kababaihan. Ang kontra-kababaihan ay ang Abu Sayyaf, hindi ang mga sumusugpo sa Abu Sayyaf.

At para matiyak na kahit na ang mga tumutulong sa atin na sugpuin ang Abu Sayyaf ay tunay na magtatanggol at rerespeto ng karapatan ng kababaihan, ginawa kong tatlo na lang ang miyembro ng *Visiting Forces Commission*. Sila ay manggagaling sa DFA, DND, at saka DSWD. Ang tanging tungkulin ni Dinky Soliman ng DSWD ay siguraduhin na ang karapatan ng kababaihan ay ginagalang kahit na may *visiting forces* dito.

Noong araw, *according to visiting forces rule, soldiers are not supposed to leave their camps*, dahil ayaw natin ng *prostitution*. Ano ang nangyari? Dinadala naman iyung mga *prostitutes* sa loob ng kampo. Sabi ko, kaysa ganyan, diretsuhin na natin: *the rules and regulations must say that the visiting forces are not allowed to procure the services of prostitutes*. So ang patakaran natin ngayon, lantaran. Kung gusto nilang lumabas, pwede silang lumabas basta *guided* para masigurado na walang *prostitutes* na pinapasok sa kampo at walang *prostitutes* na *dine-date* doon sa labas ng kampo. Iyan ang paraan upang masigurado natin ang proteksyon ng karapatan ng kababaihan na walang eksplorasyon. Ngunit mas importanteng sugpuin natin iyung nanggagahasa sa ating kababaihan – ang mga Abu Sayyaf. Naging bahagi na ng kanilang terorismo ang manggahasa ng ating kababaihan.

Isang importanteng bahagi ng *framework plan for women* ay ang tungkol sa *reproductive rights* ng kababaihan. Gusto kong siguraduhin na ang patakaran na nakalagay doon ay sang-ayon sa *population policy* ng ating kasalukuyang administrasyon.

Ayon sa ating Konstitusyon, importante ang *responsible parenthood*. Ibig sabihin nito’y dapat pinag-aaralan ng magulang ang tungkulin sa pamilya, sa mga anak, sa isa’t-isa. Bahagi nito ang pagdedesisyon kung ilan ang bilang ng anak na kaya nilang palakihin na may dignidad. Ang kanilang desisyon ay kailangang sang-ayon sa paniniwala ng relihiyon at kultura ng bawa’t mag-asawa.

Iyan ang ating patakaran. Kaya gusto kong siguraduhin na itong mga patakaran na ito ay nakalagay doon, klaro at walang magagawang anumang *misinterpretation*.

Isang taon mula ng tayo ay huling nagkita, nagkaroon na tayo ng hakbang. At pinapanalangin ko na sa susunod na taon, mararamdaman na ng ating kababaihan ang implementasyon nito para sa gayon makatulong ito sa pagsugpo ng

kahirapan at eksploytasyon ng kababaihan. Ito rin ay makakadagdag ng kapangyarihan sa kababaihan sa ating bagong siglo.

Happy International Women's Day sa ating lahat. Thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

Speech of President Arroyo during the 79th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Women's University (PWU)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 79th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Women's University (PWU)**

[Delivered at the PICC Plenary Hall, Roxas Blvd, March 8, 2002]

I am very happy to be here today with the community of the Philippine Women's University, especially on this very important day, the day for women. It is appropriate to begin the celebration of Women's Day by being with the Women's University. And on a personal note, being with the Philippine Women's University on this very important day for women, makes me feel that I am with a woman whom I love very dearly, even up to today beyond her life, my mother the late first lady Evangelina Macaraeg Macapagal, herself an Alumna of Philippine Women's University.

Actually, even I did some studies in PWU, not academic studies but I learned some lessons with the Bayanihan being taught by no less than mommy Urtula, herself. This was when my father was president of the Philippines and there were occasions when, specifically for the king and queen of Thailand, and the Crown Prince and princess of Japan who are now the Emperor and Empress of Japan. My mother decided that the cultural presentations would be done by me, and so I took lessons with Bayanihan, and I was very happy that at that time, I learned much about the repertory of Bayanihan, and the dances that mommy Urtula taught me were new dances that she had just discovered from her research all over the Philippines. And so it made me very familiar with how Bayanihan works, not only by making everybody a skilled dancer, but also by doing research and therefore bringing out many hidden treasures of our culture and making them part now of our public property. I appreciate Bayanihan for all the things that I learned then.

And of course, you my dear graduates, I congratulate our graduates of this year. You are the pride of family and kin. You are the pride of your institution, you are the pride of our nation. And as we have been saying today, today is International Women's Day. Today, the world honors women as the pillar of the home, the workplace and society. As women, our historical struggle is steep in glory and achievement, sacrifice and heroism. But sadly, millions of women around the world still struggle for emancipation and freedom, we must continue to embrace their cause with fervor and zeal.

Until every woman is liberated from the shackles of oppression, ignorance and poverty, there will be no real peace, no real justice, no real progress for mankind.

I sincerely thank the PWU for the Hiyas ng Pamantasan Award presented to me. I humbly accept it as part of the continuing honor bestowed upon my family by this institution.

In his time, my father, the late president Diosdado Macapagal – I believe in this very hall – also received the Conrado Benitez Centenary Heritage Award for being the shining exemplar of the finest virtues, and the noblest tasks that make a man and president of his people, a truly great Filipino.

My mother – that was in this hall for sure, because I still have photographs of that – was awarded in 1992 the Francisca Tirona Benitez Medal of Merit. I am awed by these honors and I thank you with all my heart. After all, as I said earlier, my late mother was a Philwomanian, a graduate of PWU's High School – she was an intern, even her piano was an intern and some of her best friends then became her best friends all throughout her life until the end of her days. She was always proud of her days at the Philippine Women's University.

The values inculcated – diligence, achievement, the quest of good and decency – continue to guide me and my family. These values were nurtured and reinforced in the very halls of the institution of Philippine Women's University.

The hallmarks of achievement are abundant in your great university. As mentioned earlier, yours is the oldest women's university in Asia. And one of its founders was the legendary Francisca Tirona Benitez, a champion of women power. Even in the male dominated early 20th century, she saw the value of education in shoring up women's awareness of their rights. She also founded, not just the PWU, but the civic assembly of women in 1946, the forerunner of the national commission on the role of Filipino women.

The graduates of your institution were molded by the illustrious former senator Helen Benitez. And Tita Helen is the only Filipina who has served as the chairperson of the UN commission on the status of women. And under her stewardship, the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Folk Company which I spoke about, because I had a chance to dance with them or learn to dance from them, again, won the gold temple trophy at the festival of international folklore in Italy, early in February this year.

The Women's University counts among your graduates, national awardees. Dr. Luz Belardo for Science, Dr. Lucrecia Urtula for dance, and of course, our Dr. Lucrecia Kasilag for music and happy that she is still with us today.

PWU was also one of the first proponents of the integration of our various cultural communities. It enabled Christian women to understand Filipino Muslim Culture dating from when the sultan of Sulu. By personal invitation of Francisca Tirona Benitez, sent his daughter Princess Emily Kiram, and her cousin Mrs. Rada, to study at the Philippine Women's University.

Many peace – loving Muslim Filipinas have gone through these halls Among them, Dr. Emily Marohomsar, a peacemaker in her own right. And when I was learning how to dance at the PWU, the daughter of my father's secretary for general services, Tomas Sinsuat, was also friend, who was studying at PWU at that time.

PWU is also a trailblazer in distance education. Enabling many Filipinas to pursue learning without leaving their jobs or homes. It is one of the few universities that require the learning of both academic skills and moral values through its social and civic education courses. You, indeed, have upheld a tradition of excellence that must be sustained and preserved.

I am glad that you have also stepped forward into the information age as mentioned by Dr. Benitez. You have been at the helm of e-Learning , eBusiness and e-Commerce you have developed a system approach to gender and development programs and projects. You have set up a star learning network which puts together modules on governance, leadership and peace and order management. All these are relevant to development, progress, good government to a just and progressive society.

It is my policy to encourage schools to tap information technology to provide more students access to higher learning. This is in line with my commitment to make education more accessible and affordable to the broad masses of our people.

In this light, I take note of your suggestions to hasten accreditation of your Masteral Distance Education courses. The pertinent standards for this are now being hammered out by a panel of experts within the Commission on Higher Education. This panel is coordinating closely with the information technology and e-commerce council, and urge you to team up with the CHED in this effort with common standards and norms we can and we shall create an irreversible impetus for distance learning as a tool for national consolidation and development.

Nevertheless, I am directing the CHED to review your proposals in consultation with all other affected institution of higher learning. I would like CHED to submit to me its findings and recommendations by April, 3rd of this year. Let us do this consultation and consensus so that we can move forward as one, undivided force for education and development.

Education for every Filipino is the key to stability and progress. The underpinnings of a globally competitive workforce are an empowered and literate citizenry. Education will bring comfort, security and peace into our lives. Education will strengthen our democracy. We are promoting various modes of delivering quality and relevant education. We are implementing measures that open new educational opportunities for the poor. We aim for better relevance by strengthening our foundations in science and mathematics. We are improving the physical institutional and social infrastructure that allows information and communications technology to flourish. We shall pursue these aims unswervingly. We cannot relent because to do so will only breed more poverty, social injustice and conflict. The empowerment of Filipino women is vital to the overall quality of our human resources. We have a long way to go before we can truly say that our women are fully empowered. Even as I speak, poverty in the Philippines still has the face of a woman.

Many Filipinas continue to suffer from physical and emotional battery. Values have to be changed. Social and cultural structures have to be unraveled and transformed.

Last year, I instructed the national council on the role of Filipina women to draft a framework plan for women to incorporate existing and the emerging women's concerns. And after this graduation ceremony, I shall launch these plans. It will provide a more concrete basis for agency planning and budgeting on gender and development. It will address the gaps in present gender mainstreaming activities. The plan pays special attention to women's economic empowerment and human rights. These are my two causes as far as women are concerned.

Women economic empowerment in my administration. We want to enroll one million women over the three and a half years that I am President in the micro finance program, so that these women will be able to employ themselves and, therefore, be economically empowered. That is my flagship program for women's economic empowerment. On the matter of women's rights, yes, it is very important that we protect the human rights of women as head of government, head of state, a commander-in-chief of the 16th most populous country in the world. And being a woman head of state, woman head of government and woman commander in chief, it is a great opportunity to be able to promote women's human rights: right against abuse, right against exploitation.

Earlier, Dr. Benitez acknowledged that I have gone all over the world to preach the philosophy, that the battle against terrorism is interlinked with the battle against poverty. Let me add also that in those societies where terrorism is the rule, those societies also have exploitation of women as a primary characteristic and in those countries where democracy is the rule, those are the countries where women's rights are most respected. And therefore, the battle against terrorism, the battle against poverty is also a battle for protecting women's human rights. One reason why I am very adamant that we must defeat the Abu Sayyaf by all constitutional means within our power is because the Abu Sayyaf, being the ultimate terrorists, are also the ultimate abusers of women's rights. The women hostages, one after the other, have become more brave in recent times during this administration. And one by one, they had given us their horror stories of physical rape and abuse that were inflicted on them by the Abu Sayyaf.

And so if we are going to talk about the US soldiers coming here to train and we fear exploitation of women, they're here to prevent exploitation of women by the Abu Sayyaf. They are here to prevent rape and physical violence by the Abu Sayyaf. And while we are at it, we have also made sure that soldiers will also respect the human rights of our Filipino women. That is why the visiting forces commission has become very very small now. From so many members in the previous administrations, there are only three now: Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Social Welfare. And that is to make sure that women's human rights are protected even when there is a war, even when there is a partnership among strategy allies, and the rules used to be couched in very very diplomatic language. They used to say that the soldier should be confined within the camp. And I say, whether they are confined or not within the camp doesn't really tell us what you want them to do. Because they can be confined within the camp and bring the women in. So I would rather that they not be confined within the camp necessarily, but I would rather that the rule be very clear that visiting forces are not allowed to procure the services of prostitutes. And that is how we have been open about the rules of the visiting forces in this administration. Cuentas Claras.

Under our very forthright statement of rules, statement of principles, and the program and the plan for women, the very poor women and rural women shall be our primary beneficiaries. We are currently, as I said earlier, pushing for

the grameen bank strategy to cover one million women, which means 300,000 very poor women every year. We also hope to improve the implementation of measures that uphold women's human rights. As I mentioned earlier, as an example of today, very graphic, the women raped by the Abu Sayyaf, and the rules against the acquisition of prostitutes, services by soldiers. But we shall also focus on more generally abused women, violence against women, the protection of the girl child, and measures to combat trafficking of women and children. On another horizon, we must recognize child birth and child rearing as vital societal functions. Our framework plan shall propagate awareness of responsible parenthood, which includes awareness of reproductive health issues and advocate that parents should be responsible, meaning, they should determine between themselves how many children they can afford to raise. And having determined how many children they can afford to raise, it is important that their choice of implementing their decision be made in accordance with their religious and cultural beliefs. This, therefore is our general policy regarding women, their economic rights, their human rights and their role in responsible parenthood.

I am very happy to have the opportunity to give these principles today before you, the community of the Philippine Women's University, because this university has been in action, not only in works; a leading promoter of women's rights and opportunities. And I trust that this university through its administration, through its faculty and through its graduates, will continue to promote women's economic and human rights into the 21st century. Graduates, congratulations. I am a very proud to be a part of the PWU family. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 79th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Women's University (PWU). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230331/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7632&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching Ceremonies of the Framework Plan for Women in
Celebration of International Women's Day Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching Ceremonies of the Framework Plan for Women in Celebration of International
Women's Day**

[Delivered at the Philippine Sports Arena, Pasig City, March 9, 2002]

Maraming salamat Chairperson Oyie de Dios.

Ating kaibigan, kaibigan ng mga kababaihan at saka s'ya ang host dito sa ULTRA dahil ULTRA ay nasa DECS, si Secretary Raul Roco; ating host din dahil itong ULTRA ay nasa Ppasig at siya ay magandang halimbawa ng kababaihang leader, si Mayor Soledad Eusebio; isa pang kababaihan na nag-aalaga ng manggagawa, hindi lamang ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino kung hindi na rin iyung mga manggagawa sa buong mundo dahil s'ya ay Secretary of Labor at President ng International Labor Organization, si Pat Sto. Tomas; kaibigan ng mga kababaihang nasa kanayunan dahil ang trabaho n'ya ay taun-taon isigurado na dalawang daang libong ektarya ay mamumudmod sa mga magsasaka, si Secretary of DAR Nani Braganza; kung kababaihan ang namumuno sa pag-aalaga ng manggagawa sa pribadong sektor, kababaihan din ang namumuno sa pag-aalaga ng mga manggagawang nasa gobyerno, si Chairperson ng Civil Service, si Karina Constantino-David; at iyung ating kasama ngayon na tumutulong sa atin sa mga bagay ng edukasyon sa Malacañang ay si Presidential Assistant Mona Valisno, kababaihan din; parang Senatorial Proclamation ito, bawat pangalan may sariling pangkat. Okay. Tapos, siguro naman ito mayroon ding sarili n'yang mga magpapalakpak, 'yung organizer nitong National Women's Day, si Commissioner Myrna Yao; at itong ULTRA — tayo ay nasa loob ng DepEd — pero iyung ULTRA mismo nagpapatakbo ay 'yung Sports Commission. Eto babae rin, si Commissioner Cynthia Carrion; other commissioners of the NCRFW; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; other government officials; distinguished guests; mga kababaihan at mga nagmamahal sa kababaihan.

Ang kapangyarihan ng kababaihang Pilipino ay napaka-importante sa pangkalahatang kapakanan ng ating tinatawag na human resources. Mahaba na ang ating naabot pero mahaba pa rin ang ating kailangan maabot bago natin masabi na buong-buo na ang kapangyarihan ng ating kababaihan.

Habang tayo ay nandito, nagkukwentuhan, ang problema ng kahirapan sa Pilipinas ay meron pa ring mukha ng kababaihan. Maraming kababaihan ay tuloy pa ring nagdudusa from physical and emotional battery. Kaya ang mga asal ay kailangan pang mapalitan. Ang mga estruktura ng pamayanan at kultura ay kailangan pa rin maisaayos at magkaroon ng pagbabago.

At gaya ng sabi kanina ni Sabsy Palanca, Ang ating Master of Mistress of Ceremonies, noong isang taon nagbigay ako ng instruction sa National Council on the Role of Filipino Women na magsulat ng isang draft framework plan for women na maisasama dito 'yung mga kasalukuyang patakaran at 'yung tinatawag na emerging women's concerns at ating mga panukalang patakaran tungkol sa kababaihan.

Itong araw na ito, pagkatapos ng aking pagsasalita, makikita ninyo ang video nitong summary ng sinulat nila. Hindi ko pa sasabihin na ito ay launching dahil bago ko i-formalize at i-release iyung Executive Order ay meron pang ibang gusto kong isigurado na talagang sang-ayon sa patakaran ng ating pamahalaan.

Ganun pa man, mabuti na meron na tayong isang matatawag nating penultimate draft. Iyung final draft bago 'yung final formal plan mismo. Dahil pag tayo ay mayroon ng plano magkakaroon ng mas kongkretong saligan para sa pagplano ng mga ahensya at para pag-budget doon sa gender and development budget. At dahil may plano ay pwedeng magkaroon ng sagot doon sa mga kakulangan ng kasalukuyang gender mainstreaming activities. Itong bagong plano ay inaasahan natin na magbibigay ng espesyal na atensyon doon sa dalawang bagay na binanggit ko noong isang taon, na mula pa noong ako ay nasa DTI hanggang senado ay aking ipinaglalaman. Dalawa 'yon. Isa,

iyung women's economic empowerment at isa iyung protection of women's rights. At 'yon na nga ang dalawang importanteng bahagi at dinagdag din ng Commission on Role of Filipino Women 'yung gender sensitivity sa governance.

Ang inaasahan natin na sa planong ito, iyung pinakamahirap na kababaihan at iyung mga kababaihan sa kanayunan ay magiging pangunahing makakakamit ng benepisyo ng ating plano. Halimbawa sa ngayon, isa sa malaking programa ng pamahalaan sa kababaihan. In fact, para sa akin, para sa economic empowerment iyung binanggit kong tangi doon sa State of the Nation Address noong nakaraang taon para sa kababaihan ay iyung tinatawag na Grameen Banking Strategy o microfinance. At ang ating hangarin na sana matulungan ng NCRFW ang NAPC na makamit 'yun ay taun-taon tatlong-daang libong kababaihan ay makakakuha ng benepisyo sa microfinance. Sa ganun, sa matapos ang ating three-and-a-half years ng kasalukuyang administrasyon, isang milyong kababaihan ay makakapasok sa microfinance at magkakaroon ng pagkakataon nang sarili nilang hanapbuhay.

Sa pamamagitan ng planong ito, inaasahan din natin na mapapaganda ang implementasyon ng mga patakaran na nagtatanggol ng karapatan ng kababaihan sa bagay ng human rights. In other words, through this plan we shall focus on abused women, violence against women, the protection of the girl-child and measures to combat trafficking of women and children.

Noong ako ay nagsalita sa United Nations General Assembly — ako 'yung last speaker nila. I spoke on the last day of the general assembly — sinabi ko, bilang head of state, head of government at commander-in-chief na babae ng panglabing-anim na pinaka-malaking bansa ng buong mundo, ang sinasabi ko, habang hindi natin nasasagot ang kapangyarihan at karapatan ng kababaihan, hindi natin masasabi na nasugpo natin ang problema ng kahirapan ng mga bansa.

At ngayon mula noong isang taon hanggang ngayon, may isang malaking pangyayari. 'Yung 9-11, iyung giyera kontra sa terorismo. At isang parati kong sinasabi sa buong mundo ay 'yung laban kontra sa terorismo ay kambal na laban kontra sa kahirapan. Ngunit ngayon gusto kong idagdag dahil gaya ng sabi ko hindi natin masasabi na nasugpo natin ang kahirapan kung hindi natin mapairal ang kapangyarihan at karapatan ng kababaihan. Ang laban kontra sa terorismo, ang laban kontra sa kahirapan ay kambal din ng laban para sa karapatan at kapangyarihan ng kababaihan.

Halimbawa, iyung mga bansa kung... Or 'yung mga pamayanan kung saan mas umiiral ang terorismo, iyon din ang mga lipunan kung saan mas umiiral ang abuso sa kababaihan. Tingnan n'yo 'yung Afghanistan sa ilalim ng Taliban. Tingnan n'yo 'yung Abu Sayyaf sa Basilan at pakinggan n'yo 'yung testigo pagkatapos ng testigo ng mga kababaihang hostages nag-testify na sila ay ginahasa ng mga Abu Sayyaf.

Kaya kung pag-uusapan natin ang karapatan ng kababaihan sa Pilipinas, sa ating katimugan kailangang masugpo ang terorismo ng Abu Sayyaf kung gusto natin mapigil ang panggagahasa sa ating kababaihan sa ating katimugan

Kaya parang nababaliktad iyung mundo, pag may nagsasabi na pag tayo ay humihingi ng tulong ng Amerikano mag-training sa ating sundalo para mas masugpo natin ang Abu Sayyaf, iyon daw ay kontra-kababaihan. Ang kontra-kababaihan ay ang Abu Sayyaf, hindi 'yung mga nagsusugpo sa Abu Sayyaf.

At para masigurado na kahit na 'yung mga tumutulong sa atin magsugpo sa Abu Sayyaf ay sila rin ay magtatanggol at magrespeto ng karapatan ng kababaihan. Iyung Visiting Forces Commission na noong araw ang dami-daming miyembro ng commission. Ako ay naniniwala mas madaming miyembro, mas walang pupunta sa meeting, mas hindi uubra. Kaya ginawa kong tatlo na lang ang miyembro na nanggagaling sa gobyerno — DFA, DND at saka DSWD. Bakit nandoon si Dinky Soliman kasama ni Tito Guingona at ni Angie Reyes. Ang tanging pinakatangkulin ni Dinky Soliman ay siguraduhin na ang karapatan ng kababaihan ay ginagalang kahit na may Visiting Forces dito.

Noong araw, iyung visiting forces rule sabi nila, the soldiers are not supposed to leave their camps. Anong dahilan doon? Supposed to be dahil ayaw natin ng prostitution. Pero kung hindi mo talaga sasabihin ng lantaran ang layunin mo ay di ano ang nangyayari? Dinadala iyung mga prostitute sa loob ng kampo. Eh 'di sabi ko, kaysa 'yan ang ilalagay natin diretsohan na natin, the rules and regulations must say that the visiting forces are not allowed to

procure the services of prostitution. Iyon ang ating patakaran ngayon, lantaran. Kaya kung gusto nilang lumabas, pwede silang lumabas basta guided ang kanilang entertainment para masigurado na walang prostitutes na pinapasok sa kampo at walang prostitutes na dine-date doon sa labas ng kampo. Iyan ang paraan kung papaano masigurado natin ang pagproteksyon ng karapatan ng kababaihan na walang eksploytasyon. Ngunit mas importante sugpuin natin iyung nanggagahasa sa ating kababaihan. Maliban sa ating mga common criminals, iyung mga Abu Sayyaf na naging bahagi na ng kanilang terorismo manggahasa sa ating kababaihan.

Isang importanteng bahagi ng framework plan for women na gusto kong basahin muna ng mabuti bago ko ilabas o i-promulgate 'yung Executive Order, ay 'yung tungkol sa reproductive rights ng kababaihan. Dahil gusto kong isigurado na ang patakaran na nakalagay doon ay in letter and in spirit ay sang-ayon sa population policy ng ating kasalukuyang administrasyon.

Ano itong patakaran na ito. Ang ating patakaran tungkol sa populasyon ay nanggagaling sa ating constitution. Ayon sa ating konstitusyon, importante ang responsible parenthood. Iyan ang pinanggagalingan ng ating population policy. Ano ang ibig sabihin ng responsible parenthood. Siyempre, dapat nag-aaral ang mga magulang tungkol sa kanilang mga tungkulin sa pamilya, sa mga anak, sa isa't-isa. At bahagi ng pag-aaral ng kanilang tungkulin ay kailangan sa kanilang pag-aaral ay magdesisyon sila ng tama kung ilan ang mga anak na kaya nilang palakihin na may dignidad. At pag nagdesisyon na itong responsableng mga magulang kung ilan ang pwedeng anak nilang pwede mapalaki sa paraang may dignidad. Ang paraan kung papano nila gagawin ang implementasyon ng kanilang desisyon ay kailangan sang-ayon sa paniniwala ng relihiyon at kultura ng bawat mag-asawa. 'Yan ang ating patakaran. Kaya gusto kong isigurado na itong mga patakaran na ito ay nakalagay doon, klaro at walang maggagawa ng anumang masasabi nating misinterpretation. Besides, maraming nagtatanong anong population policy. Ito ay magandang lugar kung saan nila pwedeng mahanap ang ating sagot.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na nandito tayo muli mula noong isang taon hanggang itong taon nagkaroon tayo ng hakbang. Dahil walang framework plan ngayon merong framework plan. At sana sa susunod na taon, ano ang ating maaasahan sa isa't-isa. Sana sa susunod na taon, itong framework plan ay ginagawa ng implementasyon at nararamdaman na ng ating kababaihan lalo na iyung ating kababaihan sa mga naghihirap na pamayanan para sa ganun, sana ang ating framework plan ay makakatulong sa pagkasugpo ng kahirapan, sa pagkasugpo ng eksploytasyon ng kababaihan, at sa pangdagdag ng kapangyarihan ng kababaihan sa ating bagong siglo.

Happy International Women's day sa ating lahat.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremonies of the Framework Plan for Women in Celebration of International Women's Day. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230306/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7631&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Session of the 2002 Consultative Group Meeting for the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Session of the 2002 Consultative Group Meeting for the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Convention Hall, Holiday Inn Resort Hotel, Clark Special Economic Zone, Angeles City, Pampanga, March 11, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Romulo.

Secretary Camacho and the other Philippine participants in this Consultative Group Meeting; Mr. Pulley and the other members of the O-D-A committee; friends from Pampanga; Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to welcome the representatives of the International Donor Community, our partners in development, to the Philippines and to this conference. We are honored to host this meeting — the Philippines that is — for the second time. Thank you for your support and enduring faith in our country.

When I became President last year, I said that we want to win the battle against poverty within the decade.

Our vision of eradicating poverty within the decade is anchored on a comprehensive medium-term Philippine development plan. This plan revolves around four major components.

The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. We believe that this philosophy will create more jobs in the sectors and areas that count most to ease the burden of the poor.

The second component is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. This will bring economic development to the rural areas, where most of the poor live.

The third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. This will bring immediate relief to the longest-sufferers in the fringes of society.

The fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

We started implementing our development plan even before the document was printed.

We have been guided by real, visible and measurable targets, most of which are contained in my first state of the nation address before Congress last year.

Allow me to mention a few accomplishments.

Economic growth last year created more than two million jobs, reducing both unemployment and underemployment, and exceeding the targets in our plan.

While the economies of most of our neighbors suffered declines last year, as mentioned by Mr. Pulley, ours posted a 3.4 percent growth in GDP and of 3.7 percent growth in GNP. Our GDP growth surpassed all expectations, including our own. We actually posted one of the highest output growth rates in east and Southeast Asia.

Inflation was contained at 6.1 percent last year, very close to the lower end of our target. And inflation for February this year was at 3.4 percent, the lowest in two years.

Interest rates have gone down to their lowest in 15 years, and they can be expected to trigger an increase in economic activities. The peso has also stabilized relative to the dollar.

The budget deficit was limited to a 147 billion pesos. While pursuing our priorities and without sacrificing our core values, which include job creation, agricultural modernization, housing, and education, our message is clear — government will keep the deficit within reasonable range.

I targeted 20 billion pesos a year for the implementation of the agriculture and fisheries modernization act; but in actuality more than 28 billion has been spent so far.

I targeted security of land tenure to a 150,000 urban poor families and a 100,000 rural farming families; and they have already been granted that. More than 34,000 low-salaried workers have already been given financial assistance for their housing needs.

We have already identified the more than 1,600 barangays where we will construct school buildings so that all barangays will have a school by 2004.

We have exceeded our target for health insurance coverage for the urban poor by more than 85 percent.

We have moved towards greater transparency in awarding contracts. These have to be bidden out rather than negotiated. We have computerized the bidding in public works. We have exceeded the target set for the number of agencies to be registered under the electronic procurement system. The result from all these — honest and faster contract awards.

We have infused in government, to a great degree, common sense, discipline, and accountability in management and public service.

Civil society is in loop. Private sector groups have set up procurement watch, which has been sanctioned to check the integrity of government purchases. The report card survey project periodically measures public attitudes toward the delivery of services. Tax watch monitors the internal revenue service. The volunteers against crime and corruption monitors the transactions of the department of public works and highways.

We have stabilized the domestic political situation while continuing to mop up residual problems of law and order. We are putting in an additional 200 million pesos into an effort to bolster our capability against kidnapping. We will set up more operational teams exclusively focused in this threat. We shall back up these teams with better surveillance equipment.

Some sectors are trying to create an impression, quite erroneous, that the government is being wishy-washy in dealing with the political posturings of former President Estrada, who is under trial by the graft court.

I want to firmly dispel any impression that the government is engaged in any strategy of appeasement or compromise on this matter.

While I have said that the decision on any pending issue before the court is up to the court to decide, this does not mean that the executive will take a passive stance against any attempt to deliberately undermine the court, subvert allegiance to it, or impede its rightful duties.

My duty as president is to defend the constitution, and this extends to the defense of the great powers of government — the executive, judiciary and the legislature. We will not stand by while any or all of these institutions are under threat. The judiciary, in particular, has ample means to ward off nuisances and legalistic posturings, but when there

is a brazen attempt to destroy the credibility and functionality of any court of justice — this calls for the concerted action by all institutions of democratic government; and for that matter, all the citizens of the democratic system.

Both the Supreme Court and the leaders of the legislature have called upon the former president to confine his cause or struggle within the ambit of the court. I have joined them in this call.

The presidency will not stand aside in the face of insidious machinations to take the struggle out of the courtroom and try to evolve it into a conspiracy to foment public disorder and undermine the people's allegiance to the constitution and the system of justice.

The defense of the constitution and the rule of law are non-negotiable. These cannot be the stuff of popularity or partisan contests.

All subterranean conspiracies shall stand down, or face the full retribution of constitutional authority.

On the other horizon, the decisiveness by which we shall continue to enforce the rule of law is only matched by our consistency and unswerving determination to keep the economy on track.

But we have much, much more to do to enable the poor to catch up. The wealth gap must be closed. Growth statistics are meaningless to the jobless. Low inflation is irrelevant to the penniless. A reduced budget deficit cannot be an argument to butter up the morale of hungry people.

With this pressing concern in mind, we chose “Matapat na Pamamahala, Tugon sa Kahirapan” or “Winning the War Against Poverty through Good Governance” as the theme of this year's consultative group meeting as it was the theme of our EDSA anniversary celebrations.

“Matapat na Pamamahala” is loosely translated as “Good Governance” but it means much more. It means caring, being accountable and being open and transparent. It connotes loyalty, honesty, and being true to one's office.

“Matapat na Pamamahala” is the key to the door of broader prosperity. Without it, even the best-laid development plan is doomed to fail. But with “Matapat na Pamamahala,” government will devote its entire being, spirit and resource to deliver the poor from the clutches of poverty.

Yet, we have no illusions about the gigantic challenge ahead. All leaders from three continents I have consulted over the past year are one in saying that resolving poverty needs the combined resources of the entire planet to succeed. It needs the combined efforts of all the well-meaning governments and institutions of the world. And it brooks no delay.

A global alliance can be forged to wage war against poverty. And we should forge this alliance just as we forged an alliance against the scourge of terrorism.

I thank you all for being there to help us as we navigated our economy from troubled seas to calmer waters last year. I trust that you will continue to be by our side as we proceed our country through buffeting storms and uncertainties that have characterized the world economy.

We have used the official development assistance your governments and institutions have extended to help effect key reforms, and to finance the budget deficit and major infrastructure and human development investments. In all these, I assure you that we are spending on the right things and living within our means.

We are unlocking key bottlenecks that have hampered the use of o-d-a in the past year. This is what I did when I was at the helm of the department of social welfare and development before I became president, and this is what I am doing now for the entire government.

We are integrating process and action more sharply. We are meeting with project managers as often as we can. We are monitoring their prompt implementation of our decisions; and we are working under concrete time frames of compliance.

We need more legislation to unlock some bottlenecks. We will continue to work with congress to clear the track forward.

All systems are moving forward. We know where we are headed and we are trying to mark the milestones as we painstakingly traverse them. Our vehicle is in good running condition and judging from what Mr. Pulley said in his welcome remarks, I hope you believe that we have a competent driver behind the steering wheel. But we need all the extra fuel we can stock to go the full distance.

I trust that you will continue to extend us the much needed assistance, the extra fuel for the journey's continuity, so that we can reach our goal of poverty-free Philippines and contribute to a poverty-free world within the decade.

On this note, let me thank you once again for the privilege of welcoming.

Mabuhay and may we all meet success in this meeting.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Session of the 2002 Consultative Group Meeting for the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230254/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7630&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during her visit at Commonwealth, Quezon City

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During her visit at Commonwealth, Quezon City**

[Delivered at the Commonwealth, Quezon City, March 15, 2002]

Maraming salamat Congressman Chuck Mathay, Congressman ng Commonwealth.

At babanggitin ko ang dating konsehal dahil ang dami kong babatiin dito na dating konsehal ng Quezon City: batiin ko si Senator Francis Pangilinan, dating konsehal ng Quezon City. At dati rin Chairman sa Council sa U.P. kagaya ni Ginoong Gonzalo Bongolan, ang pangulo ng HGC na gumastos ng magkano, 300,000 million pesos para itong palengkeng ito ay matayo para sa taumbayan ng Commonwealth; mga kasapi ng Cabinet, yung ating chairman ng HUDCC, konsehal din ng Quezon City, taga-U.P. rin dati kasama ni Francis at saka ni Gonzalo, si Mike Defensor; ang ating namamahala sa lahat ng bagay upang labanan diretsohan ang kahirapan, si Secretary Ging Deles; yung ating mga kasapi ng Quezon City Council sa pamumuno ng ating acting Mayor Herbert Bautista — si Herbert po ay acting mayor dahil si Mayor Sonny Belmonte ay may official trip ngayon doon po sa China, sa Shanghai; yung ating ibang mga government officials na narito kasama na doon si Percy Chavez na siya ang inyong kuya, siya ang chairman ng Commission on the Urban Poor at yung inyong police director dito, si General Thor itong aking ginagamit na uniporme ay uniporme ito ni General Thor dahil kung naalala n'yo nung January 20 sinabi ko na gumagawa siya ng programa nang out-of-work, out-of-school-youth emergency employment so siya ay narito hindi lang sa kapayapaan kung hindi yung ating mga gang ay gagawin niyang work gang. Yung ating mga barangay chairmen led by Chairman Felicito Balmocina at saka ni Chairwoman Pecson; kayo, ang napakaraming Peoples' Organizations, at yung ating mga religious groups na narito; yung mga nakatanggap ng mga sertipikato; mga kaibigan:

Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat. Nandito na naman tayo, magkasama. Salamat sa limang libong dumalo dito sa ating pagdiriwang itong umagang ito.

May nagtanong sa akin kanina kung bakit daw paborito ko itong Commonwealth pagdating sa paglunsad ng iba't-ibang proyekto, katulad nitong napakamodernong Commonwealth Market-Mall na ating ini-inaugurate itong araw na ito.

Ang sagot ko ay hindi naman sa paborito ko kundi mabibilis lamang kayong kumilos pagdating sa pag-aayos ng inyong mga kailangan. Masisipag ang inyong mga organisasyon at mga pinunong lokal kaya madali ninyong nakakamit ang inyong mga hinihiling.

Kaya, binibigyan ko kayo ng kaukulang pansin dahil gusto ko na makita ng mga ibang may pangangailangan tulad ninyo kung papaano ninyo pinapatupad ang inyong mga proyekto. Gusto kong malaman ng iba nating mga kababayan kung gaano kahalaga ang pagsasamahan at pagtutulungan para makuha ang inyong mga kagustuhan.

Kanina yung ilang kinatawan ng Peoples' organization ay nandito para magbigay ng deklarasyon ng suporta sa inyong lingkod at sa ating pamahalaan. Sabi nga ni Ging Deles biro n'yo yan yung mga nag-away-away dati ay nagkasama-sama na ngayon pagkatapos ng isang taon. Kinukwento ko nga kay Senator Francis Pangilinan ang Chairman ng Housing sa Senado nung ako ay pumupunta dito kapag ang kausap ko ay yung isang grupo na dumalo sa Edsa 3 nandoon nag-rally, yung mga tiga-Edsa 2, taksil sabi nila. Pag punta ko naman para makipag-usap doon sa mga P.O. na nandoon sa Edsa 2 nandoon Edsa 3 nagra-rally 'Erap pa rin' sabi nila. Pero pagkatapos ng isang taon

na talagang inupuan ni Ging, ni Percy yung mga inyong mga kinatawan na kapitan mga local officials sa Quezon City ngayon pagkatapos ng isang taon halos ay nagkakaisa kayong lahat. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Kami naman na nasa pamahalaan ay ginagawa ang lahat upang matugunan agad ang inyong mga kailangan. Halimbawa, sa pabahay na masugid nating ipinatutupad hindi lamang dito sa Commonwealth kundi sa buong bansa, pinaiksi ang application processes at binawasan ang mga signatories. Sa madaling salita, pinabilis at pinagaan ang proseso para sa inyong kaginhawaan.

Alam po n'yo na dati yung low-cost housing para mabuo lahat ng papeles bago simula iniisip ng project proponent hanggang makapagtayo ng tahanan dalawang taon at kalahati ang proseso. Ngayon hinati na at hindi lang hinati ginawa ng anim na buwan na lamang para mas mabilis.

Ang tangi nating hangarin ay ang inyong masigasig na pagsulong at pagsunod sa mga kinakailangan para makamit natin agad ang inyong mga kahilingan sama-sama o indibidwal man.

Ang sabi ko nga, hindi kayo ang problema. Hindi ang squatters ang problema. Hindi ang maralitang taga-lunsod ang problema. Kasama kayo sa paghahanap ng solusyon sa problema.

Halimbawa po kung bakit sinasabi ko kayo sa solusyon di ba nandito si Ginoong Perez ng Payatas. Narinig ko ang pangalan niya kanina. Nung nandoon ako sa Payatas nung January 16 hindi ba isang malaking problema kung papaano yung mga titulo ay mabuo dahil may maraming mga pekeng titulo diyan na biglang lumilitaw. Tatlo ang nagki-claim sa isang lupa. Sabi Ginoong Perez ideklara na lang lahat bilang government land na binebenta. Tapos noon kung sino ang manalo sa korte eh ibalik ang pera ng pamahalaan doon at least nabili na ng mga taumbayan ang payatas yung kanilang lupa. Galing sa kanya yung solusyon na yon.

Itong Commonwealth market-mall naman ay bahagi ng National Government Center Urban Renewal Program na sinimulan ni dating Pangulong Corazon Aquino at Fidel Ramos. Nung panahon ni Tita Cory siya ang nagdeklara nitong National Government Center. Nung panahon ni Pangulong Ramos inumpisahan niya itong palengke ito. Nung 1999 tinigil ang construction dahil tinigil ang pag-release ng pondo. Panahon na lamang ni President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo nailabas muli ang pondo kaya natapos itong palengkeng ito. Kaya na-kumpleto ngayon sa ating administrasyon. Ito ay para bigyan ng karagdagang kabuhayan ang mga nakatira sa paligid nito, kabilang ang mga housing beneficiaries na kailangan ng karagdagang kita para mabayaran ang iyong housing amortizations.

Kadalasan, ang mga pangunahing hinihiling para sa mga pabahay ay tubig at kuryente. Pero dito sa inyo, hindi lamang tubig at kuryente ang aming ibinigay, may kasama pang palengke!

Ang market-mall na ito ay tinatayang magiging sentro ng kalakalan sa parteng ito ng kalakhang maynila. Magpapaluwag din ito ng traffic dahil ang mga nagtitinda ay hindi na kailangang magbenta sa tabing kalsada.

Sa mga nakapuwesto ngayon, gusto kong ipaalam sa inyo, una sa lahat, ayon kay ginoong bongolan, yang mga palengke dito, magkano ang upa? 70 pesos, dito 10 pesos to 20 pesos lamang. At hindi lamang 'yon, mayroon pa kayong isang buwan na libre hanggang abril para magtinda ng walang bayad. Ito ay para maka-adjust kayong mabuti sa inyong bagong palengke.

At yung unang bayad ninyo ay ia-apply sa miscellaneous fee ng table stalls sa inyong goodwill bilang karagdagan tulong sa inyo. 'Di ba 'pag nagpapa-goodwill kailangang may goodwill downpayment? 'Yung unang bayad ninyo ide-deduct na yon sa goodwill.

At tulad ng itinakdang patakaran ng Home Guaranty Corporation, yung nagtayo nito, ang balanse ng goodwill para sa regular stalls, katulad din ng table stalls, ay pati yon hulugan, hindi agad-agad babayaran sa loob ng dalawang taon, hulugan at walang interes.

Gagawin ding isang malawakang transport terminal ang harapan ng inyong palengke para sa maginhawang pagbaba at pagsakay ng lahat ng mamimili, maski galing pa sila sa Montalban o Novaliches. Dahil nandiyan ang terminal, di dito mamimili.

Kaya naman inaanyayahan ko ang lahat ng mga wholesalers na magbagsak ng kanilang mga paninda dito para makilala ang Commonwealth market bilang isang regional market at hindi lang karaniwang palengkeng lokal.

Binabati ko naman ang pamunuan ng Quezon City — si Herbert, yung acting mayor, yung ating dalawang konsehal na narito, si Congressman — sa pagpapagawa ng tulay na bakal na mag-uugnay sa Commonwealth market mula sa Manggahan. Alam ba ho ninyo yun, yung tulay na bakal? Mura yun at puwede pang ilipat. Kaya yung mga ibang mga humihingi sa akin ng catwalk, sabi ko, gayahin n'yo ang ginagawa ni Sonny Belmonte, yung tulay na bakal, mas mura iyon, nalilipat pa.

Binabati ko rin sila sa sa pagpapa-aspalto ng transport terminal, at sa pagbubukas ng island sa harap ng inyong palengke. Binabati ko rin ang lahat ng mga vendor associations, federations, people's organizations at NGO's sa inyong pakikipag-tulungan sa pamunuan ng HUDCC, si Mike yon, ng HGC at ng pagpapatakbo ng palengkeng ito, para matupad ang mithiing pabahay at hanapbuhay sa nakararaming pamilya ng mga vendors at iba pang mga beneficiaries.

Pinag-aralan pa rin naming mabuti kung ano pang tulong ang puwedeng maibigay sa inyo, kabilang nang mga kakailanganin ninyong puhunan.

Ilan pa sa mga makikinabang sa makabagong palengkeng ito ay ang mga extension at outreach livelihood projects, katulad ng pananahi, paggawa ng walis, dustpan, handicraft, folding bed, at iba pang cottage industries. Makikinabang din dito ang mga terminal, at mga baggage boys, at mga kargador.

Sa araw na ito ay nasaksihan din natin ang pamamahagi ng may tatlong libong beneficiary sa certificates of title reservation, at certificate of lot assignments at certificate of lot entitlements sa ilalim ng proyektong pabahay sa ating pamahalaan.

Sa ganoon, habang binibilisan ng kongreso, habang linalakad ni Senator Pangilinan at saka ni Congressman Mathay na ma-deklara na ng Kongreso na pwede nang ibenta sa tuluyan itong lupa sa inyo, meron na kayong katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan ng inyong mga tahanan. Ang ibig sabihin nun ngayon pa man, hindi na kayo squatters sa sariling bayan.

Ang mga benepisaryong ito ay kabilang sa may 85 na Homeowners Associations dito. Malaki ang nagawa ng mga asosasyong ito sa pag-aayos ng mga kailangan ng proyekto. Kaya naman, hinihiling ko sa mga associations sa ibang lugar na tularan ang magandang halimbawa ng mga Homeowners Associations dito sa Commonwealth.

Gusto ko lamang bigyang-diin na ang pagkakaloob ng mga proyektong ito sa pabahay ay nakasalalay sa ilang mga alituntunin at patakaran na dapat sundin ng pamahalaan at ng mga benepisaryo.

Ang ginagawa nating pamamahagi ay isa lamang sa mga mahahalagang proseso para sa lubusang magmay-ari ang mga proyektong pabahay na ito. Dahil kamakailan lamang ay namahagi na rin tayo dito ng pabahay sa may 2,000 pang ibang benepisaryo, lumalabas na 5,000 nang taga-Commonwealth ang nakinabang na sa ating proyektong pabahay simula nung ako ay nakaupo bilang pangulo.

Sa puntong ito ay tinatawagan ko ang DPWH na pabilisin ang land acquisition ng ilan pang mga properties na kabilang dito sa National Government Center. Tinatawagan ko din ang National Housing Authority ayon sa ilalim ni Mike Defensor, na di ba ang deputy don si Jopet. Hindi, HUDCC ka ba? Konsehal din ng Quezon City, na i-facilitate ang NGC East Project Trusteeship.

Nang si Chuck ay konsehal pa, hindi ba pinopondohan yung mga administrative expenses para matuluyan yung mga survey, paggawa ng titulo. Eh, ngayon ay nagbibigay din naman ako five million pesos to defray the expenses for the titling activities to facilitate the awarding of land titles to the beneficiaries of the NGC-east working group. Mike, sa iyo ko ibibigay.

At pinapaalala ko sa mga kinauukulang ahensya na dapat mapirmahan ko na yung proklamasyon ng payatas sa loob ng anim na linggo.

Sa mga People's Organizations sa NGC-East, hinihiling ko na lalo ninyong palalakasin ang inyong pagsasamahan dito dahil ang proyektong ito ay in full swing na, with the community master plan and the Code of Policy being worked on.

Gusto ko ring ipaalam sa inyo na noong huling Cabinet meeting noong nakaraang Martes, ay itinalaga ko ang National Anti-Poverty Commission o NAPC bilang lead inter-agency sa binubuong Committee for Demolition and Relocation. Kabilang sa mga gagawin ng komiteng ito ay ang pagpapagawa ng emergency shelter para doon sa mga maapektuhan ng demolition at relocation. Pero yung dito, wala naman maapektuhan na dito ginagamit ko lang itong pagkakataon para maikuwento sa telebisyon dahil may mga ibang lugar, halimbawa, kung tayo ang magtatayo ng train ay yung papabilisin natin yung train patungong Bulacan, patungong Cark, patungong Calabarzon, patungong Batangas Port para kahit na saan kayo nakatira, kahit na saan magtrabaho puwede dahil mabilis ang train, ay may malilipat doon. Yung dadaanan ng riles, yun ang pinag-uusapan kong ililipat, hindi kayo. Kayo meron na kayong certificate eh, so hindi kayo yon.

Inatasan ko na rin ang DILG na gumawa ng imbentaryo ng government lands na maaaring gamitin para sa housing at iba pang mga proyekto ng pamahalaan. Kasi basta lupa ng gobyerno at hindi ginagamit sa mga bagay — kagaya ng riles, ibebenta na natin sa mga nakatira doon.

Ang pamamahagi ng pabahay, sa mga maralitang taga-lungsod, yan ay isa lamang katibayan ng aking pagsisikap na mabigyan ng social bias ang development programs ng ating pamahalaan.

Sa aking paglilibot sa urban poor areas kahit noong ako ay hindi pa presidente, palaging sinasabi ng mga maralitang tagalungsod na ang pangunahing kailangan ay katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan. Ang tawag doon sa ingles ay shelter security.

Ito ang dahilan kung bakit gusto ko na may 150,000 families na mag-graduate sa pagiging squatter bawa't taon. Natupad natin ito noong nakaraang taon, at tutuparin natin ito ulit ngayong taon.

Yung 2,000 na namumudmod nung isang taon, bahagi yon sa 150,000 for the year 2001; yung 3,000 na nakatanggap ngayon bahagi naman kayo sa 150,000 target for year 2002 kaya buena mano kayo.

Ating tinatayo rin taun-taon ang 100,000 units for low cost housing at 50,000 units for socialized housing para doon sa mga pinakamahirap sa lahat.

Alam ko na kung kaya n'yo rin lang at hanggang maiiwasan, ayaw ninyong maging squatter. Pero alam ko rin na napakahirap na makakuha ng lupa lalo na ng bahay sa kalunsuran dahil sa kataasan ng presyo ng lupa dito. Kaya nauunawaan ko ang pangarap ng bawa't tao rito na magkaroon ng disente at tiyak na tahanan.

Alam niyo yong aking tatay, yong yumaong pangulong Diosdado Macapagal, maralitang taga-nayon siya lumaki dahil anak siya ng magsasaka na nagsasaka sa lupang hindi sila ang may-ari. Tapos nung siya ay nag-aral sa Maynila, dahil naging valedictorian sa probinsya nakapag-aral sa Maynila, natira sa kanyang mga kamag-anak doon sa bandang Dagupan, sa estero. Sa Maynila, mula sa maralitang taga-nayon, naging maralitang taga-lungsod dahil squatter din siya doon sa bandang Tondo. Kaya yong tatay ko, pinamana niya sa akin yong damdamin na pinapaliwanag niya yong kahirapan na nakatira sa mga slum area. Kaya alang-alang sa paalala sa kanya, ako'y naging senador, vice president. Sa magandang pangalang puhunang iniwan niya sa akin, ito ang aking maiaalay sa

aking tatay: naramdaman na maging maralitang taga-nayon at maralitang taga-lungsod, na yong mga naranasan niya na kahirapan ay sana magkaroon ng kaginhawahan yong mga maralitang taga-lungsod sa bagong henerasyon.

At gaya ng sabi ko, gaya nang kayo nga ay hindi na kayo squatter sa inyong mga lugar, nawa'y dumating ang panahon na wala ng Pilipinong iskwater sa kanilang sariling lugar.

Ang pabahay at ang paglalagay ng mga karapatang pangangailangan nito, tulad ng livelihood projects, ay kaugnay sa ilang prinsipyong nagsisilbing gabay sa anti-poverty program ng aking administrasyon.

Unang-una, hindi sapat ang pag-unlad kung hindi nito mapapabuti ang kalagayan ng ating mga kababayan, lalung-lalo na ang nakararaming mahihirap. Sana, umangat nang tuluyan ang ating ekonomiya; nguni't dapat lamang na sa pag-angat ng ating ekonomiya, aangat din ang buhay ng ating mahihirap.

At dapat makinabang higit sa batas ang mga dukha. Ang sinabing "there must be a social bias in our economic development plan," yon ang sinabi ko doon sa medium-term plan; yon ang sinabi ko sa SONA sa Kongreso nung isang taon nung nandoon sila Chuck Mathay sa opening ng session. Ibig sabihin noon, ang ating pangunahing layunin ay kung paano makakatakas ang maralita sa kahirapan, at ito ay dapat isa-alang-alang sa alinmang programang pang-kaunlaran ng ating pamahalaan.

Importante rin ang People Power at people's participation sa paghahanap ng solusyon sa problema. Yun ay tawag na institutionalized consultation with the people. Tulad nang nasabi ko na, hindi kayo ang problema, kasama kayo sa paghahanap ng solusyon sa problema. Kagaya nung panukala ni ginoong Ely Perez doon sa Payatas, kayo ang nakahanap ng solusyon. Kaya sa loob ng anim na Linggo, lalabas na yung dokumento para sa proklamasyon ngayon.

Ang pabahay ay isa sa mga pangangailangan ng bawa't tao. Yon nga ang sabi rin ni Senator Francis Pangilinan sa kanyang pagbati kanina, at tulong-tulong nating tutugunan ito.

Kaya mga kaibigan, mga kapatid, mga kapwa Pilipino, salamat at patnubayan nawa tayo ng poong maykapal. Suportahan nnyo ang inyong administrasyon. Kailangan ko po kayo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during her visit at Commonwealth, Quezon City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230245/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7629&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the oathtaking ceremonies with Presidential Anti-Graft Corruption
Chairman Dario Rama and Bureau of Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

**During the oathtaking ceremonies with Presidential Anti-Graft Corruption Chairman Dario Rama and
Bureau of Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo**

[Delivered at the Reception Hall, Malacañang, March 18, 2002]

Good morning.

I would like to congratulate our new Presidential Anti-Graft Chairman, Dario Rama, and our new Bureau of Customs head, Antonio Bernardo, for accepting the challenge I have given them: be at the vanguard, together with Commissioner Rene Bañez, of our government's war against graft and corruption.

This fight against corruption is one of the principal thrusts of the government. Indeed, one might say, fate has thrust such a goal upon me.

My late father President Diosdado Macapagal was known as the incorruptible, and I must continue the work he started decades ago. Also, Edsa 2 which catapulted me into this office was all about People Power against corruption, a historic fight against graft in the highest levels of government. I cannot but follow this Edsa spirit, this courage and determination to fight corruption.

We do not have to go over statistics on how huge a problem corruption is for our country. Some say it has pervaded every nook and cranny of our bureaucracy, so much so that it eats up a big chunk of taxpayers' money and businessmen's expenses.

Many adult Filipinos have, sometime in their lives, an actual encounter with corruption. The tong for some real or fabricated traffic violation. The fee for the swift issuance of a document for an importation or a business permit. The 10 percent or even more paid for a government contract. Protection money for illegal numbers games.

Corruption is one of the major obstacles to reducing poverty, the overarching goal of my administration. It reduces government resources for alleviating the plight of the poor, and instead finances the luxuries of an unscrupulous rich. Because it is an additional cost to business, it not only weakens our companies' competitiveness. It even makes goods and services the poor need more expensive.

As soon as I took over, I launched this fight against corruption — starting with my family and top officials. I issued a proclamation prohibiting agencies of the government from doing business with my kin. I have no cronies or drinking buddies. Malacanang's transactions are transparent.

I instructed my entire government to formulate and institute anti-corruption mechanisms, among them the setting up of an open, internet-based procurement system for government supplies and the reduction of signatures in regulatory activities, which have been a fertile field for graft.

But this is only the start. I am instructing the new PAGC Chairman Rama to submit in a month's time the commission's concrete program to fight graft and corruption. The same instruction is for Commissioner Bernardo for the Bureau of Customs. Commissioner Bañez submitted his program long ago, and has been carrying it out, resulting in achieving internal revenue collections higher than target, as acknowledged by the international credit risk agencies that have upgraded the Philippines' rating. I congratulate him and urge him to continue his work, which, impressive as it is so far, still has additional potential for optimization.

We need not just studies, but actual results. Corrupt officials must be identified, then immediately suspended, and charges filed in court. I need results in a few months' time. Our people are even clamoring that we have to catch big fish.

Corruption is so clearly a problem that ordinary citizens and even students have organized NGO's to fight corruption. Representative of one such NGO — cleverly named “walang ku-corrupt” — are with us today. I applaud their efforts. It is not only civil servants who have the duty to fight corruption. It is the duty of all our citizens. The help they extend to our officials and agencies fighting corruption will be invaluable.

I want our government to be remembered as a successful anti-graft administration. And I expect the PACG to be at the vanguard of such a war on corruption, and the bureau of customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue as shining models for victory against graft.

Our nation has tarried so long in taking on this bull of corruption by its horns. Let us clean up government once and for all. We owe this to the future of our children. Tungkulin natin ito sa dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the oathtaking ceremonies with Presidential Anti-Graft Corruption Chairman Dario Rama and Bureau of Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230237/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7628&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 64th Commencement Exercise of the Tiburcio Tangcinco Memorial Institute of Science and Technology

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 64th Commencement Exercise of the Tiburcio Tangcinco Memorial Institute of Science and Technology**

[Delivered at the Calbayog City, Samar, March 20, 2002]

Maraming salamat Dr. Mona Valisno, my Presidential Assistant for Education.

Puwede na ho kayong umupo.

Una sa lahat, allow me to greet the Governor of province Samar, Governor Milagros Tan; your Congressman, who invited me to be in this occasion, Congressman Uy; the Mayor of Calbayog city, Mayor Sarmiento. And I would also like to say that with me today is Presidential Adviser on job creation Cito Lorenzo.

I am happy to be here once again in Calbayog City para mag-bati sa ating mga graduating students at mapag-usapan natin ang kinabukasan ninyo, kinabukasan ng Calbayog. Kinabukasan din ng buong Samar. At kaya sa ganito ay ako'y nasisiyahan na batiin kayong lahat pati na rin yung mga officials ng inyong paaralan under the leadership of Dr. Caillo, the President.

Sa ating ekonomiya, sa ating 21st century, alam ko na 'pag kayo ay nagga-graduate ang pangunahing kailangang malaman ninyo ay saan kaya yung mga trabaho ngayon. So yon ang ating kailangang gawin. At gusto ko lamang ipahayag sa inyo yung iba't-ibang mga ginagawa ng ating pamahalaan para sa Calbayog at saka sa Samar para sa ganoon ay yung trabaho ay mas dumadami dito sa inyong lugar.

Unang-una, gaya ng sabi ko noon sa State-of-the-Nation Address nung ako ay naging pangulo at nagsalita sa mga Congressmen — nandoon nga si Congress Uy narinig niya yung aking diskurso — sinabi ko na ang pangunahing hamon ng ating bansa ay ang masugpo ang problema ng kahirapan sa loob ng isang dekada. Itong mga problema ay nandoon nung araw pa, henerasyon pa nung ang aking tatay, the late president Diosdado Macapagal, ay naging pangulo yon din ang sinabi niya — pangunahing trabaho at kung papaano masugpo ang kahirapan.

Speaking of my father, although many of you don't know him anymore except maybe reading a page or two about him in the history books, gusto ko lamang malaman ninyo kung gaano kamahal ni Diosdado Macapagal ang Samar.

Yung inyong pantalan ng Calbayog yun ang nagbigay nun ay si Diosdado Macapagal nung siya ay pangulo. At nung siya ay tumakbo pang re-eleksyon kahit na yung kanyang kalaban ay husband ng isang waray ay nanalo pa rin siya dito sa Samar kaya mahal din ng Samar si Diosdado Macapagal.

At nung ako ay naging senador ay parang kagaya ng tatay ko minahal ko rin ang Samar at buong mga bayan ng Samar ay sinikap kong tulungan at dito yung inyong Niaga Park. Niaga ba ang pangalan noon? Yon ho ay nanggaling sa aking countrywide development fund.

Ngayon na ako ay pangulo di kailangan hindi lamang yung mga park-park ang tinutulong kung hindi papaano nga masugpo ang problema ng kahirapan.

Number one is jobs. Kaya sabi ko kay Secretary Cito Lorenzo — kaya kasama ko siya dahil siya ang adviser for jobs creation — sabi ko on the occasion of my visiting Calbayog for the graduation day of Tiburcio Tancinco Memorial Institute of Science and Technology, let us have a jobs fair para yung mga estudyanteng na ga-graduate ay malaman kung saan ang mga availability ng trabaho.

Kaya nandiyan sa labas may jobs fair; and I have here a partial report of the jobs fair. There are several participating recruitment agencies. Meron for overseas, may 7 overseas recruitment agencies na nandito ngayon nagpa-participate sa jobs fair at may dalawang local recruiting agencies — one is cal energy based in Ormoc city dahil sila yung gumagawa ng ating energy projects doon sa Tangonan geo-thermal, and then may job opening, at saka yung Shining Star Distributor. And as of 9 o' clock there were 558 registered applicants. Well, I'm not surprised kasi 500 ang ating graduation students ngayon ano. But I'm happy to let you know that here in the jobs fair there are 1,934 job vacancies.

So, I hope that there will be a matching between the job vacancies and what are the jobs you feel you can do, graduating students of this wonderful institution.

Let me say, let talk about the other job opportunities that we would like to have even outside of this jobs fair. Number one nga is the jobs for because the way to fight poverty in the 21st century is to promote of system of free enterprise where jobs are created by investments. Yon ang unang-una.

Pangalawa, we want to modernize agriculture, and by modernizing agriculture we would like to create one million jobs in agriculture. Dito sa Calbayog ang ating modernization program ay nandiyan sa ating palay because Calbayog has 1,000 irrigated hectares and we want to put hybrid rice there. The hybrid rice that I was able to get as assistance from china when i made my state visit to china. This 1,000 hectares is what we are preparing for under our hybrid rice program also under Cito Lorenzo, our presidential adviser for job creation, to include 1,000 farmers in the hybrid rice program. So ito ay magdadagdag ng trabaho sa 1,000 farmers.

Bago kami pumunta dito nagkaroon ng meeting si Secretary Cito Lorenzo at saka si Mayor Sarmiento para nga mapag-usapan yung mga kung papaano lalawak ang trabaho sa Calbayog.

Aside from the hybrid, pangalawang bahagi sa agricultural modernization ay yung isda, yung tinapa. Kasi sabi nga nila that ah, no meron fresh fish at merong tinapa. Speaking first about the fresh fish, what we are doing, what we are working for is to help Calbayog market your fish to supermarkets in metro manila for better prices.

Ngayon yung smoked fish, yung tinapa sabi ni mayor, Calbayog has the best tinapa in the whole country. But even if the product is good, alam n'yo to be able to market packaging is as important as the product itself, and you need the technology to improve the marketing, the packaging so that your delicious tinapa can be brought to other parts, to manila and other parts of the country or even for export. And so for this purpose, Secretary Lorenzo will coordinate with department of science and technology and the markets for your tinapa. Sana dumami ang trabaho ninyo doon.

Also for agricultural modernization there is coffee. Robusta has been tested and it is good for Calbayog. And you would like to do for Calbayog what we have been able to do for the cooperatives there in Sulu kasi sa Sulu malawak yung kanilang mga coffee at nabebenta nila. And doon nga may giyera dito wala di mas lalo madali dapat dito di ba. Here you have the land but you do not have the market. And financing is also needed. So Secretary Lorenzo will link up Calbayog with nestle and the Manila Coffee Retailers Association — kasama na doon yung mga ano nga pangalan nung, Starbucks, so that way hopefully Starbucks will be carrying Calbayog Robusta.

Also for agricultural modernization we have vegetables. Right now there is an on-going negotiation with makro — alam n'yo itong makro ano — for the supply of vegetables to the through the help of the Philippine Business for Social Progress. Siguro kilala n'yo yung Philippine Business for Social Progress dito Leyte although maybe not such in Calbayog. Kasi yung Philippine Business for Social Progress sila ay may malaking-malaking program sa Maqueda bay — yung Maqueda bay revival at saka yung pagtutulong doon sa mga ilang mga communities sa Maqueda bay to revive the water and also to give alternative livelihood to the fishermen of Maqueda bay ang gumagawa niyan yung PBSP. Kaya para dito sa inyo sa Calbayog ang tulong na ginagawa ninyo ay kung papaano

makabenta ng vegetables ng Calbayog sa makro. So yon ang sana mangyaring yon, na one day nagsha-shopping ang mga kaibigan n'yo doon sa Metro Manila makikita nila vegetables from Calbayog from Samar.

But this still needs further investigation regarding logistics and product quality because vegetables are perishable so we have to overcome that perishability. But it is also good to know that an Australian company based in Melbourne has signified the intention of providing assistance in the production of vegetables. And the initial project will be that of young corn. So inaasahan natin na ang Calbayog ay puwede ring makinabang doon.

Isa pang produkto sa modernization of agriculture ay yung bananas. Ten tons of bananas for banana chips can be produced and Cito Lorenzo will be linking up your city with banana chip exporters because we have a good export industry for banana chips.

And finally in the modernization of agriculture, ang Samar ay probinsya ng niyog. I'm sure many of you who are graduating here come from coconut families. Kaya yan ang kinabukasan ng samar: kung papaano ma-modernize ang coconut industry — kung papaano yung mga coconut farmers 'pag mahina ang presyo ng coconut ay pwede magkaroon ng pandagdag na income. At ako'y nasisiyahan na meron na tayong kinabukasan dito dahil sa wakas after 15 years magagamit na natin yung proceeds ng coconut levy.

Ako ay nasisiyahan na ngayon ang gobyerno ang siyang nagpapatakbo ng united coconut planters bank. The united coconut planters bank is the manager through several layers of corporations of the coconut levy. While the principal of the coconut levy and its ownership is under litigation in the supreme and the Sandiganbayan ay meron na tayong kapangyarihan gamitin yung bunga. And so hopefully in a month or two we will be able to declare dividends. Well, we don't call them dividends, some of the funds available from the coconut levy and they will be used for the good of the coconut industry — for the good of the coconut farmers and therefore for the good of the province of Samar.

And in the meantime because your school is very important, we have to provide for the continuing education — the human resource development for your school. I am very happy that today as part of your graduation present I am bringing three million pesos from the president's social fund for the rehabilitation and renovation of this socio-cultural center. Kaya lang I would like to advise your president kung pwedeng one million lang ang gamitin dito tapos two million magamit sa ibang bagay kagaya halimbawa ng computers at saka broadband facilities — gamitin niya iyon sa ganoon yung ating mga estudyante dito sa napaka-importanteng paaralan ay handa sa 21st century, handa makakuha kaagad ng trabaho at handang ang probinsya ng samar ay umangat mula sa kahirapan sa wakas.

Once again, congressman Uy thank you very much for inviting me to this graduation as you invited me before to the city fiesta of Calbayog when you were a city mayor. And I would like to thank also Mayor Sarmiento for all the homework that was done before I could come here so that he can work on the plans to be done here, and my very efficient presidential assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo will help to follow-through on all of these projects for the beautiful city of Calbayog.

And so I shall end my congratulatory message to you today, and before the graduation diplomas are distributed to you I shall first distribute and give to your president the ... Check for your beautiful school.

Congratulations. Maupay nga aga ha iyo tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 64th Commencement Exercise of the Tiburcio Tancinco Memorial Institute of Science and Technology. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230230/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7627&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the conference of Multinational Companies (The Wallace Business Forum)
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the conference of Multinational Companies(The Wallace Business Forum)

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, March 21, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Romulo.

Other Cabinet members and Philippines government officials; Mr. Peter Wallace; the movers and shakers of the business, financial and banking communities; excellencies of the diplomatic corps and heads of international organizations; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for coming to this gathering and welcome to Malacañang. Our meeting — and the fact that it is being held here in Malacañang — I believe, signifies continuing partnership and commitment to shared goals — stability, confidence, progress.

We have all gone through a difficult period not only here in the Philippines but all over the world. Just over a year ago our institutions in the Philippines of governance stood on the brink before the situation was rescued by a reassertion of People Power. Our economy was buffeted by domestic uncertainties, then by a global slowdown.

Two factors were particularly important in helping us weather the extended period of difficulty.

One was the constant flow of remittances from Filipino workers overseas. Those remittances helped to offset some amount of capital outflow from the economy and boost our international reserves to the robust situation in which it is now, despite our decline in exports.

The other was the steadfastness of investments in the country. Those of you in this room today, and the enterprises you represent, kept faith in The capacity of Filipinos to sort out things and to bring our country back to the path of progress. We appreciate your faith in the Philippines.

On our part we, the one-year old government, have done our best to manage the crisis, and to prepare to bring about better times ahead. We averted the recession that swept through most of our partner economies. We kept to our fiscal targets by enforcing discipline down the line. Our capital markets have rebounded, responding to the leadership and management this government has delivered.

I don't need to go through the details of what we have done in the past year because all of you have kept a very close watch on every indicator of our market's performance. And we all know, as Peter presented in his presentation, that there are formidable challenges ahead. We all know that we have to avoid pitfalls. We all know that there are parts of the economy that we have to strengthen. We all know that we must continue to do reforms required to build our competitiveness as the global economy undergoes revitalization.

But let me take this opportunity to assure you that we have our noses to the wheel, so to speak. Despite the characteristic noises generated in the political sphere, our economic managers are keeping a tight focus on the reforms that need to be undertaken.

In my State of the Nation message to Congress last year — and many of you listened to that quite intently — I said that to create jobs, we will attract investments. To attract investments, we will attend to macroeconomic measures and concerns.

Furthermore, I said that in addressing macro concerns, we will focus on long-term structural issues. We started with the reform of the power sector, and this year we are privatizing the state-owned power transmission company. Having passed the power sector reform law and its implementing rules and regulations after a ten-year wait, now we are turning to other basics like infrastructure.

In focusing on infrastructure, I also said in my State of the Nation Address last year that we want to harness the private sector via the build-operate-and-transfer expanded law. Our priorities include telecommunications facilities for high-speed productivity at low cost, roads to target tourist destinations especially in the Visayas and Northern Luzon, infrastructure for the modernization of agriculture especially in Mindanao and Southern Luzon, mass transport infrastructure for Metro Manila, and commuter and transport systems to disperse communities towards Subic-Clark and Calabarzon.

I appreciate the presentation made by Peter today and the advance comments made in various details of the surveys that have been made among the multinational companies.

It is my practice to listen carefully to specific points raised by businessmen just as I listen to specific points raised by the poor.

We respect the rule of law, just as you do in most of the countries represented here. Thus, with regard to mining and related issues, we respect the role of the supreme court on the suits involving the mining act and the indigenous peoples rights act. I place my complete faith in the Supreme Court to resolve these issues with wisdom and patriotism.

In the meantime, let me reiterate also what I said in my State of the Nation Address about our growth sectors of the 21st century.

I have said over and over again that what we are promoting are the fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful. One of them is information and communications technology or ICT. We realize that it is our English literacy in addition to our aptitude and skills that give us a competitive edge in ICT.

To prepare our youth to continue the Philippine tradition of producing knowledge workers — as already indicated in the presentation of Peter — we are upgrading mathematics, science, and English teaching in basic education.

Also, I am asking the secretary of finance to study the feasibility of removing taxes and duties on computers to speed up people-access to information technology.

Aside from ICT we also have the competitive edge in tourism — as again mentioned in Peter's presentation — in the natural wonders of our country and the natural warmth of our people. And as I indicated earlier, we hope that the private sector infrastructure investors will supplement us in our efforts to provide roads to those wonders and the means to take the tourists there.

We have been developing a Philippine position for the new round of the World Trade Organization which will characterize the world of the 21st century in this first decade. The new round is billed as a development round. For the Philippines, mainstreaming trade into the wider development agenda of addressing poverty is a central consideration to reaching a country position. To help frame Philippine negotiating options, we are identifying products and services, first, where we are currently competitive; second, where we are not currently competitive but necessary conditions can be developed to make us competitive; third, where we are currently not competitive and cannot be competitive but must be given sufficient transition time for social and equity reasons; and, fourth, where we are not competitive at all and these products and services can be traded off for reciprocal concessions.

The development of the Philippine position looks, it's supposed to look at possible incentives to offset comparative disadvantages. I am asking our economic managers to work on this plan with greater urgency. NEDA, at this point, should be leading this study, though some of you have expressed discomfort over what is perceived as over

centralization of decision-making At the NEDA. I believe, however, your discomfort is not about decision-making regarding the relative competitiveness of our economic sectors, rather I can perceive it is about the approval process for contracts worth more than 50 million pesos. If you recall, in a much-applauded announcement early in my presidency, I devolved the final authority for approving contracts worth 50 million pesos and above from the President to the NEDA board to remove a source of graft in Malacañang. Now lately, backed up by the cabinet, we are further devolving this approval process back to the cabinet secretaries except for specific contracts required by law to be approved at a level higher than the department head.

I hope this administrative order to be signed soon will address your concerns about over centralization of decision-making at the NEDA.

I appreciate your sincere concern for making our economy more efficient and our governance more responsive. I encourage you to have more regular meetings with especially the Secretary of Trade and Industry, who is the one in charge of making sure that your concerns are met — even regarding peace and order, he can be the one to put you together with our peace and order authorities so that you can do your specific planning for that concern though we have been doing it with some degree of success I believe, with the Filipino-Chinese community. These dialogues are designed for meaningful feedback from, and continuing interaction with the foreign chambers of commerce.

All our efforts at fostering economic growth will be meaningless unless we are able to bring immediate relief to the 40 percent of our population trapped in poverty. And I am committed to bring about the conditions that will enable our country to win the battle against poverty within the decade. Such conditions should be sustainable and rooted in broader popular access to productivity and value creation.

You, the business community, are the real experts in the creation of value. There can be no real headway gained in the war against poverty unless we improve our economy's capacity for value creation.

There are those who have tried to politicize poverty by trying to impart a subliminal message that the solution to poverty lies in government dole-outs and subsidies. We do not condone a culture of dependence which impairs popular empowerment, and destroys initiative and innovation.

And there are others who hope to convert our impoverished communities into breeding grounds for discontent, rage, dissidence, even terrorism. This is even a worse enemy because it leads to social disintegration.

The train of propaganda and violence that follows poverty is heard and seen all over the world. But in the coldness of reason, we know that poverty is mainly the consequence of limited access to productive opportunities. And only by expanding these opportunities may poverty be reduced, and finally defeated.

As I said in the beginning of this speech, investments play a key role in creating these opportunities. Enterprises, whether small or large, such as the ones you represent in this country, are valued allies in our battle against poverty. In this awareness, we are prepared to work hard in order to reduce the costs, as well as the risks, of doing business in this country.

We will continue to work on the peace and order situation. We will continue to push our good governance culture. We will continue to cut graft through shaving opportunities for it. We will continue to move people, resources and processes that promote good government. We will continue to clean up the regulatory mill by harnessing honest executives and lessening, if not removing all trigger points for stealing.

We resolve to remove graft as a source of uncertainty and unpredictability in investment decisions. We are determined to cut down the waste of scarce public resources and increase public investments.

In my view, good governance rests on three pillars. First, a sound moral foundation to guide our leadership at all levels. Second, a philosophy of transparency in all government actions. Third, an ethic of effective implementation throughout the bureaucracy.

We must exorcise the culture of corruption that delays the maturation of democracy.

Improvements in the quality of corporate governance will not only help diminish the culture of corruption, it will also make our enterprises more efficient and reduce risks of failure, as we have seen in the case of Enron.

Multinational enterprises here in the Philippines are active in the formation of a responsible corporate governance culture in this country, guided by the benchmarks in managerial excellence set all over the world.

By and large, the companies you belong to set good examples of corporate citizenship. Represented in this room today are some of the most reliable corporate taxpayers in the country. And i must congratulate you all for that.

Beyond all these, however, I should like to call on you to expand your corporate social responsibility programs.

These programs will build stronger bridges between workplaces and communities. They will lead the way forward in improving our overall capacity to generate value.

Efficient enterprise does not only improve private profitability. It benefits the larger society. This is a message we must clearly deliver and deliver well if we are to develop a modern productive culture for our people because in the end, after all that's said and done, that modern productive culture is what will make your businesses continue to be profitable and become even more profitable and it is what will make our country finally win the battle against poverty with your participation.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the conference of Multinational Companies(The Wallace Business Forum). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230219/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7626&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 105th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Army

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 105th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Army**

[Delivered at the Gen. Tirso Fajardo Bldg. (HPA Grandstand) Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, March 22, 2002]

Mayor Freddie Tinga and the other local government officials; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Mga sundalo, binabati ko kayong lahat mga magigiting na kawal ng Philippine Army sa ating 105th Anniversary.

And I salute our awardees on this occasion. Our awardees are this year's models of the great Filipino soldier. Models of the best tradition of the army. You and the rest of our army do our nation proud for your courage, conscience and patriotism.

I also salute the 20 officers confirmed last week by the Commission on Appointments. Six of the generals and five of the colonels are from the army. I appointed you, i chose you to be generals and colonels because i believe in your qualities of military leadership. Congratulations to you all!

Today is also the 105th Anniversary of the Philippine Presidency. In the Tejeros convention where General Emilio Aguinaldo formally constituted the revolutionary army of the Philippines, he was also declared President of the Revolutionary Forces and the Republic. And today as Commander-in-Chief, I share with you the historical meaning and legacy of this moment.

Fourteen months ago, the AFP Chief of Staff, who came from the army, brought with him the whole Armed Forces of the Philippines to deal the final blow against plunder and the loss of moral ascendancy of a presidency that could no longer govern.

Then as now, the fortunes of the presidency and the army are closely interlinked. It is a bond that is forged in a common vision — the vision of a strong democratic nation. It is a good message for our people that you have for your anniversary theme, and I quote "At your service for freedom and democracy across the land." End quote.

This quote declares the army's undying recognition of the people as the masters of the command. It reaffirms the AFP's primary mission to preserve freedom, uphold democracy and protect our nation's sovereignty and integrity. Indeed in our nation's history we have seen that freedom and democracy enable development, while authoritarianism and dictatorship sabotage development and the battle against poverty.

To win the battle against poverty we must have security, both internal and external, for which the army plays a crucial role. You bear the brunt in the fight against insurgency, rebellion and terrorism. In this, you have displayed the highest degree of valor and gallantry in defense of our territory and sovereignty, constitution and flag. You have shown that the Philippines is the home of the great Filipino soldier.

The 227 officers and enlisted personnel wounded or killed in action against the Abu Sayaff from January 2001 up to this day are a painful testimony to your greatness and your willingness to pay the highest price for our national security.

But we do not want to sacrifice more of our brave men and women, and yet the war must be fought. This is our commitment to our people and to the international world. We will put an end to these terrorists soon with the assistance of our allies.

Balikatan is addressing part of the training and equipment needs to match your valor and stamina. Courage, we need not learn from others, you have a surfeit of that. But tactical and operational training are needed to transform courage into sure victory.

At this juncture, I would take up exercise Balikatan 2-1. In the beginning, there were understandably questions and apprehensions regarding the participation of Americans in exercise Balikatan. Even at that time where the issue of the American participation was being debated, I saw and was convinced of the need for American assistance to enhance the effectiveness of the armed forces of the Philippines in its fight against the terrorist in Basilan thus, I decided without much hesitation.

Our fight against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan is beginning to bear fruit. Our troops are hot on the heels of terrorists aided by sophisticated intelligence gathering. Equally encouraging is the warm acceptance by the peace loving peoples of Basilan and Zamboanga of the American presence. They, who are the ones directly affected by the scourge of terrorism look forward with confidence to the day when this scourge is finally stamped out. And we shall win with superior moral and now superior physical resources.

We shall uphold before the world the finest tradition of soldiery that lives in the army and the other major services. We have to push forward with greater vigor and force until terrorism is destroyed and can no longer rise from the ashes.

And now that the Balikatan 2-1 is running in the middle of its course as in previous Balikatans under the visiting forces agreement, your superiors together with our counterparts in the united states armed forces are brainstorming on the curriculum of the next Balikatans.

Because the curriculum of every Balikatan is usually planned and agreed on a year in advance, the originally envisioned Bbalikatan exercises for 2002 were planned and agreed on long before September 11. And therefore, to my mind that original curriculum, that original content became less relevant after September 11. And i instructed that the content be modified to emphasize the skills needed in the international war against terrorism, the result was Balikatan 2-1.

We must continue re-examining the content of future Balikatans to make sure that they conform more and more to the fight against terrorism and increasingly to the fight against the twin of terrorism, the fight against poverty.

Now, I'm beginning to receive feelers from the people especially of Basilan regarding the possibility of enhancing community development assistance in the u.s. Participation in exercise Balikatan. This is in order to help them recover soon from the destruction and stagnation which terrorism has wrought on them for so long.

I am keeping an open mind on the matter. Offhand, I see no serious objection against the proposition for expanding the assistance to community development for after all our effort at restoring peace in Basilan is not the end. It is in fact just the beginning of a more arduous and sustained effort of bringing development to the province, of reducing poverty which as i have repeatedly said is the twin of terrorism.

I await the recommendation of my advisers but in the meantime on a matter of strategic policy let me say that i welcome the thought the next modification of the Balikatan curriculum should emphasize civic action. This is important to strengthen the physical and psychological parameters of the community caught in the vortex of combat operations.

In the war against terrorism, we cannot be half-hearted or reluctant to move forward, strategic decisiveness is important. To hesitate now could doom our chances of permanent success. A shallow victory will doom our nation to greater instability and drive our people to deeper poverty and despair.

But let me assure the army and the whole nation that no matter how many more Balikatans there will be after more than a dozen Balikatans there had been under the visiting forces agreement, as long as I am president, not only the

constitution but also the self respect of the Filipino soldier will always serve as the parameters and guidelines of Balikatan.

The American soldiers shall not engage the enemy except in a clear-cut scenario of exercising the human right of self-defense. The American soldiers will train and will be trained under our mutual training template through our chain of command. Our battles have not been exclusively against armed aggressors. You, the great Filipino soldiers have also fought ignorance and poverty. As mentioned by General De los Reyes, you have built many useful things for development. You have built dams and electrical installations in conflict-ridden localities. For instance, in the Lanao del Sur-North Cotabato area alone you have constructed or rehabilitated more than a hundred school buildings during my administration. I congratulate the engineering brigades for building these schools in which soldiers sometimes even serve as temporary teachers.

There are 1,600 Barangays that still have no schools serving them and i would like to repeat my instruction that the engineering brigades should participate in the building of these schools. And I would like to clarify my instruction that because we don't have to pay extra salary to those who are building these schools, the project costs of these schools should be no more than 200,000 pesos per classroom in these Barangays.

In strengthening our political institutions peace remains our preferred option. I have suspended the peace panels but we have not given up on negotiations. The ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF still holds. Back channels are being used to move the MILF peace process faster. Back channels are also open to the communist party of the Philippines based on sincerity and genuine national interest. I am pursuing the mode of back channeling to try to achieve final agreement at the soonest possible time.

Only yesterday, almost 500 members of the local communist movement, the ram and the MNLF were formally granted amnesty. This has brought the total number of amnesty grantees of various persuasions to 16,000 since 1986. At this point, about 2,600 more have manifested an interest in availing of our amnesty program.

But let not the olive branch we hold before the enemy be rebuffed with gunfire. Waging peace must not be perceived as cowardice. The army and all the AFP are there to guarantee the peace with sacrifice and valor. This is our commitment — to stand for peace without flinching, without letting down our guard.

When peace is gained, we secure it. We will not let the sacrifices of the AFP go to naught. Development shall succeed conflict. In Mindanao, the re-envigorated ARMM has prepared an integrated and realistic development plan that will fast-track the march of regional progress in Muslim Mindanao. Let us all support it.

Basilan has its own accelerated development plan to reduce poverty and deter the spread of terrorism. Balikatan plays a role in this campaign of peace and development which shall be pursued to its logical end. Those who fight for peace and progress should themselves savor the fruits of what they have fought for.

A year ago, on army day, i increased the gratuities of soldiers wounded or killed in action. I also signed a law exempting your allowances from taxes. Now, we must find a way to facilitate pension payments. But the increase of your basic pay is of greatest concern to me. Heroes must have decent salaries, thus, we are working hard for legislation to increase the pay of AFP personnel.

I have also asked the secretary of the budget to infuse the RSBS with a 200-million peso one-time contribution to serve as additional seed money for our soldiers' pensions. So that the day will come when increasingly the soldiers' pension can come from earnings of the pension funds. And when this day comes the three billion pesos that every year we allocate from the general appropriations act for pensions can be freed and can thus be used to finance the upgrading of our soldiers' salaries.

Housing is another concern. Less than 3,000 officers, enlisted men and beneficiaries of soldiers killed in action have been accommodated in off-base housing projects. Another 1,000 or so have availed of Pag-ibig benefits. About 2,000 units served as on-base homes.

These numbers are far too low for the 13,500 army personnel applying for off-base housing and the more than 3,000 waiting to be housed on-base.

HUDCC chairman Mike Defensor has provided the cabinet with a list of public housing projects from the past that had become white elephants because to build them was not commensurate to... To the cost to build them was not commensurate to what the lowly Filipino worker could afford. We are redoing the installment scheme to allow low income workers to pay for them and at the same time comply with COA requirements for floor prices.

I would like to ask Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to make sure that the soldiers get first crack at these housing units already available even as we speak. I would also like him to oversee the complete staff work for proclaiming eleven identified portions of military reservation as soldiers' housing sites.

I am also directing the AFP housing board's actions on applications for the AFP OVAI in Fort Bonifacio. It was my late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, who set aside land in then Fort Mckinley for an AFP officers' village and an enlisted men's village. And as president I would like to be able to make sure that his work will not go uncompleted.

And you, dear soldiers carry on with your dedicated service to our people for freedom, for democracy, for Philippine progress.

Lagi ninyong isipin ang kahalagahan ng inyong misyon tungo sa kapayapaan ng ating bansa at sa kaunlaran ng ating mga kababayan. Lagi ninyong maala-ala sana na kailangan kayo ng kapwa nating pilipino, at kailangan kayo ng panguluhan, kailangan kayo ng ating bansa.

And so on this day after 105 years of a glorious tradition, dear soldiers as your commander-in-chief, may I give you a message of thanks from all the Filipino people. And from them to you, mabuhay ang sundalong Pilipino!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 105th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Army. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230209/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7625&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during El Shaddai's Eucharistic Celebration

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During El Shaddai's Eucharistic Celebration

[Delivered at the AMVEL Business Park, Sucat Road, San Dionisio, Paranaque, March 24, 2002]

Maraming salamat. Thank you.

Maraming salamat, Brother Mike. Sister Belen; — pwede na hong maupo iyong may mga upuan — Secretary Mike Defensor na narito rin; Chairman ng Social Security System, Bernardino Aves; ating mga iba't ibang mga panauhin; my brothers and sisters na anak ni Yahweh El Shaddai.

Ang linggo ng mga palaspas ay nagsisilbing paalaala sa ating lahat ng pagsalubong ng bayang Herusalem kay Hesukristo, ang ating Panginoon at tagapagligtas.

Pinagdiriwang natin ito taun-taon sapagkat tulad din noon, naalala natin, isinasaalang-alang natin sa kanya magpasahanggang ngayon ang ating kaligtasan at ang pagtugon niya sa ating mga suliranin.

At talagang maraming suliranin ang ating bayan, humigit kumulang sa labing walong taon ang lumipas mula ng magsimula ang mabuting gawain ni Yahweh El Shaddai sa barangay Sto. Niño dito sa Paranaque sa pamumuno ng ating punong-lingkod, ang ating servant leader na si Bro. Mike Velarde. Noong panahong iyon — sabi ko nga, “Brother Mike, dito mo ba sinimula?” “hindi,” sabi niya. “banda riyan, malapit sa airport.” Lilang daang tao lamang ang dumalo noon sa lingguhang gawain na ngayo’y bumubunga na sa mga milyong-milyong kasapi sa iba’t ibang dako ng mundo.

At brothers and sisters, para sa akin malaking karangalan kasi 18 years ago, nagsimula itong napakagandang gawain na sinimulan ni Brother Mike on the 9th year... Nine years ago, ako ay nakasama na dito sa El Shaddai. Kaya ganoon katagal na ang ating pakikisama. Ngayon itong taong ito, inimbata ako ni Brother Mike na dumalo dito, makipag-misa, makipag-overnight sa Easter Sunday. Gaya nang ginagawa ko, every Easter Sunday dito kasama ninyo, unless ako ay out-of-town. Eh, itong taong ito, inimbata ho ako doon sa Limasawa this coming Sunday. Kasi iyong First mass in the Philippines was held on Easter Sunday in Limasawa four centuries ago. Kaya sabi ko kay Brother Mike, hindi ako makakapunta sa Easter Sunday dahil nangako naman ako sa ating mga kapatid sa Limasawa na makikisimba ako doon ng Easter Sunday. “pwede ba, Brother Mike, kahit na hindi naman overnight iyong usual Palm Sunday Mass, doon na lang ako pupunta sa anticipated mass n’yo on the Saturday night before Palm Sunday?” Eh, alam naman natin in the Lord there are no coincidences. Talagang gusto ng Lord na itong gabi, itong araw na ito ako dadalo, dahil itong araw na ito ang paglipat natin dito sa lugar na ito. At ang lipat ay nataon sa Linggo ng mga palaspas at alam ko, palagay ko na ito ay upang salubugin natin ang pagbalik ng mabuting gawain ni El Shaddai dito sa Paranaque.

Ang ginagawang “Palm Sunday Family Appointment with El Shaddai Walk of Faith, Love and Unity” ay isang katibayan ng ating paniniwala sa kapangyarihan ng pananalig, pag-ibig at pagkakaisa.

At ako po ay hindi ho ako nawawalaan ng pananalig at pananampalataya na gaya ng sabi ng kanta natin pagkatapos ng communion: let them see Christ in me. Ako ay hindi nawawala ng pananalig na kayo, ako, tayo isa’t isa, we will see Christ in one another.

Nananalig tayo bilang mga anak ng Diyos na ang bawat isa sa atin ay may layunin na dapat gampanan para sa kaluwalhatian niya at ng kanyang kaharian. Nananalig din tayo bilang mga pilipino na may mabuti at magandang

tadhanang inilaan ang diyos para sa ating bansa at mga kababayan. At gaya rin ng kanta natin pagkatapos ng communion: Lord you are faithful. Iyon ho ay hindi nawawala sa aking paniniwala.

Mga kababayan, nananalangin tayo bilang mga anak ng Diyos at bilang mga Pilipino na mag-ibigan at magkaisa na tayong lahat upang maisulong natin ang ating bansa tungo sa kaunlaran, kapayapaan at kadakilaan.

Ngayong umaga, tulad ng lagi, bilang inyong kapatid kay Yahweh El Shaddai at kaisa for the last 19 years sa gawaing ito, binabati ko kayong lahat, si Brother Mike, si Sister Belen, lahat ng mga manggagawa sa ubasang ito — isang masaya, maluwalhati at mahiwagang Linggo ng mga palaspas.

Lagi ko po sinasama kayong lahat sa aking mga panalangin, at lagi kayong nasa puso at isipan ko sa pamamahala ng ating bansa. Naway pagpalain tayong lahat ni Yahweh El Shaddai.

Kanina po, nung ako ay nagdarasal pagkatapos ng communion at kinakanta natin yung let them see Christ in me, sabi ko, “Lord, sino iyong them?” Una sa lahat siyempre ang ating mga kapatid dito sa gawain. Tapos sabi ko, “Lord, meron pa ba?” Sabi niya, “meron,” kasi pinaalala niya sa akin, sa aking pagninilay na pag ako’y nagpupunta sa iba’t ibang mga urban poor communities marami akong nakikitang mga out-of- school youth, mga kabataang hindi nakakapag-aral. At itong mga kabataang hindi nakakapag-aral ay masyadong naaaliw sa mga bawal na droga. Kaya ang umabot sa akin sa aking pagninilaw ay kung gusto natin makita nitong mga out-of- school youth ang mukha ni Kristo ay kailangan ay bigyan natin sila ng ibang paraan sa buhay para hindi ang bawal na gamot ang maglilibang sa kanila.

Meron hong gawain ang pamahalaan ng inyong lingkod, ating pamahalaan mula noong last summer na ginawa in a small way sa ating out-of-school youth. Nung tatay ko, si Diosdado Macapagal ay Pangulo ng Pilipinas, gumawa siya ng programa na tinatawag nilang emergency employment. In fact, iyong emergency employment ng tatay ko nakapagtayo ng mga maraming kalsada kagaya nung kalsada sa... Na lumiligid sa Sampaloc lake, sa San Pablo City, o iyong kalsada na doon sa bundok mula sa San Carlos City hanggang ngayon sa Bacolod City. Noong araw maliliit na kalsada, ngayon sementadong mga kalsada. Ngunit sa ngayong mga panahon, marami tayong ibang mga pinaggagastusan. Housing, halimbawa at iba pang mga kailangan ng ating mga mamamayan. Murang gamot na inaangkat natin para hindi kayo — lalo na iyong mga mahihirap ay hindi mahal ang bibilhin — kung bibilhin ang gamot sa mga government hospitals. Kaya meron konti na lang ang naiiwan para sa sinasabing emergency employment.

Ngunit ang umabot sa aking mensahe, mula kay Kristo na pinagdidiriwang natin ang simula ng kanyang sakripisyo nung Palm Sunday, ay kung gusto natin na makita ng ating out-of- school youth ang mukha ni Kristo dapat palawakin iyong emergency employment program para sa ating out-of- school youth sa urban poor communities.

Ito po ang aking balak gawi, gawing mas malawak itong program itong summer na magsisimula. At ang hinihingi ko po sa inyo ay panalangin po ninyo na ito po ay magtatagumpay sa ganoon ang napakaraming kabataan na parang nawawala sa landas dahil naaaliw at natutukso ng bawal na gamot ay makakabalik muli sa piling ng ating mahal na Hesukristo.

Maraming salamat at advance Happy Easter sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Message during El Shaddai’s Eucharistic Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230134/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7624&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) “Banyuhay” Class of 2002
Commencement Exercises Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) “Banyuhay” Class of 2002 Commencement Exercises**

[Delivered at the Fajardo Grandstand, Ford Del Pilar, Baguio City, March 24, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Reyes for your very kind introduction.

Troop commander give ‘Tikas Pahinga.’

Senator Rodolfo Biazon, former PMA Superintendent; General Diomedio Villanueva; Major General Rufo de Veyra and the other officials of the Philippine Military Academy; Chairman Carlos Agustin and the other alumni of PMA; major service commanders; Congressman Maurice Domogan and Mayor Bernardo Vergara and the other officials of Baguio; Governor Raul Molintas and the other officials of Benguet; the other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; members of the diplomatic corps; other Presidential Appointees who are here; distinguished guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Isang mainit na pagbati muli ang aking pinapa-abot ngayon naman sa isang daan at tatlumpu’t-walong kasapi ng class ‘Banyuhay’ sa inyong pagtatapos ngayon. At buong lugod ko kayong tinatanggap nang pormal sa hukbong Sandatahan ng Pilipinas. Binabati ko rin ang inyong mga pamilya na napaka-enthusiastic kanina sa pag-palakpak sa inyo dahil sila ang nagsikap upang maitaguyod ang pag-aaral ninyo dito sa napakagaling na eskwelahan ang Philippine Military Academy.

Yung pangalan ng inyong klase ay kaiba-iba. Kasi hindi karaniwang salita sa Tagalog. Your class name ‘Banyuhay’ comes from bagong anyo ng buhay, which means therefore a new form of life — it heralds your coming into the new century.

There are many dimensions of change that we must face in this new century. There is a change in the substance and style of governance under my leadership. There is a change in the character of the PMA over the last decade. For instance, now PMA has female cadets and graduates. PMA has produced a female topnotcher, and this year PMA produced a female Tarzan of the class. And this year PMA has produced a new method of privilege for the goat. And for his very unusual expression of his privilege I am going I understand he has been dying to go to the Southernmost part of the Philippines. So I’m asking General Villanueva to send him immediately to Lantawan in Basilan.

Many changes indeed, and speaking of Lantawan, speaking of Basilan, there is also a change in the way we are fighting war. There is a change in the way we are fighting poverty. There is a change in the way we are conducting war and waging the peace. All these changes are sweeping the political, social and economic landscape. In all these, the Filipino soldier is involved, both as participant and vanguard.

You must be involved in good governance, in propagating and exemplifying the values of honesty, duty and conscience throughout the entire breadth of the military and civil service.

Your must lead in the fight against poverty, by tempering the martial role of the soldier with the will and compassion to fight ignorance, disease and social injustice.

You must be warriors and peacemakers, steely fighters in meeting enemy fire, and at the same time agents of national reconciliation and solidarity in waging a just and honorable peace with former foes.

These myriad roles play a profound challenge upon the intellectual, moral and spiritual resources of the Filipino soldier.

I am confident, however, that the academy has prepared you well for these roles. I have faith in your versatility and courage to fight and win the battles in the horizon, whether these be in the field of fire or in the building of our nation.

There is more to the Filipino soldier's role in this century especially after September 11 that we must all deeply understand. It is the reality that in war and in peace, we are faced with the growing challenge of fighting alongside international allies.

The war against terrorism and poverty is the most vivid example of this. We see this in Basilan, and we must see that it is much, much more than a shooting war. It is a joining of soldiers for peace, for rebuilding communities, for strengthening the bridges of understanding and common ideals.

The war against terrorism has molded the world's soldiery into one. Today, the name of the game is multilateral coalitions.

As the U.S. mops up the Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, British and European forces have moved in for peacekeeping. And what used to be a lonely fight for us in Southern Philippines became a global fight since September 11, and now we are joined by American forces in training and civic action. We are also joined by Malaysian and Indonesian intelligence in combating terrorism and other transnational crimes in our common seas.

The byword today is inter-operability. This is necessary because of the transient and rapidly shifting threat of terrorism. Terrorism is a transnational threat that needs transnational counteraction. As terrorism moves from place to place, we must move to consolidate with our allies. This is the only way we can achieve meaningful if not permanent victory.

You, the graduates of class 2002, are now thrust into this new paradigm of war, and I trust that you will carry out your mission accordingly. Doctrines have to be changed and refined in this new millennium. The spirit and substance of operational manuals have to be revised in line with the transnational imperatives of conflict management and development.

I have already instructed the armed forces to work on this. We must have a military that can shake off the conservative values of the past and be more forward-looking, proactive and infused with a global outlook.

This global involvement and outlook does not mean a diminution of sovereignty or constitutional integrity. The armed forces is a constitutional instrument. It defends democracy and protects human rights. It holds unconditional allegiance to civilian authority and to the unity of command. It adheres to a code of discipline and absolute fealty to the constitution.

There are those who sweepingly accuse that our joint military training exercises in Basilan have been occasioned by violations of human rights.

This sweeping accusation is an insult to our armed forces and our allies, it is an insult to our people. Our soldiers have sacrificed so much by holding their fire to keep civilians from harm's way. They had been ambushed while doing civic action work, while bringing food and medicine to hapless communities. They had been shot in the middle of humanitarian missions.

The worst violator of human rights in the world is not soldiers, it is terrorism. The enemy is not our Filipino soldiers, the enemy is terrorism. In the fight against terrorism, more than 200 officers and enlisted personnel had been wounded or killed in action since January 2001. And I consider it the height of misrepresentation for anyone to

characterize the great Filipino soldier as a violator of human rights when so many of our soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice of death to protect our people from terrorism.

Looking ahead, the 21st century is a new world dominated, not just by this war against terrorism but even beyond that, even when we have been able to win the battle against terrorism this new world will be dominated by technology and the knowledge economy. The internet has irreversibly changed the way we do business, work, think, live and play. Advances in I.C.T. have unleashed forces that create both perils and opportunities for us.

To tap the opportunities, we must uphold our economic philosophy of transparency and free enterprise to be globally competitive. To avoid the perils we must extend our opportunities to the rural countryside through a socially equitable modernized agricultural sector. And we must give a social bias for the disadvantaged to balance our economic development.

And to protect the opportunities and reduce the security hazards, we shall rely on the armed forces and our police forces to remain steadfast in your mission.

In the past few years, PMayers have become I.C.T.-ready. Your curriculum already incorporates I.C.T. courses. It is my policy to encourage schools to tap information and communications technology to prepare students, including and especially PMayers, for the future. You must be always keeping a broad perspective of the nation and the world.

But even as we embrace myriad changes and complexities of modern life, our aspirations as a nation are steadfast — peace and justice, freedom and progress. Even as we enter a millennium of change, the soldier's mission is unchanged — it is the defense of our flag, our constitution and everything that we, as one nation hold dear. Every PMayer is expected to be true to this creed.

“Integrity, Courage and Loyalty” — these are what you have pledged to follow. They have been instilled in your minds and hearts from the very first day in the academy. These words have moved PMayers to win countless battles and make the supreme sacrifice when necessary. These words inspired our soldiers to remove dictatorial rule in 1986, and then again to turn away from plunderous leadership in 2001.

“Integrity, Courage and Loyalty” — these words have made the academy truly a cradle of heroes deserving of the monument that was unveiled today.

We know of countless examples of PMayers who sacrificed treasure and honor in the face of battle, fierce in combat but gentle in peace. I trust that you, the graduates of batch 2002, will be like these heroes before you. These heroes are the treasures of our nation.

The willingness to fight for what is right, the discipline to stay on course and the steel to overcome the enemy, the will to wage peace all take root from the ability to discern good from evil.

Ultimately, this is what the academy teaches every PMayer. This is what it has taught for the last 104 years. For the PMA is not merely a school for weaponry and military strategy, it is a bedrock of character and values. It is a bastion of human excellence, a symbol of Filipino heroism in all its forms. A covenant to liberty and a training ground for the great Filipino soldier.

I have no doubts about class Banyuhay's determination to serve. As I said earlier, the class goat who hails from the north wants to see action in our southernmost provinces. And the only female member of the top ten, who is from Baliwag, from Bulacan has a muslim mother and desires to serve her fellow Muslims. Such expressions of human courage and preparedness are heartwarming, heartwarming to our people.

All of you are expected to show utmost commitment in performing your tasks in support of our strategy for peace and progress — security, socio-economic development and political stability through dialogue and consensus.

I have said on countless occasions that poverty is our worst enemy. The fight against terrorists is also a fight against poverty, so is the fight against injustice and ignorance. So is our campaign for high moral standards in society, and our quest for good governance. These are weapons to defeat poverty.

It is now class Banyuhay's turn to show that you can live up to the exacting legacy that past generations of PMayers have built.

You had been given a great gift, a chance to work for peace and justice, freedom and development. I trust that you will use it well. That your will will be that you will not simply walk in the shadow of heroes. But instead that you will live to be heroes yourselves.

My warmest congratulations to everyone who received awards of distinction today. We especially expect you to gather more awards in the future. And to all the members of class Banyuhay my best wishes. And let me say that the battlefield awaits you. But more important, the people you must serve await you.

But before I send you to your battlefield, where for our goat it will be Lantawan in Basilan. Actually that's not a reward, actually that's punishment for giving us a surprise. That surprised even your superintendent and the secretary of national defense. So except for the goat, I have a message for everyone else, and that is, in keeping with tradition, in observance of the time honored tradition of the Philippine Military Academy, and on the occasion of my official visit to the academy I, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines and Commander-in-Chief Armed Forces of the Philippines hereby pardon all outstanding punishment of the cadet corps as of this day.

Let me sign this except for the fellow we are sending to Lantawan immediately.

Class of 2002, we thank you for choosing to become professional soldiers. Go to your battlefields. Go also to your civic action. Go to your fight against poverty. Go and serve the people.

Congratulations, good luck and thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Banyuhay" Class of 2002 Commencement Exercises. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230159/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7623&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Program of the 4th Mindanao Food Congress

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Opening Program of the 4th Mindanao Food Congress

[Delivered at the Grand Caprice, Limketkai Center Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, April 3, 2002]

Daghang salamat sa ating Secretary of Agriculture nga kaamo sab magbinisaya kay ang iyang asawa nag-gikan sa Bohol, Secretary Leony Montemayor.

And I would like to thank Mayor Emano for his generous words. Salamat mayor na sa wakas aking-akin na ikaw. Atong halangdon governor, Governor Calingin, Governor sa Misamis Oriental ug governor ...; Ang aton nga regional chairman, RDC for region 10, Governor Ocampos; ang mayor gikan sa akong lunsod, Mayor Franklin Quijano sa Iligan; ug ang akong congressman sa akong distrito dito sa Lanao del Norte, Abdullah Dimaporo; Congressman Nereus Acosta, Son of Bukidnon; Monsignor Monsanto, who was with us during the hard times when Dongkoy was not yet aking-akin. Joji, congratulations once again for hosting this. And I would like to acknowledge the members of the Cabinet who are here with us aside from Leony Montemayor; Son of Bukidnon, of region 10, Cito Lorenzo; Presidential Adviser for Modernization of Agriculture, Lito Sarmiento, also Son of Mindanao; Jess Dureza ang akong Presidential Assistant for Mindanao; and the leaders of this Congress, Mr. Andot of the Chamber of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Industry of Northern Mindanao; Atty. Montalban of the cattle raisers, who when I was a new Senator hosted me in his lovely ranch in the backyard of Bukidnon; kaninyong tanan mga kaigsuonan, maayong buntag.

Gusto ko unta magbinisaya sa akong diskurso murag sa akong diskurso niaging tuig sa Butuan sa Mindanao Congress. Apan ingon ug atong mga organizers karon naa diyes porsiyento nga nagikan sa Manila ug naa pa kita ang atong mga VIP guests from other countries busa ingon nila na importante mu-ingles ako sa akong diskurso. And so with your indulgence — I feel very awkward because everytime I come to Mindanao my mind goes to thinking in binisaya. But here I will speak in english for the benefit of our Manila-based visitors, our foreign VIP guests and also for the national audience that is listening to what I will have to say about agricultural and food policy.

First of all, thank you very much for inviting me here once again. This is my second meeting for the Mindanao Food Congress, and in fact, Joji said that she was afraid I wouldn't be able to make it. At first, I wasn't going to be able to make it, but thank goodness re-arrangements were done because this is a very important meeting. Because as Monsignor Monsanto said in his prayer, getting enough food is a day-to-day challenge to most Filipino families.

I would like to acknowledge also Mr. Jeff Nash, the Deputy Chief of the growth with equity in Mindanao project. And he is the reason why we are speaking in English. But aside from USAid.

Actually, our administration has been spending more public resources than any previous administration to stabilize the food supply. 26 billion pesos — right, Leony? — went to agricultural modernization in the year 2001 — unprecedented in the entire history of the Philippines. And we are doing this because we want to stabilize food supply especially of staples, especially of rice. And we are doing this in a setting where we are affected year by year by the vagaries of the global market. And to me, agriculture policy actually should be more of a social policy rather than economic policy. I will confess, if I'm spending 26 billion pesos on agricultural modernization, it is not so much because of food security because we can buy food from anywhere in the world, it is because as our farmers and our fisherfolk suffer from price instabilities and other sources of uncompetitiveness then our economy and social fabric also suffer.

But your Congress does not simply underscore the importance of food. It also underscores the importance of Mindanao in the national food agenda. Mindanao is the food basket of our country, producing 40 percent of our food supply. Our focus is here on food and we will not be distracted.

But Mindanao could assume a much, much larger role in food supply if it were not for problems of law and order. Our land of promise sadly is also a land of conflict. And we must always strive for peace so that the promise will be fulfilled.

With peace, more farms can be tilled, more bounties from the sea can be harvested, more crops can be reaped and sold. Then we can talk about the dream of having food on every table for every Filipino family. I therefore wish to set the keynote of this congress by bearing a message of peace, stability and progress amid the diversity and vibrance of this region.

This message carries a reaffirmation to finish off the threat of terrorism in Basilan and elsewhere. To uphold the law against criminality and do enforce the necessary measures to enable enterprise, productivity and livelihood.

I also reaffirm my commitment to peace, development and inter-faith solidarity. And I call on all armed groups in the region to join me in a quest of peace that is just, honorable and enduring. We need peace to uplift our people and empower our communities. We need peace for progress. We need peace to fight poverty and destitution.

I addressed your congress last year, just one month after I assumed the presidency. In that event, I laid before you some of the programs we intended to undertake and are now undertaking to realize our dream of making Mindanao the country's food basket.

One of these programs — in fact, the main program for agriculture — is agriculture and fisheries modernization founded on social equity. This program as I said with 26 billion pesos spent for it last year is now in full swing not only in Mindanao but all over the country.

The spirit of achievement is high. One proof of this is the completion under the leadership of Secretary Montemayor and the Son of Cagayan de Oro, Jess Paras, the head of NIA — one of the achievements is the completion of Mal-mar dam, which after more than a decade of waiting and waiting was finally inaugurated last September 22 and is now irrigating more than 5,000 hectares.

In Mindanao, agriculture and fisheries modernization takes the form of irrigation projects like the one of Mal-mar and the smaller ones as well, farm-to-market roads and post-harvest facilities, as well as capability building. A flagship program in our agricultural modernization is the hybrid rice program, a result of my state visit to China last year. Jobs creation Secretary Cito Lorenzo, Son of region 10, is introducing the very productive Chinese hybrid to 50,000 hectares this April and May. And the 50,000 hectares all over the country that will be exposed now to this hybrid 37,000 hectares will be planted in Mindanao — 37,000 out of 50,000. 37,000 Mindanao farmers in irrigated land are being trained, seeds and inputs are being prepared for them, soils will be analyzed for them, and they will get 10,000 pesos per hectare financing from the Landbank thru Quedancor. This means a total of 370 million pesos to be lent to Mindanao farmers this April and May.

And from the agriculture modernization budget, 450 million pesos of the 26 billion pesos is being put into this program.

Hybrid farmers who started last season — they were the pilot — produced 7.5 to 9.3 metric tons of palay per hectare compared to the old 3.5 to 4.3 metric tons produced when they were not yet using the hybrid seed. And with this increase in their hybrid they earned 35,000 pesos to 43,000 pesos profit, net profit per hectare at 9 pesos and 50 centavos per kilogram of palay per 115-day crop. Indeed, this will revolutionize agriculture in our country.

And this is a concrete example of agricultural modernization in action, moving with energy under — may I brag a little — the Arroyo administration.

And this should serve as a response also to your resolution to improve utilization of agricultural inputs and to access competitively-priced farm inputs. The hybrid rice program addresses soil analysis. The soil will be analyzed so just the right amount of fertilizer and curative agents will be used, therefore, nothing will be wasted. Because if you

don't have soil analysis you might put more fertilizer than needed and the inputs becomes more expensive than needed. And therefore, let this serve as an example to foster more efficient use of agricultural inputs to other commodity sectors.

This program of the hybrid should also serve as a response to your resolution to enhance the credit accessibility of the farmers in Mindanao. The hybrid rice financing program took 22 days from conception to execution. The credit program, as I said earlier, will originate from the land bank through Quedancor. And as I said earlier, the money will be made available to accredited farmer-borrowers this month and next month.

How? Farmers are organized into groups up to 15, where leaders will be chosen and incentivized to collect the money loaned to them.

Now, for the fisheries. Under the fisheries modernization program, there is also 250 million pesos available to fisherfolk for the handline vessel financing at 500,000 pesos per. And the first 50 million pesos is readily drawable today.

For coffee, the Jolo coffee project is an example in Sulu, it leveraged the commitments for the local government internal revenue allotment to cooperative coffee ventures to supply Nestle.

Earlier, Mayor Emano said, he was so surprised because he has not been able to help me in the past election especially this last one for my candidates lost, what? 12 to 1, awful. But I am not a vindictive person. And the Jolo example is another one. Because the project is in the town of Parang where the mayor is Mayor Loong and I had asked his brother Ben Loong not to run for regional vice governor against my candidate Governor Mutilan of Lanao del Sur. But — and he was in the middle of this loan — he still defied me. He still ran, anyway. The loan still continued anyway — 38 million pesos. So, therefore, what is more important is not politics. What is more important is agricultural modernization.

Politics, modernization rather than politics, and I say the same for the coconut industry. For coconut, I am happy to point out that the government is now in control of the United Coconut Planters Bank. This bank through several layers of corporations is the manager of the Coconut Levy Fund. And while the principal of the fund is still under litigation, this bank through those layers of corporations may now manage the fruits of the fund soon and we will be able to use this fund soon for the coconut industry. And I would like to thank the church, especially a great Archbishop from Mindanao, Archbishop Capalla of Davao, for helping this come about. And as a result of his work I have instructed that the first fruits of the coconut levy fund should go to microfinancing for our coconut farmers.

At the same time, I would like to appeal to private banks, and I am hereby instructing the government financial institutions to accelerate restructuring for the individual farmers and food corporations who now want to renew accessing credit especially now that interest rates are at their historic lows.

Last night, one of the senators told me he must congratulate the Central Bank because the interest rate is at its lowest in history. I said, "wait a minute. Yes, we congratulate the Central Bank but the Central Bank could not have provided such low interest rates alone because interest rates are market-determined." The reason why interest rates went that low is because our government controlled our budget deficit and therefore controlled and reduced our borrowing from the domestic market. Because if we had let our deficit go out of control or gone beyond the ceiling then we would have had to borrow — competed with you, the businessmen — and the interest rate would have gone up.

Now, in response to your resolution to expand the utilization of advances in science and technology through an effective extension program, the hybrid rice project will utilize extension work. Also, under the leadership of Secretary Montemayor the guidelines for genetically-modified organisms were approved in principle at the cabinet level yesterday.

Now, in the cattle sector. I would like to address the friends and associates of my host in that wonderful overnight stay I had in Quezon, Bukidnon, 1992. Ten years ago.

In the cattle sector, we need to replenish the cattle population and help nurture the growth of the beef sector. Thus, I instructed very early this year — yes, last January when I went to Masbate. And as a result of my consultation with the Masbate Cattle Industry — I instructed the secretary of DENR, Sonny Alvarez and Secretary of DAR, Secretary Braganza to decrease the pasture lease rate of cattle from 250 pesos per hectare — where the last supposed pro-poor administration made it — to 40 pesos per hectare in our administration. Also, to decrease the cattle to hectare-ratio from one-is-to-one to one-is-to-six. And this policy is now in place retroactive to January 1st 2002.

When it was announced that I was coming to Cagayan de Oro, my friends from Cagayan de Oro — I had a few of them. Very few of them I realized in the last elections. But now that Dongkoy is with me, I have many more friends again. Anyway, my few friends from Cagayan de Oro heard on CDO radio that the newscasters were wondering what pasalubong am I bringing when I come. Well, Dongkoy already told this a lot of them, and I have just mentioned my pasalubong for the farmers and cattle raisers and fishermen of Mindanao, in general. But for Cagayan de Oro, in particular — well, under my guidance Land bank lent 287 million pesos for Bulua barangay for the construction of the west bound integrated jeepney and bus terminal market.

And I would like to congratulate Mayor Dongkoy for his foresight in proposing this project, because you're gonna be a very busy transient place when all of these roads in Mindanao are finished. But I'd like to congratulate him for finishing it in record time, and people who've seen it said the quality is indeed impressive. There is also, as mentioned by Dongkoy, in the pipeline a Land Bank financing for 400 million pesos for the construction of the Cagayan de Oro diversion road and cargo bridge. Also, as Dongkoy mentioned, the 140 million-peso Phividec International Container Port is now ongoing — dollar — is ongoing. Started construction last February, two weeks ago. The contract was awarded last February, it will be operational in 2004. Not to mention the 100 million of the Cagayan de Oro port project. So this will be major gateways to improve an efficient movement of inbound and outbound cargo including the food sector. And so I am not surprised that Mayor Emano said that no administration before mine has ever provided such a big pasalubong to the city of Cagayan de Oro.

Well, I talked about Mayor Emano, who said he wasn't able to help in the last election. And I talked about Mayor Loong, who also did not help in the last election. Well, Ben Loong lost, so that's already his... Enough punishment but I would like to say though — before anybody thinks that they can just defy me and then get all the support they need — that we do things on the basis of merit. And sa tinuod naga maayo ako kay Mayor Emano niadtong piliay tungod kay dugay na na kauban kami sa tabang diri sa Misamis Oriental. Niadto pa ako usa pa ka Undersecretary sa Trade and Industry kauban ni Nimfa Albania, ang atong Regional Director diri niadtong plano sa DTI masugdan gihapon ang Phividec Industrial Estate. Ingon ni then Governor Emano nga nano, how can he allow that when that development is anti-people. Because everytime a project is set up, the people who are living there are moved from one place to another and they were being herded around like cattle. Sa ako nahimo undersecretary, ni istorya mi and therefore I also said, in the national government, we cannot proceed with the development of the industrial estate unless we have a permanent resettlement site for the people who are being dislocated. So, dongkoy ug ako nahimo higala. Ug sa ako nahimo senador ako ang nahimo iyang guest of honor sa katapusan sa inauguration sa permanent relocation site sa mga dislocated didto sa Phividec busa niaging piliay gyud. You can understand ngano ako nagamahay kan Mayor Rmano. apan karon, ok dili na niya nakalimtan ang among panumpa.

Anyway, all of these infrastructure are also... Should also serve as response to your resolution urging the government to accelerate infrastructure development in Mindanao.

And aside from what I mentioned these are just prototypes of our increased absorptive capacity. With increased absorptive capacity by the government of the credits and grants coming from official development assistance and improved tracking of projects, we will get better at infrastructure delivery. The military corps of engineers is helping. They are constructing slow-moving infrastructure projects in difficult areas like Basilan. I would like to encourage private sector participation here in the form of build-operate-and-transfer infrastructure projects.

Related also to your congress resolution to transform the sea transport industry and improve the agricultural marketing and logistics system in mindanao, I am instructing the Philippine Ports Authority and Leony Montemayor to come up with a program on logistics cost reduction steps which will have an impact on the logistics cost to the market. I understand that PPA manager Al Cusi has already been talking to Ito Carlos of the Mindanao Business

Community but so far impasse — no result, no solution. And so I need to give a deadline. So I'd like to ask Leony to come in and make sure that this logistics cost reduction will be implemented this coming May 1st.

Speaking of inbound cargo, we are all concerned about agricultural smuggling. This is being addressed with the Appointment of Customs Collector Antonio Bernardo. I empowered him to make Customs a showcase in the fight against graft and corruption in the same way that we are achieving visible results with BIR Commissioner Rene Banez.

I am also empowering certain Cabinet members to act as my Cabinet officers for regional development or cord. This is a very successful system during the administration of President Cory Aquino, and I would like to revive this. And I am hereby appointing Cito Lorenzo as cord for region 9. Region 9, Western Visayas, (SIC) because he is the grandson of Don Pablo Lorenzo of Zamboanga City. Vice President Tito Guingona as cord for region 10 and CARAGA, but to be assisted in region 10 by Cito and in CARAGA by DOTC Secretary Bebot Alvarez. I am appointing Bebot Alvarez, son of Davao del Norte as cord for Region 11. And I am Secretary Sim Datumanong, son of Maguindanao as cord for ARMM and Region 12, to be assisted in ARMM by DND Secretary Angie Reyes because we cannot have development unless we have peace.

In response to your resolution urging the government to enhance the competitiveness of the Philippine canned tuna exports in the European union through the removal of discriminatory tariff barriers, I would like to let you know that DTI Secretary Mar Roxas is focusing efforts to negotiate not only with the European union but also with the United States for zero tariff.

Last night, I gave a very nice little dinner for Senator Inouye of Hawaii and Senator Stevens of Alaska, who are great friends of the Philippines. And they said that they'll make sure, their work is to make sure that President Bush complies with the promises that he made to me when I visited Washington. Well I said, "that's great, senators. You know, his promises from the U.S. government alone not including the U.S. business amounts to 2 billion dollars." "oops!" They said. Yah, because one billion dollars of that includes market access because their zero tariff law is in congress. And I told them that we especially want canned tuna to be able to enjoy zero tariff in the U.S. and that's a special mission that Senator Inouye and Senator Stevens will work for when they go to senate this coming session.

The DTI is also focusing on tropical fruit market access to Australia, Taiwan and the U.S., and the reduction of tariffs of these exports to South Korea and China.

On your resolution requesting that Mindanao be declared the halal production base in the Philippines — I am directing the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Southern Philippines Development Authority under my former DTI colleague Sam Ampatuan, as well as the Department of Health to submit their joint recommendation on this matter, including an action plan to effectively implement the proposal. The food trade with the Islamic world would be mutually beneficial, economically and politically.

Sam Ampatuan was working on this when he was the head. I made him the head first of the Office of Muslim Affairs but when I found out that SPDA has so many development projects and I need DTI experience for that I moved him to SPDA but I am therefore asking him to... And I am transferring the function of the halal administration from OMA where he was — and I put it there because he was there — to SPDA where he is. And therefore he is very familiar with DTI, and I'm sure that there's going to be a lot of progress under his leadership.

All these spell out the realization that agriculture especially in Mindanao and the rural sector, alongside with information and communications technology and tourism, and the other service sectors all play a critical role in our quest to win the battle against poverty within the decade. I said in my state of the nation address that we should try to create one million jobs in agriculture by 2004. But I'm happy to say that according to national census office during this past year, we already created almost 800,000 jobs in agriculture. And we are still moving forward.

So, Mindanao, I am here not only to support you in your quest to be the Philippines' food basket, I am here because I want the people of Mindanao to feel the blessings of employment and development. Dayon Mindanao atong isla

nga manindot kaayo. Dayon sa alang sa kauswagan. And let us have peace and development in our beautiful island of Mindanao.

Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Program of the 4th Mindanao Food Congress. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230124/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7654&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd Commencement Exercises of the Ramon Magsaysay Technological University (RMTU)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd Commencement Exercises of the Ramon Magsaysay Technological University (RMTU)**

[Delivered in Iba, Zambales, April 4, 2002]

Maraming salamat Governor Vic Magsaysay sa inyong pagpakilala sa akin. At maraming salamat din dahil day and night nagtrabaho iyong mga inhenhero ng probinsiya para magawa itong perimeter fence at access road ng Magsaysay Technological University. At sabi ni Vic, iyong Administration Building ay naghihintay ng tulong kaya alang-alang sa hinihingi ni Vic Magsaysay — pakinggan nyo ako pms — maglalagay tayo ng p4 million para tumulong sa pagkompleto ng Administration Building.

Batiin ko rin ang ating mga kagalang-galang na Congressmen, ang Congressman ng inyong distrito, si Congressman Ruben Torres. Si Congressman Ruben Torres ay iyong aming campaign manager noong 1995, noong ako ay naging number one senator sa buong bansa kaya malaki ang pasasalamat ko sa kanya hanggang ngayon. At ngayon siya ay Congressman, napakahalaga ang kanyang papel na ginaganap hindi lamang dito sa iba kung hindi sa buong pilipinas dahil inaasahan natin siya na magtatanggol sa ating Securitization Law. Na pag napasa iyong Securitization Law na iyon ay marami doon sa mga hinahawakan ng mga bangko na non-performing assets ay magiging pera muli at sa ganoon makapopondo sa marami nating mga projects lalung-lalo na iyong mga housing project para sa mga working class. At siguro ang mga graduating students ng iba nitong eskuwelahan ito ay magkakaroon ng pakinabang doon pag dumami ang pondo para sa low-cost housing ng mga working people.

Binabati ko rin iyong congressman sa kabila, si Congressman Bong Gordon na bagamat ang iba campus ay hindi niya sakop, maraming estudyante dito ay sakop ng kanyang distrito. Kaya tumutulong din siya dito sa eskuwelahan, halimbawa, mayroon siyang 67 scholars dito sa Ramon Magsaysay Technological University. At dahil sa kanyang mga nag-aaral dito na mga constituents, naglagay siya doon sa Republic Act 9162 ng p3 million dagdag sa budget ng RMTU.

Binabati ko ang iba't-ibang mga opisyaes ng lalawigan ng Zambales na galing pa sila, ang dami-dami, lalung-lalo si mayor ng iba, Mayor Danilo Palmoreras. At siyempre si President Rosete at lahat ng mga opisyaes ng Ramon Magsaysay Technological University. At siyempre naman iyong ating mga estudyanteng magga-graduate itong araw na ito. Lalo na iyong kanilang mga magulang.

Gusto ko rin ipakilala at ipagmalaki ang isang Pilipino nakaganap ng napakagandang tagumpay sa ibang bansa, sa isang community, kung saan kaunting-kaunti lamang ang pilipino, siya ang bagong punong bayan ng City of Davis, California, Dr. Ruth Uy Monzon at itong araw na ito ay hindi lamang graduation ang ating ginaganap, mayroon din tayong dalawa pang ipinagdiriwang. Iyong isa ay dahil gusto ko na kayong mga estudyante ay habang kaya magkasigurado na may trabaho pagka graduate ninyo. Ako ay nagdala ng isang jobs fair para sa ganoon ay puwede kayong maghanap ng trabaho ngayon pa lang itong araw na ito. Kayo ay 981 na graduates at doon sa jobs fair na ito, 416 ang nag-register para maghanap ng trabaho. At 31 doon sa inyo ay hired on the spot. Mayroon 200 na i-interbiyuhin pa dahil mayroon tayong walong kompanyang Pilipino at limang overseas companies na nandiyan sa jobs fair para sa ganoon ay kayo ay magkakaroon ng magandang pagkakataon na magkaroon ng employment kaagad. Para naman doon sa gustong mag-self employment, nandiyan din iyong TLRC, iyong Technological Livelihood and Resource Center at mayroon 35 sa inyo nag sign-up at magkakaroon ng kaunting puhunan at training

para sa inyong sariling negosyo. Iyon ay isa sa mga programa natin para sa ganoon titiyakin natin ang hanapbuhay sa ating mga nanggagaling sa mga eskuwelahan.

Pero itong araw na ito kaya nandito si General Rey Berroya, nasaan siya, nasa labas. Oh nandiyan pala si General Boysie Braganza, Division Commander na nag-aalaga ng inyong kapayapaan dito sa Zambales, hanggang sa Pangasinan, hanggang sa Aurora. Pero nandiyan sa labas si General Rey Berroya, ang Regional Director ng Philippine National Police. Dahil gusto ko na iyong mga pulis ay hindi lamang nanghuhuli ng mga kriminal at drug addict, gusto ko na tumulong sila sa ating mga out-of-school, out-of-work urban poor youth na magkaroon ng emergency employment ng sa ganoon mas kaunti ang huhulihing drug addict kung may employment maging ang ating mga out-of-school-youth. Kaya itong-ito ang mga ginagawa natin itong araw na ito, ang ating tema, “trabaho, trabaho, trabaho.” trabaho sa mga nagtatapos kagaya ninyo, trabaho sa mga hindi kasing palad ninyo at hindi makakapagpatuloy ng kanilang pag-aaral.

And so today, I would like to congratulate the graduates of Ramon Magsaysay Technological University. And I would like to thank the students, the faculty, the administration and the staff of the RMTU for actively addressing the development agenda of the Arroyo administration.

I have repeatedly said that our development agenda revolves around the vision of winning the battle against poverty within the decade. This battle consists of four components:

First, promote free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century wherein our competitive advantage is the great Filipino worker. And therefore, our competitive advantage lies in the human resource intensive, skills intensive service sectors like information and communications technology and tourism.

Second, modernize agriculture founded on social equity.

Third, have a sectoral and social bias in our economic development plan.

Fourth, improve moral standard in government and society.

Now regarding the first item about information and communication technology. I congratulate RMTU. I'm glad to learn that you have successfully integrated ICT education in all your curricular programs.

And I am glad that under the build-operate-and-transfer scheme, incidentally which I authored when I was senator, RMTU installed an internet system servicing the needs of the students, the faculty and the administration. Accessing information through the internet has been made an integral part of the different courses offered by this university. And I understand that the students pay reasonable internet fees every semester. And that faculty and staff pursuing graduate studies in progressive universities, the distance education make use of the internet at minimal cost.

Napakagaling na itong malayong eskuwelahan ay up-to-date sa information and communication technology. Congratulations doon.

Regarding tourism, tamang-tama. Alam nyo noong ako ay Undersecretary of Trade and Industry pa more than ten years ago, sinimula ko iyong tinatawag nilang West Central Luzon Development Program, supposed to be Zambales, Bataan at Western Pampanga. Tapos noong ako ay pumunta na sa executive, tinuloy ng mga kasamahan ko sa Department of Trade and Industry pero in-expand nila. Tinawag nila iyong W-Corridor. Kasi iyong shape ng area ay parang w. Iyong unang slant na ganoon, iyon 'yong West Central Luzon. At iyon an nandoon pa, iyon nga ay Zambales, Subic, Bataan at Western Pampanga. Iyon namang umaakyat muli, kasi ganoon ang W, hindi ba tapos mayroon sa gitna, iyong sa gitna ganoon naman ay from Western Pampanga aakyat ng Luisita, at saka Clark, baba sa Clark, baba sa Bulacan, iyan ang industrial corridor. Tapos iyong right side ng W is Bulacan going up to Nueva Ecija, iyan ang ating agricultural corridor. Ngayon pinaliwanag ko iyong agriculture, pinaliwanag iyong industry nandoon iyong left kung saan iyong Zambales, iyong West Central Luzon, ayon sa master plan na iyon, ang West

Central Luzon ay para sa tourism. Kaya bagay na bagay na dito sa Ramon Magsaysay Technological University mayroon kayong turismo, atensiyon sa turismo.

Tourism, the experts say, in tourism, our competitive advantage is eco-tourism and beach tourism. Bagay na bagay sa Zambales. Kasi iyong eco-tourism ay iyong trekking umaabot sa Mt. Pinatubo at iyong beach tourism ay iyong ating mga beaches all the way from Iba down to Subic.

Alam nyo noong ako ay bata pa, just a little bit older than you, as a young married woman, kasi pag-graduate ko nag-asawa ako kaagad. I used to go surfing in Iba, Zambales. Ewan ko kung nandoon pa iyon inyong surf spot ngayon. Pero ibang mga lugar kagaya ng Siargao doon sa Mindanao at saka iyong Baler kung saan nagsi-surfing din noong ako ay young matron ay naging tourist destination na. Kaya inaasahan ko na sa tourism master plan ay iyong mga ganoong ginagawa ko ng bata ako ay magawa ng napakaraming turista dito sa Iba, dito sa Zambales.

On agricultural modernization founded on social equity. Gusto natin sa agricultural modernization na iyong mga state universities and colleges, gaya ng RMTU, iyong kanilang research ay dapat hindi masayang sa mga Ivory Tower Research na iyong findings ay doon lamang sa library shelf mananatili. Gusto natin ay iyon magagamit sa ating agricultural modernization.

First of all, let me say that I am glad that in RMTU, that we are working on agricultural modernization as well.

Una sa lahat, dito sa Zambales, okay, yes, ang number one na ating pag-asa dito ay tourism. Kasi to begin with, mayroon ng maraming turistang nagpupunta sa Subic. Kailangan mayroon silang side tours to the north, sa mga beaches at saka sa Mt. Pinatubo trekking. Ngunit mayroon din kayong natural resource sa agriculture at iyon ang inyong mga mangga. Matagal na iyong mangga ng Zambales ay kilala. Pero kung titingnan natin, kaninong mangga ang talagang pumupunta sa ibang bansa. Iyong mangga ng Guimaras. Bakit? Dahil ginamit nila iyong science and technology para patayin iyong mga langaw sa Guimaras, para iyong mga bagong seeds, mga bagong varieties at saka iyong soil. Kaya napakaimportante na research based ang paglawak ng isang produkto ng agrikultura. Kaya importante na itong eskuwelahan ninyo ay gamitin ang kanyang research upang sa ganoon ay magkaroon tayo nga ng tuloy tuloy at sustenableng produksiyon at palengke ng mangga ng Zambales.

Doon nga kay Congressman Bong Gordon, iyon pinapanukala rin talaga niya na dapat magkaroon ng research and development program para sa mango industry, sa ganoon ay gumanda iyong production ng Zambales mangoes, maging competitive sa international market. Kaya inaasahan ko na dito sa RMTU ay lumawak at umiral ang mango related research.

I would also like to let you know that the promotion of the use of hybrid rice is the flagship program of the research and development component of the agricultural and fisheries modernization program under our administration. But it is not the only crop that we must do research on. For instance, Bicol is known for abaca, but it seems that Leyte overtook Bicol in this crop. So therefore, it is time to modernize the Bicol abaca industry. And under our agricultural and fisheries modernization program, research and development are supposed to be integrated. Research and development in the state universities and colleges are supposed to solve the needs of agricultural modernization under a unified command. And that is why that here, therefore, the RMTU should, just as I told the Partido State University in Bicol, that they must concentrate on doing research to stop the disease of the Bicol abaca that is making Leyte overtake Bicol in abaca whereas Bicol was the traditional source of abaca, the same thing here, RMTU should concentrate on developing the productivity of the mango industry because after all, the mango industry in Zambales is much older than the mango industry of Guimaras.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na magkaroon ng pagkakataon na makipag-ugnayan sa inyo mga estudyante ng RMTU. Sa ganoon napag-uusapan natin ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa at ang inyong papel doon sa ating kinabukasan.

Nawa, na iyong mga graduate students ng RMTU ay doon, iyong 31 na may trabaho na; iyong 36 na nag-sign-up sa self employment, congratulations dahil mayroon na kayong magagawa kaagad. At iyong 200 na interviewees sa jobs fair, sana pumasa kayong lahat sa inyong interview.

At pag kayo ay nagtagumpay na, huwag naman ninyong kalilimutan na mayroon tayong out-of-school-youth na kung puwede ay matulungan din makahanap ng trabaho.

Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan itong araw na ito, bukas birthday ko, kaya sabi ko I will spend these two days in my home region of Region III. Kinukuwento ko nga kay Governor Vic Magsaysay ang aking observation ay, ang Region III hindi masyadong nag-iisip bilang isang region. Kung tignan nyo iyong Ilocos Region, they think as one. Iyong Bicol region, they think as one. Ilonggo region, Region VI, they think as one. Iyong Mindanao, they think as one. Iyong Visayan, they think as one. Dito, we think a long language lines. Iyong Pampanga at saka kalahati ng Tarlac, we think as one Kapampangan. Iyong Bataan at saka iyong Southern Zambales, tagalog. Iyong Northern Zambales, you join the north. Tapos iyong Nueva Ecija at Bulacan sarili din dahil sila ay tagalog. Iba-iba ang languages natin sa ating region. Ngunit tayo ay isang region dahil isa tayong ekonomiya. Iyang W Corridor na iyan makikita nyo napaka-complementary ang ating region kung talagang mag-iisip tayo bilang isang region. Kaya iniisip ko na ako, birthday ko bukas, today and tomorrow – kanina nagsimula ako sa Clark dahil i-inaugurate iyong United Parcel Service , courier service, this is the biggest parcel service in the world. Three hundred million dollars iyong investment na iyon. At gusto natin na iyong Clark at Subic maging isa lamang iyon. Kaya gagawa tayo ng Clark-Subic road para iyan ang gitna ng W Corridor at hanggang sa Luisita. Tatlo iyan. It will be a triangle. Pero dito nga sa Zambales, klarong-klaro sa agri cultural modernization, mangga, pero sa overall, turismo. And why not? Zambales has the natural wonders and Zambales has the natural warmth of the people.

Kaya, whether kayo ay magtatrabaho abroad o doon sa Subic-Clark o doon sa sariling negosyo o sa turismo o magtatanim at mag-i-improve ng ating mga mangga at magti-trade ng ating mga mangga. Sana magtagumpay kayo dahil ang tagumpay ninyo ay tagumpay ng ating bansa. At pag kayo ay nandiyan na nagtatrabaho, kayo na ang mamamayan ng ating ekonomiya. Sana tulungan nyo ako, kailangan ko ang inyong tulong para umangat ang ating bansa.

Maraming salamat. Congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 2nd Commencement Exercises of the Ramon Magsaysay Technological University (RMTU). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230112/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7653&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during her 55th Birthday Celebration and the Opening of the President Diosdado Macapagal Highway
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During her 55th Birthday Celebration and the Opening of the President Diosdado Macapagal Highway

[Delivered at the Le Pavillon, Reclamation Center, Pasay City, April 5, 2002]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Romulo, sa iyong pagpakilala.

At sa inyong lahat mga kaibigan, maraming salamat sa inyong pagsasama sa aking birthday celebration nitong araw na ito. Maari na kayong maupo.

Alam ho ninyo kanina pa sa pampanga sinasabi ko ang regalo ko sa sarili ko wala akong diskurso kasi sa katotohanan hindi ako mahilig magdiskurso. Pero pabayaang lang ho ninyo dahil na ako'y magpasalamat na lamang sa lahat ng mga gumawa ng kung anu-ano para itong aking birthday ay maging mahalaga sa aking mga pinakamamahal sa aking trabaho, iyong mahihirap ng ating bansa.

Kanina po nagsimula ako ng misa doon sa Lubao dahil every year nagmimisa po ako sa birthday ko doon po sa Lubao, at pagkatapos noon po ay nagpunta sa dalawang resettlement site ng mga biktima ng Mt. Pinatubo — isa gawa ng private sector at iyong iba gawa ng pamahalaan. At itong araw na ito ako ay nasisiyahan na 25 pamilya na naging biktima ng Mt. Pinatubo ay naging may-ari na ng kanilang sariling tahanan. Ito po ay bahagi ng ating gustong mangyari sa ating pamahalaan: na taun-taon may 300,000 pamilyang magkakaroon ng tahanan. Ang gusto natin ay 150,000 families na tinatawag na squatter ay magkakaroon ng pagkakataon na magmay-ari ng lupang tinitirikan nila. At iyon po ay nakamit na natin iyong target na iyon para sa taong ito sa nakaraang taong 2001; at gusto rin natin na meron iyong mga nagta-trabaho na 100,000 na housing, at inaasahan po natin na iyong kongreso sa madaling panahon ay mapasa iyong securitization law at yung asset management law para iyong mga bangko ay magkaroon ng liquidity muli na magpahiram ng pautang sa mga manggagawa; at para sa 50,000 mga pamilya naman, gusto natin na magkaroon ng tahanan iyong mga pinakamahihirap sa ating bansa.

Pagkatapos po ng pagpunta ko sa resettlement area ay nagpunta po ako sa isang barangay ng bayan kong Lubao sa barangay San Roque, Dau at ako po ay nagtanim doon ng palay kasama ng mga magsasaka ng barangay na iyon, at ang itanim po namin ay iyong hybrid rice. Iyong hybrid rice po ay magbibigay ng 35,000 pesos na net income per hectare doon sa mga magsasaka na magtatanim nito sa irrigated areas. Ito ho ay tulong na nanggagaling sa ating pagbisita doon po sa China, 50,000 hectares po ang ating target for this planting season April at 80,000 ang target sa planting season sa October. Kaya po iyon ang ating ginawa kanina para maipahayag itong ating isang programa na napakaimportante sa ating modernization ng agrikultura.

At ngayong hapon sa ating modernization ng agrikultura, isa doon sa mga ginawa natin ngayon ay iyong in-inaugurate natin by remote control iyong isang irrigation project sa malayong lugar doon sa Sogod sa Southern Leyte. At yun po sa walong milyong piso ay labindalawang libong pamilya, di ba? Labindalawang libong magsasaka ... Ay ektarya ... Ay 112 na mga magsasaka ay makikinabang dahil nga kung wala kang irrigation ay hindi ka puwedeng magtanim nitong mga bagong klaseng mga bigas o mga palay. Ngayon ho ay isang napakaimportanteng ginagawa natin sa iba't ibang mga barangay ng buong Pilipinas.

At pinag-uusapan natin iyong barangay, kanina rin ay nagkaroon tayo ng lighting doon sa isang barangay ng Lobo sa Batangas — isang malayong-malayong bayan ng batangas kasi na sa kabila ng bundok ng Batangas City — at ito ay dahil gusto rin nating ipahayag na sa ating State-of-the-Nation-Address sinabi natin na araw-araw gusto natin ng apat na barangay ay nagkakaroon ng kuryente. At kanina para mapatunay iyong apat na barangay araw-araw ay magkakaroon ng kuryente ay iyong union ng cooperatives sa buong Pilipinas ay nagkaroon na ng kanilang

oathtaking dito, at habang nago-oathtaking sila binulong sa akin ni Father Francisco Silva na itong mga union na ito, itong federation na ito ay nagsisigurado ng 1,000 linemen para maglagay ng ilaw sa Lanao del Sur.

Kawawa naman iyong Lanao del Sur iyon Lake Lanao ang pinanggagalingan ng kuryente ng Mindanao, pero iyong mga bayan ng Lanao del Sur ay walang kuryente ilang dekada na. Kaya iyong mga naging biktima ng walang karapatan noon in justice ay ginagawan natin na sanang maayos ngayon.

Iyon ang ilang sa mga ginagawa, at kanina naman ay iyon na nga kanina ay meron din tayong in-inaugurate na mga tulay — ito iyong president's bridge program. Kaya dahil 55 years old ako ngayon — ewan ko kung bakit inaanunsyo ang edad ko — ay 55 iyong mga tulay na tinapos, iyong president's bridge program. At sa ibabaw noon meron pang mga tulay, iyong Salam bridge programs para doon sa mga kapatid natin sa Muslim areas. Ito ho ay mga tulong sa mga malalayo na barangay, at alam naman natin na doon sa bandang Sulu, Tawi-tawi ay nagkakaroon tayo ... Ay hindi, sa sulu at saka doon sa basilan na nagkakaroon tayo ng labanan ay hindi lang at ang sinasabi ko parati ang laban kontra sa kahirapan ay kakambal ng laban kontra sa terorismo. Eh baka akala naman ng lahat na naglalagay na lamang tayo ng project doon sa mga may giyera — eh di maggiyera na lang tayo para lagyan ng project, baka sabihin iyon. Hindi lang iyon, nagbibigay din tayo ng gantimpala sa mga lugar na mapayapa — sa mga community na sinisikap nila na maganda ang buhay ng kanilang mamamayan.

Kaya itong nakikita ninyong display dito iyan ay tulay sa Tawi-tawi. Tawi-tawi, sila ay nasugpo na nila ang Abu Sayyaf sa Tawi-tawi kaya itong tulay ay gantimpala — 71 milyon pesos iyang tulay na iyan — para sa mamamayan ng Tawi-tawi para naman mabigyan natin ng pansin na doon sa mundong malayo sa Southwestern Philippines na maraming giyera ay may mga lugar na mapayapa at dapat bigyan natin ng gantimpala kung ang mamamayan mismo ang naglalagay ng kapayapaan sa kanilang lugar,

Gusto natin na ang ating mamamayan ay magkaroon ng murang pagamot at gamot. Kaya iyong gamot ay ito si Honeygirl nagbigay ng mga gamot, pero donation iyon, para sa birthday ko, pero sa pang-araw-araw meron nang gamot na kalahating presyo na mahahanap natin sa mga government hospitals — 25 kinds of medicines commonly bought by the poor but we can find in 75 government hospitals. At iyong pagamot naman nagpapasalamat ako sa mga rotarians, sa St. Luke's dahil sila ay nagbibigay ng libreng operasyon sa kidney, sa puso — iyong mga umakyat dito para magbigay ng pagpapasalamat pero iyon ay dahil birthday ko . Pero sa mga araw-araw ay nagmumudmod tayo ng health insurance para lahat ng mahihirap sana, magsisimula sa urban area, ay magkaroon ng sustento or subsidio mula sa gobyerno pag sila nagpapagamot.

Itong ginagawa natin ngayon ay mga simbolo ng talagang pangkalahatang, mas malawakang gusto nating gawin na diretsong lingkod sa mahihirap.

Iyong ating mga rotarians na nagpapasalamat ako dahil ang ginawa nila ay in-adopt nila iyong manggahan sa Ricardo Ismael. Iyon ho ay isang tinatawag nilang squatter area, mahaba iyon at ito naman ay bibigyan natin. Although in-adopt nila for community projects, itong mga nakatira doon sa parating nilulubog na lugar ng manggahan ay sa wakas — dahil inaayos natin iyong problema ng reloasyon — ay magkakaroon ng flood control. At sana sa loob ng ilang taon hindi na sila magkakasakit o magkakaroon ng hirap na buhay dahil parating hanggang dito iyong tubig taun-taon tuwing nagkakaroon ng flood season.

Ito at mga ibang ginagawa itong araw na ito, sabi ko nga kay Manny Sanchez, ilista mo nga ang lahat ng mga regalang ito pero hindi rin niya malista sa dami ng mga nagdadagdag ng regalo hindi na maka-catch up. Kaya sinasabi ko na lamang na iyong ginagawa natin itong araw na ito ay simbolo lamang ng malawakang programa laban sa kahirapan.

Pero higit sa lahat, mga kaibigan, kung gusto nating labanan ang kahirapan, itong ginagawa natin itong araw na ito ay mga examples ng ating direct benefits sa pro-poor. Pero gaya ng sabi ko sa State-of-the-Nation-Address apat ang ating bahagi ng paglaban sa kahirapan. Iyong isa nga iyong direct intervention, iyong mga halimbawa ng mga binibigay natin ngayon. Pero iyong unang-una sa lahat doon ay iyong ... At iyong isa iyong modernisasyon ng agrikultura na ginawa ko doon sa pampang bilang halimbawa dahil karamihan ng ating mga mahihirap ay nasa

kanayunan. Pero higit sa lahat kung gusto nating sugpuin ang kahirapan sa isang paraan na sustainable, ang sagot doon at trabaho, trabaho, trabaho.

Kaya ako'y nagpapasalamat doon sa mga namumuhunan sa ating bansa dahil sila nagbibigay ng trabaho.

Kahapon 300 million dollars ang investment ng U.P.S. at kahapon ay dumating din ang napakagandang birthday gift sa akin kahit na hindi sadya. Noong araw itong mga iba't ibang international credit rating agencies sabi ay negative ang ating credit and investment worthiness. Iyong una iyong Fische ilang buwan nakaraan sinabi nila, okay stable na dahil sa liderato ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Ngayon tapos nung January iyong moody's sinabi nilang stable na dahil nagugulat tayo na kaya pala ni Macapagal-Arroyo iyong kanyang mga target ng budget deficit. At ngayon iyong pangatlo iyong standard & poor sabi niya stable na ang ekonomiya ng Pilipinas, pero lahat sila sinasabi dahil sa liderato ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Birthday ko naman hayaan niyong magyabang ako kasi kung hindi ako magyayabang lahat na lang batikos ng batikos, at lahat na lang pinupuntirya iyong mga kakulangan.

Pero itong mga rating na ito sabi nila, ano iyon sa makakain? Malaking bagay iyon sa makakain dahil ang credit rating ang importante para tayo ay magkaroon ng puhunan sa Pilipinas, at ang puhunan ang importante para sa trabaho, at ang trabaho ang pinakaimportante sa lahat para masugpo ang kahirapan ng ating bansa.

Noon pong ako ay naupo bilang pangulo 11.3 percent ang ating ating unemployment. Ngayon po ay bumaba sa 10.3 percent dahil itong isang taong nakaraan one million, 500 na mamamayan ay nagkaroon ng trabaho. Ngunit iyong 10.3 percent hindi ako kuntento doon, napakarami pa rin ang walang trabaho. Siguro mga tatlong milyon pa rin o apat na milyon ang walang trabaho. Kaya ang hinihingi ko sa inyong lahat magtulungan tayo para itong mga walang trabaho ay magkaroon ng trabaho.

Binanggit ko kung papano natin nasusugpo ang kahirapan sa ating programa: una, naghahanap ng trabaho; pangalawa, modernisasyon ng agrikultura; pangatlo, iyong mga handog deretso sa hirap para maramdaman kaagad sana ang biyaya ng pagmamahal ng pampahalaan. Ngunit pang-apat ay iyong good governance, matapat na pamamahala.

Kaya noong nagkaroon tayo ng celebration ng Edsa 1 and 2 sabi natin ang matapat na pamamahala ang siyang sagot sa kahirapan. Kaya mga kaibigan, samahan niyo ako na maging matapat ang ating pamahalaan. Samahan niyo ako na masugpo natin ang kahirapan at magbigay ng magandang buhay sa ating minamahal na mga kababayan.

Minamahal ko kayong lahat. Maraming salamat po.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during her 55th Birthday Celebration and the Opening of the President Diosdado Macapagal Highway. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230100/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7651&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Veterans General Assembly

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Veterans General Assembly

[Delivered at the Bulwagang Francisco Balagtas, Folk Arts Theater, Pasay City, April 6, 2002]

Maraming salamat po.

Maraming salamat kay Secretary Angelo Reyes sa inyong pagpakilala sa inyong lingkod.

At gusto kong batiin din ang iba't-ibang panauhin na narito: yung ating mga Congressmen na tumutulong sa mga beterano, si Congressman Bong Gordon at saka si Congressman Joey Solis; pati na rin yung iba't-ibang elected officials na narito itong araw na ito. At siyempre binabati ko at nagpapasalamat ako sa napakagandang kanyang pananalita na pag-welcome sa inyong lingkod, at pagpahayag ng suporta ng mga beterano at kanilang mga sons and daughters sa inyong lingkod, si President Emmanuel de Ocampo pati na rin si Mrs. De Ocampo. Yung ating pangulo ng Association of Generals and Flag Officers, Sin General Ernesto Gidaya and former Ambassador; at lahat kayo, mga kaibigan, mga officials ng Veterans Federation, mga veterans, kanilang mga anak, kanilang mga naiwan dito sa mundo:

Isang mainit na pagbati ang pinapaabot ko sa inyong lahat, mga bayaning nagtanggol ng ating kalayaan! Karangalan kong masama kayo muli, kagaya ng isang taon, ang mga nagpakita ng hindi matatawarang tapang at galing upang patuloy na matamasa ng inyong mga anak, mga apo, mga kaibigan, at mga kababayan ang kalayaan.

Ginagalak ko ring makasamang muli ang inyong mga kaanak na silang nagpapanatiling buhay sa kadakilaan ng ating mga beterano.

Sa alinmang digmaan, sa spanish-american war, sa pangalawang digmaang pandaigdig, sa Korean war, maging sa Vietnam war, pinakita ng pilipino ang kanyang pagmamahal sa kalayaan.

Alam ko ito sapagka't, gaya ng sabi ni President de Ocampo, kaanak din ako ng beterano. Sa kabila ng aking tatay na sinabi ni President de Ocampo, ang aking tiyuhin na si Angel Macapagal ay beteranong nakasama sa Death March at nung siya ay nandoon sa Death March, nung dumaan yung Death March — kasi yung Death March ay mula sa bataang hanggang sa Capas, dumadaan ng Lubao — pagdaan niya sa Lubao ay uhaw siya so alam niya yung mga poso sa Lubao, pumunta sa isang poso sa tabi ng kalsada, nahalata niyang walang guwardiyang hapon na nagbabantay sa kanya sa pag-iinom doon sa poso, nakatakas siya tuloy at maraming kasama niya na nakakita sa kanya at sumunod at nakatakas doon sa Lubao sa Pampanga. Yung aking tiyuhin na si Angel Macapagal ay upang makuha niya yung mga benepisyo ng Veterans' benefits sa Amerika ay sa huling mga taon ng kanyang buhay doon na siya nakatira sa Amerika at soon siya namatay. Yung aking yumaong ama naman na si dating pangulong Diosdado Macapagal, gaya ng sabi ni President de Ocampo, ay beterano din; siya ay naging finance officer ng isang guerilla unit. At doon nga sa kanyang pagtatrabaho bilang finance officer ng guerilla unit, dun niya nakuha yung bansag na "Macapagal, the incorruptible" dahil sa matapat niyang paghawak ng pera ng mga guerilla.

Kung minsan — alam niyo ito higit sa lahat dahil kayo ay lumaban para sa ating bansa — alam niyo na kung minsan kailangang makipaghamok upang matamasa ang katahimikan. Ang lahing Pilipino ay hindi kukulangin sa mga taong handang mag-alay ng buhay upang ipagtanggol ang ating karapatang mamuhay at malaya.

Mahigit limampung taon na ang nakalipas matapos ang World War II at mahigit tatlumpong taon na ang nakalipas mula nang huling humarap sa digmaan ang ating mga beterano, kayo.

At mula noon hanggang ngayon nag-iba ang ating mundo. Ang mga dating kaaway natin ay mga malapit na kakampi ngayon. Halimbawa, kung titingnan natin ang Pilipinas 100 years ago, sino yung kalaban natin? Yung mga Amerikano. Sa ilang araw nga ay pupunta ako dun sa Bbatangas para pagdiriwang yung end of the Philippine-American war — ibig sabihin noon 100 years ago, ang Amerikano ang ating kalaban nung isang siglong nakaraan. Eh ngayon sila naman — ang amerikanong kalaban natin isang siglong nakaraan ay naging kaakibat natin nung Second World War, kaakibat ninyo — at ngayon naman ay kabalikat natin sa ating pakikipaglaban sa terorista.

Nung Second World War naman nung Amerikano'y ating kasama, kaakibat sino naman ang kalaban natin? Yung mga hapon — sila ang kaaway natin noong World War II. Pero ngayon sila ang nagbibigay sa atin ng pinakamalaking official development assistance upang mapagtuloy natin ang mga proyektong pang-kaunlaran.

Iba na rin ang mukha ng pandidigma ngayon. Iba ang mukha ng kaaway. Noon, Amerika nung Philippine-American War; hapon nung World War II; pero ngayon hindi na mga bansa ang ating kaaway kundi nga ang mga teroristang nariyan sa iba't-ibang bansa at naghahasik ng lagim kagaya ng doon sa katimugan ng ating mismong bansa. Sa Basilan at meron ding ilan sa Sulu, ang ating mga kawal ay tinutulungan ng mga Amerikanong sundalo sa pamamagitan ng programang Balikatan 2-1 upang tugisin at magapi na ang mga walang kaluluwang teroristang ito.

Ang balikatan ay isang ehersisyo ng pakikipagtulungan sa pagsasanay at ang lahat ng kasali dito, maging Pilipino man o Amerikano, ay may matututunan mula sa isa't-isa.

Ang pakikipagtulungan ng mga Amerikano ay hindi nahuhulugang minamaliit natin ang husay at tapang ng sundalong Pilipino. Hindi matatawaran ang galing at tapang ng ating mga sundalo. Napakita na ninyong mga beterano ng ilang beses at patuloy na ipinakikita ng ating mga sundalo ngayon ang katapangang ito.

Hindi natin kailangang humiram ng tapang mula sa anumang lahi. Ang kanilang tapang ay nararapat bagayan, kaya lamang, ng armas na siyang ipinahihiram at itinuturo sa atin sa Balikatan ng mga Amerikano. Umaasa akong mauubos na ang Abu Sayyaf at kung ano pa mang grupo ng terorista dito dahil sa ating pagtutulungan. Tapang natin, kagamitan nila, yun ang magandang kumbinasyon.

Ang laban sa terorismo ay bahagi ng pakikihamok sa ating pinakamatinding kaaway, at yun ay ang kahirapan. Ang pagkikipaglaban sa terorismo ay pakikipaglaban din sa kahirapan. Kaya't tungkulin ng lahat na Pilipino na makidigma sa kahirapan upang tuluy-tuloy nating matamasa ang kalayaang ipinaglalaman ninyo noon.

Kahit umiba na ang larangan ng pakikidigma ngayon, ang pinakita ng mga beteranong katulad ninyo ay siya pa ring pamantayan ng katapangan at katapatan ng buong bansa.

Hindi malilimutan ng bansa ang tapang ng kawal Pilipino sa battle of Balantang, raid of Muntinlupa, Liberation of Los Baños at iba pang mga pakikihamok. Hindi malilimutan dapat ang mga pangalan tulad ng Peralta — yung hero doon sa Capiz na siyang naging Angie Reyes ng aking tatay, the late President Diosdado Macapagal — hindi dapat nakalilimutan sina Kangleon, si Marking na may ginawang sine pa ang kanyang buhay, si Alejo Santos, si Lazo-Bueno — kaya tinatanong ko kay Binibining Lazo, “ikaw ba ay beterano o daughter?” Sabi niya, “tourism,” pero nandito siya bilang anak ng beterano. Adevosos, si Terry Adevosos na siya ang operations man ng politika ng aking tatay hanggang naging pangulo — yung kagalingan ni Adevosos sa operations ng giyera ganon din kagaling sa operations ng politika kaya naging pangulo yung aking tatay. At nung yung aking tatay ay naging pangulo at napakaraming walang trabahong naabutan niya, gumawa siya ng emergency employment program, namahala doon ay dalawang beteranong kilalang-kilala — una nga yung over-all administrator ay si Terry Adevosos at yung kanyang deputy naman ay si Emmanuel de Ocampo na siyang namumuno ng Veterans Federation ngayon.

Sa ating pakikidigma sa karukhaan, nananawagan ako sa mga kababayan natin na magpakita ng tapang at pagmamahal sa bayan na tulad ng ipinakita ninyo. Ipinagtanggol ninyo ang ating kalayaan, tungkulin naman ng henerasyon namin, henerasyon ngayon at mga sumusunod pang henerasyon na alagaan ang kalayaang ito at payabungin ang mga adhikaing sinimulan ninyo.

Sa ganitong paraan lamang maipapakita ng henerasyong ito at ng mga susunod pang henerasyon ang kanilang pasasalamat at paggalang sa ating mga beterano.

Pagpapasalamat at pagpapatuloy sa mga dakilang layunin ng mga beterano ang dahilan upang ganapin natin taun-taon ang pagdiriwang ng Veterans Week.

Subali't ang pagpupugay sa inyong kadakilaan ay hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng salita kungdi dapat maging sa (gawa). Kaya nga nung panahon ng tatay ko, yung Veterans Bank — na nandito ngayon si General de Ocampo at si Romy Roxas nagpapakabo yung Veterans Hospital mga panahong yun — lalo ng yung Veterans Bank yun ho ay pet project ng aking tatay, at noon matagal nang nakaraan ay bumagsak yung bangkong yun. At nung panahon siguro, panginoon na rin ang may gusto, nung tinalakay kung anong gagawin sa Veterans Bank, nagkataon na dalawang anak ni Diosdado Macapagal na nagtayo ng Veterans Bank ay nakaupo sa Central Bank — si Boboy Macapagal, kinakatawan ng Department of Finance, at si Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, kinakatawan ng Board of Investments, eh ano pang maboboto ng ibang members ng monetary board kung dalawang anak ni Macapagal ay nagpanukala na dapat buhayin muli ang Veterans bank? Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na buhay na buhay na naman ang Veterans bank.

Ngayon naman at ako'y naging pangulo na, pinagsisikapan kong tuparin ang sinasaad ng Republic Act 7696 na taasan ng limangdaang piso ang inyong buwanang pensyon hanggang ito'y umabot sa kabuuang limang libo buwan-buwan. Binabanggit noon yung mga beteranong naging bahagi ng administration ng aking tatay, siguro kung naaalala ninyo ang naging senate author ng batas na ito ay si Bert Romulo, ngayon siyang aking executive secretary.

Naalala ko si Bert Romulo nung unang nagkakampanya ako para senador 1992 saan man kami pupunta sa kampanya may veterans group na nagsasalubong sa kanya. Yun ang kanyang pinaka-campaign managers, yung Veterans group. Sabi ko, "Bert, inggit na inggit ako sa iyo yung mga beterano pinagkakampanya ka." Kaya ngayon nasisiyahan ako na sinabi ni President Emmanuel de Ocampo na ako rin kinikilala ninyo bilang isa sa inyo.

Ang pagkumpleto ng pagbayad ng tinaas na pensyon ng mga beterano ay magsisimula sa hulyo ng taong ito.

Hindi ko rin nakalimutang ungkatin ang problema ng mga beterano noong ako'y dumalaw sa Amerika noong Nobyembre 2001. Kasama ko noon sina Colonel de Ocampo pati si General Gidaya. 'Di ba magkasama tayo noon? Nakipag-usap kami iba't-ibang opisyal ng pamahalaan, binaggit ko ito sa aming pag-uusap ni Presidente Bush yung hinahangad nating equity rights. Alam ko yun kasi biro niyo ang aking uncle na kailangang matira sa Amerika para kumuha ng veterans benefits iniwan niya yung kanyang maybahay dito sa Pilipinas, kaya talagang nilakad ho namin yun sa Amerika at sinabi ko kay President Bush, sinabi ko rin sa mga namumuno ng Veterans Affairs Office — at puwedeng ikuwento sa inyo ni General Reyes, ni Colonel de Ocampo saka ni General Gidaya kung gaano ko tinarayan yung mga Amerikano nung ayaw pa nilang mag-commit na tutulong sa ating Veterans Equity Bill. Kasi the day before my meeting with President Bush nag-courtesy call lahat ng mga agencies niya na may kinalaman doon sa aking ia-agenda kay President Bush kaya doon pinag-usapan yung mga nitty-gritty para pagdating kay Bush ay na-resolve na lahat. Kaya yung sa ... Kaya nung ako ay umupo naman ng final meeting ko kasama ni Condoleezza Rice bago yung meeting kay President Bush mismo, sabi ni Condoleezza sa akin sa ingles, "dinig ko na meron kayong matinding sinabi dun sa ating mga veterans officials," kasi kilalang-kilala pala sa National Security Council at sa White House yung pinagtaray ko sa kinabubuti ng ating mga Veterans doon sa mga officials ng Veterans Affairs nila.

Kamakailan lang ay humingi rin tayo ng tulong sa dalawang amerikanong senador na dumalaw dito, si Senator Inouye at si Senator Stevens, itong dalawa ay beterano sa Philippine theater — American veterans na naglaban dito — at kaya naman tinanggap nila nang magaan yung hiningi natin na sana mapadali ang pagpasa ng batas tungkol sa equity ng mga Filipino Veterans ng World War II.

Alam niyo mula nung aking pagbisita kay President Bush maraming mga officials ng Amerika ay pumupunta rito sunud-sunod, parang follow-thru nung aming pinag-usapan noong ako ay nagpunta sa aking pagbisita sa kanya. At ako ay nasisiyahan na yung isa sa mga darating ditong naka-schedule ay yung namumuno ng Veterans Affairs ng Amerika, si Ginoong Principe. Siguro naman, sabi ko kay Angie, hindi naman yon ay siguro magtatapang na

pupunta dito kung hindi maganda ang kanyang balak sabihin sa atin. So umasa tayo siguro at magdasal tayo na pagdating ng namumuno ng Veterans Affairs Office ng Amerika dito ay maganda ang kanyang ibabalita sa atin mula sa administrasyong ng Amerika.

Noong huli tayong magkasama ay inutos ko na rin sa Philippine Veterans Affairs Office na ayusin na ang pamamalakad upang mapabilis ang pagbayad ng pensyon ninyo. Maraming reporma ang ipinatupad ng PVAO, kasama na ang paglilinis ng listahan ng mga beterano, upang maalis ang hindi nararapat sa listahang ito. Maganda ang ginawa, maganda ang reporma, ngunit sa nakita ko ngayon ay mukhang kulang pa rin kasi ilang porsyento ang maiimpok natin sa paglinis ng listahan? Ten percent at the most.

Pero nung ako ay pangulo na kasi naalala niyo January ako'y naging pangulo, April 6 nag-usap din tayo, or hindi, basta nung araw mga April 8 yata, tapos nung pinalinis ko nga yung listahan, between then and now isa pa ring aking na-diskubre talagang kulang ang pondo. Ang kakulangan ng pondo para bayaran lahat ng mga arrears ay humihigit-kumulang 15 billion pesos kaya pala napaka-delayed ang bayad ng mga maraming beterano — yun pa lang utang na aking minana 15 billion pesos in arrears. So hindi yun malilinis lamang sa paglinis ng listahan. Kaya inatasan ko na si Secretary Reyes, beterano rin — hindi ng World War II kasi bata pa siya — beterano at bayani ng Mindanao War at ng Edsa 2, inatasan ko siya na makipag-ugnay sa Department of Finance at sa Kongreso — pinag-uusapan nga namin ni Bong Gordon ito doon sa Subic nung the night before my birthday, at si Congressman Dumpit din although wala siya rito ay siya rin ay matinding pinag-aaralan ang paghanap ng solusyong ito. Kaya sabi ni Angie itong April 9 ay tatalakayin sa ating Cabinet.

On April 9, yun ay Bataan Day, Veteran's day rin ninyo yon. Gaganapin natin ang Cabinet meeting sa Bataan alang-alang sa beterano ng Pilipinas, at ang priority agenda item ay kung papano natin hanapan ng solusyon itong malaking pagkukulang — 15 to 18 billion — ng pondo para mabayaran yung mga arrears ng Veterans benefits. Kaya iniimbita namin si Colonel de Ocampo na dumalo sa Cabinet meeting na yon bilang isang resource person para paghanap ng solusyon ng arrears ng Veterans benefits.

Ang aking mensahe sa henerasyon ko at sa mga bata pang henerasyon, sikapin natin na ang pagmamahal natin sa ating bayan ay maging kasing-tindi ng pagmamahal na inalay ng ating mga beterano. Sikapin nating ipakita ang pagmamahal na ito sa paggalang sa ating mga beterano, at sa pagtutulongan mataguyod ang adhikain ng mga beterano para sa kalayaan, kapayapaan at kaunlaran.

Higit sa lahat, pag-ibayuhin natin ang ating pagsisikap upang magapi na ang problema ng kahirapan, ang pangunahing salot sa ating lipunan ngayon. Sa ganitong paraan lamang masasabi ng mga nakababatang pilipino na karapat-dapat sila sa mga inialay ng ating mga beterano.

Kaya muli kayo, ating mga Veterans sa ating Veterans week, mabuhay mula sa sambayanang nagpapasalamat.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA'S Speech during the Veterans General Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230051/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7650&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan

[Delivered at the Dambana ng Kagitingan, Mt. Samat Shrine, Pilar, Bataan, April 9, 2002]

Thank you very much, Secretary Reyes.

Our other appointive officials of the Philippine government; Ambassador Ricciardone and our friends from America — and I would like to welcome those veterans who came here all the way from the U.S. to celebrate this day with us; Ambassador Ara and our friends from Japan; Governor Roman and the other officials and citizens of the province of Bataan — the province which is number one in human development index and I congratulate them again for this achievement; Colonel de Ocampo and our other beloved veterans and their sons and daughters; other members of the diplomatic corps; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

At ‘yung ating mga turista na narito. Mas marami ang ating crowd ngayon keysa noong isang taon dahil sa intinde ko marami ay mga turista nanggaling sa iba’t ibang lugar. At narinig ko kay Governor Roman na ‘yung resorts ng Bataan ay fully booked itong buong summer. Ibig sabihin noon umuobra ‘yung ating holiday economics.

I am honored to be once again one with you on this hallowed ground. History lives in this place. The soldiers who died here continue to steer the pulse of our republic by their courage and heroism.

The fall of Bataan involved three nations that are today’s partners for peace, development and security. From mortal combat in these mountains and fields, we have now converged into an alliance against poverty and terrorism for progress and prosperity in this part of the world.

The lessons of war always break into lessons of peace. From destruction, we build new ramparts of freedom, democracy and progress. From enmity and prejudice, we build bonds of understanding, cooperation and solidarity. From hatred, we build compassion, justice and shared human excellence.

We are honored by the presence of our American allies. We have shared battles and struggles across decades, and today we stand shoulder to shoulder in yet another historic fight, the fight against terrorism.

We are also gratified by the presence of our Japanese friends. We were enemies during the second World War, but today Japan is the Philippines’ foremost ally in our war against poverty because it is by far our biggest source of official development assistance.

The twin wars against terrorism and poverty are a struggle that may even be more formidable than the wars of the past. And we cannot relent until we finish the enemy, decisively and permanently.

We pay homage to those soldiers who fought not only in Bataan but also in Corregidor and the other battlegrounds of the Philippine campaign during the second World War. We likewise honor today all our heroes and veterans of other campaigns: Vietnam; Korea; battles in our own land against insurgency and secessionism; today’s war against the global threat of terror.

Our heroes have given the ultimate sacrifice that many of us have never been asked to give. But many of us have been touched by the cruelty and anguish of war. Some of us are numbed by the loss — a spouse, a brother or sister, a relative or friend.

Those of us who are never called to give the supreme sacrifice like our soldiers, feel a gratitude that can never be fully expressed. For the soldier fights so that we can live normal lives, advance the prosperity of our own families, govern ourselves effectively, speak freely and achieve our destiny as a nation and people.

Bataan has become a symbol of the greatest and noblest suffering our people have ever known. After Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, all its American and Filipino survivors were marched from various points in this province to the train station in San Fernando, Pampanga. Among those who were in that March was my father's brother, Angel Macapagal. Thousands of American and Filipino soldiers perished in this Death March. The others were racked with fever, malaria, dysentery and untold hunger.

When they reached San Fernando, the men of Bataan were packed into box cars for the four-hour train ride to Capas, Tarlac. Thousands more died during that trip. At Capas, they were made to march the last seven kilometers to Camp O'Donnell. Many of those who survived the 105-kilometer journey from Bataan to Tarlac would die of hunger and illness at the camp, which subsequently became their burial ground.

Let us never forget. Let not our children forget the cost of war and the price we have to pay for it. We implore the almighty to guide us so we shall never again pay such a price as we paid in Bataan.

We, of the present generation, should know of these steep sacrifices and be inspired by them. And being inspired, we should look forward to the challenges of the future. Our vision is to ensure a better life and a brighter future for our people. The sacrifices of the past should not be in vain. They must be the leaven in which we shape the destiny of succeeding generations.

Even as I speak — as mentioned by Ambassador Ricciardone — Filipino and American soldiers are engaged in training exercises against a common enemy in Basilan. The Balikatan exercises are geared towards rooting out terrorists wherever they may hide, in darkness or daylight. Once again, Filipino and American soldiers are working side by side to make the world a safer place for all of us. And in this fight, Japan is equally our partner.

On this same platform last year, I said that poverty is the worst enemy, and asked you, our dear veterans to help us wage the war against poverty. The fight against terrorists is also a fight against poverty. So, I once again ask you to help us wage this relentless war. For even in your advanced years, you are our living examples of patriotism and nation-building.

But as much as we need the help of our veterans, they and their dependents need our own so that they can live out their lives in dignity. To the present generation then I ask of you, let us care for the veterans to show our debt of gratitude for their sacrifices.

My administration will continue to serve the welfare of our veterans as part of our overall programs to fight poverty and improve on past services. I am deeply aware of the concerns of the veterans, my father having been an underground financial officer of the guerrilla movement during the second world war. We shall continue to pay attention to the concerns of our veterans and greater attention than in the past. I cannot allow our soldiery, past and present, to be left behind in the wayside of national progress.

The Philippine veterans affairs office or PVAO has — under our instruction — renewed its drive to serve the veterans better and improve their general welfare.

Its priority is simple and straightforward — reduce red tape and remove the bottlenecks to efficient service. The PVAO has embarked on an information technology enhancement program. Its key result areas are the following:

* a veterans website to be launched today, which will enable the veterans to determine immediately the status of your claims from anywhere in the world and to communicate instantly to the PVAO their complaints and suggestions.

- * a document tracking system using bar coding technology to pinpoint delays in processing, prevent document losses, and uphold the first come-first serve rules in claims processing.
- * a document imaging system to preserve vital records of veterans and facilitate the search and retrieval of these documents when needed.
- * a document storage management system to organize and properly store records.
- * a single, authoritative veterans id based on the submission, validation and authentication of baseline documents.
- * and finally, a reengineering of the claims of the transaction process to simplify procedures and speed up paperwork.

This program will be fully operational within six months. This will hasten the cleaning up of the pensioners' list so that our limited funds can be directed to the genuine veterans and their families.

To solve the problem of delayed, misplaced or illegally encashed pension checks, PVAO has shifted from the postal system to the bank remittance program as its mode of distributing pensions.

The 'Biyaya Agad' program has been launched to allow the immediate processing of old-age pension for the surviving spouses of veteran pensioners, as well as the payment of burial assistance for them.

The integrity of the pension system is PVAO's first step to enable veterans welfare. Then it will move on to the broader programs of social amelioration.

For instance, the Veterans Memorial Medical Center has solved the shortage in the supply of medicine by purchasing equivalent and alternative drugs from other pharmaceutical companies and changing some of its procurement policies.

The PVAO assures us that it will move on to other areas as we build its resource base. We need to do this — build the resource base of PVAO because the arrearages in veterans' benefits that I inherited amounts to about 20 billion pesos and still counting. How to raise this amount to cover the arrearages is a major challenge that needs the joint effort of Congress, the Executive, and the veterans themselves.

I am instructing Secretary Angelo Reyes to pursue his idea of the commercial development of the golf course area of the Veterans hospital, developing it not as a golf course but as a commercial center to raise funds for paying the arrearages.

Our Congressmen, who are concerned with veterans welfare have also suggested other ways of raising funds, like selling our prime properties in Japan to fund the arrearages. And I have also agreed with this in principle, and I ask Secretary Camacho, who is in-charge of raising funds to take care of the sale of our properties in Japan.

I have also suggested to the Philippine Veterans Bank that in behalf of the veterans community, they should enter into a compromise plan with the navy for the development of the area that the veterans and the navy are disputing in Fort Bonifacio. And I have here Admiral Hingco listening, and I am instructing Admiral Hingco to also join the veterans bank in the joint development of this area for the benefit of both funding the veterans arrearages and the modernization of the navy. All these ideas and other ideas will be the subject matter of our cabinet meeting today to be held right after this ceremony. Itong Cabinet meeting na ito'y gaganapin dito mismo sa bataan, ang pugad ng kagitingan. At itong Cabinet meeting na ito ay dedekado sa dakilang beteranong filipino.

We must do all these for our veterans because we can never truly enjoy the blessings of peace and appreciate the value of human life unless we recall the sacrifices of war.

Our task is to develop the habits of thought and of action that our veterans became known for in order to achieve our national goals — discipline, fortitude, a tough spirit to stretch the limits of human capacity.

On this day then, let us honor the sacrifices of our war veterans by rededicating ourselves to the task of creating a brighter future for our country.

Let us all work together, and harder than ever, to win the battles against poverty and terrorism; to win the struggles for democracy, independence and freedom.

May the Almighty bless once more this hallowed ground. And all of us, may we all bow our heads in obedience to his supreme will for peace, harmony and the good of all mankind.

Mabuhay ang ating mga beterano! Mabuhay ang dakilang Pilipinas!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230040/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7649&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 55th Commencement Exercises of the Manuel Enverga University

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 55th Commencement Exercises of the Manuel Enverga University**

[Delivered in Lucena City, Quezon, April 10, 2002]

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Puwede na kayong umupo.

Maraming salamat Governor Enverga sa inyong pagpakilala sa akin. At maraming salamat sa maraming beses na inimbata ninyo ako dito sa Enverga University.

Matagal na akong pumupunta rito, Senador pa ako. Pero siyempre nagpapalit yung mga estudyante so always for the first time nakikilala na naman tayo.

Binabati ko rin si President Laurel ng University Foundation. At bilang patunay na akoy hindi isang stranger eto nga retrato namin nung isang pagbisita ko dito nung akoy senador pa.

Binabati ko lahat ng mga teachers na narito. At nandito rin yung ating kasama mula sa malacañang, si Presidential Adviser for Southern Tagalog, si PA Cesar Sarino na narito, at saka si Presidential Assistant for Education, si Mona Valisno na narito rin.

Kanina nakita ko tumatakbo dito sa Isle kasama ni Governor Enverga si Vice Governor Talabong kaya binabati ko rin siya. Actually hindi sila nahuli, tayo ang nag-umpisa ng maaga kasi nakita ko sa program two o'clock dapat itong graduation, one o'clock tayo nagsimula.

Kaya mabuti na lang yung parating handa at parating ahead of time kasi yon ay isang hamon ng darating na century: how to be there ahead of the others.

Alam niyo si Governor Enverga kung bakit nga ilang beses ng inimbata ako sa eskwelahan nila, dahil iyong aming tatay, pinapaalala niya sa akin ngayon, ay magkasama sa Kongreso. Alam ko iyon eh na magkasama sila sa kongreso pero mayroon pang sinabi si Willy na sila ay halos seatmate dahil iyong sitting arrangement sa kongreso noon ay alphabetical order — iyong P at saka iyong Q magkasunod, iyong Congressman from Pampanga at saka iyong Congressman from Quezon magkatabi tuloy. Kaya ako, bagamat nanggagaling sa Pampanga ay malapit ako dito sa Quezon.

And so today, my dear students, I congratulate our graduates as I commend the administrators and staff of the Enverga University for your continued zeal and commitment in the pursuit of academic excellence and social relevance. In this region, academic excellence and social relevance, you are all partners, our partners for national progress.

On this day, you, the graduates, leave your university lectures behind. You will now be the speakers and authors of our nation's future. The key lesson of any commencement is that the world is now in your hands. The future

becomes your responsibility. You can no longer lean upon your teachers for hints or answers. You have to step forth on your own.

As you line up your sights on the professional horizon, there are several things you must keep in mind.

Iyong isa, gusto man natin o hindi, almost all our national concerns have become globalized. In today's marketplace, ideas, discoveries, technology, money, and human resources move quickly from one country to another. Competition is keen, we must constantly keep up with others.

Also, we must all realize, you must realize, that the key to progress is information and communications technology which is the primary vehicle of the world today. Everyday, we must be able to cope with new ways of organizing and utilizing information so that we can keep up with the demands of growth, stability, and survival. Those who cannot keep up will fall along the wayside.

We live in a rapid stream of perpetual change. This means we must keep on training ourselves, chasing knowledge, learning multiple jobs and dealing with complex problems. It is an awesome challenge and responsibility and it never relents. In line with these imperatives, we need to provide all filipinos with quality and relevant education. We need an empowered and literate citizenry. We need to create more opportunities for employment and wealth, which translate to higher sustained economic growth.

Our victory against poverty depends on productivity enabled by education. We must stop the vicious system of one generation inheriting the poverty of a previous one and passing it on to succeeding generations. The task begins in our schools. Our goal is for every Filipino to find gainful employment.

Noong ako ay naging presidente, ang dinatnan kong unemployment rate ay 11.3 percent. Pagkatapos ng isang taong pagka-presidente ko, itong unemployment rate ay bumaba sa 10.3 percent dahil nadagdagan ng trabaho para sa isang milyon at kalahating pilipino.

Ngunit ang 10.3 percent unemployment rate ay mataas pa rin. At ang napakataas na unemployment rate ay nandoon sa metro manila — halos 20 percent, kaya maraming dissatisfied ngayon sa metro manila. Kailangan pa tayong maghanap ng trabaho para sa dalawang milyon at kalahati pang pilipino pagdating ng 2004, or going into 2004. And to do this, we will vigorously pursue employment generation, employment preservation, employment enhancement and employment facilitation.

Employment generation, this means creating new opportunities in the labor market through four components of our medium-term Philippine development plan to fight poverty.

The first component of our medium-term Philippine development plan to fight poverty is a philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. Under this philosophy, the way to fight poverty is to create jobs.

To create jobs, we must attract investments.

To attract investments, we must attend to macro-measures and concerns. We are attending, we must attend to basics like infrastructure. Our priorities include telecommunications facilities, roads, infrastructure for the modernization of agriculture and mass transport infrastructure. This will create engineering and other jobs in construction, telecommunications and transport.

Kaya nakita ko may mga engineering dito, 'di ba, sa linyang ito? So i hope you will find those jobs because we are promoting infrastructure.

We will further explore labor-intensive activities in infrastructure development. Kasi may infrastructure na capital-intensive, may infrastructure na labor-intensive ang pag-construct. Kaya sabi ko kay Secretary Datumanong, dapat labor-intensive ang ating mga methods.

Also, in pursuing the philosophy of free enterprise to create jobs, we are designing policies to develop our capital market. We will set up a secondary housing mortgage market, an asset management company, and a provident fund for overseas Filipinos. This will create jobs in the financial sector.

And, indeed, in Metro Manila — kasi nagdadala ako ng jobs fair tuwing mayroon akong graduation ceremony — doon sa Metro Manila, our jobs fair for graduating students are producing many jobs in the financial sector.

Preparing our growth sectors for the future enables us to tap the opportunities of the 21st century to create jobs. We are promoting fast growing industries where high value jobs are most plentiful. One of them, as i said earlier, is information and communications technology or ICT. And I am glad that we have in this row, right, information technology graduating students.

Our English literacy and the aptitude and skills of our great Filipino workers give us a competitive edge in ICT. Filipino workers are ranked number one in the field of ICT in the world today — number one among knowledge workers. And we will continue to develop the skills of our knowledge workers to meet the needs of the ICT sector where high value postings are most plentiful.

Let me give you examples: even now, there are already many jobs available in ICT. The lowest paying job in ICT, the simplest job, is the job for call center agents. But these call center agents, many of them earn a starting salary of P15,000 at iyan ang pinaka-simple pa sa ICT. Then we go to the most sophisticated jobs in software development where analysts say we and India are the two countries which will most likely be the centers of software development in ICT in this coming decade.

We are one of two developing countries as the likely world centers for software development in this decade kaya doon tayo pinaghahanap ng trabaho.

And to prepare our youth to be the next generation of knowledge workers, we are upgrading math and science teaching in basic education, and also increasing the number of teachers to improve the quality of instruction. This creates jobs for teachers, 20,000 new items this year, especially in math and science. And I see in this row, we have our education graduates.

To improve the quality of education as required by the new economy, we are also increasing the number of textbooks per student. This creates jobs in the paper and printing industry.

Aside from ICT, we also have the competitive edge in tourism, in the natural wonders of our country and the natural warmth of our people. We are promoting tourism as a key employment generator.

I understand that here in Lucena where you are lucky you already have a hotel — ano iyon, Queen Margaret hotel ba ang tawag doon? Eh, doon nga sa Legaspi, may mt. Mayon sila wala naman silang hotel. Kailangan talaga ang hotel para sa tourism. And I understand there are other hotels coming up as well, so these are jobs that will be made available to you.

Yesterday in Bataan, i learned that the resorts in Bataan are fully booked for the summer. Our holiday economics is working, and I hope it is the same in Quezon province.

Kanina, nandoon kami ni Governor Enverga sa Bondoc Peninsula. Sabi nung anak ng Mayor ng Buenavista, thank you for letting the government employees have the option of working four days a week, ten hours a day. Now, I am so sunburned because I am always with my father going out for weekend vacations. Kaya talagang umuubra iyong holiday economics kahit na nagbabatikos iyong mga tao sa akin.

Aside from the philosophy of free enterprise, the second component of our medium-term Philippine development plan to fight poverty is agricultural modernization founded on social equity. We expect agricultural modernization to generate one million new jobs.

The third component of our fight against poverty is a social bias in our development plan. This will create further job opportunities such as in the construction of mass housing. Taun-taon, magtatayo ng isandaang libong tirahan para sa mga manggagawa at limampung libong pabahay para sa higit na maralita. Kaya mayroon tayong employment opportunities sa construction sa housing industry. At mayroon tayong espesyal na proyekto para sa mga kabataang maralita ng mga lungsod na hindi na makakapag-aral ngunit wala pa silang trabaho — iyong out-of-school youth — ito ay iyong emergency employment program. Maaari silang magtagpi ng bubong, mag-ayos ng railing, mag-guwardiya ng eskuwelahan sa kanilang barangay, maglinis ng kalsada o estero o iba pang emergency employment. Pero kayo, hindi kayo mage-emergency employment dahil kayo ay mayroong pinag-aralan, at inaasahan natin na tayo ay magkakaroon ng paraan na kayo ay may trabaho.

Ten point three percent ang unemployment rate, mahirap iyon, marami iyon, at inaasahan natin na sa loob ng apat na taon tatlong taon, dalawang taon, sana bumaba ito. Pero, in the meantime, hahanap tayo ng trabaho kailangan kahit saan mahanap, pilipinas o ibang bansa. Hindi natin patakaran iyong nage-export ng labor pero kinikilala natin na kung may demand sa ibang lugar para sa labor natin, ipaghanda natin iyong ating mga estudyante para qualified sila sa opportunities na iyon. Kaya nasisiyahan ako dito sa mga nakaputi natin, itong ating mga marine sciences, itong ating mga sea engineers and merchant marines, dahil isang malaking trabaho sa human resource intensive, skills intensive service sector ay iyong ating sea farer professionals.

At isa rin, dahil iyong mga nag-practice ng population planning nung last generation, ngayon matatanda na iyong population na iyon — they're an aging population, kulang naman sila sa population of the productive age dahil nag-family planning nga eh, bumaba iyong birth rate — kulang tuloy ng mga nurses na mag-aalaga sa mga matatanda. So, therefore, there is again that other employment opportunity. And I congratulate Enverga University dahil sa darating na school year, kayo ay magkakaroon na ng bachelor of science in nursing para dadami pa lalo ang trabaho ng ating kabataan ng lalawigan ng Quezon.

Hindi lamang iyon, sabi ni Willy, itong Bachelor of Science kasi four years iyan, ay naku, pagkatapos na ng four years dami niyong trabahong opportunities sa iba't ibang lugar ng mundo, and I hope by four years pati dito sa Pilipinas.

Pero mayroon din mga short term courses, sabi ni Willy, iyong caregivers. Kaya ito, hindi natin patakaran na magbenta ng labor sa ibang bansa pero kung mayroong nagha-hire, patakaran natin na i-qualify ang ating labor force sa mga opportunities na iyon.

Dapat ngang magkaroon tayo ng bagong sistema din ng pag-aasikaso ng basura. Patakaran din iyon. Kaya ngayon pinapairal natin ang recycling at zero waste management gaya ng sinimulaan na sa smokey mountain at sinisimulan na sa montalban sa rizal. So this kind of environmental management ay nagbibigay din ng trabaho. Eto nakita ko, opening of bachelor of environmental science sa June 2002. Sana makakapag-aral din ang mga estudyante dito ng yun na nga, environmental management of waste. At iyon ay isang malaking employment opportunity rin sa darating na panahon dahil sa ating increasing urbanization.

Whether in the urban areas or in the countryside, we will make Microfinance a cornerstone in our fight against poverty. Ang ibig sabihin nito, maliliit na paluwagan para sa maliliit na negosyo — self-employment. Kaya kung balak natin na magbigay ng paluwagan sa tatlong daang libong kababaihan bawat taon, ibig sabihin nito ay trabaho para sa tatlong daang libo bawat taon. Itong micro financing, iyong negosyo ay maliit, you do not hire others — ikaw lang. Parang ikaw ay isang seamstress na nagtatanggap ng orders o manikurista na nagho-home service o gumagawa ka ng fishball — iyong ikaw lang — ganoon kaliit. So you don't hire others, but you employ yourself. Iyan ang isang malaking ginagamit nating patakaran din for employment.

Kaya itong araw na ito ay nagdala ako ng jobs fair din dito sa inyong graduation. At gusto kong ipahayag so far ang resulta: mayroon kayong 145 na nag-register para sa jobs fair, iyong anim ay na-hire na, at may siyam na nag-register sa TLRC para nga dito sa microfinance. Itong jobs fair ay ongoing pa rin at ito itutuloy after today, tuloy pa rin ito doon sa public employment service office ng DOLE dito sa Lucena.

Ngayon, iba pang programa natin na nagbibigay ng trabaho. Wala pang kuryente ang marami nating barangay kaya araw-araw nagkakabit tayo ng kuryente sa apat na barangay, four barangays a day until the end of my term in 2004. Ito ay nagbibigay rin ng trabaho maging sa construction at maging din sa mga bagong pagkakataon na nagbibigay ng isang pamayanan na may kuryente na. Halimbawa, ôpag walang kuryente, walang irrigation; pero ôpag may kuryente, puwedeng mag-irrigate, puwedeng maglagay ng storage facilities, puwedeng magbigay ng dagdag na trabaho.

We will intensify efforts to promote small and medium enterprises, or SME's, especially in the countryside. Ito rin ay magbibigay ng trabaho dahil labor intensive ang mga SME's. Ang kaibahan ng Micro at saka SME, iyong SME maliit ang puhunan pero nagha-hire kayo ng iba; iyong Micro, maliit ang puhunan at ikaw, it's for you as a one-man team or a mom-and-pop-operation.

Maliban sa free enterprise, agricultural modernization at social bias, the fourth component of our national agenda is improving moral standards and the rule of law. How? We must strengthen justice and the enforcement of law and order. This provides job opportunities for lawyers and law enforcers.

Last December, for instance, we hired 1,700 new policemen, college graduates lahat; and this year, we are, hiring 4,000 more new policemen.

To attain our full potential as a nation, we are coming to terms with the fundamental issues in Mindanao. In Mindanao, there is war because there has been much economic exclusion in Mindanao, especially against our muslim brothers. Thus, even as we wage war in Mindanao, we must address the cause of war. We must reverse the economic exclusion of our muslim brothers and bring economic development to them. This means jobs in Mindanao, especially in muslim Mindanao. Bakit ko sinasabi ito sa inyo, taga Quezon kayo? Dahil maraming pumupunta sa Mindanao para sa job opportunities.

Iyong aking lolo, the late Juan Macaraeg, siya ay naging engineer dito sa quezon, sa Lucena kaya ang nanay ko ay nag-aral dito sa lucena, sa kindergarten. Pero pagkatapos noon, siya ay nakakuha ng trabaho bilang manager ng Sta. Clara Lumber doon sa Mindanao. Kaya, from Quezon, lumipat sila ng Mindanao.

Iyon muli ang ginagawa natin: kung gusto nating maiwasan ang giyera pa, kailangan iyong development. Kaya there will be opportunities in mindanao for the more adventurous of our graduates, even here from Quezon.

Aside from employment generation, our labor policy consists of employment preservation, employment enhancement and employment facilitation.

Employment preservation means pro-active dispute interventions, making the cost of doing business in the country more competitive, and forging multilateral and bilateral labor agreements and arrangements for overseas employment. Gaya ng sabi ko, iyong nurses, iyong seamen, ang information technology.

Employment enhancement means improving worker competency — kagaya nung gagawin ng TLRC — productivity and work values. We can do this through better work conditions, remuneration and welfare programs.

Employment facilitation means developing and improving access of Filipino workers to employment opportunities and alternatives. It also means providing stop gap measures for those who are not prepared for the demands of the labor market.

Kaya iyong peso — iyong public service employment office, iyong nag-organize ng jobs fair niyo — iyon ay bahagi doon. It also includes the expansion and enhancement of the philippine job network. Mayroon dito sa inyong jobs fair iyong Jobnet so you can look for a job on the internet. And as I said, we do jobs fairs like the one we are doing now here in your university, it also includes the provision of vocational guidance and employment counselling. All these are facets of job facilitation.

Kaya kung nahihirapan kayo na maghanap ng trabaho — and I will not be surprised if many of you will have difficulties in finding jobs — then you will go to peso for job counselling. Pero talaga ang hint ko sa inyo, ang trabaho ay nandoon sa information technology.

All these are what we try to do so that as you graduate, you will have a good chance to land a job and have a good future.

And so today, I welcome you graduates of Enverga University, to the world of the working Filipino, the world of the great Filipino worker.

At sana gamitin ninyo ang inyong mga talino para sa ikabubuti ng lahat hindi lamang para sa inyong sarili — although, karapatan ninyo iyon, siyempre dapat ikinabubuti ninyo, hanapbuhay ang hanapin ninyo — pero sa ibabaw noon, sana kapag kayo ay nagtatrabaho na, tulungan ninyo ako sa pagpapaunlad ng sambayanang Pilipino.

Congratulations at maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 55th Commencement Exercises of the Manuel Enverga University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230034/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7648&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 50th Commencement Exercises of the Central Luzon State Colleges (CLSU)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 50th Commencement Exercises of the Central Luzon State Colleges (CLSU)**

[Delivered in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, April 11, 2002]

Ako ay nasisiyahan na makapiling kong muli ang CLSU *community* lalo na ngayong nakaharap ang ating bansa sa dalawang dakilang hamon: ang kahirapan ng maraming mamamayan at ang hindi maiwasang globilisasyon. At bilang sagot sa mga hamong ito, kailangan nating bigyang diin ang napakaselang pangangailangan para sa kaunlaran ng agrikultura at kanayunan.

Tungkulin nating iangat ang antas ng produksyon at sektor ng pagsasaka hindi lamang upang magkaroon ng sapat na pagkain kundi upang magkaroon ng kakayahang makipagkumpetensiya ang ating mga produktong *ini-export*.

Sa ganitong paraan lamang natin makakayang palakasin ang ating market *economy* sa kabukiran. Una, iangat ang kalagayang pangkabuhayan ng nakararaming taumbayan na umaasa sa agrikultura. Pangalawa, makawala sa pressure na gustuhin man natin o hindi, nariyan na ang globilisasyon.

Ang mga tinukoy kong hamon at gawain ang dahilan kung bakit ang aking administrasyon ay naglalaan ng sapat na atensiyon at enerhiya sa pagbuo ng trabaho sa sektor ng agrikultura at pamayanan kasama ang modernisasyon ng agrikultiiri-nakasalalay *social equity* lalo na sa sektor ng pagkain.

Nasisiyahan ako dahil sa maikling panahon, nagsisimula na nating makamtan ang mga importanteng *inroad*, kagaya ng *certified seeds*, *hybrid rice*, at *job fairs*. Ngunit ito ay isang malawakang trabaho. At hindi ito magagawa ng pamahalaan nang nag-iisa.

Kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa CLSU. Ginawa ng CLSU ang mga unang hakbang para suportahan ang mga programang inumpisahan natin. Sa paglaban natin sa kahirapan, ang unang kailangan ay ang pagkakaroon ng trabaho. Binabati ko ang CLSU dahil mula noong birthday ko noong April 5 hanggang ngayong araw na ito, nagsagawa ng tuloy-tuloy na *job fairs* ang CLSU.

Ang pangalawang kailangan natin sa paglaban sa kahirapan ay modernisasyon ng agrikultura na nakasalalay sa *social equity* dahil nasa kanayunan ang marami sa ating mga mahihirap.

Nasisiyahan din ako sa kooperasyon ng CLSU sa Philrice para maging sentro ng *hybrid rice production*. Magsisimula ito sa Mayo sa isang daan at limampung hektarya ng lupa ng CLSU. Ang lupaing ito ay kikita ng P50,000 bawat hektarya o P7.5 milyon bawat cropping, o P15 milyon bawat taon na makakadagdag sa pangangailangang pinansyal ng CLSU at magbibigay rin dito ng isang libong trabaho.

Isa itong magandang halimbawa at modelo ng sariling sikap para sa ibang state colleges and universities. Kaya inatasan ko si CHED Chair Ester Garcia na bigyan ng instruksyon ang lahat ng mga state colleges and universities na gamitin ang kanilang *mgaland grant* at gayahin ang magandang halimbawa ng CLSU.

Ang aking panawagan ay para sa sama-samang pagsisikap mula sa lahat ng sector—gobyerno, industriya, akademya at kabataan. Kayong mga magtatapos ngayong 2002, dapat na magsikap tayong lahat na maitayo ang ating ekonomiya at bansa, lalo na't ang CLSU ang nangungunang institusyon sa edukasyong pagsasaka sa ating bansa.

Ang panawagan ko sa mga magsisipagtapos ay ialay ang inyong mga sarili upang maitayong muli ang lakas ng sektor ng agrikultura at pamayanan.

Naiintindihan nating kailangan ninyong isaisip ang inyong mga karera, ang kasiguruhang magkakaroon kayo ng trabaho para sa inyo at sa inyong pamilya.

Ngunit bilang Pilipino, hinihiling ko sa inyong mga graduating students na bigyan ng espesyal na konsiderasyon ang pagpasok sa mga karerang magbibigay ng kontribusyon lalo na sa mga sektor ng agrikultura at pamayanan.

Mapapalad kayong mga magtatapos sa pagkakaroon ng pribelehiyong tumanggap ng edukasyon mula sa isang nangungunang institusyon tulad ng CLSU na kilalang-kilala sa kahusayan lalo na sa agrikultura at teknolohiyang pangsakahan.

Kinikilala ng CHED ang CLSU bilang *center of excellence* sa *agricultural at fisheries education*. May reputasyon ang CLSU sa pagiging *topnotcher* sa *agricultural engineering board examination* ang mga nagtatapos. Gayundin sa *licensure examination* para sa veterinary science and medicine. Kayo ang nanguna noong 1998, 2000 at 2001.

Maraming estudyante ng CLSU ang nanalo na ng mga awards tulad ng Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines at Ten Outstanding Marketing Students. Mula noong 1984, sa 34 na outing sa *rodeo competition* na nilahukan ng rodeo team ng CLSU sa ibat ibang bahagi ng bansa, 27 *championship* ang kanilang natamo. Ang CLSU rin ang lumikha ng maraming leader sa edukasyon mula sa mga nagtapos at nagtuturo. May labing-anim na ring nagtapos sa CLSU ang naging pangulo ng *state colleges and universities* kabilang na si Dr. Undan ng CLSU.

Lumikha na rin ng iba pang mga katangi-tanging lider sa ibat ibang larang ang CLSU na pinatunayan ng tatlong TOYM award; tatlong *outstanding engineers*; tatlong *TOWNS outstanding women in the nation's service*; isang Pantas award mula sa PCARD bilang *outstanding administrator* sa katauhan ni Dr. Bataviata; anim na award sa *fisheries research*; isang award sa *animal science research*; at isang award sa *agricultural journalism*. *As an adviser of the Metro Bank Foundation, I know that your faculty members are formidable. Some had been selected as Metrobank's most outstanding teachers. These teachers from CLSU have consistently carried the torch of effective and durable mentoring. Your president himself was a recipient of such national award as most outstanding agricultural engineer, most outstanding research administrator, the one holding the most outstanding Asian engineering achievement. You are blessed with leadership and excellence with all this, you deserve unrelenting support.* Ang galing-galing talaga ng CLSU.

I am very proud that my family is a part of CLSU. CLSU evokes memories of my father. It was during my father's presidency that this institution was elevated from a college to a university.

Like many of the students and graduates of CLSU, my father was born in a nipa hut in a rural barrio in Central Luzon. He descended from a humble tenant who tilled three fourth of a hectare of riceland that did not belong to them. My father, when he was in elementary school, suffered real hunger and deprivation as a child. He was the only man with truly peasant origins to rise to the position of presidency. And I am very proud of this.

To achieve the goals of addressing poverty, a poverty that he experienced first hand in his childhood, my father resolved to bring the country into a new era through a number of simple but meaningful mission. Among these were the attainment of self-sufficiency in the staple food of our people, mainly rice and corn. He, likewise, launched a bold but well formulated socio-economic program, the first medium term development plan of our country, to put our country on the road to prosperity.

To a large extent, the conditions of his time helped the conversion of Central Luzon Agricultural College to a university. This, in turn, spurred his programs of social amelioration which are indelibly etched in the socio-economic landscape of this region. Today, CLSU has become a leading state university in agricultural education, engineering, veterinary medicine, agri-business and entrepreneurship, as well as in environmental and ecological conservation. You have a campus that harbors, values state-of-the-art research and development facilities. It is a wellspring of knowledge and social responsibility.

Speaking of social responsibility, at labas na ito sa mundo ng akademya, gusto kong bigyang pansin ang halaga ng *applied research and technology*. Ang produktibidad at *efficiency* ng ating mga kababayan ay naiiwan na ng ating mga kapitbahay sa Asya, Tsina, Vietnam, at Malaysia. Isa sa mga batayang paraan kung paano tayo makakahabol ay ang pagpapakilala at pagsasanay sa ating mga maliliit na magsasaka ng mga bagong teknolohiya.

Lubos kong pinagmamalaki na nabigyang-pansin ng CLSU ang pag-unlad sa pamamagitan ng tuloy-tuloy na *applied technologies*, ang pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga pandaigdigang programang magtuturo ng ibat ibang teknolohiya na pupwedeng gamitin sa Pilipinas. Halimbawa, ang relasyon ng CLSU sa Tsina na pinagkukunan natin ng *rice technology*, hindi lamang ng *hybrid rice*, kundi maging ng *rice agricultural machinery*. Ang relasyon din natin sa Israel na pinanggagalingan ng *greenhouse technology*.

Today, I am proclaiming a 20-hectare area in the CLSU reservation to be used for employees' housing and construction of dormitories for students. This is part of the continuing effort to strengthen the institutional and human resources of your university. This is indispensable to the sustained development and progress of your region. Sama-sama nating labanan ang kahirapan, ngunit hindi tayo maaaring sumugod sa laban nang walang dalang sandata. Naniniwala ako na ang susi sa isang mapayapang pagbabago ay ang pag-usbong ng bagong pag-ibig sa edukasyon ng bagong henerasyon. Ako ay lubos na naniniwala na ang pagpapalawig ng edukasyon ang siya nating magiging armas tungo sa mataas na antas ng ating pamumuhay partikular na ang pagbibigay ng atensiyon dito sa *sciences*, kasama ang *agricultural science and engineering*.

Sa ngayon, ang Pilipinas ang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Filipino, kasama rito ang dakilang manggagawang magsasaka.

Mayroon talaga tayong *competitive advantage* sa ating *human resource, skills intensive service sectors*. Gamitin natin ang kaalaman n gating service sectors—*math, science, engineering, information technology*—nang maging mas dakila pa an gating magsasaka.

Ayon sa ibat ibang pag-aaral, ang dakilang manggagawang Filipino ang; nangunguna bilang *knowledge worker* sa mundo. Walang nakakataio sa dakilang manggagawang Filipino kung pag-uusapan ang kahusayan, dedikasyon at katapatan sa trabaho. Alam ito ng buong daigdig, at ito ay ating maipagmamalaki. Huwag nating iwanang walang sandata ang mga magsasaka upang magkaroon din ng kadakilaan at masabi ring nangunguna sila sa mga dakilang magsasaka sa buong mundo. Dapat magsilbing dahilan ito upang tayo ay lalong magsikap. Huwag tayong maging kampante na lamang, Huwag nating hayaang mawala ang tiwala at paghanga ng mundo sa dakilang manggagawang Filipino. Gamitin natin ang ating natutunan dito para patunayan ding ang magsasakang Filipino ay dakilang magsasakang Filipino na kaya ang hamon ng buong mundo. Dapat nating palakasin ang edukasyon tungo sa hinaharap.

Sa aking mga minamahal na nagsisipagtapos, sa gitna ng panganib ng bagong digmaan, ng terorismo at ng globilisasyon, ang pambihirang pag-angat ng sektor ng agrikultura ay siyang dapat magsilbing inspirasyon sa ating lahat upang pagsikapang makamit ang ating mga pangarap para sa ating bayan. Magtulungan tayo sa panibagong EDSA, ang bagong kilusan sa unang dekada ng siglo beinte uno, ang EDSA ang susugpo sa kahirapan. Malaki ang aking paniniwala na sa ating walang sawang pagpupunyagi at sa ating patuloy na panalangin sa Poong Maykapal ay makamtan din natin ang minimithing kaunlaran para sa bawat Filipino. Patuloy nating pagtibayin at palakasin ang ating pagkakaisa upang mas marami pa tayong makamit na tagumpay sa hinaharap. Magtulungan tayo para paunlarin ang ating bayan, ang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Filipino na dapat tahanan din ng dakilang manggagawang magsasaka.

Kaya sa inyong mga *graduating students, congratulations*. Kailangan ko kayo para umunlad ang ating pagsasaka, umunlad ang ating bansa at masugpo natin ang kahirapan sa ating bansa.

Maraming salamat at good luck sa inyong lahat.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

Speech of President Arroyo during the 50th Commencement Exercises of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 50th Commencement Exercises of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU)**

[Delivered at the CLSU Campus, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, April 11, 2002]

Maraming salamat, Dr. Undan sa inyong pagpakilala, sa inyong imbitasyon at sa Golden Grain Award na binigay n'yo sa akin.

Chairman ng CHED, Dr. Garcia; ating mga cabinet officials — Secretary Lorenzo, Secretary Diaz, Secretary Valisno; ang President Emeritus ng CLSU, si former President ng University, si President Battad; at ibat-ibang mga CLSU Board of Regents, Administration at Faculty; at ibang officials ng number one rice-producing province — pangu-nguna ni Governor Tommy Josen; 'yung isang Outstanding Alumnus ng CLSU, si Mayor Nestor Alvarez; 'yung kanyang congressman, si Congressman Violago; ang Chairperson ng PCSO, si Honeygirl Singson, na kasama ko rin ngayong araw na ito; ating mga graduates — graduating students pala. Hindi pa kayo naglilipat ng inyong tassle; kanilang mga magulang; mga alumni, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat. At congratulations sa ating mga graduating students.

Ako ay nasisiyahan na makapiling kong muli — pagkatapos nang maraming beses na napunta rito — ang CLSU community, lalo na ngayon na ang ating bansa ay hinaharap nang dalawang dakilang hamon: ang isa ay 'yung kahirapan ng marami nating taumbayan; at 'yung pangalawa 'yung hinding maiwasang globalisasyon.

Kailangan nating bigyan diin ang napakaselang pangangailangan para sa kaunlaran ng agrikultura at kanayunan bilang sagot natin sa mga hamon na ito dahil ito ay mag-aapekto sa malaking bahagi ng ating mga pamayanang taga-bukid na nasa ilalim pa rin ng poverty line. Ang trabaho ay iangat ang nibel ng produktibidad at pagkabisa ng ating sektor ng pansasaka upang makamit natin ang sapat na pagkain at kayang makipagkompetensya para sa ating produktong ine-export. Sa paraang ganito lamang makakaya natin palakasin ang ating market economy sa kabukiran, at unang iangat ang kondisyon ng pangkabuhayan ng nakararami sa ating taumbayan na umaasa sa agrikultura. At pangalawa, makaraos sa pressure nang gusto natin o hindi nandiyan na ang globalisasyon.

Ang mga tinukoy kong hamon at gawain ang dahilan kung bakit ang aking administrasyon ay nagbigay, nagbibigay ng malaking atensyon at enerhiya sa pagbuo ng trabaho sa sektor ng agrikultura at pamayanan kasama ng modernisasyon ng agrikulturang nakagabay sa social equity, nakasandal sa social equity umpisa sa mga batayang sektor ng pagkain.

Nasisiyahan ako na sa maikling panahon nakakamit na natin ang mga importanteng in road kagaya ng certified seeds, hybrid rice, job fair, ngunit malaki ang trabaho, at ang pamahalaan ay hindi makakagawa ng trabahong nag-iisa. 'Yung national government hindi niya kaya itong trabahong nag-iisa. Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat sa clsu na ginawan ng clsu ang unang mga hakbang para suportahan ang mga programang inumpisahan natin.

Sa paglaban natin kontra sa kahirapan, ang unang kailangan ay magkaroon ng trabaho. Kaya binabati ko ang clsu dahil mula noong birthday ko noong april 5 hanggang itong araw na ito, ang clsu ay nag-host ng jobs fair. Itong araw na ito sa pagka-intinde ko, ang ating mga graduates ay bumibilang ng 793 ngunit ang jobs fair ay naglikas ng trabaho — 877. So, ibig sabihin noon kung 'yung ating mga graduates ay tatanggapin n'yo ang mga trabahong inaalok sa into sa jobs fair, lahat kayo ay may trabaho. Zero unemployment rate ang graduating students ng clsu.

Sa paglaban natin kontra sa kahirapan, ang pangalawang kailangan — pagkatapos ng trabaho — ay ang modernisasyon ng agrikultura sandal sa social equity dahil ang nakararami sa ating mahihirap ay nasa kanayunan. Ako rin ay nasisiyahan sa kooperasyon ng clsu sa philrice na maging sentro ng hybrid rice production. Ito ay

magsisimula itong mayo para sa isangdaan at limampung hektarya ng lupa ng CLSU. Itong hectarage na ito na gagamitin ng CLSU para sa hybrid rice production ay makakaganansya ng 50,000 pesos bawat hektarya o 7.5 million pesos bawat cropping o 15 million pesos bawat taon, na magdadagdag para sa mga pansalaping pangangailangan ng CLSU at lilikha ng isang libong trabaho dito. Ito ay modelo ng sariling sikap at halimbawa para sa ibang state colleges and universities kaya inaatasan ko si Ched Ester Garcia na bigyan ng instruction ang lahat ng state colleges and state universities, sabihin sa kanila ‘yung ibang state colleges and universities na gamitin ang kanilang mga land grant para gayahin ang magandang halimbawa ng CLSU.

Talagang ang panawagan ay para sa sama-samang pagsisikap mula sa lahat ng sektor — gobyerno, industriya, akademya at kabataan, kayo, mga graduate ng taong 2002. All of us should rally around the great work na itayo muli ang ating ekonomiya at bansa. Lalo na, dahil ang CLSU ay isang nangungunang institusyon sa edukasyong pansasaka sa ating bansa. Ang panawagan ay para kayong mga nagtatapos ay sana ialay ninyo ang inyong sarili na itayo muli ang lakas ng ating mga sektor ng agrikultura at pamayanan.

Naiintindihan din natin, oo kailangan ipairal ninyo ang inyong mga karera na ang pangunahing layunin ay magkaroon ng siguradong trabaho para sa inyo at inyong mga pamilya. Ngunit bilang Pilipino, hinihiling ko sa inyo, kailangan ko kayo mga graduating students na magbigay ng espesyal na konsiderasyon na pumasok sa mga larangan ng karera na magbibigay ng kontribusyon lalo na sa mga sektor ng agrikultura at pamayanan.

Kayong mga nagtatapos ay mapalad na nagkaroon ng pribilehiyong tumanggap ng edukasyon mula sa isang nangungunang institusyon kagaya ng CLSU na kilalang-kilala sa kanyang sukat ng kagalingan lalo na sa agrikultura at teknolohiyang pansasaka.

Ang CLSU ay kinilala bilang center of excellence sa agricultural and fisheries education ng CHED. Ang mga nagtatapos sa CLSU ay may reputasyon na nagiging topnotcher sa Agricultural Engineering Board examination. Ang mga nagtatapos din sa CLSU ay nagiging topnotcher rin ng licensure examinations para sa Veterinary Science and Medicine. Kayo ay nagwagi noong 1998, year 2000 at 2001.

Ang mga estudyante ng CLSU ay nanalo na ng maraming award kagaya ng ten outstanding students of the Philippines at kagaya ng ten outstanding marketing students.

Ang Rodeo Team ng CLSU ay nanalo na sa dalawampu’t pitong championships sa rodeo competition sa buong-buong mga ibat-ibang bahagi ng bansa sa inyong tatlungpu’t apat na outing mula noong 1984.

At ang CLSU lumikha ng maraming lider sa edukasyon mula sa mga nagtatapos at nagtuturo, lalo na ‘yung mga labing-anim na naging mga pangulo ng state universities and colleges na taga-CLSU lahat at kabilang na rito ay si Dr. Undan ng CLSU.

Ang CLSU ay lumikha na rin ng iba pang mga katangi-tanging lider sa iba’t-ibang larangan na pinatunayan ng tatlong TOYM award, tatlong Outstanding Engineer, tatlong towns — ‘yung Outstanding Women in the Nation Service, isang pantas award mula sa PCARRD bilang Outstanding Administrator — si Dr. Battad yata ‘yon noong panahon niya, anim na award sa Fisheries Research, isang award sa Animal Science Research, isang award sa Agricultural Journalism. Kaya ang galing-galing ng CLSU. And I’m very proud of my family is a part of CLSU.

CLSU evokes memories of my father. It was during his time that this institution was elevated from a college to a university. Like many of the students and graduates of CLSU, my father was born in a nipa hut in a rural barrio in Central Luzon. He descended from a humble tenant who tilled three-fourths of a hectare of rice land that did not belong to them. My father when he was in elementary school suffered real hunger and deprivation as a child. He was the only man with truly peasant origins to rise to the position of presidency, and I am very proud of this.

To achieve the goal of addressing poverty, a poverty that he experienced first hand in his childhood, my father resolved to bring the country into a new era through a number of simple but meaningful missions. Among these were the attainment of self-sufficiency in the staple food of our people, mainly rice and corn. He likewise launched a

bold but well-formulated socioeconomic program, the first medium-term development plan of our country, to put our country on the road to prosperity.

To a large extent, the conditions of his time helped the conversion of central Luzon agricultural college to a university. This in turn spurred his programs of social amelioration which are indelibly etched in the socioeconomic landscape of this region.

Today, CLSU has become a leading state university in agricultural education, engineering, veterinary medicine, agribusiness and entrepreneurship, as well as in environmental and ecological conservation. You have a campus that harbors various state-of-the-art research and development facilities. It is a wellspring of knowledge and social responsibility.

Speaking of social responsibility, lampas sa mundo ng akademya, gusto kong tumawag ng pansin sa halaga ng larangan ng applied research and technology. Ang produktibidad at efficiency ng ating mga magsasaka ay di hamak naiwan ng ating mga kapitbahay sa asya, tsina, vietnam, malaysia. Isa sa mga batayang paraan kung papano makakahabol tayo ay sa pamamagitan ng pagpapakilala at pagsasanay sa ating mga maliliit na magsasaka sa mga mas bagong teknolohiya. Lubos kong pinagmamalaki na bigyang pansin na ang clsu ay tuloy-tuloy na tinatayo ang kanyang pag-uunlad ng applied technologies ang kanyang programang nakikipag-ugnay sa pangmundong pinanggagalingan ng iba't-ibang teknolohiyang pwedeng gamitin sa pilipinas.

Halimbawa, 'yung relasyon ng clsu sa tsina na pinanggagalingan natin ng rice technology. Hindi lamang 'yung hybrid rice kungdi na rin 'yung rice agricultural machinery. 'Yung relasyon din niya sa israel na pinanggagalingan ng greenhouse technology.

At, as an adviser in the Metrobank foundation, I know that your faculty members are formidable. Some have been selected as Metrobank's most outstanding teachers. These teachers from CLSU have consistently carried the torch of effective and durable mentoring.

Your president himself was a recipient of such national awards as most outstanding agricultural engineer, most outstanding research administrator, the one holding the most outstanding asean engineering achievement. You are blessed with leadership and excellence.

With all these, you deserve unremitting support. And so, I'm indeed very grateful that you are all here today. Today, I am proclaiming a 20-hectare area in the CLSU reservation to be used for employee housing and construction of dormitories for students. This is part of the continuing effort to strengthen the institutional and human resources of your university. This is indispensable to the sustained development and progress of your region.

Sama-sama nating labanan ang kahirapan. Nguni't hindi tayo maaaring sumugod sa laban nang walang dalang sandata. Naniniwala ako na ang susi sa isang mapayapang pagbabago ay ang pag-usbong ng bagong pag-ibig sa edukasyon ng bagong henerasyon.

Ako ay lubos na naniniwala na ang pagpapalawig ng edukasyon ang siyang magiging pangunahing armas tungo sa mataas na antas ng ating pamumuhay, partikular ang pagbibigay ng atensiyon dito sa sciences kasama ng agricultural science and engineering.

Sa ngayon, ang pilipinas ang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang pilipino, ang kasama nito ay ang dakilang manggagawang magsasaka. Talagang mayroon tayong competitive advantage sa ating human resource skills intensive service sectors. Gamitin natin ang kaalaman ng ating service sectors math, science, engineering, information technology sa maging mas dakila pa ang ating magsasaka. Ayon sa iba't-ibang pag-aaral, ang dakilang manggagawang pilipino ang nangunguna bilang knowledge workers sa mundo. Walang nakakatalo sa dakilang manggagawang pilipino kung ang pag-uusapan ay kahusayan, dedikasyon at katapatan sa trabaho. Alam ito ng buong daigdig, at ito ay ating ipinagmamalaki. Huwag nating iwanan na bigyan ng sandata ang magsasaka na magkaroon ng kadakilaan at masabi rin nangunguna sa mga dakilang magsasaka ng buong mundo.

Ito ay dapat magsilbing dahilan na tayo ay magsikap. Huwag tayo maging kampante na lamang. Huwag nating hayaang mawala ang tiwala at paghanga ng mundo sa dakilang manggagawang pilipino. Gamitin natin ang ating natutunan dito para ipatunay din na ang magsasakang pilipino ay dakilang magsasakang pilipino na kaya ang hamon ng buong mundo. Dapat nating palakasin ang edukasyon tungo sa hinaharap.

Sa aking mga minamahal na nagsisipagtapos, sa gitna ng mga panganib ng bagong digmaan sa terorismo at ng globalisasyon, ang pambihirang pag-angat ng sektor ng agrikultura ay siyang dapat magsilbing inspirasyon sa ating lahat para pagsikapang makamit ang ating mga pangarap para sa ating bayan.

Magtulungan tayo sa panibagong edsa, ang bagong kilusan sa unang dekada ng siglo beinte-uno, ang edsang susugpo sa kahirapan.

Malaki ang aking paniniwala na sa ating walang sawang pagpupunyagi at sa ating patuloy na panalangin sa poong maykapal ay makakamtan din natin ang minimithing kaunlaran para sa bawa't pilipino. Patuloy nating pagtibayin at palakasin ang ating pagkakaisa upang mas marami pa tayong makamit na tagumpay sa hinaharap.

Magtulungan tayo para paunlarin ang ating bayan, ang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang pilipino na dapat tahanan din ng dakilang manggagawang magsasaka. Kaya kayong mga graduating students, congratulations! At gusto kong sabihin sa inyo, kailangan ko kayo para ganun umunlad ang ating pansasaka, umunlad ang ating bansa at masugpo natin ang kahirapan ng ating bansa.

Maraming salamat at good luck sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 50th Commencement Exercises of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412231228/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7647&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Socialist International (SI) Asia-Pacific Committee Meeting

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Socialist International (SI) Asia-Pacific Committee Meeting**

[Delivered at the PICC, Roxas Blvd., Manila, April 12, 2002]

Thank you very much, Mr. Ayala. Other leaders of the Socialist International, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, welcome to the Philippines. And secondly, thank you for being our partners in fighting poverty.

The Socialist International has been a living part of our contemporary history. The nations governed by social democrat parties in Europe were among the first to lend unequivocal support to the accession of President Cory Aquino after the edsa revolution in 1986.

In more recent times, Bert Gonzales, who is now one of my Cabinet advisers, worked with socialist democrats within the foreign ministries of Spain and France as the Philippines was sinking into a political crisis in early 2000.

At that time, I was Vice President, and I had the opportunity — as mentioned by Mr. Ayala — to meet with him, the secretary general,

In London. This was before we had another EDSA revolution that brought my administration to where it is today.

My sincerest thanks to the leaders of the Socialist International for your abiding faith and support. I'm glad you are here in the Philippines. God must have inspired you to hold your meeting here at a time when we need to address burning issues in regional security, the harmony and solidarity of nations, and the future of democracy.

A major facet of the war against terrorism is being played out in our corner of the world. The Philippines is home to a minority of Muslims, but when viewed within ASEAN, we are home

To the most vibrant Christian minority of Southeast Asia. But when it comes to the fight against terrorism, we have unity in diversity. We have an agreement with Malaysia and Indonesia to join hands in depriving terrorists access or sanctuary in our common seas and the islands around them. This is in the context of an ASEAN declaration against terrorism, and also in the context of an even larger APEC declaration.

Enveloped in these alliances is the participation of American troops in training exercises so that our soldiers will be better equipped and better trained to fight the Abu Sayyaf threat in Southern Philippines. We are one with America and the international coalition to fight terrorism in any and all of the theaters of conflict. This is our policy and we shall not relent in its pursuit.

On the other horizon, the Philippines is blessed with a deeply rooted culture of peace. As president, I cannot allow a fratricidal war against our own people. The Asian way is more of peace than war. And in the pursuit of peace, I am supported by the social democrats in the Philippines, and even the social democrats in other parts of the world.

Norway and Sweden are helping in our peace negotiations with the revolutionary left. Our reaching out to these countries for support comes from the fact that the PDSP, a coalition partner of my government, is a member of the Socialist International. And through the PDSP, I have channeled my appeals for international support for peace in the Philippines and our region. And we had been greatly supported by Bert's counterparts in Northern Europe.

We've also reached out to the Islamic countries in shaping the paths of peace in Mindanao. The organization of the Islamic conference or OIC, was instrumental in the success of the 4-year negotiations for peace with the Moro National Liberation Front. And at present, Malaysia is a very welcome facilitator of our ongoing peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic liberation front.

And peace, I believe is gaining ground.

Over 16,000 rebel returnees have already been granted amnesty and are on their way to becoming reintegrated with mainstream society.

We will defeat terrorism, but we will not allow a religious war to happen in our region. We will join hands with America and the Islamic world to win the peace in the end for our people, for the people of ASEAN, for the people of all mankind.

The socialist democrats will be our enduring partner. Even as I speak, you are active in organizing inter-faith dialogues. Our social democrats in the Philippines are active in organizing inter-faith dialogues in Mindanao as part of our bid to isolate religious extremism from the mainstream Muslim and Christian communities.

The country needs peace to uplift the Filipino people and empower the communities. We need peace for progress, and we need peace to fight poverty and destitution. With peace, more farms can be tilled, more bounties from the sea can be harvested, more crops can be reaped and sold.

Our fight against terrorism is part of our broader goal to fight poverty. Our vision of eradicating poverty within the decade is anchored on a comprehensive development plan that revolves around four major components:

The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate

To the 21st century. We believe that this philosophy is the one that will create jobs especially in the neediest sector and areas, and will ease the burden of the poor;

The second component is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. This will bring economic development to the rural areas, where most of our poor live. This will also enable the poor to be participants and not mere beneficiaries of the development process;

The third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. We hope that this will bring immediate relief to the longest-suffering sectors living in the fringes of society;

The fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society. Because we need high moral standards to be the foundation for good governance.

We have been guided by real, visible and measurable targets, most of which were highlighted in my first State of the Nation Address to Congress last July.

Economic growth in 2001 created a million-and-a-half jobs in the Philippines, reducing both the unemployment and underemployment rates, and cushioning the negative impact of last year's global slowdown.

We pumped in an unprecedented 28 billion pesos for our agricultural modernization program to strengthen the social equity of our farmers and fisherfolk. We granted security of land tenure to a 150,000 urban poor families and 100,000 rural farm families. More than 34,000 low-salaried workers have already been given financial assistance for their housing needs.

We have identified more than 1,600 villages — we call them barangays — that are not served by any school buildings. By 2004, we hope to have school buildings in these barangays.

We've also stabilized the prices of prime commodities which make up the bulk of the market basket of the poor. The price of rice has been stable during my administration. We have also set up more than a thousand rolling stores all over the poor areas of our country to enable the poor access to even lower priced rice.

We have embarked on a program to enroll half a million individuals from the urban poor in the national health insurance program to give them access to affordable quality health services. But we have almost doubled that target. We have exceeded our target for health insurance coverage for the urban poor by more than 85 percent, and we have cut the prices of common medicines bought by the poor by one-half.

We are implementing the Grameen bank strategy for micro-financing, and we would like to cover at least 300,000 women every year.

We are also taking steps to safeguard our natural resources. A sustainable forest management program has been adopted to protect, develop and conserve our forests.

We are infusing common sense, discipline, accountability and integrity in governance, based on three principles: first, a sound moral foundation to guide our leadership at all levels; second, a philosophy of transparency in all government transactions; and third, an ethic of effective implementation throughout the bureaucracy.

My government's obligation to the Filipino people is not a mere promise of a better life, it is a vision stated in specific terms and in terms of that vision, I would like to see a government being able to bring about an environment that puts food on the table, that create jobs, that provides relevant education, that gives shelter

To the neediest sectors.

Poverty is the primary enemy. There is more evil in being hungry, ignorant, sick and suffering from injustice. It is the duty of every free nation to work, to fight this evil in the world.

We are all affected by terrorism. We must all work together to wipe it out. We all recognize that poverty feeds terrorism. We must extend our present coalition for peace into a coalition for prosperity, and mount an earnest program for poverty eradication and economic development.

Until the underlying forces that make our poor vulnerable to exploitation are neutralized, the peoples of the world will never be able to live free of the dual scourge of poverty and terrorism. We are all in this together. We must act together, now.

Seeing you here gives me great hope and deeper faith that we will prevail. So to our dear friends, our brothers in the socialist international, thank you again for coming to our country. And thank you for your contributions to our peace and security, and for being with us in the struggle for democracy and human dignity.

Mabuhay! And God bless us all.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Socialist International (SI) Asia-Pacific Committee Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230019/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7646&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 23rd Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 23rd Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA)**

[Delivered at the Camp General Mariano N. Castañeda, Silang, Cavite, April 15, 2002]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Lina sa iyung napakagandang pagpakilala at sa iyung pagpahayag ng mga naabot na ng ating administrasyon at sa iyung paghingil na tayo'y magkaisa upang matuloy ang ating laban kontra sa kahirapan na matagumpay.

Cadet First Captain, please give 'tikas pahinga'.

Kagalang-galang na Pangalawang Pangulo ng Pilipinas, Vice President Teofisto T. Guingona; ang ating PNP Chief, si General Leandro Mendoza; ang deputy director General ng PNP, si General Ebdane; ang ating pangulo ng Public Safety College, si General Ramsey Ocampo; ang ating namumuno ng PNPA, si General Alejandro Gutierrez. Ay! Tama; at 'yung ibang mga officials nitong paaralan na ito; si Governor Maliksi; si Congressman Abaya; si Presidential Adviser Sarino; si Punongbayan Napoleon Beratio; at iba-ibang mga officials ng lalawigan ng Cavite at ng bayan ng silang; mga magulang ng ating mga nagtatapos itong araw na ito; ating mga bagong police officers; ladies and gentlemen.

Isang malaking pagbati ang pinapa-abot ko sa lahat ng mga nagtapos sa class 'sinag-laya' ng PNP Academy. Congratulations! Sa inyong lahat.

Ang panahon ng pagtatapos ay panahon ng pagpapasalamat. Unang-una, nagpapasalamat tayo sa inyong mga magulang, guro at administrador. At ako naman ay nagpapasalamat na kayo mga graduating students pinili ninyo maglingkod sa ating bansa bilang police professionals. Susubaybayan ko ang inyong mga karera dahil ngayon ako ang inyong commander-in-chief. Inaasahan ko na kayong mga bagong pulis, tayong mga naglilingkod sa pamahalaan, at lahat tayong pilipino ay magtutulung-tulongan upang magapi ang kahirapan, masugpo ang kriminalidad, at makamit ang katahimikan sa buong bansa.

Oh! By the way, I would like to acknowledge also Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, representing the armed forces of the Philippines.

We are all proud of you. And now, we expect much of you. We expect you to fight criminality with all your might within the law. But we also expect you to show temperance, restraint and courage in the face of provocation and danger. We expect you to wield the iron hand of the law, but we also expect you to wield it in full respect for human rights. We expect from you loyalty, reform and achievement. We expect these to be the hallmark of your work as police professionals.

You have all the reason to have faith in yourselves that you will meet these expectations. You have all the reason in the world to be happy with your achievements in school, especially the six recipients of our awards for academic excellence. Your entry into the ranks of police officers will reinforce our efforts to build a competent, efficient and truly professional police force.

I believe that you have role models in PNP Chief Larry Mendoza and the other police officers who are here on this stage today. Because I have seen in my administration that they produce results quietly and professionally. In the face of steep constraints their morale is enduring. I thank them and I congratulate them, and I look forward to your maintaining and even surpassing their standards graduates of Sinag-Laya class 2002.

Half of our awardees today are women. This is a good sign of gender equality in your academy. And I am instructing General Mendoza to make sure that the women are not streamed mostly to administrative jobs. I want the women in the police to be in operations and intelligence. Like everyone in your ranks I am sure are policewomen are capable of the toughest jobs in the streets.

Maalaala ko tuloy iyung isang lumang television series, iyung “Charlie’s Angels.” Doon sa simula ng program — ngayon, alam ko na may Charlie’s Angels, si... Sino nga ba ‘yon? Sina Cameron Diaz. Pero nung panahon namin sina Farrah Fawcett — ‘yung opening ng programa may nagsasabing, “once upon a time there were three little girls, and they graduated from the police academy.” Pagkatapos may mga scenes pinapakita, si Farrah Fawcett tinatambakan ng paper work sa kaniyang mesa. ‘Yung isa naman ay pinapakita na tinutulangan ‘yung mga batang maliit na tumawid ng kalsada. Ibig sabihin noon pag-graduate nila binigyan sila nang mga routinary jobs. Pero pagkatapos naman sabi ng boses, “but I took them away from all that. And now, they work for me.” Pagkatapos, ‘yung episode ay tungkol sa mga kanilang trabaho laban sa mga kriminal. Kaya ‘yon ay para bang pinapakita na nung panahong ‘yon ay meron pang prejudice sa mga babaeng pulis.

Ngayon, sa ating armed forces, the women now are quite visible in combat duty, and I hope to see the same in the police. We need more women not only in the office but out there in the streets. Not only to direct traffic but to fight criminals. I want this to happen so that the women will have more opportunities to become heroes and leaders. Maybe this batch with three honor students among women will someday have a woman lead the Philippine National Police. But I don’t want to wait for this batch before I see another woman police general. At hindi lang ‘yung mga kababaihan ang gusto kong lumabas sa opisina at pumunta sa lansangan. I believe that if we are to fight crime more effectively there should be less office work and more operations work. There should be more policemen out in the streets than in the headquarters.

And in police work alliances are important, and we must strive to expand and deepen them. The police officer’s job entails maximum exposure to almost all sectors of society. Together with these sectors much work remains to be done:

We must root out terrorism. And to do this, we must work with the international community;

We must return the reputation of manila and the Philippines as a welcoming and safe place in which to live and do business; We must increase the benefits from our new global relevance and engagement after years of being isolated and adrift.

Gaya nang sabi ni joey lina, dati-dati ang ating rating sa buong mundo ay negative. Ngayon, stable na. Let us maximize the benefits of this new rating.

Dear graduates of sinag-laya class 2002, from the first day that you are commissioned as a police officer — which is today — you become a leader and an agent of change in the community. Therefore, you have the duty not only to fight crime, but also to prevent crime. You have the duty to set an example, and you have the duty to help the public resolve problems.

Because of these multiple duties of police officers, I instructed the police during there anniversary to take the lead in playing... In organizing visible, sustained outreach and emergency employment programs particularly for out-of-school, out-of-work urban poor youth. The police is doing this now in the central police district under the national capital region under the leadership of district Director General Tor; in Baguio City under the leadership of regional Director General Aliño; in Iba, Zambales and Cabanatuan City under the leadership of Regional Director General Berroya; and in the Southern Tagalog towns and cities bordering on Metro Manila under the leadership of Regional Director General Reyes, who is here with us today. I hope many graduates of PNPA will be a part of this effort because you are young like the young that we want to employ and keep out of harm’s way among the out-of-school youth. Sabi nga ni General Mendoza ngayon gagawin niya itong nationwide program for the urban poor out-of-school youth.

Students of sinag-laya class 2002, your graduation is significant because you symbolize our goal to sustain our long-term program to professionalize the PNP. Last year, I instructed General Ramsey Ocampo to put together a new curriculum for PNPA. I remember that there was a proposal that I should instruct new buildings and facilities to be put up. I said, “no.” Before the physical infrastructure, first the mental infrastructure. If we are going to put new physical facilities it must be before laboratory equipment so that we can use forensics to fight crime better.

Last year, too I asked General Mendoza to hire new personnel, and he did. 1,700 new personnel all college graduates. They made their first appearance in mall assignments last Christmas. And I believe last Christmas was a very peaceful Christmas for those doing their Christmas shopping in the malls. And, now this year, he is hiring some more.

We are increasing the quality and quantity of our training programs including those promoting effective community relations. Aside from the new curriculum for PNPA, I also instructed the Public Safety College to add a specialization course on crime investigation and detection to be subsidized by PAGCOR.

My recent visit to London early this year also resulted in the commitment by Prime Minister Tony Blair for Scotland Yard to help the PNP build up the skills and capacity to fight kidnapping and other organized crimes. General Fianza has just returned from London where he and the Scotland yard officials worked out the details of this curriculum, and soon this training program will be implemented. I have also asked him to make a formal proposal to the Hong Kong police for a similar training.

Police duties require special technical and physical skills as well as versatility in human relations. It also requires impeccability of personal conduct and supreme courage under fire. Police duty could range from the most menial jobs — like Farrah Fawcett’s job there in the beginning of Charlie’s Angels — or also what many policemen consider very menial like clearing the streets of illegal vendors or raiding jueteng joints. Then it goes on the other side to the most extreme challenges such as running gun battles with the most tenacious criminal syndicates.

Many of our police officers have died and more are called to the frontline. I know the steep sacrifices you will be called upon to take, and I would like to commend you for your readiness to rise to the call of duty.

In return last year, I was able to get a supplemental budget from Congress — and I thank congress and Abaya, and other Congressmen for being so kind — to finally carry out a new salary scale for the police. And this year, congress further provided an additional budget. Thus, as police officers, you the graduates of sinag-laya class 2002, will be enjoying an upgraded salary scale equal to that of teachers in public schools.

I also know the difficulties you have hurdled in this academy, but you must consider these as mere samples of what you will actually encounter on the job. Now is your chance to live up to the PNPA’s motto: “to learn today, to lead tomorrow.”

But if you are to lead, you must by now have a clear idea of the tools you need — not just your talents and your skills, but the moral imperatives of your work.

Today, as I was giving out diplomas, your class goat, using his traditional prerogative to do something unusual ask me if I would pardon the 15 of your batch — who are not with you graduating today — because they are still being metted out discipline for going AWOL. And I told him, “well, let me think about it. Because first and foremost, the most important thing that one must learn in the PNP and in the AFP for that matter is discipline.”

The discipline required of the uniformed services is much greater than the discipline required of any other occupation. Sabi ko nga parati, kung ikaw ay medyo rebelde siguro doon ka sa U.P. mag-apply. Huwag sa PMA o huwag sa PNP academy. Dahil sa U.P.. ang tanging sandata ay utak, pero sa PNP, sa PMA, sa militar, sa pulis may sandatang nakakapatay ng tao — the firearms themselves. That is why there must be a culture of discipline, unquestioning discipline to go with your mental ang physical training.

‘Yung doon sa ‘charge of the light brigade’, yung sinabing “theirs is not to reason why, theirs is but to do or die” — iyan talaga ang simbolo ng discipline, ng kultura ng uniformed services.

Ang tanging order na puwede niyong tanggihan ay ‘yon lamang order na labag sa batas. Kung labag sa wisdom o labag sa opinyon o labag sa inyong policing pinaniniwalaan, hindi puwedeng maglabag sa order. Yours is not to reason why except when it is totally and probably against the law.

Kaya pinapairal natin ang disiplina. Itong labing lima na hindi pa nagga-graduate, magga-graduate sila sa hunyo, pagkatapos silang maglingkod ng kanilang mga punishment na kasalukuyang ginaganap.

And let me share with you what my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal told me about priorities in public service. He said, “it must be god first, that’s morality; then country, these are the wise policies; and family last.” This means that your job is not to use law enforcement as a means for self-aggrandizement for you and your family.

A public servant’s family must be self-effacing rather than self-aggrandizing, and this goes for the police as well. Keep your family out of your work. Because you’ve another kind of family in your work environment. This is with respect to the dramatic rise of the number of civic, religious and non-governmental organizations supporting the PNP, they are your family in your work.

The individual behavior of the police officer in the street makes or breaks the public perception of the entire organization. The interface of the police officer and the ordinary citizen is the most critical component of police credibility.

The basic image of a dignified, honest, courteous but firm and incorruptible police officer is the key to success in law enforcement.

I trust that you — sinag-laya class 2002 — will live up to this image, because I trust in your sense of duty. I believe in the great Filipino police officer.

I believe in the great Filipino worker. Whether in government service or in the private sector; whether in industries or in the farms or in the information technology call centers; whether in police uniform or in the utility worker’s t-shirt. The great Filipino worker is a pillar of excellence imbued with a strong sense of sacrifice, discipline and professionalism.

You have my unrelenting faith and my commitment to push our common quest forward. In cooperation with all the pillars of the criminal justice system, we must strengthen the rule of law permanently throughout the republic.

Your task will be difficult and full of pitfalls, but you must not abandon it. Mustering a supreme sense of duty, and strengthened by the unity and support of the police and the institutions of good government, help me bring justice, law and order, and public safety in all corners of the land.

Yes, your chosen career is difficult, the sacrifices are steep. But when people see the law in the hands of credible enforcers, people will obey and respect the law. I have faith that you will hold the line of courage and integrity.

You have been trained to fight the lawless. But beyond that you have also been trained to keep the peace in the community — to settle conflicts, prevent abuse and uphold the system of justice.

In your chosen career, know that there is no gauge of excellence but achievement. There is no overlord but the people. In serving the people, you must exemplify the general principles of public service and good governance.

Many times I have outlined what I believe are the three pillars of good governance: first, a sound moral foundation to guide leadership at all levels, including the level of police officers; second, a philosophy of transparency in all government transactions, including police work; third, an ethic of effective implementation by the bureaucracy,

including the police force. These must be the pillars that must strengthen the PNP and for that matter the BFP, the BJMP, the PNPA, the PPSC and all other institutions of law enforcement and public safety.

Sa pagtulongan ng lahat, malaki ang pag-asang darating na ang liwanag ng ating kinabukasan.

Ang aking pangarap para sa ating kinabukasan ay sana masugpo natin ang kahirapan ng ating bansa sa loob ng isang dekada. Upang makamit ito, ang ating programa ng gobyerno ay may apat na bahagi: una, ipairal ang free enterprise na bagay sa siglo beinte-uno dahil ito ang magpapadami ng trabaho; pangalawa, i-modernize ang ating agrikultura sandal sa social equity na nakararami sa ating mga mahihirap ay nasa kanayunan; pangatlo, kampiyan ang mga sektor ng kapuspalad sa ating plano ng kaunlaran; at pang-apat, i-angat ang sukat ng moralidad sa gobyerno at sa lipunan.

The public safety profession is needed in all these four aspects of our medium-term Philippine Development Plan. We need public safety to bring about the investments that will produce jobs. We need public safety in the countryside so that farmers will not be afraid. We need the police to do community relations work that serve the poor directly. We need the police to carry out the rule of law if we want to raise standards of morality in government and in society.

And as leaders in public safety, I ask you, help me. Share my vision for the community we serve. And if I may suggest, a change in your motto. I think it should be — “to learn today, to serve tomorrow.”

Congratulations! And thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 23rd Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230008/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7645&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Commemoration of the Centennial Celebration of the end of the Philippine-American War

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Commemoration of the Centennial Celebration of the end of the Philippine-American War**

[Delivered at the Laurel Park, Batangas Provincial Capitol, Batangas City, Batangas, April 16, 2002]

Maraming salamat sa anak ng Batangas City, na isa sa aking mga napakaraming na-appoint na bilang kasapi ng aking gabinete, Secretary Nani Perez.

Sino pa ang inappoint sa aking Cabinet? Binanggit kanina ni Joe Villegas si Secretary Ed Ermita at pati nga ‘yung chief ng ating Philippine National Police ay anak din ng Batangas province, si Larry Mendoza. Meron akong nawalang Cabinet member galing sa Batangas si Secretary Renato Corona. Kaya lang ngayon naman siya ay Justice ng Supreme Court, anak din ng Batangas.

Batiin ko muna ‘yung ating iba’t-ibang mga officials ng lalawigan ng Batangas na narito ngayon: unang-una ang ama ng Batangas, si Governor Dodo Mandanas; at ang ating host dito sa lungsod ng Batangas City, si Mayor Eddie Dimacuha; si Vice Governor Peter Laurel; at ‘yung Congresswoman ng pinanggalingan ni General Malvar, si Congresswoman Vicky Reyes.

Batiin ko rin ‘yung mga kasapi ng Malvar family na napakarami sa kanila ay hindi lamang anak at apo ng isang bayani kung hindi para sa aking personal ay marami sa kanila ay naging bahagi na rin ng aking buhay at buhay ng aking pamilya. Una sa lahat, nandiyan si Dra. Isabel Malvar-Villegas, ang naiwang anak ni General Malvar. Noong ho ako ay nag-aaral sa Assumption, siya po ang dentista ng aming eskwelahan kaya taun-taon, semester-semester i-examine niya ako. Salamat Dra. Villegas na buo pa rin ang aking mga ngipin. Pero nung ako ay gradeschool, alam ho n’yo — ay, siguro ‘yung aking mga Cabinet members at ‘yung ibang mga officials nagugulat sila kung bakit gustong-gusto kong magbiyahe sa buong Pilipinas at kung bakit kilalang-kilala ko kung nasaan ang lahat ng mga lugar ng Pilipinas. In other words kung bakit ako napakagaling sa Geography — nung ako ay grade five ‘yung aking geography teacher ay si Ms. Malvar, si Aurora Malvar. At noong ako ay naging college na ‘yung aking teacher sa Logic ay si Ms. Aurora Malvar na naging Sister Anunciata, kaya siya ay malaking bahagi din sa aking buhay. Kaya hanggang ngayon, Sister, mahal ko pa rin ang geography at maraming nagsasabi ay very logical ako, salamat sa iyong tinuro sa akin.

Noon namang ako ay nagtrabaho sa administration ni President Cory Aquino, doon ko naman nakilala ‘yung asawa nung namamahala ng Hacienda Luisita at nagulat ako na siya pala ay apo rin ni General Malvar, eto ay si Natty Malvar-Mendoza. At pagkatapos ‘yung kanyang anak ay ngayon kasalukuyang punong-lunsod ng Tarlac City, si Mayor Aro Mendoza. Saan si mayor? At noong ang tatay ko naman po ay pangulo at kahit na natapos na siya ng pagka-pangulo, nung naging presidente ng Constitutional Convention at kahit pagkatapos noon nung lumalaban ang aking tatay kasama ng iba’t-ibang mga bagong bayani naman ng ating bansa nung panahon ng martial law, isa sa kanyang mga matatalik na gabay ay walang iba kung hindi ang ating nagsalita kanina, si Joe Malvar-Villegas. Nung ako naman ay naging ekonomista at nagturo ng economics sa ating mga kabataan, tinuturo ko sa kanila ‘yung mga libro ni Dr. Bernie Villegas. At nung ako naman ay naging isang politician nakilala ko dito sa Batangas si Board member Mike Malvar. Kaya ang dami-daming mga Malvar na naging bahagi ng aking buhay, bahagi ng buhay ng tatay ko, ganun na rin buhay ng Batangas at ng ating bansa.

At gusto kong batiin lahat ng mga taga-Batangas na nagbibigay-galang ngayon sa pagtapos ng Philippine-American War at sa kabayanihan ni General Malvar, 'yung iba't-ibang mga mayors. At gusto kong batiin yung ating magaling na mag-tagalog, 'yung Son-in-Law ng Pilipinas, 'yung Labor Attache ng United States, si Ginoong Rick Nelson, kaya Tagalog ang aking pagbati sa'yo. Sa inyong lahat, mga kababayan:

Magandang hapon sa inyo. At ako ay nasisiyahan na kasama kayo, mga kababayan, lalong-lalo na ang mga Batangueno, sa makasaysayang araw na ito.

Malaking karangalan para sa akin na nandito sa Centennial ng pagtapos ng Philippine-American War, kagaya ng sabi ni Joe Villegas, ay 100 years ago 'yung tatay ko, si Diosdado Macapagal, bilang Pangulo ay nagdalo din sa Centenary ni General Miguel Malvar.

Gaya ng nakita natin sa napakagandang eksenang pinakita ng mga estudyante, sabi ko nga kay Governor Mandanas, "ang galing-galing ng ating eksena dito. Ang ganda ng script, napakalalim, at parang poeta yung tagalog." Tinatanong ko, "eto ba ay minanang script o may nagkaroon ng paligsahan at sinulat rin ng mga bata, kabataan dito?" At 'yung kanilang pag-emote malinaw na malinaw. Kaya ang dami nating natuto dito sa tinuro sa atin nitong mga anak natin ng Batangas — itong mga tiga-Sto. Nino Formation and Science High School Theater Art Organization. Nilarawan nila sa atin na dito sa inyong lalawigan isandaang taon nang nakaraan, pormal na nagwakas ang Filipino-American War kung saan, gaya nang nakita natin, sumikat si Heneral Miguel Malvar.

Matatandaan natin na idineklara ni Heneral Emilio Aguinaldo ang ating kalayaan noong Hunyo 12, 1898, at tinatag naman ang unang Rrepublika ng Pilipinas Enero 23, 1899. Dalawang linggo matapos ang inagurasyon ng ating Republika sa Malolos, Bulacan kung saan — bago noon sa Tejeros Convention ay hinalal si Aguinaldo bilang Pangulo ng Pilipinas — ay sumiklab ang Filipino-American War noong Pebrero 4 ng 1899.

Ang pagkakadakip kay Heneral Aguinaldo sa Ppalanan, Isabela ay naganap naman noong March 23rd 1901, at noong nangyari 'yon ang naghudyat ng katapusan ng unang Republika ng Pilipinas daw, ngunit mayroon din namang ilan pang mga heneral na ipinagpatuloy ang pakikipaglaban.

At simula noon, sumunod na Hulyo 13, 1901, si Heneral Malvar na ang namuno sa kanila, sa mga heneral na nagpatuloy ng laban. Si Heneral Mmalvar ang humawak ng political at military control ng ating Republika. At sa loob ng mahigit na isang taon, ang Batanguenong heneral ay magiting na nakipaglaban sa Mt. Makiling at mga bundok ng Batangas. Sa bandang huli, sa headquarters ni General Franklin J. Bell sa lipa noong April 16, 1902, nagtapos ang Filipino-American War.

Ngayon, sabi nga ni Joe, sana ma-deklara kong Second President si General Miguel Malvar. Tinanong ko kay Nani Perez, ang aking Secretary of Justice, "nasa kapangyarihan ko ba yon?" Sabi ni Nani, "gusto mo, kahit na gaano mo kagusto gawin 'yon, ang pangulo ay hindi makaka-deklara ng isa bilang pangulo. 'Yon ay kailangan matupad muna sa batas." Kaya kailangan siguro sa Kongreso natin ilagay ang ating pag-asa na mangyari yuon.

Ngunit habang hinihintay natin 'yon, sa pagninilay natin tungkol sa Philippine-American War, nakikita natin na ang ating mga bayani at iba pang magigiting na Pilipino ay nagpakita ng pagmamahal sa kanilang bansa sa iba't-ibang paraan maging sa panahon ng digmaan o kapayapaan. Sa pagninilay rin natin tungkol sa naturang giyera, nakikita natin ang pagkabayani ni Heneral Miguel Malvar, na matatawag natin na "Man of Action." At sa nakita natin kanina, si General Malvar ay ipinanganak sa isang masasabing de Buena Pamilya. Siya ay napanganak sa Sto. Tomas, Batangas noong September 27, 1865. Nani, 'di ba birthday mo rin 'yon? Kaya pala ginagawa nang holiday 'yung birthday ni Nani birthday pala ni General Malvar. Anyway, pinili ni Heneral Malvar na iwan ang maginhawang pamumuhay upang ipaglaban ang bagong Republika ng Pilipinas.

Maliwanag ang mensaheng pinaabot ng ating pagdiriwang sa araw na ito. Ibig sabihin nito ay hindi tayo dapat maging mahina ang loob sa pagharap ng ating mga problema. Kung tayo man ay mabigo sa una, hindi tayo dapat kaagad sumuko, bagkus, alamin natin kung saan tayo nagkamali at lalong magsumikap upang makamit ang tagumpay.

Ang kabanata ng ating kasaysayang ginugunita ngayon ay tinubos ng buhay at dugo ng ating mga ninuno. Dapat ay magsilbing inspirasyon ito sa atin sa pagtubos sa ating mga kababayan mula sa kahirapan. Magiging madali ito sapagka't hindi na tayong kinakailangang magbuwis ng buhay at dugo. Ang kailangan lamang ay tayo ay magkaisa, magtutulongan at magsikap ng husto upang mabigyan ng magandang kinabukasan ang sambayanang Pilipino.

Magandang lugar ang Batangas kung sasabihin 'yon kasi hindi lamang ang Batangas ay siyang naglikas, naglikha kay General Malvar, Batangas din, gaya ng sabi ni Governor Mandanas, ay number one ngayon sa investments sa buong bansa.

Tulad ni Heneral Malvar, inaasahan kong hindi susuko ang mga Batangueno ngayon sa laban kontra sa kahirapan lalo na nanalo kayo. Mabuti pa nga kayo haming sa ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas. Inaasahan kong magsisilbing magandang halimbawa ang inyong magandang samahan, malasakit at kadakilaan upang maging matagumpay ang ating paglaban sa kahirapan.

Patuloy tayong nagpapatupad ng mga proyekto sa Batangas na nagpapaangat ng buhay sa mga taga-Batangas, mga taga-Calabarzon, at buong sambayanan. Isa na rito na tinalakay sa ating Cabinet meeting kanina ay ang Batangas International Port na inaasahan nating magbigay ng mas maraming trabaho sa mga dakilang manggagawa ng Batangas, maging sa mga dakilang manggagawa ng ibang bahagi ng Calabarzon. Itong Batangas Port kung magbibilang tayo ng limang pinaka-importanteng proyekto ng Macapagal-Arroyo administrasyon, ang Batangas Port ay isa na dito sa pinakamahalagang proyekto natin. Itong pantalang ito ay siyang flagship project ng Calabarzon na sinimulan ng Department of Trade and Industry noong ako ay undersecretary ng naturang department. Kanina nga, noong ako ay pumapasok diyan sa provincial capitol tinanong ni Governor Mandanas sa akin, "ito ba ang first time n'yo pumasok sa provincial capitol?" Sabi ko, "first time bilang pangulo." Ngunit noong ako'y undersecretary ay parati ako ay narito dahil nga 'yung Calabarzon project at dahil flagship ng Calabarzon ay yung Batangas Port noong pa ako ay undersecretary.

Alam niyo, itong Calabarzon ang isang pinamagandang halimbawa kung bakit maganda 'yung CORD system (Cabinet Official for Regional Development) na ginawa ni President Cory Aquino, dahil ang kinuha niyang CORD para sa Region IV ay 'yung Secretary of Trade and Industry na si Secretary Joe Concepcion. At nanggaling sa pagka-CORD ng DTI doon nanggaling 'yung Calabarzon, at ako bilang Undersecretary for Planning, ako ang naging namamahala sa mga planning ng Calabarzon, kaya parati akong narito.

'Yung sa planning ng Calabarzon siyempre may industriya kailangan naman ng pantalan — alangan naman doon pa sa Manila dadalhin 'yung mga produkto ng Batangas. Maraming kandidatong International Port sa masterplan ng Calabarzon, ngunit dahil si Nani Perez ang Secretary of Transportation noong panahong 'yon, nanalo ang Batangas Port Project, kaya Batangas Port ang naging port ng Calabarzon. Kaya lang noong naging presidente ako, nagulat ako na hindi pa pala nagsisimula ang construction ng international port mismo. Biro niyo, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry pa ako noong nagsimula ang proyektong ito — 1989. Pagkatapos naging Senador ako, dalawang beses, pagkatapos naging Bise-Presidente, pagkatapos naging Presidente hindi pa pala nagsisimula ang construction ng international port. Kaya kung gaano kalapit ang malvar sa pamilya Macapagal, kung gaano kalapit ang mga Batangueno sa administrasyon sa daming Batangueno sa ating gabinete, pinilit ko na hanapin lahat ng mga bottleneck, at pinilit na maasikaso sila. At sa wakas, noong unang Anibersaryo ng Edsa 2, noong January 16 ay nagsimula ang construction. At malaking karangalan para sa akin na ako ang nag-groundbreaking sa proyektong napakaimportante sa buhay ko at sa ating administrasyon.

Ang Batangas port ay isa sa ating mga pangunahing paraan kung papano natin masasagot ang mga hamon ng bagong siglo.

Kanina pinaliwanag na ni Governor Mandanas sa ating Cabinet meeting 'yung iba't-iba pang mga importanteng proyekto ng Batangas at Calabarzon para umiral na nga nang tuluyan itong rehiyon na ito lalung-lalo na sa pagpasok sa 21st century.

Kung tutuusin, malaki na ang ipinagbago ng ating mundo sa loob ng nakaraang isandaang taon mula nung natapos 'yung Philippine-American War. Noon dati nating kaaway ay ngayon naman malapit nating kakampi.

Bagama't ang amerikano ang ating kalaban noong isang siglo na nakaraan, naging kakampi naman natin sila sa Second World War. 'Yung kalaban naman natin nung Second World War, yung mga hapon, silang kalaban natin noong Second World War, sila naman ang nagbibigay sa atin ngayon ng pinakamalaking official development assistance upang mapagpatuloy natin ang mga proyektong pang-kaunlaran. In fact, iyang construction ng Batangas port, ang pera diyan ay nangagaling sa Japanese government.

Kaya iba ang kalaban pero iba rin ang mukha ng kaaway at pandirigma ngayon. Hindi na mga bansa ang ating kalaban kundi mga teroristang naghahasik ng lagim, kagaya sa katimugang bahagi mismo ng ating bansa, lalo na sa Basilan.

Ang mga Amerikano ngayon ay ating kaakibat sa paglaban sa terorismo sa ating lupain. Sa pamamagitan ng ginagawa nating Balikatan exercises, ang mga sundalong Pilipino at Amerikano ngayon ay nagsasanay upang sugpuin ang mga terorista.

Sa halip na magpamalas na kung sinong mas magaling, ang lahat ng kasali dito sa Balikatan ay may matututunan mula sa isa't-isa. Ang pakikipagtulungan ng mga Amerikano ay hindi ibig sabihin na minamaliit natin ang husay at tapang ng sundalong Pilipino. Napakita na ng ating mga sundalo at pinuno, tulad ni Heneral Malvar, ang katapangan nito noong digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano. Hanggang ngayon matapang pa rin sila. Ngayon naman ay sinusubukan natin kung papaano ang pinagsamang katapangan ng Pilipino at kagamitan ng mga Amerikano ay magagamit ng wasto upang wakasan ang karahasan ng mga terorista sa katimugan ng ating bansa.

Ang kambal na pagdirigma sa terorismo at kahirapan ang pinakamabigat na hamon sa atin ngayon. Ang pakikipaglaban sa terorismo ay pakikipaglaban din sa kahirapan. Kaya tamang-tama, 'yung apo ni Heneral Malvar na si Dr. Villegas ay isa sa pinakamagaling na ekonomista ng ating bansa dahil ngayon hindi Amerikano ang kalaban natin kungdi ang kahirapan. Kaya tungkulin nating lahat na makidigma sa kahirapan upang tuluy-tuloy nating matamasa ang kalayaang ipinaglaban ng ating mga rebolusyonaryo noon.

Hanggang sa kanyang kamatayan noong October 13, 1911, hindi nawawaglit sa isip ni Heneral Malvar ang kagalingan at kapakanan ng kanyang mga kababayan. Ang kanyang huling bilin sa kanyang mga anak ay ito, and may I quote. He said, "you should respect and love those who have, but more so, much more the poor," sabi ni Heneral Malvar.

Sa ating pakikidigma sa karukhaan ngayon, magpakita rin tayo ng tapang at pagmamahal sa bayan na tulad ng ipinakita ni Heneral Malvar at ng kanyang mga kapwa rebolusyonaryo. Ipinagtanggol nila ang ating kalayaan noon, kaya tungkulin naman ng ating henerasyon na alagaan ang kalayaang ito, kasama na ang kalayaan mula sa mapang-aping kahirapan at karahasan ng terorismo.

Kung hindi tayo magkakaisa at magtutulungan ngayon upang magtagumpay sa labang ito, magiging bale-wala ang mga ipinaglaban ng ating mga ninuno. At dahil si Heneral Malvar at ang kanyang mga kapwa Batangueno ang nagpakitang-gilas noon upang ipakita ang tagal at tapang at tibay ng loob ng pilipino, inaasahan kong muling mangunguna kayong mga taga-Batangas upang magapi ang ating problema ng kahirapan. Ito na marahil ang pinakamagandang parangal na mabibigay natin sa mga adhikain ni Heneral Malvar at iba pang mga magigiting na bayaning Pilipino.

Kaya itong araw na ito ako ay nasisiyahan na kung si Heneral Malvar ay pinagpatuloy ang laban kahit na sabi na bumagsak na ang republika nung napreso si Aguinaldo. Kahit na tayo ay nahirapan sa mundo noong nakaraang taon, ang Batangas pa rin ay number one sa investments. Kaya gaya ni General Malvar, tinutuloy ng Batangas 'yung laban kontra sa kahirapan.

At bilang pagpatuloy ng paggalang at pagwakas, kanina pinakita ni Dr. Villegas, Bernie Villegas, 'yung mensahe na binigay sa inyo nung aking tatay, nung 100th Birth Anniversary ni General Malvar at sa paumanhin ho ninyo magtatapos ako sa pamamagitan ng babasahin 'yung mensahe ni Diosdado Macapagal bilang parangal kay Heneral Miguel Malvar. Sabi niya:

“The Philippine revolution spawned a number of courageous generals who led our country in its glorious fight for freedom. Among the bravest and most patriotic was General Miguel Malvar of Batangas. Long after Aguinaldo’s capture General Malvar carried on the fight against the American forces convinced of the justice of the cause for which the revolution stood. But a stout heart alone, he realized could avail him little against the superior force of the enemy. In fact, he had to fight not only against the american forces but also against sickness and starvation which stalked his units. “I am giving up,” he told General Bell to whom he finally surrendered, “Only because my soldiers and my own family who have fought side by side with me all these months are suffering from hunger and all kinds of hardships.” For his frankness, his dignity, his unusual courage and firmness of character, General Malvar won the admiration of the American General. He lived long enough to know the glory of being proclaimed everywhere he went as one of the greatest Filipinos who ever lived. The first one who offered the strongest armed resistance against the Americans. Truly, General Malvar has become our country’s symbol of courageous resistance against foreign domination.”

Kaya ngayon itong araw na ito mga Batangueno, ginagalang natin ang ating alaala tungkol kay Heneral Miguel Malvar. At itong araw na ito sabihin natin sa kanya na nandoon nanunuod sa ating palatuntunan ngayon sa kanyang pangalan lalabanan natin ang bagong kaaway ng ating bansa ang problema ng kahirapan.

Maraming salamat at Happy End of the Philippine-American War sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the Commemoration of the Centennial Celebration of the End of the Philippine-American War. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225958/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7644&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Congress on Youth Development

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the National Congress on Youth Development

[Delivered at the Golden Bay Hotel, Roxas Blvd., Manila, April 17, 2002]

Maraming salamat, Julius sa iyung pagpakilala sa akin. At maraming salamat din sa iyung pag-imbata sa akin dito sa inyong meeting.

Batiin ko muna iyung iba't-ibang mga official na 'yung ilan — kasi maraming-maraming naging official pagkatapos. Pero iyung mga nandito, at least man lang sa entablado — iyung aking bagong kapartido, si Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, salamat; si Edward Balanag na Executive Director; si Vice Governor Mon Lakbain ng Zambales; 'yung aking kaibigan na si Bobit Carlos — nandoon nakaupo — Mayor ng Valenzuela; si Mayor Eva Guillegue — kumusta 'yung ating, ano? Kumusta 'yung mga high-breed rice natin doon ngayon? Very good! My project kami; marami tayong mga konsehal dito pero batiin ko 'yung pangulo ng Councilors' League ng Palawan, si Councilor Rowena Acosta. At 'yung aking kandidato noong nakaraang halalan, si Greg Alcera; nandito rin si Assemblyman Pijuan — taga-Cavite, 'no?; Nandito rin 'yung — siguro magiging kaugnay ninyo sa pagtatrabaho kung tayo ay magiging magka-partner, ang aking Presidential Liaison for Political Affairs, si Secretary Joey Rufino.

At kung kayo 'yung kabataang barangay a generation ago, 'yung inyong equivalent naman ngayon ay 'yung SK. At kaya naman 'yung inyong equivalent, 'yung equivalent ni Julius ay si Richard Nalupta.

Iba't-ibang mga nandito sa inyong Kabataang Barangay Alumni Association Convention, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat. At isang malaking karangalan na ako'y narito kasama ninyo.

Alam po niyo, ito ay wala naman talaga nasa aking appointment book. Ito ay rinigrets noong simula. Tapos, tinawagan ko 'yung aking Appointment Secretary at sabi ko, pupunta ako doon sa... Katunayan, ang aking... Usually, ang aking mga appointments na public appointment ay ten o'clock to three o'clock, dahil three o'clock to seven o'clock, ang ginagawa ko ay mga desk work. Pero ito, kaya napuno na tuloy ngayon ang appointments ko noong ten to three. So, sabi ng aking Appointment Secretary — actually, hindi na ini-schedule 'yon at sumagot na nga ng declining the invitation — so, papayag ba kayo it will eat up into your desk work time? I said, "oo".

Maraming nagtaka kung bakit — kahit na 'yung aking Appointments Committee ay tinanggihan itong invitation — ako ay tinanggap ko pa. At meron pang nagsabi sa akin, "bakit mo tinanggap? 'Di mo ba alam 95 percent diyan ay nasa EDSA 3." eh, sabi ko, "ngunit ako ay pangulo ng EDSA 2 at EDSA 3."

Kaya kung iniimbata niyo ako rito, narito ako. Kung iniimbata niyo ako, ibig sabihin handa kayo, bukas kayo sa unity and reconciliation. At ako naman ay gaya nga, bilang pangulo ng EDSA 2 at EDSA 3, pangulo ng buong Pilipinas, I also give you the olive branch of peace and reconciliation.

Kasi, sayang naman ang talent ng Kabataang Barangay Alumni kung gagamitin lang sa pag-aaway at paghahati ng ating bansa. Lalong mas mahalaga kung inyong mga talento at kasanayan ay magagamit para ipagkaisa, magkaisa ang ating bansa. Kaya ako ay narito, unang-unang humingi ng tulong ninyo sa aking pamahalaan.

Binabati ko ang pamunuan at mga miyembro ng Kabataang Barangay Alumni Association sa inyong matagumpay na paglulunsad ng "National Congress on Youth Development" na ito. Nasisiyahan akong malaman na bagama't marami tayong hamong hinaharap ngayon, at bagama't kayo ay one generation away from being kabataan leaders, aktibo pa rin kayo upang tumulong at palakasin ang pagkakaisa at pagsulong ng ating sambayanan.

Ang ilang araw ng kongresong ito ay maituturing na malaking hakbang tungo sa isang masigla at pinalakas na sektor ng kabataan dahil noong panahon n'yo, kayo talaga ang tunay na pag-asa ng ating bayan. Ngayon pa rin, ang ating kabataan ay tunay na pag-asa ng ating bayan. Kaya dahil ang inyong pakay ay youth development, ibig sabihin noon, kung ano 'yung mga karanasan at dunong na nakuha ninyo noong panahon ninyo, gusto niyong ipasa sa susunod na henerasyon, napakaganda 'yon. Ipasa din niyo para tutulong sa pamahalaan, hindi para labanan ang pamahalaan.

This congress is a big step towards a more vibrant and empowered youth. 'Yung Kabataan Barangay, kayo na Kabataang Barangay is no stranger to the field of politics and public service, and because of this exposure you can become beacons for generations to come. Kaya nandito sila Ritchie, susunod na henerasyon.

This gathering also imparts an abundance of hope, that an immense pool of talent and resolve is on hand as we advance to a more peaceful, progressive and confident future.

From this hope flows the strength to confront and overcome challenges. Hope gives the tenacity of spirit to reach for the best, the noblest, the most sublime of human aspirations.

But hope alone, without the substance of deeds, cannot meaningfully alter or improve the human condition. Hope must equally be transmitted into the realm of decisive action and resolute initiative.

When my administration took the reigns of governance more than a year ago, I said that we must conquer poverty within the decade. We have been resolute in achieving this goal, even as the nation has been buffeted by stiff political and economic challenges. And even as the war on terrorism moves forward, the war on poverty must be the overarching war.

I said when I became president, na dapat tayo'y ambisyoso para sa ating bansa. At masugpo natin ang problema ng kahirapan sa loob ng isang dekada. At sinabi ko doon sa aking State of the Nation Address noong isang taon, meron kayong mga alumni doon, di ba? Si Congressman Erise at saka si Congressman Teodoro. Sinabi ko na 'yung ating laban kontra sa kahirapan doon sa medium-term Philippine development plan ng inyong lingkod, administrasyon ay may apat na bahagi:

* una, sa pag-iiral ng sistema ng ekonomiya sa bagong siglo. Ang unang paraan kung papaano nilalabanan ang kahirapan ay trabaho. Magkaroon ng trabaho ang taong bayan at para magkaroon ng trabaho, kailangang magkaroon ng investments. At para magkaroon ng investments, kailangang magkaroon ng magandang macro-economic environment.

* pangalawa, dahil nakararami sa ating mga mahihirap ay nasa kanayunan, kailangan ng agricultural modernization founded on social equity. Kayo 'yung ginawa nating eksperimento sa banay-banay, 'yan ay isa sa mga pinaka-importanteng gawain sa ating medium-term Philippine development plan. At ako'y nasisiyahan na malaman na ang punongbayan pala noon, 'yung partner pala ng administrasyon sa pag-modernize ng agrikultura, sa prototype, sa experiment ay walang iba kung hindi isang kasapi ng kabataang barangay.

* 'yung pangatlo ay 'yung direktong mga programang nakakatulong sa mga mahihirap.

* at 'yung pang-apat, umiiral dapat ang sukat ng moralidad sa ating gobyerno at sa ating lipunan.

Marami tayong mga programang ipinapatupad ngayon upang maiangat ang kabuhayan ng ating mga kababayang mahihirap at matulungan 'yung mga disadvantaged sectors ng lipunan at bahagi dito sa mga special sectors ay 'yung kabataan.

At ano ang ating ibig gawin para sa kabataan? Unang-una, edukasyon, sapagkat dapat nating bigyan ng kaalaman at kakayahan ang mga kabataan upang sa kanilang paglaki sila ay maging responsableng mamamayan na kayang buhayin ang kanilang mga sarili. Pagkatapos, layunin natin na magkaroon ng trabaho ang mga estudyante pag sila ay

nagtapos na, at ang pagbibigay ng panandaliang trabaho sa mga kabataang hindi nag-aaral. Layunin din natin ang pag-sisiguro na ang ating mga kabataan ay hindi malululong sa droga o ibinabawal na gamot nang hindi mapariwa ang kanilang kinabukasan.

Ang mga kailangang edukasyon ay binanggit ko rin sa aking State of the Nation Address noong nakaraang taon. Ayon sa Department of Education, kasalukuyang binibigyan ng karagdagang pagsasanay ang mahigit na labing dalawang libong teachers mula sa Regions two, seven, nine, ten, CARAGA bilang bahagi ng ating pag-sisikap na mabigyan ng mataas na antas ng edukasyon ang ating mag-aaral. Kasabay nito, naglunsad na din ng Curriculum Reform Summit upang pag-aralan at pag-pasiyahan ang kinakailangang reporma sa curriculum ng ating mga eskwelahan.

Kasi, kung tayo ay magiging competitive sa siglo beinte uno, ito ang siglo ng information and communication technology. Sa tertiary education, kailangan matutunan ng ICT. at kailangan natin 'yung maraming mga magagandang pagkakataon ang naghihintay sa mga certified programmers. 'Yung dumadaan sa certification program for programmers. Hindi ibig sabihin, 'yung mga computer courses ng diploma mills. At sa basic education, kailangan palakasin ang science at mathematics. 'Yan ang ating programa tungkol sa edukasyon.

Pinagtitibay na rin natin ang mga paraan upang magpagawa ng low-cost science equipment, kasi nga science and math importante at mga instructional materials para magamit ng ating mga guro at estudyante. Ating pinag-huhusay ang replication at duplication ng mga computer-based teaching modules bilang instructional materials para sa agham at matematika na siyang ating diin ngayon.

Gayon din, nakahanda na ang mahigit sa 1.4 billion pesos na pambili ng humigit sa tatlongput- tatlong milyong libro na bahagi ng ating programa upang makamit ang 1:1 student-textbook ratio para sa mga nasa grades 1 to 4, at 1st and 2nd year high school pagsapit ng hunyo ng susunod na taon.

Bukod dito, naghahanda tayo ng supplemental budget na nagkakahalaga ng 1.5 billion pesos para sa karagdagang mga guro at kanilang dagdag na pasahod. Ikinagagalak ko ring sabihin na na-aprubahan na ng ating kongreso ang 1.98 billion pesos para sa dalawampung libong bagong posisyon sa ating mga public schools sa darating na schoolyear. Kasabay nito ay tinutukan natin ang programa na may isang paaralan sa bawat barangay.

Tungkol naman sa youth employment, mayroong mga programang ipinatutupad ngayon ang Department of Labor and Employment hinggil dito. Una kong babangitin ang Special Program for the Employment of Students or S-P-E-S.

Sa ngayon, higit sa isang daan at pitong libong job vacancies na ang na-solicit sa ilalim ng programang ito. At halos isang daan at dalawampung libong mga aplikanteng estudyante at mga dropouts, mahigit sa walongpu't- walong libong kabataan na ang nabigyan ng trabaho sa ngayon.

Nariyan din ang Work Appreciation Program or W-A-P. Meron ding Career Guidance Program at ang Working Youth Center na ating itinatag upang ma-organisa at mapalakas ang kakayahan ng mga youth organizations at ng mga miyembro nito sa ibat-ibang bahagi ng ating kapuluan.

Pinagtitibay din natin ngayon ang mga programa na tumutulong sa mga out-of-school youth o O-S-Y. Sa ilalim ng "Sulong Dunong para sa Kabataan," tinutulungan din ng DSWD ang mga O-S-Y sa pamamagitan ng Weekend Youth Brigade, Education and Support Service, livelihood assistance, practical skills development. Mayroon din tayong emergency employment program para sa ating mga O-S-Y na pinamahalaan ng DILG.

At ako mismo — dahil nakita ko 'tong mga programang ito para sa kabataan, sa out-of-school youth mukhang mga lalaki ang nagkakaroon ng pagkakataon — kaya ang ginawa ko ay ako mula sa Malakanyang kasama ng PNP community relations ay nagtatatag ng emergency employment program for female out-of-school youth sa urban areas.

Halimbawa, noong isang araw, nagsimula tayo ng programa for about 373 out-of-school youth doon sa Commonwealth Avenue Barangay. Noong isang araw naman ay 400 — 400 yata. Tama. — more para sa ating mga out-of-school youth naman sa barangay ng west. Noong isang araw naman, para sa mga out-of-school youth ng Muntinlupa. Kahapon, para sa out-of-school youth ng Barangay Balete sa Batangas City at saka sa Rosario Town ng Batangas. At kanina — kakagaling ko lang bago ako pumunta rito — sa pag-launching ng out-of-school youth emergency employment programs sa kababaihan ng... Doon sa Nuebe de Pebrero at Pleasant View ng Mandaluyong City. Ito ay ako mismo ang nagla-launch under my direction at pinopondohan ko, gaya ng mga lugar kagaya ng sa Quezon City dinadagdagan nila Mayor Sonny Belmonte. Ay, ‘di ba nandoon tayo, Herbert?

Sa ganitong paraan, nabibigyan ang ating mga out-of-school youth ng kagyat na trabaho habang natutulungan nila ang kanilang komunidad. Mayroon silang pinagkakakitaan, nakakaiwas pa sila nang pagkaka-sangkot sa bisyo at masamang gawain.

Kadalasan kasi ay hindi naman talaga kagustuhan ng ating kabataan na masangkot sa bisyo o tiwaling gawain. Kaya lang, dahil sa kawalaan ng oportunidad upang mapagbuti ang kanilang katayuan sa buhay, nahihila sila sa paggamit ng ipinagbabawal na gamot.

Alam nating lahat na ang salot ng droga ay isa sa pinakamalaking hamon na hinaharap hindi lamang ng ating kabataan kungdi ng buong lipunan. Dahil sa napakalaking pera na nakukuha sa mga sindikato at bigtime pushers, patuloy na humahanap ng pamaraan ang mga sindikatong ito upang mapanatili ang kanilang mga organisasyon.

Noong nakaraang taon, nilagdaan ko rin ang letter of instruction number one na nag-atas sa lahat ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan na makilahok sa National Anti-Drug Program of Action o NADPA. Nilalayan nitong pagdaupin ang mga sibil na sektor at gobyerno sa isang all-out sustained anti-drug campaign sa buong bansa.

Mula noong Enero hanggang Nobyembre sa nakaraang taon, ang mga ginawang anti-drug operations ng ating kapulisan ay nakapagsamsam ng droga at mga drug paraphernalia na nagkakahalaga mahigit sa 3.5 billion pesos. Their catch was bigger than ever before. Not because the drug problem is bigger than ever before but because the enforcement is stronger than ever before.

Mahigit isang libo’t limang daang kilo ng shabu ang nakumpiska ng mga operatiba ng PNP at AFP. Ang lahat ng ito ay patunay lamang na hindi titigil ang ating administrasyon upang masiguro ang kapakanan ng taong bayan lalo na ng ating kabataan. Ngunit alam kong marami pa tayong kailangang gawin at kailangan ko ang inyong tulong.

You hold in your hands the capability and the knowledge of how best to empower our youth and enable our youth to become productive citizens and responsive leaders.

Together, let us explore the frontiers of reforms so that democracy and its blessings can decisively revitalize our society and create a stronger nation through our youth.

Again, I congratulate you all, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for agreeing to make me a part of you. Now, I want you to be a part of me.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the National Congress on Youth Development. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225940/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7643&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) “President’s Night” Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) “President’s Night”

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, April 18, 2002]

Thank you very much. Thank you very much Tony Lopez, president of the MOPC.

I would also like to greet Dong Puno, the vice president and the other officials on the table: Eric Canoy — is Exequiel Garcia here? Okay — Exequiel Garcia, Cip Roxas, Mr. Yabut, Chito Villanueva, the governors of the Manila Overseas Press Club; I see here that Kiko Pangilinan is here tonight. Oh, there you are. Hi! Kiko; the few cabinet members who are here tonight headed by acting Press Secretary Yongyong Afable — sorry to the others who aren’t here because they are still in — one set is in a cabinet oversight committee on internal security meeting and another set is in a National Anti-Crime Commission meeting. So maybe if they are done they’ll catch up. But if they are not done I’ll just give them a copy of my speech in the next cabinet meeting; other government officials who are here; members of the MOPC; ladies and gentlemen:

I’m very glad to be here again with you tonight. As Tony said, it’s an annual ritual so it is my obligation as president to be here with you tonight. I did this chore for the first time as president last year. Though as vice president I had the chance to do it twice.

Between last year’s ritual and tonight’s a cataclysmic event occurred and that was September 11. And since then a new era was born, born out of that single day — an era that is fraught with peril yet filled with opportunity. Time and again, history has shown that crisis brings its share of opportunity. Today, the world confronts two great foes — terrorism and poverty.

And the message I have given the leaders of the world, from the first time I spoke about this in November in Hong Kong at the world economic forum, to the United Nations, to the United Kingdom, to the World Economic Forum in New York I have said that the fight against poverty and the fight against terrorism are closely interlinked with each other. This is not to say that poverty is the cause of terrorism. Osama Bin Laden is not a poor man.

It is evil, not poverty that causes terrorism. But poverty and the sense of powerlessness that poverty brings are the fodder that provide the spawning grounds where terrorism can more easily spread its evil ideology. So if we must defeat terrorism, we must defeat poverty with equal resolve and fervor. But whether terrorism is there or not we must defeat poverty that is our more fundamental war.

The war against terrorism, though it started with the attack on the world trade center and the Pentagon is not an American War. It is a war that must be waged by all civilized and free societies. Because of this war we have seen relations between former adversaries complete their evolution into friendships — Japan, Russia, Germany have become allies of the United States. Pakistan has likewise become a vital partner of the United States in the war on terrorism. The events of 9-11 provided the impetus also for the Philippines and the United States to reinvigorate a historic relationship. Today the United States stands with the Philippines as a friend and ally in the fight against terrorism and poverty. The United States bolstered its support for our common cause during my visit to Washington last November by committing to the Philippines military and economic assistance, and market access amounting to 2 billion U.S. dollars.

This renewed level of cooperation, friendship and understanding between both our nations conforms to what I said in my state of the nation address last July, two months before September 11. I declared even then that we will enhance our relations with the United States.

The advent of this year's balikatan military exercises contrived a loud debate. Concerns had been raised about nationalism and sovereignty, about wider American involvement in what is seen as a Philippine war. Yes, this is our war and our soldiers are fighting with all their might. Yet, they must fight with superior technical support, one that we could not give them because we have never provided the funds for modernization. But one that was offered by an old friend and ally — the United States of America.

The Philippines did not need to join the war on terrorism; it was already in that war in the southwestern part of the islands. The Philippines could not have done otherwise than renew its commitment to fight terrorism in a wider field in the wake of September 11.

This is a fight between tolerance and bigotry, between reason and fanaticism, between law and anarchy, between justice and murder pretending to be just. In that fight, there is no other side to choose but one where the civilized nations of the world — long-time allies and former enemies — had chosen to stand united.

What we were fighting in isolation in southwestern Philippines is now a common fight. It is regrettable that it took a tragedy to bring the community of nations together, but it did. Now with U.S. anti-terrorism technical assistance to the Philippines, I believe it is the beginning of the end of terrorists in southwestern Philippines and the beginning of a new day in our quest for economic prosperity for our citizens.

Our policy vision for the new and reinvigorated relationship with the United States responds to realities that characterize our international and regional environment.

The first reality of this environment is that china — and I acknowledge the ambassador from the people's republic of china, who is here with us tonight — China, Japan and the U.S. and their relationships will be the determining influence in the security situation and economic evolution of East Asia. And let me say, in this fight against terrorism they are all strong allies of one another.

Another reality is that overseas Filipinos, one-third of whom are in the United States, will continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability.

Let me talk about the role of the U.S. and its allies but basically the role of the U.S. itself in the security situation of our region and the world. By virtue of its dominant military and economic power, the United States will continue to be an important factor in the affairs of our region and our nation. The Philippines has had enduring historical, cultural and economic ties with the United States. The last century saw in particular the close partnership between the Philippines and the United States, one which was redefined with the closure of the military bases in 1992, but one, which is being redefined once again after September 11.

I would like to see the blossoming of Philippine-U.S. relations that is responsive to the new realities of the 21st century, which is a world of globalization, a world of rapid technology change, and a world of great conjunction between security and development.

And I am pleased that the Philippines and the U.S. have agreed to embark on broad security cooperation to address issues not only of global terrorism, but also of the illegal narcotics trade, human trafficking and other transnational crimes. And despite the domestic problems that it sometimes causes, the military alliance with the United States is a strategic asset for the Philippines.

How do we give structural and operational meaning to this new relationship between the Philippines and the United States? In the war against terror, our two countries and nations across the world support the U.N. Security council resolution against terrorism. We support, in fact, we have signed the U.N. conventions on terrorist financing and terrorist bombing. We participate in the negotiations leading to the comprehensive United Nations convention on terrorism, and we are cutting the supply of arms to terrorists through the United Nations small arms and light weapons process.

The Philippines continues to be an active partner of the international counter-terrorist coalition. We work closely with the U.S., Indonesia, and soon, Jordan on intelligence and security matters concerning terrorism. We made available our airspace and air facilities when required as transits or staging points during the war that led to the fall of the Taliban government. We contribute logistical support in accordance with our commitments made at the Japan-led U.N. conference on the rehabilitation of Afghanistan. And, it is part of our role in this international coalition that we have stepped up our offensive against the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group. And we will be working with the technical support of the United States — department of the treasury, in particular — to prevent the flow of funds to terrorist groups.

Our strategic partnership translated in today's terms find expression in Balikatan 02-01. We can describe the current Philippine-U.S. alliance as a moral partnership. Beyond formal treaties, there is in all of us a deep moral purpose that is more powerful than any legal instrument. It is our belief that evil must not be allowed to rule even one inch of this earth.

The Philippines and the United States have stood shoulder-to-shoulder in the past. We have been allies against forces that threatened humanity. And we are allies in the present global effort to ensure human security.

The fight against terrorism, however, should not be the single defining factor of our relationship. The other facet of our relationship, its socioeconomic aspect, must be addressed with as much vigor.

The fact that the Abu Sayyaf, who once freely roamed the entire southwestern Philippines, have ended up with their last stand in Basilan — the province with the lowest human development index in our country — reminds us of how closely national security and economic prosperity are intertwined.

In this context, I welcome the call made by president George Bush last march 22nd during the international conference for financing for development in Mexico for a new compact for development defined by greater accountability for rich and poor nations alike. This call echoes an initiative I proposed before the delegates of the 16th East Asian economic summit in Hong Kong way back last October. There I said, that just as a coalition has been formed to eradicate terrorism, a coalition must also be formed to lift the global economy out of its lethargy.

In the international centers of Hong Kong, Washington, London and New York, I have called on developed nations such as the United States to recognize their duty to open markets, transfer resources and reform international institutions.

The accelerated access for our mangoes and the encouraging response to our campaign, which includes a letter from me to president bush, for our canned tuna are all part of the compliance to the commitments made by president bush in our joint communique during my visit to Washington last November.

The Philippines must harness its relations with the United States to realize our goals. In the area of bilateral trade, we must seek fair trade, one that opens the U.S. markets to our products and one that will enhance our development. And after Monterey, it is once again politically correct to assert that trade must be coupled with aid.

The new era of Philippine American relations must also see an increasing role for Filipino Americans. The Philippines must strengthen its links with them even as these Filipino- Americans assert their presence in American society. One-third of our overseas Filipinos live in the U.S., but they send two-thirds of the overseas remittances to the Philippines. And I welcome the initiative of vice-president Guingona to establish OFW bonds to serve as a mechanism to facilitate the investments of our overseas Filipinos totaling 6 billion dollars even with last year's difficulties investment in the economic development of their mother country. This way we can also entice them to return upon their retirement to a more prosperous nation.

We must also look for ways to strengthen and unify Filipino associations in the United States. Just as the American Jewish community has developed into a network of organizations that influence policy in the middle east, just as the Korean Americans were able to mobilize public opinion when Korean businessmen were assaulted in Los Angeles

and Brooklyn sometime ago, the Filipino Americans can similarly take the lead, and more so because of our shared history and experience.

And we must not forget our veterans — the living legacies of the freedoms we now enjoy. We will ensure that they receive the recognition and benefits that they deserve. Thus, I welcome the long-awaited white house signal on Philippine veterans' rights that veterans affairs secretary principe conveyed when he visited the Philippines a few days ago.

Lastly, we are addressing the stark reminders of our cold war partnership with the United States — the hazardous wastes in the former U.S. facilities and the plight of the amerasians. The U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell responded positively on the issue of hazardous waste, and it is now up to our DENR officials to pursue the agreement. The plight of the amerasians is being attended to by our pro-Filipino U.S. congressmen and senators.

These are what characterize the new era of Philippine American relations. This new era was born out of crisis but holds its share of opportunities. And judging from the surveys the Filipino people welcome the presence and the continued engagement of the United States. But our new relationship must be defined by maturity as opposed to sentimentality. And together, the Philippines, the U.S. must bring the benefits of development to all.

Therefore, let us all move into a new era of stronger but more equitable partnership with the United States — a relationship that I firmly believe promises to bring a measure of security and stability to our world.

I thank the MOPC for giving me this opportunity to speak on this tonight. I was telling Tony Lopez that I was a few minutes late because up to the very moment that I stood up to change my clothes I was still working on the speech. It started as a discussion of Balikatan, and then it expanded into the relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines. So this is the first time I am speaking about the comprehensive aspects of our relationship with the U.S., and I hope I have defined them. We have the strategic relationship. We have the security relationship. We have the economic relationship. And we have the relationship that is engendered by the presence of millions of Filipino Americans in the U.S. We have the relationship born about by the fight against terrorism. But this is an opportunity that we are seizing to bring about a stronger relationship in the fight against poverty.

I hope that the MOPC, I hope that the media, domestic and more so foreign, will cover our fight against poverty with the same interest that it covers the fight against terrorism.

Truly, sometimes when I look at the newspapers and I see pictures of American soldiers brushing their teeth, sleeping in a hammock, playing basketball, I figure out, I wish this picture were a picture of something we did for instance today in Manggahan, sa floodway in Lupang Arenda, where after 14 years since 1988, we were able to resolve the social issues that prevented the flood dike from being built. A dike that could have stopped the flooding all around the Rizal and Pasig and Taguig part of lake Laguna where it not for the fact that there were a lot of people who were against it. I took the trouble of finding out why they are against it. And we took the trouble for 3 months to talk patiently with the people who were opposing it to look for a solution, a win-win solution and today the signed agreement presenting the win-win solution was presented to me.

These are I think as important facets in the fight against poverty as what we see in Basilan. And I wish that we could have something as dramatic as a battle, as a running battle with regard to the fight against poverty. But having become president, knowing the political process as Washington Sycip says, I just have to accept the fact that headlines are made by exciting things and controversial things, whereas the things that matter, the things that we have to plod on in order to fight poverty are things that you must persevere in.

Indeed, there is a battle against terrorism, but there is a greater battle against poverty though they are twins of one another. But I know that though you find the war against terrorism more exciting with respect to the Philippine American relationship, I hope that you will also respect that there is in this relationship something even deeper, something even longer lasting and that is the fight against poverty.

Therefore, I ask you, the foreign media to have the same interest if you will. And I ask you at the very least to have the same sympathy for the battle against poverty because in the end that is what is going to make the rest of the 21st century a free world, a world where the foreign media and the local media can continue to ply their trade in freedom, and can continue to be listened to and to be talked to by the leaders of any nation.

So, tonight once again I thank you for allowing me to be here, to be with you — not allowing me — requiring me to be with you. And until next year, I hope that when we speak together, when we're together here next year we would have been able to defeat the scourge of terrorism. But more than that I hope that we would have been able to achieve tangible results so that people will be happier and the media will be more interested in the war against poverty.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) "President's Night". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225929/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7641&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the First Asian Regional Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the First Asian Regional Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat**

[Delivered at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Pasay City, Metro Manila, April 24, 2002]

Senate President Drilon; Speaker de Venecia; Senator Biazon; Senator Noli de Castro; Secretary Michael Defensor; Secretary Sonny Alvarez; Congressman Nograles; Congressman Nieva; Congressman Espinosa; Congressman Gonzalez; Congressman Solis; Honorable Noda; Members of the Diplomatic Corps; delegates to the First Asian Regional Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Almost two years ago, we were gathered here for a similar conference, the Third Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians for Habitat. The Philippines hosted this from July 25th to July 28th in the year 2000. Senate President Drilon was a speaker and I was the keynote speaker then, as the second highest official of the government.

Now, after a peaceful transition last year, I'm here again before you, this time as the 14th president of our republic. Allow me, therefore, to welcome you in this new capacity, and to offer to you once again the renowned hospitality of our people.

This gathering is armed with renewed commitment and hope to address one of the most challenging issues of our time – providing adequate shelter for all.

The Philippine chaired the Asian Regional Council in year 2000, under the leadership of Senator Rodolfo Biazon, and we are very proud of that. At that time, the Philippines committed to convene its first meeting; so today, the Philippines is making good our commitment. We are glad that you have come in the spirit of commonality and civic duty amidst a scenario of global unpeace and anxiety.

I, therefore, take the opportunity to convey my sincere congratulations of the prime movers of this forum, particularly the officers of the council and member-countries.

Here, we aim to formally approve a body of statutes to guide the council in its future work. This is well and good. For a definite framework prevents the council's work from drifting here and there, and therefore drifting into oblivion.

We are here to make the council's presence felt in the Fourth Global Meeting of the Forum in Berlin this year. I am, indeed, elated that Asia will be heard as one potent voice in that very significant meeting.

We all remember with pride when the champions of shelter and sustainable human settlements gathered in Istanbul in June of 1996, under the auspices of the United Nations, to forge a blueprint for action.

This conference, known as Habitat II, was attended by representatives from 171 nations and 579 cities. They were all fired by a common idealism to provide decent homes to their peoples.

This idealism inspired many from all sectors and many personalities worldwide to lend a helping hand. The most famous symbol is former President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, who is often seen dipping his hand in sand and gravel to build homes for those in need all over the world, including the Philippines.

The Philippines is committed to the ideals of Habitat. We are doing our own building and repairs, not only of the physical ramparts of our nation, but of its social fabric.

When I assumed the presidency last year, I said that our country must be bold in our national ambitions and seek to win the battle against poverty within the decade. I told our parliamentarians – and many of them are here today – during my first State of the Nation Address last year, that to succeed in our battle our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan calls for four components: first, the promotion of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century; second, agricultural modernization founded on social equity; third, a sectoral and social bias in our economic development plan; and fourth, improving moral standards in government and in society.

Housing for the poor is an essential element of the third component – the sectoral and social bias. I also appreciate the insight of Senator Biazon about agricultural deterioration leading to urban blight. Thus, even the second component, – agricultural modernization founded on social equity should improve habitat in the urban areas. In accordance with our stress on housing, we are endeavoring to implement at last the Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Financing Act sponsored by no less than our esteemed Asian leader of the Global Parliamentarians for Habitat, Senator Rodolfo Biazon.

My administration has adopted the Biazon law as our policy and regulatory framework for housing. To facilitate its implementation, we have simplified housing relations. We are shaping what we hope will be a sustainable housing finance system. This sustainable housing finance system will be enabled by the Special Purpose Bill as well as the Securitization Law – which Senate President Drilon and Speaker de Venecia said will both be passed before session ends this June.

We are accelerating assistance to the informal sector. We have set for ourselves the goal of empowering 150,000 urban poor families a year to own the land they occupy following the principles of Hernando de Soto; and we are building 100,000 houses a year for the working class that would require P20 B in budget every year, and 50,000 houses a year for the poorest of the poor, which would require about P2.5 B. These three goals together provide shelter security for 300,000 families a year. I'm gratified that this aggregate goal was accomplished in my administration's first year. I hope that we will be as successful or maybe even more successful in the succeeding years of my term.

For our pro-active targeting of beneficiaries, we focus on the most vulnerable communities. We provide priority assistance to those in danger zones such as river banks, creeks, and other flood-prone areas, including those in the right-of-way of government infrastructure projects. For instance, we are going to build a railroad from Manila to Subic-Clark, from Manila to CALABARZON-New Batangas Port, around Mindanao and other parts of the Philippines. But even as the Speaker and his colleagues in Congress have been working to assist our railroad officials to acquire the financing already, now together with the local governments like the government of Bulacan – where much of the railroad to the north will go – we are already working on the relocation of the informal settlers who are living in the right-of-way areas. We also prioritize our assistance to informal settlers who are in threat of demolition arising from court orders.

The housing authority has also accredited new technologies for building houses at lower cost. Just yesterday in Bulacan, I saw a house made of bamboo built by 500 people for P18,000. I think that is going to go a long way in spreading the budget for housing among the poor as a halfway house for those that we have to relocate because of the CAMANAVA flooding, the northrail, etc.

Because we inherited unoccupied housing units from previous administrations, the National Housing Authority is selling these unoccupied housing units at discounted prices. Aside from fast-tracking the distribution of lands to urban poor families we are seeking to improve access to credit. Right now, the cost of borrowing is at its lowest point in Philippine economic history. Not because we have interest rate control but because prudent budget management, prudent monetary management, prudent macroeconomic policies have brought interest rates down as well as the exchange rate down. Usually, to stabilize the exchange rate, you have to raise the interest rate. Usually, to bring down the interest rate, you have to sacrifice the exchange rate. But we are an economy that can keep stable

its exchange rate and bring down its interest rates. That, indeed, is macroeconomic stability. I believe that's one big reason why the international credit agencies have upgraded the Philippines' credit rating from negative to stable.

As I mentioned earlier, with simplified housing regulations and greatly reduced processing time, and to assure security of tenure, we have started proclaiming alienable and disposable areas for housing and shelter purposes. But to be sure, there are still millions of Filipinos who remain squatters in their own country. I would like that within this decade, this unfortunate situation will no longer be so.

Let me also point out that in providing the housing needs, the policy of my administration is to ensure that the basic necessities such as water, electricity and sanitation facilities are also present.

In many cases, we have been able to provide proximate livelihood opportunities – markets, schools, roads and bridges, and other infrastructure needs of the community.

Thus, I am glad that you have underscored all of these things. I'm also glad that this forum underscores the role of civil society. When bureaucrats and legislators, saddled with pressing national concerns slow down, civil society can provide the momentum to carry on.

Civil engagement remains an important conduit in the implementation of the Habitat II Agenda. This sector is a strong pillar for capacity-building, resource-generation and community rearmament. Although it is time that elected officials represent the majority of the people, civil society represents community's conscience. Hence, its voice must be heard in policy making, decision-making, a service delivery.

We have certainly made some headway in achieving our goals, especially in empowering the poor to buy the land they occupy. But like many of your governments, we need to continually keep abreast with the latest developments in the shelter sector so that we could be more responsive to the needs of our peoples. This forum will, I am sure, provide this opportunity for our further enlightenment, and we are grateful for it.

The confluence of events has allowed our paths to cross once again to find new meaning to the commitment made two years ago – finding adequate housing and sustainable human settlements for all.

The collateral problems that impact upon this task are sometimes overwhelming and seemingly intractable. Some of these are urban unemployment, rural to city migration, environmental problems, even the plight of women in the cities, and mass transportation.

These only emphasize that shelter cannot be the exclusive task of the executive. Parliaments are indispensable in designing appropriate legislation, many times in support of government policies, but once in a brilliant while, even in designing the policies themselves. Far-reaching benefits are more readily attainable with the fusion of both executive and parliamentary efforts. There is no doubt that your presence here today signifies this partnership in bearing the burden and responsibility of the future.

The dream lives on. As we look forward to the agenda of this meeting, it is a great opportunity to recharge the deep sense of resolve that propelled our energies two years ago.

We must draw upon our common achievements to move forward. Even as the world is beset with constraints, and while conflict rages in some places, we must win the fight for shelter. This is part of the quest of human dignity. This is vital to harmony, peace, and mankind's solidarity.

Let us again join hands firmly so our peoples can rightfully say that yes, there is a hope for a better life in the 21st century.

Thank you and welcome to the Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Press Club's Gridiron Night

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the National Press Club's Gridiron Night

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, April 30, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Yong-Yong Afable.

Officers and members of the National Press Club led by Louie Logarta; officials of the Philippine government; other distinguished journalists and media practitioners; mga mahal kong kababayan; ladies and gentlemen:

I am pleased to pretend to be happy to join you tonight. Actually, I hate going to things like this. But I am sure that unlike me, you are genuinely happy that I am here because you do need me to make hakot for you. Not hakot the crowd but hakot those who will buy the tickets to this dinner — because those are two different things. Because — you notice how many empty tables there are? — they bought seats but they are not interested in coming.

Paying guests like this are paying for the tickets not because they like me, it's just that the National Press Club after all these years now knows who are the usual milking cows. the government agencies who are afraid the press will be mean to them if they don't buy a table, or those who want to be promoted and therefore, they need a good press to advocate for them when promotion time comes. And the business groups who are afraid the government will be mean to them if they don't buy a table in an affair where the president is the guest of honor.

Well, you know who they are. You know who to sell tickets to because this is such a long-standing tradition — the Gridiron. The Gridiron stems from a time-honored tradition of reminding Presidents of the power of the press — as if the Presidents' need to be reminded. I know I don't need to be reminded. I am reminded every day when I read the papers, I'm reminded every night when I watch television. So I'm like those milking cows of the government and the private sector who buy your tables. I know you'll hit me even if I come, but you will hit me even more if I don't come. So I have to come. So, here I am.

Let me congratulate National Press Club president Louie Logarta and the National Press Club board of directors for hosting tonight's Gridiron dinner.

You have managed to continue a tradition and a media institution — the tradition and the institution are a great dinner and a great skit. But traditionally, both are... Well, no... Traditionally, the dinner is tasty but traditionally the skit is tasteless. I am sure tonight's dinner and tonight's skit will be in accordance with the tradition. In other words, I am sure the food will be good but the skit will be bad I say good food — because I like to be on the good side of Don Emilio Yap — and I say bad skit anyway, because no matter what i'll say I'll be on the bad side of Louie Logarta's paper anyway. So, I might as well tell the truth about my judgment.

And I understand tickets are more expensive this year. On the other hand, I understand that you have not raised your fees for the writers, the director and the producer of the skit. What a shame doing it just before Labor Day at that. The Secretary of Labor should look into this.

But what I enjoy about Gridirons is that rather than professionals, you get amateurs from among your own to star in the show. Sure, they get to be boring that's why you have tickets sold out but tables empty, because they're boring. But they're not boring for me. Not for me because I've loved to watch plays and movies whether they're Broadway class, Hollywood class or class play class when I was still small, I was so stage struck. I'm still small, so I'm still stage struck.

And as far as I'm concerned, even if your captive audience, rather the staff of your captive audience — see, they don't come so they just give out the tickets they bought to their staff — even if the audience is bored, our actors will enliven my evening as far as I'm concerned with their spontaneity, their expected lapses, the inevitable misquotes and the sense of innocence just like my cabinet members. But actually, my cabinet members are not so innocent. They're getting wise to the ways of the world. Look, tonight there's no single cabinet member here in this hall. See, how wise they are — they have better things to do with their time.

But on my part, because I have to be here and I like plays anyway, I look forward to the performance of the cast. This cast, just like my presidency, doesn't have to be great, just good. Or, some of you might even say, just like my presidency, this cast doesn't even have to be good basta makaraos lang, maka-survive lang.

Many members of the cast, in fact, are responsible for the bad press that Malacañang is now having. But I forgive them. To err is journalism; to forgive is presidential.

Speaking of the Presidency, I understand Louie Logarta is running for reelection on May 5th. I shall not wish him luck because I might be accused of electioneering; also, because actually I do not wish him luck. I understand Louie is running against two other contenders — both from the Manila Bulletin. Remember what I said about wanting to be always on the good side of don Emilio? Now you know where my sympathies lie.

I understand there have been some intramural wars among the officers and directors of the National Press Club. Well and good. Will you believe me if I say that this is part of our media strategy to promote internal wars within the press? And will you believe me if I say that this is a responsibility that I entrusted to Angie Reyes? Remember he was the only cabinet member who was here, who was in the press club last year during the Gridiron. Now, even he is not here, not because he was plotting all your internal wars among you, but because he found out that cabinet members don't really come. So he has better things to do with his time so, he is not here either.

They say that Malacañang is a snake pit. But from what I have observed all throughout my public career of the NPC, the National Press Club is also a snake pit. And I guess, Malacañang is a snake pit, the press club is snake pit, now we know why Bobi Tiglao decided to leave for awhile. He couldn't stand the hissing. Imagine two snake pits, (laughter) having to live there, Malacañang na nga, media pa. Kawawa naman si Bobi Tiglao talaga.

In fact, most presidents have trepidations about the gridiron skit, even my cabinet you can see. But as for me, I have none. Maybe because last year the jokes were more on my predecessor than on me. Remember, that was the night before his arrest? But I think this year the jokes will be more on me, because one year is plenty of time to collect ridicule-worthy material about me. Maybe it will also be the night before my arrest. Anyway, I know how to take jokes at my expense. Really, I do. If you don't believe me, tatarayan ko kayo.

Filipinos have a great sense of humor. Our gross national humor is arguably the highest in the world. I should mention this in my next state of the nation address. It sounds good, even if it's irrelevant to the fight against terrorism and poverty. Anyway, we can always have a debate. Which is more relevant, the gross national humor or the gross national product? Or maybe, which is less relevant to poverty?

So, you can see I'm in a state of denial. I'm denying that you don't like me. I'm denying that I'm worried about what you'll say about me. So, in my state of denial, I'm pretending to be more worried about what you have to say about the katzenjammer twins, I mean, the Alvarez twins — Sonny and Bebot. I'm worried about what you have to say about Lito Camacho whether he's mama's boy, wife's boy, daughter's boy, sister's boy. I'm worried about what you have to say about Dick Gordon, "Wow Philippines" or "kiss me kate."

I'm worried about how you will portray your own Noel "burnout" Cabrera. Look, even he is not here now — actually, he's on vacation in the U.S. he needs a vacation because of his burnout. Or Bobi "scholar" Tiglao or Rafael Paeng "two-hundred peso bill" Buenaventura.

And is it true that you will portray Bobby Romulo as the real Secretary of Foreign Affairs? And how true is the rumor that your skit will portray Hernando Perez as the lover boy — the lover boy of Batangas that is.

But please don't be too hard on my cabinet. I am protective of my cabinet members — I only wish they were also quick enough to be protective of me. You can see, they've made me face you alone. They do that all the time, they make me face the world alone.

The fact is life in government is like going through a gridiron script. You get ridiculed for your mistakes, and you get jibes about your accomplishments. But we, as public officials must take all these things in stride even if we feel so pikon. Okay lang ang mataray, huwag lang pikon. Anong diperensya? Ang taray, external; ang pikon internal. I'm always going to explain — madalas naririnig ko sa T.V. set 'pag nanonood ako ng news na sinabi ng beat reporter na napikon na naman si President Arroyo. Actually, hindi ako napipikon, mataray lang ako talaga. I have very even tempered, always mataray. But I have not internalized my katarayan, it's just a reflex action. It's not a deliberate expression of my true message.

Somebody told me that there is a growing effort in the media to play up the good news. Wow! He could have fooled me. I still see very few items that seem to go against the tradition of reporting the seedy part of the day. But I do hope indeed there are reformists. I wish they would start with the newspaper of the NPC president. Hopeless case? Nagbigay na ako ng one million sa National Press Club, ganun pa rin sila.. sige na nga, I'll settle for improving the direction and the acting in the Gridiron skit.

But I really appreciate the good news — about personal heroism, values, human worth and community triumphs. Sometimes we tend to gloss over these things even if they are the real stuff of nationhood.

I see no reason why a good provincial story should not make page one, or a good metro report land on premium space. Let's give credit to the small-town mayor who helped us recover Jeffrey Schilling, or the hometown entrepreneur from San Rafael, Bulacan who developed a 15,000-peso core shelter for calamity victims. Let's give credit to the people, they deserve a break.

By all means, let the media take down the spotty woodwork. God knows there are many underperforming public servants and there are many lousy programs. But let the battle focus on issues, on policy, on principles. We need relief from personal attacks so that the issues will surface in clear light.

Yes, get to the heart of a controversial policy. Analyze a bad piece of legislation, a bad proclamation. But do it with fervor and a genuine penchant for chronology and detail. Investigative journalism is one of the grindstones of policy. Done professionally, it promotes public interest.

Sometime this year, the national press club will celebrate its 50th year. Your golden anniversary will be a good time to reflect on the enduring relations between government and the press. Much of this relationship has involved golden moments, like EDSA 1 and EDSA 2. You are among those who led, and the people followed.

So, sometime this year, on the occasion of your golden anniversary, I would like to be able to invite you to a different kind of Gridiron — a skit put up by the Malacañang staff and the Cabinet Secretaries. We will lampoon the media and the members of the journalistic profession.

The script will be written by Acting Press Secretary Yong-Yong Afable, with emotional flourishes by senior presidential consultant Dante Ang. And Dodi Limcaoco will take care of the miscues. It will be a showdown between government, the good and the press, the bad.

I would like Vice President Tito Guingona to head the production, with Romulo prompting him from the sidelines — not Bert Romulo but Bobby Romulo.

What are some of the themes and sub-themes of the Malacañang skit? Act one: envelopmental journalism; act two: why everybody wants to be a columnist; act three: how to be a publisher without really trying; act four: the ac-dc syndrome; and act five: the kuryente school of newswriting.

I hope you will have an enjoyable evening rin as enjoyable as the evening I hope I will have tonight. If you see the few government officials who are here tonight crying — the way I cried when I saw ‘bagong buwan’ — you can be sure it’s both tears of joy and tears of pain. Because, I guess I would rather cry than walk out. I hope you have good reviews tomorrow. But if not, blame the lighting.

As for me, of course I’ll blame you. But more than that, I’ll thank you. I’ll thank you for the warmth, the camaraderie and the laughter. So, break a leg!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the National Press Club’s Gridiron Night. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225904/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7636&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Housing Conference of the Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Housing Conference of the Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA)**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, April 30, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Mike Defensor sa iyung pagpapakilala sa akin. At maraming salamat dahil masunurin ka, bumibilis ang ating housing program.

Binibining Ocampo, ang ating National President ng PGEA; Ginoong Minoto, ang namumuno sa Social Ministry ng Couples for Christ; Deputy Executive Secretary Tale; Winston Garcia, pangulo ng GSIS; Romero Quimbo, ang namumuno ng Pag-IBIG — ‘di ba Pag-IBIG ‘yon? — at Dr. Ponciano Jeres, ang vice president ng PGEA; mga delegado sa komperensiya ng housing needs ng government employees; other government officials; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Magandang hapon sa aking mga kapwang naglilingkod sa ating bayan.

Binabati ko ang Philippine Government Employees Association sa pagsasagawa ng pagpupulong na ito tungkol sa pabahay para sa mga kawani ng pamahalaan. Kayo ang huwarang Government Employees Association. Kasi hindi niyo sinisikap ibagsak ang gobyernong pinanggagalingan ng inyong hanapbuhay. Ang ginagawa ninyo ay maghanap ng paraan upang lumawak ang biyaya ng inyong mga kasapi, kagaya ng ginagawa ninyo itong araw na ito. Kaya sa aking malaking paghanga sa inyo, inimbata ko kayong gawin itong pulong sa tahanan ng pilipinas, sa tahanan ng gobyerno, sa tahanan ninyo, ang Malacañang Palace.

Kinikilala ko ang Philippine Government Employees Association bilang tunay na kinatawan ng dakilang manggagawa sa gobyerno. Kayo ay patunay na ang mga manggagawa ng pamahalaan ay patuloy na nagsisilbi hindi lamang sa mga pangangailangan ng publiko kung hindi maging sa mga kasamahan ninyo sa pamahalaan.

Sa aking State of the Nation Address noong isang taon sinabi ko, na layunin ng pamahalaan magkaroon ng tahanan ang sanlibong manggagawa taun-taon. Ang ginagawa ninyo ngayon ay malaking tulong upang makamit natin ang layuning ito. Kaya naman binibigyan natin ito ngayon ng matamang atensyon.

Dapat lamang na tugunan ang pangangailangan ng pabahay ng lahat ng manggagawang pilipino, pribado man o publiko.

Alam kong gustong-gusto ninyong mapabilis ang serbisyo ng pabahay at masigurado na abot-kaya ito ng bawa’t empleyado. Sa ngayon, malaking porsiyento ng ating mga kawani ay nabibilang — gaya ng sabi ni Ms. Ocampo — sa lower salary grade na rank-and-file. ang mga ito, kung hindi man nangungupahan ay nakitira sa mga kamag-anak — at gaya ng sabi ni Ms. Ocampo — iba pa nga ay nakatira sa squatter area.

Ang pangangailangan sa pabahay ay isa rin sa prayoridad na isyu ng mga manggagawa sa pamahalaan na inilahad noong nakaraang disyembre 4 and 5 — gaya ng sabi ni Ms. Ocampo — sa National Convention of Government Employees sa PICC. Kaya naman, gaya din ng sabi niya, sumang-ayon agad ako sa pgea na kailangang pabilisan natin ang programang pabahay para sa mga kawani ng gobyerno.

Inaasahan ko na ang komperensiyang ito ay magsisilbing pagtulungan natin liwanagin at tugunan ang mga isyu at pangangailangan ninyo sa pabahay.

Kaya inaatasan ko ang HUDCC, Pag-IBIG at GSIS na ibigay ang lahat ng suporta hindi lamang sa tagumpay ng conference na ito kundi sa pagkakaroon ng kongkretong resulta ng mga susunod pa ninyong hakbangin.

Nasisiyahan ako na nandito si Winston Mismo — hindi ko tuloy nakilala. pumayat sa kanyang isang taong trabaho sa GSIS — Kaya Winston, dahil bihira tayong magkasama, makinig kang mabuti sa aking mga instructions, at sundan mo ako:

Number One, I am directing GSIS to work with PGEA to facilitate the access of government employees to affordable housing programs and provide sources of funds. Facilitate is the operative word here. Meaning, I don't want red tape. Meaning, I don't want the GSIS to dictate and limit the number of designs the government workers want to adopt. The rules for lending should only revolve around the amount of the housing loan, not the kind of housing because that should be the prerogative of the individual government employee. In fact, if an employee wants a more expensive model than the loan provides for so be it, as long as the employee is willing to finance the difference from other sources.

Also, when I had the last commission meeting of the Presidential Commission on Mass Housing before I abolished it, when we saw that the amount of money that GSIS is actually spending for housing is quite small compared to verbal commitments, and when we examined why — one excuse was given, that because GSIS does it through conduits — private banks and because many private banks are quite conservative due, among other things, to the red tape which has been reduced, and also because of their bad experience during the Asian crisis and also the 2001 crisis, they're quite reluctant to lend out their money as long as they still have many non-performing assets. But I said, well, that's because they have their own obligations to their stockholders. But in that meeting I said, if the private sector is still reluctant then expand your conduits to include Pag-ibig itself as a conduit.

So I'm reminding you, Winston, that Pag-IBIG should be a conduit and I think when Pag-IBIG is made a conduit then the money will go out faster to our government employees. okay? good.

Now on HUDCC — ah eto si Mike Parati kong nakikita naman kaya lang I'll just make public the instruction so that you'll be happy — I believe, Mike that the government employees want to identify a land area for Presidential Proclamation to be developed and declared as a housing site for government employees. So I am endorsing this request of PGEA to implement a housing project for low-salaried government employees to be incorporated in the preparation of a masterplan for the lungsod silangan area. Eh 'yon ang kanilang ano... request, 'yon ang ini-endorso ko. kaya lang gusto kong malaman, meron bang masterplan 'yung lungsod silangan area? so meron 'yon. ayun, may mga cases, kasi ang iniisip ko, kung wala naman talaga 'yung masterplan, kung marami 'yung sabit, this is one fall back.

Earlier, I instructed the DOJ to start transferring Bilibid Prison from Muntinlupa to the military reservation in Tanay. But in case your master plan doesn't push through — and we have to know that in a few month's time — one option is for that portion of the military reservation that was supposed to be for the Bilibid, we can reallocate it to government housing, but we need a decision soon on that because we also cannot hold the DOJ hanging. so no need of this. Okay. Good, no need of this. Kasi kung hindi ipapalipat ko na naman sana 'yung preso from Tanay to Fort Magsaysay instead. Ang naiisip ko lang kasi Fort has plenty of land. Iniisip ko lang kasi kawawa naman 'yung mga pamilya ng mga preso if they have to go all the way to Fort Magsaysay. So if you have your land then at least we don't have to do that, and DOJ can continue working on transferring Bilibid to Tanay which is much easier for their families to visit. Okay.

Ngayon sa Pag-IBIG: I am instructing the Pag-IBIG to allocate the unoccupied housing units available for disposition under the rent-to-own scheme to PGEA members.

Ngayon hindi ibig sabihin may quota kayo, ha. Because the PGEA does it on a "first come-first served" basis. So while Pag-ibig cannot allocate a quota to PGEA because of the "first come-first served" basis, what Pag-ibig should

do is to provide PGEA regularly with the list of available rent-to-own units on a weekly basis. O, puwede raw I-prioritize. meaning, if two applications arrive, other things being equal, ‘yung government employee ang mauuna — ‘yan ang ibig sabihin ng prioritizing.

Kaya iyon namang mga PGEA, dapat dumalo kayo sa briefing ng rent-to-own tuwing sabado sa Atrium building sa Makati, kasi doon parati ina-update ‘yung availability.

Ngayon GSIS, National Home Mortgage Finance and hgc should adopt the rent or lease-to-own scheme of Pag-ibig and extend this to government employees.

And subject to COA rules, I am approving the GSIS proposal that instead of selling foreclosed residential properties, GSIS should sell its abandoned housing units at discounted amounts to its members. I understand GSIS has identified 3,000 abandoned units which it took out from developers. So please confer with the commission on audit at the soonest possible time to work out how this can be done without being construed as violating the law.

Ang official government conduit or representative to COA is the DBM. So I would suggest, Winston that you work with Emi Boncodin to work with the chairman of COA regarding this.

One of the achievements of this administration is that we have reduced interest rates to an all-time low. We achieved this through fiscal discipline that kept our budget deficit down to a 147 billion. But this all-time low in treasury bill rates should translate into lower interest rates for the consumers and the Filipino families. I have appealed to the banking sector to translate their lower borrowing rates to lower lending rates. Sa private sector banks makakaapila lamang ako because this is a free enterprise society and I cannot impose on them what interest rate they will charge, but the public sector financial institutions are under the president of the Philippines, and I am telling them they must set the example. Thus, I am instructing all the government lending agencies, particularly the GSIS, to exercise modern financial management that will reduce your lending rate for housing loans. I won’t tell you how much because you have to exercise your financial management, but certainly the rates you are charging now are the rates that were being charged when interest rates were very high. But interest rates are low now and the consumer, the lowly worker, including the government worker should be able to feel the blessings of our fiscal program.

I understand that GSIS is also planning to extend a restoration loan to member-buyers at an average of a 100,000 to 150,000. Well, if this is possible without sacrificing the goal of reducing interest rates then go ahead. But this is my advise and prioritization instruction — rather than spreading your administration over so many programs, I think you should concentrate on providing the basic, the housing itself. Let us target the whole housing sector, including GSIS a 100,000 housing for the workers including government workers. and if we provide that, never mind the other side programs. That’s the most important thing, let us focus on the basics. So this is my instruction for GSIS — mabuti nandito si Winston, paminsan-minsan nakikita ko siya.

So this is what I believe will help us to achieve our targets for this year and thereby reduce poverty even among our government employees.

Sa inyo naman sa PGEA meron akong hihingiin. sinabi ko na gusto ko na magkaroon ng good governance, and on my first working day — the first Monday I was President — I defined the pillars of good governance: moral ascendancy in the leadership — that’s my instruction to myself; an ethic of transparency in all government actions — kaya sina Emi Boncodin, the cabinet members, they have to work on the systems; the third is an ethic of effective implementation by the bureaucracy at all levels — kayo ‘yon. ‘yon ang hinihingi ko sa inyo.

At dahil dito — mabuti nandito si Joe Tale baka makatulong ‘yung kanyang organization din — ilang beses ko na sinasabi publicly that to promote an ethic of effective implementation I want values formation, programs to be revived in the various government agencies, but not necessarily conducted by the head of the government agencies.

I have told the various evangelical groups, Catholic Charismatic, Couples for Christ, kung sino bang gumawa ng values formation, ang kausap niyo ay ang PGEA.

Kaya 'yon, what the government would like to do for you is to give you housing and other benefits to improve your standard of living; what the government asks from you is good governance and an ethic of effective implementation in the bureaucracy. and we are empowering you to work out those programs yourselves, kasi malaki ang tiwala ko sa PGEA.

Muli, mga kaakibat kong nagtatrabaho sa gobyerno, congratulations dito sa inyong housing agency. at sana itong mga instruction na binigay ko sa ating mga housing and related government agencies ay masunod nang mabuti dahil pinag-isipan ko itong mga instructions na ito dahil ito ang makakabuti at makakapabilis sa housing program para sa ating mga manggagawa.

Maraming salamat at good luck sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Housing Conference of the Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225915/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7640&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Labor Day celebration Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Labor Day celebration**

[Delivered at the Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City, May 1, 2002]

Nasisiyahan ako nang matanggap ko ang tripartite declaration mula kina Tito Carlos, Pat Sto. Tomas, at Atty. Mendoza. Iyan ang magiging laman ng ating pag-uusap nitong hapon. Iyong pinirmahan nila bilang kinatawan ng manggagawa, namumuhunan, at pamahalaan ay isang pangako na tayong lahat na narito ay magtrabaho, magsasama upang ipairal ang trabahong disente.

Nakapaloob sa dokumento na ibinigaysa akin kanina ang gusto nating makamit sa maikling panahon, ito ang laman ng ating employment strategy. This strategy includes five principles. Una, the creation of employment. Pangalawa, the promotion of labor standards. Pangatlo, social protection, pang-apat social dialogue, panlima tripartism.

The challenge for all of us is to make this declaration work.

Tungkol sa unang bahagi ng employment strategy, ang creation of employment. Magpasalamat tayo sa Panginoon na sa nakaraang taon, nakapaglikha ang ating ekonomiya ng mahigit sa isang milyon at kalahating trabaho sa kabila ng maraming kaguluhan sa ating mundo. Kaya bumaba ang ating unemployment rate mula sa 11.3% hanggang sa 10.3% ngayon isang taon mula nang ako'y manungkulan. We must have job creation through investments and also through employment facilitation. Para magawa itong employment facilitation, our goal will be to expand the computerized linking of the labor market information networks to include more employers and workers organizations, as well as government units.

Tungkol naman sa pangalawang patakaran ng ating kasunduan sa stratehiya. Ang promotions of labor standards. Nagkaroon na tayo ng bagong rules sa subcontracting upang magbigay ng higit na seguridad sa trabaho at bilang tugon sa isyu ng contractualization. Kaya gusto kong klaruhin muli sa lahat, labag sa batas ilapat ang "labor-only subcontracting."

Tuluyan din natin ipinapatupad ang patakaran ng wage simplification gaya ng pinaglaban ninyo sa proseso sa pagtaas ng minimum wage. Labing-isang wage ang itinakda sa inyo ng ating Regional Wage and Productivity Boards hinggil sa nilagdaan ninyong petisyon na itaas ang sahod. Noong isang taon sa aking SONA, sinabi ko na umaasa akong magpasya ang Kongreso o Wage Board tungkol sa nararapat na suweldo. Ganoon pa rin ang aking paniniwala hanggang ngayon. Noong Kongresista pa lamang ang aking ama na si Diosdado Macapagal, tinakda niya ang unang minimum wage law sa ating kasaysayan. Noon siya 'y naging Pangulo, pinirmahan din niya ang pangalawang minimum wage law sa ating kasaysayan. Kaya naniniwala ako na ang Kongreso ay may kapangyarihan at dunong na hanapin kung ano ang nararapat na minimum wage sa ating lipunan.

Pangatlong elemento ng ating ILO-based employment strategies ay social protection. Naghandog ang pamahalaan ng P27 milyon sa state insurance fund para mapautang sa mga displaced workers. Humigit kumulang sa 2,000 manggagawa na ang nabiyayaan sa pautang na ito. Meron pang hiwalay na socio-economic assistance amounting to another P27 million to about 5,000 sugar workers and their families. Kanina tinanggap ni Zoila Dela Cruz ang P12 milyon na tseke para sa mga nahihirapang manggagawa sa sugar sector. Nakapaglaan din ang DOLE at ang aking Social Fund ng P22 milyon para magkaroon ng Poverty Free Zone Project sa bawat rehiyon at matulungan ang maliliit na komunidad na maging maunlad at magkaroon ng sariling kakayahan. Hinihingi ko rin ang tulong ng Philippine Ports Authority at ng DOLE na tugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mga port workers natin.

Noong ako ay maupo bilang Pangulo kinilala ko ang kalagayan ng informal sector. Kaya't ang pamahalaan ay naglunsad din ng Social Protection Program for Workers in the Informal Sector. Ang programang ito ay naglalayong isama ang mga manggagawang nasainformal sector sa Social Security System.

Patuloy nating kinikilala ang malaking contribution ng overseas Filipino workers sa ating ekonomiya. Kaya ang DOH, DSWD, at DOLE ay magpapadala ng mga duktur at social workers sa iba't-ibang overseas post mula nitong Hunyo. At meron tayong P25 milyon na ibibigay dito para alagaan ang kapakanan ng ating mga OFW lalo na sa pagbigay ng medical and counselling services doon sa mga bansa kung saan sila nagtrabaho.

Ang pang-apat na bahagi sa ating employment strategy ay ang social dialogue. Ibig sabihin nito ay hindi dapat adversarial ang relasyon ng mga manggagawa at mamumuhunan. Sa aking State-of-the-Nation Address, sinabi ko "to reduce excessive friction in labor and management relations, we will go the extra mile to work for industrial peace." Siguro pinakinggan tayo ng ating mga labor and employment sector sapagkat naging lalong mahinahon ang kanilang relasyon nitong nakaraang taon. Sa nakaraang taon, 43 lamang ang welga kumpara sa 60 noong taong 2000, kaya mas lumawak ang industrial peace.

Kasama naman sa panlimang bahagi ng ating employment strategy ang tripartism which means we must continuously facilitate a regulatory function in government. For instance, all proceedings arising from the disposition of labor cases and processing of documents are administrative rather than judicial proceedings. That is why as part of the centennial observance of the Philippine labor movement, Secretary Sto. Tomas will consult with all sectors concerned, to conduct a comprehensive review of the structure and procedures of all the agencies administering labor justice undertaking registration functions. Sa madaling salita, iyong red tape ay hahatiin ang signatures na required para sa iba 't-ibang serbisyo ng DOLE, POEA, OWWA, at National Labor Relations Commission para sa inyong manggagawa. Related to this, Secretary Sto. Tomas will study the adoption of joint inspection teams composed of representatives from labor and management to assist labor inspectors in doing their jobs to make sure the firms are following the law. As a service to our heroic OFWs, the e-link system for OFWs, a system simplify and fast-track the documentation process for overseas workers, will also be implemented.

Sa aking State-of-the-Nation Address noong isang taon, hiningi ko sa Kongres: na bigyang daan ang matagal nang pinapangarap ng ating OFW — ang karapatari bumoto. Ang ating administrasyon ay lubos na nagpapanukala ng batas na absentee voting upang mabigyan ang ating mga OFWs ng boses sa halalan. Sinusuportahan kc rin ang panukalang batas na naglalayong magbigay ng dual citizenship sa ating oversea Filipinos.

Mauumpisahan na rin ang ating inamunsiyong National Provident Fund or SSS Flexifund para sa ating OFWs. This will take the form of a social security scheme that will encourage savings and investments as well as entitle them to benefits such as multi-purpose loans and insurance coverage. If they hold this up to retirement age, the provident fund can finance the member's old age needs in the form of monthly pensions or lump sum payments.

Para sa ating manggagawa naman na narito sa Pilipinas, alam ko na importante ang presyo ng mga batayang bilihan na maging kaya ng mga manggagawa. Kaya dadagdagan pa ng NFA ang mga rolling stores na umiikot sa iba 't-ibang lugar upang mapalapit sa inyo ang mga murang bilihan kagaya ng bigas na P14 at kalahating presyo ng gamot. Ngayon pa lang nga mahigit na 1,000 na ang lumilibot na NFA stores. Dadagdagan pa rin natin para maglingkod sa manggagawang Pilipino. Ikinagagalak ko rin iyong pagkukusang bukluran ng manggagawang Pilipino, Employees Confederation of the Philippines, at Metro Manila Development Authority na nagpirmahan itong araw na ito ng memorandum of agreement para sa pagtatayo ng mga tindahan ng pangunahing pangangailangan sa murang halaga at pagtatalaga ng MMDA rolling stores sa medium size enterprises kung saan makakabili ang mga manggagawa ng murang kailangan nila. At the same time, the essential drugs and medicines, specifically frequently used by the poor, are now available to you at 50 percent of last year's price at government hospitals and at NFA rolling stores. Ngayon, 73 hospitals ang mayroon noon. Sa Setyembre, aabot na ang half-priced medicines sa 600 hospitals na sakop ng pamahalaang lokal at 800 na botika sa barangaysa buong bansa alang-alang sa manggagawang maralitang Pilipino.

Umaabot na rin sa higit tatlong milyon ang napasailalim ng Indigent Program ng ating National Health Insurance which will pay for the hospital bills of poor beneficiaries. For the housing of workers, I am tasking HUDCC to make

available to the homeless workers the foreclosed properties of government financial institutions like PAG-IBIG, NHA, NHFMC, SSS, and other agencies on a rent-to-own basis. So, *ito ay huhulugan ninyo ng 25 years*. For this year, I want 20,000 units to be made available to our workers. This is where P10 billion for workers' housing is going.

We must also provide assistance to displaced workers. The DOLE will aggressively implement the Quick Response Team Operation *Balik Trabaho* to provide an immediate and integrated package of assistance to displaced workers including their dependents. Included in the delivery of employment services are profiling, job matching, referrals, guidance, skills retraining, livelihood, and entrepreneurship development. It will also give assistance to workers in obtaining their separation benefits and in making informed choices on re-employment options that should be pursued because I learned that workers have difficulty in getting their separate-benefits.

We must also set up our safety nets for sectors affected by globalization.

Let's talk about electricity. I have instructed Secretary Vince Perez to study the Purchase Power Adjustment or PPA. I am also urging the Energy Regulatory Commission to carefully examine and expedite the review of the monthly PPA filings and to listen closely to the voice of the people.

Panahon na para ma-audit ang mga PPA na pina-file ng mga electric companies. On top of this is a proposal by the DoE that PPA charges can also be in addition to the audit and the review significantly reproduced through financial reengineering.

The proposal, if implemented, can bring the cost of NAPOCOR power by as much as 85 centavos per kw hour. Let's pass a bill that would give power to bring down the PPA through re-financing and I hope that in the near future this can be included in our priority legislation in Congress.

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa malaking pagsuporta ng lehitimo at responsableng labor movement sa ating administrasyon. Nakatutuwang isipin na napakaangkop ng ating pagdiriwang ng 100 taon ng labor movement. Nararapat na pag-alabin natin muli ang apoy na sinindihan ng ating mga unang lider na manggagawa. Itulak muli natin, sa progresibong pag-iisip at aksyon, ang ating mga pagawaan upang masimulan natin ang isa pang makahulugang kabanata sa kasaysayan ng ating bayan. lisa lang ang superstar ng ating bansa at iyan ay ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Centennial Celebration of the Labor Movement in Cebu City

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Centennial Celebration of the Labor Movement in Cebu City**

[Delivered at the Cebu Coliseum, Cebu City, May 1, 2002]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat sa ating Secretary of Labor Pat Sto. Tomas. Ang inahang dili ra sa mga workers diri sa Pilipinas kungdi sa tibuok kalibutan kay siya ang Presidente sab sa International Labor Organization, Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas.

Ug paabot ko sab ang akon pag-abi-abi sa aton mga opisyaless diri sa Cebu, ang aton mga Congressmen — Congressman Tony Cuenco, Congressman Del Mar, Congressman Kintanar; ang atong Governor sa Cebu province, Governor Garcia; atong Acting Mayor Michael Rama; ang amahan sa Labor Movement sa kining atong henerasyon karon, Associate ALU National President Democrito Mendoza; ang atong Vice President, si Attorney Cecilio Seno. Ug gusto ko ipaabot ang akong pagpasalamat kan Vice President Seno sa imong manindot nga ekspresyon sa pagsuporta sa atong administrasyon; ug sab ang duhang member sa akong Cabinet, kauban ni Secretary Sto. Tomas, si Secretary for jobs creation Cito Lorenzo, ug si Secretary for Special Concerns Bert Gonzales; kag ang tanan-tanan nga mga members sa mga labor union; mga laing-laing dinapit aton mga kaigsuonan; mga pinalangga ko nga mga sugbuanon, maayong udto ug malipayong adlaw sa pagbuhat sa tanan nga mga Cebuano ug sa Bisaya.

Kini ang sentenaryo sa paghimo sa unang unyon sa mga trabahador sa atong nasud, ang unyon obrera demokratika. Sa ining okasyon, hinumdumon naton ang mga kalisud sa mga unang leader sa unyon. Sa Manila si ka Andres Bonifacio, Don Isabelo Delos Reyes, Lope K. Santos, ka Amado Hernandez ug uban pa. Ug tungod kay kining adlaw usa ka espesyal nga Labor Day kay Centennial sa atong labor movement sa atong nasud kinahangalan nga ang aton National celebration dili ra mahitabo sa Manila kundili sa sentro sa pinakakusog, pinakadako nga labor union sa atong nasud diri mismo sa Cebu ang balay ng atong alu ug TUCP ug Labor Solidarity Movement. Ug manindot gyud ang atong slogan diri, Labor Day 2002: Sandaan Isang Daan — 101 Way; 100 and Unity, mao ang atong tema sa atong selebrasyon.

Usa ka siglo sukad nahitabo, napundar ang atong Union Labor Movement, ang kapobrehan mao hangtod karon ang pinakadakong problema sa atong nasud. Kinahanglan na gyud madaog nato ang pagkakabos sa sunod sa usa ka dekada. Aron dili na kita mapadayon sa aton mga anak ug apo. Sa niaging tuig, niagi kita sa daghang pagsulay apil na ang problema sa politika ug sa ekonomiya dil ra dinhi sa nasud kundili sab sa tibuok kalibutan. Apan bisan daghan ang mga laing nasud nga gibaba ang ilang produksiyon, gibaba ang ilang ekonomiya, salamat sa ginoo ang produksiyon ug atong mga pumuluyo diri sa Pilipinas gitaas. Ug niadtong sinugo ako isip presidente ang atong unemployment nga akon giabot 11.3 percent niadtong January 2001 apan karon nga nahuman sa isa ka tuig ang atong administrasyon gibaba ni ini sa 10.3 percent. Hibalo ko nga dako pa ni ini apan salamat nga sa pagbaba gikan sa 11.3 hangtod sa 10.3 salamat nga 1.6 million nga bag-ong trabaho ang nahimo ug niabot sa 29.16 million ang suma sa mga Pilipino nga may trabaho karon.

Dinhi sa Bisayas, miingon ang dole, nga ang unemployment rate nababa sa 9.3 percent sa sulod sa atong administrasyon sukad sa 11.06 percent sa niaging administrasyon. Sa tibuok Pilipinas 10.3, diri sa Bisayas 9.3, mas

maayo ang ekonomiya sa Bisayas compare sa laing lugar sa tibuok Pilipinas. Diri sa atong administrasyon gyud nahimo ug 473,000 o lapit sa 500,000 new jobs diri sa Bisayas. Alang sa tibuok nasud gi-ingon ko sa akon State of the Nation Address sa niaging tuig — sa niadto sila Congressman Del Mar ug congressman Cuenco — gi-ingon ko nga ang atong una nga paagi aro makadaog kita sa kapobrehon sa atong nasud mao’y makalabaw ang trabaho sa atong nasud. Gi-ingon ko, the way to fight poverty is to create jobs not to destroy them. And that is the beauty of the labor movement that started here in Cebu. Your labor movement seeks to create jobs and improve working conditions not to destroy jobs. busa ang akong pag-abi-abi ug dako nga admiration kaninyo tanan.

Ang atong kauswagan modepende sa pangita ug oportunidad aron napalabaw na trabaho alang sa atong mga pumuluyo. Mao nasa upat nga parte ug employment strategy sa ating Department of Labor — employment generation, employment preservation, job enhancement ug employment facilitation. Ang una gid nga stratehiya ang employment generation. Kon mahitabo ang bag-o... Daghan nga bag-ong trabaho makita kita ug growth sector of the future. Ang mga sektor asa paspas ang pagdako ug trabaho ug ana kita competitive advantage ang atong mga great Filipino workers sama sa information and communications technology, modernisasyon sa agrikultura, laing-laing pang labor intensive ug skills intensive service sectors, sama na diri ang pagpadako ug housing sector nga motabang aron ana balay ang mga kabos ug ana mga labaw pang trabaho.

Gusto ko ipaabot sab sa usa sa aton mga growth sectors sa kaugmaan ang atong turismo. Ug kagahapon sa Cabinet meeting namo natapos na, nahuman na sa katapusan ang National Tourism Strategy na nahimo ug pinakamaayo nga consultancy firm sa tibuok kalibutan gikan sa Washington na iyang base ug ang mga kliyente apil ang Singapore, ang Korea, Malaysia, India — ang iyang presidente usa ka Pilipino. Ug siya ang nahimo sa aton... Nahuman sa atong National Tourism Strategy. Siyempre sa usa ka stratehiya kinahanglan usa ka review sa atong mga resources, atong baseline, atong present conditions, ug sa iyahang review ang number one sa tibuok Pilipinas na competitive nga lugar sa atong turismo wala laing kundili ang turismo diri sa Cebu.

Ug ngano Cebu, daghan ang aton mga natural wonders diri sa Cebu apan daghan sa atong natural wonders sa laing lugar tingali bisan daghan ang mga natural wonders sa laing-laing lugar sa Pilipinas espesyal ang warmth and hospitality sa mga sugbuanon. Ug kining inyong warm hospitality usa ka demonstrations sa inyong goodness of heart ug inyong goodness of heart makita sa maayo nga relasyon sa labor ug management diri sa sugbu. Busa competitive kaayo ang Cebu ug usa ka rason tungod kay maayo gyud ang labor and management relations diri sa Cebu.

Importante ang relasyon sa labor ug management. Sa atong ikaduha nga stratehiya, employment strategy, nga mao ang labor preservation. Mao kini mohitabo sa industrial peace ug sa mga laing-laing multilateral ug bilateral agreements. Gi-ingon ko gyud sa akong State of the Nation Address, we want to reduce excessive friction in labor and management relations. And to do this, we will go the extra mile to work for industrial peace and to work with labor and business to re-train workers for the fast changing technologies of the new economy. Bisin ug tuman ka-aktibo ang mga unyon dinhi, ang industrial relations maayo kaayo. This goes to show that strong unions do not necessarily mean weak economies. What is important is that the union’s main goal is to maximize the benefits for its workers and not to destroy the economy that provides the jobs to these workers. This kind of union, the responsible and reasonable union mao ang naka didto... Diha sa atong streamer that is the kind of unionism that will create jobs and preserve jobs. And I congratulate ALU-TUCP for being that kind of union.

Busa, dinhi sa Bisayas, may paspas ang disposition sa mga kaso sa strikes ug lockouts kon mitaas sab ang suma sa mga kaso nga miagi ug preventive mediations, ang success rates sa mga strike nga dakugngan pinaagi sa mediation ug negotiation umabot sa 94 percent tungod kay 59 kan notice of strike or lockout ang napugngan sa maayo nga pagistorya sa labor ug sa management. Mi-ingon sab ang dole nga ang collective bargaining nagasugod nga mahimong paboritong paagi sa pagresolba sa mga problema sa unyon ug management. Sa 715 ka lokal nga organisasyon dinhi sa bisayas, 202 na ang naga-cba, nagapaila kini nga misaka na ang maturity level sa relasyon sa labor ug management. Nagapahilipay ako kaninyo tungod kay sa inyong pagpili ug mangina nga paagi mipadayon ang productivity ug job preservation. Nalipay gyud ako nga ang mga sektor sa labor ug management maypili sa negosasyon ug dialogo aron ma-resolba ang inyohang mga problema. Ang panagsulti o pagpaminaw sa usag usa mga epektibong instrumento aron mutaas ang productivity aron nga mapadali nato ang pagbuntog sa kapobrehon.

Didto sa Manila unya nga hapon, dawaton ko ang kopya sa tripartite declaration nga gipirmahan sa mga representante sa labor employers ug government nga naanad sa pagpasunod na mga buluhaton aron mausbaw ang disente nga trabaho sa definition sa International Labor Organization. Kini nga dokumento ang mulista kung unsay pagahimuon sa tulo ka sektor aron sundon ang employment creation, labor standards, social protection, social dialogue ug tripartism. Hinaot unta nga sa dili madugay mupirma pud ang tulo ka sektor dinhi ug commitment sama ni ini. Kanunay nga gina-awhag sa gobyerno ang mga unyon sa paggamit sa malinaw nga pamaagi aron mausbaw ang kalinaw sa lugar sa trabaho. Duna na kita'y bag-o rules sa subcontracting aron motubag ang issues sa contractualization ug seguridad sa trabaho.

Ikatulo na stratehiya mao'y job enhancement. Kauban na diri, kasama na dito ang pagpabuti ng kakayahan ng manggagawa, pagpahusay ng kondisyon sa workplace at pagbibigay ng mga incentives. Gi-ingon ko sa akong State of the Nation Address umaasa akong magpapasya ang Kongreso o ang wage board sa nararapat na minimum wage. Ginsunod pud nato ang policy sa wage simplification nga mao gihangyo sa labor sector. Kini ana sa sulod sa proseso sa pagtaas sa minimum wage ug 11 na ka wage orders ang gipagawas sa mga Regional Wage and Productivity Board. But on top of the wage boards, I also believe and I respect that Congress still has the right and the duty to look at what the appropriate minimum wage should be at a given point in time.

Ako gyud sa karon nga adlaw gusto ko gyud ipaabot ang akong dako nga pagpasalamat kaninyong tanan sa inyong mga laing-laing mga nahimo sa atong industrial peace ug naa kita mga programa nga mahatag sa atong mga workers. Una sa tanan, alang sa informal sector. Sa ako nahimo presidente nakita kong kondisyon sa atong mga informal workers, busa ang gobyerno nahimo ug Social Protection Program for Workers in the Informal Sector. Agi sa kining social protection program ang mga informal sector sa kabilugang Pilipinas mu-cover na sa SSS. Kining program mu-implement sa Cebu agi sa Development Bank of the Philippines, sa DOLE ug sa SSS.

Ikaduha, sa atong mga programa is the creation of the State Insurance Fund with an allocation of 27 million pesos for use as loans to displaced workers. And so far, sa atong pilot 2,000 workers na ang naka-avail sa kining programa. Busa kong kamo mawala ug trabaho kon unsa man ang rason makaadto kamo sa State Insurance Fund. Mangita ug tabang hangtod sa makapangita kamo gihapon sa bag-o nga trabaho.

Kasunod, to implement my directive in last year's Labor Day, DOLE and the President's Social Fund set aside 22 million pesos for a demonstration of our poverty-free zone projects in every region. Alang sa atong OFWs tungod kay daghan ang atong OFWs sa Bisayas, we have reduced the processing time of papers for OFWs at OWWA and POEA which have also installed 24-hour hotlines for them. And for our OFWs nga ingon ko gyud sa akong State of the Nation Address mudayon pa ang ilang kontribusyon sa ekonomiya ug seguridad sa atong nasud. Ugma ang DOLE ug SSS mupirma ug Memorandum of Understanding na mu-establish usa ka National Provident Fund or SSS Flexi Fund for OFWs. Kining Flexi Fund usa ka Special Savings Project for OFWs and can be borrowed for investment or personal purposes. Gusto nato na makusog ang tingog sa atong OFWs sa gobyerno, busa sa Kongreso apil sa akong mga priority legislation sa akong State of the Nation Address nga mu-representar sa atong OFWs sa atong nasud agi sa ilang voting rights sa laing nasud alang Pilipinas. Ug anyay karon si Congressman Del Mar ug si Congressman Cuenco ug maka-istorya sila na duol na mupasa sa House of Representatives kining balaud.

Training and re-training of workers importante man na, labi na karon na daghan na ang mga bag-o nga teknolohiya. Naa kita re-training for workers tungod kay paspas kaayo ang pagkambyo sa teknolohiya. For the Visayas, 250 workers every year will be trained in high-tech fields such as fiber optic cable technology, computer-aided design and network administration, apil ni ini sa tesda training program. Dunay trainees na maka-avail sa offer gikan sa private education student financial assistance ug diri sa Bisayas naka-avail na... Naa na ang 3,364 scholarships alang sa atong mga workers.

Karon ang union sa tucp importante nga union sa atong mga port workers. Ug gusto ko ipaabot ang usa nga mensahe sa atong mga port workers. Bisan na ang modernisasyon sa atong mga pantalan ang importante ay makatabang ang Philippine Ports Authority, DOTC, DOLE o private sector nga makataas ang capability sa ating port workers aron dayon pa ang ilang employment. And we will establish the workers fund. This will be funded with 100 million pesos. It will be used for loans to finance micro-entrepreneurial activities of workers organizations apil na diri ang TUCP.

Unya nga hapon, muhatag ako ug formal directive didto sa Manila. Daghan sa mga workers nahimo na entrepreneurs. Ubang gobyerno mu-promote sa entrepreneurship, busa sa kining atong pagbisita karon naa kita tabang totalling 180, 000 pesos for cooperatives nga gusto nga makasulod sa income-generating projects, ug sa mga laing mga lugar sa Bisayas karon, sa Eastern and Western Visayas, dunay laing pang kooperatiba nga naa tabang karong adlaw. Kini ang mga laing-laing nga gusto ug gobyerno nga ihatag kaninyo ang Great Filipino Worker nga kamo ang backbone sa atong economy. Ang along hangyo kaninyo padayon ang inyong pagtrabaho ug... Mahimo unta na kusog ang atong pinag-usa. Importante ang pagtinabangay, importante ang dili kita magpolitika kaayo, and so instead of arguing, let us find ways of helping one another, helping our workers in the workplace and in our businesses.

Diri sa sugbu, usa ka modelo sa kauswagan, usa ka modelo sa industriya, usa ka modelo sa turismo, usa ka modelo sa workers rights. Busa, sa kining adlaw, sa 100th Anniversary sa Labor Movement, ang akong pag-abi-abi ug dako nga respeto sa labor movement diri sa Sugbu.

Daghan salamat ug Congratulations sa inyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Centennial Celebration of the Labor Movement in Cebu City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225840/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8316&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Labor Day Celebration

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Labor Day Celebration**

[Delivered at the Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City, May 1, 2002]

Dahil ito ang Centennial ng Kilusang Manggagawa ng ating bansa, binigyan nating kanina ng parangal ang mga namuno at naghirap para sa kilusan noong ito ay nagsimula. Doon sa mga nagsimula noon pang-100 years ago, siyempre wala na sila. One hundred years ago iyon, kaya mga apo nila ang narito. Yung mga lider naman ng henerasyong ito, ay binigyan din natin sila ng pagkikilala, yung ating mga beteranong buhay pa dito sa ating Labor Movement. Binibigyan din natin ng parangal, kahit nawala na ngayon yung ating mga kasalukuyang lider, pero nawala na, ilan sa kanila ay dahil nagmartir sa kasalukuyang henerasyon.

Si Popoy Lagman, hindi natin siya binigyan ng posthumus award, pero iba ang gusto kong ibigay na parangal sa kanya. Para itong parangal ay lalong maging makabuluhan inuutos ko ngayon si Sec. Joey Lina at ang ating mga pulis na maglunsad ng intensified manhunt kay Roger dela Torre, alias Ka Rowel, na siyang umanong pumaslang kay Popoy Lagman. Merong eye witness, at nasampa na ang kaso kontra kay Ka Rowell sa pagpaslang kay Filemon Lagman. Sa wakas, sana, ay dumating na ang katarungan. Kahit na hindi pareho ang ating paniniwala, karapatan ng mabuhay ang lahat ng tao. Kaya kahit hindi pareho ang ating paniniwala, pag nalabag ang karapatang pantao kahit na ibang paniniwala karapatan din nilang magkaroon ng katarungan mula sa atin.

Kanina sa Cebu sa pagdiriwang ng Labor centennial doon sabi nang mga streamer “Isang daan, Isang daan” tamang-tama sa isang daang taon na kilusan ng manggagawa sana magsamasama tayo sa isang daan lamang, ang lansangan tungo sa pagsugpo sa kahirapan ng ating bansa. At ako ay nasisiyahan na matanggap iyang tripartite declaration kanina na binigay sa akin ni Tito Carlos, Pat Sto. Tomas at Atty. Mendoza at iyan ang magiging laman ng ating pag-uusap nitong hapon na ito. Dahil iyong pinirmahan nila bilang kinatawan ng manggagawa, namumuhunan at pamahalaan ay isang pangako na tayong lahat na narito ay magtratrabaho magkasasama upang ipaiiral ang trabahong disente, at ano ba ang trabahong disente, ayon sa ginuhit na mga patakaran ng International Labor Organization. Dapat ang Pilipinas ay sumunod sa mga patakaran ng International Labor Organization kungdi mananagot ang ating Secretary of Labor si Pat Sto. Tomas sa pangulo ng International Labor Organization walang iba na rin kung hindi Pat Sto. Tomas, ang pangulo ng ILO. Kaya maiintindihan natin kung bakit isinulong ni Pat Sto. Tomas itong ILO NA tripartite declaration. Itong dokumento na ibinigay sa akin kanina ay iginuguhit ang gusto nating makamit sa maikling panahon, itto ang sinasabi nating laman ng ating employment strategy. This strategy includes five principles. Una, the creation of employment dahil ang sabi ni Atty. Mendoza ang pinakaimportante sa lahat to create jobs. Pangalawa, the promotion of labor standards. Pangatlo, social protection, pang-apat social dialogue, panglima tripartism. The challenge for all of us is to make this declaration work.

Tungkol sa unang bahagi ng employment strategy ang creation of employment. Magpasalamat tayo sa Panginoon na sa nakaraang taon, nakapaglikha ang ating ekonomiya ng mahigit sa isang milyon at kalahating trabaho sa kabila ng maraming kaguluhan sa ating mundo. Kaya, bumaba ang ating unemployment rate mula sa 11.3% noong ako’y unang naupo hanggang sa 10.3% ngayon pagkatapos ng isang taong panunungkulan ko. Ngunit malaki pa rin ang 10.3% dahil ang sabi ni Ka Quinto(?) ibig sabihin ng 10.3% ay milyon-milyon pa rin. Kaya tayo ay dapat magkaisa para lumikha ng mass marami pang trabaho. And we must have job creation through investments and also through employment facilitation. Para magawa itong employment facilitation, goal will expand the computerized linking of the labor market information networks to include more employers and workers organizations, as well as government units.

Tungkol naman sa pangalawang patakaran, ng ating kasunduan sa stratehiya, ang promotions of labor standards. Nagkaroon NA tayo ng bagong rules sa sub-contracting upang magbigay ng higit NA seguridad sa trabaho at bilang

tugon sa isyu ng contractualization. Kaya gusto kong klaruhin muli sa lahat, labag sa batas ilapat ang labor-only sub-contracting.

Tuluyan din natin ipinapatupad ang patakaran ng wage simplification gaya ng pinaglaban ninyo sa proseso sa pagtaas ng minimum wage, labinisang wage order ang itinakda sa inyo ng ating Regional Wage and Productivity Boards sa nakaraang taon noong mula ng ako'y naging pangulo na nilagdaan ninyong petisyon na itaas ang sahod. Noong isang taon, na ako'y nagdiskurso sa aking SONA, sinabi ko na umaasa akong magpasya ang Kongreso o Wage Board ng nararapat na suweldo. Ganoon pa rin ang aking paniniwala hanggang ngayon. Ang aking ama si Diosdado Macapagal noong siya ay kongresista, siya ang nagtakda ng unang minimum wage law sa kasaysayan. Noon siya'y naging pangulo, pinirmahan din niya ang pangalawang minimum wage law sa ating kasaysayan. Kaya ako rin naniniwala na ang kongreso ay may kapangyarihan at dunong na hanapin kung ano ang nararapat na minimum wage sa ating lipunan. And I adhere to the principles in the labor position paper that was given to me earlier. I affirm the principle and the democratic nature of the right to self organization. Kaya kayo ay binibigyan namin ng galang ang mga unyon itong araw na ito.

Pangatlong elemento ng ating INO based Employment strategies ay Social Protection. Ito rin ay laman ng kasunduan at ang deklarasyon na ibinigay sa akin kanina. Naghandog ang pamahalaan ng P27 M sa state insurance fund para mapautang ang mga displaced workers. Humigit kumulang sa 2,000 manggagawa na ang nabiayaan sa pautang na ito. Merong pang hiwalay na socio-economic assistance amounting to another P27 M to about 5,000 sugar workers and their families. At kanina si Zoila Dela Cruz may P12 million na cheque na tinanggap sa mga nahihirapang manggagawa sa sugar sector. Nakapaglaan din ang DOLE at ang aking Social Fund ng P22 M para magkaroon ng demonstration na tinatawag na Poverty Free Zone Project sa bawat rehiyon at matulungan ang maliliit na komunidad na maging maunlad at magkaroon ng sariling kakayahan. Hinihingi ko rin ang tulong ng Philippine Ports Authority o PPA ng DOTC at ng DOLE na tugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mga port workers natin.

Noong ako ay maupo bilang Pangulo kinilala ko ang kalagayan ng informal sector. Kaya't ang pamahalaan ay naglunsad din ng Social Protection Program for Workers in the Informal Sector noong makalawa. Ang programang ito ay naglalayong isama ang mga manggagawa nasa informal sector na saklaw ng Social Security System.

At patuloy nating kinikilala ang malaking contribution ng overseas Filipino workers sa ating ekonomiya. Kaya ang DOH, DSWD, at DOLE ay magpapadala ng mga duktor at social workers sa iba't-ibang overseas post mula itong Hunyo. At meron tayong P25 M na ibibigay para dito para alagaan ang kapakanan ng ating mga OFW lalu na sa pagbigay ng medical and counselling services doon sa mga bansa kung saan sila nagtatrabaho.

Yun namang social dialogue, pang-apat na bahagi sa ating employment strategy. Ibig sabihin nito ay hindi dapat adversarial ang relation ng mga manggagawa at mamumuhunan. Sa aking State-of-the- Nation address sinabi ko "to reduce excessive friction in labor and management relations, we will go the extra mile to work for industrial peace" siguro pinakinggan tayo ng ating mga labor and employment sector sapagkat naging lalong mahinahon ang kanilang relasyon nitong nakaraang taon. Sa nakaraang taon, 43 ang welga kumpara sa 60 noong year 2000, kaya mas lumawak ang industrial peace. Kasama naman sa panlimang bahagi ng ating employment strategy and tripartism which means we must continuously facilitate a regulatory functions in government. For instance, all proceedings arising from the disposition of labor cases and processing of documents are administrative rather than judicial proceedings that is why as part of the centennial observance of the Philippine labor movement Secretary Sto. Tomas will consult with all sectors concerned to conduct a comprehensive review of the structure and procedures of all the agencies administering labor justice are undertaking registration functions. Sa madaling salita, iyong red tape sa DOLE ay liliitin, hahatiin sa ang numero ng signatures na required para sa iba't-ibang serbisyo ng DOLE, POEA, OWWA, National Labor Relations Commission para sa inyo manggagawa. Related to this, Secretary Sto. Tomas will study the adoption of joint inspection teams composed of representatives from labor and management to assist labor inspectors in doing their jobs to make sure the firms are following the law. And as a service to our heroic OFWs, the E-link system for OFW's, a system to simplify and fast track the documentation process for overseas workers will also be implemented.

At sa aking State of the Nation Address noong isang taon, hinihingi ko rin sa Kongreso na bigyang daan ang matagal nang pinapangarap ng ating OFW, and karapatang bumoto. Ang ating administrasyon ay lubos na nagpapanukala ng

batas na absentee voting upang mabigyan ang ating mga OFWs ng boses sa halalan. Sinusuportahan ko rin ang panukalang batas na naglalayong magbigay ng dual citizenship sa ating overseas Filipinos.

Mauumpisahan na rin ang ating inanunsiyong National Provident Fund or SSS Flexifund para sa ating OFWs. This will take the form of a Social Security scheme that will encourage savings and investments as well as entitle them to benefits such as multi-purpose loans and insurance coverage. And if they hold this up to retirement age the provident fund can finance the member's old age needs in the form of monthly pensions or lump sum payments.

Para sa ating manggagawa namang narito sa Pilipinas, alam ko na importante ang presyo ng mga batayang bilihin na maging kaya ng mga manggagawa. Kaya dadagdagan pa ng NFA ang mga rolling stores na umiikot sa iba't-ibang lugar upang mapalapit sa inyo ang mga murang bilihin kagaya ng bigas na P14 at kalahating presyo ng gamot. Ngayon pa lang nga mahigit na 1,000 na ang lumilibot na NFA stores, dadagdagan pa rin natin para maglingkod sa manggagawang Pilipino. Ikinagagalak ko rin iyong pagkukusang bukluran ng manggagawang Pilipino, Employees Confederation of the Philippines at Metro Manila Development Authority na nagpirmahan itong araw na ito ng Memorandum of Agreement para sa pagtatayo ng mga tindahan ng pangunahing pangangailangan sa murang halaga at pagtatalaga ng MMDA rolling stores sa medium size enterprises kung saan makakabili ang mga manggagawa ng murang kailangan nila. At the same time the essential drugs and medicines, specifically frequently used by the poor are now available to you at 50% of last year's price at government hospitals and at NFA rolling stores. Ngayon, 73 hospitals ang mayroon noon. Sa Setyembre, aabot na ang half-priced medicines sa 600 hospitals, na sakop ng pamahalaang lokal at 800 na botika sa barangay sa buong bansa alang-alang sa manggagawang maralitang Pilipino.

Umaabot na rin sa higit tatlong million ang napasailalim ng Indigent Program ng ating National Health Insurance which will pay for the hospital bills of poor beneficiaries. And for the housing of workers, I am tasking HUDCC to make available to the homeless workers the foreclosed properties of government financial institutions like Pag-IBIG, NHA, NHFMC, SSS and other agencies on a rent to own basis. So, ito ay huhulugan ninyo ng 25 years. And for this year, I want 20,000 units to be made available to our workers. This is where P10 billion for workers housing.

We must also provide assistance to displaced workers. The DOLE will aggressively implement the Quick Response Team Operation Balik Trabaho to provide an immediate and integrated package of assistance to displaced workers including their dependents, including the delivery of employment services such as profiling, job matching, referrals, guidance, skills retraining, livelihood and entrepreneurship development. And it will also give assistance to workers in obtaining their separation benefits and in making informed choices on reemployment options that should be pursued. Because I have learned that workers have difficulty in getting their separation benefits.

We must also set up our safety nets for sectors affected by globalization. I will just leave to the new Presidential Adviser of Safety Nets, incoming Secretary Boy Herrera.

I spoke about the price of medicine, hospitalization, transportation, basic goods...

Yun namang kuryente. Let's talk about electricity, I have instructed Secretary Vince Perez to study the Purchase Power Adjustment or PPA. And I am also urging, because I cannot tell them what to do, independent sila, I am urging the Energy Regulatory Commission, to carefully examine and expedite the review of the month PPA filings and to listen closely to the voice of the people.

Panahon na para maaudit ang mga PPA na pina-file ng mga electric companies. Sa ibabaw nito, there is a proposal by the DoE that PPA charges can also be in addition to the audit and the review significantly reproduced through financial reengineering.

The proposal, if implemented can bring the cost of NAPOCOR power by as much as 85 centavos per kw hour. Pero para dito, kailangan natin ng legislation. Kaya, sabi ko kay Vince, work with Congressmen and Senators, let's pass a bill that would give power to bring down the PPA through re-financing and I hope that in the near future, can be included in our priority legislation in Congress.

Mahigit na isang taon nang ako ay Pangulo at ako ay nagpapasalamat sa malaking pagsuporta ng lehitimo at responsableng labor movement sa ating administrasyon. Nakatutuwang isipin na napakaangkop ng ating pagdiriwang ng 100 taon ng labor movement. Nararapat na pag-alabin natin muli ang apoy na sinindiha ng ating mga unang lider na manggagawa. Itulak muli natin, sa progresibong pag-iisip at aksyon ang ating mga pagawaan upang masimulan natin ang isa pang makahulugang kabanata sa kasaysayan ng ating bayan. Iisa lang ang superstar ng ating bansa at iyan ay ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Maraming Salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Labor Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225857/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8317&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day Celebration and Awarding Ceremonies

**Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day Celebration and Awarding Ceremonies

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, May 3, 2002]

Thank you very much Dr. Garcia.

And first, I would like to greet and congratulate once again former President Fidel V. Ramos, who is here not only because he's former President of the Philippines but because he belongs to the family of awardees of UNESCO. We remember him and we congratulate him once again for receiving the 1997 UNESCO Peace Award. Congratulations again, Mr. President.

Director General Matsuura; Madame de Cano; Mr. Nyarota, our Awardee for this year; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Mrs. Soliven and Mrs. Elizalde; the journalists and delegates of UNESCO World Press Freedom Day International Conference on Terrorism and Media; the Commissioners and Officers of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines; distinguished guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to be with your distinguished group.

I welcome the fact that we are here together celebrating World Press Freedom Day in the Philippines. The Philippines is honored to have been chosen by the UNESCO as the host of this year's celebration. And as both Mr. Matsuura and Mr. Nyarota said, our country has earned the reputation of being one of the 'not-so-many' havens of press freedom in the world today. And with all humility, I nevertheless claim in behalf of our country that this is a well-deserved reputation for press freedom in the Philippines.

Today we celebrate good journalism, which means we celebrate the responsible exercise of press freedom. We celebrate principled disagreement, enlightened debate, productive controversy. We celebrate the light that shines through events and mirrors them in the firmament of truth.

In the Philippines today there is avowedly a growing interest in the media about playing up the good news. And this seems to go against the report that the tradition of reporting the seedy part of the day. In the Philippines, we are known not only as a free press but having a licentious press. But in the Philippines, speaking for the government, we would rather have a licentious press than a bridled press. That is our press policy. Nonetheless, I am glad to know that there are reformists within the press, and I hope that this celebration of world press freedom day will inspire the reformists to demonstrate that press freedom can also mean the freedom to report good news.

And as a public servant and therefore the subject of press reports, I really appreciate the good news. Good news about personal heroism — such as the heroes that we in fact honor today — values, human worth and community triumphs. Sometimes we tend to gloss over these things, even if they are the real stuff of nationhood.

I see no reason why press freedom, for instance, should not mean that a good provincial story makes page one, or a good metro report lands on premium space. I believe that press freedom means that the press is free enough to give credit to a small-town mayor who helped the military and the police recover a terrorist hostage or a hometown entrepreneur who develops a 15,000-peso core shelter for calamity victims. Press freedom should mean also giving credit to the people because the people deserve a break.

But by all means, press freedom should mean letting the media take down the spotty woodwork. God knows there are many under performing public servants and there are many lousy programs. But press freedom should mean letting the battle focus on issues, on policy, on principles. Our societies need relief from personal attacks so that the issues will surface in clear light.

Press freedom means getting to the heart of a controversial policy. Press freedom means doing it with fervor and a genuine penchant for chronology and detail. Indeed, done this way as our awardees have demonstrated, press freedom is one of the grindstones of policy.

In the world press, Mindanao has become a media focus of the global war against terrorism, especially now with the participation of American forces in training exercises. I believe this attention is as it should be because we must defeat terrorism not only with force but with enlightenment.

But there is a deeper reason why the press must be deeply involved in the fight against terror. It is accepted that terrorism is aimed at an audience beyond its immediate victims. Terrorism operates in the broad arena of public awareness and discourse molding a psychological landscape of its own. Terrorism breeds fear, doubt in the efficacy of institutions, suspicion, hatred of authority, and most of all, irrational bases of conflict.

We took this into account early in the day in the Philippine battle against terrorism. In September last year, I laid down a 14-point counter-terrorism program, and this is what I said about the press:

I said then, "The mass media assumes a paramount role in the overall strategy to defeat terrorism. I seek the media's support in the implementation of our policies and programs, in enlightening the public of the rationale behind our actions, in promoting consensus and constructive criticism, in depriving terrorists of the benefits of glorified coverage and publicity, and most of all, in maintaining calm, sobriety, prudence and solidarity in our society. We must bring the media into the loop of collective action and information."

Let me cite a few areas where common action between the government and the press is indicated:

First, informing the public of the full dimensions of the terrorist threat, especially the relationship between physical and psychological action, and the transnational nature of terrorism. The public must appreciate the common interest involved in such alliances as Balikatan, and our Trilateral Agreement with Indonesia and Malaysia to check the movement of terrorists along our common sea borders.

Second, mustering the cooperation of the public with the executive, legislative and judicial authorities in meeting terrorist threats through operational programs, criminal justice programs and legislative measures. For instance, now, we have a pending Anti-Terrorism Bill in Congress I consider urgent.

Third, strengthening local institutions and civil society to bolster the vigilance of ordinary citizens in the streets and in the countryside, which makes the big difference in the war against terror.

Fourth, enlightening the public of the constitutional issues involved because the war against terrorism requires strong measures such as the power of the commander-in-chief to call upon the armed forces to quell violence. The nature and breadth of these measures must be clear in the public mind, so that we can allay the perception that constitutional guarantees such as the bill of rights are being eroded or set aside in favor of martial imperatives.

Fifth, supporting broader interfaith dialogues to promote Christian and Muslim solidarity. Terrorists wish to instigate a religious war. We must instead take every opportunity to forge religious understanding, ecumenism and solidarity.

Sixth, improving support for and confidence in the law enforcement agencies. We need strict vigilance against movements of suspected persons, firearms, explosives, raw materials, toxic materials, biological materials. We have already put a money laundering law in place to check questionable and dirty money transfers.

Seventh, coordinating public preparations and actions in the event of catastrophic terrorist attack however remote this may be.

Eighth, enhancing public vigilance in securing critical infrastructure including power plants, power transmission and distribution facilities, oil and gas depots, key public works structures, vital communications installations, public buildings as well as private buildings, and facilities in the nerve centers of commerce and industry.

Ninth, pushing forward the anti-poverty campaign, with focus upon the perceived roots of fanaticism and irrational violence.

I consistently mention poverty side by side with terrorism because there is a need to put terrorism in a wider perspective. Poverty is a form of lingering terrorism — one that slowly kills on a daily basis; one that condemns its victims to a lifetime of pain and misery.

This is not to say that poverty is the cause of terrorism. Osama bin Laden is not a poor man. It is not poverty that causes terrorism. But poverty and the sense of powerlessness it brings provide the fertile ground where terrorism can more easily spread its evil ideology. So, if we must defeat terrorism, we must defeat poverty with equal resolve and fervor.

The Philippines did not need to join the war on terrorism; it was in that war already, in the southwestern part of our islands. The Philippines could not have done otherwise than renew its commitment to fight terrorism in a wider field in the wake of September 11.

This is a fight between tolerance and bigotry, between reason and fanaticism, between law and anarchy, between justice and murder pretending to be just.

The fact that the Abu Sayyaf bandits, who once freely roamed the entire Southwestern Philippines, have ended up with their last stand in Basilan — the province with the lowest human development index in our country — reminds us of how closely national security and economic prosperity are intertwined.

In this context, I welcome the call made by President George Bush for a new compact for development defined by greater accountability for rich and poor nations alike. This call echoes an initiative I proposed to form a global coalition against poverty, just as we have formed a coalition against terrorism.

The developed nations must recognize their duty to open markets, transfer resources and reform international institutions. These will all help to win the war against poverty.

I hope that we could soon remove the scourge of terrorism. But, more than that, I hope that we could soon have tangible results in our war against poverty, and that media would find our continuing struggle worth covering.

Thank you for inviting me to celebrate press freedom day with you. I would like to welcome all the journalists who took part in the international conference on terrorism and media. I understand that you had a successful conference and that the agreements are very good. You have agreed that journalists have the right to report on terrorism and that journalists have the right to be protected against terrorism. I hope indeed, that those who participated — whether they are in media, in the government, in civil society — will work together and also work in their own fields to carry out and ensure that these resolutions can be implemented.

I would also like to congratulate the recipient of this year's UNESCO/ Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom — Mr. Geoffrey Nyarota, Editor-in-Chief of Zimbabwe's Daily News. He told us of his story and as he was telling us about how in his journalism, he has been the subject of so much terrorism upon him, his institution and his colleagues. I suppose our journalists here must thank their lucky stars that we are a country with a very free press.

And I would also like to pay homage to the man after whom the award is named — Guillermo Cano, a martyr of terrorism perpetrated by the syndicates who try to spread the evil of drugs all over the world. That is political terrorism and there is also criminal terrorism. It doesn't matter who causes the terrorism, it is the act that constitutes the terrorism. And here we have, we'll remember him, when the awards are given, we must always remember him and thank him for giving up his life for the cause of journalism.

We also remember Daniel Pearl because we all saw on TV his martyrdom, not that we saw how he was martyred but we all know how he disappeared and we all know how he surfaced again because everything was covered by the free press. And we pay homage to him as we pay homage to Guillermo Cano.

On this note, I would like to thank all the journalists who are here today and all the diplomats; to thank all the representatives of the different countries who believe in press freedom, who believe in a war against terrorism. I thank you for a fervent and lasting partnership against terrorism and poverty and in favor of world press freedom.

Congratulations and thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day Celebration and Awarding Ceremonies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225830/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8314&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Opening of the First Summit of the Philippine Political Parties

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Opening of the First Summit of the Philippine Political Parties**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, May 3, 2002]

AS we come together today, of course, it is natural to remember that more than a year ago, the nation had to deal with the leadership crisis. Today, in contrast, for the first time in our history, most of the major political parties and the regional parties formally convene to find commonalities on our nation's future, our people's progress and the fate of Philippine democracy.

Because this is a meeting of political leaders, I would like to share with you something that I read about a great political leader in contemporary history – and that is my classmate, Bill Clinton. I was reading David Albersam's new book on the presidency of Clinton. This study of the Clinton presidency brought me some comfort. Because according to this study, in his first year at the White House, Bill Clinton was under attack from all sides. His political enemies made much hay; for instance, from the White Water controversies. And he had to change his stand on many things many times, because the first time he talked was different from what the public wanted. And then when he listened to the public and changed his position, he was attacked for being very weak. He even lost control of both Houses of Congress in the mid-term elections. But a year before he was due for reelection – in fact, his popularity dropped to its lowest point in his career – but he just kept working and moving forward and plodding, focusing like a laser beam on containing the budget deficit, bringing down inflation and the interest rates, even though in the beginning, the people would say that they only read about the inflation rate going down and the interest rate going down in the papers, but they didn't really feel it. And he also put together a crack economic team in his Cabinet. He worked tirelessly to restore fiscal discipline and economic reforms. In fact, once in a phone conversation, with his nemesis, Gingrich, Clinton compared himself to a rubber clown doll that bounced up each time it was hit, bouncing back more quickly the harder it was hit.

And so, in the last year of his first term, his economic policies began to bear fruit. The economy rebounded strongly, a long period of uninterrupted expansion began, and he was reelected to the presidency by a landslide. That is the story of Bill Clinton that inspires me.

But on this platform, I would like to greet other people whose stories have inspired me. We have former President Fidel Ramos whose story inspires me. Because I remember that there were also difficult moments in his presidency, but he kept on with his economic reforms.

I would like to greet the other leaders of the political parties whose parties also gave us very inspiring stories of their leaders' careers. I would like to greet former Vice President Doy Laurel of the Nacionalista Party, as Joe says, a representative of the oldest party in the Philippines. Doy Laurel's father also had his great difficulties during his time. But it was, in fact, my father, Diosdado Macapagal, who told me one thing about the late President Jose Laurel; he never lost his focus on the fundamentals. And that is where my father learned what he called fundamental thinking what we now call strategic thinking.

And, of course, I would like to greet the leaders of the Liberal Party, Butch Abad and Lito Atienza, who is our host also today as Mayor of Manila. The Liberal Party was, of course, the party that my father started with and ended with. And as President, he also had his difficult moments but I was watching on television a profile of my father.

And I'm so happy that after all the difficult moments that he suffered during his presidency, he is remembered with fondness and great respect because he stuck to his principles no matter how difficult the going was.

I would like to greet former Congressman Frisco San Juan, the President of the Nacionalist People's Coalition, and I would like, through him, to thank the NPC because truly during these past several – more than one year of my administration, the NPC has been truly instrumental in helping us pass the most important legislation that have allowed our economy to survive the world crisis that he suffered for last year.

And as we go and remember the history of the different political parties represented here in the platform and represented in the various tables that I see around us today, I go back again to the difficulties of Clinton as recounted with great detail in that book. And one of the themes of that book is that, whatever issues might have been raised against Clinton's character, no one ever accused him of indolence, of laziness. On the contrary, even his fiercest rivals credited him for persistence. In the last analysis, it was his persistence, it was his plodding that mattered. The record of the Clinton presidency has been inspiring for me. Because like Clinton, the first year of my administration was a period of severe tests. Like Clinton, I inherited a massive budgetary deficit. From day one, I committed myself to taming the fiscal monster. And everybody thought we wouldn't make it. The IMF thought we couldn't make it. Never mind the opposition or the other groups opposing us, keeping down public expenditures is never popular. The political costs are immense in the short term, the positive impact on our people's lives will only be felt farther down the road. Because the natural thing is, oh, the economy is down, spend more. That's the fourth year high school economics, not as simple as that, and that's what Clinton showed. At a time when the economy was threatening to go into recession,spend more instead to tame the deficit. Instead of pump priming was done not by the government but the private sector. Because it responded to the tame budget, it responded to the reduction in the interest rates. And that is what we are seeking to do today.

I am confident that in the area of fiscal discipline, we are right on track. Because in the case of Clinton, the positive results, the reduction of interest rates, the stabilization of whatever had to be stabilized among the macro-economic fundamentals only occurred in his third year. In our economy, the results are showing earlier than they did in Clinton's story. You saw the stock market yesterday? You saw our peso? The dollar yesterday was R50.20. Our inflation and our interest rates are at historic lows.

As I said over the last few days, the peso has gained significantly against the dollar despite low interest rates. Usually, when there is an economic problem, you need to raise interest rates to stabilize the currency. Remember what was happening in January of the year 2001, or December of year 2000? They had to raise the interest rates sky high because the dollar was running away, and conversely, if you want to reduce interest rates in difficult times, you would need to let the currency go. Many times as an economist, I've come across a debate among economists. What shall we take care of? Shall we reduce interest rates and let the currency devalue, or shall we strengthen the currency and let the interest rates go up? But today, both the peso and the interest rates are stable, and that means, economic fundamentals are strong.

This is probably one of the reasons why the international credit agencies upgraded our rating from negative to stable. We were working to get this in July this year, but we got this rating one after the other from November to January, November 2001 to January 2002. The last holdout, Standard and Poor, gave us our positive rating this year. And maybe it is not too premature to announce some possible good news about Calpers, the California pension fund of the teachers, who pulled out of the stock market in the Philippines because they felt that we were not fundamentally stable, because they said that we... and lumping us with other Asian countries. But Asian countries don't take care of workers' rights and are politically unstable. Well, after they analyzed and reevaluated the Philippine situation and restudied our labor laws, labor rules and the performance of our stock market and our economic fundamentals, the managing director is prepared to recommend to the Calpers' board that they come back to the Philippine stock market. And they haven't come back yet, but the stock market has begun to show signs of strong recovery adjudged by Bloomberg last January as the best performing market in the world. This is the first time the Philippine stock market ever enjoyed the distinction of being named the best performing stock market in the world.

How do these inflation rates and interest rates translate to the poor? Well, I have been talking to you about the price of rice. When I became president, the price of regular rice was P15.00. Today, it's still P16.00. That means the price of rice has stabilized.

I came from Cagayan Valley where we have a very big source of palay. The deputy head of the National Administration told me that the farmers wanted to give me a message. They are thanking the administration because the selling price of palay... if going up, the farmers' price is going up. The consumers' price stable. That means we have reduced the cost in-between. So therefore, good macroeconomic policy also translates into direct benefits for the poor farmer and the ordinary consumer. But I want to share these achievements with all the political parties. And I would like to, therefore, especially recognize the leaders of the various political parties from Congress and the Senate. We have here Kiko Pangilinan, our deputy speaker Ningning Espinosa, Raul Gonzales, Gery Salapuddin, and Boyet Gonzales, – because through them and all the members of Congress and the Senate, notwithstanding the pervasiveness of confrontational politics during this last year of our administration – the first year, we managed to pass the Power Sector Reform Act, the Anti-Money Laundering Act on the basis of what President Ramos calls not bipartisan cooperation, but rather multipartisan, or better still non-partisan cooperation. I hope this cooperation up to this summit will spread even to the representatives of the various parties that are outside Congress. That's why I specifically want to also give my greetings to former Senate President Manong Ernie Maceda.

Two days ago, a television station ran a poll on this political summit, and this morning, another television station ran a poll on this political summit. In both polls that I saw on T.V., the overwhelming number of respondents was of the opinion that the exercise will amount to nothing. It won't mean anything for the poor. The opinions of television respondents are understandable, because many of our people, especially among the youth, have become disillusioned with the political class... Oh, I saw Sonny Osmeña.. I'd like to greet him too. But no one can better arrest the disillusionment that those respondents feel than those of us who are here in this poll today. Thus, I look forward to the final communiqué that will be put out.

I call on everyone, above else, to reaffirm our common commitment to constitutional democracy, while democratic practice connotes constant debate on all issues affecting the public interest, this must be differentiated from constant combat that first puts the life of the constitutional order on the line at every turn.

In a living democracy, no group has the right to hold policy making hostage by threatening to overthrow the executive on every issue of policy disagreement. It is time to enrich our democratic culture by engaging in political debate driven by good faith and guided by the best intentions for our nation.

Instead of perceiving electoral competition as an act of war, let us agree to treat such competition as a cooperative process to win the future. Lately, a number of political parties have resumed advocacy of charter change. They are well within their rights to do so. Let me take this opportunity to emphasize now what I believe are prerequisites to constitutional change. Because if we do not recognize these prerequisites, as the discussion on charter change moves forward, there might be a tendency to look at alternatives removed from the realities on the ground.

For instance, the proposed move towards federalism, this should take careful account of economic viability. Federalism is not merely a political form. It will have substantive implications on the political economy of the nation. Thus, before we can go to federalism, we must address the issue of economic viability and the preparedness of component states. Otherwise, federalism could lead to the further underdevelopment of the less developed regions of the country, therefore, if federalism is to be the path, then there should be transitions to be evaluated at every milestone.

First, from this present situation where we are, the next transition should be towards economic zones, then towards autonomy and only then to statehood. And there must be success of the economic zones, success of the economy before we can be confident that statehood will be successful.

As for the other proposed shift in the form of government, before that can happen viably, there must be meaningful political reforms, such as a law on political parties. The rehabilitation of our societal organizations and mass movements and the cleaning up of our electoral processes.

These political reforms were what I was referring to when I said at EDSA on the day I became president last year that – and let me repeat what I said – we must change the character of our politics in order to create a fertile ground

for true reforms. Our politics of personality and patronage must give way to a new politics of party programs and process of dialogue with the people.

Political parties exist to catalyze opinion and influence the decisions of government. This is a challenge facing our electoral parties which must evolve mechanisms of transparency and accountability to the public. The political parties have that responsibility of keeping their constituencies properly informed of the issues, where our parties have the responsibility of raising the quality of public debate so that our people may make the best choices. It might help to study further existing proposals to subsidize the political parties. I believe that many of the mature democracies, some of which have their members of the diplomatic corps represented here today – and I greet them too, – that is the system that might help diminish reliance on dirty money and on power brokers. It will help reduce the corruption that infects our electoral process. It will assist the parties as they help to clarify public opinion of the issues and offer reasonable options for our nation's future.

As agents of the democratic order, the political parties should find cause, common cause on the need to enhance the credibility of our electoral process. After each election, losing candidates routinely claim failure of the electoral system. Instead of doing this, let us join hands to ensure the integrity of our elections by modernizing the process. It might seem odd at first glance that the political parties should take the lead in advancing change especially charter change. The process should be as non partisan as possible, effort must be invested in involving a larger universe of people's organizations, professional organizations and other civic groups. Blossoming democratic institutions are gaining in legitimacy and effectiveness. Over the decades, the democratic system has been fortified as political dynasties have steadily diminished, as the media has become more militant and socially oriented, and as the globalized realm has enlarged the political and economic options of society. It is in this milieu that I wish for the full success of the endeavors in this political summit.

Once more, I salute all of those who have joined this gathering. This summit of political parties offers a unique opportunity for us to reinvent the conduct of democratic politics so that it is guided, first and foremost, by the national interest. And so, let us, together, end the episode of turbulence and threats. Let us, together, demonstrate our common commitment to good governance and reasoned public debate. Let us provide our skeptical constituents the best from this conference so that we may shore up once again optimism in the possibility of a productive future for our people. And once again, I thank Joe for conceptualizing this summit. And I thank the various leaders or the various political parties who, whether or not they like Joe as a person, have come to join us because they believe in the idea, because after all, in the new politics, it is not the singer; it is the song that matters.

Thank you and good luck to all of you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech at the Opening of the First Summit of the Philippine Political Parties. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225823/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8312&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the First Commencement Exercises of AMA Computer University

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the First Commencement Exercises of AMA Computer University**

[Delivered at the Araneta Coliseum, Cubao, Quezon City, May 3, 2002]

Maraming salamat Dr. King Aguiluz sa inyong pagpakilala sa akin. At maraming salamat sa ating mga magulang na naggastos at naghirap para maka-graduate yung ating mga estudyante itong araw na ito. Maari na kayong maupo dahil ilang taon kayo nagpagod para yung mga anak n'yo ay mag-graduate itong araw na ito.

Ating mga graduating students — oh, nag-graduate na pala — ating mga nag-graduate, congratulations sa inyong lahat. At kay Miguel Aguiluz at lahat na iba't-ibang officials ng AMA, congratulations din dahil muli isa pang taon dito sa Metro Manila apat na libong kabataan ay nagtapos ng kanilang pag aaral. Apat na libo kayong narito kaya ang dami-dami ninyo dito. Ngunit, sabi ni Dr. King Aguiluz, na kahit kayo ay apat na libo, ang dami-dami nag-graduate ay wala raw sa inyong pumunta doon sa mendiola para mag-complain na wala kayong trabaho. Salamat naman at hindi pala kayo pala-demonstrate.

Sa dami ng nag-graduate itong araw na ito. Ito ay graduation U.P.-style tawag nila. Ako ay taga-U.P. at yung graduation sa U.P. sa dami ng nag-ga-graduate, hindi na pumupunta sa entablado para tumanggap ng diploma. Kasi hindi naman yung diploma ang tatanggapin n'yo sa Pangulo ang importante. Yung diplomang ihahandog ninyo sa inyong mga magulang kagaya ng ginawa ni Ginoong Corpuz, 'yon ang importante dahil magulang ninyo nagtrabaho, nagsikap para kayo ay magtapos. Ngayon sa ating kultura ng Pilipinas, ngayon kayo naman ang dapat magsikap, magtrabaho, maghanapbuhay para yung magulang ninyo ay magkaroon ng ginhawa, para yung mas batang mga kapatid ninyo ay makasunod sa inyong hakbang at para kayo ay puwede na ring magsimula ng inyong sariling mga pamilya at magsimula nung cycle kagaya nung ginawa ng inyong mga magulang.

Tamang-tama yung pag-iisip ng mga kabataan ng AMA.

Ngayon tapos na ang isang chapter ng inyong buhay. Susunod na chapter ay mas mahirap pa kesa doon sa nakaraan. Ngayon yung hirap ng inyong mga magulang, kayo naman ang makakadanas.

Parati kong sinasabi na ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa sa 21st century ay Information and Communication Technology. At malamang marami sa inyo, yan na nga ang inyong inaasahan, pero marami sa inyo pumasok sa AMA four years ago — hindi pa ako pangulo noon — kaya pumasok kayo iba-iba ang dahilan kung bakit pumasok kayo.

At that time, four years ago, kasi 2002 ngayon. 1998 ay hindi pa nila pinag-uusapan yung new economy. Yung new economy, yung economy of information technology ay napag-usapan na ng mga year 1998 and 1999. So, bagung-bago itong ideyang ito. So, malamang marami sa inyo — bakit kayo pumasok? — siguro nakikita na ninyo na mas may malaking chance kahit na kung ano ang gusto niyong pasukan — maging secretarial, accounting , yung kung saan nagsisimula at the bottom yung mga estudyante. Mas may chance yung marunong mag-computer kesa yung hindi. Yon ang inyong inisip. Hindi pa niyo inisip na papasok kayo talaga sa mundo ng information technology. Kanya lamang just about the time when you entered college, 1999 or so, doon naging klaro yung kinabukasan ng mundo at yung kinabukasan ng Pilipinas. Kaya tamang-tama may headstart kayo.

In fact, isa sa mga advantages ng Pilipinas sa information and communication technology ay dahil nga sa napakarami nating mga computer institutions, computer schools. So, dumarating dito ang mga computer companies pero dahil marami sa inyo ay pumasok, hind para pumasok sa computer kung hindi para pumasok sa mga ibang opisina at least may bentaha ang marunong mag-computer.

As you went through school, sa nakikita ko, nababasa ninyo na ang kinabukasan ay computer tech... ICT, nababasa niyo yung malalaking suweldo sa mga call centers at software development, marami sa inyo ay magsasabi — ay! Ako ay graduate ng computer science. Ako ay mag-a-apply sa information technology companies. Yon ang kabiguan ng marami dahil hindi pumasok para pumasok sa I.T. pero lumabas at nagdesisyong pumasok sa I.T.

Kaya kailangan maintindihan natin. Kung sinasabi natin na the growth sector of the future is information and communication technology at meron tayong human resource development, hindi lahat ng nagtapos sa computer science ay dapat sa ICT papasok. Kasi, pwede pa rin kayong pumasok sa bangko, sa opisina, sa accounting firm, sa department store, sa written establishments. Kaya lang mas may bentaha nga kayo dahil marunong kayo ng computer. Pero huwag nating isipin na dahil natapos kayo ng computer science, ang papasukan ninyo ay information technology enterprise.

Kasi kung titingnan natin yung mundo ng ICT, malaking range na yon. Ang nagpaliwanag sa akin ito ay no less than Bill Gates himself. Dahil si Bill gGates ay tumutulong sa Pilipinas na umangat ang ating information technology education. Sabi nga niya, there are so many opportunities in ICT itself. So, pinaka-simple yung call center at pinaka-complicated yung software development. That is if you are in ICT. Pero tanungin natin kung tayo ba ay nasa graduate ng computer science sigurado na tayo doon sa range na yon — call center up to software development — not necessarily for now. Kasi ngayon pa natin inuumpisa na yung ating bansa ay pinili natin na information technology ang papasukan natin. So, it is a new industry. Maraming trabahong being made available pero hindi pa kasingdami ng mga estudyanteng nag-graduate sa computer science. Yung computer science ay maraming ibang pwedeng puntahan hindi pa muna necessarily yung ICT.

So, ano ang hinahanap ng ICT companies ngayon? Kasi noon sinasabi ko, sa manufacturing you spend a hundred million to hire hundreds. In information technology, you spend five million dollars to hire thousands. Kasi labor intensive pero skills intensive ang information and communication technology. So, kung yung pinakamura, pero pinakamura pero maganda na rin ang starting salary yung call center, ano ang hinahanap ng mga call center? Hindi lang na marunong kayo ng computer science, dapat magaling din kayo sa english. So, you may pass the computer science test, you might fail in english, in speech. So nagkakaroon ngayon yung mga iba't-ibang eskuwelahan ng tinatawag nilang finishing school for call centers and that is advance english speech education.

So, itong maipapayo ko. Well, gagamitin ko itong pagkakataon dahil nasa AMA ako, the biggest and oldest computer school in Asia. Ginagamit kong pagkakataon na makipag-usap doon sa ibang mga computer schools. Para naman yung mga estudyatne ay hindi mabigo at pag-graduate nila, mabuti kung may papayo sa kanila na pumunta sa finishing school for speech. Sana maglagay na ng finishing school for speech doon mismo sa eskuwelahan. So, ewan ko kung AMA meroon na yung sa speech? I would... That is what should be done. Kung yon ang papasukan ninyo. As I said, pwede kayong pumasok sa bangko, sa retail, sa department store, sa Jolibee, okey pa rin yon. Pero kung talagang ICT ang papasukan ninyo, aside from computer science, you must speak good english.

Ngayon, punta naman tayo doon sa kabila, sa kabilang dako, yung software development. Dahil yon ang pinakamalaking suweldo nakukuha sa ICT. Eh siyempre malaki rin ang inaasahan na maibibigay n'yo. And since it's top of the line, chances are a starting student hindi muna doon. You will learn through experience. Although, doon sa Silicon Valley, maraming mga estudyante ay pumasok na sa software development kaagad-agad. Why? Because of creativity. You know, yung mga katangi-tanging estudyante na very creative na kung minsan mas magaling pa kaysa mga teacher nila. Yon ang tinawag na blue jeans millionnaires sa Silicon Valley. Yan ang isa. Well, we remember the love bug, di ba? Yon ang pinakamagandang example, sad to say, of student with creativity na he can go straight into software development sa eskuwelahan pa lang. So, pero dapat malaman din natin that the one who was able to discover the cure for the virus, taga-AMA rin ba? Taga-Pilipinas din. So it also had the same creativity. So, there are students who are creative enough even in school at pag-graduate nila ay puwedeng pumasok kaagad sa software development. Pero siguro naman sa 2,500 ilan kaya yuon ganun?

Now, doon sa middle, between the call center where you need to have good english, and the software development where you need to be so creative, or you need to have more experience in the industry to gain the creativity, yung nasa gitna, yung mga programmer. Ngayon, maraming requirements for programmers. Kanya lamang, just because you finish your computer science does not mean that you are a certified programmer. You must be certified in specific languages, in specific systems, certified for Microsoft, certified for Suns, certified for Java, kaya yan din ay isang inaasahan natin na yung mga computer schools ay magtatayo ng certified programs for programmers. Kaya yon ang isang inaasahan ko.

Kaya yan ang masasabi ko sa ating mga computer schools. Para mas masigurado na yung mga estudyante niyong magga-graduate ay may trabaho, they must be more competitive than others who will compete for the same jobs in this new sunrise industry. Magdagdag ng english speech courses at ipadami yung certified programs for programmers, and develop the creativity among your students. Yan ang isang paraan kung papano tayo makakasigurado na pag-graduate ng isang estudyante ay lumaki ang kanyang chance na pumasok doon mismo sa mundo ng information and communication technology.

In the meantime, gaya sabi ko, there are others — there are banks, there are stores, there are offices. But if we want to go where the money is we have to be prepared extra for these things.

At dahil ang Pilipinas, sabi nila second biggest computer school population in the whole world. Well, kapag ganoon we have to avoid the temptation of the school's becoming diploma mills. Kaya dapat sigurado na yung mga estudyante pasado sa certification. Kaya inatasan na yung CHED, the chairman of CHED, si Ester Garcia na dapat tignan lahat itong mga computer schools para hindi sila diploma mills.

Nangyari na rin ito noon, eh. Doon sa mga seamen, yung mga marine schools. Ano'ng tawag doon? Yung schools for... Yung mga marine technology schools? Yung mga... Dahil maraming demand para sa ating mga seamen, maraming nagtayo ng schools for seamen. Marami doon ay naging diploma mill. Sumama tuloy ang reputasyon ng ating mga seamen for a while. Kaya nagkaroon ng massive reform at maraming mga seamen's institutions na sinarado o binigyan ng deadline na kung hindi nila gagawin yung mga specific na reforms para ma-upgrade ay kailangan magsasarado sila. Salamat naganap yon on time at no'ng gumawa ng white list yung International Maritime Organization, kasama pa rin ang Pilipinas doon sa white list. In other words, kung nag-graduate ka sa isang Philippine Marine School, ikaw pa rin ay makakapasok bilang seaman.

Ngayon, dumadami ang computer schools, nagkakaroon ng diploma mills. We will have to go to the same cleansing process. Tinanong no'ng mga information technology kay Ester Garcia, yung chairman ng CHED, naka-cancel ka na ba ng mga eskuwelahan? Sabi niya, hindi pa naman ako naka-cancel ng eskuwelahan, but I have cancelled specific programs in different schools. Kaya iyan ang importante.

At kayo, mga estudyante, tapos na nakaraos na kayo. As I've said, you have your choice, pero kung gusto niyo na pumasok sa ICT, ang remedyo doon is you take some additional units. Kung gusto niyong pumasok sa call center na napaka-glamorous yung trabahong yon, then you take up english courses. May mga finishing school diyan. Alam ko, doon sa Clark dahil ang dami-daming call centers sa Clark. Meron silang Clark — I don't know what they call it — pero they call it finishing school kasi they know how to speak english. Pero meron silang Call Center Academy. At ang pinakamalaking dinadagdag doon over the computer science is to speak english properly.

Yon namang gustong pumasok sa talagang maging programmer, well, AMA itself offers certified programs. Kaya kung kayo, kung nag-graduate kayo ng computer science at gusto pa ninyong pumasok sa ICT, then maybe you can re-enroll in AMA itself and take up a certification course, a program. Yon ang paraan kung papano mahahanap ninyo yung mga trabaho sa information technology. Siyempre, ang certification program ay mas mahal kaysa sa ordinary computer science. Pero naman, ano ang deperensiya ng suweldong makukuha ninyo o kaya yung chance na makakakuha kayo ng trabaho? Naalaala ko noong bago pa yung Asian Institute of Management, ang mahal-mahal ng matrikula. Kanya lamang dahil sa reputation ng diploma ng Asian Institute of Management, pag nag-graduate yung mga business manager masters doon, yung first month na suweldo nila nasulit na ang isang semester ng kanilang mahal na matrikula.

Kaya't itong mga choices, siguro yung magulang ninyo, kung mag-decide kayo na talagang ICT ang papasukan ninyo, magdudusa pa ng konti dahil ibabalik kayo sa eskuwela at mas mahal ang matrikula ng certification program. Pero doon sa pagdagdag na mga panahon ay paglabas naman niyo siguro ay baka naman aabot tayo na yung unang suweldo ninyo ay makakasulit na sa isang semester na binayaran sa certification program.

Kaya ito ang gusto kong ipayo sa ating mga kabataan. Kasi ang mundo, ang mundo ng tunay na mundo ay talagang mas mabigat kaysa mundo ng eskuwelahan. Naalaala ko noong ako ay bata pang graduate, ako ay naging teacher kaagad. At nagtanong sa akin, bakit ka naman pumasok sa teacher? Because I want to stay in the school. Kasi the school is such a caring, caring institution, not like the world outside, it is so harsh. Kanya lamang, sa gusto natin o hindi, we have to go out into that harsh dog eat, dog world. But we must be prepared, and I am very grateful to ama dahil ang sabi ni king sa akin ngayon — our students are very well-prepared.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, mga graduating students o graduates ng AMA, congratulations to all of you at maraming salamat sa inyong mga magulang.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the First Commencement Exercises of AMA Computer University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225811/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8310&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Trade Investment Progress and Tourism

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Trade Investment Progress and Tourism**

[Delivered at the Expo Pilipino, Clark, Pampanga, May 4, 2002]

Thank you very much Rene, and thank you for organizing this great opportunity for me to practice being a lecturer again later on.

Keng keka tang a host ngening aldo Governor Lito Lapid, thank you very much, dactal a salamat keng maka-host keni ngening aldo.

And I would like to also welcome together with Lito the other governors who are here today we have Governor Vic Ortega from La Union; Governor Valera from Abra; and welcome to North Philippines Governor Ramoncito Ong from Aurora.

Our host mayor. Our host mayors because Clark straddles Angeles City and mMabalacat so we have Mayor Carmelo Lazatin and Mayor Boking Morales of Mabalacat.

Nandito ba si Oca Rodriguez? Ayun. Okay. Oca you should be here. Congressman Oca Rodriguez from, siguro dahil tiga-San Fernando at hindi tiga-Mabalacat pero thank you for being ... After all this is part of North Philippines and Oca, later on, is going to benefit from two very, very big inaugurations.

And then, we have members of the Cabinet who are here today Leony Montemayor of Agriculture; Dinky Soliman of Social welfare; and Dante Canlas of NEDA; and Letty Shahani of Cultural Affairs.

I would like to thank Dr. Angeles also for hosting this affair so that the people of the Philippines will know that this very center where we are is going to become again a bustling center for cultural, historical, touristic activities.

I would like to welcome her Excellency Ambassador from India, Ambassador Nabrakashama. She is here because she is accompanying or she is the guest of the Indian Chamber who is also looking at investment opportunities here. And I welcome the other chambers who are also present here today.

I would like to thank the businessmen who gave their testimonial. First of all, Mr. James go from JG Summit, thank you for returning your money to the Philippines and Kris Monsod, representing Oscar Lopez, thank you for building the road but we need to make mega Manila a reality among other investments. And Cesar Quiambao, the local boy from Bayambang, Pangasinan who made good; and now as I was telling them is giving such a big part of his income back to Bayambang that what he has given to Bayambang I think is bigger than the IRA that Bayambang has received from the national government.

I thank Mr. George Chua Cham, Chairman of the North Philippine Business Council, for your kind words.

And we have here the big names of trade and commerce and industry which I shall not mention because I always mention them all the time in Metro Manila, anyway.

And so, if I may, I had the podium taken out, I had a white board put here because Ronnie Concepcion says, I don't inspire anyway with my speeches so I will just be myself and share with you what is our vision for North Luzon so that you can decide as businessmen where you belong. And we can, therefore, move forward from here.

They have a plan in Central Luzon called w corridor. But actually the North Luzon, is one big w. And if I may go to that, this is what I love to do, being a teacher.

That's w. Here, this side of the w is tourism. This is the China sea; over here, we have Pagudpud. My husband is going to sleep in Pagudpud tonight because like what we do, we personally give the example of going to the tourist spots. Pagudpud's sand is about as good as the sand of Boracay. And so this is a great area for tourism.

And we have half an hour away from Pagudpud, the Laoag International Airport and several tourism facilities around the Laoag International Airport.

In a study that we had on tourism done by the famed, perhaps the number one consultant in the world today — McKinsey and Associates — headed, incidentally by a Filipino, Jim Ayala, we asked them to do a national strategy for tourism.

One, the principle of tourism we are following is the principle of hubs and spokes. The hub is where it's natural for tourists to go and the spokes is where you bring them out for their extension tours. A hub has to have an international airport that's how the tourists come. And so Laoag is a hub for tourism.

And we are, especially, promoting tourists from China because there are 400 million Chinese who can afford to travel and are curious about the world around them. And this Laoag is only about, what, an hour-and-a-half away from Canton and two hours away from Shanghai. So this is a great place to be in.

And well, we have the heritage village in Vigan, an hour away from Laoag airport. So people will stay, they may stay in Fort Ilocandia or they may stay in other places but this is part of the tours that they can make. The heritage village which is a cultural tourism of Vigan.

And then you have La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales. Pardon the proportions, Pangasinan is by far the biggest province. But from La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales, we have a whole stretch of beautiful beaches and other resorts. And therefore, they can land there or they can land here, the tourists can land here, the bottom of this which is where tourism and industry meet.

This is Subic and Limay. Subic has both industry and tourism; Limay is heavy industry.

This portion here, therefore, is industry and I.T. that's why I thank the Gokongwei group because of the telecommunications facility which is absolutely necessary for ICT to develop.

Furthermore, this portion is part of mega Manila so there's a double role. So this is also mega Manila. What is this mega Manila? This is really the Subic-Clark area. This is intended to serve as part of the expansion of Metro Manila — which is congested — and they become one economy. So this becomes the interface between North Philippines and Metro Manila.

That's why the road that the Lopezes is building is of absolute importance because it will truly make this portion part of mega Manila. So I say, therefore that this road from Balintawak — which is improving, all the way up to well up to here, up to somewhere here which is Sta. Ines is what they are developing; and also, we also have the contribution of Cesar Quiambao from Buendia to Balintawak, so the skyway here. So when you have Buendia, Balintawak, Sta. Ines, we can see how you go from Makati to Subic-Clark — it becomes one big cosmopolitan area.

And this is where, in this area, where we will have the inauguration of the mall of Robinson. And I thank them because I remember that they bought that property at the lowest ebb of Pampanga's economy right after the lahar

overran the province of Pampanga. But they had foresight, and now that property that they bought is terrible valuable for them as well as for the people of North Luzon.

So, Subic-Clark, of course, is like Calabarzon, the great growth area of our country. And in Clark, we have not only industry, but we also have I.T. that's why Manny Angeles is putting together even all the infrastructure needed for I.T., including the human resource development — we even have an I.T. academy right here. And then we have the Clark airport which will serve, not really Northern Luzon, but it can, but it will serve the people of Metro Manila. It is the alternate airport to NAIA, which has no more room for expansion after NAIA III.

And with this road network and there will be a rail network — north rail, which I have revived, it was abolished in the previous administration. I have revived it, I have reactivated the corporation because if we're gonna to have an airport here and an airport in Metro Manila, it has to be like ... And Heathrow; it has to be like Leonardo da Vinci and Fiumicino; it has to be like national airport and Washington Dulles; it has to be like Kennedy and La Guardia. So therefore, this road network must be very easy: you have the road network and you're gonna have the north rail. And we are inviting investors in the north rail corporation.

The north rail is a subsidiary of BCDA. But we don't want BCDA to be the ... They are just the catalyst. I think there should be private sector investment in this north rail.

And I'd like to thank the province of Bulacan because even as we're arranging for this medium-term or long-term project for the financing for the railroad, already, the province of Bulacan is working on the relocation — the humanitarian manner of relocating the people here. It is almost a painless relocation because we are doing advance planning and then, Josie de la Cruz ... Ay I didn't see you earlier, nahuli ka ba? Ayun pala. Tingnan mo pinupuri kita kahit akala ko wala ka. Okay. Josie is doing the ideal relocation — and she is moving the people from here to dona Remedios Trinidad, but it's done together with the community. In other words, she did not consider the so-called squatters of the Bulacan as a problem, she considered them as part of the solution. And she is putting up a whole new community here, together already with Korean and American investors. So the relocation already includes their source of income that's why we don't need to fear investing in north rail.

Now, Subic-Clark, we are going to make one unit rather than two. Like Calabarzon is one, Subic-Clark will be one. And that's why there's going to be a Subic-Clark road priority project that will make them less than an hour distant of each other. In fact, last year, when I went to Japan, and at that time, Japan was reducing its ODA for the rest of the world but not reducing its ODA for the Philippines, but they wanted to be low profile about what we were signing on ODA. So they said, let's just sign the most important project for the Philippines as far as Japan is concerned, let's just sign the Subic-Clark Expressway. So, that's what we did, that's what we signed.

The Subic-Clark Expressway contains a spur to Tarlac, Tarlac. Why did the Japanese want a spur? I asked for this, and they gave this and that. Because there are Japanese investments in Luisita so therefore, they want those Japanese investors, from whom they get their tax money, to be convenient. So if Rufu Colayco is here, where is he? And there was a policy issue, I think Rufu it's very clear: the purpose is for the spur to go up to Luisita. Okay

So, that's why you have this w because there's already a thriving industrial center here.

Then you go down, and this portion of Bulacan, which is near mega Manila, is industrial. You have Meycauayan, you have the jewelry industry in Meycauayan. But it goes up, and North Bulacan, and then you have Nueva Ecija, and you have Aurora, and you have Cagayan Valley.

So this portion here is agriculture. Nueva Ecija is the center of the modernization of the rice industry — Nueva Ecija and Isabela. And we are fortunate that we have a center of hybrid rice development in Central Luzon State University. So rice is gonna be coming from Nueva Ecija and Isabela and we have rice mills in Bulacan as well.

Then we have Aurora. You know, if Aurora stays in Region IV, nothing will ever happen to Aurora. There is no interest in Calabarzon to develop Aurora. They have their own port, they have Batangas port; and if they wanna go to the Pacific, they want Infanta Real. It is Region III that wants Aurora to be with them. It is symbiotic. Why?

Because we have Dingalan, and Dingalan port can become the egress of the products that will be produced in Nueva Ecija, in Cagayan Valley for other parts of the world ... Because this is why these areas are not export-oriented — they don't have a port. That's why they need a port, and that natural port is Dingalan.

So we invite investors to look at Dingalan as a port. Therefore, I asked Dante Canlas, when they're doing the medium-term plan for the region, they should include Dingalan port as part of the plan of Region III. So welcome to Region III.

Going up, we have the Sierra Madre here — very, very thin. We have a very thin coastal area here, and we cannot build a road in between because that's virgin forest. So therefore, this economy must face the outside world rather than the inside world. That's really why we need a port here, and this should be fisheries. How to modernize the fisheries of Palanan, Divilacan, Dinapigue, Dilasag, all the way up to Baler. So that will be, Leony, the modernization of the pacific coast of North Luzon.

Here, we enter the Cagayan economic zone. But many of the industries here are agro-industry. For instance, saan si Reggie Uriarte? Hindi ba, Reggie, what you're developing here is agro-industry because this is agricultural. And James Go talked about their investment here — they have the Cagayan Sugar Refinery Corporation — so we thank them for being our investor here.

So we have also, here in Isabela as well, in Cagayan Valley, Cassava. And we have Rico Fajardo representing San Miguel Corporation, because San Miguel and the other mills can absorb even one million hectares-worth of cassava production. So that's virtually an unlimited demand considering the supply.

And we have several other ... Ah yeah kamote, kamote is being grown here but for exports, and several other investments that are being promoted by my former DTI colleagues whom I asked to leave like the new head of the Cagayan Economic Zone is Jo Hipolito, who was my friend and colleague as DTI Regional Director of Region II and I needed to make Cagayan Economic Zone work. It used to be political in composition. And I told Johnny Enrile and Chavit Singson, I'm not going to put any of your recommendees as Executive Director, I'll put a professional there. However, I made the board of directors as wide-ranging as possible to represent the different political, business and investment interests. And last that I came from Cagayan Valley, the other night, and Governor Lara of Cagayan was telling me, of Cagayan, how amazed he was that the composition of the board was so even across different political and economic interest. But that's the way to make something work: let everybody be represented in the board, but let it be run by a professional manager. So that is agriculture.

And I want that this agriculture in Cagayan revolve around the great Cagayan river. Cagayan river is the mightiest river in the country. But I don't want a big dam because we still haven't worked out all the social problems of San Roque and Casecnan, I don't want to begin another headache. I want to go small. I think for irrigation it's good to have a mix but on the mix we already have the big dams, now let's go for the small one. Small is beautiful. So, if we were to invest money in a big dam, how much would that be? So I have asked Leony Montemayor to give about 30 million-worth of water pumps, water impounding projects, communal irrigation funding to revolve all around the Cagayan river. And that will have a quicker gestation period, it will prepare us quicker for El Nino which is going to be coming, they say, in October.

Then we have Batanes, sabi ni Cesar Canlas maraming onions sa Bayambang. Onions. Maawa ka naman sa Batanes, onions din ang kanilang main product. Garlic. Onions dito pala Nueva Ecija. Okay. Garlic. We got to help Batanes sell its garlic. There's no port, it's very expensive and then they suffer from the smuggled garlic that comes in. But Batanes is also ... Actually, Batanes is really somewhere here so Batanes is really part of the tourism portion because Batanes is one of the most beautiful provinces in the country.

And in the middle, but more towards here, is the Cordilleras. And for the cordilleras, it is also tourism. Naturally, we have Baguio that's why it belongs to this part of the w because you reach it from la union. So it's really part of the la union of this economy.

Then you have the rice terraces, but they're really somewhere my map is already out of proportion but they're really somewhere here near Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya. So the rice terraces, but that's till part of tourism.

In Kalinga, you have white water rafting. If you wanna go there, you make Lito Camacho your tourist guide because he's gone white water rafting there with his family and it's really world class. And if there are facilities there ... Foreigners go there. And if there are just halfway decent facilities there, the white water rafting community will be willing to pay 500 to a thousand dollars a night for a package. That's really a great opportunity.

So, this is what we want to envision for North Luzon. And you can see that you have so many investment opportunities here. When I say tourism, for instance, I don't mean that the government will put up the tourism areas – I don't mean that the government will put up the tourism resorts, it's the private sector that will put up the tourism resorts. The government's role is to put the infrastructure. But there's already an international airport, there's already a good road network, so the infrastructure is there and the marketing is what the government will help do. And we have Mona Lopez here who used to be the Usec for Tourism and I'm glad that she's with the private sector on the North Luzon Tourism Council.

And for agriculture, it is the farmers who will plant but the key there is the agricultural modernization fund of which we have made available 26 billion in the past year and we don't intend to be any stingier this year; and the infrastructure, I've told you the railroad, the airport, the roads, the road network.

So I believe that, having therefore, as you can see, a coherent vision, I suppose that you will not join those who say that the government has no direction because you can see I decided to give an impromptu, extemporaneous lecture to let you know that the government knows what it's doing.

Some of these areas need to have flights — Laoag to Baguio, Laoag to Bagabag airport to go to the rice terraces. It's our job to put up the airport, but you can do b-o-t as well. But it's your job to put up the flights. And as part of our national strategy for tourism — identifying the spokes and the hubs and what we will market — we will also have to identify the tourism incentives which would include the airlines going from hub to spoke so it will be easy for our tourists to go there.

So I'd like to thank you for being here today. And I'd like to thank you for your coming on short notice. But I think it was a great opportunity that we could get together, get our vision together. I hope you agree with this vision.

It didn't happen overnight, it's been well studied. Some of them, the study started way back when I was still Undersecretary of Trade and Industry. So, it has been a study done for the last ... Since '89 to 2002, it's been in the woodworks for 13 years. So, now, we have two-and-a-half years to carry out the earlier part of the study.

So, I thank you very much for your cooperation and let's go North Philippines.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Trade Investment Progress and Tourism. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225753/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8309&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 35th International General Meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 35th International General Meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC)**

[Delivered at the Emerald Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Hotel Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 7, 2002]

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Minister Rafidah Aziz; Mr. Enava, Chairman of PBEC; Mr. Oho; and Mr. Cho, Vice Chairman. And I would also like to greet all of the other participants both from the governments and from the business sector in this forum, this very important forum, ladies and gentlemen.

I am very happy to be here once again in Malaysia. I was just here last year about August. It was my first State Visit as President. I chose to make Malaysia the site of my first State Visit because of the help that Prime Minister Mahathir and the government of Malaysia have been giving to the Philippines in its peace process in Southern Philippines. And now, he invited me once again to keynote this affair. And though, I was here just a few months ago, after all the help that prime Minister Mahathir has done, has given so that we can have peace and development in Southern Philippines it's very difficult to say no to him. So, here I am once again. It's a privilege of the President of the Philippines.

I was here from my very first State Visit anywhere last year in August because that was only a little over a year ago that I assume the Presidency of the Philippines. I was resolved to turn my country around after a period of trip and neglect. When I became president, I declared that our challenge must be that within this decade we will win the fight against poverty. I also declared my intention to work hard so that we will tap into the opportunities of the world's new economy.

Global interdependence has a seamless link to the battle to reduce poverty. And so, I will speak of fostering foreign direct investment in the pacific basin. It is important to talk about this in terms of fighting poverty, in terms of fighting terrorism, in terms of promoting peace and order, in terms of fostering investment in that kind of environment.

I was one of the first to call on the collective power of nations to strike at the root of the conditions that enable terrorism to spread its wings. And that is the despair of poverty, injustice and exclusion. And it is important that as we speak about fostering foreign direct investment in the pacific basin, in this 21st century, in this setting of the battle against terrorism, it is important that we keep this in our minds.

The idea of the interlink between the fight against poverty and the fight against terrorism, the idea of interdependence and the fight against poverty have taken root. For instance, the recent consensus at the U.N. financing for development conference in Monterrey, Mexico projected a deeper recognition that peace and development are mutually reinforcing. And that it is important to promote national and global economic systems that are based on the principles of justice, equity, democracy, participation, transparency, accountability and inclusion.

The Monterrey consensus also declares the international community support for an equitable trading system. It reaffirms the world's commitment to, and I quote: Ensuring that trade plays its full part in promoting economic

growth, employment and development for all. Thus, it is fashionable in this age of fight against terrorism, in this age of linking the fight against terrorism with the fight against poverty, in this age of seeing the interdependent nature, the global nature of the fight against terrorism, it has become again politically correct to link foreign direct investment with the fight against terrorism and the fight against poverty. It has become politically correct to recognize that trade is not an end in itself but must be a means to social and human development. Properly employed trade policies enhance our access to a wider range of goods, services, technologies and knowledge. More trade stimulates entrepreneurship, creates jobs, attracts foreign direct investment around the Pacific basin, increases foreign earnings, and fosters vital learning processes. These are the tools for sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty.

We must ensure that the global trading system can be equitable and genuinely contributory to development. On our part, the Philippines will maintain our openness to foreign direct investment and to foreign trade. We will maintain our economic ties with the rest of the world especially to the extent that it is consistent with our commitments and the welfare of our people.

Thus, when we look at the world around us now. When we look at what is politically correct now to believe we'll find it tragic that developed countries still persist in maintaining protectionist barriers to trade. They persist in maintaining barriers to textiles and garments, barriers against agricultural and fisheries products, barriers even against steel products.

The inability to reap benefits from trade on the part of the developing countries translates into a reduced capacity to sustain investments, to sustain imports of capital equipments and other inputs that are needed for development. And this in turn undermines our ability to mobilize support for trade policy reform. How can we reform our trade policies when our citizen see that the developed countries have not yet reformed their trade policies sufficiently to receive our goods more easily. All this erodes faith in the system and aggravates poverty.

We should, therefore, put an end to tariff escalation and tariff peaks for the products of developing countries. Corollary efforts should be made to lessen the burden some requirements for developing countries to meet the stringent standards in developed country markets.

Compliance in many cases has proven to be onerous and expensive. Let me give an example. While we have made many inroads now in getting our mangoes and bananas approved for entry in many developed countries. In some countries, they still have to undergo exhaustive data collection and certification requirements, and these requirements last for years. So, sad to say, while everybody is looking at reducing tariff barriers, sanitary requirements and technical standards seem to be now the weapon of choice of protectionists.

There needs to be greater liberalization in these non-tariff barriers especially sanitary and partly sanitary standards. There should also be greater liberalization of the temporary entry of service providers in the general agreement on trade and services because here there is a large potential, commercially meaningful area for developing countries. And here, there is great support for liberalization especially in the I.C.T. sector. Also, if we want to foster an environment for a good investment climate, anti-dumping actions need to be lessened by raising the requirements for the initiation of such actions. Because when a developing country has to protect itself of anti-dumping charges, the actions are resource-intensive and they weigh down on small business in developing countries.

We must also make special and differential treatment that famous SNT in the WTO. We must make it truly operational by providing more resources for capacity-building to enhance competitiveness and by further differentiation among developing countries.

Right now, there are only two categories among developing countries — you have the least developed and you have the developing. But among the developing countries, there are wide variations in circumstances. For example, there is a very big difference between a South Korea and an Indonesia. And therefore, special and differential treatment must also be applied through these variations within one of the two classifications of developing countries.

Speaking of Indonesia, speaking of Malaysia, the Philippines has faith in the viability of the ASEAN free trade area. This makes ASEAN a great place for foreign direct investments. Because we cannot generate foreign direct investments in adequate magnitudes unless we become a part of a larger integrated regional market. This is the only way we can compete, our markets and investments, with the giants elsewhere in the world.

In 1992, the member-countries of ASEAN launch the common effective preferential tariff for the Asean free trade area. Under this scheme, the members of ASEAN bound themselves into a schedule of tariff-cutting until their tariffs of intra-asean trade were no more than 5 percent. This year the AFTA process quietly reached a significant milestone. Relatively quietly because so many other headlines were competing for it all over the world. But it is no less of a great momentous event when the first signatories to the AFTA agreement — meaning Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — achieved tariff levels of zero to 5 percent on almost all goods traded among them. And this is something that those who consider investing in the pacific basin especially in this part of the world should remember.

And even as we have achieved this ASEAN is resolve to go beyond tariff-cutting. We are working on the elimination of non-tariff barriers. We are harmonizing our product standards. We are developing mutual recognition arrangements. We are negotiating the liberalization of trade in financial services, telecommunications, construction, transport and tourism. We are binding the region by expanding our transportation and energy networks. We are easing the flow of goods, people and power. We are drafting an agreement to make it easier for tourists to come to ASEAN and to travel within ASEAN. All these integration of ASEAN makes ASEAN truly the investment area for this 21st century.

But, we are not only talking about ASEAN, we're looking beyond our immediate neighborhood to extend regional integration to our major trading partners — the so-called ASEAN + 3 — of china, Japan and South Korea. In fact, to complement this regional effort, there is great activity among the individual ASEAN members in examining the feasibility of entering into bilateral trading arrangements initially with Japan.

As for China, its entry into the WTO will greatly enhance its already strong impact on the world economies. The nations of ASEAN must all embark on a process of collective reflection on how to sustain the competitiveness of their exports and capitalize on the opportunities presented by a more open China.

China's entry into the WTO is considered by everyone as both a threat and an opportunity. As a threat, it's quite obvious, china is a very attractive place for the foreign direct investment going to the pacific basin, but the opportunities are also important because by entering WTO China becomes a more open market. The Chinese people who are in the hinterlands become more prosperous, and if you have 400 million newly-enriched Chinese wanting to travel around the world, that is a great market for tourist investments in ASEAN, which is a neighbor of China. And besides, there are fruits, tropical fruits-producing ASEAN that are not produced in China but are greatly consumed by the Chinese people. A framework for all of these may well be offered by the China-ASEAN free trade agreement proposed by China.

The Philippines on its part is fashioning a domestic environment to attract investments, facilitate trade, create an enlarge markets and generate economic activity. We set down a concrete national reform program founded on four main pillars:

First, a competitive economy capable of building wealth for our people in a more interactive global setting;

Second, a caring society where wealth is interlinked with social equity;

Third, a robust agricultural sector matching the global benchmark of efficiency;

and, Fourth, modern institutions of public and private governance based of globally accepted standards of accountability and transparency and the effective enforcement of laws.

I speak about competitiveness as our number one policy for fighting poverty. To enhance our competitiveness as an investment destination, we have addressed several factors crucial to the cost of production and doing business in the country. We are putting in place policies to develop our capital markets such as securitization and the operation of asset management companies, the new area for investment in post-Asian crisis ASEAN.

To reduce the cost of power, transportation and communications, we are working with the private sector via our build-operate-and-transfer law. There's room for investments in mass transport, in transmission and many other areas of infrastructure. We are also increasing productivity by strengthening labor management relations and eliminating corruption and red tape as well as expanding training programs to prepare our workforce for the demands of the new global economy.

Mass housing, land distribution and human development services are essential to winning the battle against poverty. We have enacted — or are in the process of enacting laws — to meet these objectives. And in all these cases, whether infrastructure or social services, opportunities abound for the intrepid investor who wants to make a profit while helping us achieve our social dividends.

And it is important that peace and order be secured — we realize this. It is important so that we can devote our resources to productive undertakings. We are addressing law and order through a holistic approach consisting of political, economic and security components.

As for the security component, I have launched an anti-crime program which includes among other things the allocation of more resources to the police forces. The close integration and coordination of intelligence activities and the raising of bounties for criminals. To help us in our fight against terrorism, the U.S. is providing assistance in the training of our forces and the sharing of intelligence and in the supply of some hardware. We have been rebuilding our national edifice as you can see stone by stone.

And after more than a year, our efforts are starting to pay-off. Growth is respectable. In the sea of negative growth rates, last year, we grew at 3.7 percent GNP. Inflation is low — the lowest in maybe 15 years. Unemployment has been reduced. We give jobs to 1.5 million people, in addition to the original ones with jobs this past year. The peso is stable. Yesterday, the peso reached the 50 pesos to the dollar mark. The dollar is now — as of yesterday — 49.78 pesos.

I thank you for your applause, and I would like to add that usually, especially during the Asian crisis, especially last year when we had the world slowdown and the 9-11, and economies are all seeking to stabilize their economies, well, the classical dilemma between interest rates and exchange rates crop up again as they always do when an economy is seeking to stabilize itself.

Sometimes you have to make a choice. If you want to reduce interest rates you must be willing to let your exchange rate go. If you want to stabilize your exchange rate, you must do it by a draconian method of raising interest rates. But in the Philippines, we have stabilized our exchange rate and we have reduced our interest rates. And that is the best evidence of sound macro-economic fundamentals.

How did we achieve this? Among other things, we put our fiscal house in order. And as a result of putting our fiscal house in order, our credit ratings are now improving. Nexi, JBIC, the World Bank, the IMF, the ADB, J.P. Morgan, Goldman Sachs, Fitch, Moody's, and Standard and Poor have all endorsed our economic fundamentals. And from the negative credit rating that I inherited last year, in less than a year — because I became president January 20 and the last of these ratings came in middle of January — we have moved from negative to stable in all these credit ratings. And all of these is being reflected in the market as the spreads that we have in the international capital market are growing narrower and narrower by the day.

Last January, Bloomberg said that the Philippines has the most... It has the best performing Stockmarket in the world — the first time the Philippines got that accolade. Now, I am hearing that the Philippines is the best performing issue in the international bond market. And I thank you, the investors for that.

And if our record can be used as a benchmark for the future, I am confident that we can build on the momentum we have established. I ask you, therefore, the leaders of the Pacific Basin to join me in delivering on the promise of a new Philippines. I ask you to help bring my country to the threshold of the new economy in terms of human progress, in terms of human dignity.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 35th International General Meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225708/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8301&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Official Dinner hosted by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and Madame Khunying Potjaman Shinawatra

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Official Dinner hosted by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and Madame Khunying
Potjaman Shinawatra**

[Delivered at the Santi Mari Hall, Government House Bangkok, Thailand, May 7, 2002]

Your Excellency Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Madame Khunying Potjaman Shinawatra, esteemed Officials of the Royal Thai Government, your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, my colleagues in the Philippine delegation, ladies and gentlemen: Sawasdee kah!

I am honored to be in Thailand once again. I have been here many times before, but this is my first time as President of the Republic of the Philippines.

And in behalf of Atty. Jose Miguel Arroyo and my delegation, I thank the royal government and the people of Thailand for the warm hospitality and generous assistance being extended to us during our stay.

Our national and family relations are laid upon a long span of history, tradition, goodwill and partnership. As the prime minister said, when my father, Diosdado Macapagal, was President of the Philippines, it was our family's and nation's honor to host the visit to the Philippines of their Majesties the King and the Queen of Thailand.

Fifty three years of close and constructive collaboration in bilateral, regional and global issues are a testament to the durable commitment of our government's and people's to assist each other, work together, and grow alongside one another.

We have shared the legacy and responsibility of being the unswerving pillars of Southeast Asian freedom in all its vibrancy and dynamism. And just earlier tonight, I gave a gift to the Prime Minister — a 16th century jar made in Sukotai, Thailand which was found in a wreck off the coast of Zambales in the Philippines. This shows that we have been together not only for 53 years but for many, many centuries.

Inter-dependence, based on fairness and mutuality, propels nations towards prosperity as it helps them collectively seize the opportunities and face the challenges of the 21st century.

Our trade with Thailand has always been steeped with solid value. Thailand is the main source of rice and sugar whenever the Philippines finds it necessary to import these produce. But even greater value lies in the vibrancy of our business environment and the dynamic interaction of our respective private sectors.

Much of our relations in trade and investment operate in the context of broader ASEAN Economic Cooperation. As mentioned by his excellency, the advent of the ASEAN free trade area or AFTA, the ASEAN investment area, the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation or AICO scheme had spurred the rapid expansion of intra-regional trade and investment, and in turn, our own bilateral economic relations.

One good example is the successful partnership under the AICO scheme of Ford Motors Philippines and the auto alliance of Thailand. This collaboration has resulted in the production of high-quality and affordable vehicles,

increased employment for the Philippines and Thailand, minimized duplication of regional resources, and pushed the consolidation of expertise and facilities.

Unquestionably, Thailand is the regional leader in tourism, and much can be learned from your success story. There are also more than 10 million foreign tourists going to Thailand who can be encouraged to include the Philippines in their itinerary.

Last year, when Prime Minister Thaksin visited Manila, we both agreed to undertake closer cooperation in tourism, particularly through a twinning program to promote the Philippines and Thailand as a single destination. The tourism agencies of both countries have laid the groundwork for such a program, starting with — as the prime minister said — a joint advertising campaign. The Prime Minister and I share high expectations for this venture, which is being fueled by the keen efforts of tour operators and travel agents of the Philippines and Thailand. And I'm very happy to note that my minister of tourism, Dick Gordon — who named his grandson after Prime Minister Thaksin — now has the phone number of his counterpart here in Thailand.

but the pursuit of development is not an easy challenge especially now amidst the threat of terrorism. Arrest of suspected terrorists in recent months all over Southeast Asia reveal the presence of terrorist cells all over Southeast Asia. This indicates the need for closer multilateral cooperation in law enforcement and intelligence. The Philippines looks to ASEAN for the keys to regional security.

Just before coming here, as the prime minister recounted, I witnessed the signing in Kuala Lumpur of an agreement on the information exchange and the establishment of communication procedures among the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. This agreement provides for a sub-regional framework to facilitate cooperation and inter-operability to address border and security incidents, terrorism and transnational crimes, and other illegal activities occurring within the three countries' territories.

Upon Indonesia's recommendation, and my own enthusiastic support as well as Prime Minister Mahathir, we invited Thailand to join us in that agreement. And we are very happy that today, his Excellency the Prime Minister said, he is joining that agreement. Indeed, you are our indispensable ally in regional security as you are our bilateral partner in security for a long time now. In much the same way, greater exchanges between our law enforcement officials and military commanders greatly enhance our efforts to curb crime and terrorism.

We are deeply convinced of the historical validity of ASEAN regionalism. In a world of uncertain security and economic flux, we know that the individual nations of Southeast Asia, even one as large as Indonesia or as economically advanced as Singapore cannot have peace, cannot thrive, cannot hope to prosper, cannot have confidence in the future unless we work together, stand together, pool our resources, share more and more of our interests, trust one another, and increasingly speak as one in the councils of the world.

To the promise and challenge of globalization, to the ebb and flow of economic adversity and opportunity, we subscribe to ASEAN's response — domestic reform, the economic integration of our various economies, indeed, I believe we could add more impetus to our political cooperation not only within ASEAN but also bilaterally.

In much the same way, our targets in AFTA and AIA continued to be met at a rewarding pace, so should target be set towards the region's collective political goals to ensure peace, stability and continued solidarity.

The enhancement of our relations is meant to benefit a greater number of our peoples. In seeking institutional partnerships, we open doors for our peoples to interact, to learn from each other, to understand each other, to live in harmony. It is at this level where kinship is truly achieved and where the success of formal relations should be measured.

In this spirit, I am confident that with continuing solidarity, mutual trust and faithful collaboration, the Philippines and Thailand will reap the rewards of the new millennium.

May I, therefore, ask everyone, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast to the good health and continued success of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and the further enhancement of the friendly and mutually beneficial relations between the Philippines and Thailand.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Official Dinner hosted by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and Madame Khunying Potjaman Shinawatra. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225718/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8303&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Departure Ceremonies for a Working Visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and an Official Visit to Bangkok, Thailand

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Departure Ceremonies for a Working Visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and an Official Visit to Bangkok, Thailand**

[Delivered at the VIP Lounge, NAIA Terminal I, Pasay City, May 7, 2002]

Thank you.

Vice President Guingona, other officials, ladies and gentlemen, mga minamahal kong kababayan: ako po ay magtutungo sa Malaysia at Thailand sa isang overnight trip.

The timing is perfect, reinforced by recent events. There is a need for fresh diplomatic initiatives as we push forward in democratic consolidation and internal reforms.

Our regional neighborhood also needs a reinvigorated dialogue on issues of terrorism and poverty. Mapapabuti ang ugnayan ng Pilipinas sa ating dalawang kalapit-bansa sa ASEAN.

I shall use the next two days to put forward the position of the Philippines on trade and security as I seek a meeting of minds that can be of regional and global value.

Ang inyong lingkod ay naimbitahan ni Prime Minister Mahathir na magsalita sa International Government Meeting ng Pacific Basin Economic Council or PBEC. The PBEC is an association of senior business leaders from around the Pacific Basin region. It represents over a thousand companies in 20 economies in the region. These account for over 4 trillion dollars in global sales and employ over 10 million people.

Gagamitin ko ang pagkakataong iyon hindi lamang para hikayatin ang mga negosyante sa Asya-Pasipiko na mamuhunan sa Pilipinas. I shall present before this forum our position on liberalized and equitable trade. I will touch upon the relationship of the war against terrorism and the war against poverty. I will dwell on mechanisms to temper protectionism pursuant to our national interest.

Isusulong ko ang kapakanan ng mga Pilipinong nasa Malaysia. Hihingi tayo ng mas maluwag sa mga awtoridad doon na maging mahinahon sa kanilang deportation process at gawing mahusay at makatao sa undocumented Filipinos. Hihingin ko rin kay Prime Minister Mahathir na patuloy ang pagsuporta ng bansang Malaysia sa peace and development initiatives sa Mindanao.

After four months of negotiations, the trilateral agreement on information exchange and communication procedures will be signed in Kuala Lumpur during my visit. This agreement rallies together our neighbors in ASEAN to jointly address border and security incidents, terrorism and transnational crimes, and other illegal activities.

This agreement was among my proposals at the 7th ASEAN Summit held in Brunei in November 2001. I consider this the Philippines' contribution, together with Malaysia and Indonesia, to the global campaign to combat terrorism.

Sa Thailand, itataguyod ko ang pagsasakatuparan ng mga bilateral agreements na ating nagawa na sa mga nakaraang limang taon, kasama na rin iyung mga ginawa noong dinalaw tayo ni Prime Minister Thaksin sa Pilipinas noong nakaraang Oktubre. Kabilang sa mga tatalakayin namin ang turismo, pangangalakal at counter-terrorism.

Thailand, being the regional leader in tourism, has much to share with the Philippines. I intend to discuss with my counterpart the ways and means for our two countries to step up cooperation in this field.

Makikipag-usap rin ako sa ilang business leaders ng thailand para sa posibleng mamuhunan sa Pilipinas. Ito rin ay magsisilbing isang pagkakataon upang mapakita natin ang ating matapat na hangarin na masulong ang pag-unlad ng Pilipinas at ang kapakanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

There are more than 5,000 Filipinos all over the Kingdom of Thailand, making significant contributions to Thai society as educators, musicians, skilled workers and technical experts.

In times of challenge and opportunity, there is nothing more natural or easier than to look to our neighbors for mutually beneficial arrangements. Ating ipanalangin na sana ay maging matagumpay ang paglalakbay kong ito.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Departure Ceremonies for a Working Visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and an Official Visit to Bangkok, Thailand. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225731/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8306&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Meeting with the Filipino Community

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a Meeting with the Filipino Community

[Delivered at the Ta-Jeen and Mdeklong Ballroom, Oriental Hotel Bangkok, Thailand, May 8, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Reyes sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. Mabuti ikaw ang piniling nagpakilala sa akin kasi balak ko ring ipakilala sana ikaw sa ating mga kapwa Filipino bilang isa sa mga bayani ng Edsa Dos, si Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Nasabi ko rin ‘yun, sisirain ko muna ang protocol para makilala pa rin ang isa pang bayani ng Edsa Dos, si Former Governor Chavit Singson ng Ilocos Sur.

Ngayon naman mabalik ako sa pagbati naman at pagpapakilala muli kung napakilala na kanina sa ating mga iba’t-ibang mga kasama ko na mga government officials na nagbisita dito sa ating official visit. Una sa lahat, Senator John Osmena, Senator from Cebu and Chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

Alam po n’yo kagabi, kinikwento ko kay Prime Minister Thaksin iyung ating kasaysayan ng ating bansa, dalawang bansa. Nagbigay ako sa kanya ng isang jar, 16th century jar made in Thailand and found in a wreck off the coast of Zambales, at kinwento na nong 1521, si Pigapetta — iyung sumulat ng diary ng byahe ni Magellan — sinabi n’ya na may mga siamese boats na nagpupunta doon sa Cebu. Kaya mabuti kasama ko ang ating Senator from Cebu dahil s’ya ay isang simbolo ng pagkakasama ng Thailand at Pilipinas for the last many, many centuries.

I would also like to introduce Congresswoman from Quezon City Nanette Castelo-Daza, isa sa pinakabatang Congresswoman sa ating bansa — simbolo ng ating bagong henerasyon, ang 21st century governance ng ating bansa. Nandito rin iyung congressman ng aking probinsya, Congressman Oca Rodriguez. Congressman naman ng probinsya ng aking mister na si Mike Arroyo, Congressman Monico Fuentabella of Negros Occidental. Nandito rin mula sa Mindanao at siya ay nag-iimbita ng mga magdadalo sa Mindanao Business Conference doon sa kanyang probinsya, Governor of Surigao, si Governor Lyndon Barbers. At Mayor din doon sa Cebu, maraming asukal ang Thailand, itong lugar din n’ya ay maraming asukal sa Bogo, Cebu, si Mayor Celestino Martinez III.

Of course, I would like to congratulate Sonia Brady, your new Ambassador; and though you’ve only known her for 10 days which means you haven’t really known her at all, I would like to let you know that if you have five star generals in the military, you have five star ambassadors in the foreign service and she is one of them.

Kanina nakilala ninyo yata si Secretary Dick Gordon ng Tourism; si Secretary Cito Lorenzo na tumutulong sa akin na makahanap ng isang milyong trabaho sa agrikultura; si Secretary Lito Sarmiento na tumutulong sa akin na modernize ang ating agrikultura; si Secretary Yongyong Afable, marami s’yang pwestong hawak sa aking gobyerno — Press Secretary, Spokesman, Head of the PMS, ... And our Senior Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, si Larry Baja. At gusto ko ring batiin iyung mga taga-Philippine Embassy dahil marami kayong trabahong ginawa paghahanda sa biyaheng ito.

At gusto ko ring batiin iyung iba’t-ibang mga pilipino na naririto kung pwedeng banggitin ko iyung mga pangalan ng iba’t-ibang mga lider na nag-organize nitong affair na ito — si Ginoong Alvin Nadal, ang pangulo ng Association of Filipinos in Thailand. Batang-bata pa, naalala ko tuloy iyung mga predecessors mo dito, mga Filipino community leaders noon, nandoon noong araw, nandito ba si Roy Navarro? Sila Roy Navarro, sila Ramon del Rosario, iyun ang mga nandito noong araw, noong generation ko and afterwards. Ngayon another young man here; si Ms. Victoria ..., ang pangulo ng Association of Changmai — Changmai ang bayan ni Prime Minister Thaksin; si Art Nieva sa Pataya; si Neil Batea sa Phuket; si Bernadette Reyes ..., ang pangulo ng Ladies Group; si Jess Ballesteros ng

Filipino Golfers Club, si Aureo Dacanay ng Bowlers League; si Camila Jose-Lim ng Tennis Association; Roy Velario ng Filipino Association ng Asian Institute of Technology, kung saan din yata nandoon iyung ama ng ating speaker kanina, hindi ba? Si ka Dante, your father is also from AIT? Yes. So, I would like to greet also our young man ka Dante who has not forgotten the Philippine root; si Lolita Pamaran sa teachers group; si Father Allan ng religious sector — kasama na sa religious sector iyung mga madre ng Assumption, nandiyan sila, si Sister Stella, how nice to see you; si Lita Tuason, iyong musicians group — sila ang pioneer overseas Filipinos sa buong mundo, 1950s, 1960s, nandito na sila. At iyung Filipino staff ng iba't-ibang organs ng United Nations based dito sa Bangkok, binabati ko rin kayong lahat.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, magandang umaga.

At napakasaya akong magkaroon ng pagkakataon na makasama kayo ngayon, dito sa aking kauna-unang pagkakataon na magbisita sa Thailand bilang pangulo ng Pilipinas.

And as we have been told earlier by Ambassador Brady, we have more than 5,000 Filipinos all over the Kingdom of Thailand. And many of you consider Thailand your second home and you make significant contributions to the Thai society but you also make significant contributions to the Philippine economy. Filipino educators — kaya meron tayong education association dito — Filipino educators abound in many Thai schools and institutions of higher learning. Iyun ngang ama ni ka Dante ay nandoon sa AIT. Dito sa aking pagbyahe ngayon, iyung Secretary of Health ay lumaki raw sa Filipino teachers sa kanyang eskwelahan sa St. Joseph.

And Filipino musicians have been proud to work with Thai entertainers. Sabi ko nga kay Prime Minister Thaksin kagabi, marami kaming mga Filipino musicians dito. He said, “yes”. Sabi n’ya sa lahat ng mga magagaling na hotels and clubs nandoon ang mga Filipino. Sabi ko sila ang aming original OFWs. Sabi ko, oo, and he said, “yes, and many of them have in fact already decided to live here.” meron pa s’yang binanggit, Tony Aguilar, sabi n’ya na dito at iyung anak raw n’ya ay isang kilalang-kilalang musician din.

Our own business executives are well positioned in prestigious companies. Binanggit ko nga iyung mga kilala ko sa mga nakaraan, sina Roy Navarro at saka Ramon del Rosario, but I know that there are many Roy Navarros and Ramon del Rosarios in this generation of Filipinos in Thailand. Filipino experts help man the organs of the United Nations and other international organizations. Filipino religious missionaries run charity homes for the underprivileged and also teach the young.

Our own technical people and social development workers are respected in your own fields of specialization.

So, we may not be the largest expatriate community in Thailand, but we certainly have one of the most productive foreign groups in the kingdom. Kaya, Congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Bilang mga professionals, malamang wala kayong masyadong problema bilang OFW, so to speak. But nonetheless, I am aware that there are still certain difficulties experienced by some of our people here.

And I am counting on our embassy, especially our new ambassador to Thailand, Sonia Brady, who was, I said, is one of the best ambassadors in our foreign service today, to provide you with the appropriate assistance so that our Filipino workers, particularly our world-class musicians, will be accorded sympathy and understanding, the sympathy and understanding that you deserve by the Thai government.

At the same time, I am glad to learn that the various Filipino associations who organized this affair have done a great deal to build the Filipino community spirit in Thailand. I think, the fact that a young man who came to Thailand when he was about three years old still feels Filipino today can be attributed to the fact that the Filipino community remains a community.

And bilang inyong pangulo, sa ngalan ng lahat ng inyong kababayan sa Pilipinas, pinupuri ko kayo sapagkat sa pamamagitan ng inyong husay sa pagtatrabaho, inaangat ninyo ang pagkatao ng sambayanang Pilipino. Napamalas ninyo sa mundo na ang Pilipino ay dapat ipagmalaki at hangaan.

Sa buong daigdig, nararamdaman ng mga bansa, ng mga may puhunan at mga magulang ang malaking tulong ng mga Pilipino, ng mga dakilang manggagawang Pilipino maging trabaho ninyo ay nasa hotel, nasa pabrika o nasa opisina. Kaya nalalagay sa isip ng mga dayuhan ng buong mundo na ang Pilipinas ang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Tinatanaw ng pamahalaan ng Pilipinas at ng taong-bayan ng Pilipinas na nasa Pilipinas ang kontribusyon ng overseas Filipinos sa ekonomiya at kabuhayan ng pambansa.

Sa inyong malaking tulong nagpapasigla sa ekonomiya at nagtutulong sa kaunlaran ng bansa.

Sa ibabaw ng magandang reputasyon na binibigay ninyo sa ating bansa bilang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino, milyung-milyong kabataan ang nag-aaral o nagtatapos ng edukasyon sa inyong tulong.

Gaya ng sabi ni ka Dante, sana bawat Pilipino ay nag-aaral. At totoo 'yun, sinisikap nga natin na, kasi libre yung grade school, high school pero nagbabayad ng miscellaneous fees, sinisikap nating matanggal yung miscellaneous fees; at may mga barangay, 1,600, na wala pang paaralan so kahit na libre wala namang paaralan, mahirap mag-aral naman 'pag walang paaralan. Nagtatayo ng mga paaralan doon.

But in the meantime when we're trying to do all this, nagpapasalamat ang mga Pilipino doon dahil sa tulong ng overseas Filipinos, maraming nakakapag-aral.

At libu-libong bagong bahay ang napapatayo at nagkakaroon ng bagong buhay tuloy iyung nagpapatayo ng bagong bahay dahil marami sa pinapadala ninyo ay ginagamit din pangtayo ng bahay.

Dahil sa inyong tulong ay nakapaglunsad tayo ng maraming negosyo — maging small business sa buong bansa — dahil marami sa pinapauwi ninyong pera ay ginagamit na puhunan ng inyong mga kamag-anak. At ang matagumpay na negosyo na napapatayo sa ating bansa dahil sa inyong remittances ay isang malaking haligi ng ating ekonomiya.

Alam n'yo, halimbawa, meron tayong tinatawag na human development index. Yan ay sukat ng hindi lang economic development kung hindi human development na nga — nandoon yung literacy rate, per capita income at saka yung longevity rate. Nira-ranking natin iyung mga probinsya ng Pilipinas in terms of human development. At well, not surprisingly, iyung mga probinsya ng Central Luzon kagaya ng pampanga at saka Bulacan, nandoon, siyempre maraming industriya; iyung mga probinsya ng Calabarzon ay nandoon, siyempre maraming industriya — Cavite, Laguna, Batangas. Ngunit nakakagulat kasama doon yung Ilocos Norte, yung Abra. At tinanong bakit? Kasi iyung pinanggagalingan ng mga nakakapag-aral, malusog dahil sapat ang pagkain at mataas ang income ay yung overseas Filipinos. Kaya 'pag ang isang lugar ay maraming overseas Pilipino na tiga-roon, mataas ang kanilang human development index.

Sumigla ang maraming barangay, bayan, lungsod at probinsiya sa kontribusyon ng mga overseas Filipinos. At marami doon, nagpatayo na ng negosyo, naging maganda ang economic activity. Doon nga sa laoag, 29 banks ang nandoon sa dami ng mga remittances ng mga Ilokanong overseas. Kaya ang Laoag ay net lender — maraming pumapasok na deposit, marami namang humihiram doon pinapahiram sa ilang ibang lugar.

Kaya, ito ang bunga ng trabaho ng dakilang manggagawang pilipino na taun-taon nagpapadala ng six billion dollars sa Pilipinas. Biro n'yo pinakamalaking investments sa Pilipinas, foreign investment, ay five billion dollars — iyung Shell sa Malampaya. Ay yung Filipinos, six billion ang pinapadala so every year, you give, you send to the Philippines, you invest in the Philippines more than the biggest single foreign investor in our country. Kaya kayo ay major economic investors sa ating bansa.

Karaniwan ang tawag sa Pilipinong nasa ibang bansa ay overseas workers. Palagay ko dahil sa mga nakwento ko mas bagay na ang dapat itawag sa overseas Filipinos ay hindi overseas Filipino workers kung hindi overseas Filipino investors dahil hindi ninyo nakakalimutan mag-invest sa ating bansa.

Kayo ay mga overseas investors na araw-araw namumuhunan sa kaunlaran ng ating bansa. Pinupuhunan ninyo ang inyong “productive years” alang-alang sa ating bayan. Kaya saludo ako, saludo ang kapwa Pilipino n’yo sa inyo.

At dapat lamang suklian ng bansa ang inyong tulong.

Sa aking State of the Nation Address noong isang taon, July, sinabi ko na isang malaking prayoridad ng ating gobyerno ang pagpasa ng absentee voting bill para sa ganoon ang mga overseas Filipinos ay mabigyang kapangyarihan na makaboto at makapili ng mga mamumuno sa ating pamahalaan. Kakapirma ko lang ang certification as urgent ng panukalang batas na ito. Pinirma ko ito as urgent dahil nakatapos na sa second reading sa House of Representatives. Kaya panahon na magpirma as urgent kaya samahan ninyo akong magdasal para pumasa na ito at maging batas na.

The Philippine economy will, for the foreseeable future, continue to be heavily dependent on overseas-worker remittances. Isang bansang kasing-unlad na nauna sa ating umunlad noong 1970s, sila rin marami silang overseas Thai workers.

Gaya ng sabi ni ka Dante, pitong milyong pilipino ang nagtatrabaho sa ibayong dagat. And so, on the basis of this and of the nation’s humanitarian responsibilities to its people wherever you are, our government is working doubly hard to strengthen overseas Filipino workers’ protection.

For instance, the Department of Foreign affairs is floating “Bagong Bayani Bonds.” have you done that already, Larry? To support a new package of high socio-economic benefits to OFWs. And the “Bagong Bayani Bonds” will raise funds to enable you, the overseas Filipinos, to mobilize your savings to be invested in various projects like housing programs back home. Ito ang isang dahilan kung bakit tinanggap ko yung panukala ni Vice President Tito Guingona na gawin kong Undersecretary for Economic Affairs ng DFA si Sixto Roxas — na kayo na maraming mga financial executive dito, kilala n’yo si Sixto Roxas, iyung nag-establish ng investment banking sa ating bansa. Later on in his retirement from government, he did many bond floatations for local government units. Kaya, ito siguro mapapairal niya itong ating bond for OFWs.

We also have a housing program for overseas Filipinos under the Housing and Urban Developing Coordinating Douncil. This is part of our goal to provide 100,000 housing units a year for workers, and these workers need not be workers working in the Philippines but workers working abroad because you send houses, money for houses for your folks back home.

We have also scrapped the requirement for overseas Filipinos to file an income tax information sheet, and with that we have lifted the penalty for non-filing.

We strengthen bilateral relationships with countries hosting large numbers of Filipinos. Kasama na rito ang Thailand.

Tonight, in fact, I will have an audience with his Majesty the King of Thailand. The first time I met His Majesty was when I was still a teenager, when my late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, hosted the King and Queen during their Majesty’s State Visit to Manila in 1963.

In my State of the Nation Address last year, I cited the serious challenges facing the Philippines.

The economy I inherited was very well described by our young man ka Dante — stark and daunting. At that time, when I became president I inherited four million jobless Filipinos. And this four million meant a rise in poverty

incidence to 40 percent of the population. The budget I inherited was a budget that threatened to balloon to 225 billion pesos. And so I thought, how daunting. We need to have common sense to address this.

Trabaho. Edukasyon. Sariling tahanan. Pagkain sa bawat mesa. This was, and is, in common sense and plain talk, the core of my vision.

I also urged everyone listening to my State of the Nation Address to set aside bickering and politicking for at least one year. Sa halip ng alitan, hiningi kong isang taon tayong magtulungan sa ikabubuti ng taong-bayan. Dahil kung araw-araw, kahit na ano na lang, dakdak nang dakdak ay yun ang sinusulat sa peryodiko, ang peryodiko naman sa Pilipinas ay English language, eh di syempre naaabot sa international television.

To succeed, our national agenda must revolve around four components — apat na elemento ng pakikibaka sa kahirapan.

The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. Pagnenegosyo upang dumami ang trabaho.

The second is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. At para nga doon, meron akong presidential adviser na nago-oversee ng iba't-ibang mga ahensyang may kinalaman sa agricultural modernization, at iyun na nga ay si Lito Sarmiento. Palalaguin ang kita at ani ng maralitang tagabukid.

The third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. Pagkalinga sa mga bahagi ng lipunan na naiwan ng kaunlaran.

And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society. Moralidad sa gobyerno at lipunan bilang saligan ng tunay na kaunlaran.

Difficult and daunting as was the economy I inherited. The New York incident further changed the global mood. World business conditions became more uncertain.

But despite the stark economy that I inherited, and the uncertain world business conditions, in 2001, the first year of my administration, we made progress.

After more than a year, our efforts have not yet paid off but they are starting to pay off: growth is respectable — 3.7 percent GNP growth rate in a sea of economies with negative growth; inflation is at its lowest in the last 15 years; presyo ng bigas hindi nagpapalit; presyo ng pasahe, hindi nagpapalit; presyo ng galunggong, hindi nagpapalit. Kaya tinitingnan natin yung presyo ng mga bilinging pinaka-importante sa karaniwang taong-bayan. And watching all of that has helped bring the inflation to 3.6 percent, lowest in 15 years.

Unemployment, well I inherited four million unemployed. In the past year, we are able to give to job 1.5 million additional Filipinos. So, that our unemployment rate went down from 11.3 percent to 10.3 percent — still at daunting number as far as I'm concern. That's why I said, it starting to pay-off, I hasn't paid-off because if you still have 10.3 percent unemployment that's still very big.

Interest rates are at their lowest in history; the peso is stable. Usually a struggling economy must choose between a stable currency and low interest rates. Like if it wants to stabilize its currency like for instance in the previous administration 56 pesos to the dollars and yet interest rates are going, what, 36%? That the administration tried to fight one or the other last year, they decided that they would work on stabilizing the peso, so they raised the interest rates sky high, they still couldn't stabilize the peso. On the other hand, there are administrations where you seek to reduce interest rates, but that means you need to let the exchange rate run away. But not in the Philippines today. We have a stable exchange rate and low interest rates. This combination is bedrock evidence of sound economic fundamentals and a correct economic policy.

We achieved this, among other things, by putting our fiscal house in order. And as a result, our credit ratings are improving.

NEXI, JBIC, the World Bank, the IMF, the ADB, J.P. Morgan, Goldman Sachs, Fitch, Moodys, and Standard and Poors have all endorsed our economic fundamentals, and our international credit rating has been upgraded from negative to stable. This is being reflected in the international capital market, where the spreads in the market for our issues are growing narrower and narrower by the day. But of course there are still many daunting challenges ahead.

What are our growth sectors for the future? I have identified tourism as one of the industries that can create tremendous opportunities for our economic recovery. You have seen that here in Thailand. In 1997 when Thailand was afflicted in a crisis that spread throughout the other parts of the region, how did Thailand strategize its recovery? By pushing tourism and it succeeded. We are determined to get a share of Thailand's tourist arrivals that peaked at almost 10 million last year. The challenge is how to convince these visitors coming to Thailand to fly another three hours eastward to gain an experience of Filipino hospitality.

We have already started the work in this direction. Dick has been talking about it: we have engaged Thailand in a "twinning program," in which the two countries will be promoted as a single tourist destination to markets in Europe, the Americas, and Oceania. The Philippine Department of Tourism and the Tourism Authority of Thailand have produced posters and brochures that jointly promote the two countries. Philippine and Thai travel agents and tour operators have also agreed — and they will be signing today — on marketing strategies that will maximize the potential benefits from the program.

Nananawagan din ako sa inyong lahat na sumali at makibahagi sa tourism "Volunteer 12" program kung saan ang mga Pilipino sa ibayong dagat ay hinihikayat na magpapunta ng isang turista sa Pilipinas.

I encourage all of you to be our ambassadors of goodwill and to maintain our friendly relations with the Thai government and the Thai people.

The days and months ahead will still be filled with daunting challenges. All these beautiful things that the international credit rating agencies have been saying about us, all of this lowering of the interest rate, lowering of the inflation rate, decent growth rate, stable peso, all of this must be translated into more jobs, more food, more schooling for our people. But I do not fear as long as I have your support.

Kaya muli, salamat na mapapagmalaki kayo ng Pilipinas sa mga kontribusyong ginagawa ninyo sa Thai society. Salamat din na habang nagko-contribute kayo sa Thai society, tuloy pa ninyong pinapaangat ang ekonomiya ng ating bansang Pilipinas. Ipagpatuloy po ninyo ito sana dahil kailangan ko kayo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225639/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8299&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippines-Thailand Business Luncheon Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippines-Thailand Business Luncheon**

[Delivered at the Chaophya and Ta-Jeen Ballrooms, Oriental Hotel Bangkok, Thailand, May 8, 2002]

Thank you very much, Secretary Roxas.

Chairman Chartsiri Sophonpanich – I would like to greet you and also to convey to you our condolence on the passing away of your mother two weeks ago; Dr. Ayspat Thaonalonda, Chairman of the Board of Trade of Thailand; Mr. Prakaspesat, Vice chair of the Federation of Thai Industries; Dr. Weng Pittaya, Chairman of the Thai-RP Business Council; other members of the organizations comprising the joint standing committee on commerce, industry and banking; members of the Filipino community in Thailand; Ambassador Brady; members of the Philippine delegation; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I thank the joint standing committee for commerce, industry and banking composed of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Thai Industries and the Thai Bankers Association, and the Thailand- Philippines Business Council for organizing this luncheon in cooperation with our Embassy in Bangkok.

This is the second day of my official visit to your beautiful country. And indeed, I see an amazing Thailand, not just your warm hospitality but also in the steady pace of your economic recovery.

It is an opportune time to push forward the partnership which our two countries began formally more than 50 years ago, but which has been there for centuries now. Some 40 years ago, my father, then President Diosdado Macapagal, was host to the state visit to the Philippines of their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand. And some 35 years ago, Thailand and the Philippines helped create ASEAN, an institution that sustains our time-honored partnership in promoting peace and prosperity in the region.

There is much we can do together as ASEAN brethren and as bilateral partners. I hope that this business forum has been catalyzing our collaboration in trade and business.

We derive strength from the common experience of hurdling the Asian financial crisis. And I am happy that last April 4th, 2002, standard and poor's — the last to do so because many other had done it before standard and poor's — revised the rating of the Philippine economy from negative to stable. According to standard and poor's, improved economic management under my administration has brought economic coherence and urgency to economic policies, and has led to higher investor confidence and higher GDP growth prospects.

Indeed, I would like to say in all candor, that under my administration, our country's political and economic priorities have been clearly defined.

When I became president last year, I declared before the Filipino people and before the world our determination to win the war against poverty within the decade.

To win our war against poverty, we have steered our national agenda along four paths: first, an economic philosophy of transparency and free enterprise; second, a modern agricultural sector founded on social equity to extend opportunities to the rural countryside; third, a social bias towards the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan; and fourth, higher moral standards in government and in society.

Our department of trade and industry has identified, through its annual investment priorities plan, a fairly extensive list of growth areas and priorities open to investors and eligible for incentives. Among the most promising is the

information and communications technology sector. And I'm glad that today, we signed two agreements regarding that.

There are indeed new opportunities in this field, combined with our ready pool of highly-skilled English-speaking ICT professionals having gained ground for us as a choice location for I.T. and E-commerce ventures including specialized operations such as backroom facilities and call centers.

We have also opened up the retail trade sector to allow 100 percent foreign ownership depending on paid-up capital. Some of our bigger local retailers are also open to entering into joint ventures with foreign partners.

Infrastructure projects under our liberalized build-operate-and-transfer scheme and its variations, and the privatization of government corporations, also provide new opportunities for investors to take part in the Philippines' growth.

Our agricultural modernization plans offer another investment area for Thai businessmen who have been modernizing Thailand's agriculture for many years now. Business partnerships in tourism are also very much welcome, as we know that Thailand is the undisputed leader in tourism in Asia.

Equally important to us is the need to further enhance our trade relations. One of the pillars of foreign policy in my administration is that more and more foreign policy decisions have to be made in the context of ASEAN. Logically, therefore, this leads to more and more business activities and decisions being done in the context of AFTA.

AFTA provides the impetus to growing intra-ASEAN trade. And I am impressed at the pace of bureaucratic reforms under AFTA and also under the various partners within AFTA including and especially the administration of Prime Minister Thaksin.

We have a program of bureaucratic reforms similar to that being undertaken by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Thailand. These reforms strictly define the role of government where business is concerned. To spur enterprise,

We follow a principle of facilitation rather than intervention, enabling rather than interfering.

We have taken concrete steps to increase transparency and reduce, if not eliminate, red tape within government. I have tasked all government agencies to undertake institutional and procedural reforms to speed up the delivery of essential frontline public services. Graft and corruption in high places certainly have no room in our government, and we seek to spread the ethic of public morality in all levels of government.

With systematic resolve, we are meeting the challenge of improving peace and order. We are determined to provide a safe environment not only for our citizens but also for investors, tourists and all visitors. We are carrying on our fight against terrorism and are working closely with foreign governments in this campaign. This is coupled with an aggressive program to uplift economic conditions in conflict-affected areas.

I would like you to know that under my administration, we will continue to join Thailand in maximizing the opportunities that abound within the ASEAN investment area and the ASEAN free trade area.

Thailand is an important participant in our country's economy. In the year 2001, Thailand was second only to Singapore among ASEAN countries as a trading partner of the Philippines. We buy the bulk of our sugar and rice from Thailand whenever there is a need to import these produce. And I am very happy that I witnessed today a memorandum of agreement whereby there will be a joint venture or a Thai investment in sugar corporation in the central part of the Philippines, in Negros oriental.

Over the past several years, we have seen tremendous growth in our trade coming from the electronics sector, of which we are both part of the international supply chain. A new source of growth is the automotive sector, where alliances and collaboration can be expanded. In fact, Pprime Minister Thaksin and I talked about this last night

because we have the AICO-Ford scheme, but Prime Minister Thaksin said that there are many other opportunities in the automotive sector where we can do this kind of joint venture.

We must continue to sustain our competitive edge through ASEAN value-added complementation — well, that's a more accurate term, complementation, rather than joint venture in this case. Abundant opportunities exist in a diverse range of trade arrangements, marketing tie-ups, joint ventures, integrated production and as i said earlier, AICO schemes, and cross investments.

Let us take a closer look at the future focus of our partnerships. One is agriculture and food production, where Thailand is a giant.

We have a history of interdependence in agriculture. Quite a number of Thai agriculturists have studied in our agricultural colleges such as the university of the Philippines in Los Baños. And as I said earlier, in the last few years, we have turned to Thailand for rice and sugar imports when we experience shortages in domestic production.

Today, I invite Thai and Philippine businessmen to explore the opportunities of complementation and cooperation within the entire farm-to-market agricultural chain. As my adviser for one million jobs, Secretary Lorenzo calls it, the chain from soil-to-shelf.

As we explore more cooperation in the food sector, i encourage the concerned agencies in our two governments to work together towards mutual recognition of standards and regulations to reduce non-tariff obstacles to trade.

Another area, is for I have mentioned, is industrial complementation.

We must examine higher value-added economic activities where we can benefit from each other's competitive advantage and optimize what each can offer. Already, we see this happening in the electronics and, as I said, automotive sectors, which have benefited largely from the AICO scheme.

We must also strengthen partnerships in ICT, as we have done today in the two agreements.

I urge you to look at the Philippines for outsourcing opportunities in five main areas where we have found we have competitive advantage — call center services, software development, medical transcription, business process outsourcing and animation. Filipino expertise in animation may be tapped to add value to your films, advertisements and educational materials. We must explore collaboration to meet the dramatic surge in the popularity of animation over the last decade, both in the traditional media as well as through the internet.

I also look forward to expanding our cooperation — of course, in the area where you are also giant — the area of tourism. Thailand's leadership position in tourism is given and highly admirable. At the government level, I am very pleased that the Philippine Department of Tourism and the Philippine Tourism Authority of Thailand have begun to jointly produce tourism promotion materials. The parallel effort by our private sectors — as shown here this noon — to undertake joint marketing efforts and to promote joint tourism packages, are certainly timely and appropriate.

Years from now, maybe a decade from now when joint tours to Thailand and the Philippines have become part of the regular tourism scene, we will remember it all started when our Secretary of Tourism named his grandson after the Prime Minister of Thailand, Prime Minister Thaksin.

The idea makes good sense. We do have attractions that can complement each other, and tourists would enjoy visiting both countries in one trip especially when they come from such far away places as Europe, America, Oceania. We also share a special pride in our heritage, in our cuisine, in our natural attractions, and in the warmth and hospitality of our people.

I am also pleased to add that the World Tourism Organization has declared year 2003 as "Visit the Philippines Year." but please don't wait until 2003, I am inviting all of you to visit the Philippines now. And better still, I am

inviting you, who have made Thailand the leader of tourism in Asia, to go to the Philippines and invest in tourist facilities that even now are always fully booked and there will be plenty of tourist next year to make even the additional facilities fully booked.

I understand that when Thailand was declared... I understand that during the year when it was declared as "Visit Thailand Year" that was the time when Thailand experienced its greatest jump in tourist arrivals. So, please come and take advantage of the potential because you know how to run a tourist sector. Please invest in the Philippine tourism industry as well. And I invite you to get to know the Philippines better. There is much more we can do together. Let us continue to seek partnerships in education, in trade promotion, in research and development.

I invite you to explore more extensively the opportunities in the Philippines. I invite you to invest in our country. I invite you to sustain our partnership with the rest of ASEAN in meeting the challenges and tapping into the potentials of the new global economy.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Philippines-Thailand Business Luncheon. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225622/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8291&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching Ceremony of ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) Business Night

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching Ceremony of ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) Business Night**

[Delivered at the Shangri-la Hotel Manila, Makati City, May 9, 2002]

Thank you very much, Oscar.

I would like to greet also Gabby and to congratulate him for this launching. I'd like to greet Senate President Franklin Drilon and the other government officials who are here tonight together with the Governor of the Central Bank, Paeng Buenaventura, Mayor Sonny Belmonte and adviser Cito Lorenzo. I'd like to congratulate also Freddie Garcia and the other managers of ABS-CBN and ANC. To the pledgers, thank you very much for your pledge. And to all of you, ladies and gentlemen.

This is a good night for us to be here together. I congratulate ANC for its work. I watch you every night, all night. In fact, I wander into my sleep tuned in to your channel, but since I'm a light sleeper I suddenly wake up when something alarming from your channel manages to wade through my dreams. And since I leave my TV set on all night, I wake up to the sound of your early morning news.

And tonight, bringing the business community here marks the solid relevance of the network in strengthening national consensus on our economic directions. We are partners in this quest.

Having just arrived this dawn from an overnight trip to Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok, I am very proud to say that confidence in our country is growing. Business potentials abound in our regional neighborhood reinforced by deepening security alliances. That is as far as the discerning businessmen are concerned.

But when I was in Thailand, a young boy, fourteen years old — could have been living in Thailand since he was three years old. Filipino but living in Thailand since he was three — said that he wants to think the best about the Philippines. He has fond though vague memories of the Philippines but he gets disturbed when he watches TV and all he sees about that country that he has not seen in the last eight years or eleven years is negative. That really shows how important it is to have good news.

And tonight, I would like to take this opportunity to dwell on issues that are close to the ground, so to speak, because we need to move forward on a number of vital fronts, foremost of which is the fight against poverty. We need to focus on this challenge. It is the key to our political stability and economic prosperity. And it is important that this focus on the fight against poverty be also conveyed to the watching public.

When I became president last year, I said that we want to win the battle against poverty within the decade. This commitment stands, and it is anchored on a comprehensive medium-term Philippine development plan. The plan revolves around four major components already familiar to those of you who have followed my pronouncements throughout the year: an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century; a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity; a social bias toward the disadvantaged; and elevating moral standards of government and society.

This plan is fleshed out in real, visible and measurable targets, most of which are contained in my first state of the nation address before congress last year. These targets are measurable and also they can be mediagenic if you make them so in ANC Business News.

On my part, as I look at the targets and I look at the accomplishments, I am generally satisfied with the accomplishments of these targets. And it is important, however, that the people be satisfied with them. If only the people could be made aware of these hard facts and figures. Of the 55 items that I targeted to do last July — twelve have already been fully accomplished with three months to spare; 34 are on schedule; nine targets are behind schedule, but Secretary Bert Romulo is working closely with the department heads involved to make sure that they catch up. All in all, therefore, we are about 85 percent done. We will move forward substantially till the next SONA in July this year.

But let me mention a few accomplishments so as to give you some ideas of what you can feature in some of your shows in ANC Business News.

Economic growth last year created more than a million-and-a-half jobs, reducing both unemployment and underemployment, and exceeding the targets in our plan. I wish some of those new job holders could be featured in ANC Business News. As of January, unemployment was 10.3 percent—one percent lower than a year ago — but I still think the 10.3 percent is too high, but then “Rome was not built in a day.” and it can’t be built any faster if there are always those who seek to tear it down.

While the economies of many of our neighbors and trading partners suffered declines last year, ours posted a 3.7 percent growth in GNP. This is one of the highest output growth rates in east and Southeast Asia. But sometimes I get interviewed by international media who assumed that we are growing slower than some of the other traditional high flyers. Until I point out to them the respective figures. Maybe I would’ve had to point out to them the relative figures if they saw it on ANC Business News.

Inflation was contained at 6.1 percent last year. And inflation for the first quarter of this year was even lower, at 3.6 percent. This shows that last year was not a fluke but a result of effective inflation management.

So, for those who keep saying, “tumataas ng tumataas ang presyo.” I wish they would answer, “alin?” because if you look at the price of rice, it’s the same. If you look at the price of galunggong, it’s the same. If you look at the price of medicines, it’s lower. So, what are we talking about. But then, well, I hope that when we have good news now, we won’t have those sweeping statements that really cannot be back-up by facts and figures.

Interest rates are at record lows, and hopefully with enthusiastic response from the business community, this low interest rates can translate to further increase in economic activities. But as far as interest rates are concerned, there was a saying, there is a saying that I learned from one of my textbooks in economics 101 — “you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t force it to drink.” that is what monetary policy is all about. With our low interest rates, we have brought the horse to water — that’s the business community. But to make them drink, they’ve got to feel that there is good news in the economy.

The peso has remained stable relative to the dollar. This week, as you all know, the peso breached the psychological barrier of 50 pesos to the dollar for the first time in thirteen months, a far cry from the 56 pesos to the dollar that rocked the period just before I became president.

The budget deficit was limited to a 140 billion pesos last year. This year, we will continue to exercise fiscal discipline because it was the main detail cited by the international credit rating agencies for our early graduation from negative to stable.

If last year’s growth had been consumption-led, it would not have been sustainable. But it was not consumption-led, rather it was investment-led, giving it the prospect of sustainability. What can I cite to prove it was investment-led — gross domestic capital formation increased by 4.3 percent last year compared to only 2.3 percent the year before.

I hope to stimulate big chunks of capital formation coming from getting major business projects going like the National Steel Corporation and housing projects, by reducing red tape and bottlenecks. And by getting specific big ticket infrastructure projects going like the LRT-3. That is why Oscar Lopez and all of the Benpres people I hope

will be patient with me when everytime I see them I asked them, “when are you going to start the Northluzon Expressway?”

We have stabilized the domestic political situation while continuing to mop up residual problems of law and order. We are putting in an additional 200 million pesos into an effort to bolster our capability against kidnapping and terrorism. We will set up more operational teams exclusively focused in this threat. We shall back up these teams with better surveillance equipment. Peace and order is essential to economic development. But it is also important that we give the good news the same attention as the bad news.

For instance, when Abu Muslim bombed General Santos, you saw all the big headlines for days and hours on end. But when Abu Muslim was arrested with all the evidence, where were all those headlines.

The decisiveness by which we are continuing to enforce the rule of law is only matched by our consistency and unswerving determination to keep the economy on track.

I targeted 20 billion pesos a year for agriculture and fisheries modernization but in actual terms last year, 26 billion pesos was spent. Last year and this year, we have allocated another 26 billion pesos.

Mr. Henry Lim and Cito Lorenzo were here to show the ‘Gloria rice.’ behind that ‘Gloria rice’ is a lot of hybrid dispersal, a lot of training, a lot of loans, a lot of soil analysis, behind that is 450 million pesos to bring productivity to our farmers. And this is only the second phase of what we did last year. Last year, we distributed other kinds of certified seeds, increase our produce by 300,000 metric tones of rice. And that is why the price of rice has remain stable. We met Mr. Romeo Vasquez — movie star-looking farmer from Isabela — and his fellow farmers in Isabela when I went to Cagayan Valley last week, thank me because even as the consumer is feeling the same stable prices of rice in the consumer market the farmers are receiving higher prices for their palay farm gate. This is good news. And I wish that what they had said, what they said could have been covered by ANC Business News.

I targeted shelter security for 150,000 urban poor families and a 100,000 rural farming families, and we have accomplished more than that already. More than 34,000 low-salaried workers have already been given financial assistance for their housing needs. But i want to bring that up to 100,000 in the next three months. I would wish and i do hope that the conduit banks for housing would be more aggressive in bringing the government funds which are available for housing through their system into the hands of the home builders. But why aren’t they doing it — because they’re feeling timid; because they’re lacking confidence; napaso na sa nakaraan. They need good news to become more aggressive again.

We have exceeded our target for health insurance coverage for the urban poor by almost threefold. We targetted 500,000 beneficiaries; we’ve already enrolled more than 1,475,000 in the urban areas. And we have done even more for the rural poor — more than 1,722,000 have already been enrolled, bringing a total of more than 3 million persons or 600,000 families into the health insurance scheme. At this pace, we will achieve universal coverage for the poor within the decade. And the government will pay for a big chunk of their medical bills.

The same prospect is true for land reform. We have distributed more than a 100,000 hectares of private land that we have targetted. And at this pace, we will achieve universal land reform within the decade. If every member of the poor has health insurance, and if every tenant farmer now has land that he can till and call his own. These two indicators show indeed, that we are complying with the targets that are needed to win the battle against poverty within the decade.

We have moved towards greater transparency in awarding contracts. These have to be bidded out rather than negotiated. We have computerized the bidding in public works. We have exceeded the target set for the number of agencies to be registered under the electronic procurement system. The result from all these — honest and faster contract awards.

We have infused in government, to a great degree, common sense, discipline, and accountability in management and public service. And civil society is in the loop. Private sector groups have set up procurement watch, which has been sanctioned to check the integrity of government purchases.

There is also the report card survey project which periodically measures public attitudes towards the delivery of services. There is the tax watch which monitors the internal revenue service. And there are the volunteers against crime and corruption which monitor the transactions of the department of public works and highways and other agencies.

But we have much, much more to do to enable the poor to catch up. And we can't do all that work if we have all these crabs bringing us down.

Leaders from all over the world are one in saying that in resolving poverty needs the combined resources of the entire planet to succeed. A global alliance can be forged to wage war against poverty.

This alliance against poverty can be seen in ASEAN. We are working within ASEAN to integrate and expand the regional market, so that our products and the products of those who invest in our country will cater to a regional market of half-a-billion people.

We are seeking, by ourselves and with our ASEAN partners, to strengthen and deepen our economic ties with countries and groups of countries beyond ASEAN — China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India, the United States, the European Union. We are part of the global effort to build a liberal but equitable trading system.

In this great endeavor to win the war against poverty, every little thing helps. I am glad that ANC Business News represents those in media who have heard my call and are taking the challenge of responsibly influencing and inspiring people to improve their lives and help in the development of the economy.

I want to take this opportunity again to tell everyone that we should set aside divisive politics and focus our energies on freeing our people from the bondage of poverty.

I also call on our business people to add a social dimension to their usual bottomline concerns. I urge you to create more jobs as you expand. More jobs translate to more purchasing power in the economy. More purchasing power will increase effective demand for goods and services, which would increase sales and profits. We must sustain this cycle of progress and stability.

You can, of course, directly or indirectly involve your companies and yourselves personally in social welfare activities. And I would like to congratulate ANC for taking the initiative in soliciting the specific pledges that were made from the business community for this purpose.

An act of kindness inspires similar acts of kindness. Let us flood the country with acts of humanitarianism. After all, we are all in this together — sink or swim. We must close ranks and ride on our collective buoyancy to face the steep challenges in the horizon.

Seeing you all here and seeing the new ANC Business News tonight gives me confidence that we shall prevail in the end. I appreciate your support very much. And be assured that I intend to continue to exercise my leadership to keep the government clean, to move it forward, and to make it responsive to Filipino aspirations.

Once more, let us thank ANC for the gift of innovative broadcast journalism that it started six years ago. And tonight, let us thank ANC once again for the gift of pioneering in consciously responsible broadcast journalism.

ANC business news, we need you to keep our nation at an even keel. We need to you to build confidence in a brighter future. So, I'll be watching again tonight. and I hope I don't have to wake up again alarmed by bad news.

Thank you and congratulations.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) Business Night. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225545/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8287&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 14th Anniversary of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Inauguration of its New Building

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 14th Anniversary of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Inauguration of its New Building**

[Delivered at the OMB Building, Agham Road, Quezon City, May 9, 2002]

Thank you very much, Ombudsman Desierto. And Happy Anniversary to you and congratulations to you as you end a very colorful career as the Ombudsman of the Republic of the Philippines.

The other great Cebuano in this hall, Chief Justice Hilario Davide; Comelec Chairman Fred Benipayo; Human Rights Chair Aurora Recena; may I also greet the deputies in the Ombudsman's Institution — Margarito Gervacio, our emcee; Jesus Guerrero; Primo Miro; Antonio Valenzuela; Orlando Casimiro; Leonardo Tamayo.

I would like to greet all the justices who are present here today; and also the members of Congress headed by Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales, himself a former state prosecutor. May I greet Mayor Belmonte, the host mayor; and all the other local government officials who are here; and I would also like to greet the members of the uniformed services headed by PNP Deputy Director General Jun Ebdane, who presented the co-authorship of the book on "Investigating Crimes Against Women and Children," and also represented by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the AFP, General Narciso Abaya; other officials of the Philippine Government; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

My warmest greetings to all the men and women from the Office of the Ombudsman on the occasion of your 14th anniversary. And my congratulations goes to the recipients of the awards for outstanding corruption prevention units, junior graftwatch units, and Outstanding Ombudsman Employees. I thought you were going to come here so I could shake hands with all of you. But later we'll do it, afterwards. So, I'd like to congratulate you and to wish you well so that you will continue to do your good work. Congratulations, too on the inauguration of your new building here in this road that is supposed to house many government buildings.

This is an opportune time to mark the distinctive contributions to good governance that have been made over the past year. The personal and professional conduct of every official and employee of the government is the ultimate measure of our worth as public servants. For the office of the ombudsman, there are many good reasons to celebrate. You have contributed immensely to molding responsible public servants. Responsible public servants are those who put the interest of our people above everything else.

Our constitution mandates you to be the "protector of the people against graft and corrupt practices." and as such, you are the public's watchdog, a mobilizer, an official critic and a vital instrument in the dispensation of justice. The ombudsman's office will always be relevant and needed for as long as the lure of wealth and power is occasioned by dishonesty and abuse among government officials and employees. In other words, as long as there is original sin, there is need for the ombudsman.

Our people's faith and trust in government is based on the imperative that justice is served fairly to every man, and that the law is applied to all. We, in government must strive hard to remove the impression — currently held by not just a few — that only the poor, the underprivileged and those without the means are hailed to court and made to answer for their crimes and misdemeanors. There is that saying, "poor boys fry and rich boys fly." this is something that we must disabuse our constituency of.

We must sustain public faith in our system of justice if we want the people themselves to uphold what is just and right. Mistrust in our justice system breeds contempt and resentment against authority. And when authority is severely eroded, we plant the seeds of disorder and at worst, social upheaval.

It is of paramount importance then that the personnel of the nation's watchdog against graft and corruption be at all times the good examples of the true public servant — ethical, religious, decent, upright, honest. Without these virtues, efforts to eradicate graft and corruption will amount to nothing.

You and I, and all public servants must share the commitment to uphold the rule of law, to sustain a government of laws and not of men, and to achieve a just society in which no one is above the law. For no democratic society can achieve respectability, seriousness and political maturity until it proves that in words and in deeds no one is above the law, not even those in-charge of its highest offices.

History has shown us that there were those that were tempted, in their time, to test the limits of this maxim. And that there were those who have miserably failed in the face of our laws. It may be said that “power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” but those blinded by an absolute sense of power were eventually brought down by the people themselves. And that is a great lesson from Philippine history.

We should not wait for this to happen again. Corruption must be nipped in the bud and never allowed to flourish. Such is the special role that the ombudsman plays in our society. It balances power in governance. It ensures that government not only creates laws but also upholds it. The ombudsman is our people's insurance that those who are chosen to govern will respect the Filipinos basic rights and act in accordance with their public oath.

The office of the ombudsman has vigorously pursued the dictum that “public office is a public trust.” the ombudsman has stood as a sentinel in enforcing a higher order of ethics and efficiency. As an independent constitutional body, the ombudsman has done its job without regard for personalities, and has shown a sense of justice that is blind to influence peddlers, powerbrokers and vested interests.

I would like to congratulate our Ombudsman Ani Desierto — especially now as he approaches the day that he will join the private sector — the records of the office of the ombudsman are testimony to the energy of the personnel meeting its mandate because as Ani said, from 1995 to 2001, he received 58,264 cases plus a backlog of almost 15,000. Yet, the Office of the Ombudsman under Ombudsman Desierto was able to dispose of about 95 percent of all cases and is seeking to have zero backlog. So, Congratulations! For that undeniable quantitative proof of efficacy.

More impressive is the record of prosecuting high-ranking officials. They talked about ‘big fish’ — well, the ombudsman has tackled a lot of ‘big fish,’ among them: a former president, two former first ladies, 17 cabinet members, six congressmen, 541 local government officials. And in your graft prevention program, you have mobilized NGOs — some of whom we are recognizing today — government agencies, the youth, and other sectors in the drive against graft and corruption. Given the rate also that the ombudsman is receiving complaints against erring officials, we must certainly strengthen our programs to nip corruption in the bud by removing the conditions that cause it.

The nation's foremost concern is the war against poverty, and poverty is a big contributor to graft and corruption. Poverty induces graft and corruption and conversely corrupt practices cause more poverty and injustice among the disadvantaged sector — this vicious cycle must be stopped.

Good governance is what we must have. When I became president, on my first working day, the first Monday after I became president, January 22 year 2001, I said, good governance rests on three pillars: first, a sound moral foundation to guide our leadership at all levels; second, a philosophy of transparency and accountability in all government transactions; and third, an ethic of effective implementation throughout the bureaucracy. All of these are part of your mandate.

On your 14th anniversary, I urge the ombudsman's workforce to remain steadfast as protectors of our people. May you never be intimidated by the steepness of challenges, and may you remain impervious to the call of wealth and fame in exchange for your favors. There should be no greater favor for you than the high esteem and the gratitude of the Filipino people.

May I say in closing that one of the things I remember most about Ani Desierto in his career is that one time he told me that he is very conscious that he faces the judgment of history and he does not want history to judge him badly, he wants history to judge him well. And so, i am confident that in all the actions that Ani has done throughout his work as ombudsman, he was always conscious of history, and I think history rather than the lure of temporary wealth or temporary approval is a greater guide for what is the good that should be done. So, I congratulate you, Ani — all your service as ombudsman. And I congratulate all of those who worked with you and may you all continue to do a good job.

I would like to acknowledge the presence of Speaker Joe de Venecia. I already explained to the head table, Joe that you will be following because I left you in the golf course because today was the golf tournament for the speaker's cup in order to be able to build a large home for streetchildren. So this is part of our fight against poverty, and as I said earlier, the fight against poverty is interlinked with the fight against injustice. The work of the ombudsman is just as much a part of the fight against poverty as it is a large part of the fight against graft and corruption. Once again, congratulations, Ani. Congratulations to all of you on your 14th anniversary. Congratulations on this new home and may you do your work as beautifully as the new home that you are working in.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 14th Anniversary of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Inauguration of its new Building. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225556/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8289&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Arrival Ceremonies after an Official Visit to Bangkok, Thailand

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Arrival Ceremonies after an Official Visit to Bangkok, Thailand

[Delivered at the NAIA Terminal 1, Pasay City, May 9, 2002]

Mr. Vice President, Mr. Senate President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Cabinet, the Charge d' Affaires of the Thai Embassy, General Villanueva and the major service commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Ladies and Gentlemen.

My overnight trip to Malaysia and Thailand have been fruitful and rewarding. We have brought the Malaysian and Thai peoples closer to our own in terms of greater security, progress and social advancement.

As our political and economic stability continues to be proven and reinforced by recent events, there is no better time for fresh diplomatic initiatives in the fight against terrorism and poverty. Prime Minister Mahathir and Prime Minister Thaksin are among our close allies.

In Malaysia, I keynoted the 35th International General Meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council which Malaysia hosted. The PBEC is an association of senior business leaders from around the Pacific Basin region. It represents over 1,000 companies in 20 economies in the region. This accounts for over U.S. 4 trillion dollars in global sales and employs over 10 million people.

I presented before this forum our position on liberalized and equitable trade. I touched upon the relationships of the war against terrorism and the war against poverty in the light of our own experience. I dwelt upon mechanisms to temper protectionism pursuant to our national interests. I sought investments that could pay premium social dividends for our people.

Prime Minister Mahathir and I witnessed the signing of the trilateral agreement against terrorism and transnational crime in Kuala Lumpur — where in the media, I acknowledged that the whole idea came from Speaker Joe de Venecia — Prime Minister Thaksin has pledged to sign shortly. We will soon have their quadrilateral agreement to constrict terrorists and further insulate the regional neighborhood from evildoers.

Prime Minister Mahathir chipped in another big stake in the Mindanao peace process. In Kuala Lumpur, the government and the MILF signed an agreement setting forth the parameters of a stepped up rehabilitation and development effort in the former conflict-affected areas. The MILF will work with the ARMM in pursuit of the program. In areas outside ARMM, the government agencies will work the rehabilitation into their existing priorities and programs.

The GRO-MILF agreement paves the way for the participation of the Islamic Development Bank in the rehabilitation and development effort. In Kuala Lumpur, I was also informed by officials of Maybank, a giant in Malaysia, of its plans to support development thrust in Southern Philippines.

In Bangkok, aside from committing to sign the trilateral agreement against terrorism, Prime Minister Thaksin agreed to expand our cooperation in tourism. This was a very kind and generous offer considering that Thailand is the pillar of tourism in Southeast Asia — it probably has about 20 or 25 percent share in the entire tourism of Asia. So, under this agreement, we shall now engage in joint advertising of Thai and Philippine destinations. This synergy will bring jobs and income to many of our people.

We have also agreed to expand accounting trade arrangements. I have designated the Land Bank of the Philippines to be our official clearinghouse for such arrangements, the first of which will be the payment of imported rice from Thailand with a corresponding export of fertilizer to that country.

Among the investments and partnerships that were firmed up in Bangkok were the following:

- * The Ban Pong group of Thailand and the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters of the Philippines will establish a joint venture company — Asian Sugar Alliance, Inc. — to construct, own, and operate and manage a sugar mill in Mabinay, Negros Oriental. The project will have a total cost of 16 million dollars.

- * The Thai travel agents association and the Philippine Tour Operators Association will conduct joint programs for the development of extension and joint destination holiday packages under the twinning program of the Tourism Authority of Thailand and the Department of Tourism of the Philippines.

- * Boon Tawd Trading Co. Ltd. of Thailand will distribute in Thailand alcoholic spirits produced by the Philippines' La Tondena Distillers.

- * Horwath Consulting Services of Thailand will outsource I.T. requirements from information technology solutions of the Philippines, which is located at the Eastwood I.T. Park in Quezon City.

- * Corporate Vision Asia of Thailand will resell in Thailand the wireless communications software products of the DFNN group of companies in the Philippines.

- * The Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry will promote commercial and industrial links between our two countries. The Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce will soon send a business delegation to the Philippines.

I also conferred with the Thai food Giant Charoen Pokphand to interest them once again in the Philippines after a disappointment they felt many years ago about our then restrictive investment laws, which at that time led them to invest in China instead of the Philippines. The Bangkok Bank also called on me and accepted our suggestion to transfer to their Philippine operations their successful technology of mobilizing credit for small-and-medium sized enterprises — something which many of our Philippine banks are not interested in doing.

In stressing the need for increased peace and security in the region, I called for enhanced cooperation between the military and police authorities of the two countries — Thailand and the Philippines. Prime Minister Thaksin and I — in his visit last October — signed an agreement on the transfer of sentenced persons. This time, he and I witnessed the exchange of instruments of ratification of the treaty on this transfer of sentenced persons. This will be an added deterrent to transnational crime.

I also spoke to the Philippine-Thai Business Council, the Filipino community in Thailand, and to the faculty of Chulalongkorn University, where I received an honorary doctorate in political science. I carried common themes — tourism, trade, investment, the fight against terrorism, ASEAN solidarity — in these gatherings.

And, most of all, the highlight of my trip to Thailand was my visit to their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand. It was a wonderful meeting that lasted for more than an hour, filled with wonderful memories of their visit to the Philippines when my father was president, and the many times that the king and my father interacted with each other in various bilateral and multilateral meetings. The king remembered very well his trip to the Philippines. He remembered his trip to Baguio. He remembered his trip to the rice terraces. We talked about the rice terraces, about their being a national heritage recognized by UNESCO. But I also told him about how the young people now are no longer interested in working so hard to preserve the rice terraces because there are other better ways, more lucrative ways to produce rice, or there are other better ways to make a living. The king informed me about a technology that they are doing in the mountains of Thailand. They are also building rice terraces but with modern technology. And he is willing and very much able, and very much enthusiastic about transferring that technology to

the Philippines. So one of the things that the embassy will be doing — now that I have left Thailand to come back here — will be to go to the various experimental stations so that we can save our rice terraces through modern technology. And at the same time, spread this technology to other mountain areas where the poor people need to produce rice at a surplus or enough rice that they can eat on their own.

In times of challenge and opportunity, there is nothing more natural or easier than to look to our neighbors for mutually beneficial arrangements. In this spirit, I went to Malaysia and Thailand to reaffirm close ties and inject vigor into our mutual undertakings. My trip was short, but I have faith that it built new bridges to greater peace, progress and prosperity for the Filipino, Malaysian and Thai peoples.

Tomorrow is another day. I thank you all for staying up so late at night just to meet me here tonight, this morning. Tomorrow is another day, and I shall keep on going with the job of leadership. From the capitals of the ASEAN region, I shall again forge into our country's regional centers and find the commonalities we can muster to uplift our people from poverty. My spirits are reinforced by the genuine empathy and concern of our neighbors.

I would like to thank Prime Minister Mahathir and Prime Minister Thaksin, and especially the King of Thailand, and all the peoples of Malaysia and Thailand for their abiding kindness, hospitality and genuine sense of solidarity with our nation and people.

And to you, my countrymen and countrywomen, thank you for your prayers and thank you for your support

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Arrival Ceremonies after an Official Visit to Bangkok, Thailand. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225611/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8288&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the Mindanao Container Terminal Project (MCTP) Phase 1 and Awarding of Projects to Beneficiaries

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the Mindanao Container Terminal Project (MCTP) Phase 1 and
Awarding of Projects to Beneficiaries**

[Delivered at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, May 15, 2002]

Daghang salamat kanatong Vice President sa nasud Tito Guingona. Anak ug Misamis Oriental. Sa istorya sa atong nasud duha ang presidente nga gipili isip ilahang Vice President, anak sa Misamis Oriental. Si Diosdado Macapagal gipili niya isip iyang Vice President si Emmanuel Pelaez gikan sa Misamis Oriental. Si Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo gipili isip iyang Vice President Tito Guingona, anak sab sa Misamis Oriental.

The honorable First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy Mr. Shi Mermuri; Chairman of PHIVIDEC, Boy Abadia. You know it took me a year to look for a job worthy of Boy Abadia. And when it was time to nominate the new board of PHIVIDEC I said, Boy Abadia usa pa nga anak sa Misamis Oriental kay ang iya nga asawa nagikan sa balingasag. And so I said the best place for boy to be in is the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority.

Aton mga Congressman diri sa Misamis Oriental. Ang akong higala, si Congressman Oscar Moreno; ug si Congressman Baculio, ang Congressman sa kining distrito ni ini; ang akong bag-o nga higala, si Governor Bong Calingin; ang atong laing-laing na Governor sa Region 10. Anhi karon si Governor Romualdo, akong higala sab apan mas higala sa reyna sa Espana. Kay si Queen Sophia of Spain ang iyang favorite nga lugar diri, ang iyang favorite nga beneficiary sa iya mga project walay laing kundi lang sa probinsya sa Camiguin; Governor of Bukidnon, Governor Joe Zubiri, na siya sab ang atong Chairman sa Regional Peace and Order Council; ug siyempre gusto ko ipaabot ang akong dako nga pagpasalamat kan Mayor Dongkoy Emano, ang Mayor Karon sa Cagayan de Oro ug ang Governor sa Misamis Oriental, niadto ako ang Undersecretary sa Trade and Industry ug kanusaa nasugdan nato gihapon kining project diri sa PHIVIDEC murag sa iyang pagkwento kanako.

And I would like to thank our friends from JBIC, Chief Representative Mitsuru Taruki, because this project is funded with a loan from JBIC but let me say that even loans cannot proceed — oh, I see Congressman Jaraula is still here, in the back. Why are you there congressman? He was with me already all day including whitewater rafting in Cagayan de Oro. I thought he would be tired already but he's still here — anyway, speaking of JBIC let me explain that even if a loan is available if it is not put in the budget and if the special allotment and the release is not provided for by the national government that project cannot push through. And that is what Mayor Emano was saying that in the past administration it was his idea — the story is that the Phividec led by administrator Evangelista went to Mayor Emano and told him about this project which would complete the requirements for the Phividec industrial estate, and the mayor brought it to the previous president. The paperwork started but the final release of making availability of the funds to make the project actually move did not move. There was no signature. There was no approval in the previous administration. So therefore, though it was conceptualized by Mayor Emano in the previous administration, a project starts when the money starts flowing. And the money started flowing under the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Our much esteemed foreign investors and local investors, Mr. Allen Roxas; and our friends from Germany. I believe this is a project for the coal-fired power plant. This is a very much coveted project even by other foreign investors. And I would like to greet also tanan mga laing-laing mayors sa laing-laing lunsod sa Misamis Oriental labi na ang mayor diri sa tagoloan, Mayor Bambi Emano. And we have tanang atong mga barangay officials and together with me as members of my national delegation, we have the Secretary of Trade and Industry, Manuel Roxas; and the Presidential Adviser on job creation from Bukidnon of Region 10 Secretary Cito Lorenzo; with us also today because he was able to make available in our administration again the funds for the westbound terminal in Cagayan de Oro, Landbank President Gary Teves; aton mga... Oh, there is here a... There is here an insertion, "don't forget

to...” No, not “don’t forget.” Anyway, is they’re standing very — ah no, sitting down already — very humbly by the side, south commander and soon to be Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Roy Cimatu. We have him until Saturday. Saturday he takes over as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces; aton mga laing-laing members sa board ng Phividec industrial authority let me tell you I went through a lot of work to make sure that the Phividec board would be a board that represents a very broad range of concerns and stakeholders in the Phividec. And I’m very proud of the composition and I hope that indeed under your leadership, your collective leadership and especially the overall leadership of Boy Abadia and the good legwork of administrator Evangelista this international container port would make Phividec not only an industrial center, it will make the whole Region 10 truly one of the major industrial centers of the whole Philippines.

Because today we had earlier our Regional Development Council meeting in Oroquieta in Misamis Occidental. And we were looking at what NEDA had in mind for Region 10 as well as what the RDC has in mind for Region 10. NEDA’s presentation gave us its vision for region 10 agro-industrial center and food basket. I said, “no.” Agro-industrial center is a demotion. Region 10 must be industrial center and food basket. And not only for Mindanao but for the entire Philippines. Because if we talk about industrialization in the 21st century we talk about petrochemical and we talk about steel. The petrochemical industry will be in Bataan or Batangas but the steel industry will be in Northern Mindanao.

Busa Kanina Gyud, ganina sab gi-present ang atong flagship projects in order to promote the vision of Region 10. And the big projects, the big ticket projects mentioned were the Pangil bay bridge which will connect Lanao del Norte and Misamis Occidental; the Bukidnon integrated area development program; the Mindanao International Container Terminal, which is what we are doing today; and the Langindingan airport. You noticed two of them are in Misamis Oriental.

Kaya kung sinabi ni Bong at saka ni Dongkoy na sila’y aking-akin na dapat naman siguro.

But I also said that if we are to correct our vision from being just an agro-industrial center to an industrial center, a fifth major project must be the rehabilitation of the National Steel Corporation. That’s why Mar Roxas is here because he is my man to do those things.

Busa kaninyong tanan mga kaigsuonan maayong hapon mga higala ko dinhi sa Cagayan de Oro kay naa karon, anya karon ang atong mga oro chamber ug laing-laing nga mga negosyante sa Cagayan de Oro ug sa tibuok Misamis Oriental. Kanunay ako malipay kung ako makabisita dinhi kaninyo: una sa tanan, kay murag ingon ni Vice President Guingona ako sab usa ka anak sa Mindanao kay nidako ako sa Iligan City. Ug pangaduha, kay duol kaayo kanako ang Phividec Industrial Center ug ang Cagayan de Oro-Iligan corridor. Kay murag ingon gyud ni City Mayor Emano katong sa Phividec Industrial Center ug sa Cagayan de Oro-Iligan corridor ako man ang nisugod ni ining project niadto ako pa Undersecretary sa Trade and Industry, way back in 1989, thirteen years ago.

Mao kini ang akong ulahi nga parte sa akong byahe sa tulo ka probinsya sa Northern Mindanao. Nagikan ko sa Surigao, unya sa Misamis Occidental kanina, ug karon sa Misamis Oriental.

Isip usa ka batan-on nga nidako usahay sa lunsod sa San Juan, Rizal ug usahay sa pang-uuma sa akong lola sa Lanao, natan-aw ko ang kalibutan nga diperensya sa kinabuhi sa mga middle-class suburbanites sa San Juan ug sa mga kaluoy nga tenant ug mang-uuma sa Lanao. Natan-aw ko ang grabe nga kabus-an sa mga lugar nga muslim parehas sa kabus-an sa mga probinsya nga muslim sa mindanao nga wala’y duda mao’y labing kabos nga lugar sa atong nasud. Wala’y duda nga ang kabus-an mao’y ginikanan sa aton mga problema sa national security sa Mindanao. Ang kabus-an bisan sa atong labing problema sa atong nasud parehas sa ako usa pa batan-on diri sa Mindanao.

Sa kanunay nga ako mubisita sa Mindanao, musolti ko sa akong mga prinsipyo alang sa Mindanao: una sa tanan, ang kalinaw ug kauswagan kaluwa nga dili angay magbulag; ikaduha, kinahanglan ang pangita nato sa kalinaw sulod sa konstitusyon ug prinsipyo sa territorial integrity; ikatulo — well, wait let me go... Before I go to the third one — katong territorial integrity. Good that General Cimatu is here. Because there is this misperception, misconception or maybe a pre-fabricated and really intended misinterpretation of the agreement that we signed, that

our negotiators signed in Kuala Lumpur regarding the MILF. There is nothing in that agreement that says that the camps, the former MILF camps will be returned to them. Nothing, nothing, nothing. There is nothing in that agreement that talks about the MILF at all. It is an agreement about how to rehabilitate the former Wartorn areas. And what it says there is recognizing the right of the evacuees to go back to their original homes or to their new homes of choice which is fait accompli because there are no more evacuation camps, they have all gone back to their homes. And by definition, evacuees are non-combatants. So if you say we help the evacuees go back to their homes, we are not talking about the MILF. Therefore, all of these interpretation being peddled are wrong interpretations and I hope that they are just honestly wrong and not maliciously wrong. Ikatulo sa Mindanao, kinahanglan musabot nato nga ang atong nasud usa ka multi-ethnic society asa kinahanglan aduna'y social justice for all and institutionalized accommodation of various cultural traditions.

Ug sa pangita sa kauswagan nga kinahanglan alang sa kalinaw, we are here to mark another achievement of Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro as a lead player in Mindanao's development. As we break ground for this Mindanao container terminal project phase I, we also launch today the Mindanao container terminal port phase 2. These are a testimony to Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental's leadership in regional development as they are turning points in the country's battle against poverty. Mindanao's gain is the country's gain although without doubt the people of Mindanao stand to benefit most from it.

Cagayan de Oro's leadership in Mindanao development is highlighted by the fact that in Region 10 unemployment rate is the lowest in the whole country. The unemployment rate in the country was 11.3 percent when I started my presidency in 2001 and it is now 10.3 percent. But it is in region 10 — while the rest of country is 10.3 percent — the unemployment in region 10 is 5.74 percent. And that is why sa kining atong jobs fair diri sa tagaloan, sa town plaza, sa akon nakita diri sa atong records ang mga jobs available 2,326 apan ang mga applicants 537. So nakita nato na for every job seeker dunay 4 to 5 jobs available diri sa tagaloan tingali sa tibuok region 10 ug Misamis Oriental. Busa sa atong mga awardees — asa man atong mga awardees diri? Sa high school leadership awards? — kung mangita kamo ug trabaho maadto kamo sa town plaza sa tagaloan kay naa pa jobs fair until 5 o' clock pm this afternoon.

Now, it is said nga usa ka rason ngano that gamay ra ang unemployment rate diri tungod sa micro-finance and the success of small and medium enterprises. This confirms the strategy that our administration started early last year. When we saw early last year that exports would decline due to the world slowdown, we decided to strengthen the domestic market. And i remember asking Mar Roxas, "so, how do we strengthen the domestic market?" And mar said, "first, by strengthening the small and medium enterprises." Nahimo gyud diri sa misamis oriental ug Region 10. Unya by agricultural expenditures and housing programs followed by the decision to pay the local governments your IRA in full, on time without deductions and even to pay part of the debt of the previous administration to the LGUs. □kauban sa mga debt sa previous administration kining atong project gyud diri karon.

Tungod kay siyempre ako nahimo presidente because of God's will ug hibaw ko na ako nahimo presidente aron makapangita kita ug sabot sa problema sa kabus-an sa atong nasud.

Poverty is the country's foremost enemy and our battle plan is contained in our medium-term Philippine development plan. At the core of our plan are four strategies, namely: first, a philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century; second, agricultural modernization with equity; third, a social bias for the poor and disadvantaged sectors; and fourth, high moral standards in government and Philippine society.

Ubos sa free enterprise nga angay sa 21st century, ginpili nato ang turismo isip usa sa mga sector sa kauswagan sa kaugmaon tungod sa mga klarong rason — daghan ang aton mga natural wonders ug manindot ang natural warmth ang hospitality ug mga Filipino. Naa kita bentaha sa beach ug eco-tourism gikan sa mga baybay sa Boracay, sa Visayas ug sa baybay sa Camiguin — nga siguro more than 100 percent ang inyo nga occupancy rate sigurado sa Camiguin — hangtod sa perfect surf sa Siargao ug ang Mambuaya river for whitewater rafting which I can now guarantee from personal experience is perfectly delightful.

Ubos naman sa agricultural modernization, dako ang papel ug Mindanao. Hibalo nato tanan ang climate ug soil sa Mindanao nahimo gyud na ang Mindanao karon usa nga natural food basket sa tibuok nasud. In fact, sa karon ingon

ni Secretary Cito Lorenzo kay ang El Nino sigurado maadto sa North Luzon, the shortfall in North Luzon can be made up for by the additional agricultural production diri sa Northern Mindanao.

In fact, I was very happy to get the report earlier in the regional development council tanan mga crops, tanan mga agricultural products region 10 is a net exporter. So you are truly a food basket and you truly need a container port like this one.

Ang MCTP siguradong tabang sa kauswagan sa Mindanao. 30 hectares space? For phase 1, 60 afterwards. 400-meter wharf that will initially handle 270,000 container vans per year, this project will facilitate the transfer of food and other cargo from this part of Mindanao. It will accelerate trade and industry and encourage the construction of more facilities for business and for leisure.

MCTP's rationalized and organized cargo handling will push forward the efficient transport of more agricultural products from this part of Mindanao to the Visayas, to Luzon and even to foreign lands. This will ensure that products arrive at destinations fresh and on time. New markets will be opened to the farmers of Northern Mindanao. This will encourage even small farmers to produce more. It will have a multiplier effect on development.

The MCTP will likewise play a major role in providing a social bias through the jobs it will generate. Beyond the 2,000 people it will hire directly during its 24-month construction, this port will become a hub of commerce and attract many small entrepreneurs in the food and services industries.

The MCTP is expected not only to complement the 100-million peso Cagayan port, but it will also serve as the main gateway of marine transport for Northern Mindanao and a major business location for the whole island. It will eventually be the trans-shipment hub serving the BIMP-EAGA region.

More business means a greater number and variety of jobs for people of various skills levels. I foresee that with just phase 1 completed in January 2004, as Phividec chairman Boy Abadia has promised, more than 10,000 men and women from the Cagayan de Oro-Iligan corridor and the whole of Mindanao will find jobs here.

This very important infrastructure project costing 85 million dollars for its first phase alone, is a vital part of the development of the Phividec estate into an industrial estate. And I am glad that the LGUs of Tagoloan and nearby towns have expressed full support for the speedy development of the Phividec industrial estate.

Tungod kay apil sa atong anti-poverty medium-term plan ang social bias alang sa mga kabos, it is also heartening to note that the Phividec industrial authority offered a humane relocation package to affected families, which is being implemented ahead of schedule. By the way, this port is implemented ahead of schedule. It's suppose to start in October. But it started now because the funds have already been made available by this administration.

But speaking about the relocation, nahinumduman ko dayon ang akon experience niadto ako pa undersecretary sa trade and industry katong kwento ni Mayor Emano ug natan-aw ko niadto dako ang resistance sa pag-uswag sa Phividec industrial estate kani adto. Nianhi ko aron mahibalo ko ngano daghan ang resistance. Nahibalo ko nga sa mga niaging tuig, sa kanunay duna'y bag-o nga locator sa Phividec, gipalakaw ang mga pamilya gikan sa yuta hangtod sa masunod nga locator muadto naman asa nakabalhin sila. Busa lakaw gihapon. Lakaw ug lakaw sama sa mga baka.

Hangtod sa ako naanhi isip undersecretary sa Trade and Industry ug sa nadawat ko ang feedback diri niadto ako sa DTI ug gi-ingon ko sa Manila na dili kita mudayon sa pagsulod sa mga bag-o nga industriya hangtod nga makapangita kita ug permanent ug acceptable nga relocation site sa mga gi-displace sa Phividec. Nahimo gyud busa ni-ining atong okasyon karon padayon lang sa akong trabaho sukad pa sa 13 years ago.

Mindanaoans have been asking for a fair share of the national budget. And I wish to point out so that, once and for all, you can dispute another accusation that Mindanao gets less than the other areas. Let me tell you that Mindanao has the highest per capita budget allocation at 4,878 pesos per capita. And furthermore, region 10, which as for the

budget I inherited had the lowest per capital allocation among all regions in the country in the last administration, Governor Calingin. Now, it enjoys the highest growth rate in per capita allocation in 2002 — 25 percent growth rate.

And from the 450 million-peso agricultural modernization budget for hybrid rice — which we will distribute today — of the 450 million pesos, 200 million — almost one-half — is going to Mindanao. And this will go so Mindanao is receiving 200 million or almost one-half, where will this go? This will go to seed subsidy like these seeds that we are distributing today and training for 82,500 hectares of hybrid rice planting, of which 25,000 are being planted right this April and may season and the rest in October-November next season. Moreover, there is also again — thanks to Gary Teves — 250 million pesos credit being granted by the Land Bank through Quedancor at 10,000 pesos per hectare this season. Unta mubayad maayo ang atong mga mang-uuma sa ilahang utang, aron unya kung maayo ang repayment naa pa sa October-November additional 525 million pesos for a total of 828 million pesos for the farmers of Mindanao.

Katong pagbayad daghan ang gihimo nga ang problema once there are bad payers because they are irresponsible. But there are bad payers because of force majeure, the world's slowdown, September 11, the BW scandal, El Nino, etc. And I figured, and this has been... It was in fact formally taken up at the regional development council meeting this morning to request that because in the past hangtod karon if you have arrears you cannot borrow again. What a pity, because our interest rates today are at their lowest in the history of our country. But they can't go to our poor farmers because of this rule that if you have a pending arrear you cannot borrow. But Gary Teves has said that he is willing to restructure the present arrearages, and part of the restructuring will be additional working capital. Therefore, the funds will be made available to the farmers even if they have current arrearages.

Kay gi-ingon ko kanina sa mga niaging administrasyon kon makahatag sila ug amnesty sa mga tax evaders ngano dili kita makahatag ug amnesty sa aton mga farmers. So the amnesty is with regard to their being prohibited from borrowing again. So gary will speed up the restructuring and make available additional funds.

Karon sa 200 million pesos hybrid rice for Mindanao, 24 million pesos will go to region 10. Ug sa 825 million-peso credit for Mindanao, 100 million pesos will be available to farmers in the region, again let me repeat, from Land Bank through Quedancor. Daghan salamat Gary Teves.

We join you in the relentless drive to attract investors like our German friends. And I congratulate PIA for the 6 new locators in 2001 that have given jobs to close to 1,000 people. This year's two additional investors are bringing in approved investments of 100 million, while six more have signified their intention to come in together with our German friends.

Most importantly, I would like to thank, in behalf of the Filipino people, the Japanese government, represented here by the charge d' affaires of the Japanese embassy... By the first secretary of the Japanese embassy because we have no ambassador yet from Japan. The previous ambassador just left and his replacement is still to come. The MCTP has been made possible through I said earlier, a special yen loan package under our official development assistance. This project will remain a long-lasting symbol of deep friendship between Japan and the Philippines and the special concern that the Japanese people hold for the Philippines' sustained growth.

Let me say nga duna'y tiyempo sa niaging mga tuig nga dili na nadayon ang mga Japanese loans diri sa mindanao tungod sa problema sa kalinaw. Apan sa niaging bisita ni Prime Minister Koizumi kanako diri sa Pilipinas ni-ingon niya na they are ready to go back to Mindanao. They are ready to contribute to peace and development in Mindanao.

Let me reiterate that not even the MCTP or any other project can fully guarantee equitable growth in Mindanao. However, only long-lasting peace can assure us of sustainable development. And peace can be achieved only through the concerted effort of the people of Mindanao. Ang pagkab-ot sa kalinaw ug kauswag anaa sa mga kamot sa taga Mindanao.

Let us, therefore, strive together for peace and development. Let us be united in relentlessly pursuing unity, harmony and solidarity behind our dreams for all Filipinos. In that light, I accept Dongkoy and bong saying sila'y aking-akin na.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). During the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the Mindanao Container Terminal Project (MCTP) Phase 1 and Awarding of Projects to Beneficiaries. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225529/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8285&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 46th National Council Meeting of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 46th National Council Meeting of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines

[Delivered at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Manila Hotel, May 16, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Raul Roco sa iyong pag-imbata at sa iyong pagpahayag ng patuloy na suporta ng Department of Education sa Boy Scouts of the Philippines. Dahil alam natin na nagkaproblema yung boy scouts nung ipinatupad ni Raul ‘yung batas na dapat walang collection. Kaya kanina pinag-usapan namin dito sa mesa at siguro ‘yung nawala sa boy scouts dahil sa pagtigil ng collection during enrollment ay pwedeng manggaling sa special education fund. Iyon ang ating gagawin para hindi malugi yung boy scouts.

Mayor Jojo Binay, ang National President ng Boy Scouts of the Philippines. At pinaalala n’ya yung utang ko bilang pangulo, na one million pesos para sa Boy Scouts of the Philippines, pandagdag na rin ‘yon; Congressman Butch aquino; Congressman Teddy ‘Boy’ Locsin; Vice Mayor Mercado, ang Conference Chairman nitong ating meeting ngayon; Mr. Kim Kyu Young, Cam Saha Meda, and we thank you and we congratulate you for being here. And congratulations as you end your tour as Regional Director of the World Scout Bureau; si Jun Aniag, ang Senior VP ng Boy Scouts of the Philippines, former Congressman, binabati ko rin; si Vice Governor De Jesus ng Misamis Oriental, Chief National Commissioner ng Boy Scouts; si Dr. Pedro San Vicente, ang member Emeritus ng Boy Scouts; si Frankie Roman na member Emeritus din ng boy scouts — saan si Frankie? Ayun; si Secretary General Escudero, ang ating Master of Ceremonies at saka si Secretary General. Monsignor Laban, member ng Executive Board ng Boy Scouts pero siya ang Malacanang Chaplain kaya ‘pag nagsi-simba ako araw-araw, siya ang nagse-sermon sa akin; Obet Pagdanganan, BSP past National President and now, kasi tapos na ‘yung one year, Presidential Adviser on Cooperative Development; Congressman Del de Guzman; and si Dr. Destura, ang Vice President for the Visayas; at ‘yung aking kababayan sa Iligan, si Jimmy Semana, ang Vice President for Mindanao.

Binabati ko rin yung mga members ng executive board, officers and members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. May I also greet Mr. Nazmul Haque Nazu from Bangladesh; Commander Aftab Qureshi from Pakistan; nandito rin si Congressman Cho Roco at saka si Congressman Harry Angpin; si Governor Petilla ng Leyte na induct ko bilang Boy Scout din doon sa Leyte; ay, mabuti nadaanan ko si Governor Aurora Cerilles dahil wala sa listahan, Governor Cerilles; at iyung inyong counterpart naman sa kababaihan, si Cynthia Sagala, President ng Girl Scouts — naku, nalaman na niyang narito ako mapipilitan akong pumunta ngayon sa Girl Scouts Conference din; other Government Officials; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Greetings, my fellow scouters. I come to this council with best wishes for your safety, security and happiness.

Ako ay natutuwa na, bilang inyong pangulo, ako ngayon ang Chief Scout ng Pilipinas. Tunay na ito ay isang napakalaking karangalan, dahil alam naman nating lahat na kayo ay isang samahan ng mga huwarang kabataang kilala sa gawa at hindi puro salita. Hindi ba ang motto natin sa boy scouts, sa mga scouts ay “laging handa”, always ready. Laging handa sa pagtulong sa ating clean-up drives, sa traffic assistance — hindi ba ‘yung image ng boy scout always helping an old lady cross the street? — sa anti-drug campaign, sa community service.

Mataas ang aking paggalang sa scouting. Ang aking mga anak naging boy scouts din noong panahon nila. At mula nung matatag ang Boy Scout of the Philippines noong 1936, milyun-milyon na ang kabataang pilipinong nakinabang dito at nakaiwas sa masasamang bisyo.

In fact, I am very happy to learn that the boy scouts is number three in the world. But that is in terms of absolute numbers. Sabi nga ni Jojo, if you talk about percentage of the population being boy scouts, lalo pang mas mataas — siguro baka pinakamataas na nga — at ang isang dahilan nga ay dahil dito kaiba-iba ang kostumbre ng boy scouts,

naka-integrate sa mga gawain ng mga eskwelahan. And so it is truly important that we continue this tradition because it leads our youth into the good path away from the bad path.

The practice of self-reliance, the attitude of taking the initiative to achieve goals and the skills of emergency preparedness have inculcated in countless young Filipinos the values of discipline, diligence and perseverance. Through the path of scouting, many respectable and responsible Filipinos of today have acquired the sturdy character and firm conviction to selflessly serve god, country, and fellowmen. It is largely because of scouting that many of them, many of you have become good citizens and outstanding leaders.

At ‘yon na nga, sana ay, tayo ay, dahil marami sa mga leaders dito sa boy scouts ay leaders din ng pulitika sa iba’t-ibang mga lugar sa ating bansa, sana nga ‘yung mga political leaders na leaders din ng boy scouts ay manguna sa asal na huwag na muna tayo masyadong mag-alitan sa pulitika, gawin muna ang trabaho para sa ating pamayanan.

At dahil nga sa aking mataas na paggalang sa scouting, noong 1997, noong ako ay senador pa, tumulong ako sa pagpapatayo sa Nueva Ecija ng isang training center dahil hiningi ni Jojo. Ngayon ay ginagamit na ring pook-sanayan ng mga boy scouts. Meron din akong ilang na napondohan na Girl Scouts Centers — alam ni Mrs. Sagala ‘yan — noong ako ay senador. Kaya sabi ni Jojo, pero iyung contribution bilang pangulo, iba naman ‘yon. So, “okay, Jojo,” kaya sabi ko. Kaya si Jojo ‘pag nag-uutos, mahirap tanggihan.

Tulad ng aking nasabi kanina, ang boy scouts ay isang samahan ng mga huwarang kabataan. Kilala sa gawa at hindi puro salita. Scouts are not faultfinders, empty critics or complainers. Kaya ‘yan ang hinihingi ko sa mga politicians na scouts. Scouts have an active concern for and a determination to resolve problems affecting the community.

Scouting in the Philippines is also a symbol of hope, because it springs from the youth. From this hope flows the strength to confront and overcome challenges, the tenacity of spirit to reach out for the best, the noblest, the most sublime of human aspirations.

But hope alone, without substance, cannot meaningfully alter or improve the human condition. Hope must be transformed into decisive action and resolute initiative. This is true in confronting two great challenges today — terrorism and poverty.

Ang laban kontra sa kahirapan at laban kontra terorismo ay hindi nagkakalayo, magkambal nga sila. Poverty and the sense of powerlessness that it brings are the spawning grounds where terrorism can easily spread its evil ideology.

Kaya nga ang ating laban sa kahirapan ay binubuo sa apat na bahagi:

Una, sa pagpapairal ng sistema ng ekonomiya ng bagong siglo, kinakailangang magkaroon ng magandang macroeconomic environment para magkaroon ng trabaho ang bawa’t mamamayang Pilipino.

Pangalawa, dahil karamihan sa ating mga mahihirap ay nasa kanayunan, kinakailangan ang agricultural modernization founded on social equity.

Pangatlo, ang mga programang direktang nakakatulong sa mahihirap tulad ng pabahay at Medicare.

Pang-apat, ang pag-angat ng moralidad sa ating pamahalaan at sa ating lipunan.

Ano ang ibig sabihin ng mga ito sa ating kabataan? Edukasyon. Dapat nating bigyan ng kaalaman at kakayahan ‘yung mga kabataan upang sa paglaki ang mga kabataan ay maging responsableng mamamayan na kayang bumuhay sa mga sarili.

Our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, once said that an uneducated people cannot be a free people. We have seen places in the world where innocent children are tutored in hatred and utter disregard for human values. They are

programmed like robots along a single path of behavior, to obey authority without question. And worse sometimes, the authority is an authority that foments hatred.

We are all witness to how an uneducated citizenry can be controlled by extreme ideologies, by contrived fears, by irrational causes. They become vulnerable to dictators, to rabble-rousers, to unscrupulous leaders.

The education and enlightenment we need to propagate is the responsibility of all and everyone in our society.

This annual meeting of the national council sets the direction and the pace of the BSP. The BSP is the largest youth organization in the country. The deliberations and decisions made in this council have far-reaching effects on the Filipino youth.

As your chief scout, allow me to pose three questions in guiding your deliberations:

First, are we doing the right thing? Second, are we doing enough of the right thing? Third, are we doing enough of the right thing with the required urgency?

The country and each of your communities wait upon your leadership and participation to make life better for our people.

The world we are living in today needs more peace, but it is filled with strife. The global community needs more cooperation, but it is surrounded by conflict. Humanity needs more solidarity, but we hear the voices of hate and belligerence all around.

There is an urgent need for our children to be in the company of good, decent and sincere people. Without doubt, they should be in the company of the boy scouts.

Ang scouting ay simbolo ng pagkakaisa. Pinagsasama nito ang mga muslim at kristiyano, mga tagalog, mga bisaya, mga chinese, mga kastila, mga mayaman, mga mahihirap, mga pinuno, mga tagasunod. Sa boy scouts, palagay ko, lahat ay pantay-pantay.

Indeed, let scouting be a shining example of what a common vision plus strong unity can achieve. Let scouting pave the way towards team spirit, self-reliance and the excellence of youth.

Sa ating hangaring masugpo ang kahirapan at mabalik ang dangal ng ating bansa ngayong siglo beinte-uno, kailangan natin ang tibay at dignidad ng mga boy scouts.

Kailangan natin ang lakas ng loob ng mga boy scouts. Higit sa lahat, kailangan nating ipamalas ang magagandang bagay na natututunan sa scouting.

Ako ay umaasa na hindi ako bibiguin ng ating mga kasamahang scouts. Lubos ang aking tiwala sa inyong kakayahan na tulungan ang ating bansa na masugpo ang kahirapan sa dekadang kasalukuyan.

At dahil nga ang national president ng boy scout ay mayor din ng pinaka-mayamang lungsod sa ating bansa, iyung boys world's scout headquarters ay sana nga, sa sipag ni Jojo Binay, ay matayo dito sa Makati City.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang scouting sa Pilipinas.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225512/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8283&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Speech of President Arroyo during the 53rd Multiple District Lions State Convention

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 53rd Multiple District Lions State Convention**

[Delivered at the Olongapo City Convention Center Hall, Olongapo City, Zambales, May 17, 2002]

Maraming salamat Congressman Gordon sa iyong pagpakilala. At salamat sa inyo, salamat kay City Mayor Kate Gordon, at salamat kay Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon sa inyong pag welcome sa amin lahat dito sa napakaganda at napakagaling na lungsod ng Olongapo.

Bago ko batiin ‘yung iba sabihin ko lang na pag pinagmamalaki ni Kate ‘yung Olongapo meron siyang ‘k’ kasi tingnan n’yo itong convention center na ito na ang nagpatayo nito ay ang city ngunit sa dahilan kung bakit walang choice ang dbp kung hindi ibigay sa kanila ‘yung credit para matayo ito ay mismo ‘yung world bank ay nagsasabi na sila ay nararapat at sila ay creditworthy at isang huwarang lungsod.

At kanina bago kami pumunta rito, ilan sa mga Lions ay pumunta rin doon nag-usyoso across the street doon sa kanilang amphitheater, at doon ay nagmahagi ng mga school supplies sa mga batang papasok mula sa iba’t-ibang mga mahihirap na barangay. At ‘yon din ay nanggaling sa programa ng DILG at Australian financing dahil kilala rin ‘yan ay bilang gantimpala naman sa lungsod ng Olongapo bilang isang sa pinakama-child friendly cities na hall of famer sila.

At bago nito ay nanggaling naman kami doon sa city hospital. Naalala ko ‘yung city hospital dahil noong ako’y — ewan ko senador o vice president — ay nag-contribute din ako doon dahil si Kate lahat ng pinupuntahan kung magko-contribute kasi sa CDF dapat sa hospital. Talagang binuo niya ‘yon at nakita natin ay isang tertiary hospital na ‘yung state-of-the-art na mga equipment ay nandoon kaya naglilingkod ang Olongapo City hospital hindi lamang sa Olongapo, sa Zambales, sa Bataan, sa Pampanga, sa buong Central Luzon kaya ang Olongapo City, city of volunteers may karapatan si Kate ipagmalaki.

Nandito rin si Presidential Assistant Rene Diaz, hindi ba? Ayun! Siya ang tumutulong sa akin upang ipairal ‘yung mga proyekto dito sa North Luzon. ‘Yung North Luzon ay ‘yung kanyang mga bahagi ng kanyang kaunlaran ay ‘W.’ tinatawag nating ‘W’ kasi shaped like a ‘W.’ tayo ay nasa left hand ng ‘W.’ at itong left hand ng ‘W’ from the top up to the bottom ‘yan ay tourism area. Tapos ‘yung bottom nagsi-share ‘yung parang letter ‘B’ sa baba ng ‘W’ ‘yan ang interface ng tourism at saka industry. Kaya kung makikita n’yo itong left side ng ‘W’ ‘yan ay from Subic in the south going up — Subic bay ‘no including Olongapo — going up, up to the beaches na of Zambales, Pangasinan, Ilocos hanggang Pagudpod, ‘yan ang ating tourism stretch at lahat ng mga Lions na ang mga distrito ninyo or ‘yung mga club ninyo ay nandoon, isang malaking magagawa ninyo ay tumulong para manatili na ‘yung mga beaches doon ay parating malinis para ito ay talagang umunlad ang turismo ng West Luzon.

Gusto ko ring batiin siyempre ‘yung mga elder statesmen ng Lions lalong-lalo na si General Pedro Balbanero na siya ang nagsalita kanina. Muling nagkaroon ng Lion ang international director kagaya ni ginoong Enrique Lim noong dati; at ‘yung inyong bagong state council chairman si ginoong Santiago Morante na salamat din sa iyong welcome remarks; binabati ko si Ginoong Jose dela Vega, ang convention chairman. Napaka successful itong convention. Ang dami-daming nag-attend dito sa napakagandang lugar na ito. At nagpapasalamat din ako dahil kayo ay nagbigay ng... ‘Yung kiosk, ‘yung tourism kiosk doon, ‘yung cyber kiosk para sa mga turista at sana ‘yung mga Lions dito ay magdala din ng mga Lions mula sa ibang bansa para makita ang magandang turismo natin dito sa Pilipinas; binabati ko rin si Miss Adelia Acasio, ang convention coordinator at regional chairperson. Congratulations

sa pagdala mo dito sa ating mga convention participants; and may I also greet the Commanding General of North Luzon, General Rodolfo Garcia; and Regional Director of the Philippine National Police si General Rey Berroya; mga district governor ng Lions; mga lions at Lionesses na narito ngayon; ladies and gentlemen:

I am so honored to be here in Olongapo City and to be here to address the men and women of the Lions Clubs in the Philippines who are gathered here in your 53rd multi-district state convention.

1.3 million members worldwide, sabi ni General Balbanero, since your founding in 1917. Imagine kung 10 percent lang sila ay maalok n'yo dito, 'di 100,000 tourist na 'yon dito sa Pilipinas. But not only that, 1.3 million members since 1917 that is formidable civic power. And i know from personal experience that here in the Philippines the growth of Lionism has been likewise impressive. Kasi naalaala ko 'yung tulong ninyo halimbawa nung ako ay namumorolema sa mga streetchildren sa Metro Manila. 'Yung Lions ay tumulong hindi lamang sa pagka volunteer gumastos pa kayo. Parati kayo nagko-contribute sa Streetchildren's Program nung ako ay Vice President. Aside from the fact na tuwing may Lions convention meron kayong tseke para sa streetchildren project ay naalaala ko 'yung isang magandang streetchildren's home doon sa bandang Paranaque, doon sa may airport road ay galing sa Lions. Naalaala ko nung 1998, first Christmas na nagkaroon ng streetchildren's project. Eh, siyempre the days before Christmas ay bakasyon na, and siyempre 'yung mga government employees bakasyon na pero doon naglalabasan 'yung mga streetchildren. Sino 'yung nasa kalsada para mag-rescue sa kanila, 'yung mga Lions ng Quezon City at Metro Manila.

And having seen first hand how lions has supported the government, gaya ng sabi ni General, "you ask not what your government can do for you but what you can do for your government." Having seen that, I am confident that your growth rate is directly proportional to the civic-mindedness of your members.

Lionism as conceived by your founder, Melvin Jones is all about elevating your concerns from a purely personal point of view to that which can benefit the community and the world at large. And as I said earlier, I am personally aware of the generosity of the lions clubs. And I never can forget dotes of work that I mentioned for my programs when I was vice-president and concurrently Secretary of Social Welfare and Development. 'Yung pinag-uusapan — ah meron pang isa. Hindi ko pa nabanggit 'yung Center for Streetchildren Rehabilitation in Mandaluyong City. That could not have been built without the 75,000-dollar grant of the lions clubs international foundation. Kasi naalaala n'yo nung nagkaroon kayo ng 50th Anniversary ba 'yon? Hindi ba 'yon ang panahon na 'yung international ay magbibigay ng kontribusyon at pinili n'yong beneficiary itong streetchildren center na ito na napakaganda. And therefore let me take advantage of this occasion to formally acknowledge the solid contribution of all of the lions clubs in the Philippines towards improving the lives of the disadvantaged sectors of our society.

Maraming salamat sa inyo at inaasahan kong kayo ay handa pang tumulong sa iba-iba pang pangangailangan. Because we have to do more for the poor. They lack opportunities for advancement, they are most vulnerable to the shifting tides of socio-economic change. And it's not only Christian charity that should move us to help the poor, we must look at them as partners in improving our national productivity and growth. But to transform the poor into nation-builders, they must first be provided with the primordial opportunities for survival and growth. They must be provided the basic services with which they may elevate the quality of their lives.

As I mentioned earlier, we see streetchildren, beggars, drug addicts, forsaken elderly citizens and other vulnerable groups almost everyday. These are the disadvantaged sectors that lions clubs assist most. Kaya tamang-tama kayo ay nandito sa Olongapo, the city of volunteers. Kasi ang Lions napakalakas sa volunteerism. The lions are also a constant reminder of our crucial task of fighting poverty remains to be fulfilled.

Poverty is the root of most of our country's ills. Poverty begets ignorance, social inequity and the despair of those who perennially suffer from injustice. Poverty abets terrorism where terrorism stems from inequity. And conversely, terrorism breeds more poverty because it drives away investments and smothers the spirit of enterprise.

Poverty is a cyclical threat to national stability vicious cycle. Deprived of essential needs, the children of the poor tend to be poorer than their parents. And long-term poverty threatens peace, as our experience has taught us. The spawning grounds of conflict are the most depressed areas of our country.

And I have said on numerous occasions that we must win the war against poverty within the decade. We want to put a full stop to the cycle of want, injustice and conflict. I am campaigning among all sectors, all civic clubs, all local governments, all ethnic communities of the country — join me in this battle against poverty. Alam ko na kayo'y kasama ko nung vice president pa ako, eh lalo naman ngayon na ako ay presidente na, inaasahan ko kayo.

Noong makalawa — ah, kahapon pala — death anniversary ng nanay ko, the late First Lady Evangelina Macapagal. Nag-misa kami sa libingan ng mga bayani kung saan noong siya ay First Lady 'yan ay inayos niya. Ngayon nakinabang siya dahil doon siya nakalibing pati tatay ko. At nung nagkukwento 'yung pari, si Father Bobby Perez, na 'yung tatay niya noon ay Executive Secretary ng tatay ko, naalaala niya na yung libingan ng mga bayani at saka 'yung Luneta ay inayos ng nanay ko hindi sa paggamit ng government funds kung hindi funds ng mga volunteer civic organization. At binanggit pa niya 'yung mga pinaka-prominent na tumulong at kasama doon — panahon pa ng nanay ko — ay 'yung Lions Club. Kaya mula pa doon sa magulang ko, maraming salamat.

My roadmap in the fight against poverty consists of four components: first, an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century; second, modernizing agriculture with equity; third, providing a social bias to the marginalized and the disadvantaged sectors to balance our economic growth; and the fourth, the adoption of higher moral standards in government and the whole of society.

We also have under the sectoral and social bias a sectoral anti-poverty program formulated in coordination with the national anti-poverty commission. This is geared towards uplifting the lives of less fortunate Filipinos. And this NAPC program has five core thrusts: asset reform. Meaning, the redistribution of assets to the poor like land reform and other assets for production; fortifying the human capital base of the poor; strengthening the capacity of the poor to engage in productive enterprise; politically empowering the poor through organized consultations; and protecting the underprivileged sectors, such as the children, the youth, the women, the aged against exploitation.

At kung tinitignan ko itong mga ito, una nga 'yung asset reform — pagmumudmod ng mga arian, lupa, pabahay sa mga mahihirap; pangalawa, 'yung mga saligang mga serbisyo. In other words education for the poor, medicine for the poor, medical care for the poor; 'yung economic empowerment — mga livelihood, mga microfinance, mga specific jobs para sa, halimbawa, out-of-school children, 'yon din economic empowerment; 'yon namang protection of the exploited and the vulnerable — 'yan ang mga streetchildren, 'yung babaeng inaabuso, matatandang naiwan na, mga disabled na walang maraming pagkakataon; at pang lima, 'yung capability- building. Kung tignan natin lahat itong lima ang laki ng papel ng Lions Club.

The Lions Clubs have projects that provide assistance to the disadvantaged sectors. I kept talking about the streetchildren but you have helped so much the physically disabled as well. Your projects form part of a positive response in aid of our anti-poverty programs, and I thank you for your invaluable help.

I have been informed that your clubs have complained of difficulties in having shipments of goods donated to your projects such as medicines, reading glasses and clothes released by the government. We want to help you facilitate your charitable shipments, but it is both in your interest and the government's to ensure that the system is not exploited for the benefit of smugglers. Perhaps you can give us more details so we can set up a coordinating system for these matters. Kaya lang sabihin ko sa inyo ang mga patakaran, ang mga nasa batas. Batas po ito. Kaya kung gusto n'yong palitan humanap kayo ng Congressman na magpapalit ng batas. Pero sa ngayon para hindi kayo mabigo sasabihin ko na ang batas. You can accept donations except old clothes as long as you are willing to pay the taxes. I think ang problema ninyo 'yung tax and duty free.

Ngayon Lions, rotary, civic club are not listed among those who are allowed to receive, to be consignees who are tax-exempt. Kaya kung gusto n'yong magdonate, halimbawa, magdo-donate kayo sa Lions ng Olongapo City, I-donate sa Olongapo City dahil ang Olongapo City 'yan ay allowed to receive duty free — cities and provinces. City governments and provincial governments are allowed to receive duty free but not municipalities. If you want to give the municipality — well, like the municipality of Subic in Zambales — it will have to be to the province of Zambales. And you ask them to give it to the municipality of Subic. If you want to have duty free, but if you don't wanna go through the government, you can go ahead. You just pay taxes. 'Yan ang klarong-klaro. Why except old clothes? Kasi may batas na sinasabi old clothes cannot be imported. So there is a law that says old clothes cannot be

imported in commercial quantities. Kaya ‘yan ay sumusunod ang DSWD sa batas na ‘yan. So if people want to donate old clothes sabihin n’yo perahin na lang. At dito na lang n’yo bilingin ‘yung mga damit. So I hope that these laws — they are not rules they are laws — are clarified. Because the times call for selflessness and a genuine desire to see the poor improve their lives.

I recall the words of my father, the late president Diosdado Macapagal, who said: “the chosen leader of the nation is expected to give his best, to work his hardest, and to bear hardship.” Kanina sabi ni Kate,” ma’am, I don’t know where you get your energy.” I get it from what my father said, “the leader is expected to bear hardship.” Pero I don’t know where she gets her energy. Mutual admiration society.

In any case, these words ring true not only for presidents but for every leader who genuinely has the people’s interests at heart including civic leaders. Everyone who subscribes to the vision of the original Lion, Melvin Jones is a leader. And a leader is always a slave to the people.

So let us be united in all our efforts for the good of the community. Only then can we succeed in our fight against poverty. Only then will we be able to build a stable and secure nation for all generations of Filipinos.

I wish to commend every Philippine Lion and lioness for their continued demonstration of selflessness and concern for people. Carry on with a big roar! And carry on with a big heart.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the 53rd Multiple District Lions State Convention. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225502/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8282&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the AFP Turnover of Command

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the AFP Turnover of Command

[Delivered at the GHQ Grandstand, Camp Aguinaldo, May 18, 2002]

Thank you very much, Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva. For the last time I will call him Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatú because I have just signed his appointment as General Roy Cimatú.

I would also like to join in welcoming to the Philippines Admiral Thomas Fargo, the Commander in Chief of the Pacific; and to welcome him especially because this is his first official trip after assuming his post as commander in Chief of CNCPAC. He likes the Philippines very much because Roy Golez's his classmate in Annapolis.

I would like to, having mentioned Roy Golez and Angelo Reyes, I would like to greet also the other Cabinet Members who are here, and of course the members of the Boards of Generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as well as the Philippine National Police headed by General Leandro Mendoza.

I would like to greet the Senators, Senator Ramon Magsaysay, Chairman of the Committee on National Defense; and Senator Rodolfo Biazon who is here not sitting with the senators but sitting with his fellow former Chiefs of Staff, and with him I would like to greet the other former Chiefs of Staff.

I would like to greet our local government officials who have already been mentioned by name and also our members of the House of Representatives who have not all been mentioned by name — and I hope I have the list complete. General Cimatú mentioned already Congressman Salapudin, I would also like to greet Congressman Rudy Albano, Congressman Abdullah Dimaporo, Congressman Munir Arbison, Congressman Ernie Clarete, Congressman Constantino Jaraula, Congressman Romualdo Vicencio, and Congressman Harry Angpin.

I would also like to greet the members of the Diplomatic Corps and the members of the Defense Armed Forces Attache.

Troop commander, give the troops tikas pahinga.

Once again, we witness a great tradition as the command changes hands today. And once again it is from an excellent officer and gentleman to another equally deserving of the title of Chief of Staff.

Before I revealed my final choice for the position of Chief of Staff and even afterwards, there was the usual flurry of white papers and derogatory press feeds. I hope they now end, and I hope they do not resurface when it is time to choose the next Chief of Staff.

I can only pick one Chief of Staff at a time; and I have made my choice. And I am supremely confident that I have chosen rightly for the service and for the country — the man who will lead the AFP's tradition of fine soldiery.

But even before we officially welcome our new Chief of Staff, let me pay tribute to the outstanding soldier, officer and leader, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, on whose shoulders I entrusted the good of our military service for the past 14 months.

I first knew of Gen. Villanueva's work when he became Commanding General of SOLCOM, and then as Vice-President I was able to observe and not just hear about his work as Commanding General of SouthCom. I also recall that we had a good conversation when he became Commanding General of the Philippine Army.

And when I became President, and decided to ask then Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes to become my Secretary of Defense, I started a round of quiet consultations on who should be my Armed Forces Chief of Staff. Some of you may recall, when I was asked by the media what criterion I would use in choosing whom to appoint, I said that I wanted one who could best keep the Armed Forces united behind the constitution. This was a subjective criterion in the sense that it was not quantifiable, but then again it demonstrates that there is reason why the Commander-in-Chief under the Philippine Constitution has the absolute prerogative to select the Armed Forces Chief of Staff.

In any case, as I consulted with middle level officers, retired officers, enlisted personnel and many other sectors, Diomedio Villanueva's excellent reputation as a soldier made him the overwhelming choice. I decided that he deserved the leadership of the command.

Since Diomeng entered the PMA. in 1964 to the time as three-star general he got into my short list as a probable Chief of Staff, he had acquired an enviable mix of combat and staff duty, academic preparation and actual field experience. Before Abubakar there was Marag Valley in the history of Diomedio Villanueva. These, plus the unflinching courage under fire, his known concern for the soldiers' welfare, and what I observed to be his virtue of living up to the admirable ethic of soldiery as depicted in the great poem, the charge of the light brigade: "theirs is not to reason why, theirs is but to do and die," and many times Diomeng Villanueva showed that though he had a different opinion from what I commanded him to do, he would do what I commanded him to do. All these made him the perfect choice for Chief of Staff during the early months of my presidency.

And Gen. Villanueva proved me right. The 14 months that he served as Chief of Staff were replete with crisis and challenges for the AFP and the whole nation. He was barely two months in his post when the mob stormed Malacañang's gates on May 1 last year and severely tested the temperance of our soldiers. But under his steely resolve and professionalism, our soldiers gallantly defended the palace while resisting the urge to fire back at the unruly crowd. By that act, the uniformed services under the leadership of Gen. Villanueva once again won the nation's trust, and showed their readiness not only in the battlefield, but in all other fields that require their discipline, courage, skills and professionalism.

Diomedio Villanueva proved true to what he said at his inaugural, for the AFP to be ready, and I quote "... To assist the new government in gathering the remains of a corrupted trust ..." General Cima, if more chairs break down, the command responsibility will go higher the chain of command. Going back to the words of General Villanueva in his inaugural address, he said that it was the job of the armed forces to create "an atmosphere of confidence for progress and in rebuilding bridges to peace."

I also congratulate Diomeng Villanueva and the entire armed forces for the many gains achieved in the past months. I am particularly pleased that the proposed national military strategy that he drew up, in response to my call last December for a review of our military doctrine, has been submitted to the Department of National Defense. I am glad that the mechanisms for the creation of the revolution in military affairs at the GHQ level are now in place, and ready for replication in the other commands nationwide. I have high hopes that this program will successfully reorient our soldiers on the role of the AFP in the 21st century and its primary mission of defending national security. I enjoin the new chief of staff to provide continuity on this and other assignments that came directly from instructions of the commander-in-chief, so that no matter how long or how short the chief-of-staff sits at the helm of the armed forces, we will not be forever reinventing the wheel.

I am also pleased that, with Gen. Villanueva sitting as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the RSBS posted a 39 million-peso income for 2001, ending a long period of being in the red. Congratulations, Gen. Villanueva. Here again, I believe, that there should be continuity. The law calls for the Chief-of-Staff to supervise the RSBS through a Board of Directors. It does not necessarily require him to be the cChairman of the Board of the RSBS. thus, I will probably appoint a Chairman of the Board co-terminus with the Commander-in-Chief who shall be supervised by the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

I am confident that Gen. Roy Cimat, our 29th Chief of Staff, with his long experience in comptrollership, being one of the so-called Santolan boys, can also adequately supervise the RSBS., as I am sure he can more than adequately lead the Armed Forces given his exciting and achievement-filled war record. Gen. Cimat has had some of the toughest but I might say most glamorous assignments in the field, including the Mindanao war of 1999 and year 2000. It was he as 4th division commander who received my predecessor's order for an all-out war — a verbal order without any accompanying written operational instructions. But if secretary then Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes told him afterwards, "Gen. Pacman ..." — I haven't heard others call him the thinking general — and as thinking general he worked out the battle plan for the all-out war and carried it out to capture Camp Bilal in Munai, Camp Apo Gil in Baloi, the supposed to be impregnable Camp Bushra, and finally, together with the 6th division under Greg Camiling, Camp Abubakar itself.

Having selected for my Chief of Staff, the general who captured all those camps, I'm sure you will believe me, ladies and gentlemen of the Philippines, when I assure everyone that there is no returning of Camp Abubakar or any other camp to the MILF., contrary to either malicious or paranoid or uninformed or even well-meaning misinterpretations with regard to the back channeling peace talks of government representatives with the MILF.

Let me clarify what my instructions are with this regard. They are: to move forward in the rehabilitation and development in conflict-affected areas. In such areas within the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, consistent with its mandate under the law, the regional government of the autonomous region, headed by Governor Parouk Hussin who is here with us today, shall be responsible for and shall accelerate all rehabilitation and development efforts and activities. In such areas in Mindanao outside the autonomous region, the SPDA. shall be primarily responsible for and accelerate the same efforts and activities. The departments of the national government, through their regional and provincial offices, bureaus, and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations, shall assist the ARMM regional government or the SPDA, as the case may be. And by way of restitution for damages caused to private property, specifically the houses that were burned during the conflict, the DPWH, the DND, through the AFP, engineering brigades, and the NHA shall assist the ARMM regional government or the SPDA., as the case may be, in building core shelter units in conflict-affected areas.

The DSWD and the DND shall assist the ARMM regional government and the SPDA in providing relief and rehabilitation to evacuees in all areas within the scope of the implementing guidelines.

The ARMM regional government shall ensure compliance with all laws pertaining to the possession and use of firearms, and in this regard, may be assisted by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces. In areas inside and outside the ARMM, the DND and the DILG shall form joint task forces composed of PNP and AFP to enforce the pertinent laws, consolidate intelligence against terrorists and lawless elements. The joint task force for Southwestern Mindanao is headed by the secretary of national defense, covering ARMM and Regions 9 and 12. The joint task force for northeastern Mindanao is headed by the Secretary of the Interior, covering Regions 10, 11, and CARAGA.

Of course like any other Filipino citizens or group of citizens, the MILF has the legal right to form a non-government organization to initiate and determine project proposals for funding, and to manage such proposed projects, once approved. But in this regard, the ARMM and the SPDA shall be the primary funding conduits for these projects.

I enjoin all local government units in Mindanao, especially, may I request this of the muse of South Command, Mayor Tita Caling Lobregat, and the City Mayor of my childhood town, City Mayor Franklin Quijano, and the other local officials who were mentioned by Gen. Cimat today in Mindanao, i ask them to support these accelerated efforts and activities within their territorial jurisdiction because all of this will be done within the framework of the area coordinating center that was innovated by Secretary Angelo Reyes..

It must be noted that of this date, the evacuees have returned to their places of origin or settled in their chosen new homes. Many of you may recall that I was always rushing the government agencies to speed up rehabilitation and development so that by the time we sign the agreement regarding rehabilitation and development, much of it would have been a fate accomplee — and that is the case with the evacuees, that is a fate accomplee, they have gone back

to their old homes or gone to their new homes. Nevertheless, there is a continuing need to extend relief and rehabilitation in the form of appropriate services and material needs.

But we must also continue to focus on our programs of modernization.

Expanding the size of our armed forces is part of our modernization efforts — and I have authorized Secretary Reyes to work towards this. But modernization also includes the upgrade of our soldiers' benefits. I have certified as urgent the administration bill raising our soldiers' salaries to the same level as public schools teachers'.

Senator Jun Magsaysay, chairman of the committee on national defense, has sent me a note that this basic salary adjustment bill which i have certified as urgent, in his expectation will probably be passed before the end of may. So they are now in the period of individual amendments.

The welfare of the families of soldiers killed or wounded in action, also highlight our list of priorities. This is one program that Gen. Cimatú will pursue vigorously as he has mentioned in his inauguration speech.

To set our new chief of staff off to a good start, the president's social fund, I am announcing today, is donating eight million pesos to help the educate and rear orphans foundation, or hero foundation. This foundation was organized in 1989 by a group of businessmen to support the education of the children of soldiers killed or permanently disabled in action. It has already supported 1,439 scholars, and needs a fresh infusion of funds to support the growing number of school-age orphans of our military personnel. So I have here, and I would like to ask the president of hero, Mr. Pl Lim, to receive my first release worth four million pesos of this donation; and I would like to thank hero chairman, Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala, and the members of the board, that includes former Executive Secretary Rene de Villa, who is right now abroad, for their tireless effort to help our soldiers and their families.

Gen. Cimatú, carry on the tradition of valor, service and professionalism that is the mark of the great Filipino soldier.

Gen. Villanueva, congratulations for a job well done and welcome to corporate life.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the AFP Turnover of Command. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225453/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8278&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Conferment Ceremonies of Doctor of Laws Degree Honoris Causa by Waseda University in Japan

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Conferment Ceremonies of Doctor of Laws Degree Honoris Causa by Waseda University in Japan**

[Delivered at the The Masaku Ibuka Auditorium, International Conference Center Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, May 20, 2002]

Mr. Takayasu Okushima, President, Waseda University; Mr. Katsuhiko Sirai, Vice President, Waseda University; Mr. Norio Okusawa, Vice President, Waseda University; Mr. Hikota Fuguchi, dean of academic affairs; Mr. Yasusi Kekuchi, Professor Institute of Pacific Studies; members of the diplomatic corps; members of the Philippine delegation; faculties; staff and students of Waseda University; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I am deeply honored to receive this Doctorate of Law from one of the most prestigious universities in Asia and the world — Waseda University.

Your institution is renowned not only for its academic excellence but also for its valuable contributions to Japanese society. Throughout its 120 years of existence, Waseda has provided this country with leaders and role models in the various fields — the natural and social sciences especially law and economics.

I feel a special affinity for Waseda University, which has institutional ties with my alma mater, the University of the Philippines. Waseda also has academic ties with two other Philippine universities — De La Salle University and Mapua Institute of Technology — under Waseda's Global Network Program. And I am very happy to learn also that soon my other alma mater, the Ateneo de Manila University, may also join Waseda's Global Network Program.

My degree from the University of the Philippines was in economics. Now, this conferment of a Doctorate in Laws brings me closer to my father's achievement, the late president Diosdado Macapagal, who held two doctoral degrees — one in economics and the other in law.

Incidentally, it was during the presidency of my father that my country had the honor of receiving the state visit of their imperial majesties the emperor and empress of Japan when they were still crown prince and princess.

My father taught me that beyond the rules and jurisprudence, law is a force for empowering the poor. In the Philippines, the overarching mission of my administration is to address the plight of the underprivileged who make up 40 percent of Philippine society.

I realize that to ensure the welfare of peoples, states must not only strengthen international institutions and regulatory systems and laws, but must also strengthen rule making and universal norms — international laws, if you wish — in such areas as trade, environment and security. I would like to speak on each of these three areas.

The environment is one area that should top our global agenda where norms must be agreed upon and properly addressed. For instance, the Kyoto protocol deserves special mention, because it outlines the specific measures which the international community has agreed upon to reduce greenhouse gases based on scientific findings.

At the 1992 Earth Summit Rio, governments signed the framework convention on climate change, an international treaty that set the goal of preventing a dangerous disruption in the climate change caused by human activity. But the concrete plan for reducing greenhouse gases was set forth by the Kyoto protocol in 1997, where 160 nations met and negotiated and agreed that the world's 41 industrial nations would cut emissions by 5.5 percent below 1990 levels

by the year 2012. The determination of industrialized economies such as Japan and the European nations to make the agreement a success is truly reassuring.

Another area where norms are crucial, international norms is the economy. Trade expansion and market access are necessary to further spur growth in our economies. But the New Doha round of negotiations under the world trade organization must be a development round. It must be broad enough to include areas that would benefit all members, but at the same time, it must not be so broad as to entail commitments that would be burdensome on some members especially the developing countries.

Since many members are still striving to implement commitments agreed upon in the previous Uruguay round, it is important if we have a development approach. We need an approach that would be more sustainable and with reinforced credibility and trustworthiness in the economic world. Because if we impose too much on developing countries, then it would not be a credible development round.

Secondly, the new round should mainstream economic trends, particularly global trade into a wider development agenda of eradicating poverty. To do this, there should be greater coherence and policies among international development institutions. In other words, among WTO, the World Bank, the IMF, the Asian Development Bank.

The trade regime must accord sufficient flexibility to developing countries for them to pursue development goals such as poverty alleviation and capacity building in areas where the implementation of rules negotiated under the Uruguay round had been difficult. For instance, developing countries have found difficulty in the rules regarding valuation, in trade investment measures, in trade related intellectual properties, in sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards, in technical barriers to trade. In all these, there should be sufficient concern for the capacity building and flexibility of developing countries. Thus, the Philippines looks at the Doha round as an area where we choose what we want to support in the negotiations or what we do not want to support. If the negotiations will be difficult for the Philippine development then we oppose these negotiations.

For instance, the Philippines opposes certain negotiations in the following: labor, the environment, competition policy, and investment. There are other areas where the Philippines has agreed to join the consensus. In other words, if the rest of the countries want to proceed with negotiations, we will agree. If the rest of the countries feel that negotiations should not move forward, we will agree as well. So we would have no specific prejudice for any particular outcome. These areas are the following: trade facilitation, transparency and openness in government procurement, and the liberalization of e-commerce. So this is an area where it is very important to develop new rules of the game. The Doha round of the WTO. These are areas where international economic laws will have to be developed in the 21st century.

But, the field where norms are perhaps most critical in the 21st century, is also the most sensitive area in global relations, and that is security. The world used to tend to take security for granted. But after September 11, we have seen that even terrorism can ride the wave of globalization. Therefore, there must be international laws and international rules to address human security.

We have been successfully cultivating economic linkages in the Asia Pacific. But if we are to progress to a true regional community, we have to cultivate deeper security relations as well in the Asia Pacific.

The ASEAN regional forum or ARF has a loose structure, but it has allowed us to advance into the security frontier. Its major achievement has been confidence building. Still there is a need for ARF to advance further into preventive diplomacy in conflict resolution. It may be time for our region to explore more formal regional security arrangements. In suggesting this, two major considerations must be borned in mind:

First, full importance should still be accorded to bilateral arrangements and even multilateral initiatives in order to ensure multiple linkages; second, there should be no intention at all to fashion a regional alliance like NATO which specifically aims at campaigning military crisis.

An organization with a more comprehensive outlook is preferable, incorporating not only political and security considerations but also economic and human security, and even environmental cooperation. In this regard, the Asia-Pacific may learn from the ARF, which is right now only ASEAN. The ARF has more potentials as a legally oriented organization. It operates by consensus and depends on its members conforming to norms and acting upon principles they have defined and agreed to.

As recently as a decade ago, the very proposal of a multilateral mechanism for regional security was not a welcome idea. During an ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in 1991, however, Japan proposed a multilateral forum that would discuss regional security issues. Many parties immediately expressed reservations. However, soon enough the parties proved to be quick in seeing the logic and soundness of the proposal. The U.S. in fact proposed a multilateral security dialogue in Asia in 1993 as one of the pillars of a new Pacific community. An ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference took this up that same year, and in July the following year, the ASEAN Regional Forum was born.

The keys to a prosperous and stable Asia Pacific region are multiple linkages, and this would have to include a security dimension as well. The organization of American states and the organization for African unity are providing such a comprehensive approach to regional problems in the Americas and Africa, respectively. We should have a similar mechanism for our part of the world.

We are being called upon to accelerate our broad-base and multiple linkages because the end of the cold war has changed the global security configuration. The immediate security problems no longer arise from strong states, but from the internal breakdown of the weak states, or those that are failing or have already failed. These are the territories where systemic breakdown has occurred, where citizens have to contend with communal strife, criminality, civil war, mass starvation, and in some cases, with mass destruction of human lives.

Where we would uphold non-interference in domestic affairs as a cardinal principle of international relations, we find it difficult to remain indifferent bystanders when we are real-time witnesses to genocide or to other abuse by a state of the rights and dignity of its population, or to human catastrophes in failed states.

Our common humanity entails us to take action as an international community. Aside from humanitarian considerations, we know the fact that the disorder in failed states can be exploited by other states or non-state actors. For instance, Afghanistan has demonstrated that failed states can become a base of operations for terrorists. Elsewhere, failed states as a no man's land can become a safe haven for criminals or the dumping grounds of toxic waste or other harmful materials. For these reasons, the international community has a vested interest in rescuing failed states. The important policy questions are by whom and with what degree of commitment. The United Nations is universally regarded as having the authority for concerted action in failed states. To the reassurance of the world, it has acted several times in this capacity.

Recently, however, the U.N. has begun delegating some stages of intervention to what we call coalitions of the willing. This is now the preferred mechanism for dealing with failed states. It not only prevents unilateral actions by single actors, but it also helps guarantee the sustainability of policy implementation.

Let me give examples of how coalitions of the willing have helped. In our part of the world, Cambodia and East Timor are examples of how the concerted efforts of interested parties have helped ensure regional stability. And I am proud to say that the association of Southeast Asian nations or ASEAN was very active in nursing Cambodia back to health in the early 1990s. As for East Timor, which will inaugurate its independence today, Japan and the Philippines are cooperating to ensure that East Timor will have stronger state institutions under the Japan-Philippines partnership program, which is a form of south-south cooperation. This was signed in Manila last January 9th. Japan, through JICA, has been promoting south-south cooperation where developing countries which have shown expertise in certain development areas are assisted in extending technical know-how to less developed countries such as through third party expert programs. Japan also has partnership programs with Singapore and Thailand. This arrangement — south-south cooperation — involves a donor country or agency, and that is usually Japan. But the U.N., through the UNDP, is also active in promoting this type of technical assistance.

The challenges to the 21st century are daunting. Today, more than ever, I believe, as did the young reformers of the Meiji period during Japan's rapid modernization, that a nation will stand or fall on how well it could train and educate its people.

I congratulate Waseda for its contributions to Japan's greatness. And I thank Waseda for giving me this doctorate in law. Because now having earned a doctorate in law from the great Waseda University, I find it now my duty to study more not only about economics but also about international norms and rules especially in the areas that I talked about — trade, the environment and security. And I hope that if all of us will do this kind of study, all the faculty, all the students of Waseda, then Waseda's principles and teachings would have contributed to peace and prosperity as it has contributed in the past, it will contribute once again to peace and prosperity in the 21st century.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Conferment Ceremonies of Doctor of Laws Degree Honoris Causa by Waseda University in Japan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225433/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8272&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 8th International Conference on the Future of Asia

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 8th International Conference on the Future of Asia

[Delivered at the Tsuru-Nishi room, Hotel New Otani, Tokyo, Japan, May 21, 2002]

Thank you very much.

First of all, I would to greet my colleague from Laos, Prime Minister Vorachith, who was my recent visitor in Manila; Mr. Tsuruta, President of Nikkei. Thank you for inviting me here; Mr. Sugita, Executive Vice President; participants of the 8th International Conference on the future of Asia; members of the Philippine delegation; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I would like to thank Nikkei for inviting me to this conference, which is a wellspring of leadership, competence and commitment. The insights we shall gain will serve well our respective nations and peoples, as well as our collective interests.

The year 2001 may be a year many countries would want to forget. With the sharp contraction of the global ICT industry, many economies underwent recession or stagnation. Then, just as the prospects for global recovery were improving, the September 11 terrorist attacks came and changed the world altogether.

On top of these external shocks, we, in the Philippines had to contend with internal problems.

When I assumed office in January 2001, business confidence was at its lowest ebb. The political scandal involving my predecessor had induced capital flight, raising up interest rates and the inflation rate and sinking the value of the peso to historic lows. Upon assuming the presidency, my urgent task was the restoration of the country's financial health.

I told the Filipino people that we must be bold in our national ambitions so that our challenge must be that within this decade, we will win the fight against poverty. I told our policymakers that to succeed, our national agenda must revolve around four components: first, an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century; second, a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity; third, a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan; and fourth, to raise the standards of morality in government and society.

My economic team — some of whom are here with us today — initiated a budget deficit reduction program in order to prevent government from crowding out the private sector for investment funds.

On the monetary side, my administration focused on price stability as the main objective. The results of these policies have been gratifying. In a bleak global landscape, our economy registered a real GNP growth rate of 3.7 percent. Inflation and interest rates fell, reaching historic lows this time. The spreads of the country's sovereign issuances have become narrower, making future government borrowings cheaper. The major credit rating agencies have upgraded our country's credit rating outlook from negative to stable. The peso-dollar exchange rate has stabilized despite the decline in exports due to the slowdown of our major markets. In fact, gross international reserves now stand at an all time high.

The explanation for our economic performance is the hard work of the Filipino people, the good policies and the assistance of friendly countries such as Japan.

Private analysts and multilateral agencies, such as the Asian Development Bank and the international monetary fund, attest that the Philippines has the strength and capacity to build on our achievement.

Central to our future is Japan. As the largest economy in the region, Japan led East Asia's economic transformation during the latter part of the 20th century. As the Philippines largest source of official development assistance, Japan enabled the Philippines rapid recovery during this past difficult year.

Today, Japan is embarking on major industrial reforms and fiscal restructuring. The success of Japan's efforts in reviving its economy is crucial to the regional and global economy of the 21st century. I praise Japan for its continuing economic leadership and i have full confidence in Japan's economic recovery.

The Philippines is optimistic about Japan. I hold the view that Japan will continue to be the region's economic leader because of its technological and financial capital. Japan is far ahead of other countries in the region.

I am informed that the world's fastest computer has been made operational by Japan. This is clear proof of a sharp competitive edge in technology.

The macro-economic policies adapted by my government in the Philippines positioned us well in taking advantage of the expected recovery of Japan and the u.s. and other positive external developments, foremost of which is the resulting rebound in exports and investments. Their expected rebound will hopefully accelerate our GDP growth.

We are committed to foster development to uplift the lives of the poor in the Philippines. We are strengthening the pillars of our house to meet the challenges and opportunities of the global environment.

The Philippines is fortunate to be at the center of the action because East Asia is projected to be the hub of the highest growth in the world in this century.

In the main, I believe, Japanese economic leadership, coupled with China's emerging market and a revived u.s. economy will be the engines of growth for our region.

Let me now talk about China's emerging market. We, in ASEAN, welcomed China's accession to the world trade organization. This accession indicated China's determination to play by global trading rules and added another venue where ASEAN can engage with China constructively.

There are concerns that china would be a formidable competitor for ASEAN. But let me point out that ASEAN exporters have been competing with china in major markets for more than 20 years now ever since China obtained most favored status from the U.D. in 1980.

In this sense, China's entry into the WTO's to Asean's advantage because china has come into the ambit of universal norms in exchange for its' most favored nation' status.

China's emergence as a market economy has not been a zero-sum competition with ASEAN. We may have similar export policies and we both experienced an increase in comparative advantage in labor-intensive manufactured exports. However, complementarities within manufacturing industries along horizontal divisions of labor have enabled ASEAN to take advantage of niche markets and design differentiation.

This is the reason why ASEAN is able to trade with China. ASEAN-China trade totalled 39.5 billion U.S. dollars in the year 2000. A case in point, in the semiconductor industry of the Philippines. Demand for this component in china has led to a hundred fold increase from 1995 to 2001.

Industrial manufactures now account for 62 percent of Philippine exports to China. And electronics such as semiconductors and other components account for 90 percent of this type of exports.

In the short-term, China may add to competitive pressures on ASEAN economies. However, in the long run, China's market would function as a magnet for products and services in the region. The agenda for ASEAN firms is how to remain efficient and market savvy.

Market efficiency is the fundamental logic that fuels ASEAN efforts to accelerate and expand the ASEAN free trade area or AFTA. Starting this year, the six original signatories of AFTA have reached zero to 5 percent tariffs in their trade among themselves and are steadily harmonizing product standards. ASEAN subscribes to the belief that healthy competition leads to better allocation of resources.

A free trade area between ASEAN and China would upgrade market efficiencies. It would also have an effect on investment flows which are now heavily in China's favor. The steep increase in foreign-direct investments into China cannot be explained by cheap labor or incentives alone, because ASEAN is also competitive in these areas.

The rush into China is more than anything a race to secure a foothold in its huge consumer market. Here then is another incentive for creating an ASEAN-China free trade area. Large integrated markets, not small fragmented ones are what attracts investors. Integrating markets make sense. ASEAN's population is 500 million as against China's 1.3 billion. But ASEAN's GDP is almost the same size as China's. Combining them would give birth to a market of 1.8 billion consumers or almost one-third of humanity.

The wide variety of traditional strengths, talent and natural resources of the two areas would shape the contours of this giant consumer market. As it evolves, investment flows would be redistributed in the future.

The Japanese consultant Kimichi Omae has pointed out that the China exporting to Japan is not actually made up of Chinese firms but is part of a production system conceived in Japan that simply uses Chinese land and labor. Since China by itself would not have been able to penetrate the Japanese market, he said, it is basically still a case of Japan competing with Japan.

To build an AFTA, a number of ASEAN member countries have suggested multiplying the Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement or EPA. This EPA promotes not only trade but also science and technology, tourism, human resources development and other important sectors of the economy.

If replicated elsewhere in ASEAN, multiple EPAs would enable Japan to amplify its competitive advantages in technology especially in ICT, biotechnology and environmental technology using the competitive advantages of ASEAN.

Regional and bilateral trade agreements, as long as these remain as open arrangements, complement and strengthen the multilateral system of the WTO.

The Philippines supports the New Doha round under the WTO, which is meant to further strengthen the principle of non-discrimination and thereby ensure an open global trading system.

Developing countries have devoted their collective energies to ensure that the Doha round of the WTO would be a truly developmental round and that it would bring about a more equitable outcome. Economies that have adopted market-driven policies should be rewarded by more open markets especially for products that are particularly important to us.

Regional and bilateral trade areas are hubs of open regionalism. The task before us is how to expand our cooperation to other areas to create interlocking linkages. ASEAN should foster multiple linkages in such areas as finance, energy, environment, and peace and security in this part of the world.

As the 1997 Asian financial crisis showed the landscape of globalization is littered with quicksand. Global capital is suspect. To shelter ourselves from destabilizing flaws, we have set up a network of bilateral swap arrangements

under the Chiang Mai initiative within the ASEAN plus three framework. We welcome the additional protection offered recently by the arrangement between the central banks of China and Japan.

Since China and Japan have the largest foreign exchange reserves in the world, this agreement fortifies the region's firewall against speculative attacks. The network of currency swap arrangement is the first step toward much deeper financial and monetary cooperation in East Asia. In the future, we can further explore the feasibility of having a common basket of currencies.

Aside from finance, the time is ripe for cooperation in the energy sector. The continued growth of our economies would depend on a stable supply of energy at a competitive price relative to other regions. The European union has demonstrated, from its beginnings as the European coal and steel community, that energy can be a catalyst for regional cooperation.

The region can, for example, explore cooperation in common stockpiles of oil, environmental quality control on oil products, interconnecting power systems and utilization of natural gas.

On the environment, our cooperation must be underlined by the absence of borders. China's cooperation is vital in environmental issues.

In laying the groundwork for multiple linkages, East Asia must cultivate an environment of peace and security. Security problems now ride the tide of globalization. Thus, it is important to present a united front against terrorism and international crime such as illegal trafficking of women and children, and money laundering. But much farther than that we must recognize that beyond physical security, there is the broader concept of human security which relates to basic human needs such as food, shelter, education and employment.

Unless, both physical and human security are effectively addressed, impoverished and disillusioned communities will continue to be the recruitment grounds for terrorism.

Japan's leadership in the reconstruction of Afghanistan is a prime example of the keen awareness of the paramount value of human security.

ASEAN has done its share in mitigating disputes in the region. It has seen to the smooth transition to political stability by Cambodia and East Timor, and acts as the nexus of the ASEAN regional forum, a major venue of constant dialogue among the powers in the Asia Pacific.

This ARF has been instrumental in ensuring peace and stability in the South China Sea. In all spheres of cooperation, from currency swap arrangements, to ensuring regional security, the role of Japan is crucial. It is by engaging in multiple linkages with the other economies of Asia that Japan can guarantee its stability and growth into the future. And may I say once again, I have full faith and confidence in Japan's leadership and in Japan's economic recovery.

More than a century ago, in 1886, a young Japanese author named Tokotomi Soho, wrote a book titled The Future of Japan. after analyzing European geopolitics in the 19th century, Soho said that the world of might would be replaced by the world of wealth. And he predicted that interdependence especially through trade will become the path to peace.

The challenge before us, in East and South East Asia, is how to integrate our multiple linkages into a common vision for the rest of the 21st century.

All countries today aspire for pacific solutions. We share the same prayers for peace, good health, justice, dignity and prosperity for our peoples. And most of all, we all believe we can achieve much more by acting together.

Building peace and attaining prosperity in East Asia would be our noblest contribution to the world.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 8th International Conference on the Future of Asia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225426/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8269&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Luncheon hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Club In Japan (FCCJ)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Luncheon hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Club In Japan (FCCJ)**

[Delivered at the Pen and Quill Dining Room, Yurakucho Denki Bldg., Tokyo, Japan, May 21, 2002]

Thank you very much Abiko San.

Other officers and members of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan; members of the Philippine delegation; Philippine journalists and correspondents present; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I am very honored to be here. This is an esteemed club of foreign journalists and media practitioners in Japan. Having opened its doors to journalists in the aftermath of the second World War, the FCCJ enjoys preeminence as an institution of authority in the analyses and reporting of Japan's post-war and modern history. It has been a real-time witness to Japan's transformation. And also many of who you are based here are also covering the Philippine beat.

A new regional environment has emerged in East Asia, characterized by growing political and economic relations among its states, both at the bilateral and regional planes.

The 1997 Asian financial crisis awakened countries in East Asia to their economic and financial interdependence, compelling them to coordinate closely their monetary and financial policies. As a result, there has been greater commitment to identify new opportunities for regional cooperation within the framework of Asean. The Asean-China, Japan and Republic of Korea dialogue has also been transformed into an effective instrument for economic and financial cooperation. Regional integration is taking place, and a sense of East Asian regionalism is evolving.

The Philippines welcomes this trend. I believe our regional economic integration will bring us not only more economic prosperity, but also greater political stability.

Central to this future is Japan. We are optimistic about Japan. As the largest economy in the region, Japan has led East Asia's economic transformation during the latter part of the 20th century. And today, Japan is embarking on major industrial reforms and fiscal restructuring. The success of Japan's efforts in reviving its economy is critical to the regional and global economy of the 21st century. And may I say that I have full confidence in the economic recovery of Japan.

The Philippines is confident in the ability of Japan to undertake reforms. I hold the view that Japan will continue to be the region's economic leader, because of its technological and financial capital. Japan is far ahead of other countries in the region. I am informed that the world's fastest computer has been made operational recently by Japan, this is clear proof of a sharp competitive edge in technology.

We, too, in the Philippines, are engaged in reforms. When I took over as president in January 2001, the state of public finances was most precarious.

My new government had to act — quickly — before the worsening external environment aggravated further our domestic situation. My government instituted a budget deficit-reduction program.

Philippine monetary policy, meanwhile, focused on achieving and maintaining price stability. Efforts were made to strengthen the banking system, which had accumulated burdensome, though relatively small compared to others in

the region, non-performing loans. For the equity market, stronger regulations against manipulation and insider trading were put in place.

Our macroeconomic policies for stable growth have been accompanied by long-term policies for economic restructuring. We opened more opportunities for the private sector to be the primary engine of growth. The electric power industry reform act, bottled up in congress for nine years, was finally enacted into law. This paves the way for the complete privatization of power generation, transmission and distribution in the country.

We also passed an anti-money laundering act to alleviate uncertainties attendant to financial intermediation.

The market welcomed these policies. Inflation declined from 7.9 percent in January of 2001 to 3.4 percent in February of 2002. Interest rates eased and the bellwether treasury bill rate reached its lowest level on record. This has been a boon to businesses, as it has also reinforced the government's deficit reduction program.

Despite the decline in exports, occasioned by the world's slowdown and the post September 11 decline, the foreign reserve asset position of the central bank has been manageable. Gross international reserves now stand at a record high adequate to enable us to service short-term obligations, as well as about five months of imports. The peso-dollar exchange rate has stabilized to below 50 pesos to one U.S. dollar.

Recognizing the turnaround in Philippine economic performance, the credit agencies have upgraded the country's sovereign debt rating outlook from negative to stable. The Philippines successfully launched several global bond offerings; and the California public employees' retirement system, the largest public pension fund in the United States, which made a very much publicized retreat from Asean markets, is back now in the Philippine market.

The creditable performance achieved during the difficult year of 2001 provides ground for optimism about our economic prospects in 2002 and beyond. Rising business and consumer confidence is invigorating domestic demand. Our exports went down by 40 percent last year and yet our GNP grew by 3.7 percent because of consumer spending and, more than that, because of gross domestic capital formation. Along with the expected economic recovery in other parts of the world, this sets the stage for further expansion in the Philippine economy.

My government projects real GDP to grow from four to 4.5 percent in 2002. We shall strive hard to realize this target and to improve on it in the years ahead.

Our growth prospects hinge much on maintaining a disciplined macroeconomic program that leads to greater stability and investment. We are vigorously pursuing our deficit-reduction program. At the same time, fiscal policy will protect and, in well-identified cases, increase spending for agricultural modernization, education and health, socialized housing, infrastructure, information and communications technology and tourism.

The deficit-reduction program will sustain the downtrend in interest rates. This will propel the recovery of industry. The revival of the banking industry is being addressed through the special purpose asset vehicle act and related bills in Congress. These laws aim to aid the banking sector unload its non-performing loans — again may I say they are smaller than around the region — and strengthen the regulatory and supervisory functions of the central bank and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The road to sustained growth over the medium-term will be secured by efforts to improve total productivity. We are starting with agricultural modernization.

And to sharpen competitiveness, we are committed to deregulation, privatization, liberalization. We are on track in meeting our liberalization and tariff reduction targets, particularly those forged under the ASEAN free trade area, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the World Trade Organization.

My administration is convinced that the best investment for sustained growth and development is good governance. We know we can win our battle against poverty more effectively and speedily if we adhere to what I call the three

pillars of good governance: first, a sound moral foundation to guide our leadership at all levels; second, a philosophy of transparency in all government actions; third, an ethic of effective implementation throughout the bureaucracy.

We know, too, that our efforts require the participation and support of all sectors of our society. But our actions are not limited to the national level, we have also pursued our economic reforms within ASEAN.

These efforts, if successful, will facilitate the conclusion of a free trade agreement with China and an economic partnership agreement with Japan.

In recent months, Japan demonstrated an innovative approach in accelerating integration in East Asia through Economic Partnership Agreements, or EPA., with ASEAN countries. This year, Japan concluded its first EPA. with Singapore. We find the EPA. an attractive initiative that could involve not a just trade agreement, but also other sectors of the economy like science and technology, tourism, human resource development, and investment promotion. We, in the Philippines, are interested in the establishment of a Japan-Philippines study group on a possible EPA.

There is also a greater need to focus on regional peace and security in East Asia, especially after the 11th of September terror event. This tragic event reminded us of our collective vulnerability.

Countering terrorism is indispensable for regional stability. The Philippines and Japan were one of the first countries — Prime Minister Koizumi and I together, September 12th because I was here in Tokyo — condemned the terror attacks and pledged our firm support to the international coalition to combat terrorism.

I note Japan's swift passage of the special law on anti-terrorism and the amendments to the self-defense forces law to enable Japan to proceed with her commitment to the international coalition. I believe that with these changes in Japan's domestic laws, Japan will be able to contribute more effectively to east Asia's regional security. A good example is Japan's peacekeeping team, recently fielded to East Timor under the U.N.. flag.

My country has also been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism. Philippine cooperation with the United States within the framework of the Visiting Forces Agreement has improved Philippine defense capabilities. At the same time, it has contributed to enhanced mutual operability between the armed forces of the Philippines and that of the United States. These security gains have reinvigorated Philippine economic activities.

During my visit to Malaysia early this month, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines signed a trilateral anti-terrorism agreement. The next day, during my visit to Bangkok, Thailand expressed its willingness to sign the agreement as well.

We did this in the belief that security has two facets: one is physical security and the other is human security.

Human security relates to basic needs like shelter, food, education, employment and sustainable development. People who have no hope for the future tend to vent their frustrations on established institutions and societies.

Japan's ODA. program has been targeted to meet the human security needs of our people. It is therefore important to consider Japanese ODA. as a necessary instrument to eliminate poverty, and thus diminish the breeding grounds for potential terrorists.

On this occasion, I would like to express our deep appreciation for Japan's continuing support for the economic development of the Philippines.

We look to the developed world not for dole-outs, but for equitable cooperation. I look to Japan to lead a dialogue that can identify the principal development issues of our region in the 21st century. Prime Minister Koizumi's initiative for development in East Asia conference this year, may be the appropriate venue to consider these issues.

Finally, let me reiterate our commitment to work with Japan and other countries to ensure a more prosperous and peaceful East Asia for the 21st century.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Luncheon hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Club In Japan (FCCJ). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225411/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8267&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Nikkei Conference Dinner

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Nikkei Conference Dinner

[Delivered at the Tsuru-Higashi Room, Hotel New Otani, Tokyo, Japan, May 21, 2002]

Thank you very much.

His excellency Prime Minister Koizumi; his Excellency Prime Minister Mahathir; his Excellency Prime Minister Bunang; Mr. Tsuruta; Mr. Sugita; participants of the 8th international conference on the future of Asia; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I am greatly honored to join you this evening as I was honored to give the keynote address this morning.

Our deep appreciation goes to Mr. Tsuruta Sacho and Nikkei for inviting us to the 8th International Conference on the future of Asia. I would also like to express our gratitude to the Japanese government and Nikkei for the warm hospitality extended to all of us.

Since the start of the Nikkei conference on the future of Asia, the East Asian region has undergone tremendous transformation. In 1995, ASEAN only had six member countries, today we are ten. In 1997, we had the Asian financial crisis which highlighted the close interdependence of our economies. We also discovered with gladness that in times of need, East Asian countries like Japan and China are there to help us.

We came together at the ASEAN+3 Summit in Singapore in the year 2000. There we are decided to move ahead towards greater functional cooperation. As a result, we have a currency swap agreement involving Japan, China, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. Eventually, this could be the foundation for an Asian Monetary Fund.

Recently, China joined the world trade organization after long and tedious negotiations. China has proposed a free-trade area with ASEAN by the year 2010 while Japan is proposing an economic partnership agreement with individual ASEAN countries. These are part of our significant benchmarks for the future.

Both of these proposals, when realized, will facilitate the formation of an East Asian free-trade area. This would create one single market of some two billion people with rising disposable incomes.

Recently, after the recession of 2001, East Asia has shown signs of positive recovery pointing to a clear path of long term economic growth. Our regional economy has fared quite well in the last few decades.

The September 11 events, however, refocused our sights on paramount concerns of global security. A closer scrutiny of our region reveals that in terms of institutions dealing with political and security issues, the region of East Asia compares quite poorly with the continent of Africa which has the organization of African union, the Americas which has the organization of American states, and Europe which has the organization for security and cooperation in Europe.

While we have under the ASEAN framework the ASEAN region forum, the institution has not developed beyond the incipient stage of confidence building measures. It is necessary to accelerate the development and strengthening of institutions dealing with political and security issues in our region.

In this context, Nikkei might wish to consider devoting a part of the future of Asia international conference to political and security institution building in East Asia.

We need a more symmetric development between our economic institutions on the one hand and those of our political security institutions in the region. Only in this way can we assure ourselves of better prospects for peace and prosperity in East Asia for the 21st century.

Thank you again, and may this gathering be an added impetus to unity and solidarity in East Asia.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Nikkei Conference Dinner. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225418/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8265&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Symposium on “ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and Beyond”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Symposium on “ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and Beyond”**

[Delivered at the Peninsula Manila Hotel, Makati City, May 30, 2002]

I would like to take this opportunity to articulate my administration’s trade policies.

The rapid pace of global integration and its depth and breadth call for a more holistic approach that goes beyond just trade policies. Such integration involves not just the flow of goods but also of services, people, ideas, and best practices of governance and of doing business.

The holistic approach starts by our own vision for our country, which is to win the battle against poverty within the decade. Our national agenda to win this battle has the following components:

First, a philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century, the century of the global marketplace. Thus our battle against poverty is interconnected to the world’s marketplace.

Second, a sectoral and social bias in our economic development plan. While we have no choice in the world today but to be guided by the signals of the market, to face the perils of the transition towards closer global economic integration, we must provide the safety nets for sectors adversely affected by globalization. This is part of our sectoral and social bias in our economic development plan.

Third, a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity; and

Fourth, improving moral standards in government and in society.

To make our economy competitive, we have addressed several factors crucial to the costs of production and of doing business in the country. We have put in place policies to lower the cost of capital by developing and strengthening our financial markets. We have taken measures to reduce the cost of power, transportation, and communications which are the lifeblood of commerce, through the strong involvement of the private sector. To increase productivity we are strengthening labor-management relations, eliminating corruption and red tape, and expanding retraining programs to prepare our workforce for the demands of the new global economy.

Central to our global engagement – and hence our development agenda – is trade. Trade is not an end in itself, but must be a means to social and human development. Properly employed, trade policies enhance our access to a wider range of goods, services, technologies, and knowledge. More trade stimulates entrepreneurship, creates jobs, attracts capital, increases foreign earnings, and fosters vital learning processes. These are the tools for sustainable development and the reduction of poverty.

Thus we support a rule-based multilateral trading system which the WTO is supposed to be. Our support is based not on any attachment to an ideology, but in a practical sense, in the light of what we think works for our people.

It is imperative that the rules that underpin this system ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment, and development for all. An inability to reap benefits from trade can translate into a reduced capacity to sustain imports of capital equipment and inputs and into less faith in the benefits of liberalized trade, thus undermining our ability to mobilize support for our trade policy reforms.

It does not help any therefore when developed countries persist in maintaining protectionist barriers against products of interest to developing countries like the Philippines. These include textiles and garments, and tropical, agricultural, and fisheries products. While the developed countries take every opportunity to lecture us about the virtues of a market-driven economy, hundreds of billions of dollars subsidize their farm production. James Wolfenson, the World Bank president, was recently quoted as saying that there is something fundamentally wrong in spending \$300 billion annually for a small segment of society of these subsidizing countries compared to the \$50 billion annually in ODA to the most impoverished countries. I would use stronger terms than Wolfenson and describe these actions as simply immoral.

These actions damage in a fundamental way the climate for – and weaken the global commitment to- the flow of trade that it risks emboldening the forces of protectionism and complicating the job of developing country trade officials.

The Doha Round has been billed as the development round. To ensure that it becomes so, I have instructed our negotiators to focus on the following goals:

To eliminate tariff escalation and tariff peaks for products of interest to developing countries and make these part of the early harvest of results.

For the WTO to make corollary efforts to lessen the burdensome requirements for developing countries to meet the stringent standards in developed country markets. Compliance in many cases has proven to be onerous and expensive. For example, our mangoes and bananas have to undergo exhaustive data collection and certification requirements lasting for years in some markets. Sad to say, sanitary requirements and technical standards seem to be the weapon of choice of protectionists.

To seek greater liberalization for the temporary entry of service providers in the General Agreement on Trade in Services, a large potential commercially meaningful area for developing countries and where support for such liberalization is strong such as in the ICT sector.

For anti-dumping actions to be made less a tool for harassment by raising the requirements for the initiation of such actions and rationalizing the standards for determining injury. These actions are resource intensive. They weigh down small business and developing countries.

To make special and differential treatment truly operational by providing more funds and resources for capacity building to enhance supply-side capacities, improve private sector competitiveness, negotiate effectively, implement trade agreements, and meet continuing obligations under those agreements. Further, I have asked our negotiators to provide for further differentiation of treatment among developing countries given the wide range of levels of development from the current two categories of least developed and developing. There are wide variations in circumstances, for example, between a Philippines and a South Korea.

We will continue to support the Cairns Group consensus that export subsidies in the agricultural sector should be eliminated. But we will make a strong case for special and differential treatment on other agricultural issues to enable us to have sufficient flexibility to pursue vital development goals such as poverty alleviation.

I also place great importance in regional trading arrangements.

I have faith in the viability of the ASEAN Free Trade Area. We cannot generate investments in adequate magnitudes unless we become part of a larger, integrated regional markets. This is the only way we can compete for markets and investments with the giants elsewhere in the world.

At the beginning of this year, the AFTA process reached a significant milestone, when the first six signatories of the AFTA agreement-Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand-achieved tariff levels of 0-5% on almost all goods traded among them.

But AFTA has some ways to go before becoming an effective means for strengthening the region's competitive economic position in the global market.

This is why I support ASEAN's resolve to go beyond the tariff-cutting. The leaders of ASEAN are working on the elimination of non-tariff barriers of trade. We are harmonizing our product standards and developing mutual recognition arrangements. We are negotiating the liberalization of trade in such important areas as financial services, telecommunications, construction, air and maritime transport, and tourism. We are binding the region together by expanding our transportation and energy networks and easing the flow of goods, people, and power throughout the region. We are drafting an agreement to make it easier and less expensive for tourists to come to ASEAN and to travel within ASEAN.

Closer integration is necessary for the long-term survival and prosperity of each of the ASEAN countries.

We are also looking beyond our immediate borders to extend the benefits of regional integration to our major trading partners in the region-the so-called ASEAN+3: China, Japan and South Korea.

With China's entry into the WTO, the nations of ASEAN must embark on a process of reflection regarding their own economies and for the ASEAN region as a whole to determine how they can best position themselves to ensure the continued competitiveness of their export and to capitalize on the opportunities presented by a more open China.

The China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement will create a market of 1.8 billion people and combined GDP of \$2 trillion. It is projected that this would boost ASEAN exports to China by 48% and increase ASEAN's G.D.P. by 0.9%. The benefit for the Philippines is expanding our exports to the rapidly growing Chinese market as well as cooperating with Chinese and multinational companies in the developing of manufacturing and service facilities in ASEAN that can feed their expanding mainland operations. This is an excellent opportunity to position our logistics service, manufacturing and commodity firms for strong business links with post-WTO China.

Japan's trade with ASEAN totaled more than \$120 billion last year. The outlines of an ASEAN-Japan economic partnership are being fleshed together. Meantime, a "new age partnership" arrangement with the Philippines is under study.

This demonstrates that we will look for opportunities to further our economic interests through bilateral trading arrangements. It is not so easy for us to enter into such arrangements since we are a more diversified economy than, say, Singapore, therefore there are more areas for potential asymmetry in interest.

In sum, the Philippines is fashioning a development agenda based on an economy competitive in the 21st century. Our reforms aim to create a domestic environment that will enable us to reap the benefits of global economic integration while minimizing the risks to the adversely affected sectors. We are working within ASEAN to integrate and expand the regional market, so that our products and the products of those who invest in our country will have the region's half a billion people as a market.

We are also seeking, by ourselves and with our ASEAN partners, to strengthen and deepen our economic ties with countries and groups of countries beyond ASEAN-China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India, the United States, and the European Union.

The Philippines will maintain our economic ties with the rest of the world to the extent that it is consistent with our commitments and the welfare of our people.

Thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Arrival Ceremonies after a Working Visit to Japan

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Arrival Ceremonies after a Working Visit to Japan**

[Delivered at the Departure Lounge, NAIA Terminal II, Pasay City, May 24, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Vice President Guingona; Senate President Drilon; Speaker de Venecia; Mr. Sadaoka, Charge de Affaires of Japan; members of the Cabinet; General Cimatú and the major service commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; Mayor Francis Tolentino of the League of Cities and other officials; fellow workers in government; ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you for coming to meet me. I only wish that Executive Secretary Bert Romulo were here with us to share the results of my trip to Japan. Nevertheless, I ask the nation to join me in praying for his quick recovery.

High profile events have transpired since I left. Just before I took off last Monday, East Timor had its independence celebration. As I arrived in Tokyo, I was met with the news that the Japanese government had officially declared the end of the recession in Japan. And as I was attending an energy forum to obtain investments for the privatization of our power industry by midweek, a blackout hit the Luzon grid. In a late breaking development, we allowed five North Koreans once again safe passage through Manila for a journey home from China.

These seemingly disparate events all had a relevance to my trip to Japan. In my meetings with business and political leaders, as well as media moguls in that country, we were discussing the future of Asia and the roles of Japan, China, South Korea, Asean and the Philippines in that future. Our terms of reference were versatile and wide-ranging; they covered the entire gamut of social, economic, political and security issues.

In this light, East Timor is important because it symbolizes the need for closer regional cooperation in ensuring peace and stability under conditions of democracy and freedom. In fact, I am very happy and proud that Japan and the Philippines have a south-south cooperation for technical assistance to East Timor — funds from Japan entailed from the Philippines. The case of the five Koreans is relevant to our universal ideals of human freedom. And reemergence of Japan from recession is important because Japan continues to be the economic powerhouse of the region. It has 60 percent of the region's GDP, it has the largest capital in the region, and it has the sharpest edge in technology even today. The Luzon blackout brought into the forefront the urgent need to privatize our energy sector, which bears primordial relevance to confidence in our economy within the context of the globalized regime.

Today's axiom is that every significant political, social and economic event within each country in East Asia has reverberations that impact upon the common future of the nation. This was the consensus in my meetings in Japan; this is the consensus that will continue to shape the future of Asia.

Japan remains an important pillar in the economic growth of East Asia given, as I said, its huge capital and its sharp edge in technology — these are indispensable drivers of the information age and the knowledge society of the 21st century.

I addressed two important conferences separately sponsored by the two largest media organizations in Japan — Nikkei and Mainichi Shimbun. Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan, Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia and Prime Minister Vorachith of Laos were all in the Nikkei forum with me.

At that Nikkei forum spoke on an integrated East Asian economy, which would create one market of two billion people with rising disposable incomes. Along the same track, the Asean-china free trade area envisioned within the next 10 years — approved even before my term as president — and the individual economic partnership agreements of Asean members with Japan, are strong reinforcing elements of the trend towards East Asian economic integration.

I had a very spirited and very cordial meeting with Prime Minister Koizumi. We reinforced our bilateral relationships through themes of mutual confidence and earnest hopes for speedier regional integration. I took the opportunity to outline my vision of the Philippine-Japan Partnership — of marching closely with Japan and the rest of the region — consistent with Prime Minister Koizumi's view of "working and advancing together" for East Asia. In preparation for my next visit to Japan — because Japan is important enough to be visited at least twice a year, as Prime Minister Mahathir does all the time for all these decades — we will be working out a poverty alleviation proposal for Japan to fund similar to that with which it is helping countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Philippines and Japan are deeply immersed in the vision of Asian economic integration. Both countries are committed to studying the possibility of forging a bilateral economic partnership agreement or EPA. that will spell out the framework to hasten the process of economic integration.

This EPA. will encompass not just trade, it will also cover the mutual recognition of professions and skills, human resources development, and technology transfers. It will facilitate the access of our I.T. professionals and our health care professionals in the Japanese market. Prime Minister Koizumi and I agreed to have a joint study group to look into the setting up of this partnership. This working study group is led by Secretary of Trade Manuel Roxas on the Philippine side and his counterpart on the Japanese side.

I had meetings with business leaders from the top Japanese firms like Sumitomo, Mitsui, Marubeni, Mitsubishi, Tomen, Honda, Toyota, Sanyo Electric. I reassured the business leaders of the sound investment environment in the Philippines and our determined efforts to improve the peace and order situation.

I met with members of the Japan federation of economic organizations or Keidanren, which is the organization of the top business leaders of Japan. I also met with representatives of the car manufacturing sector and with the leaders of the Japan shipping industry.

In my meeting with Keidanren I spoke of our readiness to provide health care to Japan's aging citizens — because Japan has an aging population while we have a young population with many health care workers and professionals. Our tourism program can be bolstered by "medical check up tourism" in our renowned medical centers. And also caregiver facilities can be set up in conjunction with our economic zones so that Japanese expatriate communities can be developed in tandem with investment ventures in nursing care in those areas.

On the car manufacturing sector, the Japanese are ready to expand their present facilities to a higher stage of C.B.U. or complete body units or completed built up units and car parts manufacturing in the Philippines for the world market. I am encouraged by the decision made by Honda corporation, for instance, to set-up a transmission plant in the Philippines. In my last visit to Japan last September, they said they would set up this transmission plant for the Asean market. Now, in this latest visit, they said they will set it up for the world market rather than just the Asean market. This will mean more investments and more jobs.

I assured the Japanese investors of our commitment to industrial peace through a special team headed by Secretary Roxas and Secretary Sto. Tomas of the DTI and the DOLE. We agreed to join hands in establishing more proactive cooperation in industrial peace.

On the part of the ship owners, they assured me of the continued hiring of our highly skilled seafarers. On top of this, our seamen can now also take qualifying exams for management positions in Japanese vessels — ito ay isang pribilehiyo na binibigay ng Japan para sa Pilipinas lamang.

I met with leaders of the diet, both from the majority and the opposition. They have continuing faith in our country and our people.

I had a happy moment with the leaders of the Filipino community in western Japan, in Osaka. They are very proud of our country's remarkable economic performance because they can feel from personal knowledge the regional difficulties, the regional challenges that they have personal knowledge of, and they are proud and they know what an achievement it is that we have achieved our positive growth rates, a reduction in interest rates, a reduction in inflation rates. They can appreciate that these are all the more remarkable given the regional difficulties. They also urged our government to deepen our links with Japanese agencies for the benefit of the Filipino people. I thanked them for their role in keeping our economy strong and for their hearty remittances to the Philippines.

The future of East Asia now moves inexorably forward, but we must also take note of its attendant constraints. There is still a wide disparity in wealth among the countries in the region as well as within the internal boundaries of the countries of East Asia including our own. But the good thing is that the more developed countries once again recognize their obligation to nurture the weaker ones on the basis of more equitable relationships. The more developed countries once again recognize the obligation to help fight the scourge of abject poverty within the weaker economies. All of these happened in the aftermath of September 11. Now, once again, the developed countries recognize that helping the weaker countries, helping the poor especially in these weaker countries is the only way the long-term ends of regional stability and security can be attained.

In this light, I urged the Japanese government to lead in the development and strengthening of institutions dealing with political and security issues in our region. We need a more symmetric balance between our economic institutions which are quite advanced in Asean and East Asia, and our political-security institutions which are quite far behind those of Europe, Africa and the Americas. This is one way we can assure ourselves of better prospects for peace and prosperity in East Asia for the 21st century.

All in all, my trip was about regional solidarity and integration, about the fight against terrorism and the fight against poverty, about the creation of wealth and opportunity in the largest potential market in the world, which is East Asia where we are a part.

We are part of a larger world — the Philippines — and we must be prepared to face its challenges and pitfalls. While our national interest lies in recognizing the inevitability of openness, it must be characterized by strength and enlightenment, by a strong Philippines that can adapt and remain resilient amid the buffeting winds of the 21st century.

Our partnership with Japan is secure, vibrant, infused with confidence. It will serve us well in the years ahead.

I thank the lord for his blessings, and I thank our people for your faith and support.

Thank you.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA'S Speech during the Arrival Ceremonies after a Working Visit to Japan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225348/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8262&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 40th Founding Anniversary of Angeles University

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 40th Founding Anniversary of Angeles University**

[Delivered at the Angeles University Grounds, Angeles, Pampanga, May 25, 2002]

Dacal pong salamat, Mong.

I would also like to greet the officials of Pampanga and Angeles City headed by Governor Lito Lapid; our friends from the other parts of Central Luzon headed by Congressman Willy Villarama of Bulacan; our friends from Manila headed by don Emilio Yap, Chairman of Manila Bulletin; the officials of the Commission on Higher Education headed by Esther Garcia, Chairman of CHED; the members of the Angeles family and the Angeles University family, happy 40th Anniversary to all of you.

I will make my remarks very brief because I don't want you to get caught in the rain and end up in Angeles University Hospital from Pneumonia. But I just like to spend a few minutes to congratulate the administration, faculty and students of Angeles University, Happy Ruby Anniversary.

As Bishop Paciano Aniceto said, I came here almost straight from my trip to Japan because this celebration is special — it's 40 years — and it is like a homecoming for me because the Macapagal family has been a part of the Angeles University family. My father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, and I both served as chair of your board of trustees in our time. My father served as chairman of the board from 1988 to 1997 when he passed away. When he died, I took his place, but before that Angeles University gave him a deeply moving necrological service; and my mother loved the service so much and the Angeles chorus, that she requested that if she would die the Angeles university choir should be her requiem choir for her own funeral. After my father passed away I became the chair until my duties as vice-president required me to stop serving on the board. Bishop Aniceto became the chairman and my brother Boboy took my place in the board as a member.

And having known the university all these years, I commend the university's sustained and strong commitment to make quality education accessible to our people. Your mission of "total development of man for god and humanity" tells it all. You have continued to instill academic excellence among your students, and motivate them to become capable and responsible members of our society.

Relevant and quality education is the key to our country's stability and progress. It is needed to break the cycle of poverty that has been passed from generation to another. My administration is dedicated to winning the war against poverty within the decade. And education is one of the pillars of this mission.

The fight against poverty will be won, as my father put it, "not by pulling down the rich to the level of the poor, but by raising the poor towards the more abundant life." And, as my father showed the way, by personal example and deeds, by dint of sacrifice and hard work.

Diosdado Macapagal was born poor to humble tenants and suffered genuine hunger and deprivation as a child, but he fought his way out of poverty through education. He pulled himself up through education to be a bar topnotcher, a doctor of laws, a doctor of economics, and, with solid background, became congressman, vice-president and, eventually, president.

My father's story proves that beyond equipping today's youth with the necessary skills to ply the job market, education is the force of empowerment; it is the most effective counterbalance to the disabling forces of poverty.

The mission of my administration is to continue his work, to address the plight of the underprivileged, who make up more than one-third of our society. I have pledged good governance to empower the poor — to make them, and their children, look to the future with hope. In this mission, a comprehensive education program is a most vital component.

The need for an educated workforce is all the more important in today's highly interdependent world, and a world of rapid advances in technology. The cultivation of our human resources is the only way to maintain our competitive advantage in this new world, because in this new world of the 21st century, the Philippines' competitive advantage lies in its human-resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors. The Philippines is the home of the great Filipino worker.

As Monsignor Aniceto said, I just arrived from Japan yesterday, together with Manny Angeles, whom as you know I pirated from Angeles university to become the president of Clark Development Corporation. The pervading theme in my meeting with the top political and business leaders of Japan was the future of Asia. It was the consensus that the future of Asia belongs to a great regional market, the largest market in the world — where goods, services, skills, technologies and political ideas are exchanged through multiple linkages among peoples, governments and institutions.

This world of regional consolidation will largely be driven by educational systems designed to equalize the opportunities for development and progress, not only in the regional community, but within the nations in it. In our own land, we must equalize these opportunities by improving the productivity of the poor, and pursuing their political and social empowerment.

In sum, our victory against poverty depends on productivity enabled by education. The task begins in our schools, our goal is for every Filipino to find gainful employment.

When I became president last year, the unemployment rate I inherited was 11.3 percent. This is now down to 10.3 percent, because our economy was able to create an additional 1.5 million jobs this past year.

But we need to create jobs for 2.4 million people. And this we will achieve by pursuing more vigorously the employment-promotions strategies embodied in the medium-term Philippine development plan for 2001-2004.

The medium-term Philippine development plan has four components: first, promoting a philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. Second, agricultural modernization founded on social equity. Third, a social bias for the poor in our development plan. And fourth, improving moral standards in government and in society.

Because last year we knew the export market would collapse as a result of the global slowdown, we concentrated on developing new employment opportunities in the domestic labor market — and we were successful. For instance, in agriculture, we have given our administration the goal of creating one million new jobs by 2004, and we have almost reached this already and it is only the first part of 2002.

10.3 percent is our national unemployment rate now but in region iii, as we learned in the regional development council meeting just now, is 11.3. That means that Region III's unemployment is higher than national average. However, I am quite sure this is not because of Pampanga because Pampanga, together with Bulacan, are two of the 10 provinces in the country with the highest human development index. So it is in the other parts of Region III.

But Angeles City, Clark Development Area, these areas have the responsibility of bringing about economic development for the rest of Central Luzon.

If it were not raining I would give you a lecture on the w corridor of our medium-term plan for Central Luzon. But it's raining so that's a message from the Lord for me not to give a lecture even if it's so tempting given as I am in a university complex and I am in this front of this building which is the last building inaugurated by my father when he was still chairman of the board of Angeles University. Suffice it to say, however, that Manny Angeles knows the details of those plans, and as president of Clark Development Corporation, that's why he has taken a leave from being president of Angeles University, he will take care of helping lead the economic development not only of Angeles city and Mabalacat where Clark belongs but also the whole of Pampanga and the whole of Central Luzon; and I believe he is one of Angeles University's most important contributions to the economy of our country.

Once again, to all of us — my father from heaven is reminding me that's why it's raining harder again — to all, from all of us, Happy Ruby Anniversary and congratulations, Angeles University.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 40th Founding Anniversary of Angeles University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225338/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8261&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Symposium on “ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and Beyond”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Symposium on “ASEAN Free TRADE AREA (AFTA) and Beyond”**

[Delivered at the Peninsula Manila Hotel, Makati City, May 30, 2002]

I would like to take this opportunity to articulate my administration’s trade policies.

The rapid pace of global integration and its depth and breadth call for a more holistic approach that goes beyond just trade policies. Such integration involves not just the flow of goods but also of services, people, ideas, and best practices of governance and of doing business.

The holistic approach starts by our own vision for our country, which to win the battle against poverty within the decade. Our national agenda to win this battle has the following components:

- First, a philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century, the century of the global marketplace. Thus our battle against poverty is interconnected to the world’s marketplace.
- Second, a sectoral and social bias in our economic development plan. While we have no choice in the world today but to be guided by the signals of the market, to face the perils of the transition towards closer global economic integration, we must provide the safety nets for sectors adversely affected by globalization. This is part of our sectoral and social bias in our economic development plan.
- Third, a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity; and
- Fourth, improving moral standards in government and in society.

To make our economy competitive, we have addressed several factors crucial to the costs of production and of doing business in the country. We have put in place policies to lower the cost of capital by developing and strengthening our financial markets. We have taken measures to reduce the cost of power, transportation, and communications which are the lifeblood of commerce, through the strong involvement of the private sector. To increase productivity we are strengthening labor-management relations, eliminating corruption and red tape, and expanding retraining programs to prepare our workforce for the demands of the new global economy.

Central to our global engagement – and hence our development agenda—is trade. Trade is not an end in itself, but must be a means to social and human development. Properly employed, trade policies enhance our access to a wider range of goods, services, technologies and knowledge. More trade stimulates entrepreneurship, creates jobs, attracts capital, increases foreign earnings, and fosters vital learning processes. These are the tools for sustainable development and the reduction of poverty.

Thus we support a rule-based multilateral trading system which the W.T.O. is supposed to be. Our support is based not on any attachment to an ideology, but in a practical sense, in the light of what we think works for our people.

It is imperative that the rules that underpin this system ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment, and development for all. An inability to reap benefits from trade can translate into a reduced capacity to sustain imports of capital equipment and inputs and into less faith in the benefits of liberalized trade, thus undermining our ability to mobilize support for our trade policy reforms.

It does not help any therefore when developed countries persist in maintaining protectionist barriers against products of interest to developing countries like the Philippines. These include textiles and garments and tropical agricultural and fisheries products. While the developed countries take every opportunity to lecture us about the virtues of a market-driven economy, hundreds of billions of dollars subsidize their farm production. James Wolfenson, the World Bank president, was recently quoted as saying that there is something fundamentally wrong in spending \$300 billion annually for a small segment of society of these subsidizing countries compared to the \$50 billion annually in O.D.A. to the most impoverished countries. I would use stronger terms than Wolfenson and describe these actions as simply immoral.

These actions damage in a fundamental way the climate for — and weaken the global commitment to — the flow of trade that it risks emboldening the forces of protectionism and complicating the job of developing country trade officials.

The Doha round has been billed as the development round. To ensure that it becomes so I have instructed our negotiators to focus on the following goals:

- To eliminate tariff escalation and tariff peaks for products of interest to developing countries and make these part of the early harvest of results.
- For the W.T.O. to make corollary efforts to lessen the burdensome requirements for developing countries to meet the stringent standards in developed country markets. Compliance in many cases has proven to be onerous and expensive. For example, our mangoes and bananas have to undergo exhaustive data collection and certification requirements lasting for year, in some markets. Sad to say, sanitary requirements and technical standards seem to be the weapon of choice of protectionists.
- To seek greater liberalization of the temporary entry of service providers in the General Agreement on Trade in Services, a large potential commercially meaningful area for developing countries and where support for such liberalization is strong such as in the I.C.T. sector.
- For anti-dumping actions to be made less a tool for harassment by raising the requirements for the initiation of such actions and rationalizing the standards for determining injury. These actions are resource intensive. They weigh down small business and developing countries.
- To make special and differential treatment truly operational by providing more funds and resources for capacity building to enhance supply-side capacities, improve private sector competitiveness, negotiate effectively, implement trade agreements, and meet continuing obligations under those agreements. Further I have asked our negotiators to provide for further differentiation of treatment among developing countries given the wide range of levels of development from the current two categories of least developed and developing. There are wide variations in circumstances, for example, between a Philippines and a South Korea.

We will continue to support the Cairns Group consensus that export subsidies in the agricultural sector should be eliminated. But we will make a strong case for special and differential treatment on other agricultural issues to enable us to have sufficient flexibility to pursue vital development goals such as poverty alleviation.

I also place great importance in regional trading arrangements.

I have faith in the viability of the Asean Free Trade Area. We cannot generate investments in adequate magnitudes unless we become part of a larger, integrated regional markets. This is the only way we can compete for markets and investments with the giants elsewhere in the world.

At the beginning of this year, the AFTA process reached a significant milestone, when the first six signatories of the AFTA agreement—Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand—achieved tariff levels of 0-5% on almost all goods traded among them.

But AFTA has some ways to go before becoming an effective means for strengthening the region's competitive economic position on the global market.

This is why I support Asean's resolve to go beyond the tariff-cutting. The leaders of Asean are working on the elimination of non-tariff barriers of trade. We are harmonizing our product standards and developing mutual recognition arrangements. We are negotiating the liberalization of trade in such important areas as financial services, telecommunications, construction, air and maritime transport, and tourism. We are binding the region together by expanding our transportation and energy networks and easing the flow of goods, people, and power throughout the region. We are drafting an agreement to make it easier and less expensive for tourists to come to Asean and to travel within Asean.

Closer integration is necessary for the long-term survival and prosperity of each of the Asean countries.

We are also looking beyond our immediate borders to extend the benefits of regional integration to our major trading partners in the region—the so-called Asean+3 of China, Japan and South Korea.

With China's entry into the W.T.O., the nations of Asean must embark on a process of reflection regarding their own economies and for the Asean region as a whole to determine how they can best position themselves to ensure the continued competitiveness of their export and to capitalize on the opportunities presented by a more open China.

The China-Asean Free Trade Agreement will create a market of 1.8 billion people and combined G.D.P. of \$2 trillion. It is projected that this would boost Asean exports to China by 48% and increase Asean's G.D.P. by 0.9%. The benefit for the Philippines is expanding our exports to the rapidly growing Chinese market as well as cooperating with Chinese and multinational companies in the developing of manufacturing and service facilities in Asean that can feed their expanding mainland operations. This is an excellent opportunity to position our logistics service, manufacturing and commodity firms for strong business links with post-WTO China.

Japan's trade with Asean totaled more than \$120 billion last year. The outlines of an Asean-Japan economic partnership is being fleshed together. Meantime, a "New-Age partnership" arrangement with the Philippines is under study.

This demonstrates that we will look for opportunities to further our economic interests through bilateral trading arrangements, although it is not so easy for us to enter into such arrangements since we are a more diversified economy than, say, Singapore, therefore there are more areas for potential asymmetry in interest.

In sum, the Philippines is fashioning a development agenda based on an economy competitive in the 21st century. Our reforms aim to create a domestic environment that will enable us to reap the benefits of global economic integration while minimizing the risks to the adversely affected sectors. We are working within Asean to integrate and expand the regional market, so that our products and the products of those who invest in our country will have the region's half a billion people as a market.

We are also seeking, by ourselves and with our Asean partners, to strengthen and deepen our economic ties with countries and groups of countries beyond Asean—China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India, the United States, and the European Union.

The Philippines will maintain our economic ties with the rest of the world to the extent that it is consistent with our commitments and the welfare of our people.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Symposium on "ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and Beyond". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225332/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8258&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during 14th Anniversary Convention of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During 14th Anniversary Convention of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)**

[Delivered at the Expo Filipino Millennium Hall, Clark Field, Angeles City, Pampanga, June 10, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Braganza at maraming salamat din dahil ngayon lang naipulong mo ang lahat ng mga officers ng Department of Agrarian Reform sa isang lugar sa buong kasaysayan ng land reform. Kaya welcome sa inyong lahat dito.

Secretary Joey Lina; ang aking anak na si Mikey Arroyo na nangangatawan sa Pampanga; Mayor Moki Morales nangangatawan naman sa ating host municipality, ang Mabalacat; our very supportive Ambassadors from the countries that support land reform in the Philippines very heavily, Ambassador Van Remoortele of Belgium and Ambassador Ben Abba of Israel; other members of the diplomatic corps representing the countries and agencies that have been supporting Philippine land reform; our AFP Chief of Staff General Cimat and the other officers of the armed forces of the Philippines who are here today; PNP Chief Larry Mendoza and the other officers of the police who are also here with us today; and ating ring host dito sa lugar na ito, si Pangulong Manny Angeles ng Clark Development Corporation; PARCOM Chairperson and private sector representatives; the CARP implementing agencies; mga beneficiary ng land reform; mga panauhin; mga kaibigan:

Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat at Happy Land Reform Day sa inyong lahat.

Noong ako ay nagbigay ng aking State of the Nation Address noong isang taon, sinabi ko na isa sa apat na pangunahing programa ng ating laban sa kahirapan ay agricultural modernization founded on social equity. ‘Yung bahagi noon, founded on social equity, ang pinakalaman ng social equity sa ating agricultural modernization ay ito na ngang reporma sa lupa o land reform. Kaya ang land reform ay pangunahing bahagi ng ating programa ng administrasyon.

Even when I was still vice president, and I was articulating the four components of what I believe a program to fight poverty should have, I said many times that the promise of land reform, a commitment that spans several presidents, must finally be redeemed. I said that without equity and modernization, we will never win the struggle against poverty in our rural countryside.

Katunayan alam ko, napakaraming mga pangulo, ito ang talagang hinangad nila na magkaroon at matupad ang reporma sa lupa. Katunayan, tinuring ng aking ama, ang dating Pangulong Diosdado Macapagal, bilang pangunahing nakamit niya sa kaniyang administrasyon ay nasimula ang reporma sa lupa sa pagtuturing na ang tenancy ay labag sa batas. Kaya naman pinagpapatuloy ko ang sinimula niya na ito. At ako ay nasisiyahan na kung noong isang taon ginanap natin ang Land Reform Day sa Malakanyang, ngayon naman ay ginaganap natin ito sa probinsiya kung saan ang aking tatay sa kanyang kabataan at kabinataan ay naranasan niya ang mahirap na karanasan ng mga magsasakang hindi may-ari ng lupang tinatrabaho nila. Dahil si Diosdado Macapagal ay anak ng mga tenant farmer. Ayun ang kanyang pinakalayunin noong siya ay naging pangulo.

Sa aking State of the Nation Address ng nakaraang taon, sinabi ko ang ating layunin, mamahagi tayo taun-taon ng sandaang ektaryang lupaing agrikultura sa ilalim ng DAR.

Kanina, in-unveil ni Nani Braganza ‘yung kanyang programa — “Bayan, Anihan.” At sinabi niya na land distribution will not be enough unless there is an increase in productivity kaya meron siyang lahat noong bahagi ng

“bayan, anihan.” Pero ako rin gusto ko namang bigyan-diin, increase in land productivity without land distribution is not social equity.

Kaya para sa akin, ang pangunahing layunin talaga ng DAR ay iyung land distribution. At lahat ng ibang bahagi ng “bayan, anihan” ay suporta para maging matagumpay ‘yung land distribution. Kaya itong araw na ito — sabi ko kay Nani, “pareho kaming seven minutes ang speech namin.” Kasi isa lang mensahe ang ibibigay ko — ang tanging mensahe ko ay ito: binabati ko si Nani, binabati ko kayonglahat, binabati ko ang dar na namamahala para sa pribadong lupaing distribution dahil nga noong nakaraang taon, kayo ay nakapamahagi ng 104,261 hectares na lupain sa 72,188 farmer-beneficiaries sa buong kapuluan. In other words, nilampasan ninyo ang target na binigay ko sa Inyo.

Sabi nung iba, saan? Macro figures. Hindi. Kaya huwag kayong matulog pero itong araw na ito, ibibigay ko ang breakdown ng lupaing napamahagi natin nitong nakaraang taon.

Nandito ba ‘yung ating Abra delegation? Abra, naimbag nga bigat yo amin, apo. Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyo dahil kayo ay namahagi ng higit sa 1,000 hectares para sa land reform; addadtoy dagiti officials ti dar gapo benguet? Congratulations! Dahil sa benguet higit 600 hectares ang nadistribute n’yo sa land reform; dagiti officials gapo ti apayao, Ifugao ken kalinga, addadtoy? Sa inyong lahat, congratulations dahil ang inyong tatlong probinsiya tag-300 hectares, for a total of 900 hectares ang dinistribute ninyo; ken diay probinsiya ti mountain province, ‘dinno ti opisyal? ‘Yon ay bulubundukin na probinsiya kaya tawag mountain province, nakapagbigay ng higit 50 hectares naman sa mountain province; gapo mi ti La Union, ‘dinno ti delegation gapo ti La Union? Okay, congratulations, halos 300 hectares sa La Union. Probinsiya ni Nani at ng inyong lingkod, Ilocos. Ah, ‘no. Pangasinan ken Ilocos Norte. ‘dinno ti Pangasinan ken Ilocos Norte? Tig-200 hectares ang inyong namudmod, congratulations; at sa Ilocos Sur? Seven hectares; ‘yon namang Isabela, okay, more than 3,000 hectares sa Isabela; cagayan province, almost 20 hectares; Nueva Vizcaya, sino ti Nueva Vizcaya? Almost 400 hectares; Quirino, more than 100 hectares; at ‘yung Nueva Ecija naman, higit tatlong libong ektarya.

Tarlac, Pampanga at Bulacan, saan kayo? ‘Yon. Kayong tatlo, tig-sanlibong ektarya, kaya tatlong libong ektarya kayo, tatlong probinsiya; Zambales at Bataan, tig-limang daang ektarya, kaya isang libo ‘yung dalawa Dalawang probinsiya; Aurora? More than 100 hectares, congratulations; ‘yung Quezon at Mindoro Oriental, nandito? Tig-dalawang libong ektarya kaya apat na libong ektarya kayong dalawa; ‘yon namang Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Marinduque, Romblon, Batangas, mukhang tig-isang libong ektarya kayong lima, kaya 5,000 hectares; ‘yung Laguna, probinsiya ni Joey, narito ba? More than 400 hectares; ‘yung sa Cavite narito kayo? More than 200 hectares; ‘yung Rizal, Rizal? Wala. Ayun, nandoon kayo. Halos siyudad na ang Rizal kaya meron pa ring apatnapung ektaryang nagawa; Camarines Sur? Salamat, marhay nga aga, and thank you for the more than 3,000 hectares you distributed; ‘yon namang Albay, may nagbati sa akin dito, taga-Albay, Masbate, Camarines Norte, tig-2,000 hectares kaya kayong tatlong probinsiya ay 6,000 hectares, congratulations; sa Sorsogon, saan ang Sorsogon dito? Halos isandaang libong ektarya, congratulations din sa inyo; at sa Catanduanes ay halos isandaang ektarya rin sa Catanduanes.

Negros Occidental, ito ay isa sa pinaka-special mention, noong araw ay kasama sa kulilat, sabi ni Nani Braganza, pero ngayon more than 7,000 hectares sa Negros Occidental; doon naman sa Iloilo, diin ang taga-Iloilo diri? Okay, more than 2,000 hectares; Capiz? More than 1,000 hectares; Guimaras kag Aklan, diin? Okay, each of them almost 500 hectares kaya halos 1,000 ‘yung dalawa; Antique, more than 400 hectares sa Antique; sa Negros Oriental, Negros Oriental? Lugar ng pangulo ng Land bank of the Philippines, kaya dapat hindi siya inaresto dahil halos apat na libong ektarya ang Negros Oriental; Bohol at Cebu, more than one 1,000 hectares each more or less, so 2,000 hectares for the two; adto naman sa maliit na Island ng Siquijor, ayun, eight hectares, congratulations; maliit naman na island ang Siquijor, maliit na maliit. Siquijor, Siquijor is smaller than our Mikey’s and my hometown of Lubao, so salamat sa ano. Okay na rin ‘yung eight hectares; Leyte, halos anim na libong ektarya sa Leyte, saan ang Leyte? Binanggit kanina, di ba? ‘Yon din ay dating kulelat pero nakahabol, almost 6,000 hectares, congratulations; ang Northern Samar, nandito ba? Maupay nga aga mga Northern Samar, congratulations sa almost 3,000 hectares na dinistribute ninyo; sa Western Samar. Western Samar, more than 2,000 hectares, congratulations. Ay! Ah, yes. At sa Eastern Samar at Biliran, wala? Ayun. Each of you 1,000 hectares each so 2,000 hectares for the two provinces; and Southern Leyte, almost 500 hectares in Southern Leyte.

Sa Zamboanga Del sur, ang ating outstanding landowner ay galing sa Zamboanga Del Sur, so... Palagay ko, this includes Zamboanga Sibugay, higit 2,000 gikan sa Zamboanga Del Sur; sa Zamboanga Del Norte, saan ang Zamboanga Del ...? Okay, halos anim na daan naman sa Zamboanga del Norte; sa Basilan? Oy, kahit na meron tayong Abu Sayyaf, higit dalawang daan pa ay nadistribute; sa Lanao del Norte? Higit tatlung libong ektarya, congratulations; sa Bukidnon, more than 2,000 hectares; and the two Misamis, Oriental and Occidental, 700 each for 1,400 hectares; and in the little island of Camiguin na binagyo pa, more than 20 hectares. Camiguin, ganoon din, mas maliit din kaysa sa bayan namin ni Mikey na Lubao.

In Davao del Norte, almost 3,000 hectares; in Davao Oriental, the number one coconut province in the country, 2,000 hectares; In Davao del Sur, more than 1,000 hectares; and in the city of Davao, city of Davao, kahit na city, halos pitong daang ektarya ang nadistribute sa city of Davao; ito naman, isa pang dating kulelat at naging valedictorian kasama ng Negros Occidental, Sultan Kudarat, higit pitung libo; sa Cotabato Province, higit limang libo; South Cotabato and Sarangani, 2,000 each to make 4,000 hectares; Agusan del Sur, almost 2,000; Surigao del Sur, almost 1,000; Agusan del Norte, wala? Ayun. Almost 400; Surigao del Norte, almost 100. Kasi panay beaches ang Surigao del Norte kasama na 'yung Siargao surfing beach which we shall visit in September; and our sole land reform area in the Autonomous Region, Lanao del Sur? Wala sila kasi nalipat na sa ARMM, anyway, nalipat na sa ARMM but we congratulate them because even in Lanao Del Sur, more than 2,000 hectares were distributed for land reform.

Kaya 'yan. Doon sa mga lugar na iyon ay naganap ang land reform at ayon kay Nani Braganza — hindi ba nani, totoo ito? — hindi na ngayon lang nagkapulong ang mga officers ng DAR sa isang lugar pero ngayon din lang nakaroon ng ganitong karaming napamahaging lupang pansasaka sa loob ng isang taon, the biggest in history. At isang dahilan kung ba't hangang-hanga ako kay Nani at sa inyo, ginawa niyo ito nang hindi kayo kumuha ng ekstrang budget mula sa akin, 'di ba? And I would like to congratulate you, I would like to thank our official development assistance partners because they help us meet these targets without Nani getting additional budget from the general appropriations act but one reason why he was able to do this also was that Nani was able to have a very, very high absorption rate for official development assistance. congratulations sa inyong lahat doon. kasi siguro, ilan sa inyong mga regional directors, nandoon na kayo sa ating mga iba't-ibang mga regional development council meetings, at siguro nakikita ninyo istriktang-istriktang ako. Isa-isa sa mga projects ng different departments, tinitignan, ano ang delay? Bakit delay? Ganyan. Pero halos tuwing DAR ang project, on time, hindi delayed kaya congratulations.

Ang land reform, dalawa nga 'yon. Ang pinaka-land reform, 'yung private agricultural land, so 'yon ay 100,000 hectares a year ang ating project, ang ating goal. There are also lands available from... owned by national government or public domain that can be alienable and this is also another hundred thousand hectares that we want to distribute every year. Kaya ang partner ng DAR ay 'yung DENR para doon naman sa public lands.

Ang DENR naman na namamahala sa lupaing gobyerno ay may target din kagaya ng DAR na 100,000 hectares per year at itong taon na ito nakaraan, nakapaglagda ng patent para sa almost 6,000 hectares mula nang July hanggang March, so hindi pa tapos 'yung accounting nila. At naglabas din ang DENR sa loob ng panahong ito ng certificate of allocation sa about 76,000 hectares of land or a total of 82,000 hectares of public land. Kaya inaasahan ko na pagdating ng July ay masasabi rin nila na kagaya ng DAR nagawa rin nila 'yung kanilang target.

Eh sabi ko kay Nani, pareho kaming seven-minutes lang. Kasi ako ayaw kong haluan ng iba pa 'yung mensahe. Kasi para sa akin, napaka- importante na matupad 'yung target natin sa State of the Nation Address, 'yung 100,000 hectares. Ito ang dapat bibigyang-diin na gawa ninyo, at dahil nagawa ninyo, para sa akin naka-boundary kayo.

Kaya maraming salamat at congratulations! Happy Anniversary sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225111/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8331&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 50th Founding Anniversary of the Province of Zamboanga del Norte

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 50th Founding Anniversary of the Province of Zamboanga del Norte**

[Delivered at the Zamboanga del Norte Convention and Exhibition Center Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte, June 1, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Montemayor sa iyung pagpakilala sa akin. lingkod na kamo tanan, palihug mga kaigsuonan.

Sa atong Gobernador Gani Amatong; ang atong mayor diri sa Dipolog, mayor Uy; atong mga congressmen: anhi karon si Congressman Barinaga nga kanhi mayor diri sa Dipolog; aniya sab si Congressman Angel Carloto ang akong ka-duet sa pagkanta. Unya magkanta mi ug usahay sa matapos ang akong diskurso; atong mga laing-laing mayors diri sa aton nga selebrasyon ngayon — dakal gi kalista karon nga nianhi si Mayor Albos sa Sindangan; Mayor Jamora sa Leon Postigo; Mayor Te sa Godod; Mayor Josue sa Gutalac; (SIC) Mayor Carloto sa Kalawit; Mayor Caballero sa Manukan; Mayor Tenorio sa Mutya; Mayor Olvis sa Polanco; Mayor Catane sa Rizal; wala diri si mayor sa Piñan, Mayor Carreon? Kay kauban ko siya ganiha sa Manukan, ha?; Mayor Feras sa Roxas; Mayor Edding sa Sibuco; Mayor Tolentino sa Sibutad; ug Mayor Uy sa Liloy.

Anhi nga sab karon ang Congressman sa Negros Oriental apan son-in-law sa Dipolog, Mayor Herminio Teves; anaa sab laing-laing mga in-laws sa Dipolog ug Zamboanga del Norte, ang akong Cabinet member nga son-in-law ug Dipolog, Secretary Ed Ermita; ug ang atong Senior Undersecretary sa Finance nga daughter-in-law ug Dipolog Nitz Amatong, Ang iyang bana si Former Congressman Amatong; ‘yung nakilala ninyo ‘yung ibat-ibang Cabinet member natin: si Dinky Suliano sa DSWD — ay, Julian Soliman. Dinky Soliman, oo. Dinky Julian Soliman kasi, okay; ang atong emcee, si Mike Defensor; ang atong Secretary of Planning, Dante Canlas usa pa nga anak ug region 9 gikan sa Zamboanga, Cito Lorenzo; ang atong ling-laing opisyaes sa national government kauban nang atong opisyaes sa Armed Forces ubos sa atong bag-o nga Southcom Commander General Ernesto Carolina; tanan-tanan mga kaigsuonan sa Dipolog ug Zamboanga del Norte, maayong golden anniversary kaninyong tanan!

Nagapasalamat ako labi na kan Governor Amatong, sa inyong pagdapit kanako nga maka-uban kamo ni-ining linggo ng Zamboanga del Norte.

Dako ang akong kalipay nga makabalik sa Zamboanga del Norte tungod nga ako “at home” kaayo dinhi sa Zamboanga del Norte. Ngano ako “at home” kaayo tungod kay daghan kaayo ang akong mga ig-agaw dinhi sama sa mga members sa Guico family gikan sa Manukan.

Ug ngano ako nga na ig-agaw sa Zamboanga del Norte? Tungod kay niadto pang 1920s, sama sa daghan sa mga nianhi gikan sa Luzon, diri sa Mindanao ang akong lolo — amahan ug akon inahan, si Juan Macaraeg — niadtong 1920s gyud nianhi sa Zamboanga isip manager sa Santa Clara Kumber, kauban ang iyang pamilya, ang aking inahan nga gamay pa kaniadto, iyang pamilya sa iya mga asawa... Ah sa iya nga asawa ug iyang mga ig-agaw. Usa sa iyahang mga ig-agaw si Evaristo Guico kaya akong lolo, Juan Guico Nacaraeg. Ug si Evaristo Guico nga iyang ig-agaw nagapakasal sa usa nga taga pamilya sagario sa Manukan. Naa istorya pa gyud nga isip head of the clan ang akong lolo pa ang gipili kon kinsay mahimo asawa sa iyang ig-agaw. Ang gipili n’ya gyud kining Ms. Sagario gikan sa Manukan.

Ug ang akong lolo, ginagugma niya kaayo ang Mindanao, kay niadtong ni-retire na siya, ni-retire sa gyud sa mMindanao, sa usa ka pang-uuma didto sa Iligan, ug sa nahimo biyuda pa ang akong lola ako nidako sa iyahang balay didto sa Iligan. Busa ako usa nga anak ug Mindanao, usa ka ig-agaw ug Zamboanga del Norte.

Busa, sentimental ako kada nako anhi dinhi sa Zamboanga ug sa Mindanao. mobalik sa akong panumduman ang kagahapon sa akong pagka-bata sa Mindanao. nag-uban-uban pa ako sa akong amahan sapagduaw niya dinhi sa Zamboanga del Norte. Niadtong siya usa pa ka Vice President naa kami ritrato didto karon sa inyo nga photo exhibit. Ako tingali nine, o eleven, o ten years old ang akong ritrato didto. So gin-encircle ko karon ang akong ritrato ug gi-autograph ko ang ritrato, ingon ko, “nice to be back again in Zamboanga del Norte.”

Ang probinsya sa Zamboanga del Norte layo na ug naabot sulod sa singkuenta anyos. Gikan sa siyam ka lunsod pagka-tudo usa Zamboanga del Norte niadtong June 6, 1952 nine towns Tingali — Dipolog, Dapitan, Siocon, Katipunan, Unsa pa? Siguro Polanco, Sindangan, basta nine lang. Ang probinsya karon adunay duha ka syudad ug beinte singko ka munisipyo. Ug murag katong syudad nga Dapitan nahimo gyud syudad niadtong tiyempo ug akong amahan, si kanhi president Diosdado Macapagal.

Ug murag ingon ni Governor Amaton, sa maayo nga trabaho ug mga officials ug pumuluyo diri sa Zamboanga del Norte, nahimo dako gyud ang inyong income. Ingon nila nga ang estimated income sa probinsya sa tuig 2002, mokab-ot na sa 730 million more or less. So kogusa congratulations kaninyong tanan nga taas nga income kaayo sa probinsya sa Zamboanga del Norte.

Laing dakong kulambuan mao ang nagkadaghang barangay sa sulok sa lalawigan nga nahagtan sa elektrisidad. Nalipay ko nga si Governor Amaton nalunsad sa iyang kaugalingong barangay electrification program sukad pa niadtong 1999 nga nakakonektar na sa elektrisidad sa 39 ka bag-o nga barangay. Dungan kini sa atong “o ilaw program” sa atong administrasyon karon.

Sayo karong tuiga, ang akong administrasyon aron makatabang sa iyang barangay electrification program gipahulam ug 10 million pesos alang sa pagtukod sa solar energy system sa beinte ka barangay dinhi sa Zamboanga Del Norte. Ang probinsya mi-abot sab ug 2 million pesos, samtang ang 800 ka mga household beneficiaries mihatag usab laing 1.2 million pesos isip counterpart sa proyekto

Gipa-upgrade usab ang atong lokal na liderato ang pantalan sa Dapitan nga nag-serbe sa katawhan dili lamang sa Zamboanga del Norte kundili lakip na Ang Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Sur ug Zamboanga Sibugay.

Ug isip suporta sa maong pag-upgrade, akon gi-approban ang nubenta’y otso milyones ka pesos alang sa “rehabilitation, widening, extension” sa Pulaan Port ubos sa locally-funded project sa Philippine Ports Authority.

Labaw pa niini, ang gobyerno nasyonal nagpadayon pa sa implementar ang “Trans-Visayas Intermodal Network” labi na gyud ang “Roll-on Roll-off Ferry Network project” nga naglakip sa pantalan sa Dapitan ug sa Nabilid, Texas.

Kining maong proyekto nagtinguha nga makonektar ang mga isla sa Visayas ug mga probinsiya niini, ngadto na sa Philippine-Japan Highway nga naga-gikan sa Luzon padulong dinhi sa Mindanao. Ug ang Zamboanga Del Norte, pinaagi sa Pulaan Port, makakonekta na unya sa highway sa Bais, Dumaguete ug Zamboangita sa Negros island, ubos niining “Roro Ferry Network Project.” kay tingali ang Zamboangita gi- ngalan gyud Zamboangita tungod kay ang katong lungsod ang gamay nga Zamboanga. Ug ang Zamboangita gyud — busa nakita nato si Congressman Teves, ang iya nga asawa gikan sa Dipolog ug ang iyang anak si Garry Teves tunga Negros, tunga Zamboanga — kay Mao Gyud ang Zamboanga gyud duol kaayo kay gamay ra ang dagat, in the middle. so, maayo kon naa kita kiting ferry parehas sa ferry sa liloan hangtod sa Surigao.

Kining proyektoha mokapasas sa “Regional Socio-Economic Development,” dili lamang alang sa mga pasahero nga buot mamisita sa ilang kaubanan o mamista sa kabisay-an apan labaw sa tanan alang sa aton mga produkto, industriya ug turismo diin daghan sa aton mga katawhan mobiyahi gyud sakay sa barko. mabulahon unya ang atong mga katawhan niini.

Kining “Roll-on Roll-off Ferry Network Project” usa lamang sa mga proyekto nga mogastosan sa 67.6 bilyones pesos nga “yen package” gikan sa Japan. Ako kining gi-approban sa miaging tuig isip chairperson sa NEDA board.

Ug tungod sa... Eh kung gi-kwento nato ang sea travel importane sab ma-istorya kita alang sa air travel, ang atong airport diri sa Dipolog. Niaging January nianhi ang Asian Development Bank aron mo-examine nila ang ilahang mga pending projects diri sa Pilipinas, ug ang airport project ug ang Asian Development Bank kakauban ang Dipolog Airport ingon ug ADB, lima ka-tuig na wala pay development. So ingon ug Asian Development Bank mo-cancel na tanan kining mga airport project gikan sa ADB. Apan salamat nga naka-regional development council meeting kita kagahapon, usa sa atong homework alang sa regional development council Meeting gi- resolbar ang mga problema sa Dipolog airport. Ang labi na problema gyud ang pagpalit sa yuta nga kinahanglan alang sa runway. So, tungod kay nakita ug adb nga naa solusyon — bisan katong laing projects sa laing lugar sa Pilipinas murag mo-cancel — diri sa Dipolog ingon nila na mo-extend nila hangtod sa October. So, dili pa gi-cancel.

Apan ang akong hangyo kaninyo, isigurado nato na bag-o sa October mapalit tanang mga yutang kinahanglan kamo tanan mga pumuluyong matabang unta sa katong mga tag-iya sa mga yuta na baligya nila unta sa presyo ug expropriation kining yuta. Kay kundili nila baligya sa gobyerno dili madayon ang atong airport project, ma-cancel sa Oktubre. So, kita tanan Importante mag-tinabangay kita tanan aron madayon kining atong project sa airport sa Dipolog.

Sa agrikultura naman, tungod sa ka-abunda sa agrikultura sa Zamboanga del Norte, dinuyogan sa maayong klima, ma-abtik nga katawhan ug maayong gobyerno, ang inyong probinsiya karon aniya sa maayo nga sitwasyon sa pagsagop sa agri-industrialization isip stratehiya sa kalambo-an.

Daghan kamo ug bag-o nga produkto, sama nga sa mangga. Ang mangga karon gikan sa Guimaras makasulod na sa Amerika. Tingali human sa Guimaras nga karon officially sa Amerika, sa tibuok kalibutan ang labi na maayo nga mangga ang ikaduha usa ka contest — pangasinan ug Zamboanga del Norte. busa mo-trabaho sab kita — ug si Secretary Montemayor kay maka-binisaya man siya kay ang iya nga asawa taga-Bohol — ang akong instruction sa iya kay sa karon naka-daog na kita sa struggle aron makasulod ang Guimaras manggo sa Amerika, karon mo-negotiate nato kita aron ang mangga sa Zamboanga del Norte makasulod sab sa Amerika ug sa kaing-laing nga mga market sa tibuok kalibutan.

Labaw sa mangga, naa pa ang inyong bottled spanish sardines, lami kaayo. ang... Kay ako sa akon nga niaging pagbisita diri niaging tuig ay niadto ko sa pabrika sa spanish bottled sardines didto sa pantalan sa Dipolog. maayo, gwapo ang factory, world class, ug lami kaayo ang sardinas mismo. at kaganina sa ako niadto sa manukan, gi-bisita ko ang akong tiya nga invalid karon, ni-breakfast mi — ay, kalami kaayo gihapon ang bottled spanish sardines gikan sa Zamboanga del Norte. Ug kining sardines world class gyud. Ingon gyud ni General Carolina, nakikita nya ‘yung sardines sa Manila pero sa mga specialty stores, ug kining sardines hangtod sa Malaysia makaabot. Apan kung specialty stores lang sa Manila, ang problema kasi ang supply. Apan lami kaayo tingali ang demand dili problema. So, i think if we can expand, nung maka-expand kita Secretary Montemayor, instruction ko gihapon nga mo-expand nato kining bottled sardines nga magikan sa Zamboanga del Norte kay lami kaayo ug special kaayo. Sigurado ako na maayo iyang palengke bisan sa Manila, bisan sa malaysia ug sa laing-laing pang merkado sa atong rehiyon. Akong awhagon ang mga “producer” nga ilang gamiton kining mga oportunidad ug maghiusa kita.

Ug sa usa pa, ang atong coconut industry. Kay daghan kaayo ang aton mga coconut farmers diri sa Zamboanga del Norte. Duol ang aton coconut industry labi na niaging tuig karon mas maayo na ang presyo apan taas-baba ang presyo sa coconut industry. Dili kita maka-sigurado tuig-tuig. Apan tingali duol na ang solusyon, kay ang gobyerno naa na sa United Coconut Planters Bank, nga agi sa laing-laing korporasyon mao’y mo-maneho na sa dibidendo ug coconut levy fund. Tingali sa June 12, atong Independence Day, mo-announce nato ang mga una nga mahimo nga proyekto ubos kining atong dako nga gi-accomplish sa akong administrayon nga mo-abot ang atong mga coconut farmers sa coconut Levy funds.

Busa, nalipay ko nga ang liderato sa gobyerno probinsiyal nagpadayon sa pag-koordinar sa Philippine Coconut Authority aron matukod ang usa sa Integrated Coconut Processing Plant dinhi sa Zamboanga del Norte. Usa kini ka solusyon nga makatabang sa atong coconut farmers. Ang akong instruction sa pca agi kan Secretary Montemayor gihapon nga mahatagan kamo ug pagsuporta sa kining processing plant ubos sa Coconut Levy dividends nga tingali magawas na sa June 12 aron matawo gyud kining proyektoha sa Zamboanga del Norte sa labing dali nga panahon.

Ganganina didto sa manukan gi-gamit ko ang okasyon aron mamati sab sa mga gibati ug atong mga ordinaryong mang-uuma diri sa Zamboanga del Norte. Ug tungod gyud sa maayo nga pag-gobyerno, kaabtikan ug ang mga katauahan diri, Ang Zamboanga del Norte isa ka-surplus agricultural producer. Bisan labaw ang production compared sa consumption. Busa kinahanglan diri ang buying stations diri sa Zamboanga del Norte, apan pa unsa kita maka-construct ug buying stations. Kay unya... Na-istorya na ba kamo sa atong regional director? Murag dili nila kaila ang regional director sa D.A. kay didto siya nakabilin sa Zamboanga City. Aron nakita ko usa sa mga shortcomings kinla labi na kining mga grassroots oriented nga mga Department na kinahanglan mas duol sa aton mga mang-uuma.

Busa, ingon ko kan Secretary Montemayor nga unta ang D.A. — ang Mother Unit, ‘no — ang D.A. proper mubalhin sa pagadian aron maka-serbisyo sila sa mga mang-uuma diri sa Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur ug Zamboanga sibugay ug dili na kinahanglan ang mga eroplano kada-pagbiyahe sa mga laing-laing pang-uuma diri sa Zamboanga Peninsula.

Ang inyong mga gihimo nga programa aron maayudahan ang pobre naton mga mang-uuma ug mangingisda, wala maka-eskapar sa akong atensyon. Akong ipag-abi-abi ang aton mga opisyaes sa probinsiya, siyudad ug mga lungsod sa ilang paningkamot nga unta mosagop ang aton mga mang-uuma sa gi-tawag ug “integrated approach in farming.” Kining importante sa “integrated approach” gyud ang buying stations. Ang turno eco-park sa probinsiya nagpakita sa determinasyon nga unta molampos kining kampanya sa “integrated approach in farming.”

Nasabot usab ako nga ang “inland fishing” gi-programa na sa mga landlocked nga lungsod, lakip na ang mga multi-cropping ug livestock production aron magamit gyud ang aton mga yuta diri sa Zamboanga del Norte. Sigurado ako sa inyohang pagka-abtik nga mogamit ang bisan unsa kagamay nga butang nga gihatag kaninyo ug ginoo.

Nalipay sab ako sa pagkasayod nga daghang mga proyekto nga atong gi-recognize sa una ang natapos na dinhi sa Zamboanga del Norte sama sa kalawit ug Lomogon Communal Irrigation System, ug ang Kalawit-Marcelo Road Extension project.

Nanghatag sab gyud kita ug mga Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim ngadto sa 32 ka mga beneficiaries, ug laing Certificate of Land Ownership ngadto Sa 197 (SIC) nga Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries. Sila karon ang tag-iya sa ilahang kaugalingon na yuta. Apil niini sa akong target nga gi-sulti ko sa akong State of the Nation Address niaging hulyo, nga kada tuig modistribute kita ug 100,000 hectares of private land ug 100,000 hectares of public land ubos sa land reform, mao ang kaganina.

Kagahapon, si Congressman, si Governor, si Secretary Soliman, si Secretary Lorenzo, si Secretary Alvarez — nga niadto na karon sa Manila — nianhi mi, niadto mi sa siocon sa Zamboanga del Norte. Dili aron mahatag ko ug desisyon sa mining claim kay katong desisyon muagi pa, o katong kaso muagi pa sa due process sa DENR. Ako niadto aron makahatag ug Certificate of Ancestral Domain sa aton mga subanen didto. Kay ingon ko sa ila, bisan dunay mining o walay mining, ang importante ang ancestral domain, ang tag-iya ang aton mga subanen didto sa bukid sa siocon.

Ang tema sa atong kasaulogan karon, “50 pioneering years for purposeful decades ahead” tugma kaayo, kay nakita nako nga sunod nga singkuwenta anyos sa Zamboanga del Norte, masarong gyud. Parehas ang panglantaw sa inyong mga lideres ug sa national level. Ipadayon nato ang atong mga maayong kooperasyon ug pinag-usa.

We must continue to reach out for peace in this region, an honorable and just peace based on tolerance, understanding and a common sense of nationhood.

Peace will bring us more development and progress. Peace will bring us security and a brighter future for our children.

And that is why, in ending my message to you, the people of Zamboanga del Norte, I would like to inform you that even as we speak, there is an ongoing military offensive operation in SSSB. And I hope that the officials, municipal and barangay, will support our soldiers. Ayaw ma-proteksyon ang mga bandido, ang mga terorista kay uban sa

kadtong mga lungsod, sa mga barangay sa bukid, ang mga laing-laing lair sa mga bandido kauban na ang Abu Sayyaf. Magtinabangay kita tanan aron madaog kita sa kining giyera kontra sa mga bandido ug sa terorista sa Western part of Zamboanga del Norte sa SSSB. Sa matapos kining atong giyera didto tingali masugdan nato sa katapusan ang development didto sa SSSB.

Kay sa nakita ko kagahapon, daghan kaayo ang mga area integrated plan — ‘yung pinakita ni Dante Canlas — meron dito, banda rito, merong banda roon, merong kung anu-anong valley, Sibugay, meron sa Salug valley. Pero tinitingnan ko yung map, Dante, walang integrated area sa SSSB, sa Sibuco, Siraway, Siocon at Baliguian eh kasi walay kalinaw, lisud na dunay kauswagan kung walay kalinaw. Tabangi, mga kaigsuonan sa Zamboanga del Norte, tabangi aron makaabot ang kalinaw didto, tabangi aron sa katapusan makaabot sab ang kauswagan aron makaabot ang kauswagan sa tibuok Zamboanga Del Norte.

Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the 50th Founding Anniversary of the Province of Zamboanga del Norte. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225303/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8341&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the First Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (TODAPHIL) Summit 2002

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the First Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (TODAPHIL) Summit 2002**

[Delivered at the Amoranto Sports Complex, Quezon City, June 1, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Dinky Soliman sa iyung pag-imbita at sa iyung pagpakilala sa akin. At maraming salamat kay Secretary Roy Golez sa iyung pagtulong na ma-organize itong summit ng TODA.

Ating Mayor ng Quezon City, na siya rin ang mayor na kung saan isa sa bawat apat ng tricycle drivers ay nagtatrabaho, ang Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte; at narito rin ang Congresswoman ng 4th district ng Quezon City si Nanette Daza; at nandito rin ‘yung vice mayor ng Quezon City si Herbert Bautista; at gusto kong batiin din si Ginoong Adolfo Quiming, ang overall chairman ng NCR – TODA Council na nagsalita kanina; at lahat ng iba’t-ibang mga lidars ng TODA na pinakilala kanina at sabay-sabay binigay sa akin Itong resolusyon na ito; gusto ko ring batiin si Ben Abalos, ang Chairman Ng Metro Manila; at kayong lahat mga tricycle drivers:

Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Ako ay nasisiyahan na makasama kayo sa inyong pagpulong na ito. Ang mga tricycle drivers, ang mga tricycle pati ay ka-akibat ng aking administrasyon tungo sa kaunlaran ng ating sambayanan.

Natutuwa akong malaman na ang pagpupulong na ito ay nabuo dahil sa matibay Na gusto ng pamunuan ng toda na palakasin ang inyong pakikilahok sa matapat Na pamamahala at pagtalakay sa mga usaping panlipunan.

Noong ako ay naging pangulo, sinabi ko na isa sa aking mga batayang paniniwala ay dapat magkaroon tayo ng bagong pulitika. Iyong lumang pulitika ay pulitika ng personalidad at patronage. Ang bagong pulitika ay dapat pulitika ng programa ng partido at organisadong konsultasyon sa taumbayan. Itong ginagawa natin ngayon ay organisadong konsultasyon sa mga tricycle drivers. Kaya ito ay bahagi ng bagong pulitika na ating hinahangad.

At bahagi din nga nitong organisadong konsultasyon ay ‘yung organisadong agenda na binigay n’yo sa akin. Ang workshop output na ito at ‘yung mga TODA scholar na binanggit ni Ginoong Quiming, yung mga pinasok natin sa GMA scholars na mga TODA sa trabaho ni ... Sa pag-organized ni Dinky Soliman, ito ay nagpapatunay sa panibagong direksiyon na inyong tinatahak ngayon. Una sa lahat nga nagsasama-sama kayo sa mga patakarang dapat mangyari. At pangalawa gusto n’yong mag-aral para tuluyang umunlad ang Inyong buhay at kakayahan. Kaya itong scholarship, ako ay nasisiyahan at malaking karangalan na makapamahagi sa inyo ng GMA scholars para sa TODA. Sana ay patuloy kayong lumakas at maging matibay na haligi ng ating lipunan sa patuloy nating pagharap sa mga hamon ng makabagong panahon.

Ang tricycle ay halimbawa sa kasabihang “small is beautiful.” kasi di ba maliit ang tricycle, kasing liit ko. Pati na rin si Dinky pareho kami. Ngunit malaki naman ang nai-aambag ng inyong hanay hindi lamang sa ating pambansang ekonomiya kundi pati na rin sa Ikabubuti ng kapakanan ng ating mamamayan.

Lahat kayo ay naging bahagi na ng pang-araw-araw na buhay ng marami nating kababayan — sa kanilang pagpasok sa opisina, sa paaralan, paghatid ng mga paninda patungo at mula sa pamilihan, maging sa panahon ng emergency kahit dis-oras ng gabi. Dito natin makikita kung gaano kahalaga ang inyong ibinibigay na serbisyo sa publiko.

Naalaala ko minsan nung ako ay senador pa, umabot ako... Pupunta sana ako doon sa... Doon sa isang isla ng Romblon, yung tinatawag nilang ‘Philippine Bermuda Triangle.’ eh sumama ang panahon, nag-landing ako sa

mainland Romblon. Wala namang mga telepono so walang may alam kung saan ako nag-landing, kaya walang nagsalubong sa akin. Kaya kailangan humanap ako kung saan ako pupunta sa ibang bayan na pantalan walang eroplano, walang barko, walang jeep, walang kotse, pero sa malayong lugar na 'yon may tricycle kaya' yon ang aking ginamit.

Minsan naman nagpunta ako doon sa isla ng Cagayancillo. Alam n'yo 'yung Tubbataha nakita ninyo ako ay nagd-diving sa Tubbataha, ang tubbataha ay bahagi ng bayan ng Cagayancillo, nasa gitna ng Sulu sea, nasa gitna ng nothing, middle of nowhere. Pero pag landing ko doon sa helicopter may tricycle na naman.

Kaya dahil sa inyo, nakaka-asa ang mga pasahero na makararating sila sa kanilang paroroonan, umuulan man o bumabagyo nandoon pa rin kayo.

Kaya sa pamamagitan ng summit na ito, umaasa ako na talagang katuwang tayo upang makamit ang pambansang katatagan at kaunlaran. Kailangan ko kayo.

Ang sektor ng tricycle driver ay matatagpuan, gaya nang pinaliwanag ko kanina ang halimbawa, sa halos lahat ng sulok ng ating bansa, at umaabot na raw sa walong daang libong katao ang inyong kabuuang bilang. Dahil dito, lalong naging mahalaga ang inyong pakikilahok at pakikiisa sa ating mga programa upang labanan ang kahirapan at i-angat ang kabuhayan ng bawat Pilipino partikular na ang mga mahihirap dito sa lungsod kagaya ng Quezon City nga kung saan one-fourth ng tricycle driver ay nandito sa Quezon City. doon din sa Caloocan 'yung number two na pinakamaraming tricycle driver, pinaka-dense. Maging sa kanayunan nga kagaya ng mga malalayong lugar ng Romblon o Cagayancillo o Batanes.

Noong ako ay maupo bilang pangulo, sinabi ko na dapat manalo tayo laban sa kahirapan sa loob ng dekadang ito. Matapos ngayon, may isang taon at kalahati ng aking pamamahala, masasabi kong tayo ay nasa tamang landas. dahil sa pagpapatupad ng wastong patakaran, ang ating ekonomiya ay sumusulong bagama't marami at mas malaki pang mga mas mayamang ekonomiya ay dumanas ng paghina. Ang naitalang pagtaas ng ating ekonomiya noong nakaraang taon ay isa sa pinakamataas na kung ihahambing natin sa ating mga karatig-bansa sa timog-silangang asya maging sa mga mayayaman na bansa ng mundo.

Halimbawa, nakalikha tayo ng higit sa isa't-kalahating milyong trabaho noong nakaraang taon, kaya lamang kailangan maghanap pa tayo ng trabaho para sa apat na milyong Pilipino.

At ang pinaka-mataas na unemployment rate sa buong Pilipinas ay dito mismo sa Metro Manila. Kaya 'yan ang ating hamon — makahanap ng trabaho para sa ating mga mamamayan na nasa Metro Manila.

At meron ding nagsasabi na, "pataas nang pataas daw ang presyo ng bilihin." ang nagsasabi nito ay hindi gumagalang sa malasakit ng mga tricycle drivers. Pero ako, gusto kong mag-pasalamat sa inyo dahil mula noong ako ay naging pangulo hindi pa n'yo tinataas ang pasahe. Kaya, masasabi natin at dahil sa inyong malasakit nasasabi natin na ang presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihin ay pareho pa rin tulad ng bigas, galunggong, gamot, pasahe. Iyon ngang presyo ng mga karaniwang gamot na binibili ng mga mahihirap ay nahati natin. Mahahanap itong mga gamot sa mga parmasya ng mga ospital ng pamahalaan. Pero siguro Dinky, Roy dahil malaki ang TODA baka pwede tayong gumawa ng cooperative na parmasya ng TODA na magbebenta... Na magbebenta ng gamot sa kalahating presyo, kung 'yung TODA mismo ang mag-aangkat ng gamot sa pamamagitan ng Philippine International Trading Corporation.

Sa mga pinahayag kong layunin sa aking State of the Nation Address noong isang taon, tatlumpu't-lima na ang ating natapos at labindalawa na lamang ang kasalukuyang ipinapatupad pa.

Kasama na rito ang katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan ng sandaan at limampung libong maralitang taga-lungsod. Mahigit sa tatlumpu't apat — sana doon sa mga nakakuha ng karapatan — 'yung mga squatter na nakuha ng karapatan na bilhin ang sarili nilang lupang tinitirikan, 150,000 families na yon. sana kasama ang ilang pamilya ng TODA doon sa mga 'yon. At mahigit na tatlumpu't-apat na libong manggagawa ang ating nabigyan ng tulong

pinansiyal para sa pabahay. Nguni't ito ay gusto kong paabutin sa isandaang libo sa susunod na tatlong buwan. Eh baka naman ang TODA ay makatulong bumuo ng isang housing program para sa mga tricycle drivers.

At sana rin, sana rin maraming tricycle drivers and kasama sa na-abot nating target na kalahating milyong maralitang taga-lungsod ay mabigyan ng health insurance coverage. Dahil ngayon halos milyon-at-kalahati na Pilipino ay may health insurance na. At alam kong napakamahal ang magkasakit kaya mahalagang may sasagot sa inyong mga gastos sa pagpapagamot pag kayo ay nagkasakit, lalo na katulad ninyo mga tricycle driver na maaaring maaksidente habang namamasada, at ang sagot nga dito ay Ang Philippine Health Insurance.

Patuloy ang ating pagkilos upang tugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng ating Mga mamamayan.

Eh tungkol sa mga isyung inyong iniharap sa akin ngayon, malamang — hindi ko pa kasi nababasa, ngayon lang binigay sa akin eh. Binabasa ko mabilis sana pero in-introduce na ako ni dinky eh — pero malamang ang iba dito ay halos sakop na sa mga program na binanggit ko. At nakakatiyak kayo na pagsisikapan kong matugunan ang karamihan kundi man lahat ng inyong kahilingan.

Ang mga ito ay ating pag-aaralan at ipapasuri sa mga kinauukulang ahensiya ng pamahalaan, para maging mas mabisa ang magiging katugunan. Eh, nandiyan na si Roy Golez, ang ating National Security Adviser, sanay na kayo makipag-usap sa kanya, so siya na ang makikipag-usap sa inyo hanggang kunting-konti ililipat niya ito sa kinauukulang tauhan ni si Secretary Bebot Alvarez ng DOTC. Pero umaasa rin ako sa inyong pagtulong upang mabilis nating malutas ang mga usaping ito.

Ang mga tagumpay ninyo sa mga nakaraang panahon ay nawa'y magsilbing inspirasyon sa lahat ng inyong mga kasapi upang lalong maging matatag at maunlad ang inyong samahan.

Sa panahon ngayon, higit na kailangan ng ating lipunan ang mga organisasyong tulad ninyo na handang makialam at maki-isa sa pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng mabisang ugnayan at pagtutulungan. Kayo ay bahagi ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Kayo ang tunay na kabalikat ng pamahalaan sa pagsulong ng ating ekonomiya, pagiging matatag ng ating demokrasya, at pagpapalakas sa kakayahan ng pilipino upang makipag-sabayan kaninuman sa buong mundo.

Muli kong binabati ang todaphil at ang lahat ng inyong mga kasapi, Lalung-lalo na ang inyong mga makikisig at masisipag na pinuno na narito naka-upo sa matagumpay ninyong pagdaraos sa summit na ito.

Mabuhay ang TODA!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During the First Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (TODAPHIL) Summit 2002. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225235/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8343&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the celebration of the Social Housing Week

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the celebration of the Social Housing Week**

[Delivered at the Amoranto Stadium, Quezon City, June 4, 2002]

Ako ay nagalak na makilala ang mga organisasyon na nagbibigay ng suporta para tuluyan nating mapagtagumpayan ang hangaring mas maayos ang buhay ng ating mamamayan.

Sa bagong pulitika, hindi lamang personalidad at pulitiko ang nangunguna, hindi lamang ang patronage ang nangingibabaw. Sa bagong pulitika, importante ang plataporma at importante ang institusyonal na pakikipag-ugnay sa taong-bayan. Bahagi sa institusyonal na pakikipag-ugnay sa taong-bayan ay ang papel ng mga NGO kagaya ng *Social Housing Movement*.

Naparito ako sa inyong selebrasyon dahil sa pagsama ng bahagi ng sektor na kaugnay sa pamamahagi ng disenteng pabahay at lupa at paraan kung papaano ang taong-bayan ay makahanap nang agarang solusyon sa lumalawak na pangangailangang pabahay ng ating mga mamamayan, lalo na iyong mga mahihirap.

Ang bagong pulitika ay dapat may plataporma. Klarong-klaro ang plataporma ng ating pamahalaan ngayon. Ang ating sinisikap ay masugpo ang kahirapan sa loob ng dekada. Ang layuning ito ay may apat na agenda: Una, trabaho na manggagaling sa investments; pangalawa, modernisasyon ng agrikultura kaugnay ng *social equity*; pangatlo, espesyal na pansin sa mga kapus-palad; at, pang-apat, iangat ang sukat ng moralidad sa pamahalaan at lipunan.

Ang pangatlo, ang espesyal na pansin sa kapus-palad, sakop nito na makamit ng mahihirap ang katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan.

Napag-alaman ko na matagal na itong organisasyong *Social Housing Movement* at marami na kayong mga nagawa sa larangan ng pabahay. Kabilang dito ang aktibong partisipasyon sa relokalasyon, sa *community organizing*, sa *site development*, sa *socio-economic survey*, at iba pa.

Naglilingkod kayo sa maralitang taga-lungsod, ganoon din ang aking pamahalaan. Ang maralitang taga-lungsod ay hindi dapat tinuturing bilang problema. Ang maralitang taga-lungsod ay dapat tinuturing bilang bahagi ng solusyon. Ito ay sa pamamagitan *people's organizations*.

Ang isang malaking solusyon ay tulungan ang maralitang taga-lungsod na magkaroon ng katiyakan ng lupa sa tinitirikan. Nagawa na natin ito, sa unang taon ng aking administrasyon, para sa mahigit na *150,000 families*. Karamihan sa 150,000 na nakakuha ng katiyakan sa tinitirikang lupa ay iyong mga nakatira sa lupang ito na hindi na ginagamit ng gobyerno. Inutos ko na itong mga lupa ng gobyerno na hindi ginagamit, tulad ng nasa malapit sa riles sa tren na wala nang treng dumadaan ay ibenta na sa murang halaga sa mga nakatira doon. Dineklara na rin natin ang ilang *alienable and disposable areas* para mabili na ng maralitang taga-lungsod.

Meron namang ilan na nakatira sa lupang pribado ngunit nakapasok sa *community mortgage program*. Dito ay malaking kabalikat nila ang mga NGO kagaya ng *Social Housing Movement*.

Kung minsan, hindi natin maiwasan na i-relocate ang mga tinatawag na *squatter*. Halimbawa, iyong mga nakatira sa mga mapanganib na lugar, tulad ng sa ilalim ng tulay, tabi ng ilog, tabi ng riles ng tren, nadadaan pa ng tren, at mga lugar na bahain. Dito kailangan din ng tulong ng mga NGO kagaya ng *social housing movement*.

Isa pang kinakailangan bigyan ng relokalasyon ay yung mga nakatira sa mga *right-of-way areas*. Ganoon din yung mga *squatter* na nade-demolish dahil sa *court order*, at karaniwan itong *court order* ay dahil pribado ang may-ari ng lupa. Itong mga ito, kailangan tulungang makahanap ng malilipatan.

Kaya itong araw na ito, inuulit ko na ang pabahay at katiyakan sa lupa ay isang sentro ng plataporma ng ating pamahalaan.

Napakalaki ng papel ng sektor ng pabahay upang mapalawak ang ating ekonomiya.

Kapag may katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan ng isang mamamayan, kapag meron na siyang hawak na papel, itong papel ay magagamit para makahiram ng puhunang panghanapbuhay. Hindi kailangan ang *transfer certificate of title*. Maraming papel na ang ginagalang ng mga nagpapautang. Ito ay nangyayari na sa maraming ibang bansa at nangyayari na rin sa Pilipinas, ayon sa pag-aaral ng isang dalubhasa sa mga bagay na ito na si Hernando de Soto. Gusto nating lumawak itong sistema para ang mga maralitang taga-lungsod ay magamit ang lupang tinitirikan hindi lamang para makatira doon kung hindi para maging *collateral* lupang magkaroon ng puhunang pangkabuhayan.

Sa ganoon, magkakaroon ng hanapbuhay ang dating *squatter* at bababa ang ating malaking *unemployment rate*.

Ito ay bahagi sa mga dahilan kung bakit tayo ay nagbibigay ng pangunahing importansya sa pagkatiyak ng lupang tinitirikan para sa maralitang taga-lungsod. Siguro, iyong nakamit nating ganito para sa higit na 150,000 families sa loob ng isang taon ay testigo ng sinseridad ng inyong pamahalaan tungkol dito.

Sa ibabaw ng katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan, naghahanap din tayo ng murang bahay para sa ating mga pinakadukha. Halimbawa, may nakita akong bahay sa Bulacan na gawa sa kawayan na umaabot lamang sa P18,000 ang paggawa. Maganda at matipid na *halfway house* ito para sa mga nire-relocate ng tirahan.

Ang HUDCC ang pangunahing ahensiya na namamahala sa mga bagay ng pabahay at lupa. Maraming minana ang HUDCC na bakanteng bahay mula nakaraang administrasyon at ito ay pinagbibili ngayon sa *discounted prices*. Ito ay isa lamang katibayan ng ating pagsisikap na bigyan ng espesyal na pansin ang ating mga kapus-palad sa ating plano ng *economic development*.

Sana kunin ng *Social Housing Movement* ang imbentaryo nitong bahay na nakatiwangwang para sa ganoon, makahanap kayo ng mga beneficiaries na puwedeng bumili nito *on lease-to-own or long-term lease or easy-installment basis*.

Ang HUDCC rin ay naghahanap ng pondo para sa mga bahay para sa mga manggagawa. Ang GSIS ay handang magpondo nito. Kanya lamang, hindi nagre-retail ang GSIS kasi hindi naman trabaho ng GSIS ang housing. Ang pondo lang niya bilang investment ang nilalagay sa housing pero hindi siya ang gumagawa ng housing mismo. Kaya kailangang dumaan ang pondo ng GSIS sa mga bangko. Magiging parang middle-men ang mga bangko ng pondong ito. Kanya lamang, sa ngayon, takot pa ang mga bangko na maging agresibo dahil noong 1997, noong Asian crisis, at noong year 2000 na nagkaroon ng *post-BW crisis*, naapektuhan ang mga bangko sa maraming utang sa pabahay na hindi nabayaran dahil sa pagbagsak ng mga ekonomiya noong mga taong iyon. Kaya sana yung mga NGO, yung mga *socially-oriented* negosyante, mamuhunan sila. Mayroon namang pondo pero kailangan may namumuhunan, may nagpapatakbo, nagde-develop. Pati na rin yung *Social Housing Movement*, mga NGO, sana tulungan ang pamahalaan dito, lalo na iyong mga NGO na nakapagpatunay na sila ay mabuting *credit risk* kasi kailangan ng maraming *middlemen* na sila ang talagang gagawa ng *housing development*.

Isang dahilan rin kung bakit naiipit ang mga bangko ay matagal silang mabayaran — matagal mabawi ang puhunan sa *housing*. Mahaba rin ang *red tape* bago sila makapagsimula ng *development* at makabenta ng bahay. Siguro alam

ito ng *Social Housing Movement* dahil dumadaan sila sa mga *red tape* na ito. Kaya ang isang malaking ginawa ng HUDCC ay bawasan ang *red tape* sa proseso ng *housing permits*.

Dati 188 *signatures* ang kailangan; ngayon, 40 *signatures* na lamang. Noong araw, *two-and-a-half years* bago matapos yung papeles bago masimulan ang *development*. Ngayon ay *three months* na lamang.

Kaya sana yung mga NGO na may kakayahan, yung mga negosyante na may kaalaman sa *development*, pumunta naman kayo *salow-cost housing* dahil maraming kailangang *housing* para sa ating mga manggagawa.

Sa mga sumusunod na dalawang taon, ang HUDCC ay gagawa pa ng ilang pangunahing direksyon para sa sektor ng pabahay.

Mas madali nang makautang ngayon para sa pabahay. Ang halaga ng interes ng pautang ngayon ay pinakamababa sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa. Ito ay dahil na rin sa mahusay na paghawak ng pamahalaan sa *national budget*. Maliit na lamang ang ating *budget deficit*, kaya konti na lang ang hinihiram ng gobyerno, kaya hindi nakikipag-kompetensiya sa pribadong sektor sa pautang. Ang kompetensiya sa pautang kasi ang isa sa nagpapataas sa *interest rate*. Kaya kung ang isang dating malaking humihiram, kagaya ng gobyerno, ay hindi na masyadong humihiram, bumababa ang *interest rate*. Ngayon panahon na ng mga *developers* at saka ng mga gustong mag-*housing loan* na humiram para magkaroon ng *housing* ang ating mga manggagawa.

Hindi pa ako Pangulo ay naglilibot na ako sa maralitang taga-lungsod, at sa aking paglilibot, parating sinasabi ng ating mga kababayan na ang kanilang pangunahing kailangan ay ang pagkakaroon ng katiyakan sa lupa, o *shelter security*. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit gusto ko na may 150,000 *families* na magkaroon ng *shelter security* bawa't taon. Natupad natin ito noong nakaraang taon. Sana matulungan ako ng mga NGO kagaya ng *Social Housing Movement* na matupad ito uli ngayong taon. Kasi noong isang taon, karamihan sa napamahaging lupa ay lupa ng gobyerno. Ngayon dahil marami ng lupa ng gobyerno ang napamahagi na, mas maraming *community mortgage program* ang dapat nating gawin para makaabot sa 150,000 *families* na *beneficiary*. At alam ko na ang *community mortgage program* ay isa sa mga *activity* ng mga NGO kagaya ng *Social Housing Movement*.

Gusto ko rin na makapagpatayo ang ating bansa taun-taon ng 100,000 *units* na *low-cost housing* para sa mga manggagawa, at 50,000 *units* na *socialized housing* para sa mga pinakamahirap sa lahat.

Alam ko na kung may kakayahan lamang pumili ang ating mahihirap na kababayan, ayaw nilang maging *squatter*. Talagang nakakalungkot na maging *squatter* sa sariling bayan. Pero napakahirap makakuha ng lupa sa lungsod dahil mataas ang presyo ng lupa dito. Ganoon pa man, nauunawaan ko ang pangarap ng bawa't tao na magkaroon ng disente at tiyak na tahanan.

Ngunit mayroon din ilan na gustong maging *squatter*— sila ang mga *professional squatters*. Ang mga *professional squatters* ang siyang nagpapahirap sa ating trabaho na magbigay ng karapatan sa mga *genuine* na landless na gustong magkaroon talaga ng seguridad sa lupang tinitirikan. Kaya isa sa mga hinihingi ng *Social Housing Movement* sa akin ay gumawa ng *task force*, isang *anti-professional squatting task force* para mahiwalay natin ang *genuine landless* na naghahanap ng tahanan sa mga *professional squatters* na ginagamit ang pag-squat para maghanapbuhay. Mayroon na tayong mga ginawang ganito. Kapag nagsusumbong ang mga NGO, may ilang mga kilalang *professional squatter* na tayong nahuli at mayroon na tayong mga nakasuhan. Kaya alam natin na puwede tayong magtagumpay basta't ilagay lamang natin ang ating atensyon. Hanapin natin ang mga sindikato na nangangwarta sa inyo at sa ganoon hulihin natin sila, kasuhan natin sila. Ito ang aking inaasahan sa *Social Housing Movement*.

Mayroon akong dalawang mensahe sa taga-Payatas: Una, ideklara na ang buong *area* bilang *alienable land* tapos maglalagay na lamang ng probisyon na kung may *private sector* na puwedeng magpapatunay na siya ang may-ari, atin itong igagalang. Ikalawa, itutuloy natin ang tulay ng Pangulo sa Payatas.

Bilang pangwakas, aking ipinanalangin nawa'y sa inyong anibersaryo sa susunod na taon, masabi nating lahat, na itong isang kasunduan na nanggaling sa magandang konsultasyon mismo sa taong-bayan ay magtagumpay dahil magkasama tayo sa kilos at sa gawa.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

Speech of President Arroyo during the First Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Celebration, Inauguration Ceremonies of the “Filipino-Chinese Friendship Bridge” (North Bridge) and the “Manila-Beijing Frien”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the First Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Celebration sponsored by the Chinese – Filipino Business Club, Inc. (CFBCI) and Inauguration Ceremonies of the “Filipino-Chinese Friendship Bridge” (North Bridge) and the “Manila-Beijing Frien**

[Delivered at the President’s Restaurant, Binondo Manila, June 7, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Perez.

Mr. Aw Peng Lam, president of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club; Mr. Dante Go, Honorary president; His Excellency Ambassador Wang; Mayor Atienza; congressman Angpin; Congressman Nieva; Secretary Golez; Mr. Liu and the other members of the Beijing delegation; members of the Chinese-Filipino business club; officers of the Chinatown Barangay association; ladies and gentlemen:

I congratulate the officers and members of the Chinese-Filipino business club led by current president emeritus Peter Yu and president Aw Peng Lam for spearheading this significant occasion. I also acknowledge last year’s club president, Mr. Dante Go, for his hard work in pushing forward the initiatives of the CFBCI in this past years.

Today’s gathering is special because we are celebrating three occasions. This is the first time we are celebrating Filipino-Chinese friendship day, and this in accordance with Proclamation no. 148, which, as Ambassador Wang said, I issued last January. Second, we celebrate today the first year of the signing of Republic Act 9139, otherwise known as the administrative naturalization act — and I hope that the members of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club will propagate this law and invite many of the Chinese who have been living in the Philippines for a long time to apply for Filipino citizenship. And third, we mark these twin occasions by, as mentioned earlier, officially naming two unnamed bridges here in Binondo as the “Filipino-Chinese Friendship” bridge and the “Manila-Beijing Friendship” bridge.

May these two bridges serve as monuments to the enduring friendship and historical ties between the Chinese and the Filipinos.

Long before Ferdinand Magellan landed on our shores, the Chinese were already here — trading ceramics and silk for the pearls of Sulu, the indigo of Manila, and the cotton of Cebu. When the spaniards established the galleon trade between the Philippines and Mexico, the bulk of their cargo consisted of luxury goods from China which had, by then, become popular items in the west. During the spanish times, the stores and shops in the parian or Chinese quarter, along the banks of the Pasig river outside Intramuros, supplied most of the essential commodities for local residents.

As the Chinese expanded their commercial presence in the country through the centuries, cultural and social assimilation set in. Intermarriages became so common that the late social scientist Otley Beyer said that Filipinos are generally 10 percent of Chinese descent.

Personally, I feel a deep sense of affinity with the Chinese community. My husband, Mike Tuason Arroyo and his family, the Tuasons, are of Chinese ancestry. I have mentioned many times that they are from the lineage of son Tua, a Chinese businessman granted a Spanish nobility title. That name was eventually, the name son Tua was eventually hispanicized to Tuason. And so therefore I am glad to be here in my husband’s ancestral community.

There is so much from our common past to cement the bonds between our people. And I am glad that here in the Philippines, the Chinese have effortlessly assimilated the Filipino culture. This has enriched our language, traditions and even our values as a people. By stroke of good fortune, this process has also prepared us way in advance for the coming era of regional economic integration and the coming of china into the world trade organization.

The strong presence of the Chinese in the Philippines paved the way for our strong ties with china. Since the 9th of June 1975 when diplomatic relations were established between our two countries — our relationship has become closer and deeper with each passing year. And I personally am proud that in my pre-government days I played a role in the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, because I was a founding member and co-chairman of the association for Philippines-china understanding which worked for diplomatic relations between our two countries.

During my visit to china last year, several agreements were forged, one of which was the signing of the MOU between CFBCI and the all-china federation of industry and commerce.

A cooperation agreement was also signed between the Philippine chamber of commerce and industry and the china council for the promotion of international trade, geared towards the intensification of bilateral trade between the two countries.

I am also very grateful that as a result of my visit to china last year, specifically my talks with Premier Zhu Rongji, we adopted a flagship project in our drive towards agricultural modernization founded on social equity, and this is the famous Chinese hybrid rice which is now being planted all over the Philippines.

As a result of the m-o-u signed in china last year to set up demonstration farms in the country, Chinese experts are scheduled to arrive this month to start the project. The benefits of this project will surely redound to the upliftment of our farming communities in the rural areas.

In response to an educational agreement between the Philippines and china, the commission on higher education has already lined up educational programs and activities to promote bilateral economic-academic relations in higher education. These include lectureship programs and training of Filipino teachers in the Chinese language, as well as the exchange of education professionals between the CHED and the Ministry of Education of China.

The future of Philippine-China relations rests on the ability of both our peoples to continue working for our common goals under the international globalized regime. These goals were articulated in the APEC Summit in Shanghai, in my visit to Beijing where many of you were with me and in the asean+3 summit in Brunei last year. In these three meetings, I had the opportunity to meet again with President Jiang Zemin and exchange ideas and proposals spanning the wide range of issues in regional security and development.

Today we also celebrate the contributions of the CFBCI to the good and welfare of the Filipino people.

I commend your initiatives to help the government address the shortage in school buildings and facilities, your plan to donate school buildings in various Barangays and your book donation program for the poor in the countryside deserve our appreciation and acknowledgement.

I also commend your efforts to help my administration provide better services for indigent families through “operation brotherhood,” to which you generously donated money and medical missions for the benefit of indigents in metro manila.

I am also glad to know about the initiative of Dante go to gather together the heads of over 100 different organizations involved in business brotherhood and fire fighting. I am confident this will result in the further unification and solidarity of the various groups in the Chinese community.

I also want to thank Dante Go because he just announced today that your group will be donating a million pesos to any charity of my choice. And I would like to announce that this million pesos I will use to be seed funding for low-cost housing loans at 200,000 pesos each for five working-class applicants.

We must be united in our fight against poverty. The greatest challenge of our country is to win the battle against poverty within the decade. To succeed, I need your help and assistance.

I realize that poverty alleviation programs will not succeed if crime threatens the well-being of our citizens. I am aware that criminality remains a concern to the members of the CFBCI; and I appreciate that you are doing your best to help in crime prevention and control.

The CFBCI is working continuously and closely with the national anti-crime commission headed by secretary Perez in addressing the problem of kidnapping. Your club has donated 30 patrol cars to the PNP in previous years. This is on top of your determined efforts to establish tighter links between the government and the filipino-chinese businessmen.

The CFBCI's efforts to rally metro manila against drugs also merits acknowledgement. Recently, Mr. Go got together NGO's, students and youth organizations in various chinese-filipino schools to participate in one of the biggest anti-drug rallies ever held.

And today I am happy to let you know that I signed into law the new anti-drugs law which reduces the amount of drugs that one person has been caught holding in order for him to be considered a pusher, and which also created the new Philippine drug enforcement agency.

I assure you that my administration with your help is meeting the problem of kidnapping with more focus and counter force.

I am motivating both the incumbent and the incoming leadership in the PNP to eliminate kidnapping in metro manila.

We will improve the on-the-ground capability of the PNP. We will have a more disciplined processing of intelligence. After all with coup threats subsided, ad hoc sources are now less necessary.

In my visit to London last January, we had an agreement with prime minister Tony Blair for Scotland yard to help the Philippine national police in building up its skills and capacity to fight kidnapping and other organized crimes. We now have such a training program in place, and we are working on a similar arrangement with the Hong Kong police.

I am also thankful for CFBCI's support of our anti-terrorism program and for donating one million pesos to the soldiers killed in Mindanao. You know, more soldiers have been killed than the hostages that were either rescued or that died on the wayside in this battle. Such commitments and actions of your organization are needed — they are what we need to gain the momentum to move forward.

I am deeply saddened over the death of Ediborah yap and Martin Burnham, who were slain in an encounter between our troops and the Abu Sayyaf this afternoon after more than a year of captivity.

I commiserate with the Yap and Burnham families. This has been a long and painful trial for them, for our government, for our country. Our soldiers tried their best to hold their fire for the safety of the hostages. We had hoped and prayed for their safe return. Gracia is safe. This is our blessing. I pray for her early recovery.

I salute our troops for their forbearance and courage. I thank our

American military allies for their assistance. The fight against terrorism is our fight. It is the fight of all mankind against evil. Even as we speak, even while the bodies of Ediborah and Martin and while Gracia have all been flown already to Zamboanga so that Gracia can have her treatment in the hospital, the fierce battle is still continuing in the jungles of Siraway in Zamboanga del Norte.

The terrorists shall not be allowed to get away with this. We shall not stop until the Abu Sayyaf is finished. I ask our people to be vigilant always.

Despite the problem of terrorism in southern Philippines, with god's grace and the help of private organizations like CFBCI, our economy has pulled through in just one-and-a-half years.

While the economies of many of our neighbors and trading partners suffered declines last year, ours posted a 3.7 percent growth in GNP, one of the highest output growth rates in east and Southeast Asia.

And in the first quarter of this year, our GNP grew not by 3.7 percent but by 4.9 percent.

I thank your organization for helping me to accelerate and sustain this growth. You have done many things to help me including making a call against political bickering, in line with our shared aspirations.

I call upon you, and all other sectors that share our desire to improve the quality of life of every chinese-filipino and of every Filipino: let us set aside our political differences and instead concentrate on our common aspirations for peace, for public order, for good governance and for national development.

The Philippines will be bright and secure for us and for our children, if we remain united.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the First Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Celebration sponsored by the Chinese – Filipino Business Club, Inc. (CFBCI) and Inauguration Ceremonies of the "Filipino-Chinese Friendship Bridge" (North Bridge) and the "Manila-Beijing Frien. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225213/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8333&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Celebration of Migrant Workers Day

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Celebration of Migrant Workers Day

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, June 07, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Sto. Tomas, na parating sinasabi ko mabigat ang kanyang trabaho kasi hindi lamang siya nag-aalaga ng manggagawa sa pilipinas at pilipinong manggagawa sa ibayong dagat bilang Secretary of Labor, siya rin ay nag-aalaga ng manggagawa sa buong mundo bilang pangulo ng International Labor Organization pero malaking karangalan ang binibigay niya sa ating bansa sa kanyang puwesto.

Binabati ko ang ating mga Lider sa Kongreso, nandito si Congressman Kako Lacson at saka si Congresswoman Imee Marcos. I would also like to greet the ambassadors of the countries who host many overseas Filipinos; si Secretary Lorenzo at iba't-ibang mga officials ng Department of Labor at saka ang kanyang mga ahensya; ang ating mga manggagawang pilipino sa ibayong dagat; Mr. Aligada, representing the labor group leaders of the overseas Filipinos; ating mga tumanggap ng mga parangal na binigay itong araw na ito:

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat at maligayang Migrant Workers Day.

Natutuwa po ako at nagkaroon tayo ng pagkakataong magsama-sama itong umaga dito sa Malacañang, ang Palasyo ng Bansa, ang Palasyo ng Dakilang Manggagawang Pilipino.

Mahalaga ang pagkakataon ito upang makausap ko sa pamamagitan ninyo ang pitong milyong filipino sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng mundo. Sabi ng ni Undersecretary Baldoz, seven million Filipinos, tatlong milyon ay overseas contract workers, apat na milyon ay mga permanent residents sa iba't-ibang bansa. Itong araw na ito ay naging araw ng kung kailan naging batas ang Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act. Kaya sa araw na ito, ang pilipinas sa buong mundo, mga pilipino sa buong mundo ay binibigyang pansin ang dakilang manggagawang pilipino sa ibayong dagat.

Maraming beses ko na nabisita ang ating mga dakilang manggagawang pilipino sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng buong mundo.

Ginagawa ko ito noong ako ay senador pa at bise-presidente, at lalong na ngayon ay ako ay naging pangulo, tuwing mayroon akong bisita sa ibang bansa parating may panahon para sa filipino sa aking paglalakbay bilang pangulo.

At ngayon muli, dito naman bilang inyong pangulo, mga dakilang manggagawang pilipino sa ibayong dagat sa ngalan ng inyong kababayan sa pilipinas, pinupuri ko kayo sapagkat sa pamamagitan ng inyong husay sa pagtrabaho, ina-angat ninyo ang pagkatao ng sambayanang pilipino. Napapamalas ninyo sa mundo na ang pilipino ay dapat ipagmalaki at hangaan.

Sa buong daigdig, nararamdaman ng mga bansa, ng mga may puhunan at ng mga magulang ang malaking tulong ng mga pilipino, ng dakilang manggagawang pilipino. Kaya nalalagay nitong mga dayuhan na ito sa isip nila na siguro nga totoo na ang pilipinas ang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawa.

Tinatanaw ng pamahalaan at ng taong-bayan ng pilipinas ang kontribusyon ng overseas filipinos sa ekonomiya at kabuhayang pambansa. Ang inyong malaking tulong ay nagpapasigla sa ekonomiya at nagtutulak sa kaunlaran ng bansa.

Sa ibabaw ng magandang reputasyon na binibigay ninyo sa ating bansa bilang tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang pilipino, milyun-milyong kabataan ang nakakapag-aral o nakakatapos ng edukasyon sa inyong tulong. Libu-libong

bagong bahay ay napapatayo at ‘yung mga napapatayuan ninyo ng bagong bahay, sila ay nagkakaroon ng bagong buhay.

Dahil sa inyong tulong ay nakapaglunsad tayo ng napakaraming negosyo maging sa small business sa buong bansa dahil pinupuhunan ng mga mahal ninyo sa buhay ang inyong mga remittances. Ang matagumpay na negosyo na napatayo sa ating bansa dahil sa inyong remittances ay isang malaking haligi ng ating ekonomiya. Sumigla ang maraming barangay, bayan, lungsod at probinsiya sa kontribusyon ng mga overseas filipinos.

Ang pinakamalaking investment sa pilipinas ng dayuhan ay five billion dollars, ito ‘yung puhunan ng shell sa malampaya. Pero ang dakilang manggagawang pilipino taun-taon ang pinupuhunan sa ating bansang pilipinas ay six billion dollars — mas malaki kaysa sa pinakamalaking foreign investment sa ating bansa.

Kaya, narinig ninyo ‘yung ating mga nagsalita ngayon — si Undersecretary Baldoz, yung ating emcee — anong tawag nila sa inyo? Investors, kasi kayo ay major economic investors sa bansa.

Kaya ilang beses kong sinasabi talaga dapat dagdagan ang bansag sa ating mga overseas filipinos. Ang karaniwang tawag sa pilipinong nasa ibayong bansa ay overseas workers. Pero sa seven million, tatlo ang overseas contract workers, pero lahat ng seven million ay nagpapadala ng salapi pampuhunan ng mga kamag-anak dito. Kaya palagay ko na ang talagang dapat ang bagay, ang mas generic na itawag sa overseas filipino ay talagang overseas filipino investors.

Kayo ang mga overseas filipino investors na araw-araw namumuhunan sa kaunlaran ng ating bansa. Ang puhunan ninyo ay ang “productive years” alang-alang sa ating bayan. Saludo ako sa inyo. Dapat lamang na suklian ng bansa ang inyong tulong.

Sa aking state of the nation address, sinabi ko — labing-lima lang ‘yung panukalang batas na sinabi kong kailangan ko, pinakakailangan sa lahat — at sinabi ko bahagi sa labing-limang ‘yon isang malaking prayoridad ng aking gobyerno ay ang pagpasa ng absentee voting bill. Nung ako ay senador 1992 to 1998, nag-file ako ng absentee voting bill, kaya bilang pangulo natural na si-nertify ko bilang urgent administration measure itong absentee voting bill.

I have also certified the Bill on Dual Citizenship as an urgent administration measure. At inaasahan ko na itong mga batas na ito ay hindi magiging kasangkapan sa pag-aalitan sa senado. Bagamat hindi ko papabayaang ang aking tungkulin bilang pinuno ng bansa, pinuno ng aking coalition, at pinuno ng aking partido, tinuturing ko na ang alitan sa senado ay, sa kabuuan, isang bagay na nauukol sa sarili nilang tahanan. Ang aking binibigyang pansin at pag-aabala, ang aking focus ay ‘yung pang araw-araw na trabaho ko kung papaano makapaglikha ng mas maraming trabaho sa ating bansa at kung papaano mananatiling kaya ng mahihirap ang kanilang mga pangunahing bilihan.

Malamang nababasa rin ninyo kung minsan may masalimuot hindi lamang sa Legislatura pati na rin sa Executive. Halimbawa, malamang nababasa ninyo ‘yung masalimuot na welfare fund issue. Ito ang masasabi ko rito: kung may alegasyon ng anomaliya, tungkulin ito ng kalihim ng departamento na ipaimbestiga. At kung may inimbestiga nga karapatan din ng iniimbestiga na ipagtanggol ang kanyang sarili — ito ang due process sa isang demokrasya. Kaya lang hindi tama na magkakaroon ng mga atake personal sa media — hindi ‘yon bahagi ng due process — at importante dapat hindi tumigil ang paglilingkod ng ahensiya sa ating dakilang manggagawang pilipino.

The Philippine economy will, for the foreseeable future, continue to be heavily dependent on overseas worker remittances. On the basis of this realization, this reality, and on the basis of the nation’s humanitarian responsibilities to its people wherever they are, our government is working hard to strengthen overseas filipino workers’ protection. And this is part of our motivation for strengthening bilateral relations with countries which host large numbers of filipinos.

Sa mga biyaya — maraming biyayang nabanggit ni ginoong aligada na sana maipahayag, maihandog — marami doon actually ay nandiyan na pero parang kulang ng impormasyon. Halimbawa, ‘yung ating housing program. We have a housing program for overseas filipinos under the housing and urban developing coordinating council. This is

part of our goal to provide a hundred thousand housing units a year for workers, whether these workers are working in the Philippines or outside.

So far, we have only built about 60,000 houses, so we have 40,000 houses more to go under our targets, and surely among the three or four or seven million overseas filipinos, you could go to our embassies and work with their... And apply for these housing benefits for your relatives back home. Many are already doing this but there are many more that can still do it.

At binanggit din ni ginoong aligada 'yung dual citizenship. Talaga importante 'yon — una sa lahat, para makaboto kayo. Pero 'yung sa pagnenegosyo para pagpupuhunan, nung ako ay senador ako ang nag-sponsor noong batas — batas na — na ang tawag “further liberalization of foreign investments.” doon sa batas na 'yon may provision tungkol sa kung saan puwedeng mamuhunan 'yung filipinos na former filipino citizens na iba na ang citizenship, kasama doon ang pag-aari ng lupa para magnegosyo, kasama doon ang pag-invest sa ilang mga institutions na normally reserved 100 percent for filipinos pero kung kayo ay dating filipino ay puwede kayong mag-invest doon.

Kaya sana ay ang hinihingi ko sa ating dole rin na mas ipahayag itong mga benepisyong ito para sa ganoon ay maraming makikinabang. 'Yung sss hiningi rin ni ginoong aligada, 'yung mga insurance, 'yung provident fund. Mayroon na tayong provident fund sa mga ofws doon sa sss pero sa seven million overseas filipinos, 2,000 pa lamang ang nakikinabang, 2,000 pa lamang ang kasapi. Kaya ang dami-daming puwedeng magawa, kailangang mamudmod itong pahayag sa lahat ng ating overseas filipinos.

And i hope that you already realize that last year we scrapped the requirements for overseas filipino workers to file an income tax information sheet so there is no more penalty for non-filing.

Napagmasdan ko rin na 'pag umuuwi ang maraming migranteng manggagawa — marami tayong binigyan ng mga premyo o ng mga parangal na dahil nagamit nila 'yung kanilang expertise para maging mahalagang bahagi ng komunidad pagkatapos pagkauwi. Pero kanina 'di ba binanggit ko, “ano ang puhunan ninyo kaya kayo naging overseas filipino investors?” — your most productive years. Kaya ang napagmasdan ko karaniwan pag-uwi medyo may edad na, lumampas na sa most productive years kaya mahirap na makahanap nang pamamasukan. Kaya inaatasan ko si secretary pat sto. Tomas na gumawa ng kagawaran sa dole bukod tangi para sa reintegration program at dapat ang mamuno nito ay may ranggong assistant secretary.

Inaatasan ko rin ang overseas workers welfare fund na ihiwalay ang kontribusyon ng mga seamen at land-based workers sa welfare fund.

At sa mga doktor naman at social worker na pinapadala na natin, ipapadala na natin sa iba't-ibang overseas posts, sana alagaan ninyong mabuti ang dakilang manggagawang pilipino dahil kayo ay kongkreto ng senyas ng ating malasakit sa migranteng filipino, lalung-lalo na iyung mga mabibigat na lugar kung saan ibang-iba ang kultura nang nagbibigay ng trabaho.

Ang ekonomiyang minana ko noong isang taon ay napakamapanganib. Then the new york incident changed the global mood some more. But despite the stark economy we inherited and the uncertain world business conditions in 2001, we made progress. Where bigger and richer economies failed, ours moved forward. Our GDP grew by 3.4 percent last year and this first quarter it grew by 3.8 percent. Our GDP grew 3.7 percent last year and in the first quarter of this year, it grew by 4.9 percent. Ang gdp mas mababa kaysa sa gnp kasi 'yung gdp hindi kasama ang kontribusyon ng overseas filipinos, ang gnp ay kasama. Biro ninyo last year ang dipirensya 3.4 versus 3.7 — 0.3 percentage point difference. Ngayon 3.8 versus 4.9 — 1.9 percent sa ating growth rate ang kontribusyon ng overseas filipinos itong first quarter na ito. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong kontribusyon sa ating gnp growth rate.

Kaya 'pag sinasabi nila brain drain, sabi ko, “hindi, naglilingkod doon naglilingkod pa rin dito dahil hindi kinakalimutan 'yung mga pamilya, 'yung pamayanan, at sa ganung paraan pati 'yung bansa natin ay nakikinabang.” ang importante kung ano 'yung nakikita nating demand sa mga skills, ang ating school system ay dapat produce nang produce. Kung malaki ang demand sa nurses, produce more nurses; kung malaki ang demand sa i.t. workers,

produce more i.t. workers kasi kailangan din natin sila dito, kailangan sa ibang bansa. Kaya pakinabang kung nandoon, pakinabang kung nandito sila, so produce more because there is an overall increase in demand.

And because of our overseas filipino workers, as well as our relative success compared to many other economies in surviving the crisis of last year, we have gone a long way in bringing our country back on the radar screens of the world, and the work and reputation of the overseas filipinos confirm to the world that indeed the Philippines is the home of the great filipino worker.

And because of you, your remittances which have helped our economy, which have helped our banking system, interest rates and inflation rates have declined. Ang interest rate ay napakababa ngayon haming sa mga nakaraang taon, kaya inaasahan ko na ang inyong mga mahal sa buhay ay 'yung pinapadala ninyong remittances sa kanila ay ma-leverage nila ito para humiram sa mga bangko para magtayo lalo na ng low-cost housing para sa kanilang sarili at iba pang mga mahal ninyo.

Noong isang taon, nagkaroon ng 1.5 million na bagong trabaho sa ating bansa — of that 850,000 was in agriculture. Sabi ko nga kay cito lorenzo 'yung inaasahan nating one million jobs in agriculture for the next three years, 850,000 was achieved already last year. And the unemployment rate in metro manila is higher than in the rest of the country so i asked cito lorenzo dito rin we'd better look for jobs for our workers here in metro manila.

So we have been conducting jobs fairs. But yesterday's jobs fairs were quite a — not a revelation because I've seen it even in other places but especially here — for every five jobs available in the jobs fair there was only one applicant so I think the problem is not totally a lack of job opportunities, there is some friction in the distribution system, in the matching. A lot of the unemployment is what they call structural unemployment, and this is what we have to work for here in the Philippines.

Inaasahan ko na sa darating na mga araw, sana sa dekadang ito ay sa pag-ayos natin ng mga kusot ng ating job market dito mismo sa pilipinas ay magiging sapat ang trabaho sa pilipinas para hindi na kayo kailangan pang maghanapbuhay sa ibang bansa.

Trabaho, edukasyon, sariling tahanan, pagkain sa bawat mesa, this is your aspiration that's why you go abroad; and this, in common sense and plain talk, is also the core of my vision for the country.

When i made my state of the nation address last year, i expressed this vision, and i also urged everyone listening to that address last july 23rd last year to set aside bickering and politicking for at least one year. Sabi ko sana sa halip ng alitan, hiningi kong isang taon tayong magtulungan sa ikabubuti ng taong-bayan. Wala pa pong isang taon eh, kaya inuulit ko ang aking hiling.

Magtulungan tayo upang makamit natin ang apat na layunin ng ating national agenda: first, an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century; second, a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity; third, a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan; and fourth, improved moral standards in government and society.

We have the competitive edge in our human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors. Ang pinakapruweba nito ay ang ating dakilang manggagawang pilipino na napapatunayan ang kadakilaan sa ibayong dagat.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa pahayag na suporta ng ating mga migranteng manggagawa na binigay ni ginoong aligada; at inaasahan ko na itong ating pagtatalakay ngayon ay maririnig ng ating mga manggagawang filipino sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng mundo, kasama na sa gitnang silangan, asya, europa at amerika. Ito ang pinakamagandang paraan kung papaano magdiriwang ng migrant workers day, na makausap ang mga migranteng manggagawa mismo sa lugar ng pagtatrabaho. Alam ko, halimbawa, na maraming naghihintay sa saudi arabia sa aking mensahe para sa migrant day. Doon naman sa hapon, may community picnic na handog ng embahada. Doon naman sa espanya, may sanlinggong pagdiriwang na matatapos sa isang diyologo kasama ni vice-president guingona.

At 'yung mga sinabi ni ginoong aligada na mga recommendations, may ibang nabanggit ko ngayon, pero sabi nga ni ginoong aligada masaya kayo naman dahil tuluy-tuloy ang dialogue na ginagawa ni secretary sto. Tomas sa inyo.

Ang hiling ko sa inyo, mga dakilang manggagawang pilipino ay tuloy na makiisa kayo sa akin.

I am counting on all of you. Kailangan ko kayo at minamahal ko kayong lahat, at nagpapasalamat ako sa inyo sa inyong pagmamahal sa ating bansa.

Maraming salamat po.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Celebration of Migrant Workers Day. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225203/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8335&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Celebration Sponsored by the FFCCI

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Celebration Sponsored by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese
Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCI)**

[Delivered at the Century Seafood Restaurant, Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila, June 08, 2002]

Thank you very much Mar. John Ng, president of the Federation.

Senate President Franklin Drilon; Congressman Harry Angpin and Mrs. Angpin; Congressman Satur Ocampo; Ambassador Wang Chungui of the People's Republic of China and the other Ambassadors who are here tonight; Manny Dy, president of FFCAP; other members of the Filipino-Chinese Business Community; Honored Guests; ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, congratulations to the Department of Foreign Affairs represented here by Undersecretary Ebdalin, the Chinese Embassy in Manila, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Associations of the Philippines for spearheading this celebration of Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day.

This occasion is significant for all of us, and for me personally. We are implementing what I signed, as the ambassador said, Proclamation 148 Declaring June 9 of every year as Filipino-Chinese Friendship day. We are also commemorating the day that diplomatic relations were established between the Philippines and China. And I am also very proud that as founding member, lifetime member and co-chairman of the association for Philippines-China understanding or APCU, I was one of those — along with the in-laws of Congressman Ocampo, Roxy Lim and her husband, and Manny Dy — I was one of those who worked for the establishment of this diplomatic relations between our two countries.

Together with many of you, my colleagues in APCU, we started working for closer Philippines-China relations during the early 70s, even before the establishment of formal relations between our two countries in June 1975.

But, as mentioned by our speakers — John, Manny and the Ambassador — the relationship between the Philippines and China started long before the Spaniards set foot on our soil. commercial relations between our two countries antedated our first contact with the west.

Even more interesting is the less-known fact that our racial affinity dates back to prehistoric times. It is said that during the ice age, the Philippine archipelago was contiguous to the Asian mainland. People from China migrated to the Philippines, Indonesia and other parts of the Malay peninsula through land bridges. archaeological and anthropological evidence attest to this.

We come from common ancestors, we are one family.

There are many aspects of Philippine culture that evolved out of this relationship. The Chinese introduced the cast-iron plow head (called lithaw or lueythaw in Chinese) that made our lands productive. fruits and vegetables like

petsay, kintsay, togue (laughter/ applause) and the culinary art that brought us lomi, batsoy, tokwa and pancit became our daily fare.

The Chinese ferried sugar cane presses all the way from China to extract sugar from locally-produced cane long before the modern sugar mill was introduced to us by the French. Common Ilonggo words used in sugar production such as *siapo* (for bagasse), *cansiaja* (for sugar cane leaves), and *kawa* (for cauldron) are of Chinese origin.

Likewise, the impact of Chinese influence in Philippine life is seen and heard in our own common house language, such as the kinship terms “*kuya*” and “*ate*” that were borrowed from the Hokkien dialect used by the local Chinese.

The shared traditions live on, even in the modern setting, reinforced by common political and economic interests that bind China and the Philippines.

Our trade and investment relations are in the best of health. With the entry of China to the World Trade Organization, I hope our economic relations will improve further. I hope that China will buy more tropical fruits from southern Philippines. I hope that more Chinese tourists will visit northern Philippines. I hope that Chinese business will find the airports of the Philippines a good logistical hub for trading with the rest of the world and the region.

In a decade, Asean is looking at a viable China-Asean free trade area as an integrating force in our region.

More than any country in the world, we have signed the most number of trade and economic, cultural, scientific and technological agreements with China. People-to-people contacts have increased geometrically. Understanding and friendship have deepened.

The future of Philippines-China relations rests on our ability to pursue common goals under the globalized regime. These goals were articulated in the APEC Summit in Shanghai, in my state visit to Beijing where many of you were there with me, and in the Asean+3 meeting in Brunei last year. In these three meetings, I had the opportunity to meet once again with President Jiang Zemin and exchange ideas and proposals spanning the wide range of issues in regional security and development.

Domestically, we shall continue to maintain and strengthen our ties with the Chinese community. You are aware of the administrative naturalization law I signed last year, which makes the naturalization process for native-born Chinese less restrictive. With a faster and much-improved naturalization process, those whose fondest wish is to live in the Philippines permanently, will be acknowledged and served. I hope that among the Chinese community here you can conduct an aggressive campaign so that those who are not yet naturalized will apply under this law.

We are also sharing educational programs and activities, as well as activities for agricultural modernization.

One successful case was mentioned by Ambassador Wang, the hybrid rice project, where Federation Director and Agri-entrepreneur Henry Lim Bon Liong has been an active contributor. Henry was instrumental in acquiring the technical know-how from China's father of hybrid rice and 2001 Magsaysay awardee Prof. Yuan Long Ping, and in applying it in the Philippine setting. This was one of the agenda items of my talks with

Premier Zhu Ronggi to propagate the Chinese hybrid rice for our agricultural modernization.

Let me also commend the Federation for actively pursuing programs and projects addressing the key concern of peace and order and its twin — social development.

I know the Federation is working closely with the government, especially the National Anti-Crime Commission, in addressing the problem of kidnapping.

I would like to reiterate how deeply saddened I am over the death of kidnap victims Ediborah Yap and Martin Burnham. This is a terrible tragedy that demonstrates that terrorism has no conscience. Our sympathies go out to the

families of martin Burnham and Ediborah yap. As we mourn this loss, let us also not forget the brave soldiers and law enforcement officers whose lives have been lost in the campaign to free the hostages and bring the terrorists who held them to justice.

We feel blessed that the significant efforts of everyone involved in securing the release of the hostages have been successful in the case of Gracia Burnham. I will be visiting her after my participation in this program. Her rescue is also an important milestone in our efforts to restore peace and order in the Philippines and in our broader global fight against terrorism. Our battle against terrorism and the poverty that makes people susceptible to joining terrorist bands does not end here. We will continue our efforts to eradicate terrorism in our country and internationally.

We will not rest until we bring those responsible for this atrocities to justice. At the same time, we are working hard to eliminate terrorism in its recruitment grounds by restoring economic growth and ensuring equitable development so that the terrorists don't find fertile ground with those who have not benefited from the fruits of development.

I am concerned that the Abu Sayyaf leaders may try to flee the country. I am asking the secretary of justice and the department of foreign affairs, especially with frank here, to seek the assistance of our asean neighbors, particularly Malaysia and Indonesia, co-signatories of the counter-terrorism agreement, to assist in their capture. The Secretary of Justice and the Department of Foreign Affairs should also ask for the assistance of Interpol and other International Law Enforcement agencies. The Secretary of Justice and the Department of Foreign Affairs can also send a similar message to the U.S. Attorney General.

Okay, Frank. I don't have to send you a memo.

The Philippines joined in the global effort to eliminate terrorism from day one. Terrorism is a global scourge that has caused great pain and suffering and many casualties around the world.

The Philippine government has and will continue to stand firm on its attack on terrorism and will not back down: no negotiations, no compromise. As you in the Chinese community know very well kidnappers are the lowest form of life and taking hostages is a crime against all humanity and must not be allowed to proliferate. The Philippine government regrets the loss of life of innocent civilians as well as military personnel in the pursuit of wiping out terrorism. It is a painful price that the Philippines and all other peace-loving nations have had to pay to make the world safer for law-abiding citizens. Eradication of terrorism in the Philippines is another step toward strengthening the rule of law in areas of terrorist presence and re-focusing the energy of government on pressing social ills with the overall objective of eliminating poverty that confronts so many of our people.

With this objective in mind, I ask the federation to help me build classrooms in the barangays of the towns of Sibuco, Siraway, Siocon, and Baliguian in Zamboanga del Norte, otherwise known as the triple S-B complex of Zamboanga del Norte. This was where the Abu Sayyaf fled after their atrocities in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur in 1995. This again was where they fled after they were driven out by the heavy military offensive in Basilan; and this is where martin, Gracia and Deborah were found. this complex, is as poor as Basilan. many barangays have no schools whatsoever. No wonder many of the barrio folk, uneducated, therefore, can earn their living only by harboring terrorists who are on the run. We are winning the military battle in the triple s-b complex, but you must help me win the battle for their hearts and minds. Help me win their battle against poverty.

I thank the federation for helping narrow the gap in our classroom needs through your "operation barrio schools." the federation, as we have just recently seen in frank Drilon's initiatives, can build classrooms at half the cost of government-built school houses. I have challenged the department of public works to try to match your cost because recently, senate president Franklin Drilon turned over 100 million pesos of his own development fund to the federation for the construction of 571 classrooms.

This is a clear acceptance by the government of the status of the federation not only as a leading organization in the Chinese Filipino community, but also as a key partner in socio-economic development.

What makes me especially happy about the Drilon-federation joint initiative is that you allowed me to choose the areas where the schools will be built.

I chose 571 Barangays where no schools exist. This is part of my “school for every Barangay program.”

I understand John Ng has issued a call to the Chinese Filipino community to support this “school for every Barangay program.” please help those Barangays with no school buildings acquire these school buildings especially for the early grades — grades 1 and 2 — so that the little children will not end up dropping out of school so early because they would have to walk so far away just to go to first grade.

If we can work like this, like one big family, we can secure a bright future for our county, for our ourselves, and for our children.

And so on this evening, I celebrate the friendship of the Filipinos and the Chinese. We celebrate the Filipino Chinese. We celebrate the Philippines. We celebrate China and our centuries and millennia of friendship in the past and into the future.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Celebration Sponsored by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCII). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225128/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8332&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during 14th Anniversary Convention of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During 14th Anniversary Convention of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)**

[Delivered at the Expo Filipino Millennium Hall, Clark Field, Angeles City, Pampanga, June 10, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Braganza at maraming salamat din dahil ngayon lang naipulong mo ang lahat ng mga officers ng Department of Agrarian Reform sa isang lugar sa buong kasaysayan ng land reform. Kaya welcome sa inyong lahat dito.

Secretary Joey Lina; ang aking anak na si Mikey Arroyo na nangangatawan sa Pampanga; Mayor Moki Morales nangangatawan naman sa ating host municipality, ang Mabalacat; our very supportive Ambassadors from the countries that support land reform in the Philippines very heavily, Ambassador Van Remoortele of Belgium and Ambassador Ben Abba of Israel; other members of the diplomatic corps representing the countries and agencies that have been supporting Philippine land reform; our AFP Chief of Staff General Cimat and the other officers of the armed forces of the Philippines who are here Today; PNP Chief Larry Mendoza and the other officers of the police who are also here with us today; and ating ring host dito sa lugar na ito, si Pangulong Manny Angeles ng Clark Development Corporation; PARCOM Chairperson and private sector representatives; the CARP implementing agencies; mga beneficiary ng land reform; mga panauhin; mga kaibigan:

Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat at Happy Land Reform Day sa inyong lahat.

Noong ako ay nagbigay ng aking State of the Nation Address noong isang taon, sinabi ko na isa sa apat na pangunahing programa ng ating laban sa kahirapan ay agricultural modernization founded on social equity. ‘Yung bahagi noon, founded on social equity, ang pinakalaman ng social equity sa ating agricultural modernization ay ito na ngang reporma sa lupa o land reform. Kaya ang land reform ay pangunahing bahagi ng ating programa ng administrasyon.

Even when I was still vice president, and I was articulating the four components of what I believe a program to fight poverty should have, I said many times that the promise of land reform, a commitment that spans several presidents, must finally be redeemed. I said that without equity and modernization, we will never win the struggle against poverty in our rural countryside.

Katunayan alam ko, napakaraming mga pangulo, ito ang talagang hinangad nila na magkaroon at matupad ang reporma sa lupa. Katunayan, tinuring ng aking ama, ang dating Pangulong Diosdado Macapagal, bilang pangunahing nakamit niya sa kaniyang administrasyon ay nasimula ang reporma sa lupa sa pagtuturing na ang tenancy ay labag sa batas. Kaya naman pinagpapatuloy ko ang sinimula niya na ito. At ako ay nasisiyahan na kung noong isang taon ginanap natin ang Land Reform Day sa Malakanyang, ngayon naman ay ginaganap natin ito sa probinsiya kung saan ang aking tatay sa kanyang kabataan at kabinataan ay naranasan niya ang mahirap na karanasan ng mga magsasakang hindi may-ari ng lupang tinatrabaho nila. Dahil si Diosdado Macapagal ay anak ng mga tenant farmer. Ayun ang kanyang pinakalayunin noong siya ay naging pangulo.

Sa aking State of the Nation Address ng nakaraang taon, sinabi ko ang ating layunin, mamahagi tayo taun-taon ng sandaang ektaryang lupaing agrikultura sa ilalim ng DAR.

Kanina, in-unveil ni Nani Braganza ‘yung kanyang programa — “Bayan, Anihan.” At sinabi niya na land distribution will not be enough unless there is an increase in productivity kaya meron siyang lahat noong bahagi ng “bayan, anihan.” Pero ako rin gusto ko namang bigyan-diin, increase in land productivity without land distribution is not social equity.

Kaya para sa akin, ang pangunahing layunin talaga ng DAR ay iyung land distribution. At lahat ng ibang bahagi ng “bayan, anihan” ay suporta para maging matagumpay ‘yung land distribution. Kaya itong araw na ito — sabi ko kay Nani, “pareho kaming seven minutes ang speech namin.” Kasi isa lang mensahe ang ibibigay ko — ang tanging mensahe ko ay ito: binabati ko si Nani, binabati ko kayonglahat, binabati ko ang dar na namamahala para sa pribadong lupaing distribution dahil nga noong nakaraang taon, kayo ay nakapamahagi ng 104,261 hectares na lupain sa 72,188 farmer-beneficiaries sa buong kapuluan. In other words, nilampasan ninyo ang target na binigay ko sa Inyo.

Sabi nung iba, saan? Macro figures. Hindi. Kaya huwag kayong matulog pero itong araw na ito, ibibigay ko ang breakdown ng lupaing napamahagi natin nitong nakaraang taon.

Nandito ba ‘yung ating Abra delegation? Abra, naimbag nga bigat yo amin, apo. Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyo dahil kayo ay namahagi ng higit sa 1,000 hectares para sa land reform; addadtoy dagiti officials ti dar gapo benguet? Congratulations! Dahil sa benguet higit 600 hectares ang nadistribute n’yo sa land reform; dagiti officials gapo ti apayao, Ifugao ken kalinga, addadtoy? Sa inyong lahat, congratulations dahil ang inyong tatlong probinsiya tag-300 hectares, for a total of 900 hectares ang dinistribute ninyo; ken diay probinsiya ti mountain province, ‘dinno ti opisyal? ‘Yon ay bulubundukin na probinsiya kaya tawag mountain province, nakapagbigay ng higit 50 hectares naman sa mountain province; gapo mi ti La Union, ‘dinno ti delegation gapo ti La Union? Okay, congratulations, halos 300 hectares sa La Union. Probinsiya ni Nani at ng inyong lingkod, Ilocos. Ah, ‘no. Pangasinan ken Ilocos Norte. ‘dinno ti Pangasinan ken Ilocos Norte? Tig-200 hectares ang inyong namudmod, congratulations; at sa Ilocos Sur? Seven hectares; ‘yon namang Isabela, okay, more than 3,000 hectares sa Isabela; cagayan province, almost 20 hectares; Nueva Vizcaya, sino ti Nueva Vizcaya? Almost 400 hectares; Quirino, more than 100 hectares; at ‘yung Nueva Ecija naman, higit tatlong libong ektarya.

Tarlac, Pampanga at Bulacan, saan kayo? ‘Yon. Kayong tatlo, tig-sanlibong ektarya, kaya tatlong libong ektarya kayo, tatlong probinsiya; Zambales at Bataan, tig-limang daang ektarya, kaya isang libo ‘yung dalawa Dalawang probinsiya; Aurora? More than 100 hectares, congratulations; ‘yung Quezon at Mindoro Oriental, nandito? Tig-dalawang libong ektarya kaya apat na libong ektarya kayong dalawa; ‘yon namang Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Marinduque, Romblon, Batangas, mukhang tig-isang libong ektarya kayong lima, kaya 5,000 hectares; ‘yung Laguna, probinsiya ni Joey, narito ba? More than 400 hectares; ‘yung sa Cavite narito kayo? More than 200 hectares; ‘yung Rizal, Rizal? Wala. Ayun, nandoon kayo. Halos siyudad na ang Rizal kaya meron pa ring apatnapung ektaryang nagawa; Camarines Sur? Salamat, marhay nga aga, and thank you for the more than 3,000 hectares you distributed; ‘yon namang Albay, may nagbati sa akin dito, taga-Albay, Masbate, Camarines Norte, tig-2,000 hectares kaya kayong tatlong probinsiya ay 6,000 hectares, congratulations; sa Sorsogon, saan ang Sorsogon dito? Halos isandaang libong ektarya, congratulations din sa inyo; at sa Catanduanes ay halos isandaang ektarya rin sa Catanduanes.

Negros Occidental, ito ay isa sa pinaka-special mention, noong araw ay kasama sa kulilat, sabi ni Nani Braganza, pero ngayon more than 7,000 hectares sa Negros Occidental; doon naman sa Iloilo, diin ang taga-Iloilo diri? Okay, more than 2,000 hectares; Capiz? More than 1,000 hectares; Guimaras kag Aklan, diin? Okay, each of them almost 500 hectares kaya halos 1,000 ‘yung dalawa; Antique, more than 400 hectares sa Antique; sa Negros Oriental, Negros Oriental? Lugar ng pangulo ng Land bank of the Philippines, kaya dapat hindi siya inaresto dahil halos apat na libong ektarya ang Negros Oriental; Bohol at Cebu, more than one 1,000 hectares each more or less, so 2,000 hectares for the two; adto naman sa maliit na Island ng Siquijor, ayun, eight hectares, congratulations; maliit naman na island ang Siquijor, maliit na maliit. Siquijor, Siquijor is smaller than our Mikey’s and my hometown of Lubao, so salamat sa ano. Okay na rin ‘yung eight hectares; Leyte, halos anim na libong ektarya sa Leyte, saan ang Leyte? Binanggit kanina, di ba? ‘Yon din ay dating kulelat pero nakahabol, almost 6,000 hectares, congratulations; ang Northern Samar, nandito ba? Maupay nga aga mga Northern Samar, congratulations sa almost 3,000 hectares na dinistribute ninyo; sa Western Samar. Western Samar, more than 2,000 hectares, congratulations. Ay! Ah, yes. At sa Eastern Samar at Biliran, wala? Ayun. Each of you 1,000 hectares each so 2,000 hectares for the two provinces; and Southern Leyte, almost 500 hectares in Southern Leyte.

Sa Zamboanga Del sur, ang ating outstanding landowner ay galing sa Zamboanga Del Sur, so... Palagay ko, this includes Zamboanga Sibugay, higit 2,000 gikan sa Zamboanga Del Sur; sa Zamboanga Del Norte, saan ang Zamboanga Del ...? Okay, halos anim na daan naman sa Zamboanga del Norte; sa Basilan? Oy, kahit na meron

tayong Abu Sayyaf, higit dalawang daan pa ay nadistribute; sa Lanao del Norte? Higit tatlung libong ektarya, congratulations; sa Bukidnon, more than 2,000 hectares; and the two Misamis, Oriental and Occidental, 700 each for 1,400 hectares; and in the little island of Camiguin na binagyo pa, more than 20 hectares. Camiguin, ganoon din, mas maliit din kaysa sa bayan namin ni Mikey na Lubao.

In Davao del Norte, almost 3,000 hectares; in Davao Oriental, the number one coconut province in the country, 2,000 hectares; In Davao del Sur, more than 1,000 hectares; and in the city of Davao, city of Davao, kahit na city, halos pitong daang ektarya ang nadistribute sa city of Davao; ito naman, isa pang dating kulelat at naging valedictorian kasama ng Negros Occidental, Sultan Kudarat, higit pitung libo; sa Cotabato Province, higit limang libo; South Cotabato and Sarangani, 2,000 each to make 4,000 hectares; Agusan del Sur, almost 2,000; Surigao del Sur, almost 1,000; Agusan del Norte, wala? Ayun. Almost 400; Surigao del Norte, almost 100. Kasi panay beaches ang Surigao del Norte kasama na 'yung Siargao surfing beach which we shall visit in September; and our sole land reform area in the Autonomous Region, Lanao del Sur? Wala sila kasi nalipat na sa ARMM, anyway, nalipat na sa ARMM but we congratulate them because even in Lanao Del Sur, more than 2,000 hectares were distributed for land reform.

Kaya 'yan. Doon sa mga lugar na iyon ay naganap ang land reform at ayon kay Nani Braganza — hindi ba nani, totoo ito? — hindi na ngayon lang nagkapulong ang mga officers ng DAR sa isang lugar pero ngayon din lang nakaroon ng ganitong karaming napamahaging lupang pansasaka sa loob ng isang taon, the biggest in history. At isang dahilan kung ba't hangang-hanga ako kay Nani at sa inyo, ginawa niyo ito nang hindi kayo kumuha ng ekstrang budget mula sa akin, 'di ba? And I would like to congratulate you, I would like to thank our official development assistance partners because they help us meet these targets without Nani getting additional budget from the general appropriations act but one reason why he was able to do this also was that Nani was able to have a very, very high absorption rate for official development assistance. congratulations sa inyong lahat doon. kasi siguro, ilan sa inyong mga regional directors, nandoon na kayo sa ating mga iba't-ibang mga regional development council meetings, at siguro nakikita ninyo istriktang-istriktang ako. Isa-isa sa mga projects ng different departments, tinitignan, ano ang delay? Bakit delay? Ganyan. Pero halos tuwing DAR ang project, on time, hindi delayed kaya congratulations.

Ang land reform, dalawa nga 'yon. Ang pinaka-land reform, 'yung private agricultural land, so 'yon ay 100,000 hectares a year ang ating project, ang ating goal. There are also lands available from... owned by national government or public domain that can be alienable and this is also another hundred thousand hectares that we want to distribute every year. Kaya ang partner ng DAR ay 'yung DENR para doon naman sa public lands.

Ang DENR naman na namamahala sa lupaing gobyerno ay may target din kagaya ng DAR na 100,000 hectares per year at itong taon na ito nakaraan, nakapaglagda ng patent para sa almost 6,000 hectares mula nang July hanggang March, so hindi pa tapos 'yung accounting nila. At naglabas din ang DENR sa loob ng panahong ito ng certificate of allocation sa about 76,000 hectares of land or a total of 82,000 hectares of public land. Kaya inaasahan ko na pagdating ng July ay masasabi rin nila na kagaya ng DAR nagawa rin nila 'yung kanilang target.

Eh sabi ko kay Nani, pareho kaming seven-minutes lang. Kasi ako ayaw kong haluan ng iba pa 'yung mensahe. Kasi para sa akin, napaka- importante na matupad 'yung target natin sa State of the Nation Address, 'yung 100,000 hectares. Ito ang dapat bibigyang-diin na gawa ninyo, at dahil nagawa ninyo, para sa akin naka-boundary kayo.

Kaya maraming salamat at congratulations! Happy Anniversary sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during 14th Anniversary Convention of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225111/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8331&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Culture and the Arts Conference 2002 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Culture and the Arts Conference 2002**

[Delivered at the Ballroom, Pearl Manila Hotel, Taft Avenue, Manila, June 13, 2002]

Thank you very much Presidential Adviser Letty Ramos Shahani. I would like everyone to remember that it was Letty Shahani who authored the law that created the National Commission on Culture and the Arts. I would like also everyone to realize that it was she who worked hard so that this commission would have an endowment fund of 900 million pesos from the national government.

Chairperson Evelyn Pantig of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. I am also very happy that Evelyn is the chairperson of NCCA. I have known Evelyn for a long time now from the time when we were both in our early stages of our professional career. I was a professional economist doing work for NEDA-PIDS, a foreign funded project on tourism and its socioeconomic impact, and necessarily I had to deal with the Department of Tourism and Evelyn wasn't even a division chief yet at that time but she was my main resource person in the DOT.; and then eventually we both went up our respective career ladders. And I'm very glad that she is here as chairman of NCCA because I can attest, as you all know by now, to her great professionalism and dedication to work.

I would also like to greet the other officers of the National Commission For Culture and the Arts starting with Ambeth Ocampo who is here as Chairman of the National Historical Institute, and I am also very happy because it was I who appointed Ambeth Ocampo to NHI. yesterday, I saw Ambeth in the Independence Day Celebrations, and I said, "Ambeth, I'm sure you were shocked that I appointed you." He never applied, it was I who thought of putting him there and I said its because I'm an ardent reader of your column and I feel that Ambeth makes history so approachable. When he talks about the various historical figures and gives vignettes that are result of his painstaking research, then he makes them familiar to us as if they were a prominent uncle in our neighborhood that we can be proud of. And this what I want him to do to history for the whole Philippines: make it part of our home parlor, make it part of our home, make it part of our lives. And I am glad that he is here because that's what culture to be: a part of our home, a part of our lives.

I greet the other commissioners, Dr. Ramon Santos, Rod Cornejo, Mr. Ronelio Dela Cruz; Dean Kasilag, our national artist for music; participants of this culture and arts conference; distinguished guests, ladies and Gentlemen:

I must also greet, she's not included here because she's supposed to be the workhorse but I will acknowledge, Muffin Yanzon. I am also very happy that Muffin is the Executive Director of NCCA. Muffin's name came to my desk as a nominee of the search committee and this just shows how good, how well the search committee does its work because I readily accepted Muffin as the nominee of the search committee because I too have known her for a very long time in my professional career. She was one of the leading middle level officers of the Department of Trade and Industry and she was so good in her job that Sef Jollosco, who was in charge of regional operations which is the heart of the Department of Trade and Industry, got her as his alter ego and so Muffin did a great job there and I know she'll do a great job in putting order and structure in an agency, An organization where many of the decision makers are artists and therefore Have an artistic temperament and therefore have the famous lack of ... I mean, artists are more intuitive than structured so all your great ideas must be translated into something workable by somebody who knows how to pencil push and somebody who knows how to do the nitty gritty — and that's the work that Muffin Yanzon will do for culture in the Philippines.

So I am glad to be here in this conference on culture and the arts. I was asked to be a keynote speaker, I said, no, I will not be a keynote speaker because NCCA is not department where, I as your President, and you are supposed to be just my alter egos, I'm supposed to tell you what our policy is. NCCA was made by Manang Letty as a Commission precisely because it is not a department to be regulated by the national government or, to put it this way, not to be under the supervision and control of the president.

Nonetheless, we do have the 900 million endowment, and it is the job of the government to make sure that is well spent. We have an obligation.

So this is the specific unique characteristic of NCCA: there is the freedom from over regulation, or freedom from supervision and control. But on the other hand the obligation to account for taxpayers' money and that is why the commission itself has representatives from the national government.

So I did not want to deliver a keynote speech because of that unique character of NCCA because if I give you the keynote speech then I would be dictating culture policy by preempting the ideas of the cultural community. And I don't want to do that. I preferred instead to listen to the Medium-term cultural plan, as put together by the commission, and then give my inputs to it as I shall now be doing. So I have suggested to Evelyn Pantig that what was presented now by Muffin is the draft cultural development plan to be refined by what I will say and what will emerge from the consultations that will be held in this conference in the next two days.

And so let me therefore give my inputs.

I first became president a year-and-a-half ago, I told the Filipino people about my four core beliefs:

First, we must be bold in our national ambitions, so that our challenge must be that within this decade, we will win the fight against poverty.

Second, we must improve moral standards in government and society, in order to provide a strong foundation for good governance.

Third, we must change the character of our politics, in order to create a fertile ground for true reforms. Our politics of personality and patronage must give way to a new politics of party programs and process of dialogue with the people.

Finally, and fourth, I believe in leadership by example. We should promote solid traits such as work ethic and a dignified lifestyle, matching action To rhetoric, performing rather than grandstanding.

This is the framework where I feel culture has a place. To me, the place of culture in my four core beliefs is in the second of those core beliefs: The need to improve moral standards in society. I believe that culture reflects moral standards, but culture also molds moral standards. And this is why government must have a policy on culture, if it wants to be able to improve moral standards in society. Thus, my overarching vision of culture policy is to mobilize culture to improve moral standards in society.

In my State of the Nation Address last year, again I spoke about moral standards as part of the four components of our national agenda to fight poverty. Our national agenda revolves around the first of my core beliefs, the conviction that we must win the battle against poverty within the decade.

And as I have repeated many times, again four components of our national agenda are there in the fight against poverty. The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. The second is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. The third is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. And the fourth component, again, is to raise the moral standards of government and society.

If we are to raise moral standards, first we must strengthen justice and the enforcement of law and order.

This pertains to two levels. At the level of principle, this administration must affirm its commitment to the principle that no one is above the law. The second level pertains to our sense that justice prevails and the rule of law works in our daily lives.

This is a great challenge to us in today's domestic and international environment which is challenged with crime and terrorism all around. In this challenging environment characterizing the dawn of the 21st century, we must mobilize culture to forge consensus on a just, lasting, and honorable peace in our country. In mobilizing culture to influence moral standards, we must arrive at a national consensus on the principles to guide our search for peace.

As a start, I offer the following for our people in lieu the cultural community to consider. One principle is that our ultimate objective should be both peace and development. A second principle is that our framework must be based on constitutionality, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. And the third principle which is relevant directly to this body is that we must recognize, the Philippines must recognize that our society is a multi-ethnic one which should be founded on social justice for all, and the institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions.

Christian and Muslim, Chinese and Spanish, Tagalog and Cebuano, these are but a few of the names to which the Filipino responds, in a wondrous testimony to our rich and varied heritage as a nation.

Thus, I believe that our medium-term plan for culture and the arts, the medium-term plan for culture and the arts of the Arroyo administration should revolve around the vision of the institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions. This should be our unifying vision for our medium-term plan for culture and the arts.

Many have expressed unease over an emerging monoculture as a result of globalization — that was the theme of Evelyn's remarks. The fear is that the cultures of developing nations will be slowly eradicated as the cultures of more advanced nations exercise their hegemony.

But the reality is that our culture can only be swamped by global forces if we do not take measures to preserve and defend it. To preserve and defend our culture needs planning and preparedness. That's why I have planners as chairman and as executive director, these two girls are great in planning, they are great in preparedness. So the NCCA must be in the lead.

We must ensure that our culture is strong, vibrant, attractive. That's why I have Ambeth Ocampo who can make history attractive, he can also make culture attractive. He can give us that spirit that culture is not far away but right there in our living room. Culture must not be moribund, must not be lacking in creativity.

Thus I would like to see in the vision statement of the medium-term plan for culture and the arts, the vision of a Filipino people inspired by its cultural and artistic life and heritage to improve moral standards in society.

To achieve this vision, I would like to see that the first and primary approach is to heighten the institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions.

This is consistent with the mandate of the NCCA as provided by law because the law says that the NCCA must have the mandate to encourage the continuing and balanced development of a pluralistic culture by the people themselves, to conserve and promote the nation's historical and cultural heritage, and to preserve and integrate traditional culture and its various creative expressions as a dynamic part of the national cultural mainstream.

As a nation of more than 70 ethno-linguistic groups, the cultures that contribute to our national heritage are many and diverse. This diversity has made the Filipino heritage richer in its impact, but more profound. However, this diversity has also created some difficulties in achieving peace and development since what are acceptable norms for some are not acceptable for others. It is imperative, therefore, that we place tolerance at the center of all our efforts. All the cultures that make up the Filipino nation are equally important and should be accorded respect if we want harmony and solidarity.

For instance, the terrorism plague that is upon us in southwestern Philippines. The terrorists seek to make their activity religious warfare. On the contrary, we must make our response an occasion for religious understanding. And we know that religion drives culture. Religious understanding means cultural understanding; institutionalized accommodation of various ethnic traditions.

I was talking about Ambeth on how he can make history so folksy, I think we should do that to culture too. Yes, there are great intellectual initiatives that only a few may understand in the beginning, and we must allow that creativity to happen. But at the same time we must have mass culture. We must make culture available to the masses. We must make culture attractive to the masses.

Many years ago when the cultural center was built, I told myself if I were president I wouldn't spend all that money on the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It's an imposing building not accessible to the masses and its very architecture, its very approach, physical approach is not accessible to the masses. It is forbidding. It is far away. It is not folksy. I said if I had that money I would rather have spent that money on cultural centers all around the country so that we can bring culture to the masses.

You know I'll just give an example of a personal experience. When I was young, studying in assumption I would go to Japan with the nuns and we would watch kabuki. Of course we had to study so that we could appreciate it. But if some Filipino, overseas worker straight from the province were to go there, you wouldn't want to go to a kabuki play because you have to study it first to understand it. When I had my own family and I brought my own children to the kabuki play they had their earphones explaining everything that was happening and they appreciated it without any background study about kabuki.

In other words, advanced cultures like Japan bring their culture to the masses. We've got to do something like that if we want culture to mold, to mold our moral standards.

Now, that money for cultural center has been spent. And I hate to say it but that money for the cultural center actually came from an education fund, ODA from the U.S. that was intended for education but education for land reform extension. So it was even built at the expense of the success of land reform.

Anyway, it's been spent 30 years ago, I mention it only because I want to talk about how we should spend our money now. Our 900 million endowment which can't be spent but its fruits can be spent, a 900 million endowment is at the very least about a hundred million a year. And how do we spend this hundred million a year? How do we prioritize? That's why it's important to have a cultural development plan. It's important to have a framework. It's important to have a vision. It's important to know the primary approaches.

And the approach is where will the supply come from, so to speak as an economist, the various ethnic traditions. Where is the demand that will be met and fed the masses? Let us feed the masses with the culture of our various ethnic traditions ancient and contemporary. And therefore a method of distribution must be something approachable to the masses. It's too expensive now to build many cultural centers from scratch. But there are maybe existing structures we should look for that we can develop so that they can be the repository of culture and the arts where the masses can go and appreciate them and be attracted to them.

Twenty percent of the population lives in Metro Manila, another 20 percent from Region III and Region IV find Metro Manila accessible. So it is right to have a Cultural Center in Metro Manila, it will cater to 40 percent of the population, but I don't think the cultural center is it because it is Imposing; it is unapproachable; it is inaccessible; it is elitist. I believe the one that will make — I'm talking about the building ha, I'm talking about the building — the one that the poor will find approachable, physically, psychologically is the Metropolitan Theater of the Philippines, Manila. And I feel that we should revive the Metropolitan Theater and make it the new home of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

The Metropolitan Theater is jointly owned by GSIS and Manila, the City of Manila. Along time ago I asked Lito Atienza, "Lito, if the national government repairs the metropolitan theater, can you spend money to run it?" He said, "I have no money to rebuild it but I can have money to run it." So therefore I believe it is a good investment for NCCA to use a part of the fruits of the endowment to revive the Metropolitan Theater. and that is one specific operational instruction I would like to give to our government representatives.

Mass culture is also about movies. I'm a great movie fan because I grew up in Iligan and that was the culture available to us and I loved watching all those movies of Nida Blanca and Nestor de Villa when I was a child there in

Iligan. My lola would bring me to the theater — not air conditioned pero may lodge, may orchestra — so my lola and I would go to the lodge and our driver would go to the orchestra 'cause he'd also having paid his way also to go to the orchestra. But, you know we would watch it over and over the screening, over and over so the driver never knew when we're gonna get out. So after awhile when we are ready to go home after seeing the show, maybe one time and a half or something, you know one whole show and then the favorite, we wait for the favorite scene, then my lola would go down to the orchestra open the door and say, "Romeo, uuwi na tayo." that's mass culture. Let's make it available to everyone.

So that's what I want Metropolitan Theater to be. Also I want we must recognize that the Filipinos love movies it was not only me as a child. probably the number one cultural outlet of anything is the movies. And if culture reflects, no, if art reflects, cultural reflect standards, but culture must also mold standards, then movies must also mold moral standards; and we must use our resources in our cultural establishment to be able to bring movies towards those beautiful values that we must preserve in our society.

That is why I began by advancing money from the President's Social Fund not to give an award to the best movies at the end of the Metropolitan Film Festival, but near the start. In other words there's a preliminary judging on the best scripts. And I've released, I've allocated an initial 50 million pesos to spread out as subsidy for the production of the best scripts that will be chosen by the Metro Manila Film Festival committee.

I would like to acknowledge that this idea was given to me by Mayor Rey Malonzo. So I had asked him also to help me work out the implementing guidelines for the use of this subsidy.

Now, the Metro Manila Film Festival gets a lot of income. And if I said, I have advanced the money but I think that the NCCA should make a statement and participate in this subsidy, but because NCCA will participate in the subsidy it must also participate in the fruits of the Metro Manila Film Festival.

The Metro Manila Film Festival's fund beneficiaries are not provided by law. They are just determined by the committee usually acting on the instructions of the president. So, I will be asking the new chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority — 'di ba he's the chairman of the Film Festival? — that he will review the allocation of the proceeds of the Film Festival and in the review of the allocation they should ensure that the endowment or the production subsidy contributed by the NCCA to the what you would call the semi-finalist or the qualifying scripts should become a permanent fund. So therefore it should keep returning — it should keep returning, as much as possible, to the NCCA so that you have money again for next year's subsidy.

Incidentally, you might want to know to whom I will give the instructions. You might know who will be the new Metro Manila Development Authority chairman. It is Bayani Fernando, the former mayor of Marikina City. You know when I asked Dick Gordon to be secretary of Tourism I said, "Dick, what you did in Subic you've got to do for the whole country." When I called Bayani, I said, "BF what you did for Marikina you must do for the whole Metro Manila." Bayani is in the mold of Evelyn and Muffin — highly professional, no frills, just straight to the point, no-nonsense. Well, that's my style too.

And so culture and art by nature there are many frills and I appreciate the frills. That's why on my day off, my night off I even go to a play in U.P. and the students there didn't know before hand, suddenly I just show up. I love the Philippine version of "A Winter's Tale" or I'll find out that there's a showing, even if I have seen it already ten times, of "Portrait Of the Filipino as an Artist" because I want to see it again.

And then I put the three painting of Botong Francisco in Malacañang right on top of staircase so that every time I leave the Palace I look at the three paintings first and sometimes that's mystic moment for me.

And felt the pain when I saw the blood compact that was placed there when I was a child in Malacañang. I saw it was moldy and scratched when I got there. And one of the first things I wanted, not first things, I mean I've been wanting to do it is to have it restored. And I believe that well, there are also a couple of others, another Amorsolo is also kind of scratched there, and I put it first in the Office of the President. We have, we have, the Spanish

government willing to help in the restoration, we have also some artists that are connected with the Sotheby's willing to make one restoration for free and things like this.

But eventually too I would like all those beautiful art works of Malacañang to be made accessible to the people. I would like that part of the NCCA's job to be to catalog all the art that is in Malacañang and then let's put them on exhibit sometimes, but let's put them also in a coffee-table book where everyone, all the children all over the country to be able to appreciate.

So these are some of my specific operational project level ideas. I'm also very happy that we are going to be preserving the Ifugao rice terraces. When I was still Vice President there was an Ifugao rice terraces task force that was organized, I was a member of the task force. But after a while that I was the only one taking it seriously. I was organizing in the various towns that had rice terraces community development projects for the poorest of the poor: food for work but the work is to work on the rice terraces. But that was the only specific activity that was being put forward.

So when I became President we abolished the task force because committees don't work. Task forces work for a specific period with a deadline. But if it is within a particular geographical jurisdiction I believe that the primary responsibility, as Evelyn has told me, should be on the local government of Ifugao. And let us support the governor of Ifugao — a very young Ifugao, educated, dynamic, dedicated. Let's empower the people of Ifugao to preserve their cultural heritage.

So I have given you a framework, the overarching vision: mobilize culture to improve moral standards.

I have given you a primary approach: institutionalize accommodation of ethnic traditions.

I have given also another approach: make culture attractive to the masses.

And I have given you some specific projects that comply with those approaches, that comply with the vision. I hope that the continuing conference that we have here will reinforce what I have said: let us enrich NCCA itself; let us enrich our own medium-term plan itself; and let us bring culture into the mainstream of how we want the Philippines to be in the 21st century.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Culture and the Arts Conference 2002. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225103/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8323&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Awarding Ceremonies of Dr. Jose P. Rizal Awards for Excellence
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Awarding Ceremonies of Dr. Jose P. Rizal Awards for Excellence

[Delivered at the Le Pavillon, Roxas Boulevard, Manila June 19, 2002]

Maraming salamat po.

Maraming salamat kay Tessie Ang-See, ang Simbolo ng Laban Kontra sa Krimen. Maraming salamat Tessie sa lahat ng ginagawa mo.

Dante Ang, ang Chairman ng Dr. Jose Rizal Awards for Excellence; Associate Justice Bernardo Pardo; si Mayor ng Quezon City, Sonny Belmonte, son-in-law ng Filipino-Chinese community; si Dante Liban, ang ating incoming Director-General ng TESDA; si Rony Diaz, ang publisher ng Manila Times; si Ms. Rosa Rosal, ang ating nagmamahal sa mahihirap; nandito yata si Mayor ng Naga City, si Jessie Robredo; yung mga tatanggap ng Dr. Jose Rizal Award for Excellence, pati na rin yung Top Ten Outstanding Filipino-Chinese Awardees; narito rin yata si Former Prime Minister Cesar Virata; at nakita ko si Former Central Bank Governor Gabby Singson.

If I may greet the honorees who are here tonight, John Ng, President of the Federation; Lyonel Ty, President of KAISA; si Lucio Tan, Chairman ng Allied Bank; si Henry Sy of SM; Mr. John Gokongwei of JG; Mr. George Ty of Metrobank; Mr. Pao Shih Tien of Chiang Kai Shek; si James Dy of the Philippine-Chinese Charitable Association, 'di ko siya nakita; David Chua, the son of Ben Chua; Jocelyn Ong, the sister of Lawrence Ong, volunteer worker; I think it's Elton who's here, and Mrs. Tan Yu; Ricky Lee of Arts and Culture, 'di ko siya nakita; John Lu Kwa, business and entrepreneurship; Jose Tan, community service; Kin Ali Chua, education; Julie Yap Daza, journalism; Josiah Go, management and finance; Dibon Yok, medicine; and Perry ong, science and technology.

Distinguished members of the Filipino-Chinese community; ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to be once again with the leaders and members of the Chinese-Filipino community. I've been with this community three times this month before tonight, but here I am again, because the Chinese community is such an important part of our economy, and Dante Ang, who urged me to attend this affair, does so much work for me that my presence is all I can do to repay his dedication.

Congratulations to the Manila Times and its sister publication, Kabayan, for having thought of this search for excellence. I also congratulate the co-sponsors of this undertaking, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, KAISA, Philippine-Chinese Charitable Association, and the Chinese-Filipino Business Club.

But most of all, congratulations to the distinguished company of Chinese-Filipinos being honored tonight for helping advance the interests of the Tsinoy constituency and for helping build the nation through their personal vocations.

Tonight's awards break the national stereotype that the typical tsinoy makes his mark in society only through business and entrepreneurship.

The modern, enterprising tsinoy has broken out of that mold. Tonight, Ten Outstanding Chinese-Filipinos will be cited for their exceptional accomplishments, as mentioned by Eddie Mercado, in the fields of art and culture, business and entrepreneurship, community service, education, journalism, management and finance, medicine, public service, science and technology, and sports.

And no awards night for Chinese-Filipinos, of course, will be complete without recognizing the lifetime achievements of the giant Taipans of the Philippines. What a significant night it is when we have here Lucio Tan, Henry Sy, John Hokongwei, Heorge Ty, Angelo King, representatives of Alfonso Yuchengco, and Pao Shih Tien who has educated so many of the others who are here tonight.

I share the vision of the sponsors in awarding the Rizal posthumous awards to Mrs. Betty Go-Belmonte — and that's why it's not only Sonny who is here but my daughter's dear friend, Joy Belmonte — and of course our beloved Ben Chua, as well as Lawrence Ong and Tan Yu.

Our national hero, Jose Rizal, is the classic Chinese-Filipino whose life and work helped found a nation and brought Filipinos closer together.

Rizal was deeply concerned with the ascendancy of a united Filipino nation. An eminent Filipino historian described him as one who “formulated the Revolutionary concept of the Filipino nation as including Christians and Muslims and all other peoples of the archipelago, in one all-embracing fraternal union.” Rizal wanted his countrymen to create a new nation committed to a shared destiny.

Si Dr. Jose Rizal ay bayani noon at nananatiling bayani dahil namamalagi siya sa mga puso at isipan ng mga binibigyan nating parangal ngayong gabi. sinasabuhay ang kanyang mga tinuro at hinabilin at pawang inspirasyon sa mga Chinese-Filipinos ang buhay ni Jose Rizal at simulain.

Si Dr. Jose Rizal ay bayani noon at nananatiling bayani dahil binabahagi ang talino at lakas ng ating mga Filipino-Chinese awardees para sa iba, naglalaan sila ng oras para matulungan ang mas nangangailangan, at handa silang kumilos sa abot ng kanilang makakaya para maahon ang ating mga kababayan sa kahirapan.

Si Dr. Jose Rizal ay bayani noon at nananatiling bayani dahil nanatiling bukas ang isip at puso ng ating mga awardees na Filipino-Chinese kagaya niya sa pagbabagong dulot ng paglipas ng panahon, at handa silang tanggapin ang hamon ng pag-unlad at matalino nila tong hinaharap.

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal awards for excellence, named after the pride of the Malay race, honor outstanding Chinese-Filipino individuals who have demonstrated excellence in their chosen fields and have contributed to the growth of the nation.

I am proud to have worked closely with the leaders of the Chinese-Filipino community and to have been with you in the numerous causes and programs of the tsinoy constituency. Indeed, under my administration, the government and the tsinoys have built new bridges of friendship and understanding.

I recall that one of my acts as new president last year was to visit chinatown in Binondo and have a dialogue with the leaders of the tsinoy constituency.

In my meetings, I asked the Chinese-Filipinos to help the government, the new government, carry out and complete its program of change and reform.

Now I am again asking for your support. These are difficult times for our country; and they are difficult times for me as a leader.

I am very sad that public satisfaction with my administration is much lower today than two months ago, apparently due to public dismay over electricity rates.

This is reminiscent of the mid-1995 rice crisis during the Ramos administration. At that time, President Ramos' net ratings declined even more sharply than mine have declined, notwithstanding the small effect of one commodity, rice, on the overall inflation rate in 1995.

It is now clear that the price of electricity is also very socially sensitive.

Learning from President Ramos' experience, I have kept the price of rice down. It has not risen since I became president. But then, there's another commodity that has replaced rice as the political commodity.

My consolation is that when President Ramos was able to solve the problem from — his very low satisfaction rating in the middle of the rice crisis, to the short period up to the APEC summit — he recovered quite comfortably.

Although half of the public believe that I have no power to restrain the price of electricity, a significant one-third see me as having partial power, and one-sixth see me with full power over this price.

Though the price of electricity is not a problem of my making, I am doing my best within my power to alleviate the situation. Last may, I instructed, last month, I instructed the National Power Corporation to reduce its purchased power cost adjustment to 40 centavos. Because of this, from being the second most expensive cost of electricity in the region, we will go down to number six after your PPCA reduction takes effect in your July billing. Until then, and even afterwards, I ask for your patience and understanding.

In turn, I assure the tsinoys once again that my administration will help you realize your programs and projects, as I have been doing during the past year-and-a-half of my administration.

For instance, at your request, I pushed into law a naturalization measure designed to speed up the legalization of stay of qualified foreigners, including undocumented Chinese. Now please help me get the Chinese community to avail of this law because if the Chinese we expected to avail will avail it will greatly achieve our budget deficit ceiling target, which is so important for macroeconomic stability, which in turn is so important for the low interest rates, the low inflation rate, and the stable exchange rate that the business community is enjoying today.

Part of what I promised you was the observance of a National Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day. And I have delivered on that promise that's why I've been with you three times this past month because on June 7, we celebrated the first Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day.

My greatest wish is to see the tsinoy community living in peace.

I believe, as you do, that progress is not possible without peace, just as Peace is not sustainable without progress.

I realize that our effort to create jobs in order to fight poverty will not succeed as long as terrorism and criminality threaten the well-being of our citizens. I need your help and assistance in bringing to an end the terroristic and criminal activities that our country has been suffering.

Next month as you know, we will have a new chief of the Philippine National Police. Actually he was your choice from the beginning of my administration. I told him, I told Jun Ebdane, that since he has the support of the Chinese community, his main challenge is to eliminate kidnapping in one year. He feels he can do it because he is counting on your support to be able to do it. I know that the tsinoy community has been working closely with the government on this, and I'm quite sure that it will work even more closely when General Ebdane becomes the chief PNP. Because I have given Jun Ebdane a challenge, and I know you will support him, I will give him the full authority, and also the full accountability for eliminating kidnapping. Thus when he becomes the chief PNP, I will abolish the National Anti-Crime Commission so you talk only to one person in fighting kidnapping. With your help, this administration will meet the problem of kidnapping with more focus and counterforce.

On a more institutional level, we will improve the on-the-ground capability of PNP, and we will have a more disciplined processing of intelligence. upon the suggestion of the Chinese community last year, the Scotland yard of Great Britain is helping the PNP build up its skills and capacity to fight kidnapping and other organized crimes. This was the result of an I had with Prime Minister Tony Blair in my visit to London last January. We are now working on a similar arrangement with the Hong Kong police.

Despite the kidnapping incidents and despite the price of electricity, our economy pulled through in the last one year-and-a-half; and we did this while the economies of many of our neighbors and trading partners suffered declines. In fact, during this past one year-and-a-half, the Philippines what the third best performing country in this region, next only to China and to Vietnam.

The Chinese constituency is one of the prime movers of the economy. And as we are witnessing tonight, and as we can witness everyday, Chinatown is a spawning ground of talent, genius, achievement, and excellence.

To enable that resource to thrive and flourish, my administration is committed to work doubly hard to ensure that order, discipline and civility shall exist in Binondo and other Binondos in the country.

I encourage young tsinoys to join the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines and consider making police work a lifetime career.

I ask our young tsinoys to join us in our training sessions so that they would gain the expertise needed to detect and stop kidnappings.

In my State of the Nation Address last year, I said that I want the bulk of the kidnapping syndicates behind bars. Well with your choice at the helm of the PNP, let us work to eradicate the kidnap gangs, and arrest, prosecute and jail the kidnap bosses.

I ask you to be with me in this endeavor because if we are together there is much that we can do. Kailangan ko kayo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding Ceremonies of Dr. Jose P. Rizal Awards for Excellence. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225053/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8321&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo on the 103rd Independence Day Celebrations (Vin d'Honneur), June 12, 2001

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the 103rd Independence Day Celebrations (Vin d'Honneur)**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, June 22, 2002]

**MOVING FORWARD WITH UNITY
AND DEMOCRACY**

We celebrate today the 103rd Philippine Independence Day amidst great changes taking place in the state of affairs among and within nations. The economic fulcrum has shifted to North America. Europe is largely at peace with itself, a happy change after being the center of two world wars. The Middle East continues to face and present challenges. Latin America seeks progress through closer cooperation among its member-states. Democracy, is encouragingly taking hold in areas in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, the region where the Philippines belongs, and strives for economic recovery even as new powers arise in the region.

There is a lesson to be learned. As we examine the success and failure of nations at nation-building, and this is, that nations with a free and united people and energized by effective governance, have the best chance of survival even under an adverse international situation. For a combination of freedom and unity among people who are pulling together in the same direction to the cadence of the leader's call creates a powerful, if not, inexorable force for creativity, productivity and achievement.

Therefore, as my five-month old administration takes on the task of reviving our economy, and addresses the inherited problems of insurgency and crime, we are also laying the foundations for the long-term change of the Philippines into a nation of inner strength and resolve.

Unity is the theme of this year's Independence Day celebrations. This is also the basic theme that underlies my program of governance. Unity among our people must go hand in hand with the democracy we enjoy, if our nation is to move forward.

Thus, we are embarked on a program of strengthening the moral fiber of Philippine society through leadership by example, and the inculcation in our people particularly the youth of a deep sense of nationhood, as well as the values of integrity, hard work and perseverance.

Thus, we are also embarked on programs that will address poverty and the lack of education among many of our people, so that no sectoral society will feel alienated or separate from the rest.

Thus, we are also extending our hand for peace and reconciliation to those who have taken up arms against the government, because of their political or ideological beliefs.

I am also happy to note the willingness of both the administration and opposition members of the Philippine Congress, as well as our local officials to work together for the nation's good, a sure sign that the political healing process has started. I am also gratified to witness the collective resolve to deal with the threats to law and order which equally lessen us all.

Right now, we cannot confront the report which was made over a radio station in Mindanao, about the supposed killing of a hostage. The military has alerted its intelligence network in Mindanao, to get a verification of the Abu Sayyaf's claim that they have beheaded Mr. Guillermo Sobero. If the Abu Sayyaf's claim is accurate, it only emphasizes the fact that it is a merciless, ruthless group that has no qualms at all in murdering an innocent person for the sake of ransom money.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms this reported beheading of Mr. Sobero. To murder and even behead a helpless person is as ruthless as it is cowardly. The reported murder of Mr. Sobero only strengthens our resolve to decimate once and for all this cold-blooded bandit group. Sabaya's statements that the beheading of Sobero is a gift to our government on the occasion of our Independence Day celebration. That our troops should look fast for the headless body before it is eaten by dogs. That they did a dastardly act, to prove that they are not kids making empty threats, underlies the ghoulishness and viciousness of the Abu Sayyaf.

They emphasized the death and cruelty which this group is capable of. It shows that this terrorist group has trampled, and will trample on all the values of humanity. Sabaya has even trampled on Islam, when he threatened to behead even the ulamas, or religious leaders for appealing to him to release his victims.

We acceded yesterday to their request, that the Malaysian citizen participate in the talks with them, after they threatened to kill an American hostage, if we did not do so. After we made the announcement, the terrorist leader, Sabaya, even announced over the radio that they would no longer push through with their threat to kill a hostage. With his claim, he has beheaded Mr. Sobero. Sabaya does not even honor his own word.

Nonetheless, I am confident that as a united people, we will surmount our difficulties and achieve the progress we so desire, through our own efforts and in active cooperation with all your governments and peoples.

On this note, Excellencies, allow me to offer a toast to the understanding and friendship among our peoples and to the health and success of the heads of state of your respective countries.

Mabuhay!

Source: University of the Philippines Diliman Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd Mindanao Budget Summit, June 22, 2002

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd Mindanao Budget Summit**

[Delivered at EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City, June 22, 2002]

I am happy to be with you, to be with the people of my childhood home, the people of Mindanao. I am glad that we are holding this, not in our backyard in Mindanao, but in the population center of the Philippines. It is because I believe that unless we, including the rest of the Philippines, come to terms with Mindanao, we will never attain our full promise as a nation, much as America had to overcome its baggage of racial inequity and prejudice in order to become the great democracy that it is today. Thus, we must arrive at a national consensus on the principles to guide our search for peace. I would like to take this opportunity to outline to you and to the nation once again the consensus that I have been offering to our people.

One principle is that our ultimate objective should be both peace and development. A second principle is that our framework should be based on constitutionality, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. A third principle is that our society is a multi-ethnic one which should be founded on social justice for all, and the institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions. Christian and Muslim, Chinese and Spanish, Tagalog and Cebuano, these are but a few of the names to which the Filipino responds in a wondrous testimony to our rich and varied heritage as a nation.

To these three broad strategic principles, I would add a fourth operational principle. In our search for peace, there is no role for terrorism or inhuman brutality. Such acts must be universally condemned and addressed decisively.

In dealing with Mindanao, our principle is that all reasonable efforts must be exerted to safeguard the lives of innocent victims such as hostages. But when it becomes necessary to use our police and military forces, we must extend them M1 moral and material support, for their lives are at stake. Thus, there must be clear objectives that the population can understand, and therefore rally around. That is why I'm glad we have dialogues like this.

This is a great day for us to meet. I think the Lord planned it this day. Dongkoy Eman kept postponing it because he wanted to wait for the day after the killing of Abu Sabaya. I think the Lord wants me to use this occasion to reaffirm today my determination to enforce law and order. The people must be safe in their homes and places of work. They must be safe not only in the cities, but in the farms, in the hinterlands.

I renew this commitment to you, the people of Mindanao, the people whom you represent in Mindanao. The Abu Sayyaf is virtually finished, and we will not stop until we account for all of them. The leader of the Pentagon gang has escaped, but we will hunt him down.

I shall strengthen the capability and discipline of our military and police forces. But as far as the escape of the Pentagon gang is concerned, I have already told Secretary Joey Lina and Generals Larry Mendoza and Jun Ebdane that they must immediately discharge the guards who were in charge of guarding the Pentagon gang, aside from charging them criminally. But more than that, General Ebdane has accepted my challenge that he must eliminate kidnapping within one year. He has put his job on the line in his promise to comply with that challenge.

You have seen the excellence of our troops in "Operation Daybreak" leading to the rescue of Gracia Burnham. You once again saw the excellence of our troops in the battle yesterday. You have witnessed the bravery of our soldiers under heavy fire on land or at sea. They stand on guard in faraway detachments.

I feel that the move they made transferring the policemen of Pasay and putting them all under training is good but rather weak. They should have dismissed immediately the ones who were directly involved. Hence, this shall serve as our new ethic in the drive for peace and order. Anybody who blunders will be discharged as well as charged immediately.

We shall upgrade the high quality of soldiery we already have. We shall put the police back in high regard of the public. We shall modernize equipment and facilities. I think we would not have been able to get Abu Sabaya yesterday or even rescue Gracia if we had not been able to avail all the modern facilities of the US forces in Balikatan. We shall continue to train with our foreign allies.

We shall strengthen law and order because we want to free our people from the tyranny of lawlessness and terrorism. I am not speaking only of the rich or privileged. I am speaking of ordinary people who get held up in jeepneys or who get victimized by snatchers in the streets. I am speaking of the likes of Ediborah Yap who had to endure poverty only to fall into the hands of terrorists. I am speaking of the people of Mindanao who earn their money through sweat, only to be taken by bandits.

Our problem in Mindanao is rooted in economic exclusion. And the axis of poverty is often crossed by the axis of terrorism. I am not saying that poverty is the cause of terrorism. Evil is the cause of terrorism. But poverty and the sense of powerlessness it brings are the spawning grounds where terrorism can more easily spread its evil ideology. Thus, the war against terrorism is also a war against poverty.

As a child growing up partly in the town of San Juan, then part of Rizal, and partly in my grandmother's farm in Lanao, in Mindanao, I saw the world of difference between the lives of the middle-class suburbanites in San Juan and the impoverished tenants and farmers in Lanao. I saw the grinding poverty in the Muslim areas, the same poverty which still pervades the Muslim areas in Mindanao. Today, these areas remain the poorest within our country. These continue to have the lowest human development index in our country. It is doubly tragic for them that they live next to thriving communities like Davao, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, and Zamboanga City. Undoubtedly, poverty is at the root of our national security problems in Mindanao. In fact, poverty is our most basic national problem, just as it was when I was a child.

That is why I want to find jobs. Jobs for our people in order to be able to fight poverty. That is the reason why I travel. Many of you had been with me to look for investments, ODA, and jobs for our people. That is why I am doing power sector reform. When I came to the presidency, our power rates were the second highest in the region, second only to Japan. We need this power sector reforms because NAPOCOR has been so inefficient all these years. Government is not a good manager. Its debts have been a major contributor to our public sector deficit. That's why it must be privatized.

You will see your electric bills come down in July because I told NAPOCOR that they should bring down their power purchase cost adjustment (PPCA) which is part of PPA. I told NAPOCOR to bring it down to 40 centavos and this will be reflected in the July billings. When this is reflected in the July billings, we will now go down to number six as the most expensive electricity rates in the region. We will jump over four other countries in terms of competitiveness.

In my State of the Nation Address last year, I said I will bring our war against poverty to rural Mindanao and to areas affected especially by past conflicts. Let me just therefore mention a few projects where I personally had a hand in working out.

For instance, we are fast-tracking negotiations with the World Bank for the ARMM social fund for peace and development, and the Kapit-Bisig or Kalahi Program for non-ARMM areas. This is our major World Bank project for the year. While it usually takes the World Bank a couple of years to work it out, we have to work out our budget cover and the World Bank is willing to begin it this year. These projects will be our core poverty reduction programs in Mindanao.

My visit to President Bush was the occasion for that World Bank commitment. That visit also resulted in a doubling of the help of USAID, which had dwindled to a token after the removal of the US bases.

I just came from North Luzon where we have many dynamic LGUs that are very active getting money from the ODA sources. They knew that globally we had a doubling of our USAID budget as a result of my visit to President Bush. They tried to access from that fund only to be told, "Sorry, the bulk of the increase is for Mindanao." I had just come from a griping session from those who say that too many resources are going to Mindanao.

Nine months ago, I inaugurated the diversion dam of the Malmar irrigation project. I hope by this time the system can now service 5,600 hectares of new riceland. I understand that 1,700 hectares are now actually being planted. My personal choice for NIA is a son of Mindanao – Jess Paras of Cagayan de Oro.

The modernization of key transport facilities is evidenced by the Mindanao International Container Terminal at PHIVIDECA in Misamis Oriental. Funds don't move on verbal promises alone, funds move on documents and on actual budget releases for counterpart and budget cover. It was in my administration that this project was able to begin at the cost of \$100 million from JBIC.

Construction is going on in the airports in Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato, Pagadian, Butuan, and Dipolog. This was delayed for five years because of problems of land acquisition. The Asian Development Bank, exasperated by the five-year delay, actually gave notice to cancel the project. But we have been able to save Dipolog and Butuan. We are trying to save Pagadian and Cotabato, too. You have to have some technical competence to be able to bring development and not only verbose pronouncements and strong words of support and braggadocio.

The Laguindingan Airport was a landmark project of the Cagayan de Oro-Iligan Corridor Area Development, whose master plan I supervised more than 10 years ago when I was still undersecretary of trade and industry. As President, I am dismayed that it is not yet on the ground, so I am instructing incoming Secretary of Transportation Leandro Mendoza to give it the highest priority.

The DOTC and the PPA, in coordination with the DA, have initiated steps to implement the logistics cost reduction program that should lower the cost of transporting Mindanao products to the rest of the country. Now I want Cito Lorenzo, Deputy CORD for Region 10, to see this negotiation through with a win-win solution because on the one hand you have the business users; on the one hand, you have the port workers. There must be a win-win solution for both.

The Zamboanga-Pagadian Road is the longest Philippine road not in terms of kilometers but in terms of construction time. I have travelled this road many times in various positions over these years. I have travelled it as a private citizen, as DTI undersecretary, as senator, and as vice president. I know how important the road is. I also know how bad the road is. When I was a new senator in 1992, there was a legislative-executive meeting about the public works act, and as part of my asserting my independence as a senator I said, "I will not support another flyover in Metro Manila unless the Zamboanga-Pagadian road is constructed." Thank God that during my presidency it will be completed by 2003.

The construction of the second Magsaysay bridge in Butuan City bypass road is also ongoing.

Speaking of roads, the ADB has already pledged funding for the construction of the Basilan Circumferential Road, the Cotabato Diversion Road, and the Lake Lanao Circumferential Road. This Lake Lanao Circumferential Road is very close to me because it was my father who started that road. My father always used to say that Lake Lanao is more beautiful than Lake Geneva. I may also add that Dansalan market can be more beautiful than Maraqush market. We, therefore, hope that we can fast-track that Lake Lanao Road.

And of course, the Basilan Road which has been the aspiration of the people of Basilan all these years. If they had the Basilan Road all these years, the Abu-Sayyaf would not be able to act as kings in those hinterlands the way they have been doing before the killing of Abu Sabaya. In the meantime, the American Seabees are helping build the Basilan road. The military exercises of Balikatan 2-1 will end on July 31st as scheduled while the military portion of

the military exercise of the Balikatan will end July 31, the Seabees and their security escorts may continue to work on their construction projects. Before or on July 31, we will inaugurate the Basilan Airport that the Seabees had upgraded.

Tonight President Bush will call me up about many things and Balikatan will be part of our conversation. While the military training portion of Balikatan 2-1 will end on July 31, we can start the next Balikatan immediately. As a result of the clamor from people all over the country, the next Balikatan will be more geographically spread out, unlike this Balikatan which had been concentrated in Basilan.

Over the past year, we have also moved to put the BIMP-EAGA back on track. I hope that the travel tax exemption which I have extended until 2004 has spurred the increase in the mobility of people within the region, along with the opening up of the Davao-Manado, Indonesia air route by Air Philippines, and the Zamboanga-Bongao-Sandakan-Sabah sea route.

Enhancing security cooperation in the greater framework of ASEAN and within EAGA is crucial in restoring investment confidence. The Trilateral Agreement we signed with Indonesia and Malaysia should strengthen border controls and enable the countries' signatories to apprehend criminals and terrorists plying our common waters. This will prevent another hijacking of tugboats the way it happened a few days ago.

We must vigorously undertake measures to contain the negative image of Mindanao and reflect the truth that Mindanao as a whole is secure. Tourists and investors should feel reassured when they visit or invest in Mindanao. I have been telling the whole world about how Surigao's crime rate is two out of 100,000 when the world's standard is eight out of 100,000. There are many places in Mindanao where statistically you can prove that Mindanao is safer than many parts of the world.

I am also instructing the DA, the NIA, the DPWH, the DILG, the DENR, the DOTC, and other concerned agencies to realign all their regional budgets with area-based development programs such as the Davao Integrated Development Program, the Socsargen, and the Metro Cotabato Development Alliance. They should not make their own regional program separate from these area development plans. I have observed that the reason why some area development plans were not being funded was that departments were doing their own regional budget priorities outside the development areas because they thought the development areas will have their own special budget which was not the case. Let me, therefore, make it very clear. These area development plans must be the regional development plans of the national departments as well.

Because government has extremely limited funds, we have to exercise fiscal discipline as a strategy for development. The fiscal discipline that I exercised last year was the litmus test for the capital markets. It was the reason why we graduated from negative to stable in the international credit rating agencies. It was also the reason for our present low interest rates, our present low inflation rate, and our present stable peso. If we bloat our budget deficit in the name of more projects even it is a project for Mindanao, it will be counterproductive. It will result in runaway inflation, sky high interest rates, and peso devaluation. Then it would not be worth all those projects.

I hope, therefore, that the Mindanao leaders – and I consider myself a Mindanao leader because of my childhood in Mindanao – will all continue to help find solutions to the many challenges of peace, development, sovereignty, and social justice.

Maayong buntag sa inyong tanan ug daghang salamat.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching of the 10-Point Plan of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching of the 10-Point Plan of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM)**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, June 28, 2002]

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the power sector industry. Please sit down. And through you the rest of the people of the Philippines. Headlines are always about politics, but my work is focused on two important things — I've said, how to squeeze blood from stone, which means how to bring down the power rate some more. And the other one is how to address the problem of peace and order.

On the problem of peace and order, we are now having a major battle in Sulu, in Patikul, right in the camp where the Abu Sayyaf was born way back in 1995. This is where Japilon is and this is where Janjalani is probably hiding today. And I believe we have overrun four camps on the way to the main camp so that's one offensive that's going on and let's wish our soldiers well.

On the NPA front, a major training camp is also the subject of an offensive in Palauig, in Zambales. And you know about the revamp going on in the PNP. I would like to say that the principle of command responsibility was applied strictly on the issue of illegal gambling. This a dress rehearsal as far as I'm concerned for applying the rules of command responsibility more strictly on the more challenging issues of kidnapping and drugs.

Now, on the power sector reform and how to bring down electricity rate some more, which I said is like squeezing blood from stone, but we've got to try. First, let me give you a brief on what we have done so far. We have created the TRANSCO, the PSALM. The Transco is the transmission company which owns the transmission lines. It is a monopoly, to remain a monopoly but a regulated one and it will be privatized and continued to be regulated even when it is privatized. We have created the PSALM — P-S-A-L-M — standing for the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation. This is the new thing in the financial world after the 1997 Asian crisis — Asset Management Companies to take care of non-performing assets and disposing them in the most efficient way. And this is what psalm is doing for the non-performing assets of the power sector.

We have reconstituted the Energy Regulatory Commission. What used to be the ERB is now the ERC — more independent, not in-charge of controlling retail prices except for transmission, but with the power to review PPAs cost structures and introduce transparency in the pricing scheme in the power sector. We have also promulgated the implementing rules and regulations to the power act, the grid code and the distribution code which is needed by our investors, because we are selling Transco to our investors, we're selling the power generating companies to the investors. I have also issued an executive order on tax equalization. This was a requirement by senate if we wanted to get the power sector reform law through.

Two days ago, the ERC promulgated its decision on NAPOCOR's petition for unbundling. NAPOCOR was asking for a 17-centavo increase in its rates. The ERC instead said that it must reduce its rates by 6 centavos, and I am ordering NAPOCOR to follow that. Not within 30 days a new submission but if they can follow it within 6, within one week then they should do it. So we can get more relief. President kilala is nodding.

Today, we will promulgate the rules of the wholesale electricity spot market. And so, rather than I will spend... Do my speech explaining what is the wholesale electricity spot market, another new term — we already have the PPA,

PSALM, Transco, ERC — now it's... I don't know what we'll call it, WESM? Since that's one of our ten points in our comprehensive program to squeeze blood from stone, we might as well discuss it in terms of what this 10-point program is all about.

Now, may I summarize the 10-point plan to reduce power rates and make them more competitive.

First, we want to reflect the true cost of service. In layman's language, I think we have seen that happening with ERC did with the unbundling of NAPOCOR and with the cease and desist order to MERALCO sometime ago which has resulted now in lower electricity rates this month. And next month, we will see further reduction of electricity rates because of my instruction to NAPOCOR of last May 8. Under this first point, we shall ensure that the consumers are only charged the true and fair cost of electric services, and only for power services they have enjoyed and used. Well, for one thing, one of the things that ERC disallowed in terms of NAPOCOR is that we don't use the appraised value of the assets for purposes of computing depreciation, cost... Resource based. We use the purchase value so that they don't make money twice. They already make money on depreciation. They shouldn't use that as part of the base for how to compute the rate of return. Or we shall eliminate charges from onerous contracts. That's why we need to review the IPP contracts and other contracts as well that the ERC is studying and regulatory loopholes. I'll give you an example of a loophole that the ERC was able to plug — the valuation of assets, the appraisal of assets. Acquisition rather than market changes is the base for valuation of assets, and that has helped bring down what NAPOCOR should charge for an increase of 17 centavos to a decrease of 6 centavos.

Second of our ten is to introduce a "declining block" rate structure. Vince Perez has already spoken about this. It had... It was headline news in the business frontpage of the bulletin. What's the meaning of this? We shall introduce special pricing incentives for large consumers of electricity especially business and industries to reduce the cost of overcapacity and in the process also encourage expansion in manufacturing and commerce. Meaning, for the first, I don't know, 100 kilowatt per hour you charge a rate for the next 100 kilowatt per hour. Ah, no, no, for the first hundred kilowatts you charge so much, for the next hundred kilowatts or so you charge a lower rate. So the more they use the less unit cost they pay, therefore, it will be cheaper to produce more products. Also, therefore, they will use more electricity and that will reduce the excess capacity which is the source of the PPA.

Third is that we will optimize the utilization mix of NPC power plants. What we mean here is that — again, layman's language. The experts will forgive me for inaccuracies but we have to explain this in layman's terms at the cost of some accuracy — there are different power plants, different fuel mixes with different cost, different efficiencies. And let's say, for instance, maybe in the daytime we use more; in the nighttime we use less. So in the nighttime, what will be the source of power? We should use, we should get it from the plants that cost less, not from the plants that cost more. So we have to find out the different efficiencies of the different plants. And this requires a lot of homework and I intend to stay put in Malacanang to help do that homework.

We will optimize the utilization mix and dispatching priorities of NAPOCOR power plants in ways that result to lower blended costs. That's the meaning of that in technical terms.

Further, we shall review and upgrade the country's power development plan to better distribute generation capacity in relation to load centers, upgrade our transmission system and minimize the vulnerability of the power grid from blackouts. Remember what happened to the last two blackouts, part of that is the result of not knowing which ones to turn on, which ones to turn off, etc. So we have to... And if we are gonna look at the whole power sector development plan and review it, I will lead that review. So please, those who want to invite me to speaking engagements, spare me because I need the time to read the development plan instead and redo it.

This will include the transfer of power barges and matured b-o-t plants to regions where they can be better utilized and the enhancement of NAPOCOR Genco's by providing them with better markets and quality supply contracts. The easiest of course to transfer will first be the power barges. They'll be transferred where there is oversupply to where there is undersupply. And we may even transfer land-based plants as well.

Next, slide number 7. What number is that? It's by slides not by the number. Okay, next one of the 10 points. Accelerate operation of the wholesale electricity spot market. And that's what we are doing today. Actually, we are

late, the deadline for this is end of this month. So, we are just putting up the rules. So we're late, I want to accelerate this. I understand that within the ERC it's Oliver who is in-charge of working on this. So, I'll worked with him so we can speed it up.

We will promote the early establishment of a competitive wholesale electricity spot market. What will this do? It will provide a trading platform for power price competition and give power users a fair and transparent way to determine realistic power costs.

Oh, tell me Vince if I'm putting it the right way. You know China, china owns most of the companies in China, state-owned. But each company is managed as its own profit center and competes with other companies. Napocor owns all these power-generating companies right now, and decisions are made in Napocor. What we will do is make each one of these companies a unit in itself, managed in itself in competition with other units. And they will do their independent pricing schemes according to their own cost structures, and then they will compete in the spot market. Again, at the risk of being inaccurate but so somehow the public will understand what some of these gobbledygook can mean. I don't know if this is the right place to put it but you know again, I talked about daytime demand, nighttime demand. You have different levels of demand and therefore you can have different spot prices. And so, this is what we should be doing. And so this is part of the reforms to bring down electric rates.

Next of the 10 points is to accelerate implementation of 'open access.' 'open access' means that the big buyers, those who buy more than what? One megawatt of electricity, can chose which generating plant they want to buy it from, or which power company they want to buy it from. Of course everybody goes to the one transmission line. So you just pay a toll fee for the one transmission line. But different companies charge different rates so you can chose from them, that's the meaning of 'open access.'

The law says that we should do this within 4 years. But depending on how the industry players are willing to do it, we could accelerate this. Because consumer choice will certainly provide for greater competition and lower prices. So we will accelerate meaningful 'open access' to give end-users the freedom of choice in their power supplies. Correspondingly, we shall provide them with the genuine supplier alternative through competition and encouragement of new players in the electric industry power sector.

I understand — but I will still talk to the Meralco executives. Unfortunately, Chito Francisco and the Lopezes are out of the country — but I understand that they are willing to provide 'open access' even if that might mean a loss of market for them as long as we also remove cross subsidies.

Now I ask Napocor and doe, how will the power rates look if we remove cross subsidies? And when they showed me the numbers I saw that Luzon is subsidizing the Visayas. And if we remove cross subsidies at this time the Visayas will suffer an extra what? One peso per kilowatt hour increase. So, we still have to have Luzon continue to subsidize the Visayas but for the moment, but we must work to make the Visayas power sector more efficient. We have to find out what makes the Visayas power sector less efficient than Luzon. And if we can work on that then we can remove cross subsidies. Because it would not make the Visayas suffer so much, and then we can bring in 'open access.' so this is part of what I will study. So, rather than going to the Visayas, I will stay in Malacanang and study the Visayan power sector.

Next of the 10 points is to promote efficient performance of distribution utilities. Promote the efficient and competitive operations of franchise holders of electric distribution utilities by prescribing measurable standards of consumer service. We will shift to new rate setting methods that better protect consumers, assure integrity in procedures, and close all loopholes without necessarily denying the utilities right to earn the legal and fair return for their investment and services.

What's the meaning of this for a layman? Again, right now it's rate on return base — cost plus how much they're allowed to earn. If they're costly, you just add what they are allowed to earn. So, in that sense if that's the rate structure there's little incentive to reduce their cost. But if we begin to look at the loopholes in the cost structure then we begin to go to performance. And we have to do a lot of benchmarking here. What are the most efficient firms? What's their cost structure like? What's their capital expense per number of consumers? What's their overhead

expense per number of consumers? How many executives with fat salaries do they have per number of consumers? You know, these are the things that we have to look at, and as I said, to help speed it up I'm willing to look at those cost structures myself as well.

Then another of the measures of the 10 points is strengthen and consolidate electric cooperatives.

We have to seek long-term solutions to problems of rural electric cooperatives and strengthen them as distribution utilities in preparation for deregulation as mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act. It is hoped that strengthened electric cooperatives will be able to bring down retail electric's rates in the rural areas.

Again, just to give an example. Tell me if I'm right, Father Silva. In Leyte they are complaining, there are source of indigenous power how come they pay higher power rates. Well, number one, because the power coming from Leyte is more expensive than the power coming from Luzon, right Vince? But number two, because the electric cooperatives in Leyte are not efficient. So we have to do some drastic measures. We have to consolidate. We have to consolidate electric cooperatives going to the Visayas. We have taken over the AKELCO, have we not? Because it was inefficient. It even ended up with the power being cut-off. But we just had to do it even tourist were there to drive home the point that we have to make the Aklan electric cooperative efficient. We have taken over also the Basilan electric cooperative, why? That big fire in Basilan which incidentally... In that squatter area where incidentally a lot of Abu Sayyaf's live and some of them were victimized. Why did that fire happen? Because electricity in Basilan fluctuate. I know that because when I spent the night in Lamitan, in the convent, electricity was fluctuating that night — sometimes it was on, sometimes it was off. Minutes on – off. And, so what the people in the squatter areas did was that they just had candles. And of course when you have a candle in a shack it's very easy to start a fire. So, BASELCO has been taken over also by the electric administration, NEA.

I'll give another example, Negros. Not all the electric cooperatives there are efficient. They'll have to be consolidated and maybe we make the most efficient one run the rest. Forgive me father for pre-empting your job but from what I've seen, for instance, maybe the one that that's in Kabankalan is the most efficient. So, therefore... Aha! You see, I'm right. Thank you, father for affirming me. So, therefore, maybe that electric cooperative should be the one to run the rest of Negros. These are gonna be difficult to do but I will oversee them to make sure they're done.

Today I had a call from Northern Samar. 'Cause that's also electric cooperative, right? Because apparently there's a request for unbundling. I mean, of course ERC has to do all the unbundling but the Northern Samar unbundling comes with an increase, projected increase of two pesos per kilowatt hours. So the oppositors are telling me, please don't conduct anymore hearings. We don't want unbundling if its gonna give us an increase of two pesos per kilowatt hour. Well, I cannot tell the ERC what to do, I can only propose. And I would propose that instead of having further hearings, look at the cost structure, examine it. And I'm gonna ask DOE also to do it and NEA. Because if NAPOCOR from its 17-centavo requested increase actually can bring down its charge by 6 centavos, I think the two pesos increase that whatever northern Samar electric cooperative is asking for covers a multitude of sins that should be uncovered. So I'm going to ask Vince Perez and NEA to look at that, okay. So much for the electric cooperatives.

The other on the 10-point program is to review the IPP contracts and seek to reduce contract costs.

We are supposed to complete the review of Napocor's IPP contracts at the end of this month. Not all of them will be completed. We're late, but I said whatever is completed must already be submitted so that we can begin the renegotiations.

So, we will review the contracts as operating agreements by benchmarking for competitiveness, fairness and onerousness in the context of when the contracts were signed. I mentioned benchmarks earlier, such benchmarks shall be based on legal, financial and technical standards. We will reduce the stranded cost through the renegotiation, restructuring, or non-renewal of Napocor's IPP contract as may be necessary. And again, I told Vince if the other side is hardballing call me and I'll sit in the negotiations.

Another one of the 10 points is to explore financial engineering methods, which we have already been doing. That's why we are able to reduce Napocor's PPCA to 40 centavos which will be seen in your bills by next month.

This means exploring all financial engineering methods to reduce the burden of the remaining stranded cost on the consumers without unduly affecting the development and pro-poor priorities of our national budget. Which means that this thing about what? Passing on the cost to the people. That's not a good argument against it. Because what we will do must still be within budget deficit ceilings. And in any case, if you don't do this, you will pass on the cost to the people anyway by higher stranded costs.

Then, finally and this is number 10. We will help enhance the institutional capability of the energy regulatory commission.

We encourage the ERC to assert its mandate that's why, as I said, we can never tell them what to do. We can only propose. It is like our relationship with the Central Bank — we respect them, we encourage them. We encourage the ERC to exercise its mandate and broad regulatory powers to correct the errors of the past, assure a more orderly unbundling of rates and transitioning to a deregulated system, promote a competitive energy sector, and establish safeguards and clear rules so that the electric consumers are protected.

These then are our ten points to try to squeeze blood from stone. We've already squeezed much because if you remember when the law on a PPA was passed, right there was a 30-centavo reduction. And when in... Sometime in May, May 2001 there was a reduction, in April 2001 there was a PPA reduction of 20 centavos. And then this month because of the cease and desist order there was a further reduction. And next month there will be a further reduction because of Napocor's bringing down its PPCA to 40 centavos.

Today, our power rates as I said are number 2 in cost to Japan, which makes us uncompetitive there. But the July billings we will be number 6 overtaking Singapore, Hong Kong, Cambodia and Brunei. Number 7 is Korea. So my next goal is to overtake Korea, which is really considered the most competitive, attractive country for investment in Asia today, next only to China.

So, let's all continue to work with that. So from here we will be signing... I will be witnessing the signing of the promulgation of the investment of the rules and regulation of the wholesale electricity spot market which is number 4 of our 10 points. After this, I will preside over a meeting of the industry players. Actually, I asked Vince, I want to meet the industry players. Well it so happened we're signing an... You know, we're doing a launching today. So, it's okay, do it in Malacanang so we can have the meeting. So I asked the media to cover my remarks first so that they can have their story before their deadlines about the 10 points. It's optional to look at the... To take, to cover the ceremonial launching of the rules. But then after that our discussion on how to carry out the 10 points at ground level is already going to be within the industry itself. And we will excuse the media.

So, I thank you very much for being here. And yes, let's try to squeeze blood from stone because with God all things are possible.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Launching of the 10-Point Plan of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225041/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8320&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 179th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 179th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA)**

[Delivered at the PMMA Grandstand, San Narciso, Zambales, June 28, 2002]

Maraming salamat, Governor Vic Magsaysay sa iyung napakagandang pagpakilala sa aking kagandahan. at salamat din sa iyong suporta at tulong sa akin hindi lamang sa lalawigan ng Zambales kung hindi sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng aking trabaho. Thank you very much, Governor Magsaysay.

Binabati ko rin ang mga officials ng PMMA, Rear Admiral Aris; binabati ko rin si Commandant ng Coast Guard, Vice Admiral Ruben Lista, outstanding alumnus ng Philippine Merchant Marine Academy; si Rear Admiral Partor Ramos; at 'yung aking kasama sa helicopter na dumating ngayon. Hiningi ko na sumama sa akin, si Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas na maging bisita rin dito; si Chairman ng CHED, Ester Garcia; at saka si P.A. ng North Luzon Rene Diaz.

Binabati ko yung mga tiga-rito, si Mayor Lim, Mayor ng... Saan si mayor? Nandiyan ba siya? Ah 'yon, nagsalubong sa akin kanina, thank you mayor; at saka si Tong Payumo, yung isang pinanggagalingan ng maraming trabaho dito sa Zambales, SBMA chair.

Salamat rin Father Brucelas sa inyong dasal kanina; other municipal and town mayors present here today; members of the graduating class of 2002; PMMA Board of Trustees; PMMA Alumni Association Members; the deans, faculty and staff of the academy; the officials and representatives of the shipping and mining agencies; the presidents and representatives of state universities and colleges of Region III; the parents; the family members and friends, and members of the graduating class; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I am happy to be here in your prestigious academy. Sabi nga nila, first time na ang pangulo ay nagpunta dito sa PMMA in your almost 200 years of existence because I want to convey to you the expectation of our country and the international community that from your academy comes the best merchant marines of the world.

Naka-tikas pahinga ba kayo? Okay, wala kasi tayong troop... Yes, troop commander, please give the order 'tikas pahinga.'

To our graduates, I share the joy of your parents, teachers and friends. We anticipate happy and productive endeavors in international waters.

Sa mga graduating students dito, lahat kayo may trabaho na. Third year pa lang kayo may trabaho na kayo kaya congratulations sa inyong lahat.

For those who will listen to me on national T.V., the PMMA is not a new institution. It was the Escuela Nautica de Manila set up in 1820. It is the oldest merchant marine school in the Philippines. Later it was the Philippine nautical school as renamed by the Americans, and finally the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy during the time of my father, the late president Diosdado Macapagal. Since then your school has consistently been our country's premier maritime academy — kayo ang PMA ng merchant marines. You are the main source of qualified officers for

international commercial marine fleets, pero sa inyong mga graduating students dito, doon din nanggagaling ang ilang naval officers at labingdalawa nga sa inyo ang magiging coast guard officers ni Ruben Lista.

I congratulate Rear Admiral Aris and the rest of your academic family. They have sustained the academy's mandate to produce efficient and well-trained merchant marine officers. The officers have carried on the noble mission of "expanding international trade in peace and serving as naval and military auxiliaries in times of war and national emergency."

Alam n'yo — well, alam n'yong lahat pero hindi alam ng lahat — na 'pag kayo ay nag-graduate sa PMMA, automatically, kung hindi man kayo pumasok sa coast guard, kayo ay automatically reserved forces ng ating Philippine Navy.

And in keeping with our requirements to promote honest, orderly and peaceful elections in July of this year where the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, represented here by Northern Luzon Commander Rodolfo Garcia, General I would like to ask you for those who are not yet going abroad or on their ships from this batch and from previous batches, to please enlist and mobilize the services of the reserved officers of PMMA for your mission for July 15 and the events preceeding that.

The PMMA has adhered to highly exacting global standards in training, certification and watchkeeping. And the International Standards Organization or ISO 9001, your graduates are among the most sought-after in their fields.

You have a 95 percent average passing in the national board exams, and all of the passers are immediately given jobs by international shipping companies. Lahat ng mga bandera doon ay 'yung mga shipping lines ay nakahelera na para maka-hire na sa mga graduating students ng PMMA. The PMMA is the source of 10 percent of the 50,000 Filipino deck and engine officers working in various shipping companies. It is difficult to equal this record.

We have been able to guarantee the continued employment of Filipino sea-based workers when aside from our excellent products such as the graduating students today, our country took last November again another slot, the sixth slot, in the 32-member council of the International Maritime Organization. This is our third consecutive election to a two-year term. Our membership in the IMO council affirms our resolve to uphold all conventions, protocols and resolutions of this international body and also it enables us to protect the interest of the Filipino sea-based workers in the international policy-making body.

The power of sea-based Filipino workers lies not only in your industry and competence, but also in your vital contribution to our economy. Sea-based workers give us two billion dollars a year in annual remittances, this is a crucial buoy for millions of dependents among our people. Every year, six billion dollars are sent to us by overseas Filipinos. And of the six billion dollars, two billion or one-third comes from our sea-based workers. And if we talk about the PMMA alumni, they give us annually 100 million dollars in remittances. So, i thank you especially for that.

You know, our GDP growth rate this year is 3.8 percent, GNP 4.9 percent. By both counts, the highest in Asean and the third highest in Asia. The difference between 3.8 and 4.9, the difference between GDP and GNP is the contribution of our overseas Filipinos and again one-third of that comes from our seafarers. And thank you for that. And that's why I'm here because I look upon the PMMA as one of the institutions that will perpetuate the greatness of the great Filipino seafarer. The welfare of our overseas human capital continues to stand as a priority of my administration.

You deal with many agencies. But let me clarify which one is the main counterpart of the seafares in my government. It is the Department of Labor and Employment and its attached agencies. That's why Pat Sto. Tomas is here upon my personal invitation. What has pat done for our seafarers? She has reduced processing time for vital documents needed by our overseas workers through a computerized system that has cut OFW documentation time by half. Sea-based workers can now process your papers within six hours when in the past you had to do it in 12 or more hours.

The DOLE has also set up the flexifund to encourage OFW savings for personal and future investment needs. Not that you need so many savings, because our young men and one woman graduating today have jobs waiting for them with a starting salary of 2,500 dollars a month. Congratulations to all of you. And if you want to use part of that savings to buy houses for your families back home, the HUDCC (Housing and Urban Development Council) has special housing programs to facilitate the ownership of OFWs of their homes. And I ask Pat Sto. Tomas to work out a special means by which part of the 80 percent that they must remit to the Philippines can be allocated to housing for their relatives.

To secure the jobs further of our seamen, I brought up the issues of job security and promotions before Japanese ship owners when I visited Japan last may. The ship owners assured me they will continue to hire highly-skilled Filipino seafarers and will allow qualified Filipinos to take the exams for management positions in Japanese vessels. So I congratulate our PMMA, you are not just training our young men and women for being merchant marines. You are training them for being merchant marine officers all over the world especially Japan.

The welfare of our overseas workers is best protected through a sound domestic economy. We must ensure that what you labor for abroad is not frittered away by runaway inflation in the Philippines. That's why we are pursuing economic and fiscal policies that have been effective in holding down inflation and keeping the budget deficit from ballooning while increasing domestic capital formation.

At the level best understood by the public, we have managed to keep the price of rice steady since 2001 while the price of commonly used medicines has been cut in half. Well, nasa Zambales tayo, siguro i'll give a scoop. Sa Lunes yata mag-aanunsyo ang Australia tungkol sa kanilang trade policies, at sa pagkaintindi ko bahagi ng anunsyo nila ay 'yung pagbukas ng kanilang palengke sa mangga ng Pilipinas. Sana kasama ang mangga ng Zambales doon.

Though electricity makes up not more than 5 percent of the budget of the Filipino — while food makes up 50 percent, and we have kept the price of food down — I inherited the problem of high electric power costs, but I have already instructed NAPOCOR to bring down the PPCA which is a component of the PPA. I have told napocor to bring down its PPA to 40 centavos and our people will see positive results in your July bill. After this commencement exercises, I will fly back to Malacanang to preside over the launching of the wholesale electricity spot market which is one of our 10-point program for seeking to bring down the price of electricity.

I will use this afternoon's events to begin to unveil the 10-point program that energy Secretary Vince Perez and I have been working on to squeeze blood from stone, which is... Meaning exhausting all ways to rollback the cost of electricity some more. I did not invent the purchased power adjustment problem, I inherited it. But rather than spend my energy fingerpointing, I would rather spend my energy looking for solutions. And I ask you, young graduates, your families, the people of Zambales and the people of the Philippines to support me in this effort.

Two days ago, the oil companies announced that they have cut back the price again of oil. This cut is beyond doubt the result of the free enterprise policies that our government has been promoting. And i want to take this opportunity once again to thank our transport companies because they did not raise their fares even when the price of oil was going up. Now that the price of oil is going down again, let's give them a change to recoup their sacrifices, so that when the price of oil goes up again, because in free enterprise it goes up and down, they will again not raise their transport fares.

The goodwill our OFWs abroad and our overseas seamen is somewhat diminished by security concerns in our country. Resolving our peace and order problem is as important to me as getting our country back on the growth track because peace and development always come together.

What does the world say about our efforts at peace and development. Last June 24th, U.S. president bush told the American people in a speech he made regarding homeland security, and i quote: "this weekend I called Gloria Arroyo," said bush. "I called Gloria Arroyo, the President of the Philippines, to congratulate her on her country's steadfast desire to rout out the Abu Sabaya killer organization. This is the organization which captured the Burnhams. They're nothing but cold-blooded killers. They may espouse some kind of doctrine; they have no regard for innocent life. I told Gloria early on in the fight that we'd help her. If she wanted us to take on the enemy with

her, we'll be glad to do that, too. And she said, 'no, we'd like your help to train so we can go get them.' and she did." End of quote.

An hour later Bush told the American Congressmen, and again I quote: "this weekend," he said, "I had the honor of calling Gloria Arroyo, the President of the Philippines. They have this Al Qaeda-type terrorist organization that captured two Americans as well as other people. The wife lives free today in America; the husband unfortunately died. They're called Abu Sayyaf. Early on in the war I said, (Bush said) they're there in your country. We'd like to help you. However, you want the United States to help, we want to help. Anytime these terrorists light, we're after them. And I called her, (Bush saying) and congratulated her on what looks like the demise of the head of the organization, totally disrupting it. Either you're with us or you're against us, and she proved she was with us. And I want to thank her for her leadership." This quote of President Bush was met by the Congressmen with thunderous applause.

This is how the most powerful leaders of the world look at us. This is how the world looks at us. And I pray that the Filipinos could have the same faith in my administration.

Two days ago, bush again made the following statement regarding the war on terror, and I quote: "we've had some great successes. One of the most recent successes, of course, is Gloria Arroyo in the Philippines." Going on to what Bush said, he said, "she's a part of our vast coalition. She said, early on we need to get after the Abu Sabaya group and she did it. And to her credit, it looks like the leader has met his demise. The Philippines is better off for that and so is the world." End of quote.

Now, even if we have significantly diminished the ranks of the Abu Sayyaf, I have ordered the AFP to scour the jungles of Sulu for the four remaining Abu Sayyaf leaders. I told them, "phase out the search for Abu Sabaya." Sabi ko, imbes na hinahanap n'yo ang patay, hanapin ninyo ang buhay. Hanapin ninyo 'yung apat na buhay na Abu Sayyaf leaders. And they started doing that. Itong gustong-gusto ko sa military, they really follow orders. Sinabi ko ito two days ago, and yesterday, the day after I gave my instruction, at dawn they started a dawn offensive on the main lair of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu. This is the lair of Japilon and I understand Khadafi Janjalani is there with him. The fighting is still ongoing, and it will probably go on for two days more. We lost one fine lieutenant in yesterday's encounter, along with several other marines. Your colleagues have been heroic not only in Sibuco bay where it was our sailors, navy and marines who were able to get Abu Sabaya, they are also there giving up their lives again in Sulu, together with the other elements of the Philippine Armed Forces. Our forces will relentlessly hunt down these criminals until they are all accounted for.

Here in Luzon there have been terrorist cells as well, not to mention criminal elements like kidnapping syndicates, and I congratulate the police for the strong measures they have done to neutralize the terrorist cells here in North Luzon. I would like you to do more with regard to kidnapping.

As you know, what has been hogging the headlines especially in Central Luzon is a major revamp going on in the Philippine National Police as a result of a very strict interpretation of the rule of command responsibility on the issue of illegal gambling. I would like to let the people of Central Luzon and the Philippines know that these are rehearsal for a bigger challenge of applying the rule of command responsibility on kidnapping and illegal drugs.

These are the challenges and realities of the world as you our young men and one woman are entering the world of the great Filipino workforce. You and past PMMA graduates have been doubly fortunate. You have chosen a sector where the great Filipino workers has a great reputation, and your being graduates of PMMA assured you even last year of immediate jobs.

When you sail out of our shores, keep in mind that you represent a nation renowned for workers of skill, industry, competent and integrity on the job. Strive to add to the good name of our flag.

When you leave your homes temporarily for a sojourn at sea, I hope you will remember that the people back home work just as hard as you do to enable the ship of state to move forward to peace and progress.

Congratulations and good luck to all of you!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 179th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224943/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8319&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City, July 03, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Ging Deles. Of course Ging knows what I went through yesterday because she was with me when we went to Camp Abubakar. I thank her for coming back and for being here and for introducing me because Ging is the partner of civil society in the corporate sector in corporate social responsibility.

Last night I watched TV and I saw Ramon del Rosario there in the coverage of this conference. And I congratulate you Ramon for sharing what seems to be such a successful conference on corporate social responsibility. Congratulations.

I'd like to greet also Bobby de Ocampo; Rory Tolentino; Joey Cuisia. And I would like to greet the presidents of the various business clubs, and the distinguished guests especially the U.N. Assistant General Michael Boyle.

This morning I was putting thoughts down from what I would tell you today. In other words, I started to write my speech this morning and I went to my computer and I put a title "Corporate Social Responsibility" and my computer flashed that title already exists. So I looked at the title and it was my speech of last year because remember many of you were here last year — no, not here in Malacañang.

In other words many of you and I were together last year during the 2nd observance of corporate social responsibility week — it was July 2nd. And now again we are here in a bigger community this time to renew our commitment to social responsibility because corporate social responsibility even if we did it last year, we must do it again this year because it will continue to be relevant as long as the poor are with us.

Over 24 million of the 75 million Filipinos, or one out of every three among us, are poor. And they will likely remain poor and have children and grandchildren who will most likely remain poor unless we, and they themselves, do something about it.

I thank you, the business sector because even as we have just survived yet another global slow down. We are just celebrating today the 5th anniversary of the collapse of the VAT, and then that was 1997 and we had another one last year. And we have just survived that emerging as the best performing economy in Southeast Asia and the third best performing economy in Asia, business is again sending the message loud and clear that Philippine business is unequivocally committed to corporate social responsibility. And I thank you for that.

The philosophy behind corporate citizenship is the belief that the people — our people — are more than consumers, more than laborers, more than hired help. Corporate citizenship acknowledges that we all belong to one society, and that we are all responsible for the well-being of one another, beyond business and beyond politics. It recognizes the special role of institutions such as business corporations in being responsible for the welfare of our people beyond your role, the role of the people as consumers and employees.

For example, there is the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines under Donald Dee's leadership, and I am looking forward to visiting their factories where they will be selling at 50 percent discount products of other participating corporations in one another's commissaries so that it will be a salary augmentation for the workers.

And though the federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce is not here today I thank them because ... Oh there you are John, sabi nila wala ka dito, okay — John Ng is here after all — I thank them because in one of the slides that you saw in the presentation of Rory they were giving something to Frank Drilon, and that was, together with Frank Drilon, the federation will be building its school building programs which it has been having all these years but it will converge with my list of the barangays where no school buildings exist. This is a great partnership, great convergence between corporate social responsibility and government response.

And when I spoke before them in the various celebrations of Independence Day and Philippine-Chinese Friendship I also told them that in the area where Gracia Burnham was rescued that is the triple SB area which is bigger than Basilan — Siraway, Sibuco, Siocon and Baligyan — and it is an area of great poverty that is why the Abu Sayyaf have a lair there not to mention all of the other lost commands. And I asked them also to build school buildings there. So they gave an additional seven million pesos for school buildings in SSSB area, plus two million pesos for hybrid rice so that the people of SSSB can become self-reliant and empowered to provide jobs for themselves and lift themselves out of poverty. Another example of corporate social responsibility that is in sync and converging with government priorities.

And in this conference you have presented concrete action and I'm glad for it. I am gratified to see the leaders of the league of corporate foundations, the coordinating entity for corporate social responsibility week last week and now one of the participants, as well as the presidents and officers of the different business associations all working in concert to fight poverty.

I commend and encourage some very positive approaches you are undertaking.

Your consolidated private sector program is an appropriate strategy as we in government are also seeking to converge our own social programs. This assures us of maximum reach and cost-effectiveness. We must pool resources. We have to work in close consultation not only within the Philippines but also across the Pacific.

I am impressed with the link of the Philippine corporate social responsibility sector with counterpart organizations beyond our national boundaries. We have so much in common with our Asian brethren in this fight. And I am glad that this is now an Asian conference not just a Philippine conference, and I'm glad to hear that next year it will be in Indonesia. In other words, it will be an annual tradition — we could all learn from one another.

Today the biggest concrete economic problem in our country is unemployment. Thirteen percent of our work force, almost five million people in absolute number, are out of work. And I believe that the most important imperative for corporate social responsibility today, and for government programs for that matter, is to attend to this army of the unemployed, either providing them with emergency employment, or empowering them to become self-employed, or re-engineering them to qualify for the jobs available, or providing their minimum basic needs if they absolutely cannot find work.

When we were looking at the report of Rory and she talked about past — the past pie and there was this big portion on human services and the second biggest on livelihood and employment — and I was whispering to Ramon and to Bobby, "but now I think there should be more on livelihood and employment because that's our biggest problem," only to be so happy that in a later slide when she presented the pie for you plans going forward — in fact the bulk of what you're going to do — will indeed be for livelihood and employment. And so here is another convergence of thought, I think we think alike — government and the corporate social responsibility sector — regarding our priorities.

And through market ties and economic complementarity, our alliance against poverty is deeply embedded in the Asean. This alliance must be further reinforced by deeper economic ties with countries and groups of countries

beyond Asean — China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India, the United States, the European union — and it is good that we have the Assistant Secretary of the U. N. With us here today.

And this is why this conference is important. And so I'd like to congratulate and thank the organizers of this Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility — Bobby and the Asian Institute of Management, Ramon del Rosario and the AIM's Ramon del Sosario Center for Corporate Social Responsibility, and its organizing partners among them the lead of the Corporate Foundations and the Philippine business for social progress — for getting you all together in this worthy endeavor.

To particulars, I am happy that you have an excellent working relationship with Ging Deles, Dinky Soliman, and other officials principally in charge of our Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan, or Kalahi, which has been mentioned many times earlier. This program brings to the community level the convergence of our strategic thrusts in combating poverty.

The specific pledges from your community can help push forward the Kalahi program, and they can also inspire similar acts of generosity from private enterprise. We are bent on working closely with the private sector and with people's organizations and NGOs to make a dent in finding jobs and livelihood for our people so as to fight poverty.

I would especially like to seek your support indeed therefore for the thrust of increasing employment opportunities for the poor. Last year, when I met the Corporate Foundations of the Philippines, I asked for a particular support for emergency employment for our out-of-school, out-of-work urban poor youth in Metro Manila. I'm still asking for that and Kalahi covers that. But in addition, looking at the concrete conditions of the Philippines today, I need your help even more for the out-of-work thirty-something generation in the urban areas in Luzon outside of Metro Manila, because these are areas of great unemployment.

In preparation for my State of the Nation Address last July 22nd, I have been holding a regional development council meeting in all regions. Like yesterday I was in region 12 aside from Abubakar for an RDC meeting of Region 12. The day before, I was in Region 11 for an RDC meeting of Region 11. I have only two to go, Metro Manila and Region 7, and in this regional development council meetings and inspections I discovered an irony: that the most progressive regions in our country are the ones with the highest unemployment. It's natural when you think of it because job-seekers will go and when they can't find a job they don't go back home anymore they try to make ends meet one way or the other, also those regions that are richest are also the regions the greatest discontent.

In analyzing surveys, non-satisfaction of the people I found another irony: not only is the discontent greatest in the regions with the highest income, by income classes, the discontent is also greatest among those in the highest income brackets — the ABC. You are the ABC, and I ask that you include as part of your corporate social responsibility to keep the faith.

As your President, I may make mistakes, although if you look at it most of my mistakes are political, not economic policy. And therefore, the fact that I make political mistakes left and right — but I keep my economic policy correct — I wish you would recognize therefore that my focus on my duty as President is not distracted by political considerations.

I wish you would recognize that I am a President who keeps my word. Last year in my State of the Nation Address I spelled out in concrete, quantitative targets, my program of government. I have asked your NGOs, Dinky has asked the various NGOs especially the AIM. to validate the report card of those targets. I hope that you will see the NGOs doing the validating that I am complying with those targets. And therefore, that when I say I will do something, I do it. And that is the simplest meaning of credibility.

Indeed we must work together. Kalahi is our focused program for direct intervention in poverty reduction at the community level.

And I welcome your idea of a privately managed fund, a privately managed Kalahi fund, so to speak, that will pool new moneys and initiatives which you and the public at large might want to contribute to our job creation and

livelihood program. This will be a mechanism to enlarge participation in the Kalahi to include smaller companies and Filipinos from all walks of life, as Rory Tolentino said.

Because the greatest discontent is ironically in the rich regions, deprived barangays of rich regions are priority areas for me and for Kalahi.

Another of the ironies I have seen is that insurgency in the Philippines is strongest in the richest regions of our country — Regions III and IV are the richest regions of our country and yet it is where insurgency is greatest. I believe it is not that richness causes insurgency or that poverty as a whole causes insurgency because then the insurgency should have been greatest in the poorest regions. It is also because we had a secessionist insurgency in ARMM, we have an insurgency, a strong insurgency in Region 5 which is the second poorest region. But why do we have strong insurgency in Regions III and IV?

You know the middle, the middle provinces are quite stable. There's only one NPA-influenced barangay in Region I. There's only, no, I believe no NPA-influenced barangay in Region II. So those that are in between the richest and the poorest are quite politically stable.

It's easy to understand why there's insurgency in the poorest regions but why is there insurgency in the richest regions?

I believe that it is the contrast that the poor barangays feel between their economic exclusion and the affluence of the urban centers which are so near and yet so far as far as they're concerned. I believe this was also a great cause of the secessionist movement in Mindanao — not the poverty of Mindanao as a whole because Mindanao's growth rate is higher than average, the natural average. I believe it is the contrast that the muslim communities have been feeling all these years between their economic exclusion and the affluence of the Davaos, the Gensans, the Cagayan de Oros.

Yesterday, as mentioned by Ging, I was in the conflict-affected areas in Mindanao together with her. There which is poor hope is rising in the communities. We went to what used to be Camp Abubakar in the driving rain as Ging said because we caught the typhoon, couldn't fly there so we had to go by land through roads that are of course very rough, rivers without bridges. And when I got there in Camp Abubakar, where, again, when I was going to go there yesterday, it was interpreted that I was going to go there to turn over the camp to the MILF. On the contrary, when I got there I instructed the 603rd infantry brigade of the Philippines to permanently transfer its headquarters from Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao to Camp Abubakar.

The Philippine Army will carve out 50 hectares of the 2,000 hectares that make up what is called Camp Abubakar. These 50 hectares will be the new permanent home of that brigade, and this will no longer be called Camp Abubakar. It will be called Camp Duma Sinsuat, named after the first muslim cabinet member in history — my father's cabinet by the way — but he was a man known for his great integrity. As for the rest of Camp Abubakar, we will stop calling it that I said, we will call it what the Philippine Government maps say it is: the towns of Barira, Buldon, and Matanog — that's what they are. We will do this to strengthen the right hand of the government — the hand that enforces sovereignty and peace and order.

On the left hand, however, we will reach out anew to our MILF brothers by inviting them to participate in development.

Yesterday the American Ambassador was with Ging and me and shared our adventure. In fact he had a bigger adventure, his car got stuck in the middle of that raging river where boulders usually fall down when there's a typhoon. Well, before his car got stuck his USAID colleagues had the opportunity to tell the people in the community about the successful USAID program providing livelihood enhancement to former MNLF combatants. Ambassador Ricciardone announced that the USAID today is ready to extend this program to an initial 300 returning MILF combatants.

So I have sent word to the MILF, through the back channels, for its NGO created under the recent peace agreement to immediately nominate 300 returning combatants so that they can demonstrate the blessings of being back in the fold of Philippine society and sovereignty.

What UASID is doing in the MNLF and the MILF barangays in Mindanao, I hope the corporate foundations will do for rebel returnee barangays in Regions III and IV and maybe even IV. I hope, well you have enrode, I am looking forward that you will fund or even run Kalahi programs for the some one thousand or so NPA-influenced or infiltrated barangays in these regions.

As I said, Regions III and IV are rich, but there are barangays of great economic exclusion, and therefore great threats to national security.

Our soldiers are now clearing these barangays, in Regions III, IV and mostly through civil military operations, because if they're already influenced it hard for civilian government to go in ahead. The soldiers must go in but they usually go in and say, "we are government, we are good guys, we care for you let us help you." Sometimes they succeed, no, many times they succeed. Sometimes they are resisted, militarily and therefore it turns into armed offensives. But once these barangays are cleared, whether peacefully or through an armed offensive — and many have been cleared over these past month, no, these past month, just these last four weeks — our Kalahi programs must enter those barangays immediately, because Kalahi is the face of the government for those deprived areas.

If Kalahi fails to come in immediately for lack of funds or lack of manpower or lack of machinery, a vacuum will be created once again and the insurgents will just return. So this is where i hope corporate social responsibility will be directed at this time.

In closing, let me commend once more the corporate social responsibility community of our country for consistently leading the business sector in addressing your social responsibilities. While we have been through some very trying economic times — and we are still through some emotionally trying times — your commitment to maintain, and even enhance your level of your exposure in various social development programs, provides our government with the flexibility it needs to focus its resources on other urgent national priorities especially, for me now, bringing down power rates and enforcing peace and order in Metro Manila.

Having achieved most of the targets I set out in last year's State of the Nation, that's where I find I still have to do a lot of work. And so I have set for myself these two specific objectives as the challenges that I must concentrate on: squeezing blood from stone every centavo that the power rate goes down matters for our competitiveness; and also enforcing peace and order, getting rid of the kidnappers, getting rid of the drug pushers especially with a new organization of the PNP that is supposed to come about tomorrow.

In working together, I hope that not only will we be able to find jobs for the poor together, but I also hope that we will be able to revive the bonds that brought us together in EDSA — the bonds that might have been loosened lately by some failed expectations. Instead of faulting me with some vague failure to inspire or to lead, I wish many of you would remember that I grew up together with many of you.

Joey and Ramon and Bobby, we were teenagers together, remember? We would see each other at parties. We even danced with one another during our jam sessions in our high school and college years. Therefore, all these years you have known me, you have known my personality. And you have known that even when I was President's daughter I was not flamboyant, not charismatic, just a plodder and a hard worker.

And yet knowing that I am not charismatic, flamboyant, theatrical, electrifying, magnetic, you still gave me a landslide for senator in 1995 and for Vice President in 1998. But I would like to tell you those who've known me for all these 30 years, I am still that same person you enthusiastically supported for Senator and Vice President. I am still the same person as that Senator who gave straight-forward explanations of economic bills in the senate rather than brilliant exposes, privilege speeches and investigations, but who steered those bills into some of the most useful economic legislation that you are still using in your business lives today. I am that same person.

And I hope that we can level expectations. Don't expect me to say electrifying things if the last 30 years i never did. Don't expect me to do them now in the next three years. But expect me to continue plodding and to continue producing the good macroeconomic numbers that provide you today with a stable business environment in a world outside that is still slowly recovering from trauma.

Work with me on the ground, on those Kalahi areas where there is no glamor, no star quality, but where the drudgery of consistent hard work and dedication to specific objectives will, with your faith, provide jobs and a better life for our people.

We cannot give up. We must not give up. It is in constant trying, in relentless struggle, that we manifest our compassion.

Let us continue to work together. Let us do what is right. Let us do our best, and let's pray for God to take care of the rest.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224937/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8362&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 33rd National Marketing Conference of the Philippine Marketing Association, Inc. Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 33rd National Marketing Conference of the Philippine Marketing Association, Inc.**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Westin Philippine Plaza, July 4, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Gordon, our country's Chief Cheer Leader; President Anoonuevo; other officers and members of the PMA (Philippine Marketing Association), ladies and gentlemen.

I am happy to celebrate this Marketing Conference with you. In our free enterprise system, marketing is crucial for increasing production and creating jobs. Thus, I am happy also to announce to you today that I have proclaimed July as National Marketing Month.

Marketing is about competitiveness, and our quest for jobs in a free enterprise society is about making our country competitive. Thus, we have lowered the cost of capital by disciplining our budget deficit, and we will continue to discipline our budget deficit. While we started this year with a big deficit, it is smaller than the one that we had at this time last year. And yet at year end — even though last year at this time, we had a bigger deficit than now — we were able to attain at year end our target deficit ceiling. And the international credit agencies, therefore, adjudged us as stable.

Now for the deficit this year. Let me quote what Bloomberg reported yesterday. The title of its report was "Budget Concern Cools on Report." and the text of the article said, and I quote: "the nation's deficit narrowed in May, suggesting government efforts to increase tax revenue and rein in spending are now working. The deficits fell 19 percent in May from a year earlier to 24.6 billion pesos. While the deficit grew faster than the government projected in the first five months of 2002, finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the nation is still committed to meeting its full-year deficit target."

So, that is one way by which we continue to work to make our country competitive. Because by keeping our deficit in check, we keep our interest rates low. And the interest rates in my administration had been the lowest that they have been in so many decades.

Also, to make our country more competitive, we have taken measures to reduce the cost of power, and I believe those among you who might have received your July bill are now seeing much lower electricity rates. What you are seeing is the fruit of our administration's work in the energy sector.

Last May, I told Napocor to bring down the Purchased Power Cost Adjustment or PPCA — which is a part of your PPA — to 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour. and this is now reflected in the July billings of the consumers. With these July billings, the Philippines is now no longer the number two most expensive country in Asia in terms of electricity rates. Now it is just number 6, because with the July billings, we have overtaken Singapore, Hongkong, Brunei and Cambodia.

To continue the effort to make our power rates competitive beyond this immediate term and into the short, medium and long term, we have put a comprehensive ten-point program in place to reduce power cost further. And I ask your association to support me in this effort.

One of the ten points for reducing power rates some more is the review and renegotiation of the Independent Power Production contracts.

Yesterday, the IPP Interagency Review committee headed by Secretary Camacho and including the Secretary of Justice, presented to me the results of their review of all the 35 IPP contracts. Now, this is the reason why the Malacañang Press Corps is here with me today. So, let me give you the highlights of their committee report. of the 35 IPP contracts, the committee found that:

First, six contracts passed the review with no legal or financial issues. so, they go on and operate, and the rates are more or less fair;

Eleven contracts, while passing the legal review, have some financial issues that need to be addressed to assure that the government and the public are not being financially prejudiced. And maybe, in this review in order to make the public less prejudiced we might be able to find room for some more centavos decrease;

Two of the contracts, while having some remedial policy issues, however, were found to be financially sound. So, probably, you can't squeeze any blood anymore from those stones;

Eleven contracts have some financial issues that may require renegotiation of the financial terms. More serious than the first eleven contracts I told you about. And maybe this renegotiation might bring about some bigger decreases in power than the previous eleven;

And lastly, five contracts were found to have both legal and financial issues that need to be referred for appropriate study, whether renegotiation or possible legal action or both.

Of these five contracts that are both legally and financially problematic, two are not operating. So, even if we renegotiate them or file legal action they won't result in lower rates,. But the other three are the ones where I said, we should prioritize because legal action takes longer than negotiation. However, the threat of legal action also makes negotiation faster, hopefully. of the latter five contracts, therefore, the ones with clear legal and financial issues, I have instructed the Department of Justice and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Manager or PSALM to work together to formulate a plan of action for renegotiation and/or legal action.

For the twenty-two contracts requiring the study or renegotiation of certain financial terms, it's just a matter of degree — some are more disadvantageous than others — I have instructed the Department of Energy and PSALM to initiate the necessary steps to arrive at an acceptable renegotiation of the issues. Because they're legally okay but financially there is room for negotiation.

For the two contracts with some remedial policy issues but which are financially sound and the rates are probably as best as they can be. I have instructed NEDA to coordinate with the DOJ to review these contracts.

I have given these agencies — these are DOJ, DOE, NEDA and PSALM — three months to take action on these contracts and come up with the results of renegotiation, policy remedy or legal action. So I hope that now that you have a big decrease in your electricity bills, this action will result in some more decreases along the way. But you as marketing managers know that negotiations don't happen overnight. But at least there's something to look forward to over the short or medium-term depending on how easy or how difficult the renegotiations will be.

In this, we will see that we shall endeavor to further reduce the cost of electricity for the consumer while respecting the rule of law and the validity of legal contracts. In other words, we cannot unilaterally just change the rates. Where there is a legal issue, we must go to court. and when there is no legal issue, well, you as business persons know that negotiation is a two-way street. and this is consistent with the mandate of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act and our goal of rationalizing the power industry.

To enhance our country's competitiveness, it's not just the interest rate which is very important. It's not just the power cost which is very important. The other horizon we must attend to is law and order.

This morning I presided over the turnover ceremony of the Philippine National Police. I challenged the new PNP Chief General Ebdane, Jun Ebdane, to eliminate kidnapping in one year. and the better news is that he accepted the challenge. But he will not be without expert help. In Jun Ebdane's battle against kidnapping syndicates, he will be assisted by a special task force headed by the Mayor of Davao City, Mayor Rudy Duterte.

I directed Jun Ebdane to call a Summit on Drugs and Kidnapping this coming Monday. Where he said, "Patawad naman, it's Thursday already today." "o, so Jun eh 'di kung tawad kailan mo gusto?" "o sige po, Tuesday," sabi n'ya. so, we will have a kidnapping summit on Tuesday. and I expect this summit to clearly define once and for all, all the parameters of command responsibility in the police including the application of due process, which the whole PNP organization must understand and accept. After this, there will be no more excuses.

To make our country competitive and attractive to investors, we must also be on the ball in world affairs. Why did Malaysia become competitive? Because Mahathir was there in world affairs as well as in the internal reforms and so on.

And so on July 15th, I shall assume in concurrent capacity the post of Secretary of Foreign Affairs. I shall make sure we strengthen the international linkages that would enable us to be at par on conversational basis not only fight terrorism and uphold the law everywhere but to be able to sell our goods and services everywhere.

There are eight realities of the regional and international environment which will guide my foreign policy:

First, the paramount influence of China, Japan and the United States in the security and economic evolution of East Asia;

Second, the growing context of Asean in world affairs.

Third, the role of the international Islamic community;

Fourth, the looming importance of inter-regional organizations;

Fifth, the protection of our environment, natural resources and our marine territory;

Sixth, the drive for foreign markets and foreign investment, in which Europe is also a major source along with the U.S., Japan, China and Asean;

Seventh, the importance of international tourism;

And eighth, the crucial role of overseas Filipinos in our socioeconomic stability.

In the great endeavor to find jobs for our people in order to win the war against poverty, every little thing helps. and I am confident that the Philippine Marketing Association and the business, consumer and retail communities will respond to this call.

We need marketing to further strengthen our bilateral relationships with other countries. We need marketing to expand production, support consumption, create a bullish investment sector. and not just investment sector but to create a bullish environment. We need marketing to have cheer leaders who will tell our countrymen, "hey! there are good things happening in our country." We need marketing to promote the natural wonders of the Philippines to the international and even to the domestic market.

Seeing you all here gives me confidence that we shall stand out in the end. I appreciate your faith in the Philippines because it is you the marketers of the Philippines who can spread out this good faith to the rest of our countrymen.

Again, I want to take this opportunity to tell everyone that we should set aside divisive politics and focus our energies on freeing our people from the bondage of unemployment and poverty.

I also call on our business people to add a social dimension to the usual bottomline concerns. I urge you to create more jobs as you expand. More jobs translate to more purchasing power in the economy. More purchasing power will increase effective demand for goods and services, which would increase sales and profits. We must sustain this cycle of progress and stability.

You can, of course, directly or indirectly involve your companies and yourselves personally in social welfare activities as well. An act of kindness inspires reciprocity. Let us flood the country with acts of humanitarianism. After all, we are in this together. As your conference theme puts it, “stand out or lose out.” That’s what Dick Gordon said, “yeah! we’re like that.” but we’re not going to lose out. Did we lose out last year? Our neighboring countries, our trading partners have not done as well as we have, even if we think we have not done as well as we would want to have done. and so, we did not lose out last year. We didn’t lose out the first part of this year. As the best performing economy in Southeast Asia and the third best economy in Asia, we are not losing out. So, let us stand out because we must not lose out.

We must close ranks and ride on our collective buoyancy to face the steep challenges in the horizon. I shall be counting on you, the marketers of the Philippines. Kailangan ko kayo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the 33rd National Marketing Conference of the Philippine Marketing Association, Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224918/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8359&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine National Police (PNP) Change of Command Ceremony
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine National Police (PNP) Change of Command Ceremony

[Delivered at the Camp Crame Grandstand, Quezon City, July 4, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Joey Lina. Napakaganda ang pagpapakilala mo sa akin.

My very esteemed predecessor, predecessor din ni Larry Mendoza at ni Jun Ebdane bilang PC Chief at as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, also the supervising general for four major service commands including the PNP or the PC-INP, Former President Fidel V. Ramos; our two generals in the turnover today — General Mendoza, now Secretary of Transportation and Communication. And I greet the other Cabinet members as well. And Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and the other officers of the Philippine National Police; our very supportive congressmen who are here today — Congressman Teodoro, Congressman Torres, Congressman Aquino; General Roy Cimatu, happy birthday to you today, July 4th; the other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; our very supportive governors who are here today, deputies all of the National Police Commission — Governor Tommy Joson of Nueva Ecija, Governor Martin Petilla of Leyte, Governor Vic Magsaysay of Zambales; members of the diplomatic corps; other local officials; parading elements; co-workers in government; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Troop commander General Lansigan give ‘Tikas-Pahinga.’

This is a good day for a turnover of the Philippine National Police Command. So far, the weather is cooperating with us. But as I was leaving Malacañang, I was told that the policemen and the policewomen have said that ‘rain or shine’ our ceremonies will be in these parade grounds because it’s been a long time since we had a formal ceremonial turnover. Last January 21st 2001, Larry Mendoza did not have the benefit of ceremonies such as what we are having today.

And today, Larry Mendoza hangs his uniform after 38 fulfilling years of service. Awaiting him as he leaves the police force is a bigger job in the Cabinet. Larry, my guidance for you as you make your career move is work with Bayani Fernando to solve the traffic problem in Metro Manila. Bayani Fernando is here to wish you well in working with him. Work with Tony Bernardo to cleanse the waterfronts all over the Philippines of smugglers and goons. You know, Tony Bernardo told me that unlike his sparring partner, Rene Bañez, whose crooks are white-collared crooks, Tony Bernardo’s crooks are blue-collared crooks, they are not only smugglers, they are goons. And the more I decided that I need a tough cop to help him there. I need a tough cop in the streets of Metro Manila and the ports of the other cities. That is why Larry Mendoza is going to be... Is now, in fact, the Secretary of Transportation.

Larry came well-prepared for the top PNP post, and he is well-prepared to be the top enforcer of our streets and waterfronts, carrying a PMA diploma, a run of assignments along the entire breadth of police duties and two masters degrees. But what makes him a cut above the rest are his outstanding trustworthiness, steadfastness and a tenacious drive. Such qualities came into public view in the tense days of EDSA dos, also in the May 1st riot last year, and in several other occasions that tested the inner strength of many police officers. Larry Mendoza as tough cop led his men well. And how he cared for and loved his men.

Half of Larry’s speech and half of Joey’s introduction of me was all about the benefits that our police force have gotten during this past year-and-a-half. And why? Because Larry would constantly nagged me about salary adjustments, retirement pay and other benefits especially the salary adjustments that the law had provided for ten years ago. And now, it is fitting that as he leaves his post in the PNP this month of July, now the policemen and policewomen, and police officers he is leaving behind will feel your pay increases this July.

This July, not only will the average policeman, together with many other households... No, not only with the average policeman feel an increase in his pay, the average policeman together with the average households starting this July will also feel a reduction in electricity rates. But let's go back to the policeman who will also feel the big salary raise. Starting July, police master sergeants will be receiving — because Larry said that police directors have a higher pay than cabinet members — well, for that matter, police master sergeants starting July will be receiving a higher pay than the salary of military brigadier generals. That is why when I found out about this, that is why I certified and I thanked the congressmen that they have passed the law increasing the soldiers' pay as well. And incidentally, we will begin to phase in the implementation of the military salary increase at the end of the year.

Going back to Larry and his nagging me about police benefits — we nag each other all the time. As he nagged me about police benefits, I also nag him about the further professionalization of the PNP. And so, in order to increase police visibility and deter crime especially kidnapping, during Larry's term he hired new policemen, a new policemen all college graduates. As he mentioned in his accomplishment report, he had his policemen and policewomen, old and new, trained and retrained as needed.

I believed that the salary increase and the professionalization of the PNP is on its way to making PNP an attractive force for our good elements in the community to join. Last year, Larry hired 1,700 policemen. And again, I'm grateful to the congressmen and the senators because for this year they provided a budget for another 4,000 policemen, so that we can have 5,000 new policemen and women. And for these 5,000 openings, we had 30,000 applicants all of them college graduates, all of them civil service eligibles. And I hope this augurs well for a real professional image of the Philippine National Police.

Whatever might be the casual observation, Larry's achievements are cast on the record. Statisticians might lie but statistics don't. Our crime solution efficiency index now stand at 90 percent in kidnap-for-ransom cases. The resolution rate was better in the year 2001, Larry's year, than the year before with 63 percent of the cases solved compared to 48 percent the year before. And this 63 percent solution rate is so far the highest solution efficiency for kidnap-for-ransom cases in the last five years.

The market for illegal drugs was significantly downgraded in the year 2001. We had our biggest hauls in the drug raids last year. We confiscated 500 kilograms of Shabu in Quezon province. Ay! Congresswoman Dumarpa. Ito namang ating mga male chauvinist protocol officers, hindi sinulat 'yung pangalan ni Congresswoman Dumarpa noong babatiin ko yung mga Congressmen natin.

Anyway, going back to Quezon province. I want to take this opportunity — Larry said that he doesn't want to praise all the officers that did well during his term. And I can't do that also. But let me just mention today three of them along the way just to set as an example and illustration. In the case of the shabu raid in Quezon province, let me praise the provincial director of the province of Quezon, Colonel Roberto Rosales, and his men for resisting the bribery temptation and catching the biggest fish caught so far in our whole history of our drug wars. Then, let me point out the raids on the laboratories in Batangas and Zambales which netted a total haul of 1,300 kilograms of shabu. These three— Quezon, Zambales and... Ano 'yung isang probinsya? Batangas — are the largest drug busts ever in the history of our crime fighting.

Now, that's enough for Larry Mendoza because he's already getting embarrassed. I used to tell Mendoza, you should project yourself like Elliot Ness because that's what you are. But he's always been so shy even when I wanted to project him like Elliot Ness. So, therefore, having pointed out some of Larry's dramatic achievements, let's move on to the next Elliot Ness, the most senior and the most logical successor for the post of chief PNP. And this is general Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr.

Jun Ebdane is no less well-trained than his predecessor. No less experienced, no less highly educated. His field assignments are no less varied than his predecessor's. His support and protection of me during the difficult days of the impeachment crisis were no less devoted than that of Larry Mendoza. And Jun Ebdane comes very well endorsed by the Filipino-Chinese community and two former presidents, in addition to his seniority and in addition to my own personal assessment of his loyalty and capability.

I have asked several Filipino-Chinese why do you love Jun Ebdane so much? And he said... And they say because Jun used to be the head of the Western Police District. And in that stint, he impressed the Filipino-Chinese community with his outstanding integrity. And after that... Or was it before? He was head of the presidential guards in President Aquino's time. And then he was deputy head of the Presidential Security Group in President Ramos' time. President Ramos and President Aquino both have been telling me enthusiastic stories about the loyalty and reliability of Jun Ebdane.

It was especially, the special trust of the Filipino-Chinese community that I considered when I named Jun Ebdane the head of the controversial PAOCTF, and then the head of the anti-kidnapping task force of the National Anti-Crime Commission, which I created especially to fight kidnapping after the abolition of the PAOCTF.

The anti-kidnapping task force under Jun Ebdane has improved the resolution rate of kidnap cases with its two-pronged approach to kidnapping. One approach is neutralizing the syndicates and the other approach educating the community. Jun Ebdane and his chief Larry Mendoza brought down the incidence of KFR cases with Chinese-Filipino victims by 63 percent.

With Jun's ascendance to the top post of the Philippine National Police, I am now abolishing the anti-kidnapping task force under the NACC. And for that matter, I am abolishing the NACC. I am giving Jun the total accountability and responsibility for kidnapping. And I have challenged him to eliminate kidnapping in one year. And the better news is, Jun Ebdane has accepted the challenge. But while he has the responsibility and the accountability, he will not be without expert help. I am happy to announce that in Jun Ebdane's battle against kidnapping syndicates, and also the continuing — and it will be an

Improved battle against drug lords Jun Ebdane will be assisted by a special task force to be headed by Davao City Mayor Rudy Duterte.

But of course, as battalion commanders are the backbone of the military, the backbone of the PNP are the provincial directors. And so, I make a special call on all our provincial directors to help your new chief PNP enforce the law — all laws, including our anti-gambling laws and especially our laws against kidnapping and illegal drugs.

In connection with this, I have Directed Jun Ebdane to call a summit on drugs and kidnapping, similar to the summit called by Joey and Larry on illegal gambling that they held last April. I ask Jun to call the summit for this coming Monday and he said, "ma'am, can you give me some time because I have to put it together." "okay, Jun. How much time do you need?" "instead of Monday, can I call it on Tuesday?" That's what he said. So, Tuesday you will have this summit.

What are my expectations of this summit? In this summit, aside from your operational agreements with one another on how to fight kidnapping and how to fight drugs more effectively, I also expect this summit to clearly define the parameters of command responsibility with respect to kidnapping and drugs, including the application of due process to the principle of command responsibility in the fight against kidnapping and

Drugs. I also expect that these parameters will be understood and accepted by the whole PNP organization. And after that, there will be no more excuses.

I want command responsibility to be interpreted both ways. For errant cops, the commander will share the blame. As I said earlier in the military, the more frequent the bungling happens, the higher the command responsibility goes. But the same for good things. For good cops, the commander will share the credit. For instance, it was one of the men of the provincial director of Quezon who resisted the bribery attempt but the provincial director shares in the glory.

May I also cite — again, I said I can't name all but I have to cite from top of the mind recall — I would also like to cite the provincial director of Pangasinan, colonel Boggie Mendoza for his spectacular success against kidnapping syndicates and terrorist cells in Pangasinan. And so I have asked Joey Lina to appoint Boggie Mendoza as the provincial director of Pampanga to clean up the syndicates in the province of Pampanga, my home province.

I must also make special mention of the police office in Baguio City, whose members held their ground against a group of crooked cops who wanted to bribe their way in obtaining a custody of a drug suspect. I am ordering commendations given to the faithful cops in Baguio including their station chief under the principle of command responsibility. At the same time, yesterday, I instructed Larry Mendoza to make as his last act as PNP chief, the dismissal of the wayward cops and the relief of their commander. Command responsibility towards the good and command responsibility related to the bad.

I have to say in all candor that despite all that Larry Mendoza and Jun Ebdane and the police force have accomplished — worthy as all these may be and I mentioned some of the more outstanding of them, but not all so many outstanding feats — we still have an image problem, you and I, regarding peace and order. And in all candor, I think we do have some operational problems that we have to address, you and I. We are in this together and we must be united to face the challenge.

The first thing we must do to unite and face the challenge is to get rid of internal politics. I am glad that in his speech, Jun Ebdane used the acronym, 'ONE' (O-N-P) — one police. It is not just an acronym, it is a crying need for the Philippine National Police of today. Let us get rid of the division and the intrigue that is threatening to rock the organization. I call on all of you, senior officers of PNP, think of the institution, think of the country. Let us get our act together. Let us get our job done.

The country was able to do it in the case of Abu Sayyaf. Yes, there were intrigues and rivalries, too in the battle against the Abu Sayyaf — military versus PNP, marine versus army, this commander versus that commander. In the end, everybody got his act together and we have won against the Abu Sayyaf. Now, we must do it in the case of kidnapers and drug lords.

Our police should not rest until our people can feel not as 'be' but feel safe and secure in their homes, in the streets, in their places of work. The Filipino people demand 100 percent service from their policemen and they deserve no less.

Not only the ordinary citizens but the business community needs peace and order for the macroeconomic horizon to provide more jobs for our people. We also need law and order for tourism, for investment, for enterprise. And without these investments, these enterprise, we cannot generate jobs. And without jobs we cannot fight poverty.

In all these, there will be a continuing policy seamless stretching across the domestic and international horizon. I talked about the Abu Sayyaf and the fight against terrorism, and how we have won because we have put our acts together. And our act together is not only in the realm of uniformed forces, it is also in the realm of policy. On July 15, I shall assume in concurrent capacity the post of secretary of foreign affairs. I shall make sure we strengthen the international linkages that would enable us to fight terrorism and uphold the law everywhere.

I am placing foreign policy at the service of our fight against homegrown terrorism and criminality and lawlessness. And all these in the context of the eight realities of our foreign policy environment which as incoming foreign affairs secretary, I would like to share with you all today.

First policy environment is the paramount influence of China, Japan and the United States in the security and economic evolution of East Asia;

Second, is the growing context of Asean in global affairs;

Third, is the role of the international Islamic community;

Fourth, is the looming importance of inter-regional organizations;

Fifth, the protection of our environment, natural resources and maritime territory;

Sixth, the drive for direct foreign investment, in which Europe looms as a major source along the with the U.S., Japan, China and Asean;

Seventh, the importance of international tourism;

And, eighth, the crucial role of overseas Filipinos in our socioeconomic stability.

These eight realities will shape the foreign policy of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

From the strategic horizon, we shall join hands in the domestic realm to ensure the rule of law and the ascendancy of our democratic way of life. And in these, the police play a paramount role.

Thus, to Larry Mendoza, who embarks on a new career in public service, you will have something new but you will have something old because enforcement is a very big part of the work of DOTC. And to Jun Ebdane, who faces the challenge of improving on the work of his predecessor, I say: “carry on and good luck. The Filipino people look to you for the highest standard of service in our country. I know you will not fail us.

Kaya, mabuhay si Jun! Mabuhay si Larry! Mabuhay ang lahat ng ating pulis!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the Philippine National Police (PNP) Change of Command Ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224929/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8361&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 59th ASEAN-CCI Council Meeting and the 15th CCI Conference

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 59th ASEAN-CCI Council Meeting and the 15th CCI Conference

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, July 5, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Dante Canlas. And let me take this opportunity to congratulate you and the other members of the economic team because I'm very proud to let my countrymen know that our inflation rate today is down to three percent. And further, that this inflation rate came down from 3.6 percent to three percent because of the 19 percent decrease in the price of electricity. This 19 percent is a reduction year-on-year, whereas the month-on-month reduction was nine percent.

And so with this I would like to greet everyone else, Secretary Concepcion, the President of the Asean Chamber of Commerce and Industry and my former boss in the Department of Trade and Industry; the other heads and representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Asean countries, their respective ambassadors and heads of mission; honorable chairman of our conference today and the incoming president of Asean-CCI, Mr. Utin Yun; and our President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Mike Varela; ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome to the Philippines.

On this day of the announcement of our lower inflation rate and lower electricity rate, I am especially happy to be with you today, but also I am happy to be with you at a time when I have just announced that commencing the 15th of this month, I shall concurrently assume the post of secretary of foreign affairs.

Yesterday, before two audiences, I reiterated the eight realities in the regional and international environment of the Philippines that drives my foreign policy. Today I'd just like to talk about four of them that are directly relevant to the conference of the Asean-CCI.

The first of the eight realities that is most relevant of course to this conference is that more and more Philippine foreign policy decisions have to be made in the context of Asean.

The commitment to Asean is a cornerstone of Philippine foreign policy. In this regard, I am glad that Asean-CCI is pushing for the causes and concerns of the developing world. I placed great importance to regional trading arrangements. I have faith in the viability of the Asean Free Trade Area. We cannot generate adequate investments unless we become part of a larger, integrated regional market. This is the only way we can compete for markets and investments with the giants elsewhere in the world.

At the beginning of this year, the AFTA process reached a significant milestone when the first signatories of the AFTA agreement — Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand — achieved tariff levels of zero to five percent on almost all goods traded among us.

The Philippines will remain firm in implementing its commitments to Asean as a strategy to achieve global competitiveness towards attaining sustainable growth and development.

But AFTA has a long way to go before becoming an effective means for strengthening the region's competitive position in the global market.

This is why I support Asean's resolve to go beyond tariff-cutting. The leaders of Asean are now meeting and working on the elimination of non-tariff trade barriers. We are harmonizing our product standards and developing mutual recognition arrangements. We are negotiating the liberalization of trade in such important areas as financial services, telecommunications, construction, air and maritime transport, and tourism. We are binding the region together by expanding our transportation and energy networks and easing the flow of goods, people and power throughout the region. We are drafting an agreement to make it easier and less expensive for tourists to come to, and travel within, Asean.

Closer integration is necessary for the long-term survival and prosperity of each of the Asean countries.

Thus it is good that you have successfully brought together the leaders of the various chambers of commerce and industry of Asean. And I congratulate you on this momentous occasion when all ten Asean countries are now part of the Asean Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

But we are also looking beyond our immediate borders to extend the benefits of regional integration to our major trading partners in the region, the so-called Asean+3 with China, Japan, and South Korea.

This brings me to a second and primary reality of the regional and international environment that drives my foreign policy, that China, Japan and the United States and their relationships will be the determining influence in the security situation and, therefore, the economic evolution of East Asia.

With China's entry into the WTO, the nations of Asean, and Asean as a region, must reflect on our own economies to determine how we can best position ourselves to ensure the continued competitiveness of our exports and capitalize on the opportunities presented by a more open china.

The China-Asean free trade agreement will create a market of 1.8 billion people and a combined GDP of two trillion dollars. It is projected that this would boost Asean exports to china by 48 percent and increase Asean's GDP by nine-tenth of one percent. The Philippines will benefit from expanding exports to the rapidly growing Chinese market and developing manufacturing and service facilities in Asean, that can feed the expanding mainland operations of Chinese and multinational companies. This is an excellent opportunity for our logistics service, manufacturing and commodity firms to develop strong business links with post-WTO China.

Japan's trade with Asean totaled more than a 120 billion dollars last year. The outline of an Asean-Japan economic partnership is being worked out. Meantime, a so-called new-age partnership arrangement with the Philippines is under study. This has become more significant now that Japan is out of recession.

The rapid pace, depth and breadth of global integration is the foremost reality we face. This involves not just the flow of goods but also of services, people, ideas, best practices of governance, doing business, investing.

Again, this is linked with a third reality in the regional and international environment that guides my foreign policy: that the country's economic growth will continue to heavily involve direct foreign investment.

Each of our nations is taking an enlightened and balanced approach to this reality. For the Philippines, this starts with our vision of winning the battle against poverty within the decade which is mainly by creating jobs. And that is mainly by having investments.

As joblessness lies at the core of our poverty problem, job creation is the top priority of our national agenda. Last year, we generated more than two million jobs, but that's little comfort. The latest statistics show that we have almost five million jobless that's why this is our primary focus.

In our quest for more jobs, we have improved the competitiveness of industry and services in a number of ways. We have addressed the costs of production and of doing business. The peso has been stable. Inflation was a two-year

low with a 3.6 percent. Now at three percent we have to look even further back for the last time it was three percent. Interest rates are at their lowest during my administration in the last 15 years.

We have lowered the cost of capital then by developing and strengthening our financial markets and also by maintaining a budget deficit ceiling which we were able to achieve last year and we believe we will be able to achieve this year because our five month deficit so far is smaller than the five month deficit that we had last year at this time. And if we made our deficit ceiling then, we'll make our deficit ceiling again. Proof is that our bonds are oversubscribed.

Just the other day, I saw an add selling bonds at 12 percent. And I called up Secretary Camacho, "Lito we can't sell bonds at 12 percent, that's too high. Withdraw those bonds from the market." And he said, "it's too late. They've been sold and over sold." And so that's why we are quite liquid; and even if we had a deficit right now, the liquidity is there to finance it. And that's why we have interest rates going down again.

We have taken measures to reduce the cost of power, transportation, and communications, which are the lifeblood of commerce. Starting this month, I mean the last month, June, power costs went down, as I said, 19 percent over last year, nine percent over the month before, and they will go down further this month of July — and this will improve the ranking of the Philippines from being the number two most expensive country in Asia, in terms of electricity rate to number six, and this is just for the short-term. For the longer and medium term, we have a comprehensive ten-point program in place to reduce power costs. And over the medium term, part of them have already borne fruit in June and will bear fruit in July. And that's item number one, which is to bring about more transparency in the billing through unbundling.

Another one of the ten points is the review and renegotiation of legal action if warranted of the 35 independent power production contracts. Last Wednesday I received the report of the review of the 35 IPP contracts from the interagency committee chaired by the finance secretary. And as a result of their presentation, I instructed several steps to be undertaken consistent with the mandate of the power reform law and our goals of rationalizing the power industry and lowering the cost of electricity. We will reduce the burden of our consumers while at the same time respect valid commercial contracts and the rule of law.

To increase productivity, we are strengthening labor-management relations, working to eliminate corruption and red tape, and expanding retraining programs to prepare our work force for the demands of the new global economy. The great Filipino worker is continually being prepped for broader horizons.

Central to our global engagement — and hence our development agenda — is trade. Trade should not be an end in itself, it must be a means to social and human development. Properly employed, trade policies enhance our access to a wider range of goods, services, technologies and knowledge. More trade stimulates entrepreneurship, creates jobs, attracts capital, increases foreign earnings, and fosters vital learning processes — these are the tools that will sustain development and reduce poverty.

This brings to mind the fourth reality that I'd like to talk about in the regional and international environment which drives my foreign policy: that the coming years will see the growing importance of multilateral and inter-regional organizations to promote common interests.

Thus, we support a rules-based multilateral trading system which the WTO is supposed to be. Our support is pragmatic, not ideological. We want what works for our people.

It is imperative that the rules underpinning the system ensure economic growth, employment, and development for all. Because if we don't benefit from trade, we may not be able to sustain the imports of capital equipment and raw materials. The benefits of trade liberalization could be put in doubt, the system itself could lose credibility. This could undermine our ability to mobilize support for trade policy reforms.

And it does not help any when developed countries persist in maintaining protectionist barriers against products of interest to developing countries like the Philippines and many of the Asean countries. These include textiles and

garments, and tropical agricultural and fisheries products. While the developed countries take every opportunity to lecture us on the virtues of a market-driven economy, hundreds of billions of dollars subsidize their farm production. These actions prejudice the climate for — and weaken the global commitment to — the flow of trade. These embolden protectionists and complicate the job of trade officials of developing countries.

To promote the Doha-WTO round as truly a development round, we shall continue to focus on several goals. And I hope that in your workshops, the private sector of Asean can also work towards these goals.

One of these goals is to eliminate tariff escalation and tariff peaks for products of interest to developing countries and make this part of the early harvest of results.

Another goal is, for WTO, to make corollary efforts to lessen the burdensome requirements for developing countries to meet the stringent standards in developed country markets. Compliance in many cases has proven to be onerous and expensive. For example, Philippine mangoes and bananas, and pineapples have to undergo exhaustive data collection and certification requirements for a year or more in some markets. Sad to say, sanitary requirements and technical standards seem to be the weapon of choice of protectionists.

Another goal I would ask you to work for is to seek greater liberalization of the temporary entry of service providers in the general agreement on trade-in services which has a lot of potential for developing countries and where support for such liberalization is strong, such as in the ICT sector.

Another goal should be: for anti-dumping actions to be made less of a tool for harassment by making the requirements for the initiation of such actions stiffer, and rationalizing the standards for determining injury because these actions are costly. They weigh down small businesses in developing countries.

Another goal would be to make special and differential treatment truly operational by providing more funds and resources for capacity building to enhance supply-side capabilities, improve private sector competitiveness, implement trade agreements, and meet continuing obligations under those agreements. I have asked our negotiators to provide for further differentiation of treatment among developing countries given the wide range of levels of development from the current two categories of least developed and developing. Because even in the developing category there are wide variations in circumstances, for example, there is a wide variation between the Philippines on the one hand and then Singapore on the other which is very, very developed.

We will continue to support the Cairns group consensus that export subsidies in the agricultural sector should be eliminated but we will make a strong case for special and differential treatment on other agricultural issues. This will enable us to have sufficient flexibility to pursue vital development goals, such as poverty alleviation.

So ladies and gentlemen of Asean, I would like to let you know that the Philippines will maintain its economic ties with the rest of the world to the extent that these ties are consistent with our commitments and the welfare of our people. I look forward to our deep and abiding partnership in this quest because I know this is also your goal for your own peoples.

On this note, I now declare the 59th Asean-CCI Council Meeting and the 15th CCI conference open.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 59th ASEAN-CCI Council Meeting and the 15th CCI Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224905/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8356&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 50th anniversary of the AB Economics and MA Economics Programs
of the Ateneo de Manila University**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 50th anniversary of the AB Economics and MA Economics Programs of the Ateneo de Manila
University**

[Delivered at the Henry Lee Irwin Theatre, Ateneo de Manila University, July 6, 2002]

Thank you very much Fr. Nebres.

Members of the board of trustees: Eddie Go, whom I appointed as President of the UCPB; Chill Soriano, and I was a member of the Committee on Standards when we made her the first female valedictorian in the Ateneo; Cito Lorenzo, who is my cabinet member specifically looking for a million jobs and who is going to tap the services of Ateneo Macroeconomics Research Unit; Academic Vice President Dr. Angeles; Vice President for planning Fr. Caluag; Vice President for Loyola schools, Dr. Yntag, thank you for reading the citation; trustee and dean of the school of social sciences, Fr. Cruz; administrators of the Department of Economics, Dr. Lanzona, Dr. Dumlao and Ciel Habito; honored guests; fellow alumni; administrations; faculty; students many of whom are all over my administration today like for instance Tony Abad in National Food authority, RT Yap in PITC, Mon Paterno in the Development Bank of the Philippines, and I hope there will be many more in the years to come.

Happy 50th Anniversary to all of us products of the Ateneo Economics Department.

As an economist president, my priority today is to create jobs in order to fight poverty. And to do this we all know, in a free enterprise economy, to create jobs the primary means is to encourage investments; and to encourage investments we must be competitive including in our electric rates. Thus, we have a 10-point program to reduce electricity rates.

And today I would like to discuss this plan with you — present economists and future economists — within the framework of the electric power industry which is divided into: generation, transmission, distribution, and supply.

Generation is done by the independent power producers, or IPPS, and the NPC-owned generating companies, or Gencos; then NPC transmits the power to the distribution utilities, or DUS, consisting of private utilities and electric cooperatives and to customers with direct connection.

NPC charges its customers with basic costs, fuel cost adjustment, or FCA, and Purchased Power Cost adjustment, or PPCA, collectively referred to as the fuel and Purchased Power Cost Adjustment, or FPCA, and Foreign Exchange Adjustment.

The IPPS charge NPC and directly connected DUS with Purchased Power Cost Adjustment made up of generation costs, stranded costs, and foreign exchange adjustment. The NPC charges the DUS with basic costs and the fuel and power cost adjustment, made up of the FCA and the PPCA. In addition, it charges Foreign Exchange Adjustment to the directly connected customers. Confusing. We hope to diminish the confusion when we have the unbundling exercise.

The DUS charge their end-use customers with all the automatic cost adjustments, plus systems loss, company-used power, and the franchise tax, all of which form part of the dreaded and hated PPA.

Let me now discuss the ten points and show you the incidence in the power sector. Like incidence of taxation, now incidence of draft reforms.

In distribution, first reform is to reflect the true cost of service in the rates.

The rationale of the unbundling of electricity rates is to make the billing statements of consumers transparent. Under the electric power industry reform act, electricity rates are to be unbundled. This means that the cost of generation is segregated from the cost of transmission.

The distribution wheeling charge shall be unbundled from the retail rate so that the rates shall reflect the respective costs of providing each service.

By unbundling, the energy regulatory commission, ERC, denied NPC's application to increase its rate by 17 centavos per kilowatt hour and instead said it should reduce its rate by seven centavos. It did this by disallowing certain expenses and items from the rate base. One of the items disallowed was the depreciation expense which NPC based on revalued assets. From now on depreciation expense will be based on original cost.

Second reform is in the direct connection. We will introduce the "declining block structure."

This means, for large end-users, price per kilowatt will decline as consumption increases. This pricing scheme will hopefully stimulate economic activity by stimulating electricity demand, or quantity demanded, and increase utilization of excess generation capacity and hence reduce stranded contract cost and also help distressed industries.

NPC will implement this in partnership with the distribution utilities, but also by pursuing more direct power connection to facilitate the diminishing block.

Third reform is in the NPC-owned Genco sector. Optimize the utilization of generation capacity to minimize cost.

Our utilization mix of NPC power plants will seek least blended costs. For instance, during off-peak periods, what will be on stream will be the power plants that will supply power at least cost. Right now, we don't know which power plants those are because their financials are not yet very transparent.

So to know which are the power plants that cost less, the operations research society of the Philippines will do an independent review of the Luzon grid.

We will also redeploy power barges and relocate land-based generation plants from Luzon where there is an oversupply to other island groups where there is an undersupply.

We will maintain a sensible reserve capacity so that we cannot pay so much for unutilized reserves.

We shall upgrade our transmission systems to make them more efficient and therefore cheaper, but especially to ease transmission constraints and minimize the vulnerability of the power grid from blackouts.

Four, we will establish a competitive wholesale generation market.

The promulgation of the wholesale electricity spot market for wholesale electricity spot market, which is WESM, last June 28 paved the way for the transparent economical dispatch of generating facilities.

How will this work? In the WESM, electricity will be a commodity that can be traded in the spot market similar to stocks in the stock exchange.

To do this, it will be not NAPOCOR selling to itself but we will have a horizontal unbundling of NPC generation assets into individual GenCos to decentralize dispatch and pricing discretion. Much like in china where most of the companies are owned by the Chinese government but they are all managed individually and as competitors of one another.

This means of course that we will immediately have to appoint independent administrators for each Genco plant. And that means a new round of head hunting. And I hope as now that I have so many Ateneans in my various sensitive agencies there will be more room for Ateneo economist here in this Gencos.

We will expedite the procurement of the required software. You know, to run a stock exchange we have a computerized market. So to run the WESM we need a computerized market. So we need to buy the software and the hardware, and we plan to do this in such a timing but hopefully we can launch the WESM before the end of the year.

Fifth, accelerate implementation of open access. The meaning of open access is that there are many suppliers of electricity and they will be competing to provide electricity service to end users. The suppliers will just pay the distributors distribution willing charges for the use of their wires.

Electricity consumers with a monthly average peak demand of at least one megawatt will have a choice which among the suppliers of electricity they want to buy from. For instance, under this even if you're in metro manila — which is known as the MERALCO franchise area — if you feel that you would rather buy from some other utility because they charge less or you like their service more you can do that, you just pay MERALCO for the use of its wires.

We can target the introduction of open access by December 2003 earlier than the law requires if as preconditions we can unbundle distribution rates — which we are now doing — operate the WESM — where we need the hardware and the software — and remove cross-subsidies which might be quite difficult at this very moment in time because right now Luzon is still subsidizing the Visayas. So we see, let them take the Visayas more competitive to remove the cross-subsidy.

Sixth, require efficient performance of the distribution utilities.

One way of promoting the efficient and competitive operation of distribution utilities is by encouraging a shift from the present “cost plus” mentality to the technology used in other regulatory bodies in other parts of the world of a “cost efficient” regime.

We are encouraging transparent and competitive procurement on the part of the power sector firms.

We also hope to accelerate the transition from the traditional rate regulation using the present rate-of-return-on-rate base methodology to a performance-based rate-making approach, and the ERC's target is hopefully way before the end of 2003. Under this, better performing utilities will be given incentives while the poor performers will be meted sanctions.

Thus we will undertake a comparative efficiency rating of distribution utilities.

We will also promote competitive bidding for long-term power supply contracts.

And we are also prescribing certain performance and technical standards that have to be strictly observed by the distribution utilities as provided in the Philippine Distribution Code.

Seventh measure, strengthen the electric cooperatives. One strategy for strengthening electric cooperatives is to promote the consolidation of smaller sub-performing electric cooperatives, for instance, within the region. For instance, within Panay or within Leyte where you have so many electric cooperatives, consolidate them to reduce overhead, and to choose the better manager among all of them.

Another is to adopt a big brother-small brother arrangement among electricity cooperatives, for example, as being done now in Lanao del Sur — I believe it's going to be Cebu as the big brother who will help make the Lanao del Sur cooperatives more efficient.

We will also encourage investment management contracts for suitable electric cooperatives by private operators and well-run electric cooperatives. For instance, in Aklan I asked the national electrification administration to take over the very inefficient AKELCO and it will be run by a better electric cooperative.

Eighth, review the IPP contracts and seek to reduce IPP contract costs. This is very well discussed in the newspapers of this several days, I can say that I can just summarize that the review process which ended last June 30th entailed the use of appropriate benchmarks based on legal, financial and operating issues — three criteria.

We expect that the renegotiation of the contracts should reduce stranded contract costs through — and this is my instruction to the negotiators — realignment of fixed and variable costs, reduction of minimum energy off-take and non-renewal of expired contracts, among other bargaining measures.

Ninth, explore financial engineering methods. We were able to reduce the NPC's PPCA to 40 centavos, which you will see in your electric bills this July, by refinancing stranded costs over longer periods. Another financial engineering method is to have prepaid stored fuel or energy bankable for a certain period pending future use. Still another is the regulatory asset treatment of excess fuel or energy to be included in the rate base.

Tenth, enhance the institutional capability of the ERC. A strong ERC, and it is strong now except that they probably need more technical people to work faster on their many cases and many studies — room for more Ateneo economics graduates — a strong ERC can promote market competition through transparency of rules and strict enforcement of the law on anti-competition policies.

It can also penalize abuse of market power.

It can set rules to protect end-users from undue electricity charges.

It can protect consumers from excessive PPA charges from privately-negotiated bilateral contracts.

So you see these are what we are seeking to do in the immediate short, medium and long term, to reform the power sector and make our electricity sector more competitive. Not only hopefully will we be able to give relief to our harried consumers, but we will be able to find more jobs for our people by having a more competitive investment environment.

Our quest for jobs for our people is tough and difficult but we have a vision and a method for its achievement.

As Atenean economists, we have to fly high. So I ask you economists of today and economists of the near future there are many ways shown here by which we can work together. There are many ways in other parts of carrying out economic policy and formulating it by which we can work together.

Indeed, let us work together audaciously to create jobs and bring about a better and more progressive nation for our people.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 50th Anniversary of the AB Economics and MA Economics Programs of the Ateneo de Manila University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224854/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8354&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of United Laboratories, Inc.'s RiteMed Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of United Laboratories, Inc.'s RiteMed Philippines**

[Delivered at Watsons, SM Mega Mall Bldg. A, Mandaluyong City, July 11, 2002]

Maraming salamat.

Thank you very much Secretary Manolet Dayrit, whom, I must say, is one of the best products coming from my search committee. Congratulations, Manolet.

Secretary Mar Roxas, whom, I must say, is one of the best examples of the time when I changed the recommendation of my search committee and made my own choice. Butch Campos, chairman of UNILAB, magaling na ehemplo ng bagong anyong negosyante, modern and socially oriented; I would like to say the same thing of our host today in this mall, Tessie Sy-Coson; Mr. Ejercito, President of UNILAB; Mr. KC, Managing Director of Watsons, and I would like to thank Watsons because in this past year of my administration they have put up 63 of this Watsons and will be putting up 250 more in the years to come; Jerry Esquivel, Manager of Rite Med, General Manager; William Torres, head of the Bureau of Food and Drugs; Officers and Personnel of the United Laboratories and Watsons Drugstore; distinguished guests; mga mamimili sa mall; mga kababayan:

Magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat.

Una sa lahat, nais kong batiin ang united laboratories sa matagumpay na paglulunsad nitong RiteMed Philippines. Anong ibig sabihin ng RiteMed? Right medicine, right price. Kaya congratulations sa Unilab; at congratulations sa mga namimili, mga mamamayang makikinabang sa murang gamot.

Alam n'yo kanina nung umaakyat ako, nagshi-shake hands ko sa ilan diyan, sabi ko “ano ba ...” o ayun inuubo o, nakita ko yung matangkad inuubo ... “o ano inuubo ba kayo dahil sa ating bagyo.” Meron diyan, kasi ako inuubo ako, may sore throat ako dahil sa ilang araw na nandoon sa mga baha. Pero tamang-tama diyan sa inuubo, pumasok ka sa tindahan pagkatapos dito kasi half price ang cough medicine na mabibili mo. Nung isang taon sa aking State of Nation Address sinabi ko bababa din ang presyo ng gamot, sa loob ng isang taon hahatiin natin ang presyo ng gamot na madalas bilhin ng madla. Ito ay natutupad na sa mga botika ng government hospital dahil sa pagsisikap ni Mar Roxas na unang nag-pioneer niyan dahil sa dti ginawa niya ito para sa probinsya niya sa Capiiz. Eh, sabi ko, “kaganda-ganda ng program na yan Mar, gawin na nating para sa buong Pilipinas.” At siyempre dahil nga doon yung doh ang kinailangan na maging siya ang sangay sa distribution nitong mga gamot na ito.

Itong araw na ito mas lalong maaabot ng marami ang hinating presyo ng gamot dahil usually sinong pumupunta sa government botika? Yung mga Napakamahihirap, yung sanay pumunta sa government hospitals. Pero yung ordinary Filipino citizens na hindi naman government hospitals ang pinupuntahan niyo, eh hindi kayo pumupunta sa botika ng government hospital. Pero ngayon dahil sa pasok ng private sector, dahil sa pagpasok ng Ritemed, dahil sa pagpasok ng Unilab na siya ang nag-organize ng Ritemed, dahil sa pagpasok ng Watsons sa programang ito, kahit na kayo yung mga nagsha-shopping diyan at magpupunta sa sarili n'yong doktor kayo rin makakaabot na sa half-priced medicine. Yan ang importante sa araw na ito.

Kaya Unilab salamat dahil tinutulungan n'yo akong magtupad ng aking sinasabi. Sa madaling salita, kung ano yung sinabi ko sa sona nung isang taon yun ang ating ginagawa.

Kaya nalulungkot ako 'pag nababasa ko na siguro sa inyo nandito sa audience kung magbibilang ako ng lima may isang gustong mag-abroad na dahil ayaw na raw dito sa bansang Pilipinas at ayaw ng demokrasya. Kaya ginagawa natin ito seremonya para mapaalala sa inyong lahat 'wag naman kayong mawalan ng pag-asa kasi kung ano ang sinasabi ng gobyerno ginagawa, ginagawa po yon gaya nito.

At yung isang sinasabi ko na gagawin ng gobyerno — I'm sure si Butch Campos, si Ressie Coson hinahangad din nila ito sa ngalan ng filipino-chinese business community — yung kapayapaan, yung susugpuin natin yung mga nagki-kidnap sa ating mga negosyante at mga pamilya nila. Dahil 'pag ganon eh, hindi na sila magi-invest, pagka ganoon marami sa inyo mawawalan ng trabaho, o yung walang trabaho hindi makakahanap ng bagong trabaho. Kaya kailangan ngayon sa nakita kong nagtatagumpay na tayo dito sa mga ginagawa nating economic measures kagaya ng half-priced medicine, ang gagawin natin ngayon at ginagawa ngayon ay inaasikaso yung problema ng kapayapaan, yung problema ng kidnapping.

Tamang-tama mabait talaga ang diyos, tiniming ng diyos na itong ating seremonya is today at dito sa Watsons, dito sa mall nila Tessie kasi yon pala balak ng Diyos na kailangan pupunta ako diyan lang sa malapit sa Camp Crame dahil meron sila sa ngayon at nung tinanggap ko ito ilang linggo ng nakaraan dito wala pa yung schedule na yon, pero two days ago nagkaroon ng Anti-Kidnapping Summit, at nabasa ko two days after magkakaroon ng Order of Battle Workshop. Kaya tamang-tama nandiyan lang. Pumunta ako dito babalik uli ako doon so, hindi ako nahihirapan. Kung ang diyos magaling sa timing palagay ko alam din niya ang timing kung kailan nating masusugpo ang problema ng kidnapping at kapayapaan.

Kanina pinag-usapan namin yung kidnapping syndicates. Order of Battle: 21 syndicates, tatlo ang pinaka-aktibo. Kaya sabi ko ang ating gagawin diyan ay hindi yung crime by crime so-solve natin. To begin with meron na silang mga previous crimes, may mga warrants of arrest na yan. Parang ano yan military operation para sabihin mo okay kukunin natin yung grupo ni Abu Sabaya sa Siraway yan, o kukunin natin yung grupo ni kung sino ba yon nung panahon nung araw, o sabi nila kukunin natin yung nung araw yung MILF dito sa lugar na ito. In other words, ang ating operation ay parang military: ang susugpuin yung kidnapper at hindi yung solusyon ng krimen — inu-neutralize yung kidnapping syndicate mismo sila ang targetin para wala ng krimen na dadating sa panahon.

Okay may grupong gagawa pa rin ng crime solution at lahat noon pero ang importante it will be a battle military-style. Tatal marami naman dito sa ating pulis nag-aral din naman sa Philippine Military Academy hindi naman police academy pinag-aralan nila kaya alam nila ang military operation. Yan ang ating gagawin.

So, gumawa ng order of battle kanina — inidentify kung sino yung mga sindikato, inidentify kung saan sila nag-o-operate, inidentify yung probable na mga headquarters o safehouses nila at yan ang gagawin natin. So na-identify sila may manhunt na.

Sabi ko nga kay General Ebdane, "o now that we have identified the order of battle ano ang susunod?" Sabi niya, "now I have to form the Anti-kidnapping task unit." "when can you do that?" "I have it already upon your approval." Sabi ko, "it is approved." So meron na tayong anti-kidnapping task force reconstituted para new blood — kinuha yung mga magagaling sa dati, tinanggal yung mga hindi magagaling sa dati. New blood ang tawag niya ay PACER — Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response — pero ang tutukoy ay kidnapping, number one, drugs, number two at saka number three yung hold-up at robbery.

Sabi ... At ngayon dahil may listahan na, ginawa na yung order of battle kahapon at kanina, ang susunod ay yung manhunt. Sabi ko, "jun anong gagawin n'yo para mapabilis yung manhunt?" Kasi si Ronald Lumbao isang taon hinanap bago na-aresto pero yung talagang mabisang manhunt was for two weeks. So sabi ko, "Jun how do we do away with 11 months of groping and go to the two weeks of being focused and successful." Well, sabi niya, "mag-executive session tayo diyan." So sabi ko, "sige mag-executive session na kayo muna, pupunta muna ako doon sa Watsons sa SM para mag-launch ng murang gamot tapos babalik ako." At pagbalik ko meron pang isang buena

mano yung isang kidnapping syndicate ng Mindoro ay nahuli at ipi-presenta sa akin mamaya. So buena mano yon sa kidnapping syndicate.

So itong ginagawa natin ngayon ay dalawang kumbinasyon: para sa pangkabuhayan at para sa kapayapaan. Murang gamot pero ang buhay ay hindi mura, buhay ay mahal, katawan ng tao kaligtasan ay mahal nating lahat.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, watsons congratulations and thank you; Unilab and Ritemed thank you very much; tessie looking forward to more investments from SM. To Mar and Manolet, thank you for carrying out my instructions in the Cabinet to make sure that we as a government comply with our commitments.

At kayong lahat mga kaibigan, huwag kayong mawalaan ng pag-asa dahil itong gobyerno n'yo ay nagtutupad ng sinasabi.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of United Laboratories, Inc.'s RiteMed Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224848/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8351&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the 4th Philippine Human Development Report

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of the 4th Philippine Human Development Report**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañan, July 12, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Dante Canlas.

Professor Winnie Monsod, President of the Human Development Network; Dr. Abueva; Miss Ricarda Rieger of UNDP; distinguished awardees, and I would like to mention them again: Governor Henares and former Governor Henares of Rizal — because they both share. Because former governor also did a lot of ... This is 2000, right? So, he was the governor, Governor Marcos of Ilocos Norte, Acting Governor Roque and Acting Vice Governor Calimbas of Bataan, Mr. Soliman representing Cavite and Governor Ningning Lazaro of Laguna. And I would like again to mention the leaders of the most improved provinces — Davao Oriental, represented by the provincial administrator, but I would like to greet Governor Marlene Palma-Gil, Mt. Province Governor Mali, as — and I was telling Winnie, I can imagine why he is the most improved. He nags me all the time when I'm in the Baguio golf course for all the different human resource development projects of his province of Mt. Province, South Cotabato represented here, but I would like to greet Governor Daisy Fuentes for her good work. Province of Iloilo Governor Neil Tupas and Mayor Tupas are here. And they had been working hard especially on irrigation. And the province of Leyte represented by Vice Governor Villasin. And please give my congratulations to Governor Matin Petilla. And what Winnie considers is the most important of these awards is in terms of contributing to literacy, and this is the award going to Misamis Oriental. And I would like to greet the First Lady of Misamis Oriental Mrs. Kalingin because she was here to receive the award. Other government officials especially Congresswoman Eta Rosales, and members of the business community headed by Donald Dee, ladies and gentlemen:

I am glad that the Fourth Philippine Human Development Report has adopted “Work and Well-being” as its theme. I'm certain this report will serve as a useful guide in our pursuit — Dante's pursuit and my pursuit — of more jobs for our people as the primary means of fighting poverty. And for this, I commend the report's authors and the publishers — the Human Development Network or HDN and the United Nations Development Programme.

The report is a fruit of the continuing dialogue between civil society and government. We may not always agree with each other but dialogue makes us understand each other. And one clear example of our understanding is the use of the human development index as an official statistic in the Philippines, the very first country to ever do so. The human development index is the product of institutionalized consultation for the common good.

I have on several occasions defined new politics, in contrast with the old politics of personality and patronage, as the politics of party platforms and institutionalized consultation with the people. This latter trait of new politics, the politics of institutionalized consultation with the people requires a vibrant civil society.

This vibrant civil society is a cornerstone of a strong republic. The family, the community, the NGOs, the media, the churches have vital roles in building the republic, in doing some of the state's tasks to improve the conditions of every citizen. But civil society — a warrior in toppling a dictatorship and a corrupt government — must now learn to forge its swords into hammers for building the republic. We must strive to finally dismantle a subculture of divisiveness and self-centeredness, and transform our families, our communities and other civil society

organizations into engines for national prosperity. It is also civil society, as anywhere in democratic countries of the world, which has the prime responsibility of developing and advancing Philippine culture.

To go now to the document itself, the document highlights a number of interesting points.

One — not so much mention here but in the document itself — is that unemployment and poverty do not amount to the same thing. Neither that I have said earlier that Dante and I now see our jobs as basically solving unemployment. That's why Donald Dee is very important to us as our main means of fighting poverty in a free enterprise economy. So, low unemployment and prosperity also do not always go together.

Sulu, the poorest province in terms of per capita income, in the document also happens to have the second lowest unemployment rate. Its unemployment rate is 3.1 percent. Tawi-Tawi, the second poorest in per capita income, has the seventh lowest unemployment rate of 4.2 percent. On the other hand, Metro Manila, the most prosperous region in the country, has the highest unemployment rate of 17.5 percent. Cavite and Tarlac, two relatively rich provinces, are also among the ten provinces with the highest unemployment rates.

On the macroeconomic level, this helps me to understand why our economy is the best-performing in Southeast Asia and the third best performing in Asia, and yet it has more than 4 million people out of work.

Another highlight of the document is that some provinces have very high levels of underemployment. It is sad to see that in at least 10 provinces underemployment is above 40 percent, and that in two provinces — Bukidnon and Camarines Sur — it is more than 50 percent. This means that for these provinces more than half of the workers are looking for additional work, and it is most likely because of inadequate pay.

These statistics tell us what we must do. We must not be contented with jobless growth. More investments are needed for more jobs. But to get more investments, we need to have a more competitive investment climate. Part of this investment climate is grounded on objective quantitative reality, such as making our power rates more competitive. But a large part of our competitiveness is perception, such as the feeling — feeling safe against kidnappers, feeling that our government is attending to governance rather than to politics.

To bring about competitiveness in power rates, we are — as many of you know — pursuing a ten-point program that I have already unveiled twice: once, before the industry and — but on national TV — and the second time before the academic community in Ateneo but also before the national TV. This is beginning to bear fruit in this month's electric bills. And on the other hand, to make our investors and citizens feel safer, I am concentrating my efforts, together with the new PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane, and with Mayor Rudy Duterte, to breathe new life and efficacy into our anti-kidnapping efforts. In the meantime, I have renewed my instructions to my team, my economic team, to address bottlenecks that have stalled major infrastructure and investment projects. We must provide visible reinforcement to the understandably timid business community these days thru large projects in the pipeline, such as the north rail, the LRT-MRT link, the new Nayong Pilipino tourism estate, the housing sector, the national steel reopening, the Batangas port which thank God has started construction, and the Philippine National Bank rehabilitation which thank God is also going on smoothly.

I have been close to these objectives in the past weeks — the peace and order, the electric power rates, and removing the bottlenecks to major infrastructure and investment projects. To lower power costs, we will not stop until we are satisfied that we have squeezed every drop of blood from stone but at the same time we must be responsible and respect the sanctity of contracts, despite the histrionics of some, because this is needed if we are to preserve the gains we have made in our credit risk ratings.

On the peace and order campaign, I am dealing with the threat of kidnapping the way I dealt with the threat of the Abu Sayyaf. I nag the police everyday today the way I use nagged the military every day since last May 1st after I was convinced that we had seen the last of the destabilization threats because May 1st was very peaceful. I began to work on breathing down the necks of the military, and thank God the Abu Sayyaf has been defeated.

The news today reports the order of battle workshop on the 21 kidnapping syndicates held at the police headquarters yesterday. And today, General Ebdane will give me his report on what he needs to accelerate the manhunt for those syndicates at the top of the order of battle. Of course, I will not micro-manage them as I did not micro-manage the war against the Abu Sayyaf. But I will personally track progress. And we will win this battle with hands on persistence, combined with good intelligence and — as in EDSA I and EDSA II and many other struggles — divine providence. That's why I'm glad that Professor Abueva said that we the Filipino after all, the most important variable, the most important parameter — whatever you call it, parameter or variable in his life — is spirituality. And therefore, it is important especially when it is a matter of being discouraged or encouraged, no matter what the numbers look, it is the spirit that will help lift us up from the feeling of hopelessness to the feeling of faith.

These are what we are doing to shore up our business confidence, bring investments, and create better and higher-paying jobs for our people.

Eight of the top 10 provinces in our human development index are in Luzon. Well, of course, Luzon also makes up 60 percent of our population. But most of these are neighboring provinces of Metro Manila. Of course, the population is also around Metro Manila. On the other hand, nine of the bottom ten provinces are either in the Visayas or in Mindanao.

And as Winnie mentioned, worst situated are our Muslim brothers in the south. The provinces of the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao comprise the bottom five provinces. The human development index of Sulu, the bottom province, is less than one-half the human development index of Rizal, the top province. That's what Winnie meant about the bad news, the very terrible disparity. But by the way, let me congratulate Governor Nini Ynares and Governor Ito Ynares, her predecessor, for leading the province of Rizal up to the highest human development index in our country today. Congratulations.

But I believe that Sulu — that's why it is important to track, knowing where it's coming from — will double its efforts. We have a new governor of Sulu, Governor Jikiri, former MNLF but one of the most supportive governors in our country as far as what we want to do. Whether it's for development projects, whether it is for peace and order projects. And Mindanao as a whole has bright potentials. It is encouraging that two of its provinces — Davao oriental and South Cotabato, incidentally led by two women governors — are among the top ten gainers in human development. And that another province, Misamis Oriental, has the eighth highest HDI in the country and is a top performing province in the area of education.

We need to address the low human development index of the bottom five as quickly and decisively as possible. And that, of course is working on the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao. I have said we should find jobs for our people in order to win the war against poverty within the decade. If the provinces with the lowest development indices also have low unemployment rates, I believe it is because the unemployed of those provinces quickly migrate to the provinces with the highest development and look for jobs there, but not finding jobs fast enough, they just stay there. They don't go back home again. And this explains why the richest regions also have the highest unemployment rates. So I still believe it is still jobs, jobs, jobs we must create to raise the human development index of our people as a whole. In a free enterprise economy this is a tall order because in the end jobs will be created not by government economic activity but by private sector investment decisions. But the situation brooks no delay. Step-by-step, we must move forward.

On our part, what can government do. Well, Winnie mention inputs and outcome. The government can do its inputs and we mention our output. But in the end, human development will be in the outcome. Our job is to be guided by real, visible and measurable targets in terms of inputs and hopefully in terms of some outputs, most of these were contained in my first state of the nation address before congress last year.

Allow me to mention a few accomplishments.

Input: I targeted 20 billion pesos a year for the implementation of the agriculture and fisheries modernization, but in actuality, we overreached that input. We spent more than 24 billion pesos on agricultural modernization.

Outcome: agriculture is one of our fastest growing sectors, grew more than targetted, right Dante? In year 2001 and first quarter of 2002. And this year, we have allocated even more for our agricultural modernization, almost 26 billion pesos.

Output: I targetted that 150,000 urban poor families would be empowered to buy the land that they occupy, and that 200,000 hectares of public land and private agricultural land will be distributed under land reform.

Output targets: more have already been granted.

Output: more than 150,000 households have been provided mass housing because we targetted that 100,000 workers housing and 50,000 poorest of the poor housing will be provided. The structure is not quiet how I targetted it. We underperformed on workers housing, overperformed in housing for the poorest of the poor. But aggregated the output target has also been exceeded.

Outcome: I hope outcomes can be found in the human development index. And I hope our human development index will become higher with our gains towards universal health insurance and cutting by half the price of medicines.

Output again: our target for health insurance coverage for the urban poor was 500,000. We have already enrolled more than 2,204,000 urban poor. And for the rural poor where I had no target because I wasn't sure how the local governments would cooperate, more than 1,864,000 have already been enrolled. That's output and I hope it can translate to outcomes in higher longer longevity.

Related to health insurance is medicine. Seventy-four government hospitals now carry medicines commonly bought by the poor at prices half of what they were paying last year. And yesterday the private sector joined the drive to provide these half-priced medicine with the inauguration of RITEMED, a brand offering commonly used medicines at an average of 50 percent less than the current prices of rival brands. May I cite, it is also being distributed in Watson's branches all over the country. Winnie has always been pushing for retail liberalization. Watson's being there and pioneering in carrying these brands is proof that Winnie's policy of retail trade liberalization is correct. Incidentally, the 63 branches were all put up during my administration. And while the others may be timid, Watson's will put up 15 more branches before the end of the year. So, we need competition and investment. And sometimes those that we used to seek to keep out of our economy sometimes they are the once who are more daring. And I hope they can be the leaders for the rest of our business community to put their money back in their faith in government.

But this is not all. We need a strong republic to create jobs to win the war against poverty. We need a strong and effective government, not that cowers in fear at every threat, that delivers basic services instead for everyone. For the most important of which today, in our material conditions today, is an environment of peace and order and the rule of law and the necessary infrastructure.

We need an effective state to uplift its poorest and weakest citizens, empower them and dismantle the structures that make them poor and weak. We need an effective government that rest on the rule of law for all and not just for the powerful.

And so I ask you — help! Let us work together to continually increase our human development index. Let us set aside divisive sentiments. And like the rest of the ordinary Filipinos, let us make faith an important part of our indices. Let us move as one with a stout heart and a strong republic, god will make us victorious.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the 4th Philippine Human Development Report. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224837/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8348&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the NCR awarding project to beneficiaries [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pamamahagi ng proyekto sa mga benepisyaryo ng NCR**

[Ipinahayag sa Quirino Grandstand, Luneta Park, Manila, ika 23 ng Hulyo, 2002]

Maraming salamat Chairperson Bayani Fernando sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

At binabati ko yung ating mga Congressmen at mayor na nag-sponsor sa inyong mga premiums, sa inyong health insurance, narito si Congressman Ricky Sandoval ng Navotas-Malabon; narito si Congressman Chuck Mathay ng Quezon City. At yung mga mayors na nag-sponsor sa inyo para pumasok kayo dito sa PhilHealth, si Mayor Vicencio ng Malabon; si Mayor Carlos ng Valenzuela; si Mayor Freddie Tiña ng Taguig; si Mayor Marides Fernando ng Marikina; nakita ko itong Caloocan wala si Rey ngayon pero kasama natin ngayon hapon kaya pinadala kayo rito dahil marami rin siyang inin-enrol sa health insurance. At gusto ko ring batiin yung mga private sector na tumulong din para magbayad ng inyong mga premium kasama na rito yung mga officials ng Petron corporation, nandito sila batiin natin at magpasalamat tayó.

At syempre yung ating mga Cabinet member na sila ang humawak ng ating mga programa para sa mahihirap, narito si Joey Lina ng DILG, si Dinky Soliman ng DSWD, si Manolet Dayrit ng DOH; pati na rin si Ed Pamintuan, hindi siya sa health sa pabahay siya ng NHA at saka si President Salud ng Home Mortgage — siguro ia-advertise nila yung pabahay nila para sa inyo. Pero yung humahawak ng ating health insurance para sa inyo ay si Dr. Pinkoy Duque:

At kayong lahat ating mga beneficiary, salamat na narito kayo. Kayo ay bumibilang ng 50,000 itong umagang ito. Maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo dito sa ating distribution ng PhilHealth.

Kahapon binanggit ko doon sa State of the Nation Address na yung mga target na sinabi ko nung isang taon ay nakamit natin at maraming nalampasan pa. Sa lahat ng target nalampasan natin ang pinakamabisa, pinaka-successful na programa para sa mahihirap ay walang iba kung hindi yung ating health insurance para sa mahihirap.

Kasi nung isang taon ang sabi ko target natin magkaroon ... Ay dumating, kakadating ang isa ring sponsor ninyo sa Quezon City, si Congresswoman Nanette Daza.

Nung isang taon sa aking State of the Nation Address sinabi ko na isa sa pinakamahirap para sa mahihirap ay ‘pag kayo ay nagkakasakit, ‘di ba ang mahal-mahal ng gamot, ang mahal-mahal ng doktor, lalo na ang mahal-mahal ng maospital. Kaya yun ay isang mabigat sa buhay ng mahihirap.

Kaya sabi ko bibigyan natin ginhawa ito. Yung mga mayayaman, yung mga manggagawa, sila ay may health insurance: nagbabayad ng insurance yung mga mayayaman sa private insurance, ‘pag magkasakit yung insurance ang nagbabayad ng kanilang bill. Yung manggagawa may medicare kaya nagbabayad din ng insurance yung kanilang boss at nababawas din sa kanilang sweldo ng kanilang premium. Pero papaano yung walang salary? Papaano yung self-employed na mahihirap? Papaano yung walang trabaho? Papaano yung urban poor?

Kaya sinabi ko nung isang taon na sisikapin natin bilang target na 500,000 na tiga-urban poor ay magkakaroon ng health insurance. Pagkabilang natin hindi 500,000, kundi four million 500,000 ay may health insurance pagkatapos ng isang taon.

Tignan n'yo halimbawa si Mayor Lito Atienza na nagbigay ng ating welcoming remarks. Sa pagkaintindi ko nung isang taon hindi pa kasama ang Manila sa National Health Insurance, from zero to 18,000 ngayon. Kaya 18,000 ang nandito sa mga 50,000 ay nanggaling sa Maynila kaya kayo ay may health insurance na.

Itong 50,000 na narito ngayon kayo ay pami-pamilya, kayo ay head of the family. Pero kung ia-average natin na sa isang pamilya may limang kasapi kinakatawan ninyo mga 50,000 ay 250,000 na taga-metro manila na kayo ay covered na ng health insurance.

Papaano kayo makikinabang? Kapag mayroon kayong health insurance card 'pag kayo ay nagkasakit o kaya anak ninyo, asawa ninyo ay nagkasakit, kung pupunta kayo sa isang national government hospital libre lahat — libre ang doktor, libre ang operasyon at pati gamot ay libre basta dala ng parmasya ng hospital. Kaya wala na kayong babayaran basta national government hospital ang pupuntahan ninyo.

Ngayon meron kayong mga gustong pumunta sa private hospital pwede pa rin kasi kung minsan yung inyong sakit ay malubha baka hindi kaya ng mga equipment ng national government hospital aba kailangan pupunta kayo sa private hospital. Makakatulong pa rin ito. Kung pupunta kayo doon sa mga class na hospital na maraming modern equipment at very specialized yung inyong sakit ang tawag doon ay tertiary hospital — hanggang 16,000 pesos babayaran din ng gobyerno. Kaya malaki ang inyong ginhawa doon.

Kung pupunta naman kayo sa secondary hospital yung medyo karaniwang hospital kaya lang hindi kaya ng national government hospital, babayaran ng gobyerno hanggang 11,000 pesos pa rin. Kaya malaki rin ang ginhawa ng inyong pagpagamot.

Papaano pumapasok sa health insurance? Ah, meron pa tayong isa pang sponsor ninyo, ito ay si Congressman Joey Hizon ng Maynila. Di ba itong lugar kung nasaan tayo si Joey ay Congressman dito? Congressman, ikaw, 'di ba? Okay.

Papaano makakapasok sa health insurance? Ang bayad sa health insurance ay supposed to be 200 a month? One hundred a month. One hundred a month ang health insurance, 1,200 a year. Ngayon kapag kayo ay manggagawa sa isang pabrika o kagawaran, dini-deduct na yon sa inyong sweldo kaya automatic medicare kayo. Pero doon sa mga hindi nagsusweldo, yang mga self-employed, mga magsasaka, mga urban poor, mga iba't-iba na hindi salary ang kita, papaano kayo makakapasok? Pwede mag-enroll sa Philhealth: pwede n'yong bayaran kayo mismo ng 100 pesos a month. Pero yung mga dukha hindi naman kayang magbayad kahit 100 pesos a month kaya dito pumapasok ang ating mga local government, dito pumapasok ang ating mga negosyante.

Alam n'yo itong mga tiga-Petron na narito isang halimbawa lang sila ng maraming negosyante at maraming ngo na sila ay tumutulong sa programang ito. Yung 100 pesos na premium na dapat kayo ang bababayad para pumasok sa health insurance, kung masyadong dukha kayo sila na ang bumabayad hindi na kayo pati yung 100 pesos a month.

Kaya halos lahat ng 50,000 na narito ang binigay na lamang sa inyo ay yung card ninyo. Regalo na yan sa inyo — regalo na ng local government, regalo na ng congressman at ng korporasyon na may foundation na gustong tumulong sa mahihirap. Yan ay dahil ginawa natin itong isang pangunahing programa ng administrasyon ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dahil gaya ng sabi ko kahapon gusto nating magkaroon ng matatag na republika. Pero ang malakas na republika ay para sa mga mahihina, para sa mga hindi kayang magpagamot sa kanilang sarili dahil sa kadukhaan. Kaya kayong mga kaibigan gusto kong congratulate kayong lahat. Sana magamit ninyo nang mabuti itong inyong mga health card. At 'pag kayo ay pumupunta sa hospital para magpagamot huwag n'yong kalilimutan dahil kayo ay minamahal ng matatag na republika.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the NCR Awarding Project to Beneficiaries. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224831/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8345&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the UNDP Global launching of the Human Development Report 2002

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the UNDP Global launching of the Human Development Report 2002**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, July 24, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Canlas, my Minister of Economic Planning.

Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP Administrator; Ms. Sakiko Fukudo Parr, congratulations on your authorship of the Human Development Report 2002; Mr. Diallo; Minister Ramos Horta; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps and representatives of other international organizations; officials of the Philippine government including Congressman Abdullah Dimaporo and Mayor Franklin Quijano; ladies and gentlemen:

It is an honor for the Philippines to host the launching of the Human Development Report 2002. Mr. Diallo said that this is being held in 70 countries all over the world but only in one country do we have the head of the UNDP presiding over the launching. This is the main launching of the human development report in the Philippines. I would like to believe that this is a recognition of the Philippines' emphasis on human development, and the Philippines' pioneering adoption of the human development index as an official measure of the people's welfare.

It is also an honor to have with us today two guests who have contributed much to the struggle for human freedom and democracy — Mark Malloch Brown, who was very much a part of what became Edsa 1, and Minister Ramos Horta, the father of East Timor independence.

Two days ago, providentially, I delivered my State of the Nation Address before Congress. In that address, I called for the building of a strong republic. I did not say "strong state," I said "strong republic" because a republic is a democracy.

One of the essential features of the strong republic is that it stands for the interests of the people rather than of a powerful minority.

As both Mr. Brown and Minister Horta can attest by their own contributions to freedom, a republic does not exist by the mere fact of declaring itself to be so. Mr. Brown's statement in fact said that there are many governments who have been democratically elected but are not yet truly functioning democracies.

A republic must be so in fact, in reality, and as a human development report stresses especially in the difference it makes for the better in the lives of citizens.

My experience in governance in the last year and a half tells me that my country needs a strong republic to guarantee human development.

A strong republic involves a painstaking process of strengthening institutions and communities.

It is a process that advances only on a broad platform of shared ethical values, a firm consensus to serve common interests and a common vision of a national future.

You, who are members of the international community, the U.N. family, the human development advocates, you are our partners in this vision.

The idea that people should be at the center of development took root mainly through the advocacy of the United Nations and its member states. I congratulate the UNDP, under the leadership of Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, for giving flesh to this advocacy in the human development report.

The last time I was with Mr. Brown we were both in Washington, he was then with the World Bank but about to leave the World Bank to head the UNDP. And I was telling him that I was not surprised because during that time when I was in Washington as vice president I already saw that the World Bank was veering away from the old paradigm of the IMF World Bank so and so; that it was moving more towards human development than the usual paradigms of structural reform, etc., Etc. And we were saying before that, years before that, we were saying that the World Bank IMF are not as sensitive to the needs of developing countries as the UNDP. And then we saw changes in the World Bank, and then we saw Mr. Brown in the UNDP. I said now I understand the metamorphosis of the World Bank and we should thank Mr. Brown for that.

In 1986 we restored democratic political institutions under the presidency of our heroine, Corazon Aquino. Filipinos are forever grateful for her courage and leadership.

Philippine people power reverberated in other shores. In Asia, we had South Korea, Indonesia, and, very recently, East Timor.

We pay tribute today to East Timor and its people, represented by Nobel Laureate and Foreign Minister Jose Ramos Horta who knows the Philippines very well.

Minister Ramos Horta once said that “democracy and human rights are not an invention of the west.” We wholeheartedly agree. The Philippines established its first republic more than a hundred years ago, the first in Asia in 1898 before the Americans occupied our country.

But our work to build a strong republic is not a monopoly of the east or the west. It is not even a monopoly of governments. Civil society is equally ascendant. The human development report emphasizes the expanding role of civil society in deepening democracy. This is very true for the Philippines, for our nation and our republic.

Yet amid globalization and the information revolution, people are asking: if wealth is being created, why do poverty and inequality still pervade?

The advocates of free markets must put in place innovative democratic political institutions, and seek to broaden and deepen these to allay apprehensions that globalization sets back social progress and deepens human misery.

Institutions for governance must fight illiteracy, disease, hunger, injustice.

The human development report quotes U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan: “good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development.” I agree with Secretary General Kofi Annan.

In my view, good governance rests on three pillars. First, a sound moral foundation to guide our leadership at all levels. Second, a philosophy of transparency in all government actions. Third, an ethic of effective implementation throughout the bureaucracy.

The third pillar, the ethic of effective implementation throughout the bureaucracy is one of the essential features of a strong republic.

A strong republic must have effective institutions to protect the weak.

To help countries develop these effective institutions, I commend the human development report for coming up with an updated scorecard on the progress of countries in meeting the millennium development goals of poverty reduction. It is a good way of keeping track of our shared obligations not only as governments but as nations.

I am happy to learn that the Philippines is on track in our millennium development goals. Based on the established trend, we would be able to meet by 2015 the goals of, among others, cutting into half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water; achieve universal primary education; achieve gender equality in primary schools; and, reduce under-five mortality by two-thirds. I shall monitor these variables periodically. I have said to Secretary Canlas, my planning minister that these are good indicators that we must monitor in order to ensure that we stay on track in fighting poverty.

I shall also work with my cabinet to develop policies and programs that will enable the Philippines to catch up with the goals of reducing the number of people who are in extreme poverty and the number of people who are suffering from hunger. Again, these are two important variables that we must consciously and conscientiously work for.

Our national ambition is to win the battle against poverty within the decade. That means even earlier than the projection of the human development report of 2015. I have been discussing with my economic managers how we can measure our progress. I thank the human development report for providing us with the meaningful measures that can give us, suggest to us, the specific objectives that together spell out a victory against poverty.

Two weeks ago, we launched the Philippine Development Report 2002, and I'd like to recognize here Dante Canlas' predecessor, Former Planning Secretary Winnie Monsod who's been working on that. The theme was "work and well-being." The theme today is "Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World."

The themes combined highlight the implications of politics and governance on jobs, poverty and human development. They partner well with a strong republic.

We hope to maintain our increasing human development index in the coming years.

This we hope to achieve with the help of UNDP and the International Development Assistance Community. UNDP is a trusted partner, and we look forward to continued cooperation in peace and development.

We also call on the development assistance community not only to invest in the growth of markets but also in the growth of democracy.

At the same time, our common commitment to deepen democracy at national levels should be mirrored in the practices of governance at the global level.

The Doha round under the world trade organization must respond to the clamor of developing member countries for expanded market access.

This will empower developing countries to build their strong republics.

A strong republic is an edifice that shelters the weak and weathers the storm. It is an edifice that enables people to be their best.

This is the heart of human development: expanding the opportunities for people to lead lives of value to themselves and to others.

As your report so aptly states, "fundamental to enlarging human choices is building human capacities: the range of things that people can do or be."

We urge the leaders of the developed world, and the various agencies responsible for promoting international peace, freedom, and prosperity — to be our exemplars and leaders.

We must all move forward and seek to help one another build our strong republics in our own nations so that we can strengthen the weak among us and make them all equally strong hopefully before 2015.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the UNDP Global Launching of the Human Development Report 2002. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224824/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8344&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Centennial Celebration of the founding of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (Aglipay Church)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Centennial Celebration of the founding of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (Aglipay Church)**

[Delivered at the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta, August 3, 2002]

Maraming salamat, Supreme Bishop Villamena at sabi ko nga sa kanya salamat at kayo ay naghintay sa akin. Kakaiwan ko lang sa Malacañang, nandoon pa nga, si Secretary of State Collin Powell, pero kailangan, nag-apura na nga ako, dahil ayoko na kayo naman ay iwanan ako baka umuwi na kayo.

Bishop Godofredo David; Senate President Franklin Drilon; ating mga officials ng Iglesia Filipina Independiente; Fr. Domingo, Secretary General ng National Priest Organization; Ms. Eclipse, National President ng Women Members ng kongregasyon; Mr. Pico, ang National President ng Laymen; Ms. Agustin, ang National President ng Youth Members ng Congregation; ang isang napakamatinong kaanak ni Supreme Bishop Aglipay, si Police Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay; Chairman ng MMDA Bayani Fernando; Governor Yap ng Tarlac. Nandito ba si Sally Perez? Ayan. Si Sally Perez ho ang unang nagpakilala sa akin kay Bishop Villamena noong ako ay senador pa. Former Prime Minister Cesar Virata; Commissioner ng Insurance Eduardo malinis; Chairperson ng National Lay Council Dr. Elvasco; at ang aking Presidential Adviser for Religious Affairs Dodi Limcauco; at kayong lahat, mga apatnapung libong mga kasapi ng Iglesia Filipina Independiente na naririto sa ating Centennial Anniversary:

Kahapon po noong ako ay papunta sa Pampanga dahil meron akong namatay na tiyang malapit, papunta ho ako doon nakita kong ang dami-daming bus papunta rito sa Maynila. Ang nakalagay nga doon, nakatatak sa streamer, “Iglesia Filipina Independiente.” Sabi ko, hayan na ang 40,000.

Kaya kayong lahat, binabati ko, magandang umaga. At binabati ko kayong lahat sa sentenaryong anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag ng Iglesia Filipina Independiente.

Napakalaki ang kontribusyon ng Iglesia Filipina Independiente sa ating kasaysayan. One hundred years ago, 1902, kayo ay nagpahayag ng kasarinlan sa ating pagsasamba sa Panginoon. Binigay ninyo ang ating pagsasamba ng kasarinlan na bagay sa ating kasarinlan mula sa dayuhang pamamahala. At kayo rin ang nagsimula ng kilusang manggagawa sa ating lipunan. Itong pagtatag ninyo ng kilusang manggagawa ay nagpahayag rin na ang ating kasarinlan di lamang bilang kalayaan mula sa pamamahalang dayuhan, kundi na rin na dapat malaya ang Pilipino sa pag-aapi ng sariling mga makapangyarihang pilipino rin.

Kaya maraming salamat sa iyong mahalagang papel sa ating kasaysayan, at congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Isang tanging pagpabati rin ang ipinapaabot ko sa mga pinagkalooban ng plaque of recognition at certificate of appreciation dahil sa kanilang napakagandang serbisyo at nagawa para sa inyong simbahan at sa ating lipunan.

Binabati ko rin si Dr. Manalo vao na sumulat ng librong “Christianity, Folk Religion and Revolution (An Oppressed Nation’s Struggle for Liberation)” na inilunsad ngayon. Ang librong ito ay paraan upang lalong maintindihan ng ating mga kababayan ang mga prinsipyo at mithiin na nagpaalab sa damdamin ng inyong founder na si Bishop Gregorio Aglipay at ang dakilang Isabelo De los Reyes.

Gaya ng sabi ko kanina, si Bishop Gregorio Aglipay ay nag-iwan hindi lamang ng malawak na kontribusyon sa ating kasaysayan, hindi lang mga kasapi kagaya ninyo na malawak pa rin ang kontribusyon sa ating lipunan ngayon, nag-iwan pa ng mga kaanak na malaki rin ang kontribusyon sa ating katiwasayan. Ito na rin ang sinasabi ko isa mga

pinakamahalagang pulis sa ating bansa, aking mahalagang gabay sa trabaho, si Police Deputy Director Edgardo Aglipay. Maraming salamat, Egay, salamat sa iyong malaking ginagawa para sa katiwasayan ng ating bansa at ng aking pamamahala. Congratulations sa iyong magandang trabaho.

Ang tema ng ating selebrasyon, “Bagong Siglo, Panibagong Sigla sa Paglilingkod sa Diyos at sa Bayan” ay napapanahon nababagay rin ito sa aking hangarin sa mga araw na ito na bigyan ng bagong sigla ang katatagan ng republika ng Pilipinas — yun na ring republika na tinulungan na mabuo ni bishop aglipay noong tinayo niya yung Iglesia Filipina Independiente.

Sinabi ko sa aking State of the Nation Address noong Hulyo Abeinte Dos na ang matatag na Republikang Pilipinas ay may dalawang importanteng katangian:

Una, kinakatawan nito ang sambayanan mismo at hindi lamang ilang may kapangyarihan;

Pangalawa, may mga matatag na institusyon na nagpapairal sa mabubuting patakaran.

Bahagi sa mga matatag na institusyon na tumutulong sa matatag na republikang Pilipinas ay ang institusyon ng Iglesia Filipina Independiente.

Kaya kung noon ang inyong simbahan ay malaking kontribusyon sa unang pagtayo ng republika, malaki rin ang inyong kontribusyon sa pagpapatatag ng republikang ito sa mga araw ng ito. Sa dalawang importanteng katangian ng matatag na republika meron kayong kontribusyon.

To build strong institutions for a strong Philippine republic that will represent the people rather than a few vested interests, we must wage a moral revolution from the top through leadership by example. Only moral strength can be the invincible foundation of good governance; and only good governance can serve as the pathway to peace, justice and the conquest of poverty.

When I assumed the presidency last year, I committed to the achievement of good governance based on three pillars:

First, a moral foundation to guide leadership at all levels, at itong moral foundation na ito malaking tulong ang Iglesia Filipina Independiente.

Second, the assurance of transparency in all government actions. At nakita naman ninyo ang daming mga high officials na nandito nagbibigay ng galang sa inyong simbahan, sa inyong selebrasyon, siguro sa ngalan nila — nila Franklin Drilon, nila Governor Yap at Governor Zaldivar, ni Chairman Fernando at ibang kasapi ng aking gabinete, si General Aglipay at ilang mga kasapi ng pulis. Siguro sa kanilang pangalan puwede akong magsabi sa inyo na kami ay nagbibigay-galang sa inyong simbahan hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng pagpunta dito kundi na rin na magbigay ng inaasahan ninyong transparency sa pagkikilos ng ating pamahalaan.

And the third principle of good governance is an ethic of effective implementation throughout the bureaucracy. Halimbawa, naririnig ko dalawang buwan pa lang raw si Bayani Fernando, Chairman ng MMDA, ang dami nang nalinis na mga sidewalk at traffic na naiwasan — ethic of effective implementation.

At inyong pamangkin at anak na si Egay Aglipay, alam niyo kilala ko yan noon pa senador, siya ang Regional Director ng Region III. Naalala mo egay doon sa Pampanga? Noon pa meron na siyang ethic of effective implementation.

At si Senate President Franklin Drilon, totoo yun na may mga alitan sa senado ngayon ngunit salamat sa liderato ni Franklin Drilon ay nasasagip pa rin ang reputasyon ng senado at ng ating institusyon.

Simula nang ako ay naupo bilang pangulo ng ating bansa, palagi kong sinasabi na kailangan na maging matibay ang ating moralidad upang ito'y magsilbing pundasyon ng matapat na pamamahala. Naniniwala rin ako na ang matapat na pamamahala ang tamang daan patungo sa kapayapaan, katarungan, pagsugpo sa kahirapan.

Ang kabaligtaran naman nito — yung graft and corruption — ang isa sa mga pangunahing hadlang sa ating pag-unlad. Inaagaw nito ang mga resources na dapat mapunta sa ating priority programs at projects. Sinisira nito ang tiwala ng mga mamamayan sa integridad ng ating mga institusyon, at nilalayo ang damdamin ng sambayanan sa pamahalaan.

Ang isa sa mga paraan para labanan ang katiwalian ay ang pagbawas ng red tape sa mga transaksyon ng mga mamamayan sa mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan.

Nitong nagdaang taon, labindalawang departamento at labinsiyam na ahensiya ng gobyerno ay nagpabawas ng kanilang red tape, nagbawas ng oras sa pag-proseso ng dokumento sa kanilang mga opisina.

Halimbawa doon sa housing, ang processing time ng pagkuha ng permit na dati ay inaabot 188 days, ngayon 45 days na lamang. Ay, hindi days, signature — 188 signatures dalawang taon, ngayon 45 signatures anim na buwan na lamang at binabawasan pa.

Ang DOLE naman — siguro marami sa inyo ay nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa. Red tape din ang aabutan noong ako'y naging pangulo. Kaya ang dole naman ay naibaba sa kalahati ang pag-proseso ng dokumentasyon sa ating overseas Filipino workers. Noong araw, anim na oras ang hinihintay, ngayon para doon sa mga land-based overseas filipino workers tatlong oras na lamang; at para naman doon sa mga ating mga seamen, noong araw labindalawang oras kayo naghihintay sa papeles, ngayon ay anim na oras lamang. Sa madaling salita, hinati yung processing time ng mga papeles para mabawasan ang red tape.

Meron din mga opisina na gumagamit ng computerization at automation, lalo na sa pagbili ng equipment. Itong mga bagay na ito ay pinapadali ang inyong oras na kailangang makipag-ugnay sa gobyerno, binabawasan din ang graft and corruption.

Hoong ako ay nagsalita sa State of the Nation Address, sabi ko lalabanan natin yung problema ng kriminalidad, yung problema ng corruption, yung problema ng cost of power. Eh, siguro naman marami sa inyo naramdaman na ninyo na dalawang beses nang bumaba yung inyong electric bill dahil sa pagsisikap ng ating pamahalaan.

At itong mga araw na ito nilalabanan natin ang katiwalian. Yung mga nagdadaya ng buwis, pagbayad ng VAT, tatlong daan ay kinakasuhan natin ngayon. Yung namang binabayaran ang buwis yun pala yung supposed to be tatanggap ng kanilang bayad sangay ng BIR ay nagsasabwatan at nilalagay sa private account, yun din ay hinuhuli na natin — mga malalaking sindikato ito — para sa ganon kayo, yung binibili ninyo na gamit sa kanila na bahagi ay buwis at dapat pumupunta sa pamahalaan para magserbisyo para sa inyo ay pupunta sa pamahalaan at talagang magbibigay ng paglilingkod sa inyong lahat.

Ito po ang ginagawa natin para maging malinis ang ating pamamahala. At kailangang malinis ang ating pamamahala para masabi naman natin na ang ating pamahalaan ay sumasang-ayon at karapat-dapat na maging pamahalaan kung saan naka-celebrate tayo ng 100 years anniversary ng mga prinsipyo ni Gregorio Aglipay at ang Iglesia Filipina Independiente.

Muli, mga kaibigan, salamat sa pagkakataon na narito. Tumataas na masyado ang araw, ayokong masyadong umitim kayo. Alam ko na kayo ay nagbiyahe kahapon pa at pagkatapos nagsasama-sama, nags-celebrate, tapos uuwi na naman muli para sa inyong araw-araw na paggamit ng mga magagandang prinsipyo ng simbahang Iglesia Filipina Independiente, ang masasabi ko lamang sa inyo salamat at kayo ay napakamatinong mga mamamayan ng ating bansa. Salamat at nagbibigay kayo ng inspirasyon sa aming mga officials na maging matino ring officials para karapat-dapat na kami ay masasabi ninyong inyong kinatawan.

Maraming salamat at happy 100 years anniversary sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Centennial Celebration of the Founding of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (Aglipay Church). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412223029/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8379&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremony of the Gawad sa Pinakatanging Kooperatiba (Gawad Pitak)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding ceremony of the Gawad sa Pinakatanging Kooperatiba (Gawad Pitak)**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, August 8, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Camacho, ang Secretary ng Finance at s'ya rin ang Chairman ng Landbank of the Philippines.

Binabati ko rin ang inyong pangulo ng Landbank of the Philippines — si Garry Teves; maging lahat ng mga members of the Board ng Landbank na naririto, nakaupo sa lahat. At iyung ating mga magagaling na pumili, na mga board of judges nitong limang ating binibigyan ng gantimpla itong araw na ito sa pangunguna ni Senator Rodolfo Biazon — ang Chairman,

Sabi po ni Senator Biazon, isang kahanga-hangang katangian ng mga nagwagi — ay bagamat sila ay kliyente ng Landbank. Ay, nandito rin si Secretary Obet Pagdanganan, ang ating Secretary for Cooperatives. Sabi ni Senator Biazon, isang katangi-tanging magandang masasabi tungkol dun sa mga nagwagi bagamat sila lahat ay kliyente ng Landbank, ibig sabihin umuutang sa Landbank. Ang kanilang relasyon ay walang dole-out, lahat self-supporting, self-sustaining.

Binabati ko rin ang aking kabaleyan sa Pangasinan, co-chairman ng lupon ng hurado si Congressman ng 3rd district so Generoso Tulagan. Maging yung iba't-ibang mga kasapi ng board of judges at kasama nga dito, naka-upo dito sa ating harapan ang anak ng man of the masses — si Jun Magsaysay. At ang ama naman ng kooperatiba — si Butch Aquino. Dapat batiin din nating muli ang ilang mga nagwagi nitong araw ng ito. Dagiti kakailayak diay lamut, congratulations dakayo amin. And to our friends from the Cooperative Bank of Bohol, congratulations! 'Yung non-agri based, parati na lang kinukuha ng Marikina lahat ng mga awards, Barangka Credit Cooperative, at 'yung Outstanding Multi-Purpose Cooperative, agricultural na yun ang kino-consider nating pinaka-top prize winner sa lahat, 'yung Tayabas Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

Nagpapasalamat din ako ka Garry Teves sa ngalan ni Sergio Odesa — ang Treasurer of the Philippines sa inyong binigay na dibidendong P250 million pati na rin yung stock dividend. Sabi ko nga kay Lito Camacho, dapat i-privatized natin yung stock dividend para makadagdag sa ating pangtakip ng budget deficit. Iyung batas pala, hindi pala pinapayagan na i-privatized ang kahit na isang share ng Landbank. Siguro iyung ating mga senador at saka mga congressmen na naririto baka iyun ang isang pwedeng magawan natin ng paraan para madala natin ang Landbank sa 21st century. Palagay ko marami dito sa ating mga multi-millionaire cooperatives ang mag-i-invest sa Landbank pag ganun ang nangyari.

Ating mga masisigasig at masisipag na kasama sa agrikultura, maging saan mang agricultural cooperatives sector, mga piling panauhin, ladies and gentlemen, mga minamahal kong kababayan:

Una sa lahat, Happy anniversary sa Land Bank of the Philippines! At siyempre congratulations sa mga binibigyan natin ng parangal itong araw na ito, iyung mga kooperatiba na natatanging kliyente ng Land Bank of the Philippines.

Alam n'yo tuwing ika-otso ng Agosto, nasisiyahan akong makasama kayo. Hindi lamang dahil gustong-gusto kong makita itong ating kliyente ng Landbank na ang gagaling magbayad. Sabi nga ni Gary dinadamihan na ng Landbank yung portfolio for cooperative and farm based financing kesa yung mga malalaking commercial financing na ginagawa noong araw, dahil yung mga utang na hindi bayad na minana ni Gary ay hindi galing sa mga magsasaka, galing sa mga malalaking mga kompanya. Kaya talagang tanging dapat magsasaka talaga ang binibigyan ng pahiram ng Landbank.

Kasi isang dahilan kung bakit din gustong-gusto kong kasama kayo sa ika-8 ng agosto ay nasisiyahan akong tuwing ika-8 ng agosto — sabay-sabay nating naaalala ang aking ama—si pangulong Diosdado Macapagal. Dahil yung araw na ito, August 8 sabi ng aking tatay, ang pinakamasayang araw sa kanyang buhay — Agosto a-otso, 1963, that was the happiest day of his life. Dahil iyon ang araw na pinirmahan niya ang lang reform code na s'ya na rin ang naglikas ng Landbank. Pinakamasayang araw ito sa kaniyang buhay dahil para sa kanya ang pinaka-pakay niya sa pagiging presidente niya ay magkaroon ng reporma sa lupa sa ating bansa.

My father was a revolutionary, although a peaceful one. He was born in a nipa hut in a rural barrio in Central Luzon, he was descended from a humble tenant who tilled three-fourths of a hectare of riceland na hindi sila ang may-ari. He suffered genuine hunger and privation as a child, but he fought his way out of poverty through the path of education, living beside an estero in Tondo as he worked his way through school. Mula sa maralitang taga-bukid noong nag-aral s'ya naging maralitang taga-lunsod. His eventual triumph as a bar topper, a Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Economics, a congressman, a vice-president, and eventually a president did not diminish his revolutionary passion, because he was the man with truly peasant origins, anak ng tenant to rise to the position of president.

When he assumed the presidency, he took his inspiration from the revolution of a plebeian, Andres Bonifacio. Sabi ng tatay ko, “I regarded the task of the presidency as an unfinished and peaceful revolution. It was to be a continuation of the Filipino revolution of 1896. Since the revolution was launched by Bonifacio, a man of the masses, it can be assumed that he would have freed the people not only from foreign rule but also from exploitation by their own countrymen.”

Since today marks the happiest day in my father's life, I will take some time to briefly outline his program of government because in many respects it is still as relevant in this new millennium as it was 40 year ago. And it is reflected in my own program of government.

Sabi ng tatay ko, “The task of the nation is to fight poverty, we must be concerned with the plight of the common man as an imperative of justice. We must help bridge the wide gap between the poor man and the man of wealth, not by pulling down the rich to his level, but by raising the poor towards the more abundant life.”

To achieve the goal of addressing poverty, his program like mine had four components.

The first component was the adoption of an economic philosophy of free enterprise by the private sector.

The second component was a concrete program of economic and social development for the guidance of the nation. The stress was on the word “social”.

And the third component separate from the first two —was land reform, whose ultimate purpose was to make possible, feasible agro-industrial growth and to make prosperity available for the greatest number.

My father believed from his own sad childhood experience, that to achieve prosperity shared by all, it was imperative to release the impoverished tenant from bondage.

He considered it an irony that the Philippines had the best agricultural school in Los Baños, kasi natayo yung IRRI noong panahon ng tatay ko. Yet other countries at that time were producing 100 cavans per hectare of rice, while the Philippines was only producing 27 cavans at that time.

And there were many possible explanations for this. But in his mind, the main reason was the lack of interest on the part of the tenants in advanced rice technology, simply because they did not benefit from any increase in productivity.

As the grandson and son of a tenant farmer, he recognized this indifference to be the main obstacle to the elusive goal of rice self-sufficiency, a futile quest of all our nation's leaders since Manuel Quezon. He therefore felt that abolishing tenancy was imperative to land reform.

That is why he considered it, the happiest moments of his life when he signed, on August 8, 1963, 39 years ago, the Agricultural Land Reform Code. In signing the law, he said, "Let this signing be recorded in our annals as an act of emancipation of the toiling farmers from his slavery to debt, poverty, and misery, and of his dignification as a human being and as a citizen."

Sadly, even as we celebrate the 39th Anniversary of the Land Reform Code, and therefore the anniversary of Landbank which was created by that code, land reform remains to be accomplished.

But I feel privileged and blessed that I can pick up from where he left and carry on his battles.

We have made big strides in land reform in this administration. Sayang wala si Nani Braganza ngayon, ngunit masasabi natin, the more than 100,000 hectares distributed by the DAR and the more than 150,000 hectares distributed by the Denr were higher than the targets we set in last year's State of the Nation Address. And this is achieved under a budget inherited from the previous administration which could only cover 70,000 hectares of compensable lands.

How did Nani Braganza do it? With a very big help from the Landbank of the Philippines.

I congratulate the Landbank of the Philippines for making it possible to surpass our targets for land distribution even if the national budget for land reform was a pittance. And I congratulate the Land Bank for beginning to return to its original mandate as provided in the land reform code of 1963, that mandate of the Landbank in the Land Reform Code is –to finance land reform.

Binabati ko rin ang Land Bank dahil meron kayong bagong gusali. Magkakaroon kayo ng program mamayang gabi. At nagpapasalamat ako na doon sa inyong bagong gusali, yung auditorium ay pinangalan ninyo sa alaala ng aking ama na siya rin ang ama ng Land Bank dahil ang Land Bank ay nilikha ng kaniyang Land Reform Code, ako rin nilikha n'ya di kapatid ko ang Landbank of the Philippines.

In the past 15 years, hirap ng hirap ang land reform. The level of workable lands for distribution under land reform has declined due to growing constraints. For instance, formidable issues involved in land acquisition and distribution characterized by strong resistance from landowners, and even issues among farmer beneficiaries not to mention limited government resources. Halimbawa nga yung Landbank, nagulat ako yung ilang mga creditors ng Landbank naglalagay ng mga constraint na dapat hindi gamitin yung pinapahiram sa land reform. Eh, hindi yung kaugnay doon sa talagang dahilan kung bakit natayo yung Landbank. Yun ay naging isang problema ngayon sa pagtutupad ng land reform. Kaya sabi ko sa mga sumusunod na mga financing ay ayusin natin at ibalik natin sa talagang pakay ng Landbank. Parati kong sinasabi, since the Economic Summit of December last year — na dapat ang pinaka-pakay ng Land Bank ay kumupkop ng mga resources para mapondohan ang reporma sa lupa.

And with the invaluable support of the land bank, it is worthy to note that this year so far, no, no first last year, of the 250,000 hectares of land that we distributed 18,000 hectares was distributed under the compulsory acquisition since the start of land reform. At pag kumukuha compulsory, imbues na hinihintay mo ibenta ng land owner yung lupa, this is an affirmation of political will to distribute contentious lands under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program of president Aquino. Landholdings covering this mode are generally contentious lands where landowner resistance is at its strongest. Kaya kailangan compulsory. Pro sinasabi ko kay Gary — dapat damon natin ang compulsory acquisition. Gamitin natin ang expropriation law at hindi lang natin hinihintay yung voluntary offers of sale.

With Land bank devoting itself primarily to sourcing funds for land reform, I hope that within the decade, land reform can be accomplished (abolished) and therefore the battle against poverty can be won.

I understand that in the first half of this year, the Land Bank approved payment for total land transfer claims of more than 17,000 hectares. This translates to land transfer output amounting to p1.3 billion for the period. Maraming salamat sa Landbank at congratulations! And in congratulating you , I urge you and the Land Bank to go for again 100,00 hectares of land distribution in tandem with the 100,000 that the DENR has to do.

I also congratulate the Land Bank because as mentioned by Gary in his speech — your total credit and technical assistance for agricultural modernization reached more than P1 billion for the first six months of this year. And your total loan releases for small farmers and fisher folks was more than p6.4 billion during this period, channeled through more than a thousand cooperatives and almost 400 financial institutions, and benefiting more than 200,000 small farmers and fisherfolk, whom my father loved so much because he was one of them.

Ngayon mabalik ako doon sa program ng tatay ko, the fourth and final component of his program —was to improve moral standards in government and in society.

In the end his revolution remained unfinished, poverty continues to be the national problem of the new millennium, and much still needs to be done to improve moral standards in government and in society.

The mission of my administration is to continue his work, to bring new life to the greatest number of our people under a strong Philippine republic.

Two essential features mark out a strong republic:

The first is independence from class and pectoral interests so that it stands for the interests of the people rather than of a powerful minority.

The second is the capacity, represented through strong institutions and a strong bureaucracy, to execute good policy and deliver essential services the things that only governments can do.

The Land Bank contributes to both essentials of a strong Philippine republic. By financing land reform, the Land Bank stands for the interests of the people, especially the masses of the small farmers, rather than of a powerful minority in the landlord class. At gay ng sinasabi ko kay Gary, ma along pinanindigan natin yung mga mahihirap at maliliit kaysa yung mga malalakas at malalaki kung palakasin natin ang compulsory acquisition kesa lamang umaasa sa voluntary offer of sale.

Secondly, the Landbank can represent the masses effectively only by staying as a strong institution with a strong bureaucracy.

This is why I feel sad, that at a time when the bank is riding high on its sterling achievements, it has been somewhat tainted by what i hope is a rare incident of grave misconduct and unlawful acts by a suspected few within the institution.

It is unfortunate mainly because such hopefully rare and isolated cases of misconduct and criminality tend to smear the name and of the majority of upright, professional and dedicated workers of the bank, as well as the good name and prestige of the institution as a whole.

We are determined to get at the root of this tax diversion case, which involves three related felonies: plunder — because so far what we have found is diverted tax payments of P200 million and still counting, conspiracy for tax evasion, and money laundering. By getting to the root of the cases as soon as possible, related but separate cases, I trust that the good name of the institution can be cleared so that the majority of the professionals in this institution — the Landbank can be unburdened of the weight upon collective reparation.

I assure you, there shall be justice and fair play.

So far a bank manager, a cashier, and a bank messenger have been charged.

Yesterday, I ordered the Director of the National Bureau of Investigation to determine once and for all whether Acsa Ramirez, one of the two cashiers in the Land Bank in Binangonan during whose terms 17 questionable transactions

have been uncovered as not having been reported by certain officers required by law to report them, to determine once and for all whether she is culpable for violation of the anti-money laundering law.

If she is culpable, I ordered the NBI to file charges immediately. And if she's innocent, I ordered the NBI to immediately clear her as well. Let us not have an extended run on this issue. We must move on with speedy and impartial justice. Because most of all, we must not lose sight of the lofty aim of the Landbank which is social amelioration, especially through financing land reform.

Malinaw ang ating hangarin sugpuin ang kahirapan sa kanayunan upang makamit ang isang matatag at malakas na republika. Alam naman nating lahat na hindi ito magagawa ninuman nang nag-iisa. Kaya, ako ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa pagkakaroon ng ganitong pagkikilala sa mga natatanging tao at grupo na malaki ang nai-ambag sa pagsulong ng ating lipunan.

Kaya sa ating mga nagwagi, congratulations sa inyong lahat. Sa Landbank bilang institusyon, congratulations din sa inyo. At maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding Ceremony of the Gawad sa Pinakatanging Kooperatiba (Gawad Pitak). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224812/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8377&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during her visit to Cogeo Police Station
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During her visit to Cogeo Police Station

[Delivered in Antipolo City, Rizal, August 9, 2002]

Ako'y nagpunta dito ngayon sa Cogeo Police sub-station para magpasalamat at mag-congratulate sa ating mga pulis — nandito si Sub-Station Commander, si Noel Gragutero at saka nandito yung mga cops niya at saka pati iyong sa mga tanod — magpasalamat sa kanila dahil bagamat kulang na kulang ang facilities nila ay magaling sila sa paggawa ng kanilang trabaho. Kasi nung isang araw, ilang araw nakaraan, no, nung isang buwan, iyong aking manikurista, si Nitz Valderama, kinuwento niya sa akin na na-hold-up siya kaya ayaw na niyang umuwi ng late pagnagpapa-hot oil ako kailangan na mago-overnight na lang siya sa Malakanyang kasi nga umuwi nang isang gabi, na-holdap siya. Ang nangyari, tumatawag siya sa pulis dito eh wala na pala silang telepono, naputulan na pala. Ngayon pumunta siya dito kaya lang dahil pumunta pa siya dito, hindi na naabutan iyong nag-hold-up sa kanya.

Pero dahil sinumbong niya at dahil hindi lang nila nahuli noong gabing iyon ay nag-follow up sila nang hindi nila pinabayaan. At sa process ng paghahanap sa nang-hold-up kay Nitz, marami silang nahuling ibang wanted. Kaya nagpaabot tuloy ng pagpasalamat sa akin iyong mga tiga-rito na nagpapasalamat dahil iyong iba't-ibang mga nagpahirap sa kanila, maraming nahuli at tapos sa wakas, pati iyong nag-hold-up kay Nitz ay nahuli na rin.

Kaya ako'y narito para magpasalamat sa kanila at magbigay ng aking congratulations dahil kahit na mahirap iyong kanilang facilities dito ay nagagawa pa rin nila ang kanilang trabaho nsng mabuti. Kaya kanina sabi ko kay General Ebdane, bigyan mo naman sila ng telepono.

Pero ang mangyayari dito iyon pala ito ay temporary lamang dahil binenta na pala ito ng nha. So may lupa si Mayor Gatlabayan diyan, malapi din dito, Cogeo rin, at magko-contribute si Governor Ynares, iyong asawa ni Ex-Governor Ynares, si Nini Ynares, si mayor at saka ako, we will give give 250,000 each para 750,000 ang magiging halaga ng bagong station. Iyong ang ating parang gantimpala sa kanila — magkaroon sila ng magandang station — at bibigyan sila ng bagong radyo 'no, ni General Ebdane at saka may cellular na sila, so ipo-post nila iyong numbers, tapos si mayor ay magpapakabit ng bagong telepono rin.

So, gusto ko lang ipakita dito na meron tayong mga magagaling na pulis na kahit kulang na kulang ang kanilang facilities ay makakalingkod sa ating taong-bayan.

So, I would like to commend them for their good work and their sacrifices because despite the difficulties they are facing, they have continued to arrest hold-uppers and other criminals and prevent serious crimes for happening. The police here are operating under heavy constraints in mobility and communications.

The plight of my manicurist has reflected the plight of all ordinary people victimized by criminals. I sympathize with her just as I am deeply concerned about people losing their hard-earned money to muggers. We must protect the poor from crime not just the rich and the influential. So we are improving, in fact, giving new facilities to this police station because it serves ordinary people in communities in need of public order and peace of mind.

We should not tolerate pockets of lawliness in our poorer communities. We must make sure that ordinary people have the mantle of law enforcement and law protection just like the more affluent areas — and this is another mandate i have placed upon the shoulders of the PNP leadership.

Kaya sa mga pulis sa Cogeo, maraming salamat at congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during Her Visit to Cogeo Police Station. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224726/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8375&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Town Fiesta in Baras, Catanduanes

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Town Fiesta in Baras, Catanduanes**

[Delivered in Baras, Catanduanes, August 9, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Vince Perez, ang Secretary of Energy.

Pwede na kayong maupo.

Maraming salamat Vince sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin at sa aking ibabalita mamaya sa mga mamamayan ng Catanduanes.

Maraming salamat din Mayor Bong Teves sa iyong imbitasyon na ako ay makaabot dito sa Baras. At congratulations dahil ito pala ang iyong first term bilang punong bayan.

Binabati ko si Governor Lee Verceles, Lee ang tawag namin sa kanya pero dito yata anong tawag niyo? Jun. Jun, ang ating Governor first term bilang Governor pero siya lang at ang tatay niya ang governor na di pa binabagyo sa kanyang first term. Swerte iyon.

Binabati ko rin si Congressman Joseph Santiago, maraming salamat na kayo ay pumunta rito para lang sa fiestang ito dahil si Congressman ay nanggaling pa sa Batasan dahil may namatay na kasama, congressman ng Cavite at nanggaling sila doon sa necrological services.

Batiin ko rin lahat ng mga officials ng bayan ng Baras sa pangunguna ni Vice Mayor Chito Chi at salamat Father Ffaustino, ang Parish Priest sa inyong pagdasal.

Kasama ko rin dahil meron tayong maraming constituents dito kasama ni Governor Verceles — ang pangulo ng Philippine Health Insurance, si Dr. Francisco Duque. At iyong inaatasan kong dalhin yong sulat ng mga guro sa DPWH para pag-aralan kung ano ang pwedeng gawin, ang ating presidential assistant na si Chito Monson nasaan siya? Ayun. Iyan ang assignment mo ha. Meron kayong bagong Commanding Officer ng 22nd brigade, si Col. Pedrito Magsino. Siya ay galing sa napakagandang pag-trabaho doon sa Southern Mindanao. Kaya magaling siya doon pinadala ko dito para magaling din ang inyong brigade commander. Binabati ko rin ang inyong police provincial director, si Col. Gil Jamila Jetosis lahat ng officials ng Baras, lahat ng officials ng Catanduanes, mga kababanwa digdi sa Baras Fios marhay nga aldaw sa indo gabos at maligayang kapistahan sa inyong lahat.

Alam nyo sa aking pagpunta rito natutuwa ako na kahit maliit at malayo ang inyong bayan — kaya ang tatay ko pa lang ang nakakabisita rito – marami kayong mga kusang ginagawa sa nakita ko para sa inyong kaunlaran. Kabilang dito, pinapaangat ninyo ang crop production. Katunayan sabi nga ni cCongressman Joseph Santiago, dito pala nanggagaling iyong abaca fiber na ginagawang high fashion na mga shirts.

Kabilang sa mga ginagawa ninyo ang pagpapaunlad ng mga yamang-dagat. Kaya lang kung minsan iyong yamang-dagat ay sobrang umaapaw at binabaha kayo. Ayun ang titignan ni Chito kasama ng DPWH. Pagpapalawak ng cottage industries, iyon na nga ang inyong sinamay at pagpapayabong ng turismo dito.

Ang paglago ng crop production, ang pagpaunlad ng yamang dagat, iyong paggawa ng tela mula sa inyong abaca, ito ay naaayon sa ating programa ng pamahalaang national iyong modernisasyon ng agrikultura at pangingisda. Kaya naman asahan ninyo na ang inyong mga proyektong nasa ilalim nito ay bibigyan ko ng lubos na suporta.

Nandito yong ating Outstanding Agriculturist of the Year, si Regional Director Fe Laysa, kaya mabuti ay nandito siya. Si Fe ay taga Pili, Camarines Sur. Iyan. Inaatasan ko si Fe na maglaan ng tatlong milyong piso para sa farm-to-market-roads para sa Catanduanes.

Tulad nang sinabi ko nung aking huling State-of-the-Nation Address Nanawagan ako sa mga lokal na official na manguna sa pagtatag ng Republika ng Pilipinas. Alam ko na ang Catanduanes, maliit na probinsiya, maliit na IRA, 20 million lamang ang puwedeng magamit sa imprastraktura, kaya itong 3 million sa farm-to-market-road sa palagay ko malaki ang maitutulong dito sa lalawigan ng Catanduanes.

Inaasahang ko na si Governor Lee Verceles at lahat ng mga LGE, local government executives ng cCatanduanes ay makakatulong para maging kabalikat sa hamon ng matatag na Republika ng Pilipinas.

Kailangan ng pangulo ang mga local government executives kasi executive kami. Si Congressman Santiago nasa Legislative, gumagawa ng batas. Iyong nagpapatupad ng patakaran, mga executives iyon ang local government executive extension ng national executive na ako na nga. Kaya kailangan ko sila, hindi lamang sa imprastraktura na kailangan tulung-tulong tayo dahil kulang, ngunit para ring matiyak ang seguridad at kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan laban sa kriminalidad at terorismo.

Kanina nga sabi ni Congressman Santiago, baka gusto kong dumaan sa baga manok kung saan nagkaroon ng isang encounter noong nakaraang hulyo. Ngunit sabi ng aking PSG head. Na sayang kung noon ko pa sinabi sana nakapaghanda. Pero sa ngayon mahirap kung biglang pupunta na lamang doon ang pangulo na hindi naka-pre-position ang sundalo dahil si Colonel Magsino ay nandito kasama natin at hindi nandoon. Iyon ang nagpapatunay na dito sa Catanduanes kailangan pinaghahandaan. Kaya ibig sabihin noon, mayroon tayong maliit na problema tungkol sa kapayapaan. Kaya kinakailangan ko ang tulong ninyong lahat at inyong suporta sa mga kilos na gagawin natintungkol dito. Dahil sa problema ng kapayapaan, terorismo, rebelyon, kailangan ang isang kamay na bakal para sa katatagan ng liderato, para mapatupad ang mga kaukulang batas at disiplina sa kaayusan.

Iyan ang pangunahing pinagtutuunan ko ng pansin ngayon bilang inyong pangulo — ang kapayapaan ng ating bansa. At iyan ang inaasahan kong bigyan ng pansin nyo dito sa baras at sa buong Catanduanes.

Sabi ko nga sa aking recent State of the Nation Address, the strong Philippine Republic we want to build, takes care of the people and takes care of their future. Dahil kung mapayapa ang Catanduanes, mas makakaya natin asikasuhin ang kinabukasan ng ating napakaraming mga bata dito sa bayan ng Baras.

Para maalagaan ang kinabukasan ng Catanduanes, isa pang pangunahing adhikain natin ay ang pagpapabilis ng serbisyo sa mamamayan. Pinapatignan ko, kung ano ang iba pa ninyong pangangailangan maliban sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura. Tinitignan ko kung ano ang inyong pangangailangan lalo na sa larangan ng kalusugan at sa larangan ng kuryente.

Una sa lahat, dahil fiesta ngayon, mayroon tayong ... Isandaang ganoon, regalo para sa 100 poorest families ng Baras, bilang regalo ko sa inyong kapistahan. Pero pangkapistahan iyan. In other words, kakainin ng mga familia ngayon at sa darating na Linggo, pero sa pangmatagalan, ang dala-dala ko ngayon, kasama ni Philhealth head Dr. Duque para sa ating mga taga Catanduanes ang 1,068 Philhealth cards para sa 1,068 na mga awardees dito ng health insurance.

Nagpapasalamat ako at nagko-congratulate ako kay Governor Lee Verceles dahil kahit maliit ang IRA, limang milyong piso ang ginastos niya para bayaran ang premium ng Philhealth ng mga mahihirap sa Catanduanes. Kaya lahat ng indigents 100 percent lahat ng mga maralita ay naka-enroll at may health insurance. Kaya ang Catanduanes ay number one per capita sa coverage ng health insurance sa buong Bicol at siguro number two or number three sa buong Pilipinas.

Pero ano ang ibig sabihin ng card ninyo? Ano ang ibig sabihin ng health insurance? Ang ibig sabihin nito kung meron kayo itong health card—ibig sabihin mayron kayong health insurance. Kaya kapag magkasakit ang inyong pamilya at magpapagamot kayo sa isa sa mga siyam na accredited hospitals sa probinsiya, kasama na rito iyong provincial hospital, libre ang paggamot, ang insurance ang nagbabayad ng inyong gastos. Ngayon iyong manganganak, hindi iyon sakit, pero kung magiging caesarean, kailangan operahan, ang philhealth rin ay mananagot hanggang labing walong pisong (18,000) gastos. Binabanggit ko iyon mukhang ang daming nanganganak dito sa Baras kaya baka maraming nangangailangan itong ating philhealth. Sabi ng ating mga officials, maraming anak kasi maraming brownout. Kaya dahil katoliko serado tayo, father, kung gusto nating bawasan ang birth rate, bawasan ang brown out dito.

Kaya pag-usapan natin ang power supply. Tinanong ko sa NPC kasi sinumbong nga sa akin ni Governor na ang brownout ninyo parati. Tinanong ko sa NAPOCOR, kay Secretary Vince Perez, bakit madalas ang brownout dito? Kasi alam ko malaking istorbo sa pamumuhay ang mga power interruption. Napag-alaman ko na may kakulangan pala ng 2,600 kilowatts ang inyong kuryente dito kaya madalas ang brownout.

Kaya itong araw na ito bilang fiesta ng baras, bilang regalo ko sa Catanduanes, mayroon akong ibabalita sa inyo itong araw na ito. Ibabalita ko ang mga ginawa namin nitong mga nakaraang araw para ipaghanda itong ginhawa ninyo sa problema ng kuryente.

Una sa lahat, I have instructed NAPOCOR to lease two generator sets as a solution to your current power problem. These generator sets will arrive in Virac on Sunday, August 11. It will arrive by overland transport. Gusto ko sanang dalhin ngayon, eh, I would have taken them with me now, pero doon sa mga nagsalubong sa akin sa eroplano nakita nyo gaano kaliit ang aking eroplano, kaya hindi kasya ang generator set. In fact, kahit na C-130 hindi kasya ang generator set, ganoon kalaki ang generator sets. Kaya kasalukuyan sabay kaming umalis ng Maynila, ako nag-eroplano, siya ay nag-land transportation. At darating sa Sunday, siyempre isi-set-up, iko-commission. And NAPOCOR informed me that these generator sets can begin operating on Tuesday, August 13.

Kaya, cross our fingers, na sa susunod na Martes may ginhawa na kayo sa kuryente. Pero iyan iyong basic requirements ninyo. Kasi kung minsan konti, kung minsan marami. So para complete requirement, I have also instructed NAPOCOR to lease additional generator sets to cover your peak demand. Hindi lamang yon darating sa linggo na magsisimula ng Tuesday, mayroon pang darating na dagdag and their arrival date in Virac is the end of next week.

In the meantime NAPOCOR is repairing the generator set in Marinawa dito sa probinsiya ng Catanduanes. Kasalukuyang nagtatrabaho sila at sinabi ko, gawin iyong paraan para makatakbo itong Marinawa — sabi nga ni Vince Perez, mag-ingat kayo sa pronunciation baka sabihin ninyong marijuana, nasabi ko na nga marijuana, Marinawa. Sabi ko sa NAPOCOR, gawin niyo iyon kaagad para sa ganon sa araw ng fiesta ng Baras ay makakatakbo na ang Marinawa generator set itong araw na ito.

Mga kababayan, mabuti ako ay pumunta rito kasi kailangan malaman ang problema, iyong mga pinakamatinding problema. Syempre lahat ng bayan malaki ang problema, pero yung pinakamatindi. Salamat nagkaroon ako ng pagkakataon makapunta rito, salamat na lamang nalaman ko ang pinakamatinding problema ninyo. Iyan ang ating ginagawa: tinitingnan ang kailangan, tinitingnan kung ano ang gagawin because bilang inyong pangulo alam ko kung ano ang kailangan — tungkulin ko iyon — at alam ko rin kung papaano natin mabibigyan ng solusyon — tungkulin ko rin iyon. Para mabigyan kayo ng isang maaasahang pamahalaan, yun ang kailangan. At bilang pangulo, gagawin ko ang lahat sa abot ng aking kakayahan na matupad yung mga pinaka matinding pangangailangan ng taong-bayan.

Alam ko dito kailangan maayos at matahimik na pamumuhay, maunlad na kinabukasan. Iyan ang ating ipagtrabaho lahat-lahat tayo, magsama-sama tayo rito.

Kaya sa araw ng fiesta ng Baras, iyan ang aking panalangin kay San Lorenzo, ang martir, na sana tulungan nya tayo na mabigyan ng kapayapaan, magandang kaunlaran, magandang kinabukasan, magandang kalusugan, magandang kuryente ang mamamayan ng Catanduanes.

Maraming salamat at masayang fiesta sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Town Fiesta in Baras, Catanduanes. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224802/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8374&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the mass oathtaking of barangay officials (Manila Chapter) [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa malawakang panunumpa ng mga opisyal ng barangay (Manila Chapter)**

[Ipinahayag sa Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, ika 13 ng Agosto, 2002]

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. At maraming salamat sa punong lungsod ng Maynila, si Mayor Lito Atienza na kapwa namin ni Joey Lina na mga pro-life kaya ganon ang kanyang diskurso.

Kagalang-galang na Joey Lina, siya ay ama ng mga local governments dahil siya ang Secretary ng DILG pero siya rin ay pamangkin ni Mayor Lito Atienza.

Si Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna; si Congressman Rudy Bacani; mga masisipag na konsehal; mga bagong halal at mga halal muli na punong barangay ng Maynila; mga piling panauhin; mga minamahal kong mga taga-Maynila:

Congratulations sa inyong lahat.

At belated happy birthday kay Mayor Atienza.

Ako ay nasisiyahan na bumati sa inyong halos 900 na Barangay chairmen at chairwomen ng Maynila — napakarami kayo kaya talaga naman nararapat na ballroom ng Manila Hotel ang paggaganapan ng inyong oathtaking. At hindi lamang yon, bagay na bagay ang historic Manila Hotel sa inyo dahil sa papel na ginaganap niyo sa ating bansa at sa kabisera ng bansa, ang lungsod ng Maynila.

Kayo ay kailangan-kailangan ko sa sinabi ko sa aking State of the Nation Address — yung pagtatag ng ating republikang Pilipinas. Sinabi ko noon na dalawa ang napaka-importanteng katangian ng matatag na republika ng Pilipinas.

Una, dapat kinakatawan natin hindi yung mga makapangyarihan kung hindi yung mga mahihina at mahihirap. At sino ang pinaka-kumakatawan sa mga mahihirap? Walang iba kung hindi yung mga namumuno ng batayang organisasyon sa ating pamahalaan, walang iba kung hindi yung mga chairmen.

Yung pangalawang katangian ng matatag na republikang Pilipinas ay para nga makatawan natin yung mga mahihirap at mahihina kaysa yung mga makapangyarihan. Kailangan matatag ang ating mga institusyon. At siguro sa lahat ng ating mga institusyon ng Pilipinas, isang nasa pinakamatatag at malakas na institusyon ay yung institusyon ng barangay organization at barangay chairman at chairwoman. Kasi, ako pangulo ng Pilipinas ngunit tanging kapangyarihan ko ay ehekutibo; si Mayor Atienza, mayor ng pinaka-importanteng lungsod, kabisera ng Pilipinas, ngunit ang tanging hinahawakan niyang kapangyarihan ay ehekutibo; yung mga legislature sa pamahalaang pambansa, mga congressmen, si Congressman Bacani at yung mga senador; yung mga humuhusga yung ating mga mahistrado. Doon naman sa Maynila, ang ehekutibo si Lito, ngunit yung legislature ay si Danny at yung mga konsehal; ngunit kayo, mga Barangay chairmen at chairwomen, nabuo yung tatlong kapangyarihan sa inyo — ehekutibo, lehislato, ganon na rin ang hukuman sa barangay.

Kaya napakatatag ng inyong institusyon at importanteng kilalanin ang inyong katatagan bilang institusyon at palawakin pa sa gawa at hindi lamang sa batas. Kailangang galangin ang inyong kapangyarihan, galangin ang inyong kasarinlan.

Noong ako ay bagong pangulo — naging pangulo ako sabado di dapat day-off yun, walang opisina; dapat pahinga, Sunday; Monday ang first day of work, first day ng papeles — pero nung gabing yun, Sunday, naku, yung aking Executive Secretary noon, si Rene de Villa, ay inaapura ako may mga papeles na kailangan makita ko yung gabing yun. Ano kayang napakaimportante na hindi makahintay sa aking first working day nung lunes? Yun pala mga travel authority ng ilang mga barangay captain. Kasi ultimo barangay captain, kayong 900 kayo, 42,000 sa buong Pilipinas, kailangan pala hindi pala makakabiyahe kung walang permiso ng presidente. Eh papaano kung napuno kami ng paper work o tinamad? Eh di wala na. Anong nangyari sa inyong kapangyarihan?

Kaya yun ang unang ginawa ko, sabi ko hindi na hihingi sa akin ng permiso ang mga barangay officials, at the very least ibibigay ko na, ide-delegate ko na kay Joey Lina.

Ganon na rin yung pagbili ng mga kotse, hindi na kayo kailangang humingi ng permiso sa akin, binababa ko na yun kay Joey Lina.

At mas importante yung inyong IRA. Hindi niyo ba nahahalata na hindi na binabawasan yung inyong IRA, buo nang binibigay sa inyo? At hindi lamang yun, yung mga utang ng nakaraang administrasyon ay binabayaran kayo ng aking administrasyon kahit na hindi nanggaling sa akin yung utang na yun.

Lahat yun ay bilang pagkikilala sa kapangyarihan at mahalagang papel ng ating barangay organization.

Tapos sa aking paglilibot sa mga barangay officials, ewan ko kung dito sa Maynila kasi mayaman kayo ganon ang inyong problema, pero doon sa mga probinsya maraming nagko-complain sa akin, yung mga GSIS benefits daw — yung death benefits, yung disability benefits, in other words yung life insurance or disability insurance, hindi raw nila nakukubra. Eh anong klaseng kapangyarihan yun kung kayo, huwag namang malas, kawawa naman yung mga kamag-anak, yung mga pamilya pag nasawi o kung disable kayo kawawa naman kayo sa inyong buhay na kailangang maraming mga gagamitin, gamit na kailangan para tuloy pa rin ang inyong pagkikilos. Kaya yun ay isang trinabaho namin ni Joey Lina, at ngayon gumawa ako ng Executive Order, dito sa mga ganitong bagay — yung life insurance at disability insurance — yung babayad sa inyo hindi na kayo kailangan kumubra sa GSIS, dilg na ang mananagot sa bayad ng inyong mga benepisyo.

Ano naman ang kailangan namin mula sa inyo sa pagbigay ng lahat ng kapangyarihan at kinikilala ang inyong kapangyarihan? Siyempre dahil kayo ang batayang organisasyon, kayo ang executive, legislative at hukom sa inyong mga pamayanan, kailangan ang inyong tulong doon sa mga barangay: kailangan kayo maging tulay sa pagpadala ng mga proyektong laban sa kahirapan. Kailangan kayo ang mata at tenga at bakal na kamay para isigurado ang kapayapaan sa inyong mga barangay. Kailangan kayo rin ang boses ng pamahalaan para maikuwento kung anu-ano ang mga patakaran at mapaliwanag ang panig ng pamahalaan sa iba't-ibang mga issue na importante sa mga inyong sinasakupan.

Kaya napakaimportante ang barangay chairman at chairwoman. Binabati ko kayong lahat dahil napakaimportante maging Barangay Official sa Maynila. At maraming kilala kong barangay chairmen at chairwomen na tumakbong unopposed, di ba Lito, noong nakaraang halalan na ito? Ibig sabihin noon nagustuhan ng taongbayan yung pagpapatakbo ninyo nung nakaraang term ninyo.

Doon naman sa mga bago, malaki ang pag-asa ng inyong sinasakupan sa inyong magandang pamamahala.

Kaya itong gabing ito ipagdiriwang natin ang inyong tagumpay dahil meron kayong bagong mandato galing sa ating taongbayan. Itong mandato ninyong bagung-bago ay kailangang-kailangan din namin sa pamahalaang nasyonal na magamit para sa ganon kayo ang magiging tulay ng national government sa mga pinakapamayanan.

Kaya muli, malaking karangalan sa akin na tayo ay nagsasama sa trabaho. Gaya ng sabi ni Lito, hindi politika kasi non-partisan naman ang barangay officials. Kaya importante na magtulungan tayo. Mas actually tumutulong kayo sa amin, ang tulong namin sa inyo ay ibigay sa inyo yung karapatan ninyo — yung mga ira, kailangan niyong kapangyarihan na dinadaan sa inyo habang kaya, yung ating mga activity.

Kaya kami ni Joey Lina ay gumawa ng isang parang masasabi nating serbisyo na puwedeng magawa, sama-sama tayo sa ating mga mamamayan na pinaglilingkuran natin. Ang tawag nito ay gabay sa mamamayang action center. at ito ay parang halos one-stop information center na malalaman ng lahat kung papaano nila makukuha ang mga serbisyo ng pamahalaan ni hindi na kailangang pupunta dito, pupunta doon, pupunta doon, nandoon na lahat sa barangay. Sa mga darating na araw kasi magkakaroon tayo ng mga seminar Local Government Academy, maikukuwento ni Joey Lina itong, ano? gabay sa Mamamayan Action Center. Isang paraan kung papaano mas mase-centralize natin, mawa-one-stop shop natin ang ating tulong sa ating mga mamamayan.

Ito lamang ang ilang mga halimbawa ng ating pinag-iibayong paglingkod sa ating mamamayan.

Ako ay nasisiyahan na kayo ay narito. Salamat sa inyong suportang pinakita sa akin nitong nakaraang one year-and-a-half ng aking pagka-pangulo. At sa mga susunod na panahon, magtulungan pa tayo para lalong dakila pa ang Maynila, ang kabisera ng Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat at congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Mass Oathtaking of Barangay Officials (Manila Chapter). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224719/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8373&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the launching of the Arsenio H. Lacson Foundation for Public Service,
Inc.**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching of the Arsenio H. Lacson Foundation for Public Service, Inc.**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, August 14, 2002]

Maraming salamat Mayor Lito Atienza, na kagabi lang ay kasama ko dito rin sa Manila dahil nanumpa sa tungkulin yung mga bagong halal na barangay officials.

Fr. James Reuter, Board Dhairman, Arsenio Lacson Foundation for Public Service; Ms. Millie Lacson Lapira and other members of the Lacson family, including Bong Lapira, including Sal Lacson, my father-in-law's first cousin — which reminds me I belong to the Lacson family too because my father-in-law's mother was Doña Jesusa Lacson, the Faisal and my father-in-law are first cousins; other members and officers of the Arsenio Lacson Foundation for Public Service; other officials of the City of Manila; friends and benefactors of the foundation; distinguished guests; Fr. Nebres, President of Ateneo, and Fr. Caluag, Vice President of Ateneo and Director of the Foundation; ladies and gentlemen:

The younger generation of today would not recall the heady days of the presidential campaign of 1961, many of you in this table, in that table were not even born then. That was the year that my father became president of the Philippines. And as Millie said, that campaign was premised on integrity, austerity, responsibility and genuine public service.

And I am very grateful to the man whom we honor today – as already intimated by Millie — served as my father's campaign manager, Arsenio Lacson. Though he belonged to a different party he was my father's campaign manager precisely because of the platform of integrity and reform.

My father and Mayor Lacson go back a long way. You saw that they were in UST at the same time. They were also newspapermen before they entered politics which was a basis for their bonding when they were both C. Arsenio Lacson was a champion boxer and my father too, in a much, much lesser way, also liked boxing as a sport. So they had many things going together for them personality wise but also principle wise and that's why they were together in 1961.

It is a rare privilege therefore for me to be part of this tribute. Not only am I happy to see Millie and bong who used to be one of my favorite when I was a young girl listening to the radio one of my favorite DJs and Sal our cousin — he is our uncle but we call him our cousin because were the same age — and also the late Gigi Lacson who was my friend and playmate at the Assumption. And then because of all of these I do remember along with my family's memory, the memories of Asenio Lacson — not only his colorful personality but also his devotion to reform and integrity.

It is an honor therefore to be here with you to pay tribute to one who so fervently believed in, and helped further, the principles of my father shared with him — the principle of integrity, reform and love for the masses.

Mayor Arsenio Lacson was a champion of popular democracy. He shared the vision of a republic for the common man. He will always stand in history as a figure larger than life because he was brave, he was colorful. But beyond his being colorful, he was honest, and he was eloquent.

As we launch a foundation in his name and memory, I invite you, the people who are here in this hall today, and our nation to pause and reflect on the spirit and lessons of his life which could help us chart our way through the many challenges that face our country today.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to his relentless crusade for good governance. And I thank the family, the Lacson family, and the foundation for helping me in this quest for good governance by producing more of those who will carry out good governance.

Today, we remember. We remember the man who showed us what good governance was about. We remember the man who was adored by his friends and followers, but respected by his foes for his integrity and supreme will to achieve what he set out to do.

Three terms as mayor, he demonstrated that governance must be laid out in the concrete: making things work, getting things done, attaining the quality of life tangibly good for the people. He proved that politics is about providing governance characterized by leadership and constant performance and guided by a noble vision.

Like him, today we must demand performance from our public servants.

We need performance that is not measured just by grand plans, but by the success of getting the little things done as well, the basic services delivered, and thus improving, in small but measurable victories, the improvement in the lives of the people and the progress of the nation.

If all of us in government emulate him, and tirelessly work on the responsibilities entrusted to us, we will build a better society. We will protect the future of our youth and all generations of Filipinos. Beneath his outward ruggedness and bluntness, Lacson cared — as his daughter said, a tough guy with a heart of a marshmallow. He cared for the youth, he cared for the people, he cared for his country.

Lacson's integrity lived in the fusion of one's inner and external self, the continuity between word and action. This is how I have always defined integrity in public service: performance based on principle, action that matches words.

It is easy to do what is popular and acceptable to the majority. The temptation to do this, even if one knows that another less popular course of action is so much better and wiser, is always strong for one in an elective position. But Lacson teaches us to overcome the temptation to play to the gallery. He did what was right and what was best, no matter what he believed or feared might be the political cost. Again, principled performance.

For who but a Lacson who belong to the ruling Nationalista party would cross party lines to be the campaign manager of a penniless opposition candidate.

Many of us in public service are required not just to be good administrators or managers, but also to be good leaders. The myriad of our concerns in our offices can pull us in all directions, but it is the one with a clear and firm vision who rises to become a good leader.

Lacson exemplified this, and more. His master plan for Manila was once the envy of what are now the leading cities in Asia. We saw in the story of his life how among all Asian city mayors he was the one there among his peers, among the world mayors. The Lacson underpass was constructed at a time when this was unheard of in this part of the world. And I thank Mayor Atienza for giving us a revival, giving new life to this Lacson underpass. The Pamantasan ng Maynila is another monument to his vision.

Lacson — being a model of good governance — we must therefore reflect and abstract from his colorful story what are the elements of good governance. And as I have put them together there are three important elements of good governance. One, is a moral foundation to guide our leadership at all levels.

And therefore in the like of strengthening the moral foundation of leadership, I am announcing that I am instructing the PAGCOR to abort the slot machine arcade project. PAGCOR says that they passed the slot machine project as part of their corporate powers, but it is all well within the law. PAGCOR also won in the Supreme Court the right to put up a Jai-Alai project. But after PAGCOR won in the Supreme Court the Jai-Alai project, that was when I aborted the project. Therefore it is not question of what is legal, it is a question of what is morally upright and morally sound.

And I think this is already two strikes of PAGCOR that I have overruled their decision. I'm not saying that their decision was illegal, I am just saying that in those two times — on the jai-alai and the slot machines — it does not quite measure up to the moral standards that we have set for governance in our administration.

Another element of good governance is transparency in all government actions. And a third element of good governance is an ethic of effective implementation in the bureaucracy.

The good public servant is the servant-leader. A person who exhibits principled performance from day-to-day, and maintains a visionary leadership for the future.

Lacson's memory will inspire us to build a strong republic, and restore our country to a position of prestige in our region and in the global stage.

Some of us remember the time when we were second only to Japan as an economic force in Asia. This was when Lacson was mayor and my father was president. Today in recovering from last year's global slowdown, we are performing best among our Southeast Asian neighbors and third among Asian countries. That is why we must not lose hope but rather maintain this momentum.

And let us not forget that we remain the oldest democracy in Asia. But we must demonstrate that democracy works in the Philippines of the 21st century — that a democratic state can be a strong republic and not be the stereotype of a soft state.

These are not just sentimental longings, but inspiring challenges for us to come together and act together for the common cause.

Like the great medieval cathedrals, we must patiently place one stone firmly over the other. But we must also be aware that the challenge is more complex than ever. All we need to patiently rebuild together, we must also do so swiftly, consistently, purposively.

Leadership must not deceive our people by false promises of an idealized life. Better lives we can promise and work for, but it must be done with integrity and truth. We must accept the difficulties of the task, and make clear the role each one of us has to play. Everyone must sacrifice to build a strong republic.

Surely, part of a leader's burdens are the disagreements and criticisms one will inevitably face.

I do not expect all to agree with me as president but I continue to hope that we can unite behind what we have in common. So once again I invite friends and followers and even foes — as my father invited a political foe but a personal friend, Arsenio Lacson — to unite by focusing on our most vital ends: to fight poverty and terrorism, to uphold good governance, to build a strong Philippine Republic.

Through the years, our republic has unfortunately become a house divided. Through the years, our republic unfortunately has not delivered enough basic services to help its poorest. Through the years, our republic

unfortunately has not given the promise of a bright future to its youth. Through the years, our republic has lacked the will to enforce the rule of law without fear or favor. Through the years, our republic has allowed the moral and civic values of its citizenry to wither.

Thus, our republic has fallen prey to those whose selfish ambition, vested interest, or inimical ideology, would tear the republic asunder, or failing in that, would destabilize and weaken it.

This is a collective guilt that we must share, for with few exceptions, we are all a part of this system. There are those among us who would argue that they are already working to change the system. Often, however, their ways have been patronizing and self-righteous, strident and self-centered as Lacson said in one of his speeches, “bellicose.” on the contrary, the true journey to strengthen the republic must be a national one where the individual gives way to the whole.

Our goal is a strong Philippine republic, with two essential attributes: first, the republic must be autonomous of dominant classes and sectors, so that it represents the people’s interests and not only a powerful minority group or some of them. Second, the republic must have the capacity, represented through strong institutions and a strong democracy, to implement its policies and deliver its services.

Strong institutions and a strong democracy build a strong Philippine republic; they provide an effective government, both at national and local levels as shown by Arsenio Lacson of his manila characterized by a professional and dedicated civil service. An effective government is one that delivers basic services to everyone, whether rich or poor, in an environment of peace, and under the rule of law.

Strong institutions also include a vigorous free-enterprise economy, where the Filipino’s full talents are unleashed. While governments must remove the forces and factors that obstruct free markets, it must be recognized though that at the starting gate of a competitive field, not all the players have equal opportunities. Among these would be farmers with no land of their own, or the youth with no access to education. Thus, it is government’s task to provide these tools that truly help level the playing field — and that is how we can make free enterprise a strong institution.

Indeed, in the strong Philippine republic, the government cannot rely solely on the invisible hand of the market. At the macro level, government must at times intervene to stabilize the economy or to steer it towards long-term growth. It must also protect its environment and natural resources from blind market forces.

The strong republic can be autonomous of dominant classes and sectors through true democratic representation built on new politics. This requires as another strong institution, rational electoral processes where citizens are given the tools for informed choices, and their votes are countered properly.

Still another strong institution needed in a strong Philippine republic is a vibrant civil society. We must find a way to finally dismantle a subculture of divisiveness and individualism, and transform our families, communities, and other civil society organizations into constructive engines for national prosperity. This is where the Arsenio Lacson foundation comes in.

It is my hope that the Arsenio Lacson foundation put up in memory of a strong leader will contribute to the vibrancy of civil society and good governance.

I congratulate the Arsenio Lacson foundation for honoring a man who lived his life as a public servant and role model of good governance. His story, his life and spirit will surely serve as an inspiration to all of us. May it serve as an inspiration to the foundation named after him to add vibrancy to civil society and strength to the Philippine republic.

Congratulations and thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Launching of the Arsenio H. Lacson Foundation for Public Service, Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224652/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8371&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the orientation of the newly elected Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Officials of the National Capital Region [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa oryentasyon ng mga bagong halal na mga opisyal ng Punong Barangay at Sangguniang Kabataan ng
Pambansang Kabisera**

[Ipinahayag sa Plenary Hall, PICC, Lungsod ng Pasay, ika 17 ng Agosto, 2002]

Maraming salamat Kalihim Joey Lina. Ang ganda-ganda naman pakilala mo sa akin. Sabi pa ni Joey, natatakot daw yung mga Cabinet members baka mas alam ko raw ang trabaho nila kaysa sa kanila. Sinabi ni Joey yun kasi hindi ko mas alam ang trabaho niya kaysa sa kanya kasi dilg siya at dating gobernador, so exempted siya doon, kaya niya sinasabi yuon.

Batiin ko rin ang Mmetro Manila Chairman. At kagabi meron akong kasamang mga peryodista. Sabi nung isa, si Neal Cruz, sabi niya, “Si Bayani nababatikos dahil sa kanyang drive na malinis yung sidewalks natin dapat siguro bigyan mo siya ng words of support.” “naku,” sabi ko, “si Bayani, nagawa na niya yan sa Marikina. Lahat ng mga ginagawa niya ngayon, nagawa na niya sa Marikina. Kaya kayang-kaya niya yung political will na yun kasi kung anong batikos natatanggap niya ngayon, ganon din natanggap niya first year na siya ay mayor ng Marikina.” kaya yun din isa pang Cabinet member ko na mas alam niya ang trabaho kaysa sa akin, si Bayani Fernando.

Batiin ko naman ang ating host Mayor, si Pewee Trinidad, maraming salamat sa iyong welcome. At sabi nga ni Pewee marami raw sa inyong nakikita niya dito pero sa gabi. Kaya nung sinasabi ni Joey na ha hinihilera ko yung mga kriminal, sabi sa akin, sino ba diyan ang nagsabi? Si Bobbit Carlos ng Valenzuela, sabi ni Bobbit, “huwag niyong ihihilera yung mga nagbibisita mayor dito sa gabi, sa Pasay City.” pero nagbibisita man sila o hindi sa gabi sa Pasay City, babatiin natin silang lahat na nandito ngayon: nandito si Mayor Vicencio ng Malabon; nahuli kami dahil pareho kaming galing sa Baseco ngayon, si Mayor Atienza ng Maynila; yung napakagaling na sucesor ni Bayani Fernando sa Marikina, si Marides Fernando; ito ang ating mga new generation, si Mayor Tobi Tiangco ng Navotas; ito abugado ko dati, si Mayor Rosendo Capco ng Pateros; at saka isa pang new generation si Freddie Tiña ng Taguig. Naku ba’t na-cross-out yung pangalan ni Mayor Rey Malonzo ng Caloocan City; at saka, sino pa? Kinatawan ng Muntinlupa, municipal administrator, kumakatawan kay Mayor Fresnedi, si Mr. Reyes; at saka yung pangulo ng mga Barangay Captain ng buong Pilipinas si James Marty Lim.

Alam niyo si James ay nagkaroon ng malubhang aksidente, pero nasisiyahan tayo na yan, nandiyan pa siya at aktibong-aktibo.

Mga officials ng DILG; at siyempre mga bagong halal at hinalal muli na mga punong Barangay at Chairman ng Sangguniang Kabataan ng National Capital Region ng 1,600 Barangays ng National Capital Region.

Alam niyo ang ating bansa ay may mga 1,600 towns, ang Metro Manila ay may 1,600 Barangays; at ilan sa mga barangay ninyo ay kasinlaki ng bayan, kasinlaki pa nga ng probinsiya yung iba. Kaya kung ano yung bayan sa bansa, ang barangay sa Metro Manila, ganun kayo ka-importante kaya binabati ko kayong lahat, mga punong-barangay, mga SK Chairmen.

Napakalaki ng kapangyarihan ng mga barangay chairmen, ganon na rin yung mga SK officials. Noong isang gabi, kasama ko yung mga tiga-Maynila at binanggit ko nga na ang barangay chairman o chairwoman, kung pag-uusapan mo ang kapangyarihan sa iyong lugar na sinasakupan, doon mas makapangyarihan pa kayo kaysa sa presidente sa

Republika ng Pilipinas dahil ako, executive lamang ako, yung legislative iba yun, yung judiciary iba yun. Pero ang barangay chairman o chairwoman, siya na ang executive, legislative at saka judiciary. Kaya kayo ang pinakamakapangyarihan sa inyong sinasakupan.

Kaya dahil sa inyong kapangyarihan, napaka-importante kayo sa mga ginagawa ng national government. Kaya ito na nga ang ginagawa nating orientation seminar pati na rin ng mga hihingi ng pledge of commitment sa ating mga programa. Kasi kung gusto natin magkaroon ng malakas at matatag na Republika ng Pilipinas Hindi ito magaganap kung hindi kasama at kabalikat sa trabaho, ang ating barangay chairmen at ang ating mga SK chairs.

Marami sa inyo nanood sa aking State of the Nation Address, whether doon sa kongreso o dito sa telebisyon, at narinig ninyo sinabi kong strong republic. Sabi ko noon, ang strong Philippine republic dalawa ang katangian: isa, kinakatawan niya hindi mga vested interest, kung hindi yung mga nakararami; ... The words, ang malakas na republika ay para sa mga mahihina at mahihirap. At nasaan yung mga mahihina? Nahahanap natin doon, sinasakupan ninyo, sa iba't-ibang mga barangay. Kaya kung gusto ng national government na tunay na maging kinatawan ng mga mahihina, kailangan dadaan tayo sa mga barangay officials dahil yung mahihinang hinahanap natin na makatawan natin ay nandoon, sinasakupan ninyo sa inyong mga barangay.

Yung pangalawang katawan, para mapairal ang magagandang patakaran kailangang malalakas ang mga institusyon, at kailangang malakas ang bureaokrasya. At gaya ng sabi ko, isa sa pinakamalakas na institusyon sa buong pilipinas dahil nga tatlo ang inyong kapangyarihan — executive, legislative at judiciary — isa sa pinakamalakas na institusyon sa ating bansa ay ang institusyon ng barangay organization.

Kung gusto natin na manghina ang ating republika, anong gagawin doon? Panghihinain yung kapangyarihan ng barangay. Pero kung gusto natin na malakas ang republikang pilipinas, kailangang gagawin natin ay kikilalanin natin ang kalakasan ng institusyon ng barangay at bibigyan ng galang yung kapangyarihan na yun. Yun ang dahilan na noong ako ay naging pangulo ay inisip ko na dapat hindi masyadong nagko-kontrol sa inyo ang pangulo ng Pilipinas, kung hindi na rin kinikilala kayo bilang partner.

Kinukuwento ko ito doon sa mga barangay chairmen ng Manila noong isang gabi. Nung ako ay umupo bilang pangulo, Saturday night yun, ah no Saturday, hindi pa ... Siyempre, like today hindi yun working day. Sunday, supposed to be day-off, so Monday dapat ang first day of work. Anong nangyari? Sunday, yung aking executive secretary noon, si Rene de Villa, frantic kailangan makita ko yung mga papeles, kailangang pirmahan ko. Ano yang napakaimportanteng papeles ito? Yun pala, may mga barangay officials na magbibiyahe sa lunes, kung hindi ko pirmahan yung kanilang travel authority ay hindi sila makakalis. “naku,” sabi ko, “pagbiyahe lang? Ang barangay official hihingi ng pirmiso sa pangulo?” so, tinanggal ko yun kapangyarihan kong yun at sabi ko de-delegate sa Secretary of Local Government. Ganon din sa pagbili ng sasakyan, bakit pangulo pa ang magde-decide kung kailanangan ninyo ng sasakyan o hindi? Delegated na rin yun sa DILG. Itong unang mga ginawa kong mga hakbang na tanggalin sa akin ang kapangyarihan ng kontrol sa inyo, yun ay bilang pagkikilala na kayo ang talagang dapat may kapangyarihan sa ating bansa.

Ngunit ang kapangyarihan ay hindi lamang sinasanay sa paghihingi ng permiso. Sinasanay din ito sa kontrol sa pondo. Siguro naranasan na ninyo na kahit na merong local government code at meron kayong ira, sa mga nakaraan may bawas yung mga irang binibigay sa inyo o kaya may mga buwan na hindi pa binibigay sa inyo; o kaya ibibigay sa inyo pero magsa-submit muna kayo ng inyong program for approval. Yun naman dahil dalubhasa si Joey sa local government, ay pinayo niya sa akin huwag na — ibigay na ng buo at hindi na hihingi-hingi pa ng permiso kung papano gagastusin tatal nandoon na ang batas.

Kaya siguro dahil nararanasan ninyo over the last year and a half na ako'y pangulo, nakukuha niyo ng buo yung ira. Hindi lamang yun, pati na nga yung utang nung nakaraang administrasyon ay binabayad kahit na hindi ako ang may kasalanan noon. Kaya ang hinihingi ko naman sa inyo ngayon ay tulungan naman niyo rin sana ng lubusan na masagot ng national government yung ating mga napakalubhang mga problema.

Una sa lahat nadiyan ang problema ng kahirapan. At kung tayo ay magkakaroon ng mga proyekto para sa kaunlaran o magkaroon ng trabaho ang taong-bayan. Yung inyong mga barangay constituents naman ang walang trabaho eh kaya tulungan rin ninyo na maghanap tayo ng pagkakataon na magkaroon ng trabaho yung ating mga sinasakupan.

At yung pangalawang problema, problema ng kapayapaan. Meron tayong problema ng kriminalidad, meron tayong problema ng terorismo. At kagabi nanonood ako ng television show, yung usually nagbabatikos sa akin, yung sa “on-line,” pero kagabi may survey: “gusto ba ng taong bayan labanan ng gobyerno NPA?” at anong sagot sa survey? Ninety-six percent gusto ng taong labanan nang NPA.

Ngayon sa Metro Manila, yang laban na yun ay hindi sa battle field, wala namang battlefield, wala namang field sa metro manila na eh. Ang laban na yun ay nandoon sa mga puso at diwa, doon sa mga barangay; at kayo ang makakagawa ng frontline sa itong mga pakikibaka na hinihingi ng ating taong-bayan.

Kaya ako’y nasisiyahan nitong araw na ito na kayo ay narito para pakinggan yung ibat-ibang mga hinihiling sa inyo ng national government through the orientation at para sa ganon ay sumagot din na bilang tungkulin ninyo sa ating republika ay puwede kayong maasahan ng national government sa ating mga kailangang gawin para sa ating mga mamamayan.

Kaya ang hinihingi ko sa inyo, papayag ba kayo na mag-pledge sa inyong commitment sa ating mga programa?

Kung ganon, muli, congratulations sa inyong lahat at salamat sa pakikipagkabalikat. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the Orientation of the Newly Elected Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Officials of the National Capital Region. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224637/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8368&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Eucharistic Celebration and Mass Wedding at the 18th Anniversary of El Shaddai [Filipino] Talumpati

**ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa selebrasyon ng Yukaristiya at kasalang-bayan sa ika-18 anibersaryo ng El Shaddai

[Ipinahayag sa Amvel Business Park, Paranaque City, ika 18 ng Agosto, 2002]

Maraming salamat kay Brother Mike, ang ating servant leader at Happy Birthday sa darating na Martes. At sa inyo naman minamaha kong kapatid na prayer partner sa ating lahat, Happy 18th Anniversary. Sabi ko sa ating lahat dahil sa 18 years ng buhay ng El Shaddai bilang isang prayer partner ako ay nakasama ninyo ng sampung taon na. At taon-taon ako nakadalo at ako'y naging presidente mas lalo pa. Kasi pag hindi ninyo ako nakikita dito, ay ako nakikita ko kayo kasi ako ay nanonood sa telebisyon kay Brother Mike sa kanyang mga pinapangaralan sa atin.

Kanina doon sa sermon ni Bishop Bacani sabi niya, iyong sermon ay tungkol sa pagsubok na ginawa ni Jesus Christ doon sa babaeng Hentil. At ganoon ang pananampalataya may mga subok na maliliit, may mga subok na malalaki. May mga subok na pansandali, may mga subok na pangmatagal. Pero dapat sa ating pananampalataya, lahat noon ay tinatanggap natin, lahat noon ay pinapasa natin, lahat noon ay dapat nagpapalakas at nagpapatatag pa lalo sa ating pananampalataya.

Halimbawa, kanina, umuulan parang pagsubok. Gaya nga nang sabi ni Bishop, doon sa Caloocan iyong simabahan niya, pag umuulan may bubong pa nga iyong simbahan. Pag umuulan kumukonti ang nagsisimba. Kanina, umulan. Pero iyong kung ilan ang nandito bago umulan, iyon pa rin ang numero pagkatapos ng ulan. Sabi nga ni bishop, ilang daang libo kaya ang narito.

Ako po ay dumating, siguro mas maaga dumating si Bishop kaysa akin. Pero ho ako ay dumating halos pag umpisa na ng misa kaya iyong siksikan na dinaanan ko siguro masasabi ko hindi lamang ilang daang libo, palagay ko isang milyon namang muli ang narito sa anibersaryo. At kung iisipin natin na isang milyon ang narito sa anibersaryo, palagay ko si Brother Mike at si Sister Belen tuwing anibersaryo, naalala nila kung paano nag-umpisa at ganoon kakonti ang prayer partners 18 years ago.

Kasama ko dito ngayon iyong chairman ng SSS, si Secretary Bernardino Abes, na siya ang Secretary of Labor ng aking tatay. Siya po ay matagal ng kilala ni Brother Mike, noon pang bata pa si Brother Mike. At tapos umalis si Secretary Abes, pumunta sa Canada noong panahon ng Martial Law. Bumalik na lamang siya pagkatapos ng Edsa 1, at tapos nagdalo siya. So two years old noon iyong kasamahan nang mga anak ni el shaddai. At kinikuwento ni Brother Mike noong nakikinig si Secretary Abes, pagkatapos nung sinabi niya dahil matalik na kaibigan naman sila ... Sabi niya, " Why are you giving them false hopes?" that was 16 years ago. Pero ngayon narito pa rin kayo at narito na rin ako since ten years ago. Kaya iyong binigay napag-asa ni Brother Mike, 16 years ago, 18 years ago, hindi iyon false hope. Sa umpisa, may duda, kasama iyon sa pagsubok. Ngunit sa pagpapanatili ng pananampalataya, eto isang milyon pagdiriwang ng selebrasyon ng 18th Anniversary.

Sabi ko nga kay Brother Mike, "alam nyo nung una, eto hindi ko pa naikuwento sa kanya, noong unang, hindi naman nung una, nung ilang beses na akong pumupunta rito bilang senador, pagkatapos pagdala ng aking mga kaklase iyong mga mahilig manalanagin na mga kaklase ko. At doon kami sa harap, kung minsan nasa likod pero madalas gusto ko na nandoon kami sa harap para makinig kay brother mike mula sa harap kagaya ninyong mga nakaupo diyan. At sabi nung aking isang kaibigan na madalas din sa aming sariling prayer meeting ng aming mga classmates. Nung nakikinig siya kay Brother Mike , sabi niya truly this man is annointed, sabi niya.

Kaya noong kinikuwento ni Brother Mike kanina iyong sinabi ni Secretary Abes 16 years ago, at ngayon 16 years later, hindi na lamang two years old ang inabot ng mga anak ni El Shaddai kundi 18 years na ngayon. At kaya iyon ang sinabi ko: kasi brother, iyan ang talagang annointment.

Kasi kung tao lamang, hindi aabot ng 18 years. Ngunit ito ay basbas ni El Shaddai. Kaya marami pang taon ang magbibigay ng gantimpala sa ating pananampalataya.

Kaya muli mga kapatid sa panalangin, sa ating lahat Happy Anniversary! Sa ating mga bagong kasal, iyong labing-tatlong pares na aming inaanak ni Brother Mike congratulations and best wishes!

Nasisiyahan ako ng pag-celebrate din ng family, World Family Day sa Enero kayo ay pamilyang-pamilya ng Panginoon.

Panalangin ng Santo Papa ang kanyang kalusugan para sa ganoon sa kagustuhan ng Panginoon, matutuloy ang kanyang biyahe muli sa bansang Pilipinas.

Si Jesus binigyan niya ng pagsubok iyong kababaihang Hentil, iyong Canaan, dahil siya hindi kasama sa mga “blessed chosen people”. Ngunit sa kanyang pananampalataya, binigyan siya ng basbas at ang hiling niya ay binigay ni Jesus Christ sa kanya. Ano pa kaya tayo? Ano pa kaya mga anak ni Yahweh el Shaddai? Ano pa kaya ang bansang Pilipinas na dati siyang tanging katolikong bansa dito sa asia, ngayon dalawa na tayo iyong East Timor. Kaya mga kaibigan, mga kapatid mas lalo tayong dapat makaasa sa mga basbas Ni Yahweh El Shaddai lalo’t-lalo na dapat kahit na nagkakaroon tayo, nararamdaman na natin ang kahirapan, kahit may nagtutukso sa atin na mawalan ng pag-asa, huwag tayo mawala ng pananampalata dahil tayo ay anak ni Yahweh El Shaddai.

Happy Anniversary sa ating lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the Eucharistic Celebration and Mass Wedding at the 18th Anniversary of El Shaddai. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224605/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8366&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2002 Presentation Ceremonies of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 2002 Presentation Ceremonies of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards

[Delivered at the CCP Main Theater, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, August 31, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Mr. Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Chairman of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation Board of Trustees; President Corazon Aquino; Senator Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. and the other members of the Magsaysay family; distinguished members of the Board of Trustees of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation; honorable recipients of the 2002 Ramon Magsaysay Awards; Excellencies; members of the diplomatic corps; Associate Justices of the Supreme Court; ladies and gentlemen:

Tonight, we mark the 95th Birth Anniversary of the great Filipino and the great Asian, President Ramon Magsaysay, and celebrate the achievement of Asia's finest citizens and leaders.

In a tribute to President Magsaysay, my late father, Diosdado Macapagal once said, and I quote: "history will record that his achievement in this field was two-fold: first, he broke the back of the communist rebellion; and second, he aroused the masses of the people to the fact that their nation is capable of having leaders who would consecrate their energy to the redemption of the people from their misery."

Tonight's awards are a testimony to the living legacy and spirit of President Ramon Magsaysay. Our awardees reflect the excellence, boldness of thought and action, and devotion to the peoples and races across Asia, just as the late president himself did in his time.

These awards are not only a ray of hope in a complex world of conflicting interest, issues and concerns. For my part, they also help me in a most practical and concrete way in my governance.

Last February, I launched the hybrid rice commercialization program in 44 provinces of our country as the flagship project of my agricultural modernization. I am proud to say that the hybrid rice technology which I am using now in this agricultural modernization program was developed as a collaboration between Philrice and Yuan Longpin, whom I met last year because he was last year's, Magsaysay Awardee. This program is directed towards doubling yields. And it is my aim that in two years, 30 percent of irrigated lands will have adopted this hybrid rice technology of Yuan Longpin. Two years from our envision that these farmers will double their incomes as a result of adopting his technology.

On a national scale, the hybrid rice output will increase the production of rice by almost half a million metric tons and reduce our foreign exchange expenditures on the imports of our staple food. My being guest speaker in last year's Magsaysay awards was the catalyst for this great innovation in our agricultural modernization because I met Yuan Longpin in those awards. Since then he has helped our country and our farmers. And I thank you, the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation Trustees, for introducing me to someone who has since done so much for our agricultural modernization and our fight against poverty.

This year, our very own Chief Justice is the Awardee for Government Service. He is a pillar of patriotism, working beyond the limelight — quietly, efficiently and effectively — to safeguard Philippine democracy and promote the rule of law. His humble demeanor and unassailable integrity, his courage at the most critical periods of our nation are the standards by which every man of the bench, in Asia or elsewhere, must be measured.

Our other Awardee, Dr. Ruth Pfau, a lady shines in the field of public service. A German nun who adopted Pakistan as her own, she established a national program for the eradication of leprosy, simultaneously training medical workers while emphasizing social rehabilitation among both victims and non-victims. Even now, she is preoccupied with charitable deeds involving afghan refugees in her adopted country.

Mr. Bharat Koirala exemplifies the best of Asia in the field of journalism, literature and creative communication arts. Constantly sharing his talent and time, his public affairs projects in far-flung rural communities of Nepal developed enlightened constituencies. Indeed, he is among those who opened rural Nepal to the empowerment of the information age.

Our Awardee for peace and international understanding, the venerable Pomnyun Snim, is a roving Ambassador of Goodwill, known for his deep commitment to combat hunger and underdevelopment in North Korea. Dr. Sandeep Pandey, this year's recipient of the award for emergent leadership transformed education into a relevant and dynamic element in the lives of the poor and the powerless. Dr. Sandeep has provided an invaluable contribution to the people of India. He has enabled people to take control of their lives and their future.

Finally, our Awardee who is not here but whose message is something that is very strong is our Awardee for Community Leadership. She is important not only for the message she has given us but for the unwavering compassion that she has shown in ministering to the thousands of Burmese refugees and displaced persons in the border of Burma and Thailand. The work of Dr. Maung is a model for us Filipinos as we now address the great tragedy happening in Southern Philippines.

I talked to Prime Minister Mahathir on the phone yesterday. We came to an understanding on how best to ease the situation affecting our countrymen in Sabah and those coming back. I am sending a mission to Kuala Lumpur on Monday to thresh out the details. In the meantime, now is the time for our nation to come together for a humanitarian cause as Dr. Maung has been doing. This time for us it is in behalf of the thousands of deportees from Sabah. Many of them are sick and hungry like those that Dr. Maung has been caring for in the border. Our brothers and sisters need our help. I call upon each and everyone to extend whatever assistance you can give. Our distressed brothers and sisters need food, medicine, clothing and shelter. Our countrymen and countrywomen who have less in life. Our countrymen and countrywomen whom Ramon Magsaysay love so much.

Once again, I hope that the example set by the recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay awards for this year will help our people have a better society in our own country.

I congratulate the family and friends of President Magsaysay for this year's awards which perpetuates the great legacy of Ramon Magsaysay.

To everyone, thank you. To our awardees, congratulations! To our members of the board of trustees, thank you for your excellent choice once again this year. To the family of Ramon Magsaysay, thank you for giving the Philippines, thank you, for giving Asia a man that we can all emulate. Congratulations and thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 2002 Presentation Ceremonies of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224528/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8364&Itemid=38

TV/Radio Message of President Arroyo calling for prudence, sobriety and reason over the Sabah repatriation issue

**TV/Radio Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Calling for prudence, sobriety and reason over the Sabah repatriation issue**

[Delivered at the Study Room, Malacañang, August 31, 2002]

A great tragedy is happening in Southern Philippines. I came from Tawi-Tawi the other day and saw first hand the sufferings of thousands of deportees from Sabah. Many of them are sick and hungry. They need our help.

Now is the time for our nation to come together for a humanitarian cause. I call upon each and everyone to extend whatever assistance you can. We did this in the Mount Pinatubo disaster and we can do it again. Our distressed brethren need food, medicine, clothing and shelter. We shall set up centers to receive donations in cash and kind. I am asking all civic-minded organizations and the media organizations to pitch in. This is work for the entire nation.

I talked to Prime Minister Mohammad Mahathir on the phone yesterday. We came to an understanding on how best to ease the situation affecting our countrymen in Sabah.

I am sending an official mission to Kuala Lumpur on Monday to thresh out the details.

The events have brought in their wake serious controversies. I understand the emotions generated among our people because of children having died in detention centers, the canings that are happening, and other controversial events that are being covered profusely in the media.

There are also those who are trying to exploit the situation to serve their selfish ends, to erode our relations with Malaysia, or to pursue political or terroristic ends inimical to the common interest of both nations.

I must ask for prudence, sobriety and reason among our people. Malaysia is our ally in security, peace and development. Together with Indonesia, it is a co-signatory to our trilateral agreement on the interdiction of crime and terrorism among our common seas.

Malaysia has assisted us in the peace process in Mindanao. We enjoy strong investment and trade ties, particularly within the context of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area.

The problem of deportees from Sabah must be viewed from the overall spirit of goodwill, amity and mutual respect that have characterized our relations with Malaysia.

Moreover, the Philippine claim to Sabah must be firmly delinked from the issue of deportees. We should not taint our actions with grandstanding or diplomatic adventurism. This is not the way to resolve bilateral problems between long-standing friends.

What we need is a pragmatic, focused, effective response to this problem operationally, administratively, diplomatically.

First, the safety and welfare of deportees must be secured. The NDCC shall be on top of this effort. It shall establish coordination centers as necessary to attain this objective.

Second, the AFP and PNP must be on heightened alert in areas where potential problems of law and order may arise. The DILG secretary shall be responsible for the strategy and deployment options.

Third, the LGUs must adopt a policy of accommodation to ease geographical congestion. A plan must be drawn up by the DILG in this regard. We will provide the necessary support for the LGUs involved.

Fourth, the DFA must work with the DOH to deploy doctors and medical workers to care for our people in the detention centers. Diplomatic initiatives must be sustained to support this end.

Fifth, speedy documentation processes are the key. The DFA and dole must have a clear picture of who and where the undocumented Filipinos are and how they can be legitimized under a rolling comprehensive plan.

We shall overcome this problem. But everybody must help. There is no time for partisanship or petty politics. Let us join hands to lend a helping hand to our brethren from Sabah.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's TV/Radio Message calling for Prudence, Sobriety and Reason over the Sabah Repatriation Issue. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224537/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8363&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 106th Foundation Anniversary of Nueva Ecija “Unang Sigaw ng
Nueva Ecija”**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 106th Foundation Anniversary of Nueva Ecija “Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija”**

[Delivered at the JF Sports Complex, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, September 2, 2002]

Maraming salamat congressman joson sa iyong napakagandang pagpakilala. Governor Joson pala. Maraming salamat Governor. Mamaya si Josie babatiin ko.

Maraming salamat governor joson sa iyong magandang pagpakilala at sa iyong pag-imbata sa akin na makipagdiriwang muli ng ‘Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija.’

‘Yung iyong kapwang gobernador binabati ko rin, Chairman ng Regional Development Council ng Region III si Governor Josie Dela Cruz; batiin ko si ating host Mayor, si Mayor Sonia Lorenzo; at lahat ng mga mayors ng lalawigan ng Nueva Ecija; ngayon batiin ko si Congressman Joson, nga si Josie Joson; nandito rin si Congressman Violago at saka si Congressman Villareal; batiin ko na rin si former Congressman Rico Fajardo; at saka si former Congresswoman Julita Villareal; at si former Congressman Rene Diaz; si Rene, si Rico ay nasa administrasyon ko na ngayon kasama na rin si Cabinet member, Secretary of Agriculture Leony Montemayor.

Nandito rin ‘yung ating mga nag-aalaga ng ating kapayapaan, ‘yung pinuno ng ating Philippine National Police, si General Ebdane. Wala siyang kidnap syndicate na dinilever sa akin itong araw na ito, kaya Namiesta na lang; si General Rodolfo Garcia ang ating Northern Luzon Commander; dito naman sa 7th Division dahil ‘yung Northern Luzon ay may dalawang division, ‘yung ating isang awardee ngayon si General Boysie Braganza, congratulations!; Awardee rin natin bilang isa sa mga outstanding taga-Nueva Ecija ngayon pinili kong PNP Chief ng Region III si General Oscar Calderon. Congratulations din; kinatawan ng local government, si Undersecretary Al Fernandez; ‘yung napaka-importanteng ahensya dito sa lalawigan ay ‘yung NIA at narito rin ‘yung ating Administrator si Jess Paras. Gusto kong batiin si Jess Paras dahil sa kabila ng ating budget deficit ‘yung NIA pala ayon kay Secretary Montemayor,’yung kanyang collection so far — user fee — so far half year to date ay mas malaki kaysa sa buong taon nung isang taon kaya congratulations sa contribution mo sa ating budget. Ibig sabihin din mabisa ang pagpapatakbo ng nia at nagpapasalamat ako sa mga magsasaka na nagbabayad ng mga user fee.

Mga punong barangay ng Nueva Ecija nandito kayo 100 percent present kagaya ng mga 100 percent present na mga punongbayan; at ‘yung mga Sangguniang Kabataan na nagkaroon ng oath taking kanina, congratulations sa inyong lahat; at ating mga awardees binabati ko rin kayo; distinguished guests, mga anak ng Nueva Ecija, magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat.

Nakakain na kayo ‘no? Ha? Oy, hindi pa. Bibilisan ko ang aking diskurso. Sabi ni Sonia kumain na kayo. Kami hindi pa kaya bibilisan ko pa rin ang aking diskurso.

Anyway, itong araw na ito pangalawang pagkakataon sa loob ng dalawang taon na ako ay dumalo sa kasayahang ito, ang paggunita ng ‘Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija.’ Ito ay patunay lamang, gaya ng sabi ni Tommy, apat na beses na nga ako pumunta dito sa aking 18 months bilang pangulo. Tommy siguro hindi pa bilang ‘yon nung nagpunta kami

ni Jun Ebdane doon sa Cabiao. Pang lima na 'yon. Kaya ganun ko kamahal ang Nueva Ecija at ganun ka importante ang pagbigay natin sa okasyong ito.

'Yung 'Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija' pinapa-alaala sa atin na napakaraming magigiting dito sa Nueva Ecija noon pa, noong panahon ng kastila. Nung panahon ng kastila... Kanina nga I was trying to remember ano 'yung 8 first provinces na nag-alma kontra sa mga kastila. Halos hindi na naalaala natin. Siyempre nandiyan 'yung pampanga — Bulacan, nandoon din Josie, 'di ba? — 'yung Maynila, probinsya 'yon dati; tapos 'yung Cavite, siyempre nandoon nga si Aguinaldo; 'yung Batangas; 'yung Laguna; 'yung Rizal, ang pangalan ng probinsya noon ay Morong, oo. Pero mahirap maalaala kung hindi pinagdiriwang. Kaya mabuti pinagdiriwang dito sa Nueva Ecija, hindi natin nakalilimutan ito isa sa walong unang naghimagsikan sa Kastila.

At isang diperensya rin, sabi ni Rene Diaz, 'yung mga nag-alma dito ay 'yung mga Cabeza de Barangay. Sila mismo. At dahil mga Cabeza de Barangay ang umalma ay nahawakan nila ang Nueva Ecija. Kasi doon sa ibang probinsya may mga bahagi ng revolutionary army na sila ang gumawa ng himagsikan pero hindi rin nila nahawakang matagal. Pero dito mass-based ang naghimagsikan kaya nahawakan matagal ng filipino ang Nueva Ecija. Kaya talagang dapat pinagdiriwang natin ang araw ng Nueva Ecija.

At 'yung magigiting na mga heneral, hindi ba ang daming bayan natin pinangalan sa kanila — Gabaldon, Tinio, Llanera, Natividad. Lahat noon 'yon ang mga bahagi dito sa himagsikang ito. Pero hindi lamang nung panahon ng rebolusyon magigiting ang Nueva Ecija pati ngayong panahon ng ating kasalukuyang bahagi ng kasaysayan.

'Yung mga binigyan kanina ng parangal — sila Arnel Santiago, si De Leon, si Talavera – ay, wala kanina pero bibigyan din 'yon — sila De Guzman, Mesina, De Castro, Arthur Cruz – 'yan ay mga bibigyan ng parangal at iyon ay ilan sa mga magigiting na mga taga-Nueva Ecija.

At kanina 'yung mga binigyan ng award marami doon ay tiga-Nueva Ecija. Kabilang din sa maituturing mga makabagong bayani na mga binigyan natin ng parangal ay 'yon na nga sila Tirso Santiago, si Juan Buen, mga kawani ng D.A. at ng Department of Agrarian Reform na nagpakita ng kahusayan sa pagpapatupad ng mga programang nagpabuti sa kalagayan ng mga magsasaka dito sa San Isidro. Kaya hindi lamang 'yung binigay dito sa entablado, maramingbinibigayan natin ng parangal dito sa Nueva Ecija. Kaya lang ewan ko kung bakit 'yung aking advance party ay hindi pinayagan. Kaya magkakaroon ako ng revamp sa aking advance party. Kasi gusto kong pinaparangalan natin sila dito. Sa kanilang lahat, 'yung mga nasa entablado at saka mga hindi nasa entablado, ang aking taos-pusong pasasalamat at pagbati sa magandang paglilingkod sa bansa.

Malapit sa aking puso ang Nueva Ecija. Una sa lahat maraming Macapagal dito. Si Rico Fajardo, Macapagal 'yan. Si Calderon, General Calderon, Macapagal din 'yan. Marami akong pinsan, tiya, tiyo, lola at lolo. At bukod pa doon 'yung tatay ni Tommy, si yumaong Gobernador Danding Joson, ay naging gobernador siya nung 1959 dahil siya ang kandidato ni Vice President Diosdado Macapagal bilang opposition candidate. At siya ay isa sa pinakamalapit na kasama ng aking tatay sa pulitika.

May mga miyembro ng aking official family ay taga-rito. Nandito nga si Rene Diaz. Nandoon si Rico Fajardo, ang aking kinatawan sa San Miguel. Wala rito 'yung napakagaling nating NBI director, si Rey Wycoco, siya ay taga-Cabiao. At, ayon tinuturo 'yung aking Undersecretary ng Press, si Ching Suva na — hindi ba, ching panahon pa ng aking tatay doon ka pumasok? Ngayon, hanggang ngayon namana ko pa rin siya doon sa OPS. At baka nga magdamdam 'yung mga ito pag hindi ako dumadalo at hindi na ako pumupunta rito. Pero ako'y nagpapasalamat na sila ay narito. Importante na tayo ay parating magkasama.

Meron pang ibang mga taga-Nueva Ecija, hindi lamang si Wycoco ang absent, 'yung aking isang matalik na kasama sa pulitika, si City Mayor ng Quezon City Sonny Belmonte, siya ay taga-Zaragoza.

At ang pinuno ng gabay ng pamahalaan ng pribadong sector, ating ka-partner sa kaunlaran, ang pinuno ng Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, si Sergio Ortiz-Luis, ay taga-Cabiao din. At ang flagship project ng ating agricultural modernization sa buong Pilipinas ay ang hybrid rice na gawa dito sa PhilRice sa Nueva Ecija. Kaya

masasabi nating napakalaki ang papel ng Nueva Ecija hindi lamang nung himagsikan nung 1898 kundi na rin ngayon sa pamahalaan ni President Arroyo.

Itong araw ipinagmamalaki natin ang naging papel ng Nueva Ecija sa pagbawi ng ating kalayaan noong rebolusyon ng 1896. Gaya ng sabi ko, isa sa walong lalawigan sa buong bansa na nagpasimula ng rebolusyon noon. Hindi nga natin maalaala 'yung walo pero nakikita natin doon sa ating bandila na may walong rayas doon at isa nga doon na nire-represent walong sikat ng araw sa ating bandila ay ang Nueva Ecija.

At ngayon masasabi natin kagaya nung 1896 pagkatapos ng rebolusyon ay may katahimikan. Ngayon din tapos na ang magulong bahagi ng ating kasaysayan at panahon na para muli tayo magkaisa at harapin ng sama-sama ang tunay na kaaway ng kahirapan na dinaranas ng tatlong milyong Pilipino sa 80 milyon na Pilipino sa ating bansa.

Gumaganda ang takbo ng kapayapaan at katiwasayan. Binabati ko dito sa Region III ang Regional Peace and Order Council sa kapayapaan sa Region III at ang namumuno noon ay walang iba kungdi si Governor Tommy Joson.

At dahil siya ang Chairman ng Regional Peace and Order Council, gusto kong ipaabot na ang ating gustong tukuyin ngayon, ang target natin ngayon ay ang mga sindikato ng droga. 'Yung mga sindikato ng droga, sila rin halos ang sindikato ng ibang mga karumal-dumal na krimen. Ang susi dito ay tanggalin ang mga aktibo at retired na sundalo at pulis na sangkot sa droga. At inaasahan ko na ang Peace and Order Council sa pamumuno ni Tommy ay tutulong sa bagay na ito.

Ngayon na kumikilos ang kapayapaan at katiwasayan, ako naman ay babalik sa ekonomiya. Siyempre kung iimbitahin ako ni Jun Ebdane na magpa-ritrato sa mga nahuling pulis pupunta pa rin ako. Pero ang aking tukoy ngayon ay balik sa ekonomiya dahil ang dami natin nagawa na sa katiwasayan.

Magbabalik tayo sa road map kasi nakikita natin 'yung economic recovery ng mundo na inaasahan natin ay mukhang hindi pa rin darating. Kaya tinitignan ko sino ang matatagumpay nating mga kapitbahay, kapitbansa na matagumpay ang kanilang recovery. Ang nakikita kong magandang huwaran ay iyong ginawa ni Prime Minister Thaksin ng thailand itong nakaraang taong ito, ang tinatawag sa kanyang formula ng mga ekonomista ay consumption-based managed-asset reflation.

Sa simpleng salita, ang ibig sabihin nito aasa tayo, lumilipat tayo mula sa pag-aasa sa export dahil 'yung amerika na number 1 importer ng buong mundo hindi pa rin buo ang kanya recovery. Kaya hindi pa rin tayo makaka-asa sa kanya. Kaya imbes na export orientation patungo tayo sa bagong pagka-galing ng domestic demand, at lalo na 'yung pinaka-efficient sa paggamit ng puhunan 'yung small and medium enterprises. 'Yan ang bibigyan nating pansin dito sa mga susunod na panahon. Dahil sila ang magiging susi ng ating economic recovery.

Actually, ginawa ko na rin ito nung isang taon kasama nung pagbigay nung 1 million pesos per municipality for agriculture, kasama ng pagbigay ng isang buo. Pati na rin ang utang nung nakaraang administrasyon. Lahat noon ay ginawa natin para umangat ang domestic demand, at nagtagumpay tayo. Pero ngayon kailangan pa rin kasi baka bumaba pa rin ang exports natin — Tumataas na so far. Pero kilalanin natin bababa ang exports ng mundo dahil sa kahirapan sa amerika. Pero ginawa natin ito nung isang taon dahil nakita natin bumababa ang exports, nagtagumpay tayo. Ngayon tumataas ang exports huwag tayo maging kampante. At 'yung ginawa natin nung isang taon mas ginawa ng Thailand at pinakitang mabisa ang Thailand hanggang ngayon ay mabisa pa rin. Kasama dito — kasi kung gusto natin tulungan ang small and medium enterprises kailangan mababa ang interest rate. Kaya kailangan ang monetary policy ay prudent. Dapat hindi masyadong... Dapat maingat sa paggamit ng salapi. At dapat ibaba ang budget deficit. Kasi kung malaki ang budget deficit hihiram ang gobyerno sa bangko at tataas ang interest rate. Kailangan hangarin natin mabalanse ang budget sa loob ng tatlo o apat na taon.

Ang mga bangko ay aaluking iwasan magpautang sa mga hindi produktibong sektor. Halimbawa 'yung mga luxurious properties, dapat huwag na doon pumupunta ang pautang. At saka 'yung mga pabrika na malaki pa ang excess capacity, huwag rin dapat doon pumupunta ang pautang. Dapat pumupunta sa small and medium enterprises dahil sila ay napakagaling gumamit ng kapital.

Ito ay tinukoy ni Thaksin higit pa sa Pilipinas, although ginawa rin natin ito at nagtagumpay. Tinukoy ito ni Thaksin, higit pa sa Pilipinas. Sabi nila hindi niya magagawa pero napakita niya sa loob ng isang taon ang laking binaligtad ng Thailand economy. Kaya kung kikilos tayo ngayon at nakatukoy doon ang ating atensyon kaya rin natin yon. Ginagawa rin ito hindi lamang sa Thailand, hindi lamang sa Pilipinas, ginagawa ito sa ibang ekonomiya lalo na pero hindi lamang sa South Korea. Ito ay tinuturing na masusing sagot sa malubhang pagbagsak ng modernong pangkabuhayan ng Amerika. Ang domestic demand ng Asia ay bukabibig ngayon sa lahat. Ang mga Asian ay tumitingin ngayon sa sariling sikap, at yon ang kailangan nating gawin.

Ngunit habang nakatukoy tayo sa ekonomiya kailangan pa rin binabantayan natin ang mga kasalukuyang abala, halimbawa, 'yung sabah refugees. Nahuli ako ngayon dahil nag-meeting muna ako doon sa team na paalis ngayon patungong Sabah. Nung isang araw nagtungo ako sa Tawi-Tawi noong nakaraang huwebes, nakita ko roon ang mapait na karanasan ng libu-libo nating mga kababayang pinabalik ng Malaysia mula sa Sabah. Isa itong malaking trahedya na nangangailangan ng ating pagdamay. Salamat na lamang na merong moratorium pagkatapos nung aking pagtawag sa telepono kay Prime Minister Mahathir. Ganoon pa man ang mga deportees na umabot dito at paabot pa sa huling biyahe ay mahihina ang katawan, walang bahay na mauuwian, walang trabahong naghihintay. Kaya ako'y nananawagan sa lahat na mag-abuloy tayo ng pagkain, gamot, damit, pera para maibsan ang kanilang paghihirap. Ipadala ninyo ito sa national disaster council sa inyong lugar o anumang pribadong organisasyon na handang tumulong sa ating kapwa. Higit pa sa nabagyuhan ang kanilang sinapit kaya kailangan nila ang ating kawanggawa. Ginagawa ng pamahalaan ang lahat upang lutasin ang problemang ito pero hindi namin ito kayang mag-isa. Bago ito lumala at magdulot nang malagim pang sitwasyon, pagtulungan natin itong harapin at wakasan.

Ako'y nasisiyahan na mula nung sinabi ko ito ng sabado marami na ang sumasagot. 'Yung WG&A handang magpadala ng barko. 'Yung Cebu Pacific handang magpadala ng eroplano. 'Yung Mead Johnson handang magpadala ng gatas, at 'yung Metrobank mamayang gabi magbibigay ng 2 million pesos. Nagpapasalamat ako sa lahat sa kanila.

At 'yung isang bata na nag-birthday party by a photo opportunity sa akin sa malaca-ang nagbigay din siya ng lahat nang nagbigay sa kanya ng regalo ng cash binigay niya sa akin para doon sa refugees mula sa Sabah. Nagpapasalamat ako sa kanilang lahat.

Isa pang binabantayan dapat natin ay 'yung pagpalit ng piso at dolyar. Sa ngayon under control ito. Ngunit ngayon pa lang kung minsan kasi pag may budget deficit ang problema na ninerbiyos ang mga negosyante, nagsisimula na ang speculation. Kaya gusto ko lamang ipaalaala 'yung sinabi ko nung isang taon nung malubha 'yung speculation, ang speculation na nag-iistorbo ng malubha sa halaga ng piso ay economic sabotage. Pero salamat sa Panginoon, itong taong ito, so far, wala pang guilty dito.

Isa pang napaka-importante at malaki ang papel ng Nueva Ecija dito ay ang isyu ng bigas. Zero tolerance tayo dapat sa rice crisis. Kaya kanina, bagama't lately hindi na ako nagbabalistic ay lumabas na naman 'yung Gloria temper. Dahil zero tolerance tayo sa rice crisis. Hindi ako naniniwala sa calibrated solutions. Mas mabuti nang mag-overreact bago magkaroon ng crisis.

At malaki ang papel ng Nueva Ecija sa bigas, malaki ang papel ng Nueva Ecija sa ating pambansang kaunlaran. Ang lalawigang ito ay matagal nang tinaguriang rice granary of the Philippines, kaya malinaw na malaki ang naitutulong nito sa ating ekonomiya. At dahil major thrust natin ngayon ang agricultural modernization.

Kakagaling ko lang sa warehouse sa Cabanatuan ng NFA. Bakit ako pumunta doon? Dahil ang NFA warehouse ang pinakamalaking warehouse ng NFA ay nandito sa Cabanatuan. Gusto kong pabilisin ang milling. Gusto kong pabilisin ang pagdala sa mga palengke dahil gusto ko na dapat may regular-milled rice na 16 pesos lamang para sa mga mahihirap.

Hindi bale 'yung mga 25 pesos sa mayayaman. Pero dapat para sa mahihirap regular-milled rice dapat parating may 16 pesos na nakikita natin sa palengke. 'Yan ang specific objective ng aking pagbisita sa National Food Authority.

At ito na nga, nakita ko kanina, sa wakas nakakita ako ng 16 pesos na bigas doon sa palengke ng Cabanatuan. Sa wakas kasi medyo isang buwan na nagpupunta ako sa palengke hindi ko nakikita ‘yung 16 pesos. Merong 16 pesos pero wala sa palengke, ngayon nandoon sa palengke. Si Tony Abad ay araw-aran nina-nag ko kaya ngayon ako ay nagpapasalamat kasi sabi ko, “Tony, saan ba ang pinakamaraming bigas?” “Cabanatuan po.” Eh, kung doon pa ay walang 16 pesos talagang meron tayong problema. Pero meron. Hindi lamang 16 pesos meron pang 15 pesos. Kaya congratulations sa NFA dito sa Cabanatuan.

Tinanong ko kay Tony Abad, “okay, kung ito na ang pinaka maayos ang rice milling at distribution meron 16 at 15 pesos, tignan naman natin ‘yung kalagayan doon sa pinaka konti ang supply. Saan yon?” Sabi ni Tony Abad, “sa Cordillera at saka sa La Union.” Kaya yon ang aking inaasahan sa NFA na kahit na doon 16 pesos din ang regular-milled rice para sa ating mahihirap. Ang bigas sa mayayaman problema na yon ng mayayaman. Ang bigas sa mahihirap, lahat ng problema ng mahihirap dapat problema ng pamahalaan.

At ito ang inaasahan ko rin dito sa Nueva Ecija. Sabi ni Tommy, huwag na raw ako mag-alaala dito sa Nueva Ecija. Nakita ko na may 16 pesos, imo-monitor ngayon ng lahat ng lgu na parating may 16 pesos na regular-milled rice dito sa Nueva Ecija.

Inaasahan ko na lahat ng lgu, lahat ng mayors, lahat ng barangay officials sisiguraduhin ninyo na sa mga palengke ninyo may 16 pesos na bigas sa mahihirap. Kung hindi nandiyan naman ang nfa. At marami pa silang stock sa warehouse. Tinignan ko ‘yung stock sa warehouse, marami pang palay na hindi pa mini-mill kaya dapat walang dahilan na tataas ang presyo ng bigas sa Nueva Ecija.

Kaya muli mga kaibigan, noong ang Nueva Ecija isa sa walong probinsya ba nag-una sa himagsikan, sana ang Nueva Ecija ngayon ay isa sa mga probinsya na mangunguna din na makasigurado na ang mahihirap ay parating may bigas na kinakain, na ang mahihirap ay parating may pagkain sa bawat la mesa.

Maraming salamat at Happy Anniversary sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the 106th Foundation Anniversary of Nueva Ecija “Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija”. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412222245/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8398&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the 4th Tuna Congress and 34th General Santos City Charter Day

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 4th Tuna Congress and 34th General Santos City Charter Day**

[Delivered at the Family Country Homes and Convention Center, September 5, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Montemayor.

Mayor Acharon, Former Mayor Antonino, Tuna Congress Chairman Domingo Teng, the balikbayan to General Santos City U.S. Ambassador Frank Ricciardone, members of the presidential party assigned to me including Secretary Roxas, Datumanong, Lorenzo and Dureza, Cotabato Governor Manny Piñol, officers of the AFP and the PNP led by South Commander Ernesto Carolina, members of the Sangguniang Panglunsod led by Vice Mayor Congson, participants and foreign delegates of this 4th Tuna Congress, congratulations to all of you on the occasion of this seemingly very successful Congress once again.

I was here last year for the Tuna Congress and I don't really spend every year going to the same place. And originally, I declined the invitation to this Congress. But it's very difficult to say no when Adelbert Antonino calls me up almost everyday to nag me about it. So, here I am. Stop laughing Adel.

And besides I always think about GenSan, I always think about SOCKSARGEN because when i was in DTI I had a great deal to do with the beginnings of what has become now a very successful growth area. I know this area including Cotabato City. And I know that you lead Mindanao's growth. I understand that the growth rate of Southern Mindanao is 6.1 percent. That is the highest growth rate in Mindanao. And it is higher than the national GNP growth rate of 5.2 percent.

Your impressive growth rate comes from the judicious use of your rich natural resources by the various industries especially the tuna industry whose center is here in General Santos. And I congratulate all of you, everyone from the tuna industry.

I also congratulate Mayor Acharon and the people of General Santos for your enterprising spirit. If you are hosting this Charter Day Celebration and this Tuna Congress, you still have the energy and enthusiasm to host this year's convention of the Councilors League of the Philippines — two major conventions taking place in General Santos at the same time.

I had declined the invitation to address the Councilors League because I was supposed to go back to Manila immediately after this meeting. But I decided to spend the night here, so though I hope... So though the Councilors League meeting is finished, I hope to be able to see some of the remaining councilors tonight after all through the invitation of Mayor Acharon.

Indeed, the energy and vibrance of General Santos is especially seen in the tuna industry. This is why I named your President, Domingo Teng, to represent Mindanao in the export development council. With his membership — he says Mar Roxas makes him work very hard — because he is supposed to help not only the tuna industry but the country's entire export sector.

I would like to congratulate General Santos also for your string of awards as the most competitive city. Two times already. One by A.I.M. and the other one... Of both by A.I.M., two years.

Indeed, competitiveness is a key to the strong Philippine republic that I want to build. It is also the key to success in the globalized world of the 21st century.

Thus, I commend the SOCKSARGEN Federation of Shipping Associations and Allied Industries for choosing as your theme for the Congress: "fish without barriers." Last year, it was "fish without borders." Now, it is "fish without barriers."

And to be able to achieve 'fish without barriers' I thank our American friends, represented here today again by Ambassador Ricciardone, who was here just last week. Incidentally, I want to brag that he came to GenSan Last week because he was invited to dole. But I told him, you cannot go to dole without going to GenSan. And you can't go to GenSan without speaking about tuna. So, he spoke to you about tuna last week.

But through him, I want to thank once again American officialdom for working with Congress to ease the barriers to ensure that our canned tuna is not threatened by canned tuna from other countries in the United States market.

You asked me and your government to work against the Andean countries having preferential access to the U.S. market for their canned tuna. In turn, I delivered the message not only to president bush but also to his Cabinet members and our friends in the U.S. Congress. There is now a so-called Philippine caucus in the U.S. Congress that seek to help the Philippines. Senator Inouye is one of the more famous names among them. Senator Hillary Clinton is also another of those names. They complied. These senators and congressmen complied with our request to protect the Philippines during the debates on the Andean trade preferences. But even then, the canned tuna industry must be prepared to compete with the pouched tuna from the Andean countries, while your government, while I and my Cabinet members and diplomats are working further for a level playing field. Mar Roxas proposes that the work for GSP privileges for processed tuna, and that is what he is going to do, because processed tuna includes canned tuna and pouched tuna. In the meantime, your industry must also be innovative and expand the range of your packaging sizes and explore value-added from positions.

Also, why stop at the United States. Look for other markets. I heard you earlier, Domingo talking about the European Union market. And I was speaking with some of our friends from the European Union. And they said, we don't produce tuna. I wonder why we are not helping your canned tuna. And so, they have begun also to look at how they can help the Philippines access the E.U. more.

But, why work always only on market access. Why not look at that great big market next door, the 1.3 billion people of china, 400 million of whom have the purchasing power, and growing. They should come to know what a wonderful product Philippine tuna is from General Santos City.

I thank your resolution that commends my administration for our role in supporting your lobby for a level playing field for canned tuna exports. I assure you that we will always stand by your collective interest and the general welfare of our people.

If I may make a suggestion, perhaps you could also have a resolution thanking the senators and the congressmen in the U.S. Congress who comprise the new Philippine caucus. So that they can continue to be encouraged to work for the welfare of their friends in the Philippines.

While we are proud of our tuna industry, we have to be concerned that our tuna exports have been declining over the last five years while exports of two other countries in ASEAN have increased. We must look more closely into consumer preferences and realign our marketing strategies, advertising included, to suit market changes.

Thailand is succeeding in selling branded tuna while we have concentrated on supplying in-house brands. Thailand has done an industry study which we should also do. Our embassy in Washington is seeking the assistance of the

U.S. Trade and Development Agency for the conduct of a study that will improve Philippine tuna's competitiveness in the world market. I'm inviting you, our industry's big fish, our major players to conduct a parallel effort.

Speaking of Thailand, one of the secrets of its present success is its program that it calls one million Baht per village or one village-one product program. This program of Prime Minister Thaksin doubled the growth rate of Thailand in one year. My Cabinet and I — and we discussed it in a Cabinet meeting yesterday — would like to focus on this in the Philippines for this year. We will have a one million-peso per town, one town-one product program.

Actually, we did this last year with agricultural modernization, where we financed each municipality with one million pesos of agricultural modernization projects from the Department of Agriculture. This year, the one million will be in loans for small and medium enterprises per town, and one product per town. General Santos is a tuna town — i told Mayor Acharon in the car earlier — therefore I am turning over a check to Mayor Acharon for one million pesos to be lent out to the small and medium tuna fishermen.

Last week, I was in Mindanao for the Mindanao Business Conference. There, I also announced that the rate of cargo handlers are now standardized at 10 pesos for domestic ports. And I have frozen the fee increases in port usage and wharfage. And I asked Mayor Acharon sometime back to fast-track the transshipment classification of the General Santos Makar wharf. All these should help decrease total export costs.

We should also ensure the viability of supply. The BFAR has launched the tuna production enhancement project to install fish aggregating devices or Payao in strategic parts of our portion of the Celebes Sea. BFAR has also conducted surveys that have pinpointed rich tuna fishing grounds, particularly our portion of the Pacific Ocean fronting Surigao and Samar. Several fishing companies are benefitting from this study.

Last January, as you have said, we finalized a fisheries agreement between the Philippines and Indonesia. When you said 'fish without borders' that was what you were asking me to do — have no more borders with Indonesia through a fisheries agreement — and i have complied. This will hopefully generate more jobs and safeguard the livelihood of many fishermen and processing plant workers. We are exploring other possible bilateral agreements, as you have asked, with our neighboring countries. I suggest that your industry conduct a mission to look at whether it will be worth going into a similar agreement with the new nation of East Timor.

I am aware of the other concerns that you have raised, mentioned in the resolutions that Domingo Teng discussed in his speech on the issue of patenting the smoke filtered process. I'm asking the intellectual property office, is that still under you, Mar? LPR? To look into the claims of the contending parties.

I am also directing the BFAR to coordinate with the DOTC, particularly the MARINA, for the review and rationalization of the licensing requirements for tuna handliners in the light of existing laws and regulations. I expect a report on this, Leony, within 30 days.

On the transfer to GenSan City of the BFAR regional office and the fisheries quality control laboratory, I agree. I am directing the D.A. to transfer the regulatory, licensing and quarantine functions, and the laboratory of BFAR to General Santos City.

On MARINA. MARINA is resisting your request to move to Gensan from Koronadal for what they say are financial and budgetary reasons. But I was telling mayor Acharon, and I am telling you now, I agree though that it is more logical for MARINA to be located in a major port like GenSan than to be in a landlocked city like Koronadal. Therefore, I propose that the GenSan government, the local shipping industry and the industrial users in GenSan provide for some counterpart of the cost of transferring if you really feel that it will really increase the convenience and competitiveness on the part of your shipping industry and the users of that shipping industry.

I commend everyone for the effort to sustain and enhance the competitiveness of Philippine Tuna. You have been a big boost to the nation's economy and well-being of the people in Mindanao. You are invaluable to the strong republic we are all striving to build. You are important for our security in Mindanao.

Speaking of security, let me bring your attention to the sad plight of the Filipino repatriates from Sabah now in Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Zamboanga Peninsula. We need to find jobs for them. We need to comfort them in their despair. We need to help provide them with food, medicines and temporary shelter.

I am taking this opportunity to seek the help of all the participants in your Congress. I appeal for food, clothing, medicine and shelter for the thousands deported from Sabah and cramped in temporary quarters in Bongao and Zamboanga City. Please help them.

I also need you help in bringing about a successful end-game in the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf. If you remember, I flew to General Santos immediately after the bombing of Fitmart. After seeing the situation and sensing the feelings of the people here, I send the marines to General Santos City to help stabilize the situation and order the immediate reassignment of certain key people to the area. Even when there were already orders to transfer the marines — was that last month, Nesty? — last month, upon the request of the local government and the communities, though the plane was already here to fetch the marines, I cancelled the transfer immediately. See how the people of GenSan can dictate to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. I did this due to my personal concern for the people of SOCSKSARGEN especially General Santos.

But now because of the need to end the Abu Sayyaf scourge in Sulu, we need the marines there. But rest assured that the new hierarchy of the PNP and army leadership in this area can live up to the expectations of the people. Even without the marines, I assure you there will be no vacuum in the peacekeeping efforts.

I am tasking South Commander Nesty Carolina to ensure that the discipline and the courtesy that is expected by the people which was shown by the marines — that's why you loved them so much — will rule the actions of all the peacekeeping forces here in General Santos and even elsewhere. I'm also tasking the general to assure that foot patrols to have a visibility of the government peacekeeping force in all sensitive areas that they will continue and even be reinforced.

I will continue to monitor the events and situation here personally through former Mayor Antonino to countercheck the information I am given to the formal government hierarchy. Again, I am doing this not only because I know the importance and contributions of SOCSKSARGEN to the economy of the Philippines but because of my true and genuine concern for the people of General Santos.

After all, among the most memorable events of my career before I became president, was what I mentioned earlier, my participation as undersecretary of DTI and putting together the Mindanao development plan which eventually became the SOCSKSARGEN master plan. That's why I share in the pride of your successes and I share in the fears of your apprehensions. I am one with you in difficulty and in triumph. And I greatly admire the vibrancy of your community.

I commend the strength of your collective determination to compete globally and also to take care of your peace and order problems. Our cooperation has born many, many fruits. Remember the last time i came to GenSan, I was happy to announce that after a successful encounter, commander tropical, the head of the Abu Sofia, the kidnapping syndicate was killed by those whom the people of General Santos chose to be their law enforcers. Today, I am here in General Santos again, and I am proud to announce that the number one drug pusher here in the region, commander bravo was also killed late last night by the law enforcers who have been working with the people of General Santos.

And so I say, with regard to development and with regard to peace, sa kauswagan ug sa kalinaw, carry on! My government will always be behind you.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 4th Tuna Congress and 34th General Santos City Charter Day. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224507/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8394&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Megayon (Unity) Festival

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Megayon (Unity) Festival**

[Delivered at the Baganian Cultural and Trade Center, September 5, 2002]

Daghan salamat, P.A. Jess Dureza sa imo pagpa-ila kanako.

Atong mga igsuonan diri sa Zamboanga Del Sur ubos sa gobernador sa Zamboanga Del Sur Aurora Cerilles; ang atong Mayor diri sa Lakewood, Mayor Domingo Mirrar ug tanang mga opisyaes sa Lakewood ug tanang mga opisyaes sa probinsiya ug sa mga laing-laing lunsod sa probinsiya sa Zamboanga Del Sur; atong Congresswoman diri sa distrito, Congresswoman Nenette San Juan; and may I greet a very, very special guest who came all the way this far away to see how we can spread friendship and cooperation with the United States of America, American Ambassador Frank Ricciardone; ang Atong Silingan, ang gobernador sa Sibugay, Governor George Hofer; mga laing opisyaes gikan sa sibugay ug mga Laing-Laing People's Organization gikan sa sibugay sama ni Prinsipe Datu Tukan e Dakula VI, ang Datu Dakula of Sibugay. Asa siya karon? Salamat sa imong regalo kanako; ang aton nga usa sa mga anak sab sa Mindanao na uban sa akong Cabinet, ang atong Presidential Adviser for Jobs Creation Cito Lorenzo; Vice Governor Ariosa; mga board members; tanang mayors; Vice Mayor Magaso; tanang members sa Lakewood Municipal Council; Deputy Presidential Assistant Boyet Dela Cruz; Ato Vera Cruz; aton mga Laing-Laing opisyaes; usa pa nga Silingan, mayor sa Pagadian City, Mayor Pulmones; aton mga kaigsuonan sa tibuok Zamboanga Del Sur tungod kay ang atong selebrasyon karon, selebrasyon sa tibuok probinsya, malipayong anniversary, golden jubilee kaninyong tanan. At salamat sa inyong theme nga 'Megayon', nga ang iyahang meaning mao ang unification sa aton mga Laing-Laing tribu diri, mga kristiyano, mga Lumad ug mga Muslim.

Nahibalo ko nga diri sa Lakewood 70 percent sa katawhan mga Subanen. So akon nga espesyal nga pag-abi-abi sa mga subanen diri sa Lakewood ug sa Zamboanga Del Sur.

Maayo gyud nga ang inyong theme 'Megayon' gyud tungod kay usa sa akon mga prinsipyo alang sa Mindanao mao nga kinahanglan maka-ilat tatanan nga ang Pilipinas usa ka multi-ethnic society asa kon ikaw tagalog o Cebuano, ikaw Pilipino. Kon ikaw Muslim, Christian, Lumad, ikaw Pilipino. Kon ikaw Chinese, kon ikaw mestiso, ikaw Pilipino. Ug kinahanglan kay daghang kaayo ang atong laing-laing kultura kinahanglan dunay social justice alang sa tanan. Kinahanglan dunay institutionalize accommodation sa tanang ethnic traditions ug USA sa mga maayo diri sa Zamboanga del sur nga diri nakita nato nga dunay gyud institutionalize accommodation sa tanang ethnic traditions labi na ang kristiyano, Muslim ug Lumad.

Diri sab sa Zamboanga Del Sur usa sa inyong mga maayo nga nahimo sa kining akong administrasyon ang inyong tabang dili ra sa akong prinsipyo sa Mindanao kundili sab sa akong agricultural modernization. Tingali dili naton nakita diri sa Lakewood kay bukid man kining Lakewood apan sa mga plains didto sa lowland sa Zamboanga Del Sur kauban na diri ang atong Laing-Laing pioneers sa bag-o nga teknolohiya sa atong agricultural modernization walay lain kundili ang hybrid rice nga maka-doble o tingali triple pa sa atong mga harvest ug income sa aton mga mang-uuma.

Ug diri naman sa Lakewood, sa nahibalo ko tungod kay kini bukid tingali wala pang irrigation, ang inyo mga produkto diri mao ang exotic fruits, murag ang durian ug ang lanzones. Nahibalo ko sab nga abug tingali usa ka adlaw sa kaumag-on ka umaabot sab ang panahuna nga mahimo sab usa nga tourist spot kining manindot kaayo nga lunsod nga Lakewood.

Nahibalo ko sab nga dunay investor kuno na gusto nila masugdan ug palm oil plantation diri sa Lakewood. Apan ingon nila ay ayaw pa, ayaw pa magpakpak. Apan ingon nila na aron makasugdan sila sa palm oil plantation kinahanglan magcutting una sa aton mga CADC. Dili maayo. Ayaw matuo kay nahidapo na ni didto sa lanao ug unsa nahimo sa lanao gi-cut ang mga forest unya gamay na planting sa palm oil. Unya dili man nakumpleto ang delivery kay ingon nila gamay kaayo ang yuta. Layo kaayo ang kalsada dili kuno viable. So nabilin na ang investment ug ang katawhan didto sa katong lunsod walay trabaho hangtod karon.

Dili nahitabo sa akong administrasyon. Apan ang akong administrasyon ang nakakita, naka-investigate sa kining kaso busa dili ko gusto na mahitabo katong sad, kaluoy na experience nga nahimo didto diri sab sa Lakewood. Busa ang importante padayon nato ang atong laing na mga maayo na nakita naton na nga-a, naa ang competitive advantage diri. Kining inyohang mga prutas nga maayo ug kining gamay-gamay nga umaabot nga mga turista alang sa eco-tourism. Apan sa tibuok Zamboanga Del Sur ang ug importante sab kon naa CADC ang importante na padayon nato ang atong reforestation diri sa Lakewood.

Kining... Karong adlaw naa ako laing-laing regalo alang sa inyong 50th Anniversary. Una sa tanan, nakita na nato gikan sa d.a. na nahuman na kining atong farm-to-market road. Ug kining farm-to-market road gigastos ug one million pesos diri sa Lakewood. Ubos ni sa akong project niadtong niaging tuig nga makataas ug domestic demand agi sa agricultural modernization project. Busa diri sa lakewood ang gipili ni Mayor Mao gyud ang farm-to-market road ug nahuman naman na.

Naa pa sab laing-laing tabang alang sa inyong mga mang-uuma diri. Walay lugar diri kay taas ta ug layo sa poblacion apan gusto ko sab maanunsyo kaninyong tanan na naa kita mult multi-flyer farms na naa 20 pullets, 22 cockers ug 1,000 egg capacity incubator para sa inyo mga poultry raisers. Ug naa pa 1,500 nga assorted planting materials.

Mao ang atong tabang alang sa lunsod ug lakewood. Apan tungod karon adlaw na mao ang atong fiesta dili lang diri sa lakewood kung dili sa tibuok Zamboanga Del Sur. Gusto ko ipaabot kaninyo ang usa ka bag-o nga focus sa atong administrasyon mao ang tabang sa atong mga small and medium enterprises. Sa niaging tuig gihatag ko ug one million pesos tanang lunsod alang sa agricultural modernization sama sa farm-to-market road diri. Karong tuig ang atong bag-o nga focus credit facilities alang sa small and medium enterprises. Ang akong gusto nga dunay project na one-town one-product. Murag diri sa lakewood one-town tingali ang atong product ang atong exotic fruits. Ug sa tibuok Zamboanga Del Sur importante nga tanan mga lunsod pilion ta unsa ang maayo nga produkto. Busa gihangyo ko nga muanhi diri sa aton selebrasyon ang akong kauban kaniadto ug higala pa hangtod karon ang provincial director sa Department of Trade and Industry, si Alex Fernandez. Asa si Alex? Ok, Alex.

Agi kan Alex Fernandez ang provincial director muhatag... Tagaan ko ang Zamboanga Del Sur ang initial nga ten million pesos alang sa kining atong small and medium enterprise project — one-town one-product. Pila ka lunsod diri sa Zamboanga? Twenty-six, so tingali kining ten million muadto sa first ten nga makasulod sa ilang project proposal. One Million pesos for every town. So, sa mahuman na kining ten million mubalik si Alex kanako aron maka-loan kita gihapon sa ika-duha ka ten million.

So, hibalo na naton diri Alex, diri sa Lakewood ang one-town one-project mao gyud ang exotic fruits. Busa ang imo kinahanglan na mahimo nga ma-organize sila kauban ang D.A. aron maka-plant ug makabaligya sa ilang produkto ug kining one million pesos mao ang ilang capital para kining project. Loan kay dili dole-out, kinahanglan mubalik sa akong pondo. Kay kining akong gihatag karon ang akong advance apan ang mga papeles muagi sa Landbank of the Philippines. Aron makubra sila sa bayad kay kinahanglan enterprise ni.

Karon sa mga laing siyam nga masunod nga lunsod asa unsa nga lunsod. Ingon gyud ni Secretary Cito Lorenzo usa sa mga maayo ug manindot nga nahitabo diri sa Zamboanga Del Sur, Zamboanga Del Sur karon mai-merge isip ang leading propagator sa bag-o nga hybrid rice. Busa Alex, ang akong gusto nga mahimo nga mangita ka sa mga lunsod asa maka-propagate kita sa seed propagation sa hybrid rice. Unya taga-an mo ang ilang organization ug kunsu ba o enterprise nga capital nga one million pesos. One million pesos sa kada lunsod nga makasugod o makadayon sa iyang propagation sa hybrid rice.

Karon sa mahuman moadto si kita gihapon sa laing-laing lunsod diri sa Zamboanga Del Sur ug ang akong tuyo nga bag-o mahuman kining tuig o tingali bag-o mahuman ang 12 months nga masunod tanan mga lunsod sa Zamboanga Del Sur maka-kumpleto sa ilang one-town one-product small and medium enterprises. Dili micro Alex, ha. Small and medium enterprises. Aniya karon ang atong silingan na gobernador sa sibugay sa masunod, matagaan ta sab sa sibugay kining parehas nga proyekto.

Ngano nga ingon ni Jess Dureza ug ni Nenette San Juan na ako tinuod nga Mindanaoan. Kay ako nidako sa silingan nga probinsya didto sa Iligan sa Lanao Del Norte. Ug sa balay ug yuta ug akong lola naa mi sab nga mga tourist areas kay ang among barangay, ang among sitio mao ang timoga didto Sa Iligan City. Tingali daghan nga mga taga-Zamboanga Del Sur naka-adto na sa among balay ug sa among creek ug sa mga swimming pool sa among mga silingan. Mao nakita nato na duol gyud ang akong kabatan-onan diri sa Mindanao. Dili ra na ako anak sa Mindanao kay ako nidako sa balay ug akong lola sa Lanao del Norte ako usa ka next door neighbor sa Zamboanga Del Sur. Kay ang Lanao del Norte next door sa Zamboanga del Sur.

Kaniadtong week gyud gi-groundbreaking na ang Aurora-Iligan road. Imbitado ako apan dili ko gusto maadto sa mga groundbreaking, basi dili madayon eh. Apan huwaton nato nga masugdan ang construction ug matapos ma-o nga mahimo Pa mas duol ang atong duha ka probinsya.

Apan bisan karon gikalipay ko nga nianhi ako sa katapusan kay dugay na nadunggan ko kung unsa kining Lakewood na gwapo kaayo kuno apan wala sa mapa kay layo kaayo ug kaniadto walay kalsada. Apan tingali karon nakauban nato ang atong mga media pa gikan sa iligan ug kauban nato ang Atong mga national, mga cameramen tingali makita ug bisan mga taga-Manila kana-a diay gwapo nga ang lugar diri sa bukid sa Zamboanga del Sur.

Busa mga kaigsuonan gikalipay ko gihapon nga niabot ako karon gihapon kay last week niadto ako sa kumalarang sa ilahang fiesta. So karon gihapon anhi ako karon apan ang importante dili na tingali ang pagbisita pa ug presidente, tingali modayon kining aton mga small and medium enterprises alang sa kauswagan sa Lakewood ug sa tibuok Zamboanga del Sur alang sa masunod nga 50 years sa kinabuhi kining atong manindot ug maayo nga probinsya.

Daghan salamat ug congratulations kaninyong tanan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Megayon (Unity) Festival. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224513/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8396&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching of Ford 2002 ‘ESCAPE’ and third year anniversary of Ford Motor Co. Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching of Ford 2002 ‘ESCAPE’ and third year anniversary of Ford Motor Co. Philippines**

[Delivered in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, September 9, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much Undersecretary Greg Domingo who is the managing head of the Board of Investments.

Governor of Laguna Ning-Ning Lazaro and Congresswoman of this district of Laguna Uliran Joaquin; and Mayor Arcilles of Sta. Rosa and the other citizens of Laguna and Sta. Rosa lalung-lalo na ang ating magiging na nagtatrabaho dito sa Ford. Ford Motors Philippines President Henry Co and Ford ASEAN Joseph John Parker; and other officials of Ford; Ambassador Ricciardone of the United States; other officials of the U.S. government; and I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the Commissioner of Customs, Tony Bernardo; our other officers taking care of our peace and order, Roy Kyamko the Commander of the Southern Luzon Command; and the Regional Director of Region 4, General Apacible; I'd like to also greet the various suppliers and the various dealers and all of you; ladies and gentlemen:

I think we should all be very happy this is a great day for Philippine manufacturing.

I just came from Nestle also here in Laguna and there we had a ceremonial switch-on of their expansion, two-billion peso expansion. Nestle and Ford within plant are very similar, the products are not similar but they both employ about 500 people in house but give jobs to 10 times as many outside of the factory. And when they launch new products there in nestle and today we launch a new product here. The Ford 2002 “Escape”

Ford 2002 Escape is another milestone for Ford Phils. As Mr. Co said, within a six-month period. Because six months ago it launched Ford Lynx which is now being exported to other countries in the Asian region. And soon Ford Escape will be sold to Thailand and Indonesia. And of course the Philippines. This is the fulfillment I'm very happy to say, of one of the outputs of my trip to the United States last year. Because this expansion, this launching is a fruit of a memorandum of agreement that was signed during my trip to the United States.

I remember Ford has been in the country for many years now. Or at least I'd rather say it was in the country a long time ago. I remember as a young married woman owning a Ford Fiera, aside from other Ford models. But Ford left for a while during martial law, and thankfully resumed operations in the Philippines in 1997. Since then, Ford has grabbed a considerable portion of the automobile market in the country. We should congratulate Ford for boosting the country's image in the automotive exports industry. And I also commend Ford for its support to our economy, particularly its contributions to foreign exchange earnings and job creation. Ford's projected foreign exchange earnings for this year I believe are estimated at 26 million dollars. And the expansion to escape is worth just about that much in investment as well. And in a time of great unemployment, the automotive industry is especially valuable because of its many job-creating linkages.

Since Ford came back to the Philippines, its investments have totaled as we have seen in the show 200 million dollars, 80 million of which went to the construction of this manufacturing facility.

I was looking at its investment in the other countries, I saw 300 million dollars in China and 300 million dollars in India. So we have 200 million dollars. So I was telling Mr. Parker I'm looking forward to your next 100 million dollars in the Philippines.

I thank Ford and our other exporters for our good export performance this year, which exceeded expectations. The July figures show a 23 percent increase in dollar value in total Philippine exports, while in the first semester of 2002, exports contributed 39 percent to our Gross National Product. I hope that Ford and the other exporters will translate their success into hiring more workers to increase our employment rate. Even as we hail the achievements of our export sector, it is important that we fuel domestic demand. In this factory 80 percent of the cars are for export 20 percent for the domestic market Ford Motors, for instance, is not just export-oriented. It also operates in the Philippines because of a good domestic market. But that is not necessarily by choice. It is because the 20 percent is what the domestic market can absorb. But therefore what we should try to do as an economy is to try to increase the capacity of the domestic market so that more of the cars can be produced and sold for the domestic market. Ford Motors is not just export-oriented. It operates in the Philippines because we have a large population with a decent rate of growth and that should make a good domestic market for cars and other consumer products. This domestic market we must strive to increase come what may in the export market.

To expand our own domestic market the model we are following is what economists call — domestic consumption-based “managed asset reflation.” This economic model is focused on domestic consumption and complements multinational exports as a source of growth.

I am focusing on a roadmap based on this model. It is a key response to the continuing uncertainties in the U.S. economy, which is the Philippines' biggest market.

We want to ensure that Ford and other manufacturers have a good domestic market to sell their products to, thus we want to develop new sources of domestic demand, notably capital-efficient small and medium enterprises.

Managed asset reflation, amounts to prudent monetary policy, a gradual reduction in public-sector debt, and a balanced budget in four years.

By developing small and medium entrepreneurs who will be able to afford to buy either their first car or an additional car, we hope to develop a good domestic market for automobiles. At the same time, by developing the motor vehicle industry, we hope to have a better export performance in motor vehicle parts and components, and I hope that Ford will continue to be our largest buyer of local auto parts components. This will not only help augment the country's dollar earnings, it will also help in turn, help small and medium enterprises producing these parts.

It is with the support of industry players like Ford that we will meet our export targets and also develop our small and medium enterprises.

I intend to use fiscal policy to encourage Ford Motors and the rest of the manufacturing sector. To bring in that extra, new hundred million dollars additional investment from Ford in the next two or three years the board of Investment is working together with the department of finance to have tailored-made incentives for the automobile industry.

I remember when I was still also in the board of investments about ten years ago, we also had a vehicle manufacturing industry. But at that time the value added, the local value added for vehicles was only about 10 to 15 percent. Here in Ford Motors the value added is 40 percent the local value Added, so I congratulate Ford for that. Their valued added comes not just from the labor contributed by our very skilled human resources here in-house in Ford but also by the various suppliers of parts and components which range in capitalization from hundreds of millions themselves. Like I see Toti Torres here, who does the wiring harness and Eddie Jose who does logistics. But on the way from a hundred million pesos in investments or even more or even a hundred million dollars for some of them to maybe even just two million pesos in capitalization.

So their suppliers range from large scale to small scale. And because in our thrust now to build the domestic market we want to push small and medium scale industries. We have a concentration on a program that we call one town, one product, one million pesos in loans for small enterprise. So, because Ford has some suppliers that are small and medium scale Gregory Domingo and the DTI representative by provincial director Marilou Orejola will work with Ford to look for a deserving supplier who should be able to expand its business and we will give a loan of one million pesos to that chosen supplier.

I am very happy to have the chance to be here therefore. And to say that our government policies are geared towards supporting the manufacturing sector. When I first became president manufacturing was down. Last year, our economy grew even manufacturing did not. Because our services grew and our agriculture grew. Our manufacturing sector did not grow because export did not grow. This year the source of growth has switch back to export and to manufacturing. And we should sustain this momentum that manufacturing has achieved once again.

It is for this reason that I made a special trip to CALABARZON today, to Nestle's and to Ford to celebrate their respective expansions and to let the whole world know that the Philippines is a good place to manufacture products in. To Ford congratulations. And to the Philippines and to our Filipino workers thank you for making the Philippines a good place for investment.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Launching of Ford 2002 'ESCAPE' and Third Year Anniversary of Ford Motor Co. Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211724/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8393&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the AFP Turnover of Command

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the AFP Turnover of Command**

[Delivered at the General Headquarters Grandstand, Camp Aguinaldo, September 10, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Angelo Reyes for your introduction. And thank you that when many were criticizing my choice of Benjie Defensor to be Chief of Staff, you told me I was doing the right thing.

General Roy Cimatu and the other former Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; General Defensor and the other generals especially the Major Service Commanders and the members of the Board of Generals; distinguished members of the diplomatic corps; Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste; the members of the House of Representatives who are here today; members of the Cabinet and other Presidential Appointees; men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; distinguished guests; the two governors of the two provinces of General Defensor; Ladies and Gentlemen:

If I could have done it without doing injustice to Benjie Defensor, I would have extended Roy Cimatu some more, but it is time for Benjie to have the crowning glory of his career. Why would I have wanted to extend Roy Cimatu had it not been at the same time an injustice to Benjie? Because Roy in the four months as Chief-of-Staff showed once again the mettle that I saw and many saw in the fourth division commander under the leadership of then Chief-of-Staff Angelo Reyes that Fourth Infantry Division Commander who translated a General and vague order of all-out war into a meticulously planned and magnificently executed campaign that brought back conventional warfare in fashion.

General Sigaya, troop commander, give the troops “tikas pahinga.”

We all remember Roy Cimatu for overrunning 46 enemy camps in a relentless six month campaign. So that when I became president, I wanted to make Roy Cimatu Army Chief, but since I was still getting my feet wet at that time, Two months after Edsa 2, I listened to the advice that Roy was too junior even if he was so accomplished. And so I made sure that he would get his three stars so that he could become a Chief-of-Staff the next time around that the position was made available. As South Commander, Roy continued to impress both Philippine foot soldiers and American top brass with his once again excellent and aggressive campaign plans against the Abu Sayyaf. I remember the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific telling me that in my South Commander— Roy Cimatu— I have one of the best generals in the whole world.

And so when I appointed Roy Cimatu as Chief-of-Staff, I considered it as a continuation of his work in our most critical military mission: bring peace to Mindanao, enforce the peace in Mindanao. And as he had done the 46 camps in the battles against the MILF he worked as Chief-of-Staff to defeat Abu Sabaya and recover most of the hostages. That is almost equal if not equal to the 46th campaigns that saw the overrunning of 46 camps in Mindanao.

Even when I appointed Roy Cimatu as Chief-of-Staff and I gave him the mission to finish Abu Sabaya, even then I knew I could not extend him for too long, because there are other senior and deserving aspirants waiting in the wings. But I took comfort in the recollection that except for Pope John Paul who died immediately after his election as Pope, Pope John the 23rd was the shortest reigning pope in history. No more than five years in a post that is held for life. And yet this shortest reigning pope in history accomplished the greatest changes in the history of the

Catholic church in history since the Council of Trent. Pope John the 23rd gave us Vatican 2 and ushered the spirit of ecumenism and modernization of the Catholic Church.

Like Pope John the 23rd, I knew that Roy Cimatu could accomplished very much in a very short period of time, and he did it.

Last night I watched Roy Cimatu on television. The theme question of the show in on-line was: did Roy Cimatu accomplished his mission? The texters agreed with me two-to-one: mission accomplished. Congratulations General Cimatu. Mission accomplished by the man I call the thinking general, by the man they call the Pacman and by the man that they also call as I found out last night aside from being the thinking general, also the smiling general. In other words, the complete officer and gentleman, that is General Roy Cimatu.

Now as he retires, he can add to his spectacular capture of the 46th camps the equally defeat and watery demise of Abu Sabaya. Add to this as a bonus the perfect teamwork with the police that resulted in the killing of Faisal Marohomsar in a perfectly planned and executed kidnap rescue. And as his swan song, the launching of Oplan end game, to finally finish off the Abu Sayyaf and begin to let prosperity replace terrorism in the Sulu archipelago, especially as I have... Several times heard Roy say especially in the troubled town of Patikul where Roy started his outstanding military career and now in whose battle of liberation we have as the last testament that Roy is bequeathing to his successor. These exploits of Roy Cimatu — bold in the application of science, innovative in the application of conventional warfare which he has again made fashionable, all these must become part of the doctrine of Philippine military warfare.

Long after Roy Cimatu has retired because of what he has contributed to the science of warfare his name will be there in the textbooks of our young soldiers studying to become great heroes and soldiers like him.

When Diomedio Villanueva was Chief- of- Staff, I gave the guidance to modernize our military doctrine. I said, we have enough great battles like the battles led by Roy Cimatu to inspire and serve as models and lessons for our soldiers. I gave this instruction during the stint of General Villanueva, I gave it during the stint of General Roy Cimatu, I am giving it again as General Benjie Defensor begins his stint. During the last air force day celebration, Benjie Defensor reported what he has been doing to follow my guidance about doctrine. And I have heard too some junior officers telling me that they are now learning Filipino doctrine in their training camps. I am happy that through the three Chiefs- of -Staff, since the time I gave my guidance about modernizing doctrine, this has been internalized.

This conscientious continuity of adherence to the Commander-in-Chief's guidance on modernizing doctrine and other guidance, on other issues through three Chiefs- of- Staff, through four if you include the guidance I was giving General Angie Reyes when he was Chief-of-Staff. All this continuity of following guidance and following it with internalize conviction belie the critics' charge that short term in the office of the chief of staff are anathema to stability in the leadership of the Armed Forces.

These critics who criticize short terms are wrong. They are wrong. They do not appreciate the principle of professional continuity in the military command. The command as an institution and not the command as persons. This critics are wrong because they presume that leadership in the Armed Forces is politicized. Leadership in the Armed Forces is not politicized, it is professional. This critics are wrong because they underestimate the loyalty and professionalism of the men in uniform.

It is no great consequence how long a chief-of-staff serves his tenure. What is important and indispensable is the permanence of values, standards and norms in the Armed Forces.

But while values are permanent, doctrine must modernize and change with the times. While my guidance of modernizing doctrine has been internalized by the leadership of the Armed Forces through three commanders from when I first gave it, I believe it is time to institutionalize this throughout the organization. Thus I am lodging the task of reviewing and modernizing doctrine to the deputy Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces.

This modernization of doctrine should take into account what is called the post-military affairs revolution thinking regarding the changing military mission brought about by the growth in the power of the criminal, terrorist and other armed non-state organizations that now challenge traditional nation states in many parts of the globe.

The 20th-century U.S. model of civil-military relations and task allocation, in which the military looks outward and law enforcement agencies do the domestic chores, is breaking down everywhere.

The last “revolution in military affairs” occurred in the 1980s, consisting of high-tech warfare as in the desert storm. But this revolution started twenty-years ago and more is over now. A new paradigm is prevailing.

To quote a military scientist Ralph Peters: our national security problems have more to do with innovative behavior than with military-technological competition. The advent of criminal and warlord parastates is a far more urgent challenge than funding the B-2 Bomber Boys Club. We are witnessing multiple simultaneous revolutions and devolutions in worldwide social and governmental structures, and millennia-old patterns of human organization are collapsing.

We face a world in much of which the 19th -century manner of organizing and applying the power of the state has become the least relevant of all thinkable manners. Far from the conventionally armed and recognizably structured forces our analysts imagine as future opponents, we confront, today, creatively organized enemies employing behaviors and technologies ranging from the stone age to those at the imagination’s edge.

Our understanding of an approach to international relations and the use of the military is based upon an assumption of the ubiquity of the nation -state. In much of the world, however, the nation-state might become irrelevant. In much of the world, traditional structures of government coexist nervously with emerging systems of resource allocation and human organization, from techno-capable crime networks to the machete-swinging clans of warlords, from anarcho-capitalism through economic migrations to the re-emergence of the virtual city-state in places like Cali, Sarajevo, and Kabul.

Criminal organizations, to stress only one of the growing and largely ignored threats to our national security, increasingly have more power than other states especially the failing states.

Today, with the efficacy of many formal government in worldwide decline, criminal organizations are becoming new forms of government for want of a new and better world.

This has powerful implications for state-craft and military activities. Over the past few decades, the doctrine of third world militaries has been to evolve toward the 20th-century U.S. model of civil-military relations and task allocation in which the military looks outward and law enforcement agencies as I said do the domestic chores. This model as I said, is breaking down everywhere. Criminal, terrorist, other armed non-state organizations have grown too powerful and adept-in extreme cases, we have seen the emergence of criminal-enterprise armies. And we have seen that here in the Philippines.

In the emerging wars against criminal ghost states, parastates and criminal-enterprise armies, the modernization of our Armed Forces will allow us to possess the material tools for the job. But even if we modernized the material tools of our Armed Forces, we would still lack innovative methodologies and adequately contemporary laws unless we modernized doctrine. To address the broad range of emerging threats, yes, we need new weapons. But we also need new rules of engagement. And I am glad that the military has begun to do the new doctrines. And now, we must manualize them.

Criminal and terrorist organizations, local and international, must be regarded in “peacetime” as combatants during wartime: the goal is to degrade them, to neutralize them until the survivors quit.

The roles and missions of the Philippine military are changing, but the changes must go beyond the legacy of the 1980's revolution in military affairs. The Philippine Armed Forces after all are already involved in struggles against organized crime, local and international.

Fighting drug cartels and combating other criminal "ghost states" is the moral officer's nightmare, full of impossible restrictions, gray areas, and daily opportunities to embarrass the flag and demoralize the force. Drugs and drug-related violence have killed more Filipinos, wrecked more lives, and cost us more in real peso terms than did the Mindanao war in which Roy Cimatu displayed his heroism. Our cities have been raped, and generations of the poor have been lost irretrievably— that constitutes a threat to our national security.

But if "General Pacman" is a difficult act to follow in meeting this and the more conventional threats, our new chief of staff, General Benjamin Defensor, can certainly fit into the challenging shoe. For Benjie is a professional's professional, a pilot with the heart of a poet, didn't we all listen in rapture as he delivered his induction address with such poetry? But Benjie, has the heart of a poet but the instincts of a true fighter. Once again, a true officer and a gentleman.

Since i have bet Benjie I have continually increased my impression and admiration for his professional conduct. It was not easy for him to be at Edsa two, but he was there. I thanked Angie Reyes for sharing with him that moment of truth. There have been other moments of truth for Benjie but he has proven his loyalty to the service, and the flag, and the constitution countless times, including, I must reveal, the days leading up to may one of 2001. Someday, maybe I can tell the story of how Benjie help me prepare for the mayhem of May 1. And that is why we were ready. There should be no doubt left in our minds that Benjie Defensor will uphold the constitutional mandate and sustain the unity of purpose and singularity of direction that now drive the Armed Forces.

Benjie has consistently been known for his innovative spirit and his strategic finesse. His "first force" strategy for the Philippine Air Force, developed in response to my call for a definition of AFP doctrines, is among the solid testaments of the high quality of his leadership and talent. Benjie is indeed, an innovator. He is a pioneer. He is a trailblazer.

For instance, he is the first Ilonggo to become the Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. And as he said earlier, he is one of only three chiefs of the Philippine air force to become head of an institution that is so predominantly dominated by the army.

In facing old challenges, the traditional challenges of the military. In changing the new challenges that have come up with the new threats to national security, I am sure as we have heard in his speech that Benjie Defensor will bring a fresh perspective. I, therefore, ask everyone from the Armed Forces of the Philippines to give your full support to your new chief-of-staff even as I ask you to sustain the courage, the loyalty and the professionalism that are now an indelible mark of the great Filipino soldier.

To Roy, congratulations for a mission magnificently accomplished to cap other great exploits in the history of your career and our own military history. And to Benjie Defensor — fly high. Bring us to new great heights of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. And bring those heights to the service of a strong Philippine republic.

Congratulations and thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the AFP Turnover of Command. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211710/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8392&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo for the 2002 Festivities in Honor of Our Lady of Peñafrancia

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
For the 2002 Festivities in Honor of Our Lady of Peñafrancia**

[Delivered at the Study Room, Malacañang, September 12, 2002]

“Dios marhay na aldaw saindo gabos.”

I greet every Peñafrancia devotee a very happy and meaningful fiesta.

It is my ardent prayer that our “Ina” will always bless the Bicol region and the whole Filipino nation with lasting peace and prosperity.

Let us all be united under the mantle of her protection and love.

Mabuhay si Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia Patrona nin Bicol.

Dios mabalos sa indo gabos.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Message for the 2002 Festivities in Honor of Our Lady of Peñafrancia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211636/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8386&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Message of President Arroyo for “Kababayan... Sagot Kita” telethon [Filipino]

**Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Para sa telethon na pinamagatang “Kababayan... Sagot Kita”**

[Ipinahayag sa Study Room, Malacañang, ika 12 ng Setyembre, 2002]

Nitong mga nakaraang Linggo, nasaksihan natin ang matinding paghihirap ng napakarami nating mga kababayan na pinabalik mula sa Sabah.

Mayroon pang nandoon ngayon sa Zamboanga at Bongao sa pangangalaga ng National Disaster Coordinating Council o NDCC. Mayroon ding nakauwi na sa kanilang mga bayan ngunit hindi tiyak ang kinabukasan.

Ngayong gabi, sa pamamagitan ng telethon na ito na ating tinaguriang, “Pagbabalik-Tulong.” Sana maka-abot sa kanila ang inyong tulong. Malimit kong sinasabi na dapat ay “magtutungan tayo” para sa kabutihan at kaunlaran ng ating bayan. Ito ay isang pagkakataon upang ipakita natin ang pagiging matulungin ng bawat Pilipino para sa kapakanan ng ating mga kapwa Pilipino.

Ang mga donasyon ninyo na manggagaling sa telethon na ito ay makakaabot sa mga nangangailangan dahil ito ay mapupunta sa NDCC.

Makasaysayan po ang telethon na ito dahil nagtulung-tulong ang lahat ng TV networks. Ang tatlong himpilan ng gobyerno — ang NBN 4, RPN 9 at IBC13 ay namuno sa pag-organisa nito. Ang mga pribadong tv network — ang ABS-CBN 2, GMA 7 at ABC 5 ay tumulong at nagpadala ng kanilang mga artists.

Ang Philippine Basketball Association at ang Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas ay nakikiisa din. Sabi sa akin ng organizers na hindi siya nahirapang kunin ang suporta ng lahat ng tumutulong. Nung kumalat ang balita tungkol sa proyektong ito, kusang tumawag ang marami at inalok ang kanilang tulong.

Sa inyong lahat na nagboluntaryo at nagsama-sama para magawa ang telethon na ito, marami pong salamat. Kaya mga kababayan ko, aking hinihiling sa inyo na tumugon po tayo sa panawagang ito ng pagmamalasakit at tulong na magmumula sa inyo.

Tumawag po sa mga linya ng mga telepono na ipapakita sa inyo.

Hindi po ang laki ng donasyon o dami ng bagay na ibibigay ang importante. Ang mahalaga po ay magkaisa tayo. Ang mahalaga po ay magtutungan tayo. Ang mahalaga po ay ipakita natin sa lahat na may tulong ang pagbabalik ng ating kapwa Pilipino.

Sabihin natin at ipamalas natin sa mundo na: “pagbabalik sa Pilipinas ay may tulong mula sa kapwa Pilipino.”

Aasahan po ni Neneng, ang isang labindalawang taong gulang na batang babae sa Bongao Center ang inyong tulong. Aasahan po ng lahat ng kanyang kapwa bumalik.

Ipagmalaki natin ang ating lahi. Ipagmalaki natin ang ating pagka-Pilipino.

Ang pag-tutulong-tulong natin ay mahalaga sa ating adhikain na lalong palakasin at patatagin ang ating mahal na republika ng Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat at magandang gabi.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Message for "Kababayan... Sagot Kita" Telethon. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211643/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8390&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo for the Silver Jubilarians '77 of the UST College of Commerce on their Grand Alumni Homecoming

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
For the Silver Jubilarians '77 of the UST College of Commerce on their Grand Alumni Homecoming on
September 20, 2002**

[Delivered at the Study Room, Malacañang, September 12, 2002]

I convey my warmest greetings to the Silver Jubilarians-batch '77 of the University of Santo Tomas College of Commerce as you hold your Grand Alumni homecoming. I hope that your batch will always be united and successful in the years to come.

The Thomasian community is very close to my heart. I share the pride and gratitude that my father and mother had for the university. UST produced two bar topnotchers, one of them became a president and revered leader — my father, Dostado Macapagal; UST produced many good physicians, devoted parents, and loyal wives and one them — my mother, Evangelina Macapagal.

I am therefore happy to congratulate you all for your contributions to nation building. I am confident your leadership in various professions and endeavors will always be guided by the idealism that UST has instilled.

I ask your full support for our efforts in strengthening our Philippine Republic.

Let us strengthen our partnership especially you are from the college of commerce, let us strengthen our partnership in creating jobs for our people in order to win the war against poverty.

Hinihiling ko ang inyong pakikiisa at suporta sa ating mga hakbang upang magtayo ng malakas na republikang Pilipinas.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Message for the Silver Jubilarians '77 of the UST College of Commerce on their Grand Alumni Homecoming on September 20, 2002. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211702/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8388&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 102nd commemoration of the Battle of Pulang Lupa [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa ika-102 na pag-alaala sa Digmaan ng Pulang Lupa**

[Ipinahayag sa Brgy. Balo, Torrijos, Marinduque, ika 13 ng Setyembre, 2002]

Maraming salamat Congressman pareng Edmund sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. Maari na po kayong lahat umupo.

Kagalang-galang na Governor Carmencita Reyes, Mayor Pizarro, Bishop Oliveros, aking kasamahan sa kabinete na narito, si Secretary Sonny Alvarez at si Secretary Manolet Dayrit. Nandito rin yung Chairperson ng National Commission on Culture si Secretary Evelyn Pantig. At narito yung ating bagong Chief-of-Staff ng Armed Forces of the Philippines nag-birthday siya kagabi. Happy birthday, General Benjie Defensor. Ating iba't-ibang mga nagtatanggol sa ating kapayapaan, ating mga anak, kaanak, kamag-anak na mga bayani ng giyera ng pulang lupa, mga kasapi ng panlalawigang sanggunian sa pamumuno ni Vice Governor Rejano, sa mga kasapi ng Sangguniang Bayan ng Torrijos sa pamumuno ni Vice Mayor Rasa, iba't-ibang mga mayor ng Marinduque, iba't-ibang mga local government officials sa pamumuno ni ABC President Torrijos Chairman Rejino, mga estudyante, mga guro. Mga panauhing pandangal, mga kababayan, maligayang anibersaryo ng pulang lupa sa inyong lahat.

Balitang-balita man din na ang Marinduque ay isang napakagandang probinsiya at mabait ang mga tao dini. Ito baya ang gusto kong mapatunayan at maramdaman muli. Napaksaran na bumalik ng isang lugar na lagi mainit ang pagsalubong ng mga tao. Ang sabi ngani ng iba maliit man ang marinduque kagaya ko malaki naman ang puso kagaya ko, lalu na pagdating sa pag-estima sa mga bisita. Maraming beses ako pumarito sa Marinduque lahat ng bayan ng Marinduque ay nabisita ko na. Ngayon man din, gaya nang sabi ni mayor na pangalawang pagkakataon ko na makapunta dinhi dini sa Marinduque at talaga bayang tingin ko'y lalo pang gumanda at lalo pang bumait ang mga tao dini.

Natatandaan ko na nagtungo ako rito sa Torrijos nung 1996. Ako ay senador pa. Naging guest of honor sa isang provincewide painting contest sa Boac, tapos dumaan ako dito sa Torrijos, hindi dumaan kasi hindi on the way ang Torrijos talagang sinadya ko. Mahaba at mapagod ang biyahe nuon dahil senador pa lang ako wala pang helicopter. Pero ngayon, presidente na ako naging mabilis ang aking pagparito dahil helicopter na ang gamit ko. Sabi ko nga sa aking kasama si Secretary Sonny Alvarez at si Secretary Manolet Dayrit at iba pa: kitay dapat magpasalamat sa mainit sa pagtanggap sa atin dini. Hindi ka ba manasabi sa kanila katabi ko si Manolet Dayrit sabi na niya sa akin napakainit ang pagtanggap sa atin dito. At sabi ko talagang kilala ang Marinduqueño na mabait sa mga bisita, mabait sa lahat ng bagay. At hindi lamang mabait, matapang pa at makabayan. Yun ang ating pinagdiriwang ngayon di ba? Mahalaga ang pagdiriwang na ating ginaganap ngayon sa kasaysayan hindi lamang ng inyong lalawigan kungdi sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa.

Ang "Battle of Pulang Lupa" gaya nang sabi ni gobernadora na naganap dito nung September 13, 1900 ay isa sa iilang labanan kung saan tinalo ng mga Pilipino ang mga Amerikano. Bagama't ang matatapang na guerillang pinamunuan ni Lt. Col. Maximo Abad ay mga lumang baril, kawayang sibat at itak lamang ang gamit. Nakuha nilang talunin ang mga mananakop na may superior na armas.

Sa naganap na labanan apat, na mga amerikanong sundalo ang napatay, lima ang nasugatan at 48 ang naging bihag kabilang ang commanding officer na si Captain Deveru Shields.

Sa makulay na kasaysayan ng ating bansa, maraming inialay na sakripisyo ang ating mga ninuno para patunayan ang kanilang pagmamahal sa lupang tinubuan. Binuksan hindi lamang ng ating mga bayani ng pulang lupa kungdi na rin nina Jose Rizal, Marcelo H. Del Pilar ang mga mata ng kapwa Pilipino sa katotohanan may sarili tayong bansa na dapat mahalin at alagaan. Pinaglaban naman hindi lamang ng mga taga-pulang lupa kungdi na rin nila Andres

Bonifacio at Emilio Aguinaldo ang ating kasarinlan at ang kasarinlan na yan ng ating unang republika ang pinaglaban ng walang takot na magigiting ninyong ninuno dito sa pulang lupa.

Kaya sa pagtitipon natin sa araw na ito, sinasariwa natin sa ating mga puso ang sagradong buhay na inalay ng ating mga kababayang martir na taga-Marinduque. Sa ganitong paraan, muli nating nabibigyan ng pansin at nagpapahalaga ang kalayaang ating tinatamasa ng dahil sa sakripisyo ng ating mga ninuno. Ngayon, nararamdaman natin ang sarap mabuhay sa sariling bayang malaya. Kaya naman patuloy tayong nag-aalay ng sakripisyo't buhay upang alagaan ang ating kalayaan.

Nagtatayo tayo ng malakas na republikang Pilipinas. Ang dalawang importanteng kailangan sa malakas na republikang Pilipinas ay: ang una, hindi dapat para sa mga may kapangyarihan kung hindi para sa buong taumbayan lalo na yung mga hindi makapagtatanggol sa kanilang sarili.

Pangalawang, katangian ng malakas na republika ay ito, dapat matatag, malakas ang byurokrasya at mga institusyon. Dapat malakas ang pagtatanggol sa kapayapaan at katiwasayan. Kaya nilalabanan natin nilalabanan ng mga magigiting na kawal at pulis ang terorismo at kriminalidad. Kasing tatag sila sa paglaban sa terorismo at kriminalidad kagaya nang paglaban ng ating mga pinuno dito sa pulang lupa. Habang ang mga mamamayan naman ay nagsisikap na makaahon sa kahirapan.

Ang pagtayo ng malakas na republikang Pilipinas ay pagpatuloy ng rebolusyon ni Bonifacio, ng mga bayani ng pulang lupa na hindi pa natatapos. Nakamit nila ang kalayaan mula sa kastila, mula sa amerikano ngunit hindi pa ang kalayaan mula sa kahirapan. Patuloy ang ating pakikibaka laban sa kahirapan upang mapabuti ang kabuhayan ng sambayanang pilipino at patibayin ang pundasyon ng ating kalayaan. Subalit kailangan din nating labanan ang mga hadlang sa ating pag-unlad— kagaya ng terorismo at kriminalidad. Ang ating paglaban sa kahirapan ay magtatagumpay lamang kung sasabayan natin ito nanag paglaban sa mga sagabal sa ating kaunlaran. Kung ang ating mga ninuno ay nagtagumpay sa pagtataguyod ng isang malayang bansa tulad nang naganap sa Battle of PulangLupa ang ating henerasyon naman ay kailangang magkaisa at magtulungan na pagtaguyod ang isang malakas na republikang Pilipinas.

Binabati ko ang Marinduque dahil mababa ang inyong crime rate dito sa lalawigan. At ang inyong lalawigan ay jueteng-free kaya congratulations din. Ituloy ninyo itong paglalaban para sa katahimikan, katiwasayan. Dapat kayong listo sa mga rebeldeng dumadayo rito upang himukin kayong sumanib sa kanilang paniniwala dahil madali naman ninyong makilala ang mga estrangherong nagpupunta dito. Makipag-ugnayan kaagad kayo sa mga awtoridad kung may mapapansin kayong mga taong kahina-hinala ang kilos. Magiging madali ang ating paglutas sa problema ng kapayapaan at katiwasayan kung handang makipagtulungan ang mga mamamayan sa pulis at kawal.

Ang malakas na republikang Pilipinas ay dapat makakaasa sa sariling sikap lalo na kung naghihirap ang ating mga kaibigang bansa. Sa giyera ng pulang lupa, kalaban natin ang mga Amerikano. Sa kasalukuyan ay kaibigan naman natin ang mga Amerikano, ngunit Amerika mismo ay naghihirap pa rin sa pagbalik sa kanilang ekonomiya pagkatapos nang naganap nung September 11, 2001 at abalang-abala sa paglaban sa terorismo sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng mundo. Kaya lalong dapat tayo, patatagin natin ang sarili nating ekonomiya at sarili nating pagtatanggol sa ating mga mamamayan. Para naman sa ikabubuti ng ating sariling ekonomiya, ang aking tinutukoy ngayon ay ang pagtatag ng mga small and medium enterprises. Linunsad ko ang proyektong tinatawag nating o matatawag nating isang bayan, isang produkto, isang milyong pisong pautang sa small and medium enterprises.

Dito sa Marinduque anim ang inyong bayan di ba? Kaya mayron akong tsekeng dala na anim na milyong piso. Ito ay iaabot ko sa Department of Trade and Industry ng probinsya... Dahil ang dti kasama ni gobernadora, kasama ng mga mayor ay dapat hahanap kung ano ang dapat isang produkto ng bawat isang bayan.

Palagay ko yung isang sinabi ni gobernadora kanina pagkatapos ng ating napakagandang seremonya ng mga paru-paro. Alam niyo itong pagputong alam ko na iyan kasi ilang beses nang pumunta ako dito sa Marinduque at lahat ng bayan napunta ko, nagkaroon na rin ako ng putong ceremony sa ibang mga bayan. Pero ngayon ko lang nakita yung ating butterfly, legend of the butterfly na ginawa natin. Para sa mga national audience, ano itong legend of the butterfly ng Marinduque? Sabi niya, "if anyone desires a wish to come true, they should capture a butterfly; whisper

their wish to it, set it free, let it soar high to the heavens your wish will be brought up high to the greatest spirit who hears and sees all". Kaya kanina ito ang ginawa nila. Today, we set this butterflies free, trusting that all our wishes and prayers for our beloved President will be granted. Salamat sa inyong panalangin.

Sinabi ni governor na actually itong Marinduque ay pwede magawang sentro ng butterfly sa buong mundo. Pwede kayong magpalaki ng butterfly, mag-culture ng butterfly. Iyan ang isang magandang pwedeng paglagyan nitong one million peso per town, one product. Kanya lang sabi niya may isang sagabal, may lumang DENR ruling na bawal mag-export ng butterfly. Kaya nandito si Sonny Alvarez. Sabi niya dapat mahiwalay natin yung endangered species at yung common species. Sabi naman ni Governor Reyes, na pwedeng mag-culture para bang yung log ban pero may industrial tree plantation. kung ikaw ay nagtanim pwede mong anihin. Pero yung mga virgin forest hindi pwedeng putulin. So siguro, pwedeng gumawa si Sonny ng ganon. Yung mga huhulihin niyo hindi pwedeng ibenta pero kung magpapalaki kayo baka yun ang pwede. Kaya magpalaki kayo nang hinuli ninyo ipro-pro-pagate ninyo ay yun makatulong yung payout na one million pesos per product, per town.

Palagay ko rin na dapat bigyan ng pangunahing pansin sa payout na ito sa mga bayan na sisikap na mag-develop ng mango fruit basket dito sa Marinduque tulad ng Guimaras. Ang Mimaropa ay dapat magkaroon ng panggagalingan ng superior quality ng mangga na maari makipag-compete sa domestic at international markets. Sana makakabuti sa inyong mga pagsisikap ang aking ginawa na hiniwalay ang Calabarzon region at Mimaropa region. Nung araw di ba kasama lang kayo sa Region IV. Ako po bilang pangulo ginamit ko ang aking kapangyarihan hiniwalay na kayo. Kayo ay sariling region na para hindi kayo second class citizens sa Region IV. Pinagtutulungan at pagkaganon mas lalong makakatulong sa inyo kung meron kayong sariling DTI Region IV-A o mimaropa sariling Regional Director ng Police, Regional IV- A ng Mimaropa, sariling Regional Director ng Region IV- B ng Department of Agriculture ... Para kaya nga halimbawa itong magkaron kayo ng Mango Center kailangan ang da ng Mimaropa region ay makipagtulungan sa inyong pamahalaang panlalawigan at alam kong nagtutulungan na sila. Kaya lang kung buong Region IV ang tutulong aasikasuhin pa nila yung coconut doon sa Quezon, aasikasuhin pa nila yung coffee sa Cavite, kaya dapat hiwalay ang regional office ng da para makatukoy sa pagtulungan sa inyong pamahalaang panlalawigan at sa ganon ay magkaroon ng proyekto mabuo ang inyong pamahalaang panlalawigan at ng Mimaropa region para gawing Guimaras din ang Marinduque.

Para masimulan ito, wala dito si leony montemayor pero meron siyang pasalubong sa inyo. Nagpadala ng da ng 15,000 na grafted na mango seedlings para sa target ng 5, 000 ektarya na bagong mango orchard sa lalawigan na ito. Meron ding mga hakbang ang ginawa ng department of energy para makatulong sa inyong problema sa presyo ng kuryente. Wala si Secretary Vince Perez ngayon dahil nga naghahanda siya ng aking miting kasama ng electric cooperative na gaganapin sa Malacañang pagbalik ko mula dito sa ating pagdiriwang.

Ngunit ang gustong ipaabot ni Secretary Vince Perez, Secretary ng Energy sa inyo ay ganito: nung mayo, ako sinabi ko sa Napocor na dapat bawasan nila ang PPCA or Purchase Power Cost Adjustment sa 40 sentimos bawat kilowatt hour. Ang Marinduque wala kayong PPCA, kaya walang nabawasan. Meron kayong ppa pero walang PPCA. Ang PPCA ay isang bahagi ng ppa yun ang binawasan, dahil yun ang kapangyarihan ng pangulo na mabawas yung bahaging iyon. Yung Energy Regulatory Commission ang siyang may kapangyarihang mabawasan ang inyong PPA sa pilitan. Wala naman talagang PPCA ang kinukubra ng Napocor sa inyo. Ang kinukubra ng Napocor ay foreign exchange adjustment at fuel cost adjustment.

At sana naalala ninyo nung isang taon bumaba ang inyong kuryente ng 30 sentimos bawat kilowatt hour nung pinasa nila Congressman Edmund Reyes yung Power Reform Act at sa mga maliliit na pulo kagaya ng Marinduque. Dapat malaman din ninyo na ang Napocor ay sinasagot ang mga gastos na sangkot sa mga Purchase Power Agreement. Mula nung enero hanggang hunyo, ang subsidiary ng Napocor sa Marinduque ay umabot na sa 123 million pesos. Kung wala itong subsidy na ito, yung electric bill ninyo dahil sa subsidy niyo ay naka-subsidize ng 10 pesos. Ibig sabihin nun kung wala ang subsidy ng Napocor sa inyo ay mas malapit na sa 10 pesos per kilowatt hour ang inyong bill. Kaya itong subsidyong ito ay itutuloy habang hindi pa natatapos ng Energy Regulatory Commission ang review ng mga kontrata sa mga IPP o Independent Power Producer. Kung wala itong subsidy gaya nang sabi ko, mas mataas pa sana ang inyong kuryente ng 10 pesos. Ganunpaman, hinahanap ko yung seedlings 10, 000 na tanim na sa iba't-ibang bayan at yung 5, 000 dumating nung isang linggo.

Anyway, balik tayo sa kuryente. Tuloy-tuloy ang reporma. Magtiwala kayo na binabantayan nating mabuti ang gastos ninyo sa kuryente. Kaya sa halip na matulog ako dito ngayong gabi ay uuwi ako dahil ka-miting ko pag-uwi ko ang electric cooperatives. Ka-meeting ko si Vince Perez. Ano ang pag-uusapan namin, ang pagpapatawad ng utang ng mga kooperatiba sa gobyerno. Siguro naman pag napatawad na ng gobyerno ang utang ng Marinduque cooperative ay mapapasa niya yung kanyang naimpok na hindi na siya magbabayad ng utang sa gobyerno, ito ay inaasahan nating ipapasa ng Marinduque electric cooperative ang savings sa mas mababang singil ng kuryente sa inyo.

Matagal ko na ring nauunawaan ang inyong problema tungkol sa pinsalang dulot ng dating Marcopper mines. Senador pa man ako isa sa aking madalas na pagbisita dito sa Marinduque ay dahil nga sa problema ng kuryente. Ang isyung ito ay aming tinalakay sa aking official visit sa Canada nung nakaraang Enero ...si Congressman Edmundo Reyes dahil sa isyung yun. Sa pagkaintindi ko hindi pa niya tinatanggap ang alok ng Placerdome technical services na maglaan ng 12 million dollars para sa clean -up at one million dollars para sa compensation ng mga apektado sa nangyaring tailing spill dito, dahil gusto ninyo malaman kung magkano talaga ang gagastusin ng clean-up. Kaya naman gaya nang sabi ni Governor Reyes ako ay nag-advance mula sa aking President's Social fund ng 20 million pesos para sa isang kumpletong pag-aaral upang malaman natin ang pinakamagaling na paraan sa rehabilitation at restoration ng mga lugar na apektado ng tailing spill. Kabilang na rito ang Boac river, Oogpog river at kalangan bay. Kalahati ng nasasabing advance money ay nasa provincial government na at pinirmahan na rin ni Secretary Alvarez ang letter of agreement para sa gagawing Marinduque environment and health study na inindorso na niya kay Congressman Reyes. Yun ang papeles na binigay sa akin ni Governor Reyes at Congressman Reyes. At bakit nandito si Secretary Manolet Dayrit dahil si Congressman Reyes ay humihingi rin ng isang ospital. Si Manolet Dayrit na ang bahala doon.

Tayo ay patungo na sa pagpapatayo ng isang matatag na republikang Pilipinas at yan ay tutuparin ko sa abot ng aking makakaya. Ang aking hinihiling sa inyo dito makabayaning lugar ng pulang lupa magsamahan tayo. Ayusin natin yung kalikasan ng Marinduque. Yung mga naiwanan ng mina at yung mga papalakihin nating mga paru-paro. Ayusin natin ang pangkabuhayan ng Marinduque. Ipatatag natin yung mga mangga at yung mga small and medium enterprises. Ituloy natin na ipaglaban ang kapayapaan at katiwasayan. At isegurado natin, bantayan natin yung electric cooperative para sa ganun pag napatawaran ang kanyang utang sa pamahalaan, ibababa niya ang singil niya sa mamamayan ng Marinduque. Ito ang dapat nating maging work program ng Marinduque dito sa darating na 12 buwan. Sa ganun pagbalik natin muli lahat dito sa pulang lupa sa darating na taon, masasabi natin alang-alang sa bayani ng pulang lupa na tinuloy natin ang kanilang paglalaban sa kasarinlan at kapayapaan ng mga mahihirap at lahat ng taumbayan ng Marinduque at buong Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 102nd Commemoration of the Battle of Pulang Lupa. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211556/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8382&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the signing ceremony of Executive Order No. 119 and induction of officers
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the signing ceremony of Executive Order No. 119 and induction of officers

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, September 13, 2002]

Maraming salamat, thank you very much Secretary Vince Perez.

Father Silva, General Manager of Electric cCooperatives; newly inducted officers of PHILRECA, NAGMEC and NEA Council of Leaders; officers and staff of NEA and DOE, ladies and gentlemen, mga minamahal kong kababayan.

Kakagaling ko lang ngayon sa Marinduque. Isang malaking problema nila ay ang PPA. Pinaliwanag ko sa kanila na ang kapangyarihang ng pangulo ay maibaba ang PPCA na bahagi ng PPA. Walang naming PPCA and mga maliliit na pulo kagaya ng Marinduque, kaya walang maibaba na PPCA doon. Dahil sa simula pa, sa umpisa, subsidized na ang maliliit na pulo ng NAPOCOR. Pinaliwanag ko sa kanila na ang subsidy nga ng Marinduque ay halos P10 per kilowatt hour. Saan pa tayo makakahanap ng paraan upang bumaba pa ang singil ng koryente ng mga probinsya gaya ng Marinduque? Ang sagot ay naririto sa ating pulong ngayon.

Ang makakababa lamang ng PPA ay iyong Energy Regulatory Commission o kaya iyong mga utility distributor mismo, kagaya ng mga electric cooperatives. That is why today, I have promulgated Executive Order 119, which I signed last August 28. This E.O. conditionally condones the energy generation-related loans of our electric cooperatives. We want to drive down the cost of electricity in the rural areas to ease further the burdens of our people, and to perk up investments in the countryside.

I am hereby, by my promulgation conditionally condoning 18 billion pesos worth of loans, often tucked into the electric bills reaching our consumers. This condonation, and the conditions that go with it, are bold decisions. But bold decisions make a strong Philippine republic.

The condonation I am granting is conditional, because in return we now demand better services, reforms and the permanent commitment to integrity and transparency. The majority of the cooperatives, including the cooperative today, this morning — the Marinduque Electric Cooperative. Nandito ba yung Marinduque Electric Cooperative? Wala? Pero wala rin duon — have largely met these standards, and the condonation in those well-behaved or norm following cooperatives can proceed without further pre-requisites. Just make sure you pass on your savings in the form of lower electric bills.

Some cooperatives are complaining about the conditions set forth in the Executive Order, but my answer is — strong institutions require strong discipline. And a strong Philippine republic requires strong institutions. We cannot have wimps in an industry that is pivotal to global competitiveness. It is a tight field. One must shape up or ship out. For one, the revocation clause in this EO is not onerous. Rather, it is a challenge and an opportunity to surmount the odds.

As president of a strong Philippine republic, I would be wrong to condone massive loans to the government without exacting a greater public benefit in return.

This is my bill of particulars: transparency in all transactions immediate sanctions for violations of NEA rules and regulations speedy action on negative audit reports efficient, reliable power service dramatic reduction of systems losses acceptable levels of collection efficiency fully justified electric rates.

Corruption will not be tolerated. Our people deserve the best. You have elected the best and the brightest in your group to the leadership of PHILRECA and NAGMEC. I shall gladly work with them.

Allow me, however, to personally congratulate the person who above all has valiantly pursued the ideals that have spurred this meeting. His sense of sacrifice and commitment to reforms is undisputed. He has embraced a life of service that speaks of deep devotion to our republic.

I refer to father Francisco Silva, he started his work as administrator of the NEA a year and a day ago on 9/11. So, he is the terrorist of the inefficient cooperatives. And I ask for your full and unrelenting support for him. He has been with us for one year of pride and achievement. Oh, two day, it's already the 13th. He rescued AKELCO and Boracay and lighted up the tourism industry. He started the rescue of the five cooperatives, the five areas where we have those who stood-up to be recognized. He has rescued them from darkness. On a higher plane, he brought the light of honesty and transparency to the rural electrification sector.

I trust Father Silva. I trust in his noble intentions and his competence to get the job done. Together with Vince Perez, he is taking the industry to new heights of service and excellence.

This event affirms our focus to turn our economic priorities to the domestic market and to the small and medium enterprises. That is what we will focus on promoting this next twelve months. We are turning our economic priorities inward as we seek new horizons of productivity in the countryside to drive the wheels of development. And I am glad you are here as our partners.

Under Father Silva's leadership, we shall prevail against the elements that have so long run this industry aground. We shall provide new hope to our people. We shall win the battle against stagnation and poverty. Thus, to our electric cooperatives, and especially to Father Silva, I say: stay with me. I need you to help me build a strong Philippine republic.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Signing Ceremony of Executive Order 119 and Induction of Officers. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211609/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8383&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Dinner Reception in Honor of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Board of Directors

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Dinner Reception in Honor of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Board of Directors**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, September 20, 2002]

Thank you very much, Dick. My very active, aggressive and effective Secretary of Tourism.

And to all of you, headed by Mr. Long, Chairman of PATA; President, Mr. Yong; Congressman Ablan, who is a PATA life member; Dick's very word, his predecessors — Mina Gabor and Narz Lim; Mr. Kohli; Mr. Kitamura; the Mayor of Olongapo City, Mayor Kate Gordon; all of you, members of the Board of Directors, indeed, welcome to the Philippines!

Dick said he was expecting eighty of you to come but one hundred sixty of you came. Thank you very much for your interest in the Philippines.

All our cultures uphold and share the principle of peace, unity and understanding.

All these are achieved through travel and tourism as we strengthen links between our nations and peoples, sustain cross-border social or trade visits, boost our rapidly integrating economies, and most of all, help our peoples prosper by bringing them together.

Tourism is a powerful growth engine and deserves to be a top national priority. In my country, as Dick said, it is a top national priority.

When I made my State of the Nation Address before Congress last year, my first State of the Nation Address as President, I said, that we see in the Philippines as our growth sectors for the future the human resource intensive skills intensive high close service sectors like information and communication technology and tourism.

Tourism is a giant global industry. Seven hundred million international tourists spent 475 billion dollars in the year 2000, including domestic tourists, total spending was three trillion dollars.

Tourism has a huge additional potential for growth. The long-term points to an 11 percent growth in spending. Only 3.5 percent of the world population has travelled internationally. And as the world grows more of them will want to travel. Asia-Pacific which is the area of operations of PATA is projected to grow from a 16 percent share of the tourism market to 25 percent by the year 2020.

Investment in tourism, yes, requires an enormous capacity but it is highly scalable.

The domestic value-added of tourism is 90 percent of sales for a hotel stay in the Philippines unlike manufactured exports, for example, electronics, our number one export only has a 10 to 30 percent domestic value-added.

Tourism is a huge dollar earner. It is the biggest global export. The average international tourist spends over a thousand dollars per visit to the Philippines. There is a low capital expenditure import component: 6 to 8 percent for tourism in the Philippines compared to 35 to 45 percent for automobiles.

Tourism can have a rapid impact. Thailand which is the number one in tourism in Asia increased its arrivals by 25 percent in the first year of "Visit Thailand" in 1987. And when the tourist suddenly start coming existing supply can be improved quickly.

Indeed, tourism deserves to be a national priority. I have given economic reasons why tourism deserves to be a national priority but over and above economic reasons, tourism deserves to be a national priority because of its impact on social development. In terms of jobs, it is what is called a "big tent" industry. It is labor intensive. One international arrival creates one job. It promotes job security because it is personal service oriented, we cannot automate and replace the people who serve the tourists. It is open to unskilled and skilled workers alike. The jobs can be created anywhere that has tourism potential.

Tourism provides excellent training for skills. It provides good personal development opportunities. And the skills it creates are exportable.

The culture of tourism, for instance, the culture of having a safe and clean environment benefits not just the tourists but the entire community.

Tourism is a proven growth engine even in countries that have security problems. We have security problems in the world around us but tourism can still continue. For instance, Egypt in 1996 had security problems, gunmen in that year opened fire on and killed 18 tourists. The next year in 1997, dozens of tourist died in an attack, and yet in those years, each of those two years, 4 million tourists visited Egypt. In Spain, where ETA is one of the Europe's most feared separatist groups, the year 2000 saw 50 million tourist arrivals. In the Indonesia of 1998, where hundreds died from unrest and there were anti-Chinese riots, 5 million tourists still visited Indonesia. And so, therefore, we must not allow terrorism to beat tourism. And these countries have shown it can be done.

Our tourism vision for the Philippines by the year 2010, the year when we would like to say that we have won the battle against poverty is, as Dick said, "more than the usual Wow! Philippines." More than the usual sun and beaches, nature, fun, service and tourist mindset. We would like international arrivals to grow from 2 million in the year 2000 to 5 million in the year 2010. We would like jobs in tourism to grow from 3 million in the year 2000 to double in the year 2010. We would like the contribution of tourism to grow from 7 billion dollars in the year 2000 to 17 billion dollars in the year 2010. And we would like domestic tourism to grow from 800 million dollars in the year 2000 to 2.5 billion dollars in 2010.

How will we do this? What is Dick Gordon doing for this? I chose him to be the Secretary of Tourism because I know he can carry out the resolve to harness the Philippine tourism growth engine. Harnessing the tourism engine requires focus, execution, and coordinated leadership. Which is why as Dick said, I elevated the department of tourism into a super Cabinet member with policy ascendancy over other departments that need to serve tourism. Because we need these other departments to serve our national strategy for tourism.

In this strategy for tourism, we have identified specific tourist segment priorities. First priority are the short-haul beach tourism, domestic tourism, and short-haul sightseeing and shopping tourism. Our approach to these segments is to market the relevant destinations through core multi-channel marketing, spending 60-70 percent of our promotion budget. And this budget will be spent or is being spent primarily on Japanese, Korean and Chinese markets.

Next to the three segment priorities are short-haul recreation tourism, short-haul Eco-tourism and Balikbayan tourism, which means the visits from our overseas Filipinos, and long-haul backpackers. These are niche segments which call for a tailored marketing approach where we will be spending 20-30 percent of our promotions budget on rifle shot promotions tailored to specific niches such as Japanese golfers.

Why do we spend most of our budget on the countries I mentioned. We are prioritizing North Asia within the short-haul market segment because that is where the market is leading us to. Japan has been traditionally our largest market and yet it is still highly underpenetrated. Korea is a rapidly growing market. And China's proximity to the Philippines, especially to the hometown of Congressman Ablan, provides us an opportunity to be a frontrunner in a strategic emerging market with a huge potential.

I am very happy to have been learning from Dick this past several months about our continuing growth in tourism. And our data further indicate that the visitors to the Philippines have certain favorite destinations within the Philippines. They seem to flock to Cebu and Bohol, Manila and its environs, and Palawan. These three seemingly favorite destinations of the tourists are probably favorites because they all have a good carrying capacity; they have a good number of destinations within themselves; they have a good fit with the segment markets that I cited earlier that are coming here, the first and second priority segment markets; they have a good number of major attractions; they have relatively acceptable infrastructure. For instance, Cebu has a good international airport, and Manila, of course, is the primary gateway to the Philippines. Since these are favorite and therefore major destinations, our plan for them is to be the focus of major infrastructure improvement so that we can aggressively close the gaps that tourists identify and we can promote them immediately.

Next to these three major destinations, the favorite special interest destination of visitors to the Philippines seem to be Boracay and the Baguio-Banaue circuit. And for these special destinations or special niche destinations, special interest destinations, we shall increase their accessibility and improve their existing product offering.

The presence of international airports make Laoag-Vigan, I said the hometown of Congressman Ablan, and Clark-Subic, my hometown and the hometown of Secretary Dick Gordon and Mayor Kate Gordon also current tourism destinations. All these destinations, we shall build more attractions to make them good tourism options some more.

And experts considered Davao as a major potential destination. Davao also has an international airport which we will be opening — I mean the airport already exists but the nice airport will be opened about four months from now — and there we can build for the future.

In doing the marketing, Dick follows three steps to successful marketing: build awareness, generate interest, induce trial. How does Dick build awareness, through public relations, also building a distinctive image as he has done "more than the usual" via advertising with sufficient reach and frequency of message. So you see us on international cable TV. Dick generates interest by providing... I mean our plan to generate interest includes providing detailed information via the internet, allowing for a sampling of the country experience via tourism fairs — where the Philippines won the best marketing booth, right, Dick? In Germany last year. Yes, the best marketing effort — and generating hype via special events especially what will happen next year. And Dick induces trial. One way to induce trial is providing segments-specific incentives via direct mail. But because we were very, very big Philippine community abroad, one main effort for inducing trial is recommendation from family and friends. And that is Dick's V-12 program for the Philippines from the overseas Filipinos. And then, the final push by sales promotion that chairman long talked about in New York, and Dick has just come back from China and Hongkong on this sales push.

Thailand, the tourism leader in Asia, employed all these three successfully. And of course, it is good for us to follow proven success.

Our Philippine marketing plan starts with "Visit the Philippines year 2003." If Thailand was able to have a 25 percent increase in its tourism when it had the first "Visit to Thailand Year," I hope we will have a similar increase. We have a 12-month calendar of events, and I hope the PATA executives and directors will help us promote the Philippines during "Visit the Philippines Year."

In our vision for 2010, there are many tourism investment opportunities. The main framework would be tourism enterprise zones. These are an ideal vehicle for focused development at the local level. A tourism enterprise zone is a specially designated priority tourist destination that aligns with one or more of the department's target segments. It will be located in a larger destination area, one of the many that I mentioned earlier. It will have a clearly delineated

and sufficiently large tract of land that will receive focused and high-impact development and resources. This estate could be a contiguous land or group of islands, it could be an entirely new development or re-development of an existing area, it could be public land or consolidated private land. This is the kind of tourism that we would like to be able to see by the year 2010. And we are inviting investors even today.

Also, I said in my first State of the Nation Address last year, because we want to promote tourism, we have a policy to liberalize air access. We are releasing air access restrictions to promote tourism flow. Our policy is to liberalize airline policy by negotiating limited open skies from Japan and Korea to Cebu and Palawan, and explore ways to use trigger mechanisms to immediately increase capacity entitlements. In fact, this trigger mechanism is already enforce in our air panel negotiations. We would like to organize or facilitate charter flights to immediately release constraints in key markets. And the Department of Tourism is represented in the air panel I spoke about. In fact, you are Vice Chairman, aren't you Dick? To represent the Philippine tourism interest. We will expand and upgrade the key tourist airports. These have been identified as Coron in Palawan, Bohol and Boracay. And for our thrust towards 2010, they will be upgraded to international standards. In the meantime, as we seek to build them — which would take some years — we will adjust landing fees in key destinations as incentives to additional flights to the area.

Yes, indeed, we can harness the tourism growth engine, and i hope PATA will be there to help us not only in promotion but also in investment in tourism facilities.

We want the Philippines to be a pleasant and safe destination for our tourists. As Dick said, we must not let terrorism defeat tourism. And so, on our part here in the Philippines, we will soon put an end to local terrorists. Even as we speak, the Armed Forces of the Philippines are relentlessly pursuing the Abu Sayyaf who have now gathered in their main lair in one island for their last but hopeless stand.

As for foreign terrorists who may attempt to venture into the country, we are keeping a close watch on our entry points. They won't get far because we have a trilateral agreement with Indonesia and Malaysia soon to be quadrilateral with Thailand to check terrorist incursions in our common seas and common borders.

In the meantime, we have taken determined step to keep the country on a stable growth path. In the light of the prolonged global economic uncertainties, we are shoring up domestic productivity, applying the managed asset reflation principle popularized again by Thailand. This is boosting domestic demand. This is characterized too by prudent monetary policy, a gradual reduction in public sector debt and a balanced budget. It is focused on spurring small and medium industries in the countryside, as it strives to draw greater participation from the private sector while government's limited funds are concentrated on programs that have the broadest social or economic impact.

I am happy that despite government's conservative spending policies and the current global uncertainties, our economy continues to grow along with tourism particularly in the second quarter. The first half of this year, Philippine GNP grew by 5.2 percent. This is the highest growth of Philippine GNP since the fourth quarter of the year 2000.

The rise is attributed to the manufacturing sectors 5 percent upswing from a negative rate, and the service sectors dramatic 17.7 percent increase. The service to the service sector belongs the tourism sector. And so the positive growth rates in tourism that Dick talked about brought about our 5.2 percent growth rate. Also our exports rallied with an 8.9 percent increase. This growth heralds our continuing recovery and the steady growth of our industries including tourism.

As a final note, therefore, I would like to make a strong pitch for our "Visit Philippines Year" program once again. As i told you earlier, the celebration will run the whole year and will feature colorful festivals, cultural fair, food, handicrafts and other products.

I hope your promotional efforts will keep in step with our plans. You can always tell your clients that there are at least 7,000 reasons for them to visit the Philippines. There will always be something here even for the most discriminating visitor.

And most importantly, as said by Mr. Long, the Philippines is home to the world's most hospitable, cheerful and charming English-speaking people. The Filipino people are the best reason for visiting the Philippines.

In behalf of the Filipino people, therefore, and in behalf of our government, I bid you all once again a warm welcome to our country. May our ties ever be strong and rewarding.

My best wishes for a very successful meeting. As Dick said, Mabuhay! And may I add, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Dinner Reception in Honor of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Board of Directors. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211407/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8380&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 102nd Anniversary of the Civil Service Commission and conferment of 2002 Lingkod Bayan and Dangal ng Bayan Awards Service Commission, October 2, 2002

SPEECH DURING THE 102ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND CONFERMENT
OF 2002 LINGKOD BAYAN AND DANGAL NG BAYAN
AWARDS SERVICE COMMISSION
2 October 2002, Ceremonial Hall
Malacañang Palace, Manila

Malugod kong binabati ang lahat ng kawani ng ating gobyerno dahil ng nakaraang buwan pinagdiwang natin ang ika-102 anibersaryo ng serbisyo sibil ng Pilipinas.

Itong araw na ito nakita na naman natin itong mga outstanding civil servants na binigyan natin ng parangal, kaya sa inyo, congratulations sa inyong lahat for being so outstanding.

When I became President of the Philippines last January 2001, after my speech at EDSA, my next speech was addressed to the civil service. This was done on my first working day as chief executive of the country. In that speech, I wanted to stress one thing, yung binanggit nga ni Chairperson Karina Constantino David, my great respect for the people in our bureaucracy. *Itong respetong ito, para sa akin, ay hindi naman talaga pinapakita sa seremonya. Pinapakita ito sa paggalang ng mga karapatan ng ating mga civil servants.*

I inherited the great respect for the civil service from my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. He was a civil servant before he became a politician before he became a lawyer.

When he was in high school, he decided that he would seek higher education by getting a job in Manila. For that purpose, he took the civil service examination in Pampanga, second grade, and passed with the highest grade in the country. But when he went to Manila, he could not find a job despite his eligibility.

His grandmother, Escolastica Romero, was a midwife in their hometown in Lubao. She had a German patient whose relative, named Vicente Mills, was a division chief in the Bureau of Lands. My grandmother asked her patient to help her grandson get a job. It had to take an influential foreigner to enable my father to land his first job. This reflected the state of our lopsided society and our underdeveloped country.

Sadly today, this is still the plight of many civil service eligibles because there are more civil service eligibles than the rough jobs available. What is important is that we must be able to increase the GNP of our country so that there will be an increase in the services needing public servants; so that all who apply and get a civil service eligibility will be able to have a job.

My father worked as a civil servant under four administrations. His first job was in the Bureau of Lands where he earned P30 a month. He was able to support law studies and get his second topnotch examination result – the topnotcher position in the bar. Then he was able to do legal work for Presidents Quezon and Laurel in what was the equivalent of the Presidential Management Staff.

Later, he served President Roxas and President Quirino in the foreign service. They had the search committee look for the best and the brightest all over government, because they wanted to form the foreign service and show the world the best that the Filipino can show. After that, he ran for congressman.

When I was in government, during my first months at work, my father would counsel me about respecting the civil service and the civil servants. His wise counsel enabled me to have many fulfilling years working with civil servants in my stints as Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, and as Secretary of Social Welfare and Development.

At dahil sa mga parangal ng aking ama, at ang sarili ko na ring karanasan sa DTI at DSWD, talaga na ngang malaki ang aking pagpapahalaga at pagkilala sa napakalaking tungkulin ng serbisyo sibil sa pagbalangkas at pagpapatupad ng mga programa ng pamahalaan.

In my State of the Nation Address, I said that our goal is a Strong Philippine Republic, and I said that a Strong Philippine Republic has two essential attributes: one, the Republic must be autonomous of dominant classes and sectors, so that it represents the people's interests and not the interest of only a powerful minority or powerful minority groups. Second, the Republic must have the capacity, represented through strong institutions and a strong bureaucracy, to implement its policies and deliver its services.

A strong bureaucracy. That is a requirement and essential attribute of a Strong Republic and that is what the civil service is all about. This is what the civil service can contribute to good governance which is an essential institution in a Strong Republic.

When I first made my speech before civil servants, I defined the three pillars of good governance: first pillar is a sound moral foundation to guide our leadership at all levels; second pillar is a philosophy of transparency in all government actions; and third, an ethic of effective implementation throughout the bureaucracy.

I see these pillars as standing on the first and foremost cornerstone and institution of a Strong Philippine Republic: an effective government. If we are to be a Strong Philippine Republic, we must have an effective government from the local governments to the national government and a professional and dedicated civil service. Those are the elements of an effective government. Such an effective government delivers basic services for everyone – the most important of which are an environment of peace and the rule of law and the necessary infrastructure. No wonder then that we have several awardees today from the rule of law including two judges.

Not only must an effective state help its poorest and weakest citizens, empower them, and dismantle the structures that make them poor and weak. An effective government rest on the rule of law, and our justice system must be strengthened to become an efficient institution for all, not just the powerful.

Today, once again, we honor exemplary public servants. Those we honor today prove that there is an abundance of good men and women in the public service. I give my special congratulations to the civil servants who consistently render their duties with the highest integrity, morality, and decency. Those of you who are here today have passed that test. May you continue to serve as models and trailblazers for the rest of the bureaucracy, the rest of the government including us – the public officials.

Many of our outstanding civil servants work far from the cushioned comforts of air-conditioned offices. Their work stations are in the open fields where they develop new plant varieties to shore up the incomes of farmers.

I'm happy to have given an award to our gentleman from the Philippine Coconut Authority who developed a fungus to improve productivity in the coconut sector. Civil servants work far away from buildings as grand as Malacañang; they work in the classrooms where they come up with innovative tools for molding young minds.

I am also happy we have so many teachers who received their awards today and I am happy to learn about the innovations that they brought to the classroom. Our civil servants are found not only in the metropolis but also in the rural communities where they render health care to the women and the children in the countryside. They are there in far, far away towns like the town of Dinas in Zamboanga del Sur. You don't even have a good road from the main highway to Dinas. It is closer to the pirates coming from the seas in Ylana Bay than from what you would call civilization. But we have an outstanding civil servant who came from there. My special congratulations to the community of Dinas.

Our honorees have done their job with nerve, with vigor; unmindful of obstacles like the young lady from Caraga who does the work of a prosecutor but has the item of a stenographer. Our honorees are focused on serving the people rather than what is their item, what is their perk, what is their salary grade. This is how things should be in the entire public service. I don't only mean the bureaucracy, I also mean those who were elected to public service.

Tunay na kailangan nating harapin ang hamon at panawagan ng bayan na parating malinis ang hanay ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan at ang dagliang pagtugon sa pangangailangan ng mamamayan.

A republic must be a republic in reality and especially in the difference it makes to better the lives of its citizens.

Your theme for this year's celebration, "*Lakas ng Serbisyong Sibil: Lakas ng Bayan*" reflects this idea – that a Strong Republic has a strong bureaucracy, a strong civil service.

Mahalaga na alagaan at mapanatili natin ang magandang imahen ng lahat ng mga ahensya ng pamahalaan, lalo na ang integridad ng mga taong kumatawan sa ating pamahalaan. Tayo ay kinakailangang maging mabuting halimbawa sa ating mga pinaglilingkuran. Yes, I believe in leadership by example. We should promote solid traits such as work ethics and a dignified lifestyle. I'm glad that among the criteria is simple living or simple lifestyle, because we must have a dignified lifestyle. In addition, part of the ethic is matching action to rhetoric, performing rather than grandstanding.

Our work must go beyond logging in and out of the bundy clock daily. One, according to Acting Chief Justice Bellosillo, is very productive because she always works up to midnight even on Sundays. Well, not everybody has to work everyday until midnight, even on Sundays. But the point is, that there is more to being a public servant than looking at the clock. And so, therefore. I ask all of you to sign onto this vision of good governance.

Let's all work together in making every government worker a living example of trustworthiness; of a keen orientation towards results and performance; of viewing the fight against poverty as our supreme goal. We may not achieve it this year, next year, the year after. But at least we must do what we can do today so that we can lick poverty in a decade from now.

An ethic of working always improves ourselves and of respecting others the way we want to be respected, and as your criterion said: of living simply according to our means.

Alarm kong marami ang nagbibigay ng magandang halimbawa sa ating hanay.

It is important, even as we give honor to these individuals, to remember that we give them honor not only because they are personalities, but because they represent values. They represent certain focus and adherence to important issues. As civil servants, let us focus on issues, less on personalities. And as being all part of one government, let us focus on commonalities rather than controversies. Let us focus on a broad front of service rather than parochial interests.

The 102nd anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service gives us an opportunity to rededicate ourselves and reaffirm our oath of office. Let us strengthen our commitment to uphold our responsibility of rendering efficient, effective, and quality service to our people.

Malaki talaga ang ginagampanang papel ng serbisyo sibil, lalo na sa pagbabalangkas at pagpapatupad ng mga programa ng pamahalaan. Inaasahan kong lalong magiging matibay na haligi ng serbisyo sibil ang bawat kawani ng pamahalaan sa pagkamit natin nang matatag na republikang Pilipinas.

Our honorees this afternoon are testimonies to the nobility of the calling of public servants. We are proud of your achievements. You set the example for us, even for me, to follow. You chart the course for us to take so that our voices too may ring with pride when we say that we work in government.

Ugaliin natin angpaghingi ng gabay at pasasalamat sa Dakilang Lumikha. Siya ay nagbigay sa Inyo, sa akin, ng grasya para sa ganoon ay manatili tayo sa mabuting trabaho; at sa ating mga awardees, para talagang umahon ang kanilang mga gawain para makilala ng lahat kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng mabuting civil servant.

Ang kailangan natin ngayon ay sabayang pagkilos, sabayang pagtugon. Tulong-tulong na pag-aksyon sa isang direksyon at isang layunin – ang pagbibigay tulong at serbisyo na makapag-aangat sa pamumuhay ng ating mga kababayan. Sa ganitong paraan lamang natin mabibigyan ng tunay na kahulugan ang mga salitang lingkod bayan.

Congratulations, and may your work be recognized not only in the awards that we are giving this afternoon, but in the better life of our people. Hopefully, not very far from now, can we say that they have been achieved. Congratulations and thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a Luncheon with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Luncheon with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP)**

[Delivered at Ballroom 1 and 2, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City, October 9, 2002]

Thank you Gabby.

Speaker De Venecia please join my table for lunch after my speech. Other members of Congress; Sonny Alvarez; I am not acknowledging any other member of the Cabinet because I tell them they should not make it a habit to follow me all the time where ever I go. Angie Reyes would have come though but he is defending his budget before Congress today. Members of the diplomatic corps; the men in uniform; members of FOCAP; officers; other media practitioners; ladies and gentlemen:

First of all to FOCAP and everybody else who were here last week, thank you for waiting one week for me. I apologize that I have a bout of pharyngitis last week and that prevented me from speaking before you. The night before I was suppose to speak before you.

The night before I was supposed to speak before you in Zamboanga City, an American serviceman died in an explosion. So it's Sgt. Mike Jackson was part of the contingent left behind after exercise Balikatan to complete humanitarian projects in Basilan. We will bring his killers to justice.

His death shall be a monument to the partnership is what I would like to speak about today. This partnership is especially important in our righteous fight against terrorism and poverty.

Today, the war against terrorism has reached another defining moment as the issue of Iraq sharpens in focus. It is a moment for the Philippines to calibrate, recalibrate its foreign policy so that we can continue to achieve our goals of peace, prosperity and stability in the context of the realities lying today in the international and regional environment.

When I first became president, a few days after I became president, before the diplomatic corps in my Vin D'Honneur in their honor, I enumerated these realities. It is my first foreign policy statement after becoming president a year and half ago.

Let me restate these realities today, emphasizing mainly the relationship between the Philippines and the United States.

One reality is that, more and more Philippines foreign policy decisions have really been made in the context of ASEAN. Thus, soon after September 11 last year, we initiated a trilateral agreement with Indonesia and Malaysia to check terrorist incursion in our common seas. Thailand has agreed to join this agreement.

Second, the international Islamic community will continue to be important for the Philippines. Thus, we continue to pursue broad inter faith dialogues to promote Christian and Muslim solidarity. In fact, this is among the programs of the Christian Democratic International of which Speaker de Venecia is a vice president.

Third, the coming years will see the growing importance of multilateral and inter regional organizations to promote common interests. We look forward to the strengthening of the United Nations for example. Thus, the Philippines supports the case brought by the United States against Iraq before the U.N. Security Council. The U.N. Security Council must give these charges the most urgent and serious consideration for the sake of the whole world.

Fourth, the defense of the nations' sovereignty and the protection of its environment and natural resources can be carried out only to the extent it asserts its rights over maritime territory and gets others to respect those rights. Thus, though this is unrelated to the war against terrorism I am happy that the case against the Chinese fisherman has come to a satisfactory conclusion.

Fifth, our country's economic growth will continue to heavily involve direct foreign investment. This, for instance, gives a strategic importance to our relations with Europe which is now a major investor in the Philippines.

Related to this sixth, a country like the Philippines can benefit most quickly from international tourism. Thus, we deplore that our bid to attract investments and tourism have been sabotaged by those who relish the notoriety brought about by barbaric acts such as hostage taking, political assassination, destruction of property and senseless murder.

Seventh, overseas Filipinos will continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability. Thus, even in the shadow of conflict in Iraq, it is our duty to all Filipinos in the Middle East to prepare for any contingency and to be able to move them to safer ground at a moment's notice.

Finally, but of utmost importance, China, Japan and the United States and their relationships will be the determining influence in the security situation and economic evolution of East Asia.

By virtue of its dominant military and economic order the United States will continue to be an important factor in the affairs of the region and the nation.

The Philippines has had enduring historical, cultural and economic ties with the United States. The Philippines and the United States stood beside each other over a half a century of military cooperation. We fought together in the last World War. We helped maintain the strategic peace of the cold war. Our partnership was redefined with the closure of the military bases in 1992.

The current Philippine-US alliance is a moral partnership. This is a partnership governed by the common belief in strong democratic institutions that will create peace and freedom for people everywhere. We are determined to fight terrorism to the end. We have offered political, security and humanitarian assistance to the United States in the pursuit of her most vital interests against terrorism which coincide with our own.

Our strategic partnership reached a high point in the training exercise Balikatan 02-1. The tenacity of our soldiers coupled with the superior technological assistance of the United States ripened into the correct strategy that has severely decimated the Abu Sayyaf and kept them on the run.

This partnership is fully supported by our people. It is clearly shown in the polls. A minority thinks the Philippines is being slavish to American citizens, to American interests that is, but they do not see the point. Our motivation is not about pleasing America on this issue. Our motivation is, working with the world to save mankind against the perpetuation of terror. Maybe our critics have forgotten the horror of September 11. Maybe they believe that terrorism has gone away, it has disappeared. Maybe they believe that Osama Bin Laden and his cohorts have been reformed. The truth and reality is that we are at war. The whole world is at war with an enemy that is as tenacious and incorrigible as ever in its evil designs. In our own society, we have paid dearly for the persistence of violent groups.

Our efforts at modern democratic governance have been undermined by a climate of incessant conflict. Our determination to bring progress to our nation has been tested by fanatical armed groups who find every ideological

excuse to block development. These include the terrorist in the radical left who have lost all moral force to lead any revolution for the poor.

In contrast, our moral partnership with America extends beyond military cooperation. Our strategic partnership with the United States enables our country to maintain political, social and economic stability and growth in an environment of uncertainty and unpredictability. It is a partnership that sustains the most important battles in our own land; the battles against poverty, ignorance, disease and social injustice.

In this pursuit, I met last year with President Bush in Washington. We agreed our military hardware and software for security and development operations. Mutually beneficial trade arrangement, tourism expansion, broader overseas employment for Filipinos, veterans' welfare and direct assistance to Mindanao peace and development program.

The United States Agency for International Development is pouring in some P4 billion assistance to the Philippines for fiscal year 2002, more than half of which is for economic and social projects in Mindanao. This assistance to Mindanao is more than double what USAID provided that island last year.

The agency growth with equity in Mindanao program helps strengthen the competitiveness of Mindanao's fishery, fruit and vegetables industries. It's livelihood enhancement and peace program, or LEAPP, helps former MNLF fighters reintegrate into the local economy. There are already about 13,000 former MNLF fighters who have received such assistance under the program. And now USAID is ready to pilot the same program for the MILF starting with 300 returnees.

The USAID is likewise helping local governments in Mindanao to improve the quality of family planning and rural health services. Efforts are also being exerted to help local governments' combat illegal fishing and logging.

The Bayanihan Assistance which runs from August 1 to December 31 this year aims to improve socio-economic conditions in Basilan and Zamboanga. This entails \$2 Million for the construction of hospitals, medical clinics, school buildings, water wells and water treatment facilities.

The next Balikatan which will be held to August or October 2003 will involve the implementation of five security assistance training modules and the improvement of AFP competency on helicopter night flying capability, intelligence fusion, training of light infantry battalion and light reaction companies. These will be supported by some \$25 million in military assistance from the United States, and as per my recommendation, it will be done back in the traditional camping grounds of Fort Magsaysay and other nearby camps like Tanay.

America is not only our strategic ally. She is also our largest export market. Cumulatively, she is our largest foreign investor. She is one of our largest tourist markets. She hosts the largest Filipino Community in the world.

The Philippines, therefore, is determined to push forward this relationship to a new era of stronger and more equitable partnership with the United States, a relationship that derive its main promise in greater security and stability for our nation, for the region and the world. We live in trying times. Close partnership and alliances are imperative for peace, security and democracy. This is the strategy of survival. This strategy stands on the determination to shape our relations with America in consonance with existing treaties with our shared goals, but most of all, with our Filipino interests.

Thank you therefore to our friends from FOCAP and the diplomatic community and our policy-makers and policy-implementors for listening to this recapitulation of our foreign policy mainly our policy on the United States.

Now, I'm ready for your questions. Thank You.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Luncheon with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210958/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8415&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 28th Annual Conference of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 28th Annual Conference of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)**

[Delivered at the Garden Ballroom, EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City, October 11, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Lito Camacho, the head of my economic team.

Chief Manabat, President of FINEX; Mayor Abalos; Edgar Limon, Executive Vice President of FINEX; Benito Soliven, my student; Ronnie Alcantara, Grace Tiongco, Senen Matoto, Esther Magleo, other members and officers of FINEX, Excellencies of the diplomatic corps, other government officials, distinguished members of the financial sector, ladies and gentlemen.

I have always considered FINEX as one of the most important fora for giving policy pronouncements. I have been speaking before FINEX since I was undersecretary of Trade and Industry.

And today, this is an especially important conference especially in these times when business and investment must weave around fluid scenarios of uncertainty.

And so, the financial community must go beyond yourselves as you have recognized, and close ranks and share solutions and resources.

We must identify and focus on key milestone accomplishments, so we have a roadmap.

The U.S. economy is still slow though our exports have been jumping. If you look at the volumes in the ports, they have been more active in this last five months than in the last seven years. Nonetheless, because the U.S. economy is still slow we can't rely, we can't depend on exports for our sustainable growth in the few years to come. It is now up to the domestic economy.

I believe the model we should follow should encourage the shift to new sources of domestic demand rather than rely on exports for our survival. And this new sources though they are not new in the sense that they've been around for a long time but they are new in the sense that we must give them great priority. I would consider most notable among them the capital-efficient small and medium enterprises.

I understand that FINEX has a program to assist these small and medium enterprises, do the documentary requirements to access credit and, therefore, this is a special call to you.

On the part of a government, this model called managed asset reflation involves prudent monetary policy, a gradual reduction in public-sector debt, and a balanced budget in three to four years.

On the part of you, the financial executives, i am asking the banking system to avoid extending credit to unproductive asset sectors such as luxury properties and industries already saddled with excess capacity. Instead, I am asking you to allocate more of your portfolio to the capital-efficient small and medium enterprises.

On my part, I am focusing my energies on this model, and I am leading by example. Though it would be a small portion of the entire resources available in the banking system, I have started the “one town, one product, one million-peso” project as a pump primer to jumpstart the attention to small and medium enterprises. Under this program, a loan of one million pesos shall be lent to SMEs in each of the 1,610 municipalities and cities in the country. The loan shall be utilized for a niche product that has a proven market or the expansion of an existing enterprise.

Aside from SMEs, the main multiplier should be housing. The government does not have the money. So I want to let the private sector, the financial executives drive the domestic economy.

In key areas, I want to free up the private sector from the traditional thinking of bureaucracy at least for a window of 12 months. Thus, in my personal work program for the next 6 months the following are included:

First, SMEs, as I have already explained.

Second, jumpstart housing. How? Banks are very liquid. Even medium-sized banks have billions in t-bills. We will let the private sector jumpstart the housing sector by giving banks policy signal incentives to fund developers on their own then get bureaucracy out of their way.

The middle-income sub-sector, for instance, five hundred thousand pesos to 2 million pesos is bankable even if the market is not as large as the socialized sub-sector, but we must start somewhere. The central bank’s monetary board is the key to liberate the banks. And I am gratified that the BSP has now agreed to increase the loan collateral value for housing accounts to 80 – 90 percent of the loan value. I have also asked the BSP to grant the Agri-Agra reserve eligibility for new housing loans up to 2 million pesos. And they have been quite sympathetic with this request. To follow-up and make sure that these circulars are brought out and carried out is the mandate of Secretary Mar Roxas, the government representative in the monetary board. It is his mandate to overcome traditional thinking in the bureaucracy.

Third item in my work program is to reduce transport costs from Mindanao to Luzon. Presidential adviser Cito Lorenzo and Al Cusi, general manager of the Philippine Ports Authority, have started doing something about these rates by promoting competition at the ports, addressing reported overcharging in cargo-handling tariff, reducing the government share of port fees to 10 percent, amending the bidding terms of reference for cargo-handling services. This reform is now incorporated in the bidding terms to focus on lower rates for the bidders services and not how much will be the share they’ll give the government, and suspending previously approved increases in wharfage and usage fees. This policy bottlenecks now out of the way, I have now instructed DBP to lead for the other measures to bring down cargo rates. DBP has put in place a 30 billion-peso credit facility to fund all of these things that are not very clear in the screen but DBP should have a prospectus to show this in a very, very big map. Because when they gave it to me in a small map, I couldn’t read anything. So I have this now in my office of the president, and I look at it everyday and I have it memorized.

Anyway, this is DBP’s logistics highway. And to finance this, DBP has put together this project, complex of projects. They are worth 30 billion pesos and DBP has a financing facility for loans up to 15 years for financing equipment and infrastructure projects for a sustainable distribution system inherent to maritime transport and related land transport.

This project is geared towards the development of progressive long-haul shipping to constitute the country’s national backbone in the transport of bulk products and the development of a ro-ro ferry and road network to link the islands to the growth centers of the country.

I have instructed Liani Nañagas to go full blast and concentrate DBP on this. Examples would be for DBP to finance logistics, storage and port facilities in Mindanao. Also shipyards, post-harvest facilities and institutional support services like maritime schools and technical and vocational training institutes are included in the program. So with RO-RO ships and ports.

This is open to investors with project feasibility studies, of course, and with the capacity to put up 50 percent equity and with the project equipment as collateral cover. The rates are negotiable and can be as low as 11 percent in peso terms, fixed for the duration of the loan.

So I asked FINEX to promote investments in these areas. There's this whole list of projects which you can't read. But this is to whet your appetite to get the prospectus from the DBP. And if you have investors in any of these areas that are enumerated then please get a credit facility from the DBP within the next six months.

Fourth item in my work program — infrastructure to decongest Metro Manila. We will focus on beginning construction of the commuter links between Metro Manila north to Clark such as northrail, and south to Batangas Port such as completing the tollroad all the way to Batangas Port. This will make housing projects outside of Metro Manila, where land is cheaper and the lifestyle more conducive to family viable. Once the developer see the construction of the transport links breaking ground, hopefully they, with your support will begin work on the ancillary housing projects.

Incidentally again, to lead by example and to jumpstart — though we want this to be primarily a private sector endeavor — I have asked Sonny Vistan to be a special assistant for private sector housing by putting together a package whereby he will make available the inventory of lands owned by the government institutions which will serve as the government equity for housing for government employees. But these lands will be made available for the private developers to put up. With government land being the equity that should make housing truly affordable.

Within Metro Manila, we will monitor the smooth start of the MRT final linkage with LRT. Also within Metro Manila, I have instructed MMDA's BF Fernando to sit down with DPWH's Datumanong (Sim Datumanong) and PAGCOR's Efren Genuino. Since PAGCOR financed the lighting of C-5, which has drawn praises from the public, I have asked the three of them to review MMDA's infrastructure program for Metro Manila. Oh! No, not MMDA's program, DPWH's program for Metro Manila. The mission is to ensure that the program makes sense, and will produce visible results quickly.

Fifth item in the work program, to help Lito Camacho, will be PCGG contribution to fiscal resources. I have instructed my legal counsel Nonong Cruz to work with PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac to expedite the release of the 600 million-dollar Marcos deposit with the PNB. I am also asking Haydee to already work to liquify the coco levy's remaining 27 percent of SMC, which if sold thru bidding, will generate substantial dollars and funding for our system.

Six item in my work program — make Makati a specific urban tourist destination. The D.O.T.-Mckinsey study says that along with Cebu-Bohol, the most popular tourist destination in the Philippines is still Metro Manila. We can combine this finding with the fact that the biggest spending Japanese tourist is the single working female. When I went to Malampaya to inspect the facilities there, and Mar Roxas waited for me in El Nido, while he was waiting for me to pick him up in the helicopter, he came across a group of young Japanese working females. And naturally, they bonded immediately and chatted — that's Mar Roxas for you. but what he found out is that they were spending 1,800 dollars each for four days. That is the kind of tourist we want.

This kind of tourist, the Japanese working female, prefers urbanized destinations like Hongkong and Honolulu, where they travel in small groups of friends for shopping and R & R. Given these two findings, Metro Manila's continuing relative attractiveness and the spending habits of the biggest tourism spender market segment, Makati, with its compact, easy to secure location, world-class malls, entertainment facilities, and cheap shopping can be promoted as an attractive destination, perhaps with a side trip to Boracay or similar resort as part of a package. I can read Benhur Abalos' mind. Mandaluyong can also qualify for that. Well, Benhur you are welcome to put together a similar package.

A Hawaii-based expert who works with an international consultancy firm specializing in tourism recently observed that with proper packaging, Makati offers more than Honolulu does. So I have instructed the D.O.T. to specifically promote this concept to the Japan's tourist agencies and bureaus by hosting groups of officials of such agencies and

bureaus to come to the Philippines to see for themselves. Once these are on board, the Japanese mentality of going by groups and the word of mouth will take care of the rest.

Seventh item in my work program for the next six months is to stimulate private investment in agriculture. This may require legislation but it is worth pursuing. The biggest obstacle to the free flow of private sector investments into agriculture is the rigidity of second-round land transfers under carp, that is agri-business' entrepreneurs are not permitted to consolidate land that has been carped in order to create economic-sized estates. This also discourages you, the banks from accepting such land as collateral. So I have tasked Lito Sarmiento and Cito Lorenzo to work with D.A. and DAR on this problem. Sergio Osmeña, I believe last year, filed a bill to address this issue. And I have counted it as one of my five top priority legislation when I made my state of the nation address this year.

Even as I believe that this work program which had seven points for the next six months will create economic impact, I am also keeping watch over potential land mines in the near term. And that gives me an eight item in the work program.

The upward trend in oil prices is a key point of focus. While imported crude oil now accounts for a mere 11.75 percent of the power generation mix — unlike in the last gulf war when it was the majority of our requirements — the transportation sector is heavily dependent on oil imports.

The social impact of transport cost cannot be overstated. I am determined to undertake all reasonable means to keep transport costs down.

I have instructed Transportation Secretary Larry Mendoza — and Lito Camacho knows about some of these because he would be involved — to explore ways and means to stem the upward pressure on fares. Larry is in constant dialogue with various groups in the transport sector to explore other forms of reasonable relief from rising costs other than just merely raising transport fares. The good news is that MRT 3, LRT1 and the Philippine National Railways are not going to hike ticket charges.

Let me take this opportunity to assure everyone that the supply of oil and oil products in the country is more than sufficient and adequate. We have a highly diversified source of oil products. Thus, any possibility of a supply shortage is negligible.

Upon my instruction, Energy Secretary Vince Perez has been monitoring even more closely the inventory levels of oil and oil products in the country. Our country's oil inventory levels remain within the normal range of between 50 to 65 days supply, which in itself is sufficient to see the country through any of the foreseeable scenarios in the case of a war against Iraq.

There has not been in the last twenty years, an incidence of serious supply interruption to world's oil supply even during the desert storm of 1991.

We can also take comfort in the fact that today the Philippines currently sources its oil products from 15 different countries, of which only three are in the middle east. This will give us alternative sources. Following a series of meetings with Vince, the local downstream oil players continuously and unanimously reassured us that they have arrangements in place to ensure a steady and sufficient supply.

The government has and will continue to pursue arrangements with oil supplies including Russia for alternative deliveries of products that will provide us an uninterrupted supply in the likely event that the contingencies will be needed.

The government will also exhaust all possible avenues to provide even more supply security to the Filipino people within the limits of practicality and economic good sense. I have instructed Vince to continue to examine stockpiling measures and demand-side management contingency plans. These will be implemented if they ever become necessary and for as long as they will not needlessly increase the price of our oil products.

Financial executives, these are some of the things that will occupy... Oh, these are most of the things that will occupy my mind for the next six months. Be with me in carrying out these initiatives.

Let us join hands in meeting formidable challenges. Our country deserves our best working together. Our country deserves our looking beyond ourselves in order to make sure that our economy makes it through this trying times. And that we all build a strong republic to win the battle against poverty within the decade.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 28th Annual Conference of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210929/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8412&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 63rd Foundation Anniversary of Quezon City and Gabi ng Parangal [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagdiriwang ng ika-63 anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag ng Lungsod ng Quezon at Gabi ng Parangal**

[Ipinahayag sa Grand Ballroom, Celebrity Sports Plaza, Lungsod ng Quezon, ika 11 ng Oktubre, 2002]

Maraming salamat Mayor Sonny Belmonte sa iyong napakagandang pagpakilala sa akin. At gusto ko lamang sabihin na kung natupad ko 'yung ilang mga sinabi mong natupad ko sa isang taon at kalahating pagka-pangulo ko. Ito ay dahil meron akong mga gabay at mga nagsusuporta sa akin na matatag kagaya ni Speaker Sonny Belmonte noon at ngayon Mayor Sonny Belmonte ng Quezon City.

Binabati ko rin ang ibang mga officials ng Quezon City sa pamumuno ng ating dalawang Ccongressman and woman na narito ngayon — si Congressman Chuck Mathay; at saka si Congresswoman Naneth Daza; pati na rin 'yung members ng city council, sa pamumuno ni Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista; at saka 'yung mga barangay chairmen sa pamumuno ng ADC president si Almario Francisco; binabati ko 'yung mga ating mga awardees; unang-una 'yung nagbibigay ng napakaraming trabaho at buwis sa Quezon City, ang outstanding businessman na si Ginoong Henry Sy; pinagmamalaki ko rin na 'yung anak n'ya na aking ka-eskwela ay number 39 sa fortune women. Mas lalong malaking karangalan pa 'yon. International Fortune ha, hindi 'yung fortune dito sa Pilipinas. Kaya naman hindi tayo nakakaila na ang daming trabaho ang nabibigay ni ginoong Henry Sy. At dahil anak n'ya one of the 39 top businesswomen in the whole world, pangalawang henerasyon pa natin maaasahan nating marami pang trabaho at buwis ang makukuha ng Quezon City sa pamilya ni Henry Sy.

Doon sa mga ibang awardee naman. Binabati ko at ipinagmamalaki ko. Isa sa pinaka-naaasahan kong Cabinet member — si Secretary Angelo Reyes. At nandito ang minamahal n'yang nanay. Congratulations, Mrs. Reyes. Dahil parating sinasabi ni angie na kung ano s'ya ngayon ang naghugis sa kanya ay 'yung kanyang nanay na si Mrs. Reyes. Kaya tamang-tama naman na naririto s'ya para sa ganun ay makibahagi rin sa gantimpala ni Secretary Reyes bilang outstanding soldier ng Quezon City.

Binabati ko rin ang ilang mga ka-contemporary ng aking mga magulang. Napaka-importante rin sila sa ating bansa at napaka-importante rin sa Quezon City. Unang-una, 'yung isa sa mga dalubhasa ng reporma sa lupa — si Justice Mila German. Isa ring contemporary ng aking nanay. Kapwa doktora ng aking nanay at 'nung panahon kong kami ay mga bata, alam na niya isa sa pinaka de kampanyang pediatrician — si Dra. Fe del Mundo. Magugulat kayo na masasabi kong kaibigan ng aking tatay dahil ang tatay ko ay ng first wife n'ya bago s'ya nabyudo ay kapatid ng mga artista. Kaya isang artistang kaibigan din n'yang nakilala ko at 'nung ako'y batang maliit parati pinapanood ko sya sa mga party. Ganun pa rin ang itsura n'ya ang hanggang ngayon — si binibining Rosa Rosal.

Binabati ko rin, wala s'ya ngayong gabi. Sabi nga ng anak n'ya, he would have loved to be here pero may ka-edad na rin at may sakit. Pero malaki ang kanyang contribution sa edukasyon — si Dr. Onofre Corpuz. Kaya binabati ko ang kanyang anak. At 'yung mga medyo ka edad ko. 'Yung naaalala ko pa, we were so proud nung naging grand master at world champion s'ya ng chess — si Eugene Torre. At s'yempre hanggang ngayon pinapanood pa natin s'ya sa television, nahuli dahil sinirado n'ya 'yung Frontpage, ngayon bukas s'ya ang Frontpage — si Mel Tiangco. Tapos nun mas mababang henerasyon naman, mas batang henerasyon, 'yung bagong henerasyon. Nasa Amerika s'ya ngayon ngunit napakalaki na kanyang tulong sa mga kabataan, sa kalikasan at 'yan ay si Gina Llopez na rine-represent ngayon ng aking ka-eskwela na si Dulce. Wala rito si Pangulong Aquino pero alam naman ng lahat s'ya ay nakatira sa 55th Times street. At marami s'yang nagawa sa ating bansa. Hanggang ngayon bilang Former President marami pa rin s'yang naibibigay n a payo sa inyong lingkod. Halimbawa, dito sa ating pinaghahandaan na baka magkaroon ng giyera sa Middle East at kung papano asikasuhin 'yung ating mga overseas workers sa Middle East dahil noong 1991 ay naranasan na rin n'ya 'yung Operation Desert Storm. Meron s'yang mga naipahayag at

naibahagi sa akin sa kasaysayan. So, hanggang ngayon malaki pa rin ang tulong sa ating bansa ni President Cory Aquino.

At isang ... Ewan ko kung contemporary ko ba s'ya, contemporary ko na rin at parati tayong nanonood sa kanya lalo na 'nung panahon ng lahar — si Dr. Rey Punongbayan.

Ang ganda-ganda ng pagpili ng ating mga pangunahing mamamayan ng Quezon City. Ngunit sabi ni Sonny Belmonte wala s'yang kinalaman sa mga pagpipili kung sino ang magiging outstanding citizens. Sa palagay ko, una sa lahat batiin pa rin natin si Sonny Belmonte dahil bagamat hindi s'ya ang pumili ng mga awardees meron s'yang innovation dahil ito ang first time na merong award para sa outstanding citizens ng Quezon City.

Doon naman sa pagpili, palagay ko dapat mag-congratulate tayo doon sa chairman ng foundation day activity — si Dr. Vic Vic Enrigo. Naririto ang ating mga, hindi lang si Mr. Henry Sy, narito rin 'yung mga iba't-ibang businessmen na aktibo dito sa Quezon City. Binabati ko sila lahat sa pangunguna ng pangulo ng PCCI na si Sergio Luis Ortiz, si Jun. Saan s'ya rito? Sabi dumating na raw. Saan si Jun? Huh, wala pa. Ok, wala nga s'ya kanina, sabi dumating na s'ya. At 'yung tiga-Quezon City naman na si Nathan Zulueta.

Mga panauhin, gaya nga ng sabi ni Sonny Belmonte, meron pa akong sore throat hanggang ngayon. Kaya hindi ako magtatagal ng aking pagbabati sa inyo. Gusto ko lamang sabihin na itong lungsod ng Quezon City ay napaka-importante sa ating bansa. Kung anong anyo ng Quezon City, ganun ang anyo ng ating bansa. Dahil una sa lahat, Quezon City ang ating capital city. At pangalawa, Quezon City ang pinakamalaking lungsod sa buong Pilipinas. In fact, kung titingnan mo ang mga probinsya, tatlo lamang ang probinsyang mas malaki kesa sa Quezon City, dalawa lang ang mas malaki probinsya kesa sa Quezon City. Kaya ang Quezon City kahit na ituturing mong probinsya, number 3 biggest province sa ating bansa. Kaya syempre kung ano ang anyo Quezon City, ganun ang anyo ng ating bansa. At malaki ang problema ng Quezon City dahil bagamat s'ya ang pinaka malaking syudad at kung iisipin mong probinsya, s'ya na ang pinaka pangatlong pinakamalaking probinsya. S'ya rin ang pinakamalaking poverty incidence. Napakarami ang mahihirap sa Quezon City. Napakarami ang maralitang taga-lungsod na iba ang anyo ng kahirapan sa lungsod kung ihahambing natin sa kahirapan sa probinsya. 'Yun na lang ang hamon ni Mayor Sonny Belmonte na kailangan sugpuin ang problema ng kahirapan sa Quezon City. Dahil sa laki ng Quezon City at dahil sa dami ng mahihirap sa Quezon City. Malaking kontribusyon 'yun sa pagsugpo ng kahirapan sa ating buong bansa.

At kailangan natin 'yun. Ngunit doon sa hamon ng paglaban sa kahirapan, maraming kahirapan din ang magaganap ng isang administrator o isang executive ng isang lugar. Kaya kung gusto nating masugpo ang kahirapan sa quezon city maging sa buong pilipinas, ang kailangan natin ay malakas na republika. At ano ang kailangan ng malakas na republika. Malakas na mga insitutusyon at kasama sa malalakas na institusyon na kailangan para sa malakas na republika ay 'yung mabisang pamahalaan mula sa national government hanggang sa local government hanggang sa mga bukrasya na sila ay inaasahan nating malasakit sa taumbayan. At 'yung relasyon sa Kongreso at sa Senado, ang gusto natin ay una sa lahat, hindi magkatunggali pero gusto rin natin ay hindi horse trading ang ginagamit para magkaisa.

Kaya kanina nung nagsimula ako ng aking pagbabati, 'yun nga ang sinabi ko — bagong pangulo ako, si Sonny Belmonte ay naging speaker of the House of Representatives. At kahit na minana ko 'yung kongreso na 'yun, kaya maraming hindi ko kapartido. Maaalala n'yo nagpalit tayo ng administrasyon. Sa laki ng suporta ng mga kasamahan ni Sonny Belmonte, hindi adversarial ang relasyon ng kongreso at presidency. At hindi rin horse trading ang ginamit ni Sonny para mapasa 'yung mga importanteng batas na kinailangan ko 'nung s'ya ay speaker. Kaya doon pa man sa kongreso tumulong na si Sonny sa akin na magtayo ng matatag na republika.

Kaya hindi tayo nagulat noong si Sonny ay nanalo bilang Mayor ng Quezon City. Di ba Sonny sa dami ng barangay, dalawang barangay lang natalo sa Sonny. 'Yung isang barangay pa, ano 30 votes, dun s'ya natalo. At pagkatapos nun ay naging mayor s'ya at 'yun na nga naging mayor s'ya sa madaling panahon. Ang daming problema ang kanyang nasagot at nasugpo. Kaya doon sa matatag na republika kailangan din natin na talagang lumitaw ang creativity ng ating mga local governments. At 'yun ay nakikita dito sa Quezon City.

Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan na maging bahagi nitong selebrasyon ngayong gabi. At gusto kong batiin si Sonny, gusto kong batiin kayong lahat — mga officials na tumutulong sa kanya — para maging malakas ang lungsod, ang puno ng ating bansa. At binabati ko 'yung mga outstanding citizens ng Quezon City dahil kayo rin ay tumutulong para ang lungsod ng Quezon City ay isang matatag na lungsod na kailangan na ganon ang pinakamalaking lungsod at pinaka-pinunong lungsod. Dahil uulitin ko, kung ano ang anyo ng Quezon City, ganun ang anyo ng republika ng Pilipinas.

Kaya muli — sa ating honorees, sa officials ng Quezon City at lalo na sa punong lungsod ng Quezon City. Happy Anniversary at congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 63rd Foundation Anniversary of Quezon City and Gabi ng Parangal. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210938/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8414&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the first year anniversary celebration of the Malampaya-Camago Deepwater Gas and launching ceremony of the Natural Gas for Public Transport Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the first year anniversary celebration of the Malampaya-Camago Deepwater Gas to power project
and launching ceremony of the Natural Gas for Public Transport Program**

[Delivered at the Department of Energy Compound, Makati City, October 16, 2002]

Good morning.

Secretary Vince Perez; Secretary Llarry Mendoza; MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando; PNOC Chairman Serge Apostol; the other undersecretaries who are here, Art Valdez of DOTC; Demetrio Ignacio of DENR; Emmanuel de Dios of DOE; Pedro Aquino of PNOC; our friend from SPECS, Jeremy cliff; our investors and friends of the energy sectors; yung mga lider ng transport sector si Claire at lahat ng mga bus operators; at jeepney operators na narito:

Salamat muli dahil pumayag sila na hindi muna magtataas ng presyo ng transportasyon. Ang hinihingi lamang nila sikapin naman natin ng buong — kung sinong makangyarihan sa presyo na hindi lumampas sa 15.50 ang presyo ng diesel.

Kaya itong araw na ito, eto ang ating sinisikap nga na maisigurado ngayon at sa mga mas matagal ng panahon. A year ago we opened the flow of Malampaya deep water gas to power project to its on-shore plant in Batangas. Malampaya is a partnership between Shell, Chevron and PNOC. Kaya, dito natin sine-celebrate ang anniversary sa PNOC compound. That event reduced the dependence of our power sector on petroleum.

Now, on this first anniversary we want to move a step forward in independence not just the independence of the power sector but the independence of the transport sector.

So, first and foremost what I did was to, in order to propagate that there is a vehicle that does not rely completely on gas, gasoline, the other day when i visited Toyota to listen to their expansion plans where they will produce transmission for the Japanese market, they also donated to the Office of the President a vehicle that runs only one half on gasoline. It runs one half on gasoline, and one half on the battery power. So, this oh its raining, I'll rush my announcements. This an important new vehicle so I'm lending it to the Department of Energy so that they can propagate and demonstrate and let people know about its availability because that reduces our dependence on fuel gasoline.

And I'm also pleased today to let you know that since Malampaya has been operating, now Sta. Rita first gas, San Lorenzo gas, Ilijan all of these gas plants are using Malampaya gas with the combined capacity 2700 megawatts. And therefore they contribute 18 percent of our energy requirements. And if there should be a which is not likely, a crisis of supply from the Middle East, Malampaya can even provide up to 25 percent of our requirements. Versatility is imperative in the long term.

And aside from energy self-sufficiency the good thing about Malampaya, is that the energy they are providing us is clean energy. And it's a good new way of thinking.

So much so, that... Naku! Talagang bibilisan ko na ito umuulan... In so much so that in the Johannesburg Summit the Malampaya Project got an award as outstanding investment on sustainable development.

And now we have a relevant twin event to reduce our dependence on gasoline, on oil and also to bring about clean, clean fuel for our transport sector.

Is this on the road this diesel engine Isuzu Highlander vehicle? The one that ah, ok the DOE has converted a diesel engine Isuzu Highlander vehicle to a 100 percent natural gas engine unit. That's the first natural gas vehicle or NGV in the country. Where's that? Parked over there. Okay. It should have been here. But anyway what do I expect, I only told Vince Perez about this yesterday afternoon.

Anyway, this was followed by the conversion of three more vehicles, two shuttle buses, there; two shuttle buses in December 2001 and January 2002 and the Nissan Patrol service vehicle, over there in January 2002. Then PNOC jointly with Petron as developed the Enviro 2002 taxi units, this one. So, that's why we have our transport sector here. This is Filipino resourcefulness at its best. And we want to have all of these on the ground, on the street, on the roads so that we can be less dependent on oil, but also more in keeping with clean sources of energy.

So, I congratulate the people of this pioneering venture — the DOE, under Secretary Vince Perez, PNOC under Serge Apostol and Petronas Malaysia, those who developed these vehicles.

And now, I want to promote for the transport sector this kind of fuel, the environment-friendly compressed natural gas.

Accordingly, in order to promote the use of compressed natural gas, we are doing the following policy initiatives:

One, the DTO will classify natural gas conversion kit as spare parts. Therefore the tariff will only be one percent.

Two, the BOI will also enhance the existing package for natural gas conversion kits, original engine manufacturers, and other related facilities. So more incentives from the BOI.

Third, the DOTC, through the LTO, will consider, as having complied with a mission standard, those who use natural gas.

Fourth, the one other red tape removed. Okay fourth, the LTFRB, Dante Lantin is here. Very good friend of the transport sector they always come to a good consensus. The LTFRB will grant three franchises for natural gas bus fleet—two for the Batangas-Manila route. Ang tawag pala doon ngayon ay batman route, Batangas-Manila eh. And one for the Batangas-Bicol route. And I understand that there's already a bus company that intends to undertake a pilot project involving up to 100 buses next year using compressed natural gas. I am asking also shell, Caltex, Chevron, Texaco and first gas to construct CNG refilling stations and related facilities. And I am asking the Malampaya consortium to supply natural gas for transport at one half the price of diesel. That's great ha.

Fifth, the DENR shall fast track the issuance of the ECC needed for the natural gas facilities and the refilling station. Demet? Okay. Good.

Sixth, the DBP will establish a financing window to promote the use of natural gas vehicles and related infrastructure facilities.

Seventh, the DOST will promote and develop locally manufactured conversion kit.

Eighth, according to MMDA Bayani Fernando, he will consider opening c-5 to buses, but only for buses that use CNG. Now where is that?

The DOE will spearhead all these efforts. That's why it has turned over to me today the natural gas policy and regulatory framework, and this part of the longer term plan of the DOE which is the holistic energy plan for our country for the next decade.

So once again, we congratulate Malampaya, all the partners, Shell, Chevron and PNOC where we are holding the celebration today on the first anniversary, and to all the movers and shakers of our new natural gas transport program, more power to you.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the First Year Anniversary Celebration of the Malampaya-Camago Deepwater Gas to power project and Launching Ceremony of the Natural Gas for Public Transport Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210920/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8411&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 80th Foundation Anniversary and 45th Nurses Week Annual Convention of the Philippine Nurses Association, Inc.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 80th Foundation Anniversary and 45th Nurses Week Annual Convention of the Philippine Nurses Association, Inc.**

[Delivered at the Millennium Hall, Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, October 21, 2002]

Maraming salamat kay Dr. Cordero, ang pangulo ng Philippine Nurses Association.

I would also like to greet Commissioner Antoinette Ibe of the Professional Regulation Commission; Dr. Yu-mei Chao, Vice President, International Council of Nurses, who looks like a Ffilipina — look at her; si Don Emilio Yap ang ating host; Ms. Linell Malimbag, the Chairperson of the Philippine Nurses Association; Marilyn Yap, the Overall Chairperson of the convention; Mrs. Ruth Padilla, the Vice President of the Philippine Nurses Association; other officers and members of the nursing profession; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: good noon to all of you.

Careng Cabalen kong Capampangan na nurses maayap aldaw kekongan. Dagiti kakailayak ni Ruth ken kakailayak ko naimbag nga malem yo amin ading. Sa atong mga nurses gikan pa sa Mindanao, maayong ugto kaninyong tanan. Sa mga nurses nga kasimanwa sang akong bana nga ilonggo, maayong ugto sa inyo nga tanan.

Sa inyong lahat binibigay ko ang aking congratulations. Congratulations to the Philippine Nurses Association because your association is 80 years old, 80th founding anniversary of your association and the observance of the Nurses Week in our country.

I'm happy to be here because my mother, the late Dr. Evangelina Macaraeg-Macapagal, was once an honorary president of your association. As president, of course, for me it's hard to be honorary president of anything but it has been a pleasure and pride for me to have worked with nurses throughout my own professional career — perhaps some of them are here with us today. I have worked with nurses in community service especially in times of calamity in my work in social welfare.

And having worked with you, I have witnessed your compassion, your courage, your patriotism, your civic spirit in quiet acts of selfless service and heroism.

Indeed, heroism is what we need most today as our nation undergoes the trials of fighting terrorism, poverty and corruption. There are those who continue to try to push us back, to inflict fear in us, to paralyze our efforts through terrorism and corruption, which are both most inhuman deeds, but we shall not be cowed.

People of less temper would cower at the call of duty, but not the nurses. And dramatically, symbolically not one nurse that we know, the one who offered her life for the sake of the welfare of others. We have a symbol of nursing courage at its greatest. Who among us would ever forget the modern day heroism. We don't have to talk about Florence Nightingale anymore, we have our own Eediborah Pamaran Yap.

Even in the darkest depths of adversity, Ediborah stuck to her professional oath. She is our model of devotion not just to her profession but of humankind. Gracia Burnham told us and her children many stories of how she was a true nurse and heroine for all seasons.

Indeed, the heroism of a nurse in a war-torn province has become a defining point of what it truly is to be of service to others.

It also defines terrorism as a universal fight and not the challenge of a single profession or a single nation or a single region. The tragedies of Bali and Zamboanga once again show that terrorism knows no boundaries. We must work together to fight terrorism. We cannot sit back and wait, we must take this fight to the terrorists before they undermine our very way of living.

We understand the challenge terrorism poses for all people that value peace and order. And certainly, nurses enter the profession because you value peace and care for one another. And for my part, from the moment I took office, I declared war on terrorism in the Philippines. Because I have inherited the terrorism especially from the Abu Sayyaf. A few of my opponents have criticized my decision, but I have to tell you: I make no apologies for aggressively seeking to root out terrorism in the Philippines and to putting considerable effort into seeking regional consensus on fighting terrorism.

These terrorists have proven once again that they are not guided by moral or religious conviction. They are nothing more than murderers of innocent people driven by an ideology of mayhem. We have experienced this mindless violence in the Philippines for sometime. Your nurses have experienced this violence. Ediborah is the one who made the greatest sacrifice among them. But there are many other nurses who continue to labor under the threat from terrorist. The only antidote is to have no fear and to crush their efforts.

The story of Ediborah Yap defines the nursing profession as the kind of profession where greatness beckons every hour. Greatness is not only there in her spectacular story. It is in the story of every nurse who leaves her family to work abroad, to secure a home and a future for them. Greatness is for the nurse who stays with her family to work here, to serve her countrymen in the most isolated far-flung places.

The exodus of nurses is an economic issue. Skilled nurses are being offered far higher salaries and benefit in other countries. While it is good for individual nurses, this quantum leap in the world demand for nurses puts a strain on nursing education and on the nursing profession in the Philippines. Thus, we must seek a balanced strategy of professional development and deployment.

As a result of the continuing dialogue with the nursing sector, reforms are moving forward.

And today, I am pleased to let you know that I have signed into law the Nursing Act of 2002. As you very well know, because you have been working with the government, with Congress and the Senate for this bill, the Nursing Act of 2002 makes the nursing profession more responsive to the ever-changing health needs of our country and the whole world.

I must, of course, thank both houses of congress for their leadership in this cause. I would like to make special mention of Senator Juan Flavio Velasco, the sponsor in the Senate and the author in the house, the husband of Ruth Padilla. also the committee sponsor in the house, Congressman Eladio Jala.

The Nursing Act emphasizes the expansion of the nurses' role to include comprehensive specialty programs, it establishes a minimum base pay for nurses working in government and abroad; it expands the board of nursing membership and enhancement of their functions.

We welcome your efforts to promote your sectoral interests through the democratic process. You were the ones who pushed for this law. Congratulations to all of you.

By enhancing the functions of the board of nursing, the nursing act enhances the professionalism of your calling. The nursing license according to the law identifies you as a true professional and one of good moral character.

I am thinking of another kind of identification system. I wish we could have an effective system that will identify not only the professionals and those of good moral character but also identify the wrongdoers in government especially those involved in anomalies, and be able to prosecute them and send them to jail.

For example, there's the alleged scandal at the Philippine Estates Authority or PEA particularly the allegations of overpricing in the construction of the 8-lane boulevard in the reclaimed area in Pasay City.

Nabasa ko na nagpalabas na ng desisyon kamakalawa ang Senate Blue Ribbon Committee na itong kontrata raw ay dumaan sa tamang proseso, kanya lamang may kataasan pa rin na maituturing ang kabuuang halaga ng paggawa ng kalsada dito sa may reclamation area.

Kaya dahil doon hindi pa rin ako kontento. I still wish to go to the bottom of the controversy, determine the truth, identify the wrongdoers, if any, clear the innocent and possibly revamp the pea for being embroiled in many scandals.

In order to clean up this mess and regain the trust of the public in the PEA and other institutions and government itself:

First, I am ordering the state probers investigating the pea anomaly to speed up the pace of work, unmask the guilty parties, and submit a final report at the earliest possible time;

Second, as you know I have ordered the pea board to go on leave, and I am appointing an interim board of directors. I am ordering the interim board, the top officials and employees of the PEA to cooperate fully with the investigation and conduct a parallel inquiry into the road construction at the reclamation area;

Third, I have ordered the board to make its work fully transparent and above suspicion;

And fourth, I hereby suspend all pending and planned projects of the PEA, especially those requiring public bidding, until the investigation of the alleged overpricing of the road at the reclamation area shall have been completed;

Fifth, if there are members of the regular board of directors — the ones who are on leave — if there are any of them who wish to submit their resignations, I shall be pleased to accept their resignation without prejudice to the prosecution if recommended by the Department of Justice or the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee.

Inaasahan ko na ang mga hakbang na ito ay makakatulong sa paglutas sa kontrobersyang kinasasangkutan ng pea, ng ilang kasapi ng pea board of directors at iba pang mga opisyal ng Philippine Estates Authority.

Ang lahat ng kagawaran at tanggapaning aking inutusan at inatasanang tumulong sa kasong ito ay inaasahan kong kikilos nang mabilis at maayos para maparusahan ang nagkasala at malinisan ang pangalan ng mga inosente.

I share these national concerns with you even though they are not specific to the nursing profession because I support broader political participation by our nurses. I urge you to consider fielding a candidate for sectoral representation in Congress, along with the others from the allied medical professions. There should be no limit to constructive political involvement by any group in our society.

Nurses of the Philippines, the nation needs you, it needs you to take care of the sick. It needs you to prevent having people get sick. But it also needs you to be concerned for its overall well being. The nation needs you to be involved in the schools, in the clinics but also in the community. Let us be allies not only in curing people, not only in preventing sickness but in uplifting people's lives and in fighting poverty, terrorism and corruption.

On this note, let me express once more my deep appreciation for this opportunity to be with you, the professionals, among professionals. I hope we will always be partners for a strong republic.

Mabuhay ang mga narses na Pilipino!

Thank you and may God bless us all.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 80th Foundation Anniversary and 45th Nurses Week Annual Convention of the Philippine Nurses Association, Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210829/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8410&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Dinner with the Filipino-American community of Hawaii

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Dinner with the Filipino-American community of Hawaii**

[Delivered at the Tapa Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A., October 24, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Maraming salamat, Ambassador Albert del Rosario.

And to all of you a warm Aloha!

We're all very happy to be here with you. Our delegation are here with us tonight and I'd like to introduce them to you: we have Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. He used to be Congressman and City Mayor of Muntinlupa; head of the Presidential Management Staff, Silvestre Afable; and of course, you have met Ambassador del Rosario and you have met Consul General Rolando Gregorio.

Kasama ko ngayong gabi ang aking kabiya, si Atty. Jose Miguel Arroyo.

And may I greet our other guests here from the government and the spiritual leadership of Hawaii. Our honoree whom we have conferred the highest award the Philippine government can give, Governor Ben Cayetano and his lovely first lady, Vicky; we must also greet our champion in the U.S. Senate, Senator Dan Inouye; also a member of the house of representatives so-called Philippine caucus made up of the friends of the Filipino people in the U.S. Congress, Congressman Neil Abeilcrombe; the man who sends us all those marines and seabees in our Balikatan exercises, Admiral Thomas Fargo and Mrs. Fargo; thank you also Mayor Jeremy Harris for your very kind welcome in proclaiming this day as Gloria Arroyo day; I would also like to greet Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono; Mr. Nathan Oshima; the honorable state senators and congressmen of the State of Hawaii; our spiritual leader here, Bishop Francis de Lorenzo; and still very well known in the Philippines, the Honorable George Ariyosi, former Governor of Hawaii.

Kada kayo nga kakailayak ti bangir ni mamang ko nga maysa nga Ilokana gapo Pangasinan. Naimbag nga rabi-i yo amin. Agyamanak kada kayo ti panag-rugi yo ti Philippine community ti Hawaii idi pay 1906.

Ampu malugud kung Cabalen Capangpangan, pasalamatan cu pung lubus ing pamanyaup yu careng Cabelen tamo a pininsala ning bulkang Pinatubo.

Sa akong mga kaubanang taga-Mindanao asa ako nidako, daghan salamat sa inyong lungsuranon ug manggiloy-on nga proyekto sa mga dapit sa Mindanao.

Kag sa mga kasimanwa sang akong bana nga Ilonggo, salamat gid sa inyong bulig sa Bisayas.

Sa mga tugang kong Bicolano, dios mabalos sa pagtabang nindo sa mga mayong swerteng tao sa rehiyon Bikol.

At sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat sa inyong walang sawang pagtulog sa mga nangangailangan sa ating bansa.

Hawaii is very important to the Filipino people. It is also very important personally to my husband and myself because when we got married many, many years ago, we spent our honeymoon here in Hawaii. And this time, when I was scheduled to come here on the way to APEC and then the bombings occurred in Southeast Asia, I felt that I

should cancel my trip as I understand President Putin has cancelled his trip because he has a hostage situation in Russia. I learned though that tonight's affair was already sold out so, therefore, I would have disappointed you so much if I had not come. It was a great dilemma for me but the Lord solved my dilemma because a few days after the bombing in Zamboanga we were able to catch the perpetrators of the bombing incident. And seeing you tonight oh! I would have never forgiven myself for not being able to be here with you to pay honor to you, to pay honor to our leader, the highest ranking Filipino in the United States, and through you to pay honor to all the Filipino-Americans here in the United States.

The Filipino-Americans constitute one-third of overseas Filipinos, but you contribute two-thirds of the foreign exchange remittances to the Philippines.

The Filipino-Americans represent the best in the Filipino. That's why you are the most effective ambassadors of your mother country. Your contributions to American life are tremendous. And I am proud of all Filipino-Americans, whether well-known or anonymous. I am proud of the Ben Cayetano, the George Garcias, the Loida Nicolases, but also equally proud of every Fil-Am who has made an investment in this nation and who seeks closer relations between the Philippines and the United States.

The Filipino worker has become a presence around the world because of your talent and industry. The Filipinos, for instance, are known as the "Musicians of Asia." In fact, Ben Cayetano told me earlier that actually the first Filipinos in Hawaii were not the Sakadas of 1906. They were preceded by some Filipino musicians who played here in Hawaii. And today, we have an international star, Lea Salonga and a cast of Filipino talents, who are impressing audiences in Broadway for their superb performances. Lea is there starring in 'Flower Drum Song' in Broadway.

Here especially in Hawaii, let me pay tribute not only to the great outstanding well-known famous Filipinos like Ben Cayetano but also to the thousands of nameless but unforgotten Filipinos who first landed on these islands nearly a century ago.

Their story is one of hard work and perseverance, written in sweat and blood of the Sakadas from Ilocos, Cebu and other Philippine provinces. For you, I am sure it involved a great grandparent or forebear who left their rustic hometowns seeking a better life for their families.

For Ben, whom we honor tonight, it involved his own father who came here in 1928 to work in a sugar cane farm. This was long before the term "Overseas Filipino Worker" acquired any significance. Yet, the Filipinos of today, of Hawaii like many of today's migrant workers in some other parts of the world, at that time, long time ago had to face miserable labor conditions, an unfamiliar environment, unfair treatment and homesickness. Thank goodness this is no longer true here today. On the contrary, the Filipino reigns supreme in Hawaii. But we must never forget the lessons of the past as we face today's challenges.

Anywhere, our identity and dignity are important. And I am glad, as what the various speakers said tonight, that you continue to practice many of our customs and traditions that have found acceptance in Hawaii. These have been passed from one generation to the next, spreading to neighborhoods and communities, and reinforced by the succeeding waves of Filipino migration.

As has been said earlier today, too the year 2006 will mark the centennial of the arrival of the Filipinos in Hawaii. I am happy to learn that the house of representatives of the state approved the creation of the Filipino centennial celebration commission. This is an acknowledgement of the greatness of the Filipino community in Hawaii. We, in the Philippines also want even more to reciprocate your sacrifice and heroism.

When I was a senator, I had filed an overseas voting bill, but like many other overseas voting bills before me and even after me for a few years, my bill did not even progress beyond the committee level. So, when I became president, I certified as two of my five most urgent bills — one, the Overseas Voting Bill and two, the Dual Citizenship Bill.

And I'm happy that my efforts are bearing fruit. To make sure that I can announce something to you, the senate and the Congress sent me a message to send to you, the Absentee Voting Bill has passed both houses of the Philippine congress. Now, let us pray that the conflicting provisions of the house and senate versions can be ironed out so that the day they ironed it out and have it ratified in their respective chambers, within 24 hours I will sign it into law.

The Dual Citizenship bill has likewise passed third and final reading in the Senate.

Here in the United States, we are also working with the help of our champion senator and our member of the Philippine caucus in the house. We are working for the passage by the U.S. congress of improved benefits for Filipino World War the second veterans.

For many years, our friends in congress were filing these bills, but for many years various administrations were like the Absentee Voting Bill in the Philippines. Last year, when I visited president bush, I talked to him about it and he promised me last year a review of services and benefits for Filipino veterans. That review is now yielding results. There is legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and being sponsored by Senator Inouye in the senate to expand benefit eligibility for health care, compensation and burial benefits for our Filipino veterans.

As I said earlier, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed this veterans health care procurement improvement act, which allows a package totalling 65 million dollars for improving health care of Filipino world war the second veterans living in the United States. And the Senator from Hawaii, Dan Inouye is the sponsor of the accompanying senate bill. Let's wish him luck so that the bill can become a law.

Meanwhile, the bush administration is giving veterans assistance for the Philippines in the amount of 500,000 dollars per year, and the first payment of 500,000 dollars will be made during this month of October.

All these efforts are expressions of faith in the Filipinos who braved this land and who are remembered in the hearts of all Americans.

Indeed, the Philippines has been a partner of America in economic matters, in security matters. The Philippines is a member of the grand coalition against global terrorism and active in a regional effort to organize a special anti-terrorism program in the ASEAN community. as you know tomorrow, I will be on my way to Mexico to attend the 10th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico.

I shall join twenty other leaders, including president bush, who are resolved to collectively reverse the lethargy in the global economy and perhaps build more concrete steps to world security and prosperity.

Ngayon natutuwa akong makakausap ko kayo nang masinsinan sa kauna-unahang panahon ko na makapagbisita sa inyo bilang pangulo ng ating bansa. Inimbita sana ako sa inauguration ng Philippine Community Center noong June. Pero Independence Day, kailangan nandoon ako sa Pilipinas. Pero nung nakita ko kanina, "Wow! Ang ganda. pinakamalaki sa buong Amerika, sa buong mundo siguro. At kasing ganda ng pinakamagandang country clubhouse sa golf club sa Pilipinas."

A year and a half ago, as you remember, i inherited an economy with four million jobless Filipinos and a forty percent poverty incidence.

After a year and a half into the presidency, I have come to realize that for our country to overcome such tremendous odds, we must build a strong republic.

In my state of the nation address last July, I highlighted two essential features that mark out a strong republic:

The first is that the republic must stand for the interest of the people rather than of a powerful minority. A strong republic empowers the poor, feeds the hungry, protects the weak and oppressed, shelters the homeless, and shields those in the midst of peril. Hence, a strong republic takes care of its people and their future;

The second feature of a strong republic is the capacity, represented through strong institutions and a strong bureaucracy, to execute good policy and deliver essential services — the things that only governments can do. Good policies and empowered institutions speed up economic development and enable social reform.

Upon these twin cornerstones, we are building a structure of shared ethical values, a firm consensus to serve the common interest and a common vision of our national future.

Our main goal is to win the battle against poverty within the decade. And we must also seek permanent national stability. Our efforts are beginning to bear some fruit. Despite the desperate resort to hit and run bombings, domestic terrorists, particularly the Abu Sayyaf, on the run. And I heard the prayer about kidnapping, we have crushed at least five kidnap-for-ransom gangs. And the Philippine Chinese community itself has said that all is quiet on the Binondo front.

Inflation is at a 12-year low, driven down by stable food prices and declining power costs. Interest rates are at their lowest in 15 years.

International credit rating agencies upgraded us last year, last January from unstable to stable.

This is not painting a bright and rosy picture. This is the truth despite what the media sometimes report. Because figures tell us the story not perception. The regional GDP growth figure show that the Philippines is the best performing economy in Southeast Asia and even if we include the whole Asia like China the Philippines is the third best performing economy in Asia.

Our fight against poverty is substantiated by our being able to provide stable prices, 14 to 16 pesos now since I started my administration of rice for the poor. And it is also bolstered by the fact that more than 150,000 urban poor families now can buy the land that they are occupying. Schools are being built in barangays where there used to be none, some of them through your contributions. And health insurance is now available for more than 3 million destitute Filipinos. These achievements were attained only during the last year and half of my administration. But no president can build a strong republic single-handedly. My role as president is to serve as chief architect, to see to it that our plans and blueprints are carried out on time and correctly.

But I can do this well only if i can count on the support of the more than 2 million Filipino-Americans, including the more 200,000 or so Filipinos who are living here in Hawaii.

As you got together to build the Philippine Community Center, as you got together to put this lovely banquet tonight, let us get together ‘Bayanihan’ style, each contributing a meaningful embellishment to the plan of national greatness and prosperity.

Thank you, Filipinos in Hawaii for continuing to be Filipinos.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during a Dinner with the Filipino-American Community of Hawaii. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210730/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8405&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Luncheon hosted by Governor Benjamin Cayetano and Mrs. Vicky Cayetano

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Luncheon hosted by Governor Benjamin Cayetano and Mrs. Vicky Cayetano**

[Delivered at the Formal Dining Room, Washington Place, Honolulu, Hawaii, October 24, 2002]

Mrs. Cayetano; Admiral and Mrs. Fargo; Honorable Senator; Congressman; State Senators; Supreme Court Justices and Judges; Former Governors; Madame Vice Governor; Ladies and Gentlemen; Leaders of the Hawaiian Political scene who are partly Filipino:

I'm really very happy to be here today and I'm glad to have the chance to spend some time with fellow Filipinos. Tonight with the bigger community and today with those who run the state but are of Philippine origin.

And I'm very happy to realize how close we are to each other. Ambassador Del Rosario took 17 hours to come here from Washington but I only took 10 hours to come here from Manila. So, actually Hawaii is closer to the Philippines than to Washington geographically.

And no wonder then that there are Filipinos in Hawaii. But of course, we know the history of Filipinos here. Ben Cayetano's father is an example of the story, the saga of the first Filipinos who came to Hawaii. He was not here in 1906, he came in 1928, but the story was quite similar.

We know about the first Filipinos who came to live in Hawaii who started here working in the sugar plantations. But today, all of you in this hall are testimony to how important the Philippine community has become. You are such king makers that you have made a governor. And in a federal country like the United States, the governor is the president of his own state. In a unitary country like the Philippines, the senators usually produced a president like in my case. But here in the United States because you have a federal form of government many of the presidents come from the ranks of the governors — that is how important a governor is. And that is why we Filipinos are so proud to have a governor who is a Filipino, and that is the governor of Hawaii.

And so, therefore, it is my honor to come then to give you the greetings of the Filipino people, to let you know how proud they are of you. And how proud they are of the many Filipinos who are here in this hall who are in great positions of authority in the State of Hawaii and even in the federal government of the United States.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Luncheon Hosted by Governor Benjamin Cayetano and Mrs. Vicky Cayetano. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210819/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8408&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the meeting with the Filipino community in Los Angeles, California,
U.S.A. Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the meeting with the Filipino community in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.**

[Delivered at the Ballroom, Westin Airport Hotel, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A., October 25, 2002]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Ambassador del Rosario. And to all of you, good evening to all of you.

May I greet all of you dear friends, kadakayo nga kakailiyak ti bangir ni mamang ko nga Ilokano gapo Pangasinan, agyamanak kadakayo nga umay kayo itatta nga rabi-in.

Malugud kung Cabalen Capangpangan, pasalamatan cu pung lubusing pamanyatang yu ngening bengi.

Sa akong mga kaubanang taga-Mindanao asa ako nidako — oo, Iligan daghan salamat sa inyong pag-abot karong gabi-i una.

Sa mga kasimanwa sang akon bana nga Ilonggo, salamat gid nga nakadto kamo sa akon programa subong.

Sa mga tugang kong Bikolano, dios mabalos asin marhay nga banggui.

At sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat po sa inyong walang sawang pagtulong sa mga nangangailangan sa ating bansa.

I'd like to introduce my delegation to you. We have Press Secretary Toting Bunye, who some of you may have met when he was mayor of Muntinlupa and then Congressman of Muntinlupa; and then not here, somewhere around here, is the head of my Presidential Management Staff, Silvestre Afable. There you are. Maybe he has relatives here and he's sitting with them over there; and then, of course, you know our Ambassador del Rosario. He was also here with me last year; and then I thank him for his welcome, Consul General Jun Paynor, who is also my presidential assistant for foreign travels. Kasama ko ngayong gabi muli ang aking kaniyak, si Attorney Jose Miguel Arroyo. May I greet those who put this lovely townhall meeting together in such short notice, Doctor Carlos Manlapaz, the chairman of the Steering Committee; Doctor Batong Malaque, the President of the Veterans Association of Southern California; Doctor Lambero, the Vice chairman of the steering committee; and the other officers of the various Filipino-American organizations in California.

I'd like to greet the Filipino veterans and also my fellow old girls from assumption — there you are; and the various thousands that are represented by the officers here, the Filipino-American community in California. I'm so happy to see you again.

Dahil nanggaling na ako noong isang taon — noong unang ginawa itong itinerary para sa APEC — supposed to be technical stopover lamang dito sa Los Angeles. Ngunit... Iyon na, dahil sabi nila nanggaling na raw ako rito noong isang taon. Ngunit sabi ko, eh doon pa naman 'yon dadaan sa Los Angeles na hindi makikipag-usap sa ating mga kasama doon, pinakamalaking filipino community sa buong America. Kaya narito tayong lahat muli, narito tayong lahat na magkasama. At salamat na kahit na narinig na ninyo ako noong isang taon, dumalo na naman kayo itong taon na ito. Thank you.

Many times I have said that overseas Filipinos should be called overseas Filipino investors because you are the biggest investors of the Philippines.

That's why when I was a Senator, I had filed an Overseas Voting Bill. But like many other overseas voting bills before mine and even after mine, my bill did not even progress beyond the committee level. So when I became president, I certified as two of my five most urgent bills — one, the overseas voting bill and two, the dual citizenship bill.

And I'm so happy to share with you that my efforts have borne fruit. Our efforts have borne fruit. Because for the first time, after so many attempts in so many administrations, the absentee voting bill has passed both houses of congress on third and final reading. Now, let us pray that the house and the senate can ironed out their conflicting provisions soon because as soon as they do so I will sign that bill into law within 24 hours.

The Dual Citizenship Bill has likewise passed third and final reading in the senate. And here, in accordance with the resolution that the veterans gave me this year and last year, it is true that every time there is a bilateral, the veterans issue is always part of our main agenda. We are working for the passage by the U.S. Congress of improved benefits for Filipino World War II veterans.

You asked me to do this last year. And when I went to Washington, I took it up with president bush. I took it up very strongly and emphatically. Tinarayan ko pa nga iyung Veterans Affairs Department.

And President Bush promised me last year a review of services and benefits for Filipino veterans. I'm also happy that that review is yielding results. Again, for the first time after so many attempts in so many administrations, a bill has been passed in the U.S. House of Representatives to expand benefit eligibility for health care, compensation and burial benefits for our Filipino world war veterans to the tune of 65 million U.S. dollars. That appropriation measure which for the first time in the history of our advocacy passed the House is now in the Senate. So let 's pray that this bill can soon passed the Senate.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration, on the executive level, on the executive branch is giving veterans assistance for our veterans, World War II Filipino veterans, who are in the Philippines in the amount of half a million dollars every year. Again, for the first time after so many attempts in so many administrations. The first half a million dollars will be handed over to the Philippine government right this month of October.

It is an uphill fight, but we are getting to the next level as you have seen, and let us continue. There are many uphill fights we have to make but we must continue.

For instance, our economy back home. I hope you still remember that a year-and-a-half ago, when I became president, I inherited an economy with 4 million jobless Filipinos and a 40 percent poverty incidence. That is an uphill fight. And after a year-and-a- half in the presidency, I have come to realize that to overcome such tremendous odds, we must build a strong republic.

To build a strong republic, my administration is committed to good governance. And I believe that the primordial requirement in the drive against corruption in government is to set the example at the top.

Thus, even my husband, my very supportive husband, has allowed himself not to be above the law. Though I consider intrigues against him as an occupational hazard, I have gone to the extent of encouraging him to face senate investigations to demonstrate that there are no sacred cows in my administration. Thank goodness! By letting the investigations go wherever any evidence might take them, I thank god that the evidence invariably shows that accusations against him are false and politically motivated.

But, because my husband has humbled himself by submitting to senate investigations, I have enhanced my moral authority to investigate anybody else any serious allegation and hold anyone accountable if corruption has been found to take place in his jurisdiction.

Let me assure you that I am working diligently to ensure that the Filipino people are getting the professional and clean government you deserve, for you are still part of the Filipino people even if you are here in America.

For instance, our new e-procurement program is saving billions of pesos and minimizing anomalies.

My Presidential Anti-Graft Commission is investigating a number of bureau directors, government board chairmen and government board members whom I have asked to go on leave pending the results of their investigations. And as for corruption within the courts, while there is separation of powers in our constitution, we are proactive in prosecuting graft among state prosecutors, and with the cooperation of the Supreme Court, we are prosecuting erring judges as well.

Last year, I declared that we will make Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue showcases in the fight against graft and corruption. This is still a continuing effort.

But I am happy to let you know that as a result of our anti-corruption and systems' improvement efforts in the bureau of internal revenue under my new BIR commissioner, PMA Class '70. Where's the PMA Class '70 here? Okay, your classmate Willie Parayno is my new BIR Revenue Commissioner.

After one month in office, he has been able to meet his revenue targets, collecting more than one-third more than the same period last year. He has been able to reverse many months of low revenues which had caused our budget deficit to swell. And he is confident that he will meet his targets for the rest of the year and even make up for some of the shortfall of the earlier part of this year.

Upon the cornerstone of a strong republic, we are building a structure of shared ethical values, a firm consensus to serve the common interest and a common vision of our national future.

These goals are also uppermost in my work program for the next six months which I would like to share with you. Even as we are resolving the terrorist threats in our country, I am focused on a tightly consolidated work program for the next six months:

The first is to strengthen our small and medium enterprises. And I'm glad to hear from Consul General Jun Paynor that many of you are willing to participate in the one town, one product, one-million peso loan for small enterprises that we are launching or we have launched to pump prime this drive to strengthen our small and medium enterprises as a source of domestic demand in our country;

The second program is to jumpstart housing;

The third is to reduce transport costs from Mindanao to Luzon;

The fourth is to begin the infrastructure that will decongest Metro Manila;

The fifth is to mark up the contribution of the PCGG to our fiscal resources;

The sixth is to make Makati a specific urban tourist destination for holiday shoppers;

The seventh is to stimulate private investment in agriculture; and the eighth is to begin the complete staff work or to complete the staff work needed to make the reclamation area in Roxas Boulevard another tourism complex to be called "The Bagong Nayong Pilipino."

Our main goal for all of these and for the programs I told you about last year is to win the battle against poverty within the decade. To win the battle against poverty within the decade but we must also seek national stability. Yes, to win the battle against poverty within the decade to seek permanent national stability.

Thus, I am happy to report to you that because of our aggressive drive against terrorism, despite the desperate resort to hit and run bombings, domestic terrorists particularly the Abu Sayyaf are now on the run. Yes, they bombed two

parts of Zamboanga, but we have captured the Zamboanga bombers and identified the mastermind of the latest bombing in Manila.

We have crushed at least five kidnap-for-ransom gangs. And the Filipino-Chinese community, which is their favorite target has even said that now all is quiet on the Binondo front.

These efforts are beginning to bear some fruit even in our economy. Inflation is at a 12-year low, driven down by stable food prices and declining power costs. Interest rates are at their lowest in 15 years.

We are rated as stable by the international credit rating agencies. The regional GDP growth figures show that the Philippines is the best performing economy today in Southeast Asia. And even if you take Asia as a whole where China is number one, the Philippines is the third best performing economy in Asia.

What does this mean for the poor in the Philippines? Well, for one thing it means: the price of rice for the poor is stable at 14 to 16 pesos; it means that more than 150,000 urban poor families have acquired the right to buy the land that they are occupying squatters no more; it means that schools are being built in barangays where there used to be none, about a thousand of them; it means that more than 3 million poor Filipinos now have health insurance. These achievements were attained only during my administration.

But no president can build a strong republic single-handedly. I can do this and do this well only if I can count on the support of the more than 2 million Filipino-Americans, especially the 700,000 who are here in Los Angeles.

And so, though I was here with you last year, I am here again with you to ask you: stay with me. Help me build a strong republic.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Meeting with the Filipino Community in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210713/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8403&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Plenary Breakfast at the APEC CEO Summit “A Conversation with Leaders”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Plenary Breakfast at the APEC CEO Summit “A Conversation with Leaders”**

[Delivered on October 26, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Es mas facil pronunciar mi nombre Arroyo. Porque somos latinos esta mien con los Mexicanos.

Five years ago, when the Philippines hosted APEC, there was not a single female APEC leader. Today, I'm very happy that the Asia-Pacific region now has staff gifted and thoughtful women leaders like President Megawati and Prime Minister Clark. And I'm very honored to share this platform with them today.

We come from three different countries with three different cultures and three different sets of challenges. But we share common commitments to prosperity, to democracy and to peace.

We were together last year in APEC in Shanghai. That summit took place right after September 11. At that time in that Summit, we all agreed that the attacks of September 11 were an attack not just on the United States but on all who believe in freedom and tolerance. And in that summit, we all agreed to take a strong stance against terrorism. And we discussed how to prioritize our work in order to carry out that strong stance. We made plans about aviation security, energy security and other ways by which we could promote security on the economic front.

Many things have happened since then. Since then, the terrorists were kicked out of Afghanistan. So was the host government that welcomed them in Afghanistan.

In my own country I set to crush terrorism militarily and economically. I challenged the Abu Sayyaf right in their turf and I believe we have made great success. They used to be thousands, now they are a few hundreds. Of course, a rifle shot here and a bomb there succeeds in instilling more fear. But nonetheless, I assure you we are making headway.

However, none of the successes that we have had prepared us for the October attacks, especially the attack on the beautiful island of Bali. That attack and the other attacks of October remind us that this war against terrorism is going to be long, difficult and borderless. And unfortunately, it comes at a time when we are also fearing for the global economy.

My concern is how the terrorists have shifted our attention away from how to work to make the global economy thrive. We have shifted our effort to how to secure ourselves and our countries. My concern arises from my experience. The experience of my country shows that security impedes development and conversely, poverty feeds extremists with recruits. The terrorists in the Philippines are in that southwestern corner of our country — the island of Basilan and the island of Sulu. Not coincidentally, these two provinces are the poorest provinces in our country with the lowest human development index. That indeed demonstrates how closely interlinked is the war against terrorism with the war against poverty. And if we neglect the economic imperative at this time when we are so concerned with terrorism we would be feeding on terrorism by promoting hunger, disease and ignorance.

Since last year, we have been able to build in our world in APEC and everywhere else a coalition to eradicate terrorism. It has worked well. And I believe that this coalition building would work equally well to ensure economic security. Further, it can also work equally well to lift the global economy out of lethargy.

The key step is to build trust once again in the local economy. But how do we do that? Let me just count two ways: first, security. Dealing with terrorism remains our most urgent priority. And our first challenge is to deal with it and make sure that this is a safe and secure world. In the Philippines, we participate in global efforts and we also work to promote this coalition at the regional level. For example, with our sister and neighbor Indonesia as well as with Malaysia we have an anti-terrorist arrangement. This arrangement includes sharing intelligence, tightening border patrols and if need be joint peacekeeping. I think we should expand this coalition and take more aggressive action.

In the Philippines, too where we have Christians and Muslims — actually, we are a Christian nation, a Christian minority in a Muslim region, the Southeast Asia — we pursue broader inter-faith dialogues because the terrorists wish to instigate a religious war. But we must instead make this an occasion for religious understanding, ecumenism and solidarity.

Terrorism as you all know, the CEOs, impacts directly on business. And that is a challenge to reduce border restrictions which are bad for business while at the same time protect these borders against terrorism. That is a great challenge of APEC. This challenge needs a combination of new technology and cross border cooperation.

Let me now go to the second way by which I believe we can restore faith and trust in the global economy. And this second way use to address the perceived inequality in receiving the benefits of integration. We must start with the WTO. We need to reengineer the WTO to assure that there is a level playing field. That the rules of trading are not stopped in favor of developed countries who preach liberalization to the developing countries on the one hand, but practice protectionism against the developing countries on the other.

It is our challenge in APEC to reengineer the WTO, because the Doha round that we are undergoing offers that opportunity. APEC as APEC is a voluntary organization in the sense that our commitments are voluntary and not treaties that are legally binding. But APEC is very influential in the WTO and therefore the role of APEC should be to reinforce the leadership in the WTO and make sure that the Doha round is truly what it is build as a development round.

One way would be to influence WTO to come up with an early harvest of results that will benefit the most number of people in the world.

What should these results include? May I enumerate: one, the elimination of harmful agricultural export subsidies; two, the opening up of markets for tropical agricultural products and other products of interest to developing countries such as tuna and textiles; three, the liberalization of services where developing countries can benefit most including labor mobility in sectors such as information technology, health care and education; and fourth, the enhancing of capability. The enhancing of the capacity of the developing country-members to negotiate effectively, implement commitments and improve the competitiveness of our products.

To do all these, we don't expect APEC to finance. We do not expect APEC to finance all these capability building. But we do expect APEC to use its influence to turn to other sources of funds and to turn to others that have mandate for capability building. At Monterey, here in Mexico, some time ago, the participants in that summit agreed that development and security go hand and hand. The developed countries pledged new resources to fight poverty in order to fight terrorism. And the developing countries promised to put these resources to good use by instituting reforms in their countries and economies. This new approach is a hand up approach rather than a hand out approach. And it recognizes that this is not charity but investment in people. It recognizes that teaching people how to fish rather than giving them the fish leads to sustained prosperity. However, months after Monterey we have yet to see these resources come to the developing countries in a meaningful way. And so, I hope that both sides of the development divide will make good on their Monterey pledges.

We need to pay special attention to the growth of the SMEs. As my beloved sister and neighbor President Megawati said, it is a big part of life in Indonesia. It is a big part of life in other developing countries and the Philippines as well. SMEs and micro-enterprises provide a business approach to the alleviation of poverty. In my country, we are doing this, too with our one town, one product program. And it shows that it can work.

I hope you, the CEOs of APEC, will look at integrating these self-help initiatives in your business plans. We do our SMEs now with greater vigor in the Philippines because we have to rely on domestic efforts to stimulate growth and safety nets because we are not yet sure of the recovery of our export market.

But indeed, a lot of support will go our way and the other developing countries way if the U.S., Japan and Europe can recover. And so we hope that they will recover and we suggest that this is a good time to finally carry out the postponed reforms that may have led to the lethargy of those economies. I mean, not the reforms but the postponement.

Our region especially looks to Japan to resume its traditional role as the engine for growth. We, in ASEAN, of course, also have the responsibility to contribute to global economic security. We are working to make ASEAN integration a reality. And we have to be open to new ideas about creating building blocks for integration. Thus, the ASEAN countries pursue regional and bilateral trade arrangements that were unthought of many years ago. We do have to minimize the adverse impacts of terrorism and maximize the benefits of integration through greater cohesion in trade, capital, labor and security policy.

The coalition in response to terrorism can and must extend to a coalition in economic relations. The global economy will be able to pull through if we approach it the way we have been approaching our fight against terrorism.

And may I assure you, that in the same way that the Philippines is an active partner in the global coalition against terrorism, the Philippines is also ready to work with the global community to meet the challenge of economic security and prosperity for our peoples in the 21st century.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Plenary Breakfast at the APEC CEO Summit "A Conversation with Leaders". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210659/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8401&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a Dinner with the Filipino community

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Dinner with the Filipino community**

[Delivered at the Marina Ballroom, San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina, San Diego, California, U.S.A, October 27, 2002]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Ambassador Albert del Rosario.

Consul General and Mrs. Paynor, who is not only... Ah, Consul General Paynor is not only Consul General of the Los Angeles and San Diego area, he also doubles up as my Presidential Assistant for foreign travels; Glenn Barroga, thank you very much for organizing this evening together with Ditas Dimani, thank you very much; and to all of the other members of the committee that also joined to organize this evening, thank you so much for taking such a good initiative.

I would also like to greet Bishop Salvatore Corleone. Thank you for your prayers; and may I also greet the distinguished members of the U.S. Congress who we should all be very proud of: Congressman Bob Filmer; Congressman Randy Cunningham; Congressman Gary Isah and Congresswoman Susan Davis. I'd like to let you know in case you don't know that these are the congressmen and congresswoman who initiated what is now called the Philippine caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Thank you very much, Mayor Dick Murphy for the key to the city. I'd like to greet Mrs. Murphy, too and Mayor Shirley Horton. Thank you for coming here. Also supervisor Greg Cup, board of supervisors of the country of San Diego. At sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat sa inyong walang sawang pagtulong sa mga nangangailangan sa ating bansa.

At malugud kung cabalen capangpangan, caracal ko. Pasalamatan Cu pung lubus ing pamanyatang yu ngening bengi.

Kadakayo nga kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko nga Ilokano gapo Pangasinan, including Mayor Murphy's two angels in his office. Agyamanak kadakayo nga umay kayo tatta nga rabi-i tan masantos ya labi ed sikayo amin.

Sa akon mga kaubanang taga-mindanao asa ako nidako, daghang salamat sa inyong pag-abot. Walay tiga-mindanao diri? Ah, kamo. Daghan salamat sa inyong pag-abot karong gabi-i una.

Kag sa mga kasimanwa sang akon bana nga ilonggo, salamat gid nga nagkadto kamo sa aton programa subong.

Sa mga tugang kong bikolano, dios mabalos asin marhay nga banggui.

I'd like to introduce my small delegation to you tonight: Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who used to be City mayor, too and Congressman of the city of Muntinlupa; and the head of my Presidential Management Staff is Silvestre "Yongyong" Afable; you have met, of course, Ambassador del Rosario, who always visits our Congressmen from the San Diego area and the surroundings, and so they have worked together on this Philippine caucus. And I have

told you earlier that Consul General Jun Paynor is not just your Consul General, he is my presidential assistant for foreign travels. So he was with me even in APEC. At kasama ko ngayong gabi ang aking kabiyaq, si Atty. Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Mike and I bring you the best greetings and best wishes of our family. Not only of our family but also of the Filipino people who love the Filipino-Americans here in San Diego. Filipinos in San Diego Are truly pioneers. Yours is a story of fortitude and hard work. I learned when I was coming here and reading up that the enlistment of Filipinos in the U.S. navy started with the recruitment of nine Filipinos in 1903. Did I get my year right, 1903? To work as stewards and mess boys in the beginning. I had to ask you because we always thought in the Philippines that the first Filipinos in the U.S. were those who worked in Hawaii in the sugar cane plantations. But that was 1906 and this is 1903. So you are the first Filipinos to live in the United States. And then from the 1950s up to 1992 when the U.S. military bases were closed, more and more Filipinos were recruited to join the U.S. navy through the U.S. naval base in Sangley point, in Cavite. Kaya maraming Caviteño dito, 'di ba? Later on, at the U.S. naval base in Subic. That's why this explains why most of you are from Cavite and also from Olongapo in Zambales. Zambales, yes. Olongapo, my Macaraeg relatives from Olongapo, yes. Zambales, Bataan and the neighboring province that includes Pampanga.

Most Filipino navy men and their families settled here in San Diego and in other U.S. seaport cities, and went on to establish themselves in other fields. Because they are now... There's now a new generation. So after our navy men came doctors, nurses, health care workers, accountants, I.T. workers among others.

And today, Filipino-Americans represent the best in the Filipino. You are the most effective ambassadors of your country. When I was coming this week somebody asked me, how can you help the Philippines? You can help the Philippines by being ambassadors of our country to the United States. And you are such credible ambassadors because your contributions to American life are tremendous. I am proud of all Filipino-Americans, whether well-known or anonymous.

Today, the Filipino-Americans, you, you constitute one-third of overseas Filipinos but you contribute two-thirds of the foreign exchange remittances to the Philippines.

I have said many times that overseas Filipinos should be called overseas Filipino investors because you are the biggest investors of the Philippines. That is why even when I was a senator, I had already filed an overseas voting bill, but like many other overseas voting bills before I became a senator, and others that were filed after I became a senator, my bill did not even progress at that time beyond the committee level.

So when I became president I certified as five... As two out of my five most urgent bills the Overseas Voting Bill and the Dual Citizenship Bill.

Nung papunta ako sa APEC from here dapat diretso sa Silicon Valley dahil may mga investors na kakausapin. Sabi ko hindi, dadaan ako sa San Diego kasi meron akong gustong ikwento about efforts bearing fruit for the first time after so many attempts in so many administrations the absentee voting bill has passed both Houses of Congress in the philippines. Now, lets pray that the house and the Senate can iron out their conflicting versions soon. Because as soon as they do so i will sign it into law within 24 hours.

Kanina nung nag-posing ako sa mga veterans, and I'd like to greet them. Meron isa sa kanila nagtanong sa akin, "eh 'yung Dual Citizenship Bill, kumusta na?" I'd like to report to you that it has likewise passed the Senate on third and final reading in the Senate.

Of course here led by your congressman and your other congressman and congresswoman in the area in the Philippine caucus, all of us had been working for the passage by the U.S. Congress of improved benefits for Filipino World War II veterans.

And just like the overseas voting bill in the Philippines, here in the U.S., I believe that this is the first time after so many attempts, in so many administrations the bill has been passed in the U.S. House of Representatives to expand

eligibility for health care compensation and burial benefits for our Filipino veterans to the tune of 65 million U.S. dollars. And you have our San Diego congressman Bob Filmer as the principal author to thank for. And Congressman Cunningham, Congressman Isah and Congresswoman Susan Davis because it was the Philippine caucus that made it possible for the bill to pass the U.S. congress. And I know that you in the Philippine community will always support those who support the Philippine cause.

The appropriation measure is now in the U.S. Senate. So, like I said about the overseas voting bill and praying, let's pray now that the bill may soon pass the Senate.

Meanwhile, at the executive level, I have included veterans benefits in the agenda of every bilateral I have had with President Bush. And the veterans administration is giving veterans assistance for the Philippines in the amount of 500,000 dollars per year for the veterans health care in the Philippines. Again, for the first time after so many attempts in so many years. And I'm happy to learn that the first 500,000 dollars will be given to the Philippine government this month of October.

I will continue to advocate for veterans' benefits. When I was with President Bush at the APEC summit yesterday, I reminded him again about our Filipino veterans.

At APEC, together with 20 other leaders including president bush and the heads of big economies like China, Russia, Japan, Canada and Mexico among others, we resolved collectively to adopt policies that will reverse the direction of the global economy away from a creeping march towards another economic recession.

I hope you still remember that a year-and-a-half ago, I became President, first, I inherited an economy with 4 million jobless Filipinos and a 40 percent poverty incidence.

After a year-and-a-half in the presidency, I have come to realize that to overcome such tremendous odds, we must build a strong republic.

Upon the cornerstone of a strong republic, we have to build a structure of shared ethical values, a firm consensus to serve the common interest and a common vision of our national future, the goal to fight poverty and win it within the next 10 years.

In APEC, one of the rich countries there said that 10 years ago they had a 40 percent poverty incidence. After 10 years of constant and focused policy reforms its gone down to 20 percent. So they could do it — that's Chile — we can do it.

And this goal is uppermost in my work program for the rest of my administration as well as for the next six months. Even as we are resolving the terrorist threats in our country, I am focused on a tightly consolidated work program for the next six months which I'd like to share with you.

The first is to strengthen our small and medium enterprises. That's why earlier, when one of you asked me how can you help the Philippines, I said be an ambassador of our country to America. But secondly, I said when you send your remittances send it to your relatives as capital for their small and medium enterprises;

The second program is to jumpstart housing. And I may ask you, too. And if you asked me how you can help the Philippines? Participate in the Pag-Ibig program. You have it, Jun here in the consulate? Buy houses for your relatives in the Philippines. There are a number of good housing projects, and they would qualify the developers and also the take outs will qualify if the houses are anywhere from oh! 15,000 pesos to 2 million pesos. So you have your range for whatever house you think your relatives deserve;

My third work program is to reduce transport costs from Mindanao to Luzon;

The fourth is to begin the infrastructure that will decongest Metro Manila;

The fifth is to mark up the contribution of the PCGG to our fiscal resources;

The sixth is to make Makati a specific urban tourist destination for shopping holidays. It's very safe in Makati, easy to secure;

The seventh is to stimulate private investment in agriculture;

And the eighth is to begin the complete staff work to make the reclamation area in Roxas boulevard a tourism complex to be called "The Bagong Nayong Pilipino."

This work program for the next six months is a part of a bigger medium- term Philippine development plan to win the battle against poverty within the decade.

But, in looking to win the battle against poverty within the decade we must also seek permanent national stability.

Thus, I am happy to report to you that because of our aggressive drive against terrorism, despite the desperate resort to hit and run bombings, domestic terrorists particularly the Abu Sayyaf are on the run. They are hold up, the leaders, and the main fort are holed up in the mountain where they were born to begin with, an area where soldiers have never gone before. We are now into two months into a campaign that is called "operations end game". And we ask your prayers, too that this end game will end very soon. And I'm sure it will be, with the victory for the Philippine Armed Forces. Dapat naman kasi 'yung Deputy Chief of Staff for operations na pinili ko sa Armed Forces ay si Sammy Bagasit, anak ng isang beterano natin dito, ayun. Kaya magdasal tayo.

You heard about Zamboanga being bombed. Alam ninyo, nung nabomba 'yung Zamboanga kina-cancel ko sana lahat ng biyahe, 'yung buong biyahe sa APEC at lahat na ng biyahe sa side trips. Sabi nila, papaano maka-kanselin nakabili na ng tickets 'yung mga tiga-Los Angeles. So sabi ko, "nakul! papaano kaya 'yon." but God solved my dilemma. We captured the Zamboanga bombers kaya nakapunta ako rito. Nabasa ninyo na binomba doon sa Manila isang bus. We've also identified the mastermind of that latest bus bombing and so a massive manhunt is out there against him.

And today, I just got a report from Foreign Secretary Blas Ople that the European Union has officially placed in its agenda the terrorist character of the CPP-NPA. In addition, most of the European governments have indicated that they will individually support a bid to endorse the NPA as a terrorist organization to the United Nations.

We have crushed at least five of the most notorious kidnap-for-ransom gangs. And even the Philippine Chinese community, the favorite victim of those gangs have said that now all is quiet on the Binondo front.

Our campaign against terrorism and crime is reinforced by sound macroeconomic policies that have kept our nation at an even keel. Inflation is at a 12-year low, driven down by stable prices and declining power costs. Interest rates are at their lowest in 15 years. Kaya tamang-tama kung bibili kayo ng tahanan para sa mga kamag-anak ninyo.

International credit rating agencies have rated us as stable, when before I came in as president they rated us as negative. But since late 2001 they have rated us as stable.

And the regional GNP growth figures, our last figures for the first half of this year show a 5.2 percent growth rate in GNP that makes the Philippines the best performing economy in Southeast Asia. Actually, 'yung GDP natin 4.8. Naging 5.2 ang GNP natin dahil 'yung difference 'yon ang remittances na pinapadala ninyo sa atin. That's why your remittances have helped us grow higher than our neighboring countries. It's your remittances that made the difference so we became the best performing economy, or the third best performing economy in Asia and the first in Southeast Asia.

And we tried to use this performance for the betterment of the lives of the poor. The price of rice for the poor is stable at 14 to 16 pesos depending on where you buy it. About 200,000 urban poor families have acquired the right

to buy the land they occupy so that now they are no longer squatters. Schools are being built in barangays where there used to be none — 1,000 of them. And more than 3 million poor Filipinos now have health insurance. These achievements were only attained during my administration.

But no president can build a strong republic single-handedly. I can do it and do it well only if I can count on the support of the more than 2 million Filipino-Americans including the 150,000 Filipino-Americans here in San Diego.

And so before I join you for dinner I ask you, stay with me. Even as you are helping building America here in San Diego, help me build a strong Philippine republic.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Dinner with the Filipino Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210650/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8400&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the “Fil-Am Community Salutes the President” Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the “Fil-Am Community Salutes the President” Program**

[Delivered at the Davis Symphony Hall, October 29, 2002]

Thank you. Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Ambassador Del Rosario. I'd like to greet also Consul General Delia Meñez-Rosal; and I'd like to greet the Governor of the State of California, Governor Gray Davis. Thank you for providing veterans benefits ahead of the federal government; I'd like to thank San Francisco Mayor Willy Brown for his key to the city. Actually, this is the second key to the city. You gave me one when I was Vice President. But this is an upgraded one; maraming salamat kay Mrs. Loida Nicolas-Lewis, the National Chairperson of the National Federation of Filipino-American Association. Thank you for being here, part of the leadership that you display even if you are based in New York; and to Rodel Rodis, who was a very important and brilliant student leader in his time in the Philippines. Now a very important lawyer here. Thank you for your work as Northern California regional care of NAFFAA, and for helping put together... Being one of the leaders of that wonderful global reunion of Filipinos here in San Francisco, held here in San Francisco.

I'd like to introduce the members of my party. First of all, there is my husband Mike Arroyo; my Press Secretary Toting Bunye; I have another Cabinet member here, Secretary for Political Affairs Joey Rufino; and if you have any complaints whenever you arrive in Manila, we have the manager of the NAIA International Airport, Ed Manda.

So, I wanted to introduce the head of my Presidential Management Staff, but he's gone. He left already earlier. And so, I thank Ambassador Del Rosario and Consul General Delia Rosal for being part now of my delegation. And to all of you, good afternoon.

Malugud kung Cabalen Capangpangan, pasalamatan cu pung lubus ing pamanyatang yu ngening bengi.

Kada kayo nga kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko nga Ilokano gapo Pangasinan, agyamanak kada kayo umay kayo tatta nga rabi-i, rabi-in itatta. No, malemen pay, malem pay.

Sa akong mga kaubanang taga-Mindanao asa ako nidako, daghang salamat sa inyong pag-abot karong gabi-i una.

Kag sa kasimanwa sang akong bana nga Ilonggo, salamat gid nga nakakadto kamo sa atong programa subong.

At sa inyong lahat — dahil lahat ng Pilipino ay marunong mag-Tagalog, kahit iyung mga nasa San Francisco — maraming salamat sa inyong walang sawang pagtulong sa mga nangangailangan sa ating bansa.

Gaya nang sabi ko, kasama ko ngayong gabi iyung aking kabiya na si Attorney Jose Miguel Arroyo. Dahil noong araw pa, binata pa sila, ang pamilya nila ay parating dito. Dito nila ginaganap ang kanilang bakasyon. Favorite city ng aking mother-in-law. So, I think it would be accurate always to say that we always leave our hearts in San Francisco.

Noong unang ginawa iyung aking itinerary para sa APEC, technical stopover lamang ang ginawa nila mula sa Silicon Valley, dahil nanggaling na raw ako dito noong isang taon. At sabi nila malamang iyung mga taga San Francisco pupunta sa Silicon Valley. Tamang-tama marami nga sa inyo nandoon kahapon. Kaya lang sinabi ko, gusto kong makipag-usap muli sa ating mga napakaraming kaibigan sa San Francisco. Marami silang gustong sabihin sa akin. Kaya one more day, doon tayo sa San Francisco. Kaya ako ay narito ngayon kasama ninyo. At doon naman sa narito ngayon, kahit na nandito kayo noong isang taon, at doon sa mga narito ngayon, kahit nandoon kayo kahapon, lalong maraming salamat sa inyo.

I would like to greet, aside from Mayor Willy Vrown, two other City Mayors, both Filipino City Mayors and we are very proud of them. There's Henry Manayan from Melphitas. You know Henry Manayan is on his last term like Mayor Brown. And well, he's been such a good Filipino here in Silicon Valley. He wants to be a good Filipino representing Philippine interest in the state assembly next time around. I'd like to greet the other city mayor, Filipino city mayor in the Filipino city of California bay area and that is Mayor Mike Guingona of Daly City.

I remember Mike Guingona was there in one of my meetings with the Filipino community in Daly City when I was a senator. And I was telling some of you, some of the San Francisco community about the bill that U had filed then on overseas voting. Well, Loida is right, I prefer to call it overseas voting than absentee voting. But like many other overseas voting bills or absentee voting bills — whatever you call them — before I filed mine and after I filed mine, my bill at that time didn't even progress beyond the committee level.

So when I became president, I certified as one of my five most urgent bills, the Overseas Voting Bill.

And so now I am glad that for the first time, after so many attempts in so many administrations, the overseas voting bill passed both Houses of Congress just a few days ago. Now, let us pray that the Senate and the House can iron out their conflicting provisions soon. And when I go back to Manila, I will convey to them your own recommendations about what the final version should be. And as soon as they reconcile their conflicting versions, I will sign it into law within 24 hours.

The other bill that is so important for you, especially for those who have been here for a long time and have become citizens is the Dual Citizenship Bill. And this is another one of my five most urgent bills that I told Congress about. It has also passed third and final reading in the Senate.

And here in the United States, we continue to work for the benefit of Filipino veterans of World war II. Loida told you that when I saw President Bush, my last parting words to him was "don't forget the Filipino Veterans." Last year, in my first shot when I met him, my first words were, "we've been your partner for so long, don't forget our Filipino Veterans." And at that time, President Bush told me, "yes." His administration would review the services and benefits for Filipino Veterans. And I'm so happy that for the first time, after so many attempts, the Veterans Bill, the Veterans Health Bill was passed in the U.S. Congress. It was passed last July to provide health care for U.S. Filipino veterans worth 65 million u.s. dollars. The appropriation measure is now in the U.S. Senate committee, in the Committee on Veterans Affairs. Upon my request, President Bush has indicated his support for the Veterans Health Bill. Therefore, I ask the Filipino-American community to contact your Senators and ask them to urge the Committee on Veterans Affairs to put the bill to a vote. That should be your job now as Filipino-Americans voting for them.

Meanwhile... Thank you. Thank you for representing the five percent of the Filipino people who don't like Americans. But 95 percent of the people do and I represent them.

Meanwhile, while we're waiting for the Veterans Health Bill to get passed by the U.S. Senate Committee, the Bush administration on the executive side is giving veterans assistance for the Philippines in the amount of 500,000 dollars per year. Again, for the first time, after so many attempts in so many administrations. Furthermore, the first 500,000 dollars will be given to the Philippine government this month of October.

I think we could not have gotten this far, passing it in the house and getting it into the Senate Committee if not for the good work of the Filipino-American community. So, we laud you and congratulate you for your work in bringing the Filipino Veterans Bill this far at last.

We also laud the initiative of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations headed by Loida and the American Civil Liberties Union in filing a petition for injunction to stop the enforcement of the U.S. citizen requirement for the federalized job of airport screeners. We agree that experience matters in securing U.S. airports and planes. Though this may be an internal issue to the U.S., I have asked Ambassador Del Rosario to make known our sentiments on the matter before the appropriate U.S. officials.

I am here in California for the same reason I was in Mexico at the APEC leaders meeting: to focus on the security and economy of the Philippines. In this interconnected world, opening a door in Silicon Valley can help open an opportunity for job creation in the Philippines.

Whether it's a fight against global terrorism or improving education, at the end of the day, it is always about the economy and improving the lives of our Philippine citizens.

If you remember, when I became president 21 months ago, I inherited an economy with 4 million jobless Filipinos and a 40 percent poverty incidence.

Today, despite the global slowdown, despite the slowdown in Silicon Valley which is our number one single export market, we had a healthy economy that has delivered one of the highest growth rates in the world for the first half of 2002. We are also taking steps to further strengthen our macro-economic fundamentals. We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to reduce our deficit. And in this regard, we believe that the revenue enhancement measures being implemented by the bureau of internal revenue, as well as the strict controls on government spending that have been instituted will support our success on this front.

As we do this, we will focus on the positive indicators of strength of our domestic driven economy, such things as:

Growth in the Philippines has been fueled this past year by among others continued strength of services and a strong recovery in our industrial sector. The growth in the services sector has been supported by continued expansion in telecoms, trade and private success. May I say that our rebound in manufacturing — which is negative last year — was a result of our rebounding exports, and services has grown and has fueled also our ICT industry. Another one of the services that has grown very fast is tourism. And I thank you, the Filipino-Americans for continuing to be our balikbayan tourists. Another source of growth this past year has been the non-bank and insurance industries. They have pushed the finance sector to post the highest growth in the last four years. The growth in industrial sector has been led by manufacturing particularly manufactured exports. Private construction is on the rebound. In the agriculture sector, fisheries and forestry have been particularly strong. Inflation is at a 15-year low, so with interest rates. And we have increasing levels of remittances from overseas Filipinos, from you — up 39 percent in the last six months. What you have sent your relatives has boosted personal consumption and fueled our domestic economy. Last year, you remitted a total of 6 billion U.S. dollars. This year — yes, thank you. This year, for the first six months alone you already remitted 4 billion U.S. dollars. Filipino-Americans make up one-third of our overseas Filipinos, but you bring two-thirds of our overseas remittances to the Philippines. Thank you so much for your support. On our part, government consumption, it has been flat because we need fiscal discipline, and we are therefore permitting private-sector led growth. Our exports which have fueled our manufacturing increase, are up. They have grown by 20 percent.

When I visited Andy Grove yesterday, and I told him in INTEL that our exports have increased 20 percent fueled by our increase exports to silicon valley, he said, "how surprising because Silicon Valley's growth has been flat." But the reason why our exports have grown 20 percent, why our electronic exports have grown is not because the total market has grown but because we have gotten more market share from other producers.

Our main battle is to win against poverty within the decade. But because of the world around us today, the world of the war against terrorism, we must also seek permanent national stability.

Thus, I would like to report to you that because of our aggressive drive against terrorism, despite the desperate resort to hit and run bombings, the domestic terrorists particularly Abu Sayyaf are on the run. We have captured the Zamboanga bombers. We have even captured one of the perpetrators of the bus bombing in Manila.

We have crushed at least five kidnap-for-ransom syndicates, as a result of which the Filipino-Chinese community, which is the favorite victim of these kidnap gangs, tells me now that all is quiet on the Binondo front.

These macro statistics translate also into benefits for the poor. The price of rice for the poor is stable at 14 and 16 pesos depending on where you buy it. Some 200,000 urban families, urban poor families have acquired the right to buy the land that they occupy, so they are no longer squatters.

Schools are being built in barangays where there used to be none, there are 1,000 of these type of barangays. And more than 3 million Filipino, poor Filipino people now have health insurance — something you take for granted here in America. These achievements were attained during the 21 months of my administration.

For the next six months, even as we are resolving the terrorist threats in our country, I am focused on a tightly consolidated eight-point work program:

The first is to strengthen our small and medium enterprises. The Central Bank is relaxing its financial document requirements for loans to them, and the field offices of the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) are mandated to concentrate their services on assisting these SMEs with their project proposal documents required to access bank money.

You can help this program especially through your Adopt-a-Barangay by providing a million pesos livelihood for the barangays that you have adopted, because that will go along way. Small and medium enterprises are the most efficient users of capital in our economy. So, until exports revive, or until silicon valley recovers, until the world economy recovers, we must build up domestic demand. We must give the power to the SMEs to do their work efficiently as they do with capital.

These goals really are uppermost in my work program for the next six months as we resolve the terrorist threats in our country.

This a tightly consolidated work program. I'm giving my personal attention to this first, which is the small and medium enterprise development:

To strengthen our small and medium enterprises is the first;

The second program is to jumpstart housing. And again, you can help because you buy houses for your folks back home. Housing has the biggest multiplier and there is bank money for housing — the central bank is relaxing the requirements;

The third is to reduce transport costs from Mindanao to Luzon;

The fourth is to begin the infrastructure that will decongest Metro Manila;

The fifth is to mark up the contribution of the PCGG to our fiscal resources;

The sixth is to make Makati a specific urban tourist destination for your safe shopping;

The seventh is to stimulate private investment in agriculture;

The eighth is to begin the complete staff work to make the reclamation area in Roxas Boulevard a tourism complex to be called 'The Bagong Nayong Pilipino'.

But no president can build a strong republic single handedly. I can do this well only if I can count on the support of the almost 3 million Filipino-Americans especially the extra active Filipino-Americans of California and San Francisco.

And so I ask you, stay with me. Even as you continue to help build this great American nation, help me build a strong Philippine republic.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the "Fil-Am Community Salutes the President" Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210643/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8399&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community in Cambodia

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a meeting with the Filipino community in Cambodia

[Delivered at the Tonle Sap Ballroom, Hotel Cambodiana, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, November 3, 2002]

Maraming salamat, ginoong Tony Gomez. Talagang pwede kang ipagmalaki ng Pilipinas. Ikaw pala ‘yung nagtayo ng magandang airport doon sa bandang Angkor Wat. Congratulations.

Kanina pinakilala na sa inyo si Secretary Blas Ople. Dapat bigyan natin siya ng magandang bati dahil kakagaling lang n’ya sa Europe at ‘yung mga matatagal ng kinakalaban ni Ambassador Gazmin noong siya ay heneral ay dahil sa mabisang misyon ni Secretary Ople ay naturang bilang terorismo — international terrorist. Congratulations, Secretary Ople. Nandito rin si Secretary Manuel Roxas, ang ating Secretary of Trade and Industry na nagtatangol parati ng karapatan ng Pilipinas sa ating iba’t-ibang negosasyon maging sa Asean. Kaya ito po si Secretary Mar Roxas.

At kanina nakilala na ninyo si Secretary Richard Gordon. Marami ba ang magdadala ng V-12 tourist doon sa Pilipinas? Gusto ko ipakilala rin sa inyo muli si Press Secretary Toting Bunye. Kung sakaling may mga bandang Muntinlupa dito, s’ya ‘yung dating Congressman at Mayor ng Muntinlupa; at ‘yung ating eksperto sa BIMP-EAGA, ‘yung isang sub-grouping sa ASEAN, si Secretary Paul Dominguez; mukhang hindi pa n’yo masyadong kilala ‘yung namumuno ng Presidential Management Staff, si Secretary Yongyong Afable; doon nakaupo naman ‘yung namumuno ng Philippine International Trading Corporation, eto is Tony Abad. Kung meron sa inyong gustong mangalakal sa Pilipinas, ‘yan ang isang magandang paraan dadaan sa PITC kasi developmental ang kanyang trading.

At siyempre binabati ko si Ambassador Volts Gazmin. Salamat sa iyong pag-aalaga sa dalawang libong Pilipinong nandito sa Cambodia. Maging sa relasyon natin sa Cambodia. Alam n’yo bagay na bagay si Ambassador Gazmin dito dahil ‘yung namumuno ng Cambodia ay isang heneral din at magaling mag-golf. So, bagay na bagay sila. Kaya maganda rin ang relasyon ng Pilipinas at Cambodia. Kasi isang importante rin dapat magka-vibes ‘yung ambassador at saka ‘yung head of government. Ganun din ‘yung mga ibang bansa sa Pilipinas eh. Ang dami doon, pag may bagong ambassador babae ang pinapadala. So, binabagay talaga sa head of government ‘yung ambassador.

At sa inyong lahat naman hindi lang kay Ginoong Gomez, lahat kayong mga FilCom officers at saka members, Filipino community binabati ko dahil kung saan-saan pala kayong bahagi ng Cambodia dumating dito para sa itong affair na ito, salamat. At ito ba, palagay ko kayo ay... At gusto ko rin batiin si Father Ochoa. Meron pa palang Don Bosco dito. Ang galing, parang Philippines... Away from the Philippines ang Don Bosco. At kayong lahat, palagay ko kayo ay microcosm din ng ating cultural diversity sa Pilipinas.

Atin bang Capangpangan keti? Pasalamatan cung lubus ing pamanyatang yu ngening aldo.

Adta kakailyak nga Ilokano. Kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko nga ilokano gapo Pangasinan, agiaman kadakayo nga umay kayo tatta nga aldaw.

Dunay taga-mMindanao, asa na dugay si Ambassador Gazmin isip commander ug asa nagikan si Secretary Paul Dominguez. So, daghan salamat ako sab didto ko nidako. O, ni alam n’yo, sa Iligan city. Didto sab nadugay si Ambassador Gazmin. So, sa aton mga kaubanan didto, daghang salamat sa inyong pag-abot karong adlaw.

Sa mga kasimanwa ni Secretary Roxas nga Ilonggo, kasimanwa sab sang akong bana, salamat gid nga nakadto kamo sa atong programa subong.

At sa inyong lahat, saan man kayo nanggaling sa Pilipinas. Saan man kayo nanggaling sa Cambodia, ako'y natutuwa sa inyong pagdalo ngayong hapon. Ang inyong pagbibigay halaga sa ating pagtitipon-tipon ngayon ay isang tunay na pagmamalasakit at pagmamahal sa ating bayan, sa ating pamahalaan, at sa buong sambayanang Pilipino.

I am very proud that Filipinos have been worthy partners of the people of Cambodia in nation-building. I understand that this started when the first Filipinos arrived here during the early 1990s when Ambassador Gazmin was the head of the Presidential Security Group at that time. And when this country was still in turbulent times and the United Nations transitional authority came to Cambodia to supervise Cambodia's administration and help create an atmosphere in which free elections could take place. Your contribution to democracy is important as our contribution as a country is important. You were sent here to oversee the transition to democracy because Filipinos, the Philippines, we are the most vibrant and dynamic democracy in Asia, and we are very proud of it, and we are very proud of you.

Since then, Filipinos here in Cambodia have made your mark after just one decade as managers, engineers — ayan si Tony — teachers, school administrators, entertainers, doctors, social workers, agricultural experts, members of religious organizations like father Ochoa, and many other callings. And you have been exemplars — gaya ng sabi ni ambassador — of the great Filipino worker known worldwide for discipline, talent, professionalism and a shepherding and compassionate spirit.

My administration is determined to bring government closer to our people, including our overseas Filipinos.

Even when I was a senator, together with Senator Ople then, I already felt that way. That's why when I was a senator, and Secretary Ople was also a senator, separately we filed our overseas voting bills, but like many other overseas voting bills before and after ours, our bills did not even progress at that time beyond the committee level.

That's why when I became president, I certified as one of my five most urgent bills the overseas voting bill.

And so now at last, for the first time after so many attempts, the overseas voting bill has passed both houses of congress. Most of you are Filipino citizens still so let's pray that the house and the senate can iron out their conflicting provisions soon because as soon as they do so I will sign the bill into law within 24 hours.

Through this act of empowerment, we envision our overseas Filipinos like you to have greater stake in governance and the future direction of our country even if you are here. We want you to maintain your bond with your homeland and deepen further your appreciation of your national identity.

I encourage you all — sabi kasi ni Tony gusto n'yang tumulong — one way by which you can help is to be our ambassadors of goodwill and maintain our friendly relations with the Cambodian government and people.

As you know, I'm here in Cambodia for the ASEAN leaders' meeting. I'm here for the same reason I was in Mexico at the APEC leaders' meeting last week: to focus on the economy and the security of the Philippines. Whether it's a fight against global terrorism or improving education which many of you are doing here in Cambodia, at the end of the day, it is always about the economy and improving the lives of our Philippine citizens.

If you remember, when I became president 21 months ago, I inherited an economy with 4 million jobless Filipinos and a 40 percent poverty incidence.

Today, inspite of the global slowdown we have an economy that has delivered one of the highest growth rates in Asia, and we're also taking further steps to strengthen our macroeconomic fundamentals. We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to reduce our budget deficit and, in this regard, I believe that the revenue enhancement measures being implemented by the bureau of internal revenue as well as our strict controls on government spending that have been instituted will support our success on this front.

As we do this, we will focus on the positive indicators of the strength of our domestic driven economy. This includes such things as:

Growth, as I said earlier. One of the highest in Asia maybe in the world. This has been fueled by among other factors the continued strength of services and a strong delivery in our industrial sector;

Why have the services been so strong? The growth has been supported by continued expansion in telecommunications, trade and private services including tourism. I don't know if Dick has told you that the October figures of tourism show a growth rate of 4 percent inspite of the Bali bombing.

Eh, noon ngang nagkaroon ng Dos Palmas incident, 'yung may-ari ng Pearl Farm linagay pa nila 'yung kanilang regional headquarter sa Pilipinas, even after the Dos Palmas incident. At kahit na nangyari itong mga bombing ngayon, nandun si Dick, naka-naka-organize pa s'ya ng world tourism organization, anti-terrorism summit na gaganapin doon sa Manila at the end of this week. Kaya tuloy ang ating turismo.

The non-bank financial institutions and insurance industries have also pushed the finance sector to post the highest growth in four years; and as for the growth in the industrial sector. This has been led by manufacturing which was negative last year but now it's a leading sector for growth particularly manufactured exports, because exports are up by 20 percent;

Private construction is on the rebound; and in the agricultural sector, fisheries and forestry have been particularly strong; inflation is at a 15-year low so with interest rates; and we have — thanks to you — increasing levels of remittances from overseas Filipinos, up 39 percent from January to June 2002. This has boosted the personal consumption of your relatives. Last year, you, the overseas Filipinos remitted 6 billion dollars. This year, for the first half year alone you have already remitted 4 billion dollars. Thank you so much for your support. But because of our budget deficit, government spending has been flat, permitting the private sector to lead the growth.

Thus, for the next six months, even as we are resolving the terrorist threats in our country, I am focused on a tightly consolidated eight-point work program to push private sector-led growth:

The first is to strengthen our small and medium enterprises. To do this, the central bank is relaxing its financial documentary requirements for loans to small and medium enterprises. And the field offices of Mar Roxas, the DTI are mandated to concentrate their services on assisting the SMEs with project proposal documents required to access bank money.

Salamat nasabi ni Tony, gusto n'yong tumulong sa pangkabuhayan ng Pilipinas. Kaya pag magpapadala kayo ng remittances sa inyong mga kamag-anak para magtayo sila ng maliliit na negosyo, sabihin n'yo rin pwede na silang magpatulong sa dti para 'yung padala ninyo 'yon ang equity tapos pwede pa ring i-leverage 'yon at humiram sa mga bangko dahil ini-encourage natin ngayon silang humiram sa SMEs.

The second program is to jumpstart housing. There are eight big developers in our country and they're taking a leap of faith. They are going back into housing construction after three years that they've been do so. And for the first time, they're going to do end-user financing.

Sabi ni Tony, gusto n'yong tumulong sa pabahay. Unfortunately, walang pag-ibig dito. Kaya si Yongyong Afaible na ang aking pms para hindi ko makalimutan, sasabihin ko kay Yongyong na sabihin n'ya sa pag-ibig magpadala sila ng selling mission dito para makapag.... Sa ganun makapag-member kayo o kung members na 'yung mga kamag-anak ninyo ay makapagbili kayo ng bahay, pabahay para sa kanila.

The third is to reduce transport costs from Mindanao to Luzon. The policy reforms have already been done to reduce port fees. Now, the Development Bank of the Philippines has 20 billion pesos to lend to investors on a roll-on/roll-off port and ferry system including access roads, maritime institutes, vocational and technical schools, and post-

harvest facilities to put together a sustainable logistic system connecting the islands of our archipelago. Para diretso, diretso anywhere from Mindanao, anywhere to Luzon.

The fourth is to begin the infrastructure that will decongest Metro Manila. This means beginning the construction of the system that will complete the mass transit system in metro manila, also that will connect Manila to Clark-Subic by train, and Manila to Batangas port by a modern highway. We want to start this construction within the next six months.

The fifth is to mark up the contribution of the PCGG to our fiscal resources by pushing for an early decision on the Marcos deposits in the Philippine National Bank and the liquification of the government's 27 percent share in San Miguel Corporation.

The sixth is to make Makati a specific urban tourist destination. This will cater to the most important specific tourist market segment today — the working Japanese female who likes to go on group shopping holidays.

The seventh is to stimulate private investment in agriculture. We are pushing legislation to allow farmer-beneficiaries to sell their land so it can be used as collateral.

And the eighth is to begin the complete staff work to make the reclamation area in Roxas Boulevard a tourism complex to be called 'The Bagong Nayong Pilipino.'

Our main goal for all of these is to win the battle against poverty within the decade. But as mentioned by Tony, we must also seek permanent national stability.

Thus, I'd like to report to you that because of our aggressive drive against terrorism, despite that sometimes they desperately resort to some hit and run bombings, the domestic terrorists specially the Abu Sayyaf are on the run. We have captured the bombers of Zamboanga of October and also one of the perpetrators of the bus bombing in Manila. All saints' day was very peaceful because of our alert law enforcers, soldiers and intelligence agents who hardened the terrorists' target.

Alam mo, dumating ako sa Manila mula sa APEC, November 2. I left San Francisco, Manila time, about noon time, 1 o'clock pm. So I called up... before I left I called up Secretary Reyes — Defense Secretary. "Kumusta na d'yan?" "Everything is quite," sabi n'ya. "No untoward incidents." so I hopped on the plane. I don't know what happened on the other half of November 1. When I got back, I asked the Chief of Staff, General Defensor, "O, kumusta?" "Fine, everything peaceful." at nagbibiruan pa. Siguro ikikwento ko 'yung isang biro ko. In announce na raw ng military na they're gonna field so many policemen, so many soldiers, so many dogs, sniffing dogs. Ah, inannounce ni ... Kaya tuloy ang dami nagtext raw kay General Ebdane ng Chief ng Philippine National Police kasi fieldings so many dogs in the cemeteries... Nag-text sila, "Salamat sa pagkain." anyway, two hundred dogs... Pero two hundred dogs pa rin ang bumalik. Kaya biro lang 'yon.

We have crushed at least five kidnap-for-ransom gangs. And the Chinese-Filipino community na s'ya ang paboritong biktima itong mga gang na ito, sabi nila sa ngayon matahimik doon sa Binondo.

These macro statistics translate into benefits for the poor. The price of rice for the poor is stable at 14 to 16 pesos depending on where you buy it. 'Yung rice for the poor 'yung regular-milled rice. Pero ngayon pati raw 'yung well-milled rice 18 pesos na lamang. And some 200,000 urban poor families have acquired the right to buy the land that they are occupying, so that they're not squatters anymore. Schools are being built in barangays where there used to be none, about a thousand of them. And more than 3 million poor Filipinos now have health insurance. These achievements we attained during the short period of the 21 months of my administration.

But, no president can build a strong republic single-handedly. I can continue to do this and do this better only if I can count on the support of the more than 7 million Filipinos overseas.

You are part of this wellspring of support, the network of Filipinos all over the world that I'm counting on.

Kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa binanggit nga ni Tony, inyong pagmamalasakit sa ating kapwa pilipino at sa ating bayan. Ipagpatuloy natin ang ating... At ang inyong magandang gawain, ang ating pagbubuklod-buklod, at ang ating pagkakaisa. Dahil tuloy pang mahirap ang hinaharap ng ating mundo. Kaya mas lalong kailangan ang ating sariling sikap at pagkakaisa.

And so, even as you are here helping build the renewed Cambodian nation, help me too to build a strong Philippine republic.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Cambodia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210632/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8489&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community in Vietnam

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino community in Vietnam**

[Delivered at Function Rooms 1 and 2, Mezzanine, Melia Hanoi Hotel, Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam,
November 6, 2002]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Blas Ople.

At gusto ko ring batiin ang ating Ambassador dito sa Vietnam, si Ambassador Willy Wong; salamat rin kay Mr. Joel Mermida, ang ating pangulo ng samahang Pilipino dito sa North part ng Vietnam. Salamat sa inyong magandang sinabi; at salamat din kay Gerry Paglinawan. Sorry, at hindi ako nakapunta ngayon sa Ho Chi Minh City. Salamat at ikaw ang pumunta rito.

Gusto ko muling ipakilala ang mga kasapi ng Philippine delegation. Narito si Secretary Ignacio Bunye. Sa kabila ni Secretary Ople na nabati na natin si Secretary Ignacio Bunye, siya ang ating Press Secretary; si Secretary Silvestre o Yongyong Afable, siya ang namumuno ng Presidential Management Staff; at saka ‘yung pangulo ng Philippine International Trading Corporation — wala s’ya dito sa head — ayon si Tony Abad. At... Kasi dito sa Vietnam state trading ang ginagawa kaya dala-dala ko din ‘yung presidente ng ating state trading para baka kayo makahanap kayo ng oportunidad sa pangangalakal, kontakin ninyo si Tony Abad bilang counterpart doon sa Pilipinas.

At kayong lahat naman mga minamahal kong kababayan dito sa Vietnam, magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat.

Balam mu atin kung cabaleng keti. Maupad na panapon , dakal na salamat.

Adta ngarod nga Ilokano. Kakailyan, kakailyan ni mamang ko, mga gapo ti Pangasinan, naimbag nga malemyo amen, apo.

Ug dunay... Oo, dunay balai taga-Mindanao diri? Ah, ok. Asa ko nidako, maayong udto kaninyong tanan.

Kag sa kasimanwa sang akong bana, kon may-ara, ha? Ilonggo? Oy, si Tony, ayon. Maayong ugto sa inyo nga tanan.

At sa lahat sa inyo, ako ay nagpapasalamat na kayo ay pumunta rito. Limang daan ang Pilipino dito sa Vietnam. ‘Di one-fifth ng Filipino ay narito na, magkasama tayong lahat. Maraming salamat.

At bagamat maliit ang Philippine community dito, sa pagka-alam ko na nga na dito sa Pilipinas ang mga Overseas Filipino ay maganda ang inyong kontribusyon dito sa Vietnam. Halos lahat ng Overseas Filipino workers dito ay professionals, matataas ang pwesto n’yo sa management, sa executive position. Kaya binabati ko kayong lahat at nagpapasalamat ako sa inyong tulong din sa inyong mga kamag-anak at sa ating ekonomiya.

Ako’y pumunta rito dahil inimbata ako ng pangulo ng Vietnam, si president Tran Duc Luong dahil siya rin ay nagbisita sa Pilipinas. At dumaan nga ako dito mula sa Cambodia kung saan ako ay nagdalo sa ASEAN meeting.

Ako'y nagpunta sa Cambodia para sa ASEAN meeting sa parehong dahilan kung ba't ako ay pumunta sa Mexico para sa APEC Leaders' Meeting, at 'yon ay para ilakad na makasigurado ang ekonomiya at ang seguridad ng ating bansang Pilipinas. Kasi, whether ang pinupuntahan natin ay para labanan ang mga gumawa ng alyansa kontra sa global terrorism o magbisita dito na ang Vietnam ay isa sa pinakamalaking supplier pag tayo ay nag-i-import ng bigas. Lahat n'yan ay parating para sa ekonomiya at kung papano aangat ang buhay ng ating mga mamamayan.

'Yung aking administrasyon ang kanyang hangad ay talagang maglingkod ang pamahalaan sa ating mamamayan. Maging nasa Pilipinas o maging nasa ibang bansa.

Kaya noong ako ay senador pa kasama ako ni Senator Ople. Kami, noon pa ay naniniwala na dapat ang mga Pilipinong nasa ibang bansa ay pwedeng bumoto sa ating bansa. Kami ay nag-author ng Overseas Voting Bill noong pa'y kami ay kapwa senador. Kanya lamang 'yung mga bill na 'yon — hindi lang 'yung aming fi-nile, 'yung iba pa — ay hindi lumalampas sa committee on suffrage. Kaya noong ako ay naging pangulo. Sabi ko sa ating senado at kongreso, meron akong limang batas na pinakakailangan. Binanggit ko 'yung mga batas na 'yon at isa nga doon ay 'yung overseas voting bill. Kaya ngayon sa wakas, pagkatapos ng napakaraming beses na sinikap na i-file — halimbawa, kami ni Secretary Ople — ngayon lamang umabot sa wakas na napasa na 'yung panukalang batas sa Kongreso at napasa na rin sa senado. Ngayon, kaka-report lang ni Secretary Ople sa akin na nandoon, nagmi-miting ngayon 'yung senador at Congressmen sa tinatawag na bicameral conference committee, at doon ay pinagtatalo nila 'yung kanilang dalawang magka-ibang version. Kaya inaasahan ko at magdasal tayo na sa madaling panahon ay magkaisa sila, magkasundo sila sa isang version lamang. Dahil kung magkasundo na sila sa loob ng beinte kwatro oras ay pipirmahan ko na para maka-boto ang Pilipino sa ibang bansa.

Dahil inaasahan ko na pag kayo ay may pagkakataon na maka-boto mas lalo pang interesado kayo at mas lalo pang tutulong kayo sa mga pangangailangan ng ating bansa kahit na kayo ay nasa ibang bansa.

Siguro kung naalala ninyo dahil marami naman sa inyo ay hindi long-term na narito. Baka nand'yan sa Pilipinas noong ako ay naging pangulo o bago nasara 'yung sandali 'yung Filipino channel nakakapanood kayo. Noong ako ay unang naging pangulo, ang bansa na aking minana ay may apat na milyong Pilipinong walang trabaho at ang poverty rate ay 40 percent.

Kanina nag-kukwento kami ng Secretary of Health ng Vietnam, 'yung babae. Siya kasi ang aking minister-in-attendance. At sabi n'ya dito sa Vietnam, 12 million Vietnamese ay mahirap. Ang population nila ay 78 million. Tayo, population natin ay 78 million din pero 30 million Filipinos ay mahirap. Kaya mas malaki pa ang hamon na minana ko kaysa ang sitwasyon ng Vietnam ngayon bilang kahirapan ng ating bansa.

Ngunit sa ating pagsisikap, meron na ring konting mga bungang lumilitaw. Ngayon, kayo hindi n'yo siguro masyadong nararamdaman dito sa Vietnam dahil malakas ang pag-angat ng Vietnam, pero sa ibang bahagi ng mundo talagang may global slowdown. Ngunit tayo, ang Pilipinas kasama ng Vietnam, tayo ang pinaka masasabi nating kasama sa pinakamatataas na growth rate dito sa Asia. At sinisikap din natin na ibayuhin 'yung ating kailangang gawin para 'yung ating mga tinatawag na macroeconomic fundamentals ay ating makamit.

Halimbawa, tuloy-tuloy tayo na sinisikap natin na 'yung ating budget deficit ay mababa at ang gusto nating gawin dito para bumaba ang ating deficit ay: isa, ikontrol ang paggastos ng gobyerno; at pangalawa — mas importante — iangat ang ating koleksyon ng mga buwis through better efforts at efficiency, and also fighting corruption.

Pag-usapan natin 'yung corruption ng ating bansa. Importante kasi na kung tayo ay talagang aangat, kailangan natin ng good governance. At ako ay naniniwala na kung gusto nating labanan ang corruption, kailangan nagsisimula ang halimbawa sa pinakamataas. Kaya ako, kahit na 'yung aking asawa hindi exempted. Naniniwala ako na 'yung mga nag aatake sa kanya, 'yon ay pulitika. Ngunit kahit na pulitika, sinasabi ko pa rin sa kanya, "eh di sige, gusto kang i-investigate, magpa-investigate ka." kasi ang kabutihan noon kahit pulitika dahil siya ay nagpakumbaba at hinarap n'ya ang mga investigation, ngayon tuloy umangat ang aking moral authority para mag-investigate na rin kahit kanino.

Kaya gusto kong isigurado sa inyo na ginagawa nating lahat para magkaroon ang taumbayang Pilipinas nang tinatawag nating professional and clean government. Kasi 'yon ang talagang nararapat para sa inyo.

Halimbawa, meron na tayong e-procurement sa gobyerno. So, marami tayong savings at kumokonti pa ang katiwalian sa mga bidding. At meron akong Presidential Anti-Graft Commission. Sila ay nag-e-examine, nag-i-investigate ng mga matataas na appointees. At meron d'yang mga government board corporations, meron d'yang mga bureau directors. Ah, pagmalakas ang ebidensya o malaki ang iskandalo ay sinasabi ko kahit na ini-investigate pa lang mag leave of absence na, at habang na-investigate... Para iba na ang maglilingkod.

At ngayon, 'yung corruption naman sa mga husgado. Meron tayong separation of powers. Ganun pa man, kasama na ang Supreme Court sa ilalim ng liderato ni Chief Justice Davide, sabay nagpo-prosecute ng mga erring prosecutors at nagpo-prosecute pati ng mga... 'Yung mga huwes. At ang ginawa ko, na 'yung bir na gaya ng sabi ko umaangat na ngayon ang kanilang collection nga dahil dito sa anti-graft drive. Pati Customs 'yon ang gusto kong gawing showcase doon sa atinglaban kontra sa katiwalian. At ito ay tuloy-tuloy pa rin ng ating trabaho. Layunin nito para bumuti ang ating ekonomiya, para magkaroon ng trabaho ang ating mamamayan.

Gaya ng sabi ko kanina, na kasama ng Vietnam, tayo ay umaangat ng mataas haming sa buong mundo. At ang nagpapa-angat sa ating ekonomiya ay 'yung ating services. Hindi nakakagulat na kayo ay narito dahil services ang inyong specialty. Services rin ang nagpapa-angat sa ating bansa ngayon sa Pilipinas.

Kasama dito sa services na umaangat sa Pilipinas, pinakamabilis na pag-angat telecommunications sector. Tapos 'yung trade, pangangalakal at saka private services na kasama ang tourism.

Alam n'yo tinatanong ni Prime Minister Mahathir sa akin noong isang araw, "kumusta 'yung growth rate ng inyong tourism?" nagulat siya nung sinabi ko na 'yung October figures natin, October last year to October this year, 40 percent ang ating growth rate ng tourism.

Tapos 'yung mga insurance at iba pang mga financial institutions maliban sa bangko, sila ay umaangat ngayon, the highest growth rate in the last four years. Doon sa industriya last year, negative ang ating growth rate ng industriya. Pero ngayon nag-recover lalo na dahil nag-recover ang ating exports. At ang ating... Ito rin ang isang nakakagulat. Tinatanong din sa akin nila — sino nga ba 'yon? — sina thaksin ng thailand, kumusta 'yung ating exports. Sabi ko 20 percent growth. Ang gulat n'ya. Pati nga sa Silicon Valley, si Andy Grove ng Intel, sinabi ko 20 percent growth, ang gulat n'ya. Sabi n'ya, "bakit?" sabi ko, dahil sa electronics export. Sabi n'ya, "bakit, hindi naman umaangat ang Silicon Valley." ang paliwanag ng mga manufacturers sa Pilipinas ay dahil... Hindi dahil lumaki ang market kung hindi nakakuha tayo market share sa ibang bansa dahil efficient ang ating workforce.

'Yung private construction ay bumabalik na rin. At sa agrikultura ang lumakas 'yung fisheries at forestry. At sana totoo 'yung nabasa ko sa peryodiko kahapon o kanina ba 'yon, na nagkaroon tayo ng bumper crop. Ewan ko, baka si Mr. Co can tell me kung totoo 'yon o hindi. Kasi kung hindi, nandito siya para bumili ng bigas dito sa Vietnam.

'Yung... At siyempre... At saka 'yung inflation natin nabasa ko din sa peryodiko kanina. Again, bumaba na naman ang ating inflation rate, 2.9 percent or 2.7 percent. Kaya mahina ang pag-akyat ng presyo. Sana nararamdaman ng taumbayan na 'yung presyo ng bigas ay hindi tumataas. I mean 16 to 18 pesos para sa mahihirap... Ay no, 14 to 16 'yung bigas ng mahihirap, 18 na 'yung bigas ng mga maykaya. Tapos nun 'yung pang syempre ang ating big saver. Kung four or four-and-a-half ang growth rate ng GDP nagiging 5.2 ang growth rate ng GNP dahil 'yon ang kasama na ang remittances ng mga Pilipino kagaya ninyo.

Noong isang taon, kayong mga Pilipino, ang pinadala ninyo sa Pilipinas 6 billion dollars. Ngayon, for the first three quarters of the year, 6.4 billion dollars na ang pinadala ninyo. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

At ang gobyerno, gaya ng sabi ko, hindi inaangat ang gastos para sa ganun ang ating... Lahat nitong development na sinabi ko sa inyo, ito ay private sector led. 'Yung mga bunga, macro statistics ito eh. Pero gusto kong sabihin, anong ibig sabihin ng inflation rate na 2.7 or 2.9 percent lamang. Ibig sabihin noon, gaya ng sabi ko 'yung bigas, at ibig sabihin din noon na may ibang mga bunga para sa mahihirap. Halimbawa 'yung mga squatters sa metro manila,

200,000 families ay nakakuha na ng karapatang bilhin ang lupang tinitirikan nila. Ibig sabihin noon hindi na sila squatters. At saka meron din tayong eskwelahan na tinatayo sa mga malalayong barangay na noong araw walang eskwelahan. Isang libo ‘yung nabilang nating barangay na walang eskwelahan noong araw. Nagtatayo tayo doon ng mga eskwelahan ngayon. At tatlong milyong mahihirap na Pilipino ay merong health insurance na ngayon. At lahat itong kinukwento ko sa inyo ay nakamit dito sa nakaraang 21 months ng aking administrasyon kahit na mahirap ang kalagayan ng buong mundo.

Kasi para sa akin, ang pangunahing layunin ay manalo tayo sa kahirapan sa loob ng isang dekada. Ngunit kailangan din natin na magkaroon ng matatag na republika kung makakamit natin dito. At kailangan din natin na magkaroon ng kapayapaan. Kasi ‘yan ang pinakasaligang batayang pangangailangan ng taumbayan — law and order.

We are addressing law and order through a holistic approach consisting of political, economic, security components. Meron tayong anti-crime program na sinimula ko noong July, noong second session ng congress na kasama pangdagdag na resources para sa pulis, mas nagko-coordinate sa intelligence activities, at meron tayong reward para sa mga criminal. Halimbawa, si Abu Sabaya kaya siya nakuha ay dahil may sumagot sa alok nating 5 million-peso reward para sa kanya. Kaya merong pumunta at na-trace natin siya sa pamamagitan noon. Sa kidnapping, may limang ransom gang na na-neutralize na. In fact, binabatikos nila ako nagpo-pose sa bangkay. Eh, papano natin malalaman, papano malalaman ng taumbayan na talagang na-neutralize na ‘yon. Kailangan makita nila. Ayaw kong nasa page 20, tapos akala pa rin nila ang dami-daming mga kidnappers na lumilibot. Hindi. I hope that Joji Co will confirm this pero ‘yung mga Filipino-Chinese community na sila ang paboritong biktima nitong mga gangs na ito ay sabi nila ngayon na matahimik na doon sa Chinatown.

Noong nangyari ‘yung 9-11, agad akong nagtrabaho para sugpuin ang terorismo sa ating bansa both militarily and economically. And I move aggressively to challenge the Abu sayyaf in their own turf militarily. Ngayon, nandoon sila sa bundok kung saan nagsimula ‘yung Abu Sayyaf, doon sa Patikul sa Sulu. Nandoon ang ating sundalo kung saan kahit na kailan noong araw hindi pa sila nakakaabot all these centuries. Kaya mabigat ang laban ngayon pero palagay ko dahil nakaabot na tayo doon ay mananalao na tayo. Noong araw libu-libo ‘yung Abu Sayyaf, ngayon they’re only a couple of hundreds. Kaya lang siyempre pag may isang bomba, pag may isang rifle shot, takot na naman ang taongbayan. Pero gusto kong isigurado sa inyo na tayo ay umaangat dito sa ating pagsisikap na ito.

Kanya lamang walang pangulo na pwedeng magtayo ng matatag na republikang mag-isa lamang. Magagawa ko lamang ito ng mabuti kung merong akong suporta ng ating mga kapwa Pilipino pati na rin ‘yung mga Pilipino sa ibang bansa kagaya ninyo. Kasi bahagi kayo sa aking inaasahan ‘yung network ng Filipinos sa buong mundo. Kaya ipagpapatuloy natin sana ang ating pagkakaisa. At sa Pilipinas, pinagpapatuloy ang sariling sikap dahil tuloy pa rin na mahirap ang buong mundo.

Kaya lalong hinihingi ko sa inyo, tulungan n’yo ako even as you are contributing to the development of Vietnam with your expertise, help me build a strong Philippine republic.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Vietnam. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210534/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8481&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a State Banquet

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a State Banquet

[Delivered at the International Conference Center, Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, November 6, 2002]

His Excellency President Tran Duc Luong; other officials of the Vietnamese government; ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you, your Excellency for your graciousness and for your generous hospitality accorded to our delegation. On this day, we raise to a higher plane with the ties of friendship and cooperation that will then fuse relations between our respective nations and peoples.

The Philippines prides itself in being one of the first to establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam in 1976. It is also a customer of Vietnam because Vietnam is a principal supplier of Filipinos rice imports. It is also an investment for Vietnam because 21 important businessmen in my country has put up factories here in Vietnam.

Your Excellency's State Visit to the Philippines on this same month last year was a giant step forward in our friendship. It reaffirmed our close and traditional fronts that hopefully my visit will also make stronger.

Vietnam's struggle for independence was a historical requiem of the post world war ii period. Today, Vietnam's political consolidation and economic recovery makes us all admire you in greater measure. We are proud to be your allies in ASEAN and your partners in the larger realm of world peace, security and prosperity.

I am deeply impressed by the great strides achieved under your government's 'doing our way' drive over the past 16 years. Your people have shown the will and capacity to maintain political stability, master and develop productive forces in the economy and improve living standards. We welcome these developments as a boon to more efficient trade and business activity which has made the way for Vietnam's integration into the regional and global economy.

You have our best wishes for your sustained success. I am here in Vietnam on your invitation as part of the continuing journey that brought me to the APEC Leaders Meeting in Mexico last week and to the 8th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh which ended yesterday. Our agenda follows a common pledge to the economy and security of our region.

The Philippines and Vietnam are neighbors separated only by the sea, the South China Sea. Our two countries are firm in our commitments to work within ASEAN in pursuing a strategy to achieve competitiveness while attaining sustainable growth and development.

In the same day, our two countries are steadfast in our common abhorrence of all forms of terrorism extremism. I would like to assure you that the Philippines is intensifying our efforts to crush the cause of terrorism within our territory and across our common seas in the region in cooperation with the other states.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity in behalf of the more than 500 Filipinos in Vietnam, in behalf of the Filipino investors in Vietnam, some of whom are here tonight, my gratitude to the Vietnamese government for its hospitality to our overseas workers and to our investors. I am proud to note that these Filipinos are contributing in their own way to Vietnam's national development efforts.

May I invite all of you, excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen to a toast to the good health of President Tran Duc Luong, to the prosperity of the Vietnamese people, and to the lasting friendship and mutual cooperation within the Philippines and Vietnam.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a State Banquet. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210551/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8483&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the International Conference on Anti-Terrorism and Tourism Recovery

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the International Conference on Anti-Terrorism and Tourism Recovery**

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-la Manila Hotel, Makati City, November 8, 2002]

Thank you, Secretary Gordon. And congratulations because in the month of October compared to October last year, tourism arrivals increased by 40 percent. Thank you, Dick. Congratulations.

Secretary Roy Golez who organized this meeting together with Secretary Gordon. And I'd like to also greet Dr. David de Villiers of the World Tourism Organization; Ambassador Taylor from the United States; Ambassador Shigeta from Japan; the Ambassadors who live here in the Philippines, I'd like to greet all of you; the foreign and local participants of the International Conference on Anti-terrorism and Tourism Recovery; other national and local government officials; conference lecturers and resource persons; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I'm very happy to be here with you tonight. I thank you all for coming here at such short notice, considering that I asked Secretary Golez to invite you only as I departed for the APEC Summit in Los Cabos last October 24.

The fact that you all arrived in such short notice only emphasizes the urgency and importance of our undertaking.

We share the pain and suffering of the families of those who were killed or injured in the terrorist attacks. We must find strength in our actions and not seek refuge in fear.

Terrorism impacts directly on tourism. Given the impact of terrorism on tourism, our first challenge is to deal with it and make this a safe and secure world.

As a forum for facilitating the movement of people across borders, the world tourism organization indeed has a stake in making sure that we are able to have a safe place in this world today. We must work together as nations and therefore this is truly an important forum. The World Tourism Organization has the responsibility of moving people, goods, services, information, investments. And that's why your organization faces the challenge of making sure that this world is safe at the same time you also still facilitate the movement of goods. It's a twin job that's very important — achieving the goal of making goods move and people move but also taking necessary steps to protect against terrorism. This requires a combination of the application of new technology and cross-border cooperation among government agencies.

We must work together as nations around the world to fight terrorism. We can't sit back and wait — oh, Secretary Lina. I'd like to acknowledge the presence of Secretary Lina, in-charge of our police. He knows we must not just sit back and wait — we must take this fight to the terrorists before they undermine not only our tourism but our very way of living.

We understand the challenge terrorism poses for all countries that value peace and order. It confirms that we must continue to take a firm stand against terrorism and work diligently with the family of nations in the global campaign to end the scourge of terrorism once and for all. On my part, the moment I took office, I declared war on terrorism in

the Philippines. That's why when 9/11 happened I immediately declared my solidarity with the global coalition and joined the family of nations in the fight against terrorism.

After September last year, the Pacific countries, the European countries, countries all over the world crafted an initial response encompassing financial monitoring, aviation security, energy security, customs enforcement.

Many things have happened since then. In short order, the terrorists who were behind the attacks in 9/11 were driven out of Afghanistan and the government who played willing host to them was sent packing. Here in our own country, we set to work to crush terrorism militarily and economically. We moved aggressively to challenge the Abu Sayyaf on their turf, militarily and have met success, cutting their numbers to less than 200 or about 200 from numbering thousands. Of course, it takes one rifle shot or bomb to project yet more fear in society, but we are making significant progress.

The Abu Sayyaf remain a threat but a diminished one. We have worked to crush their armed soldiers and break up their intelligence cells. Remember, solitary acts of destruction are still possible. What is increasingly more difficult for Abu Sayyaf is extensive, coordinated military attacks.

These terrorists have proven once again that they are not guided by moral or religious conviction. They are nothing more than murderers of innocent people driven by an ideology of mayhem. We have experienced the same mindless violence in the Philippines. The only antidote is to have no fear and crush their efforts.

No religion calls for mass slaughter of innocents. We have Muslims in the Philippines, particularly in the southern islands and the vast majority of them are peace-loving people. Their wants are for a better life and to be lifted out of poverty. The terrorists are out of touch with their religion and with basic humanity.

No civilized nation can condone terrorism on moral or religious grounds. I won't, the Philippines won't.

I'd like to acknowledge the presence of Foreign Secretary Blas Ople.

In the Philippines and even abroad, we are pursuing inter-faith dialogues to promote Christian and Muslim solidarity. Terrorists wish to instigate a religious war. We must make this an opportunity for religious understanding, ecumenism and solidarity.

The Al-Qaeda connection in the Philippines is real but not necessarily strong. It is possible that after Afghanistan, more Al-Qaeda are making their way to Southeast Asia. The real issue is breaking up the regional and global network, stopping the money flow and breaking up the militant cells wherever they may be across the globe.

The Philippines is just one of many nations, scattered throughout the world — including the United States and Europe — where Al-Qaeda is trying to operate. If anything, we are better prepared and taking more aggressive steps to stop terrorism in the Philippines than in many other parts of the world. Because we know from first-hand experience the pain of terrorism. It becomes a cancer if you don't cut it out.

We support a U.N. resolution on Iraq. This must be a fight of the community of nations against a nation that are shown it doesn't intend to abide by U.N. resolutions to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

Here, I can assure you that we are doing everything possible to protect our citizens, our governments, our tourists here in the Philippines.

A few of my opponents have criticized my decision. I knew the moment last year, when I committed the Philippines to a leadership position in Asia in the global war on terrorism that I would be subjecting our nation to a heightened degree of attention on this issue.

But, I also knew that we had to share with the international community our experience, including our challenges and our successes, in dealing with terrorism if this effort was to be a true coalition.

I have to tell you: I make no apologies for aggressively seeking to root out terrorism in the Philippines and to putting considerable effort in seeking regional consensus on fighting terrorism.

Coupled with our participation in global efforts to stamp out terrorism, we are also working to promote cohesion and cooperation at the regional level. For example, last may, we created a three-nation anti-terrorist working arrangement between the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. Cambodia joined this coalition last July.

Such successes, however, did not prepare us for the horror inflicted in Bali just a couple of weeks ago. It reminded us that the war against terrorism is going to be long and difficult and that it knows no boundaries. It comes at a time when there are fears that the global economy may be in for a double dip.

In this regard, may I go back to the Philippines and our economy. I am glad that the labor solidarity movement, the umbrella organization of the country's mainstream labor groups: TUCP, FFW, AFW and Tupas have decided not to press for a wage increase at this time. This is an act of patriotism that was immediately followed by the employers confederation, who committed to pay for any increases in workers' contribution in SSS premiums for as long as there are still no wage increases.

While government works hard at creating new jobs through investment as well as through tourism and the encouragement of small and medium scale businesses to build up domestic demand, we must also put in place job preservation mechanisms at a time when the world is in economic difficulty. This patriotic act by the labor unions — the four biggest labor unions of the country — is one such mechanism by which existing jobs can be preserved.

The same is true of the employers group who made their own contribution to a social accord that will allow us to weather this difficult time.

On the part of government then I wish to direct the following agencies to ensure that government does its share:

The Department of Labor to strictly enforce existing labor standards so that the workers may get their lawful due; the National Food Authority to assist workers to get cheaper rice and other basic necessities; the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council to intensify its drive to provide affordable housing to workers through rent-to-own and similar schemes that will allow workers decent dwelling places.

We must learn to conserve our gains during difficult times. More important, we must stand together to move this country, our country forward.

Here, in this country, I thank labor and management for understanding that today dealing with terrorism is our most urgent priority.

In the aftermath of Bali, we are looking to expand our coalition — Thailand joined our trilateral and then quadrilateral coalition earlier this week. Through this coalition, which is now a five-way coalition, we work to share intelligence on terrorist activities. We will tighten border patrols and if necessary partake in joint peacekeeping operations. We are looking to take more aggressive action through this international conference on terrorism and tourism recovery.

In December or early next year, the Philippines will again host another event — this time, multilateral seminar games on emergency responses to terrorist threats. I'd like to invite once again your security, defense and police officials to these seminar games. We are hosting these games in accordance with one of the initiatives in last year's ASEAN Summit.

Our collective actions have constrained terrorists operations, but by how much and where, we don't know. But it's very clear, we have to expand deterrent measures especially talking about tourism to include airport security, tighter airport security and others.

We support measures to secure movement of people from point of origin to point of destination in the same manner that we support measures that will deter movement of terrorists across borders. We are here in this meeting to promote the principle of secure tourism.

But just as we are taking security measures to prevent terrorist acts, we should also address the poverty and hopelessness that provide recruits for terrorism.

Anti-terrorism is a global fight if not the challenge of a single nation or region. The tragedy in Bali once again shows this that i said that terrorism knows no boundaries.

Thinking globally is what we must do in this fight against terrorism. Thinking globally means: sharing information, following every lead, and taking harsh measures to destroy militant cells. But we must also seek out and destroy the handmaiden of terrorism which is poverty. The family of nations must unite and fight to defeat poverty as it unites to defeat terrorism. We must also work to build our democratic institutions to allow for greater freedom and participation for our citizens in civic life.

I would like to join my Southeast Asian neighbors in asking the western countries to refrain from issuing travel warnings and advisories that discourage tourism and investment from going to our countries.

We should not be penalized by those who are well aware of the tough decisions and the actions we have taken to not only deal with terrorists on our own shores but also to work with other countries to ensure that in our region and around the world we cooperate by sharing intelligence and by assisting in apprehending terrorists who are not restricted by national borders.

On the part of the Philippines, I believe the strongest argument we have against such penalties is the reputation of the Filipino workers all over the world.

I do hope that our friends in the western world and elsewhere will think long and hard about how they can support the efforts we are taking to not only remove the scourge of terrorism from the Philippines and the other countries in Southeast Asia but also the work we are doing to ensure that the various countries in our region are just as active in fighting this global war.

We need cooperation from our friends internationally, not misguided condemnation. At the end of the day, they must realize that no nation is not doing anything to fight terrorism. On the part of the Philippines I would say that though there are many others fighting just as much as we are nobody's fighting more than we are. We look forward to working closely with the western world and our neighbors in what is unfortunately going to be a long war.

Just as we search out and destroy terrorism, we must search out and destroy the terror of poverty. There is evil in being hungry just as there is evil in being a destructive terrorists. We must work together as a family of nations to alleviate both.

Whether it's the fight against global terrorism or the promotion of tourism, at the end of the day, it's always about the economy and improving the lives of our citizens.

And so I congratulate you for being here in this anti-terrorism conference. And I hope that from the resolutions that have been made and are being made, we will be even more triumphant in the fight against terrorism and in the promotion of the movement of people across nations.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the International Conference on Anti-Terrorism and Tourism Recovery. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210152/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8480&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 12th General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 12th General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, November 14, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Romulo sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. Alam n'yo si Secretary Romulo sa dami ng paper work na ginagawa niya dahil halos lahat ng aabot sa akin ay dumadaan sa kanya muna, halos hindi siya lumalabas ng Malacañang. Pero narito siya, ganoon ka importante ang League of Mayors of the Philippines.

Ti kailayak diay binalonan, Pangasinan Mayor Ramon Guico, thank you very much for your leadership in putting together the agenda of the Mayors League; gusto ko ring batiin 'yung ibang mga Executive Committee Officers, our very young mayor from Bogu, Cebu, Mayor Celestino Martinez. Kasama ko siya doon sa japan, hindi ba? And I hope that upon your nomination... And I hope that he's been able to help also the other mayors in disseminating the opportunities that there are for Japanese ODA.

Gusto ko ring batiin si Mayor Melchor Nacario ang EVP for external affairs. Saan si Mayor Nacario? Queng cacung Cabalen Mayor Boking Morales, from Mabalacat, the home of Clark; Mayor Jose Salonga, our Vice President for Luzon. Asan si Mayor Salonga? Ayun. Ano mayor kumusta ka? Mayor Elizabeth Delgado, our very young mayor from Surigao; Mayor Armando Sanchez from Batangas; Mayor Sylvia Adame from Bohol, how are you mayor? Mayor Melquiades Azcuna; Mayor Francis Olbis; Mayor Julio Uy, ang ating legal counsel; at si Mayor mayor, ang kanina nagpahayag ng resulta ng inyong mga workshop.

At narito rin — ganoon kayo ka importante — alam n'yo sinasabi ko sa mga Cabinet members ko, kaya usually sa ibang mga affairs, kung minsan 'yung host naglalagay ng isang buong mesa para sa Cabinet members. Pero walang naka-upo doon. Kasi ang usapan namin, marami silang trabaho 'wag na parating sama ng sama sa akin. Pero dito hindi sila nandito para sumama sa akin nandito sila para makipag-ugnay sa inyong lahat. Kaya ito ang ating mga Cabinet members.

Nandito si Secretary of Defense, si Angie Reyes. Dahil napaka-importante kayo lalo na ngayon sa mga laban kontra sa terorismo at iba't-iba pang mga disaster whether natural o man-made; si Nani Braganza, na ang trabaho niya whether its for re-distribution or for conversion kailangan ang mabilis na kilos ng mga local government executives, kung hindi sa kanya tatama ang complaint tungkol sa katagalan ng proseso kaya kailangang-kailangang kayo ni Nani Braganza; at narito rin si Secretary Ging Deles, siya ang partner ninyo sa kalahi. 'Yon ang ating kabalikat laban sa kahirapan; at hindi siya Municipal Mayor pero siya ang ating host, City Mayor of Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza; at hindi rin siya mayor, city mayor, ni hindi siya municipal mayor pero siya rin ang ating host, ang pinuno ng Manila Hotel si Don Emilio Yap; I also like to thank USAID Mission Director Michael Yates for your support to the local government; at sa inyong lahat mga punong-bayan ng buong Pilipinas, malugod kong binabati kayong lahat, mga kagalang-galang na pinunong lokal mula sa iba't-ibang dako ng Pilipinas na narito ngayon para samang balangkasin ang mga programang tutugon sa kahirapan, lilikha ng mga gawaing pang-kaunlaran at pagpapasigla sa ating ekonomiya.

Our local governments have truly come of age. The DILG reported to me recently that by and large, the municipalities you stand for now collectively exceed the national government in performance. Sana nakatulong at

sana hindi pa ninyo nakalimutan na siguro naman marami sa inyong nagawa ay dahil binigay ko sa inyong buo ang inyong IRA. At hindi lamang 'yon, nagbayad pa ako ng utang sa inyo ng nakaraang administrasyon. Noong nagkataon na tayo ay nagka-problema sa budget deficit just recently, may panukalang bawasan ang inyong IRA dahil binabawasan ng national government ng allocation. Ngunit sabi ko, hanapan natin ng paraan na buo pa rin ang ira ng mga local governments. Mag-sakripisyo nang dagdag ang national government, ngunit sikaping buo pa rin ang ira ng local government, dahil mahal ng ating administrasyon ang mga local government.

You are important to the administration because you are the direct link to the people. The credibility and motive force of a strong Philippine republic largely rests upon your shoulders.

A strong Philippine republic has two essential attributes: first, the republic must be autonomous of dominant classes and sectors, so that it represents the people's interest and not only the interest of the powerful minority groups; second, the republic must have the capacity, represented through strong institutions and a strong bureaucracy, to implement its policies and deliver its services.

The first and foremost strong institution of a strong Philippine republic is an effective government from the national to the local governments with a professional and dedicated civil service. Such a combination for an effective government delivers basic services for everyone the most important of which is an environment of peace and order and the rule of law and the necessary infrastructure. In addition, an effective republic must help its poorest and weakest citizens, empower them and dismantle the structures that make them poor and weak. An effective government rests on the rule of law, and our justice system must be strengthened to become an efficient institution for all not just for the powerful.

Ito ang ating sinisikap na magkaroon — an effective government that performs.

A strong republic makes sure that essential services especially peace and order and the necessary infrastructure reach the people, whether these services are provided for by government or by the private sector.

That's why earlier today before coming here, I was in Batangas City to witness the completion of the largest natural gas-run power generation facility in the Philippines. What I did this morning was a milestone event for our country, because now with the opening of the Ilijan natural gas power plant now more than 52 percent of our total energy requirement is supplied by resources from right here in the Philippines. Prior to our administration, we were importing most of our energy resources. And this Ilijan power plant not only accelerates the development of our indigenous industry, but also enables the increase utilization of environment-friendly fuels, because natural gas is environment friendly.

The Ilijan plant is also the largest investment of South Korea in the Philippines with a total project cost of 1 billion dollars. And the good news is that the investors told me they are still looking for other investment opportunities in the Philippines. So, I invite our mayors to court them and other prospective investors for your localities.

I also arrived last week from the APEC Summit in Mexico and the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. These leaders' meetings underscored a significant new trend among nations and leaders, namely: the recognition that we must fight terrorism hand-in-hand with the fight against poverty.

The best antidote to terrorism and poverty is political freedom and economic opportunity. That's why as the leader of a developing nation like ours, I cannot achieve one without the other. That's why my fight, our fight against terrorism on our own soil must be accompanied by efforts to bring jobs, education and opportunity to our people at the same time.

In the fight against terrorism I would like report to you that this morning, AFP Chief General Benjamin Defensor presented to me the top, the very top bomber of the Abu Sayyaf, the leader of their bombing and terrorism group. Their group was planning a series of bomb attacks against government installations, foreign embassies and shopping malls in Metro Manila. The self-confessed bomber is implicated by his own cohorts who were arrested earlier and this bomber, this number one bomber of the Abu Sayyaf, the number one bomb expert was the mastermind of the

bombings in Zamboanga last October, and also he was personally present in the dos palmas kidnapping last year. He carries a one million-peso reward for his capture. That's why we need to work with one another. Because we must make sure that the rest of his kind are put behind bars.

That's why let us continue to be united in our vision cost-effective.

Kanina sa mga diskurso ni mayor Mayor at ni Mayor Guico, napag-alaman ko na sa loob ng mga nakaraang buwan ay nag-sagawa rin kayo ng ganitong malawakang pagpa-plano sa tatlong major island conferences na inyong ginanap sa Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao.

Ang mga programang pinagtibay ninyo mga municipal mayors ay tugon sa ating kampanya para manatili ang kapayapaan at labanan ang kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng pagtataguyod ng pagkain, trabaho, buhay at edukasyon ng inyong mga nasasakupan. Natutuwa ako sa inyong maagap at angkop na pagkilos bilang tugon sa hamon sa aking state of the nation address at noong nakaraang league of mayors general assembly. Your newly-created working agenda will ensure concerted and cohesive support by the local government units of the national government's efforts to fight terrorism and criminality. Local action moves the nation and local victories eventually become national triumphs.

Let me stress that under the provisions of the local government code, local chief executives are automatically deputized as agents of NAPOLCOM, thus, because you are deputized by NAPOLCOM, you are empowered to exercise operational supervision and control over the police forces in your respective territorial jurisdictions. This is aside from your being chairman of the Local Peace and Order Council.

Ganunpaman, pinakikinggan ko 'yung mga presentation ni Monching Guico ng inyong agenda at mukhang pinakagusto ninyo sa agenda ay 'yung ammendment ng Local Government Code. Kaya 'yon ay sinusuportahan ng ating pamahalaan.

In the meantime, the DILG has a police-community anti-terrorism plan with the following four points of LGU participation:

First, the governors, the city and municipal mayors, and the punong barangay must immediately convene your respective Peace and Order Councils or Committees.

Second, these peace and order councils or committees must adopt or implement your respective public safety plans, including a provision on reporting and feedback mechanisms, to ensure regular monitoring of unusual and suspicious movements of people in your localities.

Third, barangay assemblies all over the country under the guidance of the mayors — if the barangays don't do it themselves — must convene to educate their constituents on how to deal and cope with terrorist threats in their respective barangays. Also, please take note that the other day, the Cabinet approved the draft of the NDCC Under Secretary Reyes that will incorporate in all our contingency plans the management of the consequences of terrorist incidents. And this include the local government, the mayor. In other words, when an incident actually occurs — how to rescue, how to make sure that the place is safe and all that — it is the mayor who will be in charged.

And fourth and last, all public safety officers under you must undergo mobilization and training through distance education on intelligence gathering and on the reporting system. They should conduct regular daily "rondas" and searches in accordance with law within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

I commend your workshops for tackling head-to-head on the issues concerning the use of a municipal identification system. Maraming salamat sa inyo doon. I commend you for tackling head on the issue of the selective arming of barangay tanods in high-risk areas. The condition for this is they must be accredited as CAFGUs with the commensurate training.

And I am also glad that because the fight against terrorism must go hand-in-hand with the fight against poverty, I'm glad that you are supporting the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan or Kalahi program that was put together by Ging Deles as our common strategy for poverty reduction. The war against poverty and the war against terrorism are two sides of one coin. Poverty provides the recruits for terrorism, and terrorism strengthens poverty. Because we spend all our time and resources fighting terrorism instead of fighting poverty.

And in our battle against poverty for the next six months, even as we are resolving the terrorists threats in our country, I'm focused on a tightly consolidated work program to push private sector-led growth. Dahil may deficit tayo at 'yung ira ninyo ay hindi binabawasan, 'yung maraming gagawin sana ng national government ipapaubaya natin sa private sector.

The first item of this program is to strengthen our small and medium enterprises. To do this — to make the thrift banks and the rural bank bring out their funds to your SMEs — the central bank is relaxing its financial document requirements for loans to small and medium enterprises. And the field office of the department of trade and industry are now mandated to concentrate their services on assisting your SMEs with how-to-do project proposals required to access bank money.

Last year, I hope you remember, that you and i pump-primed the economy by having a sharing — one million from the national government and one million from you per town — that was for agricultural modernization.

You know, this project of ours last year, together with giving you the IRA in full and also paying the IRA debts of the last administration, this pump-priming we did with your full IRA and your extra IRA and the one million per town for agricultural modernization, this was identified by the economists as a major source of domestic demand which gave us one of the highest growth rates in Asia even if our export growth was negative.

Now, this year, we have the “one town, one product, one million-peso loan” for SMEs. The key to greater activity in the domestic market is the accelerated development of small and medium scale enterprises which have proven to be more capital-efficient than the larger business concerns.

Under this project, a loan of one million pesos will be lent to SMEs for one product in your town. In each of the 1,500 or so towns, municipalities in the Philippines, to encourage greater economic activity in the countryside. We have so far released 90 million pesos for this project.

Ibig sabihin noon, 90 towns have availed of this. Eh, 1,500 kayo. Kaya sana makipag-ugnay kayo sa DTI para malaman ninyo – kasi 'yung dti hindi naman devolved eh, may DTI provincial officer — makipag-ugnay kayo sa dti kung papano maka-access ang inyong sme dito sa pondong ito. Pwede rin ninyong isama ang pag-angkat ng murang gamot sa ilalim ng “presyong tama, gamot pampamilya” program. I urge municipalities once more — kasi marami ng munisipyo gumagamit na kayo nito. Nagbebenta na kayo ng half-priced medicine — I encourage more municipalities to join the half-priced medicine program that's being administered also by the department of trade and industry through the PITC, so that affordable quality drugs will be available to your constituents. With this program, complemented by the national health insurance program, our local officials can serve more of our poor and needy people. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the mayors who have championed PhilHealth's insurance program.

'Yung namumuno ng PhilHeath kababayan namin ni Monching, si Dr. Tingkoy Duque. Kasi kayo mga mayors marami sa inyo nagdadala ng reseta, nagdadala ng mga doctors na kailangang magpahospital. Eh, kesa gagastos pa kayo sa sarili ninyong bulsa kung 'yung munisipyo ninyo ay mag-iinvest sa half-priced medicine at saka kung ang munisipyo ay mag-iinvest sa health insurance na 100 pesos per month — 'di ba monching? 100 pesos per month per family na mahirap — ay malaking saving. Hindi na kayo kukuha sa bulsa ninyo para sa gastos nila pang-doktor at hospitalization.

Kaya ito mga programang ito ay dapat mas marami pang makinabang na local government para ganun maganda ang serbisyo sa mamamayan at hindi masyado mabigat sa personal na bulsa ng punong-bayan.

Naaalala ko ang isang newspaper supplement na inilabas ninyo kamakailan kung saan binigyan ninyong diin ang salawikaing, and I quote: “nagkakaisang mamamayan, matatag na mga bayan. Isang malakas na bansa, mabilis ang kaunlaran.”

Dito ay inyong hinihikayat ang ating mga kababayan na isantabi muna ang hidwaan — personal man o pulitikal. Ito ang tunay na hamon ng ating panahon. Kaya paglingkuran muna natin nang may dedikasyon at buong tapat ang mga mamamayan at ang ating inang bayan. Kailangan nila tayo. At kailangan natin ang matatag na republikang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the 12th General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210050/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8478&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Luncheon Meeting of the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Luncheon Meeting of the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Shangri-La, Makati City, November 15, 2002]

I want to thank you very warmly for this opportunity to highlight again some of the main features of our government policies relating to the interests of the foreign business community in the Philippines. I have always been consistent about my vision for uplifting our economy. I outlined that vision from the very first day of my administration. While at EDSA, I said that our challenge must be that within this decade, we must win the fight against poverty.

I reinforced that vision in my first State of the Nation Address where I highlighted four elements as priority in the fight against poverty.

First, an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century.

Second, a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity.

Third, a social bias towards the disadvantage to balance our economic development plan, and;

Fourth, to raise the standard of morality in government and society.

In my last State of the Nation Address, I acknowledged that the fast and economic development of social reforms which are needed to win the battle against poverty are the result of good policies and empowered institutions that are the features of a strong Republic.

A Strong Republic should have the capacity, represented through institution and a strong democracy, to execute good policies and deliver essential services.

In that last State of the Nation Address, I focused on the need to execute the good policy of fighting corruption and to deliver the essential service of peace and order.

Fighting corruption is an essential part of the broader policy that we know as good governance. I believe that the primordial requirement in building a strong Republic is good governance and fighting corruption starting with setting the example at the top.

Thus, even my husband is not above the law. Though I consider intrigues against him as simply an occupational hazard, I've encouraged him to face Senate investigation to demonstrate that there are no sacred cows in my administration and let the investigations go wherever any evidence might take them. I thank God that the evidence has invariably shown that the accusations against him are false and politically motivated. But because my husband has humbled himself by submitting to Senate investigations, I have enhanced my moral authority to investigate any serious allegation if corruption is found to take place.

Let me assure you that I am working diligently to ensure that you get the professional and clean government you deserve.

For instance, our new e-procurement program is saving billions. The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission is investigating a number of high government officials including cabinet members, bureau directors, government board chairmen, state prosecutors, board members of corporations. In cases where the evidence and the perception are very strong, I have asked many of them to go on leave sending the results of the investigations.

As for corruption within the court where there is separation of powers in our Constitution, because of your feedback, specifically feedback of the American Chamber, we have become pro-active in prosecuting graft among state prosecutors. And with the cooperation of the Supreme Court for prosecuting erring judges, some of these state prosecutors and bureau directors will, very shortly, get their walking papers because the due process is winding up. And that is without prejudice to the criminal cases filed against them.

Last year, I declared the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue as showcases in the fight against graft and corruption. This is a continuing effort. It is an effort where I have enlisted the support of the business community. And I ask you to join the Filipino businessmen who are helping institutionally in this effort.

This brings me to one of your concerns about how we can improve the interface between business and government. One of the things that government has an obligation to ensure is that its dealings with business are efficient, clear, and transparent. This is particularly true in the key areas of taxation, customs, immigration, and labor relations.

A lot of interface between you and the government are in these areas; and it's here that the foreign business community is entitled to expect and to receive the highest level of good governance.

My government, therefore, is enhancing its focus on improving the structures and governance practices of these agencies. In terms of improving your interface, while we have a one-stop shop for new investors, we don't have one existing right now for existing investors. We will create one shortly that will include these four agencies and we will place the quick response team of the Department of Trade and Industry under this office.

I understand that another concern of yours is the sanctity of contract. We are all accountable. You are accountable. You are stockholders. I'm accountable to my 80 million shareholders. Thus, I consider it my duty to look after their interest. We respect the sanctity of contract even as we are aggressive in correcting what we see is illegal or grossly onerous.

This is not simply a case of contractors versus the government. In many cases, they may even favor the investors. I'd like to say that I have heard from the investors, those who have had to go through the review of the ICT contract, that they are satisfied with the transparency and the professionalism with which these contracts have been reviewed and renegotiated. But the best defense, of course, is to prevent a situation from arising where we have to renegotiate in the future. We don't want the day to come when the contracts will further have to be reviewed and subjected to adjudication. Many of the contracts that we had to review are contracts that are not the making of my administration. If they are all legal and no onerous provisions could be found, these contracts shall be enforced. But there are a few where, indeed, even the shareholders admit, that shortcuts were taken. I don't want to spend the rest of my retirement facing the Ombudsman for that. It is important that we have the sanctity of contract. But it is important that those contracts be in line with the law from the very beginning.

While each contract is unique, there are many common elements and precedents all over the world. And in the process, all these renegotiations, specifically in the Department of Energy, the feedback so far has been very good. We're compiling best practices of such contracts to give us a resource to draw on in the writing of contracts and serve as benchmarks should there be a legal challenge in the future.

The challenge is to deliver the essential service of peace and order in the fight against terrorism. This is a global fight, and not the challenge of a single nation or region. The tragedy in Bali once again shows that terrorism knows no bounds.

One of the many challenges that have come out of the tragic events of September 11, the Bali bombings, and bombings in other parts of Asia is the impact it has had on the economy of the world. Of course, the human toll is

immensely saddening. And worse that the economic toll is widespread. It comes at a time when there are fears that the global economy may be in for a double dip. My greatest concern is how terrorists have shifted the agenda of politics and cooperation from one of economic development to an overwhelming concern about security. Witness the unfortunate decision of some of your governments to issue travel advisory to institute selective procedures for granting visas applicable to 25 countries including the Philippines.

Last year, when I committed the Philippines to a leadership position in Asia in the global war on terrorism, I knew that I would be subjecting our nation to heightened degree of attention on this issue. But I also knew that we had to share with the international community, in the interest of transparency, our experience including our challenges and our successes in dealing with terrorism if this effort was to be a true coalition with you.

But I don't think that we should be penalized by those who are well aware of the tough decisions and actions we have taken to not only deal with terrorists in our own shores, but also to ensure countries in our region and around the world to cooperate by sharing intelligence and by assisting and apprehending terrorists who are not restricted by national borders. It is important as knowledgeable citizens of the countries where you come from, especially those from Europe, that you ensure the close relations between our countries and our peoples. You know that because of our aggressive drive against terrorism, despite the desperate resort to hit and run bombings, the domestic terrorists particularly the Abu Sayyaf are on the run. We have captured the Zamboanga and Quezon City bombers including the mastermind, the head of the explosive unit of the Abu Sayyaf who was presented yesterday.

There is much that you can do to help us. You are important stakeholders in my country. And I hope that you can help bring to your country and your officials a true picture of the Filipino traveler. I believe that the strongest argument we have against such penalty is the reputation of the Filipino workers and seamen in Europe.

I take great exception with the premise of gloom and doom and drift that my critics have engendered. I inherited an economy heading for bankruptcy and a political environment nearing on chaos but I have instilled political order and fiscal discipline.

Just a few months ago, there was a survey that came out that 19 percent of the people want to leave the country. Well, prior to that, there were more people who wanted to leave the country. In other words, those statistics showed a figure on the decline, but that was not how my critics were able to present it. As for the deficit issue, while we recognize that we must address it, I believe it has been overblown because of the preoccupation to the absolute target rather than the more meaningful debt to GDP ratio which is used as the rating standard despite the slippage. The deficit to GDP ratio maybe only point five to one percent higher than programmed, placing the 2002 deficit broadly in line with the 2001 deficit. This ratio compares favorably with the rest of Asia. Speaking of the rest of Asia, our economic growth, our export growth, our tourism growth, they compare very favorably with the rest of Asia. Inflation and interest rates are at the lowest point in more than a decade. Our investments, the needed infrastructure, are underway. Most importantly, I have managed to pass through Congress significant four measures. This includes the Power Sector Reform Law and the Anti-Money Laundering Law. But my effort to maintain support for the reforms we have undertaken is made even more difficult by many countries which do not play by the rules. Some developed countries preach free trade and yet practice protectionism against the developing countries.

Because of the still uncertain global environment, the focus of my attention for the next six months is mostly on building up domestic demand; thus, may I share with you briefly the points of the eight things that I want to do over the next six months.

The first item is to promote the growth of the small and medium enterprise which are the most effective and efficient leaders of capital.

The second is to jumpstart housing that has the biggest multiplier. The other night I had dinner with Senator Manny Villar who, before he entered Congress, was a housing magnate. He's building again, and others like him, are building again. They are not just planning to build. They are building. That's why the National Statistics Office figure shows a 20 to 25 percent increase in construction.

The third item is to reduce transport cost from Mindanao to Luzon through a 330 billion roll on, roll off port and ferry system from Mindanao through the Visayan islands to Luzon to be funded by the Development Bank of the Philippines. The DBP is lending to credit worthy investors as I hope some of you will be in this very important logistics program.

The fourth is infrastructure to decongest Metro Manila, starting on the north rail between Metro Manila north to Clark, and the continuation of the south toll road all the way to Batangas Port. Also, the start of the MRT final linkage with LRT to that we can have a loop around the metropolis. The review of Metro Manila's infrastructure program is on the way to ensure that it makes sense and produce visible results swiftly.

The fifth is to mobilize the contribution of the PCGG to the fiscal resources of the government, particularly the \$600 million Marcos deposit with the PNB and the coco levy remaining 27 percent share of San Miguel.

The sixth is to make Makati a specific urban tourist destination with its compact easy to secure location, world class mall entertainment facilities, and internationally considered cheap shopping, perhaps with a side trip to Boracay or a similar resort is part of the package.

The seventh is to stimulate private investment in agriculture by pursuing legislation to enable banks to accept agricultural land as collateral.

And the eighth is to begin the complete staff work to make the reclamation area in Roxas Boulevard a tourism complex to be called the Bagong Nayong Pilipino Tourism Estate.

The program I have just outlined represents a significant part of my Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and my continuing agenda of reform and change. We have been an active reformist government. I would be the last person to pretend that we're always 100 percent right. But we have a strong record to look at; and we offer it at a time of intense international uncertainty and concern. We offer a record of stability, of predictability, and of knowing what we believe in and what we stand for.

The end result that we are moving towards not today and tomorrow is there. We're moving towards a stronger, more respected, and more resilient Philippine nation. However, in moving towards a Strong Republic, when you are starting from what many have considered for a long time as a soft state, you often have to wait a while before you get the dividend of economic reform. And you can get this if you are willing to undertake the major reforms and face down some of the short term political challenges.

I am glad that you have said, Mr. Daly, that your expectations continue to remain high. I have been in office 21 months; but we have done things nobody was able to do for many years. Repair the damage done to the presidency. Work hard to deliver a stable economy. Lift our country's reputation around the world. It takes three years to construct your factory from the time you conceptualized it. Thus, when say I am moving towards a Strong Republic, don't expect that it should be there the next day. Before you get there, you go through all of these economic and political difficulties. I am going, I am willing to go through them. But I ask you, the members of the international business community, as you're already here, let us share this vision together, stay with me, we will yet make a Strong Philippine Republic together.

Thank you.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st National Convention of the Guardians Philippines Anti-Crime Organization, Inc. Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st National Convention of the Guardians Philippines Anti-Crime Organization, Inc.**

[Delivered at the PCARRD Complex, Los Baños, Laguna, November 16, 2002]

Maraming salamat Ning-Ning sa iyung napakagandang pagpakilala. Mabuti iyong babae sumusuporta sa babae. Maraming salamat ning-ning. Wala ba diyang babae sa mga Guardians? Ah, okay. At saka gusto kong batiin, kakarating si Secretary of Interior, si Joey Lina. Joey, hindi ka nahuli. Ngayon lang alas diyes, nag-umpisa lang tayo ng maaga, 'di ba? At pwede na kayong umupo.

Gusto kong batiin rin ang nagbigay sa atin ng welcome na siya pala ay Guardian, si Mayor Cesar Perez ng Los Baños; at iyung master founder ng Guardian, si Liborio Jangao. Daghan salamat sa imo nga pagka-found sa kining organisasyon; gusto ko ring batiin iyung aking napakagaling na recently retired CIDG, si Nestorio Gualberto; at siyempre kay Bernard Corella, congratulations muli; at sa inyong lahat.

Gusto ko ring batiin ang director ng ating lugar kung nasaan tayo, si Patricio Faylon. Salamat sa iyo nga pag-welcome sa amin dito; at iyong ating mga lider ng mga sundalo at mga pulis — nandito si Sol Commander, si General Roy Kyamko; nandito rin si PNP Regional Director Ike Galang; at saka nanggaling siya sa kabila, doon sa 7th Division pero mahal na mahal niya kayo at tayo, si General Boysie Braganza; nandito iyung ating mga punong lungsod ng malalaking lungsod diyo sa lalawigan ng Laguna — si Mayor Lajara ng Calamba, si Mayor Aquino ng San Pablo; at saka iyung ating guwapong Vice Governor, si Dan Fernandez; kayong lahat mga kaibigan:

Ikinagagalak kong makasama kayong lahat itong araw na ito. (ayun! May mga babae palang Guardians.) Marami sa inyo ay nagmula pa yata sa malalayong probinsiya at bumiyahe kayo dito para dumalo dito sa Kombensyon ng Guardians bilang anti-crime organization. Ito'y patunay ng matapat ninyong hangaring makipaglaban sa krimen na matinding salot ng ating lipunan ngayon.

Pinupuri ko kayo sa inyong tema: "Bagong Pananaw, Bagong Damdamin, Bagong Kabuluhan." dahil noon, iyung hangarin ninyong sinimulan ninyo ang organisasyon ng guardians — kabuluhan, be relevant sa reporma noon sa mga uniformed services. Ngayon, bagong kabuluhan dahil meron tayong mga bagong mga hamon sa ating lipunan kaya hanggang ngayon meron pa rin kayong kabuluhan dito sa ating lipunan ngayon. Kaya binabati ko kayo doon.

Naniniwala akong matapat ang inyong hangaring makilahok sa adhikain ng pamahalaan at makipagtulungan sa karamihan ng ating mga kababayan upang mapabilis ang paghari ng kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa bansa.

Alam ko na sinsero kayo dahil alam ko ang trabaho ng ilan sa inyong mga lider dahil matagal na silang kasama ko sa mga trabaho. At kayo rin pag nagpupunta ako sa mga probinsiya, meron ilan sa inyo nakikilala ko at nakikita ko ang inyong sinseridad na mapabuti ang ating pamayanan.

Talagang kailangan ang pagbabago kung nais nating patuloy na maging makabuluhan ang ating mga buhay. Malaki na ang ipinag-iba-iba ng panahon mula nung nagsimula iyong guardians so many, many years ago. More than a decade na, 'di ba? Ngayon, may makabagong teknolohiya, bumibilis ang pakikipag-ugnayan natin sa buong mundo. Panahon ng information technology na wala pa noon. Panahon ng globalization na wala pa naman talaga noon. Meron na tayo dahil may technology, may globalization, meron tayong mga mobile phones na umaabot hanggang sa ibang bansa, Internet umaabot sa hanggang ibang bansa, iba pang paraang komunikasyon. Madali na rin para sa karamihan ang bumiyahe pa sa ibang bansa. Kaya napakagaling at meron kayong international network.

Nguni't kasabay ng kabutihang dala ng teknolohiya, napabilis din ang paglaganap ng kasamaan tulad ng terorismo at iba pang internasyonal na krimen. Ngayon, pati terorismo multinational na rin. Pati krimen, multinational na rin. In

the words of police jargon, transnational dahil nga sa teknolohiya at globalisasyon. Kung maganda ang loob nakakatulong ang teknolohiya, nakakatulong ang globalisasyon. Pero nakakatulong din sa mga masasamang loob kaya naroon ang ating hamon.

Sa dahilang ito, kailangan natin mga bagong paraan ng pagsugpo ng krimen. At lalong kailangan natin ang bagong pananaw para sa lahat ng mga nagnanais na sumali sa laban sa kriminalidad.

Kaya't pinupuri ko kayo sa inyong pagkukusang makipag-tulungan upang magapi na ang terorismo at iba pang uri ng krimen sa bansa.

Binabati ko, una sa lahat, dahil bagong retired lang siya ay gusto kong batiin si General Gualberto. Siya ay napakagaling kong hepe ng CIDG. Kasi hindi ko makalimutan sa ibabaw ng magandang trabaho niya over his career, iyong kanyang huling hirit naka-accomplish pa siya. Nasugpo niya ang mga sindikato ng mga fake video, napasara niya iyong pinakamalaking pabrika ng fake video just a few years before retirement. Itong nasugpo niya iyung milyong-milyong fake na na-confiscate iyung malaking pabrikang billion-peso factory na napasara, matagal nang sinisikap makamit ng marami ngunit nabigo. Pero nagawa iyon ni General Gualberto.

Noong gabing iyon noong na-raid nila iyung factory, iyung napakalaking factory, the biggest of them all. Kasi hindi ba, sa ating bansa nalagay na nga tayo sa watchlist sa intellectual property rights kaya maraming raid. Si Bong Revilla ginawa kong chairman, pero ang kanyang... Tumutulong sa kanya sa operations si General Gualberto. Di sabi ko, ang dami-dami ng raid, ang dami-dami ng na-confiscate sa mga tindahan. Eh sabi ng mga doon sa nag-aasikaso ng intellectual property right sa ibang bansa kasama nang amerika, sana makuha rin ninyo ang mga pabrika. Ah, dadating yuon. At dumating nga noong panahon iyon, iyung isang gabi doon sa Valenzuela.

Eh tinawag nila ako dahil major ito, ano. Major accomplishment ito dahil ilang taon nang sinisikap natin ito. Tinawag nila ako sa pabrika ng fake video na ni-raid nila. Noong pumunta ako doon, ikinon-gratulate ko sila, at sabi ko nga kay General Gualberto dahil magre-retire na siya, "what a fitting curtain call for your police career." Ngunit bagamat tapos na ang career niya bilang pulis, inaasahan ko pa rin na hindi tapos ang kaniyang papel sa aking administrasyon. Mayroon pa siyang second career na inaasahan kong makatulong sa aking pagbuo ng matatag na Republika ng Pilipinas.

And General Gualberto, even as I hope you will continue to serve in my administration in a new capacity, I know that you — si Major Jangao, si Bernard Corella at kayong lahat na narito na mga lider — I know and I hope and I'm confident that you will inspire the rest of your colleagues who are all over the country and even all over the world along the road of responsible citizenship.

I know all of you here today want peace in our land, for you played a vital role in making EDSA I the country's first bloodless revolution. Kaya makabuluhan kayo noon, makabuluhan pa rin kayo ngayon.

I am grateful that along with your new vision — kanina binigay ninyo iyung inyong resolution — you pledged full support for my administration. Maraming salamat sa inyo sa inyong suporta.

The various activities you have undertaken this year indicate your mission of relevance and involvement in nation-building.

Tulad nang nakasaad sa inyong vision statement, ito'y hudyat ng pagbabagong-buhay patungo ngayon sa higit na makatuwiran, mahinahon at makatarungang pagsulong ng adhikain.

I welcome your advocacy of democracy, unity, peace, stability and progress.

These are the very same aspirations of a strong Philippine republic — democracy through strong institutions of representation, peace through strong institutions of conflict resolution, and stability through strong institutions of law and justice.

Marami ang nagsasabi, “sabi ni presidente, strong republic. Eh nasaan iyong strong republic?” Ang strong republic parang gusali iyan. Itong mga gusaling ito hindi natayo overnight. Kaya kailangan sabi ko simulain natin itayo itong gusali ng matatag na republika. At upang magkaroon ng gusaling matatag na republika ay kailangan ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Pero kung gusto nating manatili ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran kailangan din ang matatag na republika.

And let’s therefore start working for a strong republic by working for peace and development. Peace and development go together, just as the fight against terrorism and against poverty go together. Solutions to poverty are indispensable to the resolution of irrational violence.

We have seen this in our own history of conflict especially in Mindanao kung saan si Major Jangao nga tiga doon at kung saan marami kayo nakapunta na, na-assign. That’s why whether I am abroad searching for alliances or in our own country, at the end of the day, it’s always about the economy and improving the lives of our Filipino citizens.

Alam ninyo ito dahil nandoon kayo nakasisid kayo sa field. Poverty breeds the recruits of terrorism. At palagay ko nakikita ninyo. You can perceive as I perceive the masses need constant and continuing care and concern.

All of you here know that no nation should cower in fear before terrorists for that would mean conceding defeat. We must instead unite and find strength in our concerted actions to vanquish these evildoers, those who use religion and ideology to force their views and their way of life upon the people.

Alam ninyo ito lalo na marami sa inyo lumaban na sa mga terorista sa iba’t ibang anyo ng kanilang buhay at inyong karera.

The Abu Sayyaf remain a threat, but a diminish one. We have worked to crush their armed soldiers and break up their intelligence cells. Yes, solitary acts of destruction are still possible. What is increasingly more difficult for Abu Sayyaf is extensive, coordinated military attacks.

Even with regard to solitary acts of destruction, our police and military forces have conducted significant raids and intelligence operations that led to the arrest of the mastermind of the bombings in Mindanao and metro manila and the seizure of tons of explosives.

Iyung sa Mindanao, iyung sa Zamboanga mabilis na naka-solve iyung prolema dahil sa pagtulong-tulong ng una sa lahat, for the very first week, iyung trabaho na rin ng cidg. Nandodoon nga si Liborio Jangao kasama sa CIDG and we shall push forward unrelentingly. The men and women in the field are inspired by the victories they have achieved.

But counterterrorism is a long drawn out war. Hindi iyon isang campaign plan, isang battle off kung saan ba iyon. Hindi isang battle of Abubakar, hindi isang battle of Pulomuhaji. Long drawn out. Terrorism and other crimes will not cease merely with the arrest of today’s terrorists and other criminals.

Nor can we just leave the fighting to the police and military forces in active duty. There is need for a full support from a committed citizenry especially you who have been in these fights before.

I, therefore, welcome your efforts to activate your network against crime and terrorism. The strong republic needs volunteers like you because you have a very high sense of vigilance and civic duty.

There are many ways to distinguish yourselves as active anti-crime volunteers.

The DILG, si Joey Lina, recently drew up its 10-point police-community plan which spells out areas of police-civilian cooperation. I am endorsing this plan for the adoption of all your networks.

Specifically, the plan calls on private citizens to report to their own city or town mayors, punong barangays or police officers the presence of suspicious persons or cargos within their municipalities.

The intelligence-gathering process of our police forces depends on the quality and accuracy of the information provided by civilian volunteers. This cooperation has made possible the apprehension of significant amounts of explosives and bomb materials recently.

The plan also seeks the cooperation of the owners and managers of buildings, offices or stores in adopting appropriate safety and security measures within their establishments.

Likewise, the plan seeks the help of NGOs, and you are NGO. It seeks the help of church groups, civic and other organizations to conduct information and education campaigns on dealing with terrorist threats and other crimes.

You can be a special group among our alert citizens. So, I am asking general Gualberto to draw up a proposal and other papers for the conduct of orientation seminars and training for you to be handled by the PNP.

Training should make your members a cut above the rest of the involved citizenry. Pero napatunayan na ninyo iyung disiplina ninyo eh. Kaya konting technical training na lang regarding these aspects on terrorism, kayang-kaya.

I'm aware of your economic program as well through your multi-purpose cooperative. 'Di ba naalala ninyo noong isang taon, I approved a one million-peso loan from my president's social fund for this purpose.

Siguro naman nagamit nang maganda itong pondong ito para mapabuti ang buhay ng mga kasapi ninyo lalung-lalo na iyung hindi masyadong mapalad sa kanilang sariling pamumuhay.

I've also been informed that Congressman Unico of Camarines Norte has agreed to guarantee a downpayment for a portable ice plant to be operated by you. Congratulations for your resourcefulness.

The strong republic calls for action among citizens in the spirit of volunteerism.

Our strong republic needs the total cooperation of committed civilians to defeat crime.

Our strong republic requires the efforts of all citizens to fortify our economy and win the war against terrorism and poverty.

Nasa pagkakaisa at pagtutulongan ang katatagan ng republika.

Kaya salamat na narito kayo. Palagay ko gusto kong asahan ang ibig sabihin nito ay sinasamahan ninyo ako.

Samahan ninyo ako parati. Magtayo tayo ng malakas at matatag na republikang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat at congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 1st National Convention of the Guardians Philippines Anti-crime Organization, Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210023/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8467&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Real Estate and Housing Industry Pledging Session

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Real Estate and Housing Industry Pledging Session organized by CREBA-SHDA**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, November 20, 2002]

Thank you very much, Mike for your very kind introduction. And thank you for being the first Cabinet member to submit your courtesy resignation. Of course, he was the first Cabinet member because he knew that I would not accept his courtesy resignation.

I'd like to also greet Nani Braganza, who I heard in the papers was the second Cabinet member to submit his courtesy resignation. I didn't get to see it I think because since I had said that I would not be accepting courtesy resignations, the record section didn't bother to send his courtesy resignation forward to me; I 'd like to greet our congressmen who are so supportive of the housing sector. There's Ed Zialcita who is from Metro Manila and Boy Nograles from the business district of Davao City; thank you to Florentino Dulalia, President of CREBA and other members of CREBA, thank you for your pledge of more than 300,000 housing; thank you to President Atencio and the other members of SHDA, thank you for your more than 200,000 houses pledge; thank you also to the various other associations who are here tonight. President... Ah, Chairman Yamson and the other members of builders alliance towards action or BATA, maybe that means you are the younger builders; and to Jean Menguito, vice president of women in shelter and environment. Thank you for telling me as we were having our soup that this is the happiest time in a long time for the housing industry; thank you to Cafe de Manalad for being here. Also for being one of my very small group of campaigners the first time I ran for senator in 1992, thank you; ating Cacung Cabalen, Chairman Wilfredo Tan of the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers in the Philippines or OSHDAP, thank you also for continuing to build socialized housing even if it is not as profitable as the middle-class housing in our country; well I'd like to greet also the other officials under HUDCC, and this is HUDCC Vice Chair Amado Bagatsing who... Who when he was in Congress also he used to be called their father or grandfather as the case maybe of the housing bills; and to Benjamin Bongolan, president of HGC. Now that you have your bond flotation, he's got liquid money again for his operations; Romy Fabol, congratulations. Thank you for your momentous board resolution today, and Atty. Quimpo. I want to ask you, members of the industry, shall I convert his acting status to permanent? And to all of you distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you, officers and members of all the organizations who are present here today — SHDA and CREBA – for this unprecedented response to our call to build houses for our working class. And thank you for this show of support for my administration.

I was reading a column that said that the business community has given up on me. I can see that you haven't given up on me. Thank you for your help.

And I believe that your housing units will enjoy good sales because the economy no matter what they say — what the critics say — the number show that the economy is on track to achieve a 4 to 4.5 percent growth in 2002, compare this to Hong Kong which has gone back to recession; Singapore which is on recession; Japan which is at zero percent growth rate; and even the U.S. with its dicey numbers coming in to 2003. Yes, the deficit remains a challenge. We got to face that. But we are taking concrete steps to address it. That the economy is on track to meet its 2002 growth projections is evidenced by the better-than-expected performance of leading indicators in the first semester.

Take for instance inflation rates and interest rates, they are at record lows, and i hope that the low interest rates will help your housing projects. inflation averaged 3.2 percent in the first semester and is even lower today. And I believe this low inflation rate is reflected in the cement prices that you have to pay for. So I hope that the good cement prices will also make your housing projects more profitable. Interest rate averaged 5.54 percent in the first semester, the lowest in more than a decade.

So, in as much as GDP grew at 4.1 percent in the first semester, we are quite sure that the second semester GDP will grow at least 4 percent.

Now, let's take the other indicators — exports. What did we expect exports to be in 2002? We expected export growth to be zero because they were negative last year. But rather than being zero in the first semester they grew at 8.8 percent. And now, they are even growing at double digit. So that augurs well for our keeping the economy growing on track.

Imports. Imports are an indicator of economic activity, and I am happy that the imports that are coming in are mainly inputs for value-added exports and they grew by 7.8 percent as of august although we were only expecting imports to grow at 6 percent. So better than expected.

Gross international reserves. We expected that the gross international reserves would be 14.8 billion dollars or worth 4 months of imports but they are instead 15.9 billion dollars worth 5 months of imports. So all of these are indicators of growing economic activity and also stabilization in our economy.

But as I said, we are not we are not pretending that there is no budget deficit problem. The reason why we are working on the budget deficit is that we do not want the budget deficit to contradict our low interest rate policy which is so important for your housing.

Thus, we remain focused on responsibly managing expenditures and maximizing revenue. Expenditures are on track, they provide adequate stimulation to the economy while remaining within the budget authorized by Congress.

Yes, expenditures now are a bigger percentage of our budget compared to previous years but that level of expenditure relative to the authorized budget means that we are more efficient in our disbursement and we have faster project implementation. Controlling the budget deficit, of course, is something that we are determined to work on. And we will operate this in tandem with a stringent anti-corruption campaign reinforced with ICT — information technology-driven reforms — in disbursement of funds and procurement. We also have a quiet but stepped up campaign against tax evasion.

Guillermo Parayno, my new man at the bureau of internal revenue, which collects 80 percent of our tax revenues is preceded by his impressive record as commissioner of customs. He has the personal integrity, the technological competence and the people's skills to meet the target set for the rest of the medium-term plan period.

Under his leadership, several enforcement measures are already in place to increase revenue collections especially for the value-added tax, including cross-checking of importation data from the bureau of customs with that reported to the bureau of internal revenue. And as a result of this cross-checking, last 15th of the month, Parayno ordered the closure of 53 firms for underpayment of the value-added and other taxes.

Audit is being intensified for both corporates and individuals. And now we have, starting October, an on-line payment option widely available, complete with validation systems to make sure that the value-added tax scam that I discovered a few months ago will never happen again.

On the part of the Bureau of Customs, every month it has been progressively reducing its revenue gap until finally for the month of October, at last it exceeded its target.

With the reforms we are implementing, and with the reforms which we hope Congress will enact as soon as possible — led by these two gentlemen who are very active on the house floor that we have as guest tonight — we are confident we will achieve higher growth in 2003 especially with the pump priming of the domestic economy that is provided by the housing sector, the sector with the largest multiplier in the entire economy.

The structural reforms at the BIR include: the bill to corporitize the BIR. Executive order no. 119 which I signed reorganizing the BIR while we are awaiting the bill to become law for corporitization; the indexation of sin taxes, which Congress recommended during the summit that followed 9-11 and which I'm happy to remind you are earmarked for housing. Whatever we collect on the indexation of sin taxes — how much? About three billion pesos? — five billion pesos will be to fund housing another reform that I hope congress will enact is the rationalization of motor vehicle taxes.

On the expenditure side, the expenditure management reforms include the procurement reform bill because this procurement reform bill will allow us to save 30 percent of our budget, and the e-government to electronically release funds to agencies automatically for a more efficient utilization of funds.

The budget deficit. I want to explain to you tonight what we are doing to address it because it's a burning issue among the business community. But I know that today an equally burning issue is the issue regarding Meralco. And as my partners in developing the economy I would like to share with you an exclusive — first time I'm going to share with you my policy on MERALCO.

My mind is clear on how to deal with this issue. It will in the context of the larger power sector as the key reform area facing us today.

First, we are taking steps to ensure the financial viability of MERALCO as an institution. Through the department of energy, the government is shepherding a series of consultations which began yesterday between MERALCO and its creditors. We will see to it that a rehabilitation plan is set up that is fair to creditors, investors, and most of all, the public.

Second, the decision of the Supreme Court regarding MERALCO's obligations shall be implemented. We shall await the finality of the decision and then act accordingly. And if the final decision is refund, I will make sure that one way or another the consumers, you, the consumers will get your refund.

Third, I am duty bound to ensure that there will be no crisis in power services as a result of these financial problems. I'm constitutionally bound to serve the public interest. Nothing will stand in the way of this forsworn duty.

My decisions on these matters will not be influenced by my personal feelings or sentiments. I shall proceed on a comprehensive approach taking into consideration the viability of the company vis-a-vis the larger interests of the power industry and balanced as force against the higher public interest.

I shall not be swayed by populist politics nor vested interests. I shall not please the poor by tearing down the rich nor please the rich by trampling on the poor. We must have an even keel for the ship of state.

In these trying times, in these times of reform, I thank god that I have you as our partners in building a strong republic by building homes for the citizens of that Republic.

Mike Defensor mentioned to you some of the key housing reforms, and as you have said, they augur well for our partnership. We have given the banks the policy signal incentives to fund developers on their own. Because the government has limited funds because of the deficit, and rather than government being the one to provide you with the funds, what we are doing in fact is getting government bureaucracy out of your way.

These policy signals include — as you have thanked me — in the power point executive order no. 45 to fast-track the processing of subdivision licenses and permits. And as you have also mentioned along with Mike Defensor, the

lowering of the end-user loan interest which I hear has already had immediate and positive effect on sales. The increase in the socialized housing ceiling to 225,000 pesos is another policy reform that I hope I understand you appreciate.

But even beyond the 225,000-peso houses, I realize that the middle-income housing sub-sector up to 2 million pesos is the most bankable sub-sector even if the market is not as large as the socialized sub-sector. And so I have included this sub-sector in our policy incentives.

And I am happy that the central bank's monetary board has agreed to increase the loan collateral value for housing accounts to 80-90 percent of the loan value, aside from Mike Defensor's 100 percent of the loan value. And that the central bank has agreed to increase the amount for the rediscounting window and eligibility for agri-agra status to two million pesos, which they were able to do because HUDCC changed its definitions.

And as a bonus, we have Bani Braganza which has recently given its ruling on many pending applications. And of course Pag-Ibig has been given the marching orders that it should increase its allocation of funds for housing from 15 billion pesos, not just to 30 billion, but to 70 percent of its portfolio. But they will go for 30 billion first they said, because they want to be prudent. Okay, 30 billion and after that we go for 70 percent.

In response to the policy signals and incentives, the banks have committed, the private banks have committed to fund both the creditworthy private housing developers and the end-users especially of our government employees' housing villages in a project to be packaged by an experienced banker, Deogracias Vistan, and we hope that this will bear fruit in the next six months. So we have bpi, five billion pesos; and Philippine Bank of Commerce, one billion; China Bank another billion. So all in all, together with the GFIs, we have very comfortably sixty billion pesos to fund the 500,000 houses that you have committed to build over the next two years.

I am grateful for your pledges — over 300,000 for SHDA and over 300,000 for CREBA. And as we saw in the presentation of SHDA, this is really a percentage of what the members can actually accomplish. Because only a percentage of its members have so far been covered in this pledging session.

I was also informed that a significant number of projects you have committed are either already ongoing or slated to start next year. I have no doubt in your capacity to live up to these commitments.

It is worthy to note that nearly 38,000 units or 20 percent of the SHDA pledge will be built in Mindanao, the island of Boy Nograles. This will bolster economic development, social reform and peace and order in the region. Pero pinapakinggan ko si Boy Nograles kanina. Sabi, "konti 'yan." he was saying, "kulang, kulang." but anyway, boy there will be more I 'm sure as the peace and order improves in Mindanao.

We see tonight the fruits of our meetings and discussions during the past months. During the anniversary celebration of CREBA in Malacañang last October, we talked about some of the solutions and now they are underway.

When you invited me to your meeting in Baguio I told mike, "Mike, mag-biyahe pa ako, mag-o-open pa ng golf tournament, maghahanda ng diskurso, babiyahe na naman muli sa pag... Let me spend those hours working out the policies instead." and that's why, in my taped message, I was able to present those policies.

And now I 'm happy that our plans and programs are moving forward. And as said earlier, we've made available 200,000 hectares of land for housing and urban development for the next many years.

With these, and with your support, we should be able to reduce hopefully by 50 percent the current shortage of housing units estimated at some 5 million by the year 2010. The year when we hope we would have been able to beat the problem of poverty in our country.

Housing and related infrastructure projects are the traditional pump-primers of growth in developing economy. Your pledges combined with your solid track record will provide the much needed impetus to put our growth... To keep our growth on track.

So once again, dear friends, dear partners in keeping our economy on its growth track, thank you very much. I'm counting on all of you for your continued support, not personally for me alone, but for our people and the future generations.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Real Estate and Housing Industry Pledging Session organized by CREBA-SHDA. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210015/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8464&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2002 General Alumni Homecoming of the University of the Philippines College of Law

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2002 General Alumni Homecoming of the University of the Philippines College of Law**

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-la Hotel Manila, Makati City, November 21, 2002]

Thank you.

Thank you, Nonong, for your introduction, and thank you for not submitting a courtesy resignation. Well, first and foremost, I choose whom I want in my cabinet and can add or subtract Cabinet members when I need to based on performance. And I can assure you as I greet the up law alumni headed by Boy Reino and the other members of class '77-'78, and all the other classes, I'm not going to wait on courtesy if someone in my government isn't working out to the benefit of the nation. But I can assure you that Nonong is indeed working to the benefit of the nation.

Chief Justice Davide and Senate President Drilon, congratulations.

Chief Justice Davide's name is now forever etched in the main chapters of our history with his historic role in the impeachment trial and his equally historic leadership of the Supreme Court and its landmark post-EDSA rulings.

Nothing is easy in a democracy, and Frank Drilon also has his difficult role to play. And I believe his mark in history will be in the difficult but landmark legislative reforms that are being passed and will be passed under his watch. These pieces of legislation have real and lasting impact on our economy and the ability to lift our people out of poverty. For instance, among the challenges that he is right now dealing with is the Transco legislation which will make the franchise available to any potential purchaser of the transmission assets of NAPOCOR, and in so doing, enhances the value of these assets. A successful privatization program is one step to creating a more competitive electric power industry, lowering prices for consumers and delivering better services to remote areas of the country.

The power sector is the key reform area that we must address today. The capital needs of MERALCO, NAPOCOR and TRANSCO have ballooned all these decades. Now, they reached about 40 billion pesos annually, and government subsidies to the power sector reaching these amounts should instead be used to fund other services. Because this amount can build more than 100,000 classrooms, irrigate more than 100,000 hectares, put up more than 75,000 low-cost housing or construct more than 6,000 kilometers of road.

Privatization is the key to the reform of the electric power industry. Privatization enables the government to stretch its scarce finances to meet other basic needs that our people should have immediately.

Kailangan ang privatization para hindi na maghanap ang gobyerno ng dagdag na budget para maiwasan ang brown-out sa mga darating na panahon. Ang privatization ang makakalutas ng utang ng napocor at transco. Kung walang privatization, patuloy ang paglobo ng utang ng NAPOCOR at TRANSCO. Patuloy ang ating problema ng budget deficit.

Because of the staggering numbers involved for the power sector, foreign capital and technology are key to privatization. At the core of privatization is the framework for greater competition and a level playing field for power generators. Ang kakulangan ng puhunan at teknolohiya ang dahilan kung bakit masyadong mataas ang presyo ng ating kuryente. Noong ako'y una naging pangulo, ang naabutan kong presyo ng kuryente ay pangalawang pinakamataas sa buong asya. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit... Isang dahilan kung bakit napakamahal noon ang presyo ng mga bilihin noong ako'y unang umupo bilang pangulo. Ngunit sa mga repormang ginawa natin bumaba ang

presyo ng kuryente sa nakararami at naging pang-anim na lamang tayo, hindi na pangalawa sa pinakamahal na kuryente sa Asya. At ang inflation rate ay bumaba na rin, pinakamababa ngayon sa mahigit sa isang dekada.

Pero hindi pa tapos ang reporma dito. And it's in the context of the power sector as the key reform area that we must approach the burning issue of today which is MERALCO.

Last night, before a group of housing executives, I spelled out the principles under which we shall move forward on MERALCO:

First, we are taking steps to ensure the financial viability of the corporation as an institution. Through the department of energy, the government which has a 25 percent stake in MERALCO is shepherding a series of consultations which began the other day between MERALCO and its creditors. We will see to it that the rehabilitation plan is set up that is fair to creditors, investors, and most of all, the public.

Second, we shall see to it that the decision of the Supreme Court regarding MERALCO's obligations to its customers will be implemented. The ruling is currently at the stage where there will be motion for reconsideration and a review. And it's not yet possible to measure the total impact. However, we do believe that this decision whatever it is can be manageable. And if indeed the final decision is a refund, it is my duty to see to it that one way or another you, the consumers, will get your refund. Let me add that the Supreme Court is the highest court in the land and nothing will aid our economy and democracy more than strong institutions of law.

Third, I am duty-bound to ensure that there will be no crisis in power services that will result from the financial problems of MERALCO. I am constitutionally bound to serve the public interest.

I shall not be swayed by populist politics nor by power play. I shall not please the poor by tearing down the rich nor please the rich by ignoring the poor, because there is nothing more important to me than the future of this country, not even the elections of 2004.

I take exception to the assertion by some that politics will paralyze the Philippines through the 2004 presidential election. Why? I believe the Presidential election for whomever is running presents a great opportunity to enact positive change, not paralyze the nation. The parties out of power would like to stop the process because it's in their interest to do so. For me, I am energized by focusing on policies and prescriptions that will help create jobs, improve health care, deliver better services, and enhance our peace and order. And I assure you, we will continue to be diligent in this regard. So, I view this time as one of untold opportunity and hope. Any critics will have to come up with a vision on the economy, security and democracy that is real like what I've been fighting for.

It doesn't mean that I am a candidate for president. It means I am the president and will continue to focus on being president, and creating jobs, improving health care and providing a better education to the next generation of Filipinos. I'll worry about the election when the time comes, but it is not now.

Last night, there were real estate developers who were with me. And they committed to build half a million houses in the next two years. They are enthused not only with our housing reforms but also with our central bank and other reforms particularly those that have brought our interest rates to the lowest levels in more than a decade. They are currently building not just planning to build. That is why the NCSO figure show a 25 percent increase in construction this year.

These interest rates will go down even more if our budget deficit will go down, and that's what we are working on. In turn, bringing down the budget deficit depends on revenue reform measures both administrative reforms and legislative reforms. The proposed revenue measures will ensure that everyone pays their taxes and provide the government with spending money on health care, education and job creation.

These are basic services that a government is expected to deliver in a strong republic. But the most important basic service is an environment of peace and the rule of law.

This government is making significant inroads in solving our peace and order challenges.

When I took over the government early last year, kidnapping and organized crime were the main concern. Robberies, high profile kidnappings at least once a month with demand for ransom, so that peace and order was rated as among the top three concerns in the surveys. Now, in a November survey, fighting terrorist groups and fighting kidnap-for-ransom syndicates rate among the top five issues where the government is assessed to be doing a good job.

This administration is tackling the issue of peace and order on many fronts. Fortunately, we have developed a formula that's working. We've become tougher on crime. We look at the drug problem as a source of the peace and order challenge, and we have set up the special drug enforcement agency to address this. Meanwhile, I instructed the chief of the national police to focus on kidnapping and weeding out misfits from the police. We have stepped up intelligence coordination. We have a hot line, telephone number 117. And related to this, community mobilization has been very effective in locating criminal fugitives. My Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission secretariat supplements the work of the enforcement institutions. Now, we have inter-agency coordination mainly through stronger police work. The result of all these is a reduction in the crime rate.

In order to preserve and grow the success we've achieved, we are professionalizing the police and fighting the root cause of criminalism by focusing on poverty reduction and sustainable economic development. We have a higher budget to provide higher pay to police and soldiers, who under this new budget will earn as much as the teachers currently do. We have increased the educational requirements of the police, they now have to have a college degree. We have also increased the budget for training policemen.

I make no apologies for being tough on crime and criminals and terrorism and terrorists. Our people deserve no less than to feel absolutely safe to live, work, and raise a family. I will do everything in my power to improve the situation and will continue to do so.

I'm most concerned about taking criminals off the streets in order to preserve the basic right of our people to live in peace, safety and order. My hands-on involvement in this issue in no way impedes suspects of their right to free and fair trial, it does put them and others like them on notice that they cannot hide if they break the law. This is the same warning I have to those who practice corruption in and out of government.

And it is here that I value most the work of lawyers. Fighting corruption is a complex task. And the complexity of modern law is a great challenge to nations and societies especially ours. Weaving through its complexity to bring about good governance and a good strong republic with strong institutions is the job of lawyers as well as many others. But it is specially the job of lawyers not the run of the mill kind but those who have the skill, the acumen and most of all, the commitment to our national ideals.

The up law alumni association has been a well-spring of this breed of lawyers. And so, I ask that you use your special gifts and your privileged education to help me build the strong Philippine republic that we all aspire for.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the 2002 General Alumni Homecoming of the University of the Philippines College of Law. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409205954/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8448&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 6th Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 6th Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, November 25, 2002]

Thank you very much, Mr. Nery.

Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet; Don Juan Manuel Suarez de Toro; Mr. Cherpitel; Mr. Forster; General Canatoy; Justice Luciano; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; delegates to the 6th Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

To all the Red Cross and Red Crescent movers and shakers of this region, welcome to the Philippines. We are honored that the Red Cross and Red Crescent of Asia, Pacific and Middle East is holding your conference in my country.

And I am also honored and very happy to welcome Princess Margriet. I feel a sense of Deja vu because one generation ago, when my father was president of the Philippines, Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, then princess, crowned princess also visited our country. And my father hosted a party for her in this very same hall.

I'm very honored and we are all honored as Filipinos that Princess Margriet is here because causes are more successful when there are symbols, and Princess Margriet is a symbol. She epitomizes the woman in humanitarian work around the world. I am glad, your highness that you are gracing the conference and providing it and us with inspiration.

Indeed, we must all be workers for humanity especially in this challenging age of terrorism, internal wars, widespread ignorance, disease and injustice.

The work of humanitarian organizations like the Red Cross and Red Crescent alleviates much of the pain of events that kill, maim, displace and cause untold suffering among human beings.

It's our challenge to persevere even against seemingly insurmountable odds in a world of conflict and unpeace. And it is the special mission of leaders like you, of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, who have come to this meeting.

The Red Cross has been our partner for a long time.

I'm glad that we can continue to share not only our work but also the experiences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent right here in our country in your conference.

As Mr. Nery said earlier, your meeting focuses on three elemental areas that are also of interest to our country: health, population movements and disasters.

In our country, health issues are now telescoped on the affordability of medicine and health care. Last year, we started a program to cut in half the price of medicines most often purchased by the poor. We hope to expand that program tenfold this coming year. We have also provided health insurance for millions of our poor countrymen.

In our country, too, population movement is caused by poverty and by conflict. Mr. Nery talked about population movements of Filipinos to other countries and indeed, we have seven million Filipinos all around the world who will be sending us eight billion dollars in remittances this year. But, I believe from the point of view of humanitarian work that crucial population movements are the movements within our country.

Poverty causes our rural population to move to the cities, so that today, 51 percent of our population is urban. Unlike a generation ago, when her... Then the princess now the queen visited, 70 percent of the population was rural. Now 51 percent is urban. And 20 percent live in Manila and the surrounding urban areas. These results in urban blight and unhealthy congestion.

In response to this, my government is developing the infrastructure and logistics backbone, and the new government center concept which will hopefully combine to disperse urban development and decongest Metro Manila. This will open up new options for the urban sector to improve their quality of life. For example, affordable and dependable mass transport from the surrounding provinces to Metro Manila will make it possible to choose to establish a wholesome family life in the countryside where the cost of living is less while still working in the city. But, if it is poverty that causes the population to move to Manila we must address that poverty in the countryside.

To keep the population in the countryside, the infrastructure and logistics backbone which will lower transport costs for agricultural goods to the industrial and urban centers will improve the agricultural sector. And I would also like to thank the members of congress — there are none of them here today — for a bill that they have now passed through four committees in the house of representatives on land as collateral. This will eliminate a major bottleneck to the deployment of capital to agriculture and reduce poverty in the countryside.

But even as we are undertaking these measures to ease population movement caused by poverty, we thank the Red Cross and the Red Crescent for your valuable assistance in the population movements caused by armed conflict.

I thank you, for instance, that the last of the evacuees of the recent war in Mindanao have gone home. And we thank you for making that easier. We have a ceasefire in place with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the MILF has started to organize their own NGO that will undertake development projects and receive assistance. In the former Camp Abubakar, which used to be the center of gravity of the secessionist rebellion, there is now a bustle of community development.

We also thank the Red Cross and Red Crescent, for your consistent presence in the various disasters that have visited our region including our country.

Today, terrorist incidents are becoming the most serious disasters. And I thank the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in soothing the suffering of the victims of terrorism even as I ask you to elevate other issues related to conflict or terrorism to a higher place in the agenda of your action and advocacy plan.

One, is an active campaign, I hope, against the employment of children and minors in combat. This comes to my mind, because just a week ago, I attended a surrender ceremony of former communist rebels and saw how they still continue to be recruited at such an early age to wage war against the government. I ask for your support and cooperation in facing this serious challenge to the community of civilized nations.

In my last state of the nation address before the Philippine congress last July, I spoke of the need for a strong Philippine republic to carry out vital reforms needed to win the war against poverty within the decade.

I spoke of the need for a strict enforcement of the law and the strengthening of the institutions of governance. I spoke of a sharp constitutional cutting edge against crime, terrorism and corruption.

Now, I would like to call through you for a chain of strong republics across the region traversing the Pacific, Asia and the Middle East, so that we can strive to ensure our collective security against terror and Transnational crime, and build societies that will help one another defeat poverty. This is my call on the other side of our equally great effort to build the institutions of human dignity and institutions. Institutions like yours that make for a just, humane and peaceful society. For institutions like yours are indispensable institutions of good governance and strong republics.

A strong republic tempers steel with humanity where this is deemed imperative for the common interest.

Even if we must stand uncompromisingly against the dark forces that seek to destroy humanity, we must work with compassion to uplift the poorest of the poor, to heal the sick, to teach the ignorant. And in this work, I say, “carry on Red Cross and Red Crescent. You are doing a great job for humanity.”

Congratulations and thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA’s Speech during the 6th Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409205945/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8446&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the AFP Change of Command Ceremony

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the AFP Change of Command Ceremony

[Delivered at the General Headquarters Grandstand, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, November 28, 2002]

Thank you very much, Secretary Reyes. And the first among the Chiefs of Staff that have served in my administration.

My predecessor as president and the predecessor of General Defensor and Santiago as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, his Excellency President Fidel Ramos; a dear friend of the new Chief of Staff. In fact, the one who alerted me a long time ago to the virtues and qualifications and bravery of General Santiago, Speaker Jose de Venecia; I congratulate and thank the other members of Congress who are here today. I thank them because they are here I'm sure to express their continuing support for the Armed Forces of the Philippines; I also thank the local government officials who have come to join this installation of the new chief of staff, they represent the local governments of the communities where General Santiago spent very important parts of his career; of course, I congratulate the now most recent former Chief of Staff General Benjie Defensor; I would like to greet all the other uniformed officers both of the Armed Forces and of the police; and as I greeted President Ramos, all the former chiefs of staff who are also here to greet a new member of their very exclusive club; I greet all the officers, men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines including the ladies of the Armed Forces, the wives of our brave officers and soldiers whose support has been so crucial in their bravery and their courage.

Sa inyong lahat mga kababayan, magandang umaga. And now I asked the Commanding... Troop Commander Teneral Teodocio to give 'tikas pahinga.'

Once again today, we observe the tradition in the changing of the guards. I have presided over the ceremony several times now. I presided over the change of command from General Angelo Reyes whom we call the philosopher general to General Diomedio Villanueva who served as our Chief of Staff for more than a year. I presided over the change of command from General Villanueva to General Roy Cimatu whom we call the thinking general. I presided over the change of command from General Cimatu to General Defensor whom as we all see is the poet general. And now, I am presiding over the change of command from General Defensor to general Santiago, the Chuck Norris, the Delta Force of the Philippines. Each of these chiefs of staff have their own distinct and remarkable personality, but I think they have one thing in common. All my choices for AFP Chief of Staff have shown outstanding leadership, loyalty to the constitution, and faith in the chain of command and the commander-in-chief. That is why I am unperturbed by criticisms of the short terms of the last two chiefs of staff. For it is leadership, not time that is the sole measure of command.

And I shall continue to judge the command only by the high standards of merit and professionalism.

I believe that there is no essential relationship between the brief stints of our last two chiefs of staff on the one hand and the stability of the Armed Forces on the other.

Our last two chiefs of staff are our best argument that the length of command is not the most relevant trait of good military leadership.

Under General Benjie Defensor, the AAFP started to untie the "Gordian knot" of local terrorism, insurgency and poverty through successful military operations against the Abu Sayyaf and the local communist movement, and I enjoin General Santiago to continue untying that "Gordian knot." The move of General Defensor was reinforced by

closer coordination in intelligence and operations between the AFP and the PNP, and the civic action campaigns to win back a large number of rebel and terrorist sympathizers.

When Benjie Defensor accepted his post, he promised to make the AFP perform as “one force” for the country’s defense and security. And in fulfilling his promise, he demonstrated brilliance and innovation in making the force faster, smarter and deadlier. The “one force” that Benjie promoted precluded relying just on ground forces or almost totally on ground forces to achieve military victory. Having come from a major service other than the army, Benjie was more conscious of making all the services equal partners in a campaign plan. Thus, his spectacular victories in the Sultan Gumander battles are significant contributions to doctrine especially on the role of the air force as the first force in softening the enemy targets.

Under Benjie’s leadership, “Oplan Hurricane” dealt a big blow to terrorist and insurgent forces in the Lanao provinces. This Oplan secured the communities by preventing hostile acts that could have been launched from a newly-built enemy camp.

I am proud that Benjie has met his goal of the entire Armed Forces as “one force” — faster, smarter, deadlier and more poetic.

The poetry was not only in the term that he call his operation “gordian knot.” The poetry was in his blending of conventional and unconventional approaches which resulted in significant arrests and breakthroughs in our anti-terrorism and anti-insurgency campaigns.

The arrest of Miel Gracia Laurenaria, Ceferino Borlaus and Lydia Tuastumban, the capture of the NPA headquarters in Bag-gao, Cagayan Valley, the coming in of 150 NPA regulars of Quezon province are good examples of these.

I was also privileged to preside personally over the coming back to the fold of the entire backbone of the rebellion in Rizal province. So significant coming from the center of gravity of the insurgency in a highly strategic area so close to the seat of government of the republic.

Better AFP-PNP intelligence and coordination unearthed information vital to our national and global anti-terrorism campaigns. This network, this teamwork led to the exposure of new links between local terrorist groups to the Jemaah Islamiya which is further linked to Al-Queda.

But Benjie showed his versatility also when he convinced 308 rebels to give up their fight, with the oldest MILF leader, Kumander Bantac, setting the example.

Under Benjie Defensor’s leadership, our forces have pushed the Abu Sayyaf back to their point of origin. And I expect each of them to be accounted for in due time.

With Benjie’s encouragement and guidance, air force intelligence operatives did him proud by capturing Abdulmukim Edris, the foreign-trained mastermind of the Zamboanga City bombings before the latter could blow up key places in Metro Manila.

And, even today, just as Benjie was going to turnover the command to the new chief of staff of the Armed Forces, even today his troops, our troops again delivered a major military victory against the rebels in San Quintin, Pangasinan. A good going-away present for General Benjie Defensor as outgoing Chief of Staff.

The adverse global environment has provided opportunities to address our national security concerns. Nine-eleven, the subsequent war on terrorism, and the looming war in Iraq have all combined to dampen the world economy. But even before 9-11, we had already been waging a war on terrorism. You will recall that the Abu Sayyaf was able to generate at least 20 million dollars in ransom from Sipadan, which strengthened their capability for terror. But with our decisive response to 9-11, we gained foreign allies in our war against terror, which enabled us to neutralize the

notorious Abu Sabaya in June of this year, and to degrade Abu Sayyaf strength from thousands to a couple of hundred there in Patikul.

Benjie's sharp tactical gains have been counterbalanced against good strategic sense. He has played an active role in the evaluation of the AFP basic doctrine and the accompanying doctrines development manual.

I am glad to know that most of the division manuals have been approved and are up for deliberation by the AFP doctrines board. I have had positive reports from junior officers about these developments. Even as they also give me positive reports about their appreciation that for the first time in history, the soldiers will be sharing the same Christmas benefits as the civilian personnel in our government.

The modernization of the AFP would not be complete without a doctrine appropriate to modern times. The practices of the 20th century cannot apply to all the problems of the 21st century. In the great battles that our Filipino soldiers have waged including the great battles of Sultan Gumander are at least as rich in lessons as the historical battles of the world. And warfare must take new approaches to effectively respond to the whole range of new threats spawned by new technologies and the vagaries in the global political and economic scenario.

As I said when I installed Benjie Defensor as chief of staff, the modernization of doctrine should take into account the post-military affairs revolution thinking regarding the changing military mission brought about by the growth in the power of the criminal, terrorist and other armed non-state organizations that now challenge weakened traditional nation states in many parts of the world.

We need this modernization, not only of the AFP but also of doctrine because we need to build a strong Philippine republic. For the last 100 years, we have failed to build the strong republic. We were the first republican state in Asia. Yet today, we have become one of the weakest. Thus, we have to be honest to ourselves and find out what our basic problems are. Only then can we find the solutions.

I've been in office 20 months now, and the daily problems i have had to face are among the most difficult in our country's history. But I gained experience and maturity from both my correct decisions and my mistakes. Thus, i can now face the future with greater certainty of what needs to be done. The starting point is plain talk and an honest recognition of our national weaknesses.

Why is our state weak? A state is weak if dominant classes or sectors control it or shape its policies especially those dealing with the economy. This is our decades-old fundamental weakness. From Bonifacio at Balintawak to Cory Aquino and FVR at EDSA, we have struggled to correct this weakness by bringing power to the people. As I said in my first State of the Nation Address or SONA: "we also see in our great revolutions — from Bonifacio to EDSA — a progressive advancement towards the ultimate goal to transfer power over the state from the traditional economic and political bosses to the people."

Our task is to complete this revolution. And as I said in my first SONA: "the enemy to beat is ourselves. When we spread division rather than unity; when we put ourselves above country and profit above fairness. When we make politics replace patriotism in our country's hour of need."

What are the symptoms of the weak state that our generation of Filipinos has inherited? One is a large gap between rich and poor, a gap that has been exploited for political ends. Another is a political system based on patronage, and ultimately, corruption to support patronage. Another is, in recent years, the use of destabilization, black propaganda and character assassination as political tools of the trade. The common word in these is "politics" — too much politics. And that's why I am glad that we have an Armed Forces that is above politics.

I am a politician, there are several in this audience who are politician, because all those who are in elected leadership, whether administration or opposition are politicians, and all exist within this system. Too much politics contributing to a weak state is a collective blame we must all share in. What is important is the willingness to change, and over time, this can happen.

The adverse global environment has aggravated our weakness. Following the 1997 Asian currency crisis, our ability to generate public revenues steadily deteriorated. The ratio of revenues-to-GDP declined from 19 percent in 1997, to 17 percent in 1998, to 16 percent in 1999, to 15 percent in the year 2000. This trend weakened us financially, limiting the resources we have to fund development and modernization, and increasing our need to borrow.

During my first year as president, we were able to arrest the decline sustaining the 2000 ratio of 15 percent into the year 2001. However, the decline has resumed this year, 14 percent revenue-to-GDP ratio because low interest rates while being good for business they have also led to lower taxes on interest income. Because while agricultural growth in exports is good for the farmers and good for those who work in our export manufacturers, the growth in the economy was in agriculture and exports and they don't pay taxes.

Also, we have the low inflation rate, and while this is good for the consumers, low inflation reduce vat values, non-dutiable imports increased. And while it is good for the riding public to have excise tax free automobiles, when excise tax free automobiles dominated vehicles sales that also reduced our tax stake.

Another reason was that specific taxes on liquors and cigarettes don't increase with higher prices. But most of all, we have had continuing problems of tax administration. Prompting me to tap the services of a classmate of General Santiago, Guillermo Parayno, PMA class 1970 to head the BIR. He's not here today because I suppose he has to attend to a lot of problems in the BIR. But Dionnets' classmate, Parayno, is preceded by his impressive record as Commissioner of Customs during the administration of President Ramos. And Parayno has shown his personal integrity, his technological competence, and the people skills to meet the targets set for the rest of the medium-term plan period. He is the right man for the job. Not the least reason of which he is from class 1970, the class of Dionnet Santiago.

Because now I have Parayno, PMA 1970, heading our revenue collections. I have Jun Ebdane, PMA Class '70, heading our police force, our enforcement. I even have Roy Golez, Annapolis Class '70 putting together our intelligence coordination. And now, Dionisio Santiago PMA 1970, heading the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We have four classmates in-charge of enforcing the law and enforcing law and order. And I count on the four of them to be interactive and to make all our rule of law agencies the "one force" that Benjie Defensor envisioned.

Focused, action-oriented and combat-honed, Dionnets Santiago has distinguished himself in various battlefields in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. He conceptualized the formation of light reaction companies in all tactical units of the Philippine army, which has proven to be one of the most cost-effective strategies of counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism.

Dionnets is equally comfortable in the field as in the board room, having once served as assistant chief of staff for plans of the Philippine Army, a director of the National Security Studies, a trade attache at the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, and an Attache at the Philippine Consulate in Seattle, Washington.

But, to me, the greatest part of Dionnets preparation for his present work is not really in his biodata. Most of all to me, from what I have seen of him, I considered Dionnets as the SoCom Commander — that's why I call him the delta force and the Chuck Norris — but he was the SoCom commander who put his career on the line for the people in the events leading to January 19, 2001. And this is why I trust him with my life. And I trust him, I entrust to him the leadership of the Armed forces of the Philippines I join the men and women of the AFP in saluting the new chief of staff.

And as for Benjie, he is ready for his second career. And as Benjie goes off — not riding into the sunset, not even living just the life of a poet in retirement — as Benjie goes off to capture newer worlds, let us for the last time salute him as chief of staff and congratulate him for 33 years of excellent, unselfish and loyal service to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the people of the republic of the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa iyo, Benjie Defensor. Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the AFP Change of Command Ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409205933/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8442&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremonies of the 16th Golden Shell Awards and Top Export Performers Award Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding ceremonies of the 16th Golden Shell Awards and Top Export Performers Award

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, November 29, 2002]

Thank you very much, Secretary Mar Roxas for your introduction. And I would also like to thank Secretary Roxas for being a champion not only of exports but also of domestic demand particularly the reforms in small and medium enterprises that the economy has been seeing.

Congressman Harry Angpin and Mrs. Angpin. Thank for being here. Congressman Angpin has been a champion of Philippine Business and Exports in the house of representatives; I'd like to thank Philippine Export President Jun Ortiz Luis for his continuing leadership of the export sector even during the especially trying times of last year; and I'd like to greet not only mar but all the other officials of the department of trade and industry, my former colleagues and still my friends even up to today; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; members of the board of judges; and of course, our awardees and other leaders of the business community:

Today, we are honoring exceptional Filipino men and women and Filipino resident companies who have produced star quality exports. It's a good time to remind ourselves that despite the harsh domestic and global conditions, our country is moving forward. Our exports have resumed growing. As of September, exports grew at 8.8 percent, not because the international market is recovering, but because we are getting market share.

For instance, Silicon Valley growth is flat but Philippine electronics exports are growing. And that's why we have awardees from that sector today. For instance, we have Toshiba moving its computer manufacturing from United States plants to the Philippines. And that is why some of its component manufacturers and suppliers are among our awardees today.

Toyota for the first time will be exporting to Japan from the Philippines the transmission component. And again, the same thing with Honda, which has expanded its markets for its transmission not only from... Not only to Asian but now to the whole world, and again that is why some of their component suppliers are our awardees today.

China has entered the WTO, but Philippine exports to China have grown by 80 percent. And from a trade deficit with china last year of 300 million dollars, now we have a trade surplus of 700 million dollars. And I am very happy that one of our awardees — in fact, the gentleman who spoke in behalf of the awardees — Fujitsu has just expanded 2.2 billion pesos approved last week. Thank you very much for your continuing faith in the Philippine economy.

You, the exporters deserve credit for all these, for our 8.8 percent growth in exports despite a fairly flat overall growth in exports around the world. Your accomplishment, I would say is the triumph of Filipino expertise in management, design and production.

Your expertise is the reason why our designs and products are in such demand abroad. This is why foreign buyers come here for sourcing. Our awardees were able to achieve their outstanding accomplishments inspite of the long-drawn challenges we are confronting here and around the world.

Their success in the face of adversity may be attributed not only to their resilience and versatility, but to their individual competence, and I would like to think the market-friendly policies that our national government is putting in place to cushion the impact of recurrent crisis.

Thus, in the first three quarters of this year, Philippine GDP grew by 4.1 percent and GNP by 5 percent, powered by the recovery of industry especially exports and continuing strengthening of services. Industry grew by 3.8 percent as i said earlier fueled by the 8 percent growth in exports. Services grew by 5.1 percent. Our economic growth is surpassed only by the industrial giants — China and Korea — and by Vietnam which started from a much lower base.

Our inflation is low at 2.7 percent. Our interest rates are low, with the 91-day Treasury Bill steady at around 5 percent. These rates are at their lowest in more than a decade.

Demand for the talents and skills of the great Filipino worker remains as strong as ever, particularly in sectors like information and communications technology, tourism and nursing aside from the urgent growth in export demand.

And while the deficit is a concern, we have brought in a new team headed by the likes of BIR commissioner Parayno. And I am forming an anti-smuggling intelligence and investigation center to handle the smuggling that takes place outside the customs area. And this is to be headed by a very reputable man with a sterling reputation for integrity, former police General Miguel Coronel. He will be the head of the new anti-smuggling intelligence and investigation center. And with their combined efforts, the goal is to increase tax and customs revenues to reduce the deficit and reduce the interest rates that you, the exporters have to pay.

The market-friendly policies of the government include tariff and incentives rationalization, as I said the lowering of interest rates and the relaxation of stringent requirements to access financing programs, and also loan restructuring among others.

The requirements to access financing programs will continue to be relaxed particularly for small and medium enterprises. We have given banks incentives and policy signals to fund the SMEs. For instance, upon motion filed by my representative to the monetary board, Secretary Mar Roxas, the central bank has decreased reserve requirements on rural banks and thrift banks to 6 percent. It has reduced the risk-weighting on SME loans to 75 percent from 100 percent. It has reduced the rediscount to 91-day t-bills minus 1 percent on all loans. We hope that this will help the small and medium enterprise exporters and also your sub-contractors who are small and medium enterprises.

We are also committed to long-term structural reforms to ensure continued strength in domestic demand, bolstering the diversification of the GDP and enlivening the climate for investment. Both for the investment for the domestic market and the investment for exports.

The passage of the Special Asset Management Company Bill — used to be called the Special Purpose Vehicle Bill. Now it's Asset Management Company bill, and that's a better description of what it really does — This bill is now in bicameral conference committee in Congress. And I think Congressman Angpin will confirm that both houses of congress find the sailing quite smooth in the bicameral conference committee. This will free up more bank resources for export and other projects that the government is not in a fiscal position to fund.

This special asset management company bill is not meant to just bailout banks. It is meant, first and foremost, to liquify their assets so as to ease up credit and help borrowers get back into business.

Banks are only as important as they contribute to the economy. The special asset management company is not intended to help banks for themselves. The entrepreneur remains the engine of the economy, and you, the entrepreneurs, i know, you need to be fueled up again with loans to get the economy moving.

There is another bill — and I'm glad that we have agricultural exporters among our awardees — the bill to make agricultural land acceptable as bank collateral passed the house on third and final reading yesterday. And to Congressman Angpin, let us thank the congressmen for their quick response to the certification as urgent. This will reduce... This will remove, in fact, the rigidity of the second-round land transfers under the agrarian reform program. And when agricultural land, even land reformed land is available as collateral then that will bring private investments back to agriculture.

Indeed, the government is committed to sustaining economic and political measures to counter the effects of global recession and terrorism.

Nine-eleven, the subsequent war on terrorism, and the looming war in Iraq have all combined to dampen the world economy. That's why our 8 percent growth in exports is truly remarkable. But even before 9-11, we already had been waging a war on terrorism, largely by ourselves.

You will recall that the Abu Sayyaf was able to generate at least 20 million dollars in ransom from Sipadan, which strengthened their capability for terror. But with our decisive response to 9-11, we gained foreign allies in our war against terror. We brought down the fighting strength of the Abu Sayyaf from the thousands to the hundreds, and we took down their leader in June of this year.

In our war against terror, we look out primarily for our own interests. This includes making common cause with foreign countries where those interests materially overlap.

We don't know when or where in the whole world terror will strike again, but we are doing everything to thwart its attempts or mitigate its effects. We shall remain on alert.

These measures — economic, political, security — are all designed to make the Philippines a safe and desirable place for business; a safe and desirable place for exports.

And let's not forget that sound macroeconomic management goes side by side with good governance practices including leadership by example, transparency and the integrity of transactions.

Take for instance, the accusation against Secretary of Justice Hernando Perez. You now know, of course, that he has gone on leave. It had been his intention even before the matter came to a head on the floor of congress. But now I appeal to his accusers: rather than filing you charge in the media, file it with the office of the ombudsman. Submit your documents to speed up the investigation. In the meantime, my presidential anti-graft commission, with whatever little it has in his hands as evidence is also doing its own investigation.

Take now the PIATCO issue. This is not just a simple problem, but a test case of the integrity and efficiency of the republic in building the infrastructure the nation requires. An international airport is any nation's gateway to the world, the first contact of foreigners with the Philippine republic, especially those foreigners who have not been in contact with the wonderful exports of the Philippine economy; those foreigners who have not had the benefit of enjoying Philippine export products. Because for them when they see your products, that's the face of the Philippines they see. But if they are not exposed to your products, there's the airport. That is the first face of the Philippines they see. Therefore, it's not only a matter of opening it but making sure that it is a world-class airport that operates without any hitches at all and without the slightest risk to travellers.

But it's also emerging as a test case of my administration's commitment to fight corruption, to rid our state from the hold of any vested interest.

The solicitor general and the Justice department have determined that all five agreements covering the NAIA terminal 3, most of which were contracted in the previous administration, are null and void.

I cannot honor contracts which the executive branch's legal offices have concluded are null and void. I'm therefore ordering the Department of Justice and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to investigate any anomalies and prosecute all those found culpable in connection with the NAIA contract.

But despite all of the problems involving the PIATCO contracts, I'm assuring our people, our travellers, our exporters: my administration will open the terminal even if it requires invoking the full powers of the presidency under the constitution. And we will open a safe, secure and smoothly functioning airport, a world-class airport, as world-class as the exporters we are honoring today.

Today, the natural inclination to trade nourishes the economic engine of our country.

Indeed, government should step back when private initiative offers the greatest creativity and dynamism as in the case of the export sector. Even as government should not hesitate to step in when private greed threatens the greatest damage and paralysis to society as in the case of onerous and illegal contracts. There is no inalienable right to fleece the public. There is only an inalienable right to do profits honestly.

It is there in the history books. From the United States to Germany and Japan, rich countries are made by strong governments. The private passion for profits is indispensable to bold enterprise. The public call to service is necessary for the wider public good.

In the global struggle for economic survival, progress and even preeminence, the engine of growth has always been the private sector — you, our exporters. But the ultimate goal has always been national strength.

Even in an increasingly globalized world, where the ways of doing business and making progress have toppled national boundaries, each people have only one place where they are truly welcome; one place they can really call home and that is their country. Therefore, profit must be topped by patriotism.

And it is patriotism to capitalize on our renowned artistry that we are honoring today. Our innovations have been found useful and exceptional even in foreign lands. Our designs have established strong footholds especially in high-end markets.

Our awardees do our country proud. They are rekindling the collective Filipino spirit with their commendable determination to compete and prevail.

The will to struggle and prevail is a hallmark of a competitive exporter. It is also the hallmark of a strong nation, it is also the hallmark of a strong Philippine republic. Thus, we all have the same goal.

And so, in moving towards this goal, let me say, thank you and congratulations to our awardees. May this award inspire you to pursue greater success not only for yourselves but most especially for the glory of our country and people.

Mabuhay ang ating mga exporters!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding Ceremonies of the 16th Golden Shell Awards and Top Export Performers Award. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409205716/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8435&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the celebration of National Heroes Day and 139th Birth Anniversary of Andres Bonifacio

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the celebration of National Heroes Day and 139th Birth Anniversary of Andres Bonifacio**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang on November 30, 2002]

Thank you, Secretary Romulo, for your introduction.

I'd like to thank the cabinet members and all the other officials who are here. I'd also like to thank our Commissioners Bambam Aquino, Mark Gastrosdes, Ariel Arcilla, and our other commissioners who took their oath of office today for being the prime organizers of the event.

To all of you members of the youth organizations, student leaders who are here today; distinguished guests; *mga kababayan*.

Ang Araw ng mga Bayani ng Bansa – iyan ang ipinagdiriwang natin ngayong araw na ito. At ipinagdiriwang din natin ang kapanganakan ng dakilang anak-pawis, si Andres Bonifacio, at ginugunita, sinasariwa, ginuguhit sa isip ang pag-usbong ng kalayaan sa ating bayan mula sa dalawang tanim: ang nasang kumawala sa paniniil at ang pag-asang umahon sa kahirapan.

Indeed, the birth of our nation saw the start by Andres Bonifacio of two struggles: one for freedom from foreign control and the other for freedom from poverty.

lisang sandata ang hawak natin dito sa dalawang pakikibaka: ang matatag na Republika, handang ipagsanggalang ang bansa at magdulot ng matimbang na pag-angat sa buhay ng mga napakaraming Pilipinong lugmok pa rin sa kahirapan mahigit sandaang taong pagkalaya.

A state is weak if dominant classes or sectors control it or shape its policies, especially those dealing with the economy. This is our decades-old fundamental weakness, from Bonifacio at Balintawak to Cory Aquino at EDSA, we have struggled to correct this weakness bringing power to the people.

Walang bayang nanguna sa mundo sa tulak ng panlilinlang ng sarili at kapwa. Walang bansang umakyat sa pakpak lamang ng pagnanais mahigtan ang abot ng tunay nitong kakayahan.

And so, I do not and will not make policy on the basis of baseless fears.

Take the Meralco issue. I tell our people again: "If the Supreme Court orders with finality that the refund will be implemented, I will make sure that you, the consumers, will get your refund." Our concerns will be exclusively: justice through full restitution for Meralco's consumers as the Supreme Court rules, but without undermining the stability of the nation's leading energy company.

On the PEA issue. Arising from another of its controversial projects began in the previous administration. Let me make myself very clear: "I am abolishing the Public Estates Authority." I'm abolishing it through a bill I will submit

to Congress next week. All its assets, mostly public lands, shall be transferred to the appropriate agencies which will hold strictly to account the officials concerned.

I had already accepted the resignation of all the current members of the PEA Board, including the general manager. Now, I'm dismissing the deputy general managers, the assistant general manager, and the senior corporate attorneys. I'm referring this latest controversy to the Ombudsman for the filing of the appropriate charges against all officials involved, including the old PEA board members.

On the PIATCO issue. The solicitor general has submitted to the Supreme Court the government position that all five agreements covering NAIA 3 are null and void.

I've received preliminary reports that a significant chunk of the airport's cost of the \$657 million didn't go to actual construction costs. No wonder the necessary access tunnel connecting terminal 3 to terminal 2 is still missing, there's not even a road.

I'm sworn to uphold the law, how then can I honor contracts contrary to law. What I can do is to order a criminal investigation into the PIATCO project with a view to the prosecution of the parties responsible for the gross irregularities. Let me, however, assure the stakeholders: your legitimate claims will be honored to the last peso and the terminal will open early next year.

On the budget deficit. Following the 1997 Asian crisis, public revenues steadily declined from 19 percent of GDP in 1997, to 17 percent in 1998, to 16 percent in 1999, to 15 percent in the year 2000. This trend has robbed us of the resources to spend on important initiatives.

In my first year as President, we were able to arrest the decline and sustain the ratio of 15 percent in 2001. However, the decline has resumed this year as terrorism added its toll to the global recession.

In this country, people don't pay the right taxes, especially those who can afford it. The Customs, the BIR, the New Anti-Smuggling Intelligence and Investigation Commission, now led by new commissioners, must work harder so that whether you are big business or small – forget the accounting tricks, just pay your taxes and duties or see you in court.

The two million-dollar man. If the charges are true, all that money is not reflected in anybody's income tax return. If charges are true, everyone involved is going to jail at least for tax evasion in addition to bribery.

To the man who claims to have blown the whistle I say, "Time to show the evidence and file the case in court, and hurry up before you are extradited."

With what I've learned, I face the future with a deeper grasp of the problems, a better sense of the way to go, and a confidence that together we shall overcome. The next six months will show this.

Upang makalikom ng yaman para sa isang matatag na Republika ng Pilipinas, bumubuo tayo ng mahusay na grupo ng opisyal na magpapalaki ng singil sa buwis at taripa. Samantala, pakikilusin natin ang mga bangko upang pondohan ang pabahay, munting negosyo, at pagsasaka. Gumagawa rin tayo ng mga patakaran para pumunta ang private sector sa napakahaiagang industriya ng koryente.

The passage of the Special Asset Management Company bill or SAMC, now in bicameral conference committee in Congress, should free up more bank resources for housing and other developmental projects that the government is not in a fiscal position to fund.

Kailangan nating ipagbili ang TRANSCO, ang operasyon ng NAPOCOR sa distribusyon ng koryente. upang magamit ang salaping ginugol ngayon sa pagkalugi nito. Kikita rin ang gobyerno ng hindi bababa sa P3 bilyon

sa pagbenta ng TRANSCO, at mahigit P100 bilyon sa paghusay ng serbisyo sa elektrisidad. We are hopeful that the Senate will pass the TRANSCO Bill to bring this about as expeditiously as the House of Representatives did.

To improve the quality of the government workforce for a Strong Philippine Republic, we shall have time for substantive improvements – first, in affordable housing where the needs of teachers, soldiers, policemen, and other government employees will be addressed in an especially packaged project. *At sa pagtatayo rin ng mga bagong sentro ng pamahalaan, magbubukas ng bagong pagkakataon para sa pag-angat ng kanilang buhay at trabaho.*

Para sa dagliang ikabubuti ng taga-siyudad, sisimulang ipagsama ang mga modernong sistema ng transportasyon at ang mga bagong sentro ng gobyerno upang lumago ang mga kalunsuran sa labas ng Kamaynilaan. Sisimulan natin ang pagtayo ng bagong paraang mapaganda ang buhay sa siyudad. Halimbawa, transportasyong pangmasa na maaasahan at abot-kaya sa pagitan ng Metro Manila at mga karatig probinsiya. Extensions of the north and south expressways and the rail link to the north will be underway, and my dream of a roll-on/roll-off port-linked archipelago has broken ground with funding from the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Para sa dagliang ikabubuti ng taga-bukid, babawasan ng mga modernong sistema ng transportasyon ang gastos sa pagdadala ng mga produkto mula sa lalawigan patungo sa industriya at kalunsuran. Samantala, salamat sa batas tungkol sa pagsasangla ng lupang sinasaka, na pinasa ng Kamara noong Huwebes. Maaalis ang isang malaking balakid sa pagpasok ng puhunan sa agrikultura.

Ako'y nagpapasalamat kay Secretary Leony Motemayor na nanggaling sa hanay ng NGO na napangibabaw niya and boses ng maliliit na magsasaka. Kaya nakuha natin mga batas para sa kanila: Mga patakaran ng ehekutibo para sa kanila. Now, the new law on agricultural land as collateral will open up a whole new world of vast opportunities for the farmers to graduate from subsistence-living advocates to modernizing agri-business practitioners. And to initiate this graduation, this transformation, I am appointing agri-businessman Luis Lorenzo as the new Secretary of Agriculture.

Si Sonny Alvarez maraming sinakripisyo upang ipairal ang kanyang mga paniniwala tungkol sa likas-yaman. In the next two weeks, he must firm up initiatives on environment, especially toxic and hazardous waste, watershed, and the social justice program of the Macapagal-Arroyo government to build a new Diwalwal. Then, on December 15, he will move on and turn over the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to his successor, the noted environment expert Elisea Gozun, whom the environmentalist know as Bebet Gozun.

The other initiatives, including a program for youth empowerment, will soon reveal themselves in their implementation. I know that people have become cynical and will believe only what they see.

Trust me, you will see what serious government can do as opposed to what a merely popular government just promises.

I thank the National Youth Commission for initiating this National Heroes Day celebration. Our national heroes were young. Rizal was 26 years old when he wrote the *Noli Me Tangere*. Aguinaldo was 29 when he became President of the First Republic. Bonifacio was 33 at the Cry of Balintawak. Ninoy Aquino, our modern-day hero, was 22 when he first entered politics.

The youth remind us why we have to strengthen the Philippine Republic. The institutions we build will survive beyond us, for the youth now and the youth of the future.

The things we need required time to get started. They will even need more time to get finished and felt. But they are there quietly and surely beginning. Don't let impatience throw it all away. Stay the course. Stay with me.

Sino pa ang mag-aahon sa bayan, sa kahirapan ng mga Pilipino kundi ang matatag na Republikang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community in Japan

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a meeting with the Filipino community in Japan

[Delivered at the Ballroom, Hotel Mariners Court, Tokyo Japan, December 2, 2002]

Maraming Secretary Blas Ople sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. At gusto ko rin ipakilala sa ating mga kaibigan dito sa hapon, mga pilipino sa hapon ang inyong maybahay, si Mrs. Susan Ople. Nandiyan siya.

At gusto ko rin ipakilala sa inyong lahat, although nagkasama na tayo noong isang taon, kasama ko rin ang aking kabiya, si Attorney Mike Arroyo; dala-dala ko rin ngayon ang aking anak, si Luli Arroyo; ang aking anak at ang aking manugang, na si Mikey at saka si Angela Arroyo; siyempre gusto kong batiin 'yung ating ambassador dito sa Hapon at nagpapasalamat ako sa maganda niyang pag-organize nitong ating pagbisita dito, si Ambassador Siazon. At alam niyo naman si Ambassador Siazon ay Japanese by heart dahil ang kanyang maybahay ay haponesa, si Mrs. Kay Siazon.

Nandito rin ang ilang aking Cabinet Member. 'Yung ilan ay ipapakilala ko sa inyo, si Secretary Lito Camacho kasama si Mrs. Camacho; si Secretary Mar Toxas na wala pang Mrs.; si Secretary Dante Canlas; wala yata si Governor Buenaventura dito ngayong gabi. Gusto ko rin bigyan ng bati ang ating Senador mula sa Mindanao, si Nene Pimentel; at isa ring Congresswoman na ang puso rin niya ay nasa Hapon dahil ang kanyang kabiya din ay Hapon, si Congresswoman Nene Ramirez-Sato; narito rin si Congressman Jing Paras; at saka si Congressman Antonino Roman ng Bataan; narito rin si Governor Tommy Josen; at saka si Governor Caballero at saka si Mrs. Caballero ng Compostela Valley; si Governor Plaza at saka 'yung kanyang matriarch ng Plaza family, si Mrs. Valentina Plaza na nakaupo doon, former governor; si Mayor Boking Morales ng Mabalacat; at saka yung nag-aalaga sa inyo, si Secretary Pat Santo Tomas.

Meron rin tayong ilan pang mga Cabinet officials na naririto, si Secretary Toting Bunye, ang aking Press Secretary; isang Hapon na mestizo dahil kasama 'yung kanyang lolo sa unang wave ng immigrants from Japan to the Philippines to Baguio, si Secretary Yongyong Hamada Afable si Secretary Joey Rufino at saka kanyang maybahay si Ching; 'yung tumutulong sa atin na ayusin 'yung mga red tape sa ODA si Mai Jimenez; inyong sugo, inyong naglilingkod sa Overseas Workers Welfare Administration si Ver Angelo. Saan siya? At saka gusto ko rin batiin galing sa Osaka, si Consul General Antonio Villamayor.

At sana hindi ko na babangitin lahat ng pangalan nila pero papatindigin ko yung kasapi ng Philippine Business delegation, nandoon sila sa banda roon. Nariyan din ang Philippine media. Kaya sa inyong lahat, sa kanila, sa inyong mga kababayan minamahal ko, Merry Christmas sa inyong lahat. Welcome to this Christmas Party. At Caring Malugud kung Cabalen Capangpangan, pasalamatan cu pung lubus ing pamanyatang yu ngening bengi. Makareng cu.

Kadakayo nga kakailiak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga rabii yo amin, kadwan ti Abraeñon Association in Japan, Agiaman kadakayo nga umay kayo tatta nga rabii. Sa akong mga kaubanang taga-mindanao asa ako nidako ug asa nagikan si Senador Nene Pimentel, daghang salamat sa inyong pag-abot karong gabiuna.

Sa mga kasimanwa sang akong bana nga Ilonggo, kaupod ang Organization for the Development and Advancement of Negros in Japan – ngano kamo, oriental o occidental? Occidental. O, salamat gid nga nakadto kamo sa atong programa subong.

Mga Batangueño at 'yung mga kababayan ni Tommy Josen, Japan Association of Novo Ecijanos. Malaki ang ating Nueva Ecija delegation ngayon at nandiyan din si Presidential Assistant Rene Diaz at saka member of the Board ng San Miguel, si Rico Fajardo.

Binabati ko ang iba pang mga asosasyon at samahan ng ating mga kababayan na narito ngayong gabi. Hindi ko alam kung kumpleto ang aking listahan pero sa alam ko nandito ang samahang Pilipino, isa sa pinakamalaking grupo ng Filipino sa Hapon. At yung Philippine Men's League, 'yung Association of Filipino Students in Japan; 'yung Science and Technology Advisory Council ng Japan, salamat at tumutulong kayo sa pagbibigay ng "Unlad Kabayan at Tuloy Aral" business courses sa ating mga OFW.

Narito rin daw ang Filipino circle for advancement and progress; ang Overseas Filipino World Net Foundation — ah, wala. Ah, nandiyan; ang Association of Filipinos in Tokyo; ang Circle of Friends; ang Philippine Ladies Association in Japan; ang Filipino Wives of Japanese Association. Dapat gawin niyong member si Congresswoman Sato, ha? O, member siya; hawak kamay sa mahal na ina; Overseas Workers Association; Philippine Development Society; 'yung kumintang Teatro Kanto; United Filipino Group of Yokohama; United Philippine-Japan Association; Philippine Association for Common Cause; Kabayan-Yamato; Filipino Maritime Network.

El Shaddai Japan Chapter; Akabane Sampaguita; Christian Diocese of Traditional Laymen's Evangelization; Kapatiran; wow! Filipino Missionaries Group; mga kinatawan ng Filipino Community mula sa Kansai at Osaka area.

At salamat ang aking ipinaaabot, I am thanking the all-Japan Seamen's Union for their big help once again tonight in our party here.

You know, in Manila we conducted the First International Employers Award just a few days ago. The outstanding Foreign Employers of Filipinos were honored for their continued preference for Filipino workers and seamen, for installing programs that raised our OFWs productivity and performance, and for providing extraordinary acts of assistance and aid to OFWs in times of hazard or distress. Ninety-three employers received awards. Nineteen received a Presidential Award of Distinction. And of the 19, nine were Japanese including the all-Japan Seamen's Union. Congratulations at Arigato, all-Japan Seamen's Union.

Pero binabati ko rin hindi lang kayong lahat pati na rin ang Philippine Embassy lalo na... Lalo na dahil bukas sila ngayon kahit sabado. Naalaala ninyo kasi marami kayo nung minsan na narito ako 'yon ang isang ipinagbilin ko inoong huli ako'y narito. At natutuwa rin ako na patuloy ang serbisyong medikal para sa mga kababayan natin dito sa Japan, sa pakikipagtulungan sa iba't-ibang asosasyon at samahan. At nais ko ring pasalamatang ang Philippine Assistance Group na kaagapay ng ating embahada sa pagbibigay ng repatriation at medical services sa ating mga kababayan dito.

My administration is determined to bring government closer to our people, including the Overseas Filipinos. Even when I was a Senator I already felt that way. That's why when I was a Senator, I filed an Overseas Voting Bill, other Senators did too. Some filed before me, some in the same session, some afterwards but like many other Overseas Voting Bills before and after mine, at that time when I was Senator, my bill didn't even progress beyond the committee level. So when I became president, I certified as one of my five most urgent bills, the Overseas Voting Bill.

Now, at last, for the first time after so many attempts, the Overseas Voting Bill has passed both houses of Congress. Salamat sa ating Senator at mga Congressmen. And let's pray that the House and the Senate can iron out their conflicting provisions because as soon as they do so I will sign it into law within 24 hours.

At bago kami umalis ng Pilipinas, pinag-isipan namin nila Secretary Pat Santo Tomas kung ano ang magandang aginalong mabibigay sa inyo ngayong pasko. At eto, maglulunsad tayo ng mga programa upang makapundar sa kinabukasan ninyong mga pilipinong nagtatrabaho sa ibayong dagat habang pinagaganda ang buhay ninyo at ng mga pamilya ninyo sa Pilipinas. Hayaan ninyong ihayag ko sa unang pagkakataon na tinalaga kong sugo sa ating mga kababayang nasa ibang bansa ang aking mahal na kabiya, si Attorney Jose Miguel Arroyo. Siya ngayon ang aking special representative to the OFWs. Kaya lang, Mike, walang suweldo ito kundi ang aking pagmamahal. Tutulungan si Mike ng isang inter-agency team na ang mangunguna ay ang DFA at kasama ang DOLE, HUDCC — iyung sa housing — at saka SSS na magdadala sa ating mga bagong bayani ng programang tinatawag nating "Kabayanihan." at dito sa Hapon, inilulunsad itong programang ito.

The “Kabayanihan” seeks to install an integrated delivery of basic services to OFWs in your worksite abroad and also at home in the Philippines. Under this program, you will be able to avail of the following services:

OWWA on-site welfare services including expanded and voluntary membership with OWWA.

DOLE/OWWA/POEA Electronic Identification Card or E-card services. The e-card is the ultimate identification card of OFWs. With that E-card, it will no longer be necessary for an OFW to fall in line at the POEA to obtain an overseas employment certificate for the purpose of exemption from the travel tax and the airport terminal fee. So, by simply presenting the E-card, you can have immediate access also to OWWA Welfare Services, POEA processing requirements, and even duty free shop discounts. You can also use this as a credit card and as an ATM card for Philippine Commercial Banks.

Another service is health maintenance service through the OWWA Medicare program.. The OFW and members of your family will be entitled to benefits over and above those which are granted by PhilHealth.

Isa pang serbisyo, ‘yung Pag-Ibig fund. Kanina masayang-masaya ‘yung mga Pag-Ibig desk doon. Dami raw ng nabenta nilang housing services. The DOLE and the Pag-Ibig fund have already signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the Joint Implementation of the Pag-Ibig Overseas Housing Program. This program aims to expand Pag-Ibig membership among OFWs and provide you with the opportunity to buy your own homes back home but at very affordable means. And I’d like to inform you that the Pag-Ibig fund has reduced the equity requirements of its housing program for OFWs. Kasi nung araw malaki ang inyong counterpart. Ngayon, ililiit na rin ng Pag-Ibig.

Isa pang serbisyo, ‘yung SSS provident fund or flexi-fund services. Ito ay para sa OFWs lamang, exclusively. It was designed to enable you to save your hard-earned money while working abroad. When you invest in the flexi-fund at a very affordable cost, you are guaranteed continued earnings after your retirement. So, I encourage you to invest in the flexi-fund. It’s like a savings account but with higher interest rates. And more importantly, you can withdraw it anytime.

Umpisa sa Enero 2003, magbubukas na ang “Kabayanihan” ng sariling website na maaari ninyong gamitin upang maipaabot sa akin ang inyong mga mungkahi kung papaano higit pang mapapabuti ng pamahalaan ang mga serbisyo para sa inyo.

Bukod naman sa “Kabayanihan” — ngunit suportado ko rin — ay ang programa kung saan pumayag si bise-presidente Teofisto Guingona na manguna. Ito ay binuo ng Overseas Filipino Investment Bond na magbibigay ng serbisyo mediko at seguro sa OFW, at pabahay sa katapusan ng bond. Ang programa niya ayon dito sa Taguig itatayo ang unang pabahay sa OFWs ay kasama rin sa programa ang panukalang Magna Carta for seafarers.

Gaya nang sabi ni Ambassador Siazon ako, sampu ng aking mga kasamahan ay muling narito this time sa isang state visit sa paanyaya ng Emperador at Emperadora ng bansang Hapon. But I’m here for the same reason I came two times since becoming president: to focus on the economy and security of the Philippines. Whether it’s the fight against global terrorism or improving official development assistance, at the end of the day, it’s always about the economy and improving the lives of our Philippine citizens.

If you remember, when I became president 20 months ago, I inherited an economy with 4 million jobless Filipinos and a 40 percent poverty incidence.

Today, inspite of the global slowdown, we are an economy that has delivered one of the highest growth rates in Asia. In the first three quarters of this year, Philippine GDP grew by 4.1 percent and GNP — wasn’t it, Dante — 5 percent? GDP was powered by the recovery of industry and continued strengthening of services. Industry grew by 3.8 percent because exports grew by 9.5 percent, and construction is on the rebound. NCSO says that construction has rebounded by 25 percent growth.

Services grew by 5.1 percent because of the expansion of telecoms, trade and private services including tourism. ‘Yung turismo noong October ang kanyang growth rate compared to October last year was 39.5 percent or 40 percent kahit na may Bali bombing. At isa pang nagpalaki sa ating ekonomiya ngayon yung financial sector maliban sa bangko. It has host including insurance. It has posted the highest growth in four years.

Pero kung umangat ang ating GDP ng 4.1 percent, ang ating GNP ay umangat ng 5. The difference between our GNP and GDP is the contribution of our Overseas Filipino Workers like you. Your increasing remittances have boosted consumption growth in the Philippines. Nanunuod ako sa TV kagabi, pinapakita nila ‘yung mga tiangege, ‘yung mga shopping areas, punung-puno ng namimili ng Christmas shopping at November 30 pa lamang — ah, no, no December 1. A lot of it is because of the money you sent. Last year, you, the Overseas Filipinos remitted six billion for the whole year. This year, for the first half of the year, you already remitted four billion. And for the first three quarters, you already remitted the six billion that you remitted last year. Thank you so much for your support.

Sabi ko sa inyo our economic growth is one of the highest in Asia today. In fact, it is surpassed only by the industrial giants — China and Korea — and by Vietnam, which started from a much lower base.

Our inflation rate is low at 2.7 percent. Rice for the masses is priced at 14 or 16 pesos per kilo. At pag may nagsusumbong na sa isang palengke ay wala ‘yung 16, ay ako ay tinatawagan ko agad ang NFA. Our interest rates are low, kaya panahon ngayon magpag-ibig kayo at bumili ng bahay. Yung 91-day treasury bill has been steady at 5 percent. These rates are at their lowest in the last fifteen years. Kaya talaga ‘yung pag-ibig doon dapat talagang masigasig ang kanilang sales.

We are also taking steps to further strengthen our macroeconomic fundamentals. We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to reduce our deficit. Ang Customs, ang BIR, at ang bagong tinayo kong — ‘yung BIR at saka yung Customs — ‘yung bagong tinayo kong iyung Anti-Smuggling Intelligence and Investigation Commission, na ngayon ay pinupuno ng mga bagong commissioner ay kailangang magtrabahong masigasig. Kasi ang mensahe ko sa ating mga kababayan sa Pilipinas na umiiwas magbayad ng buwis ay ganito: “whether you are big business or small, forget the accounting tricks, just pay your taxes and duties or see you in court.” Pero kayong mga OFW income tax exempt kayo, ‘di ba? Kaya tulungan na lang ninyo akong manawagan sa inyong mga kaibigan sa pilipinas na magbayad ng tamang buwis.

We are sustaining a no-nonsense drive against corruption, insulating our procedures better from graft, and putting graft busters in the sensitive agencies.

‘Yung peace and order situation naman it has improved. Ang report ng ating pulis bago ako umalis ay bumaba na ng 35 percent ang kidnapping, dahil anim na sindikato ay nabuwag na natin.

The adverse global environment has provided opportunities to address our national security concerns. Nine-eleven, the subsequent war on terrorism, and the looming war in Iraq have all combined to dampen the world economy. But even before 9-11, alam naman ninyo, in the Philippines, we were already waging a war on terrorism. You will recall that the Abu Sayyaf was able to generate at least 20 million dollars in ransom from Sipadan, long before 9-11, which strengthened their capability for terror. But with our decisive response to 9-11, we gained foreign allies in our war against terror, which has enabled us to neutralize the notorious Abu Sabaya last June and to degrade the Abu Sayyaf strength from thousands to hundreds.

Nananawagan ako na ipagpatuloy ninyo na magdasal para sa ating pamahalaan, para sa ating bansa kagaya ng dasal ni father kanina. Ituloy ninyo ang inyong pakiki-isa sa gobyerno upang lalong tumibay ang ating pagkakaisa sa isang pambansang layon na maahon ang ating bansa mula sa kahirapan.

No president can build a strong republic single-handedly. I can do this only if i can count on the support of the more than 7 million Filipinos overseas.

You, the Filipinos in Japan, are part of the wellspring of support, the network of Filipinos all over the world that I’m counting on.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa inyong pagmamalasakit sa ating kapwa Pilipino at sa ating bayan. Ipagpatuloy natin ang ating magagandang gawain — ‘yung mga binanggit ko kaninang ginagawa ninyo — ang ating pagbubuklod-buklod. Salamat at narito kayo kahit na nandito na kayo nung isang taon at ituloy natin ang ating pagkakaisa.

Sa inyong lahat, mga Pilipino dito sa Hapon, congratulations because you are great ambassadors of the Philippines. You are great Filipino workers.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Japan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409205334/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8533&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo before the Joint Session of the Diet, December 3, 2002

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the Joint Session of the Diet**

[Released on December 3, 2002]

Thank you very much.

First of all, I would like to thank Prime Minister Koizumi for being here today to listen to me. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, you honor me.

President Kurata, Speaker Watanuki, honorable members of parliament, members of the Philippine delegation, ladies and gentlemen.

It's an honor for me to be in this August Assembly to express to the Japanese people. Through their distinguished representatives, the appreciation of the Filipino people for what Japan has been to us—a reliable ally, a sincere partner, a compassionate friend.

I undertake the first state visit between our two countries in the year President Ramos was the last state visitor to Japan from my country almost a decade ago. Since then in the last 10 years, so much has taken place within our two nations, our region and the world. In my country, the past decade saw efforts to deepen the roots of democracy and private enterprise, restructure the economy and make Philippine industry more globally competitive.

It also saw Filipinos rise as one to manifest their abhorrence of corrupt government, their yearning for genuine social justice and for freedom from the shackles of patronage. After 10 years, East Asia. Our common home, is also a deeply changed place. With peace regained in Cambodia, stability has been restored to Indochina.

The three decade old dream of a Southeast Asia united under ASEAN has been realized. Hong Kong and Macau have peacefully rejoined the sovereignty of China. East Timor has become the newest member of the community of nations. Yet, the luster and exuberance of the boom years are gone. Muted by the crisis few thought could happen and just as countries in the region were, again getting back to the rhythm of normalcy, terror struck in Bali.

On the global scale. Interdependence is so much truer now than ten years ago. Multilateralism in pursuit of world security and economic goals is taking a firmer hold but difficult global challenges have, likewise, multiplied or deepened. Hundreds of millions still go hungry and unschooled against their will. As the new century rolled, we awakened to the fact that no country, not even the most powerful, is immune to tragedies inflicted by agents of discord and terror.

During the last ten years, we saw freedom march on. But we also saw the rise of new forces ranged against it. We saw peoples' yearning to chart their own destiny and achieve nationhood. But we also witnessed people lose control of their nations to the thugs of radicalism. We saw kindness mobilized to comfort the afflicted, but we also saw fear and intolerance creep upon many nations. The challenges are enormous, the threats are many. We have to keep carrying on with courage and a singleness of aim. For the larger truth is that free people have in their own hands the capacity to overcome adversity to prosper and to stay free.

My country was fortunate to be spared the full brunt of the Asian crisis. Though barely, the Philippine economy managed to grow, even while the financial storm was cutting a wide swath of devastation in the region.

This encouraged many analysts to expect our economy to rebound fast and strongly as the storm passed, but regretfully, it also encouraged complacency. Thus, my administration was to inherit an economy that had lost momentum, had lost steam. With confidence in the past leadership fast ebbing, and capital flight and fierce competition ... economy. The country was cast adrift just about when it needed most a firm mooring.

When I assumed office in January 2001 last year, my most immediate tasks were to rally my nation out of despair and to restore business confidence. We reined in the rising interest rates that stunt business. We stemmed the rising prices that denied poor the access to many of their basic needs. We restored the people's trust in the integrity of the highest leadership of government.

Private analysts forecasted Philippine growth in 2001 to be below 3 percent. But GDP actually grew by 3.4 percent, and GNP by 3.7 percent in the first year of my administration. Now, in the first three quarters of this year, GDP grew by 4.1 percent. And GNP by 5 percent GDP was powered by the recovery of industry and continued strengthening of services. Industry grew by 3.8 percent because exports grew by 9.5 percent. And private construction is on the rebound. Services grew by 5.1 percent because of the expansion in telecommunications, trade and private services including tourism. And with continued responsible fiscal monetary and supply side policies. Inflation and interest rates are the lowest in more than a decade. Given the hurdles that the Philippine economy had to overcome, the only explanation for our economic performance has been the resourcefulness and industry of the great Filipino workers, as well as their support for the policies of the new government.

My economic team and I are determined to fully restore the economy's financial health and to further improve business conditions for investment. We have initiated a budget deficit reduction program to prevent government from crowding out the private sector for investment funds. We are also focused on continued price stability. To further strengthen the financial sector, my urgent proposal to create a special asset management company sector designed to efficiently address the non-performing loan problems for the banking system has already passed both houses of the Philippine Congress. Our overriding vision is to conquer poverty within the first decade of this century by building a strong Philippine Republic.

Development is an enormous task in this globalized world. It is also practically impossible to go it alone. We know this well, fortress economies wither, closed economies die. That is the reason why since the EDSA Revolution that reinstalled democracy in my country in 1986, successive administrations have pursued a continuous path of engaging with the world. We need ASEAN, we need APEC, we need East Asia, we need Japan.

For the Philippines, cooperation is best achieved through one East Asia. East Asia's economic miracle is first and foremost about people. The miracle is that for the first time, the majority of children in the region have become better schooled for life in an era of fast, fleeting and profound change. This has permitted families to attain the highest savings rates in the world, not simply as in the past, to hedge against hard times. But increasingly to invest in a brighter and more brilliant next generation.

It has meant for the first time in the region's history. That a middle class could be raised, nurtured and poised to become leaders in transforming their societies.

Our redemption and our future are always here, already in our hands. They lie in our people. We must not waste this most valuable, this most precious resource. That was why, when the 1997 crisis very nearly to lay the human resources to waste was truly unfortunate. Almost overnight, as good jobs vanished, as savings were decimated, as purchasing power eroded, and as consumer and investor confidence evaporated, the nascent middle class was besieged.

Families were being swallowed up again into the ranks of the poor. For the first time in two or three decades, the war against poverty was in danger of being lost in many parts of the region. The danger came and passed. We were bruised by it but not completely maimed because we were not alone.

We had friends and partners to assist us, one of them—and we will always remember this—is Japan. With the counsel of hindsight, let's look to the future.

The continuing challenge is to build, through our joint efforts, the capacity in the region to prevent the recurrence of economic shocks like the one that hit us in 1997. The ASEAN plus three Chiang Mai is a landmark agreement for, among other things, harnessing regional coordination of economic and monetary policies to ensure stability of currency and financial market.

In Southeast Asia, we are forging towards full implementation of AFTA. Barely a month ago, ASEAN and China signed a framework for the establishment of the ASEAN-China free trade area while ASEAN and Japan agreed on the framework for the establishment of a comprehensive economic partnership.

Expectedly, not everyone is agreed on the significance or desirability of these region wide developments. For instance, some see the slide of ASEAN into irrelevance. Some warn that smaller Southeast Asian nations risk needing to defer once again to the larger powers. But the fact that ASEAN has many suitors shows its attractiveness, its relevance here and now. But does one necessarily become irrelevant by marrying to a family, even a bigger family? I do not believe so.

The emergence of China as a market economy is integral to the further growth and development of East Asia. The Philippines regards it as a catalyst for more rapid expansion and greater stability in Asia. But for now and the foreseeable future, ASEAN's need for Japan and its continued cooperation is far more essential.

The revival of the Japanese economy, the resumption of its traditional role as a growth engine is of utmost importance to the Philippines, to East Asia, to the world.

On the bilateral plane, the recent entry into force of the Japan-Singapore comprehensive partnership agreement inspires our efforts to conclude an appropriate agreement between our two countries—the Philippines and Japan.

In our view, an ideal for the proposed agreement is to maximize the many areas of complementarity between our two economies. One such area is human resource development. One facet of our HRD complementarity involves the demographic realities in our two countries.

Japan has an aging population, while the Philippines has a young population which supplies some of the best trained and most compassionate health care workers in the world. A growing number of countries in North America, Europe and the Middle East now host the Filipino health care givers.

In similar vein, Japan is the acknowledged leader in the region in the field of advanced technology including ICT and capital intensive industry. The Philippines, on the other hand, is well acknowledged internationally for its top quality knowledge workers. We can devise the right arrangements to take fuller advantage of these realities.

But all these prospects, all the exciting possibilities for economic revival, for advancement in my country or in Japan, or in the region may not see the light of day without a peaceful and stable political and security environment. Some parts of our region are a tinderbox of inter-ethnic tension. And long before this, a battlefield of ideological rivalry and a focal point of geo-strategic competition in the cold war. No one can, or should say too, that there is no immediate danger of hostilities, because as September 11 has taught us, as Bali has taught us, we sometimes do not know where the enemy lurks much less where or when it will strike next.

There are serious security fault lines in East Asia. We both know them so well. Our two countries have been very close allies for so long. And even as I speak, we continue to work together in addressing some of these. But when or how any of these fault lines will snap, no one can tell for certain. All we can do is prepare, and where we can, provide the safety nets, the safety vents to relieve the build up of pressure and avoid sudden massive explosions.

Under conditions of uncertainty, prudence is the best policy. Venting pressure is prudent and often very effective. Open and active dialogue through the ASEAN regional forum, the ASEAN plus three processes and all other channels must be the enduring means for clarifying the security concerns and assessments of countries, for explaining national defense doctrines and plans, and for containing and removing tension.

We, in East Asia, must reinforce all elements of predictability, stability and balance in the security field. On certain fronts, we're making tremendous progress.

The agreement signed in Phnom Penh on the regional conduct in the South China Sea is an important breakthrough not only for the Philippines and other countries in the immediate vicinity but also for countries served by that maritime area.

But on other fronts, recent developments are cause for concern. The revelation about nuclear weapons development in the Korean peninsula are a big issue. We oppose nuclear weapons proliferation and we will resist a nuclear arms race in East Asia.

Apart from international terrorism, new transnational threats to peace, freedom and progress require our joint attention and action. Transnational crime including the illicit trade in narcotics and weapons, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and piracy in the high seas as well as trans-boundary environmental threats are fields for urgent cooperation. All countries in our region especially those for whom freedom is a matter of national honor are without a doubt determined to do more to contribute to the stability, security and peace in East Asia, but acting singly greatly limits their options for positive action. For so long, Japan has been able to contribute so much.

Your pivotal role in the stabilization of Cambodia, in the transition to nationhood of East Timor, in promoting peaceful dialogue as a medium for settling the foreign issues in the Korean Peninsula. In so many more arenas, these achievements of Japan are not lost on us, and we congratulate you.

The long history of cooperation between our two countries as partners, as friends, as allies, is solid basis for further and more intense collaboration. We both must be ready to act and operate where needed and where necessary as one force for regional security to face the threat jointly and to triumph. This is our common mission—to show the world what interdependence means for us—to preserve freedom, to win prosperity in the 21st century and for all time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.###

Source: **Presidential Management Staff**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on her visit to Japan*. Presidential Management Staff Library, Manila.

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the First E-Services Philippines I.T. Exhibition and Interactive Business Investment Seminar

**Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the opening ceremony of the First E-Services Philippines I.T. Exhibition and Interactive Business Investment Seminar

[Delivered at the Jetro Business Support Center, Tokyo, Japan, December 3, 2002]

Thank you very much Secretary Roxas.

Mr. Watanabe, chairman and CEO of Jetro; Mr. Izuka, also of Jetro; Secretary General Takashi Onda of the Asean-Japan Center; Mr. Shoichi Kameyama, the president of JCCI-Manila; members of the Philippine delegation — Philippine officials and business delegation both; senior executives and officers of Jetro; distinguished members of the business community in Japan; and of course, the other organizers, sponsors and exhibitors of the first Philippine I.T. exhibition & business seminar in Japan, good afternoon.

In behalf of the entire Filipino nation, I thank all of you for participating in this event that marks a new and Exciting phase in Philippine-Japanese trade and investment relations.

I thank in particular the Japanese businessmen who are with us to explore the many possibilities of mutually rewarding partnerships.

My thanks to the organizers of this exhibition and seminar: Jetro, Meti, the Japanese embassy in Manila — Mr. Ambassador — the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippine embassy and our event sponsors: the Asean-Japan Center, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and industry of the Philippines and Megaworld-Eastwood City Cyberpark, and all our speakers and exhibitors for putting together this Philippines first “E-services Philippines: I.T. exhibition and business investment seminar in Japan”

We have chosen Japan to be the first country outside the Philippines to stage this E-services Philippines exhibition to showcase our unique outsourcing capabilities which Gartner research calls the “best kept secret.”

Because Japan has a long history of business relationship with the Philippines and it’s a world leader in information and communications technology, and likewise in manufacturing, transportation, construction, robotics and animation, to mention a few, all of which depend upon information and communication technologies.

In the area of I.T. and I.T.-enabled services, there is a growing number of Japanese investments and outsourcing initiatives in the Philippines. This is especially true in the fields of engineering design, software development, digital animation and back office operations.

The Philippines has also established itself as a production support center for the famed Japanese anime’. Likewise, we function remotely as your back office operations in documentation, accounting and human resource management services. We also provide your business’ customer services requirements in English and in other Asian languages through our numerous call centers in the Philippines. The Japanese companies that have partnered with Philippine-located I.T. firms have recognized our quality human resources whose flexibility and creativity set them apart from other I.T. players as cited by a Jetro publication, dateline, in its November to December 2002 issue.

Japanese companies are setting the trend of locating their I.T. and I.T.-enabled operations in other developing hubs in our country outside metro manila such as CALABARZON, Subic and Cebu. These areas have an abundance of

highly-trainable I.T. knowledge workers supported by the presence of technically competent schools, good telecommunications facilities and offer a lifestyle compatible with Japanese preferences.

Our expression of gratitude would not be complete if we will not cite your support in the promotion of accreditation programs for Filipino I.T. professionals via the Japanese information technology standard examination or Jitse. Likewise, Jetro has held seminars for local I.T. industries in Manila and Cebu, backed up by a business matching system in their website that aims to promote business through the internet.

I hope that my administration strong support for ICT, which we recognize as a key driver of our economy, reassures the Japanese companies of the continued growth of your ICT interest in our country. I personally head the I.T. and e-commerce council of the Philippines. This is our country's highest I.T. policy-making body that counts among its members most of our respected I.T. industry and business leaders.

Our economies' respective strengths complement each other very well. Japan's leadership in various technological fields can be adequately supported by the Philippines' large pool of quality human resources with high I.T. literacy, to boost our joint I.T. prospects and take them to uncharted heights.

In this regard, we wish to further intensify our mutual initiatives in e-services through the following:

Acceleration of the promotion of Japanese investments and outsourcing projects involving I.T. and I.T.-enabled services; Intensification of the conduct of training programs relate to ICT innovation and technology advancement, worker skills upgrading, and project management; continuation and expansion of the existing Certification programs that attune Filipino I.T. workers to Japanese standards; fast tracking of information exchange between our two countries to further develop our respective ICT industries and market.

The opportunities we face are truly tremendous. With this "E-services Philippines: I.T. exhibition and business investment seminar," we are taking the first step in realizing such prospects.

We hope too that with this event, we could encourage you to visit the Philippines and attend the third "E-services Philippines: I.T. outsourcing and Subcon exhibition" which will take place from February 13th to 15th 2003 at the World Trade Center in Metro Manila.

Our Philippine department of trade and industry, which is organizing this event, will set up the appropriate site tours and visits outside of the exhibition and provide business matching services especially for the Japanese delegation.

The Philippine Board of Investments, Japan desk and the Jetro, through the business support center that has just been announced today by Mr. Watanabe, will provide the necessary support to firms intending to outsource to or locate in the Philippines. So we ensure you of the full range of business facilitation.

In closing, I invite all of you to make IT. the Philippines for all your I.T. and I.T.-enabled business requirements. We proudly welcome you to Asia's new e-services hub, the Philippines, and discover for yourself the world's "best kept secret."

With this, I declare the first-ever "E-services Philippines: I.T. exhibition in Japan" officially open.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremony of the First E-Services Philippines I.T. Exhibition and Interactive Business Investment Seminar. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409205048/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8523&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the State Dinner hosted by their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of
Japan**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the State Dinner hosted by their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan**

[Delivered at the Banquet Hall, Imperial Palace, Tokyo Japan, December 3, 2002]

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

It's my great honor and privilege to be in Japan upon your majesties kind invitation. This visit manifests the deep friendship that binds our two countries and peoples.

As the recent events in our region and in the world have made clear, only through earnest acts of friendship and cooperation especially between neighbors like ours can nations hope to effectively address the common threats and challenges facing them.

The friendly relations between the Philippines and Japan are blessed with a long history. This friendly ties could be traced as far back as the exile of Lord Okun Takayama, a great Christian samurai and his family to Manila in 1614.

Three centuries after that, the Philippines began benefiting immensely from the important contributions of Japanese immigrants to our country.

Road construction in the Philippine summer capital of Baguio, which you visited, your majesties received a great boosts from the first large wave of Japanese migration to my country in 1903.

The centennial of Japanese immigration to the Philippines next year is an important milestone. And we already have lined up appropriate activities to mark the occasion.

A subsequent wave in the same year led to the establishment of a sizable community of Japanese descent in the province of Davao in the island of Mindanao. That community became a catalyst for agricultural development in Southern Philippines which today supplies 90 percent of the bananas and the great bulk of the pineapples enjoyed in Japan today.

On a more personal note, i still vividly remember another milestone in Japan-Philippine relations that your Majesty talked about earlier – the visit of your majesties to Manila 40 years and one month ago. And I am very proud and honored that it was my father, then the president of the Philippines, who hosted the then visiting crown prince and crown princess.

Your visit to my country, your majesties signal the close of a difficult chapter in our common history and signal the start of a new one – a chapter of true friendship, a close alliance of genuine partnership.

This partnership has since born mutually beneficial fruits for both countries. Japan has through all these years been a leading supporter of Philippine efforts for sustainable development and nation-building.

The Asian flu and the Asian crisis affected us both. Yet, at the height of the financial storm that hit five years ago, Japan solidarity was a strong and heartfelt presence in my country as it was in the rest of Southeast Asia.

You Majesties, your Excellencies, I'm here to build upon a robust bilateral partnership. This visit of state is the first between our two countries in the new century. And it comes closely on the heels of the launch of new cooperation paradigms in East Asia.

The Philippines and Japan are vital allies in building and maintaining peace and stability in the whole region. Our alliance can be further strengthened. It can be expanded to reinforce the march towards regional integration.

Japan's contributions to greater East Asian integration is exemplified in its active support for the Asean+3 and the ASEAN regional forum processes. Its comprehensive economic partnership initiatives with Asean and other East Asian countries and its role in building the peace foundation for stability and progress in countries like Cambodia and East Timor.

In this and other important initiatives such as on issues of immediate concern in Northeast Asia, Japan's unflinching advocacy of dialogue has my countries full support and cooperation East Asia is our common home. In this house, dialogue provides the best avenue for resolving differences. It can be the only means to bring closure to a difficult task.

We have witnessed how dialogue could facilitate greater understanding and chart new avenues for cooperation. We saw this in 1999 when in the course of the Asean+3 meetings, Manila hosted the first summit in half a century between the leaders of Japan, China and South Korea.

Japan and the Philippines have both long recognized that common strands run through our stake in the destiny and cohesion of the region. By working together, we can advance together.

Our two countries have laid foundations of amity, deeper and more solid than those of bridges or factories. I saw this five years ago when their majesties received here, my mother, the first lady, who welcomed them in Manila 40 years ago.

Our people shall strengthen this foundation by every passing year. Greater than five thousand Japanese-Filipino couples who exchanged wedding vows each year. They and their many children will provide the strongest bonds that will keep Japan-Philippine relations vibrant and strong, the bonds that only families can build.

In that spirit and in behalf of a grateful nation, let me offer a toast.

To your good health, your Majesty.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the State Dinner hosted by their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409205303/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8527&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Luncheon hosted by the heads of the Japanese Economic
Organizations Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Luncheon hosted by the heads of the Japanese Economic Organizations**

[Delivered at the Rose Room, Tokyo Kaikan Tokyo, Japan, December 4, 2002]

Thank you, Secretary Roxas.

Chairman Yamaguchi, Chairman Okuda, Chairman Kobayashi, Vice Chairman Sasaki, Chairman Tollumi, Chairman Kaneko, other distinguished representatives from the business community, members of the Philippine delegation, ladies and gentlemen.

I'd like to thank the Japanese economic organizations for inviting me to this luncheon visit during my state visit to your great country.

It is important for me to meet you often because Japan, as Yamaguchi san has said, is the second largest trade partner of the Philippines, and Japan accounts for a sizable amount of foreign direct investments. Your official development assistance constitutes more than 60 percent of what the Philippines receives from abroad.

Japan's economy is the second largest in the world. Japan's GDP is more than half of the entire region. Japan houses leading edge and world-class companies like yours in industries such as automobile, information technology, robotics and machine tools, to name a few. It is therefore in our collective interests to see Japan succeed in sustaining its economy as an engine of global growth.

Let me now update you on developments about the Philippine economy.

The country's growth in this first semester of this year is the highest so far among the five leading economies in Southeast Asia.

And in the first three quarters of this year, Philippine GDP grew by 4.1 percent. GDP was powered by the recovery of industry and continued strengthening of services. Industry grew by 3.8 percent because exports grew by 8.9 percent, and private construction is on the rebound. While export figures to Japan have been sluggish, demand within other parts of Asia more than took up the slack, with exports to china accounting for a large share.

Services grew by 5.1 percent because of the expansion of telecommunications, trade and private services, including tourism. The strength of the service sector is based largely on the gains made by the liberalization and deregulation measures that the Philippines has pursued over the past few years. Thus, following the opening up of long distance service and mandatory interconnections, the communications sector continues to register double-digit growth rates.

And with continued responsible monetary, fiscal and supply-side policies, inflation and interest rates are the lowest in more than a decade.

We are well on our way to meet the World Bank forecast of an overall GDP growth rate of at least 4 percent for the Philippines this year, from the 3.2 percent that was achieved last year. The World Bank forecast for the Philippines is the highest among the four Southeast Asian countries that the World Bank recently reviewed. Furthermore, the World Bank forecasts a growth rate of 4.3 percent for the year 2003.

The transport sector is benefiting from the motor vehicle complementation scheme in Southeast Asia, and from the growing trade in spare parts and components with East Asia. It is in this sector that Japan has proven to be a very important player, and we shall continue to foster our close partnership in this area.

In seeking sustainable growth, my administration continues to focus unswervingly on building a strong Philippine republic similar to the strong Japanese democratic nation. Two essential features mark out a strong nation. The first is independence from class and sectoral interests so that the nation stands for the interest of the people rather than of a powerful minority. The second is the capacity, represented by strong institutions and a strong bureaucracy, to execute good policy and deliver essential services.

My administration continues to focus on the essential services that concern firms that would invest in the Philippines. This includes the following: power. As Yamaguchi san has said, our program to reform the power sector to assure adequate and reliable power supply to consumers and to industry was initiated with the passage of the electric power industry reform act last year. It was passed last year after a delay of 10 years. And I thank Senator Pimentel and the congressmen and congresswoman who are present here today because they were the ones who did that for our republic. Since then, power cost have gone down. From being the economy with the second most expensive electricity rates in the region, the Philippines has gone down to being number six. And we aim to reduce power cost even more through a comprehensive energy liberalization program that covers power generation, transmission and distribution.

For the work force. The Japanese are witnesses to the creativity, industriousness and skill of the great Filipino worker. And now with all our efforts, we have the lowest strike rate in the last 20 years. The country's mainstream labor groups have announced that they are suspending demands for wage increases. The representatives of workers and employers in the automotive industry recently committed to promote pro-active and responsible use of plant level mechanisms in settling disputes to prevent them from maturing into adversarial actions.

As for the rule of law. The Philippines has a stable system of law and government, and great transparency in the media that forces the officials to behave. In the area of intellectual property rights, significant gains are being made not only in terms of conformity to global rules, but also in terms of very aggressive implementation. Compared to other countries, the Philippines has a competitive edge in terms of the environment for intellectual property.

On peace and order. My administration is dismantling kidnap syndicates and getting rid of rascals in the police, especially in Metro Manila. On the other hand, the global environment, the adverse global environment has provided opportunities to address our national security concerns. Nine-eleven, the subsequent war on terrorism, and the looming war in Iraq have all combined to dampen the world economy. But even before 9-11, we had already been waging a war on terrorism.

You will recall that the Abu Sayyaf was able to generate at least 20 million dollars in ransom from Sipadan in the year 2000 which strengthened their capability for terror. But with our decisive response to 9-11, we have gained foreign allies in our war against terror, which enabled us to neutralize the notorious Abu Sabaya last June and to degrade the Abu Sayyaf strength from thousands to a couple of hundreds.

The Philippines is positioning itself within East Asia — the region of the highest growth in this century — as a regional hub. Geographically, the Philippines is located in the center of the Asia-Pacific, which means all major Asian cities can be reached in 3 to 4 hours. But we intend to become a regional hub not only by virtue of proximity, but also by providing services to the region.

First, in information technology and telecommunications services. The Philippines has an international reputation for its edge in education, English proficiency, adaptability and expertise in e-commerce. The Philippines is highly competitive in terms of getting quality labor in quantity. As an English-literate country, the Philippines is able to absorb high technology easily. This is why world-class firms such as Intel, Texas instruments and Amkor Annam have a strong presence in our country as well as other Japanese firms that exhibited in yesterday's I.T. exhibition.

The growth of private services such as call centers, backroom operations and software design is accelerating even as my government continues to cultivate a dynamic I.T. sector. The I.T. fair being held in Tokyo is a major venue where our I.T. firms can merge their strengths.

As a regional hub, the Philippines is well-positioned to take advantage of the rapidly expanding market of china. With regard china, especially after its accession to the WTO, we see this as a lucrative market for our logistics services, manufacturing and commodity firms. Before China joined the WTO, we had a trade deficit with china of 300 million dollars. After China entered WTO, we now enjoy a trade surplus of 700 million dollars.

We are also working to make Makati, whom many of you know as our premier commercial center, a specific urban tourist destination. The biggest spending Japanese tourist is the single working female. They prefer urbanized destinations like Hongkong and Honolulu, where they travel in small groups of friends for shopping and rest and recreation. Makati in the Philippines with its compact, easy to secure location, world-class malls, entertainment facilities and cheap shopping can be promoted as an attractive destination with a side trip to one of our many beach resorts as part of the package. I have instructed the department of tourism to specifically promote this concept to Japan's tourist agencies and bureaus by hosting groups of officials of such agencies and bureaus to come to the Philippines to see for themselves.

As we position ourselves to be a regional hub, we also take care of ensuring the proper macroeconomic environment for business firms to thrive.

We have put together a good new team to increase our tax collections. It is headed by a new commissioner of Internal Revenue who is preceded by his impressive record when he was Commissioner of Customs, and who has the personal integrity, the technological competence, and the people's skills to meet the target set for the rest of the medium-term plan period. His work will be complemented by a new Anti-Smuggling Intelligence and Investigation Commission.

We are committed to not only short-term but long-term structural reforms. The special asset management company bill, which has now passed both houses of congress should free up more bank resources for export and other projects that the government is not in a fiscal position to fund.

The bill to make land acceptable as bank collateral, which passed the House of Representatives last week will stimulate private investments in agriculture.

In the international front, the Philippines attaches great importance to ensuring that the Doha round of the WTO delivers its promise to mainstream trade into the development agenda so that it can contribute to economic growth, sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

In the regional front, the interest of Japan, China and India, the dominant economies in Asia to join the ASEAN free trade area indicates the comforting strength of the larger, integrated markets.

By creating a powerful trade area, we expect business firms like yours to direct your investments into the natural strengths of the various member-economies. It makes perfect sense not to limit your investments to only one country, so that you can hedge against political and economic risks.

Japan will always be an important partner of the Philippines, and indeed of the whole East Asia region in our common resolve to build a regional community where there is economic and human security, and where our people would be able to realize their potentials in keeping with their fundamental values.

The business community has a large role to play in realizing this vision. So I ask you, leaders of the Japanese community, let us move forward together. Let us make ASEAN prosperous. Let us make the Philippines prosperous because that is what will make Japan prosperous and therefore the rest of our region prosperous.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Luncheon hosted by the Heads of the Japanese Economic Organizations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409204835/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8518&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremonies of the 2002 Philippine Quality Awards

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the awarding ceremonies of the 2002 Philippine Quality Awards

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, December 6, 2002]

Our other Cabinet Members who are here today, nandito si Secretary Canlas; nandito si Chairman ng NFA, Lito Sarmiento na siyang tatay ng quality awards di ba Lito? Dr. Gonzalez of D.A.P.; and I would like to greet the members of the board of judges, si Mike Varela, salamat sa iyong pag-clarify doon sa ating ... Sinabi n'yang, sinabi mo tungkol sa PIATCO, thank you very much; Dr. Velasco; Mr. Aquino; Francis Ferrer, nandito si Francis? Hi Francis, one of our electronics giants and leaders, and pioneers; Rey Palmario and the members of the committee, Jun Berba, Cynthia Cabasag, Jun Ortiz-Luis, nandito ba siya? Hello Jun! Johnny Quintos, Cedric Bagtas. Nasaan si Cedric? Thank you again for the big support of the labor movement to our economic recovery by saying that during this difficult times he will suspend demands for wage increases. Thank you very much. Dr. Consuelo flora, the awardees, other guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning:

First of all, let me congratulate the winners of this year's Philippine Quality Awards. I'm proud of these awards, I learned about them because as Undersecretary Cristobal said, they have been around for five years. I learned about them from Lito Sarmiento who would often invite me to the awards ceremony when I was still senator and vice president. And I am very happy that after these were being given as private sector initiative, last year they were institutionalized in Republic Act 9013, one of the first bills I signed into law as president.

And it's timely that we are handing out quality awards today, the day after my arrival from my State visit to Japan, an economy that is known to be a stricter for quality.

Let me share therefore a little report about some of the things that we did in Japan especially related to quality.

I went to Japan for a state visit upon the invitation of the emperor his majesty, for the same reason that I was in Cambodia at the ASEAN leaders' meeting a month ago, to focus on the economy and security of the Philippines. In this interconnected world, opening a door in the Keidanren community can open an opportunity for job creation in the Philippines.

Whether it's the fight against global terrorism or improving official development assistance, at the end of the day, it's always about the economy and improving the lives of our Philippine citizens. Remember that when I became president, i inherited the country with 40 percent of the population living below the poverty line and 4 million Filipinos out-of-work. And this is a continuing challenge that we have to address.

And so, we go with you, the Filipino businessmen to encourage you to create jobs. And we also go to other countries to encourage their businessmen to come and create jobs in the Philippines.

Japan is the acknowledged leader in the field of advanced technology, which is a key to quality. Japan's leadership in advanced technology is one of the factors that will influence the shape of the economic partnership agreement that the Philippines and Japan are negotiating. Let me take this opportunity to explain my idea about this proposed economic partnership agreement between the Philippines and Japan.

In my view, an ideal for an economic partnership agreement is to maximize the areas of Complementarity between two economies. For instance, while Japan is the acknowledged leader in the region in the field of advanced technology, including ICT, and capital- intensive industry, the Philippines is well-acknowledged internationally for

its top-quality knowledge workers. We can devise the right arrangements to take fuller advantage of this complementarity.

To illustrate, while I was in Japan I opened the first e-services Philippines exhibition to showcase our unique out-sourcing capabilities, which Gartner research calls the “best kept secret”. Yes, it is a well kept secret because we need to advertise it more.

There are many I.T. companies in the United States who go on an exploratory mission. They would have because the U.S., if their, sometimes they are first, if they go to Europe, they would go to Ireland, they would go India, they would go to the Philippines. Other times, they take the Pacific route, and they would go to the Philippines, other countries in Southeast Asia, they would go to India, they would go to Ireland before they go back to the United States. A number of the I.T. companies have told me that for those — where the first stop was Philippines. They did not proceed anymore to their other stops because they found that here is where they want to do their I.T.

And the exhibition demonstrated in Japan that though Japan is the region’s leader in advanced technology, in the area of I.T. and I.T.-enabled services, there is a growing number of Japanese investments and out-sourcing initiatives in the Philippines. This is especially true in the fields of engineering design, software development, digital animation and backroom operations. These were the items in the exhibit, the I.T. exhibit in Japan, the E-Philippine exhibit in Japan. And in the seminar that opened the exhibit where I spoke, the crowd of Japanese participants was overflowing. There were 200 Japanese firms who participated much, much more than anticipated. So, it was standing room and in order to accommodate the Japanese who were participating, the Filipino delegation even volunteered to give up their seats and they went to the hall outside and waited for us to finish the seminar so that the Japanese who were participating could listen to what we had to say about the Philippine I.T. industry.

And while I don’t have the final results of the reaction of the 200 participants, let me just give an indication of the percentages that we might be expecting from the first Jethrow investment mission to come to the Philippines after I became president in March 2001. At that time Jethrow brought 25 I.T. related firms. And at the 25 I.T. related firms, three put up their I.T. businesses here and eighth, an additional eight from that group are putting up — in the process of putting up their firms. So, that’s 11 out of 25 which is really a good percentage as far as investment missions are concerned.

Another facet of our complementarity with Japan involves the demographic realities between our two countries. Japan has an aging population, they have a problem in their old-aged health-care. While the Philippines has a young population which supplies some of the best-trained and compassionate and best quality health-care workers in the world. A growing number of countries in North America, Europe and the Middle East now host Filipino health-care givers. And so, this is another area of complementarity between Japan and the Philippines.

The market is beginning to recognize the demand for our health care workers, forty new nursing schools, private nursing schools have been set up in the Philippines as a response to this demand. And the job of the government, because this is set up by the private sector responding to the market, is to ensure that these schools will continue the quality education that our nurses who are now all over the world have received all the quality training, because we want that as we increased the quantity of nurses the quality will also be maintained. The quality that has given us a good reputation. That’s why, I am very grateful to Congress especially the Senate under the leadership of Senator Juan Flavier who knows the health sector very well, in reorganizing or rather enhancing and strengthening the nursing board, increasing the number of members of the board because they have to go and inspect all of these new schools to maintain the quality.

In this century of globalization, the Philippines will maintain economic ties and enter into economic partnerships with other countries to the extent that these partnerships are consistent with the welfare of our people.

In the case of Japan, long-lasting close economic ties between the two countries have developed over many years. Japan provides 60 percent of the official development assistance received by the Philippines. Japan is our second largest source of trade, investments, and tourism.

Since we have these long-lasting close economic ties anyway, and since these ties are bound to increase with the inexorable forces of the 21st century, we might as well shape the economic ties in such a way that will strengthen the complementarities of our two economies, rather than making our products compete in each other's markets.

In this competitive 21st century, we do need to strengthen our competitiveness. This means attention to quality. So, I'm glad that today in the field of management, our P-Q-A recipients, PSI technologies and on semi-conductors are this year's best examples of quality. They have also been steady sources of jobs for thousands of Filipinos, and are important contributors to domestic output and productivity in the electronics industry. Both are our biggest exporters of electronic semiconductors. And i congratulate them.

The quality of our electronics products has been largely responsible for the growth of our exports. Despite the global slump, our total exports for this year grew by what? 8.9 percent Dante? As against a forecast of zero growth. That was our forecast at the beginning of the year. The electronics industry posts the highest contribution, electronics is 69 percent of total export earnings.

Our exports in electronics have resumed — because they were down last year — not because the international market is recovering, but because we are getting a bigger market share. Again i congratulate our electronics and semiconductors.

I went to Silicon Valley a few weeks ago, and found that Silicon Valley growth is flat, but Philippine electronics are growing. China has entered the WTO, and Philippine exports to China have grown by 80 percent, and from a trade deficit with China of 300 million dollars we now have a trade surplus of 700 million dollars. And in this new market of China, again our number one export is electronics. You, the quality firms, deserve credit for this. Congratulations to you and congratulations to PSI because you will be entering the China market as well whereas on sells to the U.S. and to Europe.

Our experience with China shows that trade can provide greater opportunities for Philippine businesses. The Philippines is positioning itself within Asia, East Asia the fastest growing part of the world today. Geographically, the Philippines is located in the center of Asia-Pacific, which means that all major Asian cities can be reached in as little as 3-4 hours. And we have the manpower capability to service the various needs that the new economic realignment would demand.

As a regional hub, the Philippines is well positioned to take advantage of the rapidly expanding market of China. We regard China, especially after its accession to the WTO, and given this, would-experience of our electronics firms not to mention our copper and also our tropical fruit firms, China is a lucrative market for these products. It is a market for our logistics services, for our manufacturing, and our commodity firms.

And this is also true for our experience with Japanese firms, further example, Toyota will be putting up a sweet potato factory and plantation in Southern Tagalog to sell to the China market. Japanese capital, Philippine labor, Philippine Human Resources and Chinese market. That's the way to go in the 21st century.

Matsushita will expand their Philippine air condition factory, they visited me in Japan to tell me that. And, they will likely consolidate their operations by relocating their window-type air condition factory from another ASEAN country to the Philippines. But this air condition factory will sell not only to our domestic market, it will sell to the other ASEAN countries from which they will transfer their manufacturing facilities as well as other markets.

Toshiba likewise transferred its computer factory, it's Toshiba right? In the United States, they transferred it to the Philippines, but still selling to the U.S. market. So, when you go there to the U.S. and entered a computer shop and you buy a Toshiba computer —it's made in the Philippines.

Honda started producing automobile transmission components in the Philippines for the ASEAN market, but is now expanding its production to serve the world market as well. Toyota will produce transmission components as well, for the Japanese market. The first time it will produce in the Philippines for its own native market. All these show, that trade provides larger economies of scale for businesses in the Philippines.

There will be more of these developments if we formalize an economic partnership agreement with Japan. Efforts are ongoing to establish this formal partnership. A working group was established last August, led by the DTI which formally met last October and November. The working group discussed areas of cooperation, ranging from trade and investment to various other bilateral partnerships and linkages, not only air condition.

Not only automotive which is a major Japanese investment in the Philippines, not only I.T. service, oh, yes, not only air condition, not only automotive, not only agricultural products but to me most notably — services and human resource development. Part of this, would teach Japanese to our health-care givers and I.T. workers so that they can be more acceptable and successful in the Japanese market.

The inclusion of human resources like health-care givers and I.T. workers makes the Japan – Philippines economic partnership a novel form of economic partnership and could play a catalytic role in accelerating global trade rule-making. Usually when you talk about agreements, you're debating about manufacturing, about agriculture, here, we have strongly advocated the inclusion of human resources especially in health-care and I.T. Prime Minister Koizumi and I have therefore instructed the relevant ministries within our respective governments to work more closely towards the establishment of this partnership.

Those who can take advantage of this partnership are those who produced quality products and services, the types of products and services exemplified by our quality awardees.

And so, once again, to our awardees, congratulations and may your tribe of quality firms increase. Thank you!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding Ceremonies of the 2002 Philippine Quality Awards. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409204824/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8514&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremonies of the 2002 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding ceremonies of the 2002 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, December 12, 2002]

Maraming salamat Secretary Ople sa iyung pagpakilala.

Executive Director Molano; Congressman Cagas, na naririto dahil ‘yung kapatid n’ya ay isang outstanding Filipino na binigyan natin ng gantimpala; and i’d like to also greet the members of the Executive Committee for the Presidential Awards of 2002 — Bishop Ramon Arguelles, Bil Luz, Senator Benitez, Justice Luciano; the chair of the donations committee of the Philippine National Red Cross; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps, and we have here identified — the Ambassadors of Libya, Italy, Brunei, Switzerland, Indonesia; other members of the Cabinet — I see Secretary Bunye here; and of course, to all of you, the distinguished awardees of the 2002 Presidential Awards; other officials in government; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I’d like to begin by congratulating the 35 outstanding Overseas Filipinos and partners in community-building that we are honoring tonight. I’d like to thank Dr. Abella for his erudite acceptance speech. Don’t apologize, you gave us very good food for thought. I hope that we can use some of your thoughts in our longer-term planning for having prosperity in the country so that many of our Filipinos don’t have to look for that prosperity abroad. And to him, to those of you who don’t know him, to those who know him, it’s not surprising that he should give such wise words because he is the number one expert on migration in the international labor organization. So, we’re very proud of him.

We are very proud of him, we are very proud of our honorees. So, to all our honorees, I say, congratulations and thank you for what you do for our country. You epitomize the seven million great Filipino workers and great Overseas Filipino investors who labor patiently in the great Filipino tradition of pagsusumikap at pakikipagkapwa.

Indeed, as Dr. Abella said, the migration patterns have changed so much and have accelerated so much over the past several decades.

Forty years ago, when my father was president, there were 8 Filipinos in Kuwait; now, there are 60,000. Thirty years ago, when martial law began, there were 201 Filipinos in Guam; now, more than one-fourth of the total island population of 160,000 are Filipinos. And in fact, we are proud that the richest tycoons of Guam’s are Filipinos. They received their awards several years ago. In Daly city, one-third of the population are Filipinos, thereby earning for itself the monicker “Adobo country.” when I visit friends in Daly city — and I do have many of them — in fact, I feel like I’m in Quezon City. I go in — Filipino house, Filipino household; turn-on the TV — Filipino channel. And so, the community is so Filipino. And we’ve even elected a Filipino mayor many times over — Mike Guingona, one of our awardees tonight. To date, as Mr. Abella said, close to 10 percent of the Filipino population live or work overseas. These Filipinos shape the history of our nation. They also shape the history of their host countries. And they shape the history of the world because of their numbers.

Thus, early in my presidency last year, when I spoke about my eight realities of foreign policy I said — as one of them — that overseas Filipinos will continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability. And Mr. Abella said, until we reach a per capita income of five thousand dollars, then you will continue to play this crucial role.

I said yes, for the foreseeable future. And also I said, in as much as we will continue to be heavily dependent on overseas worker remittances. Then indeed, that gives us our own obligation to our overseas Filipinos. We have an obligation to our overseas Filipinos not only because of the crucial role that you play in our country — that economic role and the role in our stability — but also because of our humanitarian obligation. Because our country has a humanitarian obligation, our nation has a humanitarian responsibility to our people wherever you are. And that is why, the government works doubly hard to strengthen workers' protection from deprivations of domestic recruiters as well as of overseas employers, agents and officials. And on the other hand, we strengthen bilateral relations with countries, with corporations, with associations, with individuals that host large numbers of Filipinos especially those that do so in a just way.

Labis talaga ang pagmamalaki ng mga Pilipino dito sa Pilipinas at pagpuri sa mga kababayang nakatira at nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa. Napamalas ng ating mga Pilipino sa mundo na ang Pilipino ay dakila.

At dahil sa mga remittances, milyung-milyong kabataan ang nakakapag-aral, nakakatapos ng edukasyon sa tulong ng overseas Filipinos.

Libu-libong bagong bahay ang naipapatayo.

At dahil sa tulong ng overseas Filipinos, nakakapaglunsad ng napakaraming negosyo maging small business o medium-scale business. Kung minsan malalaking negosyo sa buong bansa.

Kaya noon pa sinasabi ko, kasi ang bansag dati ng overseas Filipinos ay overseas Filipino workers. Noon, manggagawa, totoo. Pero noong sa dami ng remittances, ang laki ng napapaabot sa ating bansa habang overseas Filipino workers ang ating overseas Filipinos naging overseas Filipino investors na rin. Dahil ang Filipino sa inyong 7 billion dollars na pinapaabot sa ating bansa, kayo ay major economic investor sa ating bansa. Kaya ako gustong-gusto kong tinatawag ang mga overseas filipinos na overseas Filipino investors. Hindi lamang 'yung mga nagdadala ng malalaking investment kagaya ni Joann de Asis, 'yung nagpapadala ng kanilang remittances. Kasi 'yung 7 billion sa kabuuan, napakalaking investment sa ating bansa.

At dapat lamang suklian ng bansa ang inyong tulong.

And that's why even when I was a senator, and this is true of senator Ople as well, who's now Secretary Ople, we already felt that way. That's why, we at that time filed our respective bills for overseas voting. At that time though, when we were senators, none of our bills that we filed were able to hurdle the resistance that was taking place right in the committee level. None of our bills at that time, when I was a senator, graduated from committee. None of them got to be deliberated on the Senate floor.

And because I remembered that frustrating experience — it was so fresh in my mind — when I became president I certified as one of my five most urgent bills the Overseas Voting Bill.

Now at last, for the first time after so many attempts for so long, the Overseas Voting Bill has not just passed committee, it has even passed both houses of Congress. The farthest it has ever gone in the history of our legislative attempts. And let's pray that the house and the Senate can iron out their conflicting provisions because as soon as they do so I'll sign the bill into law within 24 hours.

Wala si Secretary Pat Santo Tomas ngayon pero pinag-isipan namin ni Pat, kung ano pa ang mabibigay na sukli o aginaldo, dahil pasko ngayon, sa ating mga overseas Filipinos. Gusto nating maglunsad ng mga programa para

makapundar sa kinabukasan ng mga Pilipinong nagtatrabaho sa ibayong dagat, habang pinaghahanda ang buhay nila at ng pamilya nila sa Pilipinas.

Kaya gumawa ng programa na tinatawag nating “Kabayanihan.” at sana mai-kwento ninyo ito sa inyong mga kapwa Pilipino sa pinagtitirahan ninyong mga lugar. The “Kabayanihan” seeks to install an integrated delivery of basic services to overseas Filipinos at worksites abroad and at home in the Philippines.

Under the “Kabayanihan,” overseas Filipinos will be able to avail of the following services:

First, from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) nand’yan si Virgilio Angelo, ang ating bagong OWWA head. They are now providing on-site welfare services, including expanded and voluntary membership with OWWA;

Second, DOLE/OWWA/POEA electronic identification card or e-card services. The e-card is the ultimate identification card of Overseas Filipinos. With this e-card, it will no longer be necessary for an OFW to fall in line at POEA to obtain an overseas employment certificate for the purpose of exemption from the travel tax and the airport terminal fee. By simply presenting the e-card, the holder can have immediate access also to OWWA welfare services, POEA processing requirements, and even duty free shop discounts. It can also be used as a credit card and as an ATM card for Philippine commercial banks. This and many other electronic cards eventually, we would want to put together to have something that would approximate a national I.D.;

Third, we are now part of this integrated program providing health maintenance services through the OWWA Medicare program. Nung minsan – saan ba yon? When I was in Japan — pumunta sa akin ‘yung mga Filipino doon, “tulongan n’yo naman kami kasi ang mahal na mahal ng pagpapagamot dito.” ay, no wonder they were having a lot of medical missions in Japan for the overseas Filipinos because medical treatment is simply too expensive. But now, with this Medicare, the OFW and the members of their family will be entitled to benefits over and above those which are granted by PhilHealth. Because PhilHealth is for services here. But this health card subsidizes services that the OFW needs even in the host country;

Fourth, Pag-Ibig funds housing services. The DOLE and the Pag-Ibig fund — that’s why we have here the housing people — have already signed a memorandum of agreement for the joint implementation of the Pag-Ibig Overseas Housing Program. This program aims to expand Pag-Ibig membership among OFWs and other overseas Filipinos, and provide them the opportunity to acquire their own homes at affordable means. I’d like to inform you that the Pag-Ibig fund has reduced the equity requirements of its housing program for OFWs. Magkano na ang equity requirements ngayon? Ten percent na lamang. Because that used to be the complaint of the OFWs;

Fifth, we have the SSS provident fund or flexi-fund services. This flexi-fund is solely for OFWs. It was designed to enable OFWs to save their hard-earned money while working abroad. By investing in the flexi-fund at a very affordable cost, the OFW is guaranteed continued earnings after retirement. And so, I would like to ask you, our Filipino leaders, to encourage the OFWs that you know in the places where you live to invest in the flexi-fund. It is like a savings account with higher than bank interest rates. And more importantly, it is withdrawable anytime.

Umpisa sa Enero, magbubukas ang “Kabayanihan” ng sariling website na maaaring gamitin ng mga overseas Filipinos para mapaabot din sa akin ang mga mungkahi kung papaano higit na mapapabuti ng pamahalaan ang serbisyo para sa ating overseas Filipinos. Well, we are also doing this for the Filipinos in the country. We have TXT GMA. And we’re working on a website.

Bukod sa “Kabayanihan” — ‘yung binanggit kong programa kanina, ang tawag doon ay “Kabayanihan” at ang lead na gumagawa noon ay ang DOLE — bukod sa “Kabayahinan” pero suportado ko rin ang ilang mga programa para sa OFW kung saan si Vice-President Teofisto Guingona ang siya ang nagsimula at nangunguna. Ito ay binubuo ng overseas Filipino investment bond na magbibigay ng serbisyo mediko at seguro sa OFW, pati na rin pabahay sa katapusan ng bond. Inilunsad ni Vice President itong OFW bond na ito sa Hapon noong isang buwan. Iyon namang OFW housing na ginagawa niya, sa taguig itatayo ang unang pabahay. Kasama ito ng Pag-Ibig. At I’m very happy that earlier, the presentation was made to me about the whole Pag-ibig program which includes this. And I’m very

happy that we have on board as consultant for this housing program, the husband of Joann de Asis, si Jolly Benitez, and the nephew of Senator Benitez. At para sa mga seafarers, pagkatapos ng malawak na konsultasyon, gumawa si Vice President Guingona ng panukalang Magna Carta for seafarers that we shall be submitting to Congress.

And tonight, I've handed out these Presidential Awards tonight for Overseas Filipinos for the same reason I make trips overseas: to focus on the economy and security of the Philippines.

Whether it's reaching out to you, the overseas Filipinos, or fighting against global terrorism, at the end of the day, it's always about the economy and improving the lives of our Filipino citizens. If you remember, when I became president 20 months ago, I inherited an economy with 4 million jobless Filipinos and a 40 percent poverty incidence. And that was complicated by 9-11 and the aftermath. Employment has grown so far by 3 percent this year, but I still feel sad that even with such employment growth, we still have great unemployment, there are still many Filipinos unemployed.

Nonetheless, today, inspite of the global slowdown, including in many countries where you live, the Philippine economy has delivered one of the highest growth rates in Asia. In the first three quarters of this year, Philippine GDP grew by 4.1 percent.

This economic growth in this first three quarters of the year is surpassed only by the industrial giants — China and Korea — and by Vietnam, which started from a much lower base.

Our inflation and interest rates are at their lowest in more than a decade. And inflation is low not because of low consumption — because in fact, consumption has grown. Thanks to the large extent, as Mr. Abella said, to many of the remittances coming in — but the Christmas shopping causing all that traffic that prevented you from having an enjoyable trip to Malacañang illustrates the big consumption spending that's going on. So, it's not the low consumption that is causing low inflation. Rather, there is greater productivity in food items like fisheries. That's why the price of fish is low. And rice for the masses — not the well-milled rice for the middle or rich people — but the rice of the masses is 15 or 16 pesos per kilo. And because our interest rates are low, construction, especially housing, and car sales are moving again. That's why I would like the overseas Filipinos to take advantage of this low interest rates now and buy houses for their loved ones now.

And as far as tourism is concerned, since may, we have had double-digit growth in tourism. So, therefore — because between January and may it was negative and then it went to double-digit — our overall year-to-date growth in tourism is a very decent seventy percent even after the Bali attack.

We are taking further steps to strengthen our macro-economic fundamentals. We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to reduce our deficit. And Customs, BIR, and the new Anti-Smuggling Intelligence and Investigation Center, all of them — and I see here Tony Bernardo, who is our fairly new commissioner — I've been telling them, sinabihan ko nga dito sa ating mga bagong Commissioners na kailangang magtrabaho ng masigasig. Madulas iyung mga smuggler na nasa order of battle. Tanungin n'yo kay Tony Bernardo, dahil wala sa pangalan nila 'yung mga kargamyentong nahuhuli. Kaya sabi ko kay Tony, "alam mo naman kung sino sila. I-harass mo 'yung mga lakad ng mga kargamyento nila. Dapat isa-isang inspeksyon paglabas sa Subic o sa Clark, o papasok-palabas sa kanilang mga duty free shops, Tony para malaman nila na alam natin kung sino sila kahit na wala sa pangalan nila ang mga dokumento."

We are sustaining a no nonsense drive against corruption. Limang prosecutor at tatlong bureau director ay pinatalsik ko na, pati na rin ang buong board at senior management ng Public Estates Authority. Ilang huwes ay kinasuhan na rin. Iyung PIATCO airport — with due respect to bill, I saw his comments about that — ito ay nasa kamay na ng korte, pero sinisiguro ko sa inyo na ito ay bubuksan sa madaling panahon para mayroon naman kayong world-class airport na pwedeng ipagmalaki kapag kayo, mga kamag-anak ninyo at kaibigan ninyo ay magbibisita sa ating bansa. Joann represents one of the contending parties. Oo, her principals are here. So I asked, "o, Joann, what do you think of what I did with PIATCO?" she says, "just fine." so, thank you.

And we are insulating our procedures better from graft. I certified as urgent an E-Procurement Bill, and I'm glad it has... It passed the House of Representatives sometime ago and it passed the Senate last week. This Bill will reduce graft in government procurement because it will computerize the procurement and bidding procedures. And it is expected to save at best or at best performance 30 percent of government expenditures. Dahil ito ang tantya na nawawala sa katiwalian sa procurement.

So please, tell the Filipinos who are abroad and also the foreigners in your adopted country that we are doing all these, and also that the peace and order situation in the Philippines has improved. Lalo na ang kidnapping, ito ay bumaba na. Kaya ang aking utos ngayon kay Secretary Joey Lina ng Department of Interior, tukuyin mo naman ngayon ang mga drug lord at mga rascal in uniform. 'Yung nahuli nilang drug bust — kahapon ba 'yon o makalawa? — the biggest shabu bust in the history of our country. Na-trace nila 'yung pinanggalingan, 'yung precursor nasa Navotas. Nandun sila ngayon, 'yung raiding party. So, I told them, you have to sustain this and let the people know what you are doing.

The adverse global environment has provided opportunities to address our national security concerns. Nine-eleven, the subsequent war on terrorism, the looming war in Iraq have all combined to dampen the world economy. But even before 9-11, we in the Philippines had already been waging a war on terrorism. You will recall that the Abu Sayyaf was able to generate at least 20 million dollars in ransom from Sipadan in the year 2000, which strengthened their capability for terror. But with our decisive response to 9-11, we gained foreign allies in their war against terror, which enabled us to neutralize the notorious Abu Sabaya in June of this year, and to degrade Abu Sayyaf strength from thousands to a couple of hundreds. And I think you might have been seeing in the newspapers everyday now new arrests of Abu Sayyaf.

Kaya nananawagan ako na ipagpatuloy ninyo ang inyong pakikipag-isa sa gobyerno upang lalong tumibay ang ating pagkakaisa sa iisang pambansang layon: ang maiahon ang ating bansa mula sa kahirapan.

No president can build a strong republic single-handedly and certainly not overnight. And I can only begin to do this successfully if I can count on the support of the Filipinos overseas.

You, our outstanding Filipinos overseas, are leaders of the well-spring of support, the network of Filipinos all over the world, that I'm counting on.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa inyong pagmamalasakit sa ating kapwa pilipino. Ng daming nakakuha ng award dahil sa mga ginagawa n'yo sa Pilipinas. Nagpapasalamat ako sa malasakit sa kapwa pilipino at sa ating bayan. At sana ipagpatuloy natin itong magagandang gawain, ipagpatuloy natin ang ating pagbubuklod-buklod, ipagpatuloy natin ang ating pagkakaisa.

Muli, ating mga bayani, ating mga dakilang pilipino sa ibayong dagat, maraming salamat sa inyong ginagawa para sa ating bansa.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding Ceremonies of the 2002 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409204809/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8511&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 28th Philippine Business Conference

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 28th Philippine Business Conference

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, December 13, 2002]

These are times that try men's souls. Certainly these are times that tax a woman's patience.

I have been in office 20 months now. The daily problems I have faced are among the hardest in our country's history, and, in fact, even in the world's recent history. All the more am I convinced that if we are to confront our problems, we will need strength. The strength that comes from unity; the unity that comes from a singleness of purpose; a purpose everyone can share. I believe this purpose to be the creation of a Strong Republic.

Some have asked, what is a Strong Republic? I have answered the question partially on many occasions, but if there is one occasion where I can impose on an audience a more comprehensive if less exciting explanation, it is this audience – the grave and wise leaders of the business community.

I said in my State of the Nation Address the two essential features that mark a Strong Republic.

The first feature of a Strong Republic is independence from class and sectoral interests.

The second feature of a Strong Republic is the capacity, realized through strong institutions and a strong democracy, the capacity to execute sound policies and deliver essential public services. Hence, a Strong Republic needs strong institutions. I would like to point out four strong institutions that are needed for a Strong Republic.

One, an effective government;
Two, a vigorous free enterprise economy;
Three, a true and vigorous democratic representation; and,
Four, a vibrant civil society. Let me explain a little about each one of them.

By effective government, I mean national security. I mean, securing the persons and properties of each citizens. I mean, upholding the law without fear or favor. I mean, enforcing valid contracts and annulling invalid agreements prejudicial to the public interest. I mean, providing public infrastructure because that is what people pay taxes for. A Strong Republic must go further to dismantle the structures that protect abuse and perpetuate weakness.

The second institution of a Strong Republic is a vigorous free enterprise economy. By this, I mean that to ensure the vigorous and free play of market forces, government must remove monopolies and combinations in restraint of trade and credit. Government must ensure not just a level playing field, but a measure of equality in the bargaining power of the players. No matter how flat the field, the game is not fair where those who own the ball can order the referee around or change the score at will.

A Strong Republic regards its citizens as assets. It commits itself to provide the basic necessities for as many as it can – women, minorities, the old, the young – each a component of the total national strength.

If business is the engine of the economy, a Strong Republic cannot leave its workings entirely to the free market. The problem with the market's invisible hand is that it writes in invisible ink so that you never know where it is going until long after the chapter is finished. Then it's too late to do anything about it.

A Strong Republic does not dictate to the market, but plans the direction of the economy where, the economy should go. Ideally this should be from strength to strength and not from weakness to weakness.

Left to itself, the free market will dictate the devastation of our rivers and forests, the total exhaustion of our mineral wealth, and the blighting of our urban landscapes for instant gain. A Strong Republic will ensure the sustainable use of this. For the long term gain of future generations. I mean, maintaining an ecological balance to ensure for us and our posterity a sustainable environment.

By true and vigorous democratic representation, the third institution of a Strong Republic, I mean that a republic grows strong with more democracy. The more empowered people are, the less political bosses dictate the outcome of the political process so much stronger does a republic grow.

In a Strong Republic, every vote is counted, and no vote is counted that is fake. Just as bad money drives out good, fake ballots drive out true democracy.

Elected officials must be more representative of the people in general than of friends and patrons in particular.

We must find the way to end the adversarial relation between congress and the president, and unleash the energy and creativity of local governments and local communities.

Let me therefore take this opportunity to congratulate our two vigorous local governments – Muntinlupa and Naga City – for their award of being business friendly.

For the fourth institution of a Strong Republic, that of a vibrant civil society, I mean that as we have seen the power of civil society effect rapid political change, we need the power of civil society which includes you, the chamber, to apply more subtle social changes in such areas as women's rights, family support, a more productive synergy between church and state, and the preservation of the nation's cultural values. That's why I thank you for the memorandum of agreement that you signed this morning to put together the benefits of business and requirements of our indigenous populations. I thank you because in the first instance, when you implement this, you would immediately create 5,000 new jobs. Thank you for that. And because you are doing this for our indigenous peoples, you are fulfilling a function of civil society of preserving our cultural values. Because no one can preserve our cultural values better than those directly in touch with it in civil society.

A Strong Republic needs to take strong action where needed. And I know this is what you've been waiting for in this speech.

During the past 20 months, my goal of growth with price stability was realized, despite the various shocks that intervened during the period. I thank Dante Canlas for his contribution to this remarkable macro economic performance. But as I can see from your Congress resolutions, we need to shift from the dominantly macro economic and demand side focus to micro economic and supply side productivity enhancing measures. So I have asked congressional budget planning head and Professor Romulo Neri to be the new Secretary of Economic Planning.

Going now to the micro economic supply side measures that you proposed as the action agenda on graft and corruption and in response to your offer to help ensure greater transparency in government transactions, I'm hereby creating a presidential oversight system for government procurement with powers to review on a proactive basis, any suspected favoritism, overpricing, and unethical practice in the transactions of government agencies.

If you will agree because Jess Estanislao has done work on effective governance, and you even made him the chair of your committee to choose the effective governments, may I ask Jess Estanislao to head this oversight committee. It will be part of your work Jess in effective governance. So therefore, it doesn't make you part of my government. It still makes you part of civil society looking over our shoulders.

I look forward to constructive inputs, suggestions, complaints, and other important information from the PCCI, the civil society, and the consumer groups, who will be our partners in this endeavor.

On other matters, on micro economic and supply side measures, I am asking congress to speed up the bill to corporatize the Bureau of Internal Revenue as the National Revenue Authority.

To further protect intellectual property rights, I have provided more resources, especially intelligence to the Videogram Regulatory Board, which is why they have been able to confiscate millions of counterfeit products, unprecedented quantities, and they have even been able to close down the factories producing these counterfeits and prosecute the persons arrested in the factories.

My administration is bent on curbing smuggling.

A few days ago, to help Tony Bernardo do his work, I created a new anti-smuggling intelligence and investigation center headed by former Police General Miguel Coronel.

What the EIID used to do, this center will be able to do. In our fight against drugs, may I give you late breaking news. Late last night, at 12:00 midnight, the NBI with elements of the PNP and the Drug Enforcement Agency, raided a warehouse in Navotas and seized precursors capable of producing P1 billion worth of shabu. This operation traced this warehouse as the source of raw materials transported to the shabu laboratory which was discovered last week in Lawang Bato in Valenzuela City. In that discovery, the police found P2.2 billion worth of shabu. The biggest operation so far is this combination of the Lawang Bato factory and its warehouse in Navotas. This is a fruit of the government's relentless anti-drug campaign which followed a series of spectacular drug seizures in Real, Quezon Province; San Narciso, Zambales; Pasay City; Varsity Hills, Quezon City; Paranaque; San Juan; and other places. Now if only we can make sure that corrupt judges do not turnaround the work of any of these law enforcers, as some of them have done in some of these cases. That's why we will take closer attention to strengthening our justice system. At the same time, I urged our businessmen to stop using the judiciary as an extension of your competitive activities by not bringing what were the essentially business rivalry into the level of court disputes. We should encourage, instead, the use of business mediation processes.

On infrastructure, we shall accelerate the completion of the South Luzon Expressway to Batangas City, especially the gap between Calamba and Sto. Tomas, and the gap between Lipa and Batangas City.

I have asked Governor Dodong Mandanas who is in his third term as governor, to be the task force manager of this expressway from Manila to Batangas City.

Two days ago, we approved the equity funding needed to commence the long overdue improvement of the North Expressway. Last Tuesday, NEDA approved the Clark-Subic expressway project. I intend to make the Clark-Subic Corridor a magnet and showcase for investments and tourism by declaring the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport as the airline hub for the Asia-Pacific Region.

We need to unleash the goodwill of donor countries and institutions that have long accumulated in unused and untapped official development assistance funds. We have tens of billions of pesos in grants and concessional credit choked up within our democratic apparatus.

The National Economic Development Authority and other agencies must now declog the bottleneck and streamline procedures on ODA and BOT projects. That's part of the assignment of Romy Neri. We have to mobilize the resources meant to construct an array of infrastructure projects so vital to our development process, including the Mindanao to Luzon roll on, roll off cargo ferry system, the modernization of a railway systems and extension of our urban mass transit lines and the reform of the power sector.

My administration is now more resolute in its commitment to strictly enforce policies meant to restore our ecological balance.

Our natural gas program has already taken off to exploit the opportunities with the opening of our Malampaya natural gas plant. Pilot projects to commission public transportation vehicles powered by compressed natural gas are underway because you asked me to stop smoke belching. This is the answer to that.

I'm now instructing the new secretary of environment to review the mandate of the Laguna Lake Development Authority so we will be able to reconcile conflicts between law enforcement and regulatory functions.

The special asset management bill to help the big banks get rid of their non-performing loans is nearing approval by the bicameral conference committee.

And because you've been asking for labor laws, I recently signed Republic Act 9178. This exempts enterprises who have assets of less than P3 million from paying the minimum wage law.

There will be other occasions where I can go into more detail, about the action agenda that you want, to improve productivity. For now, let me say only that the Strong Republic I speak of is not just a vague notion. It is a clear set of reforms and a hard plan of action.

And as you, the participants in this conference have offered to me, I accept your offer, of your time, and your sincere efforts to work closely with me to carry through our action agenda for productivity, competitiveness, a Strong Republic, and a better life for our people in the future.

Thank you and good afternoon.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). *Strong republic : selected speeches of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*. [Quezon City] : Philippine Information Agency.

Speech of President Arroyo during the 106th anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal, December 30, 2002

SPEECH DURING THE 106TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MARTYRDOM OF DR. JOSE RIZAL
30 December 2002, Rizal Park, Baguio City

Ladies and gentlemen, my beloved countrymen.

Today, we are honoring Rizal. Our national hero is the most gifted Filipino who ever lived, truly the pride of the Malayan race.

A century ago, he made the ultimate sacrifice for the Filipino people, giving up his life at Luneta field. Jose Rizal's martyrdom led to the creation of the Philippine Republic in 1898.

In the hundred years that have passed since Jose Rizal was martyred, the world has undergone rapid change.

Throughout the world, it is now clear the transparent, open and democratic societies give to the fullest opportunities for individual merit and effort to bloom.

These societies have created a culture that allow their citizens to use the advances that technology and Information Age have brought in order to create a better life for both individuals and collective society. In these societies, the result has been the development of mature politics, strong government institutions, and the generation of the material benefits undreamed of during Jose Rizal's time. These are the main elements of a strong and modern society, the Strong Republic that I dream of for the Philippines. We're still far away from that dream but it is within our reach.

Indeed, it's ironic, that ours is the first Republic in Asia. But over the last decades, it has become one of the weakest, steadily left behind by its more progressive neighbors. The fundamental reason is the persistence of an outdated social system wherein vested interests and traditional politics have stunted development towards a strong and modern society. Thus, our country is now only a bit better but the category of backward countries wherein powerful, selfish interests are able to exploit poverty and ignorance to maintain the *status quo* or impede open progressive development.

Throughout the world, we see sad examples for these countries and, invariably, they are in economic decline, becoming breeding grounds for strife, conflict and even terrorism, but I am optimistic that this will not become our national fate.

I believe this because I see around me the emergence of a new generation of dynamic and progressive leaders, whether in politics, in business or in civil society. They will be our agents of change.

Thus, I believe that we can create a strong and modern Philippine Republic but it will take personal sacrifice from each one of us.

As we honor Jose Rizal today, it is fitting that I ask each Filipino to make also sacrifice for our country. Our country needs our help.

In recent years, our fundamental weaknesses have been revealed in ways that are worrisome to broad sectors of our citizenry.

In the economy, even since the Asian crisis in the 1997, our public revenues have been steadily declining in relation to the size of our economy. This has led to persistent budget deficit.

In society, we have become a nation deeply divided, symbolized by the polarity between EDSA II and the May 1 siege barely three months after EDSA II.

And in governance, there is now too much politics hampering good, productive governance.

The convergence of the national stresses such as these has led to the sense of gloom that many of our citizens now talk of. There is a feeling of too much negativism and conflict in our society.

In the coming weeks, we will be launching a series of powerful, positive actions that will improve the life of our people.

Major announcements will be made in January.

However, we also know that we will soon enter the political period leading up to the elections in 2004. My reading on the political winds tells me that the 2004 election may well go down in history as among our most bitterly contested elections ever. This is because of the deep social and political division that we now have.

If this is true, then sincere efforts to launch programs will run the risk of being derailed by political fighting leading up to the elections.

The government in place after 2004 may merely end up inheriting a country as deeply divided as ever. Consequently, we may end up stalling national growth for a few years more as a result of lost momentum.

In view of all these factors, I have decided not to run for President during the election of 2004.

If I were to run, it will require a major political effort on my part. But since I'm among the principal figures in the divisive national events for the last two or three years, my political efforts can only result in never-ending divisiveness.

On the other hand, relieved of the burden of politics, I can devote the last year and half of my administration to the following:

First, strengthening economy; to create more jobs and to encourage business activities that is unhampered by corruption and red tape in government.

Second, healing the deep divisions within our society.

Third, working for clean and honest elections in 2004.

If we achieve these, my successor as President will be in a good position to lead the Philippines through the next decisive steps for the strong and modern society. United, we can see this dream come true within our lifetime.

Thus, I appeal to each Filipino to help in this endeavor. Following the example of Jose Rizal, let us think of country and not just of self.

Thank you and Happy New Year.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Vin d’ Honneur Speech of President Arroyo on meeting the challenges of change through unity and
cooperation**

**Vin D’ honneur Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On meeting the challenges of change through unity and cooperation**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, January 9, 2003]

**MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE
THROUGH UNITY AND COOPERATION**

Let me be direct and to the point.

I have faith in our country. I have hope for the future. I am optimistic the Philippines will yet emerge as a prosperous, modern nation within our lifetimes.

We have the hardest working people in the world, the most adaptable and the most congenial to employ.

Our country is strategically located for commerce.

Ours is a vibrant democracy, with a few changes, it will be well up to the challenges of the 21st century.

As you know, I have decided not to seek the Presidency in 2004. This decision wasn’t easy, but it was the right one. Now, no one needs to envy me except for the greatest privilege of all – to serve our country to the utmost of my energy and ability without worrying about the political fallout. And indeed, I want an end to envy and a start of cooperation.

I believe that the things that need to be done for this country – and the world at large – require the power of cooperation. This is the only power that can change a nation and the world.

There is a power that commands fear. This kind of power only invites constant challenge. And then, there is the greater power that invites respect, this is the power that convinces and grows with the cooperation it inspires, by spreading the circle of its benefits. This is the power I seek.

Sometimes, you have to give so as to keep. The “Good Book” says that in giving, we receive. That is certainly my hope.

By giving, I hope to gain the power that can make life better for those who never had it good, and even for those who never had it so good. I want the rising tide that lifts all boats, whether they’re yachts or “*bangkang papel*.”

I want the Filipino worker to be the most productive possible, to be paid commensurately.

I want the ordinary people to enjoy a decent standard of living – with ever increasing security, comfort and joy.

I want the rich to profit from real and productive investments, not from clever schemes that subtract rather than add to the national wealth.

I want justice to be so pervasive that it will not be taken for granted, just as injustice is taken for granted today.

I want intelligent laws that conduce to peace, progress and prosperity.

All these things I want are things that make up a strong republic.

In a world without borders, we need a strong state to protect our vital interests. The world is not getting smaller, it is getting tighter, and the competition more keen.

National security cannot be attained nor economic progress achieved, without a strong republic. The last decades have shown that the free market is not so much a sure-fire formula for progress, but rather the condition in which all progress must be achieved. It will be a struggle.

By stepping off the political stage in 2004, I take, a step higher in the office I still keep and thereby command a wider allegiance to the policies and projects needed to improve our country.

It will profit me nothing if I succeed, but my successor will inherit a better positioned country, a country better positioned to complete its rebuilding.

I sow, my successor reaps. This is the majesty of democracy. At the time one is given, the steward must make the most of the talents one is given by the Lord.

During the first 20 months as president, I made many good reform-oriented decisions for the people. As a consequence, I made many powerful enemies for myself.

I gave all the Internal Revenue Allotment or IRA to the local government units without regard to their political affiliations. I deprived myself of the billions of patronage funds that used to come from withholding a percentage of the IRA, yet I was accused of ambition.

I pursued land reform, most extensively in Negros Occidental, including the land of my husband's family, and we were accused of greed.

I moved to cancel the PIATCO contract to spare future generations from its onerous conditions, and I was accused of shortsightedness.

I moved to abolish the Public Estates Authority and fired all its key officials, and I was accused of indecision.

I vowed to carry out whatever will be the final Supreme Court ruling on the MERALCO case, while ensuring the financial viability of the corporation, and I got it from every direction.

I provided land for an unprecedented number of urban poor families, even if I was accused of insincerity.

I can say that we made substantial progress since I assumed the presidency. Inflation is under control, exports are up, we are making deep inroads against crime and stemming the tide of corruption in government.

We have established ourselves as major players in the region, successfully integrating trade policy with development.

We have turned around our image abroad, and stepped up our obligations as global citizens to combat terrorism.

We have stabilized our macroeconomic condition. Now, some may ask, “What can I accomplish in a year-and-a-half left?”

The power of one if fearless and focused, is formidable, but the power of many working together is better.

That is why, I stepped away from the destructive politics that has prevented us, prevented the unity indispensable to the salvation of the state.

But, together with you, the nation’s leaders, across the broad political and economic spectrum, and together with our friends from all over the world, the tasks I have set in the short time left will build on the work accomplished in the equally short time that has passed. The measure of an administration’s success is not its length but its achievements.

I hope to oversee the further strengthening of the economy, the creation of more jobs, the encouragement of more business activity unhampered by corruption and red tape, supported when needed by fiscal and trade policy to promote industrial development.

I shall work to heal the deep divisions in our country, and hope to make major progress in the solution to the Communist insurgency, and in the final integration of the Muslim component of our society.

And I expect to see the cleanest and most orderly elections at the end of my term. During that election period, the time I would have wasted on political debate if I were a candidate, will instead be spent on continuing our programs of reforms and recovery up to the last minute of my presidency.

A true leader of this country cannot afford to play politics anymore and ignore the spreading and paralyzing climate of cynicism.

This nation has been rent by political divisions, self-interests and unfulfilled potential. We take one bold step forward, only to find ourselves two steps back. I could go on with politics as usual, or I could arrest the downward spiral of division and despair.

I don’t believe that anyone wants one’s country to fail. I think many are just unaware, but someone was needed to tell it like it is; someone who could make the right decisions without threatening anyone’s political ambition. Someone had to break the ice. Someone had to make the sacrifice.

A new national dialogue on change and reform was critical, but how do you turn divisiveness into dialogue. I declared the unimaginable: I announced I would not run for the presidency in 2004.

This nation is at a crossroad: quite simply, it must reform or perish.

We must shake loose the grip of the status quo and set our country free and on the road of true prosperity.

But let me be clear: I don’t want the unity of blind submission. I want the unity of conscious cooperation. I expect a vigorous debate, but it must be a debate on alternative ways of change.

There can be no falling back. Only the vested interests have something to fall back on, though not for long. Either this country moves forward or dies.

In the vision that guides my administration, I see a country liberated from the grip and greed of past. I see this happening through a revolution in the way we think, and in the way we do politics and economics.

At the center of this revolution must be a commitment to reforms and to putting the people first. In the debates, no topic shall be sacred, no idea or ideology beyond question. We must keep trying something better and new.

I shall do everything in my power to succeed – and trust me, that liberated power is considerable. Relieved of the burden of political ambition, this office has the power to make and unmake.

Today, I am sharing with you that vision that guides my administration. Starting tomorrow and in the weeks to come, I will take the challenge of development to the people and ask for their support – not for the presidency in 2004, but for my initiatives. Starting tomorrow and the weeks to come, I will present to the people the series of programs that I believe need to be embraced, if this nation is to succeed. I will not let an election year impede reforms, stop progress or take this nation back one step.

I may not be running for president, but that will not diminish my efforts one bit.

So, I ask everyone to work with me to insure that we can revolutionize our nation through reforms, honest dialogues and lasting change.

On that note, may I propose a toast to unity and cooperation – within this country and among all nations of the world – as the way to peace, progress and justice. *Mabuhay!*

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the Philippine Stock Exchange

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Philippine Stock Exchange**

[Delivered at Ayala Tower 1, Makati City, January 10, 2003]

**STRENGTHENING VITAL STRUCTURES
IN NATION-BUILDING**

As I said yesterday, we did plenty in the past 20 months. And as I vowed yesterday, we will do plenty more in the next 18 months. And as I assured everyone, a president willing to give up her post can be more powerful than a president who wants to hang on to it at any price.

We've made significant progress, if not so much in going forward, certainly, in gathering the strength to do so when the worldwide recession ends. One thing, however, remains unsatisfactory: there are still too many poor, too many jobless, too many homeless people around.

The challenge is not just to reach out to the poor. Every administration does that.

The challenge is to actually alleviate their miserable conditions. And do it in the shortest time possible because, in the long term, as a famous economist said, "We are all dead."

If the poor do not have the strength to hold out and help out, no long-term solution will succeed. You cannot postpone eating, drinking safely, learning useful things and having gainful work. Only those who exploit the weak bargaining position of the poor believe the poor can wait.

But, having resolved to do our best to alleviate present miseries, we should not limit ourselves to temporary solutions. We do need deep and far-reaching reforms that will lead to stronger political and social stability, and to sustained economic recovery. But none of these reforms should ever entail keeping down the poor, or making them suffer some more.

By 2004, I want to see a revitalized economy that adequately serves the needs of our people, creates even more jobs, and raises our people's income levels and pushes poverty to the margins.

Our focus must be on pro-active microeconomic and structural reforms. We cannot rev up the old engines of industry. Global trends have already dismantled many of them. But we can entice new investments in new technologies, by seriously reducing the risk and the bother of doing business in the Philippines.

I will reduce to the bare minimum the national government requirements for doing business. Officials – be they local or national – are the last people who should second-guess a business activity. At most, they should monitor businesses for the harm they might do the community. But that is all. Let a thousand, a million, ten million enterprises, small and big, bloom. Let the market separate the good from the bad.

Filipino business, has great potential. We don't need to tap it. We just need to let it be. What we need is just to create the conditions for its flourishing.

Thus, we need to fast-track the implementation of various infrastructure projects that will be vital arteries of commerce. I have built the Batangas Port after a decade of red tape. That Batangas Port was first conceptualized and planned when I was Undersecretary of Trade for Planning. Then I became senator two times. I became vice-president. I became president, only to find out that the port hadn't been built. So last January 16, 2002, it was built. We inaugurated it. And it's now in operation. I will soon open NAIA 3 under fair conditions to the public. And I will soon complete the San Roque Dam in Pangasinan.

Thanks to investment support and official development assistance from South Korea, China and Italy, the rehabilitation and expansion of the country's railway system will soon commence. Work on the Luzon Railway has actually started likewise the ongoing relocation of urban poor communities along the right of way of the PNR. Within the year, we will build the Balintawak-Malolos and the Manila-Cabuyao legs. We will expand the North Expressway and extend the South Expressway up to Batangas Port.

The MRT and the LRT will soon begin their interconnection so that my successor's administration will enjoy a Metro Manila relieved of the traffic jams that we are suffering today.

The Development Bank of the Philippines has 20 billion pesos to lend to creditworthy businessmen and even local governments or government corporations, who will invest in the roads and roll-on/roll-off (RORO) terminals and ferries that will bring down the cost of cargo from Mindanao to Luzon. To illustrate this project, next month, I invite you — the stockbrokers — to a caravan in the Boracay to Batangas leg. It will be in an 8-hour trip in your cars.

I will soon unveil a masterplan for the power sector that will cure the brownouts we are now beginning to experience in Panay and prevent the brownouts that threaten to darken our country by the year 2005.

The Special Purpose Vehicles Act or SPVA and the Government Procurement Law that I signed today are but two elements of the set of policy actions designed to widen the opportunities for business in the country, and to shore up good governance.

The SPVA seeks to save the banking sector from the financial fallout of lending decisions that went sour after the Asian crisis. The banks have been groaning under more than 300 billion pesos of bad loans and more than 200 billion pesos of repossessed assets.

The SPV Law takes away this burden — for a price, of course. But it allows banks to charge their losses against their taxes.

The SPVA should bring in new money to revive bad loans, find new uses for foreclosed assets, rehabilitate failed businesses, and open wide the lending windows again.

Republic Act No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act conforms to our three pillars of good governance, namely: a moral foundation to guide leadership at all levels; a philosophy of transparency in government actions; and an ethic of effective implementation throughout the bureaucracy.

R.A. 9184 will help government procurement officers stick to the straight and narrow path. It will fight graft and corruption, improve operational efficiency, foster transparency in bidding procedures, and encourage competition. As a bonus, the money that can be saved by making procurement more effective, efficient and less prone to corrupt practices will reduce the budget deficit.

I commend both Houses of Congress and Senate for their careful crafting and passage of these measures, and call on them again to fast-track other key reforms vital to our economic success.

To enable business to cash in on future income flows so that business can use investment funds twice over requires the approval of the Securitization Act. The House has passed it. And I call on the Senate to give its approval.

But to revitalize the securities market also requires unity in the stock exchange. And I congratulate Vivian Yuchengco and Robert Coyoito for agreeing to sacrifice, by withdrawing their candidacies to remove the poison in the stock market, the way that I renounced my candidacy for president to remove the poison from the body politic.

The stock market should also receive a boost from our new policy to revive the mining industry, where the Philippines holds one of the richest ore reserves in the whole world. To realize its potential, I will create a natural resources mining development corporation that will develop our many dormant but high-potential mining areas which we can list in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In the fiscal sector, we need to enact several important bills that will help return our fiscal balance.

The TRANSCO franchise will facilitate the sale of the National Power Corporation's transmission assets for the best possible price so as to bring in reputable investors to rehabilitate and expand our power grids.

The indexing of sin taxes to inflation should raise 40 billion pesos yearly in additional revenues, without introducing new taxes. But I also ask Congress to rationalize motor vehicle taxes and mandate the registration of heavy construction equipment.

Corporatizing the BIR into a national revenue authority will bring in fresh talent, and infuse the almost century-old agency with energy. And so I ask Congress to enact the National Revenue Authority Bill.

Of course, I would also like to ask the Senate to please pass soonest the General Appropriations Act.

We must build institutions that foster productivity and resolve distortions that hinder productivity growth such as wage rigidities in micro-enterprises. Thus, I recently signed Republic Act 9178 exempting enterprises with assets of less than 3 million pesos from the Minimum Wage Law.

Another rigidity or source of unproductivity is the rigidity of land transfers under the present Agrarian Reform Program. Modern finance and modern agricultural technology favor large land holdings and are often at odds with the demands of social justice on the land under the present shape of our land reform law. But we cannot give up on either modernization for social justice. Therefore, on my certification as urgent, the House of Representatives has passed a bill to stimulate private investment in agriculture by permitting agricultural land to be used as collateral. And I understand the Senate has prioritized its counterpart bill. What SPVA is for the big bankers, farm land as collateral is for the small farmers.

On the part of the executive, we are committed to increasing the productivity and incomes of our farmers through the adoption of hybrid rice technologies and expansion of small water impounding irrigation projects.

Another source of unproductivity is dead assets in land. So we will continue with the unprecedented pace of proclamations giving informal settlers of urban land the right to buy the land that they occupy and use it as collateral for raising their own small capital.

Another source of unproductivity is unfair trade. And so I am adopting tariff policy signals to encourage the manufacturing sector and signal industrial policy. The Philippines is ahead of WTO requirements. Our tariff policies were created a decade ago in the heyday of globalization. Unbridled globalization is no longer in vogue. The 1997 Asian crisis and 9-11 have since hit us. After 1997, our tax collections are short. So I'm instructing NEDA, DTI, the Tariff Commission not to be married to the idea that our tariff program can no longer be revised. I am adopting the policy to slow the program pace only to the AFTA and WTO minimums, and to take full advantage of all exemption windows allowed, such as for the petrochemical industry.

To encourage business, we must fight dishonesty in the private sector and in the public service.

Trust is the heart of business. A vibrant financial system cannot function without it. Yet, there can be no trust where businessmen are not afraid to break contracts because they can buy judges. And where public officials are not afraid to extort from businessmen because they are the law.

Thus, I ask Congress to reform the pay scale of judges and encourage mediation as an alternative to costly time-consuming and rent-seeking court litigation.

The only way to foster trust is to punish its betrayal in the private sector and in the public sphere.

Government will wage an unrelenting war against business frauds on the general public, and against official extortion of business. If anyone in my government tries it, tell me.

I am instructing the Budget Secretary to double the budget of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to further empower it to make lifestyle checks and file the appropriate cases.

I'm instructing the Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Commissioner of Customs to crack down on big time tax evaders and smugglers. The Commission on Internal Revenue through computer analysis has identified quite a number of big time tax evaders especially in the value added tax and has identified a number of cases pending in the courts. And this will be moving.

These reforms require broad-based cooperation. On the part of the Executive Branch, I shall make the members of the Cabinet realize the urgency for policy coherence and coordination for the need for them to step down.

I thank Congress, which has given me key pieces of legislation I have sought. Though I must say our investors and creditors are not yet satisfied with the harvest.

I appreciate the work of careful crafting done by Congress so that unintended consequences are avoided or minimized. But there is a point where too much care is worse than too much recklessness. Our economy needs the TRANSCO Bill, the Securitization Act, and the other key pieces of economic legislation soonest.

I shall invite to a meeting on January 14 the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) and the chairs of the committees that will deliberate on my key prescriptions for renewal and reform.

What we will not talk about is Charter change. Because I don't want the people to misunderstand the reason for my decision not to run in 2004.

The focus of the discussion must therefore be, exclusively, the economy.

One of the means proposed for healing the deep divisions within our society is a government of national unity. This is a good idea, provided that the basis of unity is my National Agenda. Because no so-called team can supply the energy and focus of a singular executive, where everyone is picked by the president and serves solely at her pleasure.

To each his appointed task, therefore, I ask Congress to give me the good laws, and I will give you firm and efficient implementation.

To avoid the wrong impression of an ongoing civil conflict that has reached a stalemate, I would like to substitute for the term "government of national unity" instead the term "government of national cooperation". Cooperation on the essential things we cannot quarrel about — on the need for reform and good governance, on the components of national survival in these perilous times, and on the elements of national progress in a worldwide recession.

To the business community represented here, gathered here to witness the approval of two substantial reforms to get business going and go back to business as usual, this brief message. “We in government are doing our part. We are taking the risks. We are making the sacrifices. We are doing everything to get this country going forward.”

I now ask you to make your sacrifice. Take a gamble. I took the plunge and I’m glad of it. I’m at the head of the country, seeing clearly the way ahead. Stay with me, I have no motive to lead you or the people astray. Join me. The trip will be short but I think rewarding for all of us who love our country.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP National Directorate Meeting, January 20, 2003

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP National Directorate Meeting**

[Delivered at Heroes Hall, Malacañang, January 20, 2003]

Thank you very much, Joey, the head of our National Secretariat.

Vice-President Tito Guingona; Speaker De Venecia, our very inspiring opening speaker today, our co-chairman of the party; Nani Perez, the Secretary General; Sonny Belmonte, EVP and also acting Chairman of Metro Manila; Sonny Alvarez, Spokesperson together with Serge Apostol; other LAKAS National Directorate Officers; ladies and gentlemen; my beloved partymates.

I'm happy to have you here tonight. As Joe says, this is our first meeting of the directorate since I became president. Usually, in traditional politics, the national directorate meets only when its time to choose the national candidates, but i think as we move towards new politics, it is more important that the national directorate, made up of the chapter chairmen, should meet more often.

And indeed, among the first people that I chose to speak with, after my announcement last Rizal day, were some of you who are here, my friends and allies in the administration party, the LAKAS Christian-Muslim democrats. I know that as politicians many of you would not find it easy to understand my decision not to run for president in 2004. And I know that it is you my partymates from whom I must seek the highest quality of understanding and support.

The political atmosphere had become so toxic with jealousy and intrigue, and even continuous destabilization. I had to make a signal act of political self-denial and renunciation in order to allow our agenda of reform and progress to proceed.

I said that I will devote the remainder of my term to: first, strengthening the economy by creating jobs and encouraging investments in an atmosphere free of the corruption that drives business away; second, healing the deep divisions in our society; and third, ensuring clean and honest elections in 2004.

All these do not constitute an easy task. But with the grace of God, I'm determined to use the full authority of my presidency and the last bead of sweat on my brow to make this vision happen. Not for selfish agenda because I am not now a candidate for president but to get our country out of the sense of helplessness and on the road to recovery and progress.

My partymates, I ask you, support me in this vision. The stakes are high for 80 million Filipinos who look up to our administration for deliverance from conditions of inequity, deprivation and poverty. You, the provincial district and city chairmen are the backbone of the biggest and most powerful political party today. As incumbent officials or chapter chairmen of the party, you wield considerable political ascendancy in your respective provinces, districts and cities as well as in Congress.

My partymates in Congress, I ask you to pass the measures that make up the structural reforms of our administration. I ask you, for instance, to pass strengthening the anti-money laundering measures. And i thank you members of congress for passing the bill making land reform serve our farmers better by allowing them to use farmlands as bank collateral. Now I ask you to strengthen the revenue measures on sin products and automobiles to finance the gigantic development requirements. I ask you, too to pass the reform of the BIR into a lean and mean corruption fighting corporate machine. I thank Congress for passing the Transco Franchise Bill which will when

pass by the Senate mobilize private capital into our power sector so as to avoid massive brownouts by the year 2007. I ask you in bicameral conference committee to pass the Absentee Voting Bill. I certainly thank the House of Representatives for the early passage of some of these bills and they are now pending, some of them are now pending in the senate.

On the part of the local governments, I ask you to support our microeconomic programs to increase productivity and build up domestic demand. These programs include the massive promotion of small and medium enterprises which are the most efficient users of capital; the accelerated jumpstart of housing which has the biggest multiplier effect on an economy; reducing transport costs from Mindanao through the Visayas to Luzon by building a nautical highway made up of roll-on/roll-off ferry terminals, the boats, the silos, and the roads that connect them; decongestion of metro manila and promotion of premier tourist destinations.

When we do all these, you will help me make LAKAS a powerful parallel structure to ensure the success of these initiatives. Help me reach out to the people; help me communicate to them the urgency of these programs; help me enlist the support of local officials and barangays under your influence so that our programs can take root and bear fruit in all our communities.

To do this, I must ask you to set aside politicking for the time being.

I ask you this even as I assure you that I know only too well your anxieties about 2004. I know that most if not all of you are direct stakeholders in the elections to be held next year.

And I know that there are those who wish that LAKAS will undergo a meltdown after I declared I would not seek election as president. I know there are those who wish that a rift will grow among us over the means for Charter Change.

I am not about to surrender to such wishful thinking of our enemies. And I ask, you do not surrender to them as well.

Because, I will still be your president. More than ever your strong president until June 30, 12 noon of 2004.

And as a non-candidate for president, I don't have to be afraid of vested interests, whether they are political vested interests or otherwise. Therefore, I can exercise my authority fully until the last minute of my tenure, and O intend to do so.

I'm not asking you to engage in political abnegation as I did, but I ask you to engage in the politics of performance. The politics of performance in support of my reform program, our administration's reform program. Then I will help those who help me leave a good legacy of change for our country. I will help those who make governance work well for the good of our people. And I'm sure the people will be just as discerning. They, too will take care of you.

As your party chairman, I ask you— stay with me and stay together. In the past, I wasn't exacting or demanding of your demeanor as LAKAS members. But now, I ask for one common response: loyalty to our party. Because as Sim Datumanong said in his prayer, loyalty to our party at this crucial time in our history is synonymous to loyalty to the needs and aspirations of our country.

That sense of loyalty dictates upon each one of us to exercise organizational discipline and cohesion. While I am a non-candidate president, I will not prejudice our right and our need to have a winning standard bearer in 2004.

There is no shortage of materials for the presidency. Even among us tonight, or even those not among us tonight because they are not party chapter chairmen, and that's why they're not ask to come tonight. There are many whose brilliance and track record of service to our people make them deserving of the party's attention and excitement.

To all these stars, be they already rising or still about to rise to national leadership. To them, I say, I have said to them already in a previous meeting, let a thousand flowers bloom. Let all those who seek our support for national

leadership make themselves known to us. And together in a democratic way and with divine guidance, let us together choose our standard bearers at the appropriate time, perhaps at the end of this year.

We must choose as one, move as one, and win as one. Huwag tayong magka-kanya-kanya. Huwag nating pangunahan ang kapakanan ng partido at kabutihan ng bansa para lang sa sarili.

I ask you to have faith in our party, to have faith in our party's leadership, to have faith in the process by which we will not only ensure victory in 2004, but assure the nation of a new presidency capable and determined to pursue the reforms needed by our people.

But for now, let the sincerity of our plans and intentions of our people be our politics. Let us, with renewed unity and hope, dedicate our energies to the deliverance of our people out of the abyss of poverty and lethargy into the sunlight of prosperity. In the end, this is our surest road to victory, for our candidates and for our country.

Mabuhay ang lakas!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP National Directorate Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412202323/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5776&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd Anniversary of the EDSA II Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd Anniversary of EDSA II**

[Delivered at the EDSA Shrine, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, January 20, 2003]

SAFEGUARDING THE LEGACY OF FREEDOM

Isang makabuluhang Anniversary ng EDSA Dos sa ating lahat.

Two years ago, I stood here at EDSA to assume the presidency. It was here that I had to pick up what had been thrown away by a reckless disregard of law and morals.

I took office focused on the causes of a radical political transition that cannot be good for a constitutional democracy to undergo repeatedly.

I took office to fight poverty. I had to be the champion of the poor in real life. I took office to raise those moral standards that allowed the unthinkable to happen in a serious government. And I could do this by the only credible method of government in a negative and cynical time. I had to govern by example even to the extreme of making an example of myself.

Last December 30, I announced a decision that I was after all prepared to make a long time ago. I gave up the advantage of the incumbent and announced that I would not seek the presidency in 2004.

I had to compromise on one thing because I could not compromise at all on the rest. I had to forego the chance of a full six-year term of my own, in order to realize as many of my goals, and as much of my vision for our country in the time remaining to me.

I gave up my ambition to stay in this office beyond the time that destiny gave me in this place so I would be unburdened of the need to play politics.

I realized that fighting poverty meant improving the economy through sweeping structural reforms. Not just the kind dictated from abroad but the harder kind that we must fashion and adapt to our special situation.

I realized that effective reform boiled down to fighting entrenched vested interests; interests that have stood in the way of national progress and prosperity; interests that continue to block the way to a better standard of living for the vast majority rather than just the same small elite.

This situation is unsustainable.

This way of doing things and not doing anything about them cannot go on. As I said, reform or perish.

Free of the burden of having to play politics, I'm liberated to champion the cause of the people and promote with greater energy and resolution the reforms that lift the old barriers to progress.

The microeconomic structural reforms that I have been rolling out since September last year pursue my core belief of fighting poverty.

My December 30 speech lives up to my core belief in a new politics of leadership by example.

Today, we launch an anti-corruption campaign to raise the moral standards in politics and the economy.

I came to the presidency in this place, in the midst of a national outcry against corruption.

I came to the presidency because of EDSA II. Many asked, what was EDSA II? And I can tell them, it was the most powerful answer of the weak to the corruption of the powerful.

To be faithful to the spirit of EDSA II requires a continuing commitment to the fight that was started here. And it's all part and parcel of our war against poverty because corruption is the worst enemy of progress and social justice. And because it robs the state of the resources to prosecute the war against poverty.

The imperatives of the strategy call for another front to be opened in the war against poverty. This front is the fight against corruption. From this fight, there can be no exceptions whether made out of fear or favor, or because of family and business connections.

We must fight the enemy wherever he is found even in our lives, in our work, and our business.

The enemy has many faces. He is the corrupt official extracting money from a favored contractor or supplier. He is a contractor or supplier who comes and bribes a public official. He is the corrupt official who siphons off the taxes and duties due to the government. And he is found in all the three branches of government. He is the citizen who connives with the corrupt official, he is the tax evader who fools the government, as much as the businessman who fools the public and cheats his workers.

For this battle I have drawn a strategy. To this strategy, I will commit the resources to achieve victory.

Given the strength of the enemy and the extent of his reach, we need to mobilize the real victims of corruption – the general public. You, the general public, bear the brunt of corruption in the deterioration of the standard of living of the ordinary Filipino. The ordinary Filipino is thus in the best position to complain.

I am calling a national draft of all good men and women who want to make a difference in your lives and in our country.

I call on you to work with the government to expose those who would rather pay off the tax collector than pay his right taxes.

I call on lawyers to volunteer their services to the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice to fight graft and not to protect it, to prosecute corruption and not to defend it, to expose fraud and not to disguise it.

I call on the idealistic youth as well, as well as the silent majority to be our eyes and ears in the fight against corruption. Tell us about the cases of corruption you know of, give us specifics. I am instructing the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to receive these reports and follow them through.

I call on Congress to pass the bill allowing the Ombudsman to engage the help of private lawyers for free if possible, for a fee if there are no takers.

Even as we call on the people to mobilize in the war against corruption, I will mobilize the necessary funds to increase the troop complement in our war against corruption and to acquire state-of-the-art weaponry. I hereby direct the Secretary of Budget to provide 35 million pesos for the Ombudsman to recruit 50 lawyers for its investigation and prosecution work, and for it to acquire information technology systems.

In turn, I ask the Ombudsman to make available to the public the statements of assets and liabilities of all public officials, government nominees in private corporations, and anyone else with any kind of government appointment, be it remunerative or honorary, including presidential advisers.

I also ask the Ombudsman to carry out a new task: proactively observe government procurement involving large amounts.

I am directing the Secretary of Budget to provide 700 million pesos to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for its Information and Communications Technology Department. Unknown to the public, but well known now in the circles of big tax evaders is the fact that the BIR has been able to track down tax evaders through the power of information technology.

In my first State of the Nation Address, indeed, I said, I would make the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs showcases in the fight against corruption. They have been quietly working up to that challenge. They have been conducting intensive investigations on probable big time tax evaders and smugglers.

We've seen some results in the past several months, of major companies agreeing to pay more than three billion pesos after a tax investigation, of a customs official being arrested, of illegal shipments valued at nearly half a billion pesos being intercepted.

In due time you will see more results.

I am doubling the budget of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to create an investigative unit to undertake intensive lifestyle checks on public officials. This unit will become the link between the government's anti-corruption drive and the citizens devoted to fighting graft.

I've also created a special anti-smuggling task force to link our law enforcement agencies with the private sector. I expect this group to bring more results to our anti-smuggling campaign.

I've instructed a crackdown on the Customs Bonded Warehouse System, which has become notorious for smuggling. I'm ordering the closure of more than 300 customs bonded warehouses. I'm ordering the Bureau of Customs to abolish the Bonded Trading Warehouse System, and while phasing this out, I've ordered Customs to ban the entry of finished goods into these warehouses.

I am now ordering the BIR and Customs chiefs to speed up the cases against big fish and spread their net wider, and mobilize resources for this urgent task.

I now order the BIR chief to terminate the existing 45,000 Letters of Authority issued in the past. From now on, only the BIR chief can issue such letters and these letters will be issue-specific and in force for not more than 90 days.

I call on Congress to create the National Authority for Revenue Administration, changing the BIR from a populous and ponderous bureaucracy to a lean and mean corruption-fighting machine.

But we must also ensure the election of the people's real choices. We must protect the votes of those who run on the strength of their public service rather than on the force of their private wealth. I'm hereby announcing the availability of 2.5 billion pesos to computerize the quick and accurate counting and tabulation of votes. I count you all to be in this drive so that we can have this computerized counting and tabulation of votes in 2004. That way, we will not only spare our teachers from tedious manual counting and the pressures of partisan politics, we will also make sure that your vote will be counted correctly. High-tech *boto, ito ang susi sa pagbabago*.

And this I intend to leave as my legacy to the nation, the certainty that every Filipino will see his vote counted.

It's true I'm going. But I am not a goner, far from it.

A president without the baggage of reelection can move faster, hit harder and work to greater effect.

My interest in the 2004 elections is to promise that it will take place. And furthermore, that it will be utterly clean.

Some of my critics remain unconvinced. I leave them to their self-imposed and self-serving ignorance. They can go on sounding the retreat back to the vested interests that pay their way, back to the corruption that is for many of them the only way.

For my part, I have made the sacrifice. I have sounded the advance and there shall be no retreat.

Ako'y iniluklok bilang presidente sa panahon ng napakaraming hamon sa bansa at maging sa buong mundo. Nguni't hindi ako naduwag sapagka't alam ko na kayo, ang aking mga kapanalig sa EDSA Dos at ang iba pang mga Pilipino sa buong bansa, ay handang dumamay at tumulong para sa ating kaunlaran.

Alam kong darating ang panahon na malalaman ng bawat Pilipino na siya'y may sariling kapangyarihan upang hubugin ang kanyang kinabukasan nang ang bansa'y maging matatag.

Nailatag ko na ang direksyon natin. Magtiwala tayo sa kakayahan ng sambayanan at palakasin pa natin ang ating pagkaka-isa. Ngayon pa lang ay tulung-tulong nating gawin ang lahat nang nararapat upang mapadali ang pagtatag ng ating republika. Huwag na nating hintayin pa na maiwanan na naman tayo ng mundo. Ubos na ang oras natin.

Stay with me. Happy Anniversary EDSA II participants! Happy Anniversary Filipino people! *Maraming salamat po.*

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo at the National Launching of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Program

Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the National Launching of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Program

[Delivered at Starland, Metropolis Starmall, Alabang, Muntinlupa, February 17, 2003]

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES: THE BACKBONE OF A REVITALIZED ECONOMY

Sabi nga, pitumpu na itong seminars na ginaganap sa buong Pilipinas para maipaliwanag itong number one program ng ating administrasyon – iyang small and medium enterprise development. Kaya lang sabiko, dito sa Muntinlupa ako ang magbibigay ng seminar. Sapagkat kahit saan ako pumunta kasama parati ang national media kung kaya't ito ang national launching ng ating Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Program.

At bakit ko pinili ang Muntinlupa? Hindi ko makakalimutan na dalawang beses nang nanalo ang Muntinlupa, two years in a row, as the most business-friendly city in the country. Kaya, kung merong isang lugar kung saan magtatagumpay itong programang ito, para maging huwaran sa ibang mga lugar, iyon na nga – Muntinlupa na nga.

And that's why without further ado, let me now go to the presentation of the National Small and Medium Enterprise Development Program (NSMEDP).

Kung naalala ninyo doon sa PCCI convention, kung saan nanalo na naman ang Muntinlupa bilang business-friendly city, sinabi ko na ang ating macroeconomic growth ay magandang ihambing sa ibang mga bansa. In fact, five percent ang growth rate ng ating GNP noong 2002. Tinatanong ko nga sa ating mga ibang kalapit bansa kung anong growth rate nila: Singapore 2 1/2 percent, halos 2 1/2 ang diperensiya; Thailand 4 percent, mas mataas tayo. Kanya lamang, bakit parang maraming mamamayan ang nagsasabing hindi pa rin nila nararamdaman. Kasi kailangan hindi lamang ang macro-economic growth, kailangan iyang micro measures para dalhin ang lumalagong ekonomiya doon sa mga lugar kung saan mararamdaman ng taong bayan. At number one nga diyan ang small and medium enterprises. Kaya narito tayo, medium enterprises dito sa ating National Small and Medium Enterprise Development Program.

Bakit ko sinasabi na kung pupunta tayo, lilipat na tayo, sabi ko sa PCCI meeting, from macro measures we will go to micro measures. Why is the number one micro measure SMEs? Why? Because the SMEs are vital engines of the Philippine economy. Almost 100 percent, 99.6 percent of total firms are SMEs. The sector employs 70 percent of the labor force. It contributes one-third of the value added to the economy. And its 60 percent are exporters. And so, if we will be able to push for the development of SMEs, kasi kung iiwanan lang natin sa market, kung macro lang ang aasikasuhin natin, alam ba ninyo kung anong sektor ang lumalaki? Telecommunications lumalaki, utilities kagaya ng Malampaya lumalaki, pero hindi naman doon nanggagaling ang equity ng ating bansa. And so, we need to push SMEs because telecoms and Malampaya are big giant enterprises.

We need to push SMEs to have a more equitable distribution of income and disperse economic activities to the countryside. But not just in the countryside because the biggest bulk of unemployment is right here in Metro Manila. So this is a potent force in the war against poverty.

Ninety one percent of the micro small and medium enterprises are micro enterprises. And so, what do we want to do with these micro enterprises? What's the difference between a micro enterprise and a small and medium enterprise? A micro enterprise largely is a one-person operation, even less than a mom or pop operation. It's a self-employment operation. Whereas the small and medium enterprise is an enterprise that hires other people so, therefore, it is really

a bigger tool for developing, for addressing what I think is the main problem we have today. And that is employment.

So, inasmuch as 91.1 percent of the SMEs are micro, but the bulk of enterprises are micro small and medium enterprises. Talking about micro measures means that we look at that sector and find out why it is that if left to the market alone, they are not developing as much as we would like them to develop. What are the obstacles in the current situation? What are the structural issues that confront the micro small and medium enterprises? One of them is that they are concentrated in the NCR and neighboring province. But as far as I'm concerned that's very important because then we can use these enterprises to create more employment in the NCR and the neighboring provinces where unemployment is the highest.

Also, majority of the micro small and medium enterprises are in the service sector, but in low value-added activities. Eighty four percent are in services. But what kind of services? *Siguro iyung kariton, nagbebenta ng mga* – you know – but *kung* service, it's a service, like a restaurant catering to a tourist, that's fine. *Pero kung kari-kariton*, then it's not so productive.

Therefore, we have to encourage enterprises in the productive sectors that give more employment. So, in higher value-added activities that's what we would want to do.

So, continuing the productivity of our micro small and medium enterprise is low compared to other Asian economies. But let me say, there are SMEs that are the most efficient users of capital. That is why we want this low productive SMEs to transform themselves into these SMEs who have a very efficient way of using capital.

There are other challenges confronting micro small and medium enterprises, this is a world of stiff global competition. Whether we like it or not, we are in a global world. Whether we like it or not, the Financial Anti-Money Laundering Task Force exists. Whether we like it or not, the banks in other countries do not want to deal with our exporters unless they bring out our documents and examine every recipient of every remittance to find out whether he is a money launderer or not, it happens. That's the way the global world is and our alternative is to become what? A Mongolia? An Albania? A North Vietnam who does not want to deal with outside world? Well, what will happen to our own development?

Another problem is that they have limited access to technology, and most importantly, limited access to financing. And that is so ironic, because the assets of the banking sector is in the trillions not even in the billions, why is there limited access to financing? And therefore, because of limited access to financing, because of limited access to technology, the cost of doing business is high. Because of the limited access to the institutional financing, many of them end up with a "5-6" and that is certainly a high cost of doing business. Many of them still use the *mano-mano* methods because of limited access to technology and, therefore, you have a high cost of doing business. These are the challenges confronting SMEs.

And so, what do we do since that is the state of Philippine SMEs? Our response there is the National SME Development Program. What is the goal of our program? We want the SME sector to be a vibrant sector providing a strong domestic supply base manufacturing and services for globally competitive industries, whether they're for export or whether they're for the domestic market fighting with the inflow of imports. We want to expand enterprises. If they are micro, we want them to become small. And if they are small, we want them to become medium. That is what we want. And we want to upgrade productivity and value-added capabilities.

How are we doing this? For the next six months, this is what we want to do. Right now, the small and medium segments are 8.7 percent. We want them to graduate to 10 percent. By graduating, as I said, the micro enterprises who are ready to graduate into small businesses and also to generate new small and medium enterprises. There will be 20 small and medium enterprise centers nationwide so that you will have the impression *na maraming pera at maraming tulong sa SME ngayon*. That is the perception that we want you to be able to feel. And if that is the perception then we will feel that we have succeeded. Now, this is what we want to do for the next six months.

And as I've always said, the majesty of democracy is that one president sows, another president reaps. And if we sow this perception in the next six months and this graduation, then the next president will reap the benefits by having an increase in the share of small and medium segments in this sector from 8.7 percent to 12 percent and productivity in terms of gross value-added increase from 32 percent to 40 percent of GDP. That is what we hope can be achieved in three years from the fruits of what we will be planting in the next six months. So, that is our three-year objective. How to do it? Basic strategies, comprehensive approach. Not just financing, not just technology, not just market, but a comprehensive approach, seamless access to government services. *Hindi iyung pag nandoon sa national government maraming tulong, pagbaba sa local ang daming red tape* or vice versa. In the case of Muntinlupa, *pagdating sa Muntinlupa ang daming tulong, pag-akyat sa national government* there's red tape. No, we do not want that. We want that as far as the SME is concerned going from national to local, from local to national, *pareho lang ang kanyang experience. Parang isang unit lamang talaga. Iyan ang ibig sabihin ng* seamless access to government services. Virtual organization. *Marami ang gagamitin nating computer. Alam ba ninyo noong APEC Summit noong 1993*, aside from hosting it, *ang ating contribution sana ay* we're gonna put up a small and medium enterprise center for all APEC economies. *Kaya lang nandoon sa Los Baños, sa liblib ng Los Baños. Walang gustong pumunta doon. Sayang ang transportasyon, pati iyung mga resource persons ayaw pumunta.* Well, that was 1993, that was ten years ago. Between then and now, we have developed information technology *kaya imbes na maglo-locate ng center diyan sa loob, liblib na Los Baños, ilo-locate sa hard disk ng ating mga computer.* So, it will be a virtual organization.

And, as I said, aside from the demand – which means that for you who have viable projects, you will get approvals – *hindi lang iyon*, even on the supply side. The DTI is being reenergized and reengineered to actively seek out and help develop projects that will qualify for this financing. *Kasi kung hindi, sayang naman iyung pera baka mababa yung absorptive capacity kung palengke lang ang ating aasahan.* That is what we mean by supply side push. And we localize the plan. *Hindi lahat pupunta kay Mel sa SB Corporation doon sa Manila. Dapat dito sa mga bangko ninyo kayo makakahiram ng pera. Hindi na kailangan pumunta sa DTI.* That is localization of the plan.

The elements of the plan are the human resource side, the market side, the technology side, advocacy for policy, and of course, *ang napakaimportante, iyung financing, pinakaimportante sa lahat.* So, what are some of the details of the elements of the plan? *Iyung human resource kasi ang daming training institutes ng gobyerno: mayroong TESDA, may TLRC, may LIVECOR, may kung anu-ano diyan. Lahat sila magiging bahagi ng training program para magkaroon ng either geographical or sectoral division of labor. Para ma-streamline yung training programs at saka yung fees pare-pareho, standardization of fees. Dahil ang isang malaking problema, sabi ko nga kay Mar, natuto nga silang gumawa ng sabon, hindi naman marunong gumawa ng project proposal, o di wala ring pera.* So, there will be 50 SME business counselors nationwide who will teach you how to do your proposal, how to put your financing documents together so that you can access this financing because that is the obstacle. And then, as far as CHED is concerned, the schools, we will review their academic curricula to promote entrepreneurship. So that is as far as the human resource development is concerned.

Now, the market. We have domestic markets. We have foreign markets. We've been having trade fairs but we do not need to have a physical trade fair all the time. We will have the virtual trade fair because we will have the Internet as the center, the exchange between buyers and sellers. And we will be organizing and continue to organize buying and selling missions. The SMEs will have display corners and there will be buyer and supplier matching services, and the SME team will be moving around the country. *Kaya nga, mayroon ng 70 seminars* in order to promote and let you know about all these elements of our development and also to promote the market. And then of course, SMEs produce small amounts but the market sometimes require big amounts. So this service is also part of including the consolidation of production inputs for SMEs, that is as far as market development is concerned.

Now, for technology. We have the Design Center of the Philippines so we will render advising services for SMEs to conform to standards. Sometimes the sizes are not standard. Sometimes the weights are not standard, one is the weight in the shelf, another one is the weight in the farm gate. So there has to be standards. And there will be product clinics in designing and packaging, product technology and also designing and technical information. There are research outputs that are good. We will help commercialize them especially the alternative uses of indigenous raw materials. And technology improvement, improving raw material preparation so that we will have training to sustain the quality of raw material inputs. And we will set up and strengthen common service facilities. That is for product.

And then, of course, we have to advocate for the good carriage of policy. For instance, I congratulate Congress because they passed the Barangay Enterprise Law. One important feature of this law is that it exempts firms who have an asset base of 3 million pesos and below from the minimum wage law. Not many know that. But for those of you who get to find out about that, what a big flexibility it will give you, does it not, if you are able to avail of this exemption.

We will harmonize, simplify, standardize business forms and fees, hopefully, among LGUs. There is big enough for the market, it's not you who should make a decision. Your only concern is whether people will suffocate physically there or not. In which case, it's an environmental hazard. But obviously it will not, because we were many inside that room and we were not suffocating. So that's what I mean, especially if there is no incentive involved, no franchise involved, no government contract involved, the only concern of the regulating authority is that the business does not do harm to the country. Otherwise, they should give out those licenses and permits. So that's my marching orders to the DTI.

Now, finally, what I'm really after ... because you can access all of those other things, but if you cannot access the money, the trillion pesos in the banking system that's there, doing nothing, so much liquidity, and then so much need, then we are not gonna push our SMEs – that's the biggest. And that's why our program is intended to release 10 billion pesos to the SMEs in the next six months.

Hopefully, if we succeed in the first six months, another six months. So that would be 20 billion for one year. And in my successor's time, hopefully, 30 billion in one year.

How do we do it? One of the reasons why you don't get access is that Land Bank, DBP, etc. are not present everywhere. So you have to go to Makati, in those forbidding walls and corridors to ask for a loan. The ones that go down to the people, down to the small communities are the thrift banks and the rural banks. Therefore, the money must go through them. Unfortunately today, less than one-half of thrift and rural banks are accredited to be conduits for all these bigger money.

What's the reason? In 1997, when we had a crash in Asia ... understandably, the financial institution became very conservative and put up all these very stiff accreditation requirements to the point that they are now higher than what is the so-called International Camel's Rating Standard. So what we have done is to bring the accreditation requirements to the International Camel's Rating Standard. In that way, now more of the rural banks and the thrift banks will qualify to be conduits. And they will be your main sources of financing wherever the money originally came from. They will be your main conduits. Because they may have come from DBP, from Central Bank, from ADB, etc. But they will go through this mechanism.

And so, if there are thrift banks and rural banks in Muntinlupa, we invite you, if you are not yet accredited to get yourself accredited as a conduit of the government financial institutions. And then for all of these conduits, whoever are the conduits and whatever is the source ultimately of the money, there'll be unified common guidelines and rates, and that common business loan application form. So you shouldn't care whether the money comes from Central Bank, DBP, Land Bank, all the same requirements, all the same forms.

So, what are these all the same? What are these details that are all the same? Where is the money gonna come from? It may come from DBP, Land Bank. It may come from the National Livelihood Support Fund. It may come from the Eximbank. It may come from Quedancor. It may come from SB Corporation. But you shouldn't care where it comes from. Because when you go to a thrift bank and you borrow money, it doesn't matter where it comes from because the requirements will all be the same.

What are these requirements? For short-term loans, 9 percent; for medium-term loans, 11.25 percent; for three-year loans, 12.75 percent. So single digit for short-term loans.

The program will not decline a loan only on the basis of inadequate collateral. But surely, if you borrow, you will be able to acquire certain assets that can be used as collateral. Therefore, you must be able to hack that particular asset.

For instance, what can you use as collateral? You don't have real estate, what can you use as collateral? Post-dated checks. The registered, unregistered REMCHM. The assignment of the life insurance and guarantee cover. If you are a franchisee, the corporate guarantee or you assign your lease rights to the bank. Or if it's for export packing, the assignment of the letter of credit or purchase order (P.O.) or the sales invoice. All of these are acceptable as collateral.

When we say short-term loan, payable in one year. And then, of course, you have your export financing and your credit line for temporary working capital.

There are also long-term loans up to five years. And for permanent working capital. Also to purchase equipment or a lot or construct a building or a warehouse. Of course, in that case, your collateral will be the will to building the warehouse, the lot, etc.

And how much will this system finance for a short-term loan? Up to 70 percent on a value of the letter of credit or P.O. or 70 percent of the working capital requirement for a maximum of five million pesos. If it's a long-term loan, 80 percent of the incremental project cost for a maximum of five million pesos. It's the issue of not at least, at most. At most a debt equity ratio of 80-20. If you are a franchisee, 70-30.

And for the preceeding year, we should have been making profit. Because we don't want to finance losing enterprises, we want enterprises that are doing well to get more financing. That's the purpose, because they are the most efficient users of capital.

And if you were not making money last year but you were making money for the last two or three years on the average, then that can also be considered. Those are the hurdles for profitability.

Who can borrow? Any small and medium enterprise except those who import, because that's not really creating jobs. Those who sell liquor and cigarettes, because we don't want to foster unnecessarily more vices. And also mining and other extractive industries, because mining to be environment-friendly really cannot be small and medium. There has to be economies of scale. And the enterprises should be Filipino enterprises, and your assets should not be more than a hundred million. Otherwise, you'll already be considered a large enterprise and not eligible for this special financing window.

Of course, you will have to pay your fees ... 2,000 for every one million you borrow. When you apply, an upfront fee of one-half of one percent of the approved loan, and if you don't use the loan and you don't hire workers then that means that you will have to pay a commitment fee of 0.125 percent of the unavailed balance for long-term loans.

Aside from the loans, the government is also willing to enter into joint ventures, venture capital investment, and that's what Mel Alonzo will be doing. So, we can do equity rather than loan financing. And the old "*Tulong sa Tao Program*" of DTI, which was really good, and I felt bad about that when I became senator because when I was Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, I was the one who got the loan from ADB to make it spread throughout the country. Then when I was senator, I found out that the repayments were being sent to the Treasury and not being reflowed anymore. *Sabi nila* because of E.O. 138. *Ano ba yang* E.O. 138? As President, I'm therefore revoking E.O. 138 to revive the "*Tulong sa Tao Program*".

I think the reality is that a lot of the loans will be here around Metro Manila, Regions III and IV, because this is where the SMEs are. And this is where there's a large unemployment. But I want to make sure that every town has at least one product produced by SMEs, and every town will have at least a one-million peso loan for some enterprise or other. That is the minimum requirement. That is what you call affirmative action aspect of this program. But over and above that affirmative action aspect, it will be market-driven in the sense that those who are viable are the ones who will get the loans.

So, we thank the Monetary Board because studying this issue, the biggest reason why the trillion pesos was not reaching the SMEs was originally because of certain stringent requirements. But they have relaxed it. You have

champions in the Monetary Board for small and medium enterprises. They have reduced the reserve requirements of rural and thrift banks. They have also made the risk weighing on small and medium enterprise loans also more liberal. As I said, you know in the past, for instance, I hope this has been carried out, there were so many documents required of the SMEs including BIR forms. But many SMEs don't have such sophisticated records. And as I said, the job of a bank is to determine whether the SME can pay back the loan or not. So I said, why are you requiring a BIR form, a BIR return? And he said, because we want to make sure they're paying taxes. I think that's the job of the BIR. That's not the job of the bank that's lending money. The main job of the bank lending money is to make sure that it lends money to a creditworthy enterprise. After all, the BIR under Willy Parayno, has its own newly-computerized system which is doing very well in catching the tax evaders. Let's not mix up the SMEs because after all the tax evaders are really not the SMEs, they are the bigger firms. And besides you have so many tax exemptions. So what's the use of requiring additional funding and therefore additional requirements for creditworthiness. That's why the risk weighing on SME loans is now more liberal, allowing the banks themselves to determine. Because after all these banks, if they are Camel's rated, they themselves know what they need to know to determine whether a loan will turn bad or good. Now, if they are less than Camel's rated then, you have to dictate to them. But we're only making the Camel's rated banks the conduits. Therefore, they should be the ones to determine more the risk rather than the Central Bank so the Central Bank has minimized the ratios on risk weighing.

And loans to SMEs are also now subject to a rediscount rate. That is one percentage point less than other loans. In order to make the banks have more incentive to lend to SMEs.

Now, Mel Alonzo's SB Corporation is going to provide collateral substitute guarantee. So that's the reason why you will not be required always to put up the full collateral of the land or the real estate, but just the collateral of the proceeds of the loan. But it will be supplemented by guarantees from SB Corporation.

Also, in order to help the thrift banks and the rural banks determine creditworthiness, we are going to do a credit bureau service. So that you will have in your Internet, hopefully, a master list of SMEs and their respective credit standing. Just like a credit card. Like when we go to a store, the girl who puts the credit card through that machine is really checking on our creditworthiness. That's the same system we want to use. And that will certainly speed up the loan application. So, these are the things that we are doing in order to make the financing more available to the SMEs.

I would like therefore to be able to ask all of you, to be able to join in this program, because we need to have the 10 billion pesos not in the banks, but in the hands of the SMEs, and, ultimately in the hands of the people that you are giving jobs too. And I hope that this program will touch one-fourth of the SMEs in the country. Because 10 billion pesos will be about one-fourth of the financing needs of SMEs. I hope that you'll be able to increase your sales, your customer base. I hope that you'll be able to improve your technical and managerial skills by participating in the programs. I hope that you will be able to upgrade your product offerings to the higher standards.

For instance, our message to the jewelry manufacturers in Bulacan – you can be better organized and therefore get better prices for your products. For the producers in Negros – you can have a wider market reach. For the furniture industry in Cebu – you can become even more competitive. And in areas where there are many SMEs, and that's in NCR, Regions III and IV, we hope to have an expansion of common service facilities.

And so, this is our message to you: there's 10 billion dollars available, use it and create jobs for our people. Thank you.

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo at the Plenary Meeting of the Thirteen Non-Aligned Movement Summit Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

At the Plenary Meeting of the Thirteen Non-Aligned Movement Summit

[Delivered at the Putra World Trade Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, February 24, 2003]

**HARNESSING
GLOBAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**

UNITY

TOWARDS

Mr. Chairman, I offer you my country's full support for your chairmanship of our movement.

Next to the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement is the largest international bulwark of peace. It is a movement that has chosen to temper conflict. It is a movement that has offered its influential offices not only to stop the firing of weapons, but also to steward peace towards the welfare and benefit of the poor.

Our movement can continue to be revitalized if we can harness our unity towards promoting global peace and development in this new century; a century where global challenges have multiplied or deepened; a century where hundreds of millions still go hungry and unschooled against their will; a century where we awaken to the fact that no country is immune to tragedies inflicted by agents of discord and terror.

Our movement can continue to be revitalized on the basis of the first principles of Bandung. These are the ramparts of peace and development, and, this is the path the Philippines has taken.

In 1996, the Philippine Government forged a peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front, after four years of negotiations participated in by the Organization of the Islamic Conference. In 2002, my administration resumed peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front facilitated by the distinguished chair Malaysia and the Libyan Jamahiriya. While we have encountered some setbacks in this peace process, we hope to move forward soon with the generous participation of our allies in the Non-Aligned Movement.

In our movement's search for security, we are not against any community or faith. My countrymen and I earnestly pray that war will be avoided. Our movement has consistently held the view that security should be sought to nuclear disarmament, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction as well as balanced and progressive conventional disarmament. This is the reason why the Philippines joins the call of the international community for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

I also joined the multitudes who wish Iraq well, and plead with President Saddam Hussein to urgently negotiate a win-win settlement that will spare the heroic Iraqi people the agonies of a devastating war.

In accordance with the call made by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, in his message read to us today, perhaps President Hussein might now wish to take the initiative and invite the U.N. Secretary General, the U.N. inspectors, representatives of the doubting countries and of the international media. Perhaps he may wish to show them all they want to see, so that the fears of the world can be assuaged and we can have peace.

I believe this will be recognized as a judicious act by the Iraqi people and by non-aligned nations, and cheered by peoples of all faiths and persuasions. Iraq's friends, the non-aligned nations and the people of the world, will recognize it as an act of the highest statesmanship that will avoid war and save thousands of lives.

There is a great future for the Iraqi people and the North Korean people beyond this crisis and beyond a strategic accommodation with U.N. demands. There is a great future for an outward-looking and pluralistic Iraq, and for an outward-looking and pluralistic Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

An outward-looking and pluralistic Iraq could begin to make peace with its neighbor-states such as Kuwait and Iran as well as with other protagonists. An outward-looking and pluralistic Democratic People's Republic of Korea could continue to work for unity with its neighbor, the Republic of Korea. An outward-looking and pluralistic Iraq and an outward-looking pluralistic Democratic People's Republic of Korea can lead their peoples to peace and prosperity, and perpetuate the names of their leaders in history.

Their respective leaders can serve Iraq and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as memorably as Chairman Deng Xiaoping served China in his time, if they take the same path and seek ways to integrate their rich cultural heritages with the modern world.

In particular, President Hussein can turn Iraq into an example of the continuing relevance of Islam in modernizing a nation for peace and development as has been exemplified so eminently in this region by our Chairman, Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

To Prime Minister Mahathir then congratulations! Not only for chairing the Non-Aligned Movement but also for providing a model for continuing revitalization in the 21st century. Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the amended Anti-Money Laundering Law**

**AMENDED ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW:
BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN OUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Anti-money laundering legislation is about reform and the strengthening of democracy, and getting hard-earned money seamlessly into the hands of Filipino families at home.

On one hand, it is understandable for some of our leaders to come to the defense of fundamental democratic precepts they feared were threatened, by international prescriptions tin anti-money laundering. Among them, the right to privacy, the rule on due process and need for vigilance against political abuse and persecution.

The Philippines is in control of its destiny. Without R.A. 9194, what would have been the future for the Philippines? We could have complained all we wanted, but would it have been for the better? We are in-charge of our destiny. We have shown that we have it within our power to craft laws that help our people, stop terrorism and link us to the 21st century and the rest of the world. But we also had it within our power to be on the sidelines, if we wanted to, and go back in time then cede responsibility to others by not fulfilling what the world was expecting on us.

I congratulate the members of Congress for their wisdom, patience, perseverance and patriotic sense of duty. I think I missed mentioning Congressman Escudero and Congressman Locsin – to them and to the rest of those in this table and to the rest of those in the front row – go our special congratulations. I'd also like to congratulate the author, the original author of the Anti-Money Laundering Law, Senator Panfilo Lacson. And my special thanks go to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, the chairmen of the sponsoring committees, and of course, the members of the bicam panel for their outstanding leadership and forbearance.

I should express my gratitude and appreciation also to our legislators and the representatives of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member-countries for accepting my invitation to interact with each other. That interaction highlighted the positive engagement of the international community to the genuine concerns of legislators and policymakers. And it helped the international community to understand that this is about Filipinos doing what is in their best interests, and not what is merely in the interest of foreigners.

The anti-money laundering issue is a potent one. The Philippines had to take control of its destiny and do the right thing. The issue is one of progress, modernization, the protection of our OFWs and their families.

In summary, anti-money laundering legislation is central to reform.

With our amended AMLA, we shall move closer to a banking regime that will inspire greater confidence, trustworthiness and reliability, and therefore greater economic activity, investment and resiliency.

In this sense, we shouldn't consider the passage of AMLA II, as I might call it, as a passive and begrudging compliance of the rules of the global financial system, but rather an active pursuit of our national interest.

This issue has generated considerable rancor, tension and division among some segments of our society and certainly among members of Congress itself. But our sense of relief, sense of gratitude and sense of accomplishments should now be shared by all. And let these positive senses now vanish the recrimination and discord among us.

Let's take advantage of this time to forge even greater unity not only among our leaders, but among our people. And with wiser and more enlightened eyes now confront other critical problems that lie before us.

We all condemn in the strongest possible terms the bombing in Davao as an act of sheer cowardice.

Today, terrorism is everywhere – the United States, Europe, Japan, Korea, Indonesia and so on. Today, it picks no specific country but chooses all countries, rich or poor.

The new, bolder form of terrorism is not insurmountable. But it requires a paradigm shift – an adjustment in the way we conceptualize and approach the problem of terrorism.

The paradigm shift is that with the bolder face of terrorism, national government measures are no longer sufficient. Now, the cooperation and vigilance of the entire community and all local government units is required to keep the Philippines safe for both its citizens and tourists.

This paradigm shift requires the need to activate the entire citizenry.

This paradigm shift requires the need to activate all local government units.

This paradigm shift requires the cooperation and coordination between the local government units and the local communities.

This paradigm shift requires the need for the entire community and all local government units, and not just the National Government, to formulate and undertake both preventive and remedial measures – to prepare, prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate.

For the immediate and specific measures: I'm directing the DILG, the AFP, the PNP and the Department of Tourism to formulate security measures to monitor security threats, prevent terrorist attacks.

I'm directing all government units, down to the barangay level, to organize and conduct comprehensive neighborhood watches to monitor suspicious persons, actions and materials.

I'm directing the PNP to organize and deploy nationwide community-based reaction units.

I'm directing all LGUs and the PNP to enhance communication and coordination in order to effectively mobilize and fully utilize all community resources.

I'm directing all LGUs and the Philippine National Police to institute an effective reward system. Extend security vigilance, not just major but all public places.

The Philippines remains safe.

The Davaoeños, with the help of their local leaders, can overcome this tragedy.

Davao has proven effective leadership under Mayor Duterte.

Davao, in the past, has overcome worse problems, notably, if you remember the peace and order problems brought about by the communist insurgency, many years ago.

Davao overcame its problems because of the effective local leadership and indispensable community cooperation. Remember, for example, the *Alsa Masa*. Remember the Pearl Farm incident.

Davao overcame its problems to become the best livable city in the Philippines and the 17th best livable city in Asia.

Davao's example of overcoming its past problems is a model to meet the bolder face of terrorism: an active local government unit, a vigilant citizenry, and cooperation and coordination between the LGU and the local community.

Once again, we commiserate with the victims of the Davao bombing. Justice will be done. Domestic terrorism will stop.

And as I thank Congress for the AMLA, now I ask Congress to help me achieve justice and stop terrorism. I ask Congress to help me now pass the Anti-Terrorism Act. And to achieve justice, I ask Congress to help me in passing the judicial reforms. And because there is a close relationship between fighting terrorism and fighting poverty, I ask Congress to help me by passing the use of farmland as collateral.

You have done great work, and there is still great work to be done. And if we continue and even improve on the unity we finally achieved, we will be able to make this Congress remembered as a Congress of great reform.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo at the Exhibit Hall, Federation Center

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Exhibit Hall, Federation Center**

[Delivered in Muelle de Binondo, Manila, March 21, 2003]

REFORM OR PERISH!

What an important time for us to be together. We are gathered here today in the midst of a crisis in the Middle East.

It is a good time for me to thank you. I've already thanked Mr. Lucio Tan and the PNB. I want to thank you, members of the federation as well for your contributions to our economic stability in these critical times, especially because you have been ensuring the stability and supply of prices of essential commodities. Thank you very much for your support.

You have shown a high level of social consciousness and conscientiousness, and this is what we need in times of crisis. This is also a time for us to close ranks, to be prudent and to cooperate to address all challenges.

This is a time for us to think about our togetherness as a nation and our sense of belonging to the Republic. This is a time when I want you to especially know that you have a government that cares for its citizens, that cares for you.

Our country as you know, is a participant in the coalition of the willing. This participation does not mean a battle between Iraqis and Filipinos. It is a battle between tyranny and freedom. We are in solidarity with the Iraqi people in their struggle for freedom, just as we stand beside the Coalition Forces in the fight to redeem that freedom.

We share with all Muslims the prayers for the Iraqi people. We pray that the Almighty will keep them safe and sound through this crisis. We stand beside them in awaiting a brighter day of freedom and prosperity.

Our participation in the coalition of the willing is also a battle between security and terrorism. The terrorists as you know from personal experience have been attacking our communities by kidnapping and bombing even before September 11 and even before I became President. These terrorists who have been kidnapping and bombing commercial establishments are linked with terrorist cells overseas. We don't want them to gain access to weapons of mass destruction from their foreign benefactors.

Our battle against terrorism is a battle between criminality and the justice system. The community is the most important part of the criminal justice system, as you also know very well. The cooperation and vigilance of the entire community, as well as the local government units are required to keep our country safe and secure.

I'm grateful to you all. I'm grateful to the business community. I'm grateful to the civil society which includes federations like yours, for your solidarity behind the efforts to meet this current crisis. And I'm counting on you to continue to close ranks, to minimize the material and psychological impact of the war upon our people, here and abroad.

Even if the current war in Iraq may result in some temporary and minor adjustments in our economy, I am confident that it will not bring lingering or permanent damage.

Our assessment of the situation doesn't indicate the need at this moment, for exercising extraordinary powers. This will be considered only as a last resort. Because our economic fundamentals are sound, tourism — and thanks to

many of you — exports are up. Port operators tell me that shipments in and out of the country are doing brisk business. Prices of crude oil are going down.

Thus, your convention's theme, "Reform For Prosperity" is quite appropriate. With sound economic fundamentals, we should look beyond the Iraq war and not be distracted from our national ambition to become a prosperous and strong republic within the decade.

I thank you for all your assistance to reform. John Ng and Robin Sy talked about them already. I don't need to repeat them, but I can see from their enumeration of the way you have helped me and will continue to help me, and, that you all recognize that we need to reform to achieve prosperity.

As I have often said, "reform or perish". And I thank the Federation for supporting the difficult reforms I have had to make in my administration, reforms that our economy needs for long-term prosperity.

I thank you for supporting difficult financial reforms inspite of your initial nervousness about it. You even supported the Anti-Money Laundering Law. But I am thankful and hopeful that because we have been dialoguing, the final law that has come out will help us fight criminality, and at the same time will protect your right to privacy.

I thank you for your contribution to our educational reforms. And with your participation, as mentioned earlier in the one-billion component of our program for education, for building school buildings, I hope that in the next 15 months together, we will finally close the gap in classrooms in our entire public education system.

I thank you for your contribution to our agricultural reform, the hybrid rice, in which your Federation has been so active, has resulted in the doubling of the income of the farmers who have participated in that program.

And so, I look forward to the Federation's continuing support. Prosperity beckons, if we seize the opportunities and not just fend off the challenges of the 21st century. Among these opportunities is the great new market that your ancestral home, China, provides with its new engagement in the world economy. The Federation has a unique role to play in mobilizing these opportunities, represented by China's engagement in the world economy for our country's prosperity.

This is what I had in mind when I appointed John Ng as Presidential Envoy for Chinese Affairs, with the rank of Ambassador. His first assignment is to be my personal envoy and representative next week at the Philippine Exhibit in Shanghai. Please join him.

I look forward to John's service in my administration. And I hope that through his leadership in that job, we will maximize the trade and tourism opportunities that the new China makes available for the Philippines.

I also look forward to the support of the incoming officers of the Federation, just as your past presidents supported my father during his term as President of the Philippines. And just as in the first part of my presidency, your past presidents also supported me. In memory of the support of the Federation for my father in his time, and the support you gave me as I began my own presidency during these difficult times, I therefore decided to confer posthumously, presidential citations on three of your great past presidents — Mr. Ralph Nubia, who in his time became almost synonymous with the Federation itself; Mr. Antonio Roxas Chua, my father's very dear friend; and Mr. Benjamin Chua, my dear friend.

These noble examples of social conscience, solidarity and goodwill symbolize the historic partnership between the Filipino-Chinese business community and the Government for a strong and vibrant Philippine Republic.

And so once more, let me say, how I much I cherish your support and shall continue to count on that support. Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo during the launching of the National Seaweed and Seaweed Products
Development and Promotion Program Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching of the National Seaweed and Seaweed Products Development and Promotion Program**

[Delivered at the West Wing Function Room, Waterfront Hotel, Lahug District, Cebu City, April 30, 2003]

Thank you very much Secretary Cito Lorenzo for your introduction. And thank you very much for finally making this MOA possible.

Please sit down.

I would like to greet, of course, the governor of Cebu, Governor Pabling Garcia. We are holding this signing ceremony in Cebu because Cebu is the capital of the seaweed and carrageenan industry of the Philippines. I would like to greet the Cabinet members who are here. You can see how many they are to illustrate how important this event for us — my Chief of Staff Bobi Tiglao; Cito, as I've already greeted; Secretary of DENR Bibet Gozun; we have Undersecretary of DTI Tom Aquino; Undersecretary of DOST, Roger Panlasigue; we have the president of the Landbank, Gary Teves; we have Dean Rhodora Azansa of U.P.; and to represent the industry part of the seaweed-carrageenan industry, Benzo Dacay, the president. And I'd like to thank my friend, Ismael Abubakar for speaking in behalf of the other side, the seaweed growers. Guests, ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, congratulations to everyone who made this MOA signing possible. First, congratulations to the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines or SIAP. Congratulations to the DA, to DENR, to DILG but Joey Lina still in the other room presiding over the meeting of the barangay chairmen, DOST, DTI, Landbank, U.P., congratulations to you.

And I'd like to thank you for saying that I am the seaweed and carrageenan industry friendly president. Well, that's because I was still in the Department of Trade and Industry when this industry started to grow or when it really started. I remember coming to Cebu during the birth of the seaweed industry when Benzon Dacay only had 300 workers to start with. Now he has 1,500 workers. That means that since then, if you take him as the microcosm, the industry has grown by that multiple.

And today, it is time that we launch our national seaweed and seaweed products development and promotion. It is an important way to create more jobs for Filipinos. We have almost 4 million Filipinos unemployed and the seaweed industry has such a big potential to close that gap in employment.

In fact, even today, even before this MOA, there are already more than one hundred Filipinos in Mindanao, in the Visayas, in Southern Luzon who are seaweed farmers. Why do we have seaweed farmers in Southern Luzon? You remember Benzon when I was a Senator and I called you up. I was with the farmers of Camarines Norte, and they said they wanted to be seaweed farmers, too. And I said, ok, I'll call Benzon Dacay to buy your seaweed, and that's why we have farmers in seaweed in Southern Luzon. In addition, there are more than 10,000 who work in the seaweed processing firms and related industries, 1500 of whom are there with Benzon.

Last year, total seaweed production was almost 900,000 metric tons. And Mindanao contributed 59 percent of that production. That's why this is a program that will be a means to further the peace and order situation for Mindanao.

Let's find inspiration from the story of Hadji Sali Calbi. Where is he? Hadji? Thank you for your nice words but you didn't tell us your story. So I will tell them your story. Hadji Sali was a commander of the MNLF, tama? Until he stopped being a rebel to concentrate on seaweed farming in the waters of Sitangkay in Tawi-Tawi. Sitangkay is our southernmost town in the country. It is half an hour helicopter from Sipadan. You guys to Sipadan better but Sitangkay is only half an hour away from there by helicopter. Well, anyway, he was one of the pioneers of seaweed

farming there, and he is acknowledged as having contributed much to improve the lives of seaweed farmers in Tawi-Tawi.

Kaya 'yung hindi n'ya nakamit nung rebelde s'ya nakamit n'ya nung naging seaweed farmer s'ya.

I hope we will soon have many Filipinos who will follow the example of Hadji Sali. This is not impossible because we have wide coasts in our country. 'Yung seaweed na ito, itong carrageenan na ito, ano ba ito? Well, I learned about it when i was in DTI. The seaweed or gulaman or agar-agar, that is dried and then processed as carrageenan by the big processors in Cebu, grows well in the shallow parts of our seas. In addition, one doesn't need much capital to engage in seaweed farming.

Our first target area for seaweed production is mindanao, where most of our fresh produce are sourced. We want to strengthen this program in all the coastal municipalities of Mindanao.

The first principle after all in my Mindanao policy is that our ultimate objective should be both peace and development. The readiness of our troops will not relent as we explore a broader front in peace talks and diplomacy. Our allies in the OIC — and I just met with them again in Bangkok yesterday — and our peace partners in Mindanao like Hadji Sali remain undaunted in their hopes for a principled settlement of the conflict in Mindanao. We will meet harassments with counterforce, but we will keep the road to peace open.

The environment for peace is looking up. The victory of the coalition in Iraq has neutralized terrorist hubs operating internationally. Our partnership for peace within the ASEAN is strong and determined. I was just with acting Prime Minister Badawi yesterday on a one-on-one while the other ASEAN leaders were having their press conference and he affirm Malaysia's continuing commitment to support and facilitate our peace process. We have launched a massive development effort in Muslim Mindanao. And we hope this MOA will help in that massive effort for development. Exploratory talks are on stream. All the cards are stacked in favor of peace.

SIAP, even if you're here in Cebu can help bring peace and development to Mindanao when rebel returnees and would-be rebels engage in seaweed farming instead of belligerent activities.

What is this seaweed anyway and how come it gives livelihood to all these people? Seaweeds are most familiar to us not really in that form which is a very nice salad but as gulaman. All of us eat gulaman — that's seaweed. Seaweed's are important to our health and to our economy. To our health, they're delicious, they're mineral-rich. They are an important component in the preparation of food additives and the production of medicines and other products that we use daily.

I'm glad to see the coordinated efforts of the private sector and government in propagating and improving the quality of our seaweed products.

We want this to be a comprehensive program, not only about planting and farming but also about production, marketing, financing, research and development.

We want to improve our research and development so that we can produce disease-resistant cultivars. We want to encourage our seaweed farmers to sell raw seaweeds in semi-dried form. We will provide them the drying equipment. They can avail of credit from DA especially Quedancor. The DA together with SIAP will set up a pilot semi-processing plant in Sorsogon to produce seaweed chips.

I also want the industry to improve by finding more uses to carrageenan, particularly in the production of medicine and personal care products — not just the hair, all kinds of personal care products. This is an area that should be further explored by the DOST — Roger — and the DA.

Our national seaweed program has enabled the Philippines to enjoy the status of being the world's number one supplier of dried raw seaweed and natural grade carrageenan. And we are number three as producer of fresh seaweeds, the first being China and the second, Japan.

Last year, our carrageenan exports reached 138 million dollars, 36 million were from Benzoni Dacay. We hope that our harvest as well as the worth of our exports will be higher this year and the subsequent years. The DA, through BFAR, is targeting a production increase of 17 percent or an additional 151,000 metric tons by June 2004, when we will hopefully breach one million metric tons by the time 2004.

To meet this target, the DA and the BFAR in cooperation with SIAP, will also establish 104 nurseries nationwide — 14 will be set up here in Central Visayas. Governor Pabling Garcia said that you are now also producing the seaweeds not just the industrial product. Of course, 59 of the nurseries will be in Mindanao. These nurseries will produce seedlings for almost 2,000 hectares of seaweed farms worth almost 500 million pesos in the market.

I'm glad, that in coordination with the DTI, SIAP is finalizing the government's position for Philippine carrageenan to be included in the generalized system of preferences of the U.S.

When this is included in the U.S., the tariff on our carrageenan will be lifted. There'll be no tariff on Philippine carrageenan that will further strengthen our seaweed market.

But before the U.S. will attend to that they would want to see a settlement of a dispute within the seaweed industry of the Philippines itself that involves an American firm. After all, they want to protect their own investors.

So, this afternoon, Bibet will meet the industry so that hopefully, this intra-industry disputes can be resolved in a win-win solution because we got to win that U.S. market even more.

I'm also encouraging Filipino seaweed processors and exporters to look at China as a market for our carrageenan and other seaweed-based products. You know, ever since China joined the WTO, our trade rhythm has changed from a 300 million-dollar deficit to a 700 hundred-million dollar surplus. So, that's a good market. And carrageenan should take advantage of that.

I call on all of you to sustain the effort to strengthen our national seaweed program so that we can advance the cause of peace and development especially in Mindanao but even in the entire country, even in a province as traditionally prosperous as the province of Cebu.

Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Launching of the National Seaweed and Seaweed Products Development and Promotion Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201442/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6126&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the command conference of barangay captains at the 6th National Convention of the Liga ng mga Barangay

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the command conference of barangay captains at the 6th National Convention of the Liga ng mga
Barangay**

[Delivered at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug District, Cebu City, April 30, 2003]

Maraming salamat Secretary Joey Lina sa iyong pangalawang pagpakilala sa akin.

I'd like to also acknowledge the presence of Secretary Cito Lorenzo of Agriculture. Dahil mamaya lilipat kami ng kabilang kwarto para magpirmahan ng isang malaking proyekto na sana makakatulong sa mga barangay, sa mga coastal barangay. Makakatulong para magtanim ng seaweed sa iba't-ibang mga coastal barangay. Sana matulungan ang inyong mga barangay din dito sa project ni Cito Lorenzo. At kasama niya dito sa pagpirma ay si sSecretary Bibet Gozun ng DENR. Narito rin si Bibet Gozun.

I would like to also acknowledge the presence of our governor of our host province, Governor Pabling Garcia. Unta dunay barangay captain diri gikan sa Cebu province, at least ang iyang presensya diri would be worth it. Pero he is going to go with us also to the other side dahil dito pipirmahan itong Seaweed Memorandum of Agreement dahil ang Cebu province ang sentro ng seaweed industry sa ating bansa.

Batiin ko 'yung ating mga pulis na nagbigay ng mga report ng ating... Dito sa ating sinabi ko dapat command conference, si Chief of Philippine National Police, si Jun Ebdane; 'yung ating bagong Chief of Director ng oOperations ng Philippine National Police, si General Ike Galang. Medyo raw mahaba 'yung presentation niya kasi ito ang first presentation niya bilang director ng operations kaya gustong ipahayag sa mga barangay captain ang kabuuan ng mga operational plan ng PNP at si General Galang palagay ko marami sa inyo first time n'yo siya nakita ngayon. Pero siya ang magiging kaugnay ninyo sa maraming mga operations dahil siya ang director for operations ng Philippine National [olice ngayon. So kung medyo mahaba siya sa entablado at least kilala na n'yo siya.

Later on, after my talk, we will be having a dialogue with you regarding SARS. At ito 'yung napakagaling nating gumawa ng research sa SARS. Kaya hangang-hanga ang mundo sa atin. Alam n'yo, libu-libo na 'yung sars sa China, sa hong kong. Daan-daan ang SARS sa Canada yata, sa Singapore. 'Yung Vietnam na gumaling na raw sa SARS, bago gumaling ang Vietnam sa SARS, 63 muna ang kanilang kaso at lima pa ang namatay. Sa buong Pilipinas... 'Yung, 'yung Thailand meron silang brochure na sila ay SARS zero transmission. Pero pito ang kanilang SARS at dalawang namatay din. Dito sa Pilipinas tatlo ang SARS. Kaya ito ay dahil sa napakagaling na trabaho ng ating mga doktor. At isa dito sa nangunguna sa ating trabahong kontra dito sa SARS ay si Doctor Consorcia Lim-Quizon. Kaya siya ang makikipag-usap sa inyo mamamaya.

And of course, I would like to thank our very dynamic and well loved president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, si James Marty Lim. Alam n'yo, nung ako'y una naging pangulo at magkakaroon ng halalan ang presidente ng barangay, maraming mga lumapit sa akin humihingi ng tulong na ma-endorso sila o kandidato nila bilang liga ng barangay. Pero kami ni Joey Lina ang aming sagot, hindi mo matatanggihan ang tinig ng nasa baba mismo. At ang tinig ng barangay ay gusto pa rin nila na si James Marty Lim ay matuloy bilang pangulo.

Mga punong-barangay na narito ngayon, mga kababayan:

Malugod kong binabati ang lahat ng mga barangay chairman na narito ngayon. Kanina pumasok ako nakita ko 'yung mga kasama ko sa Pasay nung isang araw, binabati ko kayo muli. Nakita ko 'yung mga taga-Laguna, taga-Quezon, binabati ko kayo muli. Nakita ko, natan aw ko ang mga nagikan sa Zamboanga, nagikan sa South Cotabato, maayong buntag, maayong aga sa inyo nga tanan, kaninyong tanan sa gihapon. At nakita ko 'yung taga-Zamboanga

City, buenos dias otra vez. Napakaraming mga pinanggalingan ninyo at talagang napapanahon na magsama-sama na naman tayo muli. Alam naman ninyo ang inyong mga trabaho sa ilalim ng batas. Hindi ko na 'yon iuulit. Ilang taon nang... Taun-taon niri-review sa inyo 'yung Local Government Code. Ang pag-uusapan ko ay 'yung mga pangunahing tungkulin ng mga barangay leaders natin sa mga panahong ito, na kaiba-ibang mga panahon.

Sa mga panahong ito, naku! One crisis after another, kaya ang ating mga barangay chairmen ang dapat maging crisis manager sa inyong mga komunidad. 'Yan ang unang-una n'yong inaasahan ng taong bayan sa inyo. Ano'ng ibig sabihin dito? Kayo ang mangangasiwa sa pagmatyag sa lahat ng klase ng problemang sosyal at ekonomikal na kaugnay ng krisis, tulad ng presyo ng pangunahing bilihin. Kung merong nagtataas masyado ng mask sa inyong barangay, eh kayo ang dapat magsumbong sa mga awtoridad ng dti para sitahin sila. Kayo ang kailangan para tiyakin na ang komunidad ay ligtas sa lahat ng uri ng terorismo na nandyan pa rin.

Sapagka't ang terorismo ay malakas ang loob, hindi sapat ang pagkilos ng pamahalaang nasyonal lamang. Kaya sabi ko sa ating pulis, iprisinta sa inyo ang programa kontra sa terorismo at malaman, magkaintindihan kung ano ang papel ng pulis, ano ang papel ng mga barangay.

Ang bagong siglo, ang bagong banta ng siglo beinte-uno, ang terorismo, at ito ay kailangan ng puspusang pagkilos ng buong pamahalaan hanggang sa hanay ng barangay para bantayan ang mga nakakahinalang tao. Bantayan ang nakakahinalang gawain. Bantayan ang nakakahinalang kagamitan. At kayo, barangay captains, kayo ang makakakita kung sino at ano ang kaiba-iba na nangyayari sa inyong barangay.

The international linkages among terrorist groups have long been established and documented, and some of these linkages are embedded in our own territory. Within our regional neighborhood, a network of Jemaah Islamiyah cells are active, further extending to the worldwide Al Qaeda network. The revelation of a link between the former Iraqi regime and Osama Bin Laden is also significant in the light of our own findings in the Philippines that there are connections between Iraqi embassy officials and the Abu Sayyaf. Tracing all these linkages is important to acquire the knowledge to fight this threat effectively. At importante ang partisipasyon ng mga barangay chairmen para mahanap itong mga kone-koneksyon ng mga terorista sa inyong lugar doon sa mga dayuhang lider ng terorismo.

Ang mga barangay captain din ay information champions para sa katatagan ng ekonomiya at kagalingan ng publiko.

Maaari kayong magpaliwanag sa ating mga kababayan tungkol sa mga isyu na hindi nila nalalaman o di nila gaanong naiintindihan, tulad ng kung papaano maiwasan ang pagkalat ng mabigat na pagsubok na kinakaharap ng ating bansa ngayon, 'yung severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS.

Mamaya nga, magbibigay ng detalye si Dra. Quizon ngunit gamitin ko itong pagkakataon na magbigay ng ulat sa inyo tungkol sa ASEAN Summit ng SARS.

Kanina lamang kararating ko sa Cebu, madaling araw, alas-tres ng umaga. Sinalubong ako ni General Ebdane at saka ni General Galang. Alas-tres ng umaga, 'no? O three thirty ba 'yon? Pagkatapos ng isang araw na pagdalaw sa Thailand upang dumalo sa Asean SARS summit. Ang naturang pulong ay napakahalaga para pagtugmain at pag-isahin ang lahat ng ating mga pagsisikap sa rehiyon na labanan ang sakit na ito. Kasama ng mga lider ng ASEAN at China, nangako kaming pagsasamahin ang ating mga kakayahan at talino para pigilan ang paglaganap ng SARS.

Sa nasabing pulong din, nagpahayag ako ng espesyal na panawagan sa ngalan ng libu-libong manggagawang Pilipino na nanggagaling sa inyong iba't-ibang mga barangay pero natatagpuan sila sa buong Asean.

Pinakiusapan ko ang aking mga kapwa lider na tiyakin na ang pinakamagaling na posibleng pag-aasikaso ay ipa-abot sa mga Pilipinong pinagsususpetsahan o napatunayang maysakit ng SARS; at ang lahat ng posibleng tulong ay ipagkaloob sa kanila para sa kasiguruhan ng kanilang trabaho sa gitna ng paghina ng pang-rehiyong ekonomiya.

Kailangan nating proteksyunan ang kapakanan ng ating mga kababayan, ng kanilang trabaho at ng kanilang kabuhayan sa gitna ng bantang ito ng sangkatauhan.

As Labor Day approaches, let's reminisce the profound sacrifices being made by Filipino workers here in your barangays and around the world. Our workers are among the most vulnerable to SARS in their workplaces in your barangays and abroad. I was very touched by the statements of Singapore and China during the Asean summit acknowledging the role of Filipino health workers at the forefront of the fight against SARS in these countries. Sabi ko sa kanila, sana naman mga leader, alagaan ninyo 'yung mga manggagawang Pilipino na baka magkaroon ng SARS sa inyong lugar. At sabi ni Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong sa akin, talagang aalagaan nila ang mga Pilipino sa Singapore dahil hangang-hanga sila. Sabi nila, ang mga mag-aalaga ng aming mga SARS victims ay mga Pilipino at 'yang mga nurses ninyo, sabi niya sa Ingles, kahit na on vacation leave sila nung pumutok 'yung sars bumalik, nagtrabaho muli. Dahil sabi nila kailangan ninyo kami sa pagtatrabaho dito. Kaya hangang-hanga sila sa mga Pilipino.

The Filipinos have placed themselves at grave risk in other lands for the sake of humanity, in the name of professionalism.

Let's extol our doctors, nurses and medical technicians, and other workers from your different barangays who are at the frontline of this fight, worldwide.

I was reminded of the fact that more than a million Filipinos were also at risk from the threat of the Iraq war. Day after day, there are acts of Filipino heroism that do not necessarily run to the limelight. That's why, as I said, I made that special appeal in the ASEAN Summit in behalf of our hundreds of thousands of workers spread across the region.

Kanina, sinabi ko sa tagalog, sasabihin ko sa Ingles. I asked my colleagues to protect not only the health but the jobs of Filipinos. I asked them to extend the best treatment possible to our nationals suspected to be or actually afflicted by SARS, and that all possible accommodations be granted to guarantee the security and safety of their jobs in the face of the regional economic slowdown.

Pagkatapos ko nagsalita, at 'yung iba't-ibang nagsalita, 'yung summit ay nagbuo ng kanilang joint declaration. The summit accepted three proposals from the Philippine government:

First, to extend equal treatment to foreign nationals who may be suspect or actual SARS cases under the principle of "no blame, and dignity for all concerned." Ibig sabihin noon, magkasakit ang Pilipino sa Singapore o sa Hong Kong o sa China, sa mainland... Sa mainland China o sa Malaysia, ang pagtrato ng gobyerno sa kanila, ang benepisyo nakukuha nila ay pareho ng mga mamamayan nung mga bansang 'yon.

Second, to convene a meeting of airport authorities from the ASEAN+3 countries in the Philippines, to work out relevant procedures for departure and arrival screening. Sa may 15 magkakaroon tayo ng follow up meeting ng SARS summit, 'yung mga airport authorities ay pag-uusapan ang common procedures para hindi lumaganap ang SARS sa pamamagitan ng pagbiyahe.

Third, to task relevant experts to consider a Health Emergency Fund within the ASEAN Framework, as a means to shore up overall regional capacity and preparedness. Alam n'yo kasi, doon pala sa asean foundation, may one billion dollars na halos hindi nagagamit. Kaya sabi ko, gamitin 'yan para sa ating SARS sa buong rehiyon.

Dito sa Pilipinas sinabi ko rin sa PCSO na magbuo ng one billion pesos para sa SARS. Pwede nga rin kunin ang bahagi nito doon sa ASEAN Foundation. Para hindi rin maubos ang pera ng PCSO. Ngayon ito ay para labanan nating lahat ang SARS. Maging sa kapitolyo, maging sa nasyonal, maging sa barangay.

Naalala ko 5 years ago, ang mga barangay chapters ay nabigyan ng ambulansya. Ngayon, palagay ko dahil sars ang problema dapat hindi kayo i-lock in sa ambulansya. Ang ambulansya more or less 500,000 ang gastos. Kaya sabi ko kay James, imbes na ambulansya ang ibibigay bigyan natin ng choice 'yung mga chapters kung ano ang kailangan para labanan ang SARS. Kaya sa one billion na sinabi ko sa PCSO i-buo at pwedeng kumuha doon sa ASEAN Foundation nangpandagdag, sabi ko, magtabi ng 50 million pesos para sa liga ng barangay. Ang gagawin n'yo titignan n'yo, "ano ang pinaka-kailangan ng barangay ko o ng ating chapter laban sa SARS." Gumawa kayo ng

proposal, isa-submit ni James sa SARS management committee, kasama doon si Dr. Quizon. At pagna-approve nila ibibigay ng PCSO 'yung proyektong 'yon sa inyong chapter ng liga ng barangay. Okay, Dr. Quizon, ha.

The World Health Organization has made an assessment that SARS could become the first severe new disease of the 21st century with global epidemic potential. Indeed, as I said in the SARS summit, the SARS crisis is only second to terrorism in bringing quick death to its victims. We must now face it with unerring audacity and solidarity. Audacity, because its causes and full consequences are yet unknown. Solidarity, because it is randomly knocking at all of our doors.

We are an integral part of the ASEAN War Plan. Our government will stretch its cooperation regionally to help check the spread of disease across borders. Like we have done in the fight against terrorism, we shall wield common advocacies, educational programs, surveillance data and action plans. In facing the threat of SARS, ASEAN nations must be viewed within the boundaries of one region having a single army, teaming up under an imagined common sovereignty. Asean must field its troops under one cause, under one flag of humanitarianism, one code of procedures and operations. Regional cooperation will ensure a more permanent victory.

Nguni't kung 'yung ASEAN — ngayon sila 'yung mga joint Chiefs of Staff — ang platoon commanders naman, all the way down, ang mga barangay chairmen.

Dapat masigasig ang bawa't mamamayan sa ilalim ng liderato ng barangay chairmen, bawa't barangay ay makibahagi sa lahat ng programa upang labanan ang SARS.

Ang mga pinunong barangay din, gaya ng sabi ni General Galang at General Ebdane pati si Secretary Lina, ay anti-street crime czars.

Ang pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan sa ating bayan ay hindi trabaho ng mga pulis lamang. Kailangan ng commitment ng bawa't isa sa mga barangay leaders na isiguradong ginagalang ng batas ang mamamayan ng barangay at supilin ang mga dahilang pinagmumulanng terorismo at krimen. Hindi matatawaran ang papel na ginagampanan ng mga barangay chairmen upang magtagumpay ang ating hangaring ito. Sa mga barangay, kilala n'yo halos lahat ng tao. Dahil dito, higit pa ang inyong magagawa kaysa pagpigil sa paghahasik ng terorismo o pagsugpo ng krimen. Kayo rin ang makakagawa ng mga special community operations upang itaguyod ang disiplina sa komunidad tungo sa matahimik na pamumuhay nating lahat.

Ang suporta ng mga pinuno ng barangay ang unang susi para maging epektibo ang programa ng gobyerno sa paglaban sa kahirapan, terorismo, kriminalidad, sakit, at iba pang mga sakit ng ating lipunan. Kaya, magkaisa tayo, magtulungan upang maging matagumpay ang ating hangarin. Hangad ko ang inyong tagumpay dahil ang inyong tagumpay ay tagumpay ng buong bansang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Command Conference of Barangay Captains at the 6th National Convention of the Liga ng mga Barangay. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201451/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6128&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on the Labor Day celebration

Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the Labor Day celebration

[Delivered at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, May 1, 2003]

PUSHING FOR A COMPETITIVE LABOR FORCE AS A STRATEGIC RESOURCE

Isandaang taon na tayong nagdiriwang ng Araw ng Paggawa, at sana sa araw na ito kahit sa kahirapan ng mundo, huwag nating payagang malihis ang ating pagdiriwang sa pamamagitan ng mga isyung pulitikal o isyu ng ideolohiya.

Lalong kailangan ngayon ang pagkakaisa dahil dumadaan na naman ang buong mundo at bansa sa mahihigpit na pagsubok. Binanggit na nga ni Nong Kito Mendoza at ni Vic Balais ang mga hirap ng mundo ngayon — terorismo, global slowdown, at iyung SARS.

Sa Asian SARS Summit na ginanap kamakalawa sa Thailand, pinakiusapan ko ang aking mga kapwa lider na tiyakin, na ang pinakamagaling na posibleng pag-aasikaso ay ipaabot sa mga Pilipinong pinag-sususpetsahan o napatunayang may sakit na SARS. I was very touched by the response of Singapore and China, acknowledging the role of Filipino health workers at the forefront of the fight against SARS in their countries.

Sabi nga ni Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong ng Singapore, “Yes, President Arroyo, certainly, we will comply with your request to take care of your Filipinos well, especially in Singapore.” Kinuwento niya ang kanyang paghanga sa ating mga Pilipino. Kinuwento niya na ang ating mga nurses, kahit na iyung mga on vacation leave, bumalik sa trabaho nung pumutok ang epidemya ng SARS dahil sabi nila, alam nilang kinakailangan sila ng lipunan ng Singapore. Hindi natin nalaman ‘yon sa peryodiko, hindi inanunsyo. Sila ay mga bayaning hindi nagkukuwento ng kanilang pagka-bayani, pero mahal na mahal ng Singapore at Hong Kong ang ating mga health workers. Dapat mas ipagmalaki natin sila at dapat dito sa Pilipinas, mahal din natin sila.

All health workers at the frontline of the Anti-SARS campaign will be afforded full protection gear. Si Pat Sto. Tomas, ay kasapi ng SARS Crisis Management Committee, kaya iyon ang isang assignment na isisigurado niya.

We will not take any chances with the safety and welfare of those who are bearing the brunt of sacrifice. Our resources will be used on the most basic and effective points of prevention. Our vigilance will be focused and relentless. I ask our people to follow the lead of competent government authority.

Kung tayo ay susunod sa mga pahayag, dapat nating mas paniwalaan ang ating mga namamahala — nangunguna na doon si Secretary Dayrit ng Department of Health — nang sa ganon hindi tayo malilihis, hindi tayo magpa-panic at hindi tayo mag-ooverreact.

Doon po sa Thailand, kinukuwento ni Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatt, na may malaking fiesta sila nguni’t natatakot ang mga taong pumunta sa piyesta, lahat nakagamit ng maskara. Sabi ng World Health Organization, ang maskarang ‘yan ay false security blanket. Ang dapat lamang daw na gumagamit niyan ay iyung mga health workers na napakalapit ang kanilang kontak sa mga may sakit. Subali’t iyung karaniwang gumagamit sa pang-araw-araw na wala namang close contact sa may sintomas, ‘yan ay paranoia. Kaya ang ginawa ni Thaksin Shinawatt, pumunta siya doon sa piyesta na wala siyang suot na maskara, nag-shake hands siya at sinabi niya, bibigyan niya ng one million baht ang sinumang magkasakit o mamatay sa SARS through local transmission. Wala

pa siyang binibigyan ng premyo hanggang ngayon, sabi niya. Bibigyan din daw niya ng dalawang milyong baht 'yung magkakasakit mula sa piyestang iyon subali't wala pa siyang binibigyan ng two million baht hanggang ngayon.

Kaya noong ako ay dumating dito sa Pilipinas, ginamit ko ang halimbawa ng mga dumalo sa World Health Organization, nakipagkamay ako kahit na doon sa mga nanggaling sa China. Nakipag-shake hands ako noong bumalik ako dito sa Pilipinas. At sa makalawa ay pupunta ako sa Vacante sa Alcala, Pangasinan dahil sa kabila ng dapat alerto tayot huwag tayong mag-overreact. Huwag din tayong mag-panic dahil ang panic ay mas masama sa ating ekonomiya kaysa sa SARS mismo.

Ayaw natin ang mag-panic dahil sa SARS sapagka't ito ang magpapahina ng ating ekonomiya at mawawala pa lalo ang trabaho ng ating manggagawa. Kaya sa kabila noon, ang talagang dapat alagaan natin mula sa pagkahawa ay ang ating mga health workers.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa ating mga health workers — nandito yata iyung mga PHIC workers — ipaabot ninyo ang pagpapasalamat sa lahat ng kapwa ninyo health workers. Nagpapasalamat rin ako sa nakararami at iba't-ibang manggagawang nakakaunawa sa inyong tungkulin sa mga panahong ito. Nagpapasalamat ako sa mga labor leaders na tunay na pinag-iisipan ang kapakanan ng mga kasapi, sa mga leaders na nakaka-unawa na ang pinakakailangan sa panahong ito ay panatiliin at madagdagan pa ang mga trabaho.

Kaya congratulations sa TUCP. Sa ibabaw ng ginagawa n'yo para sa karapatan ng inyong manggagawa, naghahanap pa kayo ng trabaho para sa kanila sa pamamagitan ng job corps na hinahawakan ni Senator Boy Herrera.

Sa panig naman ng pamahalaan, dapat ding tugunan ang karaingan na narinig natin kanina, mga karaingan ng manggagawa lalo na sa presyo ng bilihin, bagama't ang inflation rate natin ngayon ay pinakamababa sa labing-limang taon. Sa unang pag-upo ko pa lamang bilang Pangulo, ay laging dumarating na ang mga daing sa presyo, lalo na ang presyo ng kuryente, higit lalo na ang presyo ng PPA. Lagi ko namang pinag-iisipan kung paano natin maasikaso itong daing ninyo at inaasikaso naman.

Noong Abril ng 2001, tatlong buwan pa lang akong pangulo, sinuspinde natin ng dalawampung sentimo per kilowatt-hour ang PPA ng NAPOCOR.

Noong Hunyo 2001, pagkatapos maipasa ang Electric Power Industry Reform Act, binaba ang presyo ng kuryente para sa mga residente ng tatlung sentimo, kaya noong 2001, dalawang beses bumaba ang presyo ng kuryente.

Noong Mayo naman nang nakaraang taon, 2002, ayon sa aking bilin, ang NAPOCOR ay pinahaba ang panahon ng pagbayad ng kaniyang mga obligasyon at naibaba ang kaniyang PPA sa average na walumpu't limang sentimo. Nakita ninyo iyon sa inyong electric bill noong June of 2002.

Itong taong ito, tuloy ang ating pakikibaka upang bumaba ang inyong electric bill. Inatasan ko ang Kalihim ng Enerhiya, si Vince Perez, na pag-aralan kung paano. Ito ang mga nakalap na solusyon:

Number one, justice will be done. MERALCO will have to comply with the decision of the Supreme Court. All that is left to do is to determine how to best implement this judicial mandate in a manner that will maximize the public interest.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), which is independent, will lead the determination process. The Department of Energy (DoE) will take charge of the involvement of the Executive Branch in the implemental stage. And in that capacity, magpe-petisyon ang Department of Energy sa ERC na maging maliliit lamang ang singil. Yaong mga maralitang gumagamit ng kuryente na napakaliit ang electric bill to begin with, ibabalik nang buo ang sobrang singil doon sa mga maralitang napakaliit naman ang konsumo. Sa mga manggagawa naman na karaniwan at hindi naman gaano kaliit ang inyong electric bill, subali't dumadaing kayo, ang petisyon ng DoE ay gagawing

diskwento sa buwanang singil ang refund. We have the confidence in the institutions involved and we will see this through.

Pangalawa, kung anuman ang maging desisyon ng ERC tungkol sa petisyon ng MERALCO sa rate increase, magpe-petisyon din ang DoE na anumang pagtaas ay dapat ipataw sa mga malalaking namimili, sa mga mayayaman. At doon naman sa mga manggagawang namimili ng kuryente, eh, bibigyan ng diskwento pa sa ilalim ng prinsipyong socialized pricing, sa ganun, bababa pa ang presyo ng inyong kuryente, mga manggagawa.

Pangatlo, ang mga power plants na nagbebenta sa MERALCO ay napapayag natin na magbigay ng malaking diskuwento na pwedeng ipasa sa inyo, mga mahal kong manggagawa, bilang mas mababang PPA.

Pang-apat, itong mga power plants din ay may kaya pang magbaba ng kanilang singil, sana hayaan silang mapaabot sa economies of scale ang kanilang produksyon. Ibig sabihin, sa halip na ang NAPOCOR na pag-aari ng gobyerno ay makipagkompetensiya sa pribadong sektor, hahayaan na ang pribadong sektor, power plant nila na lubusin ang kanilang kapasidad, ang kapalit — bababa ang singil ng bawat kilowatt-hour.

Ano ba itong economies of scale na ito? Hayaan niyong subukin kong ipaliwanag sa madaling halimbawa. Ang isang power plant ay parang isang truck, hindi ka makakabiling kalahating truck, hindi ka rin makakabili kung investor ka ng kalahating power plant. Ngayon, kung iyung truck ay maraming sakay na produkto, nahahati ang halaga ng truck sa maraming produkto, kaya mababa bawat isang gamit ng isang produkto. Kung ang power plant ay maraming gumagamit ng kuryente dahil maganda ang negosyo, nahahati ang halaga ng planta sa marami, kaya mababa bawat kilowatt-hour. Pero kung ang truck ay konti lang ang sakay, halimbawa, dahil mahina ang ekonomiya, konti ang produkto, mahal ang singil sa bawat isang produkto. Kung ang power plant ay konti lang ang gumagamit ng kaniyang kuryente dahil mahina ang panahon, mahal din ang singil bawat kilowatt-hour. Sa madaling salita, mas mahal kung tingi kaysa sa maramihan.

Kaya, ang gagawin natin, iyung NAPOCOR ay ida-down scale ang kaniyang operations para makapagbenta ang private plant, power plants nang mas marami at ang kapalit, ibababa nila ang presyo ng PPA.

Kaya sagot sa mga pilosopong nagtatanong kung bakit ba tayo ay nagbabayad ng kuryenteng hindi nagagamit, ang sagot nga sa kanila, iyung economies of scale. Binabayaran ang buong planta, maging malaki o maliit ang gumagamit.

Panglima, ang Malampaya na nagbibigay sa atin ng kasarinlan sa enerhiya at malinis na enerhiya, kaya lamang mahal sa ngayon dahil nga gaya ng sabi ko, hindi pa nakakaabot sa economies of scale. Subali't napapayag din natin na sa susunod na tatlong taon, ibababa rin ang kaniyang singil sa mga powerplant. Sa ganun mapapasa rin ang natipid sa inyong mga manggagawa bilang mas mababang PPA.

Medyo kumplikado, 'di ba? Kumplikado ang paliwanag dahil mas kumplikado ang ginawang research at pag-aaral para makaabot sa mga solusyon na ito, nguni't ang puno't dulo ninyo, gaya nang nakita niyo no'ng isang taon na bumaba ang presyo ng inyong electric bill nang bandang Hunyo ng 2002. Inaasahan na ang lahat na ito at iba pang paraan ay hahanapin at gagawin pa natin upang maibaba ang inyong electric bill, at inaasahan nating makikita ninyo ang resulta sa electric bill ninyo bandang Hulyo ng taong ito.

Makakatulong ang mga hakbang na ito anuman ang mangyari sa darating na panahon, kasama na ang petisyon ng MERALCO na nakasalang sa ERC. Iyon ay napaka-importante dahil alam kong iyon ay pinalakpakan ninyo kanina noong binanggit 'yung PPA. Iyung pangalawang pinalakpakan ninyo ay 'yung mga batas na kailangan para sa proteksyon ng kababaiban at kabataan, at 'yon naman ay ipapaubaya na natin sa mga congressmen na narito.

Binanggit ko iyung mga congressmen, binanggit ko 'yung sinabi ni Ed Zialcita na sa buong kasaysayan na nakita niya bilang isang banyaga ng housing, ngayon ang pinakamagandang mga programa ng housing ng ating bansa. At para sa pabahay, gusto ko ring banggitin na binaba na ng Pag-IBIG ang interest rate na pautang sa pabahay sa mga minimum wage earners sa saibang porsiyento na lamang.

Kaugnay nito, dahil ang Pag-IBIG ay napaka-importante para sa manggagawa, sa inyong mga pabahay, in-appoint ko muli sila Alex Aguilar ng TUCP at si Esperanza Ocampo ng Philippine Government Employees Association bilang mga kinatawan ng manggagawa sa Pag-IBIG.

Ako rin ay hihirang na rin pagkatapos ng mahabang pagsusuri at pag-eeksamin ng mga aplikante, mga bagong commissioners ng National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) para mas mapabilis ang mga pagreresolba ng mga kaso. Sa NLRC, maging sa ibang mga konseho, sisikapin nating lalo pang ipairal ang tripartism bilang paggalang sa kilusang manggagawa.

Dahil ang tripartism ay napakalaking papel upang mapaganda ang kapakanan ng ating mga manggagawa, at ng ating investment climate. Kagaya ng ginawa ng construction industry kanina. Iyon ay tripartism, at ang tripartism ay nagiging matagumpay kung responsable ang mga namamahala at responsable rin ang mga manggagawa.

And I think today we celebrate the responsible labor movement. Iyon ang nakalagay doon sa t-shirt ni Ninong Kito Mendoza — Responsible at Makabuluhang Unyonismo.

The labor movement has been a bastion of democracy, a pillar of development a vanguard of the Rule of Law. As President I acknowledge the constructive activism of the mainstream labor movement cutting across all vital issues of national interest.

I acknowledge labor's devotion to democracy and its rejection of force in the pursuit of political ends.

I acknowledge labor's discipline and forbearance, the mark of a true ally in the Rule of Law and Constitutional adherence.

Kaya, dakilang manggagawang responsable, dakilang manggagawang Pilipino, salamat na kayo ay makabuluhan, salamat na kayo ay responsable at gaya ng sinabi ng lahat ng nagsalita, mabuhay ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the 1st National Bangus Industry Congress
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremony of the 1st National Bangus Industry Congress

[Delivered at the Leisure Coast Resort, Dagupan City, Pangasinan, May 1, 2003]

Thank you very much Nani Braganza, my Press Secretary.

I'd like to also greet Dagupan's most senior sons, Speaker De Venecia and Mrs. De Venecia; our host mayor, Mayor Benjie Lim; I'd like to greet, of course, the organizers and leaders of this conference headed by Jaime To, president of the Bangus Association of the Philippines, welcome to Pangasinan all the way from Sarangani; Mr. Tanjanco, Chairperson of the Congress; and my appointive officials — Garry Teves of Landbank; Cito Lorenzo of Agriculture; Rene Diaz, Presidential Assistant; Dagupan son, Pingkoy Duque, President of PhilHealth; and Dagupan son also, Albert Balingit, member of the Board of Landbank.

Minamahal kong kababayan, tan saray kabaleyan ed Dagupan, masantos ya pista'y dayat tan labor day ed sikayon amin. To those of you from elsewhere, I said, happy Feast of the Sea and Labor Day because today is the feast of the sea of Pangasinan Province.

At ako'y natutuwa sapagkat sa kabila ng matinding pagsubok na ating hinaharap ngayon tulad ng SARS, nabigyan pa rin ninyo ng sapat na panahon ang ilang bagay na may kaugnay sa ating kaunlaran tulad ng pagdaraos ng kongresong ito na naghahangad ng lalong makabuti ang takbo ng ating industriya ng bangus lalo na sa pandaigdigang palengke.

And thank you for coming to the province of Pangasinan, the province of Alcala which is now out of quarantine. This Bangus festival is one of the most important events of pista'y dayat. Importante met ya diad Labor Day yan okasyon. Ito ay nagpapadiin — ginagawa natin ito sa Labor Day — nagpapadiin sa layuning maganda ang kalagayan ng ating mga manggagawa sa pamamagitan ng pagpapaunlad ng ating mga industriya lalong-lalo na sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura at pangingisda.

Even if we face problems such as SARS, this shouldn't be an obstacle to going on with our lives. Say gobyerno, gagawen ton amin piyano naitdan na solusyon yay problema'd SARS. Kaya makabubuting 'wag tayong mag-panic at ipagpatuloy lang natin ang ating mga gawain basta malinis ang ating mga kostumbre. May alituntunin na tayong 'pinapatupad para dito huwag tayo masyadong mag-alala basta alerto lamang.

Doon sa pinanggalingan kong SARS Summit sa Thailand, 'yan nga ang isa sa mga pinag-usapan. Na ang malaking banta ng ekonomiya ngayon ng mundo at ng Asia ay hindi 'yung SARS mismo kundi 'yung paranoia tungkol sa SARS. Doon nga, sabi nang WHO, 'yung mga nagkaroon ng outbreak before March 15 — kasi March 15 nagbigay ang who ng babala tungkol sa SARS — 'yung nagkaroon ng outbreak noon, 'yon ang mga libu-libong nag-SARS o daan-daan na nag SARS. 'Yung mga nagkaroon ng SARS pagkatapos ng March 15, kagaya ng thailand at Pilipinas, 'yon ang konti lang dahil nako-control kaagad dahil alam na natin kung papano asikasuhin ang problema. Kung ihahambing natin, Hongkong at China — 3,000 ang SARS, Pilipinas — 3 ang SARS. At baka maging dalawa pa nga kung mapatunayan na 'yung tatay ni adela ay namatay sa cancer at hindi sa SARS. 'Yung Vietnam, naka-abot ng 63 cases at lima ang namatay pero ngayon SARS-free na ang Vietnam. Kaya kontrolado natin ang SARS. Ang dapat kontrolahin natin ang paranoia. Kaya mabuti nandito kayo.

Talaga naman, totoo umiikot ang SARS dahil global ang ating mundo. May mga disadvantage ang globalization kagaya ng nago-global din ang sakit. Pero may mga advantages din ang globalization na dapat gamitin at pagsamantalahan ng bangus industry ng Pilipinas.

Kaya tamang-tama ang tema ng kongreso ninyo, “Bangus goes Global.” Dahil talagang panahon para mapakita natin ang magagandang katangian ng ating isda na bangus sa buong mundo. We should take advantage of the global market and produce what can compete internationally like products from our delicious bangus.

Alam ko ang delicious bangus. Sabi nga ni Benjie ako ay certified Bonuan bangus-lover kasi tuwing bakasyon dumadaan kami dito sa Dagupan para kumain ng Bonuan Bangus. At hindi pa ako pangulo ginagawa ko na ‘yon. Kaya noong naging pangulo ako sabi ko ba’t ko titigilin ‘yung kostumbre kong ‘yon, kaya ganun.

Napakalaki ang potensyal ng industriyang ito lalo na kung ating iisipin na napakalaki ang produksyon nito. Noong nakaraang taon, ayon kay Cito Lorenzo, higit 200,000 metric tons, 232,000 metric tons ang produksyon. With that big production, I instructed Secretary Cito Lorenzo to study the possibility of exporting our products to other countries.

Ang resulta, meron na tayong roadmap na naglalayong maitatag ang export market ng produktong ito sa loob ng labing limang buwan. Determinado tayo na maipasok ang bangus sa pangmundong palengke. Sampung bansa ang tinatarget sa simula na kung saan may tinatayang 5.6 na manggagawang Pilipino. ‘Yan ay makasiguro tayo ed world market itdan koy suporta so balak yo ya’y 160 million pesos na bangus processing planted Dagupan.

Doon sa 160 million, ang hinihingi lamang naman ni Benjie sa national government ay 50 million. Kaya kung naririnig ni Emi Boncodin itong ating broadcast, “Emi, kukulitin ka ni Cito Lorenzo para ma release mo na ‘yung 50 milion na ‘yon.”

Ang processing plant na ‘to ay maglilikha ng mga frozen, smoke, marinated, deboned bangus. Pati na rin ang de lata at de botelyang bangus para iluwas sa Amerika at iba pang mga bansa na merong pamayanang Pilipino.

By June 2004, we expect to ensure the low-price supply of quality bangus fingerlings. Increase bangus production by 25,000 metric tons and add value to the bangus industry with the end view indeed of breaking into this export market. Ya nagawa ira ya, parakepen tayo facilidades na National Integrated Fisheries and Technology Center Ed Bbonuan. The other existing hatcheries is in Calape, Bohol — meron ba tayong mga tiga-bisaya dito? — which caters to the needs of the Visayas. And a new hatchery will be built in Samar to address the needs of Mindanao.

Doon nga kay Mr. To, sabi n’ya, “‘Yan ‘yung fisheries nila diyan sa ano, sa Sarangani, hindi naman ‘yan fishpond eh, factory ‘yan eh. Dahil napaka-high tech and modern ang production methods nila.” Eventually, as we build more hatcheries we can lower the price of ten centavos per fry. With sufficient supply and lower cost we expect a dramatic increase in milkfish production and the creation of more livelihood opportunities for our agricultural workers in breeding fry production and marketing for our coastal communities.

Tingnan ninyo ang ginawa ni Ginoong Fil Hipolito — nandito ba siya? Si Fil Hipolito? Wala? Naku! Dapat nandito siya. Anyway, let me tell you about him. Siya ay taga-barangay Damortis, Sto. Tomas, La Union. Siya ay nagsanay sa Bonuan Center dito sa Dagupan. Ginawa n’yang bangus hatchery ang kanyang prawn hatchery. Nen ika-3 nga Abril, Angala na 3.3 million bangus ed presyo’n 30,000 pesos. For a period of 22 days, he was able to produce 600,000 fries amounting to almost 200,000 pesos. His gross earnings totalled a 150,000 pesos and this was only within a period of three weeks. Kaya sa mga nanonood — kasi ‘yung mga dito alam na nila ‘yon — kayong mga nanonood, doon sa may mga posibilidad na lugar para sa bangus hatchery pwede itong pagkakitaan. The Bonuan Center of Dagupan is even willing to provide bangus eggs on a pay-later-when-earning’s scheme. Diad samay tagey yay presyo’y feed say nagawaan. Dapat yay daiset labat so osaren so semi-intensive fish farming.

Ang sinasabi ko, dapat hindi na masyadong intensive ang ating fish farming. With the increasing occurrence of fish kill due to intensively farmed and overcrowded fishponds and cages, we have to shift to safe and environment-friendly technologies. Ibalik natin ang feed na lablab na, alam ni Joe ito kasi nakapag... Pinaaral ng tatay ni Joe si Joe at mga kapatid n’ya dahil sa ang tatay n’ya ay isa sa mga pioneers ng bangus. Alam n’ya ‘yung lablab. Sa napag-alaman ko, ito ang pangunahing dahilan kung bakit malinamnam ang Bonuan bangus.

Mampaalagey tayo met na mariculture cage zones or parks. And so on this day, ya if you have mariculture, 'yon din ay that is going to also help us make our bangus production more scientific. And so on this day, as we celebrate pista'y dayat and the value of labor, let this meeting inspire all of us, lalo na sa tapos na ang meeting makikita n'yo 'yung longest bangus grill. May all of that the visuals and the substance in this meeting inspire us to work relentlessly for the continued revitalization, competitiveness and success of our unique Philippine bangus industry.

Balbaleg ya salamat and congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremony of the 1st National Bangus Industry Congress. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201423/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6333&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Special Prayer Rally on the SARS crisis

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Special Prayer Rally on the SARS crisis (Nation's Call for Sacred Assembly)**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Grounds, May 2, 2003]

Maraming salamat po, Secretary Romulo.

Maraming salamat po, Bishop Eddie Villanueva; maraming salamat, Manolet Dayrit, Roy Golez, Ed Manda, Didi Domingo, Milt Alingod; maraming salamat, Bishop Eñiguez; maraming salamat, Bishop Magbanua; maraming salamat Bishop Tindero; maraming salamat, brother Dan Balais; mga kapatid; mga kapwa Pilipino, maraming salamat sa inyong pagbuo nitong napapanahong panawagan para sa sagradong pagpupulong; maraming salamat sa inyong napaka aktibong partisipasyon sa kampanya ng gobyerno kontra sa banta ng SARS.

Nagbisita po kami ni Manolet Dayrit kanina sa barangay vacante sa Alcala, Pangasinan kanina. Nagpapasalamat tayo sa Panginoon dahil ang Barangay Vacante ay libre na sa SARS. Nagpunta kami ni Manolet sa Barangay Vacante para magpasalamat sa taumbarangay sa kanilang diwa at sakripisyo at pasensiya. Ang sakripisyo ng mga Pilipino maging dito sa Pilipinas at sa ibayong dagat ay mga istorya ng ating pinaka-napapamahal na asal. They are there for the greater glory of God.

Si Adela Catalon at ang kanyang ama ay namatay sa yakap ng matinding pagmamahal sa pamamagitan ng isang ama at isang anak. Hindi ba ganun ang pagmamahal ni Hesukristo sa ating amang diyos.

Ngayon, meron naman tayong JP, ang taga-alaga na kinailangan ibigay ang kanyang buhay sa Singapore habang naglilingkod sa mga kapuwa tao. Hindi ba ganun si Hesus kristo na nagbigay ng kanyang buhay para tayo ay mabuhay sa Panginoon.

Ipaubaya natin sa Panginoon ‘yung mga namamatay sa SARS sa ibayong dagat na kinakailangan umuwi bilang abo. ‘Yung mga namatay ay mga halimbawa ng matahimik na pagkabayani sa kanilang pamilya at kaanak at sa mga iba pang sa mga dayuhang lupa na pinaglilingkuran nila.

Purihin natin ang Panginoon dahil makabayani ang ating mamamayan. Makabayani sila kung saan nararapat at purihin natin ang Panginoon at hingiin natin na ituloy na ipairal ang ating sama-samang pag-alerto gaya ng mga dasal na ginawa ng ating mga elders kanina.

At gusto kong magpasalamat sa Panginoon dahil ang SARS bagama’t isang sakuna ay naglikha rin ng isang kahanga-hangang pagkakaisa sa ating sambayanan sa likod ng ating pamahalaan. Glory be to God!

Ako, bilang pangulo na gaya ng sabi ni Bishop Eddie na isang pangulong kristiyanong bukas ang loob sa Panginoon, pinapaubaya ko ang ating bansa sa pag-alaga ng Panginoon.

Bigyan niyo ako ng panalangin din na ituloy ko na parati akong susunod sa Panginoon kung saan niya ako dinadala, umaabot sa lampas ng ating bansa, humahanap ng tulong sa mga dayuhang lider habang nakikipag-usap sa pinakamakumbabang Pilipino sa sariling bayan. Bigyan ho niyo ako ng dasal na bigyan ako ng Panginoon ng grasya

na gawin ang lahat ng utos ng Panginoon sa akin para ikalap ang ating mga enerhiya at kakayahan sa paligid ng isang layunin na manalo ang ating bansa — the people of God sa laban na ito.

Sa gitna ng lahat nito, nananalangin ako, manalangin tayo sa Panginoon na linawin ang lahat ng diwa ng lahat ng taumbayan, para buong taumbayan, buong sambayanan ay magbigay ng buong kooperasyon saan man sila.

Mga kapatid sa Panginoon, huwag tayong mag-alala, ang Panginoon ay laging katabi natin.

My prayer, my presidential prayer is based from psalm 144 verses 12 to 15. A beautiful summary of God's glorious program and vision for every nation and surely for our beloved country. May I read from the new living translation and the new international version:

Verse 12: "May our sons flourish in their youth like well-nurtured plants; may our daughters be like graceful pillars curb to adorn a palace." Mga kapatid, this speaks clearly of a vision of happy, strong families, and if I may add, SARS-free families.

Verse 13: "May our farms be filled with crops of every kind; may the flocks in our fields multiply by the thousands even tens of thousands; and may our oxen be loaded with produce." Hindi nga ba ito, people of God? Isn't this verse a clear picture of economic prosperity which our people all long to enjoy?

Verse 14b: "May there be no breaching of walls, no forced exiles, no cry of distress in our streets." Ito, mga kapatid sa Panginoon, this speaks of social peace and public justice.

Verse 15: "Blessed are the people of whom this is true; blessed are the people whose god is the Lord." This is the foundation of all that we dream and long for our beloved Philippines. A full commitment to God and his righteousness. Without his help, we can never make it.

Community of the Lord, let us pray:

Our heavenly father, as President of the Philippines, I come before your presence in behalf of our beloved people. I praise your name for you alone of all wisdom and power, honoring glory belongs only to you. You determine the course of world events. You control the destinies of nations. It is you who changes times and seasons, who sets rulers and authorities and also removes them according to your will.

I acknowledge with thanksgiving your glorious plan for our beloved Philippines. I agree that indeed according to your words of prophecy, the Philippines will become a strong republic, a prosperous nation that you will use to bless other nations. But Lord, we know that your destiny for us will only be fulfilled if we as a people totally commit our lives to you, Repent and turn away from our sinful ways and acknowledge your Lordship over our nation.

So even now, in behalf of our people, I ask your forgiveness for all our sins. Forgive us for our disobedience to your laws and command, for the sins of idolatry in all forms, for corruption especially in government, for greed and deceit especially in the business realm, for rebellion that has bred violence, for our disunity, divisions and selfishness, for lack of strong will to enforce our own laws, without fear or favor; for marginalizing the poor and depriving them of justice and opportunities to better their lot; for pornography, marital infidelities and moral permissiveness. Lord hear, lord forgive, Lord act.

Now as president, I solemnly offer into your hands our beloved Philippines that may we become the blessed nation you desire for us to be. I pray that you establish your lordship and authority over every Filipino citizen and every Filipino family. That every home will be the center of love, harmony, strength and formation of biblical values — the basic unit for a strong republic.

I pray that you spare our people from the SARS plague and other diseases, and that you continually cover us with the redeeming blood of Jesus. We claim the healing grace of Jesus for our people for you said that by his wounds we were healed.

I pray that you establish your righteousness, integrity and fear of God over every branch, department and office of the government, we cast away the spirit of corruption, dishonesty, injustice and other forms of immorality that have plagued us for so long.

I ask that you continue to expose all anomalies, grafts and scandals. I pray that you intervene supernaturally for a lasting climate of peace and order to reign upon us especially in Mindanao. I cast away the spirit of violence and lawlessness that has bred kidnappings and other crimes.

I pray that you release a miracle favor upon our economy, for the continuous growth of businesses, entry of good investors, more entrepreneurs, more business opportunities, multiplied production in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors that will fuel the engines of economic prosperity. We claim your promise that if we obey you you will blessed us and give us an abundance of all things. We will no longer borrow but lend. We will be the head not the tail. Help us lord to make Jesus Christ the lord the foundation of all areas of our lives, our conduct and that in all our ways, we acknowledge him. Even now, i thank you for the answers to these prayers.

Thank you for prosperity, health and victory for our people. Thank you for strength and unity. Thank you for peace and justice.

I declare the Philippines a strong republic that belongs to Jesus Christ and to Jesus Christ alone.

Jesus is lord over the Philippines. Amen and amen and amen.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Special Prayer Rally on the SARS crisis (Nation's Call for Sacred Assembly). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201404/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6325&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the National-Local Governments Counter Attack against SARS Forum

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the National-Local Governments Counter Attack against SARS Forum

[Delivered at the PICC, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, May 3, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Bert Romulo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat na dumalo dito. Ibig sabihin handa kayong lumaban sa sars. Kaya maupo kayo para malakas tayo sa paglaban sa SARS.

Kagalang-galang na Secretary Joey Lina at lahat ng mga kasama n'ya sa DILG; kasama na rin ang mga nag-organize nito dahil ito nga ay organisado ng DILG para 'yung mga local governments ay talagang on-board sa ating laban kontra sa SARS; Secretary Manolito Dayrit ang ating anti-SARS Czar; ang mga pangulo ng mga liga, the President of the League of Leagues, Governor Delfo del Rosario; president ng League of Cities, Francis Tolentino—akala ko Francis nagpaalam ka sa akin kahapon na hindi ka makakadalo. Anyway, nandito si Francis mabuti na lamang; Mayor Monching Guico, President of the League of Municipalities; si James Marty Lim, pangalawang beses na tayo makikipag-usap tungkol sa SARS. Dahil kasama ko na siya sa mga liga ng mga barangay noong nag-meeting tayo; nandito rin 'yung iba't-ibang mga kasapi ng SARS Management Committee: si Secretary Roilo Halez, nandiyan ba siya? Ayun! Si Secretary DJ De Jesus; wala siya dito sa head table pero dapat batiin din natin 'yung mga kabataan, si SK President Ariel Arcillas; 'yung nagdadagdag ng biyaya para sa ating mga health workers, pangulo ng PhilHealth, si Pinkoy Duque; at siyempre 'yung ating host mayors, mayor ng Pasay City, Peewee Trinidad. Ay! Nawala na 'yung ating host mayor. Anyway, itong lugar na ito nasa border ng Pasay City at Maynila at narito pa rin si Lito Atienza; saan si Peewee? Ayun, nandiyan ka pa. Thank you, Peewee; andami nating mga Metro Manila Mayors na narito, andami nating city mayors, ang dami nating provincial governors. Hindi na iisa-isa ang pangalan nila. Pasasalamat sa ating mga local government officials na dumalo rito. At syempre 'yung ating mga bayaning health workers.

I would also like to greet Dr. John Olive, our who representative to the Philippines. We thank who for all of its support, all of its sober evaluation of SARS in the Philippines. We thank who even as we congratulate Vietnam for graduating from the list of SARS countries. We thank who that in recognition of our efforts we were never listed as a SARS country in the first place.

Nonetheless, we must face the threat of SARS with audacity and solidarity. It's becoming obvious that the SARS has and is already causing tremendous effects on local and international economies. The fear of SARS is actually what is bringing down the economies of the region. Doon sa pista'y dayat, dati-dati ang dami daming tao sa San Fabian. Noong nagpunta ako, konti lamang. Pero wala namang SARS sa San Fabian. Layu-layo ng San Fabian sa Alcala, at wala na ring SARS sa Alcala. Kaya ibig sabihin noon, ang katotohanan ang maglilibre sa ating bansa mula sa SARS. At kailangan kayo, mga local government executives para ipakalat ang katotohanan.

Kailangan natin ng planong pangkilos. Ang ating pangunahing manebwela ng pagka-alerto ay ang mga lokal na pamahalaan, kasama na rito ang mga barangay. Eh siyempre, ang barangay hindi magkakasya dito, kaya hiwalay kaming nag-miting nila James Marty Lim.

It is at the level of implementation in the community that will show our people that we mean business in containing SARS.

Let's together appeal to the public to remain calm and to seek information from credible sources as we also encourage again the media to be responsible sources of verified information. And as government, let us do our share

in obtaining the necessary information on developments on SARS as well as in coordinating with the international community on holistic and best practices to deal with SARS.

In the global realm, we have the World Health Organization as the supreme commander of our efforts. The who lays down the standards of compliance and action, and coordinates the strategic points of scientific research and containment.

At the regional level, at the SARS summit in Bangkok last week, we set forth specific action points for the containment of SARS:

First, ensure proper departure health screening for travelers at the point of origin. Napaka-importante 'yon. Kasi kung istrikto ang lahat ng bansa sa departure at di siya nagtatanggap na bansa kahit na may lumusot, kampante na tayo. Kaya noong ako'y umalis sa Pilipinas, nagpa-temperature. Noong bumalik, hindi naman kailangan mag-quarantine dahil hindi naman SARS country din ang Thailand. Kaya importante ang katotohanan, importante rin ang sapat na pangangalaga ang kailangan;

Second, establish standardized measures for proper health screening;

Third, cooperate in providing public information and education to promote awareness;

And fourth, establish and strengthen an early warning system on emerging infectious diseases.

Sa libel naman ng ating bansa, naglabas ako ng Executive Order na nagbibigay ng kapangyarihan sa kalihim ng kalusugan at ang kaniyang mga kapangkat — 'yung mga nilista ni Joey kanina — sa pagmamaneho ng SARS.

Inatasan ko naman si Secretary Joey Lina na ipakilos ang PNP. And, iI also instructed him in that Executive Order to exercise supervision over local governments with regard to and for the duration of this crisis. Alam ko na kayong nga local government officials, diretsong halal ng taumbayan. Kaya hindi puwedeng nagko-kontrol at supervise ang dilg sa inyo sa araw-araw. Ngunit sa panahon ng SARS, may kapangyarihan na magsupervise siya sa inyo sa mga bagay tungkol sa SARS. This is applicable in the following:

First, isolation and control of quarantine areas;

Second, maintenance of peace and order in local communities;

And third, providing the necessary assistance in the conduct of and transport of SARS cases and/or SARS suspects.

Tinukoy na natin ang San Lazaro hospital at ang Research Institute for Tropical Medicine bilang pangunahing ospital para alagaan ang mga pasyente ng SARS. At ang gobyerno din ay magtutukoy ng mga ospital para ipagmaneho ang SARS sa lahat ng rehiyon ng bansa.

Palagay ko, ito'y isang kailangang detalyeng ipaliwanag ni Manolet Dayrit. Saan-saan ang mga itutukoy na SARS hospitals sa iba't-ibang lugar ng ating mga rehiyon.

Sa isang bilyong pisong linaan ko para sa sars, linalaan ang 500 million pesos para ibayuhin ang mga imprastraktura, kasangkapan at kagamitan ng mga ospital na ito na itutukoy bilang SARS hospital.

'Yung ating mga bayaning health worker naman. Lahat ng health worker sa harap ng kampanya kontra sars ay bibigyan ng buong kumpletong suot sa proteksyon. Hindi tayo magsusugal sa kaligtasan at kapakanan noong mga nagkakarga ng kabigatan ng sakripisyo, at 'yon na nga ang ating mga health workers.

Itong mga ginagawa nating ito, itong mga pinapahayag ko sa inyo, ayon sa World Health Organization, tama itong mga gawaing ito para mapigil ang epidemya. At ituloy natin na hindi pa makatala ang Pilipinas bilang bansang SARS. Alam niyo itong SARS na ito, nakilala natin bilang SARS sang-ayon sa ulat ng who noong March 15. Ngunit nagsimula ‘yung SARS, ayon sa pag-aaral at going back to the history noong nobyembre pa doon sa Guangdong, China. November hanggang March, lumalaganap ang SARS, pero hindi pa kilala at hindi pa alam kung papano asikasuhin ito. Kayong mga nahawang bansa ng SARS, ‘yung mga nagka-sars bago March 15 — China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, pati ‘yung lugar ng Taiwan — libu-libo o daan-daan ang mga nagkaroon ng SARS. Pero after march 15, noong nakilala na natin at tayo ay ginagawa na natin ang kailangan sang-ayon sa mga payo ng who para maiwasan ito kagaya ng Pilipinas at ‘yung ibang mga nakalista ay tignan niyo sa Pilipinas, kung sa China tatlong libo, sa Pilipinas tatlo. Baka pa nga dalawa, eh. Kasi ‘yung tatay ni Adela, ‘di naman talaga natin alam kung namatay sa SARS o sa Cancer. Dahil naalala n’yo si Adela pumunta rito para nga maghanap ng faith healer para sa tatay niyang namamatay na ng cancer. Kaya tignan mo ang kaibahan, three thousand for those who caught it before March 15. Three for a country like ours where it happened after March 15.

Kaya importante ang kaalaman. Kaya manatiling mulat tayo ngunit mahinahon.

Doon sa Hong Kong, kung saan mahigit isang libo na ang may SARS, sa isang gusali lamang, ang Amoy Gardens, kumalat ang SARS sa tatlungdaang biktima dahil kinalat ng ipis ang mikrobyong dumadaan sa sewage system. Ano ang leksiyon diyan? Let’s learn from that experience. Let’s actively participate in a nationwide clean-up campaign. Dahil SARS or no SARS, ang kalinisan ay kalusugan, ang kalusugan ay kayamanan ng isang matatag na republika.

So carry on, let us win this battle for the sake of our people, for the sake of their livelihood and normal lives.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA’s Speech during the National-Local Governments counter attack against SARS Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201358/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6322&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the commemorative rites on the Death Centenary of Apolinario Mabini

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the commemorative rites on the Death Centenary of Apolinario Mabini**

[Delivered at the Mabini Shrine, Malacañang Park, Manila, May 13, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Executive Director Vic Badoy, our friend from Cotabato City and Executive Director of the National Historical Institute.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza; Uy, mga kababaihan nandito pala; Vice Mayor Lacuna at ang iba't-ibang kasapi ng city council; mga kasapi ng gabinete: Metro Manila Chairman Bayani Fernando, at Secretary Luis Lorenzo ng DA, at si Undersecretary Chito Brillantes, nangangatawan ng Department of Foreign Affairs, si Evelyn Pantig na hindi lamang Undersecretary of Tourism pero siya rin ang Chairman ng National Commission on Culture and the Arts; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; chairman Noli Barcelona of the Postal Corporation who provided that commemorative stamps that are being issued today; members of the religious; the caretakers of the Mabini Shrine headed by the Curator Azucena Fido; the Inter-Agency Organizing Committee of the Death Centenary of Apolinario Mabini; officers of the military and the police led by General Narciso Abaya and Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay; I would like to greet the descendants of the heroes of the freedom war represented here by Mr. Roy Daza on stage; mga kaibigan, mga teachers, mga barangay leaders; mga estudyante:

Nagkakaisa ang ating bansa itong araw ng sentenaryo ng pagkamatay ng ating dakilang bayani na si Apolinario Mabini.

Si Mabini ay isa sa pinakamatalino at sikat na bayani natin kahit na siya ay may kapansanan. Siya ay bansag na bahagi ng ating pamanang kasaysayan at kultura.

Napanganak siyang mahirap — nandiyan ‘yung nipa hut. ‘Yan ang replica ng nipa hut kung saan siya napanganak — ngunit naging isa sa pinakamakabuluhang lider ng rebolusyon ng Pilipinas.

Naging abogado siya, sinuporta niya ang kanyang pag-aaral sa pamamagitan ng iba't-ibang trabaho sa iba't-ibang sangay ng hukuman. He served in the Aguinaldo Cabinet as President of the Council of Secretaries and as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. In other words, in Aguinaldo's presidency he was the Bert romulo and the Blas Ople combined.

At sa kanyang trabaho bilang Executive Secretary, siya ay nag-buo ng pinaka-unang mga bayan, probinsiya, hukuman, pulis ng Unang Republika ng Pilipinas.

Mula sa kanyang matalinong utak nanggaling ang programa Constitucional De La Republica Filipina, na siya ang naging pangunahing pinanggalingan ng unang Saligang Batas ng Pilipinas. Siya rin ang nagsulat ng El Verdadero Decalogo o “The True Decalogue” na nagbuo ng prinsipyong moral at pulitikal ng Unang Republika.

Noong panahon ng mga Amerikano, si Mabini ay nadistiero sa Guam. Hindi matagal pagkatapos siya umuwi, namatay siya sa edad treinta’y nueve. Kaya napaka-bata ang ating mga bayani nung panahong ‘yon. Kaya ating mga kabataan na narito ngayon ang dami-daming n’yong magagawa para sa ating bansa bago kayo maging 40 years old.

At si Mabini ang tinatawag na Konsyensiya at Utak ng Rebolusyon. He was known as the Brains of the Revolution.

Sa ating pagparangal kay Mabini ngayon, pinaparangalan din natin ang lahat ng kasalukuyang Pilipino na tumutulong sa paghugis — oh, let me also greet... I saw earlier Congressman Zialcita. Thank you, yes. He doesn't belong to the City of Manila but thank you to the Congressman of Parañaque for honoring the memory of Apolinario

Mabini by being with us. Naalala ko biro mo, Ed I remembered 'yon noong pinag-uusapan ko na 'yang ating mga modern day heroes. Anyway, pag binibigyan natin ng parangal si Apolinario Mabini binibigyan din natin ng parangal 'yung mga kasalukuyang mga bayani, mga huwarang mamamayan na malaki ang ginagawa para sa paghugis ng isang mapayapa, madignidad at maunlad na kinabukasan para sa ating bansa.

Halimbawa, sa gitna ng ating laban kontra sa kinatatatungang sakit, naaalala natin ang manggagawa ng kalusugan na humaharap dito sa ating bansa at sa ibang bansa. What the firefighters and the New York police were in 9-11 our health workers are the hero in the battle against SARS. Not only in the Philippines but in Hong Kong, Singapore and wherever we have health workers all over the world. Sila ang ating bayani ng mga araw na ito. Kaya pag-pinaparangal natin si Apolinario Mabini bigyan din natin ng parangal ang ating mga health workers na napakagaling at may malasakit.

Because of them, so far, we are winning the fight against SARS. Every Filipino must continue to take responsibility for the health and welfare of the entire national community. Everybody has a stake in making the Philippines SARS free.

Pag inaalala natin ang pagkabayani ni Mabini naaalala rin natin ang iba't-ibang pang ating mga bayani na naglalaban ngayon. Hindi lamang lumalaban kontra sa SARS, lumalaban rin kontra sa ibang banta kagaya ng terorismo. Sa gitna ng ating laban kontra sa terorismo, naaalala natin ang mga mamamayan sa ating malalayong pamayanan na tumitindig na alerto.

Kahapon, doon sa Siocon, binigay ko ang pinakamataas na parangal na pwedeng mabigay ng pangulo sa isang pulis 'yung Medal of Valor. Dahil sila ay pinatatag nila 'yung kanilang pagdepensa sa bayan ng Siocon kontra sa mga terorista. Kaya binigyan natin ang Chief of Police ng Siocon ng Medal of Valor.

The government is nearing a decision point on whether to declare the MILF a terrorist organization, and to take the necessary operational and diplomatic measures to strengthen this prospective policy. We are holding this decision in abeyance upon the recommendation of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on International Security. Makikipag-usap usap tayo sa ating mga kaibigan na gusto nang kapayapaan sa ating bansa lalo na doon sa katimugan ng ating bansa. Itong mga darating na Linggo magkikita tayo doon sa isang komperensya. There will be a forthcoming OIC conference of foreign ministers to be held toward the end of this month. And even as we fight terrorism together, we want to thank our foreign friends especially Malaysia, whose ambassador is here and I gave him our thanks today for continuing to patiently help the Philippines achieve principled peace here in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, the security of our civilian communities is of our utmost concern. Punitive actions will continue and the peace talks remain suspended. We will treat those who attack civilians as plain terrorists.

As I said yesterday, in Koronadal, time is running out for the MILF to prove its sincerity in the peace process. It must cut the double talk and make a clear statement on whether it is allied with the Abu Sayyaf and foreign terrorist groups such as the Jemaah Islamiyah or Al Qaeda, or unequivocally reject them.

The MILF can no longer hide behind a veil of legitimacy under the growing suspicion that it is involved in the entire web of terrorism, domestically and regionally.

Kaya sa mga panahong ito, isang daan taon pagkatapos namatay si Apolinario Mabini, marami tayong mga banta, banta sa kalusugan ng ating bansa. Banta sa pagkakaisa sa ilalim ng ating saligang batas na kung saan ang unang saligang batas ay siyang ginawa ang first draft ni Apolinario Mabini.

Kaya sa araw na binibigyan natin siya ng ating parangal, 100 years after his death, ipaglaban natin 'yung mga prinsipyo na ipinaglaban niya, 'yung mga prinsipyo na binuo niya bilang utak ng ating rebolusyon. Lalo na ang ating kabataan, na ang daming narito, mga estudyante, mga girl scouts, mga boy scouts. Si Apolinario Mabini ay kabataan ng ating bansa nung kanyang panahon meron kayong pwedeng maging huwaran ng inyong pagkilos sa kinabubuti ng ating bansa.

Muli, sa lahat ng nakikinabang sa kalayaan na ibinuo ng diwa at ipinaglaban ni Apolinario Mabini at ibang bayani ng ating bansa. Let us remember the memory of Apolinario Mabini and let us live by the ideals of the brains of the Philippine revolution.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Commemorative Rites on the Death Centenary of Apolinario Mabini. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201316/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6320&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 19th Commencement Exercises of A.M.A. Computer University

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 19th Commencement Exercises of A.M.A. Computer University

[Delivered at the Araneta Coliseum, Cubao, Quezon City, May 14, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Dr. Amable Aguiluz V, ang ama ng A.M.A., the father of the A.M.A. Computer University and the pioneer of computer education in the Philippines and many parts of the world.

Dr. Allan Fisher, President, Icarnege Mellon University. Thank you for coming here and thank you for giving me the observation about a wonderful thing about our Philippine culture.

In the United States where I studied, as soon as a student graduates all she or he wants to do is get away from his own home and live by himself, alone, independent of his parents. Dito nakita natin ang ating mga nagtatapos, as our students graduate, they acknowledge the great support of their parents and they dedicate their education to their parents. Family life continues beyond graduation. Nakita natin sa buhay ng ating valedictorian na si Miss Liamzon at ang kanyang magulang at kanyang pamilya.

Gusto kong batiin lahat ng mga nag-graduate ngayon. Gusto kong batiin lahat ng kanilang mga magulang na kinakatawan ni Ginoong Liamzon nanagta-trabaho labing-walong taon na sa Dubai, sa United Arab Emirates. Malaking sakrifício para makapag-aral sa magandang unibersidad ang kanyang anak ganoon din ang sakrifício ng lahat ng mga magulang na nagtrabaho at nagsakrifício. Kaya pwede na kayong umupo para hindi na kayo kailangang magsakrifício pa.

Dr. Rodriguez, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mr. Michael Hague, the National Computer Center of the U.K. pinapatunay lamang ng A.M.A. hindi lamang nagbibigay sa ating lipunan ng mga graduates ng ICT kung hindi nagbibigay din sa pangmundong lipunan ng certified program graduates. Kasi hindi porke't meron kayong pinag-aralang computer ay may trabaho kayo. Kailangan 'yung certification programs at lahat ng nag-graduate sa ICT sa A.M.A ay certified programmers. Gaya ng sinabi ni Mr. Michael Hague kaya dobleng congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Members of the academe, as I said, the graduates I'd like to also acknowledge the presence of my presidential party here: my Presidential Assistant Dodie Limcaoco, and it so happens 'yung general manager ng airport, si Ed Manda na nandito hindi dahil siya ang general manager ng airport kung hindi dahil isa 'yung mga magulang na nagsikap upang anak niya ay magkaroon ng edukasyon sa A.M.A. Computer University.

Kaiba-iba itong ating seremonya 'di ba. 'Yung pagpapakita ng pagkakaisa ng pamilyang Pilipino. 'Yung pagsasakripisyo ng mga magulang na magta-trabaho pa kung kailangan sa ibayong dagat para maganda ang edukasyon ng kanyang anak. At itong pagtatapos mismo ay gaya nang sabi ng ating mga dayuhang mga bisita isang pangunahing pangyayari sa kasaysayan ng sistema ng edukasyon sa Pilipinas maging sa buong mundo. Dahil itong araw na ito, nakatindig tayo, nakatindig ako, nakaupo kayo sa harap ng labindalawang libong estudyante na nagtatapos mula sa iba't-ibang campus sa A.M.A. sa Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao. Itong seremonya gaya nang sabi ng mga nagsalita na ay hinihimpapawid sabay-sabay sa iba't-ibang lungsod kung saan may iba't-ibang campus ang A.M.A. Computer University.

Pinapamahagi rin itong pangyayari sa mga estudyante ng A.M.A. sa iba't-ibang lugar sa mundo, sa kaharian ng bahrain, sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng mundo. At napapanood rin sa internet ng mga kasamahan ni Ginoong Liamzon hindi lang 'yung 150,000 na Filipino workers sa U.A.E. kung hindi sa iba't-ibang bahagi na rin ng ating Middle East at buong mundo. Kaya gusto kong gamitin itong pagkakataon na ipahayag sa mga Pilipino sa Bahrain, sa mga Pilipino sa United Arab Emirates, sa lahat ng mga Pilipino doon sa Gulf States. Gusto kung ipaabot sa inyo at

ipahayag na kaninang umaga pinirmahan ko ang papeles ni Dr. Amable Aguiluz bilang special envoy ng pangulo ng Republika ng Pilipinas sa Gulf Cooperation Council. Itong Gulf Cooperation Council ay binubuo ng anim na bansang nasa Arabian Gulf — iyung Bahrain kung saan may eskwela ang A.M.A.; iyung Kuwait na napapanood natin araw-araw noong isang buwan dahil nandoon ang frontline sa laban doon sa Iraq; iyung Oman; iyung Qatar; iyung kung saan for the last 18 years nagtra-trabaho si Ginoong Liamzon, iyung United Arab Emirates; at iyung Saudi Arabia.

And therefore, speaking of Saudi Arabia let me take this opportunity to express that I sympathize with the families of the victims in the Riyadh bombing in Saudi Arabia. This is a risk inherent in the deployment of millions of Filipinos worldwide. It's also a risk we carry for being part of a global war against terrorism. The world has known for a long time that the tentacles of terrorism stretch across borders and can only be destroyed by international action. Kailangang mawasak ang pangmundong terorismo para sa kapakanan ng ating mga dakilang manggagawang Pilipino, gaya ni Ginoong Liamzon, na kahit saan ay hinahanap at hinahangaan, maging bilang nurse, enhinyero, office staff, manager o knowledge workers kagaya ng mga nagtatapos sa A.M.A.

I am very happy to learn that the Philippines topped the knowledge jobs category in the global new e-economy index or the G.N.E.I. the G.N.E.I. is a technological competitiveness index that determines the I.T. readiness and I.T. capability of each country.

Australia nag-number two, America nag-number three, Pilipinas nag-number one. This means we have more qualified ICT professionals, engineers and senior ICT managers than any other country. And we have a higher net enrollment in the field among persons between the ages of 17 and 34. At nakamit natin 'yung pagka-number one, salamat sa A.M.A. salamat kay King Aguiluz, ang ama ng A.M.A. sa Pilipinas, pati na rin sa Arabian Gulf.

Gaya ng sabi ko, meron ng A.M.A. sa Bahrain. Sabi nga ni Ginoong Liamzon dahil napakaraming Pilipino rin sa United Arab Emirates, siguro darating ang panahon maglalagay din ang A.M.A. doon sa Dubai.

Bilang aking special envoy sa Arabian Gulf, gusto ko, na kung pwede pumunta si Dr. Aguiluz para ipahayag ang aking pakikiramay sa ating mga pamayanang Pilipinong nasawian sa pagbobomba sa Saudi. Our Embassy in Saudi Arabia will work closely with Saudi authorities in Riyadh to get at the root of this incident and obtain justice for the victims. The OWWA will see to the welfare of their bereaved families. This tragedy shows the utter helplessness of the civilians against the agents of terror. We are experiencing this in our own country where we are now thick in punitive actions against terrorists in Mindanao. Sa aton mga graduates diha sa Mindanao nga tuwa karon sa Davao Convention Center, ang akon mensahe kaninyo ug sa inyong mga pamilya, we will not relent in this campaign until we achieve justice of the victims of senseless murder.

The MILF must renounce links with international terrorists. Surrender the terrorists who murdered innocent civilians and stop all forms of terrorism. The people would like to read this from the lips of the MILF leadership. Anything short of these will be considered half measures, which will not do. Punitive actions will continue and we will escalate political and military measures as necessary. Sa aton mga kaigsuonan sa Mindanao, I would like to stress, this is not a fight against Muslims. This is a fight against terror being waged by all decent and civilized Filipinos. We will not acknowledge the false offers of peace or succumb to political pressure. To retreat now would only invite more predations. I have the duty to protect the national interest from greater harm.

Tungkulin ko rin, kasama ng ating kalaban laban kontra terorismo. Tungkulin ko rin kahit may krisis sa mundo, na sikapin ipasulong ang ating ekonomiya upang magkaroon ng trabaho ang ating mga mamamayan. Alam ko, mga nagtatapos sa A.M.A. malaki ang inyong bentaha kasi maganda ang inyong edukasyon, ngunit para sa iilan sa inyo na baka wala pang trabaho naghihintay, gusto ko ipa-alala sa inyo na doon sa SM Megamall ang DOLE ay may jobs fair sa kasalukuyan na nagsimula noong Abril at tuloy-tuloy ito hanggang ika-sampu ng Hunyo. Doon sa jobs fair na 'yon ug naa jobs fair sab sa Davao ug Cebu. Mayroon doon naka-alok sa jobs fair sa SM Megamall, 'yung jobs fair ng DOLE, may naka-alok na isangdaang libong trabaho. Sa huling kaalaman ko, labing anim na libo na ang nakahanap ng trabaho sa jobs fair na 'yon. Kaya merong pang walumpu't apat na libong trabaho na naghihintay sa mga nagtatapos sa A.M.A. at sa iba't-iba pang mga kolehiyo.

Sa ating laban kontra sa kahirapan, kailangan nga ang mga trabahong nanggagaling sa namumuhunan kagaya ng mga trabahong nakahanda sa inyo doon sa jobs fair ng DOLE sa SM Megamall. Kailangan rin ang modernisasyon ng sakahan, ang mga deretsong serbisyo para gumaan ang buhay ng mga mahihirap, at ang mabuting pamamahala. Sa lahat nito, kailangan ang ICT o I.T. gusto kong ipamana na ang ICT ay nakapag-ibayo ng lahat ng ito: pamumuhunan, sakahan, serbisyo sa mahihirap, at pamamahala.

Halimbawa, sa pamamahala. I'm determined that ICT will ensure clean and honest elections from 2004 onwards.

I am determined to lead and support all efforts as I have made the budget available from many sources to ensure that the national elections next year will make full use of computerized canvassing of returns and thereby minimize, if not totally eradicate, the cheating that used to be done through the traditional mode.

As we install more ICT and ICT-based projects in the different programs of effective governance, investment promotion, agricultural modernization and poverty alleviation, the demand for ICT workers especially those graduating from an excellent school like A.M.A. is bound to increase.

I challenge the graduates of A.M.A. to continue to be models, model citizens of an electronically enabled Philippines. You, the graduates of A.M.A., you have what it takes to succeed. I ask you help others do the same.

And as model citizens, never lose sight of your equally important roles in the fight against poverty, ignorance, disease and injustice in our society.

And wherever you go, maging dito sa Maynila, maging sa Makati kung saan nag-graduate si Ann Marie Liamzon, maging didto sa Cebu, sa Davao, maging sa ibayong dagat, I shall continue to depend on your unremitting excellence and patriotism. Graduates of A.M.A University, you are blessed with an excellent education.

Good luck! For the rest of your lives, and may you use your knowledge not only for your beloved parents and your beloved families, but together with them and your families, for the good of the people of the Philippines whom we all love so much.

Congratulations! At mabuhay kayong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 19th Commencement Exercises of A.M.A. Computer University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201306/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6316&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing program of the National Summit of Women Local Chief Executives and Legislators

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the closing program of the National Summit of Women Local Chief Executives and Legislators**

[Delivered at the Coral Ballroom, Manila Pavilion Hotel, U.N. Ave., Ermita, Manila, May 15, 2003]

Thank you very much, Oye for your introduction. And thank you for your valuable support and leadership in bringing this summit about.

Our leaders in the different local governments both in the executive and the legislative; Matin Petilla representing the Female Governors of the Philippines; Marybeth Felgado representing the Lady Municipal Mayors of the Philippines; Mary Jane Ortega representing the City Mayors of the Philippines; Marides Fernando representing the Metro Manila Lady Mayors of Metro Manila; and Mary Ann Villegas representing the Lady Board Members of the Philippines; and Cora Del Mundo representing the Lady Councilors of the Philippines; Mr. Terrence Jones representing our International Development Partners; ladies and the gentlemen who are helping the women leaders of this country:

First, let me begin by congratulating our women local chief executives and legislators on your Manila declaration on gender responsive politics and governance. As a woman political leader of the Philippines, I'm one with you in the commitment to build more humane, just and peace-loving constituencies free of gender biases.

Freedom from gender bias is a trait of a strong union as Undersecretary Devanadera said in her welcome remarks. So are humaneness, justice and peace. That's why today, I would like to announce very happily a major step that we have achieved towards greater humaneness and justice for our women and their children: both houses of congress in bicameral conference have just passed the bill against trafficking of women and children. I would have wanted to sign the bill into law today right here in this summit, except that many women leaders who are not part of this summit meeting want to be present at the signing. So we shall set it for another day soon, but i'm sure many of you will be there just as well. That is a bill to protect the rights of women and children. But beyond protecting the rights of women and children, we must go into affirmative action and that's what your manila declaration is all about.

As we can see in this large gathering, in many parts of our country, gender is no longer an issue in electing public officials. But we must still overcome remaining biases.

Halimbawa, ang dalawang matinding krisis na hinaharap ng mundo ngayon — ang terorismo at ang SARS. Ang laban sa SARS ay laban kontra sa sakit at dumi ng kapaligiran. Sabi nila ito ay labang pang babae, kasi trabaho raw ng babae maglinis at mag-alaga ng maysakit. 'Yung isang krisis ng mundo ay 'yung laban kontra sa terorismo. Sabi nila ito raw ay labang pang-macho, 'di ba? Even in crisis of the world there is a gender bias that we must overcome.

Kaya sa pagharap natin sa mga krisis na ito, pagkakataong lampasan ng mga kababaihang lider ang nalalabi pang gender bias sa ating lipunan. Whether male or female, our government executives must be crisis managers ready to face all kinds of social and security concerns.

We have seen that terrorism strikes anywhere at any time, from the remotest barangays in Mindanao to the capitals of the world. The world in the post-Iraq period has achieved greater strategic stability, but this has driven militant cells to deeper desperation. That's why all Filipinos must be vigilant wherever they are. OFWs must work with their host communities to secure themselves and their loved ones. We must show the terrorist that humanity will not be cowed, that life goes on and that they will be brought to justice. We will intensify our intelligence work at home and strengthen international security cooperation.

We're engaged in a punitive campaign against terrorists responsible for specific atrocities against innocent civilians. The campaign will be selective and limited to these terrorist cells. Women executives, this is a challenge to you, to us. Not only as executives but as women executives. Today, there are two women executives who are not here. But that's because they're busy addressing to the crisis in their own locality. We have Mayor Caling Lobregat who has been taking the leadership in the fight against terrorism in Zamboanga City. We have Governor Daisy Fuentes who has been taking the leadership in the fight against terrorism there in her province of South Cotabato. They are at the forefront and sometimes it is said that they have shown their leadership but they have to show it by being better than the men just to be treated equally in that field of the fight against terrorism.

So, therefore, to the rest of the lady executives we are enlisting the support of the local government units affected in isolating these target groups. We are also on a diplomatic offensive to enlist international support behind our cause. Our objectives and strategies are clear and precise, our operations are phased and time bound. We will ensure that as much as possible, civilian communities are put out of harm's way. Pero 'yon nga sabi magaling tayo doon, keeping the civilian community out of harm's way, evacuation, etc. Oo, magaling ang babae doon pero magaling din ang babae na lumaban sa terorista mismo. And we've seen that in Mayor Caling we've seen that in Daisy. We must see that in all the women executives in whose jurisdiction there is a terrorist threat. And as I said earlier, in this world after Iraq terrorism can occur anywhere.

On the threat of SARS, W.H.O.'s forthcoming decision to remove us from the list of SARS-prone countries will serve as a trophy for the efforts our people have done in controlling the spread of the virus. But while we await this eventuality, the security measures versus SARS must go on with the same intensity until the threat has been decisively diminished. Ah, dito angat na angat ang ating mga local government leaders na kababaihan. Because there's that close connection between hygiene and the sickness and preventing SARS. They say gender characteristic na naman second nature sa atin maglinis ng ating kapaligiran. But we go beyond just what is our trait as women. We go beyond that and we work on physical threats themselves.

The local government official as crisis manager must lead whether it becomes to... Whether it's terrorism or whether it's SARS, the local government as crisis manager must lead in coordinating action from the national to the grassroots level, from the grassroots to the national level.

As women leaders, as I said earlier, our success in meeting these challenges is part of our fight for the advancement of women. Because while people elect women to positions — kung minsan meron pa ring nasa likod hanggang diyan, may glass ceiling pa rin tayo. Now, that there are physical threats to our society, this is a time for all women executives to show that we are equal to those threats. Therefore, let's continue to bond together to advance the cause of women as vanguards in building a strong and caring nation.

Sa kababaihang ehekutibo at mambabatas, mabuhay kayong lahat at ang ating bansa ay tatatag dahil sa inyo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Closing Program of the National Summit of Women Local Chief Executives and Legislators. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201254/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6310&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo on Unity and Reconciliation

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Unity and Reconciliation**

[Delivered in the Cultural Center, Sta. Cruz, Laguna, May 15, 2003]

OPENING THE DOORS OF UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

Mga kaibigan, isa sa mga bagay na tunay na nagbibigay sa akin ng kasiyahan bilang Pangulo at ina ng ating bansa ay tanggapin ang ating mga kababayan na nagbabalik-loob sa pamahalaan. Ako ay nasisiyahan sapagka't ito ay tanda rin ng ating mga pagsisikap tungo sa pagkakaisa at kapayapaan na ito ay nagtatagumpay.

Ang aking administrasyon ay patuloy na naninindigan sa mapayapa at demokratikong paraan para lutasin ang problema ng rebelyon sa ating bayan.

Nilalabanan natin ang rebelyon, na tinuturing natin bilang isang organisadong krimen, at ako ay nagagalak na kayo, tayo ay magkakasama na sa labang ito. Linalabanan din natin ang terorismo, na isa rin na organisadong krimen. Kung minsan nga hindi na natin nakikita ang pagkakaiba ng rebelyon at terorismo. Linalabanan din natin ang iba pang mga organisadong krimen, kagaya ng mga sindikato ng droga. Dito nga sa Southern Tagalog dahil kayo ay bumabalik na, mas matindi pa nga ang problema kaysa sa problema ng rebelyon. Kaya, bagamat ito ay okasyon ng pagbabalik-loob dahil tayo ay nasa Southern Tagalog at may mga officials ng National Government dito, gusto kong gamitin itong pagkakataon na ito para imulat na lalabanan din natin nang mas matindi, ang bawal na gamot.

Gusto kong iulat sa inyo na kanina pumirma ako ng Executive Order na nag-uutos sa iba't-ibang ahensiya, lalo na ang pulis na nasa ilalim ng ating Chairman din ng Dangerous Drugs Board na si Joey Lina, na bumuo ng task force na tutulong sa Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, para sugpuin ang mga sindikato ng bawal na gamot. Doon sa Executive Order na 'yon na pinirmahan ko kaninang umaga, iniutos ko rin sa Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, na narito ang Chairman, si Honeygirl Singson de Leon at ang Manager na si Reggie Uriarte. Ang utos ko sa PCSO doon sa Executive Order na 'yon ay magtabi ng isang bilyong piso mula sa gross receipts ng lotto para gamitin ng PDEA at mga task forces ng pulis at iba't-iba pang abensiyang tutulong sa PDEA upang labanan ang droga.

Aba, eh kung doon sa OFW natin sa Iraq, hindi ba nagtabi tayo ng pera sa OWWA para makauwi sila kung kailangan o mailigtas sila doon kung kailangan. Maliit na bahagi lang ang talagang ginastos natin. Hindi ba nuong magkaroon ng SARS crisis namahagi rin tayo ng isang bilyon mula rin sa PCSO para labanan ang SARS, pero iilan lang ba ang biktima ng SARS sa Pilipinas? Sampu, ibababa pa yata sa walo dahil 'yung dalawa na meron... pinadala 'yung blood test kahapon, pagbalik negative pala. Kaya, walo lang ang nagkaroon ng SARS, dalawa ang namatay. Ilan ang namamatay dahil sa bawal na gamot? Kaya kung makakapagbigay tayo ng... makakatabi tayo ng isang bilyon para sa mga OFW doon sa Kuwait at Middle East, kung makakatabi tayo ng bilyon para sa SARS na walo pa lang ang biktima at dalawa ang namamatay, ano pa 'yung droga na ilan? Napakarami, lalo na sa Southern Tagalog ang nagiging biktima nitong napakasamang sakuna ng ating bansa. Ang sindikato ng droga ay walang kinikilingang lahi, relihiyon o paniniwala. At ganoon din ang terorismo. Kaya dapat pareho ang paglaban natin doon sa dalawa. Ang terorismo nakita na natin, bumaba na at kahit saan, kahit kailan. Alam ninyo iyon, dahil ang mga dating kasamahan ninyo palagay ko isang dahilan kung bakit ilan sa inyo ay bumalik-loob ay hindi ninyo

makayang gawin ang terorismo. Nangyayari ang terorismo mula sa pinakamalayong barangay sa Mindanao hanggang sa mga kapitolyo ng mundo.

In the world, in the post-Iraq war period, we have achieved greater strategic stability. Ngunit ito ay tumutulak din sa mga militanteng selda sa mas malalim na desperasyon. Kaya dapat lahat ng Pilipino ay maging alerto saanmang dako. Dapat ipakita natin sa mga terorista — maging terorista doon sa NPA terorista doon sa MILF — na ang sangkatauhan ay hindi masisindak, na ang buhay ay patuloy at kayong mga terorista anuman ang ibang bansag para maging glamorous sila ay dadalhin sa karapatan, sa katarungan.

We will intensify our intelligence work at home and strengthen international security cooperation.

At sana itong ating laban kontra sa terorismo ay makakadagdag nang malaki sa kapayapaang hinahangad natin, kapayapaang mas malapit na ngayon dahil kayo mga kaibigan ay nagbabalik-loob. Kalimutan na natin ang inyong marahas na kahapon. Hindi na kayo kasama doon sa ating mga kalabang organisado. Simulan na nating panibago ang inyong buhay. Kayo ay malaya nang makakapamuhay nang tahimik.

Alam ko na hindi madaling desisyon ito para sa inyo. 'Yon ang kinuwento ng ating mga kapatid, ang mag-asawang nagpahayag ng kanilang kasaysayan. Kaya lalong ako ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa tiwalang ipinagkaloob ninyo sa ating pamahalaan.

Ang ugat ng rebelyon alam niyo ay kahirapan. Ang katulong ng sindikatong krimen at terorismo ay kahirapan. Kaya linalabanan natin hindi lamang ang rebelyon, hindi lamang ang sindikatong krimen, hindi lamang ang terorismo, linalabanan din natin ang kahirapan.

Alam ko, mga kaibigang nagbabalik-loob, na kayo ay nanggaling sa mga buhay na matinding kahirapan bago pa kayo pumasok sa kilusan. Gusto kong masugpo ninyo ang kahirapan sa inyong buhay.

Kaya, kayo ay makakatanggap bilang pansimula muli ng inyong buhay ng 4,500 pesos bawat isa, pansimula. Eto, kita natin itong bigas, ito ay tulong din ng DSWD at Provincial Government para kayo ay mabigyan ng tig-isang kaban ng bigas bilang panimula ng inyong buhay. Kinuwento nga ni Mike Defensor na meron pa kayong lupain. Tinanong ko din sa anak ng Laguna, kay Ka Lix Cataquiz, totoo ba 'yon? Sabi niya totoo, dahil sa Calauan doon sa bayan ni Mayor Berris ay rnerong lugar kung saan kayo pwedeng manirahan kung gusto ninyo. At para sa mga magtatayo ng bahay meron din kayong coco lumber, 'di ba Danny? na maibibigay pang-tayo ng inyong bahay. Meron na kayong pansimula na panggastos, pagkain, pabahay. Gag'awin din kayong miyembro ng PhilHealth. Anong ibig sabihin nito? Ibig sabihin nito matutulungan kayong magkaroon ng libreng pagpapagamot, konsultasyon pati operasyon kung kailangan. Siyempre naman tayo ay lahat namamatay kaya para sa ating mga magniyo-niyog ay meron din kayong libreng life insurance. Di ba libre? At napag-usapan natin ang mga magniyo-niyog, kasi ang dami sa Laguna na nasa kanayunan na magniyo-niyog, bibigyan din kayo ng mga coco seedlings para magsimula muli ng inyong hanapbuhay. Doon naman sa may balak maging mangingisda, iminumungkahi ko na bumuo kayo ng kooperatiba at bibigyan kayo kaagad ni Alix ng Laguna Lake Development Authority ng permit para magpatayo ng fish pens.

Ngunitgusto kong ipahayag sa ating mga officials na itong mga tulong na ipinahayag ko ay hindi lamang para sa mga balik-loob. Ito ay tulong para sa mga pinakamaralitang mga pamayanan sa buong Laguna. Alam n'yo ang Probinsiya ng Laguna ay napakayaman, isa sa pinakamayaman sa buong Pilipinas dahil maraming namumuhunan sa CALABARZON. Kanya lamang, para bang dalawa ang mundo ng Laguna eh. May mundo ng maraming industriya at mayaman sa CALABARZON, 'yung lugar ni Mayor Arcilla. 'Yung Sta. Rosa 'yon ang Detroit ng Pilipinas eh. 'Yung anak pa nga ni Mayor Arcilla ay leader ng ating bansa dahil Pangulo ng lahat ng SK sa buong bansa. Ayun ang isang lugar. Leadership sa buong bansa — ayun pala si SK — economic at political. Nandoon naman 'yung isang mundo ng Laguna na ang darning mahihirap — mahihirap na magsasaka, mahihirap na magniyo-niyog, mahihirap na mangingisda. Kaya kahit na nakikita ang ganda ng mga industrial estates sa CALABARZON doon sa kabilang Laguna ang dami namang mga mahihirap lalo na sa kanayunan ng Laguna.

Kaya gusto ko na si Secretary Lina, na dating ama ng Laguna, kilalang-kilala ang Laguna ay hanapin 'yung kanyang mga dating anak ng mga barangay sa kanayunan na kailangang bigyan nitong tulong kagaya ng ipinamahagi natin ngayon. Ibig sabihin hindi kayo kailangan maging rebelde muna bago matulungan nang ganito. Dapat nga lalong bigyan ng gantimpala 'yung mga mahihirap pero hindi pumasok sa pagka-rebelde. So 'yan ang ating hihingiing trabaho ng ating dating ama ng Laguna. Hanapin mo, 'yung mga apong 'yon ha, Joey? Apong barangay.

Pero sa mga panahong ito, kayo mga kapatid nating nagbabalik-loob, gusto kong sabihin na kayo ay talagang napakaimportante, gayon na rin nitong araw na ito sa inyong pagbabalik. Alam n'yo itong araw na ito ay piyesta ni San Isidro Labrador. Siya ang Patron ng mga Magsasaka. Si San Isidro Labrador ay karaniwang magsasaka. Ang kaibahan araw-araw bago siya pumupunta sa sakahan ay nagmimisa muna, I mean, nagsisimba muna, pumupunta sa misa at tapos nuon, 'di one hour siyang nahuhuli sa mga kasamahan niya. Kaya lang pagpunta niya sa sakahan, pagdating ng ani mas marami pa rin ang kanyang ani kaysa doon sa iba. Kaya 'yung mga nagseselos sa kanya nagsasabi, mag-ispiya nga tayo. Papano siya nakakakuha ng mas maraming ani eh one hour later siya nagsisimula ng kanyang pagsasaka. At ayon sa istorya, kaya siya naging santo, nakita nila habang siya pala ay nagsisimba, may anghel palang bumababa para mag-araro para sa kanya. Kaya tuloy pagdating ng kanyang trabaho tanim na lamang siya nang tanim.

Tayo wala tayong anghel kagaya ni San Isidro Labrador. Hindi tayo lahat mababansagan bilang patron saint. Nagbibigay ang Panginoon ng ilang halimbawa para magkaroon tayo ng inspirasyon. Ano ang inspirasyon ng araw ni San Isidro Labrador? Ang ibig sabihin nuon kung tayo ay may pananampalataya, hindi lahat kailangan manggagagaling lamang sa atin. Ang pananampalataya, ibig sabihin nuon, pag tayo ay may pananampalataya, magiging mabunga ang ating trabaho.

Kaya sa araw na ito, mga kaibigang nagbabalik-loob, salamat na kayo ay bumabalik sa inyong pananampalataya sa katarungan ng ating pamahalaan. At sana nawa basbasan kayo ni San Isidro Labrador na magbunga ang inyong mga trabaho na magbibigay ng tunay na magandang buhay para sa inyong mga pamilya.

Maraming salamat, welcome home to all of you.

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo on Housing and Land Utilization Project

Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Housing and Land Utilization Project

[Delivered in Commonwealth Elementary School, Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City, May 17, 2003]

A HOME FOR EVERY FILIPINO FAMILY

Sa wakas, di ba? Sa wakas! Napagtibay na ang matagal na nating hinihintay, ang tawag sa batas na ito ay National Government Center (NGC) Housing and Land Utilization Act of 2003. Ito ay isang local bill ang tawag nila, ngunit bakit nandito lahat ang mgacongressmen at senador, pati mga pinuno ng Senado at Kamara. Bagama't ito ay local bill, ang kanyang kabuluhan ay pambansa.

Kasi kung naalala ninyo noong bago pa lang akong naging Pangulo pumunta ako sa NGC? Sabi ko, hindi kayo ang problema, kayo ang bahagi ng solusyon. Hanapan natin ng solusyon para maipamahagi ito sa inyo. Ngunit ang unang pagsisikap natin ay masalimuot kasi labag pala sa batas na ipamahagi sa inyo. Kaya itong batas ang nagtanggap ng mga masalimuot sa pamamagitan ng lupa dito sa NGC.

Kaya binigyan natin ng mariing pansin at sa tulong at sipag na trabaho ng mga magiging na mambabatas na nandito sa ating entablado, iyon nga, yung mga ibat-ibang congressmen at senador, maging taga-Quezon City, Sorsogon, maging taga-Parañaque; Leyte; o maging taga-Ginebra. Si Bobby kasi ang Chairman ng Committee on Natural Resources. Di ba Bobby? Iyon kasi ang in-charge ng mga batas tungkol sa mga titulo. Kaya salamat sa kaniya, salamat sa kanilang lahat at naipasa na ang batas at ito na magbibigay-liwanag sa hangaring gaya ng sabi ni Mike Defensor – iyon ang problema kasi nauna siya, ginamit niya yung aking linya – hindi na kayo squatter sa sariling bayan. At ito ay biyaya para sa libu-libong pamilyang matagalnang nakatira dito sa NGC.

Kasi naman matagal na. Supposedly, binigyan na kayo ng kapangyarihan, hindi ba? Iyon pala parang peke yung mga binigay dahil labag pala sa batas. Kaya ngayon, uulitin na naman natin lahat pero ngayon may katiyakan na na legal ang inyong kalagayan, ang inyong pagmamay-ari ng lupang naipamahagi noong nakaraan. Itong batas na ito ang nagbibigay ng katatagan para sa mga ginagawa rin dito sa NGC at yung mga gagawin pa dito sa NGC.

Halimbawa, yung pagtatayo ng sonang pangkabuhayan o yung economic zone, at iyung mga pabahay na itatayo.

Sa ilalim ng batas na ito, bubuuin ang National Government Center Administration Committee. Siya ang mamamahala at magsasagawa ng pamamahagi ng lupa. Sinu-sino ang nasa komiteng ito? Ang mangunguna, si Mike Defensor, ayun! Katabi niya yung isang tao na malaki ang trinabaho para itong batas ay maging totoo, si Verna Romulo-Puyat; ang kasama sa Komiteng ito ay si Percy, iyung Commission for the Urban Poor; si Sonny Belmonte, ang Mayor ng Quezon City; si Ed Pamintuan, ang namumuno ng National Housing Authority; ang DENR; ang at mga kinatawan ng NGC Eastside at Westside, kasama kayo sa mamamahala dito.

Ang NHA, si Ed, ang trustee ng programa ng pabahay. Ang Commonwealth Enterprise Zone ay nasa ilalim ng Home Guaranty Zone kaya mabuti kilala na ninyo ang Pangulo, si Bong Bongolan. Itong dalawang ahensiyang ito ay kapwa nasa ilalim ng HUDCC, ang boss nila ay si Mike Defensor, pero ang boss ni Mike Defensor ay kayo, taga-NGC.

Itong batas kinukumpirma rin na walang buwis ang lupang ipinagbibili at ipinapamahagi. Kaya naman ni Sonny Belmonte na walang buwis eh. Kasi ang Quezon City ang number one sa tax collection sa buong Pilipinas. Kaya, iyong pagpapamahagi ng lupa at pabahay, iyon ay tax-exempted.

Alam ninyo, matagal nating hinintay itong batas na ito, ngunit babang hinihintay natin ang batas, ginagawa na natin yung mgapaperworks para sa pagpapatupad nito, at para sa pagpapamahagi ng mga titulo. Kaya noon hinihintay natin yung batas babang dini-debate sa Komite sa Kamara, sa Senado, tuluy-tuloy tayo ng pagsusuporta sa mga proyektong pabahay sa NGC Westside at saka sa Eastside. Kasama na rito yung Memorandum Order No. 83 na nagsasaad na itong proyektong ito, ito ay hanggang taong 2005, para magkaroon ng sapat na panahon para maisakatuparan iyung mga ipamahagi.

At naalala ko noon, mahirap gumawa ng titulo kasi walang survey. Kasi mahal ang survey. Mahal ang documentation. Kaya mula sa aking President's Social Fund ay nagbigay rin ng labindalawang milyong piso para sa dokumentasyon. Dahil kailangan iyon para makapagpatitulo sa NGC Westside at Eastside.

Kaya dito sa NGC Westside, nakapamahagi na tayo ng tatlong libong certificates ng title reservation, at sa araw na ito, mamamahagi pa tayo ng isanlibo at isandaang certificate of lot reservation sa mga kwalipikadong benepisyaryo.

Naipamahagi na rin natin ang natitirang animnaraang apartment, at sa araw na ito ay mayroon pa tayong isandaang apartment na ipamahagi doon sa medium-rise building.

Nabuo rin ng aking administrasyon ang Commonwealth Market para sa inyo, di ba? Ito ay nagbibigay ng hanapbuhay sa mga taga-rito at dahil mura ang upa, mura rin ang mga bilihan. Kaya kung may dumadaing na mataas ang mga bilihan – mga nanonood sa telebisyon – mamili kayo sa Commonwealth Market, murang-mura.

Sa NGC Eastside naman, nakapamahagi na tayo ng halos sa limanglibong sertipikado ng lot allocation at certificate of lot entitlement sa mga benepisyaryong may piano sa kung papaano mapapaunlad ang pamayanan, yung development plan.

Pero sa mga wala pang lupa, mamamahagi naman tayo ng higit na siyamnaraang certificate of project qualification. Pero dapat gawin na yung development plan. Mike, sino ba ang in-charge ng development plan? Kayo? Ayun! So, may bagong gagawin si Mike Defensor.

Bagama't sabi ko nga ang dami nang nagawa ni Mike Defensor – saying, lahat ito sinasabi ko, hindi naman siya tatakbong senador. Pero hindi bale, ikukwento ko nalang sa inyo. Noong ako'y unang naging Pangulo – no, sa aking first State of the Nation Address, sabi ko, gusto ko tayong mamahagi ng, ano Mike? 150,000 titles bawat taon. Noong sinabi ko iyon, tapos na si Mike sa 150,000 niya for the year, kaya sabi ko, naka-boundary na siya. Eh, ngayon sa nagawa niya rito, sobra-sobrang boundary na ito, kaya – gusto ko ring batiin siya at lahat ng mga tumutulong sa kanya – sila Percy, doon sa Caloocan, sa may railroad at saka doon sa Makati, sa may railroad rin ay umaalis na iyung mga squatters nang kusa dahil nakumbinsi nitong ating team na ito. Pumapalakpak si Joe de Venecia dahil si Joe de Venecia ang ating ama ng railroad na kailangan maklaro, malinis yaong mga lugar na iyon para sa ganun, meron tayong railroad, north hanggang south.

Mabalik sa NGC, dahil sa mga nagawa na nating paghahanda dito sa NGC, palagay ko ayos na ang pagpapatupad ng batas na nilagdaan ngayon at trinabaho nitong magigiting na Senators at Congressmen na nasa entablado ngayon.

Kabilang sa magiging suporta ninyo para mabilis na maitupad ang bagong batas ay yung aking Executive Order No. 153 na lumalaban sa mga sindikato ng squatter.

Sa katunayan – Mike, dapat ilabas ito sa telebisyon -meron ng mga kasong isinampa laban sa ilang mga miyembro ng malalaking sindikato na nagsasamantala sa inyo dito sa NGC.

Alam ninyo, noong hindi pa ako pangulo, sa aking paglilibot sa mga pamayanang maralitang taga-lungsod, ang naririnig kong pangunahing hangarin ninyo ay pabahay o kaya katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan. Kaya nang ako ay naging Pangulo, ginawa kong pangunahing programa para sa maralitang taga-lungsod ang palupa at pabahay.

Kaya itong batas na ito, kahit na local government... local bill ay tinulak natin dahil itong batas na ito, NGC Law ay isang malaking bahagi ng pagpapatupad ng ating pangunahing programa para sa maralitang taga-lungsod.

Puspusan ang ating ginagawa para malagay sa maayos ang iba't-ibang programa natin sa pabahay, sa kabila ng napakaraming problema na hinaharap ng ating bansa ngayon, tulad ng terorismo at SARS.

With regards to terrorism, I'm very happy to let the Philippines know, I'm very happy to let our senators and congressmen know, *na iyung nalalabing hostage ng Jehovah's Witness ay nailigtas na kaninang madaling araw.*

May progreso ang laban sa terorismo ngunit hindi pa tapos. Let's not take anything for granted in our vigilance against terrorist reprisals. Let's watch over our communities kasama ang community ng NGC and be accountable for each other, just as we have done in the case of the SARS threat. Through the close cooperation of the LGUS and the National Government, through synergistic linkages among all involved government agencies, I ask our people to be calm but fully alert in your homes and in your places of work and livelihood. This is not a fight of the government alone. It is a fight of all our people and the whole world. It cannot be won overnight. It will demand the utmost sense of duty and concern for each and every Filipino.

Doon naman sa SARS, lalo na't nandito si Principal Aceo ay gusto kong sabihin din, the opening of classes will demand among our people another round of alertness to protect the health of our students. We've already scored big against SARS and we must follow through. Principal, gusto kong ipahayag sa inyo at lahat ng principal – all school-related sectors must be focused on cooperation and unified action. The DOH and the DepEd must work closely with school administrators, parents associations and student organizations. Our information drive among students must be comprehensive and penetrating. Extraordinary precautions are needed.

Naniniwala ako na dahil ang laban natin sa terorismo at SARS ay hinaharap natin nang lubusan at buong tapang, napipigilan natin ang kanilang paglaganap at pagdulot ng malawakang pinsala. Sa aking pag-alis mamayang gabi papuntang Estados Unidos kasama ni Senate President Frank Drilon at ni Speaker Joe de Venecia para sa isang state visit doon, ito ang babaunin kong alaala: na sa harap ng matitinding krisis, tayong lahat ay nagkaisa at ginawa natin ang ating makakaya para sa Batas ng NGC kung kayaf tayo ay nagtagumpay at magtatagumpay pa.

Sa aking pakikipag-usap sa mga matataas na opisyal ng Amerika, aking ipapaalala sa kanila na dapat bigyang-pansin ang paglaban ng kahirapan dahil dito nanggagaling ang mga bagong sumasapi sa mga grupong terorista. Kaya't kung gusto nating tuluyang sugpuin ang terorismo, hindi dapat balewalain ang pagsisikap na maiahon sa kahirapan ang marami nating kababayan.

Kaya, hinihiling ko sa inyo, mga bagong homeowner ng NGC, samahan ninyo akong manalangin upang maging matagumpay ang aming paglalakbay ni Frank Drilon at ni Joe de Venecia. Ito ay bahagi ng ating pagtahak tungo sa isang magandang bukas.

Patuloy tayong magkaisa at magtulungan, tulad ng ating pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan upang maging totoo ang batasng NGC:

Magkaisa tayo at magtulungan para matupad ang pangarap nating magandang pamumuhay at matatag na Republika ng Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat at congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo during the mass with members of the Fil-Am Community Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the mass with members of the Fil-Am Community

[Delivered at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A., May 17, 2003]

Thank you very much, your Eminence Cardinal Roger Mahoney. Thank you for your kind gesture of celebrating this special mass with the Filipino community. Thank you also for wearing a beautiful vest made of beautiful Philippine embroidery.

Officials of L.A. county; members of my delegation. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the members of my official delegation: from the senate, Senate President Franklin Drilon; from the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia; also Congressman Monico Puentevella of Bacolod city; and Congressman Teddy Boy Locsin of Makati City.

From the Cabinet: Executive Secretary Bert Romulo; Defense Secretary Angelo Teyes; Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon; National Security Adviser Roy Golez; my adviser on OFWs, Sonny Alvarez; my adviser for Special Projects, Mai Jimenez; my adviser for the North Luzon Quadrangle, Chavit Singson. Lahat Lumington Chavit nung binanggit ko ang pangalan mo.

From the local governments: the Governor of Batangas, Dodo Mandanas; the Mayor of Olongapo City, Kate Gordon; ang ating Ambassador dito sa Amerika, Ambassador Albert del Rosario; ang Consul General natin dito, si Ambassador Jun Paynor. Dalawa ang trabaho ni Jun Paynor: isa, Consul General dito sa Los Angeles at pangalawa, s'ya rin ang aking presidential assistant for Official visits. So, he is coordinating this whole visit. My fellow kababayans, thank you for being here in this special mass.

Like churches everywhere, this place feels like home. What a large gathering of Filipinos! What a grand cathedral! and in this large gathering of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans, and I must pay special homage to the more than 500 Filipino volunteers from this cathedral alone. This large gathering attests to the deep faith of the Filipino people wherever we are. The churches are always filled with Filipino faithful wherever I go. Pero siyempre kaiba-iba ang Los Angeles dahil pinakamalaking Filipino community sa labas ng Pilipinas ay nasa Amerika. At pinakamalaking Filipino-American community, one-fourth ng buong Filipino-American community ay nandito sa Los Angeles area. We are an international people and we have a universal faith. And wherever we are, I see that we testify to a deep and abiding trust in God.

Recent events call for a renewal of that deep abiding trust in God. To the cowardly acts of terrorism and the threats of more wars using methods and weapons of mass destruction, comes now the spread of a deadly disease whose nature and cure still eludes the scientists.

Indeed, times are needed for greater faith. But through all these trials that our current world is undergoing progress is being made, not just in the terrorism front, not just in the SARS front but in many other fronts. Perhaps the greatest progress has been in our attitudes to these threats. We have progressed beyond fear and wonder, we have progressed towards action. And already there are promising results.

On March 20 a U.S.-led coalition of countries decided that the best way to overcome fear was to defeat it. The outcome is a victory welcomed by everyone, except the technocrats of terror and tyranny in Iraq.

That victory in which many Filipino-Americans, young Filipino-Americans participated and fought. That victory now creates a new global environment that requires a new perspective on political and economic security. A perspective that must be based on a recognition of two realities:

The first, that Asia — and that includes the Philippines — must take greater responsibility for its own political and economic security; and the second, that strong relations with the U.S. will contribute greatly to regional stability and progress in Asia as well as greater success in addressing terrorism.

Asian self-reliance will promote immediate and effective response to clear and present dangers before they get out of control. For the Philippines, that new perspective must also take into account that we have over 7 million of our men and women who are making significant contributions to the economic development of many countries.

Filipinos and Filipino-Americans contribute remarkably to American life, not just in the economy but in the social sector as well. Recognizing the important role that our 7 million overseas Filipinos likewise play in the Philippine economy, we passed the overseas absentee voting act so that those who help our country may have a hand in shaping its future as well.

I thank the Senators and Congressmen — as I said represented here by Senate President Drilon, Speaker de Venecia, Congressman Puentevella, Congressman Teddy Boy Locsin — I thank them for passing this long-awaited administration measure.

On the part of the bush administration, the united states also appreciates your contribution to both of our economies. Isa sa mga bunga ng aking state visit ay magiging ito — pero sabihin ko nang mas maaga sa inyo — the United States is launching a project to facilitate the flow of remittances from Filipino workers around the world back to the Philippines. This project will improve the lives of millions of Filipinos by lowering the cost of remittance transactions. It will make it easier for funds to flow to the Philippines from the United States and around the world.

We are proud of the contributions made by our current generation of Filipinos. We are also proud of the contributions made by the Philippine World War II veterans who gave so much in defense of freedom. Thus, we will continue to work for legislation extending equity benefits for Commonwealth Army Veterans and guerillas. Sayang nga noong huling pumunta ako dito pumasa na sa kongreso, umabot sa Senate committee, tapos nagkaroon ng halalan para sa bagong congressmen. Kaya ngayon itutuloy natin ang ating paglaban. But in behalf of the Filipino veterans living in the Philippines, I'd like to let you know that since my last visit to Washington, the U.S. government has been providing medical equipment to the Veterans Memorial Center in Quezon City.

The Filipino experience in this country, particularly in Los Angeles, is a positive outcome of a time-honored friendship based on shared values and traditions. You find a natural home in your host country as you embrace and advocate the ideals of freedom, democracy and the free market. Many Filipinos thrive in this country, particularly in Los Angeles, as I said, home to the largest concentration of Filipinos in the United States. Kung pag-uusapan nga natin ang Los Angeles lamang at 'yung surrounding areas. Alisin natin ang lahat nating ibang filipinos sa ibang bahagi ng amerika. Ang mas marami lamang na Filipino sa ibayong dagat keysa sa Filipino sa Los Angeles ay 'yung Saudi Arabia na one million at Malaysia na seven hundred thousand pagkatapos Los Angeles na dahil five hundred thousand. Seven hundred thousand nga kung isasama pa natin ang mga San Diego area. And I think the reason why you're so at home here in Los Angeles is because of a common political and economic bridge between our two nations across the Pacific.

Filipinos hold important positions and perform important jobs in this community. Filipinos, among ethnic groups, are held in the highest respect and trust. And I congratulate you for that. You hold important positions in the private and public sectors, in the state and federal government. L.A. even has a landmark named filipino town street. And we are grateful to the office of the mayor in Los Angeles county for this gesture.

During my visit to Los Angeles in October last year, I made a special appeal to you to help me build a strong republic in the Philippines, so that the country may steadily strengthen its institutions in such a way that the interest of the many, and not a favored few alone, can be served.

I'm pleased to report that we've made progress in that direction. For instance, in strengthening the security institutions of our country, we have contained the Abu Sayaff threat. Last night, before I left Manila, I welcomed

back to civilization the last two hostages of the Abu Sayaff. We are working with the United States on a new set of joint military exercises to finally finish off that threat.

In the economy, the Philippines is one of the few countries in the region that are still expected to grow at least 4 percent this year inspite of the global slowdown. And in governance, after the political turmoil that started in the year 2000, my administration has gradually stabilized our political life. The pivotal role of overseas Filipinos in nation-building cannot be overemphasized. Filipino-Americans constitute one-third of overseas Filipinos, but you contribute 71 percent of foreign exchange remittances. This contribution translates to education because we build many schools; it translates sa housing because you buy houses for your relatives; it translates to anti-poverty programs in the Philippines because you capitalize your relatives and you also make philanthropic contributions. That's why I always say that you're not overseas Filipino workers rather you're overseas Filipino investors.

I'd like to take this opportunity to renew my call for our overseas Filipino investors to continue to support our economy so that our aspiration of liberating our people from poverty can be fully realized.

Tomorrow, I shall leave for Washington to begin the official part of my state visit. I'm confident that my discussions with president bush will elevate the allied partnership between the two countries that I know you love so much. Pray for me that this visit will be a success.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Mass with Members of the Fil-Am Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201216/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6304&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Dinner hosted by the Filipino-American Community

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Dinner hosted by the Filipino-American Community**

[Delivered at the Capitol Hilton Hotel, Washington D.C., U.S.A., May 18, 2003]

Thank you very much, Ambassador del Rosario.

Let me also introduce to all of you the different officials in my delegation: from the Senate, we have Senate President and Mrs. Frank Drilon; from Congress, we have Speaker and Mrs. Joe de Venecia; we also have Congressman Teddy Boy Locsin, who's here with Mrs. Locsin. He's a Congressman from Makati; we also have the Congressman from Bacolod City, Monico Puentevella; and we have a Congressman from Bataan, Antonino Roman; from the local government units, we have the Governor of Batangas, Dodo Mandanas.

From the Executive, we have, of course, our Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Blas Ople; our Executive Secretary, Bert Romulo; our Secretary of Finance, who's here with his wife, Lito Camacho; our Secretary of Agriculture, Cito Lorenzo; our Secretary of Defense, Angelo Reyes; our Trade Secretary, Mar Roxas; our Energy Secretary, Vince Perez; our Tourism Secretary, Dick Gordon.

And before I go on to introduce the others, least I forget later on, Dick wants me to remind you about the volunteer twelve program. You know about that, don't you? Oh, we've been talking about it for the past two years with the Philippine-American community. Dick is asking you to bring a friend to the Philippines. Be a volunteer tourism promoter for the Philippines. And there are prizes for the outstanding promoters, those who bring the most number of visitors. But you have fun yourself when you go or even if you send them to the Philippines even if you don't go yourself. It's been successful, but I'd like to let you know — and I think Dick would like me to let you know — that the Japanese, the Koreans and the Chinese have already outpaced the Filipino-American tourist to the Philippines. So, I hope you can catch up with them again.

And to continue with our members of the delegation, we have National Security Adviser Roy Golez; we have the adviser for OFWs, Sonny Alvarez; we have the Secretary for Strategic Projects, Mai Jimenez; we have my Senior Presidential Assistant for Political Affairs, Joey Rufino, who's here with Mrs. Rufino.

Let me thank also the three major organizers of this event. Primarily, of course, the Philippine American Foundation headed by Irene Natividad; the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations headed by Loida Nicolas-Lewis. And I must acknowledge the American Coalition of Filipino Veterans headed by Pat Gao.

I would like to greet the various FILCOM organizations present here tonight, some of them were already mentioned by Irene Natividad. But I think, I should first of all, in general, greet the members of the Filipino-American communities representing the different organizations in the U.S. particularly New Jersey, you're here, aren't you? I met a delegation from Pennsylvania earlier, Michigan. Thank you for coming all the way; yes, Chicago; the individuals from Washington D.C.

Earlier, I also met the Philippine-American Bar Association. And there was a signing with the counterpart international. Also I'd like to greet the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce. And as Irene mentioned, the Nanay, Mabuhay! And all the other organizations who are present here. I know many of you also belong to the different ethnic groups within our country, so I welcome all of you and thank you to be here.

I'm happy to be with the D.C. community. And I'm happy to see others coming from all over the country here.

I used to be a member of the D.C. Filipino community myself when I was a student in Georgetown University. So was my daughter Luli, who also studied in Georgetown. In fact, Luli and her contemporaries — and many of them, I hope are here, but there are others who have gone back to Manila — and they still get together and they call themselves the “D.C.-itizens.”

Well, when I was here in Georgetown, a long time ago, that was another world. A world with more certainties. The issues dividing the world were clearer then — democracy and peace vs. Totalitarianism and war.

The issues are not so clear today.

There are vast national movements that favor religious totalitarianism and popularly backed dictatorships that favor war. The violence of police states is now matched by the violence of small groups of fanatics who, in a single act, can kill thousands of innocent people by turning the most harmless conveniences of modern life like airplanes into weapons of mass destruction. Airplanes, car bombs, yes, fully-laden commercial airlines.

In this new world of the 21st century, there seemed no clear way out of a world sinking into fear and violence. But the world changed again. And it happened by force of will and strength of character.

It happened on March 20th, when a U.S.-led coalition of countries decided that the best way to overcome fear and answer violence is to oppose them without equivocation and defeat them without question. The outcome is a victory welcomed by everyone. Except, of course, the technocrats of terror and tyranny in Iraq.

That victory in turn has created a new global environment, and that new environment has created the need for a new perspective on political and economic security.

Asia, including the Philippines, must take greater responsibility for our own political and economic security. Yet, we must recognize that strong relations with the U.S. will contribute greatly to regional stability and progress in Asia. And that strong relations with the U.S. will enhance immeasurably the prospects of success in addressing terrorism at home and throughout the world.

You, the Filipino-Americans, especially the young people who made their presentation personify the relations between the Philippines and America. Those relations are no longer just in the realm of minds, or values, or ideology. They are in people, our young Filipino-Americans. You the Filipino-Americans are the human link between the two biggest democracies on both sides of the Pacific. You, the Filipino-Americans are a part of the train of shared values of democracy, free enterprise and economic freedom that are the strongest foundation for a world of peace and progress.

We pay tribute to the Filipino-Americans, the young soldiers, the senior officers, as we pay tribute to the Filipino servicemen and women back home. Yes, servicemen and women back home and Filipino-American servicemen and women out here must be thanked for their enormous contributions in the fight against terrorism in the Philippines, in Iraq and wherever else the threat of terrorism calls them.

We are proud of those who have served with distinction in the U.S. armed forces. We have some of them present here today. We are proud of those who have reached senior officer rank, and we are proud of those, who though they have not reached yet, fought most recently in Iraq.

And so to the young Fil-Am soldiers, and to the senior Fil-Am officers in the U.S. armed forces, I salute you for your bravery and sacrifice for freedom that both our countries enjoyed. You are the spiritual if not the blood descendants of our Filipino veterans who fought for freedom in the Second World War and whose cause we are here to advance again in Washington.

We will continue to work for legislation extending equity benefits for our veterans and our guerillas. The last time I came to Washington, we almost made it, didn't we? After the last time I came to Washington, the Veterans Bill

passed the House of Representatives and reached the U.S. Senate appropriations committee. But time ran out when the congressional elections were held, a new Congress was formed, we have to start all over again.

But this was the story, too, of the Overseas Voting Bill that Loida Nicolas was thanking our Senators and Congressmen about. Because the Overseas Voting Bill in the Philippines kept being introduced, reaching committee level sometimes administration after administration. Finally, in my administration, we passed it into law.

Learning from that lesson, let us therefore push the Veterans Bill with the same tenacity in the U.S. Congress. For my part, I will take it up again in my meeting with President Bush tomorrow.

And I am confident that at least as a beginning, President Bush will support legislation extending full rate service-connected disability compensation; eligibility for burial at national cemeteries; burial benefits for new scouts lawfully residing in the United States; full rate dependency and indemnity compensation to the survivors of new scouts, Commonwealth Army Veterans and guerrillas who lawfully reside in the United States; and reauthorization for the Regional Veteran Affairs office in Manila.

Itong mga ito, as a beginning, these benefits come with an appropriation of 75 million U.S. dollars.

I would also like to report that since my last visit to Washington, the U.S. government has been providing medical equipment to the Veterans Memorial center in Quezon City in order to serve the veterans who live in the Philippines.

To give a boost to our veterans' lobby, I have appointed a veteran's son, Jerry Adevos, the son of the famous guerilla leader Terry Adevos, as the representative to the U.S. of the Philippine Veterans Administration. He is tasked to coordinate lobby efforts for veterans' legislation. I thank Irene for the 3,000 dollars that was donated by PAF for this lobby effort, and I will also provide Jerry Adevos a counterpart 3,000 dollars to help our veterans in this lobby effort.

I just came from Hollywood, and I want to let you know that you also have enthusiastic support from famous Hollywood descendants of our veterans. There's Lou Diamond Phillips, whose father was an American soldier in Subic. And last night, I had dinner with Dean Devlin, the grandson of a Veteran from Iloilo, who is the producer of films — I'm sure you know about — the Patriot, Independence Day, Godzilla. Dean Devlin and Lou Diamond Phillips, I noticed have something very much in common. They adore their mothers, and their mothers happened to be full-blooded Filipinas. That's why Dean Devlin, the producer of the Patriot and Independence Day, — the number 6 biggest grossing film in history — is willing to produce a video to support the Veterans Bill.

The chances of seeing the veterans' bill pass have also increased with the formation of an unprecedented U.S.-Philippine caucus in the U.S. Congress. This Philippine caucus formally organized is committed to support Philippine concerns. This development is a clear indication of the growing voting power of the Philippine-American community. In the Philippines, we have a Central Luzon caucus, a northern alliance, a Mindanao bloc. Now, in Congress, in the U.S., there is a Philippine caucus.

In over ten percent of the whole membership of the lower house of Congress have joined this friendship caucus. I congratulate Ambassador Albert del Rosario for working very hard to achieve this. Ambassador del Rosario has been working very hard, not only for congress of the U.S. to form the Philippine caucus, but for many other things to promote the welfare of the Philippines and Filipinos in America. But he could use more help. You, in this room already helped him. But in addition, to have even more help, were establishing three honorary consulates in the United States for a start. For a start, Dr. Angelo Macatangay is our new honorary consul in Miami.

We want to establish as many honorary consulates as practicable, because as a former D.C.-itizen myself, I want to make sure that our government is always within the reach of Filipinos in America. I share with you a personal bond with your families, a bond whose strength and reverence is distinctly Filipino.

And so, as I begin officially my state visit tomorrow, I ask you, Filipino-Americans, let us strengthen that bond even more so that wherever we are, from one end of the world to the other, we can build the strong and proud republic of our dreams.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Dinner Hosted by the Filipino-American Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201209/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6295&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Dinner hosted by the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Dinner hosted by the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council**

[Delivered at the Park Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., May 20, 2003]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Secretary Armitage that was really very kind introduction. And let me take this opportunity also to acknowledge the close cooperation that Secretary Armitage has with our officials in the Philippines and that really contribute to the friendship within our two countries. So, you are one of the instruments that make our friendship stronger. Thank you for that.

I'd like to greet all the members of the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, all the officials and both on the American side and the Philippine side. I'd like to greet the Philippine officials and also the ASEAN ambassadors. I'd like to greet everybody who's in this room tonight and to let you all know how pleased and honored I am to be back in the United States.

The last time I was in Washington, we were also together. And that was just one month after the horrific events of September 11.

Now, we're here together again. And just this afternoon, America was announced to be on heightened alert. Our terrorists threat is still there. Much work has been done, much progress has been done, but the heightened alert today tells us that much work still continues to be done. But even as we acknowledge this heightened alert, let me pay tribute to the great resiliency that I have seen of the American people. Your example in the way you faced up to the events of September 11 and afterwards are an example for the rest of us to follow.

The state of heightened alert demonstrates that the new global environment really requires a new perspective on political and economic security. That perspective must be based on a recognition that while each nation or region must take greater responsibility for its own political and economic security, it must also recognize that strong international relations will contribute greatly to regional prosperity and stability as well as greater success in addressing terrorism, the most significant threat to world peace and stability today.

We must find a way — this is the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council — and I think that aside from promoting trade and investment and economic cooperation between the U.S. and ASEAN, in the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, we must also find a way at this point in time to support continued engagement between ASEAN and the U.S. at a time when there are forces working against this relationship, at a time when there are those with an evil agenda who wish to disrupt this relationship.

And as I end my state visit with profound thanks to President Bush and his administration and the American people, I would like to say that we, in the Philippines, shall continue to work side by side with the United States as strongly as ever to overcome the terrorism that knows no boundaries, so that we can together transform fear into peace, progress and prosperity in the world.

As I end the official part of my state visit, I'm also gratified to say that the relationship between the United States and the Philippines has never been stronger. Our common fight against terrorism has brought our two countries closer together — that's one serendipity of that great tragedy. My meetings with President Bush at the White House yesterday underscore a new era of cooperation to advance the peace, security and economic prosperity, not only of the Philippines but of the entire Asia Pacific region of which the United States and the ASEAN countries are a part.

The bond between our two countries is rooted in mutual respect and shared values. And in this modern day and age of real politic I must say, this bond is also based on pragmatism and enlightened self-interest. It is in our interest to be allies of each other.

A world in constant threat of terrorism is a world of instability and unpredictability. Yes, we may know that there's a terrorist threat, that it is specific, it is imminent but we never really know with specific certainty when and where the next terrorist strike will take place. And yet, we cannot surrender our world to fear.

I was listening to the announcement of heightened alert this afternoon. And the announcement said, for ordinary people, ordinary citizens: go on with your work, go on with your plans for leisure. This alert is really for the law enforcers to be more visible and also to be more alert. Indeed, that's what it's called. And I think that was a good piece of advice because we cannot run away from the world when there is a terrorist threat because the whole world is indeed under threat, and what would we do? Hide in our homes. Even our homes can be a target. We have to go on. We have to defy the threat. We have to defy the fear by confronting it, fighting it and destroying it.

We cannot surrender to the instability and unpredictability that terrorism brings with it. Because predictability and stability are essential for business as they are for a nation. You know what you need to do in order to have stability and predictability in your own businesses. As the leader of a nation I had to do what I have to do as well and that's why I have labored to rebuild key strategic alliances for the Philippines in Asia, Europe and of course, North America with the United States.

All countries who want peace and progress need these alliances to further economic exchange, to encourage investment and to secure assistance to fight destabilizing elements. This is true in the Philippines as it is in the United States. That is why I have been calling our partnership with the United States that we are celebrating in this visit — one that is revitalized and one that is maturing. It is not just that we need the United States so that we can be safe and so that we can progress. We know the united states needs us because the United States needs to form coalitions to fight terrorism, to fight tyranny, and it can't do it alone and that's why the Philippines is always there by the side of the United States.

National security is important. It's important to Manila, it's important to Washington. And we know it's important to investment. We also know that national security requires, we also know the courage that it takes.

Strength in security and foreign policy is one facet — I hope now you would realize — is one facet to the jewel that is the Philippines. And I think the state visit that President Bush invited me to is recognition of that strength in foreign policy that we have demonstrated and that he hopes by honoring our country can also encourage other countries to be just as strong.

Another strength of our economy that we would like to promote is international business. And my focus in this trip is clear: our economy.

Last night — or was it this morning? — when I was interviewed on television from back home and they asked me to give my closing remarks, I said this trip in the end for the Filipino people and for me is really all about jobs. Everything that I try to do is what I think I must do so that more people in our country will have more jobs.

Not only am I the head of state responsible for a nation of 80 million people. I'm also the CEO of a global Philippine enterprise of 8 million Filipinos who live and work abroad and generate billions of dollars a year in revenue for our country.

You know as businessmen, international businessmen, you know that the great comparative advantage of the Philippines is our rich human resources: highly skilled, well-educated, English-speaking. This includes the millions of Filipinos working in over a 140 countries of the world, and for the millions more employed in the Philippines in business process outsourcing, manufacturing and other service industries not to mention agriculture.

The foundation for the success of our workers all over the world is simple: education. It is a value embedded in our people. Farmers work hard, squatters work hard just so that their children can be educated. Education is the pride of every family, where an open book today can mean open doors tomorrow. It's also in part of the legacy of America's involvement in the Philippines.

America gave the Philippines a great public education system. And just today when we were having our smaller meeting with U.S.-ASEAN Business Council and we talked about what the council can do. And someone of the Filipino businessmen, supposedly of said send us more Thomasites. Who are these Thomasites? For those who don't know Philippine history so well. These were the American teachers who went to the Philippines at the turn of the century and educated our people in English and many other things western, and that's why we seem so similar today.

We have worked hard to support our overseas workers as well as our workers at home who are increasingly sought out in the global market place for their productivity and efficiency. And this week, tomorrow, I am pushing hard to make sure that the workers of the Philippines play a role in helping rebuild the land for the people of Iraq.

And you officers and members of the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, I thank you once again, as I've thanked you five times in the past during my presidency and more, if you count when I was vice president and senator. I thank you once again for your hard work in behalf of the Philippines that I myself have seen. I thank you for sticking with the Philippines through thick and thin. And if I am being praised for sticking with America through thick and thin, why I have been reciprocated in advance by the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council.

And having all these years seen how the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council so loyally pushes to promote investments to the Philippines. To work with the Philippines, to encourage us to do the reforms that you hear investors are looking for, I am endeavoring to return your loyalty and dedication by working to build a strong Philippines. A strong Philippines meaning having strong institutions so that we can all prosper. And to strengthen these institutions I know that there are structural reforms that we must make and we are doing them.

Tomorrow, we will take another step forward, as I mention or alluded to earlier, when I will open a new BPO initiative in New York City. And some of you in the U.S.-ASEAN council will be with me there as well as you have been with me in initiating many many other directions in the past.

Like every year, this past year, has seen its shares of ups and downs. But overall, the march of progress is clear. We're continuing to root corruption out of government, as which Armitage has acknowledged. We're prosecuting tax cheats. In fact, Lito Camacho, didn't you tell me that we're just about to file cases against some of the erring Bureau of Internal Revenue personnel who have done falsification and we are pushing through with the lifestyle check because we want to clean up that agency and make it a showcase in the fight against graft and corruption in the Philippines. We are working harder to make sure that the people finally get the fair deal they deserve.

In modernizing, we must also address the legacies of the past. And it's a challenge to preserve our heritage and grow our opportunities while maintaining fiscal discipline. Because if we have had reductions in the tax to GNP ratio since 1997, and large part of it is because we have been very aggressive in trade liberalization, more aggressive than many neighbors, more aggressive than our commitments to AFTA, more aggressive in our commitments to WTO, and that meant aggressive tariff reductions, that meant also large reductions in revenue. We have to accept that legacy but at the same time... In other words, recognize that legacy, recognize that we inherited that. And having recognized that then do what we must have to do in compliance still with all our treaty obligations, but we do what we have to do in order to maintain our fiscal discipline and keep within our budget deficit targets. Because that's what we keep from hearing from everybody, the budget deficit.

The challenge is amplified due to the global economic slowdown. But we've moved forward as I said earlier on BIR reforms. And the proof of the pudding is that revenues are up. That's why despite last year's fiscal deficit, this year our deficit is smaller than expected, because our revenues are much higher than targetted.

We're continuing privatization and liberalization of the power sector. And I hope that when Secretary Abraham goes to the Philippines on his official visit, he will be accompanied by an investment mission organized for the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, a power privatization investment mission. We invite you there during that visit of Secretary Abraham.

We've written strong anti-money laundering legislation. There's Teddy Boy Locsin who helped draft the final version. There's Senate President Franklin Drilon who also worked very hard, dug into his wellspring of his previous expertise as corporate and labor lawyer before he became Senate President or before he even became senator or Cabinet member for that matter. There's Joe de Venecia, speaker of the house, who very quickly passed that bill when I said that I needed it, so that we would not be sanctioned by the FATF, but also so that we could do basic financial reforms.

We passed this Anti-Money Laundering Law not just to stay within the look of international transactions. We passed it to stop terrorists and government fraud while also modernizing the Philippine financial system.

We've also written a law empowering special purpose asset vehicles to direct greater liquidity into the banking system and provide relief for debt-burdened banks. And I mentioned privatization earlier, even earlier than the money laundering law, even earlier than the special private ... Than the asset management vehicle law was the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

But it is not just legislation, but real money that must be invested if we're to get a good return for the nation in the years ahead.

So, we are making investments in infrastructure to help move people and goods, and enhance the quality of life. We are building expressways and fast railroads from Manila northward to Clark-Subic and southward to Calabarzon and Batangas port. So, if you are visiting Manila and you want to go to Clark and you encounter traffic, bear with us, that's because we're building a multi-lane highway that will make it easier for you and your goods to travel in the years to come. Oh, there's Monico Puentevella a very very important ally, also in the passage of the Money Laundering Law.

We're building the Batangas port to be the international port for Calabarzon firms and decongest the Manila port. That's why I brought with me the governor of the province of Batangas, Dodo Mandanas, so that he could sign an agreement not only on the Batangas port but also on having a satellite commercial airport in Lipa in Batangas.

We're building logistic chains of roll-on/roll-off ferries, combined with highways, grains silos and cold storage facilities to reduce the cost of transporting products from Mindanao to Luzon. And we will open the new international airport, world-class in security, world-class in services this year.

We continue investing in English language study, which, again, is so crucial to our success.

We're making new investments in small and medium size enterprises. Because we know that if we are to build a big middle class, which will be your market, we must empower the people who populate it. My small and medium enterprise program is an immediate investment but for the future of our people. And I must acknowledge Mar Roxas, who is the architect of that small and medium enterprise program that we have, making available 20 billion pesos over the next year by making available... By working on the delivery machinery for the money to flow from the government financial institutions through the savings banks, rural banks, small development banks to the people. The talent is there; this program is the financial encouragement that the people need and deserve.

Yes, challenges remain. Many of these challenges are economic. Many of these challenges are social. Many of these challenges are political. But everyday I wake up determined to make progress. And I believe I have.

Leading the Philippines means making tough choices. Some loud voices denounce a closer alliance with the United States. But let my state visit here be a message to those who peddle in the false currency of terror: the U.S. can help

us wipe out terrorism at home as it wipes out terrorism within its own borders. International alliances keep our region safer and provide economic stability and growth.

In turn, we can also have something to offer. We can provide an island of friendship, stability and security in an uncertain world.

To Bob Driscoll and all of the other members of the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council who told me about some fears, let me tell you, let me tell all of you, I am not going to back off the course I have charted on economic and political reform. In turn, therefore, I ask you to continue to support me as you have been supporting the Philippines for so many years, continue to support me as we make the Philippines into the great nation it deserves to be, and at the same time we sustain the United States as the great nation it has been for a long time.

We must continue to be side by side with each other in meeting the challenges of today. That is the way that we can secure for our children of both sides of the pacific the world for tomorrow.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Dinner Hosted by the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201111/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6285&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the conferment of Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree by the Fordham University

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the conferment of Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree by the Fordham University**

[Delivered at the McNally Amphitheater, Fordham University, New York City, U.S.A., May 21, 2003]

Thank you very much, Father O'Hare, President of Fordham; Father P'Keefe, Former President of Fordham who play the role of Father O'Hare in my father's ceremony; Father Parks; Father Dominuco; Dr. Gere; Dr. Hollowic; members of my Philippine delegation; excellencies; guests from the academe; ladies and gentlemen:

Two days ago, I stood on the white house lawn as the representative of my country to a rare state visit honoring a deep friendship between the Philippines and America.

Today, I stand here, honored with a doctorate of laws by those who taught me a great deal of what I know and made me, to a great extent, what I have become. In a very real sense, those who are honoring me with this degree today, led me as though by hand to that white house lawn.

You honor me, honorable fathers of the Jesuit community, you honor my country and you honor yourselves. And as you have said before, you'd done it twice within the same family. For as our two reverend fathers have said, in 1964, Fordham University awarded the same honorary degree to my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. My father dedicated his presidency to the liberation of his people from the feudal bondage of the soil. I, likewise, dedicate my presidency to the liberation of my people from poverty.

I can speak of the value of a Jesuit degree, a Jesuit education because as the reverend fathers have said, I studied at Georgetown in my undergraduate days and at the Ateneo de Manila University for my graduate studies. Not only that, I also helped in part Jesuit university by being a tenured assistant professor at the Department of Economics in Ateneo.

In addition to all that learning and all that discipline that goes with the Jesuit education, I'm now fortunate to be able to add a ram to my menagerie of mascots that include a blue eagle and a Hoya.

I take the Jesuit ideals seriously. Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam (for the greater glory of God). Homo pro aliis (a person for others). These ideals are ever so relevant to the responsibility entrusted to me as president of my country to improve the lives of my countrymen, to ensure their safety, and to realize their collective potential to become a strong nation.

The closing years of the last century were a time of cynicism and disengagement of the Philippines from the world. Today, the Philippines is emerging from all that. Its economy is growing. There is a greater readiness to act to set things right. This was shown in the political event alluded to earlier, the event that propelled me to the presidency.

Abroad, the country has graduated from a resentment arising from events long past and old misunderstandings to a fresh awareness of new possibilities in a revitalized alliance with the Philippines' oldest defense partner.

Indeed, in my watch, a new and mature relationship has been developing between the Philippines and the United States. Today, that relationship covers a wide range of critical issues, from security, to regional stability, trade and investments, economic reform, and good governance measures.

My state visit enabled president bush and myself to develop a modern framework for our countries' relations that should guide them in decades to come thereby stopping the drift that had increasingly marked those relations in recent years. The Philippine-U.S. relationship is not just back on the same old track, it is forging ahead in a new direction marked by mutual respect and reciprocal trust.

I did this forging for the greater security and progress of my country. I hope in that way to add to the greater glory of god who made my country and protected it as the only Catholic nation in Asia.

I try as well to be a person for others and devote even more of my energy to the work of wiping out mass poverty from my country.

A woman for others cannot do very much alone about the problem of poverty. But a strong government can do infinitely more. As a necessary step towards the eradication of mass poverty in my country, I set my mind to creating a strong republic that can tackle so great a challenge.

Thus, in the first two years of my administration, the work was marked by strengthening the institutions of government, enhancing macroeconomic fundamentals, lowering inflation, stabilizing the currency after the wild spins of the Asian crisis, and instituting major structural reforms that will make the country an active player in the global village and not just a passive victim of globalization.

Strengthening Philippine alliances through aggressive diplomacy, just as I have just completed in Washington, is integral to my strategic vision. This includes the recognition that terrorism in the Philippines must be beaten decisively if we are to free government resources for the task of eliminating poverty. In that regard, the U.S. is an important ally. We face a common foe, identified by the same cowardly tactic of targeting the innocent and hitting those who cannot retaliate.

The other part of my trip focuses on business and investment promotion, I do every single trip overseas.

People are often surprised to know how far the Philippines has evolved into a global country and a global economy. Not only I the head of State of a Nation of 80 million Filipinos, but I am the equivalent of the CEO of a global Philippine enterprise consisting of 8 million Philippine workers deployed in over a 140 countries, generating billions of dollars a year for themselves, for their employers, for their families in the Philippines.

Many economic and social challenges remain.

We have come to grips with the terrorist threat in the Philippines. And I promise you, I will not let go, for terrorism still disrupts the world. Terrorism must be faced and must be fought to the bitter end. But it will not end with just the fighting. As father remembers what I said in the council of foreign relations two years ago, as much effort must go to winning the peace as waging the war. I say this not only in Iraq but also of insurgency-infested areas in my country.

My government can and will in order to strengthen our economy bring the budget deficit to an acceptable level as a percentage of GNP. Our vital signs are strong and indicate a heightened ability to tackle the deficit from a position of strength and sustainable development.

We have succeeded in reforming areas like banking law, money laundering, the stock exchange, revenue collection. Now, we are moving with greater vigor on taxation and anti-corruption reform.

Much remains to be done but what has been achieved shows that success lies well within the realm of imminent possibility. We have a long way to go but we know now the right direction to take and we have the strength to make the journey.

All these tasks are subsumed under one overriding goal: the creation of a strong republic in order to win the battle against poverty.

Two features are essential for a strong republic. The first feature is independence from class and sectoral interests, so that the republic stands for the interest of all rather than of a powerful minority. The second feature is the capacity to execute good policies and deliver essential services through strong institutions and an efficient bureaucracy.

The results of good policies and empowered institutions are faster economic development and more meaningful social reform.

Reflecting on the long task of nation building and anticipating the continued support of friends like the United States, I'm confident that our country will achieve this strong republic dedicated to economic growth and good governance, but sacrifices will be required in the process.

And I shall ask the most from those who have not had to make them by the force of circumstance. A famous president of my country promised: those who have less in life shall have more in law. Now I have to say that those who have more in life shall have more to do to make life livable for more of their fellowmen. This is that Jesuit sense of social justice that would have all of us be men and women for others.

In this spirit of this Jesuit ideal, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Father Joseph O'Hare.

From the outside of ourselves, blood and birth classify a man, but dedication is what makes what he is inside. And inside, Father O'Hare is a Filipino at heart. Father O'Hare spent many years in the Philippines as a student. He taught at the Ateneo for 11 years — about the same length of time I taught in Ateneo. He continues to communicate with his former students at the Ateneo de Manila. He even knows about my husband's school reunion during this trip. Many of the students from the Ateneo are now in positions of influence in government and the private sector. The country has reaped well from the seeds of excellence that Father O'Hare sowed during his days at the Ateneo in the Philippines.

And so, I pray that God will bless Father O'Hare with abundant grace and yet more years as he steps out of Fordham not retiring, mind you, but moving on to pursue other worthy endeavors. He is a true embodiment of the Jesuit ideal of being a man for others. While the Jesuit community will still enjoy his work and services, Fordham will surely miss him. But his outstanding achievements will endure and make Fordham feel that he is still very much around.

As I receive this honorary Doctor of Laws degree from an old and long time friend of the Philippines, I wish to reiterate my sincere gratitude to Father O'Hare, to the board of trustees, the faculty and the administration of Fordham University.

I shall return this honor by doing my best in the service of my country. *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam*. For the greater glory of God.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Conferment of Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree by the Fordham University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201031/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6263&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Cocktails with Filipino community leaders

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Cocktails with Filipino community leaders**

[Delivered at the Crystal Room, the Fairmont San Francisco Hotel, San Francisco, California, U.S.A., May 22, 2003]

Thank you very much, Ambassador Del Rosario.

Mayor Willie Brown, truly the mayor of the Filipino-Americans in San Francisco. Thank you for your frequent welcoming of me whenever I come. Thank you for the key to San Francisco that you've given me twice, once as vice president and once as president. And of course, thank you for saving our stockmarket with your strong advocacy with calpers.

I would like to greet also, of course, Consul General Bella Rosal. And I would like to introduce to you our Congressman from Bacolod City, Congressman Monico Puentevella. I thank also Attorney Rodel Rodis for his kind words as well as Attorney Rene Pascual and, indeed, they are familiar faces that show that the Filipino-American is an important member of the San Francisco community. Other leaders of the San Francisco community, distinguished guests, mahal kong mga kababayan.

As you very well know, President Bush honored me but honored the Filipino people by my state visit in Washington. I came to the United States this time on this state visit with the view in mind of formulating a new framework for our friendship with the United States. This is a new framework that is necessitated by the new needs of the 21st century. And in this new framework, aid is welcome but it is not central to the relationship.

When I went to the state visit, President Bush and I discussed the four range of global and bilateral issues, and we reaffirmed how deep and how far reaching is the relationship within the Philippines and the United States. Relations between our two countries are deeper and warmer today than at any other time in recent history. Although, those ties are rooted in shared history, shared values at common interest in global peace and prosperity. And yes, we both agreed that the Filipino-American community is the personification of the close ties between the Philippines and America. You are the personification of those ties.

What Rodel said about the Jews in the United States has become true about Filipinos in the United States. Therefore, because of you we have a revitalized and a maturing alliance.

The Philippine-U.S. alliance continues to play a vital role in ensuring our mutual security. It's not a one-way street. America's alliance with us is good for America as it leads in the fight against global terrorism. Its alliance with us is also good for our security because of the way that we can work together to fight terrorism in the Philippines.

President Bush announced his intention to designate the Philippines as a major non-NATO ally. Many asked what is the meaning of this. Hi! Dennis, how are you? Thank you for calling up mayor brown. Many have asked what's the meaning of this. And I suppose it's important for us to know what this means because this is one of the aspects of that framework of the new relationship, the revitalized and maturing relationship, in the framework that we are putting together for the 21st century.

Designating the Philippines as a major non-NATO ally will allow our countries to work together on military research and development, and give the Philippines greater access to American defense equipment and supplies. Something we lost when the bases left about a decade ago. I guess it is easier to illustrate the meaning of a non-NATO major ally by naming some other major non-NATO allies of the United States, namely: Israel, Egypt and Australia. That is the league in which we are today.

I am grateful that president bush recognize my leadership and strength in confronting terrorism in the Philippines and beyond, because after all our Filipinos have been victimized by terrorism in other parts of the world including lately, in Riyadh.

He reaffirmed the u.s. commitment to support Philippine efforts and defeat terror in all its forms. We reviewed recent progress in the war on terror and agreed that the effort is far from over. President bush emphasized that the United States will continue to provide significant security assistance to support the Philippines in this war on terror.

I welcome the additional counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism assistance for the Philippines in the 2003 supplemental budget. As I said, our relationship is a mature and revitalized relationship, a maturing and revitalizing relationship. Aid is not central to that relationship but if there is aid, it's welcome.

So let me... Now, because this is the last leg of my visit to the United States, give you some idea of the magnitudes of the aid that we welcome.

Our foreign military financing budget for 2003 and 2004 — this is just one part of the defense assistance, it's called foreign military financing. It used to be 1.9 million dollars in year 2000 — now, for the 2003 and 2004 budget, it's 80 million dollars. This consist of military financing and also training for the military counter-terrorism and law enforcement agencies of our country. Incidentally, when I said that we had supplemental budget. The Philippines was the only country specifically mentioned in the add-on budget.

We recalled last year successful deployment of U.S. troops to southern Philippines. We agreed that we will hold another joint military activity. And I'd like to let you know that when the U.S. troops go to the Philippines for Balikatan, that's 10 million dollars exclusive of the soldiers' salary.

We also agreed on the need for efforts to alleviate poverty and other socio-economic grievances which can create breeding grounds for terrorism. For this efforts, over 300 million dollars will fund the efforts for socio-economic assistance.

This includes the u.s. food for peace program. The most popular of which is the PL 480. Economic and development assistance to Southern Philippines including 96 million dollars for child survival assistance in the conflict areas. And a continuing 20 million dollars of assistance for The MNLF rebel returnees.

All these assistance is meant to reinforce my efforts to heal the divisions in Philippine society. And to further advance this agenda, the u.s. will trade and equip to the tune of 25 million dollars a Philippine engineering unit capable of performing civic action and humanitarian projects in the conflict areas.

The U.S. will also provide diplomatic assistance and financial assistance of 50 million dollars to a renewed peace effort with the MILF provided that the MILF renounces terror. There is a carrot and a stick in our approach to the MILF. The stick is going on now because I have before I left I instructed the armed forces to conduct aerial and artillery attacks on embedded terrorist cells in Mindanao. And I will go there on Monday to check on the progress but I understand, I hear from the reports that the campaign is very successful. That's the stick and the carrot is if we had peace U.S. will provide 50 million dollars to help in a mini-Marshall plan for the former conflict areas.

President Bush also agreed to help address the armed forces most pressing need by providing 30 helicopters. First time we've gotten thirty helicopters. We only have nine by the way, right now. As well as ten million dollars worth

of spare parts. And the ten million dollars came from president bush's using 15 percent of his entire presidential draw down for foreign countries.

I welcome the U.S. decision to provide tariff-free generalized system of preference benefits for specific items worth 1 billion dollars of market access.

The U.S. is also going to help us in terms of technical and capacity building assistance for the protection of intellectual property rights. That one I don't know how much it will cost.

Other economic assistance includes special credit lines from the overseas private investment corporation and Eximbank worth over 500 million dollars. By the way, two million dollars of that will go to the investment of Loida Lewis in the meat processing plant in Cagayan de Oro.

I spoke about Eximbank combining with OPIC to give investment and export guarantees of over 500 million dollars. Eximbank's participation in this means that almost forty percent of its total budget for Southeast Asia is now allocated to the Philippines.

President Bush congratulated me for my leadership and pursuing needed economic reforms in the Philippines. Hopefully, these reforms will strengthen the Philippines eligibility for the millennium challenge account when it is open to non-member countries of the International Development Association in the year 2005.

Right now, this millennium challenge is only open to countries that have... That are very very poor, less than a thousand dollars per capita income. But by 2005, they will be available to the relatively better off or middle-class countries provided these countries do certain economic reforms. And those are the reforms we happen to be doing, not because we want to qualify, but because we feel they are good for our country. and of course, president bush had a lot of Filipinos in the White House welcome. We had Filipinos even from San Francisco in the White House State Dinner because he recognizes the key role played by, as our Speaker said, 8 million Filipinos spread across a hundred forty nations. That's why the U.S. is launching a project to facilitate the flow of your remittances to the Philippines. This project is similar to a project the U.S. did with Mexico. And basing it on Mexico's experience, this project if ... When we implement it after maybe three to six months of the study will save you, the Filipino-Americans, an estimated 300 million dollars in transaction costs a year.

And, while I was in Washington... I remember when I came here two years ago you said, Veterans Bill, Veterans rights. Well, when I was in Washington, President Bush sent Congress an administration measure extending new benefits for Philippine veterans amounting to 76 million U.S. dollars. Aside from include... And continuing his contribution of half a million dollars to the Veterans Medical Center in Quezon City, or the veterans base in the Philippines, something he started to do after my 2001 visit to Washington.

Secretaries Ople and Powell signed an agreement on science and technology cooperation not yet quantified in terms of dollars and cents because from that agreement framework will come the specific projects. That is as far as the joint communique is concerned.

But in my visit to Washington, of course, I had the chance to receive the leaders of the World Bank and international financing corporation.

The Philippines and the World Bank signed two loans amounting to 84 million dollars for the ARMM social fund and agrarian reform. The world bank also programmed 290 million dollars in loans for judicial reform, rural power, rural electrification, health, environment, urban slum upgrading, land titling so that we can, you know, we have a very very, messy messy land system with multiple titles and all. So we're gonna fix that with this World Bank loan. That's for this year.

And for next year, it will program... Ah no, that was for this year and 2003 and 2004. And then after that, another 360 million dollars program for 2005.

We also triggered discussions on 350-million dollar program loans to strengthen the public sector including the finance sector. And I'd like to say, I'd like to happily say the World Bank noted that during the last two years the Philippines doubled its rate of absorption of foreign assistance. This means we are more efficient in utilizing capital.

The international finance corporation reported to me on a 147 million dollars worth of Philippine projects that they are ready to fund including the Cavite coastal road and also small and medium enterprise programs.

After the World Bank call came the IMF. Well, we have no loans from the IMF. We haven't borrowed from the IMF since I became president. In fact, we've been paying our old loans diligently so that by November our loans will be less than 85 percent of our deposits. We will be a net depositor in the IMF and eligible to graduate from IMF tutelage after 40 long years.

In my meetings with the private sector — because, of course, every visit of mine anywhere includes an investment mission — three large corporations are in the final stages of their decision to invest a combined 750 million dollars in the Philippines. But of course, you, our businessmen here in San Francisco, you know that we cannot name the corporations until their board makes the final confirmation. But we will be announcing them as they proceed because they are in the final stages. And investments are probably imminent.

The Ross Perot Group signifies its intent to consider a 500-million dollar investment in Batangas, an economic zone in the Batangas port, and transforming the Lipa airport into a joint use commercial and military airport.

The PNOC entered into a partnership and the sea solar power — these are two different investments on energy. The two investments will be 290 million dollars. That was in Washington.

In New York, I met with U.S. companies projected to invest in the reconstruction of Iraq. And also with organizations engage in business process outsourcing. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs who was monitoring, who has been monitoring the negotiations, we have a possible early harvest, just the early harvest not the totality of over a hundred million dollars worth of projects from them.

Tomorrow, I will meet the top officials of BechTel which was the first company to actually get a contract from Iraq and which is so far still the only American company on the ground in Iraq.

In sum, the economic benefits of my state visit amount to over 4 billion dollars and still counting.

I had a question earlier about the defense covering the military financing, training, regular training, counter-terrorism training, Balikatan, the support for the peace process, the engineering brigade, the helicopters, the spare parts, the veterans benefits, the defense and security component is at least 300 million U.S. dollars.

This is a partial accounting, because it excludes the commitments made during my state visit to add to the 2004 proposed defense budget. It also excludes the full cost of Balikatan 03-1. And we have not yet quantified the value of technical assistance for intellectual property rights as well as the science and technology cooperation. We have not yet because it was only... Because the contracts of USaid are not yet out. We have not yet also quantified our very big chances of being sub contractors and workers being hired in the Iraq projects as well as the further fruits of the investment mission on business process outsourcing.

Also, we haven't started to avail of our privileges as a major non-NATO ally and the millennium challenge account will still be there for us in 2005. So, therefore, that's why I say, I'm still counting.

And I would like to thank the Filipino people both in the Philippines and in the United States without whose faith and support and without whose clout, the Filipino-Americans political clout today, without your clout I think my state visit would not have succeeded.... Including you, the valued constituents of Mayor Brown.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Cocktails with Filipino Community Leaders. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200941/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6260&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the ceremonial signing of the Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2003 and State Visit Arrival Report

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the ceremonial signing of the Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2003 and State Visit Arrival Report**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, May 26, 2003]

Senate President Franklin Drilon and the other members of the Senate; Speaker De Venecia, oh! he's not yet here; the members of Congress; Ambassador Ricciardone who was just my host together with President Bush in Washington; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Secretary Romulo and the other members of the Cabinet; the distinguished members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, principally the sponsors of this Republic Act 9208 led by in the Senate: Senator Estrada, Senator Flavio, Senator Legarda, Senator Villar, Francis Pangilinan, Senator Osmeña, Senator Oreta, Biazon, Pimentel and Lacson.

The members of Congress who passed this law especially the sponsors: Congresswoman Joson, Angara-Castillo, Joaquin, Luistro, Custodio, Masa and Eric Singson; officials of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and other Mindanao local executives; officials of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police; leaders and representatives of the various NGOs representing the women and labor sectors; leaders and representatives of the business community; honored guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Una sa lahat, binabati ko at nagpapasalamat ako sa ating mga mambabatas para sa wakas dito sa batas na nagbibigay sa ating taumbayan ng proteksyon kontra sa pangangalakal ng mga kababaihan at mga bata. Nagpapasalamat ako sa ngalan ng lahat ng kababaihan, sa ngalan ng lahat ng ina, at sa ngalan din ng DSWD kung saan nagsimula itong panukalang ito. Itong batas ay nangangatawan ng desisyong moral, dahil ang pangangalakal ng kababaihan o ng bata ay imoral, siya ay pagsasamantala. Siya ay imoral at pagsasamantala kahit na kung ang babae o magulang ng bata ay binabayaran. Itong batas ay nagbibigay ng babala na ang pangkabuhayan ng ating mga kababaihan at mga bata ay bubuti hindi sa pagsasamantala sa kanila kundi sa pagbibigay ng karapatan sa kababaihan at edukasyon sa mga bata. Hindi sa pamamagitan ng pamamahagi sa kanila ng mga sukli ng isang makuwarta ngunit masamang kalakal.

Sa pamamagitan ng batas na ito ipinapakita natin sa mundo at sa sarili natin na ang Pilipino ay hindi nalilito sa pamamagitan ng komersyong nagsasamantala at komersyong malaya dahil alam natin ang kaibahan ng kriminal na hanapbuhay at lehitimong hanapbuhay. Pinapakita natin na marunong tayong maglikha ng isang makalingang kapaligiran para sa ating mga kababaihan at mga bata sa pamamagitan ng pagtanggol sa kanila mula sa mga sumisikap gawin silang kasangkapan.

Itong batas ay nagpapalakas sa ating Republika. Dahil ang malakas na Republika ay isang mabisang estado na tungkuling tumulong sa kanyang pinakamahirap at pinakamahihinang mamayan, nagbibigay sa kanila ng kapangyarihan, at binubuwag ang mga istrakturang nagpapahirap at nagpapahina sa kanila. Ang mabisang pamahalaan ay nakasandal sa pag-iral ng batas.

Itong batas ay affirmative action. Isang katangian ng batas na ito ay kinikilala na kahit na meron ng pangkalahatang mga batas na nagbabawal sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng aspeto ng trafficking, ito ay nagpapakita na ang kababaihan at mga bata ay may karapatang magkaroon ng tanging pagtatanggol na espesyal para sa kanila sa ibabaw ng mga heneral na probisyon ng batas kriminal.

Magpasalamat tayo dito sa pagsulong tungo sa isang higit na makatarungan at makataong lipunan.

Napag-usapan ko ang mabisang pamahalaan. Ang mabisang pamamahala ay nakasandal din sa paghatid ng batayang paglilinkgod sa taumbayan — gaya ng kaligtasan sa biyahe. Kaya ako ay nayayamot sa pangyayari sa bangga ng barko kahapon.

I deeply sympathize with the families of those who perished in yesterday's tragedy. I'd like to issue a warning to our maritime authorities about the strict enforcement of navigation rules and the fitness of pilots of commercial vessels. These perennial accidents can and must be stopped. I'm directing the maritime authorities to get at the bottom of this incident and submit a complete report within 15 days. We must pinpoint responsibility and mete out the necessary sanctions. Let's make sure there is just compensation for the victims. And we must take preemptive measures so that this won't happen again. This is another black eye in maritime safety and it's ironic because sea transport is a fundamental aspect of the economy.

Sa kabila nitong trahedya, mayroon rin tayong dapat ipagsalamat. Meron tayong mga bagay, mga biyaya na dapat ipagpasalamat. Let's give thanks for the blessings of God and the support of our people for a safe, productive, and satisfying visit to the United States of America.

Despite the tragedy that occurred yesterday, the Filipino people have much to celebrate. We've just strengthened the protection of our women and children with this law. Our country has just become the third country to be declared by the World Health Organization as having succeeded in preventing further local transmission of SARS. The punitive military actions against the terrorist attackers of Siocon, Zamboanga Del Norte and Maigo, Lanao Del Norte have been dislodged from their bases and dispersed into ragtag groups being run to the ground by the gallant troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The investigation into the Davao and Koronadal bombings is bearing fruit with the arrest of the perpetrators of this and even previous terrorists attacks arrested by the capable operatives of the Philippine National Police. Despite the war in Iraq and the SARS outbreak, our economic growth in the first quarter of 2003 is turning out to be stronger than anyone expected.

The Philippines is demonstrating to the world our national traits of respect for women, care for children, strength of will, and intelligence to succeed against exploiters of women and children, and against viruses, terrorists, and economic malaise. These national traits of galang sa kababaihan, kalinga sa bata, tibay ng loob at galing sa buhay are the characteristics that the people of America honored during my state visit to that country.

Galang sa kababaihan, dahil ako ang kauna-unang babaeng lider na binigyan ng parangal ng isang bisita de estado ng administrasyong Bush. Kalinga sa bata dahil isa sa mga bunga ng aking biyahe sa Amerika ay tulong para makaraos ang ating mga bata sa Timog Mindanao — assistance for child survival in Southern Philippines — at ang halaga nitong tulong na ito ay 96 million U.S. dollars or five billion pesos.

At EDSA we proved that our people are capable of making moral choices. The success of my state visit is about recognizing that moral choices in moments of crisis must be backed up in day-to-day life by unified action, sustained vigor, and effective prosecution. We've shown to the world that the Filipino is not confused between terrorism and demand for justice because we can distinguish between naked hate and justified grievance. We've also shown that we know how to create and defend a secure peace on the basis of law and not allow ourselves to be lured into the illusion of peace through avoiding hostilities by ignoring threats. We will secure our peace and harmony as a nation through the strength of our will and our intelligence to succeed, not through concessions by our enemies or restraints of our attackers.

In my state visit, President Bush and I articulated a new partnership based on a range of mutual interests that now includes a vision for the strategic role the Philippines plays in Asia and on the global stage. the partnership between the Philippines and America is mirrored in the amity and cooperation between our two governments, which in turn reflect the historic and social bonds between the Filipino and American peoples. The high points of my visit were about honoring how many Filipinos have achieved so much in America which in some measure was reflected in how much America appreciates what Filipinos have done.

The honors and courtesies accorded to our Philippine delegation were extraordinary and special. But I believe the improvement in our official relationship with America is only the most recent, full and faithful reflection of the enduring bonds of friendship, alliance and common interests between our two sovereign nations.

I'm not the first nor will I be the last Philippine President to make a state visit to America. As in all past and likely in all future such visits, some of our people will ask about material gains, while others will seek expressions of respect and recognition of our dignity as a people. I'd like to report to our people that America has been generous with our political (practical) needs, and America has also been warm and wise in honoring the uniqueness and humanity of our nation.

Before critics devalue this achievement, before political contenders cast partisan doubts on the advancement of our nation, and before controversy confuses the high-minded purpose of this national enterprise, let us pause and join our people in congratulating themselves for a state visit that truly honors galang sa kababaihan, kalinga sa bata, tibay ng loob at galing sa buhay ng Pilipino.

America recognizes and appreciates a friend with such sterling qualities, but those qualities are primarily for our nation's benefit and are resources we can rely upon in facing the many challenges of the future.

Maraming salamat sa iyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Ceremonial Signing of the Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2003 and State Visit Arrival Report. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200932/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6257&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 105th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Navy

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 105th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Navy**

[Delivered at the Philippine Navy Headquarters Naval Air Group, Hangar II, Sangley Point, Cavite City, May 27, 2003]

Maraming Salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Angelo Reyes.

AFP Chief of Staff General Narciso Abaya; officials of the Philippine Navy led by Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon and Rear Admiral Ariston Delos Reyes; mga local chief executives ng Cavity City led by Mayor Bernardo Paredes; our major service commanders; Lieutenant General Camiling and Lieutenant General Santillan; members of the Diplomatic corps; iyung ating Cabinet officer for Regional Development ng Cavite, si Secretary Marita Jimenez; sailors; marines; ladies and gentlemen:

Nagpupugay ako at ang buong bansa sa inyo, mga kasapi ng Hukbong Pandagat ng Pilipinas sa inyong pagdiriwang ng 105th anniversary. Ang tunay na aniberaryo ninyo ay Mayo a-beinte sana, ngunit nandoon ako sa Amerika nga ipinaglalaban kayo gaya ng sabi ni Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Eh dahil sa gusto ninyong ibagay ang pagdiriwang sa aking libreng petsa ay ginawa nating sanang buaks. Kaya lang bukas pupunta ako sa Mindanao, kaya ginawa ngayon. Parang pinili ng Panginoon itong araw na ito – ika-beinte siente ng Mayo sa ating pagdiriwang, dahil palagay ko gusting maalala, gusto ng Panginoon na maalala natin itong araw na ito, two years ago, May 27, 2001, iyon ang araw na sinugod ng mga bandidong Abu Sayaff ang mga turista at empleyado sa Dos Palmas.

At bakit nga gusting maalala natin na itong mga Abu Sayaff ay nagbihag nang napakaraming turistaa at empleyado noong Mayo a-beinte siete. Kasi palagay ko gusto rin nyang maalala natin na pagkatapos ng isang taon nasugpo sa wakes si Abu Sabaya ng Naval Forces South at ang pinuno ng Naval Forces South, the man who brought down Abu Sabaya ay walang iba kung hindi iyung ating FOIC ngayon, si Vice Admiral Ernie de Leon. Kaya binigyan natin ng award iyung Naval Forces South. Actually, dapat si ernie ang tumanggap noon, pero na-promote na sya eh, kaya hindi na siya ang tumanggap noon. Pero yung ibang mga nakakuha ng mga awards naalala rin natin yung mga pinaghirap ninyo mga sailors at saka marines sa paglalaban sa Abu Sayaff. Iyung dalawa sa ating awardees, ay nangangatawan doon sa mga lumaban sa Abu Sayaff at saka sa Misuari breakaway group. Hinabol sa isang isla hanggang sa umaga, namatayan, naalala ko si Admiral Hingco noon, paiyak dahil namatayan tayo ng mga sailors at marines noong Nobyembreng ‘yon. At salamat na iyung mga unit na ‘yon ay nabigyan din ng parangal itong araw na ito sa pamamagitan ng kanilang mga namuno.

During my state visit to Washington, President Bush and I reaffirmed our commitment to destroy the ASG once and for all. Toward that end, we agreed to hold Balikatan 03-1. The budget for Balikatan 03-1 for the first 45 days has already been approved by the U.S. government in the amount of 47 million U.S. dollars.

I also welcomed the additional counter-terrorism security assistance of 30 million dollars in the U.S. supplemental budget for Foreign Military Assistance or FMA. This 30 million dollars will be allocated for the training and equipping of more light reaction companies, light infantry battalions, and navy seals.

This supplemental budget is in addition to 20 million dollars of FMF which will be allocated to the sustenance of key AFP mobility assets: HUEYs, C-130s, M-35 trucks and 78-foot patrol vessels.

For year 2004, there is an initial 17 million dollars in the proposed budget, which can still be increased. Thus, our total FMF is 67 million dollars, compare this to 1.9 million dollars during the year 2000.

President Bush emphasized that the United States will continue to provide significant security assistance, training, equipment, and law enforcement assistance to support the Philippines in the war on terror. The war training amounts to 10 million U.S. dollars, consisting of 5 million dollars of anti-terrorist training and education with 4 million coming from the Pacific Command and 1 million from State Department. Over 4 million dollars will be allocated for international military education and training, and an amount less than 1 million dollars for a special logistics education and training program.

The equipment being sent or already sent to the Philippines includes 500 armored vests already reaped under the MLSA with more significant benefits anticipated; and 15,000 M-16 rifles which arrived last April, in anticipation that I would go to America last March, but in addition – now that I've gone to America again, there's another 15,000. Now that I've gone to America at last, I mean, there's another 15,000 to come as soon as the first 15,000 to come are worth 10 million U.S. dollars.

There is also a law enforcement assistance amounting to 3 million dollars from the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Fund. Thus, the training, equipment and law enforcement assistance in the war on terror is all of these amounts. That would be about....well, I leave you to add all of those amounts 67 plus 13, plus 10, and so on.

We also agreed on the need for alleviating poverty and other socio-economic grievances which can create breeding grounds for terrorism. To advance this agenda, President Bush informed me that the United States will train and equip a Philippine engineering unit capable of performing civic action and humanitarian projects in conflict zones. The training and equipping of this engineering company will amount to 25 million U.S. dollars. The Bush administration is also providing 20 million dollars for continuing assistance for the MNLF rebel returnees program, and 4 million dollars for civic action projects in Basilan, and 2 million dollars for Sulu rehabilitation. All these programs will help address the problem of the breeding grounds of terrorism and insurgency.

I appreciate also the economic assistance of 30 million dollars recently allocated by the U.S. Congress to support peace in Mindanao. The U.S. stands ready to provide diplomatic and financial support to a renewed peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, provided that the MILF renounces terror. There is also.... at least another 20 million dollars that will be allocated for this peace process in next year's budget, for a total of at least 50 million dollars which can finance a mini-marshall plan for the areas devastated by the arm conflict.

President Bush and I agreed to launch a comprehensive review of Philippine security needs and how the U.S. can support my plans to modernize and reform the AFP. President Bush committed to help address the AFP's most pressing needs, particularly in the area of mobility, by providing 30 helicopters, in addition to three that will be arriving on July 15, and also spare parts. The 33 helicopters are worth 31 million dollars while the spare parts are worth 10 million dollars and they were financed by President Bush using 15 percent of his entire Presidential drawdown fund for all countries. The spare parts will be used for the cyclone-class patrol vessel which I obtained for the Navy during my 2001 visit to Washington and scheduled to arrive this year. Incidentally, we may exchange this 30 million dollars cyclone for two or three smaller patrol boats that may be more needed for the war on terror. This assistance for modernization sums up also to a good amount.

President Bush also submitted to Congress what is for the first time an administration measure to extend new benefits to commonwealth army veterans and guerrillas worth 76 million U.S. dollars. He also announced continuing efforts began during my 2001 visit to Washington to improve medical care for veterans in the Philippines by providing medical equipment to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City in the amount to 77 million dollars as discussed in my state visit.

Now, for those who had difficulty doing the adding up, in summary, the Philippines is receiving a minimum of 356 million dollars in defense and security assistance. Compare this to the U.S. bases period, when we had U.S. bases in the Philippines, we were getting 200 million dollars a year. We are getting this 356 million dollars without U.S. bases, simply because of the respect of the U.S. for our long and proud partnership, our fight against terror, and the greatness of the Filipino worker including the Filipino soldier, the Filipino pilot, the Filipino sailor, the Filipino marines. On top of this, the review of the AFP modernization, which we agreed to do together, will result in a 5-year commitment for further assistance. Furthermore, President Bush's intention to designate the Philippines as a major non-NATO ally will allow our countries to work together on military research and give the Philippines greater access to American defense equipment and supplies.

Kasama na rito sigurado ang ating magiging na navy.

To our sailors and our marines in the navy, I thank you, because you secured the shores of our country through your constant patrols of our outlying islands and shoals such as represented by your achievements in the Kalayaan against poaching which we awarded today. Including also coastal installations like the Malampaya Gas Project and the waters we share with our neighbors.

The navy has been a cutting edge of vigilance and a cradle of humanitarianism. You have shown versatility in shifting from negation patrols to sealift and search and rescue missions.

Just two days ago, including yesterday and up to today, you had the occasion to demonstrate again your readiness, and once again you delivered. I congratulate the navy for braving the seas to speedily respond to the M/V San Nicolas tragedy of last Sunday.

Yet, while I salute the navy and all other ships that responded quickly to the call for assistance in Sunday's tragedy, I deplore the occurrence of another sea accident that has claimed the lives of scores of Filipinos.

We will strictly enforce the law but we will also confront the long-term strategic issues. I'm certifying as urgent three bills filed by Senator Rodolfo Biazon, and ex-marine, seeking to create an Independent National Transportation and Safety Board to investigate all major and serious accidents on land, air and sea; another bill providing for the integration of government instrumentalities to provide coherent direction for marine development; and a third bill to upgrade maritime laws into Maritime Code of the Philippines. The strategic development, viability and safety of maritime transport is a key component of our national security and economic development.

I express, once more, my deepest sympathies to the families of all the victims. Also, I extend my condolences to the families of the victims in the sea accident in Miami, and we assure them that all possible assistance from the government is forthcoming. Filipino seamen constitute a great bulk in the global maritime fleets and are heroes in their own right. These tragedies reflect the steep risks that Filipino seamen take for the sake of their families and our country. Similar to the risks taken by our sailors and marines except that in the case of our sailors and marines, for the sake of our country, in addition to the regular risks of travelling at sea, our sailors and marines actually put yourselves in harm's way in combat for the sake of our country.

Thus, on your 105th anniversary, once again, I congratulate Vice Admiral Ernie De Leon, the officers, the sailors, the marines of the Philippine Fleet and the Philippine Marine Corps for the excellent service you have rendered in the past year.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang Hukbong Pandagat ng Pilipinas!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 105th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Navy. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200921/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6253&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the San Roque Multipurpose Project
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of the San Roque Multipurpose Project

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, May 29, 2003]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Secretary Vince Perez.

My fellow guest of honor, President Ramos who started this whole project; President Ramos' and my fellow Pangasinense, Speaker Joe De Venecia — this is not a hometown project; San Roque Power Corporation President, Pat Mc Allister; NPC President Roger Murga; P.A. Rene Diaz; Congressman Conrado Estrella, where the power plant is located; I'd like to also greet the mayors of the towns where the plant is located: Mayor of San Manuel, Salvador Perez; Mayor of San Nicolas, Christopher Rodrigo; and also I'd like to greet the barangay captains of Itogon, Benguet; I'd like to greet, of course, our members of the diplomatic corps: We have the Japanese Ambassador, Ambassador Takano and U.S. Ambassador, Ambassador Ricciardonne; I'd like to greet my Cabinet members who are here: aside from Vince, we have Bebet Gozun of Natural Resources and Cito Lorenzo of Agriculture; and of course, to thank and greet the chairman and members of the Energy Regulatory Commission: Chairman Manny Sanchez, Commissioners Oliver Butalid, Mary Ann Colayco, Letty Ibay, Charlie Alindada; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I'm happy to inaugurate the San Roque multi-purpose dam started by President Fidel Ramos. It's a symbol of continuity between his policies and mine. It reminds us of the strategic long-term reforms of President Ramos that we are continuing to enjoy today. The little girl who said our prayers — the granddaughter of Admiral Marcelo, who is Vice President of San Roque — said in her prayer something about the perfect timing of the lord. And indeed, I can't help but feel that she's confirming something that I've been saying all afternoon. This affair was supposed to be held in San Roque, right there in San Manuel today. But the weather was bad, but to begin with, this project was supposed to have taken place... The inauguration a long time ago. But Vince was still renegotiating the IPP with San Roque. And so, we said, let Vince have the leverage by saying, "we'll inaugurate it when it's done." Anyway, that was part of what change the time of the inauguration.

And then, so it was finally going to be held today and then I got a notice from the host, San Roque, that we can't hold it in San Roque dam because of the bad weather going on there.

And I said, "well, why not change the date rather than change the place?" But, you know, we wanted to make sure that President Ramos would be here. We had a hard time looking for this common date when we're both available. Anyway, we changed that date then President Ramos might not be available. And then when I went... then today, because it was raining very hard, you know, as you know, and Dagupan City and Pangasinan has been hit hard by the typhoon. I had to go there just before coming here that's why I was fifteen minutes late. That's why Joe De Venecia and Cito Lorenzo were late because they had to change into their barongs before they could come here because we're all together.

We flew over San Roque Dam, so I told myself, we could have held it here. But anyway, Pat Mc Allister said, "no, because they had to prepare all these nice things." And they couldn't have done it during the times when it was flooding. But, if today is still the right time for the inauguration because today, Vince, Cito and I just came from the San Roque area and we have a message from the people of Pangasinan: Thank you, because they are not flooded this year.

Dagupan is flooded, Urdaneta is flooded because they are not on the Agno River which is what San Roque has helped to save from the devastating flood. We do have a new flood control project to take care of those areas but this time it will be easier to defend them because San Roque has already shown that it can take care of the people of Pangasinan, the people of its impact area.

And with the rural electrification that Pat Mc Allister today gave as his gift for the people of Itogon in Benguet. This is also a signal that Itogon, where it all comes from, will not be left behind in the benefits of San Roque Dam.

It is also a good day for us to inaugurate this project because today, we have good news about the Philippines continuing to make important economic progress, strengthening the environment for business and investments. This administration's economic stewardship continuing the reforms and benefiting from the reforms of President Ramos' time has shepherded a very stable macroeconomic environment, strong growth and continuing modernizing reforms that will increase our competitiveness in the rough world of the global marketplace today.

Today, we announce that better-than-expected first quarter GNP figures of 5.6 percent and GDP of 4.5 percent, a surge in domestic demand in this same period. These are the evidence of our strong macro economic performance. This better-than-expected growth, the strong domestic demand if you disaggregate the growth, and a sound fiscal performance in the first four months of the year are examples that we are committed to and succeeding in strengthening the business environment in the Philippines.

Domestic demand is what provides the linchpin for our economic growth. Private consumption for the first quarter rose at its fastest pace since 1998, abetted by low inflation. Investments also got its first double digit growth since the Asian crisis of 1997. And in particular, private construction accelerated to its most robust pace since the Asian crisis of 1997, boosted by policies easing housing finance. Private construction more than made up for the reduction in public construction which we had to do so we could follow our policy to arrest the further expansion of the fiscal deficit.

That growth of 5.6 percent GNP is broad-based, indicating the soundness of the administration's policies to lift as many sectors as possible. The agricultural sector withstood the cyclical drought, evidenced by the growth of seven of the nine agriculture sub-sectors during the first quarter. Industry continued to reap as well from programs supporting of mining, housing, and small and medium enterprises. Domestic-oriented firms provided much of the growth in manufacturing and made up for the slowing exports growth that all countries are now experiencing.

In services, growth has become more broad-based while communication is still the fastest growing service sector. Its growth is now being balanced by more upbeat growth in finance, mainly insurance; ownership of dwellings and real estate because of our housing program; and private services including tourism.

The growth performance in the first quarter bode well for the economy's outlook for the whole year. We will continue to pursue policies that have worked well for the economy, especially those that will raise productivity and reduce the cost of doing business.

We will minimize bottlenecks to productivity such as the high cost of power.

Isusulong natin ang pagsusuri at pagsasagawa ng reporma sa kuryente, upang masiguro ang sapat at maaasahang elektrisidad para sa mga pamayanan at industriya. The reform program in the power sector was initiated with the passage of the electric power industry reform act of 2001 mentioned by Pat Mc Allister. Studies from the Asian Development Bank and financial and technical advisers indicate that we will need an additional 6,000 megawatts of generating capacity over the next 10 years, if we are to avoid shortages. It takes three years lead time from planning to construction to operation in order to establish a power plant. Thus, we need to act now.

Studies also show that we will need 400 billion pesos in order to finance the needed power plants, as well as the supporting transmission and distribution facilities. Historically, the main companies providing these power-related assets have been the national power corporation or NAPOCOR for power generation, the transmission company for

power transmission, and Meralco for power distribution. But these companies are all having financial problems, so how can they finance our future needs?

Take the case of NAPOCOR as a case study. In the past five years before last year, NAPOCOR incurred losses of 73 billion pesos and has seen its debts rising from 4.5 billion dollars in 1983 to 6.6 billion dollars in 2002. On top of these losses and borrowings, sad to say, NAPOCOR has even been accused of unreliable service, inefficiency, corruption.

Therefore, the answer to sourcing the huge capital requirements of our power sector is privatization.

Thus, this San Roque Power Corporation, this in completing this 1.2 billion-dollar San Roque multi-purpose project is indeed an example of the kind of investment we need in the power sector. This is a substantial achievement for the country and for the investors: namely, Sithe, Marubeni and Kansai, particularly because they assumed the full risks of financing, securing regulatory approvals, designing, building and operating the project. And with the help of financing from JVIC now has placed the power... The power portion and the flood control portion in commercial service well ahead of time.

San Roque, as mentioned earlier by Roger Murga, will operate primarily as a peaking plant during periods each day when the output of other plants cannot fulfill domestic demand. It will reduce our dependence on imported fuel; it will lower the variable expenses of other power plants. These savings will hopefully translate into lower power cost to our people and industries.

The San Roque project will take care of the supply requirement of Luzon, which will continue to experience capacity surplus until 2007. But let's not be fooled by that capacity surplus. People are under the impression that we have an oversupply of power because there's capacity surplus in Luzon, but this is only true in the main grid of Luzon and only true today. We need new capacities even in Luzon to avoid shortfalls by 2008.

Based on a conservative annual energy demand growth forecast for the period 2003 to 2006, Luzon will have an additional demand of 1,600 megawatts. The Visayas will have an additional demand of 240 megawatts. Mindanao will have an additional demand of 260 megawatts. And so, that is why we need to have privatization.

The first key to privatization is to create an investment climate that is attractive to both domestic and foreign investors. The second key to privatization is to create a privatization process that is transparent and free of corruption. And that is what we want to do.

The most pressing problem we have to address now is the looming crisis for the Visayas. Unless we take urgent and immediate action it will be lights off for the Visayas by December this year.

We must start giving particular attention to Panay, an island with no indigenous energy and farthest from the geothermal steam fields of Leyte. Power demand in Panay is projected to increase from the current demand of a 190 megawatts to 220 megawatts. But even today, the current dependable capacity for the island is only a 138 megawatts.

It still manages this imbalance because it imports power from Negros. But this is just a palliative measure. We need to have a firm solution to this problem. Our proposed projects for capacity addition in the Visayas are the Mambucal Geothermal, Palimpinon expansion, and Negros Geothermal projects to be commissioned starting 2004.

I, therefore, instruct the Department of Energy, Vince Perez, to prepare all the difficult groundwork now so that the country can bid out the power generating plants needed to avoid shortage. We also need to address the problems of transmission interconnection and upgrade.

And to address all these problems, I will repeat — the first key to privatization is an investment climate attractive to investors. The second key is a process that is transparent and free of corruption.

An attractive climate and a transparent process require the promulgation of viable and sustainable generation, transmission, and distribution rates that will make private sector participation in the electric power industry more attractive. And that was the other ceremony we had today.

I'd like to congratulate the chairman and commissioners of the energy regulatory commission for promulgating today a new rate making methodology for the transmission sector.

The signing of this important document is a milestone in the evolution of the Philippine electric power industry. This performance based rate making regime departs from the traditional return on rate base methodology, one that has been used in the Philippines for the past 80 years. It's time for our rate making to enter the 21st century.

In cost based regulation, the relationship between the attainment of performance standards and profitability is not well established. Regulated entities often focus on merely justifying their increasing costs to the regulators. Cost reduction initiatives and productivity improvement programs are not aptly rewarded.

On the other hand, performance based regulation is considered more responsive. It adopts a forward looking approach in providing the regulated entities with the ability to meet the growing needs of the customers through a well-planned capital investment program.

Performance based regulation is currently used in developed economies that have restructured their electric industry. It has proven to benefit both investors and customers. In this regulatory environment, investors will be motivated to attain clearly defined performance standards at least cost resulting to long-term benefits to consumers in terms of reliable electric service and lower electric prices.

This paradigm shift in rate making is well-timed, as we are currently focusing on the privatization of the transmission sector. This document clearly outlines the rate making principles and methodology in a clear and transparent manner. A stable regulatory environment will encourage more investments into this sector and accelerate the modernization of the transmission and distribution sectors.

I'm pleased to note and I'd like to congratulate again the ERC is taking these bold and decisive structural reforms, fulfilling its pivotal role of being a change agent in this fast evolving industry. I've been informed that in a few weeks, ERC will be issuing more policy documents such as the competition rules, business separation guidelines, the asset boundary guidelines for sub-transmission.

Indeed, there are many challenges ahead as we pursue the vision of having a world-class electric industry. All of us have a vital role to play — ERC, DOE, PSALM, TRANSCO, NEA, NAPOCOR, the IPPS, the distribution utilities, the electric coops — all need to work together with this sense of purpose.

And I want to assure our people that the government is doing all that it can to improve the business environment, create jobs, build needed infrastructure, deliver basic services more effectively and improve the lot of the Filipino people.

But, in order to succeed, we will need the cooperation of every Filipino.

Kaya't muli akong nananawagan para sa pagkakaisa ng lahat ng ating mga kababayan, kung nais nating wakasan ang kahirapan ng ating bansa at maitayo ang isang maunlad na lipunan sa ilalim ng isang matatag na Republika.

Ang lahat ng ating hangarin ay matatamo kung ating pagsasamahin ang ating mga talino at lakas. Walang imposible kung tayo ay magkaisa at magtulungan tungo sa ating magandang kinabukasan.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Mabuhay ang San Roque! Mabuhay ang ERC!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Inauguration of the San Roque Multipurpose Project. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200912/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6250&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the meeting with the Filipino community leaders in Korea [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagpupulong kasama ang mga lider ng komunidad ng mga Filipino sa Korea**

[Ipinahayag sa Convention Hall, Lotte Hotel, Seoul, Korea, ika 2 ng Hunyo, 2003]

Maraming salamat Secretary, Pat Sto. Tomas. Alam n'yo si Secretary Pat Sto.Tomas simbolo ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. Kasi hindi lamang siya Secretary of Labor ng ating bansa na nag-aalaga ng Pilipino sa ating bansasiya ang nag-aalaga ng manggagawa sa buong mundo kasi siya ang pangulong International Labor Organization.

Espesyal na espesyal kayong mga Pilipino dito napaka-highpowered ang ating Philippine delegation. Tignan n'yo nandito si Kabayan Noli de Castro; mula naman sa Negros Occidental si Charlie Cojuangco, Congressman; mula sa Marikina nandiyan si Del de Guzman, Congressman; meron tayong Bulacan Association, 'di ba? Tinuro namin lahat siya, si Secretary Blas Ople ng Foreign Affairs; 'yung tinawag ni President Bush na Great Heir to a Great Political Tradition, si Secretary Mar Roxas; ah eto, kailangan n'ya kayo kasi ang Korean market ang isa sa pinakamalaking umaangat na palengke ng ating turismo, si Secretary Dick Gordon. Tulungan n'yo siya; alam n'yo dito sa Korea maraming mga investors na nag-iinvest sa Pilipinas kasama na dito sa ating power sector, sa kuryente, sa enerhiya. Kaya kasama ko ngayon si Secretary Vince Perez ng Energy.

At dito sa aking biyahe hihingiin natin sa Korea na — alam n'yo naman yung mga saging dito galing sa atin, 'di ba? — hihingin ko sa kanila na ibaba pa nila yung buwis ng saging na pumapasok dito. Kaya nandito si Cito Lorenzo para ipaglaban iyon; at ang Korea isa sa pinaka-mapagbigay ng Official Development Assistance kaya nandito si ODA Secretary Mai Jimenez para ayusin 'yon; at malaki ang tinutulong nila dagidiay kakailyan tayo ti bangir nimamang ko nga Ilocano ken Cordillera. Issu nga addad toy met ti maysa nga anak ti Ilocandia ni Presidential Adviser Chavit Singson of the North Quad; adda paymaysa nga anak ti Cordillera, 'yung aking head ng Presidential Management Staff si Secretary Yongyong Afable; and of course, let me greet... Ay, let me greet Ambassador Jarasa and Mrs. Jarasa, our Ambassador to Korea but Korea's Ambassador to the Philippines is also here, Ambassador Son Sang-ha, Korean Ambassador to the Philippines.

At kayong mga oldtimer dito, meron kayong kilalang dala ko, inimbata ko siya kasi siya ang simbolo ng ating pagtulong sa Korea nung siya ay bago pang demokrasya, si Former Ambassador to Korea at saka isa sa mga kawal na Pilipino na lumaban para sa kalayaan ng Korea si General and Ambassador Ernesto Gidaya.

'Yung iba't-ibang mga organization na narito: binati ko na'yung Bulacan group, 'yung Ilocano, ti Cordillera; caring Cabalen kong Capampangan maayapagat panapon; narinig ko may... Ay, a bengin na pala. Okay; at narinig ko rin may mga Bicolano, dios marhay na bangi sa indo gabos; at 'yung iba't-ibang mga church groups natin. Nakikita ko ay'yung sumisigla pala ang Filipino community dito sa Korea dahil sa napakasigla ng ating iba't-ibang mga church organizations; our Korean friends; sa inyong lahat mga mahal na dakilang manggagawang Pilipino sa Korea, magandang gabi at salamat sa inyong pagkabayani.

Kasi dahil sa husay, sipag at galing ng ating OFW at mga manggagawa sa loob ng bansa pati, gusto kong ikwento sa inyo na 'yung ating GNP ay tumaas ng 5.6 percent at 'yung GDP ay 4.5 percent. Ano ang kaibahan nung dalawa?' yung 5.6 na GNP kasama ang OFW remittances, 'yung 4.5 wala. kaya ang diperensya ng dalawa, 'yon nga, 'yung

GDP hindi kasama ang remittances ninyo, 'yung GNP ay kasama. Ibig sabihin, ang diperensya between 5.6 and 4.5 ay 'yung nanggagaling sa kontribusyon ng ating mga overseas Filipinos kagaya ninyo. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong remittances.

Taun-taon nagpapadala kayo hindi bumababa sa anim nabilyong dollar. Kung minsan pa nga seven billion, kung minsan eight billion. at dahil sa pinapadala n'yong pera sa mga anak, magulang at kapatid, milyun-milyong kabataan tuloy ang nakakapag-aral o nakakatapos sa edukasyon. Dahil sa pinapadala n'yong pera o kaya iyung binibili n'yong bahay dito para sa kanila doon, libu-libong bagong bahay ang napapatayo. In fact, nung isang araw, nagkaroon ako ng meeting sa developers, housing developers, sabi nila majority sa middle-class housing ngayon ay OFW ang bumibili. Kaya kayo ang nagbibigay ng tahanan sa mga kamag-anak ninyo. Pero dahil 'yung housing ang pinakamalaking multiplier na nagbibigay ng trabaho at iba pang negosyo sa ating bansa pati 'yon nanggagaling sa inyong tulong. Kaya maraming salamat doon. Dahil sa... Ano, Dick? O sabi ni Dick nagpapadala kayo ng pera pang-aral, pang-bahay... Pambili ng bahay o kaya nagpapadala kayo ng bahay na binibili ninyo mula rito ang bayad, magpadala na rin kayo ng turista, sabi ni Dick. Sabi ko nga kay Kabayan Noli, 'yung turismo maging sa ating bansa o sa ibang bansa sa asia kapag umaangat nakinabang tayo. Kasi lahat ng mga lugar kung saan malakas ang turismo, Pilipino ang mga musicians. Kaya congratulations sa inyo. Pag napapadala kayo ng pera sa inyong mga kamag-anak na nagiging puhunan din nila sa negosyo nila ay nagpapalunsad kayo ng maraming negosyong small and medium enterprises. Ang dami pakinabang ng ating ekonomiya. At sa ibabaw pa nitong lahat, nagbibigay kayo ng magandang reputasyon sa ating bansa kung ganito kayo kagaling sabi nila siguro ganoon din sa Pilipinas. Ang Pilipinas nga siguro ay tahanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Itong ginagawa n'yo nagpapa-aral kayo ng kamag-anak, binibilhan n'yo ng bahay, binibigyan n'yo ng puhunan. Ang inyong kontribusyon sa ating ekonomiya ay tugmang-tugma sa hangaring ipinahayag ko para sa ating bansa mula pa noong aking unang ulat sa bayan bilang pangulo noong 2001. Sabi ko noon: trabaho, edukasyon, sariling tahanan, idagdag na rin: pagkain sa bawat mesa — ito ang mithiin ng masa. And I told the Congressmen and Senators then, and this in common sense and plain talk, is the core of my vision.

Pagkatapos ng isang taong sinisikap ko ito, namulatan ako na ito ay mga layunin. Pero 'yung vision dapat, the vision for our nation must be: to rebuild and strengthen the Philippine republic, gaya ng sabi ni Ambassador Jarasa. Dahil ang malakas na republika lamang ang makakasiguro ng trabaho, edukasyon, tahanan at pagkain sa bawat mesa ng ating mamamayan.

Itong malakas na republika na sinasabi kong aking vision, dalawa ang katangian na gumuguhit sa malakas na republika: una, ay kalayaan mula sa uri at sektor upang itong republika ay titindig para sa interes ng taumbayan, kaysa sa interest ng makapangyarihang minoridad; at pangalawa ay kapasidad, kinakatawan ng malakas na institusyon at malakas na burokrasya, para matupad ang mabuting patakaran at maghatid ng batayang serbisyo.

Dito sa Korea, isa sa sinasabi nilang malakas na republika. Itong taon, kasi 'yung ating 5 percent growth rate mas mataas kaysa sa kanila, kaya lamang mas malaki na, malayo ang ating hahabulin sa kanila. Malaki ang lamang nila sa atin kasi matagal na silang umuunlad. Hahabulin natin ang kaunlaran nila kasi ang kanilang per capita income ay 10,000 dollars, 'yung atin 1,000 dollars. Nung araw, nung panahon ng tatay ko, mas malaki 'yung ating per capita income kaysa sa kanila. Pero nung nagkaroon ng... Nung tayo nagkaroon ng Martial Law, sila naman ay nagkaroon ng export oriented industrialization. In the 1970's nag-iba, naghiwalay 'yung landas natin. Kaya nakamit nila itong 10,000 dollars per capita nila sa loob ng nakaraang tatlung taon. Sayang, 'no? 'Yung panahon nung tatay ko, tayo ay pangalawang pinaka maunlad na bansa sa Asya. Kaya ang Korea hindi pa kagaya natin noon. Kaya 'yung Korea, 'yung ginawa nila 'yung industrialization export oriented, 'yon ang nagpa-angat sa kanila. Eh hindi tayo nakagawa noon nung panahon ng Martial Law. Hindi tayo nakasabay sa mga bansang, you know, ibang mga ekonomiya kagaya ng Malaysia, 'yung ekonomiya ng Taiwan. Hindi tayo nakasabay sa kanila dahil nagkagulo 'yung ating bansa sa mga problema ng Martial Law. Kaya noon lampas na lampas ng Korea ang ating growth rate. Kung tayo ay maliit lang ang growth rate natin, 'yung Korea ay nagte ten percent, nine, eight, seven, ganun. Kaya kung tayo ay naging five ngayon at Korea ay three, eh mahaba pa ang hahabulin natin muli.

Kaya makikita natin, ang leksyon doon ay ang nangyari sa Korea ay hindi bunga ng isang milagro. Bunga ito ng walang humpay na pagsisikap ng bansa pati na rin ang mga ordinaryong mamamayan upang paunlarin ang kanilang mga buhay. At kayo nakatira kayo dito, saksi kayo sa bagay na ito. Nakikita naman ninyo araw-araw ang disiplina at

sipag nila. At naalala natin nung nagkaron ng krisis, 'yung Korea nung 1998, '99 mismo 'yung mga mayayaman nila nagbigay ng alahas para mabayaran 'yung mga utang ng bansang Korea. So 'yung malakas ang diwa ng pag sakripisyo. Ngunit kung sa sipag hindi naman nagkukulang ang disiplina at sipag ng ating manggagawang Pilipino. Kaya naman kayo hinahanap saan mang sulok ng mundo.

Hinahalaga kayo ng ating bansa. Dahil dito, ating mga congressmen, ating mga senador, administrasyon, bilang administration urgent measure pinasa natin ang Overseas Absentee Voting Law. At sinusuportahan rin kayo ng lipunan at pamahalaang pilipino sa pamamagitan ng tax free 'yung inyong income dito sa korea. At kabilang rin ang Korea kung saan nagpadala ang pamahalaan ng doktor at social worker para gamutin at bigyan ng payo ang mga OFW. At tinaas ko na rin ang benepisyo ninyo mula sa OWW. Doble na ang death benefits, nung araw 50,000 ngayon 100,000. Eh lahat naman mamamatay, 'di ba? Nung araw walang disability benefits, ngayon binibigyan natin ng disability hanggang 50,000 pesos, depende kung ano 'yung inyong naging sakuna. At taun-taon may isang daang anak ng ofw na bibigyan ng scholarship.

At dito naman sa korea ipinaglalaban din natin na sana mapasa 'yung work permit bill. Hindi ito pangako, ha? Kasi hindi naman kapangyarihan ko 'yon ngunit trinatrabaho rin natin 'yon kasama ninyo.

At ngayon na nagbago ang mundo mula nang ang koalisyong pinuno ng Amerika ay kumilos kontra sa Iraq, at kailangan ng bagong pananaw ng Asya sa seguridad ng pulitika at kabuhayan, kailangan kasama ang mga Pilipino sa ibayong dagat sa konsiderasyon ng ating bagong pananaw.

Ano ba itong bagong pananaw na nanggaling sa nagkaroon ng giyera sa iraq mula sa koalisyong, Coalition of the Willing. Itong bagong pananaw ay dapat kinikilala natin na dito sa Asya higit na kailangan responsable tayo para sa ating sariling seguridad sa pulitika at pangkabuhayan. At kung sinasabi ko seguridad natin kasama na rito ang ating mga mamamayan hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kung hindi na rin ang ating Pilipino sa ibayong dagat.

Dito sa nagbagong mundo, mundong nagbago mula nung March 20, 2003 kinikilala natin na tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang banta ng terorismo, at dinadagdagan pa ng posibilidad na ang pangmundong kaguluhan ay umabot hanggang sa north korea. Kaya ito ang hamon ng ating rehiyon. At kinukwento ko ito sa inyo dahil nandito kayo sa Korea, sa South Korea, at dahil nga 'yung mga bantang umabot sa North Korea ang gulo ng ating mundo sa nagbagong mundong ito gusto kong sabihin sa inyo na gagawin nating lahat ang kailangan para ligtas ang Pilipino. Hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kundi na rin sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo, lalo na ngayon ang ating mga Filipino dito sa Korea. Kasi mula nang lumala ang problema ng pangmundong istabilidad, laging patakaran ng ating pamahalaan na ang ating pinaka-tungkulin ay ang kaligtasan at kapakanan ng mga Pilipino maging sa Pilipinas o sa ibayong dagat. Ang ating pangunahing pinag-aabala ay manatili kayong ligtas at wala sa panganib. Kailangan abala ako sa kapayapaan at seguridad ng walong milyong Pilipinong nakatira at nagtatrabaho sa higit sandaan at apatnapu't bansa sa buong mundo, kasama na 'yung tatlung-libong Pilipinong nakatira dito sa Korea.

Eto ang ating kailangan: kapayapaan, seguridad, trabaho, edukasyon, tahanan, pagkain sa bawat mesa. At ako'y nagpapasalamat sa inyo, dakilang manggagawang Pilipino dahil napakalaking kontribusyon ninyo dito sa ating hangarin ng ating bayan. Sana tuloy ang inyong tagumpay. At sana tuloy din ang inyong tulong para sa ganun maging malakas na rin ang ating republika gaya ng bansang pinagtatrabahuan ninyo.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang manggagawang Pilipino.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Meeting with the Filipino Community Leaders in Korea. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200849/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6479&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Luncheon co-hosted by the four major Korean Business Associations

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Luncheon co-hosted by the four major Korean Business Associations**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Seoul Hilton Hotel, June 3, 2003]

Thank you very much, Secretary Roxas.

Mr. Chairman, Keil Cheng Son, thank you for your kind words; Mr. President of the KCCI, Mr. Lee So Yong; Mr. Chairman and CEO of the Korea International Trading Association, Mr. Jil Chul Kim and Mr. Chairman of the Korean Federation of Small Industries Mr. Yung So Kim; Ambassador Sang-ha Son and Madame Son.

And may I also greet the leaders of the Philippine Business community, the heads of the Philippine business delegation: Mr. Sergio Ortiz Luis, Jr of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mike Varela, President of the Philippines Incorporated; Mr. David Balangit, President of the Philippine-Korea Economic Council; distinguished leaders of the business community in Korea and the Philippines; honorable members of the Philippine delegation; ladies and gentlemen:

It's always an honor to be in Korea. And I am honored to be among you today — men and women of Korea's leading business organizations. The Koreans have individually and collectively shown the world how a nation can sustain its leadership in the developed world. In times of crisis, you have defined the true meaning of nationhood. We remember that in 1997, during the Asian crisis, Koreans lined up before the banks to donate to your government your precious gold and silver heirlooms to help the government. The people of the world congratulate the people of Korea. In particular, the warmth between Korea and the Philippine people is central to our relationship.

I've been to Korea many times before — I can't count how many times I'd been to Korea — but it's great to be back here to meet with your new president and the many friends I have here. Anytime the leaders of Korea and the Philippines meet, it's an important event. Our relations run deep and remain very strong. It's crucial to get to know President Roh given the importance he will play in Korea's future for the next five years as well as in the region. My trip underscores the deepening ties between Seoul and Manila.

As mentioned by Chairman Keil Cheng Son, the Philippines and Korea share a deep and abiding history. We've fought side by side on the Korean peninsula for freedom and liberty. In the 1950s as chairman said, the Philippines sent 7,000 soldiers to the Korean war. I'd like to reveal something to you that President Roxas is not very well-known here in Korea. The author of the law in Congress, in the Philippine Congress that sent Philippine soldiers to fight side by side with you was no other than my father when he was congressman, Congressman Diosdado Macapagal. But the older generation knows my father later became President of the Philippines. But when he retired from the presidency, your government invited him here to Korea to be an official visitor so that the government of Korea could give him a special award for authoring that law way back in 1951. One of the soldiers who fought by your side — and this is better known — also became President of the Philippines, Fidel Ramos. His son-in-law is in our business delegation — but I'm looking for him, I don't see him now — he'll be in the meeting tomorrow. Another of the soldiers became Philippine Ambassador to Korea, and I invited him to join us today, General and Ambassador Ernesto Gidaya. Ambassador Gidaya is an example of how the Philippines and Korea have worked side by side to defend freedom.

The Philippines and Korea have also worked side by side to build prosperous Asian economies. In fact, in our own development — again, as mentioned by his... The honorable Chairman of the Federation — we've seen Korean businesses increase their investments. In fact last year, we had... I inaugurated KEPCO's 1,000-megawatt power plant worth almost a billion U.S. dollars. We have seen Korean tourists to our shores grow. In 2002, Philippine exports to Korea grew by almost 28 percent and KEPCO's example shows that Korean investments went to such

important areas — aside from the industries mentioned by the honorable chairman of the federation — important areas as electric power generation. We are particularly pleased that visitor arrivals from Korea in the first three months of this year increased by 22 percent, they represent 17 percent of all our tourist coming in. And that was after having grown by 39 percent for the entire year in 2002. That's as far as our temporary visitors are concerned. But as far as our permanent visitors are concerned, while there are 30,000 Filipinos living in Korea, there are 40,000 Koreans living in the Philippines.

Having said this though, I now have come to Seoul to say that we hope to see more of you outsourcing your imports from the Philippines, and more of you establishing production bases and regional headquarters in our country. Yes, our exports have grown by 28 percent. But the range of our exports to Korea consists of only about 20 product categories, 11 of them related to electronics and only two items, bananas and prawns, related to agriculture. Yes, trade has been fourfold to 4 billion dollars but our total imports from your country exceeds our exports by 1.2 billion dollars. What a big gap, and we hope therefore that you can help us address this gap. For instance, the Philippines is a world class exporter of fresh and processed tropical fruits like mango, Philippine lemon that we call calamansi, coconut; it exports world class processed food like ice cream, biscuits, noodles; it exports marine products, garments and furniture; it exports world class foundry materials like nickel slag, chromite sand, silica sand.

I also believe that a significant potential exists for expanding Korean investments in the Philippines. We seek investments, as I said earlier, in energy and power. We also seek investments in the field of animation, regional I.T.-serviced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week customer relations management call centers, global revenue accounting and other business process outsourcing, software development including online game development.

Our country's strengths are well-recognized: a 29 million strong labor force, made up of talented, skilled and design oriented Filipinos, with a literacy rate of 94 percent, with a fast learning curve and low attrition rate; our country is accessible by air within four hours from any Asian capital; 100 percent foreign equity is allowed; there is free and unrestricted repatriation of capital; there is a fully liberalized foreign exchange system; there is a range of financial and administrative incentives, including up to 8 years income tax holiday and duty-free importation of capital equipment in the economic zones; we have an expatriate-friendly environment, including value-for-money housing, modern recreational and golf facilities, and first rate educational institutions.

And of course, on top of all that, our friendship provides a firm foundation for the times in which we live. A firm foundation for doing business together. A firm foundation for keeping our region secure together.

In the new geopolitical environment post-Iraq war, there is a realignment of relations in Asia marked by several trends including greater national self-reliance and national sovereignty bolstered by strengthened regional cooperation and more strategic global engagement.

From our relations with China, the United States and North Korea, to regional issues like SARS, the nations of Asia are coming of age and dealing more transparently and pragmatically with one another.

The fact that President Roh and I met within days in Washington with President Bush is a testament to the growing geopolitical importance of our region to global power centers.

As Asian leaders, we owe it to our people to impart a new Asian perspective that demonstrates to the world that we are whole and equal partners in global affairs consistent with our mutual self-interest.

We are proud of our strong democratic tradition and the people of our country have made many sacrifices to protect these principles. First and foremost, however, the most basic human right anyone in any country should expect is a quality of life that provides access to education, health and opportunity. We believe that democracy, human rights and economic development go hand in hand.

Politically, the Philippines also represents the closest Asean border to Korea. We remain deeply concerned about peace on the Korean peninsula, particularly a nuclear-free peninsula. We are prepared to do our part to resolve this issue which has great importance not only for the region but also for the world. In my meeting with President Roh

this morning, I assured him that the Philippine supports President Roh and the Republic of Korea in your efforts to find a peaceful solution to the North Korean crisis.

We owe it to our peoples to keep the torch of our principled friendship burning, and to show the world that we are fair and equal partners in the search for peace, security and prosperity. Let us continue that partnership. Korean businessmen, let's do more business with each other.

Kamsa hamida and Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Luncheon Co-hosted by the Four Major Korean Business Associations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200838/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6478&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 19th Joint Meeting of the Korea-Philippines Economic Council (KORPHILEC) and Philippines-Korea Economic Council (PHILKOREC) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 19th Joint Meeting of the Korea-Philippines Economic Council (KORPHILEC) and Philippines-Korea Economic Council (PHILKOREC)

[Delivered at the Dynasty Ballroom, Shilla Hotel, June 4, 2003]

Thank you very much, Secretary Roxas.

Chairman Hi Yong Kiem, Chairman Balange, Vice Mminister Shil Dou Kiem, Jun Ortiz-Luis, Professor Teh, Ambassador Son Sang Ha and Ambassador Jarasa, friends both from the Philippines and Korea.

Thank you for inviting me to your 19th meeting. I'm glad that businessmen from both councils have been continuing your dialogue and interaction since 1976 when the protocol of cooperation between your mother chambers – the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry — was signed in Manila. And by the way, though I am speaking with you for the first time as President of the Philippines, I'm not a stranger to the Korean-Philippine Economic Council and to PHILKOREC because when I was the equivalent of Vice Minister Chil Do Kim in the Philippine government as assistant secretary and then Undersecretary of Trade and Industry in the Aquino administration, I used to be in-charge of facilitating your dialogue, remember, Robert? And I even attended and organized one of those meetings in a state visit that Vice President Doy Laurel made here in Korea. So, I'm quite familiar with your work. I've done the background work in the latter part of the 1980's. I'm honored to be now at the center stage rather than in the background, and I hope our relationship is even better today.

I remember in that trip, it was the time when I negotiated for the opening of the Korean market to our Philippine bananas. Prior to that you are accepting our bananas on counter trade — we have to buy something so that you could buy bananas from us. And I remember when I was negotiating for better access not tied up to counter trade and better tariff terms I said, you know in the 1950's when my father was Congressman, he filed a law to send soldiers to the Korean war. And our soldiers came and gave their blood and their lives for the freedom and prosperity of the Republic of Korea.

Now, we are not asking for your blood and your lives. We're only asking for your market and your investments. In any case I'm glad that since then the Philippine bananas have been very, very welcome by the market of Korea. And I hope that with our continuing negotiations for more tariff reduction that will improve even more. But as Secretary Roxas said, that will only add 50 million more dollars to cover our trading balance of 1.2 billion dollars.

So, there are many other things that we feel could be sold by the Philippine businessmen to Korea. And because many of you were already here yesterday, I don't have to mention them again, except to say that it's not only agricultural products but world class manufactured product as well. Not to mention the world class tourism sites that have become a favorite also of the Korean citizens.

It's not only the strong institutional relations, but the close personal friendships that have infused your two organizations, that feeds the many opportunities like this event — opportunities for our businessmen to congregate, interact among yourselves, and look forward to a positive future.

My meeting with President Roh was very successful. We met twice yesterday — in the bilateral and also in the dinner. And we recognize that our relations run deep and remain very strong. The Philippines and Korea indeed share a deep and abiding history. We have been reminded meeting after meeting, and we should continue to be reminded how we fought side by side on the Korean peninsula for freedom and liberty, and how we worked side by side after that to build prosperous Asian economies.

I'd like to take a moment to touch on this latter point — building on prosperous Asian economies. I apologize for my delay in arriving here but that's because I wanted to add to the report I will give you today. Because in the economic development of the Philippines, we've seen Korean businesses increase their investments and we've seen Korean tourists on our shores grow. Last year, Korean tourism to the Philippines grew by 39 percent. This year, because of SARS, it grew by only 22 percent so far. But after only ten people with SARS — the Philippines has been declared SARS free — and we hope that that 39 percent growth will again be achieved or even surpassed.

Yesterday, I witnessed the signing of several agreements attesting to Korean participation. And I'm very happy among this participation in the Philippine economy are many of my strategic projects. Vice Minister today talked about KEPCO. And he talked about the power plant inaugurated last year — and also chairman talked about it — in Batangas City. I personally went to that inauguration. That was a 700 million dollar inauguration for a thousand megawatt power plant.

Last night, I was telling the president... The president knows about that and he said that the president of KEPCO is one of the most admired and respected businessman in Korea with a reputation very well-known for principled business practices. And I am very happy that yesterday he called on me to say that they're ready for their next power project and that is a 150 million dollar project in antique to cover the shortage in Panay island. Because in the Visayas, in Panay island, the demand for electricity today is 190 megawatts, the supply is only 135 megawatts. Panay imports the balance from Negros Oriental, which of course will soon be needing its own supply for its own expansion. So, the KEPCO investment will be 100 megawatts and therefore it will make up for the requirement, it will cover the shortage.

Yesterday also — not in front of me but in a separate event — there was the finalization of the Korean ODA which will fund a 100 million dollars worth of projects. That includes 49 million dollars for the Southrail commuter train from Manila to CALABARZON which will probably be implemented by Daewoo which is ready to put its own 49 million dollars counterpart as well for phase 2 of the project.

Part of the 100 million dollars was also committed to complete the 9 million dollars required for the Laguindingan Airport in Northern Mindanao. And this completes and complements the whole 107 million dollars required to put up the airport. It is the last 9 million of the total 107 million that we've been looking for. We could not access the previous funds already there because we lack the last 9 million. And now, it's there.

This last 9 million allows us to start the project with a 107 million. And I mention already that Daewoo will add its own 49 million dollars of B-O-T money for the second phase of that Southrail. But that's not the only project of Daewoo informed me about yesterday. They will also be spending 25 million dollars for an E-governance project, 20 million dollars to produce buses in the Philippines using compressed natural gas to comply with the Clean Air Act. And together with Andrew Tan — who is not here I think but who is a property magnate in the Philippines — they'll be putting up a 20 million-dollar housing joint venture in Cainta, Rizal. Also, 10 million dollars for a rice husk power co generation project. So, it was a very good day for me in my meeting with Daewoo and its various affiliates yesterday.

Still on energy, the Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corporation together with PL global of Korea will develop hydropower again in Panay island at a cost of 70 million dollars. And also build transmission lines of 25 million dollars worth. In Clark — that's Donald's project. Is that your project, Clark? Donald? Yeah. Okay — together with Donald Dee, Tricom will put up a 20-million dollar golf course in Clark Economic Zone. And then last night, Dick Gordon just informed me of another golf course to be put up in the Zamboanga economic zone. The government of Korea is also donating 5 million dollars for a vocational training center and 5 million dollars for an I.T. training center.

The reason why I was delayed today was because I had a meeting with Hanjin in order to put together the package, the 107 million-dollar package that I told you about earlier. Not to mention other projects that they are involved in and will continue to be involved in. Specifically, one of my favorite projects that they're working on together with our Philippine government is the Metro Manila commuter train that will close a loop in Metro Manila. So that for

that southern part of Metro Manila people can hop on any stop and get out of any other stop and therefore that will reduce the traffic and make life much easier for the businessmen who are doing business there.

We appreciate your contributions to our economy, we appreciate your participation in our economy. We look forward to continuing to welcome Korean businesses and people. This year, 2003 is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean war. And so therefore, as we celebrate half a century after freedom and peace was assured for the Republic of Korea, I hope that we continue our partnership and work towards continuing freedom, security and prosperity in our whole region. We have been friends now for more than 50 years, deep friends, blood brothers, not necessarily relatives but blood shed together for freedom and democracy.

May our blood ties now continue to work to bring about prosperity in our region, for the Korean business committee and the Philippine men and women who all need to have a job so that they can also build prosperity for our country.

Once again, leaders and members of the two associations, thank you for your enduring ties with each other that build for enduring ties between our two countries. Let's continue to do our work together.

Kamsa hamida and Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 19th Joint Meeting of the Korea-Philippines Economic Council (KORPHILEC) and Philippines-Korea Economic Council (PHILKOREC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200830/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6477&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening program of the Nikkei 9th International Conference

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the opening program of the Nikkei 9th International Conference on “The Future of Asia” with the theme: “Genesis of a New Asian Order”

[Delivered at the Fuji Room, Imperial Hotel Main Bldg., Tokyo, Japan, June 5, 2003]

Thank you very much.

Mr. Sugita, President and CEO of Nikkei; Prime Minister Mahathir; Prime Minister Shinawatra; Former Prime Minister Hashimoto; distinguished participants to Nikkei's 9th International Conference; honored guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to thank Nikkei for inviting me once again to this prestigious conference on “The Future of Asia.”

I've always known it, but now I must perform the formidable task of having to speak next to my esteemed senior colleague, Prime Minister Mahathir and just before my dynamic peer, Prime Minister Shinawatra. Prime Minister Mahathir's insights are always profound, but on the topic we are now grappling with his views set a defining tone, not just today, not only in the present conference, but many, many years ago, when EAEG or EAEC were disjoint letters in search of a meaning and vision. He provided the meaning; he pursued the vision. He transformed ASEAN Plus Three from a mere intriguing idea and inaugurated it in Kuala Lumpur as the most viable working process for Pan-East Asian cooperation that it is today.

As for Prime Minister Thaksin, I would like to say that the model I follow in my economic policy is his model. Professional economists call it “domestic consumption based managed asset reflation” and it has helped accelerate Thailand's growth. I call it Thaksinomics.

The conference this year is especially meaningful, not only because of the company of my distinguished fellow heads of government, but also because it is the opportunity to address the profound reality that the world changed on March 20th when the U.S.-led coalition took action against Iraq. The September 11 tragedy was historic, but Iraq affected the global order in a more fundamental manner.

Like all citizens of the world, we've come to see since 9-11 that no place is safe from terrorism, from Washington and New York, to Bali and Riyadh. We have also come to see that we cannot be deterred by terrorists, wherever they strike. This means that we cannot retreat from the world but rather we must engage it.

In the new geopolitical environment post-Iraq war, there is a realignment of relations in Asia marked by several trends including greater national self-reliance and national sovereignty bolstered by strengthened regional cooperation and more strategic global engagement. From our relations with China, with the U.S. and North Korea to regional issues like SARS, we are coming of age and dealing more transparently and pragmatically with one another. We must also impart a new Asian perspective that demonstrates to the world that we are full and equal partners in global affairs, consistent with our mutual self-interest.

March 20 signified a major blow to the power of the United Nations. Critics have long described the current set-up of the U.N. security council as patently undemocratic, grossly outmoded or mostly impotent. That unless its security mandate is updated, the United Nations will continue to limp forward, tasked to do much tedious peacekeeping but too feeble or hand-tied to be effective at peace making. It was for this reason that during the cold war, states resorted to regional and bilateral arrangements, such as NATO, the Warsaw Pact, and networks of security alliances.

Nonetheless, the United Nations and the multilateralism that it represents will never become irrelevant. One country by sheer might win a war, but it will take a concert of countries to win the peace. This was the case in Kosovo, in which the U.S. intervened as the leader of a coalition of the willing, but post-conflict reconstruction was implemented under U.N. auspices. In 1999, the Security Council was skipped because the U.S. knew that Russia would veto any resolution authorizing the use of force in Kosovo. However, negotiations with Russia produced an agreement that made the U.N. the immediate source of humanitarian aid and civil authority after the war.

Moreover, even if the U.N. did not exist, the world would have to invent it. The world would have to invent an international body just like it. For many developing countries, the United Nations is a supremely vital forum in addressing global economic, social, and cultural concerns. After all, many transnational threats to our societies, such as global warming, the spread of new diseases, and drugs and arms trafficking are global in scope and cannot be managed individually or even regionally.

Perhaps the greatest collateral benefit of the Iraq war that should not be squandered is the opportunity to reform the United Nations and make it a more effective development agent and peacemaker.

In the wake of recent threats to global peace, an important fact stands out: security, like our economic endeavors is increasingly become regionalized. The contributions of each country in East Asia, whether large or small, are vital to regional peace. Being ready to respond nationally to security threats is to us a prerequisite for the ability to contribute positively to the maintenance of regional security. It is under this light that we are looking at the new emergency legislation being considered in the Japanese diet.

As you may know, we have pockets of terrorism in the Southern Philippines that we are wiping out, and it is in our national interest to welcome assistance. The supporters of this terrorism are not confined within our borders. Because of this, we must work with our friends from the region and around the world to achieve lasting peace. We continue to rely on Malaysia's leading support to our peace process in the Southern Philippines. We thank Thailand for helping us build up our air battle capacity.

And as for the United States, the Philippines and the United States have a mutual defense treaty which covers our military cooperation. It has been in effect for 50 years and guides our mutual involvement. We've had regular and joint military exercises throughout that relationship and continue to do so. But it is also important to understand that the Philippine Constitution forbids foreign troops, U.S. or otherwise, from engaging in combat in the Philippines. There will be no U.S. combat activity in the Philippines, only training and security assistance.

The majority of the people of the Philippines support U.S. troops in the Philippines as long as they are under our command, as long as they comply with our constitution, and as long as their efforts help us wipe out terrorism. We need to protect the Philippine people from wanton terrorists and I welcome international assistance to root out terrorists and more importantly, bring renewed economic prosperity to our most impoverished areas.

Substantial progress has been made in eliminating Al Qaeda networks. However, in Asia, in the world, we must continue to be on alert.

The war on terrorism has many battlefronts and it is in everyone's interest to support efforts to win this war wherever and whenever these battles break out. Terrorism has many faces, but we should recognize its one result: a step backwards from humanity and progress to fear. We owe it to ourselves to move forward together to eradicate terrorism and rebuild those regions of the world affected by terrorism on a foundation of peace, goodwill and prosperity.

Like the fear on which it feeds, terrorism can be contagious and it will not be contained unless we agree on a comprehensive approach for defeating it in Asia. The early implementation of the road map to peace in the Middle East would help improve the situation. And by deepening our interdependence in Asia, by facilitating all kinds of interaction, and by raising the cost of conflict, regional economic integration can help us preserve the peace in East Asia, just as it has done in the case of Europe.

I'm an advocate for broad-based economic engagement with the world, for the Philippines as well as our neighbors. I believe more trade makes for less conflict and more interdependence as long as the trade expansion genuinely lifts all partners equally. But as developed and developing countries alike know to be true, the benefits of globalization are not all apparent, and they are not all positive.

This poses a problem in a democracy like the Philippines. As Philippines comes down on the side of trade, we understand that at the same time, we must manage the transition well with our poor in order to gain their political support for additional political and economic reforms down the road. Short-term necessities can then be offset in the longer term by a strong economy able to dismantle its non-competitive sectors and fully join a fair global trading system.

Japan, China and ASEAN form an economic sphere to rival Europe and North America. It is the dawn of a new age in Asia as Japan, China and ASEAN nations come together seeking greater economic cooperation and integration. The Philippines welcomes this development, particularly as we have seen our exports to our regional neighbors growing by leaps and bounds. We are brimming with confidence at the role we can play to assert the economic might of the region.

But, we will only be planting aspirations for economic integration and security cooperation on barren soil if we do not also collectively cooperate on human security, on basic human needs like shelter, food, education and employment, or on sustainable development.

In this regard, we commend Japan's active role in the reconstruction of countries that have experienced conflict, such as Afghanistan, East Timor, and Sri Lanka, and regions such as the Philippines' southernmost island of Mindanao and the Indonesian province of Aceh.

In many ways, we are still recovering from the effects of the Asian financial crisis. It's crucial, therefore, for the Japanese economy to recover its dynamism, and to act as an engine of global growth.

The challenges that we face necessitate greater interaction and cooperation among the countries of East Asia. Some of these challenges are completely new, such as the SARS epidemic, which in a very short period has become a really serious scourge to Asian economies. Not so much the sickness itself but the fear it engendered.

But, as the 1997 Asian financial crisis made us realize, when we face a challenge together, we can overcome it. At that time, Thailand and Indonesia were financially assisted by Japan and China, while Korea received assistance from Japan. In the current SARS crisis, the first donors have once again been Japan and China.

In 1997, the ASEAN Plus Three process was born, almost to the day the financial storm began wreaking havoc in the region. That was a most fortuitous conjunction, indeed, as the first achievement of this process was as quick as "quick response" must be. The network of currency swap arrangements established in Chiang Mai set the stage for Pan-East Asian financial cooperation. The spirit of Chiang Mai should live on; a common East Asian currency should be an active goal of our region.

East Asian economic integration is not good only for East Asians. In this global village, growth and development are like waves that can animate all shores. For the global race against poverty, marginalization and underdevelopment is not fought nor won by competing teams. It is rather like a relay where every economy is free to join the sole team pitted against the sole opponent, the clock. And in this relay, the more sprinters there are in the team, the greater is the prize to be shared by everyone.

For achieving development, non-participation or isolation is a losing option. For achieving peace and security, isolation is another name for failure.

Thus, the Korean peninsula has traditionally been a source of uncertainty in East Asia. The isolationist North Korea fired 'No Dong' and 'Taepo Dong' missiles in Japan's direction last 1993 and 1998, respectively. After launching a

rocket over Japan in 1998, North Korea promised a year later that it would suspend missile tests after Washington agreed to ease trade sanctions.

Unfortunately, last January, North Korea announced that it was unilaterally pulling out of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, which the cornerstone of global efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. North Korea subsequently expelled IAEA inspectors and resumed operations at the nuclear facilities of Yongbyon, which may be linked to nuclear weapons development.

The world is united in trying to bring North Korea to a disarmament position. Aside from its destabilizing effects, an arms race is wasteful of resources, especially at a time when East Asia should prioritize its capacity for sustained economic growth in the region.

Politically, the Philippines represents the closest ASEAN border to Korea and Japan, and remains deeply concerned about peace on the peninsula, particularly a nuclear-free peninsula. That's my position and I believe it can be resolved peacefully, but it will require regional as well as international cooperation.

The current Korean crisis is both a challenge and a great opportunity for multilateral diplomacy. I fervently hope that the nuclear genie can be contained, as has been done in Ukraine and Belarus, which were persuaded to give up their nuclear weapons programs. We hope that Japan, South Korea, the U.S., China, Russia, and the European union will be able to convince North Korea to do the same and to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction. We therefore welcome the talks among North Korea, the U.S. and China.

These talks, while still in the initial stages, are beginning to heal the strains in the relationship between U.S. and Korea, and has strengthened the alliance between Japan and the U.S. they've also allowed china to be a major constructive player in the region's security. China's efforts at the start of the trilateral meeting were truly commendable, and we hope that it will continue to play an important role commensurate to its growing economic importance in resolving security and political issues in East Asia.

Given the largely undefined security relations among China, Japan and the U.S., their interaction will result in a decentralized and Multipolar regional order. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is now the necessary linchpin for security and political dialogue in the region, because the major individual country players still have to resolve important differences among themselves. Progress in the ARF may not be as fast as some quarters may want it, but with the consent of its members, ARF can evolve from mainly a confidence-building body into an institution that can handle conflict resolution.

Full engagement by all stakeholders is the foundation of the new Asian order. We should work together to seize the moment, define the opportunity, and move forward as modern nations finding common ground with our global neighbors while fighting for our own national interests.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Program of the Nikkei 9th International Conference on "The Future of Asia" with the theme: "Genesis of a New Asian Order". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200817/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6476&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Filipino as Worker Here and Abroad

Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Filipino as Worker Here and Abroad

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, June 7, 2003]

PORTRAIT OF THE FILIPINO AS WORKER HERE AND ABROAD

Kakaiba itong ating pagbibigay ng award itong taong ito. Kasi nagpalit ang mundo noong a-beinte ng Marso nang ang Koalisyonang pinamunuan ng Amerika ay kumilos kontra sa Iraq. Bakit nagpalit ang mundo? Dahil dito nagbago ang mundo, kapaligiran na kailangan ng bagong pananaw ng Asya sa seguridad ng pulitika at kabuhayan. Kailangang tayo ngayon ay mas responsable sa kaligtasan ng ating mga bansa. At para sa Pilipinas, iyang pananaw na 'yan ay dapat kinokonsidera ang ating walong milyong mga mamamayan na nagbibigay ng kontribusyon sa kaunlaran, maging sa ating ekonomiya, maging sa ekonomiya ng buong mundo dahil isang daan at apatnapu ang mga bansa kung saan nagtatrabaho ang ating mga dakitang manggagawang Pilipino.

At kayo mga dakilang manggagawang Pilipino, tinatawag na mga bagong bayani dahil sa napakaraming binibigay ninyong paglilingkod at dangal sa ating bansa. Magandang reputasyon ang binibigay ng ating mga bayaning Filipino sa ating bansa, kasi sinasabi nila kung ganun kagaling yung mga Pilipino halimbawa, sa Saudi, eh, ganun din siguro 'yung mga Pilipinong nandoon sa Pilipinas. Kay a, napakagaling na kayo ay embahador para sa ating bansa.

At hindi lamang 'yon, iyung inyong mga ipinapadala dito, kung darating ang araw na makakapag-trabaho na kayo dito, yon din ay dahil puhunan ninyo ang nagpalaki ng ating ekonomiya. Nagpapadala kayo ng matrikula sa inyong mga anak at kapatid kaya milyun-milyong kabataan ang nakakapag-aral o nakakatapos ng edukasyon at nagbibigay ng bagong henerasyon ng magagaling ding manggagawa. Ito ay dahil sa tulong ng ating mga OFW.

Iyung mga pabahay na pinapadala ninyo, yung mga bahay na napapatayo ninyo para sa inyong mga kamag-anak, libu-libo 'yon. At 'yung mga minamahal ninyo sa buhay na nagkakaroon ng bagong bahay dahil sa inyo, 'yon din ay nagkakaroon ng bagong buhay.

At noong isang araw o noong isang linggo, pumunta ako sa isang miting kasama ng mga industriya ng pabahay. Ayon sa kanila, ang pinakamalaking merkado nila ngayon, pinakamalaking pinanggagalingan ng kanilang negosyo sa pabahay ay mga OFW na bumibili ng tahanan para sa inyong mga pamilya sa Pilipinas. At kung sinasabi nila, ang housing pinakamalaki ang multiplier effect, pati anghousing na 'yan, ay kontribusyon ng ating mga OFW. Nagpapadala kayo ng puhunan, kaya sabi ko, kung darating ang araw na makakatrabaho kayong muli dito ay dahil sa inyong puhunan. Dahil sa inyong puhunan na pinapadala ninyong remittance sa inyong mga kamag-anak ay nakakapaglunsad ng maraming mga negosyo, maging small business sa buong bansa. At ang small businessayon sa mga ekonomista, 'yon ang pinaka-efficient sa paggamit ng puhunan.

Ang matagumpay na negosyo na napapatayo sa ating bansa dahil sa inyong remittances ay isang malaking haligi ng ating ekonomiya. Sumigla ang maraming barangay, bayan, lungsod, probinsiya sa mga kontribusyon ng overseas Filipinos. At tugmang-tugma ito sa aking pangunahing programa sa ating pamahalaan para magkaroon ng trabaho ang ating taong-bayan. Sabi ko, ang unang pinaka-kailangan ay mga small and medium enterprises.

Kaya kung 'yung mga ibang bansa noong nagkaroon tayo ng Asian crisis o ng crisis pagkatapos ng Iraq at saka 9-11 na nagpahina ng negosyo sa buong mundo, buhay pa rin ang Pilipinas dahil hindi exports ang ating inaasahan kung hindi 'yung small and medium enterprises sa ating sariling bansa. At marami duong puhunan ay nanggaling

din sa inyo. At gaya ng sabi ko, kung hindi tayo umasa sa exports, umasa tayo sa housing na malaki ang multiplier effect, galing din 'yon sa inyo.

Kaya, ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino na taun-taon ay nagpapadala ng hindi bumababa sa anim na bilyong dolyares, iyon ho, ang laki ng inyong kontribusyon. Hindi lamang ito direktong kontribusyon sa pamilya, kung hindi sa multiplier at sa pagbibigay ng trabaho sa nakararami.

I am very happy to report to you, our dear new heroes, that for the first quarter of this year, our economic report showed that our gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 4.5 percent while our gross national product (GNP) grew by 5.6 percent. *Iyung mga binibisita kong ibang mga bansa, wala pa sa kanila ang ganito kalaking pag-angat. At ano ang diperensya ng 4.5 percent na GDP at 5.6 percent na GNP? Ang diperensya yung 5.6 percent na GNP sakop yung inyong mga remittances. Kaya ganun, nakikita natin ang halaga ng inyong kontribusyon sa ating bansa. Ibig sabihin, ang diperensya ay nangagaling sa kontribusyon ng mga overseas Filipinos. Kaya, maraming salamat sa inyong remittances, salamat sa inyong pagka-bayani.*

At eto na nga, gaya ng sabi ko, ang inyong kontribusyon tugmang-tugma sa mga hangarin natin. Iyung mga pinahayag mula pa ng aking unang Ulat sa Bayan bilang Pangulo noong 2001. Sabi ko noon, ano ba ang hangarin ng karaniwang Pilipino – trabaho, edukasyon, tahanan, idagdag pa natin, pagkain sa bawat mesa — ito ang mithiin ng masa. At ito rin ang sabiko, this is the core of my vision. This is, in common sense and plain talk, is the core of my vision.

But one year of seeking to carry out that vision made me realize that these are goals for our people, while the vision of our nation must be to rebuild and strengthen the Philippine Republic. *Dahil ang isang matatag na republika lamang ang makakasiguro ng trabaho, edukasyon, sariling tahanan at pagkain sa bawat mesa ng ating mamamayan.*

Kung kayo ay kinakailangang pumunta pa sa ibang bansa para makahanap ng trabaho, 'yon ay dahil hindi pa malakas ang ating republika.

Two essential features mark out a strong republic: the first is independence from class and sectoral interests, so that the republic stands for the interests of the people rather than a powerful minority; the second is the capacity, represented through strong institutions and a strong bureaucracy, to execute good policy and deliver essential services.

Ang batayang serbisyo ay dapat hinahatid ng malakas na republika sa taumbayan kahit nasaan man kayo, maging sa Pilipinas o sa ibayong dagat.

Iyon ang dahilan kung bakit sinabi ko na sa bagong pananaw na kailangan pagkatapos nagpalit ang mundo noong a-beinte ng Mar so, kailangan kasama ang mga Pilipino sa ibayong dagat sa konsiderasyon. Itong bagong pananaw ay dapat kilalanin na dito sa Asya, gaya ng sabi ko, higit na kailangan maging responsible tayo para sa ating sariling seguridad sa pulitika at pangkabuhayan. Kasama na rito ang ating mga mamamayan hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kung hindi ang mga Pilipino sa ibayong dagat. Gagawin natin ang lahat para ligtas ang Pilipino, hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kung hindi na rin sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo.

Mula nang lumala ang problemang pangmundong istabilidad, laging patakaran ng ating pamahalaan na ang ating pinaka-tungkulin ay ang kaligtasan ng mga Pilipino, maging sa Pilipinas o sa ibayong dagat. Ang ating pangunahing pinagkakaabalahan ay manatili kayong ligtas at wala sa panganib. I must be concerned about the peace and security of 8 million Filipinos who live and work in over 140 countries around the world.

Bilang pagkilala sa inyong kontribusyon sa ating ekonomiya, napasa na nga ang batas na nagbibigay sa inyo ng karapatang bumoto sa ibayong dagat.

Maging sa Amerika kung saan tatlong milyong Pilipino ay naroon – tatlo doon sa walong milyong Pilipino ay nasa Amerika – kinikilala ang inyong kontribusyon sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas, maging sa buong mundo. Kaya si Pangulong Bush ay nag-ulat na ang Amerika, ay magsisimula ng proyektong padaliin ang padalang pera ng mga manggagawang Pilipino mula sa buong mundo, hindi lang noong nasa Amerika, papunta sa Pilipinas. At nagkasundo kami na itong proyekto ay magpapaibayo ng buhay ng milyun-milyong Pilipino, sa pamamagitan ng maging mas mababa ang gastos ng inyong remittance fees at mas madali tumagos ang pondo sa Pilipinas mula sa Amerika at saka sa buong mundo. Sana sa loob ng anim na buwan ay mararamdaman na ninyo itong mas mababang gastos.

At doon sa aming pinanggalingan ni Pat Sto. Tom as, doon sa Japan kung saan halos isang daang libong Pilipino rin ay nagtatrabaho. Kahapon, si Prime Minister Koizumi, ay nagsabi na pwede na nating simulan ang pormal na pagtalakay tungkol sa economic partnership agreement ng Pilipinas at saka ng Hapon. At para sa Pilipinas, ang pangunahing pinapasok natin na bahagi ay ang mabuksan ng Hapon ang kanyang pintuan sa ating mga nursing aides at saka ating mga I.T. workers. Ito ay kakaiba dahilhanggang ngayon saradung-sarado pa ang mga pintuan ng Hapon sa mga manggagawang galing sa ibang bansa.

Doon naman sa Korea – doon nanggaling kami ni Pat Sto. Tomas – ay marami ring mga Pilipinong naroon. Ang kanya lamang, doon sa mga tatlumpung libong Pilipino, higit kalahati walang dokumentong tama. Kaya hinihiling natin sa kanila na ipasa nila yung Work Permit Law, para sa ganun hindi lamang trainees, kunyari ‘yung mga manggagawa doon na mababa tuloy ang kanilang sweldo, at magiging pareho sa Koreano sa sweldo at saka sa security of tenure.

Sabi naman ng Pangulong bago, bagamat mabigat yaong panukalang batas na ‘yon, dahil syempre ang isang bansa ay natatakot na mawalan ng trabaho ang sariling mga mamamayan, ay bibigyan nila ng extension o ng grace period o ‘yung amnesty period ang ating mga manggagawang Pilipino, para hindi kinakailangang agad-agad pinapauwi dahil kinikilala nila na ang ating mga Pilipino ay magagaling at gustung-gusto nilang naroon sila.

At ngayon, kinikilala rin natin ang mga natatanging OFW itong araw na ito. Sa pagkilalang ito, hangad ng inyong pangulo at ng inyong pamahalaan ang pamamalagi ng katapangan at katibayan ng inyong loob sa anumang mga pagsubok na darating. Ito ay inyo nang napatunayan, sampu ng ating maraming kababayan sa labas ng ating bansa. Sabi nga, ang manggagawang Pilipino, subok na matibay, subok na matapang, maging giyera man ay ‘di uurungan.

Kaya, nagpapasalamat kami sa inyo, dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. Sana darating ang araw na kayo ay magtatrabaho na dito sa Pilipinas dahil sa tulong na rin ninyo, lumakas ang ating republika. Ngunit ang isang ikinalulungkot ko, lalo na ‘yung mga seamen, dumarating ang araw na lumalampas na kayo sa edad, bumabalik kayo rito kahit na hindi pa malakas ang ating republika at naghahanap kayo ng trabaho sa ating bansa. Kanya naman ako ay nagtayo ng isang bahagi ng DOLE, yung Undersecretary of Labor for Reintegration, si Undersecretary Lucy Lazo. At sabi ko, ang kanyang tanging trabaho ay tumulong doon sa mga OFW na bumalik na dahil wala ng trabahong handa para sa kanila sa ibang bansa. Sabi ko nga kay Pat, “Pat, bakit nawawalan ng trabaho, ang galing-galing nila?” Kasi sabi ni Pat, kung minsan meron silang age limit, at pagpasok naman nila dito, ang mga pabrika rin, meron ding age limit, o kaya masyadong mataas na ang sweldong natatanggap nila sa ibang bansa hindi rin kayang tapatan ‘yung suweldo nila.

Kaya kailangan ng ibang paraan. Kaya kailangan siguro, kung kayo ay nagpapadala ng puhunan noong araw pero kayo ang alam n’yo ay maging manggagawa o technician o professional, kailangan ngayon pa lang ay matulungan na kayo na magsimula ng inyong bagong sariling buhay. At ‘yon din ang isang bandog nitong pamahalaan sa inyo.

Sana, malaman ng marami na pag-uwi ninyo at kayo ay naghahanap ng susunod na hanapbuhay, ang susunod na chapter ng inyong buhay nand’yan pa rin si Pat, at ‘yung kanyang Undersecretary, si Lucy Lazo, na sinabi kong tulungan lahat ng ating dakilang manggagawang Pilipino, na magkaroon ng bagong buhay dito sa Pilipinas.

Kaya muli, mga kaibigan, salamat at pinupuhunan ninyo ang inyong pinakamagagandang taon ng inyong buhay para sa ating bansa. Sinisikap nating suklian kayo hindi lamang habang kayo ay nagbibigay ng tagumpay sa

pamamagitan ng mga premyong binibigay sa inyo sa mga seremonyang ito, kung hindi na rin habang ang inyong buong buhay, sisikapin natin na hindi kayo nakalimutan ng ating bansa. At kung kayo ay nagkalinga sa ating bansa, kayo rin ay aalagaan ng ating bansang Pilipinas sa inyong buong buhay.

Maraming salamat at congratulations, dakilang manggagawang Pilipino!

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the program for the distribution of land titles to farmer beneficiaries of Jala-Jala, Rizal [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa programa para sa pamamahagi ng mga titulo ng lupa sa mga benepisyaryong magsasaka ng Jala-Jala,
Rizal**

[Ipinahayag sa Municipal Gymnasium, Brgy. Punta, Jala-Jala, Rizal, ika 9 ng Hunyo, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Obet Pagdanganan sa inyong pagpapakilala sa akin.

Binabati ko rin... Kasama ko rin ngayon si Secretary Joey Lina, ang ating Secretary ng DILG; parating na raw si Governor Ynares, tumawag siya. Pero gusto kong batiin ang kakarating na si Vice Governor Jovito Rodriguez; at salamat sa ating mga iba't-ibang mga punongbayan na narito ngayon. Siyempre 'yung ating host, si Mayor Delos Santos, maraming salamat; at nabanggit na rin niya 'yung mga kapwa mayor niya sa pamumuno ng pangulo ng Mayors League, si George Bernardo. Salamat Mmayor doon sa inyong, 'yon, sa inyong streamer "Welcome, Rizal Mayors League." at gusto ko ring batiin 'yung ating mga board member. Pati na rin 'yung ama nung isang board member, si Congressman Ding Tanjuatco; gusto ko rin batiin lahat ng mga officials dito sa bayan ng Jala-Jala.

Pinakamaliit at pinakamalayong bayan ng probinsya ng Rizal. Kaya kung pulitika lang iniisip ko hindi ako dito pupunta. Pupunta ako doon sa aking kumpadre sa Antipolo dahil ang laki-laki. Pero dito ako pumunta para ipakita na ito ay trabaho at hindi pulitika.

Gusto ko ring batiin 'yung ating mga nag-aalaga ng ating kapayapaan, ang Commander ng Southern Luzon Command, ay wala siya dito; ang Commander ng Second Division, si General Efren Abu. At saka ang namumuno ng police sa Region 4-A, si General Jimmy Karingal; at tinawag ko sa entablado ang Superintendent ng DepEd, si Edith Doblada.

Kasi ho tatlo ang aking dahilan kung ba't narito ako eh. Una, itong ginawa... Gagawin ni Obet mamaya. 'Yung pamamahagi ng titulo sa ating mga benepisyaryo ng reporma sa lupa dito sa Jala-Jala. Narinig na natin 'yung kwento ni Obet. Narinig natin 'yung kwento ni mayor. Narinig natin 'yung kwento ng kinatawan ng mga magsasaka, na ito ay bunga ng isang mahabang-mahaba at masalimuot na proseso. Sa wakas, mga magsasaka ng Jala-Jala, kayo na ang may-ari ng inyong sariling lupa. At ito ay isang napaka-importante para sa akin. Dahil ang aking tatay, si Diosdado Macapagal, siya nga ang sinasabi nilang ama ng reporma sa lupa.

Nung ako ay naging pangulo nakita ko na isang milyon pang hektarya ng sakahan ay kinakailangan pang i-reporma sa lupa. At kung gusto natin na makamit ang pagsugpo ng kahirapan sa loob ng isang dekada dapat lahat ng isang milyong hektarya na yan ay mapamahagi sa loob ng isang dekada. Kaya bawa't taon ang ating tuyo, ang ating pakay ay sana 100,000 hectares every year ang magagawa.

Nung Linggo pero ngayon pumapasok na for enrollment. At saka para doon sa mga teachers at saka mga supervisors, superintendents, principals para magsanay tungkol sa sars at iba pang mga sakit na nakakahawa kagaya ng dengue.

Congratulations sa ating mga health officials dahil tayo ang isa sa unang mga nag-graduate sa SARS sa buong mundo. At ayaw natin na babalik ang SARS. Doon sa Toronto nag-celebrate na sila tapos bumalik ang SARS. Doon sa Singapore nagse-celebrate sila ngayon pero sinasabi rin ni Prime Minister Goh pero mag-ingat tayo para hindi babalik. Pero kung ano 'yung nagawa... Pero sila bago sila nag-graduate daan-daan ang nagkaroon ng SARS. Sampu sa isang araw. Tayo sampu sa buo. Pagkatapos ng sampu napigil na natin. Sila sampu isang araw namamatay. Tayo dalawa ang namatay sa buong panahon. Pagkatapos ng sampu, na dalawa ang namatay, ay wala na tayong SARS. Pero isigurado natin talagang mawawala na yan.

At kung ano ang tagumpay natin sa sars magagawa rin natin 'yon sa dengue. Kaya 'yon ang kailangan kaya meron tayong one week na seminar ng mga guro. Pero ito rin ang paraan kung papano makapunta ako para makita kung ano ang mga pangangailangan. Kasi sinasabi nila kulang ang classroom. Pero ilan ang kula ng, yan ang hindi pa scientific na nagagawa. Kaya ang sinasabi ko kanina kay Secretary De Jesus lahat ng mga eskwelahan kung saan ang ratio ay 50 students to 1 at lampas ay dapat mandatory ang shifting. Two shifts morning and afternoon.

Ngayon, kung 'yung elementary school ay 100 students and above kahit na mag-shifting kulang pa rin ang classroom. At 'yung mga high school kung 200 and above ang ratio kahit na mag-shifting kulang pa rin ang classroom. Kaya sabi ko itong taong ito kukumpletuhin natin ang classroom gap. Pero ide-define natin. Ide-define natin ang classroom gap. Ang classroom gap, ibig sabihin noon lahat ng mga eskwela sa elementary na ang ratio ay higit sa 100 to 1, ibig sabihin may classroom gap. Lahat ng secondary na ang ratio ay 200 to 1, ibig sabihin noon may classroom gap.

Ngayon 'yung mga mayayaman na mga local governments inaalok ng DTI na humiram ng counterparting. Magkaka counterpart ang national government, magkaka-counterpart ang local government para magtayo ng mga classrooms. At ayon dito meron nang tatlong libong classrooms sa buong Pilipinas na local government and hihiram para maitayo yuon. Pero may counterpart din ang national government, maliit lang ang hihiramin ng local government. Pero itong mga marami ay mahihirap kaya yan ang tinitignan natin. Isisigurado natin na yang classroom gap na yan ay masasarado itong schoolyear na ito.

Kaya tinawag ko si Edith Doblada. "Edith, kukunin ko na itong records mo. Akin na lang ha?" at tinignan ko. At sa nakita ko na dito sa Rizal, meron tayong... Kung June ang ating definition ng classroom gap para mabuo 'yung classroom ngayon ay mangangailangan tayo ng additional na ten million pesos para sa classroom gap kung... Sorry, Director Agustin kung hindi DPWH ang gagawa. Kasi ang DPWH mahal. Sinasabi ko na sa inyo gumawa na kayo ng ano, ng design na 300,000 lamang. Kaya ang ginagawa ko... Kasi ang nakita kong... Ilan ba itong classroom dating nakita ko? Ah... Ay, saan yung papeles ko, 'yung ginagawa ko kanina? 'Yung papeles ko? Hindi, 'yung binibilang ko 'yung classroom gap, wala na rito. Kinuha ninyo. Ang nakita ko mga ano yata — 16 plus 11 is already 27 — mga 30 classrooms ang kulang sa buong Rizal. At 'yung 30 classrooms na yon eh kung gagamitin mo ang budget ng DPWH ay masyadong malaki ang... Hindi ba? Magkano ang isang classroom mo? Kaya ninyo ang 250,000? Kasi 'yung Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce ginagawa nila 350,000 for two classrooms, yata. Kaya ang gagawin ko, magdo-donate ako sa federation ng 10 million. Alam ko magdadagdag sila ng 5 million. Para sa ganun... Kasi 'yon ang nangyari sa Cavite eh. Sa Cavite siyam lang ang kulang. Kaya nagbigay ako sa kanila ng 3 million, yata. Sabi nila, sobra 'yan for one classroom, pero kulang for 2 classrooms for 9 schools. So sabi nila, sige kami na lang ang magbubuo para may 2 classrooms. Kaya ang binibigay ko sa kanila budget ng DPWH na one classroom tapos noon binubuo nila at nagiging two classrooms. Kaya ito ho ay bibigyan ko sila ng 10 million para magkakaroon ng two classrooms lahat itong mga eskwelahan na kulang. Pero ano... Talaga director agustin gumawa kayo ng plano na makakaya natin. So 500,000 per two classrooms kung ganoon ha. Kaya na ninyo ng 250,000 na ha? Bakit hindi... Ngayon doon sa headquarters hindi ba ganoon? Bagong plano na ba yan? Hindi, pero ang problema ninyo wala pang kisame, wala pang ano... Ha? Babarnisan na ba ito? Kasi kung bagong design baka sa inyo ko na ibigay ang pera. Basta mag-a-allocate ako ng 10 million for the province of rizal. Kasi 'yon ang magko-close ng classroom gap.

Pero over and above that 'yung mga congressmen, mga governor, mga mayors, 'yung NDC-DTI magkakaroon pa ng iba. Pero nakikita ko at the very minimum dapat itayo natin yuon. So 'yon ang aking isisigurado.

So 'yon ho ang pangalawang dahilan kung ba't ako'y napunta rito. Dahil nga matignan kung ano 'yung inyong classroom gap. 'Yung critical classroom gap.

Pangatlo, eh kasi matagal na akong hindi nakakapunta sa Jala Jala kahit na maliit at malayo. Eh, siguro dahil maliit at malayo halos walang nagpupunta rito. Kaya ako ang magbibisita sa inyo.

Wala na akong babasahin kaya aalis na ako sa podium. Hindi n'yo ako nakikita eh.

Alam n'yo, noong nagpunta ako sa Amerika, nilagyan nila ako ng tungtungan para makikita ako. Kasi noon daw 'yung Reyna ng Onglaterna nagpunta din siya sa Amerika at tumindig siya sa entablado nang ganun. Eh hindi nilagyan ng tungtungan, kaya siya mismo nagsabi, ang nakita lang ng tao 'yung sumbrero niya na nagsasalita. Anyway, nagbasa ako kaya kailangan nandito ako kanina. Pero ngayon wala na.

'Yung Jala-Jala... Alam ho n'yo, itong Jala-Jala, 'yon nga ang sinasabi ni Ding Tanjuatco noong Congressman siya noon, pinakamalayo at pinakamaliit na bayan. Pero ho itong jala-jala matagal ko nang kilala kahit na hindi pa n'yo ako kilala. Kasi nung ho ako'y undersecretary sa Department of Trade And Industry proyekto ko po 'yung integrated development program ng Jala-Jala. At alam ni Mayor Delos Santos 'yon. Tapos, nung naging senador ako, 'yung slaughterhouse. Pero sabi ni mayor hindi pa niya binubuksan 'yung slaughterhouse dahil hinihintay n'ya 'yung palengke na ngayon sa wakas ay na approve na nang logofind, 'yung programa ng dilg together with World Bank para sa mga palengke. At na-approve nung last week lamang. Kaya sabi ko, "baka mayor, ma-imbita mo ako sa groundbreaking?" kasi isasabay 'yung palengke at saka yuong aking slaughterhouse na magbubukas.

Kaya ho, tapos itong land reform na napakalapit sa puso ng aming pamilya. Kaya salamat sa pagkakataon nakabisita muli dito sa inyo. At ngayon si Obet at 'yung mga kasamahan niya ang magdi-distribute ng mga titulo habang ako ho ay pupunta doon sa loob para i-finalize ko po itong pangangailangan ng mga school building dito sa lalawigan ng Rizal.

Maraming salamat at congratulations sa mga bagong may-ari ng lupa.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Program for the Distribution of Land Titles to Farmer Beneficiaries of Jala-Jala, Rizal. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200802/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6474&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Graduation of Barangay Tanod and presentation of “Mindanao Natin”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Graduation of Barangay Tanod and presentation of “Mindanao Natin”**

[Delivered at the Gen. Santos City Gymnasium, Brgy. Lagao, Gen. Santos City, South Cotabato, June 11, 2003]

Maraming salamat Kalihim, Joey Lina sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. Lingkod Palihog.

Ang atong host City Mayor, Mayor Jun Acharon; ang aton nga Gobernador sa South Cotabato, Governor Daisy Fuentes; ang atong Congresswoman diri sa GenSan, Congresswoman Darlene Custodio. Wala pa? Kauban ko kanina. Paanhi na; ang atong Congressman Gikan sa Sarangani, Congressman Erwin Chiongbian; ang atong Governor Gikan sa Sultan Kudarat Pax Mangudadatu; ay, si Governor Escobar gikan sa Sarangani; tanan-tanan mga mayors sa South Cotabato.

Kauban ko karon ang akong mga members sa Cabinet, aside from Secretary Lina, si Secretary Rene de Villa; si Secretary Sim Datumanong — wala?; si Secretary Nani Braganza — wala na kasi; si Secretary Paul Dominguez; si Secretary Mai Jimenez; si P.A. for Mindanao Jess Dureza.

Gusto ko ipaabot ang akong pag-abe-abe sa mga laing-laing president sa ABC sa SOCSKSARGEN: Chair Delia Rabanez sa GenSan; Chair Jesus Desidegis sa Sarangani; Chair Roberto Sunga sa Koronadal; Chair Fernando Janoto sa South Cotabato; ug ang ilang mga boss, mga barangay chairmen sa SOCSKSARGEN.

Kay ang atong graduation karon alang sa atong peace and order, ang aton mga sundalo ug mga pulis si 601st General Alexander Yano; si Region XII Director General Rodolfo Tor; ang presidente sa atong Philippine Public Safety College na siya ang nagpapagawa nitong mga courses na ito, si General Ramsey Ocampo; kauban nato ang atong mga leaders sa atong business industry diri sa Gen. Santos, ang ilang presidente ang presidente of Federation of Fishing Association si Domingo Teng; kaninyong tanan mga kaiguonon, aton mga barangay tanod:

Una sa tanan, gi-abe-abe ko ang mga barangay tanod gikan sa South Cotabato, Sarangani, GenSan — uy, aniya sab ang boss ni General Yano, si General Gene Senga. Sorry, Gene. Okay — barangay tanod sa Koronadal, tanan-tanan mga probinsiya ug siyudad sa kining nga region nga nakahaman ining inyong tanod training course. Nagahalipay sab ako sa mga opisyaes sa PNP ug ang mga lokal nga pamunuan sa ilang paspas nga pagsunod sa akon sugo nga hatagan ug training ang tanang barangay tanod.

Alam ng lahat na ang ating mga barangay tanod ang frontliners sa pangangalaga sa katahimikan at mabuting kalagayan ng ating taungbayan dahil kayo ang nasa unahan o cutting edge sa pagpapatupad sa batas. Kasama kayo sa mga makikipag-ugnayan at makikipag-tulungan sa ating mga lider na lokal sa pagmamatyag ng lahat ng klase ng problemang sosyal o pang-ekonomiya na kaugnay sa anumang krisis. Kasama na rin dito ang problema tungkol sa terorismo.

Unya gabii, alas dose sa midnight, mahuman na ang unilateral ceasefire. We may face a fresh wave of terrorist threats. The police and the military must be prepared backed by the vigilance of alert communities and citizens. We shall sustain punitive actions. At the same time, we shall continue our search for a principled peace. We shall not be threatened or intimidated. The force of our collective vigilance, international cooperation and programs of meaningful social and economic uplift will continue to marginalize and eventually defeat terrorism. Enduring peace and security can be attained through people’s solidarity behind firm and caring leadership.

Mga barangay tanod, kuyog kamo sa ako to lead Mindanaoans regardless of creed, ethnic origin or social station from the clutches of fear to a heightened sense of security, from the morass of poverty to equitable enterprise, from conflict to peace. The promise of Mindanao must be redeemed or the future of our entire nation cannot be won.

Ingon ko gihapon, ang mga prinsipyo sa aton mga tibuok gitukuran sa pagpauswag sa Mindanao. Usa ka prinsipyo mao'y ang atong ultimo nga tuyo kinahanglan ang kalinaw ug kauswagan nga nagkauban. Ikaduha nga prinsipyo maoy ang atong pilisopiya kinahanglan nakabase sa konstitusyon, soberenidad ug atong nasud, ug integridad ug atong teritoryo.

Ikatulo nga prinsipyo mao'y ang atong sosyedad multi-ethnic nga kinahanglan nagabase sa social justice alang sa tanan ug ang institutionalized accommodation sa mga ethnic tradition. Kristiyano ug Muslim, Intsik ug tisoy, Tagalog, Ilonggo ug Cebuano muo kini ang gamay ra nga mangangalan nga gitubagan ug Pilipino. Sa usa kaguwapo nga testimonya sa akong dako ug laing-laing pamana isip nasud.

Sa nining tulo kadako nga prinsipyo madagdag ako ug ikaupat. Sa atong pangita ug kalinaw walay lugar ala sa terorismo o brutalidad. Kining mga akto kinahanglan kondenado ug tanan. Kauban na ang atong kondenasyon sa pag-hostage sa mga Pilipino dili lang diri sa Pilipinas kung hindi sa didto sa Liberia.

I have instructed the DFA to get the facts about the snatching of Filipinos in Lliberia, and maintain a direct link of communication with the Liberian authorities. OWWA must keep closely in touch with the concerned families with whom I deeply sympathize. We will do all we can to keep our nationals out of harm's way. I shall be personally monitoring this issue until it is resolved.

Ang pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan sa ibang bansa, sa ating bansa ay tungkulin ng lahat lalo na dito sa ating bansa. Ito ay tungkulin hindi lamang ng pulis o sundalo kungdi ang lahat lalo na ang mga barangay tanod. Ang pagmamatyag ng lahat ang nagpapabawas sa ating takot laban sa banta, sa katahimikan ug aron makadayon ang aton mga pumuluyo sa ilang pangkinabuhi.

Alang kaninyo mga taga-General Santos, tungod kay ang General Santos gi-ilaman sa iyang produkto sa tuna adunay ako maayong balita. Mi ingon si DTI Secretary Mar Roxas nga nisugot na ang European communities sa pagkakabusa ilang taripa alang sa philippine tuna sa ilalom sa ilang tariff rate quota sugod sa hulyo mahimo na nga kita mubaligya ug abot sa 25,000 metric tons sa tuna sa gisat pang nasud sa European communities, 12 percent lang ang taripa nini. Kaniadto 24 percent ang atong taripa karon hangtod sa 25,000 metric tons tunga na ang taripa. Kaniadto 24 percent busa mamahal kini ug... Busa gamay ra ang mopalit bisan pa ug maayong klaseng ang atong isda. Alang sa sab sa inyong kalinaw ug kauswagan karon makaabot na sa Europe ang tingali unta doble nga atong produkto sa tuna.

I have asked the Fishing Industry of GenSan headed by Mr. Dominador Teng to give a briefing later to the GenSan and national media what this means to the people of Socskargen. But I would like to let you know that this is the first successful conclusion of a complaint filed by the Philippine government under the WTO.

Naa sab laing-laing pang anunsiyo. Humanon ta ug proyekto nga imprastraktura aron makaabot gyud ang kauswagan sa mga lunsuranon. Aron mahimugsan na kining mga lunsuranon. Gusto ko nga masayod kamo nga 90 billion pesos gikan sa tibuok national budget para 2003 gigahen alang gyud sa Mindanao. Kini 26 porsyento sa suma total sa budget karong tuiga. Ang population sa Mindanao 20 percent sa population sa tibuok nasud. Apan ang budget alang sa Mindanao 25 percent sa budget sa tibuok nasud. Apil sa budget ang pagpahimo sa mga imprastraktura sama sa upper mainit bridge sa sarangani na akong inagurahan ganinang buntag. Mihatag na sab ako ug sugo aron sugdan na ang pagtrabaho sa maitum-palimbang road, aron muosog ang komersiyo ug kalinaw dinha. So asa ang atong mga taga-dpwh diri? Asa atong dpwh naa ako notice of cash allocation, 36 million pesos, aron mahuman na... Aron mahuman na sa paspas ang maitum-palimbang road. Okay.

Mihatag na sab ako ug sugo aron sugdan na ang pagtrabaho sa General Santos fishport aron makusog pa ang komersiyo diri ug naa ko sab nga notice of cash allocation sa additional 81 million pesos dagdag sa 60 million na nagawas na kay sakbay nga masugod ang trabaho ingon ug atong mga foreign founders nga China kinahanglan

magawas ang kontribusyon ug government sa Pilipinas nga 140 million, kay kining proyekto bilyun-bilyon kining proyekto. One hundred million dollars kining proyekto — ay, no. Dili. 50 million dollars diay. Fifty million dollars kining proyekto kinahanglan ang 140 million pesos nga magikan sa national government aron masugdan kining proyekto. So karong adlaw naa na ang 140 million pesos.

Karon mangutana kamo kung unsay inyong mahimo bilang mgabarangay tanod aron makatabang sa atong mga inisyatiba sa Mindanao. Dako gyud ang inyomatabang sa paglambo sa atong mga programa sa mindanao tungod kay importante ang inyong katungdanan gilang sa mga tanod o magbalantay sa inyong mga barangay. Murag ingon ko ganina, kamo ang masugod aron magtinabangay mga opisyaes sa lungsod alang sa pagsulbad sa bisan unsay problema sa barangay. Mahimo kining problema alang sa terorismo ukon problema sa mga krimen, sa mga drugs o bisan unsang gubot. And also sa atong laing-laing programa sa atong kauswagan.

Unya, si Secretary Mai Jimenez maistorya kaninyo tungkol doon sa ating distance learning program. Kasi marami sa inyong mga barangay malayo lalo na sa glan, ‘di ba? Sa glan, layo layo. Sa Jose Abad Santos sa Sultan Kudarat, layo layo. Meron pang mga rebelde doon kung minsan natatakot ‘yung mga teacher magturo doon, wala tuloy teacher sa mga layuang barangay. kaya ang gusto natin magkaroon ng distance learning doon sa mga barangay. So, we will be having distance learning in these remote barangays where the teachers are scared to go. We will call this a strong republic school ug ang mga makatabang, makakatulong para sa enrollment para mag identify kung saan itong dapat maglagay tayo ng distance learning, kasama na ‘yung mga barangay captain at barangay tanod sa pagpili sa mga lugar.

Apil kamo sa aton mga crisis managers ug sa aton mga multipliers sa atong programa sa kauswagan. Apil kamo mga opisyal nga tawagon sa panahon sa krisis ang crisis manager. Agkayong nagtatapos kayo sa inyong pagsasanay lalong tumitibay ang aking pananalig na higit ninyong mapapangalagaan ang kapayapaan at seguridad ng bansa sa inyong serbisyo sa inyong mga barangay. Ang inyong patuloy na pakikiisa at pagsusuporta ang maghahatid sa atin dito sa Region XII maging sa buong pilipinas tungo sa ating pangarap na magkaroon ng malakas na Republika.

Daghan salamat. Damo gid salamat sa inyo nga tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA’s Speech during the Graduation of Barangay Tanod and Presentation of “Mindanao Natin”. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200748/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6472&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 105th Philippine Independence Day celebration

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 105th Philippine Independence Day celebration**

[Delivered at the Zamboanga City Coliseum, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur, June 12, 2003]

Muchas gracias, Secretary Cito Lorenzo, Nieto de Zamboanga City.

Mayor Lobregat, muchas gracias por su bonito discurso and for the welcome to all of us; Congressman Celso Lobregat; members of the Cabinet who are here, and I would like to introduce them to you, ladies and gentlemen of Zamboanga City: Secretary Angelo Reyes; Secretary Dinky Soliman; Secretary Joey Lina; Secretary Ging Deles; Secretary Mai Jimenez; General Abaya and the other soldiers and officers; City Councils of Zamboanga headed by Vice Mayor Fabian; PNP Chief Ebdane and the other policemen and women; governor George Hofer of Sibugay, Zamboanga; and the other visiting officials from out of town; mga minamahal kong kababayan na nakikinig diyan sa Quirino Grandstand at sa Luneta; binabati ko si Vice President Guingona at saka si Secretary Richard Gordon, at lahat na nagpaparada sa Luneta.

And to all of you, to all of us, a Ustedes todos, buenas tardes, de todos personas nasyonal, iyi Zamboangueños quien campion de demokrasya de aton. Esta le prente en la giyera kontra terorismo.

Narito ako ngayon sa Mindanao sa paggunita natin ng araw ng kalayaan dahil kailangan dito natin bigyan ng lubos na katuparan ang pangako ng tunay na kalayaan.

Mindanao, the land of promise, is also our final frontier of freedom. Ang labanan para sa kalayaan ay wala na sa Cavite, Bataan o Corregidor kung hindi nandito na sa lupang pangako, ang Mindanao.

Our most important focus of human freedom is Mindanao. Freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom from injustice. We shall continue the fight against terrorism and poverty until peace, security and prosperity take root in this part of the country. Freedom cannot wait. The people cannot wait.

Kabilang sa labanang ito ay ang pagsasagawa ng piling paghuli at pagpaparusa sa mga nagkakasala. Ang paglulunsad ng mga usapang pangkapayapaan. Ang pagbibigay ng tulong pang-ekonomiya at ang pakikipag-tulong sa ating mga kaibigang bansa at organisasyon.

We are wielding the strong hand of government authority, the compassionate hand of development, and the even hand of enlightened diplomacy to win the peace for our people. Ang mga ito ay patuloy nating ginagawa.

There is a Tagalog proverb: “Habang ang tao ay nasusugatan ito ay tumatapang.” it means hardship makes people stronger. I’m gratified to show the world how mindanao and therefore the Philippines has become stronger.

Noong isang taon, inahon ko ang bandilang Pilipino sa Poblacion ng Lamitan sa Basilan. Bago noon, halos walang naaahon sa Basilan. Maging pag-asa, maging tanim hindi makaahon kahit na kataba-taba ang lupa dahil sa bandido at terorista. Walang naiwan kung saan ang mga ito ay nagkalat ng lagim at nagdarambong maliban sa desperasyon, kasakitan at pagdusa.

Now, Basilan is in peaceful reawakening. As the people have started to take hold of their future using their own hands and resources aided by well-meaning allies for peace and development. Ang relasyon ng Pilipinas at ng mundo ngayon ay higit na malakas sa kailanman. Ang kooperasyon ay likas na batas ng kaunlaran at narito ako sa

Mindanao upang bigyang diin ang bagong panahon ng kooperasyon para ipasulong ang kapayapaan, seguridad at kaunlarang pangkabuhayan ng Pilipinas.

Stability and predictability are essential for creating jobs. That is why I have labored to rebuild key strategic alliances for the Philippines in Asia, Europe, North America including the United States. Kailangan ng Pilipinas itong mga alyansa para ipasulong ang pangangalakal. Maingganyo ang mga namumuhunan at makakuha ng tulong para labanan ang mga elementong gustong magdestabilisa sa Pilipinas. Alam natin ang puhunang kailangan para dito. Alam natin ang lakas ng loob na kailangan para dito.

Strength and security and foreign policy is one facet to the jewel that's the Philippines. Another is the great Filipino worker. Bilib ako sa Pinoy and my focus is clear — jobs for the great Filipino worker. Trabaho para sa Pinoy.

Hindi lamang ako pinunong responsable sa bansang walongpung milyong tao. Ako rin ay pinuno ng isang pangmundong samahan ng walong milyong Pilipinong nakatira at nagtatrabaho sa ibayong dagat. At naglilikha ng bilyung-bilyong dolyar na kita bawat taon.

We all share a desire to improve the economy and make things work to the advantage of the Filipino. The great comparative advantage of the Philippines is our rich human resources. Highly-skilled, well-educated and English-speaking. This includes the millions of Filipinos working in over a hundred forty countries of the world and the millions more employed in the Philippines.

Ang batayan nitong tagumpay ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino ay simple— edukasyon. Ito ay asal na nakabaon sa ating taumbayan. Pinagmamalaki ng bawat pamilya kung saan ang bukas na libro ngayon ay mangangahulugang bukas na pintuan bukas para sa trabaho at oportunidad.

When I became president two years and four months ago, I took a hard look at education, and I asked myself — is it preparing the youth for the jobs of the new economy? Or is it just keeping them off the streets until they're thrown there jobless after graduation, if they finish school at all.

Sa aking unang Ulat sa Bayan noong 2001 sinabi ko, to prepare our youth to be the next generation of the great Filipino worker, the knowledge workers, we will upgrade math and science teaching in basic education. We have done that with the new curriculum that we implemented this past school year. Now, we will upgrade English teaching so that our great Filipino worker will continue his or her advantage in this increasingly competitive world.

Upang mapalawak ang tsansang magtapos, ang ating mga bata sa paaralan sinisigurado natin na may paaralan bawat barangay. Ngunit higit dito sa lahat ng mga paaralang higit limampung bata sa bawat silid aralan, inaatasan ko na magdalawang halili ang mga klase para hindi masikip at mahirap mag-aral.

Sa mga paaralan namang elementaryong higit sandaang bata bawat silid aralan at sa mga high school kung saan higit dalawang daang mag-aaral bawa't silid aralan, itong taong aralan magtatayo tayo ng dagdag na silid aralan. Sa ganitong paraan, minsanang sasagutin natin ang matinding pagkakulang ng silid aralan na matagal nang nagbibigay ng perwisyo sa ating mga mag-aaral.

In addition, I am mainstreaming distance learning in the school system. This is education by television. In barangays where there are still no classrooms, chapels, barangay halls, multi-purpose centers or even shades of mango trees can be the venue. This distance learning module which I call the "strong republic school" will provide basic courses in English, math and science. It will be mainstreamed into the country's formal education system. Because the students who will take this up will be promoted to the next level as long as they pass a qualifying examination.

Supervision will be the responsibility of the nearest formal school. Para-teachers will be tapped from among retired school teachers, teacher soldiers, college level members of the community and socio-civic organization members. They will be trained to shepherd the students through the different modules. Dahil hindi pa umaabot ang sistema ng

komunikasyon sa lahat ng malalayong lugar gagamitin ang mga technovan ng technology and livelihood resource center para maghatid ng distance learning.

Gagamitin rin ang sistema ng komunikasyon ng Philippine Information Agency. At nag-alok ang channel two at lahat ng istasyon ng pamahalaang telebisyon na palalabasin itong mga programa sa edukasyon sa mga angkop na oras para ang mga magulang at mga anak ay kapuwa matutong magbasa, magsulat at magbilang. Ang layunin ko ay magkaroon ng sistemang... Buong sistemang satellite para sa programa itong taong aralan.

In our country, the student-teacher ratio is 34 to 1. That's not bad. Therefore, our problem is not the total number of teachers. It is the distribution of the teachers. There are many barangays all over the country where teachers refuse to be assigned. Largely, because they are wartorn barangays. The distance learning system will address this problem as well.

Ako ay bilib sa Pinoy. Salamat sa inyong sipag para sa inyong mga mahal sa buhay at para sa bansang Pilipinas. And I have tried to return the loyalty and dedication of our great Filipino workers, ang ating mga dakilang Pinoy, by working to reform the Philippines, to shake it from its lethargy and outmoded ways of doing things so that we can all prosper. Yet, like every year, this past year has seen its shares of ups and downs. But overall, the march of progress is clear and irreversible.

Tuloy nating tatanggalin ang katiwalian sa gobyerno. Hahabulin ang mga nagdadaya sa buwis. At magtrabaho para higit to make sure the people finally get the fair deal they deserve.

Gamitin natin ang batas para pigilin ang mga terorista at pandaraya sa gobyerno habang pinapa-ibayo ang sistema pinansyal ng Pilipinas.

We've moved forward on BIR reform and customs reform. Revenues are up. The key reform area now is the electric power sector, because we don't want 2006 to begin a period of darkness.

We have passed legislation to direct greater liquidity into the banking system so that our banks can provide more funds for small and medium enterprises and for housing.

Ngunit hindi lamang batas kung hindi pondo ang dapat ilagay sa tamang bagay kung kukuha tayo ng mabuting dibidendo para sa bansa para sa mga darating na taon. Kaya tayo ay namumuhunan sa imprastraktura para tumulong sa pagbiyahe ng tao at produkto at pag-ibayuhin ang kalidad ng buhay.

We're making new investments in small and medium enterprise. Remember, if we are to build a big middle-class, we must empower the people who will populate it. My small and medium enterprise program is a long-term investment in the future of our people. I know the talent is there. This small and medium enterprise program starting with ten billion pesos of funds available through the small banking system is the financial encouragement that they need and they deserve.

At tuloy tayong naghahanap ng puhunan sa kalusugan, sa pangsasaka, sa teknolohiya. Siyempre sa pagmodernisa kailangan rin nating harapin ang mga pamana ng nakaraan. Ito ay isang hamon na maalagaan ang ating pamana at palakihin ang ating mga pagkakataon habang minamantine ang disiplina sa pondo. Ang hamon ay napapalala dahil sa paghina ng pangmundong ekonomiya.

Our challenges remain: many economic, many social, many political. But you have my word that I wake up everyday determine to make progress for our country. And I believe we have made progress.

Este de espiritu de el independencia de nueva dia y necesita kita promotir y asi mas fuerza para se una futuro progresibo para sa aton mundo. Tiene kita fuerza y independencia para y asi este.

Bilib ako sa Pinoy.

Maraming salamat. At mabuhay ang dakilang Pilipino!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 105th Philippine Independence Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200727/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6471&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Vin d' Honneur in celebration of the 105th anniversary of Philippine Independence

**Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the Vin d' Honneur in celebration of the 105th anniversary of Philippine Independence

[Delivered on board BRP 'Ang Pangulo' docked at Majini Port, Southern Command area, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur, June 12, 2003]

In behalf of all our people, particularly the people of Mindanao, I welcome you.

I'm glad that you could be with us today as we celebrate our freedom even as we boldly face freedom's deadliest enemies here in Mindanao. We have expanded the frontiers of freedom by building on opportunities; by meeting challenges head on; by engaging our people of various creeds, ethnic origin and social station; and by engaging the world.

Our most important focus of human freedom is in Mindanao. Freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom from injustice. We shall continue the fight against terrorism and poverty until peace, security and prosperity take root in this part of the country. Freedom cannot wait, the people cannot wait.

We welcome any unilateral gesture to further silence the guns. But we would rather have a permanent ceasefire leading to substantive negotiations, rather than a ceasefire by installment designed only to gain tactical advantage. I cannot blame the people for being wary because they have not seen a concrete demonstration of sincerity other than this transitory peace overtures.

The national interest demands cautious vigilance even as our hopes for peace are undiminished. That is why we have reconstituted the government peace panel to prepare for a serious peace opportunity once it arises even as we sustain punitive actions against terrorist formations.

My decisions on this issue will depend on national security considerations, the permanent safety of our communities and a concrete show of sincerity on the other side. We will never allow terrorism to take the upper hand.

We thank the Malaysian government for its newest efforts to help us bring peace to Mindanao. We thank the organization of the Islamic conference for their full political cooperation to help move peace negotiations forward. We thank the developed countries particularly Japan, the U.S., Australia, the European countries, Canada, New Zealand, China, Korea for their engagement in Mindanao. Singly or through international organizations such as the World Bank, the Asian development bank and the U.N. system in worthy and effective programs directly striking at the recruiting grounds of conflict and rebellion. We thank the united states for his abundant pledges of material support to ensure the peace through post-conflict re-integration programs some of which are already on stream.

We thank our immediate neighbors and friends from Asean for their commitments to jointly fight terrorism.

The inexplicable link between what's happening in our country and what's going on in the world has never been clearer, and the inevitable integration between security and economic issues into a strategic whole has never been more apparent.

I'm instructing the DFA to send a team to get the facts and maintain a direct link of communication with the Liberian authorities with regard to the Philippine hostages. OWWA must keep closely in touch with the concerned families with whom I deeply sympathize. We will do all we can to keep our nationals out of harm's way. I shall be personally monitoring this issue until it's resolved.

I'm not only the leader of a nation of 80 million people but the leader of a Philippine global enterprise made up of over 8 million Filipinos living and working in over a hundred forty countries. These Filipinos arguably make up the most sophisticated global workforce ever deployed. This fact introduces a high level of complexity to Philippine foreign policy and underscores our vision to actively engage all nations and peoples to protect the interest of Filipinos the world over.

Here at freedom's frontiers we need most of all to bring government back to the center of the lives of the people. We are determined to make the people of Mindanao feel that we belong to one nation. That they are in the mainstream of our nation's future.

Last year, I raised the Philippine flag in a Poblacion of Lamitan in Basilan. Before that hardly anything was raised in Basilan. Neither hope nor crops could grow even in such fertile land because of brigandage and terrorism. Nothing was left where there's pillaged and plundered except sorrow, despair, pain and suffering.

Now, Basilan is in peaceful reawakening as the people have started to take hold of their future using their own hands and resources aided as well by well-meaning allies for peace and development.

Now, we have expanded the boundaries of our resolve to bring peace and progress to all of Mindanao. Peace where there's conflict. Progress where there is poverty. Hope where there is despair.

On this note, may I mark the commemoration of Philippine Independence Day by proposing a toast to all the nations and peoples of the world as I implore the almighty to bless our efforts to work together and harder than ever to attain our dreams of world peace and prosperity.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Vin d' Honneur in Celebration of the 105th Anniversary of Philippine Independence. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200739/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6470&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the “Sanctuaries of Peace” Program by the ‘Tabang Mindanaw’

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of the “SANCTUARIES OF PEACE” Program by the ‘Tabang Mindanaw’**

[Delivered in Brgy. Inug-ug, Pagalungan, Maguindanao, June 13, 2003]

To recognize the members of the diplomatic corps from the organization of the Islamic conference who have been so supportive of our peace and development efforts for Muslim Mindanao. I think we should know each one of them. Plus they have come here personally to know us better here. We have somebody who has been in the Philippines for such a long time that he’s practically a Filipino, the Ambassador of Libya, Ambassador Salem Adam. We also have of the organization of the Islamic conference has been so supportive of the Philippine position, Ambassador of Bangladesh, Ambassador Munir Uz-Zaman. Kasama pa nga niya si Madame Munir Uz-Zaman, the Lady of the Bangladesh Ambassador; Philippines in the OIC, the Chair of the Committee of the eight is Indonesia and we have here the Charge d’ Affaires of Indonesia, Alexander Laturiuw; and the Chairman of the BIMP-EAGA that we hope will be part of the fruits of peace and development, the Ambassador from Brunei, Ambassador Hajah Maimunah Dato Paduka Haji Elias. The region of Muslim Mindanao, the World Bank Representative in the Philippines Mr. Vance Pulley.

Dito po sa ating lugar. Si Mayor Montawal, ang Mayor ng Pagalungan. Salamat na kayo ay narito sa kabila pagagawan, Mayor Annie Montawal; Mayor din ng karatig bayan sa kabila ng ilog pero kaya itong tatlong ito isang ekonomiya lang dapat ito, ang Mayor ng Pikit si Mayor at at saka nagmamahal din sa ating lahat at narito ang barangay captain dito sa Inug-Ug si Captain Ibrahim Malabana; at ‘yung Pangulo ng ABC, salamat sa inyong welcome remarks. At gusto ko ring batiin ang mga officials ng “Tabang Mindanaw” na napakalaki ang tulong kaya narito tayong ngayon lahat.

Nalaman na ninyo si President Aquino ay ang honorary chair ng “Tabang Mindanaw.” ang moving spirit din ng “Tabang Mindanaw” ay si Ambassador Howard Dee. Siya po ay ginawa ko pong Presidential Adviser for the Indigenous peoples at siya ang tumulong sa akin na matayo muli at mabuo muli ‘yung National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. Kaya po mahal na mahal po niya kayong lahat at tayong lahat.

At isang moving spirit din po lalo na dito sa lugar na ito, ang obispo po ng Kidapawan, most reverend Bishop Valle. Tumawag po siya sa akin kagabi, kasi dapat daw magsalita ako. Sabi ko, napakalaking karangalan na kasama natin si President Aquino dapat siya ang ating guest of honor and main speaker. Pero sabi ni Bishop Valle, “gusto ring marinig ng mga taga-pagalungan kung anu-ano ang mga patakaran ng pamahalaan, kaya mabuti rin na magsalita ka.” eh, nagsabi po ang obispo mahirap hindi sumunod.

At gusto ko rin po batiin si namumuno sa buong member of the board ng Public Estate Authority, at siya po kanina ay inatasan na magbigay ng sagot ng Datu Paglas town, si Datu na nga, si Toto Paglas; Angie Reyes ang Chairman ng dito sa kambal kasi ang pag-iisip nila kaya parating pinagkakamalian sa isa’t-isa. At marami pong mga tulong Secretary ng Official Development Assistance si Mai Jimenez; gusto kong batiin ang Mothers for Peace. At meron tayong mga taga-maynilang Mothers for Peace na narito.

Talaga ito ay napakagandang kayo ay isang sangtuwaryo ng kapayapaan. Gaya ng sabi ni Bishop Valle kanina ang mga sangtuwaryo ng kapayapaan ang ay, naku! Hindi mo sinulat, ang aking Presidential Adviser sa Strategic concerns. Siya na ang tumutulong sa aking buong Mindanao campaign ngayon para buo, hindi lang sundalo, hindi lang... Kungdi lahat ng military, diplomatic, cultural, political, religious information — lahat ng adjective — siya ang aking adviser, si Secretary Rene De Villa. Ay, naku! Bakit naman hindi sinulat. Sa dami ng Cabinet members na narito, hindi ko pwedeng tignan sila isa’t-isa eh; ‘yung ating bagong chairman ng Peace Panel, si Secretary Ed Rrmita. At yung dating chairman ng Peace Panel..

... Sabihin mo lang sa akin, it is not an imposition, it is coming from the decision of the people in the community. At 'yon ho ay isang aking malaking pagbati sa inyo.

Ng "Tabang Mindanaw" na magkaroon ng hugis para maka-abot sa pamahalaan, sa sundalo maging mismo doon sa mga rebelde. At napakaganda ang ginagawa ng "Tabang Mindanaw," kasi 'yung ginagawa nila ay isang sagot doon sa matagal ko nang paniniwala.

Ako po ay naniniwala na hanggang tayo bilang sambayanan ng buong Pilipinas ay magkasundo sa Mindanao kahit kailan hindi natin makakamit ang ating pangako bilang isang dakilang bansa.

Kaya kailangan umabot tayo sa pambansang pagkaintindihan sa mga prinsipyong gagabay sa ating paghanap ng kapayapaan. At gagamitin ko itong pagkakataon na ipahayag muli itong ating mga prinsipyo.

Isang prinsipyo ay dapat ating pinakalayunin ay dapat kapwa magkasama kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Kaya po 'yung binanggit ni Mayor Montawal na sinusuportahan 'yang deklarasyon ko sabi ko, bakit ceasefire by installment. Dapat permanent ceasefire, dapat final peace agreement.

At itong sinasabi na dapat final peace agreement 'yan ay tugon sa ating pangalawang prinsipyo. Itong pangalawang prinsipyo natin ay ang ating framework ay dapat nakabase sa ating konstitusyon, sa pambansang kasarinlan na buong bansa, isang bansa, at integridad ng ating pambansang teritoryo.

Pangatlong prinsipyo ay ang ating lipunan ay multi-ethnic. We are a multi-ethnic society. We must recognize that we are a multi-ethnic society. Ibig sabihin nito magkaroon tayo dapat ng panlipunang katarungan para sa lahat and we must have institutionalized accommodation of the various ethnic traditions. Kristiyano at Muslim, Intsik at Tisoy, Tagalog at Cebuano, ang mga ito isa lamang sa mga pangalan na sinasagutan ng Pilipino sa isang napaka halagang testigo ng pamana bilang bansa. Kaya doon sa sang-ayon sa ating institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions kung meron mang moskeng nasira, maging dito sa pagalungan, maging doon sa buliok, saan man nangyari o may nagka aksidenteng nasira ang moske sa labanan tungkulin na itatayo muli 'yon ng ating sandatahan... Ng ating mga sundalo. Sila mismo ang magtatayo muli nitong mga moskeng ito. At magiging isang kasalimuutang isyu ang gagawin doon na gusto kong mangyari maging sundalo, maging milf wala doon. Ihandog natin sa isang ngo na muslim na rekomendado ng Office of Muslim Affairs, 'yon po ang ating gagawin.

At gusto ko pong sabihin din, kahapon kasi hindi ba pagdiriwang ng ating Araw ng Kalayaan. Ako po ay nagdiskurso para sa buong bansa mula po doon sa Zamboanga City. Bahagi ng aking ikinuwento ay para sa malalayong lugar lalo na kung saan nasisira 'yung mga eskwelahan o natatakot pumunta ang mga guro dahil sa labanan maglalagay tayo ng distance learning. Maglalagay tayo ng eskwela na dumadaan sa telebisyon. Pagtuturo sa telebisyon. At bahagi ng gagamitin natin ay 'yung mga technovan ng Technology and Livelihood Resource Center. Umiikot-ikot po ito sa mga lugar para nagtuturo po ng mga sanayan sa pangkabuhayan upang kapuwa magulang at anak ay matututong magbasa, magbilang, magsulat. At maglalagay po tayo ng isang TLRC technovan para sa distance learning para sa eskwela sa telebisyon dito po sa complex ng pagalungan, pagagawan at saka Pikit.

Kailangang pa ninyo ng gamot, bigas, mga de lata, mga pangangailangan dahil ang daming nawawalaan dahil doon po sa giyera. Meron ho akong dalang tseke mula sa Sweepstakes ng 100,000 pesos para po sa pagalungan at saka pagagawan.

Kahapon din po, doon sa aking Independence Day message, sinabi ko po sa pagdiriwang natin sa Araw ng Kalayaan ang ating pinaka-importanteng tukoy ng kalayaan pangtao ay Mindanao — kalayaan mula sa katakutan; kalayaan mula sa kakulangan; kalayaan mula sa walang katarungan. Ating hangarin po dito sa santuwaryo ng kapayapaan dito po sa barangay inug-ug, ating hangarin na isigurado na ang mamamayan ng barangay inug-ug ay maging — 'yon na nga – sila ay makamit nila itong mga kalayaan na hinahangad ng ating buong bansang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the "SANCTUARIES OF PEACE" Program by the 'Tabang Mindanaw'. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200702/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6469&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with ARMM officials and employees Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with ARMM officials and employees**

[Delivered at the Shariff Kabunsuran Cultural Center, Cotabato City, June 13, 2003]

May I exercise my prerogative as President of the Philippines to preside over this meeting.

Governor Parouk Hussin and the other officials of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao; our friends, the ambassadors of the various countries who loved Muslim Mindanao, and let me acknowledge them — we have the Ambassador from Libya, Ambassador Salem Adam; we have the Ambassador from Malaysia, Ambassador Taufik Mohd Noor; we have the Ambassador from the U.S., Ambassador Frank Ricciardone; we have the Ambassador from Bangladesh, Munir Uz-zaman; we have the Ambassador from Brunei, Ambassador Paduka Haji Elias; and we have the Charge d' Affaires of Indonesia, Mr. Alexander Laturiuw; Mayor Muslimin Sema and the other officials of Cotabato City; Mr. Vance Pulley, Country Representative of the World Bank; aking mga Cabinet members na narito; mga kababayan:

I'm very happy that we have the OIC Ambassadors here today. They've been with us since yesterday. They went with us to two remote towns of Maguindanao this morning. They went with us to a remote Barangay of Cotabato City this afternoon, but we specifically invited them for this particular part of our day. This afternoon, we would like to complete the compliance of the Philippine government with the Tripoli agreement way back in 1976.

One of the requirements of the Tripoli agreement is providing for the ARMM unified command. And this is the first promulgation I would like to make. I would like to read before you — kasi ang dahilan kung bakit inuuna sana 'yung adjutant kasi magdiskurso pa ako mamaya sana. Hindi na, eto na ang pinaka-importante... Eto na ang pinaka-diskurso ko. Huwag na kayo maghintay mamaya.

I would like to read Executive Order 212 which I myself signed. The title is "Providing for the Organization of the ARMM Unified Command, Southern Command, Armed Forces of the Philippines for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao." may I now read the contents: whereas, section 21, article 10 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the defense and security of the autonomous region shall be the responsibility of the national government;

Whereas, under section 4 Republic Act 6734 as amended by R.A. 9054, the defense and security of the ARMM shall be the responsibility of the national government towards this end, a regional command of the AFP shall be organized in accordance with national laws;

Whereas, to ensure the well-being and security of the inhabitants of Muslim Mindanao, it may be necessary to station and deploy therein such elements of the armed forces as may be necessary in the area of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Now, therefore, I, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order Section 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared policy of the state that the defense and security of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shall be the responsibility of the national government.

Section 2. ARMM unified command. There is hereby created and organized an ARMM unified command under the southern command, Armed Forces of the Philippines which shall be organized, maintained and utilized in accordance with national laws. Now, let me read a sentence to comply with the spirit and letter of the 1976 Tripoli agreement. Qualified inhabitants from the ARMM shall be given preference for assignment in the said unified command.

Section 3. Command relationship. The ARMM unified command shall be under the direct supervision and control of the commander, Southcom-AFP. The Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines shall determine the command relationship between Southern command-AFP, the ARMM unified command, and AFP-wide support units of the major services operating in Southern Philippines. This has not been done but with my instructions today, this is the one that will trigger that process.

Section 4. Calling upon the armed forces notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding sections, the regional governor of the ARMM may request the president to call upon the armed forces of the Philippines: a) to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion where the public safety so requires in the autonomous region in accordance with the provisions of the constitution; b) to suppress the danger to or breach of peace in the autonomous region or the regional police force is not able to do so; or c) to avert any imminent danger to public order and security in the autonomous region. The president may on his/her own accord send the Armed Forces of the Philippines to the autonomous region to attain the above stated objectives if the regional governor does not act within 15 days up to the occurrence of the threats mentioned above.

Section 5. Regional emergency. In times of regional emergency all elements of the regional police force — which has already been established in a previous Executive Order, by the way. So, this is the twin, this is the military twin of the police regional force — the Regional Bureau of Fire Protection and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology shall upon direction of the President or the Regional Governor assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines in meeting the emergency. As you can see in this provision, the President of the Philippines shares part of her work as Commander-in-Chief with the regional governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Number 6. Implementing rules. The DND in coordination with the Autonomous Regional government particularly the ARMM-DILG shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing this order. The Secretary of National Defense and all concerned AFP officials and officers are hereby directed to extend their fullest assistance and cooperation to the autonomous regional government of the ARMM to ensure the implementation of this order.

Section 7 is the separability clause, which is the usual.

Section 8 is the repealing clause.

And Section 9 is the effectivity.

So this is one of the actions to complete an agreement that was forged almost 40 years ago but somehow we were afraid to trust the regional government of Muslim Mindanao. Now, we are not afraid to trust the regional government of Muslim Mindanao. Another expectation from the Tripoli agreement is the establishment of the Shariah court. I think is only one. Correct, one justice for its courts, but they are not filled up. They are not occupied.

So, I am hereby constituting a search committee to look for the appropriate justice and judges to head the Shariah courts. The search committee will be headed by the governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Governor Parouk Hussin and the Secretary of Justice who also comes from Muslim Mindanao, Secretary Sim Datumanong.

The third expectation of the Tripoli agreement that we want to comply with is that the ARMM Governor should have Cabinet rank. Now, of course, that was in another Constitution at that time, 1976. Right now, if you're an elected official, you cannot sit in the cabinet because those are made up of appointive officials. However, I have signed an executive order that provides for the Governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao to regularly sit with the Cabinet at all Cabinet meetings as an adviser.

I hope with these three provisions, the political aspects that are part of the expectation of the... The political and security aspects that form the most difficult parts of the expectations from the 1997 Tripoli agreement will be considered as fully implemented.

Now, I would like to call the adjutant to do the next step in implementing the executive order that I gave and that is the promulgation.

Thank you very much. That is my speech.

(The adjutant speaking)

PGMA: “pwede bang makialam na naman?”

Adjutant: “ah, okay.”

PGMA: our next event... Because what we did now is with regard to peace; it's with regard to the military; with regard to the justices; with regard to the authority of the Autonomous Region Governor in the Cabinet. The next thing we will do is with regard to development, and that is the funding of the development of ARMM through the ARMM social fund. So, our next event is a board meeting of the ARMM social fund. Well, in this particular meeting, I will myself chair it personally.

So, thank you very much for coming and now we will all proceed... I mean, we will proceed to the board meeting.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with ARMM Officials and Employees. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200711/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6468&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a new town visit in Gen. S.K. Pendatun [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagbisita sa bagong bayan sa Gen. S. K. Pendatun**

[Ipinahayag sa Evacuation Center (malapit sa Bulwagan ng Munisipyo), Gen. S.K. Pendatun, Maguindanao, ika 13 ng Hunyo, 2003]

Ito para bang kahapon lamang ito. Gusto ko lamang batiin kayong lahat at... kayong lahat na nandidito. Ang Governor nung lahat na maliban kay... ‘Yon nga ang gusto ko ikuwento. Alam po n’yo itong S.K. Pendatun . Diosdado Macapagal ay Pangulo ng Pilipinas, si Salipada Pendatun po ang unang Deputy Speaker na Muslim sa ating kasaysayan nung panahon po niya. In fact, I remember nung ako ay sa Iligan, noong kami’y bata pa ‘yung tatay namin tapos kami magkasama sa eskwelahan panay ang turo naman nila sa akin tumakbo bilang senador. Pumunta ako dito sa paiyak-iyak. Hindi ko alam kung umiiyak siya dahil sa wakas nakapunta ako dito na hindi niya akalain talagang pupunta ako o dahil nung araw ang population niya ay 30,000 ngayon 45,000 na. At ‘yung report na binibigay ni DSWD Secretary ng ARMM, si Secretary Karon na dito sa buong ARMM... O sa... Hindi, sa Maguindanao... Ah, sa ARMM, sa ARMM, ang number one na pinakamaraming evacuees ay sa pagalungan. Ang number two na may pinakamaraming evacuees ay dito na nga, sa Salipada Pendatun.

‘Yung Pikit hindi kasama dahil ang Pikit ay hindi ARMM. Pikit ay bahagi ng Region XII. Kaya ‘yung tatlong ‘yon ay napakaraming evacuees. Kaya sabi ko pupunta tayo sa S.K. Pendatu, at sabi ko si Dinky Soliman at ang kanyang counterpart sa DSWD sa ARMM ay magpapahayag ng ating relief and rehabilitation program para sa ating mga evacuees dito. Kaya dito natin ginagawa itong programa sa evacuation center mismo para ipahayag sa inyong mga evacuees, ‘yung mga gustong umuwi pwede nang umuwi sa inyong lugar. Ang nag-evacuate dito merong mga nagsabi na mananatili — liwat, 300 families? — 700 families ang nagdesisyon na dito na matitira sa S.K. Pendatun. Ibig sabihin, kalahati nung nag-evacuate ay nagustuhan ang hospitality ng taumbayan ng S.K. Pendatun kaya dito na raw sila matitira kasama ninyo.

Kay ang 30,000 population, ‘yung iba kaya tutulungan kayong lahat ng rehabilitation whether dito na kayo matitira o doon at babalik sa inyong mga lugar. ‘Yan po ang aking mensaheng binibigay ni Dinky. Ngayon po isa ang pinag-aralan ko po dito sa armm na napakaraming walang trabaho. Siguro sa buong Pilipinas kapag kailangan ninyo maraming walang trabaho ‘yung Metro Manila at saka Calabarzon. Kasi sa Metro Manila at saka Calabarzon maraming pumupunta doon kasi mataas ang income kaya akala maraming trabaho. Pagpunta doon wala nang trabaho. ‘Di na umuuwi, nandoon na sa squatter area kaya mataas ang unemployment. Doon ang pinakamataas ang unemployment pero kapantay na halos dito sa ARMM.

Kaya ‘yung kanina sabi ko doon sa DOLE magpasalamat din kayo sa akin dahil policy decision ko ‘yan. Etong nag-oathtaking, gusto ko ring i-launch dito. ‘Yang nag-oathtaking na ‘yan, ‘yan ang isang tulong mula sa Amerika, usaid. ‘Yon ang tulong para sa child labor. In other words, imbes na ‘yung mga bata magtatrabaho mga kapatid nila o mga magulang nila ang dapat magtrabaho, maligtas sila sa child labor. At ang talagang tukoy niyan ay ‘yon sana ay para sa Calabarzon dahil maraming child laborers sa Calabarzon. Ako’y nagsabikay pat Sto. Tomas, ilipat muna ang pera doon sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Ay ito ay emergency employment. Ngayon ‘yung emergency employment na ginagawa ko noon, nakikita ko pag tinatanong natin sa DSWD, kahirap-hirap, maghahanap ng magha-house, maghahanap ng mag-training, maghahanap ng magtuturo ng livelihood eh mga out-of-school-youth nga ito eh.

Eh, kaya tatapusin ko na ho ang aking pananalita total hindi naman talaga kasama ito sa ating programa.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during a New Town Visit in Gen. S.K. Pendatun. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200720/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6467&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Moral Recovery Training Program Culmination Ceremony
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Moral Recovery Training Program Culmination Ceremony

[Delivered at the Jamiatu Muslim Mindanao Quadrangle, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, June 14, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Bert Gonzales sa iyung pagpakilala sa akin.

Gusto ko ring batiin ang isang pangunahing gumanap ng papel dito sa ating programang ito, ang Secretary of Education ng Republic of the Philippines, si Secretary DJ De Jesus. At siyempre gusto kong batiin ang ating mga official ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao sa pamumuno ni ARMM Governor Parouk Hussin.

At dito sa ating palatuntunang ginaganap napakalaki rin ang papel ng ating ARMM Vice Governor at Secretary ng Education ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, si Vice Governor and Secretary Mahid Mutilan.

Batiin ko ang ating Host Mayor, City Mayor, Mayor Omar Ali; batiin ko ang Gobernador ng Lanao Del Sur, si Mike Adiong; si Vice Governor Ramos; ating mga Congressmen, si Faysah Dumarpa at si Ben Macarambon; iyung ibang Secretary ng Cabinet na narito ay si Secretary Mai Jimenez, Secretary Ging Deles, Secretary Dinky Soliman, Secretary Cito Lorenzo, Secretary Renato de Villa; at dalawang P.A. na narito, si Jess Dureza at saka si Mona Valisno.

Binabati ko ang lahat ng Mayor ng Lanao Del Sur na narito, maging ang Vice Mayor at ang buong konseho ng Marawi City, at si Assemblyman Usman Sarangani; iyung ating mga superintendent: si Salma Bagul, si Zenaida Ampatuan at saka si Ilindang Dimaampao; si Ali Mohamad Anwar Bashir, Presidente ng Jamiah, at 'yung ating mga opisyal ng ating kapayapaan, ang South Commander ng Armed Forces of the Philippines, si General Roy Kyamko at saka ang Deputy Director General ng Police, Virtus Gil; narito rin ang namumuno ng OMA, si Sam Ampatuan; sa inyong lahat mga guro, Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Warrabakato. Sumainyo nawa ang kapayapaan.

Sinadya kong dalawin ang mga lugar ng Muslim Mindanao matapos ang Araw ng Kalayaan para maalala nating lahat na ang Muslim Mindanao ay parte pa rin ng Pilipinas at ito ay hindi dapat kalimutan. Ako, hindi ko makakalimutan ang Muslim Mindanao lalo na ang Lanao dahil ako, ang aking kabataan ay ginanap mahabang panahon doon sa Iligan. And I know that for too long, the people of Mindanao have been feeling economic exclusion. Ito ang isang dahilan ng rebelyon dito.

Kahapon, nagpunta ako sa Barangay Inug-ug ng pagalungan doon sa Maguindanao, na ginagawang santuwaryo ng kapayapaan mismo ng mga taga-barangay sa tulong ng Tabang Mindanaw, pamahalaang lokal ng pagalungan at Diocese ng Kidapawan. Nakumbinsi nila ang mga rebeldeng grupo at ang militar na huwag isangkot ang komunidad sa kanilang laban at hayaang manumbalik ang normal na pamumuhay ng tatlong daang pamilyang nasa santuwaryo. Si dating pangulong Cory Aquino, isang haligi ng kapayapaan, ang ating panauhin sa nasabing okasyon. Kanina naman, nanggaling kami sa sultan gumander sa barangay ubanoban, at sabi rin nila, "Welcome to barangay Ubanoban, a zone of peace."

Bilang isang patunay na ang pinakamahigpit na magkakaaway man ay makatao rin, sana ay mabigyan-daan ang mga gawaing ito sa mas malawak na kapayapaan at pagkakaisa sa Mindanao.

Sa aking pagtigil dito sa Mindanao, inaasahan kong maisulong ang prosesong pangkapayapaan at itaguyod ang rehabilitasyon ng mga lugar ng kaguluhan. Gusto ko ring matiyak na ang programang mindanao national initiative o 'Mindanao Natin' na sinadya kong binuo para sa kaunlaran ng Mindanao, ay ipapatupad sa paraang makakapagdulot ng rehabilitasyon at kaunlaran sa mahihirap nating kababayan.

Gusto kong mapabilis ang implementasyon ng 'mindanao natin' na may pondong 5.5 billion pesos para sa limang libong barangay sa Autonomous Region ng Muslim Mindanao, sa Lanao del Norte, sa Bukidnon at sa Zamboanga Peninsula. Ang programang ito ay suportado rin ng Official Development Assistance ng halagang 1.3 billion dollars.

Ang Mindanao ay nasa gitna ngayon ng paglaban sa terorismo at kahirapan, gamit ang iba't-ibang kakayahan galing sa loob at sa labas ng ating bansa. Mula sa aking pagdalaw, halimbawa, sa amerika noong isang buwan, nakapag-uwi ako ng mahahalagang economic assistance: 96 million dollars para sa tulong sa kaunlaran at kaligtasan ng mga bata sa pinakamahirap na bahagi ng bansa, at two-thirds nito ay gagastusin dito sa mindanao. Bukod pa ito sa 74 million dollars para sa iba't-ibang proyekto ng usaid para sa mindanao. Kabilang dito ang 33 million dollars bilang tuloy na development grants sa mga dating rebeldeng MNLF. at 50 million dollars bilang tulong sa ating prosesong pangkapayapaan sa milf kung tatalikurin nila ang terorismo. Ng pangkalahatang halaga nitong mga tulong galing sa amerika sa aking huling biyahe ay higit pa sa natatanggap ng pilipinas nung may base militar, kasi noong panahong 'yon, 200 million dollars a year ang binibigay ng amerika sa Pilipinas taun-taon.

Aking biyahe naman sa Korea ay naghatid ng 100 million dollars halaga ng Official Development Assistance, na ang 9 million dollars dito ay pupunta sa pagbuo ng kailangang pondo para sa Laguindingan Airport ng Misamis Oriental, na magiging mas malaki at mas malapit sa Lanao del Sur kaysa ang Cagayan de Oro airport. Ang aking pagbisita sa japan ay nakakuha ng dagdag na pondo para sa mga proyekto ng armm na nagkakahalaga ng 20 million dollars.

Nagsimula na rin ang 33 million dollars galing sa USAID para sa ARMM social fund na noon pang unang pagbisita ko sa washington ng 2001ay pinagkasundo na namin ni President Bush. Nagmiting kami kahapon sa board ng ARMM social fund para pag-usapan kung saan pupunta itong pondo. Pinagkasundo na bahaging itong armm social fund ay pupunta sa pagtayo ng bahay ng mga nasunugan dahil sa giyera. Sinabi ko rin na dapat gastusan ng ARMM social fund ang distance learning o eskwelahang telebisyon na magdadala ng reading, writing at arithmetic sa mga malalayong lugar kung saan kulang ang silid-aralan o kaya kulang ang guro.

To prepare the youth to be the next generation of knowledge workers, we have upgraded math and science teaching in basic education last schoolyear. Now, we will upgrade English teaching, pati sa mga madrasah so that our great Filipino worker will continue to have the advantage in this increasingly competitive world.

Upang mapalawak ang tsansang magtapos ang ating mga bata sa paaralan, sinisigurado natin na may paaralan bawat barangay. Ngunit higit dito, sa lahat ng mga paaralang higit limampung bata sa bawat silid-aralan, inaatasan ko si Secretary De Jesus na gumawa ng dalawang halili ang mga klase para hindi masikip at mahirap ang mag-aral. Sa mga paaralan namang elementaryong higit sandaang bata bawat silid-aralan, itong taong-aralan, inaatasan ko rin ang DepEd na magtayo ng dagdag na silid-aralan.

Dito sa armm, kagabi nagpuyat ako kasi binilang ko ang mga eskwelang higit sandaang bata bawat silid-aralan. At nabilang ko sa ARMM, isang daan at tatlumpu't pitong eskuwela. Kaya maglalaan ako ng 40 million pesos para magtayo ng bagong silid-aralan sa mga eskwelang iyon. Sa ganitong paraan, minsanan aasikasuhin natin ang matinding pagkulang ng silid-aralan na matagal nang nagbibigay ng perwisyo sa ating mga mag-aaral.

Sinabi ko rin na dapat gastusin ng ARMM social fund ang dokumentasyon ng mga mahihirap para sa pagpapatitulo ng lupang tinitirikan nila. Tinutugunan nito ang matagal nang problema ng mga komunidad na muslim hinggil sa titulo ng lupa. Kaugnay nito, magtatayo tayo ng mga one-stop shop for land titling and registration sa ARMM sa ilalim ng Office of Muslim Affairs at DENR. Ang unang ganitong one-stop shop ay tinayo kahapon mismo sa ARMM compound sa Cotabato City. May mga teams din na ipapadala sa mga komunidad ng Lanao Del Sur at ibang lugar ng armm para tumanggap at mag proseso ng land patents na hahantong sa titulo ng lupa para sa inyo.

Kanina gaya nang sabi ko, pumunta ako sa Sultan Gumander dito sa Lanao Del Sur upang simulan ang kalsada na pinopondohan ng Kuwait fund for Arab Economic Development. Ang Kuwait ay pinopondohan ang apat na road projects dito sa Lanao Del Sur hanggang Lanao Del Norte na umaabot sa halagang 20 million dollars. At iyung pinuntahan namin sa Sultan Gumander kanina magiging two-and-a-half hours na lang pagpunta niya doon sa Cagayan de Oro para ang produkto nila ay madaling makaabot sa iba't ibang palengke ng ating bansa.

Kahapon rin ay binuo ko ang ARMM Unified Command ng Armed Forces of the Philippines na nakasaad sa aking Executive Order 212. Ang ARMM Unified Command ang mangangalaga sa kapakanan at seguridad ng mga nakatira sa Muslim Mindanao. Itong ARMM Unified Command ay ilalagay sa supervision at control ng Southern Command ng AFP, si General Roy Kyamko. Magkakaroon siya ng Deputy South Commander para sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, iyan ang unang hakbang ng unified command. At ang mga tagarito sa ARMM na may angkop na kakayahan ay bibigyan ng prayoridad na mapabilang sa nasabing unified command ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Sinabi ko rin sa DOLE na magbigay ng emergency employment sa mga out-of-school youth ng ARMM. Kaya kanina pagdating ko doon sa helicopter site ay in-induct ko itong ating mga out-of-school youth emergency employment beneficiaries. Isang libo mula sa Lanao del Sur at isang libo mula sa Maguindanao. Sa ilalim ng proyektong ito, ang mga kabataan ay sasanayin bilang bagong grupo ng Sala'am peace corps. Ang mga ito ay sasanayin upang makalahok sa socio-civic activities, relief operations, police work assistance at medical missions. Bawat batang sasali dito ay tatanggap ng 1,000 pesos allowance kada buwan. Maari silang sumali nang mula tatlong buwan hanggang isang taon.

Lumikha na rin tayo ng isang search committee para sa mga maaaring hirangin sa Shariah courts. Hinahanap natin ang mga pinaka-mahuhusay at pinaka-magagaling na legal luminaries mula sa Muslim community. Ang komite ay pamumunuan ni Justice Secretary Datumanong dahil siya ay abogado at siya ay Muslim. Siyempre nandiyan si Governor Parouk Hussin at saka si Vice Governor Mutilan pati na rin ang mga batikang abogado ng ARMM ay ilalagay natin dito sa search committee. Hinihingi ko ang kanilang mga rekomendasyon sa loob ng anim na buwan para magtayo na tayo sa wakas ng hinihintay n'yong Shariah courts. Mamaya, pupunta ako diyan sa gusali na 'yan dahil pag-uusapan kung papano maipabuhay muli iyung irrigation project na ginawa nung aking tatay, the late president Diosdado Macapagal.

Hayaan ninyong ulitin ko dito ang mga prinsipyong gumagabay para matupad ang ating pangarap sa Mindanao:

Una, ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran ay laging magkasama;

Pangalawa, ang pag-unlad ng ating bansa ay dapat naka-base sa constitutionality, national sovereignty at territorial integrity;

Pangatlo, ang ating lipunan ay binubuo ng iba't-ibang tradisyon na nakabatay sa social justice para sa lahat at paggalang sa ating pagkakaiba-iba.

Idadagdag ko sa tatlong batayang prinsipyo ang isang pang apat, na ang terorismo at ibang kasamaan ay dapat kondenahin.

Inaasahan ko na ang 'mindanao natin' ay tatangkilikin ng lahat sa ating bansa, hindi lamang ang mga taga-Mindanao at mga Muslim, kundi ng lahat maging taga-Luzon at taga-Visayas bilang mahalagang hakbang patungo sa katuparan ng pangako ng Mindanao. Ang pagkakaisa ng ating bansa ang isang kahulugan ng ating ginawang pagdiriwang noong makalawa ng araw ng kalayaan, ginawa natin iyan dito sa Mindanao.

Ako at ang iba pa nating mga kababayan ay nakikiisa nang buong giting sa mga taga-mindanao sa mga adhikain ng hangganang ito ng ating kasarinlan.

Bilang nagkakaisang sambayanan sa ilalim ng isang bandila, makakamit natin ang makabuluhang autonomiya sa muslim mindanao at matutupad ang pangako ng rehiyong ito nang sa gayon ay mapalapit tayosa ating adhikaing matatag at maunlad na republika ng Pilipinas.

Mabuhay ang guro ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao!

Okay. Thank you, thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Moral Recovery Training Program Culmination Ceremony.
Retrieved
from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200650/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6466&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference**

[Delivered at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, July 8, 2003]

THE CHURCH AND BUSINESS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you once again for inviting me to be with you. We have been together for many, many years now. The Bishops-Businessmen's Conference has been here for many years now and whenever I have a chance to attend, even before I became president, I always joined you because I believe this Conference is a representative of the conscience of our people.

During Martial Law, you were the voice of temperance and peaceful resistance. Since then, you have come a long way. You have become staunch advocates of many causes, including and especially the cause of Mindanao and also in many other ways, the promotion of social justice and the promotion of the equitable distribution of the nation's wealth.

I like to join your annual assembly because for me it is a time like an annual retreat, or an annual day of recollection for reflecting on the main components of our battle against poverty, and of the main components of our quest for good governance, that is the improvement of moral standards in government and society.

To improve moral standards, there are many things that we must do. One of them is to help honest people get elected through electoral reform. I say this because the leaders of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference has also been the staunchest advocate for electoral reform. I want to go back to that compass. I want to go back to what we were saying together "*high-tech na boto, ito ang susing pagbabago*" and that came from many of the leaders of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference.

This year, in the midst of deficit problems last year, in the midst of threats to peace and order, in the midst of the terrorist threat and the SARS threat, I took the giant leap of making available the financing needed, to fully computerize the quick and accurate counting and tabulation of votes in the 2004 and subsequent elections.

I say this because hardly anybody seems to be talking about it anymore. There's a lot that needs to be done to make sure that this money so difficultly put together, will really result in the modernization of our electoral system.

I want to take this opportunity, speaking before you, bishops and the businessmen, who are leaders also in the religious community, to ask for your support in making the system work. After all you work long and hard for it, and I was only your instrument as a faithful daughter of the church to make sure the facilities are made available. The money is there but many milestones must be met, many advocacies must be advanced, much education must be made on the many elements of electoral modernization, if we want to see the elections of May 2004 as a time when we cross a bold new threshold in democracy by cleaning up the voting process.

Just to give you an update, we have seen in the newspapers that the COMELEC was able to bid out the Computerization Systems on time, just in the nick of time. I don't think we should do the rest of the steps just in the nick of time. I have assigned our Secretary of Science and Technology, Nina Alabastro, to work closely with the

COMELEC to make sure that the specific system for counting votes is technically above board, responsive to our needs and adherent to the high standards of integrity, we want to preserve. But beyond assigning Nina Alabastro to help the COMELEC technically, I cannot do much beyond that because COMELEC is constitutionally independent of the executive. That is also why monitoring the milestones, doing the advocacies and the alertness, providing the education and information are more properly done by civil society, including the church, rather than by the administration. I propose that in the middle of the great work that you are doing for our society and for Mindanao. Please do not forget that these activities related to the modernization of elections should be a major task of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference this year and next year.

Again, to give you a report, the first batch of automated counting machines will arrive on August 5th this year. The Commission on Elections is setting up a testing site for the machines and will put these through a gruelling set of tests, to make sure that they are hardy and worthy. And I believe it would be proper for the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference to do the advocacies rather than the administration to make sure that all parties, including NAMFREL, are represented in these tests, to do the advocacies and exercise the alertness to make sure that we obviate any misunderstanding or misperceptions about how the counting machines work.

I look forward to that historic day in May next year when these automated counting machines will be first touched by Filipino hands. This will be one of our great legacies to suffrage. And I want to acknowledge once again that it was the leaders of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference from a long time ago that began the journey.

You will work for these electoral reforms in the same way that you have been working for other reforms, to improve governance and to improve moral standards in government and society. In all these, you also imposed upon yourselves; because you're working to improve not only moral standards in government but moral standards in society and in the business community. As your consensus statement says, the new business of business is to build an enterprise on the total development of man. The total development of man — that is what we must all look for, and that is what we must reflect on, as we go about meeting the many challenges of today.

The encyclical on the development of people states that peace cannot be limited to a mere absence of war. Peace is something that is built up day after day in pursuit of an order intended by God, which implies a more perfect form of justice among men. And it is on reflecting on the meaning of peace, in the context of the total development of man, that I reflect on the policies that we must follow regarding the different threats to peace.

On the NPA, the Government will move on two priority areas:

First, we will conduct a political, social and economic audit on the 500 or so 'influenced' barangays identified by the intelligence community and determine a specific set of military or developmental countermeasures, to extricate these poverty-stricken barangays from the grip of dissidents;

Second, we will identify and expose the growing number of front organizations of the CPP-NPA-NDF and cut their links from domestic and foreign funding sources. We will mount a full court press on the security and developmental components of these threats, even as we leave the door open to peace talks based on constitutional, democratic participation.

We condemn the series of assassination attempts on municipal executives, especially, as they have happened already for the fourth time in the last several weeks. The DILG Secretary is instructed to conduct a full investigation of these incidents.

On the MILF, we are open to the suspension of the court warrants, if this is necessary to move the peace talks forward. But the MILF must not tarry on the procedural issues involved, especially so, that it has several lawyers and legal advisers among its ranks. We will continue to build confidence in the peace process and we're preparing for the opening of talks, and we must avoid being bogged down by these matters.

On the drug war, the intelligence community maintains a list of the most notorious drug lords and their coddlers. That list will be disclosed in due time as information is gathered on these personalities. I want the people to know

the face of the enemy, who should not be allowed to move around freely under a cloak of legitimacy. Drug lords must be exposed for what they are — destroyers of our future. Our crusade must be relentless and encompassing.

These are the challenges to our peace and the order of our society that we must face, even as we try to move forward to bring about fundamental reforms in the electoral process and in the affirmative action for Mindanao. As we try to achieve these positive reforms in the midst of many threats to our society, we must work harder now amidst the complexity of challenges and the ever changing face of crisis. But I am grateful that there are bishops and there are businessmen who look to God for guidance, in the way they run their businesses and lead their communities.

May God guide you and may God guide us through the fields of change and give us a good harvest of opportunities, to make the people of God closer to the heaven that He wants us to enjoy.

Thank you and congratulations!

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremonies in celebration of the Far Eastern University (FEU) Centennial Anniversary [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa seremonya ng paggagawad ng parangal sa pagdiriwang ng Ika-100 taong anibersaryo ng Far Eastern University (FEU)**

[Ipinahayag sa Auditorium, Far Eastern University, Morayta St., Manila, ika 8 ng Agosto, 2003]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Lina sa iyong pagpakilala.

Gusto ko ring batiin ang iba't-ibang mga importanteng panauhin maging na rin 'yung mga taga-FEU itong araw na ito.

Una sa lahat, si Chairperson Montinola at lahat ng opisyal, guro, estudyante, empleyado ng Far Eastern University. Palagay ko patuloy pa rin ang inyong pagdiriwang ng isang siglo ng unibersidad. At ako'y nasisiyahan na kasama ninyo ako noong araw na 'yon mismo. Gusto ko ring batiin ang punong lungsod ng Maynila at lahat ng mga opisyal ng Maynila, si Mayor Lito Atienza. Kasama naman ni Secretary Lina dito ang iba't-ibang mga kasapi ng Dangerous Drugs Board, kasama na 'yung nakaupo dito sa kanan, 'yung Executive Director ng Dangerous Drugs Board na si Undersecretary Efren Fernandez at saka isang kasapi rin ng Dangerous Drugs Board bilang pangulo ng National Youth Commission, si Bambam Aquino.

Itong araw na ito ay importante para sa ating laban kontra sa droga, dahil itong araw na ito ang unang anibersaryo ng Dangerous Drugs Board at saka 'yung Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. Sinabi ko, ipagdiriwang natin ang unang anibersaryo, hindi sa opisina ng Dangerous Drugs Board o ng Drug Enforcement Agency, gawin natin 'yung pagdiriwang sa University Belt. Kaya narito kami ngayon. Dahil gusto kong bigyang diin na isa sa mga importanteng detalyeng utos na binigay ko sa Dangerous Drugs Board at saka sa Drug Enforcement Agency ay kailangan nilang gawing Drug-Free ang University Belt. Kasama ito sa tinatawag kong aking apat na pangunahing layunin dito sa ating laban kontro sa droga.

Una, gusto natin na maputol ang supply ng droga. Kaya tuloy-tuloy ang raid maging sa mga laboratoryo, maging sa kalsada at inutos ko na na linggo-linggo dapat ginagawa ang pagsunog ng kinumpiskang droga pagkatapos bigyan ng permiso ng hukuman.

Kaya para sa kaalaman ninyo at kung may mga NGO na gustong manood tuwing martes ang araw ng pagsusunog ng kumpiskadong droga. Ang unang martes at ang pangatlong martes ng buwan ay ginaganap dito sa Metro Manila at saka sa Region IV. Sa pangalawang martes at pang-apat na Martes ng isang buwan ay ginaganap naman 'yung pagsusunog sa mga malalayong rehiyon. Noong nakaraang Martes, nagkaroon ng sunugan dito sa Metro Manila. Kaya ang susunod na pagsusunog dito sa malapit ay gaganapin sa a-disenuebe ng Agosto. Kaya 'yung mga ngo dito, maging mga student organization, kung gusto n'yong subaybayan ang ating laban kontra sa droga imbitado kayo roon. Para sigurado na shabu ang sinusunog at hindi tawas.

Pangalawang prayoridad, sinabi ko na dapat tukuyin natin 'yung mga lugar kung saan malakas ang bentahan ng droga. At kasama na nga sa mga lugar kung saan malakas ang bentahan ng droga ay 'yung mga kapaligiran ng mga

eskuwelahan. Kaya, 'yon nga ang isang sinabi kong layunin natin. Gawin nating drug-free ang University Belt. Tulungan n'yo kami, mga estudyante at guro ng Far Eastern University.

Pangatlo, sabi ko, tukuyin natin ang malalaking isda, malalaking hari, panginoon ng droga. At siguro nababasa naman ninyo sa nakaraang mga anim na Linggo napakarami ng mga malalaking panginoon ng droga ang nahuli, napakarami ng mga laboratoryo ng droga ay nabuwag. Magkano na ba? Six billion pesos na ba, Efren? Six billion pesos worth sa nakaraan na linggo. Maging ang Kongreso mismo, masaya sila dito sa trabaho noog nakaraang anim na Linggo. Kaya pinanood ko sa telebisyon, sabi nila, handa na silang magbigay ng one billion a year sa drug enforcement dahil nakikita nila may resulta.

Kasi nga kung ako ay naglaan ng one billion itong taong ito mula sa Lotto earnings ng PCSO, sulit na sulit na 'yon. Sa one billion hindi pa nga ginagastos, mga one hundred million pa lang ang ginagastos, 'di ba Joey? Sa one hundred million na ginagastos ng one billion allotment, six billion na ang nakumpiska pati 'yung kanilang mga panginoon kaya sulit na sulit 'yung binibigay nating pondo. At ito ay hindi lumalampas sa paningin ng kahit ng mga mahilig magbatikos na mga Congressmen at Senador.

At pang-apat, bago pa man gumamit ng droga ang kabataan, iwasan na natin. Bigyan na natin ng babala para umiwas na nga sila na magsimula ng kustumbre ng droga. Kaya napaka-importante ang papel ng kabataan. Napaka-importante ang papel ng ating mga estudyante.

Kaya itong ating gustong gawin at gaya ng sabi ko dito sa ating pagdiriwang ng unang anibersaryo ng Dangerous Drugs Board at Drug Enforcement Agency, ako ay narito sa puso ng University Belt, sa aking suking pamantasan, ang Far Eastern University. Siguro alam naman ninyo mayroon akong minamahal sa buhay na nag-aaral dito sa law school, ano? Hindi nila alam, ang aking anak na si Dato.

Kaya ako ay narito — uy, hindi lang dahil doon — ngunit para sa ganun nga ay magkakaroon tayo ng command conference kaya maikli lang ang ating palatuntunan kung saan ako nakikibahagi dahil lilipat kami ngayon sa isang silid kung saan magkakaroon ng command conference kasama ang mga kinatawan ng pamantasan para sa ganun sama-sama tayong magpapalano kung papano natin gagawin drug-free ang university belt.

Happy Anniversary DDB. Happy Anniversary PDEA. At Happy Centennial uli sa Far Eastern University.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding Ceremonies in Celebration of the Far Eastern University (FEU) Centennial Anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194753/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6517&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo towards Agricultural Stability Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Towards Agricultural Stability**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, August 8, 2003]

MOVING TOWARDS AGRICULTURAL STABILITY

Gusto kong batiin yaong mga tumanggap ng mga parangal ngayon. I would like to greet yaong mga nagsimula ng pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 3844 otherwise known as the Agricultural Land Reform Code, na nagpunta dito kanina. At saka, I would like to greet and thank our foreign partners, who had been funding agrarian reform all these years.

Siyempre 'yung ating mga Gawad Saka awardees, congratulations sa inyo. Itong Lama Cooperatives, senador pa ako nagbibigay na ako ng premyo at awards ninyo bilang guest of honor. Sa lahat ng ibat-ibang mga gawain hindi lamang sa Gawad Pitak, lahat ng awards, lahat ng awarding institutions na nagbibigay ng award, may award parati ang Lama Cooperative o Lamac kaya, karapat-dapat na nasa Hall of Fame na kayo.

Alam ninyo, ako'y nagpapasalamat na kayo ay narito, kasi itong araw na ito ay araw ng Gawad Saka awards. Ito ay anibersaryo, Rubypa naman, ng DAR at ng Land Bank. Pero hiniling ko na sa halip na sa inyo't-inyong mga kagawaran gawin itong pagdiriwang hiniling ko gawin naman natin sa Malacañang. I ask you to have this Jubilee Celebration here in Malacañang, dahil gusto kong i-alay itong espesyal na anibersaryo na ito, 40th Anniversary, sa aking ama, si Diosdado Macapagal. Ang aking ama ang tanging anak ng mga tenant-farmer na naging pangulo. Siya rin ang Ama ng Batas ng Reporma sa Lupa o R.A. 3844, na noong panahong iyon, apatnapung taon na ang nakararaan ay — alam ni Peping Cojuangco ang istorya dahil congressman siya — para sa tatay ko, iyon ang kanyang political suicide sapagkat pinilit niyang ipasa 'yung batas na iyon.

It was an exercise of political will, but that's the same political will that I inherited. It's the same political will that guides me in fighting poverty and terrorism, and in upholding the Constitution.

I've taken an oath to protect the Republic and the Constitution from harm. I shall carry out this oath with the full force of conscience and authority. I shall carry out this oath bearing in mind the supreme interest of the people. Any of my actions may be challenged before the Supreme Court, to which I commit obedience, but I shall not argue about these matters in the media.

There should be no doubt as to the willingness of the Executive Branch to help the Senate and the House of Representatives in their inquiries. Closer consultations are needed to ensure the safety and security of the officers who are scheduled to give their testimony. There is no need to stretch this into another propaganda charade. This is a matter of safeguarding lives and national security.

The Government guarantees due process to everyone. This will be observed in all institutional hearings and investigations. While all these judicial and legislative processes ensue, it now behooves all our people to close ranks behind the pursuit of normalcy in our national life, and the pursuit of continuity in our socio-economic directions.

We must now dispel the Oakwood syndrome and apply our full attention to the ever-constant threat of terrorism. Once more, I must stress that our best defense lies in the vigilance of each and every citizen. We've stepped up intelligence gathering and sharing of information with our neighboring countries. The hunt for terrorists must involve all communities and territories across borders.

I commend the Armed Forces of the Philippines Southern Command for accounting another notorious terrorist. The long hand of justice will catch up with these characters one way or another. The AFP is directed to inform the public of the full circumstances of the slaying of Edris, to obviate any reports questioning the rules of engagement.

We cannot forever be distracted by spectator politics. We have to willfully turn our attention to the priorities of vigilance against terrorism and against poverty.

Sabi nila, sa loob ng nakaraang siglo, ang pinakamahalaga at pinakamalawak na paraang nagawa upang mabahagian ang mga mahihirap sa yaman ng bayan ay ang reporma ng lupa, na siyang ipinagdiriwang natin ngayon.

Bagamat ito ay isang problema ng tatay ko noon dahil sa matinding pagtutol ng mga kinatawan ng lupa sa Senado, hindi pinondohan ng Kongreso ang kaniyang batas. Salamat na lamang at meron tayong mga Official Development Assistance (ODA). Pero meron pa akong kuwento tungkol sa ODA. Panahon ng tatay ko, palabas na siya, last year of his administration. Nakakuha siya ng pondo sa World Bank, education fund para sa extension program ng mga magsasakang bagong laya. Noong wala na siya sa pwesto, yung education fund ay inilagay sa Cultural Center of the Philippines. Kaya tuloy tinitingnan ko yung Cultural Center — kahapon nanood ako doon — masaya din po dahil may kultura, pero nalulungkot ako pag naalaala ko yaong nagawang reporma sa lupa sana noon pa kung iyon ay nailagay talaga sa unang pakay, yon na nga sana sa land reform program. Ganunpaman, magmula nang pinirmahan ng tatay ko ang Batas Reporma sa Lupa, may halos anim na milyong hektarya na ang naipamudmod sa halos tatlong milyong magsasaka.

Ngayon, higit na mabibili ang nalalabing isang milyong hektaryang ipamamahagi sa mga magsasaka, o di kaya matulungan maging leasehold na, dahil ito ay mas magaan sa ilan sa ating magsasaka. Bakit natin nasasabing magagawa na natin siguro ito sa mga nalalabing lupa, dahil palagay ko bilang regalo ng Panginoon sa Ruby Anniversary ng land reform, dahil, hinatulan na ng Korte Suprema ang kaso ng nakaw na yaman. Kaya ngayon, ang pinakaimportanteng hamon ni Obet Pagdanganan ay pabilisin ang paglabas nitong pondong ito. Maraming legal red tape diyan, iyan ang pinakahamon ni Obet Pagdanganan.

We will turn the misdeeds of the past into the seeds of hope for the future. The money that we have recovered will be applied to the continuing quest for social justice. I will return to the people what belongs to them. We must never again allow plunder to stalk our nation.

The greater part of the 38 billion freed by the Supreme Court will be allocated for DAR's current programs budgeted at 8 billion, with 22 billion more set aside for other obligations and proposals of the Land Reform Program.

Ang Land Bank ay nilikha 40 years ago ng Batas Reporma sa Lupa ng tatay ko para pondohan na nga itong reporma sa lupa. Kaya lang hindi nga nilagyan ng pondo ang Land Bank. Inaasahan ko na ngayon magagamit din ng Land Bank ang bahagi nitong pondo na nilibre ng Korte Suprema para sa layuning pondohan na nga ang reporma sa lupa. At ito ay dagdag sa kanilang magandang trabaho na humiram diyan sa ibang mga ODA at iba pang pinanggagalingan na ipinapahiram na puhunan sa mga magsasaka.

Malaki ang papel ng Land Bank sa programa ng aking administrasyon na gumastos ng 20 bilyon bawat taon para sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura. Mayroon akong nakita sa telebisyon, bumabatikos, bakit ko raw sinabing 20 bilyon ang ginagastos natin taun-taon. Hindi naman daw, kasi 12 bilyon — ewan ko kung ilan — ang lumabas daw sa budget. Itong 20 bilyon ay hindi lamang iyung binibilang ng mga nanggagaling sa national budget dahil malaki sa 20 bilyon ay credit. Ang credit ay hindi nanggagaling sa budget, ito ay nanggagaling sa mga pautang, at ang number one na pinanggagalingan ng pautang sa ating magsasaka ay ang Land Bank of the Philippines. At nasisiyahan akong malaman na so far, for the first half of the year, mga 7 bilyon na ang naipautang ng Land Bank sa ating magsasaka. Lalo akong nasiyahan nang malaman na ang kabuuang pakay ng Land Bank ay makapagpahiram ng 17 bilyon pesos para sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura. Kaya, salamat, Gary at mga taga-Land Bank.

Marami rin tayong Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) — iyon nga ang sabi ko, iyon ang batas ni Peping Cojuangco na hindi pa napopondohan. Ang ilang guerilla base na nabisita ko na, pag bumibisita ako doon, ay malalaman ko ARC pala sila. Pero ang ARC walang pondo, mga pangakong nakapako, kaya sinasabi ko rin kay Obet na gamitin din itong nakaw na yaman para pondohan itong mga ARCs na ito, lalung-lalo na yung farm-to-market roads.

At isa rin, irigasyon. Irrigation is the single most vital component of agricultural modernization. In fact, it's suppose to fund — what? 20 percent of our agricultural modernization budget. It is also the single most important source of increase in farmers' income.

I did a study of land reform beneficiaries. *Kung bakit 'yung iba mayaman, bakit yaong iba mahirap. Ang diperensiya, yaong mga yumaman may irigasyon, at yaong nanatiling mahirap, walang irigasyon. Kaya, irigasyon ang number one na nagbibigay ng pagkakaiba.* That is why I congratulate Cito Lorenzo, who during my presidency, the NIA completed the Angat Afterbay Regulatory Dam, the Kabulnan Irrigation and Area Development Project, the Pampanga Delta Development Project, 52 smaller-sized communal irrigation projects or systems, all of which cover almost 63,000 hectares of farmland, more than the total hectareage covered in all the previous years combined in the history of the Philippines. *Tama, diba?*

The Mal-Mar Irrigation Project is also now operating after Salamat was ailing in the very same town. Cito Lorenzo was in Butig, at the gate of Camp Bushra, to groundbreak this Lanao del Sur project. The death of Salamat is the end of an era, but that groundbreaking of the irrigation is the beginning of another era for the people of Muslim Mindanao.

I also instructed Cito Lorenzo to build a dam system for the tobacco farmers of Ilocos using part of the funds of Republic Act 7171. Last year, they got very low prices for their tobacco because the rain flows straight from the mountains to the sea rather than irrigating their plant. What they use to irrigate is water they draw from the ground, but it's salty water. So, for two years now, two harvests now, the harvest has not been good and the buyers have to select the good pieces, and they do not get the price they would have wanted. So, therefore, the solution is to leave that water on land and use it to irrigate. And, this is what Cito will do next as far as irrigation projects are concerned.

I'm also instructing Obet to use part of the expected proceeds of the coco levy funds to finance a leasehold program for the coconut farmers. *Dahil marami sa mga magniniyog, nagsasabi sa akin, keysa bibilhin nila ang lupa na malaki ang puhunan, uupa na lang sila sa lupa para magamit nila yaong kanilang puhunan sa kanilang ikalawang produkto, dahil hindi sapat ang kanilang kita sa isang produkto ng niyog.*

I also welcome the partnership forged by DAR with the state universities and colleges to extend modern technologies to the agrarian reform beneficiaries, and also grant scholarships to their dependents. This is part of what I instructed since 2001. I said that we must spend 2 billion pesos a year on agricultural research, and part of that should be resources coming from the state universities and colleges. So this is in fulfillment of that. The other big part of the research money has gone to the development and propagation of the hybrid rice, which has doubled the income of many of our farmers. So the research and development component of our agricultural modernization program should be funded in great part by the state universities and colleges. I also commend the plan to set up agro-forestry resource centers, because reforestation is one of the programs that we must do in the holistic approach to fighting insurgency in the mountains.

When my father signed the Land Reform Code, R.A. 3844 — you know, I could never remember what the number was. I would say, is it R.A. 3488? Now, I will remember because the 38 is the 38 billion for the poor. *Parang yung Republic Act 7171 noon na hindi rin nai-release noong araw, ang tawag nila Republic Act 7-awan-7-awan,* but now Republic Act 7-adda-7-adda especially for irrigation. In any case my father said at that time, as Obet quoted: "The time has come to abolish tenancy in our farms. We must give the tenants liberty from economic peonage, in which they have long languished, so that they will become free men who will share with dignity in the task of building the nation."

Ngayon, pagkatapos ng apatnapung taon, dahil sa hatol ng Korte Suprema, sigurong itong kanyang sinabing “It is the time,” will really be the time. Kaya pagtulungan nating itaguyod ang mga repormang magdadala sa atin sa isang maaliwalas na kinabukasan.

Happy Ruby Anniversary *at* congratulations *sa inyong lahat!*

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the conferment ceremonies of MetroBank Foundations, Inc. Search for the Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) 2003

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the conferment ceremonies of MetroBank Foundations, Inc. Search for the Outstanding Philippine
Soldiers (TOPS) 2003**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, August 11, 2003]

Thank you, Congressman Acosta, thank you.

Mr. Abacan, Mr. Sans, members of the board of judges, General Abaya and other officers of the Armed Forces, our awardees, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Una sa lahat, nagpapasalamat ako sa Metrobank Foundation at saka sa Rotary Club of Makati Metro. I thank them for joining together to cite our outstanding Filipino soldiers. Awardees, I thank you, too, because you reinforce the people's faith and confidence in our soldiery, especially after the failed Oakwood mutiny.

In this light, I would like to reiterate my instructions to the Chief of Staff that, henceforth, all privileges granted to the men and women of the Armed Forces, such as housing or educational opportunities shall be prioritized for those who exemplify excellence and valor in combat operations.

If a soldier gets a medal for gallantry in action, he or she will automatically be placed on the priority list to avail of housing, educational opportunities, and other privileges regardless of unit, rank or connections. The Outstanding Filipino Soldier awardees of Metrobank and Makati metro are lucky because their award brings with it a hundred thousand pesos. Outside of this kind of award other medals go with nothing except the medal itself. Yes, we have Medals of Valor. Only ten of them have gotten a Medal of Valor so far in the history of our Armed Forces and that's the only one that brings with it a financial reward because of a bill passed into law by the present Congress — the present or the last Congress? — the last Congress but under the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The privates, the enlisted personnel can get a financial reward in the sense that they can be promoted, but the officer corps cannot be promoted automatically because the law circumscribes the number of officers within the Armed Forces. Therefore, the only way by which we can tie up something material with the honor of the medal is to give this kind of priority to them.

I gave this instruction to General Abaya because I cannot bear to see those who bear the brunt of the fighting being left behind when it comes to the benefits of the command. And it is our policy to reward the best and the bravest of our fighters with whatever our resources can offer.

The greater the valor, the more the rewards.

Having said this, I salute you once again, awardees for your loyalty to the flag.

Now, we must set aside the Oakwood syndrome and get on with matters that require earnest vigilance, especially the ever-constant threat of terrorism. I call on the public to erase and stop spreading rumors and speculations contained in text messages about false troop movements and armor deployments. Let's keep our eyes and ears focused on terrorist threats, for these are ever present.

Hindi dapat pagdudahan sa pagkakabukas-loob ng ehekutibo na tulungan ang Kongreso sa kanilang pagtatanong ukol sa oakwood. Kanya lamang kailangan ang higit na konsultasyon para masigurado ang kaligtasan at seguridad

ng mga opisyal na nakatakda magbigay ng testigo. Hindi na kailangan ipahaba pa ito sa isa pang laro ng propaganda. Ito ay bagay ng pagbabantay sa mga buhay at pambansang seguridad.

The State of Rebellion is not a political sword of Damocles. No political party or group operating within the ambit of the Constitution has been threatened or prejudiced by it. Court processes prevail, the media has free rein. Any of my actions may be challenged before the Supreme Court, to which I commit obedience. Nonetheless, the threat has abated, and though I was not scheduled to speak in this program, I decided to speak in order to announce that I'm hereby lifting the State of Rebellion.

And now that the State of Rebellion has been lifted, even as we speak, in camp Aguinaldo, General Rodolfo Garcia, our Vice Chief of Staff, is ready upon this signal to declassify the Coup Plot Andres except for the proper names of those who have not yet been arrested.

The peace talks with the MILF will continue under our policy of pursuing a just, comprehensive and durable settlement of the Mindanao conflict, consonant with constitutional standards.

The recapture of Al-Ghozi is vital to the cause of fighting transnational terrorism. He's been identified with foreign terrorist cells training in Mindanao that must be neutralized at all costs to preempt their movement across borders. We issue a strong warning to any armed groups in the area that are aiding or coddling Al-Ghozi that they will definitely suffer the direst consequences. We look forward to the cooperation of the MILF in the manhunt under its commitments to the peace process. We have launched highly focused operations yesterday in Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Lanao Del Norte and today in Kabuntalan, Maguindanao solely targeted at Al-Ghozi and his group and have no desire to widen the arena of engagement beyond what is necessary. Forces within the purview of the peace talks must stand aside and allow legitimate enforcement and pursuit operations to proceed unhampered.

Dito, sa kalagitnaan ng lahat na ito, sa mga nagkamit nitong parangal ngayong hapon, mabuhay kayo. Ipinagpuri kayo ng Sandatahang Lakas at ng buong sambayanan. Nawa'y manatili kayong mga huwaran ng kagitingan, katatagan at katapatan ng mga sundalong Pilipino.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Conferment Ceremonies of MetroBank Foundations, Inc. Search for the Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) 2003. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194743/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6516&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 40th Foundation Day Anniversary of the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 40th Foundation Day Anniversary of the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP)**

[Delivered at the NDCP Auditorium, Diosdado Macapagal Hall, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, August 12, 2003]

Thank you so much, Secretary Reyes.

Commodore Chuck Agustin, Secretary Joey Lina, Congressman Plaza, other officers of the National Defense College, General Abaya, General Razon, other officers of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police, trustees and other alumni of National Defense College, faculty members of National Defense College, awardees, ladies and gentlemen:

As I guess, you have learned by now, today, is a special day for me. Forty years ago today, NDCP was founded by my father, President Diosdado Macapagal. As Chuck Agustin says that makes my father the father of NDCP, that makes me the sister of NDCP. Happy Ruby Anniversary then brothers and sisters of this Institution. This anniversary is also auspicious because our national security has just successfully withstood a great challenge.

The mutiny was squelched in the first day — thanks to many of you — followed by a State of Rebellion lasting 15 days. There is no longer a need for extraordinary measures to deal with the direct threat although strategic causes must be uprooted.

In this task of uprooting the strategic causes, I know I will find good allies in my brother institution, the National Defense College.

For the past forty years, you have gathered a wealth of knowledge in many things including rebellions, insurgencies and coups. And rightly so, as Chuck Agustin said, therefore, you have an important role to play.

I'm instructing Secretary Reyes to institutionalize a course on coup d' etat, conspiracies, operations and consequences in all our military schools. I expect the NDCP to take the lead in drafting the course plan for this.

We are consolidating rapidly within the Armed Forces. We now have a good idea of who were the leaders and co-conspirators, who were the simple followers and the innocents, mainly the deceived and misled. We will deal with these groups under a range of actions commensurate to their depth and scope of involvement under strict standards of justice and due process.

The respective commanders of the coup participants should be made to feel accountability for the actions of the participants under their command. Victor Corpus was not the only fall out of the coup. The head of SWAG has resigned his command, because he had committed to me, the day before the coup, that if even one of his men would join, he would resign. I commend him for his sense of accountability. likewise, I commend the likes of Danny Lim who were able to persuade a large number of their men originally part of the plot not to proceed with their plans. The government has to institutionalize this sense of accountability. This will help deter future coup attempts. But, of course, this has to be done with a sense of fairness and sensitivity to the military culture. And that is part of how the NDCP must contribute to what Secretary Reyes calls the learning and the wisdom to face these challenges of society.

All detainees have access to lawyers and medical attention. There is transparency in all military and civil investigations and processes. Charges of human rights violations are a figment of propaganda.

While several leaders continue to be at large, they shall be accounted for by the normal run of law intelligence, law enforcement, investigative and judicial processes. This shows the shallowness of the conspiracy as well as the unremitting capacity of our democratic system to mete out justice and due process.

Let justice take its course blindly and inexorably. The court will take charge of these matters. For the rest of Philippine society, let's now banish any residual fears and get on with the normal course of work and business.

All allegations of corruption in the Armed Forces shall be investigated expeditiously and thoroughly. I ask any junior officers with knowledge of such activities or who claim knowledge of such activities to bring evidence before the department of justice. You shall be protected in your fight for the truth. There will be no whitewash or looking the other way. If there's evidence, there will be prosecution. If guilt is proven, people will go to jail, whatever the rank or command.

On grievances, a common theme I've been hearing about since I was a senator is the conversion and retention of funds at headquarters or senior level, so what trickles down they say, to the juniors at field level, where the actual combat takes place, is a fraction of the true budget. This naturally gives rise to opportunities for corruption at the senior or headquarters level.

The heart of this structural problem seems to be the power that AFP comptrollers have accumulated over the years such that comptrollers actually themselves disburse converted cash to field officers. To the extent, it is operationally necessary to maintain cash reserves for disbursement to the field as contingencies arise. Rather than comptrollers, I am directing that the Chief of Staff have sole authority to disburse cash reserves from now on.

I am also directing the chief of staff to computerize the financial records and systems of the AFP.

These are quick remedial measures. But we also need reforms, deep reforms in the AFP, and we need an anti-corruption drive in the organization.

Two task forces shall be organized within the DND, each to be headed by undersecretaries. One of them shall be headed by the new one, handpicked by me, NDCP graduate Batch 30, Connie de Guzman. These two task forces shall be funded directly by the Office of the President.

Connie's task force shall focus on studying quickly and reforming the AFP's procurement process and fund disbursement. The task force must contract as consultants, advisers or members management organization experts like Vic Limlingan of the Asian Institute of Management and personalities known for their integrity like Renato De Villa. This task force should include representatives from the COA and the DBM familiar on how corruption works in government procurement and disbursement practices — who, in fact, have already formed a task force at the DBM level to study this. They should be conjoined. I expect the task force to complete a management audit in a month's time. I also choose Connie because she is a certificate course holder on internal audit. I expect this task force, after that month's time, to discuss the findings with the major services, and implement the reform in another month's time. This task force shall later on be institutionalized, through a presidential executive order, as a permanent office in the DND tasked solely to review continuously AFP procurement and funds disbursement.

The second task force should an anti-corruption unit that would work with the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission. Other than acting and investigating complaints of corruption, and making sure that the Deputy Ombudsman for Military Affairs does its job and acts swiftly on such cases, this task force would undertake comprehensive lifestyle checks, in the manner we've been doing for customs, BIR and DPWH. I commend Secretary Angelo Reyes for being the first to set the example in submitting himself to the investigation of this task force. One work of this task force obviously would be to make firm recommendations for evicting officers occupying AFP residences past the regulations. This task force later on shall be institutionalized as an internal affairs-type of office in the DND or AFP.

A similar approach shall be simultaneously undertaken for cleaning up the PNP. An already announced this in the state of the nation address that this shall be done under the PNP reform commission which shall be the new nature of

the independent Al-Ghozi fact-finding committee after it submits its findings to me on Al-Ghozi on the 15th of this month.

We have seen a misadventure in counter-reform. We shall answer it with more reform. We have seen an exercise in political illegitimacy. We shall answer it with the greater force of the Constitution and the law.

Let us get back to our most basic priorities and strive harder to attain our basic goals of jobs, food on every table, homes, education and, of course, peace and security.

The hunt for Al-Ghozi will continue without letup. This is vital to the cause of fighting transnational terrorism. He has gone to roost with foreign terrorist cells training in Mindanao that must be neutralized at all costs to preempt their movement across borders. Nagsimula na tayo ng napaka nakatukoy na mga operasyon na tanging pakay ay si Al-Ghozi at kaniyang grupo. We have no desire to widen the area of engagement beyond what's necessary. Umaasa tayo sa kooperasyon ng MILF sa ilalim ng kanilang mga pangako sa proseso ng kapayapaan. Ang mga pwersang nasa loob ng mga salitang kapayaan ay dapat tumabi at hayaan ang mga lehitimong pagpapatupad or law enforcers. Forces within the purview of the peace talks must allow pursuit operations to proceed unhampered.

The government is relying mainly on the Philippine National Police in cooperation with our local executives to prevent possible terrorist attacks. Because of the bombings in Jakarta, we've raised our level of alert. The use of marines for law enforcement would be a last resort in the event there is a need for greater deterrence and visibility of law enforcers in the metropolitan area. We've done this in the past. In fact, we've done this at the recent past and national television showed Choly Teodosio giving his pep talk to his marines, and they were all their high morale ready to defend the constitution. But thanks to many people in this room, including Chuck Agustin, we did not need to use the force. Needless to say that episode, that role of the marines that they were ready to play on full television coverage has been played by the marines in the past in the urban areas. It contributed much to the sense of security of our people. But at this moment, we are not going to mobilize them for urban peace and order. We will do everything under the law to ease public fears and anxieties and promote the normal run of commerce and livelihood.

I've mentioned a few individuals, but there are too many individuals to mention if I want to be exhaustive in acknowledging those who helped keep that crisis to a 20-hour period. Therefore, to make a more general acknowledgement, allow me to preside over a brief ceremony.

I would like to ask AFP Chief of Staff General Abaya and to represent Jun Ebdane, who's still there in Mindanao running after Al-Ghozi, I would like to ask Sonny Razon, who is the partner of Chuck Agustin in heading the PMAAA, to join me in the stage for a moment.

Today, I'm awarding a Presidential citation to the PNP and the AFP.

The Philippine National Police is cited as follows:

In recognition of its courageous and faithful performance of duties and responsibilities, which effectively maintained peace and order, and contained the area of public disturbance on 27th July 2003;

For its steadfast dedication to promoting peace and order and ensuring public safety;

For reinforcing the strong sense of professionalism among the civilian police force of the Republic of the Philippines;

In appreciation of its integrity, devotion to duty and commitment to professional competence and moral excellence, qualities worth emulating by all civil servants and deserving of the respect and admiration of the Filipino people.

I give this award to the Philippine National Police.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines is cited as follows:

In recognition of steadfast loyalty to the Philippine Constitution, as exemplified by the unwavering commitment to defend it against forces that dared threaten it on 27 July 2003;

For courageous and faithful performance of their duties and responsibilities, which prevented possible losses to lives and property;

For reinforcing the strong sense of professionalism among the soldiery and remaining true to the chain of command;

In appreciation of their integrity, devotion to duty and commitment to professional competence and moral excellence, qualities deserving of the respect and admiration of the Filipino people.

I give this citation to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

And to all of you, brothers and sisters in the National Defense College, to the National Defense College which produced many of the heroes of July 27, many of the heroes of many other moments in Philippine history, Happy Ruby Anniversary and thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 40th Foundation Day Anniversary of the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194733/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6515&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Reception for the Diplomatic Corps

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Reception for the Diplomatic Corps

[Delivered at the Premier Guest House, Malacañang, August 13, 2003]

His Excellency Archbishop Franco, Excellencies of the Diplomatic corps, Secretary Ople and the other cabinet members, Ambassador Bautista and the other fellow workers in government, ladies and gentlemen, good evening:

I invited you tonight, ladies and gentlemen of the diplomatic community, to thank you for your support last July 27.

We successfully thwarted the attempts of a misguided few to challenge the constitutional order of our country. We continue to move to prevent further misadventures both by understanding the legitimate grievances of our soldiers and by investigating and prosecuting those who exploit these grievances for clearly self-serving and political reasons.

Much of our success can be credited to the clear expressions of support that you and your governments gave during our hour of need and which you continue to give. Thank you very much for that.

Your expressions of support sustained us, as we faced difficult situations and made hard decisions. Your confidence in our ability to deal with this crisis and in our leadership and governance sent strong signals to the mutineers and to their supporters that they could expect nothing from the international community, except perhaps your condemnation.

For your actions, Excellencies, and those of your leaders, you have my deep appreciation and the thanks of a grateful nation.

You have renewed our faith in the community of nations. You have confirmed that today, more than ever before, the lines that distinguish foreign and domestic affairs have become blurred. But that the links between what is happening in one country and what's going on in the world have never been clearer, and the inextricable link between security and economic issues have never been more apparent.

After fifteen days, we lifted the State of Rebellion. There's no longer a need for extraordinary measures to deal with the direct threat although its strategic causes must be uprooted. While several leaders continue to be at large, they shall be accounted for by the normal run of law intelligence, enforcement, investigative and judicial processes.

The truth will surface in these various fronts. On the one hand, we are unmasking the larger conspiracy to destroy our nation in the light of clear and cold evidence. On the other hand, through the commissions and task forces I have created, we're leaving no stone unturned in unearthing the lapses of integrity, diligence and professionalism in the armed forces the only way we can attack the roots of instability is through a relentless pursuit of impartial justice through the courts, and a cleansing process within the uniformed service. I shall be undaunted on both counts.

The truth shall set us free. Let all allegations of graft and corruption come to light and be brought responsibly and openly before the bar of justice. I'm referring to both the military and civilian sectors. This is the time to put an end to coddling, looking the other way, or whitewashing investigations. It's a time for all Filipinos to prove that we are not mired in a culture of corruption and that we can decisively shake off the stigma of being called a corrupt society. We live in a mature democratic system. We live in a mature democratic system that can repair its infirmities through the institutions of duly-constituted governance. We live in a mature democratic system that can confront the

challenge without resorting to the use of force or coercion. We retain our faith in the restorative powers of democracy.

I would prefer seeing the military and civilian leaders of the Oakwood conspiracy taking the brunt of full retribution under the law, rather than the ordinary soldiers whom they misled and deceived. We will put an end to this spectacle of having the small fry being held to account for the sins of the rich and powerful. The worst evil comes from those who have no compunction to destroy our democratic way of life by deploying pawns from their political fortresses. We shall expose and punish the leaders who planted this conspiracy and sought to reap its unjust rewards. This will show the shallowness of the conspiracy and the unremitting capacity of our democratic system to mete out justice and due process. We can now banish residual fears and get on with the normal work, with the normal course of work and business.

It's the business of peace that I am determined to carry out with your support. Our peace process with the MILF is on track, thanks to the central role being played by Malaysia and the role being played by other countries in the OIC. The United States Institute of Peace Will — as the parties might allow — also help out, primarily, by ensuring that there will be resources for economic development once a peace agreement is concluded.

With the help of Norway, we will have talks soon with the communist rebels. Exploratory talks will ensue with the representatives of the national democratic front in Oslo not too far from today.

With the help of the OIC, particularly the members of the Committee of the Eight, led by Indonesia, we have been successfully implementing our 1996 peace agreement with the MILF.

With the help of our international partners, we continue to fight terror on every front.

The hunt against Al-Ghozi will go on until he is recaptured. A wider net has been spread and local officials and the communities have been alerted. We have the initiative and we will not stop.

Our common values and visions bind us and renew our faith and belief in each other as members of a community of nations. The challenges that face our nation are many. And no nation should face these challenges alone.

Our continuing partnership in all fronts is vital and indispensable.

Once again, your Excellencies, thank you. And please convey my thanks to your governments.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Reception for the Diplomatic Corps. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194722/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6514&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the groundbreaking ceremony of Candahon Bridge

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the groundbreaking ceremony of Candahon Bridge

[Delivered in Mogpog, Marinduque, August 15, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Marita Jimenez, na siya ang Cabinet officer for Regional Development ng Region MIMAROPA. Alam po n'yo, si Mai Jimenez ang dating regional Director ng Region IV noong ako ay Undersecretary ng Trade and Industry, at ako naman ang cord noon — ay, hindi — ng isang lalawigan ng Cavite. Pero dahil siya ay Regional Director ng Region IV, ginawa ko nga siyang cord ng MIMAROPA. At dahil siya ang humahawak ng maraming foreign-assisted project, kaya naman ang dami-daming proyektong dumadating sa MIMAROPA, kasama na nga 'yung iba't-ibang mga pinag-usapan ni Governor Reyes.

Nagpapasalamat ako kay Governor Reyes sa kaniyang mga napakagandang sinabi ukol sa nagawa natin dito sa nakaraang isang taon. Binabati ko rin si Congressman Edmund Reyes. Binabati ko rin si Board Member Nepomuceno at 'yung iba't-ibang punongbayan na narito. Pero siyempre binabati ko si Mayor Jonathan Garcia, ang Mayor ng Mogpog.

Kinuwento nga ni Mayor Jonathan Garcia, na 'yung tatay ko, si President Diosdado Macapagal, ay nagpunta rito noong 1965, dahil tinayo niya 'yung inyong munisipyo, ang bayan ng Mogpog. Kasama ko rito ngayon si Secretary Cito Lorenzo ng agriculture. Dahil gaya nga ng sabi ni Governor Reyes, si Cito Lorenzo ang namamahala sa pagpabigay dito nung inyong mga seedlings ng mangga. At tama si gobernadora, nagdagdag pa kami. Kulang ito ha, sample lamang ito. Sana dinala natin iyung limang libong seedling para kayo ay maigaya sa lalawigan ng Guimaras, na ganun ding size. Iyung guimaras ay small but sweet, kasi ang mangga nila ay napakatamis. At kanilang mangga lamang ang nakakapasok nang magaan sa Amerika, sa Australia at iba pang lugar. Itong mga seedling na ito na sample lamang ito, ay sana makatulong sa inyo dito sa napakagandang lalawigan ng Marinduque.

Tama rin si gobernadora na nagdadala tayo, at si Cito ang nag-implement nitong ating mga pumps para sa irigasyon dahil talagang number one na kakaiba ng mga magsasakang maykitang maganda at walang kitang maganda ay iyung may irigasyon, iyung magsasakang may magagandang kita. At dito sa lugar na ito, itong inyong barangay, napaka-productive pero mahirap magdala ng produkto kung ganito lamang ang inyong tulay. Kaya ito, gumagawa tayo ng multimillion bridge para mapadali ang inyong produkto.

Narito rin kasama natin ngayon ang ating Kalihim ng Environment, si Bebet Gozun. Siya ang namamahala sa project study na binanggit ni gobernadora na magbibigay ng paraan kung papano mabawi ng mamamayan ng Marinduque 'yung problemang naganap doon sa aksidente doon sa Marinduque mining sa Sta. Cruz. Isa ring gingawa ni Bebet dito ay meron siyang... Ang DENR ay merong Memorandum of Agreement sa labindalawang obispo sa pag-aalaga ng bundok. At dito sa Marinduque, isa nga doon sa labindalawang obispo, kaya nasisiyahan ako na narito ang inyong obispong si Bishop Jose Oliveros.

Alam n'yo, si Bishop Oliveros, mas kilala ko 'yung kapatid niya, si Roy Oliveros. O mas kilala naming lahat dahil si Roy Oliveros ay nandoon sa kilusang manggagawa at kasama natin doon sa kompil na nakatulong para maganap ang EDSA 2. Siya nga pala, naalala n'yo 'yung panahon ng EDSA 2? Naalala n'yo iyung spokesman ng impeachment trial? Hindi ba, walang iba kungdi si Edmund Reyes? Kasama namin, nila Edmund si Roy Oliveros, at tinutuloy niya ang kaniyang trabaho ngayon sa ilalim ng aking administrasyon bilang kasapi ng board ng Development Bank of the Philippines.

Kaya kung gusto natin na magkaroon ng mga dagdag na barko sa roll-on/roll-off ferry para sa lalong lumapit ang Marinduque sa iba't-ibang lugar ng Pilipinas, lalo na sa panahon ng Moriones, ay maghanap tayo ng investor na

hihiram sa DBP para sa roll-on/roll-off ferry. At si Roy Oliveros sigurado ako ay tutulong para iyon ay dumating sa lalawigan ng Marinduque.

Mga punong barangay na narito, binabati ko kayong lahat. At mga kababayan, ako ay nasisiyahan na mabalik muli dito kasi galing na ako dito noong ako'y senador pa. Sa katunayan, lahat ng bayan ng Marinduque ay napuntahan ko na. Ngunit, narito na naman ako muli kasi gusto ko kung puwede, sana kausapin ko lahat ng mamamayan ng Marinduque, kung kaya ko lang sana. Kasi gusto kong malaman ninyo na alam ko ang damdamin ng mga maliliit na probinsya at pulo dahil ako ay maliit din. Alam ko na mahirap ang lugar ng malayo, kagaya nito, malayo dati magiging malapit. Pero alam ko rin na masaya kung minsan kasi ilang beses na akong naki-piyesta sa inyo dito sa Marinduque.

Kung isang may natutunan ako sa aking pagbisita dito ay: “kahit na ikaw ay maliit, meron kang mahalagang nako contribute sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa.” Nung nagpunta nga ako noong isang taon dito, nagpunta ako sa Torrijos at doon ipinagdiriwang natin nga ang kontribusyon ng battle of Pulang Lupa sa ating kasaysayan. Sa katunayan nga, dahil napunta ako roon, nalagay pa ako sa front page, pinuputong ninyo ako. Hindi ba yon ang inyong kostumbre dito? Sinabi nung mga peryodiko, “look at her, may problema sa negosyo ang Pilipinas, bakit siya namimiyesta doon; bakit siya nagpapaputong ng korona?” eh inatake pa ako dahil doon. Hindi nila naiintindihan siguro — ‘yung mga ‘yon, ‘yung mga estamberong ‘yon — na pagpupunta ka rito, doon ko nalaman ‘yung halaga ng butterfly industry sa inyo. Doon ko nalaman ang pangangailangan ng inyong ospital. Kaya tuloy nagbigay ng 10 million, at narito ang 2.5 million na installment ng 10 million. Sa madaling salita, ‘yang mga bagay na ‘yan na pawang maliliit, kung nandoon ka sa Malacañang ay malalaking bagay sa mga karaniwang mamamayan. At ‘yon ang dapat binibigyan ng pansin. Sa katunayan din, dahil na-iretrato ako noon, ay nalaman tuloy ng maraming mamamayan sa buong pilipinas “ano pala itong giyera ng pulang lupa; ano pala itong kagitingan sa ating kasaysayan ng mga taga-Marinduque.” paano ko alam na nalaman ng buong bayan, buong bansa. Kasi pagkatapos noon, lahat ng nagdidiriwang ng kanilang great battle of history gusto nang pumunta ako sa kanilang pagdiriwang. Ngunit, hindi ko naman mapuntahan lahat dahil nga marami rin tayong kailangang asikasuhin sa kabisera ng ating bansa.

Si Joey Lina nga eh, itong proyektong ito — kaya kinatawan ng dilg ang nagbigay sa atin ng project description — ay nasa ilalim ng dilg ang implementasyon nito na binibigay ‘yung national counterpart sa local government. At ‘yung local government naglalagay ng counterpart niya, at local government ang nag-i-implement. Pero hindi makapunta si Joey Lina dito dahil meron din siyang mahalagang inaasikaso. Ang inaasikaso niya ‘yung imbestigasyon ng mutiny doon sa Oakwood. Mabuti nga napatawa kayo kasi kung meron kayong nanood doon sa telebisyon kahapon, nakakatawa nga ang pangyayari kung hindi lamang naatraso ang ating ekonomiya dahil doon sa mga ‘yon.

Ngayon lamang ako nakakita ng mga taong sumumpa sa magiging matapat, marangal at matapang, na buo ang lakas ng loob na magsinungaling at pa lalong insultuhin ang talino ng kanilang mga kababayang pilipino. Ang mga aroganteng tampalasang ito ay malaking kahihyan sa kanilang uniporme. Dapat silang magpasalamat na meron nilang sistemang demokratiko para magpahayag ng kanilang paniniwala, isang sistemang demokratiko na hinangad nilang ibagsak. Isipin na lamang natin kung paano ang isang gobyernong pamumunuan nila at ng kanilang mga padrino, kung saan sila tatayong taga-usig, taga-hatol, taga-pagpatupad ng sabay sabay. Kaya, nandito ba si General Ledesma? Wala na? Saan si General Ledesma? O, Generel Ledesma, bagong kaka-ano ko lang, kaka promote ko lang na bagong division commander ninyo.

Kaya General Ledesma, ang aking unang instruction sa iyo bilang bagong second division commander, ang Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas ay dapat magsumikap na puksain ang sakit na ito ng pakikipagsapalaran, diktadura at totalitarianismo na unti-unting lumalason sa isipan ng ilang mga sundalo. Gayundin, sa inyong mamamayan, sa lahat ng ating mamamayan, what I ask of you, I am calling upon all our people to condemn and resist these attempts to destroy our democratic way of life.

Hindi natin dapat hayaang ang kagustuhan ng iilan ay mangibabaw sa ating mga institusyong konstitusyunal. Kaya dinadala ko na lamang ang pahayag ni Secretary Joey lina, na hindi siya makakapunta rito dahil marami akong mga instructions sa kanila tungkol sa kanilang mga imbestigasyon, kasama na rin ang mga imbestigasyon tungkol sa pagdawit ng mga ilang malalaking pangalan dito sa mutining naganap. I’m directing the military and the PNP – na itong sinusupervise ni Joey, ang PNP — to bring up all pieces of evidence to the media and to the public. We must

show the people the cold and unvarnished truth. We're not engaged in a witch hunt against any family or kinship group. This is not a personal matter. All charges will be backed up by hard evidence. The aim is justice and due process, not vengeance against anyone.

Salamat na lamang na dito sa Marinduque Mapayapa. Wala tayong nakikitang mga mutiny, ni wala tayong halos nakikitang mga NPA sa lalawigan ng Marinduque. Congratulations sa inyong lahat.

In fact, sa aking pag-aaral, sa mga dato ng mga barangay kung saan naglalagay ang NPA ng kanilang mga shadow organization o revolutionary committee, dito sa buong Marinduque iisa lang barangay ang nakasama sa listahan, ang guisian ng Mogpog. Sino ang mga taga-Guisian dito? Pero ayon kay gobernadora, umalis na 'yung NPA doon, kaya lang isigurado natin na huwag silang babalik. Isigurado natin na hindi sila nalalason ng mga masasamang mga idelohiya.

Kaya kagabi, sinabi ko sa inyong Regional Director ng Region 4b, si Paraluman Giron — na wala ngayon dahil iniwan ko siya sa Romblon — na dapat maglagay ng distance learning doon sa barangay Guisian sa Mogpog para sa ganun ay hindi na babalik ang masasamang idelohiya. Ay, nandito 'yung inyong superintendent, puwede bang asikasuhin ninyo 'yon, Ginoong Saet? Okay. Ngayon nga, at gaya nang sabi ni gobernadora, meron na kayong sariling superintendent, mula noong isang taon, ay maasikaso na niya ito. At tatal narito na rin siya, gusto ko ring ipaalam sa kaniya na nagre-release ako ng salapi para maglagay ng eskuwela dito sa mga barangay na nakita ko na wala pa palang paaralan. Tatlong barangay sa Buenavista: Binunga, Bangkuro at Baat. Isang barangay sa Torrijos, ang Bangcuangan. At isang barangay sa — ay, sa Sta. Cruz pala 'yon — at isang barangay sa Torrijos, ang sinambahan. At dito, babalik tayo sa Mogpog, gusto ko rin ipaalam na meron tayong ibibigay na credit line sa Mogpog Traders Multi-Purpose Cooperative sa barangay market site para sa credit line ng tatlong milyong piso mula sa Land Bank of the Philippines. Ayun ito 'yon. Saan kayo? Ms. Lucy Malabanan.

Etong mga ito ay mga iba't-ibang mga bahagi ng ating mga programa upang sa ganun nga ay makaabot ang higit pang kaunlaran sa lalawigan ng Marinduque. Actually, noong ako ay pumunta dito noong isang taon sa Torrijos, noon lang Nalaman ng maraming taga-Pilipinas ang ibig sabihin ng giyera ng pulang lupa. Ngunit lahat ng Pilipino kilala nila ang Moriones. At dahil maraming turismo ang nagaganap sa ating bansa, eh gusto natin na ang Moriones ay tuluy-tuloy pa na ma-appreciate ng ating mga mamamayang Pilipino. Kaya kagabi, tinanong ko kay governor, papano tayo makakatulong para mas gumanda pa or mas marami pang maaliw at pumunta dito sa panahon ng Moriones. Sabi niya, marami pa ring pumupunta pero dahil sa kahirapan ng buhay ay binebenta 'yung mga maskara pagkatapos. Kaya nagkukulang ng maskara baka lumiit nang lumiit ang selebrasyon. Eh kung lumiit nang lumiit, hindi na dadalawin.

Kaya sabi ko, sige doon sa ating one town, one product, bagamat nagbigay na ako ng one town, one product, one million noong isang taon para sa bawat bayan na mag-gagawa ng ating butterfly industry, magpahanda tayo sa dti ng tulong din para magkaroon din ng one million loan sa mga sme na mag-gagawa nitong mga maskara, para tuluy-tuloy ang inyong magandang kostumbre at tradisyon sa Marinduque.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na narito, napakaganda ng panahon para mag-luncheon tayo dito sa Marinduque. Salamat sa inyong lahat na naghintay sa akin. At magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat at nawa'y dahil meron ng mimaropang sariling rehiyon, dahil meron na kayong sariling superintendent, dahil na meron na kayong iba't-ibang mga sariling regional director at naglalagay din ako ng sarili ninyong regional director ng DTI para lahat ng inyong mga project study ay magawa para sa inyo, nawa'y tuluy-tuloy umangat ang buhay ng mga masasaya at mababait na Marinduqueño.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Groundbreaking Ceremony of Candahon Bridge. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194651/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6511&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the Strong Republic School (SRS)

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the launching ceremony of the Strong Republic School (SRS)

[Delivered at the Purnaga Elementary School, Brgy. Purnaga, Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro, August 16, 2003]

Thank you. Maraming salamat sa banda.

Maraming salamat Secretary Mai Jimenez, ang Cabinet officer for Regional Development ng gabinete dahil siya ay anak ng Mindoro island; binabati ko si Congresswoman Josephine Sato; binabati ko si Governor Jo Villarosa; binabati ko si Mayor Barrera pati 'yung Sangguniang Bayan ng Magsaysay sa pamumuno ni Vice-Mayor Abesamis. Gusto kong malaman ni Mayor Barrera at lahat ng mga taga-Magsaysay na naibigay ko na 'yung pondong 20 milyon pesos para sa kalsada na magdadala. Jose. 'Yang kalsada hong 'yan ay galing sa gobyerno, hindi galing sa NPA.

Gusto kong batiin si Barangay Captain Loreto Nicolas; gusto ko ring batiin ang ating mga opisyal ng Department of Education. Nariyan si Superintendent Romualda Dayan, saan siya? Dayan? Ka titser ko sa Assumption dati. Regards sa kanya ha. Okay; nandito rin si Dr. Magdalena Juan ang district supervisor ng Magsaysay; gusto ko ring magpasalamat kay Ginoong Zosimo Panahon, ang Principal ng Purnaga National High School; at saka kay Mr. Gallano, ang Head Teacher ng Purnaga Elementary School.

At ako ay narito sa inyong paaralan sa Purnaga dahil nga gusto kong ipaalam sa inyo, sa kanila, magbigay ng instruksyon na ang telebisyon na dala-dala natin ngayon na may mga tape — 'yan ay para lumawak ang edukasyon sa barangay Purnaga. Dahil malayo, kailangan n'yo ng mga dagdag na teacher, ang dagdag na teacher ninyo ay 'yung telebisyon. Kaya yan ang education by television. At once a week — ayun, sinabi ko na sa kanila, 'yan everyday 'yung subject na makabayan o kaya 'yung subject ng english depende na sa kanila sa superintendent kung papano niya ilalagay, anong subject ang ilalagay, 'yon ay ituturo sa ating mga bata dito sa paaralan araw-araw, Monday to Friday. Sa Sabado dadalhin ang ating para guro doon sa sitio ng mga Mangyan na nag-enrol dito sa tinatawag nating Strong Republic School. Gusto kong ulit, 'yang telebisyon na 'yan ay galing sa gobyerno hindi galing sa NPA.

Gusto kong batiin ang mag-aalaga ng ating kapayapaan dito, ang namumuno ng mga sundalo ng buong Southern Luzon, ang ating three-star general, si Lt. General Alfonso Dagudag. Alam n'yo si al Dagudag meron 'yang kasaysayan eh, kasama ko. Noong araw na nagkita kami ni Angie Reyes, noong January 19, 2001 sa isang safehouse — safehouse noon pero kilalang-kilala na ngayon, 'yung bahay ni Eddie San Jose — dalawang heneral ang aking kausap: si General Angelo Reyes at saka si General Alfonso Dagudag. Siya ang dating Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations noong panahong 'yon. Pagkatapos ginawa ko siyang division commander doon sa Mindanao sa Northeastern Mindanao. At pagkatapos ginawa kong Commander ng Southern Luzon. Taga-saan ka, Al? Dumaguete, Visayan.

Ngem, naamuan ko nga nagado ti ilocano idtoy. Agpayso garud nga sisenta porsyento Ilocano idtoy? Siak met Ilocana ti bangir ni mamang ko, ta ni mamang ko naggapo ti Binalonan, Pangasinan. Iso ti kadua ti ilocano nga parte ti probinsya ti Pangasinan. Iso nga kakailyan tayo.

Gusto kong batiin 'yung nag-aalaga rin ng ating kapayaan, namumuno ng mga pulis ng buong MIMAROPA, si Police Superintendent Alejandro Lapinid. Ngayon, si General Dagudag, gawa nang siya ang kanyang inaasikaso ay buong Southern Luzon, kasama na doon ang Calabarzon, kasama na doon ang MIMAROPA, kasama na doon ang Bicol, hindi naman siya araw-araw narito sa Mindoro. Siya ay naka-base doon sa Camp General Nakar sa Lucena. Kaya ang nag-aalaga ng kapayaan dito sa MIMAROPA, dito sa brigada, kasama na rin ng Romblon, ay si Colonel Fernando Mesa, ang Commander ng 204 brigade. Kahapon, pinakita n'ya sa akin 'yung kanyang plano kung

papaano mabalik ang kapayapaan dito sa Mindoro. Sabi ko, napakaganda ng plano dahil sabi n'ya hindi natin malalabanan ang rebelyon sa armas lamang. Kailangan kanang kamay at kaliwang kamay. 'Yung kanang kamay ay 'yung puwersa ng ating sandatahang panlakas pati na rin 'yung ating mga pulis. 'Yon ang inaasikaso nila, lalo na nila General Dagudag at saka si Lapinid at saka si Mesa. Ngunit pati sila ay kinokoordina nila 'yung left hand, 'yon ang nag-aasikaso ng mga despair o ugat ng disappointment, ugat ng rebelyon ang kahirapan. At isang malaking bahagi ng pagsagot natin nga sa kahirapan ng Magsaysay ay 'yung 20 milyon road na magpapalapit sa inyo sa San Jose.

Isa rin itong tataas ang antas ng pag-aaral ng mga bata rito dahil 'yung mga material galing sa Maynila, 'yung mga education by television ay madadala na rito dahil maglalagay tayo ng television dito. At itong television by the way, principal pwede ring magamit hindi lamang doon sa... Hindi lamang doon sa lesson, pwede ring magamit ninyo manood ng... Manood ng ano... ng telenobela kung gusto n'yo. so, ha, klarong-klaro 'yan ha, hindi exclusive lang para sa mga subject, pwedeng gamitin ng ating community para manood ng telenobela at kung ano pang gusto n'yong panoorin. Basta hindi 'yung subversive material, ha? Okay.

Ngayon — so, sinabi ko na 'yung kalsada, sinabi ko na ang edukasyon — eh, 'yung hanapbuhay. Nasisiyahan akong makita itong mga berde n'yong palay. Ang nagdala niyan dito, galing sa akin noong isang taon pa, ay si Secretary Cito Lorenzo ng Department of Agriculture. Ang binhi nyan ay nanggaling sa akin, hindi nanggaling sa NPA. Kaya kung magbabayad kayo ng buwis, huwag kayong magbayad sa NPA. In fact, 'yung mga mahihirap exempted na magbayad ng buwis sa gobyerno. So, kung kayo mahihirap, huwag kayong magbayad ng buwis. Kung kayo ay may kita, magbayad ka ng buwis sa gobyerno. Dahil gobyerno ang nagdadala ng edukasyon, gobyerno ang nagdadala ng income. Alam n'yo, doble ang income makikita ninyo dahil dito sa bagong binhi. Magdodoble ang income ng ating mga magsasaka. Gobyerno ang nagdadala sa inyo ng kalsada. Gobyerno ang nagdadala sa inyo ng kaunlaran at ang kaunlaran at kapayapaan magkakambal 'yan. Kapag walang kaunlaran, naintindihan natin, mahirap ang kapayapaan dahil may mga naeenganyong mag-alma. Ngunit, pag wala naman ang kapayapaan at tinutulungan n'yo ang NPA ay wala ring kaunlaran, dahil encounter ng encounter ang parati na lamang mangyayari. Dahil tungkulin naman ng republika ipagtanggol ang kanyang sarili.

Eh noon nga, ng magkaroon ng Oakwood mutiny, sinabi ko may State of Rebellion kaya pinapunta ko 'yung mga sundalo doon sa Makati para sugpuin 'yung mga nag rebelyon, at 'yung mga pinanggalingan nila sa iba-ibang mga kampo, 'yung mga naiwan, 'yon din ay kinuha rin sila sa custody ng kanilang commanding officers. Sinabi nung ibang mga nagbabatikos, "eh hindi ba may rebelyon sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas, bakit doon hindi n'yo dini-declare?" Hindi na kailangang ideklara, dahil ang ibig sabihin na ng rebellion ay may rebellion dito, military pumunta ka sugpuin mo 'yon. Ngayon, sinasabi ko sa military dito, may rebelyon dito sa Purnaga, pumunta kayo rito at labanan n'yo ang NPA. Sugpuin natin ang npa, dalhin natin ang kaunlaran. At hindi madadala ang kaunlaran habang ang npa ay nag-iistorbo sa inyong buhay dito. Kaya mga kaibigan, 'yan ang aking mensahe rin sa inyo.

At aking mensahe naman doon sa mga nasa sitio ng mga NPA, kung gusto n'yo ng kaunlaran, kung talagang sinsero kayo sa kaunlaran, bumaba na kayo, sumama kayo sa magandang palayan na nagdodoble ng income ng ating mga magsasaka. Sumama kayo na magturo o matuto dito sa ating television by education. Sumama kayo sa pangangalakad na magiging mas madali dahil makakadala ng produkto ninyo sa San Jose. 'Yon ang tunay na kaunlaran at kapayapaan na ating gustong dalhin dito sa barangay purnaga.

Kaya ako ay narito para ipaalam sa inyo na sa kabila, sa kabaligtaran ng siguro may itinuturo sa inyo na hindi kayo mahal ng pamahalaan, 'yang palay na 'yan ang pruwera ng pagmamahal ng pamahalaan sa inyo sa purnaga. Alam n'yo, kung kaya ko lang puntahan lahat ng barangay ng Mindoro, gagawin ko 'yon. Kaya lang kulang ang panahon. Eh kanya naman nandito ang ating mga officials — si Congresswoman, si Governor, si Mayor — sila na ang nagdadala ng ating mensahe. At gusto kong sabihin na ito na ngang kalsada mula ng Magsaysay hanggang San Jose, 'yon nga ay binigay ko 'yung saro kay Congresswoman noong last week, Monday, noong tinawag ko siya sa Malacañang.

Ako ay nasisiyahan sa inyong maiinit na pagtanggap sa inyong lingkod bagamat last minute lamang ang pagpaalam sa inyo na ako ay paparito.

Salamat, mag-kaisa tayo, kasi 'yon ang panggagalingan ng kaunlaran ng inyong barangay, ng inyong bayan, ng inyong probinsya, ng inyong rehiyon, ng ating buong bansa.

Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin kakailyan.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the Strong Republic School (SRS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194641/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6510&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 21st Bishops-Ulama Conference and General Assembly and Asian Gathering of Muslim Ulama and Christian Bishops

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 21st Bishops-Ulama Conference and General Assembly and Asian Gathering of Muslim Ulama
and Christian Bishops**

[Delivered at the Luzon Ballroom, Westin Philippine Plaza, Pasay City, August 18, 2003]

Thank you, Secretary Gonzales.

Archbishop Capalla, Dr. Mutilan, Bishop Gomez, Dr. Shariff, Archbishop Fitzgerald, Cardinal Darmatmajah, fellow workers in government, excellencies of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Barakatu! Welcome to all of you! Welcome to the Philippines!

Many countries in Asia experience internal conflicts among ethnic communities. But this is something that we should always resist and resolve, for our respective creeds — Islam and Christianity — are both founded on the love of God and the search for peace.

The task of rebuilding our nation is made more clear and hopeful with the presence of godly men and women like yourselves. I, too, strive to promote godliness in our nation and in my family. The first family welcomes a lifestyle check and other lawful checks on our godliness. We have led a life of dignity and simplicity. This is part of leading by example and I consider it a natural part of being president. This also accords me the moral armor to act decisively on corruption and extravagance among public servants. I invite the media and the people to join me in the crusade for good governance.

In his opening address at the World Day of Prayer for peace in Assisi in 1986, Pope John Paul II pointed out the significance of gathering so many religious leaders, including those of Islam and Christianity, in the following words:

He said and I quote: “Our meeting attests that in the great battle for peace, humanity, in its diversity, must draw from its deepest and most vivifying sources where its conscience is formed and upon which is founded the moral action of all people.”

For the first time in Asia, the Muslim Ulama, Ustadz and Imams, protestant bishops and pastors, as well as Catholic bishops, priests and lay leaders are convening to discuss common challenges affecting them and their relationships as Christians and Muslims in Asia; and how to address these problems and concerns from the standpoint of their faith.

As reflected in your theme: “Seeking peace and development through an authentic Christian and Muslim dialogue of life in Asia,” this conference also aims to formulate a firm consensus against extremists and fanatical groups from using religion as a justification for acts of terrorism. This reminds me that I must greet Speaker de Venecia because he has been among the earliest exponents and proponents of this dialogue of civilizations.

In this light, allow me to share with you the principles that govern our search for peace and development in Mindanao.

The first principle is that peace and development are the twins that always go together.

Second, all our actions for peace and development are founded on the imperatives of sovereignty, national integrity and constitutionality.

Third, we are a multi-ethnic society with a variety of religious and ethnic traits and traditions. Our multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society can thrive only through social justice for all and institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions.

To these three fundamental principles, we add a fourth for this day and age: we unconditionally reject terrorism.

In our search for peace, I've authorized the holding of the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to be hosted by Malaysia.

The United States is also committed to provide diplomatic and financial assistance to the peace process, especially the rehabilitation of conflict-affected areas in the Philippines, and thereby increase the dividends of peace.

The support of the Islamic world for the Philippine peace process goes back a long way. And through all the efforts, up to today, the organization of the Islamic conference has stood by the Filipino people.

Today, we aim for a holistic resolution of conflict. We want a peace that is just and honorable and allows our people more space to develop their human potentials and values.

Indeed, peace cannot be limited to a mere absence of war. Some months ago, I visited barangay Inug-ug in Pagalungan, Maguindanao, where Christians and Muslims, along with several non-government organizations and religious leaders, took the initiative to ask both the military and the MILF to leave their community. As this experience shows, the will of the people and god is always ascendant in the search for peace.

I know that each one of you in this conference pursues peace and development in your respective communities and societies. And together with you, I call on all armed groups in the region to join us in a quest for peace that is just, honorable and enduring.

Through your conference, let us collectively strive to finally dismantle the culture of divisiveness and self-centeredness threatening humankind.

May god's peace be upon us all in this room and through your work. And with God's grace on all the peoples of Asia and the world.

Mabuhay! And welcome once again.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 21st Bishops-Ulama Conference and General Assembly and Asian Gathering of Muslim Ulama and Christian Bishops. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194635/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6509&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Philippine Military Academy

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the Philippine Military Academy

[Delivered at the PMA, Baguio City, August 22, 2003]

PRESIDENTIAL Adviser, Governor Chavit Singson, Sec. Afable, Sec. Alingod, Undersecretary Purugganan, men and women of the Cadet Corps. Ladies and Gentlemen. I have come here, first of all, to affirm to you that I will not abolish the Philippine Military Academy.

After July 27... that I heard and the country heard many negative things said about the PMA. Those in the extreme said that the PMA should be abolished. There are those who say the cadets are spoiled and live in an idyllic world so detached from reality, and that is why they become lost dreamers when they are shocked by the realities in the field. Some say Mistah culture has bred corruption and cover-ups as well as blind loyalties to the wrong complex. Many blame the cadet for displaced idealism and for breeding the messianic complex within the officer corps.

As President of the Philippines, I listened intently to these opinions. But I would like to assure you that I did not come here to blame you for anything or to give you a long lecture on your values and principles. I don't believe that our cadets or young officers are spoiled. I don't believe that you are empty dreamers or wayward idealists. I respect you as soldiers of the people.

I came here to have a heart to heart talk with you. I appreciate it very much, and we would appreciate it very much, if you could dispel any preconceived thought that I am an arrogant President. I know I can be contentious and, perhaps, even overbearing sometimes, but we all have our strengths and weaknesses, our failings and frailties, anxieties and fears. But I do not harbor notions of superiority over my fellow human beings including subordinates in the civilian and military service.

God gave us a great gift – the power to communicate and understand each other. And as long as we are earnest and sincere and geared towards a common mission, as long as we agree to listen to each other and to respect each other's diverse beliefs and opinions, there is nothing in this world that can destroy those great ideas we hold so dear – the nation and the flag.

It is high time for our nation to break away from the excessive preoccupation with politics and even with... We must now consolidate and solve energies towards the indispensable task of public order and development, especially the fight against poverty, terrorism, crime and corruption to which the government is devoting its undivided attention.

There is an insidious attempt to sideswipe the presidency. Because nobody has so far dug up anything that can put my office in bad light.

I am drawing a clear line between the purely private matters that are being imputed against my husband. And the issues of governance being attended to by the presidency. That controversy has nothing to do with my work as Chief Executive. I do not interfere with my husband's private business and I do not allow him to interfere with the affairs in the state.

My husband is not a ward of the palace. And if charges are filed against him, which we hope will be done, he will mount his legal defenses independently. Neither he nor any other member of the first family enjoys a mantle of political protection. I am not going to intervene. The palace is not a legal refuge of the first family.

I am married to our country.

As your Commander-in-Chief, I would like to be accorded respect, but not subservience. I would like my lawful orders to be carried out, but I demand honestly, frankness and candor. No officer of the Armed Forces should ever flinch in telling the truth to the Commander-in-Chief, whether he or she is a man or woman. I do not seek to be shielded from the horrors of soldiery or the dirt under the carpet. War is neither pleasant for me nor for you for our families and loved ones and for all our people for that matter.

I know the soldiers in the field are waiting upon the leadership of the Commander in-Chief. I shall not be betray their yearnings and expectations, nor yours.

I am with you in your desire for equity and reform in the Armed Forces.

The big AFP cleanup has to be done. I have set up a task force for procurement reform. We are selecting officers for the task force known for their integrity and incorruptibility. We are setting up a fastidious selection and screening process to box out unscrupulous contractors. We will modernize the system so that discretion can be scaled down and accountability increased.

This week, pending financial review, I ordered a suspension of all military infrastructure projects except the building of barangay roads and schoolhouses, core shelter projects in the war-torn areas, detention centers and hospital improvement. I also instructed the task force to take a closer look at the operation of military financial institutions and institute more effective controls in the use of petroleum products and munitions, with the end in view of moving more logistics to the field.

We are putting a stop to the practice of conversion. We shall set up a system by which critical requirements needed at a moment's notice will be supported under effective controls. Henceforth all contingency funds of the major services will be subject to full audit.

We will move forward in areas that need immediate attention. The task cannot be done overnight but we are breaking ground.

That effort to rebuild Armed Forces starts here, right in these halls where you, the hope of the uniform, are reared and nurtured. I expect you to uphold the highest standards of integrity, courage and loyalty. Not loyalty to peers, classmate or PMAers, but loyalty to what is noble and worthy, what is right and good for nation and people.

Do not listen to the self-serving leaders who exploit your ideals, then later desert you in the aftermath of controversy or conflict.

Stick to the code of honor and the chain of command.

I know that many of those in the Oakwood incident have the sympathy of many of you. I understand your position. It takes great courage for any young officer to stand up and speak aloud about his frustration, maybe even greater courage than what is needed to face the enemy in combat. But, we need to ask ourselves. Is this the way we really want to change our nation? Are we aware of the consequences of doing away with the Constitution establishing a revolutionary regime backed by force rather than law? Are we prepared to undertake reforms by dictatorship rather than democratic rule?

I did not come here to demonize the officers and soldiers who went to Oakwood, but they did wrong, and they must pay for it. Every soldier must take justifiable punishment as part of his duty. But whatever you think about the rightness of their cause, I ask you once more to re-examine your oath, to dig deep into your conscience and to recall the values and principles our forbears fought for... right? The dominant PMA value, duty honor, country – guided those who detected, disrupted, prevented and dismantled the power grab. The perversion of these values drove the power grabbers. The government's success was due to the PMA ethic of professional military service. The PMA did not fail the mutineers, the mutineers were the ones who failed the PMA's tradition.

I ask you once more to recall the values and principles our forebears so bravely gave their lives for in past wars – from the revolution of the turn of the century, the Second World War, the Huk surgery, the Korean and Vietnam War and up to the EDSA Revolution of 1986. What did they fight and die for, was it not freedom and democracy?

The officers and soldiers in Oakwood did wrong to the flag even though many of their grievances were valid. I will never surrender the flag under pain of death. But let me assure you that I will continue to reform the Armed Forces.

We shall move forward with will and determination and I hope you will join us every step along the way.

With political will and the support of the people, as well as the leadership of men and women of honor like you, we shall prevail and win. Together, we can make a difference in reforming the Armed Forces.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech at the Philippine Military Academy. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194623/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6508&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the presentation ceremonies of Living Medal of Valor Awardees

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the presentation ceremonies of Living Medal of Valor Awardees**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, August 25, 2003]

Thank you, Secretary Romulo.

Members of the Cabinet; Secretary Reyes; Secretary Alingod; Secretary Gonzales; General Abaya; the major service commanders; the J staff; the Medal of Balor awardees, and I will give their names again: Colonel Arturo Ortiz; Colonel Ariel Querubin; Major Estrella; Major Parcon; Major Sobejana; Major Bacarro; Captain Fajimolin; Lieutenant Dilag; Master Sergeant Granfil; Master Sergeant Cuenca; Master Sergeant Curig; Technical Sergeant Rubi; Colonel Escano of the Meralco Foundation; Tony Abaya who put this together; Francis Colayco of the hero foundation; Mr. Garcia; friends and supporters of the AFP; honored guests; ladies and gentlemen:

As Mr. Colayco said, this is a month of heroes — Quezon, Ninoy, the Pugad Lawin heroes — and now, today, we recognize the living heroes, the 13 living recipients of the medal of valor, the highest award that may be given to a Filipino soldier.

It is the heroism and sacrifices of the soldiers epitomized by our medalists of valor that drives our will to give the best we can to the protectors of the people, the will to reform the Armed Forces, the will to bring the benefits of the command down to the fighters in the field.

It is their bravery that inspires the government to be ready to act on the legitimate grievances of our soldiers, and to serve their rightful needs without being asked. And it is in recognition of their heroism that I must remind the rest not to be misled or deceived by wanton adventurism.

In this light, the truth is finally coming out that many of the officers and soldiers implicated in the Oakwood incident were, indeed, misled and deceived, intimidated or threatened by their superior officers to join the plot, or were implicated but did not commit any overt acts contrary to law.

I want these officers and soldiers to be speedily exculpated and released.

As a start, I am ordering the immediate release of officers of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Army who have submitted evidence and counter-affidavits proving that they were not involved in, and in fact refused to join the power grab. Upon recommendation of the judge advocate general, the chief of staff approved the dropping of charges against these specific officers an hour ago. They may immediately report for duty.

For the rest, I have ordered the authorities to file the case in court forthwith so that the accused will have the opportunity to face the witnesses and the evidence. We will not engage in character assassination in the media. We will not speculate on evidence but we will deliver this at once at the doorstep of judicial scrutiny. Charges will be filed automatically and immediately when there is a suspected violation of the law. The court is the only proper forum to deal with these matters.

The senate is waiting for Senator Honasan. He has been elected by his supporters for greater responsibilities other than to play hide and seek. The work on his desk is piling up. His claim to innocence will not be helped by infantile games and excuses.

We will sift through the evidence judiciously. Due process and justice will be served. The innocent, as those that I referred to earlier, shall be spared and the truth will triumph. I ask the soldiers, I ask the officers of the AFP for their continuing forbearance and faith in the fairness of the commander in chief.

It is my administration's policy, not only to punish the guilty, but especially to reward the best and the bravest to the limits that our resources can offer.

Thus, two years ago, two months after I became president, on March 22nd 2001, I signed a law increasing the financial benefits of the country's Medal of Valor awardees or their dependents from 200 pesos to 20,000 pesos a month. The law also provided for other benefits.

And accordingly, I am directing all departments and agencies to ensure that the awardees or their dependents are given priority in jobs they apply for in any government agency provided they are qualified and meet the job requirements.

I'm asking Secretary Reyes, secretary of national defense, to transmit this instruction to all the departments.

I'm also asking him to transmit to the land bank and to the GSIS my instructions to ensure that if our medal of valor awardees should apply for loans up to half a million pesos, their papers should be processed immediately.

I am also asking Secretary Reyes to convey to the Commission on Higher Education that it should instruct the state colleges and universities that the Medal of Valor awardees and their dependents need not pay tuition fees should they decide to enroll in any of our state universities and colleges. I am also asking Secretary Reyes to convey to the department of education that it should likewise inform all public schools about school fee free privileges for our Medal of Valor awardees or their dependents.

And as Commander in Chief of all the Armed Forces, I am instructing the board of generals that the Medal of Valor accord the medalists the first priority in promotions.

I ask Secretary Reyes also to convey to the Health Secretary that he should inform all government hospitals that our 13 awardees and their dependents must be extended free medical and dental services. I thank Mr. Garcia for what he has said that the private sector is willing to do. And in particular, I also appreciate the initiative of the private sector to negotiate discounts for medicines for our awardees as well as the other initiatives that he mentioned to extend assistance to them.

Speaking of hospitals, I have also asked Secretary Reyes, and now I am also conveying this to the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, General Abaya, that in areas where there is armed conflict, the Armed Forces of the Philippines must assign a medical doctor to the regional hospital in those areas so that our soldiers need not wait for that absent helicopter to bring them to the nearest military hospital.

And to direct the DND and the DOH that there should be a Memorandum of Agreement that when our soldiers who are wounded in battle are treated in these hospitals or even the dependents of our medalists of valor, it will be the Armed Forces who will pay for the medicines that will be used by the Department of Health.

I am moved by the plight of our heroes — and I am sure all of us are moved by them — our heroes who bear the brunt of battle to defend, in the words of major Sobejana, "our people's peace."

These 13 medalists of valor and the soldiers they epitomize are our inspiration for increasing the basic pay of our military men under republic act 9166 which I signed last year, making the soldier's salary equal to that of the policeman and the teacher.

These medalists of valor and the soldiers they epitomize are our inspiration for instituting reforms in the procurement processes of the Armed Forces.

These medalists and the soldiers they represent are our inspiration for proclaiming lands where some 75,000 soldiers may avail of affordable homes. Related to this, I am instructing the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and the flag officer in command of the navy to convert the navy golf course into a housing project for navy officers and enlisted personnel.

Nations are known by the heroes they choose and celebrate. And this month, we celebrate several of them: August 19, Manuel Quezon, who led the diplomatic fight for our independence from the United States; August 21, the 20th Death Anniversary of Ninoy Aquino, whose martyrdom sparked a peaceful revolution that dismantled a dictatorship; August 23rd, Pugad Lawin reminding us of the other heroes of our revolution; and today, the living heroes — the 13 living awardees of the Medal of Valor.

All these show and remind the world that we are a nation of heroes. From our revolutionary forebears to those who fought the diplomatic struggles for our independence, to the modern day martyr who proclaimed to the world that the Filipino is worth dying for, that the 13 living heroes who demonstrated with their actions that they consider the Filipino worth dying for. These are the heroes that we celebrate this month of heroes. And today, we honor the living 13. And as we honor the living 13, we praise the Lord that we have great Filipino heroes.

Maraming salamat sa ating Medal of Valor awardees.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Presentation Ceremonies of Living Medal of Valor Awardees. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194614/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6507&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st Conference of Royal Sultanates on Unified and Effective Governance

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st Conference of Royal Sultanates on Unified and Effective Governance**

[Delivered at the Centennial Ballroom, Manila Hotel, Manila, August 27, 2003]

**TURNING THE LAST LEAF TOWARDS A
LASTING PEACE IN MINDANAO**

There is nothing greater that I wish for than a complete and lasting peace for Mindanao. A peace that is just and honorable and allows our people more space to develop their human potentials and values; a peace that is sincere and principled; a peace that upholds the law and respects the rights and traditions of our diverse ethnic communities in our multi-ethnic society.

There is nothing greater that I wish for than complete and lasting peace both in our countryside and in our corporate boardrooms, so that we can create jobs and fight poverty.

Through the National Government representative in the Monetary Board, I have asked the Central Bank to crack the whip on speculators and to use feasible monetary tools to stabilize the currency exchange market. The Government has the means to even the tide and alleviate the effects of the peso slide on the overall state of the economy. Meanwhile, we must also realize that the unfortunate brew of destabilization, black propaganda, and character assassination as political tools has affected the performance of our peso. But, we are consolidating rapidly and we hope that the distraction of poisonous political controversies will die down soon. We have to shake off the fixation on these day-to-day controversies and devote ourselves to the essential tasks of development and reform; to the essential tasks of seeking peace and prosperity for the peoples of the Philippines.

We're in the final stages of preparation for peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. It reminds me of 1996 when the GRP and the MNLF peace agreement was signed in Manila, paving the way for the complete integration of the MNLF into the mainstream of governance. That complete integration is symbolized and represented in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao where the chairman of foreign relations of the MNLF is now the governor of the region of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Now, we take the second and final leg of the journey, and I have great confidence that after years of bitter conflict, the GRP-MNLF peace talks in Kuala Lumpur will be our last hurdle before we achieve a truly comprehensive and durable settlement of the conflict that has raged for more than three decades. Three decades that means since 1973 or thereabouts.

I point this out because I am happy to say that during the administration of my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, there was no conflict between the Muslims and the Christians in our country.

The ceasefire mechanism has already been installed on the ground and will soon be completed in all affected communities. I'm glad General Garcia is here because he represents the Government of the Philippines and the armed forces in this ceasefire mechanism.

The peace talks will give us a stronger moral armor to fight terrorism, for as we consolidate our communities for peace and development, we will also mop up the poverty and inequity that is the spawning ground for terrorist recruits. I have asked Tingting Cojuangco, my Presidential Assistant, to help Mai Jimenez in overseeing the

“*Mindanao Natin*” which is our program. Our Mindanao national initiative which the National Government aside from the devolved LGUs and departments, is working for the development of Mindanao.

The Muslims, Christians and “*lumads*” of Mindanao, and the Filipino people all wait upon our efforts to forge a lasting peace. I shall not disappoint you.

And once again, I would like to acknowledge the noble assistance extended by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, to the peace talks. I would like the royalties from Malaysia to please extend to him once again my unending gratitude for helping us move these peace talks so far forward.

I would like to acknowledge as well, the firm commitment of the United States to support the peace talks especially in the post-conflict rehabilitation effort, but also in many other ways by which the MILF welcomes their participation. The role of Malaysia, the role of the United States, these are important roles. And we can also talk about the role played by Libya, the role played by Indonesia and the other members of the OIC in the historical milestones of the Mindanao peace process.

The mandates of our Constitution, the Rule of Law and the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity are primordial principles of our nationhood, which must never be torn asunder.

In accordance with the principle of institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions, we shall uphold the Bangsamoro identity. We shall uphold the Bangsamoro cultural rights and way of life, as well as the rights to socio-economic development and ancestral domain.

The Philippine sultanates are cherished historical institutions that must be upheld and celebrated as part of our historical realm.

The Sultanate of Sulu, for instance, was recognized by our neighboring countries with which it maintained vibrant trade and social relations.

You, the sultans, are our temporal and spiritual leaders. Although the Philippine Constitution has replaced the Sultanate System with the republican form of government, our Muslim brothers continue to identify themselves with the sultans as a matter of tradition. Afterall, even in Europe where many kingdoms have been replaced by a republic, the aristocracy, the nobility is still recognized not necessarily constitutionally or officially but culturally and traditionally.

For instance, Italy is a republic but we still call many of its aristocrats “Count so and so” and so on, because we continue in our different cultures to respect our ancient traditions. But we must remember not to go to the extreme, because at the extreme some of our Muslim brothers have such strong loyalties to their families, their clans, their ethnic communities or even their sultanates, if you will, that they sometimes forget that they are Filipinos too, and, that they must belong to one nation and one sovereignty.

I am very happy that in the earlier remarks I heard in this hall, the sultans all recognized that the sultanates are a wonderful tradition and your aristocratic place in our society is still there — you are all part of one Philippine Republic.

Today, our sultanates must be at the vanguard of peace and development in Mindanao.

I ask you, the sultans, to add your own fine stone to the building of a strong republic.

Sometimes I hear my critics say, “Oh, she is doing this, she is doing that. It’s like this, it’s like that. But, why is she bragging that we have a strong republic.” I have never bragged that we have a strong republic. What I have said is that, we must recognize the need to build a strong republic. And by your being here, I take it to mean that you are

willing to contribute the fine stone of the sultanates to that edifice that is the strong republic for the Philippines for the 21st century.

I have said it time and again that unless we, as a people, come to terms with Mindanao, we will never attain our full promise as a nation.

Muslim Mindanao for so many years suffered economic exclusion and this has led to severe deprivation and conflict. It is time for us to share common goals and aspirations.

As a final note, therefore, if we are to share common goals and aspirations, let me reiterate the principles that define my Mindanao policy:

The first principle is that our ultimate objective should be both peace and development;

Second, our framework for peace and development must be based on constitutionality, national sovereignty and territorial integrity;

Third, our society is a multi-ethnic society, and we must recognize that, one which should be founded on social justice for all and the institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions.

To these three fundamental principles of peace and development going together, of constitutional integrity, and of multi-ethnicity of our society, we add a fourth that is so relevant to the challenges of our times. And this fourth principle is that — we unconditionally reject terrorism as a universal scourge of all nations and creeds.

You and I are part of this mandate to build a strong republic. And I am very happy that you're all here noblemen and noblewomen of our noble race, our noble multi-ethnic race. May your presence, may your coming together bring about a stronger partnership between the great civilizations that are all part of one great Philippine nation.

Thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Visayan Region Conference of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Visayan Region Conference of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Pacific Ballroom, Pan Pacific Hotel, Adriatico St., Malate, Manila, August 29, 2003]

Thank you very much, Secretary Joey Lina.

Distinguished officers and members of the league of municipalities of the Philippines headed by your national president, Monching Guico; Mayor Martinez; Mayor Nacario; Mayor Sanchez — wala dito? — Mayor Adame and Mayor Mayor.

Mike Defensor, thank you, for once again surpassing your target with this Memorandum of Understanding. Congratulations also to the rest of the HUDCC family. And Jolly Benitez, the president of the Manila Building and Loan Association, thank you for this MOU. To all of you, mayors of the Visayas, tanang mga Cebuano, maayong buntag kaninyong tanan. Mga Ilonggo, maayo nga — ay, dili na pud buntag, hapon na diay, hapon na diay — maayong hapon kaninyong tanan. Sa aton mga Ilonggo, tanang mga Ilonggo, maayong hapon sa inyo nga tanan. And maupay nga kulo ha mga Waray-Waray. And to everybody else, good afternoon.

This is our second major island conference — tapos na ‘yung Mindanao, ‘di ba Monching? Nalipay ko nga ani kamo dinhi. Nalipay gid ako nga nag-kaari kamo diri sa mga Ilonggo.

And you are here and I’m glad that you are here. Let there be no doubt about our commitment to good governance. Because of your good work in the countryside, our domestic demand has been resilient and that is why the economy has fared relatively well. Thank you for your work. The economy has fared relatively well comparing ourselves to our neighboring economies and trading partners considering the external shocks we have had to impose to keep the deficit at acceptable levels. The cabinet is meeting today to look at areas where productivity can be further increased and where more spending could be applied to fuel growth. At this point, we are concerned about destabilization and excessive partisanship which are prejudicing investments and jobs. I call upon you, especially the members of the opposition who are still loyal to the democratic system, to correct their colleagues who are obviously out of line. Yes, we need an opposition, but we need a principled, constructive opposition that can effectively fiscalize government — not a bunch of destabilizers and demagogues. We need unity in democracy despite a diversity of platforms.

But I’m glad that all the rattle and roll of controversy has not affected our solidarity as leaders of the people, especially among you, the mayors of the Visayas.

With mayors like you, the destabilizers will never succeed because the people are behind the Constitution and their leaders; the governors and the mayors are behind the Constitution and the rule of law. I thank you therefore not only for keeping our economy afloat in this difficult times for the world environment but also for keeping our democracy safe.

Let us move on to the more pressing duties of governance and leave to the proper judicial authorities the task of dealing with these barnacles on the ship of state.

We are not engaged in a family witch hunt. Evidence has been introduced in the Department of Justice, transparently and without malice. There is a process defined by law for determining the veracity of facts. Let us submit ourselves to the system of justice and not cry oppression at every turn.

Let's not be distracted by the greater war, the war against poverty.

Though our economy has been faring relatively well, compared to our neighbors and trading partners. The one that only did very clearly better than us was china. Our GNP growth rate is comparable to Malaysia and Indonesia. We've fared better than strong economies like Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan. Nonetheless, I must sound the alarm on threats to our economic life represented by the deterioration of the exchange rates, the recent increases in gasoline prices, the slowdown in tourism and investments due to the Makati disturbance, and the continued difficulties of our major partners.

By the way let me say that though there is a slowdown in tourism, this slowdown has been to a large part mitigated by our strong domestic demand, in this hotel, and I thank you for that.

Those who went to the Puerto Princesa BIMP-EAGA games — that's not the Visayas — told me that the hotels there are fully booked. The other day, I was with the baseball and softball team of Paglaum National High School in Bacolod, and they tell me that Bacolod hotels are fully booked. In Boracay because of our national highway, our nautical highway, it's so full, it's over... The carrying capacity is so stretched that I was suggesting San Jose in Romblon, which is only a half-hour banca ride from Boracay, should be a spillover for the Boracay tourism. Nonetheless, it could have been much better if we did not have that Oakwood mutiny. If we did not have these destabilizers.

There are only three issues occupying here at this time. These are: first, the economy; second, the economy; third, the economy. Other controversies are not helping our people secure their livelihood and income in a difficult economic environment. And I as president will not be distracted by circus acts, as it is more important to help people get jobs, earn income, buy affordable goods, and meet the needs of their families. These are what people expect of their government; these are what people expect of their president; these are what people expect of their mayors. That's why, let's pool our ideas and our energies, or one thing, get rid of the turf mentality because only through our seamless coordination and unified action can we conquer the social menace of poverty.

Well, I'm glad and I thank Joey for calling me the most LGU-friendly president. I have supported the noble initiatives of our local governments to the best that our resources can provide. I've kept my promise to you to keep your internal revenue allotments intact, including the LGSEF that I inherited of 2001. Last night, I instructed DBM to release the last 3 billion pesos from that fund. I will not hold back on my support for you because you are the frontlines of governance.

In turn, I expect your loyalty — not to me but to your oath — to serve the people, to uphold our constitution and the rule of law, to spurn anarchists and destabilizers.

Good governance rests upon political will, action, integrity. I hope that the resolutions you've drawn up in the past two days will be founded on these imperatives.

So, I thank you once again, mayors of the Visayas for your contribution to our economy, to our Constitution. Mabuhí ang ating mga mayor sa Visayas! Hina-ot pa unta nga labaw nga maayo ang inyong pagpamuno aron dali naton madangtan ang atong damgo nga makusog nga republikang Pilipino.

Damo gid nga salamat sa inyo nga tanan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Visayan Region Conference of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194543/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6504&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the ceremonial signing into law of the Act Rationalizing the Excise Tax on Automobiles and the Philippine Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the ceremonial signing into law of the Act Rationalizing the Excise Tax on Automobiles and the
Philippine Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, August 29, 2003]

Thank you, Secretary Claudio.

Senate President Drilon, Principal author and pusher of the Dual Citizenship Law; Speaker De Venecia, main pusher of the Overseas Voting Law; Senator Recto; Senator Pimentel; Senator Sotto; members of the House of Representatives: Congressman Ledesma, Congressman Libanan, Congressman Escudero, Congressman Lozada, Congressman Rodriguez, Congressman Locsin, Congressman Defensor, Congressman Bueser, Congressman Garcia, Congressman Umali, Congressman Villareal, Congressman Uy, Congressman Syjuco, Congressman Javier, Congressman Puentevella, Congresswoman Rosales, Congressman Espina, Congressman Pilando, Congressman Ablan; Solicitor General Benipayo; Immigration Commissioner Domingo; Secretary Camacho; Secretary Bunye; Secretary Alvarez; Congresswoman Castillo — ay, sorry. You are in the middle of the second row. Sorry about that — distinguished guests; Overseas Filipinos; members of the automotive industry; ladies and gentlemen:

I thank both the leaders and members of Congress, especially Senate President Drilon and Speaker de Venecia, for your excellent work in passing two landmark legislation pieces.

These two laws are a silver lining in the horizon, coming after the solid although subdued growth figures announced yesterday. Figures that were better than many of our neighboring countries and trading partners figures. I think that with the figures announced yesterday and the laws signed today, we are ready for that good road to normalcy after weeks of controversy.

The call for a Snap Election is desperate and absurd. The people are tired of poison politics. We put a halt to the Oakwood mutiny in one day and consolidated the armed forces in less than a month. The economy is humming comparatively well when compared to other countries in the region, other economies in the region and our trading partners. The government's satisfaction ratings are good and steady. We have firm political stability driven by working criminal justice despite the machinations of a few disgruntled leaders who have become increasingly disloyal to democracy. What the people want is a stop to politicking, especially poison politicking and destabilization, not a snap election.

What the people want from the executive is the enforcement of law; what the people want from Congress is legislation. And I am thankful therefore to congress for producing these two vital pieces of legislation.

The Dual Citizenship Act is the twin of the Absentee Voting Law — that's why I mentioned Joe as the pusher of the Absentee Voting Law. It is also a lynchpin, therefore, as a twin act of our electoral reforms. We will also work on these electoral reforms domestically by pushing the gains we have made in the computerization of the 2004 elections, which is already pressing forward in good pace.

The passage of the bill is also a response to globalization as much as it is a response to the strong homing instinct of every Filipino after a long sojourn in a foreign land.

This law will foster unity among Filipinos here and abroad.

The international trend is clearly towards increasing the number of dual citizens. And we know that the majority of the Filipinos who migrated abroad did so for better opportunities, but they continue their allegiance to the Philippines. This continued allegiance is demonstrated by their maintaining contacts and interests in their homeland, and by their intention to retire, own properties and invest their hard-earned money in the country.

Our overseas workers have become a powerful force, not only in the economies in which they work and live, but in our economy. In fact, it is to them once again that we call on. We call on the families of our overseas workers to exchange their dollars in the banks so that we can all help to strengthen the peso.

Strengthening the peso is part of strengthening the economy. So is the Automobile Excise Tax. The Automobile Excise Tax Reform measure symbolizes our political will in making the tax system work. Now, there will be no more circumvention of rules as in the past.

We have a law that is a disincentive to tax evasion and smuggling. This will improve the prospects of global automotive manufacturers to invest and set up operations in the country.

Earlier, I failed to recognize the presence of Tony Bernardo – because his boss is already here — but I think he is here because he is a most happy man because of the excise tax law.

On the part of the government, therefore, we see a revenue increase.

These two pieces of legislation — the excise tax on motor vehicles and the Dual Citizenship Law — are consistent with our national goals of creating a more favorable environment for business and accelerating our country's development.

I would like the prophets of gloom and doom to take notice of this day, as Congress joins us in a testament to our bright future.

This is a day to celebrate. Not only to celebrate two new laws, it is a day to celebrate the unity and hope of Filipinos all over the world. It is a day to celebrate the unity and hope of Filipinos also right here in the Philippines.

Thank you and congratulations!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Ceremonial Signing into Law of the Act Rationalizing the Excise Tax on Automobiles and the Philippine Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194553/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6505&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Clark Field Centennial Celebration

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Clark Field Centennial Celebration

[Delivered at the Departure Area, Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, Clark Field, Angeles City, Pampanga, September 1, 2003]

Thank you, Secretary Romulo. Executive Secretary and Son of Tarlac, where part of Clark is located.

Clark Development Corporation Chairman Navarro; Clark Development Corporation President, Manny Angeles; Ambassador Ricciardone, representing our partner in Clark since 1903; Ambassador Takano, representing the government that has assisted so much in the development of Central Luzon and continues to assist. Quekatang Governor Queti Queng Pampanga, Governor Manuel Lapid. I have the name of Governor Yap here but I don't see him. I think we should invite him to the front if he's here. What happen to our protocol officers?

I'd like to greet also our congressmen. The congressmen I see here are Rimpay Bondoc, who's been with me since this morning, and Oca Rodriguez. We have the mayor of Angeles City, where Clark is located, Mayor Tarzan Lazatin. We have several members of the Cabinet. And I'll not mention all of them because they are all interspersed here. Except or aside from Secretary Romulo, Secretary of Transportation and Communication, Larry Mendoza. I mention him here because I am putting the airport under the policy supervision of the Department of Transportation and Communication.

I'd like to greet all of the officers and rank and file, both of Clark Development Corporation and the Clark Airport Corporation, and whatever is that new entity that is now the result of the combination and the merger of NAIA and Clark Airport Corporation so that we can move this project forward; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

We have heard the story of Clark from two points of view: Manny Angeles from the Philippine point of view; Ambassador Ricciardone from the American point of view.

Indeed, over a century, Clark has been a symbol of historical ideals. It was the largest American base outside of the United States. Larger than port of the then Pearl Harbor, at a time when our mutual security was defined by the challenges of the Cold War. Now, it has become a bastion of enterprise and development, a base for poverty alleviation, a hub of national progress.

On both counts — security and development — Clark stands for democracy and human liberation.

Today is a good time to remind our people to cast away their nagging fears and refocus their energies upon our primary goal — economic progress and the eradication of poverty — and not allow these to be sidetracked by the posturings and sinister attempts to grab power by the few and desperate.

I urge every citizen to remain calm but vigilant and thwart any attempts to further destabilize our nation by the desperate, again, and the few.

The palace is out of the issue on political exposes. The senate hearing is coming up and the evidence will speak for itself. Let the truth prevail and let the axe fall where it may.

The call for unity against terrorism with our Asian counterparts is but timely and pressing. To forge a strategic link-up to stop the spread of terrorist cells linked to Al-Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiyah is crucial and pushing for a common peace and development agenda in the region. The branching of these terrorist groups in South Asia and Southeast

Asia must be dealt with on a sustained, collective basis. Nations and peoples must form a solid front to track down terrorists across frontiers.

The economy is doing relatively well — 4.5 percent GNP growth rate for the second quarter. As far as I have seen in official statistics has only been surpassed by China and Malaysia. They're the only ones I have seen on official statistics that have a better second quarter GNP growth rate than ours. The so-called instability is only noise on the surface. Underneath, our nation is secure in its moorings, upheld by constitutional order and driven by a strong spirit of enterprise that we see here in Clark economic zone. With calm vigilance, the few and desperate destabilizers cannot beat our political and economic fundamentals. With calm and vigilance from you, our leaders and citizens, we shall weather the storm and bring back the good weather to the excellence and resilience of the Filipino.

This area is a great example of Philippine competitiveness. The area's competitive advantage is the 2,500 hectares spread serviced by a world-class airport with 23.2 kilometer parallel runways.

Over a year ago, I declared the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport as the alternate international airport to NAIA to decongest air traffic in Metro Manila.

I was disappointed that after a year the planes are not yet coming here. That is why I have decided that on the 100th anniversary of Clark, we will use this occasion to reinforce that declaration with money following where we have declared.

That is why I forced through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Clark Development Corporation and the Manila Airport Authority for the Development, operation and management of this airport. Otherwise, there will be no incentive to send planes going to Manila to Clark instead. This agreement means we can start mobilizing more funds for the development of Clark International Airport.

I thank the Clark Development Authority because, so far, since I made my declaration last year, they have spent 250 million pesos to fix the runway so that it will comply with the world-class standards of U.P.S. I thank them, too because they have laid aside 11 million dollars to upgrade the radar system. But that is to meet the cargo requirements. And I think, Queng Capampangan... You know, when Manny Angeles said, I'm the President that has visited Clark most often, siyempre kapampangan ako eh. Siyempre it's my home province and all. Anyway, but because I am Kapampangan I know that as long as it is only cargo planes coming here, it's not yet an international airport. We've got to see the passenger planes coming here from other countries and going to other countries.

And that's why I talked to Larry Mendoza. I said, "Larry, how can we make the passenger planes go there?" And he said, "well, you got to give me some policy control over that area so I can make it happen." And that is what we're making happen. With this memorandum of agreement, therefore, we can allocate part of the income of NAIA to the development requirements of Clark International Airport or the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

And as a start, they are setting aside 100 million pesos for the upgrading of this airport. Where will they spend the 100 million pesos? They will spend for infrastructure development like the apron construction. They will spend for the widening of the taxi way. They will spend for the procurement of the ramp bus. They will spend for the procurement of additional x-ray machines to handle bigger luggages, because what airline will come here if their passengers will wait while we're having a manual inspection of their luggage.

We have to make this terminal world-class in services as well. And we have to do that. And that is what NAIA will do to the DMIA. Also, we are making arrangements for passenger airline to start coming here. On my dad's birthday, September 28, Asiana airlines will be coming here. And during this month, too, we are arranging that the airlines bringing OFWs from the Middle East where the passengers are coming from north of the Philippines will be landing in Clark rather than in NAIA.

You see NAIA can direct them there now as part of the control because it has now one entity. And therefore, we hope that these airlines will begin to see and get used to this beautiful runway, and what should be a beautiful but also very convenient international terminal.

As another special gift to the people of Clark field and Pampanga, the reason why I was with Rimpay Bondoc this morning is that we were in his district where we inaugurated earlier today the new Candaba-San Simon segment of the North Luzon Expressway.

This brings Clark closer to metro Manila because it will cut traffic by 30 minutes going from Quezon City to Clark. Travel time from Balintawak to Clark and even up to Sta. Ines will become considerably reduced and made more comfortable with this improved road and the addition of 132 kilometers of additional lanes along the north expressway. The comfort and convenience provided by these road improvements especially when the electronic toll system shall be completed will soon be seen.

The sustained development of Clark field and the North Expressway, the development of the airport are all a plan to make our province of Pampanga truly an important hub of development that it deserves to be.

Earlier, Rene Diaz, presidential assistant for North Luzon, pointed out to me that in this trip we are launching the three ways — the three modes of transport to make Clark closer to Metro Manila.

This morning was the road. The road that cuts by 30 minutes travel time from Metro Manila to Clark. Now, we are launching the takeover by a new entity, an entity combining NAIA and CIAC into a pool that will improve and manage this airport that will launch the air transport to Clark. And tomorrow, I will be going home from Central Luzon via a new roll on/roll-off ferry from Bataan to North Harbor or South Harbor in Metro Manila. That way, you will have a choice of how to come to our beautiful province by land, by air, by sea.

And, of course, within our province, I hope we've also seen how we have decongested travel along the Olongapo-Gapan road we have built in record time, instant, an overpass. And we are... And then on the side road in a... On the ultimate road that Olongapo-Gapan road, the old highway, the Gugu bridge has already been built. And Rimpay tells me that the improvement of McArthur highway, that I ordered the last time I was here, along San Simon, is now making the traffic also in McArthur highway much, much lighter.

All of these are part of what we are doing, not only because of the good of Pampanga but also because we want to decongest metro Manila. This is one of the primary programs that I announced way back in 2001. I said that we must decongest Metro Manila not only by improving traffic within Metro Manila through a system of the rapid transit that will go all around Metro Manila in an uninterrupted circle, but also by making Metro Manila Mega Manila instead. Moving up north to Clark-Subic and moving down South to CALABARZON and Batangas Port.

This way we have Mega Manila because development naturally is coming to Pampanga, to CALABARZON, we have to make that development convenient and we have to make it easy for people to live in Metro Manila, in Pampanga, in Bulacan, in Laguna, in Batangas. They must be able to live anywhere there and work anywhere there because that is the way we can make this corridor, this heartland of the Philippines one economic whole. That is what we are celebrating today.

And I am very glad to see all of these so many years after the devastation of our province from the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. At that time, for a moment, we were in despair but not for long. We soon recovered, and while notwithstanding Pinatubo, Pampanga has always remained, never left being top, one of the top 10 provinces in the country.

Today, more than a decade later, we continue to be up there. We continue to support business but also we continue to take care of those who, of course, still are victimized by the problems of Pinatubo. One of the problems that prevents people from returning to their own home barangays even though that they are safe is that the landscape has changed. There are rivers where there were none and there are no more rivers where there used to be. So not everybody knows where his land really is located. One of the things that we are doing is to spend on the Cadastral survey so that everyone can know where he can go back home to.

I hope that if all of these things that we are doing, Pampanga will continue to be a leader in our economic development. After all, Pampanga has been one of the original eight provinces that fought for our independence.

Pampanga has been the home of two presidents. Pampanga has been and Central Luzon have been the home of the most important bases in our country. They have been the symbol of friendship between the United States and the Philippines. And Pampanga has been a favorite for our official development assistance partners to put their money in because it is well worth spending.

I am very grateful that 100 years after Clark was established, we are poised for greater development in Pampanga, Central Luzon, Mega Manila, the whole Philippines in the 21st century.

Happy centennial to all of us here in Clark.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Clark Field Centennial Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412192250/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7140&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 107th Commemoration of “Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija” and Graduation Ceremonies of Barangay Tanods

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 107th Commemoration of “Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija” and Graduation Ceremonies of
Barangay Tanods**

[Delivered at the Provincial Capitol Grounds, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, September 2, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Kalihim Joey Lina. Anak ng Licab, Nueva Ecija. Hanggang ngayon ang tatay n’ya ay nakalibing sa Licab. Salamat sa iyong magandang tula at salamat sa iyong pagpaalala sa akin ayon doon sa sinabi ni Governor Tommy Joson na mas maraming magagawa kung mas maraming maitutulong. Sabi ni Joey Lina sa akin, ipaalala n’yo na ‘yung kanilang IRA ay buong-buong binibigay sa buong ating administrasyon. Hindi lamang ‘yung IRA ninyo, pati ‘yung irang utang ng nakaraang administrasyon ay binabayad pa rin sa inyo. Kasama na ‘yung winidhold sa inyo na tinatawag na LGSEF. ‘Yung tatlong bilyong naiwan na LGSEF ay inatasan ko nang i-release ng Department of Budget and Management.

Nagpapasalamat ako kay Governor Tommy Joson sa pag-imbita n’ya muli sa akin dito sa “Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija.” Ako ay nagpapasalamat na parati n’yang iniimbita ako dito sa Nueva Ecija. Isang senyal ng pagsusuporta ng pamumuno at taong bayan ng Nueva Ecija sa administrasyon ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gusto kong batiin — kahit kasama ko sila — so, binabati ko yung kasama ko, si Secretary Richard Gordon. Siya ho ay narito hindi lamang bilang kalihim ng turismo kung hindi na rin dahil siya ang Cabinet Officer for Regional Development ng Nueva Ecija. Ibig sabihin noon, bukod sa mga kalihim ng mga kagawarang may kinalaman sa mga problema ninyo, pwede pa rin kayong kumuha ng tulong, doble, kay Secretary Richard Gordon.

Ako ay binabati ko rin kayong lahat mga taga-palayan, bagong kapitolyo ng Nueva Ecija sa pamumuno ng aking pamangkin, ang mayor ng Palayan City, si Lorelie Fajardo. At ang kanyang tatay, ang Member of the Board ng San Miguel Corporation, si Rico Fajardo. Alam naman ng maraming taga-Nueva Ecija na napakarami akong mga kamag-anak sa Nueva Ecija. May mga Macapagal na babae, walong magkapatid, babae sila lahat, isa lang ang lalaki. Nang lumipat sa Nueva Ecija mula sa Lubao, kaya maraming Macapagal dito bagamat hindi Macapagal ang family name nila dahil babae ang mga lola nila. Kaya ako ay maituturing bilang isang pinsan ng Nueva Ecija.

Gusto kong batiin si Secretary Obet Pagdanganan ng DAR. I mean binabati kayo, kasama ko. Si obet ay narito dahil siya naman ay pinsan ni Tommy Joson. Pinsan din namin, sabi ni Rico Fajardo. At hindi lang ‘yon dahil napakaraming proyekto ng DAR, foreign assisted project, ay linalagay dito sa lalawigan ng Nueva Ecija.

Gusto kong batiin... Ah, o ipakilala sa inyo si Secretary Milt Alingod. Siya ay tiga-Isabela naman. At narito dala-dala ko rin si Secretary Cito Lorenzo ng Agrikultura. Ang mensahe n’ya sa inyo ay ito: “sa lahat ng probinsiya ng pilipinas ang pinakamalaking tulong na nakuha sa agricultural technology ay walang iba kung hindi ang lalawigan ng Nueva Ecija.”

Binabati ko rin, anak ng Nueva Ecija, taga-Talavera, ang aking Presidential Assistant for North Luzon, si Secretary Rene Diaz; anak rin ng Nueva Ecija, taga-Cabyao, ang ating magaling na magaling na director ng NBI, ang kamandag ng mga pyramid scammers, si Director Reynaldo Wycoco; binabati ko ang Congressman from Maguindanao, si Congressman Digs Dilangalen. Bagamat siya ay taga-oposisyon, inaasahan ko na siya ay nabibilang sa mga oposisyong maka-demokrasya at sa hindi siya kabilang sa mga oposisyong maka-distabilisasyon.

Isa pang pinsan ng aking pinsan. Pinag-uusapan na rin natin na napakarami ang aking mga appointees, sabi ni Tommy Joson ay taga-Nueva Ecija. Ito pinsan ng aking pinsan, taga-General Tinio, ‘yung aking Senior Military

Assistant or Senior Aide, si Commodore Abesamis. Siya 'yung kapalit ni General Boysie Braganza na dating senior aide ko, Senior Military Assistant, na ngayon naman ay namumuno ng 7th division. At alam naman natin na ang bahay ng 7th division ay dito sa Palayan, sa Nueva Ecija. At nagpapasalamat ako kay General Braganza na noong panahon noong July 27, kahit na isa na kawal o opisyal ay walang sumama sa coup d' etat mula sa 7th division. Siguro bahagi noon liderato ni General Braganza, bahagi rin dahil siguro marami sa mga taga-7th division ay taga-Nueva Ecija. Kaya salamat sa inyong pagtangkilik.

Gusto ko ring batiin ang — nabanggit ko nga si Congressman Dilangalen — meron din tayong Congresswoman mula sa Nueva Ecija na narito. Siya ay ang ating bagong Congresswoman. Siya ay member ng isang board ko bago siya naging congresswoman. Nagresign isang araw dahil nanalo 'yung kanyang kaso sa COMELEC, si Congresswoman Leonila Chavez.

Kayong mga punong lungsod at punong bayan ng Nueva Ecija, na marami sa inyo ay kakilala ko na at nabisita ko na kayo, mga kasapi ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan sa pamumuno ni Vice Governor Eduardo Joson IV, at mga barangay tanod na nagtapos ng pagsasanay. At binabati ko rin iyung kabalikat ni General Braganza sa kapayapaan ng Central Luzon, ang Regional Director ng Region III, si Regional Director BG — ang tawag sa kanya — Quirol. At narito ang aking kababayan naman — baka may dugong Nueva Ecija rin, pero alam ko kababayan ko siya sa Candaba — si Police Director Ramsey Ocampo.

Mga kaibigan, mga pinsan dito sa Nueva Ecija, una sa lahat, gusto ko magpasalamat sa inyo muli mga taga-Nueva Ecija sa pamumuno ni Governor Tommy Joson, sa parati kayong nag-iimbita sa aking dumalo sa pagdiriwang ng “Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija” o “Araw ng Nueva Ecija.”

Ilang beses na ako nagdalo sa araw ng Nueva Ecija. Naalala ko minsan mayron pa tayong reenactment noong sigaw ng Nueva Ecija. At mabuti naman, sabi ko nga sa mga ko, na pinagdiriwang natin ito dahil talagang maipagmamalaki ng Nueva Ecija na isa ito sa walong lalawigan na unang nag-aklas laban sa mga kastila. Kaya sa ating bandila walo 'yung rayas ng ating araw. Kinakatawan nito, sinasagisag 'yung walong unang probinsyang gumawa ng himagsikan na nagtagumpay kontra sa mga kastila. 'Yang walong 'yan kung minsan tinatanong ko sa mga tao, alam ba ninyo kung ano 'yung eight first provinces? Halos hindi na nila maalala kung ano 'yung walong 'yon. Ngunit dahil dito sa Nueva Ecija parati nating pinagdiriwang hindi natin nakakalimutan na ang Nueva Ecija ay isa sa mga dakilang walong probinsyang sumigaw.

At dito rin sa Nueva Ecija, alam ko, na talagang pinagmamalaki natin ang papel ng Nueva Ecijano sa kasaysayan ng paglaban para magkaroon tayo ng ating sariling republika. Hindi ba napakaraming bayan ng nueva ecija ay pinangalan sa mga heneral na gumawang matagumpay na himagsik.

Sa panahong ito, importante muli ang Nueva Ecija sa pagtatangol ng ating republika, mula sa ama ng lungsod na si Tommy Joson hanggang sa mga barangay tanod na palaging nagbabantay sa ating pamayanan, kailangan kayo sa pagtanggol ng ating Republika.

Si Tommy maraming nagagawa kontra sa... Lalo na kontra sa npa. Kasama pa nga si Tommy sa hit list ng mga NPA, 'di ba Tommy? Dahil matatag ang kanyang laban kontra sa mga gustong magbagsak sa ating Republika.

Kailangan talaga na tayo ay magsama-sama lalo na ang isang malaking probinsiya kagaya ng Nueva Ecija dahil kung may nanggugulo sa ating Republika apektado tayo lahat. Kaya kailangan, mga kababayan, lalung-lalo na ang mga tanod, nagtapos ng pagsasanay, ipagbigay alam ninyo sa mga awtoridad ang anumang impormasyon na inyong makakalap sa mga may balak mang-gulo lalo na tungkol doon sa mga may armas. Dahil sa gayon ay mahuli agad ang mga masasamang loob bago pa man nila maisagawa ang kanilang buktot na hangarin.

Sa mga barangay tanod na nagtatapos ngayon ng pagsasanay, binabati ko kayong lahat. Binabati ko ang palayan dahil sila ang unang nagkaroon ng pagsasanay. Ngayon, ay buong Nueva Ecija nagtatapos sa pagsasanay ng mga barangay tanod. Kung patuloy tayo magiging mapagmatyag sa mga salot na ito ng ating lipunan, magiging matahimik ang ating bayan.

I'm hopeful that the three weeks of hearings on the failed coup have shed light on its root causes and provocations. The findings of the Feliciano Commission will surely reinforce our consolidation measures in the armed forces, which are moving forward under combined force of justice and reforms. We must lend greater momentum to the speedy return of confidence in our political and economic stability. Enough of destabilization and strife. The energies of the nation must be refocused on the fundamental challenges of poverty, crime and terrorism.

I've called upon the officials and employees of the Defense Department to share obligations and responsibilities, implement important changes and be proactive. I aim to create an irreversible momentum of reforms to promote snappy performance, move logistics to the field, and reward courage and sacrifice. We shall push forward the institutional initiatives of Secretary Angelo Reyes. My priorities are: to reform the armed forces, push forward the peace process, and drive the anti poverty campaign. We must multiply our gains.

Mayroon tayong mahahalagang mga nagagawa dito sa Nueva Ecija para nga mamulaklak ang ating mga biyayang naibibigay sa taumbayan hindi lamang ng nueva ecija kundi sa pamamagitan ng Nueva Ecija sa buong Pilipinas.

Alam naman natin ang Nueva Ecija ang nagpapakain sa buong Pilipinas dahil sa malaking ani ng palay. Maraming mga pasilidad para sa pagpapa-unlad ng pagsasaka gaya ng agricultural center na isang pinuntahan ko dito para ma-inaugurate na nanggaling sa kagandahang loob ng China.

Sa okasyong ito, gusto ko ring ipahayag na nagsimula na ang bidding process, kaya malapit ng masimulan natin ang Cabanatuan bypass road. Itong bypass road ay bahagi ng Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway. Noong araw, walang budget cover ito. Hinanapan ko ng budget cover. Ito ay magmumula sa Plaridel, Bulacan hanggang Cabanatuan City. Kulang-kulang 20 kilometers ang haba nito at magkakaroon ng siyam na tulay. Hinanap ko ang budget para dito. Alam ninyo ba kung magkano ang budget na hinanap ko para sa inyo? Dalawang billion ang budget na nakalaan para dito.

At nalaman ko rin sa banda rito may mga nagtatanim ng sibuyas – nandito ba kayo, red onions? — nalaman ko na mayroon kayong daing tungkol sa pagdagsa ng red onions mula sa ibayong dagat. Bago pa man ako pumunta dito inimbestiga ko na ito. At ayon sa agahang imbestigasyon, ng mga taga-Malakanyang mismo imbestigador ko, konektado ito sa katiwalian sa sang kagawaran doon sa Department of Agriculture. Patunay na mayroon talagang problema. Sa likod ng problemang ito, 'yung isang kinatawan ng D.A., ng kagawarang agrikultura na tumutulong na maituwid itong problemang ito ay noong Sabado nakatanggap ng banta sa kanyang buhay noong nakaraang Sabado. Kaya malalim itong problemang ito. Hinaharap natin ito kaya sa bukod ng... Nandito si Cito Lorenzo para ipaalala na sa ating administrasyon pinakamalaking agrikulturang teknolohiyang tulong ang pumunta sa Nueva Ecija. Si Cito Lorenzo ang titiyak na siya mismo ang mag-aayos ng problema ng magsasaka ng red onions.

Umasa kayo na ang inyong pangulo kasama 'yung aking mga Cabinet members dito na either sila ay taga- Nueva Ecija o sila ay may malalaking tulong na ginagawa sa Nueva Ecija, laging nasa inyong tabi para suportahan kayo tungo sa lalong ikakatagumpay ng ating mga layunin para sa dakilang probinsyang Nueva Ecija, para sa ating importanteng rehiyon, para sa buong bansa.

Tuwing ako'y nagpupunta rito parati kong naalala 'yung pagmamahal ng aking tatay, ni President Diosdado Macapagal, at 'yung tatay ni Governor Tommy Josen. Sila ay parang magkapatid. At ako ay excited ako pumasok sa museum para makita 'yung mga retrato noong aming tatay na nagmamahal sa isa't-isa.

Si Governor Josen, tatay, ay una naging gobernador noong ang aking tatay ay kinuha siya noong 1959 para maging kandidato niya bilang gobernador. Oposisyon sila noon ngunit nagwagi at pagkatapos naging pangulo ang aking ama. Kaya naman kahit na sa... Mula noong 1989, maraming naabutan mga iba't-ibang lansangan ng pulitika ang mga Josen at saka ako. Eto magkasama tayo itong araw na ito, kasi hindi pa naman halalan. Dapat talaga ang iniisip natin pagkakaiisa, kaunlaran. Isa lang ang ating Republika. Kahit na marami tayong partido sa ating bansa isa lang ang ating Republika. Ang banta ngayon ay hindi banta ng pulitika, banta sa ating Republika. Magkaisa tayo sa kapayaapan at kaunlaran ng ating bansa.

Mithiin natin na maging matatag ang Republika. Mithiin natin na maunlad ang bayan. Mithiin natin na masaya at malaya ang ating mamamayan. Sama-sama tayo, magtulong-tulong para sa lubos na kaganapan ng mga mithiing ito.

Kaya mga pinsan, mga ka rehiyon, ka probinsiya, kababayan, binabati ko kayong lahat. Alalahanin natin ‘yung ipinaglaban ng mga ninuno natin sa unang sigaw ng Nueva Ecija. Tuloy tayong magtrabaho para matatag ang ating Republika alang-alang sa mga bayani ng unang sigaw ng Nueva Ecija.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA’s Speech during the 107th Commemoration of “Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija” and Graduation Ceremonies of Barangay Tanods. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194532/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7137&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 103rd anniversary celebration of the Philippine Civil Service

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 103rd anniversary celebration of the Philippine Civil Service**

[Delivered at the 250th Fixed Wing Hangar, Villamor Airbase, Pasay City, September 3, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Chairperson Karina David.

Mga kalihim ng iba't-ibang kagawaran ng pamahalaan na pinangungunahan ng Kalihim Pangkalahatang Alberto Romulo.

Si General Abaya at lahat ng mga major service commanders at mga field commanders na narito, nakikiisa sa Serbisyo Sibil ng Pilipinas. Mga kawani ng ating pamahalaan, mga piling panauhin, Ambassador Maimunah Dato Elias of Brunei, mga minamahal kong kababayan.

Mga kawani ng Serbisyo Sibil, Happy Civil Service Month sa ating lahat. Ang laki-laki ng ating party. Maraming salamat at dumalo kayo at masaya kayo dito sa ating party. Naalala ko noong ako ay vice-president pa, ginawa n'yo akong guest of honor sa 100 Anniversary ng Civil Service. Ako 'yung pumunta doon sa inyo. Ngunit 100 anniversary 'yon pero ngayon 103rd lamang, mas masaya tayo itong araw na ito kesa noong 100 anniversary. Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat sa inyong sinsero at makabuluhang panunumpa kanina. Ngayon, at 'yung mga sinasabi kanina, makabuluhang panunumpa 'di lamang sa panguluhan kundi sa ating bansa at taongbayan.

Talagang kayo ang ating kabalikat, kayo ang ating pinaninindigan, kayo ang tumitindig, kayo ang burukrasya para sa demokrasya. Napakaganda — “burukrasya para sa demokrasya.” Kayo ang inaasahan ng ating taong-bayan.

Kakalapag ko lamang mula sa Brunei kaya pasensiya dito tayo, dito natin ginawa ang ating serbisyo sibil dahil kakalapag ko mula sa Brunei kung saan dumalo ako sa pulong ng Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, kasama ng aking mga kapwa pinuno ng mga Asean at iba pang karatig bansa.

My brief trip to Brunei was important to signal our firm commitment to regional integration and fair trade that are vital to jobs, investments and continuity of reform. Trabaho, pamumuhunan, pagpapanatili ng mga reporma ito ang ating prayoridad, tayong mga kawani ng serbisyo sibil. These are our priorities and we shall pursue them as we ward off destabilization attempts. We will ward off destabilization attempts through the unswerving pursuit of justice and political consolidation.

At nangunguna na nga sa ating political consolidation and serbisyo sibil. Alam n'yo, isangdaang libo mahigit ang ating mga sundalo. Ngunit ang ating serbisyo sibil, nasyonal at lokal ay dalawang milyon, kaya kayo ang pinakakailangan sa political consolidation para sa ating demokrasya. Kayo ay naglilingkod hindi lamang sa national government, naglilingkod ang mga serbisyo sibil sa mga local government. Kayo ay tumutulong hindi lamang sa mga patakarang pambansa, kayo ay tumutulong sa kaunlaran sa kanayunan.

I made a trip to Central Luzon yesterday. I saw the relentless spirit of enterprise and optimism among the people. 'Yung binabasa ko sa peryodiko lahat raw pessimistic. Eh pagpunta ko sa probinsya kahapon makalawa, optimistic ang tao, may inisyatibo. And their optimism and enterprise continues to push our nation forward, lalung-lalo na dahil naaasahan nila ang paglilingkod ng ating serbisyo sibil.

Dahil sa inyo, mga kawani ng ating serbisyo sibil, domestic and international confidence in our government is undiminished. There is no doubt that certain personalities are engaged in a continuous effort at destabilization obviously to escape the long hand of justice.

Ako'y nagpapasalamat na narito ang pamunuan ng Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas dahil sila ay matatag. Attempts to buy loyalty within the armed forces have been monitored, combined with efforts to manipulate the media and project instability. But with our two million strong bureaucracy supporting democracy, destabilization plans are futile and these will fail as they have failed in the past dahil sa inyo.

Moreover, these attempts will fail because they will be rejected by the soldiers as well as by the people.

The major service and field commanders are here to express to us, to express to you that we — the government, the administration, the civil government— have the support of the Filipino soldier and we have the support of the Filipino people. The entire chain of command is behind us and there is no turning back from the tide of positive change whether in the military organization, in the civilian bureaucracy, and in the entire nation.

Nagpapasalamat ako na bahagi doon sa mga nagprisinta kanina ay 'yung kinatawan ng civilian employees ng Armed Forces of the Philippines, lalo na ngayon ako ay kasalukuyang Secretary of National Defense.

Upholding civilian supremacy and moving logistics to the field — these will be the principles of our rapid consolidation of the armed forces as we reinforce morale, discipline and professional loyalty in the command. I want to make it very clear during his term of two and a half years Secretary Angelo Reyes promoted these principles, and we shall continue and expand the excellent work that Angie Reyes did for the peace and security of our country. The march for reform will be decisive and irreversible.

Kayo ay narito, magkasama tayo, kinatawan ng serbisyo sibil, kinatawan ng Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas, kinatawan ng taongbayan. Papano magwawagi ang distabilisasyon kung tayo ay magkasama, kung ang burukrasya ay para sa demokrasya.

The only revolution taking place in our country is the revolution in the promulgation of justice and in the upliftment of the poor. The revolution is not led by any military adventurists or any urban insurrectionists, the revolution is being led by the government, and we have no intention of stopping or turning back. The revolution is being implemented by our foot soldiers in the civil service. Mga kawani ng serbisyo sibil, salamat sa inyong tulong sa ating rebolusyon para sa katarungan at kaginhawahan ng mga mahihirap.

Katarungan at kaginhawahan ng mga mahihirap, ito ang tunay na pagtitiwala sa Pilipino. At kayo, mga kawani ng serbisyo sibil, ang nasa harap ng pambansang katatagan at kaunlaran.

Sa pagdiriwang natin ngayong setyembre ng buwan ng serbisyo sibil ng Pilipinas, binabati ko kayo, pinapasalamatan ko kayo, mga kawani ng pamahalaan, dahil pinili ninyo na maglingkod sa taongbayan, dahil sinusupporta ninyo ang aking administrasyon, dahil tinatangkilik ninyo ang konstitusyon, dahil pinagtatanggol ninyo ang pinakamataas na interes ng ating bansa. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

'Yung mga awards para sa Outstanding Civil Servant ay hindi natin gagawin ngayon. Part one pa lamang ito ng ating selebrasyon. Ang susunod ay September 19 kung saan maaanunsyo ang Outstanding Civil Servants for 2003. Hanggang sa araw na 'yon, mga kawani ng Serbisyo Sibil, maraming salamat dahil kayo ay burukrasya para sa demokrasya.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 103rd Anniversary Celebration of the Philippine Civil Service.
Retrieved
from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194524/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7133&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 15th General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 15th General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)**

[Delivered at the International Convention Center (ICC) Negara Brunei Darussalam, September 3, 2003]

Thank you, Professor.

Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Chairman of the PECC 15th General Meeting, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I am grateful to His Majesty, the Sultan of Brunei for his hospitality and his invitation to be here today. And I congratulate Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng on his leadership of the PECC.

I am glad that this meeting is being convened in Brunei Darussalam, the abode of peace.

Peace is the anti-thesis of terrorism. Terrorism is a very real threat for all nations. And our sympathies are with the Indonesian people and the families of those that suffered losses from the Marriot tragedy.

In our own nation in the Philippines and capital city of Manila, we want to be prudent. The police and armed forces remain on high alert and vigilant about security. At the same time, we continue to work with our Pacific and ASEAN allies to find terrorists and bring them to justice. Only by aggressively going after terrorists can the world feel safe from the heartache and tragedy they leave in their wake.

If peace is the antithesis of terrorism, peace is the twin of development. More than ever before, the building of peace and the pursuit of development require the close cooperation of government, business, and the academe. The PECC is a pioneer and exemplar of this approach.

A nation's security is determined by peace and order and a strong economy. Because of this, over the past two years, my administration has been aggressively putting in place economic reforms that are significantly improving the long-term prospects for the Philippines. We spent the first two years of my administration strengthening our macroeconomic fundamentals and it has paid off with consistent economic growth and low inflation. The deficit presented a challenge due to revenue collection deficiencies, but I am happy to say that reforms in that area and improved collection procedures have led to seven consecutive months of higher tax revenues.

Our focus on increasing revenues is centered around improving transparency, something that is taking place throughout our government. The passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Bill has gone a long way to increasing the transparency in the banking system. And in addition to making the tax system more transparent, we are making progress in other areas.

Continued growth, macroeconomic stability, revenue collection achievements and the passage of important legislative reforms as recently announced during the mid-year economic briefing are evidence that commitment to the economic roadmap is the right course to move the nation forward.

We are a nation rich in potential. Much of that potential is based on some of the best human resources to be found anywhere in the world. This is why international companies are investing in the Philippines in such areas as manufacturing, particularly in the electronics sector, and business process outsourcing.

Our path to competitive growth is focused on constantly rebuilding our economy. In that regard, the course of change for our nation is underway, and we have turned the corner.

The result: strong economic growth, lower inflation, fiscal restraint, increased tax revenues, and better governance, as evidenced by the fact that corrupt officials are being rooted out of our civil service and charged in our courts.

Intermingled with honest-to-goodness prosecution for graft are various allegations designed to be a distraction from addressing the real issues of real people like peace and the economy. However, let me be clear on all allegations justice will take its course.

I believe in appropriately pursuing all allegations in a responsible court of law and not manipulated by political opportunists in the court of public opinion. As for my priorities, I will not be distracted from the work of the people and will continue to focus on the job at hand and that is the economy and the peace.

There are those who want us to look back but we must forge ahead. It took hard work, reform and sacrifice to get us to the crossroads. Our economic fundamentals and our strong international standing as a nation speak volumes about the progress that we have made. Expect to see even more. The biggest frustration is always the pace but permanent change is within our grasp.

Our nation cannot afford to look back so the right thing for me to do is to be the force for change and make progress on both the peace and economic fronts as we have over the past two years — one step at a time. Our Armed Forces will be an important part of that process as they ensure our security.

I want to be a positive force for change to heal the deep divisions in my country. I get up every day and work hard to that end, just as I pray to God every day for a better, more progressive Philippines. I am working for even more progress going forward and I do not want to get drawn into political debates that divide our country rather than promote the unity that is so important for peace.

Democracy as we have seen around the world can get noisy at times but healthy debate should be the norm and Philippine democracy is no exception. That's why I am a champion of electoral reform. I want to ensure that every vote counts, that every election is honest, and every citizen feels empowered.

The building blocks for business and investment are in place and I am confident that our competitive position will be maintained. At the same time, nations throughout the world, nations throughout our region are creating the conditions for peace. I'm working with other heads of state to ensure continued cooperation in our battle to rid Southeast Asia of the threat of terrorism.

With the efforts of many, and goodwill on all sides in the conflict, I am confident that the lasting peace can be achieved for the good of everyone in Southern Philippines.

We are creating the conditions for peace on several fronts. Firstly, I have been tough as nails in fighting the MILF and any other group that dares engage in violence against the Philippine people.

The recent mutiny of some junior military officers was short lived and had no popular support. It involved a small number of young soldiers and it ended without one bullet being fired. Without any property being destroyed, and all within some eighteen hours. These facts indicate our continuing search for peace and stability in our country.

The signal this ill-fated adventure sent is simple: there is unmistakable strength in the rule of law, respect for our democratic form of government and protection for the rights of the people. The more light that is shed on this incident the better off the nation will be. That's why I formed an independent commission to provide a thorough, unbiased and non-political examination of the situation. Any grievance by the officers involved if proven legitimate and if proven true will be subject to appropriate action by the military and civilian courts.

I consider mutiny of any kind by soldiers for any reason unacceptable but I also recognize that there are those in our society who choose to foster their own misguided agenda and lead soldiers astray, away from their service of keeping the peace. Those responsible for promoting mutiny will be held accountable for their illegal actions in a court of law.

As President, I am proud of our achievements on both the peace and economic fronts. The nature of my job means that there will always be detractors and critics of my performance. The right thing for me to do is to continue to focus on the job at hand and be a positive force for change. And that is ensuring that we remain on the path of progress.

Our efforts to address the challenges in Southern Philippines are not confined to the battlefield. They are directed at pushing for peace and promoting the economic development that will make peace sustainable. I am working vigorously both in public diplomacy and behind the scenes for a proper peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

I believe that some kind of federal system for the Philippines could help to solve the problem of Islamic separatism in the south.

However, my main plan for Mindanao has been to create the conditions for peace. To show the people that they have an economic future, that their government will stand not for violence of any kind. That it is time for all sides to reach an equitable solution so that lives can be rebuilt.

Agriculture and fishing are important industries in Mindanao. In our efforts to find markets for exports from that region are yielding results. Food exports, for example, are among our strongest product gainers posting a 40% growth in the first quarter of this year. Our bilateral and multilateral trade discussions are centered around ensuring that exports from Mindanao and other parts of the country have ease of entry and a level competitive playing field in markets around the world.

An important part of Mindanao's development is its linkage with contiguous areas of neighboring countries — Brunei Darussalam, Eastern Indonesia and East Malaysia. We're therefore pursuing with renewed vigor the promotion of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN growth area.

As developed and developing countries alike are aware, the benefits of globalization and trade are not all apparent. They're not even all positive. This poses a problem in a democracy like the Philippines. As the Philippines comes down on the side of liberalized trade, we understand that at the same time, we must manage the transition well with our poor in order to gain their political support for additional political and economic reforms down the road. And that means a pragmatic, circumspect approach to liberalization.

We are committed to lifting our people out of poverty. We must put food on the table today, not promises. Our economic plan will get us there and our trade policy is an integral part of our growth plan. But our price in achieving this vision must be sustainable. Let there be no misunderstanding.

We are committed to being an active participant in the global economy but we are also committed to ensuring that we achieve this in a manner consistent with our own development priorities. I believe this is no different than the approach taken by many other developing and developed countries actively engaged in international trade.

For us and other developing countries, a major test for the success of the WTO negotiations is how they will fulfill the promise to open global markets for the products in which the developing countries have an advantage. This means breaking down and dissolving barriers to those products. Barriers like quotas, health and sanitary regulations, technical obstacles, and other clever tricks that developed countries use to beat down the competition from developing countries. Not least among these clever tricks are the massive subsidies given to developed-country agriculture with which, as a result, poor countries cannot hope to compete.

APEC is supposed to be the vanguard in the liberalization and facilitation of global trade and investment and in capacity-building for developing countries. PECC has always been a major pillar of APEC. PECC ought to exert its weight to ensure that globalization does not mean only opening the markets of the poor to the products of the rich.

After all, we stand the threshold of rapidly growing hopes and expectations. We are winning the peace in a larger scale among nations. We have a declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea. We commend China for organizing the meeting of six states aimed at the peaceful resolution of the situation in the Korean peninsula.

The SARS is behind us, and Iraq is gearing for broader multilateral engagement under the auspices of the U.N. we have to move forward.

All nations teaming up for peace and development must be our abiding vision. It must be the vision of PECC for the 21st century.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 15th General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194518/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7131&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Championing the Cause of Peace in Asia

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Championing the Cause of Peace in Asia**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, September 3, 2003]

CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN ASIA

Many events over the past year have put our shared dream of lasting peace under threat. This makes us realize how truly important our tasks are, and how much remains to be done.

I've just returned from attending the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council Meeting in Brunei this morning. I was there only for a few hours so that I could be back here to be able to host this dinner for you tonight.

Just the other day, I attended the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Ceremonies that conferred recognition to aspiring Asians in various fields of human endeavor.

These twin events converge with this gathering as a celebration of the excellence and the spirit of Asia, and of the great progress of which we are capable — in waging peace, in gaining prosperity for our peoples.

This year you have gathered with the dream of making the 21st century — as Speaker de Venecia said, “a century of peace” — and armed with the determination to make that dream a reality. Peace is something that no nation can achieve alone. Thinking of peace, without thinking globally, is like refusing to help pull the oars to push the ship forward. The quest of peace must be undivided by territory, sovereignty or creed. Each one's struggle is everyone's own.

The most formidable challenges to peace are in Asia, Iraq and the Middle East, Afghanistan, the Korean Peninsula, South Asia and Southeast Asia. But the key to global peace also lies in our region, and in its governments, in parliaments, and peoples. History waits upon how we rise to these challenges.

The Philippines has worked hard for peace. We've sent a peacekeeping and humanitarian mission to Iraq to help hold the line of peace and order and engage in humanitarian endeavors.

We support the road map to peace in the Middle East. Propelled by the initiative of Speaker de Venecia, the Philippines is proposing the creation of an interfaith council as a regular organ of the United Nations, to mediate the dialogue of civilizations, the dialogue of cultures, the dialogue of religions. This was the offshoot of the first Asian gathering of Muslim ulamas and Christian bishops that the Philippines hosted last month.

Our government has initiated, with Indonesia and Malaysia, a tripartite agreement committed to practical measures against terrorism, an agreement to which other countries in Southeast Asia have since acceded in the name of regional peace. It is our responsibility to share in the work to put down the threat of terrorism once and for all because we realize that our national security is impossible without international security and vice versa.

In the same vein, our government continues to work for Peace in Mindanao, and I thank you, honorable leaders of the Asian parliaments, for your support. We work for this peace not solely through ceasefires and political accords, but hand in hand with economic and social development.

Peace in Mindanao and the welfare of our Muslim brethren are essential to the welfare of all Filipinos. Negotiations will soon start in Kuala Lumpur, towards a final peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and I thank once again Prime Minister Mahathir for his gracious support.

The United States has also committed to play a role, a leading role in post-conflict rehabilitation in Mindanao. We await the visit of President Bush next month as a milestone for peace in the region.

Across the world, as Speaker de Venecia said, the Government of Norway is also helping facilitate exploratory talks between the Philippines and the National Democratic Front.

My administration works for “positive peace,” a peace that emanates from addressing not just the obvious immediate causes of conflict, but by striking boldly at its roots — inequity, injustice, economic exclusion.

Three principles guide our peace process:

First, the peace process must reflect the sentiments, values and principles important to all Filipinos. Not the dictates of the government or of different minority interests, but the mandate of all Filipinos as one national community — under one Constitution, one flag, one sovereignty, one territorial integrity.

Second, a peaceful society is one that is just, equitable and pluralistic, where its citizens are free to express their beliefs through the exercise of constitutional rights and liberties in a multi-ethnic society.

And third, the peace process must aim for the principled and peaceful resolution of armed conflict, with neither blame nor surrender, but with dignity for all concerned.

Our principled peace is built upon reform, consensus-building, empowerment, just reconciliation, and preferential attention to the poor, because peace and development are twins of each other.

Our culture of peace incorporates the totality of environmental care and ecological sustainability; and the perspectives, expertise and rights of women and indigenous people.

The culture of peace extends to the infusion of ethical, moral and spiritual values in all levels of human interaction; the full accountability of governments; and the solidarity of all peoples, ethnic communities, states and international organizations.

Let me cite a little village called Barangay Inug-ug in the town of Pagalungan, in Maguindanao, in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. In that village, both Christians and Muslims, along with several non-governmental organizations and religious leaders, took the initiative to ask both the military and the rebels of the MILF to leave their community. The community is now a “sanctuary of peace,” by the will of the people and the Almighty.

We are all aware that peace is a long, complicated process that entails much more than just the laying down of arms and the silencing of guns. True and lasting peace — the peace that will last a hundred years that this assembly hopes for, and more — means that we have to create the space and the conditions for it to grow and to take root.

It is important to strike down terrorism, and it’s important to have those who would threaten our peace feel the full force of the law. But to decisively staunch bloodshed and defeat all kinds of violence, we must provide the people with the dignity that all human beings are entitled to. We must address the seeds of the hatred that spawns the recruits of evil.

We must fight poverty as relentlessly as we fight terrorism. “Peace is not the absence of war,” the philosopher Spinoza wrote, “it’s a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence and justice.” He said that over four hundred years ago.

On that note, I thank you for being part of this assembly, for agreeing to work together with the Philippines and all the countries represented here today, and those others that may not be here but nevertheless share our grand vision.

There are many who would say that global peace is impossible to achieve within our lifetime. But even if we don't live to see that dream come true, then let that be our legacy to our children, who may yet within the century see the full blossom of our labors. Let our children and the rising generations know that we created for them the foundation for a true and lasting peace, the peace of a century and farther beyond.

"We must be the change we want to see in the world." That was said by a great Asian who also knew what it was to undertake the arduous work for peace, Mahatma Gandhi.

In this light, let's forge along the road towards a hundred years of peace.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding of the Certificates of Eligibility for Lot Allocation (CELA) to beneficiaries of Parola, Tondo

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding of the Certificates of Eligibility for Lot Allocation (CELA) to beneficiaries of Parola,
Tondo**

[Delivered at Barangay 20, Zone 2, District I, Parola, Tondo, Manila, September 5, 2003]

Salamat. Salamat sa inyong pagbati.

At maraming salamat, Secretary Dinky Soliman sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. Salamat rin Mayor Lito Atienza sa inyong pag fast-track nitong ating unang isang daang benepisyaryo ng ating papeles para sa katiyakan ng lupang tinitirikan sa Parola.

Congressman Bansai Nieva, salamat sa inyong panalangin. Kasama ko ang iba't-ibang mga opisyal ng gabinete na tumutulong sa akin sa pag-aalaga ng ating mga maralitang taga-lungsod, 'yung namumuno ng ating Komisyon Kontra sa Kahirapan, si Secretary Ging Dele;. 'Yung Kalihim ng mga Pahayagan, si Secretary Milton Alingod; si Secretary ng mga pangunahing programa ng pamahalaan at ang pag-aayos ng mga papeles ng tulong galing sa ibayong dagat, si Secretary Mai Jimenez; at 'yung inyong parating kabalik sa pang araw-araw na mga pangangailangan ng mga maralitang taga-lungsod, si Percy Chavez; narito rin, anak ng Maynila, tumutulong sa akin, Presidential Assistant sa mga Pabahay, si P.A. Nestor Ponce, dating Congressman; at 'yung nagpaliwanag sa atin kanina nitong kasaysayan na hangarin ninyong mahigit isang dekada na magkaroon ng katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan, ang director ng Natural Resources dito sa NCR, si Corazon Davis.

Salamat Barangay Captain Eli Salud sa maganda at mainit na pagtatanggap sa akin ng mga inyong kasamahan sa Barangay Parola. Ay, 'di pala Barangay Parola dahil de numero ang mga barangay ninyo, basta mga taga-Parola.

At ako naman, nagalak akong muling makasama kayo mga taga-Parola sa araw na ito dahil itong araw na ito hatid na naman natin mga benepisyo at serbisyo tutugon sa inyong pangunahing pangangailangan. Kasi naalala ko — ewan ko kung ilan sa inyo naalala pa ninyo — isang araw, bagong pangulo ako, biglang dumating ako, walang advanced notice, pumunta ako doon sa isang bahay doon, umupo — oo, naalala n'yo? O yeah, ikaw! Birthday mo noon, 'di ba? Birthday mo noon. Tapos sabi ko, “ano ba ang pangunahing pangangailangan ninyo dito? Sabi n'yo, “katiyakan ng lupang tinitirikan.” kaya 'yon ang ating hinahatid itong araw na ito. O Lucy, 'di ba? Ikaw, noon? Thank you, thank you. Birthday mo noon. Okey, o 'di meron nakang belated birthday present. Kasama ka pala sa isang daan. Very good.

Kaya naman sa tulong ninyo sana matigil na ang mga banta sa katiwasayan ng ating pamumuhay upang mabuhos natin ang ating oras sa atensiyon sa mga mabibigat na problemang apektado ang sambayanan, lalung-lalo na ang kahirapan, krimen, terorismo.

'Yung umanong kumplot ng destabilisasyon, o kung anong nalalabi d'yan, ay ampaw na kahon ng tsismis, malisyosong mensahe sa text, at maingay na propaganda.

Sa ingles, dahil meron tayong nasa audience nakikinig dito, the so-called destabilization plot, or what remains of it, is an empty shell of rumors, mischievous text messages and noisy propaganda. The conspiracy is still there. Nandoon pa rin 'yung conspirators, driven by raw ambitions of power of persons who want to evade justice. 'Yang mga nagkukumplot nandiyan pa rin. Dahil gusto nila na makaagaw ng kapangyarihan para makaiwas ng katarungan. But, lalo na sa inyong pakikiisa, the threat is being beaten and no amount of media play and intrigue can make it rise again.

Kahapon, nagkaroon ako ng aking unang command conference bilang Secretary ng National Defense. At 'yon ay isang makabuluhang pangyayari. 'Yung Chief of Staff nag ulat ng mga kasalukuyang pagtutupad sa lahat ng aking mga direktiba tungkol sa reporma at consolidation ng armed forces. Pitumpo at pitong officers ay nakalaya na mula sa kanilang preso. At 'yung mga sinampa sa kanilang kaso ay binawi na dahil napatunayan na sila ay inosente doon sa pangyayari sa Oakwood. Kaya tayo ay nagbibigay ng katarungan sa mga inosente. Ngunit pinakamatinding parusa ang naghihintay sa mga may sala. 'Yung pulis sa kanyang bahagi naman — ito, nandito si Colonel Jamias, 'yung isang binisita ko noon na hindi retrato ko ang nasa kanyang desk, pero ngayon andoon na. Ah 'yung boss niya, si Pete Bulaong, sinasagot siya.

'Yung PNP, si Pete, si Colonel Jamias, kahapon doon sa aking command conference ay nag-ulat ng napakamatinding mga tagumpay sa kampanya kontra sa droga, sa kalahati — no, sa ilan ba? — sa nakaraang dalawang buwan at kalahati. Alam n'yo, sa Philippine National Police, sa aking one billion na tinabi ko mula sa PCSO Lotto para sa paglaban sa droga, 100 million ang binigay sa pnp para sa gagamitin sa tatlong buwan. Dalawang buwan at kalahati, ang nagastos pa lamang nila tatlong milyon, meron pa silang nalalabing 70 million. Ngunit resulta ng kanilang gawain, dumoble na ang presyo ng shabu dahil ang supply ay hirap na hirap na. Kaya congratulations sa PNP sa magandang trabaho. Magandang trabaho, nakakaimpok pa ng pondo. Hindi ba 'yon ang huwarang naglilingkod sa ating bayan?

We're moving forward in the security and law enforcement fronts. And this is clearing the ground for sustained reforms. Kasi pag mapayapa ay mas lalong nagagawa natin, naasikaso natin ang pangmatagalang reporma. Sa kasalukuyan, ako ay direktang nag-aasikaso na may seguridad na ang inyong pasahe ay hindi tumataas. At inyong presyo ng pangunahing bilihin ninyo ay hindi tumataas kahit na tumataas ang presyo ng gasolina sa buong mundo. Kaya gusto ko lang ipahayag kay Secretary Lito Atienza na sa makalawa ako ay tatawag ng miting — ano ang sinabi ko, Secretary? — Mayor Lito Atienza, na sa makalawa ay tatawag ako ng miting ng Metro Manila Council kasama ng NEDA Executive Committee doon sa Metro Manila Development Authority para pag-usapan natin kung ano ang magagawa ng mga local government units para ma-isegurado na hindi tataas ang pasahe ng bus at jeepney na ginagamit ng ating mga mahihirap.

At dinadalas ko rin muli ang aking pagbibisita sa mga pamayanang maralitang taga-lungsod. Siyempre, babalik ako muli sa mga probinsiya to broaden our people's support for the big push forward. At hinihiling ko rin sa inyo na manatili sanang lubos ang inyong tiwala sa pamahalaan. Biro mo, sabi ni Corazon Davis, dekada mahigit ang inyong hangarin. Sabi ni Lito Atienza, ilang proklamasyon pero ngayon lang individual na papeles sa katiyakan ng lupang tinitirikan.

Ang patuloy na panggugulo ng mga grupong gustong siraan at ipabagsak ang pamahalaan ay malaking hadlang sa ating pagsisikap na matulungan ang mga kababayan nating mahihirap. Pero itong araw na ito, ganunpaman, dahil nasusugpo naman natin sa tulong ninyo 'yung mga gustong magdestabilize. Papano ninyo natutulungan na sugpuin 'yung gustong magdedestabilize, hindi ba kayo ang hinihingi nilang mag-people power kontra sa pamahalaan at hindi kayo pumapayag, maraming salamat. Dahil hindi kayo pumapayag na magamit ng mga ambisyoso sa kanilang hangaring umagaw ng kapangyarihan, naasikaso tuloy natin ang inyong mga pangangailangan. Kaya itong araw na ito, ano ang ating okasyon?

Ito meron tayong 100 na may tatak, sila ang unang makikinabang sa pagkakaloob natin ng certificate of eligibility for lot allocation itong araw na ito. Simula pa lamang ito, kasi itong 100 na ito sila ang unang natapos sa proseso, na ang laki ng tulong ni mayor atienza. Dahil itong unang 100 ay natapos na ang papeles pwede nang ibigay ang certificate, pwede nang ipamahagi ngayon. 'Yung iba, meron pang dalawang libo, na palagay ko sa mga gagawin natin simula ngayon ay matutupad sa loob ng tatlong buwan.

Ito ay bahagi ng pagtupad sa hangarin ng aking administrasyong magbigay ng seguridad sa lupa at ating layunin ay 150,000 families per year. Kaya sa dalawang taon ngayon ay nakakaabot na tayo ng ating nasabing bilang at halos tatlong daang libong pamilyang maralitang taga lungsod ang nabigyan na nang katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan.

Itong unang isang daan, 'yan ang huling hakbang para sa inyo ng prosesong nasimulaan noong gumawa ako ng proklamasyon sa Parola. At 'yung proklamasyon kong 'yon ay bahagi sa mahigit limampung mga proklamasyon na

ang ilang lupaing pag-aari ng gobyerno na gamitin sa socialized housing ng mga pamilyang maralitang taga-lungsod.

Ngayon, bakit hindi lumalampas sa 300,000? O bakit ‘yung dalawang libo na mga kasama ninyo ay hindi pa natatapos ang papeles? Kasi dahil sa mga iba’t-ibang batas, ‘yung papeles sa iba’t-ibang ahensya ay kailangan kung tayo ay susulong mula sa proklamasyon hanggang sa titulo. Kaya mahirap, maraming papeles. Kaya gaya ng sabi ni Corazon Davis, ipinag-utos ko ang pagtatayo ng “One-Stop Shop Processing Center” sa higit dalawampung lugar ng maralitang taga-lungsod para mabilis ang asikaso ng papeles n’yo tungkol dito sa inyong pagpapatitulo.

Alam n’yo, ‘yung mga investor noong ako’y nasa DTI, naglagay ako ng one-stop shop center para sa mga investor, para hindi sila mainip pumunta sa napakaraming ahensya para sa papeles nila. ‘Yung mga maraming mga local government units kagaya ng Maynila, sa mga negosyanteng maraming lisensyang kailangan, naglalagay din ng one-stop shop center para hindi din sila maiinip pumunta sa iba’t-ibang ahensya. Eh kung ang serbisyo sa mayamang investor merong one-stop shop, dapat meron din para sa mga mahihirap. Kaya ngayon, meron na tayong one-stop shop center for the poor sa ganun sa inyong pagtititulo, sa inyong pagkuha ng sertipikado, sa inyong pagkuha ng papeles para tiyak kayo sa inyong lupang tinitirikan, hindi na kayo kailangan pumunta ahensya... Magpupunta sa ibat-ibang ahensya pa

Nag-eksperimento tayo nitong one-stop shop for the poor sa Barangay Escopa sa Cubao, sa Barangay Pineda sa Pasig, sa Barangay Sto. Niño sa Parañaque, sa Grace Park sa Caloocan. Itong araw na ito, malugod kong ibalita sa inyo ngayon na itatayo natin ang inyong one-stop shop center sa mahihirap sa tabi ng Delpan sports complex dito sa Binondo.

Kaya pagkatapos magbigay ng mga certificate dito sa 100, iniimbita ko ‘yung ibang 2,000 — hindi naman masyadong malayo — sumama kayo, punta kayo doon para makita n’yo kung papaano maayos ‘yung mga papeles ninyo na isang gusali na lang ang inyong pinupuntahan. At sa ganun, magkakaroon kayo ng mas maraming pagkakataon na gawin ‘yung inyong ibang trabaho at inyong hanapbuhay, kagaya ng emergency employment na pinahayag ni Mayor Lito Atienza.

Alam n’yo doon sa ibang lugar kung saan nakabigay na ako ng certificate of lot entitlement, nakakagulat. Sa sunod na pagbisita ko doon, gumaganda ang kanilang tahanan. Kasi kapag meron na kayong katiyakan at may papeles na kayo, mismong papeles ninyo ay nagagamit na ninyo, ‘di ba? Para humiram para sa negosyo, humiram para gumanda... Pagandahin ang bahay ninyo. ‘Yan ang tinatawag nating De Soto principle. Ako bilang ekonomista natuto ko ito sa mga karanasan sa ibang lugar lalo na sa South America kung saan marami ring mga squatter dati. Ngunit dahil doon sa De Soto principle ay kumonti na, halos wala ng squatter doon sa sariling bayan at ‘yan ang ating hangarin sa maralitang taga-lungsod.

Sana itong ating sinimula itong araw na ito sa Parola ay tuloy-tuloy at darating ang araw sana sa loob ng ating kabuhayan na masasabi n’yo na kayo ay hindi na squatter sa sariling bayan.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA’s Speech during the Awarding of the Certificates of Eligibility for Lot Allocation (CELA) to Beneficiaries of Parola, Tondo. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194456/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7129&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremonies for Outstanding Electric Cooperatives (ECs) and MOA signing on the merger of three Cebu Ecs

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding ceremonies for Outstanding Electric Cooperatives (ECs) and MOA signing on the
merger of three Cebu ECs**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, September 11, 2003]

Thank you very much, Secretary Vince Perez.

Congressman Kintanar, who is here to witness the merger of the three outstanding cooperatives in Cebu; Secretary Bunye; Father Silva; Sotero Gan, member of the NEA board; Mr. Villera, the awarded President of PHILRECA; APEC Party List Congressman Sonny Madamba; awardees of the outstanding cooperatives; friends from the rural electrification sector; DOE family, especially the 14,000 workers in the electric cooperatives who are listening to us all over the country at this very moment.

A year ago in this very hall, I promulgated Executive Order 119. It was a smaller group then. Now, I'm glad we have a big group representing the 119 electric cooperatives of the one-one that were affected by E.O. 119. Coincidence? No, I think it's providence. E.O. 119 condoned the 119 power cooperatives electrification loans amounting to some 18 billion pesos.

But that condonation was not unconditional. That condonation was conditional. I granted it but I return, I demanded better services, bold reforms and a permanent commitment to integrity.

Today, I was glad to hear the report of Father Silva that of the 119 subject of E.O. 119, 72 electric cooperatives have complied with my conditions. Congratulations then to these law abiding 72.

Another 23 partially complied with my list of required reforms, and to them, good luck! Congratulations and good luck on your continuing reforms.

Only 21 continued to show dismal performance, and you will have the special attention of Father Silva again.

Consistent with my earlier pronouncement last year therefore, let me make these announcements.

For the 72 cooperatives that showed substantial compliance. The reward is the following.

First, greater autonomy and empowerment. Which means less government regulations. At the same time, conducting and or support for access to private sector funds and assistance.

For the 23 that are on the borderline, a second assessment shall be done to determine whether or not given more assistance to improve their efficiency and reliability they can survive in an environment of domestic and global competition.

Now, as regards the cooperatives that miserably failed to achieve their targets, It would be the height of injustice to the others – the 78 and the 23 – to allow these 21 to continue subjecting their members to difficulty or distress. And that's why I said Father Silva will handle those in a very special way.

If we want to strengthen our Republic – and let me stress, I am not claiming we have a strong Republic. I'm saying we must strengthen our Republic – and if we are to strengthen our Republic, we must strengthen the institutions that

provide basic services to our people. Now is the time for these 21 who have not complied. Now is the time to allow other players imbued with responsiveness and capability to step in and implement the needed reforms – bold and unprecedented no matter how unpleasant some of them may be.

I am therefore reiterating my directive to the NEA board of administrators, particularly Father Silva, to take the most viable on the options or alternatives in accordance with our regulatory framework, and within the bounds of law, rules and regulations to pursue viable solutions such as – though not limited to – merger or consolidation, joint ventures, investment management contracts or management takeovers.

After all, look at three outstanding cooperatives – Cebu. They're already very good and yet they have decided to go under joint management to become even better. What more those who continue to be inefficient.

We will not stop there. I'm also instruction the NEA to do the following:

Organization and promotion of watchdog committees composed of influential sectors in the local communities; institutionalization of its program on that compact of cooperation where good performing coops help the poorly-performing ones in all areas of operations. We did that – SAMSURECO helping Basilan, Cebu helping Aklan. And we have seen the results because some of them were those who received the awards today.

I'm also instructing NEA to undertake the brokering of financing from private lending agencies.

Public sector welfare if the ultimate measure of our performance, we will continue to aim for reliable power supply and affordable electric rates. Of course, to have reliable power supply and affordable electric rates, we must have a reduction of systems losses.

I am glad that the reforms in just one year alone have brought down the average systems loss from about 16 to 15, but 14 is the statutory cap. And therefore, I urge everyone including the "A" performing ones to improve even more to bring down the average on the systems losses.

These constitute bottom line reliable power supply, affordable cost and systems losses of no more than 14 percent. They make up the bottom line. And we must maintain this bottom line through excellence and performance.

That's why I congratulate the awardees of this year as well as the previous years especially who've gotten their hall of fame awards. For many of them especially the turnaround ones we have been involved or I've been aware of what has happened to them.

For instance, Boracay – the AKELCO. It was a painful decision for me because my political allies were at the shorter end of my instruction. But we had to have a management takeover and now they've received an award as one of the turnaround cooperatives.

When I was in Bohol, I witnessed the MOU for joint management. And now, they are again with their Hall of Fame Awards for Outstanding Management.

I mentioned Basilan complaining about fluctuations so frequent that in the squatter areas they had to have candles. And these candles – one of them fell from a table and caused a whole fire in a whole squatter area. And it was at that moment that I decided somebody must take over that electric cooperative.

SAMSURECO did and SAMSURECO is an outstanding cooperative, one of the awardees today.

I remember the phone calls about the crisis in Camarines Norte, and we had to make a decision. I called Father Silva. "take over," and now Camarines Norte is one of the turnaround awardees today.

Therefore, the political will that Vince talked about works. They were painful decisions, politically painful decisions sometimes, to do the take over or force merger. But they have worked. And as I said, even the best ones are merging management. May their example lead other electric cooperatives also to consider the greater efficiency that comes with merger and economies of scale.

You are immensely contributing to the arduous task of galvanizing rural communities and igniting enterprise in the countryside. You cannot have irrigation without electrification in the countryside. You cannot even have the modernization of elections without electrification in the countryside.

I am therefore instructing Secretary Vince Perez to meet with the officials of COMELEC to ask them what infrastructure support they would need from DOE, NEA and PHILRECA to make sure that computerization and modernization will be a reality in our rural polling places.

Jointly, indeed, the NEA and the electric cooperatives are among our dependable pillars of building a strong Republic. Together we have done so much in one year of E.O. 119.

Let us carry on and strengthen the institution of rural electrification.

Congratulations to all of you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding Ceremonies for Outstanding Electric Cooperatives (ECs) and MOA Signing on the Merger of Three Cebu ECs. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194438/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7124&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the MIAA sites Socialized Housing Project MOA signing and awarding of Certificates of Lot Occupancy to beneficiaries of Presidential Proclamation No. 391

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the MIAA sites Socialized Housing Project MOA signing and awarding of Certificates of Lot
Occupancy to beneficiaries of Presidential Proclamation No. 391**

[Delivered at the Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City, September 12, 2003]

Maraming salamat, kumareng Congresswoman Connie Dy sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. At salamat dahil parati mo akong kinukulit para sa mga proklamasyon at para ‘yung mga proklamasyon ay mag-graduate hanggang sa pagbibigay mismo ng dokumento sa bawat pamilya.

Maraming salamat, Mayor Pewee Trinidad sa inyong suporta sa ginagawa ng ating administrasyon. Maraming salamat din Mike Defensor, at saka GM Ed Manda, at saka GM Pamintuan. Maraming salamat, USEC. Gerochi. At sana lahat ng mga papeles doon sa DENR, Dick sa iyo na lang namin ipa-follow-up. Siyempre, salamat kay Chairman Percy Chavez na parating tinatawag ko pag may problema ng demolition. Gusto kong ipakilala si Secretary Milt Alingod na irereport n’ya itong ating pangyayari ngayon. Saan si Milt? Ayun!!! Alam mo, si Milt very low profile kaya pinapakilala ko parati. Binabati ko rin si Vice Mayor Calixto at ang buong konseho ng Pasay City. At kanina nga nabanggit ‘yung aking Presidential Assistant sa housing, si Nestor Ponce na dating Congressman. Sa inyong lahat, mga tatanggap ng titulo, mga nakabiyaya ng proklamasyon pero wala pa ‘yung individual na titulo, mga ipoproklama pa, ako ay nagagalak at sa wakas ay nagsimula na nating bigyang-katuparan ang matagal nang minimithi ng mga pamilyang nakatira sa lupang sakop ng NAIA. Sa mga minumudmod na papeles ngayon, mapapasainyo na ang lupang tinitirikan.

Sa may limandaang benepisyaryo — limandaan ngayon, ano? ‘Yung first step — mula sa Balabag area, Don Carlos Village, Barrio Pilipino Putol, Maricaban 3, ngayon, meron na kayong inyu-inyong hiwa-hiwalay na Certificate of lot Occupancy. Ngayon, hindi na kayo squatter sa sariling bayan. Kaya, congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Para sa inyo, kasi unang hakbang, gaya ng sabi ni Mike Defensor, ‘yung E.O. 114, ‘yung proklamasyon. Ngayon, alam ninyo sa sariling lupa, sunod na hakbang naman ‘yon. ‘Yung kaninang binigay na MOU sa akin, ‘yon naman ang sunod na hakbang. Kaya, panimula pa lamang ito at ang sunod na hakbang ay ‘yon na ngang “MIAA Sites Socialized Housing Project.”

Nung E.O. 144, ang tiniyak ay hindi na kayo papaalisin. Ngayon, bawat isa sa inyo nakatiyak ang nakatukoy na lupang tinitirikan. Ang kasunod, pabahay.

At lahat nito ay bahagi sa magandang trabahong ginagawa ng ating mga local political leaders gaya ni Connie at saka ni Pewee. Nang ating mga taga-ahensya ng pabahay at maralitang taga-lungsod gaya nila Mike at Percy. At sa magandang gawain din sa ating pinag-uusapan ngayon na mga opisyal ng ating mga airport hindi lamang si GM Manda. Gusto kong ipaalam at bigyang kilala na malaking tulong sa mga paperwork na ginagawa ni Ed Manda para dito ay ‘yung paperwork na itinuro sa kanya ng pinaslang na si Lilia Diaz. Kaya habang nakaburol si Lilia, magdasal tayo para sa kaniya dahil malaki ang ginanap n’yang paperwork para dito sa pangyayari ngayon.

I’ve already instructed the PNP to do their job. Let us allow the authorities to do their part in unraveling the motives and suspects behind this heinous crime. Magdasal tayo para sa katarungan para kay Lilia Diaz.

Kahapon, dinalaw ko siya. Dinalaw ko rin ang ilan sa mga benepisyaryo ng mga gawain natin kagaya nito. Kahapon, dinalaw ko ang smokey mountain kung saan mahigit dalawang libo limangdaang condominium units ay tapos na. Hinihintay na lamang matapos ang septic tank para handa nang maokupahan ng mga mahihirap nating kababayan.

Kahapon din ginanap sa Baseco ang turnover ng semento bilang tugon ng cement manufacturers association of the Philippines sa aking panawagan sa pribadong sektor. Nagbigay sila ng sampung libong sako ng semento para sa konstruksiyon ng drainage system at septic tank.

Noon namang Biyernes ng nakaraang linggo, nasa parola naman ako kung saan namahagi rin, kagaya dito 'yung ginagawa natin dito, doon ginagawa na rin 'yung partikular nito komento sa bawat tinitirikang lupa. Nagbigay ako ng sertipiko para sa katiyakan ng lupang tinitirikan ng mga taga-roon.

Hindi lingid sa aking kaalaman ang inyong mga suliranin. Hindi lang 'yung problema ng katiyakan sa tinitirikang lupa kungdi na rin 'yung pagkabahala ninyo sa baka magtaas ang presyo ng — ay, nagtataas na nga — ang presyo ng langis. Kaya nga dahil sa aking pakiusap, pumayag na ang mahigit apatnapung gasolinahan sa kalakhang maynila na magbigay ng diskuwento sa presyo ng krudo sa mga dyipni. At ang mga operators naman ng mga pampublikong sasakyang ay isinantabi muna ang kanilang balak na humiling ng pagtaas ng pasahe. Ito ay para sa inyo, para hindi na madadagdagan ang inyong gastos sang pasahe pag kayo ay pumapasok sa trabaho at 'yung mga anak ninyo pag pumapasok sa kanilang paaralan.

At gusto kong samantalain itong araw na ito, itong panahong ito na gamitin ang pagkakataon upang umapela sa inyo. Nakita na naman ninyo ang ating ginagawa, proklamasyon pero hindi naiwan sa proclamation lamang. Hanggang sa katiyakan ng lupa sa bawat pamilya, hanggang inaasahan na hindi tumataas ang presyo ng pasahe sa ating mga patakarán. Siguro naman, nakikita ninyo na mahal kayo ng inyong kasalukuyang pamahalaan. Kaya umaapela ako sa inyo, huwag kayong basta padadala sa paghihimok ng iba na mag-alsa kontra sa pamahalaan. Huwag na huwag kayong pumayag na magamit ng mga sobrang ambisyoso sa kanilang hangaring umagaw ng kapangyarihan.

Ang inyong mga pangangailangan, tulad ng pabahay na pinagsisikapan ng pamahalaan tulad ng lupa na kayod ng kayod sa paperwork dahil alam n'yo ang prinoklama nating lupa sa ating dalawang taon at kalahati ay umaabot na ng anim na daang libong pamilya ang binibigyan na ng lupang katiyakan tinitirikan kagaya ng ating mga papeles. Ngayon naman ay tatlongdaang libo na. Kaya ito ay kung maihahambing ninyo sa ibang nagawa, ito ay record high sa buong kasaysayan. Ito ang ginagawa natin sa pang-araw-araw ng ating trabaho para mabigay lalung-lalo na sa mga mahihirap ang dapat nating asikasuhin. Ito ang aking inaasikaso at hindi ang pamumulitika.

Kaya muli, ang aking taos-pusong pagbati sa inyo at ang ating mga bagong nag-graduate mula sa pagka-squatter, congratulations! At doon sa iba, habang wala pa kayong... May mga na-proclaim na wala pang titulo. May mga hindi pa napo-proclaim. 'Yon ho ay tinitiyak ko ho sa inyo, tuloy-tuloy ang ating paperwork.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the MIAA sites Socialized Housing Project MOA Signing and Awarding of Certificates of Lot Occupancy to Beneficiaries of Presidential Proclamation No. 391. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194428/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7121&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Gridiron Night of the National Press Club

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Gridiron Night of the National Press Club**

[Delivered at the Manila Pavilion, Manila Hotel, September 13, 2003]

Thank you very much, Press Secretary Milt Alingod.

National Press Club President Tony Antonio, welcome to your party; Vice President Alice Reyes, thank you for giving the welcoming remarks; Roman Floresca; Sonny Galvez; Jimmy Ching; I'd like to greet few Cabinet members who are here — Secretary Romulo, Secretary Ople, Bobi Tiglao, Toting Bunye — they're the only ones who were obliged to come. The others have better things to do; friends and supporters of the National Press Club, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, I would like to ask you to... Well, I'd like to ask you to see my family who are all here with me tonight. Okay. Well, stand up, stand up.

I am very glad to have my family with me tonight.

Matinik talaga ang aking media group, sabi nila, dalhin ko ang aking buong pamilya. Kasi ang unang plano nila, gagawa sana kami ng eksena na maghihiwalay kami si Mike para sa mga tabloids. Pero sorry, nahihirapan yung aking media group for me to change my image from taray to martyr. So, sorry na lang. Yung sob story saka na because I still have to comply with my annual new year's resolution not to be mataray.

I really try very hard not to be mataray. Remember, that was the subject matter of my Gridiron last year, my katarayan? Every year, it's my resolution, my new year's resolution, and I really try so hard not to be mataray even if there is so much dirty laundry, so much filth, so much disorder, so much noise to deal with, and that's just my granddaughter Mikaela. Plus, I have a government to run, too.

Being married to our country in such a difficult time as this is patience-consuming, energy-consuming, time-consuming. Which frankly makes me wonder what I'm doing here. Just like those who did not even bother to come tonight, they bought tables like that one but they didn't bother to come because they have better things to do.

You notice only my Cabinet members related to the press, and Bert Romulo and Ka Blas are here tonight. The others, all have better things to do. But I am, just the same.

In this yearly ritual where the president has to grin and bear it while the press pokes fun of our mistakes and our problems. Yes I'm here, even as for somebody who is mataray — the matarays usually don't like to be made fun of. But still I'm here because behind the light moments of this annual ritual, as said by Alice in the welcome remarks of Tony is the message: those in power must respect the freedom of the press. Yes, I will always uphold your right as journalists for as long as you report the good news.

Kung bad kayo sa akin, ipapa-lifestyle check ko kayo. Kasi matinik ang aking mga espiya, matinik ang aking security team. Alam ko kung sino ang naughty, alam ko kung sino ang nice sa akin.

Matinik talaga ang aking security team. I asked an aide why Vic Corpus spends so much time in the war room. Yung aide na tinanungan ko, wala siya dito, not on duty tonight. Si ano yon, yung aking Class 95 salutatorian aide, si Chris Magdangal. Alam n'yo, salutatorian yon sa Class 95. Yung pagkaiba nila ni Gambala, maliit na maliit na

punto lamang, pero si Gambala, sabi sa script kanina, gambala sa ating bansa; si Magdangal, nagdadangal sa ating bansa.

Anyway, sa kanya ko tinanong: ba't parating nandiyan si Vic Corpus sa ating war room? Sabi niya: ma'am, because he likes playing the game of the generals. So I went to the war room because I wanted to see the games that victor plays. And he submitted to me the following report: Madam President, according to ISAFP, A1 report, you and Gringo have something in common, you both like dancing. Gringo likes the folk dance, the coup-racha, while you according to the A1 reports really want the cha-cha. At last, Victor Corpus' intelligence is accurate. He's really travelled the learning curve from his Mawanay days. Noon, namamawanay siya, ngayon, mahusay na.

Matinik talaga itong aking security team. Si Roy Golez naman — pinakita ninyo, walang utak — may utak yan. He even pre-figured your script, because one day he made the assessment for me, yung kanyang national security briefing that the problem of finding the bilyones necessary for the national budget is nothing compared to the trillions involved in our national security concerns. Di ba matinik si Roy Golez? Ginawa n'yo sa script ninyo pero nauna siya.

Matinik din yung aking mga palace aides. Nabanggit ko na nga kanina, si Magdangal. 'yung isang kilalang-kilala ninyo, si Ermie. Pero yung kasama ko ngayon, si Vivian. When I was about to change for my exercise the other day, tinanong ni Vivian sa akin, ma'am, will you be wearing your pidal pushers? Kasi si Vivian, Visayan.

By the way, yung exercise na yon, I'd like to invite again the female reporters, the palace reporters, you can join me if you like exercise — and you lack exercise because you're following me all over the place — you can join me and the other female staff members in our twice-weekly exercise session. Totoo yon. Basta walang ano ha, walang ambush interview, para ilalagay off-the-record remarks. But it's nice to have you there in a setting na walang mga ambush-ambush interview. Sabi kasi ng aking matinik na media group or groups, kulang tayo sa bonding.

Talagang matinik ang ating media groups, sabi nga nila: sa kulang ng bonding, nagkakaroon tuloy ng... Eh, kasalanan nila yon. My media group is very good in bonding, but very poor ni plumbing. Kasi pag may leak, hindi nila nahuhuli ang source. Bakit kaya?

Pero matinik sila talaga. When they felt I had been too harsh with Tina Panganiban Perez, they decided that we should send her roses. Actually, pangatlo na yung delivery eh. The first orders went astray. Because first, when Milt Alingod gave his assistant the message to send flowers: padala nga si Perez ng bulaklak. Naku! Si Vince Perez nag-blush, kasi siya ang nakakuha. Di nalaman ko si Vince Perez nakakuha ng flowers dahil nag-blush nga siya sa meeting namin. Sabi ko: mali naman yon. You send flowers to the wrong Perez. So they sent the flowers to Nani, ako tuloy ang nag-blush.

Matinik talaga yung aking mga aide. When I look for Vince Perez, they call Nani Perez. When I look for Nani Perez, they call Nani Braganza. When I look for Nani Braganza, they call my senior aide, General Braganza. When I look for Bebot Alvarez, they call Sonny Alvarez. When I look for Sonny Alvarez, they call Sonny Belmonte. I had to remove all that confusion. Mabuti na lang si Sonny Belmonte elected. Pero tignan ninyo yung iba: Sonny Alvarez is no longer in DENR, Bebot is no longer in DOTC, General Braganza is no longer my senior aide, Nani Braganza is no longer in DAR, and Nani Perez is no longer in justice. Watch out, Vince Perez. The flowers were not for you, they were for Tina.

Apologizing is not a problem for me. My father, many, many of the older people would tell me stories of my father apologizing even as president. He had no problem apologizing even as president especially if the mistake he made was at the expense of someone else. I think he learned that a president should be gracious enough to apologize when he was a Malacañang lawyer during the time of President Quezon. The story was that an aide went to President Quezon one time, he was having siesta, and told him, Mr. President, the press is here. Quezon said, tell the press to go to hell! So the aide went out and told the parish priest to go to hell. Quezon had to apologize. Press — priest, pidal pusher — pedal pusher, times never really changed among the aides, kasi multi-ethnic society tayo.

In Malacañang, the order of the day is always two things: feed the beast, and try to influence the agenda. But I think for the editors, the order of the day is: bite the hand that feeds the beast, and kill the good news. Kaya sabi ni Tony, mabait kayo sa akin ngayong gabi, kasi sa peryodiko hindi kayo mabait sa akin.

Nonetheless, the freedom of the press is important to us as a democratic country.

We know from our martial law experience that without press freedom our democratic institutions die. During martial law the people were kept in the dark on what was actually happening to our country, because the dictatorship made it appear that everything was going well and it was done with the help of the controlled press, the controlled media.

At present, it's the opposite. The media always makes it appear that our country is in deep trouble. This is because as Alice says, when she, in behalf of Tony Antonio, that the press can write anything under the sun in the Philippines. But the truth of the matter is that we are progressing economically and compared with other Asian countries, except maybe China and Malaysia, we're doing comparatively well.

Kaya pakiusap. Ayusin n'yo sana ang inyong reports even if you and I know that good news do not always make — in fact seldom make — for good copy. I wish it did. And I wish you could make it so. Sabi nga noong iba, no, we have to have bad news, otherwise, our paper won't sell. Well, I don't know about you but my statistics say that the bulletin sells very well even if it is a very, very fair and sober newspaper. Maraming salamat, Don Emilio.

I also share your grief about the latest death of Jun Pala. The Jun Pala was a hard hitting radio broadcaster, he was one of the few who used to saying nice things about me, and that makes me doubly sorry indeed. And I would like to accept the suggestion, Tony, to form a task force that will join your task force to especially run after these killers, or if there are already those accused and undergoing to trial, to speed up the trial. Oh, there's Obet Pagdanganan of DAR. I didn't see him earlier. I saw Obet because I was looking at who is the enforcer who bothered not to only to buy tickets but to attend as well. Nakikita ko dito, si Jun Ebdane ang nagpapasensiya sa inyo. Kaya si Jun Ebdane ang magiging... Ang maghahanap ng mga killer ni Jun Pala at iba pa. Susmaryosep! sana at the same time, he stumbles on Al-Ghozi as well.

One of the universal sources of humor about the press is the question: what would be the headlines if tomorrow were the end of the world? And my matinik media team played the game. Palagay raw nila, if tomorrow were the end of the world, ganito ang mga headline.

For the Daily Tribune: Last day for Arroyo, Erap takes over.

For Malaya: Oreta demands snap elections tomorrow.

For the Philippine Star: Star publisher invited to U.N. Summit on the end of the world.

Inquirer Analysis: Political conspiracies put an end to the world.

People's Journal: Malacañang creates crisis committee for the end of the world.

People's Tonight: Gringo: ako yung nasa letrato.

Star Ngayon: Huling Ro-Ro, biyahe na!

Abante Tonite: Bagsak na ang gobyerno ni GMA.

TV Patrol: MERALCO pays full refund to the customers.

Inquirer: Mike A.: I won't last a day without you; GMA: I will survive.

Balita: Noli: Paalam na, bayan.

Paalam na po sa inyong lahat ngayong gabi. Hanggang bukas, we will survive! The Republic will survive with the help of a fair and free media.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Gridiron Night of the National Press Club. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194405/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7118&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the gathering of Retired Generals and Colonels

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the gathering of Retired Generals and Colonels

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, September 18, 2003]

Thank you very much, retired Navy Captain Roilo Golez, my National Security Adviser.

Secretary Romulo; retired General Ed Ermita, my Presidential Adviser on the peace process; General Gidaya and the other officers and members of AGFO who are here today. And I'm very happy to be with all of you again.

I remember when I was a guest speaker in AGFO, I had said that — I was a senator then — I had said that my father having been commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces maybe could be a member of AGFO. And you were looking for a way to change the bylaws so that ex-commanders-in-chief could be a member, but then my father passed away. So, it became moot and academic. But I thank you for your gesture.

General Abuan and the other officers and members of the Association of Brigadier Generals, chief superintendents, commodore pensioners of the Philippines, thank you also for your expression of support.

General Ocol and the other officers and members of forces, and I do remember forces playing a very important role in EDSA 2, thank you for your continuing support.

Colonel Buenaventura and other officers and members of the last watering hole, let me thank you for being here. In a way it's my return invitation to you, because when I was a senator, you also invited me to be your guest speaker in the last watering hole.

General Victor Mayo, retired General Victor Mayo, thank you for helping to organize this meeting. Indeed, this meeting is providential. It was a meeting decided on, as Roy Golez said, quite sometime ago. But the Lord timed it for today so that after the rumors and headlines that may somehow imply a rift between the retired generals and the Philippine government.

The Lord timed it for today so that the country could hear your strong expressions of support. Thank you very much for this providential meeting. Indeed, I thank you, and I salute you for your unwavering stand for constitutional authority and the chain of command.

You, because you have been there — been there, done that — you know the meaning of service and sacrifice. And even now in your retirement, you continue to be a moral force behind our soldiery. In line with the dictum of AGFO, the Association of Generals and Flag Officers, which I put to work for and defend the preservation of the republic so that justice, liberty and democracy will always prevail.

That's why despite the intrigues in the media, I never believed that any retired general worth his salt would ever support an extra-constitutional bid for power.

And as I said earlier, I've met many of you many times before I became president. I've met many of you individually. I've met many of you as my being guest speaker in some of your organization events. And I have been with you individually, organizationally for many, many years now because I have always respected the leadership of the retired generals.

Informally, you continue to be a part of the chain of command. You are valued for your experience and counsel. You show the way of service and sacrifice to the younger officers. You show a long line of loyalty to the flag and the Constitution. And I recognize that we must continually bridge the generations in the officer corps. That's why I continue to count on you. The Armed Forces must learn to live in the longevity of ideals, not quick fix solutions founded on fleeting adventurism. You, the retired generals provide the example of daring in war and constructive unification in peace. You are indispensable allies in the reform, transformation and modernization of the Armed Forces.

Even before Oakwood, my administration had already been moving with undeniable will to increase the premium for military service.

And today, we are moving more logistics, funds and financial autonomy to the field at the same time enforcing policy control, sound management of resources and untrammelled command efficiency. For our retirees, the protection and continued viability of the AFP-RSBS is among the important concerns that we are addressing with renewed vigor.

I would like you to help me address the most vital concerns of the Armed Forces. Your experience is indispensable in the service of our flag and people.

In the Philippine National Police, I have organized or I'm organizing a PNP reform commission based on the core which was made up of the Ordoñez Commission that investigated and gave appropriate recommendations regarding the Al-Ghozi incident. They have now — because they have already sent me their recommendations which we are carrying out — they are now transforming themselves into a larger PNP reform commission. And of course, I must enlarge that with members who come from the PNP community, because the three members — Ordoñez, Varela and Datumanong — while men of probity and good reputation are not from the PNP. I needed somebody from the PNP to help in the insights on the reform commission.

We have already included one incumbent Senior PNP General, General Cataluña who is head of plans. And the PNP hierarchy will nominate a young officer coming from the PNP academy. But I also need a former PNP officer to join in this reform commission, and I hope that from your organizations will come a nominee for this reform commission. That's one way by which the retired generals can help to promote reform in the Philippine government.

With regard to the AFP. We are also looking at systems, reforms, immediate- term, short-term, medium-term, long-term. And one of your members, Chuck Agustin, in his capacity as the president of the National Defense College of the Philippines is mandated to conduct some of the studies that will lead to those reforms.

Because of your strong support for my government, destabilization plots are now consigned to the rumor mill. And as mentioned by General Gidaya, fueled by partisan quarters that either wish to usurp constitutional power, or to escape the rule of law and justice. Indeed, I thank you for pointing out that it is now time to realign our sights upon the crucial tasks of pushing our country forward, creating more jobs, getting investments on track, fighting crime and terrorism, and consolidating all our efforts along the vision of one nation and one people. The domestic and global landscape is rife with opportunities inspite of the difficulties that the whole world is facing today. Next week, I will leave to address the United Nations, following a trail of strategic gains in our fight against terrorism, and yet, yes, in our long-term fight against poverty even if at the moment the challenges are still daunting.

The seventh ASEAN Summit comes in October, followed by the OIC Summit in Kuala Lumpur, then the visit of President Bush that will bridge on to the APEC Summit in Thailand.

We have forged a genuinely mutual relationship with the United States that transcends the colonial ties of the past. The United States has been a faithful ally in the modernization of our Armed Forces.

And so, with all of these things that we can look forward to, I ask you once again, or rather I accept your offer to help us in bringing forth a bandwagon of renewed optimism and enterprise. It's time to shake off lethargy and division and look to a new day.

Kaya sana maging mas madalas ang ating ugnayan. You are the bridge with an experience and youth. And I hope to count on your wisdom and add to it the energy of the youth. So that the combination of wisdom and boundless energy can move forward and indeed help our country to build that strong republic that while it is not yet there is something that we all aspire for.

Maraming salamat sa inyong suporta.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the gathering of Retired Generals and Colonels. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194342/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7112&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 2003 Global Cooperation Society (GCS) International Convention and Peace Conference Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2003 Global Cooperation Society (GCS) International Convention and Peace Conference in
commemoration of the 22nd anniversary of the International Day of Peace**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Century Park Plaza Hotel, Manila, September 19, 2003]

Thank you very much Dr. Punzal.

Dr. Young Seek Choue and Madam Choue, Dr. Mohapatra, Dr. Ponchai, Congressman Hizon, Ambassador Son Sang-Ha, Dr. Jae Shik Sohn, Dr. Jen You Chang, delegates of the Global Cooperation Society, national and international chapters, our 200 friends from Korea, our 100 friends from all over the world, and our 50 friends from the Philippines, ladies and gentlemen.

There are many conferences for peace especially in this contemporary times, this trying times. And therefore, I cannot attend all of these conferences. But I made it a point to attend this one because this particular conference for peace was organized by someone that both my father and I consider as one of the greatest prophets of peace in our contemporary history, Dr. Young Seek Choue.

When the year 2000 was proclaimed as the “International Year of the Culture of Peace,” we were bouyed up by unprecedented hope.

For a short time that year 2000, it appeared the world was heading towards that future — a future of peace. But only a year later, on September 11, 2001, our hopes were shattered by a senseless and shameless act of terrorism.

From then on, the world was put on dangerous alert.

But we cannot forever be held hostage to terror. We must hunt down terrorists, hold down the threat, and never capitulate even as we strive to win the peace at all costs by dint of our durable unity and resolve.

Here in the Philippines, we are not pegging a date for the capture of Al-Ghozi, the Indonesian international terrorist, who is believed to be hiding in the jungles of Mindanao in Southern Philippines. But the hunt will be focused, intense and relentless. The dragnet is closing in on him and we are severely limiting his chances of getting through it. I am paying a short visit to Mindanao next week but not only to check on this matter but rather to check on the entire run of peace and development activities that have a bearing on our fight against terrorism and poverty. Al-Ghozi’s capture is a key event but it is not the whole pie of peace and security. Many other pieces have to be put in place.

And here in this conference on peace, we declare that even in a time of strife, a culture of peace shall prosper for so long as we remain steadfast in addressing not only the immediate causes of conflict but by boldly striking at its roots — inequity, injustice, economic exclusion.

Our work for peace in Mindanao brings together valiant allies. Malaysia has agreed to host the resumption of the peace talks with the MILF. The United States has committed to play a role, a leading role, in post-conflict rehabilitation. The member-states of the organization of the Islamic conference provide a broad backdrop of support and assistance.

Our government has initiated, with Indonesia and Malaysia, an agreement committed to practical measures against terrorism. It is an accord to which other countries in Southeast Asia have since acceded in the name of regional peace.

Peace is something that no nation can achieve alone.

In 1975, seventy eight former presidents and heads of state, university presidents, scholars, scientists and Nobel laureates gathered in the defense of peace and founded the Global Cooperation Society.

One of those 75 was my late father, President Diosdado Macapagal. And he was there upon the invitation of and because of his great admiration for Dr. Young Seek Choue, the society's founder and president.

Again, twenty-two years ago, I joined my father when he travelled to the 6th triennial conference of the International Association of University Presidents in Costa Rica. It was there that an international day of peace was proposed, and in that same year, the U.N. established the international day of peace. Another achievement of Chancellor Young Seek Choue.

The UNESCO made a powerful statement during the commemoration of the 19th Anniversary of the International Day of Peace in the year 2000 and I quote, "as war begins in the minds of men, it is also there that the defense of peace is made." that is why it is important to promote a culture of peace because culture is in the minds of men.

And your presence here proves that no amount of senseless and shameless violence can shatter our dreams. Peace is ours to hold and we shall not let go as long as there are men and women who promote a culture of peace like the men and women in these halls.

Mabuhay! To all of you and thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 2003 Global Cooperation Society (GCS) International Convention and Peace Conference in Commemoration of the 22nd Anniversary of the International Day of Peace. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194333/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7111&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Sulong Batayang Sektor Koalisyon program “Pagtataya ng Batayang Sektor para sa Reporma at Demokrasya” [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa programa ng Sulong Batayang Sektor Koalisyon “Pagtataya ng Batayang Sektor para sa Reporma at Demokrasya”**

[Ipinahayag sa Risen Garden, Quezon City Hall, Lungsod ng Quezon, ika 21 ng Setyembre, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Kalihim Dinky Soliman, ang ating namamahala sa kagawaran na tumutulong sa mga local government mag-alaga sa mga pinakakapus palad sa ating mga kapatid.

Nagpapasalamat din ako sa ating host city mayor itong hapon ito, si Mayor Sonny Belmonte. At sa lahat ng mga narito ngayon galing sa iba’t-ibang bahagi ng metro manila at buong bansa, pero lalo na iyung mga taga-Quezon City, kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat kay Sonny.

Salamat din sa ating namumuno ng komisyon na nagtatalakay at nagiging tulay ng mga patakarang kailangan ng mga mahihirap sa ating bansa, si Secretary Ging Deles. At ‘yung walang sawang naghahanap kung saan pa makakakuha, maging sa budget, maging sa mga dayuhang tumutulong, maging sa mga korporasyon ng gobyerno kung papano natin popondohan ang napakaraming pangangailangan para bigyan ng ginhawa ang mahihirap, si Secretary Mai Jimenez.

Gusto ko ring batiin ang ating napaka-importante at pinakikinggan at nakikinig na chairman ng urban poor, si Percy Chavez. Tingnan mo nga, tama ‘yung sinabi kong napakapinakikinggan. At ‘yung ating namumuno mula sa mga batayang sektor ng National Anti-Poverty Commission, si Oca Francisco.

Salamat naman sa kanyang napakakomprehensibong pahayag tungkol sa kung ano na ang nagawa natin sa maikling dalawang taon sa kapakanan ng mga mahihirap. Salamat sa iyung komprehensibong ulat, Ed Rancho, ang kinatawan ng mga maralitang taga-lungsod.

Batiin ko rin ‘yung iba’t-ibang mga pinili ninyong kinatawan ng iba’t-ibang mga batayang sektor, si Andy Bukirin ng katandaan; si Langli Segundo ng katutubo; si Richard Arsenio ng may kapansanan; si Vic Fabie ng mga magsasaka; si Milan Ramos ng mangingisda; si Noel Joson ng mga manggagawa sa pormal na sektor, at si Mary Buangbog ng mga impormal na manggagawa. At kayong lahat, iba’t-ibang mga kinatawan ng mga batayang sektor, mga kaibigan:

Itong araw na ito ginugunita natin, gaya nang sabi ng mga nagsalita na, ang hindi dapat mangyari uli sa ating bansa ang deklarasyon ng batas militar sa buong Pilipinas. Marami sa inyo, marami nandito sa entablado naranasan personal ang mga kahirapan at abuso na ginawa sa kanila at sa bansa ng batas militar. Marami sa inyo ang testigo na hindi natin maitatangi na ang paghari ng batas militar sa ating bansa ay isang masamang bangungot.

Batay sa mga survey, mga malaking porsiyento ng mamamayan ay hindi sang-ayon sa pagpataw ng martial law bilang paraan sa paglutas ng mga problema ng bansa.

Kaya binabati ko kayong mga narito upang makiisa sa pagtataya ng batayang sektor na kinikilala nating kailangan ng reporma pero kinikilala natin na ang reporma ay hindi nagawa sa panahon ng batas militar. At palagay ko dito sa dalawa at kalahating taon ng ating demokrasya mas maraming repormang nagawa kaysa sa labing-apat na taon ng batas militar.

Bagamat masasabi natin na itong mga gustong bumalik sa batas militar, itong mga gustong maglagay muli ng diktadurya o junta, mga plano ng destabilisasyon, bagamat masasabi natin na humina na, isang batayan kung bakit masasabi nating humina na, 'di ba hindi sila nakapagbuo ng kanilang kilos itong araw na ito. Ngunit meron pa rin tayong mga naririnig na balita balita tungkol sa mga grupong humihimok sa ating mga sundalo, maging sa ating mga batayang sektor na samahan silang agawin ang lehitimong kapangyarihan ng gobyerno.

Ngunit kayo narito at inuulit ninyo, gaya nang sinabi ni Ed Rancho, na ang ipaglalaban nating reporma ay sa pamamagitan ng demokrasya at hindi sa pamamagitan ng destabilisasyon para bumalik sa batas militar. Salamat sa pahayag at ulat mula sa batayang sektor.

Maging ang ating mga sundalo ay nagpahayag na ng suporta sa chain of command at sa konstitusyon. Ang mga bulong-bulong ng coup 'yon ang mga nalalabing gustong magmaliit sa ating pamahalaan, iyan ay mga mamamatay, iyang mga bulong na 'yan kapag ang mga reporma at katarungan ay tunay na umugat, at 'yon ang ating trabaho — kayo at ako.

Totoo, kailangan natin — kung gusto natin ang reporma, kung gusto natin ang trabaho — kailangan nating totoo ang katiwasayan. Pero ang katiwasayan ay hindi nanggagaling sa batas militar. Nanggagaling sa reporma laban sa kahirapan at nanggagaling sa karaniwang pang araw-araw na trabaho ng mga alagad ng batas, mga sundalo, mga pulis.

Kaya ipinag-utos ko na sa liderato ng AFP na paratingin ang mensahe ng mga reporma hanggang sa pinakamababang ranggo upang ang bawat sundalo ay tumibay ang pananalig, ang kanilang organisasyon. Tapos na ang Oakwood kalimutan na natin ito.

Ang ganitong damdamin ng mamamayan ay dalawang beses nang napatunayan sa nakalipas na panahon — sa EDSA People Power revolution noong 1986 at sa EDSA Dos noong 2001. 'Di ba magkasama tayo sa EDSA Dos noong 2001 kayong narito. At 'yung mga medyo may edad na ngayon nandoon din sila sa EDSA 1 nung 1986. Hindi ko naman masasabing may edad na sila Dinky at saka sila Ging pero batang-bata pa sila noon. Oo.

Sa harap ng maraming hamon sa ating katatagan, panatiliin sana nating buhay ang diwa ng edsa para matabunan ang diwa ng Setyembre 21. At itaguyod ang pangangibabaw ng awtoridad ng sibilyan sa ating bansa.

Hinihingi ng kasalukuyang panahon na tayo ay magpamalas ng pagka-makabayan at manindigan para sa demokrasya at pagbabago.

Ituloy natin ang ating pagkakaisa upang manatili ang demokrasya at magtagumpay ang reporma sa ating bansa hindi lamang para sa atin kung hindi para sa kinabukasan ng ating mga anak at mga susunod pang henerasyon.

Alam n'yo, ang daming gustong magsabi na walang nagagawa. Eh 'yung sinabi ni Ed Rancho iyung napakaimportanteng nagawa tungkol sa coco levy, tungkol sa nakaw na yaman ng diktadurya, 'yung tinatawag na Marcos wealth at marami pang ibang mga nagawa tungkol sa pagbibigay o pamamahagi ng lupang pwedeng bilhin ng maralitang taga-lungsod. Marami pa siyang ibang sinabi hindi ko na iuulit napaka-komprehensibo ang sinabi niya. Ang sabi ko dapat yan ay ipahayag natin sa iba't-ibang mga batayang sektor.

Ngunit hindi lamang si Ed Rancho ang nagsasabi noon maging ibang nagsusubaybay sa ating bansa. Alam n'yo, sinabi sa akin sa isang sulat ni Maria Ressa sa akin ng CNN, hindi tumagal sabi niya, pag pinapanood niya ang mga pahayag galing sa Pilipinas, parang gustong-gusto nating magsiraan sa isat-isa. Parang gustong-gusto ng ilang mga pilipino na bumagsak ang ating bansa. Pero kung titignan naman n'yo iyung report galing sa ibang lugar, report doon sa tinatawag na 'The Economist,' sinasabi ang pilipinas ay kasama sa mga bansa na matatag dito sa kahirapan ng mundo, dito sa lumalagong... Isa sa mga ekonomiyang lumalago sa buong mundo.

Merong nagbibintang sa ating katiwalian sa ating gobyerno pero marami nga tayong ginagawang repormang ipinatutupad upang sugpuin ang katiwalian sa pamahalaan na mapapatindi ang paghihirap ng mga mamamayan — itong mga katiwalian.

Sabi nila mahina raw tayo sa kapayapaan. Eh banggit nga ni Ed Rancho ‘yung mga peace talks natin — we want peace, we want reconciliation with justice. Kaya ipinaglaban ng ating mga abogado ng pamahalaan ang katarungan sa Korte Suprema, sa Sandigan, at ‘yon ay nakakamit ng ating mamamayan.

Iyung trabaho ng kapayapaan hindi ‘yon dinadaan sa martial law. Dinadaan sa trabaho ng pulis. Halimbawa, ang ating pulis napabagsak na ang maraming mga malalaking sindikato sa kidnapping, sa droga.

Kaya kaya ng mga demokratikong institusyon ang kapayapaan basta tayo ay magsama-sama. At kayo naman mga kasama ko na rin, dalawang taon at kalahati, salamat ipagpatuloy natin ating samahan para sa ganun talagang hindi na, hindi na babalik ang mga gustong magdala muli ng bangungot ng batas militar.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA’s Speech during the Sulong Batayang Sektor Koalisyon Program “Pagtataya ng Batayang Sektor para sa Reporma at Demokrasya”. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194320/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7109&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 613th Foundation Anniversary of Sulu Governance and Public Administration

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 613th Foundation Anniversary of Sulu Governance and Public Administration**

[Delivered at the Provincial Multi-purpose Center, Jolo, Sulu, September 22, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Governor Parouk Hussin.

Maraming salamat, Governor Yusop Jikiri; His Highness Sultan Ajimodin Abidin; Vice Governor Hadji Abdel Anni; Mayor Hadji Soud Tan at ibat-ibang mga mayor na panauhin ngayon.

Kasama ko ngayon ang ibat-ibang mga Cabinet member na tumutulong sa aking mag-alaga ng probinsya ng Sulu. Narito si DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman; narito si Chairman ng HUDCC Mike Defensor; narito si Secretary ng Anti-Poverty Commission, si Ging Deles; narito rin ‘yung tumutulong sa atin mag-alaga ng ating kapayapaan sa ilalim ng pamumuno ng AFP Chief-of-Staff General Narciso Abaya.

Gusto kong batiin ang ibat-iba rin na mga kasama ni Governor Hussin, opisyal ng autonomous region, lalo na ang speaker ng Autonomous Region Legislative Assembly, si Speaker Ishmael Abubakar. Sa inyong lahat mga kaibigan, assalaamu alaikum mangapagariya.

Alam n’yo noong isang taon, nandoon ako sa Maynila sa Malakanyang, kasama ko ‘yung mga heredero ng Sultan of Sulu. Nagla-luncheon kami roon. Tapos meron akong gustong tanungin kay Governor Jikiri, tinawagan ko siya ng long distance dito sa Sulu. At sabi ni Governor Jikiri, “oh, kumusta, Mrs. President? Alam n’yo narito kami ngayon at ipinagdidiriwang namin ‘yung foundation ng sultanate of Sulu.” ang gandang pagkakataon.

Ngayon na naman muli, bago ako pumunta kung saan kasi sa miyerkules ng gabi pupunta ako sa United Nations. Kakausapin ko si Prime Minister Mahathir tungkol sa ating peace process. At kakausapin ko ‘yung mga Ambassador ng OIC para pag-usapan ‘yung application ng Pilipinas sa observer status sa OIC. Kaya sabi ko bago ako pumunta doon, bago ako makipag usap kay Prime Minister Mahathir at sa mga Ambassador ng OIC sa United Nations dapat puntahan ko muna ang sulu para tingnan at maka-report ako sa ating mga programa sa kaunlaran ng Sulu. Eh ang ganda na nagkakataon na naman na anibersaryo na naman ng sultanate of Sulu.

Kahapon dapat pumunta dahil ‘yon ang mas araw ng sultanate of Sulu. Pero kahapon sinikap ni regional Governor Hussin na pumunta rito mas maaga, hindi siya nakalipad dahil masama ang panahon. Pero ngayon sa aking pagdating maganda ang panahon, basbas ni Allah ang ating pagsama-sama ngayon.

Kaya ako’y narito para nga tingnan ang mga proyekto. At nagpapasalamat ako allah na binabasbasan niya itong ating pagsama-sama rito. Nagkakataon na anibersaryo na naman ng Sultanate of Sulu at ako ay nagpapasalamat sa ating magandang pagkakataon. At palagay ko ang dahilan kung bakit tinayming ni Allah na anibersaryo ninyo ang aking pagbisita bago pumunta sa United Nations at kung bakit tinayming niya na maganda ang panahon bagamat umuulan ng malakas kahapon ay binabasbasan niya ang ating pagsisikap para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa Sulu at sa Mindanao.

We shall not take the bait of martial law just to look for peace and order because our democratic institutions are strong enough to withstand the onslaught of destabilization and we have adequate constitutional powers to pursue justice and reforms. Peace and order can be attained through the instruments of democratic vigilance, criminal justice and good governance. And not necessarily through military rule.

Martial Law is an anachronism that goes against the world wide trend of openness and liberalism. Martial Law is only a weapon of last resort that we don't need and we don't seek to wield. Sa paghanap natin ng kapayapaan hindi Martial Law ang kailangan. Ang kailangan ang ilang mga prinsipyo: una, kambal ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran; pangalawa, ang paghanap sa kapayapaan ay dapat sa loob ng konstitusyon, kasarinlan at integridad ng lupang Pilipinas; pangatlo, kilalanin natin na tayo ay isang lipunang maraming lahi — a multi-ethnic society.

Ako, noong ako ay bata, matagal ako ilang taon nakatira doon sa Iligan City sa Mindanao. At doon kung saan malaking bahagi ng aking pagkabata ang naganap noong 1950s, naramdaman ko ang ibig sabihin ng multi-ethnic society. Ang lola ko taga-Pangasinan, ang asawa niya, lolo kong hindi ko na naabot pero maraming pinsan sumama sa kanya sa Mindanao noong 1920s pa kaya marami akong pinsan sa Iligan, mga Ilocano naman. 'Yung mga kalaro ko naman sa labas ng bahay, mga bisayas. 'Yung mga suki namin sa palengke at 'yung pinuno ng Philippine Constabulary ay Muslim, at anak nila kalaro ko rin. 'Yung bumibili ng aming mga kopra Intsik. 'Yung nagbebenta ng aming kuryente mestiso. Kristiyano, Muslim, Bisaya, Ilocano, Pangasinan, Intsik, Kastilang mestiso, ibat-ibang kultura ngunit kami doon sa Iligan isang pamayanan lamang, nagkakaisa kami. 'Yan ang Mindanao ng aking kabataan. 'Yan ang Mindanao na gusto kong bumalik muli dito sa ating panahon.

Ang tawag ng lupain ng aking lola sa Iligan ay Timoga. Baka may ilan sa inyo naka-swimming na doon. At ako bata doon, kagaya ng lahat ng bata sa buong mundo, mga bata may mga idolo. 'Yung mga young girls, naalala ko noong 1960s ang idol nung young girls si Jackie Kennedy, kasi maganda, matalino, pusturyosa. Noong 1980s naman ang idol nung young girls si Princess Diana, kasi maganda, edukada, pusturyosa. Noong ako batang maliit sa Iligan, sa timoga ang idol ko maganda, edukada, pusturyosa ay si Prinsesa Tarhata Kiram ng Sulu. Ang tawag tuloy ng lola ko sa akin Prinsesa Tarhata ng Timoga. At naalala ko 'yon dahil nga si Prinsesa Tarhata ang kanyang ninuno si Saed Abubakar ang siya ang nagsimula ng Sultanate of Sulu, 613 years ago. At noong panahong 'yon naging sentro ang Sulu ng Islam sa buong Pilipinas at ito ay importante rin sa ating pagnenegosyo sa ibang bansa,

Kilalang-kilala ang Sultan of Sulu sa ibang bansa. Doon sa China noong ako'y nagpunta, napag-alaman ko sa kasaysayan ng China noong panahon ng Ming dynasty many, many centuries ago, inimbata ng emperador ng Tsina ang Sultan ng Sulu para magbisita sa kanya sa guangdong bilang isang state visitor. Ganoon kaimportante ang Sultan of Sulu sa kasaysayan ng Asia.

And so today, what we want to do, we would like to bring back the glory of Sulu. But we must begin by working together for peace and development in Sulu. Kaya ipaumanhin ho ninyong mag-aksaya ako ng konting panahon para maikwento sa inyo ang ibat-ibang mga bahagi o halimbawa ng mga ginagawa natin dito sa kaunlaran ng Sulu.

'Yung Sulu, noong araw nga gaya ang sabi ko, napaka edukado, pumupunta pa hanggang sa guangdong, kapantay ng emperor ng Tsina. Pero ngayon, sa haba ng panahon na may labanan sa Sulu at natakot 'yung mga teachers na pumunta sa mga liblib na lugar para magturo ng fulltime, ang literacy rate ng Sulu ay 82 percent na lamang. Napakababa kaya kailangan isa sa ating ginagawa ay ipag-ibayo ang edukasyon, sistema ng edukasyon dito sa Sulu. Kaya mamaya pag-aaralan ko ang student-classroom ratio ng sSulu at lahat ng bayan — ah, hindi — lahat ng eskwelahan kung saan mahigit isang daan ang estudyante sa bawat paaralan o bawat classroom mag dadagdag tayo ng classroom sa ibat-bang bayan ng Sulu. At sa mga liblib na lugar kung saan natatakot magturo fulltime ang mga teacher maglalagay tayo ng distance learning o education by television. 'Yan ang gagawin natin para tumaas ang literacy rate muli sa lalawigan ng Sulu.

Marami ring lugar sa Sulu ay hindi maganda ang patubig, sa deep well lang kumukuha ng tubig, kung minsan marumi. Kaya isa sa mga proyekto ni ging deles ay patubig para sa mga 100 or more 200 waterless municipalities isasama ni Ging Deles 'yung mga bayan ng sulu kung saan walang maayos na patubig para dagdagan ng patubig.

At kanina kinekwento ni Governor Parouk hussin na inaayos na ang Sulu hospital at pati ang pangutaran district hospital, ito ang mga kailangan ayusin. At ewan ko, pinatutupad na yata ng ARMM at saka ng local government ang pag-ayos nitong napakaimportanteng mga hospital na ito. At puspusan din ang kampanya ng ARMM-DOH para masugpo ang sakit ng tb at saka malaria. At saka diyaan sa Patikul, kung saan ang daming naging biktima ng giyera — kaya nandito si Mike Defensor at saka si Dinky Soliman— ay tuloy ang pag-papagawa ng core shelter project dahil lahat ng mga nawalaan ng bahay dahil sa giyera ay tungkulin ng gobyernong itayo muli ang kanilang tahanan.

Livelihood assistance din ay binibigay natin sa ating mga kapatid. Ang talagang pinakakailangan ay livelihood. Kaya sabi ko kay Dinky Soliman, lahat ng mga social welfare offices ay magiging conduit ng ating microfinance para makaabot sa ating mahihirap dito sa Sulu.

At importante rin ‘yung inyong mga produksyon. Kanina — ay, hindi mamaya — pupunta kami ni Governor Hussin at ni Hovernor Jikiri para tingnan ‘yung ilang mga proyekto ng USAID. At isa sa pinakamalaking mga proyekto ay ‘yung proyekto ng Carrageenan o Agar Agar. ‘Yan ang susi ng kinabukasan ng Sulu sa ating kaunlaran dahil ang Pilipinas ngayon ay favorite supplier ng Carrageenan sa buong mundo. Kaya lahat kayong mga nasa coastal areas magsimula tayo ng pagtanim ng Carrageenan.

Marami ring iba pang produkto ng dagat dito. Kanina nga nandoon kami sa Luuk dahil nagbigay ako ng mga proyekto doon bilang pagpasalamat sa Luuk dahil mula pa noong sagip si Jeffrey Schilling ang Luuk ay parating hinuhuli ‘yung mga Abu Sayyaf na naliligaw doon. Kaya nagbigay tayo ng proyekto doon sa kanila. Pinakain nila kami, ‘yung mga lobster, ‘yung mga crabs kasinlaki ng plato. Kaya kailangan ang mangyari sa inyo ay meron kayong mga cold storage para maganda parati ang presyo ng inyong mga prutas or yaman ng dagat.

Hayan ang ating sisikapin na ipagawa sa Department of Agriculture. Ang Department of Agriculture din ay meron na ring ibat-ibang mga nagawa dito hindi lamang ‘yung pinapalawak ‘yung carrageenan kundi na rin ‘yung kape at saka ‘yung cassava. ‘Yung kape doon sa bandang parang, halimbawa, ay binibili ng nestle ‘yung planta sa Cagayan de Oro dahil ‘yung planta ng Nestle sa Pilipinas ang siya ang nagpapakain ng breakfast sa buong asia. Kaya ‘yung kape na ginagawa ng Nestle ay pwedeng nanggagaling sa ibang bahagi ng Mindanao kagaya na nga ng Sulu.

At saka ‘yung cassava, ayon sa San Miguel, kahit na isang milyong hektaryang produkto ng cassava pwede nilang bilhin. Kaya mga kapatid, lahat ng naghahanap kung anong tatanimin ninyo, magtanim kayo ng cassava dahil merong bibili ng inyong produkto. Itong ibat-ibang masasabi natin na magandang mga susi sa kinabukasan ng Sulu.

At hindi lamang ‘yon. Hindi lamang USAID ang tumutulong para sa ating kaunlaran at kapayapaan maging ang Asian Development Bank din ay tumutulong rito sa mga agrarian reform community kagaya halimbawa doon sa patikul. At ang ADB ay tumutulong para maglagay ng Halal slaughter house at culture ng Abalone at mga sea horses na produktong pang-export. At naglalagay din nang mga — ‘yung USAID — naglalagay din mga solar drier hindi lamang sa panglima, kung saan pupunta kami mamaya, kundi na rin sa indanan at ibat-iba pang mga bayan.

Kaya ito ang ilan sa ating mga ginagawa. Ang adb rin ay tumutulong sa paggawa ng farm-to-market roads at pagsemento doon sa Ppatikul, sa Siasi at sa pagsemento ng Jolo at Jolo trunkline roads na malapit nang matapos, at mga access road. At malapit na ring isemento ang sampung kilometro ng Jolo circumferential road. Hindi ba ‘yon ang huling-huli na? Bago matapos na ang national highway dito sa Jolo.

Kaya ito mga kaibigan ang ating mga ginagawa. At sisimulan na rin ng pag-aaral ng feasibility study para lumaki ‘yung maimbung seaport nang sa ganun ay pwedeng mangalakal hindi lamang sa Zamboanga kundi na rin sa ibang mga bansa ng BIMP-EAGA. Kaya mga kaibigan, ‘yan ang ilan sa ating mga ginagawa para sa kaunlaran ng sulu ngunit magagawa natin lahat nito kung meron tayong kapayapaan. Gaya ng sabi ko kambal ang kaunlaran at kapayapaan. Kung walang kaunlaran, parating may giyera; kung parating may giyera, walang kaunlaran.

Kaya narito tayo ngayon. Kailangan sabay-sabay nating labanan ang kalaban. Kailangan sabay-sabay nating labanan ang kahirapan. Kailangan buo ang ating approach — may left hand, may right hand. ‘Yung right hand ‘yung matigas na kamay ng batas, ‘yung left hand ‘yung bukas na kamay ng ating kaunlaran. Sa right hand, gusto kong batiin ‘yung ating mga sundalo dahil sa malaking nagawa nilang nabuwag nila muli ang isa pang kampo ng Abu Sayyaf kahapon. Congratulations sa inyo, ating mga kawal. At sa left hand naman, salamat dahil nagkakaisa tayo sa ibat-ibang mga proyekto mula sa malalaking mga kalsada hanggang sa maliliit na mga pautang sa mga Carrageenan at pabahay sa mga biktima ng giyera.

Kailangan talaga huwag nating kalilimutan: isa lamang ang Pilipinas kahit na maraming kultura. Isa lamang ang hangarin natin — sabay-sabay kaunlaran at kapayapaan. Isa lamang ang ating bansa. Isa ang ating watawat — ang Republika ng Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat.

Happy anniversary sa Sultanate of Sulu!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 613th Foundation Anniversary of Sulu Governance and Public Administration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194246/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7105&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the departure ceremonies for a 5-day visit to the U.S.A and Europe

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the departure ceremonies for a 5-day visit to the U.S.A and Europe**

[Delivered at the Centennial Terminal II, NAIA, Pasay City, September 24, 2003]

General Abaya and the other major service commanders, fellow workers in government, minamahal kong kababayan:

Paalis ako ngayon patungong Estados Unidos, Italya at pransya kaugnay ng ating hangaring polisyang panlabas foreign policy nababatay sa kapayapaan, kaunlaran at paglaban sa terorismo.

Ang nangyari sa Oakwood ay bahagi na ng nakaraan. Ang pagkakaisa ng bansa ay nabuo na muli.

Ang proseso ng katarungan para sa militar at sibilyan ay patuloy ang pag-inog. Patuloy na umuusad ang ating laban kontra sa kahirapan, lalo na ngayong may inaasahang pang-matagalang kapayapaan sa Mindanao.

Ang mga nagkakalat na intriga at nanggugulo ay isasantabi na.

I have designated Vice President Guingona as caretaker while I'm away. This is an institutional act. Some people are sowing intrigues about our policy differences with the Vice President but these are not pertinent to his designation. I am confident in his full capacity and resolve to uphold and implement constitutional governance and he will have the full support of the executive branch. Ang mga pangamba na dulot ng giyera sa Iraq, banta ng SARS, El Niño, destabilisasyon ay tuluyan nang napawi, at napalitan na nang bagong pag-asa sa mga lungsod at kanayunan.

Pinili ko bilang susunod na Secretary of National Defense si Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita. Siya ay lilipat sa Defense kapag sa palagay niya ay maaari na niyang iwanan ang trabaho ng peace process sa kaniyang kapalit, na 'yan ay si National Anti-Poverty Commission Secretary Ging Deles.

I call on the Armed Forces, the Defense department and the public to lend their full support for Secretary Ermita when he assumes the position sometime in the near future. And also to support Secretary Ging Deles when she also is ready to assume after Secretary Ermita decides that he has reached a stage when he can leave it to her. Not that Ging is not capable but of course Secretary Ermita I'm sure would like to be there when some of the early fruits of his hard work are bearing.

Secretary Ermita comes with an impressive track record in peace, development and security management. I am giving him three priorities: one, sustain the momentum of reforms in the military organization; two, bring the peace process into the mainstream of defense doctrine; and three, push forward the AFP modernization. I'm confident his impressive government record and vast experience will lead him on.

Makikipag-pulong ako kay Prime Minister Mahathir sa New York — nandoon nga si Ed Ermita, trabaho pa 'yan ng OPAP 'yon — kakausapin ang foreign ministers rin ng Organization of the Islamic Conference o OIC at

magtatalumpati sa United Nations. Ang mensaheng aking ipaparating sa kanila ay tungkol sa kapayapaan at seguridad.

Sa Vatican, ipaparating ko sa Santo Papa ang mainit na pagmamahal ng ating sambayanan, at hihilingin sa kaniya na basbasan ang bawa't mamamayan, pamilya at tahananang Pilipino saanman sila naroroon.

Sa Paris, pasasalamat ko ang UNESCO dahil sa tulong nito sa Pilipinas para itaguyod ang kapayapaan, kaunlaran, kagalingan ng utak ng ating mga kabataan, palakasin ang ating kultura kasama na 'yung pagpapa-alaga ng ating rice terraces sa ating mga pinakaliblib na mga barangay.

Sa aking mga pakikipagpulong, bibigyang-diin ko ang kahalagahan ng kapayapaan sa Mindanao at ang pagtulong sa ating laban kontra sa kahirapan at terorismo.

Pagkatapos ng Cancun, kailangang harapin natin ang mga pagbabago sa trade politics na makatuwiran para sa mga umuunlad na mga bansa o developing nations at nagpapahalaga sa ikagagaling ng sangkatauhan.

Sa Oktubre ay apat ang kaganapang may kaugnayan sa ating pambansang kapakanan: ang Asean Summit sa Bali, ang APEC Summit sa Bangkok, ang OIC Summit sa Kuala Lumpur at ang pagdalaw ni Pangulong Bush sa Pilipinas.

Ang mga lider ng mundo ay magiging mainit ang pagtanggap sa bagong ugnayan ng Pilipinas sa mundo, patunay na ang ating mga pagsisikap ay nagbubunga na. Kailangan natin ang pinakamagandang pakikipagloob ng mundo kung gusto nating umasenso.

Kaya samahan ninyo akong magdasal habang ipinapakilala natin ang Pilipinas sa mundo at itinatakda ang malaking pagbabago sa ating pambansang pamumuhay, pagkakaisa mula sa pagkakawatak-watak, kapayapaan mula sa kaguluhan, at katiyakan mula sa pag-aalinlangan.

Patuloy nating itataguyod at ipagmamalaki ang kagalingan at panindigan ng ating bansa.

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Departure Ceremonies for a 5-day Visit to the U.S.A and Europe. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194225/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7103&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community in Jersey City

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino community in Jersey City**

[Delivered at the St. Peter's College, Yanitelli Center, Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, U.S.A, September 26, 2003]

Thank you very much, Ambassador Del Rosario.

Governor McGreevey; Mayor Cunningham and Mrs. Cunningham, Assemblywoman Guigley; Mayor Rivas, Father Loughran; Consul General Lacanlale; Loida Nicolas, representing the Filipino-Americans all over the country; and Rudy Nicolas, thank you for your wonderful plaque; Carmen Flores and the other leaders of the community; all the different members of the event organization committee of this wonderful Philippine community, thank you very much for your wonderful welcome.

Isang magandang gabi sa inyong lahat. At careng Cabalen cung capangpangan, mayap a bengi quecongan. Dagiti kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga rabii yo amin apo. Tan masantos ya labi ed sikayon amin, pangasinan. Sa aton mga kaiguonan gikan sa mindanao asa ko nidako, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan. Kag sa mga kasimanwa sang akon bana, maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan.

Nagagalak akong makapiling kayong mga Pilipino na nakatira sa New Jersey at sa North East United States. Consul General Lacanlale tells me that Jersey City has the largest concentration of Filipinos in this state, in fact in her whole jurisdiction. There are even more Filipinos in Jersey City than in the whole New York State in New York City.

Hindi lamang 'yon, nalaman ko rin ayon sa supplemental report ng U.S. census of year 2000 na kahit isang porsiyento lamang ang Filipino sa populasyon ng New Jersey State, kayo naman ang pinakamataas na per capita income sa lahat ng ethnic groups.

In the state of New Jersey for the 2000 census of 1999 income, the per capita Filipinos is 81,000 dollars. The statewide median income was 55,000 dollars. At hindi lamang 'yon, sa lahat ng Pilipino sa buong United States, pinakamataas na per capita income taga-Jersey City.

And I would like to encourage the Filipino-American community to translate your economic prosperity into political clout in your adopted country so that you can help advance the interest of your fellow Filipinos. And so that you can contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations within the United States and the Philippines.

But even now here in New Jersey and Jersey City, I can also see already the Filipinos political clout. The fact that your governor and your mayor and your assemblywoman are all here that's tribute to you, the Filipino-Americans and their constituency.

And I have learned that in New Jersey alone, many Filipino Americans hold important positions and perform important jobs for your community. Well, we are very proud of Bergenfield county mayor, Mayor Rivas, the first Filipino-American to be elected as mayor in Eastern U.S.A. and, you're running for re-election, aren't you mayor?

And he said, “so I told you why you have a big constituency.” and he said, “hindi lang yon, ang dami kong Kapampangan sa aking constituency.”

Well, hearing Jersey City, again, Lingling Lacanlale already said that some of the staff of Mayor Cunningham are also Filipino-Americans like Serafina Senco and Eduardo Tolosa. Congratulations on your recent appointment as director of Jersey City’s department of finance and city assessor of Jersey City.

A tribute not only to the competence of our Filipinos but the fact that they are in the revenue generating agencies is a tribute to the integrity of the Filipinos here in Jersey City. I also met Lucy Hughes earlier and she is with the governor. And I thank you Lucy for bringing Governor McGreevey to our very important gathering. Made important by their presence, made important by the fact that in this hall are some of the most prosperous and respected Filipinos in the United States.

Most of you have chosen to become American citizens but I’m grateful that nonetheless, you have kept your connections to the Philippines. And we in the Philippines continue to be proud of what you have all attained. Without doubt advocating Philippine interests and issues in the U.S. requires a strong and united Philippine-American community. And in the same manner that you have made the Philippines proud of you, the Philippine government also recognizes your continued support for our welfare back home so we have given you a voice in the conduct of Philippine affairs through the Overseas Voting Law.

I remember saying that when the bill is passed into law, I will sign it in 24 hours and I did. And that’s because, for many years when I was a senator, you have always asked me to file a bill to give you voting rights. And I always would file that bill, but when I was a senator it never went beyond the committee level. Finally, when I became president from year 2001, my first State of the Nation Address, I already asked Congress to pass it as part of the urgent administration measures — it has passed. And I hope in the years to come, more and more Filipino-Americans will register to vote for candidates in the Philippines. And at the same time, it’s also good for the welfare of the Philippines that you make your voices heard here in the United States.

In recognition of your contributions to the Philippine economy, I have also just sign into law something I think is more important to you than the Overseas Voting Bill, and that is the Dual Citizenship Act.

The passage of the Dual Citizenship Law is part of our country’s response to globalization but also it serves the strong homing instinct of every Filipino of their long stay in a foreign land. We know that you continue to love the Philippines even if you’re already American citizens. You demonstrate this because you’ve maintained your contacts and your interest in your homeland, and many of you when you retire, you retire in the Philippines. And many of you want to own properties and invest your hard-earned money in our country giving a further boost to the Philippine economy. Now, with the Dual Citizenship Act you can buy all the land you want and you can invest it in any business in the Philippines.

Let me also take this opportunity to reassure you that back home we have well in hand the reported threats to our political and economic stability. I’m sure last July 27 you were all watching not just The Filipino Channel but CNN and all the channels here because some elements of the military captured the headlines of that day. I’m speaking here of the ill-fated mutiny but which ended peacefully and quickly within 20 hours without a shot being fired, without a single drop of blood being shed, without a single square meter of property being destroyed.

And because we showed the world that we can address such a challenge quickly and bloodlessly, the Philippines is stronger today than it was before that attempt. That attempt was done by a handful of officers and the political intriguers who backed them. But on that day — and the market data followed — we saw that our institutions stood tall, our market remains stable, the population calm, and our political process intact.

Nonetheless, I would still ask you to spend even more remittances this time to the country, because it doesn’t mean that everything is perfect in the country, or that I am downplaying the incident of that day, the significance of that situation. No, I am not downplaying the event, rather what I want to underscore is the underlying strength of the Philippine democratic system. And I reassure you that I am in firm control. The country is stable and moving

forward on all cylinders. The fact that I am here rather than hold up in Malacañang is testament to the fact that the country is stable and strong. And I will repeat, I remain confident that our nation is stronger as a result of overcoming that coup last month and that we had no cause for concern.

I'm here because I have an obligation to fulfill my duties abroad in pursuit of peace in Mindanao and in pursuit of the fight against terrorism. There's nothing going on at home that would deter me from this overseas trip and besides I owe a visit to the Philippine community of New Jersey. I can come to visit you because I have confidence in the support of the people back home who believed in upholding the democratic traditions of our nation. But as a fellow Filipino speaking to fellow Filipinos, let me express that it does a disservice to the nation for political intriguers to continually try to upset the ship of state. Those self-centered political intriguers are motivated by selfishness and they should focus on a positive agenda of building up the nation not tearing it down.

I say this because being Filipinos you know full well that the rumor mill is in full tilt in our election season. It is our political equivalent of the typhoon season, and that is part of the culture back home that I certainly hope to break as I try to build stronger institutions to support a stronger republic.

We must break that cycle, but let me assure you again the nation is stable, the economy is even stronger than many of our neighbors. While some of them are suffering from very low growth rates or negative growth rates, our country has experienced stable growth rates in the last two and a half years and low inflation at the same time. And, of course, peace in Mindanao is within our grasp.

My main focus has been to break the cycle of politics, focus on economic reform, work for peace, and the fight against terrorism. Because today, it is clearer than ever before that peace is an indispensable condition for economic development just as development is an essential component for peace. Nothing will do more to lift the Philippines out of poverty than peace itself. My trip to New York is motivated by my keen desire to advance peace on all fronts. I will travel anywhere anytime to advance peace in Mindanao.

Yesterday, I met with Prime Minister Mahathir to help me advance the cause of peace in Mindanao. He is the prime mover in helping us negotiate peace with the MILF. As a leader in the Muslim world and the organization of the Islamic countries his role is indispensable, and I hope one of his many legacies will be to bring peace to Mindanao.

But I would also like to acknowledge that President Bush is doing much to help our peace in Mindanao. Last May, some of you were there in Washington when I made my state visit, our joint communique contained a commitment from President Bush that the U.S. will give financial and diplomatic support for our peace efforts with the MILF. And they have been giving diplomatic support. The U.S. government has assigned the U.S. Institute of Peace to help us in our negotiations. And in this team of negotiators we have a very high-powered set of five former U.S. ambassadors to the Philippines working again for the Philippines for our peace process — Ambassador Nicholas Platt, Ambassador Murphy, Ambassador Wisner and Ambassador Solomon and Ambassador Bosworth — five former U.S. ambassadors all holding important positions in America's society today and they are all working to help us in our peace process with the MILF. At the expense of the U.S. government not at our expense. But that's not the only financial assistance of the U.S. government for our peace process, they have also put in their congressional budget an initial 30 million dollars as a carrot for the peace process so that the moment the MILF signs a peace agreement the USAID will spend 30 million dollars to rehabilitate the conflict areas.

At the same time I'm working with other heads of state to ensure continued cooperation in our battle to rid Southeast Asia of the threat of terrorism. While I was in the U.N. yesterday and today, I also made a speech before the general assembly, I met with Kofi Annan, and I finalized the election of the Philippines as the Asian representative to the U.N. Security Council. This is great honor for us because a seat in the U.N. Security Council is not done by rotation, it is done by elections. And the Asians voted for us.

I also met at lunch yesterday, as I said earlier, with the U.S. Institute of Peace and their negotiators who will aid the Philippines in our crucial negotiations in Mindanao.

So, my time in Northeastern United States is Targetted and well spent. Governor McGreevey asked me, how long am I staying here for? Well I said I arrived yesterday morning and I'm leaving right after this meeting. But it's time well spent: Kofi Annan, Mahathir, the U.S. Institute for Peace, the Filipinos of New Jersey.

I'm promoting the interest of the Philippines in the United Nations. This trip is not a trip to the U.S. specifically, it is a trip to the U.N. New York happens to be where the U.N. is located. So, since my trip is primarily for U.N.-related activities, it's not necessary for me to spend a longer time than my U.N. activities. I already worked with Washington anyway on a range of issues every day. It's easy for me to call up President Bush at any time. We worked together on a number of issues everyday. I do not need to take a trip to get things done here. I just need to take an extra trip to get to know these very successful Filipinos in New Jersey. And I'm sure you share with me the thought of looking forward to a warm rousing welcome for president bush by the Filipino people when he visits in October.

The Filipino experience in this country is a positive outcome of time -honored friendship based on shared values and traditions. Filipinos among other ethnic groups are held in the highest respect and trust. And not only here in New Jersey even in the West Coast. Today, in New York, I was also able to have a conversation with the young Filipina scientist named Marie de Guzman Gordon, is she here? I asked her to come. There you are Marie. She's from the west coast, from University of Southern California. I asked her to be here so that the Philippine community can know her because she has discovered a gene therapy cure for cancer approved by the FDA. That's the use of biotechnology rather than chemotherapy to cure cancer. And we should be proud of her as they in the west coast are also proud of you Filipinos here.

Indeed, I look forward to the day when as a community you can put more Filipino-Americans in positions of influence in areas of public policy, legislation, administration, law enforcement and justice.

I would like to take this opportunity also to repeat that we have another young Filipino here, Pierre Barredo, who is running for state senator. I also call on your support in our efforts to push the Veterans Bill. The Veterans Bill has passed Congress is now in the senate. And that's farther than it has ever gone in a long time, in the many years we've been trying to pass the Veterans Bill. And the chances of seeing the Veterans Bill passed have also increased because now when I went to Washington I met a newly-formed U.S.-Philippine caucus in the U.S. Congress who are made up of congressmen and congresswomen dedicated to pushing the cause of the Philippines in the U.S. Congress. I want to congratulate Ambassador Del Rosario for pushing that caucus to come into being.

And speaking of Filipinos in California, we have other Filipinos in California, also prominent, working on the Veterans Bill. I don't know if you know Dean Devlin, he is the producer of movies like "The Patriot," "Independence Day," "Godzilla," he is Filipino-American. He is producing a video infomercial to present to the U.S. Senate, an advocacy for the Veterans Equity Bill. And who are starring in his video infomercial, other Filipino-Americans like Lou Diamond Phillips, Tia Carrere and Rob Schneider. They're all working for the cause of the Philippines, they are all proud of their Philippine origin.

The pivotal role of overseas Filipinos in nation-building cannot be overemphasized. Aside from all of these that I've mentioned, there is also that particular statistic that Filipino-Americans constitute one-third of all overseas Filipinos but you contribute two-thirds of foreign exchange remittances to the Philippines.

I take this opportunity therefore to thank you and to ask you to continue to support our economy so that our inspiration of liberating our people from poverty can be fully realized.

Ako'y taus-pusong nagpapasalamat sa inyo dahil sa mga napakalaking kontribusyon ninyo dito sa hangarin ng ating bayan. Inaasahan kong tuloy ang inyong tulong sa ating bansa para naman matamo natin lahat ang ating mga minimithi at sana sa ganun darating ang araw masasabi natin 'yung mga Filipino ay kasing-matagumpay doon sa pilipinas kagaya ng dito sa New Jersey.

Sa inyong lahat magandang gabi.

Maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Jersey City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194216/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7095&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Pampanga Senior Citizens Congress/Multisectoral Program and formal declaration to run in the May 2004 elections

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Pampanga Senior Citizens Congress/Multisectoral Program and formal declaration to run in the
May 2004 elections**

[Delivered at the Expo Filipino Amphitheater, Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga, October 4, 2003]

Maraming salamat.

Dacal a salamat, Governor Lito Lapid. Binabati ko rin si Speaker Joe de Venecia at yung ibang mga opisyal ng Lakas party na pumunta rito bagamat kusa silang pumunta rito, hindi tayo nag-organize at huminging pumunta sila rito, thank you very much. Binabati ko rin at nagpapasalamat ako kay board member Robert David at lahat ng mga senior citizens ng Pampanga na narito ngayon. Gusto kong malaman ng buong sambayanang Pilipino na ito ay isang kumbensyon ng senior citizens ng Pampanga pero nag-gate crash na ang marami sa ating mga kasama kasi nalaman nilang sa ating mga senior citizens ko ibibigay ang isang mahalagang ulat.

Salamat rin sa CREBA, kanina imbitado rin nila ako sa kanilang kumbensyon sa Holiday Inn. Sabi ko sa kanila, pumunta na lang kayo sa Centennial Expo, kasama ng kumbensyon ng senior citizens, doon na lang ako gagawa ng aking keynote speech. Caring ali-aliwang beneficiary naning mount pinatubo housing programs, dacal a salamat, queing laging pamag-suporta yo kanako. Caring senior citizens, dacal a salamat ing suporta yo kanako ampo queng tata ko, ing pinga... Ing Presidente Diosdado Macapagal.

Narito ang maraming kapampangan pero binabati ko rin ang buong bansa. Nandito ang senior citizens, sila ay nagsisikap para maganda ang kinabukasan para sa ating kabataan na kinatawan nitong araw na ito naman ni Bambam Aquino, salamat sa iyong pagsuporta sa akin. Salamat rin kay Ginoong Pangulong Dulalia sa iyong magandang sinabi sa ngalan ng housing industry at kang Marissa Sanchez, salamat que pa magkilala yo queng gewa ning kekatang gobyerno para ding biktima ning Mount Pinatubo.

Caring ali-aliwang opisyal keti queng Pampanga — governor, aliwang opisyal naning probinsiya, caring congressmen, caring city mayors, municipal mayors, sa napakaraming mga officials na pumunta rito sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng Central Luzon maging sa buong Pilipinas. Nandiyan si Senator Bobby Barbers at yung iba't-ibang mga congressmen. Salamat sa inyong lahat sa pagpunta rito. At siyempre yung aking mga Cabinet members na laging tumutulong para maganda ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa.

My beloved countrymen and countrywomen:

Today, I address our nation together with our Cabalens. Our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty.

Historically, our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors. While we did better than our neighbors during the last two and a half years in the aftermath of the Asian crisis, with the region now starting to recover, our neighbors are starting to accelerate their growth again. This time we cannot afford to be left behind.

Our historic problems cannot be blamed on any single president, because the problems are fundamental caused by our economic and political system.

To really develop our economy and create a stronger republic, we need to change our system, to institute true reforms in our politics and our economy.

We also need to unify as a people.

In view of this need for unification, last December 30, I announced that I did not wish to seek for election for the presidency in 2004. I wanted to pass the torch. I wanted to earn my personal peace from the riveting pressures of presidential work. But most of all, I wanted to give our people relief from unabated politicking.

Nang inihayag ko noong Disyembre na hindi ko hahangarin ang pangunguluhan sa 2004. Naisip kong ito lamang ang paraan para makaiwas ang bansa sa pabigat ng nakakalasang pulitika na nagbabantang, nagbabantang sirain ang ating katatagang pulitikal at pagsulong sa ekonomiya.

For a while our enemies laid down their disruptive swords of politicking, and we finally moved as a country. In the first six months, we achieved 4.8 percent GNP growth, the highest growth in our country since the Asian crisis. In so short a time, we accomplished one of the most massive housing programs undertaken in our history. Kaya nga sabi ng CREBA, ang patakaran ng ating administrasyon ang pinakamabisa para sa pabahay sa buong kasaysayan ng ating bansa. And at the same time, we kept the supply and the price of food stable. We won victories in pinning down corrupt high-ranking officials, some of them on the basis of lifestyle checks never been done before in such a systematic manner. Long-awaited judgments were handed down in order to make us overcome the catharsis and trauma of the last several decades including the cases of the Marcos wealth and the coco levy.

In the all-out war against illegal drugs, we confiscated in this last eight months or so volumes of illegal drugs and arrested drug dealers in numbers that far outstripped those achieved in years before. We have sought a peaceful resolution to the Muslim insurgency, and we are well on the way to signing a permanent peace pact. Sabi ng CREBA, marami tayong nabuwag na red tape para sa pabahay. Hindi lamang para sa pabahay, we cut down red tape to make sure crucial infrastructure are built — yung Roll-On/Roll-Off ferry program. Caring taga-Western Pampanga, mga taga-Zambales, mga taga-Bataan, nandito yung mga ating officials, puwede nang bumiyahang sa Manila nang isang oras mula sa Bataan, hindi sa kalsada, doon sa ating Roll-On/Roll-Off ferry. We built new bridges and we are building highways, like the long-awaited, often-aborted expansion of the north expressway. We began meaningful debates on changes in the constitution, particularly on the parliamentary and federal form of government.

I longed together with our people to savor the gains of unity by taking myself out of the political landscape. For a while our enemies halted and we moved forward. We proved to ourselves how much we can achieve when we defeat divisiveness.

Ngunit hindi tumagal, ang aking naunang kapasyahan ay hindi nagpatigil ng tuluyan sa mapanirang daloy ng mga pangyayari. Our enemies prefer to sow disunity so that they can wrest power from the people, who become strong when our economy becomes strong. Ang mga agarang tagumpay natin ay sinalubong muli ng lubhang pulitika. Nagbagong anyo pa nga ang pulitika, nagkaroon pa ng sekretong sabwatan upang ibagsak ang lehitimong pamahalaan. Fearing that our success would frustrate their plans, our enemies once again resorted to their machiavellian schemes in Oakwood and in the hit-and-run exposes. Black propaganda, bulung-bulungan, dinasisiyahang mga sundalo, armas, mga kinita mula sa katiwalian at krimen, at maging ilang bahagi ng media ay nakuhang tipunin ang mga puwersang di-tapat sa ating demokratikong sistema. They do not really want our people to be strong. They want to hold the monopoly of strength through guns and gold, drugs and dregs.

Ang sabwatan ay nahinog sa oakwood, na nagbigay-linaw sa mga natatagong ambisyon ng mga taong hangad ibalik ang ating bansa sa madilim na panahon ng diktadura, gustong ibagsak ang demokrasya, at lupigin ang kalayaan.

Ang Oakwood ay pinuntirya ang puso at kaluluwa ng ating republika, kaya dapat lamang na pawalang-saysay ko ang mga naging bunga nito.

Nasupil natin ang kudeta sa loob ng wala pang isang araw, pero nagasgasan lamang natin ang ibabaw ng masama nitong kahulugan: ang ugnayan sa pagitan ng krimen at pulitika, ang paggamit sa walang muwang na sundalo, ang pag-iwas sa katarungan ng mga kriminal na nasa pasilyo ng kapangyarihang pulitikal.

And most of all, Oakwood broke wide the deep social and political divisions that we now have, that we have had for the past three years because for a long time, we have not been able to strengthen our Republic.

We need to heal the deep divisions within our society. We must have justice, but we must also have reconciliation. We must put a closure to our national divisions. We must give ourselves a fresh start.

Ang landas pasulong ay hindi madali. And in the more than two and a half years of my presidency, I have gained the experience necessary to understand what we need to do in order to change society in a way that leads to economic development and the elimination of poverty. Thus, I have deferred my retirement. I will sacrifice my yearnings for personal quiet and release from presidential strain and anxiety. And I will offer myself to the electorate in 2004 I will offer myself as the leader with the experience and vision necessary to change society, to achieve economic development, and eliminate poverty. Tatakbo ako sa pagka-pangulo sa eleksyon ng Mayo 2004.

In the same way that I made a decision last December 30 by myself. Today, I make known that I reached this decision also on my own discernment. In making this decision, I could have invoked the prodding of my party, the clamor of the people, the support of many. These, you know, are true and already made known by the media. But I am not motivated to run because I was thrust, shoved, urged or pressed. Nakikita ko ang pangangailangan nang mas higit pang sakripisyo at gagampanan ko ito.

Kailangan nating siguruhin ang ating katatagang pulitikal habang nagsisikap tayong makapagbigay ng pagkain sa bawat mesa, tahanan, trabaho.

As I said, I have gained the experience. I have gained the experience necessary to understand what we need to do to change society in a way that leads to a future that we Filipinos dream of and rightly deserve. A future marked by a prosperous economy, a future where we would have defeated poverty, a future where our people enjoy true social equity and equal opportunity, a future where we can once again stand proud among the community of nations confident of what we have accomplished for ourselves and for our nations. I long for a strong republic steep in justice, unity and peace.

Ibig sabihin nito ay babalansehin natin ang mga kinakailangan ng kabutihang panlipunan: depensa at seguridad, at pagsulong ng ekonomiya.

Ang ekonomiya ay sinalakay ng mga lokal at pandaigdig na pangyayari noong humihingi ng malinis, propesyonal at magaling ng pangangasiwa ng ating piskal at macroeconomic na direksyon.

Dapat tayong humubog ng pagpapatuloy ng matapat na pamamahala. Ang katiwalian ay dapat sugpuin. At kaya nga kung sinumang miyembro ng aking angkan na mapatunayang magkasala ay kailangang magdusa. Wala sa aking pamilya, personal o opisyal, ay ligtas mula sa batas.

Nasa pampang tayo ngayon, nagdidiriwang ng Linggo ng mga senior citizens, ngunit doon sa Mindanao dumadaing para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Dapat nating dinggin ang panawagan at hamon ng mga biktima ng hidwaan.

Ang ating laban ay tungo sa demokratikong pagka-bansa dahil ito ay walang tigil na paglaban sa kahirapan. Kailangan nating pareho itong mapagtagumpayan kung nais natin nang magandang kinabukasan para sa kabataan, para sa apo ng ating mga Senior Citizens.

Ang alyansa ng administrasyon ay gagawa ng isang kampanyang nakabatay sa plataporma ng reporma at rekonsilyasyon.

I run because I'm confident that the experience I have gained will enable me to make a difference. That the experience I have gained will enable the people to pin their hopes and aspirations with me. Tiwala ako na ang sambayanang Pilipino ay nasa aking likuran at ang ating makatarungang dahilan ay magtatagumpay. Mahigpit

nating ipapatupa ng mga pagbabago. I am confident that together we will win our future. Kakamtin natin para sa bansang ito ang mga pangmatagalang biyaya ng demokrasya, katarungan, kalayaan at kasaganaan.

Some ask why I changed my mind. What matters more is that I changed my mind because there is a higher cause — to change society. To change society in a way that flourishes our future. It would have been easier to take the road to retirement. Taking up the call laid before me exacts more courage, more sacrifice, more obedience to god and our people.

Paglilingkuran ko ang sambayanan kahit pa ako ay hamakin dahil dito. And humbly, I accept this sacred vocation. I shall stay married to my country.

Though I'm sad to say it, I can no longer stave the dam of politics. The political season is here. Hindi ako nag-aakala na titigil ang pamumulitika pagkatapos nito, mas lalo pang sigurong lulubha.

But even as I announce my decision today, I also wish to give greater certainty to business and our investors. Our programs are devoted to strengthening the economy, creating more jobs, and encouraging business activity that is unhampered by corruption and red tape. I instruct the bureaucracy to stay on track in the task of governance, and I shall keep a steady hand over the concerns of the state. I ask our people to keep your eyes focused on the challenges we face daily. Let us not allow ruthless politics to distract us from the all important charge of nation-building. Politicians come and go but our challenges are here to stay and to be met. Ang tanging hangad ko ay ang labanan ngayon ay magiging isang labanan para sa balota at hindi labanan upang ibagsak ang gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng dahas.

We must go to the sacred table of electoral decision in 2004, keeping in mind that reform and reconciliation, in the final analysis, will be what will heal the wounds of our divisiveness. And as we do, let us move on to flourish our future.

Mahal kong kababayan, magsama-sama tayo sanang umasa sa diyos, umasa sa isa't-isa at umasa sa ating pamahalaan na may magandang bukas tayong harapin at ang Pilipino ay muling tataas noo sa mundo.

Finally, I pray to God to grant me the grace to heal our divided land; the fortitude to unite our people; and the courage to be truly a president of reconciliation. A president of reform and reconciliation bringing peace and unity and the Lord's bounty to all our people under God's Divine Providence.

Patnubayan nawa ng Diyos ang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Pampanga Senior Citizens Congress/Multisectoral Program and Formal Declaration to Run in the May 2004 Elections. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412174907/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7404&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Business and Investment Summit

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Bali Hilton International Hotel, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, October 6, 2003]

**GEARING TOWARDS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE ASEAN**

I'm here in ASEAN to seek for our people the blessings of economic and political security. All the region's heads of state are gathered here in Bali to sign the historic Bali Accord II, which will set our collective directions for the future. On the part of the Philippines, we will continue to muster regional consensus to fight poverty and secure our nation and our region from terrorism.

Pushing forward Intra-ASEAN Growth Areas and ASEAN integration is indispensable to the main theme of our Bali Summit, which is "towards an ASEAN economic and security community".

The forces of economic development and global security are becoming more and more tightly intertwined. Cancun was a wake-up call for all nations to refocus on the stark relationship between world poverty and world trade. I'm certain, this topic will continue to spill over into our ASEAN Summit.

The collapse of the World Trade Organization trade talks in Mexico unravels the disparity in perception between first and third world countries, on how international trade should be conducted. While the WTO promised much in helping bridge the economic divide through a liberalized trading environment, it has only managed to tarry so painfully on delivery.

The emergence of the Group of 21 during the Cancun Summit, is a development that the Philippines will continue to work with, to press for agricultural reforms and the removal of first world subsidies to farm sectors. ASEAN should unite in support of this alliance to push for our collective interests in the WTO and ensure a just and fair global trading system.

These recent developments also underscore the need for greater cooperation among us to keep our vision of an integrated, prosperous and competitive ASEAN by 2020 on track.

I will not repeat the wise words that His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei spoke earlier about the blessings of integration. I would just want to practically add, in a practical sense, that we should consider the outcome of the McKinsey competitiveness study which it did for the ASEAN, which identifies the weak links in our integration efforts as well as to accelerate them. The McKinsey study identified the priority sectors in fast-tracking our regional integration, beginning with consumer goods and electronics, and the strengthening of ASEAN institutions, and addressing our individual country concerns. We need to look into these priorities to promote regional complementation and make our region more globally competitive.

I understand that the Business Advisory Council as well as the ASEAN economic ministers looked at this study and added more areas for ASEAN integration. So that now we have eleven areas for ASEAN integration, and the Philippines is honored to be chosen as the coordinator for the electronics sector, which makes up 60 percent of our exports.

The Intra-Regional Growth Areas like Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and the greater Mekong sub-region provide an appropriate environment to gain a relevant understanding of the dynamic developments in the region as a whole.

Sub-regional growth areas such as BIMP-EAGA and the greater Mekong sub-region are not merely building blocks of AFTA, they are essential elements to fully realize and sustain a genuine ASEAN economic integration.

Sub-regional growth areas do not weaken initiatives towards a single market. Rather, they complement and accelerate the realization of an ASEAN economic community, and maximize their own full potential through integrative enhancement of capacities among neighboring provinces and states, and by enhancing the traditional trading relations in the growth area that have existed for centuries.

For instance, in the BIMP-EAGA, we are made up of the regions, the internal regions in our countries that share common seas. The common seas have been our trading roots for centuries, and that is why it is natural there to be even more accelerated in the trade and integration within the BIMP-EAGA provinces of our four countries.

At the business firm level, investments in sub-regional growth areas such as the BIMP-EAGA enable firms to gain a better understanding of the changing customer needs within the region. It is a fruitful route of entry for small and medium enterprises or SMEs if they wish to gain particular signaling of customer needs. In fact, within the BIMP-EAGA, it has been the SMEs that have been the most vigorous in the private sector.

Through BIMP-EAGA institutions such as the East ASEAN Business Council and the BIMP facilitation center, more accurate and up-to-date information is within reach of investors. This enables businesses to craft responsive business plans and deploy resources more efficiently.

The Philippines has enthusiastically supported the BIMP-EAGA initiative since it was founded in 1994.

In 1997, because of the Asian crisis, the BIMP-EAGA momentum was halted. And since I became president in 2001, we have sought to revive that momentum.

I'm pleased that since the 11th BIMP-EAGA senior officials meeting and 8th Ministerial Meeting, which our country organized in Davao City last month, there has been a very strong indication of support by the stakeholders in the sub-region.

The meeting set the stage for BIMP-EAGA's strengthening through confidence-building initiatives, such as the opening of air and sea passenger and cargo services between Davao and Manado; between Zamboanga, Tawi-tawi, Sabah and Sandakan; between Zamboanga, Tawi-tawi and Tawau, among others, and the consolidation of existing institutional mechanisms and processes.

To consolidate these mechanisms and processes in the BIMP-EAGA Summit later this afternoon, I shall propose that the Asian Development Bank, which is the BIMP-EAGA advisor, should appoint a senior official to take care of BIMP-EAGA matters and push the envelope forward.

From a business standpoint, there are so many brilliant opportunities in BIMP-EAGA. To highlight a few: agro-industry, fisheries especially in the southern Philippine seas, energy, tourism — and we are here in Bali to dramatize that — telecommunications, air and sea linkages, retail, financial services, construction, among other areas.

BIMP-EAGA, of course, is mindful of the perceived security issue in the area. And I would like to assure the ASEAN business community that this is being vigorously addressed.

The Philippines is currently prepared for three major port-to-port bilateral customs-immigration-quarantine-security meetings with Malaysia and Indonesia to address border-crossing issues. We expect port-to-port arrangements to be concluded for Zamboanga and Sandakan, General Santos City and Bitung, and Davao and Manado. The accession of Brunei Darussalam to the agreement of information exchange and establishment of communication procedures which was initiated by the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia after 9-11, completes the BIMP-EAGA loop, security loop, and is also a significant step forward.

Likewise, the Philippines will soon host the First BIMP-EAGA Security Officials Conference, to strengthen direct contacts among law enforcers within the sub-regional growth area. Through all these and more, we shall forge a stronger collective push against terrorism and transnational crime.

As I said, the theme of this summit is economic and security collectiveness, and this is the same not just for ASEAN but also especially for BIMP-EAGA. This has a bearing on the imminent stint of the Philippines in the U.N. Security Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the nations of ASEAN and the nations of Asia, for that matter, for supporting our nomination to the U.N. Security Council. There, I shall carry on our common banner of collective security, multilateral peacekeeping and the Rule of Law. These principles are strong guarantees of an ASEAN economic and security community.

Our summit meeting here in Bali, also links up with our determined drive for peace and development in Mindanao, which along with Palawan is that portion of the Philippines that belongs to BIMP-EAGA. We have the full support of the U.N. Secretary General, for this effort. I am grateful to Malaysia for facilitating the projected peace talks, just as Indonesia facilitated our peace talks with the MNLF almost a decade ago. The OIC countries are keenly awaiting developments with growing commitments of aid and investments. The U.S. Institute for Peace has committed to put in concrete support for conflict-resolution.

We're also paving the way for the establishment of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund that will cut in once a new peace accord is forged. This was one of the major outputs for our region of the World Bank meeting that was just recently held in Dubai. This multi-donor fund, the peace dividend for Mindanao will be led by the World Bank with commitments from the Islamic Development Bank, the OPEC, the USAid, and the governments of several QIC countries.

Yes, we will push the envelope on this effort as we unleash massive public resources and official development assistance for infrastructure, socioeconomic programs and autonomous capacity-building in southern Philippines, the part of the Philippines that belongs to BIMP-EAGA.

For the Philippines, I also wish to assure you of greater certainty to business and our investors. Our programs in the Philippines are devoted to strengthening the economy, creating more jobs, and encouraging business activity that is unhampered by corruption red tape in government.

The business environment is ready for a good take-off in the Philippines, in the BIMP-EAGA and in ASEAN as a whole. We shall continue to move towards greater complementarity as we shore up regional security. We shall win peace and development in the pockets of conflict as we shift the base of economic growth to the communities.

ASEAN has created and continues to offer opportunities for economic consolidation whether in ASEAN as a whole or in intra-ASEAN sub-regional groupings such as BIMP-EAGA. These opportunities are the key to regional stability and prosperity.

I am confident that the vibrant ASEAN business community will reach for these opportunities. Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Message of President Arroyo at the Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats National Directorate Meeting at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, October 7, 2003

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats National Directorate
Meeting at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila**

[Sent from Sultan Suite, Hotel Sheraton Laguna Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, October 7, 2003]

My beloved partymates:

I've felt your sincere nudging to convince me to be the party's standard bearer in next years polls.

Last Saturday, I took the choice. My decision was based on my own determination of the national interest and the welfare of the people. But, though it was not a reaction to external influences, pressures or interests, you were also in my mind as I reminisced your own sacrifices during those dark hours in the life of our democracy. You were among the first to rush to my side during the Oakwood incident. It was an act of paramount patriotism for which a democratic leader must be grateful.

I've gained the knowledge, experience and insight to lead the nation out of the state of division, political instability and stunted growth that we inherited two years ago.

The ASEAN summit in Bali, which I'm presently attending, is an opportunity in this direction because its now striving to define our collective directions in a world beset by conflict and poverty. We must stream the Philippines into these directions as we fulfill the imperatives of our own reform and reconciliation from within.

Nation-building must be shaped by enlightened statesmanship and I challenge the opposition to define its own foreign policy platform and present this to the people.

Lakas is the strongest party in the country today. I thank the party for its unstinting support of my program of government and the people may be assured that our program of reform and reconciliation has the backing of a large segment of the legislature and our local government units.

Our party will work on a fresh platform combining strong economic, security, political, diplomatic and social features that will bring our nation at par with the imperatives of the millennium. We are ready for the long fight against poverty and terrorism, for the responsibility of strong democratic governance based on honesty, effectiveness and subsidiarity.

The price is costly in terms of the pains of political battle in a society that is caught in the quagmire of recrimination, black propaganda and personalistic warfare.

The struggle will be difficult because we shall wield righteousness, reform and reconciliation against guns, goons and gold. It will be difficult because we shall seek justice under the rule of law while our adversaries will seek to evade it. It will be difficult because we shall seek truth while our adversaries will seek to obfuscate it.

But we shall prevail, because we have the superior values, and because of the superior organization and superior strategy of our party.

The campaign period is a long way off, but for the ruling party, every minute of the day is a campaign for nation-building, for building a strong republic.

The party must be a structure to ensure the success of our initiatives.

Help me reach out to the people; help me communicate to them the urgency of reform and reconciliation; help me enlist the support of local officials and barangays so that positive change can take root and bear fruit in all our communities.

We must now shape our platform along the contours of a changing national, regional and global landscape. We live in a world that cries for peace, reconciliation and human dignity.

As I relay these thoughts from Bali, let me say that what we are going to do and offer to our people for the next six years must no longer be run of the mill. Change must be fundamental and all pervading.

Our party lives by the principle of subsidiarity. It is you and our rank and file members who are the backbone of the party. I shall support all your worthy endeavors.

Thank you for your support and your best wishes.

Let us have faith in god, faith in ourselves and faith in the Filipino.

Our goals are clear. Our triumph is in sight.

Mabuhay ang Lakas!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Message during the Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats National Directorate Meeting at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194156/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7403&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

[Delivered at the Bali Hilton, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, October 7, 2003]

Thank you very Mr. Chairman Pesik.

Her Excellency Rini Sawandi, Ministry of Trade and Industry, my Cabinet escort for this trip; Mr. Tanri Abeng, Co-Chairman; participants of the first ASEAN Investment Summit, distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen.

I am here in ASEAN to seek for our people the blessings of economic and political security. All the region's heads of state are gathered in Bali to sign the historic Bali Accord II, which will set our collective directions for the future. On the part of the Philippines, we will continue to muster regional consensus to fight poverty and secure our nation, our region from terrorism.

Pushing forward intra-ASEAN growth areas and ASEAN integration is indispensable to the main theme of our Bali Summit, which is "Towards an ASEAN Economic and Security Community."

The forces of economic development and global security are becoming more and more tightly intertwined. Cancun was a wake up call for all nations to refocus on the start relationship between world poverty and world trade. I am certain this topic will continue to spill over into our ASEAN summit.

The collapse of the WTO trade talks in Mexico unravels the disparity in perception between first and third world countries on how international trade should be conducted. While the WTO promised much in helping bridge the economic divide through a liberalized trading environment, it has only managed to tarry so painfully on delivery.

The emergence of the group of 21 during the Cancun Summit is a development that the Philippines will continue to work with to press for agricultural reforms and the removal of first world subsidies to farm sectors. ASEAN should unite in support of this alliance to push for our collective interest in the WTO and ensure a just and fair global trading system.

These recent developments also underscore the need for greater cooperation among us to keep our vision of an integrated, prosperous and competitive ASEAN by 2020 on track.

I will not repeat the wise words that His Majesty, the Sultan of Brunei spoke earlier about the blessings of integration. I would just want to practically add in a practical sense that we should consider the outcome of the McKinsey competitiveness study which it did for the ASEAN, which identifies the weak links in our integration efforts, as well as measures to accelerate them. The McKinsey study has identified the priority sectors in fast-tracking our regional integration, beginning with consumer goods and electronics and the strengthening of ASEAN institutions and addressing our individual country concerns. We need to look into these priorities to promote regional complementation and make our region more globally competitive.

I understand that the business advisory council as well as the Asian Economic Ministers look at this study and added more areas for ASEAN integration. So that now we have ii areas ASEAN integration and the Philippines is honored to be chosen as the coordinator for the electronic sector which makes up 60 percent of our export.

The intra-regional growth areas like BIMP-EAGA and the greater of Mekong sub-region provide an appropriate environment to gain a relevant understanding of the dynamic developments in the region as a whole.

Sub-regional growth areas such as BIMP-EAGA and the greater Mekong sub-region are not merely building blocks of AFTA, they are essential elements to fully realize and sustain a genuine ASEAN economic integration.

Sub-regional growth areas do not weaken initiatives towards a single market. Rather, they complement and accelerate the realization of an ASEAN economic community and maximize their own full potential through integrative enhancement of capacities among neighboring provinces and states, and by enhancing the traditional trading relations in the growth area that have existed for centuries.

For instance in the BIMP-EAGA growth area, we are made up of the regions, the internal regions in our countries that share common seas. The common seas have been our trading roots for centuries and that is why it is natural for their to be even more accelerated trade and integration within the BIMP-EAGA provinces of our four countries.

At the business firm level, investments in sub-regional growth areas such as the BIMP-EAGA enable firms to gain a better understanding of the changing customer needs within the region. It is a fruitful route of entry for small and medium enterprises or SMEs, if they wish to gain particular signaling of customer needs. In fact within the BIMP-EAGA, it has been the SMEs that have been the most vigorous in the private sector.

Through BIMP-EAGA institutions such as the East ASEAN Business Council and the BIMP-facilitation center, more accurate and up-to-date information is within reach of investors. This enables businesses to craft responsive business plans and deploy resources more efficiently.

The Philippines has enthusiastically supported the BIMP-EAGA initiative since it was founded in 1994.

In the 1997 because of the Asian crisis the BIMP-EAGA momentum was hauled. And since I became president in 2001, we have sought to revive that momentum.

I am pleased that since the 11th BIMP-EAGA Senior Officials Meeting and 8th Ministerial Meetings which our country organized in Davao city last month, there has been a very strong indication of support by the stakeholders in the sub-region.

The meetings set the stage for BIMP-EAGA's strengthening through confidence-building initiatives such as the opening of air and sea passenger and cargo services between Davao and Manado; between Zamboanga, Tawi-Tawi, Sabah and Sandakan; between Zamboanga, Tawi-Tawi, and Tawau, among others, and the consolidation of existing institutional mechanisms and processes.

To consolidate this mechanisms and processes in the BIMP-EAGA Summit later this afternoon, I shall proposed that the Asian Development Bank which is the BIMP-EAGA adviser should appoint a senior officials to take care BIMP-EAGA matters and push the envelope forward.

From a business standpoint, there are so many brilliant opportunities in BIMP-EAGA. To highlight a few — agro-industry, fisheries especially in the Southern Philippine seas, energy, tourism and we are here in Bali to dramatize that, telecommunications, air and sea linkages, retail, financial services, construction, among other areas.

BIMP-EAGA of course, is mindful of the perceived security issue in the area. And I would like to assure the ASEAN business community that this is being addressed vigorously.

The Philippines is currently prepared for the major port-to-port bilateral customs-immigration-quarantine-security meetings with Malaysia and Indonesia to address border crossings issues. We expect port-to-port arrangements to be concluded for Zamboanga and Sandakan, General Santos City and Bitung, and Davao and Manado. The accession of Brunei Darussalam to the agreement on information exchange and establishment of communication procedures which was initiated by the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia after the 9-11 completes the BIMP-EAGA look and is also a significant step forward.

Likewise, the Philippines will soon host the first BIMP-EAGA security officials' conference to strengthen direct contacts among law enforcers within the sub-regional growth. Through all these and more, we shall forge a stronger collective push against terrorism and transnational crime.

As I said, the theme this summit is economic and security collectiveness. And this is the same not just for ASEAN but also especially BIMP-EAGA. This has a bearing on the imminent stint of the Philippines in the U.N. Security Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the nations of ASEAN and the nations of Asia for supporting our nomination to the UN security council. There, I shall carry our common banner of collective security, multilateral peacekeeping and the rule of law. These principles are strong guarantees of an ASEAN economic and security community.

Our summit meeting also links up with our determined drive for peace and development in Mindanao which along with Palawan that portion of the Philippines that belongs to BIMP-EAGA. We have the full support of the UN Secretary General for this effort. I am grateful to Malaysia for facilitating the projected peace talks just as Indonesia facilitated our peace talks with the MNLF almost a decade ago.. The OIC countries are keenly awaiting developments, with growing commitments of aid and investments. The U.S. Institute for Peace has committed to put in concrete support for conflict-resolution.

We are also paving the way for the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund that will cut in once a new peace accord is forged. This was one of the major outputs for our region of World Bank meeting that was just recently held in Dubai. This multi-donor fund, the peace dividend for Mindanao will be led by the World Bank, with commitments from the Islamic Development Bank, the OPEC, USAID, and the governments of several OIC countries.

Yes, we will push the envelope on this effort as we unleash massive public resources and official development assistance for infrastructure, socioeconomic programs and autonomous capacity-building in southern Philippines, the part of the Philippines that belongs to BIMP-EAGA.

For the Philippines, I also wish to assure you of greater certainty to business and our investors. Our programs in the Philippines are devoted to strengthening the economy, creating more jobs, and encouraging business activity that is unhampered by corruption and red tape in government.

The business environment is ready for a good take-off in the Philippines, in the BIMP-EAGA and in ASEAN as a whole. We shall continue to move towards greater complementarity as we shore up regional security. We shall win peace and development in the pockets of conflict as we shift the base of economic growth to the communities.

ASEAN has created and continues to offer opportunities for economic consolidation whether in ASEAN as a whole or in intra-ASEAN south regional groupings such as BIMP-EAGA. These opportunities are the key to regional stability and prosperity. I am confident that the vibrant ASEAN business community will reach for this opportunity.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Asean Business and Investment Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194145/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7402&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 40th Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 40th Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)**

[Delivered at the Pacific Grand Ballroom, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Lahug District, Cebu City, Cebu, October 9, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Ka Blas.

Thank you very much, Mon. Thank you.

Thank you again. Cito and Ernie, officers and members of PMAP, ladies and gentlemen.

I'm very glad that providence brought me here with you today. Gaya nang sabi ni Mon, you invited me a long time ago. You invited me but then I saw that on the sixth... On the eight of this month would be the ASEAN Summit. And travel mean what it is, I would have to take a flight out of Bali this morning, fly to Singapore, take a direct... And then fly back to Manila. Which would mean the whole day of travel today which means I would not have made it. So that time long ago when you first invited me, I keep in mind this invitation.

But as it turned out, as I was leaving for Bali, I found out that the last flight, ah the last yesterday would end at about 6:30 pm and then I will be able to take the direct chartered flight from Bali to Cebu and arrive late last night in order to make it with you today.

Talk a little bit about what we've achieved. First and foremost in Bali, we signed what is called the Bali Concord II named after the Bali Concord I which established the ASEAN to begin with in 1976.

Now, in Bali Concord II, we signed an agreement that will determine the course of ASEAN for the future in the 21st century. Three important things came out of the Bali Concord II: number one, we will be forming an ASEAN Economic community before 2020. An ASEAN economic community is something like the European Economic Community before it became the European Union.

But aside from an economic community, we will be forming a security community. Because ASEAN is the site of transnational threats like terrorism in this 21st century.

And thirdly, because unlike other regions like Europe, South America, Africa, the Middle East, where the various countries are culturally homogeneous. In our region, we are not culturally homogeneous. We are ten countries made up of different cultures, different religions, different political systems, different social organizations, different histories, colonial histories. So we are so diverse and yet we have been at peace with one another including the period of ASEAN.

And we want to continue this so therefore the third aspect of the Bali concord ii is that we will strive to form formally a socio-cultural community. So this will be the great trends of ASEAN in the decades and the generations to come.

And I hope that this will, in the short time, provide for a stronger security, better economies, better trade and more jobs than in the longer run for surer more sustainable economic development.

I'm sure you as personnel managers know the importance of having conditions in the country and in the region even in the world that can create more jobs than lose them. And I'm very glad to hear from Cito that the good in this meeting is quite positive. For one thing you're more than a thousand delegates, the biggest attendance in the history of PMAP. Congratulations to you!

Last year, you were eight hundred. Nine hundred. So therefore, there is a more than ten percent increase in the attendance. And Cito said that talking to many of you, many of you are hiring especially with the small and medium enterprises. I hope that this is a reflection of some of the things we've been able to achieve in just over two years of my administration. I hope this is a reflection of the fact, the statistical fact that in the first six months of this year, we achieved a GNP growth rate of 4.8 percent, faster than many of our neighbors in ASEAN and the highest growth rate since the 1997 Asian crisis. So, I hope that your positive outlook in your companies especially SME is a reflection of that.

And indeed, I know also that as personnel managers your main concern is how to grow the jobs and how to keep the jobs of the personnel that you take care of. I know that you have to deal with the personal and financial problems of the workers in your care. I know that sometimes especially during the Asian crisis and its aftermath, you have had to handle the painful job of informing the workers, some workers, that they have to be laid off. So you know that our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty, to create jobs and to keep them.

Historically, our economic development has been strong compared to our neighbors. I just thank the lord that in the summits that I've attended as president, it was evident during the two and a half years of my presidency and in the aftermath of the Asian crisis, that even though we felt we were having a hard time, the others were having a hard time. The others were having negative growths around us, even the richer countries around us, while we were having our steady growth. And as I said, climaxed by the first six months of the year where we got the highest growth rate ever since the Asian crisis.

But in this last summit that I attended, with the region now starting to recover, I saw that our neighbors are starting to accelerate their growth again. Malaysia who has negative in some parts of these past two years, now has a very high rate of growth, for instance. And this time we cannot afford to be left behind.

Unfortunately, we have this challenge not to be left behind at the time when the political season is here. I would wish that the political season would only start in February of next year. But the Philippines being what it is, and I think that's part of the system, the cycle that we must change, the political system, always starts prematurely. Nonetheless, we cannot afford to be left behind, and through you I would like to give greater uncertainty... A greater certainty to the business and investors that you represent.

I would like to reassure you that our programs are devoted to strengthening the economy, creating more jobs, encouraging business activity unhampered by corruption and red tape in government. For instance, last night, I got word from the NBI that they're willing now to advertise that it is now only in five minutes to get an NBI clearance because we have been working on their computerization over the last two and a half years.

Even if there's political season, even if the headlines are about politics, I have instructed the bureaucracy to stay on track in the task of governance. And I myself am keeping a steady hand over the concerns of the state. And there's one thing I'd like to ask you personnel managers, because you take care of so many people, I feel you can influence them, encourage them to keep their eyes focused on the challenges we face daily. I think you can encourage them that we should not allow ruthless politics to distract us from the all important charge of nation-building and also building up your own business organizations.

Politicians come and go but our challenges are here to stay. I have my challenge and that's is to make sure that our country is not left behind again as the other countries now accelerate their growth after the Asian crisis. And for you the challenge is how to hire, fire, promote, demote, plan careers, develop potentials in such a way that your organization can survive and even flourish the future.

As personnel managers, you all would have experienced the pressure not to be left behind. Not to be left behind in the market in which your firm, your organization operates. And you know whom you can rely on in crunch time, somebody who has already gone down the learning curve, someone who has been experienced. Not someone with great ideas but to get... Highly get people to be in the team. Not someone who no matter how seemingly brilliant will need to go through a learning curve again.

As personnel managers, I know that you know that good policy is not necessarily good executions. And part of getting the job done, a large part of getting the job done is good execution. There are lots of good policies going around but to execute them requires experience as much or even more than reason. In fact, a wise man said, that reason may mislead you but experience never. As it is with your organization, so it is also with our nation.

Our historic economic problems cannot be blamed on any single president. Because our problems are fundamental caused by the economic and political system. In the more than two years of my presidency, i gained the experience necessary to understand what we need in order to change society in a way that leads to economic development and the elimination of poverty.

As I said in the first six months of the year, we achieved 4.8 percent GNP growth — the highest in our country since the Asian crisis. In so short a time also — and that's why for me I'm going to attend an urban poor convention — we accomplished one of the most massive housing programs undertaken by any administration. And I hope the workers in your companies are able to join in that housing program while, at the same time — thanks to the hard work of people like Cito Lorenzo — we've been able to keep the supply and the price of food stable.

We had to contend with traumatic cases that have divided our nation. We'd have to face them squarely like the Estrada case, the Misuari case, the Marcos wealth, the coco levy. We've won victories in pinning down corrupt high-ranking officials. Some of them we were able to do so because we did an unprecedented lifestyle checks. We've launched an all out war against illegal drugs. And in just a few months time, in the last three months, we confiscated an unprecedented 8 billion pesos worth of drugs using less than a hundred million pesos of enforcement money and arrested drug dealers belonging to or leading in the Philippines the Triad syndicate who used to be untouchable several years before.

We are seeking a peaceful resolution to the Muslim insurgency, and were on our way to signing a permanent peace pact.

We cut red tape to make sure crucial infrastructure like the Roll-On/Roll-Off ferry program, new bridges and highways are built.

As personnel managers, I'm sure many of you do your conferences in areas like Boracay, and I hope that you'll be able to use our roll-on/roll-off ferry system going there to see how we've cut red tape to make travel more convenient for our people.

We've began meaningful debate on changes in the constitution particularly on the parliamentary and federal form of government. What we really need however to develop our economy and create a stronger republic is to change our system. Maybe even change our constitution to institute true reforms in our way of politics and our economy. Aside from that reform, fundamental reforms, we also need to unify as a people.

We need to heal the deep divisions in our society. While we must have justice — and we have achieved much justice in the last two and a half years — we must also have reconciliation. We must put a closure to our past national divisions.

As personnel managers, I know you know the value of reform and the value of reconciliation. I'm sure you facilitate reconciliation all the time. I'm sure you have also experienced moments when divisions in the organization have become so deep that effectivity and efficiency are seriously jeopardized. and then you have to work on reforms in the system itself. It takes time to find this deep-seated reasons for division. It takes time to gain insights on how reconciliation can be effected.

And you as personnel managers know how much sleuthing and probing you have to go through to find the causes of the divisions so that you can work on the personalities as well as the system behind the causes if any.

And you as personnel managers so that you can't do it from the peanut gallery, you have to be immersed in the team, in the experience of the players. You have to gain experience before you can be effective.

As I see you here in this 40th convention, and jubilee year, ruby anniversary. I see you here forming your craft, I get inspired, you are practitioners. You're getting better and better with your experience. You're improving your craft. You're managing people better. You're managing conflicts better. You're promoting reconciliations better. You reform systems in a more mature way.

I'm inspired because I see myself in you as the personnel manager of the country. I too like you, I have gained experience, i have gained knowledge. Like you, I have clarified the mission of what has to be done for the country and how to execute it. For our country, just as you are doing it in your organization.

On the positive note that you are here in this very big unprecedented attendance in your convention, I ask you, lets support each other in undertaking each one's role. And as we do this, we can move on to flourish our future.

Congratulations! And thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 40th Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412193347/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7389&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Multi-sectoral Assembly in Cebu

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Multi-sectoral Assembly in Cebu**

[Delivered at the Cebu City Sports Complex, Cebu, October 9, 2003]

Daghan salamat, Governor Garcia sa inyong pagpaila kanako. Ug paagi kaninyo ang akon pagpasalamat sa tanan mga Cebu sa kanunay suporta kanako sa niagi nga piliay.

Daghan salamat sab Mayor Tommy Osmena sa imong welcome remarks ug sa imo pagka-partner kanako sa aton paghuman diri sa mga reporma aron ang aton mga pobre sa Cebu City makadawat sa ilaha mga yuta.

Kauban ko karon ang laing-laing opisyaes sa akong Cabinet. Aniya karon ang atong Secretary sa mga strategic projects, si Secretary Mai Jimenez; ang akong kauban sa pagtabang sa mga pobre sa siyudad, sa lungsod si Mike Defensor ug ang iyahang mga kauban sa iyang organisasyon sa HUDCC; ug ang atong Secretary sa Media Affairs, si Secretary Dodie Limcaoco; kauban nato ang aton mga congressmen diri sa Cebu City, si Congressman Raul Del Mar ug si Congressman Tony Cuenco; kauban sab nato ang congressman sa Mandaue City, si Mayor Teddy Ouano; kauban nato ang laing-laing opisyaes sa probinsiya ug Cebu ug sa siyudad ug Cebu ug kauban nato ang mga laing-laing pumuluyo diri sa probinsiya ug sa siyudad, kaninyong tanan, salamat sa inyong pag-anhi karon.

Ug ako gikal šipay ko nga anhi ako karon gihapon diri sa mauswag nga siyudad Cebu, sa mauswag nga siyudad sa probinsiya Cebu kauban na ang mauswag nga siyudad sa Mandaue City. Gikalipay ko gyud nga kauban ko karon ang mga katawhan ug Cebu nga nakadawat ug oportunidad nga magapalit ug yuta asa na kadugay na kamo. Unta moistorya ninyo sa mga kauban kon paunsa ginugugma kamo ug gobyerno ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gi-imbata ko sab karon ang mga miyembro ug kooperatiba sa kuryente sa Cebu nga dugay na may outstanding electric cooperative sa tibuok Pilipinas, asa sila karon? Anhi sila karon ang aton kooperatiba? Wala, tingali sa masunod kay gusto ko ipaabot ang akon dako nga pag-abi-abi sa outstanding electric cooperative diri sa probinsiya sa cebu. Busa gi-appoint ko ang ilahang leader, si Father Pacquing Silva, is its head sa National Electrification Administration. o, kamo diay. Unta masulti ninyo, maistorya ninyo sa mga uban ang atong pangita sa good governance agi sa mga opisyal murag si Father Pacquing Silva nga gikan sa Cebu.

Kagabii, niabot ko sa Cebu gikan sa ASEAN Summit sa Bali. Mi pirma mi sa ASEAN Concord nga nanaag ug labaw pa ang pagtinabangay nato sa ekonomiya ug sa seguridad, ug labaw pa ang pagsabot sa kultura ug usag usa aron magdala kanatong tanan ug labaw pa nga trabaho, labaw pa nga kaalaman ug kabansay ug labaw pa gyud nga estabilidad sa atong nasud.

Sa miaging labaw sa duha ka tuig sa akong pagka-presidente, sa akon pag-uban sa mga leader sa kalibutan, sa akong paghatag ug pribilehiyo sa mga kabus sa siyudad nga mupalit ug yuta asa nakatindog ang inyoha mga balay parehas sa aton mga kaiguonan diri sa atong convention karon sa akong pagka reporma sa mga electric cooperative aron mga uban mahimo maayo murag sa kooperatiba sa Cebu. Sa pag-atubangan ko sa daghang mga hagip sa atong nasud — terorismo, transnational crimes, SARS, lisud nga condition sa ekonomiya sa tibuok kalibutan — nakabaton na ako ug daghang kaalaman, eksperyensya ug saktong panan-aw sa pagmuno.

Sa nini ako eksperyensya ni sabot ko nga ang problema sa aton istorya muay kinahanglan ug kauswagan aron makalaban kontra sa kapobrehon. Sa atong istorya hinay-hinay gyud ang atong kauswagan kumpara sa kauswagan ug atong mga silingan. Apan garbo ko nga sa nining lisud nga tiyempo sa kalibutan, sa miaging duha ug tunga ka tuig sa akon pagka-presidente sa atong administrasyon, sa nagikan ang atong rehiyon sa Asian crisis mas maayo ang performance sa aton ekonomiya kumpara sa mga ekonomiya ug atong mga silingan sa rehiyon.

Apan sa karon ang rehiyon nagasugod na gihapon nga murecover, ang aton mga silingan nagasugod na sa paspas gihapon ang ilahang kauswagan karon dili ta unta mabilin sa ila. Ang problema sa ekonomiya sa aton istorya dili musala sa bisan usa ka presidente. Tungod kay ang atong problema maoy fundamental, na gikan sa sistema sa aton ekonomiya ug sa atong pulitika. Aron makauswag gyud ang aton ekonomiya ug makahimo ug labaw nga kusog nga republika kinahanglan ibalhin nato ang atong sistema kung ginahanglan bisan ang atong konstitusyon aron makahimo ug tuod nga reporma sa atong mag-agi sa pulitika ug ekonomiya.

Kinahanglan sab nga makig-usa kita isip katawhan. Sa gamay nga tiyempo nga ako nahimo presidente nakaabot kita karon sa labi nga growth rate. Pinakataas, labi na taas nga growth rate sukad sa 1997 Asian crisis. Sa gamay nga tiyempo nakahatag kita ug pribilehiyo nga magapalit ug yuta o balay ang labing daghan na kabus sa atong istorya kauban na exhibit ang atong mga kaigsuonan diri sa atong convention.

Miyentras ang inyo pagkaon, ang supply ug presyo ug pagkaon ug mga pobre nakabilin nga stable. Nakadaog sab kita sa laban kontra sa laing-laing taas nga opisyal sa corruption. Bisan ang akon pamilya ingon ko dili exempted sa balaod. Na ang mga desisyon sa korte nga dugay nga nahulat gihulat parehas sa desisyon sa Erap case, desisyon sa Misuari case, parehas sa Marcos wealth, sa coco levy ug karon sa Kuratong Baleleng. Sa tatal nga giyera kontra sa droga bisan daghan pa ang atong kinahanglan nga mahimo, gikumpiska nato ang labing kantidad ug shabu, ug gi-arrest nato ang dagko nga triad drug dealers nga bag-o sa atong administrasyon maoy untouchable.

Mangita kita ug kalinaw sa solusyon sa mga muslim nga rebelde ug pag-ingon nata sa pagpirma ug permanente nga agreement sa kalinaw. Nasugdan nato ang maayo nga debate sa pagbalhin sa konstitusyon uban na diri ang mga debate alang sa parliamentary government ug sa federal form of government. Apan daghan pa unta ang atong nahimo kung wala unta ang divisiveness sa atong nasud. Our country is deeply divided — naa MILF, naa NPA, naa loyalista sa diktadura, naa ang silent majority na mangita ug kalinaw. Naa EDSA Dos, naa EDSA Tres, naa ang silent plurality na ang iyang tuyo laing maoy madayon ang kinabuhi ug wala na untay divisiveness. We need to heal the deep divisions within our society.

Kinahanglan nato ang hustisya apan kinahanglan sab nato ang rekonsilyasyon. Kinahanglan mahuman na ang mga niaging balin-balin sa atong nasud. Kinanglan tagaan nato ang aton kaugalingon ug bag-o nga pasugdan. Sa labaw sa duha ka tuig sa ini akon nga pagka- presidente nadawat ko gyud ang eksperyensya ug panan-aw aron pabag-uhon ang society aron makab-ot ang kauswagan ug mabuntog nato ang kapobrehon.

Kusog ang akong tagtuo nga ang akon eksperyensya giagi-agian muoy makahatag kanako ug abilidad nga makahuman ug diperensya ug kini sab ang katarungan ngano isalig kanako sang mga tao ang inyohang mga damgo ug pangandoy. Muabti kita nga matuod ang reporma ug rekonsilyasyon. Lisud nga mawala ang pulitika apan gusto ko sab nga tagaan labaw nga seguridad ang negosyo ug ang aton mga investors aron labaw pa ang inyohang mga trabaho.

Ang aton mga programa anyahay tuyo nga mupakusog ang ekonomiya'y. Mahimo trabaho ug tagaan insentibo sa aktibidad sa negosyo nga walay unta corruption ug red tape sa gobyerno. Busa ingon ko sa burokrasya mabilin dayon ang trabaho miyentras ako dayon nga mamaneho sa mga kinahanglan ug atong nasud.

Busa kagabii nakauban ko si Secretary Mar Roxas sa dti gikan sa Bali, gi-ingon ko sa iya, kay siya'y miyembro sa monetary board, nga mopaspas ang pagbalhin sa mga yuta ug BSP sa barangay Apas Ug sa busay ug sa HUDCC, sa akon Chairman Secretary Mike Defensor ingon ko sa iya ug sa National Housing Authority nga mopaspas ang preparasyon sa ilahang pagbalhin sa mga kwalipikado nga benepisaryo didto gyud sa apas ug sa busay. Ingon ko sa HUDCC chairman Mike Defensor ug sa DOTC Secretary nga mahimo ug plano aron ang Casuntingan friendly settlers... Ang Casuntingan friendly settlers mo-occupy ug parte ug yuta sa DOTC-Tingub sa casuntingan sa

Mandaue City. Ingon ko sab kay HUDCC Chairman Mike Defensor ug sa DOH Secretary nga mopaspas ang pagbalin ug yuta ug DOH sa jagobiao sa Mandaue City. Sa mga kamong kwalipikado nga benepisyaryo. Ug ingon ko sa HUDCC Chairman nga mopaspas ang rekomendasyon aron makahuman ta ug Socialized Housing Finance Corporation.

Lisud gyud kanunay ang mga paningkamot sa kabus. Gadali ang masulti lisud ang matrabaho. Kinahanglan naa eksperyensya. Anhi kita karon sa tungkaran sa usa kadako nga permanenteng pagbag-o. Ang kaugmaon nga gihandum ta dili lang alang kanato sa mga... Kundili sab sa mga sunod pang henerasyon. Reporma ug sa rekonsilyasyon sa katapusan muoy makaabot para kanato sa aton maayo nga kaugmaon.

Mga kaigsuonan, kita tanan makauban kita, mangita kita uban-uban sa kining kinahanglan nga reporma ug rekonsilyasyon sa atong maayo nga kaugmaon.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Multisectoral Assembly in Cebu. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412193355/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7399&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) Luzon Island Conference and celebration of the 12th anniversary of the Local Government Code

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) Luzon Island Conference and celebration of
the 12th anniversary of the Local Government Code**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Westin Philippine Plaza, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, October 9, 2003]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat sa inyong napakainit na pagbati sa akin, mga punongbayan ng buong Luzon. Maraming salamat, Secretary Joey Lina sa iyung magandang pagpakilala sa akin na naalala sana ng ating mga punongbayan ng Luzon kung papaano natin kamahal ang mga punongbayan ng Pilipinas.

Dios ti agngina, apo Mayor Ramon Guico ken ti naduma nga mayors ti amianan. Agyamanak ti... Ay, nagpapasalamat ako hindi lamang sa mga mayors ng norte, sa mayors ng buong Pilipinas, ang mayors league, sa napakagandang resolusyon ninyo na nagsusuporta sa aking desisyon na sumali sa halalan sa susunod na taon.

Yes, I thank the league of municipalities of the Philippines for that resolution. Maraming salamat din Governor Dolfo del Rosario na sa ngalan ng buong ULAP ganun din sinusuportahan ninyo ang aking desisyon. And thank you for pointing out the twelve gains of the union of local authorities of the Philippines, but these twelve gains happened in the two and a half years of my administration.

Thank you very much, mayor mayor — I always call him that, mayor Mayor — for that resolution that you have attested to. I am very grateful for that. And I want to greet also our other officers of ulap who are here such as Governor Louie Villafuerte. Matagal na niyang pinipilit akong gumawa ng desisyon. Minsan, nagdinner kami sabi, mag-decide ka na. Ako silent, speaks like silent. Nakikita ko yung frustration ni Louie. Kaya kanina nung binati ko siya, sabi ko, ano, Louie masaya ka na? Sabi niya, masaya na raw siya.

Salamat rin kay Mayor Francis Tolentino kumakatawan ng League of Cities. Agad-agad nag-text siya sa akin na sinusuporta niya at ang mga cities yung aking desisyon. At kung nandito si James Marty Lim — ay, there you are. How could I miss such a handsome face — at salamat din, thank you for the support of the barangay officials. At lahat lahat ng dumalo dito sa Luzon island Conference — caring Cabalen cung Capampangan, mayap a bengi mga taga-Tagalog, mga taga-Bicol, marhay na banggi sa indo gabos, salamat sa inyong suporta.

Yung aking desisyon binase ko sa ating pambansang interes ganun na rin sa interes ng inyong mga constituencies. Kayong mga incumbents kayo, kayo alam ninyo ang halaga ng karanasan.

And in the more than two years of my presidency, I have gained the experience necessary to understand what we need to do in order to change society in a way that leads to economic development and the elimination of poverty.

Itong nakaraang anim na buwan, doon nga nagkukumpara kami ng growth rates sa ASEAN kung saan ako nanggaling. We achieved 4.8 percent GNP growth — this is the highest in our country since the 1997 Asian crisis.

And siguro naman sa maraming bayan ninyo nararamdaman ninyo, in so short a time of two years, we accomplished one of the most massive housing programs undertaken by any administration. At siguro sa inyong mga palengke nakikita rin ninyo, we've been able to keep the supply and the price of food stable. We confronted our deep national divisions face to face and implemented painful court rulings like the arrest of Estrada and Misuari. We won victories in pinning down corrupt high-ranking officials, some of them on the basis of unprecedented lifestyle checks. Even my family is not above the law.

Nabanggit ni Monching yung ating all-out war sa illegal drugs. At doon sa nakaraang tatlong buwan, pagkatapos kami ni Joey gumawa ng particular na all-out war, yung mga nakumpiskang illegal drugs sa tatlong buwan, mga 8 billion pesos worth, spending less than 100 million of enforcement money — unprecedented achievements. Iyung bilang ng mga drug dealers, kaya punong-puno na ngayon ang ating preso, far outstrip those made in several years before. At yung mga big fish na nahuli diyan, yang mga triad, big fish na noong araw sila ay mga untouchable, touchable na ngayon.

We have sought a peaceful resolution to the Muslim insurgency, and we are well on our way to signing a permanent peace pact. We cut red tape to make sure crucial infrastructure are built. Halimbawa, yung roll-on/roll-off ferry na umaabot sa mindoro at lumalampas pa sa Mindoro. Dumadaan na ngayon iyung mga bakasyonista sa Boracay sa Mindoro island and other areas. New bridges — ilan sa inyo noong dumaan ako ay nagpasalamat dahil sa matagal nang hinihintay na tulay na ngayon ay nagawa. New highways, and also because among other things, your leagues passed formal resolutions for changes in the Constitution. I listen to you and we began meaningful debates on those changes in the constitution, particularly on the parliamentary and federal form of government.

Kagabi, halos hatinggabi, dumating ako sa Cebu mula sa ASEAN Summit sa bali. Doon sa bali pinirmahan ng mga leaders ng ASEAN ang Bali Concord II. Ipinangalan ito sa unang Bali Concord noong 1976 na siya ang nagtayo ng unang ASEAN. Eh ngayon, many years later, bago na ang mundo kaya gumawa ng bagong Bali Concord. At dito ay nagkasunduan na tutulakin ang economic integration, papalawakin ang pangangalakal at ipag-iibayo, we will consolidate among the various countries in ASEAN our vigilance against terrorism. Kagaya rin ng inyong kasunduan doon sa inyong peace, unity and democracy na lalabanan ninyo ang terorismo.

Bukod doon sa Bali Concord II, China and India also acceded to a treaty with ASEAN, a treaty of amity and cooperation in Southeast Asia. These are key developments and — nandito yung ating hybrid rice winner — ang China ang pinanggalingan ng hybrid rice na nakadoble nang ani ng marami sa inyong mga constituents dito — ayun, nagpapalakpak si Cito Lorenzo, siya ang nagdala ng hybrid rice dito.

Yung India naman, dalawang daang milyon na ngayon ang milyonaryo sa india in a population of one billion. Eh tayo sa marami sa inyong mga bayan mayroon kayong malaking indian community, and many of them still hold indian citizenship, at tayo bumibili ng gamot sa India. Yung mga programa ninyo na I hope ginagamit ninyo yung murang gamot na half-priced galing yon sa India. Kaya kailangan, sabi ko naman sa Prime Minister ng India, ang dami naming binibiling gamot sa inyo dapat we are in the radar screen of each other. Sabi naman ng Prime Minister of India, he is giving our airline, our designated national airline landing rights unilaterally in several key cities in India. Kaya yung mga indians sa inyong community, marami ding Indian citizens pa, alukin n'yo sila na ipalawak ang pangangalakal sa kanilang mother country dahil mayroon silang dalawang daang milyong milyonaryo doon, mas malaki pa kaysa sa buong populasyon ng Pilipinas. Because in the end, whatever I negotiate it will be you, the frontliners, who will translate the gains we make in foreign policy into the momentum and effectiveness in our common battle against poverty, against terrorism, against criminality.

We are all in the executive branch. You are in that sense extensions of presidential authority in the communities. As I am chief executive of our nation; you are the chief executives of your municipalities. Together we share a determination to deliver the best of governance. But also together, we must overcome the obstacles to our mission.

Our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty.

Historically, our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors. Mabuti na lamang na sa nakaraang dalawang taon at kalahati ng ating administrasyon, during the last two years and a half of our

administration, we did better than our neighbors. Because our neighbors suffered very much in the aftermath of the Asian crisis but as an economist I knew that if I don't build up domestic demand we will suffer too. How did I build up domestic demand? I build up demand in the provinces, and now you know why I released all that IRA even the debts of the previous administration.

Kaya, oo, dahil mahal ko kayo, pero mahal din kayo ng ating bansa, and it worked. Yung mga ginamit n'yong utang na binayaran ko, utang ng nakaraan, ginamit n'yo para sa kaunlaran sa inyong mga bayan that's why we performed better than our neighbors in the last two and a half years. Kaya lang ngayon nagsisimula nang mag-recover ang ating rehiyon. Naku! Nakakatakot, nagko-compare kami ng growth rates. Our neighbors are starting to accelerate their growth again, and this time we cannot afford to be left behind.

Our historic economic problems cannot be blamed on any single president, because the problems are fundamental, caused by our economic and political system. Kaya nasisiyahan ako doon sa sinabi ni Monching na naintindihan n'yo, naunawaan n'yo nung sinabi ko yung aking desisyon. I said and you agreed in your resolution that to really develop our economy and create a stronger republic, we need to change our system. We need to institute true reforms in our politics and true reforms in our economy. And I am glad that in your covenant you have peace, democracy and unity, because we also need unity as a people.

We need to heal the deep divisions within our society. We must have justice and we have gotten much justice in this administration. Many cases waiting for decades have been resolved in our administration. But we must also have reconciliation. We must put a closure to our national divisions. Because in the final analysis, as you have said in your resolution, it will be reform and reconciliation that will heal the wounds of our divisiveness.

You've always been on my mind since the day I assumed the presidency. And because even then I had that idea that we need reconciliation, napatatag lang ang aking paniniwala sa aking karanasan. I also looked for the causes of division between the national government and the local government. At ang nakikita ko noon, Senador pa ako, na pinanggagalingan ng paghihiwalay sa pananaw ng national at local government ay may tendency ang national government na pakialaman ang autonomy ng local government. Kaya naman binanggit ni Dolfo, binanggit ni Joey, isa sa unang ginawa ko sa aking administrasyon was the recall of the executive orders which placed a yoke on your fiscal autonomy.

Labindalawa yon, hindi ko na ililista lahat. Nilista na ni Dolfo at inilaborate ang ilan ni Joey. But lately, I talked about the first, I'll just talked about the last major one.

I have released all your last local government service equalization fund. Bayad na ako sa utang ng national government sa inyo. At gaya nang sabi ng dalawa, walang bawas at lumaki pa ang inyong shares ng internal revenue allotment. Ang hinihingi ko lamang sa inyo dahil napakaraming nawalang trabaho sa nakaraang El Nino at mga bagyo, sana sa inyong LGSEF release gamitin ninyo ang isang milyong piso bawat bayan para sa microfinance ng inyong bayan. Sa ganun mabibigyan natin ng ginhawa ang maraming walang trabaho sa ating kanayunan.

Sad to say, the political season is here.

But because our neighbors are starting to accelerate their growth, and we can't afford to be left behind, we must together give — even as the political season is on — we must together give greater certainty to business and investors. We must together show them that our programs are devoted to strengthening the economy, creating more jobs, and encouraging business activity unhampered by corruption and red tape in government.

Sa inyong mga meeting over these last two and a half years sa mga league meetings ninyo mayroon kayong mga best practices sharing ng pagbawas ng red tape — yung mga one-stop shop, yung mga... ang dami, ang dami n'yong mga ginagawa yung mga mabilis na proseso. And I ask you to stay on track with that. I ask you to stay on track in the task of governance as I am keeping a steady hand over the concerns of the state. Let us also ask our constituents, your constituents to keep their eyes focused on the challenges we face daily. Sa pang-araw-araw kung minsan may krimen, sa pang-araw-araw mayroon diyang mga drug lords pa rin, mga pang-araw-araw na mga hamon. O kaya

nagkaroon ng baha at hindi nakaani, daily challenges we have to face them daily. And let us not allow ruthless politics to distract us all from the all important charge of nation-building.

And in this all important charge of nation-building, I would like to assure you that as your president, I will always be — as the twelve accomplishments have shown — I will always be your champion for local autonomy.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) Luzon Island Conference and Celebration of the 12th Anniversary of the Local Government Code. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194121/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7391&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community in Malaysia

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino community in Malaysia**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Concorde Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 15, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Ka Blas.

Hindi ko na siguro babanggitin yung mga pangalan ng mga kasama ko dito sa entablado dahil pinakilala na sila ni Ambassador Ong. Ngunit babatiin ko si Ambassador Ong dahil wala pang bumati sa kanya. At sa inyong lahat mga kababayan, magandang gabi sa inyong lahat. Karing Cabalen kung Capampangan, mayap a bengi que congan. Dagiti kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga rabi iyu amin apo. Aah, nagado nga ilokano. Sa mga nagikan sa Mindanao asa ko nidako, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan. Sa mga kasimanwa sa akon bana nga Ilonggo, maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan. Sa inyong lahat mga minamahal kong kababayan dito sa Malaysia, magandang gabi muli.

Ano, kumusta na kayo ngayon? Mukhang okey. Ako ay napakasayang narito kaya isang maligaya at taos pusong pagbati ang aking ipinapaabot sa inyong lahat mula sa ating mga kababayan sa Pilipinas.

At salamat sa inyong mainit na naman na pagtanggap sa akin at sa aking mga kasama dito sa Kuala Lumpur. Kamiy nagagalak at nagpapasalamat na tayoy nagkapagtipun-tipon ngayong gabi kahit na itong araw ay ordinaryong araw. Alam ko na karamihan sa inyo Linggo lamang nakakalabas. Kaya mabuti na lamang na nagawan nyo ng paraang magkita-kita tayo ngayong gabi. Alam ko extra itong effort ninyo kaya maraming salamat sa inyo.

yung ating mga emcees kanina, pinaalala nga nila yung ating pagsama-sama dito noon. Naalala ng marami sa inyo — marami sa inyo ang narito rin noon — nagpunta ako dito noong 2001, yon ang aking unang-unang state visit bilang pangulo. At siguro maaalala nyo kung bakit inuna kong bisitahin ang malaysia bago pa man yung mga amerika kagaya ng ibang mga pangulo dahil sa malaking tulong sa ating bansa ng Malaysia at ni prime minister mahathir na mahanap ang kapayapaan, na makapag-negosasyon sa MILF para malutas na ang kaguluhan sa Mindanao.

Ako'y nasisiyahan na naalala ninyo ang sinabi ko noon na kayo ay competent, professional ngunit isa ring sinabi ko noon na kayo ay itinuturing ko bilang overseas Filipino investors. Eh noon hindi pa nga namin... Natin napag-usapan yung pinag-usapan ngayon. Eh di mas lalo ngayon sa napatunayan ninyong ginagawa talagang totoong-totoo nga yung aking bansag pala. Lalo akong naniniwala tuloy sa bansag na ito dahil sa ginagawa nyo dito na habang ginagawa nyo ang ikinabubuti ninyo, ikinabubuti din ninyo ang inyong mga pamayanan doon sa Pilipinas. Halimbawa, nakakagulat yung savings cooperative ninyo. Hindi maraming mga pamayanang Pilipino sa ibat-ibang lugar ay may savings cooperative kagaya nang inyo. At biro mo isang taon lamang three million pesos na. Congratulations sa inyong savings. At saka salamat sa labingwalong classroom na ibibigay ninyo. Sabi nga ni Ambassador Ong for starters pa lamang nga yon eh.

Gusto ko lang ipaliwanag kung papano nagsimula ito. Kasi iniisip ko, everytime na lamang kulang ng kulang ang ating classroom. Sabi ko, aber mag-imbentaryo nga tayo ng minsanan. Lahat ng paaralan kung saan ang student-

classroom ratio ay humihigit sa 100 students to one classroom, dapat magtayo tayo ng bagong schoolbuilding. Kung more than fifty pero less than 100 dapat magkaron ng two shifts. Pero kung more than 100 kahit na two shifts talagang kulang. Kaya doon, sabi ko minsanan magtayo na tayo ng dagdag na classrooms sa lahat ng eskuwelahan that are having more than 100 students per classroom. At narinig ni Secretary Ople at saka ni Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas itong balak. At siyempre yon ay libu-libong classroom ang pangangailangan dahil libu-libo ang mga paaralan kung saan lampas ang 100:1 ang student-classroom ratio. Aba, ikuwenento sa ibang mga OFW at mga overseas Filipinos kagaya ninyo, at ang ganda ng response kasi talaga namang dati nagpapadala kayo, di ba ng pera para mag-aral ang mga kamag-anak ninyo. At maraming beses pa pag akoy nami-miyesta nakikita ko na meron itong donated by the Filipino community of so and so. Ako pa nga ang nag-i-inaugurate ng mga project ninyo doon kung minsan pag ako ang guest speaker sa fiesta. Kaya hindi ako nagugulat pero natutuwa ako na kayo ay nagustuhan ninyo ito ating balak na sa minsanan masarado na natin ang classroom gap sa ating bansa. Salamat sa inyong tulong. Salamat sa 18 classrooms.

At ito namang skills training program, kahanga-hanga. Ito ay ginagawa ninyo sa pamamagitan ng bayanihan. At salamat doon sa mga binigyan ng award kanina dahil binibigay nyo ang inyong mga linggo para matuto yung inyong mga kasamahan. Nalaman ko na ang inyong skills training program ay nagamit na ng marami para matuto at para umasenso.

At siguro dapat malaman din kasi nga marami naman nagnegosyo, gusto ko lang magbigay ng isang halimbawa. Isang halimbawa, na narinig ko ang kanyang kasaysayan ay yung inyong kasamahang dating domestic helper ang pangalan ay si Dolly Sumampong. Kilala ba ninyo si Dolly Sumampong? Siya ay domestic helper. Lola nya labandera sa Davao City. Nanay nya ay overseas domestic helper din. Dito si Dolly ay nag-enrol sa business development class ng aking magaling na dating kasama sa DTI — nasaan si Glen? Nakatanggap ng reward kanina. So, nag-aral siya sa Filipino Workers Resource Center ninyo. Tinuruan nga ng ating trade attache, si Glen Peñaranda — marami ka pala nagagawa dito sa ibabaw ng maraming investment na nakukuha mo Glen — nakakakuha na siya ng maraming Malaysian capital, nakakakuha pa rin pala siya ng Overseas Filipino capital.

Kasi si Dolly, halimbawa, matapos nang isang taong pag-aaral at naka-ipon ng kapital, umuwi siya sa Davao noong 2001. Ngayon, masaya akong iulat sa inyo ang kanyang tagumpay. Meron na siyang dalawang negosyo doon. yung isa ay pangalan SC Laundry Services at yung isa ay Mom Doll Lechon and Food House. kaya siya magandang halimbawa ng overseas Filipino investor. Maraming salamat kay Dolly sa kanyang investment. Pero sa inyo rin, kahit na kayo ay narito pa maraming salamat din sa inyong investment sa Pilipinas. Dahil alam ko tuloy-tuloy ang pagpapadala na ng mga remittances ninyo na tumutulong sa kaginhawaan ng buhay ng mahihirap sa ating bansa.

Mga Pilipinong nakatira sa labas ng bansa, ang pinakamalaking pamayanang Pilipino ay yung nasa Amerika — tatlong milyon sila. Walong milyon kasi ang Pilipinong nasa labas eh. Ang pangalawa pagkatapos ng Amerika na tatlong milyon at marami doon ay American citizens na, ang second at number one sa Overseas Filipino Workers ay ang Saudi Arabia one million. Pero ang pangatlo at pinakamalaki dito sa asia ay ang Malaysia na nga — 600,000 ang Pilipino dito sa Malaysia na nagtatrabaho bilang contract workers bagamat dito sa Peninsula ay 17,000 lamang kayo rito. Kaya sa 17,000 na narito biro nyo 1,200 ang nasa loob at meron pang nandoon sa labas. Kaya halos ten percent ng Filipino community ng Malaysia ay narito ngayong gabi, dito sa working day, talagang ang sipag-sipag ng mga Pilipino at ang taas ng inyong enthusiasm at pagkakaisa.

At sa nakikita ko sa inyo, pangalawang beses na, talagang buong-buo ang aking pagkilala sa inyong mga kontribusyon. Gaya nang sabi ng ating mga emcee ay pasado na pagkatapos ng napakatagal na panahon na hinintay, sa wakas sa aking administrasyon napasa na yung Overseas Voting Law pati na rin yung Dual Citizenship Law.

At ako ay nasisiyahan na dito sa malaysia, nalaman ko na 2,500 sa Pilipino sa Malaysia, dito sa Peninsula, sa maliit na community 17,000, 2,500 sa inyo ang nag-register mula sa Johor, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh at Penang. Kung percentage-wise sa isang community, isa sa pinakamalaking percentage na ang nag-register itong mga Pilipino dito sa Peninsula, Malaysia. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyo.

Kayo ay nag-i-invest sa pag-aaral ng mga kamag-anak ninyo. Nag-i-invest ngayon sa classrooms. Nag-i-invest sa puhunan ng mga kamag-anak ninyo maging sarili ninyong puhunan. At yung savings ay gagamitin din ng savings

cooperatives sa mga pagpuhunan. Isa ring malawak na nagagawa ng aking administrasyon, sabi nga nila sa mga survey na pinakamagandang programa ng aking administrasyon sabi ng ilan ay yung pabahay. Kasi pinakamalawak na pabahay ang naganap na ng ating administrasyon sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa. At marami doon ang bumibili ng pabahay para sa kanilang mga kamag-anak ay mga Overseas Filipino Workers din. Kaya sana kayo rin, sa mga naiimpok ninyo baka pag-isipan nyong bumili ng bahay para sa inyong mga minamahal.

Meron na bang pag-ibig dito, Ambassador? yon. Kaya yan ay isang magandang paraan din para mabigyan ng ginhawa ang inyong mga kababayan sa Pilipinas. Tapos pag-uwi ninyo, di meron din kayong maiuwian na tahanan. Maraming-maraming bahay na ang natayo sa Pilipinas sa dalawang taon at kalahati ng aking administrasyon at marami nga doon ay dahil kayo ay nagregalo ng pabahay sa inyong mga kamag-anak.

Kaya nasisiyahan akong magbisita dito parati. Actually, dalawang beses na tayong nagkita mula nang akoy naging pangulo ngunit actually pang-apat na ang aking pagbisita dito. Kasi pagkatapos ng aking unang state visit inimbata ako naman ni Prime Minister Mahathir sa isang konperensya, business conference. Pagkatapos noon inimbata niya ako doon sa summit meeting ng Non-Aligned Movement kung saan sa magandang trabaho ni Secretary Blas Ople ay naging vice chairman ang Pilipinas. Ngayon vice chairman ang Pilipinas ng Non-Aligned Movement. Ngayon naman gaya nang sinabi ni Ambassador Ong, ang pagparito ko ngayon bilang bisita na naman ni Prime Minister Mahathir, dahil siya ang chairman ng 10th Organization of Islamic Conference Summit na gaganapin bukas.

At ito ay isang malaking karangalan sa Pilipinas dahil sa tagal ng panahon na ang OIC ay existing at nagkakaisa ang mga bansang Muslim ngayon lamang naimbata ang pangulo ng republika ng Pilipinas. At ito inaasahan ko na ang ibig sabihin nito ay nakikita na rin na ang mga bansang Muslim na tayo ay iginagalang natin ang mga muslim sa ating bansa at itinuturing natin sila na talagang tunay na bahagi ng Pilipinas at hindi iba. Kaya narito kasama ko ngayon si Governor Parouk Hussin, siya ang Governor ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Noong panahon ng MNLF rebellion, si Governor Parouk Hussin ang parang shadow foreign minister ng MNLF. Ngayon, MNLF pa rin siya ngunit ang MNLF ay kasama na sa gobyerno ng Pilipinas. yan ang sagisag ni Governor Parouk Hussin.

In fact, kahapon yon, ang magandang report ni Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda ng Indonesia — siya ang chairman ng Committee of the Eight ng Organization of the Islamic Conference na sinusubaybayan yung peace agreement ng Pilipinas at saka ng MNLF — at ang report ni Wirajuda ay natupad na natin ang ating mga pangako sa MNLF peace agreement at pwedeng maituring na yung mnlf peace agreement ang pinakamatagumpay na proyekto ng OIC sa kanyang buong kasaysayan.

Kaya ngayon, narito na naman ako muli para humingi na naman ng tulong ng oic doon naman sa ating paghanap ng kapayapaan sa MILF. At ito ay malaki rin ang pag-asa. Ang pagkakasundong nabubuo sa mga institusyong kagaya ng U.N. at OIC para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa Mindanao, yon ay nagbibigay sa atin ng malaking pangarap at saka pag-asa.

Ngayon, ang hangad nating kapayapaan ay abot-kamay na sakaling matuloy ang peace talks. At yung peace talks malamang ay matutuloy dito sa Kuala Lumpur tungo sa pagkaroon ng pangmatagalang kasunduan.

Nagkaroon nga ako ng isang maliit na revamp sa aking Cabinet, at si Secretary Angelo Reyes na dating Secretary ng National Defense ay siya ngayon ang aking Special Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism. Gawa nang lahat ng bansa na lumalaban sa terrorism ay meron silang ganung pwesto. At yon ang ginagawa ni Secretary Reyes. In fact, nandoon siya sa Amerika ngayon dahil dito sa trabahong yon. Ang ginawa kong Secretary of National Defense tuloy ay si Secretary Ed Ermita na siya ay dating Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process at chairman ng peace panel para sa peace talks. Mula sa kapayapaan siya ngayon ang humahawak ng national defense. Anong mensahe yon? Gusto natin isama sa mainstream ng defense policy ang ating peace policy. yan din ang ibig sabihin nang paghirang ko kay Secretary Ed Ermita bilang secretary ng National Defense. Si Secretary Ed Ermita naman ngayon ang magpapatupad ng ating kasunduan kasama ng Indonesia at Malaysia para sa paglaban sa terorismo. Dahil tayong tatlong magkapit-bansa — eh yung mga terorista paikot-ikot sa ating mga bansa eh — kasi meron tayong common

seas, kaya meron din tayong agreement, tayong tatlo. Tatlong bansa na maglaban sama-sama. Si Ermita naman ang magpapatupad noon.

Kaya nandito siya ngayon para magpaalam sa mga tumutulong sa ating peace process na Malaysian at para ipakilala naman yung kanyang kapalit, eto ay si Secretary Ging Deles. Si Secretary Ging Deles, noong siya ay nasa ngo bago EDSA 2, buong buhay niya halos ay binigay niya para hanapin ang kapayapaan. Kaya ngayon... Nung ako ay naging pangulo siya ay naging presidential adviser... Ah, secretary for Anti-Poverty. Pero ngayon, balik siya sa kanyang pangunahing mahal na ginagawa sa buong buhay niya at yon ay ipairal ang kapayapaan sa Pilipinas. Kaya talagang hinahanap natin ang kapayapaan sa pamamagitan ng pag-uusap at sa pamamagitan din ng paglalaban sa mga terorista.

yung pagkapatay sa international terrorist na si Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi sa Mindanao noong Linggo, yan ay patunay ng ating determinasyon na supilin ang bantang ito sa gitna ng positibong kaganapan tulad ng lumalawak na partisipasyon ng ating mga karatig-bansa sa asean paglaban sa terorismo kasama na nga ang Malaysia.

The terrorists are falling one by one. This reduces the weight of terrorist threats across the broad range of countries in Southeast Asia including our country of course. Were moving effectively to check terror in concert with our neighbors like Malaysia. Our ongoing constriction measures are eating up their room for maneuver and the peace process with the MILF will continue to isolate them. Our determined moves against poverty will drain their recruitment bases. We shall beat terrorism decisively and comprehensively.

Sa dalawa at kalahating taon sa aking pagka-pangulo, nagkaroon na ako ng malawak na karanasan para hanapin ang kapayapaan, para labanan ang terorista, para maunawaan ang mga kailangang gawin upang baguhin ang ating lipunan sa paraang magdudulot ng paglago ng ekonomiya at pagwakas sa kahirapan.

Talagang nakita ko sa dalawang taon at kalahati ng aking pagka-pangulo na kailangan pa ang malalim na pagbabago hindi lamang ng araw-araw na gawain kundi ang sistema mismo ng ating pulitika at ekonomiya gaya nang ginawa ni mahatir nung unang mga taon ng kanyang pagka-prime minister. Bago naka-unlad ang Malaysia ng ganito maraming kinailangan gawing pagbabago si Mahathir sa sistema mismo ng Malaysia. At sa ibabaw ng pagpapalit ng sistema mismo kailangan din ng ating bansa na mahilom ang malalim na hidwaan sa ating lipunan. Meron tayong MILF, may gobyerno; may komunista, may mga demokratika... Maka-demokrasya; may EDSA 2, may EDSA 3. Pero doon sa gitna malamang yung mga kamag-anak ninyong karaniwang Pilipino ayaw nila yung may komunista, may maka-demokrasya. Ayaw nila yung MILF, may gobyerno. Ayaw nila yung may EDSA 2, may EDSA 3. Gusto nila magsama-sama na lamang lahat. At yon ang ating kailangang gawin. At yon ang aking sinisikap.

Sinasabi ko nga parati, it is my duty to be the president of EDSA 2 and EDSA 3. Kailangan magkaisa ang ating bansa. Sa nakita ko sa inyong palakpak gusto nyo rin ang ganun.

Kaya, mula rito magagawa ninyo ang marami kagaya ng pinatunayan ng mga binigyan natin ng mga awards dito. Kaya ang hinihingin ko sa inyo muli, mga kaibigan, tulongan ninyo akong gawin itong mga pagbabagong kailangan sa ating bansa. Ginagawa na nga ninyo yung classrooms, yung skills upgrading, yung savings. Salamat mga huwarang Pilipino sa Malaysia. Sana tuloy-tuloy pa ang inyong tagumpay.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141430/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7385&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at a Bilateral Meeting with United States President George W. Bush

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At a Bilateral Meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush**

[Delivered at the Study Room, Malacañang Palace, October 18, 2003]

A REVITALIZED AND MATURING ALLIANCE

I'd like to thank President Bush for coming to the Philippines on this state visit. It affirms the warm and deep relations between our two countries. It's another building block in a revitalized and maturing alliance rooted in shared history and shared values, a common interest in global peace and prosperity, as well as a real commitment to combating terrorism and advancing freedom.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the United States for its support for the Philippines as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the term 2004 to 2005, and also for designating the Philippines as a major non-NATO ally.

I also welcome the Joint Defense Assessment made by our respective defense agencies. It recognizes that the world today requires a new perspective on political and economic security. The assessment recognizes the determination of the Philippines to take greater responsibility for its own political and economic security, even as it acknowledges that strong relations with the U.S. will contribute greatly to peace and prosperity, stability and security especially from terrorism.

Indeed, we must close ranks and stand firm against terrorist threats, however grave, however armed and from whatever quarter.

When Dos Palmas hostagetaking happened in May 2001, the Philippines chose to fight terrorism, compensating for such modest means at its command with an unshakeable resolve to defeat it once and for all.

I thank President Bush for continued security assistance which enhances the means to defeat terrorism. I also appreciate the help of President Bush for increased economic assistance to alleviate poverty and other socio-economic ills from which terrorism draws its strength.

I take pride in the robust economic ties that bind the Philippines and the United States. This past week in preparation for this visit, we witnessed the launching in the Philippines of "Convergys", the largest customer care service company in the world which is hiring 3,000 workers in its first year of operation.

We also witnessed the launching of the new 50 million-dollar investment of Ford, to launch the Philippines as an export hub to the world. We received 33 million dollars of new USAid money for educational assistance in the conflict-affected areas, and we celebrated the electrification of 1,650 barangays with the contribution of one million pesos per barangay from Mirant Cal Energy in San Roque – all in preparation for your visit, Mr. President.

I look forward to the rest of my talks with President Bush and the officials of his administration.

Once again, thank you, Mr. President. And thanks to Mrs. Bush for making this state visit to the Philippines.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at the State Dinner in Honor of President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the State Dinner in Honor of President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, October 18, 2003]

REVISITING RP-US RELATIONS

First of all, I would like to say, welcome to Malacañang!

American leaders also lived and worked here. This home is a monument to the relationship between the Philippines and the United States of over a century. This relationship has been warm and deep in the hearts of our peoples and nations. And today Mr. President, you saw in the thousands of people who were in the streets to meet you with great joy, how much the Filipino people love and admire you. And I am sure that you have seen that I can speak for them when I say that we are proud you are here.

We have a revitalized and maturing alliance rooted in shared history — exemplified by this monument in which we lived and worked — rooted in shared values, a common interest in global peace and prosperity, as well as a real commitment to combating terrorism and advancing freedom. We know the pain of terror, we know the relief brought by knowing we have faithful partners against terror. We appreciate that the United States has delivered indispensable support and assistance to our efforts to marginalize terrorists, and also to drain the breeding places of their recruits and push the frontiers of development and social justice to win the peace.

Today, we agreed to work on the recommendations of the Joint Defense Assessment, towards a realistic security cooperation program in which the Philippines takes greater responsibility for its own political and economic security, even as strong support from the U.S. will contribute to peace and prosperity, stability and security especially from terrorism.

We also take pride in the robust economic and trade ties that bind the Philippines and the United States. And tonight, we had in our midst American chief executive officers, who came to the Philippines just to be with you tonight in this dinner, Mr. President.

Our friendship has ripened into a maturity befitting the information age of the 21st century, largely practical with just the right tint of sentimentality and warmth by a growing people to people solidarity here and in the United States. For the Philippines, our friendship takes into account the three million of our men and women who lived in and contribute to the development of the economy of the United States. It also takes into account the young soldiers of World War II, now senior veterans, who fought side by side with American soldiers in defense of democracy.

Mr. President, Congress gave you a rousing welcome as well in Congress, and the Philippine nation heard your speech at the joint session. It was inspiring, many have said. And so I can say that our meetings today in Malacañang and in Congress will lead us forward.

We shall continue to respond to the manifold threats and challenges we faced in the spirit of a blossoming covenant that lives in the realities of the 21st century, especially the conjunction between security and development that has become a paramount reality in the developing world.

On this note, friends I invite you all to join me in a toast for the continued success and good health of His Excellency President and Mrs. Bush, and the strong partnership between our two countries.

Mabuhay!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo the Annual Convention/Election and Seminar of the Philippine Judges Association

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Annual Convention/Election and Seminar of the Philippine Judges Association**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel, Ermita, Manila, October 23, 2003]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Kuya Etcho for the introduction.

Senate President Drilon; Speaker De Venecia; Chief Justice Davide; Judge De La Cruz and the judges of the Republic of the Philippines; Secretary Datumanong; Justice Velasco; our senators represented here by the principal sponsor of the Judicial Reform Law, Kiko Pangilinan; congressmen – Nonoy Llibanan, the principal sponsor of the same law that I just signed, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales, Congressman Nonoy Andaya. I believe we... Do we have Congressman Cajes here and Congressman Angara Castillo, Congressman Danton Bueser; fellow workers in government; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

It's so providential that the Senate and the House were able to ratify such a far-reaching landmark legislation on judicial reform in time for my it here in your convention. And I thank them for it, but I think once again the Lord's timing is perfect, and it was the Lord who timed this ratification.

I thank them for their work. It's a landmark piece of work. I would like to congratulate not only them but all of you who worked for it including our justices who are here in the front row today. I'd like to greet them too. Indeed, it is a tribute and a recognition of Philippine society of the hard work that our judges are doing for peace, order and the rule of law in our society.

I know the trials and tribulations of being a judge, not because I'm a lawyer, but I have a cousin who is a judge, I had an uncle who was a judge. I had an uncle too who was a judge. And observing them through the years and observing many of you whom I know, I can see that many judges have placed future on the line. And even more than that have placed family on the line. And even more than that have even placed life on the line to fight crime and terror.

All these in return for what used to be until today a salary that is much lower from the starting pay of a brand new lawyer in a De Campanilla Makati Law firm — that is up to today. Today, it was my honor and pleasure to sign into Law R.A. 9227, upgrading the compensation of judges. The culmination of the good work that the gentlemen in the platform and the lady in the front row have been working so hard for to come up with the correct bill in the right format, in the right source of budgetary allocation.

I thank the members of Congress. They heard your voices. But even before they heard your voices they saw the mute testimony of the many Salas that had no applicants and they share our philosophy that justice also demands that those who deliver it should likewise participate of its benefits.

Many sectors ask for an increase in pay but not all sectors have a mute testimony of Salas without applicants. It just goes to show that what used to be in the law was not the correct level that would have an equilibrium between the demand and the supply of judges.

And therefore, what the market would otherwise have provided for if our society were to be completely free enterprise including government pay was recognized by our congressmen and our senators. And we thank them for that. We thank them for realizing which petitions for increase in pay are the most essential and which are desirable but less essential. There are those that we wish will happen. There are those that must happen, and they recognize what must happen is the increase in pay of our judges.

I too have many times advocated this increase in salaries and allowances of members of the judiciary. I've said this in such unlikely venues as the PMA Alumni gathering and the PNP anniversary celebration because at that time I said the soldiers are getting their pay increase, the police have gotten their pay increase. If we really want to complete the reform of law enforcement and the criminal justice system, the judges also have to have their pay increase. That is an integral part of our reform program.

Many of us and certainly I have long held that the most basic foundations of democracy are the rule of law and an environment of peace. Where the law commands little respect, chaos will not be far behind; where peace is continually threatened the law becomes meaningless in the lives of citizens. Where there is lawlessness and unpeace, there is no progress for peoples or nations.

The community, the jailer, the judge, the prosecutor, the law enforcer all have an indispensable role to play.

And the judicial reform law that we just passed and signed is one of the most important components of judicial reform. Other components are being done within the judiciary itself. And we to the extent that it's possible to comment on interbranch independence, we would like to commend the judicial reforms being done at the side of the judiciary under the great leadership of Chief Justice Davide.

Earlier I said that the judges that I have observed have put their careers, their life, their future, their families on the line to fight criminality, and also in this day and age to fight even terrorism. Like all nations, we have to face the threat of terrorism but let's stop terrorizing ourselves. Let's keep the strength to jump forward day-to-day. We in the government including you when you do your judgments are doing something about the Jemaah Islamiyah in concert with other nations. And we will contain this threat, if not totally eliminate it. The death of Al-Ghozi and the recent arrest of Taufek Refke are proof of our collective determination and capability to end this threat.

This is an important event in our fight against terrorism. The signing of the bill into law today and the arrest of Taufek. We have exposed a large cell of the Jemaah Islamiyah here in Mindanao. Recent events show that their sinister plans are both deadly and far-ranging, both intended to threaten our country and to sow fear in the region.

I commend the judges who have been issuing timely warrants of arrest or rendering timely decisions of conviction for all of the things that we have had to do to fight crime and terrorism.

In as much as I talk about judges in PMA and PNP meetings, allow me to use a judges' meeting also now to commend the armed forces, the immigration bureau and the PNP for the deep and excellent sleuthing that led to the capture of Taufek Refke early this month. He was trained by the infamous Al-Ghozi somewhere in the mountain vastness of Central Mindanao. Their curriculum: murder tactics, weapons to sow widespread fear and panic, explosives, among others. Reports have it that a large number of his cohorts in training have returned to Indonesia but he stayed here to become the moneybag of the JI in Mindanao.

We have identified his companions and we have sounded out the Indonesian authorities. In Cotabato City, again, with the help of a judge's warrant of arrest, we raided a safehouse containing underground records of high intelligence value. Government operatives are pouring into Mindanao for the manhunt that will not relent until all these fugitives are accounted for.

The terrorists are falling one by one. This reduces the weight of terrorist threats across the broad range of targets in our country and across Southeast Asia. We are moving effectively to check terror as I said earlier in concert with our neighbors. Our ongoing constriction measures are eating up their room for maneuver. The peace process with the MILF will continue to isolate them. Our determined moves against poverty will drain their recruitment bases. We shall beat terror decisively and comprehensively. And when we say comprehensively all the way until conviction and that is the great contribution of our judges to the rule of law and the fight against terrorism.

I would like to take this opportunity also to commend the western police district for displaying the needed vigilance and taking firm action against residual threats connected with the Oakwood incident. The raid on the Magdalo safehouse is a clear signal to would-be destabilizers that they have nowhere to hide and they will be arrested one way or the other. What the WPD did should serve as an example to other law enforcement units. And of course, what they did is only the first step in a long chain of the rule of law which will find its way in the Sala of our judges.

And whether it comes to stopping petty crimes in the streets, to taking on the scourge of drugs, and even the greater challenge of terrorism, the judges are at the forefront.

With this new law on judicial compensation, we hope to bring justice to more people through the resolution of more cases as a result of making the judicial branch a more attractive option for lawyers. We also find in it a strong shield from temptations to which our judges and justices are always exposed.

This law is a worthy companion to the respect and dignity accorded to the members of the court and a manifestation of social justice, this time with the judges and justices as the beneficiaries of social justice. Above all, it is insurance... It is insurance that the rule of law will ever prevail in our land.

Of the three branches of government, the judiciary is the one that provides the people a sense of permanence and a constancy of direction. But this role is not easily performed. The credibility of judges is not one that can be openly wooed like that of politicians. It is a credibility gained from the competence in judgment, the impartiality of decisions, the swiftness by which justice is meted out and the probity by which judges lead their lives.

Yours is an institution that has been built for over a hundred years, a hundred two years. It is a fragile institution in a democracy or a republic that is not yet strong. It is an institution that can be eroded by the mere hint of suspicion or sudden attack.

Nothing, indeed, can help a republic endure more than strong institutions of law, as stated by your theme: "A Strong Judiciary: the Sentinel of Democracy."

While the institutions are not yet strong, and we are hoping, in fact we are confident that the reform law that I just signed, that these gentlemen and the lady worked so hard to pass, will strengthen that institution of the judiciary.

I bear faith in your courage and fortitude as individual judges to live up to the challenge.

Mga huwes ng Pilipinas, napakalaki ang pag-asa ng taong bayan sa inyo. And so on this day, as we begin a new chapter in the institution of the judiciary, to all of you, judges, I wish you the best in the performance of your duty. And as more judges join you now, because it has become more attractive to be a judge, I hope that there will be more speedier justice for the poor, for the rich, for the weak, for the strong. And thereby, you will be a vanguard in strengthening our Republic.

Mabuhay ang mga huwes ng Pilipinas.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141404/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7382&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo towards a Culture of Responsible Information

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Towards a Culture of Responsible Information**

[Delivered at Ballrooms 1 & 2, Dusit Hotel Manila, Makati City, October 24, 2003]

TOWARDS A CULTURE OF RESPONSIBLE INFORMATION

Last night, the Philippines was elected to the U.N. Security Council. Our seat in the U.N. Security Council combined with our earlier designation as a major non-NATO ally by the United States, puts our country in a vantage position to contribute to world peace and to achieve enduring peace in our own shores. It is a source of national pride that 179 out of 182 countries voted for the Philippines. We only needed 122 votes to be elected. We got 179 votes. This shows the support, respect and prestige we have gained in the international community. This is because of the Filipinos' courage and sacrifice in the fight against terrorism, in the fight against poverty and in our willingness to work with other nations in promulgating international consensus, multilateral peacekeeping and the Rule of Law.

We shall continue to stand by these principles as we strive to keep every Filipino home and family safe from harm and closer to economic prosperity.

Yesterday, too, the number two man of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) in the Philippines was presented to the public after being arrested a short while ago. We are elevating the JI into our national official threat spectrum. We used to have the MILF, the NPA and the Abu Sayyaf up there. But I have decided to update our priorities. The JI's sinister plans are both deadly and far-ranging. Both intended to threaten our country and to sow fear in the region.

At any rate, we're about to enter into formal talks with the MILF, and the Abu Sayyaf is a spent force. We're going therefore into a more focused campaign against the JI with a complete order of battle, a new order of targets for domestic and transnational intelligence in concert with our allies.

We're moving effectively to check terror in concert with our neighbors. Our ongoing constriction measures are cutting up their room for maneuver. The peace process with the MILF will continue to isolate them. Our determined moves against poverty will drain their recruitment bases.

Meanwhile, preparations for the peace talks with the MILF are pushing forward. Philippine officials and MILF representatives are to meet in Malaysia very soon to set a timetable for the formal negotiations. As Prime Minister Mahathir steps down on October 31st — I'm glad his ambassador is here — I take this opportunity to express once again my gratitude to him for his abiding support for the peace process,

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes and greetings for greater unity and peace to the Muslim world on the start of the Ramadan tomorrow.

Our peace panel has just finished setting the detailed guidelines for closer coordination with the MILF in going after lawless elements. The authorities are readying a list of wanted persons to be delivered to the MILF, and, I expect them to cooperate in assisting find these wanted elements.

I want the MILF specifically to stand clear of the JI because we have special teams on the trail of the JI fugitives and we don't want this manhunt to get in the way of the peace talks.

President Bush's recent visit was a boost to political and economic security in the region. In the run-up to the visit, "Convergys", the last customer service company in the world, committed to make us a center of operations. Ford put in an additional 50 million dollars to launch the Philippines as an export hub to the world. Mirant Cal opened a power plant in the Visayas and staked more of its resources to contribute to our barangay electrification program. Intel applied for a 300-million peso expansion. And just a few days ago, Texas instruments announced a 70 million dollars expansion.

The state visit marked another step forward in the development of a modern, mature relationship between friends and equals. President Bush acknowledged the gains we have made in all fronts, including poverty alleviation and combating corruption. And we appreciate his generous words for our country and our government.

In keeping with our agreement that we made during my state visit to the U.S. to conduct a comprehensive security assessment, President Bush and I reviewed and endorsed the findings of the 2003 Joint Defense Assessment (JDA) of our armed forces' capabilities and requirements.

The purpose of the JDA is to assist our government in developing a defense program that will improve the ability of the Philippine military to respond to threats to our security. President Bush in his statement to the Philippine Congress committed to assist us in our program of military reform, including increased allocation of resources to our national defense.

I also welcomed the new U.S. initiative to strengthen education in the poorest and most conflicted areas of the Philippines, particularly Mindanao. This new program complements our government's efforts to uplift the communities in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and expand their access to education and training.

The visit of President Bush was a prelude to the APEC Summit. The APEC leaders committed to revive negotiations at the WTO and pledged anew to eliminate terrorism. APEC economies are collectively determined to put more reasonable consensus into the multilateral trading system, make a dent on global poverty and mop up the recruitment grounds of extremism.

All these eventually will translate to a better life for our people. The Philippines was cited by APEC as one of the fastest growing economies in the Asia Pacific region. Of the 21 member-economies, the Philippines ranks number six in probable GDP growth for this year. And I'm talking GDP because our GNP growth is usually higher but even by the more conservative GDP growth, we will be outpaced this year only by China, Vietnam and Russia, Thailand and Malaysia.

Whatever boons we are facing will be a cumulative effect of what we've done over the past two and a half years.

We insulated our country quite effectively from the impact of SARS. We gained market share in electronics even when it was weak worldwide. That's why Intel and Texas instruments are making these major expansions. We prevented the El Niño phenomenon from depressing our rice production, right Cito? Where's Cito L? Right?

We are pushing the frontiers of social reform in tandem with the peace process.

Through my trials and little triumphs in the difficult past two years and a half — difficult for our country and difficult for the world — I gained the experience and the insight to shape effective political, economic and social policies to fight corruption through positive and negative measures, to control terrorism wielding domestic programs and international cooperation, to combine good governance with fiscal discipline and macroeconomic stability.

We need even bigger things to do. We need to keep the deficit in check but more than that, we need to reduce our debt to GDP ratio. We need to do lifestyle checks and prosecute erring officials but more than that, we need to build

up the institutions to rev up the fight against corruption, and of course, against poverty -the fundamental problem of our society.

We need fundamental reforms to bring about long-term solutions to finally strengthen a republic. Yes, we need reforms and we need reconciliation.

I'm sorry to learn of the impeachment raps against Chief Justice Davide. The Executive is obligated to stand down from this controversy involving co-equal branches of government. However, I would like to douse wild speculations that we are in the midst of a constitutional crisis. So far it appears that the Rule of Law is being followed and there is a Constitutional process being applied. I only wish that the process will be speedy and insulated from heavy partisan or personal undertones. Let us demonstrate institutional strength and stability and the will to uphold democracy, justice and fair play.

As Mr. Nathan said, we have had many trials this past year. We have had many trials these past three years for that matter. And I thank you once again for inviting me here today as you said, to reflect on some of these important happenings in our country and in the world.

Thank you, once again, for inviting me and I hope we have a good exchange. Thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening program of the 2003 Palarong Pambansa

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening program of the 2003 Palarong Pambansa**

[Delivered at the Mindanao Civic Center Grandstand and Oval Area Tubod, Lanao del Norte, October 25, 2003]

Daghang salamat, Congressman Dimaporo.

Daghang salamat Sab Governor Imelda Dimaporo; Chairman Buhain; Congressman Badelles; mga laing-laing mayors sa Tibuok Pilipinas, Mindanao at buong Ppilipinas; aton mga governors headed by the governor of Davao Del Norte, the President of ULAP, Governor Dolfo del Rosario; aniha sab si Governor Loreto Ocampos, whose beautiful daughter sang our national anthem and the Llanao Del Norte hymn; ARMM Vice Governor Mahid Mutilan; Cabinet members — Secretary Mike Defensor, Secretary Mai Jimenez and Secretary Dick Gordon, Undersecretary Bacani; Congressman Monico Puentevella, Chairman of the Sports Committee of the House of Representatives, sa inyong mga lahat, magandang araw, kahit na umuulan, sa inyong lahat.

‘Di ko hahabain ang aking diskurso kasi ayokong masipon kayong lahat. Maayong hapon kaninyong tanan. Assalaamu alaikum pagariya. Binabati ko ang lahat ng naritong dumalo sa pagbukas nitong ating palarong pambansa itong taon. Espesyal ang akong pag-abi-abi sa mga pumuluyo sa Lanao del Norte asa ko nidako, nagdugay ang akong kinabuhi diri. Salamat sa mga officials sa DepEd diri ug tanan ug mitabang aron madayon kining palaro. Binabati ko rin ang lahat ng ating kababayang Muslim sa pagsimula sa araw ng ramadhan bukas. At hinihiling ko rin sa ibang Pilipinong hindi muslim na makiisa sa pagdiriwang ng ramadhan at isama rin sa panalangin ang kapayapaan ng mindanao at ng buong bansa.

Wala tayong mas hinahangad pa kundi mawakasan ang kaguluhan at terorismo dito at nang ang pangmatagalang kapayapaan ay lubusan na nating matamo. Ang tagumpay natin laban sa terorismo at para sa kapayapaan ay mangangahulugan magiging mabilis ang mga gawain para sa kaunlaran lalo na dito sa mindanao. At hindi na mauulit ‘yung pangyayari naghintay ng ilang buwan, hindi lang ilang buwan, ilang taon na maging host ng palaro dahil sa banta sa seguridad ng mga manlalaro.

The Palarong Pambansa is a symbol of excellence in sports. And now, more than ever, the palaro is a tribute to our unity and solidarity as a people. An affirmation that sports can bridge differences and misunderstanding, transcending religion, culture and tradition, understood by everyone regardless of one’s dialect and a common language of peace and camaraderie. It is also a tribute to the energy that the young can contribute to our country’s future. At sana dahil bata pa kayo, maraming energy at masigla, hindi kayo sisipunin kahit na nababasa kayo.

Ang sports ay humuhubog sa kabataan. At sabi nga ni Dr. Jose Rizal, ang kabataan kagaya ninyo ang pag-asa ng ating bayan. An important goal in the Palarong Pambansa is to develop champions, local and international, from among our youth. Kaya nga ako ay nananawagan din sa lahat ng ating mga manlalaro at atletang narito, gawin ninyo ang inyong makakaya upang matulad kayo sa mga kilalang pilipinong manlalaro tulad nila Lydia de Vega-Mercado, Elma Muros-Posadas at Isidro Del Prado na nagsimulang makilala sa mga Palarong Pambansa.

Ako'y nagpapasalamat din sa lahat ng mga kabataang narito na nagsisilbing modelo hindi lamang sa kanilang kapwa-kabataan kundi na rin sa inyong mga pamayanan, ang pagpalakas ng katawan at pag-iwas sa bawal na gamot. Sabi nga ni Congressman Fuentevella sa kanyang distrito sa Bacolod, "do sports, not drugs." at 'yon din ang isang layunin ng ating palaro.

Bago ako naging pangulo ay napakasama ng ating batas ukol sa pinagbabawal na gamot. Bago ka makulong nang permanente kinakailangan 200 grams ng shabu. Kaya't agad-agad na pinabago ko ang batas at binaba ito sa 10 grams upang matigil na ang walang humpay na pagbebenta at makulong ang mga sindikato ng bawal na gamot. Ngayon, patuloy tayo sa kampanya laban sa bawal na gamot sa lahat ng kalye, sa lahat ng barangay, sa lahat ng siyudad at lungsod. At tuloy-tuloy ang ating laban upang makulong ang lahat nang nagbebenta ng bawal na gamot. Hindi ako papayag na sirain nang droga ang kinabukasan ng ating kabataan at ang pag unlad ng ating bayan.

Kaya ngayon pa lamang, lalo ninyong paghusayin ang inyong paglalaro. Maglaro sa sports, hindi sa droga. Dapat magamit ang ating natutunan sa palakasan upang paghandaan ang kinabukasan — competitiveness, team play, respect for the rules of the game. Kailangan ang mga ito sa sports. Kailangan din ang mga ito para sa malakas na republika. Kailangan rin nating labanan pa natin ang terorismo at ipagpatuloy ang peace talks habang patuloy ang rehabilitasyon ng mga nasalantang lugar sa mindanao. Kailangang siguruhin na ang pagpapalaganap ng kapayapaan ay kaagapay ng pagpapaunlad sa pamayanan. Kailangan ipagtaguyod natin ang kabuuan at integridad ng teritoryo ng Pilipinas na aayon sa ating saligang batas. Kailangan bigyan ang bawat isa ng tamang paggalang at pagkilala anuman ang kanyang relihiyon o kultura nang sa gayon ay maiwasan ang pagkakawatak-watak na nagtutuloy sa hidwaan.

Let us be united. Let us be one team, the team of the Republic of the Philippines.

Kaya nalulungkot ako sa kasong impeachment na sinampa kontra kay Chief Justice Davide, na nirerespeto ko sa kanyang integridad at pagka-professional. No chief justice has imagined and undertaken a reform program of the judiciary as comprehensive and far-ranging as the program now undertaken by Chief Justice Davide. It is a bold and revolutionary reform effort that will bring our judicial system to the 21st century. It is a vital effort that will strengthen our democracy and satisfy our people's demand for reliable and speedy justice. And that is why I am hoping that we shall be able to overcome the divisions and wounds that continue to divide us.

I will ensure and uphold both the integrity of the institutions of the Supreme Court and the House of Representatives. We shall overcome this conflict. Inaasahan ko na sa madaling panahon, mareresolba ang hidwaan ng Kongreso at Korte Suprema dahil maging bansa o sa palaro kailangan ang fair play at teamwork.

We need fair play. Kailangan natin ang katarungan. And we need teamwork. Kailangan natin ang pagkakaisa. Kailangan natin ang rekonsilyasyon maging sa bansa, maging sa palaro.

And on this note, I now declare the 2003 Palarong Pambansa open.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Program of the 2003 Palarong Pambansa. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141339/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7188&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremony by the Concerned Women of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding ceremony by the Concerned Women of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, October 27, 2003]

Thank you very much.

Our new Justices, our new Ambassadors, our new Generals, our new Judges, our new Cabinet officials, the new inductees in the various outstanding and prestigious organizations of the Philippines. And of course, the Concerned Women of the Philippines who have given me this award.

In behalf of all of the awardees, I would like to thank all of the inductees today for joining the government and also for your active participation in civic activities in our country. And I would like to thank the Concerned Women of the Philippines for this very important and valuable award.

This morning, some of us were together at the Supreme Court, to hear mass. On my part I prayed that all ends well in the Davide impeachment controversy, and that God give us the wisdom to be constructive, fair and ever loyal to the flag. I believe that there must be peace among our great institutions if there is to be peace in our democratic society.

Without going into the merits of the impeachment case, over the weekend, since the controversy broke out, I consulted with the chief justice, the speaker of the house and Mr. Eduardo Cojuangco about the controversy. Again, without going into the legal merits of the issue, I have been trying to seek a principled solution in the national interest.

I had earlier said, last Thursday, that this being an issue involving co-equal branches of government, I deemed it proper for the executive to stand aside and allow constitutional processes to take their course. However, a political threshold has been reached in which the presidency is called upon for the extraordinary duty to mediate a controversy that may invite opportunistic destabilization attempts perpetrated by parties outside the dispute.

Indeed, it was not my intention until now to interfere in the substance of the constitutional process put in motion in the legislature, or much less to intervene in behalf of any parties involved. But what I want is for our people to be freed from the anxieties that could adversely affect their work and livelihood, and for our economic and political stability to be secure in the eyes of our people and in the eyes of the international audience.

This looking for a solution does not involve any deals with anyone or any vested interests. I do this with pure and patriotic intentions, with only national unity and reconciliation at heart.

I believe that even in the face of the constitutional separation of powers, when the supreme welfare of the people is involved, all the constitutions of our republican democracy must have a congruence of faith and action.

A woman is at the center of governance of our nation today, and it's my job as chief executive to execute the assurance that I made last Friday to the people of the Philippines and the people of the world that we are not in the midst of a constitutional crisis. It is my job as chief executive to make that assurance stay a reality and to avert a constitutional crisis.

Today, the woman is at the center of governance, not merely because the president is a woman, but because we have fielded women of all ages and persuasions in key positions in the public service.

But more than that the woman is at the center of changing things in our society where change needs to be done. The awardees today are and were women who have championed change and have been able to achieve much change. Women are also the champions of peace and reconciliation.

In many parts of the country, women have quietly nurtured a culture of peace by helping address not only the immediate causes of conflict, but by boldly striking at its roots — inequity, injustice, economic exclusion.

Poverty reduction is the highest agenda of my administration. And women have helped me lead that struggle.

For one, peace can only thrive in an environment of relative prosperity and social justice. And that is why we need to fight poverty aside from that poverty in itself is an evil we must fight.

But building a culture of peace does not stop at addressing poverty.

Peace only reigns when human worth is upheld. The way to peace is the nurturance of the good values of global citizenship, mutual respect, tolerance, solidarity, and freedom with responsibility.

And I am proud, as having been one of the members of the Concerned Women of the Philippines, that these values are the values that the Concerned Women of the Philippines have fought for all these decades.

And let me say again that poverty or social exclusion does not confer the license to kill or to maim. People cannot claim the right to dignity at the expense of other lives.

And once again, I congratulate the awardees of the Concerned Women of the Philippines for what they did especially during martial law in order to ensure human dignity and human rights.

Today, the fight is against terrorism but lurking in the distant clouds is a possibility again that the days of dictatorship and authoritarian rule may come upon us if we are not careful to avert the crisis that could lead to another destabilization.

Women must be involved in this fight. Women must be involved in the fight against terror, in the fight against the possible return of dictatorial forces. Not only in tasks of vigilance, but in the greater task of fighting poverty in the recruitment fields of those who would become the hatchet men and errand boys of the terrorists and the would-be authoritarian rightist rulers.

I have had great difficulty during the past two and a half years of my administration because I came into this position amid great turmoil in the world and in our country. You know only too well the trauma of that impeachment trial. We cannot go through another trauma again because that trial left our country divided. We cannot afford to divide it again already divided as it is.

I came into the presidency when the world had not yet recovered from the 1997 Asian crisis. In 2001, that was compounded by the bursting of I.T. bubble, 9-11 came, early 2003 was SARS. I am proud though that through these critical years, especially the last two and a half years, the Philippines was cited by the last APEC summit as one of the fastest growing economies in the Asia Pacific region. Of the 21 member economies of the Asia Pacific region,

and they include the most powerful and the most advanced economies in the world, the Philippines is number six in growth forecast for this year, out of 21.

The upturn for the second half of the year is due to the recovery taking place in the U.S. and Japan, along with Europe. But our economic prospects will largely depend not on the growth in those countries but on the course of our way of doing politics.

Already, we can see the mudslinging, the libelous air, the recriminations, the raw posturings in the horizon and even on center stage.

I do not wish to be part of this sorry spectacle of traditional and destructive politics.

I seek to address issues to work, to plod. I seek reconciliation, not further division of this already divided nation.

Our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty.

To develop our economy and create a strong republic, we need to change our system of doing things, to institute true reforms in our politics as well as in our economy. We also need to unify as a people.

I want to concentrate on the economy, on getting jobs back, on healing divisions, on clean elections. And these are difficult things to do in the last several years of internal and external crisis, but the other countries are beginning to recover and we cannot afford to be left behind. We cannot afford for our country to go into the way of destruction because of greater divisions.

And I see my role at this point in time as somebody who will seek a healing, who will seek reconciliation, who will seek a solution to the constitutional crisis that we all want to avoid. It is my role to seek a solution before the crisis even breaks out. And that was why I heard mass this morning with the justices of the supreme court, with the employees of the supreme court, with the judges and the lawyers of the Philippines, and several of you who were there including the Concerned Women of the Philippines.

As I accept the award that you have given me and I feel so honored to receive this award in the midst of the great women that I was able to observe and admire outside and inside the Concerned Women of the Philippines. I mean I admire them from outside and I admire them from inside as a member. I ask you all to join me in praying for a healing, a reconciling solution. Help me make the right decisions and do the right persuasions to assure our country in the world that indeed when we say that we are not in the midst of a constitutional crisis, we mean what we say and we can deliver what we can assure the world.

To all of you, I thank you. This is a defining moment in our history. Let us be united in seeking a solution, the solution that is in accordance with the will of the Lord above.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding Ceremony by the Concerned Women of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141305/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7184&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the Center for Health Improvement and Life Development (CHILD) House Project

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of the Center for Health Improvement and Life Development (CHILD) House
Project**

[Delivered at the PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, October 28, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Bayani Fernando na kumakatawan sa MMDA na partner ng PCSO at Ricky, Ricky Reyes Foundation, dito sa napakagandang CHILD Center.

Binabati ko rin siyempre ‘yung kanyang ka-partner, ang PCSO Chairman, si Honeygirl De Leon. Happy Anniversary sa PCSO! ‘Yung iba’t-ibang mga ngo na tumulong dito, mga iba’t-ibang mga government agencies at saka ang ating host mayor dito, si Mayor Sonny Belmonte. At sa inyong lahat, isang malugod na pagbati.

Binibigay buhay ko... Ah! Binibigay pugay ko — hindi buhay, kasi sila ang nagbigay ng buhay — pero binibigyang pugay ko ang CHILD House, ang Ricky Reyes Foundation, ang MMDA, ang PCSO at ‘yung iba’t-ibang mga NGO na nagpunta sa entablado kanina sa kanilang pagsisikap para magkaroon ng kaganapan itong CHILD house.

Thank you for your generosity, especially for those who need it most.

We face threats from killer diseases like SARS and cancer, but the deadliest of all is apathy, and CHILD house is medicine against apathy. CHILD house shows why we must keep on working together. Gaya nang sabi ni Honeygirl, ang gandang halimbawa — government agency, NGO foundation — nagsasama-sama imbes na nagwawatak-watak. At mabuti naman ay ito ay pinili para sa mga kabataang... No, mga batang biktima ng cancer. Tinanong ko nga kay Ricky Reyes, bakit cancer ang pinili mong alagaan? Well, mahigit tatlong porsiyento ng mga kaso ng cancer sa ating bansa ay bumibiktima ng mga bata. At mahigit pitumpung porsiyento ng cancer patients ay mahihirap. At walumpung porsiyento ay galing pa sa malalayong lugar.

Kanina ‘yung isang bata sabi ko, “dito ka ba nakatira?” “hindi, po.” “saan?” “sa Makati.” okey lang kung taga-Makati, pero papano ‘yung mga tiga-malayong lugar at dito sila nagpapa-chemotherapy. Bukod sa kinakailangan ng batang maysakit ang higit na atensiyon mula sa magulang, malaking problema rin ang paghahanap ng malinis at murang matutuluyan. Eto ngayon, ang CHILD house ay malinis at murang matutuluyan ng CHILD cancer victims.

Dito sa CHILD house magkakaroon sila nang panandaliang tirahan na bukod sa abot-kaya ng bulsa ay makapagbibigay din ng moral support sa mga pasyente pati na rin sa magulang nila. Dahil para sa mga magulang, maaari silang maturuan ng iba’t-ibang mga gawaing mapagkakakitaan.

Every effort that we expend to promote our people’s health contributes to our advancement as a nation.

Kapag ang mahihirap ay nagkakaroon ng suliraning pangkalusugan, lalong humihina ang kaniyang kakayahan upang makilahok at makasama sa pagsulong ng ating lipunan. Sila ang higit na nangangailangan ng ating paglingap.

Simula nang ako ay manungkulan sa pamahalaan, at hanggang ngayon na ako ay pangulo na, naniniwala ako ang isang mahalagang prayoridad ang kalusugan ng sambayanan. At ang aking priority Universal Health Insurance and half-priced medicine.

‘Yung universal health insurance, alam n’yo matagal na ‘yang batas ng Universal Health Insurance, senador pa ako nung nabuo ‘yang batas. Ngunit sa haba nang panahon na ‘yan ay batas, noong ako ay naging pangulo, ‘yung aking

namanang mahihirap na covered ng health insurance ay wala pa mang kalahating milyong pamilyang maralita, at anim na milyon ang mga maralitang pamilya. Ngunit ngayon, sa dalawang taon at kalahati ng aking pagka-pangulo, mula sa wala pang kalahating milyon halos dalawang milyong maralitang pamilya na ang sakop ng health insurance. At dahil bawat pamilyang average sa ating bansa ay lima ang kasapi, ibig sabihin noon halos sampung milyong mahihirap na ang sakop dito sa health insurance. At kung ganito kabilis ang tuloy ng Philhealth, sa loob ng tatlong taon pa ay masasama na nating lahat ang anim na milyong mahihirap sa pamilya.

Marami sa pagbayad ng premium ng health insurance... Kasi ang premium ay 100 pesos a month bawat pamilya. Ibig sabihin noon average 20 pesos a month bawat me mber ng family. Pero ang dami namang nalilibreng pagpagamot. Marami dito gastos ng local governments at national government. At mula sa national government ang malaking nagbibigay ng kontribusyon ay walang iba kung hindi ang Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Kaya tuwing may project si Honeygirl na binibigay sa akin, for my approval, sabi ko, "Honeygirl, huwag mong babawasan 'yung premium ng health insurance meron tayong target." ngunit magpapaskong mapapasa ang reporma ng buwis sa alak at sigarilyo mas lalo pang bibilis ang pagganap ng Universal Health Insurance sa lahat ng mahihirap.

Eh 'yon naman hindi gaano kahirap, 'yung mga manggagawa, eh kasama na nga 'yon sa binabayarang premium sa SSS. Kaya kung idadagdag mo 'yung manggagawa doon sa mga mahihirap na tinutulungan ng pcso at saka mga ating mga local governments ngayon ay higit na sa kalahati ng lahat ng Filipino ay sakop na ng PhilHealth insurance.

Sa ilalim naman ng ating half-priced medicine program, merong apatnapu't dalawang imported drugs na antibiotic, gamot nang pang-high blood, gamot nang asthma, gamot nang diabetes ay mabibili natin ngayon sa higit pitumpu't ospital ng gobyerno, maglagay na rin tayo dito, Honeygirl ng botika sa mga botika ng barangay, sa ilang rolling store ng NFA. Sa botika ng mga barangay makakabili na tayo ng mga murang herbal medicine.

At ito ay ginagawa ng pamahalaan sa pamamagitan din nang puhunan na sinabi kong ibigay ng PCSO sa Philippine International Trading Corporation. Ngayon sabi ko kay Honeygirl, "Honeygirl, magdagdag ka nang puhunan ng PITC para sa half-priced medicine, bigyan mo rin ng 100 million pesos." kaya members of the board ng PCSO — ayan, si Tony Abad 'yung aking estudyante — okay. Iyon 'yung parati kong pinipingot na estudyante ko. Ngayon, mula nung PITC hindi ko na siya pinipingot at talagang sinusuporta ko siya sa kaniyang programa na pagpasok ng murang gamot para sa ating mga mahihirap.

Gusto natin libre o halos libre ang pagpagamot. Gusto natin kalahati ang presyo ng gamot, 'yan ang ginagawa natin upang mai-angat ang katayuan ng ating mga kababayan.

Ang mga problema ng ating bansa, hindi kasalanan ng isang presidente lamang, ito ay naka-ugat sa ating economic at political system. Kaya para umunlad ang ating ekonomiya at lumakas ang ating republika, kailangan baguhin ang sistema sa pamamagitan ng reporma — reporma sa pangkalusugang gawain, reporma sa pamumuno, reporma maging sa uri ng ating pulitika.

Ito ang bunga ng aking karanasan sa nakalipas na dalawa't kalahating taon ng pagkapangulo sa pinakamasalimuot na sigurong panahon ng ating mundo. Hindi naman pinakamasalimuot pero isa na nga sa pinakamasalimuot na panahon ng ating mundo. Biro n'yo 'yon, nagsimula tayo sa 1997 Asian crisis; nagkaroon ng impeachment crisis kay Estrada; nagkaroon na naman ng impeachment crisis kay Davide ngayon; nagkaroon tayo ng pagbagsak ng I.T, ng computer industry noong early 2001, natamaan ang buong mundo; nagkaroon tayo ng 9-11, ng terorismo, natamaan ang buong mundo; nagkaroon tayo ng SARS, natamaan ang buong mundo, ngunit salamat din sa trabaho ng DOH, local government, lahat ng ahensiya, at pondo ng PCSO, nakaraos tayo sa SARS.

Sa dalawa't kalahating taon ng aking pagiging pangulo, nagkaroon nga ako nang karanasan para maunawaan on the ground at hindi lamang sa teheriya, ang kailangan nating gawin upang baguhin ang ating lipunan sa paraang magdulot ng paglago ng ekonomiya at pagwakas sa kahirapan.

Hinihiling ko ang inyong patuloy na pakikiisa sa lahat ng gawain ng ating pamahalaan upang matigil ang kahirapan.

Kaya ako'y muling nananawagan para sa pagkakaisa ng lahat ng Pilipino, kung nais nating mawakasan ang kahirapan at makamit ang masaganang buhay sa ilalim ng isang malakas na republika.

Kanya naman, I'm still hopeful that a principled compromise on the impeachment raps against Chief Justice Davide can be reached. For the sake of national unity, I am keeping a positive attitude that would help bring about a meeting of minds rather than a hard impasse. Let's not further divide the nation amid the heavy rhetoric of a continuing institutional battle.

Looking back at past events will show us how such controversial confrontations between powerful institutions have a way of setting back our economy and driving more of our people into hardship. Let us heed the supreme welfare of the people. Let's not lose our faith in our capacity to unite in crisis and hurdle our challenges together.

Kaya itong CHILD house — 'yan ay huwaran ng ating kakayahang magkaisa at masugpo ang krisis. Sana ito ay gawin natin sa buong sambayanang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat, Ricky Reyes. Maraming salamat, PCSO. Maraming salamat, MMDA. Maraming salamat sa lahat nang tumulong sa CHILD house.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Inauguration of the Center for Health Improvement and Life Development (CHILD) House Project. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141241/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7179&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) Congress of the National Capital Region [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) Congress ng National Capital Region**

[Ipinahayag sa Araneta Coliseum, Lungsod ng Quezon, ika 28 ng Oktubre, 2003]

Maraming salamat Secretary Joey Lina, Secretary ng DILG at kasalukuyang Chairman ng Dangerous Drugs Board.

Sa ating host mayor, Mayor Sonny Belmonte; sa ating presidente ng Mayors' League ng Metro Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza; Mayor ng Caloocan, si Rey Malonzo; bagong Mayor ng Navotas — ay, hindi pala bago, dati na — si Toby Tiangco; Mayor ng Pateros, si Endo Capco; at bagong Mayor ng Malabon, si Jayjay Yambao.

Batiin ko rin ang mga vice mayor na narito, nagbigay sa ating ng pahayag ng best practices, Vice Mayor ng Makati, si Vice Mayor Mercado; nagbigay sa atin ng best practices sa Navotas, si Vice Mayor Cruz; si Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista ng Quezon City; si Vice Mayor Calixto ng Pasay.

Batiin rin natin 'yung ating mga officials na katulong ninyong mga barangay sa laban kontra sa droga, ang mga officials ng Dangerous Drugs Board — nandito si Efren Fernandez; si Jun Avenido; ang pinuno ng police, si Jun Ebdane; ang namumuno ng PNP task force kontra sa droga, si Egay Aglipay; ang pinuno ng police ng Metro Manila, si Rey Velasco; si James Marty Lim, pangulo ng liga ng barangay; mga chairman at kasapi ng BADAC (Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council).

Mabuhay ang mga barangay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) Congress of the National Capital Region. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141251/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7180&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Mindanao Wide Indigenous People's Summit for Peace and Development

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Mindanao Wide Indigenous People's Summit for Peace and Development**

[Delivered at the Waterfront Insular Hotel Ballroom, Lanang District Davao City, Davao del Sur, October 30, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Ging Deles. Lingkod na kamo tanan palihog.

Maraming salamat Secretary Ging Deles, ang dating chairman ng Anti-Poverty Commission na siyang tumutulong sa akin na magmaneho ng National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. Ngunit hindi na siya ngayon chairman ng Anti-Poverty Commission dahil siya na ngayon ang aking Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process.

Kasama rin natin ang ilan sa ating mga Cabinet members — si Secretary Mike Defensor na siyang tumutulong sa pabahay ng ating mga mararaming lumad. Kararating lang mula doon sa pagbuo pagkatapos ng ating National Anti-Poverty Commission meeting na tungkol nga, alang gyud sa aton mga lumad, walay laing kundili ang atong bag-o nga Secretary ug Anti-Poverty Commission na siya karon ang mahimo Overseeing Secretary sa NCIP, walay laing kundili ang anak ug Davao City, Secretary Camilo Sabio.

Kauban sab nato ang inyoha nga partner, ang Secretary sa Department na dugay na ang tabang kaninyo kay dili ko makalimot nga niadto ako ni sa iyang puwesto sa walay pondo kaniadto ang ncip, ang pondo sa inyong mga meetings nga gikan sa akong Department, ang head karon sa nining Department, si Secretary Dinky Soliman sa DSWD.

Ug ang atong Secretary nga nasaad sa mga eskuwela ug manunudlo para kaninyo, ang DepEd Secretary, DJ De Jesus. Ug ang Secretary na ngihatag ug daghang nga trabaho alang sa inyohang mga community, inyohang mga produkto, inyohang mga bayle, kultura, ang Secretary sa Tourism, Secretary Dick Gordon.

Salamat sab sa tanang commissioners ubos sa atong chair, si Chairman Ben Lingating. Salamat sa inyong... Salamat sa maayong trabaho. Ug tungod kay naa kita unya nga paghatag ug certificates of ancestral domain titles, ang ilahang mga representante ug atong mga beneficiary, si Datu Roilito Gawilan, Datu Rio Besto ug Timuai Carlos Pendaupan. Ang atong Secretary sa National Defense, si Secretary Ed Ermita. Kaninyong tanan, mga kaigsuonan usa ka mainit nga pag-abi-abi gikan kanako alang kaninyong tanan.

Gayundin ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong suporta at pagkikilala sa mga ginawang reporma at inisyatibo ng aking administrasyon hinggil sa pagpapatupad ng Indigenous Peoples Rights Act o IPRA. Siyempre po ipapatupad ko ito kasi noong ako ay senador, ang principal author ng IPRA ay walang iba kung hindi si Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Noong ako ay senador ang fi-nile kong panukalang batas ay ang Ancestral Domain Bill. Unya ang chairman sa committee, si Senator Flavio, pinalaki niya at ginawang Indigenous Peoples Rights, hindi lang Ancestral Domain.

So, ako ay nasisiyahan na partner kami, principal author... Ah, principal sponsor si Senator Juan Flavio, principal author naman o pangunahing tagatakda ako noong ako ay senador.

Busa sa akong nakita sa mga una nga tuig sa nahuman nang batas ang balaod murag dili maayo pa ang implementasyon. Busa sa ako nahimo presidente, ang akong Executive Order number one, ang akong order kay Presidential Adviser Howard Dee na ma-reorganize ang Commission on Indigenous Peoples. At siyempre ngayon nandiyan na ang batas, nandiyan na 'yung reorganization, sinusulong na natin ang ating I.P. sector agenda.

Gusto ko rin batiin ang napakaimportanteng medium-term Philippine development plan for indigenous peoples na ibinigay sa akin kanina ni Chairman Ben Lingating. Pirmi kong ginasulti nga ang kalinaw ug pag-uswag kanunay magkauban. Kung may kapayapaan maaasikaso nating mabuti ang ating mga bukirin, karagatan, kagubatan, kabundukan. Modaghan ang mga mamuhunan sa nasud tungod kay dali ang pagdani kanila aron motukod sila ug mga negosyo.

Kaya lang sa kabila naman ang negosyo ay nadidismaya kapag ang mga nangyayari ay nagpapakita ng malalim na hidwaan. Malalim na hidwaan maging sa mga lumad, ang mga lowlanders, maging sa NPA at sa mga sundalo, maging sa milf ug mga christians, maging sa EDSA 2, sa EDSA Tres, maging sa Congress at Supreme Court gaya nang binubunga ng kasong impeachment kontra kay Chief Justice Davide.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity — I'm sure in behalf of even our indigenous peoples who long for peace and stability — appeal to our leaders not to sit and wait out the situation.

I know that there are issues of high principles involved on both sides, but there is no higher principle in a democracy than the welfare of the people. These calls for a valiant patriotic effort to set aside strong countervailing beliefs and hurt pride and willfully come together for the nation. Everyday of intransigency sets back the opportunities for national advancement, for economic stability, and its attendant harvest of more trade, investment and jobs. Let's act now and as one nation. This is a time for statesmanship and sacrifice.

Iniimbita ko ang aking Secretary ng Agrarian Reform, si Obet Pagdanganan na sumama dito sa ating entablado. Ang kalinaw — at ang Secretary of Agriculture, si Cito Lorenzo, taga-Mindanao. Anak ug Mindanao, anak sa Davao ug Bukidnon. Daghan kaninyo taga-Davao ug Bukidnon, si Cito Lorenzo Davao ug Bukidnon — ang kalinaw ug kauswagan, ang estabilidad tuyo sab nining kongreso ang pagpalambo nining panuntunan alang sa kalinaw ug kauswagan.

Tungkol sa usapin ng ancestral domain, sabi nga ni Chairman Lingating, nagtakda tayo ng target na isangdaang libong ektarya ng lupain bawat taon para sa sertipikasyong ito. At kagahapon dunay newspaperman gikan sa community nga sa mga lumad nga nangutana kanako, "pila na kuno ang atong achievements sa certificate of ancestral domain?" ingon ko sa iya tingali ugma — kay karon kagahapon nahimo — tingali ugma mahibalo mo kay mao gyud ang atong usa sa mga anunsiyo sa atong I.P. Congress. Ug gusto ko maingon sa iya ug sa tanan at lahat ng Pilipino natupad na ang tatlongdaan at animnapung libong ektarya sa Certificate of Ancestral Domain.

At madadagdagan pa ito dahil sa CADTS na ating igagawad mamaya sa mga benipisaryong taga-Mindanao. Ang CADT para sa kitaotao I.P. communities, higit isangdaang libong ektarya. Sa miarayon I.P. communities, higit labing-isang libong ektarya. Aromanin manobo I.P. communities — asa kamo? — higit limang libong ektarya.

I'm hereby instructing the Land Registration Authority to exempt CADTS from land registration fee requirements. Paagi nga masulod ang mga CADTS ug CALTS, the inclusion of CADTS and CALTS under the handog titulo program.

Inaatasan ko rin ang pcsa na kaagad palabasin ang ikalawang sampung milyong piso para sa delineation ng ancestral domain. Apan wala nagahunong dinhi ang atong pagtabang sa mga I.P. communities.

Nandito si Secretary Pagdanganan, Obet dahil habang pinag-aaralan pa ang overlaps sa pagitan ng IPRA at Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, pinahinto muna ni Obet ang implementasyon ng CARP sa ancestral domain areas. Padayon sab ang atong pag-ayos sa paghatod ug mga labing kinahanglan nga serbisyo apil na ang pagtukod sa mga imprastruktura aron mapagdaghan ang mga higayon alang sa pagpa-uswag kaninyo ug sa mga uban pang mahuyang natong sektor.

Murag kailya na ninyo ang kalahi. Sa mga hindi pa alam ang Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan—Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services o KALAHI-CIDSS program ay flagship ng aking administrasyon upang mawakasan ang kahirapan. Dili muayo ang kinabuhi sa aton mga kabus kung pag-usa-usa ang paghatag sa mga serbisyo. Para mapabilis ang daloy ng kalakal mula sa kanayunan patungo sa pamilihan, patuloy tayong nagpapagawa hindi lamang ng mga maliliit na serbisyo like livelihood kundi na rin mga tulay at farm-to-market roads, mga gagmay nga tulay, mga gagmay nga dalan, apan mga dagko sab nga tulay ug dagko sab nga dalan sama sa hapit na mahuman ang Bolton bridge.

Ug parte sa Davao-Bukidnon road, ingon gyud nila — oh, ayan si Undersecretary Rasuman ang atong Undersecretary sa DPWH gikan sa Mindanao — dili bala, guwapo na gyud karon ingon nila ang buda road kanusa nakumpleto sa atong administrasyon.

Pinabibilis din natin ang paghatid ng mga batayang serbisyo para sa kapakanang pantao. Dinhi sa Davao, kapin sa tulo ka libo na ang mga lumad nga benepisyaryo sa National Health Insurance Program o PhilHealth.

Sa ngayon nga, sa buong Pilipinas, sa buong populasyon, mahigit na sa 54 percent ng ating populasyon ay sakop na sa health insurance.

Gipakobus nato sa katunga ang bili sa daghang mga tambal nga kanunay ginagamit ug aton mga kabus. Ang mga gamot na ito, half-priced medicine, na madalas binibili ng ating mga mahihirap. Ang mga ito ay mabibili sa mga ospital ng gobyerno sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng ating bansa.

Apil sab sa aton mga tuyo ang pagpatukod ug mga eskwelahan sa duha kagatos sa I.P. communities ug pagkabutang ug beinte kada munisipalidad nga dunay mga lumad nga nagapuyo nga mga maestra gikan sa DepEd. Kaya nandito si Secretary DJ De Jesus.

Ang Department of Agriculture naman — ‘yung ating taga-Bukidnon at Davao, kung isasama mo ang lolo niya taga-Zamboanga rin — ang D.A. naman ay naglaan ng 90 million pesos para sa mga programa at proyekto nito sa I.P. communities.

Tuyo sab nato nga ayuhon pa ang partisipasyon ug koordinasyon sa mga I.P. communities ug aton mga kapulisan aron mulambo ang kalinaw ug seguridad sa mga komunidad. Ang lahat ng ito at marami pang binanggit — ‘yung mga nagsalita kanina — ay ginagawa ng pamahalaan upang maiangat ang katayuan ng ating mga kababayan.

Sa niaging duha ug tunga katuig sa akong pagka-presidente, nakakuha ako ug igong eksperiensiya aron masabtan kon unsay gyud ang kinahanglan natong himuon sa pagbag-o sa panginabuhi aron muhabsay ang aton ekonomiya ug masumpo na ang kapobrehon.

Kinahanglan nato gyud ang mga dagko nga reporma ug usa gyud nining mga reporma, ang reporma sa Indigenous Peoples Rights. Ug tingali tungod kay daghan sa atong mga indigenous peoples taga-Mindanao ug usahay lisud nga mahulat pa ta ug pondo gikan sa manila. Tingali usa pa sa aton mga dagko nga reporma maoy makaabot kita sa pederalismo sa atong nasud.

Dagko nga reporma apan kinahanglan sab nato ang panag-usa — reconciliation. Unta sa atong pagkauban-uban karon, sa atong pagkauban-uban sa aton trabaho alang sa panginabuhi ug sa kauswagan sa atong mga igsoon nga Lumad o Muslim o Kristiyano, makaabot kita sab sa rekonsilyasyon sa atong nasud. Kaysa naa nay dagko nga reporma ug naa nay tinuod nga rekonsilyasyon, mao ang paagi sa atong tinuod nga kauswagan sa atong nasud.

Congratulations sa atong kongreso sa I.P.!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Mindanao Wide Indigenous People's Summit for Peace and Development. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141220/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7168&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 12th Mindanao Business Conference Closing Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 12th Mindanao Business Conference Closing Program**

[Delivered at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate, MCTP Complex Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, October 31, 2003]

Thank you very much, Secretary Cito Lorenzo, fellow child of Mindanao as well. Because while I am from Iligan, Cito is from Bukidnon, Davao and Zamboanga.

I would like to greet also the other Cabinet members who are here — oh, not to greet them but to just introduce them to those who might not have seen them previously or not seen them enough — my fellow Cabinet members who have joined me today: Secretary Dick Gordon of Tourism; Secretary Marita Jimenez of special projects and ODA, where's Mai? And Secretary Jess Dureza, P.A. for Mindanao.

I would like to greet Joji Ilagan Bian — although you saw me talking to her animatedly because I was already answering point by point the different resolutions to her — chairperson of the Mindanao Business Council. I thank Governor Calingin for his welcome and his expression of support. My response is: "I need your support not necessarily in the May elections. I need your support for my work for Mindanao today."

Mayor Bambi Emano, thank you very much for hosting us in this beautiful terminal port in your beautiful town, and I join you in welcoming everybody here. I think I have the right to welcome you to this Mindanao container port, because as Governor Calingin said, while this loan was made available long ago, the loan proceeds and the local counterpart was only made available in my administration.

Mrs. Noemi Saludo, Vice President of PCCI, incidentally, mother of my Cabinet secretary, Ric Saludo. And Tony Santos, Vice President of PCCI for Mindanao. As I said, thank you for reading the resolutions, and I've already answered many of them to Joji so that my speech will not be so long. So, some of them I will answer in my speech, the others I already told Joji about especially the ones that are not so Mindanao wide in their application.

I would like to greet the chairman of the board, Boy Abadia of PHIVIDEC. I'm sorry that Gabby Evangelista is not well. So, sabi ko nga kay Chairman Abadia, "maybe until Gabby gets well, we'll have to delegate his work upward." ikaw na muna. After all, Boy Abadia is also a son of Misamis Oriental.

And I see here the mayor of my childhood city, Mayor Franklin Emano, ay, Quijano; and the vice mayor of my childhood city, Lawrence Cruz; and the businessmen of my childhood city, sila Benny Badilles, I'm glad to see all of you here.

And, of course — no, I don't want to start mentioning all the names of the businessmen I know here because there's so many of you — but I'd like to greet all of you, especially the PCCI Mindanao regional governors, and to welcome our foreign visitors headed by Ambassador Lim Cheng Hua of Singapore. Ambassador Lim Cheng Hua is one of the many lady ambassadors in our country today because I am very happy that the sending government has taken into account that we have a woman president and a lot of them have gone out of their way to send a woman ambassador, whom Dick Gordon likes to call "Women of Wonder." thank you ambassador for being part of our "Women of Wonder." other members of the... Yeah, "Women of Wonder" is part of WOW (W-O-W), "WOW Philippines!" and we are here in "WOW Mindanao," "WOW Misamis Oriental." Welcome to all the members of the diplomatic corps as well, ug kaninyong tanan, maayong buntag gihapon. Murag ingon ni Tony Santos, sa sunod sa halos sa duha ug tunga nga tuig sa akon pagka-presidente, wala akong mupakyas sa pagtambong nining Mindanao Business Conference ug ang mga uban pa nga sectoral conferences dinhi sama sa food congress, shippers congress, tuna congress.

And indeed, I greet the businessmen of Mindanao, led by this conference's host, the ORO chamber, the Mindanao Business Council. You have been our proven allies for peace and development.

Our unity has stood the test of time. And more than ever, we need that unity when the strength and resilience of our democratic institutions are being tested.

I'm hopeful that the leaders of Congress and the judiciary will soon move towards healing their rift, exercising the highest degree of statesmanship untainted by personal or partisan concerns and with the supreme interest of the republic in mind. The executive shall firmly hold the middle ground in this controversy.

But let this never be interpreted as weakness. To be drawn want only to either side of this dispute will derail the chances of a principled compromise and further erode national stability. I shall not overreact to events as I call upon our people not to be unduly alarmed.

I asked Jess Dureza, "what's the mood of the business sector here?" he said his mood is, "life goes on." And that is the way it should be.

The presidency has the will, the authority and the resources to quell any disorder or attempts at destabilization. And we shall not hesitate to move decisively against those who will exploit this inter-branch impasse to foment violence. No one is above the law. Our crisis mechanisms are in place even if we have not reached a point of crisis. Part of that crisis mechanism being in place is an instruction I'm giving to General Balaoing: "account for all the men in the 4th division." this is also my instruction to all the division commanders all over the country.

There is hope in dialogue, and we shall continue to pursue it while keeping our options open. We have the flexibility to change track if called for by the imperatives of national security. We shall not be rushed into impulsive action by the agenda of others. The situation is not spinning out of control as projected by doomsayers. Those doomsayers should come here to this conference to see that they are wrong or that they are misleading the people. In fact, the situation has strengthened the presidency as a middle force rather than weakened it.

There are those who believe that the presidency must step in and take sides to resolve the looming crisis, but this will only aggravate it at this point. I am taking the middle ground because as president and commander in chief, I must keep the powers of government at an even keel. I shall keep the peace and protect the people, whatever happens in the midst of this transient clash of powerful institutions. And no quarters can force me to take sides. A principled solution is in sight that will serve the nation's peace of mind, and I shall continue to pursue it.

That's why I commend the Mindanao businessmen. You continue to pursue peace, you continue to pursue business. You seek peace of mind, you seek national unity, but you go about your business of increasing incomes and creating jobs. I can perceive this in your theme, "one global Mindanao." your collective drive for global engagement falls in line with the aspirations of other nations in this part of the world.

This was expressed in a covenant we released in the recent ASEAN Summit, the Bali Concord 2, where some of you in fact were attending. The BIMP-EAGA has returned to the limelight of ASEAN. And I am very, very happy that today we have an Indonesian delegation, which will open the General Santos-Bitong, Indonesia cargo vessel route in February 2004. This is a BIMP-EAGA project assisted by USAID gem.

I'm also happy that Merpati airlines will mount its first flight to General Santos on November 4. These are big ticket transport items under the BIMP-EAGA. But the BIMP-EAGA has also identified SMEs as the most vigorous driving force in the sub-region, followed by other rising stars like other industry, fisheries and tourism.

The Asian Development Bank, following a recommendation I made in ASEAN way back in 2001, is currently undertaking a study to accelerate SME financing for BIMP-EAGA.

On the security side, the Philippines is preparing to host a number of major meetings on cross border concerns which are crucial points of focus in the drive against roving terrorist cells.

I am giving an instruction to the Bureau of Immigration that they should make their main immigration office located in Glan, in Sarangani. And the Davao Immigration Office, where only a few travellers go, should be a sub-office, not the other way around.

We know the growing risk of terrorism, and we're continuously sharpening our diplomatic, organizational, operational and intelligence resources to confront it. We are acting domestically, regionally and globally to meet the threat, and we have a strategic partnership with Washington for long-term political and economic security. Both the U.S.A. and the OIC countries are watching our peace process unfold with keen interest and commitments of assistance. Gem, aside from the assistance to projects like the BHE cargo vessel route, is already deep into its computer literacy program, particularly for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

During the week of President Bush's state visit to the Philippines, the U.S. committed a new 33 million dollars over the next six years to broaden access to education, again, primarily in Mindanao.

I would also like to thank Gem and USAID for the assistance provided for 500 community infrastructure projects. Gem has also contributed to capacity-building efforts to achieve transparency in governance.

The World Bank has agreed to sponsor a multi-donor Mindanao reconstruction and development fund to support the peace process, including activities for confidence-building, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and reconstruction, and development. This was one of the major outputs of the World Bank conference in Dubai. And now, donor meetings are ongoing.

On my part, I shall continue to act on your concerns with deserved focus, the concerns that Tony Santos expressed earlier in his reading of your resolution.

I remember an earlier concern in previous Mindanao business conference meetings. Remember your concerns over transportation, over bringing down the rates in the ports? Well, we found a solution out of the box. Your concerns over transportation resulted in the Strong Republic Nautical Highway that now interconnects Mindanao through the major islands of the Visayas to Luzon through a system of road networks and Roll-On/Roll-Off ferries. There is that old ferry service from Surigao to Luzon, but that's a very, very long route.

Then we opened after this conference, after working on the results of the last conference, we opened the Zamboanga del Norte route that goes through Negros island, Panay island, Mindoro island, and Luzon. And then, we opened the Cagayan de Oro-Dumaguete-Manila Roll-On/Roll-Off route. And together with the roads we have improved in this administration — Cotabato-Cagayan De Oro, Cavao-Cagayan De Oro — you can bring your fruits or your other products from anywhere, load them on one truck, and that one same truck can travel all the way from Davao, through cotabato, through Cagayan, through the roll-on/roll-off all the way to any market in the Visayas and in Luzon. Just one truck travelling at one time, without having all these expensive port fees that you have been complaining about.

You know, that old, old route that Surigao through Leyte, Samar, Bicol took five years to break even. That route from Zamboanga del Norte, through Negros island, Panay island, Mindoro island, and Luzon took one trip to break even. Now, the market is providing for more boats, Roll-On/Roll-Off ferry boats. But the businessmen tell me it's the Cagayan de Oro route to Manila that will really make cargo rates go down for the Mindanao businessmen. And so, as a result of your interest in pushing forward this out of the box solution, we are giving a check of 6,850,000 pesos for the Mindanao Business Council for further studies to make this roll-on/roll-off system even more effective.

We continue to push hard for our products in the global markets. We've gained preferential status for our tuna in the E.U. market. Our friendship with Thailand helped us in this diplomatic initiative.

I appreciate your foresight about Mindanao power demands. Southern Mindanao especially has a dynamic and industrial manufacturing potential. The last two days I was in Davao, and I learned that Davao's power consumption has gone up by 8 percent this year, representing the big increase in business activity. But southern Mindanao does not produce its own power, and this should be an attractive site for new IPPS.

Earlier, you talked about power and therefore... And earlier you talked about asking the senate to ratify some agreements. Since you're gonna go to the Senate, anyway, I ask you to join me in reiterating my call for the senate to pass the Transco Franchise Bill to make it more attractive for privatization.

Your concerns about the quality of basic education are being dealt with through curriculum improvement, particularly in our English language, science and math proficiency. And I invite the businessmen of Mindanao to expand your corporate responsibility programs by helping us build classrooms in those schools whose student-classroom ratios are more than 100 to 1.

I'd like to take this opportunity to commend Cagayan de Oro – your father, Bambi — because in Cagayan de Oro, there is no school that has a classroom-student ratio of more than 100 to 1. So Cagayan de Oro has been taking care of its classroom needs. But that's not the same for the rest of the island.

In the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao, I counted the schools whose classroom-student ratio... No, student-classroom ratio exceeds 100 and multiplied it by the amount of pesos that we have to build for every classroom, we need 40 million pesos worth of additional classrooms in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao alone. So, not to mention the other places where you work and live.

I will push on with our reforms for transparency, accountability and good governance. And we have never lost sight of our main goal — winning the fight against poverty and against terrorism and crime.

In the two-and-a-half years of my presidency — where we were able to do this port, we were able to do the Roll-On/Roll-Off system, we were able to make the roads from Cotabato to Cagayan de Oro and from Davao to Cagayan de Oro much, much shorter in travel time — I've gained the experience necessary to understand what must be done to reform society so that we may move forward and finally break the chains of poverty on our way to building the strong republic that we deserve.

We dream of a future of equitable prosperity where our people enjoy through equity and justice. You, the Mindanao business community, have stayed with me in all these years. In fact, you were with me when I was vice-president, when I was in the Senate as chairman of trade and commerce, and chairman of economic affairs. You were even with me when I was Undersecretary of Trade and Industry.

We need to be stronger now. DTI, yeah. When I was in the DTI, that was when we also started the Cagayan de Oro-Iligan corridor. And I'm very happy this project is one of the flagships of that Cagayan de Oro-Iligan corridor. And later on, I will go to the Cagayan de Oro port as well. From conceptualization to actual operation, which is gonna be in January of 2004. I remember the Cagayan de Oro-Iligan corridor. I remember our culminating presentation of the master plan was in 1989. It takes a long time to plan, to do the detailed studies, to do the paper work, to do the implementation.

And that is why as now, we are beginning to bear the fruits of the more than one decade of work. We need to stay even closer together to realize our vision for Mindanao and for the whole nation.

Hinaot pa nga dili nato buhian ang atong pinag-usa hangtod madangat nat ang gidamgong kalinaw ug kauswagan.

Mabuhi kita tanan.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 12th Mindanao Business Conference Closing Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409200008/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7164&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 34th anniversary of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 34th anniversary of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA)**

[Delivered at the Daungan, Brgy, Palingon, Calamba City, Laguna, November 3, 2003]

Maraming salamat, GM Cataquiz.

Batiin ko ang mga official ng mga gobyernong nagpapaligid sa lawa ng Laguna, ang gobernador ng Laguna si Ningning Lazaro; ang congressman ng Laguna, si Boy San Luis; ang ating mayor dito sa bayan kung saan nating ginaganap itong ating pagdiriwang, Mayor Lajara; Vice Governor Fernandez; ang barangay captain kung nasaan tayo ngayon, Kapitan Giliaco.

‘Yung mga punong lungsod at punong bayan ng mga paligid sa lawa, si Mayor ng Muntinlupa, Mayor Fresnedi; si Mayor ng Taguig, Mayor Tinga; Mayor ng Binangonan, Mayor Ynares; mayor ng San Pedro, Mayor Viernes; mayor ng Taytay, Mayor Zapanta; mayor ng Baras, Mayor Garciano; mayor ng Cardona — hindi ba nandito? — mayor San Juan, din ang kapangalan; mayor ng Sta. Rosa, Mayor Arcillas, kasama na lahat ng mga mayor ng buong Laguna dahil siya ang presidente ng Mayors’ League. At ewan ko kung nandito lahat itong mga check na ito dahil hindi ko naman nakikita ‘yung ibang narito. So, batiin ko na lamang ‘yung mga iba’t-ibang mga mayor... Ay, mayor ng San Pablo, Mayor Boy Aquino; mayor ng Calauan, Mayor Berris.

‘Yung iba’t-iba kung hindi ko sila nakita kanina patawarin na lamang ngunit binabati ko kayo kahit na hindi ko nakita ang inyong pangalan dahil na-check lahat dito eh alam ko naman ilan dito wala rito. Okey, hintay muna kasi... Si Mayor Aguillo, ayun; Mayor Ramos; hindi ko nakikita si Mayor Perez ng Los Baños, okey; Mayor Rebong; Mayor Quiat; Mayor Badulis; Mayor Afurong; Mayor Sombilla; Mayor Acero; Mayor Diwajon. Eh ‘yon na nga, dalawa kasi ang ating Mayor Perez eh. Hindi ko nakikita ‘yung sa Los Baños — ayun, okey, alright. Mayor Magana; Mayor Rodillas. Okey, salamat, salamat ha. Kung meron hindi ko pa nasabi sa listahan, patawarin ngunit ako ay nagpapasalamat na kayo ay narito. Maging kayo ay bahagi ng lawa o hindi, salamat at kayo ay narito.

At lahat naman ng mga mangingisda, magsasaka, mga batang kanina pa naghihintay. Sabi ko, “Ningning, talaga naman alas dose y media ang usapan natin.” ngunit mga teachers salamat na kayo ay maagang pumunta rito.

Taos-pusong binabati ko ang lida sa inyong anibersaryo.

Binabati ko rin ang mga kabalikat na ahensiya na tumutulong para magampanan ng LLDA ang kanilang tungkulin. Binabati ko rin ang sektor ng kalakal, industriya nasasakupan ng LLDA, maging ang sektor ng pangisdaan na kinakatawan ng Laguna de bay region’s fisheries and aquatic resource management council o farmc. Saan kayo? Saan ang FARMC? Okay. Alam naman natin kung gaano kaimportante ang Laguna de bay sa ating pamayanan. Sa ating rehiyon ang Laguna de bay ang pinakapangalawang pinakamalaking inland freshwater body sa buong Asya. Ang mas malaki lamang dito sa asya ay ‘yung Lake Toba sa Indonesia. Eh ‘di hamak naman mas malaki ang Indonesia keysa Pilipinas. Pilipinas ay number twelve biggest country sa buong mundo. Indonesia ay number four.

Pilipinas ay may 7,000 islands, Indonesia ay may 18,000 islands. Kaya 'di hamak naman talaga naman mas malaki ang Indonesia. Ngunit sunod na nga sa kanya eto na ang pinakamalaking freshwater body of water.

Ang sentro ng ating pagdiriwang ngayon ay ang pagtataguyod ng kapakanan ng mga mangingisda sa lawa at ang pagpapakilala sa tilapia bilang pagkain ng masa. Kasi 'yung galunggong pangingisda 'yon sa dagat eh. 'Yung ibang galunggong pa nga imported pero ang tilapia pwede nating palakihin sa lawa. Pwede natin palakihin sa ating mga fishpond. At mas mura dahil kaya natin ma-kontrol ang pagpapalaki ng supply. Pwede nating palakihin ang supply. Pwede nating i-culture. Kaya tama na gawin nating pagkain sa araw-araw ang tilapia. Ewan ko, para sa akin mas masarap ang tilapia keysa galunggong eh. Talagang favorite ko, itanong n'yo sa mga dswd noong ako'y nandoon. Kaya hanggang ngayon pag ako ay nagbibisita sa kanila tilapia ang pinapakain sa akin.

At malaki ang benta ng tilapia breeding para sa ating mga mangingisda kung ikukumpara natin sa ibang bansa. Kaya palawakin natin ang tilapia para manatiling mura ang ating pagkain.

Kanina nga nagpakawala tayo sa lawa ng sampung libong tilapia breeders. Ito ay bahagi ng pinalawak na fish dispersal program ng LLDA.

Sa unang semestre ng taong ito, mahigit daw na apatnapu't walong libong tilapia breeders ang naipakalat sa LLDA.

At natutuwa akong gumaganda ang kalidad ng tubig sa lawa. Alam n'yo parati kong binabantayan ang tubig sa lawa pag ako'y lumilipad nang helicopter eh kung brown ba o nagiging asul na. Salamat naman at maraming bahagi ay nagiging asul na muli.

Mahigpit rin nating hinahadlangan ang illegal fishing sa lawa, lalo na sa loob ng limang libong ektaryang fish sanctuary LLDA. Kanina meron akong tinapong boya, 'yon ang magmamarka ng ating sanctuary. Hindi pwedeng mangingisda doon ang illegal na fishermen.

Ang pangangalaga natin sa laguna de bay ay tumatanggap din ng tulong mula sa mga organisasyon sa labas ng ating bansa. Halimbawa, noong ako ay — hindi pa nga ako pangulo — nagpunta ako doon sa isang pagdiriwang doon sa isang hotel sa makati kung saan ang Laguna de bay ay pinangalang kasapi ng International Living Lakes. Kinikilala na buhay na muli ang ating Laguna lake. May sister lake partnership agreement din ito sa Taihu lake ng China at Sun Moon lake ng Taiwan.

Noong ako ay bata, nagtuturista sa Taipei, parating kasama ang Sun Moon Lake sa ating pagkaturista. Ngayon dapat parating kasama ang laguna lake sa ating pagkaturista.

Alam ito ng mga mayor ng mga lugar diyaan, lalung-lalo na 'yung ating paglibot, kasi ang ganda-ganda ng lawa kung magda-drive ka around the lake. Nandoon 'yung mga artists. Nandoon 'yung mga old churches. Nandoon naman 'yung mga craftsmen. Nandoon 'yung mga waterfalls. Nandoon 'yung mga maliliit na lawa. Nandoon 'yung mga halaman. Nandoon 'yung mga spa. Lahat noon mapupuntahan mo kung ikaw ay iikot sa Laguna lake. Kaya mahahambing natin ang kagandahan ng Laguna lake at 'yung tourism diversity sa mga lawa kagaya ng lake Lanao sa Pilipinas at kagaya ng Lake Geneva doon sa Europe. Eto ang gusto kong mangyari sa ating lawa.

Sa darating na Enero raw ay sisimulan naman ang isang proyekto ng llda upang palakasin ang partisipasyon ng mga komunidad sa paligid ng lawa sa kanilang pag-unlad.

At sa kabila ng lahat na ito, ang Laguna de bay naman ay — bakit ko parating tinitignan kung asul o brown ang tubig, kung bakit natin binibigyan ng diin ang pagka-natural, 'yung pagka-living lake — ay dahil sa paligid, dahil ang Laguna lake ay nasa Calabarzon, nahaharap din sa environmental hazards na nagbabantang sumira dito at sa kabuhayan ng mga mahirap na mangingisda na walang inaasahan kundi ang lawa.

Ang pagdami ng mga industriya sa palibot ng lawa — at hindi lamang industriya, ‘yung mga tumitira, mga subdivision dahil lumalaki ang ating populasyon dito sa Calabarzon sa proseso ng urbanisasyon — ito ay dahilan ng patuloy na erosion ng watershed dito.

Kaya meron tayong hamon na isiguradong manatiling buhay ang lawa. Ayaw natin maging kagaya ng Pasig na noong nagkaroon ng industrialization sa Metro Manila at nang dumami ang nakatirang bahay sa Metro Manila ay namatay. At wala nang isda na nandoon sa pasig river ngayon kung hindi na lamang ‘yung mga isdang hindi na natin gustong kainin. At ‘yung mga dumi mula sa mga pagawaan at mga bahay sa tabi ng lawa, ito ay maaring makasira sa kalidad ng tubig at ecosystem ng lawa kung hindi ito mahadlangan.

Ito ang inaasahan nating mabilis na matugunan ng llda. Kanya lamang kailangan makipag-ugnay sa mga industriya dahil ang industriya naman ay nagbibigay din ng complaint na kung minsan ginagamit, pinaggagamitan ito ng burokrasya at harassment para hindi sila makapaggawa ng kanilang tamang gawain. Kaya kailangan sa isang panig inaalagaan ang lawa, sa kabilang panig ‘wag gamitin para mag-harass ng ating mga pabrika na nagbibigay naman ng hanapbuhay sa taong bayan. Alam ko naman na kaya itong gawin ng mga kawani, mga nagtratabaho na mga rank and file at mga officials ng LLDA.

Ang tema ng selebrasyon ngayon, “Masaganang Lawa, Matatag na Republika.” ito ay angkop sa mga nakamit na tagumpay ng llda sa mga nakaraang panahon. Inaalagaan ninyo ang likas na kayamanan ng lawa. Naisusulong din ninyo sana ang interes ng ating mga mahihirap, lalo na ang mangingisda, ngunit huwag i-harass ang mga industriya.

Sa simula pa lamang ng aking panunungkulan, naging layunin ko nang wakasan ang kahirapan at makamit ang isang mapayapa at maunlad na bansa.

Alam ni Freddie tinga ‘yung ginawa natin para sa ganun ay maisaayos ‘yung ating dike, ‘yung ating flood control sa bandang kabila para sa ganun ang lawa ay magbibigay ng buhay at hindi magbibigay ng sigalot sa ating mamamayan.

In the two and a half years that I have been president, I’ve gained the experience to make me realize on the ground what fundamental reforms we must make in order to achieve these goals. Halimbawa, maraming bumabati na ‘yung mga kalsadang patungo sa mga North and South Expressway nitong nakaraang Holy Week — ay, All Saint’s weekend — sabi nila ang mga traffic hindi na kagaya ng mga nakaraang panahon. And yet meron tayong construction — may construction tayo sa North Expressway, may construction tayo sa South Expressway — pero maayos ang traffic papunta sa probinsiya nitong nakaraang weekend.

‘Yan ay nanggaling sa karanasan sa dalawang nakaraang taon. And I have gained enough experience to make me realize that we cannot achieve these goals unless we achieve unity and reconciliation as a nation. Diyaan sa PNCC, diyaan sa DPWH, diyaan sa DOTC, diyaan sa PNP, iba-iba ang kanilang mga teritoryo ngunit ginawa nating magkakaisa sila sa mag-organize ng traffic. At ito ay kailangan gawin natin sa buong bansa. Ganun na rin ang reconciliation ng kapakanan ng mangingisda at industriya dito sa CALABARZON, dito sa Laguna Lake.

We must do these reforms, but we must also achieve reconciliation of interest if we do not want to be left behind by our neighbors who are again accelerating their growth in the aftermath of the Asian crisis.

Salamat na lamang sa nakaraang dalawang taon at kalahati, habang ‘yung ibang bansa ay naghihingalo pa sa Asian crisis, sa SARS, sa terorismo, ang Pilipinas sa 21 economies sa buong Asia at pacific, number six ang ating growth rate.

Salamat na lamang na ‘yung Japanese na number one investor sa buong mundo, sa kanilang latest ng kanilang preferred investment sites, number three ang Pilipinas.

But the others are beginning to recover from the Asian crisis. They are beginning to recover from the SARS. Huwag tayong maiwan. At ang kailangan natin reporma. Kailangan din natin rekonsilyasyon at pagkakaisa. Hindi lamang

pagkakaisa ng PNP, DOTC, DPWH, PNCC sa kalsada. Hindi lang pagkakaisa ng mangingisda at pabrika sa lawa. Pagkakaisa rin ng mga dakilang institusyon ng ating pamahalaan.

Kaya ako nitong nakaraang All Saints Day matindi akong nagdasal tungkol sa kontrobersiya ng impeachment. At ako ay nakipagkonsulta sa mga leader ng mga dakilang sanga ng ating pamahalaan. At sa aking nakita tayo ay lumampas na doon sa political threshold kung saan pwede nang makialam ang pangulo para maghanap ng maka-prinsipyong solusyon dito sa ating impasse.

Sa ilang araw nakaraan, na-headline pa nga sa mga peryodiko, na ako'y nanawagan na itong solusyon ay dapat maging sa anyo ng isang covenant sa paligid... Sa mga malalaking sangay, 'yung tatlong malalaking sanga ng ating pamahalaan. Itong covenant na ito ay maaring manggaling sa mga batayang prinsipyo: una, dapat respetuhin natin na ang kapakanan ng taong bayan ang pinakamataas, at itong kapakanan ay nandoon nakaguhit sa ating konstitusyon at sa ating mga tradisyon ng ating pulitika.

Pangalawa, dapat diinin natin ang magkapantay at malaya ngunit kailangan ang kooperasyon at pagkakaisa ng tatlong dakilang sanga ng ating pamahalaan.

Pangatlo, dapat palakasin natin ang prinsipyo ng check and balance bilang instrumento ng pambansang pagkakaisa at estabilidad at hindi dapat bilang instrumento ng pulitika.

Pang-apat, ang ehekutibo, ang lehislatibo, ang hukuman, ang mga awtoridad ay dapat magkasama bilang tiwala ng interes ng publiko at makahanap ng resolusyon sa kontrobersiya sa loob ng batas panglima, ang pagpapamahalang demokratiko ay dapat nakabatay sa pagtiwala sa isat-isa — respeto, civility, responsibilidad, transparency sa lahat ng kanyang mga leader.

At ako ay naniniwala na itong mga prinsipyo ngayon pa lang ay nagdadala na sa atin tungo sa daan sa resolusyon ng problema at sa daan tungo sa estabilidad at progreso ng ating pulitika. Kailangan natin ng nagkakaisang panindigan na ito ay magpapalarawan ng ating collective statesmanship. Bagamat kailangan makialam ang pangulo, hindi ko ito magagawang mag-isa. Lahat ng may kinalaman, at kayong mga officials ng lokal, kayong mga kawani ng pamahalaan, lahat kayo may kinalaman sa paghanap ng pagkakaisa. At lahat ng mga direktong apektado, everyone concerned will have to bend backwards a bit na hindi naman nasasakripisyo ang mga prinsipyo.

Ngunit ang masasabi ko sa ating mga sinisikap na ginagawa, mayron na tayong nakikitang solusyon kung saan panalo lahat.

Manalangin tayo magtagumpay itong ating mga sinisikap sa ganun, mga kawani ng llda, kawani ng pamahalaan, mga official na halal ng taong bayan, lahat tayo magdasal, magkaisa. Dahil sa awa ng panginoon malapit na ang resolusyon ng ating problemang nangyayari ngayon.

Sa inyong lahat, Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 34th Anniversary of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141134/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7532&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 105th anniversary of the Philippine Postal Service and celebration of Postal Consciousness Week

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 105th anniversary of the Philippine Postal Service and celebration of Postal Consciousness Week**

[Delivered at the PhilPost Central Office Bldg., Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila, November 3, 2003]

Thank you. Thank you.

Salamat. Salamat. Thank you.

Maraming salamat, Kalihim Mendoza.

Maraming salamat din General Villanueva, ibat-ibang opisyal ng DOTC at saka Philpost. Maraming salamat, Mayor Lito Atienza sa magandang ginawa ninyo sa kapaligiran dito lalo na dahil maganda ang harap ng PhilPost, ngumingiti na ang gusali ng PhilPost Corporation.

Binabati ko rin si Secretary Mai Jimenez at iba't ibang mga officials, lalo na mga postal workers, ladies and gentlemen:

Congratulations for more than a century, you have been working so hard. You have been messengers of all Filipinos. I commend you for your good work.

In your continuing drive to keep up with the times, you have opened your express mail service, congratulations sa ating mga driver ng express mail service. Meron itong mga dedicated hubs for door-to-door delivery. You have also tapped I.T. to improve your money order system, congratulations din. Salamat. Salamat. Thank you.

At 'yung anti-drug campaign, sumama kayo mga youth, sumama ang mga youth at Postal Corporation. Lahat kayo bibili ng selyo ng anti-drug pag gagawa tayo ng sulat.

I congratulate General Villanueva who not only did these innovations that I just mentioned to improve efficiency and reliability but was also able to raise funds for your salary differentials and your rice allowance.

Hindi ako nagugulat, hindi ako nagugulat na nagawa ito ni Diomeng, because General Villanueva has always been good not only in the conduct of warfare but also in the management of resources. Alam n'yo bago ko siya nilagay sa philpost, noong siya ay Chief of Staff ng Armed Forces, siya rin ang chairman of RSBS, and under him for the first time in a long time, the AFP pension fund RSBS was able to make profit for the first time in a very long time. (batiin ko rin si Rene Diaz, nandito pala.) Kaya kung ano ang ginawa niya sa pension fund ng mga sundalo, nilalakad rin niya 'yung inyong provident fund para maging successful.

Sa kaniyang report sa akin, sa pagkaintindihan ko, in 1993 — sino nandito noong 1993 pa? Dami na — you established a provident fund. But I understand, the DBM did not recommend post-facto approval kasi pinag-aaralan pa raw 'yung rationalization ng iba't-ibang provident fund sa iba't-ibang ahensiya at korporasyon ng pamahalaan.

But I can understand the urgency of addressing the personal needs of our employees because we are now in the midst of among the most difficult times in the history not only of our country but of the world economy.

Mula pa noong 1997, nagka-Asian crisis tayo. Nung year 2000, nagka-impeachment crisis. Nung 2001, iyung I.T. bubble ng Amerika ay pumutok and the world's exports went down — kasi Amerika is the number one buyer of the

world — kasama na ang Pilipinas. Tapos nangyari ‘yung 9-11 at nagkaroon ng terorismo sa buong mundo. Early this year, SARS happened in our region. And though the Philippines handled it very well, tourism in Asia and the Pacific went down. All of these contribute to trying times and our hardworking government employees must have ready access to credit. I recognize that since 1994 your provident fund has provided you with an accessible source of low-rate loans for your emergency needs.

I congratulate your fund for growing to a self-sustaining and viable source of steady credit for PhilPost employees despite the fact that since 1996 PhilPost Corporation has ceased providing for the employer contribution to the fund. Kaya sabi ko, as long as you do not require the employer contribution, I cannot see why we cannot institutionalize your provident fund.

Therefore, with the condition that you said you agree to that we will not require employer contribution until a total policy is made for all agencies, I am hereby giving post-facto approval to the Philippine Postal Corporation provident fund.

Ito ay senyas ng aking pagpasalamat sa inyong sinsero at makabuluhang trabaho ‘di lamang para sa philpost kung hindi sa ating bansa at taumbayan.

Jobs, investments, reform — these are our priorities at sa inyong suporta, we shall pursue them as we ward off those who wish to foment division in our society. We shall pursue our reforms through the unswerving pursuit of justice and reconciliation.

I have prayed hard about the current impeachment controversy, and I have consulted with the leaders from the great institutions. There is a growing consensus among the great institutions that we have crossed a political threshold to the point wherein it is now proper for the president to step in and forge a principled solution to the impasse.

A few days ago, I proposed a covenant among the three great branches of government. Today, I would like to add that such a covenant may be premised on several fundamental principles such as the following:

First, we must respect the supreme welfare of the people as defined by our constitution and political traditions;

Second, there must be an affirmation of co-equality, independence, but indispensable cooperation and harmony among the three great branches of government;

Third, we must reinforce the principle of checks and balances as an instrument of national unity and stability and not of partisanship;

Fourth, the executive, legislative and judicial authorities must come together as trustees of the public interest and come to a resolution of the controversy within the rule of law; and fifth, democratic governance must be based on mutual trust, respect, civility, responsibility, and transparency among its leaders.

I believe these principles are even now leading us along the road to a principled solution, and therefore, along the road to stability and political progress.

Among the great institutions, there is now a growing consensus that we must have a common stand that will reflect our collective statesmanship. I cannot do it alone. Everyone concerned will have to bend backwards a bit without sacrificing principles. I am sure that right now a win win solution is in sight.

Of course, there is no doubt that there are continuous efforts to show divisiveness in our nation. But with you, the bureaucracy supporting unity and reconciliation, the plans to divide our society are futile and will fail.

They will fail because people are tired of infighting. People want unity and reconciliation. We have the support of the people in seeking unity and reconciliation.

Kaya, mga nagta-trabaho sa gobyerno, if you and I are united in this goal, there is no turning back from the tide of positive change — change in the powerful institutions of our country, change in the bureaucracy like the reforms being done in Philpost, and change in the entire nation.

We want to promulgate justice with reconciliation. We want reforms to uplift the poor and make life more comfortable for the ordinary Filipino. And that's the contribution of PhilPost — making life easier for the ordinary Filipino. You and I, because we are the government, the government will lead these reforms, will lead this reconciliation.

Kaya mga kawani ng Philpost, salamat sa inyong tulong sa ating mga reporma para sa katarungan, para sa pagkakaisa, para sa kaginhawaan ng ordinaryong taong bayan.

Ako ay binabati ko itong mga manila youth na nakikita ako. Binabati ko rin 'yung mga kawani ng philpost na nandoon sa harap ng fountain na maganda. Hindi ninyo ako masyadong makita kasi maliit lang ako, pero mamaya bababa ako para batiin kayo.

Sa inyong lahat, aking taos-pusong pagpasalamat sa inyong suporta sa administrasyon. Magkasama tayong magtatagumpay sa mga kailangang reporma at kailangang pagkakaisa ng ating bansa.

Happy anniversary sa inyong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 105th Anniversary of the Philippine Postal Service and Celebration of Postal Consciousness Week. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141142/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7533&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 29th Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 29th Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP)**

[Delivered at the Bougainville Pavilion, Taal Vista Hotel Tagaytay City, Cavite, November 7, 2003]

Thank you very much, Cerge. And congratulations for being overwhelmingly re-elected as Chairman of KBP.

I'd like to thank also our very young and handsome mayor of Tagaytay City, Mayor Francis Tolentino for joining us. Nasa likod raw siya kasi naka-maong siya, pero okay lang. Tagaytay is a resort city, nagugulat nga ako ba't naka-amerikana kayo lahat. Pati sa APEC pag sa resort kami naka-casual. But anyway, it's good to have you here.

Thank you, Pinky for your excellent report of success of the KBP in this challenging times. Bobby Barriero, Jun Nicdao, Lito Yabut, Father Bungayan, Romy Yabut, Rudy Gularbal, and Atong Henares. Congratulations! You're the new member, right? Where's Atong? I see his father.

I'm here today with you together with Milt Alingod, our Secretary of the Press; Secretary Defensor, my secretary for housing; Secretary Mai Jimenez, my secretary for ODA; and our new Undersecretary for the Press, Claro Fernandez, 'yung sa likod. noong araw kasi noong wala pa 'yung pwesto ni Claro, si Milt kahit na cabinet member nandoon sa likod doing the backroom work, now that he has an undersecretary he can be on the center stage. Okay.

Well, I'm glad to be here with you again. Every year in the last five years, I've inducted your national officers. And the last two events were held in Malacañang. I would have wanted to hold this one in Malacañang but you wanted me to come to you instead this time. Masyadong sanay na kayo sa Malacañang, but we held the last two events in Malacañang because I was president. And these events recalled your courage and commitment to the high ideals of your profession.

Yes, you have achieved success in difficult times even before the five years that I've been with you every year. You have fought in behalf of our people. You have fought for the Constitution. You have fought for good governance.

And our relationship goes back a long way, longer than the five years that you have invited me to be your inducting officer. In these five years before I joined you in swearing in your officers, our relationship is longer, it goes back to our mutual adherence to the pursuit of press freedom — as Cerge said — freedom dear to our nation. After all our nation has toppled empires and tyrants — and you have been contributory to that — our nation has a freedom that continues to live in the fountain of our democratic society.

Our democratic society today, our republic is like a house standing on three pillars — the Presidency, the Congress and the Judiciary. Each pillar must be strong against the wind of controversy. I was delighted at Pinky's metaphor about going against the wind. She feels she was going against the wind. She felt I must also feel sometimes I go against the wind. I go against the wind lots of times. And that is important for a presidency to be a strong pillar in our Republic.

Aside from the presidency, the two other pillars are now engaged in self-strengthening measures through introspection on the part of the supreme court and consensus building on the part of congress. I call on our people, I call on you to support these processes as they are being carried out. This is a test of democracy as well as how deeply we understand democracy. Of course, we cannot shut out the issues that are causing anxiety or even undue alarm. But we can focus our will as a people on unity rather than division, on resilience rather than defeat, on the triumph of peaceful freedom over irrational strife.

Last night, I was caught... Said, why don't I just call the Lakas congressmen to withdraw their signatures. I said Lakas is ready to do what it must do, but there are unifying solutions and there are divisive solutions. And we must first try the unifying solutions.

Once more, I call for national unity as I warn all attempts to undermine the Republic through unlawful plots. If anyone attempts to turn this controversy into an illegitimate bid for political power, let them be forewarned. We will pre-empt criminal conspiracies with the full force of law.

And likewise, I appeal to media's men and women not to allow yourselves to be used, wittingly or unwittingly, as pawns in political games or worst destabilization efforts.

After all, press freedom itself will be the first to be sacrificed if the will of the people is thwarted by lies and false causes.

As the three branches of government strive to gravitate towards a common solution, it's the responsibility of the press to refrain from fueling the debate with intrigue, conjecture and speculation.

I trust that your commitment to the ideals of your profession will be equalled by your commitment to our nation's future. Remain vigilant of wrongdoing but deliver the facts straight and true.

The coming elections in May will be another opportunity for the Philippines to show that our democratic institutions are strong and vibrant. The government is putting in place measures that will minimize if not eradicate cheating in the elections.

And two years ago, I signed a law lifting the political ad ban. I hope you consider that then and you still consider it now as another victory of the people in their bid to know their candidates better, and thereby secure their future with greater certainty.

The lifting the political ad ban was part of my commitment to promote clean, honest, orderly and peaceful elections — a commitment that stands firm to this day.

Press freedom is meant to secure the welfare of our democratic institutions. It is meant to secure the welfare not so much of the media but of the citizens and the public interest. We are committed to press freedom, as Cerge says, despite the excesses of the media.

My neighbors in the countries around us, are considered us strong. But I think part of our strength should be our outstanding and unique commitment to press freedom.

We know from our past — not necessarily from the experience of our neighbors around us — we know from our past, from our martial law experience that without press freedom our democratic institutions die.

Broadcasters, just as other media practitioners — as very well pointed out by Pinky — have become dangerous men and women to those who have unlawful secrets to hide, and to those who have the dark mind to silence the seekers of the truth.

In fact, according to the national union of journalists, an average of three journalists are killed per year. Maybe you would prefer average of three journalists being slapped with a libel case. But in our country very few libel cases prosper, but on the other hand the extra legal means are the ones that are used against your profession.

This morning, before I came here, I talk to General Jun Ebdane, of course, about instructions on thwarting any destabilization attempts even before they start, but also on following up what we had agreed about the task force to solve the crimes against the members of journalism. I told him I would like the Philippine national police to move

faster and more resolutely in the investigation of all unsolved murder cases victimizing broadcasters and media practitioners.

I'm committing one million pesos as reward money for the solution of each of the killings to the media practitioners over the last ten years.

I thank Pinky for pointing out about that accused murderer in Zamboanga del Sur. And while his colleagues are here — Jimmy Caringal, Boysie Rosales — Boysie, give your counterpart in Zamboanga del Sur the message: "his position is on the line — arrest that killer." and the... well, in that area a lot of the killings are also related to the terrorist threat. And Mai Jimenez is here, Secretary Mai Jimenez, she helps me go through the maze of ODA in order to see what fund availabilities are there to match what fund requirements there are. And now I'm asking her to help look for funds... to look for fund sources to augment the KBP training fund for broadcast journalists with the specific aim of helping you to better understand the threats of terrorism and the Mindanao conflict. I'm glad Pinky mentioned the Pagadian, because that is like the interface between the safety of journalists and the terrorism and the Mindanao conflict.

And I thank Pinky for pointing out the different positions between the industry and the government on the wipo, so I'm asking Chairman Borje to please work with the KBP so we can have a consensus building exercise as well, like the house is undergoing now, the House of Representatives. And is it true that you're concerned over the proliferation of low-power stations? So, I'm also asking Chairman Borje, the national telecommunications commission chairman, to temporarily stop the issuance of licenses to operate low-power stations pending the approval of rules and regulations governing them.

I have been with you for five years, two-and-a-half years of those as president. I have been with you in the last two-and-a-half years as I went through the learning curve of the presidency, and as I gained the experience necessary to understand what must be done — to understand what must be done on the one hand to reform society, on the other hand to deal with its deep divisions and heal them so that we may move forward and finally break the chains of poverty on our way to building a strong Republic.

I have been with you long enough to know that you as well as I dream of a future of equitable prosperity and justice. And I have been with you long enough to know, five years and long before the five years, that free and fair broadcasters are essential in fulfilling our dreams.

Therefore, may you continue to achieve success. May you achieve greater success in difficult times, whether this times are difficult for your organization, for our country or for the world. In fact, in this times, they are difficult for your organization, for your country, for the world.

Let us together reform the institutions of our society including media. Let us together use our own influence in order to build unity rather than to foment division.

Sa inyong lahat, mabuhay! And thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 29th Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141058/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7523&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the welcome reception for the 9th International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) Asia-Pacific Regional Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the welcome reception for the 9th International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) Asia-Pacific
Regional Conference**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, November 7, 2003]

Thank you very much, Secretary Dick Gordon. It's very appropriate that you're the honorary chairman of this conference because you are one of the great volunteer examples.

Mrs. Virginia Davide, who was doing volunteer work when she was in government and continuously do volunteer work now that she's out of government. I greet you and please send my best regards and my best respects to his Excellency Chief Justice Davide.

Miss Lizburns, other leaders of the world of volunteers in the Asia-Pacific, both those from the NGOs and the private sector, and those from the government who deal with them, ladies and gentlemen.

The Philippines is proud to host this important event. When Mrs. Davide invited me to speak before you, she said, I can speak in your conference site or I can ask you to come to Malacañang. She said, "but I think they would rather that you ask them to come to Malacañang." and so, I have invited you here today.

I'd like to great the excellencies of the diplomatic corps for being here with the volunteers of their country. This event affirms our country's active involvement in volunteerism as a tool for national and international development and cooperation. This is also a reflection of our government's deep commitment to the alliance forged with the international volunteer community.

Volunteerism is part of every nation's history. Volunteerism and solidarity are both sides of the same coin of community and nationhood. Those of you who came here to attend the 5th IAVE Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in 1995, the first in the Philippines which was held in Subic in Dick Gordon's time, probably had the chance to know how volunteerism converted that former U.S. base into a showcase of Philippine commerce, trade and tourism. At that time, challenged with the need to lift themselves from disaster, the volunteers of Subic built a freeport. The success of Subic is a testament to all Filipinos who believe that anything can be accomplished through volunteerism.

Traditionally, Philippine volunteerism has been associated with non-government organizations engaged in relief and rehabilitation work. And many of you are doing that, that's why my friends from DSWD are here. Today, however, volunteerism has added many other facets to itself that involve individuals, groups and institutions in addressing a common development agenda, whether in the area of social services – the traditional field of volunteers — or technical support, humanitarian assistance, capacity building and governance.

Academic institutions, the business community, socio-civic organizations and the government have benefited from volunteer services not only in terms of development programs and projects, but also in terms of enabling the personal and professional growth of individuals and institutions.

A significant feature of this multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary participation is the partnership between and among the volunteers and volunteer organizations, and the government and the private sector to share their best efforts towards a common goal.

Our medium-term Philippine development plan identifies volunteerism as a convergence strategy in the delivery of social services, right Nelia? In winning the battle against poverty, and in strengthening the tourism industry.

With the volunteer 12 program where Dick Gordon gets Filipino Americans, overseas Filipinos in other countries to bring over to be the volunteer tourism marketing promoters of our country.

My administration, as Mrs. Davide said, upholds the ideals of volunteerism and the important role of government in promoting volunteer service in nation-building and international understanding.

I consider these to be important legacies of my father as well, Former President Diosdado Macapagal. Because he was the one who created the Philippine National Volunteer Service committee in 1964. That became the forerunner of the present Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency, which was headed by Mrs. Davide before her retirement from public service, and that agency is a co-organizer of this conference.

Despite the conveniences offered by modern science and technology, humankind is still plagued with poverty, illiteracy, political conflict, disease, and environmental degradation, among others. And this is where volunteers can do so much.

Regardless of our standing in society, each of us is called upon to responsibly act and contribute towards the greater good of all.

Some do this volunteer work by themselves, unofficially. Some do it in an organized way, such as those who are participating in this conference, because the calling to improve our society which each one of us must do is a calling we volunteers cannot ignore.

We must continue to close ranks. That's the beauty of organized volunteer work. We must continue to close ranks in creating a culture of cooperation, solidarity. And when we do that, we can create a culture of peace which is what we need so much in this world.

And so, to all of you, thank you for coming to the Philippines. Let's all join hands in friendship and understanding to create a better world for all of mankind.

May I particularly express my appreciation to the Philippine association for volunteer effort or PA-VE or PAVE and the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency for organizing this conference which is another milestone in the country's volunteer service program.

I look forward to your having a successful conference because the communities and the institutions of the Philippines look forward to benefiting from the fruits of your interacting together. Thank you and good day.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Welcome Reception for the 9th International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) Asia-Pacific Regional Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141104/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7520&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Counter Drug Mission Fusion Piston 2003 Graduation Ceremonies
(Maritime Enforcement Training)**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Counter Drug Mission Fusion Piston 2003 Graduation Ceremonies (Maritime Enforcement
Training)**

[Delivered at the Sangley Point Naval Base, Cavite City, November 7, 2003]

Thank you very much, Undersecretary Anselmo Avenido, the head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. May you please sit down.

Ambassador Ricciardone, and the other officials and officers of the United States government; Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon and my other hosts here in Sangley Point.

I would like to also greet our other guests, especially the father of the new Drug Enforcement Law, Congressman Tony Cuenco.

I also have with me two Cabinet members: Secretary Mike Defensor and Secretary Mai Jimenez.

Sa mga nagtatapos dito sa napakaimportanteng pagsasanay natin, congratulations sa inyo! You are 52 very well chosen recipients of this training program.

I wish to thank the government of the United States for making this training course possible. Lahat tayo ang alam natin “Balikatan 02-1,” pero ang dami-daming training na ginagawa sa pamamagitan ng gobyerno ng Amerika at gobyerno ng Pilipinas, at ito na nga ay isa doon.

And I was very happy to learn from Tim Teal, our new U.S. DEA representative to the Philippines, welcome Tim to the Philippines! I was happy to hear from his speech that our requests for other training exercises will also be forthcoming.

I congratulate the graduates of this course, particularly the recipients of the honor man awards. You are 52 specially chosen trainees, and I expect you to echo what you have learned, echo it to your fellow law enforcers so that we can form a larger body of efficient and effective anti-narco and terrorism experts specializing in sea operations.

I’m very happy to hear from General Avenido that this training will be followed by land-based training against terrorism and especially against drugs. Here, in this training course, we have taken one important step towards institutionalizing maritime law enforcement in our shores and enhancing our coordination with the law enforcement agencies of other lands.

Terrorism, illegal drugs and other transnational crimes have increasingly threatened the peace of this world and the freedom of nations and peoples.

Our country is no stranger to terrorism, which has victimized our southern Philippines for a long time now. As President George Bush said in his recent state visit here: “both our nations are threatened by terrorism, and we are determined to fight that threat until it is defeated.”

The Philippines will do its share, with the help of this and other training programs, and other forms of assistance that the U.S. has extended to us through the years, and especially during the last two and-a-half years of my administration.

The expertise that our law enforcers and soldiers, well, have gained from this is also similar to the expertise that our soldiers gained from the Balikatan exercises. In those exercises, our soldiers increased their capability to neutralize the top men and diminish the strength of the Abu Sayyaf.

Armed with the skills and firepower to match the strength of our will, we notched several gains against terrorism since then. The latest of these have been the death of the terrorist Al-Ghozi; the raid on a Jemaah Islamiyah safehouse in Cotabato; and the arrest of Taufek, a ranking Jemaah Islamiyah operative.

Most recently, we captured and deported Victor Moore Infante, an arms smuggler for the Abu Sayyaf, wanted in the United States.

We are proud of our role in the fight against terrorism in this part of Asia. We are proud of our alliance with the U.S, and we are proud of our information and communication sharing alliance with Indonesia, Malaysia Cambodia, Brunei and Thailand, which was initiated by the Philippines.

Recently, in APEC, we were given the charge of being the coordinator for maritime security in the Asia-Pacific region. We hosted the meeting on maritime cooperation, security cooperation, and soon we will also host several trilateral customs-immigration-quarantine security meetings to strengthen cooperation particularly in our southern islands.

Through all these fight against terrorism, through all the wars our soldiers get into, peace remains our preferred option. And we thank the United States for supporting our peace initiatives in the south, including the recently initiated education projects, including the ongoing electrification projects coursed through USAID. And we also thank the United States government for the commitment to rehabilitate the areas of conflict when the peace talks shall have pushed through.

To you, the group of 52, I expect your contribution to our anti terrorism, our anti-narcotics and to our positive peace efforts to be special in line with your special training. I expect you to form the nucleus of our maritime-based anti-terrorists and anti-narcotics operations.

And I know that as you were especially chosen, you will especially do your work for the good of our country, its future, for a strong republic that is peaceful and prosperous — free of drugs, free of terrorism — where you and your children can enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity.

Mabuhay ang ating mga graduates ng ating special training course!

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Counter Drug Mission Fusion Piston 2003 Graduation Ceremonies (Maritime Enforcement Training). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141116/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7519&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing ceremony of the World Bank-sponsored 25th Consultative Group Meeting for the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the closing ceremony of the World Bank-sponsored 25th Consultative Group Meeting for the
Philippines**

[Delivered at the Rosal Ballroom, Shangri-la Mactan Island Resort Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, November 8, 2003]

Thank you, Secretary Camacho.

Mr. Vance Pulley, Governor Garcia, excellencies of the diplomatic corps and heads of the delegation, local government officials who are present here, members of the Cabinet who are present here, members of the delegations to this consultative group meeting, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, I join Governor Garcia in welcoming you to Cebu. Thank you for being here. We meet at a time when attention is centered on how Philippine democracy weathers its tests.

The situation in the Ninoy International Airport has been resolved. Nothing will ever justify the taking over of an international airport control tower and prejudice the lives of air passengers.

And I must commend the swift and decisive response of our aviation security units to this incident. They were working under the direction of secretary of transportation Larry Mendoza while he was here.

I think that just goes to prove how disaster and terrorist ready the Philippines is.

I'm glad that after a spate of high alarm, for a few hours last night, all passengers, guests, and airport personnel are out of harm's way. I think I can assure the world, after we've shown our swift action last night, that our airport is safe and sound. Let there be no doubt about our physical security and stability.

As to the controversies besetting two of the great branches of government, I make my point clear, that I shall abide by any decision of the supreme court, as the ultimate arbiter and interpreter of the law and the constitution. Nonetheless, I'm gratified that the leaders of the Supreme Court and congress are earnestly considering a draft covenant I submitted to them to ensure principled adherence to constitutional processes and to strengthen democratic institutions in resolving the controversies between them. Again, this shows that there should be no doubt as to our permanent political stability.

The present challenges have not diminished our will or our ability to push on. We will work with more determination to meet our goals — to reduce the number of our poor by half; to achieve unity and lasting peace for our people; to sustain the rule of law and defeat terrorism and other obstacles that block our path to equitable growth and development.

As we heal the divisions of our society — and that I'm determined to do — our country will be able to position itself even better in the face of improved opportunities for growth.

Despite the adversities in the global economy and some internal concerns in the first half of this year, we achieved the highest growth rate since the 1997 Asian crisis. And we are expected to have the 6th highest growth rate for this year among the 21 economies of the APEC region.

We have fortified our macroeconomic fundamentals amidst the fluctuations of global markets and despite the uncertainties brought about by the Iraq war, the SARS scare and the perennial threat of terrorism.

We smoothened out the economic wrinkles brought about by politically-motivated attempts to destabilize the country in the last few months. And last week saw our stock market index at its 20-month high.

Strong fundamentals have kept the economy on a sustained growth path. Our inflation remains tame and in fact the three percent average growth from January to September is much lower than our projections. Meantime, our interest rates have been contained below the target for the year.

Our strong fiscal position in the first half of the year has enabled us to settle our financial obligations. We shall maintain good macroeconomic management.

We will institute more reforms that will allow us to withstand future economic disturbances and enable our most disadvantaged sectors to be more active in the country's economic life.

Changing circumstances have caused us to modify our strategies. For instance, our fiscal scenario has prompted us to shy away from excessive loan assistance. And I'm glad, in fact, that the 2 billion dollars that were pledged here are much higher than what we expected. Because we have become more selective of projects. And while being selective, we have made sure that the projects selected will be implemented quickly and smoothly as possible putting to use the lessons of the past.

With our increased absorptive capacity of the credits and grants from ODA and the improved monitoring of projects, we will get better at infrastructure delivery and capability-building programs. And we have indeed gotten better as the World Bank itself has acknowledged.

I was lifted by the presidency by the clamor of a people demanding good governance. And I have made reforms in all aspects of public administration. The lifestyle checks, the creation of the anti-graft commission, procedural reforms in processing documents, the government e-procurement law, the reforms in tax administration are among the measures that enhanced transparency, accountability and effectivity in governance. And we thank donor community for supporting these measures.

We are, of course, especially targeting for our expenditures the pockets of poverty that have become recruitment grounds of terrorists and insurgents. Mindanao is our special focus.

Development and peace always go together. We can only foster lasting peace in Mindanao by promoting its sustained development. Talking peace with the MILF is our consistent priority. But our peace is not for terrorists. We talk peace with secessionists, with insurgents but not with terrorists. We have captured or neutralized ranking Jemaah Islamiyah members.

The programs we have established for the people of Mindanao were made possible with the help of partners like you.

Last September, I asked the president of the World Bank, Mr. Wolfensohn to lead the efforts for a multi-donor trust fund for Mindanao, a multi-million peace dividend' to be operative as soon as a peace agreement between the government and the MILF is forged.

I'm glad to hear that the World Bank is now gearing for the needs assessment phase of this trust fund. And to make this trust fund operable as soon as possible, I am very grateful to the Malaysian government that is facilitating the talks and spearheading the ceasefire monitoring process. At the same time, we are seeking a final round of exploratory talks to wrap up outstanding issues before the formal talks begin.

The MILF has assured us that it is not harboring terrorists, and we appreciate that statement. Therefore, I have instructed our peace panel to send them a list of most wanted persons in Mindanao.

Now that there is growing stability in the field, we would like to put up more confidence-building measures so that the atmosphere can lighten up enough to allow unimpeded rehabilitation and development programs.

It is in the poorest communities where the action is needed, and we don't want to use force as the first option. We want to use development.

With the help of the World Bank and other multilateral institutions and bilateral partners, we can drive up the dividend of peace by keeping alive the hope for a better and more dignified life among the most underprivileged and disenfranchised. Mindanao has been pinpointed, especially the autonomous region, as indeed the most underprivileged and the most disenfranchised. It is also one of the areas where the Jemaah Islamiyah seeks to roost.

They have tried but they have failed. Our coordination with our neighbors and allies is strong and in earnest. We will work together, continue to work together for stability in all fronts — security, economic and political.

And in working for stability, all these fronts, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you once again to help me and my government bring enduring peace and sustainable development to the Filipino nation.

Thank you so much for your support.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Closing Ceremony of the World Bank-Sponsored 25th Consultative Group Meeting for the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141016/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7513&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Multisectoral Program in Mandaue City

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Multisectoral Program in Mandaue City**

[Delivered at the Mandaue City Cultural and Sports Complex Mandaue City, Cebu, November 8, 2003]

Daghang salamat, Inko Pidong ug belated happy birthday kanimo. Belated 80th birthday gyud, usa ka jubilee nga birthday ni Inko Pidong ug gitawag ko sa iya, sa iyang birthday, apan karon nianhi ako aron makapag-abi-abi espesyal sa iya. Happy birthday!

Governor Pabling Garcia, daghan salamat sab sa imong guwapo kaayo nga pag-abi-abi kanako ug sa imong expression sa suporta kanako, kauban ug pamilya ni Mayor Ouano, ang pamilya ni Governor Garcia kanunay nga suporta kanako busa nahimo ko gyud nga duol kaayo diri sa sugbu ug sa Mandaue City.

Vice Mayor Seno; mayor sa Consolacion, Mayor Gungob, daghan salamat sa imo pag-anhi; mga provincial board members; mga barangay captains ug officials diri sa Mandaue; ang mga kauban sa provincial board members; ang akong Cabalen nga si board member mMagsangkay; mga konsehal diri sa Mandaue City; aton mga SK; ug ang guwapa nga anak ni governor, si Gwen Garcia.

Kauban ko karon ang akon mga Cabinet members na kanunay mutabang diri sa Mandaue ug sa Cebu. Kasama ko ngayon si Secretary Mike Defensor. Kining atong gihatag nga mga titulo ug certificate of full payment, nahimo an resettlement project nagikan sa Mandaue City na kauban ang tabang gikan sa gobyerno sa HUDCC ug sa NHA ubos kan Secretary Mike Defensor. Senator unta kon sigurado na ta na dili siya underage. Sabi ko, Mike, senador ka na kung sigurado tayo na hindi ka underage. kay si Mike makaabot sa 35 years old sa June 30 ug kinahanglan mahibalo nato sa balaud kan usa ang effectivity sa kinahanglan 35 years old ang usa ka senador. Is it on June 30, the day of the oathtaking or on the day of the election? Apan bisan underage o of age, hibalo nato na kining aton mga gidawat ug certificate karon, tag-iya na sa kaugalingon yuta.

Kasama ko rin, together with me is Secretary Marita Jimenez. She is my secretary for Special Projects and Official Development Assistance. Ug hibalo naton nga diri, here in Cebu province and Mandaue City, there are so many for assisted projects, ug kining mga proyekto na nianhi sa akong administrasyon gikan sa aton mga sources sa foreign assistance na nianhi agi sa trabaho ni Secretary Marita Jimenez.

Kasama ko rin, together with me also is Secretary Teresita Ging Deles. Karon siya ang akon bag-o nga Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process. Siya ang nagne-negotiate sa mga MILF, sa mga NDF, sa mga kung sinu-sino pang mga maliit na grupo na rebelde at secessionist apan bag-o siya nahimo ang akong Presidential Adviser sa Peace Process, siya ang akong Secretary for Anti-Poverty. Ug daghan sa mga aton mga projects diri sa Sugbu, ang mga kabalikat laban sa kahirapan, nianhi sab agi sa maabtik nga trabaho ni Secretary Ging Deles.

Kauban ko sab ang akong Presidential Assistant for Region VII, Felix Guanzon. And we have also with me one of the brightest intelligence officers in our country, na karon siya ang atong Region VII Regional Director sa pulis, General Bobby Delfin.

Kaninyong tanan, mga kaigsuonan, maayong hapon ug daghan salamat sa inyong maiinit na pagdawat ug pag-abi-abi kanako karong adlaw.

Niadtong gipaila ko ni Inko Pido Ouano, ingon niya na tingali di na ko kinahanglan pakaila kaninyo kay daghan kaninyo kaila na ko, ang akong musulti nga ang akon muingon tingali naa kaninyo kaila na ko dugay, tingali naa karon ra apan hibalo ko nga dugay na makaila mi sa pamilya Ouano. Kay sukad pa sa ako nahimo senador, sukad pa sa 1992, kanunay ko mabisita dinhi sa Mandaue aron makahatag ug akong respeto kan Mayor Ouano ug sa iyang pamilya.

Busa ako murag nahimo na usa ka miyembro sa pamilya Ouano. Sukad sa akong senador, duha ka beses, vice president, busa ingon gyud ni Inko Pido kaganina nga ako nahimo presidente, grabe gyud ang ilahang pamilya murag usa sa iyang anak nahimo na presidente. ingon gyud ni Inko Pidong na daghan kuno ang utang ug iyang pamilya ug Mandaue City kanako. Sa mga higala dili na kinahanglan makuwenta ang utang kay dili na nato hibaw, sila naa utang kanako, kamo naa utang kanako. Ako sab daghan sab ang akong utang kaninyo ug sa ila, sa ilang pamilya.

Dili na naton makuwenta kon kinsay naa ang balance of surplus. Ang importante kanunay magkauban kita sa kauswagan sa Mandaue city ug sa probinsiya ug Sugbu.

Ug bisan unsa naay ako nahimo para kaninyo, dili ko na isulti karon, ang importante hibalo nato na daghan pa ang kinahanglan mahimo alang kaninyo gikan sa akong administrasyon.

Sama sa laing mga proyekto nga kinahanglan nato mahimo, una sa tanan, si Mike Defensor, ang NHA nakatabang na gyud sa atong resettlement victims... Ay, beneficiaries. Now, I'm also asking Mike Defensor to fast track the release by NHA for the construction of the medium-rise buildings in Looc, Mandaue City for the squatter families of paradise island. Okay ba yon, Mike? Okay ba yung 100 million pesos? 100 million pesos sa mga pamilya sa Looc, Mandaue City.

Ikaduha, ang aton nga tabang alang sa pagpalit sa bugas ug labaw pa nga mga housing materials sa mga fire victims sa Sitio Aroma, barangay Subangdaku, ready na karon para sa release. Dili nato... Wala gidala, dili nato gidala? Malou, ang tseke gikan sa PCSO, wala? Pero apan ready na for release, so ingon ko kan Felix Guanzon, na siya makuha sa PCSO ug personal dalhin niya dinhi kan Mayor Teddy Ouano sa pagbalik ni Mayor Teddy Gikan sa Bangkok.

Ikatulo, nahibalo ko nga ang inyohang hospital undergoing karon ug renovation ug expansion. Sa maingon ko sa PCSO, kay ang PCSO nga ubos sa Office of the President ang akong gihatag ug obligasyon nga mutabang sa aton mga health projects, murag ingon ko kan PCSO nga mu-contribute sa equipment ug laboratary supplies ug annex sa inyohang Mandaue City Hospital.

Ikaupat, murag naa kamo request nga ma-reclassify ang foreshore land aron mahimo urban development. Alam mo yon, Mike, ano? Yung kanilang foreshore land na gusto maging urban development? So, ang in-charge diha ang DENR. So, muingon ko sa DENR, agi gihapon kan P.A. Felix Guanzon nga ang DENR ug uban pa mga ahensiya mutabang ug City of Mandaue sa iyang request sa reclassification sa foreshore land. Aron madaghan pa ang mga urban areas diri sa Mandaue City.

Tungod kay ang Mandaue City urban na gyud. Kay kamo gyud ang industrial center sa Tibuok Sugbu, ug ang Sugbu ang industrial center sa Tibuok Visayas, busa ang Mandaue ang industrial center sa Tibuok Visayas.

Ug tungod sa mga produkto sa inyohang mga pabrika diri sa Mandaue bisan ang tibuok probinsiya Sugbu, bisan ang tibuok Pilipinas nakataas ang iyahang growth rate. Ingon gyud nila bisan ang kalibutan karon daghan ang mga problema sukad pa 1997 Asian crisis, sukad pa sa 9-11, sa terrorist bombing sa World Trade Center, sukad pa sa SARS, sukad pa sa laing-laing problema sa kalibutan ug sulod sa Pilipinas tungod kay dayon kanunay ang progreso sa industriya diri sa mandaue dayon ang growth rate ug Pilipinas sa Tibuok Asia ug pacific region nga naa 21 economies, ang Pilipinas number 6 sa growth rate. Ug daghan gyud sa aton mga exports nagikan diri sa sugbu ug nagikan sa industrial center sa Mandaue.

Busa naa na ako daghan nga utang sa pamilya Ouano ug sa mga katauhan sa Mandaue, daghan pa ang utang ug tibuok Pilipinas, ug tibuok ekonomiya ug Pilipinas sa mga katauhan ug mga magtrabaho, mga nagatrabaho, mga pabrika sa Mandaue, busa kinahanglan gyud na espesyal ang atong tabang diri sa inyong siyudad.

Sa gihapon, kay dili ko na gusto madugay sa akong pag-diskurso, gusto ko lang ipaabot sa gihapon ang akon dako nga pagpasalamat ug ang akong saad na miyentras ako presidente kanunay tua sa akong kasing-kasing ang City of Mandaue ug probinsiya ug Cebu.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Multisectoral Program in Mandaue City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141044/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7516&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing program of the Peace and Development Summit “Kasulong sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran, Tatak Bulakenyo” [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagtatapos na programa ng Peace and Development Summit “Kasulong sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran,
Tatak Bulakenyo”**

[Ipinahayag sa Regino Carmeli University Gymnasium, Brgy. Catmon Malolos City, Bulacan, ika 12 ng Nobyembre, 2003]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Governor Josie de la Cruz.

‘Yung pagkuwento ni Josie tungkol sa akin, bagay na bagay para sa isang estudyanteng nagke-kuwento tungkol sa kanyang teacher.

Ako’y nagpapasalamat na tayo ay narito lahat. Salamat sa inyong napakainit na pagtanggap sa inyong lingkod at aking mga kasamahan ngayon.

Kasama ko ngayon ang ilan sa aking mga Cabinet member. Ang ating Cabinet officer for regional development sa Region III, si Richard Gordon, ang ating Secretary of Tourism. Nabanggit na ni Josie kanina si Secretary Michael Defensor, siya ‘yung ka-partner nitong ating lilipat na mula sa ating railroad. nandito rin, nandoon siya kasama ng mga media, inaalagaan n’ya, ini-entertain n’ya, ang ating Press Secretary, si Secretary Milt Alingod. At nandito ang isa sa aking tatlong Cabinet member mula sa Bulacan, si Secretary Lito Sarmiento. Nandito rin ang ating Presidential Assistant for North Luzon, si Rene Diaz.

Sabi nga ni Josie, ang dami-dami ko ng appointees mula sa Bulacan. Tatlong Cabinet member, maraming undersecretary, maraming importanteng director, at lately nag-appoint ako ng tatlong Sandiganbayan Justices, sabay-sabay, lahat taga-Bulacan. Si Judge Baldos, si Judge Jurado, at saka si Fiscal de la Cruz. Lahat Bulacan.

Kaya binabati ko lahat ng mga officials ng Bulacan na naririto ngayon. ‘Yung ating mga congressmen, ang congressman n’yo dito ay si Congressman Willy Alvarado. Siya ay... Inurong n’ya ‘yung kanyang pirma sa impeachment. nandito rin ‘yung aking kaibigan, dating Chief of Staff noong ako ay Vice President, si — kalahating Capampangan — si Congressman Willy Villarama. Narito ‘yung ating napakagandang dalawang mga congresswomen — si Lorna Silverio at saka si Nining Nicolas. At ‘yung ating Congressman sa party list, kinakatawan ang mga magsasaka ng butil, si Congressman Ben Cruz.

Gusto kong batiin ang ating host mayor, si Danny Domingo. Tama si Josie, pag malapit sa Pampanga ang Bulacan, nasilip lahat ng nabibigay ko sa Pampanga. nasilip ninyo ‘yung San Fernando overpass. Mula sa San Fernando pumunta ako dito sa Bulacan, sa Baliuag. Tuloy, hiningan ako ng overpass para sa Malolos. At gaya nang sabi ni Josie, dumating kaagad, three days after ‘yung engineering team. At sabi ni Danny Domingo sa akin na nagsisimula na ‘yung mobilization.

Binabati ko lahat ng punongbayan ng Bulacan, ang dami-dami n’yong narito. Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat dahil kayo ay narito. At gusto ko ring batiin ‘yung ating mga nag-aalaga ng ating kapayapaan, si General Dominguez, si General Braganza, at saka si General Querol. Romy, ‘di ba Bulacan ka rin? Ah, pero si Vidal Querol, ‘yan, taga-Bulacan ‘yan.

And I would to greet the private sector. Kung nandito lang sana ang pangalan babatiin ko lahat pero nandito ang pangalan ni Rey Simbulan, ang Regional Director ng Luzon PCCI. At ang ating host sa eskwelahang ito. Thank you for receiving me for the second time, Sister Carmeli Catan, ang pangulo ng University of Regina Carmeli. Pagpasok ko nga hinahanap ko 'yung mga estudyante eh. Nandoon sila. Kumusta kayo lahat. At mga napakaraming mga DepEd dito, binabati ko rin kayo lahat. Mga iba't-ibang official — ay, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

At itong pagpupulong nating ito para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran ay talagang tatak ng bulakenyo. Ang inyong pagmamahal sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran ay katangiang pinatunayan na ninyo sa maraming makasaysayang pangyayari sa ating bansa kung saan naging mahalagang bahagi ang mga Bulakenyo.

Isa na nga dito, hindi natin makalimutan dahil ito ay isang pinagdidiriwang ng buong bansa, ay 'yung Malolos Congress na bumuo ng unang Konstitusyon sa buong Asya — ang Malolos Constitution. Dito sa Malolos, dito sa Bulacan ipinakita ng mga Pilipino ang pagpapahalaga at paggalang sa Saligang Batas. Tamang-tama, naalaala natin 'yon dahil itong pagpapahalaga sa ating saligang batas ay muling napatunayan sa Davide impeachment case, kung saan ang desisyon ng Korte Suprema base sa Konstitusyon ay inayunan at iginalang ng sambayanang Pilipino.

Kailangan talaga mayroon tayong rekonsilyasyon at panibagong pagkakaisa kung gusto nating sumulong ang bansa. Kailangan natin ang kapayapaan kung gusto nating kaunlaran para sa bansa. Para sa katahimikan ng pag-iisip ng taong bayan, dapat patahimikin na natin ang kontrobersiya ng krisis ng impeachment pagkatapos na resolbahan sa paraang maka-saligang batas. Lahat ng mga panig sa alitan ay kumilos na maka-bansa at tayo dapat tayo magkaisa at pasiglahin natin ang ating mga institusyong demokratiko kaysa pahinain pa sila.

Binubuksan ko muli ang sinsero at tahimik na pag-uusap sa lahat ng mga grupong may kinalaman, at inaasahan ko na pakikilingan nila ang panawagan sa maka-prinsipyong rekonsilyasyon. Itong maka-prinsipyong rekonsilyasyon ay talagang panawagan ng ating mga panahon. Hindi lamang 'yung maka-prinsipyong rekonsilyasyon sa iba't-ibang panig ng alitan sa nakaraang impeachment crisis kung hindi na rin 'yung tuluyan rekonsilyasyon na hinahanap natin sa pamamagitan ng mga npa at 'yung gobyerno, milf doon sa mindanao, 'yung gobyerno, 'yung mga importante rin ang rekonsilyasyon sa pamamagitan ng mga pwersa ng Edsa Dos at Edsa Tres. 'Yan ang napakaimportanteng rekonsilyasyon na dapat habulin natin ngayon.

Ang taumbayan kasi ay kailangan makita ang pwersa nakakapag-kaisa kung hindi ang taong bayan mismo ang magwawatak-watak at hihina sa pagharap sa mga nakakasindak na hamon. Ang mga hamon natin, ang batayang hamon natin ay dalawa — pairalin ang kapayapaan, labanan ang kahirapan. Ang bansa ay kailangang mahilom sa pamamagitan ng pinagkaisang patriyotismo at damdaming tungkulin maging mga lider, maging sambayanan.

Ako sa mga nakaraang krisis, nakaraang krisis ng impeachment, habang tumutulong makahanap ng solusyon sa paraang magpairal ng dignidad ng mga dakilang institusyon ng ating pamahalan, tuloy-tuloy ang ating higit na pansin sa mga serbisyong pang-kalakalan at pang-kabuhayan. Dahil hindi naman pwedeng tumigil ang pagtakbo ng ating bansa porke't lamang may alitan o hidwaan.

Sinisikap kasi natin magkaroon ng malakas na republika. Salamat na lamang na sa matagal na problema natin ay meron tayong mga nakakamit. Matagal na nating problema ang pagpapasigla ng ating ekonomiya dahil ang pagpasigla ng ekonomiya ay siya ang solusyon sa kahirapan. Kaya kaunlaran 'yung pinag-uusapan natin sa summit na ito. Mabuti na lamang na sa gitna ng impeachment crisis noon pa tumaas ang ating stock market sa pinakamataas na sigla sa loob ng nakaraang dalawampung buwan. Ibig sabihin noon nandiyan pa rin ang tiwala ng mga nagnenegosyo sa ating bansa. At sa maikling panahon, marami tayong naitaguyod. Itong mga magkakaroon ng bagong buhay at bagong bahay, sila ay bahagi ng naitaguyod nating pinakamalaking housing program at land tenure program sa maralitang taga-lungsod sa buong kasaysayan. Maraming mahihirap, hindi lamang itong mga ladies nating naka-berde sa kanan ko ang nabigyan ng karapatang magkaroon ng bagong tahanan at nabigyang karapatang bilhin ang lupang tinitirikan. At ito ay... Ang dami noon dahil limampung taon, tatlumpung taon na naghihintay. Ang dami ko nang nakitang umiyyak dahil hindi nila naisip na mangyayari ito sa wakas, pero nangyari sa ating administrasyon.

‘Yung bigas, ‘yung isda, ‘yung parating binibili ng mahihirap, hanggang ngayon napapanatili pa rin natin ang presyo ng pagkaing binibili ng mahihirap. At ang koleksiyon ng ating buwis, lumalakas, dahil inayos natin ang sistema ng koleksiyon, kasama na ang lifestyle checks at iba pang mga panlaban sa katiwalian. At dahil na rin sa magandang mga batas na ginawa ng Congress tungkol sa ayos ng ating sistema ng koleksiyon ng buwis. Kaya, congratulations sa ating limang congressman na narito ngayon.

Sabihin man ng mga nagbabatikos, kung ano ang sasabihin nila, ang ating GNP growth rate noong itong taong ito ang pinakamataas na nakamit natin mula noong ating 1997 Asian financial crisis. At sabihin man — kung ano ang sasabihin ng mga nagbabatikos sa atin — dalawampu’t isang ekonomiya sa Asia-Pacific o APEC, sa dalawampu’t isang ekonomiya, ang ating growth itong taon ay pang-anim sa lahat sa dalawampu’t isa. Ibig sabihin nun haming sa labinglima sa ating mga karatig ekonomiya sa Asia at Pacific ay mas maganda ang ating performance.

Ngunit kahit mas maganda ang ating performance kumpara sa ating mga karatig-bansa at ito ay totoo sa nakalipas na dalawa at kalahating taon ng aking administrasyon, ang mga bansang ito sa aking pagbibisita at pag-uusap ay nagsisimula na muling umahon. Kaya sa pagkakataong ito dapat hindi nila tayong maiwan pag-ahon nila.

Kaya ito ang mga kailangan nating gawin. Maging sa paglaban sa krimen lalo na sa laban sa iligal na droga meron tayong mga importanteng tagumpay. Nagpapasalamat ako sa nalaman ko kanina kay Josie na doon sa Doña Remedios Trinidad magkakaroon ng rehabilitation center para sa ating mga drug addiction victims. Ito ay ngo-initiated, kaya mabuhay ang mga bulakenyong NGO at private sector. Malubha ang problema ng droga kaya ‘yon ay isa sa mga batayan ng performance ng ating mga pulis, chief at police director.

Kahapon, ang mga pulis ay nakahuli ng ini-smuggle na drogang halagang isang bilyong piso pagkatapos nang masinsinang intelligence operations diyaan sa inyong karatig-bayan, sa Valenzuela. Ito ay napakaimportante. Kasi noong unang tatlong buwan ng ating panibagong paglalaban kontra sa droga pagkatapos ng ating State of the Nation Address ay marami na tayong mga drug bust sa mga drug lord na noong araw ay untouchable. Marami tayong mga pabrikang nasarado ng shabu kaya naging mahal ang shabu sa kalsada. Ngunit ganunpaman, kahit na naging mahal, tumaas nang five times, meron pa rin. Eh, kung nasarado na ang mga pabrika, saan nanggagaling ‘yon? Nanggagaling sa importation, nanggagaling sa smuggling. Kaya doon natin nilagay ang ating detective work. At kahapon doon sa isang pabrika nahuli, nakalagay pala sa ilalim ng sofa, furniture imports kunyari. At doon nga, one billion pesos ang drogang nahanap. Pinakamabisa, pinakamabungang drug bust sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa.

At dito sa Bulacan, alam kong abala kayo sa problema ng droga. Alam ko na ang mga barangay dito sa Bulacan ay hindi magpapaiwan sa kampanyang ito. Nalaman ko na pati ang mga Homeowners Association dito sa Bulacan ay gustong tumulong. Talagang kailangan ko ang inyong tulong. Maganda ‘yan, religious ngo nagtatayo ng drug rehab center. Homeowners Association, private sector sumasama sa paghanap ng mga drug pushers. Maganda ‘yan at dapat tularan ng mga kaparehong asosasyon at ngo sa ibang lugar. Huwaran talaga ang Bulacan.

Sa buong Pilipinas, talagang meron tayong maraming tagumpay tungkol sa kapayapaan. Napahina rin natin ang Abu Sayyaf. Nabasa ko sa peryodiko, isa doon sa mga main leaders ng kidnapping nung Sipadan pa noon panahong year 2000 ay nasugpo ng ating mga sundalo. At puspusang kinakampanya nating madakip ang mga kasapi ng Jemaah Islamiyah, para sa ganun ay masugpo sila bago sila kumalat hanggang dito sa Luzon at Bulacan.

Ang pamahalaan ay nagsisikap na gawin ang lahat ng ito para sa lahat ng Pilipino, dahil gaya nang sabi ng inyong tema ng inyong summit kailangan ang kapayapaan para sa kaunlaran. At ginagawa natin ito lalong-lalo na sa ating mga kabataan, tulad ng kabataan dito sa eskwelahang ito, ‘yung nasa kaliwa ko dahil kayo ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa.

Dito sa Bulacan, nagkaroon nga kayo ng summit, may ilang mga... Si Josie ang kailangang sasagot. Ngunit meron ding ilang nakita ko na may kinalaman ang national government. ‘Yung iba pinag-aaralan — lahat nga pinag-aaralan — pero meron akong tatlong nakita na medyo dapat siguro bigyan na ng anunsiyo ngayon pa man. O, bakit dalawa na lang ito? Ayun. Hindi. Ah, ayun, ayun. Okey. Ano kaya ang uunahin ko dito?

Ah, gusto kong batiin ang bulacan kasi ang gaganda ng mga produkto ninyo, lalong gaganda sa packaging na ginagawang tulong ni Raul Hernandez dito sa Bulacan. At dahil napag-usapan natin ‘yung pangangalakal ng Bulacan, ‘yung North Food Exchange, sabi ni Josie anim na taon na n’yang linalakad kaya talagang kailangan karanasan at panahon para matupad. And may anim na taon, kaya inuutos ko ang TESDA, NEDA, Foreign Affairs — nandito ‘yung anak ni ka Blas Ople. Ay, hi! Si Felix Ople — at ang DOST na tulungan ang probinsiya ng Bulacan para pabilisan, pabilisan ang information component ng North Food Exchange.

Ngayon, alam n’yo ang Bulacan malapit hindi lamang sa aking ama, kungdi sa akin, kundi na rin sa aking ama. At panahon ng aking tatay, parating kinikuwento sa akin ni Mayor De Leon pag nagpupunta ako doon — noong una pang panahon ng aking pagpupunta doon — “ang tatay mo ang nagbigay ng patubig dito sa Bulacan, sa Angat.” eh, ngayon mukhang kailangan nang panibagong trabaho sa Angat. Kaya nalaman ko meron pala noong 1992 pa isang MOU sa pamamagitan ng MWSS at saka Provincial Government of Bulacan kung papano ma-allocate ang tubig ng angat. Eh, dapat naman siguro ang MWSS, 1992 pa ‘yon — ‘yan ang problema pagpalit nang palit ng pangulo eh — mabuti na lang, na-research natin sa pamamagitan nitong summit na ‘to. Kaya inuutusan ko ‘yung MWSS na balikan itong 1992 MOU kasama ng probinsiya ng bulacan at tignan kung papano matupad itong allocation na ito.

Tapos ‘yung pangatlo. Merong Bayabas Dam Project, sa DRT na naman. Ano ba itong DRT? At merong... Kasi nga may problema kayo ng patubig at merong rekomendasyon na gumawa ako ng Executive Committee na siya ang mag-o-oversee ng build-operate-and-transfer implementation ng Bayabas Dam. Gumawa raw ako ng Inter-Agency Committee. Hindi ako naniniwala sa committee eh. Naniniwala ako sa isang tao lamang dapat nag-o-oversee o isang kagawaran. Kaya itong Memorandum Order na sinasabing “create an inter-agency committee to oversee the build-operate-and-transfer implementation of the Bayabas dam.” papalitan ko itong Memorandum Order. Sasabihin ko “Authorizing the Governor of Bulacan to oversee the B-O-T transfer.”

Importante talaga na tayo ay nagkakasama para matugunan itong mga pangangailangan. Madali mag-usap ng prinsipyo at saka theory eh. Madali magbatikos kung ano ang masamang ginagawa o pangit na ginagawa o mali. Pero mahirap ang magpatupad — execution. At ‘yang execution ay nanggagaling sa karanasan, sa alam natin kung saan-saan ang mga papeles naghahanap, ‘yan ang tinatawag na bahagi ng learning curve. At ang masasabi natin, itong ginanap natin sa ating summit na ito, ‘yan ay isang malaking tutulong sa tagumpay para maunawaan natin ang kailangang gawin para sa pangunahing lalawigan ng Bulacan, na siya rin kung kayo ay maunlad, maunlad ang buong Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA’s Speech during the Closing Program of the Peace and Development Summit “Kasulong sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran. Tatak Bulakenyo”. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140920/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7506&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 22nd Philippines National Prayer Breakfast

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 22nd Philippines National Prayer Breakfast**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, November 12, 2003]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Romulo.

Other Cabinet members, Senate President Drilon, Speaker de Venecia, Justice Puno, mayor Atienza, Congresswoman Dumarpa and the other elective officials who are here.

Joe Tan Ramirez and George Drysdale, the leaders of this prayer breakfast; former Senate President Salonga, thank you for your prayer for the president; Bishop brother Eddie Villanueva; Bishop Tenderso and the other reverend bishops; Father Tapiador and the other reverend fathers; Commissioner Ide Tillah, happy birthday to you; ladies and gentlemen; brothers and sisters:

Thank you for inviting me again to be a part of the Philippine National Prayer breakfast.

I think today is a good day for having this prayer breakfast. I think today is a good day to thank our lord that our democratic system has survived one of its greatest tests in recent times. I think today is a time to thank the Lord that this passing a test has made us prouder of our democratic system. The three great powers of government have come together to express faith in each other and in a stable national future.

There is indeed no substitute for living and leading in God's presence, and calling on his holy name for help or for thanksgiving.

I have never doubted that the lord would guide us to a resolution that highlights our governments capacity for self-repair and self-redemption.

And now, as we have heard from the many prayers and many reflections today, I would like to stress that we must have reconciliation. We must have a newfound unity if we are to move the nation forward. For the peace of mind of the people, we must quiet down the controversy of the Davide crisis now that it has already been constitutionally resolved. All sides in the dispute have acted with statesmanship and we must gather around our democratic institutions rather than erode them further.

I have opened earnest back channels to all the groups involved and I hope they will heed the call for principled reconciliation.

What is principled reconciliation? Yesterday, I called my cabinet to a special meeting to reflect on this — what is principled reconciliation? We had asked our resource persons to guide us in the theology of principled reconciliation. Reverend Archbishop Capalla, who is the incoming President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and Father Intengan, Romeo Intengan, who is the provincial of the Jesuit Community of the Philippines. And when we talked about what is principled reconciliation, and Archbishop Capalla opened the floor for comments, questions and reflections, Joey Lina, our guest speaker for today, talked about the story of Zacchaeus. And, indeed, as we reflected on the different elements of the story of Zacchaeus, abstracted from that story were indeed the elements of principled reconciliation.

I will not repeat the theological analysis of our learned archbishop and learned priest, but that should be for another time and they can explain it more not me. But I found it providential that today's gospel reading was about the story of Zacchaeus. It is the story of principled reconciliation. It is the call of god to our people today.

The people must sense a unifying force in their institutions of governance or they themselves will be divided and weakened in facing the formidable challenges of waging the peace and fighting poverty. The nation must be healed by a common patriotism and sense of duty among leaders and constituencies.

This is the meaning I discern in your theme for today's prayer breakfast living and leading in God's presence. Your theme is a timely and relevant call towards strengthening our virtues and addressing our ever evolving roles in this new millennium. In 2 Peter 1:5, we are told to put forth "Earnest effort in supplying virtue to our faith." Earnest effort to me the meaning of that in today's context is we need to speed up the healing process. This is a time to fortify our democratic moorings.

We are not past the pressures of nationhood, for we are not yet a strong republic. There are challenges that we must confront to make us stronger, wiser and closer to God.

As president, I face the duty of stewarding the welfare of over 80 million Filipinos. How did I come to this stewardship? I remember that evening in the prayer in Araneta Coliseum where Bishop Tondero invited me. In fact, I was having at that time a very crucial meeting, a very crucial command conference because then there was yet another challenge to our country at that time. But Reverend Bishop sent a message: come, for even just a short while and pray with us. And I went. I had no time prepare a speech. No time to prepare a prayer because, indeed, I had to leave a very crucial meeting just to spend a few moments in prayer. And so, I had to ask the Lord, Lord, what do you want me to pray? And the Lord, in a little voice made me pray: here I am Lord. I have heard you calling me by name. I will go Lord where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

And today, that was the song of our choir. How providential once again. I believe it is a message about what I must do about my stewardship. Hold his people in my heart by listening to the lord. And as Joey said, saying always, here we are, Lord.

My supplications, together with prayers of support of all of you, our brothers and sisters, who all say here we are, lord. These have given me the strength to pursue our goals in the midst of great challenges. Challenges in our internal society, challenges in the world environment.

I stand fast to our vision of prosperity for the greatest number under a strong republic.

You and I, who are praying today, we are partners in faith as well as in nation-building. As we pray together, we must support each other in building the just and equitable society we aspire to have because we know that that is the kind of society, that is the kind of nation that the lord wishes and wants for us.

I seek your prayers, brothers and sisters, so that we can institute true reforms in our way of politics, in our way of economics to really develop our economy and create a stronger republic to bring about the common good.

Yesterday, as we were reflecting on the need for reconciliation, reconciliation is always a bible value, but it is an even critical value at this time for the common good. That was what our reverend fathers reflected. And somebody in my Cabinet said, the common good. We haven't heard that term in a long time. We must remember the term once again and reflect on the common good.

And today, in this prayer breakfast, I heard that term again on the other side of this podium — the common good. The lord is reminding us again to reflect on and seek the common good.

The common good today, I firmly believe in my discernment is healing and reconciliation.

And so I seek your prayers so that we can heal our broken land. So that we can reconcile the fragmented ramparts of the nation.

I've often said that together we must build a strong republic. Psalm 127:1 says: Without the help of the Lord, it is useless to build a home. We can only build the strong republic that we want to be the home of our people with the help, in fact, with the lordship of the Lord.

Let each one of us then pray to the Lord for the wisdom, the courage, the strength of character to bring about true reforms and true reconciliation.

With the grace of god, lets share the spirit of fellowship and prayer, reinforce the ties of family and community, reach out in unity to our brothers and sisters who all comprise our one nation — God's chosen people in Asia. For the lord said, love your God with your whole heart, your whole soul; love your neighbor as yourselves.

In our challenges, may God's will be done. In your triumphs, in our triumphs, to God be the glory.

Thank you and amen.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 22nd Philippines National Prayer Breakfast. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140938/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7495&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of Task Force Safe School: Be ACTIVE (Awareness and Communication through Involvement, Vigilance and Empowerment) for a Safe Community

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of Task Force Safe School: Be ACTIVE (Awareness and Communication through Involvement, Vigilance and Empowerment) for a Safe Community**

[Delivered at the Augusto Rosario Gonzales Theater, De La Salle University College of St. Benilde Campus, Taft Avenue, Manila, November 12, 2003]

Thank you very much, Secretary Mike Defensor.

We have excused Mayor Lito Atienza on his way out. Thank you, Lito because he's going to have a meeting with his Barangay Tanods right now.

I would like to greet also Dr. Clemenita, Dr. Bernardo, Dean Lazatin, Dean Tang, Dean Bautista, Mrs. Parago, Ms. Lactao from the students, and Ms. Sy, Mr. Rufino, and our very active and much accomplished District Director of Manila, General Pete Bulaong, faculty, students, ladies and gentlemen.

I truly congratulate La Salle-Manila and College of St. Benilde for this very exemplary initiative convening the task force safe school.

Indeed, I agree that to maximize the full potentials of students, it's not enough to provide quality educational and co-curricular experiences. It's not even enough to provide adequate facilities, not even topnotch apprenticeship. Students must also be given an environment in which they feel safe and secure to minimize distractions that could stand in the way of sound learning.

This is very important in all schools but La Salle is one of the pioneers and you have taken this initiative. I congratulate you for that – La Salle and St. Benilde.

On my part, the entire archipelago is my campus. And it falls upon my shoulders to ensure that our citizens are secure in the home and the workplace.

Mayor Atienza talked about law enforcement, the duties of law enforcement, and how values get turned around in a republic that is still not so strong, one such as ours.

The security of our nation was on the line in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last weekend. The airport was a national security installation and the security authorities had to regain command and control of it by the most expeditious means.

I understand the grief that the Villaruel family is undergoing. For a son, for a daughter, for a wife, a husband could do no wrong. I pray that time will heal the wounds in their hearts and that by that time, we hope they would realize that his death did not come from any form of personal hatred or anger. Yet I'm deeply dismayed, like Mayor Atienza, how grief and loss have been exploited by partisanship and propaganda, and those who want to destabilize.

It's sad that there are those who did not go to his wake to grieve but rather to string up their placards and streamers and put down the government. The moment calls for dignity and we must accord dignity to the departed.

I've directed the authorities involved to look into the security lapses that allowed the entry in the first place. And that those responsible should be immediately fired and charged with criminal negligence. This is what we must do. We must enforce the law.

Terrorism is another threat that deserves our vigilance at all times. The security of metro manila is vital and important, and we need your help to be the eyes and ears of the community. It is very important to address these issues because destabilization is a force that can take advantage of any situation to bring down the democracy that we know and that we enjoy.

I'm glad that the impeachment case against the chief justice has been resolved in the spirit of conciliation under the rule of law. We must have reconciliation and a newfound unity if we are to move the nation forward. For the peace of mind of the people, we must quiet down this controversy since it has already been constitutionally resolved. All sides in the dispute have acted with statesmanship and we must gather around our democratic institutions rather than erode them further.

I've opened earnest back channels to all the groups involved, and I hope they will heed the call for principled reconciliation. The people must sense a unifying force in their institutions of governance or they themselves will be divided and weakened in facing the formidable challenges of fighting poverty and waging the peace including the peace and order, the safety that you the students, the faculty, the parents of La Salle and St. Benilde are looking for.

A nation must be healed by a common patriotism and a sense of duty among leaders and constituencies. And I congratulate the community of La Salle-Manila and St. Benilde because you have shown this sense of duty in putting this task force together.

We are determined to triumph over terrorism, to triumph over destabilization, and in the specific case of your task force, to triumph over criminality. These three are our big threats to our safety. And that is why I commend your schools for putting together measures that will prevent these threats — criminality, terrorism, destabilization — from ever entering your campuses.

We do not recall of any institution of learning that has been the target of a terrorist attack, but as you have said very clearly in your situationer, the areas around your schools have been areas where street crimes have been detected. One street crime is one street crime too many. And we hope that as you form the measures that will stop street crimes, these measures can also stop terrorism and destabilization, and its effects in this school environment. Because even if we had not had an attack, a terrorist attack on a school, it doesn't mean that it cannot happen. An ounce of prevention is always worth a pound of cure.

But our main concern, immediate and existing concern is criminality. And I agree with you that the tentacles of criminality must be cut decisively. You have stabbing incidents, and the threat of kidnapping in your midst is real. Your safe school project is an important means to eliminate this threat of criminality for the peace of mind of the students and their parents.

I was asking your officials earlier if the crimes were committed by... involved students, and they said, 'yes, they victimized students.' and I said, perhaps they are drug-related because in our national statistics, 70 percent of crimes are drug-related. So, if you are able to solve the drug problem, you'll be able to solve 70 percent of the criminality in our country. Well, in the statistics, it's not so much drug-related but alcohol-related. And therefore, it means that we have to perhaps enforce rules about establishments serving alcohol in the areas around the schools.

But I was telling your officials earlier, it doesn't necessarily mean that the one committing the crime has to be high on drugs when he or she is committing the crime. They could commit the crime while they're sober because they need to commit the crime to finance their habit. And many of the snatching and hold-ups are related to that.

And that is why it is important for our task force also to work together against drug abuse. I have declared drug abuse as a threat to our national security. It's destroying the future of our youth, including those in the best of schools.

In the war against drugs, we need the collective efforts of families, communities, the youth and various sectors of our society.

Last August, I was at the University Belt. I made a pitch to make the university belt drug-free. And we have succeeded to a very great extent. I am now setting the same goal for the many schools and universities along Taft Avenue.

Let me take this opportunity related to the drug threat to remind everyone that the dangerous drugs act of 2002 mandates random drug testing among students of secondary and tertiary schools. And therefore, this is something that we can do together, and your task force can participate in your partnership with the government.

I congratulate your task force for partnering with the barangay governments, the police and the business establishments in the area. We should propagate this kind of cooperative undertaking not only in the school but also in the places where you live.

There are many things that we can do together. I have given you a bird's eye view of some of the things that we do from the national point of view about crimes — street crimes, drugs, kidnapping. What can we do together? How can government help you?

As far as street crimes are concerned, what we have done is — because we don't have as many policemen as we would like to, compared to say the city of New York — what we try to do is to have what we call the police multipliers where the Barangay tanods and the security agencies of the establishments in the area of a police station work together as one team. So that they can to their rounds together and therefore the one policeman that must do the round at one particular time has a team going around with him. That is the concept of the force multiplier. And in this case, the tanods and the security agencies have to undergo training. In the schools, you have your ROTC and the substitute programs within the ROTC. It would be a good idea if your ROTC curriculum would include the work of the task force to be accredited in fulfillment of the requirements.

What can the national government do to help you. In case... As I said in the case of the street crimes, we can work together by having the police supervised the joint work of patrolling. In the case of kidnapping, I have formed a special task force headed by former Secretary of National Defense Angelo Reyes no less to do the enforcement against kidnapping. And to the extent that students in your schools are more or less from affluent families, I would suggest that we have a follow-up to this launching by asking Secretary Reyes to come here and speak before you, together with his team, because I have heard the module on how schools can help prevent kidnapping as well.

And on the part of drugs, the drug menace is so big. And it is related to many petty crimes and even bigger crimes that we have decided to make it, as I said earlier, a national security issue. And I have allocated from the lotto receipts of the PCSO the amount of one billion pesos, total, for the fight against drugs. Now, this amount is a lump sum and it is spent by the law enforcers in accordance with the different specific programs or projects or operations that may be submitted to the Dangerous Drugs Board or the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Therefore, if you have some expenses related to building up the capability of your school, your school community in fighting drugs, and therefore fighting street crimes, I guess under General Pete Bulaong, he could submit whatever proposal you might have together, to his chief of the task force, General Aglipay who has access to these funds in the PCSO.

We need to be operational aside from talking about framework and principles. And I am very glad that you are called a task force. Because that is the meaning of a task force, you are a force to reckon with and you have specific tasks that you set out to do.

And so therefore, I congratulate you once again. And I thank you, once again, for helping us promote safety and security in the community. Truly you are showing yourselves to be among the great pillars of law enforcement and peace and order in our society. I congratulate the community of La Salle and St. Benilde for this initiative.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of Task Force Safe School: Be ACTIVE (Awareness and Communication through Involvement, Vigilance and Empowerment) For a Safe Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140952/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7507&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the De La Salle University Symposium with the President's Lecture on "The Politics of Economic Crisis"

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the De La Salle University Symposium with the President's Lecture on "The Politics of Economic Crisis"**

[Delivered at the De Las Alas Hall, De La Salle University Dasmariñas, Cavite, November 13, 2003]

Thank you.

Thank you, Brother Rolly Dizon, one of La Salle's many outstanding contributions to my administration.

You know, I'll have to tell you the story of how Brother Rolly became the Chairman of CHED. I have a search committee that helps me spruces possibilities for my presidential appointments. Of course, in the end, it's my prerogative, it's my duty to choose the best. Sometimes I choose from among the nominees of the search committee, sometimes I don't. And when the last CHED chair has already retired. In fact, she held over for a while the search committee was doing its work.

Finally, they came to their short list and they submitted the short list to me. Well, you know, as president as much as possible, my schedule is like this: 10:00 to 3:00, I do public affairs like this; 3:00 down, I do paperwork. That's when I go to my desk and attend to these things. And so, I had a pile of papers, among them was the short list of the nominees for CHED. Okey, so I put it there, and from the short list, I made a tentative note — okey, from this one appoint this person. So that the secretary of my search committee would then prepare the papers for appointment. And then I was going over on my other papers in my incoming box then I saw the invitation from Brother Rolly Dizon inviting me to his retirement from La Salle. remember that time... And I said, this is the CHED chair while this one is being nominated by God, because the retirement invitation came on the same day that the short list came. It was an addition to my short list and I chose that addition to my short list. And I have no regrets that Brother Dizon is now CHED chair.

I would like to introduce some of the other members of my official family who are with us today. We have a resident of Cavite, Secretary Marita Jimenez. then we have my youngest Cabinet member, closest in age to you my audience, Secretary Mike Defensor. we have my Presidential Assistant for Education Mona Valisno. you know, because education has CHED, has DepEd, even has TESDA who runs the technical schools, I don't believe in a committee system that puts them all together. Because then you only do your work during committee meetings not in between. Well, when you have different agencies handling a common field, I would rather have it coordinated out of Malacañang by a presidential assistant, and that's WHAT MONA does.

I would like also to acknowledge the presence of the number one provincial board member of Cavite, Dominic Tolentino. and I would like to greet all of you and thank you for your welcome headed by Dr. Herminia Torres. Thank you very much, Dr. Torres. she and you are my host, not brother Rolly. He is now my co-guest.

I think it's a very important day for us to be all here. A very important moment in our current events and our history.

After the impeachment controversy was constitutionally resolved, the peso rallied close to 55.17 to one dollar last Tuesday, up almost 20 centavos from last Monday's rate. But after yesterday's protests against that resolution, the peso went down again. You can see, therefore, that the first day was clearly influenced by the positive market sentiment following the coming together of the three branches of government in an expression of faith in each other and in a stable national future. And then very clearly, yesterday's market was a reaction to those who wish to undermine that stability. This is a clear example of the relation between politics and the economy.

Our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty. Our fundamental problem of our country is poverty. And our historic problems cannot be blamed on any single president or individual, because the problems are fundamental, caused by our economic and political system.

We inherited a weak state — that's why i keep talking about a strong republic. We want to strengthen the republic which is the antithesis of the weak state that we have inherited — this weak state is one in which dominant classes or sectors have controlled or shaped its policies, especially those dealing with the economy.

And so, therefore, as a result of this dominance of the privileged classes dominating economic and political policy, there exist a large gap between the rich and the poor which has been exploited for political ends. This large gap is exploited by the NPA, this large gap between the very poor in Muslim Mindanao and the better off in the rest of the Philippines or even maybe in Christian Mindanao has also been exploited by the secessionist. This gap between the rich and the poor, where many of the poor were identified with EDSA 3, and many of the intellectuals or elite were identified with EDSA 2, have also been exploited by those who want to reverse the gains of EDSA 2.

But even outside of those very dramatic cleavages in our society caused by those who exploit the gap between the rich and the poor, the political system itself has been based on patronage, and ultimately at the extreme, on corruption to support patronage. And lately, the use of destabilization, black propaganda and character assassination have become tools of the political trade. What a contrast from the time when my father, Diosdado Macapagal, first run for Congress in 1949.

At that time, my father was a diplomat, a career diplomat working in Washington, and President Quirino was the president. There was a communists insurgency going on. They had their members of Congress and in the first district of Pampanga, the congressman was a communist, but he was a poet communist. And President Quirino decided that he needed a charismatic brilliant young man to challenge this incumbent. So, he brought my father back from Washington. My father was also a poet, he wrote Sarsuelas. So, there were two poets running against each other and they conducted their campaigns by reciting poetry in their respective platforms.

Anyway, my father won. It doesn't mean he was the better poet, but I'm just pointing out that at that time, they could talk issues and couched this talk in poetry. Today, the issues are muddled by character assassination, black propaganda, destabilization. And this is again a manifestation of the weakness of our state.

Because we are not yet a strong state, historically, our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors. That's why it should be a source of pride to us that during this Asian crisis and especially in the last two years of my administration, we did better than our neighbors, especially again, I said, during the last two and a half years. For instance, in the first 6 months of this year, we achieved a 4.8 percent GNP growth rate. And among the 21 member economies of APEC, we have the sixth highest growth rate among our neighbors. And that growth rate of ours in the first six months of this year was the highest growth rate that we achieved since the 1997 Asian crisis. So, we've done gains despite the weakness of our state.

And, in so short a time of the two and a half years, we accomplished — and my youngest Cabinet member is somebody I should thank for that — the most massive housing and urban land reform program undertaken in our history. In fact, after this meeting I will proceed to Paliparan, to again give lot entitlements to a 150 families who will join almost 300,000 other families who have gained the right to buy the land that they are occupying.

We won victories in pinning down corrupt high-ranking officials, director level, undersecretary level, some of them we were able to do because we did unprecedented lifestyle checks. We launched an all-out war against illegal drugs. In a few months time within 3 months of when I gave the first or allocated — because I haven't all used it up — one billion pesos that I found from the lotto earnings of the PCSO, we confiscated unprecedented volumes of illegal drugs, closed down an unprecedented number of large shabu factories, arrested big drug dealers who used to be untouchable before my administration. And I would like to — wala siya dito — si Boysie Rosales, our provincial director of the police here is one of the heroes of that campaign against illegal drugs.

So we have made gains in our fight against illegal drugs that outstrip by far the gains made in several years before. That's on the side of law enforcement. On the side of looking for peace, a peaceful resolution to the Muslim insurgency is within our grasp. We have a successful ceasefire going on with the MILF and we are on the way to signing a permanent peace agreement. We cut red tape to make sure crucial infrastructure are built. I asked some of your students here if you are from... All from Cavite, Dasmariñas, some of you are from Batangas. And the roll-on/roll-off ferry out of Batangas to Mindoro, to Panay island all the way to Mindanao has made travel very convenient for tourists going to Boracay but also for Mindanao-based agricultural products coming to Manila. New bridges, new highways after many, many years of getting stuck in bureaucratic red tape, our south expressway is under construction again.

We began meaningful debates on changes in the constitution, particularly on the parliamentary and federal form of government. Government prosecutors won landmark decisions, a painful decision, landmark nonetheless, on the arrest of President Estrada. Long-awaited decisions lying for years in the courts on the Marcos wealth, the coconut levy, and at least in the Supreme Court to Kuratong Baleleng case. Sinabi ko, at least in the Supreme Court. Kasi alam rin naman natin ang nangyari ngayon sa lower court.

On the dismissal in the lower court of the Kuratong Baleleng case, as I have said time and again, we must abide by the rule of law. There is a process by which the parties will have to deal with the situation and we have to patiently go through it. Let justice forge on unsullied by too much noise and controversy.

Our enemies prefer to sow disunity so that they can wrest power from the people who become strong when the economy is strong. Our enemies do not want our people to be strong.

Fearing that our success, our successes that I enumerated partly in a few minutes ago, would frustrate their plans. Our enemies have resorted to machiavellian schemes in Oakwood, in 'hit-and run' exposes, in exploiting the emotions generated by the impeachment crisis and the NAIA siege.

I'm saddened that our people are obviously being misled out of desperation by some plotters of destabilization. In the spirit of democracy, a permit was given for yesterday's rally until 5 p.m., and maximum tolerance was observed during that time frame. Thereafter, Mayor Jojo Binay and the other authorities had to act to restore order in the streets. And they were called upon, they did their duty, they dispersed the rally. While we respect and uphold the full expression of civil rights, we cannot allow anyone to cross the line of public order because of the harm wrought upon the general welfare. And I thanked Mayor Binay for making that judgement call in the interest of public welfare.

On the other hand, nevertheless, I'm greatly dismayed by the way some unscrupulous political leaders are using the masses as cannon fodder, which deprives the latter of their dignity. We should have unity and reconciliation based on respect for the dignity of the masses and a healthy respect for their constructive role in society. There is a proper time and venue for partisan struggle and these are the elections of 2004.

In the more than two years of my presidency, I went through a learning curve. I gained the experience necessary to understand what we need to do in order to change society in a way that leads to economic development and the elimination of poverty.

And that is so important to work on that because with the region now starting to recover, even if we were ahead of them in the last two and a half years, our neighbors are now starting to accelerate their growth rate again. And this time, we cannot afford to be left behind as historically, we've been left behind.

To really develop our economy and create a stronger republic, we need to change our system, to institute true reforms in our way of politics and our economy. We also need to unify as a people.

Our enemies thrive on the deep social and political divisions that we now have. We need to heal these divisions within our society. Yes, we must have justice, but yes, we must have also reconciliation. We must put a closure to our past national divisions and give ourselves a fresh start, so that we can concentrate on changing society in a way

that flourishes our future. So that we can give greater certainty to business and our investors who provide jobs for our people, because jobs for our people represent the most important and effective way to fight poverty.

Our programs in my administration are devoted to strengthening the economy. That's why we talked about our macroeconomic fundamentals being strong, our GNP growth rate, our deficit which is below the ceiling, our inflation rate below expectations, our interest rate also below projections. But that macroeconomic fundamental picture is only a precondition to the environment that will make the businessmen put their money where they can create jobs. And our economic policies, our government policies are also meant to encourage them. To encourage business activity unhampered by corruption and red tape in government.

I talked about housing. To build medium-cost housing, it used to take two years — mike, for a permit? — and 280 signatures. Thanks God if all the 280 signatories are honest. but this is what I mean by cutting corruption and red tape. And we've cut that down. And the housing sector has been responding — 280 to 40. We'd like to reduce it some more but you can imagine what laws we have to change, or what flourey of implementing rules we have to change, but at least, that this the housing sector tells us that we have the friendliest housing sector policies in a long time. And that's why they're building houses again.

Through all the political challenges that dominate the front pages and headlines, I have instructed the bureaucracy to stay on track in the task of governance — they continue to do their work. During the last all saint's day holiday, I was listening to the radio and I heard congratulations from many of those who said that the traffic was less than in previous years including the traffic in the north expressway and the south expressway, and yet construction was going on in the north expressway and the south expressway. That's because the bureaucracy continued to work under my direction on the day to day things that we need to do to make life more convenient for our people.

That did not come by accident, we held a cabinet meeting to discuss how to improve traffic during that period. Traffic is not a triviality that we dismiss. In the APEC Summit, just to make sure that there would be no traffic, the government of Thailand gave a 10-day holiday, nobody was in Bangkok. And when I had a reunion of the 300 or so Filipinos who lived in Thailand, some of them came from Pattaya and Pukhet — you know, where the beaches are — and they said, "haayy, I'm so happy to be here in Bangkok with you because all the Thailanders are there in Pattaya and in Pukhet, and they're filling up the whole place. So crowded there." and so things like this, you know, these are everyday... Everyday life things that our bureaucracy must work on to make life better.

And to spur them to keep doing that, not to be distracted with what they read in headlines, I continue to keep a steady hand over the concerns of the state. I continue to hold meetings, to handle everyday things as well as to handle big things like reconciliation and reform. And that is what I would ask you and the people, to keep your eyes focused on the challenges we face daily. For you, the youth, the daily challenge is to prepare well, to study well, to prepare yourselves to run the economy of your generation. My father always used to tell me that when you say prepare, it means prepare intellectually and prepare morally. And that's why aside from studying well — and you're so lucky to be in a school like La Salle — it also means being vigilant in the face of threats to your moral fiber and productivity like the scourge of drugs which we consider a national security threat. And of course, let's not allow ruthless politics to distract us from the all important charge of nation building.

In the final analysis, it will be reform and reconciliation that will heal the wounds of our divisiveness. It will be reform and reconciliation that will allow us to move forward to flourish our future. And that is the great connection between politics and economy, between reconciliation and between prosperity.

And I hope you, the students of La Salle, especially here in Calabarzon will be the leaders in the next phase of reform and the continuing reconciliation that we all need. And I hope in your generation, you will be able to find the Philippines, at last, a strong republic.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the De La Salle University Symposium with the President's Lecture on "The Politics of Economic Crisis". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140831/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7458&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 50th anniversary of the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association and the Annual National Mines Safety and Environment Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 50th anniversary of the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association and the Annual
National Mines Safety and Environment Conference**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, Manila, November 13, 2003]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Secretary Bebet Gozun.

President Rodriguez; incoming president of the Chamber of Mines, Phillip Romualdez. I would like to also greet my other Cabinet member who's here, Secretary of Planning Romy Neri, and Congressman Maurice Domogan.

I would also like to greet the other leaders of the industry: Mr. Brown, Mr. Robins, Mr. Decini, Mr. Fujimura, Ms. Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Mr. Callaghan. And all of you, leaders of the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association, congratulations on your Golden Anniversary! Congratulations, too, to your golden jubilee awardees! May they serve as exemplars of safety practices and environmental protection, and be the concrete proof that you can have mining, you can have jobs, and you can have concern for the environment at the same time.

And that is why first and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm what our two speakers have already said, that our policy for the minerals industry is no longer just mere tolerance but active promotion of sustainable mining.

This is why, as President Romualdez said, I am the president to address your whole industry in a long time. Because for a long time, the policy has been tolerance. And if your industry is merely tolerated, why should a president bother to give you the time. But I bother to give you the time because I want to confirm the good news. This policy shift occurred shortly after I appointed a new Secretary of Planning, Romy Neri, and a new Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Bebet Gozun. That's why I wanted to make sure both of them are on stage with me tonight.

Your foremost advocate is the secretary of economic planning. And I was already aware of that when I asked him to join the government, my administration, because he already had a very good microeconomic program that I felt could supplement the macroeconomic gains I had made in the first half of my administration. And so I knew that if I would get Romy Neri as planning secretary, I knew that that would really mean a big push for the mining sector.

There were many though who said, "Well, Romy is sure to push the mining sector because he's been very open about that because his beliefs have been very well known. He's written about them, lectured about them." but they said, "but the Secretary of the Environment is an environmentalist. So she will be... And she comes from the NGO group." and as Phillip Romualdez said, NGO is equated to anti-mining. But we are all gratified to find that the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources is very open-minded and modern in her approach to mining policy.

When I first interviewed her — Bebet, remember? — Before I appointed her, before I announced her appointment as Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, we discussed mining policy. And she said that she believes that for the mining investors who from the very beginning do their social preparation rather than springing surprises on the community; if from the beginning they do their social preparation and engage the community, there is no reason why the investment will not succeed. And she has been doing that in her work, doing early social preparation for the mining investments. And though Mr. Rodriguez said that there's still no single mining firm that has come in on the

ground. Actually, there are two investments in very advance stages now. And I hope therefore, they will be the first roots of our policy of pushing sustainable mining rather than just tolerating it as has been done in many years in the past.

After all, I'm aware of the big demand for copper, gold and nickel, and their great potential for creating jobs. And after all, creating jobs is the most important means of fighting poverty.

And after all, our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty. Because we are not yet a strong state, historically, our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors. That's why it should be a source of pride to us that in the last two-and-a-half years, we did better than our neighbors. And in the first 6 months of this year, we achieved a 4.8 percent GNP growth rate, the sixth highest among the 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific region, and the highest in our country since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

If about a year ago, I announced that policy shift to active promotion rather than mere tolerance, it was because, in these two years, more than two years of my presidency, I have been going through a learning curve. And I have gained the experience necessary to understand what we need to do in order to change society in a way that leads to economic development and the elimination of poverty, especially now with the Asian region starting to recover, our neighbors are starting to accelerate their growth again. And this time, we cannot afford to be left behind.

To really develop our economy and create a stronger republic, we need to change our system, to institute true reforms in our way of politics and our economy. And among the reforms I recognized we need to do is the reform of our mining policy.

Incoming President Romualdez said, that the national mineral's policy has been five years in the making, and still no sign of coming to a conclusion.

I am very happy to let you know tonight that on December 3rd and 4th, in the National Mining Conference, Bebet Gozun will unveil the national minerals policy. I will leave the details up to her. Otherwise, you will have no more main feature for your December 3rd and 4th Conference. But I just want to say in general and confirm that it's my administration's policy to promote responsible mineral resources exploration, development and utilization to enhance economic growth in a manner that adheres to the principles of sustainable development.

I am merely being consistent with what I have been doing since I was a senator, because as senator, I have sought solutions to the concerns of the mining industry. And now, as president, we have started addressing your long-standing concerns. First of all, your concern for a holistic policy, and that is coming on December 3rd and 4th.

With regard to specific concerns, not just yours, but the concern of the community regarding your industry, we have acted, as Phillip Romualdez said, we have acted decisively on Marcopper and Diwalwal to end lingering fears of the community. In the case of Marinduque, of Marcopper, upon the request of the people of Marinduque, I released 20 million pesos of presidential funds to finance the environment and health study which will recommend the appropriate rehabilitation strategies for the areas affected by the Marcopper tailings spill.

And last year, with the help of the Chamber of Mines — and I must thank them for it — we firmly asserted government control in Diwalwal. As Phillip said, because he's very much involved in it, this ore-rich mountain shall be a good example of rationalized operations that allow big players, small scale miners and artesians miners to co-exist.

The National Resources Mining Development Corporation was incorporated in July this year, precisely to promote the mining industry, and I appointed Dennis Belmonte as president. By the way, he's not the only mining man that I got into my government, there's also Teddy Taguinod who is now the chairman and CEO of the Public Estates Authority. But of course, that's not mining. It is our friend Dennis who is in mining. And well, what I can say is that — is Mr. Murga also from mining? No, okay. Anyway, going back to Dennis. I feel he has done a yeoman's job of instituting in Diwalwal a new social order founded on mutual trust and confidence. The construction of an engineered tailings dam to arrest pollution, I understand, has already started. Thanks to the Chamber of Mines.

We want to make the area a showcase of our policy to recognize small scale mining as a formal sector and put an end to the negative impact of artesial and unsystematic operations.

We've mobilized so many agencies to address this age-old problem in Diwalwal. There's the DND and the PNP to enforce law and order. Aside from that DSWD, DOH and other agencies have put up livelihood training, environmental protection, and public health programs for the most disadvantaged people in the area, especially the women.

Aside from addressing this very specific high-profile problems that somehow have contributed in the past to keeping the policy towards mining mere tolerance rather than promotion because this sort of gave mining a bad name, we've also addressed other concerns to push mining investments. And again, incoming President Romualdez mentioned some of them. But I would just like to stress that the environmental clearance certificate, which has been the bane of operation start ups, has had its processing time reduced significantly under the administration of Bebet Gozun.

Of course, aside from the national minerals policy, the other related framework for mining policy should be the Mining Act. And while we are waiting for the Supreme Court to come out with its rulings, we're in the process of harmonizing the Mining Act and the Indigenous Peoples Right Act to facilitate applications of qualified investors. The Supreme Court has lately been coming up with important decisions on many issues that have been pending for a long time. And now, with the impeachment crisis over perhaps — and also with the supreme court having disposed of several other long pending issues — perhaps we can soon expect the supreme court to go back to addressing the pending great policy issues including the mining issue.

Not that I can speak for the Supreme Court, but if our impeachment crisis had lingered on and on, then it would have been an even longer wait. Thus, we can say that even the mining industry benefits from the three great branches of our government reaffirming their faith in each other and in a stable national future.

Aside from fundamental reforms, the impeachment crisis shows also that we need to unify as a people.

The Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association knows the lessons of unity very well. Beyond advocacy of safety practices, your annual conference is a prime event because it affords every stakeholder in the industry a chance of learning and discourse, and above all, planning together for common advancement.

I congratulate you for what you have done, not only for your industry but also for our country. Bebet reminds me that during the great earthquake in Baguio and other parts of Luzon in 1990, it was your association that helped in the relief and rehabilitation of the affected earthquake communities. And with your snap — safety network action program — you are institutionalizing that support that you have been giving whenever there is a great disaster.

Indeed, your association has played, and I'm sure will continue to play a significant role in national development and growth.

And tonight, I ask the mining sector to help me, not only in creating jobs, not only in safety and in protection of the environment, help me also to start the healing process that will give you and the whole business community and the whole people of the Philippines a better environment in which to work, do business and live in.

Congratulations! Happy Golden Anniversary! And thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 50th Anniversary of the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association and the Annual National Mines Safety and Environment Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140907/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7457&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Gawad Parangal sa mga Entrepinay (A Tribute to Women Entrepreneurs)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Gawad Parangal sa mga Entrepinay (A Tribute to Women Entrepreneurs)**

[Delivered at the Bahay Pangarap, Area 3, PSG compound Malacañang, Manila, November 13, 2003]

Maraming salamat Kalihim Bert Romulo, Executive Secretary.

Maupo na kayong lahat.

Una sa lahat, binabati ko ang aking Cabalen, ang Director General ng TLRC, si Rico Laxa. Sa katotohanan, first time ko siya narinig nagtagalog kanina. Magaling ka pala magtagalog, rico.

Alam nyo, ikukuwento ko sa inyo si Rico Laxa bago siya naging mayor noong 1998, isang napakalaking housing developer, isa sa pinakamalaki. Pero ginusto niyang pumasok sa pulitika at naging mayor ng Macabebe. Pero noong ako ay naging pangulo at dahil nga napakaganda yung kanyang successful experience bilang isang housing developer bago siya naging politician ay hiningi ko sa kanya maging secretary... Director-General ng TLRC para ganun yung kanyang entrepreneurial skills ay maipaabot din sa ating mga kababayan. Kaya siya ngayon nandoon at belated happy birthday sa inyo.

Gusto kong batiin si Secretary Manolito Dayrit ng Department of Health. Siya ay narito dahil nga isa sa gusto natin na maging hanapbuhay ng mga entrepreneur ay yung botika na nagbebenta ng murang gamot at DOH ang pangunahing gumagawa ng programang yon. Narito rin ang ating bagong secretary ng Anti-Poverty, si Secretary Camilo Sabio, isa sa aking maraming Cabinet members na galing sa mindanao. At ang dahilan kung bakit nandito ang Secretary ng Anti-Poverty Commission ay dahil sila ang nag-oorganize nung programang kalahi o kabalikat laban sa kahirapan kung saan napakamasigasig ang partisipasyon ng TLRC.

Nandito yung aking estudyante, si Anthony Abad, ang pangulo ng Philippine International Trading Corporation. Siya rin ay narito dahil doon sa mga maghahanapbuhay ng pagbenta ng murang gamot. Eh para makapasok yung murang gamot sa ibang bansa at hindi kayo madadaya na peke yung gamot, ang gumagawa noon, gagawa ng pag-import para sa inyo ay yung Philippine International Trading Corporation. So, mga partner sila.

Binabati ko yung ibat-ibang punongbayan na narito. Kung meron akong hindi nakita kanina, paumanhin. Pero nandito sa ating harap ngayon ay yung mayor ng Taguig City, Mayor Freddie Tinga. Pag nakikita ko yung mga kababaihan ng Taguig, naaalala ko si Mrs. Marichu Tinga, nanay ni Freddie, dahil siya ang nag-oorganize ng mga kababaihan at ang gaganda ng mga... Kayo ba yon? Ay, naku! Kaya kayo naman pala ang Entrepinay ngayon yung... Anong tawag nung ano, Kabalikat? Balikatan ang tawag ng mga ladies ni Marichu noon. At nandito rin mula rin sa metro manila yung aking abogado noong ako ay vice president na tumutulong para magtanggol ng mga kababaihang inaapi o yung pinagsasamantala, ito ay si Mayor Rosendo Capco ng Pateros. Ayun! Mga taga-Pateros.

Ngayon ang pinagdidiriwang natin ay hindi yung pagtanggol ng karapatang pantao ng kababaihan ng Pateros kungdi yung pag-iral ng inyong karapatang pangkabuhayan sa ilalim ng liderato ni Endo Capco. yung kababayan namin ni Rico Laxa, ang aking Casiping Balen, mahirap pumunta sa bayan niya kung hindi ka muna dadaan sa bayan ko sa Lubao, ang mayor ng Sasmuan, si Mayor Catalina Bagasina. Kung tutuusin si Mayor Bagasina isa ring very successful entrepreneur. Kaya pag nagbi-birthday party siya nakikilala ko hindi lamang yung mga taga-sasmuan kungdi yung taga mga empleyado niya kasi malaki rin ang kaniyang negosyo kaya very successful din. Halos kagaya ni Rico Laxa noong hindi pa siya mayor. At mabuti nakita ko siya nung papasok ako, tignan mo ang dami palang mga awardees ang kaniyang constituents kaya tinawag ko siya dito sa harap, si Mayor Bartolome Ramos ng Santa Maria, Bulacan.

Kayong lahat binabati ko, magandang hapon, lalung-lalo na yung mga kababaihang negosyante na tinatawag nating entrepinay, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat. May mga lalaki rin tayo rito ah. Batiin ko yung mga nagmamahal sa mga entrepinay at gumagalang sa kanila.

Ako ay natutuwa na tayo ay narito kasi ang kailangan ng ating bansa ay trabaho kung gusto natin masugpo ang kahirapan, at hindi lahat ng trabaho ay mahahanap sa malalaking pabrika. Maraming trabaho sa ating bansa ay mahahanap sa mga sariling pagnenegosyo, yon na nga ang tinatawag nating entrepreneurship.

At kayo tinulungan ang marami sa inyo ng TLRC magkaroon ng kakayahang pangkabuhayan. Kaya marami sa inyo hindi na ninyo kailangan mamasukan sa mga pabrika, kayo ay mga entrepreneur na. At kayo pa nga ay kung minsan may mga entrepreneur na sariling negosyo isa... Siya lang mismo o siguro dalawa ang anak niya ang kanyang empleyado, yon ay self-employed. Meron kayong self-employed dito, ang tawag doon ay micro-enterprise. Meron din naman kayong mga maliliit na negosyo kaya nakakabigay ng trabaho sa mga sampung tao, yon naman ay small enterprise. Kaya kayo whether kayo sa sarili ninyo o ibang tao nabibigyan ninyo ng trabaho, kayo hindi na kayo kailangan mamasukan, kayo ay entrepreneur, Entrepinay, mga negosyanteng magtatagumpay.

At yon nga, yung industriya ng buong mundo ay humina noong nakaraang since 2001, nung nagkaroon nang slowdown yung U.S. economy na bumibili ng produkto sa lahat kaya nag-slowdown ang buong mundo. Before that nag-slowdown pa ang Asia dahil sa Asian financial crisis kaya maraming nawalaan ng trabaho at inuuna nga mawalan ng trabaho yung babae, di ba? Nahalata ninyo? Kaya mangyayari diyan, pag yung babae ay walang trabaho ang gagawin na lamang mag-iistambay na lamang sa neighbor, magtsi-tsismisan. Pero ngayon dahil sa pagka-entrepinay ninyo hindi na kayo kailangan mag-aksaya ng inyong panahon, magtambayan at mag-tsismis sa kapitbahay kasi meron na kayong magandang gagawin sa panahon ninyo, itong mga negosyong inaasikaso ninyo. Entrepinay na kayo, aktibong naghahanapbuhay.

Naibalita sa akin ni Director General Rico Laxa na ang TLRC ay tumutulong sa mga kababaihan ng humigit-kumulang dalawang daang lugar sa ilalim ng programa ng NAPC, yung Kalahi. At kanina narinig ko 20,000 na ang mga entrepinay na nakinabang dito sa programang ito.

Ang Entrepinay ay isa sa mga programang microfinance, 20,000 ang kontribusyon ng TLRC so far. Sa buong mga gusto nating magbenepisyu, siguro puwede nating matawag sila lahat ng Entrepinay. Dahil kahit na hindi member ng kilusan ninyo basta entrepreneur na babae, Entrepinay na nga yon.

Kaya gusto nating magkaroon ng isang milyong kababaihan na maging Entrepinay sa ating bansa. Maging ito ay dumadaan sa TLRC o yung ibang mga microfinance program kagaya ng livelihood support fund, kagaya ng mga ibat-ibang mga microfinance. And ako'y nasisiyahan na nung sinabi ko na magbibigay tayo ng hanapbuhay sa pamamagitan ng microfinance sa 300,000 women a year, lampas na lampas na tayo sa target na ito. Kasama na nga kayo, mga Entrepinay.

Binanggit ko noon na si Mayor Endo Capco ang aking kasama noong ako ay vice president para magtanggol ng karapatang pantao ng kababaihan. Talagang dalawa ang programa ng inyong lingkod sa aking administrasyon para sa kababaihan. Yung isa na nga yung pagtanggol sa karapatang pantao ng kababaihan. Halimbawa, yung mga binubugbog ng asawa, biktima ng rape, biktima ng prostitution at iba pa, at yung isa naman, yung pagsulong ng karapatang pangkabuhayan. At itong ginagawa nating ito, yung programang entrepinay, ito nga ay bahagi ng ating programang pagsulong ng karapatang pangkabuhayan ng ating kababaihan.

Nabanggit nga ni Lydia Pederal. Ayan, Lydia matagal na rin naming kasama yan sa Pampanga dahil siya yung humahawak din ng livelihood nung Mt. Pinatubo Commission noon, di ba Lydia? Dami mong batikos sa amin noon, ano? Buti ngayon magkaibigan na tayo. Kasi pag senador ako, pag senador ka medyo meron kang hindi magandang attitude na pagbatikos nang batikos sa executive. Eh ngayon executive na ako, kasama ko na siya sa trabaho. Kaya paumanhin lydia kung ako ay nagbatikos sa iyo noon.

Anyway, gaya nang sabi ni Lydia nadalaw ko na ang ilang Entrepinay na mga nakikinabang sa mga microfinance sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas. At yung outstanding na Entrepinay chapter — o, ano ba yon, tatlo na ang awards na

nakuha nila, apat — yung barangay Holy Spirit, nabisita ko na yon. At doon sila nga ay gumagawa ng iba't-ibang mga cake, pastry, juice, siopao, puto pao. Noong nagpunta nga kami doon, kumain pa nga kami nang masarap na cupcake at puto, masarap.

Pero noong nagke-kuwentuhan kami doon, meron mga dumadaing at sa iba ring lugar, na sabi nila... Hindi ba nakita natin lahat ng pagsasanay dito? Meron mga... Suwerte yung mga direkto mayrong bibili ng produkto ninyo, pero may iba na nagsasanay doon, natututo silang gumawa, wala namang bumibili ng produkto nila sa mga lugar nila. At dahil bago pa lang sila sa skill pa yon, hindi pa export quality. So, may problema ng marketing.

Kaya doon ko sinabi sa TLRC, ang payo ko sa kanila huwag kayong magturo ng produkto hindi sigurado ang benta. At sabi ko, alam kong isang produktong talagang hinahanap lalo na nang matatanda yung mga murang gamot. Kaya pinapasulong natin ngayon yung mga botikang nagbebenta ng murang gamot. At saan manggagaling itong murang gamot? Isa na nga yung parating galing sa india sa pamamagitan ng Philippine International Trading Center. Yung iba naman ay yung herbal at saka yung generic medicine na dumadaan naman sa Department of Health. Kaya kasama sila dapat sa pag-organize nitong inyong ang mga botikang ito.

In fact, kanina nga sinabi ko kay Secretary Dayrit, dahil dinadaing din sa akin nung ibang mga nagtatayo ng botika na sabi nang BFAD, hindi sila puwede magtayo ng botika kung wala silang full-time pharmacist na nandoon, walang ginagawa buong araw... Eh, mauubos naman ang kanilang pera sa suweldo sa isang pharmacist.

Kaya sabi ko, Manolet, hindi naman kailangan yung pharmacist ay nandoon buong araw dahil very small scale lamang ito. Kaya dapat may common pharmacist yung ilang mga grupo ng mga botika. Isang supervising pharmacist na lilibut-libot sa ilang botika. Kaya yan ang aking gustong ipaliwa... Yon bang ipaalala sa ating mga tatlong ahensiya na gumawa nitong Memorandum of Agreement. At ito ay makakatulong tayo dahil isang malaking programa nga natin, gusto natin ng mura ang gamot ng taong bayan, lalo na yung gamot na binibili ng mga mahihirap. At madalas binibili nila ganito ang mga sagot sa mga sakit na madalas nagkakasakit ang mga mahihirap sa mga ganun.

Malaki ang aking pag-asa na sa pamamagitan ng inyong samahan gumawa na kayo ng foundation. Magkakaroon nang dagdag na trabaho ang inyong pamayanan. Kasi nga whether you're own, kung jobless kayo noon, di may trabaho na kayo. O kung dalawang kamag-anak ninyo nabigyan ninyo ng trabaho, may dalawang nabigyan ng trabaho. O kaya kung naging small scale kayo, may mga at least sampu. Kasi nais ko na may pagkain sa bawat mesa. Papaano tayo magkakaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa? Kailangang magkaroon ng trabaho.

Kaya kayo na nagkaroon na nang pagsasanay, nagkaroon nang konting capital, tulungan nyo ako na magkaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa sa inyong mga pamayanan. Kayo ang aking pag-asa na magkaroon ng trabaho sa inyong mga pamayanan.

Kanina marami sa inyo tumanggap ng parangal. Huwag kayong titigil sa pagsisikap. Pagsikapin nyong lumaki pa ang inyong negosyo.

Kung kayo ay micro-entrepreneurs, dapat maging small scale na kayo. At kung kayo ay small scale, sana maging medium scale na kayo sa loob ng dalawang taon. Sa ganung paraan, bagamat maliliit na negosyante ang tawag sa inyo, malaki ang inyong kontribusyon sa pagkalakas ng ating republika.

Congratulations! At maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Gawad Parangal sa mga Entrepinay (A Tribute to Women Entrepreneurs). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140840/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7490&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Mass Oathtaking of New Members of Lakas-CMD Officials Rizal Chapter

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Mass Oathtaking of New Members of Lakas-CMD Officials Rizal Chapter**

[Delivered at the E. Rodriguez Gymnasium, Angono, Rizal, November 14, 2003]

Maraming salamat sa anak ng Angono, ang Chairman ng Energy Regulatory Commission, si Manny Sanchez.

Alam po n'yo, bago ko batiin 'yung ibang mga panauhin, 'yung mga nasa entablado, gusto kong ikuwento sa inyo kung papano naging ERC Chairman si Manny Sanchez. Noon hong ako ay naghahanap ng Chairman ng Regulatory Office ng MWSS, 'yung Water Regulatory Office, sabi ng search committee, meron kaming magaling na biodatang nakita, ang ganda-ganda ng kanyang record, galing pa sa Harvard, siya ang nino-nominate namin bilang chairman ng Regulatory Office ng MWSS. Sabi ko, sino 'yon? Sabi nila si Congressman Manny Sanchez. Aba! Sabi ko, si Congressman Manny Sanchez? Kilala ko 'yon! Bagama't bagay nga siya sa Regulatory Office ng MWSS, kailangan ko rin ng Undersecretary of the Press sa ngayon. Gusto ko sa Malacañang siya magtrabaho, hindi doon sa MWSS. Kaya kinuha ko siyang Undersecretary of the Press. Naging Undersecretary Manny Sanchez. Pagkatapos noon, doon naman sa Energy Regulatory Commission si Chairman ay si Fe Barin. Tapos noon, nagkaroon ng... Natapos 'yung termino ng ilang mga members of the monetary board, kaya dahil si chairman ng ERC si Fe Barin ay matagal siya doon sa Central Bank, 'di inappoint ko siya bilang member of the monetary board. Nagkaroon tuloy ng vacancy sa Energy Regulatory Commission, napakamakapangyarihang pwesto. Ang dami-daming nag-aagawan para maappoint doon sa pwestong 'yon. Kaya sabi ko, sa pwestong napakamakapangyarihan at maraming nag-aagawan, naalala ko 'yung sinabi ng search committee, si Manny, isang abogado, tiga-Harvard, bagay na bagay sa regulation, kaya siya ang ginawa kong Chairman ng Energy Regulatory Commission.

Gusto kong batiin siyempre ang Ama ng Angono, si Mayor Gerry Calderon, na matagal nang tumutulong sa akin. Senador pa lang ako, 'di ba? At si mayor ay vice mayor pa. Matagal nang kaibigan ko, kaya ako ay matagal nang kaibigan ng Angono. Gusto kong batiin si Vice Governor Jovita Rodriguez, pinakamataas nating opisyal sa partido lakas sa lalawigan ng Rizal.

Gusto kong batiin 'yung iba't-ibang mga official na narito ngayon. Batiin ko si Vice Mayor Villamayor. 'Yung mga konsehal ng Angono kasama na rito si ABC President Armando Villamayor. Alam n'yo, merong sinasabi ni Mayor Calderon na madalas ako magbisita sa Angono. Kasi artist center ito, nagpupunta ako sa mga museo ninyo, binibisita ko 'yung mga artists ninyo. Bumibili ako ng mga art pero meron yata nagba-black propaganda sa akin. Sinasabi na pumupunta ako rito wala akong iniwanan. Testigo si ABC President Villamayor na lahat ng barangay ng Angono ay na tulongan ko na. Kaya hindi totoong wala akong iniwanan, dinaan ko ang tulong kay ABC President Armando Villamayor. Gusto ko ring batiin si ABC Vice President Francisco Saginsin. At saka si SK Chairman Anover Tiamson. Nandito tayo sa ano, 'di ba, barangay Sto. Niño? Kaya batiin ko ang barangay captain ng Sto. Niño, si Chairman Roberto Miranda. At saka si Mr. Ding Roan. At saka ang ating kilalang artist, si Orviel Quiamson. Saan si Orviel? Siya 'yung parati pinupuntahan ko, okey. Si Atty. Efren Bautista, binabati ko rin. At saka si Judge Rosa Tatad.

Kasama ko rin ngayon, si Secretary Marita Jimenez at meron siyang gustong ipabalita ko sa inyo. Kasi si Mai Jimenez ang tumutulong sa akin sa mga bagay ng Official Development Assistance o 'yung tulong na nanggagaling sa ibang bansa. At alam ko dito sa Angono, isa sa mga daing ninyo ay 'yung baha. 'Yung daing sa baha hindi nasasagot sa sampung milyong piso. Ang kailangan ninyong flood control project ay 'yung talagang kumpleto at

komprehensibo. At ayon kay Mai Jimenez, ito ay gumagawa na tayo ng proposal. Ang tawag nitong project na ito ay east of Manggahan Flood Control Project. Ito po ay hindi ten million pesos, ito po ay ten billion pesos po ang halaga nitong proyektong ito. Ito po ay sakop hindi lamang Angono kung hindi na rin Cainta, Pasig, Marikina, Taytay, Antipolo. At dahil po maraming bayan ang sakop, kailangan lahat ng bayan ay mag-endorso sa regional development council. Kaya pwede ba hingiin ko kay Mayor Calderon na ikaw na lang ang kumuha ng endorsement ng mayor ng Cainta, Pasig, Marikina, Taytay, Antipolo, maging sa iyo. Kasi gusto nating habulin na kung maibibigay ito sa Regional Development Council at ma-approve nila, pwedeng ibigay na ito sa Japan government pagpunta ko sa Japan itong darating na Disyembre. Kaya ako na ang bahala sa paperwork.

Anyway po, gusto ko ring batiin ang kpatid ng ating national artist, si Botong Francisco, nandito po ang kanyang kapatid. Nasaan? Nakita ko kanina. Isa sa ating mga senior citizen. Tayo kayo! Alam po n'yo, 'yung mga painting ni Botong Francisco, 'yung mga iskultura ni Botong Francisco, sa bahay ho ng aking tatay, sa aming entrance and exit, nandoon po 'yung kanyang iskultura na pinagawa ng aking tatay sa kanya tungkol po sa ating land reform, sa ating independence day. At doon naman sa malaca,,ang, malalaking tatlong painting ni Botong Francisco, linagay ko rin sa pintuan ng Malacañang, labas ng aking kuwarto para araw-araw bago ako lumabas ng Malacañang, tinitingnan ko si Botong Francisco. Dahil ipinagmamalaki natin ang mga artists na nangagaling dit o.

At noong ako ay senador — alam ito ni Mayor Calderon dahil vice mayor siya noon — bahagi sa aking cdf bilang senador ay binigay ko po upang magtayo ng music hall para matuloy 'yung musika ni Lucio San Pedro. Ngayon, dalawa ang hiniling ni Mayor Calderon sa akin tungkol sa inyong kultura. Una, sana magtayo ng artists center, 'yung gallery and museum for artists of Angono. Sabi ko, tutal sinimulan ko na 'yung music hall, sige, magdadagdag ako ng 2 million pesos doon, para 'yon na ay ma-expand mo, ma-improve mo, Gerry at maging hindi lang music hall kung hindi gallery and museum for Angono.

At meron din akong hihingiin kay manny sanchez, dahil sa ibabaw ng siya ay abogado at chairman ng ERC, dahil abogado naman siya, pwede ba gumawa nang kunting trabahong hindi kinalaman sa iyung trabaho sa ERC? Manny, tulungan mo akong gumawa ng draft declaration para madeklara ko ang Angono bilang artist capital of the Philippines.

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa mainit na pagbati sa lahat ng mga narito ngayon, lalo na 'yung mga bagong kasapi ng partido ng ating administrasyon, ang Lakas-CMD. Ito ay patunay ng inyong pagsang-ayon at pagtaguyod sa mga layuning panlipunan ng ating gobyerno. Ngayon, dahil kayo ay kasapi ng ating partido gusto kong iulat sa inyo na ang nais ng ating partido at aking administrasyon ay reporma at rekonsilyasyon. Itong ating mensahe ng rekonsilyasyon, kung mamarapatin po, ipapahayag ko hindi lamang sa inyo kung hindi na rin sa buong bansa dahil may telebisyon tayong nagko-cover nitong ating pangyayari.

The country has suffered enough from extreme divisiveness. I have called for reconciliation and healing as a moral duty and I will persist even if repudiated along the way. I am seeking light in the minds of our leaders so that we can breach the cynicism and hatred that is rending the nation and depriving the people of peace of mind and economic opportunity.

I am making this offer before things become worse for our people. We must not leave the Filipino people trapped in the middle of political clashes. Let us not forget, the people are sovereign and they expect more statesmanship and solidarity from their leaders.

Marami sa ating mga pag-uugali at pananaw bilang lipunan ay kailangan baguhin o kaya mabalik sa mga dating magagandang asal kung magkakaroon tayo nang reporma at rekonsilyasyon sa pagbabago o pagbabalik sa loob, sa tanaw sa mga dating magagandang asal, malaking kinalaman ang kultura. At sa kultura, malaking kinalaman ang Angono dahil ang Angono ang tahanan ng pinakamaraming artists sa ating bansa. Kaya kung gagawin nating art center of the Philippines, artist capital of the Philippines ang Angono, hindi lamang para sa inyong karangalan ito, ito ay para sa kinabubuti na rin ng diwa at kaluluwa ng bansang Pilipinas.

Kaya, mga mamamayan ng Angono, mga kababayan ni Gerry Calderon, mga kababayan ni Manny Sanchez, salamat sa mga artists na nilikha ninyo, salamat sa diwa na sana madala n'yo sa kaluluwa ng buong Pilipinas.

Mabuhay ang mga artists ng Angono!

Mabuhay ang diwa! At sana nga buong pilipinas maging kasing-kaluluwa ng Angono.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Mass Oathtaking of New Members of Lakas-CMD Officials Rizal Chapter. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140754/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7455&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Jesus Saves Crusade Prayer Rally

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During during the Jesus Saves Crusade Prayer Rally

[Delivered at the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta Park, Manila, November 14, 2003]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat kay Dr. Benny Abante, aking kaibigan, matagal na kaming nagdadasal na magkasama. At ako ay nagpapasalamat sa panginoon na narito rin ang bayani na malaking nagawa para maresolba yung crisis ng impeachment, si Speaker Joe de Venecia.

I thank Evangelist David Janney because what he talked about tonight, the story he talked about tonight, by providence — because there's no coincidence in God — by providence he told the story of Zaccheus. And that is what my Cabinet and I have been reflecting on for three days now, the story of Zaccheus. Because the story of Zaccheus is the story of reconciliation. At yan ang ating kailangan para maligtas tayo at tayo ay siguradong nasa piling ng ating panginoon.

Ako ay nagpapasalamat na kayo ay narito at hindi umaalis, ang dami-dami ninyo kahit na umuulan. Kanina — kasi yung ulan umaabot din dito eh, hanggang sa akin — kanina, iurong sana nung ilang mga technicians itong aking entablado. Sabi ko, huwag, kasi kung nababasa ang ating mga kapatid, ako rin dapat ay mabasa.

Sa katotohanan, kanina pa naman ako talagang nababasa dahil nanggaling ako sa probinsiya, sa Rizal. At doon ay naglalakad ako at umuulan. Kasi tuwing may pagkakataon na magkaroon ng sakripisyo, ang aking ipinapanalangin ay sinasabi ko, salamat Jesus dahil isinasama mo ako sa inyong sakripisyo sa krus. at sa lahat, tuwing tayo ay nagkakaroon nang sakripisyo kagaya ng pinapabayaan nating tayo ay mabasa sa ulan, nababawasan yung kahirapan ng panginoong hesus doon sa kanyang krus. We share in the sufferings of Jesus Christ by making sacrifice and prayer.

Ngayong gabi tayo ay nagdadasal, tayo rin ay nagsasakripisyo. Ang sakripisyo natin ay pinapayagan natin na ang sarili nating katawan ay mabasa sa ulan na nanggagaling sa langit. Ang ating sakripisyo ay importante. Doon sa bibliya, parating hinihingi ng panginoon ang ating sakripisyo para tayo'y maligtas. Si Zaccheus na tinawag ni Jesus, nung tinawag ni Jesus siya ay nagreconcile, si Zaccheus din ay nagsakripisyo. Kung anuman daw yung ninakaw niya ay ibabalik niya times four sa mga ninakawan niya. At kahit na yung hindi niya ninakaw na yaman niya, kalahati ay ibinigay niya sa mahihirap. Yon ang kanyang sakripisyo.

Tayo, ang sakripisyo natin ay itong ulan. Naalaala ko, tinuturo sa akin ito noong ako ay nag-aaral sa kumbento, ang tawag dito ay mortification. Kasi dapat tayo ay magkaroon nang mortification para ang ating dasal ay mapuri at buo at pag tayo ay nagmo-mortification, pwede tayong humingi ng petisyon sa Panginoon. Ang tanong ko, ano ang hinihingi ko ngayong gabi at sana kayo rin ay kasama ko na humingi sa Panginoon bilang kanyang binabalik sa atin, sa ating mortification, sana iligtas ang sambayanang Pilipino, Jesus save the Filipino people. Jesus save the Filipino people from sin and evil. Jesus save the Filipino people from those who want to destroy our democracy. Jesus save the Filipino people from those who do not want reconciliation.

Tinawag ni Jesus si Zaccheus. Si Zaccheus ay isang maraming sala. Kaya sinabi noong mga pharisee, yung Jesus na yan bakit nagbabait-bait, tingnan mo naman yung mga kasama niya mga makasalanan. yon ang dapat ipagdasal natin, na itong mga pharisee sa ating kapaligiran ay malinawan ang kanilang diwa at makita na reconciliation ang gusto ng Panginoon para sa akin.

Reconciliation ay kinakailangan para magawa natin ang reporma na kailangan ng ating bansa para masugpo natin ang kahirapan. Dahil kung parati na lang watak-watak ang ating lipunan, wala na akong gagawin bilang pangulo kung hindi sanggahin yung mga sinisikap na sirain ang ating lipunan. Papano natin magagawa yung batayang reporma para ating mahihirap na minamahal ng panginoon.

Kaya mga kapatid, maraming salamat na tayo ay magkasama. Maraming salamat at tayo ay magkasama sa ating mortification. Magkasama tayo sa ating dasal. Jesus save the Filipino people through our sacrifice in union with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Amen.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Jesus Saves Crusade Prayer Rally. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140817/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7456&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Distribution of Certificates of Lot Awards to Qualified Beneficiaries

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Distribution of Certificates of Lot Awards to Qualified Beneficiaries**

[Delivered at the Francisco Felix Sports Center, Brgy. San Juan Cainta, Rizal, November 14, 2003]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Governor Nini Ynares. At siya rin po ang Chairman ng Lake Laguna Development Authority.

Una sa lahat, doon sa ating binuksan na magandang fountain sa inyong renovation. Binabati ko rin si dating Vice Governor Ben Felix. At saka si Vice Mayor Julio Narag. At yung ibang mga punong bayan na narito, si Mayor De Los Santos ng Jala-Jala, si Mayor Bernardo ng Morong, at saka si Mayor Zapanta ng Taytay. Binabati ko yung ibat-ibang mga members ng Sanggunian, yung ibat-ibang mga barangay captain na narito. At nandito na pala si Mike Defensor, yung chairman ng HUDCC, at yung mga officials ng mga ahensya sa ilalim ng HUDCC. Binabati ko yung mga makikinabang sa pagdistribute ng Certificate of Llot Allotment. At binabati ko yung pinanggalingan ng lupang madi-distribute ngayon, si Ginoong at Ginang Boboy Virata.

Sa mga makakatanggap ng papeles ng inyong lupa, congratulations sa mga bagong may-ari ng lupa. Hindi na kayo squatters sa sariling bayan. Sana makatulong ito na maunawaan ninyo na sa dami ng mga problemang hinaharap ng ating bansa, hindi kayo nakalilimutan ng inyong pangulo at hindi kailanman mangyayari makalilimutan kayo ng inyong lingkod. Dahil sa inyong pagtutulungan, unti-unti nang nagiging maayos ang inyong pamumuhay. Masisipag ang mga opisyal ng inyong mga asosasyon, kaya congratulations sa mga opisyal. Saan kayo? Saan kayo? Gayundin, mga pinuno ng inyong pamahalaan — probinsiyal at lokal — sa pangunguna ni Governor Nini Ynares at Mayor Nicanor Felix.

Kung bawat Pilipino ay kasing-sipag at nagtutulungan tulad ninyo at hindi panggugulo ang inaatupag, mas bibilis pa ang pagsulong ng ating bansa. Kaya ang cainta napakamaunlad na lugar. Ito ay napaka-urban na talaga itong lugar na ito. Lungsod na nga itong lugar na ito sa ekonomiya. At dapat makita ito ng buong Pilipinas bilang huwaran na kapag kaunlaran ang iniisip at hindi kaguluhan sumusulong ang ekonomiya ng isang bayan. Kaya mula sa maunlad at mapayapang bayan ng Cainta, magbibigay ako ngayon ng mensahe sa ating taong bayang Pilipino.

There is a pattern of renewed destabilization to erode the looming electoral process and I call upon the people to stand for democracy. We shall respect the right of protesters to express their political views and grievances, but we would like to draw the line on the side of civility, lawful conduct and public order.

I'm calling for reconciliation but I must stand in the way of anarchy. I extend my hand to my detractors but I cannot allow them to flaunt the law. I ask the leaders of protest actions to police their own ranks and instill discipline among their followers. The police and the military are holding maximum tolerance but they are ready to enforce the full might of the law when required by any situation.

Kaya mga kaibigan, taga-Rizal, taga-Metro Manila, ang aking panawagan naman sa inyo, lalo na yung mga maralita, huwag kayong basta padadala sa mga maling balita o paghimok ng mga grupong gustong siraan at ibagsak ang gobyerno. Dahil lubos na pinangangalagaan ng pamahalaan ang dignidad ng bawat Pilipino. Kaya, ganun na lamang ang aking pagsisikap na maibigay sa inyo ang inyong mga pangangailangan katulad nang maayos at disenteng lupang tinitirikan.

Ang pagkaloob ng mga titulong kagaya ng ginagawa natin ngayon ay sinimulaan ko mula pa noong ako ay unang umupo bilang pangulo. At nalampasan na natin ang target na bibigyang katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan. Dahil gumawa tayo ng mga limampo at isang proklamasyon na nagdeklara sa mga lupang pag-aari ng gobyerno na maaring bilhin ng mga nakatira doon. Gayundin ng community mortgage program sa mga lupang meron nang may-ari. Kaya nagpapasalamat ako kay ginoong boboy virata, na isang malaking negosyante, dahil siya ay nagsusuporta sa ating programa.

Gaya nang sabi ko, mahigit limampung proklamasyon na ang ating ginawa. At halos tatlong daang libong pamilya na ng ating mga maralitang taga-lungsod ay nakinabang kasama na nga ang ating mga kapatid dito sa San Juan, sa Cainta, sa Rizal.

Ang aking panawagan, basta tayo ay magkaisa. At gusto kong ipaalala sa inyo at tiyakin sa inyo ang inyong kapakanan ay laging nasa aking isipan, may gulo man o wala.

Kaya mga kaibigan sa Cainta, maraming salamat dito sa pagkakataon. Gusto ko lang magpasalamat sa inyong lahat dahil parati kayong nagsusuporta sa akin. Magtulungan tayo upang umunlad ang Pilipinas, ang Rizal, ang Cainta.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Distribution of Certificates of Lot Awards to Qualified Beneficiaries. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140736/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7454&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Mass Oathtaking of new members of Lakas-CMD Officials Rizal Chapter, November 14, 2003 Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa malawakang panunumpa ng mga bagong miyembro ng opisyaes ng Lakas-CMD Rizal Chapter

[Ipinahayag sa E. Rodriguez Gymnasium, Angono, Rizal, ika 14 ng Nobyembre, 2003]

Maraming salamat sa anak ng Angono, ang Chairman ng Energy Regulatory Commission, si Manny Sanchez.

Alam po n'yo, bago ko batiin 'yung ibang mga panauhin, 'yung mga nasa entablado, gusto kong ikuwento sa inyo kung papano naging ERC Chairman si Manny Sanchez. Noon hong ako ay naghahanap ng Chairman ng Regulatory Office ng MWSS, 'yung Water Regulatory Office, sabi ng search committee, meron kaming magaling na biodatang nakita, ang ganda-ganda ng kanyang record, galing pa sa Harvard, siya ang nino-nominate namin bilang chairman ng Regulatory Office ng MWSS. Sabi ko, sino 'yon? Sabi nila si Congressman Manny Sanchez. Aba! Sabi ko, si Congressman Manny Sanchez? Kilala ko 'yon! Bagama't bagay nga siya sa Regulatory Office ng MWSS, kailangan ko rin ng Undersecretary of the Press sa ngayon. Gusto ko sa Malacañang siya magtrabaho, hindi doon sa MWSS. Kaya kinuha ko siyang Undersecretary of the Press. Naging Undersecretary Manny Sanchez. Pagkatapos noon, doon naman sa Energy Regulatory Commission si Chairman ay si Fe Barin. Tapos noon, nagkaroon ng... Natapos 'yung termino ng ilang mga members of the monetary board, kaya dahil si chairman ng ERC si Fe Barin ay matagal siya doon sa Central Bank, 'di inappoint ko siya bilang member of the monetary board. Nagkaroon tuloy ng vacancy sa Energy Regulatory Commission, napakamakapangyarihang pwesto. Ang dami-daming nag-aagawan para maappoint doon sa pwestong 'yon. Kaya sabi ko, sa pwestong napakamakapangyarihan at maraming nag-aagawan, naalala ko 'yung sinabi ng search committee, si Manny, isang abogado, tiga-Harvard, bagay na bagay sa regulation, kaya siya ang ginawa kong Chairman ng Energy Regulatory Commission.

Gusto kong batiin siyempre ang Ama ng Angono, si Mayor Gerry Calderon, na matagal nang tumutulong sa akin. Senador pa lang ako, 'di ba? At si mayor ay vice mayor pa. Matagal nang kaibigan ko, kaya ako ay matagal nang kaibigan ng Angono. Gusto kong batiin si Vice Governor Jovita Rodriguez, pinakamataas nating opisyal sa partido lakas sa lalawigan ng Rizal.

Gusto kong batiin 'yung iba't-ibang mga official na narito ngayon. Batiin ko si Vice Mayor Villamayor. 'Yung mga konsehal ng Angono kasama na rito si ABC President Armando Villamayor. Alam n'yo, merong sinasabi ni Mayor Calderon na madalas ako magbisita sa Angono. Kasi artist center ito, nagpupunta ako sa mga museo ninyo, binibisita ko 'yung mga artists ninyo. Bumibili ako ng mga art pero meron yata nagba-black propaganda sa akin. Sinasabi na pumupunta ako rito wala akong iniwanan. Testigo si ABC President Villamayor na lahat ng barangay ng Angono ay na tulongan ko na. Kaya hindi totoong wala akong iniwanan, dinaan ko ang tulong kay ABC President Armando Villamayor. Gusto ko ring batiin si ABC Vice President Francisco Saginsin. At saka si SK Chairman Anover Tiamson. Nandito tayo sa ano, 'di ba, barangay Sto. Niño? Kaya batiin ko ang barangay captain ng Sto. Niño, si Chairman Roberto Miranda. At saka si Mr. Ding Roan. At saka ang ating kilalang artist, si Orviel Quiamson. Saan si Orviel? Siya 'yung parati pinupuntahan ko, okey. Si Atty. Efren Bautista, binabati ko rin. At saka si Judge Rosa Tatad.

Kasama ko rin ngayon, si Secretary Marita Jimenez at meron siyang gustong ipabalita ko sa inyo. Kasi si Mai Jjimenez ang tumutulong sa akin sa mga bagay ng Official Development Assistance o 'yung tulong na nanggagaling sa ibang bansa. At alam ko dito sa Angono, isa sa mga daing ninyo ay 'yung baha. 'Yung daing sa baha hindi nasasagot sa sampung milyong piso. Ang kailangan ninyong flood control project ay 'yung talagang kumpleto at komprehensibo. At ayon kay Mai Jimenez, ito ay gumagawa na tayo ng proposal. Ang tawag nitong project na ito ay east of Manggahan Flood Control Project. Ito po ay hindi ten million pesos, ito po ay ten billion pesos po ang halaga nitong proyektong ito. Ito po ay sakop hindi lamang Angono kung hindi na rin Cainta, Pasig, Marikina, Taytay, Antipolo. At dahil po maraming bayan ang sakop, kailangan lahat ng bayan ay mag-endorso sa regional development council. Kaya pwede ba hingiin ko kay Mayor Calderon na ikaw na lang ang kumuha ng endorsement ng mayor ng Cainta, Pasig, Marikina, Taytay, Antipolo, maging sa iyo. Kasi gusto nating habulin na kung

maibibigay ito sa Regional Development Council at ma-approve nila, pwedeng ibigay na ito sa Japan government pagpunta ko sa Japan itong darating na Disyembre. Kaya ako na ang bahala sa paperwork.

Anyway po, gusto ko ring batiin ang kpatid ng ating national artist, si Botong Francisco, nandito po ang kanyang kapatid. Nasaan? Nakita ko kanina. Isa sa ating mga senior citizen. Tayo kayo! Alam po n'yo, 'yung mga painting ni Botong Francisco, 'yung mga iskultura ni Botong Francisco, sa bahay ho ng aking tatay, sa aming entrance and exit, nandoon po 'yung kanyang iskultura na pinagawa ng aking tatay sa kanya tungkol po sa ating land reform, sa ating independence day. At doon naman sa malaca,ang, malalaking tatlong painting ni Botong Francisco, linagay ko rin sa pintuan ng Malacañang, labas ng aking kuwarto para araw-araw bago ako lumabas ng Malacañang, tinitingnan ko si Botong Francisco. Dahil ipinagmamalaki natin ang mga artists na nanggagaling dito.

At noong ako ay senador — alam ito ni Mayor Calderon dahil vice mayor siya noon — bahagi sa aking cdf bilang senador ay binigay ko po upang magtayo ng music hall para matuloy 'yung musika ni Lucio San Pedro. Ngayon, dalawa ang hiniling ni Mayor Calderon sa akin tungkol sa inyong kultura. Una, sana magtayo ng artists center, 'yung gallery and museum for artists of Angono. Sabi ko, tatal sinimulan ko na 'yung music hall, sige, magdadagdag ako ng 2 million pesos doon, para 'yon na ay ma-expand mo, ma-improve mo, Gerry at maging hindi lang music hall kung hindi gallery and museum for Angono.

At meron din akong hihingiin kay manny sanchez, dahil sa ibabaw ng siya ay abogado at chairman ng ERC, dahil abogado naman siya, pwede ba gumawa nang kunting trabahong hindi kinalaman sa iyung trabaho sa ERC? Manny, tulungan mo akong gumawa ng draft declaration para madeklara ko ang Angono bilang artist capital of the Philippines.

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa mainit na pagbati sa lahat ng mga narito ngayon, lalo na 'yung mga bagong kasapi ng partido ng ating administrasyon, ang Lakas-CMD. Ito ay patunay ng inyong pagsang-ayon at pagtaguyod sa mga layuning panlipunan ng ating gobyerno. Ngayon, dahil kayo ay kasapi ng ating partido gusto kong iulat sa inyo na ang nais ng ating partido at aking administrasyon ay reporma at rekonsilyasyon. Itong ating mensahe ng rekonsilyasyon, kung mamarapatin po, ipapahayag ko hindi lamang sa inyo kung hindi na rin sa buong bansa dahil may telebisyon tayong nagko-cover nitong ating pangyayari.

The country has suffered enough from extreme divisiveness. I have called for reconciliation and healing as a moral duty and I will persist even if repudiated along the way. I am seeking light in the minds of our leaders so that we can breach the cynicism and hatred that is rending the nation and depriving the people of peace of mind and economic opportunity.

I am making this offer before things become worse for our people. We must not leave the Filipino people trapped in the middle of political clashes. Let us not forget, the people are sovereign and they expect more statesmanship and solidarity from their leaders.

Marami sa ating mga pag-uugali at pananaw bilang lipunan ay kailangan baguhin o kaya mabalik sa mga dating magagandang asal kung magkakaroon tayo nang reporma at rekonsilyasyon sa pagbabago o pagbabalik sa loob, sa tanaw sa mga dating magagandang asal, malaking kinalaman ang kultura. At sa kultura, malaking kinalaman ang Angono dahil ang Angono ang tahanan ng pinakamaraming artists sa ating bansa. Kaya kung gagawin nating art center of the Philippines, artist capital of the Philippines ang Angono, hindi lamang para sa inyong karangalan ito, ito ay para sa kinabubuti na rin ng diwa at kaluluwa ng bansang Pilipinas.

Kaya, mga mamamayan ng Angono, mga kababayan ni Gerry Calderon, mga kababayan ni Manny Sanchez, salamat sa mga artists na nilikha ninyo, salamat sa diwa na sana madala n'yo sa kaluluwa ng buong Pilipinas.

Mabuhay ang mga artists ng Angono!

Mabuhay ang diwa! At sana nga buong pilipinas maging kasing-kaluluwa ng Angono.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Mass Oathtaking of New Members of Lakas-CMD Officials Rizal Chapter. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409193516/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7455&Itemid=38.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Farmers' Forum and Awarding of Certificates of Land Ownership to Farmer Beneficiaries

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Farmers' Forum and Awarding of Certificates of Land Ownership to Farmer Beneficiaries**

[Delivered at the San Luis Sports complex Sta. Cruz, Laguna, November 17, 2003]

Maraming salamat at happy birthday sa ating Clean and Green Governor Ningning Lazaro

Tama yung sabi ni Ningning, anak siya ng mga magsasaka. Kuwento nga ni Obet Pagdanganan na si ningning ang mga magulang niya ay taga-Calumpit, mga kababayan ni Obet, na lumipat sa Laguna at yon na nga naging gobernador ng probinsya ng Laguna.

Batiin ko yung nag-kuwento sa akin ng kasaysayan ng buhay ni Ningning, ang kanyang kababayan sa kanyang mga magulang, si Secretary Obet Pagdanganan ng land reform. Si Obet din po ang nag-organize nitong ating seminar at siya rin po yung nag-ayos para kayo, mga magsasaka ay hindi na squatter sa sariling sakahan, congratulations po sa inyo!

Kasama ko rin ngayon ang Secretary of Housing naman, si Michael Defensor. Tamang-tamang kasama ko si Obet at saka si Mike, kasi ang Laguna Industrial Center sa Calabarzon doon sa bandang Calamba, doon kay Mayor Lajara at dito naman ay agricultural center. Kaya ang Laguna ay huwaran ng ating urban land reform na ginagawa ni Mike Defensor at agricultural land reform na ginagawa ni Obet Pagdanganan.

Batiin ko ang... Hindi naman dahil sa matanda siya kasi maganda nga at bata pa, pero para bang tinuturing nang nanay ng Congress, si First Lady ng Congress Gina de Venecia. Kasi babatiin ko siya bago ko batiin yung kanyang mga anak na tiga-Laguna. Yung dalawang congressmen na narito: sa 3rd district si Dan Bueser at saka dito dating mayor ng Sta. Cruz, si Mayor San Luis. Ay! Congressman San Luis na nga ngayon, noong araw mayor ngayon congressman. at siyempre pinag-uusapan natin ang mayor ng Sta. Cruz, salamat sa ating host mayor sa kanyang napakagandang welcome, si Mayor Panganiban.

Nabanggit na ni Governor Lazaro ang ating iba't-ibang mga mayor na narito. Hindi ko na babanggitin ang pangalan nilang lahat. Batiin ko na lamang sila, lahat-lahat ngunit espesyal na bati sa presidente ng Mayors' League, si Mayor Arcillas bilang pakikiramay, dahil dalawang oras lang ang nakaraan yumao yung kanyang mahal na ina. Nakita naman natin yung kanyang sense of duty, narito pa rin si Mayor Arcillas kasama natin.

Batiin ko rin yung nag-aalaga ng ating mga punong bayan at saka punong lungsod. Dalawa lamang ang lungsod nga ng laguna, yung Calamba binanggit ko na si Mayor Lajara at saka San Pablo, banggitin ko rin si Mayor Boy Aquino. Ang kanilang nag-aalaga naman ay si Undersecretary Agnes Devanadera ng DILG. At yung members of the board ng Laguna under the presiding officership of Vice Governor Dan Fernandez. Batiin ko lahat ng mga barangay captain sa pamumuno ni ABC President Board Member Nomel Buenviaje.

Mga kaibigan, una sa lahat, ulit, happy birthday kay Ningning Lazaro! Pangalawa, ulit, congratulations sa mga bagong may-ari ng lupang sakahan! Hindi na kayo squatter sa sariling lupang sakahan. Yung mga binigay natin ngayon, titulong-titulo na po yon, Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT). At nabigay din natin yung ilang tulong doon sa barangay ng Los Baños at saka, saan pa yung isa? Doon sa barangay ng Siniloan. At yung mga yon, yung

Certificate of Land Ownership at yung tsekeng pinamahagi natin sa Siniloan at saka doon sa Los Baños, sa isang barangay ni Mayor Cesar Perez, ay kasama na ang regalo natin kay governor Ningning Lazaro sa kanyang birthday.

Gusto ko ring batiin yung mga kasama ni obet pagdanganan sa DAR dahil kayo ang gumawa nitong matagumpay na seminar-workshop. Binabati ko yung mga farmer-leaders, mga cooperative chairmen, mga barangay officials. At yon na nga dahil ang Laguna ay malaking probinsiya, malaking bahagi ng lungsod ay kanayunan kaya meron tayong land reform. At doon naman sa ibang lugar nagbibigay naman tayo ng lot awards para sa mga maralitang taga-lungsod. Kaya yon dalawang klase ng land reform ang nakikita natin sa Laguna: urban land reform at rural land reform. Kaya ibig sabihin noon kung ano ang takbo ng reporma sa Laguna, ganun din ang takbo ng reporma sa buong Pilipinas.

Sa seminar ninyo, marami kayong resolusyon na nagawa — mga gagawin ng mga magsasaka at mga kailangan sa pamahalaang nasyonal. At nakita ko sa inyong listahan ay meron kayong kailangang marketing assistance. Kaya gusto kong sabihin sa inyo, bahagi rin ng ating regalo kay Governor Lazaro, meron tayong five million pesos para sa bagsakan center dito sa Laguna.

Ang sarap-sarap dito sa Laguna, kahit na maraming gustong manggulo doon sa kamaynilaan, hindi ko tuloy makalimutan kayo. Ang sarap-sarap pumunta rito lalo na't birthday ni governor. Sa gymnasium na ito, ningning, di na natin mabibilang ilang beses tayo mag-kasama dito, di ba? Tuloy-tuloy ang ating trabaho dito sa Laguna .

Ang hinihingi ko naman sa inyo, mga kaibigan ng Laguna, sana basta huwag kayong padadala sa mga maling balita o paghimok ng mga grupong gustong siraan at ibagsak ang gobyerno.

Kung bawa't Pilipino sana ay kasing-sipag, clean and green province, clean ang green capital town, land reform, industrialization, kung sana lahat ng Pilipino ay nagtutulungan at ang sipag at ang daming nagagawa kagaya ng laguna kaysa sa nanggugulo, siguradong mas mabilis sana ang pagsulong ng ating bansa.

Itong ginagawa natin ngayon, yung pamimigay ng biyaya sa mahihirap ng laguna, yung reporma sa lupa, yung mga proyekto para sa social reform para sa ating mga maliliit na barangay o bayan, yung bagsakang tulong dahil yon ang pinagkasundong kailangang-kailangan ng magsasaka dito, ito ay isang paraan tungo sa hangad kong pagkakaisa at rekonsilyasyon sa ating bansa. At yon ang isang gustong-gusto kong nagawa natin dito. Kasi sabi nila ang Laguna raw ay bahagi ng Edsa Tres. Ayun! Si Mayor Ejercito nandito pa nga. Pero tingnan mo, nandito si Mayor Ejercito kahit na ako ang guest of honor. Kaya itong ginagawa natin sa laguna ay sigasig ng rekonsilyasyon ng Edsa Dos at Edsa Tres. Huwaran din ang Laguna sa rekonsilyasyon.

At dahil yan ang nakikita natin dito mga simbolo ng Edsa Dos, ng Eedsa Tres, dito napakagandang panahon at pagkakataon na maipahayag ko ulit na gusto kong mahilom ang mga sugat ng ating pagkawatak-watak. Marami rito ay dulot ng malaking agwat sa pamumuhay ng ating mayayaman at mahihirap kaya nagkakaroon ng pagkawatak-watak. Naririnig ko nga nung araw yung mga diskurso sa Edsa Tres, sinasabi nila, iyan mga mayayaman, yan ang kumakampi kay Gloria. Mga mahihirap nandito. talagang ang agwat sa mahihirap at mayayaman ay pinanggagalingan ng maraming pagwawatak-watak. Yon din ang sinasabi ng mga komunista, yon din ang sinasabi ng mga MILF. Kaya gusto natin bahagi ng paghilom ay labanan natin ang ating kapwang kalaban at yon ay ang kahirapan at hindi ang isa't-isa.

Kaya ito rin ang dahilan kung bakit patuloy tayong nagsisikap na magbigay ng pagkain sa bawa't mesa. At ako ay nagpapasalamat sa laguna dahil sa kabila ng marami na kayong industriya doon sa bandang 1st and 2nd district ay dito naman ay gumagawa pa rin kayo, nagtatanim pa rin kayo ng pagkain sa ganun ang buong kamaynilaan at luzon ay nagkakaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa. Salamat sa mga taga-Laguna.

At yung ating ginagawa ngayon, halimbawa, kayo magsasaka, may-ari na ng inyong sariling lupa, ito ay dahil lubos na binibigyan nang halaga ng pamahalaan ang dignidad ng bawa't Pilipino, kaya ganun na lamang ang ating pagsisikap na maibigay sa inyo ang inyong mga pangangailangan, tulad ng maayos at disienteng pag-aari, sa ganun kayo na ang sariling may-ari ng inyong lupa, kayo na ang panginoon ng inyong lupa.

Gaya nang sabi ni Obet, ako yung anak ng ama ng reporma sa lupa. kaya unang upo ko pa bilang pangulo gusto ko na talagang masugpo ang kahirapan at matapos na ang reporma sa lupa. Noong ako'y umupo ang unang nakita natin na statistics na hindi pa namamahaging lupa sa reporma sa lupa ay one million hectares. Kaya kung gusto nating masugpo ang kahirapan sa loob ng sampung taon, dapat at least 100,000 hectares ang napapamahagi natin. Ngunit ang masasabi natin, salamat kay Obet sa kumbinasyon ng land to the tiller at saka yung leasehold, lampas na lampas na tayo sa ating mga target para sa reporma sa lupa. Congratulations, Obet!

Kaya kailangan natin reporma, reporma sa lupa, maging sa sakahan, maging sa maralitang taga-lungsod. Ngunit, kailangan din natin ang pagkakaisa.

Kaya itong araw na ito, sa birthday ni Governor Lazaro, ito ang aking panawagan sa inyong lahat — nagkakasama tayo sa kaunlaran ng Laguna na malaking pinanggagalingan ng kaunlaran ng buong Pilipinas. Sana tayo rin sa Laguna manguna sa rekonsilyasyon, sa pagkakaisa dahil doon makikita natin kung malalampasan natin ang mga target ng land reform na binibigyang katiyakan sa lupang sinasaka. Sana maabot din natin ang layunin ng rekonsilyasyon at pagkakaisa ng Laguna at ng buong Pilipinas.

Kaya ating mga kababayan, magkaisa na tayo, magsama-sama tayo. Unity ang kailangan ng ating bansa. Yan ang aking birthday wish para kay ningning, sana yan din ang kanyang panalangin para sa ating bansa.

Maraming salamat at happy birthday once again, Governor Lazaro.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Farmers' Forum and Awarding of Certificates of Land Ownership to Farmer Beneficiaries. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140702/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7451&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching Ceremony of the “Sagip Kabataan sa Droga” (SAKADA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching Ceremony of the “Sagip Kabataan sa Droga” (SAKADA)**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, November 17, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Dodi Limcaoco.

Binabati ko rin ‘yung aking pinakabatang Cabinet member, si Secretary Mike Defensor. Saan na siya, umalis na? Ayun! Sumama na sa ating mga... Binabati ko rin ‘yung ating kinatawan ng kabataan dito, si Mark Castroles, National Youth Commissioner. At saka ‘yung ating... ‘Yung ating lumalaban hindi lamang sa droga kung hind na rin doon sa mga pirated discs para ipagtanggol ang ating mga artist ng Pilipinas, si Bong Revilla.

Nagpapasalamat ako kay Assistant Secretary Rudy Caisip sa kanyang presentation. At si Undersecretary Efren Fernandez, siya ang namamahala ng Dangerous Drugs Board at siya ang kasama natin sa iba’t-ibang mga activities para labanan ang droga.

Thank you for your songs and... Well, I want to mention all of the stars who are here today pero kung magsisimula ako hindi ko matatapos. Salamat na lang kay Vic Del Rosario dahil ikaw ang nag-imbata sa kanila, sa marami sa kanila ngayon. At sa inyong lahat, ang masasabi ko na lamang — mabuhay ang mga batang artista! Mabuhay ang mga artistang lumalaban sa droga! Salamat sa inyong lahat.

Nanggaling lamang ako ngayon sa Sangley Point kasi doon ay nagkaroon ng graduation ‘yung mga nag-aral sa ilalim ng American Drug Enforcement Agency kung papano labanan ang droga sa ating mga dagat. Dahil nakita naman ninyo kay Assistant Secretary Caisip na marami dito sa ating shabu ay imported, galing sa ibang dagat, lalo na ngayon na ang dami na nating pabrika na naisara in the last three months. At noong nandoon ako ay tumawag din ako kay Efren Fernandez — nandito siya kasama n’yo noon — sabi ko, “Efren, umpisahan mo na ‘yung Drug Enforcement Academy. Para sa ganun, magkakaroon na tayo ng mga bagong generation na rin ng mga lumalaban sa droga like the young blood of the show business industry who are here today.”

Kaya ako’y nasisiyahan, labis ang aking kagalakan na nagtitipon-tipon tayo ngayon para palakasin ang ating pagkakaisa laban sa iligal na droga.

Bago ako umupo sa pagkapangulo, ang hirap ng batas sa iligal na droga. Kasi bago ka makulong, kailangan muna dalawang daang gramo ng shabu ang mahuli sa inyo. Isa doon sa nagko-complain sa akin nga ‘yung tatay ni Bong, si Don Ramon Revilla. Kaya dahil doon kailangan 200 grams of shabu. Eh merong mga isang libo at limang daang nahuli na “bigtime pushers” pero dalawa lamang sa kanila ang nakulong. Kasi ‘yung iba nakapagpiyansa. Kasi sino ba naman ang nagdadala ng 200 grams sa kanyang katawan. Karamihan nagdadala nang mas mababa keysa sa dalawang daang gramo.

Kaya’t noong ako ay naging pangulo, naalala ko nga ‘yung complaint ni Don Ramon noong kami ay magkasamang senador. Kaya noong ako ay naging pangulo, ipinababa ko ang dalawang daang gramo at ginawang sampung gramo na lamang ng shabu. Kaya ngayon sa ganung kantidad, huli ka na habangbuhay.

Itong laban sa droga ay nananatiling pangunahing prayoridad ng aking administrasyon. Kasi karamihan ng krimen ay may kinalaman ang droga. Kaya kung mapipigil mo ang droga, maraming nakawan ang mapipigil mo rin. Kung mapipigil mo ang droga, maraming rape ay mapipigil mo rin. Kung mapipigil mo ang droga ay maraming patayan ay mapipigil mo rin.

At kapag nahaharap ko ang mga bata tulad sa inyo, tulad 'yung mga batang menos ang kanilang kapalaran sa inyo ay naaalala ko tuloy 'yung aking apo na si Mikaela. Ayoko naman na pag siya ay naging teenager na ay marami pa ring droga.

At kung gaano ko kamahal ang aking apo, palagay ko ganun din kamahal ng mga magulang ang kanilang mga anak. At lahat sila ay kontra sa ilegal na droga. Kaya kanina sinabi ko, mabuhay ang artistang bata, mga kabataan. Mabuhay 'yung artistang lumalaban sa droga. Dapat mabuhay din ang mga magulang dahil sila rin ay laban sa droga. At sigurado ako na 'yung mga magulang ay nakikiisa sa hangaring masugpo ang banta ng droga para maayos ang ating pamumuhay.

At ako rin ay isang ina. Isang anak ko nga ay artista rin eh. At alam ko ang pagdalamhati ng isang magulang na naliligaw ang anak. At nakikita ko yung maraming magulang, 'yung kanilang damdamin kapag nawawala ang kinabukasan ng kanilang anak.

Kaya ang ating mensahe, tayong lahat ay sana sabihin natin sa kabataan na huwag na huwag silang padadala sa tukso ng bawal na gamot. At inaasahan ko na kayong mga artista ay mahihimok n'yo 'yung mga mag-aaral, mga bata, mga movie fans na huwag padadala sa tuksong ito. At maikuwento sa kanila at magbigay ng babala na lagi silang dapat maingat, na huwag na lamang basta tatanggap ng kahit na ano, tulad ng kendi, pagkain o pera sa mga taong hindi nila kilala.

At sabihin sa mga kabataan na kung meron silang kaklase o kaibigang masama ang ugali, biglang naging masama ang ugali, o natututong magnakaw o mangupit, o hindi na nag-aayos sa sarili, o parating namumungay ang mata o parang nanghihina, o sumasama sa mga kaduda-dudang tao ay sana bigyan n'yo sila ng advice na ipagbigay-alam sa kanilang mga guro, magulang, awtoridad.

Dahil alam naman ninyo, ang mga gumagamit ng droga ay madalas tinatamad, walang tiwala sa sarili, mabilis mainip, walang interes sa pag-aral, walang interes sa trabaho, mahilig magsisi sa iba, pumipili ng grupo. Eh, itong klaseng buhay ay hindi dapat tularan. At kayo ang makakasabi sa mga kabataan.

Hangga't may droga sa ating pamayanan ay hindi pa rin ligtas ang ating mga kabataan. Hangga't may nagbebeenta ng ilegal na droga ay hindi pa rin ligtas ang mga pamilya.

Kaya tayo lahat may responsibilidad. Basta may impluwensiya tayo, meron tayong responsibilidad. Mga artista may responsibilidad. Hindi natin dapat payagang sirain ng droga ang buhay ng ating mga kababayan, lalung-lalo na ang mga kabataan.

We're at war with illegal drugs. And in this war, we need the collective efforts of families, communities, schools and various sectors of our society, including the media and the showbiz industry. Gaya nang sabi ni kuya germs, walang iwanan dito sa laban kontra sa droga.

Napagsabihan ko na 'yung mga militar, 'yung mga pulis, 'yung mga pulitiko: walang arbor-arbor! Walang prote-proteksiyon! Walang sinumang sinasanto ng laban na ito, ang lahat nang sangkot ay mananagot!

Ngayon naman nananawagan ako at nagpapasalamat ako sa ating mga artista. Kayo ay idolo ng mga kabataan. Kayo'y role models para sa kanila. Kapag sinabi ninyo na kayo man ay umiiwas sa masamang bisyong ito, ang inyong mga tagahanga ay gagayahin din kayo.

Ganyan kalakas ang inyong impluwensiya sa kabataan. Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat na kayo ay narito at sinabi n'yo na tutulong kayong pigilin ang mga murang isipan na matuksong gumamit ng bawal na gamot.

Our movement aims to influence the youth of the country to stay away from drugs and to help rehabilitate those who have become drug dependents.

Pagnagpupunta ako doon sa mga drug rehabilitation centers, nagkakaroon ng programa. May ilang mga talents doon ay mga showbiz personalities that are undergoing therapy. Kaya sila ang star usually ng mga show. At ako naman ay nagpapasalamat na sila naman dahil nandoon sila sa center stage ng mga programa sa mga rehab center, ipinapakita nila na hindi nakakahiyang pumasok sa rehabilitation. In fact, 'yon ang paraan kung papano muli mababawi nila 'yung nasira nilang karera.

At ito, itong ating panawagan ngayon, ang pagpapasalamat ko sa inyo ay bahagi 'yan ng ilan-ilang hakbang na ginagawa natin. Kagaya nung kanina nga, 'yung pag-aaral ng ating mga enforcers sa drug enforcement agency ng amerika o 'yung pagtatayo natin ng Drug Enforcement Academy.

Noong hunyo nandoon naman kami sa Luneta. 'Yon naman ay programang "Batang Iwas Droga" o bida. At dito naman ginagamit ang pwersa ng mga bata, hindi 'yung kabataan, 'yung mga bata. 'Yung mga masyadong bata pa para gumamit ng droga para bago pa man sila ma-attract dito ay nasugpo na ang problema sa kanilang batch.

Kanina lamang nga gaya nang sabi ko, nandoon ako sa Sangley Point, 'yung training. Fifty-two sila, iba't-ibang mga pinanggalingan, mga nagpapatupad ng batas laban sa krimen sa ating karagatan. Ang susunod naman daw dito ay training ng mga land-based law enforcers. Pero importante itong sea-based dahil nga, lalo na mula noong nasarado natin ang maraming factory, nandiyan pa rin ang droga sa kalsada. Saan kaya sila nanggagaling, eh 'di imported.

Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat na itong araw na ito, sinabi ninyo, pinahayag ninyo sa akin ang inyong kooperasyon. At sana sa pamamagitan ninyo ay pati 'yung iba pang taga-entertainment industry ay sasama rin sa kampanyang ito. Kailangan ko ang kooperasyon ng lahat, mga kabataang artista at kabataang hindi artista, lahat ng kabataan. Dahil nakataya dito ang kinabukasan ng ating kabataan, kaya nakataya ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa. Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyo na sinabi n'yo na hindi n'yo papayag na masira ang ating kabataan.

Salamat sa inyo, lumalakas ang aking loob at lalabanan natin ito para sa kinabukasan.

Maraming salamat.

Mabuhay muli ang artistang lumalaban sa droga!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the "Sagip Kabataan sa Droga" (SAKADA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140723/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7518&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Ceremony of the 15th International Convention and Exhibition of the Federation of Asia-Oceania Pest Managers Association

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Ceremony of the 15th International Convention and Exhibition of the Federation of
Asia-Oceania Pest Managers Association (FAOPMA)**

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-la Hotel Manila Makati City, November 18, 2003]

Thank you very much, Undersecretary Drilon.

Mr. Chan and Mr. Chin, and our other guests from the different parts of the world, welcome to the Philippines. Ms. Genuino and the other Filipino leaders of the associations participating in this conference, thank you very much for your expression of support. Chairman Genuino of PAGCOR, association presidents, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Once again, to our foreign delegates, I welcome you at a time of continuing dynamism in our country, and I thank you for the confidence you have shown by holding your convention in Manila.

We are at the front of the political season, and I suppose you all see the usual run of controversy in the news media. But we have been noted for this for having the most freewheeling democracy in Asia. But it works.

I would like to assure you that we are firmly in the map of investment and are holding out relatively well in terms of macroeconomic stability and law and order. In fact, there was just a recent survey of Japanese investors, and they find that the Philippines is their third favorite place of investment here in our region.

Coming out of the summits of ASEAN and APEC last month, I bear enduring faith that our region will wake up one day to the future of shared aspirations and energies, just as these are evident in your meeting here today.

Earlier, I was asking Sheryl, “are you also including agricultural pesticides?” and she said, “it’s really mostly urban.” but I see the presence of Agriculture Department Undersecretary Drilon here. And indeed, while more of the delegates are here in behalf of urban pest control, I would like to say that the presence of agriculture in this conference is important to us.

The Philippine economy has a very big agricultural sector. Food production in our country has plenty of room for growth. But higher yields can only be had with the proper application of cost-effective and environment-friendly agricultural inputs. In fact, not only in the Philippines but anywhere in the world, in your countries, there will be no food security anywhere without pesticides.

But there is much more to this that occupies people’s minds about pesticides, and it is that they must be understood not only in light of their impact to food production, but to the environment and our health.

As Sheryl said in her welcome remarks, “it is in this spirit that I welcome this opportunity to join you in this ceremony. This is the ideal opportunity for industry’s professionals to learn and to be exposed to the latest, pest management strategies, products and technology.”

I also envision this conference to forge deeper cooperation among all stakeholders — the government, represented by Undersecretary Drilon and myself, pest control operators, associations, manufacturers, distributors, and the private sector who buy your products. We are all stakeholders in this vital field of socioeconomic development and progress.

Integrated pest management, that is something we use very often in agriculture. But integrated pest management is not confined to lending bounties to the farmers and fisher folk alone.

Surely when we talk about integrated pest management, we can also talk about it in other areas, other sectors of the economy, but taking into account not only the killing of the pests but other concerns as well. The deterioration of health is not the only consequence of poor pest management. We are also challenged by the deterioration of our treasured heritage sites that are vulnerable to insidious attack.

For instance, if we don't respond accordingly, I understand that the Philippines stands to lose to termites more than a hundred 18th and 19th century Spanish-style houses in Vigan and Northern Luzon at all.

But not even to talk about those great heritage villages, I have gone to so many hospitals and school buildings that had to be rebuilt because there was no pest management in the first place. We could have saved a lot of money if we had sent a little. In this particular case, it's really true that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Without proper pest management, we would even find it difficult to foster sustainable development strategies that would benefit the great masses of our people. We have to think of the larger picture as Sheryl said, the global picture, where our future is concerned, and this is a matter of collective concern.

Of course, we know that in pest control there is an underground trade. And the underground trade is both unwelcome and dangerous.

Many people are still in need of education regarding pests and the possible effect on their homes, their lives and the environment. Professionalism is the key to the resolution of many of these issues.

I am a believer in free enterprise. In fact, I've spent a lot of my administration, and even prior to this as senator and undersecretary of trade and industry, trying to break down unnecessary rules and red tape.

I believe that as much as possible there should be no rules in business except for we have to attend to the needs of safety, security and public morality. But in this particular industry, safety is a very important consideration. Health is a very important consideration. Therefore, we cannot subject your industry to laissez faire and total free enterprise.

I would suggest therefore, as part of the results of this conference, for the leaders of your industry, especially the Philippine industry, to draft an amendment, to push for an amendment to the national building code of the Philippines that would require... I see that we are on the same wavelength. and I hope you mean that the amendment you welcome is one that would require all pest control treatments, whether structural or household, to be done by a licensed operator. Because we must protect the consumer.

With such a prestigious convention, plus the yearly symposia and seminars being organized by your various local and international associations, I trust that the industry will continue to live up to its role as a guardian of sustainable agriculture, the environment and public health.

To all of you, have a fruitful convention.

To the Filipinos, thank you for your support.

To our foreign guests, welcome once again to the Philippines.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140656/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7448&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Program of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Program of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC)**

[Delivered at the Auditorium, CAP Convention Center, Camp John Hay, Baguio City, November 20, 2003]

Thank you, Secretary Afable.

Let me first greet my hosts in this Congress: Gabby Lopez, Congress Chairman; Cerge Remonde, ad board chairman; and the other members of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress Organizing Committee.

Now, let me also greet our host in this city, Mayor Bernie Vergara, Mayor Maurice Domogan, members of the city council headed by Vice Mayor Tabanda, and our student volunteers from Baguio City.

Let me acknowledge my companions today, members of my Cabinet: Secretary Richard Gordon, Tourism; Secretary Marita Jimenez, priority projects and ODA; BCDA chairman Florencio Padernal; Presidential Assistant Rene Diaz and PCSO Chairman Honeygirl de Leon. Participants of this Congress, guests, ladies and gentlemen, movers of the advertising industry, good morning.

I know that this morning I am speaking before some of the most creative minds in our country. I'm speaking before a gathering of some of the country's most eloquent people, the professionals with the big ideas, the professionals whose messages shape the mind and change the behavior of our people.

Gabby Lopez is happy with this SRO crowd, and so am I, and so are we all. He is happy that this congress is the most attended in your history, congratulations!

I asked gabby, why is this Congress your most attended? He thinks this turnout is a sign that first, Baguio is very popular — congratulations mayor Vergara and Congressman Domogan! — but second, that Philippine business is getting more brisk.

Indeed, while historically our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors, this year — in fact, the last two and a half years — this once basket case of Asia is posting a growth rate that is number six overall among the 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific region. and this year in particular is our highest growth since the Asian crunch of 1997. That performance owed much to two leading sectors — the increased marketing activity in telecommunications and the obviously positive consumer confidence shown by the growth of retail — witness SM's opening tomorrow. And these two activities, these two leading sectors in our growth are both intimately intertwined with the advertising industry.

Thus, I am here with you to celebrate and to thank you for your big contribution to our economic development. You have always known that you influence the minds of our people. But this time, by increasing marketing activity, by helping consumer confidence, by stimulating commerce, you have influenced the growth of our economy itself. You are so powerful, not only do you influence confidence, you can influence the pace of the economy. You are more powerful than we have imagined, and in a way you are powerful than any presidency.

In fact, it has been said that presidents are only elected by men but creative people like you are the truly anointed. You use the media as the main outlet of your trade. The media is our town plaza of the 21st century. The test of social acceptance used to be can we defend it in Plaza Miranda today, you are our Plaza Miranda.

And I come here today with full recognition of that strength of yours as a major economic force of our country whose primary concern is economic development and the elimination of poverty.

You are here to celebrate the great idea.

And Cerge said, Remonde, that you can contribute your great idea to our economic development by helping create brand Philippines. but for you to create the brand, I must give you the material without the pizzazz, because pizzazz is not my job, that's yours.

And so let me spend a few moments to speak to you about the material that I hope your great idea can contribute to, so that we can indeed have a brand Philippines.

Our historical problems cannot be blamed on any single president because the problems are fundamental. They're caused by the economic and political systems.

To be a stronger republic, we must change the system, reform the system. Usher in deep and far-reaching reforms that will lead to political and social stability and sustained economic development. And we must also unify as a people.

My learning curve of the last two and a half years in the presidency has taught me that we need five fundamental reforms: reforming the market, reforming agriculture, reforming our social assets, reforming the bureaucracy and reforming our protective institutions.

Yes, we must reform the market. The market that you know so well, by making it a market that creates jobs and opportunities. I'm proud of our market successes on the macroeconomic front: our growth rate is steady; our inflation rate has been kept under control; the budget deficit has been kept within manageable levels; fiscal performance has improved; bandwidth became cheaper and more accessible in my administration.

But we must build the long-term underpinnings of infrastructure, telecommunications, electric power, expanded credit.

We must also broaden education to sharpen that great idea, the intellectual competitiveness of our country. I believe in investing in education because I believe that the Philippines greatest resource is indeed the great idea — the Filipino skill and the Filipino mind.

And I congratulate you for coming up with the congress theme that indeed proclaims the power of the Filipino mind through the great idea.

Anywhere in the world, there will be Filipino country business managers, marketing directors, top advertising personnel. It is not strange to us that the founding chairman of the Asian Federation of Advertising Agencies was Antonio de Joya, a Filipino. In all fields, in fact, intellectual and physical, from Antonio de Joya to Manny Pacquiao, we are world class.

But to do justice to that world class Filipino, we need structural reforms for the government to broaden its fiscal controls and capabilities, provide the infrastructure needed to leverage the nation's competitive advantages, and promote a business-friendly environment based on good governance and a strong deep financial and banking system.

We must also liberate the country with reforms in agriculture. It is where the keenest struggle for survival takes place. And it is where we must pursue that great idea pagkain sa bawat mesa. no Filipino who works hard for family and country must be deprived of a decent meal.

For agricultural modernization, we spend at least — in my administration — at least 20 billion pesos a year. Gabby talked about the miracle rice. I hope he's talking about our hybrid rice in my administration. Rice productivity has reached a new bounty with the propagation of hybrid rice doubling the yield of the farmers who use it and also with the biggest irrigation program in history.

We have found new markets — and markets are very important for you to help us find — new markets for tuna, carrageenan, tropical fruits. As a boost to agriculture, we have the roll-on/roll-off ferry highway system now reducing the cost of food transport from Mindanao to Luzon.

Pagkain sa bawat mesa. a duty to every Filipino. A commitment that cannot be compromised no matter what. And to do this, we must put real wealth in the hands of our farmers by legislating the acceptability of farmland as collateral.

And now reforming our social assets. Land credit minimum basic needs, these are social assets where we have given an unprecedented number of people including people in Baguio the right to buy the land they occupy. We must apply deeper reforms, and I have the model developed by Hernando de Soto to follow.

We are providing micro credit, another asset, to one million asset less rural women. And we're being praised by no less than the author of the Grameen Bank model himself, Dr. Yunus. But beyond that, if we can have fiscal and banking reforms, we will be able to have a one-time seed fund of one million pesos in microfinance per barangay as proven successful by the one million baht, one village project in Thailand.

Stable prices for the food of the poor, like ordinary rice and fish, which we have achieved. And stable prices for medicines, which we must achieve by cutting the price of medicines for the poor in half, are asset reforms as well. All these programs can graduate into fundamental reforms if we work hard enough on governance reform.

Through my two and a half years of the learning curve, I've learned the complexities of the bureaucracy.

The World Bank has praised our vigilant advances in fighting corruption, acknowledging that we have been effective in our lifestyle checks and procurement reforms.

The people's dissatisfaction about government services are being addressed too. There have been dramatic changes in the land transportation office. And I also make surprise visits to police stations.

But once and for all, we must end graft with a mighty hand of political will and a change of values among our citizenry. And you, the movers of advertising, can help us change values and change behavior. At the same time, we must use our fiscal reforms to have a better compensated civil service.

It is also important to reform our system through constitutional change. A stronger republic must be a more secure republic.

I would like to announce that the kidnappers of the coca-cola executive have been caught, some of them. The others have been killed in an encounter including their leader the notorious number one kidnapper in the order of battle, Roberto yap. He was killed in Bataan in an earlier encounter.

The quick solution of the coca-cola executive slay is a combination of strong barangay vigilance and swift police and inter-agency response. And I commend all those involved in the operation under the leadership of Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Let us show these criminals that the law never sleeps and they cannot escape it. But the fact that the quick solution had to be done by an AD HOC task force shows that we need institutional reforms. We need to reform our protective institutions because of the imperatives of peace and order, the war against terrorism, and the vision of a drug-free Philippines by 2005.

We increased the salaries of policemen and military personnel during my administration to the same level as that of teachers. But we need a deeper reform of the military and the police towards graft-free and dedicated organizations with the tools to enforce peace and order throughout the land and to be true protectors of our people.

Our major non-NATO ally status with the United States will be used, will enable us to have a modern armed forces with less pain to the economy. Indeed, these are the ideas that I had been able to fashion over the last two and a half years of my learning curve.

And just like you, in dealing with the bureaucracy, in dealing with the people, I recognize that this is a country of intelligent people, but why are we miserable? It's because we delight in the things that divide us more than the things that unite us.

There is too much negativism and conflict in our society, and I attribute much of these to the social and political divisions that exist in our nation today. We need to heal those deep divisions. While we must have justice, we must also have reconciliation. We must put a closure to our past national divisions. We must have permanent peace in Mindanao. We must end the communist insurgency. And the recovery of the Marcos wealth, with a final decision of the Supreme Court, should now put martial law behind us. And most of all, the most difficult, we must find a closure to the divisions between Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres.

If we must survive national unity and reconciliation, it's the resolution that is non-negotiable. We must be relentless in the pursuit of reconciliation no matter how impossible it looks. Like Jesus Christ would not have changed his gospel no matter how many times he would have been crucified and ridiculed. No fear, no resistance should distract us from our vision. Our nightmares should not distract us from our dreams.

And you, movers of the advertising industry, creators of great ideas, with your overwhelming influence on the Filipino mind, with your ability to move people into thinking, to action and even to battle if need be, you can make every Filipino believe in his heart that our history far from ending is giving itself a fresh start.

Work with me on this fresh start. Tulungan ninyo ako sa pagbabago at pagkakaisa ng ating bansa. And to me, a fresh start, deep reform, unity and reconciliation, that is the greatest idea of all. But you are the ones who can move people to make that great idea come true.

Congratulations! And thank you.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Program of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140647/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7421&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Dialogue 'Isang tanong, Isang sagot' with the Civil Society Groups

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a Dialogue 'Isang tanong, Isang sagot' with the Civil Society Groups

[Delivered at the Ateneo Professor's School Auditorium, Rockwell Drive, Makati City, November 22, 2003]

Thank you very much Father.

Friends, ladies and gentlemen:

When your organizers invited me today, they said that you a me to speak about I want to be remembered for. I think that the best way to do this would be to speak on the experience I gained during my two in a half years of learning curve in the presidency. What I've learned about the deep changes in the system and the principled unity that need to be done if we are to bring our country to real political and social stability and real economic development.

While historically our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors. I thank god that despite the difficulties we perceive in our country, during my administration as acknowledged by the APEC research secretariat we have been posting a growth rate that is number six over-all among the 21 economies of the Asia pacific!

In fact this year we are achieving our highest growth since the Asian crunch of 1997. That performance I believe no, not I believe, that performance as per our national income accounts, owed much to the increased activity in telecommunications and in retail. In telecommunications, I would like to think that one reason why it grew by leaps and bounds is partly that during my administration bandwidth became cheaper and more accessible. And as far as retail is concerned, though we see a lot of negatives in the media, the growth of retail can only reflect positive consumer confidence, as I said, despite the negatives that are expressed so loudly. Incidentally, the structure of this growth jibes with what I said way back in my first state of the nation address in 2001, that the growth sectors of our future are in the service sector.

And I would like to believe that civil society shares in the accomplishments of my administration—people like Dinky, people like Ging, people like Vicky, they have been a central part of how we have done our strategic directions. And beneath the macroeconomic growth rate that I have pointed out, beneath the obvious leading sectors of the economy telecoms and retail, lie a number of things that we are able to do in terms of addressing governance, a preferential option for the poor, and the long-festering national divisions.

On the preferential option for the poor, notwithstanding that people complain about high prices, we have been able to keep the price of what we call wage goods stable — the basic necessities bought by the poor, meaning regular milled rice, the fish of the common folk, especially tilapia, and the medicines commonly bought by the poor. For medicines bought by the poor lo, I believe we need deeper reforms so that we can really say that medicines bought by them are half the price of what we inherited in 2001.

We've been able to bring interest rates down, and small and medium enterprises have gobbled up the credit programs that we have designed for them. The stable prices of these wage goods reflect a low inflation rate, which together with the low interest rate and steady growth rate regime are a result of our macroeconomic market reforms, including keeping the budget deficit within manageable levels and improving fiscal performance through disciplined spending.

But my learning curve has taught me that we must reform the market more fundamentally to make it a market that creates enough jobs and opportunities for our vast and young population.

We must build the long term underpinnings of infrastructure, telecommunications, electric power, expanded credit and to be able to afford these, we must have deep fiscal reforms. We must broaden education to sharpen the intellectual competitiveness of our country.

I believe in investing in education reform, because I believe as I said ,way back again in my first state of the nation address, that the Philippines' greatest resource is the Filipino skill and the Filipino mind. And again I repeat what I said in my first state of the nation address about the growth sector of our future being in services. With education reform, it will be particularly in the human resource- intensive, skills intensive service sectors.

If we have been able to keep food for the poor stable in supply and in price, it is also because I believe to a large part of what my administration has done to modernize agriculture. We spend at least 20 billion pesos a year for agricultural modernization, that is an unprecedented allocation. Rice productivity has reached a new bounty with the propagation of hybrid rice, which has been doubling the harvest of farmers that they've used that hybrid rice. That hybrid rice can only grow well in irrigated areas and we have also the biggest irrigation program in history.

We've found new markets for tuna, carageenan, and tropical fruits. In fact general Victor Corpus, who is now the head of the Civil Relations Service of the Armed Forces believes that the massive propagation of carageenan in the coastal areas south of Manila –meaning Batangas, Bicol, Visayas, all the way to Mindanao will be an important answer to insurgency and secession. As a boost to agriculture, Secretary Marita Jimenez who is my Secretary for priority project in ODA has helped me to reduce the cost of food transport from Mindanao to Luzon by cutting the red tape to bring about what is call the roll-on roll-off ferry highway system. This is part of her general program to cut red tape to make sure crucial infrastructure are built.

But we must liberate the economy, the country with deeper reforms in agriculture, for it is where the keenest struggle for survival takes place. Pagkain sa bawat mesa, means not only the mesa of the people in the urban areas even the farmers themselves. No Filipino who works hard for family and country must be deprived of a decent meal.

Pagkain sa bawat mesa has always been to me if we were to have a battle cry that's been my battle cry since my senate days. It's a duty to every Filipino. A commitment that cannot be compromised no matter what. And we must put a real wealth in the hands of our farmers. We must empower the farmers by enabling them, empowering them to turn their farm land into credit-worthy assets, this is the principle of Hernando de Sotomayor the great Latin-American social scientist and this principle has been demonstrated successfully in many other developing countries. And they have also been applied now in countries that are doing even well , have been doing well like Thailand.

Hernando de Sotomayor, is a celebrated author of the principle of unlocking the mystery of capital that is locked in land. It is my inspiration for asset reform. If you want to know what deep reforms we have to make in land, I could give a separate lecture on Hernando de Sotomayor but I would just suggest for those who want to know please read Hernando de Sotomayor.

In so short a time of two in a half years of my administration also, again following that principle, we have accomplished one of the most massive housing programs undertaken by any administration. But we must do deeper reforms in our social assets, we call this asset reform and sometimes people tell me asset reform. And sometimes people tell me –asset reform please don't talk about the heads of people even businessmen don't understand asset reform . But I've got to explain it because it is so, you know it is so deep in our program of government. It is language used by Ging Deles. And what are we talking about assets ?–land, credit, minimum basic needs.

As far as land is concerned too, we have given an unprecedented number of the rural , ah, no, of the urban poor the right to buy the land they occupy. But to truly liberate the urban poor, we need deeper reforms than this. Hernando de Sotomayor has done this in a lot of Latin-American countries. He is doing it now in Thailand– a whole comprehensive set of reforms in the titling system dedicated by that model and I have asked him to study particularly this system for our country.

Credit is an asset and part of our asset reform in credit is microfinance. We are providing microcredit to one million asset less rural women, and being praised for it by no less than the author of the Grameen bank model itself, Dr.

Yunos of Bangladesh. But one million asset less, income less rural women, when we have maybe 25 million poor families? Oh no, poor people I mean, so but beyond that, we still have to do fiscal and banking reforms that we allow us to provide again Thailand is doing , because i study other successful models . Thailand in the last two years did a one-time seed fund of P1 million Baht in microfinance per village and it doubled the growth rate of Thailand in the last two years .

When Thaksin first started to do it, and everybody made fun of him “gimmick” sabi nila. But two years later, other countries like South Korea and the Philippines are trying to replicate it.

Our programs are what we’ve done within the present system but they must graduate into fundamental reforms. But we can only do this if we work hard enough on governance reforms. Through my two and a half years of the learning curve, i have learned the complexities of the bureaucracy. The world bank has praised our vigilant advances in fighting corruption it is acknowledged that we have been effective in our lifestyle checks and procurement reforms. The people’s dissatisfaction about government services are also being addressed. There have been dramatic changes in the land transportation office, and I’ve been inspecting surprised visits . I’ve been doing surprised visits to police stations . But once and for all, we need deep reforms to end graft and we need to do that with the mighty hand of political will and a change of values among our citizenry.

Ending corruption is not done by St. Michael coming down and slaying the dragon with one’s well, one fells swoop of his sword. It is done by, it is like , corruption is like an infected wound that must be cured by constant healing and disinfecting. Systems changed combined with prosecution.

At the same time, we must use our fiscal reforms to have a better compensated civil service. That is the key to the graft-free civil service of Singapore and Hongkong. Aside from the values, they’re well paid but the... Reform doing that again is fiscal reforms.

It is also important, and I’m glad Dr. Abueva’s here to reform our system through constitutional change. We must begin a meaningful and dispassionate debate on changes in the constitution, particularly the parliamentary and federal form of government.

To strengthen our republic, we must make it more secure.

We need to reform our protective institutions because of the imperatives of peace and order, the war against terrorism, and the vision of a drug-free Philippines by 2005.

In my administration we increased the salaries of policemen and soldiers to make it the same level as the teachers, but we need to do deeper reforms in the military and the police, towards graft-free and dedicated organizations with the tools to enforce peace and order throughout the land, and to be true protectors of the people. The Feliciano commission which includes Father Bernas of Ateneo has given me its findings , their findings on the ongoing Philippine police reform recommission’s work headed by Justice and .. Sedfrey Ordonez should be the basis of our military and police reforms.

I have said that we must do these reforms so that we can do justice to our most important resource and that is our world competitive , world-class human resources. This is a country of intelligent people. But why are we miserable? I believe it’s because we delight in the things that divide us more than the things that unite us.

There is too much negativism and conflict in our society and I attribute much of this to the social and political divisions that exist in our country today. And if we are going to make our reforms successful, we need to heal these deep divisions. While we must have justice, we must also have reconciliation. We must put a closure to our past national divisions. We must have permanent peace in Mindanao. We must end the communist insurgency. And one reason why Ging Deles is not here with us today because she is there in Oslo having exploratory talks with new people’s army.

The long-awaited judgment on the Marcos wealth has come down and that should help put martial law behind us. But most of all, and most difficult, I believe, for civil society, we must find a closure to the deep divisions between Edsa dos and Edsa tres. And in this most difficult reconciliation I will be guided by the great fathers of our church, including the theology of principled reconciliation as expounded by Father Romeo Intengan, the provincial head of the Jesuit community in the Philippines , who is himself a leading veteran of some of the great social movements of our country.

If we must survive, national unity and reconciliation are the resolution that is non-negotiable.

We must be relentless in its pursuit. No matter how impossible it looks.

Like Jesus Christ would not change his gospel no matter how many times he would be crucified and ridicule.

No fear, no resistance should distract us from our vision. Our nightmares should not distract us from our dreams.

And I hope that you leaders of civil society, young people who would be the leaders of our country's 21st century , I hope that you can work with me in building prosperity for the greatest number of our people in a strong republic that we Filipinos dream of and rightly deserve.

Thank you very much.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during a Dialogue 'isang tanong, isang sagot' with the Civil Society Groups. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140631/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7420&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 53rd Founding Anniversary of the First Scout Ranger Regiment (FSRR)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 53rd Founding Anniversary of the First Scout Ranger Regiment (FSRR)**

[Delivered at the Camp Tecson, Brgy. Tartaro San Miguel, Bulacan, November 26, 2003]

Maraming salamat, General Narciso Abaya.

Troop Commander, give the troops “Tikas Pahinga.”

Una sa lahat, gusto kong batiin ‘yung ating mga officers na nagtanggap sa atin itong araw na ito sa kanilang pagdiriwang. Nandito si bagong namumuno ng Philippine Army na siya ay nanggaling din sa Scout Ranger, Major General Efren Abu. Nandito ang ating Commander ng Northern Luzon command, General Romy Dominguez, at saka siyempre ‘yung namumuno ng mga scout rangers, si Colonel Danny Lim.

Batiin ko naman ngayon ‘yung ating mga kasama na nagpunta rito. Una sa lahat batiin ko ang maybahay ng Speaker of the House of Representatives, si Mrs. Gina De Venecia. At sa kanyang pamamagitan magpasalamat tayo sa Kongreso dahil mabilis nilang pinasa ‘yung batas na hiniling ko sa kanila na itaas ang suweldo ng ating mga sundalo kagaya ng mga teachers. Kasama rin natin dito ngayon, iba’t-ibang mga officials ng pamahalaang nasyonal at pamahalaang lokal. Ang punong-bayan ng San Miguel, Bulacan, si Mayor Santi Sevilla; ang Congresswoman nitong distritong ito, si Congresswoman Lorna Silverio; ang bise-gobernador ng probinsiya ng Bulacan, si Vice Governor Rely Plamenko. Pinapaabot din ni Governor Rosie De La Cruz ang kanyang pagbati bagama’t siya ay itong umagang ito umalis papuntang hapon. Nandito rin si board member Tony Ligon, salamat sa inyong pagpunta rito. At saka ‘yung barangay captain ng barangay Tartaro, si Chairman Manuel Apoderado.

Kasama ko ang ilang Cabinet members. Ilan dito nga ay may kinalaman sa Bulacan. Una sa lahat, alam natin dahil dating gobernador siya ng Bulacan, si Secretary Obet Pagdanganan. At salamat sa kalsadang itatayo niya mula sa housing project hanggang sa main highway. Nandito rin, apo ng Bulacan, apo nga ng San Miguel, Bulacan dahil ang kanyang lola ay walang iba kung hindi si Doña Trinidad De Leon Roxas, si Mr. Palengke, Secretary Mar Roxas. Si Secretary Roxas ay narito hindi lamang upang makipagdalo sa kanyang mga kababayang taga-San Miguel kung hindi dahil dala ko dito ang national media at si Secretary Roxas ay may isang gustong ipabalita at handa siya magsagot sa mga tanong nila pagkatapos ng ating programa, ang ating huling mga statistics, huling record, update ng investments as of October 2003 for the last ten months, tumaas ang investments by 22 percent. Kaya sa kabilang batikos nang batikos at alitan nang alitan, nakikita natin na nandiyan pa rin ang tiwala ng mga investors. Pwede magsalita ang ilan pero in the end, they vote with their money, and there’s a 22 percent increase of those who voted with their money for confidence in the Philippines.

Marami dito nga foreign investment pa nga eh. Nakararami sa investment na ito ay foreign investment. Kaya hindi tayo nagugulat dahil sa kabila ng kon sinu-sino nagsasabi na wala nang tiwala raw, ang survey ng Japanese investments ay number three favorite pa rin ang Pilipinas, next to Thailand and Malaysia. Ano pa kaya kung tayo ay nagkakaisa.

Gusto ko ring batiin, isa pang anak ng Bulacan, ang ating chairman ng National Food Authority na may Cabinet rank, si Secretary Lito Sarmiento. At kanina ay nagpirma ng memorandum of agreement dahil magtatayo ng housing project para sa ating mga kawal dito sa likod ng Camp Tecson, si Secretary of Housing, Mike Defensor. Gusto sabihin ni Mar Roxas na sa mga umangat na mga pagtaas ng ating production sa ating bansa, ang pinakamabilis na pag-angat ay ang housing sector. Kaya congratulations, Mike Defensor.

Gusto ko ring batiin 'yung ating kinatawan ng National Defense nitong araw na ito — ay, hindi pala. Nasa akin pa pala siya sa Malacañang — si Undersecretary Abby Puruganan dahil binabati ko siya dahil siya rin ay scout ranger dati. At binabati ko 'yung ating mga iba't-ibang may ginanap sa ating programa ngayon, si Presidential Assistant for North Luzon, si Secretary Renato Diaz. At salamat sa kanyang magandang pinahayag tungkol sa kalahi program natin dito sa Camp Tecson. Dahil ito ang unang-unang kampo na nagkakaroon ng KALAHÍ program o integrated community development programs.

Kaya kayong lahat, gusto ko rin batiin hindi lamang 'yung mga officials kung hindi 'yung mga private sector na napakalaki ang igaganap sa mga darating na panahon. Gusto kong batiin 'yung chairman ng Manila Bank, Luis Puyat at kanilang presidente, Benjamin Yambao. 'Yung may-ari ng lupa na idinodona, 50 hectares, Attorney Dave Puyat, Attorney Raymond Puyat. At babatiin ko 'yung nagsabi kay Dave Puyat na kailangan ng mga sundalo ang pabahay, 'yung anak ni Executive Secretary Bert Romulo, Mrs. Berna Romulo-Puyat. Berna, akyat ka nga dito sa entablado at makaupo ka dito, somewhere here. Dapat nandito ka rin. Si Berna parati in the background. Pero itong araw na ito, donor siya ng lupa eh dapat nandito rin siya sa entablado. Binabati ko lahat ng iba't-ibang mga officers ng Armed Forces of the Philippines na narito at siyempre sa inyong lahat mga scout rangers, maligayang bati sa isa sa mga grupong pinakamahusay na mandirigma sa sandatahang lakas sa inyong anibersaryo.

Kasabay sa pagbati ko sa buong scout rangers, binabati ko rin 'yung mga scout rangers at 'yung mga civilian na nagkamit ng parangal bilang patunay ng inyong natatanging serbisyo sa ating bansa. Sa inyong patuloy na napakahusay na paglilingkod sa bansa, kung naaalala pa ng ilan sa inyo, pinili ko na kayo ang una kong dalawin sa lahat ng mga rehimento ng Armed Forces nung ako ay maging pangulo. Naalala ninyo, a long, long time ago, early 2001. Noong araw na 'yon, Pebrero a-siete 2001, nagdalaw ako sa inyo. At doon din, right after I became president, doon ko rin unang pinahayag ang aking plano upang mapahusay pa ang serbisyo ng buong militar. And we continue those reforms I talked about them up to today.

Continuing reforms, better morale and discipline, and the even handed pursuit of justice and compassion have steadily immunized the Armed Forces from the coup fever. The intelligence community sees no reemergence of underground groups in the command. And I call upon the politicians who are inclined to inveigle or support these groups to train their sights on the forthcoming polls rather than futile destabilization. Let's resolve all political issues by the ballot rather than the gun and give our people the peace of mind they deserve.

Noong una ako nagbisita rito, ano ang mga nabanggit ko, noong unang pagbisita ko dito sa inyo? Sabi ko, dadagdagan ko ang tulong para sa mga pamilya ng sundalong masusugatan o mamamatay sa digmaan. Sabi ko, tataasan ang pensiyon ng mga nagkamit ng Medal of Valor na ang karamihan naman ay galing din sa scout ranger regiment. Sabi ko, bibigyan ko nang mas maraming tax exemption ang mga kasapi ng AFP. Sabi ko, papalakasin natin ang mga programang pabahay at iba pang benepisyo para sa militar. Sabi ko, sisiguruhin ko ang mga promotion batay sa kahusayan at hindi sa kapit. Sabi ko, makikinig ako sa mga inyong hinaing.

Kung titignan n'yo, isa't-isa doon sa mga aking sinabi noon – February 2001 — today, November 2003, masasabi n'yo tinupad ko 'yung aking mga sinabi as early as two years ago. Halimbawa, sinabi ko 'yon Pebrero, sumunod na Abril, two months later, inanunsyo ko na ang pagtaas sa mga tulong pinansyal sa mga nasugatan at mga naiwan ng mga namatay. At ni hindi ko sinabi noon ngunit nakita ko pagkatapos dahil sa aking karanasan sa learning curve na kailangan pala ninyo na maging pantay ang suweldo ninyo sa titser at pulis. Mabilis na pinasa ng Kongreso — salamat kay Speaker De Venecia, salamat kay Congresswoman Lorna Silverio – mabilis nilang pinasa ang batas upang maging 20,000 na ang pensiyon ng mga may Medal of Valor. Noong araw, ilang daan lamang, ngayon 20,000 na. Binigay rin nila 'yung mga exemption sa mga allowances, mga non-salary benefits, at higit na importante, tinaas din ang inyong suweldo. Una, sa savings lamang natin sana makukuha 'yung suweldo ninyo, dahil 2003 pumasa 'yung batas — hindi, 2002 pala — pero 'yung 2002 na budget na pinasa for 2003 hindi kasama ang pagtaas ng suweldo dahil nga wala pa 'yung batas. Ngayon, salamat pinasa ng House of Representatives 'yung inyong supplemental budget, kasama na doon 'yung 50 percent sa pay increase. Kaya salamat sa Kongreso.

Ipinagpapatuloy natin ang iba pang programa upang mapabuti ang inyong mga buhay tulad nga nung pabahay, tulad nga nung KALAHÍ, 'yung ating comprehensive and integrated delivery of social services. Katunayan nga, ang ating patuloy 'yung proyektong pangkabuhayan at pabahay para sa limampung ektaryang ibubukod para sa inyong pabahay.

Nalulungkot, nakakalungkot ang pangyayari sa Oakwood noong Hulyo. Kahit na nabuksan ito ang naiwan pang hinaing ng mga sundalo dahil patuloy naman ang mga gawain ng pamahalaan upang gumaan ang inyong buhay. Gayunpaman, patuloy kong pinapalakas ang Armed Forces sa pamamagitan ng mga batayang reporma.

Ang pagpapalakas ng mga patakaran, ang mahusay na pangangasiwa ng mga gamit at tao, at ang matuling pagpasunod ng mga utos na walang sagabal o sa ingles ang tawag nito reinforced policy control, sound management of resources and untrammelled command efficiency. Eto ang mga estratehiyang ating sinusunod sa ating batayang pangreporma. At tinatangal ko na ang kaugalian ng conversion na pinagmumulan ng maraming corruption. At ang AFP Chief of Staff ngayon siya na lamang ang tanging hahawak ng mga cash reserves. Nalulungkot ako na may iba pa sa rehimentong ito na nagkulang ng tiwala sa katapatan ng pamunuan ng ibinigay kong mga pahayag two years ago. Ngunit nakita naman n'yo sa aking accounting ngayon, hindi ko nakalilimutan 'yung sinabi ko noon. Hindi ko nalilimutan sa dalawang taon at kalahati ng aking pagkapangulo. At bagama't hindi ako araw-araw nagbibisita, nag-aanunsyo kasi kailangan ang pangulo ay nagtatrabaho sa kanyang desk para magawa lahat natin 'yung mga bagay na 'yon. Ginagawa naman natin even before oakwood. Walang maidudulot na kabutihan ang pagtanim ng sama ng loob.

Ang lahat ng pumunta sa Oakwood na napatunayang iniligaw lamang ng kanilang mga officials ay pinawalang-sala, 133 na sila. Ang mga lider naman ng kaguluhan ay paparusahan ayon sa batas sapagkat hindi lamang sila nakipagsabwatan sa mga ambisyoso upang pabagsakin ang pamahalaan, nilito rin nila ang kanilang mga tauhan. Wala nang dahilan upang bigyan ninyo ng kahit konting panahon ang mga sulsol ng mga pulitikong nagnanais lang na gamitin ang lakas ng kasundaluan upang makamkam nila ang kapangyarihan sa anumang paraan.

Ang ating pagsisikap ay dapat batayang pagbabago sa sistema at saka rekonsilyasyon. Rekonsilyasyon din ang dahilan ng ating pagsisikap na makamit ang pangmatagalang kapayapaan sa mindanao kung saan marami kayo ay naglilingkod kahit na ang headquarters n'yo ay narito sa Camp Tecson. Kapayapaan din naman ang hangad nating lahat pati mga sundalo. Batayang reporma at pagkakaisa, ito ang kailangan ng buong bansa.

Kaya mga Scout Rangers, hinihiling ko ang inyong suporta tulad ng paghingi ko ng suporta sa buong sambayanan para sa ating pagbabago at pagkakaisa sa buong bansa.

Muli, maraming salamat sa inyong serbisyo sa sambayanan. At mabuhay ang ating Elite Scout Rangers of the Philippines!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 53rd Founding Anniversary of the First Scout Ranger Regiment (FSRR). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140617/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7418&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Farmers' Forum on Agrarian Reform

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Farmers' Forum on Agrarian Reform**

[Delivered at the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) Multi-Purpose Gym Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, November 26, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Governor Tommy Joson sa inyong pag-welcome sa aming lahat. At tungkol ho sa pagkain, huwag ho kayong mag-alala, ang mga district engineers ay hindi lamang pinapakain ang ating mga barangay captain kung hindi linilibot din, magto-tour dito sa CLSU at 'yung iba doon pa nga sa Subic.

Gusto ko rin pong magbigay ng galang sa ating congressman po dito sa distritong ito, si Congressman Violago. Meron tatlo tayong congressman din na kasama niya, hindi nga congressman kundi congresswomen. Nandito po si Congresswoman Josie Joson ng first district. Nandito rin ho si congresswoman ng ano... Dapat ang pangalan... Hindi pangalan niya ang maaalala natin kung hindi ang pangalan ng kanyang partido, Butil, Congresswoman Butil, si Nelly. Atsaka congresswoman ng Quezon, maybahay ng vice chairman ng Road Board, si Congresswoman Aleta Suarez. Ang nanay ng mga congressman ay narito rin, bagamat mas bata siya keysa doon sa ibang mga congressman, First Lady ng House of Representatives, si Gina De Venecia. Nabanggit ko na rin si Mrs. Suarez kaya batiin ko na rin 'yung mga DPWH officials, ang chairman ng Road Board ay si Dante Soriquez, ang vice chairman na nga ay si Danny Suarez.

Mga Cabinet members na kasama ko na narito ay si Secretary Mar Roxas, "Mr. Palengke;" si Secretary Mike Defensor, maraming pabahay 'yan dito; at saka si Secretary of the Press, Milt Alingod; si Secretary of DAR, Obet Pagdanganan; 'yung aking Presidential Adviser for infrastructure, si Teddy Encarnacion; at saka anak ng Nueva Ecija, kilala ninyo, si Presidential Assistant Rene Diaz; nandito rin si General Boysie Braganza, ang Commanding General ng 7th Division.

Batiin ko naman ang ating mga host dito. Nabati ko na nga si Governor Joson. Nabati ko na nga si Congressman Violago. Batiin ko rin si Mayor ng Muñoz, Mayor Alvarez. Ganun na rin, lahat ng mga Board members, mga mayors ng Nueva Ecija, si Vice Mayor Alvarez at members ng City Council ng Muñoz. Ngayon, binabati ko na 'yung nag-host sa atin, mga guests naman natin.

Tinatanggap ko, welcome sa mga barangay captains ng Regions I to V, magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat.

Una sa lahat, batiin ko ang mga taga-Nueva Ecija. Kasi sa dalas ng pagbisita ko rito, siguro wala nang nagdududa kung gaano ko kayo kamahal mga taga-Nueva Ecija.

At itong araw na ito dito rin natin linulunsad ang mga pagbabagong ating kailangang gawin para maging mas maunlad ang ating bansa. Gaya nang sabi ni Vice Chairman ng Road Board Danny Suarez sa pagkakataong ito linulunsad natin ang pangatlong bahagi — kaya tatlong ilaw, tatlong kulay ng ilaw — tatlong bahagi ng "Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin" program.

Itong programang ito ay gumagamit ng one billion pesos para alagaan ng mga barangay ang mga national road na dumadaan sa inyo. At ito ay sisikapin nating gawin sa buong bansa. Kasi kung hindi wasto ang pag-aalaga ng kalsada, ito ay nasisira. Ngayon, ang programang ito ay sasakop so far dito sa ating ginawa, pangatlong launching. Ito ay sakop so far sa lahat ng national arterial roads at lahat ng national secondary roads sa buong Luzon because every citizen, every barangay must contribute to the whole enterprise. At sa pagkaintindi ko, sa karanasan noong unang dalawang paglunsad, 'yung Unisan to Urdaneta at saka 'yung Southern Luzon, nalaman ko, nakita, napag-alaman ko na 'yung mga barangay captains ay grabe rin ang tulong sa mga manggagawa sa mga implementasyon nitong programang ito.

Kaya ako ay inaatasan ko si Chairman Soriquez at si Vice Chairman Suarez na simula sa susunod na December 1, 2003, lahat ng tumutulong na barangay captain sa buong Luzon ay tatanggap ng 500 pesos a month supervision fee. Nauna kasi kayong tumulong eh, so bigyan na kayo nang supervision fee.

Itong ating ginagawa, itong ating pag-aalaga ng kalsada, 'yung national road na dumadaan sa barangay, itong programang ito ay maaaring magsilbi batong panulak ng kaunlaran ng ating bansa. Ang importanteng pakinabang na agad mabibigay ng programang ito ay trabaho. Ito ay parang noong panahon ng tatay ko, noong itinatag ang emergency employment program ni Pangulong Macapagal noong 1962. Ako rin, kagaya ng tatay, para sa akin ang paglikha nang trabaho para sa ating mga kababayan ang pangunahing preyoridad simula nang ako ay maging pangulo. Salamat na lamang na anuman ang binabatikos sa akin ng mga kalaban, nandito si Mar Roxas, "Mr. Palengke," pero itong araw na ito tatawagin natin siyang "Mr. Investment" dahil batay sa pinakahuling ulat tungkol sa investments sa Pilipinas tumaas pa rin ng 22 percent ang mga investments sa Pilipinas. Ito ay ayon sa pinakahuling ulat ng Department of Trade and Industry na siyang nag-aasikaso ng Board of Investments at 'yung Philippine Economic Zone Authority. At karamihan nitong salaping pumasok ay galing sa foreign investments. Ibig sabihin noon, anuman ang sinasabi ng ilan dito sa ating bansa nariyan pa rin ang tiwala ng foreign investors sa atin. May mga negosyanteng mga nagbabatikos, ang importante 'yung negosyanteng nagsasalita sa kanilang salapi hindi lang sa kanilang bibig. Kaya itong ating investors ay nagsalita, 22 percent increase in investment. At ayon pa sa mga Hapon, number 3 preferred investment ang Pilipinas next only to Thailand and Malaysia.

Ano pa kaya kung tayo ay nagkakaisa keysa nag-aalitan. Matapat na hangarin ng pamahalaan ang bumuti ang kalagayan sa buhay ng mga mamamayan. Kapag dumami ang negosyo gaya nito, dadami rin ang trabaho para sa ating mga kababayan. Kaya kayo, mga barangay captain, kayo mga officials na narito, hinihiling ko sa inyo, sa ibabaw ng pagsupervise n'yong maganda, itong ating "Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin" hinihiling ko ang pagkakaisa nating lahat sa halip na tayo ay magwatak-watak at maglaban laban dahil sa hangad ng ilang grupo na pairalin ang kanilang maling paniniwala sa ating bansa.

Ako ay nananawagan sa inyong lahat, mga barangay captain, kung nais nating wakasan ang kahirapan, kung nais nating wakasan ang kahirapan, magkaisa tayong lahat dahil ito ang kailangan natin kung nais nating iangat ang katayuan ng buhay ng ating mga kababayan.

Kaya, magtulungan tayo para sa tagumpay ng "Kalsada Ko, Alagaan Ko," para sa tagumpay ng ating mga programang mag-alok ng investments, at para sa tagumpay ng iba pa nating mga pambansang adhikain. Sa ganun, sana sa ating pagkakaisa at batayang reporma kagaya ng ginagawa natin para dumating ang investments at dumami ang trabaho sa mga kalsada natin. At sa pagkakaisa, makakamit natin na umunlad ang ating bansa at umunlad ang inyong mga pamayanan.

Maraming salamat at welcome sa lahat ng mga barangay captain. Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Farmers' Forum on Agrarian Reform. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140605/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7413&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Promoting Sustainable Development in Agriculture

Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Promoting Sustainable Development in Agriculture

[Delivered at the Central Luzon State University Multi-Purpose Gym, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, November 26, 2003]

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE

Itong araw na ito, dito natin ilulunsad ang mga pagbabagong ating kailangang gawin para maging mas maunlad ang ating bansa. Gaya nang sabi ni Vice Chairman ng Road Board Danny Suarez sa pagkakataong ito linulunsad natin ang pangatlong bahagi — kaya tatlong ilaw, tatlong kulay ng ilaw — tatlong bahagi ng “Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin Program”.

Itong programang ito ay gumagamit ng one billion pesos para alagaan ng mga barangay ang mga national road na dumadaan sa inyo. At ito ay sisikapin nating gawin sa buong bansa. Kasi kung hindi wasto ang pag-aalaga ng kalsada, ito ay nasisira. Ngayon, ang programang ito ay sasakop so far dito sa ating ginawa, pangatlong launching. Ito ay sasakop so far sa lahat ng national arterial roads at lahat ng national secondary roads sa buong Luzon, because every citizen, every barangay must contribute to the whole enterprise. At sa pagkaintindi ko, sa karanasan noong unang dalawang paglulunsad, yung Unisan to Urdaneta at saka yung Southern Luzon, nalaman at nakita ko, na yung mga barangay captains ay grabe rin ang tulong sa mga manggagawa sa mga implementasyon nitong programang ito.

Kaya inaatasan ko si Chairman Soriquez at si Vice Chairman Suarez na Simula sa susunod na December 1, 2003, lahat ng tumutulong na barangay captains sa buong Luzon ay tatanggap ng 500 pesos a month supervision fee. Nauna kasi kayong tumulong eh, so bigyan na kayo ng supervision fee.

Itong ating ginagawa, itong ating pag-aalaga ng kalsada, yung national road na dumadaan sa barangay, itong programang ito ay maaaring magsilbing batong panulak ng kaunlaran ng ating bansa. Ang importanteng pakinabang na agad maibibigay ng programang ito ay trabaho. Ito ay parang noong panahon ng tatay ko, noong itinatag ang “Emergency Employment Program” ni Pangulong Macapagal noong 1962. Ako rin, kagaya ng tatay, para sa akin ang paglikha ng trabaho para sa ating mga kababayan ang pangunahing prayoridad simula nang ako ay maging Pangulo. Salamat na lamang na at kahit anuman ang pagbabatikos sa akin ng mga kalaban, nandito si Mar Roxas, o Mr. Palengke, pero itong araw na ito tatawagin natin siyang Mr. Investment dahil batay sa pinakahuling ulat tungkol sa investments sa Pilipinas tumaas pa rin ng 22 percent ang mga investments dito sa Pilipinas. Ito ay ayon sa pinakahuling ulat ng Department of Trade and Industry na siyang nag-aasikaso ng Board of Investments at iyong Philippine Economic Zone Authority. At karamihan nitong salaping pumasok ay galing sa foreign investments, ibig sabihin noon, anuman ang sinasabi ng ilan dito sa ating bansa nariyan pa rin ang tiwala ng foreign investors sa atin. May mga negosyanteng bumabatikos, ang importante yung negosyanteng nagsasalita sa kanilang salapi hindi lang sa kanilang bibig. Kaya itong ating investors ay nagsalita, 22 percent increase in investment. At ayon pa sa mga Hapon, number 3 preferred investment ang Pilipinas next only to Thailand and Malaysia.

Ano pa kaya kung tayo ay nagkakaisa kesa nag-aalitan. Matapat na hangarin ng pamahalaan ang bumuti ang kalagayan sa buhay ng mga mamamayan. Kapag dumami ang negosyo gaya nito, dadami rin ang trabaho para sa ating mga kababayan. Kaya kayo, mgabarangay captains, kayo mga officials na narito, hinihiling ko sa inyo, sa ibabaw ng ng pag-supervise ninyo nang maganda, dito sa mga kalsada natin, alagaan natin hinihiling ko ang pagkakaisa nating lahat sa halip na tayo ay magwatak-watak at maglaban-laban, dahil lamang sa hangad ng ilang grupo na pairalin ang kanilang maling paniniwala sa ating bansa.

Ako ay nananawagan sa inyong lahat, mga barangay captain, kung nais nating wakasan ang kahirapan, magkaisa tayong lahat dahil ito ang kailangan natin kung nais nating iangat ang katayuan ng buhay ng ating mga kababayan.

Kaya, magtulungan tayo para sa tagumpay ng “Kalsada Ko, Aalagaan Ko Program” para sa tagumpay ng ating mga programang mag-alok ng investments, at para sa tagumpay ng iba pa nating mga pambansang adhikain. Sa ganoon, sana sa ating pagkakaisa at batayang reporma kagaya ng ginagawa natin para pag dumating ang iba pang investments at dumami ang trabaho sa mga kalsada natin. At sa pagkakaisa, makakamit natin ang pag-unlad ng ating bansa at uunlad ang inyong mga pamayanan.

Maraming salamat at welcome sa lahat ng mga barangay captains.

Thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Students' Forum at the Sacred Heart College in Lucena City

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Students' Forum at the Sacred Heart College in Lucena City**

[Delivered at the Sacred Heart College Cultural Center and Gymnasium Lucena City, Quezon, November 27, 2003]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Sister President Custodio for your very kind welcome.

I would just like to introduce to the faculty and the students the other guests who came here with me today. We have from your district Congresswoman Lynnette Punzalan; from the district north of the province of Quezon, Congressman Raffy Nantes; from my Cabinet, Secretary Joey Lina of the DILG; Secretary Cito Lorenzo of Agriculture; Undersecretary of Housing, Undersecretary De Castro.

I would like to greet the members of the student executive council headed by President Mary Grace Inhente. Thank you for your kind welcome. I would also like to greet all the faculty members and students of the Sacred Heart College, and the community of the Daughters of Charity.

Sister Custodio said that this is the second time I visit your community, because the first time was when I was a vice president. I was also accompanied by Congressman Punzalan, the late husband of Congresswoman Punzalan, and it was in the Hermana Fausta Development Center. It was on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Hermana Fausta. And the reason why I took the trouble of driving to Lucena to attend the silver anniversary of a school with a relatively small population is that the Hermana Fausta Development Center... Oops! I'm sorry, I thought he was a congressman from Quezon also, Secretary of Agrarian Reform, Secretary Obet Pagdanganan.

I would like to let you know also that Secretary Obet Pagdanganan is a son-in-law of Sariaya. His wife Susan is from Sariaya and when I used to attend the Tayabas Association balls in the five-star hotels in Manila, Secretary Pagdanganan being a son-in-law of Quezon, was always there as one of the main rigodon dancers looking so handsome in his black tie tuxedo.

Anyway, I was telling you about Hermana Fausta and why I went to that school even if it's not a very big school, even if not many people from Manila know about it because I have a very sentimental connection to that school. My mother, the late Evangelina Macaraeg-Macapagal studied in Hermana Fausta Development Center. This was during the time of still the American colonial period and my grandfather Juan Macaraeg was a U.S.-educated engineer. And he was assigned by the U.S. government to be an engineer here in the province of Tayabas that's why his daughter studied in Hermana Fausta. And Hermana Fausta is a person that we are all very proud of and I hope that one day she would be beatified and canonized as an honor for all of us, all of you who have benefited from the education that she pioneered.

My mother is no longer with us. She wasn't with us anymore when I went to visit the Hermana Fausta Development Center, she had passed away. But I am very happy to be with you this afternoon because as Sister Sustodio said you often find me where angels fear to tread. But this is a gathering where angels love to be with, the young minds, the

young people of our country. Because I oftentimes have to be in places where angels fear to tread. It is not always that I have a chance to be in the company of young minds even when you are always on my mind, the young people.

I cannot help but always think of the young people because what we are doing today is not only for our benefit today, more than that, it is for your benefit when you are already living outside in our world. And I have come to think of the young people even more on a personal basis since I became a grandmother. I think of the young people as personified by my own granddaughter Mikaela. And also I think of the young people I realized that more than half of our population are made up of young people. That's why I'm here — I need to hear from you; I need to listen to what you have to say; I need to see your faces as you react to what I say. You the young are made up of energy. You pump energy into the national life.

It's a good thing that we are meeting on this special day. This day is special for two reasons: one, for all of us with a Catholic education, it is the feast of the Miraculous Medal. It is a day that we remember that Mama Mary, the mother of us all, is there to intercede for us when we ask for her help because her son Jesus Christ can hardly say no to her. That's why Mama Mary can make miracles. Mama Mary was the patron saint of the miracle of Edsa one. She was also the patron saint of the miracle of Edsa two.

Today is also the birth anniversary, 71 years old, of Ninoy Aquino, our latest national hero. Latest national hero because it was in my administration that we did the executive order and the law proclaiming him a national hero. That's why I'm wearing yellow today because I started my day hearing mass at his gravesite.

Ninoy Aquino when he first decided to enter national public life, when he first decided to run for senator, did a survey of what people thought of him. Not many knew him because his exposure was only in the province of Tarlac. He had gone of course to Korea as a war correspondent but coming back to the country just governor of Tarlac. So, when you're a governor of a province, two provinces away from Manila — like Quezon is two provinces away from Manila — you're not necessarily known in the capital especially in those days there was no big television like what we have today. But the few who knew him knew him for his youth. Because at the age of seventeen he was a war correspondent in Korea, when many seventeen year olds are not still concerned about national life but only concerned about their own little world around them.

And I am glad that you have given me a chance, the president of the Philippines, to come here and talk to you because you know I will not talk about your little weekend parties. You know I will not talk about your latest popular shows on TV or the most popular shop here in Lucena. You know I will talk about national life. But you are such an important part of national life because you are what we are fixing our national life all about. Therefore because you are such an important part of national life — what's that? Tuko? 'Di ba that's Tuko? I used to have that very often also in my house in La Vista, because my house in La Vista has a hill behind me so the back part is quite rural. So the Tuko comes and makes that noise all the time.

Well, anyway, because you're an important part of national life, let me begin — although Sister Custodio told me about the many bad news you often hear about — let me begin by sharing with you some good news about our national life. Just today, the new figures for the growth of our national production were released, and I am very happy that production within our country in the third quarter of this year grew by 4.4 percent — that's called GDP. Production by Filipinos including the contributions of our overseas Filipinos grew by 5.9 percent.

That's good news for one thing because it's our highest growth since the Asian crisis of 1997. Now many of you were very young in 1997. If you're seventeen years old, first year, or sixteen years old, you were only ten years old in 1997. You were probably not aware of the great difficulty that your parents began to undergo that time. If you're twenty-one and about to graduate from college, you were fifteen years old in 1997. And you were probably more concerned the first party you would attend, the first date. If you're a fifteen year-old girl, would you be a wallflower in your next dance. But your parents began to experience great difficulty.

Nonetheless, though at that time the whole Asian economy collapsed, your parents still sacrificed to put you in a private catholic school so you have to thank them because they put you in a school where they have to pay private tuition fees even at a cost of great sacrifice.

Now, the region is beginning to recover, and that's one reason why our 5.9 percent growth rate is there. But there's a second reason to be happy about that figure, because even when people hear complaint, talk about bad news, we have to understand that the Asian crisis was not only in the Philippines, it was in the whole Asia. But as our countries around us are beginning to recover, I am happy to say that the figures I announced today, 5.9 percent GNP, are higher than we expected. And we outperformed Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore and Korea.

We should be proud of this miracle announced on the day of the miraculous medal because, historically, our growth rate has been slow compared to these other economies. That's why I thank god that during the two and a half years of my administration, despite the difficulties in the world — terrorism, Asian crisis, SARS — despite those who keep criticizing me, despite the disturbances mentioned by Sister Custodio, our economy has been growing at a rate that is number six among the 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific region.

Why did our economy grow so much in the last quarter more than so many other economies around us? Where did this growth come from? They came from two sources: one is agriculture and the other is investment spending. What is the meaning of this for you young people? Well, as far as investments are concerned, the figures today are consistent with figures I announced yesterday coming from the Department of Trade and Industry. Yesterday, the DTI said that the firms registering with the Board of Investments and the economic zones grew by 22 percent over last year. Agriculture and investments, what does this mean for you? Quezon is an agricultural province. It's one of the largest agricultural provinces in the world. It's number two in coconut production. Used to be number one but now Davao oriental is number one. So, when we say that the growth in agriculture is the source of this very rapid growth we had in the third quarter, I can only hope that the farmers of Quezon are benefiting from the big increase in agricultural production.

I just met with the farmers of Quezon earlier, particularly the farmers of district one and district two. Exactly the farmers of Congressman Nantes and Congresswoman Punzalan that's why they're here with me this afternoon as well.

And I was so happy to hear about the farmers' report because it was a Farmers' Congress. I was happy that they themselves decided that they will set aside — how much? 40 pesos per month — each farmer will set aside 40 pesos a month so they can put together savings. And in the end, because they are so many, they'll be able to put up millions of pesos together to put up important processing plants and other facilities to make them more productive. That is the kind of farmer that has been contributing to our rapid growth rate and we shall be proud of the farmers of Quezon province.

The other source of growth is investment spending. When you say investment spending that means you'll put up a factory, you'll put up a call center. And investment spending today means more production in the future cause it takes about three years to put up a factory, maybe six months to put up a call center. And I hope that those who are investing today, I hope will be able to provide jobs for you, the young people, by the time you graduate. That's why it's so important to have investment spending today.

Why were there's a lot of farmers' production? Why was there a lot of investment spending? I have to talk to you about some of the things we did in our government policy to keep our growth on an upward path. One of the things that we did is what we call macroeconomic fundamentals and the other one is sustained agricultural modernization. Let me try to explain to you what we mean by macroeconomic fundamentals. They refer to the things that are needed for investment — how we manage our budget; how we manage prices; how we manage interest rates. You see governments usually spend more money than they tax, because we have the power to borrow. We can borrow the balance because we borrow to produce roads and things that will benefit people later on. And when the people benefit later on that's when we pay back what we borrowed in this generation.

So investments are supposed to provide the later production that can pay for borrowing. But you can only borrow so much. You had to control the deficit — that's called fiscal prudence. And we did fiscal prudence. We kept the budget deficit within reasonable ceilings. That's what we've been able to do. Because if government borrows too much, it will compete with the private sector. The interest rate will go up, investments will go down. But if the government keeps down its borrowings then the private sector can be the one to borrow because interest rate will go

down, and they have gone down in my administration. That's why investments came to the Philippines. That what's happening now.

Now, what about prices? How do we manage prices? I hope that the poor families of Quezon — that not you but the poorer ones — are able to feel that the price of basic necessities bought by the poor has remained stable during my two and a half years of my administration. The ordinary rice not the fancy rice. Never mind if the fancy rice goes up but the ordinary rice must remain stable. The fish especially tilapia has remained stable. And the medicines commonly bought by the poor have also remained stable. Then also why can we keep the price of rice down? Why can keep the price of tilapia down? Because of agricultural modernization. Because if you have agricultural modernization you have greater productivity. We've been able to keep food for the poor stable in supply and price because of what my administration has done to modernize agriculture. We spend at least 20 billion pesos a year for agricultural modernization. Never has any administration spent this amount of money for agricultural modernization before.

Where did we spend this money? A large part of it went to the development and propagation of a new rice hybrid that doubles farmers' harvest. So when you have plenty of rice, it becomes cheaper. But to have rice like that you need irrigation, and we have also spent the biggest irrigation program in history. All these while keeping the budget deficit down.

Why? Because my main vision is this "pagkain sa bawat mesa." this has been the battle cry closest to my heart since I was a senator. It is the essence of our fight against poverty. Mga kabataan ng Quezon, ng Lucena, mga nag-aaral sa napakamagandang eskwelahan, Sacred Heart College, you have a very big responsibility to play. Naghihirap 'yung magulang ninyo nung pumasok kayo sa college, Asian crisis, but you are here, Catholic private schools are among the best schools anywhere in the country, they give you the best education.

I had told you some of the things that I do in a simple term as possible to let you know that even that the headlines are about Oakwood or whatever it is, or Magdalo, or Makati rally, Ayala avenue, I spend my time on these things — irrigation, hybrid rice, budget deficit — and the results come out, greater production for your future. But when you get out of school, many will be poor, many will be uneducated. But you will be educated, you will have the first crack at the good jobs, you will have the leadership in our society. I hope on this day when we remember the great man Ninoy Aquino and when we remember how Mama Mary makes miracles for our country, you the youth of today will use those miracles to make tomorrow a better place for the rest of Quezon and the Philippines to live in.

Thank you very much for listening to me this afternoon.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Students' Forum at the Sacred Heart College in Lucena City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140557/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7409&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Farmers' Congress in Quezon

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During during the Farmers' Congress in Quezon

[Delivered at the Centro Pastoral Auditorium, Brgy. Isabang Lucena City, Quezon, November 27, 2003]

Maraming salamat Secretary Lina, Secretary ng DILG.

At 'yung mga tulay-tulay na binabanggit ninyong kailangan, sabi ko nga ay puwede n'yong i-apply sa DPWH o puwede ring i-apply sa DILG sa President's Bridge Program basta may local counterpart.

Batiin ko, una sa lahat 'yung Secretary of Agrarian Reform, dahil siya ang nag-imbata sa akin dito — ah, co-host nito — dito sa ating Farmers' Congress, Agrarian Reform beneficiaries, kumusta kayong lahat — si Obet Pagdanganan. Na si Obet po alam n'yo na anak ng Sariaya ang kanyang asawa. Naalala ko noong ako ay senador at iniimbata ako doon sa Tayabas Association, parating nagsasayaw ng rigodon si Obet Pagdanganan, naka-black tie, naka-tuxedo, 'di ba Obet? Guwapong-guwapo, kayang kaya ang rigodon.

Binabati ko rin 'yung co-host naman dahil doble itong affair na 'to — Farmers' Congress at saka Congress ng beneficiaries ng Urban Land Reform sa A-T-O. Salamat Mayor Mon talaga sa iyung pag-imbata sa akin dito, kaya meron tayong farmers, meron tayong urban poor, meron tayong Agrarian Land Reform, meron tayong urban land reform kasi 'yon ang dalawang programang importante ng ating pamahalaan — land reform maging lunsod o kanayunan.

Kasama ko rin ngayon ang Secretary ng Agriculture, dahil nga ang Quezon ay nakararaming bahagi pa rin ay agrikultura at pinakikinggan niya 'yung resulta ng inyong Congress para matignan niya kung saan makakatulong yung Department of Agriculture, si Secretary Lorenzo.

Salamat naman sa mga officials ng Quezon na napakainit parati ang pagtatanggap parati sa inyong lingkod, nabanggit ko na nga si Mayor talaga na inimbata niya ako para ipagdiriwang natin ang 436 proclamation na aking pinirmahan nitong 2003 at para ipakita itong land development project na nandyaan sa karatula. Binabati ko rin ang congresswoman ng inyong distrito, second district, si Congresswoman Lynnette Punzalan. Dahil gaya nang sabi ni Mayor Mon talaga ang tagal, tagal na n'yong linakad itong A-T-O proclamation na ito. Panahon pa nagtulungan si Congressman Jun Punzalan at si Mayor Mon talaga, at sa wakas itong taong ito natupad na rin dahil tinutukan natin.

Gusto kong batiin ang congressman ng first district — saan ang mga magsasaka ng first district? Nandito ba? Saan? Ayun! — at salamat sa kanyang parati nagsusuporta sa akin hindi pa man siya congressman sumusuporta na sa akin, si Congressman Raffy Nantes ng first district.

At mula naman sa Bondoc peninsula, iyung mga mayors ng Bondoc peninsula at narito, nandito ba ang magsasaka ng Bondoc peninsula, wala? Anyway, gusto kong batiin ang ating congresswoman ng third district at magpasalamat sa kanyang kabiyak sa napakagandang proyektong "Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin" ni vice chairman ng Road Board, Danny Suarez, salamat sa pamamagitan ni Congresswoman Aleta Suarez. Binabati ko ang kinatawan ng buong probinsya, si vice governor Talabong, maraming salamat sa inyong mainit na pagtanggap. 'Yung ating nagbabantay ng ating kapayapaan, Commander ng Southern Luzon General Dagudag; Region IV director ng police, si General Caringal; nag-aalaga ng ating mga Land Reform beneficiaries, si Director Andres; 'yung ating nag-aalaga rin at pinakikinggan din n'yang mabuti kung ano ang mga kailangan ninyo doon sa mga kalsada at tulay, si Director Segit.

At salamat din sa barangay captains, nandito si ABC president Aurora Garcia at ang barangay captain natin dito sa Isabang, si Barangay Captain Emerito Robles. Salamat naman po Monsignor Melecia sa inyong dasal, at binabati ko po si Bishop Marquez sa kanyang paglipat dito sa Lucena.

Gusto ko ring bigyan ng pansin at magbati kay ginoong Philip Castillo, ang barangay Agrarian Reform Committee chairman ng Quezon province. At si Ginoong Gregorio Hernandez, ang Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee chairman.

Ako ay talagang nagagalak na muling makasama kayo itong araw na ito, mga taga-Lucena, mga iba pang taga-Quezon lalung-lalo na 'yung ating hindi na squatter sa sariling bayan sa A-T-O, at iyung hindi na rinalipin sa sariling sakahan dito sa buong quezon lalo na first and second district dahil kayo ay tumatanggap ng benepisiyaryo ng reporma sa lupa.

Ang Quezon, gaya nang sabi ko, ay isang probinsyang malaking-malaki at maraming sakahan. Mula sa Infanta o General Nakar pa nga — dahil ang ating report kanina ay tungkol sa General Nakar — 'yon mula sa General Nakar at Infanta sa hilaga hanggang sa kahabaan ng Bondoc peninsula sa timog makikita natin ang malawak na bukirin, niyogan, karagatan na pinagkukuhanan nang kabuhayan ng mga dakilang taga-Quezon.

At alam naman natin sa napakalaking probinsiyang Quezon, maraming lugar, henerasyon-henerasyon mahihirap ang mga mamamayan — mga taga-General Nakar, mga taga-Bondoc, pati mga taga-Lamon bay — ang daming mahihirap. Yan ay isang larawan ng ating buong Pilipinas sa ating buong kasaysayan. Sa ating kasaysayan, ang malaking problema ng ating bansa ay ang kahirapan. Ngunit sa aking dalawang taon at kalahating pagkapangulo, sa aking karanasan na nakita ko — sa karanasan mismo hindi lamang sa libro o sa ideya — na kung ang gusto natin makamit ang kaunlaran at pagwawakas sa kahirapan, kailangan, una sa lahat, magpatupad tayo nang malalim na pagbabago sa ating pulitika at ekonomiya; at pangalawa, kailangan din natin ng pagkakaisa upang sama-sama nating maisulong ang kapakanan ng ating bansa.

Ano 'yung mga repormang pinag-uusapan nating batayang kailangan? Nakikita natin dito dalawang halimbawa, reporma sa lupa. Matagal nang ginawang batas ang reporma sa lupa ng aking ama, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. Ngayon ay talagang ginagawa nating masigasig ang implementasyon. At hindi lamang iyon, kasi mamahagi naman ng lupa kung wala namang kayong patubig, kung wala naman kayong pautang, kung wala naman kayong farm-to-market roads, eh 'di sisisihin pa n'yo ang gobyerno at gusto ninyong ibabalik ang inyong lupa sa hari ng lupa. Kaya kailangan modernisasyon ng agrikultura, 'yon ay bahagi ng reporma sa lupa.

Doon naman sa mga lunsod, kailangan din natin ang reporma sa lupa. Napakarami tayong mga lupa kung saan squatter ang nakatira. Kaya noong ako ay naging pangulo, sinabi ko, hahanapin natin iyung mga lupang arian ng

Gobyerno na hindi naman natin ginagamit. Hahanapin natin ang lupa ng airport na hindi naman nilalagyan ng airport, at 'yon ay ibenta sa mga squatter. Iyan ay saligang reporma sa lupa rin.

Mabalik tayo sa agrikultura, dahil sa nakararami sa tiga Quezon ay nasa kanayunan. Ang agrikultura ay isa sa mahahalagang aspeto ng ating pambansang buhay na maapektuhan ang hangad nating pagbabago at pagkakaisa. Sinabi ko, kailangan natin reporma sa lupa, pero kailangang kasabay ang reporma sa agrikultura mismo, modernisasyon ng agrikultura. At kung nararamdaman ninyo na mas maraming farm-to-market road, irigasyon, binhi ngayon, ito ay dahil ang aking administrasyon ang tanging gumagastos ng hindi kulang sa dalawampung bilyong piso taun-taon para sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura. Ang aking administrasyon din ang gumugol nang pinakamalawak na proyekto para sa irigasyon dahil mahalaga ang patubig sa bukid.

At hindi ko pinag-uusapan lamang 'yung malalaking dam. Dito sa Quezon hindi malaking dam ang ating mga proyekto. Dito sa Quezon ang ating mga proyektong irigasyon ay 'yung mga maliliit na irrigation projects sa ibat-ibang dako ng ating kapuluan para mabilis maitayo, hindi masyadong mahal agad nakapagbibigay ng tubig. At dahil dito ay lumalawak ang produksyon. Si Cito Lorenzo ang kanyang pet project na mukhang umubra ay ang pagtanim ng hybrid rice. Bagong klaseng binhi nanggaling sa China noong ako ay nag-state visit noong 2001, inadopt dito sa Pilipinas, minudmod, at ang ating produksyon ng bigas itong third quarter ay napakataas. At ito ang isang dahilan

kung bakit kaninang umaga bilang chairman ng National Economic and Development Authority naanunsyo ko na ang produksyon ng ating buong bansa, buong ekonomiya nitong nakaraang tatlong buwan ay umangat ng 4.4 percent.

Iyan ang tawag nilang GDP growth rate, pag-angat ng ating produksyon. Itong numerong ito ay mas mataas kaysa sa inaasahan natin at nadaig na natin ang Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore at Korea sa pag-angat ng ekonomiya. At saan nanggaling itong pag-angat ng agrikultura itong last three months — ng bansa pala — galing sa agrikultura at galing sa investments, paggastos sa investments. Kaya sa inyo mga magsasaka, maraming salamat sa inyong kontribusyon sa produksyon ng ating bansa.

At isa ngang pinaggalingan nito ay ‘yung hybrid rice, kasi ‘yung mga magsasaka na gumagamit ng hybrid rice ay nagpadoble ang ani ng ating mga magsasaka na nagtanim nito.

Kaya kayo kung meron tayong mga magsasaka diyaan na meron naman kayong lugar na irrigated, kung gusto n’yong pumasok sa hybrid rice program makipag-ugnay kayo sa Department of Agriculture. Itong pagpadoble ng ani ng palay ng mga gumagamit ng hybrid rice ay tugon sa pinakamalapit sa puso kong hangarin para sa ating bansa. Hindi pa man ako pangulo sinasabi ko na ang aking ambisyon magkaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa. At inaasahan ko itong hybrid rice na ito — ilang kuwan na cito? 85,000 hectares? — 100,000 hectares na ang gumagamit nitong hybrid rice na ito, 100,000 hectares na ang mga magsasaka nakadoble ng ani. Inaasahan natin ito ay isang batayang reporma sa agrikultura. Gusto ko sa loob ng dalawang taon from 100,000 hectares sana 600,000 hectares na ang matamnan ng hybrid rice at sana kasama doon ‘yung mga magsasaka ng Quezon province.

Kasi treinta porsiyento ng magsasaka ng Quezon ‘di ba magsasaka pa rin ng palay? ‘Yung 60 percent naman ay magsasaka sa niyog, mangnuniyog. Para naman sa ating mga mangnuniyog, ang ginawa nga natin, gaya nang sabi ni Obet Pagdanganan, ay ‘yung coco levy funds na inaasahan. Gusto kong sabihin sa inyo na ginagamit na natin ang ilang dibidendo ng coco levy funds para sa kapakanan ng ating coconut farmers. Dahil ang pamahalaan ay patuloy naginagamit iyung pitong daang milyong pisong dibidendo ng coco levy funds na nakuha ko noong 2001 para sa ikakabuti ng ating coconut industry. Ito ay ginagawa natin habang nasa korte pa ang kaso ng coconut levy dahil binibigyan kong halaga ang kapakanan ng ating mga magsasaka at

magnuniyog.

Kaya kanina meron kayo mga inaasahang proyekto. Ako ay nagpapasalamat na kayo ay mag-iimpok kusa para magbuo ng inyong puhunan. At para sa ibang kailangan pa ninyo na pautang, gusto kong ipaalam sa inyo na itong 700 million pesos na coconut levy dividend ay minamaneho ngayon ng isang komite. Ewan ko, mahaba ‘yung pangalan ng komiting ‘yon eh, pero sa akin ang short ko doon ‘yung CIIF committee. Tumatanggap sila nang proposal sa mga coconut farmers at kung maganda ‘yung proposal na ‘yon ay pinopondahan nila. Kaya ‘yung mga pinahayag nung resolution kanina, sana gawin n’yong proposal at i-submit sa CIIF committee. Hindi naman siguro mahirap na mahanap ninyo ang komiteng ‘yan kahit na napakahaba ‘yung kanyang tunay na pangalan, hindi ko tuloy maalala. Kasi sa board ng komiteng ‘yan ay may dalawang tiga-Quezon. Hanapin na lamang ninyo sila. ‘Yung isa ay si Mely Jabola, marami sa inyo ang kilala siya. Iyung isa naman ay si Marivic Gutierrez, ‘yung dating vice mayor... No, konsehal ng Lopez, Quezon. Naalala ninyo ‘yung asawa niyang police. Noong ni-raid nang NPA ‘yung Lopez dalawang namatay, ‘yung chief of police at isang policeman, si Marivic asawa niya ‘yung isa. Kaya parang tulong sa kanya at tulong na rin sa inyo, nilagay ko rin siya sa board ng CIIF committee.

Eh si Mely ay tiga-Tayabas, kaya ‘yung first and second district pwedeng pumunta kay Mely. Ayan pala si Mayor Ubana ng Quezon, ‘yung kabayan ni Marivic. ‘Yung mga third and fourth district puwede ninyong puntahan si Marivic o puwede ninyong puntahan si Mely kasi baka ang Bondoc peninsula ay mas malapit ang Tayabas. Kaya ‘yon ang gusto kong ibigay na tip para sa inyo, dalawa ang members of the board n’yo doon sa komiting ‘yon na humahawak ng 700 million pesos. Kaya kung maganda ang inyong proyekto, siguro naman makakabahagi kayo doon sa dibidendo ng coconut levy fund.

Ako naman, ano ang hinihingi ko sa inyo, sana naman tulungan ninyo ako at suportahan upang ang mga programa ng ating pamahalaan ay magtagumpay. Kasi po tagumpay nitong mga programang ito, tagumpay rin ninyo. Kung tayo ay masusugpo ang kahirapan ang ganda nang kinabukasan ng ating mga anak.

Magsasaka at taga-lungsod sa inyong lahat, maraming, maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Farmers' Congress in Quezon. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140541/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7408&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st National Convention of the PADPAO and in celebration of their 45th anniversary

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st National Convention of the Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency
Operators (PADPAO) and in celebration of their 45th anniversary**

[Delivered at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila, November 27, 2003]

Thank you very much Father.

Friends, ladies and gentlemen:

When your organizers invited me today, they said that you a me to speak about I want to be remembered for. I think that the best way to do this would be to speak on the experience I gained during my two in a half years of learning curve in the presidency. What I've learned about the deep changes in the system and the principled unity that need to be done if we are to bring our country to real political and social stability and real economic development.

While historically our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors. I thank god that despite the difficulties we perceive in our country, during my administration as acknowledged by the APEC research secretariat we have been posting a growth rate that is number six over-all among the 21 economies of the Asia pacific!

In fact this year we are achieving our highest growth since the Asian crunch of 1997. That performance I believe no, not I believe, that performance as per our national income accounts, owed much to the increased activity in telecommunications and in retail. In telecommunications, I would like to think that one reason why it grew by leaps and bounds is partly that during my administration bandwidth became cheaper and more accessible. And as far as retail is concerned, though we see a lot of negatives in the media, the growth of retail can only reflect positive consumer confidence, as I said, despite the negatives that are expressed so loudly. Incidentally, the structure of this growth jibes with what I said way back in my first state of the nation address in 2001, that the growth sectors of our future are in the service sector.

And I would like to believe that civil society shares in the accomplishments of my administration—people like Dinky, people like Ging, people like Vicky, they have been a central part of how we have done our strategic directions. And beneath the macroeconomic growth rate that I have pointed out, beneath the obvious leading sectors of the economy telecoms and retail, lie a number of things that we are able to do in terms of addressing governance, a preferential option for the poor, and the long-festering national divisions.

On the preferential option for the poor, notwithstanding that people complain about high prices, we have been able to keep the price of what we call wage goods stable — the basic necessities bought by the poor, meaning regular milled rice, the fish of the common folk, especially tilapia, and the medicines commonly bought by the poor. For medicines bought by the poor lo, I believe we need deeper reforms so that we can really say that medicines bought by them are half the price of what we inherited in 2001.

We've been able to bring interest rates down, and small and medium enterprises have gobbled up the credit programs that we have designed for them. The stable prices of these wage goods reflect a low inflation rate, which together with the low interest rate and steady growth rate regime are a result of our macroeconomic market reforms, including keeping the budget deficit within manageable levels and improving fiscal performance through disciplined spending.

But my learning curve has taught me that we must reform the market more fundamentally to make it a market that creates enough jobs and opportunities for our vast and young population.

We must build the long term underpinnings of infrastructure, telecommunications, electric power, expanded credit and to be able to afford these, we must have deep fiscal reforms. We must broaden education to sharpen the intellectual competitiveness of our country.

I believe in investing in education reform, because I believe as I said ,way back again in my first state of the nation address, that the Philippines' greatest resource is the Filipino skill and the Filipino mind. And again I repeat what I said in my first state of the nation address about the growth sector of our future being in services. With education reform, it will be particularly in the human resource- intensive, skills intensive service sectors.

If we have been able to keep food for the poor stable in supply and in price, it is also because I believe to a large part of what my administration has done to modernize agriculture. We spend at least 20 billion pesos a year for agricultural modernization, that is an unprecedented allocation. Rice productivity has reached a new bounty with the propagation of hybrid rice, which has been doubling the harvest of farmers that they've used that hybrid rice. That hybrid rice can only grow well in irrigated areas and we have also the biggest irrigation program in history.

We've found new markets for tuna, carageenan, and tropical fruits. In fact general Victor Corpus, who is now the head of the Civil Relations Service of the Armed Forces believes that the massive propagation of carageenan in the coastal areas south of Manila –meaning Batangas, Bicol, Visayas, all the way to Mindanao will be an important answer to insurgency and secession. As a boost to agriculture, Secretary Marita Jimenez who is my Secretary for priority project in ODA has helped me to reduce the cost of food transport from Mindanao to Luzon by cutting the red tape to bring about what is call the roll-on roll-off ferry highway system. This is part of her general program to cut red tape to make sure crucial infrastructure are built.

But we must liberate the economy, the country with deeper reforms in agriculture, for it is where the keenest struggle for survival takes place. Pagkain sa bawat mesa, means not only the mesa of the people in the urban areas even the farmers themselves. No Filipino who works hard for family and country must be deprived of a decent meal.

Pagkain sa bawat mesa has always been to me if we were to have a battle cry that's been my battle cry since my senate days. It's a duty to every Filipino. A commitment that cannot be compromised no matter what. And we must put a real wealth in the hands of our farmers. We must empower the farmers by enabling them, empowering them to turn their farm land into credit-worthy assets, this is the principle of Hernando de Sotro the great Latin-American social scientist and this principle has been demonstrated successfully in many other developing countries. And they have also been applied now in countries that are doing even well , have been doing well like Thailand.

Hernando de Sotro, is a celebrated author of the principle of unlocking the mystery of capital that is locked in land. It is my inspiration for asset reform. If you want to know what deep reforms we have to make in land, I could give a separate lecture on Hernando de Sotro but I would just suggest for those who want to know please read Hernando de Sotro.

In so short a time of two in a half years of my administration also, again following that principle, we have accomplished one of the most massive housing programs undertaken by any administration. But we must do deeper reforms in our social assets, we call this asset reform and sometimes people tell me asset reform. And sometimes people tell me –asset reform please don't talk about the heads of people even businessmen don't understand asset reform . But I've got to explain it because it is so, you know it is so deep in our program of government. It is language used by Ging Deles. And what are we talking about assets ?–land, credit, minimum basic needs.

As far as land is concerned too, we have given an unprecedented number of the rural , ah, no, of the urban poor the right to buy the land they occupy. But to truly liberate the urban poor, we need deeper reforms than this. Hernando de Sotro has done this in a lot of Latin-American countries. He is doing it now in Thailand — a whole comprehensive set of reforms in the titling system dedicated by that model and I have asked him to study particularly this system for our country.

Credit is an asset and part of our asset reform in credit is microfinance. We are providing microcredit to one million asset less rural women, and being praised for it by no less than the author of the Grameen bank model itself, Dr. Yunus of Bangladesh. But one million asset less, income less rural women, when we have maybe 25 million poor families? Oh no, poor people I mean, so but beyond that, we still have to do fiscal and banking reforms that we allow us to provide again Thailand is doing, because I study other successful models. Thailand in the last two years did a one-time seed fund of P1 million Baht in microfinance per village and it doubled the growth rate of Thailand in the last two years.

When Thaksin first started to do it, and everybody made fun of him “gimmick” sabi nila. But two years later, other countries like South Korea and the Philippines are trying to replicate it.

Our programs are what we’ve done within the present system but they must graduate into fundamental reforms. But we can only do this if we work hard enough on governance reforms. Through my two and a half years of the learning curve, I have learned the complexities of the bureaucracy. The World Bank has praised our vigilant advances in fighting corruption it is acknowledged that we have been effective in our lifestyle checks and procurement reforms. The people’s dissatisfaction about government services are also being addressed. There have been dramatic changes in the land transportation office, and I’ve been inspecting surprised visits. I’ve been doing surprised visits to police stations. But once and for all, we need deep reforms to end graft and we need to do that with the mighty hand of political will and a change of values among our citizenry.

Ending corruption is not done by St. Michael coming down and slaying the dragon with one’s well, one fells swoop of his sword. It is done by, it is like, corruption is like an infected wound that must be cured by constant healing and disinfecting. Systems changed combined with prosecution.

At the same time, we must use our fiscal reforms to have a better compensated civil service. That is the key to the graft-free civil service of Singapore and Hongkong. Aside from the values, they’re well paid but the... Reform doing that again is fiscal reforms.

It is also important, and I’m glad Dr. Abueva’s here to reform our system through constitutional change. We must begin a meaningful and dispassionate debate on changes in the constitution, particularly the parliamentary and federal form of government.

To strengthen our republic, we must make it more secure.

We need to reform our protective institutions because of the imperatives of peace and order, the war against terrorism, and the vision of a drug-free Philippines by 2005.

In my administration we increased the salaries of policemen and soldiers to make it the same level as the teachers, but we need to do deeper reforms in the military and the police, towards graft-free and dedicated organizations with the tools to enforce peace and order throughout the land, and to be true protectors of the people. The Feliciano commission which includes Father Bernas of Ateneo has given me its findings, their findings on the ongoing Philippine police reform recommission’s work headed by Justice and .. Sedfrey Ordonez should be the basis of our military and police reforms.

I have said that we must do these reforms so that we can do justice to our most important resource and that is our world competitive, world-class human resources. This is a country of intelligent people. But why are we miserable? I believe it’s because we delight in the things that divide us more than the things that unite us.

There is too much negativism and conflict in our society and I attribute much of this to the social and political divisions that exist in our country today. And if we are going to make our reforms successful, we need to heal these deep divisions. While we must have justice, we must also have reconciliation. We must put a closure to our past national divisions. We must have permanent peace in Mindanao. We must end the communist insurgency. And one reason why Ging Deles is not here with us today because she is there in Oslo having exploratory talks with new people’s army.

The long-awaited judgment on the Marcos wealth has come down and that should help put martial law behind us. But most of all, and most difficult, I believe, for civil society, we must find a closure to the deep divisions between Edsa dos and Edsa tres. And in this most difficult reconciliation I will be guided by the great fathers of our church, including the theology of principled reconciliation as expounded by Father Romeo Intengan, the provincial head of the Jesuit community in the Philippines , who is himself a leading veteran of some of the great social movements of our country.

If we must survive, national unity and reconciliation are the resolution that is non-negotiable.

We must be relentless in its pursuit. No matter how impossible it looks.

Like Jesus Christ would not change his gospel no matter how many times he would be crucified and ridicule.

No fear, no resistance should distract us from our vision. Our nightmares should not distract us from our dreams.

And I hope that you leaders of civil society, young people who would be the leaders of our country's 21st century, I hope that you can work with me in building prosperity for the greatest number of our people in a strong republic that we Filipinos dream of and rightly deserve.

Thank you very much.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the 1st National Convention of the Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators (PADPAO) and in celebration of their 45th anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140534/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7411&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 29th Philippine Business Conference and Exhibition

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 29th Philippine Business Conference and Exhibition

[Delivered on November 28, 2003]

Thank you very much, Jun.

Don Emilio Yap; Samie; Mike; Dr. Lucio Tan; Robin; Francis Chua; Peter Favila; Ann Marie Periquet; members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations; members and officers of the PCCI; members and officials of local chambers; regional governors and industry associations; nominees and awardees; honored guests; my Cabinet members; other government officials; movers and shakers of commerce and industry, good morning and a happy centennial anniversary to the chamber.

This morning, I would like to begin by counting a couple of blessings: our 5.9 percent GNP growth rate; our 4.4 percent GDP growth rate; our 22 percent growth in BOI and PEZA investments. These figures are higher than expected and while historically our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors, this time we outperformed Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea. In fact, in the last two and a half years of my administration, for most of that time, we have been outperforming 15 of the 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific region. Notwithstanding that there was a lot world chaos, notwithstanding that I Inherited chaos, we were able to do that in this last two and a half years. But this last reported growth — 5.9 and 4.4 — that is our highest since the Asian crisis of 1997.

Agriculture and investments spending led the way. Macroeconomic fundamentals and aggressive agricultural modernization are paying off. It was the government who worked on the macroeconomic reform and the agricultural modernization. But the one who provided the growth, the one who provided the investment, the one who led the way to these figures were you the members of the business community. And some of those who led these growth and led these investments are right here in this hall today. They are leaders and members of the PCCI. And therefore I take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

Thank you for your support. Thank you for your investments. Thank you for your production. While others may give their opinion in words, you have given your opinion in deeds and in the dollars and pesos that you put in these investments and in this production. Thank you for your vision.

One global Philippines. I agree. To be one, we need to unite as a nation. To be global, we need fundamental changes in our system of doing politics and economics. And to be Filipino we should be proud that we have world class human resources, who not only contributed to our 4.4 percent growth rate in GDP but who also contribute to the production of countries all over the world and send back their remittances that bring about the multiplier that translates our 4.4 GDP into a 5.9 percent GNP growth rate.

In the last two and a half years of my presidency, I have gone through a learning curve. This learning curve has helped me identify on the ground what are these fundamental changes we must make in order to be truly global and how to execute them.

We need five fundamental reforms that more or less — as I look very quickly at your resolutions — conform to the ten resolutions that you gave me. In terms of the five, it's reforming the market, reforming agriculture, reforming our social assets, reforming the bureaucracy, and reforming our institutions that uphold peace and order

On the first, market reforms. I am proud of our initial market reforms on the economic front. They have kept our growth on the upward path — I've just mentioned earlier during this last two and a half years — despite the chaotic conditions I inherited and despite the grave challenges that the world itself is facing today. Fiscal prudence has kept the deficit within reasonable ceilings that's why inflation and interest rates are low.

Confidence in our political stability has held steady in the face of judicious resolution of the Oakwood incident, in the face of our gains against terrorism, and in the face of the diminishing tremors of destabilization now that the electoral fever is catching on.

But let me speak about a reform that we all recognize must be done. Let me speak about crime. You can fight crime by rub outs, but the same people who will do the rubout on a kidnapper will be the same people that will do a rubout on a Bubby Dacer. It will be the same people that will do a rubout on their political enemies. And therefore, it is going to be solved not by this double-edged swords but rather by immediate medium-term and long-term reforms.

The problem of kidnapping straddles a broad spectrum of activities, ranging from deterrence to neutralization, prosecution and final conviction of kidnappers. In the last five years, including before I became president, there had been more than 400 kidnapping cases. Thirty-six have resulted in conviction. Most of these convictions were done in my time, accomplished in my administration even if the crimes were perpetuated before my time.

Nonetheless, because we want to solve these crimes in a more effective way, last month, I appointed Secretary Angelo Reyes as our anti-kidnapping czar. In the one month of his operations, he has implemented 22 campaigns targeting six active kidnap-for-ransom group. His men arrested the man who kidnapped Connie Wong way back in 2001. His men have arrested three kidnappers of Betti Chua Sy one day after the crime was perpetrated. And these are just as important as the macroeconomic fundamentals and the agricultural modernization that we are doing.

The day after the arrest of Betti Chua Sy's kidnappers, Angie's men killed the most notorious kidnap gang leader of them all, Roberto Obeles Yap, together with some of his cohorts, and arrested several other members of that gang in Bataan and Cabanatuan. His men have captured Abu Sophia kidnapper gang members in Mindanao. And his men have also been able to have several other arrests and captures that I will no longer mention because I picked the few household names just to show you how he has been catching up very quickly in one month's time.

Angie has also been conducting lectures and seminars to selected Chinese groups and communities designed to harden potential targets of kidnapping. Prominent private schools in Manila and Quezon City have also been invited to participate in this preemptive anti-kidnap drive.

I have also authorized Angie Reyes to establish additional police outposts that may double as assistance centers located in areas where, according to his study, kidnappings may occur. Policemen will be made to walk the beat in order to show police presence. Mobile and fixed checkpoints shall be conducted. Choke points going to metro manila will be watched. Heavily tinted vehicles will be checked. Armed men and uniformed men riding in civilian vehicles will be challenged. Vehicles with questionable plate numbers will be questioned. Special plates are not exempt from inspection.

We are also including kidnap-for-ransom personalities in the government rewards list for most wanted persons. I am making available 300 million pesos for these rewards. Pictures will be published in newspapers and posted in conspicuous places such as bus terminals, public schools, public markets, private schools and target communities. These are what we are doing in the immediate term, but in the medium-term we need more reforms.

In the medium-term or short and medium term, I shall certify a bill that will add more teeth to laws dealing with kidnapping. I am instructing the Department of Justice to make the witness protection program more responsive to kidnap victims. I'm also pushing for the implementation of the national id system. And of course... Yes, thank you. Thank you for agreeing. I hope the members of congress who are here will hear that — Monico Puentevella. We shall further develop our capability for intelligence.

These are short and medium term reforms. But in the longer term we need fundamentally to reform our protective institutions. We increased the salaries of policemen and military personnel to the level of teachers during my administration. And I'm very glad that in the reforms we had made in the anti-drug campaign we have achieved unprecedented success in our drive against illegal drugs. Many of those who used to be untouchable in previous supposed drug campaigns have been touched and arrested and neutralized today.

But as I said, we need to fundamentally reform the military and the police, towards graft-free and dedicated organizations with the tools to enforce peace and order throughout the land, and to be true protectors of the people.

I want to thank the leaders of the PCCI, Mike and the other leaders, Jun, Donald, the members of the federation of the Filipino-Chinese chambers, because they were active in the PNP... No, in the Feliciano Commission and also in the PNP Reform Commission that will give us the road map for police reform. And that's why I'm glad that part of the resolutions is about the governance regarding peace and order because our road map has and will have a significant institutional contribution from no less than the PCCI itself. And I thank you for that. On military reforms, our major non-NATO ally status with the United States will enable us to have a modern armed forces with less pain to the economy.

But going back to market reforms. As I said, I am proud of the initial reforms such as what we could do in two and a half years. But we need structural reforms for the government to broaden its fiscal controls and capabilities, provide the infrastructure and the education needed to leverage the nation's competitive advantages, and promote a business-friendly environment based on good governance and a strong, deep financial and banking system.

The next key area for reform is the electric power industry reform. And I am very happy to receive again the inputs of the chamber because the details of these reforms I talked about — infrastructure, education and human resource development — are things that we will put together, PCCI and the Philippine government.

Meanwhile, speaking about electric power, I am requesting the Energy Regulatory Commission to work with Meralco and the PCCI to formulate a program to speed up the ongoing consumer refund program, so that industry can benefit from refunds as well.

We achieved our growth rate this third quarter with great advances in agriculture, and that is part of our key to the future because most of poor lived there and because we need it para magkaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa. We must liberate the country with reforms not only in the market but in agriculture. For agricultural modernization, my administration spends at least 20 billion pesos a year on agricultural modernization. This is the highest annual allocation in our history. A great part of this is for irrigation. We have also irrigated the biggest number of hectares in history.

I see here Henry Lim, a member of your chamber. He has a great contribution to our agricultural modernization, because his rice hybrid has doubled the income... Ah, no not the income but the harvest of the farmers. We have adopted the Chinese rice hybrid system.

A hundred thousand hectares are now planted to this rice hybrid, and we can attribute that massive growth of agriculture in the third quarter to the 20 percent growth in rice production because of that rice hybrid. From the 100,000 hectares that we have been able to plant since we introduced this rice hybrid, we now want to bring it to 600,000 hectares in the next two years.

We have found new markets for tuna, Carageenan, tropical fruits. And I'm directing Secretary Cito Lorenzo here to work with Secretary Emi Boncodin for the remaining balance of the agricultural competitiveness enhancement fund. Things I have learned are important to you because of my learning curve in the last two and a half years.

As a boost to agriculture, the Ro-Ro Highway System is now reducing the cost of food transport from Mindanao to Luzon. I have noted the concern of the chamber over the 50-mile limit for cargo and handling charges for Ro-Ro users exemptions. So, in response to your concern, I have removed the 50-mile limit. That is why we now have a new Ro-Ro route from Cagayan de Oro to Dumaguete to Manila.

We must also have social reform, asset reform. Reform of our assets such as land, housing and credit. On credit, small enterprises are on a roll. They are fuelled by low interest loans and more than 16 billion pesos had been made and availed of by almost 200,000 small and medium enterprises in this year alone.

We are providing microcredit to one million assetless, incomeless rural women. And we're being praised for this microcredit program by no less than the author of the Grameen bank model himself, Dr. Yunus. But beyond that, beyond the 16 billion for SMEs, beyond the micro for one million women, if we're able to do fiscal and banking reforms, we can do even more and we can allow a one-time seed fund of one million in microfinance per barangay as proven successful in Thailand, as you all very well know, because I invited Prime Minister Thaksin to speak before you so that you will know the model I am following in the reforms that we want to make for our small, medium and micro enterprise system. And if you remember last year, I announced the passage of the law on barangay micro enterprises.

Upon the PCCI's recommendation, I am directing Secretary Joey Lina to coordinate with the agencies on the local government level for a stepped up campaign on this barangay microbusiness enterprise law. I announced it to you last year but it takes time for it to reach the barangay level. So let us work on an information campaign.

On housing. Our socialized housing program is also part of the most massive land social reform program we have had in history. And I am very happy by the repeated statement of the housing associations, they feel that our housing program is successful because my government has the most housing-friendly policies in history. That's coming from the housing sector itself not from me. And I am happy that the PCCI has taken up the advocacy of further accelerating our housing program.

These programs are such as what we could do during a learning curve period, during a period of great world instability, during a period of strife even within our country. But we can transform them and make them graduate into fundamental reforms if we work hard enough on governance reform. Again, through my two and a half years of the learning curve, I have learned the complexities of dealing with the bureaucracy. You can't learn that by theory.

The World Bank has praised our vigilant advances in fighting corruption. It has acknowledged that we have been effective in our lifestyle checks and in our procurement reforms. The government E-Procurement Law which I signed early this year is one giant step in instituting transparency. The people's dissatisfaction about day to day government services are also being addressed. There had been dramatic changes in the land transportation office. And I have been doing surprise visits to police stations.

We must end graft with the mighty hand of political will and a change of values among our citizenry. But do not believe those who will tell you that graft can be slain with one fell swoop of a sword like St. Michael slaying the dragon. Have we not forgotten how we put all our support behind Rene Bañez because he was going to use the St. Michael method to slay the dragon of corruption in the BIR. What was the result, one-half year of our achieving only one-half of our revenue targets for that 6 month period. No, fighting corruption is like an infected... Curing an infected wound that must constantly be cleansed and disinfected until it is gone. That has been the system in the BIR under Willy Parayno, it's been the system in the BOC under Titus Villanueva, and now under Tony Bernardo. And now, we are meeting our revenue targets.

At the same time, we must use our fiscal reforms to have a better compensated civil service. That is one of the most important reforms we can make in governance. And we can only do that if we can reform our fiscal programs.

We must also reform our very political system through constitutional change. And I thank the PCCI for helping me propagate that view. We must make our constitution more applicable to the challenges of the 21st century, especially because the PCCI wants the nation to be global.

But in many ways, even now we are already global. Look at our growth rates compared to our neighbors. Look at our human resources lording it over many management jobs in many parts of the world. Yes, we are a people who are world class but then, why are we so miserable?

It is because this current environment is an environment in which — and I don't blame you all here today, it's an environment I inherited — it's an environment in which we delight in the things that divide us more than the things that unite us.

There is too much negativism and conflict in our society today, and I attribute much of these to the social and political divisions that existing our nation today. We need to heal these deep divisions. While we must have justice, we must also have reconciliation. We must put a closure to our past national divisions. And I must thank the PCCI because you were one of the first to understand and support my call for reconciliation.

Because if we are to survive and even flourish in the 21st century as our comparative growth rates have shown, we can survive and flourish. National unity and reconciliation is the resolution that is non-negotiable. We must be relentless in the pursuit not only of the fundamental changes in our system of politics and economics, we must also be resolute in our pursuit of unity.

No fear, no resistance should distract us from our vision. Our nightmares, the nightmares we have gone through in the last five years, the nightmares the world is undergoing should not distract us from our dreams. Our dream of being one. Our dream of being global. Our dream of being proud Filipinos.

Thank you, PCCI for articulating these dreams.

And thank you for acting on them with your investments and your production.

Mabuhay! Happy 100th Anniversary to all of you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 29th Philippine Business Conference and Exhibition. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140527/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7406&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 4th Luzon Area Conference of the Provincial Board Members League

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 4th Luzon Area Conference of the Provincial Board Members League**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel Malate, Manila, November 29, 2003]

Thank you.

Maraming salamat, President Strike Revilla. Thank you.

Salamat din Chairman Zulueta; board member Israel; board member Dominic; board member Unico; board member Conching; mga officers mula sa Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; mga Delegado.

Batiin ko rin si Attorney Romy Macalintal, si Mrs. Manzanillaat kayong lahat, magandang umaga.

Mabuti't nakakapunta pa kayo sa komperensiya sa kabila ng lahat pulitika na ang iniisip. Thank you very much for your dedication to your work of governance.

Already, the political landscape is rife with intrigues, controversies, speculations. The people seem to be abandoned in the midst of loud and excessive politicking. I'm glad you're here not to aggravate the situation but to continue your work. I also will not aggravate the situation.

I'm resolved to make my days more useful by engaging in meaningful events of vital public interest. Perhaps one of the reforms we must pursue in our political culture is the premature hype on partisan issues very early in the day that tends to project us as a severely divided bickering nation.

Alam n'yo talagang maraming hidwaan sa ating bansa. Eh, kung ginagawa natin 'yon lumalala 'yung hidwaan. Dapat asikasuhin natin 'yung maraming mga bagay kung saan tayo nagkakaisa.

Our people are united behind democracy, civility and good governance. And these are the ideals we must carry with them not the preoccupation with heady partisan issues that is a distraction to nation-building. There will be a time for the lines to be drawn and this is more than two months away. Let's just welcome the holiday season in the spirit of reform and unity and try to help the people surmount their difficulties.

I am proud of our gains on the macroeconomic front. Our growth rate is higher than expected, higher than that of 15 of the 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific, and higher than at any time since the 1997 Asian crisis. Huwag natin pakawalan ito sa lubhang pamumulitika. The budget deficit at the national level has been kept at manageable levels. But let me tell you, at the local government level, not only is there a managed budget deficit, you have actually a budget surplus at the local levels. So congratulations to you local legislators.

The Bangko Sentral has the tools to maintain the stability of the exchange rate, and we are confident in the BSP's capacity to use these tools willfully and competently as in the past. I must warn speculators not to test the government's policy determination. In the meantime, it would help much if people can shake off the election fever and get on with more productive endeavors. Let's all team up behind political and economic stability and make a strong collective pitch for law and order and development.

Halimbawa tayo — you and your boards, me and my budget — let's together invest more in education because that is the country's greatest resource — its people.

My administration has spent on the biggest irrigation program in history. Ngayon kayo namang mga board, sana tulungan n'yo 'yung magsasaka to be able to access hybrid rice seeds so that they can use these irrigated lands and the hybrid rice seeds you can help them with, so they can more than double their harvest.

Alam n'yo kahapon sa meeting sa PCCI, kinuwento ko nga 'yung hybrid rice. At 'yung isang tumulong na dalhin 'yung hybrid rice mula sa China, si Ginoong Henry Lim, kagabi meron siyang kinuwento sa akin. Kahapon lumabas... Sabi ko, not only double he said some farmers have tripled and quadrupled. Okay, anyway, I speak... Pero sabi ko at the very least doubled.

Kagabi nakita ko siya and he was telling me a story. That one time there was a meeting in Malacañang, inimbita 'yung mga magsasakang gumamit ng hybrid. Iyon na nga doble ang kanilang ang ani nila, halos lahat at maraming triple pa at four times. 'Di ba, board member Calderon, doon din sa ano 'di ba, sa Isabela? Hindi ba ganun ang karanasan ng magsasaka doon? Okay. Anyway, 'di pumunta sila sa Malacañang 'yung mga magsasaka, 'di nakagamit nang karaniwang gamit. Eto namang negosyante parating naka-amerikana. So, siya naka-amerikana. Noong nakita niya naka-ordinaryo 'yung ibang mga magsasaka, sabi niya, "ay, I'm sorry tatanggalin ko iyung amerikana ko." sabi nung magsasaka sa kanya, "huwag mo nang tanggalin, Mr. Lim, kasi baka sa isang taon kami rin naka-amerikana na." because some of them are earning 70,000, 90,000 pesos. Things that they have never seen before, the more productive ones among them. And these are some of the reforms that we can do and we must do.

We must reform also our social assets — land, credit, minimum basic needs. In these social assets, the national government has given an unprecedented number of people the right to buy the land they occupy. It has provided an unprecedented number of incomeless, assetless rural women access to microcredit through the Grameen NGOs. It has provided an unprecedented number of the poor access to health insurance. But I want to thank you local governments. Salamat sa mga local governments dahil meron sa inyo nag-counterpart sa gastos sa land titling. Meron sa inyo naggastos sa pagpondo sa microfinance. Meron kayo... Ang dami sa inyo nag-contribute sa premium sa health insurance ng inyong mga mahihirap. Kaya itong unprecedented na sinasabi ko, magkasama tayong gumawa noon. Kaya salamat sa inyo.

Ilang taon na 'yung Local Government Code? 12, 'di ba? Naalala ko noong 12th anniversary ng Local Government Code, iyung presidente ng ULAP, si Dolfo Del Rosario, sinabi niya 'yung 12 unprecedented things I did for the LGUs. Isa doon, I have released to you in full all past LGSEF obligations including those incurred before my time. Sana sa inyong budget deliberations gamitin n'yo ang bahagi nito rin para sa microfinance kasi ang dami-daming mahihirap sa ating mga probinsiya na pag may microfinance makakakinabang sila.

The World Bank has praised our vigilant advances in fighting corruption, acknowledging that we have been effective in our lifestyle checks and procurement reforms. Kayo rin magagawa rin ninyo itong mga ordinansiya sa inyong provincial board. And this will also help very much in tying up our common efforts. We have already... Iyung ID, pwede kayong gumawa ng provincial id sa inyong provincial board. We've already several official ID systems in place such as the voters' ID, the SSS ID, driver's license, not to mention the millions of corporate ID cards and credit cards being used everyday. Our people have accepted all these instruments of political and economic facilitation. And I don't see how a national id system can be portrayed as an oppressive instrument. We are simply trying to consolidate what has been done for decades in a single, verifiable and foolproof instrument to deter criminals and terrorists and deprive them of sanctuary among our law abiding citizens. Let's pursue this program for a safer and more progressive nation. Habang hinihintay natin 'yung kongreso na i-consolidate lahat nito sa isang national ID, meron akong lang mga kilala mga local governments na gumagawa na nang id sa kanilang munisipyo — Taguig; doon sa Cebu, ano, board member? Kaya 'yon din ang isang pwede n'yong gawin. You can do a provincial resolution to provide for a provincial ID. Let's show these criminals that the law never sleeps and that they cannot escape it.

Wala ring tigil ang ating economic diplomacy na ito naman ay pinanggagalingan ng napakalaking tulong ng mga bansa para sa ating mga kaunlaran. Marami kayong may nakikitang mga ODA. Marami kayong may nakikitang mga investors na bago. In fact, 22 percent ang increase sa investments natin this year. Marami doon ay either nakumbinsi as the final decision or naenganyo as a first attraction sa aking pagbisita sa kanila.

Patuloy akong makikipag-ugnay sa inyo sa pagtaguyod ng pagbabago at pagkakaisa. And on this day, I thank you for being here, thinking of work rather than politics. And I encourage you to continue gearing your actions towards tangible and concrete results and accomplishments.

Muli, mga board members, maraming salamat sa inyong malasakit sa inyong trabaho.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the 4th Luzon Area Conference of the Provincial Board Members League. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140515/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7405&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Gathering with the Filipino Community ‘Paskong Pilipino Kasama ang Pangulo’

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Gathering with the Filipino Community ‘Paskong Pilipino Kasama ang Pangulo’**

[Delivered at the Takanawa Hotel, Tokyo, Japan, December 12, 2003]

Sa ating mga minamahal kong kababayan dito, batiin ko, una sa lahat si Nerissa Saito ng PCCC, ang chairperson ng Philippine Community Coordinating Council. Salamat. Saan si Nerissa? Batiin ko rin si Amelia Kono ng Kyoto Pag-asa Filipino Community at saka mother earth connection; batiin ko rin si Delia Nakashima at ang Shiga Christian Filipino community; pati na rin si Sally Takashima at saka ang Takasuki Filipiniana community; pati na rin si Virginia Yamaguchi at saka ang Toyota Filipino Community; at saka si Rey Mesa at saka ang Filipino community sa Kobe; Si Doctor Melvin Garcia magkasama na tayo kanina; at binabati ko muli ang Japan Association of Novo Ecija; si Mayang Nihei at ang Teatro Canto. Kumusta Mayang? Ang ganda-ganda mo muli ngayong gabi; si Fernando Pavo, Jr. at ang Philippine Association for Common Cause; si Eleanor Fukuda at ang Organization for the Development and Advancement of Negros in Japan; Si Lulu Ojo Prague, ang Philippine Ladies Association in Japan, saan si Lulu Ojo?; Si Benigno Totor, aking estudyante; mabuhay ang Philippines today! at saka ang Ibaraki Christian Center; Si Dory Yoda at ang Association of Filipinos in Tokyo; Si Anita Sasaki at saka lahat ng mga taga castle group; Si Rosemarie Nehal at ang samahang pilipino sa Tokyo; Si Eric Paringit, saan si Eric? Ay!!!; pati na rin ‘yung buong Science and Technology Advisory Council ng Japan; Si Vangie Yamamoto at saka ‘yung Unified Filipino group of Yokohama; at ikaw rin, salamat, na ikaw rin ang Philippine Assistance Group Chairperson.

Gusto ko rin batiin ang United Filipinos in Chiba sa pamumuno ni Vicky Furuta at saka si Pepito Vergara. Salamat, Pepito ha. Salamat sa iyung organized... Pagka-organize ng Kobe kay GMA. Thank you very much.

Si Jing Langomez din binabati ko pati na rin lahat ng parada; si Karen Paredes at saka ‘yung mga taga AFSJ; Si Fr. Garcia at saka ‘yung UPJA; Si Marilyn Reyes at saka ‘yung FHM; at saka ‘yung Taga-alay sa iyo lamang Education Foundation sa pamumuno ni Marie Watanabe; Si Olivia Akatsu at saka mga hapnge ni Lilia Estolas, ken dagidiay naduma-duma pay nga Ilokano; Si Elmer Atienzar at saka mga taga-Pegaso; Si Rosela Makita, mga FWJA Yokohama.

At saka gusto ko ipakilala sa inyo ang aking mga kasama ngayon, this time: gikan sa Mindanao, ang atong congressman sa Davao City, Congressman Boy Nograles; ang atong Congresswoman gikan sa Davao Oriental, Congresswoman Cora Malanyaon. kami tanan nag-abi-abi sa aton mga kaigsuonan sa Mindanao, asa ko nidako.

Halin naman sa Mindanao sa parte nga Ilonggo, ang atong governor sang North Cotabato, Governor Manny Piñol. ang among pag-abi-abi naman sa mga Ilonggo sang Mindanao kag sang Negros, diin nga halin naman ang akong bana nga Ilonggo.

Salamat kay Ambassador Siazon sa pag-organize nito. Salamat din kay Consul General Tony Villamayor dahil sampung oras nag-biyahe kayong mga constituents ni Tony, salamat sa inyong pagmamahal.

Kasama rin natin ngayon ang Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, si Ging Deles, dahil kasama sa aming ginawa ngayon ay nakipag-usap kay Prime Minister Badawi ng Malaysia tungkol sa ating peace process sa Mindanao.

Kasama ko rin si Undersecretary Gregory Domingo, ang namumuno ng Board of Investments. ay, saan si Gregory? At saka ang ating Undersecretary of Labor, actually acting secretary, si Manny Imson. Makakasama rin n’yo siya bukas doon sa iba’t-ibang mga gawain para sa ating mga overseas Filipinos. Kasama rin niya ang administrator ng OWWA, si Ver Angelo. at saka ang aking spokesman, si Toting Bunye. uy! Ang ganda ng ating litrato, very nice.

Mga leaders sa Filipino Community ng Tokyo at Osaka at buong Japan na binati ko na kanina, mga minamahal kong kababayan dito sa Japan.

Magandang gabi muli kasi ang daming beses na tayo nagkita at maligayang pasko muli dahil ikalawang beses na tayo nag-Christmas party. Karing cabalen kung kapampangan, mayap a bengi que congan. nabati ko na 'yung aking mga kakailiak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga rabii yu manen kadakayo amin.

Kag sa gihapon sa mga taga-Mindanao, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan. Kag sa mga kasimanwa sa akon bana, sa liwat, maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan.

At muli ako ay nagpapasalamat sa iba't-ibang mga indibidwal at organisasyong patuloy na tumutulong para magkaisa ang ating mga kababayan dito.

Nabanggit ko nga iyung iba't-ibang mga samahan na kasama sa Philippine Assistance Group o P.A.G. sabi nila pag may P.A.G. may pag-asa. hindi ko yata nabati kanina iyung circle of friends, pero nabati ko na 'yung Philippine Association for Common Cause. Hindi ko pa nabati 'yung Overseas Workers Association, 'yung Philippine Development Society, 'yung Kabayan-yamato pero nabati ko na 'yung castle.

Binabati ko rin iyung iba't-ibang mga workers groups. Nabati ko na kanina 'yung samahang Pilipino. Hindi ko pa nabati 'yung Philippine Men's League, 'yung mga engineers and workers mula sa iba't-ibang mga Japanese companies. Special mention dapat sa we-serve at Japan gas corporation, dahil ito ay isa sa ating mga Presidential Employers Awardees.

At siyempre 'yung iba't-ibang mga regional at Japan area-based organizations. Eh 'yung Association of Nueva Ecija os, eh 'yon suki na tayo. 'Yung Abranian suki na rin tayo. Gusto kong batiin 'yung Batangueño Association, mabuti nandito kayo. 'Yon, tapos 'yung mga negros, 'no? Binati ko na 'yung Organization for the Development and Advancement of Negros in Japan. Binati ko na rin 'yung Filipino Group sa Yokohama. Binati ko rin 'yung United Philippine-Japan Association.

Binabati ko 'yung mga women's groups na ating kasama: 'yung Filipina Circle for Advancement and Progress; 'yung Filipina Wives of Japanese Association sa Chiba at Yokohama, binati ko na kayo kanina. Binabati rin kayo ng Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko, talagang minamahal niya 'yung mga Filipino women na naging Japanese wives dito; 'yung Association of Filipinos in Tokyo; 'yung Philippine Ladies Association of Japan; 'yung mga Organizational Representatives rin ng Osaka-Kansai area na nagbiyahe ng 10 hours led by Consul General Antonio Villamayor.

'Yung mga religious groups kagaya ng El-shaddai-Japan; Toyoshiki Catholic Community; Hawak kamay ng Mahal na Ina; Filipino Missionaries Group; Catholic Tokyo International Center; Tokyo Baptist; nabanggit ko na kanina ang Ibaraki Christian Center; Pilgrims- Madonna.

Salamat rin sa ating mga ipinagmamalaking estudyante at professionals na kabilang sa Association of Filipino Students in Japan. Kanina napatindig ko 'yung napakaraming Science and Technology Advisory Council, tumindig na. Special thanks to you dahil bukod sa inyong scholarship programs ay katulong din namin kayo sa unlad-kabayan at tuloy-aral programs. Salamat sa inyong mga programa.

At congratulations din sa mga nag-graduate ng Entrepreneurial Development Seminar ng labor office ng Philippine Embassy at samahang pilipino.

Gaya nang sabi ni Ambassador Siazon, nagkikita tayo every six months. This time ako ay narito upang dumalo sa Asean-Japan Summit.

Doon naman sa Pilipinas, napakaaga uminit ang kampanya. Kaya mas masaya ako rito kapiling ninyo. I leave to the opposition the task of threshing out their problems. Meanwhile, with your support, I shall forge ahead with reforms and changes in the system, and with unity and reconciliation in all aspects of our national life.

I had a very productive meeting with Prime Minister Koizumi yesterday. And as I mentioned earlier, I met Prime Minister Badawi of Malaysia today, and tonight I am meeting you, our overseas Filipinos in Japan. First and foremost, to thank you once again for the sacrifices you are making for our country.

Para sa akin — Koizumi, Badawi and you — are the people who make our country move forward. My meetings yesterday with Koizumi, my meeting today with Badawi, and my meeting with you tonight are the events that are carving forward the path of stability and progress for our nation. And I'm determined to push forward in this path even through the campaigns and elections of 2004. My priority is good governance and I shall keep at it with undeterred focus.

My pledges moving forward are based on the experience of what we have done in the past two and a half years that I have been visiting you as president: bring the deficit under control, clamp down on inflation, increase growth, increase tax revenues and expose government corruption.

‘Yung exposing government corruption, binabati ang Pilipinas ng world bank dahil sabi nila mabisa ‘yung lifestyle checks na ginagawa ng aking administrasyon. At ‘yung bagong batas na pinasa ng ating mga congressmen — ‘yung Electronic Procurement law — ay nababawasan din ang katiwalian sa ating government purchases.

‘Yon namang increase growth, nitong nakaraang quarter, ang ating ekonomiya ay nagpatala ng 4.4 percent GDP growth at 5.9 percent GNP growth, pinakamataas mula noong Asian crisis ng 1997 at ika-anim tayo sa dalawampu’t isang ekonomiya ng Asia at Pacific. alam n’yo 4.4 percent ang GDP, 5.9 percent ang GNP. Ano ba ang diperensya? Ang diperensiya ay ang inyong mga remittances. kasi ‘yung 4.4 percent na umangat, produksyon sa loob ng Pilipinas. Dinadagdag ‘yung produksyon ninyo na binibilang ang inyong remittances nadagdagan ng 1.8 percentage points ang pag-angat ng ating bansa dahil sa inyong remittances. Ibig sabihin, gumaganda ang takbo ng ating ekonomiya dahil na rin sa lumalaking remittances na pinapadala ninyo mga overseas Filipinos sa inyong mga pamilya.

Kaya nais ko kayong pasalamatang muli sa malaking tulong sa ating ekonomiya, na ang ipinadala ninyong pera sa inyong mga pamilya talagang maituturing na kayo mga overseas Filipino investors dahil ang inyong remittances ay nagsisilbing investments ninyo sa ating bansa.

Talagang malaking tulong ang inyong remittances dahil ang bansang hapon ay pangatlo sa pangunahing destination ng ating OFWs noong nakaraang taon. Number one, Saudi Arabia, one million Filipinos. Number two, Malaysia more than half a million Filipinos. Number three, ang bilang ng OFWs sa Japan ay tumaas ngayon halos 300,000 na ang overseas Filipino workers dito sa Japan. At inaasahan nating dadami pa ito sa mga sektor ng health care at information technology dahil sa usapan namin ni Prime Minister Koizumi. Gumagawa tayo ng negotiation para sa ganoon ang mga caregivers at I.T. professionals ay lalong makakapasok dito sa Japan.

Kayong mga narito na — you are champions of our country’s socioeconomic development.

Ang classrooms mula sa mga mamamayang Pilipino sa labas ay isang magandang halimbawa. Sa maikling panahon lamang ay daang-daang classrooms ang ipapatayo sa ating bansa dahil sa inyong tulong. Dito sa Japan, there are already forty pledges and donations that had been received for this project of classrooms for our people.

‘Yung tourism volunteer program rin, ito ay magandang halimbawa rin. Sa tulong ninyo ‘yung ating mga tourism volunteers, maraming turistang hapon ang patuloy na pumupunta sa ating bansa. We have already welcomed almost 300,000 Japanese visitors this year to the Philippines. And now Japan is our second largest source of tourists. Salamat sa inyong mga volunteer tourists marketers dito.

Dahil sa inyong mga pagsisikap dito sa Japan at kabayanihan sa pagtulong sa ating pag-unlad, nais ko lamang ibalik sa inyo ang pagtulong sa pamamagitan ng mga programang mapapakinabangan ninyo at ng inyong mga mahal sa buhay sa Pilipinas.

Kaya alam naman ninyo, ipinasa na ng ating mga congressmen 'yung Overseas Voting law, ganoon na rin 'yung Dual Citizenship Law, kung saan kahit na Japanese na kayo, pwede rin kayo maging Pilipino pa, pwede kayong bumili ng lupa at bahay at negosyo sa Pilipinas.

Pinasa rin ng ating mga congressmen 'yung Anti-Money Laundering law para hindi kayo mahirapan. Pag nagre-remit kayo ng pera sa Pilipinas kung hindi pumasa 'yung Anti-Money Laundering law, grabe sana, katakot-takot ang red tape na inyong pagka-remit kaya kinailangan pumasa 'yung money laundering law para sa ganun regular ang inyong remittances sa ating bansa. Kaya 'yon ay para sa inyo rin.

Pinalawak rin natin 'yung ating programang pabahay para sa mga manggagawa, para isama ang overseas Filipinos. Sana bukas bumili kayo ng bahay para sa inyong mga minamahal sa Pilipinas. Kasi nandito 'yung PAG-IBIG ngayon sa hapon upang makatulong sa inyong bumili ng bahay para sa mga kamag-anak ninyo sa Pilipinas o kaya para sa inyong retirement. Ambassador Siazon told me that paskong Pilipino is a two-day event. We have tonight and tomorrow another party. Tomorrow, there will be a housing fair and exhibit. Makikita ninyo iyung mga bahay na ang ganda-ganda ng installment kaya talagang kayang-kaya ng ating overseas Filipinos. Kaya eto ay ginagawa natin para sa inyo.

Doon naman sa Pilipinas, tuloy-tuloy ang ating laban kontra sa kahirapan at kontra sa krimen. Siguro narinig n'yo, nahuli si Kumander Robot. Ito ay isang malaking dagok sa bandidong Abu Sayyaf. We want and we shall pursue justice for the Sipadan hostages just like any other kidnapping cases. We are determined to show terrorists and criminals that such heinous crimes will not go unpunished and that there will always be an end of the road in the hands of the criminal justice system. Let the truth come out from all corners so that the public can see who deserves just retribution among the criminals and their cohorts.

Moving forward, what do I want to do for our country? I want to build the infrastructure necessary for a modern nation, from roads — halimbawa, 'yung North Expressway papuntang Pampanga; 'yung South Expressway papuntang Batangas — inaayos natin ngayon. I also want to build high-speed internet. I also want to improve health care access para lahat ng kamag-anak ninyo may Philhealth insurance. and I want to be able to raise enough resources and revenues to be able to redouble spending on education. Doon natin gagastusin ang dagdag na mga taxes na ating makokolekta sa mga bagong batas.

Ngunit kailangan rin na mahilom ang malalim na hidwaan sa ating lipunan. Dito sa Japan, maraming association pero nagkakaisa. Sa Pilipinas, ang lalim-lalim nang mga sugat sa ating bansa. May NPA, may sundalo, nag-aaway. May MILF, may mga kristiyanong takot sa muslims, nag-aaway. At higit sa lahat, may EDSA 2, may EDSA 3. Sa gitna ng NPA at sundalo, nandoon 'yung karaniwang mamamayan, ayaw na nila ng awayan, ayaw na nila ng giyera. Sa gitna naman ng mga Muslim at iyung mga anti-Muslim, nandoon din 'yung nakararami, gusto na nila ituloy na lang magnegosyo, maghanapbuhay. Sa kabila ng EDSA 2 at EDSA 3, nandoon din 'yung ating silent majority, gusto na nila ng reconciliation. At nababasa ko ang kanilang mensahe sa akin na ako ay dapat maging pangulo hindi lamang ng EDSA 2, dapat rin pangulo ng EDSA 3. Kaya sa kabila ng mga repormang kailangan para labanan ang kahirapan, labanan ang katiwalian, labanan ang krimen, kailangan din natin ang nagkakaisa at reconciliation.

Kayo kayo, aking mga kaibigan dito sa hapon, sana tulungan ninyo ako sa paghanap ng mga reporma at pagbabago sa ating mga sistema, ngunit tulungan din ninyo ako na kausapin ang inyong mga minamahal sa buhay sa Pilipinas sa ganun makakamit natin ang pagkakaisang hinahanap ninyo para sa ating mga darating na henerasyon.

Sa inyong lahat, tamang-tama pinag-uusapan ang reconciliation lalo na ngayon dahil panahon ng pasko, it is time for peace on earth to men of goodwill. Sa inyong lahat, mga minamahal kong kababayan sa Japan, it is my pleasure to be with you again on yet another Christmas party.

To you all, Merry Christmas! Minamahal kayo ng Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Gathering with the Filipino Community 'Paskong Pilipino Kasama ang Pangulo'. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140508/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7540&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo to the leaders the Overseas Filipino Workers in Japan

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
To the leaders the Overseas Filipino Workers in Japan**

[Delivered at Takanawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo, Japan, December 12, 2003]

OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS: THE JAPAN CONNECTION

Mga leaders ng mga Filipino communities ng Tokyo, Osaka at buong Japan, iba't-ibang mga organisasyon at mga matatagumpay na mga indibidwal na binati ko na kanina, mga minamahal kong kababayan dito sa Japan, Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat.

Gaya nang sabi ni Ambassador Siazon, nagkikita tayo every six months. This time ako ay narito upang dumalo sa ASEAN-Japan Summit. Doon naman sa Pilipinas, napakaagang uminit ng kampanya, kaya mas masaya ako rito kapiling ninyo. I leave to the opposition the task of threshing out their problems. Meanwhile, with your support, I shall forge ahead with reforms and changes in the system, and with unity and reconciliation in all aspects of our national life.

I had a very productive meeting with Prime Minister Koizumi yesterday. And, as I mentioned earlier, I will meet Prime Minister Badawi of Malaysia today, and tonight I am meeting you, our overseas Filipinos in Japan, first and foremost, to thank you once again for the sacrifices you are making for our country.

Para sa akin — Koizumi, Badawi and you — are the people who make our country move forward. My meeting yesterday with Koizumi, my meeting today with Badawi, and my meeting with you tonight are the events that are carving forward the path of stability and progress for our nation. And I'm determined to push forward in this path even through the campaigns and elections of 2004. My priority is good governance and I shall keep it with undeterred focus.

My pledges of moving forward are based on the experiences of what we have done in the past two and a half years when I have been visiting you as president: bring the deficit under control, clamp down on inflation, increase growth, increase tax revenues and expose government corruption.

Yaong exposing government corruption, binabati ang Pilipinas ng World Bank dahil sabi nila mabisa iyong lifestyle checks na ginagawa ng aking administrasyon. At yung bagong batas na ipinasa ng ating mga congressmen — yaong Electronic Procurement Law — ay naglalayon din na mabawasan ang katiwalian sa ating government purchases.

Iyon namang increase growth, nitong nakaraang quarter, ang ating ekonomiya ay nagtala ng 4.4 percent GDP growth at 5.9 percent GNP growth, pinakamataas mula noong Asian crisis ng 1997, at ika-anim tayo sa dalawampu't isang ekonomiya ng Asia at Pacific. Alam ninyo 4.4 percent ang GDP, 5.9 percent ang GNP, ano ba ang diperensya? Ang diperensiya ay ang inyong mga remittances. Kasi yaong 4.4 percent na umangat, produksyon sa loob ng Pilipinas. Idinadagdag 'yung produksyon ninyo na kabilang ang inyong remittances, kung kaya't nadagdagan ng 1.8 percentage points ang pag-angat ng ating bansa. Ito'y dahil sa inyong remittances. Ibig sabihin gumaganda ang takbo ng ating ekonomiya dahil na rin sa lumalaking remittances na ipinapadala ninyong mga overseas Filipinos sa inyong mga pamilya.

Kaya, nais ko kayong pasalamatang muli sa malaking tulong ninyo sa ating ekonomiya. Dahil sa mga ipinapadala ninyong pera sa inyong mga pamilya talagang maituturing na kayong mga overseas Filipino investors dahil ang inyong remittances ay nagsisilbing investments ninyo sa ating bansa.

Talagang malaking tulong ang inyong mga remittances dahil ang bansang Hapon ay pangatlo sa pangunahing destinasyon ng ating OFWs noong nakaraang taon. Ang number one ay ang Saudi Arabia na may bilang na one million Filipinos. Number two, Malaysia more than half a million Filipinos. Number three, ang bilang ng OFWs sa Japan ay tumaas ngayon halos 300,000 na ang overseas Filipino workers dito sa Japan. At inaasahan na dadami pa ito sa mga sector ng Health Care at Information Technology dahil sa usapan namin ni Prime Minister Koizumi. Gumagawa tayo ng negotiation para sa ganoon ang mga caregivers at I.T. professionals ay makapasok dito sa Japan.

Kayong mga narito na — you are champions of our country's socioeconomic development.

Ang classrooms mula sa mga mamamayang Filipino sa labas ay isang magandang halimbawa. Sa maikling panahon lamang ay daan-daang classrooms ang naipapatayo sa ating bansa dahil sa inyong tulong. Dito sa Japan, there are already forty pledges and donations that had been received for this project of classrooms for our people.

Yaong Tourism Volunteer Program, ito ay magandang halimbawa rin. Dahil sa tulong ninyo, yaong ating mga tourism volunteers, maraming turistang Hapon ang patuloy na pumupunta sa ating bansa. We have already welcomed almost 300,000 Japanese visitors to the Philippines this year. And now Japan is our second largest source of tourists. Salamat sa inyong mga volunteer tourists marketers dito.

Dahil sa inyong mga pagsisikap dito sa Japan at kabayanihan sa pagtulong sa ating pag-unlad, nais ko lamang ibalik sa inyo ang pagtulong sa pamamagitan ng mga programang mapapakinabangan ninyo at ng inyong mga mahal sa buhay sa Pilipinas.

Kaya alam naman ninyo, ipinasa na ng ating mga congressmen yaong Overseas Voting Law, ganoon din iyong Dual Citizenship Law, kung saan kahit na Japanese citizen na kayo, pwede pa rin kayong maging Pilipino, pwede kayong bumili ng lupa at bahay at negosyo sa Pilipinas.

Naipasa na rin ng ating mga congressmen yaong Anti-Money Laundering Law para hindi kayo mahirapan. Pag nagremit kayo ng pera sa Pilipinas kung hindi naipasa 'yung Anti-Money Laundering Law, grabe sana, katakut-takot ang red tape. Kaya kinailangang maipasa iyong Anti-Money Laundering Law para sa ganun regular ang inyong remittances sa ating bansa. Kaya iyon ay para sa inyo rin.

Pinalawak din natin iyong ating programang pabahay para sa mga manggagawa at maisama ang overseas Filipinos. Sana bukas bumili kayo ng bahay para sa inyong mga minamahal sa Pilipinas. Nandito ngayon ang Pag-IBIG dito sa sa Japan upang makatulong sa inyo sa pagbili ninyo ng bahay para sa mga kamag-anak ninyo sa Pilipinas o kaya para sa inyong retirement. Ambassador Siazontold me that Paskong Pilipino is a two-day event. We have tonight and tomorrow for another party. Tomorrow, there will be a housing fair and exhibit. Makikita ninyo iyung mga bahay na ang ganda-ganda ng installment kaya talagang kayang-kaya ng ating overseas Filipinos. Lahat ng ito ay ginagawa natin para sa inyo.

Doon naman sa Pilipinas, tuluy-tuloy ang ating laban kontra sa kahirapan at kontra sa krimen. Siguro narinig na ninyo na nahuli na si Kumander Robot. Ito ay isang malaking dagok sa bandidong Abu Sayyaf. We want and we shall pursue justice for the Sipadan hostages just like any other kidnapping cases. We are determined to show terrorists and criminals that such heinous crimes will not go unpunished and that there will always be an end of the road in the hands of the criminal justice system. Let the truth come out from all corners, so that the public can see who deserves just retribution among the criminals and their cohorts.

Moving forward, what do I want to do for our country? I want to build the infrastructure necessary for a modern nation, from roads: halimbawa, yaong North Expressway papuntang Pampanga; yaong South Expressway papuntang Batangas — inaayos natin ngayon. I also want to build high-speed Internet. I also want to improve health care

access para lahat ng kamag-anak ninyo may PhilHealth insurance. And I want to be able to raise enough resources and revenues to be able to redouble spending on education. Doon natin gagastusin ang dagdag na mga taxes na ating makokolekta sa mga bagong batas.

Ngunit kailangan rin na mahilom ang malalim na hidwaan sa ating lipunan. Dito sa Japan, maraming associations pero nagkakaisa. Sa Pilipinas, ang lalim-lalim ng mga sugat sa ating bansa. May NPA, may sundalo, nag-aaway. May MILF, may mga Kristiyanong takot sa Muslims, nag-aaway. At higit sa lahat, may EDSA 2, may EDSA 3. Sa gitna ng NPA at sundalo, nandoon iyong mga karaniwang mamamayan. Ayaw na nila ng awayan, ayaw na nila ng giyera. Sa gitna naman ng mga Muslim at yung mga anti-Muslim, nandoon din yung nakararami, na walang ibang gusto kung hindi maipagpatuloy na lang pagnenegosyo, paghahanapbuhay. Sa kabila ng EDSA 2 at EDSA 3, nandoon din yaong ating silent majority, gusto na nila ng reconciliation. At nababasa ko ang kanilang mensahe sa akin na ako ay dapat maging pangulo hindi lamang ng EDSA 2, dapat rin pangulo ng EDSA 3. Kaya, sa kabila ng mga repormang kailangan para labanan ang kahirapan, labanan ang katiwalian, labanan ang krimen, kailangan din natin angpagkakaisa at reconciliation.

Kayo, aking mga kaibigan dito sa Hapon, sana tulungan niny

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the Christmas Party of OFWs in Japan

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Christmas Party of OFWs in Japan**

[Main Exhibition Hall, Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibit Center Kowloon, Hong Kong, December 14, 2003]

SALUTING OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN HONG KONG

Gusto ko magpasalamat sa I-Remit Global Remittance at Confed Properties sa kanilang pagtulong sa ating Christmas Party ngayon dahil sila 'yung nagbigay, nanggaling sa kanila 'yung dalawang lupa at pabahay na ating ipinamigay ngayon sa ating Christmas Party. Salamat kay Ginoong Bansan Choa.

I just want to greet all of you including all the religious groups at sa inyong lahat an advance Merry Christmas.

Salamat naman at ginamit ninyong day-off ang araw na ito para magbigay ng panahon sa aking pagbisita dito sa Hong Kong. Naalala ninyo noong tayo ay narito at magkasama sa HITEC, sabi ko sainyo, 'di bale, 'yung day-off n'yo gagawin nating makabuluhan. Bubuksan natin ang consulate para maglingkod sa inyo sa inyong day-off kaya ngayon tuluy-tuloy pa rin. Salamat sa mga taga-Hong Kong, salamat rin sa mga galing sa Macau dahil maaga kayong nag-ferry para makapunta sa pagtitipong ito. Saan 'yung mga taga-Macau? Ayun! Thank you, thank you.

At sa inyong lahat, salamat sa pagiging topnotcher sa registration para sa Overseas Absentee Voting. Dahil botante kayo gusto kong ipahayag lamang: I'm glad the opposition is moving towards unity so that we can get down to the business of threshing out the issues of the campaign. On my part, I've just finished a fruitful trip to Japan where I worked for a better deal for our OFWs and marked more gains for peace and development in Mindanao.

Palagay ko, dahil kayo ay OFW alam naman ninyo na ang Japan ay hindi bukas para sa OFW hindi kagaya ng Hong Kong. Ngunit nagkasundo kami ni Prime Minister Koizumi na simula sa Enero sisimulan na namin ang formal negotiations para makapasok sa Japan ang mga OFW. Ang napagkasunduan namin, sabi ko kay Prime Minister Koizumi, ang unang hiniling ko ay ang OFW na makapasok sa Japan ay 'yung caregivers. Kasi sabi ko kay Prime Minister Koizumi — at inamin naman niya — na ang Japan ay tinatawag na aging population, maraming mga matatanda na. Kulang ang batang Hapon pati nurses, pati midwives, pati caregivers. Kulang ang mga batang Hapon... na mag-aalaga sa kanila. Sabi ko ang ating mga caregivers na Pilipino kilalang-kilala sa buong mundo. Kilala sa Hong Kong, kilala sa Londres, kilala doon sa Sweden, kung saan nandoon si Vicky ngayon, kilala sa Canada. Eh, alam ko 'yung mga Hapon na matatanda, talagang gusto nila na may mag-aalagang Pilipinong caregiver sa kanila.

Isa pang ilalakad ko na makapasok sa Japan ang mga Information Technology professionals. After my meeting with you today, I shall leave for Bahrain. And in Bahrain, the meetings will also pursue the same thrusts at what I sought in Japan. We shall widen the range of our diplomacy to reinforce our domestic policies and programs to uplift the lives of our people. Yaong aking administration, ours is an administration that has been working across continents to bring the message of Filipino pride and pride in the Filipino's bright future. This is part of the reform

and the changes in the system, and part of the unity and reconciliation we are seeking in our country as we bring all Filipinos worldwide, and at home together behind the sustained march for peace, progress and prosperity.

Sabi ko, change in system pagbabago sa sistema. Sa dalawang taon at kalahating pagkapangulo ko nakita ko na, naunawaan ko kung ano ang mga kailangang pagbabago sa aking sistema. Isa dito sa mga pagbabagong sistemang sinisikap kong gawin at lalo ko pang sisikapin na gawin ay gusto kong maitayo sa Pilipinas ang kagaya ng ginawang pagbabago dito sa Hong Kong, yaong itinatayong Independent Commission Against Corruption o ICAC. At sa pagbabagong inuumpisahan ko na ang preparasyon, ang aking adviser mismo ay walang iba kung di 'yung mismong unang nagtayo ng ICAC dito sa Hong Kong. At noong siya ay pumunta sa Pilipinas at tiningnan niya kung ano na ang inuumpisahan kong gawin para ihanda ito sa kanyang press conference, pinuri niya ang aking administrasyon dahil nakita niyang determinado ako na papag-ibayuhin ang sistema natin dito sa Pilipinas laban sa katiwalian.

Tungkol naman sa kapayapaan, siguro narinig na ninyo na nasugpo na at nahuli na si Kumander Robot siya ang leader ng kahiya-hiyang kidnapping incident sa Sipadan noong taong 2000. Now, all the surrounding issues of the Sipadan kidnapping can be given light through the judicial process and institutional investigations. Our priority is criminal justice and we will pursue this without being distracted by the peripheral issues. Let the light come out so the public will see the truth behind this most notorious incident in the history of crime and terrorism.

Tungkol naman sa kaunlaran, nitong nakaraang quarter, ayon sa ating mga statistics, ang ating growth rate sa Pilipinas ay number 6 sa dalawampu't isang ekonomiya sa Asia at Pacific. At sa ibabaw ng pag-angat ng produksyon sa loob ng Pilipinas na 4.4 percent — number six nga sa 21 economies dahil sa inyong remittances — 'yung 4.4 percent GDP growth rate ay naging 5.9 percent GNP growth rate dahil kasama ang remittances sa GNP. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyo, ang inyong remittances na nagkakahalaga ng mahigit 200 million U.S. dollars kada taon ay malaki ang naitutulong hindi lamang sa inyong pamilya kung hindi pati na rin sa ating bansa.

Kaya sa inyong mga nakikinig sa akin sa mga nakaraang pagpupulong natin siguro maaalala ninyo na laging sinasabi ko na kayo ay overseas Filipino workers, pero kayo na rin ay overseas Filipino investors dahil 'yung inyong remittances ay nagsisilbing investment sa edukasyon, sa pabahay, sa puhunan ng inyong mga minamahal sa buhay. Hindi ba investments ang lahat at ang lahat na ito ay galing sa inyo.

Nais ko namang ibalik sa inyo ang pagtulong sa pamamagitan ng mga programang mapapakinabangan ninyo at ng inyong mga mahal sa buhay sa Pilipinas.

Kaya sa ibabaw ng Overseas Voting Law, na hindi ba ilang taong ilang administrasyon, ilang Kongreso na ninyong hinintay at sa wakas ay naipasa sa loob ng aking administrasyon. At hindi lamang iyon, 'yung Anti-Money Laundering Law, iyon ay hindi lamang para hulihin ang mga money launderers, iyon ay para hindi tayo bigyan ng mga parusa ng international community at hindi dagdagan ang red tape ng inyong remittances. Kaya itong Anti-Money Laundering Law rin ay para sa ikabubuti ng ating mga OFWs nang sa ganun hindi kayo mahirapang magpadala ang mga inyong remittances sa ating bansa.

Pinalawak ko rin ang ating programang pabahay para sa mga manggagawa. Sa aking administrasyon, talagang sadya nating isinama ang overseas Filipinos sa ating Pabahay Program para sa mga manggagawa. At dinig ko maganda ang naging resulta ng tatlong Pag-IBIG housing fairs na ginanap dito sa Hong Kong mula noong nakaraang taon na isinama natin sadya ang OFW. Ayon sa ating Pag-IBIG office dito sa Hong Kong, umaabot na sa 78 million pesos worth of housing ang binili niyo mga overseas workers sa Hong Kong na tinanggap ng iba't-ibang housing developers na galing Pilipinas sa naturang housing fairs. Kaya nga 'yung Confed Properties, sa laki ng kanilang kita, okay na sa kanila ang mag-donate ng additional housing, kasi 78 million ang naibigay na ninyong housing revenue sa ating mga housing developers. Kaya sa mga hindi pa nakakasali sa Pag-IBIG housing fairs, may ika-apat na gagawing housing fair sa darating na Enero. Sumali kayo para naman ang inyong mga pinaghirapang sahod ay mapunta sa isang kapakipakinabang na bagay either bahay ng inyong mga kamag-anak o bahay ninyo para kung kayo ay magre-retire na sa Pilipinas.

Hindi lamang sa registration magaling ang Hong Kong, pati na rin sa pagiging miyembro ng SSS, alam ba n'yo topnotcher din kayo? Sabi sa akin ng ating SSS officer dito, 88,000 na ang SSS members sa Hong Kong. Ang dami 'no, vast majority at patuloy pa rin ang ating promosyon ng magagandang programa ng SSS dito, pati na rin sa Macau.

'Yung Provident Fund, hindi ba itinayo natin iyon para magkaloob ng social services at emergency loans sa ating mga OFWs? Mayroon na tayong mga enrollees ngayon mula sa Hong Kong pati Jeddah, Qatar, Milan at Roma.

Mabuti rin at aktibo ang marami sa inyo sa mga livelihood at skills training services na pinalawak natin. 'Yang ating programa para sa mga teachers examination at sa paghahanap ng items para sa inyo, lahat po 'yan ay utos ng Pangulo ng Republika ng Pilipinas. Ako po ang nag-utos noon. May mga umuwi, may mga gustong bumalik dito dahil nagkulang daw ang mga items. Gusto kong ipahayag sa inyo, sa 2004 budget ay meron uling dagdag na item para sa mga bagong teachers.

Alam ko na naghihirap dito sa Hong Kong. Ang Pilipinas nga mabuti pa dahil may 4.4 percent growth rate, GDP at 5.9, GNP. Ang Hong Kong, negative ang growth rate nitong taong ito. 'Yung kahirapan ng Hong Kong alam kong nararanasan din ninyong mga nagtrabaho dito. Una sa lahat 'yung SARS outbreak, nalulungkot ako na mayroon tayong mga kababayan na naging biktima dito sa Hong Kong, pati na rin sa ibang mga bansa gaya ng Singapore at Canada. Hindi natin sila kalilimutan sa ating asal at nagpapasalamat ako sa lahat ng mga nagtatrabaho sa Hong Kong hospitals dahil sa inyong sakripisyo at magpasalamat din tayo sa ating mga doktor na ipinadala ko dito — 'diba si Dr. Fajardo 'yon? — para maglingkod sa inyong lahat. Malaki ang kanyang pagsisikap noong magkaroon ng SARS para siguruhin na ang ating mga OFWs hanggang kaya ay maligtas sa epidemyang ito.

Mabuti na lang at doon sa Pilipinas ay naagapan natin ang SARS. Maliban sa dalawang namatay sa sakit na SARS — 'yung isang worker na galing sa Canada at saka 'yung tatay niya — ay hindi kumalat ang SARS. At buong mundo ay pinuri ang pamahalaang Pilipinas dahil sa ating SARS management. Iyan nga ay isang patunay na 'yung ating administrasyon ay dalubhasa na sa crisis management.

'Yung isa pang problema ng ekonomiya ng Hong Kong na kung saan pati kayo mga OFW ay nadamay ay 'yung napakalungkot napagbawas ng minimum allowable wage at ang pagpataw ng levy sa mga employer ng mga foreign domestic helpers. Ako po sa lahat ng mga pitong bansa na nagpapadala ng OFW dito ang pinakamasigasig sa lahat ng head of government na ipinaglaban ang aking mga OFW. Inalok ko pa nga 'yung ibang mga namumuno. Ipinaglaban ko kayo at inaalok ko pa ang ibang mga lider nung ibang mga bansa na may domestic helpers dito para magsama-sama tayong lahat sa pakikibakang ito at tayo ay nagsampa ng kaso. Tayo ay nag-lead doon. Pitong bansa ang nagkasama-sama pero pinakalider ang Pilipinas.

Pangalawa sa activeness ay ang Indonesia, at ayon sa ulat, naging matagumpay naman ang unang bahagi ng ating pakikibaka dito sa Hong Kong High Court tungkol sa isyung ito, bagamat may kabagalan. Alam naman ninyo sa Pilipinas akala natin ang mga korte matagal ang proseso, pati rin pala sa ibang bansa, pati rin pala dito sa Hong Kong. Ngunit ayon sa abogado na humahawak ng kaso at pati na rin sa ating konsulado, meron ng date for argumentation tungkol dito sa kasong ito. Umasa kayo na hindi ako titigil na maiparating sa mga awtoridad ng Hong Kong ang aking pakikibaka, ating pakikibaka sa kapakanan ng ating mga OFWs dito sa Hong Kong.

After all, gaya nang sabik of kayo ay mga huwaran Pilipino. Huwaran sa pagtatrabaho kaya mahal na mahal kayo ng inyong mga employers, pati sila ay ipinaglalaman kayo. Huwaran bilang mamamayan kaya kayo ang number one sa overseas voting registration. Huwaran sa paglilingkod sa ating ekonomiya dahilang dami-dami ninyong ipinapadalang remittances.

Mga Pilipino sa Hong Kong sa Macau, salamat na kayo ay mga huwaran Pilipino. Sana tuluy-tuloy ang inyong tagumpay.

Maraming salamat at Merry Christmas sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino Community in Hong Kong SAR

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino Community in Hong Kong SAR**

[Delivered at the Main Exhibition Hall, Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Center Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR, December 14, 2003]

Maraming salamat. Maraming salamat. Maraming salamat.

Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. Maraming salamat din dahil hindi lang ikaw nag-aalaga ng manggagawang Pilipino ikaw nga ang nag-aalaga ng mga manggagawa sa buong mundo dahil si Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas ay pangulo ng International Labor Organization.

Gusto kong batiin ang ating bagong ambassador sa People's Republic of China, si Ambassador Willy Gaa. At palagay ko pagkakataon nating lahat na batiin sa unang pagkakataon ang ating bagong Consul General na si Corazon Belmonte Jover.

Alam n'yo pinadala ko si Vicky Bataclan naalala ninyo at sa nakita ko vibes na vibes kayo ni Vicky. Kanya lang sa magandang trabaho niya dito panahon na rin na siya ay mapromote at maging full ambassador. Kaya si Vicky ngayon ay ating ambassador sa Sweden ngunit pinapadala niya sa inyong lahat ang kanyang tuloy na pagmamahal sa inyo. At sana kung gaano kayo magkavibes ni Vicky Bataclan ganun din kayo magkavibes sana ni ating bagong Consul General, si Cora Belmonte Jover.

Gusto kong batiin ang aking mga kasama... Ay, gusto kong ipakilala sa inyo ang aking mga kasama ngayon na nagbibisita sa inyo. Meron tayong Muslim association kanina nakilala ko, meron tayong kinatawan ng Muslim community sa ating official party ngayon, ang gobernador ng probinsiya ng Sultan Kudarat, si Datu Pax Mangudadatu; At ang nag-aayos ng ating mga priority projects at ating mga tulong na nanggagaling sa ibang bansa, si Secretary Marita Jimenez; ang aking Presidential Spokesman ay si Toting Bunye; ang nagbibigay sa akin ng payo para sa ating usapang pangkapayapaan maging sa komunista, maging sa mga MILF ay si Secretary Ging Deles; ti adviser ko diay amyanan ti Pilipinas, nagado ti fans idtoy Hong Kong, isu nga kada panag-bisitak toy Hong Kong, kayat ko nga kadkaduwa tayo amin ni former governor Chavit Singson.

'Yon namang mga kasama ko sa executive branch na nandito rin para tumulong na maglingkod sa inyong lahat, 'yung nagbibigay ng iba't-ibang mga serbisyo sa inyo ay ang namumuno ng OWWA, si Ver Angelo. Sa ating OWWA board nga ang kinatawan ng ating mga overseas workers ay taga-dito sa Hong Kong. Kaya importanteng-importante ang Hong Kong sa OWWA.

Ang ating Undersecretary ng Trade and Industry, si Undersecretary Tom Aquino; ang ating Undersecretary ng Tourism at siya rin ang Chairman ng National Commission on Culture, si Evelyn Pantig; ang ating Undersecretary ng mga tulong galing sa ibang bansa, si Lina Amata.

Gusto ko magpasalamat sa i-remit global remittance at confed properties sa kanilang pagtulong sa ating Christmas party ngayon dahil sila 'yung nagbigay nanggaling sa kanila 'yung dalawang lupang at pabahay na ating ipinagbigay ngayon sa ating Christmas party. Salamat kay ginoong Bansen Choa.

Mga leaders ng iba't-ibang mga Filipino community dito sisikapin kong batiin kayong lahat: dagiti annak ti Villaviciosa, Abra, nangruna ni Corazon Carsola, naimbag a bigat yo amin, apo; 'yung Laisam International Association headed by Teresita Dumdom; 'yung malaking grupo doo, 'yung El Shaddai. Salamat andami ninyo dito kaya isa sa inyo tuloy ang nanalo ng pabahay. at gusto kong batiin si Sister Tessie Wong ang namumuno ng El Shaddai dito.

'Yung Hong Kong musicians union sa liderato ni Jun Cortez, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat. Naalala ko ako'y batang maliit pa — hindi kayo mismo pero 'yung mga predecessors n'yo, sila ang una-unang OFW dito sa Hong Kong — 'di ba sa iba't-ibang mga hotel lahat Filipino? Noong araw ilang daan kayo? Ngayon ilang daang libo na ang Filipino dito sa Hong Kong.

Gusto ko rin batiin 'yung kasama ni ginoong Choa sa I-Remit, si Chato Carlos. at naalala ko, mga kaibigan ko mga professionals sa Hong Kong, noong pinatayo nila 'yung Philippine Association of Hong Kong, kaya binabati ko na sila dito, represented here by Daisy Catherine Mandac; nagado ti Ilocano idtoy Hong Kong iso nga adda pay ti belleg ti Ilocano Association nangruna ni Miss Petra Regua; at galing sa Nueva Ecija, 'yung Gimbal Filipino workers Association na pinamumunuan ni Irma Jiolamin; at siyempre 'yung Novo Ecijiano Association of Hong Kong lalo na si Rosita Estipolar; ang samahon Zamboangita Association; gikan sa Negros Oriental, Jolita Elnas; ang St. Joseph Philippine Prayer Group lalo na si ginoong Luis Sible ang laki ng grupo ninyo.

Nabanggit ko kanina 'yung Muslim Filipino Association Brother Asisto Juano salam alaikum pagariya; 'yung Philippine Bankers Club lalo na si Dennis Juico; Ilocano manen ti cauayan, Ilocos Sur International Association nangruna ni Elizabeth Quemado; at nakita ko ang ganda ng inyong homemade streamer dito, Marinduque Migrant Workers Association lalo na si Adelaida Mogul; at ipinagmamalaki natin 'yung itinayo ng Philippine community kasama ang partnership ng Hong Kong government at Philippine government, 'yung Hong Kong Bayanihan Trust. o, ang dami sa inyo ang nagpupunta doon, halatang-halata. kaya binabati ko si Miss Lourdes Salazar na nangangatawan ng Hong Kong Bayanihan Trust; 'yung Vilomen Hong Kong Association, si Irene Domingo, binabati ko rin kayo. Ayan 'yung inyong karatula; at saka salamat Pastor Oral Paul Guevarra, thank you for your prayers together with the International Christian Assembly of Filipino Ministry.

Tapos kanina diyan tumindig, pinalabas 'yung kanilang placards, League of Overseas Filipino Midwives Hong Kong headed by Janet Japsay; 'yung Association of Filipino Builders in Hong Kong, salamat Mr. Crisanto Ogoy; ken... Ug tanan aton mga Visayan ubos sa Federation of Visayan Association in Hong Kong labi na si Amelita Deslate; ug sa akong mga kaigsuonan gikan sa Mindanao asa ko nidako, ang Mindanao Hong Kong Workers Federation labi na si Miss Myrna Padilla; at 'yung Kabayan Radyo Fans Club nangunguna ni Cely Gonzaga; Federation of Bicol Associations, Agnes Gahonera, marhay nga aga sa indo gabos; balikatan sa kaunlaran, Ching Baltazar; Ilocano manen, Corazon Manayan ken Alcala Migrant Workers Association, tingali... Siguro alcala diay Cagayan province; Pinoy Abroad True Friends, Linda Layosa. Where are you Linda? ha? Ah, she's in Manila, you represent... Please give her my love, ha? Okey, so nice to see you; Sunday intake volunteer group headed by Susie Dela Cruz; and thanks for the welcome from PWU Hong Kong represented by Dr. Angel Ramos, oh, you have your nice uniform; 'yung black panther martial arts group headed by Joseph Bautista; the Hong Kong Chapter of the National Organization of Professional Teachers headed by Lolita Brana. I understand you're the biggest association in Hong Kong, congratulations; sagay, kasimanwa sang akong bana, sagay Association of Hong Kong, Milagros Serica. oh, sagay is Cebuano, 'no?; and Pinay Justice Volunteer Team, Eleanor Arellano; Ilocano manen, Ilocos Norte Phil Alliance of Hong Kong, Sister Miriam Bartolome, Miss Miriam Bartolome; Abuyog Migrant Workers Association, Rosario Lajer; Philippine Airlines Joseph Gonzales; a duwa ti Alcala, adda Alcala diay Cagayan, Alcalanian Overseas Association, Clofe Torado; kasimanwa sang akong bana, Migrant Ilonggo International Association; mga kasimanwa ni secretary kag tani future senator Mar Roxas, Capiznon Association sa Hong Kong, Armando Villasoto

And so, if there are any that I failed to mention, I just want to greet all of you including all the religious groups at sa inyong lahat, merry Christmas, advance merry Christmas.

Salamat naman at ginamit ninyong day off para magbigay ng panahon sa aking pagbisita sa Hong kong. naalala n'yo noong tayo ay narito magkasama sa HITEC, sabi ko sa inyo, 'di bale, 'yung day off n'yo gagawin nating makabuluhan. Bubuksan natin ang consulate para maglingkod sa inyo sa inyong day off kaya ngayon tuloy-tuloy pa

rin. Salamat sa mga taga-HongKong, salamat rin sa mga galing sa Macau dahil maaga kayo nag-ferry para pumunta sa pagtitipong ito. Saan 'yung taga-Macau? ayun! Thank you, thank you.

At sa inyong lahat, salamat sa pagiging topnotcher sa registration para sa Overseas Absentee Voting. Dahil botante kayo gusto kong ipahayag lamang: I'm glad the opposition is moving towards unity so that we can get down to the business of threshing out the issues of the campaign. On my part, I've just finished a fruitful trip to Japan where I worked for a better deal for our OFWs and marked more gains for peace and development in Mindanao.

Palagay ko dahil kayo ay OFW alam naman n'yo na ang Japan hindi bukas OFW hindi kagaya ng Hong Kong. Ngunit nagkasundo kami ni Prime Minister Koizumi na sa Enero pagsisimulain na namin ang formal negotiations para makapasok sa Japan ang mga OFW. ang pinagkasunduan namin, sabi namin, sabi ko kay Prime Minister Koizumi, ang unang hihingin kung OFW na makapasok sa Japan ay 'yung caregivers. Kasi sabi ko kay Prime Minister Koizumi — at inamin naman niya — ang Japan ay tinatawag na aging population, maraming mga matatanda na. Kulang ang batang hapon pati nurse, pati midwife, pati caregiver, kulang ang batang hapon.. kulang ang batang hapon na mag-aalaga sa kanila. Eh sabi ko ang ating mga caregivers na pilipino kilalang-kilala sa buong mundo. Kilala sa Hong Kong, kilala sa Londres, kilala doon sa Sweden, kung saan nandoon si Vicky ngayon, kilala sa Canada. Eh alam ko 'yung mga hapon na matatanda talagang gusto nila na may mag-aalagang Pilipinong caregiver sa kanila.

Isa pang ilalakad ko na pumasok sa Japan ang mga information technology professionals. after my meeting with you today, I shall leave for Bahrain. And in Bahrain, the meetings will also pursue the same thrusts at what I sought in Japan. We shall widen the range of our diplomacy to reinforce our domestic policies and programs to uplift the lives of our people. 'Yung aking administration, ours is an administration that has been working across continents to bring the message of Filipino pride and pride in the Filipino's bright future. this is part of the reform and the changes in the system, and part of the unity and reconciliation we are seeking in our country as we bring all Filipinos worldwide and at home together behind the sustained march for peace, progress and prosperity.

Sabi ko, change in system, pagbabago sa sistema. Sa dalawang taon at kalahating pagkapangulo ko nakita ko na, naunawaan ko kung ano ang mga kailangang pagbabago sa aking sistema. Isa dito sa mga pagbabagong sistemang sinisikap kong gawin at lalo ko pang isisikap na gawin, gusto kong itayo sa Pilipinas ang kagaya nang ginawang pagbabago dito sa Hong Kong, 'yung itinayong Independent Commission Against Corruption o ICAC. At sa pagbabagong inuumpisahan ko na ang preparasyon, ang aking adviser mismo ay walang iba kungdi 'yung mismong unang nagtayo ng ICAC dito sa Hong Kong. at nung siya ay pumunta sa Pilipinas at tinignan niya kung ano na ang inuumpisahan kong gawin para ihanda ito sa kanyang press conference, pinuri niya ang aking administrasyon at nakita niya determinado ako na ipaibayo ang sistema natin sa Pilipinas laban sa katiwalian.

Tungkol naman sa kapayapaan, siguro narinig na ninyo nasugpo na at nahuli na si Kumander Robot, 'yan ang leader ng pinakahiya-hiyang kidnapping sa Sipadan noong taong 2000. Now, all the surrounding issues of the Sipadan kidnapping can be given light through the judicial process and institutional investigations. Our priority is criminal justice and we will pursue this without being distracted by the peripheral issues. Let the light come out so the public will see the truth behind this most notorious incident in the history of crime and terrorism.

Tungkol naman sa kaunlaran, nitong nakaraang quarter, ayon sa ating mga statistika ang ating growth rate sa Pilipinas ay number 6 sa dalawampu't isang ekonomiya sa Asia at Pacific. at sa ibabaw ng pag-angat ng produksyon sa loob ng Pilipinas na 4.4 percent — number six nga sa 21 economies dahil sa inyong remittances 4.4 percent GDP growth rate ay naging 5.9 percent GNP growth rate dahil kasama ang remittances sa GNP. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyo, ang inyong remittances na nagkakahalaga ng mahigit 200 million U.S. dollars kada taon ay malaki ang naitutulong hindi lamang sa inyong pamilya kung hindi pati na rin sa ating bansa.

Kaya sa inyong mga nakikinig sa akin sa mga nakaraang pagpupulong natin siguro maalala n'yo laging sinasabi ko kayo ay overseas Filipino workers pero kayo na rin ay overseas Filipino investors dahil 'yung inyong remittances ay nagsisilbing investments sa edukasyon, sa pabahay, sa puhunan ng inyong mga minamahal sa buhay. Hindi ba investments lahat noon at galing sa inyo.

Nais ko namang ibalik sa inyo ang pagtulong sa pamamagitan ng mga programang mapapakinabangan ninyo at ng inyong mga mahal sa buhay sa Pilipinas.

Kaya sa ibabaw ng Overseas Voting Law, na hindi ba ilang taon, ilang administrasyon, ilang kongreso na n'yong hinintay, sa wakas ay pumasa sa loob ng aking administrasyon ang Overseas Voting Law. at hindi lamang 'yon, 'yung Anti-Money Laundering Law 'yon ay hindi lamang para hulihin ang mga money launderers, 'yon ay para sa ganun hindi tayo bigyan ng mga parusa ng international community at hindi dagdagan ang red tape ng inyong remittances. Kaya itong Anti-Money Laundering Law rin ay ikinabubuti ng ating OFW para hindi kayo mahirapan ipadala ang inyong remittances sa ating bansa.

Pinalawak ko rin ang ating programang pabahay para sa mga manggagawa, sa aking administrasyon talagang sadya nating isinama ang overseas Filipinos sa ating pabahay program para sa mga manggagawa. At dinig ko maganda ang naging resulta ng tatlong pag-ibig housing fairs na ginanap sa Hong Kong mula noong nakaraang taon na ito ay isinama natin sadya ang OFW. Ayon sa ating PAG-IBIG office sa Hong Kong, umabot na sa 78 million pesos worth of housing ang binili n'yo mga overseas workers sa Hong Kong itong tinanggap ng iba't-ibang housing developers na galing Pilipinas sa naturang housing fairs. Kaya nga 'yung confed properties, sa laki ng kanilang kita, okay na sa kanila ang mag-donate ng additional housing kasi 78 million ang binigay na n'yong housing revenue sa ating mga housing developers. Kaya sa mga hindi pa nakakasali sa pag-ibig housing fairs, may ika-apat na gagawing housing fair sa darating na enero. Sumali kayo para naman ang inyong pinaghirapang sahod ay mapunta sa isang kapakipakinabangang bagay either bahay ng inyong mga kamag-anak o bahay ninyo para kayo kung kayo ay magre-retire na sa Pilipinas.

Hindi lamang sa registration magaling ang Hong Kong, pati na rin sa pagiging miyembro ng SSS, alam ba n'yo topnotcher din kayo? sabi sa akin ng ating SSS officer dito, 88,000 na ang SSS members sa Hong kong. andami 'no, vast majority at patuloy pa rin ang ating promosyon ng magagandang programa ng SSS dito, pati na rin sa Macau.

'Yung provident fund, hindi ba itinayo natin 'yon para magkaloob ng social services at emergency loans sa ating mga OFWs? Mayron na tayong mga enrollees ngayon mula sa Hong Kong pati Jeddah, Qatar, Milan at Roma.

Mabuti rin at aktibo ang mga marami sa inyo sa mga livelihood at skills training services na pinalawak natin. 'Yang ating programa para sa mga teachers sa examination at sa paghahanap ng item para sa inyo, lahat po 'yan ay utos ng pangulo ng Republika ng Pilipinas. Ako po ang nag-utos noon. may mga umuwi, may mga gustong bumalik dito dahil nagkakulang daw ng item. Gusto kong ipahayag sa inyo, sa 2004 budget ay merong uling dagdag na item para sa mga bagong teachers.

Dito sa Hong Kong alam ko na naghihirap ang Hong Kong. Ang Pilipinas nga mabuti may 4.4 percent growth rate, GDP, 5.9 GDP. Hong Kong, negative ang growth rate itong taong ito. 'Yung kahirapan ng Hong Kong alam kong nadadanas din ng paghihirap ninyo mga nagtrabaho dito sa Hong Kong. Una sa lahat 'yung SARS, nalulungkot ako kasama ninyo na mayroon tayong mga kababayan na naging biktima dito sa Hong Kong, pati na rin sa ibang mga bansa gaya ng Singapore at Canada. Hindi natin sila kalilimutan sa ating asal at nagpasalamat ako sa lahat ng mga nagtatrabaho sa Hong Kong hospitals dahil sa inyong sakripisyo at magpasalamat din tayo sa ating doktor na pinadala ko dito — 'di ba si Dr. Fajardo yuon? — para maglingkod sa inyong lahat. Malaki ang kanyang pagsisikap noong nagkaroon ng SARS para isigurado na ang ating mga OFW hanggang kaya ay ligtas sa SARS.

Mabuti na rin ay doon sa Pilipinas naagapan natin ang SARS. Maliban sa dalawang namatay sa SARS — 'yung isang worker galing sa Canada at saka 'yung tatay niya — ay hindi kumalat ang SARS. At buong mundo ay pinuri ang pamahalaang Pilipinas dahil sa ating sars management. 'yan nga ay isang binibigay na patunay na 'yung ating administrasyon ay dalubhasa na sa crisis management.

'Yung isa pang problema ng ekonomiya ng Hong Kong na kung saan pati kayo mga OFW ay nadamay ay 'yung napakalungkot na pagbawas ng allowable wage at... Minimum allowable wage at ang pagpataw ng levy sa mga employer ng mga foreign domestic helpers. Ako po sa lahat ng mga pitong bansa na nagpapadala ng OFW dito, ako po ang pinakamasigasig sa lahat ng head of government na ipinaglaban ang aking mga OFW. inalok ko, inalok ko pa nga 'yung ibang mga namumuno. Ipinaglaban ko kayo at inaalok ko pa ang ibang mga lider nung ibang bansa na

may domestic helper dito para magsama-sama tayong lahat sa pakikipagbakang ito at tayo ay nagsampa ng kaso. Tayo ay naglead doon. Pitong bansa ang nagkasama pero ang pinakalider ang Pilipinas.

Pangalawa sa activeness ay ang Indonesia, at ayon sa ulat, naging matagumpay naman ang unang bahagi ng ating pakikibaka dito sa Hong Kong high court tungkol sa isyung ito bagamat may kabagalan. Alam naman n'yo sa Pilipinas akala natin ang korte matagal ang kanyang proseso, pati sa ibang bansa, pati na rin sa Hong Kong. Ngunit ayon sa abogado na humahawak ng kaso at pati na rin sa ating konsulado meron ng date for argumentation tungkol dito sa kasong ito. umasa kayo na hindi ako titigil na iparating sa mga awtoridad ng Hong Kong ang aking pakikibaka, ating pakikibaka sa kapakanan ng ating mga OFW dito sa Hong Kong.

After all, gaya nang sabi ko, kayo ay huwarang Pilipino. huwaran sa pagtatrabaho kaya mahal na mahal kayo ng inyong mga employers pati sila ay ipinaglalaban kayo. huwaran bilang mamamayan kaya kayo ang number one sa Overseas Voting Registration. huwaran sa paglilingkod sa ating ekonomiya dahil ang dami- dami n'yong pinapadalang remittances.

Mga Pilipino sa Hong Kong, sa Macau, salamat na kayo ay huwarang Pilipino. Sana tuloy-tuloy ang inyong tagumpay.

Maraming salamat at merry Christmas sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during a meeting with the Filipino Community in Hong Kong SAR. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140458/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7539&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino Community in the Kingdom of Bahrain

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino Community in the Kingdom of Bahrain**

[Delivered at the Shaikh Hamad Palace Manama, Bahrain, December 15, 2003]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas. Salamat sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. Salamat sa iyong pag-alaga ng Manggagawang Pilipino maging sa Pilipinas o sa ibayong dagat. At salamat din sa pinagmamalaki namin tungkol sa inyo dahil gusto ko ipaalam sa ating manggagawa dito sa Bahrain na si Pat Sto. Tomas in charge hindi lamang sa manggagawang Pilipino kung hindi manggagawa ng buong mundo dahil siya rin ay pangulo ng International Labor Organization.

Ako ay nagpapasalamat din sa magandang mga sinabi ni Ambassador Maglaya at mabuti naalala niya yung aking bilin sa kanya, gawa nang nung si President Ramos ay nanggaling dito, pag-uwi niya sa Pilipinas ay agad binigyan niya ako nang memo tungkol sa mga problema gaya nang sabi ni Ambassador maglaya hindi sa problema ng community, problema ng Embahada. Inaasahan ko na naayos na yon at akoy nagpapasalamat na nagkakaisa ang Embahada at ang Philippine Community dito sa Bahrain.

Gusto kong ipakilala ko yung ibat-ibang kasama ko dito sa ating delegation. Narito ang aking Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, si Secretary Ging Deles siya ay narito dahil sa napakalaking papel ang ginaganap ng Bahrain para tumulong sa ating usapang kapayapaan sa MILF; nandito rin ang aking Presidential Spokesman, si Secretary Toting Bunye narito rin ang Gobernador ng isang probinsyang muslim, although hindi bahagi ng Autonomous Region, Governor ng probinsya ng Sultan Kudarat, si Governor Datu Pax Mangudadatu at dahil yung kanyang probinsya ay malayo, mahirap, yung donation ho ninyong mga school buildings isa doon ay pupunta sa probinsya ni Governor Mangudadatu sa Sultan Kudarat; palagay ko kilala ninyo ito, dahil pinadala ko siya dito sa Middle East noong kainitan noong Iraq war para isigurado niya na ang mga Filipinos ay out of harms way, si Ambassador Roy Cimat; then dagiti kakailayak ti bangir ko nga Ilocano addadtoy ti maysa nga importante nga personalidad diay amianan ay ang aking Presidential Adviser for the North Luzon Growth Quadrangle, si former Governor ng Ilocos Sur Chavit Singson; at isang dahilan kung bakit napalapit tayong husto sa mga pinuno ng Bahrain ay dahil sa kanyang magandang hospitality pinapakita sa kanila pag nagbisita sa Pilipinas, ito na nga yung nagsalita kanina, salamat sa iyung mga pangdagdag muli na scholarship, si Ambassador King Aguiluz. Binabati ko rin si Ambassador King Aguiluz dahil sa kanyang magandang AMA University dito sa Bahrain. Sabi ko nga sa mga Bahraini businessmen kaninang umaga noong nagkamiting kami, aba, nag-invest na si Ambassador Aguiluz dito sa Bahrain, kayo naman ang dapat mag-invest sa Pilipinas, sabi ko sa kanila.

Kinakatawan ang Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs dahil malungkot tayo na papunta dito si Secretary Blas Ople nagkaroon ng heart attack at yumao kaya ang kumakatawan ngayon ng DFA dito sa aking biyahe ay si Undersecretary Rafael Seguis. palagay ko kilala siya nitong ating delegation from Saudi Arabia dahil dati siyang Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; kinakatawan naman ng ating Trade and Industry, si Undersecretary Tomas Aquino; kinakatawan naman yung ating Department of Tourism, si Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig; at yung nagbibigay sa inyo ng mga serbisyo mula sa Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, si Administrator Ver Angelo; at nagkaroon tayo kanina ng kasunduan sa Bahrain tungkol sa training, pagsasanay sa ibat-ibang mga kakayahan kaya nandito ang Director General ng TESDA, si Alcestis Guiang; at dahil tuloy-tuloy ang construction sa Bahrain meron na naman

tayong bagong... Meron na naman silang bagong reclamation na naman sa North Bahrain. Importante na tayo ay kasama doon sa ibat-ibang mga ganung klaseng pagnenegosyo kaya nandito ang pinuno ng Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines, si Catherine Josephine dela Cruz; meron tayong business delegation at dalawa sa kanila ay narito. Nandito ang isa sa mga higante sa ating construction sector, si FF Cruz or Felipe Cruz; at doon sa negosyo ng packaging nandito rin si Ginoong Mason Ang.

Gusto kong batiin ang ibat-ibang leader ng community dito sa Bahrain. Una sa lahat ang Acting President ng Filipino Club, si Ibrahim Concepcion; ang sports coordinator naman, si Roland Bayubay; ang Professional Group Coordinator, si Tony Ocuenco; ang Artist Group at si Robert Paraan; ang Hairdresser Group, Acelito Culaban; ang Volleyball Group at si Cecille Ignalaga; ang Bowlers, si Lyn Fiel. Salamat ha sa inyong donations, so kayo ang unang nag-donate sa lima. Kaya yon ang ibibigay natin kay Governor Pax Mangudadatu; ang AFAEAT sa pamumuno ni Ramon Anghel; ang TASCOT lalo na si Noni Elario; ang Safety and Order Group, si Ric Tabanao; ang Media, si Luz Refe; ang Arts, si Ofelia Baptista; at saka donor, si Bobby Calimoso; at lahat-lahat na narito mula sa Bahrain maging mula sa Saudi Arabia, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat at Merry Christmas mga minamahal kong kababayan.

Karing Caracal a Cabalen kung kapampangan, mayap a katpanapun pu que congan. ken manen dagiti kakailiak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga rabii kadakayo amin. sa mga taga-Mindanao asa ko nidako, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan. Assalaamu Alaikum sa mga kapatid nating Muslim. Sa mga kasimanwa sang akong bana nga Ilonggo, maayong gabii sa inyo nga tanan and I heard a greeting from somebody from Zamboanga, buenas noches!

Alam nyo dito sa Bahrain nararamdaman ko ang pagmamahal ng mga namumuno rito para sa mga Pilipino at para sa Pilipinas. Paumanhin nyong nahuli ako ngayon dahil dinala pa ako ng Prime Minister sa kaniyang isla. At doon sa kaniyang isla maging doon sa kaniyang hotel ang dami-daming Pilipinong nagtatrabaho maraming Pilipinong nagtatrabaho sa kanila at matatagal na yung ilan doon — 10 years, 20 years — kaya tuloy nakilala nila ang Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng mga Pilipinong nagtatrabaho sa kanila at napamahal sa kanila. kaya kuwento ng Prime Minister, noong minsan siya ay nasa Bali sa isang meeting, gawa ng ang daming nagtatrabaho sa kaniyang Pilipino naging curious siya, gusto siya pumunta sa Pilipinas. Last minute, nagpunta siya sa Pilipinas, na-asign naman si King Aguiluz mag-alaga sa kanya. Ang galing-galing naman ni King Aguiluz mag-alaga at mula noon nagka-love affair na ang Prime Minister sa ating bansang Pilipinas. kaya madalas magbisita sila sa Pilipinas, hindi lamang siya maging mga pinsan niya. Talagang nagtuturista sila sa Pilipinas. Mahal na mahal nila ang Pilipinas. In fact, officially sa aking administrasyon, dalawang beses na pumunta ang Prime Minister doon. Eh, nakakahiya naman mag-imbata ng pangatlong beses hanggang hindi ako pumunta rito. Kaya isa rin yon ang dahilan kung bakit ako ay pumunta rito para sana man hindi naman siya mahiyang pumunta muli for the third time in my administration.

At napakagandang pagkakataon, pinili ko nga itong panahong ito para makapag-Merry Christmas naman tayo sa isat-isa. Alam nyo panginoon talaga ang pumipili ng petsa. Supposed to be noong isang buwan pupunta ako dito. Kaniya lamang nagkaroon tayo nang ilang mga kinailangan asikasuhin ko sa Pilipinas. Ten-day trip yon eh, hinati ko sa five days at pinostpone ko yung aking pagbiyahe sa Bahrain sa araw na ito. Eh, tingnan nyo naman ang nangyari kahapon sa aking pagdating, nadagdagan ang kabuluhan ng aking pagbisita sa Middle East dahil sa pagbagsak ni Saddam Hussein since day one we were with the International Coalition for the Liberation and Reconstruction of Iraq, and this event is a major milestone in that historic effort. We had deployed our peacemakers and humanitarian workers in that country, kaya nandito pa rin si Ambassador Cimatang hanggang ngayon. Noong araw yung civilian ang inaalagaan niya, ngayon inaalagaan niya yung ating humanitarian mission.

And we shall continue to stand beside the Iraqi people in their quest for democracy and prosperity. The late Secretary Ople was one of the stalwarts of our Iraqi policy, and he led both the effort to keep our nationals in the Middle East out of harms way during the crisis, na malaking papel ang ginanap ni Ambassador Cimatang na nandito siya nakapuwesto mismo sa middle east, and also in our effort to help the Iraqi people rise from the crisis.

The nation mourns the death of a great Filipino. We were awed by the vision and indomitable wit of Secretary Blas Ople. He was an architect of Philippine Foreign policy in the finest tradition of enlightened and pragmatic diplomacy. A champion of peace, human rights, collective security and the rule of law. We will miss him and the world will miss him.

Si Secretary Ople ay nandito nga noong isang buwan, noong akoy hindi nakarating. Siya ay katulong ko sa paghiling sa tulong ng Bahrain sa kapayapaan sa Mindanao. Yon nga dati-dati ang inaasahan natin sa Mindanao — Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Libya — ngunit gawa ng kadalasan ang pagbisita ni Prime Minister sa Pilipinas dahil naging kaibigan na rin ni Ambassador Aguiluz. At sinabi niya ano nga baga ang gusto nyong gawin ng Bahrain para tumulong sa inyong paghahanap ng kapayapaan sa Mindanao. Eh sabi ko ang Bahrain sana ay maging isa sa apat na bansang magbabantay sa kapayapaan. yung peace... Ah, yung Ceasefire Monitoring Team kasama doon ang Bahrain at dahil nga doon abot kaya na ang kapayapaan sa Mindanao.

Hindi ako nagugulat sa interest ng Bahrain sa mga ganung bagay dahil kayang-kaya naman niya. Ang Bahrain ay isang modernong Financial Center sa Middle East. At ang Bahrain ay ang pinakamalayang ekonomiya sa buong Arab World, the freest economy in the Arab World. At hindi lamang yon, ayon sa United Nations, sa buong Arab world rin ang Bahrain ay siyang merong pinakamataas na human development index, na siya ang sukat ng longevity. Measure of health, per capita income and also literacy rate. Kaya kayong mga Pilipinong nakatira rito sa Bahrain, siyempre namamahagi rin kayo diyan sa mataas na standard of living. Kaya binabati ko kayo at talagang mapalad na kayo ay narito. Mapalad hindi lamang dahil nakikibagay kayo sa standard of living nila kung hindi na rin dahil sa kanilang kakayahan at pagmamahal sa inyo sila ay tumutulong din sa Pilipinas. Halimbawa, kanina, nandoon nga ako nakipag-usap sa mga negosyante, nakipag-usap kay prime minister at sa kaniyang Cabinet, nakipag-usap sa kanilang hari, na ang laking karangalang binigay dahil kahapon dumating kami, ang hari mismo ang nagsalubong sa airport.

Napakagandang pahayag ng pagmamahal sa Pilipinas. At nung sinasabi ko nga sa mga negosyante kanina ay kung si Ambassador Aguiluz nag-invest na dito, dapat kayo rin mag-invest sa Pilipinas. At kinukuwento ko kay prime minister na doon sa Pilipinas... Dito kasi sa Bahrain, ito ay financial center at sentro ng tinatawag na Islamic Banking. Yung Islamic bank nila dito ay nagpapahiram ng pera dito sa ating Makati-based institutions hindi lamang sa mga Muslim institutions. Ngunit sabi ko sa kanila kami sa Pilipinas meron din kaming Islamic bank na maliit, ang tawag Al Amanah Bank. Kanya lang medyo palpak, siguro dahil hindi tayo marunong magpatakbo ng Islamic bank. Eh, yung mga bangkong iba naman sabi ko matagumpay. So hindi dahil masama ang ekonomiya na pumapalpak yung Islamic Bank, hindi kami talaga marunong magpatakbo ng Islamic Bank.

At dadating ang isang mission, pupunta dito mula sa Central Bank para mag-aaral kung papano magpatakbo ng Islamic Bank. Pero sabi ko sa ibabaw noon dahil free enterprise economy naman ang Bahrain, sabi ko sana naman kayo mga bangkero dito, mga Islamic Bankers, bat hindi rin nyo tignan ang aming Al Amanah bank. Bat hindi na lang ninyo bilhin at irehabilitate ninyo? Aba, kanina sinabi ni Prime Minister sa akin, sino ang kakausapin dahil nagbigay na siya nang instruction na irehabilitate nila ang ating al Amanah Bank.

Kaya bagay na bagay ang pagmamahal sa inyo at yung pagmamahal sa Pilipinas ng mga namumuno dito sa Bahrain. At mabuti naman dahil kailangan din natin ang ganitong klaseng pagkakaibigan para sa ating kaunlaran.

Matagal nang nahuhuli ang ating bansa sa mga karatig-bansa sa kaunlaran. Mabuti na lamang na sa aking administrasyon ang ating growth rate ngayon ay number 6 na sa dalawampu't isang ekonomiya ng Asia-Pacific region Ang ating growth rate ngayon ay mas mabilis na kaysa doon sa mas mayamang ekonomiya kagaya ng Singapore, Hongkong, Taiwan, Korea. Isang dahilan kung bakit sa kabila ng asian crisis our global slowdown ng 2001, 2002 at 2003, isang dahilan kung bakit tumatatag pa rin tayo ay yung inyong mga remittances. kaya maraming salamat.

Talagang kayo ay maituturing kayo ay Overseas Filipino Workers. Pero sa ibabaw noon kayo rin ay Overseas Filipino Investors dahil walong bilyong dollars ang ini-invest nyo sa Pilipinas taun-taon. Yung pinapadala nyong remittances nagagamit sa pabahay, sa pag-aaral — edukasyon, sa mga puhunan ng inyong mga kamag-anak, hindi ba investment yon? Eh kaya naman gusto namin, gusto kong isukli sa inyo naman ang inyong pagmamahal sa ating bansa.

Ito ay isang dahilan kung bakit sa haba ng mga Kongreso na hindi pumapasa ang Overseas Voting Law, sa aking administrasyon napilit pumasa ang Overseas Voting Law. hindi lang yon, yung Anti-Money Laundering Law pinilit ko rin na pumasa, bakit? Isang dahilan ay kung hindi yon ipapasa yung mga International Bankers pagpadala ninyo

ng inyong mga remittances magdadagdag sila ng red tape kung hindi natin ipapasa yon. Kaya para maiwasan kayong mahirapan na ipadala ang inyong remittances sa Pilipinas ay pinilit ko rin na mapasa yung Anti-Money-Laundering Law.

Pinalawak ko rin ang programa ng pabahay. Sa loob ng dalawa at kalahating taon ng aking pamumuno, nagkaroon ang Pilipinas ng pinakamalawak na programang pabahay sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa. At isang dahilan ay dahil maraming bumibili ng pabahay sa mga OFW. Sana kayo ay bumili rin. Hinihimok ko kayo na ilagay ang inyong naimpok na pera sa mga makabuluhang bagay kagaya ng pabahay. Makipag-ugnay kayo sa mga Embahada kung paano pumasok sa programa ng pabahay ng Pag-ibig Fund. Doon sa Saudi Arabia masigasig na masigasig ang pag-ibig, maraming bumibili nang mga bahay, mga OFW. Sana dito rin sa Bahrain.

At salamat muli sa inyong kontribusyon doon sa limang classroom para sa mga parte ng bansa na kulang ng silid-aralan. At binabati ko rin ang inyong Embahada sa mga skills development programs. Para sa mga gusto magkaroon nang mga bagong kakayahan lalo na doon sa mga makauwi na para maging mabilis ang reintegration program sa Pilipinas.

Sana mga kaibigan ipagpatuloy ninyo ang huwarang gawaing na inyong pinagkaka-abalahan dito sa Bahrain. Magtuloy-tuloy harinawa ang tagumpay ninyo at ang tagumpay ng ating sambayanang Pilipino saan man tayo naroroon.

Sa inyong lahat maraming salamat sa mga remittances. Maraming salamat sa magandang reputasyon na binibigay nyo sa Pilipinas. Maraming salamat sa tuloy na pagmamahal ninyo sa ating bansa. At Merry Christmas, minamahal kayo ng bansang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during a meeting with the Filipino Community in the Kindom of Bahrain. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140449/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7537&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the National Federation of Filipino-American Association Convention
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the National Federation of Filipino-American Association Convention

[Delivered at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang December 17, 2003]

MOVING UP THE VALUE CHAIN

Thank you very much, Dick Gordon for that 'wow' introduction. And thank you and your colleagues in the Department of Tourism, Convention Bureau, their attaches because I understand they were working up to three o'clock in the morning just to make the National Federation of Filipino-American Association Convention a success.

It is really with great pleasure and heartfelt emotion that I welcome the officers and members of this second global Filipino networking convention. I would like to greet all of you, *magandang araw sa inyong lahat mga minamahal kong kababayan at Maligayang Pasko, tamang-tama.*

This global convention of Filipinos is a celebration. It is a celebration because it's near Christmastime. But it is also a celebration and a recognition that the best and most competitive resource of our country are the Filipinos themselves.

Sometimes I hear them say the Philippines is rich in natural resources. Maybe Sonny Alvarez and I won't totally agree with that because many of our mines are depleted, many of our forests are depleted, many of our seas are depleted. Maybe we had bountiful natural resources thirty, fifty years ago, but not today. What we have a bounty of, is the talent of the Filipinos.

The quality represented in this convention certainly proves that the country is not short of talents. That there is a generous pool of competent scientists, engineers, I.T. workers, communication technologists, senior managers, doctors, nurses, caregivers, educators, artists and many other professionals and workers. And aside from the 80 million talented Filipinos here, we have you, the eight million talented Filipinos outside our country.

We are the third largest English-speaking nation in the world. And that is one of the reasons why we are so accepted and competitive. But it is not just our English skill – though that is indeed a very important factor – I must say that, we are also a country with the best and largest pool of knowledge and technology workers. We are also the people who probably exhibit the fastest learning curves in the world.

You know, one of the things that I did in Japan, and continuously did this past weekend, was to work with Prime Minister Koizumi on opening the Japanese market for Philippine human resources. And we will begin with caregivers and I.T. professionals. I was being asked by the Japanese, "Okay, we may open our market to your workers with our laws but will your workers be able to compete with the language barrier present there?" And I said, you are underestimating the learning curve of the Filipino. Our Filipinos in the United States, of course, speak English very well, our Filipinos in Italy speak Italian. Our Filipinos in Hong Kong speak Chinese, and they will learn Japanese and whatever they have to learn in terms of technology, just to be successful as you have shown that you can learn whatever you need to learn to succeed and to compete because you, wherever you are, -are always among the highest paid ethnic groups in your host economies.

You gave me a set of resolutions. I often attend conventions that are highlighted by presentation of resolutions. But most of the time in other conventions, the resolution is talking about what the government should do for the members of the convention. In the six resolutions that you gave, I couldn't help but think that the Filipinos, are characterized by the wish of John F. Kennedy that would characterize Americans — that you ask not what the

country can do for you, but you have been deciding among yourselves what you can do for the country, the Philippines.

Nonetheless, I recognize that we do have a role to play in your lives. We do have an obligation to you, who help make our economy run. You, who make us proud in your host economies.

The role of the government in your lives would be, I guess, twofold: one is to promote the rights of our overseas Filipinos; and, the other one is to help you move even forward, even higher into the value chain. To move you higher in the value chain, the platform of my administration is to invest in education and training, to challenge the private sector to also make that similar commitment, and to entice our investors to work with us in the development of human capital. For instance, we have seen that there is a very big demand for our nurses today, because of the aging population in many of the countries that practiced population control a generation ago.

Therefore, there is a rapid deployment of our nurses, and rather than stop that — though we realize that it causes some temporary shortage of nurses here — what has happened is that, we had been able to make the market begin to respond to that. Because we administer a free enterprise economy and the government is not the one that makes the business decisions, the market itself provided now 40 new nursing schools, so that we can produce more supply to meet the demand abroad. And it was providential that just as this 40 new nursing schools cropped up responding to the market, responding to the world demand for Philippine nurses, our Congress was able to pass a law to make the nursing board bigger, more specialized. And therefore now, there are more nursing board members who can go and supervise the 40 new nursing schools, to make sure that the quality of the new nursing schools is at least the same as the quality of the old nursing schools, that produced those nurses that are so much demand in the world today.

That is part of what we mean by helping “move up the value chain,” investing in education and challenging and encouraging the private sector to do that, protecting the rights of overseas Filipinos, as you have celebrated and mentioned through the active support of the overseas Filipino community. Finally, in the short two and a half years of my administration, we were able to pass the much-awaited Overseas Voting Act and the much-awaited Dual Citizenship Law.

I remember when Sonny and I were in the Senate, and we both authored the Overseas Voting Bill. Each version is different or similar in many ways. But it never passed the committee level. So when I became President — and you were visiting me many times — I would say, I’m so proud, at last for the first time the Overseas Voting Bill has passed the committee and is now on the floor for deliberation. And then another visit of yours, I said, I am so glad that for the first time not only the bill passed the House, it has passed the Senate and it is now in the floor for deliberation. Each time we were able to reach a stage that we had not reached before in previous Congresses — until finally the bill became law, not one bill but the two bills that you were asking for.

But it’s not only those two bills that we passed for your sake. You might have heard about the Anti-Money Laundering Law that we also passed. We passed the Anti-Money Laundering Law with the primary motive of making sure that we are not sanctioned by the international banking community, and, because we do not want your remittances to have additional red tape and expenses when you send them back to the Philippines.

I remember the way we would brag to you and to ourselves, everytime the Overseas Voting Law and the Dual Citizenship Law went a stage further than it used to in previous administrations. It was also the same bragging that we did with regards to the veterans rights in the United States. I remember Dick said -the first time we went to the U.S. and in the White House, we had a meeting with the officials of the United States, the Veterans Affairs, even Colonel de Ocampo was there and he said he’s gonna tell all the veterans how I made “taray” to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Because, I told them, “How can you not make this an administration measure, after all the sacrifices that we’ve done for you in the Second World War, and not only that, all the sacrifices that we did to be your first foreign ally, Asian ally, in the war against terrorism.”

And so, it happened that the bill moved faster than in previous administrations. The bill got passed in Congress, and it was the first time. It went to the Senate for the first time, and it slept for awhile in the Committee on Budget. But in the next Congress, we worked for it again, and your work and our work, and the many times that I see President

Bush, or Secretary Condoleezza Rice, usually many times my goodbye is “Don’t forget our veterans.” That’s how I say goodbye to them many times.

And it did, indeed, because I was so proud that the Overseas Voting Bill passed the committee. But it did more than that, it was passed into law. I was also proud that the Veterans Equity Rights... or the Veterans Expanded Rights reached the Senate. Now it’s more than that, it get passed into law. And following your own resolution and your own strong recommendation, my next step will be to work for an equity law and the budget to support it for veterans rights here in the Philippines.

In the past, when I was asking the Bush Administration for veterans rights in the Philippines, they responded from the administration or executive capability, they have been supporting the Veterans Hospital here in the Philippines. But this time it is in Congress, and I will ask Secretary Alvarez, Who is my Presidential Adviser for Overseas Filipinos, to draft a letter for me to the U.S. supporting the Inouye Bill, asking the executive to prepare the budget when the Inouye Bill is passed into law. So, please Sonny, you’ll do that job for me.

So this is my next step, a General Equity Bill for Filipinos living in the Philippines, not only in the United States. As I work to pass these long- awaited laws, the three long-awaited laws in the country, our country: the Overseas Voting Bill, the Dual Citizenship, and also the Anti-Money Laundering Law, the Expanded Veterans Bill or Law in the United States – as I work for that in the last two and a half years and was able to bring those things further than many, many years in the past. I also in the process, gained the experience necessary to understand what we need to do in order to change our society, in a way that leads to economic development and the elimination of poverty. Our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty. Historically, our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors. We were doing one percent growth, 0 percent growth at a time when our Asian neighbors became the new tigers growing double digit.

Ngunit mabuti na lamang at dito sa kasalukuyang administrasyon, two and a half years, ang ating growth rate ngayon ay panganim sa dalawampu’t isang ekonomiya ng Asia-Pacific Region. Ito ay higit pa sa growth rate ng mga mas mayayamang ekonomiya kagaya ng Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, at Korea. Sila’y halos nag-negative sa growth rate dahil sa kahirapan ng ating Asian crisis, pero tayo 4.4 percent ang GDP, 5.9 percent ang GNP. Ano ang diperensiya ng 4.4 percent GDP at 5.9 percent GNP? The GNP includes your remittances, the GDP does not. Kaya ‘yang 5.9 percent growth rate natin dalawa ang pinanggagalingan: isa ‘yung double digit growth ng ating agriculture ngayon. At ito ay hindi aksidente, ito ay dahil ginawa natin ang pinakamalawak na irrigation hectarage sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas. At dahil nakahanap tayo, sa aking karanasan nakahanap sa China ng isang binhi ng palay na nagdo-doble ang ani. Not an accident but really looking, working and therefore making dreams come true.

And the other source of growth is the overseas remittances of our overseas Filipinos. Thank you very much for the eight billion dollars that you are sending our country.

Kaya parating sinasabi ko mga overseas Filipinos, maging overseas contract workers o maging green card holders or dual citizenships...the dual citizens talagang maituturing na investors dahil ang inyong remittances sa inyong pamilya ay mga investments sa edukasyon, pabahay, puhunan. Eh hindi ba investments yaong mga ‘yon. Bilangin pa natin ‘yung resolution ninyo na mag-iinvest ng 60,000 dollars sa ospital, sa PGH. Iyan ay infrastructure, physical capital na inilalagay ninyo, kaya talagang whether you’re a businessman or you’re a contract worker, you are an overseas Filipino investors.

Kami naman dito, we are trying to make your investments worthwhile. We are trying to give you a government that governs properly, so that you will not be afraid of where your money will go. The World Bank is praising us for our moves against corruption. They say our lifestyle check has been successful that is why, we have been able to surpass our targets for BIR and Customs collections. In fact, our Customs collections now are the highest in the history of our country. And also, they have said that our new Government Procurement Law that we passed alongside those three important laws, for the overseas Filipinos has also contributed much to increasing transparency and reducing corruption in government purchases.

My next reform is to organize — and we need a law again for this — the graft fighting agencies into an independent commission against corruption just like the I.C.A.C. in Hong Kong.

I am being advised by no less than the one who established the I.C.A.C. itself in Hong Kong. And we are learning, taking lessons from the experience of Hong Kong. And one of the important things I learned is that inspite the work of the I.C.A.C, inspite of the big budget they started with, inspite of the fact that they are only dealing with one city state — even smaller than Olongapo, it took them seven years to be able to have Hong Kong considered a graft-free country.

The lesson here is that I can understand the impatience of our people, two and a half years of fighting graft, how come there's still corruption? I am impatient too, but if Hong Kong, a small country with plenty of resources, it took seven years to be able to defeat corruption, the lesson we are learning there is that, you don't fight corruption by braggodoccio or bravura or claiming to come with a... St. Michael, who with one swish of the sword and slaying the dragon, no. Fighting corruption is like healing an infected wound, constantly cleansing, disinfecting through enforcement like the lifestyle checks, and through systems changes like the Procurement Law and I hope the I.C.A.C.

At ito ang sinisikap naming gawin para naman karapat-dapat ang patuloy na tulong ng overseas Filipinos sa ating bansa. Kayo naman doon sa ibang bansa, we are so proud of you because talking about integrity, competence, 'yan ang reputasyon ng Filipino all over the world. You are competent, you are trustworthy, you are loved by the host economies in which you work, and you are loved by the people you lived and worked with.

Kaya ang huling masasabi ko, ipagpatuloy ninyo ang mga huwarang gawain. Maging tuluy-tuloy harinawa ang tagumpay ninyo, dahil ang tagumpay ninyo ay tagumpay ng inyong Inang Bansang Pilipinas. Maraming salamat and Merry Christmas to all of you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2003*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

The President's radio address to the nation

The President's radio address to the nation

January 3, 2004

Mga kababayan, Manigong Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat. Ayon sa isang kilalang survey group, ang karamihan ng ating mga kababayan ay sinalubong ang Bagong Taon na tigib ng pag-asa, salamat sa Panginoon. Sana ito ay senyas ng malakas na simulang nagawa ko sa maikling panahon ng aking pagkapangulo. Napaikot natin ang ekonomiya at napatatag ang kaguluhang minana natin.

Ipinaglalaman ko ang pagbabago para sa karaniwang Pilipino. Maging ang kalakasan ng aking foreign policy ay nagbibigay ng kumpiyansa sa mga bansang namuhunan sa ating bansa para lumikha ng trabaho at maitaas ang suweldo ng karaniwang Pilipino. Senyas ng kalakasan ng ating foreign policy na ginagamit natin para lumikha ng trabaho ang Pilipino ay nakuha natin ang isang puwesto sa United Nations Security Council. At ang pinakamakapangyarihang lider ng mundo, ang Pangulo ng Amerika, ay nagbisita rito. Ginawa tayong isang pangunahing kakampi ng Amerika.

to ay nagbibigay rin ng higit na proteksiyon para sa ating mga OFWs. Halimbawa, Hinarap natin ang giyera sa Iraq sa pamamagitan ng pagbubukas ng linya ng komunikasyon sa mga pamilya upang sila ay makapag-usap at mabawasan ang pangamba. Ngayon at nahuli na si Saddam Hussein, sa madaling panahon puwede na itayo muli ang ekonomiya ng Iraq at mga kakampi kagaya ng Pilipinas ay makikinabang sa dagdag na trabahong malilikha dito.

Sa maikling panahon din ng aking pagkapangulo nakamit natin ang wala pang kapantay sa pagsulong sa pabahay, laban sa katiwalian, at kalinga ng kalusugan. Nagtayo tayo ng depensa laban sa SARS sa pamamagitan ng pangangalaga sa bawa't Pilipino sa loob at labas ng bansa, at ng pagtulong sa isa't isa upang mapigilan ang paglaganap ng karamdaman. Sa ating pagpalawak ng Phil-Health ngayon nakararami na sa ating pamilyang Pilipino ay sakop na ng health insurance. Ito ay down payment at hindi ako kuntento, dapat universal health insurance o lahat ng pamilya sakop sa Phil-Health sa mga darating na taon.

Ganoon din ang presyo ng gamot. Nahati natin ang presyo ng maraming gamot na karaniwang binibili ng mahihirap na binibenta sa mga ospital ng pamahalaan. Ito rin ay pawang down payment, hindi ako kuntento dapat lahat ng gamot na karaniwang binibili ng mga mahihirap ay nabibili sa nahating presyo kahit na saan. At ito ay gusto nating mangyari sa mga darating na panahon.

Kailangan din ang political will at liderato upang makaraos sa mga puwersang gustong hatiin tayo. Nasupil natin ang tangkang kudeta ng wala pang isang araw, gamit ang bisa ng batas na suportado ng kagustuhan ng nakararami, o popular will. Nilutas natin ang nakaambang krisis konstitusyonal mula sa impeachment case laban sa Chief Justice sa pamamagitan ng pagkakasundo ng mga institusyon sa demokratikong paraan.

Ang ating laban po sa terorismo ay maraming nagawa na hindi mapapantayan. Ang ating kampanya laban sa droga at kidnapping ay nakapagdulot ng mga resulta na nagbalik sa pananalig sa batas ng mga Pilipino mula sa iba't ibang antas ng lipunan.

Ang mga Pilipino ay sumikat sa mga natatangi at dakilang paraan. Si Manny Pacquiao ay nanalo sa kanyang kampeonato. Nagwagi tayo ng halos dalawang daang medalya sa Southeast Asian Games. Sinundan ang napakarami ring medalya sa Asian Games. Nakuha ni CJ Suarez ang Bowling World Cup. Ang ating mga kababaihan at kabataang golpista ay sikat din sa mga pananalito. Mga atleta, manunulat, lider ng simbahan. Guro, sundalo at

maraming iba pang magigiting na kababayan ang bumuo sa tapestry ng kahusayan nitong nagdaang taon na nagbigay dahilan upang tayo ay magmalaki at magpasalamat na maging Pilipino.

Ang mga relief workers sa Southern Leyte ay kinaligtaan na ang Pasko kasama ng kanilang mga pamilya, kagaya rin ng ating peacekeeping team sa Iraq at milyun – milyong overseas workers, gayundin ang sundalo sa larangan ng labanan at mga pulis na nagbabantay sa checkpoints sa lahat ng oras.

Ang taong 2004 ay may pangako ng pag-asa, at ang ating mga downpayment na pagbabago ay dapat masundan ng installment na wala pang kapantay na pagbabago na gawin tayong higit na ligtas at palakasin ang ating mga pamilya at pupuksain ang katiwalian.

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa ating mga natamasa sa mga nakalipas na taon. Inilalagay sa kamay ng Panginoon ang bukas para sa pamilya at bansang Pilipino. At humihingi ng grasyang gawin ang utos ng Diyos sa aking tungkulin.

Bagong Taon, bagong kinabukasan... Ipaglaban natin ang dapat... wakasan ang paghihirap.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Proclamation Program of all Pro-administration Party Candidates

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Proclamation Program of all Pro-administration Party Candidates**

[Delivered at the Plaza Roma, Intramuros, Manila, January 5, 2004]

Maraming salamat, Mayor Lito Atienza. At salamat sa kababaihang maynila na naaasahan parati.

Kagalang-galang na pangulong ramos, kagalang-galang na Speaker de Venecia, mga kababayan, pagpalain nawa tayo ng Maykapal sa natatanging araw na ito.

I am married to our country. Kasama n'yo, ating sambayanan, ipinaglalaman natin ang pagbabago para sa karaniwang Pilipino para magkaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa, tiyak na tahanan, kalusugan, magandang edukasyon. Nagkaroon tayo ng magandang panimula sa maikling panahon lamang. Napaikot ang ekonomiya, napatatag ang kaguluhang namana, nakamit ang wala pang kapantay na pagsulong sa palupa — kaya andami na nga nakatanggap ng lupa na narito ngayon — nakaabot ang health insurance sa nakararaming pamilya, nakalagay ng murang gamot sa mga botika ng pamahalaan, nakalagay ng mga sistema laban sa katiwalian.

We used our foreign policy to bring in investments para maglikha ng trabaho at paibayuhin ang sweldo, para magtayo ng imprastruktura at itulak ang frontiers ng edukasyon, job training, ibang gamit para magtagumpay ang tao.

Ang mga ito ay downpayment. Subalit kailangan pa ng dagdag na installment. Marami pa ang kailangan nating gawin.

Ngayon, kasama natin ang ilang makakatulong sa walang humpay na paglaban tungo sa pagbabago. Pakilala ko ang ilan sa kanila.

Nauna nag-file at tumuloy na sa Surigao para makiramay sa kaniyang mga kalalawigan sa oras ng sakuna, si Bobby Barbers. Narito 'yung kanyang kasing-guwapong anak, si Dean Barbers. Oo, dahil si Bobby ay nasa Mindanao, nauna nang mag-file, pumunta sa Mindanao pero kilala na naman ninyo dahil hinalal n'yo siya six years ago, son of Mindanao – the Philippines' food basket — Mr. Law and Order, author of one of the toughest drug laws in the world, Senator Bobby Barbers.

Si Pong Biazon. Ipinaglalaman ang kapakanan ng mga sundalo. Ipinaglalaman ang pabahay. Ipinaglalaman ang mga sektor na nanganganib sa globalisasyon — 'yan si Pong Biazon.

Pia Cayetano. Compañera, kabataan, young professional with brains and heart, anak ng yumaong Senador Rene Cayetano. Noon may Compañero tayo, ngayon may Compañera, si Pia Cayetano.

Dick Gordon, Mr. "WOW Philippines." lumikha ng napakaraming trabaho at kabuhayan dahil sa paglaganap ng turismo. Nagkaroon tayo ng SARS, tumaas pa rin... Ay, hindi tayo nagkaroon ng SARS. Nagkaroon ng SARS ang mundo, tumaas pa rin ang turismo sa Pilipinas — "WOW" Dick Gordon.

Parouk Hussin. Rebeldeng nagbalik-loob sa pamahalaan. Tunay na simbolo ng ating sinseridad sa proseso ng kapayapaan, simbolo ng ating pagtupad sa ating mga peace agreements dahil ang dating MNLF ay ngayon gobernador ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Kampiyon ng mga Muslim para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran — Dr. Parouk Hussin.

Kinakatawan ang kaniyang anak si Dudut, si Sonny Jaworski. Bida ng makadiyos na diwa sa loob ng disiplinadong katawan. Sa ingles, fighter for a sound mind in a sound body, on and off the court — Bobby Jaworski. Baka maboto si Dudut sa Senado, ha?

Lito Lapid. Naku! Halatang-halatang sikat nga gobernador ng Pampanga. Katulong ng masa sa oras ng krisis — Lito Lapid.

Orly Mercado. Kapwa ko, mahal ko. At baka hindi n'yo alam matagal nang tumutulong sa aking pamahalaan sa mapayapang pag-aalaga ng mga manggagawa — Orly Mercado.

Sonny Osmeña. Sa batas n'yang ginawa, ginawang madali ang paggamit ng cell phone, kaya tuloy ang Pilipinas ay text capital of the world, salamat kay Sonny Osmeña.

Bong Revilla. Tagapangalaga ng pelikulang Pinoy, kilabot ng mga pirata ng vcd — Bong Revilla. Mar Roxas. Mr. Palengke. Ama ng presyong abot-kaya. Kampiyon ng mamimili. Kampiyon ng maliliit na negosyante — Mar Roxas.

At ang ating kandidatong pagka-bise presidente, si Noli “Kabayan” de Castro, the most famous television commentator. Pinalalawak ang kaalaman ng masa, ipinaglalaban ang karapatan ng masa, Mr. Public Service himself — Noli De Castro.

Kami ang k4 — Koalisyon ng Katapatan at Karanasan sa Kinabukasan.

It will take time and resolve to overcome the strong forces trying to divide us. But K4 stands for resolve, K4 stands for clout, K4 stands for the experience to change the economy. To do the unprecedented changes that will make us more secure, that will strengthen our families, that will stamp out corruption. K4 can do it for the future of the average Filipino.

We have made progress, but we will need your support to get the job done for the fundamental change in our political system. Ipaglalaban ng K4 na tayo ay magkaroon ng parliamentary at federal form of government. Ipaglalaban ng K4 na palitan ang kultura ng katiwalian. Ipaglalaban ng K4 na pigilin ang salot ng droga. Ipaglalaban ng K4 na ubusin ang terorismo. Ang K4 ay ipapaabot sa lahat na pamilya ang health insurance, lahat ng pamilyang Pilipino. Ang K4 ay paparamihin ang pabahay. Ang K4 ay papalawakin ang karapatang panlupa. Ang K4 ay lilikha ng higit na trabaho at mas mataas na sweldo. Magkakaroon tayo ng malinis na tubig at malinis na pamahalaan.

Karapatan at karanasan sa kinabukasan. Mabuhay ang K4!

Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Proclamation Program of all Pro-administration Party Candidates. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412091157/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5510&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Vin d'Honneur 2004

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the Vin d' Honneur 2004

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, January 9, 2004]

MOVING FORWARD ON THE PATH OF GROWTH

Once again, we gather at the start of a new year to wish one another well, and to take stock of the year just past and the year just beginning.

This is both a happy and a challenging task.

Happy, because we can reaffirm our fundamental solidarity as a community, a peace loving nation in the country and a community of peace loving nations in the world, committed to the betterment of human life in our country and all around the world.

Challenging, because we must continue to address the most urgent issues of our times—mass poverty, terrorism, environmental degradation, social injustice.

But it is these challenges that give our lives and our community and our offices their purpose and meaning. You and I are bound by solemn pledge of service to our peoples and our nations. Our respective peoples, our respective nations and the world. Ours is a special fraternity—those who pass through our work in diplomacy, must represent humanity at its best, but must also act to save humanity from its own worst tendencies. That is also what politicians must do, and that is also what the armed forces and the police must do.

Here in the Philippines, 2004 is shaping up to be a year fraught with both challenge and opportunity. Our resolve to stay the course of the downpayment that we had put in, in reform and reconciliation will be put to the test. But this is a test we face with confidence and enthusiasm.

We have no choice, but to move forward on this path of growth. Like many of the countries represented in this hall today, the Philippines is caught between the claims of its feudal past and the imperatives of the global future. We must complete the revolution that our forebears began more than a century ago and take the mission to uplift the life of every Filipino to the global stage.

During the short time that I had been President, I have been fighting in behalf of our people and our nation to make a strong, secure and respected. I have been fighting to improve the image, respect and clout of the Philippines abroad in order to aid our quality of life here at home. I have been fighting to secure the rights and privileges of our overseas Filipinos in order to aid their friends and families here at home. I have been fighting for peace in Mindanao with our allies abroad in order to bring stability, unity, and prosperity to our Muslims and Christian peoples here at home. I am happy reviewing what we have been able to do in the short time of my Presidency.

No longer is the Philippines an isolated nation from the modern world. And we thank Divine Providence. We thank you the members of the diplomatic corps, we thank my fellow policy makers, we thank our law enforcers and keepers of the peace for helping us restore the luster of the nation and the respect of the world. We thank Divine Providence and you, dear friends, for being together with me in the fight against terrorism and for peace in Mindanao. We thank Divine Providence, the government officials of the Philippines and the governments of the diplomats represented here that for the first time in a generation we're Asia's representative through the Security Council of the United Nations.

We have aligned our foreign policy to gain the respect of the nation on the world stage in order to champion the common man at home.

I have harnessed the goodwill of you, our allies to lift up the poor at home as a result of our pursuit of economic justice here in the Philippines and the pursuit of our rightful role abroad.

As we enter the New Year, we take hope and thank god for a better future.

In that spirit, I wish you all a Happy New Year and invite you to join me in a toast to the good health of the people and government of the republic of the Philippines and the good health of the people of the countries who are with representatives to our diplomatic corps in the Philippines.

Mabuhay and Happy New Year!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Vin d' Honneur for the Diplomatic Corps

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Vin d' Honneur for the Diplomatic Corps**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, January 9, 2004]

Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, Chief Justice and Mrs. Davide and the Justices of the Supreme Court and the other courts, Officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, members of the Cabinet, ladies and gentlemen.

Once again, we gather at the start of a new year to wish one another well, and to take stock of the year just past and the year just beginning.

This is both a happy and a challenging tasks.

Happy, because we can reaffirm our fundamental solidarity as a community, a peace loving nation in the country and a community of peace loving nations in the world, committed to the betterment of human life in our country and all around the world.

Challenging, because we must continue to address the most urgent issues of our times—mass poverty, terrorism, environmental degradation, social injustice.

But it is these challenges that give our lives and our community and our offices their purpose and meaning. You and I are bound by solemn pledge of service to our peoples and our nations. Our respective peoples, our respective nations and the world. Ours is a special fraternity—those who pass through our work in diplomacy, must represent humanity at its best, but must also act to save humanity from its own worst tendencies. That is also what politicians must do, and that is also what the armed forces and the police must do.

Here in the Philippines, 2004 is shaping up to be a year fraught with both challenge and opportunity. Our resolve to stay the course of the downpayment that we had put in, in reform and reconciliation will be put to the test. But this is a test we face with confidence and enthusiasm.

We have no choice, but to move forward on this path of growth. Like many of the countries represented in this hall today, the Philippines is caught between the claims of its feudal past and the imperatives of the global future. We must complete the revolution that our forebears began more than a century ago and take the mission to uplift the life of every Filipino to the global stage.

During the short time that I had been President, I have been fighting in behalf of our people and our nation to make a strong, secure and respected. I have been fighting to improve the image, respect and clout of the Philippines abroad in order to aid our quality of life here at home. I have been fighting to secure the rights and privileges of our overseas Filipinos in order to aid their friends and families here at home. I have been fighting for peace in Mindanao with our allies abroad in order to bring stability, unity, and prosperity to our Muslims and Christian peoples here at home. I am happy reviewing what we have been able to do in the short time of my Presidency.

No longer is the Philippines an isolated nation from the modern world . And we thank divine providence. We thank you the members of the diplomatic corps, we thank my fellow policy makers, we thank our law enforcers and keepers of the peace for helping us restore the luster of the nation and the respect of the world. We thank divine providence and you, dear friends, for being together with me in the fight against terrorism and for peace in Mindanao. We thank divine providence , the government officials of the Philippines and the government's of the

diplomats represented here that for the first time in a generation we're Asia's representative through the Security Council of the United Nations.

We have aligned our foreign policy to gain the respect of the nation on the world stage in order to champion the common man at home.

I have harnessed the goodwill of you, our allies to lift up the poor at home as a result of our pursuit of economic justice here in the Philippines and the pursuit of our rightful role abroad.

As we enter the New Year, we take hope and thank god for a better future.

In that spirit, I wish you all a Happy New Year and invite you to join me in a toast to the good health of the people and government of the republic of the Philippines and the good health of the people of the countries who are with representatives to our diplomatic corps in the Philippines.

Mabuhay and Happy New Year!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Vin d' Honneur for the Diplomatic Corps. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412091130/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5499&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the launching of the “Safe 4 SR – Safe for Sure” Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the launching of the “Safe 4 SR-Safe for Sure” Program**

[Delivered at the Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City, January 27, 2004]

EDUCATION FOR A STRONG REPUBLIC

Hindi na ako magliliguy-ligoy, maikli lamang ang aking sasabihin dahil tayong lahat inip sa mga mahahabang diskurso. Gusto natin, hinahanap natin salita. Hindi salita, hinahanap natin salita na maikli pero gawa na mahaba at magaling.

Kaya direktong tayo sa paglulunsad nitong programang “Safe 4 SR – Safe for Sure” ang ating linulunsad ngayon ay programang tulong sa mga napipilitang tumigil sa pag-aaral, kung kailan patapos na dahil sa kakulangan ng pera.

In my going around the country with people, I have found that many students and their families spend time and money for three or four years of college, only to run out of resources on the final lap. *Ilang beses ako nakatagpo ng hindi makakuha ng clearance sa graduation o kumuha ng final exam dahil ‘yung utang niya nung first year pa ay hindi pa nababayaran o ‘yung last leg nakapusan ng pera, kasi sa ordinaryong Pilipino kailangan matugunan muna ang mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng pamilya kagaya ng pagkain. Kaya maraming nahihirapan tustusan ang pag-aaral sa kolehiyo, lalo na kung konti na ang natitirang pondo ng pamilya.*

Nauunawaan ko itong problemang ito dahil ito ang istorya ng aking tatay, si dating pangulong Diosdado Macapagal, na nagsimula ng kaniyang law school, tapos hindi makatuloy dahil nagkasakit, hindi na pwede magtrabaho, ‘di na pwede maging working student. Sabi ng doctor sakanya kasi nagka-tuberculosis: “either you stop working or you stop studying.” but if he had to stop working, he had to stop studying, kasi wala na siyang pera. Salamat may Don Honorio Ventura na nagpatuloy ng kaniyang huling pangangailangan. At dahil nakatuloy siya sa tulong ng isang mabait na tao, naging Bar topnotcher, narating ang kaniyang tagumpay sa pagpupunyagi niyang makatapos ng pag-aaral sa kabila ng kanilang kahirapan. Eh, kayo, ‘yung mga estudyante na nagsimula na tapos hindi makatapos dahil nakapusan ng pondo gaya nang nangyari sa tatay ko, eh, hindi na man lahat kayo makakahanap ng Don Honorio Ventura na indibidwal kaya nagpasya akong kumilos upang lutasin ‘yung problema ng mga Diosdado Macapagal sa kasalukuyang henerasyon.

Nalaman ko meron tayong four hundred thousand scholarship programs sa ating bansa pero kulang ito. Napag-alaman ko na ang scholarship at student loan programs ng CHED ay hindi nakaka-abot sa lahat ng mga nais nating tulungan. Ito ay nakakaabot sa 20 percent ng mga estudyante sa private schools pero ang estudyante sa private schools ay konti rin lamang haming sa estudyante ng buong bansa natin. At hindi lamang ‘yon, ‘yung scholarship na ‘yon, kung nakakaabot man sa four hundred thousand students, ang kanilang naipagkakaloob ay hindi sapat to cover the whole cost of college education. Now, the 2004 budget will give the biggest funding support to education and scholarship in our history.

Ito ang ating linulunsad ngayon, interest-free student loan program na ating hinahandog ngayon, ‘yung mga kinakapos na 3rd year, 4th year at graduating college students ay hindi na mag-iisip kung saan kukuha ng pantustos sa inyong pag-aaral. Maaring umutang kada semester hanggang 8,000 pesos ang isang estudyante. Babayaran, two

years after graduation. Kung kayo ay umutang ng less than 4,000, babayaran ito sa loob ng five years. Kung kayo naman ay umutang ng mas malaki, beyond 4,000, babayaran n'yo sa loob ng ten years.

'Yan ang talagang 'Study Now, Pay Later' get your degree, get a job, and then repay your loan.

This is our fight for education for the average Filipino. Sana ang ilan sa inyong nakakapos ng pondo para magpatuloy ay makapagtapos dahil dito. At sana magkakaroon sa ilan sa mga estudyanteng ito ang mga susunod rin na pangulo ng republika ng Pilipinas sa inyong henerasyon.

Congratulations, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Student Summit and Launching Ceremony of the Student Assistance Fund for Education for A Strong Republic

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Student Summit and Launching Ceremony of the Student Assistance Fund for Education for A Strong Republic (Safe 4 SR or Safe for Sure)**

[Delivered at the Araneta Coliseum, Cubao, Quezon City, January 27, 2004]

Thank you very much, Brother Rolly Dizon, former president of La Salle University and now chairman of the Commission on Higher Education.

Kanina noong ako ay pumapasok ang nag-e-emcee naman, gusto kong batiin rin siya, si chairman ng National Youth Commission, si Bambam Aquino; at tayo ay nandito ngayon sa Araneta Coliseum sa kagandahang loob ni Mar Araneta Roxas. Thank you very much, Mr. Palengke and future senator; gusto ko rin batiin ang project manager itong ating ginagawa ngayon, ang aking bagong assistant for student affairs, si Dennis Cunanan; nandito rin ang namamahala ng mga pulis sa buong Metro Manila, si General Dick De Leon; gusto kong batiin ang dating... Ang isa sa minamahal sa eskwelahan kung saan ako nanggaling, sa Assumption, si Sister Luz Soriano; at isang guwapung-guwapong congressman, si Migs Zubiri; mga estudyante, mga teacher, mga kasapi ng National Youth Commission.

Hindi na ako magliliguy-ligoy, maikli lamang ang aking sasabihin dahil tayong lahat inip sa mga mahahabang diskurso. Gusto natin, hinahanap natin salita. Hindi salita, hinahanap natin salita na maikli pero gawa na mahaba at magaling.

Kaya diresto na tayo sa paglulunsad nitong programang “Safe 4 SR – Safe for Sure.” ang ating linulunsad ngayon ay programang tulong sa mga napipilitang tumigil sa pag-aaral, kung kailan patapos na dahil sa kakulangan ng pera.

In my going around the country with people, I have found that many students and their families spend time and money for three or four years of college, only to run out of resources on the final lap. Ilang beses ako nakatagpo ng hindi makakuha ng clearance sa graduation o kumuha ng final exam dahil ‘yung utang niya nung first year pa ay hindi pa nababayaran o ‘yung last leg nakapusan ng pera, kasi sa ordinaryong Pilipino kailangan matugunan muna ang mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng pamilya kagaya ng pagkain. Kaya maraming nahihirapan tustusan ang pag-aaral sa kolehiyo, lalo na kung konti na ang natitirang pondo ng pamilya.

Nauunawaan ko itong problemang ito dahil ito ang istorya ng aking tatay, si dating pangulong Diosdado Macapagal, na nagsimula ng kaniyang law school, tapos hindi makatuloy dahil nagkasakit, hindi na pwede magtrabaho, ‘di na pwede maging working student. Sabi ng doktor sa kanya, kasi nagka-tuberculosis: “either you stop working or you stop studying.” but if he had to stop working, he had to stop studying, kasi wala na siyang pera. Salamat may Don Honorio Ventura na nagpatuloy ng kaniyang huling pangangailangan. At dahil nakatuloy siya sa tulong ng isang mabait na tao, naging bar topnotcher, narating ang kaniyang tagumpay sa pagpupunyagi niyang makatapos ng pag-aaral sa kabila ng kanilang kahirapan. Eh, kayo, ‘yung mga estudyante na nagsimula na tapos hindi makatapos dahil nakapusan ng pondo gaya nang nangyari sa tatay ko, eh, hindi naman lahat kayo makakahanap ng Don Honorio Ventura na indibidwal kaya nagpasya akong kumilos upang lutasin ‘yung problema ng mga Diosdado Macapagal sa kasalukuyang henerasyon.

Nalaman ko meron tayong four hundred thousand scholarship programs sa ating bansa pero kulang ito. Napag-alaman ko na ang scholarship at student loan programs ng CHED ay hindi nakaka-abot sa lahat ng mga nais nating tulungan. Ito ay nakakaabot sa 20 percent ng mga estudyante sa private schools pero ang estudyante sa private schools ay konti rin lamang haming sa estudyante ng buong bansa natin. At hindi lamang ‘yon, ‘yung scholarship na ‘yon, kung nakakaabot man sa four hundred thousand students, ang kanilang naipagkakaloob ay hindi sapat to

cover the whole cost of college education. Now, the 2004 budget will give the biggest funding support to education and scholarship in our history.

Ito ang ating linulunsad ngayon, interest-free student loan program na ating hinahandog ngayon, 'yung mga kinakapos na 3rd year, 4th year at graduating college students ay hindi na mag-iisip kung saan kukuha ng pantustos sa inyong pag-aaral. Maaring umutang kada semester hanggang 8,000 pesos ang isang estudyante. Babayaran, two years after graduation. Kung kayo ay umutang ng less than 4,000, babayaran ito sa loob ng five years. Kung kayo naman ay umutang ng mas malaki, beyond 4,000, babayaran n'yo sa loob ng ten years.

'Yan ang talagang 'study now, pay later.' get your degree, get a job, and then repay your loan.

This is our fight for education for the average Filipino. Sana ang ilan sa inyong nakakapos ng pondo para magpatuloy ay makapagtapos dahil dito. At sana magkakaroon sa ilan sa mga estudyanteng ito ang mga susunod rin na pangulo ng republika ng Pilipinas sa inyong henerasyon.

Congratulations, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during a meeting with the Student Summit and Launching Ceremony of the Student Assistance Fund for Education for A Strong Republic (Safe 4 SR or Safe for Sure). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412091104/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5496&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Joint Membership Meeting and Induction of Newly-Elected Officers of Private Business Organizations

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Joint Membership Meeting and Induction of Newly-Elected Officers of Private Business
Organizations**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, January 28, 2004]

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much to my new and very worthy Secretary of Trade and Industry, Cesar Purisima.

I would like to greet the leaders of the organizations whom we inducted into office today. Congratulations, President Noemi Saludo. Congratulations, Jun Ortiz Luis. Congratulations, Mike Varela. Congratulations, Oscar Brillo. Congratulations, Rene Soriano. Congratulations to the officers of your organizations. Congratulations also to the other organizations whom I inducted into office though their presidents are not seated here in the front row.

I would also like to acknowledge, a future senator of the republic of the Philippines, ARMM Governor Parouk Hussin. Maraming salamat rin Don Emilio Yap na itong inyong magandang lugar ay pinagamit ninyo sa amin. The newly-inducted officers of the different associations, members of the business community, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Napakaganda nga na ang dami-dami ninyong narito. Sabi nga ni Noemi, sa dami ng pumunta rito mula sa iba't-ibang mga chapter at iba't-ibang mga association, para naging Philippine Business Conference all over again.

And indeed, it is an important time for the cross section of the business community to be together once again because the nation is at a crossroads — whether to move forward toward a modern progressive nation or fall backward to the old formulas that led to the chaos that we inherited.

I, for one, am optimistic about our future. I think my secretary of Trade and Industry is optimistic about our future. For him to retire as chairman of SGV to join me in my administration at this time is a gesture of optimism about the future.

I believe we must seize the moment and offer the hope, the change and the direction that the nation and its people that we all want. We all want change. And as I go around and talk to the average Filipino, I see that the change wished for is in terms of a better life, particularly in economic terms such as jobs, prices, livelihood, and all the things mentioned by Jun Ortiz Luis and Noemi Saludo in their speeches. I have been fighting for change for the ordinary Filipino. I want to bring us together as we move forward in forging a modern nation.

As the business leaders of this nation, I know you share my hope and my concern. You have a clear choice. You can help unify the nation around sound economic leadership, a concern for the average Filipino, and enhanced standing in the international community. Or you can take a gamble on untested leadership, failed governance and the prospects of the Philippines once again being the laughing stock of the world.

We can continue to have the confidence of international countries and companies that have resulted in investment of billions of pesos, or hundreds of millions of dollars, and millions of high-paying jobs here in the Philippines. Or we can lose that confidence, we can lose the allies, and we can lose the jobs that came with them.

The upcoming election is not about me — it is about you. It is about not going back to the past. It is about once and for all moving the Philippine nation and the life and livelihood of the average Filipino ahead.

This past short tenure of my presidency was rocked by sieges on the government and global economic constraints, but the vision of EDSA Dos lives on. We have made a strong start in a short time.

Our GDP expansion of 2003 was the fastest since the Asian crisis, and it is the fifth highest among the 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific. Foreign investment is surging, the highest in many years at 23 percent increase in 2003. Inflation at 3.1 percent is the lowest in a generation that helps you grow your business, that helps the average Filipino keep prices down.

The jobs: more than three million jobs were created under my watch compared to only one million in the whole three years before my tenure. And workers given training for jobs surged to almost a million a year. Wages improved 11.2 percent even adjusted for inflation, and that is without imposing minimum wage legislation. It is because the market under my administration created better paying jobs. Strikes have been cut by one-half, the lowest number in about 20 years. And among the poorest families, the number of household heads earning a living doubled in this period of my tenure.

We have made important down payments on health care, clean water, more housing and a better education system. But these are only a start, we must do better, and we will do better.

We have rescued the economy from the precipice and stabilized the mess we inherited. And once again, the Philippines deals from a position of strength and respect in the international community. We are no longer a lap dog. We have a rightful place at the table in Asia and in the world.

And let me be very clear: the average Filipino and the Filipino family are my primary concern. They form the backbone of this nation and they deserve the fundamental change that we all aspire for them. I am impatient for this fundamental change. You should be impatient, too.

I will fight to change the culture of corruption. Today, you saw in the papers another result of our lifestyle check. I will stop the scourge of drugs and wipe out terrorism.

I thank Noemi for recognizing that we have lend out an unprecedented more than 20 billion pesos in just ten months to small and medium enterprises. I thank her for acknowledging the transport cost of products from Mindanao to Luzon have gone down in many cases by 30 percent because of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway. And my friends from Mindanao are applauding in affirmation.

I thank Jun Ortiz Luis for spending as much time on the accomplishments on kidnapping as I spent during the Philippine Business Conference on what we would do to solve the scourge of kidnapping.

You know, yesterday, I crossed out again the picture of another one of the ten most wanted kidnappers. Five of the top 10 have been neutralized. Angie Reyes and his team have expanded that list to 17. I came early to this meeting today because I have to leave early because I have to receive number 15 in that list of 17 kidnappers because he has been arrested.

And as we work on fighting the scourge of criminality with these successes, I will lead this nation to modernity, to economic strength, and to serving the needs of the average Filipino with a chance for a better life.

Change will not come easily. We're already seeing how the forces of the past are holding the nation hostage and exploiting the fears of the masses. They are not fighting for change. They are fighting to reverse the course of history.

I will fight every day to ensure that we move forward, not backward. And to ensure that government fulfills its basic promise that the average Filipino should enjoy dignity and prosperity.

I will fight to lift millions out of poverty by creating 6 million new jobs in the next 6 years. High-paying jobs built on bringing international investments to the Philippines, making the Filipino entrepreneur strong enough and courageous enough to put his money to in this high-paying investments. Making investments in people such as training and education, and opening up markets for Philippine products around the world

I will fight to provide full enrollment in the national health insurance program. We can aim for that now because during my short tenure as president we have been able to bring health insurance to the majority of the Filipino families today. After all, without good health, how can we expect our citizens to have a good job and provide for their families?

I will fight to build a 150,000 houses a year for our poorest and most deserving, and to continue to increase opportunities for all Filipinos to be able to buy the land they're occupying or to pay regular rent and not be squatters. Without a roof over your head, how can we expect our citizens to do a good job and provide for the well-being of their families?

I will fight to ensure that every community has access to clean water. If we can't have clean water, how can we expect to bring the dignity deserved by our average Filipino who deserves better?

I will fight to bring electricity service to a 1,500 barangays a year which in three years will provide electricity to every barangay in the nation, because during my short tenure, we were able to achieve a 90 percent barangay electrification rate. And now for the first time the majority of the poor households have electricity.

I will fight the corrosive impact of corruption by making government contracts even more transparent for the public to view, because after all in my administration, after many long years of waiting, finally, we were able to pass the E-Procurement Law and now we are beginning to implement it. This is part of the fight to broaden the use of corruption checks as what you have seen in the papers today that identify any government official who attempts to profit illegally from their positions.

And i will fight for continuing to strengthen our economic fundamentals that will set us on a path to economic transformation: balancing the budget, bringing in foreign and domestic investment, bolstering our banking laws, and erasing corruption as an obstacle to growth, prosperity and fundamental fairness.

So today, we find our nation poised for success, and I am ready to lead from a position of strength and experience. There is no room for half-measures, for fence sitting, for equivocation. Too much is at stake. It's time to stand up and be counted. I believe with your help, we will move forward and modernize the nation and improve the lives of the average Filipino.

We could just as easily fall backward to a time when fewer jobs were created — one million jobs for three years? When investment was stifled, when corruption dominated our politics. Our standing in the world was low, and our nation was torn apart by disunity and strife.

My challenge to you, the business leaders, my challenge to you today is to think hard about the kind of Philippines you want, and join me in the fight for change that I have started.

I need you, the business leaders of our country. I need you to invest in the Philippines of tomorrow, not in the failed governance of yesterday.

The choice is yours.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Joint Membership Meeting and Induction of Newly-Elected Officers of Private Business Organizations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412091035/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5490&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Ceremonies of the 25th Annual Convention of the Philippine Association of Water Districts Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During The Opening Ceremonies of the 25th Annual Convention of the Philippine Association of Water Districts (PAWD)**

[Delivered at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, January 28, 2004]

Maraming salamat. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Engineer Feliciano sa inyong pag-welcome at pagpakilala sa inyong lingkod.

Gusto ko rin batiin si Chairman Eduardo Mangayan at saka si Attorney Laureles, Secretary Debangko at lahat ng mga delegado na nandito itong araw na ito. At siyempre ay si Ginoong Villason din ang vice chairman ng PAWD; at siyempre ‘yung aking kasamahan sa pamahalaan, si Larry Jamora, ang administrator; si General Dumpit, ang chairman at sa inyong lahat, welcome. Karing Cabalen kong kapampangan, Mayap Abac Queca Yungan.

Dagiti kakailayak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga bigat yo amin, apo. Sa mga taga-Mindanao asa ko nidako, maayong pag-abot kaninyong tanan kaupod, kauban na ang mga taga-Visayas. Sa mga kasimanwa sang akong bana nga Ilonggo, maayong aga sa inyo nga tanan. Sa mga taga-Eastern Visayas, maupay nga aga ha iyo tanan. And to our big delegation from Zamboanga, buenos dias. To our Muslim brothers, Assalam Alaikum. At sa inyong lahat, binabati ko kayo.

Ako ay masayang kasama kayo dahil kayo ay kabalikat ko sa paglilingkod sa karaniwang Pilipino. Kasi ang karaniwang Pilipino sa aking paglilibot, nauunawaan ko na ang batayang kailangan ng karaniwang pilipino ay pagkain sa bawat mesa at saka kalusugan. Ang malinis na tubig ay importante bilang pagkain. Kapag ikaw ay karaniwang Pilipinong pamilya, ano’ng kinakain ninyo, ano ang nasa mesa ninyo? Kanin, isda, siyempre tubig — pwede bang kakain ng walang tubig na iniinom. Ang tubig ay importante rin sa kalusugan. Pag walang tubig o marumi ang tubig, nagkakasakit, lumalaki ang gastos sa paggamot. Kaya hamon natin lahat, mga kabalikat, na magdala ng malinis na tubig sa karaniwang pamilyang Pilipino.

Ang mga water districts ay mga water districts sa labas ng Metro Manila. Dahil sa Metro Manila at sa ilan diyang mga malalaking lungsod ay merong franchise holders. Ganunpaman, gusto ko lang ipakuwento sa inyo ‘yung aking mga karanasan sa problema ng malinis na tubig dito sa Metro Manila. Kasi dito sa Metro Manila lamang sa aking paglilibot noong nakaraang taon, nalaman ko na sa Metro Manila alone may 160,000 households — eh times five ‘yan to cover the number of people — ito ay ‘yung wala pa silang malinis na tubig kahit na sila ay sakop ng Manila Water at Maynilad.

Kaya ang ginawa ko naglunsad ako ng isang malawakang programang malinis na tubig sa kamaynilaan. Kinulit ko ‘yung maynilad at saka Manila Water na bilisan ang koneksyon. At ‘yung mga physically mahirap magawa ‘yung koneksyon sa maikling panahon sa year 2003 or early 2004, sila ay naglalagay ng tangke o nagdadala araw-araw ng truck ng tubig at nagbukas ng mga gripo sa publiko.

Ginawa kong tagasubaybay nitong proyektong ito ay ‘yung MWSS at saka ‘yung PAGCOR. Kasi doon sa mga walang tubig na koneksyon, ang ginagawa nila ay bumibili ng tubig sa malayo — 200 pesos per cubic meter. Pag may koneksyon, 20 pesos na lamang, one-tenth na lamang ang presyo. Pero sabi ko, habang wala pa ‘yung koneksyon kailangan magdala sila ng tangke o truck ng tubig at ‘yon ay para mapabilisan ‘yung koneksyon, libre muna. Pambayad doon sa ilang taong nagdudusa ang taong bayan na nagbabayad ng 200 pesos per cubic meter.

Ngayon, natupad na itong 160,000 families na nahanap na walang malinis na tubig. Meron na silang access whether ‘yung direct connection na pinabilis o ‘yung tangke ng tubig na malinis o ‘yung water truck o ‘yung barangay

community faucet. Ito ay kasalukuyang pinapalawak rin natin sa mga bahagi ng Rizal at Cavite na sakop din ng Manila Water at Maynilad.

Kung dito sa kamaynilaan ay kinukulit natin ang franchise holders — Manila Water at Maynilad — na bumilis ang kilos, sa labas naman ng kamaynilaan iba naman ang ating approach. Kagaya ng kuryente sa manila at malalaking mga lungsod may franchise holder, pero sa kanayunan ay may electric cooperatives. Ganun din ang tubig sa maynila at saka sa malalaking lungsod, may mga franchise holders o concessionaires. Doon naman sa kanayunan at maraming mga lungsod na nasa probinsiya ay water district naman. At dito naman sa labas ng kamaynilaan, sa probinsiya, ang ating patakaran ay palakasin ang water district. Palakasin kayo. Doon sa... Kasi talagang very comparable ang karanasan ng water at saka karanasan ng kuryente kung kaya siyempre ang importante ay 'yung mabuting pagmamaneho, management. Kaya kinuha ko bilang pinuno ng LWUA, administration ng LWUA ay isang magaling na negosyante ng Iloilo, si Ginoong Larry Jamora.

Alam n'yo 'yang business district ng Iloilo, palagay ko kalahati ng lupa doon ang may-ari 'yung Jamora family. At kaya dahil magaling sila sa pagpapatakbo ng negosyo, kinuha ko siya para magdala ng modern management sa LWUA sa pagmamaneho ng importanteng problema ng malinis na tubig. At binabati ko siya at kaniyang mga kasama sa LWUA dahil sa nagdala sila ng dagdag na malinis na tubig sa tatlong daang libong Pilipino – kasi 60,000 families, that's 300,000 additional Filipinos — dahil nagtayo ng halos limampung malalaking water supply projects na ito ang gastos ay mahigit sa half a billion pesos. 'Yon ho ang ginawang mga bagong dagdag na malinis na tubig ang lwua. Ngunit kailangan ang mga water districts ay gamitin n'yo 'yung inyong mga kita para sa ganun ay nakaka-expand kayo.

Ako ay nasisiyahan na malaman na nubenta porsiyento ng mga water districts ay ngayon operating on a 24-hour, seven-day basis. Congratulations sa inyong malasakit.

Kaya inaasahan natin na tuloy-tuloy ang pag-iibayo ng pagmamaneho ng water district para sa ganun ay 'yung problema, 'yung hangarin ng karaniwang Pilipino magkaroon ng malinis na tubig ay matutupad.

Bukod pa po doon sa problema ng malinis na tubig sa Metro Manila nandiyan din po 'yung problema ng malinis na tubig sa mahigit isang daang bayan pa rin. At ano ang unang hinihingi bago magkaroon ng malinis na tubig? Magtayo ng water district o mag-expand 'yung water district sa susunod na pinakamalapit na malaking bayan.

Sana po ito ay mabigyan natin ng pansin. At gusto kong malaman din ninyo na 'yung isang programa ko nga para sa mga mahihirap 'yung KALAHI (Kabalikat Laban sa Kahirapan), ito na nga din ay nagkaron ng pagkapatnership sa mga foundation para nga mahanapan ng pondo 'yung maglalagay ng tubig dito sa more than 100 waterless municipalities.

Sana ang hinihingi ko kay Larry ay ipagsama niya 'yung mga water district at saka 'yung mga foundation na kausap ng kalahi para may kumbinasyon ng pondo mula sa foundation at management mula sa water district para lagyan ng malinis na tubig itong more than 100 waterless municipalities.

Magagawa ni Larry 'yan eh kasi kasama na kayo bilang water district at kilala naman niya 'yang iba't-ibang mga negosyante na may malalaking foundation na tumutulong dito. Alam n'yo si Larry nino-nominate 'yan eh for mayor of Iloilo City. Pero tinanggihan niya 'yung nomination kasi gusto niyang maglingkod sa ating hangarin magkaroon ng malinis na tubig ang kapwa karaniwang Pilipino.

Isang importanteng gawin din natin sana, hindi lang kakulangan ng pondo ang problema kasi ng tubig eh talagang kakulangan ng tubig na nanggagaling sa kalikasan. In the last October and December, lalo na sa Luzon, nagkulang ang ulan. Sinisikap natin na magkaroon ng cloud seeding pag maganda 'yung ulap. Pero ang importante rin sana dahil marami kayong sakop, marami kayong kausap, magtulungan tayo para sa water conservation.

Alam n'yo 'yung isang ale doon sa Payatas, nung ako ay naghatid ng water tank, 'yung moving water tank, 'yung araw-araw na pumupunta doon ay kinuwento niya sa akin, kasi 'yung bahagi ng Payatas na 'yon ay matagal na, ilang taon nang walang tubig. Kaya bumibili sila ng 200 pesos per cubic meter, kaya talagang kailangan mag-

conserve sila. At kinekuwento niya sa akin kung papano siya nagco-conserve ng tubig. Sabi niya pag siya ay naliligo, siyempre tabo kasi 'yung tubig binibili lang nila, walang running water. Pero nakatungtong siya sa palangana. Kaya 'yung tabo na ginagamit, 'yung tubig sa tabo naiipon sa palangana at 'yon ang ginagamit niyang unang pangkuskos ng kanyang labada. Pagkatapos noon 'yung tubig na 'yon na kinuskusan niya ng unang kuskos ng labada ang ginagamit naman para i-flush 'yung kanyang kasilyas.

Biro n'yo isang tubig tatlong paggamit. At natutunan niya 'yan dahil mahal na mahal ang tubig. Sana sa mga ibang lugar kahit na hindi mahal na mahal ang tubig siguro kayo mga water district pwede n'yong ikuwento itong magandang halimbawa ng isang ale sa payatas na marunong magmalasakit at maging responsableng gumagamit ng malinis na tubig.

Kaya ang dami nating kailangang gawin. Kailangang bigyan ng tubig. We must have clean water and clean government. 'Yan ang napakamagandang simbolo or slogan — 'yung clean water bilang sagisag ng essential services; 'yung clean government bilang sagisag ng pamamahala na hinihintay ng lahat ng karaniwang pilipino, kasama kayo at kasama ako.

Itong araw na ito siguro nabasa n'yo sa peryodiko may ilang mga official ng gobyerno, ng bir at customs na lumagpak sa lifestyle checks. Iyan ho ay isang masasabi nating pinupuri tungkol sa Pilipinas ng ibang mga institusyon kasi ngayon lang natin ginagamit itong lifestyle check para mahuli 'yung mga official na tiwali. Kasi kailangan ginagamit natin 'yung mga mabibisang teknolohiya para mag-investigate. At inaasahan ko na dito sa buong pagpapatakbo ng water district ay hindi lamang clean water kung hindi clean governance din ang ating ibibigay sa ating mamamayang pinaglilingkuran.

Sa inyong lahat, congratulations!

Happy anniversary! And may you have a successful convention.

Maraming salamat po.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during The Opening Ceremonies of the 25th Annual Convention of the Philippine Association of Water Districts (PAWD). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412091049/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5492&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 13th Anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 13th Anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP)**

[Delivered at the Grandstand, Camp Crame, Quezon City, January 29, 2004]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Joey Lina sa iyung napakagandang pagpakilala sa akin.

Troop commander General Delfin give “Tikas Pahinga.”

His Excellency former president and former chief PNP, President Fidel Ramos; General Ebdane and Mrs. Ebdane, and the other officers of the PNP; former chiefs of the Philippine National Police; AFP Chief of Staff, General Abaya and the other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; members of the Cabinet; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; officers, men and women of the Philippine National Police; ladies and gentlemen:

Sabi nga ni General Ebdane lucky 13th. What I can say is as protectors of the people, I have much to congratulate you for today.

Teaming up with other NAKTF units, you closed down an unprecedented number of clandestine laboratories and warehouse, with a total drug haul of an unprecedented amount of billions. You have an unprecedented achievement in the fight against drugs. Congratulations to you!

You have made more than 20,000 arrests among drug lords, big and small, but including the biggest drug lord of them all, the number one lord, William Gan.

Aside from your fantastic achievements in the fight against drugs, you have made equally spectacular achievements on the anti-kidnapping front. Because of you and your other partners in the anti-kidnapping task force, headed by General Reyes, Secretary Reyes, the top kidnap gangs have fallen. Congratulations for the spectacular achievement!

That is why despite all the sound and fury of the political season, even despite the misadventure of some military captains, our nation is safe. The AFP Chief of Staff is on top of the situation as far as the latest AFP incident is concerned. That incident is an isolated incident. No untoward developments have been monitored, and a widespread plot is not indicated. This is another case of partisan exploitation of military adventurism. The AFP will impose the commensurate level of discipline against its err members, and the Department of Justice shall file charges against those found culpable. We will deal sternly with violations of the chain of command. This administration upholds military and police professionalism.

Binabati ko ang pulis dahil sa pinagkaisa ninyong pagtanggol ang republika hindi lamang kontra sa mga terorista, kidnapper, drug lords, kundi na rin kontra sa mga nag-aadventure na lumaban sa pamahalaan kagaya nung magandang ginawa n’yo nung nagkaroon ng oakwood mutiny. Maraming salamat sa inyong katapatan.

Alam ko na ang karaniwang pulis ay karaniwang Pilipino na gusto maging propesyonal sa inyong kilos. Alam ko na habang sinisikap ninyo na maging napakagaling na propesyonal sa inyong trabaho, kayo naman ay nag-aabala bilang karaniwang pilipino sa hanapbuhay. Kaya nga maaga pa sa aking panguluhan ay hinanap ko na ang pondo para maging pareho ang sweldo ng pulis sa mga sweldo ng mga teacher.

Sulit naman ang pagtaas ng inyong sweldo because of the great strides we have made during the short time I have been president in fighting kidnappers, drug lords and terrorists.

Ngunit ito ay down payment lamang. Much more remains to be done. And that is why I formed a PNP Reform Commission last year made up of non-PNP government personnel, private sector personnel and PNP officers. And they will be submitting their recommendations soon regarding the fundamental reforms we need to make in the police institution.

Nagsama-sama tayo sa maraming hrap at maraming pagsubok. Nagsama-sama rin tayo sa pagtamo ng maraming tagumpay. Magsama-sama tayo ngayon upang tunay na ipag-ibayo ang institusyon ng kapulisan. Sundan natin ang down payment. Gumawa tayo ng magandang susunod na installment para sa magandang kinabukasan ng kapulisan maging ng buong sambayanang Pilipino dahil ang kapayapaan at paglilingkod na hinahandog n'yo sa karaniwang Pilipino ang siyang magbibigay ng ginhawa ng kalooban.

Maraming salamat.

Mabuhay ang kapulisan! Congratulations!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 13th Anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412091020/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5486&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 117th Commencement Exercises of the Mapua Institute of Technology and the 3rd Commencement Exercises of the Mapua Information Technology Center

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 117th Commencement Exercises of the Mapua Institute of Technology and the 3rd
Commencement Exercises of the Mapua Information Technology Center**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, PICC, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, January 29, 2004]

Thank you very much.

Thank you, Dr. Veja; Ambassador Yuchengco, thank you for this wonderful honor. But more than that, thank you for bringing honor to our country because when you were ambassador to the United Nations, my Ambassador to the United Nations, you were the one who got our votes to get into the U.N. Security Council of 2004; Mrs. Helen Dee, thank you, too; Prime Minister Virata; Secretary Navarro; Dr. Torres; Mr. Lim Sim; Mr. Santos; Dr. Biglete; Dr. Valisno; deans and officers of the administration; parents; graduates; ladies and gentlemen:

I am happy to be here with the Mapua of the 21st century. Mapua has long been synonymous with quality engineering. It is among the institutions that has done us Filipinos proud. Aside from being the choice of Ambassador Yuchengco for his educational innovations for the 21st century, Mapua is also the alma mater of Dado Nanatao, the Filipino Bill Gates.

And so it is fitting today that among the many graduating students of Mapua that we congratulate, we also congratulate the first batch of computer science graduates. May there be more Dado Banataos among you. And may there be Alfonso Yuchengcos among you also in the future.

I congratulate you for graduating. There are many young people, other young people who are unable to graduate. Baka sa mga underclassmen ninyo may mga nanganganib na baka hindi maka-graduate. Hindi dahil kulang sila sa utak kung hindi baka kulang sila sa pondo. Marami pa ngang napipilitang tumigil sa pag-aaral, kung kailan patapos na, dahil sa kakulangan ng pera.

In my going around among the people, I have found that many students and their families spend time and money for college, especially a good private college like Mapua, only to run out of resources on the final lap. Sa karaniwang Pilipino kailangan matugunan muna ang ilang pangunahing pangangailangan ng pamilya, tulad ng pagkain at iba pang gastos. Kaya madalas nahhirapan tustusan ang pag-aaral sa kolehiyo, lalo na kung kukonti na ang natitirang pondo.

Nauunawaan ko ang problemang ito. Ito ay kasaysayan ng aking ama, si dating pangulong Diosdado Macapagal. Siyanga pala, si Diosdado Macapagal ay isang matalik na kaibigan ni Don Alfonso Yuchengco. Every fifth jubilee of my father, Ambassador Yuchengco would give a dinner, a birthday dinner in his honor. Halimbawa, 65th birthday, 70th birthday, 75th birthday, 80th birthday. Minsan, nagkamali ako, nasabi ko kay Dr. Yuchengco na mag e-eighty five na 'yung aking tatay. So, he gave him a dinner. Mag e-eighty four palang pala, nagkamali. But it was providential, he gave a dinner on his 84th birthday but on the 85th birthday of my father, he was already too sick to have been the guest of honor in yet another jubilee celebration. And so it was providential. And I'm very grateful that on the last possible birthday my father could celebrate physically, Ambassador Yuchengco was his host.

Pag-usapan ko 'yung aking tatay. Siya ay nagsimula mag-aral sa abogasiya. Kagaya ng marami sa inyo nakapag-aral at nagtapos sa karera. Nagsimula siya sa abogasiya, mahirap lamang siya kaya siya ay woking student. Ngunit dahil mahirap siya, mahina ang kanyang katawan. Working student, nagtatrabaho, nag-aaral, naglalakad mula sa eskwela hanggang trabaho o trabaho hanggang eskwela hanggang tahanan. Nagkaroon tuloy ng tuberculosis. Sabi ng kaniyang doktor, "kailangan tumigil ka magtatrabaho o tumigil ka mag-aral. Hindi pwede 'yung dalawa." ngunit papano naman siya mag-aaral kung titigil ng trabaho dahil mahirap lamang sila. Wala nang pang-tuition, kaya tumigil nagtatrabaho, tumigil rin mag-aral. Mabuti na lamang ay may Don Honorio Ventura na isang mayaman pero bachelor. Nalaman ang kalagayan niya, binayaran 'yung kaniyang pagpapatuloy ng pag-aaral. Kaya naging bar topnotcher siya tuloy at narating ang kaniyang tagumpay sa pagpupunyagi niyang matapos ang pag-aral.

Eh hindi lahat ng nakakapos ang estudyante ay nakakahanap ng kanilang don Honorio Ventura. Ni hindi lahat ay nakakahanap ng kanilang Don Alfonso Yuchengco. Kaya nagpasya ako na kumilos upang ang mga problema ng mga estudyanteng ganito ay malutas.

Napag-alaman ko na totoo may scholarship program at student loan program ang CHED, ngunit hindi ito nakakabot sa lahat ng mga nais nating tulungan. Siguro merong ilan sa inyo ay natulungan, hindi ko alam dahil alam ko meron mga 400,000 students ang natutulungan sa scholarship. Bukod dito, ang kanilang mga... 'Yung CHED 'yung naipagkakaloob ay hindi sapat para sakupin lahat ng gastos ng college education. Baka mabayaran ang tuition, baka hindi mo mababayad 'yung ibang miscellaneous fees. But now in the 2004 budget, because we have been able to manage our budget deficit ceiling, we've been able to do appropriate fiscal policy, we've been able to generate more revenues than we targetted, the 2004 budget will give the biggest funding support for the education of deserving students.

Ngayon sa 2004, sa pamamagitan ng interest-free student loan program, ang mga kinakapos ng 3rd year, 4th year at graduating students ay hindi na mag-iisip kung saan kukuha nang pantustos sa kanilang pag-aaral. Dahil maaaring umutang kada semestre kapag kapos ang isang estudyante hanggang 8,000 pesos, at ito ay magsisimulang bayaran two years after graduation. Kung ang utang ay menos sa 4,000 pesos ito ay payable sa loob ng limang taon. Kung ang utang naman ay mas mataas sa 4,000 pesos hanggang 8,000 pesos ito ay sampung taon para bayaran.

And I have already released the initial 200 million pesos for the student loan program. Eto ang tunay na "Study Now, Pay Later." get your degree, get a job within two years, then repay your loan. This is an important component of our fight for education for the average Filipino.

We Filipinos have always valued education. I'm sure the parents here are testimony to that. I'm sure many of your parents have sacrificed so that you can be in this hall today graduating. And thanks to your parents concern. Thanks for the value that the average Filipino gives to education, our country is ranked very highly. It is ranked number one in terms of the number of knowledge workers being produced. Many of these knowledge workers involved engineering, many of them involved information technology. And I congratulate Mapua under the leadership of Ambassador Yuchengco for this thrust of strengthening engineering but also computer science and information technology. Thus, the Mapua of the 21st century occupies a pivotal role in the knowledge society that our country is becoming known for. Information technology and its related industries, they are the growth sector of our future.

We have invested in the infrastructure here. During my administration, we were able to improve the bandwidth in the interconnectivity. So that today, it is only one-third of the cost of what it used to be before i was president.

And with Mapua producing graduates as what we are honoring today, we are also working on the human resources. Thus, we are producing the infrastructure and the human resources necessary for the development of information technology as the growth sector of our future.

Call centers and other back office operations which are — if you talk about I.T. in the range of skills, where on the one hand, you have software development at the highest range, and you have call centers at you would say relatively the lowest requirement of skills.

Let's talk about call centers alone and back office operations. They grew from 2,000 jobs before I became president to now unexpected 40,000 jobs this year in 2004. And these jobs are growing every year.

This is not by accident. At the start of my tenure, I declared that technology will be the basis of our development. And it is becoming true in such a short tenure of my presidency. We can make technology work for and serve the average Filipino.

And I am very proud to be here and honored to be here to acknowledge that Mapua is playing a leading role in creating a modern and progressive Philippines.

To you, the fortunate products of Mapua, and its role in the knowledge society of the 21st century, congratulations!

Congratulations to this great institution. And congratulations to you, our graduates — the hope of the Philippines for the 21st century.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 117th Commencement Exercises of the Mapua Institute of Technology and the 3rd Commencement Exercises of the Mapua Information Technology Center. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090954/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5483&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Rotary International Presidential Celebration on Poverty Alleviation

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Rotary International Presidential Celebration on Poverty Alleviation**

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City, January 31, 2004]

Thank you very much.

Thank you Undersecretary Joc-joc Bolante for your introduction.

Welcome to the Philippines, President of Rotary International Jonathan Majiyagbe

And I would like to greet the icons of rotary in the Philippines – Herman Gamboa, Paen Hechanova, Mr. John Thorne welcome also. Other international and local rotary delegates, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

What a great honor for the Philippines to be one of only fifteen rotary areas to have this “Presidential celebration”. A hundred sixty Rotary clubs all over the world, fifteen are hosting this presidential celebration. Thank you rotary international for giving the Philippines the honor.

And I congratulate Rotary International Jonathan for this big idea and I welcome all Rotarians who are championing it.

When I was coming down the aisle or at the aisle, Jonathan notices that I greeted so many people by their first names. And he said. “Do you remember all the Rotarians by their first names?” I said, a lot of them because before I became a Senator or Vice President or President fighting for poverty alleviation. I was a Rotarian fighting for poverty alleviation. And I am happy to be able to see many of those Rotarians that we used to work together with here in this hall today.

And because, I was a very active Rotarian President, My husband was a multi-awarded Rotary Club President. Rotary has also become a partner of my administration in fighting for change for the average Filipino in fighting for poverty alleviation. In my moving around the country and talking to the average Filipino, I can see that the change wished for indeed is in terms of poverty alleviation. In terms of a better life such as jobs, prices, livelihood, food on every table, shelter security, health, education.

On jobs, the strength of my foreign policy gives confidence to nations to invest in our nation. And because I was a Rotarian before I became a public official, rotary international has come to comprise that part of the international relationships I have developed as an economist. Senator, trade official and President, to run this country and attract huge investments needed to modernize our nation.

I have many beautiful memories of attending international rotary conferences with our Club in Makati Central. With the other Rotarians, with the Rotarians, I remember being in Taiwan, being Osaka, being in Florida together bonding with my club members and their.....But also getting to know and developing that international network that have been able to help the Philippines attain this stature of being a welcoming place for investments.

The people to people international network that I have been able to develop – thanks to Rotary International – is also paralleled by our relationship on the official level with the us and other developed countries that is also part of the network of international relationships. For instance, our strong relationship with the U.S. has resulted during the short time that I have been President in an economic and security relationship worth 6 billion dollars, including American investments like Intel, which has expanded to 1 billion dollars during my administration. Sunpower Solar Cells 330 million dollars investment. Texas Instruments about 70 million dollars and a Car Assembly Plant of Ford 50 million dollars, and numerous Call Centers and other business process outsourcing investments that are becoming the growth sector of our future. Call Centers and business process outsourcing employment in the Philippines have grown from 2,000 seats before I became President to a projected 40,000 seats this year. And doubling every year.

On May here, I called up the Administrator of the Economic Zone Lilia De Lima because I wanted to check with her the figure of Texas Instruments. And she said, I also like to add that this January, Lilia said, in the economic zones we approved almost 10 billion pesos worth of investments compared to only 1.8 billion in January last year.

We want of course, to make the Philippines a safe place for investments, for the average Filipino. For the poor Filipino who has no means to provide to pay for his own security. And even on the security relationship, with the U.S. for instance when I first became President, I inherited a military assistance commitment from the United States worth 1.9 million dollars and counting. Including a giant naval cyclone boat that is arriving of February 23rd worth 30 million dollars just for one naval ship.

In terms of this assistance, military assistance, the Philippines is NO. 1 in East Asia. No. 4 worldwide, with more to come because we have been declared a major non-NATO ally of the U.S.

Last year we increase foreign investment in the Philippines by about 23 percent. In fact, in the short period of my Presidency we created more than 3 million jobs, compared to only 1 million created in the previous 3 years.

I have been talking about investments because the best way to fight poverty is to create jobs, spread wealth which rotary does a lot and give the peoples the tools they need to succeed, which rotary also does a lot of.

Many decades ago, when my father was President of the Philippines, we were one of Asia's most progressive economies. But after that, when the other economies around the Philippines were growing double digit during the East Asian economic miracle. Somehow the Philippines failed to fight for the fundamental reforms we needed to sustain our growth and our place in that community of economies in Southeast Asia.

That is why, I have started to fight for these fundamental reforms that we should have done a long time ago.

The result stability and robust economy—among Asia's best performers as far as growth is concerned. For 2003, GNP grew 5.5 percent compared to an average of 2.9 percent in the three years before I became President. These have defied all expectations and a 3.1 percent inflation rate is the lowest in a generation. Again, this is just a down payment.

I will fight for an unprecedented change that makes us more secure. Strengthen our families, stamp out corruption because these are what we need to fight poverty. I will fight to change the culture of corruption, stop the scourge of drugs and wipe out terrorism because we need an environment that does not have these things in order to fight poverty. And directly for poverty alleviation, I will expand health coverage to all, bring more housing, expand property rights and create more jobs that attract higher wages. We will have clean water and clean government.

I am aware that you Rotarians share many of the same goals and values I cherish. Your programs to promote micro lending to improve farm productivity, your Gawad Kalinga program with the couples for Christ. All of these attest to your commitment to positive social change.

And so I ask you to fight with me, to fight for a change, to be the average Filipinos champion.

Earlier I mentioned, we would have clean water and clean government. A symbol of governance and essential services. You know how to fight for a clean government because you are leaders in the community, you are active in electoral exercises, you are active as watchdogs of the community. And in your weekly rotary meetings, you make public officials accountable to you, to the people with their explanations of what they are doing to serve the people. Your polio class is a very important contribution to the health of the nation which you served. Clean water is also crucial for health.

I specifically mention clean water because I have found in going around the people and even going around Metro Manila that, that still a crying need. In 2003, I did a survey of how many families in Metro Manila have access to clean water and have to go out and buy very expensive water, a 160,000 families in Rizal, I did a survey, a similar survey. 50,000 families. And in the countryside, because Rizal we don't really considered that countryside anymore, it's very urban. In the countryside, more than a hundred municipalities still don't have access to clean water.

This is a major poverty alleviation effort that I am seeking, I am fighting to address. And I am very happy that my project manager for this is a Rotarian, Ram Agoncillo.

And so I ask you Rotarians, if there is something you would like to add that special for the year 2004. Yes! Go on fighting for clean government because we have elections coming up. But help me too, to fight for clean water, an essential element in poverty alleviation.

I thank you all for having helped me before I became President, before I became politician, and helping me even today. And to all our Rotarians from all over the world, thank you for helping your communities and thank you too for helping the Philippines in the international brotherhood of Rotary.

Thank you and welcome once again and to all of you, and Mabuhay.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Rotary International Presidential Celebration on Poverty Alleviation. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090944/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5476&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the Rotary Conference Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Rotary Conference**

[Delivered at the Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City, January 31, 2004]

CLEAN WATER, CLEAN GOVERNMENT

On jobs, the strength of my foreign policy gives confidence to nations to invest in our nation. And because I was a Rotarian before I became a public official, Rotary International has come to comprise that part of the international relationships I have developed as an economist. Senator, trade official and President, to run this country and attract huge investments needed to modernize our nation.

I have many beautiful memories of attending international Rotary conferences with our Club in Makati Central. With the other Rotarians, with the Rotarians, I remember being in Taiwan, being Osaka, being in Florida together bonding with my club members and their....But also getting to know and developing that international network that have been able to help the Philippines attain this stature of being a welcoming place for investments.

The people to people international network that I have been able to develop – thanks to Rotary International – is also paralleled by our relationship on the official level with the us and other developed countries that is also part of the network of international relationships. For instance, our strong relationship with the U.S. has resulted during the short time that I have been President in an economic and security relationship worth 6 billion dollars, including American investments like Intel, which has expanded to 1 billion dollars during my administration. Sunpower Solar Cells 330 million dollars investment. Texas instruments about 70 million dollars and a Car Assemble Plant of Ford 50 million dollars, and numerous Call Centers and other business process outsourcing investments that are becoming the growth sector of our future. Call Centers and business process outsourcing employment in the Philippines have grown from 2,000 seats before I became President to a projected 40,000 seats this year. And doubling every year.

On May here, I called up the Administrator of the Economic Zone Lilia De Lima because I wanted to check with her the figure of Texas instruments. And she said, I also like to add that this January, Lilia said, in the economic zones we approved almost 10 billion pesos worth of investments compared to only 1.8 billion in January last year.

We want of course, to make the Philippines a safe place for investments, for the average Filipino. For the poor Filipino who has no means to provide to pay for his own security. And even on the security relationship, with the U.S. for instance when I first became President, I inherited a military assistance commitment from the United States worth 1.9 million dollars and counting. Including a giant naval cyclone boat that is arriving of February 23rd worth 30 million dollars just for one naval ship.

In terms of this assistance, military assistance, the Philippines is No. 1 in East Asia. No. 4 worldwide, with more to come because we have been declared a major non-NATO ally of the U.S.

Last year we increase foreign investment in the Philippines by about 23 percent. In fact, in the short period of my Presidency we created more than 3 million jobs, compared to only 1 million created in the previous 3 years.

I have been talking about investments because the best way to fight poverty is to create jobs, spread wealth which Rotary does a lot and give the peoples the tools they need to succeed, which Rotary also does a lot of.

Many decades ago, when my father was President of the Philippines, we were one of Asia's most progressive economies. But after that, when the other economies around the Philippines were growing double digit during the

East Asian economic miracle. Somehow the Philippines failed to fight for the fundamental reforms we needed to sustain our growth and our place in that community of economies in Southeast Asia.

That is why, I have started to fight for these fundamental reforms that we should have done a long time ago.

The result stability and robust economy – among Asia's best performers as far as growth is concerned. For 2003, GNP grew 5.5 percent compared to an average of 2.9 percent in the three years before I became President. These have defied all expectations and a 3.1 percent inflation rate is the lowest in a generation. Again, this is just a down payment.

I will fight for an unprecedented change that makes us more secure. Strengthen our families, stamp out corruption because these are what we need to fight poverty. I will fight to change the culture of corruption, stop the scourge of drugs and wipe out terrorism because we need an environment that does not have these things need to fight poverty. And directly for poverty alleviation, I will expand health coverage to all, bring more housing, expand property rights and create more jobs that attract higher wages. We will have clean water and clean government.

I am aware that you Rotarians share many of the same goals and values I cherish. Your programs to promote micro lending to improve farm productivity, your Gawad Kalinga program with the couples for Christ. All of these attest to your commitment to positive social change.

And so I ask you to fight with me, to fight for a change, to be the average Filipinos champion.

Earlier I mentioned, we would have clean water and clean government. A symbol of governance and essential services. You know how to fight for a clean government because you are leaders in the community, you are active in electoral exercises, you are active as watchdogs of the community. And in your weekly Rotary meetings, you make public officials accountable to you, to the people with their explanations of what they are doing to serve the people. Your polio class is a very important contribution to the health of the nation which you served. Clean water is also crucial for health.

I specifically mention clean water because I have found in going around the people and even going around Metro Manila that, that still a crying need. In 2003, I did a survey of how many families in Metro Manila have access to clean water and have to go out and buy very expensive water, a 160,000 families in Rizal, I did a survey, a similar survey. 50,000 families. And in the countryside, because Rizal we don't really consider that countryside anymore, it's very urban. In the countryside, more than a hundred municipalities still don't have access to clean water.

This is a major poverty alleviation effort that I am seeking, I am fighting to address. And I am very happy that my project manager for this is a Rotarian, Ram Agoncillo.

And so I ask you Rotarians, if there is something you would like to add that special for the year 2004. Yes! Go on fighting for clean government because we have elections coming up. But help me too, to fight for clean water, an essential element in poverty alleviation.

I thank you all for having helped me before I became President, before I became politician, and helping me even today. And to all our Rotarians from all over the world, thank you for helping your communities and thank you too for helping the Philippines in the international brotherhood of Rotary.

Thank you and welcome once again and to all of you, and *Mabuhay*.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching of Philippine Universal Health Insurance

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching of Philippine Universal Health Insurance**

[Delivered at the PICC, Roxas Blvd. Pasay City, February 2, 2004]

Maraming salamat Secretary Dayrit. Nakita ko yata si Secretary Pagdanganan kanina, Secretary Pagdanganan, Cesar Jaime, the president of AFP-RASBS, Winston Garcia, the president of GSIS, naku! Winston, marami ka palang kaibigan dito, Elmo Juridico, the PHILSA Vice Chairman and ECC Executive Director, uy! Marami rin. Miru Kimlo, president of HDMF, Honeygirl De Leon, chairman of PCSO, Cora Dela Paz, president of SSS, our moving spirit behind the Universal Health Insurance, Congressman Boboy Syjuco, speakers and resource persons led by Mr. Warner Blenk, the sub-regional director of ILO, other members, participants of this first National PHILSA Convention, distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen.

Ang pagtitipon nating ito ay kumakatawan sa mga pangarap ng karaniwang Filipino. Para sa isang mas mabuting buhay, isang buhay na walang pangamba, walang katiyakan, walang pagdurusa, walang kawalan ng pag-asa. Iyan ang hinahanap ng social security. Ang social security ay tumutugon sa mahalagang isyu ng kahirapan kung saan ang mahihirap ay tinutulungan masalapi. Ang matatanda ay tinutulungan ng bata at ang may sakit ay tinutulungan ng may mabuting kalusugan.

Nakararami sa pamilyang Filipino ay sakop na ng Philhealth, ng health insurance, congratulations to Philhealth. Ang Employees Compensation Commission naman ay nabawasan na ang processing time, sa pagdesisyon ng kaso mula 70 araw hanggang 45 araw, congratulations ECC. Oh, totoo ba iyon? Bakit may murmur?

Ang GSIS ay kinumputerized (computerized) ang sistema ng pamamahala ng pension at pantang, goodluck. Sana sa madaling panahon, itong computerization ay makatulong na maubos ang backlog. Iyong PAG-IBIG, itinaas ang halagang maaring pantang mula sa P500,000 hanggang 2 million para sa pabahay, congratulations. Ang RSBS, noong una ako ay umupo bilang pangulo, ang bigat ng lusing namana ko. Ngunit sa maikling bagong panguluhan, nakapagtala na ng tang 39 million pesos, congratulations.

And today, I would like to announce the launching of the SSS Pensioners Day. This is a project to reach out to always a million social security and employees compensation pensioners. Kasi habang hinihintay natin na maayos ng SSS iyon kanilang actuarial soundness pagkatapos ng mga masasamang investments na minana natin ay ito ay ang tulong sa mga pensiyonado.

The pensioners day project provides free medical and social services to SSS pensioners. For now, it is once a month. It started last Friday and it will be held at the SSS head office every last Friday of the month and will soon be replicated in all the other halves of the system. Kapag ito ay matagumpay at binibigyan ng halaga ang ating mga pensiyonado puwede natin siguro itong gawing mas madalas.

Today, kaya salamat SSS na kahit inaayos pa ninyo ang actuarial soundness nakahanap kayo ng paraan tumulong sa ating mga pensiyonado.

And today, everybody knows about this. We are also launching a new service for the Filipino family, Universal Family Health Insurance.

Kasi sa aking maikling panguluhan, nakaabot tayo ng majority of the families covered by health insurance. Di siyempre iyan ay downpayment. Ang kasunod na installment, we will try now to make it universal. We go for

universal. Bakit? Kasi marami sa ating kababayan ay nananatili na may sakit, dahil wala silang pambayad sa pagpapagamot, pang-ospital, lalung-lalo na hindi sila makabayad ng downpayment sa hospital. So, maraming hindi sila tinatanggap. At para sa puno ng pamilya, isang araw na pagkakasakit ay isang araw na walang pagkain ang pamilya. Nangungutang tayo sa kapitbahay upang bayaran ang ospital, gamot, at doktor. Kung kailangan ang operasyon kadalasan inuuwi na lamang sa bahay ang pasyente kung walang pambayad. Hindi dapat ganito. Hangarin ng karaniwang Pilipino ay kalusugan. Kaya pinirmahan ko ang Executive Order 276 na nag-uutos sa Philhealth, sa PCSO. Kaya nandito si Honey Girl, kahit na hindi siya insurance company. DBM, DILG, at iba pang kawanihan upang magtulung-tulong sa pagtukoy ng mga mahihirap na pamilyang maaaring mapasama sa programa.

Lahat ng sakop ng family health insurance or Philhealth ay mabibigyan ng, either libre or sinubsidize na pag-ospital. Depende kung gaano kalaki iyong gastos. Kasama na rito ang bayad sa kuwarto, doktor, gamot, laboratoryo, x-ray, hanggang operasyon kung kinakailangan, para sikapin nating mag-graduate mula sa majority coverage, hanggang universal coverage ay lalagyan natin ito ng pondong P3 bilyong. Kalahati ay galing sa pcso. Kaya si Honey Girl, hindi organizer ito, guest of honor. Iyong kalahati naman galing sa national government na may budgetary outlay na papalawakin natin sa 2004, iyong tinatawag na financial assistance to local government units, bilang subsidy, as subsidy for the health insurance premium of indigents. The truth is hard to face about the lack of availability or access to health services, but now, we are now facing it squarely.

Eto, gaya ng sabi natin ay downpayment sa pagbabago ng lipunan. Pero, dapat nating sundan ito ng ilan pang installment upang mabuo. And the best way of helping the poor through social security will be by shoring up the finances of all the social security agencies. And how do we do that? By pursuing our investment and employment programs so that more employees can pay the premium. We have made a strong start in just a short period of my presidency.

To undo the economic and political mess that we inherited. But I am happy to report that now we have made a strong start. Just last year 2003, foreign investments surged 23 percent. And this last month of January 2004, investments in the economic zones, surged 400 percent. P1.8 billion on January 2003, P.5 billion January 2004. A strong positive support of our economic platform. Sa mga darating na buwan at taon, ito ay magbibigay ng maraming trabaho. Kaya maraming makakabayad ng premium. Tapos darating ang araw, sana hindi matagal na iyong actuarial soundness ay makakadagdag ng benepisyo. Ngunit ngayon pa lamang dapat na nating agapan ang mga pangangailangan ng karaniwang pilipino. Dapat dalhin ang health insurance sa lahat ng pamilya.

In this, I hope to be able to count on your support health insurance, and other social security agencies and human resources of our country. And in turn, you can count on my support as well. Together, let us secure the future of the average Filipino.

Sa inyong lahat, congratulations sa magandang ginawa. Good luck, sa magandang binabalak na gawin. Tayong lahat kung magtatagumpay sa inyong programa, ito ay tagumpay ng karaniwang pamilyang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat, congratulation sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Launching of Philippine Universal Health Insurance. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090929/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5652&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Rice Industry Summit

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Rice Industry Summit**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, PICC, Pasay City, February 2, 2004]

Maraming salamat. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Cito Lorenzo.

Batiin ko na rin ang iba't-ibang kasama ko sa pamahalaan. At binabati ko siyempre kayo mga pribadong sektor. Salamat, Chairman Danilo Garcia ng PGIC. Salamat sa inyong binigay sa aking manifesto ng suporta galing sa buong konseho at salamat sa grecon dahil magbibigay kayo ng 50 centavos discount sa mga mahihirap na bumibili ng bigas pag meron silang card na ito.

Nagpapasalamat din ako kay Raul Montemayor, ang pangulo ng Philippine Farmers Advisory Board. Naalala ko noong si Raul ay nag-graduate ng valedictorian sa Ateneo. Doon din ako nag-graduate ng masters ko, di ba Raul? At ako'y nasisiyahan na ginamit niya ang kaniyang kagalingan para sa ikinabubuti ng ating mga magsasaka.

Salamat, Mr. Joji Co, matagal ko nang kilala na lider ng Confederation of Grains Association. Salamat at narito ka muli. Salamat tayo'y nagkakaisa. Caring Cabalen cung Capampangan mayap a gatpanapun quecongan. Lalu na ing kekatumung ortelanu manibat bacolud itang tinggap outstanding hybrid rice farmer. Dagiti kakailyak ti bangir ti mamang ko nga Ilocano tan Pangasinan, naimbag nga malem yo amin apo, masantos. sidakayo amin nangruna ti mannalon tayo nga naggapo ti tagudin, ti nagabak ti premyo akas may isa nga five Outstanding Hybrid Rice Farmers.

Sa mga taga-Mindanao asa ko nidako, maayong pag-abot kaninyong tanan. Sa mga Ilonggo, kasimanwa sang akong bana, maayong hapon sa inyo nga tanan. yung mga taga-katagalugan, lalo na yung number one Outstanding Hybrid Rice Farmer, si Ginoong Pablo ng Mindoro Occidental, congratulations! Sa inyong lahat salamat dahil tayong lahat magkabalikat sa hangarin ng karaniwang Pilipino magkaroon nang pagkain sa bawat mesa. At alam ko na kayo ay hindi pa kumakain ng tanghalian, kaya hindi ako magtatagal ng aking diskurso kasi biro nyo kayo ang nagpapakain sa sambayanang Pilipino, kayo ay hindi pa kumakain ng tanghalian. Tatalapayag na ni Cito Lorenzo ang ating mga programa, gusto ko lang bigyang diin na tayo ay sa Marso magsisimula pa ng isa pang bagong programa para sa ating magsasaka, at yan ay programang murang fertilizer at equipment mula sa China.

Bahagi ito... Kasunod ito ng hybrid rice, bahagi ito sa 60 billion pesos na ginastos ng aking administrasyon para sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura. Wala pang gumagastos ng ganun kalaki sa mga nakaraang panahon. At gusto ko rin ipaabot sa inyong lahat, dahil nga sa ating modernization, dahil sa unprecedented irrigation, dahil sa hybrid rice na napatunayan ng ating magsasakang outstanding kung papano nadodoble, natitriple ang ani. Huwag kayong mag-alala na baka walang bibili ng inyong palay. Dati-dati one billion pesos ang pondo ng NFA para bumuli ng palay, itong taon, itataas natin sa four billion pesos procurement program.

Kaya siguro yon na lang para makakain na rin kayo. Alam ko nagbreakfast kayo ng ten o'clock pero mag-aalauna y media na rin.

Kaya salamat, salamat sa retailers, salamat sa millers. At bahagi sa ating milling program yung binigay na tseke kanina ng DBP. Yon ang una sa mga pautang ng DBP para sa rehabilitation at modernization ng ating milling facilities.

Kaya mula sa magsasaka hanggang sa millers, hanggang sa retailers tayong lahat magkasama parati dapat tayo magkasama para magkaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa.

Maraming salamat at ngayon kumain na tayo ng ating tanghalian.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Rice Industry Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090750/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5653&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the launching of the Social Security System (SSS) Pensioners Day Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

At the launching of the Social Security System (SSS) Pensioners Day

[Delivered at the Philippine International Convention Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, February 2, 2004]

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL

Ang pagtitipon nating ito ay kumakatawan sa mga pangarap ng karaniwang Filipino. Para sa isang mas mabuting buhay, isang buhay na walang pangamba, walang katiyakan, walang pagdurusa, walang kawalan ng pag-asa. Iyan ang hinahanap ng social security. Ang social security ay tumutugon sa mahalagang isyu ng kahirapan kung saan ang mahihirap ay tinutulungan masalapi. Ang matatanda ay tinutulungan ng bata at ang may sakit ay tinutulungan ng may mabuting kalusugan.

Nakararamisa pamilyang Filipino ay sakop na ng Philhealth, ng health insurance, congratulations to Philhealth. Ang Employees Compensation Commission naman ay nabawasan na ang processing time, sa pagdesisyon ng kaso mula 70 araw hanggang 45 araw, congratulations ECC. Oh, totoo ba iyon? Bakit may murmur?

Ang GSIS ay kinumputerized (computerized) ang sistema ng pamamahala ng pension at pautang, goodluck. Sana sa medaling panahon, itong computerization ay makatulong na maubos ang backlog. Iyong PAG-IBIG, itinaas ang halagang maaring mautang mula sa P500,000 hanggang 2 million para sa pabahay, congratulations. Ang RSBS, noong una ako ay umupo bilang pangulo, ang bigat ng laging namana ko. Ngunit sa maikling bagong panguluhan, nakapagtala na ng tang 39 million pesos, congratulations.

And today, I would like to announce the launching of the SSS Pensioners Day. This is a project to reach out to always a million social security and employees compensation pensioners. *Kasi habang hinihintay natin na maayos ng SSS iyon kanilang actuarial soundness pagkatapos ng mga masasamang investments na minana natin ay ito ay ang tulong sa mga pensiyonado.*

The pensioners day project provides free medical and social services to SSS pensioners. For now, it is once a month. It started last Friday and it will be held at the SSS head office every last Friday of the month and will soon be replicated in all the other halves of the system. *Kapag ito ay matagumpay at binibigyan ng halaga ang ating mga pensiyonado puwede natin siguro itong gawing mas madalas.*

Today, *kaya salamat SSS na kahit inaayos pa ninyo ang actuarial soundness nakahanap kayo ng paraan tumulong sa ating mga pensiyonado.*

And today, everybody knows about this. We are also launching a new service for the Filipino family, Universal Family Health Insurance.

Kasi sa a king maikling panguluhan, nakaabot tayo ng majority of the families covered by health insurance. Di siyempre iyan ay downpayment. Ang kasunod na installment, we will try now to make it universal. We go for universal. Bakit? Kasi marami sa ating kababayan ay nananatili na may sakit, dahil wala silang pambayad sa pagpapagamot, pang-ospital, lalung-lalo na hindisila makabayad ng downpayment sa hospital. So, maraming hindi sila tinatanggap. At para sa puno ng pamilya, isang araw na pagkakasakit ay isang araw na walang pagkain ang pamilya. Nangungutang tayo sa kapitbahay upang bayaran ang ospital, gamot, at doktor. Kung kailangan ang operasyon kadalasan inuuwi na lamang sa bahay ang pasyente kung walang pambayad. Hindi dapat ganito. Hangarin ng karaniwang Pilipino ay kalusugan. Kaya pinirmahan ko ang Executive Order 276 na nag-uutos sa Philhealth, sa PCSO. Kaya nand ito si Honey Girl, kahit na hindi siya insurance company. DBM, DILG, at iba pang kawanihan upang magtulung-tulong sa pagtukoy ng mga mahihirap na pamilyang maaaring mapasama sa programa.

Lahat ng sakop ng family health insurance or Philhealth ay mabibigyan ng, either libre or sinubsidize na pag-oospital. Depende kung gaano kalaki iyong gastos. Kasama na rito ang bayad sa kuwarta, doktor, gamot, laboratoryo, x-ray, hanggang operasyon kung kinakailangan, para sikapin nating mag-graduate mula sa majority coverage, hanggang universal coverage ay lalagyan natin ito ng pondong P3 bilyong. Kalahati ay galing sa pcsa. Kaya si Honey Girl, hindi organizer ito, guest of honor. Iyong kalahati naman galing sa national government na may budgetary outlay na papalawakin natin sa 2004, iyong tinatawag na financial assistance to local government units, bilang subsidy, as subsidy for the health insurance premium of indigents. The truth is hard to face about the lack of availability or access to health services, but now, we are now facing it squarely.

Eto, gaya ng sabi natin ay downpayment sa pagbabago ng lipunan. Pero, dapat nating sundan ito ng ilan pang installment upang mabuo. And the best way of helping the poor through social security will be by shoring up the finances of all the social security agencies. And how do we do that? By pursuing our investment and employment programs so that more employees can pay the premium. We have made a strong start in just a short period of my presidency.

To undo the economic and political mess that we inherited. But I am happy to report that now we have made a strong start. Just last year 2003, foreign investments surged 23 percent. And this last month of January 2004, investments in the economic zones, surged 400 percent. P1.8 billion on January 2003, P.5 billion January 2004. A strong positive support of our economic platform. Sa mga darating na buwan at taon, ito ay magbibigay ng maraming trabaho. Kaya maraming makakabayad ng premium. Tapos darating ang araw, sana hindi matagal na iyong actuarial soundness ay makakadagdag ng benepisyo. Ngunit ngayon pa lamang dapat na nating agapan ang mga pangangailangan ng karaniwang Pilipino. Dapat dalhin ang health insurance sa lahat ng pamilya.

In this, I hope to be able to count on your support health insurance, and other social security agencies and human resources of our country. And in turn, you can count on my support as well. Together, let us secure the future of the average Filipino.

Sa inyong lahat, congratulations sa magandang ginawa. Good luck, sa magandang binabalak na gawin. Tayong lahat kung magtatagumpay sa inyong programa, ito ay tagumpay ng karaniwang pamilyang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat, congratulation sa inyong lahat.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 6th National Assembly of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL)
[Filipino]**

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Ika-6 na National Assembly ng Philippine Councilors League (PCL)**

[Ipinahayag sa World Trade Center, Lungsod ng Pasay, ika 6 ng Pebrero, 2004]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Konsehal Melendrez, Chairman ng PCL sa iyung napaka... nakakatabang pusong pagpakilala sa akin. At maraming salamat din na ikaw na mag-gagrade na ngayon bilang konsehal ay tumutulong pa rin sa aking pamahalaan bilang kasapi ng ating peace panel. Salamat sa iyung tulong.

Salamat rin Konsehal Pangilinan ng Makati, pangulo ng PCL, aking pinsan. Ikaw ay mag-gagrade na rin bilang konsehal. Bahagi sa dalawang libong konsehal na ga-graduate itong taon na ito at binibigyan natin ng espesyal na parangal.

Batiin ko na rin si Konsehal Jose Alejandro. Batiin ko rin at magpasalamat dahil napakalawak at napakalalim ang kaniyang suporta sa akin. Dating konsehal at ngayon pangulo ng Mayors League ng Metro Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza. Meron tayong dalawang kasama itong araw na ito, aking kasamahan at gusto kong bigyang diin ang aking pagpakilala sa kanila, dating senador at siguradong magse-senador muli, ang ating dalubhasa sa Constitutional law, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago. At marami sa ating mga taga-Mindanao kilalang-kilala siya, at siya ay magiging karapat-dapat na representante ng mga Muslim sa ating Senado, ang gobernador ng Autonomous Region ng Muslim Mindanao, si Dr. Parouk Hussin.

Batiin ko rin yung dating konsehal, dati pa nga siyang pangulo ng PCL at nag-graduate, kayong mga nag-gagrade bilang konsehal, palagay siya ang isang modelo ninyo dahil siya ay isang napakamagaling na city vice mayor at hindi lamang yon ay siya ang naging chairman ng napaka-successful na Sinulog Festival sa Cebu na kakaganap lamang, si Vice Mayor Michael Rama. Nandito rin ang ilang officials ng PCL: ang auditor, si Wilhelmina Lindo; ang treasurer, si Corazon Del Mundo; ang P.R.O., si Joseph Ortiz. Hindi ko na babanggitin lahat, batiin ko kayong lahat, caring konsehal a capampangan mayap a gatpanapun quecongan. Dagiti kakailyak nga konsehal ti bangir ni mamang ko naggapo Ilocos, Pangasinan, naimbag nga malem yo amin.

Sa mga nagikan sa Cebu, sa Visayas ug Mindanao asa ko nidako, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan. Kasama na yung mga kababayan ni Michael Rama. Sa mga kasimanwa ni Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago kag kasimanwa sang akong bana nga Ilonggo, maayong hapon sa inyo nga tanan. Sa mga kapatid natin, kapatid ni Parouk Hussin, assalaamu alaikum pagariya. Sa inyong lahat welcome!

At bilang pangulo karangalan kong buksan muli itong meeting ng Philippine Councilors League.

Taun-taon, tayoy nagsasama-sama sa isa't-isa mula pa noong ako ay senador. Nagkakasama na rin tayo sa inyong mga meeting, 1992 ako naging senador, biro nyo labing dalawang taon na tayong nagtutulongan sa isat-isa. At 1992 nagsimula yung pagkabisa ng Local Government Code, kaya noong isang taon ay tayo ay nagdiriwang ng 12th anniversary ng Local Government Code. At naalala ko noon si Governor Dolfo del Rosario, ang pangulo ng Union

of Local Authorities of the Philippines, ay nagpahayag siya ng labing dalawang bagay na ginawa ng inyong lingkod para bigyan nang mas malawak na kapangyarihan ang ating local government units.

Hindi ko na babanggitin lahat nito. Ngunit gaya nang sabi ni Mayor Lito Atienza, ang local government, kayong mga konsehal, kayong gumagawa ng mga batas sa inyong local government unit, kayo rin ang gumagawa ng budget ng inyong local government unit. Ang pagkabisa ng inyong pamamahala, ang pagkabisa ng inyong tsansa rin na mahalal muli bilang konsehal o ma-promote kung kayo ay nag-graduate na o naghahanap ng ibang hangarin ay kung papano nyo nagamit yung inyong bahagi ng internal revenue allotment.

Kaya ako, gaya nang sabi ni lito, sa ating labing dalawang taong magkasama, nauunawaan ko ang sitwasyon at pangangailangan ng local government units. Kasama na rin ako na naging malungkot kagaya ninyo na noong 1999 nagkaroon ng Executive Order 189 na beinte porsiyento ng I.R.A. ng local government units ay hindi ibibigay sa inyo. Siyempre nung nabawasan kayo ng beinte porsiyento ng inyong I.R.A., nabawasan din ang inyong kapangyarihan at kakayahan na tumulong sa ating mga kababayan. Palagay ko yang nawalang kapangyarihan sa inyo ay bahagi na rin kung bakit nung mga panahong yon ang nalilikhang trabaho lamang ay nag-average ng 350,000 new jobs net a year.

Noong ako ay naging pangulo, isa sa unang ginawa ko ay ni-repeal ko ang Executive Order 189. Gaya nang sabi ni Lito Atienza binigay ko ng buo and on time yung inyong internal revenue allotment. Hindi lamang yon, binayaran ko pa yung utang noong mga nakaraang taon.

At palagay ko dahil kayo ay nakuha nyong buo ang I.R.A. at nakuha pa ninyo yung utang ng nakaraan kaya mas malaki ang nakuha nyo taun-taon kaysa sa I.R.A. ninyo ng taong yon ay tayo magkasama lahat sa pagbibigay ng pinakahangarin ng karaniwang Pilipino — ang pangkabuhayan, ang trabaho. Dahil tayong lahat, dahil sa inyong ginamit ang inyong I.R.A. pati yung utang ng dating nakaraang panahon, ginamit ninyo ang inyong I.R.A. sa magandang mga allocation, tayong lahat nakapaglikha tayo sa ating ekonomiya nitong maikling panahon na tayoy magkasama. Itong ating termino ngayong 2001 to 2004 nakalikha tayo ng three million na bagong trabaho. Tayong lahat magkasama doon.

Kaya hindi ako masyadong magtatagal sa aking pag-uusap. Ang aking trabaho ay magbukas nitong inyong pagpupulong. Ako ay sumasama sa inyong mga opisyal na nagbigay ng welcome sa inyo. Ako ay sumasama kay Mayor Lito Atienza na nagbigay ng welcome. Ako ay nagpapasalamat lalo na sa magandang sinabi nila tungkol sa akin, kaya hindi na ako magdadagdag tungkol doon.

Sa inyong lahat, gamitin natin tong huling pagpupulong bago magsimula ang halalan. Isipin kung papano natin maiibayo pa ang ating paglilingkod sa taong bayan.

Maikli na lamang ang panahon na nalalabi ngunit meron akong isang gustong ipahayag sa inyo na puwede pa nating magawa para maglingkod pandagdag sa taong bayan.

Sa loob ng aking maikling panguluhan, sa dami ng mga mahihirap na naisama natin sa Philippine Health Insurance, nakaabot na tayo ngayon ng majority ng pamilya ay sakop na sa Philippine Health Insurance. Salamat na rin sa in-allocate nyong premium sa mga mahihirap nating kababayan. Kaya kasama kayo doon sa achievement na yon.

Dagdagan natin ang ating ambisyon dahil majority ng pamilya ay sakop na ng Philhealth, sikapin nating gawing universal, sikapin nating lahat ng pamilyang Pilipino ay mapasok sa Philippine Health Insurance. Kung makakaya pa ng inyong konseho, sana mag-allocate pa kayo ng dagdag na pondo na puwede mag-counterpart ang PCSO. Ngunit kung iniisip nyo na nahihirapan ang inyong konseho na magdagdag pa ng premium sa dagdag na makapapasok sa Philhealth, sabihin ninyo sa PCSO na abunohan na muna ang kabuuan ng premium. Ibigay nyo sa philhealth ang listahan ng mga mahihirap sa inyong mga bayan na wala pang health insurance. Sikapin natin na sila lahat ay mapasok dahil karaniwang Pilipino hinahanap ang kalusugan, hinahanap ang murang pagamot. Tayong lahat gawin natin ito para sa ganun karaniwang Pilipino dahil sa ating mas pagsasamang pagtatrabaho ay may trabaho, may kalusugan nakakamit ang karaniwang pangangailangan.

Kayo mga konsehal ang napakalapit sa karaniwang Pilipino, alam nyo ito ang hinahangad ng ating karaniwang mamamayan. Huwag nating sayangin ang nalalabing panahon ng ating termino sa pulitika lamang. Gamitin natin itong panahon makakadag pa tayo ng paglilingkod para sa karaniwang Pilipino.

Yan ang transformational politics. At sana itong mga araw ng inyong pagmimiting ay makamit natin ang mga resolusyon, ang mga desisyon, ang mga commitment na patuloy pa rin itong magandang pagsisimula para sa hangarin ng karaniwang Pilipino.

I declare this convention open!

Welcome! Congratulations!

Good luck sa inyong lahat!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 6th National Assembly of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090716/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5651&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the signing into law of Republic Act No. 9239 or the Optical Media Act of 2003 [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagsasabatas ng Batas Pambansa Blg. 9239 o Optical Media Act ng 2003**

[Ipinahayag sa National Arts Center, Mt. Makiling Los Baños, Laguna, ika 10 ng Pebrero, 2004]

Maraming salamat sa Chairman ng Videogram Regulatory Board, na ngayon dahil sa ating bagong batas ay magiging Chairman naman ng Optical Media Regulatory Board, Edu Manzano.

Gusto kong batiin ang ating mga senador at congressmen na nagtupad nitong batas na pinirmahan ko ngayon sa pamumuno ni Senate President Franklin Drilon at saka kay Speaker De Venecia. Gamitin ko na rin ang pagkakataon na batiin yung mga magiging kasama ni Senate President Franklin Drilon sa susunod na Senado. Meron tayong apat na reelektionistang senador: si Senator Bobby Barbers; si Senator Pong Biazon; si Senator Bobby Jaworski; si Senator John Osmeña.

Meron tayong dalawang dating senador: si Senator Orly Mercado; si Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Meron tayong dalawang Cabinet member: si future senator, Dick Gordon; si future senator, Mar Roxas.

Galing sa Muslim Mindanao, si Governor Parouk Hussin; galing sa local governments, Gobernador ng Pampanga, Lito Lapid; dating Gobernador ng Cavite at dating Chairman ng Videogram Regulatory Board, si Bong Revilla; at kinatawan ng mga kabataang propesyonal at kababaihan, si Attorney Pia Compañera Cayetano.

At batiin ko ang magiging... hindi, ang iiwan na kay Frank Drilon sa Senado pero siya ay magiging Vice President na ng Pilipinas, si Noli De Castro.

Gusto kong batiin ang ating mga nag-host na mga opisyal dito sa lalawigan ng Laguna sa pangunguna ni Governor Ningning Lazaro; sa mga ating host dito sa bayan ng Los Baños sa pamumuno ni Mayor Cesar Perez; at narito rin yung mga iba't-ibang mga mayor ng lalawigan ng Laguna.

Gusto ko ring batiin ang ating mga bituin, producer, writer ng showbusiness. Salamat sa mga bituin ng showbusiness sa inyong pagsuporta sa akin.

Gusto kong batiin at inimbata kong maging audience ng inyong palatuntunan ngayon, ang mga mamamayan na pinagkaloob na ng lupa ng Camp Eldridge.

Una, kausapin ko muna ang mga bituin ng showbiz. Salamat mga showbusiness stars na kinikilala ninyo, gaya nang sabi ni Edu, ni Vic, ni Leo, ni Laurice, iba pang nagsalita, na sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa, ako, sa lahat ng pangulo, ang pinakamaraming natulong sa industriya ng showbusiness. Sorry to say this, daig pa yung pinunong nanggaling sa showbusiness.

Yung pagbaba ng amusement tax, yung 50 million na suporta sa mga sine sa film festival, at meron pang parating, iyung rehabilitation ng Metropolitan Theater, yung paglaban sa film piracy at iba pa, lalo na ngayon yung pagtalaga ng Opti-Media Law na mas lalo pang palalakasin ang laban sa piracy.

Hindi lamang yon, gusto ipaalala sa akin ni future senator Mar Roxas na nung ako'y pumunta sa Amerika sa state visit, sa harap ni Mar Roxas, sinabi ko kay President Bush, President Bush, sa Ingles, inaasahan ko na pag pumasa

ang Optical Media Bill sa Pilipinas, ang mga Pilipinong artista ay magkakaroon ng mas malaking pagkakataon doon sa Amerika mismo.

Ginawa ko ang lahat ng ito dahil ako ay movie fan na movie fan noong maliit pa ako. Eh, maliit pa ako hanggang ngayon, kaya movie fan pa rin ako hanggang ngayon.

Noon ho ay batang maliit ako sa Iligan kung saan ginanap ang malaking bahagi ng aking pagbabata, 1950s pa yon. Maliit na bayan lamang ang Iligan. Sa paligid ng kanayunan, sinehan lamang ang aming tanging aliwan, kaya lahat ng sineng dumarating, tagalog movies silang lahat, pinapanood namin, lola ko, driver ko na si Romeo, at ako. Kami triple date parati nanonood ng sine.

At nung yung tatay ko ay isang batang Congressman, dito naman sa Maynila, laging dinadala kami ng nanay ko sa Times Theater para manood ng double program na sine. Kaya sanay na sanay akong manood ng sine, kaya alam ko kung gaano kaimportante ang sine sa karaniwang mamamayang Pilipino. Mahilig sa sine ang karaniwang Pilipino. Mahilig sa singers, kagaya ng mga nagkanta kanina, at mahilig din magkaroon ng tiyak na sariling tahanan, lupang tinitirikan.

Kaya sa araw na ito, bukod sa ating pagpirma ng Opti-Media Law, inimbita ko ang ilan sa mga nakatira sa Camp Eldridge para sa dalawang bagay: para makita nila ang ilan sa mga paborito nilang mga showbiz stars, at para matanggap ang proklamasyon kong nagbibigay ng kapangyarihang bilhin ang lupang tinitirikan. Para klarohin, ang mga Camp Eldridge ay taga-barangay Lalakay, Bambang, Timugan. Kayo mga taga-barangay Lalakay, kasama kayo doon. Kayo ay hindi na squatter sa sariling bayan.

Itong dalawang ginagawa natin ngayon: ang Opti-Media Law; ang proklamasyon ng Camp Eldridge ay halimbawa sa pagbabagong hangad ng maliliit na mamamayan tungkol sa pangkabuhayan, gaya ng trabaho at tahanan.

Trabaho — ang showbiz hindi lang pinanggagalingan ng aliw para sa ating mga karaniwang mamamayan. Ito rin ay pinanggagalingan ng maraming trabaho. Sa tatlong taon bago ako naging pangulo, isang milyong trabaho lamang ang nalikha. Kaya namana ko ang higit apat na milyong walang trabaho. At alam ko na kasama sa mga nawalang trabaho sa mga panahong yon ay taga sa showbusiness dahil laganap ang film piracy at mataas ang amusement tax.

Ngunit sa aking maikling panguluhan, dahil nakita ko, naunawaan ko kung ano ang kailangan ninyo: ibaba ang amusement tax, pigilin ang film piracy at iba pang mga kailangang gawin, haming sa isang milyong nalikhang trabaho, sa tatlong taon bago ako naging pangulo, sa aking maikling panguluhan, higit sa tatlong milyong trabaho ang ating nalikha. Palagay ko nakasagip tayo ng maraming trabaho nang binaba ang amusement tax, nang sinubsidize ang sine ng film festival, at nang linakas ni Bong Revilla ang laban sa film piracy.

Kaya mga kaibigan, tungkol naman sa tahanan. Ang binibiyayaan natin ngayon sa Camp Eldridge ay bahagi ng pinakamalawak na palupang binigyang kapangyarihan bilhin ng squatters ang lupang tinitirikan, kaya tuloy ang mahigit tatlong daang libong pamilya ay hindi na squatters kungdi homeowners na ngayon. Kaya nga mismo yung low-cost housing developers na nagtatayo ng pabahay para sa manggagawa sinabi na pinaka-housing friendly ang mga patakaran ng pangulong gloriang administrasyon sa buong kasaysayan ng ating bansa. Eto ay down payment lamang. Sa Mayo, hinihingi ko sa inyong lahat — dahil hindi naman ako naglingkod ng isang buong termino — bigyan ng pagkakataon na magbuo ng susunod na installment si Pangulong Gloria kasama ni Vice President Noli, ang ating mga senador: Bobby Barbers, Pong Biazon, Bobby Jaworski, at sino yung pang-apat na reelectionist, si John O, ang ama ng cellphone industry. Kasama ni Orly Mercado, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Mar Roxas, Dick Gordon, Parouk Hussin, Lito Lapid, Bong Revilla, Pia Cayetano, at lahat ng kandidato ng K-4 (Koalisyon ng Katapatan at Karanasan para sa Kinabukasan). Para sa kinabukasan, walang kapantay, walang kapalit ang karanasan, at iyan ang ating hinahandog sa inyong lahat.

Maraming salamat, mga kaibigan ng Laguna.

Maraming salamat, mga showbiz personalities.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Signing into Law of Republic Act 9239 or the Optical Media Act of 2003. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090706/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5648&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Sama-Pagkat Daupang-Puso ng Batayang Sektor [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Sama-Pagkat Daupang-Puso ng Batayang Sektor**

[Ipinahayag noong ika 12 ng Pebrero, 2004]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Dinky Soliman sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Maraming salamat din Oca Francisco sa maganda mong pagpaliwanag kung bakit dapat iboto ng People's Organizations si Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Maraming salamat, mga kasama ko sa pamahalaan. Maraming salamat, mga leaders ng NGO at P.O. na aktibong-aktibo sa National Anti-Poverty Commission.

Narinig ni Oca sa radyo na nawalaan ako ng boses sa kampanya kanina. So, hindi na ako magpapatagal ng aking diskurso.

Gusto ko magpasalamat sa inyong lahat. Sabi nga ni Oca, itong ating 7,000 na narito ngayon, kayo po ay kumbinsido nang magkampanya para kay Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo na tumatakbo bilang pangulo.

Kaya po, ako, na si Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo na tumatakbo bilang pangulo ay ang gagawin ko hindi ko ho hihingiin ang tulong ninyong bumoto sa akin, hihingiin ko na tulungan nyo akong magpaliwanag sa taong bayan din kung bakit sila ay dapat bumoto sa akin.

Kanina sa aking paglilibot doon sa Rizal, ang dami nagsabi, ay! Gloria, Gloria, sa iyo kami! Meron din akong naririnig, ay! Si Gloria pala yon. Ang liit-liit pala. Pero ang sagot ko doon, maliit nga ako kaya siguro alam ko ang damdamin ng mga maliliit. At sa ating pamahalaan ang maliliit ang talagang tinig ay yung dumadaan sa National Anti-Poverty Commission. Alam ko, kasi ako ang pangunahing author ng Anti-Poverty Law noong ako ay senador pa.

Kaya sa aking maikling panguluhan, tayong lahat kasama ko kayo, nagsimula tayo ng mga pagbabagong hangad ng maliliit tungkol sa pangkabuhayan gaya ng presyo, trabaho, hanapbuhay, tahanan, kalusugan, edukasyon, kalinga sa ibat-ibang sektor na madalas iniwan ng lipunan.

Tungkol sa trabaho, sana tulungan nyo akong magpaliwanag na sa tatlong taon bago ako naging pangulo, isang milyong trabaho lamang ang nalikha. Kaya naman, ang namana natin noong ako ay naging pangulo ay higit apat na milyong walang trabaho. Ngunit sa aking maikling panguluhan, sa ating maikling panahon at tunay na nag-organize ang National Anti-Poverty Commission, nakalikha tayo ng higit tatlong milyong trabaho.

Tungkol sa presyo. Nanatiling matatag ang supply at presyo ng pangunahing pinaggagastusan ng mahihirap. At ito ang karaniwang bigas, isda, lalo na ang tilapia, at pasahe sa jeepney at bus. Ang mga ito ay nanatiling matatag sa panahon ng ating administrasyon.

Tungkol sa hanapbuhay. Bahagi na rin ng Anti-Poverty Commission, nakapagpahiram ang microfinance sa isang milyong kababaihan. At sa nakaraang sampung buwan, nakapagpahiram pa ng di pa napapantayan na 21 billion pesos sa mga maliliit na negosyante sa resonableng interest.

Tungkol naman sa tahanan. Pinakamalawak — alam nyo yon kasi ang mga urban poor alam nyo marami dito kayo ang tumulong na makamit — pinakamalawak na palupang binigyang kapangyarihan bilhin ng squatters, na kaya dahil doon ay hindi na squatters kung hindi homeowners na.

At para sa manggagawa. Pinaka-housing friendly na mga patakaran sa buong kasaysayan, sabi na mismo ng mga developers na gumagawa ng bahay na abot- kaya ng mga manggagawa.

Tungkol sa kalusugan lalo na ating mga senior citizens. Sa milyun-milyong mahihirap na binigyan ng Philhealth, karamihan ngayon ng pamilyang Pilipino ay meron ng health insurance. At lalo na sa kinabubuti ng ating senior citizens. Sinimula rin nating magbenta ng kinalahating presyong gamot sa halos sandaang botika ng pamahalaang ospital.

Tungkol sa edukasyon. Pinaibayo ang math, science at ingles para makakumpitensya ang ating manggagawa ng kinabukasan, ang ating mga kabataan sa mga hamon ng siglo beinte uno. Pinaabot ang mga paaralan sa mga liblib na barangay. At ngayon tinutulungan ang patapos na estudyante para hindi magdrop-out bago mag-graduate.

Pero mga down payment pa lamang ito. Down payment at karanasan na mabunga. Ngunit kailangan marami pang dapat gawin. Kaya nga sabi ni Oca, paano kung mawala na ako. Kailangan ang mga batayang reporma na makakapaglikha ng anim na milyong trabaho sa susunod na anim na taon kung ako ay hindi mawala.

Batayang repormang makakatanim ng sapat na palay upang hindi na tayo kailangan mag-angkat at ang ating magsasaka ang magpapakain sa ating sambayanang Pilipino.

Batayang reporma na makakaabot ng isang milyong pisong pautang sa maliliit na negosyo sa bawat barangay. Nagawa ito sa Thailand, gagawin natin sa pilipinas sa susunod na anim na taon.

Mga batayang reporma na makakapaglawak ng karapatan sa lupa upang itong lupa ay magagamit ng mga maliliit bilang puhunan at makakanegosyo tuloy ang ating urban at rural poor.

Batayang reporma na makakaabot ng health insurance sa lahat ng pamilyang Pilipino at murang gamot sa lahat ng bayan at barangay.

At batayang reporma na makababago ng kultura kontra sa katiwalian sa pamamagitan ng makabuluhang edukasyon.

Kaya, ito ang ilan sa mga gusto nating gawin para sa karaniwang Pilipino sa darating na panahon maliban sa mga binanggit ni Oca Francisco na espesyal na programa para sa ibat-ibang naghihirap na sektor at naghihirap na lugar.

Siguro naman po, sa itong mga nagawa, sa itong karanasan at sa itong klarong-klarong plataporma natin sa karaniwang Pilipino, kayo na mga nanggaling sa mga espesyal na sektor, na kayo ay nakumbinsido na na magkampanya para sa akin kahit na lumabas kayo sa inyong sektor, kahit na pumunta kayo sa ordinaryong Pilipino na hindi bahagi ng inyong sektor, siguro naman mapapaliwanag ninyo na dapat talaga hindi mawala ang ating magandang nasimulaan.

Kaya, salamat na kayo ay magkakampanya. Salamat sa one million votes minimum na sabi ni Oca maitutulong nyo sa ating darating na halalan.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Sama-Pagkat Daupang-Puso ng Batayang Sektor. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090607/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5647&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 38th National Conference of the Innerwheel Clubs of the Philippines (IWCPI)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 38th National Conference of the Innerwheel Clubs of the Philippines (IWCPI)**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, February 16, 2004]

Thank you.

Thank you very much. Thank you very much, baby for your very nice introduction. And its campaign time so it was not wrong of you to give me an endorsement. Thank you for your endorsement.

I would like to greet and congratulate all the officers and members of the National Innerwheel headed by Aida Vera Cruz. Thank you for your beautiful report and I take this opportunity to greet her husband, my former presidential assistant for Western Mindanao, Boyet Vera Cruz.

And of course, speaking of VIP's on the floor, past president and now congresswoman, Congresswoman Nining, thank you very much, Nining Nicolas, very nice to see you here.

I would like to also greet the president of the Innerwheel foundation, Mrs. Carmen Santillan. Thank you for your donation to our health program. And of course, the only Filipina who has become president of Innerwheel Rotary, Ms. Ester Vibal.

How nice to be here among empowered and empowering women. You are empowered because you are leaders but you also empower because of your concern for the communities and the families in the communities. Congratulations for your good work.

I didn't hesitate to say yes when baby invited me to be with you today. Notwithstanding, that for us national candidates during this time, our schedule is usually dictated by the campaign manager. But I ask my campaign managers, make sure that I am in Manila when the Innerwheel has its convention.

Because being a rotary arm, I know how Filipino Rotarians and Rotary arms, I know how the Innerwheel clubs have initiated all the good things that Aida told us about over the last 38 years and I am especially very appreciative of the programs that you have initiated for peace, for the alleviation of hunger for literacy for the youth and volunteerism. You do this because you want to be agents of change. And you are women leaders in the community, you have the power to be agents of change and you use that power.

Yes, we all want change and speaking woman-to-woman, I know that the change, that we women want are those that will make life better for the average Filipino family. We are women, we are family-oriented, and even if we are community-oriented, even if we are nation-oriented, it is still the family in the community, it is the family in the nation that is what we want to help make life better for. That is why you are working on things like alleviation of poverty especially, therefore, food on every table, because that is the bottom line as far as poverty is concerned. That is why you are working for peace because our families want to have safety and security. That's why you're working for youth projects, for education projects, for literacy, because we know that education is the key to the improvement of the life of the ordinary Filipino.

Well, on the one hand, I thought that since the campaign was gonna start before your convention, there was a need to make sure that my schedule didn't clash with the campaign. But on the other hand, I think it is also God-given that I would be able to speak with you during the campaign period so that I can take this opportunity to say and to

ask you to tell all of the many people you influence, in all of the many communities in which you work that among the candidates, Gloria Arroyo is in the best position to achieve the changes we want. Why? Because I have gained the clout and the experience to turn the economy around.

In a short time I have made a strong start. I have turned the economy around and stabilized the mess we inherited. I guess the best way, the shortest way to describe the mess that we inherited is that in the three years before EDSA 2 made me president, our economy was only able to create one million jobs. That's why when I became president at EDSA 2, I inherited more than four million unemployed Filipinos. But in a short time, we have created now, in my short administration more than three million jobs.

Indeed, the most important thing, if we want to have food on every table, if we want to alleviate hunger is to create jobs, to create investments and to have people like the Innerwheel helping take care of the marginalized families and the poorest of the poor.

Literacy and youth, indeed, we have in our short administration worked for the betterment of our education system. We are in the 21st century and there are challenges of competitiveness in the 21st century that our educational system must be able to meet and that is why during the short period of my presidency we have improved math and science and English in order to make our young more competitive in the 21st century. And I thank the Innerwheel because again you helped the government, not necessarily on a government-to-Innerwheel kind of partnership but because you helped the young and you helped to increase literacy in the communities, and I thank you for that because what you do is volunteerism.

I thank you in your work, in your programs for peace because I know that you know, we all know as mothers, as family members that we want safety and security for the family. And in my administration, being a mother and now a grandmother who wants to have our families live in peace in the community, I have done unprecedented things in order to fight terrorism, fight kidnapping, fight the scourge of drugs, fight the corruption that makes public officials and law enforcement officers tied up with the syndicates that perpetrate these crimes.

Ang dapat nasa preso ay yung mga kidnappers at saka yung mga druglords. At yan ang ginawa natin kasama si Ning Nicholas doon sa paggawa ng matigas na batas kontra sa droga. Kaya ngayon, doon nga sa inyong distrito, ning, kakahuli lang natin ng 1.5 billion pesos worth of shabu. Kasama na yon sa napakaraming na-raid na mga drug laboratories, drug syndicates, yung mga drug smuggling pati na rin yung mga druglords na noong araw nakakaiwas sa batas, dahil mahina yung batas nakakapagpiyansa. Ngayon, ang dami-dami nating mga druglords na nasa preso, including the number one drug lord of them all, William Gan, at yung nahuli doon sa Meycauayan sa Bulacan, nahuli pati yung kasabwat na sindikato sa China. Dahil dito sa kalakasan ng ating foreign policy, preso sila sa China, preso yung mga nandito sa Pilipinas at dahil sa malakas na batas na napagawa sa ating administrasyon, kung ikaw ay druglord, panghabangbuhay kang nasa preso. Gaya nang sabi ko, ang dapat nasa preso, siksik na siksik na yung ating mga preso dahil sa dami ng druglords na nahuhuli at kidnappers. Dapat ang nasa preso druglord at kidnapper, at hindi iyung ating matatandang more than 70 years old.

Kaya noong yung Innerwheel Club ay nilakad itong ating dalawang lola, matatanda doon sa Women's Correctional, more than 70 years old, iyan ang pangunahing dahilan na ako ay pumayag na mabigyan sila ng patawad sa kanilang kasalanan. Kasi ang ating paniniwala, ang preso sa 21st century ay hindi para sa benggansa, ito ay para sa rehabilitation. Siguro naman, by the time they are 70 years old, and so many years in the Women's Correctional, rehabilitated na sila. So, its time for them, more than... Oh, its already overdue for them to enjoy the comfort and company of their family. Kaya patakaran ko ito, basta hindi sila druglord at hindi sila kidnapper, pag more than 70 years old, mag-recommend kayo at ipa-pardon ko rin sila.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa inyong mga programa tungkol sa kalusugan, kaya nandito si Undersecretary Galon, tinanggap yung inyong kontribusyon, 5,000 pesos yon bawat lalagyan. Thank you for your support. At mabuti na rin na si Baby Golez, ang National Conference Chairman, gayundin ang kaniyang anak na si Tony Golez, na aking inaanak, ay siya ang head executive assistant ng Secretary of Health. So, bagay na bagay ang partnership ng Innerwheel Club at Department of Health.

Alam mo si Tony Golez una ko nakilala, dahil siya ay isang lider nung tinatawag na lingkod E.R. estudyante pa siya, medical student at nagtutulong sila bilang intern doon sa emergency room ng U.S.T. tapos nakita nila ang mga pangangailangan, mga kakulangan, kaya nagtayo sila ng lingkod E.R. para makakuha ng kontribusyon para matakpan yung mga pangangailangan sa emergency room. Pero yung mga bagay na yan ay puwede nating mapagtulungan pa sa isa't-isa.

Noong ako ay senador, may batas na ipinasa — National Health Insurance. Ibig sabihin noon, supposed to be lahat ng pamilya ay matatakpan, masasakop sa health insurance. Kanya lamang noong akoy naging pangulo, nakita ko na hindi pala natutupad yon. yung may health insurance lamang pala halos ay yung mga GSIS at SSS members. In other words, yung mga employed formally. yung mga unemployed or informal workers wala. Sa batas pag sila ay mahihirap dapat yung local government ang nagko-contribute ng premium nila, pero maraming local government, siyempre lalo na yung mga mahihirap na local government, mayroon silang ibang mga priorities hindi nila kaya bayaran yung mga premium na yon. Kaya noong akoy naging pangulo, para naman yung mga emergency room kagaya ng U.S.T. lalo na kung mako-confine sila sa hospital ay hindi na kailangan maghahanap-hanap pa ng kontribusyon, puwedeng bayaran ng National Health Insurance. Ang ginawa ko ay pinalawak yung programa ng health insurance. Iyung mga mahihirap, tapos yung local government ay mahirap, ay nag-partner ang PCSO at saka ang local government para bayaran ang kanilang premium. Milyung-milyong Pilipino ang naipasok natin dito, kaya ngayon ay majority na ng pamilyang pilipino ay sakop na ng National Health Insurance.

Pero down payment lamang yan. Kasi kung nagawa nating majority ay sakop ng health insurance, our next ambition, lahat masakop ng health insurance. Kaya sabi ko sa PCSO, pag yung local government ay hindi kaya iyung kaniyang counterpart — sinabi ko rin sa DBM dahil mayroon din siyang subsidy portion para sa health insurance — akuin na ninyo yung buong premium para lahat ay maipasok.

Kaya ito naman ang aking hiling sa ating mga Innerwheel dahil ang dami nyong mga pinaglilingkuran na mga community, pamayanan, kung doon sa mga pinaglilingkuran ninyo ay meron kayong matagpuan na mahihirap na wala pa silang Philhealth — nandiyan naman si Baby eh, nandiyan naman si Tony — siguro, Tony, Baby, lets have a program whereby the Innerwheel can submit the application forms of the indigents who are not yet covered by health insurance to the DOH through Tony para sa ganun pag nahospital yung mga mahihirap na pinaglilingkuran ninyo, hindi na kayo ang maglalabas sa inyong bulsa para mabigyan sila ng bayad sa kanilang hospitalization, yung health insurance na ang babayad.

Ang dami-dami nating puwedeng magawa na magkasama sa isa't-isa. At ako ay nasisiyahan na talagang sinabi ninyo na ako ang gusto ninyong guest of honor itong araw na ito. Salamat sa pagkakataon dahil tayo mga kababaihan, siyempre tayo ay dapat na magkasama para alagaan, hindi lamang ang ating mga pamilya dahil halos lahat ng mga innerwheel naman ay mayroon namang kakayahang pag alagaan ang inyong pamilya kaya pamilya ng pamayanan na pinipili ninyo ang inyong alagaan.

Magsama-sama tayo. Congratulations on your 38th years of serving the Filipino family.

Let us be together for the next six years and serve the Filipino family of the 21st century.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 38th National Conference of the Innerwheel Clubs of the Philippines (IWCP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090547/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5646&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of Manibela Kontra Droga (MAKONDROGA)
[Filipino]**

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa seremonya ng paglulunsad ng Manibela Kontra Droga (MAKONDROGA)**

[Ipinahayag sa Amoranto Station, A. Roces Ave., Lungsod ng Quezon, ika 16 ng Pebrero, 2004]

Maraming salamat.

Aking mga Cabinet members — hindi ko na babanggitin yung hindi kandidato kasi baka maboto pa ninyo sila — batiin ko na lamang ang ating senador at siguradong senador muli, ang kamandag, ang kinatatakutan ng druglords, si Bobby Barbers. Banggitin ko na rin ang Most Outstanding Mayor of the Philippines, Sonny Belmonte. Congratulations Sonny sa napakagandang Amoranto Stadium. Noong araw bulok na bulok ang itsura nito, ngayon ang ganda-ganda na kaya ginagamit pati ng mga international competition.

Batiin ko rin ang Anti-drug Czar ng Quezon City, si Vice Mayor Bistek Bautista. Batiin ko na rin yung mga konsehal ng Quezon City na narito: si Councilor Beth Delarmente at saka si Councilor Ariel Inton.

At kayo naman, mabuhay ang mga driver!

Mabuhay ang mga operator!

Mabuhay ang inyong mga pamilya! Dahil ginagawa natin ito para sa kapakanan ng inyong mga pamilya para masaya-saya sa inyo.

Mabuhay ang mga lumalaban sa droga!

Ako ay labis na nagagalak na nagtitipon-tipon tayo ngayon upang palakasin ang pagbabagong hinahangad nating lahat para sa kapakanan ng pamilyang Pilipino. Durugin ang droga! Sugpuin ang iligal na droga!

Gaya nang sabi ni Secretary Joey Lina, bago ako umupo sa pagkapangulo, napakasama, napakahina ang laban sa iligal na droga, lalo nat napakahina ng batas kontra sa droga. Bago ka makulong kailangan dalawang daang gramo ng shabu ang mahuli sa iyo. Sa higit libong nahuling mga pushers, dalawa lamang ang nakakulong, lahat nakakapagpiyansa. At hanggat may droga sa ating pamayanan hindi ligtas ang ating mga pamilya. Hanggat may nagbebenta at may gumagamit ng iligal na droga hindi ligtas ang inyong mga anak, inyong mga asawa. Ano yung pinagtatawanan natin diyan? Baka may nagdo-droga diyan?

Kayat nang ako ay umupo bilang pangulo hiningi ko sa Kongreso at Senado na ipasa ang mas mabagsik na batas kontra sa droga. At doon nga sa Senado si Senator Bobby Barbers ay gumawa ng batas na ngayon ay isa sa pinakamabagsik na batas kontra sa droga sa buong mundo.

Kaya tuloy ngayon ang dami na nating nahuling bigtime drug pusher na matagal nung araw nakakaiwas sa batas, kasama pa nga ang number one drug pusher sa kanilang lahat, si William Gan. Now, William Gan is gone, nasa preso na. Ang daming na-raid na laboratoryo at pabrika ng shabu, ang daming nakumpiskang shabu. At ang ginagawa dito sa nakukumpiskang shabu, lingu-linggo sa harap ng publiko at NGO ay sinusunog itong shabu para hindi na ma-recycle.

Ang dami ring smuggled na shabu ay nahuli na rin. Noong isang linggo lamang, doon sa Valenzuela, bulacan mahigit tatlong daang kilo ng shabu na halagang 1.5 billion pesos ang nakumpiska ng mga operatiba ng PDEA doon

sa raid sa Bulacan. Karugtong ito ng ating nabuong pakikipagtulungan sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at China sa pagsugpo ng international drug trade. Nakapagpatayo tayo ng mas maraming rehabilitation centers para ang dating gumagamit ay hindi muling malulong sa bisyo. At kung ikaw ay drug pusher, kulong ka habangbuhay.

Lahat nito ay kasama sa ipinaglalaban kong pagbabago para sa karaniwang Pilipino. Itong nagawa natin sa maikling panahon pinalakas ang enforcement ngunit kailangan ko kayo mga drayber, mga operator dito sa laban kontra sa bawal na gamot.

Unang-una, sana kayo mismo ang magbigay ng magandang halimbawa. Kanina sabi ni Jun Magno, o kayo diyan ha, baka lumagpak sa drug test? Pinaliwanag nga ni Manolet Dayrit yung tukso na umaabot sa mga drayber. Kasi ang istraktura ng transportation industry kung minsan 24 hours kayong diretsong nagtatrabaho, nagmamaneho. Kaya para manatiling gising nagdodroga na lamang. Yan ang isang kailangan nating mapalitan ang kultura. Kayo mismo ang kailangan para mapapalitan ang kultura. Kayo mismo ang inaasahan nating magbibigay ng magandang halimbawa. Kayo mismo ang unang-unang magpapa-drug test sana. At para kayo ay maenganyo na unang magpa-drug test, yung unang sampung libong driver na voluntarily magpapa-drug test, libre ang inyong drug test, hindi kayo ikukobra. Kaya lang milyon kayo. Yung iba pagkatapos ng 10,000 hindi na libre, pero gagawing mura ang drug test para sa mga drayber ng mga public utility.

Inaasahan rin natin na kayo pag merong mukhang high na high na sasakay sa inyong sasakyan hindi nyo sila papayagang sumakay sa inyong taxi, sa inyong bus, sa inyong jeep, sa inyong FX. At kayo namang mga taxi driver, inaasahan na pag may naihahatid kayo, nalalalaman ninyong laboratoryo, pabrika ng droga kayo ang magsusumbong, tatawag kayo doon sa line 117.

Ang daming kailangan na tulong ninyo, mga driver, mga operator, kaya tayong lahat magkasama sa manibela kontra sa droga!

Itong malakas na ginawa natin pagsugpo sa droga, pagsugpo sa kidnapper, pagsugpo sa terorista gaya nang sabi ni Larry Mendoza, wala na silang mai-issue sa atin tungkol sa peace and order.

Ngunit down payment pa lamang yan, sa susunod na installment, tayong lahat drug free 2010 ang ating hangarin.

Mabuhay ang Manibela Kontra sa Droga!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of Manibela Kontra Droga (MAKONDROGA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090556/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5645&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Conferment Ceremony of the Ceres Medal by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Conferment Ceremony of the Ceres Medal by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization represented by FAO Director General Jacques Diouf**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, February 20, 2004]

His Excellency, Dr. Jacques Diouf, United Nations Fao Director General; other officials of the United Nations who are here today; Secretary Romulo; Secretary Lorenzo; other colleagues in government; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; mga kasama sa trabaho: sa D.A., attached agencies, DFA, U.N. Manila Office at attached agencies, ladies and gentlemen:

I accept this honor, which is the woman's equivalent of the Nobel Prize or the Oscar awards for food and agriculture. I accept it with great pride as well as with deep humility.

I am humbled as well to be in the company of such luminaries who previously received this award like the late Mother Teresa, Queen Sirikit of Thailand, Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, and Prime Minister Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, among others.

And I have asked Dr. Diouf — because this is an award I am receiving for the sake of the Filipino farmers who provide food on the table, for the sake of our government workers who helped the farmers provide food on the table — I have asked him to deliver... Permission to deliver a large part of my acceptance speech in our own native language.

Tinatanggap ko itong parangal na ito sa ngalan ng 'di mabilang na kabalikat nating nagmamalasakit para makasigurado na may pagkain sa bawat mesa.

Sa aking maikling panguluhan, ipinaglaban ko, kasama ninyo, ang pagbabago para nga masiguro ang adhikain ng karaniwang Pilipino na may pagkain sa kanyang mesa. Ngayon lamang gumagastos ang pamahalaan ng dalawampung bilyong piso bawat taon para sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura. Kasama na rito ang wala pang kapantay na paglawak ng irigasyon. Ang minana ko ay isang milyong ektaryang may irigasyon. Sa pamamagitan ng pagtayo ng mga bagong proyekto, pagtatapos ng mga proyektong nakabinbin, at pagsasaayos ng mga sistema kailangan ng rehabilitasyon, nadagdagan natin ng kalahating milyong ektarya may irigasyon. Ito ay down payment pa lamang. Kung bibigyan ako ng pagkakaton na maglingkod ng isang buong termino bilang pangulo, kayang-kaya nating mairiga ang nalalabing kalahating milyong ektarya sa susunod na anim na taon.

Nagdala rin tayo sa magsasaka ng bagong rice hybrid na tinatawag nilang Gloria rice. Ito ay bunga ng ating magandang foreign policy. Noong ako ay gumawa ng state visit sa Tsina noong nobyembre ng 2001, dahil alam ng mga opisyal ng Tsina na ako ay isa sa mga nagtayo ng Association for Philippines-China understanding noon pang 1970s kahit wala pa tayong relasyon diplomatiko sa China noon, isa sa tulong na binigay ni Premier Zhu Ronghi ay binahagi sa atin 'yung kanilang trade secret na rice hybrid. Sinubukan natin ito sa tatlumpu't limang ektarya noong 2002, at nagtagumpay naman. Kaya pinalawak natin sa sandaang ektarya noong 2003, at lalo pang nagtagumpay. Kung noong wala pang gloria rice, ang karaniwang ani ay walumpung kaban bawat ektarya. Ang topnotcher sa Gloria rice sa Mindoro itong 2003 ay naka-ani ng 290 cavans bawat ektarya. At ang karaniwang ani ay doble sa dati. Ngunit gaya nang sabi ko, ito ay down payment pa lamang. Gusto kong maging self-sufficient tayo sa bigas. Kaya itong taon dadalhin natin ang gloria rice sa limang daang libong ektarya.

Mayroon mga nagtatanong, kung biglang dadami ang ani, baka naman hindi mabili sa mabuting presyo. Kaya inatasan ko ang NFA, na sa halip na isang bilyong piso ang nakahanda para bumili ng palay, maghanda ng apat na

bilyong piso. At bilang tulong sa mga magsasakang tataya sa Gloria rice, bibilhin ang ani hindi sa siyam na piso kung hindi sa sampung piso.

Ang mga ito at iba pang pagbabago sa agrikultura ay bahagi ng ating laban sa kahirapan dahil ang nakararami sa ating mahihirap ay nasa kanayunan.

Apat ang batayang bahagi ng ating laban sa kahirapan: una, ang paglikha ng trabaho; pangalawa, ang modernisasyon ng agrikultura sa anyong maka-magsasaka kasama ng reporma sa lupa; pangatlo, ang direktang tulong sa mga mahihirap; at pang-apat, ang mabuting pamamahala.

Tungkol sa trabaho. Sa panahon ni Pangulong Estrada, kalahating milyong trabaho lamang ang nalikha. Kaya kasama sa kaguluhang namana ko ay higit apat na milyong Pilipinong walang trabaho. Ngunit sa aking maikling panguluhan, higit tatlong milyong trabaho ang ating nalikha. Gawa na rin dahil umakyat ng beinte seis porsiyento ang foreign investment sa ating bansa. ngunit ulitin ko, down payment pa lamang ito. Mayroon pang isang milyong walang trabahong namana sa dating administrasyon, at mayroon pang pumapasok na bago sa labor force. Pero napatunayan naman natin kaya nating lumikha ng isang milyong trabaho bawat taon pag may karanasan at karunungan ang namumuno. Kaya kung bibigyan na naman ng pagkakataon, sa susunod na anim na taon, makakalikha tayo ng anim na milyong trabaho para mabura ang malawak na kawalang trabaho sa ating bansa.

Tungkol sa direktang tulong sa mga mahihirap. Walang kapantay na palupa ng agrikultura, siyudad at ancestral domain. Walang kapantay ang pagtayo ng eskwela sa liblib na lugar. Walang kapantay na pabahay. Walang kapantay na health insurance. Walang kapantay pa na microfinance ang nakamit sa ating maikling panguluhan. Ngunit muli, down payment ‘yan.

Sa susunod na anim na taon, papalawakin natin ang karapatang palupa, pabahay, paaralan sa liblib. Papaabutin sa lahat ng pamilya ang health insurance. Papaabutin ang kalahating presyong gamot at microfinance sa bawat barangay. Magkakaroon ang lahat ng malinis na tubig at malinis na pamamahala.

Dahil nahuli natin ang maraming big fish sa pamahalaan: huwes, undersecretary, bureau director, regional director, at iba pang presidential appointee, maganda, napaganda natin ang ating pagkubra ng buwis noong nakaraang taon. Kaya magagamit itong koleksyon sa mas malawak na tulong ngayon sa mga magsasaka, sa mas malawak na imprastraktura para dumami ang namumuhunang magbibigay ng trabaho, mas maraming direktang tulong sa mahihirap.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, our friends from the international community, I humbly accept this award as a form of recognition for our efforts to fight poverty, to provide food on every table. An honor I share with the many good women and men of my administration.

Again, I thank the FAO for this award. And you have my solemn pledge, in return, that I will continue to do what’s right, to do my best to help eliminate hunger and mass poverty in my country, in our region, in the world.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA’s Speech during the Conferment Ceremony of the Ceres Medal by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization represented by FAO Director General Jacques Diouf. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090532/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5644&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of 3 Angels Broadcasting Network

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the inauguration of 3 Angels Broadcasting Network

[Delivered at the PICC Plenary Hall, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, February 21, 2004]

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Ambassador Tejano.

I will confirm that I did recall many political ambassadors because I promised the career foreign service that I would increase the percentage of career officials in the ambassadors position. But I made an exception of Ambassador Tejano because of my great respect for the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Officers of 3 ABN headed by President Danny Shelton and Mrs. Linda Shelton. Thank you for your very kind words, they make up for the many words I cannot say tonight because my voice is bad. Officers of Southern Asia-Pacific division headed by Pastor Albert Gulopan; officers of North Philippines headed by Pastor Nestor Dayson; Officers of the Central Philippines headed by Hemuel Tolidanes; officers of the South Philippines headed by Pastor Ultimino Rivera; officers of Manila Adventist Medical Center headed by Bibbly Macaya; officers of Mountain Provinces Mission Mr. Manny Villones, franchise owner; Pastor Larry Faire, Communications Director; mga minamahal kong Seventh Day Adventists, Happy Sabbath evening to all of you!

I am very pleased to be able to join you this wonderful evening for the inauguration of the 3 ABN in the Philippines. This is the beginning of what will be surely yet another of your valuable and significant contributions to Philippine culture. Through your programs on health, education, community service, science and technology, family counseling and Christian ministry, you offer Filipinos what we need most— a healthy mind in a healthy body anchored on faith in god.

I am personally an admirer of your health ministry. When I was a young girl growing up in Iligan City — Adunay Tiga-Iliganon Diri? Okay, maayong pag-abot kaninyong tanan — anyway, when I was a young girl growing up in Iligan City, one day we were having summer vacation in my grandmother's house in Timoga, together with my Brother Arthur who was then fourteen years old. Apparently, in the middle of the night, my Brother Arthur was sleepwalking and fell from the second floor of my Grandmother's house all the way to the landing. But this was in the middle of the night and no one of us knew about it when it happened. At dawn, the first household helper woke up and she saw my brother on the landing of the stairs, his mouth frothing, his eyes opened without the pupils. Surely that meant that his fall caused him brain injury. She rushed all of us to wake up, and what we did was we rushed him to Iligan sanitarium. And we are very grateful that after his emergency treatment in Iligan sanitarium, later followed by brain surgery, he is now a very successful businessman. No damage to his brain at all. Praise god!

And so my family knows what it is like to be grateful to the Seventh Day Adventist Church for a sound mind in a sound body. A healthy body anchored on faith in God.

And now, as public servant, I have always emphasized the moral component in our campaign of reform. And I always emphasized that we can build a better society by fighting poverty and engendering economic growth not just for a few but for the many as the Seventh Day Adventist Church does.

I thank you for your support to me, and I would like to believe that with the grace of God I have been worthy of your support. In a very short time as president, I've made a strong start. I've turned the economy around and stabilized the mess we inherited including more than four million unemployed that I inherited because sad to say in

the administration of President Estrada only half a million jobs were created. But in my short presidency we created more than three million jobs. I have likewise made unprecedented gains in housing, in health care and anti-corruption. It is a down payment, but it is not good enough. I'm not satisfied, more has to be done. It will take resolve and leadership to overcome the forces trying to divide us. And I know the Seventh Day Adventist Church and your programming will provide for more unity rather than for more division.

I will fight for unprecedented change that makes us more secure, strengthens our families and stamps out corruption. We have made progress but I need a mandate from the people for fundamental change. I will fight to change the culture of corruption, stop the scourge of drugs and wipe out terrorism. I will expand health coverage to all Filipinos, bring more housing, expand property rights, create more jobs with higher wages. We will have clean water and clean government.

I am fighting for not just change from without but also change from within. And in this we are united. I deeply appreciate your own efforts to nurture hope and faith among our people.

With God's guidance and with your help. With the beautiful things that you would be spreading in 3 ABN, we will win this battle for change.

And again, I thank you all for your support and congratulations! And good luck to 3 ABN!

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Inauguration of 3 Angels Broadcasting Network. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090525/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5643&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Lakbay Kontra Droga 2004 and Grand Culmination Rally [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Lakbay Kontra Droga 2004 at Grand Culmination Rally**

[Ipinahayag sa Liwasang Ipil-Ipil, CCP Complex, Pasay, ika 22 ng Pebrero, 2004]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Joey Lina, mabuhay ang buong DILG!

Ako ay nagpapasalamat na ang dami-dami nating narito. Ang dami-daming mga opisyal. Ang dami-daming mga barangay officials. Ang dami-daming mga NGO at gusto kong batiin ang ilan sa kanila. Unang-una po nandito ang ating Chairman ng MMDA, si Bayani Fernando. Maraming nagagawa si Bayani Fernando. Linilinis ang kalye sa basura. Linilinis ang kalye sa droga. Kaya mabuhay si Chairman Bayani Fernando!

Gusto kong batiin ang ating Mayor ng Maynila, Mayor Lito Atienza. Batiin ko rin ang Manila youth, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Nandito rin si Mrs. Beng Atienza. Nandito yung kanilang manugang si Miles Roces, di ba?

Alam nyo, mabuti at nandito si Mrs. Beng Atienza. Kasi hindi lamang laban sa droga ang dinadala natin sa barangay, dinadala din natin sa barangay ang family values. Kaya nagkakaisa kami ni Mayor Lito Atienza. Eto yung ating ibat-ibang magagaling na mayor, narito sila: ang mayor ng Caloocan, si mayor Rey Malonzo. Si mayor Rey Malonzo malapit nang malagyan ng equipment yung kanyang ospital, siguro Rey, maglalagay tayo ng konting drug rehab facilities doon.

Nakikita ko rin yung magaling na mayor ng Valenzuela, si Bobbit Carlos. Alam nyo ba, doon sa mga barangay ni Bobbit — hindi ba Bobbit may nahuhuli tayong mga shabu factory? Bakit natin nahuhuli? Dahil yung mga barangay information network ay nagsusumbong tungkol dito sa mga drug pushers. Kaya maraming salamat, talagang doon sa Valenzuela kitang-kita natin na ang laban sa droga ay dalang-dala sa barangay. Congratulations, mayor ng Valenzuela, Bobbit Carlos.

Nakita ko rin ang City Mayor ng Sorsogon, si Sally Lee. Mga kasama nyo sa Sorsogon, Dios para marhay nga banggi sa indo gabos. Saan sila? At saka ang dami nating mga appointive officials na narito, hindi ko na sila babanggitin lahat dahil magkasama kami. Kaya pag nandito ako, kasama na rin sila. Pag dinala ko ang laban sa barangay, sila rin. Ngunit gusto kong batiin yung ilang mga nakita ko dito. Doon sa mga ngo nakikita ko dito yung VACC — Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption — at sila ay talagang — nabasa ko doon sa isang SWS survey — number one most credible NGO. Congratulations! Kaya kung sila Dante Jimenez, kung sila Kapitan Diño, kung si Rose Bud ay kasama natin sa laban kontra sa droga, talagang magtatagumpay tayo.

Yang si Rose Bud, ang dami nyang binulgar tungkol sa mga laban sa mga droga, kaya ang dami nating pinanimulaan. Yan si Kapitan Diño ay tumutulong hindi lamang sa droga, kung hindi na rin siya yung nagtatanggol sa mga biktima ng mga nangangahasa.

Kaya itong laban kontra sa droga na dinadala natin sa barangay bahagi lamang yan sa mga laban na dinadala natin sa barangay. Sa barangay nandiyan ang laban sa droga. Sa barangay nandiyan ang laban sa kahirapan. Kaya naman nung ako ay naging pangulo binaliktad ko yung Executive Order na ginawa ni Pangulong Estrada na nagkaltas ng beinte porsyento sa inyong IRA. Kaya buong-buo ang inyong IRA para kayo na ang lalaban sa kahirapan sa inyong sariling barangay.

Laban sa droga, laban sa krimen, laban sa kahirapan, laban para sa mga gustong manira ng mga magandang asal ng pamilya. Lahat ito ang labang dinadala natin sa mga barangay.

Kaya mga kaibigan, mga kabataan, mga tiga-barangay tulungan nyo ako sa lahat ng mga laban na ito. Magkaisa tayo, mabuhay ang mga barangay! Mabuhay ang mga kabataan! Mabuhay ang mga lumalaban sa droga!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Lakbay Kontra Droga 2004 and Grand Culmination Rally. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090444/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5642&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 43rd anniversary of family physicians

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 43rd anniversary of family physicians**

[Delivered at the PICC Reception Hall, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, February 26, 2004]

FOR THE GOOD OF THE FILIPINO FAMILY

Family physicians are those that the family feels comfortable with. Family physicians become friends rather than just professionals servicing us. And so I'm very happy to be here with all of you.

I take this opportunity also to commend Ddr. Sanchez for calling to my attention — sometimes directly but many times through other physicians who know me — about the concerns of the doctors of the Philippines. And it is because of your feedback to me. It is because I have so many doctors who are friends and also who are professionals, family physicians and specialists, whom I consult for my own health. It was because of this that I encouraged the exemption of physicians from coverage of the VAT law. It is also because of the text messages of many of the physicians to me protesting the 20 percent withholding tax scheme that I called up Parayno, BIR, to have a dialogue with you. And Parayno reported to me that it is not 20 percent, it is now 15 percent for those earning 720,000 and 10 percent for those earning below. And Dr. Sanchez just reported to me that you had opposed the requirement for a notarized declaration of your earnings under oath. That you want a simple declaration in a form issued by the BIR, and he reported to me that Parayno — because I talked to him on the phone — has agreed to your demand.

I congratulate you, family physicians on your 43rd anniversary. Your commitment to the progress of your profession helps transform the lives of so many of our fellow men.

You and I are kin in leadership and practice. In doing our respective jobs, we have to do it well because our work affects deeply the lives of people.

Like you, I have been fighting and working for the good of the Filipino family especially the poor and the average Filipino family for they form the backbone of the Filipino nation.

Lahat tayo pati kayo may pamilya rin. Yung mga pamilyang inaalagaan ninyo pati na rin yung inyong sariling pamilya, lahat tayong mga pamilyang Pilipino gusto ng pagbabago. At ang pagbabagong hinahangad ay tungkol sa pangkabuhayan, trabaho, presyo, hanapbuhay, kalusugan. Kalaban ng karaniwang Pilipino ay kahirapan, gutom, sakit, patina rin ang moral decay.

At dahil nga pati kayo na mga professionals hanapbuhay importante sa inyo kaya nga sana itong VAT exemption ay makatulong sa inyo. Yung mga kalabang kahirapan, gutom, sakit, pag yung decay ng moral values ng pamilya nilalabanan ko itong mga kalabang ito. Ipinaglalaban ko ang pagbabago. Sa aking maikling panguluhan, gumawa ako ng malakas na panimula galing sa kaguluhang naman ako. Si dating Pangulong Estrada nakalikha ng kalahating milyong trabaho lamang. Kaya higit apat na milyon ang ating minanang walang trabaho. In a short time, we made a strong start in cleaning up the mess we inherited. We were able to turn the economy around. Sa aking maikling panguluhan, nakalikha tayo ng mahigit tatlong milyong trabaho. How? Because we now have one of the highest growth rates in the Asia-Pacific — 5.5 percent. Ang lampas lang sa atin dito China, Vietnam, pareho tayo sa Malaysia. Lahat ng iba naiwan na natin sa growth rate.

And we have the lowest inflation rate in a generation, help along by the good work of many of our pharmaceuticals including Unilab, Glaxo, and many of the members of the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines who had been bringing to the market a lot of medicines with lower prices.

We've also had a 26 percent inflow of foreign investment. And in the past two months alone since the Christmas season — *ito alam nyong importante dahil alam nyo ang importantsya ng tubig sa kalusugan* — I brought clean water to more than 600,000 families in Metro Manila, Rizal and Cavite. We brought health insurance during my short period of the presidency to more than 8 million indigents, so that today the majority of Filipino families, to include the SSS and GSIS members, are covered by health insurance. But these are all just a down payment. *Dapat mayroon pang susunod na installment para sa karaniwang pamilyang Pilipino.*

And you and I must be there to help them. *Tatal panahon ng kampanya hindi labag sa batas kung imbes na nandoon ako ngayon sa Mindanao humihingi tulong, nandito ako ngayon sa inyo humihingi ng tulong ninyo sa susunod na installment.*

We will have clean water and clean government. Just recently we launched a program to achieve universal health insurance coverage. And I'm not here just to ask for your support in the elections, I'm here to ask for your support in governance — help me find the remaining indigents who still do not have health insurance. I know that many of you served poor families. You know whether they have health insurance or not. So, I hope you can work with my Philhealth President, Dr. Pingkoy Duque, to enroll the indigents that you take care of. So that if you have to endorse them for hospitalization, you will not feel so bad and have a heavy heart, because the state will help take care of the medical and hospital bills.

Yes, I will fight for unprecedented change that makes us more secure in our health, strengthens our families, and stamps out corruption, to gain for all Filipino families the kind of respect that our doctors and others in the medical profession have earned all around the world.

Yon din ang isang dahilan kung bakit ang inyong propesyon ay importante, hind lamang sa akin na anak ng doktora, hind lamang sa aking pamilya, kundi na rin sa pamilya ng ating bansa. Kasi yung kauna-una — hindi ba mga yon tawag nila the Filipino worker is world class. Pero sino ang kauna-unang Filipino worker na kinilala sa buong mundo? — the Filipino doctor. Kayo, you blaze the trail for other Filipino professionals all over the world.

Your profession serves our whole country because of your good reputation all over the world and because of the work that you directly do for the people of the Philippines. And you, the family physicians particularly serve the family. We are alike in that. It is your mission to serve the family my mission to keep the family whole and thriving in a world of formidable challenges.

For the family that we serve, for the families that we serve, lets join hands and win the future.

Kasi kalusugan ang inaalagaan ninyo ngunit dahil sa napakalaking impluwensiya ninyo sa mga pamilya na naging kaibigan na rin ninyo, ang laki rin ng inyong influence sa kanilang mga asal, sa kanilang family values. Kaya ang dami nyong magagawa para sa pagbabago ng ating lipunan. Hindi lamang sa larangan ng kalusugan mismo ng katawan kundi na rin sa larangan ng kalusugan ng pag-iisip ng pamilyang Pilipino, kalusugan ng ating bansa. Congratulations!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the 25th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) Tagapagsangalang Class 2004

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 25th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA)
Tagapagsangalang Class 2004**

[Delivered at the Camp Gen. Mariano N. Castañeda Parade Grounds, Silang, Cavite, March 2, 2004]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Joey Lina sa iyung parating napakagandang pagpakilala sa akin.

Police Superintendent Salvacion, Director ng Philippine National Academy; Undersecretary Corpuz, OIC ng Philippine Public Safety College; General Ebdane and namumuno ng Philippine National Police; lahat ng officers ng Philippine National Police na narito ngayon; gusto ko ring batiin ang mayor ng Silang, si Mayor Madlansacay; ganun na rin ang pangulo ng City Mayors ng buong Pilipinas, Mayor Francis Tolentino; at ang maybahay ng ating Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mrs. Gina de Venecia; yung inyong magiging boss batiin ko rin bukod kay General Ebdane, si Fire Chief Superintendent Francisco Senot at saka si Jail Chief Superintendent Arturo Alit.

At yung tumutulong mag-alaga ng inyong kapakanan ang pangulo ng PNP Alumni Association, si General Pete Bulaong; mga magulang; kapatid; kaibigan ng ating mga graduating students ngayon; mga miyembro ng PNPA Class 2004 tagapagsangalang tanggapin ninyo ang aking taos-pusong pagbati sa inyong pagtatapos.

Binabati ko rin especially si Cadet Decena at yung top ten. At nasisiyahan ako na sa top ten, anim ay kababaihan. Espesyal ang Class 2004 sa akin kasi kayo ay nagtraining sa PSG.

And, therefore, let me also take this opportunity to commend the Class of 2004, who, as part of your training with the PSG or part of the security force that did an admirable job of ensuring the safety of U.S. President George Bush during his state visit to the Philippines last year.

Siya nga pala, tikas pahinga.

Kasabay ng aking pagbati ay ang aking malugod na pagtanggap sa inyo bilang kasapi ng Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, at Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

You are now my fellow agents of change. Lahat tayo gusto natin ng pagbabago. Ang pagbabagong hinahangad ay tungkol sa mas mabuting buhay, kasama na rito ang pangkabuhayan at kaligtasan.

Maski pulis, bumbero, bantay sa preso ay karaniwang Pilipinong humahangad ng mas mabuting buhay. Kaya gaya nang sinabi ni Secretary Lina nung ako ay naging pangulo, tinaas ko ang sweldo ng mga pulis at ginawang kapantay ng mga sweldo ng mga guro. At hinihintay ko na lamang dumating sa aking desk mula sa Kongreso — salamat kay Speaker de Venecia at kay Senate President Franklin Drilon, at lahat ng Congressmen at Senator — hinihintay ko na lamang dumating sa desk ko para mapirmahan ko yung pagtaas ng sweldo ng bumbero at bantay sa preso. Gusto ko nga sana pirmahan ko itong araw na ito eh, pero hindi pa dumadating sa aking desk. May proseso yon. Pagkatapos pinapasa, dumadaan sa Office ng Speaker, Senate President, na-enroll tapos ita-transmit sa Malacañang. Kahapon trinansmit, dadaan sa Legislative Office, titingnan nung... Ritual, titingnan nung ano, nung legislative lawyer kung dapat ipirma o i-veto o i-let lapse into law tapos ibibigay sa akin. Pero nandiyan na yan, dumating na sa malaca, ang, kaya darating na yan. Pagkatapos, pagkatapos nahambing na ang sweldo ng pulis at mga teacher, ang susunod naman ay pwede na nating itaas na muli ang sweldo ng mga guro at iba pang kawani ng pamahalaan. Yan ang ating susunod na plataporma pagbalik natin sa Kongreso pagkatapos ng halalan.

Sa mga nagtatapos ngayon, samahan ninyo ako sa aking ipinaglalabang pagbabago para sa karaniwang Pilipino. Sa maikling panahon, nakagawa tayo ng malakas na panimula. Napatatag natin ang kaguluhang minana natin. Nakagawa tayo ng di pa napapantayang sulong sa pabahay kasama na ang pabahay para sa mga pulis. Dito sa aking maikling panguluhan nakapagtayo tayo ng halos tatlong daang libong pabahay para sa manggagawa at kasama dito pabahay para sa pulis.

Para naman sa inyong mga pangkabuhayan bukod sa pagtaas ng sweldo alam ko na marami kayong pangangailangan. Yung inyong alumni association ay merong foundation na tinatawag kampilan multi-purpose cooperative of the PNP Alumni Association para tinutulungan yung mga alumni na may bukod na pangangailangan. Kaya itong araw na ito, dagdag na rin sa tulong sa karaniwang pulis ay magdadagdag ako ng seed fund sa kanilang one million pesos, ibibigay ko kay General Bulaong, ang pangulo ng inyong alumni association.

Nakasulong tayo laban sa katiwalian, kasama na ang crackdown sa mga tiwaling pulis. Kaya naman malakas ang ating laban kontra sa mga krimen lalo na kontra sa droga. Higit dalawampung libong drug lords at drug pushers ay naaresto, kasama na ang number one na si william gan. Halos dalawampung bilyong halagang droga ay nakumpiska natin.

At sinugod natin ang mga terorista. Sa kauna-unang pagkakataon mula noong pangyayari sa Sipadan, patakbo ang mga Abu Sayyaf. Ang mga sikat na terorista gaya ni Abu Sabaya, Robot, Al-Ghozi, Global ay napatay o nabilanggo.

Ngunit ang mga ito ay down payment lamang. Kailangan pa ng susunod na installment. Kailangan lalo na ang desididong liderato upang masugpo ang mga pwersang sumisikap hatiin tayo.

Kaya kayo ay kailangan ko, mga nag-gagraduate dito sa PNPA. Ipinaglalaban ko ang hindi pa napapantayang pagbabago na gagawin tayong mas ligtas, palalakasin ang ating mga pamilya, at buburahin ang katiwalian. Lalaban ko para palitan ang kultura ng katiwalian, pigilin ang salot ng droga, at burahin ang terorismo.

Papalawakin natin ang pabahay para sa mga pulis.

Inaasahan ko na kayo mga bagong public safety officers, tayo mga naglilingkod sa pamahalaan, at lahat tayong pilipino ay magtutulong-tulungan upang magapi ang kahirapan, masugpo ang kriminalidad, at makamit ang katahimikan sa buong bansa.

Sa inyo ang aking payo, mga bagong pulis, bagong firemen and women, bagong bantay sa mga preso — be exemplars of public service.

Let us unite in being each one of us an agent of possible social transformation and lasting progress.

Hangad ko ang inyong pakikiisa sa aking layuning mabigyan ng isang mainam na pamumuhay ang bawat Pilipino.

Again, to my special Class of 2004, congratulations to the graduates, their parents and their teachers.

Maraming salamat. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 25th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) Tagapagsangalang Class 2004. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090424/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5663&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Mindanao Cooperative Conference

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Mindanao Cooperative Conference

[Delivered at the Grand Caprice Restaurant, Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, March 6, 2004]

Thank you very much, Chairman Ruben Conti for your introduction. Thank you also for your innovations as a cooperative movement.

Binabati ko rin ang dating Chairman ng Cooperative Development Authority na siya ang bagong Secretary ng Tourism, si Secretary Obet Pagdanganan. Binabati ko rin pero parating gusto niya nasa backstage siya, ang ating Secretary of Housing, si Mike Defensor. Nasa backstage.

Ipaabot ko sab ang akong pag-abe-abe sa akong usa sa mga daghang mga Cabinet members gikan sa Mindanao ang... Si Secretary Cito Lorenzo, apil na ang iyang kanhi nga company ang Del Monte tungod kay ang Del Monte Cooperative ang nakadaog ug... A Hall of Fame awardee nga katunay na Outstanding Cooperative. Ang akong pag-abe-abe sab sa mga uban nga awardees karong tuig.

Sa atong mga officers and officials diri sa Cagayan De Oro ug Misamis Oriental, ang atong host mayor, Mayor Dongco Emano; ang atong Congressman, Congressman Oca Moreno; ug gusto ko sab ipaabot ang akong greetings sa usa ka anak ug Cagayan De Oro nga dako kaayo ang nahimo alang sa aton mga cooperative farmers ug laing uban nga farmers, ang head sa National Irrigation Administration, si Jess Paras ng Cagayan de Oro; si Cito ug si Jess ubos sa akong administrasyon, aking diutay nga tiyempo isip presidente nakahuman, nakakumpleto, naka-repair sa half-a-million hectares sa irrigation systems.

Ang atong na... ang nabilin... Ang atong naabutan nga irrigation one million hectares. Sa ating diutay, gamay nga tiyempo isip presidente half-a-million hectares ang nabilin na ra na dili pa irrigated half-a-million hectares na ra. Kon sa akong diutay, gamay, kadyot nga tiyempo isip presidente nakahuman kita ug half-a-million hectares, pa unsa pa ang anum na taon nga masunod nga administrasyon. Anim nga tuig, I mean.

Kaninyong tanan, mga Cooperative Development Authority Board and administrations officers, cooperative leaders sa tibuok Mindanao, maayong buntag mga kooperatiba sa Mindanao.

Hibalo ko nga naa kamo mga hangyo sama sa ingon ug atong speaker kagangina sama sa pag-register ug electric cooperative sa CDA, usa sa mga issue, ang akong prinsipyo diri depende kon asa mamenos ang electric bill sa mga consumers. Sama... Mao sab ang akong tuyo niadto gi-condone ko ang bilyun-bilyon nga utang ug mga electric cooperative. Unta dili nakalimot nga gi-condone ko ang utang ninyo. Asa mga electric cooperative diri? Wala kamo. Okay, kay dili sila apil sa electric cooperative. Mao ang atong problema ug ang atong murag ang atong controversy diri o issue gikan sa nagkalain-laing interpretasyon sa tax exemption sa coops busa gina-instruct ko karon ang Secretary of Justice agi kan ruben — tiga-saan ka ba Ruben? Ay Batangas, magtatagalog ako sa kanya — Ruben, sabihin mo sa Secretary of Justice, kay Mercy Gutierrez, na gumawa na nang opinyon tungkol sa tax exemption ng cooperatives na kailangan susundan at kung anong ginawang opinyon ni Secretary of Justice Mercy Gutierrez kailangan sumunod ang BIR at ang CDA. So, kakausapin mo mamaya.

Kagangina sab ingon ng inyong speaker nga mahimuon ta mandatory ang Municipal Cooperative Local Government of... Ug ang inyong gusto, ang hangyo ninyo na mga local government mabutang ug Municipal Cooperative Development officer. Karon kung gusto naton nga mandatory kinahanglan balaod. Apan karon adlaw ang aton mahimo kung gusto nato nga sa masunod nga administrasyon i-amend na nato ang Local Government Code. Tingali amendahan naton ang konstitusyon aron na ang federal form of government ang atong nasod. Unya sa federal

government diri sa Mindanao ang Kongreso ang legislative body sa Mindanao ang makabutang ug Municipal Cooperative Development officers diri.

But in the meantime na wala pang balaod o wala pang bag-o nga federal constitution makahangyo kita, dili kita makamanda, makahangyo kita sa mga local government na unta mabutang nini officer. Ako kausab sa inyong hangyo labi na sa akong administrasyon gihatag kong intero nga ira sa mga local governments dili parehas ni Estrada na 20 percent ang iyang gi-retain agi sa usa ka Executive Order. Ako gi-repeal ko ang Executive Order, tanan ira naadto sa mga local governments, gibayad ko pa ang utang ni President Estrada sa IRA. Busa, kauban ako sa inyong hangyo sa ila, dili mandato apan hangyo nga mabutang ug Municipal Cooperative officer. Naa kamo sab hangyo sa Land Bank, labi na ang atong Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperatives, asa kamo? Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries, wala? Kamo. Kay hibaw ko nga Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries naa pa kamo adjustment no gikan sa mga landlord. So, daghan pa ang utang and arrears sa Land Bank. So, Ruben Conti, again, tatagalugin ko, sabihin mo sa... Ah, ayaw kalimti bago ko mag-instruct sa iya, ayaw kalimti — unsay tuig man na when we had the... Two years ago, 2002. Sa akong instruction ang Land Bank gitagaan kamo ug moratorium sa inyohang past due interest and penalty. Karon wa ko hibaw kung nano na ang request gihapon. So, anyway... Ay si Cito Member sa board sa Land Bank. Okay, so kan ito na ta mag-instruct, dili na kan Ruben kay dili man siya member sa Land Bank ug dili sab anak ug Mindanao. Cito, member sa Land Bank, anak sa Mindanao ug maka-instruct ako kanimo sa binisaya. Ikaw na Cito ang maingon sa Land Bank nga sa gihapon tabangan ang mga land reform borrowers sa ilahang past due penalties sa aton mga mang-uuma sa Land Bank.

Ang penalty sa mga utang sa aton mga mang-uuma sa land reform tungod kay naa pa sila adjustment nga nawala na ng landlord na kaniadto makatabang sa ila. Importante gyud ang espesyal nga pagtrato sa mga kabos nga sektor. Mao gyud ang usa sa aton mga prinsipyo sa akong administrasyon. Sama sa microfinance, sa mga kabos nga nakapautang ta sa akong diutay, gamay, kadyot nga tiyempo isip presidente usa ka milyon nga kababainan naka-benefit na sa atong microfinance. Ug kauban na diri ang 4,000 nga pamilya diri sa Misamis Oriental. Tingali si Congressman Oca Moreno mangita asa ining mga 4,000 nga natabangan nato aron matabang sab sila kan Oca Moreno kag kan Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo kag ang aton mga kauban sa K4.

Karon sa iyahang launching nakita nato — ay, itatagalog ko ulit kasi si Ruben — okay, yung gma sa kooperatiba ng CDA nakakatulong dito lalo na yung CDA National Livelihood Support Program for the Urban and Rural Poor. Kauban diri ang Quedancor, our very good president of Quedancor, si Nelson Buenaflor, aniya karon daghan na mang-uuma ang gitabangan ni Buenaflor karon naa espesyal nga project kasama ang Cooperative Development Authority. Espesyal para kaninyo, aton mga kooperatiba diri sa Mindanao.

Maoy kauban sa mga kusog na pagsugod sa aton kadyot nga tiyempo isip presidente alang sa bag-o sa ordinaryo ka pilipino. Kay daghan sa atong ordinaryo nga pilipino maoy miyembro gyud sa mga kooperatiba. Apan maoy down payment pa ra busa aron mahimo nato ang masunod nga installment nining mga uban nga mga fundamental reforms nga apil sa inyohang mga position papers karon. Kay nakita na ninyo naa na ta down payment sa inyohang mga kinahanglan alang sa kauswagan sa cooperative movement sa Mindanao ug sa tibuok Pilipinas unta palihog tabangi ko ninyo.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Mindanao Cooperative Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090415/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5662&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Ipagdiwang, Gloria ng Kababaihan [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagdiriwang ng International Women's Day**

[Ipinahayag sa Cuneta Astrodome, Lungsod ng Pasay, ika 8 ng Marso, 2004]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Ging Deles sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin, although magkakilala na tayong lahat, di ba? Ay! Si Secretary Dinky Soliman pala yon. Parati kong pinagkakamalian yung dalawa, kambal sa pag-iisip. Sorry, mabuti para hindi nyo narinig na si Ging Deles ang in-address ko.

Maraming salamat Secretary Dinky Soliman sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin. At gusto kong batiin ang lahat ng narito ngunit kanina binanggit na yata ang lahat ng pangalan nila sa mga mahahabang mga talumpati. Meron lamang akong isang hindi narinig na binanggit, si Mayor Pewee Trinidad, na siya ang ating host. Hindi ako kasi mahilig sa mahahabang talumpati at napakarami tayong big shots na narito ngayon — of all parties and all shades — dahil itong araw na ito kahit na panahon ng kampanya nagkaisa ang lahat ng panig para sa kababaihan.

At dahil sinabi na ni Oyo De Dios, sinabi na ni Amelo Reyes ang ating mga nagawa at balak pang gawin para sa kababaihan hindi ko na uulitin yung sinabi nila. Papaalala ko na lamang ang ating tatlong pinakapatakaran para sa kababaihan — pagsulong ng karapatang ekonomiya, pagtanggol ng karapatang pantao ng kababaihan, at tulong ng kababaihan sa magandang pamamahala.

Doon po sa... Una sa lahat, sa magandang pamamahala — gender sensitive governance. Ngayon pa lang nangyari na kalahati sa ating gabinete ay kababaihan. Patunay, sinu-sino sila? Number one, Secretary of the DBM, Emi Boncodin; number two, Secretary of Finance, Nitz Amaton; number three, Secretary of Justice, Mercy Gutierrez; number four, Secretary of DOLE, Pat Sto. Tomas. Mukhang Pat Sto. Tomas for Senator 2007 yata ito ah; number five, Secretary of Social Welfare, Dinky Soliman; number six, Secretary of Science and Technology, Nina Alabastro. Number seven, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Delia Albert; number eight, Secretary of Anti-Poverty, si Veronica Villavicencio; number nine, Secretary of Environment Bebet Gozun. Number ten, Secretary of the Peace Process, Ging Deles; number eleven, Secretary for Priority Programs and O.D.A., Mai Jimenez.

Labing-isa yon, hindi pa kasama yung mga Executive offices na constitutionally independent: Chairman ng Civil Service, si Karina David; Chairman ng PCGG, si Haydee Yorac; Chairman ng Human Rights, si Puring Quisumbing. Yan ang bahagi ng ating kontribusyon ng kababaihan sa mabuting pamamahala. Hindi pa kasama yung napakaraming babaing namumuno sa ahensya, sa ating mga ibat-ibang ahensya. Sabi nga nila, if you need somebody to do the work of two men, find one woman.

Tungkol doon sa karapatang pantao ng kababaihan, pagkatapos nang matagal na matagal na tayo ay naghintay. In fact, itong mga batas na ito ay ini-author ko nung ako ay senador pa. Ginawang administration measure — ay, mga Senado. Naabutan ko kayo noon, di ba? Nice to see you girls — dalawang administration measure sa wakas ay napasa, pino-proteksyunan ang karapatang pantao ng kababaihan — yung Anti-Trafficking Law at yung Domestic Violence Law. Salamat kay Senate President Drilon, kay Speaker De Venecia at lahat ng Senador at Congressmen at Congresswomen, yung mga narito at yung wala dito na nagtrabahong overtime para sa wakas dumating na itong mga batas para sa ating kababaihan.

Yung karapatang pangkabuhayan, mahaba ang kinuwento ni Oyi at ni Amelo sa ibat-ibang mga bahaging nagawa — pabahay, etc. Pero para sa akin ang aking favorite ay nakaabot tayo ng microfinance or maliliit na pantang sa isang milyong kababaihan sa ating bansa. Saan yung mga bahagi nila na narito ngayon? Entre-Pinay, Pasig City, salamat. SEA-K at iba pa, yun! — hindi, Napolcom. Hindi naman yan microfinance — yun mga SEA-K ng parang, Parañaque. Kasama kayo sa isang milyong kababaihan nagkaroon ng bagong buhay dahil binigyan natin nang pansin ang karapatang pangkabuhayan ng ating kababaihan.

Kaya tatlo lamang kontribusyon ng babae sa mabuting pamamahala —karapatang pantao ng kababaihan, karapatang pangkabuhayan ng kababaihan. Marami pa tayong dapat sabihin.

Mabuhay ang kababaihan! Happy Women's day sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the International Women's Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090355/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5659&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the International Women's Day celebration [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Ipagdiwang, Gloria ng Kababaihan sa pagdiriwang ng International Women's Day**

[Ipinahayag sa Baluarte de Dilao, Intramuros, Manila, ika 8 ng Marso, 2004]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Dinky Soliman. Nagkakamalian silang dalawa dahil magkakambal sa pag-iisip pero ang pag-iisip nila ay ang dami na ring nahawa ako sa kanilang pag-iisip.

Gusto kong batiin kayong lahat. Gusto kong batiin ang mga convenors, itong mga nagtayo o nagbuo nitong ating miting itong araw na ito. Una, yung mga convenors ng kagabay ni Glo, nandiyan si Imelda Nicolas, siya rin ang aking lider sa Sorsogon. Nandiyan si evelyn kilayko, siya rin ang lider ng Concerned Women of the Philippines, siya rin ang doon ang chairman ng napakaraming mga NGO.

Gusto kong batiin si Mrs. Conchitina Bernardo, siya ay dating vice mayor ng Makati. Ang aking balae, si Mrs. Charito Montenegro. Gusto kong batiin ang Lets Glow! Nandiyaan ang kumakatawan sa inyo sa entablado, si Gloria Golez. Sabi ko nga, si Gloria Golez, sana alagaan din niya para sa akin ang mga coconut traders para mapaliwanag nila sa lahat ng mga coconut farmers ano na ang nagawa ng administrasyong Pangulong Gloria para sa ating mangnyuniyog.

Gusto ko ring batiin si Mrs... Miss Maruhita Palabrika. Hi! Maruhita, maraming salamat, thank you for being here. Sila ang kumakatawan sa entablado ng Let's Glow!

Ngayon naman, yung sama pagkat kababaihan, nandiyan si Beth yang ng Abanse Pinay! Mabuhay, Abanse Pinay! Nandiyan si Badette Lingo. Ayun! Ng aba ako. Mabuhay! Aba ako.

Yon namang Pro-Gloria Women, maraming salamat na kayo ay narito. At saka gusto ko ring batiin ang mga nagsusuporta sa mga kababaihan, yung mga lalaking nagmamahal at gumagabay, sumusuporta, nagrerespeto sa karapatang kababaihan, nandito, kinakatawan sila sa ating entablado ni Secretary Sonny Alvarez.

Kayong lahat, anim na libong kababaihan na narito ngayon, ako ay nagpapasalamat na kayo ay nagpresentang magkakaroon tayo ng launching ng mga kababaihang lider na magkakampanya para kay Pangulong Gloria at ating mga kandidato.

Ang hihingiin ko sa inyo — kalahati ng botante natin ay kababaihan — ipaliwanag sa ating kabakababaihan kung papaano natin itaguyod ang kapakanan ng kababaihan sa ating maikling panguluhan.

Tatlo ang masasabi ko na nagawa natin. Meron tayong 12-point agenda, di ba? Yan na nga ang ating agenda. At yang ating agendang yan ay gaya nang sabi kanina, marami na diyan ay malakas nang nasimulaan at yang labingdalawang punto ay puwede nating ma-cluster, mabuo-buo sa tatlong bahagi.

Una, yung tinatawag na women's participation o yung pagsasali ng kababaihan sa mga importanteng desisyon na may kinalaman sa kapakanan ng kababaihan at ng lipunan. At puwede nyo maikuwento sa loob ng ating administrasyon ano pa ang pinakaimportanteng simbolo ng women's participation kung hindi labing-isa ang Cabinet members, kalahati ng Cabinet ay kababaihan.

Bilang patunay, papangalan ko sila, isa-isa:

Number one, Foreign Affairs — Delia Albert. Number two, Finance — Nitz Amatong, taga-Zamboanga Del Norte. Number three, Justice — Mercy Gutierrez, taga-Bataan. Number four, Labor — Pat Sto. Tomas, taga-Mindoro at Davao. Number five, DSWD — Dinky Soliman. Number six, Cebuana, DENR — Bebet Gozun. Number seven, nandito siya, Science and Technology — Nina Alabastro. Number eight, Budget — Emi Boncodin, taga-Iriga. Number nine, Priority Projects and ODA, taga-Mindoro at Cavite — Mai Jimenez. Number ten, Peace Process — Ging Deles. Number Eleven, pinakabago, Anti-Poverty Commission — si Veronica Villavicencio.

Yan ang mga simbolo ng women's participation sa maikling panguluhan, unang panguluhan ni Pangulong Gloria. Ano pa kayat kung meron pa tayong anim na taon na mag-recruit pa ng napakarami pang kababaihan sa ating pamahalaan at ibang mga katawan na nagdedesisyon sa ating kinabukasan.

Pangalawa, bahagi sa labindalawang punto ng ating plataporma, proteksyon sa karapatang pantao ng ating kababaihan. Sa aking maikling panguluhan ay dalawang batas na matagal na matagal nang hinihintay. Sa wakas, napasa sa aking maikling panguluhan, yung batas kontra sa trafficking at saka yung batas kontra sa domestic violence. Kung yung dekadang hinihintay ay nagawa sa ating maikling panguluhan, ano pat yung ibang punto ng karapatang pantao ang matutupad natin sa darating na susunod nating administrasyon sa tulong ng kababaihan kay Pangulong Gloria at ating mga ibang kandidato.

Pangatlo, karapatang pangkabuhayan. Maraming nabanggit sa 12-point program, yung karapatang pangkabuhayan, ang pinaka-down payment natin diyan ang microfinance napaabot natin sa isang milyong kababaihan ng Pilipinas.

Kayo, mga anim na libong mga kababaihan dito na magkakampanya para sa atin, ang hinihiling ko sa inyo, hanapin nyo itong isang milyong kababaihan. Ikuwento nyo sa kanila kung bakit sila nakabiyaya ng pangkabuhayan sa unang pagkakataon dahil dati-rati sila ay incomeless, assetless. Ngayon, may income, may asset, may kinabukasan.

Kaya, mga kaibigan, huwag nyong kalilimutan, ipagkampanya ang babae sa kapwa babae. Magaling magkampanya ang kababaihan. Sabi nga nila, at last — kasi si Nina Alabastro DOST — at last, science has discovered what can do the work of two men — one woman.

Maraming salamat, mabuhay ang kababaihan!

Happy Women's Day sa ating lahat.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Ipagdiwang, Gloria ng Kababaihan in Celebration of International Women's Day. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090344/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5661&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the commissioning and blessing of the newly acquired Cyclone Class Navy Vessel, BRP General Mariano Alvarez (PS38)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the commissioning and blessing of the newly acquired Cyclone Class Navy Vessel, BRP General
Mariano Alvarez (PS38)**

[Delivered at the Philippine Navy Headquarters, Roxas Blvd., Manila, March 8, 2004]

Thank you very much, Secretary Ed Ermita. Thank you.

Vice Admiral Ernie De Leon, happy first anniversary of being FOIC; General Narciso Abaya; our major service commanders who are here today: General Santillan and General Abu; Honorable Mussomeli, Chief... Charge d Affaires of the United States and the other members of the diplomatic corps who are here this afternoon with us; the family of General Mariano Alvarez; Captain Edgardo Abogado, the Commanding Officer of PS38; our congressmen: Congressman James Gordon and Congressman Solis. I must add that Congressman Gordon is the brother of my senatorial candidate Dick Gordon; officers, men and women of the Philippine Navy; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

This is a very important day for me, for us. Not just because its the first anniversary of Admiral de Leon, whom we must remember as the man who brought down Abu Sabaya. But because as Charge d Affaires Mussomeli said, today we bear fruit, maybe the single most dramatic fruit of the good defense relationship between the Philippines and the U.S., which in turn is one of two aspects of the good relationship within our two countries — one being security and the other being defense.

Yes, 2001 November, I visited Washington. Before I went to Washington... In fact, when I first became president, I inherited a military commitment of the United States of 1.8 million dollars. This boat alone is worth 30 million U.S. dollars. In other words, from 1.8 million dollars, as I entered the presidency, our security relationship with the United States today is worth about 400 million dollars and still counting.

Still counting because we are now a major non-NATO ally of the U.S. and other assistance and priorities go with that. Still counting because as we do our own reforms in our armed forces, there is a commitment from the United States to give their appropriate counterpart.

As far as our fundamental reforms of the armed forces are concerned, we have two main documents to serve as our guide. One is the joint defense assessment with the U.S. Armed Forces, and I have Presidential assistant Ernie Carolina, who is here working with me to make sure that that is carried out. The other is the finding of the Feliciano Commission. And I have with me also — though she's not here today — Presidential Adviser Carolina Hernandez to make sure that those reforms are carried out.

That would be the next installment of our modernization and increasing professionalization of our Armed Forces.

But today is a great day, because today we have the most modern and capable boat in our Philippine Navy. This boat is our fastest naval boat and also it has the most accurate gun power. It also has a rubber auxiliary boat that can deploy our swag very quickly to their area of assigned operation.

Truly, this will go a long way in increasing the fighting and even rescuing capability of our Philippine Navy.

I congratulate the Philippine Navy for all the work that they have done all these years even before this increase capability came about. I mentioned the bringing down of Abu Sabaya. Today, we had the award to our naval forces who helped in the rescue and now the recovery of the victims of the Super Ferry tragedy.

I remember getting a text message from some of the families of the missing and they said, please ask the Balikatan to help look for our relatives or at least their remains. and I could send a text back to them, I said, even before you ask for my help, Balikatan has already been there helping out. and that is part of the blessings of our good relationship with the United States.

The other side of our relationship with the United States, the bigger side in fact, is the economic relationship — the official development assistance and the investments coming from American companies. I am very happy that next week I will be inaugurating a 330-million dollar investment from Sunpower, an American company who also made its commitment to invest in the Philippines during my last state visit to the United States.

This 330-million dollar investment is only a part of the six-billion dollar economic relationship that we now enjoy with the United States.

And so, ladies and gentlemen of the Philippine Navy, the Philippine Armed Forces, the defense establishments, our friends from the United States, our friends from the international community. I am here not only to welcome a new modern fast boat, I'm here to celebrate the blessings of a correct foreign policy and I hope that we will have a chance to make sure that this foreign policy in the years to come will bring about the deep reforms in our armed forces, the deep reforms in our economic investment climate that will truly help the ordinary Filipino overcome the age-old problem of mass poverty in our country.

And now, by the power vested in me, as president of the Republic of the Philippines and as Commander in Chief of all Armed Forces, I hereby Commission Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas, General Mariano Alvarez, into the naval service and designate her with bough number PS38.

And may I give, and having been said that, may I give my special respect to the family of the late General Mariano Alvarez who are here with us today.

To you, congratulations! To all of us, congratulations! And thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Commissioning and Blessing of the Newly Acquired Cyclone Class Navy Vessel, BRP General Mariano Alvarez (PS38). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090408/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5660&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA Class 2004) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA Class 2004)

[Delivered at the CAP Convention Center, Camp John Hay, Baguio City, March 14, 2004]

Thank you, Defense Secretary Ermita. Thank you. You may sit down. AFP Chief of Staff General Abaya and Mrs. Abaya, PMA Superintendent General Adan and Mrs. Adan, the host city of PMA, may I greet Baguio City Mayor, Bernie Vergara, Baguio City Congressman, Mauricio Domogan, Governor Raul Molintas and Mrs. Molintas and I also see Congressman Felino Roman. I would like to greet the general staff and major service commanders and members of the diplomatic corps, the AFP and PNP officers and their ladies, the PMA faculty, I would like to greet you especially. The first time I see you now, especially the civilians now in your toga and I hope that you are happy that I have approved the merit system that was proposed to me by General Adan.

PMA Maliyab Class 2004, ang kanilang mga magulang, mga kamag-anak, mga kaibigan, pati iyong mga Cadet girls, dahil doon sa diskurso ni Lieutenant Joaquin, ang iyong mga cadet girls, iyon iyong mga sweethearts ng mga cadet who end up really marrying them afterwards, iyon ang mga cadet girls, congratulations also to all of you. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, PMA Maliyab Class 2004, binabati ko kayo lalo na ang inyong mga honor students, iyong Baron, iyong topnotcher. Gusto kong dalhin iyong special na pagbati kay Lieutenant Rolly Joaquin, dahil kagabi dumaan ako sa Aguilar, Pangasinan patungo dito. Kanina ay pinapanuod ko si Mrs. Joaquin, napapaiyak noong nagdidiskurso iyong kaniyang anak. Kagabi dumaan lamang ako at bumaba doon, maraming tao sa kalsada tapos sabi nila sa akin, kasi alam nila na pupunta ako sa PMA. "Ma'am, valedictorian ninyo bukas, taga amin sa Aguilar." Congratulations to you, they are very proud of you.

Mga Cabalen doon mismo ang nagpaalaala sa akin, ang number 1 sa PMA ay taga-Aguilar. That shows how important it is to be a product of PMA and an outstanding product of PMA at that. Congratulations to you, congratulations to all the hometowns where you come from. Lalo na itong klaseng ito na napakahirap nang dinanas ninyo. Sabi ni General Adan, from your original class only 21% are now here graduating. And if your own valedictorian almost dropout in the first year, imagine the pressure the others must have gone through. That is why indeed it is fitting to salute the parents for their moral support, even some financial support. Though I am glad that today that the cadets are very well aware that the government spends more than 2 million pesos per each one of you. And you have to return it to strengthen the country not to weaken our democracy.

Your parents give you financial support, your parents give you moral support especially, your mentors give you their moral support. But, they also give you excellent academic training. In fact, some say the academics has been too tough in terms of math, science and engineering subjects that is why there is a very big dropout rate and some of the alumni tell me on hindsight they might have done in the little less math and engineering and more on English and communications and humanities because being a soldier is not just fighting a war and doing calculations of accuracy. It is also winning the hearts and mind of the people in the communities in, which you operate. And your mentors gave you that, academic training and character education for your roles, for your future roles, your roles beginning today as custodians of the nations defense and its peace.

Today, graduates, young second lieutenants, you will be sent off to all corners of the country on different assignments with varying degrees of difficulty and danger. As often stated, "the price of freedom is perpetual vigilance." The world and the Philippines have to live with the threat of terror as ever present anywhere. The security of our communities as well as of our means of livelihood and our public good is the business of every citizen. But, especially the business of our soldiers. Working together, we have reduced the threat of terror, but we cannot let our guard down. The tragedy in Madrid is another wake up call that democracy must be defended nationally and globally. We are working in our shores and with other nations on this universal task. We have not hesitated in employing our Advantages, a superior force training and equipment in dealing with those who take up arms to destroy our society or do harm to our citizens and their local government. In fact, our graduating students

of today will be able to enter the armed forces with much better equipment, facing better training, yet, in the years to come, better force protection than those who graduated four years before you or those who received you when you were pledged. Better training, better equipment, better force protection, more arms, and even better pay. Because all of these were done during the short period of my presidency. At the same time, I believed, that the war on insurgency and secessionism that we are waging, waging can yet be settled on the negotiating table. This is one reason why I asked when General Reyes submitted his resignation and he is now doing a great job fighting the kidnapping syndicate and now the smuggling syndicate, I chose as his replacement, the man who had been waging peace, that peace becomes an integral part of the defense policy, Secretary Ed Ermita.

I think we are doing well on the national security front especially in Mindanao where the overall level of conflict has subsided. As part of the peace negotiations, we are persistently pushing for concrete measures at the ground level and to detectively isolate terrorist elements from the guerilla bases of the MILF even as we constantly found at the lairs of the Abu Sayyaf largely as One of your outstanding graduate is from Pikit and as he passed, I told him “help me take care of Buliok. Help me take care of enforcing the peace. Help me take care of bringing about true development that will bring about lasting peace in your area.”

The peace talks to the NDF are also moving forward. My administration has demonstrated that it has the fortitude to risk war, but also the courage to seek peace. We are fighting a war on two fronts, one front is made up of those who seek harm to our democratic law abiding way of life, the other front is poverty upon which the agents of desperate and lawless acts are recruited. Many students themselves from PMA come from families of modest means. And if we are going to look at the PMA graduates who are now on the stage, we know that PMA has been to many the gateway to a better life, a fulfilling, rewarding career, whether in the military or outside leadership. And it is a way not only out of poverty; it is a way towards leadership. Therefore, PMA is many things to many people. It is soldiery, it is leadership, and it is graduation to a better way of life. Indeed, we all must make a strong start in fighting for change in the lives of ordinary Filipinos. PMA has helped do that, but not everybody can be in PMA. In my short presidency, I fought hard for change. Change from the economic and political mess that I inherited. I guess the best way to point it out is that I created more than 3 million jobs in my short presidency compared to only half a million created during the Estrada administration. That is part of the war we are waging against poverty. Indeed, because we wage the war on two fronts, we wage the war with two hands, the right hand to defeat the enemy on the battlefield, the left hand to fight poverty so that the enemy will not find too many allies.

Class 2004, new officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as your superintendent, General Adan said “carpe diem” – seize the moment, seize the day, be my right hand, be my left hand. Let’s fight the enemy. Let’s fight poverty. Let us take the Philippines to a better place in the 21st century.

Congratulations and thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA’s Speech during the Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA Class 2004). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090256/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5658&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo on a choice between two futures

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On a choice between two futures**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, March 18, 2004]

A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO FUTURES

Historically, our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors especially starting in the 1970s. Our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty.

As I move about among the people and converse with them, I can see that the change that we all want is in terms of a better life, particularly in economic terms such as jobs, prices, livelihood, and so on. In fact, as I often summarize it – *pagkain sa bawat mesa*.

I have been fighting for change for the average Filipino.

In a short time, I have made a strong start. This is not a report for the end of a term because I have not served a full term. This is a report on a strong start I have made in a short period of time. In this short period of time of my presidency, I have turned the economy around and stabilized the mess we inherited.

My fight for change has revolved around four components: the first, an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. The second, a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. The third, a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. And the fourth, to raise the moral standards of government and society and enhance the rule of law.

On the first, which is to promote free enterprise to create jobs, I've been using my clout and experience to turn the economy around and create jobs with better wages. I've made a strong start in reforming the power sector, cutting red tape, modernizing agriculture, creating jobs, promoting information and communication technology. The bottomline is job creation.

President Estrada created half a million jobs, I created more than three million jobs. The strength of my foreign policy has given confidence to nations to invest in our nation. I am attracting huge investments needed to modernize our nation.

Last year foreign investments increased by 26 percent, including Intel's expansion to one billion dollars, Matsushita's 230 million-dollar air-condition factory, Texas instruments' 100 million-dollar expansion, Ford's 50 million-dollar car assembly, early this year, national steel's reopening which will eventually cost it one billion dollars for the investor, and the call centers and business processing outsources centers which have increased their number of seats from 2,000 before I became president to 60,000 this year.

To prepare our youth to be the next generation of knowledge workers and workers in high tech industries and services, we are upgrading math and science teaching in basic education, engaging in a massive school building program, and bringing distance learning to the hardship barangays where many teachers don't dare to tread.

This afternoon I will inaugurate a 330 million-dollar Sunpower Solar panel investment, one of the fruits of my state visit to the United States. Last February, the economic zones registered a more than 300 percent increase in investments over last year.

To grow exports we have found new markets for tuna, carrageenan, tropical fruits, software and I.T. Services, and vehicles like ford and even our jeepneys.

But aside from huge investments, more than at any time in our economic history, we have made billions available for small and medium enterprises that employ millions of people. In the last ten months alone, 20 billion pesos have been made available for small and medium enterprises.

We are closing the infrastructure gap to bring in these investments. Our power grids are being modernized to prevent massive and prolonged brownouts. New power generation capacity is being built to meet rising demand. Malampaya went into operation, making the Philippines more than 50 percent self-sufficient in energy.

The road users tax is giving us now a first-class national road system. And to bring our people closer and move them faster, we are upgrading our rail system, expanding mass transport in Metro Manila, and we have completed in record time a nautical highway system that now links our farthest islands. Within Metro Manila, we have increased travel speed from 14 kilometers per hour to 22 on the railroad – no, not on the railroad first – on the roads.

We have expanded the north expressway and started a south expressway expansion after a long, long wait. The new Davao International Airport has been opened, the Iloilo international airport contract has been signed, the NAIA 3 airport case has been won in the Supreme Court. The Batangas International Port is now operating as an alternative for the CALABARZON factories who don't want to wade through the traffic to Manila. China will finance our north railroad, Korea will finance our south railroad, and the first of the Mindanao railroad agreements will be signed hopefully next month.

The cost of internet connections is one third of what it used to be, spurring I.T. industry development.

On agricultural modernization, thanks to investments in irrigation, hybrid crops and improved transport systems, our agriculture has begun to modernize by spending an unprecedented 20 billion pesos a year on agricultural modernization, we've been able to irrigate an unprecedented 600,000 hectares of land through the new and rehabilitated systems.

Thus, in my administration, we've been able to maintain stable supply – no, not stable – increasing supply and stable prices for regular milled rice for the poor. In fact, I think, I'm the only president in history that has not been attacked for an acute rice shortage.

Because of rice productivity, we have cut down our rice Importation from one million metric tons as I inherited it, to only half a million now. And we will be self-sufficient within two years if current policies are maintained.

Because of the stable price of regular milled rice, we had been able to achieve last year a 3.1 percent inflation rate, the lowest in 16 years. Throughout my term in fact, prices have stayed around 17 pesos for regular milled rice, around 27 for sugar, around 8 for sardines, around 9 for toyo, around 9 for patis, around 5 for iodized salt. Even as farmgate prices for corn and coconut have now increased to the betterment of our farmers. We have propagated tilapia as the more nutritious and more reliably available and therefore, more stable priced common man's fish than galunggong which either comes from our overfished waters or needs to be imported.

On the social bias, I have made unprecedented gains in housing and healthcare. A housing program unprecedented in its scale is underway and has provided so far 300,000 houses for the working class and a 100,000 for the poorest of the poor compared with the time that I inherited, a time when nobody was building houses among the developers. We have distributed over one million hectares of agricultural, urban, and ancestral domain land more than at any other time.

Health insurance for the first time has reached the majority of the families, our next goal is for us to let it reach all the families. Half-priced medicines bought by the poor are now available in national and regional hospitals, and because we started this through a 100 million-peso fund for importing from India where medicines are cheaper, now the private sector is beginning to build their facilities and producing this low-priced medicine such as Unilab and Glaxo.

For the first time, majority of the poor families had electricity because of unprecedented barangay electrification at 2,000 per year – per year? No, more than that.

We have protected our overseas Filipinos as well. The anti-money laundering law not just improves the business climate by increasing confidence in our banking system, it has also protected workers' remittances. We've obtained also the commitment of the U.S., Korea, Israel, Malaysia and Italy on the legalization of undocumented Filipinos.

On improving moral standards and upholding the rule of law, we are cracking down hard on corruption through more efficient procurement procedures because at last we've been able to get the administration measure on e-procurement pass into law and also on strict lifestyle checks on high government officials. Through these lifestyle checks and other means, we've fired big fish and filed cases at the levels of Undersecretary, Deputy Customs Commissioner, Customs Collector, Assistant BIR Commissioner, Regional Director, BIR collection agents, BIR Supervising Examiner, Judge, and Prosecutor. Because we were able to do the competent investigation that found, for instance, assets worth 92 million pesos belonging to an official with a 25,000 pesos salary.

We have strengthened the arm of the law. We've decimated and neutralized our most pernicious enemies on the terrorism front. Major terrorists like Robot, Abu Sabaya, Al-Ghozi, global have been killed or arrested.

In my short time as president, we've confiscated and destroyed billions of pesos of illegal drugs, and smashed international drug syndicates, not to mention the big kidnapping syndicates. Thirteen of the 21 most wanted have already been brought into behind bars or even neutralized and killed in an encounter. Back to drugs, we've arrested more than 20,000 drug pushers including the no. 1 drug lord William Gan, who many times was able to avoid the force of the law.

We are continuing to reform and professionalize our police organization so that it can better protect our citizens against both organized and petty crime. That is one hand the enforcement of the law. But on the other hand, peace looms closer.

Earnest negotiations have brought us to the brink of a historic political settlement with the Moro Islamic liberation front. I'm happy to see our friends here from Malaysia, from Libya, from Brunei, from Indonesia, from Bangladesh, from the OIC – friends who have helped us to move the peace process to a point where it is actually working. We are keeping the door open to a negotiated settlement with the communist left.

All this – and I should say more but it took what, 30 lectures to be able to say more. So I have just picked on some of these just to highlight the things that we have done in a short period of time. All this and what my colleagues have explained to you are but a down payment and certainly, I agree that it's not good enough. A next installment must be done.

It will take resolve and leadership to overcome the forces trying to divide us. For I did a strong start in the midst of coming into power on the crest of great division in our society. A division that still continues today, even as we reach out our hand in reconciliation to every one who is willing to accept a principled reconciliation.

We have begun to recover strongly from the devastation brought about by the Asian financial crisis of 1997. Despite the odds, we managed to maintain impressive economic growth and began to recover strongly from the devastation brought about indeed by that crisis of 1997. But while during my short presidency we did better than many of our neighbors in terms of growth rates, with the region now starting to recover, our neighbors are starting to accelerate their growth again. This time we cannot afford to be left behind.

I will fight for unprecedented change that makes us more secure, strengthens our families, and stamps out corruption. We've made progress, but I need a mandate from the people for fundamental change in our political system. I will fight to change the culture of corruption through a reform of the institutions and also through the educational system. I will stop the scourge of drugs and wipe out terrorism I will expand health coverage to all, bring more housing, expand property rights and create more jobs and better wages. We will have clean water and clean government.

I want to create 6 million jobs in six years. I want to expand health care to all families. I want to expand property rights to 12 million Filipinos. I want to build 3 million new housing units. I want to enhance the protection of our OFWs. I want to stamp out corruption. I want to ensure clean water in every barangay in the country.

To achieve these changes which are end results, we need a reform agenda for the next installment. Our reform agenda for the next installment covers five major areas of concern:

First, government reform. We have to turn the behemoth of the bureaucracy into a modern, streamlined, and efficient organization. We have to review our Constitution – and I hope Dr. Abueva will help me there – to review our Constitution in order to make the correct transition of our country towards a parliamentary and federal form of government.

Second, market reform. By 2010, we should use market reform to see the poverty rate cut in half. We can only achieve this halving of our poverty rate by maintaining a high rate of economic growth. And this can only be made possible by opening opportunities for our small and medium enterprises through low interest rates and an even lower inflation rate, through fiscal policies that ensure the stability of our currency and by encouraging more intensive trade with the rest of the world.

We will continue to support private enterprise and free them from bureaucratic red tape and bureaucratic corruption to unleash the creativity of our people and our nation.

Third, asset reform. You know, even the most sophisticated businessmen tell me when I say asset for... What, what's that? And they say please speak in plain English. Anyway, asset reform... What are assets – land, capital, those are assets. Therefore, agrarian reform is one such asset reform, together with urban land reform and ancestral domain reform, and this must be completed within this decade.

The Supreme Court's final ruling on the Marcos Swiss accounts will provide us with the finances to accelerate agrarian reform. Also, I launched a massive program to provide small entrepreneurs with capital. And aside from what I mentioned earlier about small enterprise with the micro-enterprise where a million women have availed of micro-enterprise loans today, but we want that micro-enterprise system to reach every barangay in our country.

Fourth, agricultural reform. In my short term as president, I focused on raising the funds so as to have been able to make a strong start for agricultural modernization. But we need to do more than pump more capital into agriculture. We need to raise productivity, as we have done in about a hundred hectares of riceland. But we have to do that in 500 hectares of riceland more with hybrid rice and 2 million hectares of irrigable and irrigated land where we had irrigated half a million in addition to the one million I inherited, only half a million more of irrigation to go – half a million hectares. We will encourage our farmers to shift to more productive varieties of rice like this hybrid rice and more high value added crops.

And fifth, we will talk also in our agenda and work on it criminal justice reform. We must continue to reform and to transform the AFP and the PNP as well into loyal, dedicated, and efficient organizations with the modern means to enforce the law, and to be true protectors of our people, especially the weakest against crime, against terrorism, against all forms of political and criminal violence.

We also support judicial reform. That's why in my administration, we've been able to pass three important measures on judicial reform – the judges, the prosecutors, and soon I will sign the mechanism for mediation. These will help us strengthen the pillars of justice in our society.

Yes, we have had our strong start based on the four components: creating jobs through free enterprise, modernizing agriculture, having a bias for the poor, and improving moral standard and the rule of law. And over the next years we have these five basic areas of reform.

In the next few years, we can take bolder steps forward, given the time, a full term, and the opportunity to complete the strong start we have begun.

That opportunity is what I seek in the presidency of this republic.

Today, as we stand on the threshold of our first presidential election in this new century, many seem to be distracted by the siren song of the same politics and the same politicians we'd resolutely rejected in 1986 and again in 2001.

These coming elections will be a test of our political maturity, of our resolve to stay the course of stability and growth against the seduction of populist demagoguery, and against the fleeting thrill of flirting with the untested and the unknown.

The May election will be much more than a battle of personalities. It is rather a contest between competing ideologies, between the old politics and the new, between inspiration and desperation, between experience and amateurism serving as the mask of those who want us to go back to the dark ages that we threw away in the EDSAs.

The presidency is no easy job. It requires great vision, yes. But many can talk about a vision but it also requires the willingness to work hard, it requires the experience to mind the thousand details of national housekeeping.

It requires managing a large, diverse and complex bureaucracy of 1.2 million civil servants. It requires representing the nation in international dialogues and explaining our national interest in the emerging global issues of the day.

So they will have the confidence of their businessmen to invest with us and their officials to do their best in assisting us in our own development. It requires the highest quality of judgment on a universe of issues that need executive attention every single day.

If my immediate predecessor failed in some of these respects to the extent that Edsa 2 happened, it can only serve as a lesson for those of us after him. We cannot and must not repeat those mistakes.

As a person, I feel it only fair to treat former president Estrada with respect and dignity. But treating them on the one hand with respect and dignity, on the other hand I have to be clear that on issues of governance and in the best interest of the nation, we must do differently and do better than the previous dispensation. And reject those who would simply return us to the same old politics, in fact, the same old politicians of cronyism and corruption.

Indeed, our people's primary concern is food on the table. I have said as much myself many, many times, but it takes much more than talk, much more than a beautiful slogan, much more than a simple recipe to get things done. To go by this analogy of food on every table, we need a cook, who's cooked before, who knows his job or her job, who can offer more than leftovers or scraps of ideas from discredited politicians.

During the short period of my presidency, I've tried my best to lead by example: through hard work, personal integrity, dedication to the task of lifting our people from poverty, and a commitment to improving governance.

I have learned much on the job. Added to what I have learned in my U.P. Education as Doctor of Economics, to what I have learned in my stint as undersecretary of Trade and Industry, to what I have learned as a senator doing all the legislation in the early... From 1992 to 1998 that have brought about the beginning of our economic reform, to that I have learned my execution as president.

I offer to our people a road map to prosperity, these five areas of government reforms based on a government that performs.

What they can only promise, we have made a strong start on.

And once more, together, we who have survived the worst of the past can make the best of the future through our program of fundamental reform to build on the strong start we have made.

Our nation has a clear choice: between tested and experienced leadership on the one hand, and gambling on inexperience and uncertainty on the other. We can move forward and realize our destiny as a modern nation or make a U-turn back to the midnight kitchenomics of the past.

It is a choice not just between politicians and personalities. It is a choice between two futures.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 107th Anniversary of the Philippine Army

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 107th Anniversary of the Philippine Army**

[Delivered at Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, March 22, 2004]

Thank you very much, Secretary Eduardo Ermita. And other Cabinet member, Secretary Romulo.

Troop commander, give tikas pahinga.

Senator Magsaysay and other elective officials; General Abaya and the other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; General Ebdane and the other officers and members of the allied Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police; Mr. Lina, Doctor Gonzales and the other partners of the Philippine Army in serving the people and serving our soldiers; distinguished guests, officers, men and women of the Philippine Army, happy anniversary to us!

Today is also the anniversary of the Office of the President because the presidency and the Philippine Army were born on the same day a hundred seven years ago.

Congratulations too, to our awardees. They remind us of great moments in the history of the Philippine Army. They remind us of great battles like the battle of Buliok. They remind us of the ferocious battles in the fight against insurgency. They remind us of the gains that we have made in our anti-kidnapping drive with the great support of the Armed Forces and the Philippine Army. They remind us of what the Philippine Army has done in order to preserve the integrity of the armed forces in great tests of constitutionality such as the moments in Oakwood.

And I'm very glad to remind everyone to be remembered, to be reminded that at that time during the difficult days of Oakwood, the commander of the task force who enforced the deadline was none other than now, the incumbent chief of the Philippine Army, General Efren Abu.

These awards also remind us that the Philippine Army is not just about fighting. It is also about the protection of human rights. It is also about not enforcing just the right hand of the law but extending the left hand of peace and reconciliation and service to our people, to the building of school buildings in the conflict areas through working with the peace and service NGOs who helped promote internal security.

One hundred seven years ago, the Philippine Revolutionary Army came into existence when the Filipino patriot mustered the will to fight for freedom and to secure the future with a few thousand bolos, rifles, rounds of ammunition and whatever armaments could be found and wielded, undeterred by the superior force of the colonial powers.

Today, it is important not to be 19th century, not even to be 20th century about our weapons and our capabilities but to be truly a part of the 21st century.

And in this 21st century today, no goals are more immediate for us than to end the decades of struggle against insurgency and secessionism and at the same time to post lasting victories and prevail over the new threats of terrorism and the continuing threats of criminality and lawlessness.

And it is for bringing our Philippine Army from the 19th century to the 20th century, to the 21st century that I have devoted much of my clout, even in international affairs to the program of modernization of the armed forces by upgrading our force capabilities, both in weapons and equipment in the organization, by training, by professionalism, by increasing the pay of our soldiers to the same level as that of teachers.

And I asked about the one hundred million pesos worth of boots that I said we should provide our soldiers. And General Abaya reports that the bidding has been completed, awarded, and soon, the boots will finally be delivered.

I think it simply shows that we still have to work on many areas of organization and procurement so that we can bring the needs of the soldiers to them much faster.

It takes resolve and leadership to work on organizational improvements. It takes resolve and leadership as well to overcome the forces trying to divide us.

In Mindanao, the overall level of conflict has subsided, the ceasefire has held well and the international monitoring team will be arriving today in a very calm and peaceful environment.

The terrorist networks, which have now been considerably weakened, must however not be underestimated. The recent bombings in Madrid and the continuing assaults in Iraq remind us of the imperative of collective and perpetual vigilance in this greatest threat of the 21st century. They remind us that terrorism can strike anytime, anywhere in an ally of the coalition like Madrid, or even in somebody who is uncomfortable with the coalition like Bali.

Therefore, I have instructed the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security, which is headed by Secretary Romulo, to put together an Anti-Terrorism Task Force composed but not limited to elements of the military, police, NBI, NICA, and an eminent retired general. And I shall be asking, as I've already asked President Ramos, Senate President Drilon, Speaker De Venecia to act as advisers to this task force. I have informed Secretary Ermita that I am appointing him as the anti-terrorism coordinator.

Through the Anti-Terrorism Task Force — congratulations, Secretary Ermita! Or is it condolence? — through the anti-terrorism task force, we shall further combine and consolidate all the resources and expertise we need to fight terror.

We shall connect the grassroots to the national and transnational efforts. It is good we have an anti-terrorism coordinator because the European union has also appointed its own anti-terrorism coordinator. We have so far succeeded in our vigilance and we shall gather the people to protect our gains and our durable security.

But along with our military and anti-terrorism campaigns, we continue to carry out a peace process designed to bring the warring and disaffected elements of society to the negotiating table.

This quest for peace is counterbalanced, of course, by the need to fight against terrorism. As part of the peace negotiations with the MILF, we are persistently pushing for concrete measures that would effectively isolate terrorist elements from the MILF guerrilla bases.

And while the peace talks with the NDF are moving forward, the armed forces will certainly punish terroristic attacks, especially attempts to blackmail candidates and to violate the peaceful, democratic atmosphere necessary for clean and honest elections.

And if by enhancing our national security we improve the economy and the lives of the people, we make the Philippine Army's job of securing peace and order many times easier.

This indeed makes for an army that as you have adopted in your theme for this year: an army that is relevant, professional, people-oriented, and caring. relevant because you have made gains in the fight against insurgency,

secessionism, terrorism, kidnapping. Relevant and also caring because you protect human rights, you build school buildings, you conduct missions together with civil society to make life better for the communities in which you serve.

Indeed, I am very proud of the Philippine Army that has truly become relevant, working to continue to become more professional than ever. One that is truly people-oriented, and one that is caring.

Let us march forward together to the brighter future we all deserve.

Once again, happy anniversary!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 107th Anniversary of the Philippine Army. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090215/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5656&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Ceremony for the Commencement of the Topping Works of the P300-million Batangas Port Livelihood Center

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Ceremony for the Commencement of the Topping Works of the P300-million Batangas Port
Livelihood Center**

[Delivered at the Batangas International Port, Brgy. Sta. Clara Batangas City, Batangas, March 25, 2004]

Governor Dodo Mandanas, happy birthday sa iyo at salamat ikaw ang nagbigay ng birthday gift sa akin imbes ako ang nag-birthday gift sa yo inindorso mo ako sa mga Batangueño bilang iyong kandidato sa pangulo ng republika ng Pilipinas.

At alam ko naman ang Batangueño may isang salita. Patunayan itong ating productivity livelihood center ng probinsiya ng Batangas at Philippine Ports Authority. Alam nyo kasi itong international port ng Batangas bahagi po yan sa Calabarzon project, kasi ang Calabarzon ay nagsimula nung ako pa ay Undersecretary of Trade and Industry at ako ang gumagawa ng plano ng Calabarzon. Noong panahong yon, panahon pa noon ako ay DTI pa, alam ko na, nauunawaan ko na na may problema yung mga nakatira sa Santa Clara yung natatakot na — kayo yon — yung nanganganib na mawawalaan ng tahanan kung itong pantalan ay gagawing international port. Kanya lamang kailangang-kailangan ang international port sa Calabarzon at itong maliit na pantalan, na ang daming mga alaala ni Kabayan Noli de Castro na taga-Mindoro nung siya ay nagfe-ferry papunta sa Batangas Port, ang liit-liit pa, ang pangit-pangit pa, ang lubak-lubak pa ng kalsada. Ngayon, ang plano natin ay gawin ngang international port.

Noong ako ay senador, si Dodo Mandanas ay lider ng NGO, dinadala na niya ako dito sa Batangas. At isa rin sa pinag-uusapan natin papano aalagaan ang mga mawawalang tahanan dito sa barangay Santa Clara.

Noong ako ay naging pangulo, nakita ko hindi pa pala napapatayo yung Batangas port. Kaya nung ako ay naging pangulo, pinabilis ko ang papeles, pinabilis ko ang bidding, pinabilis ko ang right-of-way, one year after Edsa 2 started, January 16, 2002, na-inaugurate natin ang International Batangas Port. Noong araw na yon, tinanong ko kay Dodo Mandanas, Dodo, papano naman yung mga nawawalaan, baka mawalaan ng hanapbuhay at saka tahanan. sabi niya, ang probinsiya na ang bahala sa kanila. at eto, itong productivity livelihood center ng probinsiya at ppa ang sagot ni Dodo Mandanas sa pangako niya sa akin na siya ang bahala sa mga taga-barangay Santa Clara at inyong pangkabuhayan, kayo. Kaya ito si Dodo ang mamamahala dito para may magandang pangkabuhayan ang mga nanganganib maisasantabi sa kaunlaran ng Batangas.

Ang Batangas Port at ang kalsada patungong Batangas mula sa Maynila kailangang-kailangan kung gusto natin ng maraming trabaho sa Batangas at saka sa Calabarzon, kung gusto natin ng maraming pangangalakal, kung gusto nating gumanda ang presyo ng mga bilihan.

Kaya akoy nasisiyahan na si Dodo Mandanas ay tumatakbo na walang kalaban, kasi ibig sabihin, meron siyang maibibigay na buong pagkakataon na ituloy ang kanyang trabaho bilang gobernador kahit na siya ay nagkakandidatong congressman dahil marami pa siyang kailangang gawin para sa lalawigan ng batangas bago siya magbitiw sa a-treinta ng hunyo para maging congressman.

Una nga, tatapusin nito na magbibigay ng hanapbuhay sa ating mga kapatid sa barangay Santa Clara.

Pangalawa, hiningi ko siya, hinihingi ko sa kanya na siya ang maging project manager nung ating kalsada, yung expressway mula maynila hanggang sa Batangas International port para meron tayong magandang kalsada na magpapaaliwalas ng biyahe.

Pangatlo, yung Board of Liquidators, kasi ito ppa property ito, sa kabila naman ng pantalan ng Batangas port ay merong property ng Board of Liquidators, national government din ang may-ari, gaya nito, nasa government ang may-ari pero itinu-turnover sa provincial government para gagawa rin si Dodo Mandanas doon sa kabila ng proyekto magbibigay ng trabaho sa karaniwang Batangueño.

Kaya isa pa, si Dodo Mandanas doon sa lipa ay magdadala ng private investor sa ating air base para gagawing commercial and military airport and industrial complex. Ang dami pang gagawin ni Dodo Mandanas bago siya magbitiw bilang gobernador sa a-treinta at bago magsimula ng trabaho niya bilang congressman.

Kaya akoy nagpapasalamat na sa kanyang paniniwala para matuloy itong mga magandang nasimulaan niya, nasimulaan natin ang kailangan niyang pangulo ay yung nakakaunawa sa pangangailangan ng kaunlaran ng Batangas, yung mga nakakaunawa sa mga damdamin ng mga ordinaryong Batangueño at kaya naman ako'y nagpapasalamat na sa araw ng kanyang kaarawan ay sinabi niya sa inyo, minamahal niyang mga batangueño, ang dami-dami ninyong almusal nasa loob ng gusali, na ang kanyang kandidato bilang pangulo ay si Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sa inyong lahat mga kaibigan, ako ay nagpapasalamat at sana nga pagkatapos ng a-treinta ng hunyo, itong mga malakas na sinimulan natin — productivity center, Batangas port, B-O-L property at saka yung expressway to the south — ay magagawa natin, sama-sama tayo, governor today, congressman tomorrow, kayo mga mamamayan ng Batangas, kasama kayo sa ating ginagawa at sana kasama tayo sa kaunlaran ng Batangas at ng buong Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat, happy birthday governor and future Congressman Dodo Mandanas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong suporta.

Kanta tayo, happy birthday. Kanta, kanta.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). GMA's Speech during the Ceremony for the Commencement of the Topping Works of the P300-million Batangas Port Livelihood Center. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090207/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5655&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo on Lent (Filipino)

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Lent (Filipino)**

[Delivered on April 7, 2004]

Ang Semana Santa ay panahon ng pagninilay. Si Panginoong Hesukristo ay naghandog ng Kanyang buhay upang tubusin tayo sa ating mga kasalanan. Tiniis Niya ang lahat ng pasakit, para patunayan kung gaano Niya tayo kamahal. Bilang pasasalamat, gawin nating makabuluhan ang paggunita sa Kanyang pagdurusa at Kanyang kamatayan.

Pag-isipan nating mabuti kung ano pa ang ating magagawa bilang pagsunod sa Kanyang mga utos at aral. Kailangan din nating pasanin ang ating sariling krus. Kailangan din nating magmalasakit at dumamay sa ating kapwa. Kailangan nating mag-alay bawat isa ng tulong para sa kapakanan ng ating bayan.

Sa maikling panahon ng aking pagiging Pangulo, inihandog ko ang aking sarili para ipaglaban ang pagbabago para sa karaniwang Pilipino. Wala akong tanging hangad kundi ang tapusin ang aking nasimulan at wakasan ang kahirapan.

Tulad ng pagkamatay ni Hesus sa krus, ang bawat isa sa atin ay dapat ding maghandog ng sarili nating sakripisyo. Magtulungan tayo para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran ng ating bansa. Magkaisa tayo para sa maginhawang pamumuhay nating lahat. At tulad din ng Kanyang muling pagkabuhay, ang ating mga pagsisikap ay maghahatid sa atin ng isang magandang bukas.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). President's Lenten Message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090158/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5670&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Araw ng Kagitingan Rites

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Araw ng Kagitingan Rites

[Delivered at the Dambana ng Kagitingan, Mt. Samat, Pilar, Bataan, April 7, 2004]

THANK you very much Secretary Ermita, other officials of the national government, Governor Leonardo Roman, Congressman Antonino Roman, Mayor Abet Garcia of Balanga City, Mayor Estrella Santos of Pilar, Mayor Nelson David and the other mayors of the province of Bataan, Vice Governor Rogelio Roque. I would also like to greet the leaders of our veterans, Colonel De Ocampo, Colonel Estrada, Ambassador Guidaya, the members of the diplomatic corps headed by Joseph Musomelli of the United States, Akio Egawa of the Japanese Embassy and Ambassador whose people were also here during the war in Bataan. Members of the Cabinet, Monsignor Antonio Dumawal, General Garcia and the other major service commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. I already greeted Balanga Mayor Abet Garcia, Mayor Estrella Santos and Limay Mayor Nelson David. I would also like to greet Dinalupihan Mayor Jose Payumo, Samal Mayor Teodorico Albelda and we also have SBMA Chairman Tong Payumo. Members of the visiting delegation from the United States and Japan at higit sa lahat, ang ating mga minamahal na beterano at kanilang mga anak at kamag-anak, minamahal kong mga kababayan.

Itong araw na ito higit sa lahat, Araw ng Kagitingan ay araw para sa ating mga beterano. Ang mga beterano ng Bataan ay nanatiling tanglaw sa landas na tinatahak nating lahat. Dakilain natin ang araw na ito. Ang ating mga bayani. Maraming salamat sa inyo, beteranong Pilipino. Papurihan din natin ang bansang samahan ng mga beterano sa pangunguna ni Colonel Emmanuel de Ocampo. Noong siya ay bata pa. Siya ang Deputy ng Emergency Employment Administration ng aking tatay. Iyong trabaho niya, ang trabaho ni Adeveso isa pang beterano sa Emergency Employment Administration, iyon ang naging inspirasyon ko sa ating “Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin” at nandito ang nakakuha ng trabaho sa proyektong iyon. Sa napakaraming taon kasama nila Colonel Estrada, Ambassador Guidaya at iba’t iba pang veterans’ groups na narito ngayon. Si Colonel De Ocampo ay naging malakas na tinig ng mga beterano at kanilang mga pamilya. Dahil sa kanya lumakas ang impluwensiya ng mga dating kawal sa policy making forum ng aking pamahalaan. Dahil dito sa ilalim ng aking administrasyon malakas nating simulan ang pag-ayos ng sistema ng Philippine Veteran Affairs Office para mapabilis ang pagpapadala ng pensiyon sa mga beterano. Ngayon, mahigit 70 percent ng mga pensiyon ay tinatanggap sa pamamagitan ng direct bank remittances mas mabilis at ligtas kumpara sa koreyo. Inutusan natin ang PVAO na pabilisin ang proseso at agad tapusin ang mga nakabinbing application para sa mga benepisyo ng mga beterano. Binuo nating muli ang military service board para magproseso ng mahigit 100,000 application para patunayan ang kanilang serbisyo noong World War II. Inatasan din ng PVAO na linisin ang kanilang listahan ng mga beterano at siguraduhin na mga tunay na beterano lamang ang makakatanggap ng benepisyo at pensiyon. Dahil sa kanilang data cleansing halos 7,000 pangalan ang natanggal sa listahan. Kahit na nagtitipid ang ating pamahalaan para mabawasan ang ating budget deficit, naglaan tayo ng mas malaking halaga para sa benepisyo ng mga beterano. Noong panahon ng nakaraang administrasyon, 31 billion lamang ang bayad sa pensiyon at iba pang benepisyo. Sa aking maikling Panguluhan ay nakapaglaan tayo ng halos 40 bilyong piso para sa bayad sa higit na 260,000 na pensiyonado. Naitaas natin ang old-aged pension, nabayaran din natin ang halos 20,000 na educational benefits, 20,000 na burial assistance at halos 4,000 hospitalization benefits. Ganoon din, itong nakaraang taon lamang, pinag-igting ng PVAO ang pagsasagawa ng mga libreng dental at medical mission para sa mga beterano sa mga probinsya. Dito, halos 20,000 ng mga beterano at pamilya nila ang nakinabang. Hindi lang dito sa Pilipinas ang ating paglilingkod sa beterano. Maging ang aking foreign policy at pakikipag-kaibigan sa America ginamit ko rin para matulungan ang ating mga beterano. After my visit to the United States, President Bush gave medical equipment worth about more than \$50 million to the Veterans Memorial Hospital to take care of our veterans here in the Philippines also. After my state visit to the United States, President Bush signed two laws increasing the health care benefits and other privileges of our Filipino veterans living in the United States to the tune of \$20 million every year.

Ito ay bunga ng ating malakas na foreign policy na nagbabalik ng respeto sa ating bansa. Iyan mismong respetong iyan ay hindi lamang nagpalawak ng ating benepisyo sa ating mga beterano. Ito rin ang nagbigay ng kompiyansang

mamuhunan ang ibang bansa sa ating bansa kaya tayo ay nakalikha ng 1 milyong trabaho mahigit bawat taon. Tinignan ko iyong pag-aaral ng mga ekonomista kagaya ni Congressman Joey Salceda. Siya ang pinakamataas na kumikitang financial analyst sa ating stock exchange bago siya naging Kongresista. Sa kanyang analysis, naipakita niya na iyong aking administrasyon na may 1.1 million jobs a year ang nalilikha, ito ang pinakamaraming employment na nalikha sa buong kasaysayan ng Pilipinas. Dahil ngayon lamang umabot sa 1 million jobs a year ang trabahong nalilikha natin. Malungkot man sabihin kailangan na ihambing natin ito sa panahon ni Pangulong Estrada kung saan taun-taon, ang trabahong nalikha niya ay 135,000 lamang. Huwag tayong bumalik sa mga panahong ganoon. Ngayon, para sa ating mga beterano, dahil gumanda na ang ating relasyon sa America. Nilalakad ko naman kay Pangulong Bush ang panukalang batas na magbibigay ng pensiyon sa mga beteranong nakatira dito sa Pilipinas. Dito naman sa Pilipinas, kapag bukas na ang Kongreso, magsisertipika ako na ipasa ang isang batas na magbibigay ng franking privileges sa Veterans Federation of the Philippines. Ito ay kasama sa aking malakas na pag-umpisa ng pagbabago mula sa kaguluhang minana ko.

Kagaya ng sinabi ng mga nagsalita kanina, ganoon na rin pati iyong ating nagdasal, si Monsignor Dumawal, ang kaaway natin ngayon ay hindi na mga banyaga. In fact, iyong Hapon na dating kaaway noong panahon ng Bataan ay ang pinakamalaking pinanggagalingan ng foreign assistance at ilang mga investments din na nagbibigay ng napakaraming trabaho. Kailan lang ay nagbukas ako ng bagong investment na naman ng isang Hapon, iyong Yasakitores na pinalawak sa bilyung-bilyong piso ang kanilang investment sa Pilipinas at pinalawak sa libu-libong mga manggagawa ang bibigyan ng trabaho. Hindi banyaga ang ating kalaban ngayon. Ang kaaway natin ngayon ay ang ating sarili. Ang kaaway ay hindi ang estranghero kung hindi ang kapwa Pilipino na ang hanap ay sariling interes, hindi pambansang malasakit. Ang hanap ay personal na kaunlaran, hindi ang kabutihan ng lahat. Tulungan ninyo akong harapin itong bagong hamon at bagong panganib sa ating paligid. Tulungan ninyo ako sa aking ipinaglalaban na pagbabago. Hindi lamang pagbabago ng lipunan o pamahalaan, kung hindi ang pagbabago ng sarili, ng sariling diwa, ng sariling puso, ng sariling kaluluwa, lalo na itong taon ang tunay na Araw ng kagitingan ay isa rin ang Mahal na Araw. Sama-sama nating bigyan ng inspirasyon ang ating mga, kababayan maging ang mga bayani at martir. Bayani, hindi sa digmaan, kung hindi sa buhay. Martir hindi sa pagbuhos ng dugo, kung hindi sa pagbuhos ng pawis para sa kapwa. Iisa lamang ang ating bansa. Iisa lamang ang ating kapalaran. Iisa lamang ang ating hinaharap. Uunlad tayo o lulugmok tayo ng samasama. Kaya mga beterano at mga kasalukuyang henerasyon, ang aking hinihingi sa inyo sa Araw ng Kagitingan at sa Mahal na Araw ng ating pananam-palataya, tulungan ninyo akong magkaroon tayo ng bagong pagkakaisa. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.]

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Araw ng Kagitingan Rites. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090147/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5669&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo on Easter [Filipino]

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Easter [Filipino]**

[Delivered on April 10, 2004]

Ang Linggo ng Pagkabuhay ay ang pinakamahalagang pagdiriwang sa daigdig ng Kristiyanismo. Sa araw na ito, bigyan natin ng halaga ang pagsibol ng bagong buhay at bagong pag-asa na tinubos ng mga pasakit at pinag-alayan ng buhay ng ating Panginoong Hesukristo dahil sa ating mga kasalanan.

Gawin nating inspirasyon ang bagong buhay at bagong pag-asa para masiguro ang mgandang kinabukassan ng ating mga anak. Tayo man ay dapat na magpakasakit at magsakripisyo upang abutin natin ang mithiing kapayapaan at kaunlaran na ipinamana natin sa kanila. Sa Romano 12:12 ng Banal na Kasulatan, hinihingi ng Panginoon na ialay sa kanya ang ating mga katawan bilang buhay na sakripisyo. Ang ating mga sakripisyo ngayon ang magdadala sa atin upang maisakatuparan ang ating pangarap na magandang bukas.

Ang pagkamatay at pagkabuhay ng Panginoong Hesukristo ay patunay na sa kabila ng kahirapan ay ginhawa. Magpasalamat tayo sa pag-asang ipinagkaloob ng Diyos sa atin. Nawa'y maghari ang pag-asang ito upang sa pagkakaisa, sama-sama nating makamit ang makabuluhang pagbabagong hinahangad nating lahat.

Maligayang Linggo ng Pagkabuhay sa ating lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). President's Easter Message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090052/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5668&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on poverty

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On poverty**

[Delivered at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, April 14, 2004]

THE FIGHT VERSUS POVERTY CONTINUES

Our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty. Since martial law our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors.

I am fighting for a change for the average Filipino. Together, you and I, we have made a strong start in a short time. Together with you, I have stabilized the mess we inherited. We now have low inflation, high growth and a surge of foreign investment.

And for the first time in the nation's history, we have a money laundering program that combats corruption and terrorists money laundering.

I have brought millions of books to schoolchildren, healthcare to the majority of the people, clean water to over 4 million people, and new housing to over two million of our most needy.

And I have cracked down on drug kingpins and thrown the book at corrupt bureaucrats, we have worked with our allies and security forces here at home to eliminate terrorism and protect our homeland from violence.

Yes, I'm glad that Dick remembers what I told the club two years ago. And indeed in accordance with the goals I set out even before I became President before the Makati Business Club at the height of the EDSA 2 controversies. And early in my term, in accordance with what I said then, I developed a three-pronged economic strategy to make the free enterprise system work and undo the neglect of the previous administration.

First, increase investments that provide people with the education and training they need to get high-wage work, including more scholarships, English as the prime teaching language, and scores of other practical investments for equipping our people;

Second, strengthen our international ties and regain the confidence of international investors. And our efforts have resulted in a 26 percent increase in direct foreign investment and are directly responsible for millions of new jobs as a result of investments from companies like Intel, Toyota, Ford, P & G, Federal express and UPS, to name a few;

And finally, a major increase in support for the self-employed and small and medium-sized businesses that really are the backbone of our economy. But, we have a long way to go. These accomplishments are a mere down payment on what is needed.

In the next six years, I pledge a pro-poor agenda to end poverty and as quoted by Dick, unite the nation. This is not an idle promise. I have the experience to deliver on my pledges.

The challenge I make to you today is this: we cannot continue with a nation divided, a nation divided between rich and poor. We must unify our economic and social divisions if we are to lift all boats on a tide of equality and prosperity.

We must invest in our nation and our people if we are to succeed. The hard-working Filipino is the central pillar of the nation. The working poor deserve the right to a rising standard of living, fair access to the courts, clean water, affordable energy, a good education, high-wage jobs and economic incentives for our self-employed and entrepreneurial class.

We must tackle the problems of the poor with compassion, specific solutions and aggressive economic expansion.

I am proposing a new Philippine nationalism based on championing our most valuable asset, the people of the Philippines, who work hard and play by the rules every day.

Well, Dick alluded to it earlier. It's not enough to have an affinity for the poor. A leader must present a specific platform for how to break the cycle of poverty and cynicism that pervades the nation. That means a leader must have a specific plan of action and the experience to carry it out – I am that candidate.

In behalf of the poor of this nation, I intend to lead the Philippines to a new era of unity and prosperity. I intend to make the hard decisions and to provide the new specific ideas to mark the beginning of the end of poverty as we know it. I intend to unite the nation based on respect for rich and poor alike. We are all in this together and must sink or swim together.

In the next six years:

I pledge to triple loans to self-employed and small business owners;

I pledge to build 3,000 new schools, grant a college or voctech scholarship to every qualified poor family and put a computer in every school;

I pledge to bring electricity to 1,500 barangays a year and reduce the cost to become the lowest in the region;

I pledge to bring clean water to all 45,000 barangays;

I pledge to reduce by half the price of commonly used medicine; and

I pledge to create one million new jobs every year I am in office.

And I will do so with fiscal discipline. Through the reforms I have made – and will continue to make – I will continue to increase revenue collection; clamp down on tax cheats; and cut waste, fraud and abuse in our government.

I further pledge to continue to fight for self-sufficiency in rice production; to fight for more roads, for new roads, bridges and highways to link our great nation; and to fight for more property rights and more legal rights for our people; and most importantly, I will fight for the people who have no voice.

This election isn't about my family or me. This election isn't about personalities or politics. This election is about the people. And the people are demanding answers – specific answers to their problems.

They don't want slogans, they want results; they don't want talks, they want action; they don't want big rallies, they want a big paycheck.

Yes, we need to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner. But that won't be accomplished by leaders and their backroom advisers who instead only provide a steady diet of political attack and lawsuits.

In these challenging times, the country has a clear choice between two candidates: to move forward with an experienced, hands-on leader who has a specific platform for change; or take a risk on an inexperienced actor who is too reliant on advisors to make important decisions.

The choice is clear: you can build on the strong start we have made with our pro-poor platform that is brimming with new ideas for the future; or the Philippines can start all over again with a cynical platform empty of ideas and stuck in the past.

The choice is clear: you can vote for a six-point plan of action and a record of accomplishment; or vote for someone who has no plan for education, no plan for clean water, no plan for job creation, no plan for healthcare, no plan for energy, and no plan for international relations.

Much is at stake in this election. I'm a hopeful person and remain very optimistic about our people and our nation. We must offer hope, not fear; sunlight, not darkness. We must take the hopes and dreams of the poor seriously. The poor of this nation deserve no less. We ignore them at our own peril.

I challenge you today to join me to work together to unite the nation – as Dick said earlier in my first talk with the u.s. About unity, healing – unite the nation around a platform that is pro-poor, fiscally responsible and forward thinking.

Movers and shakers of the business community, the future is in your hands, our hands. Let's all secure that future together.

Thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Joint General Membership Luncheon Meeting of the Makati Business Club

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Joint General Membership Luncheon Meeting of the Makati Business Club**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, April 14, 2004]

Thank you, Mr. Balangue.

Thank you, Dick for your kind words of welcome and encouragement.

Excellencies of the diplomatic corps, members of the government, movers and shakers of the business community, ladies and gentlemen.

Our historic problem has been the need for economic development to fight poverty. Since martial law our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors.

I am fighting for a change for the average Filipino. Together, you and I, we have made a strong start in a short time. Together with you, I have stabilized the mess we inherited. We now have low inflation, high growth and a surge of foreign investment.

And for the first time in the nation's history, we have a money laundering program that combats corruption and terrorists money laundering.

I have brought millions of books to schoolchildren, healthcare to the majority of the people, clean water to over 4 million people, and new housing to over two million of our most needy.

And I have cracked down on drug kingpins and thrown the book at corrupt bureaucrats, we have worked with our allies and security forces here at home to eliminate terrorism and protect our homeland from violence.

Yes, I'm glad that Dick remembers what I told the club two years ago. And indeed in accordance with the goals I set out even before I became President before the Makati Business Club at the height of the EDSA 2 controversies. And early in my term, in accordance with what I said then, I developed a three-pronged economic strategy to make the free enterprise system work and undo the neglect of the previous administration.

First, increase investments that provide people with the education and training they need to get high-wage work, including more scholarships, English as the prime teaching language, and scores of other practical investments for equipping our people;

Second, strengthen our international ties and regain the confidence of international investors. And our efforts have resulted in a 26 percent increase in direct foreign investment and are directly responsible for millions of new jobs as a result of investments from companies like Intel, Toyota, Ford, P & G, Federal express and UPS, to name a few;

And finally, a major increase in support for the self-employed and small and medium-sized businesses that really are the backbone of our economy. But, we have a long way to go. These accomplishments are a mere down payment on what is needed.

In the next six years, I pledge a pro-poor agenda to end poverty and as quoted by Dick, unite the nation. This is not an idle promise. I have the experience to deliver on my pledges.

The challenge I make to you today is this: we cannot continue with a nation divided, a nation divided between rich and poor. We must unify our economic and social divisions if we are to lift all boats on a tide of equality and prosperity.

We must invest in our nation and our people if we are to succeed. The hard-working Filipino is the central pillar of the nation. The working poor deserve the right to a rising standard of living, fair access to the courts, clean water, affordable energy, a good education, high-wage jobs and economic incentives for our self-employed and entrepreneurial class.

We must tackle the problems of the poor with compassion, specific solutions and aggressive economic expansion.

I am proposing a new Philippine nationalism based on championing our most valuable asset, the people of the Philippines, who work hard and play by the rules every day.

Well, Dick alluded to it earlier. It's not enough to have an affinity for the poor. A leader must present a specific platform for how to break the cycle of poverty and cynicism that pervades the nation. That means a leader must have a specific plan of action and the experience to carry it out — I am that candidate.

In behalf of the poor of this nation, I intend to lead the Philippines to a new era of unity and prosperity. I intend to make the hard decisions and to provide the new specific ideas to mark the beginning of the end of poverty as we know it. I intend to unite the nation based on respect for rich and poor alike. We are all in this together and must sink or swim together.

In the next six years:

I pledge to triple loans to self-employed and small business owners;

I pledge to build 3,000 new schools, grant a college or voctech scholarship to every qualified poor family and put a computer in every school;

I pledge to bring electricity to 1,500 barangays a year and reduce the cost to become the lowest in the region;

I pledge to bring clean water to all 45,000 barangays;

I pledge to reduce by half the price of commonly used medicine; and

I pledge to create one million new jobs every year I am in office.

And I will do so with fiscal discipline. Through the reforms I have made — and will continue to make — I will continue to increase revenue collection; clamp down on tax cheats; and cut waste, fraud and abuse in our government.

I further pledge to continue to fight for self-sufficiency in rice production; to fight for more roads, for new roads, bridges and highways to link our great nation; and to fight for more property rights and more legal rights for our people; and most importantly, I will fight for the people who have no voice.

This election isn't about my family or me. This election isn't about personalities or politics. This election is about the people. And the people are demanding answers — specific answers to their problems.

They don't want slogans, they want results; they don't want talks, they want action; they don't want big rallies, they want a big paycheck.

Yes, we need to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner. But that won't be accomplished by leaders and their backroom advisers who instead only provide a steady diet of political attack and lawsuits.

In these challenging times, the country has a clear choice between two candidates: to move forward with an experienced, hands-on leader who has a specific platform for change; or take a risk on an inexperienced actor who is too reliant on advisors to make important decisions.

The choice is clear: you can build on the strong start we have made with our pro-poor platform that is brimming with new ideas for the future; or the Philippines can start all over again with a cynical platform empty of ideas and stuck in the past.

The choice is clear: you can vote for a six-point plan of action and a record of accomplishment; or vote for someone who has no plan for education, no plan for clean water, no plan for job creation, no plan for healthcare, no plan for energy, and no plan for international relations.

Much is at stake in this election. I'm a hopeful person and remain very optimistic about our people and our nation. We must offer hope, not fear; sunlight, not darkness. We must take the hopes and dreams of the poor seriously. The poor of this nation deserve no less. We ignore them at our own peril.

I challenge you today to join me to work together to unite the nation — as Dick said earlier in my first talk with the u.s. About unity, healing — unite the nation around a platform that is pro-poor, fiscally responsible and forward thinking.

Movers and shakers of the business community, the future is in your hands, our hands. Let's all secure that future together.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Joint General Membership Luncheon Meeting of the Makati Business Club. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090047/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5667&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 113th Foundation Day of the Philippine Bar Association

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 113th Foundation Day of the Philippine Bar Association

[Delivered on April 16, 2004]

I would like to greet the members of the Board, the past presidents, the different VIPs, the presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, the Associate Justices of the Sandiganbayan, the members of the Judicial and Bar Council, most of whom, if not all, were my appointee.

Well, I am glad to see all of you here tonight. And I am glad to see the faces of many of the Philippine Bar Association, leaders and members, so that, in my next term with your support, I know whom to appoint in the Supreme Court. Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps — I should have mentioned also the RTC judges — the recipients of the award, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, a few days ago, I unveiled my pro-poor agenda to the next six years to end poverty and unite the nation.

In the next six years, I pledge to triple loans to self-employed and small business owners. I pledge to build 3,000 new schools, grant college scholarships to every qualified poor family, and give a computer in every school. I pledge to (COVERAGE CUT) — rogue and abused in our government.

I further pledge to continue to fight for self-sufficiency in rice production. To fight for new roads, bridges and highways to link our great nation. And to fight for more property rights and more legal rights for our people.

Legal rights. Ang katarungan ay ang bukal ng isang demokrasya. Justice is a bedrock of democracy. Without justice, there can be no democracy. Ang isang lipinang kulang sa hustisya ay isang diktatorya, isang sistema ng pasismo.

In my short presidency, with the support of many of you — kanina nga nabanggit ang halos lahat ng aking presidential appointees, pero hindi pa nabanggit si Nonong Cruz at si Joey Peñafrancia, is Attorney Acosta, and I remember to mention them because they are among those who have been helping me in my administration's making a strong part in judicial reform. Thank you, Ding, the filing of cases against corrupt judges and prosecutors, but more in general and more positively, the adjustment of the judges and prosecutors' pay. The package of institutional strengthening of the judiciary funded by the World Bank and the Mediation Law.

Sa susunod kong administrasyon, sa tulong ninyo, we will build on this strong start. Kasama ng Korte Suprema, lilinisin pa natin ang ating hudikatura, ang ating mga korte at ang mga taong nagsisilbing anay sa loob at labas ng hukuman. Gagamitin ko ang aking impluwensiya upang ang ating hudikatura ay may pantay-pantay na paglapat ng hustisya sa lahat ng Pilipino, mahirap o mayaman. Hahabulin natin at ipapakulong ang mga bumabaluktot sa batas sa loob at labas ng hukuman. Lilipulin natin iyong mga sinabi ng ating mga kasapi ng diplomatic corps who I am greeting tonight, iyong tinatawag nga nilang mga hoodlums in robes, na sila ang nagiging sagabal sa investments na pumunta rito.

At kayo namang magagaling na abogado ng Philippine Bar Association, hihimukin ko ang mga abogadong nagmamalasakit sa bayan, kagaya ninyo, na palawigin pa ninyo ang inyong pro-bono service para sa kapakanan ng mga dukha at walang kapangyarihan sa buhay.

If my complete term, as this one — it is only half a term — I also intend to share political power as broadly as possible. I will reach out to all parties, to all groups, to all communities to identify their best, brightest and most honest to serve in our government. Sa ilalim ng susunod kong damistrasyon, magkakaroon nang tunay na national unity government.

Aanyayahan ko ang oposisyon, ang kontra partido, ang naging kalaban na kalimutan na ang pulitika at ipadala ang kanilang pinakamagaling na kinatawan sa ating pamahalaan kung saan ay may naghihintay na mataas na tanggapan sa kanila.

Ang aking pamahalaan ay magiging isang tunay na salamin. Kapag itinaas ninyo ang salamin na ito at makikita ninyo ang larawan ng bansa.

Ang aking pamahalaan ay isang tunay na pamilya ng lahi. Kasama rito ang mga kinatwan ng kabataan, kababaihan, cultural communities, senior citizens, partido ng oposisyon.

It is time we detoxify our political system. Let us rid politics of its pernicious poison.

It is time we employ the blessing of civility to heal a wounded society. Civility is the glue that will bind Filipinos together.

Tulungan ninyo akong magkaroon tayo ng bagong pagkakaisa. Mabubuhay muli ang puwersa, ang disiplina sa batas kung mangingibabaw ang pambansang interes sa sariling kapakanan.

Members of this oldest lawyer's association, you are the cream of the crop of our legal profession. Kung mayroon mang makakatulong sa akin sa mga hamon ng reporma at rekonsilasyon sa darating na panahon, kayo na nga iyon. Tulungan ninyo akol

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 113th Foundation Day of the Philippine Bar Association. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090035/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5666&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo on coco diesel Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On coco diesel**

[Delivered in San Pablo City, Laguna, April 21, 2004]

COCO DIESEL: A SOLUTION TO OUR ENERGY WOES

Labis kong iginagalak ang mainit ninyong pagtanggap sa akin itong hapon na ito. Itong ginagawa natin ay tungkol sa enerhiya. Ang enerhiya as isang mahalagang bahaging Economic at Social Reform Agenda ng aking administrasyon.

Ang aking pagdalo dito, ang aking pagdalo dito ay para ipaliwanang sa inyo kung gaano kaimportante itong ginagawa nating coco diesel.

Tatlo ho ang pagkaimportansya nitong coco diesel na inilulunsad natin itong araw na ito.

Una nga yung binanggit ng ating mga nagsalita ngayon, ito ay tumutulong upang tumaas ang kita ng ating mga taga-copra. Kasi nga, nagkaroon tayo ng mga bagong gamit ng ating copra. Dati-dati nong ako ay batang maliit doon po sa Iligan, ang lola ko po, ang kanyang taniman ay copra rin. At nong panahong yun ang ginagamit na copra na binebenta sa buong mundo ay para sa make-up at mga ganong bagay pero ngayon, ginagamit na rin para sa enerhiya.

At tayo, yung ibang bansa, nauna na sa atin. Ngayon, ginagawa natin sa ating bansa upang siguradong may bibili ng produkto ng ating mga magniniyog.

Pangalawang dahilan kung bakit importante itong coco diesel, maliban sa ito ay nagpapataas ng kita ng ating magniniyog, ay ito ay nagpapalinis sa ating kalikasan. Ito ay pagpapatupad sa Clean Air Act dahil ang sabi ni Claire, mula nong ini-ekperimento ng mga bus operators itong paggamit ng coco diesel ay nabawasan na ang pollution sa Metro Manila.

At pangatlo, dahil ginagamit na natin ang niyog para sa enerhiya, nababawasan tuloy ang ating dependence sa imported oil. At yun ay isang makakatulong sa atin para bumaba ang presyo ng kuryente.

Kasi po, isang dahilan kung bakit tumataas ang presyo ng kuryente ay tuwing tumataas ang presyo ng langis na binibli natin sa ibang bansa, tumataas ang presyo ng kuryente. Ganunpaman, pinapangako ko bilang isa sa aking anim na pangako para sa ating mga mahihirap, sa susunod na anim na taon ay magdadala ng kuryente sa lahat ng barangay ng ating bansa at gagawin pinakamura ang ating kuryente sa buong rehiyon.

Itong hapon ito, gagamitin ko ang pagkakataon para mapaliwanag sa inyo papano natin ibababa ang presyo ng kuryente sa mga darating na taon. Ito ay magiging bunga ng ating reporma ng kuryente na sinimulan natin noon pang 2001, pero syempre maikli ang aking panguluhan, ang mga batayang reporma ay di nagagawa sa isa o dalawa o tatlong taon. At ito nga gaya ng sabi ko, ang repormang batayan lalo na sa kuryente ng maraming konstruksiyon ang gagawin, maraming bagong rules ang gagawin, maraming bagong pabrika ang gagawin kagaya nitong ating ginawang coco diesel oil, ilang taon kailangan. Pero kung bibigyan niyo ng pagkakataon for me to build up on the strong start I have made, matutupad ang mga bunga ng sinimulaan nating electric power reform sa ating susunod na administrasyon.

Bago ako naging pangulo, ang Pilipinas ay pangalawa lamang sa Japan sa pinakamahal na presyo ng kuryente. Ngayon, number 7 na lang tayo sa ibang region. Bakit? Why is electric power more expensive, cheaper in the other

countries than in the Philippines? *Ang dahilan ay una, they have their own plenty indigenous energy resources or they resort to using Nuclear Energy but that is prohibited by the Philippine Constitution.*

Ako, kailangan ko ng mandato ninyo sa Mayo to build on what we have started. I need a mandate from the people to undertake the more strategic measures para matugunan natin yung problema ng industriya ng kuryente.

Kami ni Vince at mga kasamahan niya sa Department of Energy ay gumuhit ng isang pangmatagalang energy program na isisigurado ang rasonableng gastos at eficiente, mabisang serbisyo ng kuryente para sa lahat.

Una, maghahanap pa tayo, naghahanap pa tayo ng dagdag na Malampaya. Ngayon, mayron tayong kasunduan sa China. Mayroon tayong joint exploration doon sa area ng spratly. Kaysa nag-aaway tayo kung sino may ari non, ginamit natin ang ating foreign policy para magkaroon ng joint exploration. At pag nakadiskubre na tayo ng langis o natural gas sharing tayo sa bunga kaysa pag-aawayan ito.

Also we are developing more geothermal resources. Tayo ay pangalawa sa buong mundo sa nasimulaan na ay magbunga at yung mga planta ay magbibigay na sa atin ng kuryente, we'll be number one geothermal power in the whole world.

Ano ang kagandahan nitong geothermal energy? Ito ay likas na Pilipino at mas malinis na panggagalingan ng enerhiya.

Mapalad ang Laguna dahil dito sa Laguna, meron kayong geothermal power na nanggagaling sa Mt. Makiling. Yan ang dahilan kung bakit ginawa ko itong palatuntunan dito. At yung hydro power, mapalad din ang Laguna dahil ay may hydro power na nanggagaling sa Caliraya, Botocan at Kalayaan.

Suyo ng isa, itong sinimulaan na natin na maghanap pa ng mga additional resources sa dagat kasama ng China, kasama ng Shell ng U.K.

Pangalawa, yung ating sariling gamit, yung geothermal. Isa pa tutuparin nating ang privatization ng transmission at generation assets ng NAPOCOR para tumaas ang efficiency at permanenteng bumaba ang presyo ng kuryente.

Isa pa, kumpetisyon, nagawa nating kumpetisyon sa eroplano at saka sa telecommunication. In fact, yan ang dahilan kung bakit nong hindi pa ako pangulo, limang milyon lamang ang cellphone. Ngayon, 25 million na ang cellphone sa ating bansa. At mas mura na ang gamit. Kaya ang daming can afford sa ating cellphone.

Kung ano ang ginawa natin sa eroplano at saka sa telecommunications, gagawin natin sa wholesale power generation sa pamamagitan ng wholesale electricity spot market na magsisimula sa susunod na taon.

Eh medyo mahirap pag-usapan itong mga ito, kasi mga ekonomista at mga enhiniyero ang may alam nito, pero siguro sisikapin kong paliwanagin although hindi accurate pero more or less maiintindihan ng layman.

Hindi ba yung stock market, dahil nakasulat lahat ng presyo, alam mo kaagad ang presyo, alam mo kung bibili ka o hindi. At ngayon yung magsasaka, dahil sa cellphone, nakakatawag na sila ngayon, alam na nila yung presyo. Kung tumaas ang presyo ng produkto, nagtatakbo na sila sa palengke at ibebenta na yun. Kung babagsak ang presyo, ilalagay muna nila sa refrigerator.

Ganon ang gagawin natin sa presyo ng kuryente, yan din. Ang tawag diyan as WESM, Wholesale Electricity Spot Market.

At isa pa, magdala tayo ng investments para magtayo pa ng mas efficient na power plant na who will cater for the increasing demand for electricity.

Isang dahilan kung bakit nagmura rin yung cellular, kasi ngayon, pilit na yung telephone companies na mag-interconnect sa isat-isa. Kaya kabit na Globe ang tawag mo, tatawag ka sa Smart, makakakonekta ka at hindi mahal. Pinilit natin ang interconnection.

Gagawin din natin yan sa kuryente. We will implement the efficient and reliable, interconnection of the transmission system. Ibig sabihin non, kahit na nandito manggagaling ang kuryente kung mas mura ang ibinebenta niya, yun ang bibilhin ng taga-Cebu, kung mas mura yung dito kaysa yung nanggagaling sa Visayas dahil interconnected na lahat.

Our electric distribution utilities also should perform efficiently as encourage the sector to have a “cost-plus: orientation towards a “cost-efficient regime”. *Ito ay gawain ng Energy Regulatory Commission. Again, magjargon muna ako.* They are moving towards a performance-based rate making methodology for distribution utilities rather than the current “cost-plus” orientation that we inherited from the traditional system.

Ano ang ibig sabihin nito? Ngayon, kapag ang isang utility gaya ng MERALCO o yung Laguna Electric Cooperative ay mag-a-apply ng pagtaas ng rate, ang isa-submit niya, sabihin ito ang gastos naming. Ito ang allowed kaming rate of investment kaya dapat ito ang icha-charge naming, cost-plus kaya mas malaki ang gastos, mas malaki icha-charge. So, walang incentive na maging efficient kasi total, tuwing tumataas ang gastos, kahit na galing sa inefficiency, tumataas ang kuryente.

Ang gagawin nating performance-based, gumagawa ng benchmark yung Energy Regulatory Commission. Yung magagalin na company dito at sa ibang bansa. Magkano ang ginagastos nila para sa operation na ito? Magkano ang ginagastos sa overhead? Magkano ginagastos sa rent? Magkano ginagastos sa kanilang transmission losses? Dapat, yung ating mga kompanya ay ganon din ang ratio, para bang sa gobyerno or sa local government units sabihin – itong IRA ninyo pero hindi kayo puwedeng lumampas ng 50% na suweldo. Ganon na lang ang gagawin sa kuryente. Hindi kayo puwedeng lumampas ng so much percent para sa inyong system loss. Kung hindi, hindi nyo puwedeng i-charge yun sa ating mga consumers. Yan ang tinatawag na performance-based. At yung Energy Regulatory Commission ay ginagawa... o nagawa na? Ginagawa na nila yung rules ang regulations for performance-based rather than cost-plus.

Isa pa, dito naman sa probinsya, nabanggit ko ang mga probinsiya, nagtagumpay tayo sa pagbaba ng systems loss ng Electric Cooperatives sa pamamagitan ng aking Executive Order 119 na pinaayos ang pagpapatakbo ng operasyon ng mga electric cooperative. Halimbawa yung Aklan Electric Cooperative, bumaba ang systems losses. Nong araw, 23 percent, ngayon 13 percent na lamang. Nabayaran pa nila ang kanilang utang sa NAPOCOR na P70 million.

Yan ang ginagawa rin natin dito sa Laguna. Hindi ba Governor Lingling, tinutulungan natin ang Laguna? The DOE – energy and the NEA – National Electrification Administration are helping Laguna reduce its systems losses. Hindi ba kanina, Governor Lingling, nong nag usap tayo don sa iyong headquarters, sinabi nong isang Mayor, pinaalala sa atin na patawaran ang Laguna Electric Cooperative ng utang na P200 million at ang kondisyon ay binaba and presyo ng kuryente na tsina-charge nitong kooperatibang ito.

Kaya nagawa natin yan ditto, gagawin natin yan sa buong Pilipinas, sa lahat ng Electric Cooperative.

In the reform of the electric power sector, there will be new players, such as supplier/aggregators to help promote competition.

Halimbawa na naman, kasi jargon ito eh. Vince sorry kung hindi ako accurate technically. Pero hindiba kapag maliit-liit yung mga nagbebenta ng halimbawa produkto – garments? Bawat isa, mahal ang pasahe sa barko. Pero kung mayrong company na ibubuhos nila lahat. Isang container lang, mas mura so ganon din sa kuryente, magkakaroon tayo ng mga supplier/aggregators, tama ba yung sinabi ko? So, ganon ang gagawin natin.

So yan ang mga hakbang para maibaba natin ang presyo ng kuryente at gagawin nating pinakamababa sa buong rehiyon sa ating susunod na administrasyon.

Mahirap bang maintindihan, syempre, inhenyero, ekonomista, abogado-kailangan sa lahat mga bagay na ito. Kailangan din ng karanasan. Eh, sana naman, itong repormang inumpisahan natin, huwag nating ipapaubaya sa walang karanasan at hindi maintindihan itong mga gagawin.

Yun naman ating sinabi kong kuryente sa lahat ng barangay. Kasi yung pangako natin sa mga mahihirap, gagawing pinakamura, at dadalhin natin.

Ang kuryente sa lahat ng barangay ng Pilipinas. By the year 2006, lahat ng barangay ay meron ng kuryente. Bakit ko sinasabi ito? Kasi para makumpleto lahat ng barangay na may kuryente, kailangan na lamang ipaiiaw natin ang 1,000 barangay bawat taon mula ngayon. At dito rin, may karanasan na rin ako dahil nagawa ko na ito sa aking maikling panguluhan, nakadala ng ilaw sa 4,200 na barangay sa aking maikling panguluhan.

Kaya kasama na rito yung 160 barangays sa Laguna at Quezon kung saan marami ang ating magsasaka ay nanggaling ngayon. In fact, itong mga lugar na ito Vince, hindi ba ay 100% electrified na.

Laguna, 100 percent electrified na at ito Vince, hindi ba natupad sa ating maikling panguluhan.

Kaya uulitin ko bilang pagtapos, ang aking anim na pangako sa mahihirap ng ating bansa para sa susunod na anim na taon:

Una, magdadala ng kuryente sa 1,500 barangays bawat taon at ibababa ang kuryente sa pinakamababa sa rehiyon;

Pangalawa, lilikha tayong isang milyong bagong trabaho bawat taon kasama yung iiral na coco diesel industry.

Salamat nga pala sa mga tumupad sa ating hangaring ma-develop ang coco-diesel industry. Nabanggit ko na si Ginoong Carlos, si Ginoong Santos na taga Lucena, si Ginoong Lao, nabanggit na natin si Claire at yung IMMBOA. Gusto kong magpasalamat sa Toyota Motors Philippines dahil sila ay nangangako na meron silang convertible gasoline tank, puwedeng gamitin ng diesel at puwedeng gamitin ang coco diesel.

Pangatlong pangako, titiyakin natin na may malinis na tubig ang lahat ng 4,000 45,000 barangays sa buong bansa. Itong araw na ito nga, ang PAGCOR ay nakikipag-usap kay Mayor Aquino para magdala ng malinis na tubig sa kanyang barangay na wala pang malinis na tubig.

Pang-apat, ibababa natin sa kalahati ang presyo ng madalas gamiting gamut;

Panglima, magpapatayo tayo ng tatlung libong bagong paaralan, magbibigay ng college o voc-tech scholarship sa bawat pamilyang mahirap at isang computer sa bawat eskwelahan. Yung scholarships, sinimulan natin dito sa Biñan para sa 100 pamilya ng Laguna.

At pang-anim, tri-triplehin natin ang pautang sa mga self-employed at may maliliit na negosyo kagaya ng mga nagba-banana cue at kagaya ng ating mga magni-niyog na mayrong mga sariling mga negosyo.

Mga kababayan, itong halalan ay tungkol sa inyo, hindi tungkol sa akin. Ang taumbayan ay may karapatang marining mula sa mga kandidato kung ano ang kanilang gagawin. Ang aking kampanya ay tungkol sa isyu, hindi sa personalidad. Itong halalan ay tungkol sa pagresolba ng iyong mga problema, hindi tungkol sa akin. Dapat sama-sama tayong sumulong, magkaisa sa solusyon ng ating kapwang problema.

Kaya mga taga San Pablo, taga Laguna, taga Quezon, mga magni-niyog, mga transportasyon, mga gumagawa ng mga pabrika ng coco-diesel, sama-sama tayo sa solusyon ng problema ng kahirapan, magkaisa tayo.

Mabuhay ang coco-diesel, mabuhay ang magniniyog, mabuhay ang transportasyon.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo at the 25th National Conference of Employers
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 25th National Conference of Employers

[Delivered at the Westin Philippine Plaza, April 22, 2004]

**FORGING WINNING SOCIAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR
GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS**

Let me extend my warmest greetings to all the participants of this 25th National Conference of Employers. And my greeting to the labor leaders who were one with them in the social partnership. I share in your conviction that, working together, the Filipino worker and the Filipino manager can excel and join the ranks of the best achievers in the world.

You could not have chosen a more timely and appropriate theme for your silver conference, “Forging Winning Social Partnerships for Global Competitiveness.”

In a way, this theme a partnership has been the general guide for my administration since Edsa II, when I came to the presidency on the crest of a popular wave of change. I am fighting for change for the average Filipino.

Sa kagustuhan ng tao at ng Diyos, ako’y nanungkulan bilang presidente sa nakaraang maikling panahon.

Kaguluhan ang namana ko. Mahirap ang pinagdaanan, hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kundi ng buong rehiyon ng Asya at ng buong mundo.

Ngunit buong katapatan kong masasabi sa inyo na naitawid ho natin ng matiwasay at matagumpay ang ating bayan because of our social partnership.

Together we have made a strong start in a short time. Together we stabilized the mess we inherited. Together in our social partnership. Today we have low inflation and high growth. We have huge new foreign investment, foreign investments have surged by 26 percent.

We have brought clean water and health care to millions. We have brought, you have brought new housing to hundreds of thousands. We have books in schools.

We have cracked down on crime and drug kingpins. By Tessie Ang See’s own accounting, we now have the lowest kidnapping rate in the last 11 years. We have thrown the books at corrupt official.

We created, you and I, more than three million new jobs – in the call centers and business process outsourcing that Rene Soriano was talking about, in the new investments of the likes of Intel, Sunpower Solar Panels, Matsushita Electric, Texas Instruments, Ford which has a table of its own right here, National Steel, other investments from some in the crowd that I see today like for instance, Yazaki Torres. And many of the others, the bio-diesel of Itto Carlos, and many investments that many of you right here in this hall have put in place. And today, anticipating what you will giving me later because I have been keeping track of your discussions, I am happy with your proposal that industry and government sit down to draw up a strategic IT/ICT plan for the nation so that we can consolidate and broaden our IT/ICT niches such as electronics assembly, business process process outsourcing and software development. After all way back in 2001 in my first State of the Nation Address, I already said that the growth sector of our future will be the skills intensive service sectors like ICT and tourism: Speaking of tourism, so that we can enhance our tourism industry, the other growth sector of the future aside from ICT, I have instructed our airport

officials to stop requiring the removal of shoes as an inspection mechanism except for those going to the countries who themselves require this kind of inspection.

Because of your commitment to a social partnership, wages, minimum wages have improved by 11.2 percent above inflation, which helped foster prolonged industrial peace. Tell me if I'm wrong Pat but from my figures, average mining and non-agricultural wages went up 29 percent to 271 pesos per day under our administration. From 210 pesos under President Estrada. Average agricultural wages went up 19.6 percent. Agricultural minimum wages to 238 pesos from P199 under Estrada. That is average minimum wages. If we talked about average wages, it would be even more because the new jobs created by the new investments in my administration have been the higher paying jobs. Because of our social partnership, the number of strikes has been cut in half and again, correct me if I'm wrong Pat. They are now the lowest in more than two decades.

Thanks to our unprecedented 20 billion peso expenditure a year on agricultural modernization, we have invested in irrigation, hybrid crops and Henry Lim can attest to this. And improve transport systems, and therefore, our agriculture has grown by leaps and bounds. As a result farm incomes have improved dramatically. For instance, copra was P2.50 per kilo when I inherited the presidency, now it is P22.50 per kilo.

And as coconut farmers incomes go up, you have very big indices going up of consumer spending like beer sales going up ten percent. And also, enrollment in schools. For instance in Luzon Province, in far away Infanta, coconut country. The bishop of Infanta, Emeritus, Bishop Labayan said, that copra prices determine the enrollment in schools, and now, there is a big enrollment in the schools, in the far away places of Quezon Province.

As a result also, of the spending that we have made on the agricultural modernization, again I'm sure Henry will attest to this that what I'm saying is true. We will be self-sufficient again in rice within two years. That is of course, if I'm still president. So that I can build on the policies that gave us such a strong start for change in modernization in agriculture.

In the next six years I pledge a pro-poor agenda. Working together we can and poverty and unite the nation. My pro-poor plan to unite the nation as I have been repeating over this past days consists of six pledges:

First, together with you create a million new jobs every year that I'm in office. And to protect our jobs as has been mentioned by Mike and the other speakers today. We have adjusted upwards the tariffs of 1,000 tariff lines, out of 5,600 total tariff lines, to give our locals a fighting chance against imports. In September last year under my direction, we were one among 21 developing countries which said "no" to a new WTO Agreement until the developed countries reform their system of subsidies for agriculture, and also because we reject the developed countries imposing their advanced standards on our procurement and investment rules. I have also ordered the abolition of several hundred general merchandise bonded warehousing units that in the past serve as bodegas of smuggled goods. And I appointed General Angelo Reyes who brought down our kidnapping rate to its lowest in 11 years, to head the task force against smuggling.

Second pledge, bring clean water to all 45,000 barangays.

Third pledge, bring electricity to 1,500 barangays a year and reduce the cost of electricity to make us even more competitive in this part of the world.

In preparation for this, again anticipating what you will submit to me later, I am prepared to consider industry-government cooperation in addressing some of your concerns about the power sector and the water issue. But I can tell you there will never be a power crisis or a water crisis under a Gloria administration.

Fourth pledge, reduce by half the price of commonly used medicines.

Fifth, build 3,000 new classrooms, grant a college or vocational scholarship to every poor family, and a computer to every school.

Number six pledge, triple loans to the self-employed and small business owners.

These are what we pledge in election. This election is about you, not about me. The people have a right to hear from their candidates what a candidate will do. I am running a campaign on the issues. Not personalities. This election is about solving your problems, not about me. We must move forward together, be united in solving our common problems.

I call on you to hold me accountable for my pledges.

In the meantime, the question now is will simply throw these gains in our strong start out the window – by gambling on inexperienced and untested leadership without a clear vision or platform in the May elections. Or shall we hold hands in a social partnership in consolidating the strong start we have made and building on that strong start and realizing our dream of a vibrant economy able to compete with the best in Asia and provide jobs for our people?

The crucial choice we face today is a choice between moving forward to stability and prosperity, or making a U-turn back to crony capitalism and the midnight kitchenomics of the past.

I trust that you, ECOP. You the leaders and shakers of the business community, You, their partners in the business, Not only in the business but in the labor sector. I trust that you will lead our people in making the right and the responsible choice. And I thank you all for your support.

Mabuhay ang ECOP. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the 25th National Conference of Employers

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 25th National Conference of Employers**

[Delivered at the Westin Philippine Plaza, April 22, 2004]

Maraming Salamat Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas.

I believe it is a tribute to our enlightened labor policy that our Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas was elected president of the ILO. Congratulations Pat and congratulations to the employers and to the labor unions.

Kabayan Noli de Castro, sabi nga ni Reney next vice president of the Philippines. Kami ni Kabayan ay humihingi ng inyong paumanhin. I was suppose to be wearing a long-sleeved coat dress suit pero kaming dalawa ay naka-attire pang Ilocos Norte dahil doon kami pupunta pagkatapos nito.

ECOP president Rene Soriano, thank you for the positive note of this conference. ECOP Board of Governors and Corporate Officers headed by the Chairman Mike Varela, Robin Sy, President of the Federation of the Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Thank you for your very warm words of welcome. Jun Ortis Luis, Donald Dee, Chet Tan, Totie Torres, Conference chairman, excellencies of the diplomatic corps, the leaders of the labor sector who are together with the ECOP in this beautiful social contract that was presented to me today. Captains of industry and commerce, movers and shakers of the Philippine business community.

Magandang araw sa inyong lahat. Kumusta na kayo. Sana’y patnubayan ho tayo ng Poong Maykapal.

Let me extend my warmest greetings to all the participants of this 25th National Conference of Employers. And my greeting to the labor leaders who were one with them in the social partnership. I share in your conviction that, working together, the Filipino worker and the Filipino manager can excel and join the ranks of the best achievers in the world.

You could not have chosen a more timely and appropriate theme for your silver conference, “Forging Winning Social Partnerships for Global Competitiveness.”

In a way, this theme a partnership has been the general guide for my administration since Edsa II, when I came to the presidency on the crest of a popular wave of change. I am fighting for change for the average Filipino.

Sa kagustuhan ng tao at ng Diyos, ako’y nanungkulan bilang presidente sa nakaraang maikling panahon.

Kaguluhan ang namana ko. Mahirap ang pinagdaanan, hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kundi ng buong rehiyon ng Asya at ng buong mundo.

Ngunit buong katapatan kong masasabi sa inyo na naitawid ho natin ng matiwasay at matagumpay ang ating bayan because of our social partnership.

Together we have made a strong start in a short time. Together we stabilized the mess we inherited. Together in our social partnership. Today we have low inflation and high growth. We have huge new foreign investment, foreign investments have surged by 26 percent.

We have brought clean water and health care to millions. We have brought, you have brought new housing to hundreds of thousands. We have books in schools.

We have cracked down on crime and drug kingpins. By Tessie Ang See's own accounting, we now have the lowest kidnapping rate in the last 11 years. We have thrown the books at corrupt official.

We created, you and I, more than three million new jobs – in the call centers and business process outsourcing that Rene Soriano was talking about, in the new investments of the likes of Intel, Sunpower Solar Panels, Matsushita Electric, Texas Instruments, Ford which has a table of its own right here, National Steel, other investments from some in the crowd that I see today like for instance, Yazaki Torres. And many of the others, the bio-diesel of Itto Carlos, and many investments that many of you right here in this hall have put in place. And today, anticipating what you will giving me later because I have been keeping track of your discussions, I am happy with your proposal that industry and government sit down to draw up a strategic IT/ICT plan for the nation so that we can consolidate and broaden our IT/ICT niches such as electronics assembly, business process outsourcing and software development. After all way back in 2001 in my first State of the Nation Address, I already said that the growth sector of our future will be the skills intensive service sectors like ICT and tourism. Speaking of tourism, so that we can enhance our tourism industry, the other growth sector of the future aside from ICT, I have instructed our airport officials to stop requiring the removal of shoes as an inspection mechanism except for those going to the countries who themselves require this kind of inspection.

Because of your commitment to a social partnership, wages, minimum wagers have improved by 11.2 percent above inflation, which helped foster prolonged industrial peace. Tell me if I'm wrong Pat but from my figures, average mining and non-agricultural wages went up 29 percent to 271 pesos per day under our administration. From 210 pesos under President Estrada. Average agricultural wages went up 19.6 percent. Agricultural minimum wages to 238 pesos from P199 under Estrada. That is average minimum wages. If we talked about average wages, it would be even more because the new jobs created by the new investments in my administration have been the higher paying jobs. Because of our social partnership, the number of strikes has been cut in half and again, correct me if I'm wrong Pat. They are now the lowest in more than two decades.

Thanks to our unprecedented 20 billion peso expenditure a year on agricultural modernization, we have invested in irrigation, hybrid crops and Henry Lim can attest to this. And improve transport systems, and therefore, our agriculture has grown by leaps and bounds. As a result farm incomes have improved dramatically. For instance, copra was P2.50 per kilo when I inherited the presidency, now it is P22.50 per kilo.

And as coconut farmers incomes go up, you have very big indices going up of consumer spending like beer sales going up ten percent. And also, enrollment in schools. For instance in Quezon province, in far away Infanta, coconut country. The bishop of Infante, Emeritus, Bishop Labayan said, that copra prices determine the enrollment in schools, and now, there is a big enrollment in the schools, in the far away places of Quezon province.

As a result also, of the spending that we have made on the agricultural modernization, again I'm sure Henry will attest to this that what I'm saying is true. We will be self-sufficient again in rice within two years. That is of course, if I'm still president. So that I can build on the policies that gave us such a strong start for change in modernization in agriculture.

In the next six years I pledge a pro-poor agenda. Working together we can and poverty and unite the nation. My pro-plan to unite the nation as I have been repeating over this past days consists of six pledges:

First, together with you create a million new jobs every year that I'm in office. And to protect our jobs as has been mentioned by Mike and the other speakers today. We have adjusted upwards the tariffs of 1,000 tariff lines, out of 5,600 total tariff lines, to give our locals a fighting chance against imports. In September last year under my

direction, we were one among 21 developing countries which said “no” to a new WTO Agreement until the developed countries reform their system of subsidies for agriculture, and also because we reject the developed countries imposing their advanced standards on our procurement and investment rules. I have also ordered the abolition of several hundred general merchandise bonded warehousing units that in the past serve as bodegas of smuggled goods. And I appointed General Angelo Reyes who brought down our kidnapping rate to its lowest in 11 years, to head the task force against smuggling.

Second pledge, bring clean water to all 45,000 barangays.

Third pledge, bring electricity to 1,500 barangays a year and reduce the cost of electricity to make us even more competitive in this part of the world.

In preparation for this, again anticipating what you will submit to me later, I am prepared to consider industry-government cooperation in addressing some of your concerns about the power sector and the water issue. But I can tell you there will never be a power crisis nor a water crisis under a Gloria administration.

Fourth pledge, reduce by half the price of commonly used medicines.

Fifth, build 3,000 new classrooms, grant a college or vocation scholarship to every poor family, and a computer to every school.

Number six pledge, triple loans to the self-employed and small business owners.

This are what we pledge in election. This election is about you, not about me. The people have a right to hear from their candidates what a candidates will do. I am running a campaign on the issues. Not personalities. This election is about solving your problems, not about me. We must move forward together, be united in solving our common problems.

I call on you to hold me accountable for my pledges.

In the meantime, the question now is will simply throw these gains in our strong start out the window – by gambling on inexperienced and untested leadership without a clear vision or platform in the May elections. Or shall we hold hands in a social partnership in consolidating the strong start we have made and building on that strong start and realizing our dream of a vibrant economy able to compete with the best in Asia and provide jobs for our people?

The crucial choice we face today is a choice between moving forward to stability and prosperity, or making a U-turn back to crony capitalism and the midnight kitchenomics of the past.

I trust that you, ECOP. You the leaders and shakers of the business community, You, their partners in the business, Not only in the business but in the labor sector. I trust that you will lead our people in making the right and the responsible choice. And I thank you all for your support.

Mabuhay ang ECOP. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA’s Speech during the 25th National Conference of Employers. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412085959/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5664&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at the 18th Commencement Exercises of AMA Education System

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 18th Commencement Exercises of AMA Education System**

[Delivered at the Araneta Coliseum, Cubao, Quezon City, May 3, 2004]

Maraming salamat Chairman Emeritus King Aguiluz. Napakaganda naman ng mga sinabi mo tungkol sa akin. Maraming salamat. I would also like to greet his son, President Amable Aguiluz IX and the rest of the AMA family. I would like to greet our foreign guests, siyempre iyong ating mga gra-graduate itong hapon na ito, mga magulang nila at mga guro. Narito na naman ako muli sa graduation ng AMA. Suki ako ng ama dahil ilang beses na akong naging commencement speaker. Bakit parati akong balik ng balik dito sa AMA? Mayroon akong tatlong rason na puwedeng maibigay. Unang-una, sentimental family reasons. Ang tatay ko at ang tatay ni King Aguiluz ay matalik na magkaibigan at magkasama sa pamahalaan. The late Amable Aguiluz I, held many sensitive positions in the administration of my father, the late president Diosdado Macapagal. Kasama na rito, siya ang namuno ng COA noong panahon ng tatay ko. Pangalawang dahilan kung bakit ako ay parating nasisiyahan na maging graduation speaker sa AMA ay dahil sa aking paghanga kay Ambassador King Aguiluz.

Si King Aguiluz ang pioneer ng information technology and information technology education sa ating bansa. Wala pa tayo sa information age, twenty-four years ago, 1980, nag-specialized na si King sa computer education. Naalaala ko noong panahon ng 1980, ako ay nag-aaral ng aking Phd sa economics. Inihahanda ko iyong aking doctoral desertation, dahil sa economics grabe iyong mga computations na kailangang gawin. Kailangan ay patunayan mo iyong mga hypothesis sa pamamagitan ng mga formula. Lalagyan mo ng data at statistics para mapatunayan. Napilitan akong mag-aral ng computer programming. Sa pahahong iyon, iyon palang ang application ng computer. Iyong nagsusolusyon sa mga komplikadong formula at saka sa engineering. Ang ginamit ko para gawin iyong aking programming ay iyong keypunch cards ganoon pa ang computers noon. Noong panahong iyon ay wala pang masyadong application ng computer pero nagsimula na si King Aguiluz sa computer science and computer education. Ngayon, twenty-four years later, parang propeta si King. Tayo ay nasa information technology age na. Siguro, puwede nating sabihin na si King Aguiluz ay ang Bill Gates ng Pilipinas. Pero, hindi lamang Bill Gates ang ginagawa ni king para sa akin. Ang laki-laki na rin ng tulong niya sa aking administrasyon sa relasyon natin sa saudi arabia at iba pang mga bansa sa Middle East na kung saan mahigit 1 milyong Pilipino ay nagtrabaho. Noong huling state visit ko na ginanap sa Bahrain, nag-groundbreak pa kami ng computer college ng AMA sa Bahrain na pinatayo sa lupang bigay ng pamilya ng Bahrain.

Ngayong gabi, pagkatapos ng graduation, si King ay tatakbo sa airport para pumunta sa Oman. Isa na namang gagawin sa akin bilang aking ambassador special envoy to the Middle East ang ilalakad niya doon ay tatanggalin iyong ban sa pagtrabaho ng mga Pilipino doon sa sultanate ng Oman. It is no wonder that back here in the Philippines, AMA is the first and only computer school to have been granted university status by the Commissioner on Higher Education. This is the first computer school to receive the ISO Certification of Excellence. At nakita natin kanina na kinikilala ang ating graduates ng ama sa Pilipinas bilang graduate din doon sa Inglatera na kinikilala naman ang kanilang degree sa buong Europe. Indeed, AMA has lived by the high standards of prestige and excellence that has come to be known in all Philippine cities and in many cities abroad. Pangatlong dahilan kung bakit gustong-gusto ko na maging commencement speaker sa AMA ay dahil hanga ako sa inyong mga estudyante ng AMA. Kayo ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa. Kayo ay simbolo ng henerasyon ng information technology.

Iyong napakagandang sinabi ng ating valedictorian kanina, iyong napakagandang kasaysayan ng kanyang buhay. Si Theresa Varsaga, siya ay simbolo ng buhay ng bagong pilipino, pilipino ng ating kinabukasan. Ipinagmamalaki ko siya kasi siya ay isa sa mga scholars na tinawag ni King Aguiluz na “gloria macapagal-arroyo scholars” na hinandog sa inyong lingkod. Ipinagmamalaki ko kayong lahat ngunit sigurado ako na lalong ipinagmamalaki kayo ng inyong mga magulang, kaibigan, guro at kamag-anak. Lahat kami ay umaasa sa maliwanag na kinabukasan para sa lahat sa inyo.

Naalaala ko tuloy iyong aking graduation. Naalaala ko rin ang aking buhay sa kolehiyo. Kanina, pinag-usapan ng inyong valedictorian ang mga magulang, mga guro, mga kaibigan. Ako rin ay maraming mga magagandang alaala sa aking buhay sa kolehiyo lalong-lalo na dahil sa mga matatag na pagkakaibigang nahubog noon na hanggang ngayon ay importante pa rin. Kaya, mga gra-graduate ngayon, gaya ng ipinahayag na damdamin ni Ms. Varsaga, alam kong tatandaan ninyo ang inyong mga kaklase. Sila ang magiging mga kaibigan ninyo habang-buhay, sila ang mananatili sa inyo sa mga hamon ng panahon. And she paid tribute also to your mentors, the teachers or moderators who took time out not only to impart knowledge but values as well. Your teachers, they were the ones who recognized your talents whether in computer, math, writing, singing and they nurtured your talents and skills as well as your values and ethics. Sigurado akong tatandaan ninyo ang inyong mga magulang. Kagaya ng kuwento ni Theresa Varsaga, tinulad nila kayong gawin ang inyong pinakamagaling, naghirap kasama ninyo at humangad ng inyong tagumpay. Lahat ng magulang ay mga silent martyrs para sa kanilang mga anak. Humahangad ng mas mabuting buhay para sa atin kaysa sa kanilang buhay. Napag-usapan natin ang mga magulang, magulang ni King, magulang ko, ang dalawa naming mga tatay. Ang aming dalawang tatay ay magkapit-bahay sa Lubao, Pampanga, kapwa mahihirap. Parehong hinangad sa kanilang kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng edukasyon. Ang tatay ko, kagaya ni Theresa Varsaga ay nakapag-college dahil nakahanap ng scholarship. Si Theresa ay naging valedictorian, ang tatay ko naman ay naging bar topnotcher, doctor of laws, doctor of economics at dahil dito, naging congressman, vice-president, pagkatapos ay pangulo. Iyong pangulo ng inyong alumni association, nakita natin, mamahalin ang kanyang business suit, kasi mataas na opisyal ng Hewlett Packard. Edukasyon talaga ang susi para sa magandang kinabukasan. Ang tatay ko, ang aking inspirasyon tungkol sa pag-aaral, pagtuturo at paglilingkod sa taumbayan. Dahil galing siya sa mahirap na pamilya gaya ng sabi ko, kung hindi siya nakapagtapos ng eskuwela, hindi sana siya nagkaroon ng magandang trabahong nakaabot hanggang sa pagka-pangulo kung hindi siya nag-aral. Kaya, talagang ang edukasyon ay susi sa kinabukasan, susi sa trabaho. Usually, sa karaniwang graduation, ang karaniwang mga naggra-graduate ay iniisip, salamat magulang, guro, at mga kaibigan. Pero, iniisip din. Saan kaya ako hahanap ng trabaho? Karaniwang mga graduating students, ang karamihan ng pag-iisip ay para makakuha ng trabaho. Pero kayo, puwede ninyo nang pag-isipan iyong inyong graduation party. Kasi, siguradong mayroon na kayong trabaho mula sa Convergys. At gusto ko naman sabihin gaya ng sabihin ng Philippine CEO ng Convergys. Ang Convergys ay itinayo sa Pilipinas noong isang taon, 2003, kasama na rin dahil sa pag-alok ko na mag-invest dito ng mga call centers at iba pang foreign investments.

Dahil sa maikling panahon ng aking panguluhan, aking pinagtuunan ng pansin ay lumikha ng maraming trabaho. Malungkot sabihin na bahagi ng kaguluhang namana ko ay dahil noong panahon ni Pangulong Estrada, 150,000 jobs a year lamang ang nalikhang trabaho. Sa aking maikling panguluhan, for the first time in history, taun-taon ay nakakalikha tayo ng higit 1 milyong trabaho. Saan itong mga trabahong ito? Kagaya ng sinabi ni King Aguiluz, marami ay nasa information technology lalo na iyong mga call centers na bahagi ng tinatawag nating industriya ng “business process outsourcing” na siyang espesyalidad na rin ng AMA. Noong hindi pa ako pangulo, iyong mga call centers kagaya ng sabi ni King, isa pa lang I.T part sa Pilipinas. Wala pang 2,000 ang nagtrabaho sa call centers. Ngayon, sa aking maikling panguluhan, aabot na sa 60,000 ang nagtrabaho sa call centers nitong taong 2004, call centers at iba pang business process outsourcing. Kasama na rito iyong 6,000 na manggagaling sa AMA Computer University System. Biruin ninyo sa 60,000 na trabaho itong taon, 10% ay manggagaling sa computer university system, ganoon kagaling ang computer university system, ganoon kasuwerte kayong gra-graduate dito sa 2004. Ang Convergys ay kasama sa mga foreign investments na pumasok noong isang taon na tumaas ng 26% dahil naniniwala ang mga bansa sa ating magagaling na graduates, kagaya ng mga gra-graduate ngayon sa AMA. At dahil sa ating tamang foreign policy kung saan malaki rin ang naitulong sa akin ni King Aguiluz. Kaya, kahit na ako ay mahalal sa susunod na anim na taon, kung gusto ni King, taun-taon ay commencement speaker ako, pupunta ako rito. Kasi, ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa kagaya ng sinabi ko noong 2001, kinabukasan natin ay information technology at kung gusto nating maraming trabaho, kailangan ay tamang foreign policy para maraming foreign investments. Sa dalawang sinabi ko, sa information technology education, sa foreign policy kapwa katulong ko si King Aguiluz. Kaya, ako ay nagpapasalamat sa kanya, tayong lahat ay magpasalamat sa kanya, magpasalamat

kayong mga graduating students sa magandang edukasyon at sa magandang trabahong naghihintay sa inyo paglabas sa inyong graduation exercises.

Once more, my congratulations to all of you. Mabuhay ang Batch 2004 ng AMA Computer University System. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech at the 18th Commencement Exercises of AMA Education System. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133544/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5675&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Gathering of Mothers for Clean and Honest Elections

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Gathering of Mothers for Clean and Honest Elections**

[Delivered at the Miriam College, Quezon City, May 3, 2004]

Cory Aquino na kayo ay narito sa ating panalangin. Sa inyong lahat mga kapwa ina, magandang hapon. Kayong lahat, kumusta na kayo? Sana patnubayan tayo ng Panginoon.

Nagtipun-tipon tayo ngayon dito, tayong mga ina at kababaihang Pilipino sa pamumuno ng ating minamahal na dating Pangulo, si Tita Cory Aquino upang manalangin, ang sabi ng panalangin niya, “prayer for peaceful and credible election”. Panalangin para sa isang mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan.

Isang linggo na lamang at libu-libong mga puwesto ng buong gobyerno ay pagpipilian ng mga botante. Tayong mga ina, tayong mga tagapagbigay at tagapag-alaga ng buhay ang dapat manguna sa pagdarasal para sa mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan. Dahil dito, tayo ang tagapagluwal at tagapagkalinga ng kinabukasan, kaya kagaya ng sabi ni Kris, iyong kanyang anak na si Josh, tayo ay may interest sa kinabukasan ng ating mga anak, tayo ay dapat mangunguna sa magandang dasal sa magandang halalan. Sa halip ng init ng ulo o tulak ng dugo, nasa atin ang hinahon at linaw ng kaisipan upang lutasin ang anumang suliranin.

Napatunayan na nating mga kababaihan na kung sa atin ipauubaya ang pamamahala ng bayan, magiging maayos ang takbo ng ating ekonomiya at lipunan. Narito ang dakilang halimbawa, ang ating role model sa magandang pamamahala ng kababaihan, si Tita Cory Aquino, ang ating role model. Si Pangulong Aquino ay hindi lamang isang bantayog ng katapangan at kagitingan, siya rin ang tumiyak sa kaayusan ng halalang humirang sa kanyang kapalit noong 1992. At ngayon hinimok ko na hindi lang si Tita Cory ang simbolo ng mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan, kung hindi, kayong lahat rin at iba’t ibang mga sektor ng ating lipunan at pamahalaan na tumulong upang tiyakin ang mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan.

Ipanalangin natin ang papel ng mga volunteer, halimbawa kagaya ng NAMFREL at ang tulong ng iba’t ibang mga NGO na nanunumpang sisiguraduhin ang malinis na halalan at nais rin nilang ipakita sa buong mundo na ang demokrasiya sa Pilipinas ay matatag at matibay. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit nag-imbata tayo ng mga foreign observers upang saksihan ang eleksiyon sa Mayo 10 at ilan sa kanila nagmula sa Estados Unidos, dumating sila noong nakaraang linggo para paghandaan ang kanilang gagawin.

Ngayong araw ay inatasan ko ang Secretary of Foreign Affairs, si Delia Albert na isa ring nanay na mag-imbata rin ng mga observers mula sa European Union at ASEAN bilang indibidwal o sa pamamagitan ng kanilang organisasyon.

Hinahamon ko ang oposisyon na samahan ako sa imbitasyong ito para sa mga demokratikong bansa ng mundo na saksihan ang ating election upang ang mga bali-balita tungkol sa panlilinlang at pandaraya ay mapatunayang walang katotohanan.

Sa buong panahon ng kampanya, tiniis ko ang mga paninira at pagbatikos sa akin, upang maiwasan ang anumang kaguluhan at upang manatiling mataas ang antas ng ating kampanya at ipako sa isyu, sa kuwalipikasyon, sa karanasan, sa kinabukasan. Subalit, hindang-hindi ko mapapayagan ang lantarang karahasan na mangyayari. Binubuo ko muli ang Presidential Commission on Human Rights sa pamumuno ng Kalihim ng Katarungan, si Mercy Gutierrez na isa ring ina na masusing imbestigahan ang mga nababalitang pagpatay at pagdukot sa mga miyembro ng ilang mga partido.

Sa kabilang dako naman, tinitiyak ko na ang mga terorista ay hindi madadaig ang mga istriktong hakbang ng siguridad na tinutupad ng mga awtoridad. Ang taumbayan ay dapat manatiling kalmante ngunit alerto patungo sa mapayapa at matagumpay na pagpapatupad ng demokrasya.

Hindi tayo lumaban sa diktaturya at hindi tayo nag-martsa sa dalawang Edsa upang isuko lamang ang ating mga karapatan sa mga nagkakalat ng lagim o magtatanggal ng tiwala sa halalan at demokrasiya. Wala nang mas malaki pang tagumpay sa tagumpay ng tunay na pagpapasya ng taumbayan.

Nawa ay patnubayan tayong lahat ng Panginoon upang matiyak natin na mananaig sa darating na halalan ang tunay na tinig ng taumbayan. Mga kapwa nanay, manalangin tayo, mga kapwa nanay salamat nagka-interest tayo sa kinabukasan ng ating mga anak, ng ating bansa. Mga nanay, manalangin tayo sa kinabukasan ng ating mga anak, manalangin tayo sa mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay tayong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech at the Gathering of Mothers for Clean and Honest Elections. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133556/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5674&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo on the eve of May 10 Elections, May 9, 2004

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the eve of May 10 Elections**

[Delivered on May 9, 2004]

Mga Kababayan:

Ako ay nagsasalita sa inyo bilang Pangulo at hindi bilang kandidato sa pagka-Pangulo.

Ang mahabang panahon ng kampanya ay tapos na, halalan na bukas at ang taumbayan ay pagpapasiyahan na ang kapalaran ng ating bansa. Ito naman ang dapat talagang mangyari.

Kaninang umaga nagdaos tayo ng isang sama-samang panalangin para sa pagkakaisa.

Isinantabi na ang mga armas ng pulitika at pinalitan ng palaspas ng kapayapaan. Sama-sama tayong dumalangin upang ang ating bansa ay magkaisa.

Ngayon, nasa pagpapala ng Diyos at sa kagustuhan ng sambayanan ang desisyon kung sino ang mamumuno sa ating bayan.

Mahaba na ang landas na ating tinahak. Tayo ay isang dakilang lahi na may dakilang kasaysayan. Marami tayong mga pagsubok na nalampasan.

Sa EDSA 1 at EDSA 2, ang kapangyarihan ng mamamayan ay lumantad sa mga lansangan upang patatagin ang ating demokrasya.

Nangibabaw ang sambayanan.

Dapat nating ipagmalaki ang ating pinagdaanan. Bilang unang demokrasya sa Asya, nanguna tayo sa rehiyon bilang huwaran ng masiglang demokrasya at lumalagong ekonomiya.

Ang eleksyon ay may kapangyarihang gunitain ang urna ng balota bilang wastong paraan ng pagpapahayag ng ating kalayaang pulitikal. Sa pamamagitan ng mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan, mapairal natin ang dignidad sa ating demokrasya at dangal sa bawat mamamayan na tumutupad sa kanilang tungkuling iboto ang bansang kanilang hinahangad.

Habang ako ay nagsasalita ngayon, libu-libo nating mga kababayan ang nakahandang maging tagamasid ng eleksiyon sa bawat lalawigan hanggang sa bawat barangay, upang tiyakin na ang halalan ay magiging mapayapa at

kapani-paniwala. At ngayong gabi, mahigit sa isandaang foreign observers na aking inimbitahan ay naririto na upang tiyaking ang ating eleksiyon ay makikilala sa loob at labas ng ating bansa bilang makatarungan, walang daya at magandang halimbawa ng buhay na demokrasya.

Habang ang lahat ng mga partido ay nagsama-sama ngayong araw upang manalangin para sa kinabukasan ng ating bansa, ako naman ay nananawagan na gampanan ang inyong tungkulin at bumoto sa mapayapang paraan. Ang kapangyarihan ay nas aloob ng urna ng balota, hindi sa karahasan, panggugulo at pananakot sa presinto.

Ang presinto ng botohan ay isang sagradong lugar tulad ng simbahan. Kaya, dapat tayong magbantay laban sa mga nagnanais na tanggalin ang tiwala sa kabanalan ng presinto at ng ritwal ng pagboto.

Nananawagan ako sa bawat makabayang mamamayan na manalig sa kahalagahan ng inyong karapatang bumoto, at nananawagan ako sa bawat taong may karahasang balak na pakaisipin na ang eleksiyon ay para sa kapakanan ng taumbayan at hindi dapat guluhin.

Magkakaroon tayo ng malaya, mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan.

Sa bisperas ng dakilang araw na ito, ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong pagtanggap sa akin sa inyong mga tahanan upang pag-usapan natin ang papel na dapat gampanan para manatiling matatag ang ating demokrasya at buo ang ating damdamin.

Patnubayan nawa ng Diyos ang Pilipinas. Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's message on the eve of May 10 Elections. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409175833/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5673&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo on the Eve of the May 10 Elections
Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the Eve of the May 10 Elections

[Delivered on May 9, 2004]

Mga Kababayan:

Ako ay nagsasalita sa inyo bilang Pangulo at hindi bilang kandidato sa pagka-Pangulo.

Ang mahabang panahon ng kampanya ay tapos na, halalan na bukas at ang taumbayan ay pagpapasiyahan na ang kapalaran ng ating bansa. Ito naman ang dapat talagang mangyari.

Kaninang umaga nagdaos tayo ng isang sama-samang panalangin para sa pagkakaisa.

Isinantabi na ang mga armas ng pulitika at pinalitan ng palaspas ng kapayapaan. Sama-sama tayong dumalangin upang ang ating bansa ay magkaisa.

Ngayon, nasa pagpapala ng Diyos at sa kagustuhan ng sambayanan ang desisyon kung sino ang mamumuno sa ating bayan.

Mahaba na ang landas na ating tinahak. Tayo ay isang dakilang lahi na may dakilang kasaysayan. Marami tayong mga pagsubok na nalampasan.

Sa EDSA 1 at EDSA 2, ang kapangyarihan ng mamamayan ay lumantad sa mga lansangan upang patatagin ang ating demokrasya.

Nangibabaw ang sambayanan.

Dapat nating ipagmalaki ang ating pinagdaanan. Bilang unang demokrasya sa Asya, nanguna tayo sa rehiyon bilang huwaran ng masiglang demokrasya at lumalagong ekonomiya.

Ang eleksyon ay may kapangyarihang gunitain ang urna ng balota bilang wastong paraan ng pagpapahayag ng ating kalayaang pulitikal. Sa pamamagitan ng mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan, mapairal natin ang dignidad sa ating demokrasya at dangal sa bawat mamamayan na tumutupad sa kanilang tungkuling iboto ang bansang kanilang hinahangad.

Habang ako ay nagsasalita ngayon, libu-libo nating mga kababayan ang nakahandang maging tagamasid ng eleksiyon sa bawat lalawigan hanggang sa bawat barangay, upang tiyakin na ang halalan ay magiging mapayapa at

kapani-paniwala. At ngayong gabi, mahigit sa isandaang foreign observers na aking inimitahan ay naririto na upang tiyaking ang ating eleksiyon ay makikilala sa loob at labas ng ating bansa bilang makatarungan, walang daya at magandang halimbawa ng buhay na demokrasya.

Habang ang lahat ng mga partido ay nagsama-sama ngayong araw upang manalangin para sa kinabukasan ng ating bansa, ako naman ay nananawagan na gampanan ang inyong tungkulin at bumoto sa mapayapang paraan. Ang kapangyarihan ay nas aloob ng urna ng balota, hindi sa karahasan, panggugulo at pananakot sa presinto.

Ang presinto ng botohan ay isang sagradong lugar tulad ng simbahan. Kaya, dapat tayong magbantay laban sa mga nagnanais na tanggalin ang tiwala sa kabanalan ng presinto at ng ritwal ng pagboto.

Nananawagan ako sa bawat makabayang mamamayan na manalig sa kahalagahan ng inyong karapatang bumoto, at nananawagan ako sa bawat taong may karahasang balak na pakaisipin na ang eleksiyon ay para sa kapakanan ng taumbayan at hindi dapat guluhin.

Magkakaroon tayo ng malaya, mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan.

Sa bisperas ng dakilang araw na ito, ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong pagtanggap sa akin sa inyong mga tahanan upang pag-usapan natin ang papel na dapat gampanan para manatiling matatag ang ating demokrasya at buo ang ating damdamin.

Patnubayan nawa ng Diyos ang Pilipinas. Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Message on the Eve of the May 10 Elections. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133534/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5673&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Independence Day

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Independence Day**

[Delivered at the Quirino Grandstand, June 12, 2004]

CELEBRATING HUNDRED YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Ang halalan ay naganap isang buwan na ang nakaraan.

Nitong mga nakaraang linggo ay taimtim akong dumadalangin na nawa'y pagkalooban ng liwanag ng Diyos hindi lamang ako kundi maging ang taumbayan at ating mga lider.

Patuloy pa rin akong dumadalangin para sa pagkakaisa at pagsasamahan.

At para sa hinihingi ng ating panahon – isang mabilis na bilangan, isang makabatas na kapasiyahan.

Lahat tayo ay naghahangad ang nakaraang halalan ay magdadala sa atin sa kapayapaan at katatagan.

Huwag nating payagan na ang bilangan ay magsilbing pagkakataon upang maantala, hadlangan o ilihis ang demokratikong proseso mula sa tamang landas.

Tayo pa naman ang kinikilalang hiyas ng kasarinlan at demokrasya sa Asya. Subalit ang labis-labis nating pamumulitika at hidwaan ay unti-unting inaagnas ang tibay ng ating bansa.

Tayo ay isang dakilang lahi na may marangal na kasaysayan.

Marami tayong mga pagsubok na nalampasan bilang isang lahi, bilang isang bansa.

Ngayon tayo ay muling nahaharap na lumikha ng kasaysayan at tahakin ang isang naiibang landas.

Dapat nating ipagmalaki ang landas na ating pinagdaanan.

Ngayon, muli tayong nakahanda para sa tagumpay, buong pagmamalaking nakatayo sa sariling mga paa, kasali na naman sa paligsahan, patungo sa isang magandang kinabukasan.

Ang paglago ng ekonomiya ay mataas, ang inflation ay mababa, ang koleksiyon ng buwis ay lumalaki, ang agrikultura ay masagana.

Nakamit natin ang lahat ng ito sa pamamagitan ng disiplina sa pananalapi at matapat na pamamahala – sa kabila ng kawalangkatiyakang umiiralsa mundo.

Ang eleksiyon ay nagbigay sa atin ng pagkakataong ilagay ang bansa para matatag na tahakin ang tamang landas tungo sa pagkakaisa ng sambayanan, pag-ahon sa kahirapan, paghilom ng ating mga hidwaan sa lipunan at relihiyon, at pag-unlad ng ekonomiya.

Sinimulan na natin ang bagong paglalakbay na ito nang ibinalik natin ang demokrasya sa mga tao sa pamamagitan ng kapang-yarihan ng balota at hindi ng lansangan.

Dahil sa mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan, napalakas natin ang dangal ng ating demokrasya at dignidad sa bawat mamamayang bumoto.

Sa ngalan ng ating sambayanan, pinasasalamat ko ang libo-libong boluntaryo sa bawat probinsiya at bawat barangay ng ating bansa na nagtrabaho nang husto upang tiyakin ang malinis, tunay, tapat, at malayang eleksiyon.

Ipinaa-abot ko rin ang aking pasasalamat sa 125 foreign observers na nakibahagi sa ating demokratikong proseso; kinilala nila na ang ating eleksiyon ay malinis at matapat sa pangkahalatan bilang huwaran ng isang buhay na demokrasya.

Buo ang aking tiwala sa ating mga kababayan na gumawa ng tamang desisyon.

Bagamat may ilang walang konsensiyang pulitikong hindi titigil hanggat hindi nila naipapanalo ang eleksiyon kahit sa anumang paraan.

Tunay na nakatayo tayo ngayon sa sangandaan ng kasaysayan.

Mahigit sandaang taon na ang ating mga ninuno ay nakipaglaban upang itayo ang isang bansa na nagpupunyaging makawala sa pananakop ng dayuhan.

Ngayon, nahaharap tayo sa isang bagong siglo na nagsisikap pagsamahin ang lahat ng ating lakas sa isang bagong kalakaran ng mundo.

Ang kolonyalismo ay isa na lamang alaala ng panahong lumipas. Ang Cold War ay wala nang katuturan. Tayong lahat ay bahagi ng sangkatauhang walang hangganan na naghahangad ng kapayapaan para sa lahat.

Ganyan din ang ating bansa.

Kung ating titingnan sa malaking larawan ng mabilis na nagbabagong daigdig, ang paligsahan sa panguluhan na nagaganap sa bulwagan ng ating kongreso ay isang napakaliit na imahe lamang sa pangkahalatang anyo ng mga bagay-bagay.

Sa tuwing makikinig ako sa karaniwang Pilipino, nakakakuha ako ng inspirasyon mula sa kanilang pangarap at pagasa. Palagi kong sinasabi sa kanila, ang eleksiyon ito ay para sa inyo, at hindi sa akin.

Ito ay tungkol sa paglaban sa pagbabago at pagpapabuti ng ating ekonomiya, ng ating bansa at ng ating katayuan sa buhay.

Ang mga mamamayan ang puso at diwa ng ating bansa. Hindi natin sila dapat biguin.

Maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo upang makipagdiwang sa atin. Maraming salamat sa inyong suporta.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Independence Day Celebration Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Independence Day Celebration**

[Delivered at the Quirino Grandstand, June 12, 2004]

BINABATI ko kayong lahat sa pagdiriwang natin ng isandaan at anim na taon ng kalayaan sasangandaan ng pagbabago.

Ang halalan ay naganap isangbuwan na ang nakaraan.

Nitong mga nakaraang linggo ay taimtim akong dumadalangin na nawa'y pagkalooban ng liwanag ng Diyos hindi lamang ako kundi maging ang taumbayan at ating mga lider.

Patuloy pa rin akong dumadalangin para sa pagkakaisa at pagsasamahan.

At para sa hinihingi ng ating panahon – isang mabilis na bilangan, isang makabatas na kapasiyahan.

Lahat tayo ay naghahangad ang nakaraang halalan ay magdadala sa atin sa kapayapaan at katatagan.

Huwag nating payagan na ang bilangan ay magsilbing pagkakataon upang maantala, hadlangan o ilihis ang demokratikong proseso mula sa tamang landas.

Tayo pa naman ang kinikilalang hiyas ng kasarinlan at demokrasya sa Asya. Subalit ang labis-labis nating pamumulitika at hidwaan ay unti-unting inaagnas ang tibay ng ating bansa.

Tayo ay isang dakilang lahi na may marangal na kasaysayan.

Marami tayong mga pagsubok na nalampasan bilang isang lahi, bilang isang bansa.

Ngayon tayo ay muling nahaharap na lumikha ng kasaysayan at tahakin ang isang naiibang landas.

Dapat nating ipagmalaki ang landas na ating pinagdaanan.

Ngayon, muli tayong nakahanda para sa tagumpay, buong pagmamalaking nakatayo sa sariling mga paa, kasali na naman sa paligsahan, patungo sa isang magandang kinabukasan.

Ang paglago ng ekonomiya ay mataas, ang inflation ay mababa, ang koleksiyon ng buwis ay lumalaki, ang agrikultura ay masagana.

Nakamit natin ang lahat ng ito sa pamamagitan ng disiplina sa pananalapi at matapat na pamamahala – sa kabila ng kawalangkatiyakang umiiral sa mundo.

Ang eleksiyon ay nagbigay sa atin ng pagkakataong ilagay ang bansa para matatag na tahakin ang tamang landas tungo sa pagkakaisa ng sambayanan, pag-ahon sa kahirapan, paghilom ng ating mga hidwaan sa lipunan at relihiyon, at pag-unlad ng ekonomiya.

Sinimulan na natin ang bagong paglalakbay na ito nang ibinalik natin ang demokrasya sa mga tao sa pamamagitan ng kapang-yarihan ng balota at hindi ng lansangan.

Dahil sa mapayapa at kapani-paniwalang halalan, napalakas natin ang dangal ng ating demokrasya at dignidad sa bawat mamamayang bumoto.

Sa ngalan ng ating sambayanan, pinasasalamatan ko ang libu-libong boluntaryo sa bawat probinsiya at bawat barangay ng ating bansa na nagtrabaho nang husto upang tiyakin ang malinis, tunay, tapat, at malayang eleksiyon.

Ipinaa-abot ko rin ang aking pasasalamat sa 125 foreign observers na nakibahagi sa ating demokratikong proseso; kinilala nila na ang ating eleksiyon ay malinis at matapat sa pangkahalatan bilang huwaran ng isang buhay na demokrasya.

Buo ang aking tiwala sa ating mga kababayan na gumawa ng tamang desisyon.

Bagamat may ilang walang konsensiyang pulitikong hindi titigil hanggat hindi nila naipapanalo ang eleksiyon kahit sa anumang paraan.

Tunay na nakatayo tayo ngayon sa sangandaan ng kasaysayan.

Mahigit sandaang taon na ang ating mga ninuno ay nakipaglaban upang itayo ang isang bansa na nagpupunyaging makawala sa pananakop ng dayuhan.

Ngayon, nahaharap tayo sa isang bagong siglo na nagsisikap pagsamahin ang lahat ng ating lakas sa isang bagong kalakaran ng mundo.

Ang kolonyalismo ay isa na lamang alaala ng panahong lumipas. Ang cold war ay wala nang katuturan. Tayong lahat ay bahagi ng sangkatauhang walang hangganan na naghahangad ng kapayapaan para sa lahat.

Ganyan din ang ating bansa.

Kung ating titingnan sa malaking larawan ng mabilis na nagbabagong daigdig, ang paligsahan sa panguluhan na nagaganap sa bulwagan ng ating kongreso ay isang napakaliit na imahe lamang sa pangkahalatang anyo ng mga bagay-bagay.

Sa tuwing makikinig ako sa karaniwang Pilipino, nakakakuha ako ng inspirasyon mula sa kanilang pangarap at pagasa. Palagi kong sinasabi sa kanila, ang eleksiyon ito ay para sa inyo, at hindi sa akin.

Ito ay tungkol sa paglaban sa pagbabago at pagpapabuti ng ating ekonomiya, ng ating bansa at ng ating katayuan sa buhay.

Ang mga mamamayan ang puso at diwa ng ating bansa. Hindi natin sila dapat biguin.

Maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo upang makipagdiwang sa atin. Maraming salamat sa inyong suporta.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Independence Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133502/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5680&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Vin D' Honneur

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Vin d' Honneur

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, June 12, 2004]

Their Excellencies, President Ramos, President Aquino; Senate President and Mrs. Drilon; Chief Justice Davide; Archbishop Franco; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Acting Secretary Sonia Brady; Secretary Romulo; other Officials of the Philippine Government; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

One hundred six years ago today, the voice of Philippine democracy and freedom was heard throughout Asia and the rest of the world.

Today, we witness a Philippines maturing in its democratic traditions and fully engaged in the global neighborhood.

Today, we are president of the Security Council at the United Nations. In that role, the Philippines has the honor of presiding over the resolution of vital issues surrounding the looming handover of sovereignty in Iraq.

We stand beside the world for democracy and we shall work alongside all freedom-loving peoples to ensure that democracy does not fail.

And speaking of democracy, I thank you all for your support for the recently held elections in our country, in which more than a hundred international observers were involved to see democracy in action.

In those elections, for the first time in history, thousands of overseas Filipinos cast their votes in their countries of residence. The exercise of suffrage even from distant shores is an affirmation of their love for democracy and the political will to move our nation forward.

Our economy is pushing along a steady pace, taking in more substance and (stability from a healthy spirit of enterprise among Filipinos here and around the world.

Growth is high, inflation is low, revenues are on the rise, agriculture is on a roll. We achieved all these with fiscal discipline and good governance — despite an atmosphere of global uncertainty.

Democracy also means the courage and the daring to transcend barriers of race and creed, to clasp hands in solidarity, and to fight for freedom.

Terrorism continues to be a threat to freedom, a threat to the human individual and the human family as it is a danger to the security and progress of nations.

We resist terror by refusing to be overcome by evil, and by overcoming evil with good.

Today, eight million Filipinos in a hundred nations shine in their excellence as workers, entrepreneurs, leaders of industry and governance.

I express my gratitude to all nations hosting the great Filipino worker, whose brand of excellence is unsullied in many fields.

I shall continue to deploy the resources we can muster to keep Filipinos out of harm's way, to protect their rights, and to ensure justice.

Last month, I ordered the immediate repatriation of our Filipino workers from camp anaconda in Iraq. By the end of May this year, 215 OFWs had safely returned to their homes and loved ones in the Philippines.

We are committed to the democratic reconstruction in Iraq and we shall back up this commitment by shepherding a powerful consensus in the U.N. Security Council where, as I said earlier, we have the honor of presiding.

Throughout this century, our common ideals shall live on.

Three years ago, I defined the eight pillars of our foreign policy. These pillars still stand in the crossover to the new millennium.

First — China, Japan and the United States and their relationships, will be an overriding influence in the security and economy of East Asia.

Second — more and more Philippine foreign policy decisions will be driven by the collective security and economic interests of ASEAN.

Third — the International Islamic Community will continue to be important for the Philippines.

Fourth — we recognize the growing importance of multilateral and inter-regional organizations bound by common interests, such as the European Union, APEC and FEALAC.

Fifth — we shall sustain the defense of our sovereignty and the protection of our environment along the strong assertion of our maritime territorial rights under international statutes.

Sixth — our economic growth will continue to recognize the importance of foreign investment.

Seventh — we shall step up, from day to day, the benefits derived from international tourism.

And eighth — Overseas Filipino Workers will keep their critical role in our country's economic and social stability.

I have brought foreign policy to bear on promoting the welfare of the ordinary Filipino. The strength of our foreign policy gives credence to nations to invest in our nation, so that during my administration we have been able to create more than a million jobs a year.

I have brought foreign policy to bear on improving the image, respect and clout of the Philippines abroad in order to aid our quality of life here at home; to secure the rights and privileges of our overseas workers in order to aid their friends and families here at home; to fight for peace in Mindanao with our allies abroad in order to bring stability, unity and prosperity to our Muslim and Christian peoples here at home.

The strength of our foreign policy has strengthened our alliances not only on terrorism but also on the war against crime, local and transnational: drugs and prohibited substances, human trafficking and smuggling, money laundering, and the exploitation of women and children.

I am bringing foreign policy to bear on the fight for unprecedented change that makes us more secure, strengthens our families, and stamps out corruption.

In all my personal diplomatic efforts, I have consciously and earnestly strengthened bilateral relations with a view to opening up world market for Philippine products, promoting investments and tourism and tapping resources of Philippine development assistance.

I am bringing foreign policy to bear on lifting up the poor at home as a result of pursuing economic justice and our rightful role abroad.

Our presidency at the United Nations Security Council is marked and guided by our national interests as well as the common desire of all nations to maintain peace and stability, prevent conflict and promote the rule of law.

Much is still to be done. And you have been steadfast allies and partners, for which we are grateful.

May I propose a toast to all the nations and all the peoples of the world represented here, that we may all continue to reap the peace, prosperity and harmony we all desire.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Vin D' Honneur. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133516/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5681&itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Cebu Business Month Festival and the 9th Grand Chamber Awards 2004 of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Cebu Business Month Festival and the 9th Grand Chamber Awards 2004 of the Cebu Chamber of
Commerce and Industry, Inc.**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Waterfront Hotel Lahug Cebu City, Cebu, June 19, 2004]

Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you, Cebu.

Thank you, president go for your introduction. And thank you for inviting me to be here once again with the Cebu business community.

Tonight, I'm here with my husband Mike and my daughter Luli.

I'd like to also greet the people of Cebu City headed by Mayor Tommy Osmeña and Congressman Raul Del Mar, and to thank the congressmen of Cebu for their defense of the Cebu vote in the canvassing. Thank you, Raul.

Ambassador Hwan and our friends from Korea; my Cabinet members who are here tonight, three of them; our three Taipans whom we are honoring tonight: Mr. Lucio Tan, Mr. John Gokongwei, Mr. Andrew Gotianun; the past officials of the chamber; Mr. Han Joon-Ho, chairman of Kepco; officers and members of the Cebu chamber; all the officials of the Philippine government who are here with me tonight; movers and shakers of the Cebu business community, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan.

Earlier, I thank the congressmen, represented here by Congressman Raul Del Mar, for defending the vote of Cebu. But I must thank all of you because there is a vote to defend to begin with.

So let me begin by thanking you all for giving me the largest margin of votes in the whole country last May. Thank you also for your unswerving support for me through the years. You gave me a big vote in '92, '95, '98 and 2001 to my senatorial candidates, and now the biggest vote in 2004. Daghan salamat gikan sa akong kasing-kasing kaninyong tanan.

And I join the leaders of both houses of Congress in congratulating the chairs and members of the canvassing committee for their eminent work in the cause of democracy. A valiant fight was fought and both sides are to be commended. I'm not taking Congress for granted as the proclamation has to be hurdled amidst expected contentious debates. I will wait patiently and let the constitutional process run its course. But I thank the people, especially the people of Cebu for your support, forbearance and vigilance. I thank the large Cebu delegation who sat it out all day and all night for several days and nights in the Congress while waiting for the Cebu vote to be canvassed.

And now that the canvassing is over, the committee report is being prepared for presentation to Congress, let me assure you that we will combine the rule of law and the reconciliation process to consolidate our nation and prepare to meet the tough times ahead. The Filipino people have spoken and the loudest voice came from the province and City of Cebu.

Now it is time for us to give room for unity and solidarity. Politics is over. Let's get together. Let's join hands. Let's work together towards greater prosperity.

And that's why it's so fitting that on the day after the end of canvass, I'm here with you tonight to honor three men whom we can rely on in working for that prosperity. John Gokongwei and Andrew Gotianun are members of the renowned 'Go' clan of Cebu. And Lucio Tan spent many years of his childhood in Daan Bantayan in northern Cebu. Indeed, therefore, they can be considered Cebuaños contribution to the entire Philippine community, and that's why they so very well deserve the grand chamber awards. Congratulations to the three of them!

We can count on them not only to be the leaders of our work towards prosperity in the country as a whole, but also to make Cebu — what I said when I came here during the campaign time — “not only an international industrial center, not only a tourism center of the region, but also a maritime capital and a hub of information technology.

In order to be all these — industrial center, maritime center, tourism center, I.T. center — the most critical infrastructure requirement in Cebu is electric power. That's why a short while ago, my administration provided you, the people of Cebu, with a power generator set in Bantayan. And tonight... Earlier, what was that little ceremony we had? That was an announcement that Korea Electric Power Corporation or Kepco, whose CEO is here with us tonight, will invest 250 million dollars to build a 200-megawatt environment-friendly power plant here in Cebu province. Two hundred megawatts will be sufficient to cover the power requirements of the Visayan islands. But if necessary, Kepco is prepared to expand their plant to 400 megawatts.

Let me tell you a little something about Kepco. I was privileged to attend the inauguration of Kepco, of their plant in Batangas two years ago. And I'm happy to let you know that that Kepco plant in Ilijan, in Batangas has now been cited as one of the twelve most efficient power plants in the whole world. On top of that Kepco is also committed to contribute 200 barangays to my campaign promise of electrifying 1,500 barangays per year. I asked them to prioritize the unelectrified barangays of the province of Cebu.

Vince Perez would also like me to let you know — members of the Cebu chamber, members of the Cebu business community — about other activities we're doing to ensure that Visayas will not have a power crisis. One is the announcement that Transco is beefing up the Leyte-Cebu interconnection upgrading project that will add 200 megawatts to an existing link. He also wants me to announce the Cebu-Mactan interconnection to ensure power for Mandaue and Cebu, and the Cebu-Negros interconnection that will increase the transfer capacity between these islands, make transmission more efficient because we need all these efficient power supply and efficient power transmission in order to truly continue and enhance the role of Cebu as an industrial, tourism, I.T. and maritime center in the country.

To make sure that Cebu will indeed be a maritime center in our region of the world, Larry Mendoza is here to let the Cebu chamber know and the Cebu business community that we will make, we have made the July 1 deadline for compliance with the international ship and port facility security code. Right, Larry?

To comply with this code, Cebu Ports Authority has finished its security plan, 148 Philippine vessels have submitted ship security assessments and 78 of them have been issued international ship security certificates. I made sure that Larry would be here to give you the good news because I have kept my ear open to the anxiousness of our Cebu business community about this compliance.

I listen to the Cebu business community. I listen to the people of Cebu. And I thank you for listening back and supporting me in the last elections.

You know, it's quite significant that Kepco is a Korean company. And it's because Korea is our fastest growing tourism market. And Cebu is a favorite of Korean tourists, especially the honeymooners. So Kepco is doing this not only for the industrial requirements of Cebu, but to make sure that its Korean tourists will be very... Feeling very convenient with no interruption of power in the resorts and other places they go to.

Indeed, Cebu-Bohol compete with metro manila in being the number one tourism destination in our country. You remember that I have announced to you that we will transfer the Department of Tourism to Cebu.

Secretary Pagdanganan is here to let you know that he has already started planning this move. Now I want to let you know that I will also set up no less than a Malacanang in the south right here in Cebu. It's the least I can do because Cebu made me president of the republic of the Philippines.

Thank you, Cebu for making me president. Thank you Cebu for adopting me as your daughter by Sanggunian Panlalawigan Resolution. And thank you also for the political maturity and sobriety you are showing the nation and for standing by me.

Let us stand together for the progress of Cebu. The progress of Cebu is the progress of the Philippines.

Mabuhì kamong tanan!

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Cebu Business Month Festival and the 9th Grand Chamber Awards 2004 of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc., Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133445/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5679&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Blessing and Inauguration of the Newly Installed Regional Office VII Payroll Services Unit (PSU) of the Department of Education Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Blessing and Inauguration of the Newly Installed Regional Office VII Payroll Services Unit (PSU)
of the Department of Education**

[Delivered at the DepEd Regional Office, Ecotech Compound Lahug, Cebu City, Cebu, June 22, 2004]

Thank you very much, Secretary De Jesus and congratulations on implementing the vision of the bill of Congressman Gullas whom I'm also greeting today.

I would like to greet the officials of the province of Cebu headed by Governor Pabling Garcia and also to wish Governor Garcia once again a happy 50th anniversary. I would like to greet as well the other officials of Cebu like Congresswoman Neris soon-Ruiz who's here and Talisay mayor, Mayor Gullas. of course, the people of Cebu City headed by Mayor Tommy Osmeña and Congressman Raul Del Mar who is actually our host congressman in this district. And all the officials of the Department of Education including our very respected and beloved teachers for whom this payroll system is being implemented. And all the appointive officials of the national government who are here with us today.

I am happy to have the opportunity to be here in the first implementation of this regional payroll system. And in honor of the author of the bill on regional payroll systems, Congressman Gullas, the first regionalized payroll today will be given to the teachers of Carcar who belong to his district.

I thank the teachers, as Undersecretary Luz said, this convenient system will hopefully make it easier for the teachers and the DepEd to do your work with greater speed, greater convenience, less expense because teachers bear so much of a burden not only teaching our young the values they need to be good citizens but even counting votes in an election which is so tedious.

I hope that just as we have been able now to computerized and therefore regionalized the payroll system here in region vii, next time we'll be able to computerize elections as well so you won't have such a difficult time.

And speaking of elections, may I take this opportunity once again to thank the people of Cebu for the overwhelming mandate you gave me to be president of the Philippines as well.

The Filipino people were the real winners in this election. And in the name of the people, I reach out for unity, healing and reconciliation. We have had enough of hatred and recrimination for the past months and it's time to mend fences and move forward.

The people not only clamor for statesmanship, they demand it. Let the buoyancy of the moment bring our hearts and minds together in the service of a common and noble cause. Let's heal the wounds of the body politic, unite the country, and fight for change together.

Now is the time for all leaders to stand proud for democracy and to demonstrate that they are worthy of the peoples' trust, durable trust, respect and loyalty.

Sa gihapon kaninyong tanan, akong mga ginigugma nga mga taga-Cebu, maayong buntag ug daghan salamat sa inyong suporta.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Blessing and Inauguration of the Newly Installed Regional Office VII Payroll Services Unit (PSU) of the Department of Education. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133431/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5677&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Luneta Grandstand

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Luneta Grandstand**

[Delivered in Manila, June 30, 2004]

TOGETHER, WE WILL PREVAIL!

This ceremony never fails to impress. It invests the highest official of the land with the chief care of the nation, and the principal responsibility of leaving it better than when she took it in hand.

Let me speak plainly. When I step down six years from now this will be my 10-point legacy. I shall have created more than 6 million jobs, perhaps, even 10 million jobs. *Mahigit anim na milyong trabaho, kung maaari sampung milyong trabaho.* I shall have supported 3 million entrepreneurs by giving them loans and helping them become good managers. That way, we shall be establishing a deep foundation for a broad middle class.

I shall have developed 1 million hectares, if possible 2 million of agribusiness land by making them productive and transporting their products to the markets efficiently. Everyone of school age will be in school in an uncrowded classroom, in surroundings conducive to learning. *Hangad kong makapasok sa eskuwela ang bawat bata. Mayroong sapat na lugar sa silid-aralan at may computer sa bawat aralan.*

I shall have balanced the budget by collecting the right revenues and spending on the right things. The network of transport and digital infrastructure on which my government embarked in the last 3 years will have linked the entire country.

Power and water will be regularly provided to all barangays. *Kuryente at tubig para sa lahat ng barangay.*

Metro Manila will be decongested with economic activity growing and spreading to new centers of government business and community in Luzon, in the Visayas and in Mindanao. The Subic-Clark corridor will be the most competitive international service and logistic center in the Southeast Asian Region.

Elections. Elections will no longer raise a single doubt about their integrity. The electoral process will be completely computerized. *Tama na ang manu-manong pagsusuma ng boto.* And long before that, peace will have come to Mindanao. All insurgence shall have turned their swords into plowshares. They will have become so absorbed into one society that the struggles of the past will be just a stuff of legend.

The divisive issues generated by EDSA I, II and III will also be just memories shared by friends from every side in those upheavals. Only the lessons of unity, courage and a just closure left alive in their hearts. *Dapat wakasan na sa makatarungang paraan ang hidwaang bunsod ng EDSA I, II at III. Higit ang nagbubuklod kaysa naghahati sa atin bilang isang bansa. Masiglang bayan tayo. Buhay ang demokrasya. Maalab ang puso ng sambayanan. Nasa pusod ng pagkatao natin ang sipag at tiyaga, pananampalataya sa Diyos at pagmamahal sa pamilya. Kilala ang Pilipino sa buong daigdig. Kilala sa matapat na asal, marangal na kalooban at matatag na pagkatao.* We fight for what we believed in. The last election clearly saw this fighting Filipino spirit at its best. Roco, Lacson, Villanueva and Poe all fought with conviction. If only we could now fight together with the same energy and conviction to preserve our freedoms and advance our nation's progress.

We know now what we can do when we set our minds to it. We know now how well we can unite the people around our respective causes. Can we not work together to rally the nation behind the paramount objective of its salvation? *Upang magtagumpay at matamo ang ating pangarap kailangan magbuklod-buklod tayo. Magbaba ng*

mga hadlang na naghahati sa ating bansa. Magtaguyod ng kabuhayan para sa maralita. Katarungan para sa lahat. Iyan ang saligan ng tunay na pagkakaisa. Our unity as a people will be defined by a strong vision for the nation built on common values of hard work, shared sacrifice and love of country. The unity we seek is not one of conformity but unwavering respect for the rules and institutions of democracy, a modern country founded on social justice enjoying economic prosperity. To achieve a united country, we need to face the deep divisions of our nation squarely, not only the truth but also the solution. That solution must engage all segments of society in a new government of political reform and economic change.

Our nation must embrace a vision of economic opportunity, social cohesion and always and ever democratic faith. I offer my hand and I hope it will be taken with the same faith. Unity is not measured by how many political parties are able to achieve the accommodation of narrow self-interest, rather it is achieved by the harmony of the sincere convictions based on our agreement on the basic requirements for achieving the national good.

Hindi tayo hanay lamang ng mga islang paligid ng tubig kundi bayang pinagdurugtong ng karagatan at nagkakaisa sa mayamang katangian ng iba't ibang bahagi ng sambayanan. Hindi tayo pinaghihiwalay ng sawing pag-asa kung hindi pinagbubuklod ng kaunlaran nating pinapangarap. Our ability to unify will be judged by our ability to come together under a common vision that will erase the divisions that hold us back as a nation. The government must make tough choices, but this I promised they will be tougher on those who have it easy than on those who have it tough already. In this way alone lies unity and not exploitation and division. Dapat kalahok sa nilalayon ng bayan ang pag-asa at pangarap ng pinakadukhang mamamayan nang hindi tayo mabigong lahat.

Imoral ang walang sawang pagtatamasa ng mayaman at makapangyarihan habang paunti nang paunti ang itinitira sa dukha. Imoral ang pagkamanhid at katiwalian ng pamahalaan samantalang kinakapos ang mahirap sa gamot, paaralan, tirahan at tubig. Imoral na pabayaang ang mga kaaway ng ating demokrasya na takutin ang ating mga anak, paralisahin ang ekonomiya at ipahamak ang ating kinabukasan dahil ang pinaka nahihirapan sa lahat ng ito ay ang mga maralita. Kaya narito ako ngayon taglay ang takda ng taumbayan upang pagbuklurin ang sambayanan at makibaka para sa bagong bukas para sa ating lahat.

I come to you today with a mandate to govern by the clear call of the sovereign people. I pledge to bring you a pro-poor agenda that will lift up our poorest brothers and sisters, invest them with dignity imbue them with hope. I pledge to you a government that will live within its means and put every spare peso to real work. I pledge to reduce spending where government does not work and increase spending where a government can make a difference for better. And while I am doing that, I will crack-down on wasteful and abusive officials and influenced peddlers. I pledge to collect taxes mandated by law even as I stop extortion masquerading as tax collection. Pay your taxes; don't pretend to be innocent when you are caught. I will crack-down on tax cheats. And I pledge to do everything necessary to expand the economy, engage it in the world of commerce and advance the interests of our country and our people the world over.

Ngunit para magawa ko ang lahat ng ito, kailangan ko kayo. Hindi ko magagawa ang lahat ng mag-isa. Kailangan ko ang bawat Pilipino upang magka-isa, makiisa at isa-isang lunasan ang mga sugat ng kahapon. Kailangan ko ang bawat Pilipino upang lumakas ang sambayanan para sa mga hamon ng bukas. I challenge our business community to rise to the occasion and embrace selfless nationalism. Invest in our people and our country instead of giving excuses for keeping your money abroad where it cannot put our people to work.

I challenge our young men and women; there is a role to play in the re-creation of our nation, some in honest public service, most in productive private endeavor. Whatever it is you decide to do let the greater part of it be for our country. It is personal patriotism not impersonal free markets that makes nation strong and great.

I look up to Congress to seize this moment in history. It's like it will not come again. All eyes are on us. You have it within your power to transform the nation with laws. Laws that modernize our banking, laws that reform our bureaucracy, laws that strengthen the independence and honesty of our judges, laws that invest in our country and secure to our people the promise blessings of democracy which are a life worth living, liberty worth having, happiness within everyone's grasp.

Now, is our time to march forward as one. I seek your wisdom and I trust in your commitment to the common good, to the swift actions you will take. And finally, I challenge myself, and our government to live up to the highest standards of honesty and competence in the public service.

Araw-araw, gigising ako at kakayod para sa inyo. Gagawin ko ang tama at magaling sa ikakagaling ng lahat at hindi bilang pagmamagaling. I shall make good and I shall do good for the good of all and not just for the cameras. Palibhasa, tapos na ang canvassing for public attention. Inaasahan kong babangon kayo araw-araw upang tiyakin na tutuparin ko ang aking tungkulin bilang pinuno ng walang pagkukubli. Gagamitin ko ang tungkulin ng Pangulo upang itaguyod ang katotohanan at katarungan. Iniaalay ko ang aking buhay at yaman sa pagtupad sa katungkulang inyong itinakda.

Tupdin ninyo ang inyong tungkulin, gagampanan ko ang akin. United, how can we lose? Together, we will prevail! Magsama-sama tayong magsikap. Magkasama tayong magtatagumpay. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Second Inaugural Address of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, June 30, 2004 Second Inaugural Address
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Quirino Grandstand, Manila, on June 30, 2004]

Thank you, Secretary Romulo, Vice President-elect and Mrs. Noli de Castro, former President Fidel Ramos, Senate President and Mrs. Drilon and the members of the Senate, Speaker and Mrs. De Venecia and the members of the House of Representatives, Chief Justice and Mrs. Davide, and the Associate Justices and other members of the Judiciary, Excellencies to Special Envoys and members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the Cabinet and their ladies, other appointive officials, mayors of Metropolitan Manila, governors and other local officials, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and its men and women, as well as those of the police, members of the various sectors of society, fellow workers in government, *mga minamahal kong kababayan*:

Long live the Filipino nation!

My sincerest thanks to all of my beloved countrymen, to our democracy, to God Almighty.

This ceremony never fails to impress. It invests the highest official of the land with the chief care of the nation, and the principal responsibility of leaving it better than when she took it in hand.

Let me speak plainly.

When I step down six years from now this will be my 10-point legacy.

I shall have created more than six million jobs, perhaps, even ten million jobs. I shall have supported three million entrepreneurs by giving them loans and helping them become good managers. That way, we shall be establishing a deep foundation for a broad middle class.

I shall have developed one million hectares, if possible two million, of agribusiness land by making them productive and transporting their products to the markets efficiently.

Everyone of school age will be in school in an uncrowded classroom, in surroundings conducive to learning.

I shall have balanced the budget by collecting the right revenues and spending on the right things.

The network of transport and digital infrastructure on which my government embarked in the last three years will have linked the entire country.

Power and water will be regularly provided to all barangays.

Metro Manila will be decongested, with economic activity growing and spreading to new centers of government, business and community in Luzon, in the Visayas and in Mindanao.

The Subic-Clark corridor will be the most competitive international service and logistic center in the Southeast Asian region.

Elections will no longer raise a single doubt about their integrity. The electoral process will be completely computerized. Enough of the manual counting of votes.

And long before that, peace will have come to Mindanao. All insurgents shall have turned their swords into plowshares. They will have become so absorbed into one society that the struggles of the past will be just the stuff of legend.

The divisive issues generated by EDSA 1, 2 and 3 will also be just memories shared by friends from every side in those upheavals. Only the lessons of unity, courage and a just closure kept alive in their hearts.

We must end with justice the conflict brought about by EDSA 1, 2 and 3. There are more things that bind rather than tear us apart as a nation. We are a vibrant country with a lively democracy and fervor burning in our hearts. Industry, patience, fear of God and love for family are common values we hold dear.

The Filipino is known worldwide for his honesty, honor and dignity. We fight for what we believe in.

The last election clearly saw this fighting Filipino spirit at its best. Roco, Lacson, Villanueva and Poe all fought with conviction.

If only we could now fight together, with the same energy and conviction, to preserve our freedoms and advance our nation's progress.

We know now what we can do when we set our minds to it. We know now how well we can unite the people around our respective causes. Can we not work together to rally the nation behind the paramount objective of its salvation?

To win and realize our dream, we must all unite. We must come together by tearing down the barriers of social division and building up economic opportunity for the poor and establishing justice for all. This is the foundation of genuine unity.

Our unity as a people will be defined by a strong vision of a nation built on common values of hard work, shared sacrifice and love of country.

The unity we seek is not one of conformity but unwavering respect for the rules and institutions of democracy. A modern country founded on social justice, enjoying economic prosperity.

To achieve a united country, we need to face the deep divisions of our nation squarely, not only the truth but also the solution. That solution must engage all segments of society in a new government of political reform and economic change.

Our nation must embrace a vision of economic opportunity, social cohesion and, always and ever, democratic faith. I offer my hand and I hope it will be taken with the same faith.

Unity is not measured by how many political parties are able to achieve the accommodation of narrow self-interests. Rather, it is achieved by the harmony of sincere convictions based on our agreement on the basic requirements for achieving the national good.

We are not merely a group of islands surrounded by water but a country linked by the sea and unified by a rich heritage. We are not an archipelago of false hopes but a nation joined together by the progress we seek.

Our ability to unify will be judged by our ability to come together under a common vision that will erase the divisions that hold us back as a nation.

The government must make tough choices, but this I promise: they will be tougher on those who have it easy than on those who have it tough already. In this way alone lies unity and not exploitation and division. We must include in our national goals the hopes and dreams of our poorest citizens in order for us to succeed.

It is immoral for the rich and powerful to keep taking more and more, leaving the poor with less and less.

It is immoral for the government to grow unresponsive, even corrupt, while leaving the poor without health care, without shelter, without clean water.

It is immoral for the foes of democracy to terrorize our children, paralyze our economy and jeopardize our future as the poorest among us bear the heaviest burden.

Therefore, I come to you today with a mandate from the people to unite the nation and fight for change. I come to you today with a mandate to govern by the clear call of the sovereign people.

I pledge to bring you a pro-poor agenda that will lift up our poorest brothers and sisters, invest them with dignity and imbue them with hope.

I pledge to you a government that will live within its means and put every spare peso to real work. I pledge to reduce spending where government does not work and increase spending where a government can make a difference for better.

And while I am doing that, I will crack down on wasteful and abusive officials and influenced peddlers.

I pledge to collect taxes mandated by law even as I stop extortion masquerading as tax collection. Pay your taxes; do not pretend to be innocent when you are caught. I will crack down on tax cheats.

And I pledge to do everything necessary to expand the economy, engage it deeper in the world of commerce and advance the interests of our country and our people the world over.

But for me to do all these, I need you. I cannot do these alone.

I will need every single Filipino to come together, get involved and help us bind the wounds of the past. I will need every single Filipino to get our nation healthy for tomorrow.

I challenge our business community to rise to the occasion and embrace selfless nationalism. Invest in our people and our country instead of giving excuses for keeping your money abroad where it cannot put our people to work.

I challenge our young men and women: there is a role to play in the re-creation of our nation, some in honest public service, most in productive private endeavor. Whatever it is you decide to do, let the greater part of it be for our country. It is personal patriotism, not impersonal free markets, that makes nations strong and great.

I look up to Congress to seize this moment in history. Its like it will not come again. All eyes are on us. You have it within your power to transform the nation with laws. Laws that modernize our banking, laws that reform our bureaucracy, laws that strengthen the independence and honesty of our judges, laws that invest in our country and secure to our people the promised blessings of democracy, which are a life worth living, liberty worth having, happiness within everyone's grasp.

Now, is our time to march forward as one. I seek your wisdom and I trust in your commitment to the common good, to the swift actions you will take.

And finally, I challenge myself and our government to live up to the highest standards of honesty and competence in the public service.

Everyday, I shall get up and work for you. I shall make good and I shall do good for the good of all and not just for the cameras. The canvassing for public attention is over. I expect you to get up everyday to hold me accountable, in the full glare of transparent leadership. I shall wield the power of the Presidency to uphold truth and justice.

I devote my life and treasure to serving your mandate. Do your responsibility and I shall do mine.

United, how can we lose? Together, we will prevail!

We will strive together. We will triumph together.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Speech of President Arroyo during the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development 28th General Assembly and Annual Meeting

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development 28th General Assembly and Annual Meeting**

[Delivered at the Banking Hall, 3rd Floor, PNB Financial Center Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City, July 5, 2004]

Thank you Ric. Thank you for the introduction. And I'd like to congratulate you, I just learned this morning about your very active involvement in environmental conflict resolution. Congratulations, that's a very good work of the BBC in what you've been doing.

Archbishop Lagdameo and the other bishops who are leaders and active members of the BBC, Lani Nañagas and the other lay leaders of the BBC, and I would like to mention some of them Ping Jaime, Joe Concepcion and Tito Carlos. And I would like to mention some of the other leading bishops, Bishop De Dios Pueblos and all of you who are here today.

To all of you, I would like to begin by thanking your flock and your clients in the part of the businessmen and your workers and the people in general, once again, for my new mandate as President.

I have been attending the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference every year. And I think it is very important for me to attend this gathering, because it is important that we remember that whether we are Church members or doing our work in the secular world, everything must be done according to the Divine Will.

This is what I have always tried to do both in my private life and in my public life. During the half-term that I served as President in my last administration, I believe, it was with the great support of the Church and the business community that we were able to make a strong start in fighting for change.

We turned the economy around and stabilized the mess we inherited. We made gains, unprecedented gains in housing, in health care, and we made gains in anti-corruption. Among our gains in anti-corruption in my previous tenure, the World Bank has especially acknowledge our lifestyle checks and our procurement reforms.

I would like to greet Secretary Bert Romulo and the other members of the Cabinet who are here. The Cabinet, the Business Community, the Church, helped me in covering good ground, in good legislation, not only the procurement reforms but also the anti-money laundering law. A good law which we hope to be able to implement properly to get our seal of good housekeeping by using the law to catch the big fish in corruption.

The Bureau of Customs and the Internal Revenue have chalked up steady gains in collection. Much of this, of course, is due to the increased economic activity and increased imports therefore and earnings, but some of it at least its also due to the reduction of graft. But all this was just a downpayment in my previous administration. It was not good enough I am not satisfied and more must be done.

In my inaugural address last June 30, I said, immoral ang pagkamanhid at katiwalian ng pamahalaan samantalang kinakapos ang mahirap sa gamut, paaralan, tirahan at tubig. I also said that I will crack-down on wasteful and abusive officials and influence peddlers.

In that speech, I pledged to collect taxes mandated by law even as I said I would stop extortion masquerading as tax collection. I ask you the businessmen to pay your taxes. I ask you not to pretend to be innocent when you are caught.

I told you I will crack-down on tax cheats. And finally, in that speech, I ended it by challenging myself, and our government to live up to the highest standards of honesty and competence in public service.

Integrity is not only an important aid to the success of a development program. It is part of the good life that we seek for our people. In a wholesome society, there should be integrity in the government and among the people.

I received a letter from Joe Concepcion last Friday, and since he used to be my boss in the DTI, I always listen to what he has to say. In his letter he said: that the general view among the bishops is that graft and corruption is the main cause of poverty in our country.

And as I said in my speech, talagang immoral ang katiwalian habang nagkukulang ang taumbayan sa mga saligang pangangailangan. Iyon nga ang isang pinanggagalingan ng pagkukulang ng taumbayan sa batayang pangangailangan.

Joe Concepcion also said that the anti-corruption campaign in the belief of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference is indispensable to poverty alleviation and I agree with you.

I will work diligently in the next 6 years to fight corruption. But as I spoke plainly in my inaugural address, I would also like to speak plainly today. I have no illusions, I know that fighting corruption is an up hill battle. Grafters are not easy prey. They have accessed expert legal assistance. They maybe in cahoots with rogue elements in the criminal justice system from compromised law enforcers, prosecutors to judges and justices. That is why I need earnest partners in what could otherwise be a lonely battle against corruption. And I am glad that as we start a new beginning, I can count on your partnership to fight for unprecedented change that stamps out corruption.

I expect the Cabinet to work closely with the Bishop-Business Conference to

crack enforceable doable not motherhood anti-corruption programs. Again,along the salient points in Joe Concepcion's letter:

One, the need for specially trained prosecutors and investigators to act on all cases of graft and corruption.

Two, the need to involve all sectors at all levels to scrutinize projects that are willfully made transparent so that the people especially the poor can actually see the benefits accruing to them from governance.

I remember in an earlier BBC meeting that I attended , you were going to form watchdog groups to look at the actual implementation of projects to see whether there were ghosts projects or not, to see whether there was cheating in the specifications or not, I think, that we should revive this.

When I was Secretary of DSWD, I deliberately put the NGOs doing social work as part of the bidding committee for whatever small purchases or big purchases the DSWD was making during my watch. I hope that we can work on that together in this new beginning.

A third item that was pointed out by Joe Concepcion is that the terms of bidding of government funded projects and all other contracts or agreements of government with the private sector should be made clear and available for public scrutiny without exception unless national security is involved. I think, that was part of the controversy of PIATCO, the terms of the original contract were never made public and I would not want that to happen in this administration.

Fourth, in general, ensuring transparency, accountability, participation and communication as a vehicle for good governance.

Today, is an important occasion for communication. Indeed, it is important that we work together for good governance. And I would not want to think that I am the one that can conceptualize everything that must be done. That is why I thank the Bishop Businessmen's Conference, I thank Joe Concepcion for summarizing your thoughts

as a body and presenting them as concrete doable proposals. And I would like my Cabinet to work with you on carrying out these proposals.

We have here Secretary Romulo who has been the model of what shall I call the personification of integrity in my administration. We have here Bobie Tiglao who as my Chief of Staff has been overseeing the much applauded by the World Bank lifestyle checks and other measures with regard to working on improving transparency in government, in fact, he heads the transparency group. And so, I am asking them to quarter back our collaboration with the Bishop Businessmen's Conference on these four items that I summarized from the letter of Secretary Joe Concepcion.

It is important that we work together and it is important that we plod and be bold in our resolve. I recognized that graft in government can not be crushed in a single stroke, as a dragon could be killed with a swing of Saint Michael's sword.

I realized that graft cannot be washed away in one sweep like dirty stables with Herculean douse of water. What I have learned is that graft and corruption can be addressed and cured like a fowl infected wound. It must be healed by patient, constant, steady disinfecting, scraping and cleansing. Because graft and corruption in government and in society have been a serious problem for the Philippines for a long time. It tends to aggravate as politicians and officials have increasingly converted politics and public office into a business. In fact, graft and corruption are part of the symptoms of a weak state that they want to transform into a strong Republic. The weak state that our generation of Filipinos have inherited including a large gap between rich and poor, a gap that has been exploited many times for political ends. A weak state includes a political system based on patronage and ultimately corruption to support patronage. But the greatest ally of graft is our own complacency and sense of utility, the belief that graft is undefeatable and therefore not worthy of our fullest sacrifice.

It is no longer the mere threat of corruption that bothers us but the ominous culture of corruption that has gripped our institutions. Changing a culture or eradicating it is by no means a walk in the park or a short trip. It takes time methodical persistence and collective determination to succeed.

When I was waiting for the canvassing to be over, I spent a lot of time in prayer. I spent a lot of time in many convents, but of course I also did governance work. One time in one of the trips that combined my governance work and my cloistered prayer, I mentioned to the nuns in the convent where I was, that I was going to a particular very very poor town, far away town in that province because I was going to bring a package of community development and social programs funded by the World Bank. And the sister told me, Oh! I know that town. That town has island barangays. And those island barangays have no religious instruction. And when the girls moved to the city and worked in households, because they have no religious instruction they are immoral and they steal. Well, I said sister, if they are poor they will enter a household and steal. And if they become more educated they will enter the government and they will also steal. It is part of the problem of our culture.

When I was a young girl we used to teach catechism to the students in the public schools. We were high school, they were grade school, preparing them for their first communion, they would teach catechism surely we had no heresies because the catechism was cut and dried and somehow at least there was that daily or weekly those of thinking about the divinity and therefore about morality. I understand that is been gone for the last 30 years. And I think one of the things we must revive is values formation in our basic education.

So, in that little town with a little island barangays where there is no religious instruction, I instructed one of the government corporations earning surplus money to fund a values formation, education program in the barangay days care centers that I have set up as part of that community development program. That is one set of barangays out of 45,000 barangays in our country. It is a tall order a long long lists and I hope the businessmen and the bishops could put together that values formation program that we can bring back to our youth. So that when they become members of society, whether they work in a household or in a business firm, whether they work in government they will not bring a culture of corruption, not bring a culture of immorality, but rather bring a culture of fear of God and care for the good values of our society. That I think is one of the challenges of the Bishop-Businessmen's Conference, because we must put God back into the secular world.

The confluence of this spiritual realm and the realm of enterprise in this gathering, augurs well for your fitting team. New beginnings, new hope constant faith.

The partnership of the Church, business and government is indispensable in the fight for change. And so, now that I am here once again, but for a new beginning, I look forward to the bishops, the businessmen and our bureaucracy to fight together to change the culture of corruption. Let us make that our mission for the next six years for the good of the future generations of Filipinos.

Thank you and congratulations.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development 28th General Assembly and Annual Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133404/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5688&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the Overseas Employment Summit Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Overseas Employment Summit**

[Delivered at the PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City, July 9, 2004]

**OFWs AND GOVERNMENT:
TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

This overseas employment summit is a fitting tribute to our overseas Filipino workers who are truly our contemporary heroes.

I thank them, too. *Pwede bang gamitin ko itong pagkakataon sa kauna-unang panahon makipag-usap sa kanila sa pamamagitan ninyo na magpasalamat sa kanila* for the overwhelming mandate they gave me in the last elections. This historic mandate from our OFWs for me shall not be treated lightly.

Like all Filipinos, my heart grieves for our countrymen whose lives are at risk in foreign lands. Let's pray for the safe and immediate release of one of our workers who has been abducted in Iraq. Ambassador Roy Cimatú is in Baghdad to do what is humanly possible to secure the release of our kababayan. In the meantime, I have ordered the suspension in the deployment of Filipino workers to that country.

I shall not comment about the situation at this most crucial and sensitive point in time when we have to withhold information on our moves to ensure the safety of the hostage. I ask the media not to fan speculation or hysteria. A higher interest is involved in this matter. I leave it to our Iraq team to do what has to be done in coordination with the transition government of Iraq and our allies to get the hostage home safely.

We have to pursue a worldwide doctrine of security for Filipinos. The government itself must immerse in the task of keeping Filipinos safe from terror in their places of stay and work. I am directing the DFA – Chito is here – and the DOLE to train and deploy more experts in collective security planning for worker communities, and security coordination with foreign governments and transnational firms employing large numbers of Filipinos.

We have to keep ahead of threats to Filipino lives and families everywhere, just as we must create more jobs at home, 10 million jobs in the next 6 years so that they will have reason to stay in the Philippines.

Yet, as we strive to create these jobs, many will still be drawn to greener pastures in other lands. And that is the important work of our recruitment industry. This is an inevitable result of the globalized regime where labor, capital, many resources and many goods move from one frontier to another. This is not necessarily bad, as long as we adhere to common standards of treatment and compensation, and as long as desperation is not exploited for nefarious ends. And that is part of what this summit is all about – how to stop and prevent exploitation of desperation for nefarious needs.

We know the enemy well. You identified them in your declaration – the illegal recruiters.

Duped by sweet talk about dollars to be earned, many innocent Filipinos because of these illegal recruiters ended up in jail or suffered abuse in the hands of unfit employers.

The meeting that I had with Mrs. Hizon and many of you or several of you in the industry and the NGOs occurred soon after three Filipino domestic workers in Lebanon fell to their death while trying to escape from their employers' apartments. And while we're talking here about the industry as a whole, I would like to give the order that their recruiters must not remain scot-free.

How to execute that order? In your declaration you proposed an executive order creating the Presidential Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment. I signed this Executive Order last night. And I asked to be invited to this meeting, the fearless former police captain Reynaldo Jaylo whom I am appointing to lead this Task Force. Jaylo shall hunt down these illegal recruiters and make them pay for their crimes. I am giving you an initial budget of 10 million to do your job.

Well, the law is clear – although I don't know if that's part of what you want to amend because you want to amend the law – but the law says that those who have illegally recruited three or more persons are engaged in economic sabotage, a non-bailable offense that carries with it a life sentence.

Jaylo's Task Force shall also take down the syndicates that issue fake passports, secure fake visas and shepherd our women like cattle to nightclubs.

In your declaration, you identified the last line of defense for the victims of illegal recruitment. As per your declaration, they can be found in major exit points. They can be found in your declaration identified illegal recruiters relying on corrupt officials, immigration or airport personnel, to bend the rules so that undocumented workers could leave.

So I instruct, again, Jaylo – *para isa na lang ang kausap ninyo* – I instruct, again the Task Force and the pertinent agencies that he will work with to unmask these corrupt airport and immigration personnel. Relieve them and prosecute them.

To strengthen our welfare mechanisms for OFWs – again, part of your recommendations – I am asking the DFA to aggressively pursue negotiations for new bilateral agreements in cooperation with DOLE and the private sector. *Hindi ko na babanggitin kung aling mga bansa ang ipapa-prioritize kasi binanggit na ninyo. So, susunod na lang tayo sa inyong panukala sa inyong declaration.* We must encourage more diplomatic missions to stamp work visas here in Manila as a preventive measure against human trafficking.

Sinu-sino 'yung mga foreign countries na 'yon? – ay! Nandiyan pala ang mister ni Lita, si Congressman Joey Hizon. Good morning. Hindi ko nakita – sinu-sino 'yung mga foreign missions na gusto natin dito na sila maggawa ng visa. Hindi ko na rin babanggitin ngayon dahil sinabi na rin sa akin ng industry leaders. So, alam na ng DFA kung sino 'yon.

Now, as far as the Foreign Service Office is concern, *meron din kayong mga panukala diyaan.* So, I again instruct the DFA, represented here by Undersecretary Chito Brillantes, our diplomats' manner of serving the Filipino migrant worker when abroad must be a major consideration in the DFA's promotion system. Our friends in the NGOs and the private sector should be a part of the monitoring system to ensure that our Foreign Service Corps is service-oriented.

May mga bansa ang importante intellectual – negotiations. May mga bansa naman lalo na 'yung napakaraming Pilipino, mas importante 'yung marunong makiramay – 'yung may empathy. So, iba't-ibang bahagi ng talento ang kailangan sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng mga assignment. And for those where there are very big OFW populations, I invite your industry to help monitor the performance of the Foreign Service Corps.

Papano n'yo gagawin ito? Pinanukala n'yo na rin 'yung paraan. I welcome the idea to set up the tripartite consultative council under the DOLE-POEA to institutionalize the OFW and private sector participation in overseas employment. And habang ito ay DOLE, I would like DFA to link up with it because that will be the avenue for officially giving the evaluation on the empathy skills of our foreign service officers who work in areas where there are many Filipinos.

Kasi ayaw ko 'yung mga bulong-bulong. Pupunta sa akin dito, "ay si ambassador walang kwenta 'yan." hindi. Pag-usapan ng industriya para hindi na 'yung isang tao ang nagsasabi sa akin, 'yon pala meron lang s'yang personal na galit, hindi ba? Dapat nandoon sa tripartite council.

Ngayon – again, based on some of your initial feedback to me – *hindi lang ‘yung DOLE, hindi lang ‘yung DFA ang importante, ‘yung DOJ, well, lalo na ‘yung Bureau of Immigration. And – wala dito si Al Fernandez, ‘no? – pero* I will just ask Pat Sto. Tomas to convey to him my instruction to exempt POEA-accredited foreign principals who visit Manila for job interviews from securing a special work permit.

Kanina meron kayong objection sa decking system. Ewan ko kung ito na rin ‘yon pero nung pinag-aaralan ko ‘yung mga hiling n’yo ang nakita ko ay nagdadaing kayo tungkol doon sa rebates, the industry practice of getting rebates. Hindi ba yon? From accredited OFW medical clinics. Okay ‘yon sa inyo? But this one you’re also objecting but more the decking system. Okay. So, I thought it was because these rebates were adding to the cost of getting a medical certificate. Okay. So ang sasabihin natin doon sa DOH hindi ‘yung rebate kung hindi ‘yung decking system.

So, Pat ikaw na magpapaliwanag sa DOH dahil – ay! Eto nandito ang ating DOH, president ng Philhealth – dahil naiintindihan mo kung ano ibig sabihin nung decking system which pat explained to me just now.

And I would like the DOLE also to come up – eto naman, it takes two to tango, ‘di ba? – I would like the DOLE to come up with a performance appraisal of all licensed agencies. And those who deployed a high number of persons who became runaways afterwards must be closely monitored if not suspended.

The POEA and OWWA should also intensify country-specific orientation seminars for OFWs. *Siyempre mga lugar kagaya ng Hongkong, kagaya ng Italy siguro hindi masyadong kailangang matindi ‘yung seminar dahil maganda ‘yung mga batas nila. Pero may mga lugar diyan na talagang kailangan paghahandaan. And that’s why it has to be country-specific, hindi pareho-pareho ang mga batas, hindi pare-pareho ang proteksiyon sa mga manggagawa.* Before they depart and until they return, our OFWs must be able to consistently feel government’s presence in their lives. Until they return including the re-integration program.

Kayo, mga industry representatives, you know the ins and outs of overseas employment. And I am glad that we are here today upon your recommendation. I hope this summit gives you and all stakeholders in overseas employment, as mentioned earlier in the speech, a fresh start in building strong partnerships. Pero hindi lang kayo, hindi lang ‘yung gobyerno, hindi lang ‘yung OFWs mismo, hindi lang ‘yung NGOs, dapat kasama rin ‘yung mga anak ng mga OFW. Because the children of OFWs have emotional trauma that should be of great concern to all sectors. Ito rin ang hinihingi ko sa inyo.

Nung aking first term si Pat nag-organize ng mga pamilya ng OFW. Sana sa inyong tripartite council makakagawa din kayo ng mga paraan to be able to reach out to the children of these OFWs.

This fresh start is appropriate and ominous, tough times are ahead at home and abroad. So, let’s take this opportunity to close ranks to build a brighter future for our people.

Maraming salamat. Thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Overseas Employment Summit 2004

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Overseas Employment Summit 2004**

[Delivered at the Reception Hall, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City, July 9, 2004]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Romulo.

Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas; Undersecretary Ople; Labor Undersecretary Danny Cruz; ang katulong ni Pat sa pag-aalaga ng ating overseas workers, si Administrator -Undersecretary Baldoz, POEA; Undersecretary Brillantes — nandito ba si Ver Angelo? Okay — Administrator Angelo ng OWWA; Mrs. Hizon, maraming salamat at ikaw ang nagbigay sa akin ng panukala na magkaroon tayo ng Overseas Employment Summit; Ginoong Josue; mga namumuno, kinatawan ng iba't-ibang mga ahensiya; mga opisina, industriya ng overseas recruitment; mga NGOs; mga piling panauhin, mga minamahal kong kababayan.

Salamat at nagsama-sama tayo itong araw na ito dito sa napaka-importanteng Overseas Employment Summit.

This overseas employment summit is a fitting tribute to our overseas Filipino workers who are truly our contemporary heroes.

I thank them, too. Pwede bang gamitin ko itong pagkakataon sa kauna-unang panahon makipag-usap sa kanila sa pamamagitan ninyo na magpasalamat sa kanila for the overwhelming mandate they gave me in the last elections. This historic mandate from our OFWs for me shall not be treated lightly.

Like all Filipinos, my heart grieves for our countrymen whose lives are at risk in foreign lands. Let's pray for the safe and immediate release of one of our workers who has been abducted in Iraq. Ambassador Roy Cimatu is in Baghdad to do what is humanly possible to secure the release of our kababayan. In the meantime, I have ordered the suspension in the deployment of Filipino workers to that country.

I shall not comment about the situation at this most crucial and sensitive point in time when we have to withhold information on our moves to ensure the safety of the hostage. I ask the media not to fan speculation or hysteria. A higher interest is involved in this matter. I leave it to our Iraq team to do what has to be done in coordination with the transition government of Iraq and our allies to get the hostage home safely.

We have to pursue a worldwide doctrine of security for Filipinos. The government itself must immerse in the task of keeping Filipinos safe from terror in their places of stay and work. I am directing the DFA — Chito is here — and the dole to train and deploy more experts in collective security planning for worker communities, and security coordination with foreign governments and transnational firms employing large numbers of Filipinos.

We have to keep ahead of threats to Filipino lives and families everywhere, just as we must create more jobs at home, 10 million jobs in the next 6 years so that they will have reason to stay in the Philippines.

Yet, as we strive to create these jobs, many will still be drawn to greener pastures in other lands. And that is the important work of our recruitment industry. This is an inevitable result of the globalized regime where labor, capital, many resources and many goods move from one frontier to another. This is not necessarily bad, as long as we adhere to common standards of treatment and compensation, and as long as desperation is not exploited for nefarious ends. And that is part of what this summit is all about — how to stop and prevent exploitation of desperation for nefarious needs.

We know the enemy well. You identified them in your declaration — the illegal recruiters.

Duped by sweet talk about dollars to be earned, many innocent Filipinos because of these illegal recruiters ended up in jail or suffered abuse in the hands of unfit employers.

The meeting that I had with Mrs. Hizon and many of you or several of you in the industry and the NGOs occurred soon after three Filipino domestic workers in Lebanon fell to their death while trying to escape from their employers' apartments. And while we're talking here about the industry as a whole, I would like to give the order that their recruiters must not remain scot-free.

How to execute that order? In your declaration you proposed an executive order creating the Presidential Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment. I signed this Executive Order last night. And I asked to be invited to this meeting, the fearless former police captain Reynaldo Jaylo whom I am appointing to lead this Task Force. Jaylo shall hunt down these illegal recruiters and make them pay for their crimes. I am giving you an initial budget of 10 million to do your job.

Well, the law is clear — although I don't know if that's part of what you want to amend because you want to amend the law — but the law says that those who have illegally recruited three or more persons are engaged in economic sabotage, a non-bailable offense that carries with it a life sentence.

Jaylo's Task Force shall also take down the syndicates that issue fake passports, secure fake visas and shepherd our women like cattle to nightclubs.

In your declaration, you identified the last line of defense for the victims of illegal recruitment. As per your declaration, they can be found in major exit points. They can be found in your declaration identified illegal recruiters relying on corrupt officials, immigration or airport personnel, to bend the rules so that undocumented workers could leave.

So I instruct, again, Jaylo — para isa na lang ang kausap ninyo — I instruct, again the Task Force and the pertinent agencies that he will work with to unmask these corrupt airport and immigration personnel. Relieve them and prosecute them.

To strengthen our welfare mechanisms for OFWs — again, part of your recommendations — I am asking the DFA to aggressively pursue negotiations for new bilateral agreements in cooperation with dole and the private sector. Hindi ko na babanggitin kung aling mga bansa ang ipapa-prioritize kasi binanggit na ninyo. So, susunod na lang tayo sa inyong panukala sa inyong declaration. We must encourage more diplomatic missions to stamp work visas here in manila as a preventive measure against human trafficking.

Sinu-sino 'yung mga foreign countries na 'yon? — ay! Nandiyan pala ang mister ni Lita, si Congressman Joey Hizon. Good morning. Hindi ko nakita — sinu-sino 'yung mga foreign missions na gusto natin dito na sila maggawa ng visa. Hindi ko na rin babanggitin ngayon dahil sinabi na rin sa akin ng industry leaders. So, alam na ng DFA kung sino 'yon.

Now, as far as the foreign service office is concern, meron din kayong mga panukala diyaan. So, I again instruct the DFA, represented here by Undersecretary Chito Brillantes, our diplomats' manner of serving the Filipino migrant worker when abroad must be a major consideration in the DFA's promotion system. Our friends in the NGOs and

the private sector should be a part of the monitoring system to ensure that our foreign service corps is service-oriented.

May mga bansa ang importante intellectual — negotiations. May mga bansa naman lalo na ‘yung napakaraming pilipino, mas importante ‘yung marunong makiramay — ‘yung may empathy. So, iba’t-ibang bahagi ng talento ang kailangan sa iba’t-ibang bahagi ng mga assignment. And for those where there are very big ofw populations, I invite your industry to help monitor the performance of the foreign service corps.

Papano n’yo gagawin ito? Pinanukala n’yo na rin ‘yung paraan. I welcome the idea to set up the tripartite consultative council under the DOLE-POEA to institutionalize the OFW and private sector participation in overseas employment. And habang ito ay DOLE, I would like DFA to link up with it because that will be the avenue for officially giving the evaluation on the empathy skills of our foreign service officers who work in areas where there are many Filipinos.

Kasi ayaw ko ‘yung mga bulong-bulong. Pupunta sa akin dito, “ay si ambassador walang kwenta ‘yan.” hindi. Pag-usapan ng industriya para hindi na ‘yung isang tao ang nagsasabi sa akin, ‘yon pala meron lang s’yang personal na galit, hindi ba? Dapat nandoon sa tripartite council.

Ngayon — again, based on some of your initial feedback to me — hindi lang ‘yung dole, hindi lang ‘yung DFA ang importante, ‘yung DOJ, well, lalo na ‘yung Bureau of Immigration. And — wala dito si Al Fernandez, ‘no? — pero I will just ask Pat Sto. Tomas to convey to him my instruction to exempt POEA-accredited foreign principals who visit manila for job interviews from securing a special work permit.

Kanina meron kayong objection sa decking system. Ewan ko kung ito na rin ‘yon pero nung pinag-aaralan ko ‘yung mga hiling n’yo ang nakita ko ay nagdadaing kayo tungkol doon sa rebates, the industry practice of getting rebates. Hindi ba yon? From accredited OFW medical clinics. Okay ‘yon sa inyo? But this one you’re also objecting but more the decking system. Okay. So, I thought it was because these rebates were adding to the cost of getting a medical certificate. Okay. So ang sasabihin natin doon sa DOH hindi ‘yung rebate kung hindi ‘yung decking system.

So, Pat ikaw na magpapaliwanag sa DOH dahil — ay! Eto nandito ang ating DOH, president ng Philhealth — dahil naiintindihan mo kung ano ibig sabihin nung decking system which pat explained to me just now.

And I would like the dole also to come up — eto naman, it takes two to tango, ‘di ba? — I would like the dole to come up with a performance appraisal of all licensed agencies. And those who deployed a high number of persons who became runaways afterwards must be closely monitored if not suspended.

The POEA and OWWA should also intensify country-specific orientation seminars for OFWs. Siyempre mga lugar kagaya ng Hongkong, kagaya ng Italy siguro hindi masyadong kailangang matindi ‘yung seminar dahil maganda ‘yung mga batas nila. Pero may mga lugar diyan na talagang kailangan paghahandaan. And that’s why it has to be country-specific, hindi pareho-pareho ang mga batas, hindi pare-pareho ang proteksiyon sa mga manggagawa. Before they depart and until they return, our OFWs must be able to consistently feel government’s presence in their lives. Until they return including the re-integration program.

Kayo, mga industry representatives, you know the ins and outs of overseas employment. And I am glad that we are here today upon your recommendation. I hope this summit gives you and all stakeholders in overseas employment, as mentioned earlier in the speech, a fresh start in building strong partnerships. Pero hindi lang kayo, hindi lang ‘yung gobyerno, hindi lang ‘yung ofws mismo, hindi lang ‘yung NGOs, dapat kasama rin ‘yung mga anak ng mga OFW. Because the children of ofws have emotional trauma that should be of great concern to all sectors. Ito rin ang hinihingi ko sa inyo.

Nung aking first term si Pat nag-organize ng mga pamilya ng OFW. Sana sa inyong tripartite council makakagawa din kayo ng mga paraan to be able to reach out to the children of these OFWs.

This fresh start is appropriate and ominous, tough times are ahead at home and abroad. So, let's take this opportunity to close ranks to build a brighter future for our people.

Maraming salamat. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Overseas Employment Summit 2004. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133357/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5687&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st Anniversary of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st Anniversary of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, July 12, 2004]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Reyes and welcome to DILG on your first day of work as DILG Secretary.

His Eminence Cardinal Vidal. Thank you so much for your contribution to the anti-drug campaign in addition to your many contributions to the improvement of Philippine society.

General Ebdane, Chief PNP; General Aglipay, Commander of the Special Task Force against Drugs. Men and women of the Philippine National Police, awardees of different plaques of merits and recognition, government officials, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Pati na rin ‘yung mga, ating mga elected officials especially our vice mayors.

Taos-puso kong binabati ang Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force sa pagdiriwang ng inyong unang anibersaryo at ang ating awardees ngayong araw sa pangunguna ng ating minamahal na Cardinal, His Eminence Cardinal Vidal. Hindi matatawaran ang inyong dedikasyon sa pagganap ng inyong tungkulin na nagbunga ng maraming tagumpay sa napakaikling panahon.

We saw in the presentation of General Aglipay your outstanding accomplishments. Well, I’m want to repeat all of them but just to point out how successful you were in taking down 239 local drug groups since last year. Congratulations for a job well done. Along with these, big manufacturers and distributors have been put out of business. Victims have been rehabilitated. And all these, within the rule of law. The rule of law is indispensable to our fight for change. And I’m glad to be able to come here and face you today with the fresh mandate and the will to confront all crimes and forces that threaten our political and economic security.

We have brought together critical government agencies at all levels to do the job. The interlocking web of drug syndicates cannot withstand your resolve.

The theme of your anniversary, “Ang bayang iwas droga, bida sa matatag nga republika,” points the way indeed to a drug-free Philippines in the year 2010. I instruct you gentlemen and ladies of the task force optimize your consolidated capacity, exploit all opportunities, go beyond traditional approaches but all is within legal bounds, and pursue seamless operations. With what you are doing, let us aim that drug syndicates will live in an environment of zero tolerance. Not only within the Philippines but also internationally, we will secure our shores and borders against the entry of illegal drugs not only by direct interception at sea and in the airports, but by strengthening the vigilance of our local government units.

We must work together with the LGUs and I’m glad to have the vice mayors of Metro Manila here, we must work together to strike at the source of illegal drugs, not only in our localities but also in other parts of the world. We must work together therefore with our friends in China and India. We must also enable, through close operational liaison,

to carry out our agreements with Myanmar, Laos and Iran against the illicit traffic in drugs. And I'm glad that you have elicited the support of the NGOs civil society. We will sustain our partnership with civil society in drug abuse, prevention, education and rehabilitation.

Because though driven deep underground, drug laboratories, clandestine laboratories and chemical warehouses continue still to mix the deadly brew, drug dealers and pushers continue still to ply the deadly trade. And we want to have a moral society, we must address this. It is immoral for any society to stand by while the agents of ruin terrorize our youth, undermine our political stability and jeopardize the social order. The root causes of illegal drugs are well known — poverty and corruption — corruption both public and private — as well as other socio-economic dislocations and dysfunctions that rend social cohesion and family life.

In this light, therefore, relevant to our drug campaign is the pro poor agenda that I have pledged to lift up our poorest and provide them with dignity and hope which are the best antidotes to drug abuse.

When I was vice president of the Philippines, I couldn't help but sympathize and feel so sorry for the little streetchildren who were all sniffing the rugby. And I asked them why are you doing that, because they said, one peso worth of rugby can kill the hunger the one peso or more or ten pesos worth of, or twenty pesos worth of a sandwich can do which they cannot afford. It's also important for our youth that they learn again the values that they need to learn nor to live life as adults. I have found out in my going around the country and putting up daycare centers, etcetera that we no longer have religious instruction in schools. When I was in high school, I used to teach religion, catechism to the grade school children. But now that system is gone supposedly in the name of the separation of church and state. I don't think that's the meaning of the separation of church and state.

And that is why, I would like to instruct our department of education to allow NGOs of various religions to teach values formation once again in our public schools.

To all of you, ladies and gentlemen of the task force, you have my full support and I shall continue to drive the momentum you have created.

Congratulations! Salamat at mabuhay! Thank you.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 1st Anniversary of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133350/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5686&Itemid=38

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Fourth State of the Nation Address, July 26, 2004

**Fourth State of the Nation Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening of the 1st Regular Session of the 13th Congress**

[Delivered at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City, on July 26, 2004]

Thank you Speaker De Venecia; Vice President Noli de Castro; President Fidel Ramos; Senate President Drilon; Chief Justice Davide and the Justices of the Supreme Court; honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives; His Excellency Archbishop Franco and the excellencies of the diplomatic corps; members of the Cabinet; commanders of the Armed Forces; officers and members of the Philippine National Police; fellow workers in government; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Angelo de la Cruz is home.

We did it! Congratulations to the Filipino people. [*Applause*]

Samakatuwid, ipabatid sa lahat, mula sa pook at panahong ito, sa bawat Pilipino, saan man naroroon...

You have a government—indeed, you have a country—that cares. Your life is held more dearly than international acclaim. [*Applause*] And you have a President who is your friend. [*Applause*]

Why was Angelo de la Cruz saved? Because I stuck to my oath. Since I first became President in 2001, my declared foreign policy focus has been to protect the vital interests of the nation, including our 8 million overseas Filipinos.

And I cannot apologize for being a protector of my people. [*Applause*]

The difference of a few weeks, for a pullout already decided on, could not justify sacrifice of a human life.

Sacrificing Angelo de la Cruz would have been a pointless provocation; it would have put the lives of a million and a half Filipinos in the Middle East at risk, by making them part of the war.

Wars are for combatants. As I speak soldiers are being held hostage by communist insurgents, but they don't expect to be released except by the compassion of their captors or a military operation.

We have been fighting the longest-running communist insurgency in history. We have been coming to grips with fundamentalist terrorism long before 9/11.

As the leader of the nation, I say in behalf of the Filipino people to the world: We are strong and principled believers in democracy. Four generations of fighting Filipinos have ceaselessly struggled against totalitarians and terrorists for our freedom, for the freedom of our people and the people of the world.

We have fought the enemy, and taken as good as we gave—not from a safe distance but in close quarters. Bataan and Corregidor, Korea and Vietnam, East Timor, Kosovo, Liberia, to name a few.

When I opted to save Angelo de la Cruz, I was reflecting whether one life should be sacrificed for no pressing reason or saved by accelerating an ongoing pullout.

I did not sacrifice policy to save a human life. I applied policy for that purpose. *[Applause]* The Philippines has no policy that demands sacrifice of human lives.

Ask yourselves this: If Angelo de la Cruz had been sacrificed, what would change for the better in Iraq today?

Having saved one Filipino from a painful and pointless death, we must seize the unity we attained to improve our government and save our economy. *[Applause]*

Pinapangako ko ang isang bagong direksyon: mamamayan muna. Ang taong bayan ang pinakamalaki nating yaman. Ngunit madalas, kaunti lang ang atensyon na binibigay sa kanilang pag-unlad. Di tuloy matawid ang agwat ng mayaman at mahirap. Di tuloy mapa-abot sa lahat ang biyaya ng demokrasya.

I want to create economic opportunity at home and abroad. I don't want just one or the other. I want both.

But it can only be done with focus, with energy, and with a common purpose to do that which still lies within our power: put our economic house back in working order *[applause]* before it finds itself beyond hope of repair and doomed to share the fate of failed nations.

We made a head start in the last three years; we must take bolder steps forward in the next six.

Inflation is under control. The ordinary housewife has been buying her rice and fish at stable prices.

New investments, foreign and, better yet, domestic, were made. Three million more of our people found jobs in the last three years compared to half a million in the three years before that.

Malaki ang pag-unlad sa pangunahing pangangailangan—malinis na tubig, health insurance, tirahan, paaralan, aklat.

We beat down crime, we are breaking up the drug and kidnapping syndicates, we are mopping up the stragglers. The people are safer in the streets, in their homes, and in their places of work.

Every government in the world is at war with its own corruption; we have made lifestyle checks a lethal weapon, and adopted procurement reforms to take the fight forward.

Thanks to many of you, I emerged from the last election with more votes than any previous president. *[Applause]*

As a further sign of the people's overwhelming support, they gave me a huge majority in Congress, and a huge majority among the local governments.

This is a new day, with a new direction, and a renewed confidence in what we can achieve together.

I am determined to prove that this tremendous show of faith and confidence is well deserved.

The season of bitter partisanship is over; the season of service is upon us all—majority, minority, opposition, administration.

In my inaugural address, I laid down a 10-point agenda for the next six years—not utopia but something practical we can achieve and accomplish on time.

What I did promise was that my term would be the irreversible turning point.

Ipinangangako ko—iiwanan na natin ang ligalig at alinlangan.

At the end of my term, the question will not longer be whether we can compete but where else in the world shall we take an indisputable competitive advantage.

The next six years, we hope, is when we finally get things right.

Is there something about that goal we cannot all agree on? Is there a reason we cannot all work together?

All that's needed is to clear away a couple of obstacles, as I intend to do with five key reform packages: (1) job creation through economic growth; (2) anticorruption through good government; (3) social justice and basic needs; (4) education and youth opportunity; and (5) energy independence and savings.

Tough decisions will have to be made. It's going to be tough love from hereon. It must be tougher on those who've had it easy than on those who've had it tough already.

Humarap din sa problema ang mga karatig bansa.

Ang kanilang sikreto'y pagkakaisa ng mamamayan, suporta sa liderato, at sakripisyo ng bawat isa.

We must bear the pain and share the pain to enjoy the gain together.

Those with more must sacrifice more; those with less are already living lives of self-sacrifice.

Maraming magsasabi: matagal na silang nagsasakripisyo. Ngunit hinihingi ko sa inyo: konti pang sakripisyo.

We must wait with patience for the reforms to work. In the meantime, we must work more productively because world competition is keen and we want the jobs not only to come, but to stay.

Our most urgent problem is the budget deficit. Sometimes it's unavoidable; but chronic deficits are always bad.

Sometimes stamping out deficits too vigorously can slow down growth. But ignoring them can kill the economy. It sends the wrong signal that we don't understand our fiscal predicament and will not help ourselves. This will drive away investments, exacerbate the deficit, and hurt job growth.

Chronic deficits drastically reduce government's ability to make those infrastructure investments that business needs to grow and create jobs.

Chronic deficits mean undertaking less social services that private charity will never provide but without which social war is inevitable. This is a surefire formula for national failure.

So, we must raise revenues, expand government services, yet cut costs—all at the same time. It boils down to right priorities.

The beauty of the fiscal problem is that all the solutions are known, though applying the right ones is tricky.

All the solutions require: toughness on the part of government, cooperation on the part of business, patience on the part of our people, and active support on the part of Congress.

All the solutions require profound, even personal, changes. Politicians will need to focus on the job at hand rather than on their prospect of re-election.

The worst offender yet the hardest to pin down is corporate corruption. Businessmen must adopt an attitude of tax acceptance not tax avoidance. They must stop trying to outrun the tax collector. They must recognize that only a

fiscally stronger government can create a more congenial business environment: [applause] greater security, better infrastructure, cheaper credit, more business.

My administration will undertake reforms to raise or save P100 billion. [Applause] I ask Congress to pass eight revenue measures that will collect P80 billion more.

Alam kong maaasahan ko ang mga mambabatas upang burahin ang deficit, upang ituloy ang magandang trabaho, at upang itaguyod ang saligan ng matapat na gobyerno at malakas na ekonomiya.

Investments in infrastructure and energy provide the greatest multiplier effect for growth and job creation. ‘Pag maganda ang imprastraktura gaya ng kalsada, tulay, pantalan, telepono, kuryente, maraming mamumuhunan. Maraming magkakaroon ng trabaho.

We must achieve sufficient, efficient, cheap energy in the near term. We must be sure to have the capacity to meet the demands of a growing economy, so as not to choke off growth when it comes, and thereby lose the opportunities that may not come again.

To this end, NAPOCOR power-generating plants and transmission lines must be privatized but not in a fire sale. [Applause] Delivering electricity to virtually an entire country as big as ours cannot possibly be worth nothing but the trouble of running it.

NAPOCOR’s transmission systems will be sold on terms that recognize the lucrative monopoly of its transmission grid. I ask Congress to pass the Transco bill that already passed the House in the 12th Congress. [Applause]

Our investments in social justice and basic needs are as vital to our future as fiscal and macroeconomic reforms. A nation deeply divided will not stand. And it certainly will not move forward.

Our nation is divided by social and economic faultlines. The tectonic plates may shift with unthinkable consequences.

Some say that is it cheaper to die than to get well from an illness, that it is impossible to find clean water in this rainfall country, that in this modern day and age, part of the country still sits in darkness. This is a terrible waste and a terrible shame.

Kaya ang aking agenda para sa maralita ay hanapbuhay; reporma sa lupa; tubig, gamot, at kuryente; pagtatanggol at kapangyarihan para sa mahina.

In fact, we will now be able to bring clean water to the entire country because during my previous term, you, Congress finally passed the Clean Water Act; because in my first days as president in 2001 I signed the Solid Waste Act—thank you also for giving me that opportunity—and because we are reforesting our watersheds.

The place to start now is livelihood, for 10 million Filipinos.

The growing industrial, service, and microenterprise sectors will take care of some, a thriving agribusiness sector will keep more in the countryside rather than burdening a Metro Manila that is already cracking under the weight of overpopulation.

Land reform covers agrarian reform, urban land reform, and ancestral domain land reform. I ask Congress to qualify farmland as bank collateral and reform the system of urban land titles.

Ang kapangyarihan ng taong bayan ay puso ng demokrasya. Dapat kasama sila sa paghugis ng kanilang kapalaran.

Dadalhin ko ang aking mga reporma sa taong bayan. Ako'y magpapaliwanag, ako'y makikinig.

I have shown that government does care even for a single Filipino life. Now we must show that we care for the rest of the Filipino people, especially the weakest among us. *[Applause]*

To adapt the words of Adam Smith to the information age, "The greatest improvement in the productive powers of labor seems to have been the effects of a modern education."

Economies have exhausted the possibilities of the division of labor; the way further forward now is a better-educated, more adaptable workforce.

We need to start early. And we need to maintain the highest educational standards. I ask Congress to legislate an extra year of studies not by adding a fifth year of high school but by standardizing what is taught in the barangay day care centers. *[Applause]*

To expand youth opportunity, we need to focus on technical and vocational education; on strengthening English, Science and Technology, and love of country. *[Applause]* As I said in my inaugural: It is not free markets but patriotism that makes countries strong. *[Applause]*

There is a sense in which as a society we have failed the youth in their formative years, in growing up normally and productively, in getting a good education, in learning the habits of honesty and citizenship and civic discipline.

I ask the educational system, the parents, the church, and pillars of the community to help shape a new culture of honesty, patriotism, respect, discipline, and service for young Filipinos. *[Applause]*

The roof cannot collapse when the value pillars of government and society are sound and strong.

I fervently support the judicial reforms being carried out by our Supreme Court. *[Applause]*

I ask Congress for a law making the ombudsman's function as effective as Hong Kong's independent commission against corruption. *[Applause]*

Bureaucratic corruption with its numerous leakages is bad. So is government incompetence. Unlike in the private sector, where the free market punishes mistakes, government incompetence punishes only the public.

We have to tear away layers of inefficiency piled on by decades of political accommodation: redundancy in the national service, waste in local governments, and pointless procedures for getting done what isn't needed anyway to secure the public welfare. Just how does paying off the health inspector banish bacteria from a dirty kitchen? *[Applause]*

By definition, public services are what the private sector will not do except for a price the public cannot pay.

Where the private sector can do it better and cheaper, government may have to step aside. *[Applause]* But the watchwords are better and cheaper. Where privatization only spells public pillage, government will continue to do the work. *[Applause]*

But that's no reason to spare public services from the test of competitive performance.

We will simplify procedures to eliminate fixers.

We will downsize the government, motivate excess employees to become entrepreneurs, and increase the pay of a lean and mean bureaucracy. *[Applause]*

I have abolished 80 offices under the Office of the President. I will abolish 30 more.

I ask Congress to pass a law on government reengineering, with silver parachutes for redundant offices.

Once we have proved to our people that we have done what we can within the present structure of government, we can move on to changing the system to one that enhances our freedom and flexibility to do more.

I expect that next year, Congress will start considering the resolutions for charter change. *[Applause]*

No one has a monopoly on right ideas. I am reaching out to all segments of society and all parties, be they with me or against me, to join me in those things that should be everyone's concern because they rise above politics to the level of patriotism. *[Applause]*

I do not want a honeymoon period after which we can forget the country and go after each other again. I want a marriage not of convenience but of conviction, across the spectrum of parties and groups, encompassing the range of intelligent political, religious, and economic views. *[Applause]* I want a marriage for at least the life of this Congress. *[Applause]*

I do not ask for unprincipled support because it will not hold.

I do ask for an end to unprincipled obstructionism because that always succeeds in defeating our best efforts. *[Applause]*

Tunay nga na kahirapan at kawalan ng katarungan ang sagabal sa ating pag-unlad. Ngunit ang mga nagsusulsol sa mahihirap para manggulo ang sumisira sa ating kinabukasan. *[Applause]*

So this must stop.

We must put a stop to that.

Every year, every President tells Congress that it is the last chance for meaningful change.

This time I will say it again, adding only that past presidents were right. And that each time change doesn't happen, makes change harder and less likely to happen the next time around.

The time for change is well past due.

This time, let me say, let's just do it!

Mabuhay ang Pilipino!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. *[Applause]* *[Standing ovation]*

Mabuhay ang Pilipino! Mabuhay!

Speech of President Arroyo during the Joint Business Meeting (Pre-SONA Gathering)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During during the Joint Business Meeting (Pre-SONA Gathering)**

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-la Manila, Makati City, July 22, 2004]

Thank you, Secretary Purisima.

President Ramos, Cabinet members, members of Congress, movers and shakers of the Philippine business community, friends from the international community, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you for joining this Pre-State of the Nation Address gathering.

Sometime ago, Noemi Saludo sent me letter that the business organizations wanted to host a victory party for me. I sent word to her, I am not holding any victory parties. I did not even hold an inaugural ball. I don't want to hit the ground dancing, I want to hit the ground running, and I want you to run with me.

So, instead of a victory party organized by the business community, I asked for this pre-SONA gathering.

I'm here to underscore the notion that the economy must be pulled by the twin horses of market power and political leadership, and it's not a matter of which comes first.

In this last election where many of you supported me — and I'm very grateful for that — I campaigned on a platform of change. So, when you voted for me you voted for change, and change we will have. Change in our economic system. Change in our social structure. Change in our priorities.

I ran on a platform of economic experience, political reform and a commitment to make the investments needed to raise our poor into a new middle-class.

I've been focused this past weeks on developing a comprehensive set of economic proposals that will cut waste, raise revenue and invest in the economy.

With the State of the Nation Address just a few days away, I wanted you, the business leaders, our partners to have a preview of my economic plans, many of which require legislative action.

I'm glad to see that we have two eminent members of the legislature here today. Our number one Senator Mar Roxas, and I see Jesli Lapus' name here so I hope he is somewhere here in the audience.

In any case, at no time in history has passage of legislation and enactment of reform been more vital to the Philippines. Congress I believe has a huge stake in the economic success of the nation. And so do you, of course, the business community.

In the State of the Nation Address, I will lay out a broad agenda of change that will tackle the issues of poverty, corruption, social justice and economic reform. These are issues I championed as a candidate, these are issues I will fight to enact now that I have been elected president.

The agenda will be organized around five reform packages: the job creation and economic growth package; the anti-corruption and good governance package; the social justice and basic needs package; the education improvement and youth opportunity package; and the energy independence and savings package.

Yesterday, at a meeting of public school educators, I introduced my education improvement and youth opportunity package.

Today, I'm here to introduce the job creation and economic growth package. This package of measures when fully implemented will be the most ambitious economic reform agenda in a generation.

The package is driven by a desire to jumpstart the economy and generate sustainable momentum for faster growth. But it will require sacrifice from all to achieve success for all.

It will require painful choices in insisting on the highest performance from government officials but it will also call on the wealthy to pay more taxes. And it will demand the resolve of the nation to tighten our belts as we invest in vital infrastructure necessary to create a stronger nation today and for generations to come.

This package of legislation is just the beginning of a full legislative and public interest consultation process I aim to undertake in the weeks ahead. I do not have a lock on good ideas, and remain completely open to congress, members of the business community and our citizens to have a say in the legislation as it develops.

But let me also be clear: while the consultative process is wide open, it is not open-ended. We must and we will move quickly to involve the best minds and ideas from K-4 and our opposition, to build a package that will move the nation forward but I will not allow in-fighting to derail legislation for the sake of scoring political points.

Everyone is for economic reform until the details are revealed. But let me be clear when I say that we are no longer at a point where we can step back from our responsibility and say "the package is not perfect." It is time to bite the bullet and take fundamental action on the economy. We cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good. We cannot keep composing a masterpiece that can never be played because it was not a perfect masterpiece. We have to move with what we have very, very quickly.

Now, quite simply, our macro-economic policies will be directed at achieving a balanced budget in 6 years; reducing the consolidated public sector deficit to 3% of GDP, also in 6 years; develop a self-sufficient power sector; create a strong, and stable financial and banking sector; and, promote and generate greater investments, entrepreneurship and trade.

My economic team, who are here today, and I believe that we can do these by focusing on programs that address the following economic imperatives:

- sustaining macro-economic stability
- restructuring and reforming the power sector
- restructuring and reforming the financial sector
- increasing infrastructure , investments, exports and employment.

These imperatives have been drawn to address the core of the diseases that have been plaguing the Philippine economy for generations and threaten to pull our country back into recession, if ignored. The imperatives are directed at eliminating the root causes of our slow economic progress.

In 2003, our GDP was 4.5%; our GNP, about 5%. And we can achieve a 5% GDP growth this year, that is, if we are successful in getting congressional, business and public support for our economic reform agenda. And hopefully, move into a stage where we can achieve 7% for 7 years because that is what will bring us sustainable growth.

Because higher economic growth numbers are achievable and coupled with a reformed investment climate, they will create jobs, attract investors and enable us to meet the goals of my economic development and pro-poor empowerment agenda.

The job creation package addresses one of our most formidable challenges, which is consolidating our government budget. It comprises a set of revenue generation and spending reduction initiatives, both legislative and administrative, that will enable the government to eventually balance its budget and reduce the drain on government finances.

I am asking Congress, as a first iteration in our joint fashioning of our economic agenda, to consider 8 tax measures designed to increase revenues by broadening the tax base and improving collection efficiency. They include:

- A gross income tax system;
- the repeal of the VAT to be replaced by a tax that is simpler to administer and increases compliance;
- a tax on windfall telecom's income;
- increasing tax revenues from sin products and from petroleum products;
- rationalization of fiscal incentives;
- the use of a targeted tax amnesty;
- and the creation of a performance-driven system for revenue agencies.

The administrative actions in this package, on the other hand, are designed to maximize the efficient utilization of the nation's resources, reduce costs, increase specific fees, charges and the duty on petroleum products, and capturing more of the revenue potential of selected government-owned and controlled corporations.

We are targeting measures that can generate additional annual revenues of over 80 billion pesos and administrative reforms to generate savings of over a hundred billion pesos.

As we continue to achieve our fiscal objectives, we aim to create a strong momentum in fostering business confidence, the cornerstone of domestic and foreign investments; and consequently, in generating more jobs for the Filipino worker.

Another integral part of the package, therefore, is to heighten our promotional efforts for trade and investments. And just as important, begin to develop infrastructure through a program coordinated by my team at the Department of Trade and Industry. That initiative is a resourceful innovative approach to managing government resources. We aim to fast track the implementation and approval of ongoing or pipeline infrastructure projects through a new Philippine infrastructure corporation.

By accelerating our infrastructure projects, we achieve three important economic goals: the first is providing vital infrastructure that will open up the arteries of new economic activities in areas outside of metro manila; second, is pump priming the economy through job creation and growth generation in the high-multiplier sectors of construction especially housing, agribusiness and mining; and third, is raising the revenue base of the government.

We want to revitalize the mining sector by enhancing the industry road map, streamlining its start-up process, privatizing government assets in mining, and by intensifying oil and gas exploration.

We also have the goal of positioning the Philippines, particularly Subic and Clark, as the best transport and logistics hub in the region. Distinct advantages that make the Philippines uniquely positioned to flourish quickly in this area are well-known to you but unfortunately not yet to the rest of the world. They include: the country's location at the heart of Asia, the availability of young and skilled personnel, excellent airport and related facilities, and eventually, modern port facilities. We are also fortunate to have the three largest air cargo operators, UPS, FedEx and DHL using the Philippines as their regional hub.

I'm instructing DTI Secretary Purisima also to institutionalize public-private sector partnerships to help us meet our employment and income targets. It will be private sector-driven and government-enabled. We must work together to develop real strategies to unlock the tremendous advantages we have. For instance, in health care services, I.T. services including BPO, as well as logistics and distribution.

I mentioned health care services. Health care services for non-residents is a perfect example of an industry that can and should flourish in our nation. In Thailand, "medical tourism" is already a 600 million-dollar industry. Given our rich base of qualified health professionals and ideal settings such as Subic and Clark, located a short distance from most Asian capitals, we could be in the forefront of a billion dollar industry within a few years.

While we address the requirement for large projects, we also want to mobilize capital at the grassroots level by continuing to promote entrepreneurship and the development of small and medium-scale enterprises. This is central to our struggling working class, who have the entrepreneurial zeal but who need a boost to move into the middle-class. By focusing on this activity, we aim to generate one to two additional jobs per enterprise per year. Mind you, there are currently over 800,000 SMEs scattered all over the country. As such, resources and efforts directed to enlarge them and the micro-enterprises will certainly make a meaningful impact on the economy.

We are also fast tracking the promotion of trade agreements to set the stage for a more competitive Philippines in the external sector. We aim to conclude the Japan-Philippine economic partnership agreement, the Asean pip, and the Asean-China agreements by next year.

In the weeks ahead, I will be introducing other packages to address the remaining economic and social policy imperatives that we must tackle. These packages will comprehensively address the fundamental issues that need to be fixed in a manner that is direct and resolute.

They will include restructuring and reforming the financial sector, promoting social justice and provision of basic needs, and restructuring and reforming the power sector. They will also address the importance of anti-corruption and transparency.

On that last note, let me be clear: economic reform must be accompanied by stringent reforms to force corruption out of the system. It doesn't make economic sense to cut cost and raise revenue if corruption continues unabated. I believe we've made a good start, and my new package as will all my economic reform packages, will address even deeper issues that are necessary to slay the dragon of corruption.

In conclusion, I need your support if we are to get the legislative actions included in these packages passed by Congress. And I also need your support to ensure that the Philippine and international business communities truly understand that these are serious reform measures designed to meet the very serious challenges confronting the economy.

Once the packages have been introduced in Congress, I will be taking our campaign to the people to get their help in promoting early passage of those measures. We hope that we will be able to count on your unwavering support in that process.

I fully intend to use my new mandate to promote the change demanded by the voters. I believe that mandate can create a new economic environment in the Philippines and ensure that all Filipinos are able to enjoy a better quality of life.

You, in this room, in this hall, are the principal leaders of our business community and your view are, therefore, important to a government concerned with building confidence for its partners in its nation building. We are also well aware that confidence emanates from a sound regulatory environment and a vibrant, dynamic economy.

We do not have the luxury of time. We must move forward by making the tough choices, or slip backwards into mediocrity.

I am very hopeful and optimistic that we will unite around social and economic reform once and for all, and make the Philippines the nation we all know it can be.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Joint Business Meeting (Pre-SONA Gathering). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133337/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5684&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Foundation Day 2004

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Foundation Day 2004**

[Delivered at the DFA Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, July 23, 2004]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Albert. And thank you to the whole DFA team for your excellent handling of the Angelo De la Cruz hostage crisis. Our Iraq team, the undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, all the officers and staff of the department, ladies and gentlemen:

Happy anniversary! Indeed, it's a happy anniversary, isn't it?

And it's appropriate that we hold your foundation day on the birth anniversary of Apolinario Mabini. As we all know, he was the conscience of the revolution at a time of great decisions for the future of the Philippine republic. We remember him today as the political mind that help shape the directions of a nascent nation at a time of historic change.

A time of historic change, much like our foreign relations today are immersed in the shifting tides of a challenging world. Much like the challenges that demand sacrifice and courage among Filipino statesmen and leaders of this millennium.

Apolinario Mabini was considered the brains of the revolution that's why he became the secretary of foreign affairs. It requires the best brains in the country. And you, the DFA personnel have in fact time and again over my last three years as president, over the last three weeks, and even during the previous times when I was not yet president that I interacted with you, you have shown, indeed, that you have among the best brains in the country. Congratulations to all of you!

Of course, I couldn't expect you to campaign for me but let me thank those who voted for me in the last elections.

I was elected to protect the interest of the Philippines. And as I declared way back in January 2001 when I first became president, and many of you were in that audience, my foreign policy consists in protecting the interest of the Philippines by responding to eight realities in the global and regional environment. Let us take the opportunity today to update ourselves on those eight realities that shape our foreign policy.

The first reality is that China, Japan and the United States have a determining influence in the security situation and economic evolution of East Asia. I wont talk much about China and Japan today, some other time, but today I'll talk about the third powering East Asia — the United States.

By virtue of its dominant military and economic power, the United States will continue to be an important factor in the affairs of the region and of the nation. Moreover, the Philippines has had enduring historical, cultural and economic ties with the United States.

The last three years in particular saw a close partnership between the Philippines and the United States. I'm pleased that the Philippines and the U.S. embarked on broad security cooperation to address the issues of terrorism, illegal narcotics trade, human trafficking and other transnational crimes. Despite the domestic problems that it sometimes causes, the security alliance with the United States is on the average a strategic asset for the Philippines.

The second reality that shapes our foreign policy is that more and more Philippine foreign policy decisions have to be made in the context of Asean.

Third, the international Islamic community will become more and more important to the Philippines. We saw that in this crisis when we could turn to friends from Syria, from Bahrain, from the U.A.E. to help us through.

Fourth, the coming years will see the redefinition of the role of multilateral and inter-regional organizations in promoting common interests. Organizations like the U.N., the WTO, APEC, ASEM, ASEAN.

Fifth, the defense of the nation's sovereignty, the protection of its environment and natural resources can be carried out only to the extent that we get others to respect our rights over our maritime territory.

Sixth, the country's economic growth will continue to require direct foreign investment.

Seventh, a country like the Philippines can benefit most quickly from international tourism.

And eighth, Filipino overseas will continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability.

The Philippine economy for the foreseeable future will continue to be dependent to a very large extent, at least 8 billion dollars on overseas worker remittances. On the basis of their contribution but even aside from that, on the basis of our nation's humanitarian responsibility to our people wherever they are, our government works doubly hard to strengthen our overseas workers' protection — protection from the deprivations of domestic recruiters as well as of overseas employers, agents and officials, and protection from physical harm.

In response to these eight realities, abroad my focus has been to protect the vital interest of the nation, including our eight million overseas Filipinos. Our government deeply cares for our Filipinos overseas and their families and will do all it can to keep them from harm.

Therefore, on this score, on this day that we have dedicated not only to Apolinario Mabini, not only to the founding of the Foreign Affairs, but on this day for this year thanksgiving for the safe return of Angelo de la Cruz. I would like to address two global realities — the reality of the United States and the reality of overseas Filipinos — as an issue of foreign policy that I know is on the minds of people in the Philippines and around the world. The issue of our recent actions in Iraq to free one of our countrymen from the hands of kidnappers.

The Philippines has felt the pain of terrorism in our country for too many years. Ambassador Cimatú knows that. He once fought those terrorists in our southern Philippines in my behalf. And the people who are most often terrorized are the poorest among us.

I committed our nation to join the fight against global terrorism that erupted as a result of the 9/11 tragedy in the United States. Together with all countries of the United Nations in accordance with the U.N. Security Council Resolution, I did so with the full support of the Filipino people, knowing our people's sense of outrage and sense of justice.

My commitment and the commitment of the Philippines does not waver in the face of terrorism at home or abroad. We fully support the world community and our allies including the United States in our coordinated fight.

Our fight has been successful. Recent captures of terrorists in our shores have continued to decimate their underground cells. And they know their days are numbered, because we will be coming after them every day I am in this office until the last one is driven from our islands and we return to peace, order and stability.

Now, concerning Iraq. You know very well that we committed a small humanitarian and peacekeeping force of originally a 100 persons in Iraq to help in its post-war reconstruction. I'm proud of the work we've done and the courage and determination displayed by our troops and workers there.

But proud as I am of the work they have done, neither do I regret having our contingent come home a few days early to protect our broader interest including the life of Angelo Dela Cruz.

Once the transfer of sovereignty in Iraq was completed last June 28, the mission of our remaining 43-man contingent — not 51 but 43 — was done. They were ready for home when the hostage incident interrupted their departure.

And, after all is said and done, I trust that our allies will come to understand that the Philippines is in a special circumstance. Unlike the U.S., Australia, Bulgaria and other countries, we have 1.5 million Filipinos who live and work in the Middle East and 4,000 are working in Iraq today. This is the largest contingent of private foreign workers in Iraq. These workers are driving trucks, building bridges, providing medical treatment and other vital services to Iraqis in need. The life and livelihood of these courageous OFWs is hazardous enough without the threat of being held as a political pawn in some terrorists chess game.

Arguably, the 4,000 private workers are more valuable to Iraq than the 100 and then the 51 and the 43 peacekeepers, notwithstanding the fine work our troops performed in Iraq. I took that into consideration.

Truck drivers and construction workers are highly vulnerable to terrorist attacks. In contrast, combat troops of other coalition members are by definition not as vulnerable. Our people, our OFWs are vulnerable.

That vulnerability, that threat has now been relieved as a result of anyway previously authorized departure of our Philippine troops. And while we are thankful for the release of Angelo, we must unite around our resolve to wipe out terrorism especially in the Philippines but also in accordance with the international commitments especially under the United Nations and our alliances with our friends abroad. And I have braced the Filipino people for the prospect that we may not always have such a happy ending when it comes to terrorist situations.

To put out of harm's way some 4,000 OFWs in Iraq, we have made representations with the camp commanders, with the coalition camp commanders to enhance security measures for civilian workers inside their bases. We have also advised our workers to stay inside the protection of the camp's they're working in, exercise vigilance and keep in mind emergency procedures. And most importantly, we would continue not to allow deployment of Filipino workers in Iraq outside secured and established bases such as truck drivers, hotel and household staff, workers in oil refineries, power plants and other infrastructures.

Secretary Albert has also issued directives to all our missions bordering Iraq to request their respective host governments not to allow Filipino truck drivers to cross into Iraq from their borders.

Notwithstanding all these, because there are many ways to show our commitment, our Filipino people and our nation remain committed to our friends and allies abroad while remaining true to our convictions here at home. We share the same goal but do not always walk on the same path.

And let me set the record straight on exaggerated claims by critics and in the media that there is a break in our strategic partnership with the United States — that is not the case.

The Philippines and the United States have century's-old bonds, tightened by a common political tradition, by world wars fought together, by tens of thousands of brave soldiers dying in the battlefield of freedom. That is a relationship between two peoples. No president can break that bond because it is held together by a permanent history. Our partnership for a better world is stronger than ever.

Here in the Philippines, I enjoy a cordial and direct relationship with Ambassador Ricciardone and value his role in helping the Philippines. The same is true with our relations with the Bush administration. Therefore, I want to emphasize that our Philippine foreign policy has not changed. It is shaped, it has been shaped, it will be shaped and driven by the supreme interest of the Filipino people.

The Filipino people, the average Filipino people, average people like the family of Angelo de la Cruz — eight kids and a wife — who have to let go of a father and husband to drive for a transnational company halfway around the globe across firefights and trenches.

That we have to bring Angelo home safely is only incidental to my message to his kin and all others in the same grim situation. I have to look them in the eye and tell them I will fight for their better future.

This is not a tale about politics. It is about human survival and diaspora, about poverty and families being torn apart, and our will and resolve to bring food to every table.

And as Angelo has come home, i am not about to bare a bleeding heart to defend my position. What I have said to you today, it won't take more than three lines to summarize, and let me say these three lines:

One, I take sole responsibility.

Two, I make no apologies.

Three, I stuck to my oath.

But I could do that because I have you, the brave men and women of the DFA.

So today, I would like to thank all the men and women of the foreign service, those who held the line of duty in Iraq. And I'm glad some of them are here today, especially those who manned their posts during the hostage saga. Oh, there. I should point here also not only there. There were those who braved great danger to complete the mission, and many more others who assisted the overall effort from the sidelines, from here, from this building, from Malacañang throughout the middle east and here at home. I am grateful to you all.

This afternoon I shall hear mass with Angelo in the grotto of our lady of Rosales in Pangasinan. I have sought our lady's intercession many times and once again this time she interceded for a defining decision in my presidency and in my life as a Filipino.

I thank the Lord and the Filipino on this day of prayer and thanksgiving. I thank the Lord that we have a wonderful brave, heroic and excellent Department of Foreign Affairs.

Happy anniversary! And thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Foundation Day 2004. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133330/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5683&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on the Philippine foreign policy

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On the Philippine foreign policy

[Delivered at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, August 6, 2004]

REITERATING RP's FOREIGN POLICY

Tonight, being a night with overseas media, and because we have so many members of the diplomatic corps here tonight, I want to reiterate my foreign policy. I say reiterate because – oh, Ambassador Adam knows this – way back in early 2001 when I first became president of the Philippines, I already said my foreign policy that, and I say it again, that my foreign policy consists in protecting the interest of the Philippines by responding to eight realities in the global and regional environment. The DFA has heard this two times, but of course they have to repeat my foreign policy, so it's good for them to hear it a third time.

The first reality is that the United States, China and Japan have a determining influence in the security situation and economic evolution of East Asia.

The second reality is that more and more, Philippine foreign policy decisions have to be made in the context of ASEAN.

Third, the international Islamic community becomes more and more important to the Philippines.

Fourth, the coming years will see the redefinition of the role of multilateral and inter-regional organizations like WTO in promoting common interests.

Fifth, the defense of the nation's sovereignty and the protection of its environment and natural resources can be carried out to the extent that it gets others to respect its rights over maritime territory.

Number six, the country's economic growth will continue to require a lot of direct foreign investment.

Number seven, a country as beautiful as the Philippines can benefit most quickly from international tourism.

And eighth, our overseas Filipinos will continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability.

Tonight, I want to elaborate on an aspect of that foreign policy that is now hugging the front pages – our relationship with the United States. As I said this is an issue of foreign policy that is frequently on the front pages these days.

For the region as a whole, the United States continues to be an important factor because of its dominant military and economic power. But for the Philippines the importance of the United States is much more than that. Our people's have enduring historical, cultural and economic ties with America personified by the three million Filipinos who live in the United States. No president can break those bonds because they are held together by a permanent history. They are more than a century-old bond, tightened by common political tradition, by world wars fought together, by tens of thousands of brave soldiers who died in the battlefield of freedom.

After 9/11 those bonds became even stronger. I committed our nation to join the fight against global terrorism that erupted as a result of the 9/11 tragedy in the United States. And I did so with the full support of the Filipino people, knowing our people's sense of outrage and sense of justice.

The Filipino people supported me because the Philippines has felt the pain of terrorism in our country for too many years. And the people who are most often terrorized are the poorest among us. Why then did I bring our Filipino troops back home from Iraq? I trust that our allies will come to understand that the Philippines is in a special circumstance unlike the U.S. or Australia or Bulgaria and other countries. Eight million Filipinos live and work abroad – 1.5 million Filipinos live and work in the Middle East 4,000 Filipinos are working in Iraq today.

The special anguish of Flor Contemplacion for our countrymen and the fact that the Philippines gets one-tenth of its GNP from overseas workers indeed is one of the eight realities of our foreign policy. Many of these workers in fact are in the Middle East. So, that resonates throughout our foreign policy.

The Filipinos in Iraq are the largest contingent of private foreign workers. They are driving trucks, building bridges, providing medical treatment and other vital services to Iraqis in need rather than working in a comfortable, air conditioned office indoors.

The life and livelihood of these courageous OFWs is hazardous enough without the threat of being held as a pawn in some terrorists' chess game. Truck drivers and construction workers are highly vulnerable to terrorists' attacks. In contrast, combat troops of other coalition members are by definition not as vulnerable. They're armed, they stay in camps. Our people, our OFWs are vulnerable. I sought to reduce that vulnerability by authorizing the departure for Philippine troops after the turnover of sovereignty to the Iraqi people last June 28th.

The abduction of Angelo de la Cruz merely accelerated the timetable. But the decision had been made beforehand. I've taken responsibility, I've no apologies, I stuck to my oath but let me emphasize that our people and our nation remain committed to our friends and allies abroad even as we remain true to our convictions here at home.

We enjoy a strong relationship with the Bush administration, and we value its role in helping the Philippines. We share the same goal even if we will not always walk on the same path. There are other perhaps even more meaningful ways to strengthen our strategic relationship with the United States. We shall always work to keep the relationship firm in propelling the common commitment to fight terrorism domestically, regionally and worldwide.

My highest priority for our country is economic growth and job creation – that drives our foreign policy. And to achieve economic growth and job creation, we need to come to terms with the Mindanao problem.

The importance of the Philippine fight against terrorism in Mindanao overshadows whatever the country could contribute to a 'Coalition of the Willing' in Iraq itself. Anything distracting our administration from getting its act together for the struggle for Mindanao needs to be put aside. And if our country is divided over the issue of Angelo de la Cruz, we will not be able to effectively address the Mindanao problem. I took that into consideration.

The 4,000 private workers in Iraq are more valuable to Iraq than the 100 peace keepers, notwithstanding the fine work they have performed in Iraq, they are less valuable. One hundred peace keepers are less valuable than 4,000 civilian workers. On the other hand, there is that struggle for Mindanao, that is of the essence. It is one of the most important fronts in the war on terror. It is a substantive war. It is a substantive struggle, not a symbolic one. Even as I speak now, American troops are in joint training with our own troops in Carmen, North Cotabato. They're also conducting medical services among the poorest communities in Mindanao where the recruits of terrorism are bred.

This partnership between the Philippines and the U.S. to share fighting skills and intelligence as well as humanitarian services has been going on for the past two years. Aid from the United States has also spurred livelihood for former rebels of the MNLF. Ambassador Ricciardone has been instrumental in all these endeavors. Thank you, Frank for your passion. I've been witness to that passion. Ambassador Ricciardone grabs the chance to go with me whenever I go to those difficult places in Mindanao. He was with me along with the other Muslim ambassadors in Abubakar. And because my car was right behind his car, I saw his car gets stuck in the mud in a raging storm, in a raging river with the boulders, big, big boulders threatening to come down anytime to crush his car into pieces. But thank God he was able to get out of that river on time. These gestures cement Philippine-American friendship and they push forward our common fight against terror.

In the midst of all these, we're also sharing intelligence and operational information with our allies in Indonesia and Malaysia to curtail the movements of the JI and the Al Qaeda cells in the region. There is worldwide interest in the terrorists enclave suspected to be building up in Southeast Asia. We are not denying its potential, but we are doing our share in destroying it and our gains have been both far-reaching and deep.

We have crippled the Abu Sayyaf, JI cells are falling one by one, and not one man passes that we are able to get one or two of their operatives and capture their deadly explosives.

Yes, we are committed to the war against terrorism and this is neither lip service nor posturing. Filipino soldiers and Filipino civilians have given up their lives beside Americans in this fight. And this fight will last as long as our shared democratic traditions and love for freedom hold.

This fight is true for the Philippines, it is true for the rest of the world.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the 25th Annual General Membership Meeting and Silver Anniversary of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 25th Annual General Membership Meeting and Silver Anniversary of the Philippine Rural
Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA)**

[Delivered at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), Pasay City, August 6, 2004]

Maraming salamat. Maraming salamat, Secretary Vince Perez, President Villena, the first representative of the Electric Cooperatives to the board of NEA; Administrator Bueno from the Career Service; Father Pacquing who continues to advise me on Rural Electrification; Roger Murga, Allan Ortiz, Paul Aquino, Pedrito Bacullo, officers and members of PHILRECA, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, A Happy Silver Anniversary to all of you! Second, to our awardees, especially the Hall of Famers, the most outstanding electric cooperatives and managers, and the most improved cooperatives, congratulations!

Congratulations! Also for winning three seats through APEC. And thank you for supporting me all the way in the last elections. Also for the steady power throughout the elections, thank you. and because we have not had a system-wide blackout in Luzon for the past two years, congratulations! To the Luzon Electric Cooperatives.

Well, as Father Silva recounted, in my last administration, we made a strong start in the power industry. And among things that we've been able to do together was to bring electricity to more barangays than in any other administration. Again, as Father Silva referred to, in my inaugural address, I said that one of the ten points of my legacy will be to bring power to the entire country. Let's do it together.

In my State of the Nation Address last July, I announced five reform packages: economic growth and job creation, anti-corruption through good government, education and youth opportunity, social justice and basic needs, and energy independence and savings. Before the SONA, I explained to a group of public school educator leaders the education and youth opportunity package. And before a group of business leaders, I explained the economic growth and job creation package.

Today, because I'm before the leaders of your industry, I would like to explain our energy independence and savings package.

Gaya nang sabi ni Vince, ni Father Pacquing, isusulong natin ang pagsusuri at pagsasagawa ng reporma sa kuryente, upang masiguro ang sapat at maka-aasang elektrisidad para sa mga pamayanan at industriya. The reform program was initiated in 2001, the first year of my first administration, with the passage of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act after a delay of seven years. Studies from the Asian Development Bank and Financial and Technical Advisers indicate that we will need an additional 6,000 megawatts of generating capacity over the next 10 years, if we are to avoid shortages. It takes three years lead time from planning to construction to operation to establish a power plant. Thus, our power industry needs to act now.

Studies also showed that we will need 400 billion pesos in order to finance these power plants, as well as the supporting transmission and distribution facilities of which you're part. Historically, the main companies providing these power-related assets have been the Napocor for power generation, the Napocor and now the transmission company for power transmission, and Meralco and you the electric coops for power distribution. All these sectors I inherited in 2001 in bad financial shape. So, the challenge was: how can all of these including you finance our future needs?

In my State of the Nation Address last July, I called on our people to be prepared for tough decisions ahead. Yet tough decisions have already been made by our electric cooperatives for the past two years. I thank you for giving the example. I said tough decisions that includes downsizing the bureaucracy. NEA already made the tough decision, from seven hundred, as Father Silva said, to three hundred sixty. So, we have a lean and mean NEA bureaucracy, a model for the others to follow. As for the coop sector itself, AKELCO, BOHECO II, SAMELCO, CASURECO IV, you made the tough decisions and you made a tremendous turnaround. You did it, congratulations!

Now, we have to deal with the rest.

Take the case of Napocor. In the past six years, Napocor has incurred losses of almost a hundred billion pesos and from several decades debts of almost 10 billion dollars. On top of these losses and borrowings, the level of service of Napocor has been complained about, has been unreliable. And in the course of its operations, we have heard accusations of inefficiency and corruption.

The country cannot forever be saddled by Napocor's debts, nor should our people forever be overburdened with the high cost of electricity. That's why we have to reform the power sector. We have to privatize Napocor's transmission and generation assets. That's why I have asked congress — and I hope our three APEC representatives will help us — I've asked Congress for the immediate passage of the Transco Bill to help us plug the public sector deficit.

The PSALM and the DOE will fast-track privatization of at least 70 percent of the generating assets in Luzon and the Visayas by 2005. I would also like to see the opening of at least ten island provinces to private sector participation.

But the first key to privatization is to create an investment climate that is attractive to both domestic and foreign investors. The second key is to create a privatization process that is transparent and free of corruption.

And I'm also asking for more efficiency among you our electric cooperatives. You've already done so much. Now, I ask you, let's go for a single-digit systems loss percentage by 2010 to make our cooperatives globally competitive. And I know you can do it.

We need a reform package industrywide of energy savings and independence because we've always been dependent on imported energy and therefore vulnerable to the vagaries of global politics and economics, particularly events bearing on oil supply such as war, terrorism and currency fluctuations. We should not be held hostage to these conditions.

I'm, therefore, setting the policy directions and announcing them today towards our goal of energy independence and savings:

First, we need to increase our reserves of indigenous oil and gas. We must develop and actively promote oil and gas exploration.

The PNOC will search for indigenous energy resources. The PNOC-EDC Geothermal Company will ally with the private sector to become a regional geothermal player. And not only that, not only the region, we aim to become the number one producer of geothermal energy in the whole world. In line with that early this year, we launched the first ever international geothermal bid round to invite private sector investment in ten geothermal fields located throughout the country. Several major Japanese companies have already indicated their interest.

PNOC-EC will be upgraded to improve success rates in discovering new oil and gas reserves.

PNOC-Petrochemical Company will be given a key role in the revival and strengthening of the country's midstream petrochemical industry and eventually establish a Naptha Cracker Plant.

PNOC shipping will modernize its fleet through strategic alliances with the private sector to ensure that petroleum products will be delivered to the remotest islands. So, that's the first.

Second, we need to aggressively develop our renewable energy potential such as biomass, solar, wind and ocean resources.

For example, there are opportunities for the development, utilization and commercialization of 16 wind power areas in the country.

Third, we will increase the use of alternative fuels.

We can significantly reduce our dependence on oil imports by making natural gas our fuel of choice. It's not only indigenous, it's also cleaner fuel.

We introduced natural gas in public transport vehicles early this year. Now the government will ensure that natural gas-powered buses will start plying the major routes of Metro Manila up to Calamba, Laguna by 2005.

In 2010, we expect 60 percent of the targetted 1,500 buses plying the Metro Manila route to run on natural gas.

Inactive power plants such as Sucat, Limay, Malaya and the Bataan Nuclear Plant should also be converted into gas-fired plants in 2005 to ensure that additional capacity will be in place in Luzon by 2008, certainly by the time I step down in 2010.

The program for coco-diesel as an alternative fuel for vehicles should be accelerated. I've ordered all government vehicles to use a one percent blend in their diesel requirements.

A nationwide implementation of one to five percent coco-biodiesel to be implemented by 2006 to 2014 would decrease imported fuel dependency by three percent. The use of coco fuel as an alternative to diesel fuel will create more jobs and income for coconut farmers and improve air quality.

I'm proposing that any new taxes on petroleum products shall allocate a portion to develop alternative transport fuel in the country.

Also, in the DBP, there is a hardly used window for loans for the environment. So, I urge the private sector who want to work on the cleaner natural gas and coco diesel to avail of this environment loan in the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Fourth, energy independence also comes in the form of strategic alliances with other countries, particularly our long-time energy partners like Saudi Arabia, our Asean neighbors, China, and our new partner, Russia.

For instance, the Philippines and Thailand are arranging for the use of the former U.S. naval fuel storage facility in Subic such as to make it a regional facility. I think Prime Minister Thaksin and I will both be in China first week of September. So, Vince, arrange for a meeting between us so we can find out how far we've gone on this arrangement.

And finally, number five, we must save on energy through the implementation of strong efficiency and conservation programs.

I'm directing the DOE to spearhead a nationwide energy efficiency and conservation program. All these initiatives will significantly reduce our energy importation that will lead to 60 percent energy self-sufficiency for the Philippines by 2010.

I have laid down this framework upon which future leaders can build. We must brace for more work ahead of us. But I can tell the whole Philippines before our pioneering electric coops, our electric cooperatives have been able to do it. Now, the rest of the country can do it in the future.

To you, coops congratulations!

To the rest of the country, let's follow the good example that our cooperatives have given in the last three years.

Congratulations! And thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). **PGMA's Speech during the 25th Annual General Membership Meeting and Silver Anniversary of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA)**. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133311/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5693&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) “The President’s Night”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) “The President’s Night”**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, August 6, 2004]

Thank you.

Thank you very much. Thank you very much to a man that I like to call my Uncle Max. Yes, because I was still a child and he was meeting with my father, then vice president, opposition vice president Diosdado Macapagal. So, thank you, Max for your support way back for my father when he ran for president.

I’d like to greet also Tony Lopez, MPC president. And I thank Tony for telling me the story of MOPC. I was surprised to hear that MOPC is the oldest press club in the country as Max said. And I said, Tony is that true? Older than the National Press Club? and Tony said, ‘yes, actually the National Press Club is a daughter of the Manila Overseas Press Club.’ Tony said that the press club was founded during the time of General MacArthur by the reporters covering his beat. I think that’s very appropriate to our subject matter tonight.

I would like to greet also Emil Jurado, vice president. And I would like to tell him that I think his observation is very well taken that PAGCOR should not be put under the supervision and control of the Department of Finance. See, I read columnists and I follow their advice when their advice is wise and sound and objective.

Past president Dong Puno, thank you for emceeding tonight. And thank you for having me on previous nights of MOPC. Officers and members of the Manila Overseas Press Club. I’d like to greet some of our distinguished guests who are here. I see the name of Senator Fred Lim. And I would like to greet the members of the diplomatic corps, thank you for being here. Max... When Max brought me in he said, ‘you know, Ricciardone is here.’ what a gesture of friendship, thank you very much for the gesture of friendship.

And of course, the Cabinet members led by Executive Secretary Bert Romulo. As well as the other officials of the Philippine government.

And to you, the MOPC, thank you for once again giving me this opportunity to speak with the overseas press corps. And as I said earlier, it’s also an opportunity to acknowledge once again Max, not only Uncle Max but for his stature in Philippine policy-making. And to let him know that not only do I appreciate his supporting my father when my father ran for president in 1961 but to let him know that in my private surveys, after that ‘Impact’ interview we had shortly before elections, my ratings went up significantly. So, thank you, Max for contributing to my victory in the last elections.

Tonight, being a night with overseas media, and because we have so many members of the diplomatic corps here tonight, I want to reiterate my foreign policy. I say reiterate because — oh, Ambassador Adam knows this — way back in early 2001 when I first became president of the Philippines, I already said my foreign policy that, and I say it again, that my foreign policy consists in protecting the interest of the Philippines by responding to eight realities in

the global and regional environment. The DFA has heard this two times, but of course they have to repeat my foreign policy, so it's good for them to hear it a third time.

The first reality is that the United States, China and Japan have a determining influence in the security situation and economic evolution of East Asia.

The second reality is that more and more, Philippine foreign policy decisions have to be made in the context of ASEAN.

Third, the international Islamic community becomes more and more important to the Philippines.

Fourth, the coming years will see the redefinition of the role of multilateral and inter-regional organizations like WTO in promoting common interests.

Fifth, the defense of the nation's sovereignty and the protection of its environment and natural resources can be carried out to the extent that it gets others to respect its rights over maritime territory.

Number six, the country's economic growth will continue to require a lot of direct foreign investment.

Number seven, a country as beautiful as the Philippines can benefit most quickly from international tourism.

And eighth, our overseas Filipinos will continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability.

Tonight, I want to elaborate on an aspect of that foreign policy that is now hugging the front pages — our relationship with the United States. As I said this is an issue of foreign policy that is frequently on the front pages these days.

For the region as a whole, the United States continues to be an important factor because of its dominant military and economic power. But for the Philippines the importance of the United States is much more than that. Our people's have enduring historical, cultural and economic ties with America personified by the three million Filipinos who live in the United States. No president can break those bonds because they are held together by a permanent history. They are more than a century-old bond, tightened by common political tradition, by world wars fought together, by tens of thousands of brave soldiers who died in the battlefield of freedom.

After 9/11 those bonds became even stronger. I committed our nation to join the fight against global terrorism that erupted as a result of the 9/11 tragedy in the United States. And I did so with the full support of the Filipino people, knowing our people's sense of outrage and sense of justice.

The Filipino people supported me because the Philippines has felt the pain of terrorism in our country for too many years. And the people who are most often terrorized are the poorest among us. Why then did I bring our Filipino troops back home from Iraq? I trust that our allies will come to understand that the Philippines is in a special circumstance unlike the U.S. or Australia or Bulgaria and other countries. Eight million Filipinos live and work abroad — 1.5 million Filipinos live and work in the Middle East, 4,000 Filipinos are working in Iraq today.

The special anguish of Flor Contemplacion for our countrymen and the fact that the Philippines gets one-tenth of its GNP from overseas workers indeed is one of the eight realities of our foreign policy. Many of these workers in fact are in the Middle East. So, that resonates throughout our foreign policy.

The Filipinos in Iraq are the largest contingent of private foreign workers. They are driving trucks, building bridges, providing medical treatment and other vital services to Iraqis in need rather than working in a comfortable, air conditioned office indoors.

The life and livelihood of these courageous OFWs is hazardous enough without the threat of being held as a pawn in some terrorists' chess game. Truck drivers and construction workers are highly vulnerable to terrorists' attacks. In contrast, combat troops of other coalition members are by definition not as vulnerable. They're armed, they stay in camps. Our people, our OFWs are vulnerable. I sought to reduce that vulnerability by authorizing the departure for Philippine troops after the turnover of sovereignty to the Iraqi people last June 28th.

The abduction of Angelo de la Cruz merely accelerated the timetable. But the decision had been made beforehand. I've taken responsibility, I've no apologies, I stuck to my oath but let me emphasize that our people and our nation remain committed to our friends and allies abroad even as we remain true to our convictions here at home.

We enjoy a strong relationship with the Bush administration, and we value its role in helping the Philippines. We share the same goal even if we will not always walk on the same path. There are other perhaps even more meaningful ways to strengthen our strategic relationship with the United States. We shall always work to keep the relationship firm in propelling the common commitment to fight terrorism domestically, regionally and worldwide.

My highest priority for our country is economic growth and job creation — that drives our foreign policy. And to achieve economic growth and job creation, we need to come to terms with the Mindanao problem.

The importance of the Philippine fight against terrorism in Mindanao overshadows whatever the country could contribute to a 'Coalition of the Willing' in Iraq itself. Anything distracting our administration from getting its act together for the struggle for Mindanao needs to be put aside. And if our country is divided over the issue of Angelo de la Cruz, we will not be able to effectively address the Mindanao problem. I took that into consideration.

The 4,000 private workers in Iraq are more valuable to Iraq than the 100 peace keepers, notwithstanding the fine work they have performed in Iraq, they are less valuable. One hundred peace keepers are less valuable than 4,000 civilian workers. On the other hand, there is that struggle for Mindanao, that is of the essence. It is one of the most important fronts in the war on terror. It is a substantive war. It is a substantive struggle, not a symbolic one. Even as I speak now, American troops are in joint training with our own troops in Carmen, North Cotabato. They're also conducting medical services among the poorest communities in Mindanao where the recruits of terrorism are bred.

This partnership between the Philippines and the U.S. to share fighting skills and intelligence as well as humanitarian services has been going on for the past two years. Aid from the United States has also spurred livelihood for former rebels of the MNLF. Ambassador Ricciardone has been instrumental in all these endeavors. Thank you, Frank for your passion. I've been witness to that passion. Ambassador Ricciardone grabs the chance to go with me whenever I go to those difficult places in Mindanao. He was with me along with the other Muslim ambassadors in Abubakar. And because my car was right behind his car, I saw his car gets stuck in the mud in a raging storm, in a raging river with the boulders, big, big boulders threatening to come down anytime to crush his car into pieces. But thank God he was able to get out of that river on time. These gestures cement Philippine-American friendship and they push forward our common fight against terror.

In the midst of all these, we're also sharing intelligence and operational information with our allies in Indonesia and Malaysia to curtail the movements of the JI and the Al Qaeda cells in the region. There is worldwide interest in the terrorists enclave suspected to be building up in Southeast Asia. We are not denying its potential, but we are doing our share in destroying it and our gains have been both far-reaching and deep.

We have crippled the Abu Sayyaf, JI cells are falling one by one, and not one man passes that we are able to get one or two of their operatives and capture their deadly explosives.

Yes, we are committed to the war against terrorism and this is neither lip service nor posturing. Filipino soldiers and Filipino civilians have given up their lives beside Americans in this fight. And this fight will last as long as our shared democratic traditions and love for freedom hold.

This fight is true for the Philippines, it is true for the rest of the world.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) "The President's Night". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133303/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5692&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Heads of States

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines To the ASEAN Heads of States

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, August 13, 2004]

DREAMING “MADE IN ASEAN”

When you have the first ASEAN-BIS last year in Bali, all of us, the region’s heads of state signed the historic Bali II Accord, which set ASEAN’s directions for the future and addressed our collective economic, security and socio-cultural aspirations – the three pillars of ASEAN regional cooperation.

That summit in Bali last year, and the next one to be held in Vientianne when the leaders convene for the 10th ASEAN Summit, will continue to provide the stepping stones for our formidable aspirations – a single market and production base, enveloped in the free flow of goods, service and investment and skilled labor among us, and the freer flow of capital by the year 2020

I’m happy that you are here preparatory to Vientianne because the commitment to ASEAN is a cornerstone of Philippine foreign policy.

We, the ASEAN governments, have the vision, but we can have all the vision we want but it can only be fulfilled depending on you the private sector.

The private sector is the engine of our region’s unprecedented growth. We the governments have the duty to provide the environment for business to thrive but it is you the private sector that carries out the transactions that actually create wealth.

We’re conscious of this. We are conscious of this in pushing ASEAN. We are conscious of this in the face of global and national crisis like, for instance, today the unprecedented increase in the world price of oil.

Let me go to the price of oil. We’re experiencing this in the Philippines, ASEAN is experiencing this, the world is experiencing this. And so, we are on a round the clock alert on consumer prices. We call on all players – and many of them are here – in the supply and distribution chain of goods and services to try to hold off increases, to calibrate these in smaller increments over time while the government spreads out more extensive safety nets for the most affected sectors if they cannot avoid the price increases. The concerned agencies are exercising strict vigilance against profiteers, but we thank the manufacturers and the traders who are exercising restraint in keeping the lid on prices.

Yes, the private sector must be an integral part of meeting the crises of the moment like the oil price increase the world is suffering as it must be an integral part of our long-term strategic aspirations like ASEAN cooperation and even ASEAN decision-making.

The market has always been the foundation of our economic if not political stability and progress. In this environment, the ASEAN leaders created the ASEAN Business Advisory Council or ASEAN-BAC soon after they agreed to establish an ASEAN economic community. As I said earlier while they created the vision and put the government machinery to work to provide the legal and regulatory framework they realized they needed a partner to make things happen on the ground, and that is the business community.

Governments and business must work together to multiply the purchasing power of our peoples and to create jobs at speed.

In the Philippines, on our part we've already identified two focal sectors in which we will advance with regards to ASEAN – agriculture and tourism.

Putting agriculture at the frontline combines the premium of food and jobs. It attacks poverty squarely. Our department of agriculture has already given the ASEAN-BAC a bill of particulars for consideration but in the end, it's the private business sector that will decide whether you will respond.

Putting tourism beside agriculture is important as a start-off enterprise because people first visit the country in which they later engage in business. Tourism is the midwife of business.

On tourism, we're already up 30 percent from our arrivals a year ago. Thank you, ASEAN neighbors for visiting the Philippines more. But we are driving more investments into the country under the concept of tourism enterprise zones. If we have industrial estates, we now have I.T. estates, we now have tourism estates. And we are addressing the infrastructure demands and encouraging investments in hotel facilities to promote our tourism hubs namely Metro Manila to Tagaytay, Cebu-Bohol-Siargao, Davao, Cordillera, Clark-Subic, Ilocos and Palawan.

Our regional airports are being internationalized. We are providing more seats for direct flights to the Philippines by way of liberalizing the airline industry. And in this, since 9/11 travel has been more regional than long-haul. Intra-ASEAN travel has been a key to our tourism, it is also a key to integration. The Philippines will continue supporting the common effort to promote ASEAN as a single destination. Those long-hauls will only work if they're going to go to more than one destination.

But there is more to the apps than agriculture and tourism. Under the APPS, we plan to identify feasible projects for indigenous ASEAN companies that could grow into ASEAN multinational companies. And Secretary Concepcion told me that they're all set to present the proposals in Laos during the summit.

I look towards that day when we shall enjoy an ASEAN common market, ASEAN brands, and the proud concept of "Made in ASEAN."

The competitive pressures of globalization have set the pace of economic integration, marked by the establishment of production bases where the cost of doing business is lowest, and outsourcing inputs from countries that can supply them at least cost.

Much of the exports of ASEAN like garments and electronics are intended for markets across the Pacific. We can be more competitive if we build a network of industrial zones linked to one another across borders.

Member nations can specialize in their segments of the supply chain and pass on their output to the next stage of production located in neighboring countries.

The Philippines can provide the final link towards the ultimate delivery of consumers across the Pacific and along the coasts of Northeast Asia. We offer Clark-Subic as logistics and service centers.

I'm glad that several items in my economic agenda – including making Clark-Subic as the competitive hub of the region – I'm glad that many of them fall squarely into the mold we are creating for regional integration and prosperity.

Our job creation, for instance, our initiatives are dovetailed in the prime attention placed upon SMEs, which is a very ASEAN concept. In this light, our financial institutions are building expertise and experience in retail lending. We can all team up on this effort to uplift and empower the broad masses of our people.

Another field is education where we can share basic commonalities. I encourage the ASEAN-BAC to consider joint ventures in tertiary and especially in the specialized technical education institutions.

Also, in line with our common concern for decentralization of economic growth, I invite ASEAN consortia to participate in ports development and shipping, as well as basic infrastructure services for power and water supply development in the Philippines.

And I'm aware that in the high end of the housing sector, a number of ASEAN firms are offering their products in the market. But we can initiate commercial ventures that will use ASEAN design and ASEAN materials integrated across the region to provide affordable housing to our citizens.

Yes, all of these are examples to show that ASEAN has created and continues to offer opportunities for economic consolidation. And so I look forward to the Philippine business proposals for ASEAN joint venture, ASEAN supply chain arrangements. I look forward to those proposals in Laos. I look forward to meeting you all in Laos after a fruitful dialogue here.

Once again, welcome to the Philippines! Welcome to Malacañang! *Bon appetit.*

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during a Dialogue with the 10th ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Dialogue with the 10th ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC)**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, August 13, 2004]

Thank you very much, Secretary Purisima.

Secretary Romulo and other members of the Philippine Cabinet; Mr. Chairman Oudet Souvannavong and the other leaders of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council especially our member, former secretary Jose Concepcion; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; distinguished guests; heads and delegates to the 10th meeting of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, welcome to the Philippines! And welcome to Malacañang!

Over the period of your existence, you've established your group as a key component in our common endeavor to create an integrated and competitive regional economy in ASEAN. Therefore, I welcome this opportunity to dialogue with you as a group and to Joe Concepcion for making this possible, thank you very much.

I thank all of you and I have noted your agenda and I see that you have a full plate beginning with discussions on your two most important accomplishments to date — the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit or ASEAN-BIS and the ASEAN Pioneer Projects Scheme or APPS.

When you have the first ASEAN-BIS last year in Bali, all of us, the region's heads of state signed the historic Bali II Accord, which set ASEAN's directions for the future and addressed our collective economic, security and socio-cultural aspirations — the three pillars of ASEAN regional cooperation.

That summit in Bali last year, and the next one to be held in Vientianne when the leaders convene for the 10th ASEAN Summit, will continue to provide the stepping stones for our formidable aspirations — a single market and production base, enveloped in the free flow of goods, service and investment and skilled labor among us, and the freer flow of capital by the year 2020

I'm happy that you are here preparatory to Vientianne because the commitment to ASEAN is a cornerstone of Philippine foreign policy.

We, the ASEAN governments, have the vision, but we can have all the vision we want but it can only be fulfilled depending on you the private sector.

The private sector is the engine of our region's unprecedented growth. We the governments have the duty to provide the environment for business to thrive but it is you the private sector that carries out the transactions that actually create wealth.

We're conscious of this. We are conscious of this in pushing ASEAN. We are conscious of this in the face of global and national crisis like, for instance, today the unprecedented increase in the world price of oil.

Let me go to the price of oil. We're experiencing this in the Philippines, ASEAN is experiencing this, the world is experiencing this. And so, we are on a round the clock alert on consumer prices. We call on all players — and many of them are here — in the supply and distribution chain of goods and services to try to hold off increases, to calibrate

these in smaller increments over time while the government spreads out more extensive safety nets for the most affected sectors if they cannot avoid the price increases. The concerned agencies are exercising strict vigilance against profiteers, but we thank the manufacturers and the traders who are exercising restraint in keeping the lid on prices.

Yes, the private sector must be an integral part of meeting the crises of the moment like the oil price increase the world is suffering as it must be an integral part of our long-term strategic aspirations like ASEAN cooperation and even ASEAN decision-making.

The market has always been the foundation of our economic if not political stability and progress. In this environment, the ASEAN leaders created the ASEAN Business Advisory Council or ASEAN-BAC soon after they agreed to establish an ASEAN economic community. As I said earlier while they created the vision and put the government machinery to work to provide the legal and regulatory framework they realized they needed a partner to make things happen on the ground, and that is the business community.

Governments and business must work together to multiply the purchasing power of our peoples and to create jobs at speed.

In the Philippines, on our part, we've already identified two focal sectors in which we will advance with regards to ASEAN — agriculture and tourism.

Putting agriculture at the frontline combines the premium of food and jobs. It attacks poverty squarely. Our department of agriculture has already given the ASEAN-BAC a bill of particulars for consideration but in the end, it's the private business sector that will decide whether you will respond.

Putting tourism beside agriculture is important as a start-off enterprise because people first visit the country in which they later engage in business. Tourism is the midwife of business.

On tourism, we're already up 30 percent from our arrivals a year ago. Thank you, ASEAN neighbors for visiting the Philippines more. But we are driving more investments into the country under the concept of tourism enterprise zones. If we have industrial estates, we now have I.T. estates, we now have tourism estates. And we are addressing the infrastructure demands and encouraging investments in hotel facilities to promote our tourism hubs namely Metro Manila to Tagaytay, Cebu-Bohol-Siargao, Davao, Cordillera, Clark-Subic, Ilocos and Palawan.

Our regional airports are being internationalized. We are providing more seats for direct flights to the Philippines by way of liberalizing the airline industry. And in this, since 9/11 travel has been more regional than long-haul. Intra-ASEAN travel has been a key to our tourism, it is also a key to integration. The Philippines will continue supporting the common effort to promote ASEAN as a single destination. Those long-hauls will only work if they're going to go to more than one destination.

But there is more to the apps than agriculture and tourism. Under the APPS, we plan to identify feasible projects for indigenous ASEAN companies that could grow into ASEAN multinational companies. And Secretary Concepcion told me that they're all set to present the proposals in Laos during the summit.

I look towards that day when we shall enjoy an ASEAN common market, ASEAN brands, and the proud concept of "Made in ASEAN."

The competitive pressures of globalization have set the pace of economic integration, marked by the establishment of production bases where the cost of doing business is lowest, and outsourcing inputs from countries that can supply them at least cost.

Much of the exports of ASEAN like garments and electronics are intended for markets across the Pacific. We can be more competitive if we build a network of industrial zones linked to one another across borders.

Member nations can specialize in their segments of the supply chain and pass on their output to the next stage of production located in neighboring countries.

The Philippines can provide the final link towards the ultimate delivery of consumers across the Pacific and along the coasts of Northeast Asia. We offer Clark-Subic as logistics and service centers.

I'm glad that several items in my economic agenda — including making Clark-Subic as the competitive hub of the region — I'm glad that many of them fall squarely into the mold we are creating for regional integration and prosperity.

Our job creation, for instance, our initiatives are dovetailed in the prime attention placed upon SMEs, which is a very ASEAN concept. In this light, our financial institutions are building expertise and experience in retail lending. We can all team up on this effort to uplift and empower the broad masses of our people.

Another field is education where we can share basic commonalities. I encourage the ASEAN-BAC to consider joint ventures in tertiary and especially in the specialized technical education institutions.

Also, in line with our common concern for decentralization of economic growth, I invite ASEAN consortia to participate in ports development and shipping, as well as basic infrastructure services for power and water supply development in the Philippines.

And I'm aware that in the high end of the housing sector, a number of ASEAN firms are offering their products in the market. But we can initiate commercial ventures that will use ASEAN design and ASEAN materials integrated across the region to provide affordable housing to our citizens.

Yes, all of these are examples to show that ASEAN has created and continues to offer opportunities for economic consolidation. And so I look forward to the Philippine business proposals for ASEAN joint venture, ASEAN supply chain arrangements. I look forward to those proposals in Laos. I look forward to meeting you all in Laos after a fruitful dialogue here.

Once again, welcome to the Philippines! Welcome to Malacañang! Bon appetit.

And thank you.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during a Dialogue with the 10th ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133255/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5691&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 51st Annual Convention of the Philippine Sugar Technologists Association (PHILSUTECH)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 51st Annual Convention of the Philippine Sugar Technologists Association (PHILSUTECH)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Waterfront Hotel Lahug, Cebu City, August 18, 2004]

Thank you very much, Secretary Arty Yap.

Chairman Muñoz, President Echaus, all the leaders of the sugar industry, my fellow government officials, Secretary Pagdanganan, Limcaoco, Bunye, ladies and gentlemen.

Maayong hapon sa mga Cebuano. Sa mga kasimanwa sang akon bana nga Ilonggo, maayong hapon naman. And to all the rest of you, good afternoon.

Thank you for inviting me to participate in your discussion of the Philippine Sugar Industry. And thank you for the nice words you said President Echaus. And thank you Arty for calling me a friend of the sugar industry. Let me say that I also appreciate you because the sugar industry has been a friend of mine all these years, thank you.

Indeed, I avoid speaking engagements but I'm making an exception for PHILSUTECH because I want to use this occasion to thank the industry once again for supporting me in '92, '95, '98, my candidates in 2001, and again in the last elections. Salamat gid, daghan salamat, dactal a salamat mga sugar farmers sa Pampanga.

Indeed, the sugar industry is very close to my heart starting from my father whom you supported since he first ran for senator in 1955, '57, '61, '65. And I inherited something from my father — a habit. He in his time and I in my time, we always have two teaspoons of sugar in our coffee. One for us and one for the industry. My father came from a sugar province Pampanga. And he was supported by the sugar provinces all his career including especially Negros Oriental.

My husband's family for generations has derived their income from sugar farms, so I can truly say I am part of the sugar industry.

And so I'm happy that it is before the sugar industry that I am speaking for the first time before any agricultural sector since the may elections. Let me therefore begin not just with sugar but with my strategic policy for agriculture for the next six years.

First, agriculture is a source of jobs for our people. I've said in my inaugural address that we shall try to create six to ten million jobs in the next six years. I also said that one of the major ways to create ten million jobs is to develop two million hectares of agri-business land.

Second, agriculture is a source of food. And because you want to be competitive, we want our people not to spend too much on their food so that they won't always ask for higher wages. That's why we must reduce the cost of rice, corn, sugar and the other crops that we call wage goods through greater productivity and efficient transport and logistics. I won't spend too much time about transport and logistics today but greater productivity, that's where PHILSUTECH comes in. Your work is technology transfer for greater productivity.

I've been with you three times. And in 2001 as a new president I was with you, we crafted a road map for the sugar industry. That road map continues to pave our way forward. In 2001, we released 600 million pesos from the ACEF

fund for sugar agricultural competitiveness to build small dams and roads as well as to purchase farm equipment and other things to improve productivity. And I'm glad that this contributed indeed to your productivity.

In 2001, when we were together, you were producing 1.8 million metric tons. Now, you are producing 2.3 million metric tons. Congratulations!

In 2001, when we started our road map, the average sugar production per farmer was 98 bags per hectare. Today, it is 115 bags per hectare. Congratulations! Once again.

One of the reasons is that we're using hybrid cane just as in the more general knowledge of the Filipinos we're using hybrid rice for our rice farmers. We used to import sugar. This year, we exported some 59,000 metric tons and next year, we expect to export around 230 metric tons to our neighbors in Asia on top of our sugar quotas to our traditional markets like the United States.

This outstanding production of the industry during the time, the period of our common road map, was very good for three years. It brought up domestic supply and prices stayed good for three years. But early this year, we all were very sad because then the prices went down. At that time — and this is one reason why he's D.A. Secretary today — I ordered NFA administrator Arty Yap to buy sugar at 700 to 720 per bag to provide temporary relief to the industry. And now, we're having better times. I also issued EO 295 and Memo Order 134 to stop the smuggling of sugar-containing products and to regulate prices.

Today, reports continued to reach me about sugar smuggling. As I said earlier, if the price goes down because of economic factors like competition, well, the answer is to be competitive. But if the price goes down because of smuggling as well then that's not fair and we have to stop smuggling. Reports reaching me indicate that some imported products are being shielded from my directives through the device of tariff reclassification. In fact, the memo that President Echaus gave me earlier, I glanced at it very quickly before I came in, that's one of the issues that you have raised.

So, I am — Arty, tell the Tariff Commission this — I'm directing the Tariff Commission to review its classification regulations for sugar-based imports to ensure that my directives are not circumvented.

I also asked George Jereos, the new commissioner of customs to come here today with me, because I'm ordering the Bureau of Customs to stop the smugglers on their tracks. That's why I brought him with me so that he can hear my instructions in front of the sugar industry. We met earlier in a private meeting. And I also gave special instructions to the Cebu collector of customs, Billy Bibit. And I told them that I shall give them two months to give significant results against sugar smuggling. But that's on the part of customs.

On the part of the sugar industry the challenge is how to remain profitable while consumers enjoy lower sugar prices. The answer is, as I said earlier — productivity and efficient transport and logistics. Our goal is to be able to bring down production costs to be competitive with Thailand, Australia, South Africa or even Brazil. I've instructed PHILSUCOR to help finance the importation of urea as proposed by one of our sugar cooperatives. This should help bring down fertilizer prices which is one of the reasons for the high cost of production.

And in the memo that was given to me by President Echaus, you've asked to have sugar designated as a special product in the Doha round of the World Trade Organization. Without making any promises, I will help you achieve this the best I can, best effort, best effort basis.

And I want to acknowledge not only your gains in productivity, I want to acknowledge your highly relevant efforts to produce ethanol from sugar cane and to generate electricity from boiler steam. These fall squarely in line with our energy independence program. We were trying to draw out every competitive advantage we can get from indigenous sources and technologies. Ethanol as a gasoline additive is both renewable and environment-friendly.

Brazil has taken the lead. And Thailand will soon use a five percent ethanol blend which we are aiming for.

And I told the leaders of the industry, for this purpose, you might want to top the DBP's lending window for loans for the environment.

I also look forward to the groundbreaking in 2005 of the joint venture with the first farmers mill and Talisay bioenergy for a new Bagas-fired boiler. This will generate a surplus of 20 megawatts to be sold to the Central Negros Electric Cooperative. The environmental compliance certificate for this project I understand has just been approved. It's another boon to our people who are struggling for clean, stable power. Congratulations, first farmers!

With all these uses for energy and power coming from sugar. In fact, I hope the day will come when the sugar that I put in my coffee, the two teaspoons, will be just one of the many products coming out of our sugar plantation. I hope the day will come when sugar will be so diversified as far as its products are concerned — food, power, energy — that indeed, will be the dawn, the new dawn of our industry.

I can't forget when I was a brand-new senator, there was the fear that sugar would be a sunset industry. Well, we've worked together all these years — I became senator in 1992, it's 2004 now — twelve years later, we haven't seen the sunset. Let's see the dawn. Let's make sure that our industry will never see the sunset but rather be united. Keep our industry forever in the new sunshine.

Congratulations! And thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 51st Annual Convention of the Philippine Sugar Technologists Association (PHILSUTECH). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133248/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5690&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine National Police Change of Command Ceremony of PNP Director General Edgardo B. Aglipay, Vice Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr. (Ret.)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine National Police Change of Command Ceremony of PNP Director General Edgardo B. Aglipay, Vice Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr. (Ret.)**

[Delivered at Camp Crame, Quezon City, August 23, 2004]

Thank you, Secretary Reyes.

Commander General Razon, give our troops Tikas Pahinga.

My new National Security Adviser, General Ebdane (retired); the new Chief PNP, General Aglipay and the other officers and members of the Philippine National Police; Senator Richard Gordon and the other elective officials; members of the diplomatic corps; General Abaya and the other appointive officials; former chiefs of the PNP; ladies and gentlemen:

I'd also like to take this opportunity to greet former Prime Minister Cesar Virata.

I preside over this turnover ceremony with a deep sense of gladness and satisfaction.

I congratulate Jun Ebdane as he leaves, after being one of the longest serving chiefs of the Philippine National Police. Congratulations! Jun. Jun Ebdane leaves a legacy of many things that he mentioned in his speech but I would like to add what I have observed, he leaves a legacy of the most extensive personal intelligence network in the country. He built this extensive intelligence network not during the two years that he was chief of the PNP but over the many years since his days as junior officer. You've all watched spy movies, James Bond and on. Intelligence networks do not attach to a position, they attach to a person. They come from interpersonal relationships and respect for individual expertise. This vast network that Jun was able to accumulate over his many years in the police is one reason why terrorism has been contained. It is one reason why kidnapping is at an all time low, especially with the excellent teamwork between Secretary Reyes and General Ebdane. This vast network of Jun has also been an important guide for my decisions regarding our peace process especially with our Muslim brothers. Congratulations! Jun for that unique and significant accomplishment of your police career.

I don't want that vast network to go to waste, to fade into the sunset, and so I have asked Jun to carry this legacy to the office of the National Security Adviser where policy and international linkages mark the name of the game. And so it is fitting, as Jun reminds us, that he's also been the leader of the ASEAN chiefs of national police.

I take this opportunity to prod him about his ASEAN connections, develop them some more even as we thank him for his leadership within ASEAN during his tenure as chief of the Philippine National Police.

I take this opportunity to express to our ASEAN neighbors and especially the people of Malaysia the appreciation of the Filipino people for their help in our peace process. I thank Malaysia for facilitating the GRP-MILF peace process, and this has strengthened mutual trust and confidence across the negotiating table. We shall continue to forge peace in Mindanao through third party facilitation, through the deployment of an international monitoring team to seal stability on the ground and the sustained deployment of multilateral development partnerships. All these can also be done through the work of our National Security Adviser. Because of the help of the whole world including our ASEAN neighbors, especially our ASEAN neighbors, things are looking up. Almost all displaced persons have gone home and normalcy has returned under the aegis of tolerance and harmony. We will carry this process, this peace process forward as a major component of our political stability and economic development.

I thank General Aglipay for putting the services of the police at the disposal of our ten-point legacy.

A recent survey of the Bangko Sentral says that business confidence is rising in the post-election period. One of the main reasons for this is our peaceful and credible elections reflecting the true mandate of the people. And let me take this opportunity to thank all of you, the men and women of the Philippine National Police, for your role in the peaceful and credible elections, and your devotion to democracy. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. The other reason for business confidence is that our business leaders, our business community know that we do not deceive the people on the economy. We tell it like it is, because the solution cannot begin unless the problem is recognized.

We are already in the midst of a fiscal crisis and we have to face it squarely — wielding our courage, resourcefulness and solidarity as a people and nation. I appreciate the concern and suggestions being put forth by well-meaning quarters to resolve this crisis, and I take this as a sign of concern that must be translated into deeper public awareness and action.

Average Filipinos are already taking the brunt of sacrifices but we have to gather round again as one national community to take stock of the future. I'm glad that General Ebdane said that he will not require a sacrifice on anyone that he is not willing to do himself, and that is reflective of government policy. This government will not exact sacrifices that we ourselves are not willing to take. It will not exact sacrifices that we ourselves are not willing to enforce among those who can afford it. The pain is imminent but it will be shared fairly and without putting one over the other. I'm working with Congress — and I'm glad we have a number of legislators here today — on the strategies to get the budget in place, and we are hoping to work this out with public support and openness to sacrifice.

I shall rely much on my National Security Adviser to link up law enforcement to the imperatives of economic development and political stability. But I also shall rely just as much on our new chief of the PNP to bring law enforcement to, as Secretary Reyes said, new heights of achievement and professionalism.

General Aglipay comes in with a sterling record of operational achievements especially in fighting drugs and destabilizers.

When he gave his acceptance address, Egay thanked God for answering his prayers, thanked me for appointing him. But I think number three, he should thank General Ebdane for retiring early to give a chance for Egay to be chief PNP.

But I believe that Egay does deserve to be chief PNP. Because I know what must be done in the PNP in the next six years, having the benefit of my experience in the last three years, and I know that Egay will be a good man to start the reforms I want to have in the PNP.

What are these reforms? What are my guidelines for directions for the PNP? When I was campaigning for the presidency early this year, I said that I will fight for unprecedented change that makes us more secure, that strengthens our families, that stamps out corruption. I said that I will change the culture of corruption, stop the scourge of drugs and wipe out terrorism. These were my campaign platform and these are now my marching orders for the Philippine National Police under the new leadership of General Edgar Aglipay.

As Egay said in his speech, we will need more police visibility even as I say we must stake out the syndicates. We must institutionalize that seamless weave of intelligence, enforcement, negotiation. I've seen that in General Aglipay. I've seen him amiably persuading angry demonstrators to back off from the line and head for home. He usually succeeds because he knows how to deal with people. he did that when he was chief of the police in the national capital region, I know he will succeed as head of the whole police.

I mentioned among my campaign pledges, strengthening our families. Of course, the PNP is not the chief institution responsible for strengthening families, but the police can contribute much to this goal by stopping the scourge of drugs which destroys families and helping the out-of-school, out-of-work Metro Manila youth, the Kanto boys, find meaning in their lives. General Aglipay as we all know has been spectacularly successful as head of the PNP Anti-

Drug Task Force. Under his leadership the battle against drugs was half won. I'm sure he will even be more successful as head of the whole PNP.

And I ask him not only to work on drug enforcement but also on prevention by helping our out-of-school, out-of-work youth find solace in something meaningful rather than in drugs, rather than resorting to crime to finance their habit. Why do I ask the police to handle this? Because these Kanto boys are tough guys. They are not the youth the type that will listen to our sweet social workers to change their behavior. They respect toughness, they respect machismo, they respect the neighborhood police. Therefore, I want to reiterate an instruction I gave three years ago, that the community relations service of the police should be the one to implement the emergency employment program for the out-of-school, out-of-work metro manila youth under the technical direction of the Metro Manila Development Authority and with the support of the national road board. We will have a program of maintenance of metro manila infrastructure through labor-intensive rather than capital-intensive methods and direct the work opportunities towards the out-of-school, out-of-work youth. The neighborhood cop will be the main point, will be the frontliner for these young people for this project.

I said that the youth respect the police when the policeman they come across is tough but honest. And I'm sad when I see reports that people still perceive the police to be one of the five most corrupt institutions in our country. We must address this through punitive and preventive actions. As Aglipay said, put Kotong' cops in jail. Not only that, transfer superior officers who have become too chummy with their subordinates to be able to discipline them. and also stop the practice of allowances from vice lords. And also propagate values formation within the institution.

Finally, as we have been able to contain and control terrorism, the marching orders for the Philippine National Police under this new administration are — wipe out terrorism. I'm sure Egay will be equal to this task, with his lawyer's ability to put together an organized framework of action as I have seen him do in many assignments I've given him to handle, including the assignment to solve the terrorist bombings in Davao that have now become — thank God! — and hopefully to continue a thing of the past.

Yes, these are the marching orders of the Philippine National Police under my new administration. To be able to accomplish them we need to consolidate and integrate law enforcement, provide linkages between law enforcement and all areas of national security, strengthen criminal justice and place it with the overall framework of economic and political stability. I believe having a lawyer, like General Aglipay, at the helm of the Philippine National Police can do much in professionalization and institutionalization of our reforms.

For this reason, I am extending the term of the PNP chief to serve for a period of at least six months. this will enable him to get our plans off the ground, institutionalize our gains in law enforcement, and have a strong start in the things that have to be done to truly professionalize our police force.

To reiterate, ladies and gentlemen of the Philippine National Police these are my marching orders: make us more secure, help strengthen our families, stamp out the culture of corruption, stop the scourge of drugs, wipe out terrorism. I have confidence in the able leadership of General Aglipay to carry these orders out.

Congratulations! Egay.

And thank you to all of you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Philippine National Police Change of Command Ceremony of PNP Dir. Gen. Edgardo B. Aglipay, Vice Dir. Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr. (Ret.). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133231/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5689&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at a conference hosted by the People's Republic of China

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At a conference hosted by the People's Republic of China**

[Delivered at the Beijing Hotel, People's Republic of China, September 3, 2004]

**ON ASEAN EXCHANGE, COOPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

We meet here in the great People's Republic of China, the new and giant market economy that is surely a determining influence in the economic evolution of Asia. We meet today, emulating China, our host country. We meet in the spirit of the market, the spirit of economic democracy, the spirit of openness to one another, the spirit that will build prosperity and end conflict, and the spirit that will bring about change and win the battle against poverty in our Asian region.

We thank China, especially the Communist Party of China, for the formidable and splendid preparations for this conference, not only in its amenities but in the representation and attendance by the officials of this great country. This hosting by the Communist Party of China cannot but enhance the international status of "the emerging economic center of gravity of Asia and the world."

China is the largest growing economy in the world. Its entry into the World Trade Organization and its determined emergence as a market economy makes it a major export sector for all our various economies in Asia and in the world for that matter.

But this hosting by the Communist Party of China projects not only China's determining influence in the economic situation of the region. It also showcases China's enlightened approach to economic democratization and gives us all a chance to witness how it has transformed itself into a market economy. Most of all, it highlights China's role as a friend and neighbor to all of us.

It is auspicious that we gather today in this great city, in this great country, to celebrate the political parties of Asia.

Here in this hall we neither acknowledge ideological lines nor seek alignments. As our distinguished vice president of the People's Republic of China states our basic principles are independence, complete equality mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. From Manila to Bangkok, and now here we have carried these principles. We bring these principles from Manila and Bangkok to Beijing because we believe that a large part of our future of our respective countries lies here. We exceeded the previous two conferences not only in terms of size, but in terms of the breadth of our vision and the strength of our spirit.

Our theme is "Exchange, Cooperation and Development."

Exchange. Exchange of ideas, exchange of experiences, exchange of best practices. Exchange for the purpose of learning, exchange for the purpose of synthesis, especially for those of us, like in the Philippines, who are fighting

for change. For those of us fighting for change, we need this kind of exchange provided by the political parties in this conference

As China has done with great success, we aim to forge a synthesis of ideology and party to liberate our people from economic deprivation and bring security to those who are still living in fear. As political parties of Asia, we are the hope of Asia.

Our delegation from the Philippines is a microcosm of the parties that make up this conference. For Philippine politics is a descendant of the same ideological lines that divided Asia decades ago. And in the same way that other nations have done, we have drawn the extreme points of ideological conflict towards the center.

In the Philippines, we have former military rebels of the right engaged in the political mainstream, just as we have representatives of the left engaged in both the regular and party list system of our legislature.

Politics, indeed, is the art of the possible. And it does this through exchange, through cooperation. Through exchange, politics collects the wisdom of past experience, sheds off the unworkable dogmas, and symbolizes new and bold directions for nations and societies.

And when contemporary politicians meet, as in our gathering today, through exchange, the world shifts from the monochromatic framework of the cold war to the full glory and color of the ideological richness of the new millennium.

For countries like mine fighting for change we need this ideological richness to be able to carve out which formula or which combination of formulas will work best for our country.

On my part, I hope to learn from the experience of the political parties of Asia as I advocate for the transition of our country to a federal-parliamentary state.

As I envision it, but I have much to learn from all of you, federalism is not merely a political form. It will have substantive implications on the political economy of the nation. Therefore, we must address the issue of economic viability and the preparedness of component states.

From our present situation as an archipelago, the next transition is now to gear towards a wider distribution of economic zones such as those pioneered successfully right here in China, then towards autonomy, and then to statehood.

As for the shift to the parliamentary form of government, it must be spearheaded I believe – and again, I have much to learn from this assembly – it must be spearheaded by meaningful political reforms, particularly a law on political parties that would spur the rehabilitation of our societal organizations and mass movements, and cleaning up of our electoral processes. This could include measures to subsidize political parties in the margins of competition, so as to diminish the influence of moneyed power brokers in the electoral process. This will also assist the parties in advocating public issues and offering reasonable options for a nation's future.

I have said this to the Filipino people often enough: we must change the character of our politics in order to create the fertile ground for true reforms. The politics of personality and patronage must give way to a new politics of party programs and a process of institutionalized consultation with the people.

Party-to-party, state-to-state, people-to-people, this is the way we strive to build the ramparts of regional cooperation. As cooperation, aside from exchange and development is our theme for this conference.

Cooperation. We are determined to strengthen our culture of cooperation among Asia's political parties with a view towards formulating a common strategy for development for Asia in the next 25 years.

Heads of state cannot do it alone. Political parties must be the partners of the government of every nation in finding appropriate responses to our common problems. The linkages of this conference, the cooperation, will contribute much to the realization of our regional aspirations – transforming the region from a region of conflict to a region of cooperation, molding economic fragments in a region into one integrated whole, finding security in creative partnerships that transcend historical animosity and strife.

For every meeting we have, for every handshake we extend across the leadership of Asia, we come closer to the regional neighborhood that binds our common aspirations.

Today, our exchanges are no longer the stale ideological debate of the past, but a genuine and vibrant discourse on shared peace and prosperity because prosperity and peace are what development is all about. And development is the third element of our theme in this conference aside from exchange and cooperation.

In mutual respect of one another's beliefs, we hope to make the best out of a troubled and uncertain world. And in trying to make the best out of what we have today much has already been taking place towards exchange, cooperation and development in the institutional realm. We have APEC, ASEAN, ASEAN plus three, our declaration of conduct of parties in the South China Sea, various accords against terrorism, the six-nation talks on the Korean peninsula, Nam, ASEM, and many more institutions and accords – all for the transformation of Asia into a zone of freedom, peace and prosperity.

Political parties, I call on you, let us further enrich these institutions by the force of our political ideas that respond to the demands of this century.

Political parties, I call on you, let us join hands once more to bring our political parties, the political parties of Asia into the service of a peaceful and prosperous world, into the world of development for our region.

To all of you, congratulations! And thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 3rd International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 3rd International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)**

[Delivered at the Beijing Hotel, People's Republic of China, September 3, 2004]

Vice President Zeng Qing Hong and the other officials of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China; Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra; Prime Minister Hun Sen; Speaker Gutierrez Lulu; our leader from Syria; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; fellow delegates to the 3rd ICAPP, especially our last night elected chairman of the standing committee. And I'd like to remind everybody, the founder of this International Conference of Asian Political Parties, Philippine Speaker Jose De Venecia.

As the president of the country in which this conference was founded in the year 2000 when Speaker De Venecia and I were still in the opposition, I would like to greet all of you today and to express my happiness about how this conference has grown to be so important. There are 350 delegates to this conference. There are 300 journalists covering this conference, and we should congratulate ourselves for what we've been able to achieve.

We meet here in the great People's Republic of China, the new and giant market economy that is surely a determining influence in the economic evolution of Asia. We meet today, emulating China, our host country. We meet in the spirit of the market, the spirit of economic democracy, the spirit of openness to one another, the spirit that will build prosperity and end conflict, the spirit that will bring about change and win the battle against poverty in our Asian region.

We thank China, especially the Communist Party of China, for the formidable and splendid preparations for this conference, not only in its amenities but in the representation and attendance by the officials of this great country. This hosting by the Communist Party of China cannot but enhance the international status of "the emerging economic center of gravity of Asia and the world."

China is the largest growing economy in the world. Its entry into the World Trade Organization and its determined emergence as a market economy makes it a major export sector for all our various economies in Asia and in the world for that matter.

But this hosting by the Communist Party of China projects not only China's determining influence in the economic situation of the region. It also showcases China's enlightened approach to economic democratization and gives us all a chance to witness how it has transformed itself into a market economy. Most of all, it highlights China's role as a friend and neighbor to all of us.

It is auspicious that we gather today in this great city, in this great country, to celebrate the political parties of Asia.

Here in this hall we neither acknowledge ideological lines nor seek alignments. As our distinguished vice president of the People's Republic of China states, our basic principles are independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. From Manila to Bangkok, and now here, we have carried these principles. We bring these principles from Manila and Bangkok to Beijing because we believe that a large part of our future of our respective countries lies here. We exceeded the previous two conferences not only in terms of size, but in terms of the breadth of our vision and the strength of our spirit.

Our theme is “Exchange, Cooperation and development.”

Exchange. Exchange of ideas, exchange of experiences, exchange of best practices. Exchange for the purpose of learning, exchange for the purpose of synthesis, especially for those of us, like in the Philippines, who are fighting for change. For those of us fighting for change, we need this kind of exchange provided by the political parties in this conference.

As China has done with great success, we aim to forge a synthesis of ideology and party to liberate our people from economic deprivation and bring security to those who are still living in fear. As political parties of Asia, we are the hope of Asia.

Our delegation from the Philippines is a microcosm of the parties that make up this conference. For Philippine politics is a descendant of the same ideological lines that divided Asia decades ago. And in the same way that other nations have done, we have drawn the extreme points of ideological conflict towards the center.

In the Philippines, we have former military rebels of the right engaged in the political mainstream, just as we have representatives of the left engaged in both the regular and party list system of our legislature.

Politics, indeed, is the art of the possible. And it does this through exchange, through cooperation. Through exchange, politics collects the wisdom of past experience, sheds off the unworkable dogmas, and symbolizes new and bold directions for nations and societies.

And when contemporary politicians meet, as in our gathering today, through exchange, the world shifts from the monochromatic framework of the cold war to the full glory and color of the ideological richness of the new millennium.

For countries like mine fighting for change we need this ideological richness to be able to carve out which formula or which combination of formulas will work best for our country.

On my part, I hope to learn from the experience of the political parties of Asia as I advocate for the transition of our country to a federal-parliamentary state.

As I envision it, but I have much to learn from all of you, federalism is not merely a political form. It will have substantive implications on the political economy of the nation. Therefore, we must address the issue of economic viability and the preparedness of component states.

From our present situation as an archipelago, the next transition is now to gear towards a wider distribution of economic zones such as those pioneered successfully right here in China, then towards autonomy, and then to statehood.

As for the shift to the parliamentary form of government, it must be spearheaded I believe — and again, I have much to learn from this assembly — it must be spearheaded by meaningful political reforms, particularly a law on political parties that would spur the rehabilitation of our societal organizations and mass movements, and cleaning up of our electoral processes. This could include measures to subsidize political parties in the margins of competition, so as to diminish the influence of moneyed power brokers in the electoral process. This will also assist the parties in advocating public issues and offering reasonable options for a nation’s future.

I have said this to the Filipino people often enough: we must change the character of our politics in order to create the fertile ground for true reforms. The politics of personality and patronage must give way to a new politics of party programs and a process of institutionalized consultation with the people.

Party-to-party, state-to-state, people-to-people, this is the way we strive to build the ramparts of regional cooperation. As cooperation, aside from exchange and development is our theme for this conference.

Cooperation. We are determined to strengthen our culture of cooperation among Asia's political parties with a view towards formulating a common strategy for development for Asia in the next 25 years.

Heads of state cannot do it alone. Political parties must be the partners of the government of every nation in finding appropriate responses to our common problems. The linkages of this conference, the cooperation, will contribute much to the realization of our regional aspirations — transforming the region from a region of conflict to a region of cooperation, molding economic fragments in a region into one integrated whole, finding security in creative partnerships that transcend historical animosity and strife.

For every meeting we have, for every handshake we extend across the leadership of Asia, we come closer to the regional neighborhood that binds our common aspirations.

Today, our exchanges are no longer the stale ideological debate of the past, but a genuine and vibrant discourse on shared peace and prosperity because prosperity and peace are what development is all about. And development is the third element of our theme in this conference aside from exchange and cooperation.

In mutual respect of one another's beliefs, we hope to make the best out of a troubled and uncertain world. And in trying to make the best out of what we have today much has already been taking place towards exchange, cooperation and development in the institutional realm. We have APEC, ASEAN, ASEAN plus three, our declaration of conduct of parties in the South China Sea, various accords against terrorism, the six-nation talks on the Korean peninsula, Nam, ASEM, and many more institutions and accords — all for the transformation of Asia into a zone of freedom, peace and prosperity.

Political parties, I call on you, let us further enrich these institutions by the force of our political ideas that respond to the demands of this century.

Political parties, I call on you, let us join hands once more to bring our political parties, the political parties of Asia into the service of a peaceful and prosperous world, into the world of development for our region.

To all of you, congratulations! And thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 3rd International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133225/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5698&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 13th Mindanao Business Conference (MINBIZCON)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 13th Mindanao Business Conference (MINBIZCON)**

[Delivered at the Ballroom, Davao Convention and Trade Center, Davao City, Davao Del Sur, September 16, 2004]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Secretary Cesar Purisima.

Mayor Rudy Duterte, thank you for agreeing once again to be the Chairman of the Regional Peace and Order Council. Rudy was already declining the nomination because he said he had served many years as Chairman of the RPOC maybe there should be new blood. When I found out about it, I called up Rudy long distance, and then I said, "Rudy, are you really not accepting the RPOC chairmanship?" "ma'am, sana gusto ko nang ibigay sa iba. Pero eh kung kayo ang nagsabi sa akin wala akong choice, tatanggapin ko." Thank you very much, Rudy.

I would like to greet also, of course, our reelected, reappointed Chairman of the Regional Development Council, Chito Ayala, senior businessman of region XI. And with my reappointment to Chito comes my commitment to continue to support the Davao integrated development plan.

I would like to greet also Noemi Saludo and all of the officers of the PCCI whether from here in Davao or from Mindanao or from the Philippines, and there are many of you here who are not from Mindanao. And our host, MBC Chairman Antonio Santos, who was introducing himself to me earlier, "ma'am, ako si Tony Santos 'yung sa Sentosa." I keep staying there all the time and I keep seeing... Of course, Tony I remember you because Sen is named after your wife, Anise Antonio and son is Santos. So who can ever forget that Antonio Santos and his wife are the owners of Sentosa, successful businessmen in Cotabato City.

And I thank you for submitting to me today this action agenda which I will ask Cesar Purisma as your opposite number in the government to be in- charge of taking care of with regard to the recommended actions for the government.

And now, before anything else, let me thank you. Thank you for inviting me to be here with you today once again. Thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for this very clear action agenda. And thank for your affection and confidence. Thank you for making me win in Mindanao in the last elections.

Today, we are called upon to close ranks, to stick together, to work harder, to endure more sacrifices and muster greater courage to face a rough road ahead.

We need to come to terms with our past and present obligations, and resolve to win back national stability and future growth.

I thank you for always talking about my ten points in my inaugural address. If anything, I realized that everybody remembers that. In my inaugural address last June, I outlined my legacy for national stability and future growth in ten points. And you all know there are ten points. But to remember what these ten points are as a memory aid, I use the acronym "BEAT THE ODDS" — B-E-A-T T-H-E O-doble D- S.

B is for a balanced budget. And that's what I'll talk about today. E is for education for all. A is for automated elections. T is for transport and digital infrastructure to connect the entire country. That's why we have our roll

on/roll off ferry system and nautical highways specifically intended to bring the products of Mindanao to Luzon. That's B-E-A-T for "BEAT."

Now, the T-H-E. T is for terminate the MILF and NPA conflicts — peace. And I'm glad that your agenda is for just, equitable and lasting peace. And that is the second 'T' of my ten-point agenda. H is for healing the wounds of EDSA. E is for electricity and water for the entire country. That's e, T-H-E "THE."

And finally, "ODDS." O-doble D-S. O is for opportunities for 10 million jobs. And this ten million jobs I'm hoping that three million will come from SMEs and with the two billion Quedancor arrangement today for Mindanao, I hope a lot of those three million jobs from the SMEs and micro enterprises will come from Mindanao. The other one is agri-business and I'll talk about that in awhile. D is for decongesting Metro Manila by developing new centers for government, business and housing in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Ds is for the tenth, it's for develop Subic-Clark. That's my "BEAT THE ODDS," my acronym, my battlecry. And I hope it will be your battlecry as well. Let's "BEAT THE ODDS."

For those of you who were at Luneta and for those of you who watched TV, I think you noticed that when I talked about the ten points in my legacy agenda, I specifically mentioned Mindanao when I talked about developing new centers for government, business and housing. Though of course the SMEs, the transport infrastructure, the MILF peace process, all of those are very much related and involved in Mindanao. But let me talk about this new government centers. The center for government that I have put in Mindanao is the Department of Agriculture. And Arthur Yap is here, isn't he? He was... Okay. He's going to spend the night here because he has to sleep in Mindanao because his wife already likes Mindanao. You gotta stay here because Mindanao is going to be the center for agriculture. Why? Because Mindanao is the food basket of the country.

But we're developing other centers as well: tourism in Cebu, land reform in Iloilo, transportation in Clark. And to integrate all of these, however, I have chosen a Mindanaoan, a Davaonon to be my Presidential Adviser for new government centers, and that's none other than former Governor Dolfo Del Rosario. Together with him in the Cabinet is the Secretary for Mindanao Economic Development. MEDCO has been elevated to the rank of Cabinet member and that's headed by Secretary Jess Dureza. So, we have Secretary Dolfo Del Rosario and Secretary Jess Dureza ably representing Mindanao in our Cabinet. And they both come from Davao. Davao imperialism within Mindanao. But in any case, it's just a recognition that Davao is indeed a member of economic development in Mindanao. And even Mindanao being a food basket is most fully developed in this area. And we hope that the expertise of these two gentlemen will help spread that food basket role of Mindanao to the rest of the island.

The most recent high-profile example of Mindanao as food basket is yesterday's tie-up between Davao's Nenita quality food corporation and the Pampanga meat processors. For Nenita to supply at least 10 tons of boxed frozen meat cuts weekly to Pampanga meat processors. This will open up a new market for Mindanao's hog raisers while it lessens Pampanga's dependence on imported meat. You see, Pampanga was going to import meat because it was running out of raw materials for its processing industry. But there is a surplus in Mindanao, and this is what we mean by a transport and digital infrastructure that links the entire country. This is what we mean by Mindanao being the food basket of the rest of the country. So, to the Nenita people here, congratulations! On this exemplary achievement. By the way, being a Capampangan I'm glad about this exchange between Pampanga and Davao. But earlier this morning I witnessed another exchange between Pampanga and Davao — Cyber City. Ah, let me go to that later. Let me just say that as far as the Nenita is concerned, we need more of these highways of trade and cooperation across the archipelago.

Because Mindanao is the food basket of the country, I'd like to develop Mindanao as the agri-business center of the country. In my inauguration I said, that I want to develop two million hectares of agri-business land. And I want a lot of those two million hectares to be right here in Mindanao. As for housing, I shall rely on the private sector to respond to the housing policies that I put in place during my first term, which the housing industry says are the most housing-friendly policies in our history.

Now, to go back to what I was saying about Mindanao, Davao and Pampanga. I'm happy that earlier this morning, I inaugurated the first call center in Mindanao, right here in Davao City. That first call center is an expansion of Cyber

City Corporation based in Clark. So it is another major action, commercial transaction between Pampanga and Davao. I'm especially proud that that call center has been set up here in Davao, the first in Mindanao.

Before I became President, there were less than 2,000 Filipinos employed in call centers and other business process outsourcing, which is part of the ICT industry. This year, there will be 60,000. From 2,000 to 60,000 in three and half years. That's how much the ICT industry grew in our administration. ICT is the growth sector of the future together with other skills intensive, labor intensive service sectors like tourism. And I'm very glad, speaking of tourism, that Davao is one of the eight top tourist attractions in the Philippines.

Davao is one of the eight top tourist attractions in the Philippines because, of course, there's the natural beauty. There are the beautiful resorts and hotels already here, so there's carrying capacity. There's a beautiful airport and there is peace and order. Thank you Rudy. The airport is beautiful but a beautiful airport is not enough. It's got to be well run and well maintained. Unfortunately, for our beautiful airport here it's been a losing proposition. Not to fret but there are only two income-earning airports in the whole country to begin with. It's only the Manila International Airport and the Cebu International Airport. So what I agreed with Rudy when we were discussing in the car today was that I will put the Davao international airport under the jurisdiction of the NAIA international airport so that NAIA's surplus income can be used to finance some of the maintenance and improvement requirements of Davao International Airport. We really need to link the entire country even as we continue to work for a federal form of government.

For the economy as a whole, I'm glad that we have posted — and congratulations to Cesar Purisima — an impressive growth in investments of 493 percent over the last seven months, more or less that Cesar has been the secretary of trade and industry. And we have posted a GDP growth of 6.2 percent in the last quarter. There are very few countries in the region that grew faster than that. Maybe only India and China and Vietnam, or China, India and Vietnam in that order. Laos is just about the same or less, lower than us.

Our fiscal position in the first half of this year, like 2001 and 2003 — not 2002, that was awful — was within our targeted deficit ceiling. But we must all recognize that the situation can deteriorate as fast as we are building on our precious and hard-earned gains.

Yes, there is hope for our country. Our growth rate says so. Our investment rate says so. But it must be fueled by the fullest commitment to sacrifice.

Our gains can only be institutionalized by greater enterprise and discipline. For instance, to develop Mindanao as the food basket of the country requires productivity and efficient transport and logistics. These require huge investments in infrastructure, in electric power — some headlines today talked about an impending power crisis in Mindanao if we don't invest in it now. And in knowledge, it requires over huge expenditures for other basic government services. And so we need funding, but the government cannot keep borrowing and borrowing to finance infrastructure and services. And Napocor in particular cannot keep borrowing and borrowing to provide the electric power needed to support our growth requirements.

Yes, we feel that access to local and foreign financial markets, and this indicate that investor confidence is still there but it doesn't mean that we should grab all the offers of those who want to lend to us because every borrowing we make is an increase in our deficit. Every borrowing we make must still be budgetted. In other words, if you talk about a budget of a trillion pesos, of that budget, 800 billion will be financed by taxes, 200 billion will be financed by borrowing. So, it still has to be in a budget.

I say this because I was reading a column the other day saying that I presented my projects for Mindanao. But it turns out that they're actually from ODA. But even if they're from ODA they must be in the budget unless they're grant. And every expenditure that's financed by borrowing is a contribution to increasing our deficit. And we cannot grow based on borrowed funds all the time because it will catch up with us. The interest payments will catch up with us. The time will come, as it is coming, that we're using our budget to pay interest rather than to build infrastructure — to build roads, ports, airports, and other requirements like power plants.

It's my duty to bring forth the truth and the reality we must all face today, that our economy cannot endure for long without getting revenues, not from borrowing but from those who can most afford it.

Our external debt-to-GDP ratio at 71 percent is the third highest in Asia, while our ratio to GDP... Revenue-to-GDP at 4.1 percent is the second lowest. BIR's collection-to-GDP ratio for 2004 was a meager 10 percent.

So, we need to bridge the gap to finance our growth requirements, so that the world will take us seriously and continue to pitch in for our future growth. Because once written off by the world — and we are not there yet, thank God! — once written off by the world, we write off our own future. So, let's face it now and not be in denial before the world imposes the truth upon us.

We need to raise over a 180 billion pesos by prudent paring of expenditures, a better plug on financial leaks, and a more rational, equitable and effective system of collecting revenues.

We cannot tarry and we cannot postpone the pain. Better to have some pain now and feel the gain two years from now than postpone the pain now and have debt throes two years from now.

Our nation can sustain and even expand its growth, but only by the balm of national solidarity and collective responsibility. I know no traditional politician would ever state the challenge in this manner, or even dare to ask the people to sacrifice more at a time when they feel that they're already suffering. But as President, if I'm to be an honest President, I must do so in all candor because our people deserve no less than the truth from their leader.

The worst thing I can do under the circumstances is to perpetuate complacency over an issue of national survival. On this score, I know the pain of suffering the brunt of public disappointment and displeasure. I am not a stranger to unpopularity.

But I cannot shrink from the responsibility of prescribing the bitter pill. I'm responsible for informing you, the people, of all vital matters affecting your lives.

My economic managers headed by Cesar have presented a package of measures to generate 80 billion pesos in revenues. And we are working on executive reforms to raise or save a 100 billion pesos, marking the start of our earnest journey to permanent economic stability.

New revenues are needed not to overcome not just our economic challenges — you know for growth, investment, infrastructure — but to overcome the poverty that keeps millions of Filipinos living in sub-standard conditions that shame us all, especially in Muslim Mindanao which is the poorest region in our country.

And because we must remember that we need these revenues not only for growth but for fighting poverty, I'm prepared to work with congress on a system under which identified new revenue sources can be earmarked for the most vital pro-poor programs such as health, housing and education.

The money raised through new revenue must be spent wisely, that's why the government is working to root out waste. I'm personally leading efforts to cut government expenditures without reducing the quality and quantity of basic services. We're making every peso of taxpayers' money work where it counts most. You know, I've been spending my time reading the small print in the annexes of DPWH, DOTC, DepEd to make sure that every road, every port, every schoolbuilding is being spent on in accordance with the highest priority, not something that's in the middle of priorities.

Fiscal discipline, austerity, rationalization — these are the bywords in the cabinet. As for the GOCC's they are being pruned and whipped into line.

We're sharpening collection efficiency, expanding our revenue army and moving decisively against those found cheating. The unpatriotic who engage in corporate and governmental corruption will be identified, publicized, punished. The time for avoiding taxes is over.

And as I pledged in my inaugural address and in my state of the nation address, the revenue drive will be tougher on those who have had it easy than on those who have already had it tough.

We are prepared to begin by using friendly persuasion. That's why I'm glad congress first bill passed into the committee report is on the amnesty. On the part of the executive, our friendly persuasion will consist in inviting the top 50,000 corporate and individual taxpayers to add a million pesos more to what they are paying in a bid to have a strong start. I tell you some of those 50,000 are in this room today.

This is a time of shared goals and shared burdens. But let me take this opportunity to say that I'm proud of the Filipinos who have shown a deeper sense of community, starting from the alumni of Silliman University in Negros Oriental, who donated their jewelry during their homecoming, followed by government employees of several agencies. And I don't want the agency heads to make their employees do it. It has to be totally voluntary.

I'm proud also and thankful to the businessmen — some of whom are here today — who contributed to what has become the "Bayanihan fund." I'm proud of the OFWs worldwide. Like the ones in Brunei who gave me specific schools that they will build schoolbuildings for. And I must say I'm grateful to the members of congress who have offered meaningful sacrifices in the spirit of mutual determination to bite the bullet and move forward. All this indicates a groundswell of patriotic fervor and unity. And I thank everybody for that fervor. And of course, I'm grateful not only for those who're doing it today but for those who've done it all these years.

I treasure the patriotism of those who through all these years with utmost diligence and constancy have paid their share of taxes. These are the taxpayers who truly live for the nation and dedicate their lives and work towards it, work for it, who cast their stone in the edifice of the republic beyond the pale of fanfare or glory.

To these honest taxpayers, I say:

Akong mga ginigugmang kaiguonon, hibalo ko pa unsa kamo nagagastos sa tiyempo ug talento alang sa pamilya. Busa, nagapasalamat ako kaayo nga nagagastos sab kamo alang naman sa atong nasod.

Oo gyud nga naa pa katong mga abusado, mga cheaters, apan gamay na ra ang ilahang mga adlaw. Ang importante mao'y naa parehas kaninyo nga nagagugma sa atong nasod.

Kinahanglan ug atong nasod ang inyohang tabang karon aron padayon kitang makatindog.

Daghan salamat gyud sa inyong generosity.

Ang aton mga taxes mao'y alang sa manindot nga kaugmaon sa aton mga anak, sa atong nasod nga ginikanan. And so, to the members of the very dynamic Davao business community, the very promising Mindanao business community, to all of you, thank you for this action agenda. Thank you for your willingness to beat the odds and build prosperity for the greatest number of Mindanaonons and Filipinos.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 13th Mindanao Business Conference (MINBIZCON). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133205/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5696&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese
Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII)**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and
Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII)**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavillon, Manila Hotel, September 17, 2004]

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Robin Sy and the other officials of the federation; Senate President Drilon and the other Cabinet officials who are here tonight; Ambassador Wu and our other friends from all over the world; the Taipans who are here in the head table; ladies and gentlemen.

And to all of you from the federation, a happy golden anniversary to a golden association, the great Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce.

For fifty years, the federation has been investing in our economy, creating jobs, building classrooms, saving lives.

And your civic action is not seasonal. You have made the Philippines your home, both for good times and bad times. Thank you and congratulations!

Thank you for building all those school buildings that Robin Sy talked about. Frank Drilon tells me that in his project, you built already 666 buildings with more than 300 to go for a total of almost a thousand of the 3,000 school buildings you've been building all these years.

And on top of that, thank you for building them at half the price of public works. I know you are able to do this because you subsidize the project, but also because you have a practical design. And I have instructed the DPWH and DepEd to adopt the specs, the design of the federation for our public classrooms. Mr. Robin Sy was there when I gave the instructions. And he heard me extol the virtues of the classroom program of the FFCCCII.

I've seen your other superlative projects — from fire rescue operations to relief efforts, to fund raising for charity, to job fairs, like the one you recently held at the federation center in Binondo, where more than 4,000 applicants showed up to apply for the 12,000 vacancies you offered. I'm instructing the Department of Labor to continue that effort to find qualified applicants for the remaining 8,000 vacancies that you have offered.

I've said many times that we must recognize that we are a multi-ethnic society in which Christian or Muslim, Cebuano or Tagalog, Mestizo or Chinese, all answer to the name Filipino. and that is a wondrous tribute to the richness and diversity of our culture. And our multi-ethnic society must be characterized by social justice for all and institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions.

The federation has contributed much to social justice — and we always thank you for that — in terms of your school building, your charitable contributions. But you have also much to contribute in terms of the traditions and values that are identified with the Chinese race like business acumen, thrift, hard work, humility. And I hope that our children will be able to absorb these values so well-associated with the Chinese members of our community.

These are the same values that have propelled China as the economic powerhouse of our time. Thrift, hard work, discipline, humility — these are but a few of the virtues, the values that have propelled the Chinese community in the Philippines as well to the very top of our economic ladder. You, the Filipino-Chinese leaders of the business community, are the personification as well of the thousand years old bonds between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China.

These bonds which you personify were the backdrop of my state visit to China, in which the federation contributed a very large business delegation. You were there. In fact, some of you were responsible for the credit and investment agreements that were signed during that visit worth about one billion U.S. dollars. Congratulations! And thank you for that.

During the state visit, you witnessed President Hu Jintao remarking that the agreement we made the last time to increase our trade with each other from practically nothing to 10 billion dollars has been fulfilled. And you were there, we made another agreement, this time to increase total trade to 20 billion dollars in the next five years.

You were also there when we agreed that the millions of Chinese tourists will be 'a major, the major target market whom both sides will encourage to visit the Philippines.

You were also there when we made a breakthrough in our relationship with China by adding defense and security to the many dimensions of our satisfactory relationship.

And to further symbolize that close relationship, next year, President Hu Jintao will be our special state guest in the 30th anniversary of the celebration of Philippines-China diplomatic relations. I will count on you, leaders of the federation, to help make that return state visit a success, just as I count on you to help make my administration a success.

Indeed, many of you helped get me elected president. Thank you for that. and now it's my obligation to you to lead with honesty. It's my obligation to you not to sugarcoat the truth about our economy in which you have been such valuable leaders. If we're in a crisis today, it's because in the past, political sentiments have long overruled dispassionate requirements of governance. Now the past is catching up with us. And, therefore, I say to you leaders of the business community — 'let the truth prevail and let us keep our house in economic order.'

Because you are not strangers to business success, you all know that economic miracles don't happen overnight. In openly acknowledging that we are in the midst of a great fiscal problem, I was not sounding out the alarm for failure. In fact, I was challenging Philippine society to draw from its wellspring of great values in order to bring our country to the prosperity it deserves.

Whether as heads of business conglomerates, like many of you are, or street sweepers, we can be heroes in our own way. But let's start by throwing away cynicism and being optimists for the country, even if it is guarded optimism. There is much to be hopeful for, as our recent GNP and investment figures indicate.

And you yourselves, the Chinese community, have told me that the country's peace and order situation is looking up, that kidnapping is down, that narcotic supply has been cut in half, one reason why I promoted General Aglipay to chief PNP. He's not here tonight, you see. now, I want to let you know that I ordered him and his immediate boss, Secretary Angelo Reyes to send the 'kotong cops' specifically of Manila to oblivion. especially the 'kotong cops' in Binondo, right Angie?

Our ceasefire in Mindanao has been working for the past 14 months and the peace talks are about to start in an atmosphere of confidence. But I'm not fully satisfied. And I know neither are you fully satisfied. There is still much we have to do in the next six months, in the next six years.

To strengthen our financial position, my economic managers — who are here tonight — have proposed to Congress — who are also here tonight. There's Frank and Kiko. Mar Roxas was here earlier. And I see a number of

congressmen here — my economic managers have submitted to Congress vital tax measures intended to raise at least 80 billion pesos following their passage, 80 billion pesos a year.

I'm aware that there's a wall of resistance to these measures. But beyond that wall is our country's redemption from the yoke of poverty. And while we clean up our finances, we shall also rid society of its dregs and misfits.

Yes, kidnapping is down. Thank you, for telling me to make Angie Reyes the head of the task force. Now, let's make it zero-kidnapping.

And let's zero in also once again on smuggling. I gave the new customs commissioner two months to do his thing against smuggling. If after two months you, the business community, are not yet satisfied then we will revive the inter-agency anti-smuggling task force. There can be no... You tell me and you agree I'm sure that there can be no sacred cows in the fight against smugglers. Smugglers corrupt our bureaucracy, weaken your industries and deprive the treasury of much needed funds.

Therefore, I look forward to the members of the FFCCCI to help me fight smuggling, also to help me fight tax evasion, to serve as role models to our people, to pay the right taxes, to make it easier for our people to find employment, to serve as mentors to our OFWs and their families who wish to put up businesses of their own, to help fight corruption, to report the fixers and grafters in government, to identify the drug lords and the kidnappers that threaten your safety, to invest in the Philippines rather than abroad, to bring back our dollar exchange rate to 50 pesos to the dollar.

Our actions now will shape our future. Our sacrifices now will mean fewer sacrifices for our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Our heroes, many of them Filipino-Chinese led by Jose Rizal himself, and many others. Our heroes fought two wars for freedom. We must find the inner strength, the moral and political will to fight for economic liberty. The kind of liberty that defeats the grinding poverty around us. The kind of liberty that will give our families the future that they deserve.

Let us rally around the flag that has been draped numerous times in the past over the coffins of our soldiers, our heroes, our patriots. And let us be vigilant against those who wish to bring this beloved nation of ours down.

I am confident you will continue to rise to the challenge.

Congratulations on the last 50 years! My best wishes for the next 50 years.

Xie xie.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133157/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5695&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Landbank Plaza

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the Landbank Plaza

[Delivered in Malate, Manila, September 23, 2004]

ONCE AGAIN, LET US BEAT THE ODDS!

How providential that this hall in which we're holding this workshop is named after my father. That's why his picture is there. It's his birthday next week, and I'm asking him to pray for us from his home in heaven, because aside from having been president like me, he was also Congressman like you. In fact, as president he was the "Father of Land Reform" and the "Father of the Land Bank". That's why this hall was named after him.

But this month we remember not only my father's birthday. We also remember that 32 years ago, martial law was declared. That was what the meeting of the National Security Council Joe de Venecia talked about was all about. Since that time, when martial law was declared 32 years ago the nation has been struck with ideological strife that has now combined with the partisan strife arising from three successive extraordinary upheavals in political leadership.

When I called the National Security Council on that day September 21 as Joe said, my message was— it is now time to begin to heal the wounds of EDSA one, two, and three, for those of you who listened to my inauguration address you will remember that this is one of the ten legacy points that I declared in that address last June 30th.

By the way, let me take this opportunity to say that if I was able to make an inaugural address at all last June, it was because the vast majority of you, the Congressmen supported me in the last elections, thank you so much for that support.

And now I will need your support again this time in fulfilling the ten-point legacy agenda that I talked about in that inaugural address amidst the difficulties that our nation is encountering. I thank you Joe for the twelve-point program that you, Raul and Gerry gave me and it is very much a part of my ten-points, for example, reviving the mining industry, your number one, is part of my number one point to create ten million jobs. Mobilize investments of the Mt. Diwalwal gold mine the same thing. Explore and develop more oil and gas wells, is part also of the creation of ten million jobs. And so, these are, I'm very grateful that you have this summary because Romy Neri is now putting together under my very close direction or medium term plan and we will find a place for this paragraphs in our medium term plan in the appropriate chapters.

I have a very meaningful acronym for my ten-point legacy agenda. Many of you know about this already. It's beat the odds:

B for a balanced budget,

E for education for all,

A for automated elections, and

T for transportation to connect the whole country. That's b-e-a-t, beat. Then t is for terminate the hostilities with the NPA and the MILF;

H is for heal the wounds of EDSA

E is electricity and water for the whole country. T-h-e, the.

For odds,

O is for opportunities for 10 million jobs

D is decongest Manila. And

Ds is for develop Subic-Clark. B-e-a-t-t-h-e-o-d-d-s, beat the odds.

If you in Congress support me the way you supported me in the last elections, we can beat the odds.

We can beat the odds even as our nation faces the threat of a grave economic crisis. Those are the odds. If we act on time and in tandem. Our national survival rests on whatever patriotic consensus we can build. That's why I'm glad we have this workshop.

In my State of the Nation Address last July, I told you of the five reform packages I need to achieve my 10-point legacy: the economic growth and job creation package of which a lot of this is there. The energy independence package, that's why I'm very glad that we have this exploring and developing more oil and gas wells. The social justice and basic needs package, the education and youth opportunity package, and the anti-corruption and good governance package.

To promote good governance, I asked you to enact a government re-engineering law that will give a silver parachute for early retirement so that the payroll savings can fund a better-paid, lean and mean bureaucracy.

To promote education, I asked you to enact a law that will standardize day care teaching to provide one extra year of education instead of a fifth year of high school.

To promote social justice, I asked you to enact a law qualifying farm land as collateral and other laws on land titling that constitute what the world calls the De Soto reforms. In fact, because we're in this hall I might add my father was the father of land reform. Now, with these new reforms it will be the new land reform.

To promote energy independence, I asked you to pass a franchise law for Transco so that, its privatization can fetch a good price and help reduce Napocor's huge deficit.

And to promote economic growth, I asked you to pass eight revenue measures that we need to finance our growth without resorting to so much borrowing.

Of the eight revenue measures, I thank you for assuring me that you can pass at least four this year. And of the four, may I say that the most urgent is the indexation of taxes on alcohol and cigarettes.

I understand that the committee on ways and means chaired by Jing Lapuz over there has already sponsored the tax amnesty and lateral attrition bills. I congratulate and thank Jing, but I also congratulate and thank Tito Miniong, Gary's father... Avier, Eric Singson and the other members of the committee for your swift response to our request. I also appreciate the dedication and perseverance of Junie Cua, chair of the house committee on trade and Danny Suarez whom I saw walked in. There you are Danny, oh! There is Eric. Thank you Eric of the oversight committee, Blue Boy Nepomuceno, chair of the civil service committee and Nonoy Andaya, chair of the appropriations committee. I must of course acknowledge, the Speaker Joe and all the members many of you who are here today who have consistently shown your full support for the revenue and other crucial measures.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the several of your members who have donated personal funds to the Bayanihan fund. Thank you. and to the many of you who have acknowledged the need for transparency and commonality of purpose in the allocation of your Congressional funds.

I wish we didn't have to enact taxes at a time of hardships for the poor. But it is time to act now rather than when it is too late. It's time to act now or we're still credit worthy in the eyes of our creditors, it's time to act now or we can still grow at 6.2 percent as we did in the last quarter.

This growth was been financed by borrowings because we are still credit-worthy, but we cannot sustain growth based on borrowings. We must finance growth with our own resources.

Our fiscal problem is a cumulative result of incessant borrowings in lieu of generating the proper level of revenues to meet the needs of our people. As our national debt grew from one billion pesos in my father's time to 30 billion pesos on the eve of martial law and exponentially growing. So, did the amount of interest payments we needed to pay grow.

And aside from these interest payments, the national government is also saddled with financial obligations to our LGUs. From 1992 to 2004, the IRA share of local government units has more than doubled. In terms of the percentage of the budget seven percent in 1992 to 16 percent in 2004.

The net result of these combined increases in interest rates and LGU shares has been the reduction of capital spending and other vital expenditures.

For 2004, our interest payments stood at 32 percent IRA 16 percent. Personal services ate up an even bigger share, leaving us with only six percent of the national budget for infrastructure and economic growth.

This creeping trend has reached a precarious threshold. And I'm glad that Congress agrees that we should not wait until we reach a point when the entire budget could be solely devoted to debt payments and IRA and personnel.

Our external debt to GDP ratio at 71 percent is the third highest in Asia, when our ratio of revenue to GDP at 14 percent is the second lowest in Asia.

We must act now to bridge that gap.

And as the source of revenue laws, you, the Congressmen have it in your hands to bridge this huge gap and allow our nation to ride out the tide of the crisis without imposing too great a burden upon the poorest and the grandchildren of the poorest who live in the margins of the economy.

We in the executive branch, on the other hand, will remain vigorous in going after tax cheats, in enforcing fiscal discipline and sharpening tax collection efficiency. I am instructing the BIR to use all the powers in its command, including the power to garnish bank accounts of notorious tax evaders as soon as their assessments are final.

And I have just signed an executive order giving the commissioner of customs the powers that used to be exercised by the defunct economic intelligence and investigation bureau in order to combat smuggling. Next Tuesday, I will call a command conference of the Bureau of Customs to examine the performance of each collector.

I have read the riot act to my appointees in the GOCCs. The board members who are unable to accept the burden of sacrifice must surrender their positions now. while I've said it's only realistic that for those executives where we have a danger of losing them to the private sector must be paid their highest price.... already acknowledged Rey David who's coming in with a cut in pay. Today, I want to acknowledge Gary Teves who's also voluntarily reducing his pay.

If we work together to beat the odds, we also have a better chance not just for beating the odds but for unprecedented growth: these things that Joe sent me they were part of his 747.

And indeed, if we work together to beat the odds eventually not this year, maybe not next year but eventually we will get to the stage of growing seven percent for seven years would your sustained prosperity for the greatest number of our people.

Indeed, the economic crisis we are facing now constitutes the odds. But it's the proper venue, and here's to gather together our shared dreams and aspirations for this great nation.

Our people's salvation depends on the cooperation of its leaders with the people and with one another. With a collective heave of great political will, we will break the yoke of mounting debt and free our people from the vicious cycle of poverty.

This is the time for sterner yet greater days, when action takes precedence over words.

This is the time for unity. This is the time for patriotic fervor. And I join the rest of the people in wishing you Congress, all the best in your valiant efforts to do your essential and crucial part to build prosperity for the greatest number of our people.

Together, let us beat the odds. Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Legislative Agenda Planning Workshop

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Legislative Agenda Planning Workshop**

[Delivered at the Diosdado Macapagal Hall Landbank Plaza, Malate, Manila, September 23, 2004]

Thank you very much, Speaker Joe de Venecia, thank you for inviting me here. And thank you for organizing this workshop, as always, to arrive at consensus. Joe de Venecia is the master of the win-win solution congratulations. Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar; Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin, our host in this building Cito Lorenzo and Gary Teves, my Cabinet members who are here, Deborah ...who financed this meeting so that there's no cost to the Philippine government. members of the house, civil society leaders, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

How providential that this hall in which we're holding this workshop is named after my father. That's why his picture is there. It's his birthday next week, and I'm asking him to pray for us from his home in heaven, because aside from having been president like me, he was also congressman like you. In fact, as president he was the father of land reform and the father of the land bank. That's why this hall was named after him.

But this month we remember not only my father's birthday. We also remember that 32 years ago, martial law was declared. That was what the meeting of the National Security Council Joe de Venecia talked about was all about. Since that time, when martial law was declared 32 years ago the nation has been struck with ideological strife that has now combined with the partisan strife arising from three successive extraordinary upheavals in political leadership.

When I called the national security council on that day September 21 as Joe said, my message was— it is now time to begin to heal the wounds of EDSA one, two, and three. for those of you who listened to my inauguration address you will remember that this is one of the ten legacy points that I declared in that address last June 30th.

By the way, let me take this opportunity to say that if I was able to make an inaugural address at all last June, it was because the vast majority of you, the congressmen supported me in the last elections, thank you so much for that support.

And now I will need your support again this time in fulfilling the ten-point legacy agenda that I talked about in that inaugural address amidst the difficulties that our nation is encountering. I thank you Joe for the twelve -point program that you, Raul and Gerry gave me and it is very much a part of my ten-points, for example, reviving the mining industry, your number one, is part of my number one point to create ten million jobs. Mobilize investments of the Mt. Diwalwal gold mine the same thing. Explore and develop more oil and gas wells, is part also of the creation of ten million jobs. And so, these are, I'm very grateful that you have this summary because Romy Neri is now putting together under my very close direction or medium term plan and we will find a place for this paragraphs in our medium term plan in the appropriate chapters.

I have a very meaningful acronym for my ten-point legacy agenda-many of you know about this already. It's beat the odds:

B for a balanced budget,

E for education for all,

A for automated elections, and

T for transportation to connect the whole country. That's b-e-a-t, beat.

Then t is for terminate the hostilities with the NPA and the MILF,

H is for heal the wounds of EDSA,

E is electricity and water for the whole country. T-h-e, the.

For odds, o is for opportunities for 10 million jobs.

D is decongest Manila. And

Ds is for develop Subic-Clark. B-e-a-t-t-h-e-o-d-d-s, beat the odds.

If you in Congress support me the way you supported me in the last elections, we can beat the odds.

We can beat the odds even as our nation faces the threat of a grave economic crisis. Those are the odds. If we act on time and in tandem. Our national survival rests on whatever patriotic consensus we can build. That's why I'm glad we have this workshop.

In my state of the nation address last July, I told you of the five reform packages I need to achieve my 10-point legacy: the economic growth and job creation package of which a lot of this is there. The energy independence package, that's why I'm very glad that we have this exploring and developing more oil and gas wells. The social justice and basic needs package, the education and youth opportunity package, and the anti-corruption and good governance package.

To promote good governance, I asked you to enact a government re-engineering law that will give a silver parachute for early retirement so that the payroll savings can fund a better-paid, lean and mean bureaucracy.

To promote education, I asked you to enact a law that will standardize day care teaching to provide one extra year of education instead of a fifth year of high school.

To promote social justice, I asked you to enact a law qualifying farm land as collateral and other laws on land titling that constitute what the world calls the de SOTO reforms. In fact, because we're in this hall I might add my father was the father of land reform. Now, with this new reforms it will be the new land reform.

To promote energy independence, I asked you to pass a franchise law for Transco so that, its privatization can fetch a good price and help reduce Napocor's huge deficit.

And to promote economic growth, I asked you to pass eight revenue measures that we need to finance our growth without resorting to so much borrowing.

Of the eight revenue measures, I thank you for assuring me that you can pass at least four this year. And of the four, may I say that the most urgent is the indexation of taxes on alcohol and cigarettes.

I understand that the committee on ways and means chaired by Jing Lapuz over there has already sponsored the tax amnesty and lateral attrition bills. I congratulate and thank Jing, but I also congratulate and thank Tito Miniong, Gary's father ... Avier, Eric Singson and the other members of the committee for your swift response to our request.

I also appreciate the dedication and perseverance of Junie Cua, chair of the house committee on trade and Danny Suarez whom I saw walked in. There you are Danny, oh! There is Eric. Thank you Eric of the oversight committee, Blue Boy Nepomuceno, chair of the civil service committee and Nonoy Andaya, chair of the appropriations committee. I must of course acknowledge, the Speaker Joe and all the members many of you who are here today who have consistently shown your full support for the revenue and other crucial measures.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the several of your members who have donated personal funds to the Bayanihan fund. Thank you. and to the many of you who have acknowledged the need for transparency and commonality of purpose in the allocation of your congressional funds.

I wish we didn't have to enact taxes at a time of hardships for the poor. But it is time to act now rather than when it is too late. It's time to act now or we're still credit worthy in the eyes of our creditors, it's time to act now or we can still grow at 6.2 percent as we did in the last quarter.

This growth was been financed by borrowings because we are still credit-worthy, but we cannot sustain growth based on borrowings. We must finance growth with our own resources.

Our fiscal problem is a cumulative result of incessant borrowings in lieu of generating the proper level of revenues to meet the needs of our people. As our national debt grew from one billion pesos in my father's time to 30 billion pesos on the eve of martial law and exponentially growing. So, did the amount of interest payments we needed to pay grow.

And aside from these interest payments, the national government is also saddled with financial obligations to our LGUs. From 1992 to 2004, the IRA share of local government units has more than doubled. In terms of the percentage of the budget seven percent in 1992 to 16 percent in 2004.

The net result of these combined increases in interest rates and LGU shares has been the reduction of capital spending and other vital expenditures.

For 2004, our interest payments stood at 32 percent IRA 16 percent. Personal services ate up an even bigger share, leaving us with only six percent of the national budget for infrastructure and economic growth.

This creeping trend has reached a precarious threshold. And I'm glad that congress agrees that we should not wait until we reach a point when the entire budget could be solely devoted to debt payments and IRA and personnel.

Our external debt to GDP ratio at 71 percent is the third highest in Asia, when our ratio of revenue to GDP at 14 percent is the second lowest in Asia.

We must act now to bridge that gap.

And as the source of revenue laws, you, the congressmen have it in your hands to bridge this huge gap and allow our nation to ride out the tide of the crisis without imposing too great a burden upon the poorest and the grandchildren of the poorest who live in the margins of the economy.

We in the executive branch, on the other hand, will remain vigorous in going after tax cheats, in enforcing fiscal discipline and sharpening tax collection efficiency. I am instructing the BIR to use all the powers in its command, including the power to garnish bank accounts of notorious tax evaders as soon as their assessments are final.

And I have just signed an executive order giving the commissioner of customs the powers that used to be exercised by the defunct economic intelligence and investigation bureau in order to combat smuggling. next Tuesday, I will call a command conference of the Bureau of Customs to examine the performance of each collector.

I have read the riot act to my appointees in the GOCCs. The board members who are unable to accept the burden of sacrifice must surrender their positions now. while I've said it's only realistic that for those executives where we have a danger of losing them to the private sector must be paid their highest price. ... already acknowledged Rey David who's coming in with a cut in pay. Today, I want to acknowledge Gary Teves who's also voluntarily reducing his pay.

If we work together to beat the odds, we also have a better chance not just for beating the odds but for unprecedented growth: these things that Joe sent me they were part of his 747.

And indeed, if we work together to beat the odds eventually not this year, maybe not next year but eventually we will get to the stage of growing seven percent for seven years would your sustained prosperity for the greatest number of our people.

Indeed, the economic crisis we are facing now constitutes the odds. But it's the proper venue, and here's to gather together our shared dreams and aspirations for this great nation.

Our people's salvation depends on the cooperation of its leaders with the people and with one another. With a collective heave of great political will, we will break the yoke of mounting debt and free our people from the vicious cycle of poverty.

This is the time for sterner yet greater days, when action takes precedence over words.

This is the time for unity. This is the time for patriotic fervor. And I join the rest of the people in wishing you Congress, all the best in your valiant efforts to do your essential and crucial part to build prosperity for the greatest number of our people.

Together, let us beat the odds. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Legislative Agenda Planning Workshop. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133148/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5694&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 30th Philippine Business Conference and Exhibition

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 30th Philippine Business Conference and Exhibition

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Manila, October 6, 2004]

Thank you, Secretary Romulo, for your introduction and congratulations! May I congratulate you for your excellent performance in the United Nations as my new Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Noemi, Bing, Cerge, Mike, Sammy, Robin, all of you, leaders of the Chamber, congratulations on your 30th anniversary.

I would like to greet Don Emilio Yap and all of the awardees in tonight's honors. I would like to greet also my Cabinet members and the members of the Diplomatic Corps, the local governments who are here especially because they received recognition for their business-friendliness from the Chamber.

And thank you, Noemi, thank you to the whole Chamber for inviting me once again to be here. And, Noemi, congratulations for having Dr. Mahathir as your date yesterday.

Foreign Prime Minister Mahathir was invited by you because he left Malaysia with a legacy of a modernized economy. But over and above that, he is dear to us, to me, because he made a leading contribution to our peace process in Mindanao. And I think, he was happy to hear that, perhaps, because he was the keynote speaker of the first day, Mindanao's delegation to this business conference is the biggest in history.

Thank you to Noemi for calling on all the PCCI members to pay the correct taxes and to help my administration resolve the fiscal problem. You see, we, in Malacañang, read your website. That is how highly we value the opinion of the PCCI. Truly, the PCCI is the voice of Philippine business.

And so, I hear you when you call on your members to do their share by paying the correct taxes, but I also hear you when you call on the government to reduce the red tape that stifles business initiatives.

And once again, I am instructing our government regulators, many of whom are here, to simplify and reduce the rules and regulations imposed on business and industry. Reduce them instead of multiplying them. I am also instructing my regulators to make it easier, rather than make it more difficult to do business in the Philippines. And I am instructing my regulators to encourage business, instead of discouraging investors.

These instructions are especially crucial today when we are at the crossroads. Whether to move forward, toward a modern progressive nation, like Malaysia, or fall backward to the failed policies of populist governance.

I, for one, am optimistic about our future, and so are many others who matter. Last Sunday, I was reading the Business Bulletin, and I read that a survey conducted by Jetro showed that the diffusion index, which is a measure of business sentiment among Japanese companies, declined in all countries in ASEAN and North Asia this September from the previous month, except for the Philippines. And the case of the Philippines that business index sentiment rose from 20.3 to 22.9.

Strikes have gone down to almost zero. And last Monday, some of your leaders through ECOP and three giant labor federations representing two-thirds of unionized workers in our country signed a "No Strike, No Retrenchment" agreement.

The IMF has raised its growth forecast for the Philippines. And the stock market, two days ago, surged to its highest level in nearly five years. Our GDP growth rate of 6.3 percent is our fastest since the Asian crisis, and one of the

fastest today in the region. All these — GNP, stock market, “No Strike, No Retrenchment” — all of these are because of your work, the business community. Congratulations to you!

And now, may I ask you, help me to bring the exchange rate back to 50 to 1.

Tough odds, but many of you are already familiar with the acronym for my ten-point legacy agenda : BEAT THE ODDS.

B is for balanced budget. E is for Education for all. A is for automated elections. T is for transport and digital infrastructure to connect the entire country.

T is for termination of the conflicts with the NPA and the MILF. H is for healing the wounds of EDSA. E is for Electricity and water for the whole nation.

O is for opportunities for 10 million jobs. D is for decongesting Manila. And DS is for developing Subic-Clark. BEAT THE ODDS!

This legacy is the starting point of the Philippine development plan for the period 2004 to 2010, which Romy Neri will unveil this coming Monday. That is why he is not here tonight. He has to be there, writing it out.

The basic task of this Medium Term Philippine Development Plan that will be unveiled by Romy on Monday is to fight poverty and build prosperity for the greatest number of the people. We will focus on strategic measures and activities which will spur economic growth and create jobs.

In spite of what I mentioned earlier, that should give us room for optimism, we must face the fact that the underlying growth components of our country while respectable have not been so robust. National savings, for example, hovered at 23.4 percent in the first quarter of 2004, not high enough to finance the investment required for the 7 percent growth rate that we would like to achieve towards the end of my administration.

Unemployment has stayed out the historical levels because even if I created more than a million jobs a year, I had inherited 4 million jobless, mainly, due to the fact that previous to my term, only a hundred-fifty thousand jobs were being created a year.

Thus, in my administration, creating one million jobs, which is what we did together, was like running on a treadmill. The pace is just enough to stay in place. So, we have got to run faster. Our inflation rate is up from the very low rates of my previous tenure, mainly because of the oil price crisis and because the budget deficit accumulated over many years is catching up with us.

Stiff global competition affects our exports in employment, and you know that even more than I do. And you know even more than I do that we must bring down the cost of doing business. That we must find ways to increase government funding for infrastructure project which we need to increase global competitiveness. The quality of infrastructure is perennially sighted as the main problem in the Philippines' global competitiveness.

Mahathir was here. Many of you have traveled to Kuala Lumpur. You have seen how infrastructure has developed during the administration of Prime Minister Mahathir.

Meantime, the global economy especially our major trading partners like the U.S. and Japan, are showing signs of recovery. China's strong growth is becoming a driving force for countries in the East Asia Pacific Region and it has been buying a lot from the Philippines. We must seize these opportunities, we must expand our market shares and attract more investments.

We want to increase the investment rate from 19% of GDP to 28% in the next two years. We want to increase spending on public infrastructure and private infrastructure, both of us, by an incremental hundred billion a year. We

want to increase exports from \$39 billion to \$50 billion in the next two years. We want to support 3 million entrepreneurs, that is something close to the heart of PCCI. To do that, we want to triple loans to self-employed and small business owners.

To strengthen and sustain our global competitiveness and create 10 million jobs, we will focus on five strategic measures.

One, make food plentiful at reasonable prices to make our labor costs globally competitive.

Two, reduce the cost of electricity; to make the cost of running our machine and manufacturing process regionally competitive.

Three, modernize the physical infrastructure and logistic system at least cost to ensure efficient movement of goods and people.

Four, mobilize and disseminate knowledge to upgrade our technologies and increase our people's productivity.

And, five, as you have said in your survey, reduce red tape in all government agencies to reduce transaction cost.

Our job creation thrusts are the following: high skill jobs in ICT like soft ware, BPO and call centers, fashion garments, Dina jewelry, Josie, medical services, automotive, electronics, health care – St. Luke's award is great for that environment – also medium skill jobs in agri-business, mining, tourism – meaning hotels and restaurants -, and entertainment. And simple skill jobs in construction, SMEs, and micro enterprise.

Thus, we shall promote investments in agri-business, in entrepreneurship, and small and medium enterprise development, also energy independence, and investments in infrastructure as well as investments in exports.

We mention agri business and I am glad to hear from Raul Hernandez that that's a major thrust of PCCI as well. Agri business is a leading element in our action plan to create ten million jobs. Agriculture accounts for 20 percent of the Gross National Product, one-fifth of the economy, one-third of the population is in agriculture or agriculture-related industries. During the past three years we saw the consistent growth of the agriculture sector. It created 1.87 million jobs or 623,000 per year of the 1 million jobs per year during the first Arroyo Administration.

This time we want to develop 2 million of hectares of land for agri business in order to contribute 2 million to the 10 million jobs targeted as my legacy by 2010. We want to reduce the cost of rice, corn, sugar and other wage goods through productivity and efficient transport and logistics. We will continue to promote and expand the roll-on, roll-off ferry logistic system for a more efficient transport of agricultural goods from Mindanao to Luzon. We will promote – good thing we have the Mindanaoans here, Jodi – Southern Mindanao as a Halal food production area and create a new class of farmers and fishermen.

How will we do that, create a new class of farmers and fishermen? We will organize a large-scale program of non-traditional high-value crops in farms and fisheries. The high-value farm crops, vegetables and fruits, have a much, much higher yield than the traditional staple crops of rice and corn. A program of aquaculture in the coastal areas including carrageenan and in the waters with thousands of fish cages in the seas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, growing and culturing sea bass, grouper, pompano, milk fish, cobia, freshwater and saline tilapia, red snapper, etc. These fish have assured markets in the frozen and live fish markets of China, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, the U.S. and Europe with significant foreign exchange earnings, high-profit, and of course, job-creating potential.

Another major element in our plan to create 10 million jobs is entrepreneurship. Together with you, we will provide credit, technology and marketing support for three million micro, small and medium enterprises. We will also empower existing SMEs to generate additional employment through increased lending and the promotion of the big brother-small brother program initiated by former president of DBP, Mon Paterno, which I hope – I've instructed the

new president Rey David — to continue. We would like to tap returning OFWs as sources of capital and continue product development as part of technology support.

For exports, we will draw up a more focused — has to be focused because of the budget deficit — a more focused incentives package with priority on the areas I mentioned earlier: ICT, automotive, electronics, mining, health care, tourism, shipbuilding, garments, jewelry and agribusiness. We will conclude trade agreements with Japan, Asean and China, and consider a trade agreement with the U.S., and strengthen our economic relationship with Europe. Tomorrow, I leave for the Asia-Europe summit in Hanoi, where I hope to tighten our economic partnership in Europe without going to so many countries in Europe because they'll all be there in Hanoi.

After all, Europe has already overtaken Japan and the United States as the Philippines top source of foreign direct investments. The largest single investment in the Philippines is the British-Dutch development of Malampaya offshore gas, which is expected to provide the government with an estimated revenue of 10 billion dollars over the next 20 years. We hope to have more investments from Europe, for instance, in the field of ICT.

But, we can only finance the infrastructure required by these investors including you and the credit needed by the SMEs for investments from the fiscal position of fiscal strength.

As you can see from the road to fiscal strength for fighting poverty that I asked to be distributed here today, for over two decades, the Philippine government has been operating on a fiscal deficit except in the years 1994 to 1997. But even then the budget surpluses we posted in those years were mainly attributable to privatization proceeds. And since then, our total expenditures, including our debt payments, have been more than the revenues we could raise.

The government very soon could no longer afford to subsist on borrowed funds. Any government expenditure that's financed by borrowing is a contribution to the budget deficit. For instance, I often go somewhere and I inaugurate a road and then they say, 'eh pero yung kalsada naman yan galing sa World Bank.'

But when we say a road or a port is financed by ODA — yes, we should be happy we're still creditworthy for the soft loans. Better payment terms, better interest — but we should also be sad that that road or port is contributing to the deficit because every project financed by a loan contributes to the deficit. On the other hand, we have no choice right now but to borrow for those roads and bridges, and therefore increase our deficit as long as our tax collections are less than our expenditures. And if we persist in sustaining national growth through relentless borrowings from foreign and domestic creditors, the interest payments will eat up a bigger and bigger share of the budget. And if this keeps happening, public services and social reforms, as we know them, would slow down or even come to a full stop.

That's why we are determined to put our fiscal house in order. And the fiscal road map that I have distributed tonight or today here in your conference is part of our medium-term plan that Romy will unveil on Monday.

This fiscal road map has three policy objectives: one, balance the national government budget in six years; two, reduce the ratio of the consolidated public sector deficit to GDP from 6.8 percent to 3 percent for the same period; and three, reduce the ratio of public sector debt to GDP from a 136.5 percent last year to 90 percent by 2010. The legislative and executive actions needed to obtain these objectives are part of the medium-term plan that Romy will unveil on Monday.

Our objective to balance the budget within six years requires a gradual reduction of our deficits every year until we reach zero in 2010.

Fiscal discipline, austerity, rationalization, these are the by-words in the executive branch of government. The country's fiscal problem requires sharing not only of goals but of burdens. It cannot be denied that in undertaking fiscal discipline while generating revenues, sacrifices will have to be made by both the public and the private sectors. And I'm glad your theme is 'beyond business' because business is supposed to be the profit motive — sacrifice for the good of the country and the future of the climate is beyond business.

We must do better, and we will. I thank you that you, the chamber, have thought hard about the kind of Philippines you want. And I thank you for, as Digna and Noemi said, joining me in the fight for change. I need you, the business leaders of our country to invest today in the Philippines of tomorrow. That is being one, being global, being Filipino, being together. One global Filipino, together we will beat the odds.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 30th Philippine Business Conference and Exhibition. Retrieved from
https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133132/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5706&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Gridiron Night with the Press

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Gridiron Night with the Press**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, October 11, 2004]

**GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESS:
PARTNERS IN REFORMS**

On my way here, I just could not believe what I heard about our newsmen being an endangered specie. For as long as they can keep their sense of humor, I firmly believe that they will not only survive, but will outlive even the ancient crocodile.

If they could keep their noses close to the grindstone and be able to enjoy and laugh at themselves, newsmen will go on, outlasting many of the institutions they are reporting on. I was told by a former newsman, that you have to be a little out of the ordinary, if not a little crazy, to earn a living by ferreting out the truth and peddling them to the public. It is not a job for the fainthearted.

I therefore tip my hat for that genius that invented the Gridiron. Over the years it has become a tradition, one that makes newsmen feel like newsmen by their capacity to make fun and laugh at themselves. By making light of even our most difficult problems, and making us laugh at our antics, sparing not even the President of the Republic, we somehow make it easy to accept that we may not be the closest of friends, but we are not enemies, and that we can approach our individual and collective responsibilities in a more joyous and generous spirit.

I came here in that spirit, eager to share with you the fun and merriment of this Gridiron, without of course forgetting that while laughter is the best medicine and should make us feel better in dealing with our problems, laughter by itself will not make our problems go away. Of course, when I come home from this dinner after hearing the best jokes of the night, I would not want to be like the man, who when asked what he felt after painfully stubbing a foot, said, "I felt too old to cry, but it hurt so much for me to laugh." I also came here to congratulate you for doing your work, which Joseph Pulitzer aptly described as "comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable."

The first 100 days of my administration have come and gone, but I have to remind you before this night is over that we have yet to have our honeymoon. I would not accuse you of not doing your work, but our first 100 days together was short of being a honeymoon. Perhaps we were too riveted on our problems not to pay much attention to the fact that cure is on the way.

By practice, this so-called honeymoon between the press and the new administration comes from a feeling that a new president has to be given the benefit of the doubt, a small window to set the tone and direction for his or her government, and to recognize that it is inevitable that being new, he or she can commit mistakes, that the new President has yet to find his or her sea legs. Thus the press is inclined to be more generous in its comments, to be more constructive and helpful in a way, to make this period more like a wait-and-see period until clarity is achieved in public policy.

Perhaps the reason lies in the fact that this is not an entirely new administration, but a continuation of my first three years in government. As we have said, we have made a down payment in the past three years to correct what was

wrong in our country, and the next six years will see us paying the balance until our goals are achieved. Perhaps, the press felt there was no need for me to enjoy the bliss of another honeymoon, because I was not a newcomer but an old pro.

The truth is, we have had a new beginning. In this fast-changing world, we have had to deal with our problems with a plethora of new ideas, initiatives and new directions. When you come to think of it the only thing that remains constant is change. And to bring this about, and to make sure that change will be our friend rather than an enemy, we have to summon what is basically good and positive in our people to keep our country on the move. Perhaps, our honeymoon will come later.

All of us, I believe, are for change in general. But many of us are against change in particular, especially if it involves change in ourselves, if it means a dose of our own medicine.

It has been little noticed and largely unexplained, but in the past 100 days, we have reaffirmed an old ethos of more opportunity for all and more responsibility from all. We have called on our countrymen, especially those who are better off, to help us strengthen our sense of community and mutual obligation, by getting to be more willing to give than to receive, in thinking not only of ourselves but of others, too. Again, we tried to impress upon every citizen that any personal pursuit cannot be separate of the needs of others.

Without much fanfare, we are pushing change in the area where it is most needed in these critical times – within ourselves. Perhaps we have to reimagine ourselves as capable of dealing with our problems, that we are to compete in this harsh and competitive world, that we are in this together as one nation and one people. Only then, can our best-laid plans to eliminate poverty be fulfilled. If we can only assume our responsibilities as citizens, we need not make “sacrifices” for our country; it would be sufficient for each to contribute commensurate to our ability and means.

A change in values takes time and requires patience. Its clarity and meaning comes only after months and years. However, when I announced that we are facing a fiscal crisis, I knew that we do not have the luxury of time. We need brave hearts and the resolution to change now if we are to cope with the problems at hand.

In making our people more hopeful of their future, more confident of their ability to survive and prevail, and to remain confident of their capacity to make themselves a part of a larger community, we have to have a sympathetic press that can and will understand not only the difficulties that stand in the way of their success, but will have them believe in themselves. This the press can do by giving scope to their accomplishments, to their seemingly small and insignificant victories in the daily struggle for survival.

I know that in a nation like ours that is riddled with pockets of deprivation, it is not easy to give space for those small victories that taken together constitute nation building. I must repeat that I am not here to blame the press for the cynicism that is rampant in our society. But it is in the power of the press to dispel so much of the indifference and skepticisms that have often held back even the most dynamic and vigorous of societies.

What I ask the press is a modicum of fairness, a nudge in the angle of the news, an ounce of objectivity in the run of opinion to reflect the big picture – that of a nation coping with a crisis and winning the battle against poverty, of a people valiantly fighting for change and beating the odds.

This request assumes critical proportion when we consider that certain quarters are bent on using media not as an instrument of truth, but as a tool to twist the truth like a pretzel. These are the people who would not rest in turning the people against their government, at every opportunity, with slogans of hate and conspiracies to deceive or to inculcate fear.

There is no substitute for leveling with the people especially on questions that directly affect their lives. I told the truth about our fiscal situation, saying the people deserve to know how High the bar that is set before them. As President, I feel it was my duty to tell the people what they ought to know.

I also invite the media to remain vigilant against those with self-serving interests who would mislead our people with lies dressed as legitimate news.

Needless to say, I am foursquare behind a free and independent press. I will be the first to be disappointed by a cloying press and a press with no backbone. But the government and the press can also be partners in pushing those reforms needed to change society.

In the task of making people feel proud of their accomplishments, in highlighting their positive nature, in helping them prepare for the future with hope and confidence, and helping voice their desire for good government, there is no quarrel between the government and the press have no quarrel. They can very well share the same objectives. Otherwise, we either have a bad government or a bad press.

Thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd Union Network International-Asia Pacific Regional Organization (UNI-APRO) Four Sector Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd Union Network International-Asia Pacific Regional Organization (UNI-APRO) Four Sector Conference (finance, telecom, commerce and postal)**

[Delivered at the Cebu City Sports Club, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, October 13, 2004]

Thank you very much, Undersecretary Imson, for helping to host this very important conference.

Mr. De Bruyn, President, thank you very much for choosing to have the Conference here in the Philippines. And may I also greet my compadre, compadre Dejon, the Philippine Chairman. Thank you for giving me your speaking time tonight. Mr. Jennings and the other officials: Mr. Ng, Mr. Boil, Mr. Murishima, Mr. Blantorn, Mr. Komoda, Mr. Omimoto.

I'd like to greet also, together with me, two of my Cabinet Members, Secretary Bert Gonzales and Secretary Dodi Limcaoco; Mr. Umali, Secretary General; I have Mike Rama in the list, are you here Mike? There you are Mike, good, good, good; participants to the 2nd Union Network International-Asia Pacific Regional Organization Four-Sector Conference, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for choosing the Philippines and thank you for choosing Cebu as your venue for this international conference.

Congratulations to Uni-Philippines for being able to host this... As has been said before by Mr. Umali, this is a first that the Philippines should host so many labor union leaders from 27 countries. It just goes to show that the Philippine labor movement is now a global class labor movement.

I agree with your theme that we put people first. In fact that was my... that was my campaign slogan, you know. It was 'mamamayan muna' which means people first and that we must protect their welfare against the rippling tide of globalization.

Putting people first — to me, when I campaigned on the platform of putting people first, I explained that to mean giving them jobs. And because the people of the Philippines elected me on that platform of people first, I aim to stake my leadership, as mentioned earlier by our international guests, on the creation of six to ten million jobs within the next six years.

Our goal is to optimize job creation in at least five sectors, namely: medium, small and micro enterprises; agribusiness; mining; tourism; and information and communications technology and exports. These sectors represent 80 percent of the source of current employment.

In generating jobs, we are not going to fall into the treadmill trap where we continue to gather speed yet end up always in the same place. Yesterday, I had a cabinet meeting to focus on fundamental interventions to remove us from this proverbial treadmill, where we keep running just to stay in place, into a more expansive and verdant employment landscape.

In that meeting, we agreed on strategic measures to make it easier for the private sector and our exporters, many of whom are in Cebu, to create new jobs. Some of these concrete measures include:

Extending more support to pump-prime export-oriented industries;

Allocating at least 2 million hectares for agri-business ventures including such things as seaweed farming; and adding government scholarships for master's and doctoral degrees to promote technical competency particularly among ICT professionals and also professionals in electronics.

Discussing jobs makes your choice of venue for this meeting very appropriate. Cebu provides the right setting and atmosphere for such a critical agenda because it stands out as a world-class economic enclave, where productivity and profit rule. Congratulations! Cebu.

The timing of your conference is also impeccable. Our country is now in the grip of self renewal. We've come to realize that national complacency must give way to fiscal discipline and therefore a more austere lifestyle.

I'm grateful to the response of organized labor and the employer sector to my call for greater sacrifices and unity as we put our economic houses in order.

Last week, the trade union congress of the Philippines, to which Mr. Dejon belongs, together with other organized labor groups representing two-thirds of our organized labor, signed a social accord with the employers confederation of the Philippines for a 'no strike, no lay-off' agreement.

This historic pact does not in any way preclude our workers basic right to fight for a decent wage or humane labor standards. It's a voluntary agreement between labor and employers to settle disputes amicably in the spirit of cooperation and fraternity in awareness of the national exigencies involved.

Our banking industry, which is represented here by Mr. Umali and the others that greeted me earlier, and its employees subscribe to the social dialogue for industrial peace. We have a banking industry tripartite council where the labor and finance departments as well as the Central Bank represent government; the Bankers' Association of the Philippines represents employers; and sitting for the labor is the national union of bank employees headed by UNI's secretary-general, Jun Umali. Congratulations! Jun.

The spirit of dialogue instead of confrontation has driven the lowest record of strikes in the Philippines in the last 21 years. Since September ended, the labor department has only recorded 19 strikes over this whole year. Labor and management have jointly come of age as an enlightened force for political and economic stability.

To be able to compete in a fast-moving, globalized regime, one must have capital, the right technology, adequate modern infrastructure and transport systems, and a skilled and hard-working work force.

We have the solid work force. We're now working on the transport systems as well as the physical and digital infrastructure to move ahead. We're constrained in capital and technology but working hard on these fronts. At the same time, we've also teamed up with the developing world in a struggle for a level global playing field.

I've never held back my sentiments on the kind of development we want. On the one hand, we believe only an enterprise economy can attract the investments and unleash the creative productive forces we need to fight poverty and attain welfare-enhancing growth. On the other hand, we believe that liberalization cannot be pushed without a clear sense of social responsibility.

As the UNDP puts it, globalization has enormous capacity to create wealth for all, but it also has the same enormous potential to perpetuate a highly unequal and deeply polarized world. We need and demand social and labor rules that distribute wealth and opportunities fairly.

In Cancun last year, the Philippines opposed the further liberalization of trade in agriculture and other sectors if there are no reforms in the trade-distorting subsidies provided by developing countries to their domestic producers.

When farm subsidies in the developed world reach one billion dollars a day while the poorest in the developing world are barely surviving on one dollar a day — fair deals in trade are impossible.

And I shall continue to fight for special safeguards for socially sensitive products. We cannot allow our staple crops such as rice and corn to be wiped out in the name of trade liberalization.

These special products represent the livelihood and jobs of a great number of our people. They also represent a way of life and part of our national culture.

We need a global consensus on how the core social, environmental and labor standards can be blended and harmonized to serve the imperatives of human survival and dignity. Yet to many Filipinos, globalization is a passport with a working visa and a free ticket to high-paying job overseas.

Eight million Filipinos live abroad. Two million of them reside in the United States, or work in the United States rather, half a million in the European Union and hundreds of thousands in Japan, Korea and the Middle East. Incidentally, may I congratulate Japan for being the biggest delegation to this conference. We even have 1,000 Filipinos working in the fishing processing plants of Iceland.

In the Province of Cavite, which is just next door to Manila, we have our own little Italy, our little 'Italian Village' where entire neighborhoods have relatives working as domestic helpers in Italy. We also have seafarers subdivisions that are home to the spouses and children of about 200,000 Filipino seafarers.

Overseas workers shore up our economy through their remittances, and I thank you that one of your goals is to have more efficient, faster and cheaper remittance. But there is a high social cost we pay for fragmented families. I want to create more jobs here and bring in the foreign capital and technology needed so more Filipinos could have the option to stay. Going abroad should be an option not a necessity.

In the medium-term development program our government presented to the public last Monday, we identified several strategies to keep our workers home:

Make food plentiful at reasonable prices to make labor cost globally competitive;

Reduce the cost of electricity through power sector reforms;

Modernize infrastructure and logistics to lower transport costs;

Mobilize and disseminate knowledge to make workers and manufacturing processes more productive; and

Reduce red tape in all government agencies to bring down the cost of doing business.

We have a fiscal road map to improve economic stability, and a ten-point legacy agenda, which... The agenda for my legacy to the Filipino people, to fight poverty and spur growth.

Every effort is now being made to manage our debts better. To promote fiscal discipline, we've set an annual ceiling for our government deficit as well as a debt cap to prevent further unnecessary foreign borrowings.

We are pushing for tax measures that would levy more from those who can afford to pay.

Our foreign policy is driven by economic diplomacy. My first state visit, in fact only state visit this year, was to China where I witnessed the signing of agreements that would bring in a total of one billion U.S. dollars in investments and credits to the Philippines.

The Philippines is also a leading advocate for the protection of migrant workers. And I thank you that you took up migration in this conference. Towards this end, we hope to work with UNI-PRO or UNI-APRO in promoting an agenda to safeguard the rights of all migrant workers.

Our law enforcers are working with our neighbors to constrict the trafficking of women and children across borders.

Just yesterday, we signed an agreement with the U.S. government regarding that. Our embassies abroad have rescued Filipino women workers who were illegally recruited and sent to nightclubs in Asia, Africa and Europe.

A presidential task force against illegal recruitment and human trafficking has been created to obliterate this illegal and immoral human trade.

Sadly, the fight against poverty has been left behind by the march of globalization. As the chasm between the rich and poor nations widen, the poor end up in an abyss of disillusion and despair.

As a dynamic network of labor unions across Asia and the Pacific, your group is in a unique position to rectify the situation. Your theme is already in the right direction.

A few months ago, an overseas Filipino worker in Iraq was caught in a conflict, not of his making. He was released after a crisis team was able to negotiate his release with the hostage-takers.

That worker is Angelo Dela Cruz, a truck driver from my home province of Pampanga. Angelo is now home, safe, and leading a quiet life with his family because we in the Philippines do put people first.

I hope that you will continue to consider and alleviate the plight of vulnerable workers such as Angelo Dela Cruz in your advocacy to put people first in the global agenda.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 2nd Union Network International-Asia Pacific Regional Organization (UNI-APRO) Four Sector Conference (finance, telecom, commerce and postal). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133102/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5703&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo on the Holy Month of Ramadhan

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the Holy Month of Ramadhan**

[Delivered on October 15, 2004]

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM WARAMATULLAHI WABARAKATUHU...

I greet the Muslim Ummah on the occasion of the observance of the Holy Month of Ramadhan. I join the Muslim Filipino community in marking this month of sacrifice and self-denial. This is a timely event in an era of challenge, renewal and reform.

Ultimately, the message of the season is that of Peace, Hope and Unity. It is a message addressed to all Filipinos and to all mankind, at a time of strife and conflict in many land.

The Muslim Ummah's aspiration for peace and unity is one we hold dearly and will incessantly seek. It is enshrined in my Ten-point Agenda for governance over the next six years. Our dreams for our Muslim brothers is for each and everyone to attain their aspirations for peace and a better life. This shall be my government's unflagging goal.

This year's fasting season impresses upon us the urgency to respond to the growing needs of the poor and depressed communities. It provides us the opportunity to share a part of ourselves, and a portion of our sacrifices, to serve our less fortunate countrymen.

In Mindanao, peace is at hand. We have a ceasefire that is working and one which both sides in the conflict assiduously strive to maintain. The people of Mindanao no longer hear the cracking of the guns, secure in the thought of the instruments of war being locked up and happy in knowing that restraint is being sincerely exercised by both parties to the conflict.

Across the negotiating table, we must pursue a comprehensive and durable solution to the problems of Mindanao, a land of promise but whose promise had never been fulfilled. I shall strive to fulfill that promise.

Let us share with our Muslim brothers and sisters the collective sense of self-abnegation, sacrifice, and cleansing – and link arms to achieve the ultimate prize of peace.

May this Holy month of Ramadhan bring peace and prosperity to our country and people. Ramadhan Kareem!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). The President's Message on the Holy Month of Ramadhan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133050/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5702&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 30th Anniversary of the Leyte Gulf Landing

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 30th Anniversary of the Leyte Gulf Landing

[Delivered at the Memorial National Park, Palo, Leyte, October 20, 2004]

Thank you Dick for your very kind introduction and for your beautiful words. Thank you for introducing me in behalf of your co-chairman Secretary Alberto Romulo. Si Secretary Bert Romulo po sana ang magpapakilala sa akin ngayon, ngunit ipinadala ko siya sa Indonesia, dahil iyong ibang bansa ng ASEAN pumunta iyong mga pinuno nila sa Indonesia dahil ito ang unang malawak na halalan mula noong giyera at importanteng panahon ito para sa Indonesia. Ngunit hindi ako makapunta doon dahil ito ay mahalagang panahon para sa ating bansa dito sa Leyte.

Governor Petilla, Congresswoman Petilla and the other officials of Region 8, including our host mayor, Mayor Cerilla of Palo, Reverend Dian, Archbishop, Former First Lady Mrs. Marcos, representatives of our allied forces, Ambassador Richard Ricciardone, thank you for the kind message from President Bush. Minister of State Douglas Alexander, thank you for coming all the way here and for the greetings. Our friends from Australia and New Zealand, Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, our beloved gallant Veterans of the Philippines, America, Australia; members of the Cabinet, other presidential appointees, General Abaya and our other men in uniform, ladies and gentlemen. Maupay nga aga sa inyo na tanan. (Good morning to all of you.)

Sixty years ago today, the largest naval battle in the Pacific was fought and won here in Leyte. It marked the beginning of the end of all wars in our shores. And as patriots and allies marched forward and freedom surged across the place of Luzon, the coast of the Visayas and the jungles of Mindanao, 738 allied ships landed, 200,000 troops in the beaches of Leyte.

President Sergio Osmeña, General Douglas MacArthur, General Carlos P. Romulo and other heroes waded into shore in a dramatic moment captured buy the lens of history and now by our beautiful art work here in Palo.

Allies returned as promised in a saga of a brotherhood sealed in blood between fighters across the Pacific. General MacArthur was said to have 3 K's during the Leyte landing Vice Admiral Thomas Kinkaid, Lieutenant General Walter Krueger and Commander Kenny. But as Dick Gordon says, adding the Philippine perspective and interpretation of history, we must say he actually had a fourth K, the fourth being Colonel Kangleon, the Filipino resistance movement hero.

The Leyte area command under Colonel Kangleon gave MacArthur up to the minute intelligence on enemy ship movements, the weather and mine fields intelligence that greatly reduced war casualties. The Leyte landing therefore remind us of the valor not only of our allies, some of whom are still with us and have come back to celebrate with us today , but also the valor of our own war veterans.

If you are our grandfathers today, but most of you veterans were barely out of puberty when called upon to serve and fight. I salute you our war veterans and with the support of allies in the Senate like Dick Gordon, vow my utmost to find the means to enhance your rights and promote your welfare.

The valor of our war veterans continues to surge in the veins of the Filipino soldiers today. Their primarily war today is not a foreign invader, but rather the enemy within, especially the communist insurgents and other terrorists. In this war against the insurgents and other terrorists were bravely assisted by a continuing partnership with the allies of the Leyte landing, especially the United States.

With the United States, we continue to conduct Joint Military Exercises and Training to further hone our team capabilities against terrorism. With the United States we are working together to ensure the safety and security of our ports and the transport of passengers and cargo. As a result of this enhanced capability, the PNP and the AFP working with their allies have arrested suspected terrorists, defeated the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf, and preemptively seized bombing devices and explosives men to kill thousands of innocent people.

Within 6 months from now, 30 helicopters accompanied by spareparts will arrive in the Philippines from the United States. And the medium term, the U.S. for the next six years of my administration, the U.S. is assisting the Philippines in a wide ranging type of defense reforms worth about P4 billion. The historic bond between Filipinos and Americans forged 60 years ago in the flames of war lives on. U.S.A. idea seized Mindanao and other regions, particularly in education, human trafficking, women and children's rights and counter terrorism. It is releasing over \$20 million in additional development assistance for the conflict within areas in Mindanao even before the signing of our final peace accord.

We have bilateral cooperation efforts against money laundering even after the U.S. government is helping put together, a system to make it easier and cheaper for Filipinos abroad to remit their money to their families back home. The Philippines is on the list of recipients of development funding from the millennium challenge account and in an amicable resolution of a hard profile case between the Philippines' biggest and inherited telecommunications companies and American companies, the U.S. busy court of Hawaii has nullified subpoena served on several Filipino businessmen. That bond forged in the flames of war yet lives on in our security and economic partnership with America.

It also lives on in a grand alliance of aspirations with the former enemy, Japan, now the leading source of official development assistance to the Philippines and a leading source of investment in tourism. It is a bond that includes very strongly other countries like Australia whose 5,000 soldiers also took part in the Leyte landing and which is now home to thousands of migrant Filipinos as well as being a strong supporter of the Mindanao Peace Agenda. It is a partnership that includes Great Britain, the source of the biggest single investment in the Philippines, namely, Shell natural gas investment. It includes New Zealand, which is very well known in Mindanao for a model Reforestation Program. Yes, the Philippines, the United States, Japan and other countries like Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand today believe in the same ideals, uphold common virtues and fight for the righteous cause. As vanguards of freedom, we derive mutual benefit from the relationship shared by a historic past, and blossoming in a challenging present.

More recently, the early return of our contingent from Iraq caused some frictions in our relationship with the United States and even with our other allies. The American government and even some of the other governments disagreed with our decision to put the life of a Filipino truck driver first before the exigencies of the diplomacy.

But, we do all that freedom to decide our national interests to the bloodshed by Filipinos, Americans and Australians in the Second World War. And we do appreciate that the controversy has ended and we have arrived at a higher kind of maturity in our strategic partnership.

As Dick said and as Minister Alexander acknowledged, our commitments to freedom and the war against terror are unplugging and they will be as unplugging in our determination to seek a just and honorable peace with rebels and insurgents. We will put down terrorists by the sword; at the same time that we seek to turn, the rebel swords into plow shares.

But again, as Dick said, let us also remember the civilians, the grandparents of many of those who are here with us today, the brave civilians to whom we owe our enduring tradition of democracy. Sixty years ago today, the ordinary Filipino is an epitome of sacrifice and courage, of resiliency and great fortitude. The late Carlos P. Romulo, incidentally my ninong, was with Mac Arthur in the landings has a story, that on the first few hours of the siege, a Filipino – weak and frail with hunger approached him and asked, "What can we do to help?" That frail and weak Filipino did not ask for food, for clothes, for anything at all, what he asked was what can could he do to help win the war.

That is the Filipino. Such selflessness and bravery are innate in the Filipino. And these are the qualities I still see today as we struggle against strong currents of fiscal crisis, as we ride the undertow of debt that we have gotten used to as a source of our development because it has been for generations, politically easier to borrow than to impose taxes. Decades of borrowing to finance our growth are catching up with us. Our budget goes to interest payments rather than to roads and bridges or to a more grandiose celebration that we could have today if we did not have to spend so much on interest payments or schools and medicines and our poor will suffer more if we fail in the eyes of our creditors, our American creditors, British creditors, Australian creditors, New Zealand creditors and then failing in their credit rating, find out that without borrowing from them, we have no more money of our own to fund our growth.

Political rhetoric will not save the poor, only a purposeful agenda carried out with strong resolve to reduce our debt and finance our development from our own resources, our own taxes, only these can liberate the Filipino from poverty and economic crisis. Let us therefore fight for the future of this country with all our mights. Let us emerge from this painful but necessary period of sacrifice and self-renewal, stronger and more united than before. We must honor the sacrifices of our heroes and the flag that waves above us would be for courage and solidarity.

The road ahead is tough, but we are tougher. History has taught us that freedom is a just reward of the believer, not just military freedom but economic freedom. Last September, the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council organized a business mission to the Philippines. Speaking in behalf of the Council, their President Walter Lowman (?) wrote me last week and may I quote, "Business interest is growing. This is the largest visiting business delegation we have ever had in the Philippines. This is a reflection of confidence in your leadership and commitment to reform. For our part, we are committed to work and complementing your leadership with private sector support." Ambassador Ricciardone, please give my thanks but also to President Bush, for all our brave American veterans but also to our friends, the American businessmen.

Sixty years ago, MacArthur came back to fulfill a promise, that promise led to our military liberation. Today, let us make a promise; let us make a new pact with history to win back our economic freedom and to correct the moral and economic deficits of the past.

Fellow Filipinos, this is the most important war today. This is the most important promise we can make today. Let us make this promise now on these hallowed grounds where our patriots fought one of the greatest battles of all time. Let us do right by our veterans. Let us make life better for them. Let us make life better for their grandchildren and all their descendants.

To all of you, to all of us, our friends, our allies, our veterans, our citizens, thank the Lord for the Leyte landing.

Damo salamat. Thank you very much. Maupay nga aga sa inyo tanan. (Good morning to all of you.)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 30th Anniversary of the Leyte Gulf Landing. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133035/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5701&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Breakfast Forum with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Breakfast Forum with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City, October 25, 2004]

Thank you very much, Secretary Bunye.

President Galvez and the other officers and members of FOCAP; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you FOCAP for inviting me to be with you today. Well, you said you want me to be there next year in your anniversary. So, I told Twink, 'okay', let that be our meeting for next year, may 2005.

In any case, I welcome this opportunity to bring some of the most crucial issues into our discussion this morning.

My tenure in the presidency has gotten me used to facing crisis. The world is in constant flux, and the Philippines rides the tide of travails and uncertainties.

But mark my words, at the outset, the prognosis of doomsayers for the Philippines will not happen, not under my watch. And if we're able to do the reforms that I have planned out for the medium-term, not even in our lifetime.

The Filipino shall move forward, and I for the next six years will provide the leadership for the struggle to beat the odds.

The price for me will be steep. My ratings will continue to slump as we suffer transient constraints and take the bitter pill to cure structural poverty and clean up the fiscal and economic and political mess we inherited. But I'm prepared to suffer the consequences of unpopular decisions needed to finance our development from our own resources to strengthen the bureaucracy and to demand fair and legitimate sacrifices so early in my term.

We will prevail in the end, as we push hard on change and reform rather than to surrender to the status quo, as we meet our challenges headstrong rather than sweep this under the rug as we take on the short- term sacrifices that we need for long-term gain.

Our obstacles are steep but not insurmountable. The Philippines will pass the test.

Confidence in our economy shall be bolstered by an earnest executive- legislative partnership to pass fiscal reform measures. We're working to moderate the temporary dislocations affecting the poorest Filipinos that result from economic pressures or socioeconomic pressures, by safety nets which shall be put in place by the national and local governments working in teamwork.

Well, I'm glad we have some representatives of the military here. I asked Nonong Cruz to catch up.

Reform, professional loyalty, honor, discipline and morale shall be sustained by an Armed Forces engaged in its share of sacrifices and acts of redemption. The spirit of change shall be driven from within.

My administration shall not be... Will not be hobbled by reactionary forces or political has-beens out to exploit economic problems to foment social instability. I will deal with these destabilizers with an iron fist, even as I hold out an open hand and an open mind for those who are open to a just and dignified reconciliation.

The Filipinos shall rise to the apex of our potential as a nation through sacrifice and peaceful action. There are fundamentals in place. GDP grew by 6.3 percent this semester, up from 4.5 percent in the same semester last year and from last year's whole 5.6 percent.

Tourism arrivals are higher by 28 percent compared to the same period last year. For the first eight months of 2004, OFW remittances reached 5.5 billion dollars, 9.42 percent higher than the same period last year.

This semester, foreign investments jumped by more than 800 percent of the same period last year. The stock market rebounded to its highest level in... Since year 2000, and interest in NAPOCOR privatization is sparking business confidence.

The atmosphere of law and order is setting firmly. I congratulate the gentlemen in uniform who are seated there — the officers of the Philippine National Police. We have cut street crimes by almost half. We've shut down the operations of the largest shabu laboratory in the country found in Cebu. Terrorists continue to fall into the security dragnet and the remnants of kidnapping gangs have lain low.

The court martial of Major General Garcia will soon start. I have given instructions to General Abaya that he should start it before he retires this Friday.

The honor of the Filipino soldier is at stake, and I'm confident that the judges in uniform will conduct themselves in absolute fealty to the constitution, the people and the command.

To cast the graft dragnet farther and wider, the military Ombudsman's budget has been augmented so it can hire 25 new lawyers. An independent internal affairs office has been created to look into the procurement and financial systems of the military, and to receive grievances and complaints directly from the soldiers. We are vigorously carrying out the recommendations of the Feliciano Commission. I'm glad Rex Robles is here and I thank him for his contributions to that commission.

There shall be no whitewash in the investigation and prosecution of anomalies in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, RSBS and any other investigation for that matter.

The campaign against corruption is matched by more services and benefits to our soldiers. In my first term, I raised the salaries of soldiers and policemen to equal that of teachers. The allocation for the AFP housing program has been increased — that's for the common soldiers and young officers. On the other hand, we are removing overstaying retired military personnel in military housing facilities and all privately-owned quarters in military bases. We're also upgrading the state of AFP medical services and we've brought this nearer to the frontlines.

On the civilian side — but of course including also the military side because it encompasses all my presidential appointees — I'm transforming the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission into an effective institution similar to the Hong Kong's independent commission against corruption with the help of no less than the founder of ICAC himself, Tony Kwok. To give PAGC, the Office of the Ombudsman and even the military ombudsman more resources to fight corruption, I've approved an increase in their respective budget allocations.

I have no sympathy at all for grafters and their lame excuses, but on the other hand, I will not allow the terrorist insurgents and their fronts and grandstanders to be my hiring and firing committee. And for the majority of the workers in our government, I have tremendous respect and sympathy. For the majority of public servants who toil in anonymous dedication while being exposed to the grim hardships faced by our people. I shall derive my strength from them.

Our collection agencies, for instance, are on the march. The garnishment of properties and bank accounts of tax cheats continues. This year's tax collection may prove to be one of the highest in our nation's history.

We've also made significant gains in the anti-smuggling campaign. Importers, brokers and customs personnel are being held under tight monitoring for unlawful conduct. The Bureau of Customs has a smugglers order of battle composed of 200 or more names under team surveillance not only from the customs police but from the AFP, the PNP and the Philippine Coast Guard because I empowered the Commissioner of Customs to be able to get assistance from this other law enforcement agencies.

In Mindanao, things are looking up. The main contingent of the international monitoring team arrived last October 9 from Malaysia. A ten-person contingent from Brunei also arrived last October 20th. We expect a total of about 50 members of the multi-nation monitoring team when it's completed.

And while we continue to negotiate peace, the international donor community, the World Bank and the U.N. development program, are poised to implement various projects under the Mindanao trust fund once an accord is signed. Guns will be turned into plowshares in erstwhile conflict-affected communities. The U.S. is not waiting for the peace accord to be signed. They've started to provide the peace dividend even now. We are carrying the economy forward to the targets of our medium-term development plan. Let me spell out some of what we intend to get done by the time I end my term in 2010:

GDP growth accelerating to 7 percent;

A balanced budget;

Ten million jobs created;

Poverty incidence reduced to below 20 percent. Hopefully, 17.

We will create wealth by facilitating investments in sustainable mining, oil and gas exploration, the re-launching of massive reclamation projects and the development of the Clark-Subic corridor as the best logistics hub in the region.

We can create jobs by developing two million hectares of new lands for agri-business and promoting three million micro, small and medium enterprises.

We also aim:

To make food plentiful at reasonable prices to make labor costs globally competitive;

To reduce the cost of electricity through power sector reforms;

To modernize infrastructure and logistics to make transport and related costs efficient;

Mobilize and disseminate knowledge to make our workers and manufacturing processes more productive; and

Reduce red tape especially for small enterprises, exports and the average driver of his own car or his own jeepney.

These are clearly defined and attainable goals. Our economic plan which was unveiled last October 11 is plainly understood and attainable.

It can be done — but not through endless bickerings or empty political grandstanding. The only way we can reach the apex of our potential as a nation is to discard defeatism and summon the courage to embrace change and reform — not as a passing fashion but as a way life.

The Filipino spirit is indestructible. Our history is replete with natural and political calamities overcome by our abiding faith in god and our innate sense of nationhood.

But for too long, politics and government have been the focus of our lives. This too has to change. It's time to 'outsource' public service as a duty of all Filipinos, not only of those in government. Government is not everyone's fairy godmother. Its powers to transform lives are nowhere as strong as the collective will of the people to take their destiny into their own hands.

All Filipinos must recognize and fight for our own true worth as a people and a nation. I take this as a challenge that my leadership must address.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Breakfast Forum with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133022/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5700&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the AFP Change of Command Ceremony

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the AFP Change of Command Ceremony

[Delivered at the Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, October 29, 2004]

Thank you very much, Secretary Cruz.

Troop commander give “tikas pahinga.”

Vice President Noli de Castro; former President Fidel Ramos and other former Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; Speaker Jose de Venecia and other elected officials; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; our new Chief of Staff, General Efren Abu; our former Chief of Staff, General Narciso Abaya, Former Chief of Staff and incoming president of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority; members of the Cabinet and other civilian appointees; Major service commanders; Vice Admiral de Leon; Vice Admiral Delos Reyes; Lieutenant General Adan; Lieutenant General Jose Reyes; and the incoming General of the Philippine Army, Lieutenant General Generoso Senga; Bishop Arguelles; and the other distinguished guests from the private sector; ladies and gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to bid General Abaya a proud farewell but only as a soldier. as you have applauded, I welcome him to the ranks of civilian public servants. When General Abaya made his valedictory, I could feel his pain as he spoke about being scorned, but I do not believe and I don't think any of you believe that general scorned except by a few, by the many, he continues to be admired. In fact, his outstanding academic record, his sterling military achievements and his personal refutation for integrity were what made the private sector recommend to me that he should be the president of an important government corporation.

It is also my pleasure to welcome our 33rd Chief of Staff general Efren Abu. Twice in the past two decades the armed forces of the Philippines came to the fore front of extra political change.

President Ramos was a leader of that first change and an icon in that second change. Beside our flag, the uniform took a new and great meaning, positive change and transformation, service above self.

We had a first wave of reform in 1986 immediately following the EDSA revolution, the second followed the Davide commission of 1990, the third followed the Feliciano commission of 2003 but as general Abaya very comprehensively analyzed in his valedictory much still needs to be done.

We must be immerse in the Filipino soldier as a fighter and agent of transformation and change.

In the last 18 months, I made two important strategic decisions to drive reform deeper in the armed forces. One was the appointment of General Abaya as Chief of Staff, again because of his academic achievements, his military record and his personal integrity I felt and I'm satisfied that he had the moral ascendancy to undertake those reforms.

The other measure that I took in order to drive reform in one deeper in the armed forces was the appointment of a civilian with no career ties to the military to serve as a Secretary of National Defense, Secretary Nonong Cruz. Secretary Nonong Cruz emphasizes the civilian character of a Department of National Defense and many of the reforms still left to be done as pointed out by General Abaya are not really something that we must expect to be done by the AFP Chief of Staff but rather by a civilian Secretary of Defense and Nonong Cruz is the man to lead those reforms.

Going back to General Abaya and his moral ascendancy to undertake reforms, his theme when I swore in as Chief of Staff was, "is reform in the AFP possible?" He posed that question when he took his oath as Chief of the Armed Forces and answered it throughout his term with an eloquence of action beyond the pale of fanfare and glory.

I don't have to enumerate the reforms he made, he enumerated many of them, let me just point out that as a result of those reforms under his watch, the military went on to score major victories against terrorists and criminal elements. Several notorious terrorists were killed or captured during his watch, among them Hamsiraji Salih, Commander Robot and very recently the bombers of Jemaah Islamiyah. Under his watch largely because of those reforms, peace has dawned in Mindanao.

And upon my instructions, he created the single bids and awards committee and the enhanced AFP grievance system, as well as implemented austerity measures in several sections to finance the full implementation of our soldiers' pay increase, he is right and I thank him. But even if he had to take a special new campaign upon my instructions, he never asked me for additional and he has succeeded in those campaigns living within the means provided the AFP by the General Appropriations Act.

His austerity measures enabled us to raise the salaries of the soldiers in accordance with the law that I asked Congress to enact and I thank the congressmen and senators who enacted that law. And because of this austerity measures done by the armed forces, I can assure our soldiers contrary to those who are trying to drive a wedge between you and me, that your implementation of your salary increases will continue to be carried out. The efforts undertaken by General Abaya to clean up the military bureaucracy indeed are matched by initiatives to improve the benefits of our soldiers.

So I did two things to make there will be reforms, a man with great moral ascendancy to do reforms that must be done within the AFP, and a civilian with no baggage to carry out the defense reforms that must be done over and above the efforts of the AFP.

My third equally important measure for reform has been to choose General Efren Abu as the next Chief of Staff. I don't know how well the public knows General Abu as of now, but the soldiers know him well, his exploits in the field, from Mindanao in the 1970s to a light armor brigade, to EDSA Dos, to Malacañang's Task Force Libra in 2002 and Makati's Oakwood counter operations in 2003 were all sterling and triumphant.

Now the wait of promulgating military justice bears heavily on the soldiers of the new Chief of Staff. He will oversee the court martial of Major General Garcia as well as the investigation of other officers similarly suspected of graft. But we have heard in his acceptance speech how committed General Abu is to fight corruption whether it be enforcement against specific individuals or reforms in the system itself like the abolition of J-6.

Indeed you have a heavy task General Abu, in this heavy task you have my full support.

Like all Filipinos I demand to know the truth about corruption, whether in the military or outside the military. But like General Abaya so emotionally appealed, neither will I allow the entire AFP to be dishonored, I can tell you that officers and soldiers because I know this to be true, the majority of our soldiers and officers are men and women of courage, integrity and devotion to duty. I am proud of the Filipino soldier.

And I am optimistic about our nation and our people. But to fight poverty and grow our economy. We purge the system of corruption, whether inside or outside the military. We must eliminate government waste, as Abaya has shown, it can be done in the military.

We must increase tax collection and invest in our nation through revenue increases dedicated to job creation, education and health care. We are moving closer to achieving our goals we have set in stabilizing our economy.

The interest payments we are making this month are lower than projected. And we acknowledge the key role played by Congress on the tax measures. Thank you very much Speaker De Venecia and the congressmen who are here today.

I appreciate the support of the House of Representatives and I am confident this will be reinforced in equal measures by the patriotism of the Senate. Thank you in advance to the senators who are here today.

Our revenue agenda to move resources to generate jobs, improve education, push health programs and broaden social reforms will continue to be propelled by multipartisan unity and a shared determination among our nation's leaders to shed off personal and party interest and to serve the supreme welfare of the people.

I'm glad General Abaya reminded, that was one of the recommendations of the Davide commission. As I said earlier, not all the recommendations are the responsibility of the AFP. As General Abaya said, one of the strong recommendations that General Abaya ended his speech with, is that there must unity between the administration and the opposition. Not a unity that stifles debate on issues but a unity such as what we saw in the passage of the tax on alcohol beverages and cigarettes. A unity such as what we are seeing in some of our talks with leaders of the Senate.

The root cause of our situation today is festering entrenched culture of corruption, like a cancer it must be cut out if the patient is to survive. And I'm glad that Abu gave words as strong as that.

We must collect stolen riches and put people on trial for their criminal behavior, whoever they are, wherever they work and live.

We cannot ask the people to sacrifice if the government and the rich get away with crimes that hurt the people and the nation. We are all part of the cycle of corruption and despair. And we must join hands to root out this evil that is strangling our nation. The nation will grow and prosper tomorrow for the tough decisions we make today.

General Abu, you have, as we have seen in your stint as head of the army and in your previous commands, you have the political will and the decisiveness. And now you have the singular mission of transforming the insidious attempts to besmirch the command into an opportunity to execute our fresh wave of sweeping reforms.

As I congratulate you, I urge you: Maintain that steady and straight line behind the flag.

And to Gen. Abaya, you have served well, may you continue to serve well. Mabuhay ang Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the AFP Change of Command Ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133015/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5699&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the oath taking of officers of the League of Provinces of the Philippines-Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (LPP-ULAP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the oath taking of officers of the League of Provinces of the Philippines-Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (LPP-ULAP)**

[Delivered at the Century Park Ballroom, Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Manila, November 8, 2004]

Thank you very much, Secretary Dolfo del Rosario and former ULAP President.

Our honorees tonight — Dolfo, Joey and Al, who's on the way here represented by Alvin — our very important leaders of the Union of Local Authorities: Ric Aumentado, Monching Guico, Leo Bustamante, Jerry Treñas, Allan Zulueta, Carlo Fortuna, Bistek Bautista, James Marty Lim, Marianne Villegas; the different leaders of the local governments; our guests, the leaders of the business community, ladies and gentlemen.

Last week, my office, the office of the president, received a donation from two children, Zeus and Raya Soriano of Tiaong, Quezon, who sent one-half of their savings from each of their piggy banks.

Allow me to read my reply to Zeus who sent me P683.45 which I turned over to the National Treasury:

Mahal kong Zeus,

Dinadakila ko sa aking puso ang iyong taos-pusong pagmamahal sa bayan at pagmamalasakit sa kapwa sa kabila ng iyong kabataan.

Sana ay magsilbi kang halimbawa sa higit na nakakatanda sa iyo, lalo na doon sa mga ayaw magbayad ng buwis o kaya'y gumagawa ng katiwalian sa gobyerno.

Makakaasa ka na ang kalahati ng iyong naipon na umaabot sa P683.45 ay mapupunta sa ating Bureau of the Treasury na siyang tagapangasiwa ng kayamanan ng ating bansa.

Muli, maraming salamat at isang malaking karangalan para sa akin ang tanggapin ang iyong tulong para sa ating pamahalaan.

In the same manner, I also asked the business community tonight to be here, to thank them also because a few months ago, soon after I announced the fiscal crisis, they came up with the Bayanihan fund. Thank you very much for your support. And in the same manner, I thank you, my friends in the LGUs for also responding to the fiscal crisis that I announced three months ago.

I'm grateful for your support for our comprehensive tax reforms, the one that you... The manifesto that you presented to the Senate today, the manifesto that you will present to the house tomorrow because these tax reforms are the road out of the crisis.

And I am grateful that you even offered different formulas for deferring or freezing or... Your IRA as a contribution to the economy and the national interest. Whether I will need to take you up on your offer depends on many things.

But if indeed we get to pass those eight tax measures, and after all the IRA is the vested and legal right of the local governments, hopefully we will not have to go that far. But I am grateful for your commitment — deferment or no deferment, freezing or no freezing — for your commitment to reorient your development funds to support my 10-point legacy agenda. Thank you for that.

I'm also informed that there is a circular to mayors not to issue business permits unless applicants are certified by the BIR to have paid all their taxes, tama 'yon Monching? Thank you very much for that. And I'm glad the business community is here to hear that.

Three months ago, I was heavily criticized when I declared a fiscal crisis. But the people have a right to know, and the people have a right also to hear the boundaries of that crisis: it is a crisis if we persist in financing our needs through relentless borrowings, because soon the bulk of our budget will end up servicing our debt.

And if we keep doing that the poor, many of whom are your very own constituents, will suffer in greater numbers and deeper magnitudes.

Not that the solutions are now all being implemented, but a few days ago, I informed the public that while we still have a problem, the solutions are in sight, including the commitment from the business community, the local governments, the legislature, and the ordinary citizens, and congress. Therefore, we have passed the most critical stage. It's a crisis when you feel that there's no end in sight. But it becomes just a problem when you recognize it but you know where you're going and the end is in sight.

Again I was criticized. Too early, some said. But this turnaround towards a solution is not the handiwork of the presidency alone. It was the accumulation of positive responses, the call to patriotism swiftly answered by various institutions and sectors, the ones I mentioned earlier — oh, there's Julius Herrera, I was looking for him, President of the Vice Governors League. Good evening, Julius — which resulted in visible moves towards accomplishments that now spark our confidence in our capacity to solve the problem.

The synergy of actions after that declaration I made was a spontaneous, exuberant response by the people, the Congress, the Senate, the local governments, the executive branch.

And in turn, I acknowledge your call for assistance. You want assistance in the promotion of investments, you want assistance in tourism, you want assistance in special economic zones, you want assistance in agriculture. And here is the business community to listen to that call.

As local leaders, you do know that business goes where it feels most welcome not only by prospective clients but also by the community at large. The challenge is how you can convert your provinces, your cities, your municipalities, your barangays into highly competitive and attractive business hubs.

As I said, here, I have several of our business leaders. I asked Secretary Purisima to invite them, and I invited them so that they can interact with you and also because I want to repeat before you, the local authorities, and before you, the business leaders, what I said a few days ago in Iloilo before the pro-poor NGOs and the religious leaders: "I'm optimistic about our nation and our people. But to fight poverty and grow our economy, we must purge the system of corruption, we must eliminate government waste, we must increase tax collection, we must invest in our nation through revenue increases dedicated to job creation, education and health care."

The root cause of our situation today is a festering, entrenched culture of corruption. Like a cancer, it must be cut out if the patient is to survive.

We must collect stolen riches and put corrupt officials on trial for their criminal behavior whoever they are, whoever they work and live.

We cannot ask for the people to sacrifice if the government and the rich get away with crimes that hurt the people and their nation.

We're all part of the cycle of corruption and despair and must join hands to root out this evil that is strangling our nation.

The nation will grow and prosper tomorrow for the tough decisions we make today.

As we raise new taxes, we need to be assured that the rich pay their fair share.

People who owe their taxes need to pay their taxes. And I ask the business leaders to come here tonight because I want to thank you, business leaders, for helping bring an end to the era of dodging our obligation to the nation.

Of course, many people still don't pay their fair share of taxes today, either because they are tax evading or because loopholes in the law allow them to avoid taxes.

The government is making sure that all these tax evaders and tax avoiders pay their taxes and meet their obligation to the nation through executive action and legislative action.

Through executive action, the government is increasing the efficiency of its collections and modernizing its technology to collect more taxes.

The people also deserve to know that their money, their tax money is well-spent, and that any new tax money goes to real projects to help the people in education, job creation and health care.

I therefore want to emphasize that all new taxes will be designated funds or dedicated funds or earmarked funds, whatever term you want to use, and they will go straight to dedicated projects for the people so that they can't be diverted by politicians and bureaucrats and misspent or used to line their pockets through corruption.

We need new revenue to build up the nation and get our economy on solid footing. Without the new funds, we will not be able to invest in our pro-poor agenda and make it a reality.

Dedicated tax increases are merely one element of righting the country and must go hand in hand with measures to weed out corruption and increase revenue collection.

So, where will the taxes go? They will be dedicated, earmarked for job creation, for education and for health. That's where all new taxes will go.

We are severing our ties to a decadent past where government spending resulted from largely political rather than economic decisions. And together with ULAP, I'm confident we can make government work and serve the people instead of the other way around.

We are all in this together.

Raya and Zeus wrote me because they felt responsible for their country's future. From these young patriots, we see the future and it is luminous in its prospects.

From a fiscal crisis three months ago — because nobody wanted to face it, that's why I have to point it out — to a fiscal problem because now we are all facing it, the fiscal turnaround is in sight.

And our partnership will move the Philippines forward from a realm of poverty into a realm of prosperity and dignity, you and I, local officials.

You and I, local officials together with the business community, the legislature and the small citizens, you and I, will go through this historic journey as partners for political stability and unprecedented economic growth.

To you all, congratulations! And thank you.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Oath Taking of Officers of the League of Provinces of the Philippines-Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (LPP-ULAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133006/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5750&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the U.P. College of Law General Alumni Homecoming

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the U.P. College of Law General Alumni Homecoming**

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City, November 12, 2004]

Thank you very much Joey, class '79 and my former Secretary of Local Government, now more prosperous as President of Manila Hotel. Senate President Frank Drilon; Gabby Villareal, class '79 also, but to me fondly known as the son of my father's speaker of the House of the Representatives Cony Villareal; Attorney Villaluz; Boy Regino, Chairman; and of course our very illustrious Ombudsman Sonny Marcelo also class '79; members of all classes of the U.P. law school; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for inviting me once again to your homecoming. It's always an important occasion for me to be able to talk to you. And to listen to you afterwards when we're having our socials.

I value your talent and your contribution to the Philippines—Four presidents and twelve Chief Justices of the Supreme Court including our much admired Chief Justice Davide walked through the portals of your institution.

Senate President Drilon leads your alumni in the upper chamber in the legislative solutions to our fiscal problems, they're so many of them dwell from U.P. Law of School: Kiko Pangilinan, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Pia Cayetano, Ed Angara, Johnny Ponce Enrile, Dick Gordon and Joker Arroyo.

And a good number of Associate Justices of the Supreme Court and the other Appellate Courts and the Regional Trial Courts and members of the House are your colleagues I see here —Louie Villafuerte, and Sim Datumanong, and I'm told that somewhere here is also also Congressman Edcel Lagman.

I have a number of appointees—I don't want to mention all of them because.. the whole night but we can point out among the distinguished alumni of U.P. Law School that I appointed: Ramon Magsaysay Awardee and PCGG Chairperson Haydee Yorac, then of course Sonny Marcelo, the cutting edge against corruption, and I'm happy to let you know that the World Bank and many others including our budget officers are working to strengthen the investigative capability of the Ombudsman because everybody believes Sonny Marcelo. I see Mario Bautista though he is not an appointee, I'd like to congratulate him too, class of '79 would also be proud of him.

Now, outside of class '79, class '77, right? He is not here tonight, is Nonong Cruz, our truly civilian Defense Secretary. He will undertake Philippine Defense reforms, only a civilian secretary conduit with the aid of the U.S. government over the next five years. He is not here because I send him to China as a follow up of the unprecedented security and defense alliance we're entering into with the People's Republic of China. But I'm also happy to let you know that for Nonong's defense reform program which the U.S. will assist for the next five years we've met our Philippine counterpart funding. So, I think many of the reforms that we are all looking for in the defense can be done by U.P. Law Alumnus Nonong Cruz.

Well, I've already talked about, I've already mentioned the Mario Bautista, although he is not my appointee he helped turn the tide of history as private prosecutor, when he presented Clarissa Ocampo as a key witness in the trial of the century. Congratulations to Mario. Thanks for your contribution to EDSA II.

Truly, from the class of '79 our host, we have so many of you who are serving not only the government, you are serving in the private sector, serving to improve transparency and fight graft and corruption whether in government or in the private sector. I am truly happy to be here tonight and I pointed out what your colleagues have been doing, your alumni have been doing about the fiscal problem and also in the fight against corruption, because the starting point in our effort to address our fiscal problem begins with the acknowledgement that the root cause of our problems in our nation today is an entrenched culture of corruption.

Too many people and companies in the Philippines do not pay their fair share of taxes. They are aided and abetted by a system of inadequate tax laws and government corruption. What we're doing is to make sure that tax dodgers and corrupt officials are caught and that the taxes and ill-gotten gains are used for the public good. I have ordered the release of 100 million pesos to bolster our anti-smuggling campaign.

And as part of our efforts of the fruits of our efforts in fighting graft with the executive branch, I'm glad that revenue has grown to P516.4 billion in the first nine months of this year, up by 13.1% over the same period last year, and higher than this year's target of P501 billion. How did we overshoot the target? Mostly due to stronger enforcement of tax and the use by our BIR revenue of information technology systems that help track tax dodgers.

We have prosecuted over two dozen ranking officials whose corrupt practices were identified through our lifestyle checks and other investigation programs. And in that celebrated case you all knew about I have instructed the military to be resolute in the case against their former comptroller General Garcia. He shall be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law. I hear a murmur. I'm wording, I'm wording my speech very carefully so that you will not use anything I say to follow that deal in his behalf. Are we making an example of General Garcia? Sorry Attorney but you bet, but the example is not just meant for his fellow military officers, it's meant for everyone in government.

We must tackle corruption wherever it may be found, be it the military, civilian government, or the private sector. And if we are to restore any sense of fairness in the system we must do that.

The Philippines is at a crossroads and there is only one path to take if we are to turn the country around: the path of fiscal discipline, the generation of new revenue and the rooting out of corruption in government.

We have made progress, but we need real momentum. Many generations of slow growth and years of government promises and malfeasance have left our people very deeply cynical. Because of this, success in achieving the 10-point legacy agenda I outlined in my Presidential Inaugural Address will be based on restoring faith in our institutions of government and making real progress in the fight against poverty. But in order to do this, I need Congress. I need the Senate.

We need to generate increased levels of revenue to support our goal of a balanced budget by 2010 and not perpetuate inaction. I remember when I was a Senator I would be visited by credit-rating agencies nagging me about indexation of alcohol and cigarette taxes, nagging me about expanding VAT and those are still the same challenges we have today.

Of course we are not close to the situation faced by Argentina because our debts have a long-term scheduling. Our international debt obligations. Nevertheless, our fiscal challenge is to balance our national budget by 2010, reduce our consolidated public sector deficit, and reduce our debt stock. Because we have such a large debt stock, servicing costs are immensely draining and they take valuable resources away from public investments that would otherwise be used to expand economic opportunity for our people.

That's why we the executive and the legislative branches of government are actively working together on the structural reforms that will address this situation.

I'm heartened that the House of Representatives has approved the most difficult of my eight proposed tax measures, the excise tax on alcohol and cigarettes, and other tobacco products. And Frank tells me that the committee report in the Senate has been prepared and the Senate will begin floor debate on an even more stringent version early next week.

The House worked also until 2 a.m. Yesterday morning to pass the second of those tax measures, the lateral attrition bill. Thank you Louie, thank you Sim, thank you Edcel if you're somewhere here. The passage of this law will set out both incentives for performance and penalties for government officials who're not doing their job to support our revenue collection efforts. This addresses a basic failing of our civil service code and is expected to generate new levels of revenue.

Early next week, as the Senate begins deliberating the more stringent version of the alcohol and the cigarette taxes the House will begin to deliberate the fiscal, incentives bill, it will be on the floor of the House of Representatives.

And when I receive these three bills on my desk, and I'm assured by the congressional leaders that they'll be on my desk well before the year ends, I look forward to their fetching about P30 billion of the P80 billion tax increment that we want to finance development and balance our budget by 2010.

So, in spite of the numerous challenges we face, we're living within our deficit ceiling. Our deficit reached only P141.9 billion in the first nine months of this year, compared to the allowed ceiling of P143.3 billion for the period. So, it's not our current deficit that's really the problem, it's our big debt stock that keeps eating up into our budget as far as interest expenses are concerned.

But we are making breakthroughs in solving our near-term fiscal problems, so that we can lay down the foundation for robust economic growth in the coming years. And I took that opportunity, I grabbed the opportunity to accept the invitation that you sent me to be with you tonight because you are such important leaders of the profession. And I need you if we are to have national solidarity. This is the time for national solidarity for fiscal reform and against corruption wherever it can be found—in government, in our courts, even in the at bus stops and dimly lit corners where you have, had mulcting cops awaiting the hurried commuter or driver.

The rule of law can release this nation from the stranglehold of poverty and corruption. And you, the U.P. Law Alumni, you are exemplars of wisdom and justice. And you will, beyond reasonable doubt, forge a society of laws, and not of men.

Yes you are leaders of the country, of the executive branch, the legislative branch, the judiciary, the private profession.

So, I need you all to help me lead this nation to prosperity. Thank you. And happy alumni welcome!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the U.P. College of Law General Alumni Homecoming. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132949/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5746&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Filipino-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Centennial Anniversary

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Filipino-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Centennial Anniversary**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, November 15, 2004]

Thank you very much, Dante for your kind introduction.

Doctor Dy and the other officers of the General Chamber; Don Emilio Yap, our host here in Manila Hotel; members of the diplomatic corps; Dick Gordon, Senator Dick Gordon and the other legislators who are here tonight; members of the Cabinet; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Good evening and happy centennial anniversary to the General Chamber!

I'm so pleased to see so many of you tonight, and so many who have been my supporters for over so many years, thank you for your support. and, of course, congratulations for 100 years of significant contribution to the growth and development of trade, commerce and industry in the country.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Doctor James Dy. In the film showing, you saw a Memorandum of Agreement with the Malacañang Press Corps. I want to thank Doctor Dy for his valuable assistance to the working press which covers Malacañang.

Toting Bunye told me that Doctor Dy who is also the chair of the Chinese General Hospital has renewed for the second year your Memorandum of Agreement with the Malacanang Press Corps. The MOA guarantees to bonafide reporters, TV crew and photographers covering the Malacañang beat, the following:

Immediate admission of media men and their immediate relatives in case of emergency;

50 percent discount on professional fees;

30 percent discount on direct hospital expenses.

Thank you for your generosity, Doctor Dy.

And to all the members of the General Chamber, thank you also for your various manifestations of generosity shown over the past century. And thank you, too, for enriching our country with the Chinese values of thrift, humility, hard work, discipline and sacrifice, and showing how these values can bring about great success. We need these values, not only for the success of individual entrepreneurs but also as a nation to solve our fiscal problem.

The country needed a wake-up call on the importance of getting our fiscal house in order. I think I've achieved that since last August. Now, there is a renewed sense of shared determination among you, the business community, among the legislators to put aside personal and party interest and work together in the best interests of the nation. You can see this in the congressmen staying up until dawn to pass the Alcohol and Cigarette Tax and the lateral attrition measure. You can see this in the senators who have resolved that they will pass an even more stringent version of the Alcohol and Cigarette Tax. You can see this in the active dialogue taking place regarding all our reform measures.

We have had always positive dialogue, including with you, the business community and also even with the credit rating agencies. As far as the credit rating agencies is concerned, I can surmise that their concern has as much to do with the timing of our reform measures as the measures themselves. That said, no one feels the urgency more than I and that is why, today, the legislative and the executive branches of government have been working hand in hand.

Let me also state, that we all realize, senators, congressmen and the executive, that we must pass significant legislation in the coming months, and not just one or two bills. Our united focus is the following:

The reform of NAPOCOR which will significantly reduce the consolidated public sector deficit next year because NAPOCOR is our biggest source of the national deficit;

Raise revenues through the enactment of at least three new tax measures;

Further tax collection efficiency and expenditure control;

Reduction in the consolidated public sector deficit.

But we realize that the root cause of our situation today is a festering, entrenched culture of corruption. And like a cancer, it must be cut out if the patient is to survive. Many people don't pay their fair share of taxes today and they are aided and abetted by corruption in government. We're making sure that these corrupt officials and tax dodgers are caught, ill-gotten gains and taxes collected, and that collections move up substantially.

In 2004 alone, we've already filed two dozen cases against government officials whose corrupt practices were identified through our lifestyle check and other programs because we must tackle corruption wherever it may be found, be it in our ports of entry, or the private sector, or the government, or the military, if we are to restore any sense of fairness in the system.

I have instructed the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces to surrender General Carlos Garcia to the Sandiganbayan, but because his warrant for arrest... His warrants for arrest in the Sandiganbayan is for bailable offenses, I've also instructed that once he bails himself out of the civilian jail, he must be returned to military detention.

The war against corruption also requires a war against smuggling. And this war against smuggling is being threatened... Strengthened in all our major ports and retail outlets, and I ask you, the officers and members of the General Chamber, to cooperate with me in that war.

We need all this to be able to fix our fiscal house. We have set a target date for a balanced budget by 2010. But to achieve it by 2010 we must begin today. Our resolve for fiscal restraint and economic reform begins now. Our economic plan has had solid results. Strong economic growth including robust stock market gains. In fact last year, portfolio investment... No, not last year. In October, portfolio investments in the stock market went up 29 percent over the previous year. And as a result of Dick Gordon's reforms when he was still in dot, tourism has gone up 27 percent this year. we've increased revenue collections by 13 percent. And now a singular pursuit of deep reforms in energy and other areas is what we're going to do.

We are on track as you can see with our fiscal targets this year, even overshooting our revenue projections. And we are doing everything we can — catching tax dodgers, firing corrupt revenue officials, keeping an eye on austerity to ensure that we have a more successful repeat performance in the years to come.

By the end of the year, moving into early 2005, the head of my economic team, Secretary Cesar Purisima — and mind you he's a top rate auditor and accountant — estimates that about 60 billion pesos will be removed from our deficit: P40 billion will come from the adjustment in power rates, because I said NAPOCOR is the biggest source of our deficit; P5 billion will come from the 2 percent tariff on fuel that we've imposed; and at least P7.5 billion will come from the alcohol and cigarette taxes; and P10 billion will come from the lateral attrition law.

Why am I so confident or why is Cesar so confident that the lateral attrition law will bring in at least 10 billion? Because even now by tax mapping alone, without using performance incentives, the BIR has been able to raise an additional 6 billion pesos. Can you imagine once the incentives provided by the lateral attrition law cut in, we can double this amount.

At the same time, our TRANSCO assets will be sold for an anticipated 110 billion pesos. This should be sufficient to keep us on track with our deficit reduction program next year.

By the end of 2005, we expect to raise 70 billion pesos from the tax measures that we sent to Congress because Speaker De Venecia expects — he told me today that he believes — he expects that by the end of 2005, seven of the eight tax measures in our fiscal program will be passed.

So you see, we are very serious about putting our fiscal house in order. We're not only balancing a budget, but balancing the interests of the people, because any new revenues will go to job creation, education and health.

This is a government that takes its fiscal responsibilities seriously. And time will demonstrate our commitment and I'm confident we will prove to you and to everyone who cares about our country our political will to reform and direct our resources to investment in our nation.

I thank the business community at large, because you have been so supportive of our efforts. And tonight I thank, in particular, the General Chamber for your support. I thank you for your help in addressing the fiscal problem. And I ask you to stay the course until the turnaround.

On that score, may I ask that everyone join me in a toast: to the Filipino-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce in building our nation over the last 100 years and to your success in the next 100 years.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the Filipino-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Centennial Anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132941/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5745&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Toast of President Arroyo to Pinoy expats

**Toast
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
To Pinoy expats**

[Delivered in San Francisco, California, USA, November 18, 2004]

A TOAST TO PINOY EXPATS

I 'm truly proud of the Bay Area Filipino community. You're always proving that the Filipinos stand tall no matter what job needs to be accomplished, no matter how difficult the challenges may seem.

You honor our country with your sense of nationhood and vibrant community spirit even as you have been deepening your involvement in the political processes of your adopted nation. As far as that's concerned, I refer here to a distinguished list of Filipino-Americans now serving in high level positions like Dennis Normandy, president, Public Utilities Commission. The mayor said Dennis Normandy handles about what? 35 billion dollars worth of assets, public utilities in San Francisco. And then there's Jackie Lingad Ricci, who not only organized this but she's president of the juvenile probation commission, congratulations Jackie. And the newest high level appointee, Agnes Briones, director, small business administration. I don't know if she's here but she was earlier here with me at the University of San Francisco.

May I repeat my congratulations to those who won in the recent elections led by Joe Estevez, Frank Batara, Ruth Asmundson, and I will add Rodel Rodis – I don't see him, I'm sure he's somewhere here – who gained a seat as a trustee of the San Francisco community college district.

I also want to thank you, Filipino community; for successfully lobbying for the retention of the Philippines as a worthy investment country of Calpers, America's largest pension fund. I gave a special award to Ambassador del Rosario for that but I wanna be here to thank all of you. And may I have a special thanks to the veterans who traveled to Sacramento for rising once again to our country's defense in the twilight of your years. I'm going to give a special mention about you once again to President Bush when I see him in Santiago.

And even as I speak of the Filipino-American veterans, congratulations to the American Legion War Memorial Commission for hosting the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Leyte landing right here in the Bay Area.

Speaking of President Bush. Last week, he called me up, and we both agreed that we must keep our friendship strong.

There is new leadership in Southeast Asia. In Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and of course, because of your support, with me again in the Philippines. There is renewed leadership in America after President Bush's reelection. We look for America to reengage with Asia, to inspire confidence through multilateral action and work hand in hand with the Asian region and the Philippines toward greater understanding.

America under President Bush has a unique opportunity to strengthen international relationships and work with traditional friends like the Philippines. Because you know cause you're always in touch with your relatives. We know in the Philippines, America remains a strong ally and a friend of our people. And we know that there are always ways to enhance our historic relationship.

Early this week, 21 economies unanimously elected the Philippines to head APEC's counter-terrorism task force. This honor affirms the international community's trust and confidence in our capability and earnestness to fight terror. We want to move forward with President Bush on this. We want to move forward too with him on the quest for peace in Mindanao and for broader global cooperation in trade and economic issues.

I'm glad that the new mayor of San Francisco will soon be leading a trade delegation to the Philippines.

Also last week, the U.N. General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution initiated by the Philippines on inter-faith dialogue. This is also a moral and diplomatic victory for all Filipinos who share a deep abiding faith in the lord. But I am aware and you're aware that the Philippines is at a critical juncture and there's only one path to take if we are to turn the country around: the path of fiscal restraint, the generation of new revenue, and rooting out of corruption in government.

I am undertaking these efforts and they are geared to building confidence in our markets and attracting investments, and expanding our international reserves so that i can create more jobs.

Ninety five percent of you voted for me, and therefore you elected me in may on a very issue-specific platform of economic reform, pro-poor investments and the political will to change the system. You know Lupita Kashiwahara was my personal campaign manager. I chose the campaign on a very specific platform because so many years of broken dreams have left the nation politically cynical and economically frustrated.

Because of this I see that success in achieving my goals will be based on restoring faith in our institutions of government and making real progress in poverty alleviation. However, in order to do this we need Congress to pass the economic reforms and we must tackle corruption wherever it may be found, be it in the military, on the civilian government, on the private sector if we are to restore any sense of fairness in the system.

I want to assure you that we are not close to the situation faced by Argentina because of a very well-managed maturity profile of our international debt obligations. Less than thirteen percent of our debts are due this coming five years. Nonetheless, our fiscal challenge is one that must be addressed because the total debt level is very high.

And I mentioned our Congressmen here, because I thank them for passing the bill raising the excise tax on alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco products and the lateral attrition bill – kind of hard to understand what that is. So boy, I decided to give a new name to the lateral attrition bill, something self-explanatory – the accountability reform bill. They were recently passed by the lower house. What is this lateral transition bill that's why I'm calling it now the accountability reform bill because it sets out both incentives for tax collection performance for those revenue agents who collect more than the targets but it sanctions and remove from their position those government officials who fail to meet their revenue targets.

The alcohol and cigarette tax, well, that's self-explanatory. It's now on second reading in the Senate, and the senate said that they will pass an even more stringent version than the House of Representatives.

These are the two pieces of legislation of eight that I am asking Congress to pass on revenues, and of course this two will not be enough to address our deficit challenge. So these... Our Congressmen had committed to bring the same pressure to bear on Congress with the remaining six legislative measures that are included in our tax program. *Daghan salamat, dako gid nga salamat, aton mga Congressmen.*

And while we're taking steps on a number of fronts to generate more revenue, we're also focused on reining in spending. In fact, we're optimistic that we'll be able to stay within our full year fiscal deficit ceiling, but controlling the deficit is not enough. The starting point in our effort to address our fiscal problem begins with the acknowledgment that the root cause of our situation today is an entrenched culture of corruption.

Incidentally, I was greeting former mayor of Milpitas. I had to greet the former mayor of Daly City, Mike Guingona, whom I also saw earlier.

Anyway, speaking of corruption in the Philippines. Many people and in companies in the Philippines still don't pay their fair share of taxes, and much of this is because they are aided and abetted by a system of inadequate tax revenue regulations and government corruption. That's why we're making sure that both corrupt officials and tax dodgers are caught and their ill-gotten gains and taxes collected and used for the public good.

Because of all these that we're doing, I anticipate that in the first quarter of 2005 tax collection efforts will continue to improve. And I am let me tell you, optimistic about our country and our people. When I see you I become even more optimistic. Your regular remittances play a major role in keeping our domestic economy from sliding down. Thank you. *Ito ay isang malaking bagay hindi lamang para sa inyong mga pamilya kundi para sa bawat Pilipino.*

And while your continuous remittances indeed serve well to keep our economy afloat, I encourage our overseas Filipinos to make additional efforts to overcome the massive challenge that our country faces today.

I know that the Filipino-Americans make up one-third of our overseas Filipinos but you send two-thirds of our remittances home. And can you imagine what an additional 20 dollars a month remittance can do from you to further uplift our nation. *Sa karagdagang 20 dollars na remittance ng bawat is a sa pitong milyong Pilipinong nasa abroad kada buwan, ito ay aabot sa higit na 140 million dollars.* Our 1.68 billion-dollar *sa isang taon ito ay higit kumulang 100 billion pesos sa pera natin. Siguradong makakatulong ito sa inaasam nating tuloy-tuloy na pagsulong ng ating bayan.*

And so, I appeal to you, let's help each other. Help your relatives more. Go beyond the call of duty because in the end these concerted efforts will benefit an entire race from which a new generation of Filipinos will emerge to carry on a legacy of love for family, love for country, love for life.

And finally... Finally, I would like to greet all of you the best of the holiday season. May you be blessed with the gifts of love, peace and joy this Christmas.

Maraming salamat, dactal nga salamat, dios agngina unay, daghan salamat damo gid nga salamat.

Mabuhay ang bawat Pilipino.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the 69th Anniversary Celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 69th Anniversary Celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, November 21, 2004]

Thank you very much, Secretary Cruz.

Please sit down.

Secretary Ermita and the other officials — I heard everybody calling him Lieutenant General Abu earlier today. Let me be the first to call him General Abu— and the major service commanders, recipients of the military honors and distinctions in this year's anniversary celebration, men and women of the Armed Forces as well as their relatives and friends, other guests, ladies and gentlemen: good morning and happy anniversary to the AFP.

Military service is the epitome of national service. It's a profession reserved for the brave but also for the selfless.

In my years as commander-in-chief I've seen the Armed Forces as a hand of steel in a velvet glove.

I've seen this in the terrible fight against terror in Basilan. I've seen this in the rescue operations in Quezon. And I see this again today that you have done away with the parade on AFP day and put the money in the kitty for disaster victims shows the leadership of General Abu as being sensitive to the call of the times.

Indeed, no one should test the sensitivity of the Filipino soldier to the feelings of the Filipino people. And no one should question the loyalty of the soldier to our people. All the conspiracies that have attempted to withdraw the allegiance of the Armed Forces from my government have miserably failed. And I thank you once again for your loyalty.

Today, our Armed Forces face the most formidable challenge. But it's a challenge not only to the Armed Forces, it is a challenge that our national culture itself faces, and that is the challenge of self-redemption.

As General Abu said, some have disgraced the command, they must be tried and punished. But those who have stained the uniform are not the real AFP.

Today, we honor the real AFP. today, we recognize the valor and excellence of the troops. The medal of valor: Lieutenant Colonel Noel Buan and Staff Sergeant Leopoldo Diokno, Jr., Two scout rangers who took on the Abu Sayyaf in a close quarter firefight — tawag nila doon sa tagalog mano-mano — that killed the entire group of the enemies including Hamsiraji Sali, one of the most notorious terrorist leaders in history.

The distinguished service star, the gold cross medal, the Philippine legion of honor for bravery in combat, military management reforms, successful peace negotiations, gallantry in action, and exceptionally meritorious and valuable leadership, respectively — this represent the real AFP.

The men who died in the line of duty will be remembered as our vanguards of peace and security in a world of growing challenges. And the many other worthy non-military individuals and institutions like the Kapuso Foundation that are being bestowed awards today have been equally gallant and noble for our people. Thank you for your service to our people.

When January kicks in, we are in for a formidable test of performance and delivery of results in all areas of national concern. After all, the best defense against military adventurism is sound governance founded on moral leadership.

2005 is a year for urgent change in the Philippines. To get the economy back on track, we will improve tax collection, pass a budget that will support our ten-point legacy plan and pro-poor agenda and take executive action to break the culture of corruption. I expect you the soldiers to be by my side, to man the flanks by keeping all threats to national security at bay.

I bid you to stand beside me in the quest for peace, with honor, dignity and justice for all Filipinos.

The work, the struggle, the fight will be hard on the soldiery. But I am consistently committed to the goal of a quality of life for the Filipino soldier that measures up to the job and the burdens of the soldier's family.

Buo ang aking tiwala sa kakayahan at paninindigan ni Fernal Abu na isulong ang reporma sa AFP. At buong-buo ang aking tiwala na ang kawal ay tapat na naglilingkod at maaasahan sa makabuluhang pagbabago.

On this day, I salute you. It should be a proud day for the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Mabuhay kayo!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the 69th Anniversary Celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132909/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5752&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic integration

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On the ASEAN economic integration

[Delivered at the Don Chan Palace Hotel, Vientiane, Laos, November 28, 2004]

THE FUTURE OF EXPANDED ASEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

The first ASEAN vision was to have an ASEAN community enlivened by the free flow of goods, services, investments and skilled labor and the freer flow of capital. This is the reason we established three years ago, in our summit meeting in Brunei, the ASEAN business advisory council which would convene annual ASEAN business summit meetings in conjunction with the annual ASEAN summit meeting.

We saw the ASEAN BAC as a vehicle to provide private sector feedback on the implementation of ASEAN economic cooperation and to identify priority areas for our consideration as a means of making ASEAN more economically integrated and regionally competitive. I'm very glad that the business community has taken the initial step to realize the ASEAN economic community with the institutionalization of the ASEAN pioneer project scheme under ASEAN BAC where your developing business projects that will be undertaken with the participation of, two or more ASEAN countries. For instance, you've already started to work, isn't it, Joe on tourism and agriculture? And I'm glad to hear that you had a very productive workshop on tourism this morning.

Now, the vision is becoming even grander as it expanded to include Japan, South Korea and China. In a region where poverty is a common enemy in the midst of rapid but uneven growth, ASEAN's response is the full integration of East Asia and strong linkages with the rest of the world.

The only way we can spread the benefits of development more evenly and rapidly among us, and also to stand on our own is through expanded ASEAN economic integration.

For the past decades, the exceptional growth in this part of the world has been due in large part to the export markets afforded to us by North America and Europe. Growth has also been driven to some degree by the ability of Asians to do what has been called "reverse engineering" taking apart an existing product from the U.S. or Europe, reproducing it cheaply or making a better product, and selling it back to where it came from.

But now, amidst the economic tensions of East and West, this business model is now becoming untenable. There are now economic tensions between East and West because to ensure their economic growth, there has emerged among the developed countries of the West a growing resistance to the Asian business model. Therefore, we can no longer continue to rely on that market. We can only see one way out, and that is not by looking West but rather by looking inward.

The prospects are formidable if the inward includes the three developed ASEAN countries. The prospects include a single market of almost two billion people integrated by a synergy of interests within the haves and the have-nots, strengthened by the responsibility of the developed members to assist the others to increase their capacity and overall purchasing power.

An enlarged East Asian bloc can secure not only the future of the developing and less-developed countries of ASEAN, but also the future of China, Japan and Korea as economic leaders in the Pacific century.

Therefore, they must actively participate, and we must all participate towards the formation of an East Asian regional economic bloc.

The innate strength and potential of an economically integrated East Asia, however, will depend not only on governments but more heavily on their entrepreneurs and businessmen, and how you, the businessmen embrace the larger universe of trade.

We can always talk about landing rights in government but it is you, the businessmen who will get into the joint ventures among the airlines who will use those landing rights. As the agenda of ASEAN economic integration expands into an East Asian economic integration, the active involvement of the private sector and industry stakeholders – being the driving force of the economy, indeed – will become more and more crucial.

You, the business community should welcome expanded ASEAN economic integration because it will give more developed countries in the ASEAN +3 bloc, namely: Japan, Korea, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia and Thailand, the responsibility to help improve the quality of life of less-developed and developing countries by increasing per capita income all over ASEAN, which will enhance the purchasing power of all citizens in the ASEAN community and thus effect in turn a larger market for the products and services of these more developed countries. How far have we gone on the expanded ASEAN + 3? We've gone quite far as far as china is concerned.

We've launched the early harvest program for ASEAN integration with China. In the Philippines we're now fast-tracking our efforts to make our agricultural sector competitive because we are entering into this free trade agreement as is the rest of ASEAN with china earlier than originally envisioned.

But as far as Japan and Korea are concerned many of you businessmen feel that the fifteen remaining years to realize vision 2020 as the integrated world of expanded ASEAN is necessary so that business, industry and agriculture will be able to develop the capacity to meet the challenges of the very developed economies of Japan and Korea. Though I must say that while in general the businessmen of ASEAN especially the less developed countries of ASEAN need a full fifteen years to be able to compete successfully with Japan and Korea. For the Philippines, we have found it convenient to get into bilaterally an economic partnership agreement with Japan mainly because there is a very strong complementarity that we must take advantage of between Japan and the Philippines. And that is on the one hand, Japan has an aging population which needs health care and on the other, the Philippines has an abundance of human resources in the health sector.

If ASEAN realizes the single market by AFTA in advance, this will lead to the birth of a mega-market which can be said to be the second China and become the foundation by which the new division-of-work relation is developed in East Asia.

In other words, if we're going to use fifteen years so that by the end of fifteen years we are integrated with China, Japan and Korea, we must be integrated first within ASEAN during those fifteen years, so that we can now work with the richer economies on the division of labor among us.

In the words of my distinguished colleague, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand, and I quote: "there is no time for complacency, no time to waste and no time to delay. ASEAN should quickly shift its gear into offensive mode for economic integration. Integration surely within ASEAN so that we will be ready for integration in the East Asian area."

Therefore, we must constantly monitor the vision of expanded ASEAN integration so that we don't lose track of our total commitment and arrive at this objective in 15 years. There will be industries among our countries that will say, "no, we're not ready for AFTA. We have to delay it. My industry isn't ready." But the more we delay AFTA, the less we will be competitive in the East Asian economic integration. And it is really important that in fifteen years this will happen because in addition to the ASEAN +3, there is the emerging ASEAN +3+India, and that will be a formidable regional grouping that can negotiate then with the European Union, the Americas, Africa and such regional economic groupings.

We have the capacity to form the largest economic grouping vis-a-vis America, Africa, Europe, but we must make sure that it happens. We must make sure that Japan, China and Korea will find it more convenient to be in our economic bloc than in that economic bloc with other more progressive and more developed trading partners. I know that for the Philippines a successful East Asian economic integration where we would have been prepared first through our own competitiveness then through a big bloc with AFTA, or we will be prepared... I know this would mean more jobs, huge business opportunities especially for small and medium enterprises, more exports and a big tourist market.

Thus, we, in the Philippines aim to be a strong member of the East-Asia team. To become a strong member of the East-Asia team, the Philippines is healing itself through democratic reform, economic restructuring and peaceful resolution of some of our long simmering conflicts.

We've aggressively engaged in building our institutions of government to eliminate corruption, slay the deficit dragon, and bring new jobs and prosperity to our nation's poor.

We bring these efforts into the context of our meeting today and in the days to come as we strive to expand the frontiers of trade and investment, of regional stability and security, and most of all, to build upon our common aspirations of peace, harmony and prosperity.

In moving forward together, government and business must use the same set of values and priorities to understand and to relate to each other, especially in the socio-economic dimension. Because beyond the economic issues, there is a challenge to our heart and conscience to build a more caring and compassionate world, where decent men and women work together not only in quest of profit but also for the benefit of the poor.

Therefore, leaders of the ASEAN business community, I enjoin all of you now to step up to the expectations of and rise to the challenge of expanded regional integration.

Thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the 14th General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 14th General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Manila, December 2, 2004]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Ermita.

Mayor Guico and the other officers of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, friends of the LMP, mayors, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Let me begin by thanking the mayors who supported me in the last elections. Daghang salamat, salamat gid, dactal a salamat, dios mabalos, dios ti angina unay, maraming salamat, thank you.

Secondly, let me thank the mayors who offered to defer 50 percent of your IRA to help solve our fiscal problem. This is purely voluntary, but for those who will help us in this way, in return you will spend this one million, as Monching said in your manifesto, to help fulfill my 10-point legacy agenda.

I also want to thank the mayors who've been going to the congressmen and the senators that you helped get elected to fast-track the revenue measures needed by our country. Because you have been campaigning with them, and because of their own sense of urgency and patriotism, I'm confident that Congress will pass the revenue measures we forwarded which will mean that hopefully your towns may not need to take the IRA cuts after all.

I would also like to congratulate the League for your other proposals, as mentioned by Monching in his statement, that reflect the goodwill of our mayors to cut across party lines in pushing economic development, and as was said in the prayers of Cora, I offer my condolences to the families and the mayors of the towns stricken by the rush of typhoons in the past three weeks.

At the moment, we have teams working to save lives and teams planning out the infusion of resources to where these are most needed. Calamity funds will be applied quickly to basic needs such as food and medicine. Our local disaster coordinating councils headed by the mayors were quick to respond, in coordination with the military and the police and to the mayors who responded quickly, congratulations and thank you.

The painful lessons have come to full light. We are enforcing a crack down on illegal loggers and the reassessment of logging permits in potentially hazardous areas.

There is also a big stake for national security in this effort, as many of you who know your own localities have noticed, that these accidents lately in this last typhoons and storms where the logs went down and killed the people. I've been informed that the New People's Army has been involved heavily in illegal logging activities in those areas.

In this regard, I am appointing retired General Victor Corpus not only as the principal overseer of all reforestation programs of the government nationwide in his capacity as chairman of the National Resources Development Corporation but in addition to this being in charge of reforestation, I am also making him the principal executive to lay out and implement a special operational plan with the full support of the Armed Forces as I have just instructed

General Abu to do to stop the illegal logging activities especially of the NPA and to take all their cohorts into account. The insurgents should not be allowed to plunder our forests to raise funds to undermine our democracy.

This is a matter of ecological balance as well as national security. I call for national solidarity of the highest order and with deepest conscience.

But misfortune has been balanced by a stroke of good news. Yesterday, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the mining act. This is act of statesmanship done in the national interest. We are now poised for an investment take of never seen in the recent past. The rural infrastructure under you will take a new shape.

You know, I have just been to a mining country. While I have just interacted with the prime ministers of mining countries. Canada, and Australia. Do you realize that we have the potential to be the fifth largest mining power in the world. We shouldn't be poor. Globally, we rank number three in gold, number four in copper, number five in nickel, number six in chromite deposits.

Our mining potential is ten times our annual gross national product. It can easily wipe out our foreign debt and yet leave more for future generations, mining will even mitigate the deadliest of disasters because the poor will not have to ravage the forests to survive and this time we will fully enforce responsible and environmentally sound mining practices.

We are now in the 21st century and all these new mining technology will certainly make our mining sustainable.

And the more relevant part as far as you the mayors are concerned is this, the provision in the mining act is for mining companies to pay specific percentage of taxes and other duties to the host communities from the provincial down to barangay level. In addition to what it pays the national government.

I have another piece of good news for the nation. Yesterday, we were able to sell, on the best terms, the Masinloc coal plant in Zambales for 561 million U.S. dollars, way above the House estimate capitalization, we were hoping to get 300 million dollars, we're getting 561 million dollars. I congratulate the Department of Energy and its agencies for the success of the bidding.

Today, I join you with a vision of a better Philippines and a better world.

I just come back from APEC and the ASEAN summits where the new leadership in Asia, the newly-elected leaders of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines reached out across a renewed leadership in the United States and move forward the dream of an East Asian Economic Bloc that will drive the energies and hopes of millions within ASEAN, Japan and Korea.

I have concluded an economic partnership with the prime minister of Japan on fair, liberalized trade arrangements. Prior to this agreement our nurses and our caregivers were not allowed to go to Japan. Now, with this agreement Japan is opening its doors to our nurses and caregivers, as well as I.T. workers and even agricultural products which is still not doing for other countries in Southeast Asia.

But economic prosperity is the handiwork not only of economists and diplomats or high functionaries, economic prosperity is built, first and foremost, in vibrant, enterprising and self-reliant communities for instance, Japan is opening its doors to a very wide range of Philippine agricultural products, but it is you the mayors who will have these products planted in your communities.

In this spirit, I thank the mayors for your faith in our common ideals.

Ngayon, uuwi kayo, meron ngang kailangan umuwi noon pa, kagabi pa para mag-asikaso sa mga sakuna sa inyong mga lugar. Dito rin sinabi ko kay Secretary Ermita ianunsyo natin na kalahating araw lamang ang opisina itong araw

na ito para paghandaan naitn itong napakalakas na thphoon “Yoyong” na dumarating. Ang mananatili sa mga opisina ay yung mga gumagawa ng batayang serbisyo.

Magtulungan tayo sa kinabubuti ng ating bansa at pamayanan. Magtulungan tyao sa itong mga oras at araw ng hira ng ating mga bayan-bayan. Magtulungan tayo bukas sa kinabukasan, gawin nating tunay, masigasig ang ating kaunlaran para sa wakes ay matalo na natin ang problemang matagal nang hinaharap ng ating bansa.

Maraming salamat, Mayors.

Mabuhay and thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA’s Speech during the 14th General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132848/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5761&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 1st National Information Communication Technology in Basic Education Congress

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 1st National Information Communication Technology in Basic Education Congress**

[Delivered at the Pacific Grand Ballroom, Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City, December 6, 2004]

AN INVITATION TO A GREAT VISION

Because you represent the whole country, let me begin by expressing my gratefulness for the response of the entire country in the face of the suffering that you have seen and felt in Eastern Luzon.

I'm awed by the outpouring of unity and solidarity to ease the pain of misfortune. I'd like to acknowledge of presence of Ambassador Sagaz of Spain. Also, the President of the Mayors League of the Philippines, Mayor Ramon Guico of Binalonan. I would also like to thank Spain and the many other countries and multilateral institutions that have generously poured out their support for our relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The least we can do to repay all the solidarity and generosity is to exercise the political will to change the political social and economic landscape so that our people will no longer be exposed to this horrible fate in the hands of nature, and so that extreme poverty will never again take the people down the road to perdition. Whether it concerns the environment, our politics or our economy, we cannot leave our fate to chance. We must learn to live by the law and the standards of civility and commonality or we all perish.

I say this today, as we face multiple challenges and as we put our fiscal house in order and grow our economy to create jobs and build infrastructure. Before coming to this meeting... Well, before attending to the calamities, I was away. As Yoyong was about to come, I was in a meeting of the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos a week ago. And there, the leaders of ASEAN agreed to fast-track the integration of eleven priority sectors into a regional market. And among these priorities is E-Asean which falls squarely into the concerns of those attending this Congress. I.C.T. has become an economic lifeline to thousands of Filipino families. Just before coming here earlier this morning, I came from the inauguration of Telecare, the most awarded call center company in the world and the biggest Asia-based call center company. It was set up in the I.T. park called Asia Town. Last year, Asia Town did not exist. Today, a year later, Asia Town has within its premises one hundred million a month in salaries and wages. This is what I.C.T. can mean to our people.

Today, the Filipino diaspora is eight million in number. It has served as a steady fulcrum of our economy. But as we embraced the speed of new technology — yes, we will see more of our people working for overseas employers but not there — they'll be working right here in our homeland. In a reversal of roles, we shall attract foreign companies to pour their investments and share the technology within our territorial boundaries. And we already see it happening in Telecare, in Asia Town, and that's only Cebu. We've seen it happening in Eastwood, in Pasig, in Clark, in Davao, in Negros Oriental, all over the country.

Before I became president in 2001, there were only 1,500 call center seats. Today, there are already almost 60,000 BPO and call center agents and counting, waiting for the educational system to produce them through you.

And even as we lay the groundwork for regional economic integration, for instance, Japan has already shown remarkable interest in our country's potential as Asia's best site for business outsourcing. A few days ago, five big Japanese I.C.T. firms firmed up their plans to locate their offshore operations in the Philippines. The owners of these companies are convinced that the skills of our knowledge workers produced by you, our teachers, especially in computer programming and web page proficiency will add to their competitiveness and profits.

And we too as a country will profit as the Philippines strengthens its niche in business outsourcing as more Japanese, European and American firms turn to Filipino knowledge workers. We gain 118 percent growth in I.T. and electronic investments in the first 10 months of this year alone. These investments in this 10 months will create 25,000 jobs and a multiplier of 175,000 more, part of what we want to achieve to create 6 to 10 million jobs over the next 6 years.

For business process outsourcing, we have the potential to capture half of all the call center of regions in the world in the next five years, but it all depends on you, our dear teachers, because you must keep churning out the supply of knowledge workers to fulfill this potential.

The most daunting challenge facing our teachers and schools today is not only to produce all these knowledge workers of which there's a great demand but also to ensure that educational system itself drives the great future of I.C.T. in the Philippines.

Our children must acquire the knowledge, the skills, the attitudes required by the knowledge economy on a broader and deeper scale. To do all these, we must work as a team. Our teachers are the key. The life of the knowledge economy begins in the classroom. You, the teachers, must be in the frontline of innovation, continually seeking out new and better ways of teaching. You must continually seek new technology, befriend it and not be caught in a time warp of traditional but outdated modes of instruction.

To the education administrators, local government officials, parent-teacher associations and other I.C.T. institutions, you must sustain your initiatives to integrate information technology in basic education. And I encourage higher educational institutions and NGOs to continue forming partnerships with schools in basic education and schools in higher education, schools in the skills educational institutions to create more professional development opportunities for teachers and education administrators to facilitate the sharing of learning resources and to push I.C.T. innovation in classrooms.

I ask Butch Abaci, "do we have a lot of NGOs doing what fit-Ed is doing?" Yes, he said we do have a lot of NGOs working on I.C.T. education but we have to upgrade the level of service that they're doing and to integrate them all. And that is why I commend all of you for organizing this Congress and setting the directions for the implementation of the restructured basic education curriculum.

I'm so happy to be here because I see being put into motion three things I said in my inaugural address. In my inaugural address, I described a vision that would be my legacy. I said that by the end of my presidency, there'll be 6 to 10 million new jobs, many of those will come from I.C.T., BPO, call centers. I said that by the end of my term, everyone of school age will be in school in an uncrowded classrooms, in surroundings conducive to learning. What do we mean by surrounding conducive to learning? This includes computers in every public high school and increase in the number of schools with internet access.

In my inaugural address, I also said that the network of digital infrastructure on which my government embarked in the last three years will have linked the entire country. And to make sure that this is so, I have constructed the Commission on I.C.T. to draw a clear road map to connect the whole country including high speed broadband transmission services, local exchange telephone services, cellular mobile telephone services, and yes, I.C.T. education from basic education, high school, tertiary education and post-secondary education.

Ten million jobs, surroundings conducive to learning, digital infrastructure to link the entire country — this is part, a great part of my vision for the 21 st century. I invite you to be a part of this vision.

Congratulations! *Mabuhay!*

Thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the International Human Rights Week celebration

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the International Human Rights Week celebration**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, December 8, 2004]

Thank you Karina, CSC chairperson.

Chairperson Quisumbing, Mr. Naka, Mary Ann, members of the Cabinet, excellencies of the diplomatic corps, justices, officials and staff of the human rights commission, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Our nation joins the rest of the world in observing international human rights week. And on this occasion, I enjoin all Filipinos to be conscious of our rights as well as our responsibilities as citizens.

The theme of your celebration, our celebration is “good governance is human rights.” but in what you submitted to me, there are ten other themes. And I like one of the themes especially “people’s rights first in the realization of millennium development goals.”

Health, education, a sustainable environment dwell in human rights as well as in shared prosperity.

The millennium development goals fall squarely beside the 10-point agenda of my administration that Chairperson Quisumbing mentioned. Human rights are imperative for human survival and in the pursuit of the millennium development goals.

Illegal loggers are violators of the right to a sustainable environment. This morning I gave Secretary Mike Defensor, General Victor Corpus and Secretary Raul Gonzalez one month to identify, investigate and prosecute the big-time illegal loggers, starting from the hardest hit disaster areas. I am very grateful for their quick response. This morning, they filed cases against those that they caught in seven pre-dawn raids on illegal logging establishments in Mauban, in Quezon.

We shall prosecute the wrongdoers and restore the dignity of victims of oppression. Not only in the case of illegal logging but in the classic human rights violations cases as referred to by Chairperson Quisumbing.

One of my priority legislative agenda is precisely to exact just compensation for human rights victims during the martial law years. We cannot claim to be a just and compassionate society if we can’t indemnify those who suffered during the darkest days of our country’s history.

Also fresh in our people’s minds are the recent killings of journalists. This, too, is about human rights.

Suspects in recent cases have fallen. Six of the eight cases that happened during the term of General Aglipay have already been solved. But we will not stop until we bring the murderers of the journalists to justice.

The labor department is doing its best to obtain a fair and peaceful settlement of the Hacienda Luisita dispute. Labor problems must be solved at the negotiating table. All parties must act responsibly so that tragedies can be averted.

I commend the commission on human rights and the armed forces for their quiet but unrelenting cooperation in the human rights education of our military personnel.

Two years ago in 2002, we also celebrated human right day here. And on that occasion we celebrated human rights with the memorandum of understanding between the Human Rights Commission and the Armed Forces of the Philippines on human rights education. Ging Deles, the head of our peace process is not here, but she tells me and also the visiting experts on transitional justice tell me that they are so impressed with how our soldiers have internalized the matter of human rights.

No wonder as Karina pointed out, in the list of supposed violators of human rights, there's hardly any case that's been filed against anybody in the military. I congratulate everyone for that effort.

On another plane, there should also be a proper mechanism to receive and process complaints of human rights abuses against insurgents and terrorists. Human rights propaganda leans heavily on our soldiers and policemen, when we all know that the worst violators belong to the New People's Army.

While they extol human rights by words, they engage in illegal logging, cultivate marijuana, push drugs, burn buses and murder civilians. And that is what we must also address when we are celebrating, commemorating human rights.

The spirit of the constitutional provision guaranteeing full respect for human rights lies within us. We must unite in preserving a universal framework of human decency and social justice that guarantees political and economic security.

Human rights are worth fighting for, they are even worth dying for. These are the rights that make us different from the terrorists hiding in the trenches; from the loggers that wreak havoc on our environment; from the corruptors that wield patronage and ill-gotten wealth to exploit and oppress the weak.

On this special day, I call on all our people to exercise vigilance against those who run roughshod over the ramparts of our democratic way of life.

Our future depends on how strong we uphold our freedom, unify our nation and fight poverty.

So I thank the human rights commission for reminding us that good governance is human rights. And we must remind everyone and ourselves that if we want to reach development in the early part of this millennium then we must also respect and recognize human rights.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the International Human Rights Week Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132826/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5756&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Convention of Government Employees and the 59th Anniversary of the Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the National Convention of Government Employees and the 59th Anniversary of the Philippine
Government Employees Association (PGEA)**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, December 9, 2004]

Secretary Duque — where are you? — of PhilHealth, Winston Garcia, Mero Quimbo, Espie Ocampo, my colleagues in government service, friends of the PGEA, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon and happy anniversary to PGEA.

Before anything else, let me share a miracle with you, not as government employees but as caring Filipinos. Maybe you remember about ten days ago, there was a report of a building in a remote Barangay of real that collapsed.

Today, a team of soldiers, DENR employees, rescue operators, volunteers from the Chamber of Mines landed... No, they did not land. The helicopter did not land. They jumped off the helicopter onto the beach because there was no place to land. Walked two kilometers to that collapsed building and found twelve people alive after more than ten days.

We must believe in miracles. And to me PGEA is a miracle.

I've been attending your anniversary for a long time now, remember? Even before I became President. And because I know you, I know your work, I'd like to commend you on the work you've been doing making government employees aware not only of their rights but also of their responsibilities. And I'd like to congratulate you for your work in promoting a culture of integrity among government employees. That's the miracle that I was talking about.

For instance, thank you for your initiative in the "Dulugan ng Bayan" — the workplace-based employee-initiated anti-corruption program. Thank you for recognizing that corruption is the bane of our political and economic security. We have to fight corruption as earnestly as we're fighting to put our fiscal house in order.

I was just with Speaker de Venecia before coming here, that's why I'm sorry to be a little late. He brought members of the Saudi Arabian parliament to meet with me. And I gave him the message that we acknowledge the determination of congress to pass the national budget, which will be the cutting edge of political and economic stability and social reform. Our solid partnership with the legislature in the passage of vital revenue measures, in forging the budget and in protecting the environment demonstrates the effectiveness of our political institutions including our bureaucracy to uphold the national interest, and should continue to spur our economic gains. Confidence is firm and will continue to drive the economy across difficult straits to a new horizon of growth and vibrance. We have struck upon the right formula of institutional teamwork — the officialdom, the bureaucracy, the legislative, the judiciary. Teamwork and national solidarity to fight corruption, cut waste, save the environment and grow investments to create jobs.

The legislative-executive partnership for putting our house in fiscal order is just as strong in protecting the environment and safeguarding our economic security. We appreciate the immediate response of the house to the common goal of saving our forests, and we'll match this development with the relentless push to arrest illegal logging and to gather communities and families around a massive reforestation program. The continued outpouring of international assistance is also something for which the Filipino is grateful. We shall never forget the wanton loss of lives as a result of the recent calamity, and we will be constantly reminded to rekindle the solidarity of our people and not to allow this misfortune to happen again.

Indeed, much remains to be done. Of course, many are still driven by the dark forces of greed, and worse, many have become indifferent to it. But PGEA has been an important force in the effort to change this attitude. To do justice to the work of PGEA — as what you're doing at employee level — we must do the same at the level of agency heads.

Next week, we will have good government practitioners from several countries, including the founder of Hongkong's renowned independent commission against corruption, to hold a series of top level seminars with government executives in Manila.

And I am instructing the agency heads to make sure that all contracts their agencies enter into are exposed to the scrutiny of the public by publishing them on their web pages or in the internet. Confidence in the Philippines must be founded on good governance. And I rely on PGEA to help me carry that out.

I'm glad to be meeting with you today even as we've spent much time praising the anonymous public servant for the good work they've been doing in the disaster operations. At times we tend to gloss over the role of public servants — you are such unsung heroes of our country.

But we've seen during the calamity soldiers trudge by foot across dangerous mudflows to bring food and supplies to the victims. In fact, most civil servants who have formed the core of the relief and rehabilitation efforts are faceless and unnamed. And we thank you for that. And even as you serve the people we realize that the worthy public servant must also be served. And that is why you have your association.

I commend the “Angat Kabuhayan” program of PGEA in partnership with the PCSO and ITDI-DOST. I also commend you for your team up with DOST, DBM, TLRC, CDA and Smart Telecoms in conducting the “Negosyo Forum.”

And I commend PGEA for the 21 housing task forces established nationwide through your partnership with HDMF. And lately, most recently, I congratulate you on your agreement with PhilHealth, Pag-Ibig and the GSIS to help monitor and report timely remittances of premium contributions.

I ask you to continue to close ranks in purging the system of corruption, eliminating government waste, increasing tax collection, and investing in our nation through revenue increases dedicated to job creation, education and health care.

The sense of bayanihan and pakikiramay the nation experienced in the past weeks demonstrate what we can collectively achieve in the face of crisis.

It makes me optimistic that we can emerge victorious from our quest to rise above disunity and despair, break the cycle of corruption, and establish the prosperous and strong republic that we all deserve.

I shall continue to rely on PGEA to persevere in excellence and honesty. Let's leave the wayward few by the wayside and move on to our vital tasks. You know, just recently, I got a letter from Espie regarding the announced merger between NLSF and PCFC. It was an appeal that was very analytical, devoid of any emotion, and because I felt that it was coming from an association like yours that has only the best interest of the country at heart, I told the ones doing the reorganization to proceed only after consulting with PGEA.

I have the greatest respect for your association whom I've known for many years now. And I look forward that as we have the remaining five years, a little over five years of my administration, I look forward for us continuing to work together for the good of the Filipino public servant and the public that we all serve.

Happy anniversary! Congratulations! Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Speech during the National Convention of Government Employees and the 59th Anniversary of the Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132817/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5755&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint Press Conference with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Joint Press Conference with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, December 10, 2004]

Thank you.

I'd like to welcome Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to the Philippines. He's my seatmate in the ASEAN summit, and I'm truly impressed by the breadth and depth of his world view. Prime Minister Lee represents a new consensus in Asia, a fresh start in the world. There is indeed new leadership in Southeast Asia. Not only Singapore and the Philippines but Indonesia, Malaysia, and the new leadership can bring about a strong Asia and a united world.

The visit of Prime Minister Lee to the Philippines gives this new leadership the opportunity to renew the multifaceted relationship between the Philippines and Singapore and to strengthen it.

Singapore was the first developed ASEAN country, and continues to be the Philippines' largest trading partner in ASEAN. We have invited Singapore, which has no agriculture, to source more agricultural products from the Philippines.

We also invite more Singapore tourists to visit the Philippines. And for this purpose, we shall give frequencies to Singaporean budget airlines under a reviewed air agreement.

Singapore has large investments in the Philippines, like Singtel, Kei Pei, Filipinas Palm Oil, Development Bank of Singapore and Club Panoly. Singpower is also a bidder in the privatization of our transmission company. We are inviting Singaporean businessmen to invest in airport, logistics, agro-fishery, health care, and small and medium enterprises. In order to reduce red tape for Singaporean and other investors, I have instructed the revival of the one-stop for investments that I established when I was still Undersecretary of Trade and Industry but which the previous administration abolished.

Singapore has another facet of the relationship with the Philippines and that is it hosts 80,000 Filipinos ranging from company CEOs – like Vince Perez used to be in Singapore – to I.T. specialists, to nurses who were the heroes of Singapore during the SARS crisis and to domestic helpers. We thank the government of Singapore for its continuing support to the Bayanihan Center which is the Filipino worker's clubhouse in Singapore.

Singapore and the Philippines also cooperate actively against terrorism. Singaporean intelligence was among the sources that led to the arrest of Fathur Al Khozi in the Philippines and Philippine intelligence has likewise also helped lead to the arrest of international terrorist elements in Singapore. I shall count on Singapore's support in the Philippines' work as chairman of the APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force.

Singapore is a technology giant even if its population is small its dynamic I.T. community complements the abundant I.T. manpower of the Philippines. We look forward to working out a mechanism with Singapore for the mutual recognition of standard for I.T. and I.T. related services including animation.

The Philippines looks towards Singapore, the high-tech giant, for cooperation in technology to overcome the gap in education, the crush of poverty and the threat of instability in parts of Asia of course. We recognize technology is not enough to overcome all these. Economic promise must become economic reality. And here again, the Philippines looks towards Singapore, the most-developed county in ASEAN – though Prime Minister Lee said, they don't want to call themselves the most-developed country but the high-income developing country – we look to them for cooperation in this field.

Finally, I thank the Prime Minister and the people of Singapore for their sympathy for the calamity victims that have suffered this past few weeks in the Philippines.

And once again, Mr. Prime Minister, welcome! And I give you the floor.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Joint Press Conference with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132806/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5754&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on modern Filipino heroes

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On modern Filipino heroes**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, December 15, 2004]

CELEBRATING OUR MODERN FILIPINO HEROES

Tonight, once again, we celebrate our modern Filipino heroes.

For both the Philippines and your host countries, you are examples of fortitude and sacrifice and love. You carry the Filipino heritage that flows in your veins and made you who you are.

Through these awards, our nation honors you for wide-ranging achievements. All of your accomplishments and more have earned you an accolade that will live on in the hearts of our people.

Last year, I signed three empowering laws for overseas Filipinos: namely, the Overseas Absentee Voting Act, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, and the Dual Citizenship Law.

Well, first of all, let me thank you because when you used your power to vote for the first time, you gave me a landslide overseas. Thank you for your support.

But we must increase the number of absentee voter registrants so that by 2007, the voice of Filipinos overseas will carry even more democratic weight.

Oh, let me acknowledge Tony Cuenco as well as Governor Tommy Josen.

Well, we have a new chairman of the Commission on Overseas Filipinos which has now become part of the Office of the President. And I'd like to task the Commission on Overseas Filipinos, now part of the Office of the President, to work closely with Filipino leaders and communities abroad on attractive retirement and investment packages for those who intend to remain home. Because we're very proud of you bringing laurels to the Philippines while you do what you do abroad that made you get these awards but in the end, we'd like you to come back home to your loved ones when you're ready to rest.

We must take our efforts a step higher than at present. Yes, we are now doing projects for returning Filipinos especially those who are overseas Filipino workers to make sure that they have something to come home to. But whether you come from places where you have contract jobs or whether you come from places where you have green cards, we hope you will come back home to something attractive as well. And we need to do this through the joint efforts of the Commission on Overseas Filipinos, the DOLE, the Department of Trade and Industry and the DFA.

You're abroad and you hear news about the Philippines. Travel advisories and media reports sometimes paint a grim, unfair picture of conditions in the Philippines. But I'd like to tell you that things are looking up in the economy. The nation has shown solidarity and stubborn resiliency.

Our exports grew by 12.3 percent last October. And in 2001, there were only 1,500 call centers. Today, there are already more than 35,000 employing at least 56,000 agents.

We have a 6.3 percent GDP growth and we will push that higher and do better in 2005.

Through the support, you Filipinos overseas have been giving me, I'm able to have the political will to add to my experience to fight to improve the lives of the average Filipino. Which is what many of you got awards from for tonight — improving the lives of the average Filipino.

My experience tells me that nothing is more central to social justice, economic opportunity and the elimination of poverty than the fight against the long-standing culture of corruption. Corruption saps the strength of the country and must be cut out like a cancer if the patient is to survive.

Today, a two-star general is facing court-martial for graft. The military has a proud tradition of serving the nation. President Ramos comes from the military, Secretary Ermita comes from the military, its honor must be restored.

As commander-in-chief, I have ordered key personal changes not only in the armed forces but even among the undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and directors in the Department of National Defense in order to set an example and usher in a new day. But corruption is bigger than the military and must be weeded out across all sectors.

The nation needs revenue to pay for schools, improve health care, provide clean water and create jobs.

And I am very grateful to the senators for passing the tax on alcohol and cigarettes last night, as I'm grateful to the Congressmen for passing four revenue measures. Even as we speak, the House and the Senate are in bicameral conference committee so that they can rush to vote on this very important landmark revenue legislation tonight.

We have to work hard in legislation. We also have to work hard in the executive. It's a crime against the people when pesos go to line pockets of corrupt officials and not to the needs of the people.

We must restore the faith of the people in their government against officials who betray the public trust.

There are so many things we have to do — restore faith, promote peace. We must have peace to strengthen the faith of our people in the national future. And it is important for the government to be the one who is magnanimous to stretch out the hand of peace.

Therefore, I'd like to take this opportunity today, tonight to announce a unilateral ceasefire by the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the war against the NPA starting tomorrow, which is the beginning of the Christmas season. It will last from December 16 to January 5th.

Going back to the war against corruption — not just the war against the NPA — money for investigating corrupt officials has increased along with more investigators. Passage of the electronic procurement law has reduced discretion, corruption and the cost of supplies.

The passage of new legislation, which is part of what the house has already passed and what we hope will be passed in the senate too after the tax on alcohol and cigarettes, is what is called the lateral attrition law or maybe better described as the accountability reform law. It will hold civil servants accountable for the revenue they raise — or they will lose their positions.

Private contractors, however, are often part of the corruption axis. They will not escape prosecution. By executive order, I'd like to let you know that I will ban all government contractors who have not paid their taxes or who have been implicated in corruption. Contractors can run but can't hide from the wrath of

You, who live in advanced countries, in mature democracies know how important it is for the private sector to be as honest as you expect the public sector to be.

I invite all overseas Filipinos to welcome these initiatives that I have been describing towards national self-renewal with pride. I ask that you do what you can, from where you are, to help us keep confidence in the Philippines.

Tell your friends and associates abroad about our reform agenda to clean up government, to cut red tape, to reduce crime, to promote a friendly and predictable business climate, to have an atmosphere for a lasting and just peace.

I'm instructing the Commission on Overseas Filipinos and our embassies and consulates abroad — some of you are here — to help you spread the good news and to help you spread the news about our firm commitments.

With unity of purpose, our national spirit is fortified. The choice is ours to make. And I look upon you not only as heroes but also as partners for a secure and prosperous nation.

Once again, to our overseas Filipinos, our outstanding overseas Filipinos, who continue to love the Philippines, congratulations to all!

And thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2004*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo at the Vin D'Honneur 2005, January 7, 2005 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Vin D'Honneur 2005**

[Held at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, January 7, 2005]

MOVING FORWARD WITH DECISIVE ACTION

I begin this year with a sense of urgency, but also a deep sense of hope and renewed purpose. The nation is at a crossroads, and must move forward with decisive action in Congress, the unity of the people, and a clear direction from your elected leadership.

As President of this great nation, I will provide that leadership and direction in 2005.

While it won't be easy — nothing worth fighting for ever is — it must be done. Simply put, we must enact vital legislation to increase revenues, pass a budget that invests in our 10-point, pro-poor program; and take executive action towards wiping out corruption.

The economy is the foundation of our hope and the creation of jobs the central organizing principle of my government. My pledge to the people of the Philippines in my election campaign of just six months ago was to create jobs, bring fresh water and electricity to those who have none, and build new classrooms and equip schools with modern technology.

I further pledged to build vital infrastructure, bring unity to our social divisions and restore peace between Muslim and Christian in our war torn south.

And I will do it. But it will take the support of every single person in this room and resolve amongst our political and business leadership, pulling together, in the same boat, to move this nation in the right direction.

We must work together as a people and as a nation, to solve our problems. Church, state, military, civilian; rich and poor; we all have a stake in the future of our nation. Collectively and as individuals, we must employ every fabric of our being to bring about the kind of community and bring the hope that the people yearn for and deserve.

I can't do it alone, nor even with the full weight of the government by my side. We need to harness the power of the nation and spark the individual power of each soul that makes up this nation, if we are to forge a new Philippines.

What lies ahead is exciting; I welcome the challenge and remain ever so hopeful that we will prevail. 2005 will be a year of transformation and change that will move the nation forward.

And after the year we had in 2004, we need a brighter day ahead.

What a year it was. We faced a contested election and, just recently, the loss of the nation's loved FPJ. We came face-to-face with the far flung responsibilities of securing the lives of our OFWs, personified in Angelo De La Cruz, the Filipino everyman.

And most importantly, we must focus on how the year came to a close: with great typhoons here in the Philippines that in the end seemed dwarfed by the tsunami which struck our South and SouthEast Asian neighbors. Each caused grief of unimaginable proportions.

And for life itself we should be thankful.

Tonight we must all take a moment to once again reflect on the power of nature and the good fortune of life itself, as we send our prayers to our loved ones, friends and neighbors here at home and abroad, who don't come with us into the New Year.

The death and destruction of nature is a humble reminder of our own vulnerability. And shame on us, as leaders, if we inflict our own political tsunami upon this great nation of ours if we don't come together and take the hold steps necessary to get our nation hack on track.

We can and must start fresh with the New Year. And it must start with the powers that he that make up the leadership of this nation. Leaders in business, government, the media, civil society.

I ask you to join me to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in government.

I ask you to help me in fighting corruption, to stop illegal logging and identify tax cheats.

I ask you to help me pass legislation in Congress to strengthen our finances and the institutions that govern us.

I ask you to help pass a national budget that will invest in the poor and allow them to live a life of dignity, meaningful work and reward.

I ask you to help me reform the military, invest in a strong Judiciary and press for social justice.

I ask you to help develop sensible, environment friendly laws as we develop a safe and vital new mining sector.

And I ask you to bring hope, optimism and vigor, working together to get this nation moving once again.

We are on the right track: our exports are up, our growth is up, and our spending is in line. We're our own worst enemies; we have many obstacles to overcome, hut many are harriers we place in front of ourselves.

It's time to tear down barriers and build up hope, growth and a new optimism at the start of this new year.

Leaders in business, government, the media, civil society. This is your nation, too. You're among the best and brightest. I may be President, but we need a thousand of leaders to inspire our people and do the right thing.

May it begin tonight, here in this room, together with our friends, friends of our country from all over the world.

I ask therefore everyone in this room to join me in a toast to a year of urgent change and a year of fervent hope.

Mabuhay!

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the Manila Overseas Press Club Gala Night 2005, January 12, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Manila Overseas Press Club Gala Night 2005**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, January 12, 2005]

LET’S BUILD OUR NATION TO LAST

Good evening and welcome to Malacañang. And from me and every Filipino concerned about a strong, free and unfettered press, Happy 60th Anniversary to MOPC.

It’s the beginning of the rest of your life, 60 years. But it’s also the beginning of a new year, and as is the custom, you expect me to talk about my plans for the year. And I do thank you for this opportunity to talk to you about our agenda for 2005. I say “our” agenda because we’re in this together, as you’ve been a central pillar of Philippine society and the democratic way of life for the past 60 years.

And I know that everyone in this room who loves this country wants me to succeed. And I thank you for that.

As I said in my speech during the Vin d Honneur for the diplomatic community, 2005 is a year of urgent change and fervent hope for the Philippines. And that’s what I’d like to elaborate on tonight. The urgent change is within our grasp, but I need your support.

To get the economy back on track from the high debt regime and high unemployment that has been plaguing our country for many years now, we will improve tax collection, pass a budget that will support our 10-point plan and pro-poor agenda and take executive action to break the culture of corruption.

For decades, the Philippines has been operating on a fiscal deficit, except for the years 1994 to 1997. And even then, we posted budget surpluses mainly because of privatization. Otherwise, all these years, our total expenditures and debt payments have been more than the revenues we could raise. And we can’t go on this way. That’s why we need our tax reform measures. They will provide the additional revenue needed to reign in our deficit and support the important programs that are part of our pro-poor agenda, namely, more jobs and more investments in our people. It will send a signal to the international community that the Philippines has turned the corner and is a place to invest and tap the vital talent pool that exists in our nation. We face sharp scrutiny of our fiscal status, and if we hurdle the test, we can have one of the best opportunities for a strong economic take-off.

Our tax reform measures will also importantly demonstrate to our creditors that the Philippines has the political will to build a strong, transparent and stable economy.

I’ve never said that we are a strong republic now, max. In fact, in my speeches in 2003 I would always say, we are a weak republic and we must make ourselves strong. And we need political will to be able to do that. The political will we have. The taxiways of the new international airport terminal are already being used by the airlines. Congratulations! Ed, Mercy, Cesar and Raul, and all of the lawyers who worked to enable this to happen. In time, the stake holders will be compensated as determined by the courts.

And the political will reigns not only in Malacañang, but in the legislature. We have a strong political consensus in the multiple corridors of governance.

Our revenue raising train is moving forward. I sit down with representatives and senators frequently to tighten the knots and bolts that put our fiscal house in order. My meetings with Congressional leaders have pruned down and consolidated our priorities into a few hills that will raise 80 billion pesos a year. As the bills go through the legislative mill, they undergo improvement, requiring a smaller number of laws to raise the target revenues.

For instance, the final version of the alcohol and cigarette tax bill meets, will raise about 16 billion pesos. That's more than 50 percent more than the original version that was going to raise 9.5 billion pesos. And just as I was entering, leaving my quarters to come to this celebration, I got a word from Gabby Claudio that the house has just passed the fiscal incentives hill on second reading. I must express my gratitude to the legislature for their admirable commitment to the national interest.

We said that we would do reforms in the legislature up to 80 billion pesos or at least 80 billion pesos. But we will bear the bigger burden in the executive. We will work for administrative measures that will raise a hundred billion pesos.

For instance, as a result of the ERC ruling on Napocor rates, from October last year to November last year, Napocor increased its revenues by almost 9 billion pesos. That means that the projection of 30 billion pesos for one year will be overshot and it will be closer to 35 billion pesos for the year 2005.

As president, I'm mandated to bring our country to such a level of creditworthiness and competitiveness that will allow us to ensure that the most pressing day to day needs of the average Filipino are provided for. And I'm also expected to lead our nation to a labyrinth of political, economic and social pathways that can only meet a dead end if one does not keep up with the competition.

Keeping up will enable us to survive. Let's keep up, let's survive, but let's also work hard and work together to excel because given the high debt that we have and the reduction of creditworthiness that it entails, we have to excel just to keep up. Just like being a woman, you have to be superior just to be treated equally.

Working to excel requires not only vigor or persistence, it requires a vision that is clear and unwavering. I outlined my vision I believe very clearly in a 10-point agenda in my inaugural address last June, and that vision is undiminished and consistent.

The passage of the 2005 budget will accelerate the implementation of the 10-point program of action including our pro-poor agenda by creating 6 to 10 million jobs in six years. The 10-point plan will fund important programs for the nation including the fight against terror and the pro-poor agenda. This is the peoples budget designed to bring to life the pro-poor agenda that will create jobs in micro, small and medium size and agri-businesses, bring clean water and electricity to the entire country, a school for every barangay and computers in every high school.

Most of these plans are already being pursued. The investments from public and private sources have been lined up and many of the contributors are right here in this room. They are being delivered. We have started.

Promises and targets have been met. The Filipino-Chinese community is here, and they will be the first to tell you that kidnapping has been neutralized. Drugs have been neutralized. As promised in the beginning of my term, we've been spending 20 billion pesos a year on agricultural modernization, haven't we, arty? Eighty one percent of the people have health insurance which is considered in many other countries, for all intents and poses, universal health insurance. We have energized all but 3 500 barangays. And we'll be able to energize those early in my administration. We constructed 6,000 classrooms in 2004 as promised. Roll-on/roll-off ports and roads are in place. And we have the lowest incident of strikes in almost 30 years. We have the momentum.

But we must guard against the doomsayers and skeptics for their vision can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. There are clouds to be sure, but there are many silver linings and outright sunshine breaking through over the Philippine economy: the 6 percent growth rate — that's the growth rate right, nits, in GDP? — which is a pleasant surprise in the region; the 20 percent increase in exports in November; the stock market which was one of the best performers in Asia in 2004 and which expects another year of double digit growth in 2005. The increase in capital inflows testify to our nation's stability, resiliency and enterprising spirit.

In fact, Tony Lopez was pointing out to me some other indicators. San Miguel which has a table here, I understand, has unprecedented beer sales in its last 150 years of existence, and one of the reasons for that is also the very high price of coconut in the world market because the coconut farmers like to drink beer when they are very prosperous. But they also like to send their children to school. So, enrollment is up in the coconut regions. The other indicator that Tony told me when we were sitting together is that the number two consumption item now in sari-sari stores is not suka, it is cell cards. Silver lining. You don't buy cell cards unless your basic needs have been met.

But we must see to it that our investments in the nation and in our people are not tainted, delayed, eroded or overwhelmed by corruption.

To create more jobs and bring prosperity to the people, we must stop the culture of corruption that holds back our pace of development. For the first time, lifestyle checks led to the dismissal of 45 senior officials, including a DPWH undersecretary, a deputy customs commissioner, other high ranking B.I.R. and B.O.C. officials, and they led to the filing of charges against high-ranking officers or the armed forces.

Tonight — I don't have it here — I signed an executive order directing timely and complete payment of taxes as a precondition for entering into and as a continuing obligation in contracts with government, its departments, agencies and instrumentalities. On the first, about the lifestyle checks and the 45 officials, what I mean to say is that I will exert executive authority to fire unscrupulous government officials who rob the nation. On the second, the new executive order requiring tax payments, complete tax payments before getting a contract and continue enjoying the contract, what we must do... Well, before that, on the senior officials in the military who are now facing trial, yes, I will restore integrity to our military leaders and soldiers who put their lives at risk and defend the honor of the nation. And for the other one I talked about, the executive order, it means that I will cancel government contracts with corrupt companies as I will prosecute illegal loggers. And I call on Congress, the private sector and civic leaders to join this effort.

And there is nothing more corrosive to our democracy, I agree with Max, than the murder of journalists in pursuit of truth. I stand before you tonight deeply committed to protecting the health, life and safety of every journalist who plies his or her trade in the pursuit of truth and justice. Where is General Aglipay? He has a table here, yes. I'd like to congratulate him, out of 12 killings of journalists last year, 10 have been solved by the police. The 10 guys are in jail, right, Egay? And I will not rest until those guys who have been caught and other assassins are brought to justice. You, the members of our media which we want to keep free and vibrant deserve no less and the nation deserves no less.

Again, I ask for your help. Help me spread the news that will get our people on board the express coach of our economic reform.

As many of you know, our economic reform is embodied in the acronym "beat the odds."

Tonight, Tony said the book that they gave me is called "built to last." Let's build, let's beat the odds and build our nation to last.

Thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the Pearl Anniversary of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Pearl Anniversary of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW)**

[Delivered at the New Executive Bldg. Grounds, Malacañang, January 13, 2005]

Maraming salamat Secretary Dinky Soliman sa iyong napakagaling na pagpakilala sa akin.

Kagalang-galang na ating bagong namumuno ng NCRFW, ginang Myrna Yao na pinili ko bilang tagapangulo ng NCRFW dahil ang gusto kong bigyang diin ng NCRFW sa ating administrasyon ay ang entrepreneurship ng kababaihan at si Myrna ay isang huwarang entrepreneur ng kababaihan. Madame Imelda Marcos and the other... And Madame Letty Shahani and the other former chairpersons of NCRFW kasama na dito ang secretary ng NAPC si Secretary Imelda Nicolas. Batiin ko rin yung tumutulong sa NAPC at saka sa NCRFW na maparaan yung mga pondo ng ating mga dayuhang kaibigan sa NCRFW sa mga programa ng ating kababaihan, si Secretary Romy Neri. At well, ung ibang mga chairmen ng NCRFW babatiin ko na rin si Oyi de Dios at saka si Tati Licuanan. Batiin ko rin ang namumuno sa ating kilusang pangkapayapaan, si Secretary Ging Deles.

Ô yung magtuturo naman sa ating pulis at mga enforcers kung papano gawin nila yung kanilang trabaho, kababaihan din, si president ng Public Safety College, si Tingting Cojuangco. Ang ating dating Secretary of Foreign Affairs na ngayon ay tumutulong sa atin sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng ating investment promotion, si Ambassador Delia Albert. At sumama na rin dahil ang kanyang mga ahensiyang siya ay tumutulong sa akin na subaybayan lahat ng ating job generation activities kasama na yung trabaho nating asikasuhin ang microfinance at women entrepreneurs, si Secretary Cito Lorenzo.

Excellencies of the diplomatic corps and the heads of international agencies. I'd like to mention Deborah Landey because of the support of the U.N. for what we had just launched today, the publications; members of congress and the local governments especially those who received their awards today as models of gender sensitive local governance in how well they used their gender and development budget; officers, Employees of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, mabuhay kayo sa inyong trabaho.

My fellow workers in government; yung inimbita kong mga panauhing pandangal; yung ating mga kababaihan sa microfinance; nandito rin ang namumuno ng ating pidcor kasama yung ating mga kaibigan kinatawan ng mga OFW natin sa Hongkong, magandang hapon at welcome; ladies and gentlemen:

Una sa lahat, congratulations on the Pearl Anniversary of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. Ang haba-haba ng pangalan. Kaya para sa akin basta't Commission on Women, yon ang ating shortcut doon. At happy anniversary sa lahat ng kababaihan because we are celebrating the isangdaan taong pagdiriwang ng kilusan ng kababaihan sa ating bansa itong araw na ito. Unahin natin na maalaala ang katapangan at kabayanihan ng ating mga lola, nanay, tiya na lumaban para sa ating kalayaan at dignidad. Mula kay Tandang Sora hanggang sa ngayon yung milyung-milyong Pilipinang nagtrabaho sa ibayong dagat — salamat to our OFWs in Hongkong — hanggang sa mga nagbubuo ng ating mga tahanan at nag-aalaga ng ating mga bata. Ang kabayanihan nila ay kumikintab sa mga dakilang gawain sa larangang pangmundo at pambansa. Ang mga kababaihang ito ay talagang pwede nating ipagmalaki.

Siya nga pala, may sikat na naman tayong babaeng dapat ipagmalaki. The United Nations has just elected as the first Filipina to chair the U.N. Committee on Discrimination Against Women, former Ambassador Nena Manalo. From us here in Malacanang, to you out there Nena, congratulations from all the women of the Philippines.

Itong taong ito, nabanggit nga ni Myrna Yao na ito rin ay international year of microfinance. Tamang-tama kaya hiningi ko na rin na ipagdiwang natin ngayon ang pamumuno ng ating kababaihan sa rebolusyon ng microfinance. At gusto ko lamang ipagmalaki na sa nakaraang tatlong taon ng una kong administrasyon, higit isang milyong kababaihan ay nakinabang sa mga programa ng microfinance maging mula sa gobyerno o mga ngo na ang ngo naman ang talagang pangunahing kagabay sa kilusang microfinance. Sabi nga ni Cito Lorenzo, na siya ang chairman sa Quedancor, sa Quedancor lamang noong isang taon lamang ay higit isang milyong kababaihan na ang nakinabang sa microfinance. Kaya itong araw na ito marami sa ating beneficiary, hindi naman natin mapagkasya ang isang milyong kababaihan dito, kaya isang libo sa kanila ay inimbata natin bilang panauhing pandangal.

Ano kumusta kayo mga kababaihang microfinance. Tapos noon namang ako ay nanumpa bilang pangulo muli noong nakaraang hunyo, nagbigay ako ng sampung pamanang gusto kong iwanan sa pilipinas pagbaba ko sa pwesto sa 2010. At ang number one dito, unang una dito ay ang paglikha ng anim hanggang sampung milyong trabaho sa loob ng anim na taon, lalo na sa pamamagitan ng pagsuporta sa tatlong milyong nagtatayo ng mga sariling negosyo. Supporting three million entrepreneurs. Kaya inatasan ko na mula 2004 hanggang 2010 dapat ma-triple ang pondo para sa Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises na tinatawag nating MSME.

Ang SSS ay nangako ng 1.2 billion pesos sa sulong program. Ang GSIS ay naglagay ng isang bilyong piso na idadaan sa Land Bank of the Philippines kung saan si Cito ang chairman. Nariyan din ang National Livelihood Support Fund o nlsf at ang People's Credit and Finance Corporation or PCFC na tinayo nung naitayo yung NAPC. Ito yung NLSF at PCFC ang kanilang pangunahing trabaho ay microfinance na nga. Ang sistema ng microfinance ay hindi ibig sabihin na mismo ang SSS, GSIS o PCFC ay nagpapahiram sa maliliit na negosyo. Dumadaan sila sa kanilang mga fondo sa mga tinatawag nating microfinance conduit kagaya ng card, ng ahon — ano ang tawag doon ahon nayon ba yung tawag ng Negros women for tomorrow? — mga isang dosena yan eh microfinance opportunity bank, Quedancor, DSWD-SEA-K, yon ay conduit din ng microfinance at iba pa. At yung mga nagtatrabaho dito sila mismo ang pumupunta sa mga pamayanan, yung mga kababaihan nating mga maliliit na negosyante or microfinance or microsupport. Hindi sila pumupunta pa sa Makati para hanapin ôyung dbp ba yon, hindi. Yung nagpapahiram pumupunta mismo sa pamayanan nagpapahiram sa mga grupo ng kababaihan. Halos home service o door-to-door ika nga itong sistemang ito.

Kaya yan ang gusto nating ipairal, yan ang gusto nating ipahayag itong araw na ito. Yan ang gusto nating ipasulong sa ating sumusunod na five-and-a- half years pa ng ating administrasyon.

Kaya itong araw na ito, to our NCFRW headed by a model entrepreneur, sa ating mga beneficiary ng microfinance, our friends from all over the world who are supporting our women's movement and our microfinance movement, to all of you, mabuhay ang kababaihang microfinance! Mabuhay ang kababaihang entrepreneur! Mabuhay ang kababaihang professional! Mabuhay ang kababaihang manggagawa sa ibayong lugar o sa ating bansa! Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Happy anniversary!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Pearl Anniversary of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082443/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3063&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Third Global Networking Pinoy Party, January 21, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Third Global Networking Pinoy Party**

[Delivered at the Cebu City Business Park, Cebu City, January 21, 2005]

CALLING ALL FILIPINOS

I'm glad we're here tonight in Cebu, the shining symbol of our fervent hope as a nation. Cebu has laid out the red carpet for you. And why not, you deserve a hero's welcome because our nation continues to benefit from your hard work and sacrifices. As Loida said, last year, our kababayans overseas spent eight billion dollars in remittances. And may I especially acknowledge that two-thirds of these remittances came from the United States. So, thank you, especially our Fil-Ams.

You who are here tonight exemplify the global network just as deeply as the family network of Filipinos that thrive in our unique culture and progressive ways.

When the typhoons struck several provinces particularly in Quezon, Filipinos overseas came to the aid of the victims in unprecedented magnitude and compassion. And I thank you in behalf of the people of those provinces.

I'm so heartened by your love and sentiment for the folks and young ones back home. We live by our hearts, Filipinos, and we must be proud of it.

I remember the last time we met in Malacañang when I hosted you for a meeting there when you had your conference. You asked me point blank, through a resolution, what you as global Filipinos, could do to help our country.

Thank you for that far ranging query. And tonight, we've seen some of the answers coming from you yourselves. And I think this is how Pinoy power! Worldwide helps us here at home. Loida and the other speakers have already mentioned some of the ways by which you can help and are already helping. She talked about the one thousand dollars instrument:

Indeed, you can help a lot if you deposit your dollar savings in our banks because the interest it earns abroad would also earn here at home, where your money is best needed. Your dollar deposits — they don't actually have to be a thousand dollars though there are particular instruments for a thousand dollars. But even if they are smaller than that they will help improve our dollar reserves.

Two, it's so important that you constitute yourselves into a lobby group to protect the country's interests. I remember last year, Filipinos in San Francisco staged a heroic lobby to convince calpers to maintain their investments here in the Philippines, and you succeeded. And I thank you for that as well. Now, we need the same persuasive power when our sovereign standing is under review by several rating agencies and fund managers.

Three, increase your monthly remittances even by at least 20 dollars a month. The peso has hit an 8-month high and certainly a lot of that comes from remittances from overseas Filipinos.

Thank you for your love of family and country.

Four, retire in the Philippines, in a place of your choice and in the company of people you love. This is still the best place to spend the twilight of your years. Your peso has more value and health care is both excellent and affordable. Choose the most serene, rustic place, and invest now for your egg nest in the future.

Five, what you're doing... Continue to do what you're doing — mobilizing overseas communities to participate in the ten-point legacy program of my administration. Allow me therefore, to spell out very briefly the ten legacies.

I can be brief because my ten legacies are summarized in the acronym "BEAT THE ODDS": B is for balancing the budget, E is for modern education for all. And this is where "Gilas" comes in. Thank you very much for being a very big part of that legacy. Aside from "Gilas" which seeks to computerize and penetrate with the internet all high schools within the remaining five years of my administration, I would also like to call attention to the labor department's "Donate-a-Classroom" project. The classroom project is called "*Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino Abroad*." it aims to build 10,000 classrooms in the poorest barangays through donations from overseas Filipino community. To date, our OFWs had been able to contribute 245 new classrooms through your donations. Internet penetration, classroom and books I mentioned because I see Nancy Harrington. Thank you for your books for the barangay program.

To continue with our 10-point program: A is for automated elections, T is for transport and digital infrastructure to connect the entire country. And you're connecting the school through the internet contributes to that. That's BEAT.

For the: T is for terminating the NPA and MILF conflicts, H is for healing the wounds of Edsa 1, 2 and 3, E is for electricity and water for the entire country.

For ODDS: O is for opportunities for 10 million jobs. Loida has already talked about microfinance. We aim to create ten million jobs. And we aim that three million of them will come from microfinance. Also to create jobs, investing in the Philippines is now a wise thing to do. Our stock market is vibrant, our growth rate is strong.

Now, to continue for now to beat the odds: D is for decongesting Metro Manila, and the last DS is for Developing Subic-Clark as the best hub in the region.

The DOLE classroom program, the Gilas, the stock market investments, the books for the barangay, the microfinance — these are just some examples of how overseas Filipinos can contribute to the 10-point legacy agenda. And I'm glad Loida talked about hope. The year 2005 is "a year of urgent change and also a year of fervent hope." I'm glad we're having this meeting at the beginning of the year.

I begin this year with a sense of urgency, but also with a deep sense of hope and renewed purpose. As Loida described very well, the nation is at a crossroads, and must move forward with decisive action in Congress. I'm glad Mar and Martin are in the midst of such decisive action with the unity of our people, and a clear direction from your elected leadership.

Ana as president of this great nation — as you have asked me, Loida to do — I will provide that leadership and direction in 2005.

While it won't be easy — nothing worth fighting for ever is — it must be done. Simply put, we must enact vital legislation to increase revenues, pass a budget that invests in our 10-point pro-poor program, and number three, take executive action towards wiping out corruption.

The economy is the foundation of our hope and the creation of jobs the central organizing principle of my government.

We are on the right track: our exports are up, a lot of them from Cebu. As I said earlier, our growth is up, and our spending is in line. As I said earlier, the peso is strengthening, thanks to you, the overseas Filipinos. The stock

market is strong, agricultural growth has jumped, capital inflows are increasing and economic figures in 2004 were higher than expected.

And so, I feel justified in calling on all Filipinos, wherever you are, to stay the course. It's time to tear down barriers and build up hope, growth, a new optimism at the start of this new year.

And I thank the global Filipinos for being here tonight to express to me the fervent hope for the urgent change that we all want to happen for the good of the folks back home here in the Philippines.

Mabuhay ang overseas Filipinos!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the Planters Bank-Aureos \$25-Million SME Equity Fund

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of the Planters Bank-Aureos \$25-Million SME Equity Fund**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, January 27, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you, Nitz.

Secretary Purisima; Deputy Governor Tetangco; other officials of the Philippine Government, including our incoming members of the economic team, Ambassador Chuching Tambunting; Mr. Liam Cully; Floy Aguenza, my neighbor in La Vista; other distinguished guests who are too many to mention, this is such a star-studded affair; movers and shakers of the business community; ladies and gentlemen.

We are all proud to launch the very first private equity fund in the Philippines that's solely for small and medium enterprises. Congratulations! Chuching on your continuing leadership in the SME sector. congratulations! Planters Bank. Congratulations! Aureos and thank you for moving your regional headquarters from Bangkok to Manila.

The Philippines is not alone in its drive for economic prosperity. And so I thank our allies from the United Kingdom and Norway for putting up this equity fund.

I willingly made Malacañang available for the launching of this fund because of its importance to our economic program, to maintain and even accelerate our momentum of economic growth. When I began my new term six months ago, I spelled out a ten-point pro-poor legacy program. The first of the ten points I listed was the creation of six to ten million jobs in the next six years, especially by supporting three million entrepreneurs and developing two million hectares of agri-business.

And to do that to support these millions of entrepreneurs, we need the private equity fund being launched today. So this fund is an integral part of our economic program. We need to support the small and medium entrepreneurs, to grow the economy and provide more than a million jobs a year, as we unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of our people so that we can row our own boat, set our own course and sail forward to better times.

Small and medium entrepreneurs have proven the capacity to turn their capital around in the shortest period of time and create jobs.

This private equity fund complements the government's training programs on trade and entrepreneurship, skills development and product design.

Dynamic self-employment is the name of the game among the small entrepreneurs or employing a small number of people. But if we consider the capital to employment ratio, indeed, they are employing a large number of people for every peso of capital. The payback is durable social stability and economic prosperity.

We have a solid synergy of entrepreneurship in the inner cities, in the suburbs, in the countryside, and even overseas to bring about a dignified and productive life for the average Filipino family.

The partnership of political, social and economic institutions is shifting to high gear.

I take this opportunity once more to congratulate the House of Representatives for their leadership in putting our fiscal house in order together with the senate. I mention the House today because the passage of the value-added tax at dawn this morning, after working through the night, is an act of valiant civic duty that builds a better future for all Filipinos by growing the economy to create more jobs and push our ten-point pro-poor agenda. Thank you to Congress.

The strong executive-legislative partnership with congress and with the Senate is reinforced by our incoming members of the economic team — Johnny Santos and Bert Lina — that will continue to bridge the continuity of our policies and programs for the benefit of the average Filipino. The economy is on a roll and we shall continue to ensure that the most marginal sectors are shielded from short-term adversities by cushioning prices where the most telling social impact is expected. The people are ready for urgent change, and we shall buoy their hopes through the sustained fight against corruption, against waste in government and against leaks in our revenue system.

The sense of a turnaround is settling in. For the last four days, the peso has been appreciating at a faster rate than its regional counterparts — 55.20, Sai? Yahooo! I say to that.

According to the analysts, the liquidity is coming from foreign investment inflows as well as the general bullish movement at the stock market. The fundamentals are still around. We even reported a trade surplus of 333 million dollars in November last year compared to a deficit of a 193 million dollars in the same month a year earlier.

Now, we must bring the benefits of this macroeconomic performance to the average Filipino. And one of the most important ways is to support the small and medium entrepreneurs. And that is why this private equity fund is properly being launched in the palace of the people.

We shall soldier on, just as our small and medium entrepreneurs, both in the business districts and barrios of the archipelago are soldiering on, especially now with the very first private equity fund.

Through institutional partners like Planters and Aureos, we shall cut the poverty that cuts our people's lives short.

We will succeed because the Filipino spirit is resilient and our drive to excel is strong.

Just as the people of Planters Bank and its visionary leadership have exemplified on this proud event.

To Chuching, Floy, their partners from Aureos and incoming partner from the DBP, congratulations!

Thank you and mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the Planters Bank-Aureos \$25-Million SME Equity Fund. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082351/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3060&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Monday Flag Raising Ceremony and 14th Philippine National Police Anniversary

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Monday Flag Raising Ceremony and 14th Philippine National Police Anniversary**

[Delivered at the National Headquarters, Philippine National Police Camp Crame, Quezon City, January 31, 2005]

Thank you, Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Troop commander give ‘Tikas Pahinga.’

His Excellency President Ramos, former Chief PNP in his time; Chief PNP General Aglipay and the officers, men and women of the Philippine National Police; Congresswoman Nanette Daza who is our congresswoman here and the other elective officials of the Philippine government, including Governor Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and Governor Ben Loong of Sulu; members of the Cabinet and other government officials, including the AFP Chief of Staff, General Abu; recipients of today’s PNP awards; I would also like to greet the recipients of the annual ten outstanding policemen from the Metrobank Foundation. And I thank the chairman of Metrobank, Chairman George Ty for making the awarding ceremonies earlier this morning an integral part of our PNP anniversary; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Our policemen and policewomen on your 14th anniversary, I commend the brave men and women of the Philippine National Police, from your generals down to the ordinary police officer patrolling our neighborhoods.

Earlier, General Aglipay reminded us of the orders I gave him five months ago. Your response to that order — to improve public safety, stop drug trafficking, fight corruption within your ranks, and wage an all out war against terror — lends honor to the flag that we raised earlier today.

Even our friends in the Filipino-Chinese community attest to your major triumph against kidnap-for-ransom which is now at a record low. Congratulations to all of you!

Today, I especially congratulate the Batangas police, the SAF and the T.M.G. who triumphed in a five-hour firefight yesterday and arrested a notorious kidnapper with an P800,000 reward and his seven cohorts. I pray for the quick recovery of our six policemen who were wounded in that five-hour firefight, including the two who are still in critical condition. Congratulations to all of you!

Congratulations, too, to our drug enforcers to whom I gave a special presidential citation this morning. The number of innocent lives saved by your cutting the illegal trade by half is immense and i bid you to continue your good work.

Congratulations, too, to our anti-terrorism enforcers. Many times you have managed to thwart the evil designs of terrorists even before they could act. The singular honor of the Philippines now chairing both the anti-terrorism committee in the U.N. and the counter-terrorism task force of APEC must be rightfully shared by you, the policemen and policewomen of the Philippines, together with the other law enforcement agencies, the AFP, and our ever vigilant communities. Congratulations also for that!

Now, to keep the momentum of your new aggressive drive against cybersex dens, I call on our people to report to your nearest police stations operations that taint the image of our women and threaten the morals of people across the world. Congratulations! On a good start and good luck! On a good continuation.

The ramparts of our national security must be held firm as our economy grows. In ten minutes at 9:00 o' clock this morning, the NEDA, the national statistical coordination board will officially report to the nation that our GDP grew by 6.1 percent in 2004, the highest since the last peak of growth in 1996 during the time of President Fidel V. Ramos. Congratulations! To the police and to all Filipinos for this achievement in our economy.

Our institutions are humming the tune of growth.

I would like to thank Congress — Nanette, please thank Congress — for focusing on the task of putting our fiscal house in order. And I would like to thank especially our service sector, transportation and communication especially, and our trade services for picking up, complemented by our support to boost micro, small and medium enterprises.

I would like to especially congratulate the young professionals manning our call centers and outsourcing firms who are raking in the appreciation of our investors.

We, in the executive branch of government, must do our share, just as Congress and the Senate are doing their share in addressing the fiscal challenge by keeping food supply and prices stable, and cutting waste and corruption in government, even as we fully support the efforts of the supreme court, which stands at the apex of the criminal justice system to cleanse its rank of misfits.

Law enforcement is only the first rung of our criminal justice, but it is in the enforcement of the law in the streets that the people sense the sternness as well as the compassion of the law. And as General Aglipay says, the people want to feel a compassionate, respectful police even as we are strict in our law enforcement.

Overall confidence in our nation lies in the full trust in the law.

Our dedication as public servants to secure our people's safety and protect them from scalawags, white collar or otherwise, must be unassailable.

The officers and personnel of the PNP must not be found wanting. Do not tarnish your badge with a stain of corruption.

Last night, I gave the order to General Aglipay as well as to General Abu, to replace the existing AFP/PNP contingent in Diwalwal with the 402nd infantry brigade and a select PNP unit. The Chief PNP shall also include the murderers Tata Sala and his brother Edgar Sala, who are the centers of gravity of illegal mining in Diwalwal. They will be included in the most wanted list and the chief PNP shall effect their immediate arrest.

Men and women of the Philippine National Police, remain true to your oath as protectors of our people.

On this day, on your 14th anniversary, I greet you all. And to General Aglipay, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate him for a job well done.

Mabuhay ang PNP!

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Monday Flag Raising Ceremony and 14th Philippine National Police Anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082335/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3059&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of Binmaley People's Park Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of Binmaley People's Park on the occasion of the Town's 415th Foundation
Anniversary and Fiesta in Honor of Our Lady of Purification**

[Delivered at the Binmaley People's Park, Pangasinan, February 2, 2005]

Mrs. Gina de Venecia, the First Lady of the House of Representatives; Governor Agbayani Tan amin ya opisyaes diad Pangasinan; Congressman Espino; Mayor Rosario; lahat ng aking mga Cabinet members; Vice Governor Lambino; Vice Mayor Jettie Delos Angeles, Amin nga opisyaes diad Binmaley; the different Pangasinan mayors who are here today san saray kabaleyan diad Binmaley; masantos a kabuwasan, Congressman Tulagan of the next district, please join us here congressman; masantos ya fiesta tan salamat ed sikayon amin ed tulong yo ed siyak ed eleksyon nen 2004.

Masasanting so insabi na fiesta ed Binmaley, amay-amay so nagawaan natan ya blessings amin. Unaan la dia so balita ed ekonomiya natan. Lumalakas ang piso. Millions of dollars are coming in. 'Yung Supreme Court sabi puwede tayo mag-mining and all of these other things are helping our economy. 'Yung calpers, nagdesisyon na itutuloy ang investments sa Pilipinas. 'Yung Supreme Court, final na ang kanyang desisyon. All of these should seal confidence in the economy.

The average Filipino will soon reap the fruits of confidence in the economy, which will not only bring in more investments and jobs but drive the overall agenda of urgent reforms. These positive developments don't happen by accident. They are the result of hard nosed assessment by the objective analysis of the great potentials of our country and excellence and hard work of our people. These assessments are not limited to the economy but extend to the gains we've made in unifying our political institutions to put our fiscal house in order: in fighting corruption, terrorism and crime; in waging peace; and in delivering our pro-poor agenda.

Philippine stability is dawning upon the whole range of national affairs and cutting across the regions and sectors. We must stay the course, seize the opportunity for reform, and close ranks behind a higher future.

And I can't think of no better place to make this call than among the wonderful, friendly and supportive people of Binmaley, Pangasinan.

Balbaleg ya salamat ed sikayon amin.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Inauguration of Binmaley People's Park on the Occasion of the Town's 415th Foundation Anniversary and Fiesta in Honor of our Lady of Purification. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082303/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3076&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the Stakeholder's Forum on Responsible Mining for Sustainable Development,
February 3, 2005**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Stakeholder's Forum on Responsible Mining for Sustainable Development**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang Palace, February 3, 2005]

REFORMING THE MINING INDUSTRY

In a nutshell, our mining policy is: minimum environmental and social effect, maximum contribution to the war against poverty.

This forum has an important bearing on the ongoing investment conference for the industry that's taking place in another venue.

Here I hope, starting here I hope to lead a national consensus on mining along the common standard of public interest and welfare.

We should never allow loud rhetoric to override patriotic sense.

We need investors willing to go by our laws to put our economy on a stable plane.

I'm for responsible mining not for any faction or interest group in our society, but for the people for whom the bounties of this earth are reserved by the Almighty.

That's why I invited you as their representatives, representatives of the people, not to any other place but to Malacañang, the home of our peoples' aspirations.

I realize that the government has a long way to go to prove its earnestness and sincerity in cleaning up abandoned mines and in seeing to it that local communities are benefited in a durable way, and not hurt by mining.

We are gathered here to break away from decades of complacency, obsolete technologies and misdirected priorities that have combined to project festering negative impressions about mining.

We've installed a legal and administrative system of safeguards to achieve the right balance of economic development, environmental protection and social equity. But we are still willing to add some more to this framework in response to the consensus that I hope to achieve in this conference.

Among the additional safeguards, we shall fight for legislation compelling mining companies to pay directly to the local government units in the mining areas their share in the 2 percent tax on minerals. We are also prepared to propose legislation for the payment of the proper royalties to the indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples need not fear that your lands will be taken away.

Small miners need not fear that they will lose their livelihood, for we shall organize small mining cooperatives and provide technical assistance to make their practices more economical and more environmentally acceptable.

Mt. Diwalwal shall be turned into a sanctuary of law and order.

It is folly to ignore the value of our mineral resources while we wage a day-to-day piecemeal battle against the ravages of economic uncertainty.

A stronger peso from renewed international confidence in Philippine mining eases the socioeconomic burden across the board, bringing relief to the average Filipino.

The revival of mining spells more jobs, more roads, more bridges, more classrooms and books and computers in them, potable water to the barangays, electricity to every barangay.

And so, I invite everyone to rise to the challenge of performing and reforming, of seeking new horizons for the nation, of crafting viable strategies for collective prosperity — with the people, for the people.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, thank you for coming to this forum. May we have a good consensus by the end of the day.

Once again, thank you and welcome!

Source: Adamson University Library

Speech of President Arroyo during a Dinner Reception for the participants of the International Mining Investment Conference of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Dinner Reception for the participants of the International Mining Investment Conference of the
Chamber of Mines of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang Palace, February 3, 2005]

Thank you, Secretary Defensor.

Speaker de Venecia, other officials of the Philippine government, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the mining industry both in the Philippines and all over the world, ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome to the Philippines and welcome to Malacañang!

I think I shouldn't say too much anymore, the speakers of the last two days have said it all. Your confidence in the Philippines buoys our hopes for a brighter future.

This conference comes at a time when the Philippines is experiencing political dynamism and economic growth: 6.1 percent growth rate, record levels of the stock exchange, very rapid strengthening of the peso, and of course, our supreme court two months ago ruled... and a few days ago ruled with finality on the constitutionality of our mining law.

Speaker de Venecia is here and I would like to thank Congress for avidly immersing itself in the shaping of equitable revenues to put our fiscal house in order.

We in the executive department are keenly focused on a ten-point pro-poor agenda to break the back of cyclic poverty.

Our institutions have a synergy of ideals and intentions intensely focused on the overriding welfare of the Filipino people.

There's an air of urgent change and reform lifting the ship of solidarity and enterprise. And I thank you because you're among the first to come here to give the Philippines a second look. Your trip shall be the start of a mutually rewarding experience for both your firms and for the Filipino people.

Our economic fundamentals are strong and stable founded not on public enterprise but dynamic private enterprise. And we shall compete for your investments through good governance, quality human resources and competitive incentives.

Our infrastructure programs are shifting into high gear in identified areas of mining growth. We are developing the best logistics hub in Clark and Subic just north of Manila.

Our crime rates have been on the downtrend in the last three years. We are working with our regional partners to check terrorist movements across the seas, while our soldiers are training alongside American troops as we take on the common foe of terrorism.

We offer a sound legal, operational and security environment that will enable solid profit alongside predictable social and environmental imperatives.

A mineral production sharing agreement can be obtained within six months — right, Mike Defensor? An environmental compliance certificate can be obtained in four months, and a precondition certificate from the commission on indigenous peoples can be obtained in three months.

Corruption will be punished as firmly as professional conduct will be upheld and rewarded.

We have linked two of our major line agencies — environment under Secretary Defensor and trade under outgoing Secretary Purisima, who will go to finance, and incoming Secretary Santos whom you met today —to spearhead all other concerned agencies in speeding up the processing chain.

I look forward to a strong partnership in shaping the overall environmental and social strategy in your prospective areas of operation. Winning the hearts and minds of the people in the community is the first step.

We are addressing the issue of abandoned mines now, and we shall not repeat the dire lessons of the past. We must make sure that the land is fit for tilling and habitation when we leave.

More than ever, I'm convinced that we need to get down to more community dialogues in the spirit of sincerity and mutual respect.

We must listen to the voice of indigenous peoples and local governments because they guarantee the stability and longevity of your investments.

Help us bring down the message of responsible mining now before negative attitudes seep into the fabric of the community.

As our lifetime partners in the fight against poverty, I invite you to help us meet the challenge of sustainable development through responsible mining.

Thank you, Mabuhay!

Bon appetite!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during a Dinner Reception for the Participants of the International Mining Investment Conference of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082223/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3075&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 103rd anniversary of the Bureau of Customs

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 103rd anniversary of the Bureau of Customs**

[Delivered at the Social Hall, Main Bldg., Bureau of Customs South Harbor, Manila City, February 7, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you, Nitz.

Commissioner Jereos, Secretary Angie Reyes of DILG, Tony Meloto and the other civilians who are here with us today, Tony Bernardo and the other former officials of BOC, present officers and staff of BOC, other government officials, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Happy Anniversary to all of you!

I don't usually attend anniversaries but today I decided to attend the Customs anniversary because the Customs bureau stands at the apex of one of the most important concerns of our 10-point pro-poor agenda, and that is balancing the budget.

Many people ask me how can you remember the ten-points. Well, we have the acronym "BEAT THE ODDS." The very first one there B is for balancing the budget. Balancing the budget is a function of efficient, equitable collection of taxes and their full faithful and honest application to the people's welfare. We're all part of this far-ranging responsibility to make taxes work for the people.

As performance gains in all revenue fronts, so does the entire economy.

As our partnership with Congress continues to reap revenue measures, our revenue agencies will continue to be held to a higher level of performance.

Popular acceptance of new taxes largely depends on our efficiency to collect taxes under existing laws.

Honest tax collection is your main task. This responsibility puts the customs worker at the forefront of public interest. That's why let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your highest level of tax collections in history. Your high tax collections compared to target and compared to last year are proof not only of growing efficiency but of better morale and discipline. Mabuhay ang Customs!

We are not only intercepting more contraband, as was shown to me by your officials when I arrived, but making smugglers think twice.

The days of smugglers are numbered. We will beat them in their own game and draw the noose tight on their operations.

These things did not happen by accident. They are a result of day to day leadership of good commissioners, the perseverance of diligent Customs personnel, and the complementary work of related agencies like those under Secretary Reyes.

Nitz Amatong and George Jereos are about to retire and leave us. I would like to congratulate them both for a job well done.

It is also my pleasure to welcome Cesar Purisima to the DOF and Bert Lina to the Customs watch. Cesar recommended Bert because Bert knows the ropes and will slide into the job without effort. I ask you to lend him your full support.

The scope of the bureau is stretching out globally. We are poised to bring the Philippines to the edge of greater stability and competitiveness in order to create more jobs and more income for our people — that is always our ultimate goal. To be able to do this, we have to be stable, we have to be competitive. Stability and competitiveness mean that we have to be part of the whole network that facilitates beneficial commerce. And that's why we have the officials of PCCI here with us today and I acknowledge their presence.

Aside from efficient tax collection, the PCCI only knows too well that trade facilitation is the name of the game — to reduce the cost and the time of doing business as well as to improve transparency, predictability and consistency across all transactions.

The road to change starts with an acceptance of the sad reality that the Customs service continues to be one of the most stigmatized agencies in the country.

The perception of corruption has to be reversed lest our surging economic gains are overcome by nagging skepticism. At the same time, we must also liberate the ranks of customs from fear, blackmail and undue interference from unscrupulous vested interests. The work has begun and we must carry on to the finish.

Together, we shall strike a fundamental dent upon the culture of corruption. The culture that is fundamentally behind the decades-long failure to collect the right amount of taxes.

When I talk about fighting the culture of corruption, I'm speaking not only of the lifestyle checks that have already taken their toll on a number of officials across the government. I'm also speaking of investments in technological change and procedural reforms.

With regard to technological change, today, we launched here on the platform, in Manila our new network with the world automation project of the U.N. which aligns our software with over 85 countries worldwide for common standards of import and export processing. I previously launched this network in the Customs offices of Cebu and Bohol. At that time, when I saw the presentation of Balong and he had that last frame of the man under the coconut tree transacting customs business, I said, "Balong, when will that happen?" He said, the whole system to be completed will take ten months but the scene of the man under the coconut tree transacting business with customs can take place in three months from now.

I'm also glad that today again on this stage, we launched still another facet of our strong partnership with the PCCI for the internet lodgement of import entries.

Now, with all of these combination of different technological changes your clients can file their entries in the comfort of their homes and offices. A user-friendly customs service can indeed work wonders.

With regard to procedural reforms — well, today earlier, when one of my long complaints has been... I'm very happy about your seizures but I would wish that we were more aggressive in filing cases. And today, I saw a number of seized goods in a number of vans and I said, "so, when are you gonna file the case against the consignee?" "oh, maybe two weeks." And so I said, why? "because there has to be an investigation." But we've already seized the good. So, we know that prima facie there was smuggling. And then the answer was "but they might, you know, we have to investigate because they might have a defense, they might say that it doesn't belong to them." I said, well, then let them say that in court.

So today, as part of your celebration of Customs, I'm asking George Jereos to make sure that the consignees of all those seized goods that we inspected today will receive a charge sheet today.

On the matter of legislation for procedural reform, there is the new accountability reform law, commonly called the attrition act. That's our latest tool for reform.

Job security and compensation are now tied to performance. We shall set the goals fairly — that's done, Nitz by the DBCC? — measure the results transparently and make the firm moves to proscribe or reward those deserving either way.

I know that some of you are apprehensive about this law, but those who do their jobs faithfully need not worry. It will be used neither as a means for political vendetta, nor for sham rewards, nor for unjust punishment.

It will be used to build faith in good governance. And that is what I want our theme to be for this customs year: "Let's beat the odds; let's rebuild faith in good governance; let's balance the budget; let's collect a lot of those taxes."

Join me in this quest.

Mabuhay on your 103rd anniversary!

Thank you and God bless.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 103rd Anniversary of the Bureau of Customs. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082206/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3073&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 27th National Assembly of the League of Vice-Governors of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 27th National Assembly of the League of Vice-Governors of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Isla Parilla, Alabel, Sarangani Province, February 10, 2005]

Thank you very much Secretary Angie Reyes for your kind introduction.

And I'd like to greet all of you today. Let me just mention Governor Sorry about that, Miguel Domiguez of Sarangani, our host governor. And I'd like to thank and congratulate Miguel, he showed me his program for the province of Sarangani and almost point for point he has his counterpart of the ten point program. Thank you very much for aligning your program to the national government, Miguel.

I also like to thank Vice Governor Bridgette Chiongbian for her welcome. And Bridgette, belated happy birthday. Yesterday was her birthday. I'd like to thank her father, my compadre, Congressman Erwin Chiongbian for your kind welcome for being with us in our trips earlier today. I'd like to greet the president of the League of Vice Governors of the Philippines, Julius Herrera of Bohol. And as mentioned earlier by Congressman Chiongbian, I have a number of Cabinet members here with us today. On the head table with me is Angie Reyes and Romy Nery who were your guest speakers earlier. and I brought together with me — Arty Yap, Dinky Soliman, Paul Dominguez.

I'd like to greet our... the other... well, I will... since I greeted the father of Bridgette, I will greet the father of Miguel – Paul Dominguez who was with my Cabinet but his now with the private sector as the president of the Tampacan Mining Corporation, six hundred million dollars. Congratulations, Paul!

Our other officers of the League of Vice Governors, we have James Calingin from Albay, we have Oscar Lambino from Pangasinan, and all the other vice governor who are here, about 50 of you. May I also greet the other guest speakers John Dalton, growth with equity in Mindanao. And his name is not here but he was my professor in demographic economics Ernie Pernia, I'd like to greet him.

And to all of you, good afternoon. Maayong hapon, maayo nga hapon, marhay nga hapon, maupay nga kulop. And I'd like to thank all of you for being here in this as big as the southernmost province of the country.

Your 27th National Assembly today is a good opportunity for us to get together in what I call the year of urgent change and fervent hope.

Earlier, when I was preparing, I asked my aide, "where's my speech?" So she called up Secretary Afable. Afable said, "nobody told me to make a speech." So I called up Dodie Limcauco who by the way is sick in the hospital. Let's hope that he gets well. I called up Dodie, he said, "no speech because you're suppose to have a roundtable. You gonna sit down on a u-shaped after lunch thing and you'll talk. Ok, no speech. Nonetheless, I still need notes. So he had some notes prepared for me.

And then when I was in Malungon, they said, "oh, it's not roundtable anymore, it's theatre type. I said, "but there's no speech. And I haven't seen my speech if there... even if it has an speech so put it back to u-shape." they said, "no more they can't change it because Secretary Reyes and Secretary Nery already spoke speech style, theatre style. Ok, so theatre style, so speech style. So my aide comes and tell me, "Ma'am hindi interaction din pala." "eh, papano kami mag-i-interaction theatre style, hindi na speech na lang." And then Bridgette says, interaction.

Anyway, what we'll gonna do is... I can't have an interaction this style. So, when I finish my speech, my opening remark, I'll go and get my merienda. Can we fix the, you know the arrangement again to make it u-shape style like before.

Anyway, why it is so important for us to have this interaction because our vice governors are the presiding officers of the provincial boards. Therefore, you are at the helm of aligning local programs to national priorities and I can assure you that you have a lot of action ahead.

Yesterday, we had twin celebrations. The Roman Catholic community observed Ash Wednesday, the Filipino-Chinese community celebrated Chinese New Year.

Both these occasions signify that we have a collective faith, a collective solidarity, cultural diversity. We are a multi-ethnic society. But the joint celebration was a good way of showing solidarity to push forward in nation building. Here in Mindanao, that multi-ethnicity of our society is even more obvious. Christians, Muslims ... multi-ethnic society indeed. And we must all be united. We must all recognized at the same time the multi-ethnicity of our society and have social justice for all and institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions.

We need unity, we need a strong action from Congress. And I thanked Erwin Chiongbian for his support there. And we need a clear direction from the leadership. These are the three things we need so that our economy can truly awaken from the skepticism of the past. I believed the signs are clear of the awakening from the skepticism. The people are rejecting the politics of division, doomsday prediction and hate. They are embarking on the new politics of unity, performance and integrity.

Investors have been coming over to take a serious look at the rebirth of our mining industry. That's why I was mentioning Paul because that's when we had our mining seminar, we must have closed about three billion dollars in mining investments. One of the biggest is the Tampacan with a six hundred million dollars. But maybe the biggest single one of all so far is the Chinese investment of one billion dollars in the Nonoc Nickle Mining Corporation in Surigao Del Norte. The fight against corruption is being fought at all levels. And our partnership with congress to put our fiscal house in order is reaping steady gains. Congressman Chiongbian, please convey again my thanks to the congressmen.

The spirit of unity must flow down to every community. And you the vice governors are our agents of transformation.

I'm glad we're here in Mindanao so that you can all see that permanent peace in Mindanao is within reach, even as we have to push the fight against terror to the limit.

The situation in Sulu has brought together the forces of law against the force of lawlessness. As we deal with pockets of criminals and terrorist holdouts, we are keeping the line of the law firm with the full cooperation of the local governments, the peace constituencies and community leaders.

We will win the peace for the people but we will not give the terrorist a moment of peace.

Our operations are not targetted against the MNLF. Afterall, the MNLF is in control of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao in the person of Parouk Hussin who is pure MNLF and he's governor of the autonomous region. The MNLF is leader in Basilan in the person of the deputy speaker of the House of Representatives Jerry Salapudin who is MNLF. The MNLF is there in the local government of Cotabato City because the Manour of Cotabato City is Muslimin Sema, Secretary General of the MNLF. It is the leadership in Marawi City because the mayor of Marawi City Omar Ali who is also MNLF. Then, we talked about magic 8. Most of them are holding elective positions in the different municipalities and provinces of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. So our operations are not aimed at them. They are our allies. They are our co-leaders. In governance, we have an on-going peace agreement with them that is being carried out. What are we doing? We are fighting against terrorists and criminals in Panamao and in Indanan in Sulu. Therefore, we are insuring that MNLF communities and civilians are kept out of harms way

even as we wage war against criminals and terrorists. Evacuees are being sheltered, fed and cared for until they return to their homes.

Our government has briefed the OIC ambassadors on the situation. We have assured them that the overall peace process firmly holds even amidst isolated hostilities.

The ceasefire with the MILF is holding tight, far and wide. And we will soon set out joint teams to go after lawless elements as we prepare for the resumption of peace talks.

Enduring peace, like economic growth, is a work in constant progress

I salute the members of Congress, Erwin for their non-stop deliberation on the national budget and tax legislation like the vat bill, to raise the coffers of the national government so that we can, among others, add to the resources of our local government.

The budget for 2005 has been earmarked to finance the 10 point agenda which Bridgette talked about, which Miguel Dominguez replicating here in Sarangani. And some asked me, how can we remember what your ten-points are. And for those of you who haven't heard, well it's...to remember it, we make it bear the acronym of "BEAT THE ODDS".

B – is for a balanced budget because we must reduced our budget deficit. We have a budget deficit of 180 billion pesos that must go down to zero by 2010.

E – is education for all. And that's why I am very happy that in the remote barangay's Malungon we were able to build five school buildings, five classrooms and two school buildings under the KALAH-CIDDS program. But Miguel has his own building program.

A – is for automated elections;

T – is for transport and digital infrastructure.

That's BEAT. For the:

T – terminate the MILF and NPA conflicts hopefully through peaceful negotiation

H- is heal the wounds of EDSA.

E – is electricity and water for all barangays. And I am very happy that as Bridgette said, we just came back today from barangay Cauayan which is among many barangays that we are providing water and power for under the KALAH-CIDDS program.

O – is opportunities for 10 million jobs over the next six years starting last year. And how do we do this? By promoting, by supporting three million entrepreneurs and developing two million hectares of agri-business many of which are in Mindanao. In fact, flying from Malungon to Alabel, we flew over about two thousand hectares, Miguel of mango plantation which is the type of product that's here in Southern Mindanao high value crops.

D – is for decongesting metro manila. And that's the reason why we want to transfer some of the agencies to different parts of the country. And then finally,

Ds – is to develop Clark and Subic because we must have a hub somewhere in Asia for goods that come from America or go to America. And we want to... Clark and Subic are competing not which GENSAN, not with Davao. They are competing with other hubs in the region of Asia.

These are our goals for today and the very near future. All agencies and departments are geared towards the implementation of these agenda. And you, the vice governors who draw-up the budgets of your own provinces will be an indispensable cog in the wheel of stability and prosperity.

For our ten-point agenda to be achieved, we must learn to work together and live each day with optimism and a zest for constructive engagement.

The specter of division and strife must be banished for the seeds of permanent change to take root.

We continue to make history as each day passes. And now I ask the League of Vce-Governors of the Philippines to stay the course with me as we embark on the path to real economic freedom which is freedom from poverty for our people.

Many of you are already familiar with my ten-point agenda as Miguel is, I am sure that my ten-point agenda can also easily reflect your priorities.

And so I ask for your help now in explaining our tax reform measures to our people because that's the way to finance the ten-point agenda, one of which is a balance budget. We all gain from broad enlightenment on the burning issues that impinge on the lives of average Filipinos.

Our economy is growing, corruption is being addressed. A clearly-defined road map for Philippine progress is in place. Even tourism is up for this two weeks of Chinese new year. Last night I had dinner with publishers and columnists of the Chinese-Filipino media, and they said, all the five-star hotels are fully booked. They were so fully booked in Manila that many book in Cebu. Now they're all fully book in Cebu but they're not familiar yet with the tourists areas in the rest of the country, the tourists facilities. But it really shows that with the volume of tourists coming in there is a lot of room for developing tourism in other parts of the country. Investors are coming in. I mentioned already ... Australian partners. I mentioned already China in nickle in Surigao del Norte and many more. With a collective heave of great political will, the future can be ours.

This is the moment when we must all decide our place in history. So I asked you vice governors, take up the challenge with me, and we shall win the future.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 27th National Assembly of the League of Vice-Governors of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082151/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3072&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the Launching Ceremony of the United Nations Millennium Project Report,
February 16, 2005**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Launching Ceremony of the United Nations Millennium Project Report**

[Delivered at the Dusit Nikko Hotel, Makati City, February 16, 2005]

**INVESTING IN DEVELOPMENT:
A PRACTICAL PLAN TO ACHIEVE
THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

We went through a lot of trouble to prepare that not leaving it to technical people but working on it among the policymakers ourselves, myself and the Cabinet, and we are very grateful and I'm very happy to hear that professor Sachs thinks it's one of the best development plans he has ever read. Thank you very much for your praise and support.

Fighting poverty can only be successful with a practical plan and a strong will.

I'd like to thank the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, Professor Sachs and the other experts for agreeing that our plan does conform with the overall plan of the United Nations. I'd like to thank them all for providing us that framework to begin with, as I assure you that I will continue to provide the political will to drive its implementation forward to fruition, and as I provide the political will to wage the fight against terrorism alongside the war against poverty.

We launch this practical plan to attain the millennium development goals to build prosperity for our people, and in the process to mop up the breeding grounds of terrorist recruits.

There's been a lot of debate about what causes terrorism — definitely, evil causes terrorism. But in the Philippines we know that whatever may be the cause of terrorism, the spread of terrorism, which means the recruitment of the hatchet men, has a great deal to do with poverty. And it is no coincidence that the most extensive recruitment of the terrorist hatchet men and messengers can be found in the poorest provinces of our country.

The U.N. development goals are, as Deborah said, mirrored in my ten-point pro-poor legacy agenda that aims to shore up the economy, uplift the lives of our people, strengthen democracy, and forge peace and national solidarity.

The new economic team I put in place to carry out my agenda consists of officials who are capable, loyal and dedicated to change.

I fully expect this team to work with me to lead the nation to a new era of prosperity, freedom and national growth. Not prosperity for a few but, as Deborah said, prosperity for the greatest number of our people. It is important for us — and I thank Congress for passing the budget. I thank Senate that they will soon pass the budget — because this budget invests in our pro-poor agenda. We will also work not only to pass the budget for a pro-poor agenda but to clamp down on corruption, to weed out wasteful government spending, and to raise revenues. These are all key pillars of my economic plan to bring stability and prosperity to our nation.

We are turning the corner: we've come off the watch list of the FATF; we are forging fiscal discipline. In fact, we have forged fiscal discipline; and we are enforcing law and order.

Creating safe streets free from crime and kidnapping are central for our workers, our businessmen and foreigners to go about their jobs.

More government officials are being charged with corruption. Soon they will not only be charged, they will have their ill-gotten gains forfeited to the government. That is my next instruction to our anti-corruption officials.

The clean up of government goes hand in hand with the protection of the environment even as investments in mining start to pour in.

And we are strictly monitoring the implementation of our agenda: the agenda for growth, the agenda against corruption, and the agenda for physical and fiscal discipline. We are monitoring these per municipality, per goal every single day.

I'm happy to hear that our house of representatives recently formed a committee on the MDGS with Congresswoman Neris Soon-Ruiz as chairwoman. Congratulations, Neris!

I'm also happy to hear that twelve city mayors are working closely with our Department of Interior and Local Government and the United Nations Philippine country team to promote the MDGS.

We're reinforcing the building blocks of human development with the mortar of political unity and the rule of law and justice for all.

Today, Philippine development is built on the principled solidarity of our political institutions, and focused – commitment to change and reform.

We will slay the deficit dragon by raising revenues through our own power and initiative, so that we stop financing our development with incessant borrowings. And as we bring about an economic turnaround, so also shall we give peace the pedestal it deserves in every Filipino home.

As Cecille Alvarez said, 'we mourn the loss of lives.' we mourn the loss of lives all over the world because of terrorism.

The quest for a more equitable and compassionate world is hindered by the moral abyss where terrorists dwell. Crushing the wall of poverty must go hand in hand with crushing evil itself.

Yes, we are poised for an economic turnaround and a leap forward in the fight against poverty.

Yes, this is a year of urgent change and fervent hopes.

And I thank the United Nations for your faith and confidence in the Philippines.

Salamat and Mabuhay!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Commemoration of the EDSA People Power Revolution 1 and 2, February 22, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Commemoration of the EDSA People Power Revolution 1 and 2**

[Delivered at the People Power Monument, EDSA, Quezon City, February 22, 2005]

HINDI PATAPOS ANG MARTSA NG EDSA

Marami sa inyo nandito, hindi ba? Noong 1986, February 22, araw na ito, marami sa atin nagpunta dito. Nagsimula at hinirang ang mapayapang himagsikan na ngayon ay binansagang EDSA. Ginawa pang EDSA Uno dahil nagkaroon ng EDSA Dos.

Noong panahong 'yon, namangha ang daigdig, buong daigdig sa pagdagsa ng sambayanang Pilipino sa kahabaan ng EDSA. Nandoon nga 'yung mga kaibigan natin sa Mandaluyong, binababati ko sila. Nandito si Congressman Benhur Abalos at naalala ko, EDSA Dos parating nandiyan sila. Mula sa harap ng Camp Crame at Aguinaldo, dito nga, walang sandata kung hindi ang hiyaw ng pakikibaka, pusong nagliliyab sa pagmamahal ng Bayan, at mataimtim na paniniwala sa Panginoon.

Naalaala natin ang martir na si Benigno Aquino Jr., Naging mukha ng kabayanihan at kaluluwa ng sundalo ng Diyos, nagtulak sa ating lahat upang ipaglaban ang kalayaan at katapatan. 'Yung kanyang pagkamatay, Agosto 1983, nagsimula nang tatlong taong matinding pakikibaka hanggang umabot sa EDSA.

Paano natin mapapakawalaan ang gunita ng marubdob at makahulugang sandali ng pagkakaisa? Sumulong ang karaniwang mamamayan. Nabuwag ang diktaduryang matiwalì. Nayanig ang daigdig sa pananahimik ng mga baril at tangka sa harap na tapang ng taumbayan.

Ngunit bakit tayo narito ngayon? Dahil hindi pa lubos ang tagumpay natin. Hindi pa tapos ang laban ng sambayanan. Libu-libong Pilipino ang naghihintay pa ng tunay na kalayaan: ang paglaya sa tanikala ng kahirapan, sa tanikala ng kawalan ng katarungan, sa tanikala ng pag-aapi at pagsasamantala. At para makamit ang mga kalayaan na 'yon, kailangan ang paglaya mula sa katiwalian. Kailangan ang paglaya mula sa korupsiyon. Kaya sabi ng Grand Masa Alliance, beat the odds, sugpuin ang katiwalian.

Kaya naman kailangan natin ang bagong himagsikang mapayapa at bunga ng pagkakaisa gaya ng nagawa natin ng EDSA 1 at EDSA 2. Hindi tayo patatalo sa kapit ng bagong galamay na ibig pang sumakal sa atin. Panahon na upang magbuklod-buklod ang lahat alang-alang sa mahal nating Inang Bayan. Magbubuklod-buklod laban sa katiwalian, laban sa korupsiyon.

Kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa dasal ng ating mga lider, ng ating spiritual community, religious community dahil ang EDSA ay inaalay natin sa Panginoon.

Itong taong 2005, ang taon ng dagliang pagbabago sa Pilipinas. Upang manumbalik ang pag-asa at tiwala, kailangan ng pamunuang buo ang loob sa dapat gawin upang lumaganap ang kabuhayan, lumago ang kaban ng bayan, mapondohan ang mga programa ng mga maralita, makaakit ng kapital at masugpo ang kidnapping, masugpo ang pagwasak sa kakahuyan, 'yung mga nagpuputol ng puno na ilegal upang masugpo dapat masugpo higit sa lahat ang katiwalian sa lipunan.

Di-matatawaran ang halaga ng ligtas na mga lansangan upang makapagsikap ang ating mga manggagawa at mangangalakal nang walang ligalig. Kaya kasama sa laban sa katiwalian ay ang laban sa krimen. Ngayon, bumaba

ang krimen, bumaba ang kidnapping, kaya tuloy umaakyat ang investment sa ating bayan. Magpasalamat tayo sa Panginoon.

Ngunit upang magpatuloy ang pagdami ng trabaho at higit pang pag-angat ng sambayanang Pilipino, dapat nating durugin ang kultura ng katiwalian, dahil itong kultura ng katiwalian ay pumipigil ng ating pag-unlad. Kaya naman para durugin natin itong kultura, parami nang parami ang mga opisyal ng pamahalaan na pinasasakdal natin sa pamamagitan ng matinding imbestigasyon. Di-lalaon at kikilos ang gobyerno upang ilitin ang kanilang nakaw na yaman bago pa man sila litisin at hatulan. Pinupuksa na ang salang pagputol ng puno, di ba, Mike Defensor? Nandito 'yung mga DENR. Salamat na kayo ay narito para mangakong lalaban sa katiwalian, lalung-lalo na sa illegal logging, dib a? At hindi na rin makakapagnegosyo sa gobyerno ang nandadaya sa buwis, di ba, Secretary Ebdane? 'Yang mga tax evaders, kanselado ang kanilang mga kontrata.

Gagamitin ko ang buong lakas ng panguluhan upang ipagsakdal ang mga illegal loggers, tulungan niyo ako, ha DENR? Gagamitin ko ang lakas ng pamunuan upang mapawalang-bisa ang mga transaksyon ng gobyerno sa mga tiwaling kompanya. Gagamitin ko ang kapangyarihan ng pamunuan upang patalsikin ang mga walang-budhing opisyal na nagnanakaw sa bayan. At ibalik natin ang marangal at matapat na paglilingkod-bayan ng mga kawal at pinuno ng ating Sandatahang Lakas na nagtataya ng buhay upang ipagtanggol ang dangal ng bayan. At tayo lahat manawagan tayo sa Kongreso, sa pribadong sektor at mga samahang bayan na makiisa sa hangarin nating ito. Tulungan niyo ako manawagan sa kanila.

Tayong lahat, walang takot at sama-sama nating susugpuin ang salot ng katiwalian. Tayong lahat, sama-sama bibigyan natin na tanglaw ang tunay na kapangyarihang hawak ng sambayanan. Mapapasakamay din natin ang ganap na tagumpay ng EDSA.

Kaya aking mga kasamahan na nagsusuporta sa ating laban sa katiwalian na nagtipon ngayon para ipahayag ang inyong suporta, sikapin natin makamtam at matupad ang pamanang ito sa taon ng malawakang pagbabago at sumisiglang pag-asa.

Isiguro nating hindi mamamatay ang diwa ng EDSA. Naka-ukit habang panahon sa talaan ng kasaysayan at puso ng bawat Pilipino, Buong lakas nating labanan ang katiwalian nagsisindi ng kahirapan at sakim sa kapangyarihan.

Hindi pa tapos ang martsa ng EDSA. Ngunit pabilis na nang pabilis ang ating mga hakbang at palapit nang palapit ang minimithing paglaya, pag-unlad at katapatan sa paglilingkod, integridad sa paglilingkod.

Kaya itong araw na ito, February 22, simula ng Linggo ng EDSA, ito na rin ang simula ng Linggo ng Asal. Values Week, the Week of Philippine Values sa ating bansang Pilipinas.

Nasa kamay ng bawat Pilipino ang ating kinabukasang nagniningning. Nasa kamay ng bawat Pilipino na ipairal ang mga asal na magbubuo ng lipunang maka-integridad sa ating bansa.

Kapit-bisig nating pag-ibayuhin ang digma laban sa katiwalian at ibangon ang dangal ng ating lahi. Ibangon ang values ng ating lahi. Ibangon ang values ng Pilipino. Ito ang pamana ng EDSA – ang laban sa katiwalian.

EDSA 1, lumaban tayo kontra sa diktadura at katiwalian. EDSA dos, wala nang diktadura, lumaban tayo kontra sa katiwalian. Ngayong taong EDSA 2005, lumaban pa rin tayo, lalo tayong lumaban. Gamitin natin ang ating pagkakaisa. Gamitin natin ang ating pamumuno para lumaban, labanan, masugpo ang katiwalian. 'Yan ang ating paraan para sabihin muli, ulit ng ulit, mabuhay ang EDSA!

Maraming salamat.

Happy Anniversary sa ating lahat!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

**Speech of President Arroyo at the 14th National Congress of the National Movement of Young Legislators,
March 5, 2005**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 14th National Congress of the National Movement of Young Legislators**

[Delivered at the Harbor Garden Tent, Westin Philippine Plaza, Pasay City, March 5, 2005]

THE MISSION TO SPREAD HOPE

I remember when attended your convention in Davao, I was still a senator, and at that time, there was already a call to review the local government code. But somehow, even if it was supposed to be reviewed five years after, it never got to us. Now, it's fifteen years after, so I hope this time the review can finally take place under the leadership of NMYL.

Since that time in Davao, the number of young leaders entering the field of politics and local government has grown by leaps and bounds. This is a very good omen for the strength of our nation because one-half of our population is made up of those twenty years old and below. And with the young people entering government, it augurs well for a bright future for our nation. Besides the more young leaders, the greater the energy and the potential of the Philippines.

I remember the movement over the years and I can say having observed you as guest speaker, as guest, that your movement has become a fertile ground for character training and development, and for honing public management skills.

On this your convention, your 14th National Congress, my fervent hope is that you will follow in the footsteps of your founding president — at that time like Julian a Quezon City councilor — Francis Pangilinan. Now, fourteen years later he is the Senate majority leader and ready for greater heights of service to the nation. But even in your current position as local legislators, you play an urgent role today.

This is a year for urgent change in the Philippines. Economic growth, the creation of new high-wage jobs and bringing economic stability and predictability to the Philippine economy are central to improving the economic well-being of every Filipino.

I ask Herbert, because Julian was telling me and I'm very happy that you're all ready to support the 10-point agenda. And I was telling Herbert, help me too to diminish the impact of rising prices. And Herbert said that it is among your breed, your group that you have been able to take care of some of the increase in prices that come from cheating and abuse of those who are selling to the consuming public.

The best way to diminish the impact of rising prices is to create new high-wage jobs, attract investment and bring overall economic stability to the nation. The government is doing these things, as well as cutting wasteful government programs and limiting investments to infrastructure and people. In addition, the government is taking action to protect consumer rights, expand spot checks against price gouging, undertake new conservation measures and provide tax incentives to employers to help their employees with transportation costs. These are things that the young legislators can do as well on the local front.

I'm focused like a laser beam on job creation and wage growth. I've brought in more than 60,000 new call center jobs, increased investments and jobs throughout the country with companies like Intel, E-Bay, Honda, UPS, Fedex. With the passage of my budget through Congress, I'll be able to invest in the 10-point pro-poor plan including the

creation of 10 million jobs in the medium-term. The 10-point plan will bring to life the pro-poor agenda that will create jobs in micro, small and medium enterprises, bring clean water and electricity to the entire country, increase access- to health care, ensure a school in every barangay and computer linkage in every high school.

To create more jobs and bring prosperity to the Filipino people, however, we must stop the culture of corruption that holds back our pace of development. I'm exerting executive authority to prosecute illegal loggers, cancel government contracts with corrupt companies, fire unscrupulous government officials who rob the nation, and restore integrity to our military leaders and soldiers who put their lives at risk to defend the honor of our nation. And I call on Congress, the private sector and civic leaders to join in this effort.

And I especially want to thank the young legislators, because I haven't made the call to you yet, you already responded in your remarks earlier this morning.

I know that as young political leaders, the fire of dynamism, idealism and patriotism burns very brightly in your hearts. And I know having observed you in the past years that you will use that fire zealously and that you have the power to use that fire to stamp out all forms of graft and corruption in the bureaucracy, in the national government and in the local governments where you hold important influence.

Not only shall scalawags in the government be dragged to the bar of justice, their ill-gotten wealth shall also be forfeited in favor of the Philippine government.

Throughout the ages, the Filipino youth have distinguished themselves in fighting for their ideals and convictions. EDSA I and EDSA II came about because of the passion of our youth and their drive for patriotic leadership.

Your group, the NMYL, has always been a staunch advocate for new politics, for effective and efficient governance, for principled leadership.

And now, today, what is the challenge of the times? The challenge to all of you today is to join with everybody involved — national government, NGOs — in weeding out the deadwood and scalawags in government. Those who gnaw at the fabric of our morality to the detriment of our countrymen don't deserve to stay in government a second longer.

Our strong political will towards fiscal reforms and to fight graft and corruption, terrorism and criminality has been rewarded with positive signs of an economic turnaround.

And with your support, by the time I step down as president in 2010, we shall hopefully have achieved a GDP growth of 7 percent, a balanced budget, ten million job opportunities and a significant reduction in poverty. Let's bond together behind these goals.

We're well on our way to our destination. The fiscal problem is on the way to resolution.

We are building a strong foundation for rapid investment-led growth. We have a healthy momentum on policy reforms. There's resurgence in confidence. The bull run in the stock market is holding firm.

Honda is expanding its motorcycle production to 500,000 units by the year 2006. And if all goes well to one million units by 2008, a double of their present capacity.

This afternoon, I will receive in a courtesy call the global head of Timex where they will announce to me that they will set up their global distribution and logistic center in Cebu this July. Subic and Clark are our new magnets for investment. But, of course, we have Northern Luzon and Mindanao as the focus of our Agri-business investments. And then we have Central Philippines composed of the Visayas, Palawan, Bicol and the four northern islands of Mindanao as our focus for tourism investments. And then we have the Luzon urban belt where the focus of

infrastructure will be expressways and ports. And then we have Cebu and Davao that will be the new hubs for call centers and business process outsourcing. This is our general master plan for investment in our whole country.

We will have upcoming economic partnership agreements with China and Japan to boost trade.

We have a perceptive upcycle in property and construction. Micros and SMEs, agribusiness, housing and sustainable mining will be clear in our sights as the economy surges forward.

I share these plans with you young leaders because you have a mission to spread optimism and hope among our people. We must not fall under the wicked spell of those who revel in gloomy forecasts.

With a clear vision on the part of leadership, decisive action on the part of senior and young legislators, and unity among our people whom you lead in the grassroots, the future will be bright.

Therefore I can say, young legislators, our economic growth will be hastened by your patriotic and decisive actions.

Thank you and Mabuhay!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

**Speech of President Arroyo at the Closing Program of the World Bank 2005 Philippine Development Forum,
March 8, 2005 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Closing Program of the World Bank 2005 Philippine Development Forum**

[Delivered at the Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City, Davao del Sur, March 8, 2005]

NO FILIPINO LEFT BEHIND

Since the elections last year our people have been gathering around democratic solidarity and an indomitable will to move on. The roots of democracy have taken firm hold at the level of human and institutional interaction but we've had to spend time and effort working at that.

Broadcasters just recently have agreed to deny air time to terrorist groups. That shows how sobriety and prudence are perceptively dawning upon the media that's taking part in the high responsibility or remaking our national destiny.

Landmark decision of the Supreme Court and the graft court on the Marcos wealth and the Coconut Levy Fund have spoken or sure justice for the poor and those who have less in law.

And I'm very happy to have Congressmen present here. Were working with Congress to overcome what you have identified and what we have also recognized as the most important structural issues and enact the laws that will enable us to resolve our fiscal problem within this year.

The force of political stability can be seen in other facets of national life. Creating safe streets free from crime and kidnapping are central to our workers and investors to go about their jobs. Crime is down, kidnapping is down. And I'm sure you recognize that investments in the nation are up as a result.

And as a result of our increased investigative capability, we're able to charge more government officials for corruption. And we are beginning to forfeit their ill-gotten wealth to the government prior to indictment and conviction. We've been able to interrupt illegal logging.

The force of political stability can be seen right here in Mindanao. And I'm very happy that we proceeded with the decision to hold this conference here in Davao. Here in Mindanao, we are winning the peace based on strengthening autonomy and respect for ancestral domains. We are dealing with terror with an iron hand even as we wage peace with the rebels across the negotiating table. The chief of staff of the armed forces will give the signal when he is done with the military operations in Sulu which are now pinpointed at residual terrorist targets. But even now we're implementing a normalization plan that will preempt terrorist bases permanently and enable affected civilians to go home.

As you have recognized among your five points, our local government units are the vanguard of peace, security and development in the grassroots. We're a nation of remarkable resilience combined with deep natural resources, a young and motivated work force, a dynamic democracy, and a growing economy.

You've talked about six percent as a threshold, we've reached that. Many other countries don't have that in the region. I can't offer to fix each and every problem of every citizen or family but with your support I can fight to bring this nation to the edge of shared prosperity across all regions, cultures and creeds.

We had a strong finish in 2004. The Supreme Court reversed the negativism over mining development. We bit the bullet on the debt of the National Power Corporation while erasing subsidies in the use of electric power. Congress

as you recognize approved the taxes on alcohol and cigarettes and also the law on accountability reform even as we mounted strong austerity measures in the government.

I recognize your concern about the narrowing window. I recognize that 2005 is a year of urgent change but it's also a year of fervent hope. We've formed a new economic team that will revitalize our revenue administration and privatization program including the consolidation of billions worth of government shares in San Miguel Corporation for sale.

We were delisted from the list of non-cooperative countries of FATE. And the California Pension and Retirement System rated the Philippines as investment worthy. Our peso is stronger, our stocks are up. The budget will restore fiscal control and accountability. It will allow the government to cut wasteful spending and invest in the vital needs of the average Filipino. The same needs that your ODA is prioritizing including my pledge on my pro-poor agenda. The budget will fund the pro-poor agenda with your official development support including more money for micro, small and medium class entrepreneurs, clean water and electricity to the entire country, better access to health care, a school in every village and computer linkage in every high school.

Our ongoing tax reforms which in fact were front loading — this tax reform should have been taking place over the whole six years of my administration but we're doing them in the first year — will provide... These reforms will provide the additional revenue needed to rein in our deficit, which by the way is on track. And they will support the important programs that as I said are part of our pro-poor agenda, namely, more jobs and more investments in our people.

Our tax measures I recognized will send the signal to you the international community that the Philippines has turned the corner and is a place to invest and tap the vital talent pool that exist in our nation.

I thank your various countries for the important investments that are leading to new high wage jobs in call center employment, high technology, automotive manufacturing. Micro, small and medium enterprises, agri-business, housing and mining will lead the trend towards creating ten million jobs in the medium-term. The Clark-Subic corridor shall become the best transport and logistics hub in the region. And I thank you that you are all committed to making that logistics corridor from Clark-Subic to Batangas truly world class and competitive.

A knowledgeable and skilled work force will spearhead development. We will build knowledge in math, science, English and technology, and protect knowledge. I'm ordering the optical media board and the new chief of the intellectual property office to strengthen the campaign against anti-intellectual property piracy through strategic raids on points of entry and storage centers of pirated material.

We're backing our drive for foreign markets, foreign investments, international tourism, development assistance and the protection of territorial integrity. And the protection of overseas Filipinos through a strong strategic alliance with the united states, a steady consolidation of trade with East Asia, making foreign policy decisions more and more in the context of Asean and Pacific dialogue, nurturing our partnership with the international Islamic community, and protecting common interests through multilateral organizations such as the world bank and inter-regional organizations such as the Asean-European community meeting. We know that public administration as well as private enterprise, and I'm glad that my economic managers have included private enterprise in this conference We know that public administration and private enterprise must be driven by the capacity to manage change, steward the economy and enforce the law to yield common prosperity.

So, therefore let me end this conference by assuring you that the Cabinet and I in partnership with Congress, the Judiciary and the private sector will continue to keep our sights aligned with the complex challenges in the horizon and with your support resolving these challenges so that no Filipino will be left behind as we march to prosperity again with your support.

Thank you for supporting our aspirations.

Mabuhay!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Philippine Investment Conference (Euromoney), March 9, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Philippine Investment Conference (Euromoney)**

[Delivered at the Shangri-la Mactan Island Resort, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, March 9, 2005]

A YEAR OF CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

I wish to extend my thanks to Euromoney for organizing this event and my thanks to you, the members of the domestic and international private sector for meeting with members of my administration and distinguished representatives of our business community to share with us your views on our investment environment and to learn more about specific opportunities that are open for investments.

I couldn't be more thrilled than to have so many distinguished local and foreign investors and business leaders gathered together. We're counting on the full cooperation of both the public and private sectors in order to capitalize on the vast opportunities that are before us.

Your agenda will discuss many sector areas that are important drivers of economic growth. These include energy and power, tourism, ICT, outsourcing, mining.

I leave specific discussion of these sectors to members of my economic team and the central bank to cover, but I will say that our efforts to develop these sectors provide many investment opportunities and many opportunities to profit from the growth of our economy.

I'm encouraging greater investments all over the country such as logistics investment in Clark and Subic economic zones. Investments in expressways and ports, high technology and manufacturing in Manila and Southern Luzon. Agribusiness investments in Mindanao and Northern Luzon. And tourism investments in central Philippines. And business process outsourcing or BPO in and around Cebu and Davao.

I'd like to thank Governor Gwen Garcia and the people of Cebu for being here to welcome all of us. And let me say a few things about the two investment areas that we are especially pushing for Cebu and its neighboring areas.

While we have hubs in Cebu and Davao, our cyber services corridor actually stretches 600 miles from Baguio in Northern Luzon to Zamboanga in Mindanao. It's served by a 10 billion-dollar high-bandwidth ProFiber backbone and digital network and it's home to 75,000 call center and BPO agents who all speak English and many of whom speak Spanish, Japanese, Chinese or Arabic. And all of whom provide cyber services at par with global standards.

Cebu is also the premier city and province of central Philippines — our primary tourism destination. In this area of central Philippines, we're constructing or upgrading several airports, completing a road and roll-on/roll-off or RO-RO ferry network. Many components of the network already exist. But we're encouraging investors to upgrade existing facilities and put up new ones through a 30 billion-peso loan portfolio from the Development Bank of the Philippines.

In Luzon, we are developing the Clark-Subic corridor into the best logistics and transport hub in the region. The Subic port expansion began last June. And in Clark, we're implementing an open skies cargo policy coordinating with logistics operators like UPS, FedEx and Asia Overnight, expanding cargo-handling facilities and upgrading the passenger terminal and facilities. This month, we'll start constructing a 94-kilometer expressway between Clark and Subic.

Government will invest in other commercial infrastructure through the newly created Philippine Infrastructure Corporation to help develop commercial and bankable projects and then divest when the private sector is ready to take over.

There's an old expression that the devil is in the details. I happen to believe the other version of the same expression that God is in the details. Because I spend my day immersed in details and I'd prefer to be with God rather than the devil.

I get up everyday focused on the details of the many reforms that this nation needs because I know we must meet the standards that you in this room demand in order for our nation to grow.

My job is to meet these rigid tests in order to create jobs, grow the economy and end poverty as we know it in the Philippines. It's not an easy job but I believe we're surely turning the economy of the nation around and are on a new round of reform and recovery.

I believe the light at the end of the tunnel is hope and opportunity borne of strong macroeconomic fundamentals including fiscal responsibility, aggressive market initiatives, a positive climate for investment and major drives against corruption.

Statistics back up this optimism. We've already heard from our speakers about the 6.1, 6.2 GDP growths in 2004, the highest in 15, 16 years.

Exports last year grew 9.3 percent.

The stock market is up 39 percent for about a year and a half ago.

Our fiscal deficit is a year ahead of plan.

The Philippines has been removed from the FATF anti-money laundering watch list. And the powerful Calpers pension fund has reaffirmed its investments in the Philippines.

I thank UBS also for having expressed good things about our Philippine investment climate. And foreign investment is up.

And other significant milestones have been achieved. Congress, as mentioned by our speakers, has passed the first revenue bills. The first national budget in two years has been passed.

The mining sector is open for business.

The new airport terminal in Metro Manila will be opened.

And the surge of jobs through call centers and I.T. investments continues unabated. A lot of them here in Cebu.

New trade agreements with Japan and China offer tremendous opportunities.

But let me also be very clear, I'm also a realist. I understand the deep concerns the investment community and some of our own Filipinos have in the future of our nation. I don't underestimate the problems. I know full well that it's also possible that the light at the end of the tunnel is an ongoing train if Congress doesn't pass the value-added tax. But, I generally believe that were poised for success and that Congress will deliver.

We're also tackling other issues that confront the country. Kidnapping syndicates are being broken. Kidnapping incidents are way down.

We're tough on terrorists. We will not rest until the Abu Sayyaf hiding in the southwestern corner of our country is destroyed.

We're edging closer to peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front which and of itself will free the nation to invest in peace and prosperity rather than guns and war.

Progress is being made against government and commercial corruption. Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue, increased investigative capability, judicial reform.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen of the business community, domestic and international. You are here at a time of a pivotal change in the Philippines. This is a pivotal year for the Philippines.

This is a year of challenge and change.

And I thank you for being here at this time. And I honor your time, energy and commitment to making the Philippines a better place to live and work.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the 7th National Convention of the Liga ng mga Barangay, March 15, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 7th National Convention of the Liga ng mga Barangay**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, March 15, 2005]

**COMMUNICATING THE GOOD NEWS AND
BRIDGING THE DIFFICULTIES**

Ako'y natutuwa ang dami-dami n'yo dito. At ako'y natutuwa dahil bagay na bagay at napakaganda at akmang-akma sa taon ang masidhing pagbabago ng inyong napiling tema.

Hindi madali ang humubog ng iisang batayan para sa marapat na pagkilatis ng masigla at matapat na pamamahala. But you are doing many things that are difficult.

Our country's leadership from top to bottom must be driven to excel, and I thank you for your wanting to excel. For wanting to put country first before self to galvanize a nation in search of more jobs, electricity, clean water, education for all. The things you have in your program that are in line with my ten-point program.

I need you for this ten-point program. You stand in the frontline of service. But not only that, you stand in the frontline of compassion. And I know of the great sacrifices that many of you have had to endure to help the needy and provide counsel to those in need of counsel.

You are also the vanguards of vigilance. The Bicutan incident is a lesson of sustained vigilance for all our people. And that must be under your leadership.

We must be prepared to fight evil, not only with intelligence work, not only with enforcement, but also with our moral will to uphold what's good and right.

Kaya hindi ko lang inaasahan na magsusumbong kayo kapag mayroong itsurang terorista sa lugar ninyo, inaasahan ko na isusulong ninyo sa Presidential Anti-Graft Commission ang mga kawani ng pamahalaan na nakatira sa inyong mga barangay na kung umasta at gumastos ay daig pa si Bill Gates, ang mag tinaguriang pinakamayaman na tao sa mundo. And so, we expect you to report things to Malacañang about these things. But we also hope that you will speak for Malacañang or the things that we need to communicate.

We must reach out to the people to make them understand accept and support the programs of government and unite behind activities to transform our society.

I ask you, tell our people that we're doing our best to diminish the impact of rising prices by creating new high-wage jobs, attracting investments, and bringing overall economic stability to the nation. I count on you to tell our people that we're cutting wasteful government programs and limiting expenditures to necessary investments for infrastructure and people. And I count on you to tell them that under the leadership of vice president Noli de Castro, we're also taking action to protect consumer rights, expand spot checks against price gouging, and that we will undertake new conservation measures and provide tax incentives to employers to help their employees with transportation costs.

The other day, I was in Siquijor, the barangay captains who are here and they were with me then. And I when I was driving around the island with Governor Fua, he was telling me, "I think we need a new gasoline station here to compete with the one Petron dealer because he is charging us so much." So I called up the chairman of Petron, when

I was in the car, and I told the chairman, “I’m going to look for a dealer to rival your dealer because he’s charging such a high price for gasoline.” And the chairman of Petron said, “but that cannot be, because even if there’s one or there are ten or a hundred, there is a prescribed price that they can charge. So, I will check on that.” And sure enough, I saw him the chairman, today — oh, yesterday — and he said, “you’re right, he was overcharging against the rules.” So, it’s very important that we have these checks because there are those who abuse if we are not vigilant. And I count on the barangay captains to be vigilant about those things.

The fact that you have tailored the resolutions you’re giving me to the Ten-Point Agenda means that you are quite familiar with the acronym “BEAT THE ODDS” representing the ten specific points in our program of action: B for balanced budget, that’s why we need taxes; E for education for all; A for automated elections; T for transport and digital infrastructure. And then the next T for terminating the conflict with the MILF and the NPA; H for healing the wounds of EDSA; E electricity and water. O opportunities for 10 million jobs, and DS for developing Subic-Clark

Within that ten-point vision which is for 6 years of my term, I would like to use the next 2 or 3 years to prioritize three parts of the pro-poor agenda: first, education — upgrading teaching standards in English, science and math; second, food production — so, we can lower the cost of food, beginning with rice and corn and then fisheries; and third, infrastructure — particularly those that support food production.

The overall framework therefore for pursuing our ten-point vision is as follows:

Phase one — fiscal reforms: during the first 12 to 18 months of our current term, focus on passing revenue measures, plugging corruption leakages, and rationalizing the power sector.

Phase two — upgrade educational standards and lower the cost of food. We will prioritize this during the middle 2nd and 3rd years of my term. So, we focus on education, food production and infrastructure.

And then phase three — achieve a critical mass of success with the rest of the Ten-Point Agenda during the second part of my term, building on the foundation provided by the earlier phases.

Our Ten-Point pro-poor Agenda is backed up now by a national budget that was passed by Congress in a singular act of statesmanship, and which I signed today.

The passage of the 2005 budget is a milestone in turning around the economy and providing real investments in the lives of the average Filipinos in your constituencies. The budget will accelerate the implementation of our ten-point program of action including our pro-poor agenda. Most importantly, the budget will begin to help create 6 to 10 million jobs with higher wages in the next 6 years. And it will fund the pro-poor agenda including more money for micro, small and middle class entrepreneurs, clean water and electricity for the entire country, better access to health care, a school in every barangay and computer linkage in every high school.

You will be at the vanguard of implementation, that’s why I thank you, all of you for your resolutions that are a parallel to my Ten-Point Agenda. Our national agencies and local Governments cannot move without your leadership and support. For this reason, I’m reiterating my support to the bill to postpone the barangay elections.

In return, I ask you what I asked you earlier, I expect you to be informed and tell the people where assistance for the ten-point program can be availed of. *At inaasahan ko kapag may lumapit sa inyo at nagtanong kung bakit mahalaga ang value-added tax sa ekonomiya, sana nakahanda nating sagutin ito.*

You must be prepared to communicate the good news to our people and help them bridge their difficulties as we work forward to broaden the impact of reforms.

We have long left the train station of empty promises. We are now on a long and difficult journey to full economic freedom. We shall not let our guard down. We shall prevail in every battle for peace and economic freedom. And in every battle, in every victory, let me assure you the barangays will never be left behind.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union General Assembly, April 3, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union General Assembly**

[Delivered at PICC, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, April 3, 2005]

CELEBRATING THE VIRTUES OF DEMOCRACY

Winston Churchill, one of the great leaders of the last century, once said that “democracy is the worst form of government except for all the others.” So on that note, I welcome you all here today to celebrate the best of the worst!

In all seriousness, of course, we gather at the 112th Assembly of the International Parliamentary Union to celebrate democracy. In particular, we celebrate the people here in this hall and across the world that dedicate their lives to building the institutions and traditions that make up the fabric of democracies the world over.

There is no calling in life nobler than to serve the people of one’s nation in pursuit of the Jeffersonian ideal of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” I, for one, feel privileged every day, every single day to be able to serve the people of the Philippines and to be associated with democrats like you from all over the world.

And while we celebrate democracy itself, the agenda of this IPU reflects the long road ahead for many nations and peoples as we struggle to create a better life, provide more liberty and secure more happiness for our peoples.

The eradication of poverty, strengthening security in the face of terrorism while preserving individual liberties understanding the forces of globalization and the need to ensure that all our citizen, men and women alike, prosper together in equality are all pressing issues we’re trying to tackle together in this assembly and in our own respective countries.

Not every country, of course, shares the ideals of democracy. And not everyone living under a democracy shares equally in the promise democracy offers. That is our fundamental challenge.

Across the world and within our own Asian region, there are those who live in non-democratic authoritarian nations who have no voice, no liberty, and no economic opportunity.

And there are those who live in a democracy but are shut out by discrimination, poor education, lack of economic opportunity and oppressive traditions that have no place in a democracy. The Philippines is one such nation that’s poised for growth and success, yet is also on the frontlines of poverty, social justice and security concerns.

The Philippines rightly takes pride in being Asia’s first democracy. And since, I understand, we have the biggest delegation of women parliamentarians in the twenty-year history of the association of women parliamentarians, let me congratulate you and welcome you to the first nation in Asia to afford women the right to vote. In fact, we celebrate our commitment to a century of feminist activity with my designation of 2006 as the Centennial Year of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines. Of that, I’m proud, and I’m proud of my Filipina sisters and ancestors.

We’ve made anti-corruption a central pillar of our government’s fight to grow our economy and create jobs. And that is another challenge for our parliaments all over the world.

Economically, the fiscal situation of the Philippines is stable — thanks to the hard work of our Congressmen and senators — exports are surging, imports are up, growth is up and the stock market is one of the best performing in Asia.

My program to support entrepreneurs, together with my program to develop new lands for agri-business are central organizing principles of my agenda to create 6 to 10 million jobs in the next 6 years. To date, over one million women alone have future for themselves and their families

And in the area of providing new opportunity for those who have historically been left out, there's more good news. Half of our government employees are women and tens of thousands of women occupy the ranks of elected officials in our towns and cities. Women are taking up the call of participation in democracy and economic self-reliance and gaining control over their economic lives.

Yet our nation is still living in a world too often delineated between rich and poor; hope versus despair; growth versus stagnation.

This disparity in a democracy is our burden and a challenge we must individually and collectively solve today and everyday as we work within our democratic framework to improve the lives of our citizens.

Social justice and civil rights must go hand-in-hand with economic opportunity and political freedom. And I want to call special attention to the need for a strong, free and independent media to safeguard our democracies and keep their political leaders on the straight and narrow. Here in the Philippines and in other nations, journalists have been slain in pursuit of the truth. I salute these defenders of democracy and declare to those who perpetuate such crimes — your days are numbered.

So today, I welcome you with open arms to a nation that believes in democracy, in the democratic movement and what the IPU does to help strengthen democracy the world over. History is with us, but we must make sure that the rising tide of democracy lifts all boats so that we may all sail to a prosperous future.

In that spirit, I declare this 112th Assembly of the International Parliamentary Union open.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Asian-African Business Summit 2005, April 22, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Asian-African Business Summit 2005**

[Delivered at the Mulia Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia, April 22, 2005]

**MANAGING FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS:
PHILIPPINE PERSPECTIVE**

In a period when the global economic order is transforming the economic, political and social landscape, this summit is a significant move by developing and least developed nations to move forward in confronting the challenges of the period. In the case of the business sectors of Asia and Africa, the most important response to these challenges is to manage for global competitiveness.

We can draw our inspiration from the “Bandung spirit” of the first Asian-African Summit of 1955, the spirit of striving to attain a just, peaceful, progressive and prosperous world order.

We can also draw inspiration from what happened forty-five years after the Bandung conference, when on November 6th to 7th in the year 2000, the Asian-African Business Association Summit was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur, with the aim of building bridges among the private sectors of both nations. In that summit was emphasized the role of the private sector and its efficiency in promoting economic development.

Now, 50 years after the Bandung Conference and five years after the first Asian-African Business Summit, this Golden jubilee of the Bandung Conference is a golden opportunity to rekindle the Bandung spirit and to work together to face the challenges of today’s realities, including the challenge of managing for global competitiveness.

Managing for global competitiveness requires dealing with various factors such as the protection of natural resources and varied environmental issues, the flow of international capital, foreign exchange, interest rates, trade barriers, training and education, and now the steep increase in the world price of oil.

There’s no question that the high price of oil today has the potential to put the brakes on economic expansion. And we all know that the poorest among us suffer the most as a result of high prices in food, energy and transportation. That’s why we must do everything in our power to manage our way through these rough seas by protecting economic growth while minimizing the impact on rising prices.

I therefore take the opportunity of this summit to call for unity between Asia and Africa for stronger collective action toward preventing a full-blown economic crisis that could be triggered by an unsustainable level of crude oil prices. While there’s been some softening of oil prices in the past few days, the trend could worsen to levels that could halt economic growth or even prompt a global recession. It is certainly stripping oil-importing countries of Asia and Africa of our ability to manage for global competitiveness. It’s preventing us from pursuing our economic development programs with a rigor that we want to have. It’s requiring us to face the specter of economic decline. Restricting our respective governments’ ability to provide much needed social programs for the marginalized sectors in our economies. It’s increasing poverty and further widening the gap between rich and poor countries. This is a toxic formula that could increase global terrorism.

Therefore, in behalf of the Philippines, I take this opportunity to call on the Asia-Africa Summit to do its share in pushing for greater stability in oil prices. I call on the world leaders, including the petroleum exporting countries of Asia and Africa, to offer solutions that will temper the volatility of crude oil prices. Most of the demand for oil and

most of the supply of oil come from Asia and Africa. Thus, it's especially important to strengthen cooperation between Asia and Africa at this time, but even without this crisis for the strategic future.

We in the Philippines trade extensively with our neighbors in Asia. But we are eager to expand our meager trade with Africa. South Africa is our largest African trading partner, followed by Mauritius as our second largest African export market. We sell cement, garments, gear boxes of motor vehicles and aircraft parts, and we buy tobacco, iron and steel, smart cards, cotton, sardines and copper. We're willing like to buy more from Africa. We have the balance of trade in our favor but we'd also like to add Africa to our growing list of automobile export markets. And we invite the African mining industry to invest in our rich but still largely untapped mineral resources.

It's you, the businessmen. It's the free, open and competitive markets that must ultimately drive the engine of job creation and the eventual elimination of poverty in many countries of our two regions.

Open markets and free enterprise are the centerpiece of my philosophy and drive the policies of my government. I believe a strong, growing economy is the best hope to alleviate the crushing pain of poverty. But many of the poor pay the highest price for free markets, and it's my moral obligation to ensure that the poor are protected as we transition to a global economy.

I hope that globalization will be a rising tide and lift all boats, but I fear that too many boats will have holes in the bottom. As business and political leaders, we must not only work to integrate our economies and create wealth and opportunity but we must also make sure the poor have a strong, seaworthy vessel that includes a decent wage, access to health care, a sound education and social justice.

We've seen the globalization of terrorism, but we've also witnessed the globalization of peace. In the Philippines, I'm inspired by a peace process in our island of Mindanao that includes an Asian-African cast of friends — friend from Asia, Africa and the Middle East — helping us in our quest for peace and stability.

The continuing success of our peace talks is driven by a firmly entrenched ground level cease fire supported by an international monitoring team led by Malaysia, with participating contingents from Brunei and Libya. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah not only for supporting the cease fire process but for hosting this week and facilitating the substantive negotiations. The forward impetus of the peace talks will continue to jack up confidence and investments, spur agri-business, and provide a wider swath of jobs and livelihood in the conflict-affected areas and throughout Mindanao.

The lesson of Mindanao for the Philippines is a lesson for our two continents. As we integrate our economies in Asia, Africa and the world, we must also integrate the basic human values of compassion, tolerance and social justice. Economic development must always go hand in hand with the development of the human spirit and the liberation of the poor.

Corruption remains a barrier in many of our countries, and we must face this squarely if we are to develop our economies, attract investment and provide equality of opportunity to all our citizens. I'm committed to transparency and openness in government for a very simple reason: the bright sunshine or day is a great disinfectant to the dark recession of corruption.

I aim to eliminate red tape to encourage business, both domestic and foreign, to invest in the Philippines. But I will not give a green light to unfettered exploitation of workers, the laws or the environment in the pursuit of cut and run economic exploitation. I want to encourage full, lifetime partnerships with businesses. We must always provide balance and think about the long-term well-being of the entire nation.

We must have an energy program that creates genuine energy independence and harnesses the creative forces of the marketplace to bring in a range of new, clean and cost-effective alternative sources of energy in the Philippines.

We need a strong United Nations, but we also need nations, strong nations that are united to solve problems regionally as well as on a global basis. I believe we're at a tipping point in the evolution or globalization where individual nations, in ones and twos, and regional blocs, must take greater control of challenges closer to home. Not every challenge needs to be first made into a global problem before being solved.

Finally, I hope all nations of Africa, Asia and the world never lose sight of the promise of democracy and the democratic form of government. For those of us who live under it, we sometimes complain, but democracy is the best system in the world. And for those who only dream of it, I'm convinced that history is on your side and you will bear witness to democracy's promise within the coming generation.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Philippine Infrastructure Conference, May 23, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Philippine Infrastructure Conference**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, May 23, 2005]

BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF OUR DREAMS

I always believe that the Lord's timing is perfect. And I think this conference has perfect timing. I was about to tell Dave Balangi that this is perfect timing because it would have been meaningless if we had done this conference before we finished Phase One of our economic reform program. Now, we have just finished Phase One and we're starting Phase Two in which infrastructure plays a major role. And not that we talked to each other because we didn't, by God's providence the timing is perfect.

Our nation is poised for growth, and we cannot grow without strong healthy people on the one hand and strong modern infrastructure on the other. And so that defines my economic and social plans. My economic and social plans anchored by my ten-point program are designed to deliver both strong people and strong infrastructure.

Everyone in this room is here because you know that if our nation is to meet its development goals and create new employment opportunities we must invest in the hard infrastructure that will make that possible. We need new roads, new bridges, new airports, new port facilities that will expand trade and investments throughout the country. And our infrastructure investments are already paying off in the I.T. sector with over 65,000 call center and outsourcing jobs created during the last three years. Thanks to the world class I.T. infrastructure that provides cable, internet and energy across the Philippines.

I remember very well, and I hope some of you do, my first state of the nation address in 2001 when I said that the growth sectors of the future are our human resource intensive service sectors like tourism and ICT. And when I talked about ICT then, in 2001, I said we need to do three things — make the policy framework friendlier, gear our training towards sources that will feed that sector, and bring down... Do the infrastructure that will bring down the cost of connectivity. At that time, the cost of connectivity was about 30 plus thousand pesos. Now, it's four thousand pesos thereabouts. So, we succeeded in what we said in 2001. I hope we will succeed just as well with what we're saying today when we examined ourselves a few years from now.

With the tough reforms completed as a result of the first phase of our economic reform agenda, we now have the additional capital and funds needed to invest in even more fundamental infrastructure investments.

The second phase of our economic reform agenda has already begun, just started. In this phase, I will press forward by continuing aggressive economic and fiscal reforms. My focus this time will no longer be on legislation but to crack down on tax cheats, increase initiatives against graft and corruption, launch an energy conservation and energy independence campaign, and mitigate price increases with the consumer watch programs of Johnny Santos and Vice President De Castro to ensure no price gouging.

Most importantly, Phase Two will be defined by bringing the benefits of the tough economic reforms that we did to the people. With more revenue, we can invest more in the vital social needs to lift our poorest citizens out of poverty. I can now invest in the pro-poor agenda that includes job creation, better education, improved health care, electrification, water in the waterless towns, transportation and infrastructure to name but a few areas.

Well, there are many things there and I'll talk about the other things in other times — the BIR collections and so on, education. I'll talk today about our topic which is a major component of Phase Two and that is infrastructure.

The rebuilding and modernization of our nation's infrastructure as Bill indicated requires a public-private sector partnership. That's why I'm glad you're all here today. To those businessmen that want to participate in this process I'd like to assure you that your investments will be commercially sound. I'd like to assure you that the government will be a good partner in this process. Working together we can create the infrastructure that will be the backbone of our new development efforts.

Just as we need a strong physical infrastructure, so too do we need a strong moral infrastructure to ensure that not one peso of the infrastructure projects goes to graft and corruption as we have a new modern Philippines. I'm aware that major infrastructure projects have been accused of being opportunities for the corrupt to enrich themselves. I want to assure you that we're putting controls in place. They'll closely monitor all projects to ensure that our taxpayers get their money's worth and our projects are finished on time and on budget. Our people deserve nothing less.

As I was entering the hotel I asked Bill Luz, "how's the project on this coming along?" Because wearing his other hat as NAMFREL, NAMFREL entered into an agreement during the anniversary of Edsa that they would monitor infrastructure procurement such as that being done in DPWH. And I hope that that will indeed make it more commercially viable for you the private business to participate in our infrastructure program.

The ten-point pro-poor agenda that's the platform of my administration call for significant investment in infrastructure throughout the country. These investments will create not only jobs for tens of thousands involved in the infrastructure development itself, it will also bring new opportunities to communities who've been isolated from new markets and new source investment.

Indeed, there is a strong connection between infrastructure in my pro-poor agenda because if you want to create jobs we have to have the infrastructure that will entice you the businessmen to put up your shops here in the Philippines. If we want to build agri-business to open new lands for agri-business we need you the businessmen hopefully to start building the ports, the airports and the farm-to-market roads that will improve the logistics requirements of these new lands for agri-business.

And that's why the privatization of the country's power sector and the development of key infrastructure are two of the priorities embodied, by the medium-term Philippine development plan as well as the medium-term public investment program.

Energy independence requires implementation of critical and strategic infrastructure projects across a mix of natural, renewable and alternative energy sources that would contribute to reducing the cost of electricity without sacrificing adequacy, reliability and quality.

Our Energy Reform Program aims to strengthen the power sector in order to secure electricity for all. Napocor's rate adjustment will approximate the true cost of electricity which in turn will ensure a viable generation sector that's able to attract new investments in power generation to meet the country's growing energy requirements.

What's my timetable for this? I'd like to be able to do the privatization by the end of the year. That means a lot of phone calls to Allan Ortiz over here. Because we need the privatization completed so we can work on the open access and the wholesale electricity spot market which will then provide the competitive framework to make our power cost competitive.

Meanwhile, I'm encouraging greater infrastructure all over the country such as investments in the Clark-Subic corridor to make it the best logistics hub in the region; investments in expressways and ports in the urban beltway of Luzon that stretches from Clark-Subic through Metro Manila to Batangas port; the opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport; a modern rail transport system through this corridor and then going up to Bicol in the south; agri-business infrastructure for Mindanao and Governor Ortega's Northern Luzon such as farm-to-market roads, roll-on/roll-off ferry and road systems from Mindanao to the Visayas to Luzon; cold chains which Johnny is going

to emphasize in the Philippine Infrastructure Corporation; no frills airports; tourism infrastructure in San Fernando airport and in Central Philippines made up of the Visayas, Bicol and the Northern Islands of Mindanao; and additional digital infrastructure for the cyber corridor from Baguio to Zamboanga.

New modern infrastructure will help build and kind our island country together to make one united nation. And you as businessmen know how important it is to unite our divided nation. I've never been more optimistic about the promise of the nation and for building a brighter future, especially for our younger generation. We owe it to the young to build up and not just wear out the infrastructure that we utilize today.

And so, in conclusion, I'm looking to everyone here, in partnership with government, to build not only the infrastructure but the most important thing of all — to build the hopes and dreams of our people.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Launching of the National Pre-school Education and Supplemental Feeding Program, June 8, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Launching of the National Pre-School Education and Supplemental Feeding Program**

[Delivered at Camarin-D Elementary School Area D, Camarin, Caloocan City, June 8, 2005]

**MALUSOG NA SIMULA
PARA SA ATING MGA ANAK**

Bawat bata ang kailangan ay “healthy start” o malusog na simula ng araw at malusog na simula ng buhay. Kaya sabi ko kay Lina Laygo, ang ipangalan natin sa ating programa ay Malusog na Simula — a healthy start. Ang “Healthy Start” child nutrition program na ‘to ay naglalayong punuin ang ating mga bata ng pag-asa gayundin ng isang malusog na almusal— coco pan at saka gatas.

Dapat nating busugin ang mga puso at isipan ng ating mga bata sa pamamagitan ng biyaya ng edukasyon. Subali’t bago mangyari ito, kailangan muna nila ng tiyan na busog din. Mga bata ginugutom na ba kayo? Okay, bibilisan ko ang aking diskurso para makapag-pan de coco na kayo.

Ang ating mga bata ay dapat simulan ang bawat araw na masaya, malusog at puno ng pag-asa. Ang dapat lamang nilang panabikan ay karunungan at hindi ang pangunahing pangangailangan ng pagkain sa mesa kapag almusal.

Ang pagkakaloob ng masustansiyang almusal sa mga bata, na kung hindi ay gugutumin, ang pinakamahalagang bagay na magagawa ng ating bansa. Ito ay kagandahang-asal, kinakailangang panlipunan at kagalingang pangkabuhatan.

Ako ay gumawa ng mahihirap na desisyon para makahilom ng mga hagong buwis upang ang pinakamahihirap nating mga bata ay hindi magutom. Sa salaping ating kikitain, tayo ay makakatulong na palakihin ang ating mga anak sa pagkaing wasto at masustansiya. Ngunit bago natin magawa yon kailangan hinanap muna natin yung salaping kikitain. Yon ang phase 1 ng ating economic reform.

Kasi bago natin nabuo itong mga bagong buwis, papano ang budget ng ating bansa? Tax collections, 700 billion. Yung 700 billion — 300 billion papunta sa pag-debt service, pagbayad ng utang at interes; 250 billion papunta sa suweldo ng mga teachers at empleyado; 150 billion papunta sa IRA ng mga local government. ‘di 700 billion na yon. Yon na yung ating taxes. Saan tayo kukuha ng pera para sa feeding program? Kaya kailangan magtaas tayo ng buwis.

Salamat sa Kongreso nabigyan nila tayo ng bagong 100 billion pesos ng buwis kaya nabuo na ang phase 1 ng ating programa at pwede na tayo magsimula ng phase 2. Kasama na ang ginagawa natin ngayon.

Ang pangalawang bahagi ng aking economic plan ay ang paghatid ng mga biyaya ng isang malakas at matatag na ekonomiya sa mga mamamayan at wala nang mas mahalaga pa kaysa mamuhunan sa kalusugan ng ating mga bata sa pamamagitan nitong ating breakfast program.

Ang mga bata ang ating kinabukasan. Kailangan nating gawin ang lahat at nasa ating kapangyarihan na lahat na ating nasa kapangyarihan bilang isang lipunan, bilang pamahalaan, bilang indibidwal na mamamayan upang alagaan ang ating kinabukasan.

Nagtipun-tipon tayo ngayon upang protektahan at alagaan ang ating pinakamahalagang yaman — ang ating mga bata. Ang ating pamahalaan, ang ating lipunang sibil at ang ating pribadong sektor ay nagkaisa sa pinakamahalagang isyu ng ating panahon, kung paano makaahon sa kahirapan.

Sa araw na ito, tayo ay lumikha ng isang munting hakbang upang wakasan ang pagkagutom at handugan ng malusog na panimula ang ating mga anak. Ito ay gagaivin natin sa mga pinakamahirap na lugar ng NCR, doon tayo magsisimula. At itong Camarin ay natukoy nga sa mga survey bilang isa sa pinakamahirap at isa sa pinakalugar kung saan marami ang nagugutom. Kaya sinimulan natin itong programa dito.

Sa aking paglilibot sa ating bansa, nakausap ko ang mga ina — mga ina kayo, ‘no? — at ang mga ama na ang tanging hiling ay mabigyan ang kanilang mga anak ng mga pagkakataon na nindi sila nagkaroon, hindi ba? Ang ating “Healthy Start” program ay isang munting hakbang tungo sa katuparan ng mga pangarap na yan.

Ang ating adhikain ay maitayo ang isang Pilipinas ay nagsisimula sa pagtitiyak na ang ating mga anak ay mabigyan ng healthy start. Bilang nakatatanda sa kanila — tayo, tayo, tayo – may pananagutan tayo sa mga bata ng buong Pilipinas na tiyakin ang kanilang mga pangunahing pangangailangang pagkain ay matugunan upang sila ay makapag-ambag ng tama sa katatagan ng ating bansa.

Kaya itong araw na ito, salamat sa lahat ng mga ahensiya under the coordination ng Council for the Welfare of Children — DepEd, DOH, DA, local government. Salamat sa lahat dahil ang ginagawa natin ay para sa kinabukasan ng ating bansa. Kaya sa inyong lahat, thank you. Mga bata, pwede na kayong kumain ng inyong pandesal at gatas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Speech of President Arroyo during the 30th anniversary celebration of RP-China diplomatic relations

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 30th anniversary celebration of RP-China diplomatic relations**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, June 9, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Dr. Tan for your introduction.

Former President Ramos, Former First Lady Madame Marcos, Secretary Romulo and the other officials of the Philippine government, Ambassador Wu, and of course, the other members of the diplomatic corps, Francis Chua and the other movers and shakers of the Filipino-Chinese business community, our members of the Filipino-Chinese community, ladies and gentlemen: ni hao! and happy 30th anniversary of our diplomatic relations.

It is said that the 30th anniversary is also the pearl anniversary. But on this 30th anniversary, when President Hu Jintao came to the Philippines to indeed celebrate the 30th anniversary, rather than calling it our pearl anniversary, he called it — and I agree — the beginning of the golden age of friendship between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China.

Indeed, we stand boldly and full of hope on the frontiers of a golden age of partnership with the People's Republic of China. This will be a golden age built on the firm foundations of three decades of formal relations, and centuries of close ties, deep understanding and shared interests.

The visit of the Chinese heirs of the Sultan of Sulu from Shandong is a symbol of the century's old people-to-people relationship.

Today, the century's old relationship takes on a new golden era. And with great significance China has become a natural engine of growth in Asia. Its economic expansion is nothing short of miraculous. Its ability to withstand the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and the continued growth of its economy when others in the region have faltered have only shown the rest of the world that its rise is genuine.

During this decades of China's phenomenal rise there was a great debate, "Is China's rise a threat or an opportunity to the rest of the world in countries like the Philippines?" In our administration, we have made the choice very clearly. We have embraced the opportunity to become China's strong partner.

Indeed, as our previous speakers have pointed out, China has become a major trading partner of our country. As Secretary Romulo has pointed out, our trade has grown to more than 13 billion dollars as of last year and I might add that trade is with a trade surplus of almost five billion dollars in favor of the Philippines. Aside from being a vigorous and generous trading partner, China is an investor in our industries, in our mines, in our oil exploration. China is a partner in development assistance, China is a source of technology in rice and corn, and China is a fellow crusader in the war on drugs and other transnational crimes. Thank you, People's Republic of China for all these manifestations of partnership.

The Philippines enters this golden age of partnership with China as a nation that has also completed the first phase of our economic reform agenda.

I entered office with a strong agenda and a firm electoral mandate to lead the nation. I ran on a pro-poor, pro-growth, pro-peace platform built on specific achievable programs. The defeated mounted challenges, but despite the

challenges, I wasn't deterred and I put my plans into action. We've come a long way and achieved the first phase of our reform program.

To illustrate, just recently we announced a record for tax collection for the month of April, a 44 percent increase that beat our own estimates, and for the first time in many years, achieved a budget surplus.

I'm now done with the first phase of my economic reform plan and have in hand the largest revenue increase in a generation and the authority to raise more if necessary to ensure that we are on the path to economic stability and growth.

I see some congressmen in the table over there. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, Ex Javier and the other congressman if they are here, thank you for the passage of those important revenue measures. Thank you for being the ones who completed the first phase of my economic reform agenda.

This first phase of the economic reform agenda includes the passage of revenue-generating measures that will provide 80 to a 100 billion pesos in new annual revenue, a law that encourages internal revenue and customs workers to intensify their collections, other administrative reforms to improve tax collections, a fiscally responsible national budget and the opening of the mining sector and the thousands of new jobs that it will represent. And by the way, thank you People's Republic of China for bringing the biggest single investment in mining, one billion dollars in Philnico in Surigao.

Going back to the economic reforms, the first phase. Being an advocate of raising revenue isn't very popular anywhere in the world. And that certainly is true in the Philippines as well. The recent survey ratings are evidence of that. But something had to be done to undo layers of neglect and corruption in the revenue system, and I decided I was going to be the one to spend my political capital on tough decisions. I have paid the price in the surveys and this days even in the destabilization attempts. But those revenue measures were long overdue. The reform needed to be done. And I thank the Filipino-Chinese business community for supporting me in those difficult reforms.

Of course, one of the biggest factors in my survey ratings has to do with the high price of oil. Now, I wish I had control over global prices of oil, but I don't. But I do pay the political price because I'm the one in charge. People don't really understand that. Nevertheless, the poor are feeling it the most. I understand the pain of the people, and I make an effort to spend time with our struggling middle and lower class people on my sorties to the provinces. In the time I spend with them especially in private focus group discussions, away from the eyes of local politicians and the media, what I find is that it is not 'One Philippines' we have, it is 'Two Philippines.'

And for too long there has been two Philippines — the one that represents what's positive about our nation and the one that doesn't. The one that rewards hard work and entrepreneurial spirit and the one that doesn't allow for social mobility or economic opportunity. It's time to change all that. We need 'One Philippines' because we're one people.

Tonight I asked you, movers and shakers of the Filipino-Chinese community, help me build 'One Philippines.' And as Francis Chua said, if only you would let me then help me challenge those who would want to foment more disunity in the Philippines. We must challenge those who would only tear down but have no idea how to build up the Philippines.

We must oppose those who peddle fear and worse who foment dissent on the backs of the poorest and most vulnerable.

We must make 'One Philippines' where we combine the best of a strong economy with social justice; where good business goes hand-in-hand with a good environment; where company profits and rising wages are something to be proud of and aspire to; where paying taxes is recognized as something to be proud of, not something to run from. Mga leader ng Filipino-Chinese community, kailangan ko kayo.

Phase II has begun. In the months ahead, I will work to complete phase two and then take us to even more challenging steps until we rebuild the nation from top to bottom. In addition to economic reforms and social investments, we must also build a strong and moral society. And I want to assure you that in my administration and in my family, nobody is above the law.

To build a strong nation, we need a new coalition for peace and anti-violence. Ex, I want to look at legislation that can tackle access to firearms and bring availability under control and new stiffer penalties.

And now that I've done phase one, which are the revenue reforms, I know that you would want me now to turn my attention to defying the critics and defying the gravity and open the new terminal at Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In sum, I'm confident that we're on the right course and that history will look back and judge these decisions and these years as years of genuine transformation when the Philippines turned the corner. And I believe I will be strongly vindicated and recognized as a catalyst for change and reform.

In that change and reform against a deeply entrenched status quo. In the difficult task of change and reform, I'm inspired by China's reforms that have boosted its economy, reforms that paved the way for it to take on the challenges and opportunities of a globalized world.

I'm inspired by the ancient Chinese proverb which says, "great souls have wills; feeble ones have only wishes."

Our two countries, our two peoples have the will, the fortitude and the determination to succeed in bringing peace and prosperity to our nations.

On the occasion of our 30th anniversary, let's continue to work together in building our golden age of partnership.

Xie xie! Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 30th Anniversary Celebration of RP-China Diplomatic Relations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412081133/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5085&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the National Day Reception Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the National Day Reception**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, June 11, 2005]

Thank you very much, Governor Aumentado and all the local government officials for your expression of support.

Vice President Noli de Castro, President Cory Aquino, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Bert Romulo and the other appointive officials of the Philippine government, His Excellency Archbishop Antonio Franco and the other members of the diplomatic corps, friends, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Our friends in the diplomatic community are indispensable to the success of the Philippines. Together with our local government leaders present in this gathering, you are as much a part of the fabric of the Philippines as the threads that make up the Philippine flag.

The economic relations between the Philippines and the world are fundamental to the very strength and survival of the Philippines. As the poet John Donne so famously wrote: ‘no man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.’ nothing is more true for the island nation of the Philippines.

Let me be very clear: we need the world. We need markets, investments, trade, culture, tourism, new and modern ideas. We’re connected to the main and must be. We don’t live nor can we live in a vacuum, separate from reality, in a land of make-believe.

I’ve put my beliefs into action. I’ve led with strong political, economic and diplomatic engagements in the region and in the world. I like to believe they’re a hallmark of my administration. Through trade agreements, military alliances and a focus on macroeconomic fundamentals, I’ve put the Philippines back on the map after a period of drift and retreat.

I take the role of the Philippines in the world very seriously. I believe it’s in the best interests of my nation and our people to learn, grow and prosper with the rest of the world. Oh, Chief Justice Davide, I’d like to acknowledge your presence too. Good evening.

Closer to home, I’ve focused like a laser beam on fundamentally reforming our national economy. I’ve taken the painful but necessary steps to raise revenues, reform collections and present a fiscally responsible budget. I have felt the political heat, but I’m still in the kitchen. I’m still in the kitchen because that’s where I belong: to continue to make the tough choices to turn this economy around. And no one will deter me from that mission.

Unfortunately, there are those in the Philippines who’d like to believe that the Philippines is an isolated set of islands, adrift from the world, unconnected from the main. That somehow the Philippines is nothing more than a private sandbox for political intrigue. Well, I want to tell you: this view is dangerous and irresponsible.

It’s dangerous because we live in a democracy, however imperfect that system might be. It’s irresponsible because it damages the lives of the very poor we’re trying to serve.

We cannot resolve our differences by tossing out the democratic process just because we’re not getting our way — that’s extreme. We cannot help the poor by undermining investment, driving away employers, and not investing in new infrastructure and social programs — that’s madness.

Yet this extreme madness is precisely what the purveyors of instability and intrigue have begun to sow. The global marketplace has already taken note of their destructive behavior. They must be responsible for their actions and understand the consequences for the nation.

I remind those who would believe their actions are unconnected to the fate of the nation to take heed of John Donne's final words: 'never send to know for whom the bells toll; they toll for thee.'

In contrast, I thank the union of local executives for joining us in a covenant of unity for urgent change and reform. I thank you local government officials for being earnest partners in protecting the democratic institutions and ideals that have been under siege.

Local executives and ladies and gentlemen of the diplomatic corps, I salute you for being part of the main and part of the strength of Philippine independence in this interdependent world in which we live.

On this note, I propose a toast to all the nations of the world and all the people of the world represented here tonight, that we may all continue to advance the peace and prosperity we all deserve.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the National Day Reception. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412081118/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5083&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 107th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Independence
[Filipino]**

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagdiriwang ng ika-107 na anibersaryo ng Kalayaan ng Pilipinas**

[Ipinahayag sa Quirino Grandstrand, Rizal Park, Manila, ika 12 ng Hunyo, 2005]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Durano at lahat ng mga naghanda nitong ating selebrasyon ngayon.

Speaker de Venecia at lahat na mga halal na opisyal na narito ngayon; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; members of the Cabinet and other appointive officials; Mayor Atienza at lahat ng mga local officials; distinguished guests, minamahal kong kababayan.

Ang bandilang nagwawagayway sa ibabaw natin hanggang doon sa kabila ng Rizal Park ay tanda ng dugo, pawis at pagod ng mga bayaning nakibaka at nagbuwis ng buhay upang lumaya at makapagsarili ang Pilipinas. May dahilan kung bakit nangingibabaw sa atin ang bandila. Ang ibig sabihin nito, walang sinuman ang mas mataas sa watawat o sa mga batas na nagbibigkis ng sambayanan. Gaya ng bandila, tumatanaw ang batas sa ating lahat.

Harinawa, magsilbi ang ating watawat, magsilbi itong pambansang araw bilang tagapagbunsod ng bagong yugto na magdiriwang ng lahat ng kapuri-puri sa Pilipinas.

Aking hangad ang bansang malaya sa kahirapan, malaya sa gutom, malaya sa pagkawalang pantay kung saan kahit kumakayod at sumusunod sa batas ay tumatakbo lamang para manatili sa lugar.

Aking hangad ang iisang Pilipinas. Kaya sa araw na ito, habang binubunyi ang mga aral at alaala ng ating mga bayani, nananawagan ako sa lahat: atin nang iwaksi ang maruming uri ng pulitika at ituon ang pansin sa pagsulong ng ekonomiya. Dahil ang pagsulong ng ekonomiya ang susi sa ganap nating kalayaan.

Pag-ibayuhin natin ang pagkakaisa at marubdob na pag-ibig sa bayan higit sa pakinabang ng iilan. Sama-sama nating itatag ang iisang Pilipinas, malaya sa sigalot at puno ng pag-asa at pagkakataon para sa lahat.

Sa aking pakikipag-ugnay sa mga kumakayod na karaniwang pilipino, sa madalas kong pagbisita sa probinsiya, damang-dama ko ang kawalan ng pag-asa ng marami sa atin. Kailangang magkaisa tayong lahat upang pawin ang kanilang pagdurusa.

Nabuo na ang unang yugto ng ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya. Nabigyan na ako ng Kongreso — mga congressmen at senator na narito, maraming salamat sa inyo — nabigyan na nila ako ng kapangyarihang palakihin ang kaban ng bayan sa ganun mapopondohan natin... mapopondohan natin ang maraming matagal nang hinihintay na pangangailangan ng taong-bayan. Mapopondohan natin ito na hindi na kailangan utang ng utang na lamang ang aasahan para makamit ng bansa ang ilang mga ito.

Narito si Senator Mar Roxas, kinakatawan ng senado, maraming salamat din, Senado at Kongreso.

Ngayon sinisimulan natin ang ikalawang yugto. Bahagi sa ikalawang yugto ang mga reporma sa administrasyon mismo, kukubra tayo ng kaban ng bayan hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng bagong buwis, kung hindi sa pagitan ng mas mabisang pagtrabaho ng ating mga kawani. Sa pamamagitan ng pagsugpo ng katiwalian. Kaya dito sa ikalawang yugto, hinahangad natin na sa loob ng tatlong taon babawasan ng kalahati ang paglaganap ng katiwalian sa pamahalaan, at pagsisikapin nating tuluyan itong mawala sa wakas ng aking panungkulan. At bahagi dito sa ating

pagsusugpo o paghahati sa katiwalian ng pamahalaan sa loob ng tatlong taon, sa isang taon, hangad din nating masugpo ang katiwalian na nanggagaling sa bawal na sugal.

Opo, nagsimula na ang ikalawang yugto. At sa ibabaw ng laban sa katiwalian, bahagi rin ang ikalawang yugto, hahanapin natin ang higit na kasarinlan sa gasolina, enerhiya at krudo. Hahanapin din natin, magtatayo tayo ng imprastrukturang mag-aaliw sa mga namumuhunan upang magbigay ng trabaho sa ating mga napakaraming mamamayang naghahanap ng trabaho. At higit sa lahat, dito sa ikalawang yugto, ipapaabot natin ng mas mabilis sa mga mahihirap dahil kaya na natin sa bagong pondo ang mas maraming biyayang matagal nang hinahangad ng ating mahihirap na taong-bayan.

Sa ganun, dahil dito sa ikalawang yugto na mangyayari dahil nabuo ang unang yugto, sa katapusan ng aking pagkapangulo, gaya nang ipinahayag ko nung ako'y nagkakampanya, dapat nasa paaralan ang bawat batang Pilipinong kuwalipikado; at dapat karamihan ng pamilyang pilipino ay may anak na nag-aaral sa kursong makakapagbigay ng hanapbuhay.

Sa makamit natin ang ikalawang yugto, pupuspusin pa natin ang nalalabi sa sampung puntong programang pinahayag ko nung ako'y nagsumpa bilang pangulo noong isang taon — programang maka-mahirap, maka-kaunlaran at maka-kapayapaan. At sa ganun, sa ating pagbuo at pagtupad ng sampung punto ng ating plataporma, gaya nang sinisikap natin bilang millennium development goal, ating mahahati ang porsyento ng maralita sa lipunan at matitiyak ang pagkain sa bawat mesa.

At upang laging masusubaybayan ang pagsagawa ng mga panukalang ito, aasahan ko muli ang sampung lupon ng kalipunang sibil, kasama na dito ang bishop-businessmen's conference, na noong nakaraang araw ng Edsa ay nakipagpirmahan sa ilang ahensiya ng pamahalaan na magmamatyag sa laban sa katiwalian. Ilalawak natin itong pagsusubaybay nila, hindi lamang yung laban sa katiwalian, kundi na rin yung pagsulong ng edukasyon para sa lahat at yung paghati ng kahirapan sa ating bayan.

Mga kababayan, ang watawat ang sagisag ng kapangyarihan at determinasyon, at itatag ninyo sa bato: ipamamalas ko ang kapangyarihan at determinasyon upang matipuno ang ating demokrasya at nakatutok sa tamang landas ang sambayanan.

Pagdangal sa watawat ang aking tungkuling makabayan. Paglilingkod sa maralita ang aking panatang maka-diyos. Sa dakilang layuning ito, inilalaan ko ang aking dangal, ang aking kinabukasan, at ang aking mismong buhay.

Sa dakilang pambansang araw na ito naman, mga kababayan, ang hinihiling ko sa inyo, mga minamahal kong kababayan: tulungan ninyo akong maging mabuting pangulo.

Maraming salamat. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 107th Anniversary Celebration of Philippine Independence. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412081053/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5080&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding of Certificate of Land Ownership to CMP beneficiaries and Certificates of Recognition to former barangay chairmen of Bacoor, Cavite [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa paggawad ng mga Sertipiko ng Pagmamay-ari ng Lupa sa mga benepisyaryo ng CMP at mga Sertipiko ng
Pagkilala sa mga dating punong-barangay ng Bacoor, Cavite**

[Ipinahayag sa Mayor Arsenio Castillo Coliseum, Camella Homes Springville Brgy. Molino 3, Bacoor, Cavite, ika-15 ng Hunyo, 2005]

Mayor Castillo, happy birthday at congratulations!

Batiin ko yung isang panauhing pandangal ni Jessie, si Brother Mike Velarde at yung mga kapwang anak ni Yahweh El Shaddai na magkakaroon ng prayer rally mamaya; batiin ko yung ating tatlong congressmen na narito ngayon: Congressman Abaya, Congressman Velarde at Congressman Señeres; at kumakatawan sa probinsiya itong araw na ito, si Vice Governor John Vic Remulla. Kasama kong mga panauhin ninyo ngayon ay ang chairman ng GSIS, si Secretary Abes na siya rin ang coordinator for power and water.

Naalala niyo yung sinabi ko nung ako ay nanumpa bilang Pangulo, yung sa sampung punto ng ating programa kasama doon ay magdadala tayo ng kuryente sa lahat ng barangay ng bansa at ng tubig sa bawat bayang walang tubig at bawat barangay sa Metro Manila na walang tubig. Eh itong Bacoor hindi bahagi ng Metro Manila sa batas. Pero sa katotohanan sa ekonomiya, bahaging-bahagi ng Metro Manila.

Kaya kanina nung nagpunta rito yung mga binati natin dahil sila ang mga bagong may-ari ng mga lupang tinitirikan nila. Sa Molino may isang nagsabi, “bigyan niyo kami ng patubig doon sa San Lorenzo.” kaya yon ang pinakilala ko kay Secretary Abes.

Narito rin ang namumuno ng Light Rail Transit Authority, si Administrator Mel Robles. At narito siya para ipahayag na hindi natin kinalilimutan yung sinabi ko na gusto natin — bahagi ng aking sampung puntong programa rin — ide-decongest natin ang Metro Manila. At isang importanteng paraan kung papano ma-decongest ang Metro Manila ay makonekta ang Bacoor hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng kalsada kung hindi na rin ng tren, ‘di ba, Mel?

Anyway, Jessie, congratulations! Dito sa iyong napakagandang coliseum. Iyong handog sa mga mamamayan ng Bacoor sa pagdiriwang ng iyong kaarawan.

At gusto ko rin ipahayag na itong araw na ito may magandang balita. Siguro regalo na rin kay Jessie at sa napakaraming laking populasyon ng Bacoor maging ng buong Pilipinas. Kanina nakuha ko ang balita mula sa National Statistics Office, noong isang taon yung mga walang trabaho sa buong Pilipinas ay 3.1 million. Ngayon ayon sa pinaka latest na dato bumaba sa 2.9 million, kaya dumadami ang trabaho at lalong dadami pa ngayon na natapos na ang Phase One ng ating reporma, na salamat sa ating mga congressmen, ay nabigyan tayo ng mga bagong buwis. Ngayon magagastos natin ang buwis para pagandahin pa rin ang imprastruktura ng Bacoor at ibang lugar ng Calabarzon gaya ng tren, gaya ng tubig para maraming mamumuhunan at lalong dadami pa ang trabaho sa Bacoor, Aalabarzon at buong Pilipinas.

Gusto ko rin gamitin itong pagkakataong, Mayor Jessie, na magpasalamat sa iyo at sa mga minamahal mong mga barangay captain at former barangay captain at mga botante mo dahil sa suportang binigay niyo sa akin nung nakaraang halalan.

Itong araw ay hindi lamang birthday ni Mayor Jessie. Ito rin ay anibersaryo rin ng Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Kaya lang dahil nandito tayo ngayon, kahapon pinagdiriwang yung anibersaryo sa Malacañang at doon sa

Malacañang bilang pagdiriwang ng anibersaryo ng land reform ay nagbigay tayo ng parangal sa mga katangi-tanging benepisyaryo ng land reporm at mga katangi-tanging dating mga landlord.

Pero itong araw na ito gusto kong ipahayag din na sa loob ng ating administrasyon ito ay isang ang ibig sabihin ng reporma sa lupa ay hindi lamang yung reporma sa lupang sakahan kung hindi na rin yung reporma sa lupang panglungsod at reporma sa lupang katutubo. In fact, si Mayor Jessie noon pang unang termino ko bilang Pangulo yan na ang araw-araw tuwing nagkikita kami, yan ang parating hinihiling niya na ang daming dekada na ang naghihitay ng mga maralitang taga-lungsod ng Bacoor na sana may katiyakang manatili sa lupang tinitirikan.

At ito ang isa sa mga layunin ni mayor. At sabi ko sang-ayon ako doon mayor at ipaglalaban ko na inyong mga daan-daang libong mga mamamayan na nangangailangan ng katiyakan sa lupang titirikan ay tutulungan natin. Palagay ko yon ang dahilan kung bakit si Mayor Castillo ay nagdesisyon magsuporta sa akin nung nakaraang halalan. Kaya sa pagdiriwang ng birthday ni Mayor Castillo na anibersaryo rin ng reporma sa lupa, siniguro ni mayor na bahagi ng kanyang selebrasyon ay yung pamamahagi ng titulo sa loob ng repormang panglungsod sa dalawang daan at pitumpung mga pamilya dito sa Molino 7 doon sa San Lorenzo.

Nahuli lamang yung Register of Deeds. Hawak-hawak ninyo ang mga titulo ninyo pero pagdating niya mapagbibigay ni mayor sa inyo. Pero ang masasabi natin ito ay bagong panimula para sa lahat ng ating benepisyaryo ng titulo ng lupa. Yung kapisasong papel na mamaya hahawakan na ninyo ay gumagarantiya sa inyong karapatan na proteksyon bilang lehitimong nagmay-ari ng lupa. Hindi na kayo squatter sa sariling bayan.

Nabanggit ko kanina yung unang yugto at kalawang yugto ng ating reporma. Yung unang yugto ngayong ginawa ng mga congressmen, binigyan ako ng mga bagong buwis para magastos sa kinabubuti ng ating mga mamamayan. Itong pagbigay natin ng titulo sa lupa ito ay bahagi ng ikalawang yugto ng ating reform agenda. Dahil sa dagdag na buwis mula sa unang yugto ng reporma sa pananalapi ang ating administrasyon ngayon ay mas makakatulong sa mahihirap, mas mapopondohan yung inyong mga kailangang tubig, mas mapopondohan yung kailangang garantiya sa utang doon sa LRTA at kasama rin ang mas mabilis na reporma para sa panglungsod.

At talagang napapanahon na ito. Napapanahon na ito dahil masyadong matagal na na dalawa ang Pilipinas — yung Pilipinas na kung ikaw ay masipag at merong kakayahan sa negosyo aangat ka; at yung isang Pilipinas kung saan kahit na masipag ka panaginip lamang ang ginhawa ng buhay. Yung isang Pilipinas na positibo; yung isang Pilipinas na hindi. Panahon na na dapat iisa na lamang ang Pilipinas dahil tayo ay isang taumbayan lamang.

Kaya mga kaibigan, diyaan sa mga sumisikap na palaguin pa o gawin pang mas grabe yung dalawang Pilipinas hindi ko papatulan ang pulitika ng destabilisasyon. Marami naman diyang ating mga magagaling na mga alagad ng batas at mga abogado, sila na ang bahala doon sa mga nag de-destabilize dahil masyadong hati na ang bansa sa dalawang Pilipinas.

Ngayon at dumarating na ang pondo mula sa Kongreso at ng bagong buwis at makakagastos na tayo sa higit pa para sa mahihirap, yon ang aking hahabulin. Hahabulin ko ngayon ang hangaring magkaron ng iisang Pilipinas — ang Pilipinas kung saan lahat ay may pag-asa sa kanyang mga panaginip. Dito sa aking pagsisikap sa iisang Pilipinas, alam ko na pagpapatuloy ni mayor sa akin ang kanyang suporta at inyong suporta. At inaasahan ko rin na si Brother Mike at mga Yahweh El Shaddai, mga anak ni Yahweh El Shaddai na tumulong sa akin din noong nakaraang halalan, tutulungan din ninyo ako na makamit ang iisang Pilipinas.

Kaya sa inyong lahat dito sa birthday ni Mayor Jessie, dito sa bagong coliseum na pinagdiriwang natin, sa ating mga tumanggap ng mga titulo, sa ating mga senior citizens at ating mga tricycle drivers dahil nga salamat sa kongreso binibigyan ako ng mas maluwang na pondo yung hiningi ni Mayor Castillo puhunan sa botika ng bayan, puhunan sa spare parts cooperative ay bahagi ng ating handog sa kanyang happy birthday.

Sa inyong lahat, mga Bacoor, maraming salamat. Tulungan niyo ako maging mabuting Pangulo.

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding of Certificate of Land Ownership to CMP Beneficiaries and Certificates of Recognition to Former Barangay Chairmen of Bacoar, Cavite. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412081036/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5079&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo on the Second Philippine Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals,
June 16, 2005**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the Second Philippine Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, June 16, 2005]

ON TRACK WITH OUR GOALS

When we last met on the Millennium Development Goals, we were so proud of that Dr. Jeffrey Sachs described our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan as one of the best, if not the best, he has ever seen.

Today, our country distinguishes itself once again, because we are among the handful of countries that have been able to do second progress report on the Millennium Development Goals. Congratulations! To everyone involved.

As you in this room all probably know, the Millennium Development Goals are incorporated in the objectives of the economic reforms reflected in that Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

And it's good for us to make a second progress report especially at this time when we have just completed the first phase of our economic reforms so that we can fund the second phase of our economic reforms which will impact directly on our Millennium Development Goals. As most of you in this room are well aware, the first phase of our economic reforms focused on the passage of revenue-generating measures. And I thank our Congressmen for making that possible. It focused too on administrative reforms to improve tax collections. And I'm very happy to hear... We were very proud of the April collections. Now for the May collections, I'm happy to hear that once again our May collections are higher by 18 percent than the May collections of last year.

The first phase of our economic reforms also includes a conservative fiscally responsible national budget. And I'm also very happy to hear from Secretary Purisima this morning, the head of our economic team, that our budget deficit to date is way below the ceiling we have allowed for ourselves.

That first phase of the fiscal reforms... That first phase of the economic reforms also includes the opening of the mining sector and the thousands of jobs that go with it. And now having been able to generate from Congress and from administrative reforms about a hundred billion pesos to finance things like what we need for the Millennium Development Goals, we are now embarking on the second phase.

In the second phase, I will press forward by continuing aggressive economic and fiscal measures. The focus this time will no longer be on legislation but to increase tax collection efficiency. And as I said, congratulations! To BIR for the 18 percent increase in collections over last year.

Second phase will also increase initiatives against graft and corruption. And as Dinky Soliman and Mely Nicolas will be meeting with the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference tonight, I am asking them to convey to the BBC my request for the Bishop-Businessmen's Conference to monitor this development.

Second phase also includes launching an energy conservation and energy independence campaign, and keeping prices under control with consumer watch programs. But most importantly, Phase Two will be defined by bringing the benefits of the tough economic reforms of Phase One to the people. With more revenues on hand, we can now invest more in the vital social needs to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

I was looking at the report of Romy on the Millennium Development Goals and I'd like to talk about a few things that are especially important to me, important enough that they were among the handful of resolutions that I discussed in the Independence Day address last Sunday. I said in that Independence Day that we would want in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals to reach the day *na may pagkain sa bawat mesa*. And that means talking about extreme hunger. When I say *pagkain sa bawat mesa*, that is translated into bringing extreme hunger and poverty from 34.5 percent in 1990 to 17.25 percent in 2015.

And last year, it was at 27.6 percent and this is with the medium possibility of reaching the 17.25 target and that is why we have to work very hard on the issue of extreme poverty and hunger. And that's why I have asked my Cabinet members that this be a priority among priorities and for the BBC to help US monitor this.

I also talked about, in my Independence Day speech, about every child who is qualified being in school. That means by 2015, we would want to achieve a universal elementary participation rate of 100 percent and we also have a medium probability of attaining this target which is why I had to stress it in my speech. And this is where we will prioritize the budget of the department of education together with English, Math and Science teaching.

And so you can see that what we discussed in the Independence Day celebration are closely linked with the Millennium Development Goals. In fact, I stressed in that speech that we want to achieve the Millennium Development Goals especially in the areas of poverty reduction, nutrition and education.

It's also good for us to get together at this time, so that I can assure you that I will follow our medium-term plan, I will carry out the economic reforms of Phase Two and beyond, I will pursue the Millennium Development Goals unswervingly and no one shall block the path of the presidency, not even my irresponsible detractors who wish to set back our gains and reverse our engine or growth and development.

For four long years, the agents of destabilization have been trying to take down the economic edifice we have been budding, but thank God, to no avail. For four long years I have taken personal abuse in the hope that reconciliation will bring about national harmony. But now, they are trying again, and they are going too far because this is their now or never. They want to take advantage of the unpopularity I've had to suffer in carrying out the difficult phase One of our economic reforms. It's now or never for them because when phase Two begins to bear fruit and the Millennium Development Goals become visibly attainable, it will be too late for them.

But I have faith in God. I have faith in the competence and dedication of our lawyers and law enforcers to apply the rule of law. I have faith in the competence and dedication of our Cabinet members and civil society partners in working towards the Millennium Development Goals to make life perceptively better for our people. And I know that in the final analysis the Filipino people will hold on to their undying faith in the future of this great country and in our democratic way of life.

Consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, we are on track to beat hunger and poverty by 2015. I am especially gratified that our unemployment has gone down from 3.1 million to 2.9 million over the past year. At least we're no longer running in place like a treadmill.

And I'd like to congratulate civil society, business, media, the youth and the academe for working together to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and to NEDA for monitoring our progress.

I want to thank the United Nations family in the Philippines, led by the very competent and dedicated Deborah Landey. Thank you for the support being given to the Filipino people. Tomorrow, Deborah will leave us for a more important and bigger job in the United Nations headquarters. I hope, Deborah that your work in the Philippines has been very fulfilling to you. It has certainly be valuable to us.

And as I end, Deborah, as we bid you farewell, we reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and assure you that we will direct our will and our energy, our minds and hearts towards the greater good of our country and the people under the greatest blessings of the Almighty.

To all of you, friends and partners in pursuing the Millennium Development Goals, congratulations! On the success we have achieved. So far, let's continue to work together and be successful by 2010 and 2015.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during an Official Dinner in Honor of H.E. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame HJ. Ani Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During an Official Dinner in Honor of H.E. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame HJ. Ani
Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, June 21, 2005]

President Yudhoyono and Madame Yudhoyono, Vice President de Castro, His Excellency President Ramos and Mrs. Ramos, Senate President Drilon, members of the Cabinet, excellencies of the diplomatic corps, members of the Indonesian delegation, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, members of the Indonesian and Philippine business community, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, thank you Prime Minister Yudhoyono and Madame for visiting us in the Philippines with your very high powered delegation. Your visit was a vital opportunity for us to talk about many areas of mutual interest. Indeed, we have so many areas of mutual interest that our relationship is that of closer than neighbors.

Indonesia is the fourth biggest country in the world. It is the biggest Muslim country and the biggest country in ASEAN. It is the biggest archipelago in the world, the second being the Philippines. And of course, Indonesia is our next door neighbor to the south.

Indonesia and the Philippines are similar in many ways. President Yudhoyono and I are similar in many ways. We have both aggressively engaged the region and the world at a heightened level of diplomatic, political and economic relations.

I like to think that our two countries are both truly back on the map of Asia and the world. We both believe in the market system. We both believe in the power of the economy to lift up our countries from decades of poverty. And we help each other because we are good neighbors.

I thank Indonesia, Excellency, for your support for the peace process in Southern Philippines. Indonesia played a critical role in the 1996 Peace Agreement during the presidency of President Ramos, in the Peace Agreement between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation front that ended more than two decades of armed conflict.

Now, Indonesia continues to support the peace process as chairman of the committee of the eight of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and is a prime advocate and sponsor of the Philippines' bid for observer status in the OIC.

I also thank you, Excellency, I thank Indonesia for your cooperation working together with us in our joint fight against terrorism. We are both determined to rid terrorism from our shores as we are both determined to eradicate the poverty which has become the ground for terrorism. Our two countries successes in tracking down and arresting those responsible for high profile terroristic and heinous acts are a testament to our common commitment.

For countries like us — like our two countries that have had a long experience with terrorism — we cannot ignore the possibility of renewed attacks including those that could be planned from terrorist cells, whether these cells are in either of our two countries or in other countries. That is why I value our intelligence sharing and cooperation, and our cooperative efforts are paying off in our two countries in the region and in the world.

As friends and neighbors we have stood by each other in times of difficulty. Indonesia send us relief goods and medical supplies following the calamities that visited the Philippines in the latter part of 2004. And then when Indonesia had its own much much worse calamity, that tsunami, the Philippines had the honor of sending medical teams to assist in the humanitarian and relief missions in Aceh and Miangas Island, and also members of the private sector like Don Emilio Yap give substantial contributions as well.

Your Excellency, with all of these that we are doing together — fighting poverty; fighting terrorism; working for the peace process not only in the Philippines, not only in Mindanao but also in Aceh; exchanging business among our own private sector members — your Excellency, I am so happy that you are here tonight so that we can once again reaffirm our steadfast friendship. The friendship of our two countries closer than neighbors and our resolve to enhance a relations to enable both of our countries to achieve the goals of peace and development.

May I therefore invite your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast to the health and happiness and success of His Excellency President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Yudhoyono, and the continued prosperity of Indonesia and its people.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during an Official Dinner in Honor of H.E. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame HJ. Ani Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080943/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5077&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a State Luncheon in Honor of H.E. Alhaji Dr. Yahya Jammeh, President of the Republic of Gambia

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a State Luncheon in Honor of H.E. Alhaji Dr. Yahya Jammeh, President of the Republic of Gambia**

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, June 21, 2005]

His Excellency President Ramos, Excellencies of the diplomatic corps, officials and members of the Gambian delegation, members of the Philippine government, Gambian and Philippine business community, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I'd like to begin by extending our warmest welcome to His Excellency President Jammeh and the whole Gambian delegation.

Your visit Excellency is a reaffirmation of our commitment to a more active engagement between our two continents in support of the new Asian-African strategic partnership. It's my pleasure to welcome the President of Gambia as the first African president to visit the Philippines during my presidency.

I believe in strong linkages between the Philippines and Africa.

Your visit Excellency promotes goodwill between Asia and the large number of independent nations in Africa. And gives the Filipino people a chance to understand the problems of development of former colonies subjected to the rules of different colonial powers.

As developing nations we can support each other through cooperative efforts and with the assistance of common friends and allies through various tripartite or multilateral arrangements as we endeavor to produce ways and means to improve the lives of our people.

On this note, ladies and gentlemen, especially of the Philippines, I was so happy to hear the acknowledgement of His Excellency President Jammeh about the role that the Philippines played in their development since their independence in 1965. Their main export product is peanuts and the variety of their peanut is called Philippine pink. It is also called Brokos because it was brought there by a professor Brookes from the Philippines. And 70 percent of their experts have studied in the Philippines headed by no less than their incumbent vice president who studied in the Philippines.

And I am very happy that His Excellency President Jammeh said that they are our friends forever because of what we have done for them in the early days of the development of their new independent nation. And the friendship is significant, Excellency, because you are an influential member of the organization of the Islamic conference. And your support is valuable in our efforts to forge lasting peace with our Muslim brothers in Southern Philippines. With your support, the Philippines looks forward to a future of being one among you in the OIC.

We are committed to promoting understanding among various faiths and civilization in our country and in the world.

And I thank you Excellency for your visit which is a valuable contribution to that greater understanding and for the commitment that you have made that you will support fully our bid to be an observer, a permanent observer in the OIC.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Philippines, there is one additional very big gesture of friendship that President Jammeh has brought on his visit to the Philippines. And it bolsters my own faith that God the father or Allah as he is called in the Muslim world has perfect timing.

Yesterday, we were appalled to read about the unprecedented rise in the price of oil to 59 dollars per barrel. And I started my conversation with his Excellency, talking about how important it is for us to address that issue because we are poor countries heavily dependent on imported oil. And his Excellency, the President, gave me a wonderful piece of good news. Gambia has just discovered oil.

And because the Philippines helped out Gambia in its earlier days struggling as a nation. Gambia will help us out this time by giving a bloc for the oil exploration of our Philippine Oil Exploration Company.

So, this is a wonderful visit, a God-sent visit, Excellency. And because of this it is my utmost pleasure to ask all of you to join me in a toast for the continued success and good health of His Excellency President Yahya Jammeh, the relations between the Philippines and Gambia, and sustained partnership between Asia and Africa.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during a State Luncheon in Honor of H.E. Alhaji Dr. Yahya Jammeh, President of the Republic of Gambia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412081006/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5074&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the First International Conference and Exhibition on Business and Information and Communications Technology, June 22, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the First International Conference and Exhibition on Business and Information and Communications
Technology**

[Delivered at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel Lahug, Cebu City, June 22, 2005]

ONWARDS TO PHASE TWO!

In greeting you, before I go to ICT the industry, let me first and foremost mention again the good news. For the first time in a generation, I've passed the necessary legislation to raise revenue, balance the budget and collect taxes in order to set the Philippines on a path to prosperity. Since the elections last year, my economic priority has been to craft revenue legislation and challenge Congress to pass long overdue fiscal reforms. They obliged, and I thank our Congressmen and senators for doing so, but it wasn't easy. But it had to be done. Our nation is paying for past sins. I could have neglected or perpetuated the sins of the past, the sins of greater debt that would fall on the next generation. But I didn't. It's wrong to leave the next generation deeper in debt and it's even economically indefensible.

As a result of that very strong push in the first phase, in the first year after elections, I've now done with the first phase of my economic reform plan. And I said earlier, I have in hand the largest revenue increase in a generation and the authority to raise more if necessary to ensure that we're on the path to economic stability and growth. We also have as I said earlier a fiscally responsible national budget and new legislation to ensure better revenue collection through better accountability.

Phase one of the reform process I will stress is now complete and the early signs are encouraging. The Value-Added Tax Bill has been passed. Fitch credit ratings agency forecasts that by next year the Philippines will have lowest overall deficit in a long time.

Last April, we had the record tax collections, and even in this May, the last may the tax collection increased by 18 percent and our deficit is much lower than expected. These reforms as I said have delivered the largest revenue increase in a generation. And it is no coincidence that growth is up even during the difficult period last year when we were grappling with the revenue measures, the 2004 GDP growth was the highest in our country since the Asian crisis.

Johnny Santos reports to me that exports have grown in fact consistently for four years. This time Johnny 4.8 percent during the January to April period. Investor confidence is up with the approved foreign direct investments increasing 350 percent in 2004. And you in Cebu know this very well, visitor arrivals in the Philippines have grown by double digit percentages during this period or January to April. Our OFW has continued to remit dollars to us. In fact, the remittances grew by 19 percent last April to 790 million dollars and continues to grow at a steady clip.

And I might add yesterday — I'm wondering why it wasn't in the papers. I guess because all the negatives must have taken toll — but yesterday, Secretary Ging deles, our adviser on the peace process, reported that the Philippines and the MILF were able to include the informal discussions on the most contentious issue in the peace talks, the ancestral domain, and they signed an agreement yesterday.

There is more good news but that one I will have to tell you later today, I hope. In the meantime, there is more good news about our industry, this industry because you know that in just four years the outsourcing sector has grown from zero to 72,000 jobs. Just recently, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank formally opened its business process outsourcing facility which will eventually employ 3,500 Filipinos at the north gate Cyberzone in Alabang.

The next phase of our reforms, Phase Two, will see investments in agri-business, on energy conservation and independence, the opening up of the mining sector and the promotion of the Philippines as a center for global... a global center for outsourcing.

You know, I've just declared June as ICT month, with your Congress as the centerpiece event. ICT means many things for the Philippines — jobs for our young people, a driver of investments, tool for mass education and an instrument for good government.

This event demonstrates how successful we've been. From the start of my presidency to 2004. Because I gave figures earlier on BPO but BPO is not the whole of ICT. Talking about ICT now, 50,000 jobs were created in the first four years of my presidency. And then entering into the fifth year, the first half of this year alone, we generated almost 40,000 jobs. Doubling every year. Much of this is due to the momentum we built over the last few years. Now, we have a total of about 132,000 jobs in this sector, half the year is not yet done, very close to our target at 135,000 for the whole year of 2005.

Many of these jobs are being generated outside Metro Manila. Over the past 12 months call centers have been opened in Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio City. BPO operations have sprung up in Legaspi City, Tacloban, Bacolod. Medical transcription centers have been established in Dumaguete, Davao, Naga. The concept of the cyber services corridor is gaining ground. Starting from Baguio in the north, with Cebu and Davao as hubs and going all the way to Zamboanga City. That's why I'm glad to see the Zamboanga delegation here. As highly paid as our call center agents are, they are actually the lowest paid in the whole totem pole of ICT. So there are jobs and high wages in all across the whole industry. And at the top of the totem pole another promising sector I am glad to have received the master plan earlier is the software development industry.

I'm glad to hear that aside from the 70,000 BPO agents, there are over 30,000 software developers in the country, and by the end of my term in 2010 we expect over a hundred thousand software developers.

There are more significant structural reforms in the pipeline. We see the need to empower our small and medium-sized businesses. And we're committed to assist SMEs become globally competitive through the partnership of the DTI and the commission on ICT, we have a framework that will enable ICT suppliers and vendors to provide the appropriate products and services to the small and medium enterprise market. The Philippines must be branded as the ICT outsourcing destination with excellent human resource, high quality and infrastructure that is low-cost with the broadband networks and the ease to do business with the government. I'd like to think we're truly back on the map of Asia and the world through our ICT. And the Philippines offers genuinely exciting opportunities for investment.

But, of course, Phase Two will have to be defined as well by bringing the benefits of the top economic reforms to the people. With more revenue we can invest more in vital social services to lift our poorest citizens out of poverty. Economic reform including your ICT investments must go hand in hand with social justice. We cannot have two Philippines — one Philippines for the haves, one for the have nots. We must all have, not by shrinking the pie or taking from one group and giving to the other. We must expand opportunity and raise up all people, all the people to prosperity and dignity.

And because for us to be the global center for ICT and other investments you need ease of doing business. Phase two will continue the campaign to fight corruption. Corruption is a single biggest barrier to moving the nation forward. We're making significant strides in tax collection, prosecution of tax cases, investigations of government officials, customs reform.

In the first five months of our current campaign to enforce tax collection, the BIR has filed 21 tax evasion cases with the DOJ. The BIR is committed to filing at least one case per week through the end of the year. In addition, several public officials and employees from various departments and agencies including the BIR and the BOC have been dismissed for failing lifestyle checks.

I appointed Tony Kwok, the... who created and ran the Independent Commission Against Corruption until his retirement to help me make our fight against corruption in the Philippines more vigorous, hopefully as vigorous as what Hong Kong did in its seven year quest. Hong Kong was one of the most corrupt societies until the ICAC came in, after seven years its now one of the most transparent societies. And we've been working to restore values education to the school system but it's not enough. And we have to attack it every single day relentlessly. All these efforts on the part of the government are matched by public monitoring from the coalition against corruption which is a multi-sector community-based organization comprised of representatives from the church, business and the broader society. With their active participation as they have done since the last Edsa, I'm proud to say that at no time in Philippine history has been such a broad based effort to cleanse the government.

You who are here as investors, movers and shakers whose support is required to generate the prosperity we need in the Philippines and to create jobs and reduce poverty, it's important that I have this straightforward conversation with you about the good news in our economy but also about our political environment because politics affects markets and investment decisions. For better or for worse actually, as I said earlier, there are two Philippines: one for the haves and one for the have nots. There's also the Philippines that works and the one that doesn't. As I said earlier, for the well-to-do and for the very poor. One of economic growth, one of high unemployment. One of a booming service sector fueled by ICT, one of subsistence farming, and the contrast go on. I want one Philippines. As I said earlier one Philippines that raises up the bottom not lowers the top. And I aim to do it by breaking the cycle of division, destructive politics, tax evasion and a backstabbing political environment which perpetuates the status quo.

And with your support I think I'm making good progress. As I was able to push Congress to pass my revenue legislation, nobody likes to raise revenues, I did. And I have paid the political price for it. And compounding these decisions has been the soaring price of oil. The shock we got the other day of oil reaching unprecedented levels in its price which deeply impact on our poor. And that's why I would like to take this opportunity to ask Secretary Johnny Santos to take the lead to project all the initiatives and safety nets the government is putting in place because we must inject in the national consciousness the bigger picture of national survival. This oil shock is a matter of national survival and it is important that we address this as well. Because if we're able to work on the oil shock and we're able to work on Phase Two of the economic reforms then we'll be able to bring about sustainable growth and development. This is the most difficult time of our economy. It is because we have had to do Phase One, the revenue measures, the power reforms. And now the oil shock that have to contend with. This is the most difficult time and this is the time that we must all get together to help our republic survive.

It is no coincidence that my opponents came after me within days of completion of the first phase of my economic reform plan and within hours of our credit rating outlook upgrade. Its an age-old game in the Philippines. They've been doing it to me for four years where keeping the nation divided for political purposes has worked. We cannot make it work anymore. We must put a stop to it. We have Phase One done. We have Phase Two and all its promises. We have the challenge of the oil price shock. The challenges are daunting. It's not the time to bicker. It is time to unite and act as one in building a better future for our country and our people. And I thank the Cebu business community and I thank the ICT community for your leadership in this endeavor.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: Adamson University Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the “Galing Pinoy” Energy Efficiency and Conservation Summit

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the “Galing Pinoy” Energy Efficiency and Conservation Summit

[Delivered at the Mindanao & Luzon Ballrooms, Westin Philippine Plaza, Pasay City, June 23, 2005]

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Santos for your introduction.

PCCI President Donald Dee; DOE Secretary Rafael Lotilla; Chairman Alvarez, Ad Board; members of the business community; members of the various stakeholders in energy conservation; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Let me begin before I talk about enercon by taking this opportunity to thank you Donald, PCCI. Thank you ad board for your support to me during this difficult times of yet another attempted power grab. Thank you for your support.

I thank you for your consistency because many of you in this room in fact supported me in the last elections. And most of you here know that I came to this office to do the right thing like improve our economic ratings. And you know it was not to impose my public opinion ratings. I've done things for this nation since last summer, mainly to focus on our economic fundamentals to an extent not done for a long time before this.

I had to do this drastic measures in the first year of my new term because our nation is paying for past sins. I could have neglected or perpetuated the sins of the past. The sins of greater debt that would fall on the next generation. But I didn't, because it's wrong to leave the next generation deeper in debt and it is also economically infeasible. These decisions have been compounded by the soaring price of oil which deeply impact on our poor.

Crude oil prices are about to reach the 60 dollars per barrel level. Just last year they were 30 dollars. In just a year crude oil prices have doubled. Remember '74. Remember '79. Remember '91 when we all got together to face an energy crisis. Well, this crisis is worse than any of those three crises. The price is higher, much much higher than ever before, and we should get together more than ever before.

We're in the midst of a threat larger than what the world expected. And the world has something to do with it. The world must also have something to do with looking for its solutions. The fact that oil prices are now rising to historic levels further underscores the importance of the world community working to reduce oil price volatility while increasing supplies. Only then will the negative impact on global economies be mitigated.

You know I have always been affirmed in my faith in the perfect timing of the lord. Look at Tarongoy's release yesterday. It was the third anniversary of his wedding.

And when the oil price was announced a few days ago, two days after that, the President of Gambia came to visit the country. And one might ask why are we entertaining the President of Gambia. Well, he came to thank us because we had provided their Philippine Peanut Pink which is their main export. We have provided education for 70 percent of their experts. They feel we are responsible in a very big way for the viability of their independence. And now they've come back to reciprocate because they have just tracked oil and they have five blocs that they are bidding out for concessions. But they're giving the Philippine oil exploration company one bloc without requiring us to go to the criteria of the other proponents. Of course, these are ways by which we can be more independent in the medium and long-term.

But right now — I remember what President Bush said even before this very big increase in the price of oil. He said, “I wish I had a magic wand to bring down the high price of oil. If I could, I would.” And that’s the most powerful man in the world. What about me all the more or all the less. I have no control over global oil prices, but with your support, with our partnership, we can only help blunt the impact here at home. But of course the people don’t appreciate that. I’m in charge, and as such, I have to answer their frustrations.

We acknowledge the growing hardship of our people especially during this oil shock, and the government in partnership with you continuously seeks all means to lessen the impact of socioeconomic pressures by growing the economy to generate more investments and job opportunities, instituting reforms to maintain fiscal stability, and implementing pro-poor programs. One of the blessings of our good revenue collection is that we have a deficit that is way below what we expected.

And I talked to Emi Boncodin today and I said, “Emi, because we have a deficit way below what we expected, I think we can afford to be a little bit looser with our pocket on something that will directly benefit the poor, so that the sooner they can feel the benefits of our Phase Two.” And she said, “yes.” And her recommendation, which I approved is that, she will release 300 million pesos immediately so we can roll out completely our supplemental school feeding program in the areas where there is great malnutrition in Metro Manila and all over our country.

We’ve remained focused in achieving our economic goals and no amount of political squabbles and attempts to discredit the government will stand in our way to improve the living conditions of ordinary people, especially in the face of this unprecedented oil price increase.

It’s no coincidence that my would-be destroyers came after me within days of the completion of the first phase of my economic reform plan which so... You so most valuably supported, and within hours of upgrades to our credit rating outlook. It’s a sadly an age-old game in the Philippines where keeping the nation divided for purposes of grabbing power has worked.

But what’s important to me is the economy. What’s important to me is to do the right thing so that our nation, our future as a nation will be brighter. And I am optimistic that the people will in due time — the lord’s timing is always perfect — come to realize that my decisions and your support are the best way forward for our nation.

On this day, I ask the Filipino people together with you to heed the foreboding signs in the horizon. I ask our politicians to pause from the controversies of the day to face the grim realities ahead. If we don’t act as a nation now, we face serious consequences. Let’s take energy conservation seriously and without complacency.

I am grateful for this crucial partnership between the private sector and the government. I laud the PCCI, Ad Board, DDB Philippines and the other business organizations for driving the ENERCON train forward. We need the active participation of the entire industrial, commercial and transport as well as residential consumers in this nationwide effort to reduce our dependence on imported oil.

I want to thank the representatives of the transport industry who are here, particularly the Philippine Jeepney Operators and Drivers Alliance Foundation, and the Confederation of Truckers Association of the Philippines. They’re committed to convince the rest of the industry to adopt best practices.

Gusto ko lang sabihin, yung unang apat na taon ng aking administrasyon, hindi ba, Orly? Kahit minsan hindi niyo tinaas ang presyo ng inyong pasahe? For four years, they held on to the rates even if the price of oil was going up. But now, with this price so unprecedented, hindi naman dapat ang jeepney drivers at bus drivers lang ang kakarga ng kabigatan. And this is the reason why as in many parts of the world the LTFRB finally said, it’s time for our transport groups to share that burden with the others. At the same time, because transport is the most important cost item of a worker, we’ve also had to ask for wage adjustments from the regional wage boards. And the regional wage board being tripartite have try to come up with wage adjustments that will not be anathema to continued job creation. It is a very difficult balancing act, all the more we all need to work together.

On the part of the government, the DOTC and the MMDA, shall embark on an improved traffic management program that will reduce, if not eliminate traffic congestion, and I call for public cooperation. Pwede Orly, mga ibang mga members ng transport groups?

And I want to welcome the pledge of the Department of Education, Meralco, the Philippine Lighting Industries Association, the U.P. Association of Valuers of Energy Resources, and the Philippine Product Safety and Quality Foundation, to reduce electric consumption by at least 10 percent in nine weeks, and the move to get grades 5 and 6 pupils to monitor this program.

Nananawagan din ako sa lahat na gumamit na ng mga compact fluorescent lamps or CFL sa halip na mga incandescent na bombilya dahil ang CFL ay mas konti ang nagagamit niyong kuryente sa magkatulad na liwanag na nakukuha ninyo. Kanya lamang, ako bilang housewife parating nagtre-trade off ako, kasi yung fluorescent pag hindi maganda yung ballast nakakasunog. Kaya nung hindi pa masyadong mahal yung presyo mas gusto ko incandescent dahil sigurado. Pero ang sagot naman doon siguruhin ninyo na yung cfl na ginagamit ninyo ay sertipikado ng kaukulang organisasyon.

Let's make energy conservation and efficiency not only a standard of responsible conduct across all ages and sectors, that would have been in normal times. Those who conserve energy become more efficient, more competitive. But this time it's not just a question of efficiency, competitiveness and being above everybody else, it must be now a way of life for all Filipinos.

We've already gained ground but we must drive the impetus from our gains. Some of our gains — last year, we saved 1.2 billion pesos from best energy efficiencies in households, governments and industry.

Twenty eight government agencies are using coco-diesel for fuel. Thank you Ito Carlos for being an innovator in coco diesel. And when fully implemented across the transport sector together with CNG which we hope to launch Johnny, Popo in August, and Ethanol which we hope to have rolling out in a year and a half, 'di ba a year and a half? Thank you for our proponents and investors, we can have a potential savings of a 177 million pesos a year.

We saved 144 million from the implementation of a 4-day work week. And the Napocor is expected to reduce fuel utilization to the extent of 5.9 billion as a result of systemic improvements in power generation and delivery. Right, Popo?

We will all end up losers if we ignore the call to focus on energy efficiency and conservation. If we neglect the call to address the needs of the economy and we neglect the call to pursue our much needed reforms. This issue of an oil price crisis more severe than 1974, 1979 and 1991 is certainly an issue far more important than politics, and its impact will hurt the entire nation.

At this time, help me not only call for energy conservation, help me in the call to put an end to divisiveness and political warfare.

Those who plot against the government in this time of clear danger from external factors are no better than economic saboteurs. They have nothing good to contribute to our country but to bring about misery for one and all.

Heed my call. Heed the call of all the private sector leaders who are here today. Let's address this monster of an issue together, as one nation with one mind and singleness of purpose. And let's pray to God the almighty to lead us toward the right directions that we may pursue the reforms that we have laid out and address a challenge that's now laid before the whole world.

The excellence of the Filipino must be combined with the will of one nation, not two nations, not a devoted nation to beat this challenge.

And I thank you private sector for your leadership in energy conservation, reform and moving forward as one nation.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during "Galing Pinoy" Energy Efficiency and Conservation Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080914/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5071&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Gawad Kalinga Congress 2005 [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagdiriwang ng Gawad Kalinga ng kabayanihan ng Pilipino (Gawad Kalinga Congress 2005)**

[Ipinahayag sa Philippine Sports Commission Multi-purpose Area PHILSPORTS Arena (dating ULTRA), Lungsod ng Pasig, ika 24 ng Hunyo, 2005]

Maraming salamat Mari. Ang galing-galing mong magsalita. Lahat ng Singles for Christ ang galing-galing ‘no kasi palagay ko ang Panginoon nagsasalita sa pamamagitan nila.

Ating mga leader ng Couples for Christ at Gawad Kalinga: si Frank at saka si Gerry, si Tony; mga kasamahan ko sa gobyerno na naging kabalikat ng Gawad Kalinga; mga Cabinet members; mga local government executives; mga NGOs kagaya ni Cito Lorenzo, dating Cabinet member na namamahala sa productivity. siya ang adviser, siya ang nagturo ng productivity para magkaroon ng “food for the hungry,” yung meron nang “homes for the homeless” and “land for the landless.”

Salamat na narito tayong lahat ngayon. Salamat na narito kayo ngayon. Limang libo kayo dito. Limang libong nagtatayo ng bagong bahay, bagong buhay, bagong bayan. Kayo ang tunay na people power. Ang tunay na people power ay yung gustong magtayo, hindi yung gustong magbagsak. At talaga namang masasabi kong bunga ng people power ang Gawad Kalinga.

Ang Couples for Christ ay isa sa pinakamabisang mga sektor ng civil society na nandoon sa EDSA Dos, 2001. Naalala ko nung 2002, magkakaran ng anibersaryo yung EDSA Dos, sabi ko imbes na tayo ay magkakaroon ng malaking rally muli doon sa EDSA Shrine gawin nating apatnapung araw nang pakikipag-ugnay muli doon sa mga iba’t-ibang grupo na pumunta sa EDSA Dos. Forty days starting from January 16, yung first day ng EDSA Dos and ending February 25, yung last day ng EDSA One. Sabi ko sa mga kasamahan ko gawin nating pagkakataon makipag-ugnay muli sa iba’t-ibang grupo. Isa nga doon sa grupo na inimbita na makipagkwentuhan, makipagpalitan ng mga ideya ng mga apatnapung araw na yon ay yung Couples for Christ.

Naalala ko pa nag-lunch tayo, di ba Gerry, Fank doon sa isang yung library? At pinakita ng Couples itong Gawad Kalinga, yung binhi pa lamang noon ng Gawad Kalinga. Pinakita nila yung isang daang bahay na natayo na nila sa Gawad Kalinga at inimbita ako na pumunta sa susunod na proyekto kung saan makikita ko kung papaano sabay-sabay nila yung build na sinasabi natin, sabay-sabay nilang tinatayo yung Gawad Kalinga.

Naalala ko doon sa DSWD gumagawa tayo ng mga bahay na thirty thousand. So sabi ko, kaya ng thirty thousand. Kaya ng thirty thousand, makikita n’yo yon. Kaya sumama ako sa Dumaguete at nakita ko yung tinatayo nila. Sumama rin ako, nagtayo rin ako ng bahay. Thirty thousand ang halaga pa noon. Kaya sabi ko programa ko pa naman yung land for the landless, home for the homeless. Gawa nung panahon ng tatay ko ang pangunahing proyekto niya ay land reform, land for the landless. Sabi ko land for the landless dagdagan ng home for the homeless, housing for the poor. Eto pala ang susi dahil yung ibang mga bahay na tinatayo two hundred thousand, one hundred thousand. Ito thirty thousand. So, sabi ko dito pala dapat pumupunta yung konting salapi ng pamahalaan para sa pabahay.

Kaya sa aking malaking paghahanga sa nakita ko yung build na yon, pumunta ako sa entablado at sinabi ko meron na kayong 100 houses. Gusto ko maging 1,000 houses ito kaya nag-contribute ang pamahalaan ng 30 million pesos.

So from 100 to 1,000, June, nagkaroon ng build sabay-sabay sa buong Pilipinas, iba't-ibang lugar nagtayo ng isang libong bahay, mga Youth for Christ, mga Singles for Christ, mga Couples for Christ. Wala pa noon yung Kids for Christ. Salamat kasama na kayo ngayon. Hindi ba, hindi pa kasama yung Kids for Christ nung June na yon nung 2002? At nakita ng buong Pilipinas at ng buong mundo yung araw na yon nung sabay-sabay natayo ang isang libong tahanan, tuloy ang nangyari nagkaroon ng tsunami. Tsunami ng kontribusyon at kabalik at ng Gawad Kalinga at ngayon pwede nang mag-ambisyon ng 777 — seven hundred thousand houses in 7,000 communities in seven years mula nung 2003. Kaya hanggang 2010 sabay tayong magtatapos ng ating proyekto.

Kaya ngayon eto na ang parang naging sukat ng pabahay. Of course, tumaas ang presyo ng mga bilihin sa buong mundo, naging 50 thousand... At gumanda naman ang standards pati, gumanda ang mga design, 50,000 na ngayon. Besides mas madali magbilang ng 50,000 kesa 30,000. Di ba, yung sukli? So, grabe ang mga kabalik na pumunta at nagpresenta ng mga sarili.

At ngayon itong ating pagtatayo hindi lamang dumami, pati gobyerno ngayon yan na parati ang model. Okay yung mga 200,000 pwede yung mga... Para sa mga lower-middle class pero yung mga mahihirap nung araw na-shut off sa ating low-cost housing dahil noon bakit akala hindi viable kung less than 200,000, kayang-kaya pala. Kahit na 50,000 basta kasama ang puso sa puhunan.

Yung kinuwento ni Nonong Cruz, two billion ang ating pagkabalikat sa mga bagong tahanan nang nawalaan nung ating apat na malalaking bagyo. Yung mga kawal na ngayon dahil nagkaroon tayo nitong paraan na magtayo ng tahananang kaya nila, abot-kaya, gobyerno magka-counterpart ng lupa sa ating napakaraming mga military camps. Pagkatapos ng kawal, Nonong, yang mga military camps na yan kung meron pang lugar, palagay ko meron pa, buksan na rin natin sa ibang mga civilian employees ng Philippine government. Sabi ni Nonong two billion para sa mga biktima ng kalamidad: one billion galing sa mga kaibigan, kabalik at ng Gawad Kalinga; one billion galing sa pamahalaang Pilipinas.

Bakit tayo nakakalakas ng loob na mangako ng isang bilyon? Nung araw hindi natin makakaya yon. Yung 30 million na binigay ko hirap na hirap pa yon. Pero ngayon nakakapangako tayo ng hindi lang 300 million, one billion. Bakit? Kasi kayo rin mga Couples, mga local government officials sinuportahan n'yo ako na buwagin na yung dating sistemang utang lahat para sa kaunlaran, sa wakas magkaroon ng buwis para sa ating kasarinlan yung Phase One ng ating economic reforms. Parati kong kinukwento land for the landless, home for the homeless, food for the hungry.

Ang ating bansa bago natin ginawa itong phase one reforms para bang isang pamilya na walang sapat na kita para sa kanilang pangangailangan. Para bang isang household na may sariling negosyo sa bahay. May maliit na home industry. Ang kita buwan-buwan 700 — three hundred binabayad sa sari-sari store dahil yung pagkain ay parating inuutang; two hundred fifty binabayad doon sa isang assistant na gumagawa ng kanyang food processing; yung one hundred fifty tinutulungan yung magulang sa probinsya na maysakit. Eh di 700 na yon. Saan manggagaling yung pagandahin ang bahay? Dagdag na pagkain? Utang na naman sa sari-sari store. Eh di lalaki tuloy yung 300 buwan-buwan na binabayad sa sari-sari store.

Yon ang nangyari sa ating bansa. Seven hundred billion noon ang ating buwis. Three hundred billion pumupunta sa pagbayad at interes ng utang, ng minanang utang. Two hundred fifty pumupunta sa sweldo. One hundred fifty pumupunta sa local government unit. Eh di seven hundred billion na yon. Saan hahanap ng pera para sa housing? Saan hahanap ng puhunan para magbukas ng lupa para sa agri-business? Utang na naman. At kung utang na naman eh di yung 300 debt service lalaki pa. Saan natin kukunin? Sa sweldo? Sa ira? O hindi bayaran yung utang? Eh di nag-argentina tayo. Kaya we had to do a drastic surgery. Salamat sa inyo. Salamat kay Congressman Zialcita at mga kasamahan sa kongreso, they gave me 100 billion pesos in new taxes. Thank you, congressman.

Kaya sa dumarating na 100 billion maluwang ang loob ni Nonong Cruz na mangako ng isang bilyon para sa Gawad Kalinga ng calamity victim.

Pero siyempre hindi popular ang humingi ng bagong buwis. Kaya ako ay nagdudusa ngayon dahil sa aking mga hiningi sa kongreso. Dagdag pa yung pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa labas ng Pilipinas na hindi naman ng lahat

naiintindihan na imported yung inflation na yon. Kaya sabi ng mga kalaban, sabi ng mga gustong mag-take over, eto ang panahon, si Gloria mahuhulog na yan. Tirahin na natin ng husto. Itapon na natin lahat sa kanya pati yung kitchen sink. Pero yung kitchen sink ay dapat nandoon sa home for the homeless. Hindi itapon para itong gobyernong tinulungan ninyo sa EDSA Dos, tinulungan ninyo sa halalan at mga NGO natin, NAMFREL, foreign observers, 100 foreign observers, mga embahada ng ibang bansa sinabi, ito ang tunay na halal na gobyerno, na pamahalaan.

Salamat sa inyo, Gawad Kalinga, sa inyong pananampalataya sa ating administrasyon. Kayo ang isa sa pinakamagandang good news ng ating pagkabalikat. At dahil kasama Couples, Singles, Youth, Kids, meron na tayong kinabukasan. Land for the landless, home for the homeless, food for the hungry and tomorrow for our future.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Gawad Kalinga Celebration of Filipino Heroism (Gawad Kalinga Congress 2005). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080841/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5069&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremony of the 2nd Benigno “Ninoy” S. Aquino, Jr. Award for Nationalism

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding ceremony of the 2nd Benigno “Ninoy” S. Aquino, Jr. Award for Nationalism**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, June 24, 2005]

Thank you, Brother Rolly. Thank you so much for your introduction and more than that thank you for your affirmation.

President Aquino, our national icon; Sister Luz; Mrs. Gutierrez; our outstanding nationalist alumni and students awardees of the Benigno Aquino Award for Nationalism; officers and members of the various alumni associations of catholic schools; parents and friends of the awardees; teachers and students of the various catholic schools; ladies and gentlemen.

I will not say much because we have heard the wonderful words of, I said our national icon, President Aquino. And those are the things that we should remember.

Let me just add that, indeed, history is replete with stories of freedom lost to tyrants and freedom redeemed by heroes. Ninoy Aquino was a true redeemer. And as President Aquino said, “it was because he believed that the Filipino is worth dying for.”

Today, we honor for the second time because the first time was last year in the first awarding of the federation. Now, we honor eight individuals who have followed in his footsteps in their own way. They have followed him to win freedom, to build a nation, to strengthen a society, and all these come at a great price.

Ninoy paid with his own life and I who are... Am undergoing what Brother Rolly said as assaults on my character, I feel humbled because they're assassinating my character but they assassinated Ninoy, and this humbles me and it should humble us all.

But such a sacrifice has a rejuvenating and a healing effect on any nation. His death awakened people from the fear and lethargy imposed by the dictatorship, as President Aquino said, “breathed life to the restoration of democratic institutions, restored confidence over despair.”

His will and nerve never faltered, and that's an inspiration for me. He continued fighting to the end, not with loudness or braggadocio — though he was truly an epitome of eloquence in his political days — but at the end, in prison, in exile, and in assassination, he soared with a deep-seated patriotism borne only of profound love for the Filipino.

Indeed, Ninoy was a martyr. A martyr for freedom but also a martyr for peace. And it's in this spirit that we mark this day with mourning for another great liberator, the man of god who as President Aquino reminds us presided over Ninoy's funeral mass and virtually made him a secular martyr of the church — Jaime Cardinal Sin.

The last wish of Cardinal Sin was also for peace — kapayapaan. Si Ninoy Aquino at si Cardinal Sin ang mga patunay na hindi tayo nagkukulang sa pagkakaroon ng mga bayani kahit sa makabagong panahon.

And today, we honor another eight of these patriots.

I'm privileged to celebrate this meaningful and timely event with President Aquino, with my fellow alumni and alumnae of the catholic schools. And my wish and prayer for today is that may there be many more Filipinos worthy of the Ninoy Aquino award. But I know the lord answers prayers and this prayer is easy for him to answer — that there be many more Ninoy Aquinos; that there be many more worthy recipients of the Ninoy Aquino award for nationalism. Because as Ninoy himself said, “the Filipino is worth dying for.”

To all our awardees, thank you for continuing to make the Flipino not just worth dying for but also worth living for, and worth sacrificing for, and even worth suffering for.

Congratulations! Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Awarding Ceremony of the 2nd Benigno "Ninoy" S. Aquino, Jr. Award for Nationalism. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080645/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5070&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the formal opening of the 3rd Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day Celebration

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the formal opening of the 3rd Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day Celebration**

[Delivered at the Provincial Capitol Bldg., Foyer, Iloilo City, Iloilo, June 30, 2005]

Thank you very much.

Damo gid nga salamat, Senate President Drilon. Salamat sa imong introduction. Salamat naman sa imong pagbulig sa akon, sa akon mga ginakinahanglan nga layi sa senado. Kag salamat sa suporta nimo kag sa suporta halin sa tanan mga pumuluyo sa Iloilo gani sa nagligad na eleksyon nagdaog ako diri, half a million ang akon mayoriya. damo gid nga salamat sa inyo nga tanan.

Secretary General of Foreign Affairs Honorable Rafael Dezcallar, bienvenido a Filipinas. Thank you for arriving last night and leaving tomorrow back to Spain just to attend this event here in Iloilo.

Señor Embajador Sagaz, muchas gracias por amartanto a Filipinas. Thank you for being the son-in-law of Iloilo; thank you Madame Bubut Sagaz for being our additional bridge to Spain. The grandfather of Madame Bubut Castellano Lapuz-Sagaz was a Spanish soldier who came to be assigned in Iloilo and thereafter married a Filipina. And now his granddaughter married the man who would someday become the Spanish Ambassador. Indeed, a personification of the close ties between the Philippines and Spain.

Governor Niel Tupas kag tanang opisyaales diri sa Iloilo province, salamat gid sa inyong expressions sa suporta sa akon; Mayor Jerry Treñas, thank you for the support not only of the people of Iloilo city and the officials but also of the city mayors of whom you are the leader; my Cabinet members from Iloilo, Secretary Gonzalez and Secretary Villa; presidential adviser for Region VI Lito Coscoluella; let me also greet the spouse of our speaker, Mrs. Gina de Venecia as well as the spouse of our Senate President, Mrs. Drilon; not to mention Mrs. Tupas; and I would like to also greet the sister of Iloilo, the people of Guimaras represented here by Governor Nava; members of the Spanish delegation; visitors from all over Iloilo, all over the Philippines even all over the world.

Maayong aga sa inyo nga tanan! Buenos dias a todos!

As Senate president Franklin Drilon said, Spain used to be a colonizer but is now our friend. Spain became our colonizer in 1521 but Spain became our friend in 1999 on June 30th. In 1999 on June 30th, as our friends from Spain said, was the day when the last hold out among the Spanish soldiers in Baler, now aurora province, gave in and accepted the Filipino troops and Filipino governance.

And in return for that gesture, President Aguinaldo signed a decree declaring those 33 Spanish soldiers who made the last stand in baler, as friends instead of prisoners of war. As he granted them safe conduct to return to their homeland that marked the beginning... The end of a colonial relationship and the beginning of a great friendship between colonizer and colonized. Since then our friendship with Spain has grown and grown. We are the best friend and favorite sister of Spain in Asia.

Spain's official development assistance in the Philippines is the biggest in Asia. and I understand from Secretary General Dezcallar that big as it is compared to their other projects in Asia, they are even willing to double it.

But deeper than the material assistance as Governor Tupas says, runs the vein of cultural bonds forged in blood and kinship, and Madame Sagaz is the personification of those bonds of blood and kinship. In religion and art — and

I'm very happy to hear about one of Spain's forthcoming ODA projects in the Philippines — to set up technical and vocational schools for our out-of-school youth that will give them the skills that will let them also practice restoring Spanish monuments in the Philippines. And there are so many monuments of that kind right here in Iloilo. There is also our links in literature, architecture, fashion, food. And aside from our cultural links there are also economic links.

Spain is known for the production and distribution of alternative sources of energy such as wind and solar energy. So many times have we gone to different parts of the Philippines to inaugurate the solar power projects of Spain together with the department of land reform headed by Iloilo's own, Secretary Villa. Then the ongoing project on solar energy of the PNOC and BP solar Spain is an important step in the direction of spreading solar power in the Philippines which is so crucial to our economy today because we face a looming crisis, if the surge in the price of crude oil in the world market is unabated.

Imagine the price of oil is today — 61 dollars per barrel. Eighteen months ago, it was only 30 dollars per barrel. And 36 months ago, it was only 10 dollars per barrel. How much the price of oil has gone up in the world market and this is a very big shock to our economy, and I know this is true for the rest of the developing world. And I think it is providential that Spain is with us to help us become more independent of imported oil for our energy.

The challenge of the Philippines becomes greater each passing day as we are faced with the rising cost of fuel at a time when we need to boost the acceleration of our economy.

We're very grateful to Spain for all their assistance. Because for the past many years, we could only have these kinds of projects including the hospital project — that is one of Spain's pet projects for the Philippines — only with loans.

Because before Senate President Drilon, Speaker de Venecia, your senators and your congressmen helped me with the new tax reforms, our country was like a household earning only seven hundred pesos — where 300 pesos had to go to the sari-sari store to pay for previous food bought; 250 pesos had to go to one extra worker for the cottage industry; and 150 pesos has to go to the elderly parents living in the countryside. Our taxes of 700 billion pesos before the tax reforms went to: 300 billion to service old loans; 250 billion for salaries; 150 billion for local government IRA. Where would we get the money for hospitals, for energy independence, for schools? We had to borrow and then add more to our debt service.

We had to get out of that vicious cycle. And I thank Congress, Senate that they gave me now an extra hundred billion pesos so that we can have these things without always relying only on foreign loans but relying on ourselves.

That was phase one of our economic reform agenda. And with that completed, I am committed to moving up this nation from a state of political and economic deterioration to an era of renewal and change.

This year's observance of Philippine-Spanish friendship day must not only be about an interwoven past. And yet it is so pervasive in our country. As pervasive as that, our relationship with Spain today is also part of a continuing search of exciting opportunities that stem from a strategic alliance connecting two major continents and two very old friends.

Today, I am happy to celebrate Philippine-Spanish friendship day in Iloilo, the in-law city and province of our Spanish Ambassador.

Two years ago, the first time we celebrated Philippine-Spanish friendship day, it was in Baler because it was on the occasion of the coming down of the soldiers in Baler that became the source of the declaration of Philippine-Spanish friendship.

Today, it is not about soldiers giving in to other soldiers. It is about love, kinship, friendship, brotherhood. That is what Iloilo represents in Philippine-Spanish friendship.

And so today, this is a great city and province from which to make the call to the whole country and across two great continents: viva la mistad Filipina-España! Mabuhay!

Damo gid nga salamat sa inyo nga tanan.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Formal Opening of the 3rd Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080453/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5066&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Launching Ceremony of the Anti-Trafficking Initiatives, July 2, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Launching Ceremony of the Anti-Trafficking Initiatives**

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 2, 2005]

**PRIORITIZING THE FIGHT
AGAINST TRAFFICKING**

I ask for this event today because this is what I felt could be our contribution to the celebration of Philippine-American Friendship Day on July 4th.

I was asking myself, how do we commemorate Philippine-American friendship? Because our friendship covers so many aspects. We have, of course, the very high-profile partnership in the war against terrorism. We could have celebrated that. We have a long standing and still vigorous partnership in trade and investment. We could have celebrated that.

But I thought today we should bring to the fore something that as Ambassador Mussomeli said is very close to the heart of president bush and very close to mine as well — which is why we passed such a very good law — and that is the cause of protecting our women and children against trafficking.

The fight against human trafficking is a fight against poverty. Last night, I met my Cabinet and we all renewed our determination to stay on course on our key economic and social programs.

I'm going about the business of the people. If my opponents feel that the best thing for the nation is to tear it down, so be it on their part. But I'm focused on hope and the future, not on petty politics.

My faith and the Good Book say to turn the other cheek, and I have. I have only love and compassion for the nation, even those who would do me ill. I will focus on the people's business. No one will deter me from that mission. And I think all of you here because you are with me on that mission regarding the rights of our women and children.

The global horizon presents little comfort regarding our bigger mission to fight poverty. An economic tsunami from rising oil prices combined with increasing interest rates is hitting the developing countries, and we must respond to this.

As part of our response to rising oil prices, yesterday, we demonstrated a bus using CNG as fuel, which is half the price of diesel. The mother gasoline station that will pump CNG will arrive in the Philippines in the middle of August to help us have some relief from the high oil prices. It will be set up in Batangas. And the first 70 of 1,000 CNG buses will also arrive at about that time to service Southern Luzon and Metro Manila. We hope this will provide some relief to our suffering masses because of the imported high price of oil.

On the part of our response to increasing interest rates, which requires doubling our efforts to reduce our debt, I'm pleased with the information reported to me yesterday by Speaker de Venecia who just arrived from Italy and the Paris Club, that in our campaign for a large scale debt-for-equity in new development projects for the Philippines and for some other 100 heavily indebted medium-income and poor-income countries worldwide to achieve the U.N.

millennium development goals of cutting poverty in half by 2015, we achieved significant progress and in the case of Italy a recent breakthrough.

Speaker de Venecia reported to me that the Italian Government has in a letter officially expressed its support for the Philippines to use debt conversions in order to fund the fight against poverty and the pursuit of the millennium development goals.

Speaker reported to me in that letter, and I read the letter too, the Italian government will support the Philippine proposal to augment the percentage of the debt previously restructured within the Paris Club that can be the subject of conversion.

He further reported that the president of the Paris Club has created a technical committee to reevaluate the entire debt relief program for presentation to the Paris Club's 21 members.

While the Italian position is definitely a breakthrough, the Paris Club's creation of a technical working group is also a likely breakthrough since the core of the Paris Club is made up of the most powerful G8 nations — the world's richest nations whose decisions heavily influence global debt policy.

I look for the day when these efforts of ours will bear so much fruit that we can use debt relief to augment our resources against trafficking. In the meantime, we thank our friends from the NGO community. We thank our friends especially from the United States that has made it one of its major concerns — the fight against trafficking.

It is justifiable to put trafficking near the top of the list of where we should put our resources. Trafficking is both a curse on the poor and a transnational evil. As a transnational evil, the fight against trafficking runs beside our global fight against terrorism, money laundering, and other transnational crimes.

I ask for this Philippine-American Friendship Day celebration to focus on anti-trafficking because I want to use this as an occasion Ambassador Mussomeli, to say that I recognize that the Philippines needs to do more against trafficking. And I want to tell you, I want to tell the world, I want to tell our countrymen and countrywomen that we are determined to be delisted from the international watchlist.

I recall our Anti-Money Laundering Law. When it was passed, it was also touted as one of the best, if not the best money laundering laws in the world. But passing a good law is one-half of the job, implementing it to the point that we are delisted from watch list is the other half. We have been delisted from the money laundering watch list and now we will be, we shall be, we are determined to be delisted from the anti-trafficking watch list.

And I'd like to let you know, Ambassador, NGO friends from the Philippines and the world that we know exactly what needs to be done. We have a good law. We have, as Ambassador said, probably the best after care service for the victims. I know that to achieve delisting from the watch list, we must be determined and we are determined to increase efforts to convict the human traffickers.

I'm taking this opportunity to reiterate the marching orders to our law enforcers and to our prosecutors through the secretary of justice. And while we respect and recognized the separation of powers, I seek the full support and cooperation of the courts.

We all know, the NGOs know that to prevent trafficking — because there is the enforcement, there is the conviction, there is the after care but there is also the prevention, and I am very happy about the work of the NGOs here supported by USAID — community education is the key to inform would-be migrants of the perils of entrapment even before they leave.

In this effort, I appreciate the report of Secretary Gonzalez about the information campaign, and I appreciate our private sector partners. Thank you to the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines. Thank you to the American Solidarity Center. Thank you to the USAID, thank you to the Visayan Forum Foundation. I would have wanted this

event to be in Allen and Liloan, but we will go there one of these days. In the meantime, we launched it here. Thank you to the coalition against trafficking in women. Thank you to the other people's organizations and community groups that are at the forefront of this campaign.

As I thank our NGO partners, I also ask our local government executives to beef up the law with local ordinances to prevent and suppress trafficking, and protect the victims.

And most of all, we must all develop and implement programs not only the good programs that Dinky and our DSWD friends have done to take care of the victims but programs that will prevent in the medium and longer term women and children from forcing themselves to become victims of trafficking. And in the end, the ultimate answer to this is jobs, livelihood, skills development, educational opportunities.

Speaking of jobs, over the past year, the number of jobless decreased by 200,000. And labor experts have told Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas that with such a large labor force, our being able to keep the unemployment rate to single digit is a feat in itself. There's a lot of work to be done but the fact that we are making progress in job creation in spite of seemingly insurmountable challenges is clear evidence that our macroeconomic fundamentals are sound and our foundation for recovery is solid.

The Supreme Court, T.R.O. notwithstanding, because we have been able to pass other laws aside from that the alcohol and cigarette taxes, the Accountability Reform Law. And the VAT is on a T.R.O. there'll be a motion for reconsideration. So, we are still confident that the rule of law is on our side.

We are proceeding with Phase 2 of our reform agenda. This will ensure that our new revenues are used not only for reducing debt which we must do but also for investments in people. Investments against trafficking, investments in social services and job creation, investments in infrastructure that will bring in the private sector capital.

Achieving all these would strengthen family foundations wherein each and every member — women, children and all — are aptly shielded from the abuse of the worst kind. And that's trafficking.

While we work on Phase 2 in order to make lives better, perceivably better for our people, I ask our people to be patient because the problems that we face have been with us since time immemorial. And it is only now that we are trying to gather in once and for all the resources we need to face those problems of time immemorial.

We must all push on. We must all pray. We must all work together as a people who would like to see this great nation become truly one Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: Adamson University Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the Official Dinner hosted by the President in Honor of Prime Minister Marek Belka and Madame Krystyna Belka

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Official Dinner hosted by the President in Honor of Prime Minister Marek Belka and Madame
Krystyna Belka**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 6, 2005]

His Excellency Prime Minister Belka; Madame Belka; Senate President Drilon; Speaker and Mrs. De Venecia; Secretary and Mrs. Romulo; Secretary Ermita; Philippine officials; members of the diplomatic corps; members of the Polish delegation; members of the business community; ladies and gentlemen:

The Republics of the Philippines and Poland maybe oceans apart but with have a kinship in history, politics, religion and now business. As two predominantly catholic countries, our links to the late Pope John Paul II are one of abiding faith and piety. One whom the Polish people loved so much but also one who loved the Filipino people so much. Pope John Paul II visited our nation twice, in 1981 and 1995.

On both occasions, the Pope was so moved to tears by the spontaneous outpouring of love and devotion by the Filipino crowds, five million people, the biggest in history. He was going to visit the Philippines for the third time but sadly failing health and eventual passage from this earth precluded it.

Poland and the Philippines are also bound by glorious moments in the struggle for freedom. Filipinos fought for independence from colonial rule in 1898 and also restored democracy through a peaceful power revolution in 1986. Across the world, the world was witness to the unwavering courage of the Polish people during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in the spring of 1943. During the long and bitter cold war the Polish people also laid claim to their own version of people power as the heroic Lech Walesa and his solidarity union led a peaceful transition to democracy. Solidarity started its fight from the shipyards of Gdansk. And today Gdansk, which is now Gdynia, is where a Filipino entrepreneur, Mr. Ricky Razon operates a hundred million-dollar container terminal port.

I thank the government of the Republic of Poland for hosting this Philippine company, and I would like to see in the near future and so does His Excellency Polish companies doing more business in the Philippines. For instance, I am happy with the interest of Poland in our mining industry. And I am also extremely happy that Poland is willing to put up a consortium to do the feasibility study and seek the financing for our railroad to Bicol.

I thank Poland also for the 140 million-dollar accommodation for our security and defense and police equipment.

All of these great notes on the first visit of an Eastern European head of government to the Philippines, I wish to propose a toast to the continued good health and success of His Excellency Prime Minister Belka and Madame Belka; to the continued prosperity of President Aleksander Kwasniewski and the people of the Republic of Poland; and finally to the lasting friendship founded on mutual respect and productive endeavor.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the official dinner hosted by the President in honor of Prime Minister Marek Belka and Madame Krystyna Belka. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080338/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5102&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on women empowerment and availability of microfinance funds

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On women empowerment and availability of microfinance funds during the mass oath taking and awarding
ceremonies**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 7, 2005]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much. I'd like to greet first the members of Congress who are here. Francis Nepomuceno, thank you for coming and presenting the first set of awardees to us. I also see Congressman Nereus Acosta, thank you for coming.

I'd like to greet the Metrobank foundation — oh! there's Francis — the Metrobank foundation, thank you for your annual awards to the outstanding policemen. And I'm looking forward to having a dedicated program for the outstanding teachers. Members of the government who are here today, inductees from the government and NGO sector, awardees, guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Today, I organized the awards in order to give honor to two important sectors of our society — the women and the police and their partners. And I want to thank you for all the work you've been doing. And I want to thank you and congratulate you on the outstanding work that you've been done to deserve these awards.

I'm very happy about the 117 because this was one of the innovations of our administration. And I'm very happy that it has really helped bring down our crime rate and even our kidnapping rate to virtually zero.

This is part of our efforts that we've done in the past four years to improve governance. This effort of 117 is very quiet, low key but very effective. And I felt that today we should remind one and all how important these innovations in our technology can help us to improve our services to the poor.

When we talk about reforms, we talk about governance and we talk about reaching the poor more quickly. I have announced already two important designations regarding governance. And what I want to do now is to talk about a particular aspect of our pro-poor program that hopefully we can make... reach everybody that it should reach in a very short period of time. And I did it today because this program is something that should benefit the women and the police. This is part of our pro-poor platform which we continue to do. People ask, can I govern? Yes, I can govern. And I am governing. Whereas our opponents can only sit down and raise controversies at the expense of our poor because they seek to tear down our society. If they seek to tear down our society, that's their problem. It is not our problem because we continue to work on governance and continue to work for the poor.

Our opponents have no platform. They have no concrete and viable plan to help the poor. They only find the time to plan to reverse progress. This is the most cynical manipulation of hardworking and caring Filipinos.

And so today, I would like to again bring to the attention of our women and our police one of the very important programs of our government and that is microfinance. I reiterate this announcement today because like the 117 it's been working quietly but effectively. In the last four years we have already been able to engage two million entrepreneurs borrowing 20 billion pesos worth of loans.

But still when I go around the country and especially Metro Manila, so ironic they say, "yeah we heard about microfinance but where is it?" and so I said that if we are going to make this reach the poor, the standard beneficiary of microfinance is women, but it should also help augment the income of those in the lower echelons of our

institutions like the police. It's important that we have fresh funds that will go to these specific areas that have not been receiving it and to the sectors that of course need it most.

Last Tuesday, the Land Bank of the Philippines and the National Development Corporation made available 600 million pesos in fresh microfinance funds.

Today, the National Livelihood Support Fund is making available another new 100 million pesos in microfinance funds. that's 700 million pesos made available as of today.

And I want to announce this to our women's groups who have been helping spread microfinance. And I want to announce this to the police because so many of your ordinary rank-and-file policemen and women need to augment their incomes. Seven hundred million pesos in new funds available now even as we speak.

Because we want to make these funds reach the poor as quickly as possible, we have made some initial prioritizations in the implementation. For instance, the grassroots of Metro Manila, a big part of these funds will be distributed to the market vendors because they're already there and they can be reached and they have their organizations.

Another big portion of these funds should go to the urban poor communities. And this is where I ask the women's groups to participate in their distribution.

The lending has already started and will continue until we make a lasting impact on the families that live on the margins of poverty.

How do we access these funds? One is from NLSF, one is from the Land Bank and one is from the NDC going through the PCFC.

I am directing the Philippine... the People's Credit and Finance Corporation, the PCFC, who is supposed to be the super conduit for all these funds to immediately do an information campaign to the urban poor areas, to the market place, to the women's organizations, to organizations with many members living on the margins of poverty like the police, and also to the business associations — I saw Serge Luis Ortiz here — because we don't want 700 million pesos staying in the bank. We want them in the hands of our small and micro entrepreneurs.

And so I ask you women leaders who took their oath of office here today. I ask you members of the police. I ask you leaders of the business community. Please don't hesitate to sit down with the Land Bank and to sit down with the PCFC so that you can work out the conduiting mechanisms. Land Bank does not lend directly to the poor communities. It goes through qualified conduits. The same thing with the People's Credit and Finance Corporation, it does not lend directly to retail self-employment or microfinance organizations. It gives it through qualified conduits.

There are certain qualifications to be a conduit. Track record in already being a conduit for microfinance. Years of doing that number of beneficiaries that you have served and have paid you back well. Your own equity. There are these qualifications to become a conduit. And I urge the business sector, the women's organizations and the police' welfare offices to work with Land Bank, NDC, PCFC and LSF for this purpose.

So I thank you all for making this good celebration of our women and our police — the common denominator there was the policewomen. So, that's why I decided to put the two groups together.

So, I thank you all. I congratulate you and what I'd like to say is let's use that 700 million pesos right away so that the poor can feel it right away.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech on Women Empowerment and Availability of Microfinance Funds during the Mass Oathtaking and Awarding Ceremonies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080212/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5098&Itemid=38

Radio Message of President Arroyo on the clamor for her resignation

Radio Message of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On the clamor for her resignation

[Released at the Study Room, Malacañang, July 7, 2005]

Mga minamahal kong kababayan.

When I was young and my late father Diosdado Macapagal was president of our country, I thought of him as the “good guy” and his political opponents on the other side were the bad guys.

Because of my father’s influence, I had always thought of myself as on the side of the good. Thus, it’s very painful for me to know that among many of our countrymen today I’ve been demonized as the bad guy. This is unfair, but it’s a cross that God in his wisdom has given me to bear. So I will bear it. I’ve never questioned God’s ways before, and I will not do so now.

When I first entered politics in 1992, little did I know that within a decade, I would become president of our country. And little did I expect that within another five years, there would be calls from civil society for my resignation from office or for the formation of a ‘truth commission’ regarding some of my political actuaciones.

When I spoke before the nation some two weeks ago, I did so against the advice of my legal counsel. But I thought that speaking before you, the Filipino people, was the right thing to do. Shameless people have peddled the lie that I confessed to cheating. What I disclosed was that I talked to an election official, but that this had taken place after the certificates of canvass had already been used to proclaim the winning senators, and it was those same certificates of canvass that showed that I won by around a million votes. That is the truth.

Indeed, it’s right for our country to confront the truth. But if we do so, let’s confront the biggest most painful political truth. The big truth that we are aware of deep in our hearts but that we collectively sweep under the rug. The big truth whose debilitating effects on our country, year after year, decade after decade, have developed into feelings of disgust, hopelessness and even despair among large segments of our society.

The truth that I discovered from my beginnings as a neophyte politician in 1992, rising to become a veteran politician through the years is this: over the years, our political system has degenerated to such an extent that it’s very difficult to live within the system with hands totally untainted. That is the truth. In addition, our system has degenerated to such an extent that more often than not it’s political agenda first and national interest last. For example, we have endless investigations and scandals in aid of politics and media projection, rather than in aid of legislation or executive action. That is the truth. Because of this system of politics, our country has been left behind by other countries in the region, and our best and brightest, the cream of our youth are bolting with their feet to leave the country. That is the truth.

I do not blame any individual or political bloc for this sad state of affairs. It’s simply the truth that the political system that I am part of has degenerated to the point that it needs fundamental change. We are collectively to blame, so we must collectively be the solution. Let he who is without sin cast the first stone. To those who feel that they cannot cast the first stone, I invite you to help in the solution.

My proposed approach to reform our system of politics and governance is something that I had wanted to bring forth during the upcoming state of the nation address. However, because our country is hungry for a resolution to the political uncertainties that have plagued us these past few weeks, I will bring it up now.

First of all, I am not resigning my office. To do so under circumstances that connote an EDSA tres would condemn any successor to the possibility of an EDSA 4, then an EDSA 5, and so on. Unless our political system were first reformed to make it more responsive to the people's will such that changes in leadership come about in an orderly and stable manner.

The world embraced EDSA 1 in 1986. The world tolerated EDSA 2 in 2001. The world will not forgive an EDSA 3 in 2005 but would instead condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable, and the Filipinos as among the finest people in the world but who always shoot themselves in the foot. Under those circumstances, who would invest money in the Philippines? How would we weather the difficulties arising from the price of crude oil being at its highest in history?

What I intend to do is to work with legislators and civil groups who believe that changes in the fundamental law of the land are necessary in order to confront such basic issues as federalism, the character of our legislative process, reducing red tape in government processes, running for public office under a true party system and with less need to raise campaign funds, modernizing the economic provisions of our constitution, and so forth.

At the same time, I will restructure and strengthen the Cabinet, giving it a free hand to meanwhile reform and manage our day to day governance with as little political interference as possible, even from me.

This is how we will proceed.

First, I'm asking my entire Cabinet to tender their resignation in order to give the executive a free hand to reorganize itself. I'll ask our sectors to give me names of candidates that we can invite to replace those who will not return to the cabinet or even to help out at other levels of the executive.

Second, the Cabinet will be given a free hand on governance while I focus on the fundamental changes that we need to put in place.

Third, I will begin to reach out to the political and civil sectors that have an interest in the various advocacies that are relevant to our constitution. Federalism, for example, is an advocacy that I had espoused long ago.

This is neither political ploy nor gimmick. I believe that this process will quickly lay the foundation for deep reforms in our society including reforms in our political way of life. This would be a legacy that our generation of politicians and citizens could collectively be proud of.

I now have grandchildren to play with and help bring up. Like all of you, I want our children to grow up in a better Philippines. I have prayed on this, and I hope that I have discerned God's will properly.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's radio message on the clamor for her resignation. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080155/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5099&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo on the earlier statement of former President Corazon Aquino for her voluntary resignation

Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the earlier statement of former President Corazon Aquino for her voluntary resignation

[Released at the Presidential Residence, Malacañang, July 8, 2005]

Mga minamahal kong kababayan.

This is a democracy that's held together by the Constitution and the rule of law. The Philippines has fallen into a dangerous pattern where the answer to every crisis is to subvert due process rather than work within the system. This must stop.

I was duly elected to uphold the Constitution and ensure that the institutions of the nation were strengthened not weakened. With all due respect to Former President Aquino and others, I say that their actions caused deep and grievous harm to the nation because they undermine our democratic principles and the very foundation of our constitution. Once again, we're subverting the rule of law and perpetuating a system that's broken and will remain broken until fundamental reforms are put in place.

As former President Aquino is well aware, the president is charged by the nation to defend our hard won democracy at all costs. To those who've forgotten this, I say, take your grievances to Congress where I'm very willing to submit to due process as called for by our constitution. In the meantime, I will continue to focus on the people's business which is getting our economy moving and creating a better quality of life for our people.

I will announce a new cabinet within the next couple of days. This team will be made up of individuals whose commitment to our nation and to democratic principles will be beyond doubt.

This is the team that will work with me to move away from political bickering to doing what the people of the Philippines expect their leaders to do and that is get our economy moving and ensure the delivery of essential services such as health care, education and security to all parts of the country.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Message on the earlier statement of Former President Corazon Aquino for PGMA's voluntary resignation. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080139/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5097&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo in response to the CBCP's statement

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
In response to the CBCP's statement**

[Released at the Study Room, Malacañang, July 10, 2005]

I'm deeply grateful to the bishops for their statement of guidance and wisdom. I appreciate their collective voice of moderation and temperance at this time of national soul searching.

I will read every line and everything between the lines of the bishops' statement in an effort to bring greater moral enrichment to a nation impoverished both in its material and spiritual foundations. I shall continue to pray with the Filipino people for true redemption from corruption and evil.

I've searched deeply for moral discernment. The second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians rings true for me. I cannot boast about myself except about my weaknesses. But I know, in faith, that in my own weakness, his power can be made perfect in me, to help me become the servant-president for you, in the way he wants me to be.

We must also focus on getting our economy moving. I will work with the church, members of civil society and all others to help build a better quality of life for the people of the Philippines, and to put an end to the political bickering that is causing such harm to our nation.

Once more, I pledge to do everything within my power to earn your enduring trust and support.

Once again, beloved bishops, thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Message in Response to the CBCP's Statement. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412075847/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5096&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Presentation of a Multipartisan Manifesto of Seven Philippine Political Parties, July 12, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Presentation of a Multipartisan Manifesto of Seven Philippine Political Parties**

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 12, 2005]

REACHING OUT FOR THE FUTURE

In response to what we have recommended, let me say again a few things. Let me repeat some of the things that I said in my statement last Thursday. I said last Thursday that over the years, our political system has degenerated to such an extent that it's very difficult to live within the system with hands totally untainted. Our system has degenerated to such an extent that more often than not it's political agenda first and national interest last. For example, we have endless investigations and scandals in aid of politics and media projection rather than in aid of legislation or executive action. Because of this system of politics, our country has been left behind by other countries in the region, and our best and brightest, the cream of our youth is bolting with their feet to leave the country.

The political system that we are a part of has... All part of has indeed degenerated to the point that it needs fundamental change. And I am glad that the statement of the manifesto talks about that fundamental change. We are collectively to blame for the degeneration of the system. We must collectively be the solution. And indeed I said earlier, let he who is without sin cast the first stone. And to those who feel that they cannot cast the first stone, I invite them all to help me in the solution.

Thank you for your inputs to what will be my state of the nation address. But anticipating that state of the nation address, I already said last Thursday a few things. I said that what I intend to do is to work with you, the legislators and the civil groups who believe that changes in the fundamental law of the land are necessary in order to confront such basic issues as federalism, parliamentary form of government, reducing red tape in government processes, running for the public office under a true party system and with less need to raise campaign funds, modernizing the economic provisions of the Constitution, and so forth.

In the meantime, I am restructuring and strengthening the Cabinet. Today, I announced the appointment of Land Bank President Margarito Teves as the new secretary of Finance. I am asking our sectors to give me names of candidates that we can invite to replace those who will not return to the Cabinet or even to help out at other levels of the government. And now that I am restructuring and strengthening the Cabinet, the Cabinet will be given a free hand on governance while I focus on the fundamental changes that we need to put in place, many of them being indicated in your manifesto.

I will begin to reach out to political and civil sectors that have an interest in the various advocacies that are relevant to our Constitution. For instance, in the last campaign, I was the only candidate who advocated for a parliamentary federal form of government.

And so Mr. Speaker, I shall therefore study the ideas contained in the manifesto in a manner of a president listening closely to the pulse of the people and see how support and consensus can be consolidated not only among our allies but among those who may differ with us but have a clear stake in the future of our nation.

Thank you once again, Mr. Speaker, for your collect expression of faith in the Constitution.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Call by the U.S. consuls and Filipino-Americans Tour Group

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Call by the U.S. consuls and Filipino-Americans Tour Group**

[Delivered on July 14, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you very much.

Secretary Romulo, thank you for introducing me; Secretary Durano, thank you for your efforts in bringing to the Philippines leaders of our number one tourism market, the United States market; DTI OIC Tom Aquino, thank you for being here as well; and Dante Ang, chairman of the Commission of Overseas Filipinos, thank you for being with us today; and of course, Ambassador Albert del Rosario, thank you for your efforts; our consuls general, consuls, honorary consuls general and our officials of the DFA and DOT and DTI; and of course, the members of the Fil-Am delegations representing the various consulate jurisdictions.

Welcome to the Philippines! Welcome to Malacañang!

I'm honored to hear from Ambassador Del Rosario that this trip tour to Malacañang and this visit with me is — oh! I'd like to greet also Mrs. Del Rosario — that this tour to Malacañang and this visit with me is the highlight of your tour to the Philippines. But I understand that the delegations from Washington, New Orleans, Florida, Atlanta weren't able to make the tour. I would like to ask my PSG and the head of our museum, please let them be our guest for a guided tour this afternoon.

I'm very grateful for this meeting. It celebrates our friendship and shared history with the United States. Why? Because while we all share wonderful concepts, ideas with the United States especially our cherished democratic traditions, the most important link between the U.S. and the Philippines today is persons, our 3.5 million Philippine-Americans who are represented here today. You represent the personification of the cherished traditions shared by the United States and the Philippines — democracy, the rule of law. And during the four years of my presidency, I think you've known that we've been fighting to strengthen our democratic institutions against those who have been seeking to undermine them during these past four years since Edsa Dos.

Today, as you come here, we are taking the fight to a higher level. I thought that when you would see the political noise on TV some of you would back out from coming here. Thank you that you're all today. And I hear from Ace some more even wanted to come but the carrying capacity wasn't enough anymore. Well, that means we need more investments in carrying capacity and I hope you will be there to do the investments.

Your enthusiastic visit, your enthusiastic response contributes to my feeling especially with the stock market up 25 points, the peso breaking... It was fifty, went down to 55.19, the dollar went down to 55.99. This means that the time is now for a wake up call to my detractors. They whine and complain, but do they have a plan for the nation? No.

The solution to our problems is not to continue to divide the nation. My opponents want to divide and go back. I want to unite and move forward. The reality is that my opponents exploit and perpetuate the reality that there are two Philippines: one for the well-to-do and well-connected, the other one for the down and out and alienated; one where the system works because of class or privilege, one that has no justice if you are poor and disenfranchised; and one where the system can be subverted if you don't get your way, and the one where the system never works. Period.

I want one Philippines. No more double standards; no more dual justice systems; no more cynical behind the scenes manipulation. We need... I know we need a government that serves the people, not the special and vested interests.

I wake up every day early and work until way past sunset to put my plan — because I have a plan, my 10-point pro-poor plan into force — and it's working. Our previous speakers have pointed out the numbers to show it's working: exports are up; growth goes on as Bert Romulo said, the highest in 15 years, the highest in non-oil producing Asia; investments are coming in, thank you for keeping Calpers coming in. But the other day, Uniden, a big Japanese company who came here when I was still undersec... assistant secretary of Trade and Industry — I promoted that investment in 1986, created 4,000 jobs — and then left the country in the aftermath of 9-11 because the shrinking U.S. market required them to consolidate and they consolidated in China. Well, the other day, they visited me. They've restarted construction. If they had 4,000 people then, they are hiring 10,000 this time they're back in the Philippines. The other day, I had a visit from a Malaysian group that built so many of those super highways in Malaysia. And they are going to build our expressway from here to Batangas port — eight lanes, 11 billion pesos — no cost to the Philippine government. Monday, I have an invitation to inaugurate the Batangas port, the alternative international port to the Manila port so that our Calabarzon companies can choose where to go depending on the traffic that they want to encounter or not encounter.

We... FedEx will consolidate their hub in China, but that's because of China's growth. They hasten to say, however, they are still expanding their operations in the Philippines.

Job creation is up. Last year, we had 3.1 million unemployed — big number. Now at least it's gone down to 2.9. At least it's going down and we are not running on a treadmill running just to stand in place. We have better infrastructure. We're building as I said the south expressway. We're building... Completing the Batangas port. You've seen the north expressway. And we are a more secure nation for what our administration has been able to deliver, has been able to do against kidnapping, against drugs, in the peace process, and with our U.S. allies and regional allies against terrorism.

But let me be clear: I know we need more jobs, better health care and a cleaner government. I know that and I'm working on that. Of that, there should be no doubt. But my opponents don't want to look at what's working, they merely want things to work in their favor. And in the process, they are willing to sacrifice the gains we've made for their own motives.

If they want unrest in the streets, I will enforce the law. I will stop any violence that threatens the rule of law. If they want to subvert the constitution, I will fight them every step of the way. If they want to cast the first stone, let them do so with a clean conscience. Because their hands are dirty as they seek to besmirch not just me but the nation itself. This fight isn't about me, it's about working within the rule of law and the virtue of democracy that we share with many countries especially the United States.

I know that the Filipino people are deeply cynical about government. They desperately want change and will accept nothing less than strong action. I was elected under those circumstances and on a very issue-specific platform of economic reform, pro-poor investments and the political will to change the system itself. On this score, today, we shall begin to plead our case in the halls of the Supreme Court so that we can get the implementation of the vat bill on track to put our fiscal house in order. Meanwhile, we have the alcohol and cigarette taxes, and the accountability reform law that I was able to have passed last year to give us an additional 20 billion pesos in new taxes.

When Congress opened last year, I said, that for the first session year we would work for fiscal reforms. We achieved that. I called that Phase One of our fundamental reforms. And I said last year as Congress was about to open, we will work on the fundamental political reforms after Phase One. We're ready to do that now. We are on schedule.

What I intend to do is work with legislators and civil groups who believe that changes in the fundamental law of the land are necessary in order to conduct or confront such basic issues as federalism, the parliamentary form of government, reducing red tape in government processes, running for public office under a true party system and with less need to raise campaign funds, modernizing the economic provisions of our constitution, and so on. Remember

how hard it was to get the overseas voting law and to get the dual citizenship bill passed. We really have to examine the constitution.

At the same time, I'm restructuring and strengthening the Cabinet. Giving it a free hand to meet our reform and manage our day-to-day governance with as little political interference as possible even from me.

I already announced late last week the appointment of Land Bank president Gary Teves as the incoming Secretary of Finance. The stock market went up when his name was announced. Today, I'd like to announce the appointment of NEDA secretary Romy Neri as the new Secretary of Budget and Management. His very competent and professional deputy, Tito Santos, as the new NEDA head. Peter Favila as the new Secretary of Trade and Industry and incumbent president of the Philippine Stock Exchange. And the incumbent head of the Office of Muslim Affairs Zamzamin Ampatuan as the new head of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. It's a good team. it's a kind of team together with Gary, Bert and Ace, and all the other Cabinet members, those with Cabinet rank like Dante. It's a good team. It's a kind of team that I can leave the day-to-day affairs of government with while I work on the fundamental reforms.

And speaking of the day-to-day affairs of the government, because of the increased tax collections from our Phase One reforms, we can now focus more money on things that will hopefully affect the poor more directly. Short-fuse microlending programs that would quickly put a little money in the pockets of thousands of farmers, teachers, tricycle drivers, policemen. Allocating resources to these projects would give great social dividends as would increased expenditure in the programs of the DSWD. In addition, NFA rolling stores and Kadiwa stores are being more aggressively deployed.

Last year, we were able to enroll already nearly 80 percent of the people of the Philippines in our Philhealth program. The Philippine national government gave the first year's premium. We are hoping that the local governments will give the second year's premium for their indigents. But because this program has become so valuable for the local governments that are not able to provide the premium for another year, the national government will also help in that premium to renew their insurance.

And we've had a very successful emergency employment program funded by the road users tax where instead of giving all of the work to contractors to do the pavements and the maintenance of roads, we're hiring out-of-school youth and other unemployed to do the work manually. They are doing actual work but at least we help solved the unemployment problem. That is the modern version of the Tennesy Valley Authority. And I have a budget of two billion pesos for that. One part of it will go to the pavement which has to be done more professionally by the companies. But the other part are things that can be done manually, and we hope as it worked last year that it will work this year to help reduce our unemployment problem.

We campaign against tax evaders, smugglers, hoarders, cartels and the like because these campaigns protect the poor who end up shouldering the cost of these transgressions. I know that we must reform the government. I know that we must reform moral standards, and I hold my family on equal footing to every citizen when it comes to the rule of law.

In order to put more vigor into our anti-graft campaign, I have asked Tony Kwok who put together the Hong Kong's independent commission against corruption, to be the consultant of the Philippine government. He has given me a very difficult list of things to do. And I will do them. He will be coming here to help carry them through. And I'd like to use the model of the Hong Kong's independent commission against corruption because before they set it up in 1974, Hong Kong was one of the most corrupt societies. Seven years later, Hong Kong, as we know, became one of the societies with the highest honesty and integrity. And we will seek to work on that in the Philippines.

At the end of the day, I'm fighting for the average Filipino, not the privileged Filipino. I will stand firm to turn the economy around, work to earn the trust of the people and defend our democracy. This is not a popularity contest; this is a contest for improving the lives of our population. My surveys may be down but my resolve has never been higher.

For all these years I've offered my pro-poor agenda, that has gained ground every day while, I repeat, the opposition has shown no plan, no plan but the blueprint for obfuscation and division. I challenge my opposition to show their true colors: show me the plan. You don't have one. And even if the people don't like me right now neither will they follow a road that leads to nowhere.

There is a Philippines that works, lives and strives; there's one that doesn't. There's a Philippines where we must... And that is where we must focus our energy, the one where things don't work and things don't thrive. We must lift everyone up, not tear everyone down. Are we on the brink of disaster? Absolutely not. Are we in a time of soul searching, national soul searching? Yes, and we should be. For it's time to break the cycle of politics and create a government that, at the end of the day, works.

Fil-Am leaders, as we welcome you back to the Philippines, although for a short visit, we express our pride in what you have achieved and our gratitude for keeping our alliances and connections alive and strong.

Thank you for being Fil-Ams. Thank for loving your resident country. But thank you for continuing to love your motherland.

Mabuhay! At maligayang pagbisita sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the call by the U.S. consuls and Filipino-Americans Tour Group. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412075515/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5094&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 107th Founding Anniversary of the Department of Foreign Affairs

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 107th Founding Anniversary of the Department of Foreign Affairs**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 19, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Romulo. Congratulations! On your Sikatuna award. I was saying that you truly deserved that award because you really stand equal to the great foreign ministers all over the world and in our region, congratulations!

Secretary Ermita; our top officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs; the recipients of the loyalty and model employees awards; the recipients of our special awards for the special heroic efforts that were undertaken by our key officials during this past year; our guests: Roberto Tarongoy and the members of his family; of course, Angelito Nayan is not a guest, because he's part of us; men and women of the foreign service; ladies and gentlemen.

Let me congratulate all of you for your contributions to Philippine stability and security. And as has been the theme of our celebration today, the country is particularly grateful for your dedication and heroism in the rescue of Angelo Dela Cruz, Angelito Nayan and Roberto Tarongoy. You have shown what it is to be a foreign service. Going beyond the call of duty to secure our nationals in distress to the joy of their families and the entire nation. That is truly the epitome of foreign policy in the service of the Filipino. But I thank you not only for these outstanding and celebrated efforts and examples of heroism, but also for your day to day work for your pursuit of our nation's interests and securing them in every global forum.

Our foreign service is something to be proud of. Our election to the U.N. Security Council, our election as chair of the APEC Counter terrorism Task Force, these serve to highlight the multilaterals and international organizations trust in the leadership capabilities of the Philippines and of Filipinos, and of course of our foreign service. Through you, we serve in the peacekeeping, in healing the sick in times of disaster, in manning the ramparts of the world order. Other departments may participate in the implementation, but you are always the means to be able to do these things. Soon, we will be having another engagement in the world in keeping the peace. I have authorized 200 soldiers more to be sent to Haiti.

Thank you for mobilizing foreign policy in our promise of peace not only in the whole world but in Mindanao, which because of your diplomacy is enhanced by development and solidarity and has driven wide international support.

We have completed 80 percent of our peace process with the MILF. The most contentious issue, which is ancestral domain, has already been settled and signed. The remaining issue of governance is much, much simpler than the issue of ancestral domain.

Thank you also that with our allies for peace and security, we're opening new fronts in the fight against poverty and terrorism, including our efforts and initiatives in securing bigger debt relief for countries not only the poorest of the poor but middle-income countries like us.

And today, as Secretary Romulo said, we have to contend with a highly-politicized and divided environment here especially in Metro Manila, and this is compounded by global economic dislocations mostly engendered by the high price of oil. The task at hand is to unite and speed up economic growth to spur investments which is one of the main work of economic diplomacy and to keep the confidence of our markets and trading partners.

I am very happy that the markets opened yesterday up, the stock market up, the bond market up, the dollar market up. I think a lot of that is because our foreign service keeps up the confidence of the markets in the world in our country.

Through Secretary Ermita, I'm instructing the Cabinet to step up the implementation of the second phase of our economic agenda — the first phase being our fiscal reforms — through investments in pro-poor programs and the improved delivery of basic social services like electricity. We are committed to providing every barangay with electricity by 2010.

Water. We are committed to providing every town — because there's still 400 towns without water — every town with water and every barangay in Metro Manila, which is as big as a town, with water.

Cheaper medicines. We have added 20 more technical people in the Bureau of Food and Drugs in order to speed up the registration of the half-priced medicines so that they can reach the poor better. And soon we will be advertising — Secretary Ermita, we should be advertising — where the poor can access these half-priced medicines in the many Botika ng Bayan, Botika ng Barangay and national government hospitals all over the country.

Wider access to education. I have instructed our CHED head and working with other friends even from other branches of government to find a way to have relief for those students who enrolled under the pre-need insurance — ah, well, they're not called insurance — pre-need education plans so that they would be able to take their examinations. So these are hard things we have to do, but we have to do them because so many are affected.

Health programs. Last year, we enrolled almost more than 4 million Filipinos, Filipino families in our health insurance program. That is over 85 percent of our... By doing that, we have been able to enroll about 85 percent of the Filipino population. Even in other countries that's considered as universal health insurance.

This year, for the renewal, it was expected that the local governments would take over. Many local governments have been able to afford it, 2.5 have been enrolled. Many local governments still cannot afford it at this point in time and I have instructed the PCSO and the DBM to find a way to continue in the case of the local governments who cannot afford now to take over the premium of the indigents to continue for yet another year. I intend to win the people's trust through good governance and urgent reforms.

Meanwhile, I trust that you will stay true to your professional commitment and help preserve our respective standing in the global community.

When Bert Romulo was talking about what I said last year, I was already remembering my father's story. My father was working here in Malacañang. And at that time, when President Roxas became president and Quirino became vice president and secretary of Foreign Affairs — that was, what? 1946? — as vice president and secretary of Foreign Affairs, Elpidio Quirino had the task of creating the foreign service. He had the task of present to the world the best of the Filipino mind. And so he conducted a search for the best and the brightest who could show to the world that our new republic was worthy of respect from peers. Among those that he recruited as the best and the brightest was my father. And my father therefore became one of the first Foreign Service officials. And because of that, as he rose up through the Foreign Service, eventually, he ran for Congress. And because he had been a Foreign Service officer without... There was still no Foreign Service act as profession as could be, he became chairman of the committee on foreign relations because of his career in the Foreign Service and that's why he authored the first Foreign Service Act. Which is the reason why when I became president, I did my best given the political reality so you do have to have political appointees, but I have done my best to maximize the chances and increase the chances of our professionals being the ambassadors and chiefs of missions all over the world.

I am happy about the role my father played in the development of the Foreign Service. And every year, we remember how it all began with Apolinario Mabini.

Let's all be united and focused on the original vision of our leaders and heroes like Mabini, our first minister of foreign affairs, to steer the course towards a peaceful and progressive future that's worthy of the blood, sweat and tears of every Filipino.

This past year, the Foreign Service showed blood, sweat and tears. Risking personal lives, months, stretches of months, but you came through. The world acclaims you, the Philippines acclaims you. It's a proud moment for the Philippine Foreign Service.

Happy anniversary to all of you!

Mabuhay! tayong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 107th Founding Anniversary of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412075445/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5092&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching Ceremony of the Bright Child Big Bang Project, July 29, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching Ceremony of the Bright Child Big Bang Project**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 29, 2005]

BRIGHT FILIPINOS AT THE END OF RAINBOW

Ako'y nasisiyahan na binibigyan natin ng magandang launching itong Bright Child. Matagal na nating hininog ito nung ako ay vice president pa at DSWD secretary sinimulaan ko yung project kasama ng UNICEF—yung Child 21—yung ating Long-Term Development Plan for Children. At noon pa man hiningi ko na kay Lina Laygo, yung aking predecessor as DSWD, na siya ang maging project manager. Siya ang nagsimula, ginawa niya yung plan from conceptualization at hanggang ngayon bilang chairman of the Council for the Welfare of Children. Siya naman ang in-charge of executing her plan. Kaya kailangan ang continuity kung gusto natin magkaroon ng bunga ang ating mga plano.

Ako ay nasisiyahan dito nga yung kanyang Child 21 kasi ano ba ang ating plano sa mga bata para sa 21st century? Bahagi ng bunga ng kanyang pag-aaral ay tatawagin niya ang programang Bright Child, ibig sabihin gusto natin na ang ating mga anak ay lumaking matalino.

So, anu-ano ang kailangan para matalino ang ating mga anak? Iyan ang nabubuo doon sa loob ng Long-Term Development Plan for Children. Itong planong ito ay mula sa pre-natal — kasi yung kaluluwa nagsisimula sa conception. That's already a child in the womb — hanggang sa 17 years old. Kaya meron tayong mga 17 years old dito, di ba? Nasaan kayo? 17 years old. Ayun, hello! Kasama kayo. Pag 18 years old na, adult na sila. So, the Bright Child is the child from conception up to 17 years old.

Kaya anu-anong kailangan? Pre-natal care, proper delivery, post-natal care, breastfeeding exclusively up to six months and hopefully continuing breastfeeding up to two years old. Tapos nuon pagpapasok naman sa eskuwelahan gawa ng maraming mga pamilya natin ay nagugutom, para bawasan ang hunger ay nagkaroon tayo... Bahagi dito sa Bright Child Project ay yung binanggit ko sa aking State of the Nation Address — yung healthy start. Yung masiglang pasimula, healthy start kasi nagsisimula yung public life nung bata pag siya ay nag-aaral — preschool, nursery. Healthy start dahil pag gising niya sa umaga at papasok sa eskuwela bibigyan ng malusog na almusal. Healthy start for the day and healthy start in public life. Kaya yon ang pinili kong pangalan healthy start nutrition program for the preschool day care and grade one. At inaasahan ko, sabi ko kay Lina, isigurado natin na at least sa Metro Manila makumpleto na natin ito.

Merong local government na meron na silang kanilang sariling feeding program sa mga eskwelahan nila. Kaya hindi na tayo papasok sa mga eskuwelang yon, magiging community-based. Pero merong mga local government na wala pang kumpleto na healthy start nutrition program doon naman papasok tayo kasi siyempre mas convenient para sa mga agencies na nasa isang lugar na lamang yung pinapakain — doon nga sa eskuwela.

So, yan ay isang importanteng bahagi. On August 1, we are going to have also the launching of the breastfeeding campaign, because we want to promote exclusive breastfeeding up to the age of six months.

So, itong mga gawaing ito ay para magkaroon tayo ng matalinong mga anak, matalinong mga bata. At tuloy-tuloy ito hanggang sa edukasyon. Bright Child must have a good basic education kaya paggagastusan natin ang math, science and English.

Ang sabi ko nga kay Bobit Tiglao asikasuhin kasama ang Department of Education kung papano mabibigyan natin ng incentive compensation yung mga teacher na magti-training sa math, science and English kasi yon ang kailangan sa 21st century. So, yan ang grade school, high school. At inaasahan natin na yung mga bata maganda ang edukasyon.

Kaya rin naman tayo nagtayo na ng 30,000 classrooms during the last four years kasi gusto natin na sapat ang classroom. Sinisikap natin na masarado ang classroom gap for the next five years. Sinisikap natin na pagka nagdo-double shift ang mga eskuwela, two half-day shifts, ay magkakaran ng sapat na schoolbuilding ang grade school. Ibig sabihin nuon ang student classroom ratio ay 50 students to one classroom — two shifts. And we plan to close the classroom gap in the next five years.

Sa high school naman, kasi ang dami-dami ng private high schools na kulang ng estudyante mula nung nagtayo tayo ng public school system, so ang ating programa ay hindi magtayo ng mas marami pang public high school kung hindi yung voucher para sa ganun yung mga bata gagamitin nila yung voucher para pwede silang pumili kung saan nila gusto mag-aral kahit na private school. Maging mas mura pa yon para sa ating pamahalaan. So, ito ang ating mga importanteng gawin.

Sa kalusugan naman yung sa kabila ng feeding program, sa kabila ng post-natal care, ng breastfeeding ang gusto rin nating gawin ay yung buong pamilya ay may access sa health care. Kaya sinasabi ko kay Pingcoy Duque yung sinimulan niyang health care program, Philhealth, ay dapat ituloy natin.

Sa loob ng apat na taon ng aking pagka-presidente 69 million ang ating enrolled sa Philhealth. At doon sa 60 million ay malamang, di ba Pingcoy? Three-fifths of that are children from one to 17 years old, two-thirds of that of the 69 million. At doon sa 69 million na yon, 30 million ay indigents na ang gobyerno ang nagbabayad ng kanilang premium. Dapat ito national at local government pero maraming local government ay hindi pa nila kaya. Ang ginawa natin, we paid for the first year's premium last year pero ngayon dapat yung local government na nagte-take over. Pero dahil marami hindi pa kaya, sabi ko kay Pingcoy, sige ire-enroll natin. We re-enrolled already 12.5 of the indigents of which two-thirds are children. So that means 8 million children are now re-enrolled. Eight million indigents maliban doon sa 39 na mga manggagawa na talagang nagbabayad ng premium sa Medicare. Pero yung 8 million indigent children are enrolled already. And we are seeking to enroll another 8 million in the months to come para sa gamin pag pupunta sa ospital ay merong babayad ng nakararami.

Pingcoy ang gusto ko kagaya nung Thailand. Doon sa Thailand nagbabayad sila ng 30 baht tapos the balance binabayaran na ng insurance. So, siguro para hindi naman masyado malugi, kung mamarapatin ninyo mga magulang, siguro naman kung may sakit ang inyong anak at dadalhin niyo sa ospital maging kayo siguro papayag kayo babayad ng 30 pesos para naman merong sustainability yung programa. Tapos yung balance under the rules of Philhealth ay pwedeng babayaran na ng Philhealth para malusog ang pamilya at malusog din ang mga bata.

So, eto po ang napakaraming bahagi ng Bright Child. At kung meron tayong bright children magkakaroon tayo na bright adults in the next generation. At siguro itong mga kaguluhan ng ating sistema ng pulitika ay mas mamemenos dahil ang ating susunod na henerasyon ay mas magaling, mas matino, mas matalino at sana mas menos ang pamumulitika sa susunod na henerasyon.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat. Congratulations!

Source: Adamson University Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching Ceremony of the National Action Plan for Infant and Young Child Feeding and World Breastfeeding Week, August 1, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching Ceremony of the National Action Plan for Infant and Young Child Feeding and World
Breastfeeding Week**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, August 1, 2005]

FROM OUR MOTHERS' BOSOM

Noong isang araw, inlunsad natin ang matagal nang pinaghandaang programang... Programa para sa mga bata ng siglo beinte uno. Ang tinawag natin dito, dahil ang hangarin natin na ang bata ng siglo beinte uno ay matalinong bata, tinawag natin sa programang ito "Bright Child." At ang mga programa ay mga programa para masigurado na matalino ang bata sa siglo biente uno. Kaya yung mga programa makakasigurado na siya ay matalino ay nagsisimula pa kung nasa tiyan ng nanay. From the point of conception hanggang ang bata ay labingpitong taong gulang.

We're determined to enable our children to have a strong start as the future builders of this nation. The positive impact of our national breastfeeding program will be felt not only by the newborn of this generation but all generations of Filipinos.

As he reported to you earlier, Secretary Duque in my behalf is working on the national breastfeeding program together with the World Health Organization, the UNICEF all their NGO partners and local governments. And we have all noted the valiant efforts, special mention of Mayor Atienza to make Manila the first city in the world to spearhead the cause of breastfeeding.

Mga batang naririto ngayon, kayo'y matatalino at malusog dahil sa bitaminang nanggaling sa gatas ng inyong mga ina. I am also... I was also a breastfeeding mother, but not exclusive. If I had been exposed to this program and this advocacy when I was a new mother, I would have fed... Breastfed my children exclusively up to age of six months. But since even for all my education, kahit na nagtapos ako ng PhD, nung ako ay nanganak hindi ko alam itong dapat six months exclusive breastfeeding. Kaya kung alam ko lang sana ginawa ko sana yon kaya alam ko na nung panahong yon kulang na kulang ang impormasyon. Kaya naman ngayon at ako ay merong pagkakataon na yung ibang mga nanay ng kasalukuyang henerasyon ay may mas alam tungkol dito kaysa sa akin, I am pleased, as president and mother, to proclaim August 1 to 4 as Breastfeeding Week. Nanggaling rin sa aking karanasan tungkol sa pagkukulang ng impormasyon nung ako ay batang nanay. It's time to actively promote mother's milk for the good of the child, for the good of the mother, the good of the nation.

Kasi si doktora nung nag simula kayo ng inyong advocacy eh nanganak na ako, tapos na. Kung sana nandoon kayo noon, I would have known better.

Lahat nito ay bahagi ng ating programang "Bright Child" o matalinong bata. Dapat exclusive breastfeeding sa unang anim na buwan, at dapat patuloy pa rin ang breastfeeding hanggang dalawang taon. Pagpasok naman sa day care o pre-school hanggang grade one, pasok na rin ang ating healthy start program o tinatawag nating masiglang pasimula na nagbibigay ng masustansiyang almusal sa mga eskwela. Ang programang Bright Child o matalinong bata ay kasama ang edukasyon, kalusugan, nutrition, pati na rin espesyal na atensiyon sa mga anak ng mga dukha, para higit na lumapit tayo sa ating mga hangaring magkaroon ng higit na malusog at matalinong batang pilipino sa mundong mas lalong dumidiin ang kumpetensiya.

Fr. Reuter, thank you very much for praying for us today.

The breastfeeding program benefits the national economy because if all lactating mothers at any given time breastfeed their infants exclusively up to six months, we would save the country 57 million dollars worth of milk formula imports per year. *Kasi sa alam ko, sa lahat ng ating iniinom na gatas, isang porsiyento lamang ang produced in the Philippines. Ninety nine percent imported. Kaya yung dairy industry natin, siguro naman yung umiinom ng mga adults ng gatas kasama ng kape siguro hindi naman sila mawawalaan ng bumibili ng kanilang produkto. Kaya ang iniinom tuloy ng mga batang maliit imported lahat.* So we spend a lot of money. And if the mothers will exclusively breastfeed we will also have less pollution in our rivers and in our garbage because less milk cans, less plastic bottles, less used rubber in our garbage dumps.

But even beyond the peso impact, our most potent reasons lie in the child's own health and well-being. Now I know even when I was young, even then I knew that mother's milk enhances the children's brain capacity and produces more intelligent individuals. And that even then I knew that it bonds the mother and the child, and it protects both from illness. I knew that, that's why I decided that at least I would partially breastfeed. What I didn't know is that it is better to exclusively breastfeed.

That's why I congratulate Mayor Atienza who I understand has committed to set up lactation stations in all over the City of Manila. And I hope other local governments will do the same.

Sa edukasyon naman, tuloy ang programing ng day care na siya ay responsibilidad ng mga local governments. Nagtayo na rin tayo ng halos tatlung libong silid-aralan, more than the average in the past at masasarado na natin ang classroom gap sa grade school sa susunod na limang taon basta dalawang shift ang gagamitin natin at limampung estudyante sa bawat silid-aralan ang ating bilang.

Ang mga bagong buwis na sinimulaan nating kubrahin ay ginagastos natin sa mga ganitong bagay. Pati na rin sa pag-ibayo ng kalidad ng edukasyon because as we have a bright child through nutrition, breastfeeding, breakfast program, we want to strengthen their train power and competitive power by strengthening education in english, math and science.

Ito ay bahagi ng pangalawang yugtong ng ating reporma sa ekonomiya, kung saan sinisimulan nating dalhin ang biyaya ng mga mahihirap na ginawa nating desisyon nung unang yugto. Yung unang yugto, nagdesisyon tayo hindi na natin ipapamana ang napakalaking utang sa mga susunod na henerasyon, sa ating mga anak. Ngayon na mas marami ang kita ng bansa, mas mapupununan natin ang mga batayang serbisyong panlipunan na makaka-ahon sa ating mahihirap.

Noon kasi ang hirap gumawa ng mga programang ito. Para bang isang pamilya na may sariling hanapbunay na maliit, 700 pesos a month ang kita. Pero 300 pesos pumupunta doon sa sari-sari store sa mga nakaraang utang mga interest payments. Tapos nuon 250 pesos pumupunta doon sa isang sinisuweldo sa kanyang maliit na food processing kung ano man ang negosyo niya. Tapos 150 pesos pumupunta sa may sakit na magulang sa probinsya. Ano na lang naiwan sa 700? Saan bibili ng pagkain? Sa sari-sari store utang na naman. Saan bibili ng pag-ayos sa bahay? Utang na naman. Di madadagdagan yung 300 na binabayad sa utang. Ganun ang nangyari noon sa ating bansa.

Seven hundred billion ang ating tax collection. Three hundred pumupunta sa pagbayad ng interes sa dating utang. Two hundred fifty doon sa mga suweldo. At one hundred fifty doon sa local government units dahil sabi ng batas. Di seven hundred billion na yon, mga nanay. Saan tayo sana noon kukuha ng programa pang edukasyon, pampakain ng bata? Saan tayo sana kukuha ng ating mga imprastruktura para makapag-aliw ng mga investors? Lahat noon, ang nangyayari noon nanggagaling sa utang. Eh di madadagdagan yung 300 billion na binabayad nating interes sa utang. Darating ang araw bangkarote na tayo. Ayaw nating iwanan yon sa ating mga anak, sa inyong mga anak. Sana po mga nanay naunawaan ninyo kung bakit tayo nagsasakripisyo na nagdadagdag ng ating buwis. Para ang ating mga anak ay malilibre sa utang at tayo naman ay makakagawa na tayo ng programa na hindi utang ang panggagalingan kung hindi sarili nating sikap.

Pero siyempre mas hirap yon. Masakit yon. Sa bawat pamilya pag kayo ay nagdesisyon na tama na ito, na lahat ng kita natin pumupunta lang sa bayad ng utang kailangan magdagdag tayo ng kita sa minsanan. Kailangan maglagay

tayo ng dagdag na puhunan. Siyempre anong gagawin n'yo? You will tighten your belt, di ba? Para maghanap kung saan kayo makakakuha ng dagdag na puhunan. Ganun din ang dinadanas natin ngayon. Kaya ho sana maunawaan po ninyo na kahit na ho mahirap at masakit itong mga desisyong ito at mabigat, ito ay para sa mas malaking ginhawa ng ating mga anak. At sana po maunawaan ninyo at sana po tulungan ninyo ako dito sa mahihirap na panahon.

Kasama ng pangalawang yugto ay higit nating gagastos ka sa imprastruktura, para sa agri-business infrastructure, sa pag-impok sa kasarinlan sa enerhiya, kasi tumataas ang presyo ng langis sa buong mundo. Kaya kailangan kasarinlan natin sa enerhiya. Kailangan maggastos tayo doon. Sa puhunan sa responsableng minahan. Sa pag-aaral at sa pag-iiral ng Pilipinas bilang sentro ng magagandang trabaho kagaya ng call center at saka outsourcing. Yan ho ay hindi mawawala sa darating... Itong siglong ito. Yan ang ating kinabukasan. Mas lalong iiral ang information technology, call center, gumagawa ng mga bookkeeping, mga medical transcription, mga kung anu-ano through the internet. Mas lalong dadami ang trabaho ng inyong mga anak na matalino. Kaya dugtong sa ating breastfeeding ay yung mga trabaho na talino ng inyong anak ay magagamit. Lahat nito ay panggagalingan ng higit na trabaho nay an ang ating pinakasusi sa paglaban sa kahirapan.

Araw-araw ako'y nagdadasal at nagninilay kung paano kong ipag-ibayo ang aking sarili para mas maging mabuting tao at mabuting leader.

Ang kailangan ng ating bansa ay hindi drama kung hindi kilos. Yung araw-araw na nagsisikap, nagigising at nagsisikap para magdala ng higit na kalusugan, tubig, kuryente, palupa, pabahay sa ating pinakamahihirap na bayan at barangay, yon ay sapat nang drama. Ang aking atensyon ay nasa pagdala ng mga makabuluhang pagbabago sa mga buhay ng indibidwal na mga Pilipino na may pang ang kailangan. Kailangan pa lagay ko, hindi ba mga nanay, ang kailangan ninyo di ba nanay hindi naman drama? Di ba ang kailangan ninyo ay resulta. So, yon po ang aking pinagsisikap.

Maraming nagtatapon ng black propaganda sa akin. Maraming nagsasabi ng ganito-ganyan lalo na yung mga galit. Lalo na yung mga nangangailangan, parating kailangan ng pera madaling ibenta ang kanilang testigo. Eh... At ang kahirapan ng ating sistema ng pulitika ngayon yung accused kahit na pangulo ay hindi hinihintay yung tamang korte kung saan pwede kong ipagtanggol ang aking sarili dahil meron naman tayong rules of evidence at rules of due process. Ang ginagawa ang testigo ginagawa sa press conference, ginagawa sa mga Congressional hearings in aid of legislation, not in aid of determining conviction. Iba ang korte doon. Kaya yon lang ang nagpapatunay na talaga ang ating sistema habang nagkakaroon tayo ng pagkakataon na ma-promote ang breastfeeding, kasi nagkakaroon na tayo ng mga kakayahan, doon sa kabila naman sumasama nang sumasama ang ating sistema ng pulitika. Kaya yan ay kailangan na nating palitan. Kaya mga nanay sana po suportahan nyo ako dito sa mga bagay na ganito. Sana po 'wag muna kayong maniwala sa mga black propaganda na pinapahayag sa labas ng tunay na korte. At sana po tulungan ninyo ako na maunawaan ang pagbabago ang kailangan sa ating sistema.

I thank the UNICEF, the WHO for helping the Philippines promote breastfeeding. I thank all the NGOs involved in this campaign for their tireless advocacy of this program. And I thank the Congresswoman and the Congressmen for your great interest in this very, very important program for the health of our children and our nation.

I am instructing the DOH and its agency partners, the council for the welfare of children, and I ask all local government units, plus the DepEd and the DSWD, pati na rin yung Philippine Information Agency to prepare their moves to bolster the program's success.

Muli, ating mga mambabatas, ating mga appointive officials, ating mga NGO, ating mga nanay, ating mga anak, mag-kaisa tayo para naman mas umiral ang ating bansa kaysa tuloy na mawatak-watak na dahil sa sobrang pamumulitika.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: Adamson University Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the Call and oath taking of the officers of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Call and oath taking of the officers of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, August 4, 2005]

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And to all of you, thank you very much for your expression of support. Thank you for being the very first organization to express your support for me.

Thank you for being here and for continuing to govern with me inspite of the torrent of black propaganda against me. Thank you for your continuing faith but I won the elections fair and square and nobody ever made any payoffs to anybody in front of me. I can tell you that.

We have much to do, if you remember in my inaugural address, I talked about education for all. And it is very important that we prepare our young people for gainful employment. And that's the important work of our tertiary education, that we produce young people who will be able to find a job. And so it's very important that we are able to do our curriculum in accordance with what will give jobs to our young people.

You know very often, I ask a bright young man or woman graduating from high school, "what do you want to do?" What do you gonna... You know, well, I wanna find a job, etcetera, etcetera, of course. But they're gonna enter college, so what do you gonna work... What are you going to enroll with? I will enroll in customs administration.

Well, first of all, we don't have enough plantilla item in any of the government agencies to be able to absorb all these people taking up all those courses. So I would like to advise you, you know, not to open courses like that or to close them down already. If they are not... If they're gonna end up having no jobs. Nowadays, it's the age of information technology and therefore... And it's the age of technology, so it's important that they have skills. Entrepreneurship is fine for small businesses but if your student does not have a family business ongoing, maybe management is not the best course either. Maybe we should reduce our management courses.

And in fact, I said in my last State of the Nation Address, that the great Filipino dreams a college education and you provide that. But on the other hand, it's not so... You know, it's as much the use of our brain as the use of our hands that provide jobs and therefore state universities and colleges must have an institutional mechanism to provide for the good use of our hands.

And that's the reason why — but it's already being carried out, and I thank you for that — that's the reason why I have instructed that we do a ladderized education system where students who come from voctech schools, if they've taken up so many hours of vocational technical schools, they can be credited for units leading to a bachelor's or associate degree. That way they combine a better potential to get a job and the intellectual and cultural dream to have a college education for our young people. At least one college graduate in every family. That would be our dream.

The dream of a college education has become such an important dream that a whole culture in industry develop around it, the pre-need industry, which was invented in the Philippines and which worked well for many many years. However, unlike other financial institutions like insurance companies, banks and so on, there is really no pre-need code that regulates how it uses its fund and so on. And therefore without a good regulatory framework, what

happen is that many of the investments of these funds turned sour. And now we not only have pre-need plan holders, we have pre-need victims.

Rather than giving them loans to pay their tuition, which is very difficult for the government actually, difficult even for the financial institutions because it's not part of their mandate, it's not part of what's allowed by law.

I have said because GSIS was going to give a one billion... It had a one billion fund, and if the law could only allow them they would have lent money to the pre-need victims or advanced the premium to be charged later to the pre-need companies. But the law doesn't allow them. So I said, why don't we do it this way. Why doesn't GSIS give that dividend to the national government and then the national government allocates it to the state universities and colleges not as tuition fee but as additional assistance. So, we spread out the one billion among you. I guess proportionately as to how many of these pre-need victims you are absorbing, so that they can continue their college education.

Chairman Puno has been really very proactive about how to save the pre-need victims. So I would ask Chairman Puno to be the one to coordinate with the DBM. It cannot go straight from GSIS because there is I think no legal mandate for GSIS to give it to the CHED But there is a legal mandate for GSIS to give dividends to the national government. So, it would be Chairman Puno who will make sure GSIS gives the dividend to the national government. And it will be Chairman Puno who will work with the DBM on allocating among the different state universities and colleges, depends on the record of how many pre-need victims that you absorbed.

The reason for this is not to pay their tuition, because the pre-need companies will owe you the tuition. But rather because in the meantime, you're absorbing them, you have to spend more. Maybe you have to build more classroom. Maybe you have to hire more instructors. So, for this reason that you have more work to do and more expenses, that is the basis of the assistance to you.

And speaking of your work and your expenditures, a lot of you have land grants. I would encourage you to use your land grants. And even those who don't have much land, I would encourage you to go into productive enterprise and use your productive enterprise to finance your educational activities.

I remember when I received an honorary degree in Japan one time, after the honorary degree I got, I was given a reception in the hotel that was built on land owned by the university. So therefore, they earn a lot of money from the hotel and they're able to be competitive in their rates and in their operations.

So, please be free to use your assets for productive activities so that you can use the income from your assets to add to the financing of your operational expenses. I want to empower the state universities and colleges in these various ways.

So once again, to all of you, congratulations!

Let's continue to work on item number two of our ten-point program — education for all.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Call and Oath taking of the Officers of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412063050/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5113&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Mass Oath taking and 7th Founding Anniversary celebration of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa malawakang panunumpa at pagdiriwang ng ika-7 anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag ng Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC)

[Ipinahayag sa Rizal Hall, Malacañang, ika 12 ng Agosto, 2005]

Maraming salamat, Ka Lauro sa inyong pagpakilala sa akin. Nandoon na pala kayo sa probinsiya ngayon. Ibang-iba and aura ninyo.

Binabati ko ang ating mga leader ng VACC itong araw na ito. Ang nagsimula ng VACC, si Dante Jimenez. Congratulations! And belated happy birthday; si Kapitan Martin Diño, ang pangulo ng VACC ngayon. Matagal na kami magkakilala ni Kapitan Diño mula pa kay Baby Echegaray at ngayon salamat sa pagdala ng laban natin kontra sa droga hanggang sa mga barangay; Merly San Pedro, Secretary General ng VACC; ating mga opisyal na narito ngayon lalo na yung mga nakatanggap ng mga parangal; other guests who are receiving their oath of office with our induction and we will be having our photographs later on. But I'm glad that you are here because this is very much related to your concern fighting against crime; General Lomibao and the other awardees; ladies and gentlemen:

Una sa lahat, happy anniversary sa VACC! Congratulations! Sa inyong magandang trabaho.

Kayo ay isa sa pinakapaniniwa... Pinaniniwalaang grupo sa tinatawag nating community pillar sa laban kontra krimen, congratulations! Congratulations! Sa inyong magandang trabaho.

Nakikita ng halos lahat ang pagsubaybay ninyo doon sa ibang apat na pillar kontra krimen. Tama ba ito, General Wycoco? Ang pulis, ang prosecutors, ang hukuman at ang mga preso. Kabalikat ninyo ang mga pulis, at salamat sa award na binigay ninyo kay General Lomibao, congratulations! 'Yung kay General Wycoco naman ay kasama yon sa prosecution, di ba? Dahil yung investigation.

Itong araw na ito dahil kayo ay kasama sa pagsubaybay sa pulis, sabay nating bigyang lakas ng loob ang mga pulis na ipag-ibayo pa ang kanilang ginagawa kontra sa krimen.

Salamat sa mga sinabi niyo, Kapitan at saka Dante, sa mga nagawa nating magsama-sama, sabay-sabay, gabay-gabay kontra sa krimen. 'Yung sinabi ninyo na ang laki ng ating accomplishments kontra sa droga. Kinekuwento nga ni Kapitan Diño na nung araw 100 pesos lamang ang shabu. Ngayon, 250 na. So, times two-and-a-half. Ibig sabihin nuon, proportionately, mas menos na sa kalahati ang problema ng droga sa ating bansa at congratulations! Sa ating partnership ng five pillars of crime prevention and destruction, lalung-lalo na 'yung kontribusyon ng VACC sa laban na ito.

Ngayon napansin ko, pinag-usapan namin ni Secretary Angie Reyes, na — kasi siyempre, sinusubaybay natin 'yung mga figures sa krimen — may pagtaas na naman ng mga krimen. Tinanong ko kay Dante, ano yung tumataas na krimen? Hindi naman yon drugs kasi kung times two-and-a-half ang presyo ng droga, hindi yon ang tumataas. Ang jueteng naman, ang illegal gambling ay mula noong ilang buwan na inatasan ko, nakaraan, na inatasan ko si General Lomibao na labanan yon, halos wala na hanggang ngayon. The longest period in any administration na yung illegal gambling ay almost zero. Ito ay nangyayari ngayon.

At inuulit ko ang aking instruction sa ating mga pulis — ituloy natin at iwasan nating babalik muli na lumaganap itong bawal na sugal.

So, ano yung tumataas na krimen? Ayon kay Dante, ito ay mga robbery. May konting kidnapping. Ito ang mga tinatawag nating economic crimes. Kasama na rin siguro ito dahil sa yung ating ekonomiya, yung problema na nanggagaling lalo na sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa buong mundo. Biro niyo, a year and a half ago, 30 dollars per barrel ang presyo ng krudo. Ngayon, 65 dollars per barrel. Kaya ganun ang nilaki, sobra pa sa doble sa loob ng dalawang taon, kaya siyempre dahil import-dependent tayo sa krudo, nagiging mahal ang mga produktong gumagamit ng krudo pati transportasyon. Kaya importanteng-importante kung lalabanan natin ang krimen ay magkaroon tayo ng mga programa para magkaroon ng ginhawa ang problema ng pagtaas ng krudo sa buong mundo.

Kaya ito ang inaatas ko sa department of energy, yung kanilang energy conservation program at energy independence program. Sa energy independence, halimbawa, kahapon nagpunta ako doon sa isang gasoline station — one of half a dozen new ones o baka walong bago — na gumagamit ng bio-diesel. Paglalagyan niyo ng one percent ng bio-diesel yung gasolina nilo-load, ten percent humahaba ang biyahe, kaya nakaka-save.

Ngayon, yung may ilang mga independents na gumagamit na nito. Yung mga oil majors medyo hindi pa sila handa para gamitin ito sa kanilang pumping station. Pero yung mga consumer, puwede kayong bumili ng botelya ng bio-diesel at puwedeng kayo na ang maglagay. Bawat 100 liters ng krudo na ni-load ninyo, maglagay kayo ng one liter nitong bio-diesel na ito, at hahaba ang inyong biyahe ng ten percent kaya makakaiwas kayo ng almost 120 pesos per full tank.

Yon ang isa sa mga conservation measures na sana ipalaganap natin. Sinasabi ko rin sa DOE na magkampanya sa mga institutions maging gobyerno, maging private sector dahil yung mga kumpanya malalaki ang gastos sa kuryente. There are many ways to be able to save. Una nga yung paggamit ng fluorescent kaysa incandescent. Dito nga sa Malacañang, iniisip ko kung papano natin magawa yon. May mga chandeliers tayo sa mga public areas pero baka sa mga working areas ay puwede nating magawa yung mga bagay... Konti lang naman ang ating mga ceremonial halls, mas marami ang mga working areas. Sana mangyari ito sa mga opisina ng pamahalaan at opisina ng private sector.

At iba pa mayroon pang sinasabi si Secretary Lotilla na capacitor. Maglagay raw ng capacitor sa mga opisina para makabawas din ng ating electric bill. At yung ethanol plant tinutulak pa rin natin yon. At darating na, malapit na yung compressed natural gas na istasyon na nanggagaling sa ibang bansa idi-dismantle doon nilagay dito galing sa Brazil yata dahil Brazil marami silang ginagamit na — ay, hindi. Ethanol plant pala yon — yung compressed natural gas kaya yon ang mga ginagamit natin para maging independent tayo or at least partially independent sa mataas na presyo ng krudo.

So itong mga bagay na ito konektado itong pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at sa ganun ang bilingin at ang krimen lalo na yung mga nakawan.

Yon namang... Dahil tumaas ang presyo ng krudo sa buong mundo tumataas din ang presyo ng fertilizer at sa ganun di yung ating agricultural products — di ba, Tetchie? — nagkakaran ng peligrong tataas. Masyadong tumataas... Ako hindi ako kontento sa kilos ng presyo ng bigas. Ito ay kailangan iwasan natin or hanapan ng ginhawa. At ang isang ginagawa natin dahil ang pagtaas ng presyo ng bigas ay nanggagaling din na malaking bagay sa pagtaas ng presyo ng fertilizer ay nagpa-release ako kay Secretary Panganiban ng ilang daang milyon para magkaroon ng massive distribution ng organic fertilizer para mabawasan ang ating dependence sa oil-based fertilizer. Yon ay upang magkaroon nang ginhawa ang hirap ng tao sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa buong mundo at sa ganun ay mamenos din ang kanilang temptasyon na pumunta sa nakawan.

Ngayon, punta tayo sa enforcement tungkol doon. Inatasan ko si Secretary Angie Reyes na — naalala natin siya ang nagpatigil ng kidnapping sa ating bansa — inatasan kong tumawag siya ng command conference tungkol sa pagbalik ng krimen sa ating lipunan. At yon ay dapat gawin natin dahil kailangan sugpuin na naman natin ang street crime, ang kidnapping, ang robbery, at ituloy din ang laban kontra sa drugs at saka kontra sa bawal na sugal.

Lalo na't doon sa bawal na sugal nariyan na, General Lomibao, si Mayor Edward Hagedorn na hiniling kong maging pinuno nitong krusadang ito dahil ang pangunahing responsibilidad na lumaban sa bawal sa sugal ayon sa

local government code, di ba? Ay ang local government unit na sakop naman ng oversight ng secretary of local government.

Itong ating VACC na isa sa pinakapanipaniwalang organisasyon sa ating community pillar. Nagbabantay kayo sa pulis — salamat sa binigay n'yong outstanding policemen award na outstanding ayon sa inyong pagbantay — nagbabantay kayo sa mga prosecutor at Department of Justice kung saan kasama si General Wycoco na awardee rin n'yo. At tama yung sinabi ninyo mula nung kayo ay naging organisasyon nung 1988 — hindi ba dahil sa krimen kontra sa kapatid ni Dante at sa anak ni Lauro? — ay nag-contribute kayo, you've contributed in no small way to speeding up the investigation, prosecution and trial of 82 cases, 75 of them have resulted in conviction. Success rate ng VACC 92 percent.

Yung napag-usapan natin ang Department of Justice. Sana tulungan ng VACC ang Department of Justice sa huling inatas ko kay Secretary of Justice Raul Gonzalez na tignan itong mga kaso ng mga minors na nasa preso, yung lumabas doon sa international television. Hindi natin pwedeng sabihing wala tayong magagawa doon. Meron tayong magagawa kaya sana VACC, DOJ at iba pang ahensiya magtulungan tayo para mabigyan natin ng mas katarungan yung mga minor offenders or juvenile delinquents na ang kanilang... Ang pagtrato ng ating lipunan sa kanila ay sang-ayon sa ating batas at batas ng buong mundo. Dahil napakaraming krimen ang mga nangyayari. Marami ang nabawasan na: yung drugs, yung kidnapping — although bumabalik pero mas menos pa kaysa sa dati — yung bawal na sugal.

Isa pang dapat babantayan natin ay yung terorismo. Ako bilang pangulo ng Pilipinas wala akong katigil-tigil sumusulat sa ibang mga heads of government na nakikipag-condole sa mga terrorist attack against them. At tayo nagkaroon na naman tayo doon sa Zamboanga. Congratulations! General Lomibao, tatlo na doon sa gumawa nitong pagbombang ito ay nahuli na ninyo. Congratulation! Sa inyong accomplishments.

Sana tulungan din ng VACC ang pulis tungkol dito sa pagbantay sa mga terorista. Dahil ang mga terorista mga strangers na biglang sisipot sa inyong community. Pag meron kayong mga biglang hindi kilala diyan sa barangay kailangan ipaalam sa ating mga pulis.

Pulis, community pillar, prosecution. Congratulations! Sa ating mga prosecutors na ilan diyan ay judge na ngayon. Congratulations! Sa inyong ano.

Kaya community para maiwasan ang krimen. Pulis para mahuli yung mga nagkrimen. Prosecution and DOJ para mabilis ang prosecution. At napaka-importante ang ebidensya. Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan na si... Yung ating mga state prosecutors, mga ating prosecutors ay nabigyan ng premyo. Ako'y nasisiyahan na si General Wycoco rin ay nabigyan ng premyo bilang outstanding investigator.

So, community, police, prosecution, the judiciary. Salamat sa ating mga outstanding na judge na binigyan ng gantimpala or parangal itong araw na ito. Siyempre tayo bilang executive wala tayong pwedeng mautos sa justice sa hukuman. Pero kayo bilang citizens group kayo ang makaka-utos sa kanila hindi ang executive. Kaya napakalaki ang papel ng VACC at ng community pillar para maisigurado na mabilis kumilos sa hukuman itong mga kasong ito. And I congratulate you for what you have done.

At panglima nga ay yung ating correctional system, yung ating mga preso. At gaya nang sabi ko ang lugar ang dapat nasa preso ay yung mga adult na gumawa ng krimen. In fact, yung mga matatanda gusto ko na mabigyan na sila ng pardon pag matanda na sila. In fact, yon ang isinabi ko na noon sa — paalala lang n'yo, atty. Acosta sa Parole Board — na sana pag-retirement age na sila mag-retire na rin mula sa preso. Kasi nagiging masyadong, ano, congested ang ating preso eh kung matanda na yung, ano, yung prisoners siguro nakabayad na rin siya sa ating lipunan. At bigyan na ng lugar, yung lugar niya ibigay niya doon sa mga ibang adult na gumawa ng krimen just recently. Gusto kong ganun. In fact, I wanted to make it yon bang... I even wanted to make it automatic na na pag 70 years old release na. Pero sabi nila hindi raw pwede. Kailangan daw isa-isa ipapaabot sa akin. Ewan ko kung totoo yon, atty. Acosta? Tignan mo na lamang kung totoo yon. Pero ang ating patakaran basta they reach that age ipalabas na sila.

Ngayon nalaman ko naman na merong ilan diyan na kahit na ipapalabas na raw sila wala na raw silang pamilyang tatanggap sa kanila. Kaya tahanan na raw nila yung preso. Masaya na raw sila doon. Malungkot itong komentaryo sa ating lipunan. At yon ang isang dahilan kung bakit hindi dapat automatic kasi baka wala silang mapupuntahan. So itong mga bagay na ito ang gusto nating mga reporma sa ating justice system. Gaya ng sabi ko, yung mga adult, yung mga able-bodied adult yon ang mga dapat nasa preso. ‘Wag yung mga matatandang masyado at huwag naman yung mga bata. Kasi ayon sa batas kapag ikaw ay child offender eh dapat hindi nga aabot hanggang preso, sa welfare. Doon sa may... Di ba kaya may boystown at girlstown tayo. Kapag naman ikaw ay juvenile offender lilitisin ka hanggang sa punto bago magkaroon ng judgment. Tapos ang judgment ng judge — di ba, judge ganito yon? — litis ang juvenile offender parang adult offender at the point of judgment ang sasabihin ng judge you are committed to this institution kaysa sa preso. Ngayon kung papaano yung mga juvenile offender ended up in jail baka ito ay dahil detention awaiting trial. Gawa nang hindi ba yung juvenile offender they go through a trial like any adult.

Ano ang ating solusyon doon sa mga juvenile offenders that are under detention awaiting trial? Ang isang importante siguro — pero kayo ang makakagawa noon, hindi ako makaka-utos sa judge — baka unahin yung mga kaso ng juvenile offender para sa madaling panahon makalabas na sila sa welfare institution kung saan sila dapat nananatili at hindi nakakahalo-halo doon sa mga hardened adult criminals. Yon ang hinihingi ko sa Department of Justice na pag-aralan. Hindi pwedeng sabihin wala tayong magagawa. Meron tayong magagawa, lima tayong pillars of justice.

Kaya itong araw na ito binabati ko muli ang VACC sa inyong magandang trabaho. Ituloy natin ang ating mga success kontra sa drugs, kidnapping, illegal gambling. Labanan natin ang resurgence ng street crime, kidnapping. Labanan natin ang terorismo. At hanapan natin ng paraan na ipagtanggol yung mga kabataan na medyo lumigaw mula sa landas ng batas.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming tayong trabahong kailangang gawin. Good luck! To all of us. ‘Wag natin hayaan na ang sistema ng ating pulitika na masyadong bumubulok na ‘wag nating hayaan na masisira ang gains na nakamit natin at mapigil ang isip natin at gusto nating gawin para sa kapayapaan ng ating bansa.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA’s Speech during the Mass Oath taking and 7th Founding Anniversary Celebration of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412063032/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5111&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Change of Command Ceremony

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Change of Command Ceremony**

[Delivered at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, August 15, 2005]

Thank you very much, Secretary Cruz.

Speaker De Venecia and the members of the legislature both the Senate and the House; General Efren Abu, our immediate past Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; General Senga, our new Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; the major service commanders of the armed forces; the different officials of the Philippine government who are both either elected or appointed by myself or my predecessors; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; former chiefs of staff; former secretaries of defense; officers, men and women of the armed forces of the Philippines; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Una sa lahat, troop commander give ‘Tikas Pahinga.’

Una sa lahat, gaya nang sabi ni General Senga at sinabi na rin ni General Efren Abu, gusto kong pasalamatan ang ating sandatahang lakas para sa matagumpay niyong pagbabantay sa ating demokrasya lalung-lalo na nitong mga nakaraang buwan. At binanggit ni General Senga yung July 8, 2005. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Thank you for your steadfastness.

Si General Abu ay sana magre-retire ilang linggong nakaraan, ngunit hiningi ko na manatili siya para maisigurado na yung pinaghahandaang eleksiyon sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao ay matupad. And I take this opportunity to congratulate the armed forces under the leadership of General Abu for the peacefulness of the elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

May I also add that this is the first election in the autonomous region in which the President of the Philippines did not interfere. I chose to break tradition because we want to make true and meaningful the autonomy of the region of Muslim Mindanao and thus put forward and move forward the upholding of democracy and the rule of law. For as long as the rule of law is enforced by the integrity of the uniform and the professionalism of good soldiers, our nation will endure, our nation will survive any upheaval or crisis.

This ceremony is symbolic of the permanence of our high ideals as a nation and people. Ideals forged in blood and service over more than a century.

Today, we face not only domestic controversies but also an oil crisis of global proportions compounded by a global resurgence of terrorism.

You of course know your roles — soldiers of the Philippines — in the battle against terrorism. But even in the oil crisis, you are called upon to face material constraints even as you are called upon to keep the offensive and the initiative against the enemies of the state. For the rest of us in civilian government, we are called upon to break our partisan bickering and focus our national energy on the oil and energy crisis even as we assure and I assure as commander-in-chief that all the armed forces shall enforce the rule of law.

When I installed General Efren Abu as chief of staff last year, as he said, I bade him to implement specific instructions most lastingly for the legacy of the armed forces. I bade him to implement a fresh wave of reforms in

the armed forces in line with the findings of the joint defense assessment with the United States and also the Feliciano Commission.

Pinanindigan niya ang aking pagtitiwala sa kanyang kakayahan. Kuwenento nga ni General Abu sa atin yung mga ginawa niya sa mga reformang ito. Yung mga paglilitis na sinimula niya and his overhaul of military headquarters especially the abolition of J-6. But also going beyond that, all these resulted in a leaner organization and a more cost-effective and transparent distribution and utilization of personnel, logistics and financial resources. Congratulations! General Abu.

And now, I welcome General Gene Senga to the helm of the armed forces.

And as I do so, let me tell you a personal story about him. A few years ago, General Senga was chosen by the board of generals to head J-2. One of the most important, most glamorous, most powerful, most sensitive positions in the armed forces. But as the assignment was being implemented, a top official of the national security establishment vigorously objected, thus, the move was unceremoniously aborted. I'm sure causing General Senga no small amount of disappointment and embarrassment. Nonetheless, his true mettle showed in that crisis in his career. He accepted the unusual not to say... The unusual, to say the least, the unusual change of instructions in midstream with a perfect discipline of an officer and a gentleman. And he moved on. He moved on to win the battle of Buliok and then to oversee the rehabilitation of that community.

General Senga may not have made it to J-2 but how he handled himself in that situation and afterwards, affirmed in my mind the conviction by many that he indeed deserves to be Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Congratulations! General Senga.

I reveal this story because we need role models especially for the young officers. Especially at a time like this, as General Abu says, "when there are so many attempts to drive a wedge within the senior officers and the young officers." Some of them, some of those who tried to do this tried to do this out of sheer sensationalism. But others tried to do this because of real effort to cause breaks in the chain of command.

As General Abu has said, "our mass media has been presenting to the nation different faces of the young officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines." We have seen of course the heroic faces of young officers who've sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. But we've also seen reports on young officers accused of conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman and finding themselves in controversial roles.

All of these young officers have pledged themselves to serving the country through a difficult career in the AFP. But it is important at this point in time when there are so many efforts to drive this wedge. It is important for the leadership of the AFP, especially under someone who has personified the behavior of an officer and a gentleman under extremely difficult circumstances to himself and his career like General Senga, to define for the entire organization the correct path to be fostered. Idealism, self-sacrifice and courage are not the monopoly of youth, for I have seen in our senior officers like General Senga the same outstanding qualities. I've seen that in General Abu. I've seen that in many other senior officers.

Thus, I instruct the new AFP leadership under General Senga to engage in renewed dialogue with our young officers to show them that all officers, regardless of length of service, are equally committed to the values for which they have dedicated their lives.

Public attention is continuously focused on the unusual circumstances of those who engage in mutiny, or those who stray into criminality, or those who stray into political controversy. While notoriety and scandal may sometimes highlight the dark side of the military institution, like the dark side of other institutions in this degenerated political system — a system that has continuously degenerated over the years — we must constantly tell the tales of our heroes, senior as well as junior officers and enlisted men and women, who have sacrificed their lives so that the nation may survive. We must always remind ourselves, as General Abu said, "that the vast majority of the armed forces are still true heroes of the Republic of the Philippines."

General Senga, I expect you to keep the Armed Forces of the Philippines within the constitution and do not allow any partisan quarters to undermine the chain of command.

I expect you to further reform and professionalize the command as your predecessors have initiated this effort.

I expect you to finish off the terrorists while supporting the peace process.

I have seen you in action. I have seen your military prowess as I said in the battle of Buliok and others. But I have also seen your commitment to the peace process in the rehabilitation of communities in the Liguasan marsh.

I expect you to help our country in the fight against poverty by upgrading the role of the engineering brigades in this fight whether in remote country roads or in major infrastructure projects that need to catch up with a quick deadline.

General Senga, may I say, as I've said to General Abu, I'm proud that he was my chief of staff.

Today, I tell you, General Senga, I am proud to have you as the new chief of staff, and I'm proud of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Congratulations!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Change of Command Ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412063022/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5110&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Export Congress 2005, August 18, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the National Export Congress 2005**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City, August 18, 2005]

HELPING TO ACHIEVE ONE PHILIPPINES

First of all, I want to thank you also for participating in governance. I want to thank you for participating in the crafting of the Philippine export development plan for 2005-2007. I want to thank you also for participating in the export development council through which I'm able to learn of your issues and concerns. And I am thanking you for inviting me to be here with you today once again in our joint decision-making. Thank you very much for your support.

Peter has mentioned some of the issues — issues that we're seeking to address in the export plan; issues we've talked about in our export development council meetings; issues that are being taken up in this Congress. And I know that some of these issues especially the ones that Peter mentioned are urgent.

So, I'm instructing Peter to make sure that the different departments act on them as soon as possible for quick wins within the next six months.

For one, we must address our small and medium enterprises need for financing. Well, I see Mel Salanzo here in SB Corporation. I suppose she will be the point person for the SME financing.

And as Peter said, we need more improvements in our education curricula to fit the needs of our investors. Education is the biggest single investment we must make in our nation. This includes more investment in technical training and vocational schools. And it means maintaining and enhancing our competitive advantage in English proficiency. We cannot be — and maybe shouldn't be the low- cost provider of labor in the world — but we can be the best-priced English-speaking nation in the world. And we cannot let that advantage slip.

When we talk about education... Well, that's what the reason why one of the main reforms we are making in education is that were strengthening math, science and English. And I have asked our Cabinet members — and I'll ask Peter to ensure that this happens — that if we're gonna talk about additional compensation for teachers, we should make it based on an incentive for teachers who will take up more studies in Math, Science and English. They are the ones who are going to get the incentives. That way we will improve education in this area.

And as far as VocTech training is concerned, it you remember in my State of the Nation Address I said, every Filipinos dream is to have a college education. But what you need are VocTech graduates. So therefore, we have put in a system, a ladderized education system, so that VocTech units can be credited for a college education, then you will have your skilled manpower and the families will have their great Filipino dream.

The other day, I was at a meeting or a dinner. I had a dinner with the members and officers of the fire brigade in the Chinese community. And of course these are businessmen, some of them exporters and they were telling me also... As one of the exporters was telling me about her woes. She said that she's becoming very uncompetitive — she is exporting plastics — because there are so many fees being collected: transport fees, export fees. I was surprised to hear about that because I remember when I was in the Department of Trade and Industry, Lenny and some of you were there with us at that time. Remember we put up that export documentation center where the exporters could export documents in half an hour? Yeah. Remember we had that? It's still there. But did we have all those fees that they are talking about now?

Great! So, I asked her, “you know there is an Exporters’ Congress? Are you joining? She said, “no, because I’m not a leader of the, you know, association and stuff like that.” But I hope, therefore, that I mean, at least I got it from somebody on the ground, so I’m looking forward to this issue being also addressed. So, thank you, Peter for telling me that we are going to reduce that.

Indeed, now is the time for government and business to close ranks. To enforce common solutions not only to... How to make our exports more competitive but solutions to the oil crisis and push the economy for final take off. As you know, we have set the course of economic reform and Gary Teves will make sure that we will not alter direction. We may hit rough seas but we will hold a steady course.

We have today and we’ll have tomorrow a fiscally responsive budget. Imagine we are 35 billion pesos below the deficit ceiling. So, we will have a fiscally responsible budget that pays down our debt, invest in our people and lives within its means. Our budget mess and economic woes go back to decades ago when we acquired the habit of borrowing ourselves into generations of debt. Young people today are condemned for actions of another generation. And I will not pass on our debts to a new generation of Filipinos.

That’s why I thank Louie and Junie and their colleagues the passage of the revenue legislation by Congress is the cornerstone of our economic recovery plan. It is morally and economically correct. The benefits of new revenue are vast. They allow the nation to pay off our debts. They allow our nation to invest in social welfare. They allow our nation to build up the vital infrastructure you need to create jobs for the next generation of Filipinos. Without these new revenues, we will continue to lag behind the region and the world. Revenue generation is an investment that’s long overdue. To do anything less than forge ahead and make the investments we need and the nation would be a major setback for our country.

People who oppose new revenues oppose moving the nation forward and creating one united and modern Philippines.

The real issue today affecting our people is not new revenues but the global problem. The issue affecting today our people is the global price of oil. The rise in oil prices is a global problem that’s affecting consumers in developed and developing countries alike. Of course, that reality provides little comfort for those here in the Philippines faced by these global challenges in their homes and villages. Forceful and drastic steps may be needed to prevent a worse case scenario and we will continue to need full public understanding and cooperation.

The government has taken action to provide price relief to our poorest people with basic fuel and our most vital industries such as transportation which uses a 58 percent of our fuel to minimize cost to owners, employees and commuters. There are gasoline stations pumping cheaper and more efficient fuel and there will be more in the next few weeks. And there are additives now in the market, because we encourage this investment three years ago, that make each full tank go a longer way and thus save on fuel cost.

On the part of government, I’ve mandated the agencies to lower fuel energy used by at least 10 percent. And my Cabinet members, especially Vice President De Castro and Peter Favila, Secretary of Trade, are tasked with making spot checks to ensure there’s no price gouging going on.

To lead by example on the part of government, I take this opportunity in addition, to direct the government agencies, GOCCs and state universities and colleges to enforce the following measures:

First, force a ration of fuel for all government vehicles.

Two, the 10 percent mandatory savings on electricity and fuel cost that I announced earlier is only the acceptable floor for the effort, much greater than 10 percent should be the working target.

Three, public officials should stop using gas-guzzling vehicles. I asked my aides today, “are we using a gas-guzzling vehicle?” They said, your back up car is one. Okay, we will have to look for another back up car then, I said.

Fourth, accelerate the shift of government fuel to use bio-diesel or ethanol or compressed natural gas.

Fifth, open up the investment arena, Peter, for geothermal energy as soon as possible.

Today, I asked business to respond by providing transportation subsidies to workers. I don't know how you'll do it? Maybe buses, car pools, whatever it is. Eliminating air-conditioning and unnecessary energy usage until prices come back down.

I would also like to consult you again, because we should be together in policy decision-making, regarding the suggestion of returning all government offices except those in service frontlines to the four-day work week without extending work hours on the remaining regular work days.

Well, is that the response to my consultation?

We did it last summer, it was controversial. We saved money but some said that what we saved was not worth the inconvenience. But of course the price of oil then was not as high as it is now. So, it's time to examine now whether what we saved will already be worth the inconvenience, and I ask you the private sector to be the one to advise us on that.

And I ask our people to respond through increase conservation and decrease the use of unnecessary travel and energy use.

And today, may I call on Congress again to pass new energy conservation legislation to decrease our reliance on oil and increase our self reliance on ethanol, bio-diesel, solar, wind and natural gas from here at home.

There are those who seem to think that the answer to everything is to raise their voice, shake their fist and do nothing at all. There are those for whom it's all politics all the time. No plan, just rhetoric. If we could harness all their hot air, we would have no energy problem at all.

But let's look at the long pull.

Our administration has the lowest inflation rates in 40 years. Right, Peter? Gary? The highest number of jobs generated in the last 20 years.

We had the highest income growth rate for the poorest sectors and the most equitable income distribution profile in 20 years. We are pulling up the poor without tearing the rich down.

Our stock market has been number three in Asia through half of this year.

We have a political firewall protection that our nation built on a military and middle class uncompromisingly loyal to the Constitution and the rule of law.

And today I also want to pay homage to our greatest export. Most of you here are commodities exporters or manufacturing exporters or service exporters. One of the things that Peter mentioned is about how much we need agriculture and DENR. So, I'd like to announce that I've asked Secretary Ermita, but maybe Peter Favila should do this executive order because he had mentioned it. I want to cluster DENR, DAR and D.A. into one cluster, and Mike Defensor being the most senior of the three Cabinet secretaries that are there, I will make him the chairman of that cluster. The idea is to make agri-business an important source of export.

But while I thank you all for exporting commodities, manufacturers and services, our greatest export — and I must pay homage to them also — are our overseas Filipinos who are eight million strong and are the backbone of the new global workforce. They've given us from latest figures a 30 percent increase in our remittances this year. A few

couple of months ago, I was praising them for the 19 percent but the latest figure is a 30 percent increase. And I thank them for that.

But of course, I certainly hope for the day when we have the economic vitality and the opportunity here to beep our best and brightest in our shores. This reality underscores the challenge of two Philippines — one that works, one that doesn't; one that is poised for economic take off, one that's burdened by the weight of a political system that doesn't work; one that exports in increasing numbers — and I thank you for challenging yourselves to produce 50 billion dollars in exports next year and generate more jobs — the other one, the political system that's a hindrance to our national progress.

I want one Philippines, where the economy, social justice and the political system works for the people at every level; where good government begins at the people's doorstep in the barangay and does not end before the closed door of a bureaucrat in Metro Manila.

I want you to help me achieve that one Philippines.

And I cannot miss the chance to talk about one export that has risen to the top of her game and does the Philippines proud — Cristeta Comerford, who is now the most visible chef in the world as the new Executive Chef for the White House in Washington, DC.

Congratulations, Cristeta! But you are just the epitome... You are the epitome today of the great work that all our exporters have been doing this many several years.

To all of you exporters, congratulations!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Energy Conservation Command Conference, August 19, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Energy Conservation Command Conference**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, August 19, 2005]

DEALING WITH THE ENERGY PROBLEM

We all know that an oil crisis hovers over us. The price of oil is 63 dollars in the U.S. market today. On the domestic and as Popo showed, it's doubled, more than doubled since last year.

On the domestic side, household budgets will be spread more thinly. *Ako ay humihingi ng paumanhin sa sambayanan lalung-lalo na yung mga manggagawa* and the transport sectors.

The attitude we need is calm concern, tempered by a keen solidarity and awareness of the best collective means to meet this challenge.

This is a strategic global problem. And I'm directing our Secretary of Energy to work closely with the Secretary of Foreign Affairs to exert all diplomatic efforts to either get cheaper oil or more stable supply arrangements. We must act globally and locally.

We launched our 'Galing Pilipino' Energy Conservation Program last June with the support of several important players in the private sector. And one of the most important recommendations we made for the households was to change their bulbs from incandescent to fluorescent.

Today, I was... We've lessened the wattages of the ceremonial lights. But today I was walking around the residential portion of Malacañang and the tech... The utility people were changing our lights from incandescent to fluorescent.

Several businesses have also responded since that June by providing transport to their workers. And bus operators who were loathe to think of fixed bus terminals and trip scheduling are embracing these ideas. And I encouraged MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando to continue with this effort.

I thank the oil companies and gasoline station dealers for being here today and supporting our energy efficiency and conservation program. *Yung pinirmahan nila kanina* was an agreement that the dealers, the gasoline stations will shorten their operating hours. This has been done in Thailand and the estimated savings in consumption in Thailand was 5 percent. So we hope that this important measure will also bring our people to the energy conservation way of life. That's what E.C. stands for — energy conservation.

And well, I'd like to commend Flying V... I'd be grateful if the different oil gasoline dealers and oil companies would follow the lead of Flying V and carry biodiesel in your stations nationwide. Biodiesel additives — according to the people who've used them, that's why they keep going back to use this kind of diesel — stretches mileage and therefore generate savings on fuel even if per liter it is more expensive. The mileage that's been experienced by the people who bought it is more.

I encourage diesel-using vehicle owners to try these blends. Of course, it's hard for us to expect that overnight those who do their own refining like Petron, shell would pre-blend the diesel, the biodiesel. But what they're willing to do is to cany — remember all these gasoline stations they have their supermarket types of services — what they're

willing to do is to carry the blend in bottles so that the individual gasoline consumer will buy the bottle and blend it himself. In other words, for every 100 liters of gasoline — ah, diesel, ‘no. Diesel — the recommendation is to put one liter of the biodiesel blend to go a longer way.

In September... No, not in September. On August 29 some gasoline stations will start selling ethanol-blend fuels. So we hope to be there on August 29 for the launching of the ethanol fuel. This is first to use imported ethanol. But even at that the imported ethanol is cheaper than the imported gasoline. And soon we will be starting up the construction of domestic ethanol production facilities. And that is going to be our real future in energy conservation.

The compressed natural gas station will be arriving about the third week of September, and by December of this year, we hope to have 200 buses running on compressed natural gas from Malampaya.

The other one that is a very big savings is the LPG substitute for regular gasoline. Many taxis are already using this. But the big gasoline stations are also willing to carry this like Petron gasoline stations. The important thing though is that the vehicle itself must have a conversion kit from gasoline to LPG, but then it will end up cheaper.

I call on Congress... I have called on Congress to pass new legislation to decrease our reliance on oil and increase our reliance on indigenous and renewable energy. And I’m very happy that they consider it a big priority.

I thank the local government units — they’re not here today but I’ve been meeting with them — that have begun to saddle up for the long ride. This crisis will bring out the best and the worst of leaders. We shall see who are the champions of the people and we shall see who are the servants only of themselves.

Total focus on energy conservation is needed, away from the arena of destructive politics. Although my detractors want to pull me away from my prime responsibility, and force greater suffering among the people.

I’m instructing the National Security Adviser to come up with a phased threat assessment ranging from low to worst case scenarios, with the corresponding action plans involving community back up.

The watch on terrorism which tends to take advantage of situations like this will be sustained with vigor, while syndicated criminal groups will be kept at bay with the support of vigilant communities. I’m instructing the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Committee to put up a task force against heinous crimes to be headed by the secretary of interior and local government, Angie Reyes.

Ladies and gentlemen of the national agencies, GOCCs and state universities and colleges, I called you here so that Popo could inform you officially and personally by his presentation of the new memorandum circular directing the entire government to implement energy efficiency and conservation measures. And we expect strict compliance, that’s why you’re all here.

We must set the example and take the lead. The government being the biggest entity in our country, the biggest employer with two million employees can certainly take the lead.

I’m instructing Secretary Lotilla to assist me in following through on the strict government measures that must be taken. This means... You know, in carrying out the goals that were set out in the circular, some concrete manifestations of this would be that the public must see less of convoys of gas guzzlers careening in traffic with their sirens blaring and calling attention to official profligacy. As president, I’ve even asked my own security people, “how do we reduce our gas guzzling convoy?” Well, they said I do need two heavy-duty bulletproof cars. But the rest of my convoy shall be diesel-fueled.

The public must also see less of government vehicles on the streets during weekends and less of these government vehicles even bringing kids to school. *Sabi nga ni Noli pati sa pamamalangke*. The other night, I had a dinner with some businessmen. Oh, yeah the fire brigades, Chinese businessmen, and one of them was telling me that he went somewhere and he saw a government vehicle with the driver inside — the owner was already in the building having

a meeting whatever it was — and the air condition on. So he called the attention of the driver. That's a good citizen. But on the other hand, it means that we really have to inculcate energy conservation habits in our own bureaucracy.

Gas rationing is a possibility in a worst case scenario where a severe shortage could force allocations to serve prime security, social and economic imperatives, but even now we must have it in the government agencies, in the GOCCs, and in the state universities and colleges. I hope to do a spot check one of these days with Popo on gas rationing within a government entity.

I'm also instructing Secretary Lotilla to consult with the private sector — I already opened the possibility yesterday in the exporters Congress — and now with you, the public sector, on reviving the 4-day work week for the bureaucracy. It's gonna be very important for Pat Sto. Tomas to participate in this consultation because, of course, the ones who will do this will be the bureaucracy.

In other words, we shall deal with the energy problem with responsible governance.

And I thank you all for being here. And I thank you starting today or maybe some of you have already started earlier, let us go with the E.C. way of life — the Energy Conservation way of life.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the 21st anniversary overnight celebration of El Shaddai – DWXI Prayer Partnerships Foundation International, Inc. [Filipino] Talumpati

ng

Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Pangulo ng Pilipinas

Sa magdamagang pagdiriwang ng ika-21 anibersaryo ng El Shaddai – DWXI Prayer Partnerships Foundation International, Inc.

[Ipinahayag sa Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila, ika 20 ng Agosto, 2005]

Maraming salamat, Brother Mike. At happy, happy, birthday! Mula sa milyung-milyong pilipinong humahanga sa inyo.

Reverend VICS, reverend fathers, mga opisyal ng ating bansa, narito si Vice President De Castro, Speaker De Venecia, Senator Mar Roxas, Congressman Bacani, Mayor Atienza, Mayor Sonny Belmonte, iba't-iba pang mga mayor, at mga kapatid na anak ni Yahweh El Shaddai, happy anniversary sa ating lahat!

Isa sa malaking karangalan ng aking buhay ay sa 21 years na buhay ng prayer partners ng Yahweh El Shaddai, ako ay kasama ninyo sa nakaraang 14 years. Salamat sa ating pagkakasama sa isa't-isa.

Naalala ko noong ako ay hindi pa bise presidente, kailangan ng protocol at saka ng security, taun-taon apat na beses nagkakasama tayo overnight. At noong lumipat nga yung senado dito sa PICC, kahit na sa regular na gawain, nakakasama pa ako. Kaya nasanay na rin ako na pakinggan ang mga payo ng ating servant leader, si Brother Mike Velarde.

Yung prayer partnership ng Yahweh El Shaddai 21 years old. Nagsimula noong 1984, noong napakalubha ang sitwasyon ng ating pulitika na nagpalubha sa sitwasyon ng ating ekonomiya. At si Brother Mike ay isa doon sa mga... Dahil sa malalim na pananampalataya, ay siya ay nakapag-ahon sa kanyang sariling hirap sa ekonomiya. At yung pagbasbas ng Panginoon sa kanya ay sinimulan niya ipahayag sa DWXI at sa ganun marami rin ang nagkaroon ng malaking pananampalataya at pag-asa sa panginoon dahil ang mensaheng ipinaabot ni Brother Mike sa atin ay kung tayo ay may pananampalataya, babasbasan na tayo ng Panginoon, hindi lamang doon sa langit kung hindi dito na rin sa ating mundo, sa ating buhay ngayon.

Kaya naalala ko meron pang-cover story tungkol kay Brother Mike. Ang tawag sa kanya, "The Prophet of Profit" kasi ngayon tinuro na kung tayo ay nananampalataya, magbabasbas ang Diyos sa ating pangangailangan ngayon pa dito sa ating buhay, at lalo na siyempre doon sa kabilang buhay sa langit pagkatapos.

Mula sa mga panahong yon, gaya nang sabi ni Brother Mike, ang dami na ring karanasan na naghubog sa partnership ng Yahweh El Shaddai at saka sa liderato rin ni Brother Mike sa sambayanan at sa ating lipunan.

Kung noong araw sa mga malubhang panahon ng ekonomiya, si Brother Mike ay naging "Prophet of Profit" para hindi tayo mawalaan ng pag-asa. Ngayon siya naman ay nahubog ng Panginoon bilang "Prophet of Reconciliation."

Sa kaniyang statement kanina bilang birthday statement niya, hindi niya pinag-usapan ang kaniyang sarili, ang pinag-usapan niya ay panalangin para sa kapayapaan at katatagan ng ating pulitika at ng ating ekonomiya. Praise Brother Mike! Praise the Lord for giving us Brother Mike!

Ganun na nga... Malubha...Hindi malubha ang buhay ng pulitika. Noong 21 years na karanasan ng prayer partnership ay nakita natin ang pulitika ng ating bansa, sa halip ng makatulong sa ating ekonomiya na umahon sana...At nagpapalubog dito. Nagkaroon tayo ng tatlong Edsa, nagkaroon tayo ng siyam na kudeta, panahon na talaga na makinig tayo sa panawagan ng Panginoon na pinapahayag sa atin ni Brother Mike ang panawagan ng kapayapaan at rekonsilyasyon.

Para sa akin, matagal nang pinapayo ni Brother Mike iyon sa inyong lingkod. Kaya noong June 30, 2004, noong ako ay nanumpa bilang pangulo, nakatindig ako dito mismo sa lugar na ito, at nagbigay ako ng aking 10-point agenda na gusto kong maging pamana ko sa ating bansa. At yung pangsampung punto doon, sabi ko, gusto ko na mahilom na ang hidwaan ng Edsa 1, 2 and 3.

Ngayon, inuulit ni Brother Mike yung panawagang rekonsilyasyon, yung panawagang pagkakaisa. At ako naman bilang pangulo — at salamat kay Brother Mike sa malaking suporta sa akin sa halalan noong 2004, ako nga ay naging pangulo. Salamat sa payo at sa panawagan — at bilang pangulo ng Pilipinas, handa akong gumawa ng hakbang na manawagan sa aking mga katunggali, magkaisa na tayo para ang pulitika ay hindi masira ang sana maging take off ng ating ekonomiya.

Sabi nga ni Brother Mike, maghanap tayo ng formula na uubra, na katanggap-tanggap sa pinakamadaling panahon na magkaisa. Ito rin ang aking hinahanap. Ito rin ang aking panalangin. At itong gabing ito sa birthday ni Brother Mike, ang aking birthday wishes ay siyempre number one, kanyang parating tagumpay sa kaniyang mga hangarin. Pero number two, higit sa lahat, yung hangarin niyang magkaisa ang ating bansa.

Ano itong formulang ito na magagawa at kagustuhan ng panginoon, ito ang ating hahanapin. Gawa na ang ating pag-iisip, pag-iisip ni Brother Mike ng mga formula, pero higit sa lahat ang pag-iisip at ang dakilang kagustuhan ng ating Panginoon — iyon ang ating hahanapin na paraan.

Kung papaano tayo magkakaisa, ang aking panalangin ay mahanap ko ito bilang pangulo sa divine will. Ang dinadal ko sa divine will ay ganito: “I am nothing, God is all. Father, I love you. Come divine will to think in my mind, to speak in my mouth, to see with my eyes, to listen in my ears, to breathe in my breathing, to move in my motion, to suffer in my suffering.” Sa ganun ang kagustuhan ng panginoon ay magiging kagustuhan ko at kagustuhan nating lahat. Alam ko kagustuhan niyang magkaisa ang ating bansa. Alam ko yung paraan kagustuhan niyang hanapin natin sa panalangin sa kanya. Magpakumbaba tayong lahat at hindi isipin na alam natin lahat ng sagot. Ang sagot ay nandoon kay Yahweh El Shaddai.

Kaya kung noong araw nung kalubhaan ng ekonomiya, nanalig tayo sa Panginoon na kung tayo ay aasa sa kanya, bibigyan niya tayo ng ginhawa sa ating buhay ngayon pa man sa mundo. Ngayon din, manalangin tayo, umasa tayo na kung tayo ay haharap sa kanya at hanapin ang kanyang kagustuhan, bibigyan niya tayo ng paraan kung papaano magkaisa ang ating bansa. At alam na alam ko, isa sa mga gagamitin niya para sa pagkakaisa ay walang iba kung hindi ang servant leader, si Brother Mike Velarde.

Happy birthday, Brother Mike! At happy anniversary muli sa ating lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA’s Speech during the 21st Anniversary Overnight Celebration of El Shaddai – DWXI Prayer Partnerships Foundation International, Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412062926/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5106&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 10th Anniversary of Microsoft Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 10th Anniversary of Microsoft Philippines**

[Delivered at the NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig City, August 25, 2005]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Secretary Peña for your introduction.

Secretary Favila; Undersecretary Cruz; Mr. Rosini, welcome to the Philippines; Mr. Javier; Mr. Moore; Mr. Forman; officers and employees as well as partners and friends of Microsoft Philippines; representatives of the ICT sector; members of the business community; guests; ladies and gentlemen, good evening. It's a great evening. Congratulations! Microsoft on your 10th anniversary.

I thank Microsoft and I congratulate you on your 10th anniversary, but more than that, I thank you that on this your 10th year of operation in the Philippines you're providing 300 million pesos in technology grants to the Philippines. Thank you for your support for our communities.

These are grants to the Philippines in software, training and cash, much to the benefit of public servants. Thank you also for increasing your local partners to the tune of 1,200 businesses you'll be supporting, adding 30,000 new jobs in our country. That's a great contribution on your 10th anniversary. Thank you also for launching the new program 'Bintana' — the Philippine version or Tagalog version or Taglish version of windows. Thank you for having 'Bintana' just for the Philippines.

Microsoft is not just one of the best known brands in the world, it is a force for good. And you are a force in our nation's struggle towards unity because to have unity in our island nation with a big digital divide, we need advances in ICT, in information and communication technology and software.

Indeed, we need unity. We need to be one Philippines, not two Philippines. We need to have one Philippines that works, not one Philippines that doesn't... That works and one that doesn't work. We need the only one Philippines. We need to have one Philippines made up of those working to facilitate the economic take off of the country, and Microsoft is part of that. We don't want the other Philippines made up of those who are hampering it.

We need only one Philippines. One Philippines who are introducing reforms in the poisonous political system. We don't want the other Philippines that thrive in a poisonous political system.

We want only one Philippines made up of those working for national unity. We don't want the other Philippines made up of those fueling national discord. We want one Philippines making up... Made up of those working for national development and progress. We don't want the other Philippines made up of those advancing for national doom and disaster,

We want one Philippines made up of those who are for a better future like you who are here in this room. We don't want the other Philippines made up of those who want to destroy our future.

I thank Microsoft for being part of that Philippines that helped us to be poised for take off. And I thank Microsoft for what you are doing to bridge the digital divide, to bridge the poverty gap and therefore to promote more unity in our country.

Thank you Microsoft. And may you have many, many more years and many more investments and expansions in the Philippines.

Muchas gracias.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 10th Anniversary of Microsoft Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412062918/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5105&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 60th Victory Day Celebration of the Surrender of General Yamashita

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 60th Victory Day Celebration of the Surrender of General Yamashita

[Delivered at the Kiangnan Central Elementary School Grounds, Kiangnan, Ifugao, September 02, 2005]

Thank you very much, Senator Gordon, Legislative Chairman of the Committee to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of the Philippines.

Congressman Sol Chungalao, the people of Ifugao headed today by Vice Governor Prudenciano — please convey our condolence to Governor Cappleman — the other governors who are here today in full force. thank you very much for joining us in this important celebration.

The officials of the municipal City of Kiangnan headed by Mayor Albert Indunan, naimbag nga... bigat pay? Bigat yo amin, apo; Secretary Durano and the other officials who composed the committee to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of the Philippines; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps headed by Ambassador Yamazaki whose countryman who's General Yamashita; I'd like to greet also Ambassador Wu of China, Ambassador Senevirathna of Sri Lanka, Ambassador Guashem of Bangladesh; of course, the son of Kiangnan, the Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals Justice Brawner who on September 14 will be the next Commissioner of the Commission on Elections; all my fellow workers in government; Santiago Balaho; Board member; and the other veterans who are here today and who are not here today, thank you for liberating us this generation.

Gagayyem ken kakabsat iti kiangnan ken ti intero nga Ifugao umuna kayo ug Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin ta siyempre ag suporta kayo kenyak kanayon Dios ti agngina.

Maykadua, kablawdanda kayo amin ta saan laing ti Rice Terraces ti attraction tuy Ifugao no dikit ti istorya ti kultura nangruna ti Yamashita surrender, the end of the second world war for the Philippines.

Sixty years ago in this place, a great storm ended. a war ended as the Japanese General Tomoyuki Yamashita walked into the lines of the allied forces from that home economics building that we see over here. We recall that day today even as sadly we still live in two Philippines: the Philippines poised for economic take off, and the Philippines whose take off is being dragged down by international terrorism and a degenerated political system.

We recall that great day today, the end of a war, and we remember the participants in that war. Our allies in the Asia-Pacific, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, many others. And we recall that up to today the United States and our other allies are our partners in upholding democracy and the rule of law and the security of our nation against terrorism.

We recall that great day today, and on recalling that great day today, we recognize that today Japan is our partner in our economic take off, our biggest source of official development assistance and among our major partners in trade, investment and tourism. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

The major players here were the Filipinos, Japanese, the Americans.

And up to today, we recognize the essential role of Japan and the United States together with China which also recently celebrated the end of the war in China in the economic and political security of our region and our country.

Today, we commemorate the end of a war and the unity and solidarity that came thereafter, a unity and solidarity that is now endangered by degenerated political system. The folly of war is very much like the scourge of a

degenerated political system. It stinks the people with hunger and anguish. We must reform this political system if we will be true to the sacrifices of those that perished in bringing about the end of the second world war. We must bring about a system where political warfare — yes, there may be — but where political warfare does not drag down the war against poverty and terror.

And so on this day, as we celebrate the end of a war and the beginning of unity in the region, the Asia-Pacific region and in the world, I once again call for unity within our country. I make this call to friends and foes alike. I make this call for unity in our country and I make this call for unity in our Asia-Pacific region in the face of the steepest increase in the world price of oil in history. Two days ago or three days ago, it was 70 dollars and then it shot up to what? Is it 81 or 87? The steepest price increase. And let me take this opportunity to greet our special guest and also to condole with the United States on the devastating effects of your latest hurricane including the impact on oil supplies.

We have a major challenge that we must all be united against, not just in the Philippines but in the region and in the world, and that is the specter of the economic dislocation from the steepest oil price increase in history.

Iso nga kakabsat ken gagayyem agma-maysa tayo ta narigat unay ti pa nagtaas ti presyo ti langis han laeng ti Pilipinas to dikit diay Amerika, ken diay Japan, ken didiay duma duma pay nga paglian agtulong-tulong tayo, tayo nga Pilipino ken tayo kadua dagiti karuba tayo in the Asia-Pacific, kadua ti Amerika, ken Japan, ken amin nga allies tayo idi giyera allies bali tatta, ti sabali nga giyera, the war against the oil crisis and the poverty that it may cause once again.

During the war, brave soldiers fought in epic battles from the Ilocos coast and Cagayan Valley, to the mountains of what is now Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc. and we celebrate today the heroism of Santiago Balaho, probably the oldest remaining living veteran in our country today, turning 95 soon.

I will not recount the stories of the war and the end of the war because they have been recounted in chronology and in anecdotes by our previous speakers. But I join them in greeting our veterans and I would especially like to recall Lieutenant Colonel Romulo Maniquez, Major Paredes, Lieutenant Santiago Balaho who fought the first engagement right here in Kiangnan. I would like also to recall Lieutenant Marcario Abarillo whose unit began the negotiations for the surrender and the final road to peace.

Just like them, kagaya nila, isaalang-alang natin ang kapakanan ng bayan higit sa lahat sa mga panahong ito hindi buhay ang hinihingi sa atin, hindi kagaya noon, ang hinihingi sa atin ng mga panahong ito ay pagkakaisa, pagmamaysa sapay kuma ag mamaysa tayo. sana magkaisa tayo alang-alang sa sakripisyo ng ating mga beterano at bayani ng second world war at alang-alang sa kinabukasan ng sumusunod na henerasyon.

We must go on building bridges across the seas with our allies and our former enemies, now our major ally in economic development, but we must also build bridges within the nation as we forge one Philippines, not two Philippines. One Philippines that is stable at home and respected in the world.

Today, the Philippines occupies an important role in the United Nations Security Council.

The United Nations Security Council is the only body in the United Nations whose decisions have the force of law in all member-nations of the United Nations. and this September, as we go to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations and we discuss the major reforms needed in the United Nations after 60 years of existence, the focus of that reform is the composition and function of the U.N. Security Council of which we have the honor of being the president today.

Iso nga tatta nga aldaw, I ask you to pray, kakabsat ken gagayyem, God bless the Philippines in this role, in our role in the U.N. Security Council, we are now the chief peacemaker of the world. But God bless even more our efforts to promote peace and unity within our own beloved nation.

Mabuhay! Dios agngina kadakayo amin, apo.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 60th Victory Day Celebration of the Surrender of General Yamashita. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412061053/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5174&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on National Summit of Religious Leaders towards a culture of peace

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On National Summit of Religious Leaders towards a culture of peace**

[Delivered at the Metro Sports Center, Crown Regency Suites, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, September 7, 2005]

Thank you Secretary Romulo.

And congratulations for representing the country to have the honor of presiding over the inter faith dialogue in the United Nations.

I'd like to greet the other leaders of our country who are here today. We have Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar, Governor Gwen Garcia. We have the members of the Cabinet Secretary Ace Durano of tourism; Secretary Cerge Remonde of our government media; Rene Sarmiento of the peace process; Zam Ampatuan of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. And of course, I'd like to greet the leaders of this National Summit of Religious Leaders— Bishop Gutierrez; Bishop Ledesma; Bishop Tendero; Professor Basman; Sultan Kiram; Bishop Punzalan.

Congratulations! This is the biggest gathering of religious leaders in the history of our country. And I thank you for the opportunity of allowing me to join you tonight.

This morning one of the congressmen who supported me in the recent impeachment complaint congressman Bobit Carlos of Valenzuela sent me a morning prayer to say and it said: "Lord, walk with me today. I have no idea what lies before me. Be my strength to make the most of it and use it to your glory." God's timing is perfect and part of what lay before me today is being here with you and I praise him for scheduling this summit today.

This moment is significant for me it is my first public appearance since yesterday.

Yesterday Congress spoke and I thank Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar for presiding over a marathon session. Congress spoke with the mighty voice of the people they represent and I thank them. Thank you, please congressman and deputy speaker to all of them. Their voice is clear — let us look for peace not conflict. Let's get back to work — not in the streets but in our offices and industrial centers, in our farms and communities. Let us bury the conflict of the past and gather around a brighter, peaceful tomorrow.

We must transform the weariness of our people into a fresh dynamism for action, enterprise and reform. What we need is less talk unless it's dialogue and more action on jobs, high prices especially coming from the world oil price upsurge, hunger, law and order, corruption— the very concerns you mentioned in your summaries and in your statement.

Secretary Romulo, Durano, Remonde, Ampatuan are here they and the whole Cabinet are put on notice to get down to the brass stocks and let the people feel in their bones and in their hearts and in their experience the power of honest and efficient service.

Honesty and efficiency— these are things that you a religious leaders can truly help internalize in your public servants.

My personal pain of political triumph is of no moment to the task of building this nation and putting the economy in order. I offer the olive branch of peace to all my critics and detractors for a principled partnership for the people driven by responsible governance and responsible fiscalization. Are the same good congressman sent me and a second text message he said: 'let's not think about the pain we went through, but the lesson it taught us not; how

much we cried and hurt but how much we smiled and loved'. And that is what peace and dialogue are all about. That is what we are all about today.

Many of the things that you want require legislation. Indeed, the legislative mill brims with priorities. For one thing, we have to change the degenerated political system constitutionally with parliamentary, electoral, judicial, economic and other reforms including the federal system that has been the subject matter of so much discussion in this conference. We have to work on those things, even as we have to get the budget debate underway, enact the anti-terrorism law that will be just to the different ethnic groups and faiths and open up the door for alternative sources of energy. All these to fight poverty and uphold the rule of law.

We must strengthen the executive, legislative partnership because part of it has been wounded for the national interest; and I wish to leave for the United Nations where the last time Bert presided over the inter-faith dialogue. This time to preside over the UN Security Council, I wish to leave for the United Nations with the clear message that we are working for 'One Philippines' just as we all have one God whatever we call his name.

Many of you were there in my State-of-the-Nation Address and if you recall, I said, we seem to live today in two countries — two Philippines even if they have the same name — one is the Philippines that is poised for economic takeoff, and the other, is the Philippines that is held back by discord spawned by a degenerating political system. And also, part of that degenerating political system is the lack of understanding among different religions, ethnic cultures and beliefs.

The energies of our people and our leaders like you must be gathered in one place not just this beautiful new hotel but that one place must be the 'One Philippines'.

And I am grateful to you our religious leaders and to the many well-meaning Filipinos who have made a clear call of prudence, sobriety, dialogue, understanding, peace in these trying times. Because you have called for and conducted dialogue you, have tempered the onslaught of hate. You have manned the perimeters of prudence, understanding, sobriety and the rule of law.

And as I come here to join you this evening, I pray for your guidance and support to save us from this rapidly degenerating political system that breeds not only the compartmentalization of ideals not only the misunderstanding among religions, ethnicity and cultures but also compartmentalization of work — a system that foment division not only across the institutions of our national government, but also along the axis of national and local governance and also across different religions and different ethnic cultures.

Now is the time to begin to change the system. You in this dialogue in this promotion of peace are part of the changing of the system and I thank you for that. As I extend the hand of peace to my own detractors, I invite all Filipinos, my critics and supporters alike, to an earnest and sincere debate to amend our constitution because many of the things you want need to have a constitutional change, to bring power back to the people and to cast out the demons that have haunted our politics.

This National Summit of Religious Leaders towards a culture of peace transcends all politics, transcends all partisan concerns. And I thank you for your statements and I look forward to the follow up that you will be making.

I see in your recommendation that you want me to organize an inter-faith commission. Well, it was also upon the recommendation of many of our evangelical bishops that we organize the council on moral values. But it's also been upon your recommendation that we re-examine now the nature of that council. And perhaps, I will ask Isabel Tobias who has been in charge of that day-to-day affairs how we can recast that council on values to a council on interfaith and integrate them. And then, we can have different bodies after that.

I am a great believer of interfaith dialogue — if you recall many years ago, no, not many years just couple of years ago after 9/11 2001, I put out a 14-point program to fight terrorism, as a result of following the resolution of the UN Security Council, the only body in the UN which has the force of law in all member-countries. And at that time, the UN Security Council gave us a resolution that we must all fight terrorism. So, I put a program to fight terrorism 14

points and one of the 14 points was to promote inter-faith dialogue so that what others are trying to cast as religious war will instead be an opportunity for religious understanding.

How historic, how providential that at that time we were so obedient to the UN Security Council whose resolutions have the force of law and now we will go the UN Security Council with the Philippines as the President of that council. Yes, from 2001, we have shown our belief in inter-faith dialogue, and I am also a great believer in the unity of mankind for peace and the common good. And if we want to unite mankind for peace and the common good, how much more do we want to have unity in our country for peace and the common good.

Why Bert Romulo presided over that inter faith dialogue? It is because due to that belief that we articulated since 2001, it was the Philippines that spearheaded the resolution at the United Nations General Assembly last year for the adoption of inter-faith dialogue and cooperation among U.N. member-countries as a means to resolve conflicts among nations. And I am very grateful that the UN Security Council unanimously adopted the Philippine resolution. And that is why Bert Romulo presided over that dialogue.

This contribution we have made to world peace promoting inter-faith dialogue as an instrument for looking for peace is a fitting marker to celebrate our country's current presidency of the UN Security Council. And next week, as I go to preside over that UN Security Council meeting, I shall bring the same message that we are discussing today for in a world of clashing civilizations dialogue is the paramount tool to pull together our commonalities for a more secure, safe and peaceful world.

But even as I thank you — religious leaders for what you are doing here my message to the Filipino people is that: we should not live to our religious alone the task of promoting dialogue as a way of life, we the people there flock — must gather all parties and ideologies together towards greater understanding and cooperation. Many of the things you said talked about the peace process.

And I am so grateful to the Lord, to Allah that the peace process with the MILF is at a high point. We are in the final stages of negotiation and dialogue, aren't we Rene? The fighting has ceased on the ground. Just today, Secretary Romulo witnessed and assisted me in giving an award to the outgoing Commanding General of the International Monitoring Team for our peace on the ground in Mindanao as it turns over to a new commander. And they all are so gratified that there is peace on the ground in Mindanao.

But that is not all. The seeds of enterprise are sprouting in the areas of former conflict. For instance, there is a dam — the Malmar dam in the areas where fighting used to be. There is a bustling community in Buliok where the fighting used to be. We have restarted not only the peace process in Mindanao. We have restarted the process of development. And it is not only about Mindanao. Earlier in your statements and your report Sister Roxanne, you talked about the NDF. And I am also gratified on the report that our Chief Negotiator Nieves Confessor gave me that the negotiations have also restarted with the national democratic front.

But as you have said in your statement poverty is a cause of conflict. We need development to sustain peace just as we need peace to let development flourish. Peace and development are twins and we need both one to have the other. But to achieve both peace and development, we need to have one Philippines put up a united and determined attack not on one another but on the country's toughest enemy and that is poverty. That is our common enemy.

And on my part, I shall continue to open all doors toward keeping our nation together, towards having peace with one another, towards achieving one Philippines. And I ask you religious leaders as I embark on this difficult task of looking for peace not only among friends, but even with enemies: please pray for me, please help me. Kailangan ko kayo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech on National Summit of Religious Leaders towards a culture of peace.
Retrieved
from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412062851/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5171&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during a Dinner hosted by JP Morgan

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Dinner hosted by JP Morgan**

[Delivered at the Lobby Level Dining Room, St. Regis Hotel New York City, USA, September 14, 2005]

Thank you, Joyce.

Thank you.

Speaker de Venecia and other members of Congress who are here tonight; Secretary Romulo and other appointive officials who are here tonight; members of the Cabinet; distinguished members of the business community; ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for inviting me to be here with you tonight, Joyce.

This is an important opportunity for me to speak with you about some of the important developments in the Philippines and to hear your thoughts as members of the international financing community.

Notwithstanding the political environment, the economy of the Philippines remains resilient, growth is respectable, and our fiscal discipline is paying off and remains ahead of target.

Our strong economic performance has come, of course, at a cost — a political cost to me in terms of public support. But I want to emphasize that I will not waiver in my commitment to ongoing economic reform and fiscal discipline no matter the political cost. By the way, I shouldn't only greet the congressmen but also the local government officials who are here because they are part of helping me remain committed to pursuing reforms that strengthen our economy and improve the environment for domestic and foreign investment.

I made the tough choices on economic reforms, on taxes, because it's the right thing to do politically, economically and morally. I cannot in good conscience pass on debt to the next generation. I have to invest in people through better education and training, and improve infrastructure to attract the foreign investment needed to generate sustainable economic growth and create jobs.

I remain optimistic. Let me tell you what I can and will achieve in the months and years ahead.

Much of the economy is working, and working well. There's investor confidence in key sectors we have identified for growth, these include business process outsourcing — thank you, Joyce for your decision to do your BPO in the Philippines — mining, the services and export sector, and the high-tech sector. I've built up a new nationwide transportation system. Built up the Subic-Clark corridor and opened up the interior of the country to new industries like mining and call centers.

The problem, of course, is that current economic growth is working for too few people. I've millions of poor people who've rightfully lost patience with their political leaders and their individual circumstances. However, I'm optimistic that with the passage of the value-added reform law, I can finally do more than feed the debt beast.

Politically and economically, I must invest in the people through better education, better health care, and more job creation.

Last August, the supreme court strongly affirmed the value-added tax reform law. This legislation is the cornerstone of my economic turnaround plan and is the launch pad for phase two of my economic reforms. And with this new revenue, I have presented a budget to Congress that will fund enough classrooms to be on schedule to close the classroom gap by the end of my term. Enough hectares that will develop two million new hectares of land for agribusiness by the end of my term. Construct police stations and other requirements for police visibility. Provide billions in funding to boost rice and corn production which will generate over a 150,000 new jobs for next year alone in rice and corn.

Job creation remains a significant economic and political challenge for the government. In terms of political stability, it's not good enough to record solid export and investment growth if the people are not feeling the benefits like more jobs. I'm very happy, for instance, that yesterday our stock market recorded 27 points increase, but the people want to see jobs not the stock market. The 2006 budget contains a range of job creation initiatives including major agricultural, electrification and infrastructure projects.

It's encouraging to see early signs of the positive results of our sector-specific reforms such as in the mining sector. The Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Favila here says, there are 23 mining projects in the pipeline, of which 7 major projects are worth 5.3 billion dollars.

As I move around the country and talk to people, local governments and business groups, it's clear that there's strong support for the phase two reforms and the investment in social services and infrastructure it will deliver. Our private research bears this out as well.

I have strong support in congress, and the congressmen and congresswomen are here to confirm that. And local government support is rock-solid, I have local government officials here too to support that. I believe with their help I've become politically stronger today than a month ago. I believe this shall translate into working with allies in congress, Speaker De Venecia, to pass the legislation needed to implement phase two and work with my local government colleagues to ensure that these investments in services and infrastructure are implemented at the grassroots level.

My agenda is the right agenda, and the people recognize that. The problem is that for every two steps we take forward, we take one back. The gains are too easily obscured by the setbacks or dominated by sensational headlines. But we're here to cut through the headlines and tell you the news.

In other areas such as peace in Mindanao, elimination of kidnapping gangs and anti-terrorism initiatives, we have made huge gains. So, overall, I remain positive now that the majority of the political noise is behind us. I also realize, of course, the trust I need to gain with our people if we are to move ahead with political and economic reform. And I can have the leaders of Congress and local government to help me with that.

I hope that you, the business community, here in the world's financial capital can understand the progress we've made in implementing the first phase of economic reforms to put our fiscal house in order and get the economy moving. We're ahead of target to meet our deficit reduction. We are 35 billion pesos below our deficit ceiling. Exports and investments are up. We are now moving into phase two of the economic reform agenda.

The reform program will focus on the day-to-day issues that confront our people in their daily lives out in the provinces: clean water, reliable energy, price stability, a good education and job creation. It will also continue to focus on creating the right conditions for foreign investment including ongoing fiscal reforms, a renewed campaign against corruption led by Hong Kong's former anti-corruption czar, significant investments in infrastructure and public sector reforms to reduce bureaucratic roadblocks facing foreign investors.

I hope what we have done and what we are continuing to do will sit well with you, the movers and shakers of the world economy.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during a Dinner hosted by JP Morgan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412062623/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5165&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Investors' Forum — Credit Suisse First Boston

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Investors' Forum — Credit Suisse First Boston**

[Delivered at the The Dining Room, Lobby Level, St. Regis Hotel New York City, USA, September 15, 2005]

Thank you for the introduction.

Speaker De Venecia, speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines and the various congressmen; governors and city mayors who are here with us today; Secretary Romulo and the other members of the Cabinet who are here today; Governor Tetangco of the Central Bank; members of the business delegation; members of the financial community of New York; ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for inviting me to be here with you today. This is an important opportunity for me to speak with you about some of the important developments in the Philippines and to hear your thoughts as members of the international financial community.

Notwithstanding the political environment that you read about or you watch on TV about our country, the economy remains resilient, growth is respectable, and our fiscal discipline is paying off and remains better than target.

Our strong economic performance, of course, has come at a cost— a political cost to me in terms of public support. But I want to emphasize that I will not waiver in my commitment to ongoing economic reform and fiscal discipline no matter the political cost. I remain committed to pursuing reforms that strengthen our economy and improve the environment for the domestic and foreign investment.

I made tough choices on taxes because it's the right thing to do, economically and morally. I cannot in good conscience pass on debt to the next generation. I have to invest in my people through better education and training, and improve infrastructure to attract the foreign investment needed to create, to generate sustainable economic growth and create jobs.

I remain optimistic. Let me tell you what I can and will achieve in the months and years ahead.

Much of the economy is working, and working well. There is investor confidence in the key sectors we have targeted for growth, these include: business process outsourcing — I've had so many visitors today on current expansion programs and new plans for investing in business process outsourcing in our country — mining, the services and export sector, and the high-tech sector. I've built up a new nationwide transport system. Built up the Subic-Clark corridor and opened up the interior of the country to new industries like mining and call centers.

The problem of course is that current economic growth is working for too few people. I have millions of poor people who have rightfully lost patience with their political leaders and their individual circumstances. However, I'm optimistic that with the passage of the value-added tax reform law, and Speaker De Venecia and many of the congressmen and congresswomen who work hard on that are here with us today.

I can finally do more than feed the debt beast. Politically and economically, I must invest in the people as I said, through better education, better health care, and more job creation.

I was happy to read my text messages today that the unemployment in our country has gone down from over eight percent, about 8.5 percent the last time, so it wasn't that the figure to 7.7 percent. Still, that's still a lot of people unemployed.

Last August, the Supreme Court strongly affirmed the value-added tax reform law. This legislation is the cornerstone of my economic turnaround plan and is the launch pad for Phase Two of my economic reforms. And with this revenue, I have presented a budget to Congress that will begin the funding or contribute the 2006 phase of the funding which by the end of my term should be able to close the classroom gap, which by the end of my term should be able to develop two million hectares of land for agri-business, which by the end of my term should provide for law enforcement reforms including strong police visibility, and which will provide next year 2.7 billion pesos in funding to boost rice and corn production and which will generate a 150,000 new jobs.

Job creation remains a significant economic and political challenge for the government.

In terms of political stability, the reason why I keep looking at our unemployment figures is that it's not good enough to record solid export and investment growth — though I'm happy about the 27 points increase in our stock market the other day — but that's not enough if the people are not feeling the benefits like more jobs.

The 2006 budget contains a range of job initiatives, job creation initiatives including major agricultural, infrastructure and electrification projects.

It's encouraging to see early signs of the positive results of our sector-specific reforms, such as in the mining sector. Peter Favila of the department of trade and industry reports to me that there are 23 mining projects in the pipeline, of which 7 major projects are worth 5.3 billion dollars.

As I move around the country and talk to people — to local governments some of whom are here today and business groups — it's clear that there is strong support for Phase Two reforms and the investment in social services and infrastructure that this Phase Two reforms will deliver. Our private research bears this out as well.

I have strong support in Congress, and the local government support is rock-solid, that's why I have a delegation of the congressmen and congresswomen and local government officials to affirm that before you. I believe I'm politically stronger today than a month ago. I believe this shall translate into working with allies in Congress to pass the legislation needed to implement Phase Two and work with my local government colleagues to ensure that these investments in services and infrastructure are implemented at the grassroots level.

My agenda is the right agenda, and the people recognize that even if they may not like me personally. The problem is that, for every two steps we take forward, we take one back. The gains are too easily obscured by the setbacks or dominated by sensational headlines. I hope by coming here, we help you cut through the headlines.

In other areas, for instance, such as peace in Mindanao, elimination of kidnapping gangs and anti-terrorism initiatives, we have made huge gains. So, overall, I remain positive now that the majority of the political noise is behind us. I also realize the trust I need to gain with our people if we are to move ahead with political and economic reform. I hope you can understand the progress we have made in implementing the first phase of economic reforms which was to put our fiscal house in order and get the economy moving.

As I said earlier, we're ahead of our target to meet our deficit reduction targets. Maybe my economic managers told you about that already earlier. We are 35 billion pesos below our deficit ceiling and seven billion pesos above our august revenue targets. Exports and investments are up, as I said the other day, 27 points increase in the stock market. We are now moving into the Phase Two of the economic reform agenda.

The reform program will focus on the day-to-day issues that confront our people in their daily lives out in the provinces: clean water, reliable energy, price stability, a good education and job creation. It will also continue to focus on creating the right conditions for foreign investment including ongoing fiscal reforms, a renewed campaign against corruption led by Hong Kong's former anti-corruption czar, significant investments in infrastructure and public sector reforms to reduce the bureaucratic roadblocks facing foreign investors.

We've had good meetings today with new investors, with prospective investors, with old investors who want to expand in the Philippines. They have given us very good feedback on what are the bureaucratic reforms that we need to make. We have a continuing policy — as I told Secretary Peter Favila — of after care for those who are already in the Philippines so that we can continue to make you happy being in the Philippines.

So, to all the members of the financial community, the investment community who are here today, thank you for being with us and I hope you will stay and expand in the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Investors' Forum — Credit Suisse First Boston. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132650/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5137&Itemid=38

Address of President Arroyo before the High Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the High Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

[Delivered at the UN General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters New York City, USA, September 15, 2005]

Mr. President:

The mantra of the United Nations on its 60th anniversary is the millennium development goals. However, these goals are in danger of unraveling. Why? Terrorism, the energy crisis and the debt burden of developing countries.

On the debt burden, we applaud debt relief for the highly indebted poor countries. But there are also many middle-income countries that are highly indebted and have large populations that survived on less than a dollar a day. In their case, we propose a large scale 50 percent conversion of debt for millennium development goals anti-poverty financing programs.

We are not asking for debt forgiveness or debt cancellation. What we propose is that the debt service or principal amount should be converted into equities in new projects of at least equal value and with their own potential earnings.

I hope that this debt for MDG proposal will find its way into the summit declaration and that the Paris Club, the G-8 governments, the IMF and the World Bank, the regional development banks, and the world's large commercial banks will approve this proposal.

We offer this option amidst the energy crunch.

On the energy crisis, we propose that the United Nations take the lead in collective action to ease the effects of oil prices. For instance, collective development of alternative and indigenous energy sources. Example: converting cane sugar to ethanol or diesel oil from coconuts. Wind farms and rural solar energy projects. Also, collective oil rationing, energy conservation, regional stockpiling.

In addition, collective efforts to intensify oil-and-gas exploration, similar to the cooperative seismic operations that China, Vietnam and the Philippines started last August in areas of the South China sea that they claim competitively.

We also call on the organization of petroleum exporting countries to recycle petrodollars and extraordinary profits from the oil trade in the form of equity investments and long-term, low-interest loans to medium and poor oil-importing states.

We feel justified in making this call, because our overseas Filipinos contribute tremendously to the economies of the petroleum exporting countries. Our overseas Filipinos, 8 million of them, are the reason why we sponsored the inclusion of migration in the outcome document of this high level plenary meeting as well as the holding of a high-level dialogue on migration and development. We are determined to leverage an effective global consensus to protect the rights and welfare of our overseas Filipinos including their protection against global terrorism.

On terrorism, the Philippines reaffirms its commitment to wage the fight against this terrible evil. As the secretary-general said in Madrid last March, terrorism is a threat to all states, to all people. Like many countries, the Philippines has been struck by the pain of terror but we have fought back with the vigilance of ordinary citizens, a

strong bilateral and regional security network, the tools of inter-faith dialogue, and our strategic alliance with the United States. Our peace process is perhaps the only one in the world that incorporates an anti-terrorism component. Our ceasefire agreement with the rebels in southern Philippines includes the interdiction of terrorist cells.

In the fight against terrorism, inter-faith dialogue has gained legitimacy as a serious alternative approach to conflict.

Religions are the bedrock of cultures and civilizations. Religions must be respected as we pursue development.

We expect the United Nations to be sensitive to the deep catholicism of the vast majority of the Filipino people. The funding given by the U.N. to our national government for reproductive health shall be dedicated to train married couples in a natural family planning technology which the world health organization has found effective compared to artificial contraceptives.

The population council of New York has found that artificial contraception contributes only two percent to the decline of birth rates while the combination of improving the economic condition of the family, urbanization and breastfeeding contributes 98 percent. Thus, we ask the U.N. and the donor countries to direct their assistance towards the improvement of family productivity and income.

Mr. President, the great expanse of our challenges — the deepening cut of poverty, the relentless surge of terrorism, the burgeoning debt problem, and the soaring price of oil — bid us to find courage in our solidarity.

On this 60th jubilee, we reaffirm the role of the united nations as the primary instrument of that solidarity.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Address before the High Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132642/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5136&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Holy Mass with the Filipino-American Community and Enshrinement at the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Holy Mass with the Filipino-American Community and Enshrinement at the Chapel of San
Lorenzo Ruiz**

[Delivered at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel, 378 Broom St. New York City, USA, September 15, 2005]

Speaker and Mrs. De Venecia and the congressmen, governors and city mayors who comprise the Philippine delegation to our United Nations activities; Secretary and Mrs. Romulo; and all of the appointive officials in the Philippine government who are here today; members of the Filipino community.

Ang dami-daming El Shaddai na narito, purihin ang Panginoon!

Most reverend Cantillas who takes care of the overseas Filipinos; Reverend Monsignor Kevin Nelan, representing the archdiocese of New York, thank you for giving this wonderful pastoral center to the Filipino community; mga minamahal kong kababayan:

Malaking karangalan na tayo ay narito. Malaking karangalan para sa akin na narito para ma-dedicate natin itong simbahan kay San Lorenzo Ruiz.

Si San Lorenzo Ruiz ay isang overseas Filipino din nung kanyang panahon. Kaya tamang-tama na siya ay hindi lamang unang santong Pilipino kung hindi na rin pwede nating isipin bilang patron saint ng overseas Filipinos.

Ipinagmamalaki natin ang overseas Filipinos pag tinatanong sa akin ng mga negosyante sa buong mundo bakit dapat kami mag-invest sa Pilipinas. Ang unang sinasagot ko, kilala naman ninyo kung gaano kagaling ang ating mga Filipino dahil meron tayong galing bilang Filipino.

There are eight million Filipinos all over the world. Kaya yung ating isang pinakaimportanteng kontribusyon sa ating outcome document ng general assembly doon sa United Nations ay yung mga paragraphs tungkol sa migration. Congratulations! Ambassador Baja for having that part of the outcome document. At talagang kayo ay ambassador ng kagalingan ng Pilipinas sa buong mundo. At hindi lamang yon, habang tinutulungan niyo ang ekonomiya ng inyong adopted land like the United States tuloy pa rin ang tulong niyo sa ating bansang Pilipinas.

Of the eight million Filipinos all over the world, the Filipino-Americans are about three and a half million, less than one-half of our overseas Filipinos but you send two-thirds of the remittances to the Philippines. At dahil sa inyong mga remittance ang dami-daming mga kapamilya ninyo na nagkakaroon ng magandang edukasyon, puhunan para sa sariling maliliit na negosyo, pabahay. At nagpapasalamat ako dahil ayon sa ating mga datos in our latest statistics, your remittances to the Philippines have increased by 19 percent. Thank you very much for your continuing support.

Dahil sa inyo ang kagalingang pinapakita niyo sa Amerika at sa buong mundo ginagalang tayo ng mundo. At isa sa mga pinakasimbolo ng paggalang ng mundo sa ating bansang Pilipinas ay yung pangyayari kahapon — yung pulong ng U.N. Security Council. Ang pinakamakapangyarihang institusyon ng United Nations kung saan yung mga pinakamakapangyarihang mga bansa ay mga kasapi, ang presiding officer ay walang iba hindi ang kinatawan at pangulo ng republika ng Pilipinas.

Ng paggalang ng mundo sa Pilipinas na sila ay tinanggap nila ang alok ng Pilipinas na dito sa 60th Jubilee Summit ng United Nations magkaroon din ng Summit ng U.N. Security Council. This is only the third time in the history of the U.N. na nagkaroon ng Summit ang U.N. Security Council.

Dahil ang New York ay ang financial capital ng buong mundo, ginamit na rin natin itong pagkakataon na makipagpulong sa ilang mga investors sa Pilipinas, after care ng mga kasalukuyang nag-iinvest, at promotion sa mga baka sakali malaki ang tsansang mag-invest sa Pilipinas. At inaasahan natin na itong paggalang ng buong mundo sa Pilipinas ay ma-translate sa dagdag pang mamumuhunan sa ating bansa para magkaron pa ng higit na trabaho ang ating kapwa Pilipino doon sa Pilipinas.

Today, I received a text message from the Philippines that our unemployment rate has gone down to 7.7 percent from above 8 percent in the last _____. Pero kulang pa rin yon. Kailangan pa rin natin ang mas maraming trabaho dahil milyung-milyon pa rin ang ating mga kapatid ay wala pang trabaho.

Kaya kinakailangan ko hindi lamang yung remittances that you have been so generously sending but also your prayers that we will be able to bring about the conditions in the Philippines that will be able to solve our problem of poverty and divisiveness once and for all.

Yung problema ng divisiveness ng ating bansa umabot nga na para — ngayon kasi hindi ba nung tayo ay nag-aaral nabasa natin yung “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens — para bang ang ating Pilipinas is a tale of two countries. Para bang may dalawang bansang nakatira sa Pilipinas na pareho ang pangalan, ang tawag ay Pilipinas. Yung isa ay yung Pilipinas ng ating ekonomiya. Your remittances have helped for instance to give our country a very respectable growth rate.

Last year, 6.1 percent, the highest growth rate in the history of our country. At ngayon kahit na may oil crisis, 4.8 percent pa rin. Napakadisente. And even if we are an oil-importing country and our import bill for oil has become bigger, your remittances have helped to keep our peso stable. And we are also one of the 26 countries with the lowest price increase in the price of fuel.

At saka yung housing ang laking tulong ninyo doon. Our housing industry is bustling. Our deficit is below the ceiling by 35 billion pesos. Our revenue collection are above target by 7 billion pesos. Kaya our interest rate is lower compared to many years in the past.

Our tourism business is growing up double digit. Ito ang Pilipinas ng ating ekonomiya, ready to take off, not because of what I have done but because of what you do and because of that cumulative improvements in our economic policies over these years.

But just as our economic policies have been improving over these years, yung ating political system naman over the years has been deteriorating to the point that now it is so difficult to survive in this system and yet keep yourself ‘Lily White’ as everybody would want us to be. Somehow it paints us some shades of gray, some shades lighter or darker but it is so difficult to survive pure white. And that’s why we say, “who is without sin, let him cast the first stone.”

The system must be changed. Fundamental change is needed. We have our legislators. We have our local government officials. They must be the main instruments for change. But not only them, the people too must be the instruments for change. At tayo ay instrumento lamang. Ang talagang makakaganap ng pagbabago sa ating bansa ay yung Panginoon. And therefore, we have to dedicate our country to the divine will.

Kapwa ko Pilipino dito sa Nueva York, dito sa Amerika, tulungan ninyo ako sa inyong remittances, sa inyong panalangin. Tulungan niyo ako na makamit natin ang isang Pilipinas, hindi dalawang Pilipinas. The economy that works and the political system that doesn’t seem to be working anymore, but one Philippines. Under our patron saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz, and under the love and care of Mama Mary, Santa Maria de Dolores, that we celebrate today, the mother of the Philippines, Pilipinas Amante ti Maria.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's speech during the Holy Mass with the Filipino-American Community and Enshrinement at the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132715/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5138&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Stakeholders' Forum in Microfinance, September 19, 2005 Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Stakeholders' Forum in Microfinance**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, September 19, 2005]

**HARNESSING MICROFINANCE FOR
JOBS GENERATION
AND ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH**

Bagay na bagay itong okasyon pagbalik ko galing sa United Nations. Kasi pinagdiriwang natin ang U.N. International year of Micro Credit so kasama ito sa ating pagdiriwang ng 60th anniversary ng United Nations. At gaya nang sinabi ni Secretary Bobi Tiglao, ito rin ang Philippine Year of Microfinance. This is your year, congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Kahapon pagbalik ko galing sa Nueva York sinaoi ko sa aking... 'yung arrival statement, dapat bigyan nating pansin kaagad yung ilang mga problemang hinaharap ng bansa, lalung-lalo na yung paglilikha ng trahaho.

At lalong kailangan natin ito dahil sa panganib ng bigla at sobrang pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa buong mundo lalong humirap ang pakikibaka kontra sa laban sa kahirapan. Mahirap ang laban dahil mahirap ang sitwasyon ng oil crisis ngunit dapat huwag tayongsusuko.

Noong isang taon sa aking inagurasyon bilang pangulo, sinabi ko yung aking ten-point program. Number one nga doon ay yung creation of six to ten million jobs within the next six years. At sinabi ko nga doon, by developing three million entrepreneurs and developing two million hectares of land for agri-business. Itong tatlong milyong entrepreneur, ito nga ay sa pamamagitan ng pagtulong sa mga micro, small at medium enterprises. At sinabi rin ni Bobi Tiglao yung ating accomplishment report mula nung 2001, dalawang milyong maliliit na maliliit na negosyo ay natulungan ng 20 billion pesos.

Marami rito ay galing sa Land Bank, sa National Livelihood Support Fund, sa People's Credit and Finance Corporation, at meron pala galing sa SB Corporation bagamat ang SB Corporation ay small enterprises ang kanyang inaasikaso talaga, hindi yung micro. Ngunit yung mga tulong na galing sa pamahalaan, itong mga bangkong binanggit ko or agency, ay hindi diretso sa micro enterprise kaya kung minsan yung mga micro entrepreneur hindi nila nare-realize na malaking bahagi sa tulong — hindi naman lahat dahil yung mga ngo malaking-malaki rin ang tulong — pero hindi nila nare-realize na malaking bahagi nito ay galing sa pamahalaan. Kaya importanteng malaman din natin dito sa stakeholders' forum na ipahayag na ito ay partnership ng pamahalaan at saka ng mga NGO, pati na rin yung mga bangko, microfinance bank na na-accredit doon sa Central Bank of the Philippines.

Hindi dumidiretso halimbawa ang Land Bank na magpahiram sa mga micro enterprises, dinadaan nila sa mga conduit. Karamihan ng conduit ay NGO, yung mga nandito sa entablado, yan mga NGO na ginagamit na conduit. Yung mga tumuntong kanina at tumanggap ng certificate o yung malalaking tseke, yon ang mga conduit. At yung gobyerno mayron ding conduit, yung Quedancor ay isang conduit na nagpapahiram ng retail pero karamihan nga ay mga NGO dahil yung Classic Grameen Bank na nanggaling doon sa Bangladesh nagsimula ay NGO, hindi gobyerno ang gumagawa pero gusto nating ma-fast track kaya pumapasok ang gobyerno bilang source of funding na nagko-contribute sa equity. Pag may equity yung ibang ngo, o kaya pagkulang ng conduit, nagko-conduit na rin kagaya ng Quedancor. Pero ang namamahala dito ayon sa batas — na ako rin ang naging principal author, yung ating anti-poverty law — ang People's Credit and Finance Corporation ang siyang gumigitna sa ating microfinance.

Kaya inaatasan ko muli ang PCFC na magkaroon ng direktoryo ng mga microfinance conduit sa bawat bayan. Kasi sinasabi kasi natin PCFC, Credit, DBP, baka mamaya yung mga maliliit na entrepreneur, yung mga micro, doon pupunta sa DBP, doon pupunta sa PCFC, hindi ganun. Pupunta sa mga conduit pero trabaho ng PCFC na magkaroon ng direktoryo ng conduit sa bawat bayan. At dapat ito'y ina-advertise natin, ini-scroll Ginoong Heneroso, ini-scroll doon sa ating government channels. Halimbawa, San Pablo, Laguna card, ganun, ang conduit of microfinance. O doon sa Aklan, Taytay sa Kauswagan, dapat merong alam bawat bayan saan ang conduit.

Para malaman naman ng ating mga incomeless assetless women na sila rin ang dapat pangunahing preyoridad ng microfinance kung saan lalapit para humiram ng pununan para sa kanilang mga micro enterprises. May mga lugar na walang conduit. May mga bayang walang conduit. Sinabi ko naman at inuulit ko ang atas — wala kasi sila dito, gustong sabihin hindi pa sila napapasok sa loop ng microfinance — kapag walang conduit sa isang bayan ang DSWD SEA-K ang dapat maging conduit. Kasi hindi naman lanat ng 1,600 towns ng Pilipinas ay merong microfinance conduit. Pero lahat ng bayan ay may DSWD, at ang DSWD ay may kaugnayan sa... Meron din sariling microfinance office self-employment assistance. So, ito ang kailangang gawin natin para makaabot sa nakararami.

Ang ating hangarin kasi gaya nang sabi ni Bobi, gaya nang sabi ko, mula 2004 hanggang 2010 maka-develop tayo ng tatlong milyong entrepreneur sa pamamagitan ng microfinance at small and medium enterprise loans. Iba ang microfinance, iba ang small and medium enterprise kaya importante yung ating sinasabing conduit. Mga small and medium enterprise humihiram sa karaniwang bangko gaya nang napaka-successful na bangko ni Ambassador Tambunting, number one sila sa pagpapahiram sa small and medium enterprises.

Meron tayong programang pautang sa SME, ang tawag doon ay 'Sulong.' ano ang ibig sabihin ng 'Sulong,' Zoraida? Small and Medium Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth, yan ang small and medium enterprise. At ito ay nagpautang na ng 27 billion pesos noong isang taon lamang.

Ang microfinance naman hindi pumupunta sa karaniwang bangko ang borrower, pumupunta nga sa mga ngo conduit o yung Quedancor, o kung wala inaalok natin, ayusin natin ang sistema para makalapit sa DSWD SEA-K. Eto naman ang sagot natin sa five-six. Gaya ng five-six, maliliit ang halaga ng mga pautang kaya sa conduit dumadaan, kasi wala namang makinarya ang Land Bank na magpahiram ng 2,000 pesos, 15,000 pesos although yung Quedancor nga sa pilitan ay naging makinarya. Lilang libo lamang ang pautang sa microfinance, habang sa SME umaabot hanggang milyon ang pautang. At ang sistema ay halos door-to-door ang pautang at door-to-door ang pagkubra halos, pumupunta sa community center. At ang koleksyon ay madalasan hindi yung at the end of one year, hindi ba, Zoraida? Para hindi maipon at hindi lumaking lubha ang utang.

Kaya mas malaki ang gastos ng microfinance for administration kaysa ang gastos ng karaniwang bangko. Kaya maiintindihan niyo mas mataas ang interest na tsina-charge ng microfinance dahil mas malaki ang gastos. At least, di hamak mas maliit kaysa sa mga five-six.

Sa karaniwan ang microfinance ay walang collateral, habang yung mga bangko ay may collateral. Pero ano ang kapalit ng collateral? Yung social preparation. Kaya doon sa DSWD halimbawa, ilang buwan munang tinuturuan yung mga beneficiaries sa mga asal ng pagbayad ng utang, kasama doon ay values formation. Kaya nakikita ko maraming mga Christian groups ay very active dahil malakas ang values formation component na yon at saka co-makers joint obligation. Ang microfinance ay hindi sa inividual lang nagpapahiram may mga co-makers, may mga microfinance groups, mga five people, ten people, 15 people. Ang utang ng isa ay nagiging utang ng mga kasama sa grupo. At dahil sa magandang sistemang ito almost home service, values formation, madalas na pagkubra tapos nuon yung co-makers halos 100 percent ang nababayad ng utang ng mga microfinance borrowers, mas maganda pa kaysa sa repayment rate ng mga umuutang ng malalaki sa malalaking bangko. Kaya congratulations sa inyong lahat! Mga bayani ng microfinance.

Kanina sa pagdiriwang ng ating selebrasyon ng microfinance, tayo ay namahagi ng 73 million pesos bilang pautang ng microfinance: 34 million mula sa DBP, hindi ba, Rey?; 25 million mula sa PCFC; 11 million mula sa Land Hank; at 3 million mula sa SB Corporation. Nakita natin nagbigay sila ng tseke sa mga conduit, tapos yung

conduit naman ay nagbigay ng tseke sa mga humihiram sa kanila. Kaya, congratulations sa mga conduit! Congratulations sa mga tumanggap ng pondo, sa mga borrowers!

Dahil napaka-importante ang papel ng microfinance sa paglikha ng trabaho, dapat may lead agency na nagsusubaybay sa buong microfinance system ng ating bansa, whether this microfinance is government or NGO. At ito ang trabaho ng People's Credit and Finance Corporation. Kasi kung ano ang ginagawa ng small business corporation ni Mel Alonzo sa mga SME dapat yon din ang gawin ng PCFC. What I'm trying to say is hindi kailangan na ang PCFC lamang ang nagpapahiram ng lahat kasi moron tayong buong sistema. Kagaya ng SB Corporation, hindi naman sila nagpapahiram sa lahat ng SME. Eh si Ginoong Tambunting di hamak many, many times over what SB Corporation is lending. Maliit nga lamang ang pinapahiram ng SB Corporation compared to what the whole SME system is lending. Kasi maraming pautang sa mga small and medium enterprises ay nanggagaling sa iba't-ibang bangko.

So, ganun din dapat ang microfinance, nanggagaling sa karamihan ng pautang yung mga malalaking NGO conduits kagaya ng opportunity and microfinance bank, or yung card, or yung transformation... Ano? Center for transformation, yung Taytay sa kausawagan, yung Negros Women for Tomorrow. May mga half a dozen yang mga malalaking pinanggagalingan. Tapos may DBP, may Land Bank, ngunit dapat ang PCFC ang nagsusubaybay. Meron dapat program director at yon ang trabaho ng PCFC gaya nang ginagawa ng SB sa buong Small and Medium Enterprise Development. Kaya dapat ang PCFC ay parating umuugnay sa Land Bank, sa DBP, sa NLSF, sa mga conduit, kasama na rin dito ang DSWD SEA-K na parating everytime ako'y nagkaka-meeting sinasabi ko gamitin ang DSWD bilang conduit kapag walang ngo conduit sa isang lugar.

Ang PCFC ay linalagay ko sa ilalim ng DTI, pamamahala ngDTI, dahil tandem dapat ang PCFC at saka SB sa pagsubaybay nga sa pag-develop ng tatlong milyong entrepreneur. Kaya ito ay gusto ko isigurado ni Secretary Ermita na yung papeles na sumusunod sa aking instruction ay magawa natin para ito ay ma-institutionalize kasi ito ang papel nitong stakeholders' meeting, hindi ba sabi ni Bobi, how to improve the delivery of microfinance. And I think bringing DSWD SEA-K, where there is no microfinance in a particular town, improves that. Putting PCFC and SB Corporation together under one administration of DTI improves that.

At sa pagdiriwang natin ngayon, binabati nga natin ang PCFC dahil siya dapat ang lead agency sa microfinance at lahat ng mga kabalikat sa microfinance. At importante itong araw na ito para mas mabilis at mas mabisa ang daloy ng microfinance na umaabot sa lahat ng mga nangangailangan ng trabaho.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, binabati ko kayo, salamat sa paglingkod ninyo sa taumbayan. Huwag tayong madala sa sobrang pamumulitika. Gamitin natin ang ating enerhiya hindi sa pagtsismis-tsismis sa pulitika kung hindi mag-iral tayo ng tatlong milyong maliliit na negosyante, maglikha tayo ng tatlong milyong trabaho. Yan ang gawin natin sa mga darating na taon at sana pagkatapos nitong araw na ito lalo pang magtagumpay ang microfinance community of the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Stakeholders' Forum in Microfinance with the theme: "Harnessing Microfinance for Jobs Generation and Entrepreneurial Growth"

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Stakeholders' Forum in Microfinance with the theme: "Harnessing Microfinance for Jobs
Generation and Entrepreneurial Growth"**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, September 19, 2005]

Thank you so much, Secretary Tiglao.

Secretary Ermita; Secretary Panganiban; Governor Tetangco; ibat-ibang mga appointees ng pamahalaan, lalung-lalo na yung ating mga nandito sa entablado, yung mga namumuno ng ibat-ibang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan na tumutulong sa microfinance; Congresswoman Nelly Chavez at ibang mga halal na opisyal na narito; nakita ko si Monching Guico, pangulo ng Mayors League; nakita ko yata rin si Mayor Gerry Calderon, ang secretary general ng Mayors' League; nandito rin yung ibang mga malalaking mga negosyante na tumutulong sa microfinance kagaya ni Mr. Washington Sycip at saka ni Ambassador Tsuching Tambunting. Sa inyong lahat, mga leaders ng microfinance, mga stakeholders', congratulations sa inyong lahat itong araw na ito!

Bagay na bagay itong okasyon pagbalik ko galing sa United Nations. Kasi pinagdidiriwang natin ang U.N. International year of Micro Credit so kasama ito sa ating pagdiriwang ng 60th anniversary ng United Nations. At gaya nang sinabi ni Secretary Bobi Tiglao, ito rin ang Philippine Year of Microfinance. This is your year, congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Kahapon pagbalik ko galing sa Nueva York sinabi ko sa aking... 'yung arrival statement, dapat bigyan nating pansin kaagad yung ilang mga problemang hinaharap ng bansa, lalung-lalo na yung paglilikha ng trabaho.

At lalong kailangan natin ito dahil sa panganib ng bigla at sobrang pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa buong mundo lalong humirap ang pakikibaka kontra sa laban sa kahirapan. Mahirap ang laban dahil mahirap ang sitwasyon ng oil crisis ngunit dapat huwag tayong susuko.

Noong isang taon sa aking inagurasyon bilang pangulo, sinabi ko yung aking ten-point program. Number one nga doon ay yung creation of six to ten million jobs within the next six years. At sinabi ko nga doon, by developing three million entrepreneurs and developing two million hectares of land for agri-business. Itong tatlong milyong entrepreneur, ito nga ay sa pamamagitan ng pagtulong sa mga micro, small at medium enterprises. At sinabi rin ni Bobi Tiglao yung ating accomplishment report mula nung 2001, dalawang milyong maliliit na maliliit na negosyo ay natulungan ng 20 billion pesos.

Marami rito ay galing sa Land Bank, sa DBP, sa National Livelihood Support Fund, sa People's Credit and Finance Corporation, at meron pala galing sa SB Corporation bagamat ang SB Corporation ay small enterprises ang kanyang inaasikaso talaga, hindi yung micro. Ngunit yung mga tulong na galing sa pamahalaan, itong mga bangkong binanggit ko or agency, ay hindi diretso sa micro enterprise kaya kung minsan yung mga micro entrepreneur hindi nila nare-realize na malaking bahagi sa tulong — hindi naman lahat dahil yung mga ngo malaking-malaki rin ang tulong — pero hindi nila nare-realize na malaking bahagi nito ay galing sa pamahalaan. Kaya importanteng malaman din natin dito sa stakeholders' forum na ipahayag na ito ay partnership ng pamahalaan at saka ng mga NGO, pati na rin yung mga bangko, microfinance bank na na-accredit doon sa Central Bank of the Philippines.

Hindi dumidiretso halimbawa ang Land Bank na magpahiram sa mga micro enterprises, dinadaan nila sa mga conduit. Karamihan ng conduit ay NGO, yung mga nandito sa entablado, yan mga NGO na ginagamit na conduit. Yung mga tumuntong kanina at tumanggap ng certificate o yung malalaking tseke, yon ang mga conduit. At yung gobyerno mayron ding conduit, yung Quedancor ay isang conduit na nagpapahiram ng retail pero karamihan nga ay mga NGO dahil yung Classic Grameen Bank na nanggaling doon sa Bangladesh nagsimula ay NGO, hindi gobyerno ang gumagawa pero gusto nating ma-fast track kaya pumapasok ang gobyerno bilang source of funding na nagko-contribute sa equity. Pag may equity yung ibang ngo, o kaya pagkulang ng conduit, nagko-conduit na rin kagaya ng Quedancor. Pero ang namamahala dito ayon sa batas — na ako rin ang naging principal author, yung ating anti-poverty law — ang People's Credit and Finance Corporation ang siyang gumigitna sa ating microfinance.

Kaya inaatasan ko muli ang PCFC na magkaroon ng direktoryo ng mga microfinance conduit sa bawat bayan. Kasi sinasabi kasi natin PCFC, Credit, DBP, baka mamaya yung mga maliliit na entrepreneur, yung mga micro, doon pupunta sa DBP, doon pupunta sa PCFC, hindi ganun. Pupunta sa mga conduit pero trabaho ng PCFC na magkaron ng direktoryo ng conduit sa bawat bayan. At dapat ito'y ina-advertise natin, ini-scroll Ginoong Heneroso, ini-scroll doon sa ating government channels. Halimbawa, San Pablo, Laguna card, ganun, ang conduit of microfinance. O doon sa Aklan, taytay sa kauswagan, dapat merong alam bawat bayan saan ang conduit.

Para malaman naman ng ating mga incomeless assetless women na sila rin ang dapat pangunahing preyoridad ng microfinance kung saan lalapit para humiram ng puhunan para sa kanilang mga micro enterprises. May mga lugar na walang conduit. May mga bayang walang conduit. Sinabi ko naman at inuulit ko ang atas — wala kasi sila dito, gustong sabihin hindi pa sila napapasok sa loop ng microfinance — kapag walang conduit sa isang bayan ang DSWD SEA-K ang dapat maging conduit. Kasi hindi naman lahat ng 1,600 towns ng Pilipinas ay merong microfinance conduit. Pero lahat ng bayan ay may DSWD, at ang DSWD ay may kaugnayan sa... Meron din sariling microfinance office self-employment assistance. So, ito ang kailangang gawin natin para makaabot sa nakararami.

Ang ating hangarin kasi gaya nang sabi ni Bobi, gaya nang sabi ko, mula 2004 hanggang 2010 maka-develop tayo ng tatlong milyong entrepreneur sa pamamagitan ng microfinance at small and medium enterprise loans. Iba ang microfinance, iba ang small and medium enterprise kaya importante yung ating sinasabing conduit. Mga small and medium enterprise humihiram sa karaniwang bangko gaya nang napaka-successful na bangko ni Ambassador Tambunting, number one sila sa pagpapahiram sa small and medium enterprises.

Meron tayong programang pautang sa SME, ang tawag doon ay 'Sulong.' ano ang ibig sabihin ng 'Sulong,' Zoraida? Small and Medium Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth, yan ang small and medium enterprise. At ito ay nagpautang na ng 27 billion pesos noong isang taon lamang.

Ang microfinance naman hindi pumupunta sa karaniwang bangko ang borrower, pumupunta nga sa mga ngo conduit o yung Quedancor, o kung wala inaalok natin, ayusin natin ang sistema para makalapit sa DSWD SEA-K. Eto naman ang sagot natin sa five-six. Gaya ng five-six, maliliit ang halaga ng mga pautang kaya sa conduit dumadaan, kasi wala namang makinarya ang Land Bank na magpahiram ng 2,000 pesos, 15,000 pesos although yung Quedancor nga sa pilitan ay naging makinarya. Lilang libo lamang ang pautang sa microfinance, habang sa SME umaabot hanggang milyon ang pautang. At ang sistema ay halos door-to-door ang pautang at door-to-door ang pagkubra halos, pumupunta sa community center. At ang koleksyon ay madalasan hindi yung at the end of one year, hindi ba, Zoraida? Para hindi maipon at hindi lumaking lubha ang utang.

Kaya mas malaki ang gastos ng microfinance for administration kaysa ang gastos ng karaniwang bangko. Kaya maiintindihan niyo mas mataas ang interest na tsina-charge ng microfinance dahil mas malaki ang gastos. At least, di hamak mas maliit kaysa sa mga five-six.

Sa karaniwan ang microfinance ay walang collateral, habang yung mga bangko ay may collateral. Pero ano ang kapalit ng collateral? Yung social preparation. Kaya doon sa DSWD halimbawa, ilang buwan munang tinuturuan yung mga beneficiaries sa mga asal ng pagbayad ng utang, kasama doon ay values formation. Kaya nakikita ko maraming mga Christian groups ay very active dahil malakas ang values formation component na yon at saka co-makers joint obligation. Ang microfinance ay hindi sa individual lang nagpapahiram may mga co-makers, may mga

microfinance groups, mga five people, ten people, 15 people. Ang utang ng isa ay nagiging utang ng mga kasama sa grupo. At dahil sa magandang sistemang ito almost home service, values formation, madalas na pagkubra tapos nuon yung co-makers halos 100 percent ang nababayad ng utang ng mga microfinance borrowers, mas maganda pa kaysa sa repayment rate ng mga umuutang ng malalaki sa malalaking bangko. Kaya congratulations sa inyong lahat! Mga bayani ng microfinance.

Kanina sa pagdiriwang ng ating selebrasyon ng microfinance, tayo ay namahagi ng 73 million pesos bilang pautang ng microfinance: 34 million mula sa DBP, hindi ba, Rey?; 25 million mula sa PCFC; 11 million mula sa Land Bank; at 3 million mula sa SB Corporation. Nakita natin nagbigay sila ng tseke sa mga conduit, tapos yung conduit naman ay nagbigay ng tseke sa mga humihiram sa kanila. Kaya, congratulations sa mga conduit! Congratulations sa mga tumanggap ng pondo, sa mga borrowers!

Dahil napaka-importante ang papel ng microfinance sa paglikha ng trabaho, dapat may lead agency na nagsusubaybay sa buong microfinance system ng ating bansa, whether this microfinance is government or NGO. At ito ang trabaho ng People's Credit and Finance Corporation. Kasi kung ano ang ginagawa ng small business corporation ni Mel Alonzo sa mga SME dapat yon din ang gawin ng PCFC. What I'm trying to say is hindi kailangan na ang PCFC lamang ang nagpapahiram ng lahat kasi meron tayong buong sistema. Kagaya ng SB Corporation, hindi naman sila nagpapahiram sa lahat ng SME. Eh si Ginoong Tambunting di hamak many, many times over what SB Corporation is lending. Maliit nga lamang ang pinapahiram ng SB Corporation compared to what the whole SME system is lending. Kasi maraming pautang sa mga small and medium enterprises ay nanggagaling sa iba't-ibang bangko.

So, ganun din dapat ang microfinance, nanggagaling sa karamihan ng pautang yung mga malalaking NGO conduits kagaya ng opportunity and microfinance bank, or yung card, or yung transformation... Ano? Center for transformation, yung Taytay sa kauswagan, yung Negros Women for Tomorrow. May mga half a dozen yang mga malalaking pinanggagalingan. Tapos may DBP, may Land Bank, ngunit dapat ang PCFC ang nagsusubaybay. Meron dapat program director at yon ang trabaho ng PCFC gaya nang ginagawa ng SB sa buong Small and Medium Enterprise Development. Kaya dapat ang PCFC ay parating umuugnay sa Land Bank, sa DBP, sa NLSF, sa mga conduit, kasama na rin dito ang DSWD SEA-K na parating everytime ako'y nagkaka-meeting sinasabi ko gamitin ang DSWD bilang conduit kapag walang ngo conduit sa isang lugar.

Ang PCFC ay linalagay ko sa ilalim ng DTI, pamamahala ng DTI, dahil tandem dapat ang PCFC at saka SB sa pagsubaybay nga sa pag-develop ng tatlong milyong entrepreneur. Kaya ito ay gusto ko isigurado ni Secretary Ermita na yung papeles na sumusunod sa aking instruction ay magawa natin para ito ay ma-institutionalize kasi ito ang papel nitong stakeholders' meeting, hindi ba sabi ni Bobi, how to improve the delivery of microfinance. And I think bringing DSWD SEA-K, where there is no microfinance in a particular town, improves that. Putting PCFC and SB Corporation together under one administration of DTI improves that.

At sa pagdiriwang natin ngayon, binabati nga natin ang PCFC dahil siya dapat ang lead agency sa microfinance at lahat ng mga kabalikat sa microfinance. At importante itong araw na ito para mas mabilis at mas mabisa ang daloy ng microfinance na umaabot sa lahat ng mga nangangailangan ng trabaho.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, binabati ko kayo, salamat sa paglingkod ninyo sa taumbayan. Huwag tayong madala sa sobrang pamumulitika. Gamitin natin ang ating enerhiya hindi sa pagtsismis-tsismis sa pulitika kung hindi mag-iral tayo ng tatlong milyong maliliit na negosyante, maglikha tayo ng tatlong milyong trabaho. Yan ang gawin natin sa mga darating na taon at sana pagkatapos nitong araw na ito lalo pang magtagumpay ang microfinance community of the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Stakeholders' Forum in Microfinance with the theme: "Harnessing Microfinance for Jobs Generation and Entrepreneurial Growth". Retrieved

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092806/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5135&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st Regional Congress of the Liga ng mga Barangay Region III Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st Regional Congress of the Liga ng mga Barangay Region III**

[Delivered at the Expo Filipino, Clark Special Economic Zone Angeles City, Pampanga, September 22, 2005]

Maraming salamat, pangulo ng liga, si James Marty Lim sa iyong pagpakilala.

Gusto kong batiin ang ating mga kasama rito, mga Cabinet members sa pamumuno ni Secretary Angelo Reyes at saka ni Secretary Ed Pamintuan at saka ni Secretary Cerge Remonde; si liga Region III, Efren Dela Cruz, salamat sa iyong sabi mong regalo sa inyong lingkod; ang ating host mayor dahil ang Clark ay nasa Mabalacat at Angeles, si Mayor Morales; si Vice Mayor ng Angeles; si Governor Jose Yap ng Tarlac; si Governor Garcia ng Bataan; si board member Joson ng Nueva Ecija; ating host din si Tony ng Clark Development Corporation; si Vice Mayor Salamera ng Angeles — ay, nabanggit ko na yata kanina; at meron tayong importanteng mga panauhin gaya ni Pangulong Francis Chua ng Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce; at saka kayo mga barangay leaders ng buong Region III, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Naalala ko, huli tayong nagkasama ng ganito kalaki nung 2004, di ba? Panahon ng kampanya. Salamat sa inyong suporta sa inyong lingkod.

Ngayon naman binabati ko kayo sa pagpasa ng panukalang batas resetting the barangay elections from October this year to October 2007, pumasa po sa bicameral conference committee.

Nais ko na ring samantalain ang pagkakataong ito upang pasalamatan kayo mga opisyal ng barangay sa ipinakita ninyong katatagan sa pagharap sa mga pagsubok sa sistemang pulitika ng ating bansa. Kayo ang grassroots, pag kayo ay susuporta sa inyong pangulo, matatag ang ating republika.

Salamat sa inyo at sa panginoon nakaraos ang bansa kaya hinihiling ko sa inyo isigurado natin na tuloy makaraos ang ating bansa. Isigurado rin niyo na umiral ang batas — the rule of law. Ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa, the future of our country lies in our unwavering focus. Dapat nakatutok tayo. Dapat determinado tayo to apply the rule of law, at ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa ay nakasandal din sa ating kapasidad na masugpo natin ang kahirapan at pagdudusa ng ating bansa.

Ngunit walang mangyayari kung papayagan nating manggulo ang mga nanggugulo. Kaya kayo mga leader sa grassroots ang hinihingi ko sa inyo sa halip na payagan nating magsiraan, tulungan ninyo akong siguraduhin ang kapapayaan at katiwasayan at magtayo na lang tayo ng tatlong milyong maliliit na negosyo para magkaroon ng tatlong milyong bagong trabaho. Tulungan na lang ninyo ako magbukas ng dalawang milyong ektarya sa negosyong pansaka para ganun makalikha ng dalawang milyong bagong trabaho. Iyan ang ating gawin.

Tumataas ang ating growth rate ng exports. Ang huling nakita kong figures, 11 percent sa kabila ng naghihirap ang mundo. Matatag ang piso sa kabila ng ang laki ng gastos natin sa pag-angkat ng krudo. At bumababa ang unemployment rate, 7.7 percent. Sabi nga ni Max Soliven, “mas malaki pa pala ang unemployment rate sa Alemanya kaysa sa Pilipinas.”

Nasa pangalawang yugto na tayo ng ating repormang pangkaunlaran.

What is this second phase of reform? It demands double the energy, double the discipline, double the resolve to succeed at a time when we are held back by the constraints in the global environment. And we are held back by such a degenerated political system. Kaya doblehin natin ang ating sigla. Bigyan natin ang ating mga sarili na sigla upang harapin ang mga problemang dapat bigyan kaagad ng pansin.

Kailangan maglikha ng trabaho gaya nang sabi ko kanina kahit na 7.7 percent bumaba na mula sa 8 plus percent, milyun-milyon pa rin yung walang trabaho. Kailangan magtulungan tayo para makalikha ng trabaho. Kailangan magpapairal ng pangkabuhayang kaunlaran at mamuhunan tayo sa edukasyon at kalinga sa kalusugan para sa ating sambayanan.

Kailangan ituloy natin ang walang sawang pagsikap na wakasan ang katiwalian sa sistema. At kailangan siguruhin natin na ang mahihirap na inaalagaan ninyo ay maproteksiyunan laban sa labis na pagtataas ng presyo at makuha nila ang pagkain at gasolinang kailangan upang umunlad. Yan ang ating mga hamon ngayong hinaharap dito sa first regional congress.

At nais ng mga mamamayan isang pamahalaan na tumutugon sa kanilang pangangailangan sa lahat ng antas ng pamayanan mula sa akin, pangulo, hanggang sa inyo mga barangay leader.

Sama-sama tayo na ayusin ang sistema ng pulitika. Sama-sama tayo maglagay ng higit na kapangyarihan, higit na kakayahan, higit na kayamanan. Let's put more power, more capacity, more wealth in the hands of the people. Salamat, dactal a salamat, bamban.

Ang mga kaguluhan at di-pagkakaunawaan ay patunay lamang na ang kasalukuyang sistema ay kailangan ng matinding pagbabago. Dactal a salamat, Mexico. Pagbabago bago pa mas lalong gumulo. At gusto ko na ang mahalagang pag-uusap na ito ay magsimula sa ating mga barangay. Salamat, Tarlac. Salamat, Bataan. Dahil kayo, higit ninuman, ang makikinabang sa pagbabago ng ating pulitika. Dactal a salamat, Angeles City. Uy, peka maragul a delegasyon. Salamat, Olongapo. Congratulations! Okey, barangay Mabayan, dactal a salamat.

Kaya ako'y natutuwa sa mga nagdaos ng ganitong pagpupulong, maging yung mga binanggit ko. O, Pampanga tinataas din ang kanilang bandila. Salamat sa inyong pagdating sa pagpupulong na ito na ang paksa ay sabi niyo — nanu ita, yari na, ing bamban pin ing minuna nandin, salamat, salamat. Zambales, salamat. Bataan, nabanggit ko na. Nueva Ecija, thank you — ang pangalan ng inyong pagpupulong, “Pagkakaisa Tungo sa Pambansang Kaunlaran.” Magkaisa tayo para umiral ang rule of law.

I am tired of chasing the bully around the schoolyard. Yung mga tatanggap sa aking panawagan magkaisa, welcome. Yung mga hindi tumatanggap at patuloy na manggugulo, we, from the top to the barangay officials, will enforce the rule of law, di ba? Kaya inaasahan ko na ang pagpupulong na ito ay magbubunga ng mga kaganapang ikasisiya ng ating mga mamamayan.

Let us move on. Humanap tayo ng trabaho para sa ating mga constituent. Yan ang ating pangunahing tungkulin. Magkaisa tayo sa ganitong tungkulin. Congratulations mga barangay officials and leaders!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 1st Regional Congress of the Liga ng mga Barangay Region III. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092716/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5120&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the “Jesus Saves Festival of Praise” and 30th Anniversary of the MBBC and Ministries

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the “Jesus Saves Festival of Praise” and 30th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church (MBBC) and Ministries**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City, September 23, 2005]

Thank you, Congressman Benny, Bishop Benny for your introduction. Thank you for inviting me to be here in this festival of praise.

Tonight, indeed, we gather in praise. Praise Jesus he is so good. And I would like to praise the Metropolitan Bible Baptist church for your 30th anniversary.

And to say tonight, to all of you, that I also have much to thank Jesus for. I thank Jesus because he has given you to me especially the biblemode. I thank Jesus for your steadfast commitment to the rule of law. I thank Jesus for Congressman Benny’s speech that he will make on Monday on the rule of law. I thank Jesus for Benny Abante who has been a voice of reason and principles.

I thank Jesus that he has touched the hearts of our people not to seek the turmoil of the streets even though they’re not always happy. I thank Jesus that he touches the hearts of our people to keep to the rule of law, and to fight poverty not through tossing blame but through hard work.

I thank Dr. Janney for reminding us that our life is not futile because Jesus is there and he has saved us. Because our life is not futile, I guess each one of us has to examine what does the lord want each one of us to do as we go to this journey, to this temporary home, to our permanent home in heaven.

In my case, the Lord may be president. And since my very first day as president, I set broad economic, political and social reforms as my goal, as the mission that I see the Lord gave me to do in this temporary home. Because we are not in heaven, we are on earth and there is so much imperfection. I saw these goals as my contribution to the salvation of a country hurting from generations of poverty.

I need Jesus to continue to save us. Today our people seem to live in two countries: one, a country that is poised and equipped for economic take off with our budget deficit going down. But the other country is the one constantly held back by degenerating political structures where inquiries, supposed to be in aid of legislation, are used instead to harass and to bring down constituted authority. Structures that prevent us from achieving sustainable growth. And I ask the lord to continue the salvation that he’s made when he died on the cross for us to manifest itself that salvation in helping survive this degeneration.

We are here on our way to our permanent home. But as we go there, each one of us has a job to do. I have a job to do and because Jesus the Lord already died for us, he has given us the grace, the amazing grace that we need and I call upon that grace, the grace to do my job well.

I thank Jesus because he gives energy to me. And I thank Jesus because he gave me the support of congress. Because Jesus gave me the support of congress, my administration was able to pull off the first phase of our

economic reforms. Now, we are on the second phase that will bring to our poor the schools, the water, the electricity, the health services and other benefits of the First Phase. And I call upon the Lord and I claim his salvation that we will be able to provide this to his poor.

I claim his salvation, even us and through the new challenges posed by the sky rocketing oil prices in the world market, we rely on God's amazing grace to complete a remaining economic reforms. I praise Jesus because his people are waking up to the call for political change to bring about permanent positive change.

And I praise Jesus and I call on Him and I claim His amazing grace for a fresh start for the nation, from the economic travails that are due not only to the challenges in the world but also the political storm that symbolizes the degenerated political system.

Even if I find that I have to govern in such a degenerated political system, I know and you refresh my memories, dear pastors and preachers, that his grace is sufficient.

I thank Jesus for giving us the grace that is sufficient. Sufficient for constant and open dialogue as an instrument to bridge the differences among us. Much of the things we have been doing together, together with the evangelical churches has been about the dialogue or inter-faith dialogue. Dialogue among the faiths, dialogue among the tribes, dialogue among the political ideologies that thrive in this land. And I ask Jesus to transform that dialogue into the unity we need to do his will on our road to heaven.

I know people await, await their blessings in heaven. At the same time, on this temporary journey towards heaven, our people also await governance that will deliver the nation from stagnation. And on my part, I claim the sufficient grace to be able to employ... Continue to employ dialogue in governance, to listen to the voice of the Filipino people just as I dialogue with god through prayer and discernment.

I was listening to the song of our young people tonight from U.P. and it said: "when I have no one to talk to, where do I go? Where do I turn?" that song is so meaningful to me because many times I am alone, I have no one to talk to, no one human to talk to. But I have someone who is always there to talk to, and if I pray hard enough I can even hear his silent voice in my ear.

And so tonight, before you who love Jesus and before you who have shown so often your love for me as your sister in Jesus, let me proclaim once again my trust is in the Lord Jesus and in his divine will.

Pray for me that his amazing grace will live in the work that I need to do for the Filipino people.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the "Jesus Saves Festival of Praise" and 30th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church (MBBC) and Ministries. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092641/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5119&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 8th Anniversary Celebration of the “Kaanak 1896”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 8th Anniversary Celebration of the “Kaanak 1896”**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, September 30, 2005]

Dacal a salamat, Chairman Ambeth Ocampo, my Cabalen, chairman of the National Historical Institute.

General Aglipay, President of the Kaanak Foundation, thank you for organizing this very, very impressive affair today; Monsignor Cesar Solomon, thank you for being here and for leading our prayers as well as our bishop from the Aglipayan church, thank you for being here to represent... Ah, you're the great grandson of Isabelo Delos Reyes representing not only the Philippine Independent Church but also the beginning of the Philippine Labor Movement; Attorney Abaño, Vice President of the Kaanak Foundation, maraming salamat sa binasa niyong resolusyon ng suporta para sa inyong lingkod; other officials of the Philippine Government who are here today; officers and members of the Kaanak 1896 Foundation; nandito rin yung ating mga veterans sa Bulacan chapter, welcome to this affair; mga minamahal kong kababayan:

Isang malaking karangalan para sa malacañang at sa akin na maging panauhin ang mga kaanak ng mga bayani sa rebolusyon sa inyong ika-walong anibersaryo ngayon. Sabi nga ni Egay Aglipay, taun-taon kung puwede gusto kong narito tayong lahat, dahil ang Malacañang ay narito bilang simbolo ng ating republika dahil ang mga ninuno ninyo ang lumaban para sa ating republika.

Pinupuri ko kayo sa inyong pagsisikap. Yung mga sinasabi ninyong programa ni General Aglipay, nakita ko ang bunga ng inyong mga proyekto. Sabi nga ni Egay, isang ginagawa ng kaanak ay ipinagdidiriwang yung mahahalagang araw ng kasaysayan ng ating rebolusyon. Napakaganda para maalala naman ng ating bansa kung ano ang sakripisyong ginawa ng inyong mga ninuno para tayo ay maging isang bansa, isang sambayanan.

Yung pangalawang sinabi ni Egay, doon nagagalak ako lalo na kayo aktibong tumutulong upang buhayin sa ating mga kabataan ang pagmamahal sa bayan. Talagang importante na yung pagmamahal sa ating bayan bilang isang bansa, nationhood, ay hindi lamang nandoon sa inyong mga ninuno, hanggang sa inyo, hanggang dapat sa mga dumarating na henerasyon. At magandang proyekto yon ng ating kaanak. Congratulations! Sa inyo doon.

At yung kanina naman na pinahayag ninyo, maging sa diskurso ni General Aglipay, maging doon din sa resolusyong binasa ninyo, nagpapasalamat ako sa lahat ng suportang patuloy binibigay ninyo sa akin. Tulad ng nabanggit kanina ng inyong... At nagpapasalamat ako kay Egay sa pag-galvanize niya ng suporta bilang inyong kasalukuyang chairman at presidente. Si Egay talaga ang ganda ng kanyang leadership. Kanina...

Pag-usapan natin yung leadership. Kanina, Egay, kasi nanggaling ako sa Philippine National Police headquarters. Nagkaroon ng command conference at unang-unang presentation ng agenda item number one was the continuing transformation program of the PNP na ang nagsimula ay walang iba kundi si Chief PNP Edgardo Aglipay. In other words, Egay, para malaman mo, kahit na hindi ka na Chief PNP, yung mga programang sinimulaan mo, yon pa rin ang tinutupad ng PNP ngayon. Kaya congratulations!

So, I appreciate Egay for his leadership and I appreciate all of you for your true and sincere patriotism so worthy of your ancestors. And now again I ask for your support, as I put my foot down for the sake of the people, for the sake

of enabling the government to work rather than be disabled by the politics of insult that are done in this inquiries in aid of destabilization, where the situation is manipulated by projecting speculation, hearsay and half truth as proven fact in contribution to those who would want to grab power.

Hindi nagwagi sa impeachment. Hindi nagwagi sa kalsada dahil na rin sa magandang disiplinang iniwan ni Egay sa magagaling na pulis. Ngayon, nililipat ang battleground sa senado. We have to put our foot down. And I ask you to stand and be counted as guardians of the law and civility in a democratic society that works for the people rather than impedes their prosperity.

Yes, we all want the truth, but the truth must be found in the forums where the rule of law is observed, where the rules of evidence are observed, where those accused have the right to present their own defense in accordance with time tested regulations. Kung hindi, ano ang nangyayari? Kangaroo court. Confusion leading to a situation where it's easy to have a power grab. Sayang naman yung pinagsakripisyo ng inyong mga ninuno.

Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat na mayron tayong pagkakataon na magkasama ngayon. Napaka-importante ang kaanak. Yung ginagawa niyo para umiral yung ating sense of nationhood sa pamamagitan ng mga istorya tungkol sa mga ginawa ng inyong mga ninuno para sa ating bansa. Because what is the truth? The truth is that we are such a divided nation. It's like we are two Philippines, not one Philippines. The Philippines that is posed for economic take off, kaya yung ating unemployment rate bumababa, from 8.3 percent to 7.7 percent. Kaya yung ating growth rate ay mas mataas kaysa sa Malaysia, sa Korea, sa Taiwan. Kaya yung self-rated poverty ay bumababa rin from 57 percent three months ago to 49 percent in August. Pero sa kabila noon, is the other Philippines, the poisoned Philippines, the poisoned political system and manifested by those who seek in fact to use this situation to grab power. Hindi natin papayagan yon. Hindi natin papayagan malustay yung sakripisyo nung inyong mga ninuno.

And I am happy to be with you in kaanak. Eighth anniversary kayo ngayon bilang foundation pero matagal na rin itong kaanak. Naalala ko, buhay pa ang aking tatay, kasama ko siya, sumasama ako sa kanya doon sa Kawit, sa Los Baños. Noong ako ay naging senador, ako mismo ginawa niyong bisita, guest of honor sa bahay mismo ni Jose Rizal. Talagang para sa aming pamilya, kami ay kasama na rin sa kaanak.

Isang dahilan ay dahil yung tatay ko binibigyan ng malaking halaga ang ginawa ng inyong mga ninuno, kaya sinabi niya na ang tunay na araw ng ating kasarinlan ay hindi July 4, 1946 kung kailan nakuha natin ang independence natin through diplomatic missions, kung hindi yung June 12, 1898 kung saan dahil sa sakripisyo ng inyong mga ninuno, dineklara natin na tayo ay isang bansa at ipaglalaban natin yung ating kasarinlan kahit na magdanak ang ating dugo. At yon ang sinabi ng inyong mga ninuno.

Isang dahilan din kung bakit yung tatay ko ay parati ang feeling niya malapit siya sa kaanak ay dahil kami naman ay mga descendants ni lakandula na kinatatakutan ng mga kastila kaya tuloy hindi nila pinasok sa sovereignty ng kastila at hinayaan na maging autonomous fiefdom, hindi nagbabayad ng buwis, hindi nagbabayad ng cedula sa spanish government. Pero siguro dahil isa sa inyong mga pakay ay maikuwento yung mga istorya ng iba't-ibang mga ninuno. Kung puwede siguro maikuwento ko naman sa inyo ang istorya ng ninuno, hindi akin mismo kundi yung aking kaniyang na si Mike Arroyo na nakatira... Nandoon na sa amerika dahil gusto niya ngang mabawasan yung intriga sa aming pamilya. Ang lolo ng aking asawa ay si General Aniceto Lacson, at siya yung namuno ng rebolusyon doon sa Negros at nanalo yung kanyang revolutionary forces. Nagwagi kontra sa mga kastila kagaya ng ninuno nila Attorney Villegas, si General Malvar, nagwagi rin sa rebolusyon. Eh hindi pa tayo isang bansa noon. Maraming mga pockets of revolution na nanalo and they declared themselves as the president of that area. So Aniceto Lacson was declared as the president of that area. Hanggang dumating naman yung Philippine-American war kaya nahuli si Aguinaldo at lahat so nabalik tayo uli sa isang colonial master na pagkatapos nuon naman ang paglaban naman doon ay diplomatic initiatives.

Ang daming maikuwento ninyo. Yon ay naiikuwento ko at pag kami ay nagfa-family reunion, yon parati ang kinikuwento namin. Kinikuwento sa aming mga anak, sa aming mga apo. Siguro paglaki na rin nila ikuwento ganun din ang isang napakagandang gawain ng kaanak, storytelling about the great feats of our heroes.

Kasi yang dalawang bansang Pilipinas: yang bansang Pilipinas na ready for economic take-off, pero yung bansang pilipinas na nawawatak-watak dahil sa sobrang nabubulok na sistema ng pulitika, isang paraan kung papaano maging isang Pilipinas yan muli at maging isang bansa tayo muli ay ma-inspire tayo ng ginawa ng inyong mga ninuno so that we will be one nation — the Republic of the Philippines.

Kaya tamang-tama itong araw na ito na ating ipagdiriwang ang mga ginawa ng inyong mga ninuno, at inaasahan ko na ganun na nga, gaya ng sinabi ni Egay, taun-taon tayo ay sasama maalala natin yung mga ginawa ng inyong mga ninuno, ating mga ninuno at tayo ay magsusumpa sa kanila na yung bansang binuo nila ay sisikapin natin na talagang maging isang bansa — one nation.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 8th Anniversary Celebration of the "Kaanak 1896". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092631/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5118&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Oath Taking of the Newly-Elected Officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Oath Taking of the Newly-Elected Officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 6, 2005]

Thank you, Secretary Ermita.

Regional Governor Ampatuan; Regional Vice-Governor Adiong; Regional Assembly men and women; our congressmen; governors; other officials from the different provinces and districts of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; others officials of the Philippine government; ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi warrabakatu!

Great imperatives mark our national horizon today. And in all of them, Muslim Mindanao plays a vital and indispensable role.

For one thing, there is the imperative of peace. The guns have been silenced in Mindanao and we are negotiating a peace settlement with the facilitation of Malaysia forged in honor, dignity and justice for all.

But one cannot speak of the peace process in Mindanao without mentioning the enduring role of Libya since the Tripoli agreement in 1976, Saudi Arabia that spearheaded the Jeddah Accord of 1987, Indonesia that led the OIC committee of the six and then the eight towards the signing of the Philippines-MNLF final peace agreement of 1996, and indeed the entire OIC for their support to our peace process.

Another great imperative is understanding among peoples. Interfaith dialogue is part of our comprehensive national development plan for peace and is our contribution to the United Nations.

Political change, economic stability, interfaith dialogue, the security of our homeland — all these are hallmarks of survival in this age and time, and all these greatly depend on what happens in Muslim Mindanao especially under the new leadership.

At this time, I am focused on the economy as we are hit by a storm of unabated oil price hikes. We are able to face this among other things because we have kept our fiscal house in order and spurts of growth are extant in the countryside. Our growth rate so far this year is in fact higher than some of our more prosperous neighbors.

The cycle of peace, economic growth and political stability must be pushed by the combined weight of leaders and constituencies, and this is the challenge placed before all of us today. We, in the national government, and you, in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

The people are completely exhausted with politics when so much remains to be done in the nation and in that land of Mindanao.

The people want a government that brings better service to them on a local basis, with more power in the provinces. And that is why your autonomy is so important as a prototype for other autonomies. The people want more accountability by the politicians. The people want less power concentrated in Metro Manila.

The people are dissatisfied with the current form of government, though they are unsure of what type of government should replace it. They have fears and rightfully so, that there will be a rearranging of the deck chairs in the titanic, but that the boat will still sink.

I say that we need a new ship. But in the end the people will decide the charter change.

In the meantime, we must pass a national budget to help the poor with new schools, more rice and a better education. And what I am saying about the country as a whole is more crucial in Muslim Mindanao. And we must pass an anti-terrorism law that keeps the nation safe and strong. And I thank the governor, the autonomous region governor for his commitment to the fight against terrorism and also to the pursuit of the peace process. But we must all, national and autonomous governments, generate the revenue to pay down our debts so that our children live without fear of poverty.

I'm deeply concerned that the pressing issues of the people will be lost in the noise of our degenerated political system. I must repeat: we need a stronger, more responsive government to serve the people tomorrow; and we need a stronger, more caring solution to poverty today.

We cannot abandon our commitment to solve the problems of the people as we go about salvaging and even savaging institutions in this severely degenerated system.

So today, I issue these challenges:

One, to all supporters of charter change: please involve the people. The people must be heard.

Two, to certain senators: stop your mindless preoccupation with all things political and do something — pass our national budget, create jobs, build up stockpiles of rice, bring health insurance to the poor, construct new schools, stop your wrangling and get to work. Time is wasting as the people suffer.

Three, to members of the business community: Get the economy moving. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Get off the sidelines and onto the field. Roll up your sleeves and join us in public-private sector partnerships to solve the nation's problems.

And of course, to our newly inducted officials of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao: all that we are calling ourselves to do in the country, in the national government, in the national scene, you are also challenged to do in your autonomous region.

We cannot expect things to happen overnight. But given time, we in the nation as a whole, and you in the autonomous region will prevail over seemingly insurmountable odds.

I say this with great affection and sentiment because as a child growing up in Mindanao, in Lanao, I personally saw the plight of our countrymen in this land of promise. I consider it my filial duty and my duty now as your sister to work hard with you to fulfill that promise.

Once again to all of you, congratulations! And in this holy month of Ramadan, we especially pray for your great success.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092419/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5217&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 14th Anniversary of the Local Government Code Theme: “Kilos Lokal, Asenso Nasyonal”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 14th Anniversary of the Local Government Code Theme: “Kilos Lokal, Asenso Nasyonal”**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, October 10, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Secretary Angelo Reyes, secretary of DILG.

Congratulations! Governor Aumentado sa imo nga maayong presentasyon sa “Kilos Asenso,” sa imong liderato, sa ULAP ug sa... Ubos sa imo nga liderato ang suporta ninyo kanako kanunay, salamat; Mayor Lito Atienza, ang ating host mayor at pangulo ng Metro Manila Mayors League, maraming salamat din, at congratulations sa pagpanalo ni Bobby Pacquiao. Eto mga Pacquiao brothers ang unang training nila ay ginanap dito sa City of Maynila kaya malapit na malapit sila kay Mayor Atienza; Mayor Ramon Guico and all the Municipal Mayors of the Philippines who are here today; Mayor Jerry Treñas and all the City Mayors who are here today; Vice Governor Julius Herrera and all the Vice Governors who are here today; vice Mayor Jessie Cruz and all of the vice mayors who are here today; Councilor Carlo Fortuna and all the councilors who are here today; James Marty Lim and all of the barangay officials who are here today; board member Piccio –saan yung ating Santa Claus? Saan? — and all of the board members who are here today; our Cabinet members who are here aside from Secretary Reyes, we have Secretary Neri, Secretary Favila, Secretary Ampatuan I think, Acting Secretary Pangandaman. I don’t know who else are here but thank you to all of you; Mayor Sarmiento, Secretary General, thank you for emceeding this occasion; Mayor Oca Rodriguez; other officials and members of the ULAP and local governments; guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Una sa lahat, mabuhay ang pamahalaang lokal!

And as Angie Reyes described me, I am dead serious in taking the power from the center of governance, from Metro Manila to the countryside that feeds it. Kaya naman hindi ko dinadamutan ang inyong IRA. Buo kong binibigay taun-taon sa sapat na panahon. Binabayaran ko pa yung utang sa inyo ng mga nakaraang administrasyon. And now, we will return to our LGUs through programmed monetization the unprogrammed funds that should have been part of your 2000 and 2001 IRA.

Congratulations! To the league of cities for what you presented today, your new partnership with the world bank for strategic planning, governance and resource mobilization. Keep the flame burning dahil ang national government may deficit, sinisikap na bawasan ang utang, ang mga local governments may surplus so kayo na ang gumamit ng mga credit facilities available to the national government.

At higit sa lahat, mabuhay!! Ang mga LGU sa pag-unlad, paglunsad ng “Kilos Asenso: Building Prosperity from Community to Community.” Thank you for aligning your programs through “Kilos Asenso” with our Medium-Term Philippine Development plan highlighted by our 10-point program. Thank you for keeping faith with our common vision. And because we appreciate you so much, as Governor Aumentado acknowledged earlier, we have put our national counterpart in the national budget for 2006.

Yon yung sinasabi nilang media na pork barrel raw ng local government. Hindi yon pork, ang problema naman eh pag maglalagay ng infrastructure at social services ang tawag pork barrel tuloy. Anong gusto nila, panay suweldo na lang ang ating budget? Kung suweldo lamang ang ating budget aasenso ba ang ating bansa? Kailangan programmed funds. And we thank the LGUs for activating “Kilos Asenso.” We thank you for your leadership.

Gamitin natin ang “Kilos Asenso” upang ipairal ang mga pamuhunan para lumikha ng sampung milyong trabaho. Kasama na dito microfinance. This year, almost one billion pesos of microfinance has been released to various regional and provincial conduits that will relend money to micro-entrepreneurs. Gamitin din natin ang “Kilos Asenso” upang suportahan ito upang makasuporta tayo sa tatlong milyong maliliit na pansariling negosyo at saka upang makaabot tayo sa dalawang milyong ektarya ng agri-business. Yon nga ang nilagay sa programa yung mga farm-to-market roads, yung mga bagay na yon ay para makabukas tayo ng dalawang milyong ektaryang lupa sa agri-business.

I would also like to thank you not only for the support that you have expressed earlier, halimbawa, salamat sa inyong suporta sa EO 464 — this is constitutional and it promotes the healthy separation and equality of powers among branches in government.

But not only that, even in the past, you have supported the national government. I remember in 2004 when I announced an austerity program to avert a fiscal meltdown you the local governments immediately responded with various proposals to cut your own spending and to raise your own revenues. I appreciate your spirit of sacrifice and volunteerism. Salamat sa inyo.

Salamat na rin sa mga batas na napasa, naiwasan natin ang krisis sa pananalapi at nagawa natin ang unang yugto ng ating reporma sa ekonomiya. This first phase is revenue build-up. And as we are implementing the revenue build-up, I ask you once more to be in the frontline to explain to the people the sacrifice we have to make in the short run with regard to paying more taxes. Sana tulungan niyo ako magpaliwanag sa kanila na ang dagdag na buwis ang siyang makakabigay ng eskwela, tubig, kuryente sa barangay, pautang sa maliliit na negosyo, imprastrukturang mag-eengganyo sa namumuhanang magbibigay ng trabaho. Ang dagdag na buwis ang siyang nakakagawa ng paraan para makalagay tayo ng national government counterpart sa budget sa “Kilos Asenso.”

And now the world suffers from many things including high oil prices. There is a new round of oil price hikes. And we should be proud and thankful that so far our country has been one of the 26 countries, out of 200 countries in the world, with the lowest fuel price increases even if we import oil. Thus, it is important because we are heavily dependent on imported oil. It is important to realize that even if we’re one of the 26 lowest countries with an oil price increase more oil prices may come.

And you once again are at the vanguard of price stabilization and I acknowledge your contribution in managing the threshold of affordability at the level of mass consumers.

I ask you to help us not only in price stabilization but also in our initiatives to lessen dependence on imported fuel oil by helping us develop ethanol, biomass, wind power, hydro power, geothermal power and other alternative fuels, and to facilitate oil and gas exploration in your jurisdictions.

I also call on you and all sectors to strengthen our energy conservation against the backdrop of strict implementation of the Government EnerCon Program. Alam niyo doon sa Malacañang tuwing pumapasok ako sa isang silid at giniginaw ako sabi ko, hindi yata 25 degrees ang ating air conditioning. Kaya dapat istrikto ang lahat. And I call on the LGUs once again to take the leadership role there.

And as for our legislators, I reiterate our call to them to approve the indigenous fuel bill.

Kayo mga local governments, meron na kayong special na trabaho para labanan ang terorismo and watch over the threat of avian flu. Sa terorismo when we developed a 14-point program to fight terrorism in the country and in the Asean region, that was way back in late 2001, you were among the frontliners. Indeed, in the avian flu, in the terrorism fight, in price stabilization, in the fiscal reforms, in everything, the LGU phenomenon is emerging as the saving grace of our burdened nation, and I thank you for that.

And that is why I reaffirm our commitment to reward LGUs with greater powers that are due to you via revolutionary constitutional change.

Salamat sa inyo na kayo ay napakaaktibo sa ating Consultative Constitutional Commission. At inaasahan ko na bagamat meron diyang mga vested interest na sila ay sinisikap na huwag magtagumpay ang ating systemic change, dahil nandiyan kayo, tayo ay magtatagumpay.

Mabuhay ang pamahalaang lokal!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 14th Anniversary of the Local Government Code Theme: "Kilos Lokal, Asenso Nasyonal". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092358/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5215&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 31st Philippine Business Conference and Exposition

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 31st Philippine Business Conference and Exposition

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Manila City, October 13, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you very much. Thank you for your warm applause.

Thank you, Secretary Favila for introducing me.

Ambassador Donald Dee, congratulations! On a fruitful year especially your innovative 20 SME projects that support our goal to develop three million entrepreneurs and two million hectares of land for agri-business. Truly, we are working together. Congratulations, Donald!

Congratulations! George for chairing this very successful conference. I understand you had two full, very fruitful, very constructive days, and I thank you for giving me the results of your conference.

I'd like to greet the other leaders of the chamber, and I'd like to greet and thank Francis Chua for his opening remarks. Thank you Francis for referring to what I said last week, asking the businessmen to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. What I can say about the PCCI and the FFCCI, you are part of the solution. Thank you.

Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; our very distinguished awardees who are truly deserving of the awards they have received today; our officials, elective officials, there are many of them here in this hall today aside from the awardees, we have Congresswoman Janette Garin and Congresswoman Martin Petilla, thank you for your interest in the affairs of the business community; ladies and gentlemen.

I am really very gratified to be here with you once again today. The men and women in this room fuel the economic engine that drives this nation forward. You represent the Philippines that works: strong, growing, efficient, providing economic opportunity for yourselves and the nation.

I cannot erase poverty without you and the great economic engine of growth which global engagement brings.

You've heard me talk about two Philippines: one that works to create jobs, grows the economy and maintains strong economic fundamentals — that's you. And of that the Philippines should be proud and supportive.

Yet, it's the other Philippines that doesn't work that troubles me deeply, and I am sure it troubles you as well. This is the Philippines whose political system drags down the economic takeoff and makes millions lose hope. This is the Philippines of degenerated politics and a broken system that is setting the nation back rather than moving it ahead.

The theme of your conference couldn't be more appropriate to underscore the hope and peril of the Philippines today. I have heard PCCI always talk about 'One Global Filipino' and now 'new boundaries,' 'crossing boundaries.' we truly and should be one nation — one global Filipino. And yes, we should cross boundaries that take the nation into bold new arenas in our economic, social and political life.

During my presidency of the past four years, I truly believe I have opened up new horizons for the nation in the international arena; I have carved a place for the Philippines at the table of global players.

The results are seen in many ways: increased investments in the nation by foreign investors. Peter? 52 percent increase this year over last year in direct investments. And in portfolio investments, 13 times more this year than last year; billions in assistance from the United States in development aid, military assistance and anti-terrorism cooperation; remarkable help from Malaysia, the OIC nations and others to negotiate and support a lasting peace in Mindanao; interest from Japan and Daly City. I want to welcome our delegation from Japan and Daly City; and our leadership at the United Nations Security Council — not only our chairmanship during the last summit last September but also our standing chairmanship of the terrorism sanctions subcommittee of the U.N. Security Council.

I've been aggressive in restoring the Philippine reputation and presence in the international arena because it's good for business, good for our security, and good for jobs for our people.

And here at home, despite the naysayers and noise makers, we have made significant progress especially with you. As I said, investments are up; the peso is stable; tax revenue is up and growing; our fiscal plan is way ahead of target, about 30 billion pesos ahead of target; we have created four million jobs in the last four years.

Yet, for every step forward we make in reshaping our nation's image and in promoting our great Filipino worker abroad and at home, someone in the nation finds a way to undercut those advantages.

I now speak directly to those critics and opposition leaders and destabilizers who would put politics above the people; who would besmirch the reputation of our great nation with our friends and allies abroad to fuel their own political agenda here at home.

To those who oppose me, it's your right to do so, as long as it's a matter of fiscalization. But power grab and ouster are another matter. Please, stop opposing the progress of the nation in the meantime in your unquenchable thirst for power. Stop undermining our relations with the United States and other allies through conspiracies to gather foreign intelligence. Stop luring good global Filipinos into taking actions that are an embarrassment to the nation and to Philippine pride.

For me, crossing boundaries suggested in your title means unlimited opportunity of engagement in the world, to help promote the nation and build up our reputation and the reputation of our fine Filipino worker, both here and abroad.

I daresay, however, for my destabilizers, crossing boundaries means... Takes on a new meaning: they cross boundaries when it comes to satisfying their lust for power. Meddling with espionage with a foreign power to undermine our nation is crossing the line. It's dangerous. More important, it's besmirching the name of our people and our nation at a time when we are gaining momentum economically.

More important still is the preoccupation of political opponents with power grab rather than just fiscalizing when we have an economy to run, people to feed and a nation to protect.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Senator Manny Villar for sponsoring at last the anti-terrorism bill last night. Would it be a miracle if the senate focused as much time on passing anti-terrorism legislation as promoting one investigation after another based on half-truths and speculation masquerading as facts? And would it be a miracle if their main answer to bolster anti-terrorism is not to lock up our national security adviser. Locking up our national security adviser as a response to anti-terrorism, I'm sure our Abu Sayyaf foes are taking cover with that decisive act.

And we have a national budget to pass to strengthen education, create jobs, provide extended health care coverage and fulfill our promise to the people.

I hope the Senate doesn't drag its feet.

While I'm trying to unlock the congestion of Metro Manila and open up the nation to easier transportation for people and goods, some senators are trying to create a train wreck.

What signal does that send to the world?

What confidence does that provide to the marketplace?

What help does that bring to the poor?

I'm here today among you who make the 'One Philippines' run to affirm my political independence from the 'other Philippines' from the politics of degeneration. We must open up our political system; we must bring greater accountability to the people; and we must bring more power to the provinces and to the countryside that feeds the center.

And I thank you the chamber for cooperating and in fact sometimes taking the lead in that effort.

And we must believe we can do the system change and demonstrate confidence along with results. You, the people in this room and the people of the whole nation deserve better than what they're getting from our politicians today.

And so I ask you, movers and shakers of the business community to continue to join me to chart a new, independent course for the nation, free from pettiness, free from the past, free to open a new chapter in our political, economic and social life.

Mabuhay and PCCI!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 31st Philippine Business Conference and Exposition. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092350/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5210&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 48th Charter Anniversary Symposium of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 48th Charter Anniversary Symposium of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines
(RBAP)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel Malate, Manila, October 20, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Teves.

General Hotchkiss, congratulations! On this convention. And I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate you personally for your successful transformation from a successful military officer to a successful banker. Congratulations!

Other officers and members of the Rural Bankers association of the Philippines, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Actually, I was in Camiguin yesterday and I'm suppose to go to Leyte today. I should have just slept in Camiguin and gone to Leyte but it was very important when I received the invitation of General Hotchkiss that I should be here with you today. And so I'm very happy to be here with you.

Why not only because I wanted the opportunity to give moral support to General Hotchkiss and all the things that he has to do especially now that I find out that your articles of incorporation will expire in two years but also because you, the Rural Bankers are at the forefront of turning this nation around. You, the Rural Bankers are in touch with real people with real problems. You, the Rural Bankers provide the necessary resources to help our rural citizens grow and prosper.

The backbone of our nation is the farmer. The farmer who toils in the field and in the community everyday, fighting to bring a good and decent life for themselves and their families. And you serve that farmer.

I have said, especially in my State of the Nation Address, that I want to bring more power to the people. And that's why you are important. Nothing could be more central to our economic and political life than to empower the people to be more self-sufficient, more prosperous, more involved in civic life. And you enable them to be that.

The Rural Bankers in this room are working tirelessly to make life easier, more productive, more full of hope for millions of rural Filipinos. These rural Filipinos rely on you and your partnership with government to provide the economic tools they need to grow their crops as well as grow their incomes.

As an economist, I firmly believe in our joint micro-lending programs and the power it brings to the people. Our new revenue measures — and I congratulate Gary Teves for all his work to now be able to implement these revenue measures — they will entail some sacrifice in the short run but they will entail lasting rewards in the form of more jobs and livelihood opportunities, better social services, more infrastructure, less debt, and more and better financing for rural programs.

This bigger budget enabled by the new revenues, it will give us a hundred twenty billion pesos next year, right Gary? Eighty two at first but eventually a hundred twenty. And what does that mean? That is an unprecedented increase in a generation's time. This will benefit the people in this room and it will benefit the millions of farmers you help every single day.

Unfortunately, the politics of destruction and destabilization keeps getting in the way of that progress we should be looking forward to.

Having survived the elements of destabilization wave after wave, it's our mission now, the duty of this generation of leaders, and bankers, and entrepreneurs, and their financiers to build finally a strong Philippine republic in the 21st century. A strong republic, a republic so strong that it can defend the poorest, the weakest of Filipinos.

Time and again I have said that my vision and common sense and plain talk in my State of the Nation Address in 2002 is made up of the common man's aspirations — edukasyon. Sariling tahanan. Pagkain sa bawat mesa.

We cannot tarry any longer in pursuing that aspiration of the common man by staying as a soft state. The first half of the first decade of this century has seen the winds of globalization grow stronger each day. The ship of the Philippine state must be robust and resilient enough to unfurl its sails to ride those winds rather than toppling under their force.

A strong republic that will make the Philippines a first world country in 20 years with a permanent environment conducive to sustained wealth creation — that is our dream and we must set the foundations today.

An effective state must help its poor and weakest citizens, empower them and reform the structures that make them poor and weak. And as you review your charter, it is also time for the Philippines to review its national charter.

And most of all, an effective government rests on enforcing justice without fear or favor for all, not just the powerful. This is the only way to create a permanent environment, as I said, for wealth creation for all generations.

Only a strong republic can drive a vigorous free-enterprise economy in which you thrive, where Filipinos full talents are unleashed. A state that cowers in fear before the mob cannot stand for long.

You, the Rural Bankers and the men and women in agriculture whom you serve are the untold success story of our nation. But to continue and grow your success you need an environment of peace and order. You need an environment of stability. You get up every day, you work hard everyday, you play by the rules everyday. We owe you our deepest gratitude for your hard work in behalf of the nation.

I said in my State of the Nation Address that our country is so divided it's like there are two Philippines. There is a Philippines that works and that is the economy on the verge of take off. And you the rural bankers who serve the farmers and who finance the countryside are part of that Philippines that works. But your success will be dragged down if we allow the other Philippines to continue not to work.

And so it is in behalf of the grateful nation that I will work. In behalf of the grateful nation to you, grateful to you that we must work to strengthen that other part that we call the Philippines as well. And it is in behalf of the grateful nation that as we work to strengthen our republic, today, I salute you for putting the people first and the nation above all else.

May you be successful in carrying out the agenda that you have set for your convention for the future of rural banking as we also work on the future of an environment in which you will thrive.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 48th Charter Anniversary Symposium of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092332/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5202&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, Inc. Women of Blessing Grand Rally 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, Inc. Women of Blessing Grand Rally 2005**

[Delivered at the Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City, October 22, 2005]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Bishop Tendero. Thank you for inviting me here to be with you. Thank you for introducing me. Thank you for being a member of the Constitutional Consultative Commission to draft our new charter. And congratulations to you and Mrs. Tendero on your silver wedding anniversary.

Mayor Trinidad and Mrs. Trinidad, Mrs. Tolentino, Mrs. Cadiang — well, I've already greeted Mrs. Tendero — thank you for joining us in the Inter-faith Summit that was held in Cebu a couple of weeks ago.

Sa inyong lahat mga kababaihan ng PCEC sa Luzon, extraordinary women, katangi-tanging mga kababaihan, purihin natin ang Panginoon sa napakaraming katangi-tanging kababaihan. You are extraordinary women, women of blessing. Kasama kayo na higit na binasbasan sa mga kababaihan ng ating bansa dahil ginagamit ninyo ang talentong bigay ng Panginoon para maglingkod sa Diyos at maglingkod sa taong-bayan.

Lahat kayo ay extraordinary, katangi-tangi dahil pinili ninyong lumakad sa lansangan ng Diyos at magdala ng kaniyang biyaya sa lipunang Pilipinas.

Ngayon samahan ninyo akong manalangin sa Panginoon, una bilang pagsamba. Many of us — no, not you — many ordinary folk pray when they want to ask for something, but we must pray first and foremost to worship the Lord. Naalala ko nandito ako kasama ninyo nung 1999. Bise presidente pa ako noon. Kaya ngayon salamat sa pagkakataon na tayo ay magkasama muli na ako'y pangulo at kasama tayong manalangin una sa pagsamba at pangalawa para magpasalamat sa diyos sa kanyang mga biyayang madalas kinalilimutan natin na bigyan ng diin kasi binibigyan natin ng diin ang ating mga daing.

Let us thank the Lord, for instance, that the peso has hit a 3-month high against the dollar yesterday in a highly “energized” market otherwise hampered by street protests. This peso hit a 3-month high because our dollar reserves are at their historic high and we thank the Lord for that.

Our economy continues to look up because with the grace of God this government is closely and consistently focused on the economy. As we are poised for the implementation of tax reform with strong safety nets, global confidence in the Philippines is resurgent. Nomura international, yung importanteng credit rating agency ng Japan, na siya naman ang pinakamalaking nagpapautang sa atin has upgraded its investment recommendation of the Philippine bonds from underweight — dati underweight ang ating bond kaya ang taas-taas ng interes na binabayaran natin — to neutral. Kaya ngayon tayo ay kapantay na ng maraming mga humihiram sa Japan.

The foreign press is taking a keen second look at our prospects for stability and growth. Yung ating gross domestic product, yung sukat ng ating produksyon for the third quarter is expected to be stable at 5 percent over the same period last year despite the political noise. We've created the mineral development council, an inter-agency to

oversee the development of the country's mineral resources by inviting reputable investments to bring in more jobs. Yung Dell, isa sa pinakamalaking at importanteng call center or customer care agency sa buong mundo has announced that it is setting up a major customer call center in the Philippines, kasama ng napakaraming naglalagay na rito. And we must seize every moment for future prosperity. We are at the threshold of an economic take off and every sector of the society must focus more weight on building the momentum for growth.

Pag sinasabi natin bawat sektor ay dapat magbigay ng mas mabigat na pansin para matuloy ang momentum ng kaunlaran, kasama sa mga sektor na ito ang sektor ng kababaihan.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa Panginoon na may katangi-tanging kababaihan, kagaya ng mga kababaihang narito ngayon, kayo, at kagaya ng ating mga kababaihang pulis na kahapon pinakita ang pasiyensya at tinanggap ang karahasan, bugbog at sugat sa kalsada upang mapa-iral ang batas at katiwasayan.

Kinokondena ko yung mga sadyang nanakit sa kanila at sa ibang mga pulis maging mga lalaki na tumutupad naman sa maximum tolerance. Itong mga taksil kunyari may dala-dalang flagpole, iyon pala yung flagpole nila ay mga spears, mga sandatang hinagis nila sa mga pulis. Nakita natin sa telebisyon, di ba? Yung malalim at malapad na sugat nung pulis na nabiktima. Yan lamang ay senyas that we must strengthen our republic. Thank you.

Tinuturing ko... Tinuturing ko ang aking pagka-pangulo bilang misyon na bigay ng Panginoon sa akin upang makatulong labanan ang kahirapan at labanan ang mga elementong nagpapahina sa ating republika na pumipigil tuloy doon sa ating economic take off.

Sa Panginoon ako lumingon noong nakita ko ang mga problema ng ating kahirapan na lumulubha dahil mahina ang ating republika, at dahil mahina ang ating republika natatakot tayong pondohan ang kailangan ng taumbayan para sa kaunlaran at personal na pangangailangan ng mga pamilya kaya tuloy kung kailangan natin pondohan yung mga yon utang tayo ng utang. Natatakot tayo gumawa ng sariling reporma sa ating ekonomiya para makaya natin gastusan sa sariling sikap. Masyadong mahina tayo para umasa sa ating sariling kakayahan para pondohan ang pangangailangan ng ating kaunlaran. Kaya tuloy nababaon sa utang. Yon ay nakita kong dilemma nung ako ay naging pangulo.

Kasi nung ako ay nandito noong 1999, ang ginhawa ng aking tungkulin. At that time, in fact, number one ako sa performance rating at satisfaction sa lahat ng mga public officials and public figures. Pero ngayon malubha at mabigat ang aking kalagayan, at lalong kailangan pang lumingon sa Panginoon.

Lumingon ako sa Panginoon nung nagdesisyon akong gawin ang mahihirap na reporma sa sistema sa pulitika at sa ekonomiya. Salamat nga na tinanggap ni Bishop Tondero ang pag-unlak ko sa kanya na sumama dito sa kung papaano gagawin natin ang reporma sa ating pulitika. Kinailangan din at lumingon din ako sa Panginoon para magkaroon ng lakas na loob na gawin yung mga repormang kailangan para sa ekonomiya na mangangailangan muna ng sakripisyo ngunit sa wakas ito ang magbibigay sa atin ng sariling kakayahan para makamit ang pangangailangan ng taumbayan — trabaho; imprastruktura na magpapaakit ng mga namumuhunan, na sila naman ang nagbibigay ng trabaho; sapat na silid-aralan para sa ating mga estudyante; irigasyon; pagkain sa bawat mesa; kuryente sa bawat barangay; malinis na tubig sa bawat bayan; gamot na abot-kaya; kapital para sa negosyo. Hindi lamang para sa malalaking negosyante para pati na rin sa mga maliliit na negosyante kagaya ng microfinance.

Binanggit ko espesyal ang microfinance dahil ito ay isang pwedeng magawa ng ating katangi-tanging kababaihan sa paglingkod sa panginoon at paglingkod sa lipunan. Ang microfinance ay nakatulong na sa dalawang milyong kababaihan mula nagsimula yung aking administrasyon noong 2001. Gusto pa nating suportahan ang tatlong milyong maliliit na kababaihan magkaroon ng sariling negosyong maliit. Itong maliliit na pautang, microfinance, pinakamalaki dito ay 100,000 pesos na eh. Pero karaniwan 3,000 pesos sa isang kababaihan. Pero marami tayong kasaysayan na three years ago napahiraman ng 3,000 para sa isang tricycle, ngayon may fleet of tricycles na. Yan ang success story nitong mga microfinance.

Itong mga microfinance ay halos lahat kababaihan. Itong microfinance 98 percent ang payment rate. Mas malaki pa sa payment rate ng mga malalaking pautang sa bangko. Itong microfinance malaki ang repayment rate kahit na walang collateral karaniwan. Ano ang halip sa collateral na ginagamit sa microfinance? Itong microfinance ang

ginagamit sa halip ng collateral ay yung pagkakaisa at mga asal. Pagkakaisa kasi limang kababaihan magkakaran ng joint obligation. Utang ng isa, utang ng lahat. Kaya sila-sila ay magsisigurado na babayaran ang utang. At higit diyan ang kaibahan sa malalaking utang na may collateral ang halip sa collateral ay yung values formation na dinidiin sa mga humihiram ang asal ng obligasyon. Naalala ko dito sa Pasay City, di ba Mayor Trinidad? Nagpunta tayo doon sa isang microfinance center na ang conduit ay yung center for transformation, isang christian group, 98 percent repayment, joint obligation and napakalakas ng values formation dahil kada... Or regular yung prayer meeting at pagdasal sa Panginoon.

Kaya kayong katangi-tanging kababaihan marami sa inyo palagay ko ay narito na sa microfinance at marami pang pwedeng maging conduit ng microfinance dahil nga yan ang ating sinisikap na papel ng kababaihan sa ating hinahangad na kaunlaran.

At dahil kayo ay mga kristiyanong kababaihan hindi lamang ang inyong pagpa-iral ng microfinance ang ating hinihingi kung hindi na rin ang inyong tuloy na dasal habang sinisikap ko ang pagpatupad ng katiwasayan, sinisikap ko ipairal ang mga programang lalaban sa kahirapan in order to strengthen our state and build a strong republic that can take care of the weakest of its citizens. At habang hinahanda ko kagabi kung ano nga itong hihilingin ko sa inyo, at ito na nga, ang pumasok sa akin ay yung mensahe ng Panginoon — “Whatever you do to the least of your brethren, you do it to me.”

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat, extraordinary women, women of blessing, mabuhay!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA’s Speech during the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, Inc. Women of Blessing Grand Rally 2005. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092303/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5198&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Ceremonies of the Entrepreneurship and Basic Education Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Ceremonies of the Entrepreneurship and Basic Education Conference**

[Delivered at the Main Lounge, Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road Forbes Park, Makati City, October 25, 2005]

Thank you, Secretary Hidalgo.

Other officials of the Philippine government, many of whom I see here in this hall today; Joey Concepcion and all our other trustees helping us to develop entrepreneurs; Mrs Socorro Ramos, the living symbol of entrepreneurship in the Philippines congratulations! On all the honors you brought the country; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Entrepreneurship, I first heard of that term when I was studying economics. I remember in economics class it said that there are four factors of production — land, labor, capital and entrepreneurship. Land means all the natural resources; labor means our skills and also our muscle; capital means the man-made factors of production. But these three resources won't produce anything unless there's an entrepreneur to put them together.

And it said also that an entrepreneur is one who not just transforms these three factors of actual production, there are also inventions that go on in the world of science. An entrepreneur is the one who brings these inventions to commercial use and that is called innovation. So, the entrepreneur is an innovator. And because the entrepreneur does these things — puts factors of production together to produce something; transforms inventions into innovations — an entrepreneur must essentially be a risk-taker.

And that's the difference between an entrepreneur and a manager who becomes just part of labor.

And given this definition and description of an entrepreneur, indeed, we can only agree that entrepreneurship is not only the key to economic growth and stability, it's the ultimate solution to poverty. Because without entrepreneurs there can be no production; without entrepreneurs there can be no innovation; without entrepreneurs there can be no risk-taking. And if there is no risk-taking, well, no guts, no glory; no moving forward for a country.

That's why in my inaugural address last year, I made it a point that in the number one item of my Ten-point legacy agenda, I said, that we must develop three million entrepreneurs up to 2010. That's only up to 2010. We must develop even more entrepreneurs beyond 2010. And what we are promoting here today will develop those entrepreneurs into the next generation — education for entrepreneurship in basic education. And that's why I'm glad to join you today on this occasion celebrating, promoting Entrepreneurship Training in Basic Education.

I made it a point when I assume the presidency way back in 2001, to put substance in every act of governance. And the most important substance is wealth and job creation. And this has been my business to this day.

When Joey was talking about how we need leaders to inspire, and that's why we need entrepreneurs, and that's the difference between managers and entrepreneurs. But when Joey was describing why some would hesitate to become entrepreneurs it's because they're afraid to take the risk especially the risk of losing capital.

I know the meaning because I know what it takes to take risk and to risk losing capital. In my case, I have taken the risk to lose my political capital just to do what's right for our future generation.

In my State of the Nation Address last July, I said, that the Philippines is divided into a degenerated political system and an economy that is poised for take off. As we prepare for Christmas and as we celebrate entrepreneurship in basic education campus on this day, let our spirits be buoyed, but the World Bank study that places Philippines skilled workers as the world second largest population of skilled workers. So much resources for the entrepreneur to work with.

Let's also be buoyed up in our spirits by the news that OFW money is lifting many families out of poverty. In the past, we used to expect seven, eight billion dollars from them. This year, they will be bringing in 10 billion dollars to our Philippine economy. Twenty eight percent increase, I think, over last year.

Where does their money go? It's sends their children and nieces and nephews to school; it provides, yes, capital for the entrepreneurship of the younger brother or cousin, retired cousin; it provides school buildings for their community where we can have a campus that trains our young entrepreneurs.

Let's also be buoyed up in our spirits by the hope that the PNOC oil exploration concessions in countries like Gambia and equatorial Guinea may be a glimmer of light at the end of our oil difficulties. Yes, there is good news for Christmas. And an entrepreneur must look at the good news and not be bogged down by the bad news. And let's prepare for the New Year. Not only for the New Year but for the new generation.

Let our vision soar to reforming the whole system to change in the constitution for the good of the nation because that's for the next generation. And as we look upon renewal let's begin by reconciling the nation with God.

This month is a month when we have the days of prayers, and I shall soon declare in accordance with this day of prayer, a week of prayer, a period of national renewal. For Catholics, I would advocate a nationwide program whereby all will undertake the sacrament of penance and reconciliation. For Muslims, we are in Ramadan even now and I ask them to offer this annual fast for reconciliation with God. For other denominations, I hope they will begin a similar program in their churches. In this time of prayer, we as a society must seek guidance from and concentrate our efforts to God.

In this period of renewal, we shall direct the focus of government so that its bureaucracy will become more responsible to the call and needs of the time and the needs of ordinary Filipinos and ordinary entrepreneurs. This may mean amending the objectives of my executive order on government reengineering, and the issuance of an enabling executive order that will allow frontline agencies to operate in an emergency or state of calamity mode.

I am going to reorganize what is called the Presidential Commission on Effective Governance — I inherited that body — I will reorganize it precisely to study these frontline services. And I will be asking my Deputy National Security Adviser Virtus Gil to head this study on frontline services. And I will ask our trustees consultants to help him out to identify a day in the life or a week in the life or a month in the life of an ordinary entrepreneur; what are the frontline agencies that entrepreneur must deal with; where are his difficulties, and this would be what we will have to reenergize.

I'm also calling for a clean up drive in all provincial capitols and municipalities. I shall ask Governor El Rey Villafuerte to help us communicate that to the local governments and offices of the government to signal a fresh start, back-to-work attitude and atmosphere. As said by our speakers earlier, we must shape an environment that's conducive — this is what they call the "broken glass theory." We have to make the physical environment mood not just the frontline bureaucracy environment. We must make the physical and bureaucratic environment conducive to wealth creation with the goal of being first world in 20 years. Not that we will be the ones running the government in 20 years, but we have to have a goal for our children that we would like them to enjoy when they are the entrepreneurs in 20 years and there are seeds that we must plant today.

So I ask you, the entrepreneurs, and Joey Concepcion and our trustees, our moving spirits, to help me mobilize the whole of Philippine society, starting with the pillars of business in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao. The national capital region should be projected simply as Manila and metropolis compared to Bangkok, Singapore or Hongkong for the

purpose of internationally branding Manila as a major tourist destination. This will entail massive decongestion, face lifting and urban renewal efforts.

Towards the north, Vice-President Noli de Castro is already decongesting the Northrail area. And I have asked the MMDA Chair BF Fernando to especially intensify the face lifting and urban renewal in what we call the investor and creditor corridor, the routes that investors pass all the time when they're thinking of whether they should invest in the Philippines. The route that creditors pass all the time when they are thinking whether we'll have the ability to pay our debt back. And these are the routes from the airport to the hotels, from the hotels to Malacañang, from the hotels to Calabarzon. These are primary areas for urban renewal and face lifting.

To decongest Metro Manila — or what we should call Manila — we must also connect at last LRT1 to MRT 3 so that we will have a complete computer train loop. Right now that computer train is U-shaped. We want to make it O-shaped so that you can get on anywhere and get off anywhere in the metropolis.

In my inaugural address last year, I did say that I want to decongest Metro Manila, and for that purpose, we will develop northward and southward. North, what we will make Clark and Subic the best service and logistics hub in the region. One year after I said that in my inaugural address last year, let's review what we've been able to do. The north expressway has been upgraded; the McArthur highway is being upgraded, rehabilitated; the Subic port and the Tarlac-Clark-Subic road are under construction; the Clark airport has about 35 flights a week. It will have 50 flights a week by December; and thank God, the case against Northrail has been thrown out by the supreme court. One year later from when I declared that intention, our goal of making Clark-Subic as the best service and logistics hub in the region is well on its way to being fulfilled.

But whether it's in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Clark-Subic, Cagayan de Oro or Calabarzon. What we are doing is setting an environment to make the risk-takers feel that the risk is lessened. But in the end, all this is bringing the horse to the water. In the end, will the horse drink the water? — that is the entrepreneurial question. That is the moment of decision-making and whether the entrepreneur will take care and will take that environment as a sign to plunge into the risk that he must take, put the factors of production together, transform inventions to innovations — that will depend on whether we have developed a whole generation of entrepreneurs from grade school, high school, college and young business.

And so, the entrepreneur is the model to achieve what we want when we as a people begin to see the Philippines and ourselves to the eyes of a Filipino entrepreneur; when we begin to not be afraid to take risk; when we begin to see the opportunities rather than what drags us down, we will become proud of ourselves and of our country.

And so on this day, I thank Joey, Mrs. Ramos, the educators, the trustees, the supportive entrepreneurs, the teachers and the young would-be entrepreneurs, I thank you all for having the culture of entrepreneurship stay alive in our society because you are the future of our country.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the Entrepreneurship and Basic Education Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092252/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5197&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Grand Opening of Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa and Ceremonial Switch-on of the Leyte-Cebu Interconnection Project (CMIP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Grand Opening of Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa and Ceremonial Switch-on of the Leyte-Cebu
Interconnection Project (CMIP)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hilton Cebu Hotel and Spa, Punta Engaño, Mactan Island Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu,
October 26, 2005]

Daghan salamat, Secretary Ace Durano, our secretary of tourism, a native of Cebu province. Congratulations for your work in making Cebu and the Philippine tourism grow by leaps and bounds. Congratulations!

Other members of the Cabinet and other appointive officials most of whom have already been acknowledged by our host; Governor Garcia and the other officials of Cebu; local officials of Cebu; Governor Lerias and the other visitors from the neighboring provinces; Mayor Radaza and the other officials of Lapu-Lapu City and the other mayors of the different cities and towns of Cebu, again, earlier already acknowledged by Mr. Osmeña; Congresswoman Nerissa Soon-ruiz, the congresswoman of this district, the 6th district of Cebu. And I think not all of the congressmen were mentioned so I will mention them — we have Congressman Tony Cuenco; we have Congressman Durano; Congressman Gullas and Congressman Badilles.

I'd like to greet also those that I especially asked to be invited here to this occasion, the Cebu chamber led by Robert Go, the president; and the Sangguniang Kabataan of the Visayas led by the Vice President for Visayas board member Geneda Salcedo; and of course to the many visitors who are here today both those whom I asked to be invited and those invited by the Hilton. Congratulations to all of us for this wonderful grand opening, Mr. Osmeña especially and the whole Hilton family.

I'm so glad that you asked me to join you in this grand opening. I had a sentimental reason for accepting this invitation especially. The Hilton was the very first five-star hotel to come to the Philippines, and that was when my father was president and he invited the Hilton especially to come to the Philippines because he wanted to develop tourism. As we heard from Mr. Maier during the turmoil, the political turmoil of 1983, Hilton pulled their stakes, but after 17 years Hilton is back not necessarily in Manila but I'm happy in the province which gave me the one million majority in the last elections. and I think the business community of Cebu, the young people of Cebu, the NAMFREL of Cebu, everybody will attest that that one million majority was a fair and square majority.

So, of course, I have to be here. And of course I know as Mr. Osmeña said, Hilton is back and perfect timing of the lord. He wanted to do this in 1997 — couldn't find the financing, things were bad. Finally, during our administration the Philippine export-import bank agreed to guarantee his commercial loans and now tourism is exactly on a roll at the time when Hilton is opening in the Philippines and in Cebu.

We expect 2.7 million tourists to come to the Philippines this year. What's that Ace? A 22 percent increase in tourism over last year. Last year, half of the tourists, the 2.4 tourists who came to the Philippines came to Cebu. This year, of the 2.7 million tourists we expect 75 percent to come to Cebu.

Indeed, Philippine tourism is on a roll. Cebu tourism is on a roll, in front of great destinations. Not only the beautiful white sand beaches, the diving spots, correct, among the best spots in the planet, I hear. The beautiful bird sanctuary of Olango island that we just visited when we were waiting for the crowd to come. And I'd like to congratulate the DENR because we went to Olango island because Olango island is one of the three most important bird sanctuaries in our country and is very important for us to continue to protect our country from the avian flu. Mr. Osmeña talked about the avian flu. It's been in the region for the last two years. It is now spreading westward to Russia, Turkey, etc. But for the last two years, the Philippines has been saved from the avian flu. Let's thank the Lord for that.

Our peace and order has also improved. Our infrastructure, thanks to lovely hotels like the Hilton. Our stable power, thanks to major projects like what we just switched on earlier — the Leyte-Cebu connection and the Leyte-Mactan connection. These two connections that we switched on today will make sure that Cebu's power will have no brown outs for the next five years. Of course, if Cebu grows faster than we expected, and it might very well do so, then that guarantee will be good for three years. But then we'll have the money to put up the additional transmissions. And the power rates here — correct me if I'm wrong, Secretary Lotilla of energy — are competitive because it is geothermal and vat zero rated. So therefore put up more tourism facilities here in Cebu.

And with all these new hotels, five-star hotels, now Cebu can host next year's Asean plus 3 summit. It's going to be a great summit, not only for ASEAN but for us because Cebu is what we want to showcase. Cebu is indeed a showcase of what the Philippines can be. Cebu is a strong island. Tommy, Gwen and all of the other officials here, Mayor Ouano, Mayor Radaza, the congressmen, the board members, the vice governor, the officials, all of them contribute to making Cebu a strong island. Cebu can be our model for a strong republic.

And today, I thought I'd spend this time to outline what we must do to make the nation as strong as Cebu is as an island.

First, we must begin by reconciling the nation with God. Look what Mr. Osmeña said, everything seemed lost, and there were even those who were persecuting him — I'd like to know more about the stories of the persecution later — but he turned to God. And we, we have avian flu around us, we have terrorism, we have destabilizers, we have high oil prices, we must turn to God. That's the first thing, reconciling with God.

And then we must turn our focus to the ordinary people we must serve. Ordinary citizens and the businessmen who need a lot of things to do to the government. We must redirect the focus of government so that its bureaucracy will be more responsive to the call of the times.

Yesterday, when I had a speech before the... A launching or promotion of entrepreneurship at the basic education levels, I said, that we will reorganize or we will redo the executive order on reengineering so that we will look at a day in the life of the average entrepreneur or a week in the life and check all the frontline services that he has to deal with, and those are the first ones that we will attend to. I'm glad we have businessmen from Manila like Louie Sicat who's here and I'm glad also we have people like Robert Go who's here. And I invited you so that you can help the committee on effective governance which I will ask to be headed for this project by my Deputy National Security Adviser Virtus Gil to work out, identify these offices in the day in the life of the entrepreneur and fix the frontline services.

That's as far as systems are concerned. Physically, we must have a clean up drive in all provincial capitols and municipalities. I have no doubt that the Cebuanos will do that and offices of government. Why do I have no doubt? Because when I had my inauguration in Cebu last year, oh! We spent so little because the officials of Cebu province and all the places we passed: Mandaue, Mactan and Cebu City — Tommy Osmeña, thank you, too — cleaned up the whole place and beautified the whole place themselves. And that's why I have no doubt that we will be very successful and cost effective. When we have an Asean summit next year because I know that the people of Cebu themselves will do this beautification. But we need to do this not only in Cebu but in the whole country.

And that's why I especially asked the SK to be invited here. Because I hope that the SK will make their major project after this convention the face lifting and the beautification of the capitols and municipal halls and government offices and buildings in your locality.

We must shape a physical environment, a bureaucratic environment that is conducive to wealth creation with the end goal of being first world in 20 years when our SK will already be the main players in society. And to do this I want to mobilize the whole of Philippine society starting with the pillars of business in Metro Manila — so I said some of these things yesterday — Davao and Cebu such as the Cebu chamber. I count on you a lot, Robert for this environment for wealth creation.

And speaking of wealth creation, we must define the major role of land in wealth creation. The way it's being done in Cebu City, in Talisay City, in Mandaue City even in Bantayan island, reclamation projects maximize land as a source of wealth and they fast-track development of the rural countryside. We have to strengthen that system. I'd like to greet also Mayor Durano who is there with Congressman Gullas and to thank them too for all of the things that they have been doing in their part of the island.

We have to strengthen our republic not only bureaucratically, spiritually, physically, but also physically in the strength of muscle is which is what Mr. Osmeña talked about earlier, where does he get the muscle. He gets the muscle from the Lord but the Lord has instruments to use. The Lord use the Exim Bank of the Philippines as an instrument for him to acquire the financial muscle. The Lord uses also our physical forces as part of its instrument to strengthen our republic.

And because we need to strengthen our republic in this day of competition, terrorism, destabilization, high oil prices, I've instructed Budget secretary Romulo Neri to adopt a one-time mode for releasing funds for the nation's program for the armed forces and the police. Because no matter how beautiful our beaches are if we have turmoil, like the turmoil of 1983 that drove Hilton away the first time around, we will not be able to strengthen our economy.

To strengthen our republic of course means not only muscle, it may mean establishing a government of national unity. And to do this, I shall initiate consultations on this idea to the meeting of major political parties. Congressman Tony Cuenco is one of the advocates of unity, internationally, domestically, him being the chairman of our Committee on International Relations. And they look, the rest of the world looks to us for this kind of unity that they have seen in the countries around us.

The proposal for a government of national unity is not meant to please the opposition but to consolidate the nation behind our economic take off. They talk about rejecting power sharing, this is not about power sharing. Power sharing is only applicable in a parliamentary system. So we wait for the change in the charter. But in the meantime, the word for it is not power sharing, it's sharing public leadership and responsibility for the common good. While there are those who reject it, it remains an option for leaders like Senator Angara who want to pitch in and I thank them for that.

To strengthen our republic we shall also introduce through your help the policy makers, the movers and shakers of industry, our future of the land a more democratic, more participatory mechanism for maintaining dialogue with the people in lieu of militant street demonstrations and rallies and provide the foundation for creating a mass base for government.

A tall order, but if you are going to look at all of these things, Cebu has done it. If Cebu has done it, we work together, the Philippines can do it.

But I say this here in Cebu, because I especially ask the people of Cebu, you gave me the mandate to be President of the Philippines, help me to build the hopes and dreams of the young. Help me to do what has to be done so that all our people will become one Filipino nation.

Daghan salamat. Congratulations to the Hilton!

Thank you for this grand opening.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Grand Opening of Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa and Ceremonial Switch-on of the Leyte-Cebu Interconnection Project (CMIP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092239/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5195&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the Eco-minds Asia-Pacific Manila, October 27, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Eco-minds Asia-Pacific Manila**

[Delivered at Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City, October 27, 2005]

THE CASE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A warm welcome first of all to all the participants of Eco-minds from Asia-Pacific.

I'm very happy to be here and I'm very happy to see the involvement of young Filipinos in environmental protection. And I'm very happy that Dr. Oels said that this conference is going to have as its unifying theme the millennium development goals.

Sometime ago, in our conference in the Philippines on the progress of the Philippines in achieving the millennium development goals, in a teleconference on the wide screen, Dr. Jeffrey Sachs hailed our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan as one of the best, if not the best that he has seen, and I'm very proud of that.

In that development plan, we have a whole chapter on the environment and natural resources. And let me share with you some of the highlights of that chapter. In that plan, we recognized the need to manage our natural resources and protect the environment to improve our quality of life and that of future generations. Indeed, the young will be the beneficiaries of our sustainable development and any sustainable development all over the world that's why it's so appropriate that Bayer should concentrate its eco-minds on the young.

We want to maximize physical planning as a development tool to create jobs. We want to define the major role of land in wealth generation and in fast-tracking the development of the rural countryside.

Land is the source of our food. And I'm happy to see in the presentation of Dr. Oels the many ways in which Bayer participates in sustainable agriculture.

Our development plan considers that our country is the second largest archipelago in the world — the largest being Indonesia. And that our country has a fragile island ecosystem. We are replanting our mangroves and implementing risk sanctuaries. In fact, in taking care of our fragile ecosystems, one of the successes that we are proud of about our environmental policies is that we are now the only country in the region which does not have the bird flu.

Since this epidemic is spreading across the region and now even into central Asia, I had instructed the Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment to help the Department of Agriculture to intensify the communication campaign against bird flu by coming out in the media with the following:

First, maps of threatened areas in the country where migratory birds could be. Yesterday, Secretary Defensor and I visited one of those areas, Olango Island in Cebu. There are others as hid as Olango Island like the Candaba swamps in my province of Pampanga and in the Liguasan Marsh in Mindanao. But there are at least 20 others of this nature and I have asked the government offices to bring out a map so that the people in those areas can be more aware.

Second, a list of do's and don'ts when in contact with the birds.

Third, a list of avian flu symptoms and procedures to take when infection is suspected.

Fourth, communication materials, plugs and advertising incorporating the information that I have just asked for.

And five, broadcast releases of bird flu inspection and screening procedures by the various agencies of the government led by the Department of Agriculture. For instance, a few weeks ago, I saw Secretary Defensor explaining on TV why they prohibited the entry of a certain shipment of exotic fowls into the country.

One of the major points of my ten-point legacy agenda, and I'm glad that Bayer is very interested in this, is to provide clean water by the year 2010. This means bringing clean water to 200 waterless villages right in Metro Manila and 200 waterless towns outside metro manila both through private sector and public investment. And I hope Bayer will be very active in this.

We're working to ensure clean water also by implementing the solid waste act and the clean water act which as Secretary Defensor said were signed into law during my administration, in fact during the first year of my administration in 2001.

Related to water are the watersheds. We're rationalizing and prioritizing reforestation and watersheds to preserve rivers and other fresh water systems and begin to restore previous ecological balance, to solve our drinking water as I said earlier and irrigation water needs, and to solve destructive and costly flooding problems, and of course also to provide revenues to the government and income to our tree farmers instead of the tanners, the tree farmers of the wood-exporting countries. After all, the Philippines used to be a major timber producer, but we didn't learn our lessons then. We have learned the lessons now.

We can create additional wealth by intercropping fruit-producing trees and high-value vegetables on the floor of the forest plantations.

Our major plans for livelihood also include responsible mining that adheres to the principles of sustainable development, namely: economic growth, environmental protection and social equity. We believe that responsible mining reduces poverty and benefits local and indigenous communities. But we don't only talk about nature and agriculture when we talk about environment, there's also the physical and visual environment and hygienic environment. And I have been calling for a clean up drive in all provincial capitols and municipalities and offices of our government. And yesterday, I asked the young people of central Philippines through the local youth councils to make this their primary project in the months to come.

These are some of the highlights of what we want to do for sustainable development. Our Medium-term Plan is a complex brew but the Filipino has the mind and the spirit for it.

And on behalf of the Filipino people, I thank Bayer for giving the opportunity to expand the minds and the spirits of our Filipino youth, and in fact the youth of the entire Asia-Pacific region. May you have a successful conference.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Eco-minds Asia-Pacific Manila

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Eco-minds Asia-Pacific Manila

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City, Metro Manila, October 27, 2005]

Thank you, Secretary Defensor.

Dr. Oels and the other officials, officers of Bayer; Ms. Cox and the other officials of the United Nations; Dr. Dayrit and the other educators and students; young people from Asia-Pacific; guests; I'd like to especially acknowledge the presence of Former Prime Minister Cesar Virata; ladies and gentlemen.

A warm welcome first of all to all the participants of Eco-minds from Asia-Pacific.

I'm very happy to be here and I'm very happy to see the involvement of young Filipinos in environmental protection. And I'm very happy that Dr. Oels said that this conference is going to have as its unifying theme the millennium development goals.

Sometime ago, in our conference in the Philippines on the progress of the Philippines in achieving the millennium development goals, in a teleconference on the wide screen, Dr. Jeffrey Sachs hailed our Medium-term Philippine Development Plan as one of the best, if not the best that he has seen, and I'm very proud of that.

In that development plan, we have a whole chapter on the environment and natural resources. And let me share with you some of the highlights of that chapter. In that plan, we recognized the need to manage our natural resources and protect the environment to improve our quality of life and that of future generations. Indeed, the young will be the beneficiaries of our sustainable development and any sustainable development all over the world that's why it's so appropriate that Bayer should concentrate its eco-minds on the young.

We want to maximize physical planning as a development tool to create jobs. We want to define the major role of land in wealth generation and in fast-tracking the development of the rural countryside.

Land is the source of our food. And I'm happy to see in the presentation of Dr. Oels the many ways in which Bayer participates in sustainable agriculture.

Our development plan considers that our country is the second largest archipelago in the world — the largest being Indonesia. And that our country has a fragile island ecosystem. We are replanting our mangroves and implementing fish sanctuaries. In fact, in taking care of our fragile ecosystems, one of the successes that we are proud of about our environmental policies is that we are now the only country in the region which does not have the bird flu.

Since this epidemic is spreading across the region and now even into central Asia, I had instructed the Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment to help the Department of Agriculture to intensify the communication campaign against bird flu by coming out in the media with the following:

First, maps of threatened areas in the country where migratory birds could be. Yesterday, Secretary Defensor and I visited one of those areas, Olango island in Cebu. There are others as big as Olango island like the Candaba swamps in my province of Pampanga and in the Liguasan marsh in Mindanao. But there are at least 20 others of this nature and I have asked the government offices to bring out a map so that the people in those areas can be more aware.

Second, a list of do's and don't's when in contact with the birds.

Third, a list of avian flu symptoms and procedures to take when infection is suspected.

Fourth, communication materials, plugs and advertising incorporating the information that I have just asked for.

And five, broadcast releases of bird flu inspection and screening procedures by the various agencies of the government led by the Department of Agriculture. For instance, a few weeks ago, I saw Secretary Defensor explaining on TV why they prohibited the entry of a certain shipment of exotic fowls into the country.

One of the major points of my ten-point legacy agenda, and I'm glad that Bayer is very interested in this, is to provide clean water by the year 2010. This means bringing clean water to 200 waterless villages right in Metro Manila and 200 waterless towns outside metro manila both through private sector and public investment. And I hope Bayer will be very active in this.

We're working to ensure clean water also by implementing the solid waste act and the clean water act which as Secretary Defensor said were signed into law during my administration, in fact during the first year of my administration in 2001.

Related to water are the watersheds. We're rationalizing and prioritizing reforestation and watersheds to preserve rivers and other fresh water systems and begin to restore previous ecological balance, to solve our drinking water as I said earlier and irrigation water needs, and to solve destructive and costly flooding problems, and of course also to provide revenues to the government and income to our tree farmers instead of the farmers, the tree farmers of the wood-exporting countries. After all, the Philippines used to be a major timber producer, but we didn't learn our lessons then. We have learned the lessons now.

We can create additional wealth by intercropping fruit-producing trees and high-value vegetables on the floor of the forest plantations.

Our major plans for livelihood also include responsible mining that adheres to the principles of sustainable development, namely: economic growth, environmental protection and social equity. We believe that responsible mining reduces poverty and benefits local and indigenous communities. But we don't only talk about nature and agriculture when we talk about environment, there's also the physical and visual environment and hygienic environment. And I have been calling for a clean up drive in all provincial capitols and municipalities and offices of our government. And yesterday, I asked the young people of central Philippines through the local youth councils to make this their primary project in the months to come.

These are some of the highlights of what we want to do for sustainable development. Our Medium-term Plan is a complex brew but the Filipino has the mind and the spirit for it.

And on behalf of the Filipino people, I thank Bayer for giving the opportunity to expand the minds and the spirits of our Filipino youth, and in fact the youth of the entire Asia-Pacific region. May you have a successful conference.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Eco-minds Asia-Pacific Manila. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092232/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5186&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Aquaculture Congress

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the National Aquaculture Congress

[Delivered at the Convention Hall, Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Diliman, Quezon City, October 27, 2005]

Thank you, Speaker De Venecia, my kumpadre. Because if I'm the godmother of aquaculture, you are the godfather of aquaculture, Joe.

And of course, I'd like to congratulate and thank Congressman Louie Villafrute, the chairman of the House Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries, for inviting me to be here with you and putting this together with the D.A.

Secretary Panganiban who put this up together jointly with the committee; my other colleagues from the D.A.; our other congressmen who are here not only Congressman Villafrute but we have also Congressman Zialcita who will go with me afterwards to the Northrail relocation site, Congressman Bateria, Congressman Kintanar. And I'd like to greet all the implementors of the government programs for Aquaculture, all the players in the aquaculture industry, all the academe and the researchers, all of the representatives of the LGUs, the NGOs, everybody who wants aquaculture to develop, good afternoon and congratulations! On putting this together.

Napakaganda ng trabaho ng House Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture resources na pinagsama mga producer, mga researcher, mga gumagawa ng patakaran para magbuo ng gabayan ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor patungo sa sariling kakayahan sa isda maging sa lokal o sa pangmundong palengke.

Ang bumibili ng produktong pangisda ay tuloy-tuloy na lumalaki hindi lamang dito sa Pilipinas kundi na rin sa ibang bansa gaya ng Europa at Amerika. Maganda talaga ang kinabukasan ng aquaculture.

To say this is something quite significant because I remember nung ako'y nasa Department of Trade and Industry, lumago ang aquaculture. Naalala ko humina yung asukal doon sa Negros Occidental pero lahat na mga nasa coastal areas yung kanilang sugar plantation ginawa nilang aquaculture plantations at kumita sila ng malaki. Mamaya biglang bumagsak ang industriya at ang dami nagsara na mga aquaculture plantations. Ang dami nagsara na mga processing plants for aquaculture. Pero ngayon maganda na naman muli ang kinabukasan ng aquaculture.

Yung ating medium-term Philippine development plan ay kinikilala yung mga sinabi ni Speaker De Venecia kanina, yung sea bass, lapu-lapu, pompano, bangus, cobia, tilapia, maging fresh water or saline, red snapper, sea bream at iba pa, sigurado ang palengke sabi ni Joe sa frozen and live fish markets in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Amerika, Europa. Malaki ang dolyar na dala, malaki ang kita, malaki ang trabahong linilikha.

At kayo naman alam ninyo, ako ba ang magsasabi kayo ang nasa industriya. Congratulations! Dahil tayo ay number one sa export ng processed bangus. Congratulations! Dahil number one din tayo sa seaweed. Congratulations! Kay pangalawa tayo sa tilapia kasunod sa Tsina.

In fact, kayo ilan sa inyo siguro naririnig niyo parati sinasabi ko noon yung galunggong yon ang sinasabi nilang common man's fish. Hindi, imported yung galunggong eh. Yung tilapia ang gawin na nating common Filipinos' fish because we can culture it.

Kaya sa ating medium-term Philippine development plan, balak nating mag-develop ng dalawang milyong ektarya para sa agri-business upang magbigay ng trabaho sa at least dalawang milyong manggagawa, magsasaka o mangisda. At ito ang maging kontribusyon sa sampung milyong trabahong gusto nating malikha hanggang 2010.

Pag sinasabi kong dalawang milyong ektarya ng agri-business, hindi lamang ibig sabihin lupang sakahan, kasama na rito yung mga ektarya sa aquaculture.

Ang payo nga ni Joe, pairalin natin ang aquaculture sa mga lugar na malapit sa coastal areas at sa mga dagat din kasi yung fish cage technology ay dapat gawin natin. Naalala ko doon sa Sual, sa Pangasinan noong binisita ko yung sual power plant, bago ako dumating ang dami-daming fish cages nagbibigay ng trabaho doon sa taumbayan pero as a matter of aside, parenthetically. Nandoon yung power plant, nandoon yung fish cages, ibig sabihin yung coal-fired power plant hindi masama para sa fisheries and aquaculture.

Ngunit yon ang linagay natin sa medium-term plan pero kailangan ang detalyadong plano. At ako ay binabati ko kayong lahat dahil nakikita ko na doon sa harap yung one-inch thick detailed, comprehensive fisheries and aquaculture development plan for the next five to ten years. Kaya binabati ko ang komite at lahat ng gumawa nito dahil sa magandang output, the detailed, comprehensive aquaculture program for the next five to ten years.

Kaya ngayon nandiyan na yang plano. Inaatasan ko kay secretary panganiban na sa pinakamaagang panahon ipatupad natin ito at gawin natin ito... Ipatupad natin ito sa pamamagitan ng aktibong papel ng mga taga-industriya ng aquaculture at magbigay ng mas malaking halaga doon sa mga mahihirap na sektor sa kanayunan.

Inaatasan ko rin ang D.A., ang National Food Research Institute at saka ang National Statistics Office na lumikha ng impormasyon, geographically, production and consumption para location by location makaplano tayo para sa kinabukasan.

Naalala ko yung fisheries code of 1998. Kasi nung panahong yon ay masalimuot yung debate. Lumabas yung batas, masalimuot pa rin yung lumabas na batas. Siguro ngayon panahon na, tignan natin yung fisheries code muli na yon, kailangan siguro ibagay sa mga kasalukuyang pangangailangan ng industriya. Kasi makumpetensiya yung mundo sa labas kahit na maraming palengke itong ating mga sea bass, bangus, seaweed, etc. Malubha ang kompetensiya hindi tayo maaring magbakasakali doon sa palengke.

Yung fisheries lease agreement pwedeng gamitin ito para sa pangangailangan ng pondo para sa research. At kanina nung binabanggit ko yung ibat-ibang mga isda narinig kong sinasabi ni Joe yung Vannamei.' sa wakas gumawa na tayo ng desisyon, ligal ba dapat ito o hindi? Kasi ito ay isang bagong specie ng hipon na baka naman yan ang magbigay ng bagong buhay sa ating industriya ng hipon.

Ang masasabi ko lamang — kasi kayo mas eksperto sa aquaculture kaysa ako — ako nakikita ko yung mga macro opportunities and macro aspects. Ang masasabi ko lamang dapat magsama-sama tayo. Ipagsama natin ang ating sikap para sa pagkakaisang pagsulong.

Our economy is poised for take-off. Let us not allow poison politics to spoil that take-off. At higit sa lahat, let us make aquaculture a central part of that take-off.

Maraming salamat at congratulations! Sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the National Aquaculture Congress. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092222/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5191&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Launching Ceremony of the Asenso Village Mico Small and Medium Enterprises Business Park, October 28, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Launching Ceremony of the Asenso Village
Mico Small and Medium Enterprises Business Park**

[Delivered at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City, October 28, 2005]

LAND = WEALTH : AN INNOVATIVE CONCEPT

First of all, congratulations! Filinvest land for spearheading this innovative project.

Innovative, I thought, but as Mr. Yap explained not really that new, it's going back to an old concept that has become important again in this day and age.

A long time ago, and still in some areas, you have the family residents in the second floor and you have the family business in the first floor. Then came the zoning development wherein residences must be in one village or subdivision, factories must be in another place or industrial park, and the shopping center must be still in another place.

But now that we have the era of high oil prices and expensive transportation, congested populations, heavy traffic, it's really not that economical and efficient anymore to spend so much time traveling from work to home and home to work. And this is going to be especially difficult for our micro small and medium scale entrepreneurs.

So thank you to the Gotianun family and the Filinvest family for helping us in our aim to develop three million entrepreneurs by 2010. This is in addition to the two million who have already benefited from over 20 billion pesos in loans since 2001.

Thank you for your contribution to defining the major role of land in wealth generation. Thank you for bringing about an environment for wealth generation that is conducive to the needs of the 21st century with all its challenges, not the least of which is expensive and time consuming travel.

Your strong commitment to corporate responsibilities indeed a boon to our nation. Our nation must strengthen itself, first of all by reconciling with God and by counting our blessings from the Lord. I'd like to take this occasion to thank him not only because we have innovative, socially responsible and forward looking families like the Gotianun family but also I'd like to thank the Lord that Merrill Lynch has just upgraded the Philippine rating to overweight.

The highlight of the Merrill Lynch report says, and I quote some parts of it: "The fiscal outlook appears stronger for 2006. On the political front, President Arroyo's position looks secure. Economic fundamentals are improving with positive prospects for economic growth." As I end my quote, we can say that indeed, the good prospects for economic growth are there not only in the analysis or the financial agencies but in the business decisions of very astute and very practical business families like the Gotianuns.

We will seize this opportunity, too to redirect the government so that its bureaucracy will be more responsive to the call of the times, the way that I think the Gotianun and other land development families and entrepreneurs have responded to what we did for the housing industries bureaucracy. We have cut down the number of signatures required for development projects to maybe one-third of what it used to be and interest rates have become much lower than what they used to be that is because we believe in housing not only in developing our entrepreneurs the I way Asenso village will but also because housing has the biggest multiplier effect of all economic activities.

Thus, in terms of land as a source of wealth generation and employment as to the multiplier, and in terms of developing our entrepreneurs, and in terms also of decongesting metro manila, Asenso village falls squarely under our Ten-Point Agenda. The Asenso parks to be developed, housing and business parks, in the nearby provinces, first Laguna and Cavite, I'm quite sure later Batangas and other provinces south of Metro Manila, will surely become bustling hubs of growth to spawn jobs in prosperous communities until someday, maybe fifteen years from now, we will see the provinces of Laguna and Rizal connected through the Laguna lake because of the development started today by enterprising families and corporations like the Filinvest.

Your idea of clustering industries or clustering activities together with, housing, economic activity, including your logistics support are indeed going to make these provinces feel the economic impact. And I can see the complementarity between this facility that you are providing the micro small and medium enterprises and the 'One town, One product' project that I have been calling for that finally the Department of Industry is actively executing.

And so I would like to take this opportunity to envision that each province will have a cluster of industries that will be borne out of the seeds that will be planted by Asenso villages.

I wish for the sustained success of the Asenso villages. And on this day I think, it is a great moment to call on everyone: "*Ipalakas natin ang ating bansa upang itaguyod ang ating kasaganaan at kaunlaran.*"

Salamat sa Asenso sa pagbibigay niyo ng magandang buhay, kabuhayan at kinabukasan. Congratulations!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: Adamson University Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching Ceremony of the Asenso Village Mico Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Business Park

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching Ceremony of the Asenso Village Mico Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
Business Park**

[Delivered at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City, October 28, 2005]

Thank you, Secretary Favila.

Mr. Yap and the other members of the Gotianun and Filinvest family; the several Cabinet members who are here today to show how important this concept and project is: we have Secretary Toting Bunye who kept following up this invitation, Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, Secretary Buboy Syjuco and accompanied by Congresswoman Judy Syjuco of TESDA; guests; ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, congratulations! Filinvest land for spearheading this innovative project.

Innovative, I thought, but as Mr. Yap explained not really that new, it's going back to an old concept that has become important again in this day and age.

A long time ago, and still in some areas, you have the family residents in the second floor and you have the family business in the first floor. Then came the zoning development wherein residences must be in one village or subdivision, factories must be in another place or industrial park, and the shopping center must be still in another place.

But now that we have the era of high oil prices and expensive transportation, congested populations, heavy traffic, it's really not that economical and efficient anymore to spend so much time travelling from work to home and home to work. And this is going to be especially difficult for our micro small and medium scale entrepreneurs.

So thank you to the Gotianun family and the Filinvest family for helping us in our aim to develop three million entrepreneurs by 2010. This in addition to the two million who have already benefited from over 20 billion pesos in loans since 2001.

Thank you for your contribution to defining the major role of land in wealth generation. Thank you for bringing about an environment for wealth generation that is conducive to the needs of the 21st century with all its challenges, not the least of which is expensive and time consuming travel.

Your strong commitment to corporate responsibilities indeed a boon to our nation. Our nation must strengthen itself, first of all by reconciling with god and by counting our blessings from the Lord. I'd like to take this occasion to thank him not only because we have innovative, socially responsible and forward looking families like the Gotianun family but also I'd like to thank the Lord that Merrill Lynch has just upgraded the Philippine rating to overweight.

The highlight of the Merrill lynch report says, and I quote some parts of it: "The fiscal outlook appears stronger for 2006. On the political front, President Arroyo's position looks secure. economic fundamentals are improving with positive prospects for economic growth." And as I end my quote, we can say that indeed, the good prospects for economic growth are there not only in the analysis of the financial agencies but in the business decisions of very astute and very practical business families like the Gotianuns.

We will seize this opportunity, too to redirect the focus of government so that its bureaucracy will be more responsive to the call of the times, the way that I think the Gotianun and other land development families and entrepreneurs have responded to what we did for the housing industries bureaucracy. We have cut down the number of signatures required for development projects to maybe one-third of what it used to be and interest rates have become much lower than what they used to be that is because we believe in housing not only in developing our entrepreneurs the way Asenso village will but also because housing has the biggest multiplier effect of all economic activities.

Thus, in terms of land as a source of wealth generation and employment as to the multiplier, and in terms of developing our entrepreneurs, and in terms also of decongesting metro manila, Asenso village falls squarely under our ten-point agenda. The Asenso parks to be developed, housing and business parks, in the nearby provinces, first Laguna and Cavite, I'm quite sure later Batangas and other provinces south of Metro Manila, will surely become bustling hubs of growth to spawn jobs in prosperous communities until someday, maybe fifteen years from now, we will see the provinces of Laguna and Rizal connected through the Laguna lake because of the development started today by enterprising families and corporations like the Filinvest.

Your idea of clustering industries or clustering activities together with housing, economic activity, including your logistics support are indeed going to make these provinces feel the economic impact. And I can see the complementarity between this facility that you are providing the micro small and medium enterprises and the 'One town, One product' project that I have been calling for that finally the Department of Industry is actively executing.

And so I would like to take this opportunity to envision that each province will have a cluster of industries that will be borne out of the seeds that will be planted by Asenso villages.

I wish for the sustained success of the Asenso villages. And on this day I think, it is a great moment to call on everyone: "Ipalakas natin ang ating bansa upang itaguyod ang ating kasaganaan at kaunlaran."

Salamat sa Asenso sa pagbibigay niyo ng magandang buhay, kabuhayan at kinabukasan. Congratulations!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the Asenso Village Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Business Park. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092214/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5183&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the IFTAR (Fast-Breaking) for Peace and Forgiveness

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the IFTAR (Fast-Breaking) for Peace and Forgiveness

[Delivered at the Sunset Pavilion, Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Pasay City, October 29, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Ermita, our living and walking data bank for our peace process, because he was there way back in the delegation with Madame Imelda Marcos in Libya in 1976.

Madame Marcos, Speaker De Venecia and the other officials, of course, our host, my brother Ambassador Adam and Engineer Ahmed, members of the diplomatic corps, ARMM Governor Zaldy Ampatuan, Governor Akbar of Basilan and the other local officials, members of the Islamic community, members of the Christian community, ladies and gentlemen:

Assalaamo alaikum, warahmatullahi warrabakatu.

Tonight, we proclaim the greatness of God in our hearts and homes, in the streets and the corridors of public service, sharing sacrifices in his name, humbly seeking guidance and being grateful in the bountiful rewards he bestows upon us.

In breaking of the fast that is part of the observance of the holy month of Ramadan, I acknowledge the theme which is: "Understanding the Muslim-Christian responses to violence."

Ramadan does not only signify physical restraint, it means a deeper reconciliation with God. And I have taken the opportunity of this holy month to call for a period of national renewal in the Philippines.

For Catholics, this should mean a nationwide program whereby all should take the sacrament of reconciliation and penance. For Muslims, observing the annual fast of the Ramadan for celebrating the greatness of God. And for other denominations, a similar program in their churches.

I thank Libya and all the other Islamic countries and all the other Christian countries who have vigorously helped us as my administration has propagated inter-faith dialogue. Inter-faith dialogues which is open, sincere and frank, to build a national community founded on civility with oneness, with humanity and God.

I thank all of you, the different countries represented here tonight for supporting us in the resolution that we spearheaded and which was unanimously adopted at the United Nations last year for the adoption of inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as a means to resolve conflict among nations. Inter-faith dialogue not only among Muslims and Christians but also among Hindus and all the other great religions of the world.

I'm grateful to the Lord Allah that the peace process with the MILF is at a high point, and may he bring us to the end of a good and fruitful journey soon.

I am very grateful and I was very proud to say in the United Nations that our peace process is perhaps the only peace process in the world that has incorporated an anti-terrorist element institutionally.

We are determined to forge a peace settlement in Mindanao that will combine the aspirations of the Bangsa Moro people with the rest of the region in an integrated strategic plan for economic equity and the total defeat of terrorism.

As I said earlier, the only peace process in the world with an anti-terrorist element because during the cease fire, which has lasted already for two years, part of the cease fire agreement is that we will exchange information, intelligence and orders of battle in order to together interdict the terrorists in Mindanao and in the rest of our country.

In other words, both our Muslim brothers and we, as we talk peace are equally determined to be partners in upholding the anti-terrorism campaign and in upholding global security. Together, we reiterate our call for Congress to pass the anti-terror bill as we vow to sustain the war together, Christians and Muslims, with heightened vigilance at all levels.

One cannot speak of the peace process in Mindanao without mentioning, of course, the enduring role of Libya since the Tripoli agreement in 1976. The role of Saudi Arabia that spearheaded the Jeddah accord of 1987. The role of Indonesia that led the OIC committee of the six and then the eight, towards the signing of the GRP-MNLF final peace agreement in 1996. The role of Malaysia in facilitating our current peace process, and of course the entire OIC for their support with this peace process.

And we thank Malaysia, Libya and Brunei for the international monitoring team, the head of whom is here with us tonight, that has done wonders to safeguard the cease fire in Mindanao.

As Governor Zaldy Ampatuan indicated in his speech, Filipinos are completely exhausted with ‘poison politics’ when so much remains to be done in the nation. We must, with the backing of our allies and friends, get back to work, not in the streets but in our offices and industrial centers, in our farms and our communities.

The upgrade of our country’s ratings by a Japanese rating agency and now by Merrill Lynch — the world’s leading financial management and advisory company — confirms the solid prospects of economic take off, along with the strong showing of the peso — assessed to be one of the strongest currencies of the world today — a robust stock market, continuing investment inflows, and respectable profit margins among business operations in the country.

And Governor Akbar, I continue to count on the local government units to activate the price monitoring systems in your respective localities to stave off unscrupulous business practices that will use the revenue reforms and the oil price increase as an excuse to raise their prices exorbitantly.

In this time of prayer, we continue to seek guidance from and consecrate all our efforts to God. And I look forward to joining all Filipino-Muslims in celebrating Eid’l Fitr next week.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA’s Speech during the IFTAR (Fast-Breaking) for Peace and Forgiveness. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092200/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5179&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Joint Business Meeting of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce and PCCI

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Joint Business Meeting of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce and PCCI**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City, November 7, 2005]

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you very much, Secretary Peter Favila.

Other members of the cabinet and government officials; Ambassador Donald Dee, happy birthday! Heads of the other organizations and foreign chambers; leading players in the business community; honored guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for organizing this event upon my request, not only because it's Donald's birthday, but because it's often difficult to see the progress of the nation on a day-to-day basis and sometimes it's important for us to get together and take stock. And heaven knows the crisis of the moment or the headline of the day can be unsettling and discouraging. Every molehill is treated like a mountain; every accusation is treated as truth; every piece of good news is stepped on by the bad.

One example of this is what Donald referred to the blurring of the long-term importance of the Value-Added Tax reform law to our nation's strength. The easy manipulation of this issue by the destabilizers and the media who further their agenda is a case of little chicken screaming that the sky is falling. Well, the sky isn't falling and that's part of what we're celebrating today. In fact, as soon as the Supreme Court issued its opinions, markets rallied, the peso strengthened, the prospects for a credit upgrade dramatically improved.

No one likes to raise taxes here or anywhere in the world, but you the movers and shakers of the economy should take deep pride in the fact that this decision has already strengthened this nation and will provide more economic opportunity and job creation than any other single initiative we could have done.

Nomura and Merrill Lynch have already registered bond upgrades. I understand also Morgan Stanley. All indicators are up, business is on the roll. These fundamental economic reforms will unleash a wave of innovation and modernity that will prepare our nation for the 21st century.

Today, I want each one of us to take a step backward from the clamor of the moment and lift our sights up to what is really going on in the Philippines. In my State of the Nation Address last July, I said that ours is a country divided, almost as it were two countries under the same name: one, is the Philippines whose economy after long years of cumulative national endeavor is now poised for take off; the other is the Philippines whose political system after equally long years of degeneration has become a hindrance to progress.

The good news is that the Philippines has embraced all things modern in so many ways. For instance, we're the text capital of the world and our mobile phone usage has skyrocketed with thousands of cell sites as use has soared and prices have come down.

And our tourism is up by more than 13 percent. The skyline of Manila and Cebu has taken a new look with thousands of young workers now populating high rises fitted out as global call centers. The malls are full. I just went to the movies yesterday. I saw the movie 'The Legend of Zorro' and when I was looking at Catherine Zeta Jones, I thought I was looking at Diana Santos. The restaurants are busy. The airports are jumping. This progress can

continue and can expand to lift up the boats of all our people but only if we knock down the wall that is dividing the two Philippines. And only if nation-building becomes the spirit of the times with a collective vision of business, government, and the people to move the nation forward.

Today, I'd like to share with you a vision of a modern Philippines that in 20 years will be poised to join the ranks of first world nations and leave our developing nation status behind. That vision is built on three fundamental strategies I have put in place: first, I have focused unceasingly on building strong macroeconomic fundamentals and strict fiscal discipline. As a result, we will balance our budget, improve our credit ratings, attract investments and have money to invest in our infrastructure and our people.

Second, I have taken an aggressive campaign to reengage the Philippines with the world. I believe our engagement with the world including the trade agreements we're forging with Japan, with China, with the U.S., with Europe, I believe engaging the world is essential if we are to protect our overseas workers; engaging with the world is vital for our economic expansion; engaging with the world is central to our ability to protect our people from terrorism at home and invest in bringing peace to Mindanao.

Third, I insist on fulfilling my ten-point pro-poor agenda that invests in our people. We need people who have the education, skills and language ability to compete, absorb and serve in top jobs here at home.

For instance, when I came to office in 2001, there was no business process outsourcing industry to speak of. We now have a 100,000 people employed in this growing industry and you the business community who made that happen should be proud of that.

In 2003, after one year's experience as president, in my State of the Nation Address that year I said, we must build a strong republic. And I repeat that today, because only a strong republic, a strong state can bring our country to the first world in 20 years. A strong state that derives its strength from the people and its inspiration and humility from the almighty God. A strong state that begins by dedicating our hopes and energies to the almighty.

We need a strong state because everyday, the nation faces promise, but also peril. We must transcend bureaucratic stagnation and enable frontline services to operate in an emergency or state-of-calamity mode. Terrorism, avian flu, destabilization, we must never let our guard down.

Only a strong state can create in Manila a national brand that can compete on equal footing with other metropolises like Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong as a center for metropolitan life, because to do this will entail massive decongestion, face-lifting and urban revival.

Only a strong state can build the urban corridors of growth such as Clark and Subic northward, and southward, Calabarzon interconnected by expressways and by the Laguna lake.

Only a strong state can mobilize land for wealth creation. And only a strong state can integrate discipline with skills training to build a disciplined, skilled work force that we need to compete in the 21st century.

Only a strong state can forge a meeting of minds among political parties, bring about a more democratic, more participatory mechanism for dialogue with the people, and provide the foundation for creating a mass base for good governance.

A strong state builds an economy that can afford the best public education, the best public health, the best social services. On the other hand, the social cost of a weak state is more poverty and destitution.

Yes, we have made progress in the past few years: the poverty rate is down even in the SWS survey, employment is up, and our economy is growing. But these accomplishments are hardly enough if you're hungry and without a job. For until poverty is behind us, the promise of the 21st century will remain out of our grasp.

Everyone of us in this room is part of a soft state, a political process, and a culture that is out of step with the needs of a modern nation.

To build our strong republic, therefore, I reject extremist calls to isolate our nation from our friends and allies in the world; I reject extremist calls that would junk the market system and create a controlled economy; I reject extremist calls to overthrow our duly constituted government and entrust our fortunes to an un-elected anti-capitalist dictator.

I believe in an agenda that builds up not tears down the country.

I embrace economic incentives, less red tape, reducing corruption for our business while endorsing a decent wage for our workers. Yes, a raise in the legislated minimum wage is the right thing to do, and everyone in this room should work with employees to find an appropriate center position.

Social justice should go hand-in-hand with enlightened business.

And let me finally say that I embrace a change in our basic system of government because I do not believe our current system serves our nation well today and won't bring us to the status of developed country in 20 years.

We need a new constitution, neither leftist nor rightist but centrist, a constitution that will eliminate legislative gridlock, a constitution that will transfer power from the center in Metro Manila to the countryside that feeds it, a new constitution that will align the rules of the economy to the global world of the 21st century.

To conclude, let me say how pleased I am at being here among the men and women, both foreign and Filipino who make this nation work. And I am confident seeing you, listening to Donald speak in your behalf, I am confident we have the vision, the plan, and the people in this room and across the nation who are ready to make the dream of a fully modern, developed nation of the Philippines a reality.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Joint Business Meeting of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce and PCCI. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092048/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5403&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 31st Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, November 10, 2005

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 31st Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas**

[Delivered at Camp John Hay Convention Center Baguio City, Benguet, November 10, 2005]

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM

Originally, when you invited me, I had asked Cerge to represent me here today and read my message, and I was going to do a video message. But I remembered what he said, I'd been coming every year to join you, I guess this is not the time to break that tradition. First of all to say, thank you because you're giving us radio time and television time for our avian flu campaign. Thank you for that support for our serving the people.

And second, because as Cerge says, no other leader has been as close to the KBP as I have been since my days as senator. I would also say that after all said and done the KBP as an organization has been supportive of my administration and I thank you for that.

And I'd also like to take this opportunity to express gratification that we have put up together the full resources of government and your organization to stop and solve the violent and cowardly acts on crusading journalists. I'd like to report the 36 cases involving the slaying of journalists have either been disposed of or are under trial, while 26 are under investigation or follow up operations.

I'd like to think that the five million-peso fund set up for slain journalists contributed to the abatement of attacks on media people. If you recall, my share included reward money for information leading to the arrest of the suspects in the killings, while that of Speaker Joe de Venecia was for the mobilization of quick reaction teams composed of media representatives that could immediately investigate and document pertinent cases.

So we've worked together on things that have produced results and we'll continue to produce results. On the other hand, I was recently criticized for disclosing an intelligence report that a broadcast journalist was instrumental in bailing out a terrorist. Terrorism is evil. And I consider my fight against terror as a duty of my presidency.

Our national security is something that you and I must take seriously. I'm disappointed with the precious overly sensitive of its prerogatives when at the same time, many of our journalists arrogated the license to fire away at anybody without even circumstantial evidence.

We must take heed of the media becoming part of the national malaise and a hindrance to development rather than an important solution to our problems. A press that loses credibility as the watchdog of government and the society becomes a drag to democracy rather than a force of freedom. Yes, we must admit that some segments of the media are pushing the negative angle or stories too far and too often.

As I observed in a speech made before the business community earlier this week, there have been a great deal of positive developments that have not been extensively covered by the media. The portrait of a nation on the verge of economic take off is unassailable yet sadly known to most Filipinos. The backdrop of the peso and the market as the best performers in SouthEast Asia give us now the best opportunity to bring the good news to the people so we can reap their confidence beside that of the world, and so that we can do the patriotic task to convince the public on the need for full implementation of economic reforms next year.

On our part, we shall continue fielding non-tax revenue generating measures alongside palpable cuts in unnecessary government spending. Already, our national government has saved some 37 billion pesos from our budget deficit ceiling, mostly because our skillful treasury operations are better bond prices and our stronger peso have reduced our debt by that amount. And that's where we have been cutting down on our expenditures.

One of the Congressmen yesterday told me, "that's good news that we are cutting our deficit not because we're cutting infrastructure spending, not because we're cutting social services spending." In fact, we're using up the full budget for public works. We're using up the full budget for the PNP. We're using up the full budget for the DND. We're using up the full budget for our social services. Where are we saving? It is on debt service.

I invite the officers of the KBP to meet with our economic managers so that you can hear first hand the good news about our country.

Indeed, there is much that the KBP can do; there is much that broadcast media can do because technology is empowering you more and more. In fact today, a historical event is happening here in Baguio City. I'm told by Cerge that for the first time in the Philippines digital FMHD radio is on the air, broadcasting clear... broadcasting clear and clean radio programming on 105.1 megahertz to broadcast world and their technology partners, broadcast electronics and urban as well as our NTC and KBP. Thank you for making radio history this day.

Some things can be historic in one day, other things can affect history but over some period of renewal. And today, I call on you — let us cast aside the 'bad boy' image that the press has acquired. Let us restore its glory as the responsible son of a democratic nation. I appeal to you not to be used wittingly or unwittingly as pawns in political games or destabilization schemes. *Sabi nga ni Cerge, yung isang panawagan ng KBP, ano? Tama na ang pulitika ba?* Yes. But the first one to stop being used in politics or in destabilization must be the media itself.

The coverage of kangaroo courts, lynch mobs and witch hunts assails the peace of mind and the hopes of our people. The public wants winners. I know you know that, because you're always looking at rating's. The public wants winners. The economy is the only winner here today amidst these losers who carry no public mandate.

Your conference indeed comes at a time when only a strong republic can enforce discipline and the rule of law and at the same time sustain the vibrancy of responsible press freedom.

Well, Cerge says, I've always been close to you. And I say and I acknowledge, as an organization, you've always been close to me. It's time that we do something constructive about this closeness. It's time we put our hearts and heads together in a collective exercise to shape the destiny of this republic for the good of the greater number.

And so in conclusion, I leave you with the appeal — I count on you to promote responsible Philippine journalism. *Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.*

Source: Adamson University Library

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) 31st Top Level Management Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) 31st Top Level Management Conference**

[Delivered at the Main Hall, Camp John Hay Convention Center Baguio City, Benguet, November 10, 2005]

Thank you.

Daghan salamat, Cerge. Thank you for your very kind introduction.

Lito Yabut, Jun Nicdao and other officials of KBP, Mayor Yaranon, Governor Melchor and other officials of the Philippine government — oh! Including Mayor Galutin. Thank you for coming here all the way from Mankayan, four hours drive away or now it's already less than four hours, right? Because of our nice highway — guests, officers and delegates of the KBP, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Originally, when you invited me, I had asked Cerge to represent me here today and read my message, and I was going to do a video message. But I remembered what he said, I'd been coming every year to join you, I guess this is not the time to break that tradition. First of all to say, thank you because you're giving us radio time and television time for our avian flu campaign. Thank you for that support for our serving the people.

And second, because as Cerge says, no other leader has been as close to the KBP as I have been since my days as senator. I would also say that after all said and done the KBP as an organization has been supportive of my administration and I thank you for that.

And I'd also like to take this opportunity to express gratification that we have put up together the full resources of government and your organization to stop and solve the violent and cowardly acts on crusading journalists. I'd like to report the 36 cases involving the slaying of journalists have either been disposed of or are under trial, while 26 are under investigation or follow up operations.

I'd like to think that the five million-peso fund set up for slain journalists contributed to the abatement of attacks on media people. If you recall, my share included reward money for information leading to the arrest of the suspects in the killings, while that of Speaker Joe de Venecia was for the mobilization of quick reaction teams composed of media representatives that could immediately investigate and document pertinent cases.

So, we've worked together on things that have produced results and we'll continue to produce results. On the other hand, I was recently criticized for disclosing an intelligence report that a broadcast journalist was instrumental in bailing out a terrorist. Terrorism is evil. And I consider my fight against terror as a duty of my presidency.

Our national security is something that you and I must take seriously. I'm disappointed with the precious overly sensitive of its prerogatives when at the same time, many of our journalists arrogated the license to fire away at anybody without even circumstantial evidence.

We must take heed of the media becoming part of the national malaise and a hindrance to development rather than an important solution to our problems. A press that loses credibility as the watchdog of government and the society

becomes a drag to democracy rather than a force of freedom. Yes, we must admit that some segments of the media are pushing the negative angle of stories too far and too often.

As I observed in a speech made before the business community earlier this week, there have been a great deal of positive developments that have not been extensively covered by the media. The portrait of a nation on the verge of economic take off is unassailable yet sadly known to most Filipinos. The backdrop of the peso and the market as the best performers in southeast Asia give us now the best opportunity to bring the good news to the people so we can reap their confidence beside that of the world, and so that we can do the patriotic task to convince the public on the need for full implementation of economic reforms next year.

On our part, we shall continue fielding non-tax revenue generating measures alongside palpable cuts in unnecessary government spending. Already, our national government has saved some 37 billion pesos from our budget deficit ceiling, mostly because our skillful treasury operations are better bond prices and our stronger peso have reduced our debt by that amount. And that's where we have been cutting down on our expenditures.

One of the congressmen yesterday told me, "that's good news that we are cutting our deficit not because we're cutting infrastructure spending, not because we're cutting social services spending." In fact, we're using up the full budget for public works. We're using up the full budget for the PNP. We're using up the full budget for the DND. We're using up the full budget for our social services. Where are we saving? It is on debt service.

I invite the officers of the KBP to meet with our economic managers so that you can hear first hand the good news about our country.

Indeed, there is much that the KBP can do; there is much that broadcast media can do because technology is empowering you more and more. In fact today, a historical event is happening here in Baguio city. I'm told by Cerge that for the first time in the Philippines digital FMHD radio is on the air, broadcasting clear... broadcasting clear and clean radio programming on 105.1 megahertz to broadcast world and their technology partners, broadcast electronics and urban as well as our NTC and KBP. Thank you for making radio history this day.

Some things can be historic in one day, other things can affect history but over some period of renewal. And today, I call on you — let us cast aside the 'bad boy' image that the press has acquired. Let us restore its glory as the responsible son of a democratic nation. I appeal to you not to be used wittingly or unwittingly as pawns in political games or destabilization schemes. Sabi nga ni Cerge, yung isang panawagan ng KBP, ano? Tama na ang pulitika ba? Yes. But the first one to stop being used in politics or in destabilization must be the media itself.

The coverage of kangaroo courts, lynch mobs and witch hunts assails the peace of mind and the hopes of our people. The public wants winners. I know you know that, because you're always looking at ratings. The public wants winners. The economy is the only winner here today amidst these losers who carry no public mandate.

Your conference indeed comes at a time when only a strong republic can enforce discipline and the rule of law and at the same time sustain the vibrancy of responsible press freedom.

Well, Cerge says, I've always been close to you. And I say and I acknowledge, as an organization, you've always been close to me. It's time that we do something constructive about this closeness. It's time we put our hearts and heads together in a collective exercise to shape the destiny of this republic for the good of the greater number.

And so in conclusion, I leave you with the appeal — I count on you to promote responsible Philippine journalism.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) 31st Top Level Management Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092025/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5400&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Closing Ceremony of the Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung/Center for Christian-Muslim Democracy (KAS/CCMD) Seminar/Workshop

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Closing Ceremony of the Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung/Center for Christian-Muslim Democracy
(KAS/CCMD) Seminar/Workshop**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn Resort Hotel Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga, November 12, 2005]

Thank you, Joe. Thank you so much for your inspiring words. Thank you for your leadership of our country and the legislature. Thank you for your leadership in the charter change that we are about to bring about.

Sonny Alvarez and the other officials of the Center for Christian-Muslim Democracy; Mr. Claus Presley, thank you very much for your kind words in behalf of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation; our hosts in Clark which is comprised of areas of Angeles and Mabalacat, Mayor Lazatin and Mayor Morales; members of Congress who are here today; our Cabinet members in attendance: Secretary Claudio, Pagdanganan and Rene Diaz; our local government officials who are here today; our members of the Constitutional Commission who are here today; our... The various participants in this seminar coming from Regions I, II, III, CAR, IV and V; ladies and gentlemen.

Fellow Christian-Muslim democrats, congratulations to all of you! Congratulations to all of us! Congratulations to the Center for Christian-Muslim democrats! Chaired by Sonny and also with Francis Manglapus as a great work horse.

Thank you to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Thank you both for conducting this timely seminar. And I really thank the Konrad Adenauer Foundation which is our link, aside from our institutional link, our other link with the Christian democrats of Europe and Germany. Indeed, we are altogether here in a national and international endeavor. We're on the road to a new horizon because what we are going to do with the new system is to cast away the politics of personality. We will usher in instead the politics of ideology and performance.

I remember when as candidate for vice-president of the Philippines, as a new member of the Lakas — at that time, it's called Lakas-NUCD — and I said that we should strengthen our CD portion and call it the Lakas Non-Christian-Muslim Democrats. I remember then that I took pains to study the philosophy of Christian democracy.

Nonetheless, over the past years since 1998 up to 2005, we have still not seen the politics of ideology. What we have continued to see is the politics of personality, and this politics of personality has bred an arena of governance peppered from day-to-day by insults, muckraking and petty partisan brawls. Partisan brawls become petty because they are not based on ideological debate, they are based instead on half-truths and personal attacks.

The politics of personality is part of what I described in my State of the Nation Address last July as a country divided. Almost as it were I said, two countries under the same name: one is the Philippines whose economy after long years of cumulative national endeavor is now poised for take-off. Our detractors are being rendered irrelevant and out of tune by the sturdy economic indicators, some of which were already mentioned by Speaker De Venecia: the new round of oil price reductions, the surge of direct foreign investment by 70 percent, the 2.5 billion dollars investment portfolio inflows, the strengthening of the peso hitting a 5-month high at 54.42 per dollar, and the robust capital stock market.

But on the other side of that is the Philippines whose political system after equally long years of degeneration has become a hindrance to progress, and that's why the people are losing hope in the system. Our current system does not serve our nation best and certainly it will not bring us to the status of developed country in 20 years.

Economics is the primordial reason for political reforms. Our political system is bad for our economy and we must offer change. And we are offering change, we're offering it to our people for their wise deliberation and vote. I created the Citizens' Consultative Commission — and some of our leaders are here today — to hear all views, to listen to all studies, to make its recommendations to congress and to the people, in fairness to all beliefs and creeds, in fairness and respect for all Filipinos.

It's time we gather the best ideas from the entire spectrum of political beliefs and bring them to a stable center. And that's also the reason why we are seeking to forge a meeting of minds among centrist political parties.

That is in fact the essence of Christian democracy and all the Christian democratic parties in the world today. Centrism, not extreme left, not extreme right, but the stability of the center. Therefore, our ideology must be centrist. But it must not be just centrist, it must be an ideology of change. We must spin out investments, jobs and infrastructure into regional growth centers and hubs of people's enterprise. Focus should be placed in maintaining sound business policy and infrastructure to unleash the full economic potentials of the country to benefit the poor.

We continue to push for added benefits for our workers and for the amendment of the law creating the regional tripartite wage boards to allow the raising of salaries more than once a year if warranted.

We are happy and gratified about the willingness of Malik Alimmudin, a member of the Rajah Solaiman Movement, to testify against his comrades. They should bolster our anti-terrorism drive even as we press our colleagues in congress to pass the anti-terror bill.

But beyond these measures that we seek to pass through Congress — and we have seen the great difficulty we have in passing legislation — we have to fuse the continuity of lawmaking and the execution of laws through a parliamentary system. People ask me why is the parliamentary system better than the presidential system. In the presidential system, you have separation of powers. It's supposed to be because of check and balance, but instead it has resulted in gridlock.

There are legislators who are more interested in inquiries in aid of destabilization rather than in their intrinsic function of legislation. And so, it's with great difficulty that the administration brings its legislative proposal through the legislative mill.

And there are bills passed by congress that are good, not all of them need to come from the executive at this point in time, but because of the separation of powers, the Cabinet members who have not internalized some of the philosophies behind these laws also do not execute some of the laws wholeheartedly.

So, there is half-hearted passage of administration measures; there is half-hearted execution of measures initiated by the legislative. We must wed the legislature and the executive, and that is through the parliamentary form of government.

And we have to awaken the latent and intrinsic energies of the regions and local governments by giving the parliament the mandate to enact a federal structure. The debate on federalism will be long and hard, because the local governments want to make sure that there is no reduction in their well-deserved power. That debate is something that can be done in Congress, in the parliament, except that today it is not allowed even to debate it by the constitution.

I remember when I was a senator, I was defending the Mindanao Development Authority Bill. And what killed it, they said that that is a constitutional issue rather than a legislative issue. The very idea of trying to pass bills to increase greater autonomy especially towards a federal structure of government is not allowed in the present constitution. So, whatever may be the right form of federalism, whatever may be the right form of greater autonomy, we cannot even take it up in the present constitutional system. And that's another reason why we must change the system in the Constitution.

And of course, we have to align the rules of the economy to the global world of the 21st century. Again, there will be great debates on whether to lift restrictions on this and that sector, but we cannot lift restrictions through legislature. We have done what we can in bringing our rules of the economy to the 21st century under the present Constitution. We must therefore look at the constitution itself and give the parliament the mandate to change those antiquated economic provisions.

These are the ways to stabilize our political system. These are the ways by which our new constitution that we are fighting for will bring us a stable political system. And we must do this because only a stable political system begets a strong economy.

And so fellow members and officers and leaders of Lakas-CMD, I ask you to campaign for our people's active participation in charter change. I ask you to lead this great debate. I ask you to galvanize your constituencies. Let's not go for little changes here and there that can be done by administrative order or even by legislation, cause we've done practically all we can by administrative order and legislation.

Let's go for the big stakes. Let's all stand behind the quest of a more enduring, more stable political system that will serve the dreams of all generations. Let us go for charter change!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the Closing Ceremony of the Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung/Center for Christian-Muslim Democracy (KAS/CCMD) Seminar/Workshop. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092016/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5398&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 15th General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 15th General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)**

[Delivered at the Harbour View Tent, Westin Philippine Plaza, Pasay City, November 15, 2005]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, kalihim Secretary Reyes sa inyong pagpakilala sa akin.

And congratulations! Mayor Guico and all the officials of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines and all the municipal mayors of the Philippines for the wonderful achievements that they have shown on our screen as well as the very wise resolution you have passed on to me for adaption.

Ladies and gentlemen, magandang gabi sa inyong lahat. Mayap a bengi quecongan caring Cabalen cung capampangan. Naimbag nga rabii kadakayo amin dagiti kailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko. Sa atong mga taga-Visayas ug Mindanao, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan. Kag sa mga kasimanwa sang akon bana, maayong gab-i sa inyong nga tanan. Sa mga Bicolano, marhay nga banggi. And to all of you — hindi ko na sasabihin lahat ng mga lengwahe kung hindi mauubos ang aking oras sa diskurso — most important as Mayor Guico said earlier, for your timely manifesto of support during the days of our political turmoil, thank you for your unwavering support. As Mayor Monching said, you held the course, you were never distracted, you express your support and you continued to carry out our ten-point agenda. Thank you so much for all of that.

And now, it's payback time. The economy is pulling up all indicators of stability and growth. I ask your support, your continuing support this time to project among your constituents the brightening economic indicators. For instance, economic growth projected at over 5 percent, boosted by OFW remittances. Your OFWs because most of them come from your municipalities. They used to send us seven, eight billion dollars. Now they are sending us 10 billion dollars this year. Thanks to your constituents. And there will be more, maybe next year because this year as of October, 800,000 workers have been deployed in 10 months, higher than the whole figure of last year. It only means to say that the world has great demand for the great Filipino workers that you produce in your municipalities.

I believe, not in coincidence but in providence. We work hard. You help me work hard to pass the tax reforms that we needed. I remember last year when we were in the middle of a fiscal crisis, many of you were so good as to look for ways by which you would sacrifice your IRA. But I said, "no, instead of sacrificing your IRA, why don't you convince the legislators and the national officials whom you after all supported to win for Congress and the Senate. Convince them that we need these new taxes in order to avert a fiscal crisis." and you were successful in your advocacy.

Many gave dire predictions, especially when fuel was not exempted from taxes. And many said the moment vat is implemented there will be spiraling inflation, unrest and riot in the streets. But as I believe in providence, I believe in the timing of the Lord, what happened when we started to implement the tax reform in November first, what happened was the price of oil which started to double in the last year and a half started to go down again. That coupled with the strengthening of our peso because of our OFWs, because of the savings on our debt service, because of the lower interest rates we've had to pay, because of the inflow of direct investments and portfolio investments and exports, we have had a combination that has resulted in the easing of oil prices. And diesel prices now are lower than they were before we even put the value-added tax.

Thanks to all of these providential timing, we are posting a lower deficit this year compared to last year, not only because you have helped convince the congressmen and the senators that they must do the fiscal reforms but also

thanks to your support in the local governments, BIR has been posting respectable increases in revenue as well as the bureau of customs.

Thanks to your support, the peso has become stronger. Thanks to your support, the confidence of the world is such that there is an increase in portfolio investments. Thanks to your support, because of the strengthening of the peso our inflation is being tamed. Thanks to your support, not only because of confidence due to the political stability that you show but also because you helped us so much in price monitoring as a result of our fiscal reforms.

Indeed, the more investments and business activity, the more jobs for our people and the more revenues for our local government. Don't forget that with all this value-added tax increase, 40 percent of the increase in revenue will go to you as your IRA share.

In fact, when Monching was talking about the meager resources, I was chuckling to myself because right now the national government is in deficit — although it's going down — but the local government are in surplus. So congratulations to all of you! I'm glad that, thanks to your support, the national deficit is becoming smaller and smaller because of our fiscal reforms that you so vocally supported.

If we continue this way, the national government may also be able to have, just like you, a balanced budget by 2008. And we will be able to repay our debts so that we will be able to bring every centavo-worth of taxpayers money to needed infrastructure and social services to improve the quality of life of our people while facing head on the enormous challenge of fundamental and long lasting reforms through charter change which you have so kindly and generously supported in this your convention. Thank you for your support for charter change.

And Monching mentioned about how you want to build a strong republic. Yes, we need to go back to our vision of the strong republic where the strongest infusion of service is at the grassroots, with more power to local governments, more accountability from political leaders and less power concentrated here in metro manila.

But of course, as I said, I don't believe in coincidences, I believe in providence. We must begin working for our vision by reconciling the nation with god, seeking guidance from and concentrating all our efforts to him. And we must also direct the focus of government so that its bureaucracy will be more responsive to the call of the times.

Just now I had a very long cabinet meeting, and one of the last items in the agenda was a presentation by my Deputy National Security Adviser Virtus Gil on what he will do in order to make sure that our front line services will be energized, will be in an emergency mode so that they will serve our people more.

On the part of you, the municipalities, aside from all the things we have already been doing — price monitoring, anti-terrorism, sustainable development. Oh! Sustainable development, not only upland with our support as Monching requested, may I also call for a clean up drive in the municipalities to signal a fresh start, back to work attitude and atmosphere. Because after all, lalo na paglalakbayin na natin ang magandang Pilipinas, the LGUs will more and more become our windows to the world.

You are our windows to the world and you are the window of the national government to the countryside. As Mayor Guico says, our people are made prouder and given more hope by the exemplary practices of local governments throughout the country. Those will be documented.

But can I just say something about my day today. This morning I went to the 49th anniversary of Carmen in North Cotabato. That town for 40 years was a sixth class municipality. And then it transformed itself almost overnight to a first class municipality. Exemplary, indeed. And I saw their terminal and market. I saw their new municipal hall, modern, all built without any borrowing. All from internal funds. That example of Carmen is only one of many examples I have seen in many of your towns that I have visited. So indeed, you are our window to the world. Lakbayin ang magandang pilipinas para makita ang kagandahan ng pamamahala ng ating mga local government executives.

And when I see these thing and how you spend your IRA, I'm so gratified and I do not regret that I give you your IRA in full and on time. And I do not regret that I even pay what the previous administrations owe you. As for the unprogrammed funds that Monching talked about, I am happy to let you know that the Department of Justice has given the opinion that we can return your unprogrammed funds through monetization even without specific budgetary allocation. As I said, as Monching said in your resolution, we will do this through a monetization scheme similar to the program that we also implemented together in 2002.

And I am proud that as you have said, you will use these funds, as you have been using the funds you already have to localize my ten-point beat the odds agenda which is after all our country's contribution towards the millennium development goals. And so tonight, mga local governments ng magandang Pilipinas, I ask you keep the fire burning. The journey to a strong republic may be a long way forward but the warmth of our shared sacrifices and achievements will continue to light the hopes of our people. Totoo, lakbayin ang magandang Pilipinas. Bisitahin yung mga huwarang local government units para tayo ay umabot sa maganda at malakas na republika.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Speech during the 15th General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092009/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5391&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the National Day of Humility, Repentance, Fasting and Prayer for Our Nation,
November 28, 2005 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the National Day of Humility, Repentance, Fasting
and Prayer for Our Nation**

[Delivered in Pasay City, November 28, 2005]

PRAYING FOR OUR DREAMS

Ginawa, palagay ko, itong araw na ito ngayon sa halip ng November 30 dahil meron rin tayong patakaran na kapag ang holiday ay nagaganap sa gitna ng Linggo, ginagawa sa Lunes para sa ganoon magkaroon na rin ng long weekend ang ating mga pamilya, magkaroon ng pagkakataon magkasama. At sa mga araw na ito, higit na importante na maging mapakumbaba, na magsisi, na mag-ayuno at manalangin. Nananalangin tayo, una sa lahat, para magsamba sa Panginoon. Nananalangin tayo, pangalawa, upang magpasalamat sa Panginoon sa lahat ng basbas niya sa atin. At sa mga araw na ito, napakaraming dapat ipagpasalamat natin sa Panginoon. Una sa lahat, alam kong maraming nagpapasalamat sa Panginoon para sa mga atletang Pilipino na ang daming pinapanalo. Labing-dalawa na ang ating gold medalists. Meron pang nakalampas ng record sa High Jump. And. I share the joy and pride of our athletes and the Filipino people for our strong start in the SouthEast Asian Games. Pwede na rin natin itong ituring bilang magandang halimbawa for the talent, skill and fighting spirit of the Filipino people. In the venues of our games, let us cheer our athletes on. Let us show to the world na sa magandang pagbasbas at pinagpala ng Panginoon sa atin, our spirits will never be broken amid political storms and economic constraints, and that we are willing to endure the tough national training for a better future, Just as the hard training of our athletes are now starting to payoff in victory. We pray for more gold medals to come.

But even more than that, nananalangin tayo para magpasalamat sa Panginoon sa magandang biyayang binibigay niya sa ating ekonomiya.

Kanina pinakita ni Bishop Tendero sa inyo ang Korea before and after. At sa pagbasbas ng Panginoon tayo rin pwede rin tayong humubog ng kapaligirang babagay sa layunin na maging first world tayo sa loob ng dalawampung taon. Ngunit kailangan magsimula tayo sa pamamagitan ng pagbalik, ipagbalik, ibalik ang ating bansa sa Panginoon.

Kaya tayo rin ay nagdadasal, nananalangin hindi lamang upang magsamba, hindi lamang upang magpasalamat kung hindi na rin tayo ay nananalangin para ma-reconcile ang ating bansa sa Panginoon. Kaya nung isang taon ako ay nag-deklara ng Araw ng Panalangin. Ngayon, lumalakas ang ating layunin, ambisyon kaya'y hindi na lamang isang araw ang dapat i-deklara ngunit isang buong linggo para sa rekonsilasyon.

Kaya ako ay handang gumawa ng deklarasyon na mula Nobyembre a-treinta hanggang a-siete ng Disyembre ito ay dapat Isang Panahon ng Panalangin. Hinahanda na ng aking abogado itong deklarasyon na ito. At dito sa Panahon ng Panalangin, ang hinihiling ko sa lahat ng mga kasapi ng ating lipunan, kasama na ako doon, una sa lahat, na hanapin ang... hanapin ang gabay at direksyon at talagang i-buo ang lahat ng pagsisikap na ialay sa Panginoon.

Nananalangin tayo hindi lamang para magsamba, para magpasalamat, para mag-reconcile kung hindi na rin siyempre dahil ang Panginoon ay mabait na Ama, Para humingi rin ng kanyang mga biyaya dahil siya ay mabait at mapagbigay na Panginoon.

Nagdadasal tayo ng higit pang medalyang ginto hindi lamang para sa ating mga atleta kung hindi para sa ating ekonomiya at lahat ng taong bayan.

Nagdadasal tayo para sa mga kasamahan ni Bishop Bengi sa Kongreso na sila ay magbubuo ng magandang paraan upang makapasa yung budget ng 2006, Kasi ang budget ay importante para masustento ang ating pagsulong ng ating ekonomiya at magpadala ng mga batayang serbisyo sa taong-bayan.

Alam n'yo kung bakit ako nagpapasalamat sa Panginoon sa ating ekonomiya? Dahil ang ating savings sa ating budget na akala natin magiging lugi na ang ating budget ay 40 million pesos gawa ng mga bagong buwis gaya ng alcohol and cigarette tax pati na rin yung mas mabisang pagkubra ng buwis at saka yung osteridad ng paggastos ng pamahalaan. Kanya lamang sa 40 billion halos wala tayo agad na ma-realign sa imprastruktura at saka sa mga batayang serbisyo sa lipunan dahil ang saving na ito ay nasa debt service. Ang debt service item ay hindi ma-realign sa ibang bagay. At bakit tayo nagkaroon ng malaking savings sa debt service? Una sa lahat, lumalakas ang piso. Eh ang bayad natin sa debt service ay dolyar kaya lumiliit. Pangalawa, dahil sa ating political will kasama ni Bishop Benny sa ating pagpasa ng mga importanteng buwis, lumawak ang kompiyansa ng mundo sa atin kaya yung interes na binabayad natin ngayon ay mas mababa. Kaya bumaba yung ating pagbayad ng interes at principal sa ating utang pero hindi ito basta pwedeng ma-realign kung hindi kailangan mag-submit ako ng budget muli sa Congress na hihingin ang permiso na yung saving natin ay magastos doon sa imprastruktura at batayang serbisyo sa lipunan na kailangan natin. Kaya nananalangin ako na ang Kongreso ay ibibigay itong hiling nating realignment ng budget na ito.

Manalangin din tayo sa Panginoon na igabay ang ating landas sa patungo sa pinakamabisa at pinakamagaan na paraan kung papano palitan ang ating Saligang Batas. Dahil ang pagpapalit ng ating Konstitusyon, ang ating Saligang Batas ay tungkol sa ating kinabukasan. Ito ay tungkol sa panaginip ng Pilipino na magkaroon ng malakas, kabagay-bagay, mabuting pagdesisyon, matino, at nakakasagot sa hiling at pangangailangan. Ganung klaseng pamahalaan na iaangat ang ekonomiya sa ranggo ng mga bansa kagaya ng Korea na pinakita ni Bishop Tenderso kanina sa inyo.

Pang-samba, pang-pasalamat, pagbabago at mga biyaya, para sa lahat na ito tayo ay nananalangin sa pangalan ng ating Panginoong Hesukristo. Amen. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: Adamson University Library

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo at the 9th National Convention of Government Employees Working Council and
60th Anniversary of the Philippine Government Employees Association, December 8, 2005**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 9th National Convention of Government Employees Working Council and 60th Anniversary of the
Philippine Government Employees Association**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, December 8, 2005]

**GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
AS CHAMPIONS OF NATION-BUILDING**

Thank you for all being here today. I'm happy to be with you today because first of all it's my aim to make our government workers and our educators and our executives champions in nation-building.

I'm glad to celebrate with you a special anniversary. We've been together many times, Espie, but this time Cause it's special because it's the 60th anniversary of the PGEA. Happy jubilee to all of you!

When I met you for the first time I was VP, I didn't realize PGEA had already been 60 years in existence. Ninety? Oo, ninety eight when we met, pero 60 years *na pala*. In fact, the association is older than many of you and me. And it is high time to congratulate you for all these decades of spirited quest of true service and your fight against graft and corruption. Because of your spirited quest for true service and your fight against graft and corruption, you are making an essential contribution to governance.

But we all know, while I must say and I think Espie and some of you know, some of the revamps we've made had been as a result of recommendations of the PGEA. We all know that much more needs to be done to clean up and modernize our bureaucracy. In fact, our entire political system if we want to attain the dream of joining the ranks of first world countries in 20 years.

Well, the journey of a thousand miles they say is anent the proverb says begins with a few steps. And I have always said the first step is to reconcile the nation with God through a period of national renewal. For the Catholics this is a special very period. The last three days were days of devotion to the sacrament of reconciliation because today is not only the 60th anniversary of PGEA, it is the 150th anniversary of the doctrine of Immaculate Conception. So this has been our period of prayer and renewal for the Catholics.

For the Muslims, I have asked them since Ramadan, the last Ramadan to use that period for reconciliation with God. And for other denominations we have had a similar program in their churches by declaring since last year, November 30th, as a period of prayer, a day of prayer and fasting. In these times of prayer, I have asked our society to seek guidance from and concentrate all its efforts to God. That's the first step, getting guidance from the Lord.

The second step in this journey of a thousand miles is to redirect the focus or government so that the bureaucracy will be more responsive to the call and need of the times. And this is where I ask PGEA to help in the modernization of the bureaucracy. This may mean amending the objectives of EO 366. Some of you are uncomfortable with that to begin with, so we amend its objectives. And that may mean issuing a new enabling executive order that I have asked

the deputy national security adviser, the colleague of our... The former colleague of our police officers here, General Virtus Gil, to draft this enabling executive order after the consultations he's undergoing now that will allow front line agencies like many of your agencies, to operate in an emergency or state of calamity mode. Why? Because it is you, the officials and employees in the bureaucracy whose leadership and dedication can make a difference in the overall score of national excellence. I talk about national excellence because of our athletes, who have just proven our national excellence.

Indeed, the source of excellence of our economy is its human resources. Like them the athletes and you, the government employees. Not to mention of course our world-class work force in a hundred forty countries all over the world. Because of them, the global work force, our gross international reserves have hit 18 billion dollars, unprecedented. Our economy is the only one in the world which gets an adrenaline shot in the arm every year end because of them. But this year is special, a forty percent increase in overseas remittances.

And therefore the role of our local colleges and universities comes to the fore because our great human resources are our greatest resources. I ask the local colleges and universities on the occasion of your oath taking of your officials to train our sights on strengthening our overseas worker base, beginning with tweaking the school curriculum to prepare the Filipino to be the best worker in the world. This includes a focus on English, computer literacy, cultural awareness, and supervisory and technical skills. Such an effort is consistent with every nation's pursuit to make its citizens globally competitive, but more than that it is a means of people empowerment because our greatest resources are our people.

But at the same time, while we extol our people as our greatest resources, we must also define the major role of land in wealth generation, especially land reclamation. And this is my marching order for our new general manager of the Philippine Reclamation Authority, the Honorable Bebot Bello.

The people pin their hopes upon the performance of our public servants. Cabinet members like Secretary Duque, government corporate executives and CEOs like Secretary Bello, our leaders of the educational system, our bureaucracy from the top officials to the lowest rank and file. And we are trying hard, in spite of budget limitations, to alleviate the plight of our government work force.

That's why in the 2006 proposed budget, we've included a compensation adjustment fund of 13 billion pesos so that you can have an increase in your compensation.

And this is also why I have asked the DBM to collate from all the national government agencies the total of our savings so that we can use that pool of national government savings for a uniform extra bonus for all of you, and last night, Secretary Neri confirmed to me that we can give you an additional bonus of 5,000 pesos.

To all of you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Source: Adamson University Library

**Speech of President Arroyo at the Ceremonial Submission of the Report of the Consultative Commission,
December 16, 2005**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Ceremonial Submission of the Report of the Consultative Commission**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, December 16, 2005]

CHANGING THE SYSTEM FOR THE BETTER

The world changes with great speed, in leaps and bounds, as the years go by but especially in this 21st century. And victory lies not only in superior skills and economic acumen, it lies in superior political systems.

The model of governance demanded by the rapidly changing times must be able to gather and concentrate the energies of a nation on strategic goals when needed, but spread political power to the regions for greater economic efficiency to light poverty and erase destitution.

The model governance must be able to moderate if not eradicate the politics of hate. It must be able to build confidence and optimism on the firmament of popular faith and hope because we, the Filipino people have earned the right to be more hopeful.

The peso is the world's best performing currency for the year 2005. Our OFW remittances are surging. An annual deficit... Our annual deficit as of November is 37 billion pesos below ceiling, allowing us... And that's the reason why we can give a 5,000 peso bonus for state workers and proposed a tax exemption for minimum wage earners.

Other countries like South Korea whose president just left this noon, appreciate our workers enough to change the rules to accommodate our requirements and appreciate our fiscal responsibility enough to give us preferential treatment in their official development assistance.

But the challenge of unemployment is unfinished.

The model of governance must address that unfinished challenge. We created many jobs this year. As of last statistics, almost a million, but more entered the labor force. That's why the challenge is still unfinished. And the model of governance must be able to address that challenge with greater success than we have been having all these past decades. Moreover, the model of governance must be able to forge the vision of a Philippines in the ranks of the first world in 20 years.

The Philippines must not be left behind as it is being left behind. It must lead in both integration and competition.

The key is systemic change. A change in the system.

As our speaker said earlier, we have strained the present political system to its limit. And if we must do more, we must free the country from the limits of the present system.

I have warned of creeping degeneration of our politics. This generation has been creeping all these years and now tending to blow up in our faces unless we stop that momentum. I have spoken of the need for fundamental change, as our speaker said earlier, way back since 2003 and again in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, and again in my last State of the Nation Address and I said, the sooner the better. And I must congratulate the Constitutional Commission because you finished your part of the job sooner and therefore better.

Today, you have presented to me a road map that has been laid by the Consultative Commission towards the fulfillment of our dreams. I commend all the members of the Consultative Commission for their patriotism, dedication and perseverance in crafting this framework of change. And for this, I am bestowing upon each one of you the Presidential Medal of Merit.

I ask everyone else to please reserve your applause until all the commissioners who are here today have been called.

So, we have the list of commissioners: Angelo Abarico, Alfredo Abueg; Jose Abueva; Anthony Acevedo; Ronald Adamat; Omar Ututalum Amin; Emmanuel Angeles; Sergio Apostol; Rene Azurin; Andres Bautista; Jose Bello, Jr.; Romela Bengzon; Jarius Bondoc; Jesus James Calisin; Noel Cariño; Gonzalo Catan, Jr.; Francis Chua; Gerardo Espina, Sr.; Pablo Garcia; Nel Gonzales; Joji Ilagan Bian; Rita Linda Jimeno; Gonzalo Jurado; Amado Lagdameo; Raul Lambino; Liberato Laus; Jose Leviste, Jr.; Lito Monico Lorenzana; Alex Magno; Emily Marohombsar; Democrito Mendoza; David Naval; Victor Ortega; Vicente Paterno; Carmen Pedrosa; Fernando Peña; Oscar Rodriguez; Pedro Romualdo; Mel Sarmiento; Betty Lou Tabanda; Efraim Tendero; Rey Teves; David Tirol; Miguel Varela; Jose Villanueva, and last but not the least, the man who put us in the U.N. Security Council, Alfonso Yuchengco.

I now transmit the recommendations of the Commission to Congress to serve as a point of reference for its historic deliberations.

I bear faith that our legislators will take the historic political process to a higher level, as the nation strikes a hold, decisive sweep of fundamental reforms.

And in the end, it will be the sovereign people who will be the only power that can change this great country.

Mabuhay!

Maraming salamat.

Source: Adamson University Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Vin D'Honneur 2006

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Vin D'Honneur 2006**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, January 9, 2006]

FOCUSING ON THE YEAR AHEAD

I thank you all for being here. The New Year's reception is a timely opportunity to focus on the year ahead.

This year, I'm confident and hopeful about the state of our nation. We're on the right road, starting with the fact that the Philippines entered the year on a high note: the stock market is up and closed at 2151 points today; the peso is strong and testing 52 to the dollar; revenue collections are up and our fiscal deficit is down. The strong macro economic fundamentals are starting to pull up the economy — more than one million jobs were created last year and more investments have been flowing in along with a surge in tourism. In fact, the government saved over 20 billion pesos last year from debt service as a result of our improving economic performance. This money freed from debt service is being invested in the people.

I've set an ambitious but achievable plan for 2006 that rests on three strategic objectives: one, build a stronger economy. Two, build a stronger republic — we will achieve this by fighting terrorism and destabilization and bringing peace to Mindanao. And three, press for long-overdue political reform through Charter Change.

First and foremost is the need to deliver real economic and social results to the people as soon as possible. Phase I of my economic plan has delivered desired macro results through investor confidence, fiscal stability and the prospect for improved credit ratings. Phase II of my economic plan, which I launched after the passage of the VAT Reform Law, is designed to bring the benefits of our macroeconomic advances to the people who are after all the inspiration for our reforms.

For the first time in years, we will have the resources to sustain our investment in the people and not just feed the beast of debt service.

We recognize that the benefits apparent at the top of the economic pyramid are not yet being felt by the very people who need it most—our poor. Therefore, I have asked my Cabinet to target 35 billion pesos immediately to help bring near-term improvement to the lives of our people. And that's only a down payment on the money that will be flowing to the people as our revenues continue to increase and our cost of debt servicing continues to decline.

And let me be clear: this is not wild-eyed spending; this is targeted spending within the limits of our fiscal controls and budget plan. We are paying responsibly down our debt while simultaneously building up our investments in basic services and infrastructure.

Progress is not always apparent to those who need it the most and who are most concerned with the day-to-day necessities of life. Therefore the people remain impatient for fundamental change in their lives. This is particularly in the area of health care, education, housing and infrastructure. It is to these areas that the money will be spent in an effort to create jobs and provide better services.

My top priority in the coming months is to see that real results are delivered to real people. In the first six working days of the year, I instructed the release of 3.5 billion pesos: half a billion for farm-to-market roads; half a billion for infrastructure response to the problem of recurring floods; one billion for housing for Northrail and North-South rail linkage relocatees and for our soldiers; half a billion for subsidized rice and noodles for the poorest of the poor; half a billion for PhilHealth insurance subsidies; and half a billion to build classrooms in overcrowded elementary schools.

Our economic security is deeply affected by our physical security. Peace and order go hand-in-hand with a strong economy. And nothing is more important to our personal and economic security than the fight against terrorism and destabilization. Terrorism and destabilization are costly in terms of shattered lives, misspent capital and misspent economic productivity. The people are fearful of what the scourges of terrorism and destabilization are doing to their lives and their security. I am determined to bring real peace and real security to alleviate their fears. The next generation deserves to live in peace and harmony.

Terrorism and destabilization and the resources used to fight them sap the strength of the nation. We must end terrorism and destabilization so that we can bring back peace, order and security into the everyday lives of the people. We must then use the money that's diverted to these fights and employ it wisely by investing in the opportunity of a vibrant society.

I will not rest until we have condemned terrorism and destabilization to the dustbin of history. We must fight destabilization in every corner of our nation. We must fight terrorism in concert with our allies around the world.

Terrorism and destabilization are evils that we must conquer and overcome. On the other hand, peace in Mindanao is a noble cause that we must embrace. We will strengthen our security and enhance the peace as a result of a successful conclusion of a just and equitable agreement with the MILF. I remain optimistic that 2006 will be the year of peace in the Philippines.

I have been bringing the Philippines back into the mainstream of the global community through a strong regional and global foreign policy.

I have led an aggressive foreign policy agenda designed to bolster our economic and political security, and in no area has this been more important than in gathering the pieces together to forge peace and prosperity in Mindanao.

The concerted foreign policy efforts of our administration have helped pave the way for a significant breakthrough in the south. Our Muslim friends in Malaysia, in Southeast Asia and in the Middle East, and our traditional allies in Asia, Europe and America have rallied to help facilitate a peace in Mindanao.

There is hope and promise for our economy and for securing peace and order in this new year, yet there remain many mountains to climb across the landscape. Social justice is not yet available to every man, woman and child in our land. The high global price for oil is pressing on the poor. There is a need to regain the trust of the people in the institutions of government. And the violence perpetrated against journalists and judges is a moral outrage that must be crushed.

So, while I believe we have made progress, we will not achieve the rank of a modern, first world nation in 20 years until we address these issues.

To do so, we must slay the dragon of politics as usual. Politics dominates our life way out of proportion to the real needs of the people. And a change in politics must be accompanied by a change in our system of government.

To that end, we must create a modern constitution if we are to build a modern Philippines.

We can and must deliver to the people a constitution that they can trust to create a better Philippines. To that end, we must create a new constitution that provides for less gridlock, more local control, greater accountability by the

politicians, better service delivery, stronger police protection, less opportunity for official corruption, and more jobs and economic development at the local and provincial level.

People are sick and tired of all the politics. They want less talk, more action; more jobs, less jawboning; more local control, not more metro manila control. The people want to move forward; not stand in place. Doing nothing is not an option.

I'm pushing for Charter reform because I sincerely believe it is the last bastion that holds back the nation and keeps us divided and poor, when we should be unified and prosperous.

Charter reform is about moving the nation forward. It is a referendum on whether we want a modern nation, free from want and poverty or a nation that embraces the status quo and merely treads water. I for one want a nation that moves ahead with decisiveness, vigor and force, and provides more jobs and economic opportunity for every single person.

In conclusion, I relieve we are embarked on a plan for 2006 that is realistic, focused and achievable. It is ambitious, yes. But the people are impatient and eager for progress and so am I.

Let me therefore ask you all to join me in a toast for a stronger, safer nation and a stronger, safer world — politically, socially and economically.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Lakas-CMD National Directorate Meeting, January 14, 2006

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Lakas-CMD National Directorate Meeting**

[Delivered at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang, January 14, 2006]

Thank you.

Thank you, Joe, our Party President.

President Ramos, our esteemed Chairman Emeritus of the party, the leaders of our great party, ladies and gentlemen.

If the trend of the results of revision in the protest against my running mate Noli de Castro continues, our party lawyers are optimistic that we could right finish to the 2004 poll controversy and all these political grandstanding on alleged poll cheating will die a natural death.

The ballots used and election returns canvassed for the vice president were the same ballots and election returns for the president. Thus, aside from observing Noli's vote — and Agnes Devanadera can tell you — our party lawyers are doing the same also, looking at the votes for the presidential candidates. After opening the ballot boxes of Mandaue City and opening the ballot boxes from Lapu-Lapu city, no evidence of poll irregularities for presidential and vice presidential candidates were discovered.

I remember during the canvassing one of the other candidates was saying, "dalawang ERS lang tignan natin — sila pa ang pipili; eto kalaban pa ang pumili — Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu, everything matches." So our lawyers are optimistic that the more than one million vote lead I got from the province of Cebu and Cebu City, where the bulk of my final lead came from, will be confirmed and the legitimacy of my proclamation unassailable and should be respected. Thank you beloved party mates for bringing us to victory in the last elections.

Another big fight looms for the party. We face three fronts of struggle: First, the economy — we must sustain our gains; Second, charter change — we must achieve this by the middle of this year; Third is poverty — we must bring relief to the people battered by high oil prices and unemployment.

During my administration, our administration, I'm very proud that we created one million jobs a year. But with the growing population as mentioned by President Ramos — 20 million in the last 20 years — we need to create 1.5 million jobs a year.

We have a plan for each front and each must be pursued with teamwork and discipline. I shall be at the helm of both the economy and the pump priming program for social equity. Congress and the local government shall push the pencil attack on charter change gathering force behind the mandate of the people. And I know our party with our unity and teamwork will succeed in that great political reform.

Our strategic aim is permanent political and economic stability to take us to the threshold of the first world in 20 years. We must strengthen our ranks to enforce and sustain full democratic leadership until 2010 and for the next generation.

We shall preserve our coalitions on the pedestal of principles and ideals and never on the shaking floors of expediency. With our heavy armory of legitimacy and democracy, we shall fight the squads of destabilizers and spoilers in the opposition. We are the superior force. Our opponents must either tow the line of the national interest

for which we stand and fiscalize responsibly with statesmanship or be relegated to the wayside of irrelevance and ignominy.

The stakes for the party and the nation are high. The demands upon each and everyone of us formidable. For the past years, we have already been steeled by bruising battles, we don't need additional training to win over our political foes in every round. What is needed is more aggressive advocacies to shoot down threats even before take off, to rally the people behind charter change, to demonstrate party rule and discipline attuned to a parliamentary system.

Every time we meet as a party, I have consistently committed myself to a leadership of fairness and mutual respect — my vow stands. I face the greatest battles. The terrain is rough and sometimes unforgiving, but I place my faith in the hands of the Lord and in the great alliances like the one that fervently lives in this gathering.

The economy is taking off. Two years... In 2004, we reached six percent growth rate. Last year with the oil crisis and everything, about five percent, Romy? Global confidence in the Filipino, a winner in front after front is firm and we can see this in the strong peso, the strongest currency in Asia and the fifth strongest currency in the world; the strong stock market, the second strongest in Asia; the strong investment inflows. Last year's inflows were many times over the year before; the strong tourism boom, two million and a half tourists last year; and the privilege of leadership granted to us in the great forums of the world.

I shall continue to devote my energy in leading the fight against poverty and hunger while we anticipate the positive impact of our economic boom on the daily lives of the people.

I call upon you, our party mates, to ride the wave of social equity and reforms as the payback for the sacrifices of our people. We must increase the volume of civic duty above the political noise and work unceasingly to uplift the people and to right what is wrong with our political system. Social reform, economic growth and political renewal must be knit tightly in a single-minded national strategy to achieve first world status in 20 years.

You know one time during our difficult moments, our Executive Vice President Sonny Belmonte reminded me about something very inspirational. Sonny said, "you can get bruised and battered, but the last man standing is the man to win... Who will win."

And so I end by repeating Sonny's observation and advice: "to everyone of us, together and to the last man and woman standing, we must fight and win for the Filipino people."

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Lakas-Kampi CMD National Directorate Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215758/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2382&Itemid=38.

**Speech of President Arroyo on the Operations Research Society Conference Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the Operations Research Society Conference**

[Delivered at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City, January 16, 2006]

THE SCIENCE OF THE BETTER

The Operations Research Society of the Philippines led by its President Elise del Rosario has done a good job in bringing together distinguished O.R. researchers, academicians and practitioners in the country and all over the world. And well she said that it's very infrequent that the head of state will address an O.R. conference. Just like Ver Peña who is an O.R. practitioner, I have, you know, as I said when I was a senator when I spoke before them, I am not a stranger to operations research because when I did my PhD in economics it was obligatory on us to study operations research. So I am familiar with your science and I am very appreciative of your science that's why I am here with you today.

Operations research is the hallmark of a strong and resilient organization going through challenging times. And you are the people who carry the banner of optimization, optimum effectiveness. That's why operations research is often called the science of the better.

And well when I was a senator I was doing laws but now as president I am doing planning and executing planning and all the more I can see in my experience, though I saw it in my textbooks when I was still in school, that in a sense governments share common optimization problems with other organizations like corporations. We all need to optimize resources which means maximizing revenues, minimizing cost to step up efficiency, to maximize public services but also to manage crisis after crisis whether natural or man-made.

But then on the other hand operations research was born during the war to manage military crisis. So operations research should be able to be used for crisis management as well and not just for cold planning in normal conditions.

Certainly our government could make use of your expertise to ensure the success of our development programs. But though in a sense governments are the same as corporations, because we have to optimize, the challenges to government and corporate management can also be miles apart. In government, the variables to consider are much more numerous and more important, less apparent, their magnitudes and their weights more diverse.

Public decisions affect not several employees but the lives of millions of citizens. Sometimes the most efficient solution is not politically feasible.

You know when I was taking up operations research in school — let's talk about being in San Miguel, Ver and Elise, and there was an apocryphal story about San Miguel in operations research — and I don't know if it's true and I don't think it's true that they came up with through operations research the ideal menu for their feedstock, for their feeds, an ideal menu in terms of cost and in terms of nutritional value. So they came up with the ideal feed, the ideal recipe, but the chickens didn't eat it. So it's an... I'm sure it's an apocryphal story but it's a story that our teachers would give us so that from the very beginning we know that there are certain limitations to the science and those limitations are even greater when it comes to governance, to governments.

In government, in governance, the correct choice technically is not always the popular one. The chickens might not eat it or do you force feed them? To quote one O.R. practitioner, "government is not only about the ends, but also about the means of pursuing them effectively."

On the other hand, you can only go so far also about the means because there are times when a leader in the public realm must bear with unpopularity and stick to the right choices.

For instance, fiscal reform. Will you ever find a fiscal reform acceptable to people? Nobody likes to pay taxes. The only fiscal reform they will accept is a reform that or openly accept or welcome with open arms would a fiscal reform that reduces payments. But most fiscal reforms require increasing payments.

And so all the more I'm glad to hear of the successful applications of operational research in other countries which helped their development. I've seen in your papers successes in endeavors such as minimizing the cost of production and transportation of agricultural produce in India. We have an imported logistics challenge in the Philippines to bring our products from Mindanao, which is our food basket, to Luzon through several islands in the Visayas to Luzon which is where sixty percent of the consumers are. That's a great thought that how you could help in India is a way where which you could also help in the Philippines.

I've read about your scheduling and routing the railway network service in South Africa. We also have our railway service that we are trying to do for Manila up to Clark-Subic in the north, then Manila up to Bicol in the south and then linking the two railways. And then there are the proposals for railways in the Visayas and in Mindanao, and there's my own transport pet project which is the system of roll-on/roll-off ferry boats and highways from Mindanao through the islands of the Visayas to Luzon I'm also very glad to hear that you're able to optimize the school meal programs of Chile. We have a problem of hunger in the Philippines and we would want to be able to work on how to reduce hunger, should it be or what combination should it be of school breakfast or giving rice to the children when they go to school so they can bring it home to their parents. And given the budget available for that how do we distribute this kind of program within the country.

I'm glad to hear that your operations research has been able to predict the grain output in China. And indeed, we do need to make predictions such as that in our planning.

So, therefore, I'm sure that O.R. practitioners can do similar work in our country as well as you've been able to do in some of these other countries which will be part of your best practices sharing in this conference. I look forward to your support in making our government programs work successfully and effectively. And indeed, this is timely that for the first time you're holding this conference in the Philippines. We hold this conference at the advent of a new year that's full of hope and optimism for our country.

I have set an ambitious but I believe in operations research achievable plan for 2006 that rests on three strategic objectives: number one is to build a stronger economy; number two is to build a stronger republic to strengthen the fight against terrorism and destabilization and bring peace to our southern island of Mindanao; and number three is to press for long-overdue political reform through Charter Change.

The people are tired of political noise and showing mistrust on politicians but they are anticipating fundamental changes. And I am certainly glad to hear — I heard about that even when I was a senator — of the pro-bono work that the Operations Research Society of the Philippines through its committee for public service, which you told me about on its existence when I was a senator, what this committee has done for the government. Your help can increase transparency, efficiency and improve service delivery to the public.

When I was a senator, when I spoke before the Operations Research Society, I wondered out loud if operations research could help solve our traffic problem. And that's when you said, "of course, there's been a study in the U.P. about that and the O. R. Society's Public Service Committee would like to very much be able to help if we could." So now that I'm president, I'm not just wondering out loud, I'm inviting you to help us solve our traffic problem to help us in our traffic management.

Alongside with our poverty alleviation, the programs I mentioned earlier: nutrition, school feeding, distribution of rice to the families of the poor or even selling rice at the lowest price possible in the hot spots poor communities of Metro Manila, price minimization of basic commodities and the creation of job opportunities, now that I have a 35 billion-peso pump priming initiative. With your operations research, the Bureau of Internal

Revenue and the Customs can leverage innovative approaches to hike revenues and put to justice tax cheats and smugglers.

Indeed, you are the analysts that can make our road maps and operational plans feasible. And I commend your significant role both in enterprise and nation-building.

And as you have this important conference of the Asia-Pacific region in the Philippines, I bid you more power as you continue to raise the standards of your profession. And I hope that you will continue to do your part and even enhance that part as responsible citizens and nation builders.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo on Rotary as partner in sustaining economy

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On Rotary as partner in sustaining economy

[Delivered at Holiday Inn Resort Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga, February 10, 2006]

Thank you for continuing to be concerned with the Rotary clubs that you headed in the past and the Rotary districts. And thank you for inviting me to be here with you today because I would consider that as an expression that one of the Rotary concerns is how you can continue or even expand your partnership with the government in helping our people.

Indeed, Rotary is a partner in sustaining the economy, because many of you are important businessmen and professionals, and in alleviating the plight of the poor because that's what got you into the club to begin with — how to do community service. And because you are all governors here, you are of proven leadership in the private and NGO sector, and you are the vanguards for community service. And I've come here before you today, not only because Guiller is my cousin, but knowing Rotary very intimately I would like to say that we in the government need you more than ever in uniting our people in growing the economy and delivering its fruits to the doorstep of the poor. And I hope that you will continue to guide the incumbent officers of Rotary to do that.

Your back to basics concept of delivering essential services to the community, such as livelihood, jobs, shelter, health and education stand on the same springboard as our pump priming programs. Let me therefore share with you a couple of things we are doing as part of our 35 billion-peso pump priming programs which we are able to do now because through your support we were able to raise our taxes through our fiscal reform programs.

In the area of shelter, which is a very important activity of Rotary, the United Nations commended our government for our socialized housing program. And for January as part of our pump priming program, I released one billion pesos for the relocation of squatters from the railroad tracks. Perhaps many of you who go through Osmeña highway in Makati have seen that the railroad tracks are being cleared at the pace of 100 families a day. And we're able to do that because we've spent one billion pesos for their relocation. Five hundred million pesos for community mortgage programs wherein those who squat on private land can buy the land from the private sector owner and also for socialized housing projects.

For instance, I instructed the secretary of the budget to release 25 million pesos to be able to work on the socialized housing programs for Welfareville in Mandaluyong City.

Also during our administration, not just what we released this January but throughout our six years of... Well, not yet six years, five years that we are in government, more than 100,000 families have benefited from our urban land reform proclamations where we proclaim a piece of land as available for security of tenure for those who are living there. Many of these are government lands that would be useless anyway because you would go through such expense of relocating the squatters or giving them the social preparation. And indeed, we're spending one billion pesos for the north and north-south rail linkage relocation alone.

So, billions and billions would be required if you were to relocate all of them. So there are government lands like lands that belong to the national railroad that will not have a railroad built on them that we have already allotted to those who are living in them. And this is following the principle of Hernando de Soto, whereby, if you give a document that an impoverished person can have that he can use to get credit, then you begin to build small enterprises and you begin to build a better life for the people there.

In fact, one of the things we noticed is that after we've proclaimed an area for socialized or shelter a security, in the beginning, they're living on barong-barongs or cardboard boxes. After awhile, you see that they're already building with *materiales fuertes* and putting small enterprise in their little houses.

We have awarded certificates of lot allotment Hernando de Soto style to almost 14,000 families and will be awarding over 21,000 more. During my administration, we have allocated almost three billion pesos for this very strong community mortgage programs whereby 65,000 beneficiaries are able to buy the land from the owner of the land that they are squatting on. So, they are no longer squatters and the owner at least gets paid for the land that otherwise he probably wouldn't be able to do anything about it anyway because it's very hard to eject thousands of people living on your land.

Going to education now which is also a very important concern of Rotary, as part of our pump priming program, I've also released 500 million pesos for grade school classrooms this month of January; 500 million pesos for high school scholarship vouchers, and many Rotarians I know own schools, high schools, and a lot of you have been complaining that your schools are closing down the high schools. Because ever since we provided for public high school education, the children... The parents would rather send their children to public high schools.

Now, of course, there is a lot of... Because of the population growing, there's a lot of classrooms for grade school and high school. We build for the grade school but for the high school — why build additional classrooms for public school when you have excess classrooms in private schools? So therefore, the economic solution is high school vouchers where the children from public grade schools can if they wish enroll in a private high school if the public high school in their neighborhood is already over enrolled.

And we have also allocated 500 million pesos for the high school voucher program. Four thousand pesos is what we grant to every child who goes to a private high school and enrolls there, and that is much cheaper than building new high schools and paying for the teachers. Also, it prevents dislocation and closure of a very important industry in our country and that is private school education.

The 2006 budget for this kind of government assistance to students in private education is almost two billion pesos. And if the whole two billion would be spent at four thousand pesos per voucher this would allow almost half a million students from poor families to enroll in private high schools. To what extent we will be successful in getting half a million students to avail of this service will of course depend on the absorptive capacity of the bureaucracy to process it because this is the first time we're doing this on such a large scale. And I hope that the Rotary clubs where education as one of their primary programs will help us in this absorption.

For college scholarships — just earlier, I came from the Ramon Magsaysay Technical University in Zambales and I announced to them that — we are releasing on Monday 500 million pesos for scholarships in tertiary education. It's a good thing Ben Ricaforte is here, a message for Nona, this 500 million pesos will be for the students who will enroll in technical and vocational schools in state universities and colleges. And I would wish this could be one billion pesos, I'll see what I can do in the 2006 budget. But I think it's so important to provide for this tertiary education scholarship because of the many pre-need victims who are holding pre-need scholarship plans but are not able to use their scholarship plans because of the financial problems of the pre-need industry. Therefore, the key to not having all that massive stranding of the pre-need victims is to have a massive scholarship program in tertiary education.

Ideally, one billion pesos. Now. There's 500 million pesos on Monday. Well spend the rest of the year including the budget process looking for the second hundred billion pesos... 500 million pesos. In any case, school begins in June, so we have all this time but for the tri-semester education institutions, I hope they can start working on this system in the third semester. So even if the 2006 budget contains only 441 billion pesos, I will try to raise it to one billion pesos especially to help the pre-need victims.

With the things that we are doing — pump priming, collecting more taxes, having tax reform, reducing the budget deficit — indeed, things are looking better than they have in a long time. Actually, if you speak of poverty between 2000 and 2003, when the last national survey was made, there has been a decline in the poverty incidence.

Nonetheless, when you're talking of four million people I inherited who had no jobs, and even if we say that maybe there are less than four million people now with no jobs, that's still a lot — over three million people with no jobs. There's still a lot to do, but things are looking better.

Well, many of you are bankers, businessmen, and maybe you've heard that just recently metro bank tried to raise 100 million dollars in the market. Well, they did not get subscriptions of 100 million dollars, they got subscriptions of 650 million dollars, six times oversubscribed. And you've read in the papers about Standard and Poor's raising our credit rating outlook and I hope that you've heard that the biggest pension fund in the United States, Calpers, the California Pension and Retirement System, has upgraded the Philippine investment rating to even higher than China, Malaysia and Russia.

So, my message to you, as you advise the incumbent Rotary officers, let's commit ourselves to exert your moral influence, our moral influence to end despair and raise hope. Let's join hands and work together to raise the nation to the apex of our dreams.

Once again, I'm so happy to see many of my fellow Rotarians and their husbands. Thank you once again for inviting me and may Rotary continue to be of service to our communities.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo on making ASEAN Globally Competitive

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On making ASEAN Globally Competitive**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, February 17, 2006]

MAKING ASEAN GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE

I appreciate that your meeting is being held in Manila at a time when the Philippines is on the move. And on the part of the Philippines, let me assure you that we shall continue to work together for an ASEAN economic front that can compete with the rest of the world driven by you, by private enterprise and secured by durable strategic alliances.

On the part of the Philippines, we have made unpopular but long overdue choices that have been very tough politically, but it is a course that is both morally right and economically sound. Our reforms are investments today for a stronger Philippines and a stronger ASEAN tomorrow.

As you all know, we are preparing to host your 4th summit alongside the Philippines' hosting of the 12th ASEAN Summit in December of this year.

And in preparation for that, I bid you the best in this particular meeting, in this meeting that you have now where you are mapping out your work plan for the rest of the year and drawing up a ten-year action plan that is truly important and strategic consistent with our regional goals.

The Philippines shall continue to be a strong player in strengthening the ramparts of regional integration, regional security and business partnership. In some of our previous meetings in ASEAN, sometimes I would notice a disparity between what the B.I.S. leaders tell us in the summit and what we talk about. Countries being assigned to this and that industry, but when we leaders talk about it, it's not something that we have internalized. I hope that in this ASEAN summit, we'll really be able to weave our respective strategic plans — the governments and the private sector.

Today is a sad day for the Philippines. We had a landslide in Southern Leyte and I thank all of those, many of your governments and even the private sector, who have expressed to us your sympathies and also your willingness to support us in this effort.

On the other hand, we also had some piece of good news yesterday. And we were very happy over our country's upgrade in the U.S. anti-piracy watch list. Philippine excellence in all fields will be protected in the long run by our adherence to global intellectual property standards. We will keep on improving until we are finally out of the watch list completely. Fighting piracy is fighting poverty because it enables Filipino excellence and enterprise to rise in the global arena. It enables expanding opportunities and jobs along the way. Upholding intellectual property rights promotes diffusion of knowledge, develops local talent and creativity, and at the same time encourages more investors from ASEAN and other parts of the world to endow your strong qualities in the Philippine market.

We appreciate the help of civil society and private groups in this vigilant campaign against piracy and we must not relent in our combined efforts. I think what we were able to do together — governments, civil society and the private sector in order to improve our rating on anti-piracy efforts is something that we should be able to duplicate in ASEAN. In the ASEAN meetings we have already incorporated the inputs or the participation of the business sector and civil society. But I hope that they will be real working together and not just a ceremonial submission of conclusions.

We are matching gains in the Philippine economy such as a strong drive in the law and order front and we expect this to multiply confidence, investments and jobs.

The stirrings of a new dynamism are evident in Southern Philippines — which is the part of the Philippines that is closest to ASEAN geographically — as we push the frontiers of peace and development forward. We were able to do this because of help from our ASEAN friends such as Malaysia, which has been hosting and facilitating the peace talks; Indonesia, which has been espousing our cause in the organization of the Islamic conference as the chairman of the committee on the eight that monitors the compliance of our previous peace agreements; and also countries like Brunei that contributes forces to the international monitoring team on the ceasefire.

And even as we work and make peace a formality because it's already a reality on the ground with the MILF, we shall continue to mop up the last enclaves of terrorists who lurk in the remote jungles. And here again, we have great synergy among ASEAN governments since 2001 when we started a tripartite agreement — the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia — to share information against transnational crimes including terrorism. And now, this agreement has spread among other countries in ASEAN as well.

Today, the export markets afforded by North America, Europe and Japan remain strong, but the allure of our own region is even stronger — everybody wants to be a dialogue partner of ASEAN. That's why we might even have 20 countries represented in ASEAN in this coming summit. As the agenda of ASEAN economic integration expands into East Asia, the active interplay of all public and private stakeholders becomes all the more crucial.

The Philippines on our part stands ready to do its part in elevating our grand alliance to bolder visions, bolder horizons.

The Filipino people have shown courage in accepting the need for higher taxes today to pay down our debt so that our children will live debt free tomorrow.

And in these efforts, we are inspired by the successful efforts of our neighboring countries in ASEAN. And as far as the Philippines is concerned through a boost in our credit ratings, a stronger peso and increased investments hopefully among them from our ASEAN friends, some of the gain of the pain is already being felt. On my part, I spend every working day, every waking day on education, health, infrastructure and the rule of law, among others.

The Filipino is also the good citizen of the world, ever striving for excellence and new horizons, conscious that the spirit of enterprise will always be crucial to the betterment of all.

I want to take advantage of this podium — and the fact that I'm president — to seek your support for the ASEAN trade exposition that will be staged simultaneously... It will be staged simultaneously with your meeting in the south, in central Philippines where the 12th ASEAN summit will be held. I know you will enjoy the experience.

Let us even be more determined to unite in the face of new challenges. And as I bid you Mabuhay, I also want to say Mabuhay to my former boss in the Department of Trade and Industry, Secretary Joe Concepcion, whom we are awarding tonight. In fact, we used to call him Mr. ASEAN and the award that he is getting tonight simply formalizes that nickname we have been giving him.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo on the Southern Leyte mudslide disaster Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the Southern Leyte mudslide disaster**

[Delivered at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, February 18, 2006]

RALLYING FOR ST. BERNARD

First and foremost, the government is focused on the rescue of any survivors that may have escaped the initial tragedy but we need assistance.

Secondly... Thirdly, we all have to work together in order to give relief to our brothers and to help them rehabilitate their lives afterwards. So we have to help them build their new homes and to have a new tomorrow. All the places in our country, and this is what I've been saying earlier, that may be considered in danger because of the strong rains, we'll need to have a mechanism for preparedness in order to be saved from what happened and if necessary, as Secretary Nonong Cruz said, we are... We must be prepared to evacuate them from their places if these rains are considered dangerous because of the rains and the coming—well, it's already here—of La Niña.

These relief operations are not only terribly sad but also dangerous for survivors and relief workers alike, as Secretary Cabral gave an example of. With the continuing likelihood of more rain and soft hillsides, we must take caution and be prepared, at times decelerated since last night when wisely the rescue operations were stopped for a few hours, and having to confront the prospect of more landslides. Vigilance is called for like in places like Caraga and in Antipolo and maybe you ought to have to tell us where else. We must expect that other slides could occur. We have to be sure that this other landslides will not result in the same tragedy.

We'd like to thank the lord that now we have revenues in our treasury to spend on the infrastructure in this time of crisis. For too long before we had our reforms, the nation has been weakened by lack of investment in vital infrastructure that might help alleviate this kind of tragedy through stronger houses, better roads and better engineering.

This is an opportunity and we should all be able to... This is an opportune time because we now have the revenues, we should all work together. We should be united in order to mobilize our capability, *yung kakayahan na isigurado na itong uring trahedya ay bahagi na lamang ng nakaraan*.

I would like to greet and thank all of those who have worked on this effort so greatly—the police, the soldiers, the government workers—they were so braved in answering this tragedy. And I also thank the thousands of average citizens who volunteered to help in the relief efforts. Permit me also to thank our friends from the international community from different parts of the world that even as we speak are already sending their resources to help us.

These are time of trial for our souls. The country should be united, should be together, should embrace and help all of those who lost their loved ones and all of those who survived and treat them like family.

We are one nation. We will rise as one in the middle of all these trials. These trials will show the strength of character of the Filipino and the Filipino nation. We will not rest until all the last remains of our beloved countrymen, countrywomen and children will be recovered and be given the proper and dignified burial.

I'm really very sad to think of the children, especially the schoolchildren whose innocence and hope were snuffed out in such a tragic way by what happened here—*kagimbal-gimbal na trahedya*.

I'm calling on every Filipino to pray for the victims and all of the survivors. We must rally around as a people and a nation in this moment of grief. We know that a better day is coming, although it's hard to imagine at this point in time when there is a very, very great tragedy that is breaking our hearts and souls.

I've called on Executive Secretary Ermita to establish a multi-agency task force to provide a full investigation and accounting of the tragedy so that we can learn what steps each community and the nation can take to minimize if not eliminate this type of tragedy from occurring again.

I call on every Filipino of every political party, of every religious affiliation and of every economic circumstance, to embrace the better angels of our nature and unite in compassion for the victims and survivors of this tragic event.

Let's go on with our work and help and most of all with our prayers for our countrymen in Southern Leyte and the entire Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Thanksgiving Lunch with the Officials of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Thanksgiving Lunch with the Officials of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO)**

[Delivered at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang, February 20, 2006]

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Raul. Please sit down.

To all of you, to all of us, congratulations!

I'm glad over our country's upgrade in the U.S. anti-piracy watch list. Upgrade or downgrade, depending on how you want to call it but in any case, we are in an improved situation.

And as mentioned earlier by our previous speakers while we appreciate the U.S. government's recognition of our efforts to protect intellectual property rights, we mustn't lose sight of the fact that protection of IPR is first and foremost in the interest of the Filipino people.

The protection and promotion of IPR means giving more impetus for Filipino creativity and I'm glad to see members of the Filipino creative community here.

Fighting piracy is fighting poverty because it enables Filipino excellence and enterprise to rise in the global arena, expanding opportunities and jobs along the way. Upholding IPR promotes diffusion of knowledge, develops local talent and creativity, and at the same time encourages more foreign investors to endow their strong qualities in the Philippine market.

We appreciate the help of you— civil society and private groups — in this vigilant campaign against piracy and we must not relent in our combined efforts. We are matching gains in our economy such as a strong drive in the law and order front and we expect this to multiply confidence, investments and jobs.

Of course, the protection and promotion of IPR also means as I said more investments, more jobs, more opportunities and more revenue for the government that could translate to improved basic social services.

Filipino excellence in all fields will be protected by the long run adherence to global intellectual property standards, which we intend to keep improving until we are finally off the watch list altogether. To sustain the advances we have gained, which the U.S. government has come to recognize, we have to do some more things. And let me read from the letter of the United States Trade Representative who sent Secretary Favila the official announcement of the downgrading or upgrading of our status, whatever you call it. And it says here:

“The U.S. will soon convey an updated intellectual property action plan to your government that will outline priority areas where we believe the Philippines should continue to make progress including vigorous enforcement of your optical media act and timely and effective prosecutions of suspected intellectual property infringers. We hope we can work together on this issues and other issues.”

Speaking of vigorous enforcement of the Optical Media Act, John was suggesting that we triple the efforts of our police agencies in the raids of violating establishments and the arrest of culprits.

And speaking of timely and effective prosecutions of suspected intellectual property infringers, John was also saying that we intensify the effort to bring offenders to justice and make them face the consequences of their nefarious acts. At the same time, since many of you creative individuals and organizations are very good at communicating, we must continue to inform our people that patronage of pirated and counterfeit products fuels criminality, stunts economic growth, and worse, undermines the moral fiber of our nation.

We should continue to further expand the regulatory framework for the protection of intellectual property rights, John says, by encouraging local government units to pass their respective anti-piracy ordinance.

How do we triple police action given that we have to fight drugs and we have to fight kidnapping as well. I am not directing the PNP and the NBI, through the DILG and the DOJ, to triple the manpower complement of their respective anti-piracy teams. Because if they're gonna triple something it must be to triple the anti-kidnapping and anti-drug teams.

However... Because I was asking General Lomibao, "how many people do you have fighting drugs and how many people do you have fighting piracy?" Lomibao has a hundred people dedicated to fighting drugs; 20 people dedicated to fighting piracy. So maybe he can still expand by another 20 the fight against... For the fight against intellectual piracy. But I just want him to make sure that he also increases by at least 20 those fighting drugs.

And then as far as bringing offenders to justice and making them face the consequences of their acts, I've been discussing this matter with Secretary of Justice Raul Gonzalez for two days now. I asked him the same thing, "how many people do you have prosecuting piracy and how many people do you have prosecuting drugs?"

He has ten people prosecuting drugs and six people prosecuting piracy. Now that's quite a big percentage prosecuting anti-piracy which is why we've gotten convictions. So rather than asking him to triple the prosecutors against piracy — imagine if you gonna have a hundred people on drugs and a hundred twenty people against intellectual piracy. I mean, you know, there are certain proportions we have to keep in mind — the solution that Secretary Gonzalez found is that he will deputize all the provincial prosecutors to prosecute for piracy as well. So as of today, therefore, he has 94 deputized prosecutors to fight intellectual piracy.

And of course, to inform our people that patronage of pirated and counterfeit products fuels all these undesirable things like criminality, stunted economic growth and the undermined moral fiber of the nation, what we could do is for John and the IP coalition and the press secretary to formulate an information drive together and I think the IP coalition will be a very very good leader in this effort to espouse intellectual integrity.

And then finally, to expand the present regulatory framework, I do hope that local for the protection of intellectual property rights to local government units can also be encouraged by you because local government units are autonomous under the local autonomy code, so I can't direct them to do what they're supposed to do but certainly they answer to the people because they're elected by the people. And as NGOs, pos and the private sector and civil society, I would encourage you to dialogue with them and ask them to work on their own ordinances for the protection of intellectual property.

Finally, I congratulate the IP coalition because you've been so active and I congratulate all these gentlemen in the table and in the other tables as well: we have Secretary of Justice and the Director of NBI; we have Secretary of Trade and the head of the IPO and the Optical Media Board; we have our Police Chief PNP and NCR and the new CIDG; and we'd like to thank also the Supreme Court represented here by Justice Velasco; and all of the other agencies and offices of government that altogether contributed to our new status as a simple country in the watch list and not as a priority country in the watch list.

Let's continue to work together, expand our efforts even with almost the same resources so that we can completely get out of the watch list and improve the lives of our people.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Thanksgiving Lunch with the Officials of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215159/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2403&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Global Media and the RP Story

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On Global Media and the RP Story

[Delivered at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City, February 21, 2006]

In the era of globalization and instantaneous communication, indeed, the foreign press is anything but foreign. In fact, I think you should be renamed the global media because you serve the global marketplace. You help with transparency and you act as an essential catalyst in propelling our recent economic reforms.

The power of the global media has never been more ascendant than today.

This is certainly true in those areas like the economy, political reform and security. These three areas represent hurdles that the Philippines must overcome if we are to join the first world within the next 20 years, which is my dream.

Speaking of the next 20 years, we are also remembering the last 20 years. For the last 20 years, at this particular season, the annual search for the spirit of EDSA is always launched.

EDSA1 has become an enduring part of our history and we must honor the struggle of EDSA by continuing to reform our political system and bringing justice, especially social justice to the people.

The world embraced EDSA 1 in 1986. The world tolerated EDSA 2 in 2001. The world will not forgive an EDSA 3 but instead would condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable, and the Filipinos as among the finest people in the world, but who manage to shoot themselves in the foot. Under those circumstances that an EDSA 3 would bring about, who would invest money in the Philippines? How would we bring social justice to the people?

Today, we need people power of a different type.

People power, such as what we find in the muddy fields of St. Bernard, where citizens use bare hands to claw through the earth to rescue kith and kin and soldiers bivouac through the night with the people trapped in darkness so they can see the light of dawn.

People power present in the decision of businessmen in Cebu to commission a whole ship, load it with goods and let it sail in bad weather so that it can appear overnight in the shores of Leyte.

People power present in Gawad Kalinga communities, where sweat mixes with cement to form mortar that makes sturdy homes.

People power present in Moro communities, where former warriors beat cannons into plowshares.

People power in the shop of every Filipino entrepreneur who believes that for Filipino talent not to go away, jobs must be here to stay.

There is as much gallantry in performing our civic duties without fanfare or publicity, or in owning up to the taxes we should pay, or in picking up litter on the street as in picking up one's guns to fight off tyrants or invaders.

There is more valor in being focused and right rather than in being spectacular or popular. The economic reforms of 2005 are a case in point.

Our now improving credit ratings, our strengthened peso and therefore our lower cost of imports including oil products, our high stock market, the new investments coming in, our reduced debt service, and the best fiscal situation we've had in years are due in large part to our focus on the fundamentals of the economy. But beyond that and deeper than that, they are also due to tough decisions that had been unpopular and that had made me an easy target by my opponents.

But, though my survey numbers have dropped, we forged ahead. Within weeks of passing our E-VAT, the global markets took notice. And most often, it was the global news media that helped convey the message.

I am determined to continue on a path of economic reform. I also intend to pursue political reform to ensure greater stability and to diminish the political effect on the Philippine economy. Political maneuvering has become our most active industry, including people who parlayed their presence in EDSA a long time ago into a lifetime franchise of working against governments whose leaders do not curtsy before them.

I understand the challenges that remain ahead for the Philippines. We need to quicken the pace of reforms. I've now been investing to modernize our infrastructure and upgrade the quality of life for our citizens. I can do so now because we now have the fiscal controls and revenue to lower the debt and invest in the people.

Our contract with the taxpayers involves reimbursing them with services that will increase their productivity, secure their future and allow them to live a life of dignity. We will close the gap between the rich and the poor without widening the budget deficit.

The tipping point of fiscal surplus is near. We will use our new revenues to feed our children's hunger for food and for knowledge. Of all the investments I make, I am most focused on improved access to education.

We will wipe out the backlog in classrooms, textbooks and teachers. And to feed the children's hunger for food, we will feed the nation by distributing seeds to farmers and deeds to lands they till and by developing two million new hectares of land for agri-business.

Higher value-added tax collection should also result in value-added protection of those who pay them. Thus, we will put more cops on the streets and more soldiers to enforce the peace, more guns in their armories, more radios in their hands, and more vehicles for patrolling and force mobility.

An improved bottom line would mean more bottoms for the navy and more aircraft for the air force.

The economy alone, unfortunately, is not our only challenge.

Our plan for 2006 has three goals: first, sustain the growth of our economy; second, accelerate the war against terrorism and fight destabilization and bring peace to Mindanao; third, implement the long-overdue political reforms through Charter change.

On security. The world has been made aware of the destructive power of terrorism, and the Philippines in addition has seen its political system become a hindrance to progress.

We have stood shoulder to shoulder with the world in the fight against terrorism. And the world, the international community, has stood by us in our fight against political destabilization. Our relations with the U.S., Europe and the rest of Asia have never been stronger. In fact, they have been true friends in this our hour of need.

We need global engagement if we are to become modern and competitive.

I have taken my obligation to the world seriously. At the U.N. As the President of the Security Council during the summit meeting and in the region through cooperation with our allies on anti-terrorism and interfaith dialogue.

And just last week, the United States lifted the Philippines from the Intellectual Property Priority watch list because of the steps we have taken to crack down on counterfeiting.

All of these initiatives are now coming together in a perfect storm of global cooperation to help resolve especially the situation in Mindanao. I am determined to bring peace to Mindanao with help from Filipinos, our neighbors like Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei, and our friends in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East.

Peace in Mindanao will also allow the good people there and across the nation to focus on education and job creation, not violence and destruction. And it will narrow our focus on those few hardened international terrorists who still seek refuge in some of our distant jungles.

Today, I am very hopeful that we are near the summit of peace. From that summit, I hope to look upon a nation that is reforming itself through a new economic model and a new governance system to manage its way to modernity.

To tackle fundamental political reform, I have endeavored to increase tax collection by cracking down on fraud and deceit, and I have worked to empower local governments to service their constituents more effectively. But more fundamentally, we need reform of our constitution to make our government more responsive and less a roadblock for private enterprise.

I believe the Charter change initiative, like my economic policies, will unchain our society and allow it to grow and prosper. No more need for coups or sham people power in a Parliamentary System. Charter change will create greater political certainty.

As Charter change moves ahead, I will continue to focus on the economy and its reform.

And let me also make clear: I believe I am the best person to lead this nation through this transition. I was elected to make difficult decisions, and I have made them. Not without mistakes on my part, and certainly not without significant criticism. But I have the experience of hindsight, and I aim to fulfill my term with a steady hand on the helm.

And so I thank you all today for indulging my view, you of the global media. There is much to be done and I thank you the global media for being part of the Philippine story.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the wreath laying ceremony in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the EDSA I People and Prayer Power Peaceful Revolution

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the wreath laying ceremony in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the EDSA I People and
Prayer Power Peaceful Revolution**

[Delivered at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, February 22, 2006]

Thank you, Secretary Ermita.

Members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Cabinet, Congressman Gidaya and the other veterans, members of the EDSA People Power Commission, Mayor Tinga and the other officials of the local governments, General Senga and the other officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, ladies and gentlemen.

Today, we remember the biggest stampede of people in our history including millions in which no one died, but democracy lived.

To us, EDSA is the temple of democracy won. But many of the excellencies of the diplomatic corps were there yesterday at the foreign correspondents association when I recalled that the world embraced EDSA 1 in 1986, tolerated EDSA 2 in 2001, and will not forgive an EDSA 3 but instead would condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable and does not deserve to be a place to invest in even if the Filipinos are among the finest people in the world.

While we walked on EDSA highway those four glorious days in February, we wonder whether we marched forward or marched in place since then. This is probably the reason why at this particular time of the year, regardless of the official theme for the year, the spontaneous message is always the quest for the spirit of EDSA.

Where has the spirit of EDSA gone? Has become a familiar February refrain. And always we proceed to rummage inside the nations soul to look for its whereabouts. Some say it's gone and proceed to issue obituaries for dreams lost, opportunities squandered, promises failed. Others contend even that we are worse off since the millions rushed to the barricades during those four days.

If the apostles of permanent revolution would have their way, they would dig trenches on EDSA to perpetuate its memory. But as the good book says in Ecclesiastes: 'to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what's planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to breakdown, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.'

I recited the whole Ecclesiastes phrase that's so famous because I wanted to reflect on what is timeless. And I found one that doesn't go out of season: the time to serve. And whenever we rush to the side of a neighbor in need, a community in distress or a stranger in despair, we relive the spirit which made EDSA possible. Whether EDSA 1 is what brought about what has been brought about is the spirit behind it that we look for.

And as I said yesterday, the spirit of EDSA is alive in St. Bernard where citizens use bare hands to claw through the earth to rescue kith and kin. The same people who relied on themselves to save democracy from being entombed are the same people using their own hands to save the lives of people buried by mud.

I also said yesterday that the spirit of EDSA is alive in the road to Guinsaugon as soldiers bivouacked through the night so together with the people trapped in darkness they can see the light of dawn. The same love for their fellow Filipinos which led our soldiers to rendezvous with the people for one final push 20 years ago is still what motivates our soldiers today to come to the side of the people when they are called.

The Filipino soldier has played a great role in peace as in war. The Filipino soldier plays as great a role in the mudslide of St. Bernard as in the jungles of Tagkawayan and the barricades of EDSA. And like the Filipino soldier, we don't need a war to become heroes. We don't have to wait for another EDSA, in fact, we shouldn't wait for another EDSA to establish our heroic credentials. What we need to do is to remember our duties as soldiers are disciplined to remember their duties.

The reforms that were expected in 1986 were not meant to crawl in short lurches, but to hurtle through the road to freedom. Unfortunately, bumps slowed down the journey and it was even nearly halted by the same forces that would now like to steer the ship of state to uncharted shoals.

But today, there is something we can do that we may have wanted to do all this time. Now we have the revenues from our tax reform to redeem the pledge of safe neighborhoods and stable jobs, of more schools and access to modern medical care.

While the budget is being brought to even keel, we will make sure that if it does tilt, it tilts in favor of the poor and in favor of protecting the ordinary Filipinos. And that again is where the soldiers and their partners, the policemen play a heroic role.

I call upon our soldiers not to cede a single town to those who dream of breaking up the country into soviet, and I call upon the police not to cede a single street corner to those who plan to break into our homes.

As I said yesterday, higher value added tax collection should result in value added protection of those who pay them. Thus, we will put more cops on the streets, more guns in their armories, more radios in their hands and more vehicles for patrolling.

Defense will also be entitled to tax dividends.

An improved bottom line would mean more bottoms for the navy. The missing formation, the constantly missing formation of our air force on the ground will be gone the moment we have fiscal take off. But for us to be safe in our homes, for our borders to be secure, we the citizens should remember this dictum: we must pay taxes so crime does not pay.

Many events in the history of the last century pale in comparison to the significance of EDSA 1 in changing the shape of the world. But another event has also changed the world — 9/11. Since 9/11, the world has been made more aware of the destructive power of terrorism. And as our soldiers only know so well, however, the Philippines felt the bitter taste of terrorism long before that, especially from the communist terrorists.

We have stood shoulder to shoulder with the international community in the fight against terrorism. And we are determined to continue that fight. Even as we are determined to bring peace to Mindanao.

Peace in Mindanao will help heal the nation, and allow for the attraction of new investments. And it will narrow our focus on those few hardened international terrorists who still seek refuge in some of our distant jungles. Distant to the rest of us but the backyard of many of our soldiers who have been fighting for so long in those areas of conflict. The job of peace in Mindanao will be met with fear by the terrorists lurking there.

And as we approach the summit of peace, I hope to look upon a nation that is reforming itself through a new economic model and a new governance in place... System of governance in place to manage its way to modernity. Peace will be the final block that will make it all happen. And once again for that final building block to be put up the soldiers play a central and heroic role.

And so today, I thank you all for listening to my view of the vital role of the Filipino soldier in our nation's current history. And we must honor them as we remember these four days of EDSA. Much hinges on our success, soldiers and civilians. There is much to be done. And on this morning, I thank our soldiers for being part of the Philippine story.

Mabuhay kayong lahat! Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Wreath Laying Ceremony in Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the EDSA 1 People and Prayer Power Peaceful Revolution. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215138/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2400&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 18th Visayas Annual Membership Meeting of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 18th Visayas Annual Membership Meeting of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)**

[Delivered at the Salon de España, Casino Español de Cebu, Cebu City, Cebu, February 22, 2006]

Thank you.

Thank you, Bobby.

And I'd like to thank also John Domingo for inviting me to be here with you today. Thank you, Manny for all that PBSP and the PLDT have been doing to help the less fortunate of our brothers and sisters. And thank you Tita Maria Luisa for having been the president of PBSP for such a long time, for many years.

I'd like to greet also the officials of Cebu who are here with us on the presidential table: I see Governor Gwen Garcia of the province of Cebu and Vice Mayor Rama of the City of Cebu. Ambassador Sutherland, a friend and partner of PBSP

And we have several members of the Cabinet here: there's Ace Durano of Tourism and Cerge Remonde of the Government Media, Gabby Claudio, our political adviser and Mike Defensor my Chief of Staff.

And I'd like to introduce somebody who will hopefully be very important in the life of the Philippine business for social progress in the years to come, the new resident of the United Nations, the new representative of the U.N. to the Philippines, Madame Nileema Noble. Other members of PBSP, happy 18th anniversary to you all!

Eighteen years old here in Casino Español — that was my mother's experience. My mother had her debut right in Casino Español when she was living here in Cebu.

Several members of our Cabinet are here with us today and also Madame Noble because before coming here we were in Southern Leyte. And we were absolutely crushed by sorrow at what has transpired. The loss of life of so many innocent men, women and children is almost too much to absorb.

As the leader of our nation, I come here today both heavy in heart but also heartened to meet with you, our partners in sustaining the economy and in alleviating the plight of the poor. Filipinos are hopeful, proud and generous and you of PBSP-Visayas represent what is best in the Filipino.

The PBSP is a great force for nation-building. I have known PBSP since the start when I was a young student in the private school in Ateneo. And now we have grown to more than 200 corporate members implementing almost 6,000 social development projects that have benefited some three million poor Filipino households all over the country.

I am familiar with your programs in the Visayas, especially the Olango island development program and the Samar resource management program. I remember when I was still a senator, I visited your Samar projects a few times and one time I had the honor of doing the ceremonial seeding of Maqueda Bay with you. I attended several of your Christmas tree parties and I remember the last one that I was able to attend as vice president when you announced that in the year coming you were going to start your project in Olango island.

And so when John invited me to be with you today I gladly agreed because I want to tell you that we appreciate — the Filipino people, the communities I visited — do appreciate what you are doing to them and in fact hope that you will find the means to be able to do more.

It's fitting that we hold this meeting during the 20th anniversary of EDSA 1 because you, PBSP-Visayas represent the mature meaning of people power. EDSA 1 has become an enduring part of our history and you honor the struggle of EDSA by bringing social justice to the people. You demonstrate the transformed and matured fight for economic and social justice since EDSA 1. You create positive change without going outside of the system.

And I remember that was the history of how PBSP was born. There was a lot of unrest at that time and a few businessmen with the social conscience decided what are we going to do to show that the system can work so that those who try to destroy the system will not be able to convince the poor of their arguments.

Indeed, the people are tired of continuous politics and want to settle into a system that is focused on fundamental and social reform without having to take to the streets to achieve that goal. Political revolution without economic revolution is meaningless and that was what you sought out to do 30 years ago, 35 years ago when PBSP was founded.

On my part, as president of our country, I have picked up the standard of EDSA 1 moving to free our nation of the petty politics which too often grips it. More importantly, with your support, the business community's support to our tax reforms, we have freed our nation from the grip of debt and an outdated economic model and launched a modern economy that invest in the people and will leave our nation stronger, not weaker.

I am not saying that the modern economy is already here. I am saying we have started to launch the modernization of our economy because we had been able to do the economic and tax reforms that can help us to fund the modernization of our economy. That is the legacy of EDSA 1 — to free the people of poverty.

PBSP and the government and our international creditors and donors are partners in the battle against poverty, and we must pursue the gains we are beginning to realize from the surge of fiscal and economic reforms. Most of you are businessmen. In fact, that is what your name is — Philippine Business for Social Progress. So you know what it all means that our peso is getting stronger and stronger; that investment has picked up no less than Manny Pangilinan is putting three billion pesos in Cebu City; there is a rising business outlook; inflation is under control; the budget deficit is way below target and therefore conversely savings are up; tourism is up. Congratulations! To Cebu son, Ace Durano. And of the 2.5 million tourist who came to the Philippines last year, one-half of them came to the Visayas; and the stock market remains bullish.

Our vision is permanent political and economic stability to take us to the threshold of the first world in 20 years. The men and women from the PBSP member companies have gone out from the comfort of your offices to share your time and resources to make PBSP and our entire country what it is today.

Earlier in the plane, we were talking about getting out of comfort zones. And 35 years ago, PBSP got out of its comfort zone. And now here you are with the PBSP-Visayas 18 years old and doing so much for the people of the Visayas and PBSP for the people of the Philippines.

And so, I wish the PBSP in the Visayas many more years in doing what you do best — poverty reduction and doing other things as a leader in corporate citizenship.

Let us continue the fight against poverty.

And I was telling Tita Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio that — well, Gabby knows this. Gabby is from Catbalogan, Gabby Claudio — the people of Western Samar are very poor and yet it's a beautiful country. And PBSP has done something significant in bringing Maqueda bay back alive again. It had died for so many years because of wrong methods of fishing, illegal fishing, but it is alive again.

And I would like to see more people of the very poor province of Western Samar benefit from what PBSP is doing for Maqueda Bay.

So, when I get back to Manila — that's why I'm mentioning Gabby Claudio here — I will ask him to tell the manager of the presidential social fund to give my contribution to PBSP so that we will be able to expand your Maqueda bay project in order to help the poor of that area.

Maraming salamat and happy anniversary to all of you!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 18th Visayas Annual Membership Meeting of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215123/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2399&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo before the Entrepreneurs Summit

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the Entrepreneurs Summit**

[Delivered at Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, February 23, 2006]

THE PINOY'S E-FACTOR

This summit on entrepreneurship symbolizes the commitment of the Filipino people to the economy. And I'm glad that you're holding your summit on this day, it becomes a part of our celebration of EDSA 1. Indeed, we need a new form of People Power to drive entrepreneurship and that new form of people power is the innovative use of resources to build businesses and provide jobs—that is the definition actually of entrepreneurship.

There is great patriotism in setting up businesses that give jobs and feed the stomachs and spirit of our countrymen and their families. Filipino entrepreneurs are patriots, those here on the stage and those here on the floor, patriots who believe in our country and people and who invest in our nation's future.

Earlier when I was given the t-shirt and it said, 'do you have the E-factor?' that means, do you have the entrepreneur factor because it's like the 'x- factor'—it's something extra.

And what is the E-factor? Being an entrepreneur is a skill inherent in the Filipino. Just as Filipinos are natural musicians, Filipinos are natural entrepreneurs. Most Filipinos do have that E-factor. And I'm very happy that Joey has put together a mechanism to be able to bring out that E-factor to its greatest potential and reality.

The Filipinos are creative and persevering and that's part of the E-factor. Successful entrepreneurs are known for their creativity and the Filipinos are known for our creativity. That's why we excel in music, we excel in dance, we excel in the arts, and we excel in software development because of our creativity. But Joey talked about something else in addition to innovativeness and creativeness, one more trait that keeps entrepreneurs going and that is optimism. And I'm glad that Joey has chosen that as the theme for this morning's session.

It's not only Joey, the entrepreneurship advocate, that tells us: be optimistic. Be not afraid, Jesus Christ told his disciples.

This morning, I came across that phrase because I was very happy reflecting on this new testament exhortation on the occasion of something very very important happening to us as Catholics in the Philippines—the choice of Archbishop Rosales as cardinal. And though it is not exactly... And though it's not exactly an integral part of the theme of this session, let me take this opportunity to be joyful as a catholic and to be optimistic as a catholic and to celebrate our new cardinal.

We share the joy and pride of the entire Filipino catholic community on this event. Cardinal Rosales deserves this honor for the leadership he has shown in spreading and upholding the faith and in guiding our people along the path of moral and spiritual enlightenment. It was an auspicious day that we got the message about his naming, because on this auspicious day, we reminisce the call of his predecessor, the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, for people power in the shining moments of EDSA.

Twenty years ago and today, we celebrate the guiding role of the church in defending what is good and right for the people. Our solidarity with Cardinal Rosales will be unsullied in the fight against poverty and in building a God-centered society.

Growing the economy through entrepreneurship and steadily denting poverty will help us to overcome divisive politics and indeed build a God-centered society.

A Central Bank poll late last week found executives more bullish on the outlook for their companies than at any period since that Central Bank survey began—that is optimistic, that is being not afraid.

I remember when Joey's father, Joe Concepcion was my boss in the Department of Trade and Industry, he would always tell us: 'believing you can do it is half being able to do it'—that is optimism. And I've never forgotten that exhortation through the many trying times I've had as a public servant.

And so on this day, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of EDSA, on the occasion of our celebrating optimism as an inherent part of that E-f actor, let us resolve to not let politicking or destabilization put down or destroy what we have here before us—the Filipino spirit of enterprise.

Another thing I use to remember from what Secretary Concepcion use to tell us, and we put it all over the DTI establishments so that we could always remember, he would say: 'yes, the Filipino can.'—that is optimism, that is entrepreneurship.

Mabuhay ang Filipino entrepreneur!

Artee Yap ask me to announce to you that I have instructed him, as my presidential adviser on job creation, to coordinate with the Land Bank and the DBP to set aside an initial amount of 50 million pesos to serve as an incubation fund with softer rates and longer term provisions for the financing use of deserving and promising start-up business plan winners that the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship will endorse and vet during the business start-up period.

Be not afraid, our new entrepreneurs.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Message of President Arroyo on the possible early lifting of Proclamation No. 1017 [Filipino]

**Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa posibleng maagang pagbawi sa Proklamasyon Bilang 1017**

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 1 ng Marso, 2006]

Mga Kababayan,

Salamat sa panatag at maunawaing pagtanggap ng higit na nakararaming mamamayan at mga merkado sa ating pagkilos upang ipagtanggol ang ating demokrasya sa banta ng komunistang rebelde at ilang sundalong ligaw at politikong kasabwat nila.

Malaki ang naitulong ng inyong pang-unawa at payapang pagtanggap upang mapanatag ang sitwasyon.

Buo ang loob ng inyong pamahalaang bumalik sa pangunahin nating misyon na palakasin ang ating ekonomiya, iangat ang mahirap at tugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mamamayan.

Tungo sa ganoong hangarin, ibig kong bawiin ang proklamasyon ng state of emergency sa lalong madaling panahon.

Humihingi ako ng tatlong ulat na isusumite sa akin sa loob ng 24 hanggang 72 oras upang suriin ang kalagayan ng seguridad.

Mag-uulat sa akin ang Kalihim ng Katarungan tungkol sa mga pagkilos ng destabilisasyon, ang Kalihim ng National Defense tungkol sa kontrol ng hukbo at ang hepe ng pambansang kapulisan hinggil sa katahimikan at pag-iral ng batas.

Aalisin ko ang state of emergency kapag kumbinsido ako na matitiyak sa akin ng bawat opisyal na lubusan nating kontrolado ang sitwasyon.

Kumilos ang pamahalaan upang pangalagaan ang kaligtasan at katiwasayan ng ating Republika at wawakasan natin ang state of emergency oras na matamo ng lubos ang mga panuntunang ito sa destabilisasyon, sandatahang lakas at pag-iral ng batas.

Umaasa akong magkakaroon ng mga mas matimbang pang pagsulong sa mga usaping ito sa mga darating na araw.

Salamat muli, mga mahal kong kababayan, at patnubayan tayo ng Diyos.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Message on the possible early lifting of Proclamation 1017. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215033/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2429&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Annual Western Police District Recognition Night Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Annual Western Police District Recognition Night**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 6, 2006]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Puno.

Other officials of the Philippine government headed by General Lomibao, Dr. Dee and the other officials of the Filipino-Chinese Charitable Association, our awardees and their families, men and women of the police, Father Reuter and guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Itong gabi, sama-sama tayo upang magbigay ng pagkilala sa mga matatapang na babae at lalaking nagtaya ng kanilang buhay sa pag-pairal ng batas, panatiliing ligtas ang mga kalsada ng Maynila, at ikontrol ang mga banta sa kapayapaan at katiwasayan.

Our society could have been plunged into chaos and lawlessness, our economy gone to ruin if not for police officers, policemen and women like our awardees who remain true to their oath and their duty. Sa kanila, maraming salamat.

Ginagamit ko rin itong pagkakataon upang magpasalamat sa Philippine Chinese Charitable Association dahil kayo ay talagang matulungin sa ating mga pulis . At ginagamit ko rin itong pagkakataon na magpasalamat sa police sa pakikipagbalikat sa mga sundalo at lahat ng ating mga alagad ng batas at maging ang ating buong sistema ng katarungan kontra sa kriminalidad. Sa pagkabigo ng peligrosong kumplot na pabagsakin ang pamahalang binuo ng saligang batas, salamat rin sa ginawa niyo.

I am making sure that the rightful reward for constitutional fealty among our men and women in uniform are given. Ito ay tulong galing sa pribadong sektor, ngunit galing sa pamahalaan pinapalaki rin natin ang pwedeng maibigay sa police. Siguro ilan kayong nanduon sa Camp Crame nung inanunsiyo ko na itong taong ito, sa first quarter of the year, inaatasan natin ang DBM na mag-release ng one billion pesos para sa pnp, para sa inyong mga baril at inyong mga sasakyan, sa ganun mas ligtas kayo at mas konti ang masasawi, mas konti ang kailangan dalhin sa chinese general hospital.

Tutuluyan rin natin i-modernize at repormahan ang sandatahang lakas at ang pulis. Yon nga yung Armed Forces naabutan ko yung joint defense assessment kasama na ang Amerika. Natapos yon sa panahon ko kaya ngayon merong pondo na tinutulungan ng mga amerikano para mamodernize ang Armed Forces. So nung natapos na yung joint defense assessment ay hiniling ko naman sa ating mga kaibigan sa amerika na gumawa naman ng joint law enforcement assessment, sa ganun kung ano ang tinutulong nila sa ating sandatahang lakas ay maitulong din sa ating mga kapulisan.

Together we must work, not double but triple time, in leading the country towards progress and resolving deep-seated poverty.

Dapat kontrahin natin ang masasamang epekto hindi lang ng kumon na kriminalidad kundi ang epekto ng destabilisasyon sa pamamagitan ng buong loob na kilos hindi lang sa inyong pagtatanggol sa kapayapaan kundi na rin sa imprastruktura, trabaho, pabahay, pagkain at edukasyon. But the criminal justice system, the entire criminal justice system must bear down against destabilizers and coup plotters and show them that crime does not pay.

Muli, sinasaludo ko ang ating mga binigyan ng parangal na naghahalimbawa ng huwarang opisyal at kasapi ng pulis na katapatan at propesyonalismo.

Once again, congratulations to you! To the families, thank you and mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Annual Western Police District Recognition Night. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215008/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2427&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on the celebration of the International Women's Day

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On the celebration of the International Women's Day

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 7, 2006]

TULOY ANG LABAN PARA SA KABABAIHAN

Mga kababaihan sa buong mundo ay nagsama-sama ngayon upang ipagdiriwang ang International Women's Day. Dito sa Pilipinas malaki ang karangalan ko na makisama sa inyo na ipagdiriwang ang papel ng kababaihan sa lipunan ng Pilipinas sa nakaraan at sa kasalukuyan.

At habang tayo ay nagkokonekta sa kababaihan ng buong mundo, sa isang araw ng pagkakaisa at pag-aasa ang mga kababaihang pilipino matagal nang aktibo sa pangmundong pakikibaka para sa pagkapantay, katarungan, kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Kilala ko kayo, kilala ko ang marami sa inyo at alam ko tayo, kayo at ako, ay hindi tayo magpapahinga hanggang bawat pilipina ay naligtas para mabuo ang kanilang mga pag-asa at panaginip, ligtas sa takot at puno ng oportunidad.

Ang ating pakikibaka sa kahirapan ay pakikibaka rin para sa karapatan ng kababaihan para magkaroon ng higit na pagpipili sa pangkabuhayan na magdesisyon ang kinabukasan at ang buhay ng kababaihan mismo at buhay ng kanilang pamilya. Madalas nagiging repsonsibilidad ng kababaihan ng ating bansa na magpakain at. mapagdemit ang ating mga bata at sila ang nagsisigurado na yung mga bata ay makapasok sa eskwela handang matuto.

Wala nang higit na importante sa kababaihang Pilipina kaysa makita na ang kanilang anak ay edukado, merong gamit para makita at mabuo ang kanilang potensyal. Tignan mo si Narda, noong si Lito Camacho ay nag-oath taking bilang secretary of finance nagulat lahat, "si Narda pala ang nanay mo." So yon ang isang panaginip ng lahat na makita na ang kanilang anak ay matagumpay. Pero bago makita na matagumpay ang anak, magsisikap muna ng maraming taon para maganda ang edukasyon ng anak.

Ang ating mga lipunan ay masasabing hindi nagtagumpay kung hindi natin masisigurado na ang kababaihan ay kayang makamit ang ilang panaginip sa pamamagitan ng makakaabot sa edukasyon, kalinga sa kalusugan at katarangang panlipunan. Kayong mga leader, hindi niyo inaabala ito para sa inyong sarili ngunit para sa buong kababaihan ng Pilipinas lalo na yung mga walang kakayahan kagaya ninyo.

Ito ang ibig sabihin ng ating sumusulong na na ekonomiya. This is what our steadily improving economy is all about — steadily improving despite the political noise — with the taming of the budget deficit leading to the rally of the peso and the robust stock market, we are pushing on relentlessly with pump priming initiatives and more lifelines for the poor.

Gaya nung 'Tindahan Natin', yung mga tindahan — hindi sari-sari store kundi specialty stores na nilagay natin sa mga pinakamahihirap na mga bahagi ng ating mga lunsuran. Specialty store dahil ang binebenta lamang nila ay bigas na 18 pesos, noodles na 4.50, kung minsan may asukal na mura dahil tumataas sa labas para bumaba ang asukal sa labas, at yung Ipg na maliliit lang ang kantidad para kaya sa pang-araw-araw na pangangailangan, at saka kung minsan yung kalahating presyong gamot. Yung kalahating presyong gamot hindi lamang nasa 'tindahan natin' kung sa ibat-ibang mga botika — yung botika ng barangay, botika ng bayan, botika natin or botika doon sa ospital ng pamahalaan — at yung microfinance.

Alam ba ninyo na nung November 8 dapat na-headline pero nalagay lang sa page 8 or page 9 ng BusinessWorld yata ang Pilipinas ay napili over 160 countries in the world pinakamagaling na microfinance program sa buong

mundo. Kasama na rito yung mga training sa pag-entrepreneur, mga seminar sa kanayunan maging sa mga barangay sa ating lungsod.

Malayo na ang nakamit natin sa laban na ginawa ng kababaihan, yung ating mga feminist movement para sa karapatan at partisipasyon sa proseso ng pulitika at pangkabuhayan. Ngunit meron pa ring nalalabi na gawin para masigurado na lahat ng lipunan ay kilalanin ang pagkapantay ng babae at lalaki.

Ang karapatan ng kababaihan ay karapatang pangtao. At ang ating lipunan ay dapat gawin ang lahat sa abot ng kanyang kakayahan para isiguro na itong mga karapatan ay respetuhin at proteksyunan.

Nananawagan ako sa inyong lahat — pero palagay ko hindi na kailangang manawagan — nagpapasalamat ako sa inyong lahat na tayo ay nagkakaisa sa isang pakikibaka para maisiguro na walang babae sa Pilipinas ay kailangan matira sa isang buhay ng kahirapan o eksploytasyon. Kaya itong araw na ito hindi naman ako dapat siguro manawagan sa inyong makibalikat tayo. Tayo naman ay talagang nagbabalikatan na. Ituloy natin ang laban para sa karapatan ng ating mga kapatid na babae dito sa Pilipinas at sa ibang bansa, kasi ang Pilipinas ay huwaran ng progreso ng mga karapatan ng kababaihan.

Ang trabaho ng mga babae ay hindi natatapos kailanpaman. Kailangan makibaka tayo para gawin na ang buhay ng ating mga kapatid na babae ay mas maganda. Kailangan makibaka tayo para sa higit na oportunidad sa kabuhayan para sa higit na karapatan sa lipunan at para sa higit na magandang kinabukasan para sa ating mga anak.

Babae at lalaki ay pantay sa mata ng panginoon. Dapat isiguro natin na pantay rin sila sa mata ng lipunan, sa batas.

Magaganda ang mga batas nating pangkababaihan, hindi ba? Yung ating Women in Development Act, yung ating anti-human trafficking, yung ating domestic violence. Maganda ang ating mga batas para sa kababaihan. Sana ganun din sa ibang bansa at sana ganun din ang pagpatupad ng mga batas dito sa ating bansa. At kung magagawa natin ito, maipamudmod sa ibang bansa yung magagandang batas at maitupad yung ating mga magandang batas ng tama dito sa pilipinas, doon natin masasabi na nagawa natin ang ating obligasyon sa kababaihan at sa kanilang pamilya.

Kaya itong araw na ito puno ang pag-asa ko habang ako ay nakatindig kasama ninyo ngayon. Sa pagkakaisa kaya natin na pangunahan yung lansangan ng kapayapaan. Yung mga espada gawing araro. Yung walang pwedeng magawa para tulungan ang kanilang sarili ay pwedeng mapalit sa pagkakapuno ng pag-asa, at yung pagkawatak-watak ay pwedeng mapalit at maging pagkakaisa.

Itong isa sa maraming espesyal na regalo na naniniwala ako ang mga kababaihan dito sa silid na ito ay pwedeng madala sa ating bansa maging sa buong mundo.

Kaya mga women leader ng ating lipunan, congratulations sa inyong lahat! At patuloy ninyo ang inyong magandang trabaho.

Happy Women's Day!

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, Development and Human Dignity

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, Development and Human Dignity

[Delivered at the Shangri-la Mactan Island Resort, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, March 14, 2006]

Interfaith dialogue is a historical truth among our diverse peoples and creeds. Faith is ingrained in the lives of our people, our nations and our world. It is the primordial seed of the human condition and offers hope, confidence, courage and commitment to make a better global neighborhood. Our individual faith provides the rock upon which we build our family, our society and civilization. But regrettably, the story of faith has too often been twisted and has become a source of despair and destruction sometimes amongst peoples and nations

Our challenge in promoting interfaith dialogue is to redeem the true meaning of our faith, if we are to truly bring peace and prosperity to the world. We must never accept terrorist violence cloak in religion by anyone at anytime. Terrorism is murder and no religion anywhere can abide by the faith of the faithless who kill and maim in the name of god. Neither should we allow an ideology that scoffs as religion as the opium of the people to be the reason to overthrow any government.

My own faith is built on the teachings of Jesus and the stewardship of the catholic. And I like to believe that my faith gives me the strength and wisdom to reach out and find common ground even with those who do not share my beliefs.

The Philippines is a nation that faces the test of individual faith and social tolerance everyday. And I'm happy to report to you, as previous speakers have already alluded to that today, the historic divide between our Christian and Muslim neighbors is narrowing dramatically in our country. This is in no small part due to our focus on interfaith dialogue and a willingness to accept the sincerity of those who differ with us in faith.

For at the end of the day, we are all united in our common humanity. I have reached out to lead interfaith dialogue here in the Philippines to bring peace and understanding to Mindanao, just as I have reached out to our friends and neighbors in Southeast Asia to conquer anything that divides us on ethnic or religious lines. And as Secretary Romulo said, just last year, I had the good fortune and honor to lead the U.N. Security Council Informal Summit on Interfaith Dialogue.

As a result of the progress we have made in Mindanao, I am confident that peace is within our grasp. And if peace in Mindanao is attained, it will be in large part due to interfaith dialogue and the inter- governmental cooperation of friends and neighbors like Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and our more distant global partners in peace, in the Middle East, North America, Europe and Oceania.

Faith is the great antidote to terrorism. Faith is the great antidote to godless ideologies. We must turn up the flame of faith and understanding as we help lower the sword of poverty and destruction.

What we are doing here today is every bit as important as building up mighty military forces to fight terrorism, destabilization and injustice here at home or across the globe. We must follow our faith and a faith in each other if we are to truly lift up the poor, transform war into peace, and stamp down the intolerance and violence brought by terrorism based on a false reading of the divine message or a misuse of a divine message that those who misuse it do not believe in the first place.

We are here today united by our faith and determined to bridge the valley that unnecessarily divides us whether we live across the street, across rivers or across oceans and continents.

And I ask everyone in this room and outside this room to support us in prayer for the next three days. Plead with god to guide us to use our diversity creatively and in unity to come up with sustainable plans of action towards long lasting peace and Godly transformation.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the 35th Convention of the International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors Association

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the 35th Convention of the International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors Association**

[Delivered at the Grand Plaza Ballroom, Hotel Philippine Plaza (Westin), Pasay City, March 15, 2006]

Thank you very much, Roger. And congratulations! On the 50th anniversary of your international association.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila and other officials of the Philippine government, Mr. Hoskins and the other fellow officials of Roger Murga in the IFAWPCA, George Consunji, president of the host Philippine Contractors Association, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, a warm welcome to the Philippines for the first timers in your gathering. And for you who have been here before, I hope that you can see that you come at a time when the Philippines is on a roll.

For many years, we languished in sick bay; for many years, our efforts for growth were perennially stumped by systemic defects, including the fact that we could not do any infrastructure in government unless we borrowed for it. Because all our tax revenues were going to debt service, to the salaries of the workers, and to the local government share. Nonetheless, we were still coping. We seemed to live in two countries: one raring and eager to join our neighbors, but the other unable to rid itself of the stumbling blocks. But we're determined to return to the international investment scene in construction and in other fields.

The Filipino people have stood for a strong economy and have shown that they can sacrifice to attain it. What sacrifices did the Filipino people have to do in the last couple of years? We took the bull by the horns when we cut down our debt service by plugging the financial leaks, clamping down on excessive public sector spending and raising our revenues through a series of privatization efforts and the flagship expanded value-added tax. Nobody likes taxes, so nobody likes to impose taxes. But we would never have been able to do critical infrastructure unless we raised our own means to finance them. And that's why we took these measures.

Barely a year after these measures were implemented — in fact, the last implementation was last November and last February — the country has started to enjoy the first fruits of our economic reform. The peso is up, the strongest currency in the region. Inflation is manageable in spite of the fact that the doomsayer said that if we impose those new taxes that inflation would hit the ceiling. And as little chicken said, "the sky would fall," but it did not fall. And portfolio investments have been increasing, the second fastest portfolio investment stockmarket increase index in the region.

Our international credit rating outlook has been upgraded. And because of our fiscal reforms, in January alone, we saved almost three billion in spending. Three billion pesos, we underspent by three billion pesos. Which means we have three billion pesos to carry over, to spend on important infrastructure. But it's not only the three billion pesos that we will now spend on infrastructure. I have earmarked 35 billion pesos — enabled by our tax revenues, not by borrowings — for five major programs, including crucial infrastructure and housing; the others being education, food and health.

Just because we could finance our infrastructure in the recent past only by borrowing, you as contractors know that we hardly had any major infrastructure projects done in the past few years. But now, since my administration, we have been able to restart and finish major infrastructure projects.

The north expressway to Clark has been completed after so many groundbreaking ceremonies over several administrations. The Southern Tagalog highway to Batangas, the Clark-Subic highway, multi-billion infrastructure projects are underway among others. And as for housing, I am determined to narrow the four million-unit housing backlog. We've already released billions for housing just this year — and we're only in the third month — and yesterday in the Cabinet meeting that U attended with Secretary Favila, I instructed another half-a-billion pesos to be released for the housing sector. So, because now we can finance our own infrastructure without having to resort to borrowings, we expect construction output to grow 13 percent this year. Thirteen percent, including the private and the public sector infrastructure spending. Private sector spending due to an improved investment climate and an increase in housing projects.

I would like to congratulate the Philippine Contractors Association, your convention host for this year, for being the government's faithful partner for national growth. Construction is the mortar that holds together all fronts of development.

Now, that we have been able to do our fiscal reforms, the remaining economic reforms is catch up on the infrastructure that we have had to defer because we didn't have the money. Now, we have the money and we hope you, the Philippine and the international constructors will participate in our infrastructure development.

And I am not talking only about the major expressways and ports here in what you call the urban beltway. I talked about Clark and I talked about the Batangas road because our urban beltways is... Starts from Clark-Subic in the north, through Metro Manila and all the way to Batangas port in the south — by the way, Batangas port was built by FF Cruz — and in that area the urban beltway, the great need is for expressways and ports, major ports. But we also are bringing in transport infrastructure to the rest of the country.

A few years ago, about three years ago, in 2003, we laid out what we call the nautical highway, bringing development closer to the provinces. You see, we are an archipelagic economy, the second biggest archipelago in the world, next to Indonesia. But while in Indonesia the islands are very far apart, in the Philippines they are not that far so that we can have roll-on/roll-off ferry service in between. So therefore, we are completing three nautical highways. Each nautical highway is a combination of roll-on/roll-off ferry routes and highways to connect from port-to-port to interconnect our islands. Again, another major source for infrastructure spending and investment.

I asked the Development Bank of the Philippines to work on this master plan and I have asked them also to dedicate their portfolio to lending money to the creditworthy investors who will invest in the nautical highway. And that will connect the market of Luzon to the production centers, the agricultural production centers of Mindanao. And speaking of Mindanao, for Mr. Consunji who has many investments, Mindanao offers a vast opportunity for rapid and sustainable growth now that enduring peace is on the horizon. There should be no doubt that you in the Asia-Pacific region will regain the glory of the 90s as the fastest growing part of the world.

Your organization was established 50 years ago in Manila, on a vision to enable the regions construction industry to rise up from the ashes of world war the second. In the meantime, in 1997, we had a great recession in the region but now we are bouncing back. So therefore, as the region has bounced back and the Philippines is back on a roll, may you build more in the Philippines in a new era of stability and prosperity.

Thank you.

Mabuhay! And welcome once again.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the 35th Convention of the International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors Association. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214443/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2421&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Thanksgiving Lunch for the Heroes of St. Bernard

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**
**During the Thanksgiving Lunch for the Heroes of St. Bernard (men, women and governments who took part
in the massive search and recovery operations in disaster-hit Brgy. Guinsaunon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte)**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 15, 2006]

Thank you, Secretary Cabral and all the government officials and workers who participated in the rescue.

German ambassador and all of our friends in the international community who helped out; Senator Gordon, who is here not as senator but as head of the Red Cross and all of the NGOs in the Philippines and all over the world who helped; Governor Lerias; Mayor Lim and all of the people of Southern Leyte and Saint Bernard; ladies and gentlemen.

The men and women who went to Saint Bernard to search for the living and the dead have gone home with the spirit of a proud, and hardy community remains in that place. We give thanks to the Lord for the gift of life and ask his blessings for the peace of the departed.

Many of the people of Saint Bernard when they have a chance to chat with me say the painful memories are somehow eased by the thought of the deep compassion that poured from all over our land and the world. And while we console and condole with the survivors, we convey our appreciation to the gallant men and women who rose to the call of duty and beyond the call of duty in those terrible moments.

The rescue workers, the policemen, the soldiers, the medical professionals, the social workers, the government volunteers, the average citizens, local and international NGOs and agencies, foreign governments and local, national and foreign media — you were all there in an exemplary show of oneness and love for the bereaved and the dispossessed.

Today's event is our modest way of expressing our gratitude to you, our modern heroes from all walks of life from the four corners of the globe. Some of you dug the mud with your bare hands upon hearing signs of life in the drenching rain.

In behalf of a grateful Filipino people, I salute your heroism and sense of humanity. I am saddened though by the indifference of some of our countrymen to the plight of the landslide victims that instead of extending a helping hand during those difficult moments for our country, they busied themselves with their agenda of division and destabilization. I decry their utter insensitivity, those who noisily rattled the body politic, when we were all listening to the faint cries of life, in the hope of pulling out a survivor from the mud and the rain. But we shall hope against hope against these incorrigible destabilizers.

These even as we continue with rebuilding sturdy homes for the survivors of the tragedy in a community farther away from harm's way and undertaking what is necessary to prevent more disasters from happening to our people.

Secretary Cabral told me a few days ago, that we will need 1,800 houses for the new lives to begin again. And no sooner had she said that, then we received offers for 2,000 houses. Thank you to the whole Philippines and the rest of the world.

But over and above these donations also, I thanked God that we in the government now have additional revenues to repair the damaged infrastructure and build more to effectively respond to the imperatives of public safety. Thank

you, Senator Gordon — now as senator — for your fellow legislators who gave us the wherewithal through our tax reforms.

The heavy rains brought about by La Niña continue to pose danger, so we must be alert and take the necessary precautions. Glenn Rabonza and Tony Golez don't really have much time to rest because they now have to prepare for the mitigation measures for disasters that may still come upon us especially as a result... The cumulative result of the global warming that has been taking place in these last several years.

What happened at Saint Bernard is also a wake up call for a comprehensive response to what we need to do with the environment in close partnership with the communities, the church, the business sector, the academe and the local government units.

We will never prefer profit over a sound environment. There were no mines in Saint Bernard, so thank goodness! That's out of the controversy. But let me take this opportunity to say — and I thank the mining industry because of your participation in the rescue — but let me take this opportunity to say that we will only consider mining investments which commit to faithfully abide by stringent policies to keep our rivers and ecosystems clean and safe. And violators shall be dealt with heavily.

To the heroes of Saint Bernard once again, please accept the gratitude of our nation for being there when we needed you most. The trying moments that as a people we surmounted through will and unity have proven once more the inherent capability and character of the Filipino to overcome. And also have proven once more that the world is a kind place to live in and people are good.

Thank you once again and good day.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Thanksgiving lunch for the Heroes of St. Bernard (men, women and governments who took part in the massive search and recovery operations in disaster-hit Brgy. Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214534/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2420&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Spring 2006 Conference of the Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Spring 2006 Conference of the Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce
(APCAC)**

[Delivered at the Shangri-la Hotel Manila, Makati City, March 16, 2006]

Thank you, George for your introduction.

Thank you, Ric for your welcome.

And I would also like to welcome the different leaders of the American Chamber in Asia-Pacific, not to mention Governor Felix Camacho of Guam, welcome to the Philippines!

I'm glad that we have here our Cabinet members headed by Secretary Peter Favila and the members of the diplomatic corps including Paul Jones of course who represents the United States here in the Philippines.

I'd like to welcome the members of the American Chamber of Commerce from all over the Asia-Pacific. And I thank the organizers for allowing me as well to have as my special guests some of the top foreign investors in our country, whether or not they're American.

It's a good time to be able to speak with the foreign business community today given that the American business community is such a major part of our foreign investment community.

Yes, the world is flat! And the flatter it gets, the more it helps the Philippines create a new economy and leave behind an old economy and an old political system.

As Ric already explained to those who might not have read Friedman or who know Friedman to be Milton, but anyway they think alike. The author and journalist Tom Friedman says that world is flat and as Ric said, he outlines the tectonic shifts in the post-cold war order and the impact of technology that has leveled the playing field among the rich and poor, among the first world and the third world across the globe.

There is a revolution in technology that you all know about because you're movers and shakers of the world and this shift in technology is linking the world and creating new collaboration and opportunity like no other time in world history. The Philippines' investment in high speed internet and fiber optic cables has led to an explosion of the outsourcing industry here in the Philippines.

In Manila, Cebu, Clark, Davao, Dumaguete, Baguio — and Ric was with me in Zamboanga — among other locations, 125,000 good jobs at good wages have been created for young Filipinos in the call center and outsourcing business that didn't exist just five years ago. Five years ago less than 2,000; now 125,000 — that is revolution indeed.

The revolution in technology is driven by chip manufacturing and we are proud that Intel has created the largest overseas production facility for world-class Pentium chips right here in the Philippines. Thousands of Filipinos work in a high-tech, highly professional environment and feed not only their families, but feed the world the core technology that drives the new flat global order.

The revolution in technology will help liberate generations of poor people and give them the tools they need to move from obscurity and poverty into a new entrepreneurial middle-class.

To keep up with the rapid evolution of technology and the power of the marketplace, we in the Philippines are reforming our political system to make our democracy move faster.

In real time, economic reform efforts at home are validated or rejected by the global marketplace. And as it happens, I'm glad that our recent economic reforms have been embraced; the recent attempts at political instability had been discounted. Our market is up — stock market, bond market, peso — but woe to the backward-looking political opportunists who stoop to unholy alliances with the apostles of an ideology already discredited by the world. To them my message is: the markets will punish our nation and our people if we stray from constitutional democracy.

As the poet John Donne wrote, “no man is an island” and never has this refrain been more true than in the archipelago of the Philippines and in the flat world in which we exist today. Modern economies are outstripping our political system, and so we are changing it by constitutional reform.

I am committed to microfinance and the power of entrepreneurs, not to micromanagement and state-run enterprises. I want to create engineers, not sloganeers. I want to create good jobs, not mindless mobs.

We must figure out how to win, not how to avoid losing. I know that in this flat world of Tom Friedman there is fear. Fear by workers around the world that jobs will be lost, lives will be changed. The Philippines can and must win with our new friends and our new competitors. We must think smarter and work harder to see that everyone gains.

For instance, for every call center job that Vikas Kapoor, the president and CEO of IMRC in New York, adds in the Philippines, he is able to add one job at home in the United States. That is a win-win solution in the flat economy.

The world over, of course, there is fear and there is a need to lift up the poorest among us. Because great as the market system is bringing about a flat economy across the world, it is not enough unless we ourselves take efforts to make all the poor share in the benefits of the flat economy.

Government must be a partner to ensure domestic tranquility and fairness to the people, not to dictate or interfere with the marketplace. And that is the philosophy of our administration.

And because therefore in a free enterprise economy such as what we firmly believe in and what we carry out, I value everyone in this room. The American businessmen from all over the Asia-Pacific and the foreign businessmen in the Philippines from all over the world. We are just an e-mail away; we are under scrutiny 24/7. This opens up our societies and creates greater accountability and transparency.

And therefore to you I say, American businessmen from all over the Asia-Pacific, businessmen from all over the world who are doing big business here in the Philippines, we will do our part to make the Philippines a business-friendly place to live, work and invest.

Our economy is strong, our commitment to reform is solid. And if we speak about reform, we talk about reforms that have to do with fiscal reforms, revenue collection, anti-corruption. And this morning, I am very proud to have received congratulations from the leader... One of the leaders of our Filipino business community, because today we are in the process — even as we speak — of conducting the biggest raid against smugglers in the history of the Philippines.

Five hundred customs agents are involved in this giant raid. And this is going to fight corruption, this is going to raise revenues, this is going to protect the businessmen who are doing legitimate production. And this is the kind of reform that we will continue to do alongside our political reform to make our process of lawmaking more attune to the new flat economy.

And so once more, to all of you, welcome to the 7,000 islands that make up the beautiful flat world of the Philippines.

Mabuhay!

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Inaugural Opening of Dell Philippines Customer Contact Center. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214422/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2418&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inaugural opening of Dell Philippines Customer Contact Center

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inaugural opening of Dell Philippines Customer Contact Center**

[Delivered at the SM Cyberzone I, Mall of Asia Complex Bay Blvd., Pasay City, March 21, 2006]

Thank you.

Thank you, Peter for your introduction.

And I would like to greet the various Cabinet members who are here today who also helped bring about the business climate that brought Dell to the Philippines; Mr. Michael Dell chairman of Dell Corporation and all the officials of Dell; Mayor Peewee Trinidad and all of the young people from Pasay City and the teachers and principal for benefiting from the wonderful contribution of dell company; the 300 young people who will make Dell come true; representatives of the business community, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me begin by welcoming Mr. Michael Dell, one of the most admired entrepreneurs in the world.

Google alone has come up with almost 35,000 hits on Dell, the man and the company, and that's plenty of information about the founder and chairman of the largest personal computer company. Indeed, as I said, one of the most admired entrepreneurs and icons in the world whose success story started, I understand from what I've seen in the web site, with one thousand dollars and a business idea launched from a dormitory room. And now, I am pleased to add another title to your long list of illustrious labels — Michael Dell, investor in the Philippine call center industry.

Thank you, Mr. Dell for choosing the Philippines for your newest contact center. This is a compelling expression of your company's confidence in the knowledge, skills and abilities of our great Filipino worker especially the young workers.

When America calls, the Philippines answers. When the world complains, we listen. Technology which has shrunk the world has made this possible. Not all Americans have noticed it, but many of our distress calls are now answered by young people manning 24/7 help-desks, an ocean and 12 time zones away.

When a homemaker in Michigan dials a number to report a busted heater in the middle of the night, what greets her is the warm comforting voice of a young man or woman of a call center here in the Philippines. Of course, that homemaker in Michigan will not notice the difference, not in accent, but she will notice the difference in the clear, concise and caring voice by which all her worries are made to go away. The result is that when she puts down the phone, she now wears the same smile by which the unseen person on the other line first greeted her.

Many say that this is the Filipinos' competitive edge in the business outsourcing business that we answer queries fast, with facts and with feelings. While giant strides in telephony may synthesized the human voice, create speaker-independent technology, or devise protocols that do away with direct dialogue, no one has and no one can ever replicate the warmth by which Filipinos attend to calls.

We have proven that fiber optics not only transmits data and voice, but also Filipino hospitality. Thus, because it's not yet possible to download a handshake or e-mail a hug, the next best substitute is the Filipino call center employee. However, I like to think that it's not just in the charm department that we're tops, but most important, we possess the language and technological competencies to be the back office or the front desk of the world.

There were less than 2,000 business process outsourcing employees just five years ago. Now, there are 125,000 in a billion dollar industry and by 2010, we expect there will be two million business process outsourcing and call center employees in the Philippines.

The mushrooming of call centers and BPOs in the Philippines is the outgrowth of our being a nation of English speakers and engineers — engineers like Dado Banatao, our own contribution to Silicon Valley. Dado, another icon in ICT— and our policy of connectivity at competitive prices. And so that we will continue with the next batch of call center workers, our emphasis on English as a medium of instruction and computer linkage of all high schools in the country with the help of private sector benefactors like the Ayala group. And now in Pasay, the work has been done because of the contribution of Dell company. Thank you for contributing to the full computer linkage of high schools by 2010. Right now we have them linked at 73 percent and now Pasay east will be the next new link in that whole computer system.

The Filipinos especially the young ones are adept in both words and digits, a proficiency that can drive up the call value and call volume of those who would like to tap it. And again, I thank dell for tapping that talent for investing in the Philippines. We certainly hope to see more of dell, both the brand and the person in the Philippines.

Congratulations! Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Inaugural Opening of Dell Philippines Customer Contact Center. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214422/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2418&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Bright Minds Read Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Bright Minds Read Program**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 23, 2006]

BRIGHT MINDS READ

‘Education for all’ is a dream of all Filipinos and I’m glad that McDonald’s charities and the partners that were announced today are giving their all-out support. Thank you very much, Mr. Yang.

Your Bright Minds Read program has been so successful that I understand from just 14 schools in 2002, you have now spread the project to 37,200 public schools nationwide. You will spread it by 2008.

With the Department of Education as your original partner, plus the League of Corporate Foundations now—Adarna publishing, I understand—National Bookstore, United Print Media Group, and now the Makati. Princess Urduja JCI, the PNCC Skyway and Petron Foundation who’s helping us in so many other ways as well for the children, a new and more dynamic era in elementary education is in the offing. This means we can be assured of more good readers among our elementary school pupils by the time I finish my term in 2010.

You and I know that all our economic gains may not be here for long if we fail to prepare our young for the age of Philippine enterprise. McDonald’s came up with this Bright Minds Read Program aimed at developing not only genuine love for reading among children from the first grade level onwards, but also the development of comprehension and critical thinking skills, correct grammatical structures and decoding know how. And that’s what they have shown us in their presentation this afternoon on the owl and the pussycat. Congratulations! Children.

I’ve known McDonald charities for quite a long time now. Kenneth, introduced the charities to me and said that indeed they concentrate on little children. And they have helped build so many daycare centers. I told Kenneth he should build so many daycare centers even if, you know, you have the McDonald’s there so that when they go to grade one, grade two, grade three, they’re use to go into McDonald’s store already to buy your hamburgers.

And they’ve helped in a lot of special school feeding activities. So I’m very happy that they have this other more software program as well. And indeed we need to have learning and reading skills among our children. And I’m glad that part of the bright minds read program is that you produce even the instructional material references. It saves the Philippine government and the Department of Education money that we should spend therefore on textbooks rather than on reference books. And I’m glad that this saves us money because we do need to have enough textbooks for our grade school students.

Yesterday Secretary of the Budget Nonoy Andaya released the 500 million pesos that I instructed him to release for textbooks and instructional materials. And I hope Undersecretary Borancing that this will be mostly for textbooks because we have so many additional reference materials that are being provided by members of the private sector like McDonald’s and their partners.

Indeed, if we want to make sure that we continue with a good world class Filipino worker, well-educated and skilled we have to spend on basic education. And thus in our medium-term development program, we are determined to close the classroom gap by 2010 by building 6,000 grade school classrooms every year by adopting double-shift classes, by distributing high school vouchers to provide assistance for private high school students, by providing

scholarships to poor college and vocational school students, and by providing every high school with computer linkage.

We've already built more than 14,000 classrooms since my new term began in 2004. And we have provided 73 percent of high schools with computer and computer labs. We're able to do this because we're enabled by a strong peso, by strong investments including McDonald's, by mild inflation, by a budget deficit that's way below ceiling. The reason why I can continue to keep telling the department of budget to keep releasing about 500 million pesos a day is that as of the end of February we're 7.7 billion pesos ahead of our deficit management ceiling.

Thus, we have increased savings to spend on education and instructional materials especially textbooks. I'm also very happy to be able to say that with this we can spend more for infrastructure. And we're very happy not only with the increased investments but also with the increased tourism, with a bullish stock market, and with the possibility of reducing our debt to GDP ratio by 56 percent in 2010. And to ensure that our gains are sustained, we are now initiating charter change to put a stop to poisoned politics.

We want to give greater emphasis to values formation in elementary education and I 'm sure the Bright Minds Read Program can be of great help.

So once again, I would like to thank McDonald charities for all that you're doing for our children because what you are doing for our children is for our future.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo on Saving Mother Earth

Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Saving Mother Earth

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 23, 2006]

**KAHIRAPAN HINDI SAGABAL SA
PAGMAMAHAL SA INANG KALIKASAN**

Kaninang umaga, magkasama kami, si Mr. Belton and Secretary Reyes at Smokey Mountain, kung saan yung mga mahihirap pinakita na ang kahirapan ay hindi sagabal sa pagmamahal sa Mother Earth.

Ngayon nandito naman tayo, kasama ng mga N.G.O. at ilang mga nasa negosyo ng kalikasan na gusto namang magpakita na ang pagmamahal sa Mother Earth ay kasama sa ating mga sandata sa ating giyera kontra sa kahirapan.

Ang pamahalaan ay pwedeng magsimula ng mga advocacy, magsimula ng mga programa gaya nang ginawa ng aking administrasyon na napasa yung Clean Water Act, napasa yung Solid Waste Management Act, at masigasig na pinapatupad yung Clean Air Act. Pero kayo mga N.G.O., mga negosyante, mga pribadong sektor, kayo ang merong commitment, kayo ang merong kakayahan, kayo ang merong kaalaman sa teknolohiya na talagang maglalagay ng laman sa mga programang ito.

Wala sila dito ngayon, pero gusto kong bigyan pansin, halimbawa, yung napakalaking investment ng private sector sa Clean Air Fuel. Halimbawa, yung coco bio-diesel, o halimbawa yung naglalagay ng mga ethanol plant, ito ay malaking nagpapakita na ang pribadong sektor ang talagang pwedeng gumawa ng paraan na ang malinis na kalikasan ay maging daan ng ating laban kontra sa kahirapan. Ang patakaran ng administrasyon ng inyong lingkod tungkol sa kalikasan ay malaki ang kinalaman sa isa sa sampung punto nung aking 10-point pro-poor agenda, at ito yung pagpapahatid ng tubig sa buong bansa.

Tayo ay nagtatrabaho ng masipag para makapagpadala ng malinis na tubig sa mga pamayanan at para maisigurado ito kailangan natin ng maraming tubig. Kaya importanteng-importante yung Clean Air Act, pero importanteng-importante rin yung clean... Ah, importante yung Clean Water Act, pero importanteng-importante rin yung Solid Waste Management Act.

Yung Clean Water Act isa sa pinakaimportanteng bahagi ng administrasyon na ginawang batas. Pero ganun din yung Solid Waste Management Act, na kayo tinutupad ninyo. Kasi kailangan natin ang mabuting solid waste management para yung solid waste ay hindi napupunta sa ating tubig at mako-contaminate pa yung ating tubig. At para makapadala tayo ng tubig sa lahat ng pamayanan na maiinom nila, kailangan alagaan din natin yung ating watershed. Kaya yung logging ay bawal na sa karamihan ng ating bansa. Ilang probinsya lang ang pinayagan noong sinundan ni Secretary Reyes na Secretary, si Mike Defensor, at pinili niya itong mga probinsyang ito pagkatapos magkonsulta sa iba't-ibang mga N.G.O.

At hindi lamang yon na pagbabawalan ang logging, kailangan din yung ating kapasidad na magbigay buhay muli ang kalikasan, ay dapat palakasan ng human intervention sa pamamagitan ng industrial tree plantation at saka reforestation. Kaya pinalawak ko yung nung araw tinatawag ay Bukidnon forest — Angie, di ba? — pero naabutan mo na ang tawag ngayon ay Philippine Forest Corporation at binigyan natin ito ng isang korporasyon sa ilalim ng DENR nang atas na gumawa ng napakalawak na reforestation. And this is one area where the corporate sector can help and make a difference either investing in industrial tree plantations or contributing to massive reforestation.

Itong global warming ginawang mas mahirap yung ating trabaho. Kasi ang global warming na kabuuan ng ilang taon nakaraan, ay nagdadala na ngayon ng mas mabigat na ulan at mas mabagsik na baha sa buong mundo — di ba yung Katrina doon sa America pati? — pati na rin sa Pilipinas. Kaya tayo ay namumuhunan sa geo-hazard mapping kasama ng ecological restoration na binanggit ko kanina, yung reforestation. Ito ay isang malaking proyekto ni Secretary Reyes ngayon, yung geo-hazard mapping.

Nung araw ginagawa ito ng namria sa loob ng opisina, pero matagal matapos. Kaya may mga plano si Secretary Reyes na baka i-outsource na lamang, baka ibenta pa nga yung property ng namria na napakamahalaga na ngayon, nasa prime property, para bayaran yung mga gagawa ng geo-hazard mapping na mas mabilis para magamit natin kaagad para sa ating mga programang pagtatanggol ng kalikasan.

Kapag... Eto nga ilang beses na tayong binaha, ilang beses na nagkaroon ng landslide dahil sa ulan. I can't help but think of the old saying, "water, water, everywhere and not a drop to drink." Kailangan lahat yang tubig na dumadating, kaysa pinapatay ang Filipino, gamitin para mabuhay ang Filipino.

Kaya importanteng-importante yung mga flood control masterplans sa ating major river basins, ito nga ay isa sa mga elemente ng environment chapter ng ating Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. Kaya gumawa na rin ako ng River Basin Task Force — di ba, Angie? — sa ilalim ng liderato ni Secretary Reyes para yaang mga river basins na yan imbes na parating binabaha ay magamit yung tubig ng mga ilog na ito, saka yung mga ulan na pumupunta sa mga ilog na iyon, o yung mga tubig na nanggagaling sa mga bundok magamit ng tao para magbigay ng tubig sa ating mga pamayanan — an adequate source of community water supply.

Samantala, hanggang magawa natin 'yan, hanggang matupad na natin ang reforestation, hanggang magamit na natin yang mga tubig na nagbabaha para sa ating tubig na iniinom o nagdidilig, kailangan yung tubig na mayroon tayo ngayon mula sa iba't-ibang mga pinanggagalingan ay balansyado ang paggamit between the needs of the community and agricultural requirements.

Merong ahensya doon sa DENR — actually, inter-agency — ang tawag doon ay Water Resource Board. Ang problema yung Water Resource Board... Ako hindi ako naniniwala sa committee eh. Kapag may committee marami nagdedebate nang nagdedebate na lang ang nangyayari. Tapos lalo na itong Water Resource Board, sino ang member? Yung mga kumakatawan ng mga umiinom ng tubig, yung mga kumakatawan ng mga magsasaka para magdilig ng kanilang halaman. Papaano sila gagawa ng desisyon kung papano pupunta yung tubig? Eh di nag-aaway-away sila kasi bawat isa merong kanyang constituent. Kaya madalas nagkakaroon ng stalemate, madalas nagkakaran ng delay, hindi productive. Sabi nga ni Angie, ang nahalata nga niya dahil sa ganung sistema na na-inherit niya, namana niya, pag nagpupunta siya sa Water Resource Board meeting, eh hindi na nagpupunta yung matataas na opisyal na decision-maker.

Kaya, sabi ko: — sinabi ko na noon at sinasabi ko muli kay Angie — "Angie, igawa mo ako ng executive order. Baguhin natin yang Water Resource Board. Gawin nating Water Resource Office sa ilalim ng DENR para may isang direktor na responsable sa kanyang decision-making. He neither belongs to the agricultural sector nor the Manila Water Supply or LWUA. Siya ang magka-calibrate kung magkano ang pupunta sa painom, magkano ang pupunta sa pandilig ng mga magsasaka." In other words, siya ang magka-calibrate ng dalawang importanteng puntos sa ating 10-point pro-poor agenda. Yung isa ay yung nagbibigay ng tubig sa buong bansa at pangalawa ay nagpapa-develop ng dalawang milyong bagong ektarya ng lupa para sa agri-business.

Siguro nakikita ninyo sa aking kwento ng ating mga patakaran, na lahat ng kilos para ipagtanggol ang kalikasan ay konektado sa ating laban kontra sa kahirapan. At etong recycling, yan ay isa sa pinakamagandang nagpapatunay sa katotohanang ito, na kung tayo ay mananalò sa laban kontra sa kahirapan, ibig sabihin manalo rin tayo sa laban kontra sa paghulustay ng ating kalikasan.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Graduation Rites of the Philippine Military Academy, “Mandirigma ng Dangal ng Lahi” (Mandala) Class of 2006 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Graduation Rites of the Philippine Military Academy, “Mandirigma ng Dangal ng Lahi”
(Mandala) Class of 2006**

[Delivered at Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, March 25, 2006]

DEAREST friends and countrymen.

First of all, congratulations to the biggest graduating class in the history of the Philippine Military Academy and special mention to the female graduates because there were only 77 female graduates before this class and now you will add 37 to the 77, a 30 percent increase in the female graduates in the history of the Philippine Military Academy. I had a wonderful time with you and your parents last night.

When I came home after that, I was reflecting that regardless of our rank, our origin or economic circumstance, as your valedictorian alluded to in his very touching personal valedictory, we are all equal under God and we all call ourselves Filipinos. This great institution, the Philippine Military Academy does the Lord’s work and the nation’s work. It produces leaders who hold God and country sacred and to fulfill your obligations to God and country, academy soldiers live by a simple but a powerful creed – Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty. I had the chance to speak with your parents and siblings last night, I can see that every parent, friend, and neighbor who is here today sharing this moment with you feels as I do, proud to know you, proud of what you are doing, proud that you will be contributing to the future strength and glory of our nation. You represent the future and we must ever be moving forward and never retreat.

The nation is once again at a crossroads and there are many forces that wish to drag us back and stop our forward progress. Some of you know that personally. Some of you have been the objects of attempts at recruitment. There are the communist thugs who still live by an outmoded godless ideology devoid of the values you live and die for every day. You are in the frontlines of crushing an ideology that wishes to tear down everything you believe in – God, country, and the fight against poverty. And as if the communists were not enough of a threat to our way of life, there are terrorist extremists who have so perverted religion as to make it unrecognizable to peace-loving Muslims and Christians alike. Against the backdrop of the threat posed by these extremists and faithless thugs, you our military compatriots, are a vital part of bringing us to the brink of peace in Mindanao. The combined political will of our government, of which you are a part, and our international friends and neighbors will make a lasting peace in Mindanao that will make us proud.

While you wage war against enemies of the state, I am also waging war against poverty and its destructive power. Just as peace in Mindanao will alleviate many burdens for our fighting men and women, so too will the alleviation of poverty across our nation allow you to defend our nation from enemies outside our borders or from transnational global enemies rather than having to contend with enemies from within.

Our great nation puts its faith in God, draws inspiration from people, and draws strength from the Constitution and I was so gratified to hear about the Constitution. However, we recognize that many aspects of our society must be fixed and transformed if our nation is to join the First World within the next 20 years, the years of your leadership in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We must have the courage to change our economic system and to overhaul the policies and institutions of government so that our economy works for the poor not just the rich. In this struggle, I have made tough decisions. My economic journey has not been easy and my popularity has suffered but it is a cause worth fighting for. To drive down the road ahead, we must look forward not through the rear view mirror. Political reforms won’t be any easier and my popularity may suffer again but it is another cause worth fighting for.

An essential part of building a modern nation in these trying times is not only to have a modern Constitution but also have a military as strong and modern as the nation it serves. And this administration, your administration, has put money where our rhetoric is. We are investing heavily, unprecedentedly in new and better equipment, more training, and more cooperation with our allies to professionalize our military and reform our defense capability. You, our new officers, deserve the embrace of nation and I also embrace you today. But you need more than just an embrace, you need guns that work, shelter for your families, and undivided focus on security concerns not political intrigues. To that end, I have tasked the Secretary of Defense to follow a roadmap called the Philippine Defense Reforms for reforming our military into a world-class fighting force.

As your commander in chief, I will not tolerate any diversion from the path we are on. We have a plan to modernize our economy and we will fulfill it. We have a plan to modernize our system of government and we will fulfill it. And we have a plan to reform our military to protect and strengthen our nation and we will fulfill it. The people want progress, not a rerun of the past. We cannot keep sweeping disloyalty under the rug. We cannot even allow disloyalty to face the rug with a few push-ups. We must sweep disloyalty out of our house once for all and let the sunshine in. We owe it to you to keep the temptation of politics out of your reach. I expect you to be loyal to your values, to your nation, and to your Constitution. In return, I will remain steadfast in my loyalty to you and to the cause we all share, the fight for a just, fair, and stable democracy.

Today before God and country, we celebrate together the virtues of courage, integrity, and loyalty. We celebrate together the future, your future, and what it means to the nation. You are a role model for the next generation. I am proud to be your commander in chief. Congratulations to each and everyone of you and in your honor, I am very happy that on this occasion of your graduation as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, I am very glad to be able to hereby pardon all outstanding punishments of the cadet corps as may be prescribed by the Superintendent of Philippine Military Academy effective today.

To all of you, our new young officers of the AFP, congratulations and welcome aboard the great service to our nation. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Graduation rites of the Philippine Military Academy, "Mandirigma ng Dangal ng Lahi" (Mandala) Class of 2006. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214411/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2417&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 27th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) ‘Bagsay Lahi’ Class 2006

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 27th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) ‘Bagsay Lahi’
Class 2006**

[Delivered at the Camp Gen. Mariano Castañeda, Silang, Cavite, March 29, 2006]

Thank you, Secretary Puno.

Vice president de Castro; President Cojuangco of the Public Safety College; Senior Superintendent Tira and all the officials, faculty and staff of the Philippine National Police Academy; Vice Governor Remulla and the other officials of the province of Cavite; Cadet Balais and all the cadets who received awards and all the cadets graduating today; Mayor Tolentino; members of the diplomatic corps; General Calderon; Fire Director Assignado; General Director Alit; members of the Cabinet: Secretary Bunye and Secretary Defensor and other appointive officials; to the staff, uniformed and non-uniformed officers and personnel and all the corps of cadets; to all the parents of Bagsay Lahi class of 2006 and all the guests of the graduating students today.

And of course to the PNPA Bagsay Lahi Class of 2006, taos puso kong binabati lahat ng kasapi sa klaseng ito at sa inyong pagtatapos sa bachelor of science, sa inyong pagkahirang sa police. And I congratulate you for the first set of officers graduating from this academy who are appointed as permanent officers of the Philippine National Police. binabati ko ring yung mga nag-graduate na pumapasok ngayon sa Bureau of Fire Protection at Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. Sana darating ang araw na mas marami pang graduating cadets na papasok dito sa mga importanteng bureaugng ito.

As recounted by your valedictorian Benjamin Balais, you struggled through this academy upon the values of honor, discipline and excellence.

Yung discipline, I’d like to add a little something about that. In fact, in my past graduation speeches here in the PNP Academy, I quoted from ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade’ about the discipline of men in uniform, “that theirs is not to reason why; theirs is but to do or die.” At merong mga Supreme Court rulings na pinapaalala natin ng yung counterpart ni Secretary Puno sa Armed Forces, si Secretary Nonong Cruz, na may mga Supreme Court rulings na pag meron kayong karapatang humawak ng baril sinu-surrender niyo ang inyong karapatan ng free speech. Kaya iyan ang ibig sabihin ng discipline ng uniformed services.

You hold guns, you acquire the right to carry guns because you are the champions of the community. Pinag-uusapan natin yung mga sundalo— they are the champions of the people and the nation. Ang mga police specifically champions of the community dahil binabantayan niyo yung mga pamayanan kontra sa mga kriminal at iba pang banta ng kapayapaan sa pamayanan. Therefore be wary of vested interests behind seemingly attractive promises of reform that actually put to great risk the future of the nation.

I take this opportunity to thank the PNP leadership and cadet corps for your professional loyalty during the recent attempts to foment division in our uniformed services.

Kayo ay maganda ang ipinakita. Maganda ang inyong pananaw sa mga dumarating na panahon kung yung sinabi ni Cadet Balais ay kumakatawan sa inyong mga pag-iisip. Indeed, as he has adverted, you must be conscious of the changing demands of the times and enhance your knowledge and skills to respond to the various threats of our national security such as terrorism and insurgency and the related conduits for underground financing and political support.

Indeed, we must all be equally adept at defending the democratic way of life with skill, courage and determination.

As I said last week at your other counterpart, the Philippine Military Academy, if anyone thinks military or uniformed adventurism will be applauded and embraced by the people or the world, they are wrong. The Filipino wants progress not a rerun of the past. Everyone will pay the price of adventurism and it will be severe because it will impact on our economy and the livelihood of our people.

And as I said last week, we cannot keep sweeping disloyalty under the rug. But I thank you for your loyalty during trying times and I expect a bright future for PNPA Class 2006 in the public service following in the footsteps of your members. There is for example Jonathan Robert Rongavilla, who is among the topnotchers in the civil service professional examinations. 'di ba? Ayun.

Your programs have also produced impressive results in the field of sports where an alumnus, PSI Pacalso of Class '98, won a gold medal that I personally handed to him in last year's Southeast Asian Games. maganda ang kinabukasan ng mga graduates ng Philippine National Police Academy.

I am very proud of you and I am very proud of the police force. And this is the reason why the police received their biggest major pay increase very early during my presidency. In the past, the police and the soldiers would be left behind when we would have pay increases for civilian employees. But now in this latest round of increase of 1,000 pesos a month everybody employed by the national government whether civilian, military or police are equal recipients.

You shall also be the beneficiaries along with the military of the massive housing programs that we have initiated as part of the expanded VAT dividends. That is why I have directed Secretary Puno to review all the police camps in the country, including this campus, for the purpose of setting aside portions for police housing as to be implemented by Vice President and HUDCC Chairman Noli de Castro.

Aside from reserving portions of police camps for policemen and their families, I would like to let you know that you will all benefit — policemen, prison wardens and guards, fire inspectors and fire officers — you will all share in the housing benefits of the 1,600-hectare housing project, probably the biggest single housing project in the history of Philippine welfare, in San Miguel in Bulacan.

We will be allocating 400 hectares for the military, 400 hectares for the police and 400 hectares for the teachers, and 400 hectares for the rest of the government employees who make up the remaining one-fourth of all government employees. Because the military, the police and the teachers altogether make up three-fourths of the national government employees.

So I hope that with you secured that your families will have decent housing, and not like what many policemen have been suffering for these past years living in squatter areas, sometimes next door neighbors of the hatchet men of the syndicates, I hope that you will be able to do an even better job than I think you have already been doing these past years during my administration.

We have this massive housing programs because at last we can afford them due to the value added tax reform. And because we are now able to spend more money from our own resources because we have the taxes, we are catching up with the housing gap and also the employment gap that my administration inherited.

I reminded the chief of the PNP General Lomibao — who is out of the country right now — I reminded him that starting today the PNP should be open for applicants for 3,000 jobs. And you the graduates of the PNP academy will be the officers of these new recruits.

My prime concern, and I am glad to hear from your valedictorian, that your prime concern is your duty and responsibility to stand by the nation and defend it at all cost from criminals, terrorists, insurgents and destabilizers. Inaasahan ko na patuloy ang ating pagkakaisa tungo sa higit na ligtas, mapayapa at mas maunlad na sambayanan.

I would like to pay a special tribute to our young men and women gapo ti amyanan nga addo nga graduates tatta nga aldaw. Kadda kayo amin young people of the north, congratulations! and thank you for choosing to serve in the police, the fire service and also the jails.

To all of you and to your parents, congratulations!

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 27th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) 'Bagsay Lahi' Class 2006. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214346/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2415&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2006 Philippine Development Forum (PDF) ‘A meeting of the Philippine Consultative Group and other stakeholders’

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2006 Philippine Development Forum (PDF) ‘A meeting of the Philippine Consultative Group and other stakeholders’**

[Delivered at the Sampaguita Ballroom, Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, Cavite, March 30, 2006]

Thank you. Thank you, Secretary Teves.

Mr. Von Amsberg, members of the diplomatic corps, our development partners, members of congress, members of the cabinet, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for having this forum again today this year. Each of you here today are partners for progress in the Philippines. Each of you here today is a patriot whether you are native born in the Philippines, whether you reside here or even whether you are visiting from abroad.

I would like to thank the combined power of the people in this room — the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the members of Congress, the local governments who are here today and those whom they represent and other development partners.

The Philippines is on a path of reform. And I thank you Joachim for pointing out the four paths of reform that you are willing to support, and we look forward to very fruitful discussions on how you can completely help in this paths of reform.

I especially want to acknowledge the many nations that are represented here today that are part of the international donor community for Mindanao. Nothing will be more powerful for the future development of the Philippines than to bring peace, stability and justice to Mindanao.

You speak of how do we accelerate and broaden the base of growth. How do we attain the millennium development goals? Many of the answers to these questions lie in peace in Mindanao.

Of all the tasks of reform that I have undertaken, none is closer to my heart than to resolve the age-old division in Mindanao. In a sense that is a personal angst of it because i spent my childhood years in Mindanao. I believe that before the year is out, we will be able to achieve a lasting peace in Mindanao with your support. Yet, the last mile is always the hardest sailing because that is when the destination is in sight but the winds of resistance will blow most fiercely.

Therefore, to help us through this last mile more smoothly, I want to make a personal appeal to all of you who plan to provide aid to Mindanao as peace dawns. Please consider providing your aid now even as we await the signing of a final peace accord. As several nations have already done under the Mindanao trust fund of the World Bank in your phase 1.

A proactive gesture of generosity and confidence will put more air in our sails at the pivotal moment in our journey as we strive to reach the safe harbor of peace in Mindanao.

The vital signs for our economy are all strong and moving in the right direction. I need not point out any numbers to you today in my own remarks because we have the cabinet here and you yourselves know what these numbers are. I just want to stress that the stock market is up and our risk premiums are down among obvious indicators.

On the economic front we have made huge progress through improved revenue collection as you have been asking for. An increase in revenues through new taxes as Joachim said we agreed on last year and we have delivered for this year. A crackdown on tax cheats and a strict adherence to fiscal discipline.

And with savings from debt service, we are now able to make targeted investments in infrastructure, job creation, education, better health care coverage and I hope that these are the areas in which you will help us.

We will be ramping up to one hundred thousand scholarships for what we call center finishing schools to those who want to secure jobs in the business process outsourcing industry. This is part of our thrust to improve the quality of jobs that our labor force is entering. But that's not good enough, we must contain with bold reforms to ensure that our institutions of government are as strong and good as the people they serve.

We are funding defense reforms to ensure a strong modern military that is loyal to the nation and not to political intrigue. And we are pushing for constitutional reform to ensure a government that is organized to be responsive to the people, and a system of government that will hold our political leaders accountable to the people or within the system the people will swiftly and legally throw them out of office.

This is why charter change is so important. To help break the back of the petty politics of the status quo that may put headlines in the paper but does nothing to put food on the table. The people want progress, you know that, you talked to our people. They want action and they want it now. The people here today, you, who are here today are working from a plan, a plan we have presented to you many times in the past and always consistently. And you are here and offering hope. In behalf of all Filipinos, therefore, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

In the meantime, reform must continue not only for the long-term but also on a day-to-day basis. We're pushing the senate to pass a progressive national budget that lays out our investment strategy in the nation while adhering to tight fiscal controls.

We want to make sure that every dollar that you invest in the Philippines is well spent. And therefore, we recognize that you want to help us in increasing transparency in governance. That is why the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs are on their own crusade to wipe out tax fraud and cheating, and to prosecute government officials who abuse their position. We have enlisted the support of Tony Kwok, the former anti-corruption czar of Hong Kong, to put our house in order. And I thank our ODA partners who have been helping us to finance this effort. His tried and tested approach is inspiring us to be more aggressive. And this one area in which we hope that we will continue to have the support of the ODA community.

I want to continue to privatize our energy sector — that's where you can help as well — to free up government money to invest in the people, and not a subsidy to inefficient entities. The same is true for mining: I want to develop the mining sector, though not at the expense of our environment or our workers. I believe a modern state can provide a clean environment and a good job especially if you will help us in that respect.

So on every front, I'm pressing forward to reform the nation. On projects big and small, we must press for reform and progress at every level. We don't have time for the endless cycles of political intrigue, senate stonewalling or partisan investigations.

The true power of the people is being felt with the signature campaign to change our form of government. The old time politicians of the status quo will have to stand back because this train has left the station. It is time for politicians to step back or get run over.

Your being here today and the encouraging words you gave about how far forward we've gone since last year is a boost of confidence in the Philippines. And I am thankful for your support.

Once again, in behalf of the Philippine officialdom and the Filipino people, thank you to our partners in progress.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 2006 Philippine Development Forum (PDF) 'A meeting of the Philippine Consultative Group and other stakeholders'. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214337/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2414&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Oriental Mindoro Investment Summit (ORMINVEST)

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Oriental Mindoro Investment Summit (ORMINVEST)

[Delivered at the Filipiniana Resort Hotel, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, April 6, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Mendoza for your introduction.

I asked Secretary Mendoza to be my Cabinet member in attendance for my trip here because in the vision that Congressman Rod Valencia presented, I can see that the most important role of the government is to provide the transportation infrastructure to make this vision come true. And that's why Secretary Mendoza is here to help me make that commitment.

Congressman Valencia, thank you and congratulations for your very beautiful presentation of Mindoro 20-20. And I would also like to thank Governor Panaligan for your very kind words of welcome and expression of support and, indeed, what you have said about Mindoro Oriental, your province, is something that we can all see even from Metro Manila, congratulations!

Governor Nene Sato, thank you also for bringing your officials from Mindoro Occidental here and for your solidarity with the idea of an island development plan. And indeed, I think, Mindoro Occidental will have much to benefit from being an integral part together with oriental of one economy, the economy of Mindoro island.

Thank you also to our host mayor, Mayor Brucal and all of the different mayors of the province of Mindoro. Thank you, Mayor Ananas, for showing me your booth and the beautiful infrastructure projects you've been able to put there — your port, your important bridge and, again, the important thing is access.

Secretary Mendoza may be Secretary of Transportation but that's not only sea transportation, because Mindoro is as Congressman Valencia and Governor Panaligan said, because Mindoro Oriental is a key bridge or a key link in the Strong Republic Nautical Highway, Larry Mendoza is here, not just to make sure that the sea lanes are open but also that the nautical highway is always there and functioning very efficiently.

This is a gathering that's crucial to Mindoro Oriental, important to Mindoro Occidental as well as to the whole Republic of the Philippines. This gathering is a boost for economic activity. And I would like to thank our investor friends for being here. In fact, I would like to thank even KEPCO who is not here. We have still a few things to work out on the requirements, but way back from the time when the president of Korea came to make his state visit here in the Philippines, KEPCO's investment in the submarine cable was also something we were already talking about.

And though the other investors are here, if I may say something about KEPCO, because their proposed investment is the biggest investment — 50 million dollars. I'd like to say that KEPCO has been such a strong investor in the Philippine economy. Their investment in Batangas is over a billion dollars worth. Their investment in Cebu is about 200 million dollars worth. Their investment in Quezon is about a hundred million dollars worth. Those are not prospective investments, that's money down already. Not only money down, already operating, especially the one in Batangas.

And it suits their own corporate plans to have that submarine cable come to Mindoro, because their plant in Batangas is over a thousand megawatts. It's one of the biggest power plants in our country. Maybe even the biggest. And it suits their corporate plans to have a cable here to Mindoro so that they can provide in the short run, your power needs from their power plant in Batangas. It suits their long-term plans because when you develop your own

power generation sector here in Mindoro then they can also participate when we have already the open access and the liberalization of power. Then power can be bought here from Batangas, sold from here to Batangas. Indeed, it really makes Mindoro Oriental a very, very integral part of the industrialization of CALABARZON.

And that's why if I may, I have been talking to the officials of Mindoro that maybe you should become a part of Region IV-A again. I'm not talking about the whole MIMAROPA, I'm only talking about Mindoro. Because you are so close to CALABARZON. With the nautical highway and with the power, with the power lines, I believe that it will be to the interest of Mindoro to be an integral part of that very bustling economic area there in CALABARZON. For example, you are the rice basket really of CALABARZON, because there's already Iloilo selling to the rest of the Visayas and so your main market is CALABARZON.

And now that Batangas port is the focal point of CALABARZON industrialization, the Calabarzon firms are increasingly shipping out their products through Batangas port and no longer through Manila port. Well, Batangas port because of the RO-RO system is just as close to Mindoro as, maybe Lubang, just as close to Calapan.

So, when you have your power here, whether it's bought from Bataan or whether it's generated here, I think when you have power self-sufficiency or even power surplus, the next stage is that you are going to be very, very attractive to the setting up of industries right here in Mindoro Oriental.

And as Arnan Panaligan said and both Rod Valencia and Arnan said, one of the attractions of Mindoro is that you have political stability within the province. Our investor friends are sending us an important message. What they're saying is: 'stop the politics which is getting in the way of development.' And I am glad that Mindoro has already answered that call even before the investors made that call.

Our administration, which the officials of Mindoro have been so supportive of, has been on a path to reform. And the markets have given us a big boost of confidence in the actions we've taken to date — Rod knows this, he is a very experienced businessman — the stock market, the peso-dollar exchange rate, the interest rate, the benign inflation. And as Rod said, the development of the real estate sector and the housing sector. Rod says that he's not seen an administration that is so friendly to housing, as far as policies are concerned, than this administration.

So, I'm glad that two of the seven investors that Rod introduced to us today, are indeed going to invest in real estate development here in Mindoro. And real estate development for residential and commercial development is something that really must go hand in hand with industrialization. And again, I make a call that Mindoro should be part of CALABARZON.

Why am I saying this? Why am I saying this? As Rod said, I had a hand in the drawing up of CALABARZON as an area development plan. When I was undersecretary of Trade and Industry, at that time, President Aquino formed the Cord System, the cabinet officer for regional development. And she put the Department of Trade and Industry as in-charge of Region IV. That's why our department put together what is now called CALABARZON.

We started first with CALABA — Cavite, Laguna, Batangas — because these are the very, very obvious hubs for industrialization. They were not yet what they are now, but what they are now is the result of that planning.

And then Rizal asked to be part of it. So it became CALABAR.

We had to go back to the Japanese government for that, because it was the Japanese government that helped us do the master plan for CALABA. And then we had to have additional negotiations to make it part of CALABAR. And then Quezon wanted to join. So, we had to go back again to the Japanese government to add Quezon to the master planning and that one took about a year for them to approve the inclusion of Quezon and it became CALABARZON.

And so Region IV got divided into, economically speaking, to CALABARZON and the rest, which meant these islands and Aurora in the north. So, all the development of Region IV was happening in what became

CALABARZON. Actually, the truth to tell, in the original three, the CALABA — Cavite, Laguna and Batangas. But there is some spill over in Quezon and some spill over in Rizal, because of the master planning of CALABARZON.

So, later on, when I became senator, because the other islands were being forgotten, the concept of MIMAROPA came about for planning.

And when I became president, I said, the MIMAROPA islands are becoming a second class citizen of Region IV; so with Aurora. So, I decided to make Aurora a part of Region III. And I dare say, it's become more progressive now because the regional officers from San Fernando have an easier time going to find out the needs of Aurora than when they were coming from Batangas. They used to tell me when they were in Batangas or wherever was the headquarters because there are so many different regional centers of Region IV. They would tell me, "why didn't you go, why didn't you go this last month or so to Aurora?" because they said that for everyday that they have to spend in Aurora, the travel to and from there, they have more services to give if they go straight to the MIMAROPA islands because the travel is nearer.

So when I became president, I was the one who made the decision in consultation with the MIMAROPA governments that I should separate MIMAROPA and make a Region IV-B. So it was I who made that executive order hoping that MIMAROPA would have its own planning, not be a second class citizen of CALABARZON. But years after, well, I can look years after at CALABARZON, we started the planning when Mai and I were in the Department of Trade and Industry. Years after, what we envisioned became true. And not many years after, almost immediately after, just a few years after, two years after. For instance — Mai, remember? — one of our first projects was to revive the EPZA — then EPZA. Which when we started the planning of CALABARZON was only three factories. In fact, one factory was even just in the administration building. Two years later, there were a hundred factories.

So, when a plan is good, you can see a lot of effects almost immediately. But in the case of MIMAROPA, looking at it now— several years after I made that decision — what I'm seeing, sad to say is that, because you are planning among yourselves and the idea is to trade among yourselves, one integrated economy among yourselves, the poverty is just being... You are just reinforcing one another's poverty.

So to me the ideal is, that Romblon should be part of Region VI so that they can benefit from the development of Boracay. So with Palawan, because it is a tourism island, that's the main attraction of Palawan. But as far as Mindoro is concerned, you are only an hour away from Batangas port, and the factories of CALABARZON are contributing to put landing lights in Lipa so that they will ship in and ship out their airfreighted products in Lipa. And with your RO-RO ferry, just how far away is Lipa from Calapan city? So that's the reason why, I dare say — I don't speak for the other islands of MIMAROPA — but I dare say, that I think Mindoro Oriental is destined for industrialization and should be a part of CALABARZON.

This is the first time I say it in public, so it's something for you to chew on. meanwhile, the world is watching and viewing our political system and wondering if we have the will to succeed. Uy! There's Congressman Umali. Please join us.

We need a sweeping reform of our politics and governance — that's what Governor Panaligan said in his speech — if we want to break into first world status in 20 years. In fact, Rod talked about his plan of 2020, that's 14 years from now. Really, that is a plan that will have its end state just on the eve of when we should already become first world, if we are able to get our acts together. And I thank Arnan for what he was saying about charter change. We're on the right side of history in working with the people to take back government.

Mindoro Oriental is a microcosm of the Philippines.

In energy, your goal is to eventually provide the people of Oriental Mindoro with an efficient and affordable source of power and electricity, whether it will come from Batangas, coming here because the cable makes it cheaper, or whether it's coming right from Mindoro oriental itself.

On my part, I also want to continue to privatize our energy sector. And I'm very happy that the investors that Rod Valencia introduced plus KEPCO are all private sector investors in the power sector, including the submarine cable. Because, usually, the transmission has been done by NAPOCOR. But this time, NAPOCOR is not going to be part of the transmission. It will be the private sector through KEPCO.

And then, of course, in tourism, your objective is to reaffirm the status of Oriental Mindoro as the 9th tourism destination of the Philippines. Why 9th? Well, look at the competition. You're talking of course Metro Manila, which includes Tagaytay. You are talking of Cebu-Bohol, where one million tourists went last year, out of the 2.6 million tourists. You're talking Boracay, where 700 thousand tourists went last year: 300 thousand foreigners and 400 thousand Filipinos. Of the 400,000 Filipinos were all practically passing through Mindoro Oriental, incidentally. So, why not make them stop here longer?

You are talking Palawan, especially Northern Palawan, where we had about a 100,000 tourists who went there last year in Northern Palawan. And many more want to go but they need new resort. It's the capacity of the rooms that is stopping the tourists, more tourists from going there.

Then you have Davao, that's the most popular tourist destination in Mindanao. And then you have Clark-Subic, and then you have the rice terraces, and then you have Laoag, which is quite popular with the Chinese. So those are the top eight so far. And I think, you can situate yourselves. What do you have to offer either taking advantage of those who are going there already like Boracay or what do you have to offer, compared to others like — that are farther away from the center and you are nearer the center — like Davao, rice terraces, Laoag, Clark-Subic.

And indeed, you have beautiful destinations. Puerto Galera is already very, very famous. It's about as famous as Boracay and Cebu and Donsol and Pagudpud. But going through your booths today, I saw so many others. Imagine, I didn't know that Bulalakaw could have beaches that can give Boracay a run for its money.

And somehow, these well-kept secrets need not be so well-kept anymore, mainly because your province is now part of the nautical highway. In fact, it is the busiest part of the nautical highway in our country. Your province being a part of the nautical highway, I believe, is your key, your bridge to your being the 9th tourist destination. And I am very proud to say that this nautical highway was established during my administration.

But as you say, agriculture is still the backbone of this province. And I think, it should continue to be even if you become part of CALABARZON again and even in 2020. Because we must never, never run out of rice in our country, and you are the rice granary, at least, of CALABARZON.

How can we wed your rice production with industrialization? Well, first, there's productivity. As Nene Sato says, this island is number one in hybrid rice productivity. So for every given hectare, you must produce more rice, because probably the lands along the nautical highway will very soon become industrial, commercial and residential.

And then, second, I'm pretty sure there is still land that can be developed especially in the upland areas. I think this summit is important as you intend to make agriculture a centerpiece investment area towards reaffirming your province as the food basket of Region IV.

We want to develop two million hectares of land for agri-business nationwide, and part of this is upland agriculture. I have just asked Arty Yap, who is my Presidential Adviser on Job Creation, to orchestrate D.A, DENR and DAR towards developing upland agriculture. And you have plenty of uplands. So, I'm sure that you can industrialize without reducing your agricultural production and that you will still continue to be the food basket of Region IV.

The transport of goods and passengers to and from this province has been eased, as I said, with the Batangas port. And I want you to use Batangas port not only as the road towards your market in Region IV, but as your port to the rest of the world. It is just as easy, as I said earlier, to export out of Batangas port from Mindoro as it is, let us say from Cavite or from San Juan, Batangas — Larry Mendoza's hometown. And now that we are going to have Lipa as an airport for cargo, then it will also be just as easy for you to export the products that have to be airfreighted.

And so, I'm glad that you're talking about your vision. I come from a macro-economic vision of the whole country. And what we'd like you to be in the year 2020. So, I'd like to share with you also our thoughts on this looking at it from the national point of view and I can see that there are many points of convergence that we could work together in order to make it a reality.

This summit you consider a turning point towards realizing your vision for the development of Mindoro by the year 2020. We, also, at the national level, are as determined to attain our vision of a modern Philippines becoming a first world nation in 20 years. So, we have our own long-term visions. I think there is plenty of room for us to wed these visions and do what has to be done in the next several years in order to make those visions a reality.

I will welcome the day when we all stand side by side, all shades of the political spectrum and share the victory podium of economic reform together.

So, let's use this summit to call on everyone to be together in moving the nation forward, rather than jamming the gears of the nation into reverse. We have tackled economic reform, and it is working; we are tackling economic reform, and it will work; and with the help of you, the people, we will tackle constitutional reform, and it will work and it will make our nation stronger economically.

The people want a government that brings better service to them on a local basis. I congratulate our local government officials of Mindoro, because the people seem to feel your good service to them on a local basis. That's why we should bring more power to the provinces, more accountability by the politicians and less power concentrated in Manila.

Sa inyong lahat, dito sa Mindoro investment summit, congratulations! Let's fight poverty, but more than that, let us bring Mindoro and the Philippines into the modern world of the 21st century.

Maraming salamat. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Oriental Mindoro Investment Summit (ORMINVEST). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214214/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2442&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the observance of the 64th Araw ng Kagitingan

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the observance of the 64th Araw ng Kagitingan**

[Delivered at the Dambana ng mga Bayani, Mt. Samat Brgy. Diwa, Pilar, Bataan, April 9, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Ermita.

Her Excellency Ambassador Kenney, His Excellency Ambassador Yamazaki, other members of the diplomatic corps, Governor Garcia, our host governor and the people of Bataan, Congressman Giday and our beloved veterans, Congressman Garcia and Congressman Roman, other officials and citizens of Bataan, members of the Cabinet, General Senga and the other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, ladies and gentlemen, ating magiging na bayani.

Once more, we commemorate the heroism, the valor of the Filipino and American soldiers of the 2nd world war especially in Bataan and Corregidor. The soldiers who sacrificed their lives, their youth and their dreams so that we, the next generation, can enjoy freedom and democracy.

Our forebears stood shoulder to shoulder and fought to the death when freedom came under severe attack.

Today, in the globalized regime and after fifty years of deep friendship with the people of Japan, we no longer differentiate the causes of the Filipino, American and Japanese soldiers during that war. Whatever side they were on, whatever country they came from, they passed the tests of their time with full honors. Their fight for freedom goes on because now we are all brothers and sisters in democracy. But, in our time, no longer for freedom from invaders rather, as our two ambassadors have pointed out, we are now all fighting for freedom from hunger, from crime, from corruption, from terrorism, from communism and from religious and ethnic misunderstanding and warfare.

As we commemorate the death march, we celebrate the valor of Filipinos to face adversities in the name of freedom and show our resilience in the face of difficulties that come our way. We have great hope and optimism that any national situation has a way of exacting the best virtues of the Filipino.

We have won many victories in our struggles, because we help one another and because we know how to sacrifice. The struggle is still long and heavy but we are determined to win because we have the needed weapons: the citizens' sense of sacrifice that has enabled us to make difficult but necessary economic and fiscal reforms in the past few years, the meaningful social programs and job-creating infrastructure that now at last we can carry out because we have made those fiscal reforms, and the political will to make our system more attune, more responsive and keeping up-to-date with the demands of the 21st century.

Our fiscal reforms also enable us now to start paying our nation's debts to our veterans and the orphans of our heroes who now rest in peace. Not only in words, not only in memorial ceremonies like today, but also in concrete material terms.

Thus, to begin paying the arrears in the old-age pension, death pension, disability pension and educational benefits of our veterans — thanks to our fiscal reforms — we are now in a position to release one billion pesos to start paying our debts.

Gusto kong ipabatid sa ating mga minamahal na beterano na ginagawa ng inyong pangulo ang lahat na makakaya para tugunan ang inyong mga pangangailangan.

Once again, to our traditional allies, to our new allies in the fight against poverty in the Philippines and to our veterans, our heroes, maraming salamat.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Observance of the 64th "Araw ng Kagitingan". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214204/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2441&Itemid=38

2006 Easter Message of President Arroyo

2006 Easter Message of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines

[Released on April 15, 2006]

Easter Sunday completes the meaning of Christ's death on the Cross.

From our great trials flow patience and experience that, in turn, elevate the hope of salvation. Christ suffered to show us how love can endure sacrifice and redeem souls. We must keep our hopes high as we carry our own crosses, rise from our failings, and fix our sights on a brighter horizon.

Our beloved bishops spoke of the people's fear of more chaotic politics even as they struggle to make a decent living. We seek above all the nation's salvation from poverty and discord.

On the occasion of Easter, it is my honor to announce our policy to commute the death penalty to life imprisonment.

This nation will prevail in the loving hands of the Almighty. Happy Easter!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 2006 Easter message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214143/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2439&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 79th Commencement Exercises of Cavite State University (CvSU) and in Celebration of its Centennial Anniversary Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 79th Commencement Exercises of Cavite State University (CvSU) and in Celebration of its
Centennial Anniversary**

[Delivered at the University Grandstand, Cavite State University Indang, Cavite, April 21, 2006]

Thank you very much, CHED Chairman Carlito Puno.

President Sangalang and Mrs. Sangalang and the other officials of Cavite State University; Governor Maliksi; Vice Governor Remulla and the other officials of the province of Cavite; Former Prime Minister Virata; other officials of CHED and the educational institutions of our country. A special greeting to the president of the Presbyterian University of Korea, Dr. So Yang Kim. At siyempre ating mga nagtatapos itong hapong ito at lalo na ang kanilang mga magulang. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

At happy 100th anniversary sa inyong unibersidad.

Eto ay pangatlong beses ko na magbisita sa inyo, pangalawa bilang pangulo. At ako ay nasisiyahan na batiin kayo muli lalo na yung mga nagtatapos ngayon at kanilang mga magulang.

Mga graduates, kayo ay kasama na sa pangkat na tinatawag nating the great Filipino worker. At inaasahan kong magtatagumpay kayo sa paghanap ng trabaho. Di ba yan ang pinakalayunin ng ating mga nagtatapos. Upang mangyari ito, inaasahan ko na naibagay ninyo ang tinapos ninyo or ang pinag-aralan ninyo. At ito ay isang leksiyon sa ating mga high school graduating students, dapat bagayin ninyo ang inyong pag-aaralan sa nakikita nating mga puwesto na naghahanap ng mga taong magtatrabaho doon. Kung hindi, dapat magrepaso tayo ng mga kursong inaalok ng Cavite State University.

Tinignan ko kanina nung binabasa yung mga graduating students ng iba't-ibang kurso at di hamak pinakamalaki ay yung associate in health sciences. Kaya tinatanong ko sa mga faculty officials dito, ano ang nilalaman ng associate in health sciences. At maganda naman ang narinig ko, mukhang ladderize ang inyong sistema ng edukasyon. Kaya yung mga papasa sa special examinations pwedeng tutuloy sa nursing na napakalaki ang demand sa buong mundo.

Ayon nga sa mga balita, ang Filipino nurse ang pinaka hinahanap na nurse sa buong mundo. at kung sakaling may mga hindi magkaswerte na makakapasok sa nursing school o makakatuloy o makakapasa ng board ay meron na kayong associate degree para sa, halimbawa, care giver or nursing aide. At inaasahan rin natin na maraming pagkakataon doon.

Halimbawa, doon po sa Hapon. Tayo ang nagkakaroon ng negosasyon sa kanila para sa first time in history magbubukas sila sa mga care giver at nursing aide mula sa bansang Pilipinas. Itong mga bagay na ito ay ginagawa natin para magkaroon kayo ng trabaho. In fact, itong darating na Tuesday — kasi siguro ngayon nagga-graduate kayo. Friday, magse-celebrate kayo ngayong weekend. Monday maghahanap na kayo ng trabaho. Kung meron sa inyong nararamdaman ninyo na parang nabibigo kayo o baka hindi pa ninyo alam kung saan kayo pupunta — sa Tuesday, maglalagay ng jobs fair and Department of Labor dito sa Cavite State University.

Bakit ilang beses na akong pumunta dito sa Cavite State University? Dahil kayo ay nasa gitna ng isang napaka-importanteng lugar, rehiyon sa ating bansa. Kayo ay nasa Calabarzon. Maraming mga pabprika rito at inaasahan ko na kayo ay makakahanap ng trabaho, yung mga hindi nag-aral ng nursing or health sciences. Yung mga iba, inaasahan ko na kayo ay makakahanap ng trabaho dito sa mga pabrika nila. At nakita ko nga yung mga pinag-aaralan ninyo may iba't-ibang mga kurso na mukhang nababagay nga talaga sa mga hinahanap ng mga pabrika.

Yung mga nagtatapos ng engineering bagamat napakahirap ng kurso ng engineering ay may bentaha dito sa Calabarzon.

Ngunit kung minsan may nagkekwentong sa akin na yung mga pabrika, may mga pabrika diyan na hindi naghahanap basta lamang ng engineers, naghahanap pa ng mga espesyalistang klase ng inhinyero. Kaya sa pagka-intindi ko, ang CHED — totoo ba ito, Dr. Puno? — ay magbibigay ng ilang milyong piso, fifty million pesos para ibayuhin ang mga laboratoryo ng science at engineering dito sa Cavite State University. Sana magamit ito upang maibigay ang inyong kurso ng engineering, as I was saying, sana magamit ninyo, ng inyong unibersidad itong mga pondong ito para nga pag-ibayuhin ang engineering ninyo na nakabagay sa mga very specific na hinihingi ng nakatukoy na mga pabrika dito sa Calabarzon.

At kung may mga engineering graduates na hindi kaagad makakuha ng trabaho dahil higit na pagka-espesyalista ang kinakailangan ng pabrikang pinuntahan nila, inaatasan ko rin ang CHED na magbigay ng mga scholarship sa mga estudyanteng nangangailangan pa nang dagdag na pag-aaral, yung dagdag na specialization na hinahanap ng mga pabrika. Pero para hindi masayang itong scholarship na ito dapat alam na natin, Dr. Puno, kung aling pabrika ang naghahanap ng anong espesyalista para siguradong may pupuntahan kayo pagkatapos ng inyong additional studies.

Naiintidihan ko rin na ang DOST ay tutulong sa Cavite State University na pag-ibayuhin ang inyong kakayahan sa research lalo na sa agricultural technology. Nakita ko rin sa mga graduating students iba't-ibang specific na agricultural technology ang pinag-aaralan ninyo. At itong tulong sa inyong research ay sang-ayon sa ating patakaran na ang agricultural research ay dapat ginagawa ng mga state colleges and universities. At sana gamitin ng Cavite State University ito sa especially sa dalawang bagay: kung paano magiging mas makumpetensiya ang ating kape sa Cavite, at kung paano masisigurado natin ang standards ng virgin coconut oil na napakamabenta sa buong mundo at kung saan makakapagbigay ng trabaho siguro hanggang isang milyong tao dahil napakarami ang ating coconut sa ating bansa dito sa Southern Tagalog. Itong tulong sa inyong research sa kape ay dagdag na rin sa tulong na nanggagaling sa Department of Agriculture para sa inyo.

Lahat nitong tulong sa engineering specialty scholarships at sa agricultural research ay bahagi ng dibidendo ninyo sa bunga ng mahihirap na reporma sa ekonomiya at buwis na ginawa natin itong nakaraang taon upang magkaroon tayo ng higit na kakayahan na pondohan ang serbisyong kinakailangan ng ng tagumpay ng taumbayan at mamuhunan sa higit na maraming trabaho lalo na sa Calabarzon.

Kaya bakit ako matapang na nagsasabi kay Dr. Puno na magbigay ng scholarship doon sa hindi pumasa dahil kailangan ng dagdag pang... Nakapasok na sa dagdag pang pag-aaral na specialization, kasi dahil sa ating reporma sa buwis, nakapagbigay ako ng 500 million pesos sa CHED para sa additional scholarship. Ang edukasyon ay laging gitna ng pagtayo ng malakas na bansa, na nasimulan natin dito sa Cavite noong 1898.

At kayong mga Caviteño, dapat ipagmalaki natin yung ginawa ni General Emilio Aguinaldo more than 100 years ago. Ngunit marami pa rin tayong kailangan gawin upang masigurado na may trabaho ang lahat ng mga nagtatapos at iwanan na ang lumang ekonomiya at ang lumang pulitika ng paninira.

Sa nakaraang limang taon ng aking administrasyon, halimbawa, sa call center industry lamang — call centers and business process outsourcing — nakalikha tayo ng higit na isandaang libong magagandang trabaho. Ang mga negosyong ito ay naghahanap pa ng isandaang libo pang call center at outsourcing agents dito, lalo na sa Manila, sa Clark, sa Cebu at sa Calabarzon. Ngunit sa bawat isandaang nag-aaply, walo lamang ang nakukuha dahil kulang pa ang kaalaman sa ingles na kasanayan ng mga Amerikanong kausap sa telepono o sa internet.

Kaya inaatasan ko rin ang Cavite State University, kung wala pa kayo — parang wala pa yata — na magkaroon din kayo ng tinatawag nating call center finishing school. At pwede kayong tulungan ng TESDA sa bagay na ito. Pwede ding magbigay ng scholarship si Dr. Puno kung magtatayo ka ng call center finishing school. At ang TESDA ay pwedeng ipagkabit kayo doon sa mga call center at business process outsourcing companies. Biro niyo unang pasok, fifteen thousand pesos. Kung dalawa ang inyong lengwahe, thirty thousand pesos. At siyempre, yan ang pinaka-lowest entry sa industriyang iyon. Doon... Pinaka-highest end, yung software development. Nabigyan ko na ang

tesda para maipondo nga itong makakatulong sa tinatawag nating call center finishing school. Kaya dapat ang Cavite State University ay maglagay nitong kursong ito.

Sayang eh, yung 92 percent na hindi natatanggap sa mga call center, eh 100,000 pa naman ang hinahanap nila. Kaya napaka-importante rin ang ingles. Inaatasan ko ang Cavite State University itong summer na ito, bigyan ng diskuwento ang mga maestra na nagtuturo sa iba't-ibang eskwela sa Cavite na mag-aral ng math, science at english. Pwede ba yon, Dr. Sangalang?

Kaya ako'y nagpapasalamat at muling nagpupugay sa ating mga graduates, sa kanilang mga magulang, sa kanilang mga guro, at higit sa lahat ang aking inaasahan, ang aking best wishes para sa Cavite State University sa inyong 100th anniversary ay sana sooner or later, the sooner the better, na ang batch 2006, one hundred percent din ang hiring rate ng ating mga graduates.

Maraming salamat.

Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 79th Commencement Exercises of Cavite State University (CvSU) and in Celebration of its Centennial Anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214115/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2436&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Earth Day 2006 Celebration Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Earth Day 2006 Celebration**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, April 22, 2006]

Maraming salamat sa ating bagong kalihim ng kalikasan, Secretary Angie Reyes.

Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Ginang Camacho, Ginoong Catan at si Myrna Yao na narito bilang assistant treasurer ng inyong N.G.O. ngunit siya rin ay ang chairperson ng ating Commission on the Role of Filipino women. Binabati ko si Mayor Teves at lahat ng mga official na narito; mga junk shop owners; si General Tolentino at yung ibang mga kasama natin sa pamahalaan; yung ating mga negosyante, Mr. Belton, thank you again for being here; at si Boy Camacho at lahat ng mga tumutulong dito sa ginagawa na maganda ni Narda Camacho na matagal na matagal nang kilala siya sa kanyang recycling at pinuri pa ng United Nations. Congratulations! Narda at congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Maligayang pagdating sa Malakanyang.

Kaninang umaga, magkasama kami, si Mr. Belton and Secretary Reyes at Smokey Mountain, kung saan yung mga mahihirap pinakita na ang kahirapan ay hindi sagabal sa pagmamahal sa mother earth.

Ngayon nandito naman tayo, kasama ng mga N.G.O. at ilang mga nasa negosyo ng kalikasan na gusto namang magpakita na ang pagmamahal sa mother earth ay kasama sa ating mga sandata sa ating giyera kontra sa kahirapan.

Ang pamahalaan ay pwedeng magsimula ng mga advocacy, magsimula ng mga programa gaya nang ginawa ng aking administrasyon na napasa yung Clean Water Act, napasa yung Solid Waste Management Act, at masigasig na pinapatupad yung Clean Air Act. Pero kayo mga N.G.O., mga negosyante, mga pribadong sektor, kayo ang merong commitment, kayo ang merong kakayahan, kayo ang merong kaalaman sa teknolohiya na talagang maglalagay ng laman sa mga programang ito.

Wala sila dito ngayon, pero gusto kong bigyan pansin, halimbawa, yung napakalaking investment ng private sector sa Clean Air Fuel. Halimbawa, yung coco bio-diesel, o halimbawa yung naglalagay ng mga ethanol plant, ito ay malaking nagpapakita na ang pribadong sektor ang talagang pwedeng gumawa ng paraan na ang malinis na kalikasan ay maging daan ng ating laban kontra sa kahirapan. Ang patakaran ng administrasyon ng inyong lingkod tungkol sa kalikasan ay malaki ang kinalaman sa isa sa sampung punto nung aking 10-point pro-poor agenda, at ito yung pagpapahatid ng tubig sa buong bansa.

Tayo ay nagtatrabaho ng masipag para makapagpadala ng malinis na tubig sa mga pamayanan at para maisigurado ito kailangan natin ng maraming tubig. Kaya importanteng-importante yung Clean Air Act, pero importanteng-importante rin yung clean... Ah, importante yung Clean Water Act, pero importanteng-importante rin yung Solid Waste Management Act.

Yung Clean Water Act isa sa pinakaimportanteng bahagi ng administrasyon na ginawang batas. Pero ganun din yung Solid Waste Management Act, na kayo tinutupad ninyo. Kasi kailangan natin ang mabuting solid waste management para yung solid waste ay hindi napupunta sa ating tubig at mako-contaminate pa yung ating tubig. At para makapadala tayo ng tubig sa lahat ng pamayanan na mainom nila, kailangan alagaan din natin yung ating watershed. Kaya yung logging ay bawal na sa karamihan ng ating bansa. Ilang probinsya lang ang pinayagan noong sinundan ni Secretary Reyes sa Secretary, si Mike Defensor, at pinili niya itong mga probinsyang ito pagkatapos magkonsulta sa iba't-ibang mga N.G.O.

At hindi lamang yon na pagbabawalan ang logging, kailangan din yung ating kapasidad na magbigay buhay muli ang kalikasan, ay dapat palakasan ng human intervention sa pamamagitan ng industrial tree plantation at saka reforestation. Kaya pinalawak ko yung nung araw tinatawag ay Bukidnon forest — Angie, di ba? — pero naabutan mo na ang tawag ngayon ay Philippine Forest Corporation at binigyan natin ito ng isang korporasyon sa ilalim ng DENR nang atas na gumawa ng napakalawak na reforestation. And this is one area where the corporate sector can help and make a difference either investing in industrial tree plantations or contributing to massive reforestation.

Itong global warming ginawang mas mahirap yung ating trabaho. Kasi ang global warming na kabuuan ng ilang taon nakaraan, ay nagdadala na ngayon ng mas mabigat na ulan at mas mabagsik na baha sa buong mundo — di ba yung Katrina doon sa America pati? — pati na rin sa Pilipinas. Kaya tayo ay namumuhunan sa geo-hazard mapping kasama ng ecological restoration na binanggit ko kanina, yung reforestation. Ito ay isang malaking proyekto ni Secretary Reyes ngayon, yung geo-hazard mapping.

Nung araw ginagawa ito ng namria sa loob ng opisina, pero matagal matapos. Kaya may mga plano si Secretary Reyes na baka i-outsource na lamang, baka ibenta pa nga yung property ng namria na napakamahalaga na ngayon, nasa prime property, para bayaran yung mga gagawa ng geo-hazard mapping na mas mabilis para magamit natin kaagad para sa ating mga programang pagtatanggol ng kalikasan.

Kapag... Eto nga ilang beses na tayong binaha, ilang beses na nagkaroon ng landslide dahil sa ulan. I can't help but think of the old saying, "water, water, everywhere and not a drop to drink." Kailangan lahat yang tubig na dumadating, kaysa pinapatay ang Pilipino, gamitin para mabuhay ang Pilipino.

Kaya importanteng-importante yung mga flood control masterplans sa ating major river basins, ito nga ay isa sa mga elemente ng environment chapter ng ating Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. Kaya gumawa na rin ako ng River Basin Task Force — di ba, Angie? — sa ilalim ng liderato ni Secretary Reyes para yaang mga river basins na yan imbes na parating binabaha ay magamit yung tubig ng mga ilog na ito, saka yung mga ulan na pumupunta sa mga ilog na iyon, o yung mga tubig na nanggagaling sa mga bundok magamit ng tao para magbigay ng tubig sa ating mga pamayanan — an adequate source of community water supply.

Samantala, hanggang magawa natin 'yan, hanggang matupad na natin ang reforestation, hanggang magamit na natin yang mga tubig na nagbabaha para sa ating tubig na iniinom o nagdidilig, kailangan yung tubig na mayroon tayo ngayon mula sa iba't-ibang mga pinanggagalingan ay balansyado ang paggamit between the needs of the community and agricultural requirements.

Merong ahensya doon sa DENR — actually, inter-agency — ang tawag doon ay Water Resource Board. Ang problema yung Water Resource Board... Ako hindi ako naniniwala sa committee eh. Kapag may committee marami nagdedebate nang nagdedebate na lang ang nangyayari. Tapos lalo na itong Water Resource Board, sino ang member? Yung mga kumakatawan ng mga umiinom ng tubig, yung mga kumakatawan ng mga magsasaka para magdilig ng kanilang halaman. Papaano sila gagawa ng desisyon kung papano pupunta yung tubig? Eh di nag-aaway-away sila kasi bawat isa merong kanyang constituent. Kaya madalas nagkakaroon ng stalemate, madalas nagkakaran ng delay, hindi productive. Sabi nga ni Angie, ang nahalata nga niya dahil sa ganung sistema na na-inherit niya, namana niya, pag nagpupunta siya sa Water Resource Board meeting, eh hindi na nagpupunta yung matataas na opisyal na decision-maker.

Kaya, sabi ko: — sinabi ko na noon at sinasabi ko muli kay Angie — "Angie, igawa mo ako ng executive order. Baguhin natin yang Water Resource Board. Gawin nating Water Resource Office sa ilalim ng DENR para may isang direktor na responsable sa kanyang decision-making. He neither belongs to the agricultural sector nor the Manila Water Supply or LWUA. Siya ang magka-calibrate kung magkano ang pupunta sa painom, magkano ang pupunta sa pandilig ng mga magsasaka." In other words, siya ang magka-calibrate ng dalawang importanteng puntos sa ating 10-point pro-poor agenda. Yung isa ay yung nagbibigay ng tubig sa buong bansa at pangalawa ay nagpapa-develop ng dalawang milyong bagong ektarya ng lupa para sa agri-business.

Siguro nakikita ninyo sa aking kwento ng ating mga patakaran, na lahat ng kilos para ipagtanggol ang kalikasan ay konektado sa ating laban kontra sa kahirapan. At etong recycling, yan ay isa sa pinakamagandang nagpapatunay sa

katotohanang ito, na kung tayo ay mananalo sa laban kontra sa kahirapan, ibig sabihin manalo rin tayo sa laban kontra sa paglulustay ng ating kalikasan.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, mga solid waste managers, recyclers, lovers of the environment, a meaningful Earth Day to everyone.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Earth Day 2006 Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214101/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2435&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Ceremonial Inauguration of the five newly-constructed President's bridge projects

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Ceremonial Inauguration of the five newly-constructed President's bridge projects**

[Delivered at the Municipal Covered Court, San Fernando, Romblon, April 25, 2006]

Congressman Firmalo...Mayor Rios kag tanan ofisyales kag pumuluyo diri sa mabuot... Sa San Fernando, mga laing-laing iban nga mayors na nagabisita subong, sa inyo nga tanan, maayong aga.

Kag congratulations! Sa mga bag-o nga taytay naton nga nahalin sa trabaho ni Secretary Jun Ebdane, ang akon kaupod subong. Kag congratulations! Sa aton mga estudyante na makasulod sa karon nga schoolyear sa mga private schools halin naman sa trabaho ni Acting Secretary Fe Hidalgo sa DepEd, akon man kaupod subong.

Dako nga lipay para sa akon na makabisita sa inyo sa liwat kay kung indi pa niyo nalipatan nakabisita ako sa inyo sadtong senador pa ako. Okey. Kag gusto ko naman ipaabot subong ang akon dako nga pagpasalamat kay parehas sa siling ni mayor sadtong eleksiyon sa 2004 dako ang aking pagdaog diri sa San Fernando. So, angay gid na sa akong una nga pagbisita sa Romblon sa matapos ang eleksiyon ang akong una na nabisita nga banwa amo gid ang San Fernando diri sa Sibuyan.

Salamat naman sa kabilugang Sibuyan, kay sa kabilugang Sibuyan nagdaog naman ako sa 2004. Indi ko makalimot ang akong una nga pagbisita diri sa Sibuyan sadtong ako senador pa. Sa kabalo ko anay may ara kamo airport, so nag-hire ako sa isa nga eroplano agod maka-landing sa Sibuyan airport. Apan sa pag-abot ko, o lapit na or sa pag take off ko nakabalo ko nga indi gali approved sa A.T.O. ang airport kay deteriorated na gid. So, wala naman tiyempo para maka notify ang akon advanced party, the nephew gid of Mayor Rios, si Bong Ruado ara na diri, ara na sa Sibuyan. Ako nagdiretso sa Tablas airport ang akon nga intensyon tani na makapag communicate kay Bong diri sa Sibuyan na dira ako nag landing sa Tablas, apang nakabalo ko na wala gali nga communication halin sa Tablas asta sa Sibuyan. Gani sa ako nangin presidente ang usa sa akong nahuman nga naghambal ako sa atong mga telephone companies, subong nalipay ako na makabalo na may ara na kamo mga cell sites diri sa Sibuyan.

So, amo ang akong una nga promise, pledge sa Sibuyan ang inyong communication, so nahuman na. Subong nakabalo ko naman kay mayor ang inyong problema ang kuryente, apan bag-o sa kuryente nakaabot ang mga taytay. Ang kada taytay na atong gin-inaugurate subong, each one of the bridges has an average cost of 20 million pesos. Gani ang atong walo nga President's Bridge diri ang ilang total is about 160 million pesos para sa isa nga banwa lang, ang banwa sang San Fernando.

Ang update ni congressman sa akon sa kabilugang Sibuyan 22, congressman, ang mga President's Bridge Program. So sa atong programa diri sa Sibuyan lang ang aton bridge program 440 million pesos.

Subong siling gid ni mayor ang problema ang kuryente, kag sa kagina gi- mention niya gid sa akon ug si governor, siling niya sa sulod sa six months makompleto na ang bagong power system diri. Apan ang problema ngano ang atong mahuman in the meantime, sa six months. Kay siyempre kon indi maayo ang kuryente ug damo gid ang brownouts, ang atong peace and order naman indi maayo. So, lalaki pa ang problema ng ating mga kasama dito, ang ating Southern Luzon commander, si General Cabuay, who is here with us today and our second division commander, si General Yano, who is also here with us today. Malaki ang kanilang teritoryo, si General Cabuay covers the whole Southern Luzon and General Yano covers the whole Region IV-A and B. So we want all the places to be bright and peaceful.

So, kagina gid ang akong kahambal sa cellular — I think some of you were already ready to greet me but then the phone rang — it was a return call from our Secretary of Energy. Siling ko sa iya i'm here in Sibuyan in Romblon,

kulang ang kuryente but NAPOCOR is working on something siling ko sa ila but that is to bear fruit six months from now. So in the meantime ngano ang atong plano? So I said the proposal of the mayor is to look for a power barge that you can rent. Walay problema ang rent, ang problema ginakinahanglan makabalo ng Secretary of Energy kung may ara nga available, physically available na power barge. And so he's going to find out now, and I hope he can call me back again before I leave the place.

But I'm just so happy that we can do governance now all over the cellphone. Unlike in the past, I could not even notify you but I was going another way, by boat, because there was no communication. So diyutay-diyutay nagakompleto kita sa atong mga ginakinahanglan nga priorities, basic services: ang communication, ang kuryente. Ang tubig gali diri sa San Fernando walay problema. In fact, you have the best water system in the whole region, congratulations!

Apan para sa akon — and we were debating this in the entablado — should I mention it now? Basi mangin controversial ang akong diskurso, but it's a thought that I would like to convey to you. Ako ang naghuman sang MIMAROPA, because the five provinces felt nga indi kamo kaupod sa mga plano sang CALABARZON. Kay ang CALABARZON industrialization, ang problema sang MIMAROPA poverty. It's unrealistic to expect industrialization to happen here. So, sa akon una nga term, ako ang naghuman sa executive order na mangin separate nga region ang MIMAROPA. Apan many years later then I find that what is happening, ang MIMAROPA... We've been sticking to poverty alleviation projects kay pobre gid ang mga probinsiya sang MIMAROPA. Ang problema, you are reinforcing one another's poverty kay you're trading with other provinces that are just as poor.

And so the government keeps having to put up bridges, keeps having to put up schools, keeps having to give scholarships. It's okay if you had no potential, apan diri sa Romblon kag Sibuyan dako ang inyong potential sa atong bag-o nga growth sector — ang tourism. Subong ginapili ko sining okasyon agud makabisita sa inyo kag agud makahambal sang ilonggo kay gusto ko i-stress nga kamo sa kultura kag sa ekonomiya bagay sa ilonggo o hiligaynon economy.

And I came from Aklan by a 30-minute short helicopter ride agud ma-prove nga lapit gid ang Sibuyan sa atong center of tourism. The best beach in the world siling nila but maybe because they have not seen the Romblon beaches. Siling nila the best beach in the world is Boracay island. But you belong to the same sea, the same culture. The problem is you don't belong to the same planning group. Imagine Boracay, almost a million tourists already last year. Ang number one sa tourism destination sa kabilugang Pilipinas. Kulang na ang ilang facilities, where do they send their extra tourists? Because they belong to Region VI and there is a master plan for tourism and there is a regional director for tourism that is in-charge of Region VI, where do they send their extra tourists? Pandan, Antique; Libacao, Aklan; Roxas, Capiz. Asta sa Guimaras which is much farther from Boracay than San Jose, Sta. Fe and even Sibuyan.

So, it's not something that I will do today, apan just to give you food for thought. Siyempre may ara ang gobyerno always to look for ways to alleviate poverty like our young graduating students from grade school. Ngano ang atong project para sa ila kay siling ni congressman kulang kamo sa kalsada, kulang kamo sa kuryente, kulang kamo sa classrooms. So ang atong programa — and I will ask Secretary Hidalgo to listen to this — in all the... Let's start with Sibuyan. Fe, if you can check in all of the towns of Sibuyan or all the schools, how many schools have a student-classroom ratio of more than 100:1, let us build additional classrooms in all of them. Bakit 100:1? Kay kon less than 100:1, we can have two shifts of 50 students each. That is for the grade school.

Subong sa high school kulang siling nila ang classroom sa high school apan kulang naman ang estudyante sa private high school. Indi naman naton gusto na mamatay na ang mga private high school. So may excess demand sa isa, may excess supply sa isa, the idea is to combine them. So sining aton mga estudyante, 25 sa ila may ara subong na high school voucher worth 4,000 pesos each. In other words, sa magsulod sila sa high school indi na ginakinahanglan na maghuhulat pa sa bag-o nga high school classroom building kung kulang. Makadto na sila sa private school, give their 4,000 pesos voucher as the tuition fee for the private high school. And then the Department of Education will pay the tuition fee. Kung gusto nila nang eskuwela na mas mahal then it's up to them to add to the 4,000, but the DepEd guarantees to pay the 4,000-peso tuition fee.

These are our programs — ang inyong high school-grade school classrooms, high school vouchers, tubig kon kulang, kuryente kon kulang, but you can do more than that if only the tourists will discover the beauty of Romblon and if only the investors will discover how profitable it will be to send the tourists here to Romblon. Apan siling ko, ang mentality sang MIMAROPA: classrooms, PhilHealth, farm-to-market road, kuryente gid, which are all very good. But you can have more of those kon mas paspas ang development. And you have the potential to develop faster because of tourism potential.

Dira sa Region VI, labi na sa Aklan, ang ilang mga proyekto subong indi na water for every town, indi na kuryente na kulang gani ang Napocor ginakinahanglan magbutang sang power plant diri. Mismo ang private sector nag-invest sa power plant sa Boracay, nakaupod ang Aklan. And we would like that kind of development diri sa Romblon.

So if you would consider it to start thinking of the idea nga total kamo hiligaynon ang inyo nga kultura, lapit kayo gid sa Aklan kag Boracay, kuntani mag-isip kamo, one of these days let's consider nga ang Romblon maupod sa Region VI. I'm not forcing it to you today. I'm only introducing the idea for the first time publicly although I've discussed this already many times with congressman. I've told also governor about it but it's for you to decide how fast do you want tourism to come to Romblon. And the faster you want tourism to come to Romblon, the sooner you should be part of Region VI whose development plan really revolves around the development of Boracay and the other neighboring attractions.

So, I'm so happy to be able to come here. And surely if you were part of Region VI, tungod kay ang ilang budget gakadto gid sa mga access to tourism enterprises, ang inyong airport can be included in the airport budget of Region VI nga dako gid. Ang inyong kalsada imbes na farm-to-market road, which should be all weather, if it's roads to tourism destination, they have to be nicer. And power imbes na maghulat kita sa Napocor kag sa D.O.E. ang private sector mismo nga mga dako nga mga company are the ones that themselves put up the facilities here. Ang atong health, dira sa Boracay there are three private clinics. So diri instead of waiting for the government to put up additional rural health units, the private sector itself will come. That is the beauty of tourism development. You know Bali started with Kuta, now spread to the whole Bali, which is as big as Panay and Romblon together.

So I hope that as we are able to chat with one another today, total ang San Fernando... In fact, Mayor Rios said he has started to talk about this already to the people to consult. It's a good time for us to start discussing this so that we can do our own planning in the near future for if it is the wish of the people of Romblon to develop your beautiful natural wonders and for the people of the world to fill the loving hospitality of the people of Romblon labi na gid diri sa Sibuyan island.

Damo gid nga salamat sa inyo nga tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). GMA's Speech during the Ceremonial Inauguration of the five newly-constructed President's bridge projects. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214049/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2434&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Golden Anniversary Celebration of Aklan Province

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Golden Anniversary Celebration of Aklan Province**

[Delivered at the ABL Sports Complex, Kalibo, Aklan, April 25, 2006]

Abo nga salamat, Congressman Joven Miraflores and thank you for inviting me once again to join Aklan on your golden anniversary.

Mrs. Miraflores, Governor Marquez and Mrs. Marquez. Thank you governor for your very generous acknowledgement of the different ways by which we have worked together to make Aklan the very prosperous province that it is today.

Aklan is so famous, we have many visitors on your 50th anniversary. We have two lady governors: Governor Sally Perez of Antique and Governor Bella Castillo of Aurora. and with me are Secretary Ebdane of public works, Acting Secretary Hidalgo of education, and presidential adviser for Region VI, Former Governor Lito Coscoluella. Vice Governor Tolentino and the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Mayor Rebaldo and all of the other mayors and all of the local officials of the various towns in the province of Aklan.

I would also like to make a special acknowledgement to the descendants of the father of Aklan, the children of the late Congressman Godofredo Ramos.

To all of you, happy happy golden anniversary!

Governor said that not many provinces get to have me twice to celebrate your anniversary. I was here 2002 but I must be back here again because it is the golden anniversary of the golden province of the Philippines.

Why are you the golden province of the Philippines? You contribute so much to the wealth and the GDP of the Philippines. You know around the world, it's been said that Spain earns more from tourism than Saudi Arabia from oil. Well, that is how much Boracay is earning for Aklan and the whole Philippines.

I remember when I came here in 2002, we were talking about the island of Panay's integrated development plan, and at that time we were talking agro-industrial. How time flies. It seems so long ago because now if tourism can earn more than oil, certainly, Boracay has caused a major difference in the lives of the people of Aklan since 2002. And I am as excited as you are about the big difference in your life during the past four years. And I am very proud that this big change in your life happened during my administration.

Boracay was number one in tourism last year. It was number one among all of the new year's eve destinations. It was number one again this holy week. And I must congratulate you, but more than congratulating you, I have the fervent prayer that Boracay will spread the gold and be the hub of development all over Aklan, all over Panay including Antique which is only 45 minutes drive away. The way that Kuta, that famous beach in Bali, became the hub of development in Bali which is now enjoying a higher standard of living than Jakarta.

But when we talk about tourism, we're not only talking about the beach, we're not only talking about the resorts, we're talking about the products that you can sell to the tourists. I hope your mango, your piña, your abaca will find

their way to the hotels, restaurants and souvenir shops of Boracay. That way the whole island of Aklan will become very rich because you have a built-in market for the great products that you have in your province.

You know just a few days ago, funded by the international financing corporation of the World Bank, Mina Gabor, Former Secretary of tourism and her group, presented to us a proposed master plan for the sustainable development of Boracay. And in her concluding frame, she reminded us that for three times conde-nast named Boracay as the very best beach in the world. I think every year it's one of the ten, but three times it was number one. And I hope it will always be number one and I hope that the tourism of Boracay will be the road to prosperity not only for Boracay, not only for Malay, but for Aklan and the whole island of Panay, and in fact for the rest of the Philippines.

I just come from Romblon and from Antique. I especially chose those two neighboring provinces to be my side visit on the day that you invited me here just to stress to them, to you and to our country — because the media follows me wherever I go — how the multiplier of Boracay is so widespread.

Antique, 45 minutes by road. In fact, during my administration, we built that beautiful road so that some of your excess tourists can still swim in Boracay but should already sleep in resorts here in the mainland — Caticlan mainland, Nabas, Buruanga, Pandan, Libertad — and therefore spread development in Panay.

But on the other side, I told the people of Romblon, your hope is not to be trading with other poor provinces. Your hope is to attach your economy to Boracay because San Jose is 20 minutes from Boracay. The children of San Jose town of Romblon study in Boracay, and Sta. Fe is one hour away. So Boracay is a hub not only for Region VI but for the entire central Philippines. And I congratulate the people of Aklan for giving us that golden opportunity.

Because people have been coming here to Boracay, they have also discovered so many other scenic spots in Aklan, isn't it? You scenic spots in Aklan are top rate natural advantages that must be optimized in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

Way back in 2001 when the tourists were not yet this numerous, I foresaw this. I said in my State of the Nation Address: "We will promote fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful. We have the competitive edge in tourism in the natural wonders of our country and the natural warmth of our people." I think those tourists would not have come to Aklan only because of the natural wonders, they have also come because of the natural warmth of the Aklanons. And I thank you for your hospitality.

What is the national government's obligation? Our obligation is to provide the roads to those wonders and the means to take the tourists there. That is why we have been liberalizing the airline industry and there are more than 30 flights everyday to and from Aklan. So much so that even people from other provinces nearby drive to Kalibo to catch the flight because it is so convenient to catch the hourly flights.

The world's most beautiful beach should be enjoyed by people all over the world in a manner that will keep it beautiful for all time. And in manner whereby everybody else in Aklan and Panay and even neighboring Romblon will be able to develop.

I am happy to hear of investors upgrading facilities and building new high-end ones to remain competitive and ensure your visitors' comfort. There is a very strong private interest to invest not only in world class tourism facilities similar to Shangri-La, but not only in Boracay anymore, but in the mainland of Aklan world class facilities. There is also interest in developing a world class emergency hospital. I congratulate the people of the province of Aklan for the beautiful new hospital that we have just inaugurated.

There are private investors who also want to put up a hospital in Boracay itself but there's no property. And I was hoping your officials can help the Department of Tourism locate a property for the hospital which will ensure the safety and warmth that forms part of Aklan's charm. But Congressman Miraflores told me that there is an old provincial hospital that has been inundated, not operating anymore. So we will offer that to investors for leasing.

And speaking of safety, your resorts both in Boracay and in the mainland of Aklan are part of the area of operations of what we call 'task force stingray' which protects the resort islands in Central Philippines especially from terrorist threats. Within that task force, i'm organizing a special sub-task force for your beach resorts called 'Baywatch' to include lifeguards, protection from stray animals.

And I am so happy not only that Boracay has changed the life of Aklan but also the Ro-Ro port that we put up here three years ago which has also revolutionized your life. And upon the request of local officials we are devolving the Caticlan port to the provincial government of Aklan.

We will make it a tourist Ro-Ro port. I told the Secretary of Transportation this morning that we must phase out the cargo loading and unloading in Caticlan. So he said, "Wo what happens to the cargo?" Well, all the cargo bound for Aklan or going out of Aklan should be in the Ro-Ro trucks and let the Ro-Ro trucks roll-off and roll-on the vessels and let the cargo be loaded or unloaded in the original points of origin or the final points of destination. well, that will soon be implemented by the provincial government because they are already preparing the memorandum of agreement for the devolution of the Caticlan port from the Philippine Port Authority to the provincial government of Aklan.

Governor Marquez also talked about the airport of Caticlan. I'm very happy that... Well, four years ago, I gave 40 million pesos for the airport of Caticlan, and I'm glad to hear that it is already implemented.

Now for Kalibo, we have released — and I announced this during the Ati-Atihan, and I'm happy to report it's been accomplished — we have released 55 million pesos for the instrument landing facilities for the Kalibo airport. now, your local officials are working on buying the right of way. And the target is by October the instrument landing facilities will be completed and although charter flights waiting to land in Kalibo in Aklan will be coming. If you have 34 flights now, imagine how many flights you will be having when we have the instrument landing system.

The experts say that the Kalibo airport is actually sufficient to keep up the volume of tourists in Boracay consistent with sustainable development. However, I know of private sector investors who want to invest in the Caticlan airport and improve it some more. Well, we will not stop them. They can go ahead as long as they don't require any government guarantees. Imagine, if you should have two airports, one will be the government and one if the private sector should decide to upgrade it.

There is really a tremendous demand coming up. Power is gonna be a big problem later on, not yet now. Why not yet now? Because you remember during one of my visits here, we inaugurated the mirant power plant in Nabas to serve Boracay but also to increase the province's energy supply. And anticipating that your very rapid development will have another power shortage or need by 2010, this early I have suggested to your officials that they should discuss with the department of energy so that we can incorporate — Governor Marquez, you were saying earlier — the hydro power plant here in Aklan for the 27th yen package with the government of Japan.

So much to do. Let's all work together to make Aklan richer and richer from the best beach in the world because the richer Aklan becomes, the richer the Philippines becomes. That is why you are our golden province. You are the goose that lays the golden egg. And we want that goose to be more and more prosperous for the sake of the rest of our country.

Happy golden anniversary to our golden province!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Golden Anniversay Celebration of Aklan Province. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214040/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2432&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the ‘Kadaugan sa Mactan’ 2006

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the ‘Kadaugan sa Mactan’ 2006**

[Delivered at the Mactan Shrine, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, April 27, 2006]

Daghan salamat, Secretary Ace Durano, ang atong Secretary of Tourism na gikan diri sa Cebu.

I'd like to give a special greeting to our foreign guests headed here by the Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva of Portugal, welcome!

Mayor Radaza and the officials of Lapu-Lapu City, Governor Garcia, Congresswoman Soon Ruiz, Former Senator John Osmeña, Congressman Cuenco from Cebu City. Ang aton mga kauban sa Cabinet, aside from Secretary Durano, we have Secretary Mike Defensor and Secretary Cerge Remonde. Kaninyong tanan mga kaigsuonan diri sa Mactan ug Lapu-Lapu City, gi abe-abe ko ang tanan sa inyo sa dakbayan sa Lapu-Lapu sa aton pagsaulog karon sa anibersaryo sa battle of Mactan. Happy victory day of Mactan kaninyong tanan!

Leksiyon kini ang importansya ug patriotismo alang sa tanang Pilipino. Apil na ang atong henerasyon karon. Ingon gyud ni Gwen Garcia, ang usa sa mga favorite nga jokes sa iyang amahan nga Cebu killed the first tourist in the Philippines. And Ace Durano said, but the beautiful irony there is that Cebu and Bohol together are the number one tourist destination of the Philippines today diri sa Pilipinas. Congratulations!

Mga higala na nato karon ang mga kanhing kaaway nga foreigners tungod kay wala na ang atong freedom struggle. In fact, karon ang Cebu paborito sa mga foreigners apan kinahanglan pa nato ang panighiusa karon aron mopaspas ang malungtad na kalinaw ug kauswagan sa atong nasud. Karon dili na ang foreigners ang aton kaaway, ang kapobrehon nga ma-o ang aton labing dakong kontra. Ug tungod sa atong mga congressmen ang ilang tabang kanako sama ni Congresswoman Nerisse Soon Ruiz ug Congressman Cuenco, nahuman nato ang mga reporma sa ekonomiya. Ug sa buwis midako ang pondo sa nasud busa karon ang atong trabaho ang mga labing importanteng programa aron padayon makadawat ang aton mga katawhan sa mga unang kaayuhan nga bunga sa inyong sakripisyo.

Importante ang atong giyera kontra sa pagkakabus. Tingali diri sa sugbo tungod kay progresibo kamo kaayo dili kaayo kaimportante sa aton nga consciousness kining programa kay daghan kaayo mga uban nga mga probinsya, laing probinsya na pobre kaayo, kabus kaayo apan diri sa sugbo ang atong tuyo kon paunsa mahimo pa mas progresibo ang probinsya sa Sugbo.

Ug diri sa atong selebrasyon sa battle of Mactan nakita nato paunsa gyud kay diri sa Mactan ang labing paborito sa mga turista kaya mga gwapo nga resort naa, hapit tanan gihapon diri sa Mactan island. Ug umaabot nga dili na dugay na moanhi pa ang 18 heads of state gikan sa ASEAN, sa East Asia aron makabisita diri sa atong ASEAN Economic Summit nga mahimo diri sa Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue ug Cebu City.

Unta ready na kamo tanan. Apan sigurado ko dili ko kinahanglan ingon nga unta hibaw ko nga ang katawhan sa Mactan sa Lapu-Lapu ready na sa inyong hospitality. Gwapo kaayo, friendly kaayo ang mga katawhan sa Mactan island sa Lapu-Lapu. Busa gipili ko gyud nga ang atong ASEAN Summit mahimo diri sa tulo ka dakbayan.

And I am looking forward to that time nga bisan karon pa ra daghan na kaayo ang mga turista. Sa moanhi ang 18 heads of government, ilahang secretaries of foreign affairs, ilahang economic ministers, ilahang senior officials, ilahang business leaders, ilahang business community, ilahang media... Top media representatives. Wow! Siguro sa mahuman na matapos ang ASEAN Summit diri labaw pa ang mobisita diri sa Mactan island kag sa tibuok Cebu.

Busa salamat kaninyong tanan sa inyong kanunay na pagsuporta sa mga tuyo sa atong administrasyon ug unta gyud ang umaabot na Asean Summit usa pa gihapon nga pag-agi sa dako pa nga progreso sa sugbo, sa Mactan island ug Lapu-Lapu City.

Daghan salamat ug congratulations kaninyong tanan!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 'Kadaugan sa Mactan' 2006. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213938/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2431&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo on Labor Day Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Labor Day**

[Delivered at the DBM Compound, San Miguel, Manila, May 1, 2006]

HAPPY SHOPPING STATE WORKERS!

Kung yung mga Amerikanong sundalo ay may PX goods, ngayon ang kawani ng gobyerno ay puwede ring magkaroon ng PS goods, eto ay ang PS Mart. Yung PS, ibig sabihin noon, procurement service. Kaya 'tong PS Mart is for the smart consumer, para sa mga wais na mamimili. Bakit? Dahil ang mga binibenta rito ay binibiling bulto ng pamahalaan ng DBM sa malaking kantidad, sa ganun sinisigurado na ang mga presyo ay may diskuwento lahat.

Ang pamahalaan ang pinakamalaking namimili ng mga consumer goods sa bansa at ginagamit itong kapangyarihan para makakuha ng value-for-money para sa kung ano man ang binibili nila. Kaya ang DBM, ang gobyerno ay may 'shoppers' advantage' at ngayon pinapaabot natin itong 'shoppers' advantage' sa mga nagtratabaho sa pamahalaan para sila rin at kanilang mga pamilya ay maaaring makinabang sa mababang presyo ng mga bilihan.

Ang procurement service ay hindi nagsasaman'tala sa mababang presyo na bibilhin niya sa bulto dahil sa ilalim ng batas, hindi siya puwedeng kumita ng higit sa tatlong porsiyento. Kaya kung merong Shoemart sa labas, mayrong PS Mart sa loob. Siyempre, mas marami pa ring mabibili sa Shoemart pero marami na ring mabibili dito sa PS Mart dito sa ating katabi.

Tignan natin yung mga presyo. Sabi nga ni Nonoy, yung household goods at office supplies, 20 percent lower than outside. Kaya sabi nga ni Pat Sto. Tomas, yung mga opisina, puwede ng mawala na yung akosasyon ng corruption dahil puwede nang bilhin yung office equipment dito sa... Office supplies dito sa procurement service. At tignan niyo naman: yung asukal, dito P33.50, sa labas, P38.00; ang bigas sa labas P22.00, dito P18.00; ang cooking oil sa labas P22.00, dito P19.80; ang sardinas sa labas 10.28, dito P9.93; ang noodles, P13.25 sa labas, dito P12.80; ang corned beefsa labas P22.00, dito P20.10; ang kape sa labas P4.80, dito P4.10.

Ang payroll ng pamahalaang bansa ay 330 billion pesos bawat taon. At malaking bahagi dito ay ginagamit para bumili ng mga gamit ng pamilya at ng tahanan. Sa pagbukas ng mga pintuan ng mga depot at bodega ng procurement service, ito ay bukas sa mga kooperatiba, inaalok natin ang ating mga kasama sa trabaho na magsama-sama, pagsamahin ang kanilang grocery money, kumuha ng malalaking diskuwento at hayaang kumita ang kanilang organisasyon na pagkatapos magagamit nila para sa mutual aid. Ito ang diwa ng bayanihang Pilipino na pinapakita sa panahon ng internet. At ito ang unang halimbawa, Nonoy, di ba? Ito na nga yung PX store o PS store o PS Mart ng ating mga empleyado ng gobyerno. Ang depot ay bawat rehiyon may depot, Nonoy. Ah, magkakaroon ng depot bawat... Merong 12 ngayon. Halimbawa, yung depot ng Metro Manila ay nasa Paco. Kaya yung iba't-ibang mga kooperatiba o kahit na yung nagpapatakbo ng ahensiya, Pat, ay sana makipag-ugnay sa mga depong ito para magkaroon ng PS Mart sa lahat ng mga opisina at department.

Pagkatapos itayo ang mga tindahan, sisiguraduhin natin naman na yung mga mga consumer ay may salapi na dadalhin doon at mamimili. Noong isang buwan, kung naalala ninyo, nagbigay tayo ng isang libong pisong dagdag na allowance sa lahat ng mga empleyado ng pambansang pamahalaan. At sinundan ko ito ng urgent memorandum order kay nonoy na pabilisin ang reporma ng kompensasyon, hindi ba, Nonoy? Na itutukoy na higit sa ikakabit ang bayad sa publikong sektor sa merit and performance. Ito ay nagpapatunay na ang pamahalaan ay nag-aalaga ng taumbayan ay marunong din mag-alaga ng kanyang sarili.

Kaya ito ang ating ginagawa para sa mga empleyado ng pamahalaan at binubuksan natin ito bilang bahagi ng pagdiriwang ng labor day. Kaya binabati ko ang mga opisyal ng procurement service or PS, ang galing-galing mag-alaga ng pondong ipinagkatiwala sa kanila. Hindi lamang nakapag-impok ng salapi, na-multiply pa ito sa

pamamagitan ng pinakamagaling na paraan ng pamamahala at matinong investment choices, nag-invest nga dito sa mga PS Mart.

Sabi ni Nonoy, ito ay self-liquidating. Ang mga maliliit na kita ay magpopondo ng expansion na lilikhain ng demand mula sa mga kawani ng pamahalaan. Sabi nga ni Nonoy, walang bagong pondong kinukuha sa treasury para sa proyektong ito. At sa madaling panahon, kapag ang PS Mart ay namulaklak na sa buong bansa at ang kanyang mga karatula ay bahagi na ng landscape, maaaring maalala natin itong araw na ito, labor day 2006, at masabing itong chain of commissaries ay natayo na hindi kailangan ng dagdag na appropriation.

Kaya muli, kay Nonoy sa DBM at sa lahat ng manggagawa ng pamahalaan, kami ni Pat, ang secretary of labor ay binabati kayong lahat, Happy Labor Day!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the DBM Commissary or PS (Procurement Service) Mart

**Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the launching ceremony of the DBM Commissary or PS (Procurement Service) Mart

[Delivered at the DBM compound, Solano St., San Miguel, Manila, May 1, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Andaya at congratulations! Sa napakagandang ideyang ito.

Secretary Sto. Tomas, ikaw ang nanay ng ating mga manggagawa, kaya binabati ko ikaw at silang lahat sa Labor Day.

Kung yung mga Amerikanong sundalo ay may PX goods, ngayon ang kawani ng gobyerno ay puwede ring magkaroon ng PS goods, eto ay ang PS Mart. Yung PS, ibig sabihin noon, procurement service. Kaya 'tong PS Mart is for the smart consumer, para sa mga wais na mamimili. Bakit? Dahil ang mga binibenta rito ay binibiling bulto ng pamahalaan ng DBM sa malaking kantidad, sa ganun sinisigurado na ang mga presyo ay may diskuwento lahat.

Ang pamahalaan ang pinakamalaking namimili ng mga consumer goods sa bansa at ginagamit itong kapangyarihan para makakuha ng value-for-money para sa kung ano man ang binibili nila. Kaya ang DBM, ang gobyerno ay may 'shoppers' advantage' at ngayon pinapaabot natin itong 'shoppers' advantage' sa mga nagtrabaho sa pamahalaan para sila rin at kanilang mga pamilya ay maaaring makinabang sa mababang presyo ng mga bilihan.

Ang procurement service ay hindi nagsasamantala sa mababang presyo na bibilhin niya sa bulto dahil sa ilalim ng batas, hindi siya puwedeng kumita ng higit sa tatlong porsiyento. Kaya kung merong Shoemart sa labas, mayrong PS Mart sa loob. Siyempre, mas marami pa ring mabibili sa Shoemart pero marami na ring mabibili dito sa PS Mart dito sa ating katabi.

Tignan natin yung mga presyo. Sabi nga ni Nonoy, yung household goods at office supplies, 20 percent lower than outside. Kaya sabi nga ni Pat Sto. Tomas, yung mga opisina, puwede ng mawala na yung akosasyon ng corruption dahil puwede nang bilhin yung office equipment dito sa... Office supplies dito sa procurement service. At tignan niyo naman: yung asukal, dito P33.50, sa labas, P38.00; ang bigas sa labas P22.00, dito P18.00; ang cooking oil sa labas P22.00, dito P19.80; ang sardinas sa labas 10.28, dito P9.93; ang noodles, P13.25 sa labas, dito P12.80; ang corned beef sa labas P22.00, dito P20.10; ang kape sa labas P4.80, dito P4.10.

Ang payroll ng pamahalaang bansa ay 330 billion pesos bawat taon. At malaking bahagi dito ay ginagamit para bumili ng mga gamit ng pamilya at ng tahanan. Sa pagbukas ng mga pintuan ng mga depot at bodega ng procurement service, ito ay bukas sa mga kooperatiba, inaalok natin ang ating mga kasama sa trabaho na magsama-sama, pagsamahin ang kanilang grocery money, kumuha ng malalaking diskuwento at hayaang kumita ang kanilang organisasyon na pagkatapos magagamit nila para sa mutual aid. Ito ang diwa ng bayanihang Pilipino na pinapakita sa panahon ng internet. At ito ang unang halimbawa, Nonoy, di ba? Ito na nga yung PX store o PS store o PS Mart ng ating mga empleyado ng gobyerno. Ang dapat ay bawat rehiyon may depot, Nonoy. Ah, magkakaroon ng depot bawat... Merong 12 ngayon. Halimbawa, yung depot ng Metro Manila ay nasa Paco. Kaya yung iba't-ibang mga kooperatiba o kahit na yung nagpapatakbo ng ahensiya, Pat, ay sana makipag-ugnay sa mga depong ito para magkaroon ng PS Mart sa lahat ng mga opisina at department.

Pagkatapos itayo ang mga tindahan, sisiguraduhin natin naman na yung mga consumer ay may salapi na dadalhin doon at mamimili. Noong isang buwan, kung naalala ninyo, nagbigay tayo ng isang libong pisong dagdag na allowance sa lahat ng mga empleyado ng pambansang pamahalaan. At sinundan ko ito ng urgent memorandum order kay Nonoy na pabilisin ang reporma ng kompensasyon, hindi ba, Nonoy? Na itutukoy na higit sa ikakabit ang

bayad sa publikong sektor sa merit and performance. Ito ay nagpapatunay na ang pamahalaan ay nag-aalaga ng taumbayan ay marunong din mag-alaga ng kanyang sarili.

Kaya ito ang ating ginagawa para sa mga empleyado ng pamahalaan at binubuksan natin ito bilang bahagi ng pagdiriwang ng labor day. Kaya binabati ko ang mga opisyal ng procurement service or PS, ang galing-galing mag-alaga ng pondong ipinagkatiwala sa kanila. Hindi lamang nakapag-impok ng salapi, na-multiply pa ito sa pamamagitan ng pinakamagaling na paraan ng pamamahala at matinong investment choices, nag-invest nga dito sa mga PS Mart.

Sabi ni Nonoy, ito ay self-liquidating. Ang mga maliliit na kita ay magpopondo ng expansion na lilikhain ng demand mula sa mga kawani ng pamahalaan. Sabi nga ni Nonoy, walang bagong pondong kinukuha sa treasury para sa proyektong ito. At sa madaling panahon, kapag ang PS Mart ay namulaklak na sa buong bansa at ang kanyang mga karatula ay bahagi na ng landscape, maaaring maalala natin itong araw na ito, labor day 2006, at masabing itong chain of commissaries ay natayo na hindi kailangan ng dagdag na appropriation.

Kaya muli, kay Nonoy sa DBM at sa lahat ng manggagawa ng pamahalaan, kami ni Pat, ang secretary of labor ay binabati kayong lahat, Happy Labor Day!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the launching ceremony of the DBM Commissary or PS (Procurement Service) Mart. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213919/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2794&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 'Araw ng Paggawa' Celebration (Observance of Labor Day 2006)
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 'Araw ng Paggawa' Celebration (Observance of Labor Day 2006)

[Delivered at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang, May 01, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Pat Santo Tomas.

At unang-una, mabuti na rin i-congratulate ko na ikaw at ang NLRC for having its best first quarter ever this year when it disposed of more than 10,000 cases. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Please sit down everyone.

Gusto ko na ring batiin yung iba't-ibang mga Cabinet member natin na narito, pati na rin yung ating mga labor leader, si Ginoong Alejandro Villaviza, maraming salamat sa inyo at sa TUCP sa ipinahayag niyong suporta sa ating pagbabago ng ating sistema ng pulitika.

Binabati ko rin si Attorney Allan Montaño, first time siya nakaupo sa entablado, bagong henerasyon ng Federation of Free Workers. At siyempre, isang ating institusyon, yung nag-lead nung ating pagdadasal, si Ginoong Vladimir Tupaz.

Sa inyong lahat, mga kababayan, this is the day for workers all over the world and this is the day to mark the strides that the great Filipino worker has taken to rise to the apex of competence and competitiveness.

Kanina, binanggit ni Ginoong Villaviza doon sa kanyang binasang mensahe mula kay Attorney Mendoza na itong araw na ito ay inaalok nila or binibigay nila o ginagamit nilang bilang paggalang sa tatlong milyong walang trabaho. Sa isang dako ay malungkot tayo dahil mayroong tatlong milyong Pilipinong walang trabaho. Ngunit sa kabila, naalala ko tuloy — Pat, sabi ko, hindi ba nung tayo'y unang umupo noong 2001 apat na milyong pilipino ang walang trabaho. So ngayon, tatlong milyon. At least naka-ganansiya na tayo ng isang milyon.

Our gains in the economy mark payback time for the people doon sa ginawa nating mga reporma sa buwis. Ngayon nakaya nating maglaan ng 13 billion pesos para sa dagdag na allowance ng mga manggagawa ng gobyerno at sa budget sa pumapasok na taon, maglalagay si Secretary Andaya ng salary standardization para maka-abot ito sa 20 billion pesos sa susunod na budget.

Our amelioration measures must not only affirm the paramount interest of our workers, but ease the plight of the average Filipino in the face of current pressures and difficulties.

Halimbawa, presyo ng bilihin, upang ma-abot-kaya ang presyo ng bilihin ngayon sa panahon ng matataas na presyo ng krudo sa buong mundo, kanina nagbukas tayo ng isang PX store para sa mga manggagawa ng gobyerno, ang tawag naman natin doon ay PS mart at ito ay bahagi lamang sa 1.2 billion pesos na ilalaan natin para sa PX stores ng mga manggagawa ng pamahalaan sa buong Pilipinas.

For the private sector, I support a reasonable wage hike hammered out by the tripartite regional wage boards. We acknowledge the need to alleviate the burdens of our workers amid the rising cost of living brought about by high oil prices in the world market, while we also share the concerns of the business sector over the impact on business and employment. A middle ground can be reached if all sides are focused on common goals and principles, mainly the good of the nation. Kaya maganda yung parting statement doon sa mensahe ni Attorney Mendoza, nakakaunawa naman ang ating sektor ng manggagawa, basta mag-usap-usap tayo ng mabuti tungkol sa sitwasyon ng bawat isang

panig. A win-win solution can be found that can ease the plight of labor while at the same time preserve the investment climate and the pace of growth.

Harmony, teamwork and creativity are the key to success. In fact, with harmony, teamwork and creativity through the work of the NLRC plus the mediation and conciliation efforts that DOLE has done in the first quarter of this year, we were able to gain more than 600 million pesos worth of days saved from being able to avert a strike. Congratulations to all sides!

Yung social insurance system, pinapalakas natin para mas lalong makaabot ang biyaya sa mga manggagawa. Halimbawa, yung gsis ay magbibigay ng scholarship sa halagang 60 million pesos. Ang OWWA naman, Nitoy, hindi ba sasagutin mo ang health rehabilitation ng mga OFWs sa halagang 44 million pesos? At para naman yung PGH ay mas magandang paglingkod sa mga manggagawa, gagastusan natin ang PGH ng 100 million pesos para sa kanyang rehabilitation. At ang GSIS ay tutulong sa Philhealth na magbayad ng hospitalization sa kanyang mga kasapi. Dagdag ito sa mga binabayad ng Philhealth at itong kontribusyon ng GSISs sa mga diskuwento na binabayaran ng manggagawa ay humahalagang 40 million pesos.

Ang Philhealth naman, narinig mo, Pingkoy, kanina yung isang hiling na dapat mapalawak ang sakop ng Philhealth sa informal sector gaya ng mga mangingisda, mga sakada, mga magsasaka, kaya magdadagdag tayo or magbubukod tayo ng 40 million pesos para bayaran 'yung mga premium nitong mga kawani or mga kasapi ng informal sector lalong-lalo na yung mga mahihirap na sakada.

Yung mga wage earners naman, tinanggal ko ang withholding tax ng minimum wage earners, ngunit ngayon sana ipasa ng Kongreso ang tuluyang tax exemption na makakaginhawa ng isang bilyong piso sa ating mga minimum wage earners.

Baon sa utang ang maraming manggagawa, kaya — alam ko baon sa mga salary loans at housing loans ng GSIS at SSS, baon pa sa mga penalty and surcharge — kaya magpapatawad ang GSIS at SSS sa penalty ng salary at housing loan sa halagang halos 12 billion pesos. Twelve billion pesos ba yon o 1.2 billion? Teka muna, tignan ko nga yung ano... ano ba yon, Pat, 12? Tama 12, okay.

At yung PAG-IBIG naman, marami na ang nakakaramdam na binabawasan na ng PAG-IBIG ang interest ng housing loans, ang total saving naman nito ay humahalagang 3.2 billion pesos.

Doon naman sa transportasyon dahil pag tumataas ang presyo ng langis sa buong mundo, unang-una baka tumaas ay ang transportasyon, kaya dapat maibsan ang gastusin sa transportasyon. Mayroon namang halos 1.4 billion pesos na galing sa Land Bank at DBP bilang pautang at sa energy savings ng pamahalaan na gagamitin sa mga shuttle bus ng mga kumpanya, grupo ng mga manggagawa kagaya ng ating mga tatlong malalaking organisasyon na narito sa entablado at empleyado ng gobyerno, lalo na yung nagpapatakbo sa CNG o ibang mga clean air fuel.

Nakausap ko nga si President Rey David ng DBP at si President Gilda Pico ng Land Bank. In fact, si Gilda, marami siyang mga binigay na scheme sa akin, either straight pahiram or leasing or gagawa ng arrangement sa malalaking bus transportation company para sila ang maghahawak ng mga gastos ng maintenance kaya hinihiling ko kay Gilda, kung nanonood siya ngayon, mag-press conference siya para mapaliwanag yung iba't-ibang scheme kung papano mapondohan ng Land Bank itong shuttle buses using clean air para sa ating mga manggagawa.

Yung binanggit ko nung umpisa, yung competitiveness at competence ng ating manggagawa. Our knowledge economy is on a roll. Yung sinabi doon sa mensahe ng mga manggagawa tungkol sa mismatch, ang daming demand sa knowledge economy. Kaya sinasabi ko sa mga batang papasok sa college ngayon, baka sa halip na mag-aral kayo ng business management, baka entrepreneurship at saka sa halip na mag-aral kayo ng mass communication, baka english kasi doon ang livelihood, doon ang trabaho. At hindi lamang yon, sa hunyo, ayon kay Boboy Syjuco, magsisimula na yung ladderization kung saan puwede kang mag-aral sa voctech schools for the first two years or one year o ano ba yon na pag-aaralan mo o six months, tapos yung pinag-aralan mo doon ay make-credit sa college degree pagkatapos. This coming June that program would start.

In the meantime, dahil ang dami-daming demand for knowledge workers, 100 thousand jobs are available in the call centers and business process outsourcing, naglaan tayo ng 500 million pesos. Yon ang kanilang seremonya natin kanina, yon ay simbolo nung ating 500 million pesos para sa training ng scholarship para sa magtrabaho sa call center, medical at legal transcription, animation, software development at iba pang mga skills na sinasakop sa tinatawag nating knowledge economy. Ito ay simula itong araw na ito, itong scholarship program na ito, itong mga nagpunta dito ay halimbawa lamang ng unang sampung libo sa 100,000 na available itong scholarship na ito at itong araw na ito, habang nagbigay tayo ng scholarship vouchers ngayon, meron ding scholarship vouchers na ipapamahagi sa Clark, di ba? Sa Baguio, sa Taguig, sa Legaspi, sa Cebu, sa Iloilo at sa Davao — 500 million pesos.

And so, let me just say that our administration has paid keen attention to the welfare of labor since day one.

Call centers and BPO, less than 2,000 when we started, now 125,000. And from the message of Attorney Mendoza, from four million unemployed when we started, three million now and we will work harder to reduce that even more.

Thank you for your message and thank you for the expression of your aspirations.

I make a point to listen to the people's needs everyday while as the message also implied, our destabilizers listen to the call of self-interest and endless strife. Therefore, to our destabilizers, I say: "Leave the people to their work and let the president do her job." To our destabilizers, I say: "Stop the noise and start to serve."

At gusto kong ulitin at pakibahagi doon sa mensahe na binigay ng mga manggagawa sa pamamagitan ng binasang ulat ni Ginoong Villaviza, magsama-sama tayo, magtrabaho tayo para naman magkaroon ng disentang trabaho ang bawat Pilipino.

Mabuhay ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 'Araw ng Paggawa' Celebration (Observance of Labor Day 2006). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213914/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2795&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Inauguration of the CHEMREZ bio-diesel plant

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Inauguration of the CHEMREZ bio-diesel plant

[Delivered at #65 Industria St., Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City, May 3, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Lotilla of Energy.

I'd like to greet, of course, the Lao family and the Chemrez family. Congratulations to all of you! we have some VIPs with us today from the government, we have two congressmen: Congressman Louie Villafuerte whose coconuts in Camarines Sur will feed CHEMREZ; we have Congressman Firmalo of Romblon. If this is the first coco bio-diesel plant, Romblon has its little second bio-diesel plant as well; and of course we have Mayor Sonny Belmonte. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him for his very successful mega jobs fair last May 1st; other officials of the government and of CHEMREZ; guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Itong bio-diesel plant ng CHEMREZ ay nagsimula mga dalawang taon nakaraan. At noong panahong yon inilagay ng Lao family yung kanilang pamuhunan dito bilang sagot sa ating hiling na magkaroon ng clean air. Ngayon pagkatapos ng dalawang taon, dalawa ang pangangailangang sinasagot nila — clean air and alternative, more efficient and therefore cheaper fuel. Kaya importanteng panahon itong araw na ito, binubuksan natin itong pabrikang ito sa kalagitnaan ng ating energy-independence agenda. Isa sa limang pinakaimportanteng bahagi ng ating Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

Noong isang taon, limang porsiyento ang pag-angat ng ating ekonomiya. Pero hindi tayo nagtaas ng importation ng oil products ng limang porsiyento. In fact, bumaba ang ating consumption ng imported oil products ng walong porsiyento, at bakit? Bakit habang umaangat ang ating ekonomiya nabababa natin ang konsumo ng imported oil products? Dahil sa ating alternative fuel programs lalo na ngayon na bukas na ang CHEMREZ bio-diesel plant.

Itong mga istratohiyang ito ay nasa kalagitnaan ng ating energy-independence agenda. Ang gusto natin, ayon sa ating mga economic planners, sila Popo Lotilla, na by 2010, 60 percent self-sufficient na tayo sana sa enerhiya. Itong coco bio-diesel ito isa sa mga malalaking potential sa ating pagbaba ng presyo ng transportasyon per kilometer. Kaya masaya si Len Bautista, yung chairman ng LTFRB na narito rin ngayon.

How does this reduce the cost of transport? By adding one liter of coco bio-diesel — ang brand name ninyo ay bio-active — by adding one liter of bio-active to every one hundred liters of diesel, we reduce the cost per kilometer of transportation. At noong araw sa mga soft opening nga mayroon na nga itong supply na ito, nag-supply na sila. In fact, pre-blended pa nga sa ilang independent fuel stations. At pabalik-balik yung mga customers nung mga independent stations na yon dahil talagang naramdaman ng mga customers na nabawasan ang kanilang gastos per kilometer.

Iyung malalaki naman na mga oil majors habang hindi pa nila ginagawa yung kanilang planta para mag pre-blend bukas naman sila na yung kanilang mga consumer shelves ay kakarga ng bio-active para kung ikaw ay motorist at nagkarga ka ng iyong diesel sa isang major station na hindi pa naggagawa ng pre-blended puwede kang bumili ng mga botelya ng bio-active doon sa kanilang shelves para ikaw na magdagdag sa iyong fuel tank. Kasi kilala ko ito bilang CHEMREZ, pero I suppose ang produkto nila mas maganda iyung bio-active keysa sa CHEMREZ. Pero yung CHEMREZ ay ang unang-unang continuous bio-diesel plant sa Asia. Tinanong ko nga kay Ginoong Lao ano ang ibig sabihin ng continuous, technical term noon. Pero to a layman ang ibig sabihin noon consistent ang quality, consistent ang quality. So very scientific, very high-end. At ako ay nasisiyahan na itong produktong ito hindi lamang para sa Pilipinas. Kailangang-kailangan natin para sa Pilipinas, pero kailangang-kailangan natin ang mga dolyar at sila ay tumutulong dito. Other countries including first-world markets have expressed confidence in our local bio-diesel and have been importing this fuel from the Philippines.

I want to congratulate CHEMREZ, because we are now exporting bio-diesel to Japan and Germany. Eh itong mga bansang ito napakataas ng kanilang standards. Naaalala ko noong ako ay nasa... Nagpapatakbo ng garments industry, kahit na maganda ang damit kung yung stitches ay hindi pareho yung kulay sa hemline ire-reject na. Ganun kataas ang kanilang quality standards at sila ay bumibili ng coco bio-diesel dito sa CHEMREZ. Congratulations!

And I'm very glad that aside from Japan and Germany, the Americans, the Australians and the Chinese have also expressed confidence in our bio-diesel. The advent of bio-diesel from coconut is a very big boost to our coconut industry. That's why Louie Villafuerte who comes from a very big coconut province is here. This industry provides jobs and livelihood to some 20 million Filipinos including countless poor families. At kung ang pag-uusapan natin itong coconut, noong nagsimula ako ng aking pagka-pangulo, magkano yung coconut natin? Two pesos yung ating kopra noon, ngayon 20 pesos na.

Because we have been able to develop the market, coconut is now a seller's market, not a buyer's market in the Philippines. Iyung virgin coconut oil, the market is practically infinite compared to our supply. Iyung coco wire, yung mga ginagamit nila ngayon para sa flood control, sa slope protection sa China, halos binibili nila ay ang coco wire sa Pilipinas. Kaya itong coco bio-diesel isa pang ready market para sa ating coconut. Kaya sa ating coconut industry hindi na market ang ating problema, ang ating problema ay supply at saka siyempre yung hanapbuhay o yung pangkabuhayan ng ating mga magnyuniyog.

Kaya kahapon nandoon si Popo Lotilla sa ating Cabinet meeting. At nagkaroon ng desisyon na doon sa agri-agra funds — hindi ba ito yung kinakailangan na dapat yung agri-agra funds natin yung dapat ginagamit para sa agriculture at saka sa land reform ng mga bangko ay dapat isang bilyon ay gamitin para sa pagpa-unlad ng isang milyong hektarya ng lupa na nasa ilalim ng ating coconut trees para sa agri-business. Halimbawa, Louie, puwedeng gawin dito dagdag na coconut trees o halimbawa, puwedeng gamitin ito na magtayo ng coco wire factory o magamit ito para sa laboratoryo para consistent ang supply... Ang quality ng ating mga virgin coconut oil. At puwede magamit ito siguro sa mga logistics para yung pagpadala ng niyog sa CHEMREZ o yung mga suportang kailangan pa ng maliit na industriya ng coco bio-diesel doon sa Romblon ay matulungan na umangat at yung mga yon ay ito ang mga paggagastusan ng one billion pesos ng agri-agra funds to develop one million hectares of land under the coconut trees for agri-business.

Kaya maraming salamat, CHEMREZ. una sa lahat dahil pumasok kayo para maging malinis ang ating himpapawid. Pangalawa, dahil tumutulong kayo na maging efficient ang ating transportasyon — more mileage per peso, therefore, more economical. At pangatlo, dahil tumutulong kayo sa ating mga mahihirap na mga pamayanan doon sa mga coconut-producing communities.

So, for these three services that you are giving, pang-apat pa yung export ng coco bio-diesel, maraming salamat sa CHEMREZ at mabuhay ang bio-active!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Inauguration of the CHEMREZ bio-diesel plant. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213849/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2792&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Multi-Stakeholder Conference on the State of Philippine Disability Movement and Challenges

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Multi-Stakeholder Conference on the State of Philippine Disability Movement and Challenges**

[Delivered at the Manila Bay Ballroom, Bayview Park Hotel Roxas Blvd. cor. U.N. Ave., Metro Manila, May 4, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Esperanza Cabral.

President Goquiolay, Mr. Arsenio, Ambassador Beckingham, Mr. Mohammed, Miss Bamard, Kate Fermin, my old friend, and all of those who care for the persons with disabilities, and the persons with disabilities who are here with us today.

Thank you very much for this opportunity of being with you. And as we heard earlier, during my experience as the secretary of DSWD and as president, I have tried my best to give a special opportunity for persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities in the Philippines are our partners in nation building, and I have issued all those things I issued because I believe that you have... You should have full access both to educational opportunities and economic empowerment. And I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the Philippine Council of Cheshire Homes for the Disabled for organizing this conference.

For our physically and mentally challenged men, women and children, you are an instrument of human dignity and self-sufficiency in a caring environment. And I would like to take this opportunity also to thank and commend the many organizations and institutions caring for persons with disabilities that I came across when I was secretary of social welfare and development.

The concerns of persons with disabilities have to be addressed not only by their own families but by the whole community as well. Disabled people are disproportionately found among the poorest of the poor in all parts of the world, and the disabled tend to be chronically poor. That's a very sad vicious cycle. Which is one reason why I declared the period 2003 to 2012 to be the Philippine Decade for Persons with Disabilities, so that we can use that time, a whole decade, not only to work on immediate relief for persons with disabilities but also for their longer term empowerment. The Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan for 2004 to 2010 calls for expanded capacity-building programs for persons with disabilities.

In that chapter of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, there is a portion — and in fact when Espie Cabral had her job interview, she said, “What do you expect me to do?” And I told her, “Espie, I took the liberty of reproducing that portion of the Philippine Medium-Term Development Plan that relates to your work as secretary of social welfare and development.” — there is a portion of course about microfinance empowering the very poor. Others have portion about empowerment, political empowerment which is the basis of the KALAHI, the CIDSS. But I also told her that if we're going to care about the more vulnerable sectors of our society, we work on strengthening the five fingers: the children, the most disadvantage among children including street children, orphans and so on. And then the youth, the most disadvantage among the youth, out-of-school youth and also the youths that are vulnerable to drugs and so on. And then the disadvantage among women, meaning the battered women or those women who've ended up in socially undesirable occupations and so on. And then the persons with disabilities and the older persons. The more disadvantage of the older persons.

So the persons with disabilities are one of the five fingers we call that are to be specially cared for by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and our whole government, in fact, at large. Because as I said

earlier, there is that vicious cycle of disability and poverty. This vicious cycle must be broken and focus must be placed on ability rather than disability.

And I am glad to be able to meet you today because now I can face you with an increase in revenues through new taxes and savings from the debt service from the fiscal reforms we have implemented. Now, we're able to make targeted investments in job creation.

You know, in the last two days, our stock market jumped up by 70 points and we have been able to cross the twenty-three hundred barrier. Our peso strengthen again to 51.34 something and our bond prices have improved again which means we're paying lower interest payments because of the confidence in our economy. And this lower interest payments results in freed money that we can spend on education, better health coverage, infrastructure, especially job creation which is what our persons with disabilities need more opportunities for meaningful work.

Our job creation thrusts include high-skilled jobs in I.C.T., as well as tourism, including hotels and restaurants. Why do I mention these two things? Because when I was still in DSWD, I remember that many of the wheelchair-bound were very welcome additions to the labor force of telephone companies or telephone operators in companies because you don't need to be mobile to be a good telephone operator. Why not call centers, if you can be a good telephone operator, as long as you have a good english speaking skill. And if you don't have that, you can have additional training for that. But if you can be a good telephone operator, why can't you be a good call center agent with that very, very high paying job.

So I don't see why those who were welcome in the telephone operator occupation should not have the same opportunities in call centers and business process outsourcing. You don't need to be mobile to do the accounting of some firm that is in England or in the United States right here.

And while we were speaking of I.C.T., there's the other boom that we are enjoying now — marami ang inyong occupancy? — the boom in tourism where February which was not a peak season experience a ninety percent occupancy rate in our hotels. And eighty-five percent is considered full occupancy.

Well, let me go back to what I observed when I was also in DSWD. The hearing impaired were a very, very welcome workforce in fastfood chain and also again in doing computer work. So I don't see why they cannot be given more opportunities now that the restaurants are booming, especially the ones catering to tourists, and also we continue to have bigger opportunities in I.C.T. so Kate Fermin is coaching me on what I should remember when I was in DSWD.

I mentioned these specific opportunities so that we can with our hope, at least, we have a countervailing, a countervailing feeling to the problem we are facing, demands... The demands for the jobs and the problem we are facing which demands that we work hand in hand to end the vicious cycle of disability and poverty. And I hope this one-day event can clearly define the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

For instance, it's been... I thank... I'm very grateful that you remember that I said that the government should try to spend one percent of its budget on empowering persons with disabilities. And speaking of call centers, I have just in fact authorized even mandated that TESDA, that they should allocate 500 million pesos for call center finishing schools scholarship. Now, what's one percent of 500 million pesos? That's five million pesos. So I'll ask Espie Cabral to make sure that of that scholarship fund of TESDA for 500 million pesos for call center finishing schools, five million of these scholarships should be for our wheelchair-bound persons with disabilities.

The month of May is the month of labor, and almost everyday we are having job fairs. May 1st, the City of Quezon, Quezon City kicked it off with job fairs with 30,000 jobs available. Prior to that, a few weeks before that, there was a tourism jobs fair with oh! 50,000 jobs available I think. And yesterday, I opened another jobs fair with 70,000 jobs available. I mentioned about tourism itself having very, very many jobs available. So I called up Artie Yap, my new PMS head, who had been in charge of coordinating all efforts on job creation. And I told him, because he was the one who orchestrated yesterday's jobs fair. I told him, "Artie, for this month of May since we're having jobs fairs

almost every day, I want you to organize a jobs fair especially for the hearing impaired and other persons with disabilities, 'cause there's so many job opportunities available for them."

So we have those two things: the call centers scholarships and the jobs fairs that we would like to dedicate especially to our persons with disabilities. And this is one of the things that Espie Cabral in the DSWD can work out together with other opportunities before she gets very busy with the calamities once the rainy season comes over. So the month of May is the month for labor but it should also be the month of greater economic power for our persons with disabilities.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Multi-Stakeholder Conference on the State of Philippine Disability Movement and Challenges. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213840/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2790&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on PWDs as partners in Nation Building

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On PWDs as partners in Nation Building

[Delivered at the Bayview Park Hotel Roxas Blvd., Manila, May 4 2006]

PWDs: PARTNERS IN NATION BUILDING

Persons with disabilities in the Philippines are our partners in nation building, and I have issued all those things I issued because I believe that you have... You should have full access both to educational opportunities and economic empowerment. And I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the Philippine Council of Cheshire Homes for die Disabled for organizing this conference.

For our physically and mentally challenged men, women and children, you are an instrument of human dignity and self-sufficiency in a caring environment. And I would like to take this opportunity also to thank and commend the many organizations and institutions caring for persons with disabilities that I came across when I was secretary of social welfare and development.

The concerns of persons with disabilities have to be addressed not only by their own families but by the whole community as well. Disabled people are disproportionately found among the poorest of the poor in all parts of the world, and the disabled tend to be chronically poor. That's a very sad vicious cycle. Which is one reason why I declared the period 2003 to 2012 to be the Philippine Decade for Persons with Disabilities, so that we can use that time, a whole decade, not only to work on immediate relief for persons with disabilities but also for their longer term empowerment. The Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan for 2004 to 2010 calls for expanded capacity-building programs for persons with disabilities.

In that chapter of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, there is a portion — and in fact when Espie Cabral had her job interview, she said, “What do you expect me to do?” And I told her, “Espie, I took the liberty of reproducing that portion of the Philippine medium-term development plan that relates to your work as secretary of social welfare and development.” — there is a portion of course about microfinance empowering the very poor. Others have portion about empowerment, political empowerment which is the basis of the KALAHI, the CIDSS. But I also told her that if we're going to care about the more vulnerable sectors of our society, we work on strengthening the five fingers: the children, the most disadvantaged among children including street children, orphans and so on. And then the youth, the most disadvantage among the youth, out-of-school youth and also the youths that are vulnerable to drugs and so on. And then the disadvantaged among women, meaning the battered women or those women who've ended up in socially undesirable occupations and so on. And then the persons with disabilities and the older persons. The more disadvantage of the older persons.

So the persons with disabilities are one of the five fingers we call that are to be especially cared for by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and our whole government, in fact, at large. Because as I said earlier, there is that vicious cycle of disability and poverty. This vicious cycle must be broken and focus must be placed on ability rather than disability.

And I am glad to be able to meet you today because now I can face you with an increase in revenues through new taxes and savings from the debt service from the fiscal reforms we have implemented. Now, we're able to make targeted investments in job creation.

You know, in the last two days, our stock market jumped up by 70 points and we have been able to cross the twenty-three hundred barriers. Our peso strengthen again to 51.34 something and our bond prices have improved again which means we're paying lower interest payments because of the confidence in our economy. And this lower

interest payments results in freed money that we can spend on education, better health coverage, infrastructure, especially job creation which is what our persons with disabilities need more opportunities for meaningful work.

Our job creation thrusts include high-skilled jobs in I.C.T., as well as tourism, including hotels and restaurants. Why do I mention these two things? Because when I was still in DSWD, I remember that many of the wheelchair-bound were very welcome additions to the labor force of telephone companies or telephone operators in companies because you don't need to be mobile to be a good telephone operator. Why not call centers, if you can be a good telephone operator, as long as you have a good English speaking skill. And if you don't have that, you can have additional training for that. But if you can be a good telephone operator, why can't you be a good call center agent with that very, very high paying job.

So I don't see why those who were welcome in the telephone operator occupation should not have the same opportunities in call centers and business process outsourcing. You don't need to be mobile to do the accounting of some firm that is in England or in the United States right here.

And while we were speaking of I.C.T., there's the other boom that we are enjoying now — *marami ang inyong occupancy*? — the boom in tourism where February which was not a peak season experience a ninety percent occupancy rate in our hotels. And eighty- five percent is considered full occupancy.

Well, let me go back to what I observed when I was also in DSWD. The hearing impaired were a very, very welcome workforce in fastfood chain and also again in doing computer work. So I don't see why they cannot be given more opportunities now that the restaurants are booming, especially the ones catering to tourists, and also we continue to have bigger opportunities in I.C.T. so Kate Fermin is coaching me on what I should remember when I was in DSWD.

I mentioned these specific opportunities so that we can with our hope, at least, we have a countervailing, a countervailing feeling to the problem we are facing, demands... The demands for the jobs and the problem we are facing which demands that we work hand in hand to end the vicious cycle of disability and poverty. And I hope this one-day event can clearly define the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

For instance, it's been... I thank... I'm very grateful that you remember that I said that the government should try to spend one percent of its budget on empowering persons with disabilities. And speaking of call centers, I have just in fact authorized even mandated that TESDA A, that they should allocate 500 million pesos for call center finishing schools scholarship. Now, what's one percent of 500 million pesos? That's five million pesos. So I'll ask Espie Cabral to make sure that of that scholarship fund of TESDA for 500 million pesos for call center finishing schools, five million of these scholarships should be for our wheelchair-bound persons with disabilities.

The month of May is the month of labor, and almost everyday we are having job fairs. May 1st, the City of Quezon, Quezon City kicked it off with job fairs with 30,000 jobs available. Prior to that, a few weeks before that, there was a tourism jobs fair with oh! 50,000 jobs available I think. And yesterday, I opened another jobs fair with 70,000 jobs available. I mentioned about tourism itself having very, very many jobs available. So I called up Artie Yap, my new PMS Head, who had been in charge of coordinating all efforts on job creation. And I told him, because he was the one who orchestrated yesterday's jobs fair. I told him, "Artie, for this month of May since we're having jobs fairs almost every day, I want you to organize a jobs fair especially for the hearing impaired and other persons with disabilities, 'cause there's so many job opportunities available for them."

So we have those two things: the call centers scholarships and the jobs fairs that we would like to dedicate especially to our persons with disabilities. And this is one of the things that Espie Cabral in the DSWD can work out together with other opportunities before she gets very busy with the calamities once the rainy season comes over. So the month of May is the month for labor but it should also be the month of greater economic power for our persons with disabilities.

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during a Meeting with the Council of Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Meeting with the Council of Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[Delivered at the Chamber of Commerce Bldg. Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, May 8, 2006]

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to thank Minister of Social Affairs for having accompanied me throughout my stay since yesterday; and Ambassador Wali, I'd like to thank you for making us know the different opportunities that we can point out during our visit here; and I'd like to greet also the chairman of the Saudi-Philippine Business Council, Mr. Waleed Al Swaidan, and thank you for the friendship that you have shown the Philippines and also our Filipino workers; officials and members of the Saudi-Philippine Business Council; members of the government and business delegations of the Philippines' state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ladies and gentlemen.

I'm deeply honored in making this state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and I thank everyone from His Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to everybody else concerned for your warm welcome.

Our historical ties are strong, steady and lasting. Historical ties, indeed, when the Governor of Riyadh went to visit the Philippines in 1999, he noticed how much of Philippine customs, cultures and traditions had origins in the culture of the Middle East. And in more recent times, Saudi Arabia has stood by the side of the Philippines for peace and development. And as you have said, more than a million Filipinos help build your economy right here in Saudi Arabia. In every vital activity in this land — producing oil, building cities, laying out roads and power lines, taking care of the health of the people — Filipinos are there.

The relationship is both reciprocal and synergistic. And you who are here today represent the companies, agencies and individuals that contribute to our successful and mutually beneficial ties and I thank you for organizing this meeting today.

Well, the most obvious link between our two countries today, the most visible link is the great Filipino worker. Filipino workers have been in the kingdom for more than 30 years now and therefore you know the quality of our great Filipino worker. Therefore we hope that the expansion, ongoing, of the various sectors of the Saudi economy, especially the mega infrastructures in the King Abdullah economic city will provide outsourcing opportunities for Philippine corporations.

I remember the first petrochemical boom in the early 1970s, that was the time when the first big inflow of Filipino workers came to Saudi Arabia. And at that time they came through the employment in Philippine companies who were doing construction and engineering work in that petrochemical boom. Since then, the number of Filipinos has increased but the bulk of them now, the vast majority are now hired directly by Saudi companies. And however, we hope that with this bigger boom that is coming up with King Abdullah economic city — a boom that is much bigger than the petrodollar boom of 1974 — once again the companies in the Philippines will be able to provide outsourcing services to that development in the fields of engineering, construction and engineering-related I.T. enabled services.

I am very glad that we had that meeting just before this in the Saudi General Investment Authority, and there we saw the magnitude of this development of the King Abdullah economic city. Our business delegation was here meeting with you so they were not with me and I'd like to tell them that that economic city is bigger than some of the neighboring countries of Saudi Arabia. It's in ten years time it will provide a trillion dollars worth of economic activities. But we don't have to wait ten years because we have the capability and we can experience... We know that we are the preferred source of human resources here in Saudi Arabia. So we are very sure that our companies

will be able to find vastly bigger opportunities in this new petrodollar boom than we even saw in 1974, which was already quite substantial.

You mentioned, Mr. Chairman, about the WTO, and I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your accession to the WTO last December 2005 after more than a decade of difficult negotiations. Being in the world trade organization, we can share a common stand for a fair and level playing field in global trade and investment. And with your membership in the WTO, the Philippines hopes to have a more fruitful participation — though our participation is already very fruitful with our 1.2 million Filipinos here — but we hope to continue to have an even more fruitful participation in the continuing and increasing affluence of your kingdom. This time not just the workers but also our products and services. In fact, you have rightly pointed out that Saudi sells to the Philippines 20 times more than the Philippine sells to Saudi. And for this reason, to even it up a little bit more, I shall assign a Trade Attache to Saudi Arabia. I've already given that instruction to Secretary of Trade and Industry.

I was telling my colleagues in the Philippines that really we should export more to Saudi Arabia because our 1.2 million workers alone already constitute a major market for Philippine garments, fresh and processed foods, marine products, tropical fruits, especially bananas and pineapples. But Minister of Social Affairs said, "yes, why not?" But those very goods are also goods that the Saudi will buy. So we have a critical mass for a minimum export market and it is much more than that because whatever the Filipinos buy the Saudis will also like to buy. And so we are sure that these products will be welcome not only to our Filipinos but also the Saudi Arabian consumers.

And I believe that the Saudi Arabian consumers will also welcome consumer manufactures from the Philippines like furniture and furnishings. They're very world class, very sophisticated, always sold out in all of the trade missions that we have anywhere, even beauty products and consumer electronics. And it's a great time for Saudi to enter the WTO because while — and we are very appreciative of your empathy for us — while world prices of oil are at a historic high, there is much that Saudi can do in helping the rest of the world through increased trade.

And so in this time of very volatile oil prices, we invite the Saudi business community through you the council of Saudi chambers, to recycle its petrodollars and profit from the oil trade in the form of direct investments to low-income and middle-income oil importing countries — the Philippines is a middle-income, low-importing country — particularly the Philippines especially because Filipino workers are making a valuable contribution to the economy of Saudi Arabia. And you have already had your meetings with our Filipino business delegation. I would just like to stress that we invite your investments to the Philippines which is at the verge of economic take off.

Our economic momentum is steady despite the increase in world oil prices. Our fiscal deficit management is three years ahead of the target set by our medium-term Philippine development plan. The Philippine peso has outperformed many Asian currencies in the past year. And exports are expected to grow double digit this year, more of it I hope to Saudi Arabia.

As far as investments are concerned, again, I believe you have talked already about some prospects and specific portfolios with our private business community. But I would just like to stress that we invite Saudi investments into our energy, tourism, mining, information and communication technology, and agricultural sectors. Tourism and I.C.T. because we are promoting fast growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful and which can use our most competitive resource that you are very familiar with — the great Filipino worker, so well known in the Saudi business community. You have admired them, you have expressed your appreciation of them.

I'd like to let you now that we churned out 40,000 knowledge workers every year such as engineers and I.T. professionals. Some of them come to Saudi, many of them come to Saudi, some of them are awaiting your investments in the Philippines. Tourism because we not only have the competent and warm and friendly people, we have the natural wonders that are very attractive to investments. And most of our hotels and resorts now are always fully-booked, so we can certainly use more rooms, more facilities, more hotels, more resorts from Saudi investments.

Mining, because the Philippines total mineral reserves are valued at one trillion U.S. dollars. The fifth largest mineral deposits in the world. The fifth biggest in gold. The ninth biggest in copper and the 20 percent of the world's nickel.

Energy, of course, because Saudi Arabia is the energy giant of the world and we hope you can among other investments put up oil refining facilities in Mindanao, in Southern Philippines, where half of our ten million Muslims live. Because such a refinery to be located in Mindanao can serve not only the Philippines but also the American west coast market and Eastern Indonesia which is closer to Mindanao than to the Indonesian oil fields of Aceh.

Agriculture, because Mindanao where five million of our ten million Muslims live is the food basket of the entire Philippines. And we want to raise its production, processing and logistical capacities including the Halal food industry that we hope we can also service the whole Muslim world with including Saudi Arabia. And as Donald Dee, the president of the Philippine Chamber mentioned to me earlier, you also had some very promising talks regarding the investment in our Al Amanah Bank, our Islamic bank.

So these are so many things that we can do together, and I thank you for the occasion to address your esteemed council. The Philippine delegation and I hope to bring back to our country not only the fruits of economic cooperation on this visit but also memories of your hospitality, your generosity, your way of life, your dreams and aspirations as a great kingdom moving forward in the new millennium and we hope to be part of that moving forward.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Council of Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213827/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2786&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Riyadh

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Riyadh**

[Delivered at the Philippine Embassy grounds, Diplomatic Quarters, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, May 8, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas.

At hayaan niyong batiin ko yung ibat-ibang mga nasa entablado na kasama ko sa ating delegasyon dito sa ating state visit: una sa tanan, ang atong senadora, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago. Akon pag abi-abi sa iyang mga kasimanwa diri sa Saudi Arabia, maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan.

And from the House of Representatives: our congressman from the First District of Lanao Del Norte, Congressman Tikbong Badelles. Sa iyang mga kaigsuonan nga Bisaya, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan; Congressman from Lanao Del Sur, Congressman Benasing Macarambon. And to his Pagariya, Assalamu Alaikum!; Congressman from the Second District of Lanao Del Norte, Congressman Abdullah Dimaporo; Congressman mula sa Mandaluyong, Congressman Benhur Abalos; ing kanakung Cabalen, Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc from Pampanga. And to our Cabalens, mayap a bengi quecongan.

I would like to greet also our governors who are here: first of all, the governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Governor Zaldy Ampatuan; governor from the province of Lanao Del Norte, Governor Angging Dimaporo; governor of the province of Antique, Governor Sally Perez.

We have a whole number of Cabinet members with us: Secretary Peter Favila of Trade and Industry; Secretary Popo Lotilla of Energy; Press Secretary Toting Bunye; you already met earlier Secretary Cerge Remonde, the chairman of our broadcast channels, television channels; the head of my Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process, Jess Dureza; our Acting Secretary of Land Reform, Nasser Pangandaman; our chairman of the TESDA, Chairman Boboy Syjuco; nandito rin ang nag-aalaga sa marami sa mga overseas Filipinos dito, ang namumuno natin ng OWWA, si Nitoy Roque; at yung nagbigay ng welcome sa akin, pero tayo dapat mag welcome sa kanya, ang parating na bagong Ambassador natin sa Saudi Arabia, kung pumasa siya sa committee ni Senator Santiago sa Commission on Appointments, si Ambassador Tony Villamor.

Nandito rin ang ating mga officials ng Foreign Affairs sa pamumuno ni dating Ambassador ninyo dito, si Paeng Seguis at saka si... Ang nag-aalaga sa atin kung sakali magkaroon ng panganib, si Ambassador Roy Cimat at lahat ng mga officials ng DFA. Nandito rin ang ating business delegation mula sa Pilipinas. Hindi ko na babanggitin lahat ng pangalan nila pero can we ask them to stand and be acknowledged. Mga kasapi ng ating embahada, mga lider ng pamayanang Pilipino dito sa Saudi Arabia at sa Riyadh, mga kababayan, magandang gabi sa inyong lahat.

At salamat sa inyong paghintay sa akin at gaya nang alam ninyo ako ay napatungo dito sa Saudi Arabia bilang state visitor ng dakilang hari, yung Custodian of the Two Mosques.

I was welcomed with warmth and generous hospitality which has the mark of the deep importance given by Saudi Arabia to the Philippines.

The Kingdom has a clout in the world that will stretch forward through the millennium, at kayong higit na isang milyong Pilipino sa kaharian, malaki ang kontribusyon niyo sa impluwensya ng Saudi Arabia sa buong mundo.

Sa aking pakikipagkuwento sa dakilang hari ng Saudi Arabia at ibang mga official ng kanilang pamahalaan lagi kong pinagmamalaki ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino, at pati sila ipinagmamalaki kayo. Masayang-masaya sila sa magandang trabaho ng mga Pilipino dito sa Saudi.

Filipino workers play a major role in the economic and infrastructure development of the Kingdom. In every vital activity in this land-producing oil — saan dito yung mga nagtatrabaho natin sa mga oil industry? Salamat sa inyo — building cities — saan yung mga nasa construction industry natin? Thank you — laying out roads and power lines, taking care of the health of our people — ‘to yung mga nakaputi dito — nandiyan ang mga Pilipino.

Naalala ko kung papano nagsimula itong OFW phenomenon dito sa Saudi Arabia. Naalala ko nangyari yon nung unang petrodollar boom nung 1974, maraming Pilipinong construction company na kasali doon sa boom na yon kaya siyempre nagdala sila ng manggagawang Pilipino, nakita tuloy ang kagalingan ng Pilipino. Kaya pagkatapos noon dumami nang dumami hindi lang Philippine construction companies kung hindi na rin ibat-ibang mga kompaniya at ahensyang Arabo ay kumuha ng mga empleyadong Pilipino. Kaya isang milyon na kayo.

Our community here is the largest community of overseas contract workers. At kayo mga Filipino ngayon ang isa sa apat na pinakamalaking grupo ng OFW sa Saudi kasama ninyo yung mga taga-India, taga-Pakistan, taga-Ehipto. Ngunit ayon doon sa Cabinet in attendance na nag-aalaga sa akin sa lahat ng pinupuntahan ko, yung secretary of social welfare, ang kaibahan ng Pilipino doon sa ibang tatlo ay halos lahat ng Pilipino na narito, mga walong porsiyento nasa managerial at highly technical positions. At ayon naman doon sa mga negosyanteng kasama namin na mga negosyante nating Pilipino kaninang katanghalian, sabi nila, number one ang Pilipino sa kagalingan at kabaitan.

Kung merong petrodollar boom nung 1974, ngayon may mas malaki pang petrodollar boom dahil sa bagong pagtataas na naman ng presyo ng langis, higit na boom ito kaysa nung 1974. At kung noon nagboom sila at malaking construction ang ginawa lalo na ngayon marami silang petrodollars. Isang pinanukala ko dito sa aking pagbisita ay magtayo sila ng refinery, oil refinery sa Mindanao para yung ating mahihirap doon ay magkaroon ng ginhawa. Pero bukod doon, dito mismo sa Saudi malaki ang pagdagdag na pagkakataon na naman dahil magtatayo sila ng limang economic zones dito sa Saudi Arabia simula sa King Abdullah Economic City. At bawat isang economic city na ito ay mas malaki pa kaysa sa mga karatig bansa sa katabi nila, buong bansa, mas malaki ang bawat isa dito sa economic zone na ito. Kaya kung ano ang nangyari nung 1974, mahigit pa sa times 5 ang magiging boom. At dahil pinakita ninyo ang inyong kagalingan itong nakaraang tatlungpung taon mula nung 1970s, sinabi nila, sinabi ng hepe ng Saudi General Investment Authority na ang Pilipino ang kanilang preferred human resource sa malaking ekspansiyong ito.

Nagpapasalamat sila sa inyo, nagpapasalamat din ako sa inyo sa inyong remittances sa ating bansa dahil sa inyo lumakas ng husto ang ating piso. Meron tayong real estate boom dahil bumibili kayo ng mga tahanan at apartment para sa inyong mga kamag-anak. Nahawa na rin ang stock market sa real estate boom. Kanina yung isang negosyante linapitan ako sabi, “Congratulations! Mrs. President.” Dahil sa Manila ang ating report itong araw na ito, monday, pinakamalaking pagtaas ng stock market sa kasaysayan ng buong Pilipinas. At kanina nga ang ganda ng balita mula sa mga negosyante dito sa Saudi Arabia. Gustung-gusto nila mag-invest sa ating bansa — energy, tourism, information technology, mining, yung agriculture — at bakit? Kasi nakita nila kung gaano kagaling kayo, sabi nila, there must be more where you come from. Gusto nilang mag-invest ngayon dahil sa inyo. At nasisiyahan tayo na dadami ang investments ng Saudi Arabia sa Pilipinas.

Saudi Arabia is an important priority of our government. The Philippine government has three major foreign policy concerns here in Saudi Arabia: first, of course, the welfare of the Filipino workers; second, finding relief for the oil crisis that is adversely affecting the world including the low and middle-income oil importing countries like the

Philippines; and third, the ongoing peace process in Mindanao. Kaugnay ang Saudi Arabia sa ating peace process dahil tumutulong ang Saudi sa ating matatag na determinasyon na mahubog ng makatarungan at pangmatagalang kapayapaan sa Mindanao.

Sa aking foreign policy, merong walong punto. Pero hindi ko ikukuwento lahat sa inyo, dalawa lang ang babanggitin ko. Yung isa yung halaga ng mga bansang OIC gaya ng Saudi lalo na sa tulong ng ating peace process, at yung pangalawa ang pag-alaga sa ating mga Pilipino saan man sila naroroon. Kinikilala natin ang pangunahing papel ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino sa kaharian dito. At tayo ay narito upang ipahayag kung gaano kaimportante ang makatarungang pagtrato sa inyo lalo na yung mga humaharap sa mga kaso sa mga korte ng Saudi.

And we would like to assure those few Filipinos who have a problem with the law and their families of full legal support. Kaya kanina kausap ko si Nitoy Roque, sabi ko dapat paggastusan ng OWWA, kumuha tayo ng Arabong abogado para sa mga problema ng ating manggagawang Pilipino.

Kagabi nagpasalamat ako sa kanilang dakilang hari dahil mula nung nag-umpisa itong taon hanggang ngayon, mga apat at kalahating buwan, nagpatawad na sila sa isang daang Pilipinong nasa preso. Tapos sabi ko kagabi, sana, sabi ko, pag-uwi ko pwede akong magdala ng limampu pa. Kanina yung pinanggalingan kong dinner ng Crown Prince, lumapit sa akin yung Minister of the Interior. Sabi niya, tungkol duon sa sinabi niyong sana meron pang limampung dagdag na pwedeng umuwi kasama ko or sabay ko, sabi niya, hindi kami nagpalaya ng limampu, nagpalaya kami ng 138.

Sa aking pagpunta dito sa Saudi Arabia talagang isang pakay ang nangingibabaw sa lahat at yan ay ang pagsiguro sa inyong kaligtasan at mabuting kalagayan dito sa bansang Saudi Arabia.

Gusto kong ipaalam sa inyong lahat na maaasahan niyo ang aking administrasyon — nandiyan si Pat, nandiyan si Nitoy, nandiyan ang ating mga embassy personnel — na patuloy na pangangalagaan ang inyong kapakanan. Anumang plano ang ating binabalak sa ikagiginhawa ng bansang Pilipinas o para sa ikabubuti ng ating Foreign Affairs, ang pangangailangan ninyo mga overseas Filipinos ay nararapat lamang bigyan pansin at halaga.

Ang agenda ng taong-bayang Pilipino, ang agenda ko dito sa state visit lahat para sa Causa ng malakas na ekonomiya, sa pamamahalang matatag ang presyo ng langis, pangmatagalang kapayapaan, at higit sa lahat ang kapakanan at kinabubuti ng ating manggagawa sa Pilipinas at sa ibayong dagat.

Kaya sa inyong lahat — pinakamalaking overseas workers community sa buong mundo ng Pilipino, pinakamagaling na mga overseas workers dito sa Saudi Arabia, pinakamagaling na Ambassador of Goodwill kaya naaliw mag-invest ang mga taga-Saudi sa ating bansa dahil nakita na nila ang advertisement na binibigay ninyo — sa inyong lahat, maraming maraming salamat sa inyong pagmamahal sa ating bansa at mabuhay kayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Riyadh. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213816/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2788&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Luncheon Meeting with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Luncheon Meeting with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

[Delivered at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce Bldg. Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, May 9, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Peter Favila, our Minister of Trade and Industry.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Philippine delegation, members of the Jeddah Business Community, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalaamu allaikum!

I'm deeply honored to be here today, and to be here in Saudi Arabia to begin with, making this state visit. We are here in Saudi Arabia and now in Jeddah in the name of peace and common prosperity and security of our respective nations and peoples.

I've come here to acknowledge and reminisce the years that Saudi Arabia and the Philippines have spent in a lasting partnership for peace and development.

Saudi Arabia has stood by the Philippines, the side of the Philippines for peace and development. And as you very well know, being the movers and shakers of the Saudi business community, more than one million overseas Filipinos help build your economy. The relationship is both reciprocal and synergistic.

And we are very happy about the accession of His Majesty, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. And also, we would like to congratulate the business community of Saudi Arabia on your accession last December to the World Trade Organization. This is one of the reasons why it's a good time for us to be here in Saudi Arabia. With your accession to the World Trade Organization, the Philippines feels inspired and buoyed by the challenge of more fruitful participation in the continued affluence of your kingdom and its people.

The Philippines sells consumer products to Saudi Arabia and buys a lot of oil. The trade is 20:1, the trade balance is 20 to 1 in favor of Saudi Arabia. And while Mr. Chairman has said that you would like to buy industrial goods from us, we thank you for giving us the tip, and the business community will look for the industrial goods that we should be selling to you. But we would also like to bring in more garments, more fresh and processed foods, more marine products, more tropical fruits — we're already selling a lot of bananas and pineapples to you — more consumer manufactures such as furniture and furnishings, beauty products and consumer electronics as well as products catering to the over one million Filipinos in the gulf states. One million here plus half a million in other gulf states because those Filipinos by themselves already constitute a major market.

You know the Filipino workers. They had been here in the kingdom for the past 30 years. You know the quality of the great Filipino worker. Many of you remember how they first came here during the first petrodollar boom of the 1970s. And now that there is a new petrodollar boom, we hope that the ongoing expansion of the various sectors of

the Saudi economy, including oil and gas and basic infrastructure will again present an opportunity for the Philippine construction companies who were once very active in Saudi Arabia to be back particularly in the fields of engineering, construction and engineering-related I.T.-enabled services.

When the Philippine construction companies came in the last 30 years, you saw the quality of the great Filipino worker and therefore the Saudi companies kept hiring more and more Filipinos. But somehow the construction companies themselves sort of faded from the Saudi scene. Now with this great new developments in oil and gas, and then the new economic zones, I hope that this Philippine construction companies will be back again in Saudi Arabia. That is as far as activities here in Saudi Arabia are concerned.

But I know that even as you're investing very heavily in Saudi Arabia, you're also investing very heavily all over the world. And it is as just as it should be because in this day and age with the current volatility of world oil prices, we know that the Saudi business community has a lot... Has billions of petrodollars, billions of profits of trade, and we hope that you can recycle these billions of petrodollars and profits from the oil trade in the form of equity investments in middle-income and low-income oil importing countries.

The Philippines is a middle-income oil importing country. And we hope to be able to benefit from the investment of Saudi petrodollars in our country particularly because we like to think that the Filipinos, our great Filipino workers are contributing to the development, to the further development of the Saudi economy and making a valuable contribution to this economy. You see how good they are. There are more of them in the Philippines. So when you bring your petrodollars to invest in the Philippines, you will also be able to benefit from the competent and hardwork of the great Filipino workers.

Chairman talked about the business ethic and the business environment in both our countries. Both our countries are extremely business-friendly. And it is a good time, as it is a good time for me to come here because of the WTO and the petrodollars, it's also a good time for you to bring your investments to the Philippines.

The Philippines is on the verge of economic take off. Our momentum is steady despite the hikes in the oil prices because we had been able to work very hard in the last few years to manage our fiscal deficit as a result of which our target for balancing the budget is about two years ahead in accomplishment, two years ahead of our medium-term Philippine development plan. And as a result of that the Philippine peso and the Philippine Stock Exchange are outperforming most Asian currencies and markets. In fact yesterday, our businessmen gave me the good news that yesterday's stock market increase in the Philippines was the biggest single day increase in the whole history of our country.

So, we are a country poised to absorb Saudi investments. Where? First of all, you are an energy power, so in our energy; second, I've seen great interest in our tourism industry; and then there is mining, information technology, agriculture, and banking and finance.

We are promoting fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful and which can use our most competitive resource, a resource you are very familiar with, the great Filipino worker. And these resources are very competitive in industries such as information technology and tourism, and this is the reason why we are a very attractive investment site today for information technology and tourism.

Opportunities also lie in the energy sector, particularly we hope that there will be Saudi investment in an oil refinery in Mindanao in Southern Philippines, where half of our ten million Muslims live. Our government formally invited ARAMCO in December of 2005 to set up this oil refinery in Mindanao for the American west coast market as well as for the East Indonesian market. Because East Indonesia is closer to Mindanao than it is to the Indonesian oil fields of Aceh.

The mining sector is also open for business. The country's total mineral reserves are valued at one trillion dollars making us — with the fifth biggest mineral deposits in the world — number five in gold, number nine in copper, and 20 percent of the world's nickel deposits.

We also invite Saudi Arabia to explore build-operate-transfer projects, particularly those that would raise the production, processing and logistical capacities of Mindanao's agricultural industries, especially the Halal food industry. And we've talked earlier about tourism because the Philippine tourism industry is just bursting at the seams. Our tourism is booming. We don't have enough hotel rooms and resort rooms anymore. So, we hope you can come and help us put that up.

We talked about where the tourism industry should be located or the investments with eight major destinations identified for us by a study done by McKinsey and company where tourists like to go and where surely investments in tourism facilities will be very attractive. One of these areas is in Clark-Subic, the Clark-Subic economic corridor. And I see that some of you already have your brochures on the Clark-Subic area as a gateway.

Banking, I mentioned because we have in our country an Islamic bank, the Al Amanah Bank. But inasmuch as we recognize that we are not so experienced in Islamic banking, we're very realistic about it and we want to privatize our Al Amanah Bank, and we invite bankers from Saudi Arabia to take a look at that opportunity.

Indeed, with all of these various opportunities, both with Saudi investments in the Philippines, with Philippine companies coming here to participate in your construction and oil boom, with our overseas Filipinos continuing to help the Saudi economy and to help the Philippine economy through your Saudi investments, I would like to say that the Philippines is privileged to be your companion in a journey toward greater peace and prosperity for the whole world including the middle east and southeast Asia.

Today is our third day in Saudi Arabia. And I am very happy to be here in Jeddah where the heart of commerce and industry is.

And tomorrow, when we go back to the Philippines after a trip to the eastern province, I know that we will bring back memories of your hospitality and generosity. But we will bring back memories of your way of life. So many aspects of Arabic culture have found their way into Philippine culture, and that is why we who are cultural brothers or maybe I should call the Philippines your cultural grandchild, should have more economic ties with each others.

We will bring back to the Philippines your dreams and aspirations. The King Abdullah economic city is a great symbol of your dreams and aspirations for continued economic leadership well into the new millennium. And we will bring back with us those memories not only the opportunities that those memories will bring with us but also the memories of a great kingdom moving forward in the new millennium.

As we say in the Philippines, mabuhay ang Saudi Arabia! Mabuhay ang Jeddah! Long live Saudi Arabia! Long live Jeddah! Long live the ties between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia!

Thank you.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Luncheon Meeting with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213347/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2783&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Dammam

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Dammam

[Delivered at the Ay-Mawad Ballroom, Le Meridien Hotel, Al-Khobar Dammam, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, May 9, 2006]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Naririnig ba ninyo ako? Okay. Oo, puwede na kayong umupo.

Hayaan ho niyo akong magsimula sa paraan na ipakilala yung aking mga kasama dito sa entablado na narito lahat para magbisita sa inyo. Unang-una yung superstar ng senado, si Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago; meron tayong limang congressman na kasama ngayong gabi: mula sa Lanao, si Congressman Tikbong Badelles, si Congressman Jun Macarambon, si Congressman Bobby Dimaporo; mula sa Mandaluyong, si Congressman Benhur Abalos; manibat qing probinsya ko in Pampanga, ing Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc.

Nandito rin ang gobernador ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Governor Zaldy Ampatuan. Ay! Wala siya. Hindi na siya sumama sa atin dito? Kasi nakikipag-meeting siya sa Organization of the Islamic Conference kaya hindi nakahabol. Ngunit meron naman tayong dalawang provincial governors: Gobernadora ng Lanao del Norte, si Angging Dimaporo; Gobernadora ng Antique, si Sally Perez.

Mula sa Cabinet: nandito ang ating Secretary of Trade and Industry, Peter Favila; nakilala na ninyo si Pat Sto. Tomas, hindi ko na papakilala; ang ating Secretary naman ng Energy, si Popo Lotilla; Press Secretary, si Toting Bunye; uy! Nasaan si Toting? Inaayos niya yung ating coverage kasi Press Secretary; ang chairman ng National Broadcasting Network, si Secretary Cerge Remonde. Wala rin? Ay! Mukhang yung mga media natin ay inaayos yung ating coverage. Okay, wala rin siya dito; ang ating Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process, Jess Dureza. Ay nagkasama yung tatlo, so siguro on the way pa sila.

Nandito rin yung ating special envoy sa ating preparedness team for the Middle East, si Ambassador Roy Cimat; we have with us yung nag-aalaga sa inyo, tumutulong kay Pat Sto. Tomas, ang namumuno ng OWWA, si Nitoy Roque; and virtually a member of the Philippine community, he has done some... Prepared some very good meetings for the members of our party, the Saudi ambassador to the Philippines, Ambassador Wali; at kanina yung kanyang maiden appearance, nagdiskurso sa inyo, kung siya ay papasa sa komite ni Senator Miriam Santiago sa Commission on Appointments, siya ang magiging susunod na ambassador dito sa Saudi Arabia, si Ambassador Tony Villamor. Bakit siya ang napiling ambassador sa Saudi Arabia? Ayon kay Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas at yung ibang DFA officials na nagnominate sa kanya, kasi ang track record niya sa Hong Kong sa pag-alaga ng overseas Filipino workers ay napakaganda. So, aalagaan niya kayo.

Sa inyong lahat, mga kaibigan, magandang gabi. Karing cabaleng kong capampangan mayap a bengi no karing... Dagiti kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga rabii yo amin. O nagado nga ilocano idtoy. O, saan si Paeng? Ayun! Sa kabila, yung dating ambassador ninyo, ambassador to Saudi Arabia dati, undersecretary ngayon ng foreign affairs, si Paeng Seguis. At kahit na wala na siya noon sa Saudi Arabia kapag may problema tayong OFW dito sa Middle East, kahit na pasko, valentine's day, kahit na walong buwan, nandito si Paeng Seguis sa Middle East para mag-alaga at magsagip sa inyo.

Nabanggit ko ang aking pagbabati sa inyo at... Oh, sabi ni Pat Sto. Tomas — sa aton mga kaigsuonan gikan sa Bisayas ug Mindanao, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan. Sa mga kasimanwa ni Senator Santiago, maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan. Meron bang mga bicolano dito? Dios marhay nga bangi sa indo gabos. To our muslim brothers, assalaamu alaikum pagariya — ang sarap naman ng inyong pagtanggap sa amin, maraming salamat. So warm.

Itong araw na ito nagising kami sa Riyadh, nananghalian sa Jeddah, naghapunan sa Shieba, at ngayon ang nightcap ang Filipino community dito sa Al-Khobar. Ang saya-saya.

When we arrived in Riyadh two days ago, we were welcomed with warmth and generous hospitality by no less than his majesty, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. A mark of the deep importance given by Saudi Arabia to the Philippines and you, the Filipinos in his kingdom.

The kingdom has a clout in the world that shall stretch forward to the millennium at ang higit na isang milyong Pilipinong narito sa kaharian ay may kontribusyon sa impluwensiyang ito. Kasi naman papano sila naging napakalaking oil power kung wala naman yung mga Pilipinong kagaya ng mga Pilipino sa eastern province na nagtratrabao sa kanilang oil and gas fields and related businesses.

Kaya naman sa aking pagkekuwento sa dakilang hari at ibang mataas na opisyal ng pamahalaan ng Saudi lagi kong ipinagmamalaki ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. Pero siguro aasahan naman niyo sa akin yon. Ang mas magandang balita ko sa inyo yung mga taga-Saudi pang opisyaales sila rin laging pinagmamalaki kayo. Kinikilala nila ang malaking papel ninyo sa pag-unlad ng ekonomiya at imprastruktura ng kaharian. Sa bawat importanteng gawain maging sa center sa Riyadh, sa west sa Jeddah, sa east dito sa Shieba at Al-Khobar, sa lahat ng gawaing importante dito, sino nagpro-produce ng oil? Mga manggagawang Pilipino. Doon sa Jumail City... Juvail, alam niyo kasi sino ang nagtayo? Pilipino rin. Yung paglatag ng mga kalsada, mga linya ng kuryente, sino nagtayo? Pilipino. Yung mga nag-aalaga ng kalusugan, yung nag medical mission diyaan kanina, sino ang pinaka well and demanded na mga nurses dito sa Saudi Arabia? Mga Pilipino.

Sino ang general manager ng Meridien Hotel sa Al-Khobar? Pilipino. Oh, Mr. Sandoval, please stand up and be recognized. Okey. Batang-bata pa si Mr. Sandoval hindi pa niya siguro... Hindi pa siguro siya panganak nung nagsimula itong phenomenon ng OFW dito. Pero ako panganak na ako noon kaya maikekuwento ko sa ilan sa inyo. Panahon noon nung unang petrodollar boom, 1974, dahil tinatayo yung mga oil fields — thank you, thank you. Uy! Salamat kaya tuloy nanalo ako dito sa Saudi nung nakaraang halalan, thank you. Wala pa kayo nung 1974, ano? Wala pa.

Noong 1974, yung unang mga pumunta dito mga company, construction company dahil may construction boom sa oil and gas fields sa mga bagong city. Pero siyempre Filipino construction company, dala ang mga Filipino construction workers. Nakita ng mga taga-Saudi ang galing-galing pala kaya sila na mismong mga company ng Saudi, sila na mismo ang nag-hire ng Pilipino. Mga ahensya ng pamahalaan, sila na mismo ang kumuha ng mga manggagawang Pilipino hanggang sa ngayon isang milyong mahigit na ang Pilipino dito sa bansang Saudi Arabia.

Itong grupo ninyo, itong isang milyong Pilipino mahigit sa Saudi Arabia ang pinakamalaking overseas contract worker community ng Pilipinas sa buong mundo. Ang dami-dami, padami nang padami ang Pilipino, at sa aking paglibot sa Riyadh, sa Jeddah, sa Shieba at dito nakikita ko ang dami pa nilang hinahanap na Filipino workers.

Kaya naman napakaimportante ang Saudi Arabia sa foreign policy ng ating pamahalaan. Ang foreign policy natin sa aking administrasyon ay may walong punto — hindi ko na ikekuwento yung walong punto dahil mahaba yon — ngunit babanggitin ko ang tatlong bagay nitong foreign policy na ito na malaki ang kinalaman dito sa Saudi Arabia:

Una sa lahat, ang halaga ng bansang O.I.C. — na ang headquarters nga ay nandito sa Saudi — sa matatag na determinasyon ng ating pamahalaan na mahubog na makatarungan at pangmatagalang kapayapaan sa Mindanao. Kaya nga si Zaldy Ampatuan, ang governor ng Autonomous Region, ang kanyang pakay talaga doon sa Jeddah ay makipag-usap sa O.I.C.; pangalawa, ang economic diplomacy. At napakaimportante ang economic diplomacy natin ngayon dito sa Saudi. Malaki ang kinalaman sa paghanap ng ginhawa sa krisis ng langis na may masamang epekto

sa buong mundo kasama na ang Pilipinas; at pangatlo, siyempre ang kapakanan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino.

Ako'y nasisiyahan na makapunta rito ngayon. Ilang beses na akong nagpunta sa Saudi. The first time, turista, Jeddah. The second time, senador, Jeddah and Riyadh. Ngayon bilang pangulo kailangan pumunta ako lalo na sa panahong ito, kailangang pumunta ako sa sentro ng industriya ng oil and gas dito sa buong mundo walang iba kung hindi ang Al-Khobar. Napakaimportante ito.

At kanina nung ako ay sumasakay sa eroplano ng Saudi Aramco mula sa Jeddah patungo sa Shieba, si Secretary Lotilla at saka si Secretary Sto. Tomas pinakita nila sa akin ang mensahe mula sa Minister of Oil, at ano ang sabi ng oil minister? He conveyed his assurances that in an unlikely event of a destruction in the Philippine oil supply from other sources, Saudi Arabia is prepared to make up for shortfalls.

Una sa lahat, dahil may investment sila sa Pilipinas, yung Petron. At pangalawa, alang-alang naman sa — Al-Khobar at doon lamang sa Saudi Aramco tatlong libo na ang nagtratrabaho sa payroll sa mga kontratista nila sa alam nila 50,000 at sa buong multiplier effect dito sa eastern province 400,000 — siyempre naman alang-alang sa inyo, sa kanilang investments sa Pilipinas, at ang ating pagbisita at pakikipag-ugnay dito sa dakilang hari ng Saudi Arabia, siyempre naman ay hindi nila papabayaan ang Pilipinas.

Isa kayo sa apat na pinakamalaking grupo ng overseas workers dito sa Saudi. Yung tatlo: India, Pakistan, Ehipto. Ang nagsabi sa akin ng mga statistics na ito ay yung kanilang Minister of Social Welfare dahil siya yung aking Cabinet-in-attendance, yung escort ko kung saan-saan ako pumunta doon sa Riyadh. Ang dagdag naman ng minister na yon, ang kaibahan ng Pilipino sa ibang mga overseas workers community ay halos lahat ng Pilipino, mga walumpung porsiyento ay nasa managerial at technical positions. Yon ang kuwento sa akin sa Riyadh. Pagpunta ko sa Jeddah may dinagdag yung mga negosyanteng arabo na kasama sa tanghalian, sabi nila, number one ang Pilipino sa kagalingan at kabaitan.

Doon sa malapit sa Jeddah meron ding bagong petrodollar boom, mas malaki pa kaysa sa petrodollar boom nung 1974. Ano ito? Yung pagtayo ng King Abdullah Economic City na ilang beses mas malaki pa kaysa sa Juvail at mas malaki pa kaysa doon sa mga bansang nakapaligid dito. At isa lang yon, meron pang apat na economic zone na gagawin sila, bawat isa mas malaki kaysa sa ibang bansa na nakapaligid sa kanila. At ito ay kung meron sa inyong — kaya lang ang babata ninyo lahat —kung may nakakaalala sa inyo yung boom nung 1974, ito ay many times bigger than that boom. At ayon sa pinuno ng Saudi Arabia General Investment Authority na kausap ko sa briefing kahapon dito sa boom na ito, ang Pilipino ang kanilang preferred human resource.

Matataas ang kita ng mga Pilipino dito sa Saudi Arabia, kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa pinapadala niyong remittances sa ating bansa. Dahil sa inyo, ang lakas-lakas ng ating piso ngayon. Dahil sa inyo, ang lakas-lakas ng ating real estate. Bumibili kayo ng mga bahay para sa inyong mga kamag-anak kaya lumalakas ang ating real estate. At ito ay talagang binibigyan ng pag-iisip ang mga official ng mga pinunong bansa papano kayo matulungan dito.

Sa aking pagpulong sa mga leader ng kaharian, laging pinag-uusapan namin kung gaano ka importante ang makatarungang pagtrato, makatarungang pagtrato sa inyo lalo na yung ilang mga humaharap sa mga kaso sa korte sa Saudi. Ang magagawa lamang namin ay isigurado sa kanila at mga pamilya nila ang buong suporta, full legal support. Kaya inatasan ko si Nitoy Roque ng OWWA na kumuha ng abogadong Arabo para ipagtanggol ang mga Pilipinong may kaso.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa mga official ng Saudi kasi nung unang pupunta ako dito sana, di ba Pat? Kasi pupunta sana ako dito nung earlier. Actually, ilang beses na kasi na-postpone ito. At meron silang mga pinatawad na mga nasa preso, mga isang daan. Eh na-postpone yung biyahe, sabi ko, huwag naman nating i-postpone yung kanilang release. So, ri-nelease na sila over the last four months. Pagpunta ko doon sa... Pagbisita sa dakilang hari, nagpasalamat ako. Tapos sabi ko, kung pwede humingi ako... Humingi ako na kung pwede dagdagan pa ng limampu.

Kagabi naman sa dinner na binigay ng Crown Prince dumating yung sagot. Sabi nila hindi sila magpapalaya ng limampu, magpapalaya sila ng 138. At itong mga 138 hindi mga minor offenses lamang, mga major offenses, yung

may dalang blood money, pero pati yung blood money ay hindi na raw kailangang bayaran. Pagdating ko sa Jeddah kwenento ko yon, pagkatapos ng aking diskurso linapitan ako ni Ambassador Wali, sabi niya hindi magpapalaya ng 138, magpapalaya ng mahigit 200. Kasi pala mula nung pagpupulong two nights ago, overtime nagtrabaho yung mga official ng kanilang pamahalaan, hinahanap kung nasaan-saan sa ibat-ibang preso yung mga Pilipino kaya hinahabol para kung matapos ang papeles nila, bukas pag-uwi ko uuwi na rin sila.

Ako ay nasisiyahan sa regalong ito dahil sa aking pagpunta dito sa Saudi isang pakay ang nangingibabaw sa lahat at yan ay pagseguro sa inyong kaligtasan at mabuting kalagayan dito sa kaharian ng Saudi Arabia.

Maasahan ninyo ang aking administrasyon. Maasahan niyo si Pat Sto. Tomas. Maasahan ninyo si Nitoy Roque. Maasahan ninyo ang embahada na patuloy na pangangalagaan ang inyong kapakanan. Anumang plano ang ating binabalak sa kinagiginhawa ng bansang Pilipinas o para sa kinabubuti ng ating foreign affairs, ang pangangailangan ninyo na ating mga overseas filipino workers ay laging bibigyan ng pansin at halaga.

Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan sa pagkakataon na makapagbisita dito nga sa sentro ng oil and gas industry sa buong mundo para makilala ko yung mga manggagawa, dakilang manggagawang Pilipino na nagpapatakbo, gumagawa ng mahihirap na technical work, at nagbibigay ng iba't-ibang mga serbisyo dito sa oil and gas industry and related services including health services, hotel services na Pilipino. Pagpunta ko rito nung nakilala ko yung general manager, tapos nakita ko kayo lahat, sabi ko, ang galing-galing ng Pilipino. Kaya naman sa pagbisita namin sa Council of Chambers of Commerce doon sa Riyadh, sa pagbisita namin sa Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, sa pagpupulong sa ilang mga indibidwal na malalaking mga negosyante talagang handang-handa sila mag-invest sa Pilipinas. Bakit? Kasi kinikilala nila kung ganun kagaling ang Pilipino na nandito sa Saudi Arabia, there must be more where you came from.

Kaya narito kami para ipaalam sa kanila kung saan sila dapat mag-invest — tourism, oil refinery, agriculture, information technology, mining, banking — pero ang pinaka come on doon kung bakit sila sumasagot ng oo sa aming pag-alok ay kayo. Kaya sa ibabaw ng remittance ninyo, sa ibabaw ng magandang reputasyon na binibigay ninyo, siguro dapat magpasalamat din kayo kasi kayo ang pinakamagaling na investment promoters at embahador ng Pilipinas sa Saudi Arabia.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Dammam. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213754/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2781&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Jeddah Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Jeddah

[Delivered at the Al Fayrouz Ballroom, Le Meridien Hotel Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, May 9, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Gusto kong batiin kayong lahat — puwede na kayong umupo — gusto kong batiin ang ating mga opisyal ng konsulado dito sa Jeddah sa pamumuno ni Consul General Lomondot. At gusto kong ipakilala sa inyo bagama't may ilang kilala na kayo, ang mga kasapi ng aking delegasyon. Unang-una, nakita ko ang dami niyang tagahanga sa pagpasok niya dito, si Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago; nakita ko kanina — 'Lanao loves GMA — eh, meron tayong mga taga-Lanao dito sa entablado: si Congressman Jun Macarambon, si Congressman Abdullah Dimaporo, si Congressman Tikbong Badelles, at saka si Gobernadora Angging Dimaporo; siyempre, meron din tayong mga taga-labas ng Lanao, ang ating congressman mula sa Mandaluyong, si Benhur Abalos; qing canakong Cabalen manibat Pampanga, Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc; at galing doon sa Antique, si Gobernador Sally Perez.

Panahon na rin siguro ipakilala ko sa inyo yung palagay kong susunod na ambahador natin dito sa Saudi kung papasa siya sa komite ni Senator Santiago sa Commission on Appointments. Si Ambassador Tony Villamor. Marami rin tayong mga opisyal na narito mula sa Pilipinas, sa aking Cabinet at ibang mga senior officials maliban pa kay Secretary Sto. Tomas. Nandito ang ating pinuno ng Trade and Industry, si Peter Favila; ang ating namumuno naman sa Energy, si Secretary Popo Lotilla; ang Press Secretary natin, si Toting Bunye. Marami yatang taga-Muntinlupa dito, ah; at ang nagbukas ng NBN Saudi — kasama ba ang Jeddah? — si... Ang ating chairman ng NBN, si Secretary Cerge Remonde; ang ating isa pang taga-Lanao, Secretary ng Agrarian Reform, si Secretary Nasser Pangandaman; nandito ba sa ating entablado ang ating special envoy na nag-aalaga sa inyo kapag may panganib dito sa rehiyong ito? Si Special Envoy Ambassador Roy Cimat. Mukhang kilalang-kilala niyo si Roy, ano? Panahon ng panganib magkasama ngayon, so far. Hope to God, panahon ng peacetime .

At sa inyong lahat, mga kababayan ko dito sa Jeddah, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat. Adda ilocano idtoy? Naimbag a bigat yo amin; cabalen kong capampangan, mayap aba quecongan; sa mga taga-Visayas ug Mindanao, maayong buntag kaninyong tanan; sa mga kasimanwa ni Senator Santiago, maayong aga sa inyo nga tanan; our Muslim brothers assalamu alaikom; kung merong Bicolano, marhay nga aga sa indo gabos; at sa lahat sa inyo, good morning and thank you for coming here to meet with me today.

Salamat sa inyong mainit na pagtanggap sa aking delegasyon at sa inyong lingkod. Sabi nga ng mga congressmen dito sa harap, ang init-init ng inyong pagtanggap sa amin. Salamat sa pagpapakita niyong pagmamahal. Gusto ko ring ipaabot sa inyo ang magandang balita na ganun din kainit ang pagtanggap ng mga opisyal ng Saudi Arabia nung kami ay pumunta sa Riyadh.

Indeed, I was welcomed with warmth and generous hospitality, and they only show how deeply important, what deep importance Saudi Arabia gives to the Philippines and the Filipinos. Napakalaking karangalan para sa akin, para sa ating delegasyon yung ganung klaseng pagtanggap mula sa mga opisyal ng Saudi Arabia mula sa kanilang kadakilaang hari, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. The kingdom has a clout in the world that shall stretch forward through the millennium at ang higit na isang milyong Pilipino na kinakatawan ninyo ngayon dito sa kaharian ay may kontribusyon sa impluwensiya ng Saudi Arabia dahil malaki kayong ginagawa sa kanilang kaunlaran.

Sa aking pakikipagkwentuhan sa dakilang hari, His Majesty at sa ibang mga matataas na opisyal at kasapi ng royal family, lagi kong pinagmamalaki ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. Ngunit ang mas masaya doon, sila rin, lagi nilang pinagmamalaki ang manggagawang Pilipino. Talagang malaki ang papel ng manggagawang Pilipino sa pag-unlad ng ekonomiya at imprastruktura ng kaharian. Sa bawat importanteng gawain sa bansang ito — producing oil,

pagtayo ng mga lungsod, paglatag ng mga kalsada at linya ng kuryente, pag-alaga sa kalusugan — nariyan ang mga Pilipino.

Naalala ko pa kung papano nagsimula itong ofw phenomenon sa Saudi. Yung unang petrodollar boom nong 1974. Siguro, marami sa inyo hindi pa pinanganak noon, noong unang petrodollar boom. Maraming Pilipinong construction company ay nakakuha ng mga kontrata nung panahong yon, dala ang kanilang mga manggagawa. Sa construction. Sa kagalingang pinakita ng manggagawang Pilipino pagkatapos noon, parami nang parami ang dumating dahil mismong mga kompanya at ahensiya ng Saudi na ay nag-arkila ng maraming manggagawang Pilipino sa iba't-ibang larangan ng hanapbuhay at ngayon mahigit isang milyon na kayo rito, pinakamalaking grupo ng overseas filipino worker sa buong mundo.

Kaya naman napaka-importante ang Saudi Arabia sa foreign policy ng ating pamahalaan. Ang aking foreign policy ay may walong punto. Kaya lang masyadong mahaba kung ikukwento ko sa inyo lahat ng walong punto. Babanggitin ko na lamang ang tatlo na may malaking kinalaman dito sa Saudi:

Una, ang halaga ng mga bansang O.I.C. gaya ng Saudi sa matatag na determinasyon ng ating pamahalaang maghubog ng makatarungan at pangmatagalang kapayapaan sa Mindanao. Malaki ang tulong nila sa atin dito.

Pangawala, ang economic diplomacy na malaki ang kinalaman sa mga araw na ito sa paghanap ng ginhawa sa krisis ng langis na may masamang epekto sa buong mundo, kasama na rin ang Pilipinas.

At pangatlo, ang kapakanan siyempre ng manggagawang Pilipino.

At tungkol sa problema ng langis — oh, I'd like to acknowledge Ambassador Wali, the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the Philippines — tungkol sa langis, i'm very happy to announce that the oil minister of Saudi Arabia has conveyed his assurances to me that in an unlikely event of a disruption in the Philippines' oil supply from other sources, Saudi Arabia is prepared to make up for the shortfalls.

Yon namang tungkol sa inyo mga manggagawang Pilipino, kuwento sa akin ng social welfare minister kahapon, social welfare minister ng Saudi Arabia, na isa kayo sa pinakamalaking grupong overseas workers, na apat na pinakamalaking grupong overseas workers dito sa Saudi, kasama yung mga taga-India, taga-Pakistan, taga- Ehipto. Ngunit ayon din sa kanya, yung social welfare minister ng Saudi, dagdag niya na ang kaibahan ng Pilipino sa Saudi doon sa tatlo ay halos lahat ng Pilipino dito, mga walumpung porsiyento ay nasa managerial at technical positions. Dagdag pa ng mga negosyanteng arabo na kasama namin sa tanghalian kahapon, para sa kanila, sa kagalingan at kabaitan, number one ang Pilipino.

Kaya naman tuloy sa bagong petrodollar boom na nangyayari ngayon, na mas malaki pa kaysa sa boom noong 1974, sabi ko nga, sa pagtayo ng mga bagong lungsod, nandiyan ang Pilipino, ngayon may limang bagong lungsod itatayo ang gobyerno ng Saudi Arabia. Unang-una doon yung King Abdullah Economic City. Mga siguro — gaano katagal, forty miles lang mula dito — malapit sa Jeddah, apat na iba pang economic zone. Bawat isa sa mga lungsod na ito ay mas malaki kaysa sa buong bansa ng mga karatig-bansa ng Saudi, ganun kalaki ang mga oportunidad muli. At ayon sa pinuno ng Saudi Arabia general investment authority na siyang namamahala dito, ang kanilang preferred human resource dito sa trillion dollar investments ay walang iba kungdi ang mga Pilipino.

Salamat sa magandang pangalan na nabibigay niyo sa Pilipinas sa inyong magandang trabaho. Salamat din sa pinapadala ninyong remittances sa ating bansa. Dahil sa inyo, record ang remittances itong nakaraang taon. Lumakas ng husto ang ating piso at mayroon pa tayong real estate boom dahil bumibili kayo ng mga bahay at apartment para sa inyong mga kamag-anak.

Sa aking pagpupulong sa mga lider ng kaharian, laging pinag-uusapan namin kung gaano kaimportante na magkaroon ng makatarungang pagtrato sa inyo, lalo na yung ilang mga humaharap sa mga kaso sa mga korte ng Saudi. And we want to assure those who are facing cases in Saudi courts, we want to assure them and their families of full legal support. Kaya inatasan ko ang DOLE at OWWA, inatasan ko ang OWWA na kumuha ng abogado, abogadong arabo para ipagtanggol ang mga Pilipinong may kaso.

Kanina, binanggit ni Consul General Lomondot yung pahayag sa kanya ng mga pinalayang mga preso dito, walo sa Jeddah at saka yung mga ipapauwi na nandoon sa OWWA center, yung mga runaway. Nagpapasalamat ako sa mga opisyal ng Saudi sa kanilang pagpatawad. Itong walong ito ay sumunod pa doon sa isangdaan na na pinatawaran nila over the past four months. At nung ako ay nakipagpulong sa kanilang dakilang hari, ang Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, humingi ako ng pagpalaya ng limampu pa.

Kagabi, dumating ang sagot doon sa aking dinner doon sa bahay ng kanilang Crown Prince. Hindi sila magpapalaya ng limampu, magpapalaya sila ng 138 at kasama yung walo dito sa Jeddah. Hindi pa kasama yung 79 na ire-patriate na nandoon sa welfare house. At isa pa, itong 138 na ito, hindi ito mga minor offenses lamang, marami dito mga major offenses din, at doon sa mga may major offenses, pati blood money ay hindi na kailangang bayaran. Ito ang pinakamagandang regalo na maiuwi natin sa Pilipinas dahil sinisikap... Ginagawa ngayon ng paper work para sinisikap na makasabay silang makauwi pag-uwi namin bukas.

Sa aking pagpunta dito sa Saudi Arabia, isang pakay ang nangingibabaw sa lahat, at yan ay pagsiguro ng inyong kaligtasan at mabuting kalagayan dito sa bansang Saudi Arabia. Maaasahan ninyo ang ating administrasyon, si Secretary Pat Santo Tomas at kaniyang mga kasama sa labor department na patuloy na pangangalagaan ang inyong kapakanan. Anumang plano ang ating binabalak para sa ginhawa ng bansang Pilipinas o para sa kinabubuti ng ating foreign policy or foreign affairs, ang pangangalaga ninyo bilang overseas Filipino workers, bilang Pilipino ay laging bibigyan ng pansin at halaga.

That's the least we can do, not only because you are Filipinos and that's reason enough to serve you, but because you are such a good representative of the Philippines, you are such good citizens. You help us so much not only by helping the country in which you are staying but by sending your remittances. Kayo ang pinakamagaling na ambassador ng Pilipinas sa buong mundo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong malasakit sa ating bansa. Mabuhay ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino sa Saudi Arabia!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Jeddah. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213803/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2779&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Grand Opening of the Largest Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)
Center of Teletech Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Grand Opening of the Largest Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Center of Teletech**

[Delivered at the Level 2, Robinson's Place, Ortigas Ave. Ext. cor. Imelda Ave. Cainta, Rizal, May 12, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Favila.

Mr. Craig Reines and the other officers and his co-workers here in Teletech. I'd like to introduce to all of you also our new chairman of the ICT commission, Secretary Mon Sales; our local officials headed by Governor Ynares and Mayor Ilagan; Lilia de Lima, Director General of the Economic Zone, which this is now an economic zone.

To all of you, congratulations! To everyone involved in this opening of Teletech here in Cainta. Congratulations! To Teletech for being the largest BPO center in our country. Congratulations!

One of the brightest spots in our economy is the development of call centers and outsourcing because it uses our greatest resource in the Philippines — our people. Our people are our greatest resource whether they are our one million workers in Saudi Arabia or our 100,000 workers in our Business Process Outsourcing industry. The Philippines has developed a strong track record in BPO because we have demonstrated the ability to move up the value chain. And this very very efficient and very nice looking center really shows how high in the value chain Teletech is. Congratulations!

The country will continue to support the growth of call centers and BPO with policies that encourage the location of right infrastructure. For instance, the infrastructure we've spent on in order to reduce the cost of connectivity. And on policies that upgrade the technical skills of our human resources, particularly at the high school and grade school levels where we have made English as the medium of instruction and the technical levels.

We have released 500 million pesos for high school vouchers so that our young people can study in private high schools. We have released 500 million pesos for scholarships to what we call the call center finishing schools to make your job easier when you're looking for customer care agents. And I'm very happy that Teletech has a very high... a hiring rate of 21 percent of your applicants. Congratulations! For that very very much higher than the national average.

That our call centers and business process outsourcing centers are the symbol of our new competitiveness. The growth of Philippine competitiveness is evident in the strong growth of our BPO industry and incidentally in our 26 percent export growth rate. Congratulations! Peter for that great news of 26 percent as your growth rate.

They are our 26 percent export growth rate for year to year is part of our strong macroeconomic indicators that have caught the attention of the world. We're making headway as far as the various facets of competitiveness are concerned, whether this be in the area of good governance and liberal and consistent investment policy, and fiscal discipline. Our economy is on a winning streak driven by many tough decisions we have had to make. The payback to the people is starting to flow down in terms of more jobs like the jobs that Teletech is making available. Craig says that in... maybe in 18 months they may romp up from the 6,000 you have today to 25,000 in 18 months.

Infrastructure like the cost of the telecoms infrastructure which drastically reduced the cost of connectivity. I remember in 2001 when I first came in and I said we have to reduce the cost of connectivity. We have to spend in infrastructure connectivity to the U.S. was 38,000 dollars, now it's 4,000 or less. So with that drastic reduction, I think that one was the key to spurring the BPO business. And of course part of the payback is basic social services for the segment of the population that cannot expect to be hired in such high-paying jobs as what the BPOs offer.

All of this also on the back of an expanding e-governance platform that's cutting graft and enabling greater efficiency and social impact for every peso spent. I enjoyed talking to your chairman and CEO over VOIP because I want the whole national government to be VOIP and that's going to be part of the work of Mon Sales.

And just like the BPO centers, the cabinet is working 24 by 7 on the areas that need improvement in governance and the economy. We know there are no quick fixes but the opening of centers like Teletech Cainta makes us confident that the competitiveness and enterprising drive of the Filipino will carry us through.

To Craig and all the great Filipino workers that are making up Teletech Cainta, congratulations to all of you!

Mabuhay! And may you be many many more. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Grand Opening of the Largest Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Center of Teletech. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213318/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2773&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a State Dinner in honor of the President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo and Doña Constanacia Mangué de Obiang

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a State Dinner in honor of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo and Doña Constanacia Mangué de Obiang**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, May 19, 2006]

His Excellency President Teodoro Obiang, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Vice President de Castro, Speaker De Venecia, Senator Manuel Villar and Congresswoman Cynthia Villar and the other elective officials of the Philippine Government, excellencies of the diplomatic corps, members of the Cabinet, Los Miembros Delegacion de Equatorial Guinea, members of the Philippine business community, ladies and gentlemen.

Esta noche celebramos el encuentro de dos países que tienen un patrimonio común, pero por muchos años no han podido acercarse como hubieran debido, a causa de la distancia geográfica que les separa.

The Philippines and Equatorial Guinea both have extensive aquatic resources and rich agricultural lands. Both of our countries and our peoples come from aboriginal ancestors. Both were under the Spaniards for many centuries and thus are Christians in majority.

The Philippines recognized Equatorial Guinea in 1968 when it became an independent country. Sin embargo, casi cuarenta años después, las relaciones entre nuestros dos países no han prosperado por mucho que nosotros hubiéramos deseado.

Hoy día cambiaremos todo aquello. We are honored your Excellency that you have brought so many of your Cabinet members, your distinguished cabinet here with you, so that we could explore cooperation in all possible fields.

De acuerdo con nuestra fructífera reunión de hoy, espero que nuestros oficiales harán el seguimiento debido de las áreas de nuestra significativa colaboración, from energy and human resources to agriculture, education, fisheries and culture and finance.

Fuimos asimismo testigos de la firma de varios memoranda de entendimiento entre los oficiales del gobierno de ustedes y el sector privado de nosotros proyectos que por ejemplo incluyen la banca y las finanzas. And also I'm very happy about the agreement that was signed earlier on the development of the insurance industry in your country by Filipino companies.

In recent years, the discovery of oil resources drastically changed the nature of Equatorial Guinea's economy as it had previously consisted chiefly of agriculture. Now, with the blessings of oil and with the leadership of your Excellency, Equatorial Guinea has achieved a tremendous improvement in its economy. And I wish to congratulate your leadership for this, your Excellency.

We are also proud at the same time of the contribution of some of our great Filipino workers to the development of Equatorial Guinea. The Philippines depends on oil imports for energy, but as you have seen, we are blessed with the best knowledge workers in the world.

Our two countries must have a chance to discover each other and deepen a friendship ordained by a common history and culture and complementary resources.

Por tanto y siera ofrecer un brindis a su excelencia, and I ask everyone to join me in a toast to His Excellency President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, for his continued good health and success and to a dynamic and energetic partnership between our two countries.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a State Dinner in honor of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo and Doña Constanca Mangue de Obiang. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213258/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2768&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Inauguration of the Hinduja Technology, Media and Telecommunications (HTMT) Ltd. Customer Contact Facility

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Inauguration of the Hinduja Technology, Media and Telecommunications (HTMT) Ltd.
Customer Contact Facility**

[Delivered at the CyberPark, E. Rodriguez Ave., C-5 Libis, QC, May 20, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Syjuco.

Mayor Belmonte and Mr. Hinduja, our bigtime entrepreneur, global entrepreneur who is putting up this call center here in the Philippines; Mr. Sarkar; our Cabinet members who are here today: chairman of MMDA, Bayani Fernando and our new chairman of the ICT commission, who nobody seems to know because he's brand new, but I decided to introduce him to you, Mon Sales; management and staff of HTMT Philippines; guests; ladies and gentlemen.

We've already heard what Mr. Hinduja said, that this facility expects to generate 2,500 seats, out of their 7,500 everywhere. And we thank you for making the Philippines right now one-third of your BPO force and soon to be a bipolar member of your two important seats of operation. This is a prime example of Philippine excellence in good paying jobs.

And I'm happy to hear the growth of this company of 70 percent over the last two years in the Philippines. The company came about two years ago and maybe it's good to just recount that five years ago there were less than 2,000 BPO agent on our country. Now, as he has said earlier, there are a hundred thousand or more BPO agents in the country. That means that we've grown 50 times in the last five years.

The industry is very large. India has a million workers in this industry and the way we're growing, we also expect to reach a million by 2010, as long as we have the readily available manpower. That's why we've made English the medium of instruction once again. That's also why we have released 500 million pesos for what we call the call center finishing schools to increase the hiring rate of call centers and BPOs.

And I would like to congratulate our seven young people who received their finishing school certificates. And I hope that with your additional training you will be one of the next 100,000 new call center and BPO agents in our country.

This morning, I was speaking with the President of the Development Bank of the Philippines and I repeated my instruction to him to earmark one billion pesos to lend out for company shuttle buses that use clean air fuel. This is part of the 40-billion peso non-wage benefits for workers that I unveiled last Labor Day, the same day that we unveiled this 500-billion peso program for call center finishing schools. I mentioned this lending facility for shuttle buses for companies because many of the call centers have been telling me that because they work on the night economy their staff would like to have some special transport facilities.

I was thinking first that I should ask the MRT to operate 24 hours a day but that would be very difficult for the MRT. So we've tried that before and there weren't that many customers during that dead hours to make the operations worthwhile during those hours. So the next best thing is to make available this facility to lend to buses that use either CNG or coco bio-diesel or LPG or any of our more economical and clean air fuels. And I hope that the call center companies will avail of this loan package especially for the convenience of those on the night shift in this 24/7 business.

I'm indeed happy that we are inaugurating this call center here in Sonny Belmonte's jurisdiction. And this is an inauguration happening again as an encouraging backdrop of Bangko Sentral polls showing that companies expect better times ahead.

Our tough fiscal reforms and revenue generating measures are reaping a tide of confidence and investments and the social payback is starting to flow down to the people. The Philippines faces the largest budget surplus in the last nine years on the back of a hefty additional 16 billion pesos of revenue in the first quarter because of the value-added tax. Analysts affirm that we are on track in the economy, aside from the positive outlook of business surveys. Pump priming is stepping up better infrastructures, broader education and basic social services.

We're on C-5, but Bayani we're working on C-6 already, aren't we? So that's part of our infrastructure expansion to make the heartland or the urban beltway of the Philippines from Clark-Subic through Metro Manila to Calabarzon very convenient in terms of infrastructure. Our blueprint for economic take off is on the move on the back of growing global confidence in the Philippines.

And speaking of global confidence, to HTMT Global, my sincere appreciation for your confidence, for your continued faith and confidence in our administration and in our people. For those who may not know, HTMT or Hinduja Technology, Media and Telecommunications is a transnational conglomerate founded even before the birth of our young tycoon here and it spans 50 countries in five continents in many different fields of endeavor.

And so to you, Remi and to the rest of your team, what we can say is we will continue doing our best to meet your expectations in the Philippines.

Salamat. Thank you and have a good day.

Congratulations!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Inauguration of the Hinduja Technology, Media and Telecommunications (HTMT) Ltd. Customer Contact Facility. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213251/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2766&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during a Dinner Reception for the UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura and delegates to the 31st UNESCO International Theater Institute World Congress and the Theater Olympics of the Nations Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During a Dinner Reception for the UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura and delegates to the 31st UNESCO International Theater Institute World Congress and the Theater Olympics of the Nations

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, May 22, 2006]

Thank you very much, Cecille.

His Excellency UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura, distinguished delegates to the International Theater Institute Congress and the Theater Olympics of Nations, His Excellency ASEAN Secretary General Ong Keng Yong, Speaker de Venecia and the other elective officials, Secretary Romulo and the other members of the Cabinet, Ambassador Soliven and the other excellencies of the diplomatic corps, other officials of the Philippine government, theater artists, theater lovers all over the world, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

In behalf of the Filipino people, I extend our warmest welcome to you, director general and to all the participants, all the eminent participants and all the ordinary people participating in the forum of the 31st UNESCO International Theater Institute World Congress.

This Congress is an important contribution to intercultural, intercivilizational and interfaith dialogue to which the Philippines under our administration is fully committed. Dialogue is an attribute of democracy which is one of the hallowed traditions of Philippine society. Dialogue through theater is an opportunity not only to exercise democracy but also to focus on the global stage the creativity of the Filipino. Our creativity is among the qualities that it endeared the great Filipino worker in 140 countries all over the world.

On the other hand, we the Filipinos also learn from this Congress. Our Filipino faculty and students around the country benefit from the great cultural boon provided by the encounters and exchanges of the Congress. And I commend the Congress of the I.T.I. for revolving its theme around the millennium development goals, which shape Philippine policy in our Medium- term Philippine Development Plan. And very closely allied with this, I would like to thank your excellency because you have so heartily endorsed the Philippine proposal in the United Nations for a debt for culture, debt for environment, debt for civilization swap.

The Medium-term Philippine Development Plan seeks to cut our poverty in half together with the rest of the world. In our case, through a ten-point pro-poor, pro-growth and pro-peace program.

Culture is not in addition to this program; culture is a part of this program. Indeed, culture has its own separate chapter in our medium-term plan. Our plan recognizes that arts is a dynamic instrument for values formation.

And so, therefore, I thank you and I thank everyone participating in this Congress for coming to the Philippines to celebrate the greatness of culture, the greatness of art, the greatness of theater.

To all of you, mabuhay! Welcome! And thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a Dinner Reception for the UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura and delegates to the 31st UNESCO International Theater Institute World Congress and the Theater Olympics of the Nations. Retrieved from

https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213232/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2763&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 27th National Conference of Employers

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 27th National Conference of Employers**

[Delivered at the Centennial Ballroom, Manila Hotel, May 23, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas.

And may I take this opportunity to congratulate you and the employers and the laborers because now we have the lowest number of strikes in Philippine history. Congratulations!

Rene Soriano, president; Mike Varela, chairman; Francis Chua, thank you for your very kind statements; Donald; Cesar, congratulations on organizing this event. When we say “survive, compete, succeed,” as Francis said, we’ve shown we can survive. Now we must compete and then succeed. Then we will be in the Enchanted Kingdom.

Other officials of the Philippine government. And may I just let you know that I asked CHED Chairman Carlito Puno to join me today because I saw that following the news about your meetings, I saw that you were going to recommend an advisory board in the colleges and universities. And at least Carlito has a strong say especially in the state universities and colleges. And we’ve got to do that before school opens because we don’t want students again entering the wrong courses. We don’t want to find out four years later that the course in which they enrolled will not find them a job even if there are so many jobs available in the jobs fair. So, I asked Carlito if he could join us today so that during or after this meeting, he can already sit down with ECOP to work out the business advisory groups in the state universities and colleges.

Officers and members of ECOP; participants in this conference of employers; honored guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Indeed, as Francis said and Rene chose and Mario as the theme of this convention, in this age of globalization and high technology, and in these days of oil price surges your response is logical: survive, compete with the rest of the world, and succeed.

The polls recently conducted by the Bangko Sentral showing that economies are expecting better times along with the favorable economic indicators mentioned by Francis. For instance for April, the double digit increase in foreign portfolio investment over the previous month are all-time high of 21 billion dollars in foreign reserves. Our nine-year record budget surplus of 17 billion as well as the favorable report from Calpers and the Bank of America this may should project the country’s economic resiliency amidst the continuing threat of spiraling world oil prices. Survive — that’s what we’ve been able to do.

Philippine employers of course play an important role in making all this happen. Now to compete and succeed there is nothing like a strong government-private sector partnership bolstered by tough decisions and robust market-driven policies to empower the economy to survive, compete and succeed.

In the last meeting of the export development council that I called and chaired, I had it held in Amkor Technologies because I wanted to congratulate the export sector for your 27 percent increase in exports for the first quarter. And especially the electronics companies because you make up two-thirds of our exports. During that export development council meeting, the subject matter that I put in the agenda was competitiveness and exactly it fits with our theme. We’ve shown we can survive; now we have to succeed before we enter the enchanted kingdom.

To compete. One of the things I learned in my trip to Saudi Arabia where Donald, Mike were with me and Francis — Rene, you weren’t with me, ‘no? — was that many years ago Saudi Arabia, and they produce oil already, but

many years ago they looked at the different parameters and variables for competitiveness and they tested themselves and they worked on each one of them, until now they have succeeded in becoming the tenth most competitive economy in the world.

We did the same exercise now with the export development council. We looked at the various indicators of competitiveness and how we ranked in judgments of the analysts. We're not doing that bad in government efficiency especially because we've achieved the budget debt surplus, the reduction of the budget deficit, the customs, the revenues being overshot, the tax reforms. But two areas that the exporters and the government identified together with the labor representatives are on the part of business, your business efficiency; and on the part of government, our infrastructure. Those are the areas in which we need to catch up. For infrastructure, it is only now that we can start catching up because it is only now that we have the revenues to finance all the infrastructure that you need for competitiveness.

You are witness to the north expressway, the south expressway now being constructed, the Clark airport, the Subic port being constructed, the Batangas port now operating for many of the Calabarzon firms, the Lipa airport will soon have night lights, so that the electronics firms in Calabarzon can ship out of there and so on and so forth.

We've also agreed that the most important infrastructure now we will concentrate on because our roads and airport projects are underway is the power infrastructure to make power competitive in our country.

Aside from infrastructure your main partner — and I'm speaking to the employers — your main partner in government is the Department of Labor. And I started by congratulating Pat but I'd like to tell you more about the Department of Labor and what they're doing. The DOLE is a professional organization of 7,000 people. It has a budget of 4.5 billion pesos, of the 4.5, 2.5 goes to TESDA and I have asked TESDA to allocate 500 million pesos for scholarships in call centers because that is where the largest single job opportunities are located.

We have good and competent people in their senior positions so that even with the limited budget — I mean, 4.5 compared to over a hundred billion for Department of Education, 60 billion for Public Works, 60 billion for defense — 4.5 billion, yet they're able to give you the employers a good measure of support.

I want to congratulate therefore — and I ask you to help me congratulate the DOLE — but I want also to congratulate the employers and your partners in the labor sector because as I said strikes are now at an all-time low but not only that because of the way that our workers have shown themselves to be so competitive and world class. We have well-paying overseas employment also at an all-time high and unemployment is at single digit levels.

I reiterate the support I expressed on labor day for a reasonable wage hike hammered out by the tripartite regional wage boards in such a way that there will be no surprises insofar as business costs are concerned. We are also pushing conciliation and mediation as an alternative to arbitration.

Pat tells me that DOLE has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Archdiocese of Manila so that for Catholics schools and hospitals among others they will attempt to settle labor disputes first before cases are filed. This will lessen the number of disputes going to arbitration. It will help clean our case dockets. It will minimize the hardening of labor management conflicts. And I hope and I would like to propose in this ECOP conference that we do similar agreements between DOLE and ECOP and also with the local government units. Our goal is to have zero reason to have strikes by the end of my term in 2010.

There are new markets for overseas employment with legal frameworks that are similar or familiar to our workers in the Philippines. Spain's labor market — this is what we are trying to negotiate, for when I go to Spain the end of June — Spain's labor market will hopefully open for 100,000 of our workers in the next two years. But I also hope to be able to get Spain's tourism investors to the Philippines to give jobs in tourism which is highly labor and skills intensive.

Canada's provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan are seeking labor agreements with the Philippines and that may possibly include temporary migration with an option for permanent settlement. Alberta's oilfields are said to be

at least as big as Saudi Arabia. Wow! That's mind boggling because Saudi Aramco who was our host on the last day of our trip to Saudi Arabia has one-fourth of the world's reserves and ten percent of the world's production of oil. And if they say that Canada has about the same amount, that's a very very big source of opportunity again for our overseas skilled Filipino workers.

In Saudi Arabia, we have 1.2 million Filipinos, of which more than a million are managers and highly technical workers. Eighty nine thousand (89,000) are domestic workers, a very very small percentage, and we concentrate our protection efforts on them because the managers and the technical workers are naturally protected by the market. In eastern Saudi Arabia where oil is the economy, there are 400,000 Filipinos. Imagine if indeed it's true that Canada has the same reserves as Saudi Arabia, that means another job opportunity for 400,000 Filipinos. Not because they are jobless here, because we want to create jobs here as well, but because the Filipinos are great Filipino workers and they can help us with their skills to achieve energy independence for our country and the whole world.

Canada expects to start exploring — just exploring, because they're still reserves — those fields and they want Filipino labor because Filipino workers are the greatest workers in the world. And we hope that we will benefit by the ensuing boom in economic activity because wherever Filipinos go, they are still Filipinos. They care for their families, they care for our country, and they build up our housing industry and so many other industries in our country.

Australia is in a similar mode. Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas opened a skills expo with their authorities just the other day. Taiwan has just doubled our quota. And speaking of skills, we've been having skills expo, we've been having a lot of job fairs. But in the job fairs, we have many job fairs with 70,000 jobs available, sometimes we have only 18,000 applicants, sometimes only 5,000 are hired or 1,000. Not because of the lack of jobs, because there are more jobs being offered than applicants, but because of what you have shown me in your report— the lack of matching between the demand and the supply for labor.

That's the reason for the 500 million pesos for call center scholarships. That's the reason for the business advisory board for the state universities and colleges to start with. And I hope also today Carlito, please meet with chairman of TESDA Boboy Syjuco today so that you can work out the ladderized system of instruction when the people take up technical courses their courses will be credited for a college education.

We are now in sync with the rest of the world insofar as the definition of employment and unemployment is concerned. We use to suffer by comparison partly because of the stringent parameters we impose on ourselves outside of the international definition.

In the rest of the world, when the survey comes and they ask you, 'if a job is offered to you today, will you be available?' These are for the people who are not working. If their answer is 'no,' in other countries, they are not part of the labor force. In our country prior to our adjustment, they are part of the labor force, they are part of the unemployed, so therefore we tend to have a bigger unemployment percentage than would appear than would really be using international standards. But even by changing the new definition, we did not decrease unemployment only by changing the definition. Even with the new definition, we have in fact improved on the employment situation due to our pump priming interventions.

One of the beneficiaries of our pump priming interventions has been agriculture. In the past, we would be happy if agriculture will grow at three percent. In the first quarter, agriculture grew at five percent. And this is one of the reasons why Bank of America and others have upgraded their forecast for GDP growth in our country.

Facilitation assistance has also made our job creation efforts more visible among the job seekers with the trade fairs that I was telling you about. We continue with the trade fairs. I asked Pat together with Artee Yap, who is my Presidential Management Staff head, to keep having trade fairs this summer for the recent graduates. Next month however when the students go back to school, we will open a jobs fair for soldiers and officers wounded in battle to express our support for them for serving our country faithfully and well. This will be the first of a series for persons with disabilities that I committed during the persons with disability's week that we celebrated a few weeks ago.

We are trying to cover the informal sector with social security because more than those who are in your factories and offices they are vulnerable to all kinds of occupational risks. We have covered almost 22,000 but the campaign continues as a poverty alleviation measure. In our country, the majority of the workers are not salaried employees, the majority are self-employed and family workers. Workers in the informal sector, and we have to give them the benefits of social security.

There are many other things we're trying to do, and I thank you for your recommendations here. I was just glancing over your resolutions about what employers can do together through ECOP. And I'm very glad that you're working on what to do together, because as I said in the competitiveness survey, there are some low points on business efficiency. And Rene told me that you're working with the ILO in order to improve on internal business efficiency. Improving the match between demands for jobs and supply of skills — in fact, we've seen that in the trade fairs. That's why Carlito is important, Boboy is important, and you are important — what the employers can do together with government. And for countries who benefit from our human capital, we also work with them. And I'm very glad that you have very very specific missions to carry out your part of our determination to compete.

We are trying to carry out our pro-poor policies as well as to create more investments and jobs through a more business-friendly operating environment. And if we work on all of this together, in fact, that will be a more business-friendly environment and a more competitive business sector. Because in the end, it is you who will meet our target of at least a million jobs a year. It is you the employers who will create six to ten million jobs between 2004 and 2010. And that's why I congratulate you and I laud you and I applaud you in this hall. You are exemplars of the will and capacity to survive, to compete, and to succeed.

Let's stay together. Let's dream together. And what do I mean by being in the enchanted kingdom, we can operationalize that. Let's be among the countries of the first world in 20 years.

Mabuhay ang ating mga employer!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 27th National Conference of Employers. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213216/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2719&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 27th National Conference of Employers

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the 27th National Conference of Employers

[Delivered at the Centennial Ballroom, Manila Hotel, May 23, 2006]

SURVIVE, COMPETE AND SUCCEED

Indeed, as Francis said and Rene chose and Mario as the theme of this convention, in this age of globalization and high technology, and in these days of oil price surges your response is logical: survive, compete with the rest of the world, and succeed.

The polls recently conducted by the Bangko Sentral showing that economies are expecting better times along with the favorable economic indicators mentioned by Francis. For instance for April, the double digit increase in foreign portfolio investment over the previous month are all-time high of 21 billion dollars in foreign reserves. Our nine-year record budget surplus of 17 billion as well as the favorable report from Calpers and the Bank of America this may should project the country's economic resiliency amidst the continuing threat of spiraling world oil prices. Survive — that's what we've been able to do.

Philippine employers of course play an important role in making all this happen. Now to compete and succeed there is nothing like a strong government-private sector partnership bolstered by tough decisions and robust market-driven policies to empower the economy to survive, compete and succeed.

In the last meeting of the export development council that I called and chaired, I had it held in Amkor Technologies because I wanted to congratulate the export sector for your 27 percent increase in exports for the first quarter. And especially the electronics companies because you make up two-thirds of our exports. During that export development council meeting, the subject matter that I put in the agenda was competitiveness and exactly it fits with our theme. We've shown we can survive; now we have to succeed before we enter the enchanted kingdom.

To compete. One of the things I learned in my trip to Saudi Arabia where Donald, Mike were with me and Francis — Rene, you weren't with me, 'no? — was that many years ago Saudi Arabia, and they produce oil already, but many years ago they looked at the different parameters and variables for competitiveness and they tested themselves and they worked on each one of them, until now they have succeeded in becoming the tenth most competitive economy in the world.

We did the same exercise now with the export development council. We looked at the various indicators of competitiveness and how we ranked in judgments of the analysts. We're not doing that bad in government efficiency especially because we've achieved the budget debt surplus, the reduction of the budget deficit, the customs, the revenues being overshot, and the tax reforms. But two areas that the exporters and the government identified together with the labor representatives are on the part of business, your business efficiency; and on the part of government, our infrastructure. Those are the areas in which we need to catch up. For infrastructure, it is only now that we can start catching up because it is only now that we have the revenues to finance the entire infrastructure that you need for competitiveness.

You are witness to the north expressway, the south expressway now being constructed, the Clark airport, the Cubic Port being constructed, the Baticas Port now operating for many of the Calabarzon firms, the Lipa Airport will soon have night lights, so that the electronics firms in Calabarzon can ship out of there and so on and so forth.

We've also agreed that the most important infrastructure now we will concentrate on because our roads and airport projects are underway is the power infrastructure to make power competitive in our country.

Aside from infrastructure your main partner — and I'm speaking to the employers — your main partner in government is the Department of Labor. And I started by congratulating Pat but I'd like to tell you more about the Department of Labor and what they're doing. The DOLE is a professional organization of 7,000 people. It has a budget of 4.5 billion pesos, of the 4.5, 2.5 goes to TESDA and I have asked TESDA to allocate 500 million pesos for scholarships in call centers because that is where the largest single job opportunities are located.

We have good and competent people in their senior positions so that even with the limited budget — I mean, 4.5 compared to over a hundred billion for Department of Education, 60 billion for Public Works, 60 billion for defense — 4.5 billion, yet they're able to give you the employers a good measure of support.

I want to congratulate therefore — and I ask you to help me congratulate the DOLE — but I want also to congratulate the employers and your partners in the labor sector because as I said strikes are now at an all-time low but not only that because of the way that our workers have shown themselves to be so competitive and world class. We have well-paying overseas employment also at an all-time high and unemployment is at single digit levels.

I reiterate the support I expressed on Labor Day for a reasonable wage hike hammered out by the tripartite regional wage boards in such a way that there will be no surprises insofar as business costs are concerned. We are also pushing conciliation and mediation as an alternative to arbitration.

Pat tells me that DOLE has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Archdiocese of Manila so that for Catholics schools and hospitals among others they will attempt to settle labor disputes first before cases are filed. This will lessen the number of disputes going to arbitration. It will help clean our case dockets. It will minimize the hardening of labor management conflicts. And I hope and I would like to propose in this ECOP conference that we do similar agreements between DOLE and ECOP and also with the local government units. Our goal is to have zero reason to have strikes by the end of my term in 2010.

There are new markets for overseas employment with legal frameworks that are similar or familiar to our workers in the Philippines. Spain's labor market — this is what we are trying to negotiate, for when I go to Spain the end of June — Spain's labor market will hopefully open for 100,000 of our workers in the next two years. But I also hope to be able to get Spain's tourism investors to the Philippines to give jobs in tourism which is highly labor and skills intensive.

Canada's provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan are seeking labor agreements with the Philippines and that may possibly include temporary migration with an option for permanent settlement. Alberta's oilfields are said to be at least as big as Saudi Arabia. Wow! That's mind boggling because Saudi Aramco who was our host on the last day of our trip to Saudi Arabia has one-fourth of the world's reserves and ten percent of the world's production of oil. And if they say that Canada has about the same amount, that's a very very big source of opportunity again for our overseas skilled Filipino workers.

In Saudi Arabia, we have 1.2 million Filipinos, of which more than a million are managers and highly technical workers. Eighty nine thousand (89,000) are domestic workers, a very very small percentage, and we concentrate our protection efforts on them because the managers and the technical workers are naturally protected by the market. In eastern Saudi Arabia where oil is the economy, there are 400,000 Filipinos. Imagine if indeed it's true that Canada has the same reserves as Saudi Arabia, that means another job opportunity for 400,000 Filipinos. Not because they are jobless here, because we want to create jobs here as well, but because the Filipinos are great Filipino workers and they can help us with their skills to achieve energy independence for our country and the whole world. *

Canada expects to start exploring — just exploring, because they're still reserves — those fields and they want Filipino labor because Filipino workers are the greatest workers in the world. And we hope that we will benefit by the ensuing boom in economic activity because wherever Filipinos go, they are still Filipinos. They care for their

families, they care for our country, and they build up our housing industry and so many other industries in our country.

Australia is in a similar mode. Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas opened a skills expo with their authorities just the other day. Taiwan has just doubled our quota. And speaking of skills, we've been having skills expo, we've been having a lot of job fairs. But in the job fairs, we have many job fairs with 70,000 jobs available, sometimes we have only 18,000 applicants, sometimes only 5,000 are hired or 1,000. Not because of the lack of jobs, because here are more jobs being offered than applicants, but because of what you have shown me in your report—the lack of matching between the demand and the supply for labor.

That's the reason for the 500 million pesos for call center scholarships. That's the reason for the business advisory board for the state universities and colleges to start with. And I hope also today Carlito, please meet with chairman of TESDA Boboy Syjuo today so that you can work out the ladderized system of instructor when the people take up technical courses their courses will be credited for a college education.

We are now in sync with the rest of the world insofar as the definition of employment and unemployment is concerned. We use to suffer by comparison partly because of the stringent parameters we impose on ourselves outside of the international definition.

In the rest of the world, when the survey comes and they ask you, 'if a job is offered to you today, will you be available?' These are for the people who are not working. If their answer is 'no, 'in other countries, they are not part of the labor force. In our country prior to our adjustment, they are part of the labor force, they are part of the unemployed, so therefore we tend to have a bigger unemployment percentage than would appear than would really be using international standards. But even by changing the new definition, we did not decrease unemployment only by changing the definition. Even with the new definition, we have in fact improved on the employment situation due to our pump priming interventions.

One of the beneficiaries of our pump priming interventions has been agriculture. In the past, we would be happy if agriculture will grow at three percent. In the first quarter, agriculture grew at five percent. And this is one of the reasons why Bank of America and others have upgraded their forecast for GDP growth in our country.

Facilitation assistance has also made our job creation efforts more visible among the job seekers with the trade fairs that I was telling you about. We continue with the trade fairs. I asked Pat together with Artee Yap, who is my Presidential Management Staff head, to keep having trade fairs this summer for the recent graduates. Next month however when the students go back to school, we will open a jobs fair for soldiers and officers wounded in battle to express our support for them for serving our country faithfully and well. This will be the first of a series for persons with disabilities that I committed during the persons with disability's week that we celebrated a few weeks ago.

We are trying to cover the informal sector with social security because more than those who are in your factories and offices they are vulnerable to all kinds of occupational risks. We have covered almost 22,000 but the campaign continues as a poverty alleviation measure. In our country, the majority of the workers are not salaried employees; the majority is self-employed and family workers. Workers in the informal sector, and we have to give them the benefits of social security.

There are many other things we're trying to do, and I thank you for your recommendations here. I was just glancing over your resolutions about what employers can do together through ECOP. And I'm very glad that you're working on what to do together, because as I said in the competitiveness survey, there are some low points on business efficiency. And Rene told me that you're working with the ILO in order to improve on internal business efficiency. Improving the match between demands for jobs and supply of skills — in fact, we've seen that in the trade fairs. That's why Carlito is important, Boboy is important, and you are important — what the employers can do together with government. And for countries who benefit from our human capital, we also work with them. And I'm very glad that you have very very specific missions to carry out your part of our determination to compete.

We are trying to carry out our pro-poor policies as well as to create more investments and jobs through a more business-friendly operating environment. And if we work on all of this together, in fact, that will be a more business-friendly environment and a more competitive business sector. Because in the end, it is you who will meet our target of at least a million jobs a year. It is you the employers who will create six to ten million jobs between 2004 and 2010. And that's why I congratulate you and I laud you and I applaud you in this hall. You are exemplars of the will and capacity to survive, to compete, and to succeed.

Let's stay together. Let's dream together. And what do I mean by being in the enchanted kingdom, we can operationalize that. Let's be among the countries of the First World in 20 years.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the 6th Luzon Island Congress of the Philippine Councilors' League

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 6th Luzon Island Congress of the Philippine Councilors' League

[Delivered at the Ocean Deck, Camayan Wharf, Ocean Adventure Subic Bay, Zambales, May 25, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Ronnie Puno sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin. And please convey my congratulations! To the police who arrested P.O.1 Aron Golifardo, the alleged gunman in the killing of Fernando Batul in Puerto Princesa. Ipinapakita na hindi natin inaatorga ang mga krimen kontra sa mga peryodista, kontra sa mga aktibista at kontra sa kahit na sinong mamamayan ng Pilipinas.

Sa inyong lahat naman gusto ko rin batiin kayo, nandito si Governor Magsaysay, magandang tanghali; nandito si Mayor Gordon, magandang tanghali; nandito si Congresswoman Magsaysay, magandang tanghali; kanina nakita ko si Congressman Nantes, ewan ko kung sumama dito; at saka siyempre ang ating mga konsehal, si Chairman Datuin, si President Fortuna, si Councilor Fernandez, si Vice President Apacible. Gusto ko rin batiin yung iba't-ibang mga opisyal, both appointed and elected, and to all the delegates to the 6th Philippine Councilors' League Luzon Island Congress, magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat.

Ang ganda-ganda naman ng setting natin. I hope you are having a nice time here in Subic, which we want to be the best hub in the region before we reach 2010. At una sa lahat, gusto kong magpasalamat sa inyo, kayo ang frontline sa pamamahala. At sa inyong level nakikita ninyo ang mga problema ng inyong mga pamayanan. At siyempre hindi naman lahat maso-solve ninyo sa inyong level. Ngunit habang hindi ninyo nagagawa ito napaparating ninyo ang mga solusyon at ang mga problema sa atensiyon ng mga kinauukulang awtoridad kasama na nga ang inyong lingkod, ang pangulo. At dahil dito lalung-lalo na sa pamamagitan ng inyong mga konbensiya ay nakakahanap tayo sabay-sabay ng mga solusyon sa problema ng inyong pamayanan. At alam kong parati kong maaasahan kayo sa paghabol ng kapakanan ng taong-bayan. Kaya salamat sa inyong lahat at siguro puwede nating sabihin sa ating mga kababayan sa inyong pamayanan na panahon na para umani ang taong-bayan sa mga repormang ginagawa natin sa kaban ng bayan.

At sana ipaabot niyo sa ating mga mamamayan sa inyong pamayanan na sisiguraduhin natin magkasama tayo na ang taong-bayan ang makakakuha ng nakararami sa mga programang pangkaunlaran. Halimbawa, kanina, nanggaling kami sa Casecnan Dam at binuksan yung mga pintuan ng dam para dumaloy na yung patubig mula sa Nueva Ecija hanggang sa Bulacan, hanggang sa Pampanga. At ngayon puwede na ring... Sabi ko sa NIA simulan na rin pag-aralan yung sa kabila naman yung patungong North Western Nueva Ecija hanggang sa Pangasinan. Dahil gusto natin na magbukas ng maraming hektarya ng lupa sa agrikultura. Kaya kayo mga konsehal ay magtulungan tayo para makalagay kayo ng mga budget sa inyong konseho ng counterpart para mag-irrigate tayo ng mga bagong lupain ng agrikultura. Maglagay kayo ng counterpart, may counterpart rin ang national government.

Bakit ako nakakaalok ng ganito sa ating Councilors' League sa Luzon? Because our economic fundamentals are steady and strong. Nakikita natin humina ang peso lately. That recent set back of the peso is a result of transient developments in the economy that posed no direct long-term threat to our own economy. It is coming from temporary events in the world economy. Hindi na ako mag-e-elaborate, our economic managers can take care of that, but I want to let you know — siguro alam ng ating mga Subic officials — investor confidence is strong, di ba dito Chairman, Administrator? Yung Hanjin, about a billion dollars ang investment dito in the next ten years pero starting with 100 million dollars now. At hindi ba yung Chinese Communist Party of Heibe where Beijing is located, we're negotiating with them for a 300 million-dollar investment. Ang importante lang yung upa pinagtatalunan.

Pero yon ang nagpapakita ng magagandang halimbawa ng kumpiyansa ng mga investors. Their confidence in the vigorous efforts of the government to balance the budget, improve the overall security situation. Kaya binabati ko si Ronnie, sabi nga niya — di ba nag-meeting kayo noong makalawa? — sabi niya, "give me two days," sabi niya sa

mga kasama ko... Ah na kasama niya, hindi ako kasama sa meeting sa national security cluster, "give me two days, I will solve the mystery," sabi niya. Today, they arrested the guy. Actually, yesterday, ngayon lang linabas.

And that's what we should all work on, the security situation, and we should all work together so that the investors will continue to have confidence in our capacity to push growth and pursue political renewal. We expect the peso to maintain its trend and resiliency through time as the global financial market settle down.

Habang naman itinutulak natin ang reporma ng pangkabuhayan, our final hurdle is our outdated, outmoded and out of touch political system. And so honorable councilors' of Luzon, your support for charter change is indispensable and I'm grateful for it sa ating mga official ng Councilors' League.

Aside from energy, I also ask your group to lead in an honest-to-goodness energy conservation program in view of the rising cost of oil pushed by events beyond us. Hindi naman nanggagaling sa atin ang pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa mundo. Una sa lahat yung demand, yung China saka yung India, the two biggest countries in the world have very rapid economic growth rate so ang laki ng demand. Tapos noon may problema sa Iran, may problema sa Nigeria, among the biggest producers of oil. Pero sinasabi naman sa akin ng Saudi Aramco hindi naman kulang ang supply, they can always come up with the supply. Ang problema dahil sa demand ng China at India sa supply ng Iran at saka ng Nigeria nagkakaroon tuloy ng speculation, nagho-hoarding tuloy sa mundo. So, those are not things of our doing. We are price takers in oil kaya kailangan magtrabaho tayong lahat para sa energy independence.

I want to ask our councilors' from all over Luzon to help us promote the use of oil substitutes like ethanol. Puwedeng manggaling sa cassava ang ethanol. Natural gas and coco-diesel, ang dami-daming mga coconut plantations dito sa Luzon. Dito yata sa Zambales wala ano? Pampanga and Zambales are among the only eight provinces that don't have coconut but everywhere else in the country may coconut.

The government is undertaking a strategic program to cut down on our oil-based power plants and to shift to those that run on hydro-geothermal and natural gas. Alam ba ninyo, mga konsehal ng Luzon, na dito sa Luzon isang porsiyento na lamang ang ating kuryente na nanggagaling sa krudo. We've been relying on coal and other sources but because somehow their price is also indirectly tied up to the price of oil, kaya dapat lakihan natin ang ating independence from oil.

Kaya inatasan ko ang PNOC na maglabas ng 500 million pesos para pairalin ang Jatropha, ang pagbili ng jatropha dahil yung mga buto ng Jatropha ay maaaring magpalit sa diesel-fuel. Alam niyo ang kabutihan ng Jatropha, yung ethanol kung mag-blend tayo ng 10, 5, 10, 20 percent ethanol sa ating gasolina ay magiging mas mura at malinis. Yung coco bio-diesel naman kung maglalagay tayo ng one percent blend ay sabi nila apat na percent ang distance na mas hahaba. Pero ang diesel, coco bio-diesel... Ah hindi, yung Jatropha hindi kailangang i-blend, puwedeng 100 percent substitute, we can completely do away with oil-based diesel kung yon ang ating gagamitin. Kaya magtanim na kayo ng Jatropha sa inyong mga lupang hindi napagtataniman ng ibang klaseng mga halaman, because it grows very well on marginal land. Sa ibang mga lugar lumalaki ang Jatropha sa mga sandy soil. Eh dito sa Pampanga, Zambales panay lahar tayo so Jatropha can grow very well in these areas. We need massive planting of Jatropha dahil ang Petron ay handang magtayo ng planta to convert Jatropha into diesel, ang kailangan ay yung production ng raw materials.

Maaaring isama ito sa inyong mga lokal na programang pangkabuhayan na inaasahan ng ating administrasyon. At ang kabutihan nito ay yung Jatrophan tanim nito ay lilikha ng higit pang trabaho at tataas ang kita ng taong-bayan. Kaya makipag-ugnay kayo sa PNOC sa inyong counterparting din sa Jatropha.

Samantala, energy, the charter change, peace and order, please work closely with your police officers. Ito isa sa mga pinakamagaling na police officers, si Raffy Rafanan, ay inapoint ko na dito sa Region III. so, please work closely with him and his other officers. Ayan si Oca Calderon naman ang deputy director general ng administration. Please work together with them and stand guard to keep the jobs and livelihood of your constituencies unsullied against crime and terror. At sa paglaban dito pati si General Tolentino — na kinuha ko doon, mula doon sa Mindanao, lumalaban ng terorista doon — dinala ko siya dito sa Luzon para tulungan din kayong labanan ang mga terorista.

Join us also in our spirited fight against graft by keeping an eye on various government projects and undertakings. Bantayan ninyo para nakikita niyo, halimbawa, yung mga farm-to-market roads naglalagay tayo ng pera pero national government naman halos hindi naman makakapunta doon para mag-inspect. So, sana kayo ang tumingin kung ginagawa nga ba talaga o yung irrigation projects kung ginagawa nga ba talaga?

Yung ating napakagandang Clark-Subic road. Mike Defensor and I were flying over it kasi di ba galing kami sa Clark going to Subic, we were really flying over the road. Ang laki-laki na ang kanilang naitayo. Watch over that to make sure na walang mga slippages and especially of course in your areas of responsibility. You are leaders of this nation as you are leaders of your communities. And its our moral obligation to bring our people together to build a strong, secure and enduring nation well-respected in the international community.

Tamang-tama ginawa ninyo itong meeting ninyo sa Subic, dahil very international ang Subic. And so I hope because you are having a nice time in this beautiful park-resort, I hope also that the world will see that the councilors of Luzon and the councilors of the Philippines are one with all levels of government in making lives better for our people and whoever comes to create jobs for these people.

Sa inyong lahat, congratulations!

Maraming salamat. Good day!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 6th Luzon Island Congress of the Philippine Councilors' League. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213205/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2717&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 45th Association Cambiste Internationale (ACI) Financial Markets Association World Congress Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 45th Association Cambiste Internationale (ACI) Financial Markets Association World Congress
Philippines**

[Delivered at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City, May 26, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Teves.

Officials of ACI International and ACI Philippines, other officials of the Philippine government, participants to this very important world congress, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to the Philippines.

We are honored to host this congress of world financial market practitioners. You are very important to the growth and the future of our nation.

I come here today bullish on our prospects as a nation. We've created over five million jobs in the last five years, inflation is easing, exports are up — they had a growth of 26 percent last march — and our budget surplus in April was the highest in nine years.

The world has taken notice of our growing reputation in the call center and BPO space. We take pride in our high-tech manufacturing which leads our export growth. We're enjoying a boom in our tourism and we welcome you to the Philippines as part of those tourists. And prime sites like Clark and Subic are being developed.

For the first time in a generation, we're collecting the revenue we need to make investments and infrastructure, health care, education and job creation. Our fiscal discipline is paying off with better credit outlook — which I hope you've noted — which saves us billions of pesos a year that can be better spent in investing in our people and our economy.

My government has exerted various efforts, vigorous efforts to balance the budget, keep the overall security situation safe from terrorists, push growth and pursue political renewal.

Indeed, as Mr. Hilado says: “in the world of the financial markets, all of these variables come into play. And there is an interplay between financial variables, economic variables, security variables, political variables.” for instance, all of these come together in the money laundering issue.

The enforcement of the anti-money laundering law in the Philippines is moving forward and a first conviction has been gained on the back of effective prosecution by the government even as the case may be appealed. It stands as clear proof of our determination to clean up the potential money trails of crime syndicates and terrorists. The enforcement of this law is part and parcel of our fight against organized crime and corruption and of our role as a stronger player in regional and global security, and of course, also in financial security.

I've invested a lot of my time and effort to engage the Philippines in global affairs — and that's why I'm here before you today — and to help modernize our nation from bilateral to multilateral relations with nations to direct promotion in behalf of our nation and business. I am and will continue to be a proud and ardent saleswoman for our country.

But you the financial markets, you the financial market players study the different countries in which you can possibly invest. And I assure you I'm not a Polyanna, I'm a realist. I know that we still suffer from huge gaps in our social inequities, but we can't attain the rank of first world nation when many Filipinos live in hunger and progress is held back by corruption and lack of investments in world class infrastructure.

That is why my agenda of moving forward is built on raising revenue, running a tight fiscal ship, investing in key social infrastructure like a good education, english skills, proper health care, and better roads, bridges and ports and airports. And you know even better than me how the oil crisis looms in the whole world and in the financial markets.

And so in the Philippines, our nation gathers around the need to come together and search for new alternatives and develop existing ones. We are pushing constructive solutions to beef up our sources of fuel such as renewable energy, indigenous energy and vigorous oil and gas exploration. For instance, on renewable energy, we're pushing the planting of Jatropha trees and even the smallest of landowners can participate. On indigenous energy, my energy secretary reported to me yesterday that the Malampaya natural gas consortium and first gas corporation have agreed to settle issues between them which have remained outstanding for the past four years. With this agreement we can look forward to an improved and stable operating environment for the production of indigenous natural gas.

The other day I had a meeting with our exporters and we discussed the need for competitive infrastructure. A lot of infrastructure is under construction in what we call our urban corridor from Clark-Subic in the north through Metro Manila to Ccalabarzon and Batangas port in the south. But we must have investments in power. Soon, we will launch the wholesale electricity spot market and I have noticed that it is attracting major investors to our electric power sector.

And so I come before you today, ever conscious of your theme of meeting the challenge. It reminds me of what Tom Friedman says: "the world is flat; we must compete." and the Philippines recognizes the need to compete– and we are working to make ourselves competitive, more competitive and more worthy of the financial markets.

And so today, full of hope, tempered by realism, we come to welcome you. And we welcome you to a nation that we hope indeed is worth your attention and that's why you have come here for your world congress and even more your investments in the financial markets.

Once again, welcome to the Philippines!

Mabuhay! Thank you.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 45th Association Cambiste Internationale (ACI) Financial Markets Association World Congress Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213154/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2716&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Passenger Terminal
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Passenger Terminal

[Delivered at the Port of Orion, Brgy. Puting Buhangin Orion, Bataan, May 29, 2006]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Governor Tet Garcia sa iyong napakagandang pagpakilala sa akin.

Maraming salamat din Congressman Abet Garcia sa iyong magandang sinabi tungkol sa programa ng ating pambansang pamahalaan; salamat din Mayor Raymundo sa iyong welcoming remarks; salamat sa ibat-ibang mga official ng lalawigan ng Batangas at mga bayan-bayan ng Bataan na narito ngayon. At gusto ko rin batiin si Bishop Soc Villegas. At kasama ko rito gaya nang sabi ni Abet yung mga official na may kinalaman, may pangunahing kinalaman sa pagpapatayo nitong ating terminal: si General Manager ng Philippine Ports Authority Oca Sevilla at saka ang Presidential Assistance for Central Luzon, si Rene Diaz; batiin ko rin si General Romy Tolentino ng Northern Luzon command at yung ibat-ibang mga official ng Region III sa pambansang pamahalaan.

Masayang-masayang ang araw na ito at ako ay nasisiyahan at sana masiyahan din ang mga taga-Orion at lahat ng mga taga-Bataan dahil sa sinisimulan natin na inyong passenger terminal ay isa na namang hakbang para kayo manatili sa number one sa human development index.

Nagpapasalamat si Abet sa aking mga kasamahan, si Oca at saka si Rene, pero dapat magpasalamat tayo kay Governor Tet at kay Congressman Abet kasi sila walang tigil na magkulit sa PPA hanggang hindi naaprubahan itong passenger terminal na ito. At anong klaseng passenger terminal? Napakaganda. Nakita niyo ang design, world class. Si Jun Palafox naman pala ang nag-design nito. si Jun Palafox ay isa sa top 150 architects in the world, the only Southeast Asian. Wala nga siya ngayon sa ating pagdiriwang dahil nanduon siya sa Dubai, meron siyang mga multi-million dollar projects doon. At nandito naman kayong mga kasamahan, meron akong mensahe para kay Jun Palafox. Mula sa namumuno ng Saudi Arabia General Investment Authority dahil sila ay magtatayo ng isang bagong lungsod mas malaki pa kaysa doon sa mga karatig bansa ng Saudi, yung King Abdullah Economic City, balak nilang itayo ang pinakamataas na gusali sa buong mundo. Gusto nila na mag-bid si Jun Palafox sa design ng King Abdullah Economic City.

Mabalik tayo dito. Itong proyektong ito naman kaya naman napapagbigyan ni GM si Abet ay meron tayong panggagalingan ng panggastos, yung mga naitipid natin mula sa pagtitipid ng mga repormang pang-ekonomiya, reporma sa kaban ng bayan na ginawa ng kongreso. Kaya salamat naman Congressman Abet Garcia sa iyong malaking tulong doon. Ang mga proyektong ito ay balik-kabayaran para sa inyo dahil kasama naman kayong mga nagsakripisyo sa ating mga reporma.

Maraming salamat din Governor Garcia, Congressman Garcia, Mayor Raymundo dahil pinangalanan ninyo itong terminal para sa aking ama, si President Diosdado Macapagal. Kami ng tatay ko ay kapitbayan ninyo kasi yung aming bayan ng Lubao, Pampanga ay katabi lamang ng Bataan. Kaya nga naalala ko nung panahon ng lahar napuno ang mga Ospital ng Bataan ng mga Kapampangan noong kalamidad ng Pinatubo. In fact, yung mental hospital dito ay nung ako ay naging senador hiniling ko na gawing national muli... Regional dahil ang daming nagkaroon doon ng mga psychological problems dahil sa trauma ng Pinatubo dito sila pinadala at hindi sa ibang mga hospital. Kaya malaki ang pagkaka soul mate ng Pampanga at Bataan. Malaki ang tinulong ng Bataan sa mga biktima ng kalamidad nung panahon ng Pinatubo.

Ngayon merong kalamidad sa ating rehiyon, not necessarily here in the Philippines yet pero doon sa ating kalapit-bansa na Indonesia. Even as we pray for the victims amid the mounting toll of the java quake and dispatch the

Philippine medical and humanitarian mission to the center of tragedy where the survivors are most in need, I have directed the NDCC to coordinate with Phivolcs and the other concerned agencies in conducting earthquake-preparedness drills in schools, business districts and public places nationwide as part of our massive disaster awareness campaign. Our preparedness at all times, the continuous updating of our disaster monitoring and mitigation plans, and the solidarity of all sectors are important to minimize loss of lives and properties.

Let's not be unduly alarmed, but by all means let every vulnerable community be prepared to meet any contingencies whether brought about by earthquakes, landslides, floods and other natural calamities. Kanina nga dahil si General Rafanan, ang ating bagong regional director ng Region III ay ang Chairman ng Regional Disaster Coordinating Council, sabi ko nga magsimula tayo ng ating earthquake drill dito mismo sa lalawigan ng Bataan.

Sana'y suportahan din ng mga taga-Orion at mga taga-Bataan ang iba pa nating mga reporma. Thank you. Isa sa ating 10-point program na tinatawag nating BEAT-THE-ODDS ay magpaunlad ng network ng imprastrukturang nagko-connect sa buong bansa. Halimbawa ito, although ito ay para sa labas ng bansa ang Orion-Manila ay napaka-importanteng route para konektahin ang buong bansa. Ang importante ang Bataan din, gaya nang sabi ni Abet, ay kasama doon sa ating Clark-Subic Development Corridor. At itong Clark-Subic Development Corridor, ito ay ang Northern portion ng tinatawag nating urban beltway. Ang urban beltway ay sumasakop sa ang Clark-Subic Corridor kasama ang Bataan hanggang Metro Manila, hanggang Calabarzon na nagtatapos sa Batangas Port. At dito sa corridor na ito, the urban beltway na ito nanggagaling ang singkwenta'y porsiyento ng ating gross domestic product.

Kaya importanteng-importante ang imprastruktura dito para mas mabilis galaw ang mga produkto natin. Kaya dito sa lugar na ito, yung urban beltway ang ating pangunahing imprastruktura ay mga expressway at saka mga pantalan kagaya nitong pantalan ng Orion. Yung expressway naman kasama ang Bataan doon sa Subic-Clark Expressway. At ito naman ay itong ferry mula sa Bataan hanggang Maynila yon ay kasama sa nautical highway, pero hindi pa kumpleto. Kasi ang tinatawag nating nautical highway ay yung network ng highway at roll-on/roll-off ferry sakop sana ang ruta ng Manila-Bataan. Kasi kung yung ating mga produkto sa mga industriya dito ay magpupunta pa sa Manila Port. Biro niyo dadaan sila ng Olongapo-Gapan road, North Expressway, tatawid ng Edsa hanggang pupunta sa south harbor o kung saan ba. Pero kung merong roll-on/roll-off ferry, diretso na mula sa Orion yung truck, sasakay na lamang sa ferry, diretso na sa south harbor or kung saan bang pupunta doon sa kung saang bansa o sa buong bahagi na ng Metro Manila.

Ngayon ang kwento nga ni governor at saka ni Abet merong nagsikap na magtayo dito ng roll-on/roll-off ferry, pero nakita niya na mas malaki ang kita ng ro-ro papunta sa Caticlan sa Boracay kaya doon siya lumipat. Hindi naman natin mapipigil ang mga private sector decisions, pero kanina dahil sumakay kami doon sa Sun Cruises, na ang pag-aari ng Magsaysay-Ho family, kinausap ko yung kanilang kinatawan. Alam niyo si Doris Ho ay kahenerasyon ko at ngayon ay nasa Tokyo siya dahil si Doris Ho is an international businesswoman. Pero yung kanyang kinatawan, sabi ko, pwede bang kausapin si Doris tatal meron naman kayong ferry service pampasahero, pwede bang magtayo rin ng ferry service pangsasakyan roll-on/roll-off. At ayon sa kanyang kinatawan talagang pinaplano ng Magsaysay lines na magtatag ng roll-on/roll-off ferry dito.

Sa buong bansa ngayon ay nagpapatuloy ang mga kinakailangang proyekto, gaya nang sabi ko, mga expressway at pantalan sa urban beltway — kasama doon ang Bataan; yung roll-on/roll-off nautical highway — kasama rin doon ang Bataan-Manila. Doon naman sa Central Philippines na ang sakop ay Visayas, Bicol, mga maliliit na isla ng Northern Mindanao, Romblon at Palawan, ang turismo naman ang ating investment doon. At doon naman sa mainland Mindanao at saka sa Northern Luzon ay ang agri-business. Kaya kailangan ang produkto ng Mindanao pumunta rito sa pamamagitan ng ro-ro. Kailangan rin ang produkto ng Northern Luzon pumunta sa Maynila sa pamamagitan ng ro-ro, naiwasan yung malaking traffic doon sa EDSA at saka sa Macart... Kaya yon din ang malaking tulong kung magkaron tayo ng ro-ro dito sa Orion hanggang Maynila.

Dito rin sa Bataan, gaya nang binanggit ni Governor Tet, ang sentro ng ating mga reporma sa kasarinlan sa enerhiya dahil narito ang planta ng Petron na siya ay partnership ng Philippine government at ang Saudi Aramco. At nung ako ay nagpunta sa Saudi Arabia, hinihiling ko sa Saudi Arabia — dahil Saudi Aramco ay pag-aari ng Saudi Arabia — na maglagay sana sila ng refinery doon sa Mindanao. Ang sagot nila, pwede silang maglagay ng refinery sa Pilipinas pero gusto nila ilagay dito sa Bataan, dahil sa economics. Pero para makatulong na magbigay ng trabaho sa

Mindanao, ang ilalagay nila doon ay mga ethanol distillery at saka pwede rin maglalagay ng Jatropha processing plant para hindi naman malulugi or hindi naman maiiwan yung Mindanao sa development.

Kasi naman kung trabaho ang pag-uusapan natin, actually ang oil refinery ay capital intensive, so hindi ganun karami ang trabaho for a given peso of investment. Kaya kung gusto natin ng sabi nila trabaho sa Mindanao, gawa ng di hamak mas mababa ang human development index sa Mindanao haming sa Bataan, eh mas mabuti nga yung maglagay ng ilang ethanol distillery at saka Jatropha plantation, mas makakapagbigay ng maraming trabaho. Ang importante sa refinery ay efficient cost of production para mababa ang benta ng refined oil product at para sa kanila ang sagot doon sa layuning yon ay yung planta dito sa Bataan. Kaya congratulations sa inyo!

We deeply appreciate the move of our oil firms to hold off upward price adjustments for diesel. The transport sector and the commuters are truly grateful for this break at a time when they need it most. The government shall continue to work with the petroleum industry to temper the impact of oil price increases in the world market. We also appeal to our legislators to pass immediately the biofuel act to encourage more investments in alternative fuel sources. Tapos na ito sa kongreso.

We could muster the vast agricultural prowess of the Philippines to our advantage and ease the woes of our people. Yung Jatropha pwede kayong bumili ng mga binhi doon sa Northern Luzon command dahil si General Romy Tolentino ay malapit nang mag-ani ng kanyang mga buto ng Jatropha doon sa Fort Magsaysay. At yang Jatrophan yan ay matatanim kahit na sa marginal lands at pag marami nang nagtanim at nagha-harvest ng buto ay yung Petron din ay handang magtayo ng Jatropha plant na magpro-process naman ito sa diesel.

Energy self-sufficiency is the imperative of our time and we must exhaust all avenues and all means of institutional solidarity towards the long-term achievement of this goal.

Kaya mga kababayan, mga karatig kalalawigan, ituloy natin ang mga gawaing magpapabilis sa kaunlaran.

Muli, binabati ko kayo mga taga-Orion, mga taga-Bataan, sa simula ng inyong bagong pag-unlad. Napakagandang simbolo itong sinisimulan nating Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Terminal. Sana'y magiging tuloy-tuloy ito.

Maraming salamat sa patuloy ninyong suporta sa akin.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Passenger Terminal. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213123/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2713&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippines-China Economic Partnership Forum

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Philippines-China Economic Partnership Forum

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, June 5, 2006]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Secretary Peter Favila.

His Excellency President Ramos, chairman of the BOA forum, His Excellency Minister Bo Xilai, His Excellency Chinese Ambassador Lee, Assistant Minister, Speaker De Venecia, Secretary Romulo, Secretary Nery, delegates and participants in this very, very important Philippines-China Economic Partnership Forum, ladies and gentlemen.

In behalf of the Filipino people, welcome to the business and government delegations of the People's Republic of China. I am so happy that this very important forum is headed by the Honorable Minister of Commerce of China, Minister Bo Xilai. Aside from the fact that they have been saying here on stage that he looks like a movie star, it's always a pleasure for me to see Minister Bo Xilai, because I have known him since he was mayor of Dahlian and I was vice president of the Philippines.

And I am so happy to see such a big and important delegation on the occasion of friendship between our two countries and especially because I consider this forum as a fitting sequel to the historic visit of President Hu Jintao to the Philippines last year on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of our diplomatic relations with each other. It was a great honor for me to host that jubilee celebration after myself having made two state visits to China, but it was a very personal honor for me to host President Hu because more than thirty years ago, as co-chair of the association of our Philippines-China understanding, I was one of those civilians who worked for the establishment of our diplomatic relations.

Today, thirty years later, thirty-one years later from that time, China is at the center of world attention not only as the largest country in the world but also as the fastest growing economy and a leading player in the global regime. And we in the Philippines feel honored to be able to benefit from China's participation in world trade and the world economy.

We are neighbors. We have a long relationship that dates back to the ancient Chinese dynasties, and we have Francis Chua and the other leaders of the Filipino-Chinese community in the Philippines who are the leading players in our Philippine economy. All these factors are the basic determinants of our vibrant relations not only in trade but in every sphere that we can think of when two neighbors, two relatives, two old friends should have a relationship with each other.

When we met at the APEC Summit in Chile in 2004, that was the time when President Hu described our present relationship as having reached the "golden age." and there are so many manifestations of that golden age. Ever since China entered the WTO, China has become one of the biggest trading partners of the Philippines I understand that China trade with the Philippines is one of the fastest growing bilateral relationships of China. We have a satisfactory free trade agreement early harvest that was signed during the state visit of President Hu. And I am very grateful that we have in fact surpassed the levels of bilateral trade that we have set for ourselves.

Aside from trade, China has given meaningful support to the Philippines' development agenda with your assistance first in agriculture and then later on in the railroad to the north. And now we are forging strategic, long-term partnerships in mining and other sectors.

We have also charted a path-breaking and peace-building course for regional diplomacy in the South China Sea with the trilateral marine seismic undertaking of the Philippines, China and Vietnam.

Today, as you are back here honorable minister, as you are here honorable businessmen of China, I invite you to continue to invest in the Philippines. I would like to let you know that we are working to reform our regulating environment so that things can move faster in our bureaucracy. I would like to let you know that we are investing in modern infrastructure, not only the railroad to the north, but roads, ports, airports, expressways so that travel will be much faster among our key economic hubs. And we are investing to train our young people so that we have a business environment that is as competitive as any in the region.

I believe that we have already had many conversations about Chinese investments and where we would want them to go. Of course, we want you to go everywhere but we have some special invitations for you for some special areas. We have a number of priorities where we feel we could have a mutually beneficial relationship.

For instance, in agriculture where you have already been helping us for so many years. We are developing two million new hectares of land for agri-business, and we invite the Chinese business community to participate there.

And then there is tourism. China is our fastest growing market. The tourists from China who came last year were more than three times as many as the tourists who came the year before. And we hope that the business investments, the companies from China will invest in tourism facilities and projects that provide access like roads and airports.

There is also the area of infrastructure where we want to build roads and railroads and roll-on/roll-off ferries to make travel much faster in this second largest archipelago in the world.

And then there is mining. We have a reserve worth a trillion dollars. We are among the largest reserves in gold, in copper and in nickel. Our people are world class. Their skills are known in 140 countries and there is more of them right here in the Philippines. And so we believe that investments from China will also be very productive and profitable in skills-intensive industries like electronics, energy, shipbuilding and shipping, health and wellness, and jewelry.

Friends from the People's Republic of China, with your participation in these Philippine investment areas and other investments where you may wish to do your business supported by the skilled Filipino worker, I am very sure we should be able to drive up an even more mutually rewarding relationship between our two nations in this golden age of friendship between China and the Philippines.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Philippines-China Economic Partnership Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213058/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2813&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Joint Dinner of Foreign Chambers of Commerce (International Network of Business Organizations)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Joint Dinner of Foreign Chambers of Commerce (International Network of Business Organizations)**

[Delivered at the Luzon-Visayas Ballroom, Hotel Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Pasay City, June 6, 2006]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Secretary Favila.

Secretary Romulo, Secretary Teves, the other members of the Philippine government, presidents and officers of the 11 chambers that got together for this International Network of Business Organizations, Donald Dee, representing the Filipino businessmen, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for being here tonight. Thank you for putting together this very important aggrupation and thank you for inviting me to be with you. And I am here tonight to assure you that we will listen to you, we listen to you, we hear you and we are acting on your recommendations everyday to improve our performance to make the Philippines a better place in which to live and work.

As an economist, I have been praying to believe that government should play a role as a facilitator of growth, not a barrier to entry for domestic and foreign capital and investment. And you all here Filipinos and foreigners are central to our success, as you mentioned earlier, in attracting new levels of foreign investment and expanded trade which in turn creates jobs for Filipinos. I'm a firm believer in the adage that "trade is better than aid." and my economic team has been directed to work with the domestic and international private sectors to ensure that you have the support needed to promote expanded trade for our commodities, products and services.

We have a world that is now flat, as Thomas Friedman said. And in a flatter world, as Friedman describes the world today, a more well-rounded government is vital to ensure that growth is consistent and that as a nation we build a just and equitable society. And in building a just and equitable society, I'd like to take this occasion to reiterate once again my support for a reasonable wage hike hammered out by the Tripartite Regional Wage Boards.

Through Undersecretary Danny Cruz here, undersecretary, I would like you to take care of fast-tracking the deliberations on ten pending petitions at the regional wage boards. And we must package a minimum wage increase with the bill on increases in income tax exemptions of minimum wage earners which is pending in Congress. Difficult? Well, you have witnessed my administration's willingness to take the tough and often unpopular decisions to reform our economy and support sustainable economic development. And I thank you, most of you, for having supported me during these difficult times.

Our economy is growing, notwithstanding the political noise that captures so many news headlines. But as Fer Peña said, we've grown 5.5 percent GDP, 5.8 percent GNP. The 400,000 growth in jobs is only in call centers, BPOs and mining. If you talk about the growth in all jobs we're talking about an average of one million a year in the past 5 years of my administration.

Going back to difficult and unpopular things one needs to do, in order to give you a good business climate, no leader anywhere in the world likes or wants to raise taxes. But that is what I had to do. We needed vital money for infrastructure projects, to give a boost to education and English language instruction, and to improve the health and security of our young and growing work force. I know that infrastructure development is high on your list of

requirements. And our tax reform measures are finally giving us the capital we need to invest in that critical area and we're also opening up new areas for private sector infrastructure investment. We will deliver the new transportation and energy projects that business needs to expand trade. We know that certainty of supply of accessible and affordable energy is required to drive your business throughout our country. And we are working to meet this need through such measures as public and private sector investment as well as regulatory and other reforms that will further develop this critical part of our economy.

The backlog of investments that are required to turn the nation around is sometimes daunting. And earlier your President Ram Sitaldas asked me how can you help me? Well, I said most important are your investments to create jobs. But I wanted to expound on that but I left it for talking to all of you and pointing out some of the areas in which I think you can help me. First of all, as far as investment is concerned, we do have a backlog of investments. The enactment of the BOT law, which I authored when I was still senator — Gary, were you the author in the House at that time? Yeah, because Gary and I were always partners in authoring economic measures then — the enactment of the BOT law is recognition of the lack of sufficient capital for the government to undertake all the necessary infrastructure projects in the country. And that's one way where you the private sector can help.

Under a streamlined private sector partnership program, private-public sector partnership program, the former build-operate-transfer programs have been expanded to cover not only the BOT variants but also other modalities, such as joint venture agreements, concession arrangements and other programs tailored to improve public-private sector development.

Another place where you can help us is with regard to business process outsourcing which has been a particularly exciting growth sector. And this is an area that has the potential to create a hundred thousand new jobs every time I make a speech. It's not even every year or every two years, every time I have to make speech I had to get myself updated: 2001 it was less than 2,000; a year later it was 4,000; then 8,000; then 16,000; then it just went on and on and on. And every time I make a speech there is a whole number of new entrants into this industry, and even more indirect jobs for our young and highly-productive work force. How can you help us here? I welcome your recommendations on how best to bring more sophisticated value-added BPO investments to the Philippines.

I also call on the international business community and our domestic business partners, business sector, to partner with the government in our efforts to ensure that our young people enter the work force fully prepared for the demands of today's economy. As I said at the beginning, a flat world requires a well-rounded government to help smooth the rough edges of global competition. And part of that obligation by government is to make sure we measure in more ways than just the economic indicators — GDP, GNP growth, jobs created — other indicators outside economics, the measure of the health and vitality of our nation. And I'm here referring specifically to such issues as corruption, political extremism and security. Let me touch on each of these this evening.

On corruption, we must and we will break the back of corruption in the Philippines. Francis Chua gave you two examples: the 168 operation and the immigration card. And I believe aside from those anecdotes that Francis gave, and I thank him for being very concrete in what we've done, we've made great strides in government to break the cycle of corruption.

In the SWS surveys of enterprises on corruption, the percentage of enterprises who were asked for a bribe in transacting local and national government permits and licenses, and also in the payment of income taxes went down significantly between the year 2000 and the year 2005. And those who were not asked for any bribes in this and other transactions with the government almost doubled during that period, those who were not asked for any bribes.

And I have issued an A.O. 141 mandating periodic reporting on the use of the e-vat. This is part of the government's efforts to promote greater accountability and increase the confidence of the general public that the taxes that you pay are used wisely, efficiently and transparently. As many of you who have been dealing with us know, I have enlisted the help of Hong Kong's top corruption buster, Tony Kwok, who feels that we are making progress. In fact, Tony, would say we are not getting the credit we deserve for the strides we have made.

And of course, there is another more insidious form of corruption, and that is the corruption of our democratic form of government through the use of violence, intimidation and murder. The apparent murder of journalists and political activists is an affront to the fabric of our nation. And I would like to tell you that I am determined to bring to justice those who perpetrate these crimes and will not rest until justice is served even as I am determined to defeat the communist insurgency with the military and social weapons available in our democratic institutions. Are these empty words? I'm glad Francis reminded you about what we were able to do about kidnapping. So with the same fervor that we brought down kidnapping to historic lows, that is the fervor we will use to solve these killings of journalists and leftist activists.

We must turn our swords into plowshares and reap the benefits of working together in harmony and not tearing our nation apart in anger. And speaking of working together in harmony, I believe peace in Mindanao will happen, and when it does it will open up a floodgate of goodwill and investments that will turn that region around. Another place in which you, the ladies and gentlemen of the foreign and Philippine business community, will find many opportunities for investment.

In conclusion then let me say that we must build a strong foundation from the stones of many quarries, fiscal discipline — as mentioned by the speakers earlier — targeted investments — for instance, the private-public sector partnerships that I talked to you about today, the higher value BPO and others that I have been mentioning in previous messages to the business community — job creation, poverty elimination, peace and order, social justice, and press and political freedom.

And I thank each of you here this evening as well as you as a group who have come together, 11 foreign business associations. For also being our rock of granite in the foundation of a stronger, more prosperous, more democratic Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Joint Dinner of Foreign Chambers of Commerce (International Network of Business Organizations). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213048/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2811&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo before the Forum for Sustainable Development Strategy for Manila Bay

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the Forum for Sustainable Development Strategy for Manila Bay**

[Delivered at the Hotel Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Pasay City, June 7, 2006]

**TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY FOR MANILA BAY**

Thank you all for coming to this forum. This is one of the biggest gatherings of Filipino decision-makers who have the will and the heart to protect our coasts and marine resources. And we also thank our partners, the UNDP, represented by Madame Noble; the global environmental facility and USAID; and of course our Regional Program Director of the Partnership for Environmental Management in the Seas of East Asia, for being at our side to protect the seas and marine life not only of the Philippines but of the whole of East Asia. Not only are we here to comply with our commitments to sustainable development strategy for the seas of East Asia, we are also here as responsible citizens complying with our own medium-term Philippine development plan to manage our natural resources and protect the environment to improve our quality of life and that of future generations.

Speaking of protecting the quality of life, allow me to have a little digression. On this occasion celebrating the quality of life, we celebrate the victory of life as I thank congress for its immediate action in abolishing the death penalty law. But make no mistake about it, the abolition of the death penalty will be complemented by a stricter and sterner enforcement of the law in all fronts.

This is not a victory for criminals as some would claim, but rather clear proof that Filipinos respect life and uphold the virtue and religious doctrines that are expected of us as a dominant Christian nation. We are also glad that the Philippines has been taken off the watch list for human trafficking, which demonstrates our solid and effective programs to protect the welfare of women and children.

We urge our religious leaders to help the government in the moral and spiritual transformation of convicted offenders, particularly those serving maximum jail terms, even if they are not allowed parole. For our part, we assure the public that we will implement all available means of improving our jail facilities in order to render them more conducive to our prisoner rehabilitation and reform programs. We praise God for this event, and we pray for a society of peace, harmony and solidarity under the rule of law.

Our administration is preparing for the future and doing everything in our power to spend value-added tax moneys on health, education and infrastructure; engaging foreign travel to promote investments and protect OFWs; and creating energy independence and promoting environmental quality

Our medium-term plan embodies our Ten-Point Pro-Poor Agenda which provides that by 2010, we shall have brought clean water to the entire country. And to do that, we must take care of environmental quality. We can only ensure clean water by implementing the Solid Waste Management act of 2001 and the Clean Water Act of 2004 which both became law during my administration. And also by rationalizing and prioritizing reforestation in watersheds to preserve rivers, like the Pasig River, and other fresh water systems and also for flood control.

Our medium-term plan also considers that we are the second largest archipelago in the world with a fragile island ecosystem. We have—according to the notes given to me by Angie Reyes—842 coastal cities and municipalities, so Bais and Puerto Galera are only two of those more than 800, and 62 percent of our population makes use of the nation’s coasts for fishing, transport, settlement and other activities.

To protect our coasts and marine waters, however, we must protect the entire environment—our forests, our lands, our waters, our air—for almost everything that ensues from environmental degradation flows down and impacts negatively on the quality of our seas as we have seen happening to Manila Bay.

And the poor are the first ones to suffer the effects of environmental degradation. Makeshift shanties are the first to be carried away by the floods and small-scale fishermen are the first to lose their livelihood due to coastal destruction. Once upon a time when we were very young, Manila Bay gave us the biggest amount of fish. Now, Manila Bay gives us a tiny fraction of the entire marine production of our country.

This forum—following the style of Secretary Reyes since he was in the armed forces and through the Department of National Defense and through the Department of Interior and Local Government—must focus on a holistic approach. In the cabinet they call Angie Mr. Holistic, remember Bebet? A holistic approach that emphasizes fighting poverty and enabling every man and woman and child in the Philippines to participate in sustainable development practices.

The Manila Bay Environmental Management Project is a good test case to demonstrate that the country’s most important bay can meet the needs of all sectors relying on it for food, livelihood, commerce and transportation while protecting it from further degradation.

When Angie invited me to open this forum, as I am opening it today, and he said it’s going to be in a hotel, “Angie, let’s do it in front of the problem. Let’s physically face the problem. Let’s do it facing Manila Bay.” and that’s why we have this opening session here today.

And today, I would like to let you know that I have signed or I am signing—actually, I have signed but if they have it here I can ceremonially sign it again—I signed yesterday an executive order adopting integrated coastal management. I learned from Dr. Chua another acronym—ICM. As a national—but I know it as Integrated Coastal Management—as a national strategy for the sustainable development of our country’s coastal and marine habitats and resources, I’m further directing Secretary Reyes to be the lead to formulate jointly with the Department of Agriculture, the local governments involved, the NEDA, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Transportation and Communications and National Integrated Coastal Management Plan in accordance with the agreements that will be forged in this forum and in other consultations with various sectors.

We must act together, and we must act now. And on this note, I open this very important forum on Sustainable Development Strategy for Manila Bay.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Vin d' Honneur Speech of President Arroyo during the celebration of the 108th anniversary of Philippine Independence

**Vin d' Honneur Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the celebration of the 108th anniversary of Philippine Independence**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, June 12, 2006]

His Excellency Archbishop Filoni; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; Vice President de Castro; other officials of the Philippine government; Secretary Romulo and Mrs. Romulo; other members of the Cabinet and their ladies; Chief Justice Panganiban and the other members of the judiciary; officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police; elected members of the Philippine government; ladies and gentlemen.

Today, we again honor our forefathers whose sacrifices over 108 years ago brought us independence. We also honor our countrymen and countrywomen whose sacrifices over a period of our independence have protected our freedoms and preserved our democracy. We shall continue to protect our heritage and we shall never take our independence for granted.

We know that with independence comes responsibility. Responsibility to preserve peace and order. Responsibility to preserve democratic principles. Responsibility to ensure that all Filipinos have access to the opportunities to feed their families and educate their children. And responsibility to protect our Constitution.

Democracies can be lively but they must not be divisive.

The fight for independence was not a fight amongst ourselves. It was a fight against foreign power that still could not recognize that we were more than a people. We were a nation united in shared values and shared pride.

There are those who dishonor the memory of those who fought for independence through misguided initiatives that threaten to tear our nation apart. But we shall work without distraction to build a better life for all Filipinos, and we shall continue to seek unity in achieving that paramount goal.

We have upheld the sturdy pillars of democracy and no harangues or political noise can overcome the truth that we have achieved economic progress under an umbrella of free enterprise and human freedom. Many of those who shout in the streets have done nothing for this nation except foment strife and stagnation. But time will eventually expose them as false prophets whose primary platform is self-interest and national division.

Our nation is at a crossroads. We've achieved much including the graduation of 1.6 million Filipinos from poverty. Greater things stand before us but we must put an end to politics as usual and work to shape a Philippine Republic that truly offers opportunity for all. We owe it to our forefathers to unite in the struggle to bring greater levels of peace, equality and opportunity to all corners of our nation.

We have created a nation that is truly outward-looking. And our relations with those countries such as Spain and the United States who have been a part of our history have never been better. They are our partners in commerce as well as our partners in peace, as well as in the fight against terror. And to this we'll add our thanks to the American business community for recognizing our efforts to reduce corruption.

Our nation has withstood many challenges during the years of our independence and none has been greater in the fight to preserve our democracy. We have a unique opportunity to bring peace to a region of our country that has seen too much bloodshed in a fight to tear our country apart. With the graduation of three of the Muslim provinces from the list of the 10 poorest provinces in our country, I am excited by the prospects for peace in Mindanao and I

commend all parties — members of the diplomatic world, the countries you represent — I commend all of you for your recognition that we now our country can achieve more good for the Filipino people if we put down our guns and work together in harmony.

Our people will soon be called upon to make a decision that can bring an end to the political deadlocks that have stalled our efforts to take our nation to the next level. The choice is for us to make whether we continue to live up to the vision of our national heroes or continue to watch helplessly while our political system degenerates and our economy is trapped on the mire of uncertainty.

Our forefathers did not sacrifice to create an independent nation where politics take precedence over progress. I hope the memory of our struggle for independence will drive international solidarity, represented by the excellencies of the diplomatic corps here today present, will drive international solidarity behind the direction we want to take our country in the years ahead.

On this note, I ask your excellencies, the diplomatic corps and our fellow Filipinos in this hall to join me in a toast to international solidarity and to the future of the Philippines.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Vin d' Honneur in Celebration of the 108th Anniversary of Philippine Independence. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213018/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2808&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 108th anniversary of the proclamation of the Philippine Independence
[Filipino]**

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa ika-108 na anibersaryo ng proklamasyon ng Kalayaan ng Pilipinas**

[Ipinahayag sa Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila, ika 12 ng Hunyo, 2006]

Maraming salamat Secretary, Ace Durano sa inyong pagpapakilala.

Iba't-ibang mga kasapi ng ating gabinete; si Mayor Atienza at iba't-ibang mga opisyal na halal sa Maynila at buong bansang Pilipinas; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; officials of the Philippine government, civilian and military; mga minamahal kong kababayan, maligayang anibersaryo ng ating kalayaan sa inyong lahat!

Muli nating binibigyan ng karangalan ang ating mga ninuno na nagpakasakit upang makalaya at makapagsarili ang ating bayan. Gayun din, binibigyan natin ng parangal ang mga kababayan nating nagsakripisyo sa nagdaang animnapung taon upang ipagtanggol ang ating kalayaan at demokrasya. Patuloy nating ipinagsasanggalang ang pamana sa atin. Hindi natin minamaliit ang halaga ng ating kasarinlan.

Ngunit walang saysay ang independensiya ng bansa kung walang laya ang mamamayan. Kaya nakatanod tayo laban sa mga kaaway na ibig wasakin ang demokrasyang nilikha ng pakikibaka ng ating mga ninuno 180 years ago, pati na rin ang patuloy nating pagtatanggol sa ating demokrasya sa nakaraang animnapung taon.

Batid nating may katuwang na tungkulin ang kasarinlan — ang tungkuling mapalawig ang kapayapaan, ang tungkuling mapalawig ang mga prinsipyo ng demokrasya, at tungkuling masigurado na may pagkakataon ang lahat ng Pilipino na buhayin ang kanilang mga pamilya at mapag-aral ang kanilang mga anak, at ang tungkuling ipagsanggalang ang ating saligang batas.

Lumaban ang ating bayani upang matamo ang kalayaan, at gayun din ang ating patuloy na gagawin upang mapatatag ang saligan ng Republika ng Pilipinas at mapagtibay ang ating sambayanan.

Maaaring masigla ang demokrasya, ngunit hindi dapat hati-hati. Marapat lamang na igalang ng mga Pilipino ang mga karapatang nagkaroon ng iba-ibang pananaw, subalit dapat pagkasunduan nating lahat na kailangan humakbang tayo ng sabay-sabay pasulong para sa ating kinabukasan bilang sambayanan.

Ang pakikibaka para sa kalayaan ay hindi laban sa atin-atin, kundi laban sa dayuhang mananakop na ayaw tanggapin hindi lamang katauhan natin, kung hindi sambayanang pinagbuklod ng mga paniniwala at dangal na yakap nating lahat.

May mga inaalipustang alaala ng mga nakibaka para sa ating kalayaan sa pamamagitan ng mga pakana nilang sukat wasakin ang pagkakaisa ng ating bayan. Subalit inaasahan kong mga kababayang narito, magsisikap tayong magpundar ng mas magandang buhay para sa lahat ng Pilipino, at magkakaisa tayo upang matamo ang pangunahing layuning iyon.

Nasa sangangdaan ang ating bansa. Marami na tayong naisakatuparan, at marami pang mas dakilang bagay ang nasa hinaharap, ngunit kailangang itigil na natin ang dating gawi ng pulitika at pagpunyagi upang bigyang hugis ang Republikang Pilipinong tunay na magkakaloob ng oportunidad para sa lahat.

Dapat tanungin natin sa ating sarili kung maliligayahan ang mga nakipaglaban para sa ating kasarinlan sa bansang sumilang mula sa pakikibakang 'yon. Naniniwala ako na utang natin sa ating mga ninuno na magkaisa tayo sa

pagsisikap na maghatid ng higit pang antas ng kapayapaan, pagkakapantay, pagkakataon sa lahat ng sulok ng ating bansa.

Lumikha tayo ng sambayanang tunay na nasa daigdig ang tanaw, at pakitungo natin sa mga bansa, gaya ng Espanya at Amerika, na naging bahagi ng ating kahapon, ay walang mas maganda pa sa kasaysayan kaysa ngayon. Mga kapanalig natin sila sa kalakal at kapayapaan, gayun din sa paglaban sa terorismo. Naniniwala akong nasisiyahan ang ating mga ninuno sa paghakbang ito. Idagdag pa natin dito ang pahayag ng mga Amerikanong negosyante na napupuna nila ang pagbawas ng katiwalian sa Pilipinas. Salamat sa inyong lahat.

Nanaig ang sambayanan natin sa maraming hamon nitong nagdaang anim na dekada, at walang hihigit sa pakikibaka para sa patuloy na pagyabong ng ating demokrasya.

Nitong nagdaang linggo lamang, napabalita ang pagbaba ng antas ng matinding kahirapan o extreme poverty level sa bansa na nagpamalas din ng pagbuti sa kalagayan sa buhay ng mga kapatid nating muslim sa katimugan. Ngunit bagaman bumaba ang porsiyento ng mahihirap sa bansa mula sa dami ng aking namana sa dating administrasyon, milyun-milyon pa rin ang dukha.

Ganunpaman, may natatangi tayong pagkakataon na maghatid ng kapayapaan sa isang bahagi ng ating bansa na labis-labis ang pagdanak ng dugo sa pakikibaka para tatagbas sa ating bansa.

Nabubuhayan ang loob ko lalo na sa aking huling pagsubaybay at pagmasdan sa kalagayan sa Mindanao. Nabubuhayan ang aking loob sa pagdating ng kapayapaan sa Mindanao. At nagpupuri ako sa lahat ng nananalig na mas malaking kabutihan ang magagawa natin para sa bayang Pilipino kung magbababa tayo ng ating mga armas at magtulungan.

At malapit nang dumating sa ating mga mamamayan ang oras ng pagpasyang maaaring makawakas sa mga hindi pagkakasundo na malaon nang humadlang sa ating bayan na makaakyat sa mas matayog na antas.

Hindi nagbuwis ang buhay ng ating mga ninuno para sa lumikha ng malayang bayan kung saan nauuna ang pamumulitika kaysa sa pag-unlad. Umaasa ako na ang alaala ng ating pakikibaka para sa kalayaan ay magbubunsod ng pakikibalikat sa ating mga layunin para sa bayan sa mga taong darating.

At sa inyo, aking mga minamahal na kababayan, salamat sa inyong pakikiisa sa ating pagdiriwang. Diyaan sa mga walang trabaho na nagpunta ngayon, pumunta kayo sa ating jobs fair na ginaganap dito sa Luneta. At sa inyong lahat, lalo na itong mga ating mga masigasig na kabataan ng maynila na narito sa harap, salamat at kayo ay kumakatawan sa kinabukasan ng ating bansa.

Mabuhay ang kalayaan ng Pilipinas!

Mabuhay ang Pilipino!

Maraming salamat inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 108th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213029/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2807&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on the signing of the Abolition of Death Penalty

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the signing of the Abolition of Death Penalty**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, June 24, 2006]

DEAD MEN WALKING NO MORE

Today in signing the abolition of the death penalty, we celebrate life in the most meaningful way by gathering our institutions together to repeal the death penalty.

I appreciate the enthusiasm of Congress in expressing the moral and spiritual force of the Filipino in this law.

I thank the Church for the beacon of grace and discernment. When I meet the Holy Father soon in the Vatican, I shall tell him that we have acted in the name of life for a world of peace and harmony.

I allay the concerns of those who think that the abolition of the death penalty opens the floodgates to heinous acts. We shall devote... We shall continue to devote the increasing weight of our resources to the prevention and control of serious crimes, rather than take the lives of those who commit them.

I call on the entire criminal justice system — law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, jailers and the whole community — to take stock of the responsibility of sharpening law and justice for all.

On the bombing in Maguindanao targeted at the governor and which killed five people, I condemn this act of terrorism in the strongest terms as a crime against peace and humanity. The authorities must identify the perpetrators, launch a manhunt with the proper rewards, and bring them to justice.

I extend my sympathies to the families of the victims and assure them that the search for justice will be firm and relentless. We will never be intimidated by these treacherous acts and we shall fight terror as seriously as we embrace peace and development, solidarity among our law-abiding citizens, and our strategic alliances. This commitment stands firm and will not relent until the total defeat of terrorists in every part of the country.

The rule of law, strictly enforced, shall ride side by side with social justice in paving the way for an atmosphere of political and economic security, so that every person and family shall have the blessings of stable employment, better health, education and public safety.

We have taken a strong hand against the threats to the law and the republic, but at the same time we yield to the high moral imperatives dictated by God to walk away from capital punishment.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President during the opening ceremonies of the 9th Annual Asia-Pacific Group Meeting on money laundering and terrorist financing

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the 9th Annual Asia-Pacific Group Meeting on money laundering and
terrorist financing**

[Delivered at Meeting Room 4, Philippine International Convention Center, CCP Complex, Pasay City, July 3, 2006]

Thank you, Secretary Teves.

Governor Tetangco and other members of the Anti-Money Laundering Council of the Philippines as well as the other officers of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering; Congressman Jaime Lopez, Chairman of the House Committee on Banking; delegates; ladies and gentlemen.

To all of you from Asia-Pacific, welcome to the Philippines! And to my colleagues in government who have been active in anti-money laundering, I would like to congratulate them that the Philippines is a strong player domestically and globally in the fight against money laundering. Congratulations to you, say and to everyone else!

All our political institutions are in the thick of this fight. Under the leadership of Congressman Lopez many years ago, we enacted the Anti-Money Laundering Law in 2001 and our Supreme Court has designated 56 commercial courts, I understand, as special anti-money laundering courts in all the 12 jurisdictions, judicial jurisdictions of the country.

The polity context of all these is that we're working to reform our regulating environment, to invest in modern infrastructure, and to train our young people so we have a business environment that is as competitive as any in Asia. And the Anti-Money Laundering Law is one of the key reforms in our regulating environment.

I can't help but think of what we have accomplished in anti-money laundering and what we still have to do as together with the rest of the world yesterday, we celebrated the victory of our boxing hero Manny Pacquiao. As the entire nation stood still in yesterday's big fight at the Araneta Coliseum, I could not help but dream that one day we would see the same passion in the hearts of our leaders and all Filipinos in supporting the common vision of the future.

We've already won many struggles in our journey forward and one of them is the Anti-Money Laundering Law. And as we prepare for more challenges that lie ahead including the even more vigorous implementation of this law and other reforms, we draw inspiration from the great fighters like Manny Pacquiao who can knock down the obstacles along the way and beat the odds. We are on our way to the championship of the Filipino in the world arena on the back of our innate excellence, enterprising spirit and courage as a people.

I'm very glad to hear the report from the Anti-Money Laundering Council that from the time the Philippine Anti-Money Laundering Act was enacted in 2001, the AMLAC has frozen more than one billion pesos in suspected dirty funds and other criminally tainted assets. Released close to 600 million pesos to victims of swindling or fraud. Found about a hundred money laundering and related cases, and the recent conviction of money launderers, one a criminal conviction and three forfeiture of the laundered assets, proves that our system works.

Now to supplement all of these, I have certified as urgent the passage of a bill calling for the enactment of an Anti-Terrorism Law which will criminalize not only terrorism but its financing as well.

We have to remain vigilant, united and committed. And I am confident to see from this group that there will always be people like you who will stand in the way of evil.

To all of you, thank you and Mabuhay!

Welcome once again to the Philippines!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the 9th Annual Asia-Pacific Group Meeting on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212834/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2841&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine National Police Change of Command Ceremony and Retirement Honors for outgoing Police Director General Arturo Lomibao Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine National Police Change of Command Ceremony and Retirement Honors for outgoing Police Director General Arturo Lomibao

[Delivered at Camp Crame Parade Grounds, Quezon City, July 5, 2006]

Thank you, Secretary Puno.

President Ramos and the other former chiefs of the PC and the PNP including now Former Chief Art Lomibao; the new Chief of the PNP, Director General Oscar Calderon and the other officers and men and women of the Philippine National Police; Congressman Espino and the other elected officials of the Philippine government; Cabinet members; AFP Chief of Staff General Senga and the other appointive officials of the Philippine government; ladies and gentlemen.

Isasabit na ni Art Lomibao ang kaniyang unipormeng pulis pagkatapos ng tatlumpu't walong taon ng huwarang paglilingkod. Ang kaniyang labing-anim na buwang termino bilang pinuno ng pulis ay isa sa pinaka-puno ng pangyayari at pinaka-nakakahamon na panahon kailanman sa kasaysayan ng PNP, gaya nang sabi niya simula pa sa kanyang day one.

At gaya nang sabi niya, sa halip ng seremonyang kagaya nito, ang tumanggap sa kanya ng pagpasok niya sa pamumuno ng PNP ay yung kalagitnaan ng malaking tangkang kumalas sa preso. Walang seremonya, wala siyang diskurso, pati ako walang diskurso.

Troop commander, please give 'Tikas Pahinga.'

Kaya ngayon sisimulan ko ang aking diskurso doon sa gagawin ko sanang pasimula nung diskurso noong araw na yon. Gusto ko sana noon maikuwento kung papaano ko nakita si Art Lomibao bilang Chief PNP material. Alam ng lahat siya ay matapang, magiting, competent professional. Pero maraming matapang, magiting, competent at professional sa mga opisyal ng pulis. Pero ang nakita ko ay kaiba-ibang kadakilaan at potensiyal sa liderato ng pulis nung sa paraang napaka-madignidad, mapagkakumbaba, malumanay at matahimik. Sumunod siya sa utos na bumalik sa Region I pagkatapos ng isang araw lamang naglingkod sa CIDG. Hindi niya tinanong kung bakit, lalo na't ang CIDG ay tinatanaw bilang isang pinakamakapangyarihang pwesto sa PNP kasunod lamang ng pinuno.

Kaya nung kasunod na naging bakante yung pwesto ng CIDG, may ibang mga pinanukalang iupo doon, at sinabi ko: "Ang CIDG ay hindi premyo na binibigay sa gusto nating paligayahin. Dapat ang ilalagay natin doon ay yung tamang opisyal. Dapat ilagay na natin doon si Art Lomibao." at hindi ko kailanman sinisi yung desisyon na yon, gaya nang hindi ko kailanman sinising gawin siyang pinuno ng Philippine National Police.

Napakamakasaysayan yung panahon ni Art Lomibao. Hinarap niya mga terorista, mga kriminal, mga sindikato, mga destabilizer sa ibabaw ng pagtatayo niya ng kanyang legacy na mga police station at lahat itong pagsubok na ito pinasa niya na may flying colors dahil sa kanyang kadakilaan pati na rin dahil suportado siya ng lumalaking liga ng propesyonal sa organisasyon ng Philippine National Police.

Indeed, our law enforcement men and women are essential to upholding the constitution and the rule of law that are so important to our democracy.

Nagpapasalamat tayo kay Art, at nagpapasalamat din tayo itong araw na ito sa pagtanggap kay Director General Oscar Calderon bilang bagong pinuno ng Philippine National Police.

Ang lahat ng mga liderato ng PNP sa ilalim nitong administrasyon ay nagtagumpay sa makabuluhang pagbaba ng sukat ng krimen, pagsangga sa destabilisasyon, at ganundin sa terorismo. At ngayon pinili ko si General Calderon upang ituloy yung direksyon na yon kung hindi mapag-ibayo pa dito. Sigurado tayo na hinahangad niya ang higit na mataas na resulta sa gawing mas ligtas ang kalooban ng taong-bayan sa kalsada, sa mga tahanan nila at sa kanilang mga lugar ng trabaho.

Sa kanyang mga kredensyal sa liderato at record sa paglaban sa krimen na kasama sa mga pinakadahilan sa kanyang paghirang, si Director General Calderon, General Calderon is geared for a solid professional horizon in bringing the Philippines closer to the interests and aspirations of the people, and orienting the Philippine organization to the high imperatives of political stability and economic growth.

Si General Calderon ay inirekomenda ng police search committee mula pa noong si General Aglipay ang Chief ng PNP. At pinili yung mga succession noon pang panahong yon upang masigurado ang katatagan ng mga pagpalit ng liderato ng PNP at iwasan ang paninira na kung minsan nangyayari pag masyadong matindi ang pagkakaribal sa pinakamataas na pwesto ng PNP. Hindi ba n'yo nahalata na itong panahong ito halos walang nagsasabungan para maging Chief PNP, dahil halos naman lahat alam na nila noon pa yung succession.

Bilang resulta ng maagang desisyon at the top of the PNP, the team has consolidated into a more compact, homogeneous group. This set up is inherently more effective than an organization that is bruised by intense rivalries that often accompany the immediate period before a turnover.

Next, a corresponding consolidation of the execution level within the PNP and with other institutions will improve implementation capabilities. This consolidation will revolve around several areas, including the strategic battle with the left.

The National Security Council, of which the Secretary of the Interior and Local Governments as well as former President Ramos are members, and where the chief of the Philippine National Police is a technical member, the National Security Council is already overseeing this consolidation through a series of draft executive orders — one of which is already being finalized and probably will be signed by me this week — with the objective... Designed among other objectives to create a PNP-AFP partnership in the battle against the left.

Sigurado ako na ang malawak na karanasan ni General Calderon sa police management ay magkakaroon ng malaking kaganapan dito sa ating executorial consolidation.

As we run to the ground the armed core of the terrorist left, kakalasin natin ang takot na pinipilit nila sa ating taumbayan at tatalunin ang kanilang layunin sa mga sandata ng pagtayo ng bansa o nation building. Wawaksan ng PNP at AFP ang tinatawag na revolutionary taxation at sisiguraduhin na yung mga pinilit magbayad ay ipapagtanggol nila kontra sa bengansa.

Samantala, ang bagong liderato ng pulis ay patuloy na masipag na tutulak upang mapigil ang mga sindikato ng krimen — kidnap-for-ransom, hold-up ng mga bangko, illegal drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal gambling from their underground trade.

I have no doubt that General Calderon will carry on the banner of service that is turned over to him today.

And to Art Lomibao, who has made so many personal sacrifices to do an excellent job, my congratulations and Godspeed! And maybe now you can get married.

Congratulations!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Philippine National Police change of command ceremony and retirement honors for outgoing Police Director General Arturo Lomibao. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212815/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2838&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Awarding Ceremony for the 2006 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the National Awarding Ceremony for the 2006 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP)**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 14, 2006]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Chairman Puno.

Secretary Concepcion, the moving spirit behind the TOSP awards; Joey Concepcion, who is helping me to develop our young entrepreneurs; Mr. Ramos, President of National Bookstore; Marissa Concepcion of the RFM Foundation; Joey Lina, the President of Makati Central Rotary Club where I belong as a rotary ann; awardees; finalists; their families; sponsors; guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Young nation builders are our hope for the future. And I congratulate our ten outstanding students, the latest to be recognized as young nation builders. You are bestowed these awards because the judges have found that you have the vision, the will and the energy to make the dreams of the Filipino — our dreams — come true.

Batang bansa ang mahal nating Pilipinas. Kabataan ang karamihan sa ating taong-bayan. Wala pang tatlumpung taon ang anim sa bawat sampung Pilipino. Batang bansa tayo. Animnapung taon pa lamang ang ating demokrasya, and the growing pains are still will us.

Batang bansa tayo dahil niyayakap natin ang buhay, awit, sayaw, sports, mga bagong ideya at teknolohiya gaya ng sinabi ng naunang nagsalita ngayon. Batang bansa tayo sapagkat ganap ang pagiging mamamayan ng mundo nating mga Pilipino. Bahagi ito ng mabilis na pagbabago sa daigdig. Nasa unang hanay tayo ng mga manggagawa sa mundo. Itong ating tatlong unang tinawag. Yung ating mga nursing graduates, magiging bahagi palagay ko ng unang hanay ng manggagawa sa buong mundo.

Sa araw na ito, on the occasion of honoring our outstanding students, I am calling for a new vision for a young nation. Nasa ating kabataang Pilipino ang sigasig na ipatupad ang inyong minimithi. Panahon na upang makisangkot sa buhay pambansa ang susunod na salinlahi. Mangusap, kumilos, at hawakan ang inyong sariling kapalaran. At kayang-kayang gawin ito nitong ating sampung outstanding students. Magsikap sa loob ng mga institusyon at sektor upang lalong mapabuti ang daigdig. Gamitin ang kakayahang ipinagkaloob sa inyo ng pamahalaan, pamilya at lipunan upang maging mga manggagamot, abogado, magsasaka — salamat, meron tayong outstanding student galing sa Cabacan na nag-aral ng agrikultura — at mga mangangalaga ng kalusugan. At manguna sa larangan ng teknolohiya ng makabago at malinis, at iba pang dakilang propesyon.

The new vision must include creating high-paying jobs right here at home, hindi lamang sa ibayong dagat. Itinatangi natin at binibigyan natin ng halaga ang ating mga OFW, at ikinararantal ang kanilang pagsisikap at sakripisyo. Gayon pa man, dapat tayong magsikap upang dumating ang araw when a job abroad is a choice and not the only option available to a hard working Filipino. Bukod sa magandang trabaho sa sarili nating bayan, dapat din tayong magpunyagi upang alagaan ang ating maganda at dalisay na kapaligiran, gaya ng kagandahan at kasibulan ng

sambayanan. Nananawagan ako sa susunod na salinlahi upang makibalikat sa ating kampanya para sa Bagong Berdeng Pilipinas.

Kailangan nating palawakin ang ating mga kakahuyan, magtanim ng mga bagong puno kung saan may naputol, at subukan na proteksyunan ito, ito ang mga gubat na sisibol para sa ating mga mamamayan at lupain. Ibalik natin ang kagandahang itinatangi at ninanais ng lahat. At ibig kong idulot sa sigasig ng Pilipino, anumang gulang, ang pagdadalisay ng kapaligiran. Dapat nating mapaganda ang mga barangay at lungsod na napaliligiran ng basura, magtayo ng mga liwasang kaaya-aya, at linisin ang tubig at lupang nabahiran ng dumi ng industriya.

Bilang bahagi ng ating Berdeng Pilipinas, hangad ko ang bansang masinop sa paggamit ng enerhiya, hindi na umaasa sa sasakyan at plantang maaksaya at mausok. Gagamitin natin ang masagana nating araw, hangin at geothermal resources, at gagawa ng sarili nating panggasolina sa sasakyan mula sa tubo at niyog sa halip na umasa lang sa petrolyong dayuhan.

Kailangan natin ang pagkakaisa at buong loob ng sambayanan upang isulong ang mga pinuno ng bayan na yakapin at pagyamanin ang bagong Berdeng Pilipinas.

And as I have said before in the center of our tourism in Central Philippines, I want to turn our coral reefs and beaches, the wonder of the world, into national parks and international sanctuaries for eco-tourism and scientific research. Meron tayong pagkakataong paunlarin ang ating bansa na mula sa simula — malinis, malusog, productive at maganda. Nais ko sana na ang ating mga kabataan ngayon ay maging bahagi ng bagong Berdeng Pilipinas. At nananawagan ako ng pagkilos na gawing pangyayari ito sa loob ng limang taon.

Iyan ay ilan lamang mga ideya. And through our outstanding students, I call on our youth to respond to this call of action to bring new innovative thinking to land management, care for our environment and ways to create jobs and have a clean, socially responsible environment policy. We need to get beyond the era of “either/or” thinking on our environment. Dapat yakapin natin ang pagbabago at maging malakas ang loob sa paglikha ng berdeng Pilipinas na kapwa berde at matagumpay na pangkabuhayan. And that is the very, very mission that Joey Concepcion has given for himself and which we have very, very heartily embraced. I truly believe the Philippines can become a model of environmental stewardship within ten years. But I need your help, the young people of today, the leaders of tomorrow, to create that vision.

And as you receive your awards, as you celebrate today and tonight with your parents and loved ones and friends, and as you go out into the world now that you have graduated from college, continue to stand as role models of hard work, excellence and service.

And in closing, I wish to commend the RFM Foundation, the Rotary Club of Makati Central and the National Bookstore, for your support in inspiring our young to spread their wings and soar high. I am proud of all of you. I am proud to have Filipinos like you.

Congratulations! Thank you and good day.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). GMA's Speech during the National Awarding Ceremony for the 2006 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212722/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2831&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Call by the delegates of the 2nd Ambassadors/Consuls General from North America Goodwill Tour of the Philippines and Tour Group of Filipino and Filipino-Canadians

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Call by the delegates of the 2nd Ambassadors/Consuls General from North America Goodwill
Tour of the Philippines and Tour Group of Filipino and Filipino-Canadians**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 15, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Romulo.

Ambassador Chito Brillantes, the consuls general and consuls and honorary consuls to the U.S. And Canada, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, the Filipino communities that's represented here, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

To all of you, good morning and welcome! Thank you for visiting us. This is the second such visit organized by the DFA and the DOT, and it's a good time for you to come and visit. We're celebrating the 60th anniversary of our friendship with the United States as sovereign nations and we're celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first immigration of Filipinos to the United States. In fact, I hope to go to Hawaii in September to be able to join the celebration.

It's also a good time to visit us, because at this point in time, the Philippines is at a crossroads of political transformation and economic take off.

As Chito Brillantes was talking about the good news and the bad news, that you might have heard, Bert Romulo was whispering to me the latest good news is from the IMF and all the good things they're saying about our economy.

In governance and politics, military service, business, sports, arts and literature, showbiz and culinary experience, Filipinos shine not only in the Philippines but especially in North America.

In the U.S., we've known for quite sometime that Filipino-Americans surpassed the U.S. national averages in educational levels, median household income and median home values. Congratulations!

And even as you're doing so well in the United States, I appreciate your loyalty to the motherland. Yes, Chito says, many of you have taken American and Canadian citizenship but many of you have also applied and taken dual citizenship. Thank you very much for that.

Thank you for your faith in the Philippines and your love for democracy.

The Philippines has a strong, modern and confident relationship with the U.S. Based on our shared democratic values, the fight against terrorism and strengthening the economy to liberate the poor.

The Philippine relationship with the U.S., I believe, has matured and grown under our administration from the depths to which it plunged when the U.S. bases left the Philippines. We have a strong personal relationship with President Bush and the U.S. government, and we are a staunch ally in the war against terror. We believe fervently in democracy. We have sworn to uphold the rights and liberties of every Filipino. We bring these values and our own deep personal faith in God to our governance of the Philippines and to our relationships with the U.S., Canada and all nations.

And so it is with Canada, since the establishment of bilateral relations in 1949, Philippine-Canada ties have grown by leaps and bounds in tourism, trade and investment, and people-to-people exchanges.

The people... the Filipinos especially the balikbayans of Canada and the U.S. are number one in tourism visits to the Philippines followed very closely now, however, by the people from the People's Republic... from Korea, from the Republic of Korea. We have 3.5 million Filipinos in the U.S., We have 500,000 Filipinos in Canada and they serve, you serve as a sturdy bridge across the pacific.

Now I have... was able to learn what your itinerary is — looks very exciting, very nice — and while in the Philippines, you will be able to rediscover personal and professional ties at all levels; you will also be able to discern, I hope, the real situation prevailing in our country.

The spirit of freedom and democracy thrives as robustly as when you left home the first time. I am advocating constitutional reforms to facilitate the legislative process and open up the economy to responsible investment.

I wish you could help us communicate the good news and the real issues to all our friends in North America. I hope you will see when you visit for instance the Makati business district tomorrow that our country is an incomparable shoppers' paradise. And there are innumerable business and investment opportunities worth exploring. And when you go to your selected places in the provinces during your optional visits outside Manila, I hope you will see once again and remember that we have some of the most beautiful tourist spots in the world. And of course, yourselves included, the Filipinos are among the friendliest people in the world.

We believe that the Philippines can make first world status in twenty years through the force of Filipino industry and excellence here in the Philippines and Filipinos outside infusing our mega regions from North to South.

When I make my State of the Nation Address on Monday, the 24th, I will be explaining to the people that for purposes of putting public investments, we have divided the economy of the Philippines into four sub-economies or super regions, we might call them, divided in terms of their... in accordance with their competitive... natural competitive advantage. We have Northern Philippines and Mindanao, two super regions that have the natural competitive advantage in agri-business. We have Metro Luzon, the urban beltway around Metro Manila, from Clark-Subic to Batangas port and beyond, as the center for service and industry, the urban center that needs to compete with the rest of the metropolises in the world. And we have the center of the Philippines, the Visayas, Palawan, Romblon, Bicol and the Northern Islands of Mindanao, as our centers of tourism. And this is where we will be spending the new money that we are now receiving as part of our vat dividends which Congress has passed and which our Filipinos in America and the U.S. supported. And I thank you for your support for that difficult legislation.

In closing, let me share the pride once again of celebrating with you and all our people both the centennial of Filipino migration to the U.S. And the 60th anniversary of our friendship with the U.S. as sovereign nations.

Once again, welcome to the Philippines! Have a wonderful stay and bring beautiful memories when you go back to North America.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Call by the Delegates of the 2nd Ambassadors/Consuls General from North America Goodwill Tour of the Philippines and Tour Group of Filipino and Filipino-Canadians. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212718/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2829&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the meeting with the World Islamic Call Society (WICS)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the meeting with the World Islamic Call Society (WICS)**

[Delivered in WICS compound, Tripoli, Libya, July 17, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Romulo for your introduction.

Dr. Sheriff, thank you very much also for inviting me to be here with you today and all the scholars who are associated and who are friends of your society; the students, Filipino students who are here especially and the recent graduates; ladies and gentlemen.

It's my pleasure to be with all of you today, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak with the leaders, members and friends of the World Islamic Call Society that has done so much for our Muslim brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

You're a wellspring of hope and optimism and I'd like to thank you for participating in the 2003 National Conference of Dialogues of Culture Among Major Faiths that was held in the Philippines.

I would also like to thank the Islamic Call Society for establishing a Philippine office in 2003.

And I am proud that the Philippine office is but one of many examples to show that we and Libya, Libya and the Philippines, have been friends long before the recent and welcome reconciliation of Libya with the United States and other members of the international community.

In fact, Dr. Sheriff has talked about the 1976 Tripoli agreement many times in his welcome remarks. And my trip to Libya at this time is in fact the 30th anniversary celebration of the 1976 Tripoli agreement. It is the 30th anniversary celebration of the support that Libya has given the Philippines since the Tripoli Agreement of 1976. As Dr. Sherif said the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 was facilitated by the leader and it started the peace process with the Moro National Liberation Front in Mindanao in Southern Philippines, culminating in the final peace agreement of 1996.

I also came to Libya to thank the leader not only for his support for the peace process but also for his support for my administration's war against terrorism since I became president in 2001. He has supported us even before the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. Because in May of 2001, when the Abu Sayaff terrorist group hostaged a group of tourists in Dos Palmas in Southern Philippines, I was able to talk on the phone to ask the help of Colonel Gaddafi. Because I wanted to fight the Abu Sayaff rather than pay ransom and the leader helped me. He denounced the Abu Sayaff and with his help and the help of other friends in the international community, the Philippine Army was able to defeat the Abu Sayaff.

Today, even as we thank Libya for helping us win the peace, we look at the world around us and we see that peace is not yet with us in the whole world. Today, therefore, the Philippines joins the international community in seeking for the peaceful resolution of the Israel-Lebanon conflict. The volatile situation in that part of the Middle East all the more makes us appreciate the friendship and support of Libya for the last 30 years since the Tripoli Agreement.

The leader has also been helping me with my peace efforts with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. And hopefully just as the 1976 Tripoli Agreement resulted in the final peace agreement of 1996, hopefully, the Tripoli Agreement that was signed in 2001 with the MILF will also finally bring about lasting peace in Mindanao.

I am very gratified that after an initial agreement with the MILF that was signed in Tripoli in 2001, we have reached an advanced state in our peace talks with the MILF and we are grateful that since the MILF called for a ceasefire in 2001, which the Philippine government reciprocated, Libya and two other Muslim countries have actively participated in the international monitoring team that has successfully held the peace in Mindanao for the past three years.

Libya is also to this day an active member of the ministerial committee of the eight of the Organization of the Islamic Conference or OIC which monitors the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement.

We are committed to the full implementation of the Tripoli agreement of 1976 and the final MNLF peace agreement of 1996, which ended the MNLF rebellion and brought the MNLF to the mainstream of Philippine governance. Just to personify the mainstreaming of the MNLF in Philippine governance, today we have with us in the Philippine delegation a former MNLF commander who is now the elected deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin. And it is not only Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin who is here with us from the MNLF, another former MNLF commander is now the mayor of the Islamic City of Marawi. He is with us in this delegation, Mayor Omar Ali and among the other Muslims in the mainstream of Philippine political leadership who are with us today, we have the brother of another MNLF commander who is now the governor of the Muslim province of Sulu, Governor Ben Loong. Well, she is not MNLF but she is the congresswoman of Lanao Del Sur. We also have with us Congresswoman Faysah Dumarpa, another Muslim in the mainstream of Philippine leadership. And we have a Muslim governor in a Christian province, the governor of Sultan Kudarat, Datu Pax Mangudadatu. I'm very happy that they are all here with us in this delegation to join us in thanking Libya for all of your support for our peace process.

Parallel to our political peace efforts, the Philippine government is also implementing significant socioeconomic programs for Muslim Filipinos. This is a major effort to stamp out poverty, disease, illiteracy and injustice.

And on this note, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the work that the World Islamic Call Society has done in the Philippines, particularly your willingness to participate and contribute to our local interfaith initiatives. Interfaith initiatives are very important to the Philippines. Like many members of the OIC, the Philippines is a pluralistic nation with various religious and cultural communities, the biggest of which are the Roman Catholics and the Muslims. And this is why we are grateful also to Libya, for in addition to all the other support that I have already mentioned earlier, Libya is also the most ardent advocate for observer status for the Philippine government in the OIC.

Interfaith dialogue is an integral part of our six-year Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan as an official framework for the conduct of healing and reconciliation programs.

The role of interfaith dialogue in restoring peace in Southern Philippines is an experience that we like to share with the world. In Mindanao, we have a network of non-governmental organizations that strive for interfaith understanding, pioneered by the Bishops-Ulama Conference which is composed of Roman Catholic bishops in Mindanao, protestant bishops and Muslim religious leaders as well as those from the indigenous peoples sector. The Bishops-Ulama Conference has yielded improved and mutual understanding and reconciliation between Christians and Muslims.

By communicating with each other, we are encouraged to keep our minds and hearts open through meaningful dialogue and we are able to engage each other to establish trust and harmony.

We must always strive to find the common thread through which differences may be bridged, and the shared values such as that of love for peace, justice and respect for human dignity that they can be perpetuated through interfaith dialogue.

Philippine initiatives on interfaith dialogue are well-entrenched in the United Nations. The interfaith dialogue in the United Nations stems from a Philippine initiative, a Philippine resolution that was unanimously approved by the U.N. General Assembly on interfaith dialogue in November 2004. It continued with the holding of the Tripartite

Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, chaired by the Philippines by Secretary Romulo at the U.N. in New York on June 22nd of 2005.

Also in 2005, the Philippines steered the security council to pass Resolution 1624 which institutionalized interfaith dialogue as a mechanism for international cooperation.

Resolution 1624 called upon all states “to continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures.”

And also in 2005 during the 60th anniversary summit of the United Nations in September, I chaired the informal meeting of leaders on interfaith dialogue and cooperation for peace.

And early this year, we had the Asia-Pacific Interfaith Dialogue in Manila. The Philippines also successfully hosted the Cebu dialogue on regional interfaith cooperation for peace, development and human dignity with the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand as co-chairs.

In all of these things that we are doing, interfaith dialogue within the Philippines especially in Mindanao, interfaith dialogue all over the world, I reiterate my gratitude to the World Islamic Call Society because you have been supporting the interfaith initiative of the Philippines.

And so on this note, I wish you all the best, Dr. Sheriff. May you continue the good work that you are doing here in Libya among the many countries represented in this forum today and of course in the Philippines.

Thank you and good day.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA’s Speech during the meeting with the World Islamic Call Society (WICS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212506/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2827&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community in Libya

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino community in Libya**

[Delivered at the Golden Tent Sala, Omar Muktar St. Tripoli, Libya, July 17, 2006]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Ang ganda ng inyong pagtanggap sa inyong lingkod at sa ating delegasyon.

Maraming salamat rin kay Secretary Art Brion sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at ito na rin ang pagkakakilala sa iyo bilang ating bagong kalihim ng mga manggagawa ng Pilipinas.

Batiin ko ang ibat-ibang mga kasapi ng ating delegasyon, pero mamaya na. Batiin ko muna kayong lahat, mga minamahal kong kababayan, magandang gabi sa inyong lahat; balamu ating cung Cabalen a Capampangan, maayap a bengi kekongan; no adda kakailayak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga rabii yo amin; sa aton mga kaigsuonan gikan sa Mindanao ug Bisayas, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan at wassalamu alaikum sa ating mga brother Muslims; sa mga kasimanwa sang akong bana nga ilonggo, maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan; at sa maasin sa mga Bikolano, marhay nga banggi sa indo gabos.

Ang saya-saya kong makapiling kayo ngayong gabi. At napakagandang pagkakataon na magkasama tayo lahat dahil gaya nang sabi ng inyong pangulo ng Philippine community, thirty years ang ating pinagdidiriwang, tatlong dekada, 30th anniversary ng pagkakaibigan ng Pilipinas at Libya sa napakaraming bagay. Tatlumpung taon nang may mga OFWs sa Libya. Tatlumpung taon na rin ang pakinabang ng ating bansa sa suporta ng Libya sa proseso ng kapayapaan sa Mindanao.

Tatlumpung taong nakaraan nang namagitan ang lider ng Libya, the great leader, sa pagbuo ng 1976 Tripoli Agreement. Siguro alam ng karamihan sa inyo na itong 1976 Tripoli Agreement ang nagsimula ng pangkapayapaang pag-uusap natin sa MNLF. Ngayon, hindi na rebelde ang mga MNLF, sa halip na rebelde sila ay may mahalagang bahagi sa pamamahala sa Pilipinas. Ang exhibit A' noon na sinabi ko isa sa mga dating commander ng MNLF siya ngayon ang deputy speaker ng ating Kongreso, si Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin. Wala yata siya rito pero banggitin ko na rin. Isa pang MNLF commander, ang city mayor ngayon ng Marawi, si Omar Ali na kasama ko sa delegasyon bagamat wala siya sa kanyang upuan. Nandiyan ba siya? Ay naku! Just in time, ayun! Entering the hall marunong, former MNLF commander, now mayor of the Islamic City of Marawi. Halika! Omar dito ka sa iyong upuan. Yon namang — wala rin siya dito pero baka papasok pag banggitin ko ang pangalan niya — yung isa naman ang kapatid niya ang MNLF commander, ngayon siya ang gobernador ng lalawigan ng Sulu, si Ben Loong. Ayun! Nandoon pala. Okay. Ayan, narito rin yung ating congresswoman na Muslim, si Faysah Dumarpa at ang Muslim na gobernador ng probinsiyang kristiyano, si Governor Datu Pax Mangudadatu ng Sultan Kudarat.

Kaya salamat sa nagsimula sa 1976 Tripoli agreement. Sila ngayon ay hindi na rebelde, sila ay mahalagang bahagi ng ating pamamahala. Sa ibabaw ng pagpasalamat sa tatlumpung taong nakaraan, nagpahayag din ako ng lubos na pagpapasalamat sa lider ng Libya, dalawang beses kagabi nagkita kami sa kanyang state dinner, kanina nagkita kami muli sa kanyang tent para magpaalam ako sa kanya at nagpasalamat ako, dalawang beses, sa kanyang suporta sa ating laban naman kontra sa terorismo mula noong Mayo ng 2001, bago pa nangyari yung pag atake sa World Trade Center nung 9/11.

Sa kabila ng pasasalamat sa Libya, nakikiisa rin ang Pilipinas sa pangmundong komunidad sa paghahanap ng mapayapang katapusan sa giyera ng Israel at Lebanon, habang inaanyayahan natin ang buong bansa, kasama ang ating Filipino community dito sa Libya, na magdasal para sa kaligtasan ng libu-libong manggagawang Pilipino hindi

lamang sa mga danger zone ng Lebanon kundi pati na rin sa ibang mga apektadong lugar. Ang di-matatag na sitwasyon sa gitnang silangan ay hindi bagong bagay para sa atin at inaasahan natin ang kagalingan at karanasan ng ating mga opisyal sa paghawak ng krisis.

Our Lebanon team is now in place and we assure the families of the OFWs in the affected areas that we will employ all available means to keep their workers, their breadwinners out of harm's way.

Kailangan din nating bigyan diin muli ang panawagan sa mga Pilipinong naghahanap ng trabaho na iwasan ang mga lugar na baka magkaroon ng siklab sa rehiyon at bigyang pansin ang mga payo ng pamahalaan at ang mga babala para sa kaligtasan ng ating mga mamamayan. Siguro masasabi ko sa kanila kung lalabas din naman sila sa Pilipinas, siguro dito na lamang sa Libya kasama ng napakagaling na Philippine community.

Ikinagagalak kong malaman na kamakailan lang, Ambassador Mangibin, ay may pinasang batas dito sa Libya kung saan ang mga manggagawa ng sektor pangkalusugan ay binigyan ng tatlong porsiyentong pagtaas sa mga natatanggap na benepisyo kumpara noong 2002. Ha? Ay, tignan natin siguro meron pang mga process of implementation.

Maunlad at mapayapa ang Libya lalo na ngayon at nag-reconcile na ang Libya at Amerika at iba pang mga bansa. Kaya ngayon kinikilala natin lalo na ang malaking potensyal ukol sa ekonomiya na umiiral dito sa Libya bunsod ng mga magandang pagbabagong nagaganap sa pagitan ng Libya at ibang bansa.

Sa biyahe kong ito, gaya nang nakita ninyo, kasama ko ang kalihim ng manggagawa, si Secretary Art Brion; kasama rin natin siyempre, parating kasama sa official or state trips ang ating Secretary of Foreign Affairs, si Bert Romulo; kasama rin natin, pero meron yata siyang assignment na ginagawa para sa akin, si Press Secretary Toting Bunye. Ayun! Okay. Nandoon ang pangalan mo kasi Toting eh sa kabila; at saka ang kalihim ng enerhiya, si Popo Lotilla; ang aking tagapayo ukol sa kapayapaan, si Secretary Jess Dureza.

Maibalik kay Secretary Brion. About 30 minutes ago, siya ay nagpirmahan ng Minister of Labor ng Libya ng kasunduan tungkol sa pag-aangkat ng mga manggagawang pangkalusugan at konstruksyon, pati na rin ang pag-training ng mga taga-Libya. Malalaman natin sa Agosto kung ilan ang kanilang kailangan pero itong araw pa lang alam na natin mula lamang sa Bank of Libya sa pag-uusap sa ating Philippine Chambers of Commerce and Industry — nandiyan ang pangulo, si President Donald Dee, Ambassador Donald Dee — ang kanilang financing construction ay 40 billion pesos worth, at first choice nila manggagawang Pilipino. Palibhasa inip na inip na nga silang pabilisin ang pagpasok ng mga manggagawang Pilipino dito sa Libya kaya magtatayo ang kagawaran ng mga manggagawa ng Libya desk doon sa Maynila na mag-aasikaso ng recruitment sa Libya. Saan yung government-to-government.

Ang Libya naman ay magpapadala ng labor attache sa Manila sa loob ng buwan na ito.

Inaasahan rin natin at magkakaroon — ayon doon sa kasunduan na pinirmahan ni Art Brion at ng Minister of Labor ng Libya — magkakaroon rin sila ng joint efforts, Philippine-Libya to protect Overseas Filipino Workers. Hindi ako nagugulat na naipasok ni Art Brion ito sa kanyang kasunduan. Alam ho ba niyo na si Art Brion ay number one bar topnotcher sa Pilipinas nung...? Inaasahan rin nating ma-recycle ng Libya ang kaniyang petrodollars at malaking kita sa kalakal ng langis sa pamamagitan ng pamumuhunan sa Pilipinas.

Magandang panahon upang mamuhunan sa Pilipinas ngayon. Tatlong buwan nang sunod-sunod ang ating budget surplus kaya kayang mabalansiyado natin ang budget sa 2008, gaya ng gusto ng ating mga economic managers.

Pinuri pa ng IMF ang ating mga reporma sa buwis at ang ating pagbawas ng pag-uutang. Nalampasan ng BIR ang kaniyang target sa nakaraang buwan. Malumanay ang pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilihin kahit na mataas ang presyo ng langis sa buong mundo. Ang Alemanya ay kakatabi lamang ng kalahating bilyong piso para sa reforestation program natin. At ang matatag na pag-angat ng mga remittances ng mga OFW kasama na yung mga taga Libya ay umabot na sa higit na one billion dollars sa isang buwan lamang ng Mayo kaya pinaangat ang ating mga dollar reserves.

Alam niyo nung araw sabi natin we always need 16 billion dollars reserves para masigurado natin matatag ang ating piso. Ngayon dahil sa inyo mga manggagawang Pilipino, 21 billion dollars ang ating reserves. Kaya maraming salamat mga OFW. Maraming salamat sa inyong pagkakaisa, yung mga nagkaisang mga ibat-ibang mga tribo ng mga Muslim. Salamat sa inyong pahayag ng suporta sa akin kanina. Salamat sa foster parents ng mga mag-aaral doon sa Pilipinas.

Ang pagkalinga ng OFW ay importanteng bahagi ng ating foreign policy dahil sa pagkikilala ng mga Pilipino sa ibayong dagat ay tuloy na gumaganap ng napaka- importanteng papel sa katatagan ng ekonomiya at lipunan ng ating bansa. Bilang pagkilala sa halaga ng ating mga OFW, sa aking mga paglalakbay sa ibat-ibang bansa at pakikipag-usap sa mga pinuno ng mga bansang ito, laging nasa itaas ng aking mga preyoridad ang inyong kapakanan.

Matagal nang binibigyan ng Libya ang Pilipino ng magandang trabaho dito, tatlong dekada, yan ang ating pinagdidiriwang. At gaya nang sinabi niyo kanina ay maganda naman at mahusay ang trabahong binigay niyo sa kanila. Malaki ang inyong kontribusyon din sa kanilang pag-angat sa kanilang ekonomiya.

Kaya salamat din sa magandang mukha ng Pilipinas na ipinapakita ninyo sa Libya. Kaya tuloy minamahal ng Libya ang Pilipinas dahil minamahal niya ang manggagawang Pilipino. At kung sinabi niyo na kayo ay nasisiyahan na sa wakas sa tagal ng mangagawang Pilipino na narito sa Libya nakita niyo ang Pangulo ng Pilipinas, ako rin masasabi ko yon. Para sa akin, malaking-malaking karangalan na magkasama tayo ngayong gabi.

Sabi nga ni Ambassador Mangibin, dito sa Tripoli, tatlong libo ang manggagawang Pilipino at pitong daan na ang narito. napakalaking porsiyento ang nakapunta itong araw na ito sa madaling notice.

Kaya salamat sa pagkakataon at mabuhay ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a meeting with the Filipino Community in Libya. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212620/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2823&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the meeting of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Libyan Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (LUCCIA) Speech
of**

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

President of the Philippines

**During the meeting of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Libyan Union of
Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (LUCCIA)**

[Delivered at the El-Bawho Al-Ahder, Al-Kaber Hotel Tripoli, Libya, July 17, 2006]

I have come to Libya at this time together with our business delegation to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 where the leader facilitated and started the peace process of the Philippine government with the Moro National Liberation Front or MNLF in Mindanao in Southern Philippines. Thirty years, that is how long Libya has been a friend of the Philippines under the visionary leadership of the great leader President Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

The Tripoli Agreement of 1976 eventually led to the final peace agreement of 1996 which ended the MNLF rebellion and brought the MNLF into the mainstream of Philippine governance. In fact, one of the MNLF commanders has been elected deputy speaker of the Philippine Congress — and I think he will be joining us later — he is part of my official delegation on this state visit.

Another leader of the MNLF, the brother of a former commander — he was just outside — is now the governor of the province of Sulu in Southern Philippines. And another MNLF commander is now the Mayor of the Islamic City of Marawi in Southern Philippines. So they have really... The process that was started in the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 thirty years ago has indeed been working very well bringing the MNLF into the mainstream of governance.

The help of Libya and the leader did not stop there. When I became President in 2001, I asked Libya to help us again with another peace process. This time with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front or the MILF which did not accept the earlier agreement. And the government of Libya obliged and hosted a second Tripoli Agreement. This time the Tripoli Agreement of 2001 and we are confident that just as the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 led to the final peace agreement with the MNLF in 1996, we hope that the second Tripoli Agreement with the MILF in 2001 will also lead very soon to a final peace agreement very very soon in a very short time.

With the support of Libya also in 2003, we agreed on a ceasefire with the MILF, and that's why I am confident that the original agreement in 2001 will also ripen into a final peace agreement. The ceasefire agreement that we have with the MILF which started in 2003, three years ago, is being monitored by our friends: Malaysia, Brunei and, of course, Libya.

Another way in which the leader has helped me very much also happened in 2001. In fact, when my peace panel was here in Tripoli negotiating the 2001 Tripoli Agreement with the MILF, in the Philippines, terrorists belonging to the Abu Sayaff group hostaged a group of tourists in a resort called Dos Palmas in Southern Philippines. And I had the chance to speak with Colonel Gaddafi on the phone who asked me how he could help. I asked for his help. I said I would rather fight the Abu Sayaff than pay ransom, and I asked him for his help. He helped me and he denounced the Abu Sayaff and with his support and the support of other friends in the international community, the Philippine military eventually defeated the Abu Sayaff.

And because of the leader's quick response that time when I asked him to help me against the Abu Sayaff, with his quick response in denouncing the Abu Sayaff, I was not surprised that when 9/11 happened, the leader was one of the first — in fact, he gave the firmest denunciation of the Al-Qaeda bombers after 9/11— by any Muslim leader. Also I rejoiced with the recent news of the successful reconciliation of Libya with the U.S. and the other members of the international community which occasions the opening up of the Libyan economy.

I congratulate Libya for this diplomatic triumph, even as I am proud that Libya has been our friend long before this reconciliation with the U.S. and the international community. In fact, I'm here to reiterate my deep gratitude to the leader not only his support for our peace process since thirty years ago but also his support to my administration in our fight against terrorism since 2001.

And it is in this context for the thirty years of friendship that I hope to discuss the prospects of opening the doors to broader and deeper bilateral trade between our two countries. Apart from obtaining support for peace and development in Mindanao, I am trying to secure a steady supply of oil for the Philippines in the face of projected continuing high prices of oil.

And last night at the state dinner, I asked the leader if the investment management fund of Libya could recycle some of the profits of Libya from the high oil prices in the form of investments in the Philippines, like refineries, gasoline stations, agriculture in Mindanao, and hospitals all over the Philippines. Our ambassador, Mr. Mangibin, is tasked to follow through on this request by submitting specific proposals to the investment management fund of Libya and also to the private Libyan health care industry.

Libya helps many African countries, and I hope that a similar kind of assistance can go to a Southeast Asian country that has recognized Libya as a friend for a very long time, namely the Philippines.

Besides, the Philippines is a good stable economy to invest in. In June last month, we posted the third monthly budget surplus, keeping my economic managers' balanced budget projection by 2008 attainable. The IMF has commended our tax reforms and debt reduction program. The Bureau of Internal Revenue beat its tax revenue goal for the month of June. We have tamed the inflation rate so far notwithstanding the high oil prices in the world market.

And Germany has just earmarked half a billion pesos for two Philippine forest programs. Our overseas Filipinos, their remittances including those from Libya are increasing steadily to now more than one billion dollars for the month of May alone that boost our dollar reserves.

Speaking of overseas Filipinos, the Philippines is grateful for the good treatment of our nurses and other workers here in Libya.

In fact, during this trip of mine, the labor ministers of our two countries are discussing a memorandum of understanding to develop a program of further partnership and cooperation between Libya and the Philippines in infrastructure construction, in infrastructure operation and maintenance, in hospitals and health care. I understand that the twin interest of Libya in this program of partnership are first, the hosting of workers from the Philippines and second, the training of Libyans by Filipinos.

On the first, Libya will hire nurses in the public sector and private clinics and hospitals, also other paramedical professions. Libya will also hire construction workers in roads, buildings and allied trades. The minister of labor of Libya will determine the number of workers needed by mid-August. So I hope that the Libyan business community will submit to him the information that he needs about your human resource requirements as soon as possible.

And I would also like to invite, as I said earlier, Libya and the Libyan health industry to invest in hospitals in the Philippines because the way for us to produce more nurses to fulfill your requirements is to educate more nurses in the Philippines and so they need more hospitals to qualify for training for their profession. This is a profession of which enjoys a very very large demand not only in Libya but all over the world.

Libya I understand needs trainors for nursing and paramedical professions. So it will be our honor to accommodate this need as I reiterate therefore we need more hospitals to conduct the training of nurses. And I hope that the Libyan health care sector community will consider investing in hospitals in the Philippines to provide a venue for training nursing students.

Indeed, as you have said, Excellency, Libya is opening up right now very rapidly. This accelerating economic and development activity in Libya requires accelerating also the human resource recruitment from Manila. So the Philippine Department of Labor will set up a special desk to attend to Libyan recruitment on a government-to-government basis.

And I understand Libya will also assign a labor attache to Manila within this month.

Aside from labor and human resources, because of your rapid opening up that is going on, we view Libya as a challenging and potentially rewarding market not only for Philippine labor but increasingly for Philippine exports as your own national development efforts continue to accelerate with your renewed engagement with the international community coming on the heels of the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States.

So, we look forward to an improved market access such as fresh and processed foods like canned tuna, fresh bananas. Speaking of fresh bananas, last night, we had a wonderful dinner hosted by the leader and I was told that all the fruits that were served last night are grown in Libya except the bananas which are imported from Ecuador. I'd like to inform you that the Philippines is one of the top exporters of bananas in the world. Almost all the bananas in Japan come from the Philippines, and we are the number one supplier of bananas to the huge market of China. So, I think that if you can buy from Ecuador, you will also like the bananas coming from the Philippines.

We also would like to have the chance to sell to you Halal poultry products coming from the Philippines and also consumer manufactures such as furniture and furnishings. Our furniture are world-class, very fashionable, very sophisticated. Automobiles and auto parts. Construction services, which I am sure you are already beginning to purchase very much not only from the labor side but also from construction companies in the Philippines, we hope we'll be able to have construction contracts here and also information and communication technology or I.C.T.

With regard to I.C.T we together with India are the top providers of I.C.T. services to the world. And we suggest that a particular area of interest to Philippine businessmen is I.C.T. service for banks, offices, hospitals and hotel resorts in Libya.

Back in the Philippines, I've been talking about investing in Mindanao. But in Luzon, where the capital of the Philippines is located, we are positioning the Clark-Subic economic zone just north of Manila — an hour's drive from Manila — to be the most competitive logistics and transport hub in the region, with capabilities to respond to the maintenance of the world's airlines.

In this regard, we're inviting Libya to patronize the Philippines C-130 depot maintenance in Clark. Ran here by a member of our delegation, Mr. Peter Rodriguez. I understand that the Philippines is one of only two ASEAN countries that have been authorized by the U.S. government to maintain and upgrade C-130 planes which are plentiful here in Libya.

Last night, when I told the leader about offering to do the maintenance and upgrading of C-130 aircraft in Libya. He said, "but does the Philippines have that capability?" and yes, it has the capability because Lockheed Martin is the technical partner of this maintenance center.

So, ladies and gentlemen of the Libyan business community, the great leader of Libya has supported the Philippines since thirty years ago in our peace process. And he has supported my administration in the war against terrorism since 2001.

Now, let us move to a new stage of our relationship. Now I ask the Libyan business community as you open up to be our companions in a journey towards greater peace and prosperity for both our countries.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the meeting of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Libyan Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (LUCCIA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212628/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2826&Itemid=38

**Speech of president Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)
Development Week and Exposition Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Week and
Exposition**

[Delivered at Trade Hall A, Market, Market, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila, July 20, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Peter Favila.

Other Cabinet members; Undersecretary Alonzo, our host; Mayor Tinga, the host government.

I'd like to greet our special guest, Canadian Ambassador and the other members of the diplomatic corps; Governor Villafuerte and Congressman Pancho; all the donor organizations; all the participants; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Una sa lahat, salamat dito sa SME Development Plan Accomplishment Report. Eto ay pag-aaralan ko para maipasok ko ang ilang bahagi doon sa aking State of the Nation Address.

Ako ay nagagalak na magkasama tayo ngayon lalong-lalo na ang ating mga magiging na maliliit na negosyante sa pagbubukas nitong exposition kaugnay ng pagdiriwang ng Small and Medium Enterprise Development Week. Ang pagdaraos ng SME Development Week ay pagkilala sa halaga ng maliliit na negosyo sa pambansang kaunlaran.

The national SME agenda spearheads the fight against poverty.

If you remember during my inauguration as President in 2004, when I gave my ten-point program, the first one was: to create six to ten million jobs by developing entrepreneurs. And that is part of the work of the SME.

Our entrepreneurs are part of Philippine global competitiveness and that is why in order to help you, I have asked Peter Favila to conduct a national competitiveness summit in the middle of August and to have a national competitiveness council which I hope the SMEs will participate in.

Aside from the SMEs, another very important aspect of our competitiveness are our Overseas Filipino Workers. And I would like to take this opportunity to say something about our workers in Lebanon:

“We are keenly focused on our zero casualty goal for Filipino workers in the Lebanon-Israeli conflict and we assure the families of the OFWs trapped in Lebanon that we will exhaust all the available means to ensure their safety.

The Philippines makes a special appeal to all combatant forces to spare Filipino nationals who have no wish other than to be taken out of harm's way.

Our crisis managers on site shall devise clear markers and signify that will identify Filipino nationals. And in the name of humanity, I ask the combatants not to shoot or harm them.

I have also ordered our diplomatic posts to negotiate at the political level and on the ground whenever possible to ensure that our nationals are given safe passage and humanitarian assistance and safe sanctuary.

At the same time, the government will open as many avenues of communication between our OFWs in Lebanon and their families here in the Philippines. I have further released the amount of 150 million pesos to support our objectives.

Our resources may not be enough, but we are trying to address the problem by teaming up with other foreign countries that could help us in the evacuation process.

Our diplomats shall coordinate with private foreign firms for the leased of pesos that could be utilized.

Our best laid plans can never come to fruition without the cooperation of all. This is true for the safety of our OFWs safety in Lebanon and it is true for the SME development plan.

And so the next step is, let us build on our collective experience. Let us continue to innovate. Let us prosper by dint of unity and hard work.

Mabuhay ang ating mga small and medium enterprises!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Week and Exposition. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212438/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2821&Itemid=38

Speech of President of President Arroyo during the Change of Command Ceremony of the Office of the Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Change of Command Ceremony of the Office of the Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines

[Delivered at the Grandstand, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, July 21, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Cruz.

President Ramos and the other former chiefs-of-staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; the newly-designated chief-of-staff, General Esperon; the immediate past chief-of-staff, General Senga; Speaker de Venecia and the other members of Congress; Senator Dick Gordon; governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Zaldy Ampatuan; the governors of the Philippines led by the president of ULAP and the Governors' League, Governor Aumentado; the officers and men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

General Yano to commander: give 'Tikas Pahinga.'

Salamat. Hayaan ninyo magsimula ako sa pasasalamat: "To our men and women in the Armed Forces who are willing to give their life in defense of our nation, salamat. Whether it is fighting communist forces bent on destruction or the rightist allies or rebuilding Mindanao, our service in the cause of peace and stability deserves our deepest gratitude."

Our military men and women are essential to upholding the constitution and the rule of law that are so important to democracy. Pinakita ninyong muli ang inyong pagpapahalaga sa ating kapayapaan, demokrasya at sa saligang batas nang masukol ninyo sa fairview ang mga sundalong nagbalak maghasik ng lagim tungo sa kanilang pagtatag ng isang iligal na pamahalaan, maraming salamat.

Kay General Senga who has not only upheld the loyalty and professionalism of the Filipino soldier but has shown that military justice works in an organization led by the great martial principles and values, courage, audacity, integrity, professionalism and decisiveness, maraming salamat.

I give General Senga credit for containing then neutralizing and finally demolishing the infamous February coup. Maraming salamat, General Senga.

Democracy thrives in strong leadership. That is what you got from your outgoing chief-of-staff and that is what you will continue to get from your commander-in-chief and your new chief-of-staff.

That is why I appreciate the decision of the Supreme Court on the national I.D. in line with its consistent service to the highest public interest. This paves the way for the full implementation of the national I.D. system which is a strategic linchpin of both national security and social justice. It will help us to secure our communities from terror and crime and at the same time, facilitate the delivery of basic services to the people.

The Philippines stands to gain from a national I.D system in terms of political stability, economic growth and global competitiveness. This is part of every modern nation in a modern world. We acknowledge the issues that are being raised regarding the system and we shall ensure that it carries all the safeguards to protect the rights of every citizen under the law.

I call on all Filipinos to stand as one behind the national I.D. system.

Within the armed forces, we will revive the office handling civil military operations, as has already been mentioned by your new chief-of-staff. And he said there will be a new division in the Davao area. But we will go beyond that, we will divide the southern command into two unified commands for more effective troop management and control.

General Senga recommended these reforms and I approved them without second thought.

Thus, today, we thank General Senga and welcome General Jun Esperon.

Jun is the first commander who grew up in the PSG, who rose to the post of AFP chief-of-staff. He was the deputy PSG commander of President Ramos and he was my PSG commander. And I believe that President Ramos will join me in attesting that his only partisan interest is the people. His grit and audacity are legend.

If we had Angie Reyes as the hero of Abubakar. If we had Roy Cimatu as the hero of Camp Busra. If we had Gene Senga as the hero of Buliok. We have Jun Esperon as the hero of Rajah Mudah.

And he shall wield the sword of military justice with an even hand and dispassionate command. He shall steer the Philippine defense reform agenda forward and across the sea of multiple challenges and constraints. He shall steep the armed forces in globalized doctrine even as they dog tail their mission with socioeconomic aspirations of the masses. With Jun at the helm, as he has committed, we shall destroy the armed capability of the CPP-NPA, remove their logistics bases and dismantle their support networks.

Military civilian inter-operability is the name of the game to wield the comprehensive weapons of fighting and governance to constrict terrorist, strike them down, liberate communities from the crutches of fear, bringing to bear the economic psychosocial, political and diplomatic components of strategic victory.

Those who cling to the failed ideology and impose their political will by force shall be met with counterforce. Our forces are true to the mission.

And so, as I preside over this turnover once again, may I say, General Senga, thank you for your faithful service to the armed forces and to the republic.

General Esperon, carry on.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Change of Command Ceremony of the Office of the Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212353/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2820&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the arrival of the first batch of 232 OFWs from war-wracked Lebanon
[Filipino]**

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagdating ng unang pangkat ng 232 na mga OFW mula sa dinigmang Lebanon**

[Ipinahayag sa 250th Presidential Airlift Wing Hangar Villamor Air Base, Lungsod ng Pasay City, ika 23 ng Hulyo, 2006]

Mga balikbayan, magsimula tayo sa pasasalamat.

Una sa lahat, sa ngalan ng buong Pilipinas, dapat bigyang-halaga ang dakilang sakripisyo na ginagawa araw-araw ng mga Pilipinong nagtatrabaho sa ibayong dagat, maraming salamat. Walong milyon kayong naghahandog ng inyong kaalaman at kakayahan sa lahat ng dako ng daigdig. And in doing so, many of the eight million... The eight million lift up our nation, even as they are often separated from their loved ones here at home for long periods of time.

Sa araw na ito lalo na, nakatuon ang isip natin sa ating mga kababayan sa Lebanon na nasa kuko ngayon ng malagim na paglala ng digmaan. At sinasalubong ko, sinasalubong natin, sinasalubong ng buong bansa ang unang dalawang daang OFW na lumikas mula roon. At doon sa mga nakausap ko na kanina, ikinagagalak kong sabihin na nagpapasalamat silang nakauwi sa tulong natin. And I assure you all, I assure the nation, that we are doing everything in our power to secure the safety of those who need to remain in Lebanon and those who wish to leave are being transported out in an orderly way.

Dumating ngayon ‘yung unang dalawang daan, sa tulong ng Panginoon, sinisikap natin na meron pang darating bukas na grupo at ito ay courtesy ng gobyerno ng Bahrain na magbibigay... Tutulong sa transportasyon. At inaasahan natin sa makalawa, meron pang pangatlong grupong darating. And we are working with international partners on how to restore peace in that troubled land.

Tunay na mga bagong bayani kayo mga kababayan na nagsisikap sa ibayong dagat. Sa inyong paglilingkod sa pamilya, sa bayan at sa Diyos, mabuhay! At maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA’s Speech during the arrival of the first batch of 232 OFWs from war-wracked Lebanon. Retrieved

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212342/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2819&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Testimonial Lunch in Honor of NCRFW Chairperson Myrna Yao and Ms. Olivia Ferry, and conferment of the “Champion for Life” Award on 2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Testimonial Lunch in Honor of NCRFW Chairperson Myrna Yao and Ms. Olivia Ferry, and
conferment of the “Champion for Life” Award on 2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 26, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Narda Camacho. Salamat sa iyong panukala na gawin natin itong selebrasyong ito.

To our honorees: Myrna Yao; Olivia Ferry; Precious Lara Quigaman and our Madrigal Singers, to all of you, ladies and the gentlemen who are here today. Congratulations to all of you! Congratulations to all of us!

In my State of the Nation Address last Monday, I said, we are a great nation with great people.

And today, we celebrate the achievements of eminent men and women such as Myrna Yao and Olivia Ferry, and Precious Lara Quigaman and our young men and women, the second generation of the Madrigal Singers. All of you have done us proud. Congratulations!

Now Myrna is my chairman for the Commission on Women but that’s not the reason why we’re giving her an award. We are giving her an award because the Global Summit of Women gave Myrna Yao its 2006 International Entrepreneur Award. And she won it not in the course of bureaucratic job functions, but it was for steering her company, Richwell Philippines into a giant in children’s toys and footwear. Congratulations, Myrna!

Olivia Ferry has been elected world president of Zonta International. I was telling Olivia not only is she the first Filipina to be... Not only in Zonta — although she is the first Asian in World Zonta, but although we already had a Philippine President of Rotary — but of any giant world women’s organization, I think Olivia is the very first from the Philippines. Congratulations!

And I’m happy to know that... To learn that Olivia used to work with my father. She must have been so young then, maybe 20 years old or something, because at a time though she was working at the program implementation agency which later was merged with the National Economic Council to become the National Economic and Development Authority. Congratulations, Olivia! You’ve been an achiever for so many decades.

And the Madrigal Singers. I still remember the very first performance of the Madrigal Singers. I was there. It was still the older generation. My father was president, and their very first performance was a performance for a benefit for my brother Arthur’s foundation — the scholarship foundation for the Filipino youth. And now what they have become? — world acclaim. So, thank you. Congratulations!

We’re not giving them an award today because they fall under culture and the whole system of cultural awards was already organized before I became president. And it goes through a process by a Committee of the Cultural Center and the Commission on Culture and the Arts. Nonetheless, we’re happy that their founder is already a national artist.

And of course, we remember the headlines that Precious Lara made by winning Miss International last year. It was a headline comparable to other headlines like Manny Pacquiao’s many wins; like the Mt. Everest climbers and like the South East Asian games gold medalists. And we want to honor that as well.

Going back to Myrna, Myrna's success in business. When I appointed her head of the National Commission on Filipino Women, her success in business made me ask her to concentrate on micro-entrepreneurship as the main door out of poverty.

And I can tell you that a good part of the additional monies realized from our fiscal gains will be driven in the same direction — micro-enterprise, of which 95 percent of the beneficiaries are women.

So, I asked Myrna to make micro-entrepreneurship a major vehicle for women's participation in the super regions that we announced and as super opportunities for every Filipino family.

Roads, bridges and ports are what I talked about in my State of the Nation Address. But they move trade as they move troops to strike down terror, and make the environment better for micro-entrepreneurs to flourish.

Linkages are just as important as leaders. So I'm asking Myrna now in her capacity as government official, to strengthen the connection between the programs of the National Commission on Women with those of the women's clubs especially Zonta in the Philippines to respond to women's issues — fight poverty at the family level, check violence against women, push the pro-life family planning strategy and get the women behind our grand vision.

And to help the women's groups do that, and in honor of the great honor that Olive Ferry has given to us in order to help carry out the partnership of Myrna with Zonta and the other clubs, I'm going to give one million pesos from the president's social fund to help in the micro-entrepreneur program.

As I said, I can't give an award for culture to the Madrigal Singers until there is a recommendation from the joint committee of the NCCA and the CCP, but I can give them one million pesos also from PAGCOR to promote the momentum of their excellence. Congratulations!

The latest achievements of Myrna Yao and Olivia Ferry and the Madrigal Singers, and the headline-grabbing achievement of Precious Lara last year, all symbolize the great triumphs of the global Filipina and the young Filipinos.

I'm not speaking only of achievement at leadership and center stage level, but also of the valiant sacrifices of Filipino women all around the world in earning the keep needed to feed their children at home and send them to school. Lara's mother is an example. She's a very successful nurse in Bristol in England. And look at the international education that she was able to give Lara to give her the grace on top of the beauty to win a prestigious international award.

But I salute not only the executive women like Myrna and Olivia and the young women in the Madrigal Singers and Lara, the international celebrity and her mother, the successful career woman working outside the Philippines but also the ordinary working class women like the ones who were lugging and are lugging their bags home from war-torn areas like Lebanon.

For the sake of these working women so that we can create jobs for them right here in the Philippines, so that a job abroad is an option like for Lara's mother and not a necessity, I reiterate the sincere call for national unity. In this spirit, I say mabuhay! Myrna, Olivia, Lara and our young Madrigal Singers!

Thank you. My best wishes for your continued success!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Testimonial Lunch in Honor of NCRFW Chairperson Myrna Yao and Ms. Olivia Ferry, and Conferment of the "Champion for Life" Award on 2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman. Retrieved from <https://web.archive>

http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2815&Itemid=3
8

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo on bringing OFWs Home from Lebanon

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On bringing OFWs Home from Lebanon**

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, August 3, 2006]

BRINGING OUR OFWs HOME

We must have a mandatory evacuation if we are to expect a zero casualty rate in a war that is increasing in breadth and tempo. Task Force Lebanon will undertake all means to get Filipinos to safety, including those who do not want to move or those facing problems with their employers. *Dapat ang ating mga kababayan na nasa mga mapanganib na lugar ay makipag-kooperasyon upang manatiling ligtas at maginhawaan ang kaba ng kanilang mga pamilya dito sa Pilipinas.*

The window for safe evacuation becomes narrower for each day that battles ensue on land. At higit na mabuting lumikas nang mas maaga kaysa mahuli pag sa wakas nagserado na iyung bintanangyon.

May sapat na pera naman tayo upang mai-uwi silang lahat.

Ngayong nailikas na natin ang marami sa ating mga OFW nang walang nasasawi — itong araw na ito magiging higit na tatlung libo na, mahigit na ten percent na makakauwi — awa ng diyos, bibigyan ngayon ng pansin at pagkilos ang panibagong kabuhayan ng mga bumalik mula sa Lebanon. Gaya ng halimbawa ng mga manggagawa ngpabrikang nasunog, matapos silang iligtas sa apoy, kailangan namang ihanap sila ng mga bagong hanapbuhay.

Kaya naman pinulong ko ngayon sina Secretary Arthur Yap — nanduon; si Secretary Buboy Syjuco; si Secretary Art Brion; si Secretary Espie Cabral; si Administrator Nitoy Roque ng OWWA; si Executive Director Una Amata ng National Livelihood Support Fund; at saka si Nelson Buenaflor ng Quedancor.

Tatalakayin natin ang mga pagkilos ng mga ahensiya upang mapanatag ang loob ng mga kababayan natin pagka-uwi.

So, bago tayo magkuwentuhan, punta muna tayo doon sa hinanda ng DOLE tungkol sa reintegration program para sa ating mga overseas Filipino workers.

(Closing statement)

Okey. So, yan ang ating sagot para doon sa mga OFW na natatakot sila, anoong mau-uwian nila, at mayroong bagong buhay na naghihintay dito. In fact, ayaw na natin na mag... Bilang patakaran ayaw na natin magpadala ng mga manggagawa doon sa mga lugar na mapanganib. Hindi ba ganun ang ating patakaran, Art? Kaya naman hindi tayo nagpapadala na nang bagong mga manggagawa doon sa Iraq. Kaya dito sa Lebanon hindi na rin tayo magpapadala ng mga manggagawa, at inuuwi nga natin silang lahat. Pero mayroon pang bagong buhay.

Kaya ibig kong ipanatag ang loob ng ating mga kababayan bumalik mula sa Lebanon. At sino mang mapipilitang lumikas sa trabaho sa ibayong dagat man patakaran natin sa mga mapayapang lugar lamang hahayagan magtrabaho ang ating mga mamamayan.

Laging handa ang inyong pamahalaan na ilayo kayo sa panganib at tulungan kayo magtrabaho at makabangon muli.

So, yung parang naririnig ko ang tanong naman ng nandito, -eh bibigyan niyo ng trabaho yung mga galing sa Lebanon, eh ako ang tagal-tagal ko na sa Pilipinas wala pa akong trabaho dito. Papano ba natin ma... Dapat yung mga package na ito, hindi ba pwedeng bukas rin sa lahat ng mga manggagawang walang trabaho?

Okay. So, ito bukas para sa OFW, pero dahil nakalista sila tinutulungan sila. Pero kahit na hindi kayo nakalista, tiga-rito kayo sa Pilipinas, makinabang din kayo dito sa mga programang ito. Kaya halimbawa, ayan hanapin ninyo yung mga TESDA office, hanapin ninyo mga DOLE office. Yung DOLE, hindi ba meron na kayong online na yung jobs available, so yon po ang gawin natin.

Kaya ako'y nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng ating mga ahensiya na tumutulong sa hanapbuhay. Maraming salamat, Secretary of Labor Art Brion. Maraming salamat, Secretary of DSWD, Espie Cabral. Maraming salamat, Chairman ng TESDA, Buboy Syjuco. Maraming salamat sa Director General ng PMS, si Artie Yap. Maraming salamat sa Administrator ng OWWA, si Nitoy Roque; ang namumuno ng National Livelihood Support Fund, si Lina Amata; ang namumuno ng Quedancor, si Nelso Buenaflor.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo at the ASEAN Summit Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the ASEAN Summit**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, August 8, 2006]

**ASEAN: “ONE CARING AND
SHARING COMMUNITY”**

The Philippines is proud to be the chair of ASEAN this year and host to the ASEAN and East Asia summits in December, also president of the ASEAN Parliamentary Organization in the person of our Speaker of the House of Representatives.

All these underscore our commitment that it is in the interest of the Philippines to be regionally and globally engaged politically, economically and diplomatically.

As we celebrate 39 years of ASEAN, we celebrate how with collective wisdom and resolve, we in ASEAN have broken free from the chains of colonialism to seek the blessings of peace, prosperity and progress for all our peoples.

We have faith that we will continue to find the full promise of a region known for its rich diversity and panoply of races and creeds.

Our leadership in ASEAN this year, as Secretary Romulo has said, carries the theme of “One caring and sharing community.” Through the years, we’ve seen and felt the reassuring presence of ASEAN’s humanitarian power in countries devastated by natural disasters — be it a tsunami, earthquake, landslide or volcanic eruption.

We will push for initiatives that will make ASEAN a shining institution that cares for its peoples, for its environment, and one that truly shares resources for uplifting the disadvantaged integrating the marginalized and realizing the common good.

We will work for the protection of the rights of migrant workers in all corners of the earth. There are many ASEAN workers in the Middle East including two million Filipinos, 30,000 in Lebanon. In this time of crisis, we will share with our ASEAN neighbors our government apparatus. It keeps track of our overseas workers and takes care of their needs. We have moved thousands of our people to relative safety from the most harmful areas of South Lebanon.

We ask our ASEAN neighbors to join us in calling for peace in the Middle East and a cessation of violence by all parties.

Starting today, the Philippines will host the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity in Los Baños. That was what we signed this morning. It’s only fitting. Our Sulu Sea is the biodiversity hot spot of the world, and we are one of the 17 megadiverse countries that account for the most of the terrestrial, freshwater and marine species on earth.

We will push for greater cooperation in energy security including a joint energy project with our neighbor Indonesia in the southern Mindanao-Sulawesi border.

Peace and security is at the center of the ASEAN Regional Forum. Only peace and security can enable free and fair trade on sea and land inhabited by almost 600 million people producing almost one trillion U.S. dollars.

By pushing for a convention on counter terrorism, we will advance teamwork in the fight against evil. By engaging our neighboring region, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Nations, we will widen our reach.

At the apex of our dreams, as Secretary Romulo said, is an ASEAN charter — a legal organization with a juridical personality — bound by institutional rules and standards, empowered to engage the world in more constructive and powerful ways.

Ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters in ASEAN, let us work together.

Fellow Filipinos, to make the country's leadership of ASEAN this year a success, let us help make our dream of "One caring and sharing community" come true.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Pantal Bridge Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Pantal Bridge**

[Delivered at Brgy. Pantal, Dagupan City, Pangasinan, August 9, 2006]

Balbaleg ya salamat Speaker de Venecia. Thank you very much to the father of Pantal bridge and my super ally, Speaker Joe De Venecia.

Madame Gina de Venecia and my companions at mass earlier this morning, Congressman Tulagan and Espino; Ambassador Yamazaki and all our friends from Japan who have helped make this project a reality; our Cabinet members; our host mayor, Mayor Benjie Lim and the other officials of the City of Dagupan; Governor Agbayani and the other officials of Pangasinan and the other mayors who are here today to help us celebrate this beautiful affair; Commissioner Fernandez; all of the officials and people of Pantal and Dagupan, Masantos ya ngarem ed sikayon amin. Tuloy-tuloy so schedule ko ya bisita ed saray naduma-duman probinsya, tan malike-liketak imbita-an kayo a mila ed martsa, intayon amin paunla ed progreso na baley tayo.

Your Excellency, Ambassador to the Philippines Yamazaki, please relay to your government and people the deep appreciation for your continued support for Philippine development. Japan is by far the biggest source of official development assistance to the Philippines. And I thank you ambassador and the other Japanese guests for joining us in this groundbreaking and also for joining us later for lunch because I understand bangus is the favorite dish of Ambassador Yamazaki.

Ambassador Yamazaki told us about the almost 200 projects under this package, 200 projects amounting to eight billion pesos. But this one project alone is 800 million pesos, one-tenth of the whole package. So, this Pantal bridge, as said earlier by our different speakers, is the only long-span bridge of the bridges to be built nationwide under this Japan facility that's why it cost much much more than the other smaller bridges. This is called Package III of the loans from Japan. Ayan tatawagan nga Package III met so sankan-unan ed samay apat era ya packages manlapo ed samay urgent bridges construction project for rural development, as Ambassador Yamazaki has explained to us, for the bridges of the rural areas of the Philippines. But Dagupan is not a rural area. It's an exception to the rest of the bridges because Speaker de Venecia was so active in making sure that this bridge would be financed after 100 years of waiting by the people of Dagupan.

Para doon sa mga hindi namin kabaleyan na Pangasinan, itong Pantal bridge ay bahagi ng Dagupan bridge diversion road. Eto ay pet project ni speaker para maging mas maginhawa ang komersiyo dito. And this will increase the land area, the usable land area of Dagupan by one-third. Yes, and sa ganun itong bahagi ng bansa, gaya nang sabi ni Mayor Benjie Lim, hindi lang tutulong sa Dagupan kundi na rin sa buong Pilipinas. Dagdagan ang halaga ng Dagupan bilang sentro ng puhunan, trabaho, edukasyon lalo na sa hilaga o sa amyanan ng ating Luzon.

This is one of the big projects in our Medium-Term Public Investment Program.

Doon sa aking State of the Nation Address kwenento ko yung ilan sa mga programa sa MTPIP at sinabi ko na itong mga proyekto natin ihahati natin sa apat na sub-economy ng Pilipinas, panglima yung Cyber Corridor mula Baguio hanggang Davao. Why are we dividing the country into sub-economies? Because each super region has its natural advantages and we want to focus on these advantages so that we can speed up the programs vital to the main growth strategy and reduce the dependence on Imperial Manila.

Ang Dagupan, Bangus capital of the Philippines; of the world, reyna ng aquaculture sa North Luzon agri-business quadrangle. It provides not only bangus but other high-value fish not only to the rest of Luzon but also to the rest of North Asia including the country of Japan. Ang Dagupan at Pangasinan din ay mahalagang bahagi ng Cyber

Corridor dahil napakarami ang inyong mga magagaling na kolehiyo. And I want to congratulate the people of Dagupan and Pangasinan for your excellent tradition of academic excellence.

Itong North Luzon agri-business quadrangle, ang kanyang pinakamalaking proyekto ay narito rin sa Pangasinan, yung Agno River Irrigation Project, ang halaga nito ay five billion pesos. At gusto ko rin ikuwento hindi lamang yon ang irrigation project sa Pangasinan meron ding ibat-ibang mga maliliit na irrigation project na humahalaga ng — there are 35 other irrigation projects — na humahalaga rin ng 354 million pesos. Papano natin napopondohan ito, papano natin napopondohan yung mga binanggit ko sa aking State of the Nation Address? Salamat, Joe, sa aking super ally, sa iyong liderato at suporta kaya mayroon tayong budget para dito sa mga malalaking proyekto na kailangan sa kaunlaran ng North Luzon agri-business quadrangle at buong Pilipinas.

Yung Medium-Term Public Investment natin over the rest of my term as president... Ah, hindi. Yung budget lang natin for year 2007 is more than one trillion pesos. And that is the economic dividend of the greatest fiscal reforms of our generation, achieved under the great leadership and support of the beloved son of Dagupan, Joe de Venecia and our other congressmen represented here today by Gener and Madz.

Nagbubunga na ang ating mahihirap na reporma sa ekonomiya at pananalapi ng bayan. And we not only successfully sourced funds for our programs, we also gained international confidence and support for current and future projects. And I am very very grateful to the government of Japan because they have more projects like this lined up for our Philippine future.

Noong isang linggo lamang nakatanggap tayo ng mahigit pitong bilyong dolyar na commitment ng Hapon, Tsina, World Bank at Asian Development Bank para pondohan yung ating mga super region kasama ang North Luzon agri-business quadrangle.

And while I thank the congressmen, I think I'd like to say also that I am happy that our senators heed well the voice of the people in suspending the investigation of the OWWA funds that after all had been certified by the COA as intact and readily available. Our OFWs stranded in Lebanon have to be served with our undivided attention until they are all rescued. Meanwhile, other national priorities have to be attended to.

Now for instance, we promote agri-business and commerce more aggressively through more and better infrastructure projects not only to the Pantal bridge, not only to Redios-Dagupan diversion but other major roads and bridges. At ito ang papel ng Pantal bridge. But aside from that, we also need other roads.

Every month we are allocating 500 million for farm-to-market roads all over the country — 200 million pesos are for the North Luzon agri-business quadrangle; 200 million para sa Mindanao; 50 million para sa mga ilang sasakahan ng Luzon Urban Beltway; at 50 million para sa Central Philippines.

Dito lang sa Pangasinan meron nang inapprove ng Regional Development Council ng labing anim na farm-to-market road amounting to 25 million pesos and counting. Sa buong Pilipinas naman, pinapalaki natin ang gastos ng mga serbisyong panlipunan gaya ng kalusugan, edukasyon, lalo na ang edukasyon sa Cyber Corridor kung saan ang Pangasinan ay isang malaking- malaking bahagi.

Our reforms are taking root and our growth is irreversible. Ang inyong pamahalaan ay nakatukoy sa kaunlaran.

Suporta-an tayon amin sirin so reporma ya mangiter na malakas tan progresibo ya Pilipinas.

Congratulations! Joe for this bridge. Thank you Ambassador Yamazaki.

Balbaleg ya salamat ed sikayon amin.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Pantal Bridge. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212219/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2887&Itemid=38

Keynote Speech of President Arroyo on the occasion of ABAC's 10th anniversary

**Keynote Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of ABAC's 10th anniversary**

[Delivered in Cebu City, August 12, 2006]

Happy 10th anniversary to ABAC! Your jubilee comes at an exciting time in a dynamic world. The Philippines is moving in the right direction. The ASEAN regional community moves closer every passing day to meaningful integration. East Asia is consolidating along shared ideals of trade and security.

You are the leaders who translate these trends into actual transactions. In the era of rapid globalization. Or as Tom Friedman calls it, the flat earth, the role of the marketplace and the private sector is most influential in moving the nations of the world towards integration.

The course I have charted for the Philippines is based on market-driven economics, private enterprise and a desire for full, equitable participation of our country, our private sector and our people in the global economy. It will take the private sector, both domestic and foreign, working together with government, to create the jobs we need to build a strong middle class and a modern, first world nation.

We have been a strong, vocal and visible player on the regional and international stage. I have wanted to restore the place of the Philippines in the region and the world. I believe we have done so. We are not shy about global engagement. It enhances our national security and improves our economic performance and competitiveness.

Central to global engagement is our membership in ASEAN. More and more, Philippine foreign policy decisions are made in the context of ASEAN.

I am proud to say that the Philippines is the Chair of ASEAN this year and host to the East Asian Summit in December. This underscores our commitment that it is in the interest of the Philippines to be regionally and globally engaged politically, economically and diplomatically.

ASEAN has provided important lessons in regional interaction, namely the importance of sensible and peaceful management of inter-state disputes, and the value of a partnership between government and business. ASEAN brought this culture of consensus to APEC.

By fostering, through dialogue and mutual reinforcement, the notion that liberalization and facilitation, supported by capacity building, are keys to economic prosperity, APEC members have undertaken voluntary actions to free their markets from restrictions. This has resulted in unprecedented trade expansion.

For the Philippines, APEC still provides the ideal forum for managing and enhancing our trans-Pacific engagement. We will continue to support the attainment of the Bogor Goals. We will work to enhance the capacity-building aspects of APEC. We will use APEC as the primary vehicle for promoting greater ease of doing business in the region.

Trans-Pacific political and economic engagement will remain an important part of our foreign policy agenda. The United States, China and Japan and their relationships will be the determining influence in the security situation and economic evolution of East Asia.

Although I see APEC continuing to play a crucial role in promoting regional economic cooperation, new realities have emerged that require pragmatic responses. The first reality involves the rise of China, India's awakening and the deepening of economic interaction within the region.

The second reality is the trans-boundary nature of the growing threats to human security in the region from terrorism, epidemics and natural disasters and to the security of supply for resources particularly energy and minerals.

We cannot deal with the threats alone. We must work with other countries and international institutions if we are determined to successfully address and eliminate them.

By pushing for a convention on counterterrorism, we will advance teamwork in the fight against evil. By engaging our neighboring region the Shanghai Cooperation Council nations we will widen our reach.

Our leadership in ASEAN this year carries the theme of "One Caring and Sharing Community."

We will push for initiatives that will make ASEAN a shining institution that cares for its peoples, for its environment, and one that truly shares resources for uplifting the disadvantaged, integrating the marginalized and realizing the common good.

Energy security has clearly assumed grave importance.

While difficult in the near term, particularly for the poor, the high price of energy is actually an opportunity that we have seized in order to take our energy future into our own hands. We have declared a war of independence from oil, and aspire to be like Brazil, becoming self-sufficient in bio-fuels within a decade.

I draw my inspiration for this initiative from our experience in the development of the use of bio-fuels, specifically of ethanol.

Parked right outside this conference room is a vehicle that uses this technology. The Ford Focus Flexi-car has an engine that can run either on conventional gasoline or on gasoline blended with ethanol. Ford will be producing such engines here in the Philippines.

This is the future of commerce and this is the future of our self-reliance on alternative fuels like thermal, wind and solar. In the meantime, we have clamped down on price gouging and have secured a steady supply of fuel for our people.

We must rally our region to the cause of energy independence. The proposed East Asian Summit initiative on renewable and alternative energy development will require true public-private partnership, where we Governments create an environment conducive for the private sector to develop and invest in renewable and alternative sources of energy.

Another development that has profound implications on all participants to the East Asia Summit and one that will require us to draw up a collective response is the suspension of the Doha Round negotiations and the increasing likelihood that it will end in failure.

The economy makes the world go round; politics increasingly makes the world stop, as the WTO debacle has shown, and as a possible escalation of the Middle East crisis might likewise demonstrate.

The people in this room will do more for peace by tearing down economic barriers through the dynamism of the marketplace.

I cannot over emphasize the role that you the business sector must play. A great deal of work still needs to be done. The time for the meat of the work is now, on your tenth anniversary. Welcome to the Philippines!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Keynote Speech on the Occasion of ABAC's 10th Anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212158/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2882&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 22nd anniversary overnight celebration of El Shaddai – DWXI Prayer Partnerships Foundation International, Inc. and birthday celebration of Brother Mike Velarde [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa magdamagang pagdiriwang ng ika-22 na anibersaryo ng El Shaddai – DWXI Prayer Partnerships
Foundation International, Inc. at pagdiriwang ng kaarawan ni Kapatid Mike Velarde**

[Ipinahayag sa Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila, ika 19 ng Agosto, 2006]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Brother Mike Velarde at sa napakaraming panauhin na pumunta ngayong gabi para magbati kay Brother Mike. Hindi ko na babanggitin lahat kung hindi mauubos ang panahon na binigay ni Brother Mike para makibati. Pero sa ating lahat, Happy 22nd Anniversary. at siyempre bukod doon, sa ating servant leader, kay Brother Mike — happy, happy birthday!

Mga kapatid, sabi nga ni Brother Mike sa tuwi-tuwina ako’y narito, sa 22 years ng El Shaddai ito ay 15th year ko na na magkasama tayo. Kaya ako’y nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng mga biyaya at pagbasbas na binigay ng Panginoon sa akin gaya ng binibigay niya sa inyong lahat, sa lahat ng anak ni Yahweh El Shaddai.

At maraming nagtatanong kapag nakikita nila ‘yung napakaraming tao parati. Ano ang staying power ng El Shaddai? Ano ang staying power ni Brother Mike? Sa labing-limang taon na ako ay nakasama na ninyo parati sa mga gawain, siguro masasabi ko, nauunawaan ko na ‘yon dahil na rin sa mga inspirasyon na dumadating sa ating lahat kapag tayo ay nanalangin. Sabi nga ni Brother Mike noong araw, noong hindi pa ako Pangulo, ay nandiyan ako sa harap madalas kaysa doon sa likod kasi nakikita ko ‘yung mukha ni Brother Mike pag siya ay nagsasalita.

At minsan, I think mga sampung taon nakaraan nandiyan ako sa harap, 1996, kasama ng aking mga kaklase sa eskuwela na manalangin, ‘yung mga mahilig manalangin. At isa doon sa aking madasalin na kaklase, nung si Brother Mike ay nagsasalita, binulong niya sa akin, sabi niya, “talagang si Brother Mike ay annointed.” ‘yan ang palagay ko dahilan ng staying power ng prayer partners ng Yahweh El Shaddai. Sa madaling salita, nanggagaling sa Panginoon ang pagbasbas sa prayer partners ng Yahweh El Shaddai.

Ngunit ‘yung mga annointed, ‘yung annointment ay tumatagal hanggang lamang sila ay may covenant sa Panginoon. At ngayong gabi, sabi ni Brother Mike, ang simbolo, ang logo ng ating pagdiriwang ay ‘yung rainbow. At ‘yung rainbow ay unang lumabas sa ating mga istorya sa bibliya matapos ‘yung great flood bilang sagisag ng covenant ng Panginoon sa katauhang sumusunod sa kanya. Kaya ‘yung rainbow natin — ayan, nandiyan sa likod natin ngayong gabi — ay ang dahilan sa staying power ng El Shaddai prayer partners dahil nananatili sa covenant sa Panginoon.

Kinuwento ni Sister Belen sa akin kanina na noong lumipat ang mga gawain mula sa PICC doon sa Parañaque, nagkaroon din ng rainbow sa unang gawain. Talagang binigyan ng senyas na tuloy pa rin ang covenant, ang annointment, ang pagdadasal ng mga anak ni Yahweh El Shaddai.

Kaya naman ang inyong lingkod ay madalas humihingi ng payo kay Brother Mike dahil magandang humingi ng payo sa mga annointed at ang parating pinapayo ni Brother Mike sa akin anuman ang ibang sasabihin niya meron parating kasamang payo — reconciliation.

Kaya ngayong gabi, noong sinabi ni Brother Mike itaas ang dalawang kamay at hingiin sa Panginoon kung ano ang gusto mo, ang aking hiningi — reconciliation. Para sa ganun, ang ating anibersaryo ay parating babasbasan ng Panginoon at ang lahat ng kaarawan ni Brother Mike ay parating basbasan din ng Panginoon.

Muli, sa ating lahat, Happy 22nd Anniversary at happy, happy birthday! Sa ating servant leader Brother Mike.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 22nd Anniversary Overnight Celebration of El Shaddai – DWXI Prayer Partnerships Foundation International, Inc. and Birthday Celebration of Brother Mike Velarde. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212148/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2881&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the wreath laying ceremony and program in commemoration of the 23rd Death Anniversary of Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino, Jr.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the wreath laying ceremony and program in commemoration of the 23rd Death Anniversary of
Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino, Jr.**

[Delivered at the Ninoy Aquino Monument, P. Burgos cor. Roxas Blvd., Manila, August 21, 2006]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Mayor Lito Atienza at lahat ng namumuno, mamamayan at kabataan ng Maynila. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Binabati rin natin ang mga kapatid ng ating bayani, si Ninoy Aquino, sa pamumuno ni Congressman Butch Aquino, ni Former Senator Tessie Aquino, ni Paul Aquino, ni Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara at saka ni Maur Aquino Lichauco.

Binabati natin ‘yung EDSA People Power Commission sa pamumuno ni Ed Ermita at ni Brother Rolando Dizon. Ganun din si Bert Romulo, si Toting Bunye, si Sonny Alvarez at ‘yung iba pang mga Cabinet member at kasapi ng ating administrasyon.

Binabati natin ‘yung mga kasamahan ni Ninoy sa kaniyang pakikibaka, nandiyan si Reli German at ‘yung ibang narito na napakarami ang dumalo ngayon, hindi ko na babanggitin lahat ng pangalan nila.

Batiin natin ‘yung spirit of EDSA sa pamumuno ni Cris Carreon at saka ‘yung nag-aalaga ng pangalan ni Ninoy sa ating kasaysayan, ang National Historical Commission sa pamumuno ni Executive Director Badoy.

Sa inyong lahat, mga humahanga kay Ninoy, mga susunod na henerasyon ng Maynila at Pilipinas, karangalan kong makidalo kasama ninyong lahat sa anibersaryo ng kamatayan ng ating bayani si Ninoy Aquino sa pamamagitan ng pagdala ng bulaklak sa kanyang dambana at pagkatapos magtanim ng yellow fire tree dito sa Maynila para mas lalong mabuhay ang Maynila at hindi lamang ang demokrasya.

Itong araw na ito, sinisimulaan din natin ang “Greening of Manila” ni Mayor Lito Atienza at mga kabataan ng Maynila. Di ba kayo ang magtatanim ng puno sa buong Maynila? Ito ay tugmang-tugma, tugmang-tugma sa inyong kinabukasan, tugmang-tugma rin sa bagong berdeng Pilipinas na inilulunsad ng pambansang pamahalaan kasama rin ng susunod na henerasyon.

Kasi kung gusto natin na maging first world ang ating bansa sa 2020, sa panahon ng susunod na henerasyon, yung henerasyong ipinagbaka ni Ninoy Aquino, kailangan ang higit na atensyon sa ating likas na kapaligiran at siguraduhin ninyo mga kabataan, palaguin natin at hindi lamang ubusin ang ating mga likas yaman.

Isa pang tanda ng modernong bansa na gusto maging first world ay katarungang panlipunan at karapatang pantao. Dahil itong araw na ito, naaalala natin na si Ninoy Aquino ay nagbuwis ng kaniyang buhay upang bumalik ang demokrasya. Si Ninoy Aquino ang pinaka-kilalang biktima ng political killing, at hanggang ngayon hindi pa natin alam kung sino ang mastermind ng pagpaslang kay Ninoy Aquino. Dapat lang hindi natin balewalain ang kaniyang sakripisyo.

Democracy in the Philippines will not stand for senseless political killings. Every man and woman in our country is entitled to speak, free from fear that they will pay for their beliefs with their very life. Whether you are a journalist or political activist, of the left or the right, it is the obligation of the government and indeed the entire nation to protect the rights and liberties of every citizen.

At kayo bilang mga tagahanga, tagahanga ni Ninoy Aquino — Thank you — bilang mga tagahanga ni Ninoy Aquino kaya tayo ay narito, mga nag-gugunita ng pagka-martir ni Ninoy Aquino na nakibaka para sa susunod na henerasyon. You know that for too long there has been a culture of violence in our political process. For years, political disputes have been settled looking down the barrel of a gun.

A week ago, I announced that I was going to appoint a Former Supreme Court Justice to investigate the recent political killings. Today, in honor of the great victim of political killings, Ninoy Aquino, I am announcing that Former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo will lead an investigative group imbued with wide power and a sweeping mandate for its members to put murderers behind bars and break this cycle of violence once and for all.

We've been making progress in bringing these cases to court and putting the killers behind bars, but I've been impatient, we've been impatient with the pace. That is why we took the step of appointing Melo. He will be joined by NBI Director Nestor Mantaring and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencio Zuño and members of civil society including Bishop Camilo Gregorio of the catholic church and Rogelio Vinluan as senior counsel and Nelia Gonzalez in the legal and academic community.

I have directed Melo to prioritize and focus investigation of media and activist killings; to be the government's sole voice on the issue; and to make a report to me outlining its actions and policy recommendations including appropriate prosecution and legislative proposals, if any, aimed at eradicating the root causes of extra judicial killings and breaking the cycle of violence once and for all.

I have directed him to leave no stone unturned in their pursuit of justice. I want them to pursue every lead down every path. The victims and their families deserve justice to be served; the Filipino people for whom Ninoy died fighting for democracy deserve a democracy they can trust.

It's time that the culture of political retribution stop. I hope that this special investigative commission will not only solve the killings before us today, but will propose permanent remedies to change this culture.

Ipagpatuloy natin ang sigla ng demokrasyang pinagbuwisan ng dugo, pawis at buhay ng ating magigiting na bayani tulad ni Ninoy. Sa ganitong paraan, hindi mauwi sa wala ang sakripisyong inialay ni Ninoy para sa atin at sa bayan.

Sana ay tularan si Ninoy ng maraming magmalasakit para sa mahal nating bayan, lalung-lalo na ang ating susunod na henerasyon, ang kabataan ng Maynila at ng buong Pilipinas.

Mabuhay si Ninoy! Mabuhay ang Maynila! Mabuhay ang berdeng Pilipinas!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Wreath Laying Ceremony and Program in Commemoration of the 23rd Death Anniversary of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr.. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212134/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2880&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on launching the People's I.D. Card

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On launching the People's I.D. Card**

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, August 23, 2006]

LAUNCHING THE PEOPLE'S I.D. CARD

I'd like to let you know that we're launching the People's I.D. card. The purpose is to strengthen good governance, improve transparency, empower our citizenry, and give every Filipino faster access to dependable government services.

This card is part of the unified multi-purpose I.D. system or MU-ID forged by various government agencies from concept to implementation for the convenience and security of the public. We are now pilot testing the system to make it foolproof and remove any bugs in it.

This system fills the last mile in the gap between the people's needs and a streamlined government that serves those needs. As we continue to make government operations, system and procedures move faster and better, we shall integrate and harmonize existing I.D. systems in the different government agencies and government-owned-and-controlled corporations.

'Di ba mas maganda kung isa lang ang I.D. na ginagamit mo sa lahat ng transaksyon ng pamahalaan, keysa pumuputok ang wallet mo sa dami ng mga ID. na kailangan mo? That's the whole purpose of that.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the 18th National Convention of the National Prosecutors League of the Philippines (NPLP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 18th National Convention of the National Prosecutors League of the Philippines (NPLP)**

[Delivered at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Lahug District Cebu City, Cebu, August 25, 2006]

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Secretary Gonzalez for your kind introduction.

Other members of the Department of Justice including Chief State Prosecutor Zuño; other members of the executive branch including Secretary Ace Durano, the cabinet officer for regional development of Region VII; Congressman Raul Del Mar, thank you very much for your tireless and excellent presiding over the impeachment proceedings.

I'd like to greet also chairperson of your league, Marilyn Cynthia Madamba- Luang, and the other officers and members of the prosecutors league; ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for inviting me to be here with you today. You are important members of our society and government. Our prosecutors are working together and charting ways to further strengthen criminal justice and I am glad to join you not only today but to join you in this quest especially today that we face the challenge of putting extra-judicial killings to a full stop.

Democracy in the Philippines will not stand for senseless political killings. Every man and woman in our country is entitled to speak free from the fear that they will have to pay for their beliefs with their very lives.

And since Congressman Del Mar is here, I would like to thank the Filipino people for casting a vote of confidence in this administration through their duly elected representatives in the house. As the presidency is relieved of the heavy rush and burden of partisan politics, I'm grateful to all my supporters as I extend a sincere hand of reconciliation to my detractors based on the high principles of justice and the common welfare. The people have spoken and the message is clear, we must close ranks and face the most compelling demands of national stability and growth.

I call for a tearing down of partisan fences, a consolidation of voices, and a welding of national heart and will to fight poverty, stop conflict and heal the nation. Now is the time to act to sharpen executive focus, to sharpen in fact prosecution focus because you are indeed part of the executive branch to get the legislative mill on track and uphold the rule of law and democracy that holds together the nation and strengthen its sinews for the world of competition and the future of extreme challenges.

The nation is moving in the right direction. The economy is strong and growing, and the budget is under control for the first time in a long time.

The first phase of our economic turnaround plan was to stabilize our budget and spending and then secure increase revenue through better tax and customs collections, and through an increase in the value-added tax and other taxes. Thanks again to the good work of congress.

We achieved that goal. The nation is better for it although I have paid a political price in public opinion.

Phase two of our plan is to take advantage of our improved economic picture to finally make the long overdue investments in infrastructure, education and health care to name a few areas. The most sweeping element of this phase is to restructure our economy to bolster the natural advantages of five distinct regions of the country.

In this region, the Central Visayas, the great economy, the driver of the economy will be tourism. And our Secretary of Tourism Ace Durano will move up from cabinet officer for regional development in Region VII to the super region champion in Region VII, VIII, VI, Palawan, Romblon and Bicol, which are part of the tourism central region of our country. And to take his place as CORD for Region VII will be Secretary Cerge Remonde who is also here with us today.

Finally, phase three of our national plan is turn our sights to truly joining the ranks of first world nations. We have a vision that we have shared and talked about — that we will take our place alongside other first world nations by 2020. This phase must be marked by increase attention on our natural environment and making sure we build up not just deplete our natural resources.

That's why this morning, we planted trees all over the archipelago. The biggest number of trees planted at one time in the history of the world. We will probably make the guinness book of records for that.

And more good news. After the tree planting ceremony, I received the news that the oil tanker that sunk off the coast of Guimaras has been located.

I'm deeply concerned over the mounting health hazards in the communities affected by the oil's leak. And I am ordering a meticulous and rapid assessment of the situation by the health authorities followed by prompt and sustained actions. Mobile hospitals will be set up and evacuation procedures will be undertaken as necessary to ease suffering and save lives. I call upon Petron and the ship owner to immediately clean up the mess, and our Task Force Guimaras headed by Secretary Nonong Cruz, Environment Secretary Reyes, Health Secretary Duque, Transportation Secretary Mendoza and Social Welfare Secretary Cabral and Coast Guard Admiral Gosingan to attend to environmental and health issues.

There is a need for human hair and chicken feathers to absorb that oil. And as for that need, I am instructing the task force to work with the private sector including the media and the maritime industry to put up drop off centers all over the country. And ensure speedy transport and deployment in the affected area.

I am declaring the Guimaras oil spill as a national calamity that demands the cooperation and solidarity of all Filipinos. Let us do what has to be done first and deal with the blame later.

Another hallmark of a modern first world nation is justice and human rights.

At about 3:15 yesterday afternoon, a shooting incident happened inside the Tropical Hut hamburger store located along General Romulo Avenue near corner Aurora Boulevard in Cubao. When assailants armed with handguns shot Attorney Rodolfo Paglinawan in the head causing his instantaneous death.

Now, who is Attorney Paglinawan? The victim was allegedly the legal adviser of Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Purefoods Hormel in Marikina City. One of the assailants was apprehended by responding policemen and security guards of Araneta Center, Capitol Pawnshop and the Barangay traffic aides of Quezon City. The arrested suspect was identified as Jeff Rafanan Alias Louie, an alleged member of the Rogelio Laurente Command of the Partido Marxist- Leninist ng Pilipinas. Now I hope they will not blame again the military or the police for this killing. When initially investigated, the suspect claimed that the victim was just collecting money from the labor union, but nothing happened to their labor cases. Well, that's the investigation. But at the end of the day, the prosecution and the conviction will lie in your hands.

I ask our prosecutors to be squarely behind me in the fight, in this fight against hideous elements challenging our political stability.

Last Monday, I announced that former Supreme Court Justice Melo will lead an investigative group to put political murderers behind bars and break this cycle of violence. One of the members of that five-person commission is no other than our Chief State Prosecutor Jovencio Zuño.

The work of the commission, as far as the pursuit of justice is concerned, will be investigative. It will also recommend administrative policies and legislation, but the prosecution will be left to Chief State Prosecutor Zuño and all of you wherever the crime may have happened. And therefore the fight for justice will last beyond the life of the commission.

Meanwhile, I will continue to look after the needs of our prosecutors. As Chief State Prosecutor Zuño has said, our battle cry is Republic Act 9279 that grants additional compensation in the form of special allowances for members of the national prosecution service and state counsels in the Department of Justice.

In addition to Republic Act 9279, two weeks ago, I released 50 million pesos to augment the prosecution of graft, tax evasion, smuggling cases and rebellion cases. And you might have heard about the U.S. Millennium Challenge Account of one billion pesos to help us fight graft and corruption. Again, that is for technology, for investigation and for prosecution.

You have much work to do but we are providing you with resources to be able to do that work better.

To the upcoming new set of officers, my advance congratulations! I hope that you will pursue your association's goal with great vigor because the country needs you. Congratulations!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 18th National Convention of the National Prosecutors League of the Philippines (NPLP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212114/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2877&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on the briefing of “Making Things Happen”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the briefing of “Making Things Happen”**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Hotel, Makati City, September 5, 2006]

MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

As we have seen earlier the theme of this briefing is “Making Things Happen” And I would like to emphasize that our economic team has indeed been working hard to make good things happen in the Philippines. Congratulations to them!

And I’m pleased to join you today. It’s appropriate that we mark a successful half-year of economic performance with the people who have been a key part of that success. Congratulations too to all of you!

When I assumed office as president in 2001, I committed our administration to an economic plan that would lay the foundation for building prosperity for the greatest number of our people.

Today, despite the challenge posed by soaring oil prices we have made significant progress towards achieving that economic goal. We have much work to do, but it’s clear that progress is being made. The economic indicators that you have seen in the presentation, and that the members of the economic team will discuss with you today underscore the success of our policy—the deficit is down, the stock market is up, and the peso is strong.

And for the first time in many years, we’re paying less in interest on our debt while bringing in more tax revenue, freeing up capital to invest in vital infrastructure and human needs to increase the quality of life for our hardworking Filipinos here at home. Foreign investment levels are helping us to create thousands... Hundreds of thousands of new better paying jobs.

There was a political price to pay for forging ahead with this long overdue economic reforms, but I’m content to see my popularity go down as long as the nation’s fortunes rise as a result of this positive economic reforms.

And let me be clear—these reforms will continue.

The first phase of our economic turnaround plan was to stabilize our budget and spending and then secure increased revenue through better tax and customs collection and through an increase in the value-added and other taxes. These were painful but necessary steps, and the performance of our economy validates these actions.

Phase two of our plan is to take advantage of our improved economic environment to strengthen the competitiveness of the Philippines—we’re well into this phase. The most significant part of this phase is to restructure our economy to strengthen the natural advantages of five distinct regions of the country. These super regions need building up to create opportunity across the country because as I’ve said before our country is too Manila focused in its politics and its economic wealth.

We genuinely need to lift up the entire country and not rely on trickle down economics from Manila to do the job. We’re making progress, but much more remains to be done. Our success in extending economic gains to all corners of our country lies in creating the national infrastructure we need to help us lower costs, increase productivity and better compete for the increased levels of foreign investment we need to drive economic growth and create well-paying jobs.

In our Medium-Term Public Investment Program more than two trillion pesos will be invested by the national government, the government-owned-and-controlled corporations, the government financial institutions, the local governments and the private sector B-O-T investors in roads, railways, sea ports, airports and other infrastructure over the period 2006 to 2010. These are investments in competitiveness.

But economic development is not just about roads and railways, it's also about providing people with right incentives and opportunities to be entrepreneurs or well-paid workers and get the education and training they need for the career they want. Our improved fiscal position has provided us a boost in funding for science and technology, education and training that will produce a skilled workforce suited to the opportunities that are being created in our national economy.

During the first half of this year new revenues from the VAT and other tax reforms were invested in new school buildings, new text books and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators.

While we remain thankful for the contributions of our overseas Filipino workers, I'm pleased to see that our economic growth is broad-based with significant contributions being made by the services sector, agriculture and exports. In the services sector over the last five years, we have created 200,000 new BPO jobs and our focus now turns to growing this important industry in which our nation is globally competitive. Agriculture and the exports sector will benefit greatly and become more competitive from our investments in new infrastructure.

Today, we acknowledge the results of our economic plan—steady economic growth, rising imports and related exports, a strong stock market and peso, higher revenues and a lower deficit. But we also acknowledge the need to continue the economic reforms that have produced these positive results.

We will continue our policy of prudent economic management.

Our revenues will continue to rise and our economic managers are determined that the budget will be in balance by the end of 2008.

We will continue to invest responsibly in the infrastructure that will boost our international competitiveness, attract job creating investments, and deliver social services that will improve the quality of the people's lives.

Only a strong economy will reduce poverty and expand our middle class. Progress is being made and our economic managers today will expound on that theme.

To all of you, thank you and thank you for being part of the progress that we are making.

Maraming salamat.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo on ICT in Education

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On ICT in Education

[Delivered at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Cebu City, September 6, 2006]

ICT IN EDUCATION: THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE

ICT is the wave of the future. The foundation of tomorrow's economic development.

It's the provider of jobs to millions of Filipinos from constructing cell sites, manufacturing microchips, manning computer dependent industries, working at BPOs to small entrepreneurs, operating cyber cafes or selling mobile phones and internet cards.

The computer has changed the way we look at the world, the way we use information, the way we work, the way we play.

In 2001, with my State of the Nation Address, we started with small realizable goals—high-speed interconnectivity at cost affordable to the public, more efficiency among service providers, and technologies for multimedia convergence. In three year's time, by 2004, and despite limited resources, we were able to link the whole country even as we started bolstering efficiency in math, science and English. Yes, English it did. And thank you Jesli for your very strong pronouncement about English as the medium of instruction.

Yes, English. Because we must engage the world to bring the benefits of global engagement home at a time of Philippine economic vibrance, at a time of increase in our gross international reserves to an unprecedented 22 billion u.s. dollars due to strong exports and remittances. Balance of payments forecast to hit two billion dollars from the original 1.6 billion- dollar target; 15 percent increase in OFW remittances; 14 percent increase of foreign exchange reserves; the peso hitting a fresh four-year high; and stocks rising to a three-month high and easing inflation to a lowest level in two years.

Those are macro figures. Let's go down to some micro anecdotes.

In the town of Panamao in Sulu, that used to be the lair of rebels, cell sites have risen. The major islands of Tawi-Tawi now have access to internet. The Philippine Cyber Corridor stretching from Baguio through Cebu—where we are very appropriately—to Davao, runs along a digital backbone that carries ICT services to every municipality.

And let us thank the House of Representatives for approving the bill promoting the use of voice over the internet protocol or VOIP that will dramatically cut down the cost of telephone calls across continents and bring Filipinos closer to their loved ones abroad. Congratulations! Thank you, Nerisse.

When we started putting together the comprehensive plan for our digital highway in 2001, less than 2,000 people were employed in call centers. Today, five years later, over 200,000 are employed in BPOs and we expect their figure to grow to over one million by the end of this decade.

Our country is now identified as the second most preferred location for BPO operations in the world, next only to India. Semiconductors remain a top export and this sector continues to grow by 10 percent annually.

In my 2004 campaign, we articulated the goal of putting computer connectivity in every public high school. In compliance with this, we're working on increasing the number of internet-ready computers particularly in the most populous high schools. So if your high school is still not internet connected, please let Secretary Lapus know so that we can attend to it right away.

But we need more ICT-competent teachers. And I'm glad you're all here today. The DepEd and the commission for ICT are now crafting the National ICT Competency Standard for teachers or NICS, to be implemented in all public high schools. The majority of the public high school teachers should fulfill the requirements of the NICS by 2010.

Educational content can be dramatically increased with one keystroke. All of us must take in step to harness the force of ICT to advance the quality of education, the development of the Filipino youth and building a brighter future for the Filipino nation.

Educators, thank you for being here. Let us truly make our Philippine education system fit for the knowledge century of the new millennium.

Maraming salamat. Thank you to all.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo before the European Business Community

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the European Business Community**

[Delivered at the Sheraton Park Lane, Piccadilly, London, United Kingdom, September 14, 2006]

**THE SUNRISE INDUSTRY THAT IS
BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING**

Aggressive trade policy has been an important benchmark of our overall economic plan under my administration. And this policy is now bearing fruit: the peso is up, the markets are up, exports and imports are up, inflation is steady despite the high oil prices in the world market, and investments are up. In fact, the net portfolio inflows into the Philippines are more than double that of last year.

Most importantly, our poverty level is down and our income level is up. Our poverty level has been going down by one percentage point a year during my administration. And if this keeps up, we will be able to comply with our millennium development goals of reducing poverty by half in 2015 compared to year 2000.

When my administration took over in 2001, I knew that in addition to sending strong signals on trade, I needed to get our economic house in order. I inherited huge budget deficits, a bloated budget, a dysfunctional bureaucracy and the worst revenue collection in a very long time. I knew that I needed to make fundamental reforms that would help drive our credit ratings up to improve our cost of borrowing and invite investments. And we have done that through new taxes or higher taxes, improved collections and a crackdown on corruption.

As a result, many of our industries are booming, including electronics, agriculture, mining and outsourcing, to name a few. For instance, the outsourcing industry employed only a few hundred jobs when I came to office in 2001. Today, in large part due to the new business climate we have fostered, there are almost 200,000 new jobs in this space — 2,000 to 200,000 in a period of five years, turning the Philippines into one of the premier global outsourcing locations in the world. That's why I am in this BPO conference today to help promote the industry.

In my official trips I have taken the added task of being the main herald of world class excellence of the Philippines. I made it my mission for world class companies such as yours to meet world class talent from the Philippines because indeed the Philippines is recognized for its well-educated, English-speaking labor force. And this is a reputation we intend to maintain as our stronger fiscal position is making it possible to invest heavily in education and training for our young men and women.

Significant progress has been made in creating a better environment in which to do business in the Philippines. The government's economic reform program has placed the government's finances on sustainable footing and generated additional revenues for investment in infrastructure, which will lower costs and improve productivity for all businesses.

We will build on our past successes, and the modernization of our country will create excellent opportunities for ICT companies and entrepreneurs. As I said earlier, the Philippines is very well recognized for its well-educated, English-speaking labor force, a reputation we intend to maintain as our stronger fiscal position is making it possible to invest heavily in education and training for our young men and women.

I'm indeed very happy about the recognition of the Philippine labor force. And I would simply like to say that significant progress has been made in creating a better environment in which to do business in the Philippines.

The government's economic reform program has placed the government's finances on a sustainable footing and generated additional revenues for investment in infrastructure. And I would like to say that we are constantly striving to make our country more competitive for both domestic and foreign investors.

Late this month, there will be a national competitiveness summit in the Philippines that will bring together private sector participants, government officials and other key players such as the legal community, to look at how we can create a road map to make us even more competitive.

Our investor-friendly reforms include comprehensive measures to reduce bureaucratic red tape and streamline administrative procedures.

Some of you or many of you know the Philippines and I would like to address some of the issues that businessmen in Europe have been raising about the Philippines. For instance, we have a new international airport that has not opened for many years. And I would like to say that the new Manila international airport is a vital national asset that must be turned at long last to productive use. The government is determined to open the airport terminal as a matter of national interest.

We respect international law and contracts and expect to compensate the appropriate parties who did actual work in the construction of the project — that's not the issue. The issue is not whether we are willing to pay those who built the airport or not, the issue is that the terminal had been held hostage for so long by a very questionable transaction entered into before my administration at the expense of the public good. We look forward to a final resolution of this matter as soon as possible.

Last Monday, we paid the preferred price under our expropriation proceedings, and we have taken physical possession of the airport. And when the international technical evaluators tell us in October that the airport is ready technically for operation, and then we will proceed to open the airport.

And I hope this airport will bring about more convenient travel and more convenient trade.

Trade of course is not a panacea; it poses problems for developing countries that need to weather the onslaught of competition. But in the main, I aspire for the Philippines not only to abide by all trade deals, by all contracts, but also to initiate new opportunities where none exist.

Many of us are disappointed about the Doha Round. You're all businessmen even if you're in BPO or not in BPO, you're interested in the Doha Round. And though we're all disappointed about the apparent failure of the Doha Round, I would like to assure you that we in the Philippines are committed and remain committed to the WTO process. But we are not going to sit idly waiting for the recalcitrant nations to sort out their problems. Who are the recalcitrant nations? The whole big controversy is really between Europe and the United States. And as I've always said, when the elephants fight, the ants stay out of the way.

In the meantime, we, the smaller economies are moving on many fronts to propel our trade agenda. And as chair of ASEAN this year, we are taking the lead reinvigorating ASEAN as a trading bloc.

The competition in the next coming decades would be one for talent and training, particularly within the Asian region. Asia right now is being powered by several engines — India, China, Korea and the ASEAN region — all these economies will compete for talent from the region. The Philippines has significant advantage from the point of view of language, education and familiarity with western business processes. That's why so much of the world accounting is done in the Philippines.

Our economic reform program focuses and builds on some of our nation's strongest competitive advantages:

We have a 94 percent literacy rate. More than 400,000 people graduate from our schools every year with specializations in such areas as I.T., computer science, engineering, commerce, accounting and medical sciences.

We have passed vital legislation to establish a stable and effective regulatory environment for the ICT sector, including an e-commerce law and an intellectual property code.

We offer excellent international connectivity and an expanding multimedia infrastructure to support 24 by 7 operations.

The Philippine animation industry is a major supplier to Japanese, American, Australian and European companies. Many of the cartoons you see are done in the Philippines.

Contact centers are currently the fastest growing services in the Philippines. And medical transcription services are projected to grow by 80 percent in 2006 with the domestic transcription industry enjoying a strong reputation for the quality of its work.

You know our great nurses here, great quality work. They do as much quality work in the Philippines together with our doctors on medical transcriptions. And not only that, they do higher levels of transcription like for instance, there's a surgery ongoing somewhere, somewhere in the world on a path-breaking medical experiment and the doctor is talking, describing what he's doing in this very innovative, path-breaking surgery and a Filipino doctor in the Philippines is taking it all down and putting it in the appropriate language.

And while our strength in contact centers is well-established, we are now focusing on growing the higher value-added segment of the industry, including accounting. As I said earlier, I'm very happy that Shell, HSBC and so many British firms do all their accounting or most of their accounting in the Philippines, legal, human resources and administrative services as well.

So I encourage all of you to take a closer look at the ICT opportunities in the Philippines by attending our annual I.T. Conference E-services Philippines — that's what it's called — in 2007 to be held on February 15 and 16 next year.

Going back now to the Asian region and the context of doing business in the Philippines. While I was in Helsinki — because Prime Minister Koizumi was also in Helsinki — we took the advantage of signing the Japan-Philippines economic partnership agreement with the Japanese prime minister. And last year the Philippines signed the early harvest trade agreement with China. So we have these very important trade agreements. And not only trade agreements, in Japan we call it the economic partnership agreement because it's more than a trade agreement. It's an agreement not only for goods, it's also an agreement for services like health services, caregivers and entertainers, accountants too are coming up.

Given the strategic location of the Philippines as a logistics hub, we fully expect to benefit from the economic activity being generated by China. And I am confident that Asia with the surge in importance of China is going to play an increasingly important role in the world. One reason why I am in Europe meeting with European leaders is a reflection of the need for our respective regions to work more closely together. Nonetheless, the U.S. is and will remain a strong presence in the region, certainly for the Philippines as our number one trading partner.

The ASEAN regional community moves closer every passing day to meaningful integration. And so doing business in the Philippines is like doing business with China, with Japan, with the United States and with the ever integrating ASEAN region.

You are not just businessmen, you are Europeans. And I know that when Europeans think of ASEAN, they think even in the back of their minds, they think of Myanmar. And let me take this opportunity as chair of ASEAN to say a little bit about Myanmar. Even as ASEAN remains constructively engaged in Myanmar, we hope to see tangible progress in Myanmar's transition to democracy. We hope to see the early release of those placed under detention. We hope to see effective dialogue among all parties concerned. And this is a view, not just of the Philippines; this is a view in which the nine ASEAN countries are united.

As for the Philippines, because you are Europeans and human rights are so important to you, I would also like to convey that we have abolished the death penalty, the only country in the region to do so. You may have read some newspaper accounts from some NGO, human rights NGO about a spate of what we call extra-judicial killings. And I want to let you know again not just as European businessmen but as European citizens that I condemn in the harshest possible terms the indiscriminate killings of political activists and journalists.

No Filipino citizen regardless of political affiliation should have to pay for the right to free speech with their life. Unfortunately, this mode of political retribution has a sad history in our nation but I aim to stop it once and for all because the spate of killings has no place in a democracy or in our government.

I recently appointed a former Supreme Court justice of impeccable credentials, with the full powers of my office, to investigate and cause the prosecution of these killings to the full extent of the law. Just this morning, I asked for a meeting with the amnesty international, and I am very happy that they will help us to find experienced investigators who will help the independent commission do its investigations.

I am saying all these in a BPO conference because I think that a European businessman would like to look at the entire cultural environment in which he or she is doing business. And I would like to point out all these things to let you know that not only are we familiar with western accounting processes and other business processes, we are also very much in synch with you as far as the universal values of democracy and therefore of free enterprise are concern.

During my visits to Helsinki and Brussels, I asked Spain, Finland and Belgium to recommend members of the international NGO community to review the situation and our aggressive actions taking to end this specific kind of violence against political activists and media practitioners.

This issue, as important as it is, is just one of my many very positive discussions I've been having while in Europe. First and foremost, as what I'm doing here, I'm promoting the Philippines as a great place to do business. And the leaders of Europe are also very open to helping us resolve one of the greatest humanitarian issues in the Philippines today — the prospects for peace with our Muslim brothers in Mindanao.

For those of you who are not familiar with Mindanao, sometimes you may read about some fightings that have been happening — it's practically history. We have had a successful ceasefire for the last three years. So you may have read some old news but today there is peace in Mindanao, there is peace in the Philippines. And with the journalists and activists who have been the victims of killings, justice will be done to them. Under our judicial processes that also convey and hew very closely to the judicial processes of countries like the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe.

All in all, it's an exciting time to be in business in the Philippines because we have solved our budgetary problems, our deficit problems and therefore because of that we are able to get the confidence of the international business community

Of course, there remains much to do. And that is why I am very frank with you about the problems that we recognize and that we are working on. But all in all, our economic reform program, our tax reforms, the biggest reform in a generation, demonstrate our determination to make the Philippines a competitive investment location, in particular for sectors such as ICT.

And so ladies and gentlemen of the London, U.K. and European business community, I thank you for this opportunity. And I hope we will see each other in the Philippines. You only need to see us once because after that they can transact all our business on the internet.

Thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo on the Golden Anniversary of the Gridiron

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the Golden Anniversary of the Gridiron**

[Delivered at the Pandanggo Room, Manila Hotel, September 27, 2006]

**THE PRESS AND OUR MORE
HOPEFUL FUTURE**

To roast the president in the gridiron is indeed a glorious occasion for the press. And I'm sure you would never get bored even if you did it everyday.

Congratulations! For 50 years of keeping up this traditional event.

After the laughter and poking fun, perhaps tomorrow we can see some reasonable headlines in the papers.

Roy is right. You have the power either to make the sun shine, figuratively speaking because the storm is coming tomorrow whatever happens tonight. Or you can have the power to make the stock market go down. That is how powerful the press is.

And as for the killings of journalists, I'm glad that you support the Melo Commission and I hope that you will continue to support the Melo Commission so that it would come out with meaningful results for you.

I'm counting on the press to help our people become more hopeful of their future because indeed there is much to be hopeful for. As our president of National Press Club earlier said, the economy is showing great signs of health, not only the strong peso, not only the good stock market, but the fact that at last our people will be enjoying a per capita income of 1,400 dollars this year.

And if what has been happening during the earlier years of our administration that the poverty level has been going down by one percent point every year, that means that by 2015, we will be able to reduce our poverty level to one-half of what it was in the year 2000 in accordance with our millennium development goals. And we will be able to reach our dream, because right now we're not third world anymore. At 1,400 dollars, we are now second world—a middle class country. And we'll be able to achieve if we continue the trajectory of one percent decline in the poverty level, we can reach hopefully first world status by the year 2020.

But much of it depends not only on government officials, not only on the business community that creates jobs, not only on the hardworking Filipinos that create wealth, but also on the powerful media—one of the most powerful media and one of the freest presses in the whole world. Because if the military has the power to topple governments in other countries, in the Philippines that power belongs to the media. You have the power to make or break an economy. Because you are so powerful that your prophecies becomes self-fulfilling. And I hope that the friendship and goodwill of this fine evening will beckon us to gather around the nation's brighter future.

There is a saying that goes: “Those who can, do; those who cannot... Those who cannot do, teach or criticize.” On my part, I prefer to do the “doing” and I leave you to your good choices.

But let us always uphold fairness and justice, duty and responsibility.

I hear you well when you asked me for things that promote the freedom of the press. I hope you can hear me just as well when I ask you to promote the responsibility of the press.

Maraming salamat and happy golden anniversary to Gridiron!

Thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 58th Calbayog City Charter Day Anniversary Celebration Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the 58th Calbayog City Charter Day Anniversary Celebration

[Delivered at the Tiburcio Tancinco Memorial Institute of Science and Technology (TTMIST) Gymnasium,
Calbayog City, Western Samar, October 16, 2006]

Maraming, maraming salamat, Congressman Rey Uy sa iyong napakagandang pagpapakilala sa akin at salamat sa iyong suporta sa akin mula nung ikaw pa ay mayor ng Calbayog City at ako ay Senador pa, hanggang ngayon na ako ay presidente at ikaw ay congressman na. Maraming salamat sa iyong suporta.

Maraming salamat rin Mayor Mel Sarmiento sa iyong pag-imbata sa akin pumunta dito sa inyong Calbayog City Day at maraming salamat din sa iyong suporta sa akin kasama ng iba't-ibang mga local government officials sa ating bansa. At congratulations din sa iyong napakaraming mga premyo bilang outstanding city sa iba't-ibang mga bahagi ng kaunlaran.

Gusto ko ring batiin nandito lahat ng Congressmen ng Samar Island. Nandito rin hindi lamang si Congressman Rey Uy, ang ating host, kundi na rin si Congressman Kata Figueroa, maraming salamat sa 'yo narito at sa suporta; si Congressman Nonoy Libanan; at si Congressman Boy Abayon, mula sa Samar Del Norte, maraming salamat kayo ay narito lahat.

At nandito rin ang gobernador ng Eastern Samar na parating tumutulong kasama ni Mayor Mel Sarmiento, si Governor Ben Evardone. Nandito sila lahat kaya nakakalito ang iba't-ibang puwesto. Nung araw si Rey Uy ay mayor, ngayon siya ang congressman kaya iba't-iba. Kung noon si Boy Abayon ay governor, ngayon siya ang congressman din kaya iba't-iba ang mga puwesto pero kilala ko na sila lahat noon pa. Kaya ang ganda-ganda ninyo... Nag reunion na ito ngayon sa fiesta ng Calbayog.

Hindi ko na babatiin iyung iba't-ibang mga official ng national government na kasama ko ngayon. Nabati na ng ating mga previous speakers kaya sa kanilang lahat salamat na sumama dito sa ating pagdiriwang at sa inyong lahat happy anniversary Calbayog!

Gusto ko ring ulitin muli sa ating mga hosts: kay Congressman Uy, kay Mayor Sarmiento, kay Vice Mayor Aquino, lahat ng SB members, hindi lamang sa inyong imbitasyon kundi na rin sa inyong suporta. At yung narito lahat na mga congressmen ng Samar Island, anong ibig sabihin noon? Sang-ayon sila doon sa sinabi ni Mayor Mel Sarmiento kanina na sana dito sa Samar pag nag-iisip tayo ng kaunlaran, hindi Western Samar, hindi Eastern Samar, hindi Northern Samar, kundi — "Samar: One island; One culture."

Gusto ko ring batiin si Monsignor Marceling Rosales, so nice to see you Monsignor. Almost 100 years old na si Monsignor, pero ang talas- talas pa rin ng isip. I'm so happy to see you. Matagal ko na siyang kilala, ako ay batang maliit pa. Kaya ang sarap makasama dito. Matagal na tayong magkakilala. Gaya nang sabi ni Congressman Uy, ako ay nagpunta na dito sa eskuwelang ito at nagpupunta ako dito nung ako pa ay senador, nung siya ay mayor pa. At ngayon parang ang saya-saya puwede tayong magkuwentuhan sa ating pagdiriwang ng anibersaryo ng Calbayog. Ano ang gusto kong ikuwento sa inyo? Tungkol sa ating mga balak para sa Calbayog City.

Ang Calbayog City ay bahagi nang tinatawag nating Central Philippines. Kasi kung sinabi ni Mel huwag ng North Samar, East Samar, West Samar, politically okay. Pero, economically, one Samar lang. Ganun din ang Pilipinas. Politically, meron tayong Region 8, meron tayong Region 4-B, meron tayong Region 6, meron tayong Region 7. Pero sa economics isa lang lahat yon — Central Philippines. 'Yon ang bahagi sa mga binuo nating super region, isa lang na ekonomiya yon. Binuo natin bilang isa hindi sa pulitika kundi sa ekonomiya. Tuloy pa rin yung RDC ng Region 8, tuloy pa rin yung RDC ng Region 7, ng Region 4-B, ng Region 6. Pero ang ekonomiya isa lang — para

patatagin ang kakayahan o competitiveness ng bawat bahagi ng Pilipinas. Kailangan kasi mag-isip tayo kung ano ang gagawin natin para lumakas ang ekonomiya.

Naalala ko noong unang punta ako rito. Hindi lamang itong socio-cultural center na ating ipinangako, nagkasundo rin tayo noon na ayusin ang packaging ng inyong mga tinapa dito sa Calbayog City. At sa ating kasunduan, sa ating pakikipag-ugnay parati natupad ito kaya hindi ba ang sigla-sigla ng pangangalakal ng smoked fish ninyo ngayon? Ngayon, pati bangus ginagawa ng smoked fish sa dami ng order kasi gumanda ang packaging ng Calbayog City. Kung ano ang nagagawa sa isang siyudad ganun din ang buong bansa. May likas na produkto pero gumagawa tayo ng mga patakaran na nagpapalakas, ganun din ang ekonomiya ng bansa. Sa bansa ang kinailangan nating gawin ay reporma sa kaban ng bansa — yung tax reforms. Kaya salamat muli Rey Uy, salamat muli Kata Figueroa, salamat muli Nonoy Libanan, salamat muli Boy Abayon dahil tinulungan niyo ako ginawa ninyo yung mga reporma sa kaban ng bansa kaya ngayon sumisigla ang ekonomiya.

We welcome the reports that the Philippines could be due for a credit rating upgrade by Moody's. Fiscal discipline is winning the day for the Philippines. And we urge the Senate — kasi ang galing-galing ng mga congressmen natin dito — we urge the Senate to speed up the deliberations on the budget. Salamat nga pala mga congressmen dahil alas kuwatro ng umaga ninyo ipinasa yung budget.

Now, we urge the senate to speed up the work on the budget so that we can show the world our determination to keep the banner of reforms up and the drag of politics down. Pumalakpak ako ng husto nung sinabi ni Congressman Uy na dapat hindi natin hinahayaan ang paninirang pulitika na maging sagabal sa ating kaunlaran.

The budget not only defines our development agenda but signifies the payback to the people of our tough economic reforms. Alam ba ninyo for the first time in many, many years, itong budget ng 2007 mas malaki ang mapupunta sa social services kaysa sa mapupunta sa pambayad ng utang. Itong budget na ito, this is a matter of national interest that can no longer be delayed as the train of popular expectation is waiting to travel onward. Binanggit ko yung waiting to travel onward. Travel — 'yon naman ngayon, kung pinag-usapan natin noon yung tinapa, pag-usapan natin ngayon ang travel. 'Yon ang pagkasunduan natin ngayon tungkol sa Calbayog City.

Alam ba ninyo na sa almost three million na tourists na pumupunta sa Pilipinas ngayon — hindi ba almost three million? — mahigit isang milyon at kalahati or mahigit kalahati na mga turistang nagbibiyahen sa Pilipinas ay pumupunta sa Central Philippines, lalo na sa Boracay, Cebu, Bohol at Palawan. May kulang na probinsiya sa binanggit ko.

Naalala ko noong ako ay senador pa, kasi sabi nga ni Mayor Rey Uy, kung noong senador pa ako nagpupunta na ako dito, nagpunta ako dito kasama ng aking mga kaklase. Alam ni Gabby Claudio ito, kuwento ko parati sa kanya dahil siya ay tiga rito, tiga Catbalogan at Calbiga. Sabi nung kaklase ko nung dumadaan kami sa may dagat, ang ganda-ganda ng Samar, mas maganda kaysa doon sa ibang pulo, kaysa doon sa mga ilang lugar na popular na pinupuntahan ng mga turista. Bakit hindi sila pumupunta pa rito, bakit hindi pa nila nadidiskubre ang Samar? Yan ang noon pa pinag-aralan ko na, ano ba ang mga dahilan kung bakit hindi pa nadidiskubre ang Samar ng mga turista? Ang pinakadahilan ay yung larawan ng kapayapaan at katiwasayan. Doon sa kasaysayan ng Bohol, nung araw yung maraming turista sa Pilipinas ay Boracay, Palawan at Cebu, hindi pa kasama ang Bohol noon. Bago dumagsa ang turista sa Bohol, dinaog muna nila ang rebelyon sa kanayunan at ilang mga kabayanan nila. Palagay ko kung gusto nating puntahan din ang Samar na napakaraming turistang pumupunta sa Central Philippines, kailangan ganun din ang gawin natin dito sa Samar Island.

At isa pang kailangan, yung transportasyon. Palagay ko gusto niyo, I believe you want the city of Calbayog to be interconnected with other places efficiently, cost-effectively, conveniently and with sufficient frequency. Kaya sa inyong Charter Day celebration dalawa ang pagkasunduan natin na bagay — 'yung isa, ilapit natin ang Calbayog sa ibang mga lugar ng Central Philippines at pangalawa, sama-sama nating ibalik ang kapayapaan at katiwasayan sa siyudad at probinsiya.

Yung una, yung transportasyon, yung ilapit natin ang Samar sa iba't-ibang lugar na pinupuntahan na, kabilang sa mga proyektong gagawin natin ngayon para tumatag ang negosyo at turismo dito sa Samar. Kasi sabi nga ni

Congressman Rey Uy ang tatay ko ang nagtayo ng Calbayog port. Kaya tuloy yung PPA ay papalawakin ang Calbayog port. Maliban doon ay inyong lingkod ay nagtayo ng pangalawang Calbayog port. Ano'ng pangalan nuon? Manginoo. Yon. Ano ang espesyal sa port na yon? Ito ay Roll-On/Roll-Off ferry port, RO-RO port kagaya ng Allen. At itong port na ito ay ikokonekta natin sa mga port ng Biliran at saka sa mga port ng Masbate. Kaya sa ganun magiging sentro ng Roll-On/Roll-Off ferry ang Calbayog port. Kaya ngayon sasabihin ko sa tatay ko, pagdasal ko sa kanya sa November 1, "Tatay," sabi ko, "yung pantalan na itinayo ninyo doon sa Calbayog port may anak na rin."

Ang kabutihan nito ay... Hindi ba yung mga highway, yung mga expressway may mga interchange para lumipat from one highway to another? Itong Calbayog port na ito doon sa Manginoo ay gagawin nating interchange din. Kasi itong Calbayog nasa Maharlika Nautical Highway. Hindi ba ito yung unang-unang nautical highway, may RO-RO sa Allen, may RO-RO din sa Liloan.

Ngayon, ang inyong lingkod gumawa ng Central Nautical Highway at Western Nautical Highway — pero gumawa rin tayo ng Eastern Nautical Highway — yung Western Nautical Highway, yon alam na ng lahat kasi dinadaan nila yon eh from Batangas to Mindoro, to Baracay, to Panay, to Negros hanggang Dapitan o Dipolog. Pero gumagawa rin tayo ngayon ng Eastern at saka Central Nautical Highway. Yung Central — Cagayan de Oro, Camiguin, Bohol, Cebu, Masbate — so Central yon. Yung Eastern naman ay Surigao, tapos noon yung usual yung Liloan, Southern Leyte, Leyte, pero Biliran ang tuloy — yan ang Eastern. Kaya kung ang Calbayog ay konektado sa Biliran, konektado sa Masbate, 'di ang Calbayog nasa Maharlika Nautical Highway, nasa Eastern Nautical Highway, nasa Central Nautical Highway, talagang magiging interchange ang Calbayog City. Sa ganun magiging kaimportante ang Calbayog City sa ating Roll-On/Roll-Off ferry system kagaya ng Toledo City ng Cebu na siya rin ang interchange, San Carlos City ng Negros Occidental at Dumaguete City. Itong mga ito ay mga interchange, makakadaan ka dito sa mga bayan na ito para lumipat from one Nautical Highway to another. Ganun din ang mangyayari sa Calbayog City, gagamiting hub to transfer from one Nautical Highway to another. Kaya ang ganda ng mangyayari sa Calbayog City.

Pero siyempre, itong Nautical Highway ay dadaanan ng tao, tama yung sinabi ni Congressman Rey Uy, ire-rehabilitate din natin yung Allen-Calbiga section ng Maharlika highway na dumadaan sa Calbayog City. Bukas nga may notice to proceed kasi tapos na hindi ba? Hindi ba tapos na yung Allen to Calbayog? Kaya ngayon yung Calbayog to Calbiga — bayan ni Gabby — bukas ang notice to proceed, 2.8 billion pesos.

Kaya sabi ni Congressman Rey Uy, itong two million na ibinigay ko dito hindi na hihingi ng pandagdag, kasi yung hiningi yung two billion pesos para doon sa Calbiga-Calbayog road. At dahil ang Calbayog City ay magiging hub — daanan ng Maharlika road lalo na pag gumanda na muli yung Calbiga to Allen, puwedeng pumunta sa Biliran, puwedeng pumunta sa Masbate at sa ganun pupunta sa ibang Nautical Highway — maglalagay tayo ng traveler's rest area diyaan sa Pantalan. Eh di parang nagkaroon na kayo ng hotel, ng airport hotel, kaya lang Ro-Ro hotel ang mangyayari doon.

Pero kanina pinag-usapan namin ang Medium-Term Plan ng Eastern Visayas. Lahat nito ay makakatulong sa inyong probinsiya at siyudad kung magtulungan tayo para masigurado ang kapayapaan at katiwasayan sa Calbayog at sa Samar.

Kanina, pinakilala ko sa mga official ng Samar Island ang ating mga bagong military leaders ng ating lugar. Napakagaling na Central Philippines Commander si three-star General Cardoso Luna; napakagaling na Eight Division Commander si two-star General Macky Maclang; kasama nila sa pagtulong sa kapayapaan matagal na ninyong kilala si General Dela Paz, matagal na narito. Linagay ko siya dito kasi kayo ang humingi sa kanya. Pero maikuwento ko kung bakit ko pinili itong dalawang three-star at two-star generals dito. Nung kinuwento ko nga kanina sa mga official, binulungan ako ni Mayor Mel Sarmiento, ang tindi-tindi pala ng war record ni General Luna. Alam niyo si General Luna kinuha ko yan mula sa Mindanao. Nung siya ay brigade commander, sa kanyang buong area of command, bayan-bayan tinalo niya yung mga kalaban. Kaya nagbigay ako ng award sa kanya at sa kanyang mga sundalo in the middle of the battlefield, in the middle of the battles. But after I left them, they won more battles. Kaya they forced away the enemy from his area of responsibility.

Kaya palagay ko kung may makakagawa ng mga top level operational and strategic decisions para sa ating laban para sa kapayapaan at katiwasayan dito sa Central Philippines, yon na ay magagawa ng ating war hero na si General Cardoso Luna. At si General Macky Maclang, alam niyo matagal siya ang namamahala lahat ng ating mga tangke, yung light armor brigade. Tatlong taon ka ba? Tatlong taon siyang aking brigade commander sa light armor brigade hanggang prinomote ko siya, siya ang namuno sa ating intelligence, J-2. Pero nung si General Bonifacio Ramos — kilala ninyo yon. Magaling din, ‘di ba? —prinomote ko siya kailangan kasing galing niya yung kapalit. Kaya, although si Maclang ay ipapadala sana ng mga leaders, ng mga top brass ng military sa Davao, hiningi ko puwede kayang si Macky ay pumunta sa eighth division para sa ganun makatulong sa kapayapaan at katiwasayan ng Samar at Leyte.

What I’m saying is that, I personally assigned to Central Philippines and Eastern Visayas as best as I can find na commander. Kaya sana tulungan ninyo sila para magkaroon ng kapayapaan sa lahat ng barangay ng Samar. Eto ang paraan kung papano tayo makakabalik sa dating sigla ng Calbayog — yung sigla nung panahon ng tatay ko, nung nagtayo ng first Calbayog port — magtulungan tayo para makamit ito.

Kaya sa 58th anniversary ng Calbayog City, ano ang dapat hangarin natin? Kapayapaan at kaunlaran; peace and progress. Peace through a close partnership between the government of the local governments, the people and our armed forces, and development. Hayaan natin, mag-aliw tayo, alukin natin pumunta ang mga turista sa isa sa pinakamagandang isla sa buong Pilipinas, walang iba kung hindi ang Island ng Samar — One island; One people; One culture.

Maraming salamat. Happy anniversary sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA’s Speech during the 58th Calbayog City Charter Day Anniversary Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412210839/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3014&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 27th Camiguin Lanzones Festival

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 27th Camiguin Lanzones Festival

[Delivered at the Camiguin Tourism Center Mambajao, Camiguin, October 19, 2006]

Daghan salamat Ace Durano sa imong pagpa-ila kanako ug congratulations! Sa DOT tungod kay almost three million ang aton turista kining tuiga. Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Sa aton mga host sa gihapon Governor Loy Romualdo ug Congressman Romualdo ug tibuok pamilya Romualdo, daghan salamat sa inyong pag-imbata kanako sa... Kanunay kada tuig sa atong Lanzones Festival.

Ipaabot ko sab ang akong pag-abi-abi kan Mayor Romualdo. Karong adlaw kauban ko karon ang daghan kaayo nga mga Cabinet officials: anya na kaila na ninyo si Secretary Ace Durano; aniya sab si Budget Secretary Nonoy Andaya; si Public Works Secretary Jun Ebdane; si Peace Process Secretary Jess Dureza; ug unya sa atong meeting niadto na sila sa meeting place, si Secretary Ronnie Puno naa sab ng DILG ug ang National Security Adviser, si Secretary Bert Gonzales; kauban nato sab ang head sa SPDA (Southern Philippines Development Authority) si Zam Ampatuan; aniya sab kauban ang tanan ang tibuok top brass sa atong armed forces nga karon nga naa meeting sab diri sa Camiguin, ang Chief-of-Staff sa Armed Forces si General Jun Esperon.

Ug tungod kay naa kita dako nga meeting dili lang sa mga heneral kundili sab sa mga gobernador ug City Mayors sa Mindanao, aniya ang mga gobernador diri sa Mindanao kauban ko karon: governor sa Sarangani, Governor Dominguez; si Governor Plaza sa Agusan Del Sur; Governor Loong sa Sulu; ug Governor Pimentel sa Surigao Del Sur. Naa pa lima ka gobernador ug duha ka city mayors sa among meeting place karon. So karon adlaw, daghan kaayo ang mga bisita ni Governor Loy ug Congressman Romualdo. Ug kaninyong tanan, siyempre salamat mga Camiguingnon, maayong buntag kaninyong tanan, akong mga pinangga nga Camiguingnon.

Nalipay ko nga nino naman ako, kami tanan karon sa inyong Lanzones Festival, labi na karon na gi-apil nato ang Camiguin sa Central Philippines super region kansang pag-uswag naa sa turismo.

Gihimo nato ang mga super regions aron labaw pang mopaspas ang paghuman sa mga importanteng imprastruktura sama sa mga kalsada, pantalan, airport, irigasyon, telekomunikasyon nga ginakinahanglan sa mga negosyante ug investors ug mga ordinaryo ka pumuluyo o katawhan.

And I'm very happy that Camiguin is one of the provinces where we are carrying out our super regions blueprint. There's a growing bandwagon of belief that economic take off is well within reach, and this is why the government — naa tanan ang atong daghang mga Cabinet members — why the government has been working overtime on our economic blueprint.

The Philippines has shown itself to be relatively imperious to domestic and global pressures tungod sa kamo ang aton mga katawhan. Our people are upholding productivity and stability on all fronts, akong pag-abi-abi kaninyong tanan. Zam Ampatuan ginbalhin siya karon gikan sa Poverty Commission hangtod sa Southern Philippines Development Authority. A minor reshuffle in the Cabinet and agencies is being done to put performance in the people's interest at peak as I and my entire team intensify the campaign of good governance, more revenues, and prudent spending. The payback to the poor is becoming evident as take off looms in the horizon.

Angay sa Camiguin ang turismo. Lami kaayo ang inyong lanzones apan gamay lang ang inyong isla busa gamay lang ang yuta ug gamay lang ang kita kung mo-depend ta sa agrikultura. Apan pina-agi sa turismo, mas mo-ayog yud ang inyong panginabuhi ug mas madali ang pag-uswag dinhi sa Camiguin.

Sa una, ang Camiguin kauban sa bottom 10 provinces. Karon dili na, na- graduate na kamo gikan sa club 10 sa mga pobre nga probinsya. Dinhi sa Lanzones Festival pila ka beses na ako ni-anhi. Duha ka pulo ug pito ka tuig na naton gisa-ulog ang inyong Lanzones Festival nga makadani gihapon kini ug daghang turista aron mo-anhi sa Camiguin. Karong adlaw gyud, nine governors, two city mayors, daghan kaayo nga mga heneral and officials of the SPDA for the first command conference of the new divided Mindanao— Western Mindanao and Central Mindanao — we are doing the first command conference dinhi sa Camiguin. Tungod kay gwapo kaayo ang Camiguin isip host sa mga turista ug sa mga official ug mga meeting.

Inila sab... Ini-ila sab ang inyong probinsya sa inyong bugnaw nga klima ug mga nindot nga lugar sama sa mga baybayon, sa Mt. Hibok-Hibok, mga waterfalls, mga hot and cold nga bukal ug ang sementeryong natabunan sa dagat. Gwapo kaayo ang inyohang mga tourist attractions all concentrated in one beautiful island nga murag ang Isle of Capri.

Karon aron mo-labaw pa ang mga turista kauban sa mga super region ang mga proyekto sa Roll-on/Roll-off ferry. Ka-ila na ninyo kay naa kamo Roll-on/Roll-off ferry gikan sa Balingoan hangtod sa Guinsiliban, karon uban nato ang Roll-on/Roll-off ferry gikan sa Mambajao ngadto sa Jagna sa Bohol.

Kini sama sa gipatindog natong Strong Republic Nautical Highway sa Western Philippines na kauban ang mga pantalan sa Dipolog ug Dapitan, ngadto sa Negros, Panay, Mindoro paingon sa Batangas diretso sa Manila. Karon naman ang Central Nautical Highway — Cagayan de Oro ug Balingoan, pa-agi sa Guinsiliban hangtod sa Guinsiliban-Mambajao road pangadto sa Bohol, Sugbo, Masbate, Bicol o Quezon diretso sa Manila.

Aron mo-kumpleto nato ni... Kauban nato, murag kauban nato ang Philippine Ports Authority District Officer — are they here? Diri. — ug ang port manager — ikaw Sab? Usa ra na tao — ang atong proyekto sa Ro-Ro pantalan kauban ang extension sa Ro-Ro sa Guinsiliban port, kay gihangyo ni Congressman Romualdo, ug ang Mambajao port naman ang extension sa Ro-Ro ramp usa ka passenger terminal ug reclamation sa back-up area. Ang mo-gastos nato diri labaw sa 83 million pesos alang sa Mambajao Ro-Ro port.

Kinahanglan mahimo nato tungod kay apil ni sa atong mga saad sa akong State of the Nation Address niadtong July ug mahuman sa umaabot nga tuig kining atong Mambajao-Jagna Ro-Ro. Kay sa karon gina-prepare na ang program of work ug mahimo ang bidding sa umaabot nga Nobyembre.

Karon siyempre kon gusto nato na mahimo ang Camiguin nga apil sa Roll-on/Roll-off Central Nautical Highway kinahanglan dili ra ang atong mga pantalan ang gwapo, kinahanglan ang atong kalsada sab gikan sa Guinsiliban hangtod sa Mambajao. Busa anhi karon sab si Secretary Nonoy Andaya, gidala niya ang duha ka saro. Usa nini ang 10 million pesos isip sub-allotment sa Camiguin circumferential road labi na sa Guinsiliban-Mambajao section. Ug naa ikaduha nga sub-allotment usa pa nga 10 million pesos aron ma-repair nato ang slow protection sa parte asa nagikan mi karon ni Congressman ug Governor Romualdo.

So karong adlaw ang aton gidala nga proyekto alang sa atong Ro-Ro, para sa atong... Alang sa atong turismo labaw sa 100 million pesos sa atong selebrasyon sa Lanzones Festival.

Sa Lanzones Festival kada tuig usa ka fiesta asa pagasalamat ta sa mga grasya gihatag ug atong ginoo. Karon adlaw sa labaw sa atong pagpasalamat sa iya manaad sab kita pag-usab nga labaw pa natong pakusugan ang panaghiusa ug pagtinabangay.

Daghan salamat sa inyong suporta kanako kanunay, ako sab hinigugma ko kamo tanan.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 27th Camiguin Lanzones Festival. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409204500/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3010&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 32nd Philippine Business Conference

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 32nd Philippine Business Conference

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Manila, October 20, 2006]

Thank you Secretary Favila for your introduction.

Secretary Romulo and the other officials of the Philippine government; our leaders of the business community: Donald Dee, Mike Varela, Francis Chua and the president of this conference, Mr. Lacson, thank you for giving me the resolution of the 32nd Philippine Business Conference; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; participants and delegates to this very important annual conference; ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, congratulations to this year's awardees. Secondly, congratulations to the biggest delegation in this conference, the Mindanao delegation. And thirdly, congratulations to the whole PCCI for staying the course of excellence in global business. I am glad that your theme is once again — one. Global. Filipino. "Seizing Global Opportunities."

Beating the odds and competing globally has been our common mantra, you and we in government, believing in the Filipino talent that can hold its own in the field of nations and economies. You are our standard bearers, the Philippine global business community. In world high-tech manufacturing, our semi-conductor and electronics industries enjoy a proud niche with 18 percent of the world market. As preferred location of BPOs, we are second only to India in the entire world. And we have companies like Palafox associates which exemplifies Philippine companies which have acquired a big share of markets previously dominated by foreign giants. Your success, the success of our awardees, the success of these industries and corporations I have just mentioned, the success of PCCI, your success is our country's success.

I thank Francis for mentioning our upbeat economic indicators. These upbeat economic indicators increase our confidence in achieving our growth target for this year. And the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry has done so much in uniting the business community and concentrating on your business which is business.

The people have taken on the path of productivity and concord. And I thank the PCCI for having been a very reliable partner of development of the Philippine government. We, the Filipinos, are set to achieve more if we continue to join hands and remain focus on our agenda of economic growth and political stability.

Our speakers have mentioned the indicators, but they are so important for us to remember and take note of, I will mention some of them again. The money market remains firm, exports and imports are up, inflation remains weak, our stock market has surged to a record high as pointed out by Francis. Eight-year high now, isn't it, Francis? We need to stay the course with the national leadership stewarding good governance, equitable revenue programs, a strong fight against corruption and a permanent campaign for social justice.

There is still a lot of work to be done. We urge all vital sectors of our society, and indeed the business community is one of our most vital sectors. We urge all vital sectors of our society to hold on to our gains. On our part, in government, we assure you that economic take off and lasting social payback are on the way. We improve our fiscal condition, we plug revenue leaks, we tighten spending even as we step up the campaign for more investments.

Together, you and we in government had a national competitiveness summit two weeks ago to maximize our gains. That has been alluded to by Donald Dee and the other speakers, and you have mentioned some of the things we have

done since that summit are leading up to that summit. Let me again just mention a few of them because many have already been mentioned by the speakers before me.

On infrastructure, more than one trillion pesos will be strategically allocated over the medium-term by the government, the national government excluding what will be allocated by the government corporations and government financial institutions and our private sector partners. Each of our super regions that I introduced in my State of the Nation Address will get its appropriate share of roads, seaports, airports, railways and irrigation systems, depending on the natural competitiveness advantages of the super region.

We've already mentioned in our State of the Nation Address that we hope for North Luzon to be an important food exporter to the economies of North Asia.

I came across when I was walking towards here, the delegation from Cagayan province. So I hope that you will be very successful. Naimbag nga malem yo amin apo o bigat pay. I hope you will be very successful in developing your exports to North Asia.

We hope for Mindanao to develop its processed food industry because you are agri-business industry but especially — Joji, like Halal food — we hope to develop that some more for export to the ASEAN and the Middle East.

When we went on my state visit to Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Arabian business community was very enthused about buying more from the Philippines. They said it's a business decision but also some kind of a payback to the 1.5 million Filipinos in Saudi Arabia whom they treasure so much and who have been contributing so much to their economy. And they mentioned that they would like to buy more poultry from the Philippines but we need to have them Halal-processed.

I congratulate the Boracay Chamber of Commerce for being the most outstanding in the Visayas and I mentioned that because what does Boracay mean? Boracay is our symbol of tourism in the Philippines and Boracay is the center of Central Philippines, our tourism destination, where more than half of all the foreign tourists to the Philippines go. And therefore building on that competitive advantage, we will build airports for preferred tourist destinations like Boracay, Bohol and Palawan to bring in more tourists.

Speaking of airports, we will open NAIA III as soon as the federal aviation agency accepts its safety features.

On human resources: we have ongoing programs — as you know, because we do it together with you — to improve the level of English, Math and Science from the elementary through the tertiary levels. And that's for basic education. For high school, we have achieved almost 90 percent of our target to have computer-linkage in every high school. It's not enough that high schools have computers, they must have computer-linkage so that our young people will be really hooked up to the world economy.

On transaction flows and costs: together we organized the public-private sector task force on Philippine competitiveness to oversee all measures related to cutting down documentation requirements, signatures and other forms of red tape that cause delay and open the bureaucracy to corruption.

On the way to Manila Hotel, Secretary Favila and I were riding in the same car because we wanted to discuss the things that are most important in terms of transaction cost and reforms — most important to the PCCI and to the business community. And he asked me to make sure to let you know that I am instructing Peter to draft an Executive Order that will exempt accredited exporters going to trade fairs from having to pay the travel tax, right Peter?

On energy cost competitiveness and self-sufficiency: the National Power Corporation and Meralco have filed with the Energy Regulatory Commission the customer choice program that will initially benefit consumers of over one megawatt, and when that starts to work we will try to work on smaller consumers. Meanwhile, I instruct the Department of Energy to listen to fears about inadequate power supply particularly in the Visayas and Mindanao.

On efficiency of public management: again, because of your recommendation in the Philippine Competitiveness Summit, we had issued the Administrative Order institutionalizing quality systems management in government.

On access to financing: I understand that private banks have reduced their interest rates and to cushion the negative impact of the strong peso on exporters without intervening in the foreign exchange market. When we met with the exporters of Cebu — and I congratulate Cebu for being the most outstanding chamber in the whole Philippines — part of your outstanding work was to give me very specific recommendations to help exporters maintain competitiveness without interfering in the foreign exchange rate.

And as a result of your letter and our discussions following that letter during our meeting in Cebu with the Cebu Chamber, the Central Bank announced the rediscounting, e-electronic rediscounting facilities so you can get your proceeds in 10 minutes flat, right, Peter? That should reduce red tape.

For the SMEs, we are strengthening the SME database to improve access to loans. I direct the GFIs to set up a system of sharing credit information on their SME clients so that the due diligence period will be shorter for loan applications.

I have mentioned this, Donald has mentioned a lot, much has been accomplished, but as I said earlier, much more remains to be done with a common spirit of patriotism and teamwork which the PCCI has always had with the Philippine government in my administration.

We must not stop our efforts until the foundation of our globally competitive Philippines is stable and sustainable. This is the investment of a lifetime. Let us not retreat from what we have started for the glory of the Philippines. Let us go on working for “One. Global. Filipino.” — Philippine economy.

Maraming salamat. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA’s Speech during the 32nd Philippine Business Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409204419/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3013&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Cultural and Awards Night in celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Christian Family Movement (CFM) in the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Cultural and Awards Night in celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Christian Family Movement (CFM) in the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, One Rizal Park, Manila, October 21, 2006]

Thank you.

Thank you very much. Thank you Lito for your kind introduction.

I would like to greet Tita Terry Nilya, the founding president of Christian Family Movement, very nice to see you again and you're looking so well, Tita; Roger and Nora Panlasigui, thank you so much for the kind things you said about me during your opening statement; other members and officers of the Christian Family Movement; ladies and gentlemen, happy golden anniversary to the Christian Family Movement!

I'm very glad to join you here tonight because, indeed, Filipino society is founded on the family. And as Roger acknowledged earlier, family is very much a part of my administration's policy, especially population policy, responsible parenthood and natural family planning.

I always stress to the bureaucracy, especially the health bureaucracy, that we hope for every couple to make responsible parenthood decisions regarding birth spacing because it's good for the health of the baby; it's good for the health of the mother; it reduces infant, child and maternal mortality; it's also good for the healthy relationship between parents and baby; the healthy relationship between husband and wife, and therefore the healthy relationship within the family.

It's also good for the health of the economy.

Our administration has focused on economic reforms because this is the way to remove our country from poverty that has been with us for centuries.

Yesterday, in this very hall, we announced a 10 percent increase in SSS pensions. This increase in SSS pensions is a direct payback of our tough economic reforms. We can see how biting the bullet can speedily win dividends for the average Filipino family because the average Filipino family has at least one SSS plan holder among you.

Meanwhile, the bullish outlook of various investors and financial institutions has sparked business confidence and boosts the cycle of more growth and social reforms. We take pride in the resiliency and productivity of the Filipino people that drives the economy forward. Both business and labor continue to reap the fruits of good economic stewardship and social justice. We made some very difficult decisions regarding tax reforms. But now with resources at hand, because of those tax reforms, we can continue to invest in education, infrastructure, basic services and other important components of national strength and discipline.

This is what we call the second phase of economic reforms, escalating infrastructure and social services, because the first phase was to reform our tax base to raise more revenue.

Because of the confidence generated by our tax reforms, next year, we will save 22 billion pesos in interest payments. Where will we put this 22 billion pesos? We will increase education spending by 16 billion, we will

increase health spending by five billion, and we will increase social welfare services by one billion. Sixteen plus five plus one is 22 billion — all coming from savings in our interest payments.

With the 16 billion pesos for education, part of that will go to building 6,000 classrooms to close the classroom gap in elementary education. I have told the Department of Education: I hope, after I give you 16 billion pesos more than your present budget, we will no longer have classrooms with 100 students per classroom. It's because if we have less than 100 students per classroom and we have two shifts, then it would be very comfortable at less than 50 students per class, per shift.

We will also be able to provide universal health insurance, which means at least 85 percent of our families should have PhilHealth or SSS or GSIS health insurance.

And we will make sure that the 10 poorest provinces in the country will have comprehensive and integrated delivery of social services including microfinance. This is where we will spend our 22 billion pesos in interest savings.

I would like to thank CFM for reinforcing our socioeconomic reforms with the spiritual and moral transformation of our society. Thank you for what you have been doing all this past 50 years.

And as I was telling Roger because we are pushing for natural family planning, in the Population Commission, I have put Lito Sandejas, representing CFM, and Gerry Sotto Padilla, representing Couples for Christ. So we will make sure that the Population Commission's policies will be on pro-life family planning.

So, I was happy to see that Lito is a member or an officer in fact of CFM, and I hope that we will work together — CFM, the Population Commission and the Department of Health — so that we will push pro-life policies in our family planning programs.

I think that would be the best way to start spending your next 50 years.

To all of you, let's work together for pro-life policies.

Maraming salamat.

Happy golden anniversary sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Cultural and Awards Night in Celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Christian Family Movement (CFM) in the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409204409/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3007&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Green Philippines, October 23, 2006

DREAMING AN EVER GREEN PHILIPPINES

*Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City
23 October 2006*

Clean and Green Foundation is eleven years old. And for the past several years, you have tenaciously pursued the vision of increased attention to our natural environment and making sure we build up, not just deplete our natural resources, as lamented by Ambassador Yamazaki.

In these past several years, you have assembled environmental criteria applicable to an array of products, including laundry detergents, household batteries, tissue paper, automotive engine oil, crayons, portland cement, and fire extinguishers.

And it seems like only yesterday, in 2003, when together in a similar ceremony as this, we launched the National Eco-Labeling Program called “Green Choice Philippines.”

In 2004, I signed Executive Order 301 mandating all government offices to patronize environment- friendly products.

We did these twin moves to give impetus to an active practice of green productivity among manufacturers and green procurement by institutional buyers, and the biggest institutional buyer of course is the government.

We have come full circle today to fulfilling the equation: GP1 plus GP2 equals GP3. Where GP1 is Green Productivity, GP2 is Green Purchasing, and GP3 is Green Philippines.

Our administration has likewise laid out the outlines of creating a Green Philippines that encompasses conservation, energy independence, reforestation, and designation of national parks and wildlife refuges.

We must take back our forests—and I’m happy that Mrs. Ramos was talking about some of your activities including planting trees—we must replenish fallen trees and many of them fell during the last Milenyo typhoon. We must replenish them with new, protected forests to protect our land and our people. We must reforest that land and bring back the beauty of the Philippines we all love and want—the beauty that was described in the song ‘What a wonderful world/ we want to tap the enthusiasm of everyone to clean up our environment. We need to beautify our villages and cities of trash. We need to build up more urban parks and recreation areas—I thank shell for building that very beautiful linear park and its perimeter—we must purify our water and clean up industrial sites that are an eyesore and are unhealthy.

Over the weekend, I played golf somewhere and looking over the fence, I saw a factory emitting smoke. I said, “Oh my God, I thought we had no more smokestacks.” But we still have some of them and therefore we do need to enforce more environmental laws.

As Peter said, the first law I signed as president of the Philippines on January 26, 2001 was Republic Act 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

We’re also earnestly implementing the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act in partnership with local government units and private organizations nationwide—many of whom are here today. As we end, let me say that as we progress to the full implementation of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, we would like to see an improvement in universal compliance with all the laws, rules and regulations on the environment.

There have been mild protests regarding these laws, by those who claim that we are trying to accomplish too much in too short a time and increasing costs. But we need not enumerate the sordid statistics of the social cost of environmental damage and the dire consequences that arise from the lack of clean air and clean water and proper solid waste management. Pollution kills people and saps the strength of the nation.

As part of our Green Philippines, we also want an energy-efficient nation, free from reliance on costly and exhaust-spewing cars and smokestacks. Although I saw that smokestack in that factory this weekend, I can say that overall, our industrial and business organizations—that some of the icons are here today—have steadily imbibed the spirit of environmentalism.

We can harness our sun, wind and geothermal resource and produce our own clean fuels through biofuels and not rely on foreign suppliers. But we need the will of the people and NGOs like Clean and Green to move the politicians and legislators to embrace this new, clean, green Philippines.

And we want to turn our coral reefs and beaches, the wonder of the world, into national parks and international sanctuaries for eco-tourism and scientific research. Among the national parks must surely be Verde Island which is the center of marine biodiversity in the world today I have instructed Secretary Reyes, our DENR secretary, to hold a biodiversity forum right in Verde island so that we can all remember that we have the chance to develop our nation right from the start: clean, healthy, productive and beautiful.

These are just a few ideas for our ‘Green Philippines’ and we take the opportunity of this GP3 conference-workshop to call on everyone—not just those in the workshop—together let us call on the rest to respond to this call to action to bring new, innovative thinking to land management, care for our environment, and ways to create jobs and have a clean, socially responsible environmental policy.

We need to get beyond the era of “either/or” thinking on the environment. We must embrace change and be bold in creating a ‘Green Philippines’ that is both green and economically successful. The Philippines can become a model of environmental stewardship within ten years. And GP3 with your labelling program, your green productivity, and your green procurement is indeed a big help in creating that vision.

And on the part of government by patronizing producers and suppliers that adhere to green production principles, government procurement will be serving notice to the rest of the country’s producers that they should shift to green production or be left out.

E.O. 301 directs the incorporation of environmental criteria in public tenders, whenever appropriate, and the establishment of specifications that would make it possible to ascertain and classify products as environmentally advantageous.

We have systems and mechanisms to make our GP3 equation a practical reality because we have such an efficient and enthusiastic secretariat like clean and green foundation. It has only been two years since we issued E.O.301 and we are getting there slowly but surely, and faster with the support of clean and green and with GP3.

As our previous speakers have said, there is now a National Eco-Labeling Program Board to serve as third-party verifier of claims on the environmental soundness of products and services, and updates a growing list of environmentally-sound products like the products of Unilever, like the products of Procter and Gamble also. They’ve all been very, very environment-friendly

The transformation to a green culture is already underway. To illustrate, bottled water and organic foods, which are generally more expensive than the traditional products, are rising in popularity. This tells us that our people would rather spend more on healthier food. And that’s why aside from institutional buyers like industry and government, we should never forget consumer power.

With that trend in place, therefore, GP3 and the government can work together to ask everyone to help us bring about a 'Green Philippines' that will be our ultimate profit and prize for the benefit of the rising generation of Filipinos.

Thank you very much and *Mabuhay!*

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo on reducing infant mortality and retardation via newborn screening

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On reducing infant mortality and retardation via newborn screening**

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, October 23, 2006]

Kasama sa pag-aayos ng ating kinabukasan ang pag-alaga sa kalusugan ng ating mga bata, dahil sila ang mamamayan ng hinaharap. Kung nais nating magkaroon ng kakayahan para sa global competition, dapat nating siguruhin na lalaking malusog, malakas at matalino ang mga bata sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay sa kanila ng wastong pagkain at iba pang pagkalinga

Layunin din nating maibaba ang bilang ng mga inang namamatay sa pag-anak at ang bilang ng mga bagong silang na namamatay. Sinusuportahan natin ang breastfeeding mula pagkasilang ng sanggol hanggang sa ikalawang taon nito.

Ang National Action Plan for Infants and Child Feeding na nilunsad nung nakaraang taon ang kumprehensibong programang tumutugon sa mga issue tungkol sa kalusugan ng ina at ng kanyang anak, ang kalagayan ng ekonomiya ng pamilya, ang pagsunod sa pambansang programa ng responsible parenthood, at ang kalusugan ng katawan at pag-iisip ng bata habang ito'y lumalaki.

Dapat kasama rin sa National Action Plan for Infants ang newborn screening.

Itong Oktubre, pinagdiriwang natin ang National Newborn Screening Week sa pamamagitan ng Presidential Proclamation 640 na pinirmahan natin noong isang taon.

Kasama natin ngayon sina Secretary Francisco Duque III ng Department of Health at si Dr. Carmencita Padilla, geneticist, upang pag-usapan ang newborn screening.

Magandang tanghali, doctora. Ano ba itong newborn screening na ito?

So, inborn na nga talaga. Totoo yan. Kasi ang akala ng marami basta inborn hindi na magagamot, pero yon pala merong gamot basta maagapan, kaya itong napakaimportante na maagapan natin ito. At kaya nagkaroon tayo ng new born screening week para mabigyan ng pansin na meron itong bagay na ito na kung sa lahat ng mga magulang kung sakali hindi kayo binigyan ng payo ng inyong midwife or doktor sana maalala ninyo hingiin ninyo itong examination na ito.

Okay. Good, very good. So hindi kailangan gagastos ng extra dahil kasama sa Philhealth package.

Bawat araw, mahigit siyamnapung sanggol ang nagkakaroon ng congenital metabolic disorder; bawat oras, apat.

Sama-sama nating pagtulungan iligtas ang tatlumpu't tatlong libong sanggol mula sa mental retardation at maagang pagkamatay dahil sa kapansanang ito. Alamin ang tungkol sa newborn screening mula sa pinakamalapit na ospital o health center. Ipa-newborn screening si baby.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the 16th League of Municipalities General Assembly and the National Summit on Hunger and Population Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 16th League of Municipalities General Assembly and the National Summit on Hunger and Population

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, One Rizal Park, Manila, October 25, 2006]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Puno sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Maraming salamat, Mayor Guico at lahat ng mga official ng League of Municipalities of the Philippines. Binabati ko rin si Governor Aumentado at yung ibang mga official ng ating pamahalaan. Sa inyong lahat, una sa lahat, congratulations! Mayor Guico sa iyong liderato sa League of Municipalities itong nakaraang limang taon, congratulations! At sa inyong lahat naman, ating mga punong-bayan, ipinagmamalaki ko ang sama-sama ninyong nagagawa bilang mga kaalyado at aking kabalikat.

At gaya nang dati tuloy kong aasahan ang inyong pagtataguyod ng bandila ng pagbabago sa kinabukasan ng Pilipinas habang patuloy naman na susuportahan ko at ang pamahalaang nasyonal ang inyong liderato sa ilalim ng mga bandila ng mabuting pamamahala at progresibong pagtayo ng ating bansa.

Ang sabi nga ni Mayor Guico, the national government draws its strength from local governments — totoong-totoo yan. Una sa lahat, gaya nang sabi ni Mayor Guico, binibigay sa inyo nang buo ang IRA at dahil ginagastos ninyo ang inyong mga IRA sa mga preyoridad ng pambansang pamahalaan nababawas din ang utang ng ating buong bansa. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong pagtulong sa pagbawas ng ating utang.

The reduction of our domestic borrowings is not only proof that we're sailing in the right direction in terms of our fiscal reforms but also a good omen on our goal of achieving a balanced budget very soon. Government's growing capacity to raise funds on its own to finance the budget will reap greater confidence and propel the cycle of investments, growth, more jobs, broader prosperity. We would not have been reaping these gains had it not been for the local government's leadership and the people's cooperation in biting the bullet, improving our tax collections, and pushing aside political noise. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

All our economic gains are a tribute to the Filipino. Abot-kaya na ang economic take off kahit na may ingay sa pulitika at may kahirapan sa langis sa mundo. Ang stock market ay umabot na sa pinakamataas noong 1997 Asian crisis. Bago ako pumunta dito tinignan ko yung stock market monitor, 50 points ang tinaas itong umaga. Patunay ng lumalakas na tiwala ng pandaigdigang komunidad. Naitutupad ang mga repormang pangkaunlaran at pangkapayapaan dahil kayo sa local level ay laging naririyang upang alalayan ang inyong lingkod. Maraming salamat sa pag-aalalay.

Sa nakaraang limang taon lahat tayo ay tahimik na nakibaka sa gitna ng gulo sa pulitika upang manatiling makaangat tayo sa laban kontra sa kahirapan. At ibig kong ipahayag ang pagpapasalamat sa inyong katatagan at katapatan sa taong-bayan.

Kailan lamang binati ng United Nations ang matatag na hakbang ng pamahalaang Pilipino patungo sa U.N. Millennium Development Goals. Sabi nga nila tayo ay early achievers sa nakararami sa mga indicators doon. At binabati natin ang sampung pamahalaang lokal na tinukoy ng United Nations kasama ng gawad galing pook para sa

nangungunang pagsikap sa localization ng Millennium Development Goals. At doon sa mga LGUs, mga municipalities, tatlo ang municipalities — at binabati natin sila — yung mga outstanding municipalities tungkol sa Millennium Development Goals: Concepcion, Iloilo, congratulations! Ayon! Mayor Baniyas, congratulations! Malalag, Davao Del Sur at Maitum, Sarangani

Ngayon naman ang inyong liderato ay masusubok sa implementasyon ng mga super region at cyber corridor. Malaki ang mga papel ng mga lokal na opisyal tulad ninyo sa mga programang ito. Halimbawa, doon sa North Luzon at saka sa Mindanao eh kung agrikultura ang pag-uusapan natin eh devolved yon. Kaya napakaimportante ang mayor at ang municipal agricultural officer. Kung pag-uusapan naman natin ang Central Philippines, ang tourism, ang pagpaganda ng mga iba't-ibang bayan, pag-aalaga ng mga baybay ay nasa local government din yon. Kung pag-uusapan natin yung urban beltway para tumatag yung mga small and medium enterprises para maganda ang investment climate, yung mga pinupuntahan ng mga investor ng mga permit sa mga municipality ninyo kayo rin yon. Kaya napakaimportante ang inyong papel sa paglaki at paglago ng ating mga super regions at cyber corridor.

At ayon sa batas ng pamahalaang lokal hindi lamang agrikultura ang devolved, maraming devolved — social welfare ay devolved, health ay devolved kaya devolved sa lokal. Ang ibig sabihin noon ang pamahalaang lokal ang bahala sa kalusugan, at kasama sa health o kalusugan ay ang reproductive health, at sakop naman ng reproductive health ay yung mga programa ukol sa populasyon. And that is the reason why, because health including reproductive health and population services are devolved to the local governments, I have been advising our funding agencies — and I advised our U.N. population program — to deal directly with local governments as far as population assistance is concerned.

Ngayon sa panig naman ng national government, asahan naman ninyo ang tulong ng Department of Health sa mga bagay ng natural family planning dahil yon ang tinutulak naman ng national government.

Ang pagganap naman ng National Summit on Sustainable Upland Development ay mabuti rin lugar upang harapin ang problema ng kagutuman lalo na't kasama sa ating programa na magbukas ng upland para sa agrikultura kasama ito sa two million hectares na gusto nating buksan para sa agri-business kasama ang upland agriculture. Kaya noong isang araw nag meeting kami ng mga officials ng League of Municipalities at pinadala yung draft institutionalization ng upland sustainable development. Ito ay binigay ko kay Secretary Reyes ng DENR para isama yung mga ibang inputs ng ibang mga government agencies at sa mga abogado, at pag nabuo na ito — at inaasahan ko sa madaling panahon mabubuo ito — ay pipirmahan ng inyong lingkod ang Executive Order tungkol sa sustainable upland development.

Mabuti nandito si Romy Neri kasi siya yung nagdala ng konsepto ng upland development sa ating Cabinet para matanggap natin yon, at siya rin ang gumawa ng ating masterplan, comprehensive masterplan against hunger. So, inaasahan ko nakita ko nga sa programa ninyo na si Secretary Romy Neri ay tatalakayin niya ang ating komprehensibong programa kontra sa kagutuman.

Kaya andami nating nagagawa nung nakaraang limang taon, andami pa nating pwedeng magawa sa mga susunod na taon. Kaya bilang pagwakas, hayaan niyong pasalamat ko kayong muli na sa kabila ng ingay sa pulitika at pangmundong krisis ng langis tinutulungan niyong umunlad ang ating ekonomiya. Kayo ang nandiyaan sa harap, kaharapan ng taumbayan.

Congratulations! And more power to our municipalities in the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 16th League of Municipalities General Assembly and the National Summit on Hunger and Population. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203817/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3004&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Luncheon Meeting with Fujian Business Leaders

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a Luncheon Meeting with Fujian Business Leaders

[Delivered at the Mandarin Hotel, Xiamen, Fujian, PROC, October 27, 2006]

Thank you very much, Madame Undersecretary of Trade and Industry.

Honorable Lu Zhangong, Party Secretary of Fujian, thank you so much for your warm welcome and your great hospitality; Governor Huang Xiao Jing and the other officials of Fujian and Xiamen and the other members of the business community and party leaders; members of the Philippine delegation; leaders of the business community both from the Philippines and Fujian province especially the leaders of the Federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce who are hosting this luncheon today. Thank you very much for putting together this wonderful luncheon. To all of you, good afternoon.

I'm deeply honored to be visiting China once again. I cannot remember how many times I have been to China since I was a young lady, co-chair of the Philippines-China Friendship Association working for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and China. Now this time, it is an honor for me to be here again especially because I will be co-chairing with Premier Wen Jiabao the Commemorative Summit to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Partnership.

All of the ASEAN leaders are travelling to China to celebrate this very important milestone, important for ASEAN, important for the region, important for the world. Open dialogue and trust between peoples and nations have never been more important than in today's world.

Speaking as chairman of ASEAN, I can say that ASEAN takes some amount of pride and satisfaction in helping China become an economic powerhouse as a result of the economic, political and cultural collaboration between ASEAN and China.

China has surged onto the world stage and ASEAN has surged with it. The change has been profound. ASEAN welcomes the deepening of ties through the ASEAN-China free trade agreement. This agreement is built on respect, reciprocity and pragmatism. It will help all our economies grow and strengthen peace and security in the region.

So it gives me great pleasure to declare to you today that relations between ASEAN and China have never been better or stronger. This is an important state of affairs that can only help the region and the world.

I am also proud of the role that the Philippines is playing in the integration of China into our region. As I made this trip to your great country, I welcome this opportunity to communicate with the people of China in order to help forge stronger ties between China and the Philippines.

Relations between China and the Philippines are at an all-time high and are based on mutual respect. A golden age, in the words of President Hu Jintao when he said this to me in Chile in 2004. I visited China on a state visit in September 2004 and President Hu visited Manila on a state visit in 2005. These respective visits underscore the growing maturity of our relationship and the commitment we both share to strengthen our ties.

Our nation's relationship with China is among the most important ties of our country. Relations with China are now more confident, mature and comprehensive punctuated with substantial and important projects aimed at deepening exchanges in a number of areas, including economics, trade and investment, and even defense and security.

From 2001 to 2005, trade with China grew at an annual rate of 42 percent. And during President Hu's visit to Manila, the Philippines and China formalized an agreement for the early harvest program through an MOU signed on April 27 of 2005. This early harvest agreement includes 214 tariff lines or product lines for immediate tariff elimination.

The Philippines electronics industry gained access to a new market because of our friendship with China. As the demand for electronics slowed down in the United States and U.S. manufacturing firms outsourced to other countries than Southeast Asia like India, the Philippines found another huge customer with China. And today, China is the biggest electronics market of the Philippines. Philippine electronics firms were able to boost their export performance during difficult years. The top exports between China and the Philippines comprise semiconductor devices, machinery parts and accessories, electrical and electronic machinery, and electronic micro assemblies. Approximately one-third of total electronics exports of the Philippines are skewed towards the Chinese market.

China is now our number three trading partner all in all. Bilateral trade between the Philippines and China amounted to almost 17 billion dollars in 2005. And we are delighted with the financing of our north rail project, the train that will bring our people faster from Manila to Clark, one of our major industrial areas, my home province and the home province of our Senator Lapid who is here in our delegation. This is one of the most important projects in our infrastructure development which is crucial to our economic development plan for the nation.

We are also happy to note China's support for the Philippines in the field of agriculture, especially with the establishment of the Philippine-Sino Center for Agricultural Technology in Nueva Ecija. When I first visited this Filipino-China Agricultural Technology Center, I thought I was entering a Ming Palace.

But I should not say only on the Philippines and China, I should think especially of the Philippines and Fujian. The people of Fujian and the Filipinos as we have heard from our previous speakers share a special relationship. This relationship goes back many years to when the first generations of Fujianese emigrated to the Philippines in search of green pastures in an open and hospitable land.

Today, the Filipino-Chinese business community — represented here by so many Chinese businessmen both members and not members of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industries — the many individual members of my delegation is an important integral part of the Philippine economy.

Dr. Francis Chua mentioned to all that my husband, Attorney Mike Arroyo, Mike Tuason Arroyo is a descendant of a Chinese from Fujian, from Xiamen in fact, His name was Son Tua and later on after several generations the Son Ttua became Tuason. That is the family name of my mother-in-law. I am happy to be a great granddaughter of Fujian and Xiamen.

And here in Fujian province, especially in Xiamen, several of Philippines' Taipans have returned and invested in prominent businesses and facilities. We even have an SM mall here in Xiamen in Fujian. And Dr. Lucio Tan has a bank in Xiamen and I... And I saw Mr. Jon Ng somewhere and I said, "Jon, don't you have any investment in Xiamen, too?" Yes, he has a beautiful building also here in Xiamen. Those are only a few examples of Filipino-Chinese Taipans who have invested here in Xiamen and in Fujian.

Tomorrow, we shall be going to Jinjiang, where we will visit the shrine of our national hero Jose Rizal. Yes, another descendant of Chinese from Fujian province. The monument of Jose Rizal is literally a monument to our close ties and friendship.

Both the Philippines and China, especially Fujian, should push to further deepen existing cooperation between the two countries. We hope that agricultural trade between the Philippines and China especially Fujian would increase because we have the Philippine-China Memorandum of Understanding on the early harvest program. Already I understand Philippine bananas are number one in China. Philippine pineapples are number one in China. I hope more and more from Fujian will buy our Philippine fruits and other agricultural products.

And most importantly, as our Filipino-Chinese have looked at Fujian province as an area of destination, China and especially Fujian should look at the Philippines as a destination for greater investment. Francis Chua mentioned some of them — mining. There is a very big demand for minerals in China — copper, nickel and other minerals. And I understand especially here in Fujian.

Infrastructure. I already mentioned the railroad to the north, to my province which is a very industrial area. We are also looking forward to China's financing our railroad to the south all the way to what we call the Bicol peninsula.

Agriculture and fisheries, and housing. I hope that we will be able to conclude agreements — not this time but when premier visits the Philippines in December — on housing assistance from the People's Republic of China.

I encourage Chinese firms to plan relocation of the assembly of agricultural machinery to the Philippines. The Philippines buys a lot of agricultural machinery from China and sometimes we need to have parts to service this machinery. It would all be so much simpler if the machines are assembled right there in the Philippines.

I would also like to invite Chinese fishing firms to participate actively in the Philippine-China fisheries cooperation activities under the bilateral memorandum of understanding on fisheries cooperation which we signed during my state visit to Beijing in 2004.

And the Philippines is the perfect regional partner to aid as a logistics partner and provider of high-value, high-skilled labor. As Francis said, "That is our best resource of all — our world class Filipino workers."

And so, let me conclude by saying, that we look forward to the day when China and especially Fujian — the home of many of our families in the Philippines. The homeland of many of our families in the Philippines — when China and Fujian substantially raise the level of investments in the Philippines.

I hope to see the day that indeed the Philippines will be part of the Golden Triangle of Party Secretary Lu Zhangong — the Golden Triangle of Fujian, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a Luncheon Meeting with Fujian Business Leaders. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203747/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3001&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino community**

[Delivered at the Mandarin Hotel, Xiamen City, Fujian, PROC, October 27, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Reyes, sundalo ka talaga. Pero nandito si Secretary Reyes hindi bilang sundalo, siya ang ating Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, at marami tayong pangangalakal at investments mula sa Tsina doon sa ating mga minahan. Tatlo silang Cabinet member na kasama ko ngayon. Nandito rin si Secretary Arty Yap ng Agriculture, at nandito rin si Secretary Toting Bbunye, ang ating Press Secretary.

Malaki ang ating delegasyon ng Pilipinas dito sa pagbisita sa Fujian, homeland ng mga maraming Filipino-Chinese, kaya papakilala ko sila sa inyong lahat. Kilalang-kilala ninyo ang dating gobernador ng Pampanga, ngayon, siya ay senador natin, si Lito Lapid. Ang ating mga congressmen naman mula sa Palawan, si Tony Alvarez; mula sa Negros Occidental, ang aking bayaw, si Ignacio Arroyo; mula sa Pampanga, ang aking anak, si Mikey Arroyo; mula sa Laguna, si Dan Bueser; ang ating Deputy Majority Floor Leader at siya ay mula sa Iloilo, si Art Defensor; nandito rin mula sa Lanao Del Sur, si Jun Macarambon; mula sa Sultan Kudarat, si Teng Mangudadatu; mula sa Isabela, si Anthony Miranda; mula sa Bulacan, si Pedro Pancho; mula sa Negros... Bacolod City, I mean, si Monico Puentevella; mula sa Pangasinan, si Gener Tulagan; at mula sa Mindoro Occidental, si Girlie Villaros. Meron bang congressperson na hindi ko nabanggit? Kasi madalas pag malaki ang delegasyon may nakaliligtaan.

Marami rin tayong mga gobernador at city mayors na narito ngayon: mula sa Bohol, si Governor Rico Aumentado, siya rin ang pangulo ng Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines; mula sa Eastern Samar, si Ben Evardone; mula sa Cebu, si Gwen Garcia; mula sa Laguna, si Ningning Lazaro; mula sa Zambales, si Vic Magsaysay; mula sa Agusan Del Sur, si Eddie Bong Plaza. Ano, hindi nakasama si Leo Ocampos? Okay. Pero he knew, he knew that he was invited. Okay. Anyway, mga city mayors naman natin mula sa Valenzuela, si Win Gatchalian; mula sa Butuan, si Boy Plaza; mula sa San Carlos City, si Jolly Resuello, ayun!; At saka mula sa Calbayog, si Mel Sarmiento. Yan ang ating mga elective officials na kasama natin dito sa ating delegasyon.

At siyempre ang ating mga ‘Cream of the Crop’ ng Filipino-Chinese business community ay taga-Fujian kaya ang laki ng ating business delegation. May ilan na nandito, ilan lang ang nakapasok kasi kung isasama natin ang buong Pilipino... Ang buong business delegation wala ng lugar para sa ating overseas Filipinos dito, andami-dami nila. Anyway, can we have the Filipino-Chinese and the Filipino business community stand up to be acknowledged — at least those who were able to enter the room because there are so many of them. At siyempre gusto rin nating batiin ang ating mga official ninyo dito sa China, ang ating Ambassador, si Ambassador Sonia Brady, at ang bago nating Consul General, not yet one year old here, si Consul General Lee Pineda. Nandito rin si Undersecretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, si Frank Benedicto, of Chinese descent din.

At alam niyo dahil napakalaki ang China, biro niyo naman one-fourth of the world ang China di dapat one-fourth of our personnel dapat nandito yung mga foreign service natin. Pero siyempre hindi naman pwede yon, so nag-appoint tayo ng ilang mga honorary special envoys para tumulong sa ating trabaho dito. At sa nakita ko nakapasok dito sa kuwartong ito, nakita ko si Fred Yao, isa sa ating mga special envoy para magpalawak ng ating pangangalakal dito sa Tsina.

Ako’y narito dahil una sa lahat merong importanteng pinagdidiriwang doon sa Nanning sa mga darating na araw. All of the ASEAN leaders are traveling to China to celebrate a very important — ayun! Tagbilaran City Mayor

Danny Lim. Thank you — a very important milestone for ASEAN, the region and the world — that is the 15 years of ASEAN-China collaboration. At malaking karangalan para sa Pilipinas dahil Pilipinas ang co-chair kasama ng China dito sa Commemorative Summit ng ating napakaimportanteng anibersaryo. Ngunit sa pagkakataong ito, tiniyak ko na magkaron ng pagkakataon makipagkita at makipagbalitaan sa ating mga overseas Filipinos. Kasi tuwing pumupunta ako sa mga opisyal na paglalakbay sa ibayong dagat lagi akong nagagalak na makapiling ang ating mga kababayan.

Doon sa Saudi siyempre one-and-a-half million sila. Dito, kayo ay mga 500 pero ganunpaman gusto kong makipagsama-sama sa inyo itong araw na ito. Salamat at narito kayo kahit na oras ng trabaho. Salamat doon sa mga nagbiyahe ng tatlong oras. Thank you very much for coming here. Kumusta na ba kayo dito sa Xiamen, sa Fujian, sa China? Very good. Ating mga Capampangan queti? Uy, kumusta qongan? Adda kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko, ilocano naimbag a malem yo amin, apo. Dunay Bisaya? Maayong hapon kaninyong tanan. Gikan sa bisayas ug Mindanao, may ara ba kasimanwa sa akong bana nga Ilonggo? Maayong hapon sa inyo nga tanan. At meron ba tayong mga Bicolano dito? Wala. Ayun! Isa. Marhay nga hapon. At meron ba tayong mga waray kagaya ni Mel at saka ni Ben Evardone dito? Wala. Walang waray. Ayun! May isa. Papano yon? Maupay nga kulop.

Dito sa Xiamen at sa kanyang mga paligid na lugar, ako'y nasisiyahan na kahit na kayo ay konti lamang, limang daan lamang, you're actually very, very highly regarded by the people of China — meron pang bago. Ha! Another one, si Aro Mendoza of Tarlac City. Ayun, okay — kasi the few Filipinos who are here gaya nang sabi ni Consul General are engaged in professional or technical work. Kaya ang ganda-ganda ng inyong kalagayan dito. I'm very proud of the status and reputation of Filipinos in this part of China. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Sabi nga ni Consul General Pineda, the spirit of the Filipino is everywhere, talaga naman. And I see the spirit of Filipino... Of the enterprising Filipino everywhere I go. Aba! May SM pa kayo nga rito, di ba? Nagsho-shopping rin ba kayo sa SM? Very good. Di ba sabi nga ni Tessie Sy sa akin, sana makita ko yon dahil parang mga malls na nasa Pilipinas. Di parang pag nandoon kayo sa SM parang nasa Pilipinas na rin kayo. And there's even a Rizal Shrine in Jinjiang that we will visit tomorrow.

Maraming monumentong nagbibigay parangal kay Jose Rizal. Meron sa España, meron pa kaming nakita sa Cuba. Pwedeng matagpuan ang estatwa ni Rizal sa iba't-ibang panig ng mundo, pero sa tingin ko ang monumentong dito sa China, sa Fujian ay isa sa pinaka katangi-tangi, makahulugan sapagkat, itinayo ito sa lugar na tinataya ng mga dalubhasa na pinanggalingan ng ninuno ni Rizal na si Ke Nan. Kaya yon ang kanyang hometown.

The Chinese roots of our national hero underscore the racial and blood ties that Filipinos have with the Chinese especially from this area of Southern China. Kaya kanina tinitignan ko yung mga iba dito, yung iba very obviously kayo ay mga professionals na narito, pero yung iba mga Filipino-Chinese. Gusto ko magpasalamat sa ating Filipino community, yung mga nag- contribute ng Gawad Kalinga, ito ay mga pabahay para sa ating mga mahihirap. Isang pabahay ay 50 or 60,000 pesos lamang, so mga 1,000 dollars. Kaya gusto kong magpasalamat, unang-una, in behalf of the Philippine community yung inyong pangulo, si Engineer Go. Ay, hindi, hindi, si Celso Halap. Maraming salamat, Celso. At saka si Engineer at Mrs. Go, yung may-ari ng international school. Pati na rin si Sotero Baluyot-Lee. Alam niyo tinanong ko sa kanya, ano kayo ni Sotero Baluyot? Sabi niya ninong niya. Dahilan kung bakit tinanong ko kung sino si Sotero Baluyot, yan ay dating Secretary of Public Works. Siya yung ninong ko nung ako'y bininyagan, kaya tayo magkakapatid.

Anyway, bagamat tatlumpu't isang taon lamang ang tanda ng pormal na pagkakaibigan ng Pilipinas at Tsina, mabibilang sa libong taon ang itinagal ng pakikipag-kaibigan at palitan ng kalakal ng mga Pilipino at Tsino. At ngayon, lalo na itong nakaraang limang taon, higit pang lumalaki ang ating ugnayan sapagkat ang Pilipinas at Tsina ay tumatahak sa isang yugto ng relasyon na tinatawag ni President Hu Jintao "The Golden Age of Partnership." At kayong mga Pilipino na narito bahagi kayo dito sa partnership na ito.

Relations between China and the Philippines are at an all-time high. They are based on mutual respect. Siguro naman nahahalata ninyo ang respeto ng mga Chinese para sa inyo, di ba mga Pilipinong narito? Our nation's relationship with China is among the most important ties of our country. Philippine relations with China are now more confident, mature, comprehensive, punctuated with substantial and important projects aimed at deepening

exchanges in a number of areas, including economics, trade and investment, and even defense, and even people-to-people exchange. Nandito nga ang ating mga dalubhasang professional kagaya ninyo at nandoon din sila sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng Tsina.

Naalala ko nung nagbisita ako sa Tsina nung September 2004 at si President Hu Jintao naman ay nagbisita ng Manila nung April ng 2005. Kasi last year ito ang 30th year ng ating anibersaryo ng ating relations kaya nagbisita si Hu Jintao doon. At ano ang mensahe ng pagbisita ko dito sa Beijing noon at yung bisita niya doon sa Manila? Ang mensahe ay: "To underscore the growing maturity of our relationship and the commitment our two countries share to strengthen our ties."

Yung Pilipinas at saka yung Tsina ay gumawa ng kasunduan, tawag dito ay Early Harvest Program. Sa pamamagitan ng MOU or Memorandum of Understanding na pinirmahan nung nagbisita si President Hu sa Manila. Ibig sabihin nito mga dalawandaang produkto ng pangangalakal sa isa't-isa ay pwedeng pumasok sa isa't-isang bansa na walang tariff or duty. At dahil dito ay malaking-malaki ang ating pangangalakal. Mabilis ang paglaki ng pangangalakal ng China sa buong Southeast Asia pero sa buong Southeast Asia pinakamabilis lumaki ang kanyang pangangalakal sa Pilipinas. Kaya espesyal na espesyal ang ating relasyon. Nandito nga si Arty Yap, ang Secretary of Agriculture, isang dahilan ay dahil napakalawak ang pangangalakal ng agrikultura sa pamamagitan ng Pilipinas at China. At ito ay lumawak pa nung nagkaroon nga tayo nitong Memorandum of Understanding kasama ng China nung 2005. Agricultural trade increased with the conclusion of the Philippine-China Memorandum of Understanding.

Doon naman sa Pilipinas ang nandito ito ang Fujian, malaki tayong pangangalakal sa electronics. Nagbebenta tayo ng electronics sa kanila, nagbebenta rin sila ng electronics sa atin. Kasi ang electronics hindi... The way that it's happening in the world today ay hindi ang isang piyesa lahat gawa sa isang bansa. May isang piyesang gawa doon, papadala dito para mafabricate. May isang pyesa pagawa dito, papadala doon para mabuo. At ang kabutihan ng ating pangangalakal sa Tsina ay nagkaroon tayo ng isang malaking-malaking market para sa ating electronics industry. Kasi electronics industry sa Pilipinas ay number one sa exports.

Noong araw lahat ng ating exports halos ng electronics — hindi naman lahat, pero malaki — ay pumupunta sa America. Pero naalala ko nung 2001, nung bagong pangulo pa lang ako, humina ang electronics industry ng America. Sabi ko, naku! Patay, yan ang laki ng... Number one export natin, 70 percent ng exports ng Pilipinas ay electronics. Bagong pangulo pa naman ako babagsak ang ating exports, babagsak ang ating ekonomiya, baka akala nila ako ang malas. Pero hindi nangyari yon kasi habang humina yung American market lumakas naman yung China market. At sa mga panahon ngayon — kasi yung America humina tapos they have to spread their risks, nagpunta sila outside Southeast Asia pati sa India — but in the meantime the Philippines found another huge customer with China. Kaya yung mga electronics firm sa Pilipinas nakapagbenta dito sa China. So kahit na mahirap ang panahon noon sa America nakapagbenta pa rin dito sa China mahihirap na taon.

And as I said, between Fujian and the Philippines mutually ang number one trading, trading product natin ay electronics. So the top exports between China and the Philippines comprise semi-conductor devices, machinery parts and accessories, electrical and electronic machinery, and electronic micro assemblies. Ewan ko kung merong mga Pilipino dito na nandoon sa industriyang yon.

Approximately one-third of total electronic exports are skewed towards the Chinese market. Pero kung pag-uusapan natin yung buong trade between China and the Philippines, 42 percent taun-taon ang linalaki mula nung 2001. Kaya ngayon ang China number three na sa ating mga trading partners, kasunod lamang ang U.S. at saka Japan. Halimbawa, yung mga Capampangan dito — meron bang mga Capampangan... Ah, yeah, ating Capampangan. Ano meron bang mga taga-Tarlac diyan, mga taga-Subic? Yun! Okay — pag-uwi niyo siguro, kung uuwi ka ng mga 2009, ay mabilis ang biyahe mula Manila hanggang Clark-Subic kasi meron tayong mabilis na tren na makakapunta na doon. Kakaumpisa lang ng construction nung isang linggo kaya matatapos sa 2009. Kaya pag kayo'y umuwi, bisitahin ang mga kamag-anak ninyo, kasi sasakay kayo sa Philippine Airlines malamang maglalanding Xiamen to Manila yon. Sasakay kayo ng tren patungong Clark-Subic, mabilis ang biyahe, tandaan niyo eto ay dahil sa pagkakaibigan ng inyong host country at Pilipinas dahil ito ay pinondohan ng Tsina para sa Pilipinas. And we are delighted with the financing of our Northrail project.

Gusto ko ipabalita sa inyo na ang isang malaking preyoridad ng ating bansa ngayon ay imprastruktura kasi sa mahabang panahon — palagay ko baka wala na kayo dito noon o baka nandoon pa kayo — sa habang panahon hindi tayo makapagpondo ng ating sariling imprastruktura na hindi umuutang. Kasi noon ang budget natin 900 billion pesos, ang taxes 700 billion. Sa 700 billion, 350 billion pumupunta sa pagbayad ng interes sa malaking utang natin; 250 billion pumupunta sa sweldo ng ating mga manggagawa sa gobyerno; 150 billion pumunta sa share ng local government, eh di 700 billion na yon. Wala nang maiiwan sa imprastruktura, wala nang maiiwan sa edukasyon, sa social services, sa kalusugan. So saan natin kinukuha yon? Umuutang tayo. Yon na nga yung difference between spending and taxes, the 200 billion pesos. Yon parati yon ang ating deficit nuon.

Pero ako'y nagpapasalamat kay Lito, yung senador natin, yung ating mga congressmen dahil pinasa nila yung mga tax reforms natin. Ngayon ay patungo na tayo sa balance budget, hindi na tayo kailangan parating umaasa sa utang para sa imprastruktura at social services. Meron tayong layunin na maka-balance tayo ng budget natin ng 2010, pero gaya nang sabi ko bago nung reforms ang deficit natin 200 billion. Ang deficit natin nitong taong ito ay between 100 and 120 billion, nahati in one year after your tax reforms, senator and congressmen, kaya sabi ng aking mga economic managers baka kahit na sinasabi ko na dapat magbalance budget tayo ng 2010 makakaya natin ito by 2008.

At hindi lamang mababalance natin ang budget, pwede na tayong gumastos sa mga imprastruktura na matagal nang hindi natin mapagastusan kung hindi tayo nakakautang. Infrastructure development is crucial to our economic development plan for the nation. Siguro kayong mga nakatira sa Xiamen — ewan ko kung gaano katagal na kayo rito. Mga batang-bata pa kayo, baka 20 years ago sigurado wala pa kayo rito — 20 years ago, mahirap lamang ang Xiamen pero nakagastos sila sa kanilang imprastruktura. Ngayon, ang ganda- ganda ng Xiamen, ang yaman-yaman, nakakapagbigay ng magagandang trabaho sa inyo. Yon din ang kailangan gawin natin sa ating bansa — gumastos sa imprastruktura para pupunta doon ang mga namumuhunan.

At itong... Yung proyekto ng northrail bilang halimbawa lang kung gaano kalaki ang tulong ng Tsina sa atin, ang northrail na yon na magpapabilis ng biyahe mula sa Manila hanggang sa Clark-Subic ay nagkakahalaga ng siyam na raang milyong dolyar, 900 million dollars. Maluwag na pautang mula sa China, napakahalaga ito kapag natayo na ang linya ng tren na ito, mas mapapadali ang biyahe sa probinsya patungo sa Clark-Subic. At marami ring suporta ang Tsina sa ating agrikultura — ayun! Si Dr. Undan na doon sa Central Luzon State University ng Nueva Ecija — yan malaking tulong ng China sa kaniya. We are happy to know China's support for the Philippines in the field of agriculture. Doon sa lugar ni Dr. Undan merong magandang Philippine-Sino Agricultural Center or Center for Agricultural Technology na mukhang Ming Palace, ang ganda-ganda. Yon ay simbolo ng pagtulong ng China sa ating agrikultura.

Kaya narito si Arty Yap, malaki ang ating kooperasyon ng agrikultura sa Tsina. At lahat nito ay ginagawa ko para lang magkaroon ng maraming trabaho ang ating mga mamamayang Pilipino. Ang taimtim na minimithi ng ating administrasyon ay maibangon ang Pilipinas upang isang matatag na republika ang manahin ng ating mga anak at ating mga apo.

I'm very happy for you here that you are earning well here in China. But I long for the day when going abroad for a job is an option and not the only choice for a Filipino worker. Kaya bagamat kayo ay nandito sa China ang aking hinihingi sa inyo sana patuloy ninyo ang inyong suporta upang makamit natin ang ating mga plano para sa Pilipinas.

Muli, maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo. Thank you very much. I am so happy to meet the Filipino community of Southern China.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203808/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3000&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo before the students of Nanchang University Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the students of Nanchang University**

[Delivered at the Auditorium, Nanchang University, Nanchang City, Jiangxi, PROC, October 28, 2006]

Thank you very much for your very warm welcome. Ni hao.

Mr. President of Nanchang University; Mr. Huang, Governor of Jiangxi; officials of the Philippine government who are with me today; officials of the communist party of the Philippines here in Jiangxi; students and teachers of this great and beautiful university, Nanchang University, good afternoon to all of you.

I am so happy to be here this afternoon. You know, many years ago before I entered politics, I was a professor of economics. And it was my pleasure to be always with young college students like you. But that was about... Oh, maybe that was 1987 or so, I stopped teaching, I joined the government and it's a great opportunity for me to be here once again to be speaking with young people. I like speaking with young people because it keeps me young. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you.

I've been to China many times but this is my first time here in Nanchang. And it really gives me great pleasure to have a chance to be here to visit different parts of China because as a young professor many years ago, I became co-chairman of the Association for Philippines-China Understanding and we worked for the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines.

And I am so happy that today our relations are at an all-time high. When we were in Chile together for the APEC Summit, President Hu Jintao described our relationship as having entered a golden age. In 2004, I made a state visit to Beijing. It was my second state visit because I had made one in 2001. And in 2005, President Hu Jintao also made a state visit to Manila. That was the 30th year of our diplomatic relations.

During the period that China joined the world as a market economy, it has benefited the Philippines very much and our bilateral relationship. Our trade amounted to seven billion dollars last year. China is the third largest market of the Philippines. And our investments, hopefully with my continuing visits here will also increase between our two countries. But what can I say is that I am very proud of our Filipino-Chinese living in the Philippines. They are among our largest businessmen in the Philippines. They provide us with wealth but they also loved China and they also invest here in China.

In fact here in Jiangxi province, we have a big investment from a Filipino-Chinese, Mr. Carlos Chan, and he's right here, somewhere here. He produces food snacks. So maybe sometimes when you're having your snack between your classes, maybe you are eating the products of Mr. Carlos Chan, the Filipino-Chinese who is here in Jiangxi.

But today, I would like to speak with you more not only about Philippine-China relations but more about ASEAN-China relations. The reason why I have chosen this topic is that it is the occasion of my visit to China this year.

I am deeply honored to co-chair with Premier Wen Jiabao the Commemorative Summit in Nanning to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the ASEAN-China Partnership. It is important to commemorate special anniversaries like 15 years of partnership with open dialogue and trust between peoples and nations. This manner of keeping our relationship has never been more important than in today's world. We are a globalized world which should always be speaking with one another.

I am not the only ASEAN leader who is coming here. All of the ASEAN leaders are in China to celebrate this very important milestone for China, for the region and the world — the 15 years of ASEAN-China collaboration.

President Yudhoyono of Indonesia will be here, the head of the 4th largest country in the world. Of course behind China, the largest country in the world of all. Prime Minister Badawi of Malaysia will be here. The new Prime Minister of Thailand, Surayud, will be here. The Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong will also be here. The Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Bolkiah, will also be here, I mean in Nanning. And so with all the other leaders of Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, all of us to celebrate with China our 15 years of deep friendship.

And I am very honored that the Philippines is the co-chair with China because we are the co-chair of ASEAN this year. And that's why I take this opportunity to speak as chairman of ASEAN, and speaking as chairman of ASEAN, what I would like to say is that for one thing ASEAN takes some amount of pride and satisfaction in helping China become an economic powerhouse as a result of economic, political and cultural collaboration between ASEAN and China. China started its very rapid development 20 years ago. And 15 years ago, it was the first country to become a dialogue partner of ASEAN.

During the Commemorative Summit, we will be celebrating 15 years of substantive and fruitful relations between ASEAN and China. Further, we will assess current ASEAN -China dialogue relations and set out the direction for the next 15 years when you, the young students of Nanchang will be the leaders of Chinese society and economy.

China has surged onto the world stage. I'm sure you know that and you feel that especially your parents feel it. ASEAN has also surged with China. The change has been profound. ASEAN welcomes the deepening of ties through the ASEAN -China free trade agreement. This is an agreement between ASEAN and China that is built on respect, reciprocity and pragmatism. It will help all of our economies grow and strengthen peace and security in the region.

This ASEAN -China free trade area enables both parties to reduce and eliminate the tariffs for a range of products, and this reduction or elimination of tariff duties will have a positive effect. The free trade area will have a positive effect on the development of China because the ASEAN region represents a market of over half a billion people for Chinese exports and a supplier of much-needed resources. In turn, it will also have a positive effect on the development of ASEAN countries because ASEAN countries can reduce our dependence on western markets such as the U.S. and Europe for our exports.

The ASEAN -China partnership remains one of the most dynamic and progressive in the East Asian region. When China and ASEAN first began relations 15 years ago in 1991, the focus was on cooperation in economic and trade relations. Over the past 15 years, this relationship has evolved. It is no longer just economic and trade, it now includes cooperation on political security, development and other regional issues.

So it gives me great pleasure to come today to speak to the young people of Nanchang and say that relations between ASEAN and China have never been better or stronger. This is an important state of affairs that can only help the region and the world.

As I said earlier, we will be co-chairing, the Philippines will be co-chairing with China the Commemorative Summit. This is because we are the chair of the upcoming ASEAN leaders meeting as well as the host of the East Asia Summit. The East Asia Summit is a dialogue among ASEAN, China, Japan, Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. We had the first East Asian Summit in Kuala Lumpur last year. And last year, both the ASEAN leaders... The ASEAN, incidentally, the East Asian Summit and the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting will take place in the beautiful Philippine Island of Cebu this december. I mentioned that because the governor of Cebu is here. Please give her a warm welcome also. Doesn't she look like a student from Nanchang University? Anyway, I take great pride in representing the nation and the region at these upcoming gatherings.

Now to go back to what I was saying earlier about holding the very first East Asian Summit that was last year, that was in Kuala Lumpur, that was in December of 2005, and at that time in that summit — it was the very first East Asian Summit — we talked about what is East Asia? What is the East Asian Summit? What is the East Asian community? And we agreed that the East Asian community is a long-term goal that would contribute to regional peace, security, prosperity and progress in the region. We also agreed that the East Asian Summit with ASEAN as the driving force because it was born out of ASEAN meetings with dialogue partners is an integral part of the

overall evolving architecture of this region, the East Asian region. Right now composed as I said of ASEAN, China, Japan, Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand.

The East Asia Summit leaders in Kuala Lumpur last year agreed that the East Asia Summit, together with the ASEAN + China, Japan and Korea dialogue, the ASEAN + China, the ASEAN + Japan and ASEAN + Korea would play significant roles in community building in East Asia. There have been so many dialogues between ASEAN and other partners since 1991. But the very first one was China — that's the ASEAN + China dialogue.

Later on, we developed the ASEAN + Japan dialogue. We developed the ASEAN + Korea dialogue. And because these are our three neighbors to the north, we developed the ASEAN + 3 dialogue where ASEAN dialogues together with Japan, Korea and China all in one table. And then later on, Australia and New Zealand joined us, and then India joined us, so it became bigger and bigger. So this is what now we call East Asia, and the dialogue of all of us together is called the East Asian Summit.

So because all of this started from ASEAN, dialoguing with other partners, other friends and all of this started in 1991, 15 years ago, because we signed a treaty of dialogue with China, both ASEAN and China have important roles to play. Singly, ASEAN has a role to play. China has a role to play. Jointly, ASEAN + China as a dialogue partners have a role to play. And in conjunction with the other members of the East Asian Summit because now on its second year, the East Asian Summit is becoming a strategic forum for the East Asian region.

Sometimes I am asked, "You're friend with China, and then you're friends with India, and then you're friends with Japan. Is there no conflict in these relationships?" Of course not. China sees no conflict in its relations with... Ah, no. ASEAN sees no conflict in its relationship with China vis-a-vis ASEAN relations with Japan and India.

Why are we asked whether there's a conflict? I supposed it's because Japan and India are the other two economic powerhouses of Asia aside from China. After all, in the same manner as ASEAN's relations with China, ASEAN's dialogue relations with Japan and India are treated with respect, pragmatism, and reciprocity. ASEAN places great emphasis on the unique value of each dialogue partner.

Well, I have tried to explain to you where we are now from the first time that China became a dialogue partner of ASEAN. Other countries started to join us and now we have become one big East Asia community. Yet what is most important is not what has transpired between ASEAN and China or even between the Philippines and China for that matter. What is important is what happens next. What will our relationship look like 15 years from today when you, the students, who are sitting in the second half of this auditorium will be sitting on the front row because you will be the leaders of China? Will our economies have improved? Will there be less poverty and more prosperity? Will the world be safer and more secure?

These are the issues that we must focus our attention on. These are the issues that will be the subject of our meetings in Nanning and later on in the Philippines as we forge a vision of what the future will be like for the next generation, your generation.

All of these will be the subject of our upcoming meeting. And at the end of the meeting, we will probably issue a declaration on what our vision will be like.

Let me share with you some of my own thoughts about what I would tell our other colleagues in ASEAN and in China about the future: going forward, we shall continue to strengthen ASEAN -China partnership. How? For one thing, by promoting confidence-building measures. For example, there had been long conflicts, long-term conflicts between different countries claiming different or overlapping parts of the South China Sea. There is a claim by China, there is a claim by the Philippines, there is a claim by Vietnam, other countries. But what we have done in ASEAN + China, we have turned that area of possible conflict into an area of cooperation instead because China and the Philippines agreed that instead of fighting all the time over that sea, we will conduct joint research, seismic research in the South China Sea.

At first Vietnam objected because they also have a claim. But we were able to convince them to join us. So now we have been able to conclude a joint seismic research: China, the Philippines and Vietnam in the South China Sea. And we should go forward now, now that the seismic research has been done and the findings are being collated if warranted, we should consider having joint exploration in the South China Sea.

Another way by which we can strengthen and deepen the relationship between ASEAN and China is to intensify interactions, for example, more trade. The China trade with ASEAN has grown tremendously since China joined the WTO. But I am very proud that among China's trade with all the countries of ASEAN, the fastest growing trade is China's trade with the Philippines.

And let's continue to do that. For instance, we have a lot of trade with China, Philippines and China. But I was looking at the statistics, a lot of our trade is with Guandong, Guanzhou, not enough with Nanchang, not enough with Jiangxi. So, my visit here I hope will be a catalyst so that we will talk more with one another and trade more with one another — your province and our country.

Tourism is another very important way by which we can intensify our relationship. China, you, the young people, I understand, have become very curious about the rest of the world, because China has become very rich over the past 20 years. Twenty years before or 25 years before, the Chinese hardly travelled outside of China. But now you are so curious about the world, and we the rest of the world are also very frequent visitors to China because you have so much history and you have so much beauty. I hope that we will be able to intensify tourism.

In the Philippines, for instance, the number of tourists that went to China in 20... No, no. The number of Chinese tourists that went to the Philippines in 2005 is almost three times the number of 2004, very rapid increase. But a very, very small percentage compared to China's tourists going to the rest of the world, just a hundred thousand but from 30,000 the year before. Maybe this year, hopefully we can have 300,000. We would like to have more and more of people-to-people exchange. Filipinos very frequently come to China, I hope the Chinese go very frequently to the Philippines.

Well, I advertised Cebu earlier. Let me now advertise your sister province in the Philippines, the province of Bohol. The province of Bohol just like the province of Cebu, and just like the island of Boracay are all very famous for our beaches. And I hope that very soon, you, the young people of Nanchang will go to the Philippines on tours organized by the tour operators of your city and your province.

Another way by which we can intensify our relationship is to allocate adequate resources to steer the relations and cooperation for mutual benefit. For instance, I understand that China provides preferential loans to support projects invested in by Chinese companies within ASEAN. That is very, very welcome. And I hope that therefore as there are so many Filipino- Chinese investing in China — I think there are at least 1,200 Chinese-Filipino investments in China — I hope there will also be many investments in China going to the Philippines.

Right now what are we doing among ourselves in ASEAN? Right now, the ASEAN member-countries are currently channeling our efforts towards integrating our priority sectors. We have 11 priority sectors among us. Is that not right, Mr. Jose Concepcion, who is the Chairman of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council for the Philippines? These are agro-based products, air travel, automotive products, E- ASEAN — which is electronic ASEAN — electronics, fisheries, health care, rubber-based products, textiles and apparels, tourism, and wood-based product.

By integrating these 11 industries, we envision a region transformed into one single and efficient production base. ASEAN is working towards eliminating non-tariff barriers among us. Meaning, we will have no more outright prohibition in our products going to each other, and we will remove unnecessary technical requirements on one another's export products, and we will eliminate quantitative barriers. Meaning, we will no longer have limits on the volume of products a particular ASEAN country imports from another ASEAN country. In this way, ASEAN becomes one economy even if we are 10 political countries.

As we do this integration among ourselves in ASEAN, we will be able to strengthen ASEAN's role. We will be able to strengthen ASEAN's bargaining position vis-a-vis other large markets, giant markets in the world. And

together with ASEAN's partnership with China through the ASEAN -China free trade area, where we let out products go in between ASEAN and China with no tariff or very low tariff, what a huge integrated market that will be that will benefit consumers and suppliers alike.

China is the fastest growing developing country in the world, aside from being the most populous. And therefore China has a strategic and important role to play in the economic development and security situation of the Asia-Pacific region.

The rest of us in East Asia and even in Asia-Pacific expect China to take the lead in promoting good neighborly relations and regional cooperation by handling sensitive issues with surrounding countries in a manner that is guided by the spirit of equality, respect, consultation and mutual benefit.

To summarize and in other words, we are hopeful that China will continue to pursue its foreign policy which as we can see right now is based on the maintenance of world peace and the promotion of common development. We congratulate China for that.

And to conclude, why am I saying that here in Nanchang University, in front of the young people of Nanchang? Because I am hopeful that Nanchang University being a producer of future leaders will forge future Chinese leaders who will carry on the vision of greater regional harmony, cooperation and engagement.

Xie-xie. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech before the Students of Nanchang University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203724/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2999&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the 3rd China-ASEAN Expo

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the opening ceremony of the 3rd China-ASEAN Expo

[Delivered at the Nanning International Conference and Exhibition Centre, Nanning, Guangxi, PROC, October 31, 2006]

His Excellency Premier Wen Jiabao, Minister of Commerce Honorable Xi Lai, Governor Lu and the other officials of Guangxi, Your Majesty, excellencies, heads of state, heads of government, other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

We are here today celebrating the golden age of ASEAN-China relations.

All the leaders of ASEAN are visiting China to celebrate the 15th year of China's Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN. As the chair of ASEAN this year, I am particularly proud of the role that ASEAN has played in helping China integrate its economy and become a powerhouse in the region and the world. The relationship between China and ASEAN has helped ASEAN as a region. Our trade is surging with China, we are seeing more Chinese investment in ASEAN. We hope to see more.

The ASEAN-China partnership remains one of the most dynamic and progressive in the East Asia region. When ASEAN and China first began relations in 1991, the focus was on cooperation in economic and trade relations. Over the past 15 years, the relationship has evolved to include cooperation on political security, development, and other regional issues. Going forward, we should continue to strengthen the ASEAN-China partnership by promoting confidence-building measures, intensifying interactions, and allocating adequate resources to steer the relations and cooperation for mutual benefit. This China-ASEAN expo is a good example of what we should be doing.

An expo such as this builds confidence. It also reminds us of strategic themes such as: "What will our ASEAN-China relationship look like 15 years from today?" This expo should strengthen our resolve to intensify the integrative trade within the ASEAN-China free trade area.

The ASEAN-China FTA enables both parties to reduce and eliminate its tariff rates for a range of products. The ASEAN region represents a market of over half a billion people for Chinese exports. It is a supplier of much-needed resources. In turn, we the ASEAN countries can reduce our dependence for our exports on western markets such as the U.S. and Europe.

It is with great enthusiasm that we participate in the China-ASEAN expo. Our businessmen are looking not only for products to bring home but also for industries where Chinese and ASEAN manufacturing can collaborate to produce for our own domestic markets and for the rest of the world.

Our businessmen have come to Nanning looking for products as candidates for integrative trade with China.

I am confident our search will bear fruit in the field of shared prosperity both for China and ASEAN

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd China-ASEAN Expo. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203647/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2996&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the 3rd China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremony of the 3rd China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS)**

[Delivered at the Auditorium, Grand Hall of the People's Congress of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
Nanning, Guangxi, PROC, October 31, 2006]

His Excellency Premier Wen Jiabao; excellencies, the Asian heads of state and government; Mr. Liu Qibao, party secretary of Guangxi, thank you for your very kind remarks and welcome; Mr. Wan, thank you also for greeting the guests; to all the leaders and business personalities present here today, Ni Hao.

All of the Asian leaders are in China to celebrate the... The ASEAN leaders are in China to celebrate the 15th year of China's partnership with ASEAN. As chair of ASEAN this year, I'm particularly proud of the role that ASEAN has played in China's integration with the world economy and China's becoming a powerhouse. Our trade is surging with China and we are seeing more Chinese investment in ASEAN. We hope to see more. That is why we welcome this China-ASEAN business and investment summit.

When ASEAN and China first began relations in 1991, the focus was on cooperation in economic and trade relations. Going forward, we should continue to strengthen the ASEAN-China partnership by promoting confidence-building measures, intensifying interactions, and allocating adequate resources to steer the relations and cooperation for mutual benefit. Thus, we congratulate the central government of China and the government of Guangxi and the communist party committee of Guangxi for generously allocating resources for the last three years for this annual confidence-building measure, the China-ASEAN Expo and Business Investment Summit.

In Cambodia in November 2002, at the ASEAN-China Summit, we, the leaders of our 11 nations, signed the framework agreement on our Comprehensive Economic Cooperation or CEC. Today's events are a wonderful celebration of this ASEAN-China CEC.

The current engagement between China and ASEAN is true partnership. ASEAN relations with China are now more confident, mature and comprehensive. They are punctuated with substantial and important projects, like this one, aimed at deepening exchanges in a number of areas. These areas include economics, trade and investment, and even security. The parties to the comprehensive economic agreement respect one another as equals.

One of the most dynamic components of the comprehensive economic agreement is the ASEAN-China free trade area. The ASEAN region represents a market of over half a billion people for Chinese exports. In turn, we, the ASEAN countries can reduce our dependence on western markets such as the U.S. and Europe.

Aside from the ASEAN-China free trade agreement, the ASEAN-China CEC also embraces other matters such as today's event. The China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit is a marketplace where investors can enjoy fruitful business-matching meetings where they can make deals about strategic business partnership, and where they can therefore participate in an integral part of the larger marketplace of the world.

This is the third China-ASEAN business and investment summit, and the focus is on ASEAN and I am speaking today as chairman of ASEAN. But I want to close on the economic rebound underway in the Philippines. In the Philippines, the poverty rate is down, the per capita income is at an all-time high, and we are on track for a balanced budget in 2008.

Philippine-China relations are at an all-time high. Our nation's relation with China is among the most important ties of our country. Thus, I take this opportunity to invite China to look at the Philippines as a destination for even greater Chinese investment, particularly in the areas of mining, infrastructure development, agriculture and fisheries, as well as housing.

Our workforce is well-educated, productive and English-speaking. The government has taken the difficult decisions to raise the additional revenues needed to invest in infrastructure and services to create an economic environment that is conducive to investment. This commitment shows how serious we are about competing for foreign investment and the jobs that it creates.

It is no secret how the Philippines is partnering with China. But the Philippines is not alone in doing this with China. Each ASEAN member can boast of its own success stories with regards to their business with China. Later on, in the course of this seminar, they will tell their stories in their respective investment promotions' speeches in the course of this business and investment summit.

For the Philippines, it is an honor to co-chair the Commemorative ASEAN-China Summit and therefore to keynote this exciting event. This gathering bodes well for the theme, "One Future." And we hope that "One Future" is a secure life in every home and community in East Asia. We hope that "One Future" will mean the eventual banishment of hunger and poverty. We hope that "One Future" will be a robust and vibrant regional community in one sharing and caring community made up of ASEAN and China.

Thank you, Premier Wen Jiabao. Thank you to the people and officers of Guangxi for a magnificent welcome and a meaningful summit.

Xie-xie.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the opening ceremony of the 3rd China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203653/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2995&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo on launching the National Year for the prevention of child abuse and neglect

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On launching the National Year for the prevention of child abuse and neglect**

[Delivered at the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul Quadrangle, U.N. Avenue, Manila, November 6, 2006]

**LAUNCHING THE NATIONAL YEAR
FOR THE PREVENTION OF
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Sabi ni Katrina, magandang senyas itong nakikinig itong ating kalapati dito dahil ibig sabihin magiging matagumpay ang ating taon ng pag-iwas ng abuso sa mga bata. Gaya nang sabi dito sa senyas na ito, prinoklama ng inyong lingkod ang Oktubre ng 2006 hanggang Oktubre ng 2007 bilang taon ng pag-iwas ng pang-abuso sa bata upang ipahayag ang ating walang sawang determinasyon na tigilin ang pag-abuso at pagpabaya sa ating mga bata. At ngayon ko nalaman na tayo pala ang kauna-unang bansa na gumawa nitong proklamasyon na ito.

Panahon na para gumawa ng mga kongkretong aksyon sa buong bansa — pigilin ang mga banta sa kalusugan at kabutihan ng ating mga bata. At meron na tayong mga sandata para gawin ito. Kasi binanggit natin yung iba't-ibang mga partners natin sa pagtanggol sa karapatan ng mga bata. At meron na rin tayong mga sapat na batas. Sa nakaraan, personal nating tinulak ang mga batas kontra sa trafficking sa mga babae at bata, batas kontra sa karahasan sa mga babae at bata, at proteksyon para sa mga nagtatrabahong bata.

Meron na tayong batas, meron na tayong mga iba't-ibang mga partners, kaya dapat talaga, sabi nitong ating ibon, ay talagang dapat magtagumpay itong taong ito.

Ang proteksiyon ng bata — kasi nandito lahat yung mga tumutulong maiiwasan ang abuso or alagaan yung mga inabuso — pero ang proteksiyon ng bata ay lumalampas sa pag-iwas ng mga kilos ng karahasan at abuso at pagbigay tulong sa mga biktima. Ang paglaban mismo sa kahirapan ay proteksiyon sa ating mga bata.

Ang pagbigay ng ginhawa sa karaniwang mamamayan ay proteksiyon sa pamilya at ganun sa kinabubuti ng mga bata.

Sa pag-uusap ng ginhawa ng pamilya, meron tuyong magandang balita, dahil darating na ang pasko. Para sa mga motorista at pamilyang dumadaan sa North Luzon Expressway sa panahon ng Christmas vacation, bilang aginaldo, ang North Luzon Expressway magbibigay ng espesyal na diskwentong diyes porsiyento sa mga toll fee sa lahat ng motoristang gagamit ng NLEX mula a-beinte ng Disyembre hanggang katapusan nitong panahon. Ito ay para alukin ang ating mga kababayang samahar ang kanilang mga minamahal sa panahon ng bakasyon. Preview ito ng pagbaba ng toll rate na dati na nating inanunsyong gaganapin sa Enero sa susunod na taon.

Bakit natin inanunsyo ito? Kasi gusto ko magbigay ng halimbawa ng kung papaano yung ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya ay nakakaabot sa kinabubuti ng mga karaniwang pamilya. Yung ating ginawang reporma sa buwis, sa laki ng kompiyansang napunta sa ating bansa, maging gobyerno, maging mga private company, yung binabayad sa mga utang ay nabawasan kasi lumakas ang piso at saka bumaba ang interest rate. Kaya yung North Luzon

Expressway, yung kanyang mga naimpok dahil sa pagbaba ng debt servicing, sa lakas ng piso at baba ng interest rate, ay ngayon pinapasa sa ating mga motorista.

Ganundin ang ating bansa. Sa gawa ng ating mga reporma sa kaban ng bansa na nagbigay ng malaking kompiyansa sa ating bansa, bumaba ang interest rate na binabayaran natin, lumakas ang piso, kaya sa susunod na taon 22 billion dollars ang ating interest saving. At saan pupunta yang 22 billion dollars na yan? Twenty two billion pesos, I mean. Twenty two billion pesos. At saan pupunta yang 22 billion pesos na yan? Sixteen billion pesos sa pagdagdag ng gastos sa edukasyon, five billion pesos sa pandagdag ng gastos sa kalusugan, at one billion pesos sa pangdagdag na gastos sa social welfare — all in all 22 billion pesos.

Yung five billion pesos na dagdag nating igagastos sa ating kalusugan, layunin nating mapaabot ang higit otsenta'y singko porsiyento ng mahihirap ang health insurance. At alam naman nating lahat na kung isang pamilya ay sakop sa health insurance, lahat ng kasapi ng pamihja ay kasama doon, mga anak maging yung pag-aanak ng ina.

At saan naman pupunta yung 16 billion pesos na igagastos nating dagdag sa edukasyon? Malapit nang mabuo natin o mapuno natin yung kulang na silid-aralan, kasi gusto natin na mawala na yung mga silid-aralan ng more than 100 is to one ang ratio ng estudyante sa classroom. Kasi kung less than 100 is to one sa grade school at merong dalawang shift, maaliwalas na ang ating mga paaralan. At makakamit natin yon sa ating 16 billion pesos.

Bukod pa doon, makokonekta ang higit na high school sa internet at mapapadami ang mga scholarship sa mahihirap na estudyante, lalung-lalo na yung ating mga teenager para sila ay makapag-aral sa tinatawag nating ladderized system of education kung saan magsisimula sa technical school at magagamit ang credits dito para sa college education.

At yon namang mga social work. Isang libo... Ay, isang bilyon ang dinadagdag sa ating social welfare. At inaasahan natin na sa pamamagitan nito ang mga social workers ni Alice bala ay makakaabot sa higit na maraming biktima ng domestic at iba pang anyo ng karahasan at mahihirap na pamilyang kailangan ng suportang moral at pangkabuhayan. Pangkabuhayan kasi kasama nito — di ba, Alice? — yung inxjong CIDSS at yung inyong microfinance.

Pinalawak natin itong mga serbisyo at pinansin pa ng... Pinansin pa tayo ng United Nations Development program sa ating mga pagsisikap na makamit ang millenium development goals.

Itong pinoproklama nating year against child abuse and neglect, logical long yan eh kasi talagang internalize natin yung millenium development goals. At ayon kila kay Jeffrey Sachs, yung mga anti-poverty guru at si Nileema Noble, yung UNDP dito, halos wala silang makitang ibang bansa na ganun na ka-internalize ang millenium development goals.

Ngunit hindi pa tayo makapagpapahinga, habang ayon sa mga dato, isa bawat apat sa ating populasyon ay nahihirapan pang maglagay ng pagkain sa kanilang mesa. Gusto natirt may pagkain sa bawat mesa kasi yon ang paraan kung papaano yung ating mga bata ay lalaking malusog. Kaya lahat nito ay dapat gawin natin sa panahon ng pag-iwas ng abuso at pagpabaya sa mga bata.

All our partners are represented here. And I ask all partners to put the anti-child abuse campaign squarely in the context of our larger war against poverty.

Let us vow, not with words but with deeds, to secure our nation's future and therefore ensure the security of our children.

Sa inyong lahat, mga partners, mga guests of honor, ating mga bata, congratulations! Gawin nating lalong makabuluhan itong panahon, itong taon kontra sa abuso ng mga bata.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing program of the 8th National Assembly of the Philippine League of Secretaries to the Sanggunian, Inc. (PLEASES)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the closing program of the 8th National Assembly of the Philippine League of Secretaries to the
Sanggunian, Inc. (PLEASES)**

[Delivered at the Eve's Garden Area, Coconut Palace CCP Complex, Pasay City, November 9, 2006]

Thank you very much, Ms. Pasaylo for your introduction and for inviting me to be here before you today. Please sit down.

Mr. Lero, thank you very much and congratulations! For hosting this very very important gathering for the Secretaries of the Sanggunian.

Ang Liga ng mga Kalihim sa mga Sanggunian ng Pilipinas ay binubuo ng mga babae at lalaking masigasig sa pagsusulong ng kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Congratulations sa inyo! At salamat sa pagsuporta sa ating mahihirap na reporma na ngayon ay nagsisimula nang magbigay liwanag sa pambansang kalagayan. Hindi na maaring itanggi ang pagsigla ng Pilipinas. Ang palagay ng Standard Chartered na papalo ang piso sa 49 pesos bawat dolyar ay isa pang hudyat ng mas magandang hinaharap. Lahat dahil sa walang kupas na suporta mula sa mga taong gaya ninyo sa pamahalaang lokal. Maraming salamat.

Di sana natamo natin itong mga pagsulong kundi sa inyong pangunguna sa pagkuha ng kooperasyon sa ating taumbayan, sa pagsasakripisyo, pag-ibayo ng koleksiyon ng buwis at pagbawas ng ingay sa pulitika. Kaya salamat. Naipapatupad ang mga repormang pangkaunlaran at kapayapaan dahil kayo sa local level ay laging naririyon upang alalayan ang inyong lingkod. Kaya nung natanggap ko ang inyong imbitasyon ay agad-agad sabi ko isingit natin sa aking schedule, kaya narito ako ngayon.

Hindi naman kayo pulitiko, kayo ay mga kasapi ng mga bureaucracy ng local governments, at masarap kausapin yung mga non-political na mga official. Sa kabila ng mga nanggugulo sa pulitika nananatili tayong tahimik subalit naka-angat sa laban kontra sa kahirapan.

We welcome the news, for instance, that confidence in the Philippines among the Japanese firms are at a high point. Japan is a solid partner of the Philippines for peace and prosperity, and we appreciate the fact that Japan has fielded an economic expert to the international monitoring team in Mindanao, yon bang nagsusubaybay ng ating ceasefire. At hindi ba sa iba't-ibang mga lugar ninyo meron kayong nakikitang mga project na pinopondohan ng mga Hapon. At sa iba't-ibang mga lugar ay meron pang mga pabrika ng mga Hapon.

As we expand new investments and create well-paying jobs for our people, we also look forward to an enduring partnership with Japan in the field of human security. Japan is one of our foremost allies in the world in fighting poverty, and the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos in that country is a testament to our enduring friendship and shared interests.

Bakit ko binabanggit ito? Dahil pagkatapos ng mahabang panahon, positibo ang survey ng mga Japanese companies sa kanilang kompiyansa sa ating bansa. At gaya nang sabi ko dahil mga Japanese companies ay nasa buong Pilipinas, mga Japanese projects ay nasa buong Pilipinas, kung ano ang mga ginagawa niyo sa inyong mga lugar yung mga bunga nuon yon ang kanilang nakikita. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyo, maganda ang pinapakita niyong mukha ng iba't-ibang lugar sa ating mga kaibigan sa ekonomiya.

At panahon nang suklian ang ating taumbayan sa pamamagitan ng higit na imprastruktura upang maka-akit ng mga puhunan at paramihin ang trabaho; higit na pangunahing serbisyo gaya ng edukasyon, kalusugan at nutrisyon; higit na saklolo at tulong para sa mga dukha, gaya ng mga rolling store, yung tindahan natin, botika ng bayan, at pagamutang lumilibot.

Gayon din, higit na malaking saklolo at rehabilitasyon sa mga lugar na natamaan ng kalamidad; dagdag-sahod para sa kawani ng pamahalaan dahil higit na IRA para sa mga pamahalaang lokal. Kasi habang lumalaki ang ating mga buwis, lumalaki rin ang nakukuha ng pamahalaang lokal. Bawat pisong kinukubra natin halimbawa sa value-added tax, kuwarenta porsiyento ay pumupunta sa pamahalaang lokal. Kaya salamat sa inyong suporta sa ating reporma, bumabalik din yon sa inyong mga pamahalaan.

Sayang lamang at may ilang mas gustong guluhin ang gumagandang kalagayan at ibig ibalik ang bayan sa dating gawi ng pulitika. May panahon para magkampanya sa halalan, ngunit hindi ngayon. Kailangan panatiliin nating matibay ang pagkakaisa, pagtutulungan at sipag.

Kayo mga secretary ng mga sanggunian hinuhubog ninyo ang mga unang hakbang sa ating mga super region. Naalala niyo yung State of the Nation Address ko pinag-usapan ko ang mga super region. Halimbawa, sa North Luzon, mga ano — ayan, naimbag nga malem niyo amin. At sa Mindanao maayong pag-abot — sa North Luzon at Mindanao ang agrikultura yon ay devolved kaya nakasalalay ang tagumpay sa mga lokal na opisyal na tulad ninyo.

Sa Central Philippines yung Bikol — o marhay nga hapon at saka Bisayas, maayong hapon — tinututukan natin ang pagpalago ng turismo, ang pagpapaganda ng mga bayan at pag-aalaga ng mga baybayin ay responsibilidad ng mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Dito naman sa urban beltway na kung saan patatatagin natin ang small and medium enterprises para gumanda ang investment climate, ang mga lokal na pamahalaan ang nagkakaloob ng mga business permit.

Nailipat na rin sa pamahalaang lokal ang social welfare at kalusugan, kasama ang pagpapalano ng pamilya. Kaya andami-daming papel ng inyong mga sanggunian na pinaglilingkuran ninyo sa ating mga importanteng programa para sa kaunlaran. Kaya sa mga secretary ng mga sanggunian at sa lahat ng mga lokal na official, hinihiling ko sa inyo na ipagpatuloy natin ang mga nasimulang pagbabago para sa ating bansa.

Sama-sama nating itaguyod ang malakas na republika. Maganda yung sinabi ninyo, yung theme ninyo eto oh, “Strong Nation, malakas na republika na nakasalalay sa pinagkakaisang panaginip ng kapayapaan, seguridad at prosperidad sa ating bahagi ng mundo.”

Kaya ako’y nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat. Pag tinitignan ko kayo naalala ko ang trabaho naman ng Cabinet secretary ko kasi yon ang inyong trabaho eh. Yung Cabinet secretary ko ay si Ric Saludo, at ano ang trabaho niya? Siyempre yung minutes, at ginagawa rin niya yung follow up, meron din siyang running tally, yung minutes ano na ang ginagawa ng pagpapatupad. Palagay ko yon ang isang magandang paglilingkuran din ng PLEASES na tinitignan din ninyo yung implementasyon nung mga pinagkasunduang minutes ng sanggunian. Kaya ang laki-laki ng inyong papel, kaya ako’y nasisiyahan na nakapagbisita sa inyo ngayon.

Alam niyo, dito ko sana gagawin yung aking official lunch para sa Crown Prince of Brunei. Tapos sabi nila hindi pwede kasi meron nang previous commitment ang Coconut Palace. Kayo pala yon.

Kaya napakaimportante kayo, at ang ganda-ganda nitong lugar na pinagmimiting ninyo, napaka-inspiring, nakatingin tayo sa dagat. At siyempre doon mga taga- Visayas sanay na sanay na kayo sa dagat, marami kayong magandang baybay. Pero napakaganda itong mga surroundings at inaasahan ko na inspired na inspired kayo para mas lalong more that ‘PLEASES’ will please the people that you serve through your excellent service to the Sanggunian.

Maraming salamat at congratulations sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Closing Program of the 8th National Assembly of the Philippine League of Secretaries to the Sanggunian, Inc. (PLEASES). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203531/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3039&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 28th Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) Ceremonies

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 28th Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) Ceremonies**

[Delivered at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City, November 10, 2006]

Thank you very much, Ambassador Cabangon-Chua.

His Eminence Cardinal Rosales, Senate President Villar, other guests, members of mass media, ladies and gentlemen.

Congratulations! To all the Catholic Mass Media awardees that will be honored this afternoon. Congratulations! Also to the Catholic Church for this project of 28 years, so important to the freedom of the press, the freedom of the media and the responsibility of media.

We are here because we believe in the freedom of the press, the freedom of media and also media responsibility. We embrace the central role of the media in a free society. It gives us great pain to see any journalist harmed, any member of the media harmed. We don't always agree with members of the media and what they report, but that is just part of the give-and-take of politics and our job.

On my part, I see my job as being totally focused on the economy because only a strong economy will lift our people out of poverty and expand our middle-class.

The first phase of our economic turn around plan was to stabilize our budget and spending, and then secure increase revenue through better tax and customs collection, and through an increase of the value-added tax. Thank you Senate President Manny Villar for the Senate and the House voting these very important measures.

These were painful but necessary steps. We achieved the goal. The nation is better for it, though I have paid a political price in public opinion, very much recorded by mass media. But it is a price well-worth paying.

Phase two of our plan is to take advantage of our improved economic picture to finally make the long overdue investments in infrastructure, education and health care. And also, to reduce hunger to one-half of what it is today within a year, to name a few areas. We are well into this phase.

The strength of the Philippine economy today reflects faith in the political leadership from the Filipino people and the world. Tough economic reforms and revenue measures are reaping the tide of confidence. The social payback would soon be flowing down in terms of better paying jobs, improved infrastructure and enhanced social services, including reduced hunger, cutting across the alleviation of poverty and hunger.

Investments are up. Inflation remains steady while our money and stock markets have surged to record highs. We are on full swing towards economic take-off and the people are rearing for more.

Finally, phase three is to turn our sights to truly joining the ranks of first world nations. We have a vision that we will take our place alongside other first world nations by 2020. This phase must be marked by increased attention to

our natural environment and making sure we build up not just deplete our natural resources. We've already laid out the guidelines, the outlines of creating a green Philippines that encompasses conservation, energy independence, reforestation and designation of national parks and wildlife refuges.

Another hallmark of a modern first world nation is social justice and human rights. The poor not only suffer economically but also through a double standard imposed by an unjust society. We are determined to stop the atrocious killings of journalists and political advocates. We condemn any and all violations in the harshest possible way. There is no room for vigilantes undermining the rule of law.

We are very aware of the concerns these killings have caused both at home and abroad. To that end, we have personally invited members of the European Union to monitor and visit our activities — Finland and Spain have accepted. And I believe, I'm the first head of state ever to meet Amnesty International in London. I did so because we are deeply concerned about this issue. Finally, we launched an independent commission to get to the bottom of these killings once and for all.

I understand that a few days ago, the commission met with the Norwegian ambassador. And although the commission is independent, I have suggested that since the left do not want to cooperate with the commission, I've suggested that the commission turn their attention to interviewing the families of victims who are members of the press and mass media.

I wish we could wave a wand and end all the killings now and forever. We're doing everything in our power to stop them. I hope that everyone remembers though that we do have a number of violent groups that operate in the Philippines — communists and religious radicals — and they are also responsible for a lot of violence.

We're not excusing any killings, and certainly not if they are done by rogue police or military, some of whom are now in jail. We do want to make clear that things get pretty murky with all of these violent groups playing for keeps.

Having said that, let me say that I am happy that the Catholic Church provides for this mass media awards. Because in our government, in our administration, we not only seek to fight poverty, we seek to fight poverty in ways that are in accordance with the teachings of the church. That is why we do not have the death penalty. That is why we promote natural family planning.

And let me make one final note about the Philippines we want to create. Perhaps, more than anything, we want to create enough economic opportunity here at home, including a high quality of life so that Filipinos will want to stay and live in their own country. Millions of hardworking Filipinos live abroad and do our country proud. But we want to make sure that the next generation has a choice to stay at home and live and prosper, or to live abroad and do the same. In other words, a job abroad should be a career choice and not a necessity for a hardworking Filipino.

So much is going well in the Philippines, if you can cut through the headlines and the clutter, and mass media has so much to do with that. Much remains to be done. I hope to leave office in 2010 with a nation well on its way to first world status. And I hope that mass media will do its part, being free but equally responsible. Equally important being responsible.

To all of you once again, congratulations!

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 28th Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMTA) Ceremonies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203513/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3038&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 70th anniversary celebration of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 70th anniversary celebration of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, November 11, 2006]

Thank you very much, Commissioner Palabrica.

Chairperson Barin and all the commissioners and all the very valuable staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Happy 70th Anniversary!

When Chairman Barin asked me if you could pay a courtesy... She said could officers of the SEC pay a courtesy call for me on the occasion of your 70th anniversary, I gladly agreed. And then when I was reviewing my schedule and I saw again the request to pay a courtesy call, I said why courtesy call, it's a great year, 70th year, let's have a very nice lunch celebration. So here we are today.

It's my way of saying congratulations! To Chair Fe and to the whole team at the SEC. You are celebrating your 70th anniversary just when our stock market is experiencing an extended bull run, hitting a 9-year high and piercing the psychological barrier of 2800. Congratulations! To you for that.

A great way to celebrate your 70th anniversary because you have contributed to that bull run as part of the economic team that has brought renewed confidence in our markets and fresh optimism in Philippine business.

On the front line of government agencies, you are among those privileged to have been rated "very good" by the Civil Service Commission. Congratulations! Your efforts to reduce the incidence of graft and corruption, both within the organization as mentioned by Chair Barin's reforms and also in corporate governance, are commendable.

You are also contributing significantly to the public coffers. Thank you for the 645 million pesos remitted to the Bureau of Treasury last October 30th. That was a great 70th anniversary present you gave the Philippine government. It's a 139 million over the amount we had targeted for you to raise for the whole year. So, congratulations! Okay.

Just as you have worked hard to surpass your goals, your partners in our economic team have left no stone unturned to bring the economy back on track and keep it humming. The results of that synergy are now out there for all Filipinos to appreciate and enjoy: our exports have been increasing by over 15 percent this year; international investors and rating houses are giving us the thumbs up; the VAT has yielded 54 billion pesos in nine months, exceeding the target by 1.4 billion pesos.

We commend our revenue agencies for a job well done, but most of all we extol the Filipino taxpayer who continues to exercise the patriotic duty of paying the right taxes. We will continue to increase our tax collection efficiency, seal revenue leakages and maintain disciplined spending as we clear more hurdles along the road and open broader opportunities for enterprises and jobs.

We're determined to raise the rankings of the Philippines in the U.N. Human Development Index on the back of our steady gains in the economy. We shall wield new revenues to accord every Filipino a life of dignity, productivity and human security against the backdrop of larger reforms in governance. As we translate our economic gains into broader social justice, we also extol the sense of productivity of every Filipino that is keeping our strong niche in world competition. Economic growth, competitiveness and social justice are key thrusts to a better future.

Twenty two billion pesos has been shaved off next year's interest payments for our foreign debts.

Our people have led the march back to our fiscal health. They will enjoy our first gains. We have ordered the allocation of P16 billion of the P22 billion savings to additional funds for education; P5 billion to additional funds for health services; P1 billion to additional funds for social welfare. That way the savings in interests go directly to increase social services.

We aim to be part of the first world in twenty years by loosening the grip of poverty at the grassroots. Our immediate objective is to give the poorest of our people the basic amenities of food, water, electricity, health services, education and decent jobs with which they will improve the quality of their lives.

We are starting our strengthened poverty reduction campaign through a comprehensive anti-hunger program to bring affordable food to the ten poorest provinces of our country. While working on our pro-poor programs, we are giving equal attention to the policy, systems and physical reforms that create the environment for sustainable economic growth. And that's where you come in.

All these measures are bringing in positive results. End-august foreign direct investments rose 21 percent, amounting to 1.3 billion dollars. The combined BOI-PEZA record of investments for ten months of this year reflect 220 billion pesos, and may hit 240 billion pesos or more by the end of the year. And of course, I should not be the one to tell you what the SEC statistics are. You know that better than me.

This new growth is not a fluke. It is not a one-time upsurge. Indicators show that it is sustainable.

As the vanguard of the country's corporate governance, you in the SEC set the tone of business practices. You in the SEC ensure that the field will always be level for business. You in the SEC therefore have a direct hand in making our country attractive to investors.

This steady economic growth means you will have your hands full in the coming years with the number of new and expanded businesses to register, monitor and regulate. And I support the reforms that you have put out in your blueprint for the next five years. You in SEC have shown your sterling competence in these areas of promotion and regulation. We know you are committed to work even harder to make a bigger contribution to the fight against poverty and the march towards becoming a first world nation by the year 2020. And so, we support your reforms because we want to have a first world Securities and Exchange Commission for a first world country.

Congratulations on your next 70th year!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203506/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3037&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the 32nd Top Level Management Conference (TLMC) of KBP member stations Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the 32nd Top Level Management Conference (TLMC) of KBP member stations**

[Delivered at the Sampaguita Ballroom, Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, Cavite, November 16, 2006]

Daghan salamat Cerge, not only the longest serving chairman of KBP but also my new Director General of the Presidential Management Staff. Congratulations!

Congressman Remulla; Mayor Tolentino; Chairman Nicdao, thank you for the beautiful things that you said. And thank you also for the cooperation of KBP to balance press freedom and national security; Butch Canoy, thank you very much for your leadership in the KBP; and to all of you, magandang umaga na naman sa inyong lahat.

Magkasama na naman tayo. Taun-taon senador pa ako magkasama tayo, di ba kayo nagsasawa? Ako hindi. Hindi ako nagsasawa dahil binibigyan natin ng halaga ang inyong suporta at serbisyo sa taong-bayang Pilipino.

Madalas nating sinasabi at sasabihin muli: naninindigan tayo para sa kalayaan ng media bilang baluarte ng demokrasyang Pilipino. Yinayakap natin ang sentral na papel ng responsableng media. Responsableng media, yon ang paninindigan ng KBP. Ang panindigan ng KBP ay panindigan din natin. Ang sentral na papel ng responsableng media sa pag-angat ng ating pulitika, ekonomiya at lipunan.

Malakas kayong kabalikat ng panguluhan sa pagsagot sa mga hamong himaharap ng ating taong-bayan. Una sa lahat, sabihin ko, na importante talaga ang ating pagkakabalikat gaya nang binanggit ni Chairman Nicdao. Sabi nga niya na merong plot noong Pebrero. Merong plot kontra sa gobyerno, meron ring plot ang responsableng media na manatiling responsable. Dahil yung pananatiling responsable yon din ang pananatiling magiging libre ang media.

And now, some of the events that led from that event — that attempted coup in February — are finally coming to a closure, I hope.

I personally commend the operatives who worked on the Honasan case. I hope there will be no more destabilizing in our democracy and our economy.

The people are tired of adventurism. They seek opportunities to move up and forward in an atmosphere of political stability. The confidence of the world in the Philippines grows firmer everyday. We must put coup threats in the dustbin of history. And we must put coup plotters in jail as we traverse the long journey to the first world in the next two decades.

It is time for solidarity and hard work, not messing up the lives of our people.

Naaresto na rin ang sampung nagpatay sa mga taga media. Nalulungkot ako na naabala hindi lang ang mga taga rito kundi na rin ang buong mundo ng mga masamang balita gaya nang pagpatay ng mga taga media. Di katanggap-tanggap at baligtad sa ating demokrasya ang antas ng karahasan sa pulitika.

Lininaw na natin, ayaw na ayaw natin ang nangyayari. Ginagawa natin ang ilang mga matatag na hakbang upang ma-kontrol natin ito. May mga tagumpay gaya nang sinabi ko, sampu sa nagpatay ng media ang nahuli na at nasa preso na. Sana naman kapag sila ay nahuhuli at naprepreso, pareho ang headline gaya ng kung nung nagpatay sila ng taga media.

Napakamalas na pinagsasamantala ang sitwasyon ng maraming mga grupong radikal na kontra sa gobyerno. Pinu-purge ang kanilang mga ranggo, nagpapatay ng mga inosenteng mamamayan, tapos noon binibintangan ang gobyerno. Ganunpaman, hindi natin hahayaan ang extremism.

Isang henerasyon nang sakit ng Pilipinas itong mga extra-judicial killings. Yon ang dahilan kung bakit binuo natin ang Melo Commission. Yon ang dahilan kung bakit nakipagkita tayo sa mga pangmundong grupo ng karapatang pantao. Yon ang dahilan kung bakit napakabuong loob tayong solusyunan ang problema.

Di natin hinihiling sa medya na ibalita lamang ang magaganda, but deliver the facts straight and accurate. Palagay ko yon ang talagang diwa ng code ng KBP. At maraming magagandang pangyayaring hindi kasing lawak ang balita sa media haming sa kailangang malaman ng taumbayan. Pinakamagandang pagkakataon ngayon dalhin ang magandang balita sa taumbayan upang maani natin ang kanilang kompiyansa kasama ng mundo. Di ko na kailangan ilista lahat ng magagandang balita. Binanggit na ni Chairman Nicdao yung napakaraming magagandang balita na halos nakikita lamang natin sa business page at hindi sa front page.

And we have so many people and entities that we must thank because of the good news. We extol our overseas Filipino workers who continue to be a strong driving force of our economy. Napansin ba ninyong ang dami na sa kanila ang bumibili ng mga bahay at condo dito? Kaya tuloy umaangat ang ating housing at construction industry. Dahil nagiging upbeat na ang mood ng ating taumbayan lumalakas ang inspirasyon nating itulak at ipasulong ang ating road map for global competitiveness. Kayo KBP hinahanap rin ninyo ang competitiveness ng inyong industriya dahil sa pag-angat ng teknolohiya sa mundo ganun din ang buong bansa.

We must be able to sustain the confidence reaped by Filipinos the world over and at home by our unswerving attention to economic take off, social justice, the rule of law and effective democracy.

The face of national unity and consolidation is coming into sharp focus through the responsible exercise of media freedom. At yung responsible exercise ng media freedom iba yon sa exercise ng license, ng media license. What we're after is freedom but responsible media. Through the exercise of responsible media freedom, help me make our people understand the reforms we must pursue to move forward. Gaya nang sabi natin, move forward faster by staying in tune with our vision.

You have a vision of excellence and triumph for the broadcast industry. We have a vision of excellence and triumph of our whole country.

So together, let us work stronger, faster. Let us impart to our people our agenda of excellence and triumph. Congratulations!

Maraming salamat. Hope to see you next year.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the 32nd Top Level Management Conference (TLMC) of KBP member stations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203437/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3035&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community in Vietnam

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a meeting with the Filipino community in Vietnam

[Delivered at Tao Li Room, Hotel Nikko Hanoi, Vietnam, November 17, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Bert Romulo, ang ating Secretary of Foreign Affairs na nung huling narito ako noong 2003, siya ang ating Executive Secretary noon. Noon pag-nagbabiyaha ako parati naiwan siya. So sabi niya siya ay domestic helper noon. Pero nung naging Secretary of Foreign Affairs siya pagkatapos ng 2004 elections parati nang kasama ko sa mga biyahe kaya siya raw ay OFW na rin.

Gusto ko rin batiin si Ambassador Berenguel na ilang beses ko nang nakita sa iba't-ibang assignment. At salamat at bagamat maliit ang Philippine community dito gaya nang sabi niya, ito ay mas malaki keysa yung dating assignment niya doon sa Eastern Europe. At papakilala ko yung mga kasapi ng aking congressional delegation. Nakita n'yo kami ay all-women group. Kasi pagkatapos ng APEC, ang susunod na international summit doon naman sa Cebu, sa Mandaue City, yung East Asian Summit. At ang host congresswoman ng East Asian Summit sa Mandaue City ay si Congresswoman Neri Soon-Ruiz. Mabuti kasama siya para makita niya kung ano pa ang mga nagagawa ng Hanoi na pwede pang magawa ng Mandaue City.

Tapos katabi niya dito sa dulo, ang congresswoman ng Bulacan. Alam n'yo doon sa Bulacan nung last term, may dalawang congressman ang pangalan Willy, kaya tawag nila ka-Willy-Willy. Tapos noon pagsabi naman nila kay Lorna Silverio, kanais-nais daw. si Congresswoman Lorna Silverio.

Galing naman sa Mindoro Occidental, si Congresswoman Girlie Villarosa. At yung aking Cabalen, congresswoman from Pampanga, si Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc-Sagun. All-women kami na mga politicians pero yung ating mga Cabinet member naman ay lalaki: si Secretary Bert Romulo; ang ating Trade Secretary, si Peter Favila; at saka ang ating Press Secretary, si Toting Bunye.

Kasama na rin natin dahil siya ang namumuno ng APEC Anti-Terrorism Task Force kaya hindi ba n'yo nahahalata walang terrorism attack sa Pacific ream itong mga nakaraang taon? Meron tayong bragging rights dahil sa magandang trabaho ni General Benjie Defensor.

Sa inyong mga kababayan dito, salamat at naghintay kayo, nahuli yung aking eroplano. Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat at narito na naman tayo kasi tayo ang magkasama nung 2003 merong kulang sa inyo. Kasi noong araw bahagi ng Philippine community dito yung Spanish Ambassador to Vietnam, kasi Filipino yung asawa niya, nandito siya noon. Pagkatapos ng ilang buwan naging ambassador siya to the Philippines, si Ambassador Sagaz. Kumusta raw sa inyong lahat.

At sabi nga ni Ambassador Berenguel, alam naman n'yo lahat kung bakit tayo nandito ngayon, yung summit ng APEC na gaganapin bukas hanggang Linggo. At 21 countries... Ah, 21 economies, economies hindi necessarily countries kasi meron diyang Hong Kong kasama doon, kasama doon yung Taipei. So economies ang tawag doon. Napakalaking grupo ito, binubuo ng mga ekonomiyang pumapalibot sa Pacific ocean, yung tinatawag na Pacific ream. So nariyan ang ating mga kapit-bansa sa Timog Silangang Asya: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, at siyempre malakas ang ating relasyon dito sa loob ng ASEAN. Nariyan din yung ating mga economic partners sa Hilagang Asya: China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea. Doon din sa Oceania: Australia, New Zealand. Ganun din sa Europa na bahaging Asya rin yung Russia. Karamihan sa kanila ay mga dialogue partners ng ASEAN o di kaya naman ay kasama natin sa East Asia Summit. Sila-sila rin yung pupunta, magbibisita kay Neri Soon-Ruiz sa isang... Mga two weeks, three weeks from now. Sa Western Pacific naman nariyan ang Papua New Guinea, isang kapwa nating archipelago.

Sa kabilang panig namn ng Pacific, nariyan ang Hilagang Amerika, binubuo ng Estados Unidos at Canada, two of our strongest trade and development partners. Kasama rin natin sa APEC ang tatlong ekonomiya sa gitna at Timog Amerika: ang Mexico, Chile at Peru, with whom we share a lot historically and culturally because we were all former colonies of Spain. Kaya napakahalaga para sa Pilipinas ang maging bahagi ng APEC.

Sana nga ay nai-schedule itong pagkikita natin pagkatapos ng summit para maikuwento ko sa inyo kung anu-anong mga napag-usapan. Kanya lamang ito ang pinaka-convenient mutually sa ating dalawa — kayo at ako — ganunpaman, mahalaga na nagkakaroon tayo ng pagkakataong magkita-kita muli at makipagbalitaan.

Gaya nga nang sabi ni Ambassador at nung nalaman ko nga nung huling nagkita tayo, maliit lamang ang Filipino community dito sa Vietnam, lalo na kung ikumpara natin sa ibang mga lugar tulad ng Singapore na bibisitahin ko pagkatapos nito, o tulad nung Hong Kong, yung assignment ni Ambassador bago siya pumunta sa Eastern Europe. But I saw that the last time, I see it again now, your influence and impact on your host country far outweighs your number. Kaya congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Ilan kayo rito? Humigit-kumulang isang libo dito sa Vietnam. But most of you, as Ambassador said, and as I saw the last time, are professionals or skilled workers, including accountants, engineers, teachers, managers. Napakaganda ng kalagayan ninyo dito at napakataas ang tingin sa inyo ng mga Vietnamese. In other words, hindi lang national ang inyong contribution, kundi regional and even global.

Salamat sa tulong ninyo sa Pilipinas. Hindi lamang yung mga pinapadala n'yong remmitances kundi na rin meron sa inyong tumulong sa ating mga kababayang nasalanta ng landslide sa Leyte noong Marso. At salamat din sa dollars na ibinigay nina Mr. Galang at Mr. Danganan kanina na pakikinabangan ng ating mga mag-aaral na Pilipino sa pamamagitan ng mga silid-aralan na maipapatayo natin gamit itong perang ito. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Ibinigay ko na kay Secretary Romulo yung 5,500 dollars in cash, kasi makapal eh. Sabi ko Bert kung pwede ibigay mo na kay Secretary Jesli Lapus para maitayo niya yung mga paaralan.

Salamat naman na nanonood pala kayo, napapanood pala ninyo yung NBN-4. So hindi na kayo masyadong homesick. At gusto kong idagdag na balita, noon talagang nahihirapan tayo dahil kulang ang silid-aralan. Pero ngayon dahil malakas ang ating piso at dahil sa ating economic reform bumaba ang interest na binabayad natin sa ibang bansa, naka-save tayo ng 22 billion pesos next year in interest payment. At doon sa savings doon, 16 billion pesos ay ilalagay natin sa pandagdag budget sa ating mga silid-aralan.

Twenty two yon eh. Sixteen ang ilalagay sa pandagdag para sa edukasyon, dadagdagan rin natin yung health ng five billion, at dadagdagan natin ang social welfare ng one billion kaya doon pupunta yung ating 22 billion pesos in interest savings.

Dapat naman hindi kasi tayo maiwan ng ibang mga karatig-bansa. Ang ating growth rate, I'm very proud to say in our administration, average growth rate in the six years... No, five years of my administration is the highest average growth rate of any administration since my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. At ang ating per capita income ngayon ay 1,400 dollars, kaya middle-income economy na tayo.

Kahit... Ganunpaman, kahit na mas mataas ang ating per capita income keysa sa Vietnam — nandito kayo, testigo kayo — ang Vietnam mabilis ang pag-angat. Mahigit tatlong dekada pa lang ang nakaraan mula nang matapos ang Vietnam war na tumagal halos tatlong dekada rin. But in such a short time, they managed to rebuild their country.

At ano ang dahilan? Maraming mga analysts ang nagsasabi, patunay ito sa disiplina ng mga Vietnamese. Sila nga ang sinasabing the next China. Ano ang sikreto ng China? Yon din, yung kanilang disiplina. Marahil, sa pagkakataong ito, subukan naman nating mga Pilipino na matuto mula sa halimbawa ng mga Vietnamese at Chinese sa kanilang disiplina para makamit ang pag-unlad ng ating bansa.

Sa mabilis na pag-unlad ng Vietnam marami rin tayong makikitang pagkakataon para lalo ring mapabilis ang pag-unlad sa Pilipinas patungo sa inaasam nating matatag or malakas na republika. Maraming malalaking oportunidad ang mabilis na paglago ng ekonomiya ng Vietnam para sa Pilipinas, and you know this. I'm sure as Filipinos, you are proud to find such familiar names as San Miguel, Jollibee, Robina and Oishi here in Vietnam. At talagang nakikita natin lumiliit ng lumiliit ang mundo.

Narito tayo sa Hanoi dala-dala ang watawat ng kagalingan ng Pilipinas at lumalaking prestihiyo natin sa mundo. Ngayon itong taon, ang Pilipinas ang namumuno or chairman ng ASEAN, kaya gaganapin yung summit sa ASEAN. At dahil tayo ang chairman ng ASEAN, masigasig nating tinutulak ang higit na malapit na kooperasyon sa ekonomiya at seguridad na higit na malaking rehiyon ng Asya Pacific. Ito ay mas malaking rehiyon keysa ASEAN, itong APEC. Pito sa ASEAN countries ay bahagi ng APEC at saka may mga malalaking bansa gaya ng America, yung South America, Central America, na hindi bahagi ng ASEAN pero bahagi ng APEC. Yung East Asia Summit naman yung India kasama pero wala sa APEC, at meron tayong tatlong ASEAN countries na, as I said, hindi kasama ng APEC. Pero malaki ang overlap ng dalawang grupo. At dahil sa overlap ng dalawang grupo, talagang madalas nagkikita-kita ang mga lider nitong mga ekonomiya.

Bukas mangingibabaw sa ating pag-uusap kay Pangulong Bush ang pangmatagalang pagkabalikat ng Pilipinas at Amerika upang labanan ang terorismo at ang kahirapan na kalinya ng higit na malaking agenda ng APEC na seguridad ng tao or human security at kooperasyon sa ekonomiya. At gaya nang sabi ko Pilipinas ang Chairman or Head ng Anti-Terrorism Task Force ng APEC.

Layunin natin maging masusing kasapi ng lumilitaw na pangrehiyong synergy sa ekonomiya at seguridad dahil sa ating mga stratehiyang lokasyon sa Pacific at presensiya ng milyung-milyong Pilipino sa ibayong-dagat, kasama na kayo, na ang inyong presensiya ay nararamdaman sa pagtayo at pagtulay ng mga bansa sa Pacific. Humuhubog ng malakas na hangin ang lumalaking katatagan sa pulitika at ekonomiya upang tulakin ang Pilipinas na pasulong sa mundo.

Last November, Secretary Romulo was here in Vietnam for a meeting of our joint commission for bilateral cooperation, kung papano ba magiging mas malapit ang ating dalawang bansa. It's only a sea that separates us, the South China Sea.

One of the landmarks agreement in that meeting was that we would strive to raise our total two-way trade to two billion dollars by 2007 from a little more than one billion dollars by 2005. Well, tayo meron na tayong binibili sa kanila, yung bigas. Malaki ang pag-angat natin ng bigas mula sa Vietnam. Ngayon, ano naman ang ibebenta natin sa kanila? Sana makatulong kayo, ating mga overseas Filipinos, na makabenta naman ng mga produkto natin dito. Kasi marami sa inyo businessmen, managers, accountants. Pwede kayong magdagdag ng inyong trabaho, maging traders din kayo, magdala ng produkto ng Pilipinas dito sa Vietnam. After all, trade between Vietnam and the Philippines is nothing new .

Even three or four centuries ago, Philippine merchant ships docked in the old port town of Hoi An, to bring home high-grade silk, porcelain, mother-of-pearl and other precious cargo, some of which were then brought to the new world through the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade. So nung panahong yon, yung mga gamit ng Vietnam patungo doon sa Amerika ay dumadaan sa Pilipinas. Tayo ang hub, hanggang ngayon gusto pa rin nating maging hub sa trade between the American continent and the Asian mainland continent.

Isa pang haligi ng relasyon natin sa Vietnam ang mga usaping pandagat. Isang magandang halimbawa ng pagtutulungan natin sa larangan na ito'y yung tinatawag na Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking kung saan kasama rin ang Tsina. Eto nung araw, noong 2003 nung nagpunta ako dito, kagagawa lang ng Oilipinas at Tsina itong agreement. What is this agreement? At first, it was an agreement between the Philippine National Oil Company and the China National Offshore Oil Company. At later on, the PetroVietnam joined to cooperate on data gathering and analysis in the South China Sea to assess the potential for petroleum development in the South China Sea.

Noon, China at Pilipinas pa lang. At nung... Naalala n'yo nagpunta ako, nag-state visit ako dito sa Vietnam. Nung nagpunta ako dito sa Vietnam, nag-o-object ang Vietnam kung bakit raw nagkasunduan ang China at Pilipinas na

mag-explore sa South China Sea eh meron din silang claim. So yung predecessor ni Ambassador Berenguel, naalala ninyo si Ambassador Vic Lecaros, ang inatas natin sa kanya, kumbinsihin mo ang Vietnam na sumama rin dito sa agreement na ito. Kaya tatlong bansa ang gumawa ng agreement, sabay-sabay tayong nagre-research sa South China Sea. Ngayon, natapos na yung research na yon. Ina-analyze na sa mga laboratoryo or sa kanilang mga computer. At sabi ni Secretary Romulo, ngayon at natapos na yung research mismo at ginagawa na yung desk work, dapat pumunta na tayo sa susunod na hakbang ng ating kooperasyon. At yon ang... Biro n'yo kung makahanap tayo ng langis. Actually, meron na tayong nahanap na langis off Palawan, doon sa Malampaya. Yung Malampaya Company, hindi Malampaya, Palawan. Ang pangalan ng project ay Malampaya. Meron na tayong oil na nahanap doon pero mas maraming oil ang mahahanap natin, mas aangang ang ating ekonomiya. And I hope, I really long for that day.

I long for the day when going abroad for a job like what you do is an option and not the only choice for a hardworking Filipino worker. And our economic plans are designed to allow the Philippines to break out of the cycle of having our Filipinos go abroad because they have to, because there are not enough jobs in the Philippines. That's why we remain so stubbornly focused on the economy, and why we want our super regions to work.

Ngayon, ano ba itong mga super region na ito? Well, we need to spread the wealth in the Philippines and keep the people working at home. So we're creating appealing employment opportunities by focusing on the development of priority sectors such as agri-business in North Luzon. So that's one super- region made up of Regions I, II, CAR and part of Region III. And then industry services and logistics in the urban beltway from Clark-Subic in the north through Metro Manila to Batangas port. So that's another super region made up of parts of Region III, parts of Region IV... No, Region IV, part of Region IV-A including the province of Congresswoman Villarosa and Metro Manila. And then tourism in Central Philippines, because more than half of the foreign tourists go to Central Philippines, made up of the Visayas, Palawan, Bicol and some islands of Region IV-B. So that's one super region as well. And then agri-business in Mindanao. And in another... In telecommunications technology and education for business process outsourcing in the cyber corridor which cuts along the length of the other super regions from Baguio through Metro Manila, to Cebu and to Davao.

So, eto ang ginagawa natin para hindi nalulustay ang ating mga infrastructure investments. At bilang bunga nitong ginagawa natin pati na rin yung reporma sa buwis sana nababalitaan ninyo, maging sa media o sa inyong mga pamilya at kamag-anak sa Pilipinas na... Ukol sa paglago ng ating ekonomiya, ang pagtaas ng piso. About a year ago, our peso was 55 to 1. Now it is 50 to 1. Gayundin ang ating credit outlook, nung isang taon, negative. Ngayon, stable. Yung pagbaba ng ating budget deficit, about two years ago, it was 200 billion pesos. This year, it's 100 billion pesos. I was aiming to have a balance budget by 2010. But the way we're going, our economic managers, Peter Favila, are insisting na it will be 2008.

At siyempre bunga lahat nito, or bunga ba or dahilan basta nag-i-interact lahat yung mga factors na yan, ang paglaki ng ating foreign currency reserves. At siyempre saan nanggagaling ang ating foreign currency reserves? Sure, may exports. Sure, may investments. Pero meron isang sikreto ng Pilipinas na hindi naman sikreto dahil alam ng buong mundo — ang ating mga overseas Filipinos.

Kaya ang laki, ang laki ng inyong kontribusyon sa ating bansa. Nagko-contribute kayo dito sa paglago ng Vietnam pero nagko-contribute din kayo sa paglago ng Pilipinas. At sana nga tuluy-tuloy ang inyong suporta sa ating minamahal na bansa para sa ganun, gaya nang sabi ko, it will just be a choice and not a necessity to work in another country like Vietnam.

Sa inyong lahat, I'm so happy to see all of you. Hope to see you again soon whether here or in the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Vietnam. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203429/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3034&Itemid=38

Victory Message of President Arroyo for Manny Pacquiao following his third round knock-out victory over Mexican Erik Morales

**Victory Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
For Manny Pacquiao following his third round knock-out victory over Mexican Erik Morales in their third
face-off in the ring in Las Vegas, Nevada**

[Delivered on board PAL flight bound for Singapore, November 19, 2006]

Narito kami ngayon sa eroplano mula Hanoi patungong Singapore. Kanina pagkatapos ng meeting, yung huling leaders' retreat, ay dumating yung balita sa akin nanalo si Manny.

Well, my heart beats with joy for another victory for the Philippines. It was a battle well fought and we congratulate both sides for their courage and grit.

Kanina dahil Linggo nagsimba yung Philippine Delegation doon sa International Community Parish Church at ipinagdasal si Manny Pacquiao. Talaga naman deep in our hearts, Manny will always be a hero. The bearer of the Filipino dream of winning the good fight in all fields of human endeavor. He will always be the people's champion for toughness, discipline, hardwork and the ability to beat the odds.

Congratulations, Manny!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Victory Message for Manny Pacquiao (Following his third round knock out victory over Mexican Erik Morales in their third face-off in the ring in Las Vegas, Nevada). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203415/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3032&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing program of the National Forum on Internal Security and Counter-Terrorism

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the closing program of the National Forum on Internal Security and Counter-Terrorism**

[Delivered at Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn Resort Hotel, Mimosa Leisure Estate, Clark Special Economic Zone, Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga, November 23, 2006]

Thank you so much Ronnie for your introduction. Thank you for your summary and thank you for hosting this strategic forum.

Governor Lapid, thank you for hosting the different governors, city mayors and the uniformed officers who are so important to the subject of this forum. Our champion for the urban beltway super region, Ed Pamintuan. Thank you, because... I don't know if you got my text. I said, you know, there are a lot of things we have to work on as far as political... You know, as far as the internal security is concerned. And I sent you a text message saying that that's part of your job as champion of the urban beltway super region here in this region.

And Oca Calderon, who is in the lead of the work of the police in our internal security, good luck! On your work. All the local government officials who are here — governors and city mayors — all the police officers, thank you all for being here and thank you for your resolve. Thank you to the local governments because as Ronnie Puno said, you're willing to spend, you're willing to put your money where your mouth is. And so if we work together and pool our resources together, certainly, we can achieve our strategic victory by 2010.

Ronnie talked about macro-economic performance. Indeed, our macro' legacies are beginning to emerge:

One, fiscal turnaround. We've all seen that. And our deficit has gone down so much, we may even have a balanced budget by 2010.

Second legacy, Charter change. Tuloy pa rin ang laban mga local government.

The third is the super regions. So that we can develop the natural advantages of your different regions. And here in the urban beltway, as I said, made up of the part of Central Luzon starting from Clark-Subic to Metro Manila through Calabarzon to Batangas port. That's the one that is overseen now by Ed Pamintuan.

And fourth macro legacy is the strategic defeat of the left. Thank you for nodding when Ronnie Puno said the year 2010.

Operationally, how do we do the strategic defeat of the left. You have had a lot of your action plans there, but really if I may mention one important indicator, revolutionary taxation must stop. Not only because it's illegal but because it is a bane to jobs and livelihood.

And then there is the Mindanao peace process. That must be factored heavily in our blueprint for internal security. We must make a distinction between the Mindanao peace process and the players, and the Abu Sayyaf and the cohorts, on the other hand.

As far as the Abu Sayyaf and its cohorts are concerned, they are already on the run and it's only a matter of time before we finally rout them. And I congratulate the police, the local governments who have been helping us fight them.

Sustained confidence is built on the twin pillars of political stability and economic growth. And I'm glad that Ronnie talked about being part of our campaign to win the hearts and minds of the people who are the target market for the insurgency and the terrorists. We need to give them the news about the economy and what it has been doing for them. After all, poverty and the sense of powerlessness that it brings provide fertile ground where terrorism can easily spread its evil ideology. And sometimes unless you point it out very clearly, the benefits to the poor of development are not very clear.

Yesterday, I was on T.V. with two ordinary citizens. One is my neighbor in Barangay San Miguel near Malacañang. I told her how has life improved over the last five years of our administration. She said, because you expanded the MRT and now because — her work is... She is a masahista — now I can go... I can spend less to go to my clients. I require less time to go to my clients, and then I can cross the underpass in Quiapo to Barangay San Miguel because it is very clear and bright and safe. So she's earning more income because of mega projects like MRT and so on.

There was another one who was there, he was a fisherman from Guimaras. And I asked him. 'how has life been changed for you since I became president? He said, 'because you have fought illegal fishing in the seas of Guimaras, now our catch is bigger, and I am earning more income.

It's so difficult for everybody to see the macro benefits, but there are more... The micro benefits of macro measures, but there are so many stories like this that I'm sure you in the LGUs can pick up more quickly than I can and spread the word around.

Meanwhile, we continue to focus on improving the economic indicators under the administration's watch. The economic and social clusters in the cabinet are getting together. I asked Ric Saludo, a Cabinet secretary, to have a joint Cabinet meeting on Tuesday of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the National Economic and Development Authority because the economic and social clusters of the Cabinet should get together to ensure the benefits in store for the Filipinos in the short and long-term.

And here, as Ronnie has mentioned, I hope indeed that this meeting has been an opportunity for Ronnie to explain to you the solid achievements that this administration has achieved working together with you. And to talk about how we can together explain this further to the people in the countryside and even in the inner jungles of the urban areas.

Our thrust for social payback is founded on several concrete measures we are now pursuing: one is the increased compensation of state workers; the other is the expanded microfinance program, and your social workers in your municipalities are going to be important here because we have empowered the DSWD, which is devolved, to be a conduit for microfinance where the NGOs do not operate; massive infrastructure, and our champions have been going around to explain what that massive infrastructure is; pump priming through the super regions strategy to provide jobs; anti-poverty mitigating measures, most of which belong to agencies that are already devolved to the local governments; health cards for the indigents; agricultural extension for the marginalized farmers.

Just today, I talked to Arty Yap, our balikbayan Secretary of Agriculture. I told him, 'Arty, yung extension kailangan tulungan naman natin yung mga marginalized farmers.' Sabi niya, 'pero devolved na yon eh.' Extension is devolved to the local governments. Ang sabi ko, 'ano'ng ginagawa ng agricultural training institute?' 'gumagawa ng policy study'. 'ay Arty, sabi ko, we're very, very long on policy. Let's have more on implementation.' Let's have the agricultural training institute work more closely with the local governments for local projects for extension to the marginalized farmers.

Another means, another concrete project to bring development direct to the ordinary people is financial assistance and scholarships for students through CHED and the state universities and colleges, and so on.

Well, I have been calling the concerned officials because they should ensure forward momentum. Aside from these projects, there are many important things especially related to internal security and the security of our economy that the officials have to push forward faster:

One, the cases of Atong Ang, Honasan, Estrada and the mutineers must move faster.

Second, the peace process in Mindanao. And I have asked President Bush, the American government to have a deeper and broader involvement in the peace process in Mindanao, and he has said yes' and they have identified a senior person from the U.S. embassy here in Manila to be able to work with our peace process panel.

And then third, Oca, the war on street crimes, illegal drugs and illegal gambling.

And then fourth, moving on corrupt officials, tax cheats and smugglers. Kanina tinanong ko kay Boy Morales, 'ano ba itong sinasabi nilang lumusot na containers?' 'Ma'am, pumunta ako doon sa port, nilitratuhan ko yung containers, those 11 containers are still there bakit nila sinasabing lumusot?' 'Eh, siyempre ang daming hindi na makalusot.' That's why the customs collections are very high. So we really would expect that there will be a demolition job on those who are doing and meeting their targets.

Then, another important measure that was moved forward. Checking non-performing nursing schools.

Also, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction of disaster hit areas. Rosette, I'm happy to hear that the houses in Guinsaugon are already ready for turnover, congratulations! The Duke of Gloucester, the cousin of Queen Elizabeth, is coming to the Philippines in February, and he specifically asked to see those houses in Guinsaugon. Of course, when an economic superpower wants to see a specific project, we know what that means. So congratulations, Rosette!

In general, disaster management. For instance, this barge, this barge that sunk off Occidental... Misamis Occidental — is Leo Ocampo here? — well, I have instructed that there be an investigation on why that happened, because what happened... What, they caught a local storm? But are these... Aren't this boat supposed to weather local storms? They're supposed to be double hulled, double bottomed, etcetera, etcetera. So we have to have more efficient disaster management as far as things like that are concerned.

And then, of course, our subject matter today, the war on terror and insurgency. We cannot take lightly the fact that activities being perpetrated by local terrorists enjoy the support and funding of foreign terrorist organizations. And that is the reason why we must have a concerted effort against this threat.

And I am very happy that in this forum, we can see that indeed there is implementation of E.O. 546 that gives the PNP a new role directing it to lend active support to the AFP in internal security operations. Because the DILG is in charged of supervising the PNP and overseeing — not supervising but overseeing — the local governments. So it's a perfect relationship that we can have between the PNP and the local governments.

And the solid working relationship that we can see here in this forum between the PNP and the LGUs is the key to our success.

So I thank you all, I thank the governors and city mayors for such a strong participation, fifty of you are here, I understand. I thank you for coming all the way here, I see people from very, very far away. Thank you for your interest in fighting insurgency. Thank you for interest in working with the PNP. And once again, thank you once again because this is only one of the many ways in which you have supported the national government.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Closing Program of the National Forum on Internal Security and Counter-Terrorism. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203031/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3029&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo on the emergent of macro-legacies in the horizon

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the emergent of macro-legacies in the horizon**

[Delivered at the Holiday Inn Resort Hotel, Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga, November 23, 2006]

**EMERGENT MACRO-LEGACIES
IN THE HORIZON**

Ronnie talked about macro-economic performance. Indeed, our macro' legacies are beginning to emerge:

One, fiscal turnaround. We've all seen that. And our deficit has gone down so much, we may even have a balanced budget by 2010.

Second legacy, Charter change. *Tuloy pa rin ang laban mga* local governments.

The third is the super regions. So that we can develop the natural advantages of your different regions. And here in the urban beltway, as I said, made up of the part of Central Luzon starting from Clark-Subic to Metro Manila through Calabarzon to Batangas Port. That's the one that is overseen now by Ed Pamintuan.

And fourth macro legacy is the strategic defeat of the left. Thank you for nodding when Ronnie Puno said the year 2010.

Operationally, how do we do the strategic defeat of the Left? You have had a lot of your action plans there, but really if I may mention one important indicator, revolutionary taxation must stop. Not only because it's illegal but because it is a bane to jobs and livelihood.

And then there is the Mindanao peace process. That must be factored heavily in our blueprint for internal security. We must make a distinction between the Mindanao peace process and the players, and the Abu Sayyaf and the cohorts, on the other hand.

As far as the Abu Sayyaf and its cohorts are concerned, they are already on the run and it's only a matter of time before we finally rout them. And I congratulate the police, the local governments who have been helping us fight them.

Sustained confidence is built on the twin pillars of political stability and economic growth. And I'm glad that Ronnie talked about being part of our campaign to win the hearts and minds of the people who are the target market for the insurgency and the terrorists. We need to give them the news about the economy and what it has been doing for them. After all, poverty and the sense of powerlessness that it brings provide fertile ground where terrorism can easily spread its evil ideology. And sometimes unless you point it out very clearly, the benefits to the poor of development are not very clear.

Yesterday, I was on T.V. with two ordinary citizens. One is my neighbor in Barangay San Miguel near Malacañang. I told her how life has improved over the last five years of our administration. She said, because you expanded the MRT and now because — her work is... She is a *masahista* — now I can go... I can spend less to go to my clients. I

require less time to go to my clients, and then I can cross the underpass in Quiapo to Barangay San Miguel because it is very clear and bright and safe. So she's earning more income because of mega projects like MRT and so on.

There was another one who was there, he was a fisherman from Guimaras. And I asked him. 'How has life been changed for you since I became president? He said, 'because you have fought illegal fishing in the seas of Guimaras, now our catch is bigger, and I am earning more income.

It's so difficult for everybody to see the macro benefits, but there are more... The micro benefits of macro measures, but there are so many stories like this that I'm sure you in the LGUs can pick up more quickly than I can and spread the word around.

Meanwhile, we continue to focus on improving the economic indicators under the administration's watch. The economic and social clusters in the cabinet are getting together. I asked Ric Saludo, a Cabinet secretary, to have a joint Cabinet meeting on Tuesday of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the National Economic and Development Authority because the economic and social clusters of the Cabinet should get together to ensure the benefits in store for the Filipinos in the short and long-term.

And here, as Ronnie has mentioned, I hope indeed that this meeting has been an opportunity for Ronnie to explain to you the solid achievements that this administration has achieved working together with you. And to talk about how we can together explain this further to the people in the countryside and even in the inner jungles of the urban areas.

Our thrust for social payback is founded on several concrete measures we are now pursuing: one is the increased compensation of state workers; the other is the expanded microfinance program, and your social workers in your municipalities are going to be important here because we have empowered the DSWD, which is devolved, to be a conduit for microfinance where the NGOs do not operate; massive infrastructure, and our champions have been going around to explain what that massive infrastructure is; pump priming through the super regions strategy to provide jobs; anti-poverty mitigating measures, most of which belong to agencies that are already devolved to the local governments; health cards for the indigents; agricultural extension for the marginalized farmers.

Just today, I talked to Arty Yap, our balikbayan Secretary of Agriculture. I told him, '*Arty, yung extension kailangan titlungan naman natin yung mga marginalized farmers.*' *Sabi niya, 'pero devolved na yon eh.'* Extension is devolved to the local governments. *Ang sabi ko, 'ano'ng ginagawa ng agricultural training institute?'* '*gumagawa ng policy study*'. '*ay Arty, sabi ko, we're very, very long on policy. Let's have more on implementation.*' Let's have the agricultural training institute work more closely with the local governments for local projects for extension to the marginalized farmers.

Another means, another concrete project to bring development direct to the ordinary people is financial assistance and scholarships for students through CHED and the state universities and colleges, and so on.

Well, I have been calling the concerned officials because they should ensure forward momentum. Aside from these projects, there are many important things especially related to internal security and the security of our economy that the officials have to push forward faster:

One, the cases of Atong Ang, Honasan, Estrada and the mutineers must move faster.

Second, the peace process in Mindanao. And I have asked president bush, the American government to have a deeper and broader involvement in the peace process in Mindanao, and he has said yes' and they have identified a senior person from the U.S. embassy here in Manila to be able to work with our peace process panel.

And then third, Oca, the war on street crimes, illegal drugs and illegal gambling.

And then fourth, moving on corrupt officials, tax cheats and smugglers. *Kanina tinanong ko kay Boy Morales, 'ano ba itong sinasabi nilang lumusot na containers?'* '*Ma'am, pumunta ako doon sa port, nilitratuhan ko yung*

containers, those 11 containers are still there bakit nila sinasabing lumusot?’ ‘Eh, siyempre ang darning hindi na makalusot’ That’s why the customs collections are very high. So we really would expect that there will be a demolition job on those who are doing and meeting their targets.

Then, another important measure that was moved forward. Checking non-performing nursing schools.

Also, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction of disaster hit areas. Rosette, I’m happy to hear that the houses in Guinsaugon are already ready for turnover, congratulations! The Duke of Gloucester, the cousin of Queen Elizabeth, is coming to the Philippines in February, and he specifically asked to see those houses in Guinsaugon. Of course, when an economic superpower wants to see a specific project, we know what that means. So congratulations, Rosette!

In general, disaster management. For instance, this barge, this barge that sunk off occidental... Misamis Occidental — is Leo Ocampo here? — well, I have instructed that there be an investigation on why that happened, because what happened... What, they caught a local storm? But are these... Aren’t this boat supposed to weather local storms? They’re supposed to be double hulled, double bottomed, etcetera, etcetera. So we have to have more efficient disaster management as far as things like that is concerned.

And then, of course, our subject matter today, the war on terror and insurgency. We cannot take lightly the fact that activities being perpetrated by local terrorists enjoy the support and funding of foreign terrorist organizations. And that is the reason why we must have a concerted effort against this threat.

And I am very happy that in this forum, we can see that indeed there is implementation of E.O.546 that gives the PNP a new role directing it to lend active support to the AFP in internal security operations. Because the DILG is in charged of supervising the PNP and overseeing — not supervising but overseeing — the local governments. So it’s a perfect relationship that we can have between the PNP and the local governments.

And the solid working relationship that we can see here in this forum between the PNP and the LGUs is the key to our success.

So I thank you all, I thank the governors and city mayors for such a strong participation, fifty of you are here, I understand. I thank you for coming all the way here, I see people from very, very far away. Thank you for your interest in fighting insurgency. Thank you for interest in working with the PNP. And once again, thank you once again because this is only one of the many ways in which you have supported the national government.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the St. Paul University Quezon City's Drama anthology entitled "Sa Ngalan ng Ama" Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the launching ceremony of the St. Paul University Quezon City's Drama anthology entitled "Sa Ngalan ng Ama"

[Delivered at the Fr. James B. Reuter Theater, Saint Paul University, Quezon City, November 24, 2006]

(concluding activities of the Asian Bishops Conference on Social Communications and Introduction of the UNESCO-ITI Asia-Pacific bureau's "Theater for All") on TV Maria of the Dream Satellite Network

Thank you.

Thank you, Ric. Thank you for your introduction.

Sister Nintha Lucilla, thank you for hosting us in this event today and congratulations! On the beautiful production, the excerpts of whom we have seen just now.

Father Reuter, thank you for having been around all these years; Bishop Cortez and all the bishops and religious leaders who are here today, thank you also for this opportunity to share our thoughts together on how media can spread the word of the Lord.

Cecille, thank you for the contribution of the I.T.I. to these efforts in culture. And Mr. Jones, congratulations and welcome to the Philippines! Together with our other delegates to the ASEAN religious convention.

And to all of you, Paulinians and visitors who are here, good afternoon to all of you.

It's a very important event that we have today. Values formation in media comes hand in hand with evangelization, and here we see today, that evangelization through media is ably supported by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Asia-Pacific Bureau of the UNESCO International Theater Institute, and various leading universities and colleges in the country such as St. Paul University here in Quezon City.

We're glad that through the Asian Bishops Conference on Social Communications, which ended today, our regional neighborhood is harnessing theater and broadcast media to spread the word of God. Commendably, the Asia-Pacific Bureau of the UNESCO I.T.I. is helping us out by organizing theater courses for teachers, students across the ASEAN region. And thank you sister for your contribution to this effort.

The 31st UNESCO International Theater Institute World Congress was successfully held here last May, as mentioned by Sister President. But I would also like to specifically commend St. Paul University Quezon City for producing the drama anthology "Sa Ngalan Ng Ama," parts of which we saw this afternoon but which will be shown over T.V. Maria of the Dream Satellite Network. Congratulations Sister! Congratulations to all involved! and let me say, we wholeheartedly support it.

In the gospel of St. Mark, chapter 16 verse 15, Jesus Christ commanded his disciples to spread the good news of the gospel to all people in all places — the good news. At kahit na sa mga bagay ng mundo, dapat binibigyan nating diin ang mga bagay na nakaka-ahon sa loob, sa kalooban. We must tune in on our economic gains rather than on political noise even in secular matters. The signals are clear that we are on the right track, with Filipinos here and around the world exemplifying great heroism and waging on productivity and excellence. And the government, I'd like to assure you, is making sure that the fruits to be reaped from macroeconomic gains would be well within the reach of every Filipino household. The people are anticipating economic take off and keeping divisiveness and destructive

politics at bay. This is the time to surge forward and not fall back as we drive the momentum of the Philippines forward.

Nasa gitna kasi ng pananampalataya at asal ng kristyanismo ang pagmamalasakit sa kapwa, lalo na yung mga kapuspalad. Kasama sa ating asal at pananampalataya yung pagkakaisa at hindi yung paninira.

We go by the exhortation of Pope John Paul II when he said to a group of Filipino Bishops at the Vatican a few years ago that “The pledge of the church in the Philippines to be engaged in renewed integral evangelization demonstrates the people’s desire to capture that Christian faith and values permeate every aspect of society.” Kasama na dito yung lipunan ng ating bansa.

The production and launching of “Sa Ngalan ng Ama,” the drama series is one important step towards this end. We hope that more schools will follow the lead of St. Paul to create heightened awareness of the faith. And I understand that the Archdiocese of Manila is now constructing a state of the art television studio, bishop, in its compound of Caritas Manila, complete with editing facilities. Congratulations to the diocese! Congratulations to Cardinal Rosales! Congratulations Bishop Cortez! For this highly worthy project. And once again, to all our bishops from the Philippines and from all over Asia, congratulations for your noble efforts!

And to all the other men and women behind this highly inspiring affair, and affairs that we are launching, the drama series and looking forward to the improved facilities of T.V. Maria, to everyone involved, you are truly an inspiration. And that is what the Lord wanted you to do, all his disciples to do. That is what the Lord wants all of us to do in propagating our Christian faith.

Maraming salamat.

Congratulations! Sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA’s Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the St. Paul University Quezon City’s Drama anthology entitled “Sa Ngalan ng Ama”. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141943/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3028&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 30th General Assembly and 10th Foundation Anniversary Closing Program of the Bishops-Ulama Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 30th General Assembly and 10th Foundation Anniversary Closing Program of the Bishops-Ulama Conference**

[Delivered at Ballrooms 1 & 2, The Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City, Davao del Sur, November 29, 2006]

Thank you, Archbishop Capalla.

Other archbishops and bishops. I'd like to greet also Dr. Mahid Mutilan, the other Ulamas, Bishop Gomez, the other bishops of the Christian churches, Ambassador Beckingham and the other guests, Jess Dureza and the other government officials, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum! May God's peace be upon us all!

I'm sorry that I have to be the first number of the program, because I just got a call when I was coming down, it's going to be signal number 2 at ten o'clock tonight in Manila and signal number 4 in Catanduanes. So either I have to go there now or I stay here for two days, and that would be difficult because I have to oversee other response to the super typhoons in Manila so I have to go there tonight. But thank you very much for this opportunity to be here with you today.

We are gathered here once more to celebrate interfaith dialogue and solidarity at this crucial time in our national life. I'm proud to say that it was the Bishops-Ulama Conference who pioneered interfaith dialogue as an instrument in defending the national community against extremism.

At a time when nobody in the world was giving much attention to interfaith dialogue, the Bishops-Ulama Conference was already doing pioneering work in building interfaith dialogues in the communities all over Mindanao, from urban centers of Davao to the farthest villages of the island provinces like Tawi-Tawi.

After the gathering of Asia's Ulamas and Bishops in Manila in 2003 — many of you were there — interfaith dialogue appeared in the agenda of major regional and international bodies such as the United Nations and ASEAN. And it will again be a subject matter when we hold the ASEAN Summit in Cebu next month, which will also be an occasion to show the world a new Philippines.

The new Philippines we will show those who will go to Cebu are... Those that are reflected in our economic indicators which are rosy indeed: inflation is easing; we have higher dollar reserves; the market is bullish; we have a strong peso; OFW remittances are increasing. They say it's because Christmas, but then that means we've had Christmas all year long; the interest rate is low, and I hope that the cooperatives have been feeling it; investment inflows are increasing; the image of the country as investment destination is improving, as evidenced by rising Makati rentals on strong demand.

But that's not the totality of it all, those are rosy macro-economic indicators. But what we must do — and we are doing is — we're increasing the social payback of economic reforms in terms of more infrastructure, schools, health facilities, food security, and broader access to small enterprise loans.

Your cooperation and understanding are key in moving our country forward in strengthening the spiritual and moral fiber of our society, in sustaining the spirit of enterprise among our people, in keeping up our guard against terror and destabilization, in bringing peace to Mindanao, and in guiding us towards the preferential option for the poor.

And so we count on your support and understanding as the officials of the different agencies reach out to the grassroots. To deliver government service to indigent Filipinos, we have established rolling stores and ‘Tindahan Natin’ that specializes in low-priced rice and noodles; rolling drug stores and the Botika ng Bayan that sells medicines at half the price of what they were in 2001; and rolling hospitals and medical missions. We want to partner with the Bishops and the Ulamas in the roll-out of these services so that they can reach the people especially the people in Mindanao.

When we had the recent problems in our negotiations with our rebel groups among the MILF, and some sectors in Mindanao and the country expressed concern, you, the Bishops and the Ulamas not only lent your voice of confidence that there is a way forward but you also consulted the Mindanaoans and proposed specific avenues for peace. Thank you.

So, if we can say that the Philippines has never seen a religious war, it is due to the great interfaith solidarity of our people with the Bishops-Ulama Conference in the lead. With some bright prospects of our peace efforts today, to a large extent because of the efforts of the Bishops and the Ulamas, I trust that you will continue to be with us in the various ways of peace building. And we hope that with understanding and enlightenment, commensurate actions will follow to safeguard the perimeters of peace.

You are the sentinels of trust, understanding and goodwill among the tri-peoples of Mindanao — the Muslims, Christians and Lumads.

May God’s grace be with all of us, with all of you, with all the peoples of the world.

Maraming salamat. Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA’s Speech during the 30th General Assembly and 10th Foundation Anniversary Closing Program of the Bishops-Ulama Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141935/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3027&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Chief Girl Scout Medal Presentation Ceremonies

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Chief Girl Scout Medal Presentation Ceremonies**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, November 30, 2006]

Nagpapasalamat tayo sa Girl Scouts dahil pinili ninyo bilang pagbasehan nitong mga gantimpala ang ecology, livelihood, cultural heritage, health. At talaga naman ito rin ang kinatututukan ng ating bansa. Livelihood for all the people so that we can kick poverty. Ecology so that we can take care of the future especially for you, our young women. Cultural heritage so that we are proud of our past. And of course health so that as persons we can be fit to do what we have to do to serve our people. Livelihood covers all these things. If we have a comfortable living, we can take care of our environment, we can take care of learning to remember our past, we can take care of our health. Livelihood and economy are synonymous with each other.

Tayo'y nakatutok sa pagpapalago ng ating ekonomiya sapagkat ito ang tanging paraan upang magtagumpay ang laban sa kahirapan. At sa tulong ng mamamayang Pilipino, napapatupad natin ang reporma ng ekonomiya. Lumalago ang ekonomiya, lumalakas ang ating pera, dumadami ang mga mamumuhunan na lumilikha ng mga bagong trabaho. At dahil sa ating reporma nakatipid tayo ng mga interes na binabayad sa mga utang ng bansa. At yung tinipid natin ay linagay naman natin doon sa ibat-ibang kailangan sa edukasyon ng mga Girl Scouts at iba pang mga kabataan, at ginagastos din natin para sa kalusugan ng mga Pilipino.

Girls Scouts are always prepared, always ready, self-reliant and helpful to one another and to the nation. So should a nation be in a world of global warming and increasing disasters. Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan sa inyong pag-aalaga sa ating kalikasan dahil kung dumami ang mga disaster sa buong mundo ngayon ay ito ay dahil sa tinatawag nilang global warming, sabi ng mga scientists. And it is important for us as a nation to realize this. And it's good that we're having this at this time, this affair at this time when we are about to have another super typhoon.

Multi-level Disaster Management Plans from the national government down to local government units have already been activated to ensure timely and well-coordinated response in areas that could be severely hit by 'Reming.' the warnings made by PAGASA and NDCC should place the public in a state of proactive vigilance. A state of proactive vigilance in order to contain if not fully prevent the potential damage of this typhoon. Siyempre yung ating mga kabataan hindi natin inaasahan na lalabas kayo bago mag-typhoon o habang nagta-typhoon. Pero pagkatapos ng typhoon marami kayong pwedeng magawa ng paglilingkod.

In the meantime in preparation for the typhoon that's coming, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police – I've talked to General Esperon and General Calderon this morning — as well as the DSWD and the DOH. I also talked to Secretary Cabral and Secretary Duque this morning, they're already in touch with vulnerable communities for possible evacuation and relief operations. TRANSCO and NAPOCOR — I also talked to Art Aguilar of TRANSCO and Popo Lotilla his boss in the Department of Energy — are keeping watch over the power system while the DPWH and the MMDA — I also talked to Secretary Ebdane and Chairman Bayani Fernando — are checking giant billboards that may pose a danger to the public. The DTI — I also talked to Secretary Favilla this morning — the DTI shall spearhead a comprehensive monitoring of the prices to check unscrupulous traders who could be out to take advantage of the situation. We have seen the wrath of such disasters, although praise God we were spared by the very deadly tsunami and earthquakes that have visited our neighbors. Nonetheless, we have had our own share and we call on all sectors to team up and exercise our collective responsibility in these times. And our Girl Scouts will have plenty to do during the relief and rehabilitation and restoration operations.

Disaster management is not only a Philippine concern. Livelihood is not only a Philippine concern. Health is not only a Philippine concern. And the ecology certainly is not only a Philippine concern. In fact, these four subject matters are going to be important subject matters in our upcoming ASEAN and East Asia Summit.

Sa Disyembre a-diyes hanggang a-trese ay idadaos sa Cebu ang ASEAN Summit at East Asian Summit. Everybody knows I think when they read the papers about the ASEAN 10, but this is not ASEAN 10 only. This is ASEAN plus 6, that's the East Asian Summit. So we will have in fact 17 not 16 heads of government coming. Aside from the ASEAN 10, East Asia is also composed of Japan, Korea, China, Australia, New Zealand and India. And East Timor will be coming to sign a Memorandum of an Agreement with ASEAN in the hope that eventually they will also become a member of ASEAN.

So we will have 17 heads of government coming to Cebu to discuss among other things, but very, very prominently cultural heritage because we want ASEAN to be one socio-cultural community. To talk about health because we have been having problems — not so much the Philippines of HIV/AIDS — but our neighbors. And also the pandemic of the bird flu — not so much the Philippines, thank God! — but we have to be concerned not only about ourselves but the other neighbors as well. And we will be discussing the ecology, and of course part of the problems of the devastation of the ecology in the previous years that the disasters that had been visiting our region. So we will be discussing disaster management. We will be discussing the environment including energy independence and clean energy. And of course, we will be discussing livelihood and how we can all work together to make our economies all better.

Kaya itong gaganaping ASEAN Summit dito sa Cebu, ASEAN at East Asian Summit, importante dahil sa mga pag-uusapan natin. Alam ng Girl Scout kung gaano kaimportante itong mga pag-uusapan natin. Importante ito hindi lamang para sa mga barangay ng inyong eskwelahan, importante para sa buong rehiyon. At mabuti na rin at malaking karangalan na igaganap ito sa Pilipinas ngayon dahil gagawin nating pagkakataong ipakita sa iba pang bansa ng ASEAN at ng East Asian na ang Pilipinas ay handang makipagsabayan sa kanila upang makamit ang kaunlaran at kasaganaan.

Kaya mga bata, our young women, tumutulong kayo sa mga barangay ninyo, sa mga pamayanan ninyo, sa eskwelahan ninyo. Gusto niyong dagdagan pa yung inyong tulong sa inyong Pangulo na magiging host ng ASEAN at East Asian Summit ngayon? Aasahan ko kayong mga Girl Scouts na narito na tutulong din upang ipaliwanag ang kahalagahan ng ASEAN at East Asia sa inyong mga magulang, kapatid, kaibigan. Sabihin ninyo as kanila na ang ASEAN at East Asia ay mahahalagang samahan upang magbubuklod at magtutulongan ang mga magkakalapit-bansa upang sabay-sabay tayong umunlad, upang sabay-sabay nating maalaala ang ating socio-cultural community, upang sabay-sabay nating asikasuhin ang hanapbuhay ng taong-bayan ng ating mga bansa, upang sabay-sabay nating asikasuhin ang kalusugan ng ating mga mamamayan pati na rin ang ating sarili, at upang sabay-sabay natin alagaan ang ating kalikasan.

You know, when we had the ASEAN year, ASEAN anniversary a few months ago, it was dedicated to the youth. And I'm very happy that you are here today on the eve of our ASEAN Summit, so that you can... We can motivate you to be more aware what is ASEAN all about, what is an international engagement all about. And during the state dinner that I shall be giving for the 17 heads of government, we have reserved a few seats for some of our youth. And I would like to give one of... You know, it's the... I would like to be able to invite one of our chief Girl Scout awardees.

I was asking Tessie Choa, is there among our chief girl scout one most outstanding chief Girl Scout? She said, none because they are all equal. So I will really have to leave it up to the Girl Scout organization how to choose whether by raffle or whether by an essay contest on what ASEAN is all about? So I hope to see our Girl Scout representative among our youth invitees to the gala dinner celebrating ASEAN and East Asia in December 11.

So, to all of you, thank you for what you are doing as young people. And I look forward to your doing even more when you become adults in the next generation.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Chief Girl Scout Medal Presentation Ceremonies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141920/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3026&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis

[Delivered at The Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City, December 4, 2006]

BEYOND SCARCITY: POWER, POVERTY AND THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

Nileema says it is ironic that we're discussing this at this time. I think it's providential. But the irony really is — and I think about this all the time — we have water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink in some areas. We have deadly mudflows in Albay, we have water shortage in Manila. So, indeed, this year's UNDP Global Human Development Report is providential. As Nileema says, the report posits that the growing water crisis not just in the Philippines but in the world is not from a shortage of supply but from causes created by man, and only collective human intervention can alleviate it.

We view the report's strong warning as a good argument for governments to adopt stronger policies to overcome poverty and inequality and to act together to prevent global disaster. In our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan in our Anti-Poverty program, one of our ten points is to provide water to all the waterless towns in our country. We in the Philippines have been victims of successive super typhoons that we believe are a result of severe climatic shifts. Right now, we all have the Albay tragedy.

This is a time for unity and continuous action as we pour in more troops, medical personnel and volunteers as well as dispatch more equipment in the search and retrieval operations and facilitate direct assistance to the victims. We join the Filipino people in praying for that miracle of finding more survivors. We are no strangers to this kind of tragedy, and in the past we've always been able to recover and become stronger. Nevertheless, such recurrent tragedies cannot cut, cannot underscore the need for greater preparedness, operational effectiveness and predictive capacity.

We have had great improvements in our predictive capacity in the past few years. We knew and the whole country was apprised of the hourly changes in the trajectory of the typhoon. But we had to spend a lot of money to invest in that. In other words, effectiveness comes with investment, and investment could only happen when we had our tax reforms. But right now we have more things to do, and for the immediate relief and recovery and rehabilitation for the victims of 'Reming,' Paeng' and 'Milenyo,' I have released one billion pesos. But in the medium-term, we have to spend about 15 billion pesos on recovering from these severe water-related disasters and also from preventing them from being so deadly.

So, I'm glad that Secretary Reyes is here. He is our man as far as water is concerned. He is not a user of water — DENR — he is the... Because you have the competing uses of water: you have water for drinking, you have water for power, you have water for agriculture, and so they're all competing with one another. So the water resource work could not have been made up of those agencies or they'll never come to an agreement. So I decided that it should be a line office under the DENR because DENR is not a user of water, it is the caretaker of all our natural resources including water. And DENR should arbitrate which water resource will go to what use.

Related to this also, I'm directing the secretary of natural resources to step up the National Hazard Mapping Program. This is another program that Secretary Reyes inherited as 'work in progress' to forewarn vulnerable communities and help increase the capability for local governments for early warning and action. The gullies on the slopes of Mount Mayon that bear potential mudflows are a case in point. The death and destruction in the wake of calamities can be minimized by organized and systematic human intervention. We have started, as what I've said, by investing in our predictive capability which has been bearing fruit in the past typhoons. We have 'work in progress'

as far as hazard mapping is concerned. We have to do things to mobilize all that wasted — not only wasted water but destructive water — and mobilize instead for life and livelihood.

And as Speaker De Venecia has been pointing out, we do have this certain water management projects in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan — big, huge projects. They cost a lot but they will also save a lot not only of money but of lives when they are on stream. We are talking about such major project as the Layban Dam which will be meant to solve the water crisis in Metro Manila in the long-term and the other uses of the Agno river basin in Northern Philippines for power, for irrigation and for drinking water — all the uses of water.

We must not leave things to fatal luck when we can develop the tools to prevent harm. And as I mentioned earlier, the fiscal space we have garnered from the pruned down interest payments and improved credit ratings is being applied to economic opportunities including microfinance being made available to more Filipinos. I like to keep repeating that we're saving 22 billion pesos on interest payments for 2007. And the 22 billion pesos will be allocated to: 16 billion pesos for additional in education spending; five billion for additional health spending, a lot of which will go to PhilHealth, to health insurance for the people; and one billion pesos will go to additional spending by the Department of Social Welfare including microfinance.

We are making a dent on self-perceived and actual incidence of poverty. Ever since the self-rated poverty statistics has been gathered by the survey companies, it is in our administration that the self-rated poverty has become lowest. But we need to institute better water management practices to emphasize conservation and effective distribution for the short and long term.

Social scientists project that future wars — wars among nations, but also wars within nations and among social groupings in the nations — will be fought over water. But such conflicts can be averted by strong policies and agreements that will protect the common interest of mankind and not just those of certain nations or certain sectors by understanding and cooperation among vulnerable peoples and societies and by a determined effort to eradicate global poverty in all its forms including the severe deprivation of water resources.

So, we thank the United Nations for your focus on this great and important issue and we commit to work for water in all the towns of our country, but also to make water a life-giving resource rather than a deadly weapon of destruction.

Thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo on Electronics Business Opportunities in ASEAN

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Electronics Business Opportunities in ASEAN**

[Delivered at Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City, December 7, 2006]

**ELECTRONICS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
IN ASEAN**

We're here today because in 2003 the ASEAN leaders signed the Bali concord reaffirming our shared vision of dynamic Southeast Asian nations gathered around three pillars — the ASEAN security community the ASEAN economic community and ASEAN socio-cultural community — to be realized by 2020.

In the summit we will be holding in Cebu, we will stress on the ASEAN socio-cultural community to be reached by 2020, that is why we have the theme of 'One Caring and Sharing Community' to stress that ASEAN is not only a trade association but a socio-cultural association that cares for one another's members.

But today, here in this electronics conference and exhibit, we are stressing on the economic community. And when indeed we signed in Bali the agreement to form an ASEAN economic community as a first step, ASEAN member countries agreed to develop road maps on eleven priority sectors. One of these eleven priority sectors is electronics. Country coordinators were assigned to each priority sector. The Philippines' task was to shepherd the integration in the electronic sector.

We are proud and happy to be in this role. And we host this event at a time when electronics plays a major role in improving the economic indicators for our country — the lowest inflation in the last 29 months. The Philippines is now a net lender rather than a borrower. In other words, our deposit for instance in the World Bank and the ADB and the IMF is bigger than our loans from them.

The stock market has remained bullish for some time, and Philippine bonds are up. We are due for a credit upgrade. Investors are buying into a new deal.

And despite losses from three successive super typhoons — and may I take this opportunity to thank our ASEAN brothers who have very quickly come over, sent planes, planeloads of assistance to our victims of the disaster — inspite of these disasters, we expect our growth projections to be met.

Our economic reforms have likewise resulted in savings. Now reinvested among other things in I.C.T. infrastructure programs.

Indeed, the Philippine economy is gaining momentum on the back of stringent economic and fiscal reforms, and with the huge support of the semiconductor and electronics industries — our top export — as well as the rest of the national enterprises, we have been able to turn the economy around.

Our electronics industry will be among the major beneficiaries of the improved airports, seaports, roads and telecommunications systems coming up on the horizon. And we are very happy to be a leading player in a very dynamic industry in ASEAN.

ASEAN's vibrant electronics industry reverberates in today's event. We, ASEAN, are a force in the world as the home of global giants such as Intel, Texas instruments, Toshiba, Hitachi, Panasonic and many others. This meeting marks our collective determination to be an even more competitive player through robust regional integration.

This year, the world's total electronics output is forecast to be worth over 1.5 trillion dollars. By 2009, it's projected to reach over 1.7 trillion dollars.

But this year also, China is expected to surpass the U.S. A's production of 300 billion dollars to become the world's top manufacturers. That is why if we want to be and continue to be a major player in the region and in the world, this is one of the best arguments for the speedy integration of our region's electronics and other industries.

We are determined to give our best for ASEAN to attain the agreed targets of our electronics road map, particularly the goal of 24/7 customs operations and the exchange of trade documents among member countries.

We aim to meet these targets in December 2007 for countries with mature electronics industries. And in the Philippines, I'm glad to hear from our officials that in fact we are ahead of this December 2007 target. In our export lane, we are already 24/7. And in our airport, we're open up to 12:00 o' clock because no planes carrying electronics come in after 12.

We're also determined by 2007 to have the establishment of a super green lane for each of our economies. And as I said, in the Philippines we're ahead of our target. As a rule, the ASEAN working economies are on track, intensifying regional investment activities, linking up databases — as mentioned by Francis Ferrer — accelerating the implementation of mutual recognition arrangements for electrical and electronic equipment, harmonizing technical regulations, and facilitating cooperation in testing and accreditation.

The Cebu summit and the next ASEAN Leaders' Summit in Singapore next year will see more action in checking actions taken and refining other measures to ensure that we're all geared towards turning the region's diversities into opportunities for complementation.

Aside from stressing on the socio-cultural community, especially through our theme of 'One Caring and Sharing Community; we also want the Cebu summit to be a different summit as far as the business summit is concerned. We want to have more interaction with the business summit And we... I would for one want the leaders to be more involved in the efforts to integrate our eleven economic sectors which make up the bulk of the trade among our economies.

I have noticed in the past that when the leaders speak of ASEAN integration, they talk more about the free trade area. They don't talk as much about the integration of our eleven sectors. And I would like that to be somehow corrected, but we need the private sector to push the government sector to do what has to be done. Therefore, let me invite the electronics companies in ASEAN to take a stronger stand in urging your governments along the following lines:

- the elimination of tariff barriers for all electronic products in the region;
- working towards a wider supplier base and lowering production costs for foreign investors; and
- acting with dispatch on the creation of a single home market and production platform that's friendly to global investors.

For starters, companies can remind their respective governments of the commitment to set up green lanes and single window call systems, the 24/7 customs operations, and to adopt e-business compatible standards.

Indeed, it is important because it's the electronics industry that does the actual production. The government is only supposed to do the environment that will make your production efficient, competitive and conducive to integration.

Therefore, I ask everyone to support integration, liberalization and cooperation among ASEAN countries especially in electronics.

Let us all support the vision of outward-looking ASEAN nations. Let's not look at one another as rivals but as countries that can complement each other. Electronics is a big export for the Philippines; it's also a big import. That's because we don't produce the whole product by ourselves. We produce it among ourselves in ASEAN and that's the way it should be.

We should be nations that complement each other, that live in peace, stability and prosperity. We should be nations bonded together as one dynamic community, one caring and sharing society.

Mabuhay ang ASEAN! Welcome once again to all of you!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2006*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Official Banquet in Honor of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Madame Akie Abe of Japan

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Official Banquet in Honor of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Madame Akie Abe of Japan**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, December 9, 2006]

His Excellency Prime Minister Abe and Madame Abe; officials of the Philippine government; members of the Japanese delegation; members of the diplomatic corps; guests; ladies and gentlemen:

In behalf of the Filipino people, in behalf of our government, I congratulate and welcome the new Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Prime Minister Abe and his lovely wife Madame Abe.

His Excellency's visits celebrates a very important jubilee — the 50th anniversary of the normalization of our diplomatic relations. But although our present diplomatic relations are only 50 years old, even before the Spaniards came, trade between Filipinos and Japanese was regular and robust. And today, 50 years after the normalization of our diplomatic relations, our trade, our investment relations, our economic relations are stronger than ever. Today, Japan is by far our biggest source of official development assistance and our second largest trading partner. Japanese companies are at the vanguard of Philippine industrial growth particularly in electronics and automobiles.

The Philippines continues to be one of the favored destinations of Japanese tourists. Filipino seafarers man Japanese ships and Filipino caregivers will soon be taking care of Japan's aging population under the historic Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

This morning, we were able to sign the exchange of notes on the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project. This is the only latest of many Japanese assistance agreements which cuts across all sectors from giant projects like the Agno river project to grassroots projects in Muslim communities of Mindanao.

Now, we welcome Japan's new initiatives in economic cooperation such as energy efficiency and capability building in disaster management. In addition to economic assistance, in addition to trade and investment, in addition to tourism, security is coming into sharper focus in our bilateral relations.

We welcome an important role from Japan in the fight against terrorism in our region. And we support Japan's leadership on the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1718 on the North Korean issue, these matters or some of the agenda for the forthcoming summit in Cebu which is supposed to start tomorrow but which we have postponed.

As chair of the ASEAN, the Philippines is responsible for the safety and well-being of summit participants in the face of inclement weather. Our responsibility to the Filipino people also lies in preparing to the best we can for the onslaught of another typhoon. This is a two-way process, we are concerned for the leaders and they are concerned for our people. Truly in the spirit of one caring and sharing community.

I thank Prime Minister Abe and the other leaders for their understanding and support. At the same time the Philippines gives its firm assurances that there has been no setback in the progress of the ASEAN agenda and process. The ministerial meetings pushed through to sharpen the declarations and agreements that will be approved by the summit in January of 2007.

All the leaders are geared up to speed up regional economic integration and to forge a strong stance for regional peace and security backed by detailed road maps and action plans. There is a consensus to postpone the meeting because of the typhoon but a strong impetus to return to the summit at the soonest possible time. The aspirations of more than three billion people in East Asia — one-half of the world — cannot be put on hold.

I thank all our people and all those from ASEAN and Japan and our other dialogue partners who worked hard on the summit preparations. Let us continue to work together for the January meeting under clearer skies.

On this note, I invite Your Excellency and Madame Abe, distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, friends, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast to the continued good health of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, to the continued peace and prosperity of Japan, and to the enduring friendship between the Filipino and Japanese peoples.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Official Banquet in Honor of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Madame Akie Abe of Japan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141851/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3056&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 40th Anniversary of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 40th Anniversary of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

[Delivered at the ADB Auditorium, ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City, December 19, 2006]

Thank you very much, Miss Quon.

President Kuroda and all the officers and staff of the Asian Development Bank; Secretary Teves; Governor Tetangco; Governor Lerias and all the officials of the Philippine government who are here with us today; ladies and gentlemen:

Happy 40th anniversary to the Asian Development Bank!

We welcome the foreign staff and visitors who are here. Please enjoy the beauty of the Philippines.

We are indeed proud to host Asia's premier development institution. And this jubilee is especially personally important for me because I vividly remember my father, President Diosdado Macapagal, working very hard for ADB to be located in the Philippines.

And today, as he predicted, ADB plays a key role in the growth of the Asian region, and also in boosting the quality of Filipino lives.

Thank you ADB for agreeing that "The Philippines is back" during the media briefing of the 650 million-dollar power sector development program loan. This is the largest ADB assistance to the Philippines in eight years. Thank you so much for that.

Thank you also for the financial reform loan and thank you for your untiring effort in working for poverty alleviation in the Philippines. Thank you especially in behalf of Governor Lerias and the people of Southern Leyte for the Southern Leyte landslide assistance project and, as you mentioned President Kuroda, ADB's sympathy for all the victims of all the other disasters in the Philippines. Thank you for the assistance in the study of the vulnerable areas in the Philippines which strengthens our hand in overall disaster management.

Thank you also for helping BIMP-EAGA. And thank you — because I've mentioned other countries in BIMP-EAGA — thank you for your positive response on the appeal of the Philippines and other developing member countries to lower commitment fees.

We also hope that ADB will act positively on the request of the Philippines and other DMCS to ease the bank's conditionalities. Because that will provide developing countries better opportunities to enjoy the benefits of ADB's development assistance.

In 2003, we were bracing ourselves for an economic slowdown brought about by the upward spiral of oil prices, complicated by political intrigue. Since then, we adopted draconian fiscal measures: more selective and judicious

spending, revenue collection efficiency, and most of all and most painful of all — new taxes. But as a result, creditor and investor confidence have come back.

And that's why we thank you for your latest public statements for support for the reforms of the Philippine government. We are working to continue on reforms beyond our tax reforms. We have adopted, for instance, measures to curb corruption such as our Executive Order 564 on the infrastructure monitoring pro-performance system. Also the use of the 20 million dollars assistance from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Account to curb corruption.

We hope that the donor community appreciates the efforts of our government for the needed reforms even with the difficulties that they face. We assure you that all our reforms go through democratic procedures including our political reforms.

Let me therefore take this opportunity to say a few things on Charter Change. Actually, three realities that we face as a nation:

One, that the people accept the need for charter change to overhaul the system; two, that there is a need for a unified consensus on the means and the timetable; and three, that this is a platform commitment of our administration that will be pursued with urgency and fervor.

These realities will continue to shape our actions for the better future of the Philippines, working closely and inclusively with all stakeholders and institutions, observing transparency, and backing up the entire process with a strong economy, social payback and values programs. This is a matter of paramount national interest and our leaders must all rise to the challenge.

I thank you ADB for your support in all the reforms that we have tried to do across the broad spectrum of our needed reforms — fiscal reforms, financial reforms, power sector reforms, governance reforms.

And, of course, thank you ADB for more than a thousand local professional Filipino staff. We're proud of all of you, our Filipinos in ADB. We're proud that the ADB has been vocal in your appreciation of your local staff. Thank you for taking care of the Filipino staff. And we urge you to continue this and we trust that ADB practices the well-acclaimed equal opportunity system.

We also propose that ADB, like any other large organization, will embark on social responsibility projects in the Philippines, being its headquarters. This could be in the form of a special social fund for social responsibility projects. For indeed, ADB has helped pull many Filipinos out of poverty.

I'm happy that as we celebrate today, 40 years of ADB's existence, 40 years of ADB being in the Philippines that both our statistically measured poverty rate, 23 percent, and self-rated poverty rate, 51 percent last September compared to 63 percent in 1986, that both the statistically measured poverty rate and the self-rated poverty rate are at their lowest averages in our administration compared to other times since the statistics began.

But we have miles to go before we can achieve our goal and vision of being first world in 20 years. And just as ADB has been with us in the last 40 years of our journey, we hope that as we go on our journey in the next 20 years, ADB will stay with us in the Philippines in our quest and that beyond that ADB will stay with us as the headquarters for making life better in the entire great continent of Asia.

Congratulations! And happy ruby anniversary once again to all of you!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141731/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3050&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 71st anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 71st anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)**

[Delivered at the Tejeros Hall, AFP Commissioned Officers' Country, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, December 21, 2006]

Thank you very much, General Esperon.

President Ramos — former president, former Commander-in-Chief and former AFP Chief of Staff — and other former AFP chiefs of staff; the board of generals and other officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their ladies; defense officials; police officials; other government officials; members of the defense diplomatic corps; awardees who are so well-deserving; ladies and gentlemen.

Una sa lahat, binabati ko ang buong AFP sa pagdaraos ngayon ng isang simple ngunit makabuluhang anibersaryo. Ito ay patunay lamang na ang AFP ay nakikinig sa pangangailangan ng sambayanang Pilipino at nakalaang magsakripisyo para sa mga kababayan nating nangangailangan.

I remember this tradition started in late 2004, when our eastern provinces, the Reina area — Real, Infanta, Nakar, especially — were hard hit by a series of typhoons. I clearly recall then that while the armed forces was already making its presence felt in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations, we went the extra mile by forging the usual large anniversary celebration and allocating our available resources for disaster relief. Thank you for such heroism.

At ngayon muli, tulad ng dati, ang AFP ay muling pumagitna sa pagtulong sa mga biktima ng sunod-sunod na kalamidad na binasa at binanggit ni General Esperon mula sa umpisa ng taon hanggang sa katapusan ng taon.

Indeed, you have shown that the uniform is not only a symbol of vigilance but a symbol of caring and sharing in a world of calamity and strife. You have kept all threat groups at bay, you have contained the tide of terrorism.

You have pushed back vested interests, you have upheld military justice, you have maintained command discipline and rallied around the flag.

We heard the details of the report of your accomplishment, not only this year or in the last five years from General Esperon, and I thank you all for the successes that you have gained in all the fields in which you have been involved.

This year also marks a unique celebration because the President of the Philippines also happens to be the Acting Secretary of National Defense. I felt it was best for me to remain at the Department of National Defense for at least 60 days, to restate the vision for the AFP and to put it in motion before handing the DND over to a permanent secretary.

We especially want to harness the younger generation of AFP officers represented by the young officers who received their awards today by sharing with them a vision and the hardware to achieve it. We want to inspire our officers in the field by vision and hardware rather than by patronage.

The path that I am undertaking as acting Secretary of National Defense is the following:

First, working with the AFP chief of staff and the major service chiefs, we have defined, as General Esperon said, each services medium-term mission. A mission that I trust will inspire the service. General Esperon has already mentioned that mission in terms of his description of Bantay Laya II.

Each major service shall organize, train, equip, deploy and sustain its forces to achieve a strategic defeat of the communist terrorist movement by 2010; to destroy the Abu Sayaff and other terrorist groups; and to contain the secessionist groups in order to establish a physically and psychologically secure environment conducive to national development.

After we worked in a session to restate this mission, we have now been working with the AFP chief of staff and the operations, logistics and planning staff, now tweaking the material procurement process to align it to the procurement modernization law and also to the mission and to generate quick impact.

I am preparing the revised implementing guidelines, rules and procedures for the AFP modernization law to put it in line with the procurement modernization law. And after I have signed and issued these amended guidelines, we will jump start the process, being careful to be transparent, and overtly discouraging the involvement of brokers and middlemen.

Transparency is crucial. Thus, we will follow what the procurement modernization law says that we should have at least two observers. So we shall have at least two observers, two from the business... One from the business community, one from the NGO community, and then also by members of the National Security Council of which the DND is a member.

In fact, in observing the procurement process, the NSC as observer shall be assisted by a task force of respected personalities most of whom you are familiar with: Admiral Mateo Mayuga, who has just retired, who has just been appointed as Presidential Assistant and seconded to the DND as undersecretary for this purpose. Also, General Pedro Cabuay, now retired to represent the National Security Council. And Undersecretary Roberto Tan of the Department of Finance because we have many procurements that are to be done government-to-government.

Itong repormang ito, ito ang tinatawag nating Philippine Defense Reforms. And the procurement of hardware to make it more expeditious but also transparent is the backbone of the defense reform. Itong defense reform na ito ay kasing importante sa mga economic reforms na ginawa natin tungkol sa mga buwis na tumutulong ngayon sa ekonomiya.

Going back to the restated mission, we are doing all that we are doing because we want to have an environment conducive to national development. And indeed, you have been doing much in order to provide that environment.

Nang dahil sa inyong pangangalaga sa kapayapaan, matagumpay nating naipatupad ang mga reporma sa pananalapi na naging dahilan ng pagiging masigla ng ating ekonomiya.

The growth of our economy is a clear manifestation of national resiliency. Our rebound despite the four storms that hit the country in the last quarter shows the stability of our drivers in propelling the economy forward. Growth will surely be boosted by the heavy upload of consumer spending as we end the year.

Punong-puno yung ating mga malls ngayon sa Christmas shopping. Sabi ng mga tindahan, ang daming bumibili sa kanila. At yung mga OFWs, mas marami pang pinapadala sa ating ngayon kaysa sa mga nakaraang taon. At ang dami nilang dumadating magbakasyon. That is our new middle class. That is the source of our consumer spending. That is one of the major drivers of our economy.

And if we are enjoying now a strong peso, reduced interest rates, mild inflation, a sustainable growth rate, we only have the Filipino people to thank for their hard work and perseverance inspite of the tragedies, as well as the political noise, that plagued the country in the last three months. There is no other way but up for the Philippines.

We shall continue to implement programs that would propel growth and its social payback of jobs, food, health, education firmly felt at the grassroots.

And as we proceed to work on that social payback, the armed forces will be, as you have been right there at the center of it all — heroes serving the country and serving the people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat! And Happy 71st Anniversary to the Armed Forces of the Philippines!

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the 71st Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141719/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3049&Itemid=38

Christmas Message of President Arroyo

Christmas Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines

[Released on December 24, 2006]

Dahil sa biyaya ng Diyos, ang kalagayan ng ating bansa ay nagiging maganda at matatag.

The dawning of the year, it will all come together in the Mighty Grace of the Lord.

Ang mga ipinatutupad nating reporma ay magbubunga na — lalong mapapabuti ang mga serbisyo sa mamamayan. Asahan nating darami pa ang mga puhunan at trabaho sa mga darating na araw sa patuloy nating paglaban sa kahirapan.

This is our mission: to build prosperity for the greatest number of our people.

Tulungan natin ang mga biktima ng kalamidad with heartfelt compassion and generosity, sharing and caring for those in direst need.

At sa pagsapit ng Bagong Taon, nawa'y lalo tayong pagpalain ng Poong Maykapal.

Merry Christmas at Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Christmas Message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141712/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3048&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening of the Microsoft Southern Philippines Office

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening of the Microsoft Southern Philippines Office**

[Delivered at Skyrise IT Bldg., Asiatown IT Park, Lahug District, Cebu City, Cebu, December 26, 2006]

Mr. Tony Javier, congratulations! And thank you for bringing Microsoft to Cebu.

Governor Garcia; Deputy Speaker Del Mar; Congressman Cuenco and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the House of Representatives; Mayor Radaza, who is here as a guest because he's mayor of Lapu-Lapu City; and to all of you, to Mr. Bawal and all of the officers of Microsoft here in Cebu for Visayas and Mindanao; all the other partners of Microsoft; our officials of DepEd for Cebu, congratulations! Sa inyo hang premyo.

Congratulations! And thank you for bringing Microsoft to Cebu. Thank you for this expansion of Microsoft not only geographically to Cebu but the expansion of your products, your OFW service and your half-priced starter set.

And I would like to take this advantage... Advantage of this occasion also to say what I would have said if I had been in Ginsaigon, Leyte this morning, Southern Leyte, but we were not been able to go there because of the inclement weather in Southern Leyte. But I wanted to say there in Southern Leyte that that today because of the... Anyway, they push through without us, we turnover the houses, the relocation houses to the victims of the landslide in Ginsaigon, Leyte... Southern Leyte and in Liloan. And the Ginsaigon event happened only nine months ago. So nine months after is the closure to that tragic incident which they are now celebrating today.

It's an inspiration for those who are suffering now in Bicol as well because a very similar event happened in Southern Leyte and now they are back on their feet. But it's not only in terms of recovering from calamity that we celebrate what is happening there and what is happening here. It's also because this augurs well for the coming year and what we can look forward to the coming year.

We will surely greet the new year with another strong start for the economy as we share optimism and hope for united Philippines moving ahead.

More foreign investors — remember, Microsoft is a foreign company — and financial institutions are now appreciating the aggressive reforms carried out by our people.

The government will continue to match the reforms with redoubled efforts, redoubled efforts to sustain the momentum we have gained and achieving more gains in confidence, investments, jobs and more penetrating reforms and services.

Well, this is really bringing hi-tech to the grassroots, to the schools and to those who cannot afford the original software. And that is what the government will be doing next year too. Next year will be the time to drive our economic gains deeper into the grassroots. Next year will be the time to make more strategic headway against terrorism and insurgency, and improve the climate of law and order in the cities and the countryside. Next year will

be the time when we can rehabilitate our calamity-stricken communities. We have a few of them now in addition in Bicol. Next year is the time when we can get our people back on the platform of enterprise. We have started to do this this year but we hope and we look forward to next year as being the year when it could all come together.

The season of optimism and hope sends a clear message that the best is yet to come for our people.

And I am happy that as they are right now celebrating the closure of the tragic events of Ginsaigon and Liloan over there in Southern Leyte, here we are celebrating the beginning of a new chapter in the information age for the people of the Visayas and Mindanao through Microsoft in Cebu.

Kaninyong tanan, daghan salamat. Congratulations! For the good performance.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Opening of the Microsoft Southern Philippines Office. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141704/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3047&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the necrological rites for National Artist Ramon Obusan Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the necrological rites for National Artist Ramon Obusan

[Read by NCCA Chairman Ambeth R. Ocampo, December 28, 2006]

Distinguished guests, friends, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning. I am honored to read the message of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

We join the whole nation in mourning the loss of National Artist Ramon Arevalo Obusan. Less than seven months from the time we honored him with the conferment of the Order of National Artist in Malacanang, we are gathered yet again today, to pay homage to someone who has accomplished phenomenal work in Philippine dance, a man who has broadened and deepened our understanding of our cultural life and expressions.

Ramon Obusan has touched our hearts, our lives, and our spirits and his greatness will be remembered by generations of Filipinos. Among them the countless ethnic groups whom he took in, in the course of his researches, the dance scholars who studied his volumes of video documentaries detailing the unique and rich heritage of indigenous Filipino dance, and the foreign community across continents, whom he entranced in his world tours, securing the place of the Filipino performer in the world stage. He has thus been a shining example of how far the Filipino artist can go, following his passion and caring for his nation through the arts.

He shall be missed by all of us who have all been witness to his daring and innovativeness on stage, bringing to life the moving image, truth, and diversity of our race.

Today, even as we bid him our final goodbye, we know that death cannot diminish the light of National Artist Ramon Obusan. His legacy of greatness, compassion, and grace will live on in the minds and hearts of all Filipinos.

Thank you, Ramon Obusan, for your work which shall remain a living reflection of ourselves, showing us who we are.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Speech during the Necrological Rites for National Artist Ramon Obusan (To be read by NCCA Chairman Ambeth R. Ocampo). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141649/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3046&Itemid=38

**New Year's Message of President Arroyo [Filipino] Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Bagong Taon**

[Ipinahayag sa Mansion House, Lungsod ng Baguio, ika 29 ng Disyembre, 2006]

Happy New Year sa inyong lahat!

Gusto kong magbigay ng espesyal na pagbati sa ating mga nagtrabaho sa pamahalaan.

Binuksan natin ang taong 2006 sa dagdag-bayad para sa mga kawani ng pamahalaan, at pagwakas ng taon, may pag-asa na naman ng bagong umento. Pagbalik ng Kongreso mula sa bakasyon, magpapadala ako ng panukalang batas upang itaas ng mga sampung porsiyento ang sahod ng mga empleyado ng gobyerno mula Hulyo.

Itakda ng panukalang batas kung paano gagamitin ang mahigit sampung bilyong pisong natipid natin. Ito ang unang bahagi ng reporma sa sweldo ayon sa husay ng trabaho at kakayahan ng mga kawani. Hinihiling ko sa Kongreso na ipasa itong panukala bilang katapusang gawain sa kanilang kapuri-puring pagbabalangkas ng mga laye.

At pagbukas ng bagong Kongreso sa Hulyo, haharap ako sa ating mga kongresista upang ipakiusap ang mabilis na pagsasabatas ng pangatlong yugto ng salary standardization. Ilalapit nito sa pribadong sektor ang mga sahod ng karaniwang kawani ng pamahalaan at itataas ang dami at galing ng trabaho nila.

Isasalang ng kalihim ng budget sa Kongreso ang mga panukalang batas, at kasama sa umento ang mga kawal, pulis at iba pang sandatahang pangkat.

Nagsasanib sa panukalang ito ang mithiin ng mga kawani, ang magagaling na patakaran sa pamamahala, ang mga panuntunan ng mahusay na trabaho, at ang inaasahang kita ng pamahalaan. Sa lahat ng ito, laging isinasa-isip ang kapakanan ng taumbayan.

Nang simulan natin ang paghahangad isa-ayos ang kaban ng bayan, hiniling natin sa mga kawani ng pamahalaan na makiisa sa mabigat na pasanin ng sambayanan. Ngayong malapit na nating matamo ang ating layunin, panahon na upang makuha ng mga manggagawang nasa gobyerno ang kanilang parte sa mga biyaya ng mga reporma sa ekonomiya.

Muli, Happy New Year sa ating government workers at ang taong-bayan na pinaglilingkuran nila.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's New Year's Message (Tagalog). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141628/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3045&Itemid=38

New Year's Message of President Arroyo

New Year's Message of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines

[Released on December 29, 2006]

We started 2006 with a pay hike for government workers and we will end it with a vow to do it again next year.

As soon as Congress comes back from its holiday furlough, I will be sending up a bill that will seek to grant an average 10-percent increase in the base pay of government employees effective July 2007.

This bill governs the usage of the P10.3 billion which we have set aside as the first installment of a merit-based, performance-driven compensation reform package for public sector workers. I am asking Congress to cap its impressive run of legislation with the passage of this important bill.

And come July, when the next legislature convenes, I will stand before our legislators to plead for the speedy passage of the third edition of the Salary Standardization Law, one that will not only increase the pay of state workers but boost the productivity of government as well.

The Secretary of Budget and Management will submit these bills to Congress, which will include our uniformed men and women in these pay increases.

These measures distill inputs from the field, best managerial practices, performance benchmarks and projected revenue streams of the government, all with the interest of the public in mind.

When we embarked on our mission to put our fiscal house in order, we asked government workers to share the burden of the people. Now that we have turned the corner, it is time for their share of the social payback of economic reforms.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's New Year message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141635/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3044&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) and FINEX Foundation Induction of Officers and Directors/Trustees

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) and FINEX Foundation Induction of
Officers and Directors/Trustees**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City, January 17, 2007]

Thank you, Peter for your introduction and congratulations! On your very valuable role in making the ASEAN and East Asia summits a success.

President Billy Cortez, other new officials of FINEX, other former officials of FINEX, members of the Cabinet and government, leaders of the business community, ladies and gentlemen.

Once again, congratulations! To the new board of FINEX.

Your board comes to office at a time, as Billy said, of great hopes and expectations. And we have set 2007 as the boom year for the economy. The sentiments of optimism and hope, as Billy said, are rising among the people. I thank you for saying that Billy. Your steady faith in our economy mirrors the confidence of the global financial community. The entire region and the world behold the valiant excellence of the great Filipino worker including the great Filipino workers in our financial field.

The Philippines reaps high marks in terms of fiscal freedom, trade freedom and freedom from government. We are going past the restrictive hurdles in the economy. This would have been speeded up by charter reforms, but the direction is clear — a strong and vibrant Philippine democracy under the blessings of economic freedom and free enterprise.

The Cebu summits have paved the way for one caring and sharing regional community in East Asia. We had a most productive summit held in the confluence of challenging events: the nuclear test in North Korea, the political situation in Myanmar, the continuing threat of terror, the energy crunch last year, the disasters that struck the region, and many more socioeconomic and political issues emerging in the early limelight of this millennium, or as Billy said, this Asian century.

We are determined to build a band of nations committed to democracy, security, and prosperity in every community large or small. The summit meetings tied hopes and aspirations for regional integration in 2015, or five years ahead of schedule. The wave of the future, therefore, is an open trade system focused on the viability of all its components — governments, business and most of all, human resources. Billy said FINEX is made up of human resources of so many movers and shakers, corporations in this country — you must pitch in with your talents and energies.

We know that the future of the world and the region lies in the enlightened solidarity of leaders and peoples. On our part, I am instructing the department of labor to produce the detailed Philippine position on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers. The Philippine detailed position will be an input to a regional plan of action. And for Peter, his great and important job will be to hammer out a refurbished plan to give more force and teeth to the ASEAN leaders' statement on the Doha development agenda of the WTO, in consultation with his counterparts in the region.

I thank Peter for his great role in the ASEAN and East Asian summits because in the ASEAN summits the leadership is really a troika. There is the head of government, there is the foreign minister, and there is the trade minister. And the acceleration to a regional integration to 2015 is largely the work of the trade ministers. Also, what

concrete measures we can do to produce at last a viable package and practicable package for the Doha round will also be in the hands of the trade ministers.

The Department of Transportation will work out the details of the Memorandum of Understanding of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area on the expansion of air linkages. You know what's important about this agreement between the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area — which for us means Mindanao — we will be granting fifth freedom rights to one another. In other words, a Bruneian airline... Or let's put it this way, a Philippine airline can travel from Brunei to Sulawesi, and that will ease travel among our countries especially the regions that composed BIMP-EAGA. And I am directing the energy department to dovetail all our pertinent programs with the Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security so that we can participate actively in pursuing the common ends defined by the leaders.

Just this morning before coming here, I did the ceremonial signing of the biofuels law. Biofuels was on everybody's tongue in the East Asian Summit on energy security. Because of the energy crunch last year, I insisted that in the East Asian Summit we would have one session just on energy security. It was indeed very fruitful and all of us thanked the new government of Japan under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for pledging two billion dollars to promote energy security in our region. And that's why it's important for the Department of Energy to work out our own part of that regional plan because Japan is there to help us with the funding. But that is the part of government. There is of course the important part of the business community. Everybody said we can do policy but the ones who will create the wealth will be the business community. And that is why it is important for you, the leaders of the financial community, the financial professionals of the Philippines to keep up the action.

You and I must tap the same collective determination as we forge ahead, again as Billy said, with the rest of the economic and financial reforms that enabled us to avert a fiscal crisis and beyond that get the economy rolling.

Judicious spending shall continue to be observed. Our priorities lie in programs that have the greatest impact on the most number of our people. For instance, the use of ADB's 650 million-dollar loan for power sector development. Because I know that when you talk infrastructure, I've asked you, I've asked the business community about what are your particular requirements, additional requirements for infrastructure. They say... Well, they've seen the north expressway, they see the construction on the south expressway, power infrastructure is so essential to make us power competitive.

I've also been calling the attention of our power-intensive industries like electronics, that in areas like Oriental Negros, Leyte and Misamis Oriental especially the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Villanueva enjoy royalties from the power companies, from the power generators that operate in their jurisdiction. And this royalties can be used 80 percent for electricity and only 20 percent for other development projects. So where do they usually spend their 80 percent? It is to subsidize the power rates of their constituents. And therefore I hope that the electronic companies will find their way into doing their investments in these areas.

In fact when I pointed this out to the leaders of Oriental Negros, they said, "yes, we will welcome the electronics companies and we will give them at least 50 percent subsidy on their power rates if they locate in the Palimpinon geothermal area of Valencia." Help us though to improve our airport so that their air freights can also or that the air facilities, air travel facilities, cargo facilities can also be world competitive. And we are doing that, part of our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

To go back to our spending patterns and also our revenue generating patterns, efforts will be increased to sell off government assets earmarked for privatization.

Collection efficiency is up. I was... You know the Prime Minister of Singapore is also going to do a tax reform this year, immediately after the ASEAN summit. He says he's copying the Philippines. And I told him about the efficiency of our VAT collection. That we have collected more in VAT revenues than we had projected. I told him that when we were defending and we were advocating the Value-Added Tax before our legislators, we did not want to be so overly optimistic as to assume revenues are related to a one hundred percent tax collection efficiency. We assumed an 80 percent tax collection efficiency in projecting revenues to match expenditures. But we have

surpassed that, which means that we have achieved more than 80 percent tax efficiency only in the first year of implementation when there were supposed to be still so many kinks to iron out. So, congratulations, Gary for you good work there.

As I said collection efficiency is up alongside the overall efficiency of all government agencies. For instance, for the first time in ten years, NAPOCOR gave a multibillion-peso dividend to the national government. And to think that barely two years ago, NAPOCOR was the main culprit for our consolidated public sector deficit. Of course, related to the tax collection efficiency, the hunt for the corrupt will continue without let up. And the United States has recognized this effort by giving us a 20 million-dollar grant to improve our revenue and anti-corruption efforts under the Millennium Challenge Account. And with their support and with our own spending, we are moving forward in the administrative and judicial aspects.

Also — maybe that's why Omar Cruz is not here. He's very busy — we have paid forward some of our debts. I hope that makes our central bank governor happy. And so therefore... What did we save in interest in debt service 2006? Thirty seven billion pesos. And that's why the social payback has begun to emerge.

I thank Congress, Girlie, and the Senate for finally agreeing to pass our budget and that will certainly increase the social payback to our people in terms of more important infrastructure projects that will entice more investments to come in as well as direct social payback expenditures on education, health, microfinance.

But even before that, over the last six years, almost six years of our administration, our average self-rated poverty score is now at its lowest since 1986. Our ultimate goal — Billy, talked about the ultimate goal of FINEX — the ultimate goal of our country is to remove the yoke of poverty which has pinned us down for centuries and to join the ranks of first world economies by 2020. But to be able to attain that and move towards that, we must strengthen our unity now that we are able to see palpable signs of progress. We must remain united and fixed on the rising star of the future. And that is the work of the new officers and board of FINEX.

Congratulations!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) and FINEX Foundation Induction of Officers and Directors/Trustees. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152725/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1805&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the First National Convention of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the First National Convention of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Manila, January 18, 2007]

Damo gid nga salamat, Mayor Treñas.

Mayor Sarmiento, all the other city mayors, your vice mayors and your councils and your barangay officials. Congratulations! To the first ever National Convention of the League of Cities of the Philippines.

This convention is a long-overdue recognition that our cities and your league have become a force to reckon with in our country's march to a better future. If you remember before I delivered our State of the Nation Address, we went around the country and consulted with you on our super regions which became the focus of our State of the Nation Address.

Our super regions approach to national development is founded on the concept of a strategy that leverages the best out of local leadership and resources, and projects them to a national and regional plane. And I am very happy and I look forward to the day when the league of cities would indeed be able to submit legislation to the national government in order to strengthen the local governments and the cities in the challenges that face your cities.

Your cities are the hubs whose spokes extend along all points of the compass to other cities and hubs of prosperity within the region. With hardworking and dedicated city mayors like you, we will continue to move forward in the global arena of competitiveness and excellence.

We thank you because your economic activities have helped our economy go on this extended bull run that it is enjoying higher than ever OFW remittances, a strong peso, surging stocks, tamed inflation, stable interest rates, and increasing investment inflows.

We have regained our place in the international landscape as a strong player in the fight against terror. This morning before I came here, I was at the Department of National Defense for we had a meeting with the U.S. officials who are supporting us in our Philippine defense reforms. And I took the opportunity to congratulate everyone involved because the highest Abu Sayyaf leader, Abu Sulaiman, has been slain.

I commended the Armed Forces for another milestone in the campaign against terror. This milestone caps with glory the signing of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-terrorism. We are resolved to work with our strategic partners in the region and with the United States to tighten the dragnet and stop the movement of terrorists, their finances and their deadly materiel across the seas and borders.

We mark every high point in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and the JI with greater resolve to move forward in strengthening domestic, regional and global security. The Philippines has a stake in a safer world where eight million Filipinos work and reside. We have a stake in an East Asian region that builds on prosperity and stability and peace. The relentless pressure we have applied in the field is taking its toll. We will keep it up until all the terrorists and their clandestine cells are accounted for.

This government is determined to finish the job with a hand of steel against evil. And I call on all the city mayors, let us all be determined to usher in a durable peace through economic development, interfaith dialogue and international cooperation. As I was coming in I saw City Mayor Jun Acharon of General Santos City which was the

victim of the latest bomb terroristic activity. And I hope Jun that with the killing of the top Abu Sayyaf leader and with the continued support of the United States, as they have again reiterated to us today, we will be able to put an end not only to the violence in Sulu — which has really become very peaceful — but to the violence in the great cities like General Santos City.

We have championed a social agenda that weaves the spirit of one caring and sharing community that's given a tangible share in the 2007 budget. And I thank the city mayors, because you have also put so much of a caring and sharing community in your own city budgets.

Social services is now the biggest component in the national budget, pulling away from debt services for the first time in many years. For the first time in many years our social budget is bigger than our debt service budget. And that is excluding the IRA, and your IRA after all is supposed to be devoted to agriculture, health, social welfare. In other words, the social budget would even be bigger if we were to include the social expenditures of our local government. While you are primarily responsible for social expenditures, the national government stands ready to help those who are already devoting much of the resources to social services.

For example, 700 million has been added to funds for job training scholarships under the TESDA, and part of this is that we are providing at least one scholarship for everyone of your barangays. Please give us your list of beneficiaries. This will broaden the wellspring of Filipino talent and excellence for a well-paid employment. You know we look for well-paid employment. And so TESDA is concentrating its training on those things that give us well-paid employment. For example, call center agents like Iloilo, what is your hiring rate? For every 100 that the call center companies interview in Iloilo, they hire forty. The highest in the country, congratulations! And we want more of your cities — because your children already have the basic English — we want more of your cities to study what we call the call center English.

Another very important, very popular livelihood for a living is seafarers. We have a great demand for seafarers all over the world. The Filipino is considered the best seafarers, so we want to train more seafarers. And then sometimes when I go to some of these cities or even the provinces, some of the older men... Well, middle-aged — not, not, not older, very old — but the middle-aged say, how can we become a call center agent. We're already way past high school, or we didn't go to high school, we don't speak English well enough, we can't even train for call center English. Well, another huge opportunity available, we have tens of thousands of demand for welders, high-income paying jobs. So, we are also promoting training in that activity.

And finally, you will be surprised, I think Marides, Marikina is one of the sources of demand. We have a very very big demand for butchers. So for those who didn't study high school, isn't it Marides, you have a big demand for butchers in Marikina? But not only in Marikina, in Australia, all over the world, there're thousands, tens of thousands also of job orders for butchers. So, we want to concentrate our training on this high-paying occupations. And we invite you, as I said, to submit the names of your nominees to TESDA so that they can give them the scholarship certificates.

Another very important activity where we want to help our cities is half-priced medicine. The target for half-priced medicine outlets has been doubled to 30,000 nationwide. This is one of our success stories that we have been able to bring half-priced medicine to the people, but we want to bring it even more. Please, also nominate to us the locations in your cities where we need to put an outlet for half-priced medicines.

All of these and more, we shall pursue as we meet head-on the challenges of a new Philippines in the context of highly-invigorated ASEAN and East Asia communities.

And as Jerry said, I am a strong advocate for local autonomy. As always, let me renew my pledge that I will stand as your partner for development, security and good governance. Let's remain focused on the task at hand.

I shall continue to wait upon your leadership to serve the people. The ideas come from you, in the end, the ideas will be implemented by you. And so I salute the cities for your great work and may you continue to achieve greater height in the years to come.

Thank you. More power. Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the First National Convention of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152636/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1797&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Luzon Urban Beltway Anti-Poverty Summit

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Luzon Urban Beltway Anti-Poverty Summit

[Delivered at the Clark Museum, Clark Special Economic Zone, Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga, January 19, 2007]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Ding Panganiban at congratulations! Sa iyo at kay Secretary Ed Pamintuan sa pag-convene nitong napakahalagang pagpupulong natin.

Ako'y nasisiyahan na narito ang iba't-ibang mga importanteng mga lider ng Luzon Urban Beltway. Narito si Governor Reyes ng Marinduque; narito si Presidential Assistant for Central Luzon, si Rene Diaz; narito ang ating host mayor, pero makiki-host na rin ako sa kanya dahil ang Angeles City bahagi dati ng distrito ng aking ama, ni President Diosdado Macapagal. So, welcome! From Taisan Lazatin and myself, welcome to Angeles City and Clark! Narito rin si Libby Laus, ang pangulo ng Development Corporation; at narito rin si Governor Josie Dela Cruz ng lalawigan ng Bulacan; at narito rin si Mayor Oca Rodriguez ng City of San Fernando. At sa inyong lahat, salamat sa mga kinatawan ng mga batayang sektor, mga negosyante, mga opisyal ng pamahalaan sa inyong pagdalo dito.

Salamat dito sa binigay niyong output, binasa ko, at ito ngang output na ito ay talagang sang-ayon doon sa ating gustong gawin para sa ating bansa. Kasi ngayon maganda ito dahil mapapahigpit na natin ngayon ang laban sa kahirapan dahil bumabalik na ang sigla ng ating ekonomiya. Kasi kung bagsak ang ekonomiya saan tayo kukuha ng pangastos para labanan ang kahirapan.

Itong sigla naman ng ekonomiya ay nagsimula nang maitupad natin ang mga reporma sa buwis at kaban ng bayan. Ngayon pagkatapos noon, lumakas ang piso, lumakas ang exports, bumabalik ang mga investor, lumakas ang tiwala ng mundo sa kakayahan ng ating ekonomiya.

Global approval of and confidence in the Philippine track is firm. It will stay that way for as long as we keep our sights on the economy and not on political partisanship. Confidence is fueled by the unity of the people, by the spirit of enterprise and the force of regional integration. On these three counts, the Philippines is on the ball. It's playing the game with solid teamwork and sound strategy. As we mop up the terror cells in Mindanao and usher in peace, as we consolidate open trade in ASEAN and East Asia, as we drive domestic enterprise to the grassroots and rally all Filipinos behind the fight against poverty, we will be on the way to winning the grand prize — first world status in twenty years. Every department and every agency of the national government, every local government unit, every sector and component of civil society must row in one direction of a strong Philippine democracy that can compete in all fronts.

Kahapon, marami nagbigay ng presentasyon. Ako rin meron akong presentasyon. Kasi lahat nitong mga ito ay masasabi nating nagbunga kung walang nagugutom. Yan ang pinakasukat ng kahirapan. Pero kung may nagugutom, ibig sabihin may hindi umuubra dito sa mga programang ito. Kaya ang gagawin ko ngayon ay iipresenta sa inyo ang pinagkasunduan ng gabinete na sana pagkasunduan natin lahat ang ating anti-hunger masterplan.

Kaya ang NEDA... O, ayon, eto. Eto ang ating hunger mitigation program framework. Kasi kung lalabanan natin ang kagutuman hindi lamang dole out ang kailangan. Ang kailangan kakayahan ng mga taong kumain, kakayahan din ng mga nagpapa-produce ng pagkain. Kaya eto, saan nanggagaling ang kagutuman? Sa kaliwa, kasi kulang ang pagkain, hindi kulang ang produksyon o hindi nakaabot sa consumer. Sa kanan naman walang pera para bumili ng pagkain. Kaya yung ating paglaban sa kagutuman dapat may supply side, yung pagkakulang ng pagkain ayusin natin. At may demand side, yung pagkakulang ng pera, ayusin din natin.

On the supply side, ano ang kailangang gawin? Dalawa yon, yung produksyon at yung papano aabot sa consumers, ang tawag doon efficiency of logistics and food delivery. Ano ang gagawin natin sa produksyon? Importante ang productivity programs, kasama dito yung livestock, mga tanim, yung pagbuhay muli ng mga isda, at ibig sabihin nito yung mangrove ayusin natin, yung Coastal Fishery Development ayusin natin, at saka gusto natin magkaroon ng mga sakahan sa pamilya, yung tinatawag nating 'Gulayan ng Masa' mismo sa kapaligiran ng bahay. At irigasyon. At ang irigasyon ay magiging responsibilidad ng Department of Agriculture, ng Department of Natural Resources...— hindi lang irigasyon, itong buong supply side — Department of Agriculture siyempre dahil agricultural products ito. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, bakit? Kasi yung mga mangrove, yung mga pangangalaga kanila yon. Yung mga upland na gusto nating buksan, we want to open two million hectares of land for agri-business in the whole Philippines, DENR din ang may-ari ng mga upland.

At yung NIA. siyempre para sa irigasyon. Pero yung local governments din meron silang communal irrigation system. So lahat noon ay kailangan magsama-sama para tumaas ang produksyon ng ating pagkain. Ngayon taas ang produksyon ng ating pagkain eh kung minsan masyadong mahal naman yung pag-abot sa consumer kasi yung post-harvest losses na kasama doon yung logistics which means transportation and warehousing and food delivery. Kaya anong ginagawa natin?

Meron tayong tinatawag na barangay food terminal. Ano ito? Ito ay bagsakan, hindi ba Ding? Bagsakan mismo na ang D.A. ang namamahala mula sa mga producers dinadala na sa bagsakan, at meron na yata tayong dalawampung bagsakan kagaya nito sa metro manila gusto natin dalhin ito sa lahat ng urban beltway.

Ngayon itong 'Tindahan Natin.' ano itong 'Tindahan Natin'? Ito yung tindahan para bang 7-11 specialty store kanya lamang dalawa ang kanyang specialty, rice and noodles. Kasi yon ang pinaka-kinakain ng karaniwang Pilipino. At nalagay na natin itong tindahan natin doon sa tinatawag na 17 — 17 ba yung hotspots sa Metro... Ilan, Seya? — 21 hotspots ng Metro Manila. Ibig sabihin nito ito yung mga squatter areas na maraming-marami ang mahirap. So at least bibilhin nila doon yung kanilang bigas na... Magkano? 17 pesos, 18 pesos tapos noon bibilhin nila yung noodles na mas mura rin keysa sa labas, so at least meron na silang murang pagkain. Pero gusto rin natin na iabot ito sa buong Luzon urban beltway.

At kailangan yung mga pantalan kasi transportasyon sa barko ay mahal kaya gusto natin yung roll-on/roll-off ferry na yung truck siya na ang sasakay mismo sa barko, hindi niya ia-unload yung pagkain. Eh meron tayong napakagandang roll-on/roll-off ferry, halimbawa, mula mindoro — yung probinsiya ni Vice President De Castro — patungong Batangas ay gusto natin ayusin din yung roll-on/roll-off ferry ng Marinduque patungo rin sa mainland Luzon. At ang mamamahala diyan ay yung Department of Transportation at yung Philippine Ports Authority na may sariling pondo.

Tapos para dalhin yung mga produkto ng sakahan sa palengke kailangan ng farm-to-market road, lalo na kung magbubukas tayo ng mga bagong lupa doon sa upland. Kailangan gumawa tayo ng mga kalsada at ang gagawa nito ay yung public works, yung Department of Agriculture farm-to-market road, yung DAR at kailangan din yung local governments sa mga barangay roads are local governments.

Tapos noon yung local transport... Eto ano ba itong pinag-uusapan na efficient local transport kasi ito ang sinasabi nung ibang mga nagdadala ng mga produkto from one province to another kapag dumadaan daw sa isang probinsiya kinukubra raw ng local government yung tax passing thru. Actually, that's not within the powers of local governments. So, Governor Reyes doesn't do it and Governor Josie Dela Cruz doesn't do it. Thank you for being model local governments, pero may iba, may iba. At ngayon na-specify na ng mga truckers kung sino yung mga local governments na gumaganun, gawa nuon. Kaya ito ang gusto nating dalhin sa League of Governors para maintindihan nila na hindi kasama yon sa mga powers ng local government. Kung yung trucking company ang headquarters ay nasa probinsiya niyo pwede yon, pero kung dumadaan lang hindi dapat. At malaki ang mababawas sa gastos ng transportasyon kung maunawaan yon ng lahat ng local governments.

Pagkatapos yung dinadala yung pagkain sa mga eskwelahan. Bakit natin doon sa eskwelahan, nung araw ang ating main thrust ay nagbibigay tayo ng milk and pandesal sa mga maliliit na bata. Kaya lamang ang gastos sa milk at pandesal sa maliliit na bata ay 20 pesos per. Sa 20 pesos makakabigay tayo ng isang kilo ng bigas na pwede namang

iuwi at buong pamilya pwede nang kumain. Kaya mas gusto ko talaga na yung food-for-school ang binibigay natin. Eto ang isang malaking debate natin sa mga ilang senador dyaan. Gusto nilang yung milk — eh kung minsan yung milk, nangyari na yon dito sa Pampanga — yung milk nung isang pork barrel ng isang senador nabulok, marami tuloy nasira ang tiyan. Yun din and isang problema sa milk, pero yung bigas hindi masisira yun.

Tapos noon yung... Tapos sabi nila kasi ang problema kasi yung food-for-school baka nagkakaran ng leakage. Sabi ko depende anong ibig sabihin ng leakage? Kung yung leakage ay hindi binigay ng teacher, hindi maganda yun, imbestigahan dapat yun. Pero kung leakage ay imbes na kinain ng pamilya binenta, okay naman yun, kasi baka meron na silang bigas. At least kung binenta nila makakabili sila ng ibang bagay. So that is not a real leakage, that is helping them to afford more food or whatever else they need.

So ang gumagawa nito ay yung DepEd at DSWD, at pinipili natin yung mga lugar kung saan malaki ang incidence ng kagutuman. Kaya kailangang gagawa tayo ng survey dito sa Luzon urban beltway. Kasi in terms of provinces, walang talagang kung buong probinsiya ang pag-uusapan walang talagang nagugutom na probinsya pero baka may mga nagugutom na barangay. At doon natin gagawin itong food-for- school na ito. Ang Department of Education sa higher grades, and DSWD naman sa daycare, sila ang mamamahagi nito.

Tapos kailangan natin yung mga... Kasi nga sinasabi leakage-leakage, siguraduihn natin na walang leakage, kailangan mga NGO kasama dito, mga simbahan. Kaya sana yung mga NGO na nandito makatulong maka-identify sino yung mahihirap na barangay at pag napili na yun at nagdi-distribute na tayo kailangan din bantayan ng NGO na wala yung sinasabing leakage. Pero gaya nang sabi ko kung yung nanay binenta, okay lang yun. Kaya lang dapat aabot man lang sa bata na iuwi niya.

Tapos noon yung community tradable rice certificates. Ito ay bagong programa ng nfa at isa sa mga darating na panahon ito ay papaliwanag ng NFA dahil ito ay binubuo pa nating programa. Pero dahil ito ay framework binibigay ko na lahat sa inyo. So yan ang supply side — itaas ang produksyon at gawing mas mabisa at mas mura yung pagdala ng pagkain sa kumakain.

Sa kanan naman yung demand side, yung walang pera para bumili ng pagkain. Ano ang kailangan? Number one, maglagay tayo ng pera sa bulsa ng tao; tapos pangalawa, dapat ilagay nayin sa kaisipan kung saan igagastos yung pera. Dapat gumastos sa mabuting nutrisyon at yung isa naman ay dapat rin kung kulang ang pera dapat maging responsible ang pamilya na maalala na kung masyadong mabilis ang pag-aanak, kung masyadong sunod-sunod mahirap para sa kalusugan ng pamilya, kalusugan ng nanay at kalusugan ng bata.

So, yung papano tayo maglalagay ng higit na pera sa bulsa ng mahihirap? Yung dito sa Luzon urban beltway kahit na karamihan ay urban meron pa rin tayong mga lugar ng niyugan like Marinduque niyog. In fact, nung nasira yung Marinduque, yung mga niyugan ng Marinduque nung bagyo ay parang nawala na ng hanapbuhay ang taumbayan doon. So, importante na magkaroon tayo ng produktibidad doon sa coconut areas. Una sa lahat pag nasira ibalik uli yung coconut.

Tapos noon... Alam niyo nung unang umupo ako bilang pangulo ang presyo ng coconut two pesos. Ngayon ang presyo ng coconut 20 pesos kasi maraming gamit ng coconut na nahanap natin. Kaya dapat idevelop natin yung dami ng gamit ng coconut. Halimbawa, yung coconut quire, itong coconut quire ito yung nilalagay sa mga... Yon sa mga upholstery, noong araw kapok, noong araw foam, ngayon quire. Tapos noon yung virgin coconut oil, napakaganda noon at kung sana talaga ma-develop natin ang virgin coconut oil sa coconut producing areas natin talagang magandang-magandang produkto yun. Kaya D.A. ang namamahala ng PCA at inatasan ko na na ang pondo ng CIIF hindi basta-basta kung saan pupunta, kailangan pupunta kung saan sinabi ng D.A. pupunta. Kasama ba ang CIIF sa ating workshop? Dapat kasama sila. Anyway, tayo-tayo naman pwede nating sabihin sa kanila.

At yung isa rin, microfinance, yan ang pinakaimportanteng pantawid kaya narito yung ating mga microfinance. Nandiyan sila Egay Generoso nandiyan ng Peoples Credit and Finance corporation. Yung Land Bank of the Philippines, nagbibigay din ng microfinance at saka yung DSWD, lalo na yung DSWD isang malaking microfinance project nila yon sa 'Tindahan Natin.' doon sa mga gustong magtayo ng 'Tindahan Natin,' yung mga specialty stores for rice and noodles, pwedeng pondohan ng seed capital — 20,000 pesos initial seed capital — ng DSWD. Tapos

siyempre gusto natin na dumami ang trabaho, construction and maintenance of farm-to-market roads, irrigation, roadside maintenance. So gusto natin dapat maalala — nandito ba yung DPWH Regional Director natin dito at saka yung...? Okay.

Yun, oh congratulations! To our new Assistant Secretary, Director Aquino, about to leave Region III for a promotion. Pero in the meantime, pwede ba total pupunta ka na rin sa national kailangan paalala mo na dapat labor-intensive ang ginagamit na method hindi capital-intensive para maraming nagtrabaho. Halimbawa doon sa yung tinatawag natin nung araw na oyster at saka yung — ano ang tawag noon ang in-charge pa si Danny Suarez? — ‘Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin.’ that was labor-intensive at yon ang dapat nating gawing teknolohiya para sa farm-to-market road kasi hindi naman maselan ang farm-to-market road. So pwedeng dapat yon ang gagamitin. Pati sa irrigation ganun din, yung roadside maintenance ganun din.

At para magkaron ng magandang hanapbuhay, yung mataas ang sweldo, malaki ang pondong binibigay natin sa TESDA ngayon mostly for scholarships. Kung mag-aaral ang mga mahihirap sa training center at ang binibigyan nating diin seafarer, kasi maraming humahanap at mataas ang sweldo. Call center agents, tignan niyo dito mismo sa Clark, dalawang libo na ang call center agents sa isang taon lamang. Tapos noon yung caregiving, sabi nga ni Governor Reyes, marami rin lalo na at nagkaron tayo ng economic partnership agreement sa Japan kasi maraming matatanda sa japan kailangan nila yang caregivers. At isa pang importanteng binibigyan natin ng pansin ay yung welding. Diyan lang sa hanjin sa Subic 15,000 welders na noong araw ay marginal fishermen, kaya tini-training... At marami pa mag-e-expand pa ang Subic at marami pang ibang mga shipyard ang gustong magtayo sa Pilipinas. In fact, we will become the number four shipyard in the world kaya maghanda tayo doon.

At isa pa, kasi noon yung welding nangyari yun dahil sabi nila sa akin, papano naman kami hindi marunong mag-ingles, ma-high school ingles man lang, saka hindi kami maka-call center. Kaya ayun, welding. Sabi naman nung iba... Pero isa pa, aside from that, believe it or not, butchering. Ang laki ng job order sa butchering whether in the Philippines or outside the Philippines. Kaya ito ang binibigyan nating pansin para sa TESDA. So ‘Wag na muna yung Pastillas-making kasi Pastillas-making mahirap makahanap ng buyers. Pero itong training na ito meron talagang hirers. So yun ang aggressive training.

And then upland land distribution. Si Janet, yung ating NCIP, ang pinakamalaking trabaho niya ay distribution of ancestral domain. At gusto natin talaga ito, marami tayong... Dito sa Porac lang ang dami, di ba? Sa Zambales andami ancestral domain for land distribution because we want to have four... In fact, scientifically established may four million hectares available upland and yet our goal is only two million hectares of land for agri-business, new hectares of land kasi gusto natin magtanim ng jathropa at saka ng rubber sa upland dahil magbibigay ng mataas na income yon.

Ngayon magkaroon ng pera ang taumbayan turuan na dapat igastusin sa mabuting pagkain. Kaya ang DOH at National Nutrition Council ay dapat lilibot kasama ng ating mga ngo dahil NGOs ay kasapi ng National Nutrition Council para ituro kung ano ang dapat gagawing kakainin, bibilhin ng taumbayan sa kanilang salapi. And of course, we count on the local government units to be very strong in this social marketing. At gusto natin yung breastfeeding, kasi alam niyo we only produce one percent of our milk consumption, so kung magbe-breastfeeding hanggang two years old ang bata ang laki ng ating maiwasan sa foreign exchange. At hindi lamang yun, yung kalusugan ng bata at kalusugan ng nanay ay mas magaling at saka ito ay isang magandang family planning method. Kasi kung two years na magbe-breastfeeding, two years rin hindi magkakaroon ng bagong anak. So ito ang importante, we really want to promote breastfeeding and the DOH is promoting this and we hope the local government units will also be promoting this.

Tapos sa eskwelahan. Sa eskwelahan din dapat tinuturo yung nutrition education. And I mentioned about responsible parenthood, breastfeeding is the most efficient way of responsible parenthood, at the same time though, yung ating Department of Health, yung ating mga NGO kagaya ng mga Couples for Christ, kagaya nung grupo ni Lito Sandejas, they are promoting natural family planning, and of course the local governments are free to promote whatever kind of family planning they want to promote. So yan ang ating programa para sa hunger mitigation. At inaasahan ko, although the others made presentations of other programs, sabi ko ako ang magpe-present nitong hunger framework dahil para sa akin ito ang pinaka-landmark project dapat ng ating Anti-Poverty Program. O ayun! Si Mayor Boking Morales, the other host mayor of Clark. Hello! Boking, good morning.

Anyway, bakit natin pinepresenta ito ngayon, kasi noong araw hindi natin mapresenta wala tayong pera eh, pero ngayon kaya na natin. Bago pa man natapos ang nakaraang taon nasiguro nating malaki ang natipid natin mula sa mga reporma, ini-utos na natin na itong taon dagdagan natin ng dalawampung dalawang bilyong piso upang ibalik sa mamamayan ang mga serbisyong panlipunan. Alam niyo kung bakit sinabi kong 22 billion for this year's budget ang prinopose? Kasi last year nung hinahanda yung budget for this year, na-estimate na na, "Uy! Lumakas ang piso, lumiit ang interest rate natin. We're going to save 22 billion pesos, so let's add 16 billion to education, let's add five billion to health and let's add one billion to DSWD." So all the savings of interest goes to social services. Eh ngayon ang saving pala natin ay 37 billion.

Kaya naman ginagawa rin natin yung Luzon Urban Beltway Super Region upang masigurong mapabilis ang mga imprastrukturang kailangan agad ng mga mamumuhunan at ng sambayanan. Halimbawa binanggit ko yung hanjin, ba't sila narito? Ba't sila naglalagay ng isang billion dollars na investment? Bakit sila nagha-hire so far 15,000 and still counting? Dahil sa pag-ayos ng subic port, yan ang dahilan kung bakit nagtayo sila dito. Kaya malaking bagay ang imprastruktura. Ang imprastruktura dito sa Clark, nandito ang Sutherland call center, yun ang nagbibigay ng first 2,000 jobs for call center agents dahil meron tayong North Expressway na mabilis magbiyahe mula Maynila hanggang dito sa Clark. Pero hindi lamang sa serbisyong panlipunan at imprastruktura nakikinabang ang mga mamamayan.

Dahil sa patuloy na paglakas ng piso, nagawa ng jeepney operators dito sa Region III, IV and NCR, na ibaba ng singkwenta sentimos ang pasahe. Nararamdaman na ba ninyo ito? Yon ay dahil malakas ang piso kahit na mataas ang presyo ng gasolina sa mundo ay bababa ang ibinabayad natin sa piso. Yung mga taxi naman ay hindi na tinuloy ang hihilingin sana nilang itaas na singil ng boundary.

At ang Meralco ay nangako na hindi na papatawan ng Cera or Currency Adjustment ang kanilang sinisingil na kuryente. At binanggit ko ito... At binanggit ko itong kontribusyon ng pribadong sektor maging malaking kompanya na gaya ng Meralco o maliliit gaya ng mga taxi operator at saka jeepney operator dahil ang leksiyon dito, ang mensahe dito ay sama-samang pagkilos ang nararapat upang makamit ang kaunlaran. Kaya maraming salamat sa mga pangako. Ituloy natin at labanan natin ang kahirapan.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Luzon Urban Beltway Anti-Poverty Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152608/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1790&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Recognition and Awarding Ceremonies of Military Personnel involved in the Anti-Terrorist Campaign and other Operations

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Recognition and Awarding Ceremonies of Military Personnel involved in the Anti-Terrorist
Campaign and other Operations**

[Delivered at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang, January 24, 2007]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, General Esperon.

Members of the Cabinet; Ambassador Kenney; Undersecretary Hughes and the members of the American delegation — thank you for coming here to congratulate our Filipino soldiers — bereaved families of our soldiers killed in action; our gallant men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, congratulations!

I salute you for your courage and devotion to duty. You are the soldiers of the people in the finest tradition of the uniform. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

I also commend the leadership of the Chief of Staff, General Esperon and all our field commanders. Congratulations to all of you!

As we weaken the terrorist cells and bandit hordes and drive the revolutionary left to strategic defeat, we will continue to consolidate the Filipino people in the greater fight against poverty, disease, ignorance and injustice.

Kaya yung ginagawa ninyo, nilalaban ang kalaban para mapayapa tayo, malaking bagay yon para sa ating laban kontra sa kahirapan. Kaya maraming salamat din doon.

With the all-out support and vigilance of every Filipino, we can add on to our victories and ride the tide of the people's confidence and hope, shore up the economy and work with our neighbors and allies for a safer world.

At magagawa nating lahat ito dahil sa inyo.

You have laid and secured the road to peace and prosperity. You have repulsed the armed tormentors of the people by the gallant shield of the Filipino soldier.

And I'm very happy that tonight, we have a personal representative from President Bush, to join us in this celebration.

Our joint military training exercises with the United States constitute a spearhead against the spread of terror in the region. At the same time, we are closely coordinating with our neighbors in stepping up vigilance along our common borders to close the dragnet on the Abu Sayyaf remnants on the run. Remnants na lang sila. Retaso na lang sila dahil sa inyo. Nakuha ninyo yung mga ulo nila.

At itong ginawa ninyo, itong ginagawa ninyo, lahat itong mga inyong tagumpay na binigyan natin ng mga promotion ay malaking bagay hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kung hindi sa buong mundo.

The security of the Asia-Pacific lies in a terror-free Southeast Asia. It lies in stability in the Korean peninsula. It lies in a stable environment in the South China Sea. That is your role not only in the country but in the region and in the world.

And in the recent ASEAN meeting, we tackled these issues to provide a comprehensive umbrella of peace and security to facilitate trade and development in the region.

The Philippines is committed its share of the work.

Marami sa inyo na binigyan natin ng promotion — mga bata, mga platoon, mga bata. I want to give a special message to our young soldiers spearheading the fight against terror, because you are spearheading the fight against terror, in the same way that our young professionals and young entrepreneurs are leading the fight against poverty while helping build excellence in the entire region. Your generation will wrap up the fight against terror and poverty in no time at all and lead our nation to the ranks of the first world in the coming decades.

Pag kayo ay edad na namin sana nga nasa first world na tayó. Pero hindi natin magagawa yon kung hindi mapayapa ang ating bansa. Kaya ang unang-unang pangangailangan ay yung ginagawa ninyo. Kaya tayó'y nagkakaroon nitong pagdiriwang kasi gusto ko sa ngalan ng buong sambayanang Pilipino, magpasalamat sa inyong pagkabayani.

Kaya ginawa natin itong pagdiriwang sa Heroes' Hall kasi kayo mga heroes kayo lahat.

To all of you, once again, congratulations! And carry on.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Recognition and Awarding Ceremonies of Military Personnel involved in the Anti-Terrorist Campaign and other Operations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151832/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1781&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on the ASEAN Economic Roadmap, January 26, 2007

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On the ASEAN Economic Roadmap

[Delivered at the Hotel Meierhof and Restaurant, Davos, Switzerland, January 26, 2007]

The ASEAN economic roadmap

At a time of uncertainty in the world, ASEAN is taking a bold step forward rather than a timid step back by committing to establish an ASEAN charter. At a time when the Doha round is faltering, ASEAN wants to stand up and proclaim its support for keeping the doors of global trade open. And ASEAN is committed to expanding its trade area to create one of the world's great economic blocs. This is what the ASEAN roadmap is all about.

An ASEAN charter will help achieve "One vision, One identity, One community" and hopefully, someday "one union" by providing an enhanced institutional framework as well as conferring a legal personality to ASEAN.

ASEAN's first attempt to integrate began with the implementation of our free trade area in 1992. Since then, intra-ASEAN trade has grown fourfold. Now, we have decided to accelerate the establishment of an ASEAN community by 2015 rather than the original ASEAN 2020 vision. ASEAN envisions a single market and production base in which there is a free movement of goods, services, skilled labor and investments, equitable economic development, reduced poverty incidence and narrowed socio-economic development gaps among our members.

To facilitate the free movement of goods, ASEAN integration is now underway in 12 priority sectors that make up the bulk of our trade with one another. ASEAN is not only eliminating or minimizing tariffs on priority sectors, it's also enhancing trade facilitation to reduce transaction costs and to reduce the cost of doing business in our region. This involves simplification and harmonization of our customs regimes through an ASEAN single window.

As to the free flow of skilled labor, one example of integration is the mutual recognition arrangement for nursing services that was signed in Cebu, Philippines a few weeks ago.

The challenge is to create a stronger, more united and cohesive ASEAN while further expanding our engagement with our dialogue partners and other parties. ASEAN is integrating with all the major economic players in the region—China, India, Japan, Korea—by forging individual 10+1 economic partnership agreements and negotiating free trade areas with each of them. The signing of the ASEAN -China agreement on trade in services at the Cebu Summit inched us closer to free trade in the region, cutting barriers on services such as telecommunications, transportation and tourism. Within the broader forum of East Asia summit made up of ASEAN + 6 dialogue partners, with whom we're integrating, we gave our community the means to fuel its growth with the declaration on the East Asian Energy Security in Cebu.

And realizing the grave danger posed by terrorism to trade and development and therefore to our economic roadmap, in Cebu, the heads of government signed the ASEAN convention on counter-terrorism, Asia's first legally binding counter-terror instrument.

In sum, ASEAN is moving forward with firm accords on its own charter, security, overseas workers, and trade. It's moving forward on its economic roadmap.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Vin D' Honneur

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Vin D' Honneur

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, January 31, 2007]

Archbishop Feloni and the other members of the diplomatic corps; Vice President de Castro; Speaker de Venecia; Chief Justice Puno; other officials of the Philippine government; Secretary Romulo; their ladies; ladies and gentlemen.

Happy New Year to all of you!

There's no better audience than this distinguished group to recount the extraordinary run of international events that have transpired the last few months that I hope will change the face of Asia and the Philippines in the years to come. I'm referring to the series of Asian leader events that began in Nanning in November with a celebration of China's 15th anniversary as a partner with ASEAN.

As chair of ASEAN this year, I am perhaps not surprisingly bullish about the advances we have made as an organization. That includes our pride at having played a role in helping to spur China to new heights as an economic force.

After a successful APEC meeting in Hanoi where Vietnam took the spot and rightfully received praise for its economic advances, the momentum carried us to Cebu for the ASEAN and East Asian summits. India, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Australia and East Timor joined the ASEAN 10 to celebrate the beginning of a new day in Asia.

The most notable achievement was the united ASEAN vote to move forward our goal for an ASEAN trading zone by 2015, and our bold step forward to embrace a blueprint for establishing an ASEAN charter. At a time when the WTO is buckling under the strain of discontent, ASEAN is standing tall in its common embrace of open markets, social justice and security.

And having just come from Davos, I can tell you that the world is taking notice of an invigorated ASEAN.

I can also attest to another idea whose time has come: the model for peace and stability we have achieved thus far in Mindanao. The arc of progress is discernable, the hope palpable. Most importantly, we have a new paradigm for peace that's built on interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness, investments in economic development and basic infrastructure, and mutual security cooperation.

These measures have allowed us to expand the territory of peace and narrow the lair of the terrorists. That is precisely how we closed in and eliminated key members of the Abu Sayyaf and J.I. just a few weeks ago. Our fight against terrorism remains unabated and our resolve has been strengthened with new binding treaties in ASEAN and on a bilateral basis with our key allies.

And it has all been made possible by standing by strong principles that embrace soft power at the center, hard power at the edge. And most importantly, it's our alliance of domestic and international partners who have kept the Mindanao peace process so vital.

In Davos, I shared the stage with Prime Minister Badawi and praised his leadership in forging a peace that includes partners such as Sweden, Japan, the E.U., the U.S., Libya, the ASEAN nations, the OIC nations.

Peace in Mindanao is every bit as important to our economic security as our physical security. If we can cut off the flow of money for arms and defense and turn on the spigot of development for peace, the nation will make a major leap forward.

And closer to home, I'm once again in the proud position this year to announce strong economic numbers: our stock market has never been higher in a decade nor delivered better return for investors; the peso is at the highest point in recent years; exports have grown by double digit; direct foreign investment has soared to two billion u.s. dollars; almost one million jobs were created; and our credit outlook has come up.

Our national budget is being passed and we are now investing for the second complete year in a row of long overdue infrastructure investments. This includes billions for education, health care and start up capital for social infrastructure. Billions more for new roads, bridges, ports and physical infrastructure.

And let me be clear: we continue to pay down our deficit. And our economic managers are determined to meet their goal of balancing our budget in 2008. And lest anyone falsely declare that we will spend beyond our means before the upcoming election, I've something to say — no way. We have a budget in place and the discipline and political will to stick to it.

I see 2007 as the year we start to bring home the fruits of reform to those who need the nourishment the most — the poor here in the Philippines. Through the painful but necessary battles to raise new revenue, crackdown on tax cheats and prosecute corrupt government officials, we are now finally a nation ready to do right by our poorest citizens.

We want to create high-paying jobs here at home so that Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job. We want overseas work to be a career choice, not the only option for a talented man or woman in search of a better life. Our overseas workers are heroes who contribute much to our nation. But it is time to plan for the day when our heroes can come home, be with family, buy a home and live in comfort and dignity right here in the Philippines.

And part of a bright new future for our nation is to take control over our reliance on energy, to become free from dependence on foreign oil and become self-sufficient through the use of sustainable, alternative forms of energy. This will enhance our national security, lift up our economy and preserve our environment.

To that end, no nation can aspire to become modern without thinking of our environment. I want to press ahead with a massive green Philippines environmental plan that is comprehensive in scope and thorough in execution. A plan that includes reforestation, preservation of our reefs and waterways and scrubs the land and air of pollutants that endanger the health of our citizens.

Yet with all of our dreams come the day-to-day realities that change and reform never move fast enough. Disparities exist that are hard to witness; there are too many poor, too many sick, too many without a job. I wish I could just make the process move forward to slow down and eventually halt the inequalities.

And one reality that must be resolved is our sad history of political violence. We have just received the first Melo report on the assassination of political activists and journalists. I had asked justice Melo last August to take a hard look at what's behind our nation's dangerous predilection to want to subvert democracy through the barrel of a gun.

I have reached out to those who share my deep concern for the victims in order to press them into service to help solve this never-ending pattern of violence. I met with amnesty international in London over the summer, with friends from the European union, local religious and civic leaders and our enforcement community to try and get to the bottom of these killings once and for all.

Investigations suggest links to both right and left — to communists, communist rebels as well as possibly elements of our own military. The investigations of the national police's Task Force "Usig" have unearthed some interesting facts such as 23 cases of killings perpetrated by the NPA against their own men, the discrepancy between the

number of cases reported by the front organizations of the communists and the numbers in the police files, and two cases where the supposed victims were confirmed to be alive. It's disheartening to contemplate that anyone upholding people's rights could engage in such deeds. I need to absorb fully what it means.

Yesterday, we came out with a response to the first Melo report. There is much to ponder and much to be done. We are not stopping in our crusade for human rights. We want a wider, deeper understanding that will involve more cooperation from all concerned parties and sectors. We're calling on the relatives, the witnesses and even the militant groups to speak out, lay the evidence and serve the high cause of justice. The government shall consolidate its agencies and resources for this effort, invite international cooperation, protect witnesses, field special prosecutors and ask for the installation of special courts to move forward. The AFP itself is deeply involved in this effort to check its ranks and protect the name and prestige of the military organization and the majority of our soldiers from the stigma of this issue.

I do know this: I believe 99.9 percent of our military are good, hard working and patriotic Filipinos. They do heroic things, like killing terrorists in battle, putting their lives on the line every day to protect the nation and make our homeland safer.

In order to address the recommendations of the Melo Commission, we will work with the church, activists, the journalist community, government officials, the international community and justice Melo to strengthen any findings and put teeth in the recommendations.

But I can tell you today that we will not stand for a one particular thing — we will not stand for an election in may disrupted by violence or political intimidation. We will do everything in our power to crackdown on political violence leading up to this may election so that our citizens can vote free from fear. So that our candidates can campaign without the shadow of assassination. And so that our journalist comrades can cover the election, not their head, in pursuit of press freedom.

So to move beyond the imponderable to the hopeful, let me say to everyone in this room and everyone in this nation: I welcome you to 2007 with a keen sense of hope and optimism about the future. I do so fully aware of the challenges that beset the nation. We have it in our power to stop complaining and finger pointing and just get the job done.

Let's move this nation forward through collective action. Yes, let's debate our differences, but let us do so in peace and respect. We have much to be thankful for. I know I do. And much is a result of the people in this room and outside who care about the Philippines and the world.

On this note, please join me in a toast to the hope that 2007 will be the year it will all come together for the Philippines and the world.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Vin D' Honneur. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151822/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1774&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 16th Anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 16th Anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP)**

[Delivered at the Multi-Purpose Center, Camp Crame, Quezon City, January 31, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Puno.

Director General Calderon and all the officers and men and women of the Philippine National Police; Secretary Ebdane and all the previous heads of the Philippine National Police; Governor Singson and all elective officials who are here; Don Emilio Yap and all the benefactors of the PNP; members of the diplomatic corps; guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Binabati ko ang buong puwersa ng ating kapulisan sa inyong anibersaryo, anibersaryo ng Philippine National Police. Sabi nga ni Secretary Puno, “you’re at your highest morale ever.” thank you very much for such morale.

Malugod ko ring binabati ang lahat ng tumanggap ng karangalan dito bilang katangi-tanging miyembro ng PNP. Iginawad ang medalya at parangal na ito bilang pagkilala sa inyong mahusay at matapat na paglilingkod. Pinupuri ko rin ang daan-daang mga pulis na nakibahagi sa pagsiguro na maging ligtas at matagumpay ang pagdaos ng 12th ASEAN at 2nd East Asian Summit sa Cebu kamakailan lang.

Maraming-maraming salamat sa inyong mga sakripisyo para sa summit.

As chair of ASEAN, I am perhaps not surprisingly bullish about the advances we have made as an organization. At Cebu, under your care, the leaders of 17 nations comprised of over half of the world’s population met and agreed on issues, on a range of issues to build closer economic, political and security relations. Naroon yung pinuno ng India, pinuno ng Tsina, pinuno ng Hapon, pinuno ng Korea, pinuno ng New Zealand, pinuno ng Australia, pati pinuno ng East Timor — they joined the ASEAN 10 to celebrate the beginning of a new day in Asia.

The most notable achievement of that affair that you secured so well was the united ASEAN vote to move forward our goal for an ASEAN trading zone by 2015. Also our bold step forward to embrace a blueprint for establishing an ASEAN charter.

We realize it’s time for Asia to stand up and be counted.

At ASEAN — and you are very much involved in this — people are looking at the unique model we have developed in Mindanao as a blueprint that can be applied to other flashpoints around the globe.

We have a new paradigm for peace that is built on interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness, investments in economic development and basic infrastructure, and mutual security cooperation. These measures have allowed us — you and me and the armed forces represented here by General Esperon and the other heads of the top brass — to expand the territory of peace and narrow the lair of the terrorists.

You and the Armed Forces have been valiant partners in the fight against terror interdicting the movements of the enemy, interdicting its funds, interdicting its materiel. Thank you for your vigilance beside the people.

I also note the achievements of 'Task Force Usig.' Although created only eight months ago to investigate the killings of media personalities, and members of militant groups, 'Task Force Usig' of the Philippine National Police has made inroads in investigating cases as far back as 2001.

Yesterday, we received the first Melo Commission report on the assassination of political activists and journalists, and it used some of the findings of 'Task Force Usig.'

I had asked Justice Melo last August to take a hard look at what's behind our nation's dangerous predilection to subvert democracy through the barrel of the gun. 'Task Force Usig's' investigations, your investigations have unearthed some interesting facts such as 23 cases of killings perpetrated by the NPA against their own; the discrepancy between the number of cases reported by left-leaning groups; and the numbers in the police files; and two cases where the supposed victims were confirmed to be alive.

The investigation track on slain journalists shows that for 26 media people slain since 2001 for work-related reasons, 21 cases have been filed in court against suspects that include local leaders such as a mayor and barangay chairmen. But indeed, having said this, one reality that must be resolved is our sad history of political violence. And here once again, my dear policemen and women, the Filipino people are counting on you once again to safeguard the ballot and clamp down on guns and violence in the run up to the elections in may.

You and I can tell the people today that one thing will not stand — an election in May disrupted by violence or political intimidation. We must do everything in our power to crack down on political violence leading up to this May election to ensure that our citizens can vote free from fear. That our candidates can campaign free from the shadow of assassination. And our journalist comrades can cover the election rather than their head in pursuit of press freedom.

The fruits of economic reform are being plowed back to the Filipino people in the form of improved education, food productivity and distribution, clean water, micro loans to the unemployed, and a better transport and telecommunications infrastructure to bridge the entire nation.

Part of the savings gained from our economic measures will be used to modernize the Philippine National Police and improve the living conditions of our policemen and policewomen through housing and such programs.

I congratulate everyone involved for putting up the 200 houses in Tarlac. But let me remind you there are 400 hectares waiting for the policemen and their families in San Miguel, Bulacan. Please start developing it and building your houses there.

I'm also announcing that henceforth, every policeman or policewoman injured while on duty will receive 50,000 pesos for major injuries and 20,000 pesos for minor injuries. And families of those killed in action will receive a hundred thousand pesos from the president's social fund.

We hope that with housing — and the fact that you have been participating — and all the bonuses that we give the civilian employees of the government since my administration started, and the increase in pay that you got way back in 2001 after 10 years that it was legislated and not yet implemented. And we hope that with all these benefits, you will continue to have your morale go higher and higher and higher every year.

Happy anniversary and mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 16th Anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151811/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1775&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on peace and stability in Mindanao, January 31, 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On peace and stability in Mindanao**

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañang, January 31, 2007]

Peace and stability in Mindanao

I can also attest to another idea whose time has come: the model for peace and stability we have achieved thus far in Mindanao. The arc of progress is discernable, the hope palpable. Most importantly, we have a new paradigm for peace that's built on interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness, investments in economic development and basic infrastructure, and mutual security cooperation.

These measures have allowed us to expand the territory of peace and narrow the lair of the terrorists. That is precisely how we closed in and eliminated key members of the Abu Sayyaf and J.I. just a few weeks ago. Our fight against terrorism remains unabated and our resolve has been strengthened with new binding treaties in ASEAN and on a bilateral basis with our key allies.

And it has all been made possible by standing by strong principles that embrace soft power at the center, hard power at the edge. And most importantly, it's our alliance of domestic and international partners who have kept the Mindanao peace process so vital.

Peace in Mindanao is every bit as important to our economic security as our physical security. If we can cut off the flow of money for arms and defense and turn on the spigot of development for peace, the nation will make a major leap forward.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Arroyo on the 2007 Reformation, January 31, 2007

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On the 2007 Reformation

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, January 31, 2007]

Bringing home the fruits of reform in 2007

And closer to home, I'm once again in the proud position this year to announce strong economic numbers: our stock market has never been higher in a decade nor delivered better return for investors; the peso is at the highest point in recent years; exports have grown by double digit; direct foreign investment has soared to two billion U.S. dollars; almost one million jobs were created; our credit outlook has come up.

Our national budget is being passed and we are now investing for the second complete year in a row of long overdue infrastructure investments. This deludes billions for education, health care and start up capital for social infrastructure. Billions more for new roads, bridges, ports and physical infrastructure.

And let me be clear we continue to pay down our deficit. And our economic managers are determined to meet their goal of balancing our budget in 2008. And lest anyone falsely declare that we will spend beyond our means before the upcoming election, I've something to say—no way. We have a budget in place and the discipline and political will to stick to it.

We want to create high-paying jobs here at home so that Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job. We want overseas work to be a career choice, not the only option for a talented man or woman in search of a better life. Our overseas workers are heroes who contribute much to our nation. But it is time to plan for the day when our heroes can come home, be with family, buy a home and live in comfort and dignity right here in the Philippines.

And part of a bright new future for our nation is to take control over our reliance on energy, to become free from dependence on foreign oil and become self-sufficient through the use of sustainable, alternative forms of energy. This will enhance our national security, lift up our economy and preserve our environment.

To that end, no nation can aspire to become modern without thinking of our environment. I want to press ahead with a massive green Philippines environmental plan that is comprehensive in scope and thorough in execution. A plan that includes reforestation, preservation of our reefs and waterways and scrubs the land and air of pollutants that endanger the health of our citizens.

Yet with all of our dreams come the day-to-day realities that change and reform never move fast enough. Disparities exist that are hard to witness; there are too many poor, too many sick, too many without a job. I wish I could just make the process move forward to slow down and eventually halt the inequalities.

Goodbye to political violence

And one reality that must be resolved is our sad history of political violence. We have just received the first Melo report on the assassination of political activists and journalists. I had asked justice Melo last August to take a hard look at what's behind our nation's dangerous predilection to want to subvert democracy through the barrel of a gun.

I have reached out to those who share my deep concern for the victims in order to press them into service to help solve this never-ending pattern of violence. I met with amnesty international in London over the summer, with

friends from the European Union, local religious and civic leaders and our enforcement community to try and get to the bottom of these killings once and for all.

Investigations suggest links to both right and left — to communists, communist rebels as well as possibly elements of our own military. The investigations of the national police's Task Force "Usig" have unearthed some interesting facts such as 23 cases of killings perpetrated by the NPA against their own men, the discrepancy between the number of cases reported by the front organizations of the communists and the numbers in the police files, and two cases where the supposed victims were confirmed to be alive. It's disheartening to contemplate that anyone upholding people's rights could engage in such deeds. I need to absorb fully what it means.

Yesterday, we came out with a response to the first Melo report. There is much to ponder and much to be done. We are not stopping in our crusade for human rights. We want a wider, deeper understanding that will involve more cooperation from all concerned parties and sectors. We're calling on the relatives, the witnesses and even the militant groups to speak out, lay the evidence and serve the high cause of justice. The government shall consolidate its agencies and resources for this effort, invite international cooperation, protect witnesses, field special prosecutors and ask for the installation of special courts to move forward. The AFP itself is deeply involved in this effort to check its ranks and protect the name and prestige of the military organization and the majority of our soldiers from the stigma of this issue.

I do know this: I believe 99.9 percent of our military are good, hard working and patriotic Filipinos. They do heroic things, like killing terrorists in battle, putting their lives on the line every day to protect the nation and make our homeland safer.

In order to address the recommendations of the Melo Commission, we will work with the Church, activists, the journalist community, government officials, the international community and justice Melo to strengthen any findings and put teeth in the recommendations.

We will do everything in our power to crackdown on political violence leading up to this may election so that our citizens can vote free from fear. So that our candidates can campaign without the shadow of assassination. And so that our journalist comrades can cover the election, not their head, in pursuit of press freedom.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Commissioning Ceremony of the PNOC-EDC 49-MW Northern
Negros Geothermal Power Plant (NNGPP) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Commissioning Ceremony of the PNOC-EDC 49-MW Northern Negros Geothermal Power Plant
(NNGPP)**

[Delivered at the NNGPP, Brgy. Mailum Bago City, Negros Occidental, February 02, 2007]

Damo gid nga salamat kay Secretary Lotilla, ang isa sa aton damo nga mga Cabinet members halin sa Western Visayas.

Ambassador Yamazaki; the officials of PNOC-EDC headed by Paul Aquino and Tony Cailao; the officials of Negros Occidental headed by Governor Marañon; our host Congressman Charlie Cojuangco; our various congressmen who are here today like my brother-in-law Iggy Arroyo and Monico Puentevella; our Presidential Adviser for Western Visayas Lito Coscolluela, and according to Paul Aquino it is not illegal to acknowledge the future of the Philippines: Senator Migs Zubiri and Senator Mike Defensor. Migs Zubiri from Kabankalan and Bacolod City and Mike Defensor from Mina, Iloilo and Victorias, Negros Occidental; our host mayors, Mayor Janet Torres and Mayor Coscolluela; mga iban nga mga mayors and our Plant Manager Dino De La Cruz and all of the ones who are helping right here in the Bago Plant, sa inyo nga tanan maayong ugto mga kasimanwa.

First of all, congratulations! Once again to Paul Aquino and the PNOC-EDC. I say once again because we recently congratulated them for one of the most successful I.P.O.S in the history of our country and now for the corporation's latest geothermal production field. And as Paul Aquino said, this has been long, long in the making — 30 years in the making — but finally it gathered the momentum that we're able to complete today because during our administration aside from having a great CEO like Paul, we were able to at last complete the loan agreement with Japan that finally enabled this project to be completed.

Thus, we thank the Japanese government represented here by Ambassador Yamazaki and Floro Aviento, thank you for all that you've done. And ambassador, not only to thank you for this particular plant, for financing this particular plant but I want to thank once again through you Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan because during our ASEAN Summit and East-Asian Summit, when we all talked about what should be done for energy security, Japan immediately put its money where its mouth is and Prime Minister Abe promised two billion U.S. dollars to finance energy security projects all over the east-Asian region. And that is something that EDC can continue to pursue.

Gina-abi-abi ko naman ang katawhan sang Bago City kag Murcia, kag ang tanan nga taga-Negros Occidental. May bag-o kamo nga 49-megawatt sang kuryente para sa Visayas kag kamo pa gid ang mangin una nga benepisyaryo sang mga kaayuhan nga ihatag sang planta tulad sang mga royalties. And I want to tell the whole investor community, the royalties from this power plant that will go to Bago City of Mayor Torres and the town of Murcia of Mayor Coscolluela — according to the law, right Popo? — 80 percent must go to electricity. And therefore as this plant is operating and now earning revenue streams, they have to spend 80 percent and to share the experience of other areas like Valencia in Oriental Negros and Kananga in Leyte, what they do is they subsidize the electric bills of their constituents, agod makaabot sa katawhan ang benepisyo sining atong proyekto diri. But not only that, this is our way of telling the investors if you are power- intensive, if your power cost is very high locate in Bago City and in Murcia. And after all, if you are an electronics firm and you have to speed up the delivery of your raw materials and your products, after all we have a new airport in Silay City coming up. So, you have all the infrastructure here you need to become competitive. So, come to Bago City, come to Murcia, come to Negros Occidental!

Isa pa nga dako nga benepisyo ang reforestation. Kag subong nga ginagusod na ang pag-andar sining planta, amo nga may matipid nga 15 million dollars nga langis kada tuig para sa atong pungsod. And I'm very happy that we are here in this very very modern plant, compact, as Paul said, but modern. And this is in accordance with our vision to take our place alongside other first-world nations by 2020. But to that end, no nation can aspire to become modern

without thinking of our environment. I want to take this opportunity to share with you that we want to press ahead with a massive green Philippines environmental plan that is comprehensive in scope and thorough in execution. A plan that includes: number one, reforestation. And so this reforestation of this beautiful mountains is part of our green Philippines master plan; second, preservation of our reefs and waterways; and third, scrub the land and air of pollutants that endanger the health of our citizens; and finally, number four, energy independence.

Part of a bright new future for our nation is to take control over our reliance on energy to become free from dependence on foreign oil and become self-sufficient to the use of sustainable alternative forms of energy. We can harness our sun, wind and geothermal resources, as we are doing today. And we can produce our own clean fuels through biofuels. Thanks to Migs Zubiri who sponsored the biofuels law. Bata sang kabankalan kag Bacolod City, ayaw malipatan. But I also want to say that helping Migs in Congress were Monico and Iggy, who were his co-authors. So with this bill... No, law, ang layi sponsored by Migs Zubiri, we don't have to rely on foreign suppliers anymore.

Some are asking how can biofuels, the biofuels act help our people. Well, one of the biofuels is ethanol which is produced very greatly here in Negros Occidental. And right now — correct me if O'm wrong Popo Lotilla, but isn't it many gasoline stations are already selling ethanol blends? — but right now the ethanol is imported. But even the imported ethanol blended into gasoline is cheaper than the 100 percent gasoline. How much more when we produce our own biofuels right here in the Philippines. Salamat gid sa liwat Senator Migs Zubiri.

Ang mga una nga tuyo naton para sa sektor sang enerhiya amo ang pagsiguro nga indi magkulang ang supply sang kuryente, paghimo sang kuryente nga indi mahal, kag ang produksiyon sang clean energy halin sa aton mga natural resources like what we are doing here today.

Ang biofuels law isa ka dako nga pagkadto sa aton tuyo nga padamuon ang clean energy diri sa pungsod naton. Labi pa naton nga ginapadali ang programa sa paghimo sang mga alternatibo nga fuel. Ginadoble naton ang pagtrabaho para padakuon ang kapasidad sang aton enerhiya kag doble man ang aton ginahimo para indi magmahal ang presyo sang kuryente, labi na gid ang kuryente para sa mga imbestor. And that's why I repeat, investors with a big power... Electric bill, come to places like Bago City and Murcia where the local governments will subsidize your electric bill. Tuod, mayors?

Ang aton makusog nga buot kag ang todo nga suporta sang mga tawo amo ang rason nga nahuman ang aton mga reporma sa ekonomiya. May natipid kita nga 37 billion pesos last year halin sa mga reporma kag subong ginabalik naton ini sa katawhan bilang mas madamo nga oportunidad para sa edukasyon, mas maayo nga health services, mas madamo nga produksiyon para sa mga uma, mas moderno nga pasilidad sa transportasyon, mas madamo nga oportunidad para makapangita sang maayo nga trabaho, kag mas damo nga balay, more housing projects. And why have we've been successful in so many housing projects all over the country? Because of our first HUDCC chairman, none other than Mike Defensor of Victorias, Negros Occidental.

Ang aton natipid nga badyet nakadto naman sa mas maayo nga peace and order. And although we are here in Negros Occidental, I want to congratulate our law enforcement and military operatives for all that they have been doing for fusing their intelligence and tactical resources. And I want to congratulate General Ding Luna and all his men, because they have been keeping the peace in this mountainous areas like Bago City, Murcia and Southern Negros Occidental.

Kag dira naman sa Manila, I also want to congratulate our soldiers and policemen for fusing the intelligence resources to crack a terror ring threatening the national capital metropolis and preventing evil from taking more innocent lives. We aim for the peak of readiness to secure our people — indi lang sa Manila kon indi sa kabilugang Pilipinas — from harm every minute of the day. We will never put down our guard until terror is defeated, whether homegrown or spawned beyond our shores. And so because we have just preempted an attack on the metropolis in Metro Manila, I am directing the authorities to dig deeper into this latest conspiracy, expose the conspirators and their plans, and work with our communities to obtain effectively networked and synergized public vigilance.

Kini tanan ang aton mga gastos sa edukasyon, sa mga housing, (as what Mike Defensor has started) sa mga developments sa renewable and clean air and energy, (as what Migs Zubiri is spearheading) together with our appointive officials nagsugod na ang aton pag-uswag.

Padayon kita nga ituon ang atensyon agod nga magpadayon ang pag-uswag sang pungsod naton. Padayon naton ang paghiliusa sang katawhan. Padayon kita nga magbinuligay agod malambot naton ang aton mga damgo.

And so, to all of you, thank you for your continuing support. And thank you, PNOC-EDC for being such an important engine of national growth.

Mabuhi kita tanan!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Commissioning Ceremony of the PNOC-EDC 49-MW Northern Negros Geothermal Power Plant (NNGPP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151804/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1952&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2007 Pamulinawen Festival and Laoag City Annual Fiesta

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2007 Pamulinawen Festival and Laoag City Annual Fiesta**

[Delivered at the Centennial Arena, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, February 10, 2007]

Dios ti angina unay, apo Mayor Fariñas.

Apo Governor Bongbong Marcos ken amin nga opisyaales ti probinsiya ti Ilocos Norte; apo Congressman Roquito Ablan ken Mrs. Vicky Ablan; amin nga opisyaales ti ili ti Laoag ken amin nga members ti pamilya Fariñas; dagiti mayores ti probinsiya; dagiti barangay captain; addadtoy met ni karruba tayo, ni congressman apo nib baterina gapo Ilocos Sur.

Gagayyem ken kailyan. Kailyan kunak ta siyak met ni mamang ko, ti bangir ni mamang ko, siyak met anak ti amyanan. Ta ni mamang ko, naggapo ti Binalonan, Pangasinan. Ken ti lolo ko naggapo ti Bacarra, Ilocos Norte.

Iso nga kablawaan kayo amin iti naragsak nga kapiestaan yo ken nagbaleigi nga “2007 Pamulinawen Festival.” Maysa nga panagdayaw iti iawat ko kadagiti balikbayan. Ayan dagiti balikbayan tayo? Nga adda idtoy nga naggapu iti sab-sabali nga lugar tapno makikaysa iti selebrasyon tayo. Welcome to all of you!

Milyun-milyon nga Flipino nangruna dagidiay taga Ilocos Norte iti embahador tayo ti mundo.

Kayat ko met, iso nga kayat ko met nga usarin daytoy nga gundaway tapno agyamanak kadakayo iti inpakita yo nga kapigsaan. Saan laeng dagiti balikbayan, no di ket amin nga anak ti Ilocos Norte.

Kayat ko nga ibaga kanya yo iti pinagyaman ko iti ayat yo, thank you for your warm welcome when I came in tonight. Ken para iti nalalaing nga tulong yo tapno pasayaaten iti pagilian, papigsaen iti ekonomiya ken mangited iti peace and order iti tunggal purok ti probinsiya yo ken ti city ti Laoag.

Importante iti biag tayo nga Ilokano, kunak garud nga ni mamang ko, ket Ilocano met, iso nga siak met Ilokana ti bangir ni mamang ko, ken ti bangir ni lolok nga naggapo ti Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, importante haan laeng para dagiti naggapo iti Bacarra, importante ti biag tayo iti kapiyesta. Daytoy ket panagdawat kenni apo diyos ken iti ay-ayaten nga patron iti bendisyon da ken panangiturong kadagiti kayat tayo nga maaramid.

And what do I want to do? I want to create high-paying jobs here at home, here in the north, here in Ilocos, here in Laoag so that Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job. I want overseas work to be a career choice, and not the only option for a talented man or woman in search of a better life. You our balikbayans, our overseas Filipinos are heroes, you contribute much to our nation. But it is time to plan for the day when our heroes can come home, be with family, buy a home and live in comfort and dignity right here in the Philippines, right here in Ilocos, right here in Laoag.

Itattay garud, when we were going around the province, I learned that one of the priorities of Ilocos Norte is to have retirement homes for balikbayan Filipinos so that you can come home in your old age or in your senior years, and have the best medical care, the best nursing care right here rather than have to pay such expensive fees for a nursing home in America. So we thank God for our talented doctors, nurses, care givers.

Nakaad-adu iti masapul nga ipagyaman tayo kenni apo dios.

Para ti gobyerno tayo, adda malpas ti 22 billion pesos gapu iti naurnong tayo nga kuarta idi napalabas nga tawen ket usaren tayo tapno palaingen dagiti serbisyo publiko, kas iti makan, health, pagadalan, trabaho ken puonan iti babassit nga negosyo.

And the money that we saved last year, because our peso is so strong and our interest payments are so low, will also go to the release of the first six months' worth of Republic Act 7171 for the year 2007 for the province and the different cities and towns of Ilocos Norte. And I got a text message before I came here from the secretary of the budget, he will release this amount this coming Monday. One-half year's worth will come on Monday.

Ken kasla iti tunggal nga ilocano nga familia, ip-ippa tayo iti tunggal peso sadinno nga mangaramid iti naragsak, edukado, malusog ken nagbaleigi nga cabbalay.

Maysa nga nasayaatan nga pangarigan daytoy nga proyekto ket iti umay nga wind power project diay Burgos, Ilocos Norte. Malpas ti kaunaan nga wind power iti ili iti Bangui, Ilocos Norte. Adu benepisyo nga maited dagiti proyekto nga windmills of Bangui ken ti umay nga windmills of Burgos. Sapay kuma nga umay ti mura nga kuryente kadagiti consumer. Mangted pay dagitoy iti pondo para dagidiay host community ken maka-aramid iti trabaho para dagiti taga-bangui ken taga-Burgos ken dagidiay naduma-duma nga asideg nga ili, kadwan ti siyudad ti Laoag.

Because according to the law, 80 percent of Bangui's royalty and the upcoming royalty of Burgos for the power plants must go to electricity. Therefore, the local government of Bangui and Burgos can subsidize the electric bills of its residents including the companies that will locate in those two towns. And because of that, we should be able to attract electronics companies and call centers and hospitals, and old age care facilities which use a lot of electric power but which also hire a lot of people. And if that happens, no Agbalin, not only Bangui and Burgos, but the whole Ilocos Norte including Laoag can benefit from the increased employment.

Amin daytoy ket ar-aramiden tayo para iti maymaysa nga kayat tayo nga umay ti progreso.

Ken tatta nga nangrugina nga nagbunga dagitoy trabaho tayo — nga makitkita iti panagpigsa ti piso, panagpigsa ti stock market, pagngato iti exports, panag-adu iti foreign investments kasla ti windmills of Bangui that we visited earlier, ken panangdakkell ti overseas remittances — thanks dios ti agngina kadagiti balikbayan tayo — tatta nga makitkita amin datoy, sapay kuma lallalo tayo nga agmamaysa tapno matuloy dagiti napipintas nga nagbalin iti ay-ayat tayo nga amianan, ay-ayat tayo nga Ilocos Norte, ay-ayat tayo nga laoag, ay-ayat tayo nga ti intero nga pagilyan Pilipinas.

And that is my message to all of you. Have a wonderful fiesta. Congratulations! To our beautiful queens and princesses tonight. Have a wonderful fiesta to all of you.

Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin, apo.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 2007 Pamulinawen Festival and Laoag City Annual Fiesta. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151722/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1935&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st National Convention of Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (KAMPI) Party

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st National Convention of Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (KAMPI) Party**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, City of Manila, February 12, 2007]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat Kalihim Ronnie puno sa iyong magandang pagpapakilala sa inyong lingkod.

Congressman Villafuerte, pangulo ng KAMPI; chair ng KAMPI, si Tingting Cojuangco; Sec. Gen. Ng KAMPI, si Ding Tanjuatco; ang ating mga senador — Angara ng Pilipinas dahil kay Ed Angara, pero itanim natin ang Pichay sa Senado, Butch Pichay, at si ‘Tol Mike Defensor.

Sa inyong lahat, iba’t-ibang mga opisyal at kasapi ng KAMPI, napaka-importante at makabuluhan na ginagawa n’yo itong kumbensyon, itong unang araw ng kampanya para sa ating kandidato sa nasyonal.

On this first day of the national elections, ako’y nagpapasalamat sa mensahe ni Louie Villafuerte that you are here to rally behind our agenda of nation-building. At inaasahan ko rin dahil itong araw ay simula ng kampanya pang senador, inaasahan ko kayo’y narito rin para ipayahag that you are rallying behind each and everyone of our candidates for senator.

Nabanggit ko na si Angara, na gaya nang sabi ko, Angara ng kanyang siyam na puntong programa na kadikit-dikit at kapareho-pareho ng ating buong Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. Nabanggit ko na si ‘Tol, si Mike Defensor, kinabukasan ng ating pabahay at palupa. Nabanggit ko na ang gulay ng ating buhay, si Butch Pichay, na magtatrabaho para ipairal ang mga kagandahang-yaman ng Mindanao, ang ating food basket ng ating bansa.

Yung ibang mga kandidato ay nandoon pa sa Comelec, nagpa-file pa ng kanilang Certificate of Candidacy. Sila ay si Tessie Aquino-Oreta, ang kampeon ng ating edukasyon. Nariyan din ang kontra-abuso, si Joker Arroyo. Nabanggit ko na si ‘Tol, si Mike Defensor. Ang isang magtataguyod ng kalakasan ng ating local governments, Magsaysay is our guy, Vic Magsaysay. At isa pang kinatawan ng ating kinabukasan, kinabukasan ng Visayas, ang ating sentro ng turismo, ang kasalukuyang gobernador ng Leyte, si Jericho Petilla. Nabanggit ko na si Pichay. Isa pang gobernador, ipaglalaban din ang karapatan ng mga local governments at ng mga magsasaka natin doon sa amianan, tawag nila, si Chavit Singson. At yung dati nang isang original ng KAMPI at pinaglalaban ang kalusugan ng mga kabataan at sinisiguradong maiwas sila sa banta ng droga, si Senator Tito Sotto. Mukhang nakita ko, ang gusto kong makilala n’yong lahat, ang ating kinatawan ng mga Muslim, ang Sultan of Sulu, si Jamalul Kiram. Dapat Senator Sulu ilagay n’yo ang pangalan doon sa certificate, Sulu kasi kinakatawan mo ang unang-unang pinaka-matandang sultanate sa buong bansang Pilipinas. At kung tayo ay narito at pinag-uusapan ang kagandahan ng ating ekonomiya dahil korekto ang mga reporma ni Ralph Recto. At sa kinabukasan din, kinabukasan kampeon ng ating kasarinlan, sa napakamahal na gasolina at enerhiya ngayon pero siya ay nagbibigay sa atin ng sagot doon, ang ating bio-fuels champion, sabi nga nila “Boom-tarararat! boom-tarat-tarat! Zubiri! Zubiri! Boom! Boom! Boom!”

Sa kanilang kamay, sa inyong kamay, malaki ang aking tiwala sa kinabukasan ng bansa at sa kagalingan ng sambayanan. Ang ating pambansang hangarin o national agenda ay naglalayong isulong ang bansa tungo sa higit na katatagang pulitikal, kasagaanan at katiwasayan.

The national agenda is focused on creating good paying jobs, stable prices, bringing the benefits of a strong economy to every single Filipino. Our national agenda is pro-poor, pro-growth and pro-modernization. We have

moved the nation forward on the strength of our partnership with barangay leaders, mayors, provincial governors who form the backbone of our government.

I trust the local officials to work with me, with us to continue on the path to reform, social justice and economic development. Our local leaders form the centerpiece of Philippine democracy. Our local leaders are on the frontline of change.

Ibinubuhos natin ang ating mga pagsisikap sa pagtatayo ng isang makabagong bansa na balang araw ay makikihanay sa mauunlad na bansa ng mundo. Ang ating pangarap ay darating ang panahon na ang mga Pilipino ay gugustuhing manirahan at magtrabaho dito sa Pilipinas, malapit sa pamilya at mga kaibigan, may-ari ng isang tahanan at may maginhawang pamumuhay.

We hope for the day when enough good jobs are created in the Philippines so the hardworking Filipinos don't have to go abroad to work. We see a day when going abroad for a job is a career choice, not the only option for work.

Nakagawa tayo ng mahihirap ngunit kailangang mga desisyon upang palakasin ang ating ekonomiya. Ang mga mahahapding hakbang na ito ay nagbubunga na — may salapi na tayong magagamit sa paglikha ng trabaho, mga bagong kalye, tulay, pantalan, dagdag para sa edukasyon at pangangalaga sa kalusugan.

Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon sa napakaraming panahon, ang pamahalaan ay ginagawa kung ano ang ginagawa ng ordinaryong kabahayan sa Pilipinas — balansehin ang badyet at nang hindi magkautang. Ito ay magandang balita para sa bansa, lalung-lalo na sa ating mga kabataan na maka-aasa na ang kanilang gobyerno ay naglalaan para sa kanilang kinabukasan, hindi hiram ng hiram upang iwanan sila ng pagkakautang tulad ng mga ginawa sa nakaraan.

Sa pamamagitan ng malalakas na pandaigdigang kasunduan, nakalikha tayo ng mga bagong ugnayan na nakapagdulot ng bilyones sa pamumuhunan. Ang record in the entire history of our country, more than two billion dollars in foreign investment nangyari noong 2006. At itong mga puhunan na pumapasok noong nakaraang anim na taon ng ating administrasyon ay nakatulong lumikha ng limang milyong bagong trabaho. At pinalakas natin ang ating mga kasunduang militar at pang-seguridad sa rehiyon at sa mundo. Nakapaghatid ito ng malaking pakinabang tungo sa kapayapaan sa Mindanao, paghiwalay at pagtugis sa mga kilalang terorista, at pagbaba ng mararahas na krimen.

Our neighborhoods, barangays and nation are more secure, more peaceful and more stable as a result of our administration's leadership. But there is much to do if the nation is to work toward a more just, modern and prosperous nation.

And I am hopeful that with your support the may elections are about the future, not the past. The election should be about new ideas, not old complaints. And it should be about fighting for a stronger nation, not just about fighting. On my part, I will focus on the national agenda that includes more jobs, stable prices and peace and order. I will leave the politicking to the candidates whom we must all support especially our senatorial candidates.

Meanwhile, through all the noise of the political campaign, we will work to expand education and health care. We will take action to develop a green Philippines agenda to improve our environment and beautify our communities. And we will do so by working with our local and provincial leaders to see that the benefits of the new economy are spread to every corner of the Philippines and not just here in Metro Manila.

As I said earlier, I believe in the Philippines and its hardworking people. And with your support I will work hard until my term ends in 2010 to make economic prosperity, social justice, and peace and security a reality for a new modernizing Philippines.

Kaya dito, sa araw ng KAMPI convention, dito sa unang araw ng kampanya para sa ating mga senador, ang aking hiling, makipagtulungan tayong lahat, lahat ng mga partido sa ating koalisyong tungo sa ating tagumpay, tagumpay ng ating bansa.

Mabuhay! Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 1st National Convention of Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (KAMPI) Party. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151643/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1928&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a State Dinner in Honor of Visiting President and Mrs. S. R. Nathan of the Republic of Singapore

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a State Dinner in Honor of Visiting President and Mrs. S. R. Nathan of the Republic of Singapore**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, February 13, 2007]

His Excellency President S. R. Nathan and Madame; President Ramos; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Honorable Members of the Singaporean delegation; Speaker De Venecia; Honorable Members of the House of Representatives; Members of the Cabinet; Members of the Singaporean Business Delegation; Members of the Philippine business community; distinguished guests; Ladies and Gentlemen.

I'm honored to welcome to the Philippines an esteemed colleague, President S. R. Nathan, along with a very distinguished members of the Singapore delegation.

Our discussions earlier in the evening attest to the multi-faceted ties between Singapore and the Philippines. Your excellency will see how Singapore investments are flourishing in the Philippines when he visits the Carmelpav Industrial Park this Thursday and Fort Bonifacio this Friday.

We're likewise bringing our peoples closer to each other. The advent of budget airlines has significantly reduce the barriers to travel between our countries. Singapore's first world economy presents viable opportunities for thousands of Filipinos to further hone their experience and expertise. We see a significant demographic group contributing to the continued social, cultural and economic development of both Singapore and the Philippines.

Beyond bilateral relations, Singapore and the Philippines also share a valued partnership particularly in ASEAN. And tonight, we are honored to have in his excellency one of the moving forces in the establishment of the ASEAN four decades ago in Bangkok.

The Philippines and Singapore, as incumbent chair and incoming chair of ASEAN, now have the singular opportunity to move forward our common goal of an integrated ASEAN community.

Excellency, thank you very much for the honor to be able to return the gracious hospitality you showed us when I made my state visit to Singapore in 2001. We're happy to have you here with us and we hope you will have a very fruitful stay.

And now ladies and gentlemen, may I ask all of you to join me in a toast to the health and happiness of President and Madame Nathan, and to the friendship between our two countries.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during a State Dinner in Honor of Visiting President and Mrs. S. R. Nathan of the Republic of Singapore. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151634/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1924&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Inaugural Meeting and Induction of Directors and Officers of the
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Inaugural Meeting and Induction of Directors and Officers of the Philippine Chamber of
Commerce and Industry (PCCI)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, February 14, 2007]

Thank you very much Donald. And thank you... As chairman, congratulations! As Chairman of PCCI.

Congratulations! To Sammy and to all of the other officers and directors of the PCCI for this year.

Peter Favila and the other officials of the Philippine government; excellencies of the diplomatic corps; movers and shakers of trade and commerce and industry; ladies and gentlemen.

Your changing of the guards comes at a high point in our national life. And I would like to thank you because you kept the flame of growth burning brightly and steadily through challenging times.

I acknowledged your loyalty to the Filipino people about the fall of partisanship. And because there are businessmen like you, I'm optimistic about the future of the nation and the well-being of our people.

Our national agenda is designed to move the nation forward toward greater political stability, economic prosperity and peace and order. The national agenda is focused on creating good paying jobs, stable prices, and bringing the benefits of a strong economy to every single Filipino.

You, of course, are the movers and shakers who will create jobs. Between my Pasig river ferry trip and my appointment here with you, I went to signal hills in Taguig and inaugurated one of the — signal village, I mean — one of the what we call barangay food terminal, where the people of the village — and that's a big village, a hundred thousand population — the people of the barangay are enjoying prices of their vegetables and pork and other meat products about maybe some of them ten pesos average below what the market outside sells. And that is because we have reduced the cost of delivery from farm to market.

This is an example of payback to the people of our national agenda. Our national agenda is a pro-poor, pro-growth, pro-modernization agenda.

And I thank the PCCI. We've done so much together. Together, we have been working tirelessly to build a modern nation that will one day take its rightful place beside the first world countries.

Sammy said earlier, we want to dream of a seven percent growth rate. That is indeed in our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. Except that Sammy said, except for the usual five percent. It's usual in my administration but not before.

Lest you forget — before you and I were working together — it used to be four or three or two or one, and sometimes negative. And in fact, it is the first time for six years, every quarter experienced a growth rate. And that is around five percent, once even six percent.

You and I have a vision for the day when all Filipinos can choose to live and work here in the Philippines, close to family and friends, owning a home with a high quality of life. Through strong international alliances which you helped developed. You've gone with me on many of my trips abroad. You have helped me to dialogue with many of our visitors here. You forged so many partnerships with chambers from different parts of the world. You have

forged partnerships, we have forged partnerships that have led to billions of investments and help create five million new jobs.

The president of Singapore is here bringing two major investments: one, in an industrial estate; and one in a condominium hotel right here in Taguig.

And we have strengthen, you and I again, our military and security alliances in the region and the world. This has led to major gains for peace in Mindanao; the isolation and tracking down of known terrorists like number one and number two Abu Sayyaf; and a reduction in violent crime.

And indeed, what you have helped me do strengthen our ties internationally has, as I said earlier, led to investments and jobs, led to peace and development in Mindanao.

And that is why today, I take the opportunity once again for us to extol two auspicious developments in the international front: one is the release of our kidnapped workers in Nigeria; and the other is the advent of the first major breakthrough in the six-party talks on North Korea.

On our 24 rescued workers in Nigeria, I would like to personally thank, Nigerian President Obasanjo for taking a direct hand in the release of our nationals even as we pray for the eventual release of the lady and the sub-contractor who are still held.

From the start, we never doubted the capability of the Nigerian government to rescue our workers. And I also wish to commend our diplomatic personnel for being focused and faithful to their task. As soon as the crisis erupted, we sent Ambassador Roy Cimatu to the area, and Ambassador Umpa, our resident ambassador there who has been working very hard. And just yesterday, Undersecretary Conejos arrived to put the finishing touches to the talks with the Nigerian government for the release of our workers.

At the same time, I wish to convey my congratulations to the nations that negotiated the landmark agreement leading to the de-escalation of nuclear arms development in North Korea. This is a good start to pull this armament and the full stabilization of the Korean peninsula which have been in the priority agenda of ASEAN and East-Asia for sometime. The Philippines and ASEAN — and may I convey again the thanks of our ASEAN neighbors, because the president of Singapore was just here, especially to the people of Cebu for the warm welcome and great hospitality you gave them during the summit — the Philippines and ASEAN will continue to extend all support to achieve the aims of peace in the Korean peninsula and stability in the Korean peninsula through peaceful and constructive means. We are for a safer world for Filipinos, many of whom are in Korea, and a more secure and stable region.

The Philippines is a strong player in world security, stability and harmony.

But I hope for the day when you, the business community, of course with government, working to provide the environment in which you can expand your investments; when you the business community create enough good jobs in the Philippines so that hardworking Filipinos do not have to go abroad for work. I see a day when going abroad for a job is a career choice not the only option for work.

With your support, our administration and I have made a tough but necessary decisions to strengthen our economy. And again, I thank the PCCI because you were there through all those difficult times on our tax reforms. As a result of your support which helped us to pass such difficult legislation for the first time in a long time, the government is doing what average Filipino household should be doing — balancing the budget and avoiding going into debt.

In order to balance the budget in 2008, our economic managers were projecting that we should have a deficit in 2007 of only 64 billion pesos, while our deficit last year was 63 billion pesos.

Do we want to advance the balancing of the budget to this year? Well, let me say that's already been advanced for 2010. So I would rather, rather than balancing the budget for this year, I would rather spend that extra 64 billion pesos to more infrastructure and more social services for the people. Social services to include education, health care, microfinance and also expenditures to modernize our military, for the first time since the soldiers cannot remember, we're going to buy brand new helicopters.

As a result of what we have been doing in fact to modernize and professionalize our military and our police, you are the ones who tell me that our neighborhoods, barangays and the nation are more secure, more peaceful, more stable. And that is all a result of our working together to fight crime. Because during the dark days of kidnapping, you, the PCCI and the federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of commerce, were the ones who helped me, who begin the advisory council of our police in order to fight this and other heinous crimes.

And indeed, your support has enabled the government to increase the payback to the people. Your work on developing small and medium enterprise has of course increased the payback to the people. And our record lows in interest rates, I hope will further increase that payback so that jobs will be created, not only by the big magnates who composed your council of advisers now — and congratulations! To you for getting them — but even by the small and medium enterprises, many of whom are members in your various chapters all over the country.

I'm very proud of our fruitful and rewarding partnership. And I guess it's a good time to have your induction today, Valentine's day, because indeed, you have been a very, very good partner.

Maraming salamat. Congratulations!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Inaugural Meeting and Induction of Directors and Officers of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151626/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1919&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 58th Birthday Celebration of Mrs. Gina De Venecia and Groundbreaking Ceremony/MOA Signing for a Day Care Center and Multi-purpose Hall

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 58th Birthday Celebration of Mrs. Gina De Venecia and Groundbreaking Ceremony/MOA
Signing for a Day Care Center and Multi-purpose Hall**

[Delivered at Ceylon St., Better Living Subdivision Don Bosco Complex, Parañaque City, February 15, 2007]

Maraming salamat, Joe.

Marami nang nagsalita kaya siguro ang sabihin ko, maghilingi ako ng paumanhin sa ngalan ni Congressman and Mrs. Zialcita; sa ngalan ni Mayor and Mrs. Jun Bernabe at lahat ng opisyal ng lungsod ng Parañaque; sa ngalan ni Kapitan Jun Virata at lahat ng mga opisyal at ating mga nanay at saka mga anak sa Barangay Don Bosco. Gusto nating batiin si Gina De Venecia ng happy! Happy birthday! Gusto nating batiin ang Class 1966 ng congratulation at maraming salamat sa magandang day care center na itatayo rito, plus College '70 rin.

At ang susunod nating batiin ang kakatapos lamang na pangulo pagkatapos ng labing-anim na taon, si Celina Bautista sa kanyang magandang trabaho. Si Celine Bautista ay nag-turn over kay Gina pagkatapos ng labing-anim na taon ng buhay ng Class '66 and Class '70 foundation. Eh, si KC ay sumakabilang buhay ng 16 years old din kaya may bagong anak si Gina, yung mga alaga ng Class '66 at Class '70. At gusto rin nating batiin sa ngalan ng lahat ng naririto ang mga ina dahil kayo rin, mga ina na rin ng ating mga batang mag-aaral dito sa magandang bagong day care center. Gusto rin nating batiin si Claudine at yung ibang mga Congressional Spouses. Tatlo ang grupo ni Ginang pinagsama-sama — Class '66 and '70, INA at saka Congressional Spouses — at lahat sila keysa nagsososyalan lamang ay gumagawa ng mga social services sa mga nangangailangan.

Si Gina sana ay patatakbohin nating senador pero siguro ang masasabi ni Gina ngayon sa halip ng siya ang tumatakbo huwag na lamang kalimutan ang kanyang mga kandidato at kasama rito ang Sultan of Sulu. Sana kung gusto natin na may mga sektor pa — mga naiwan, yung mga naulilang mga ina, yung mga batang sa mahihirap na lugar na kailangan ng day care — huwag rin nating kalilimutan yung mga Muslim na dapat alagaan, at yun ang kinakatawan ng ating kandidato na Sultan of Brunei... ay, Sultan of Sulu.

Ang day care ay trabaho ng local government pero binabati natin ang mga local government dahil nakakakuha ng dagdag na tulong, kasi sa dami ng mga bata na nangangailangan ng kalinga at maagang edukasyon talagang ang ganda-ganda pag mga ngo kagaya ng Class '66 at '70 ay nakakatulong.

So Gina, sa halip na nagbibigay sa iyo ng birthday gift, ikaw ang nagbibigay ng birthday gift. Kaya maraming salamat. May you have many more birthdays and many more birthday gifts to the Filipino people to come.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 58th Birthday Celebration of Mrs. Gina De Venecia and Groundbreaking Ceremony/MOA Signing for a Day Care Center and Multi-purpose Hall. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151600/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1915&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the E-Services Philippines: 7th Global Sourcing Conference and Exhibition

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the E-Services Philippines: 7th Global Sourcing Conference and Exhibition**

[Delivered at the Isla Ballroom, EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, February 15, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Favila.

Leaders of the BPO and E-services industries; ladies and gentlemen.

I'm pleased to have... to welcome our business delegation from different parts of the world, from the U.S., Europe, Japan, India and other parts of Asia. And your being here is an affirmation of international confidence in the Philippines, and I thank you very much for that.

The recent international business report of Grant Thornton ranks the Philippines second among thirty world economies in terms of optimism on the economy over the next twelve months. And this event should further convince our potential investors that we're ready and here to stay after taking a growing slice of the global BPO business.

The industry now employs 250,000 Filipinos, and to think that only six years ago, there are only 2,000 workers in that industry. And through BPO, we care and share our talents with the world. And BPO players who are pushing for higher-end products to create a million jobs in our industry to generate 12 billion dollars in revenues by 2010. We started out with call centers, now we're moving to other kinds of higher value services.

Indeed, we're committed to go up the value chain, and the influx of multinationals puts us several notches higher. We have editors, medical diagnosis. We have accounting, all kinds of higher value services, e-services. And we're all happy that you're here to look some more on how we can help.

One of the reasons why our industry has grown so much over the last six years is that in 2001, we committed and we complied to improve the telecommunications infrastructure so as to lower the cost of connectivity. We've done that. Indeed, infrastructure is a main driver of investor confidence in the same way that a balanced budget has the same effect on our creditors and the capital markets — both must be at the top rung of priorities.

In our country, in our administration, over the last six years, especially the last three years, we've struck a healthy balance among all aspects of the economy to maximize confidence, credibility and payback to the people. Because if I may share with you, we want BPO, we want e-services because they bring so many jobs, not only here in metro manila, but all throughout our country, and therefore so many benefit.

You know sometimes, in some of our focus group discussions, when there is the acknowledgment that the industry has grown from 2,000 to 250,000, and then some will say, "yes, but that's for those who speak english well. What about the rest of us — the great unwashed — so to speak?"

But the e-services industry has spawned such a big multiplier. It has spawned the night economy for instance. And all around the e-services centers, you have restaurants, coffee shops working 24 hours a day. You have jeepneys having new and additional trips at night. And so it's not only the young, educated, english-speaking or good writer or good doctor or good accountant that gets a job. It's somebody who has the kindness and good manners to be a waiter. Or somebody who's willing to work through the night to be a driver. So it is part of the social payback to the people.

And we're able to do this because we've made tough decisions. To be able to improve our telecommunications infrastructure, we've had to work on deregulating the telecommunications industry. And to be able to do other infrastructure so that you can find it convenient to invest all over the country, we've had to raise taxes to fund that infrastructure.

The long-term effect of our tough decisions to raise revenues and move towards a balanced budget is evident in the stream of positive developments in the economy, among them your presence here.

I'm also happy that the biggest pension fund in the world — Calpers or the California Pension and Retirement System — has raised the rating of the Philippines, making it a more desirable investment destination for their giant funds than china or even India, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

And in our water system here in Metro Manila, German and Singaporean firms are staking their interest in the water utilities firm called Maynilad, in a bid to be our partners to deliver clean water to the people of metro manila.

Our option of spending on infrastructure and social services for the year will spur growth in the countryside, notch up grassroots enterprises and build wealth in communities. More infrastructure and more schools will make it convenient for e-services to be located along our cyber... All along our cyber corridor, which stretches along the length of the Philippines from Baguio City in the north through Clark, just north of here, and Metro Manila — Clark and Metro Manila are in the urban beltway — to Central Visayas and Davao in the south. Infrastructure will also connect, aside from connecting you, they will also connect farms to markets; they will also bridge knowledge and they will unify the country aside from making it easier for you to go all over the countryside.

Next week, I'm going to open a Teletech Center in Dumaguete City. And I really have a great time every time I open an e-service or BPO center outside Manila.

And we can do all these and at the same time achieve a balanced budget in no time at all. That is why we can say that our growth today is sustainable.

Our strengths in e-services lie in our extensive digital infrastructure, our trusted business environment, our Class 'A' office spaces, and of course most important, the skills of the Filipino workforce.

The outsourcing boom in the Philippines continues to drive the property market. An example, in the sprawling Mall of Asia — that's the biggest shopping mall outside China — it houses Dell's Customer Service Operations.

We continue to sharpen our workforce by enhancing the english curriculum. English is back as the medium of instruction in our country. aside from that, we also have our bridging courses and skills. In our technical and skills development training system, we give out scholarships. For now a very limited number of skills because these are the ones where jobs are so readily available. And they are for call center english, for seafarers, for welders, and for butchers. For those who can't, you know who say, "what about us, we can't become a call center agent?" So they can become butchers because these are the ones where we have maybe like 30,000 jobs available.

So that is how... Though it's varied, it's limited in number because we want to make sure that when they get out of our training system, they have a job available. And you are providing jobs.

What we're doing is for the near hires, for the near hires, we're reaching out especially to them to give them scholarships, so that the next time around when they apply, they are no longer near hires, they're ready to start.

We're also honing the curriculum for medical editors. And I'm very glad that we've gone beyond just transcription — although transcription is not just, it's high value — but we've gone beyond that to medical diagnosis online. And we're building more I.T. hubs in our regions. Like as I said, what I'm going to inaugurate next week and that I also inaugurated last week in Bacolod, in Negros Occidental.

Our telecom infrastructure is stable and firm. During the great typhoons of the 'Milenyo' and the 'Reming,' you might have heard about the great typhoons we've had in the Philippines that torn down houses and sent roofs to the sky, our BPO industry continued to work, no interruption in telecommunications service. When the Taiwan quake affected international connections online, our telecom providers quickly deployed resources to make sure that our BPO services will not be interrupted.

I remember going to one of the BPO inauguration... No, not inauguration, anniversary or an extension... Yes, an expansion celebration and I asked the manager, "so, what happened during the typhoon?" This was three days after the typhoon. "oh," she said, "the only... The only casualty was me. My house... My roof blew off, but work was going on 24 hours a day in our BPO center."

We have a highly-skilled multicultural workforce who have a keen understanding of international business processes. We have a lot of our agents working with American customers. We have those working with Spanish speaking customers and many other cultural... Culturally diversified markets.

And so I'm very happy that once again you are all here.

I want to thank you for your confidence. And on my part, I want to let you know that we shall keep the economic ship on course and our political stability steady in a sea of optimism and hope.

Thank you for coming to the Philippines. And I hope your business will stay and expand.

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the E-Services Philippines: 7th Global Sourcing Conference and Exhibition. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151611/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1911&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 27th Annual Meeting and the 2007 International Science Conference of the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 27th Annual Meeting and the 2007 International Science Conference of the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila, February 16, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Alabastro for your introduction.

Dr. Cullaba, thank you and congratulations! On this very important conference of PAASE and welcome to the many important Filipino scientists from the different parts of the world, especially from America.

Congressman Villafuerte, other officials of PAASE, other officials of the Philippine government, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, thank you to PAASE, the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering for dovetailing this conference with the economy. And this is so fitting. I'm proud to say that not only did I talk about science and technology in my last State of the Nation Address, but in my first State of the Nation Address in 2001, I declared that technology is the foundation of future economic development.

Therefore, in our medium-term Philippine development plan, among the strategic measures contained therein is to mobilize and disseminate knowledge. In that same medium-term Philippine development plan, we identified as the key challenges in science and technology the following:

Make science and technology policies supportive of national development goals and policies. And this conference dovetailing S & T in the economy fits into that challenge.

Enhance competitiveness of the country's human capital.

Develop a critical mass of scientists and R & D personnel.

Speed up knowledge creation and dissemination for greater productivity and job creation especially to the rural areas, and improve the mechanism and programs to promote and encourage technology-based entrepreneurship.

That was in our medium-term plan and it is still there.

At first, the Philippines had little of the huge funds required to meet these challenges. The first order of the day for us was to put our economic house in order and find the funds to meet those challenges.

Thanks to congressmen like Louie Villafuerte, we had our fiscal reforms, our peso strengthen, therefore, our interest spreads went down and we saved 30 billion pesos last year. Because of our savings and because of our increased funds from revenues and taxes, more funds are now being earmarked to strengthen our educational system including in the basic grades and years strengthening math and science in our basic education.

And because of these reforms, the Philippines today basked in glowing reviews of our fiscal and economic reforms. Just today, I just came from a groundbreaking of a pharmaceutical company and nutritional company in CALABARZON worth 80 million U.S dollars, and they said that they did this expansion because of our economic reforms.

The record breaking high set by the stock market, the peak in overseas remittances, the raging performance of the peso are clear manifestations that our economic homerun is in play. Not even the intense politicking brought about by the forthcoming elections can spoil the larger gain of the economy.

Our eye is on the ball as we aim our ballish on better paying jobs, improve infrastructure including technology, enhance social services, the alleviation of poverty and hunger, fighting terror, and nurturing the environment. All of which will benefit from technology.

The Filipino people are shrugging off the past and looking forward to the fruits of steady growth, trade and investment. We must all seize the moment to reach the summit through our unity and hardwork brandishing the Filipino team spirit that has gained renowned worldwide.

The Philippines is a team to beat when it comes to excellence, resiliency and staying power in a competitive world. But there are specific challenges we have to contend with. And if I may digress momentarily from science and technology, I'd like to take this opportunity to express that I'm saddened by the fact that the visa hold has been employed on the deployment of our Filipino nurses as a result of the nursing exams of last year.

I'm instructing the secretary of labor to immediately look into the findings of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools and seek all forms of relief from the visa hold and appeal for reconsideration of the decision. The government shall provide financial assistance to 2006 nursing board passers for the retake of the exams as called for by the CGFNS with the proper body to oversee the project including having a common review center. We shall uphold the prestige and excellence of the Philippine nursing profession as we also promote the prestige and excellence of the Filipino scientist all over the world with the plans that we can now have the funds to carry out.

In my State of the Nation Address, the portion that was drafted by Congressman Louie Villafrute, I said that the country that wants to be a player in the global economy needs bold and well-funded research and development initiatives of its own for in today's global economy knowledge is the greatest creator of wealth.

And last year, I met with some of you. I met with members of PAASE along with Secretary Alabastro, I.C.T. and education agencies and Congressman Villafrute. We agreed on five action plans.

First, a review of policies by a presidential coordinating body. So today, I will issue an executive order creating — there I have signed it — creating the Presidential Coordinating Council on R and D.

Our second agreed on action plan was to expand the number of Filipino science and technology experts. This morning, I had a telephone conversation with the Secretary of the Budget Nonoy Andaya. I instructed him to release 200 million pesos for science and engineering masters and PHD scholarship programs.

Our third agreement was to establish a science complex. Our supplemental budget for 2006 provides 500 million pesos for a U.P. science complex. And as we were walking in, I asked president Roman, "how's our science complex coming along?" And she said. "it's coming along fine."

The fourth agreement that we made during that meeting was to strengthen linkages between and among the stakeholders of S & T development to speed up technology transfer to micro, small and medium enterprises. And I am glad that Nina Alabastro and the DOST will establish this year four business incubators.

I've asked Nina to make one of those four business incubators an incubator for virgin coconut oil. We would like virgin coconut oil to be as famous all over the world as Italian olive oil is. And Nina said, indeed, that's one of her major programs. And one of the incubators will be in Camarines Sur, which is coconut country. And so indeed I hope to see these four come into fruition this year.

Our fifth agreement was to increase public awareness and advocacy for S & T. I think what you're doing here this next two days is in accordance with that. And aside from this important conference attended by some of our Filipino superstars in the science and technology field in the United States, I count on the PAASE members to regularly provide science and technology information materials to print media.

This is one of the paybacks of our fiscal reforms that we can now move towards tripling private and public sector spending on R & D.

And now that we are closer to the goal to give a bigger share of the budget for science and technology, I am optimistic that together we can fully tap the wonders of science and technology to achieve growth, preserve peace and improve lives on the longer term.

Mabuhay ang Filipino-American scientists!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 27th Annual Meeting and the 2007 International Science Conference of the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151537/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1885&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 27th Annual Meeting and the 2007 International Science Conference of the Philippine-American Academy of Science

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 27th Annual Meeting and the 2007 International Science Conference of the Philippine-American Academy of Science**

[Delivered at the Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila, February 16, 2007]

First of all, thank you to PAASE, the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering for dovetailing this conference with the economy. And this is so fitting. I'm proud to say that not only did I talk about science and technology in my last State of the Nation Address, but in my first State of the Nation Address in 2001, I declared that technology is the foundation of future economic development. Dr. Cullaba, thank you and congratulations on this very important conference of PAASE and welcome to the many important Filipino scientists from the different parts of the world, especially from America.

Therefore, in our medium-term Philippine development plan, among the strategic measures contained therein is to mobilize and disseminate knowledge. In that same medium-term Philippine development plan, we identified as the key challenges in science and technology the following:

Make science and technology policies supportive of national development goals and policies. And this conference dovetailing S & T in the economy fits into that challenge.

Enhance competitiveness of the country's human capital. Develop a critical mass of scientists and R&D personnel.

Speed up knowledge creation and dissemination for greater productivity and job creation especially to the rural areas, and improve the mechanism and programs to promote and encourage technology-based entrepreneurship.

That was in our medium-term plan and it is still there.

At first, the Philippines had little of the huge funds required to meet these challenges. The first order of the day for us was to put our economic house in order and find the funds to meet those challenges.

Thanks to congressmen like Louie Villafrute, we had our fiscal reforms, our peso strengthened, therefore, our interest spreads went down and we saved 30 billion pesos last year. Because of our savings and because of our increased funds from revenues and taxes, more funds are now being earmarked to strengthen our educational system including the basic grades and years strengthening math and science in our basic education.

And because of these reforms, the Philippines today basked in glowing reviews of our fiscal and economic reforms. Just today, I just came from a groundbreaking of a pharmaceutical company and nutritional company in CALABARZON worth 80 million U.S dollars, and they said that they did this expansion because of our economic reforms.

The record breaking high set by the stock market, the peak in overseas remittances, the raging performance of the peso are clear manifestations that our economic homerun is in play. Not even the intense politicking brought about by the forthcoming elections can spoil the larger gain of the economy.

Our eye is on the ball as we aim our ballish on better paying jobs, improve infrastructure including technology, enhance social services, the alleviation of poverty and hunger, fighting terror, and nurturing the environment. All of which will benefit from technology.

The Filipino people are shrugging off the past and looking forward to the fruits of steady growth, trade and investment. We must all seize the moment to reach the summit through our unity and hardwork brandishing the Filipino team spirit that has gained renowned worldwide.

The Philippines is a team to beat when it comes to excellence, resiliency and staying power in a competitive world. But there are specific challenges we have to contend with. And if I may digress momentarily from science and technology, I'd like to take this opportunity to express that I'm saddened by the fact that the visa hold has been employed on the deployment of our Filipino nurses as a result of the nursing exams of last year.

I'm instructing the secretary of labor to immediately look into the findings of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools and seek all forms of relief from the visa hold and appeal for reconsideration of the decision. The government shall provide financial assistance to 2006 nursing board passers for the retake of the exams as called for by the CGFNS with the proper body to oversee the project including having a common review center. We shall uphold the prestige and excellence of the Philippine nursing profession as we also promote the prestige and excellence of Filipino scientists all over the world with the plans that we can now have the funds to carry out.

In my State of the Nation Address, the portion that was drafted by Congressman Louie Villafrute, I said that the country that wants to be a player in the global economy needs bold and well-funded research and development initiatives of its own for in today's global economy knowledge is the greatest creator of wealth.

And last year, I met with some of you. I met with members of PAASE along with Secretary Alabastro, I.C.T. and education agencies and Congressman Villafrute. We agreed on five action plans.

First, a review of policies by a presidential coordinating body. So today, I will issue an executive order creating – there I have signed it – creating the Presidential Coordinating Council on R and D.

Our second agreed action plan was to expand the number of Filipino science and technology experts. This morning, I had a telephone conversation with the Secretary of the Budget Nonoy Andaya. I instructed him to release 200 million pesos for science and engineering masters and PHD scholarship programs.

Our third agreement was to establish a science complex. Our supplemental budget for 2006 provides 500 million pesos for a U.P. science complex. And as we were walking in, I asked President Roman, "how's our science complex coming along?" And she said. "It's coming along fine."

The fourth agreement that we made during that meeting was to strengthen linkages between and among the stakeholders of S & T development to speed up technology transfer to micro, small and medium enterprises. And I am glad that Nina Alabastro and the DOST will establish this year four business incubators.

I've asked Nina to make one of those four business incubators an incubator for virgin coconut oil. We would like virgin coconut oil to be as famous all over the world as Italian olive oil is. And Nina said, indeed, that's one of her major programs. And one of the incubators will be in Camarines Sur, which is a coconut country. And so indeed, I hope to see these four come into fruition this year

Our fifth agreement was to increase public awareness and advocacy for S & T. I think what you're doing here this next two days is in accordance with that. And aside from this important conference attended by some of our Filipino superstars in the science and technology field in the United States, I count on the PAASE members on regularly provide science and technology information materials to print media.

This is one of the paybacks of our fiscal reforms that we can now move towards tripling private and public sector spending on R & D.

And now that we are closer to the goal to give a bigger share of the budget for science and technology, I am optimistic that together we can fully tap the wonders of science and technology to achieve growth, preserve peace and improve lives on the longer term.

Mabuhay ang Filipino-American scientists!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the ‘Team Unity’ Kick-off Proclamation Rally for Senatorial Candidates

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the ‘Team Unity’ Kick-off Proclamation Rally for Senatorial Candidates**

[Delivered at the Cebu Coliseum, Sanciango St. Cebu City, Cebu, February 17, 2007]

Daghan salamat, Mayor Tony Osmeña sa imo mga maayo nga gisulti karon ug salamat sa pag host diri sa Cebu City kining atong proclamation rally sa Team Unity.

Salamat sab kan Governor Gwen Garcia, tanan-tanan aton mga kaigsuonan, mga opisyaes sa Sugbo, ang aton mga laing-laing congressmen na anhi karon aron makahatag sa ilang suporta sa atong Team Unity diri sa siyudad sa Sugbo, si Raul Del Mar ug si Tony Cuenco. Gikan sa probinsya aniya si Neri Soon Ruiz, aniya si Sim Kintanar, aniya si Eddie Gullas, si Red Durano ug aton mga naa pa sab mga laing-laing mga bisita from the other areas of the Philippines. We have Congressman Mitos Magsaysay from Zambales, the daughter- in-law of Vic Magsaysay; and we have Governor Jericho Petilla of Leyte; aton mga opisyal sa City of Cebu, anya si Vice Mayor Rama ug tanan atong mga konsehales, aton mga lider sa mga barangay, tanan-tanang mga igsuonan, una sa lahat murag ingon ni Tony Osmeña, daghan salamat sa landslide nga gihatag ninyo kanako niadtong niaging eleksiyon.

Unya daghan salamat sab kay kamo ang nagsilbing host sa akong inagurasyon. Daghan salamat sab sa inyong pag host sa Malacañang sa Sugbo. Ug daghan salamat sa inyong daghang nahimo aron successful ug importante kaayo ang mga nahitabo sa ASEAN Summit diri sa Sugbo.

Karon sa gihapon sa inyong suporta, gatuo ko nga kining aton eleksiyon sa mayo alang sa kaugmaon ug dili ra sa kagahapon.

Ang eleksiyon angay gyud sa mga bag-ong panan-aw ug dili mahitungod sa mga daang complaints. Ug angay nga mahitungod kini sa atong paglaban alang sa papapakusog sa nasod ug dili lamang mahitungod sa pakig-away. I thank you all not only the governor and other... The congressmen, the mayor, the city mayors, kan municipal mayors, tanan opisyaes and everybody. And I ask you this time again help us. We will focus on the national agenda that includes more jobs, stable prices, peace and order.

We will work to expand education and health care.

We will take action to develop a green Philippines agenda to improve our environment and beautify our communities.

Ug nagala-um kita nga sa inyo padayon nga suporta aron siguraduhon nga ang mga benepisyo sa bag-ong ekonomiya maka-abot sa tanan lugar sa tibuok Pilipinas ug dili lang sa Metro Manila. Busa City Mayor sa City of Cebu, city mayor sa ating laing-laing na siyudad sa Sugbo, ang atong Campaign Spokesman si Ace Durano, ang aton mga municipal mayors ug ang aton mga congressmen, ang aton mga barangay officials, tanan-tanang opisyaes ug aton mga katawhan sa tibuok Sugbo, city ug probinsya, ang atong mga kandidato:

Una, dating Senate President, Ang Gara ng Buhay sa Nine-point Agenda ni Ed Angara;

Unya, haligi sa hustisya sa katawhan, haligi sa demokrasya, kaya ang tawag natin sa kanya ang People’s Dragon, Kung Bad Ka, Lagot Ka! Si Joker Arroyo;

Ang pagla-um sa kabataan, kampeon sa pabalay kauban na diri sa Cebu City mismo, si ‘Tol’ Mike Defensor;

Ang masunod, gobernador, mutindo alang sa pagpakusog sa mga local government, Magsaysay is our Guy;

Ang Cebuano that we will rely on nga mahimo ang promodor sa kaugmaon sa atong kultura ug turismo, si Cesar Montano;

Ang kampeon sa kababaihan, dili lang kampeon sa kababaihan, kampeon sa mga magtutudlo ug mga estudyante, si Senadora Tessie ‘TAO’ Oreta;

Cebuano gihapon, karon na Cebuano gikan sa Mindanao, mohimo kampeon sa agri-business tungod kay itanom nato ang Pichay sa Senado;

Dili ta niabot sa fiscal crisis tungod sa iya mga balaod nga korekto, si Ralph Recto;

Ang kampeon sab dili lang sa local government kundili sab sa mga mang-uuma, si Chavit Singson;

Kinsa naman ang Cebuano nga dili pa nakasulod sa ospital nga gin ngalan sa iyang lolo, Vicente Tito Sotto III;

Kinahanglan nato ang kalinaw sa tibuok Pilipinas alang sa kalinaw ug kauswagan sa Muslim Mindanao, si Kiram, ang Sultan of Sulu at sa pamilya sa atong royalty;

Ug ang kaugmaon kay bata pa siya apan daghan na ang nahimo, ang kaugmahon sa atong enerhiya, Mr. Biofuels, Zubiri! Zubiri! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Mga kaigsuonan, pro-poor, pro-growth, pro-modernization ang atong Team Unity nagahangyo sa inyong tabang ug suporta.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA’s Speech during the ‘Team Unity’ Kick-off Proclamation Rally for Senatorial Candidates. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151509/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1884&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2nd International Rondalla Festival

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Ceremonies of the 2nd International Rondalla Festival**

[Delivered at the Oriental Negros Provincial Convention Center, Capitol area, Dumaguete City, Oriental Negros,
February 19, 2007]

Thank you very much, Governor Jojo Arnaiz, Mrs Arnaiz, congratulations! For this beautiful convention center and for hosting this important rondalla festival.

Vice President Noli De Castro; Mayor Toting Perdices; vice governor and other officials of the province of Oriental Negros; our Cabinet members and other national officials who are here with us today; delegates; participants of the Second International Rondalla Festival of Oriental Negros, mga kaigsoonan.

Makit-an nato ang paspas nga kauswagan dinhi sa Dumaguete ug sa tibuok Oriental Negros. Kining inyong convention center nga ga bili ug 140 ka milyon pesos gikan lang gyud sa inisyatibo sa gobyerno probinsiyal. Mo-apas pang mahuman ingon ni Governor Arnaiz karong hunyo ang pagbutang sa rubberized oval didto sa Perdices coliseum. Congratulations! For a coliseum like this.

Angay gyud kining convention center sa inyong tuyo nga mahimong paboritong destinasyon alang sa mga tourism activities, convention tourism, nature adventures ug sa inyong tuyo nga titulong convention and sports destination. Ang angay ni-ini sa atong tourism super region diri sa Central Philippines.

Kagangina niadto kami sa inagurasyon sa bag-ong Teletech ug sa pagsugod sa Dumaguete business park nga naa kauban nga Robinson's Mall gasunod sab sa pagkab-ot sa inyong katuyuan.

And in order for Oriental Negros progress to continue as well as the rest of the Philippines, we are avowed not to let politics get in the way of the economy. We are avowed to reinforce the economy with firm political stability. We see the political campaign taking its course in a manner reflecting a full fledged Philippine democracy. This should convince one and all that freedom reigns beside a free market in our country.

The resiliency of our economy as well as our political system has been tried and tested through several crises and storms. The Filipino always rises from controversy to shine in excellence and hard work. We shall prove it once more this year. We call on the opposition not to hurt, but to help grow the economy.

Ang atong nasudnong agenda gipa-focus sa paghimo daghang trabaho, pag-istable sa mga presyo ug sa pagdala sa benepisyo sa kauswagan ngadto sa tanang Pilipino.

Naga-anhi ang kauswagan sa nasod pinaagi sa atong pakighi-usa sa mga lider sa barangay, sa mga mayor ug sa mga gobernador.

Kining inyong kapital nga dumaguete nga da-an nga gitawag nga university town ug adunay nindot nga Rizal Boulevard usa sab sa labing malinaw nga siyudad sa tibuok nasod. Congratulations!

And since you are the host of this international event today, tungod kay kamo mag-host sa mga international nga okasyon, sama ni-ining 2nd International Rondalla Festival nga gasugod karong adlaw, gipakita sab ninyo ang pagpangga sa mga Oriental Negros ang kultura ug mga arte.

Oriental Negros is a university town, but today you have shown beyond being a university town, you are a town of great culture, love for culture.

Ang pagdu-aw dinhi sa Visayas, sa cuerdas usa ka maayo nga oportunidad alang sa panagkauban sa interfaith, inter-culture ug inter-sibilisasyon agi sa musika. What we are doing today, our guests, is an example of interfaith, inter-culture, inter-civilization togetherness.

Labaw pang mikusog ang aton pagsalig sa mga lokal nga opisyal sa Oriental Negros tungod nining provincial convention center. Nahibalo nato nga kini ang “crowning glory” sa daghan ninyo mga nahimo ngano midaog kanunay kamo ug upat ka “Galing Pook” awards. Congratulations sa probinsiya!

Apan dili lang mga proyekto sa gobyerno, mga proyekto sab gikan sa atong mga private sector, ang bag-ong Teletech simbolo sa dakong uswag dili lang diri sa Oriental Negros kundili sab sa atong nasod sa industriya sa information and communications technology ug sa pag-ayo sa atong ekonomiya.

Tungod ni-ining mga bag-ong pag-uswag, ang dumaguete ug ang tibuok probinsiya sa oriental negros apil sa mga ga-una sa pagbag-o ug pag-uswag nga nahitabo sa atong nasod. Congratulations!

And so on this day, it’s a very rare occasion, that the president and the vice president are together in one place. Not because we don’t like each other, we like each other very much. But anywhere in the world, the president and the vice president are supposed to avoid being together, but today we are together. That’s how important Oriental Negros is. That’s how important Dumaguete is. That’s how important this international Rondalla festival is to the cultural life of our country.

Daghan salamat ug congratulations! Sa inyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA’s Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2nd International Rondalla Festival. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151454/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1882&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Economic Briefing and Lunch with the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines (EJAP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Economic Briefing and Lunch with the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines
(EJAP)**

[Delivered at Rooms A & B, Makati Shangri-La, Makati City, February 20, 2007]

Thank you Joey, my new presidential chief of staff, one of my star students, a student who became better than his teacher.

When Tony said that I have the right staff. I said, “is it s-t-u-f-f or s-t-a-f-f?” ’cause look at our economic managers here: Peter Favila, Gary Teves, Popo Lotilla, Arty Yap, Fe Barin, Lilia De Lima — great! Great! Economic team.

And I’d like to thank the Lopez brothers for hosting this. You remind us of the President of Marubeni and the President of Tokyo Electric because they’re brothers. Also, the Prime Minister and the President of Poland. So that’s how important are the Lopez brothers to our economic journalism.

Thank you also Tony for the kind words — not just words — kind words and the kind numbers that you pointed out in your opening remarks.

And to all of you, good noon, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for being in this economic conference or conference on economic growth hosted by EJAP and MOPC. And I asked for this occasion so that we could celebrate six years of uninterrupted growth. And why did we ask the Lopez brothers to host it? Because it was Tony Lopez who pointed out about the 24 quarters of uninterrupted economic growth. Thank you, Tony.

And so as Tony has started to do, we’re all here to review the economic progress that has made our nation stronger and that’s working to improve the quality of life of Filipinos throughout our great nation.

Reforming the economy is one of the most difficult tasks any administration can undertake. Especially the Philippines, as Tony said, it’s very difficult to manage the Philippine economy.

It’s not easy to raise revenue by raising taxes and making people angry. But it’s necessary if we are to invest new money in vital infrastructure.

It’s not easy to crack down on tax cheats, be they rich or famous, as Gary Teves knows, but it’s necessary if we are to invest in education and health care.

It’s not easy to balance a budget so that we can save billions in interest payments, but it’s necessary if we are to modernize our nation and lift up the poor.

From the start, we set a course to reform the fundamentals of our economy. The seas were often rough and the wind was in our face. (Ronnie, please take your seat — our Consumer Oil Price Watch) The wind was often in our face but we sailed on because the choices were stark — sail against the wind and change our economic fortunes or perish.

No, economic reform is not easy. No one said it would be when I got into this job. But together with our economic managers and the people who supported us through these tough decisions, the Filipino nation is better off today than it was six years ago.

And there is no turning back. We will balance the budget, create new jobs, and lift this nation up. As Tony has pointed out — and I wish that we would all remember — for once, we have traveled the path of 24 quarters of uninterrupted growth.

We have demonstrated to ourselves and to the world that we can sustain our economic growth and not be derailed by political sideshows. We aim to stay on this course and to continue to prove to ourselves and to the world that the Philippines has arrived at a new place, where issues, policies and ideas trump personalities and politics.

Yes, we have made the tough but necessary decisions to strengthen our economy. (oh, we have several gentlemen, please. We have several of our business leaders. Dave.) And these painful steps are paying off: we now have the money to invest in job creation, new roads, bridges and ports, and more for education and health care. And while we were able to spend more on our country and our people, for the first time in a long time, the government is doing what average Filipino households do: move towards balancing the budget and not borrowing more and more.

Through strong international alliances, we have forged new partnerships that have led to billions in investments that helped create five million new jobs. We have strengthened our military and security alliances in the region and the world. That has led to major gains for peace in Mindanao, the isolation and tracking down of known terrorists and a reduction in violent crime.

Our neighborhoods, barangays and nation are more secure, more peaceful, more stable as a result of these efforts.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the house for ratifying the anti-terror bill and other measures of national interest. And I urge both houses to strike while the iron is hot and join hands to send out the enrolled bill so that I can sign it, and so that we can have uninterrupted momentum in our fight against terror — with all the legal teeth we need to curtail the clandestine movement of funds, material and persons who are out to sow evil.

It's somewhat saddening that the day of statesmanship was clouded by the death of Congressman Serapio on his way to join his colleagues on the house floor. As we sympathize with his loved ones and constituents, we dedicate our relentless efforts to work for the peace and safety of all Filipinos wherever they are. With the passage of the anti-terror bill, our nation would have a potent weapon and armor to shield not only the people but our economy as well from this global scourge. So I urge our congress on as I extol our troops who are in the thick of this fight to finish off the Abu Sayyaf and keep our national perimeters clean of terror.

In the next three and a half years remaining in our administration, we will invest about a trillion pesos to build much needed infrastructure that will support our economy and attract further investments.

This year in 2007, we will continue on our path towards a balanced budget, which our medium-term plan set... Had set for 2010, but which our economic managers insists they want to achieve it by next year.

This is great news for the nation and particularly our young people who can rest assured that their government is investing in their future, not borrowing more and more to leave them with the debt as has been done in the past.

Because of our successes, I'm optimistic about the future of the nation and the well-being of the people.

We have worked tirelessly to build a modern nation that will one day take its rightful place beside first-world countries.

We have a national agenda designed to move the nation forward toward greater political stability, economic prosperity and peace and order. It is a pro-poor, pro-growth, pro-modernization agenda. (Chito, please)

We're working hard to create an environment conducive to businesses and economic growth. This is clearly visible in our improved fiscal performance, widespread positive market sentiment and upbeat economic forecast for 2007, all of which were mentioned by Tony earlier, and will probably be amplified by Joey later with a six-year perspective, as well as the briefing that will be done hosted by the Central Bank in the other room today.

Our administration will focus on the national agenda that includes more jobs, stable prices and peace and order. We will work to expand education and health care. We will take action to develop a green Philippine agenda to improve our environment and beautify our communities. We will do so by working with our local and provincial leaders to see that the benefits of the new economy are spread to every corner of the Philippines, not just Metro Manila.

The next wave of reforms focuses on enhancing infrastructure and national competitiveness.

Our infrastructure program is focused on enhancing the competitive advantage of the natural "Super Regions" of the Philippines: farm-to-market roads and irrigation in the North Luzon agri-business quadrangle — oh, yeah and including also no frills airports — expressways and ports in the Metro Luzon urban beltway; roads and airports for Central Philippines tourism; farm-to-market roads and roll-on/roll-off ports for Mindanao agri-business; and connectivity and technology in the cyber corridor.

We need to improve our infrastructure and our regulatory regime so that goods and people move cheaply and freely by road, rail, sea or air and have access to cheap power and world-class telecommunications.

With our expressways, ports and airports visibly under construction, the biggest infrastructure challenge now is electric power. That is the next area of major economic reform.

To be world-class we invest in five comprehensive strategies for global competitiveness:

One, make food plentiful and affordable to keep our labor cost globally competitive. That's Arty Yap's job. And human resources must be on the frontline of our competitive comeback, aside from having access to food that's affordable, nothing is more important than the health of our children and quality education.

Second source of competitiveness, reduce the cost of electricity to make our factories regionally competitive.

Oh, Lilia De Lima is here. Can I already announce it, Lilia? The... With the... May I? Okay. With due respect to Chairman Albano of the ERC, the Department of Justice has said that there is a specific law that says that the economic zones have regulatory power over the factory operating in their areas. And therefore that should help to reduce the cost of electricity in the economic zones.

Third source of productivity and competitiveness, modernize infrastructure at least cost to efficiently transport goods and people.

And fourth major area of competitiveness, mobilize, upgrade and disseminate knowledge and technologies for productivity. I said it in 2001, but I can say it with more fervor now that we have the money to make it come true, technology is the foundation of future economic development. And for starters, I have asked Nonoy Andaya, our Secretary of the Budget, to release 200 million pesos for scholarships for masters and PHd in science and engineering.

Fifth, reduce red tape in all agencies to cut business costs. And that is the great work of Peter Favila today. And to help Peter do that, we have appointed Pita Flores as the — what do you call it? — investment ombudsman.

There is much to do if we are to work toward a more just, modern and prosperous nation. The government cannot do this alone.

In fact, that will be the theme of this year's economic briefing later today. Ensuring the country's sustainability is a shared responsibility between the public and private sectors. And through you, our economic journalists, members of the oldest press club in the region in Asia, we challenge the business community — although some of the movers and shakers are already here today — through you, the leaders of the associations, we challenge the business community to take a bigger stake in the country's development.

This partnership between the government and the private sector should focus on the exchange of new ideas to propel our economy forward and not on old complaints that will only hold us back. It should be about fighting for a stronger nation.

We have a vision for the day when all Filipinos can choose to live and work here in the Philippines, close to family and friends, owning a home with a high quality of life.

We hope for the day when enough jobs are created in the Philippines so that hardworking Filipinos don't have to go abroad for work. We see a day when going abroad for a job is a career choice, not the only option for work.

And we call on the private sector to make national interest a top priority and to take advantage of the positive economic momentum and make investments that will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the nation.

I believe in the Philippines and its hardworking people. I believe our people want their elected leaders to stay on the part of economic reform, social justice, and peace and security. The people want a future they can count on and leaders who have a vision and a plan.

We will continue to work hard to make these aspirations a reality for a new, modernizing Philippines. And we hope you, the economic journalists, the founding fathers of Philippine media, the business leaders, we hope you will join us in realizing our nation's goals.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Economic Briefing and Lunch with the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines (EJAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151441/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1879&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Economic Briefing and Lunch with the Economic Journalist Association of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Economic Briefing and Lunch with the Economic Journalist Association of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Makati Shangri-La, Makati City, February 20, 2007]

When Tony said that I have the right staff. I said, “is it s-t-u-f-f or s-t-a-f-f?” because look at our economic managers here: Peter Favila, Gary Teves, Popo Lotilla, Arty Yap, Fe Barin, Lilia De Lima — great! Great economic team.

And I’d like to thank the Lopez brothers for hosting this. You remind us of the President of Marubeni and the President of Tokyo Electric because they’re brothers. Also, the Prime Minister and the President of Poland. So that’s how important are the Lopez brothers to our economic journalism. Thank you also Tony for the kind words — not just words — kind words and the kind numbers that you pointed out in your opening remarks. And to all of you good day.

Thank you for being in this economic conference or conference on economic growth hosted by EJAP and MOPC. And I asked for this occasion so that we could celebrate six years of uninterrupted growth. And why did we ask the Lopez brothers to host it? Because it was Tony Lopez who pointed out about the 24 quarters of uninterrupted economic growth. Thank you, Tony.

And so as Tony has started to do, we’re all here to review the economic progress that has made our nation stronger and that’s working to improve the quality of life of Filipinos throughout our great nation.

Reforming the economy is one of the most difficult tasks any administration can undertake. Especially the Philippines, as Tony said, it’s very difficult to manage the Philippine economy. It’s not easy to raise revenue by raising taxes and making people angry. But it is necessary, if we are to invest new money in vital infrastructures.

It is not easy to crack down on tax cheats, be they rich or famous, as Gary Teves knows, but it’s necessary if we are to invest in education and health care.

It is not easy to balance a budget so that we can save billions in interest payments, but it’s necessary if we are to modernize our nation and lift up the poor.

From the start, we set a course to reform the fundamentals of our economy. The seas were often rough and the wind was in our face. The wind was often in our face but we sailed on because the choices were stark — sail against the wind and change our economic fortunes or perish.

No, economic reform is not easy. No one said it would be when I got into this job. But together with our economic managers and the people who supported us through these tough decisions, the Filipino nation is better off today than it was six years ago.

And there is no turning back. We will balance the budget, create new jobs, and lift this nation up. As Tony has pointed out and I wish that we would all remember — for once, we have traveled the path of 24 quarters of uninterrupted growth.

We have demonstrated to ourselves and to the world that we can sustain our economic growth and not be derailed by political sideshows. We aim to stay on this course and to continue to prove to ourselves and to the world that the Philippines has arrived at a new place, where issues, policies and ideas trump personalities and politics.

Yes, we have made the tough but necessary decisions to strengthen our economy. And these painful steps are paying off: we now have the money to invest in job creation, new roads, bridges, and ports, and more for education and health care. And while we were able to spend more on our country and our people, for the first time in a long time the government is doing what average Filipino households do: move towards balancing the budget and not borrowing more and more.

Through strong international alliances, we have forged new partnerships that have led to billions in investments that helped create five million new jobs. We have strengthened our military and security alliances in the region and the world. That has led to major gains for peace in Mindanao, the isolation and tracking down of known terrorists and a reduction in violent crimes. Our neighborhoods, barangays and nation are more secure, more peaceful, more stable as a result of these efforts.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the House for ratifying the ***Anti-Terror Bill*** and other measures of national interest. And I urge both houses to strike while the iron is hot and join hands to send out the enrolled bill so that I can sign it, and so that we can have uninterrupted momentum in our fight against terror — with all the legal teeth we need to curtail the clandestine movement of funds, materiel and persons who are out to sow evil.

It's somewhat saddening that the day of statesmanship was clouded by the death of Congressman Serapio on his way to join his colleagues on the House floor. As we sympathize with his loved ones and constituents, we dedicate our relentless efforts to work for the peace and safety of all Filipinos wherever they are. With the passage of the anti-terror bill, our nation would have a potent weapon and armor to shield not only the people but our economy as well from this global scourge. So I urge our Congress on, as I extol our troops who are in the thick of this fight to finish off the Abu Sayyaf and keep our national perimeters clean of terror.

In the next three and a half years remaining in our administration, we will invest about a trillion pesos to build much needed infrastructure that will support our economy and attract further investments.

This year in 2007, we will continue on our path towards a balanced budget, which our medium-term plan had set for 2010, but which our economic managers insists they want to achieve it by next year.

This is great news for the nation and particularly our young people who can rest assured that their government is investing in their future, not borrowing more and more to leave them with the debt as has been done in the past.

Because of our successes, I'm optimistic about the future of the nation and the well-being of the people. We have worked tirelessly to build a modern nation that will one day take its rightful place beside first-world countries.

We have a national agenda designed to move the nation forward toward greater political stability, economic prosperity and peace and order. It is a pro-poor, pro-growth, pro-modernization agenda.

We're working hard to create an environment conducive to businesses and economic growth. This is clearly visible in our improved fiscal performance, widespread positive market sentiment and upbeat economic forecast for 2007, all of which were mentioned by Tony earlier, and will probably be amplified by Joey later with a six-year perspective, as well as the briefing that will be done hosted by the Central Bank in the other room today.

Our administration will focus on the national agenda that includes more jobs, stable prices and peace and order. We will work to expand education and health care. We will do so by working with our local and provincial leaders to see that the benefits of the new economy are spread to every corner of the Philippines, not just Metro Manila.

The next wave of reforms focuses on enhancing infrastructure and national competitiveness.

Our infrastructure program is focused on enhancing the competitive advantage of the natural “Super Regions” of the Philippines: farm-to-market roads and irrigation in the North Luzon agri-business quadrangle and including also no frills airports, expressways and ports in the Metro Luzon urban beltway; roads and airports for Central Philippines tourism; farm-to-market roads and roll-on/roll-off ports for Mindanao agri-business; and connectivity and technology in the cyber corridor.

We need to improve our infrastructure and our regulatory regime so that goods and people move cheaply and freely by road, rail, sea or air and have access to cheap power and world-class telecommunications. With our expressways, ports and airports visibly under construction, the biggest infrastructure challenge now is electric power. That is the next area of major economic reform.

To be world-class we invest in five comprehensive strategies for global competitiveness:

One, make food plentiful and affordable to keep our labor cost globally competitive. That’s Arty Yap’s job. And human resources must be on the frontline of our competitive comeback, aside from having access to food that’s affordable, nothing is more important than the health of our children and quality education.

Second source of competitiveness, reduce the cost of electricity to make our factories regionally competitive. Oh, Lilia De Lima is here. Can I already announce it, Lilia? May I? Okay. With due respect to Chairman Albano of the ERC, the Department of Justice has said that there is a specific law that says that the economic zones have regulatory power over the factory operating in their areas. And therefore that should help to reduce the cost of electricity in the economic zones.

Third source of productivity and competitiveness, modernize infrastructure at least cost to efficiently transport goods and people.

And fourth major area of competitiveness, mobilize, upgrade and disseminate knowledge and technologies for productivity. I said it in 2001, but I can say it with more fervor now that we have the money to make it come true, technology is the foundation of future economic development. And for starters, I have asked Nonoy Andaya, our Secretary of the Budget, to release 200 million pesos for scholarships for masters and PhD in science and engineering.

Fifth, reduce red tape in all agencies to cut business costs. And that is the great work of Secretary Peter Favila today. And to help Peter do that, we have appointed Pita Flores as the — what do you call it? — Investment Ombudsman.

There is much to do if we are to work toward a more just, modern and prosperous nation. The government cannot do this alone. In fact, that will be the theme of this year’s economic briefing later today. Ensuring the country’s sustainability is a shared responsibility between the public and private sectors. And through you, our economic journalists, members of the oldest press club in the region in Asia, we challenge the business community — although some of the movers and shakers are already here today — through you, the leaders of the associations, we challenge the business community to take a bigger stake in the country’s development.

This partnership between the government and the private sector should focus on the exchange of new ideas to propel our economy forward and not on old complaints that will only hold us back. It should be about fighting for a stronger nation.

We have a vision for the day when all Filipinos can choose to live and work here in the Philippines, close to family and friends, owning a home with a high quality of life.

We hope for the day when enough jobs are created in the Philippines so that hardworking Filipinos don’t have to go abroad for work. We see a day when going abroad for a job is a career choice, not the only option for work.

And we call on the private sector to make national interest a top priority and to take advantage of the positive economic momentum and make investments that will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the nation.

I believe in the Philippines and its hardworking people. I believe our people want their elected leaders to stay on the part of economic reform, social justice, and peace and security. The people want a future they can count on and leaders who have a vision and a plan.

We will continue to work hard to make these aspirations a reality for a new, modernizing Philippines. And we hope you, the economic journalists, the founding fathers of Philippine media, the business leaders, we hope you will join us in realizing our nation's goals.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the “Perlas ng Pangkabuhayan Pinoy” and Entrepreneur’s Congress

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of the “Perlas ng Pangkabuhayan Pinoy” and Entrepreneur’s Congress on
the occasion of the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) 30th anniversary**

[Delivered at the Mega Trade Hall 2, 5th Level, Building B Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City, February 21, 2007]

Maraming salamat TLRC Director General Antonio Ortiz sa iyong pagpakilala, sa iyong pagpaliwanag, sa iyong imbitasyon.

Batiin rin natin si Mayor Neptali Gonzales, si Boyet. Sabi nga ni Boyet kanina sa akin, ang ganda na ng ating ekonomiya. Oo, pero ang ganda-ganda lalo na ng ekonomiya ng Mandaluyong sa liderato ni Mayor Boyet Gonzales. Magaling na mayor at nung araw magaling na majority leader kaya tayo ay nasisiyahan na kasama siya ngayon.

Secretary Angelo Reyes; Mr. Sy; yung ating host, si Mayor Gonzales at saka si... Ang ating landlord naman ay si Mr. Sy; mga iba’t-ibang mga opisyal ng TLRC; iba’t-ibang mga entrepreneur na nagtatanggap ng benepisyo kabalikat ng TLRC, Happy 30th Anniversary sa inyong lahat!

Thirty years, yan ay napaka-importanteng anibersaryo kaya minarapat kong pumunta rito ngayon.

Sa nakaraang tatlung taon ang TLRC ay kabalikat natin sa pagbibigay kapangyarihan sa taumbayang pilipino sa pamamagitan ng mga programang pangkabuhayan at serbisyo. Pero naalala ko na 30 years ago, ang pangalan ng TLRC ay TRC (Technology Resource Center). Nadagdagan na lamang yung livelihood nung si Hermie Aquino ang naging head. Pero sana ‘wag n’yong kalilimutan ang original mandate ninyo ay technology.

At sabi nga ni Director General Antonio Ortiz, tatlong taon nakaraan, eh, halos hindi niyo akalaing makakapag-abot kayo, makaka-abot kayo ng 30 years, kasi ang laki-laki ng lugi ng TLRC noon — 400 million pesos. Pero sa mabuting palad, ang TLRC ay ang unang-unang ahensiya sa buong pamahalaan na gumawa ng rationalization. Congratulations sa inyo!

Kaya pagkatapos ng dalawang taon... Ng dalawang taon ng streamlining ay nakayanan ng center na ibaba ng malaki ang gastos, gaya nang sabi ni Director General, 66 million at three-fourths doon ay dahil sa inyong savings sa rationalization. Congratulations din doon!

Kaya mula sa isang... Sa mga luring korporasyon ng pamahalaan, nakatindig ito ngayon ang TLRC bilang isang catalyst para sa masisipag na entrepreneur para sa kakayahan ng pangkabuhayang Pilipino.

Alam n’yo malaki ang ating pinupuri doon sa... Doon sa ano, sa NAPOCOR dahil nung araw ang laki-laki ng kanyang lugi at ngayon ay kumikita na. Pero hindi lamang ang NAPOCOR ang dapat nating purihin, pinupuri rin natin ngayon ang TLRC.

Ngayon ang mga gawain ng TLRC ay ginagawa sa pamahalaang lokal gaya nang sabi ni Director General Ortiz. Meron tayong nakitang mga mayor dito dahil may apatnapu’t-isang technology and livelihood development center sa buong bansa. Maraming kurso ang pagsasanay gaya nang sabi ni Director General Ortiz ay nailagay na sa tape at mga disc para mapanood sa tahanan. Kaya nagiging... Dapat naman dahil technology center kayo eh kaya dapat talaga nagke-keep up kayo sa technology.

At nasisiyahan kong banggitin, ako'y kapampangan galing ako sa Pampanga, yung Mabalacat Techno Center, yung malaking... Ang tawag doon nung araw ay technology center, eto ngayon tinawag na Mabalacat Techno Center, ito ay magiging isang magandang industrial estate sa tinatawag nating Metro Luzon Urban Beltway. Kasi ang damidaming mga investors na pumapasok. Last year record foreign investments, two billion U.S. dollars record sa buong kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, so naghahanap ng industrial center.

Sana mga Pilipino rin ay pumasok sa mga investment. Sana gayahin ng mga ibang mga Pilipino yung pamilya ng Henry Sy dahil tuluy-tuloy ang investment ng SM.

Yung Mabalacat at yung ibang mga TLRC techno center ay naglikha ng walong libong trabaho in the recent years. Kaya talagang ginagawa ang lahat ng gagawin para sa ganun ay makatulong sa ekonomiya sa sariling sikap at hindi parating sina-subsidize ng national government.

Upang pabilisin ang pagbalik mula sa pagkalugi ng TLRC, tinutulak din natin ang technology business incubation. Actually, ito ang talagang unang mandato ng TLRC. Ito ay isang programang naglalayong pa-ibayo ang survival rate ng mga bagong negosyo at pinapayagan silang umunlad. Kaya ang inaatas ko sa TLRC na maging kabalikat ng DOST sa business incubation.

Kasi nung isang araw, nagkaroon kami ng meeting, yung Philippine-American Society of Scientists, at nilabas natin doon yung ating science and technology plan. At isa nga doon ay maglalagay... Kasi gusto natin yung science and technology, ang technology ay dapat maging basehan ng ating kaunlaran. At yung science ng DOST ay ginagawa niya yuon kaya maglalagay siya ng mga business incubation center dito sa taong ito. At sana ang TLRC ay maging kabalikat doon.

In fact, tamang-tama nandiyan si Danny Coronacion nung CIIF, at ang gusto nga natin na marami sa incubation center ay tungkol sa virgin coconut oil, kasi marami sa ating mahihirap ay nasa coconut areas — ay, nandito pala si Tessie Sy, one of the most powerful businesswomen in the whole world kaya tuluy-tuloy ang investment ng SM — at yung virgin coconut oil ay napakalaki ang demand sa buong mundo. At gusto natin na ang virgin coconut oil ay kasing kilala ng olive oil ng Italy. Kaya yan sana isang maging technology resource na nililibot ng TLRC sa buong bansa at tulungan ang DOST gumawa ng incubation center para magkaroon ng mga planta ng virgin coconut oil yung iba't-ibang mga mang-nuniyog sa ating mga lugar, lalung-lalo na yung mga natamaan ng bagyo, yung Bicol at saka Marinduque, panay coconut country yuon. At sa ganitong paraan lalong makiki-ugnay ang TLRC sa ating pambansang agenda.

Ang ating pambansang agenda ay nananatiling nakatukoy sa paglikha ng trabahong magaganda ang kita, mas matatag na presyo, at pagdala ng mga biyaya na malakas na ekonomiya sa karaniwang pamilyang Pilipino.

Itong eleksiyon ngayon sa Mayo, una sa lahat ito ay tungkol sa ekonomiya. Ang taumbayan ay pipili sa pamamagitan ng mga may plano sa pangkabuhayan at doon sa mga walang plano. Sa mga nakakapagpatuloy ng momentum sa paglalago sa trabaho, sa ekonomiya, or those who will set back the clock. Dalawa ang pagpipilian sa kampanya: ang isa ay yung pagtayo ng bansa; the other one is for breaking down the walls of the nation. The dividing line becomes sharper every passing day. Nagiging klaro ang pagpipilian. At naniniwala tayo, una sa lahat, dahil nga gaya nang sabi ni Boyet, ang ekonomiya ay maganda at meron tayong mga matatatag na mga kabalikat kagaya ni Boyet. Sa wakas boboto ang taumbayan para sa ekonomiya kaysa sa pamumulitika. Sa wakas boboto ang taumbayan para sa kinabukasan kaysa sa nakaraan. Boboto ang taumbayan para sa pagkakaisa kaysa sa pambansang pagwawatak-watak.

And I'm happy to see that the programs and services of TLRC are becoming more and more aligned with our agenda of generating jobs and alleviating poverty through the principle of technology — the foundation of future development.

This is the agenda in which I expect TLRC to contribute meaningfully in the coming years. We expect TLRC to be a leading center of entrepreneurial technology-based resources, a virtual one-stop shop for entrepreneurs with

strengthened and modernized services in technology and business information, hands-on training, organizing and linking.

And with your keen commitment to the public welfare, I trust that TLRC will continue developing more entrepreneurs, more productive entrepreneurs, creating more jobs that give good income and better opportunities for each and every Filipino family.

Congratulations once again on your 30th or pearl anniversary!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the "Perlas ng Pangkabuhayan Pinoy" and Entrepreneur's Congress on the Occasion of the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) 30th Anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151421/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1875&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st National Coconut Farmers Convention

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st National Coconut Farmers Convention sponsored by the Bishops, Ulama, Priests, Pastors,
Farmers, Lumads Conference (BUPPFALUC)**

[Delivered at the University of Mindanao Gymnasium, Matina District, Davao City, Davao del Sur, February 23, 2007]

Daghan salamat Mayor Rudy Duterte sa imong pagpapaila ug sa pag-host sa city nining importante nga okasyon.

Archbishop Capalla; the bishops, ulama, priests, pastors, farmers, Lumad conference; si Congresswoman sa Davao Oriental, ang labi daku nga coconut province diri sa Mindanao; Bishop Gomez ug uban mga bishops ug Ulama; Secretary Teves; Secretary Gonzalez; Secretary Dureza; PCGG Chair Sabio; our regional directors of agriculture and coconut; tanan aton mga opisyal; Danny Coronacion of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund; officials of the Solicitor General's Office; and President Torres who is hosting us in his beautiful campus.

This conference of bishops, ulama, priests, pastors, farmers and lumads is our way of consolidating the fight against poverty.

Interfaith dialogue has been working for peace in Mindanao and now in this event, interfaith dialogue is also getting the various sectors together to help achieve development by helping the fortunate. Congratulations! Sa atong interfaith dialogue bishops-ulamas.

Binabati ko ang lahat ng mga mangnuniyog sa buong Pilipinas, ug siyempre aton mga mang-uuma sa Visayas ug sa Mindanao pati na rin sa Luzon.

Sa araw na ito sisimulan ang pagtupad sa pangarap ng mga mangnuniyog na mapasakanila na ang mas makatarungan at mas malaking bahagi ng mga benepisyo mula sa coco levy funds. Dugay na kaayo kanihulat ang atong coconut farmers, matagal na ang paghihintay ng ating mga mangnuniyog. Dalawampung taon ng pagsasaayos ng mga masalimuot na legal issues at marami nito ay bibigyan pa lang ng desisyon sa mga korte.

Unang una, kinahanglan na maupod ug Sandiganbayan ug Korte Suprema kining agreement. Unya ang pagbibigay sa pagsang-ayon isusunod na ang public bidding na gagawin ng Department of Finance. Ibebenta yung mga San Miguel shares.

Kasama sa isinaad sa agreement ang pagtatag ng isang foundation na mamamahala, mangangasiwa at maglalagay ng kontrol sa paggamit ng pondo mula sa pagpapabili ng shares nito at sisiguraduhin na ang foundation na ang mga gagastusin ay makakabigay ng higit na benepisyo sa mga mangnuniyog.

Sa una ang gobyerno ang mokontrol sa foundation. Apan unya sa pag-ingon sa Korte Suprema ug sa Sandigan, it will eventually transfer control to the farmers groups. If that will be the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan decisions.

Ang Department of Finance ubos kan Secretary Teves nagatrabaho kauban ang PCGG ug ang Solicitor General. Talagang nagsisipag ang lahat upang magkaroon ng solusyon na katanggap-tanggap sa lahat. At inaanyayahan ko na madayon pa ang konsultasyon aron makuyog ang tanan mga mang-uuma sa niyog.

Kining agreement importante kaayo. Mahalagang hakbang aron mubalik kaninyo kung unsay kinahanglan maadto kaninyo at padayon kitang mugtrabaho para kaninyo gyud. Daghan pa sa mga uban nga mga prinsipyo gobyerno alang gyud sa pagtabang sa atong mga mang-uuma sa niyog. For instance, ang bag-o nga biofuels act, good news alang sa atong mangunguma sa niyog. Ug ubos sa atong administrasyon ang presyo sa coco na saka naga-benefit sa atong mga mang-uuma.

Nahumduman ko na sa akong una nga maglingkod bise presidente, ang kopra six pesos per kilo. Ang coconut husk, ang husk nuts mill gate price, 1.75 kada piyesa. Apan sa atong niaging miting niadtong agosto ang kopra prices nasa 18 pesos per kilo, labaw pa ug ang husk coconut five pesos kada usa. Kining atong nahimo karon labaw pa ang mahimo alang sa atong mga mang-uuma sa niyog. Kay guapo kaayo ang presyo naa pa mga bag-o nga demand sama sa biofuels sukun makatabang gyud kining pondo sa San Miguel sa inyong productivity, sa inyong delivery ug transport labaw pa ang net income sa atong mga mang-uuma sa niyog.

And why are we able to do this? Our steady growth has kept our peso at its strongest in many many years. Nibalik na ang kumpiyansa ug mga investor ug ang atong nasod sa niaging tuig naka-realized sa savings sa 37 billion pesos. And this 37 billion pesos mabalik nato sa tibuok nasod Pilipino isip labaw pa nga mga eskuwela, mga health insurance, mga tindahan sa bayan na nakabaligya ug rice and noodles at a lower price, ug capital microfinance alang sa mga gagmay nga negosyante unta kauban diri ang aton mga coconut farmers, agri-business farmers.

Ug sa mga programa alang sa imprastraktura daghan pa nga mga farm-to market roads, irigasyon, koneksiyon sa roll-on/roll-off ferry, mga kalsada, mga cargo airport naipatindog nato aron labaw pa ang pagdaghan sa produksyon at mahimo mas maayo ang pagtransport sa mga produkto kauban ang produkto sa niyog ug kopra.

We are charging a future that will bring stability and peace, justice to the oppressed, comfort to the disaster-stricken and the sick, labaw nga pagkaon sa mga kabos, mabababa nga presyo nga enerhiya and a safer environment for our children.

Ang importante that the collective will of our people will support a determined government and this will enable our nation na mabilin sa kalsada alang sa kalinaw ug sa kauswagan.

Gina abi-abi ko ang aton mga mangnuniyog ug ang BUPPFALUC and I'm also greeting the Department of Finance, the PCGG, the OSG and all the agencies, tanang... Lahat ng ahensiyang kasali sa industriya ng niyog — CIIF, PCA — sa pagbuo sa agreement na binibigyan natin ng pagdiriwang itong araw na ito.

Kaninyong tanan mga mang-uuma sa niyog, congratulations! Sa bag-o nga kaugmaon. And to our beloved Archbishop Capalla, thank you very much. You have worked so hard for peace and now you are working... You are achieving something so significant for development.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 1st National Coconut Farmers Convention sponsored by the Bishops, Ulama, Priests, Pastors, Farmers, Lumads Conference (BUPPFALUC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151400/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1872&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Special Joint Meeting of the Rotary International (R.I.) District 3830, Metro Manila Rotary Clubs

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Special Joint Meeting of the Rotary International (R.I.) District 3830, Metro Manila Rotary Clubs**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Makati City, February 23, 2007]

Thank you very much Mike for introducing me, and with Mike Varela introducing me, I'm sure this is gonna get into the front pages of the Manila Bulletin.

Conrad Marty, President; Joe Alejandro, Past President; Butch Francisco, District Governor and my fellow in Makati Central; members of the various rotary clubs of the Makati district; ladies and gentlemen.

It's always been a pleasure for me to speak before my fellow Rotarians. For one thing, you lead the way in community service. For another, especially Butch and the other members of Makati Central, you were my first campaigners way back in 1992.

The last six years was a subject matter of my economic conference just a few days ago, and Mike was there, Mike Varela. And what I can say is that the last six years have not been easy for us, but our determination to implement hard-to-swallow yet necessary economic and fiscal reforms under the leadership of Gary Teves, our Secretary of Finance, these reforms gave us a winning streak of 24 quarters, uninterrupted quarters of growth, the longest in our history. The meaning of this is that our reforms have brought our economy to a sustainable level, no longer subjected to the boom-and-bust cycles that used to affect us in the years past.

Our credit outlook upgrades; our stable interest rate – I wouldn't even say stable. In fact it is going down, and today is the lowest ever in history — our strong peso; our bullish stock market; our increased OFW remittances. In fact, may I say our OFWs sort of remain stable at eight million Filipinos outside the Philippines. But from about seven billion dollars before I became president, it's gone up to almost 13 billion dollars today, because our OFWs now have higher paying jobs. And because their income has been increasing, the remittances have grown so much, their families now represent the new middle-class that make up the market in our economy. They drive our spending in the malls. They drive our real estate market. Ten years ago, the OFWs would send money home to buy a tricycle or a jeepney. Today they send money home to buy a condominium on a single-detached housing unit.

I mentioned this because when I was in Singapore, just a few months ago, after the ASEAN-China Summit in Nanning, I went by Singapore because we had not been in the radar screen of Singapore for a long time. And I could see, talking with Mrs... Madame Ho Ching, who is the wife of Prime Minister Lee Shien Loong, but at the same time she's also the head of their National Development Corporation or Temasek. She's so excited about India, about China, because they have a very big new middle-class. The unspoken word there is that in the Philippines you have a small upper class and you have a very large lower class. But the middle-class is not there that represents the market. And I explained to them about our OFW phenomenon.

And I was just reading an analysis of one of the most important stock analysts in the wall street. He said that these OFW remittances, and I might add that make up the new middle-class among their workers, is one of the factors that makes our boom this time sustainable.

We have soaring tourism and great hotels coming up. Like Marriott is already under construction in... Right in front of NAIA. And then Shangri-la is putting up its best ever hotel in Boracay. I say best ever because right now Mactan Shangri-la, where we hosted the ASEAN Summit, is considered the best hotel in Asia, but Shangri-la is gonna put

up an even better one in Boracay. And several others. Banyan tree is choosing between Bohol and Busuanga, Palawan on where to put their airport... Their hotel.

Because tourism is soaring, and there we have increasing investment inflows, two billion dollars of direct investment, a record in history, and I'm sure many of you here have made millions of pesos in the stock market this past year.

All of these are signs of an economy getting bullish by the day. Some of you were in the economic briefings of our economic managers. Some of you because you're businessmen, you read the business pages, you read about them. But among the many statistics they gave, let me just say that last December, we kept our fiscal deficit down to 3.9 billion pesos, the lowest we've seen in years.

And our whole year deficit last year was what we were hoping would be our deficit for this year. So we're one year ahead of our deficit management schedule. That's already the advance schedule made by Gary Teves. Actually, what we achieved last year was my schedule for 2009. But Gary moved that to... last year's schedule to 2007 but we got it last year.

Now we can say that our children... Or we can say to our children that indeed, the government is investing in their future, not borrowing more and more to leave them in debt.

And I think, you know, I gave this date today for this big meeting. Actually, Mike was inviting me for February 20th, but that was the proclamation rally of the senatorial candidates in Pampanga, so I moved it to this day. And then I got an emergency — not really. Yeah, a frantic call — that I must be in Davao in order to witness the signing of finally the agreement of the farmers on how to use the Coco levy funds. And that was such an important event because they've been meeting 20 years for this. So I said, "Mike, can we move this rotary date again?" And he said, "no, because all the district governors have already cancelled their own meetings. We've made a reservation such that..." So, I said, "Okay, Mike. I'll just move that affair to 10:00 o' clock in the morning, and go on with your activities and I'll arrive at 1:00 o' clock to make my speech." Fortunately, I arrived at quarter to one.

And I think it's good that the proclamation rally in Pampanga moved it to today and that Mike insisted it stay today because today's newspapers give us very good news from you, the business community. Today's newspapers all report that business optimism is the highest in 11 years.

The bullish outlook across the business sector speaks not only of the strength of our economy but of our political stability. Despite the political noise, enterprise is rising above the babble and moving our nation into an era of optimism and confidence not seen in the recent past. By intensely and firmly focusing on our economy, our administration is signaling to the whole world that we are in the race for the gold and we intend to stay there. For each day that confidence rises, the Filipino people move up the ladder of competitiveness, backed up by government programs to grow the economy, expand the infrastructure, and plow back the gains for social benefit.

I believe that soon we will be able to close the elementary school classroom gap. I'm not talking about high schools because we'd rather send the children to private high schools by giving them high school vouchers and assisting the private high schools.

This is an era of strong profit for enterprise. That's what the message I'd like to give to you, the business community. But it's also an era for strong payback to the people in terms of better education, cheaper medicine. You know they say that our macro-economic gains don't get to the poor. Well, 50 percent of the people in the surveys say that they have been able to experience low-priced medicines.

In 2001, when I started a program for half-priced medicines, only seven percent experienced it. What's the difference between 2001 and today? 2001 we had all of the determination and the political will but we didn't have the money. So in 2001, we had a hundred million pesos to provide PITC to trade in these half-priced medicines coming from India. And even at that they encountered difficulty getting the release. Today after our tax reforms,

we've been able to allocate one billion pesos rather than one hundred million pesos. And that's why the number of Filipinos feeling the benefits of half-priced medicines has going up from seven percent to one-half of the population.

That's one of the things that contribute to a stable cost of living which is one of the things we want to achieve and we want to be felt by the year 2008.

Another factor that goes into the stable cost of living is our gasoline prices. We were ahead of other countries to bring down gasoline prices because we didn't have to wait for the oil prices in the world to go down. Our peso was becoming strong, so even when the oil prices were still going up, we were bringing the oil... The gasoline prices down. And I thank the jeepney drivers because... And the bus operators because they have passed on their savings to the consumers by bringing down the passenger rates.

And even food has gone down in price. The other day, I was talking to a housewife, she said that the beef that used to... That she would buy for 150 pesos, she now buys for a 130 pesos. And all of these examples are what we mean by that macro-economic indicator called a low inflation. And as we strike up the momentum of economic confidence, we continue to drive good governance, law and order, and clean, orderly and peaceful elections.

I'm grateful to the local officials, who've been working with us, to continue on the path of reform, social justice and economic development. And not only... On the one hand, we have the local officials who've been helping us through this in the countryside. On the other hand, we have the strong international alliances, which have allowed us to forged new partnerships that have led to billions in investments, as I said two billion dollars, an unprecedented amount. And REZA is here allowing us to pay our IMF debt in full.

One of the things we were scared of was that now that we've paid the IMF debt in full, maybe REZA... That means REZA has to go home. But no, there's still work for IMF to do here to advise us as a friend and as a stockholder of the IMF.

But I can only point the direction and I cannot do it alone. And that's why I'm here speaking before all the Rotary Clubs of Makati to be able to challenge the business community, to where most the Rotarians belong, to take a bigger stake in the country's future.

The partnership between the government and the private sector should focus on new ideas to propel our economy forward, not basking on old complaints that only hold us back. And as I said, while direct foreign investment and capital market investment have been increasing, we need more domestic investment.

The stock market at a ten-year high, foreign direct investments at all-time high but we cannot say the same. I mean even if foreign investments are the highest in history, in contrast domestic investment is not growing as fast. And therefore... In fact, it managed to grow two percent in 2006.

So we must step up the vote of confidence in our economy from domestic businesses, and we need you to put a bigger stake in our nation's fortunes. A future based on more jobs, stable prices and peace and order.

As I said, the time is ripe. Interest rates are at an all-time low so it's time for you to go to the bank and get your funds to start a business or expand the business you're in.

The peso is strong which means your capital inputs and your raw materials are cheaper. It's really time to have a... It's really a great time to start a business and you have the market with you, the strong, sustainable middle-class represented by the families of our overseas Filipinos.

So my fellow Rotarians, my message to you is "lead the way."

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Special Joint Meeting of the Rotary International (R.I.) District 3830, Metro Manila Rotary Clubs. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151415/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1869&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the flag-raising ceremony in commemoration of the 21st anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the flag-raising ceremony in commemoration of the 21st anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution**

[Delivered at the People Power Monument, EDSA, Quezon City, February 25, 2007]

Thank you very much Secretary Ermita, Chairman of the EDSA People Power Commission.

President Fidel Ramos, who started EDSA; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; Secretary Romulo and other members of the Cabinet; Mayor Sonny Belmonte, our host here in Quezon City; the heroes of the people power revolution of 1986; the heroes of the continuing people power revolution that received the awards today, mga kababayan.

Nagagalak ang inyong lingkod na makasama ang lahat ng mga Pilipinong mapagmahal sa demokrasya at kalayaan sa pagdiriwang na naman natin ng anibersaryo ng people power revolution.

Peaceful revolution is a hallmark of the Filipino struggle. It is also part of the great anointment of His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin whom we miss and whom we recognize today in a posthumous award.

Nagtitipon-tipon tayo ngayon dahil tayo ay naniniwala na kailangang manatiling buhay ang diwa ng EDSA. Subalit kailangan bigyan natin ang diwang ito ng mas angkop na kahulugan sa ating panahon kung nais nating ito ay pahalagahan ng darating na mga henerasyon.

Ang people power ay hindi dapat mangahulugan lamang ng pagkakaisa ng sambayanan upang patalsikin ang isang pamahalaan. Sa halip, gaya ng mga awardees natin ngayon dapat nating gamitin ang people power upang magkaisa ang mga responsableng mamamayan sa pagtatayo ng isang matatag at makabagong bansa.

Nitong mga nakaraang taon sa ilalim ng ating administrasyon, merong isa pang people power na naganap. Eto yung suporta ng taumbayan at pagsasakripisyo sa ating mahihirap ngunit kailangang mga desisyon upang palakasin ang ating ekonomiya. Ngayon, nagbubunga itong ating mga masasakit na hakbang. Meron na tayong salaping magagamit sa paglikha ng trabaho, bagong mga kalsada, bagong mga tulay at pantalan, at higit pa para sa edukasyon at kalusugan.

Through strong international alliance — and we are happy that the diplomatic corps are here today — we have forged new partnerships that have led to billions in investments, a record for our country, that helped create five million new jobs, another record for our country. And I'm also glad that the soldiers, the police are here. And we have strengthened our military and security alliances in the Philippines, in the region, and the world. This has led to major gains for peace in Mindanao. This has led to the isolation and tracking down of known terrorists. This has led to a reduction in violent crime.

I'm glad that Mayor Belmonte is here in representation of the local governments. We trust the local officials to work with us to continue on the path of reform, social justice and economic development. They form the centerpiece of Philippine democracy and are on the frontline of change. Our officials from the center of the metropolis to the farthest barangays also form people power.

Ang ating pambansang hangarin ay naglalayong isulong ang Pilipinas tungo sa higit na katatagang pulitikal, kasaganaan at katiwasayan. Ito ang ating adhikain na higit na nangangailangan ng people power at hindi ang ingay ng protesta at hidwaang pulitikal.

When President Ramos came to EDSA on the first day of EDSA in 1986 and throughout those four days especially when Cardinal Sin called upon the people to come and the people responded, the world embraced EDSA in 1986. In 2001, the world tolerated EDSA. The world will not, however, forgive another EDSA but would instead condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable, and the Filipinos as among the finest people in the world, but who always shoot themselves in the foot. Under those circumstances, who would invest in the Philippines? How would we finally bring the gains of the economy to the average Filipino which at the end of the day it was as truly meant by people power.

And so today I am glad that aside from having President Ramos as our honored guest, aside from the posthumous citation given to His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin, we are also honoring today's people power heroes. The many who have responded to the call of Cardinal Rosales to contribute a little bit of their hard-earned modest earnings so that microfinance can spread throughout the archdiocese. To those who contribute their work and who partner with the government, who equal every contribution of the government and even more to build houses, 700,000 in seven years starting from 2003 — Gawad Kalinga. That we have honored today our overseas Filipino workers who though their number has more or less remained at eight million all these years had increased their remittances to the Philippines from seven million dollars before 2001 to almost 13 billion dollars or almost double today.

People power is about the future, not just the past. And I am glad that today we honor those from the past but also those from the present working for the future. People power should be about new ideas, like Gawad Kalinga is a new idea, Pondong Pinoy is a new idea, not old complaints. People power should be about fighting for a stronger nation, not just fighting.

And people power is about the heroism of the many who in their daily labors and trust in the almighty which was a very important characteristic of 1986. People power is about all of them who bear faith in a new Philippines.

Kaya itong araw na ito, sabihin natin, mabuhay ang 1986 EDSA! Mabuhay naman ang people power para sa pagkakaisa!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA'S Speech during the Flag-raising Ceremony in Commemoration of the 21st Anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151349/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1866&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremonies for the Ten Most Inspiring Tourism Entrepreneurs

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding ceremonies for the Ten Most Inspiring Tourism Entrepreneurs**

[Delivered at the Music Hall, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City, March 3, 2007]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Cerge Remonde.

Noong si Cerge ay ilinagay natin bilang coordinator ng Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, ang tanong niya, ano ang aking marching order sa kanya. Sabi ko, basta suportahan mo ang ‘Go Negosyo,’ you won’t go wrong.

The inspiration and moving spirit of Go Negosyo, Presidential Consultant on Entrepreneurship, Joey Concepcion; Vivienne Tan, who’s also a great leader of Go Negosyo; our Cabinet members Peter Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry under whom we have the Small and Medium Enterprises Department and Secretary Arty Yap of Agriculture promoting entrepreneurs and agri-business; and representing Secretary Ace Durano who is based in Central Philippines, in Cebu, so here in Manila representing him is Oscar Palabyab.

I would like to congratulate and acknowledge Lray Villafrute who was recognized today for his wakeboard tourism attraction in Bicol. And we have two other governors here from Central Philippines, which includes Bicol, Gwen Garcia of Cebu and Sally Perez of Antique. And we have the governor of peace and development from arms to farms — I think now he wants to include Patikul beach among our attractions — Governor Ben Loong. I hear that Governor Evardone is here. There you are, governor, who of course the landlord or the overseer of the Guian surfing tourism; our inspiring tourism awardees; ladies and gentlemen.

Talagang nasa diwa ng pagiging entrepreneur ang positibong pananaw sa kinabukasan, gaya ng magandang hinaharap ng ating ekonomiya. Sa ganito ring paningin, binabati ko itong ating mga inspiring tourism entrepreneur na pinarangalan natin ngayon sa kanilang mga nagawa.

Siyempre, diyaan sa mga yan merong mga malalaking puhunan ang kailangan. Yung mga mega resorts like Villa Escudero, yung mga airlines like Asian Spirit, yung mga hotel chains like Microtel. Pero meron ring maliliit na negosyo, yung adventure tourism ni Tony Carag raw nagsimula sa 50,000 pesos, yung souvenirs in Mr. Aldegue ay nagsimula sa 20,000 pesos, at yung gumagawa ng ating map halos walang puhunan, nakihiram lang muna ng printer nung kanyang kapitbahay. Kaya marami talagang paraan kung papano maging entrepreneur, maging milyonaryo ka, marami kang minana o maging nagsisimula ka lamang. Kaya pinupuri ko rin yung ating mga teenpreneur awardee bilang sagisag ng maagang pagsisimula sa negosyo na marapat palaganapin.

Palakpakan din natin ang Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, si Joey, si Vivienne at lahat ng ating mga young entrepreneurs, sa pagsulong nitong Tourism Negosyo Exposition.

The strength of the Philippine economy goes beyond transient political events like the forthcoming May elections. We have already laid the fundamentals of growth — a sturdy fiscal house, a solid program of good governance, a robust social payback to the people, mounting gains in the security front, and a democratic system in full bloom. The business community is on the right track in placing their bets on this nation and government, the excellence of the Filipino and the spirit of enterprise that lives in our society.

And let me say that as soon as the sun rises, we shall have clean, credible and peaceful elections in May. There should be no doubt that the Filipino will make this happen. We are a nation that cherishes democracy and freedom

as deeply as we cherish enterprise and competition. Investors should go for the gold in the midst of the Philippine bull run.

Itong taong ito, gusto natin magkaroon ng higit tatlong milyong turista. Ang dami na ngang pumupunta dito, ang kulang natin mga kwarto. Kaya doon sa nanalo sa Bohol na masarap na restaurant, sabi ko, maglagay ka nga ng bed and breakfast. Yun nga ang kanyang ginagawa. Sa kabuuan ng ating ekonomiya, itong ating adhikain itong taon — mag-invest sa taong-bayan upang makamit ang walong biyaya sa 2008. Investing in the people so that we can achieve 8 by 08: job creation o hahapbuhay; cost of living o abot-kayang bilingin; strong peso o matatag na piso; more investment, maraming investment; Pro-poor education, edukasyon para sa mahihirap; pro-poor health care, housing, anti-hunger, paggamot, pabahay at pagkain para sa mahihirap; green Philippines, makakalikasan at berdeng Pilipinas. Binanggit nga ni Oca Palabyab, sabi niya, bakit berde ang uniporme ni Joey. Maliban sa siya ay tiga-La Salle, ang berde ay pag-asa, hope at ang berde ay eco-tourism for green Philippines; isa pang adhikain nating strong anti-terror, malakas na kampanya kontra-terorismo para sa ganun yung beach ng Patikul ay maraming pupunta doon, magbibisita kay Governor Ben Loong.

At para makatulong sa mga entrepreneur gaya ng sabi ko siyempre may malalaking negosyong malaki ang puhunan pero may maliliit na negosyo sa tourism. Doon sa Philippine Tourism Authority meron sampung milyong piso na microfinance fund ang Philippine Tourism Authority ng DOT para sa microfinance para sa programang Grassroots Entrepreneurs for Eco-Tourism or G.R.E.E.T. — greet.

Kaya inaanyayahan ko ang GO Negosyo makipagpartner sa PTA para itong nahahanap ninyong ating mga nagsisimulang maliliit na negosyante sa eco-tourism ay makahanap ng pansimulang pondo sa Philippine Tourism Authority. Sana makatulong ito sa Go Negosyo. Sabi nga ni Ace Durano, bawat isang turista makakalikha ng isang trabaho kaya kung malalampasan natin ng three million plus ang ating tourism itong taong ito — kasi kahit na halos three million umabot noong isang taon — ay dadami ang trabaho sa tourism lalung-lalo na sa ating mga entrepreneurs.

Sa inyong lahat, congratulations! Go Negosyo!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA'S Speech during the Awarding Ceremonies for the Ten Most Inspiring Tourism Entrepreneurs. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151317/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1991&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 15th National Convention of the Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 15th National Convention of the Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel, F. B. Harrison, Manila, March 6, 2007]

Maraming salamat Secretary Ronnie Puno sa iyong pagpakilala at pagpaliwanag kung ano ang ginagawa natin dito itong araw na ito.

Ibig kong batiin ang chairman ng liga, si Board Member Alan Zulueta; pati na rin ang mga pangulo ng liga, si Board Member Vincent Piccio saka si Board Member Edward Joson, at lahat ng mga board members na narito. At gusto kong batiin ang inyong kapwa opisyal ng local government, mga susunod na senador, si ‘Magsaysay is my guy,’ Vic Magsaysay at saka si Chavit Singson, ang laki-laki ng Ilocos Sur delegation diyan. Batiin rin natin yung gumawa ng maraming batas tungkol sa local government, kapangyarihan ng local government, dahil siya ay galing din sa local government, dating vice mayor ng Quezon City bago naging senador, ang kampeon ng pamilyang Pilipino, tito natin sa senado, Tito Sotto; at yung tataguyod ng ating kapayapaan, pagkakaisa, pagkakaunawaan, ang sultan of Sulu, si Sultan Kiram.

Sa gitna ng tumitinding kampanya sa pulitika, magandang pagkakataon ito upang lalong palakasin ang ating kasunduan sa paglago ng ekonomiya at pagtatag ng pulitika sa ibabaw ng mga usaping partidista. Nakikita ko yata yung gumawa ng ating batas para lumaki ang inyong ira dahil lumaki ang value-added tax, Senator Ralph Recto. korekto ang kanyang patakaran kaya lumalaki ang inyong IRA.

At dahil sa mga ganitong klaseng reporma puno ako ng pag-asa para sa kinabukasan ng bansa at kabutihan ng taong-bayan. Naglalayon ang ating pambansang agenda na isulong ang bansa tungo sa mas matatag na pulitika, mas masaganang ekonomiya, kapayapaan at katiwasayan ng bansa.

At isinulong natin ang bansa sa ating malakas na pakikipagbalik at sa mga lokal na opisyal gaya ninyong mga board member ng probinsya, mga lokal opisyal gaya ninyo na kayo ang backbone ng pamahalaan. Dahil kayo ang backbone ng pamahalaan kayo ang dahilan kung bakit higit na ligtas, mapayapa at matatag ang ating pamayanan, lalawigan at bansa dahil sa inyong tulong sa ating liderato.

Ngayong hapon pinag-usapan natin katiwasayan at kapayapaan. Ngayong hapon pag-uwi ko pipirmahan ko ang Anti-terror Law. The Anti-terror Law is a landmark in the battle against evil waged by all freedom loving Filipinos and allies in the world. It upgrades our preemptive capability to check the conspiracies of harm and murder, and contain the movement of arms and funds to sow mayhem. This brings to a higher level our successful campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, J.I. and Al Qaeda cells now being carried out in a broader front of national and regional vigilance.

We will keep bombers at bay as we drive up confidence in the Philippines, grow jobs, increase incomes and lift the people from poverty. Ngayon meron kasalukuyang Anti-Terror Conference sa Indonesia at pinupuri ang Pilipinas sa ating mga nagawa lalo na kontra sa mga leader ng Abu Sayyaf, si Janjalani at si Abu Sulayman. At dahil itong araw na ito mabubuo na itong batas kontra sa terorismo.

Our message to the world is to have no safe haven for terror in our country, and to have a strong democratic society driven by freedom under the rule of law. Law abiding Filipinos have nothing to fear in this law for it is a weapon that shall be wielded against bombers and not protesters. Let us all unite behind a renewed campaign against terror and drive out this scourge to a modern Philippines.

Dito sa ating maiibayong pakibaka nagtitiwala ako sa inyo na naman mga board member, na patuloy tayong magkapit-bisig sa landas tungo sa reporma, katarungang panlipunan at kaunlaran ng ekonomiya. Hinubog ninyong mga lokal na opisyal ang centerpiece ng demokrasyang Pilipino. Nasa harapan kayo ng dakilang pagbabago.

Isinagawa natin sa pamahalaan ang mahihirap ngunit kailangang mga desisyon upang palakasin ang ating ekonomiya. Ngayon nagbubunga na ang mga sakripisyong ito.

Part of the social payback of our efficient fiscal management and good fiscal reforms in the law is the 15 billion pesos additional Internal Revenue Allotment intended to all local government units. Kasi meron kayong bahagi, 40 percent ng VAT ay pumupunta sa local governments.

At mula nang umupo tayo noong 2001, ibinibigay na rin natin nang buo sa mga LGU ang inyong IRA kahit na hindi napapasa ang bagong budget. Kumuha tayo ng DOJ ruling na ito ay automatically appropriated, na maging merong budget o wala yung computation ng inyong IRA ay binibigay sa inyo.

Ngayon halalan na naman umaasa tayo na nakatutok ang halalan sa mayo sa masaganang bukas, hindi sa mga ligalig at hirap na nagdaan. On my part, I will focus on the national agenda that includes more jobs, stable prices, and peace and order. Sa gayon, ipapaubaya ko na sa inyo ang ating team unity. Kayo na lang ang bahala sa kanila.

Magsisikap tayo upang palaganapin ang edukasyon at kalinga sa kalusugan. Magsusulong tayo ng green Philippines agenda upang alagaan ang ating kapaligiran at pagandahin ang ating mga pamayanan. At gagawin natin ito sa pakikipagbalikat sa inyo, mga opisyal natin sa probinsiya, upang masiguro na umabot ang mga biyaya ng bagong ekonomiya sa bawat sulok ng Pilipinas hindi lamang sa Metro Manila.

And we will not stop in seeking the support of our local leaders like you, the board members, and the Filipino people to gather around the nation's brighter future.

I'm confident that the strong partnership between the national government and the provincial officials, between you and me, is the key to achieving our common vision.

Maraming salamat at congratulations! Sa inyong 15th national convention.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA'S Speech during the 15th National Convention of the Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151307/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1989&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the Philippines Councilors League (PCL) 2007 End-Term National Assembly

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the Philippines Councilors League (PCL) 2007 End-Term National
Assembly**

[Delivered at the Cebu International Convention Center, Mandaue City, Cebu, March 8, 2007]

Thank you very much, PCL President Fortuna for your beautiful introduction, and thank you for hosting all of us in your great industrial and now convention city.

Let me also greet Governor Gwen Garcia and all the women councilors here. To all of us — Happy Women's Day. And of course, our host mayor, Mayor Teddy Ouano, aside from our congratulations to Mandaue's hosting this very important convention, our sympathies also to you and to the fire victims of yesterday's accident.

I would also like to greet the different members and officers of the council, of course, from Baguio — but he had a beautiful Cebuano accent when he spoke Cebuano — National Chairman of PCL Elmer Datuin.

And we have Victor Ferrer, auditor; Joseph Ortiz, treasurer; Arcio Rendor, national executive vice president; my cabinet member from Cebu, Cerge Remonde; and our emcees, my inaanak Jack Jakosalem. You know one reason why I'm very close to the people of Cebu is that my mother spent her teenage years in Cebu. And during those days, her boyfriend was Jack's father. He would have been brother and sister; and Shirley Belleza of Talisay City. Thank you also for emceeding this program.

And to all the participants of the councilors league this 2007, welcome to Cebu! Congratulations on your opening! I hope we will have a very good assembly.

This assembly is most timely especially to re-electionist councilors, of which there are many, and councilors vying for higher positions, of which there are many. And Councilor Fortuna told us about some of the good things happening in our economy. I hope they will serve you well as well. Because when the economy is doing well, it will be easier for you to get the continued support of the people.

Our fiscal position is stable. There's growing confidence among businessmen that our growth will continue this year and in the coming years. And this positive perception is borne out of political will not only of me but also of you, of all of us in government, both at the local and national levels, in implementing needed fiscal and economic reforms. It took sometime for the national government to be close to wiping out its budget deficit. Before the national government could do it, which is scheduled still for next year, the local governments were already in fiscal surplus. Congratulations to you!

Surging confidence in the Philippine economy across the board rides alongside growing investments, strong remittances of our workers and peak international reserves, which is why our peso is so strong. These in turn are driving the track of excellence and productivity among the people, the people that you deal with because you are on the frontline driving the political noise to the background and increasing the flow down of economic benefits to the social level.

You know this morning, I had a meeting with 8,000 women in Manila mostly government employees. And one thing I learned one thing earlier, we've been spreading microfinance — I think among your communities, you're aware of them, aren't you? — and yet I realized that the government employees themselves do not have the benefit of

microfinance. I don't know how your employees are in your council offices, but I said today, that the People's Credit and Finance Corporation — incidentally headed by a Cebuano, Edgar Generoso — should use as conduits also the employees cooperatives of the government agencies including government enterprises like the local government units, your units. I hope that can help you, and I hope you as councilors will be able to organize your employees in your municipal halls and your city halls so that they can have a second livelihood and that they will benefit from the microfinance that we are now able to give the people.

And I thank you also because you know when investors come to invest, they not only deal with the BOI, they deal with the local governments. And I thank you that the entire bureaucracy including the local government bureaucracy is being streamlined, cleaned up and prepped to move forward with better training and clear measurements of performance aimed at serving our people with less red tape, less corrupt practices and greater overall efficiency. After all, you the councilors are the ones who do the ordinances of your cities and municipalities. You are the ones who do the ordinances that can reduce red tape. You are the ones that can do the ordinances that entice the businessmen to invest in your localities. And because we have all worked in order to make the climate good for our fiscal position and for investment, payback time for the people is at hand. And it's being realized through more jobs, infrastructure, better education and services.

We have laid the fundamentals of growth — a sturdy fiscal house at the national level and at your municipal and city levels; a solid performance of good governance, much of which comes from the ordinances that you enact in your councils; a robust social payback to the people, mounting gains in the security front; and a democratic system in full bloom.

For once — and I think Carlos sort of alluded to this — for the first time in our economic history as recorded, we have traveled a clean path of 24 quarters of uninterrupted growth. It's payback time for our people, and more than ever, I will be needing the support of you, our councilors and local officials in bringing the blessings to the people in every nook and corner of the country. And I'm glad that in this hall and outside this hall watching on the big screens, we have councilors from every nook and corner of the country.

Part of the social payback from our prudent spending — as Carlo talked about our... And also Councilor Datuin about our internal revenue allotment, part of what you have said — part of our fiscal reform is now we have an additional 15 billion pesos for internal revenue allotment or IRA for all local government units. Because every time we have an increase in taxes like value-added taxes, the local governments get a share in the internal revenue allotment.

But even before this happened, as our speakers earlier also said, long time ago — no, not so long ago. Before my time — we could not release funds for the local government units if the budget was not passed. But because in my administration — we have three years of budget not being passed — we had to go through some legal procedures to make sure that you get your IRA in full even on a reenacted budget. So we got a DOJ opinion that starting from the time that the Supreme Court made a ruling that the internal revenue allotment cannot be reduced by the budget, the way it used to be done before my time, the DOJ put an additional opinion that therefore we must consider the internal revenue allotment as automatically appropriated whether we have a new budget or not.

That is why while in the last three years, it's only now for the first time that we will have a new budget, you still got your budgetary allocations in full. And that is to me, I would like to be proud to say, one of the most important support that I could give to our councilors and our local government officials.

In the past — they used to say, a president that retains part of the IRA and then puts it into what they call the local government, ano, LGSEF? Social Equalization Fund — if a president retains 10 percent of the IRA and then redistributed 10 percent to supposedly to those who need it more, that's additional power because that's in the hands of the president to decide where it will go. I gave up that power from the beginning of my term and I gave it all to you. You have the full power.

Why did I do this, why do I do this? This is because I trust you, the councilors and the local officials to work with me as you do your own budgets to continue on the path to reform, social justice and economic development. You,

the local officials; you, the councilors together with your mayors, your vice mayors, your governors, your vice governors, your board members form the centerpiece of Philippine democracy in our system of local economy. You are on the frontline of change.

As councilors, you meet your constituents everyday. You're right there in town, that's why you are the frontline, you are the grassroots. And you and I, our government, we have made tough but necessary decisions to strengthen our economy. These painful steps are now paying off. We now have the money to invest in job creation, new roads especially farm-to-market roads which local governments are supposed to allocate, bridges and ports, and more for education, your school board fund, and health care. Because of your increased IRA, now you are also in a position to carry out the Philhealth law, that says that local government should allocate a part of your revenues to paying the premium of the poorest among your poor. So the more IRA you have — in other words the more taxes we collect at the national government — the more IRA you have, the more your poorest of the poor can have health care.

This year, we want to invest in our people in order to gain eight blessings by the year 2008. So we call this investing in people for 8 by 2008:

First, job creation. And that is why I said earlier, I hope that even in your own municipal halls or in your own city halls, you can organize your employees into credit cooperatives that can avail of microfinance.

Second, a stable cost of living. I hope that you will be able to work with the Department of Agriculture, for instance, to send products straight from the farm to the market with not too many middlemen in between. For instance, in Cordillera, they can send products straight to the markets of — let me say... Where have I been? — Taguig, and the price becomes much lower for the consumer and higher for the farmer.

We also want to have a strong peso. I don't mean that the peso should go down to 44.10, but what I mean is, it's better to have the peso where it is now than it were to go up to 56.60 or 100 because then we pay less in interest, we import cheaper oil, we import cheaper food.

We also want more investments. Of course, because they create jobs.

And we want pro-poor education. And your school board are so important here.

We want pro-poor health, hunger mitigation, and housing.

We want a green Philippines where you will beautify your communities and plant trees and flowers because the world is suffering from global warming, typhoons, floods, landslides, that's because we are exhaling more carbon dioxide than the plants right now can inhale. So we have to have more plants and make your towns and cities more beautiful.

And finally, strong anti-terror. You know, in this very hall was presented to the world the historic, legally binding ASEAN convention against terrorism. And it is in response to that legally binding convention that we finally passed the anti-terror bill and signed it into law. And we will now need all your assistance after elections when we will implement the anti-terror law to finally drive the terrorists out of the Philippines.

This represent this year's national agenda of our one-inch thick Medium-Term Philippine Development plan that is summarized into the 'Beat the Odds' that our councilor mentioned earlier.

On my part as president, I will focus on this 8 by 08 to achieve these blessings by 2008. I will leave the campaigning to the candidates among you. And that's why because you will be campaigning, most of you will be candidates again come end of March, into your hands, I commend the fate of team unity.

You can make it clear by pointing out examples to your own constituents that the blessings that we are enjoying are the fruits of our people's industry and sacrifices supported by our joint leadership wholly committed to their welfare.

Our leadership that certainly includes in the mainstream, in the frontline, in the grassroots, the councilors and cities of our cities and towns.

Let us not allow our surging economy to be derailed. Let us all work hard until our respective terms end to make economic prosperity, social justice, and peace and security a reality for a new and modernizing Philippines as you the councilors continue for another term or move on to a new phase in your career in leadership.

Daghan salamat.

Welcome once again to all of you!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the Philippines Councilors League (PCL) 2007 End-Term National Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151226/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1982&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2007 National Women's Day celebration

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 2007 National Women's Day celebration

[Delivered at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, M. Adriatico St., Manila, March 8, 2007]

Maraming salamat Chairperson Myrna Yao.

Ambassador Sutherland, the benefactor of Women's Empowerment in the Philippines; ang mga kaibigan ng ating mga kababaihan, ang mga maybahay ng mga senador ng Team Unity: Narito ang maybahay ng dating Senate president. Ang kanyang initials ay GMA rin. Ang first name niya ay Gloria rin, Gloria Manalang Angara; yung katabi niya ay huwaran ng pamilyang Pilipino kasama ng ating tito sa Senado, si Helen Gamboa; at aking kababayan, tiga-pampanga pero siya ang kapit kasing-kasing ng itanim nating Pichay sa Senado, si Claire; at eto isa ring napakaganda at napakabata, yung maybahay ni Migs Zubiri; at narito rin isang prinsesa ng Sulu, ang anak ni Sultan of Sulu, ang pangalan niya ay si Princess Jasel; at yung anak ni Chavit, si Gina Singson. Napakilala ko na ba lahat?

Sa inyong lahat, maligayang pagdiriwang sa lahat ng mga Pilipina!

First of all, let us thank the government of Canada, through Ambassador Peter Sutherland for the 315 million pesos grant for our Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of women. Ang tawag doon, G-R-E-A-T — Great Women Project. Thank you very much and mabuhay Ambassador Sutherland! at gusto ko rin batiin ang ating mga kababaihan, mga leader, si Myrna, si Espie Cabral wala pa rito. Kinikilala sa United Nations na ang Pilipinas ang nakakamit ng pinakamalaking asenso sa pagtanggali ng diskriminasyon kontra sa kababaihan. Congratulations sa ating mga leader! Kaya congratulations sa pangkat Pilipinang nagtrabaho para dito. At dumadami ang mga Pilipinang namumulat gaya ninyo at handang naninindigan para sa kapangyarihan ng kababaihan.

Twenty eight years ago, nagkaron tayo ng U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, C-E-D-A-W (CEDAW). Kaya ngayon dahil pinapatupad natin yon, ang sigaw ng ating bayan — “Cedaw ng bayan: kabuhayan ng kababaihan.” bakit kabuhayan? Kabuhayan nga ang inatas ko kay Myrna Yao. Naalala mo, Myrna? Nung ginawa ko siyang pinuno ng National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. Sabi ko, “Myrna, pinili ko ikaw dahil ikaw ay isang successful businesswoman. Gusto ko ring gawin mong successful businesswoman ang karaniwang kababaihang pilipina dahil ang giyera ko sa kahirapan ay giyera rin kontra sa diskriminasyon.”

Matipuno ang aking pag-asa para sa kinabukasan ng bansa at kabutihan ng taong-bayan. Naglalayon ang ating pambansang agenda na isulong ang bansa tungo sa mas matatag na pulitika, mas masaganang ekonomiya, kapayapaan at katiwasayan ng bansa.

Nakatukoy ang ating pambansang agenda sa paglikha ng mga trabahong maganda ang kita, matatag ang mga presyo ng bilihan dahil kayong mga kababaihan kayo ang mga namimili, at pagdala ng biyaya ng malakas na ekonomiya sa bawat pamilya ninyong mga kababaihan. Eto ang ating agenda — makamahirap, makakaunlaran, makamodernisasyon.

Walang pagod tayong nagtrabaho upang magtayo ng modernong bansa na balang araw kukunin ang kanyang lugar katabi ng mga bansang first world. Meron tayong layunin para sa araw kung kailan lahat ng mga Pilipina at Pilipino ay maaring piliing matira at nagtrabaho dito sa Pilipinas, malapit sa pamilya, malapit sa kaibigan, may-ari ng tahanan na may mataas na kalidad ng buhay.

Umaasa tayo para sa araw kung kailan sapat na mabubuting trabaho ang nalilikha sa Pilipinas upang hindi na kailangan mag-ibayong dagat pa para sa trabaho ng mga masisipag na Pilipino at Pilipina. Sabihin sa ingles: “We see a day when going abroad for a job is a career choice, not the only option for work.”

Isinagawa natin sa pamahalaan ang mahirap ngunit kinailangang mga gawain para palakasin ang ating ekonomiya. Nagbubunga na ang mga sakripisyong ito: mayroon na tayong salapi para mamuhunan sa paglikha ng trabaho, gaya ng microfinance para sa kababaihan. Kayo mga kababaihan, sino sa inyo na ang nakinabang sa microfinance? O Myrna, ano’ng nangyari? Ano? Kasi sabi ni Myrna hindi raw inimbata yung mga nagbiyaya ng microfinance, ang inimbata raw niya yung mga NGO pero hindi ba marami sa mga NGO mga conduit ng microfinance? O sino sa inyo ang mga conduit ng microfinance? O, Myrna? Para sa inyo mabuti na rin, siguro first time kayo nag-attend ng Women’s Day dahil bago si Myrna... Ha? Kasi nung isang taon halos lahat may microfinance. Ayan, si Ms. Nieto. Okey? Ayan, mga DepEd. Ang microfinance ay nasa 97 percent na ng ating bayan. At yung three percent na walang bayan... Na walang microfinance ay nandoon ang DSWD.

Kaya siguro panahon para ipaabot sa inyo na makipag-ugnay kayo sa DSWD kung kailangan niyong tulungan ang inyong mga miyembro sa microfinance. Sino ang nakipag-ugnay na sa DSWD para malaman ito? Mukhang kailangan Myrna ay mas kasama natin itong mga NGO na inimbata mo rito ngayon. Ano, Myrna?

NCRFW Chairperson Myrna Yao: sa ating mga kababaihan, alam niyo ho, ito ay programa natin kaya inila-launch po natin ang Great Women Project kasi po dito tayo mag-uumpisa. Dahil ito po ay itrinabaho namin last year na magkaroon ng isang programa and it will already start the Great Women Project.

Iba pa yang Great Women Project na yan. Etong microfinance ay nandiyaan na yan. In fact, nandito ba yung... oh, meron nag-o-oo dito sa harap. DSWD, halika! Alice. Si Alice Bala. Ano Alice, walong libong kababaihan dito hindi nila alam yung microfinance natin.

DSWD Alice Bala: Ang ating mga conduits, ma’am, nandoon po tayo sa mga mahihirap na lugar sa ibat-ibang parte ng Pilipinas. At doon sa mga nandito, yung mga wala pa, kung hindi pa kayo nikipag-ugnayan sa DSWD kami po ay bukas para sa inyo.

Ano, pwede ba natin pagkasunduan yon, pupuntahan ba ng mga NGO ang DSWD? O kaya Myrna, ilan bang mga NGO ang nandito ngayon? Hindi yung number, ilan ang mga organisasyon? NORFIL, nakatulong ba ang microfinance sa NORFIL? Ayun. NORFIL may natulungan. Yung mga Local Council of Women, saan dito ang mga Local Council of Women? Yung Go Negosyo? Pero ang microfinance ang pinag-uusapan natin. Ang kaibahan ng microfinance at itong great, itong project ngayon ng Canada, merong pondong binibigay ang microfinance, pinapahiram. Pero para doon sa kailangan mag-ensayo para magtayo ng negosyo at saka mag-training ng mga kakayahan, yan ang itutulong ng Canadian government sa atin, 300 million pesos. pero itong mga NGO, ano’ng pwedeng papel ng mga NGO? Kaya natin sila inimbata dito kasi kabalikat natin supposed to be, di ba?

DSWD Alice Bala: Kaya ang sabi nga namin yung mga NGOs na nandito makipagtulungan po tayo sa ating gobyerno at gusto po naming sabihin sa inyo na marami po kaming mga kababaihan na binigyan ng puhunan sa buong Metro Manila lamang. Pero hindi lang po Metro Manila, buong Pilipinas. At kung gusto po niyong makipag-ugnayan po sa amin, handa po ang DSWD para sa mga NGOs na maging conduit. Salamat po.

Nandito rin yung Vice President ng People’s Credit and Finance Corporation. Saan si Noel Poso? Eto ang nagpapahiram sa mga NGO na magpapahiram din sa microfinance. Kayo ba ay nagpapahiram na sa inyong mga beneficiary, kayo mismo? Meron ba, meron? So wala pa kayong track record. Kasi ang PCFC magpapahiram sa marunong nang magpahiram. Pero kung hindi pa marunong, ang DSWD ang uumpisahan. Meron ba tayong listahan ng mga NGO dito? Ito ba yon?

Saan yung National Council of Women of the Philippines dito? Kayo nagmi-microfinance ba kayo? Halikayo, ikuwento niyo kung sino ang mga beneficiary ninyo. Saan yung National Council of Women? Maikuwento mo nga kung papano makipag-ugnay sa iyo.

Local Councils of Women Representative: Madame President, ang mga kababaihan, ang Local Councils of Women po, we have 1,765 local councils of women in 1,765 cities and municipalities all over the country.

Hindi niyo kilala ang Local Council of Women? Kilala ninyo? sino ang nagsabing “yes”? Sino ang nagsabing “yes”? Marami raw nagsabing yes. Sinong may kilala ng Local Council of Women dito?

Local Councils of Women Representative: Ang Local Council of Women po, Madame President, is the umbrella for all NGOs in every municipality and city.

Hindi. Pero kung hindi sila member, papano naging umbrella?

Local Councils of Women Representative: Ah, ito po titignan po natin kung naimbita dito, yung mga NGOs.

NCRFW Chairperson Myrna Yao: Actually, marami din po dito ang from government. Kaya nga po sila ay mga career women kaya ho siguro yung mga ibang NGO na mas nakakarami po ang mga government career dito.

Ah, mas nakakarami dito mga government employees. ah...!

NCRFW Chairperson Myrna Yao: Opo. Kaya po ganun. Kaya ho sinasabi ho nilang wala kasi karamihan ho sa kanila government employees. Pero ang mga NGO ho nandito sa harap, ganun.

Kayong mga government employees hindi ba meron kayong mga employee cooperative? ang mga employee cooperative ninyo ay hindi nagmi-microfinance? Hindi? Oh, yun. Papano natin matutulungan ang government employee sa microfinance? Gusto niyo? Gusto niyo maki... Gusto niyo o hindi makinabang sa microfinance? Ang yes, oo. Yes, okay. Sino ang magiging conduit natin sa multi-purpose cooperative... ‘Di ba bawat government office may multi-purpose cooperative? Wala pa sa inyong naaabutan ng microfinance ng PCFCO, saan si Noel Poso?

PCFC official: Kami po sa PCFC, sa People’s Credit and Finance Corporation, handang tumulong sa lahat ng mga cooperatives.

Teka muna, tatanungin ko sa inyo dahil kayo ay multi-purpose cooperative. Yung mga multi-purpose cooperative nagpapahiram na di ba? So may track record na. magka-qualify na na maging conduit ng People’s Credit and Finance Corporation. meron na ba kayong mga People’s Credit and Finance... Meron na ba kayong mga conduit na microfinance?

PCFC official: May mga cooperatives po, mayron.

No, employees cooperative.

PCFC official: Employees cooperatives po.

Sinu-sino ang mga employees cooperatives na kasapi na ninyo?

PCFC official: Hindi po kami masyado sa employees cooperative, ma’am.

Yan ang gagawin natin. yan ang gagawin nating proyekto ngayon. Payag ba kayo? Dagdag na ito sa dagdag na sahod na nakuha niyo last year, di ba yung 1,000? wala kayong 1,000 na allowance per month? Ano ba naman? Hindi kayo nakakuha ng 1,000 allowance, last year? Saan ba ang DBM? Pwede ba naman... Sino ba ang taga dswd halimbawa dito? Empleyado ng... Hindi ka nakakuha ng 1,000 a month allowance? O, meron, meron. Ngayon... O, di ba 1,000 a month? Correct.

So ibabaw nung nakuha niyo nung isang taon dadagdagan natin... Meron... Pag pasok ng bagong kongreso, inanunsiyo ko na, magpapasok din tayo ng batas para dagdag na sweldo. Pero sa ibabaw nuon pwede bang gawin nating proyekto between now and March 8 of 2008, microfinance para sa mga empleyado ng pamahalaan? So siguro next year, pag tanong ko, meron ng makapag... May microfinance na, meron nang sasagot nang marami. Okay.

Maraming salamat at Happy Women's Day sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA'S Speech during the 2007 National Women's Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151241/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1980&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Bohol Youth Day celebration Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Bohol Youth Day celebration**

[Delivered at the Pres. Carlos P. Garcia Sports Complex, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, March 10, 2007]

Daghan salamat.

Daghan salamat, Governor Aumentado sa imong pagpa-ila kanako.

Ipaabot ko sab ang akong pag-abi-abi sa atong mga kongresista diri sa Bohol: si Edgar Chatto ang akong estudyante; si Congressman Cajes, ang amahan sa inyong SK president; si Congressman Jala; si Vice Governor Julius Herrera; si Mayor Lim; siyempre ang anak ni Congressman Cajes, si President Frances Bobbith Cajes-Auza.

Ug i-welcome nato ang atong senador, mahimo senador gihapon, ang atong tito sa Senado, Senator Tito Sotto; oh! No problem. Nag-abi-abi na ako sa atong senatorial candidates so I will also greet the other candidates aron dili sila makalimot ang ila mga ngalan. Aniya karon starting from left, from Tito Sotto, itanom ang Pichay sa Senado; ang kampiyon sa mga kababainan, mga manunudlo ug mga gagmay nga estudyante sa pre-school, Tesis Aquino-Oreta; usa nga batan-on nga ma-represent sa atong mga batan-on, ang batan-on sa akong gabinete, ang batan-on sa Senado, Mike Defensor; usa pa ka batan-on, ang atong kampiyon sa Green Philippines, Migs Zubiri; ayaw kalimti kon gusto nato ang kalinaw ug kauswagan sa tibuok Pilipinas, importante sab ayaw nato malimot ang Sultan of Sulu gikan sa Muslim provinces, Sultan Kiram of Sulu; ang personal nga gi-nominate ni Governor Rico Aumentado sa line-up sa Team Unity kay iyang kapwa nga gobernador, Governor Chavit Singson; usa pa nga gobernador, nga sa tabang sa mga taga-Bohol mahimo senador, mu-represent sa mga local governments, Vic Magsaysay is our guy; kamo mga batan-on murag naa kamo saying, “bad... Kung bad ka, ang mga batan-on, lagot ka,” ang kampiyon, ang people’s dragon, Joker Arroyo; ang usa ka lider, dugay na nga lider sa aton mga reporma sa edukasyon busa Angara ng buhay, Ed Angara; ug usa pa nga matinee idol sa atong mga batan-on. Let us welcome — he was not acknowledged earlier — ang korekto sa Senado, Ralph Recto; ug siyempre tingali... Actually, actually unta siya ang ni-welcome kanako apan anhi na ko karon sa entablado ako na ang mu-welcome gihapon sa anak sa Bohol, kinsa? Cesar Montano.

Ang atong mga youth leaders nga kauban ni Bobbith Cajes; ang atong mga cabinet members ug mga laing-laing appointees na dili ko name-mention aron dili niyo sila ma-mistake isip kandidato sa senador, ang aton mga outstanding young boholanos nga nakadawat sa award kaganina, kaninyong tanan mga batan-on sa Bohol, maayon hapon ug congratulations nining inyong Bohol Youth Day.

Ang inyong pagtambong nagpa-ila nga ready gyud kamo manguna aron muayo ang kinabuhi sa atong nasod. Aduna kamoy vision. Ug bisan pa nga batan-on lang kamo, aduna kamoy buot ug panghuna-huna nga gigamit ninyo aron maka-apil sa pagsolbad sa atong mga kritikal nga isyu.

Nakuha na nato ang kumpiyansa sa kalibutan tungod sa pag-usdaw sa atong ekonomiya ug pulitika, busa karon, mas dako ang pag-agi aron muabot sa katawhan sama sa mga batan-on ang mga bunga sa kauswagan — mas daghang trabaho; mas makab-ot nga presyo sa palit-on; kusog nga piso; mas daghang investments; edukasyon alang sa mga kabos; serbisyo alang sa health care ug pabalay ug anti-hunger alang sab sa mga kabos; ang aton mga kontra sa terorismo; ug ang programang Green Philippines. Busa daghan salamat nga apil sa inyong Bohol Youth Celebration ang launching sa Green Philippines.

Sa pagka-matuod, batan-on pa kining atong nasod — kamo ang atong katawhan batan-on pa; kamo 65 percent sa populasyon ang ga-edad lang ug 35 paubos. Batan-on gyud ang atong nasod, ang atong independence seseinta ka tuig pa lang, ug ang mga growing pains gibabaw pa gihapon nato.

Batan-on ang atong nasod tungod kay pinangga nato ang kinabuhi: ganahan ta mokanta, mosayaw, mo-apil sa mga sports, sama sa atong mga kampiyon sa boxing ug sa chess, ug ganahan kita sa inobasyon ug teknolohiya.

Batan-on kita tungod kay kita nga matuod nga katawhan sa kalibutan, apil sa pagpas nga pagbag-o nga nahitabo sa tibuok kalibutan. Anaa kita sa unahan sa global workforce.

And if I may say a little something in english, not only to you our Bohol youth but to the Filipino people, Philippine resiliency is given across all sectors. The surge of exports to the highest point since 1999, despite the continuing strength of the peso and the relative volatility of overseas markets, marks the productivity and excellence of the Filipino. While we leave the determination of the true value of the peso to the signals of the market, our exporters can be assured that the economic team is on top of balancing out the situation and forging a business environment that would give them a fighting chance moving forward in the global game. "Made in the Philippines" has become a tag of quality, consistency and excellence. This comes with growth and stability in all economic and political fronts, and the surge of optimism and national pride among our people, kauban na ang mga kabatan-unan sama kaninyong tanan.

Karong adlaw, gi-awat ko ang mga batan-on boholano nga motabang sa paghimo sa usa ka bag-ong bisyon alang sa atong batan-ong nasod. Pahuna kini aron mo-apil ang sunod nga henerasyon sa civic life, ipangungod ang inyong tingod, mo-kilos ug kamo ang mag-buot sa inyong kaugalingon fortune.

Gamita ang mga instrumentong gihatag kaninyo sang gobyerno sa inyong mga pamilya ug sa nasod aron mahimo kamo mga doctor, abogado, mang-uuma, health care worker, ug manguna sa high-tech ug clean technology, ug sa uban pang mga halandong propesyon.

Pinangga nato ang atong mga OFW ug dako ang paghalandon sa ila mga sakripisyo ug serbisyo. Apan kinahanglan motrabaho ta alang sa adlaw nga ang atong kabataan, kamo, maoy manag-iyu ug enerhiya aron moabot ang adlaw kon diin a job abroad is a career choice and hopefully not the only option available for a hardworking young Filipino.

Kauban sa pagdaghan sa trabaho dinhi sa nasod, kinahanglan mopatindog ta sa bag-o nga kalidad sa kinabuhi dinhi aron mapadayon ang batan-on, kamo ug matahom ang atong nasod sama sa aton mga katawhan nga batan-on ug mga gwapa ug gwapo.

Kinahanglan bawi-on nato ang atong mga forest. Kini, we have narra seedlings aron mao gyud mabalik ang aton mga forest. Ang forest sa bilar usa ka maayo nga ehemplo tingali unta sa tibuok Bohol. Ay! Bilar. Mga taga-bilar kamo? Congratulations! Sa inyong mga forests unta tibuok Bohol naa mga forest tungod nining atong maumpisa karong adlaw ang atong reforestation. Ug ilison ang mga natumbang kahoy ug mga bag-o, protektado nga forest alang sa proteksyon sa atong nasod ug katawhan.

Ug gusto ko unta mogamit ang enthusiasm sa mga batan-on ug mga tiguwang aron molimpyo ang atong environment. Apil sa atong Green Philippines ang tuyo nga himuon nasod nga energy-efficient ug dili na kita merely sa mga sakyanan nga mahal ug makapagawas pa ug exhaust ug sa mga smokestacks ng pabrika. Pwede nato mogamit ang adlaw, ang hangin ug ang geothermal resources ug makahimo kita sa aton kaugalingon limpiyo nga fuel sama sa biofuel.

Kinahanglan nato ang kusog nga buot sa katawhan aron maminaw ang mga pulitiko ni-ining bag-o ug limpiyong Green Philippines. Gusto nato nga ang aton mga coral reefs ug mga baybayon, the wonder of the world, nga daghan kaayo dinhi sa bohol mahimo mga national park ug international sanctuaries alang sa eco-tourism ug research sa siyensiya.

I wonder Ace if I can announce...? May I announce the Kingdom Holdings? Tungod kay gwapo kaayo ang inyong mga baybay, inyong mga coral reefs, inyong hospitality, mga katawhan, I would like to announce that as a result of my state visit to Saudi Arabia last year, when I had a talk with the fourth richest man in the world, Prince Al Waleed of Saudi Arabia who invest the money of the royal family. Kingdom holdings headed by Prince Al Waleed has

entered into a partnership with Ayala land and they would like to buy the whole Fonacier property in Panglao to put up a six-star resort, Raffles family. Ang ilang investment 150 million dollars diri sa Pilipinas ug sa Bohol.

Aduna pa kita'y panahon aron mopa-usbaw ang atong nasod sa angay na pa-agi sukad sa pagsugod: limpiyo, healthy, produktibo ug matahom. Gusto nato unta nga ang mga batan-on karon dinhi sa Bohol apil sa bag-o nga Green Philippines. So I issue a call to you, the Bohol youth aron himu-on nato, himu-on nato sa umaabot nga lima ka tuig ang atong Green Philippines.

Pipila lang kini ang sa mga gihuna-huna. Daghan kaayo inyong mga programa nga gi-ingon ni President Bobbith Cajes-Auza kaganina. Gitawagan ko ang atong kabataan nga tubagon kining call to action aron makadala ug bag-o, innovative nga panghuna-huna alang sa land management, care for our environment, ug mga paagi aron makahimo kita ug mga clean, socially responsible nga environment policy.

Kinahanglan molampas ta sa panahon sa panghuna-huna sa “either/or” bahin sa atin environment. Dawaton nato ang pagbag-o ug maisog ta sa makahimo ug Green Philippines nga berde ug makahatag ug kausbaw sa ekonomiya.

Gatuo gyud ako nga sa sulod sa pulo ka tuig, ang Pilipinas pwede mahimo usa ka model sa environmental stewardship. Apan mga batan-on sa Bohol kinahanglan ko ang inyong tabang aron mahimo nato kanang bisyon. Sugdan nato kining vision diri mismo sa Bohol — Green Bohol. And so therefore, atong bat-anon we count on you, Green Bohol. Keep Bohol beautiful like the young people of Bohol diri sa atong miting.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA'S Speech during the Bohol Youth Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151201/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1974&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 25th Anniversary of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research Development

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 25th Anniversary of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research Development**

[Delivered at the PHIVOLCS Auditorium, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City, March 15, 2007]

I am very happy to be here with you on the 25th or silver anniversary of PCIERD, an organization that I used to be a part of in the past. And using this day, I thought that instead of honoring these distinguished gentlemen in Malacañang, I thought that we should honor them as part of our 25th anniversary celebrating research and so today therefore we celebrate part of our celebration of scientific research to honor the pillars of Philippine science both natural science and social science in the modern age.

Earlier when we were sitting down, Undersecretary Yumul said, “you made so many people happy/” I said, “what, by coming today?” I said, but of course, because it is a reality and it is a chance for me to reaffirm what I said in my very first State of the Nation Address in 2001, that technology is the foundation of future economic development. And having been a part of PCIERD in the past, I know the role of PCIERD. It is the link between research and applications in industry and energy. In my time, it was only industry that was on the focus, but today energy is just as important.

But being the link, it dramatizes when we celebrate the 25th anniversary of PCIERD that if we want technology indeed to be the foundation of future economic development, the investment sector must lead in the creation of a science and technology-based Philippine model. And that is the mission of PCIERD. And if we want indeed the technology will be the foundation of future economic development, it is also important that a good science education must be within the reach of every Filipino, which is the reason why among the reforms in Education that I also stated in my very first State of the Nation Address, one of the things I said is that we must strengthen math and science in basic education.

We are resolved to review all policies to forge broader coordination among public and private institutions and moving the S & T public and private budget allocation closer to the UNESCO-prescribed one percent of GDI. And PCIERD is what can put all of those efforts together, both private and public sectors.

On the part of the public sector, among the things we have done in order to increase and make more efficacious the spending on S & T, in our last meeting with the scientists – that was with the Philippine-American Association of Scientists – I announced that I have authorized the Department of Budget and Management to release 200 million pesos for masteral and doctoral-level scholarships in science and engineering. This is in addition to having put in the 2006 supplemental budget of 500 million pesos to build a science complex in U.P. Diliman. Actually, Nina it’s already ongoing, isn’t it? The construction?

Well, I could mention other things we are doing to spend on S & T, but I suppose Nina will let you know about that in the different technical meetings that she is conducting. But I can say that our spending on science and technology, these kind of spending as an example, the strengthening of basic education in Science and Math, the masteral and doctoral scholarship and research programs, the science complex that we are putting up, all of these are funded by the savings from our economic reforms.

Through hard-fought economic reform battles, the Philippine economy has finally broken loose of its lethargic economic legacy. New revenues, better collection and a crackdown on tax cheats, along with fiscal discipline has put the Philippines on a path to permanent economic growth and stability.

For the first time in a long time, the budget is under control. We are lowering our deficit and raising unprecedented amounts of revenue. And I do not want to, and will not go back to the days of large deficit spending.

Our commitment to economic reforms has proven effective. There has been a surge in investments. Just now, I came from Calabarzon where I ground broke a 100 million-dollar Toyota investment in a transmission plant. There has also been therefore a surge in job creation that I believe is permanent and must be sustained. And I am committed and I hope you are committed with me to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human infrastructure, including the human science infrastructure and physical infrastructure including physical infrastructure in science and technology like what we are putting up here in the U.P. campus.

These kinds of investments in human and physical infrastructure includes billions of pesos in education, health care and training along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines.

And I am optimistic that we will balance the budget within my term while also cutting our debt ratio and investing in this vital social and economic needs, including science and technology. I'm a prudent, disciplined economic leader. And they say, how come people were not spending so much before on math and science education, on science complex, on scholarships in the upper levels, maybe because they did not give about immediate results that could be seen right away. But precisely that's the meaning of being a disciplined, economic leader. I will not sacrifice long-term gains on short-term political expediency.

And now that we are beginning to have the wherewithal to go into research, science and to technology research or industry and energy as we are celebrating today, Undersecretary Yumul has talked about some of our research agenda. We must spend to develop indigenous and clean energy sources to reduce our dependence on price-vulnerability to costly fossil fuels, and rid the air of carbon emissions and other pollutants.

We have the Biofuels Act, authored and sponsored by Migz Zubiri. We still need to obtain public acceptance for a 10 percent bioethanol blend in 2010 and ensuring an adequate source of biofuels as mandated by that Biofuels Act. And getting public acceptance for this is more daunting a challenge than we might at first imagine. There are those who say, for instance, that ethanol will make my car go slower. Or there are those who say, why are we pushing so much for ethanol and biofuels when we are going to end up with less food on our table which is going to go into fuels? I have heard those kinds of arguments and that's why that sort of slow down the Biofuels Act.

But it is you, the scientists and those who will adopt scientific findings to production that can answer these challenges, like meet the needs of energy through biofuel at the same time meet the continuing and growing needs for food of our population. And we are hopeful that this group, the scientist and private sector in industry and energy together with the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture and of course the Department of Science and Technology and other agencies, will push that horizon forward.

Undersecretary Yumul talked about disaster management. And last year, again, a fruit of our tax reforms, we were able to release 236 million to purchase doppler radars for Subic, Tagaytay and Cebu. So it is not a coincidence that our weather forecasting is much more accurate today. And on top of that now, here in 2007, PAGASA's budget has another 200 million for two more doppler radar stations in Mindanao as well as the upgrade of equipment for natural hazard monitoring.

And of course, I've talked about carbon emissions earlier when I talked about energy, we do need more work on climate change which has become a keen global concern. Related to all of these, I have already ordered the DENR to finish the mapping of the hazardous areas. I remember I gave that instruction for the mapping of hazardous areas in a meeting that I presided on right here in this building a couple of years ago. Bibeth Gozun was still then the secretary of DENR. And now I am rushing the DENR because we need that hazard mapping as soon as we can have it. We already have some aspects but we'd like to complete it as soon as we can because global warming has really produced a lot of hazards more frequently.

And I look forward to your own findings on how to carry our vigilance forward and avoid loss of lives and property.

Industry. I saw the exhibits on virgin coconut oil, and I had just told Nina Alabastro, she was so surprised when I said Nina, I have just signed an Executive Order putting the Technology Resource and Livelihood Center under the Department of Science and Technology. Because the last time we met with the scientific community we talked about business incubation.

When I went to the TLRC and I took the occasion to examine their mandate, they were originally organized as TRC (Technology Resource Center). We already have other livelihood institutions: we have the PCFC, we have the NLSF So what makes TLRC unique should be the technology. So the livelihood should be incidental. So I put the name back to TRC and I'm putting it with DOST so they can be Nina's arm in business incubation.

Maybe that way we can really see to it that Philippine food processing and packaging can be span into the global market on the back of small and medium-scale entrepreneurs. And now that you have TRC with you, I ask you to develop more technologies applicable to micro entrepreneurs with limited capital.

We are both comfortable and confident that our discipline will allow us to continue on a balanced path of targeted investment and overall restraint. Our medium-term plan budget is to balance the budget by 2010, although our economic managers have moved it forward to 2008, because they believe we can do so. And that is their plan, they believe if s a realistic goal.

Our fiscal performance in 2006 is a reflection of the significant progress that we have made over the past two years in putting our fiscal house in order. Our commitment to making the difficult decisions to reform our economy has been a major contributor to these achievements. We will continue to demonstrate that this is a government that delivers on its commitments, including its commitment to make technology the foundation of future economic development.

And so on this 25th anniversary of PCIARD, let us unite for Philippine S & T. Let us support those who believe in our reforms.

Mabuhay ang science and technology!

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the 25th anniversary of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 25th anniversary of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)**

[Delivered at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas Ave., Quezon City, March 16, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Nina Alabastro. It's very good to see you again for the second straight day.

Ched Chairman Carlito Puno, Executive Director Dr. Montoya, Assistant Secretary Villaverde; PCHRD officials and scholars, members of the scientific research and education community, ladies and gentlemen.

Happy silver anniversary to PCHRD! It's a good time for us to celebrate the 25th anniversary. May I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the men and women of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development for your contributions to a strong and healthy nation.

In the words of former director general of the World Health Organization, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, "at the core of knowledge lies good research," including knowledge about health.

I'm pleased to know that PCHRD has banded together with the DOH, the CHED, and U.P. Manila's national institutes of health to establish the Philippine National Health Research System, and that was one of the prominent items in your exhibit.

You're celebrating your silver anniversary at a time when we want to invest in our people in order to gain 8 blessings by the year 2008. Or what we call in our mantra — investing in people for 8 by '08:

First, job creation;

Second, stable cost of living;

Third, strong, steady peso;

Fourth, more investments;

Fifth, pro-poor education;

Sixth, green Philippines;

Seventh, strong anti-terror;

And finally last but not the least, eighth, pro-poor hunger mitigation, housing, and health.

Let me talk about the first and the last: job creation and health.

On job creation. The jobless rate is down, and I'm very happy that more than one million jobs were created in the last 12 months. In fact, that's three times what was created in the entire previous administration.

Every tough decision made and every policy laid down to strengthen the economy is geared towards the foremost aim of creating jobs. This administration has been attacked on various fronts and issues, but let it not be said that we did nothing to give Juan De la Cruz a chance to land a good job and bring home the bacon to a healthy and adequately schooled family.

The social payback of economic reforms consists of a double boost on jobs and basic services, including health services, so that the Filipino family is lifted not only from abject poverty but insulated from disease and ignorance. As more and more investors lay their premiums on the Philippine economy, the window of opportunity will open wider to accommodate the excellence and productivity of the Filipino. I shall remain unswerving in the task of creating, topping the more than five million jobs we've generated in six years with even more as we push economic growth and social justice to the limit. This is good governance at work. We affirm it as strongly as we vow to enforce criminal justice and human rights for the freedom and prosperity of the people.

Now let me talk about health. So that Juan De la Cruz can bring home the bacon to a healthy family, we want to increase the reach of health insurance to 85 percent of the population. We want to reduce by half the price of medicines commonly bought by the poor. We want to help local governments convert their primary hospitals to secondary hospitals capable of delivering childbirth and simple surgery.

One of the most important tasks of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development is to help bring down the cost of medicine bought by the poor to one-half of what it was in 2001. That is why the DOST is pushing research and development on herbal-based pharmaceuticals. While the Department of Health has already identified the ten medicinal plants on the top of the list such as lagundi, sambong, akapulko, yerba buena, and ampalaya tablets. And I saw earlier in the exhibit that through your work, you have even discovered the medicinal use of virgin coconut oil against sepsis, a disease that plagues premature babies. I also understand that we are looking at virgin coconut oil in order to treat skin infections, fungus. I say that because virgin coconut oil is one of the things that I asked Nina Alabastro to develop. I told her that I want virgin coconut oil to be as famous someday, a part of our medicine cabinet or kitchen cabinet as Italian olive oil. And a lot of that will help me done by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development.

The government is committed to increase expenditures for research and development, develop our domestic capability for basic drug research. I saw in the exhibit also that for several years now, in recent years, you've developed a partnership with laboratories like Pascual laboratories. And earlier while you were waiting for me while I was in Quirino, in Cagayan Valley, incidentally, I saw also an exhibit that you have a very, very strong research agenda in Cagayan Valley. Well, anyway, while I was there, you were here witnessing the signing of yet another memorandum of agreement with Pascual laboratories.

And just a few days ago, I inaugurated the first 1.7 billion-peso phase of a 7.5 billion-peso laboratory facility of Unilab producing prescription drugs. And that is going to be... They hope, the first domestic laboratory that will be FDA accredited. So much research is going on, so much research must go on for the health of our people.

The 7.5 expansion of Unilab is for prescription drugs that are commonly chemical-based. Pascual laboratories I supposed is doing on... Is that the one that you signed for... Based on our herbal medicines? But I think that Unilab would have invested even more in the Philippines if we were developed in biotech and biomedicine. Because much as they would have like to do it here, their biotech laboratory is in china because that's where the research output is very rich. So that shows that we also need additional expenditures to go into biotech and biomedical research.

I am very happy that you have institutionalized during our administration the Philippine National Health Research System. This should help manage the health, social and economic consequences of natural and man-made disasters. It should safeguard the health of our farmers who must be adequately protected from noxious substances while at work. It should increase the people's capacity to meet the specter of new infectious diseases such as SARS.

We should congratulate our health, agriculture, and our DOST research agencies. Because through these years when our neighboring countries were plague with SARS, and even more when our neighboring countries were plague with avian flu, we have had hardly any SARS and certainly no avian flu.

Nonetheless, the Philippines is also still being set back by traditional infectious diseases that continue to exact a heavy toll. Tuberculosis, for instance.

These are foreboding challenges. Yet, we have to deal with the continuing loss of our S & T professionals, including scientists, engineers, researchers and technicians to the careers in other parts of the world. That is why I want to create so many jobs in our country, good jobs that for a hardworking and talented Filipino, a job abroad will be a career choice and not the only choice left. I've been asked what are the examples of jobs you've created to keep them at home or bring them back home. Well, for one thing a lot of young people have told me, "thank you, Madame President, for promoting the contact centers because we don't have to go abroad for a job. We're quite happy working in the call centers and still being with our families and friends."

And a few years ago, when I went to the Malampaya plant of shell in the South China Sea, I saw about four engineers who had come back from the Middle East to work there with expat salaries. Well, we hope someday we can do that with our scientists and our health scientists.

We must continue to fill the gap in the meantime by developing world-class health researchers and personnel by strengthening the curriculum — that is why Doctor Puno is here especially in the graduate level — and providing continuing training to health researchers and personnel.

Yesterday at PCIERD, we recognized the international award given in London to Doctor Rolando Dela Cruz, a health researcher for having developed a natural cure for skin cancer, probably so far the only known cure in the world. And he is practicing that here, he has many patients coming over. That is an example of an output of health research that has become useful not only to the Philippines but to the world.

And so I congratulate the PCHRD, the Philippine National Health Research System and its partners including private researchers like Doctor Dela Cruz and Unilab, that is a very big health research community we have, and with our newfound budget, with our newfound resources coming from our tax reforms, we hope that in the next 25 years, health research would even be more vigorous and truly become part of the mainstream of our society.

To all of you once again, happy silver anniversary!

Mabuhay ang health research!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 25th Anniversary of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151132/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1972&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the new Sulipan Bridge

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the inauguration of the new Sulipan Bridge

[Delivered in Brgy. Sulipan, Apalit, Pampanga, March 17, 2007]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Manny Bonoan. At congratulations! Sa iyo at sa lahat ng mga DPWH na nagtrabaho rito dahil technically napakahirap gawin itong tulay na ito pero nagawa niyong maganda at matatag.

Ambassador Yamazaki, we thank you and the Japanese government for giving us the loan that we used to fund the construction of this very, very important infrastructure; Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc queng caring kegana-ganang Congressmen Naning fourth district ning Pampanga, peka maragul a proyektong dinalang keti quing distrito na; kaya ara caring nga tao keti qing fourth district keting qing Pampanga iyana kanu ing eldest child ku aleya Mikee. Anyway, I greet also my biological eldest child, Mikey.

And I would like to greet board member Dong Gonzales; our various mayors who are here headed by Apalit Mayor Tirso Lacanilao; the two mayor Floreses of Macabebe and Masantol; Mayor Sagum, also the first gentleman of the district.

And I would like to greet also our Cabinet officers for regional development here in Central Luzon: our chairman of the Clark-Subic alliance, Ed Pamintuan; our Presidential Assistant for Central Luzon, Rene Diaz; let me also greet Hanjin, our principal contractor here, not only because you have built this beautiful bridge, Mr. Shim, but also because you opt your investment on the shipbuilding in Subic which is about already over 250 million dollars and going up to one billion U.S. dollars; caring kabalen kung kapampangan, mayap a oras kekayu uling iko ing.. Iko ing mag-benefit kaniting Sulipan bridge.

And Ambassador Yamazaki, may I tell you something about Sulipan. Pampanga is very well known for its cuisine. But Sulipan has a very special cuisine, it's called Sulipan cuisine. And why do we have a special cuisine here in Sulipan. You see this beautiful river which incidentally used to be dirty but it's very clean now, maayap a-oras qing kekatang Mayor Lacanilao. This river goes out into Manila bay. And in the olden times, the galleon ships between Mexico and the Philippines used to enter this river from manila bay and have their drydock and shipyard here in Sulipan. And so therefore in the many months that the galleon ships will be undergoing repair, rehabilitation, maintenance, the chefs, the Spanish and Mexican chefs of the galleon ships would be here and exchange in culinary culture with our own Filipino Kapampangan cooks. And so we have a unique blend of Sulipan cooking made up a combination of Kapampangan, Spanish and Mexican cuisine, in fact, propagated in some of the fine restaurants in Metro Manila by the most famous Filipino chef coming from Sulipan, his name is Gene Gonzalez.

So, just as Sulipan was a very important infrastructure area in the Spanish period. Today, Sulipan is very important infrastructure area in today's economy. At alimo kaning... It's not only the Kkapampangans who are benefiting from this bridge. It is from everybody who will have to travel from Manila to the provinces in the north, yung mga magbabiyahe na hindi kaya magbayad doon sa toll road. Mas mura ito pero maganda, at yung mga truck, sabi nga ni Manny Bonoan, kayang-kaya yung mga mabibigat na karga. Kaya nung araw hindi sila makasakay dito diyan sa yung tulay na yan na maliit, hindi yan kaya nung malalaking truck kaya lahat dadaan sa toll road. Ngayon malalaking truck kaya na ito, hindi na magbabayad ng toll, magiging mas mura tuloy ang mga produktong at pagkain na dumadaan dito.

Kaya congratulations! Sa DPWH dahil nilalagay niyo ang mga mahahalagang imprastraktura naging bunga ng ating mga reporma sa buwis. Itong inagurasyon nating ito ay kasunod ng groundbreaking kahapon lamang doon sa

isabela, sa isang malayong barangay para matulungan yung ating mga magsasaka. Itong groundbreaking na ito kasunod din... This also follows the groundbreaking the other day when Ambassador Yamazaki and I presided over a five billion-peso groundbreaking of a Toyota transmission plant. Na ang kanyang mga produkto ibebenta hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kung hindi na rin sa ibang mga bansa kasama ang Japan mismo. At yung groundbreaking na yun kasunod naman doon sa inagurasyon nung isang araw naman ng isang... Yung pinakamodernong pagawaan ng gamot. Yung pagpalawak ng Unilab na magiging pinakamodernong pagawaan ng gamot sa buong rehiyon. Hindi lang yon, yun ang unang magiging pabrika ng gamot na magiging FDA accredited. Ibig sabihin nuon ang Pilipinas makakabenta na ng gamot sa Amerika mismo.

Lahat itong mga investments na ito — Toyota, foreign investment; Hanjin, foreign investment; Unilab, giant Filipino investment — ay dahil sa kumpiyansa sa ating ekonomiya dahil sa ating pagmaneho ng ating budget. The closing budget gap is fueling the confidence that creates jobs. We are speaking of well-paying jobs gaya ng mga welders doon sa Hanjin shipyard. Noong araw mangingisda, subsistence fishermen, ngayon highly-paid welders. Gaya ng mga trabaho sa Toyota transmission, ang daming mga enhinyero, mga technical engineers at iba pang mga technical factory workers. Sa Unilab ang daming mga chemist. All of that is evident... All these high-paying jobs are evident in the finding, na loob ng peryodiko today, that Philippine salaries growth is the third fastest in the Asia-Pacific. And we are proving that good salaries basta nanggagaling sa desisyon ng management at employee, good salaries are not a bar to investment but a guarantee of more profits to the firms that are putting a stake in our country.

No one can beat the Philippines when it comes to fiscal discipline. And the Filipino people are world-class when it comes to productivity and excellence. But economic strength is more than fiscal stability and a good payback to our human resources. We have to pump prime the system. Ano'ng ibig sabihin ng pump priming the system? Hindi ba yung mga lugar kung saan mahina yung pressure ng tubig naglalagay tayo ng pump, binobomba natin. Yun ang ibig sabihin ng pump priming. And we have to pump prime the system and guarantee that its returns are felt in the countryside and grassroots level through better infrastructure gaya ng tulay para sa magsasaka sa isabela at gaya nitong tulay na ito sa sulipan na nasa Mac Arthur highway na nagdadala ng ating mga kababayan mula sa Manila hanggang probinsiya, ating mga produkto mula probinsiya hanggang Maynila.

We also have to provide payback in quality education and a healthier people gaya nga ng mga gamot na ginagawa ngayon sa world class, most modern laboratory in the region doon sa Unilab. At yung kahapon naman may apat na kasunduan tungkol sa herbal medicine na binuo sa silver anniversary ng Health Research Council.

At the same time this flow of economic gains must be reinforced by plugging revenue leaks, prosecuting tax cheats and smugglers, and nipping graft in the bud through less red tape and stricter controls on wayward spending. We are keeping pace with the world in all aspects of economic and social stability, shoring up the welfare of the people, expanding democratic space, and hitting hard on the threat of terror.

Itong tulay na ito hindi lang halimbawa ng ating importanteng imprastraktura para sa ekonomiya, halimbawa rin ito ng pagkakalinga sa mahihirap at saka sa demokrasya. Kasi isang dahilan kung bakit matagal na matagal hindi natin mapalitan yang tulay na yan ay maraming mga squaters dito. Eh hindi naman pwede nating basta tabuyin lamang sila. Pero sa ilang mga nakaraang taon nagkaroon tayo ng pera dahil sa ating tax reforms na natulungan silang lumipat. Kaya nung nakalipat sila dahil sa tulong na rin ng ating budget nasimulaan natin itong construction nitong tulay na ito.

Kaya... Kaya, mayap a oras pasibayu caring mahal kung kabalen. At congratulations! Muli sa lahat ng gumawa at lahat ng pilipinong makikinabang sa Sulipan bridge at MacArthur highway.

Dacal a salamat. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Inauguration of the New Sulipan Bridge. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151114/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1969&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 102nd Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) 'Maragtas' Class 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 102nd Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) 'Maragtas' Class
2007**

[Delivered at the Borromeo Field, Philippine Military Academy (PMA), March 19, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Ebdane.

Vice President Noli De Castro, Major General Maligalig and the administration faculty and staff of the Philippine Military Academy, General Esperon and the other officers and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Congressman Domogan, Governor Melchor and the other officials of the Philippine government, Cabinet members, foreign diplomatic military and defense officials, proud parents lalung-lalo na ang ina ni Andrelee Mojica.

Nalaman ko ang kasaysayan ni Andrelee na nung siya ay high school pa nagkasakit yung kanyang tatay at dahil yung tuition sa college ay kailangan ibayad doon sa paggamot ng kanyang ama, tumigil muna siya mag-aral hanggang sa hindi kaalaman ng kanyang mga magulang, kinuha niya ang examination sa Philippine Military Academy at pumasa.

And I have learned that many of our graduates today have a very similar kind of success story as Andrelee. Congratulations! To their parents for bringing them up that way. Congratulations! Also to the proud friends and family, and I must especially congratulate the vigorous participation of the Cagayan province delegation.

And before I forget, at the end of my speech which I shall do at the beginning, in honor of the graduates of the Philippine Military Academy today, as your going away present to your underclassmen, I hereby pardon the outstanding punishments of the cadet corps of the PMA as may be prescribed by the superintendent of the PMA effective today.

Sa inyong lahat, congratulations! Maragtas class of 2007.

Gaya nang sabi ni General Maligalig, your class proudly derives its name from the 13th century epic poem 'Maragtas'. Para sa kaalaman ng iba, this legend narrates the tale of ten Bornean datus who fled persecution and sought freedom through uncharted seas and shores.

Today, eight centuries later, through you, Maragtas class 2007, government will reach the farthest communities of the land and assure their security and freedom. Because you, Maragtas class 2007, will be enablers of a peaceful and productive life among our people.

Indeed, as General Maligalig pointed out when he talked about the multi-faceted expectations of your class, the armed forces must be the vanguard of a strong economy.

Speaking of the economy, the strength of the peso is boosting social amelioration by denting the price of water, gasoline, LPG and food. We're making headway in the social payback of economic growth — this is the real story taking place in the lives of the people. The combined potency of a robust economic blueprint and the productivity of Filipinos here and abroad has caught the eye of investors and political observers who are now seeing a permanent projectory of economic and political stability.

The focus of the world is not only on the Philippine economic recovery, but the way we are making democracy work while keeping the threat of terror at bay. We are consolidating the political, economic, social and security ramparts of nation-building in a manner and pace that has never been done. And this is a tribute, the resiliency, excellence, spirit of enterprise and courage of the Filipino people, the same resiliency, excellence and spirit that we have seen in the personal histories of many of the members of Maragtas class 2007. Congratulations! To you for that.

For every ounce of vigilance we invest in keeping the economy strong, the people reap tenfold — internal jobs, better schools, more health services, roads and bridges — all working to drive their hopes for the future.

Maragtas class 2007, you are the first, as General Naligalig said, to graduate under the enhanced mission of the Philippine Military Academy. And this enhanced mission in turn is anchored on the Philippine defense reform program which we have started to implement last year. We are determined under this Philippine defense program to modernize the AFP in order to deliver the best equipment and supplies to our soldiers in the field.

And you, my dear graduating class, you will be able to experience during your career something that many since the class of cavalier Ronald Patugalan probably have not seen in a long time, you will eventually one of these days be able to use brand new helicopters in your machines. You are also the first to graduate since the passage of the anti-terrorism law formally known as the human security act which gives us a potent piece of armor to shield not only the people but our economy as well from the scourge of evil.

I am glad that in his remarks, General Maligalig also talked about human security, the many facets of human security. Of those many facets, we can somehow recognize and classify them into two major components of human security — freedom from fear and freedom from want. This is our formula for enduring peace.

You, our young soldiers, will spearhead the fight against terror in the same way that our young professionals and entrepreneurs are leading the fight against poverty while helping build excellence for our people everywhere in our nation and in the world.

Therefore, let me take advantage of this gathering to share the paradigm for peace we have developed in dealing with Mindanao at a time when hard power has fallen short in proving its value to the world. The Philippine model for dealing with the flashpoint area of Mindanao has focused on a unique combination of soft and hard power. To promote peace, we have been able to meld together confidence-building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness, investments in economic and basic infrastructure development, and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

And that is what you will do, young soldiers.

I have read in the papers that many of you are excited to go to Jolo. Yes, you will go and you will fight, but you will also build schools, you will build roads, you will teach the children to read, and you will understand one another's religions.

The force of political stability must be seen in all other facets of our national life rather than just anti-terrorism and anti-insurgency. Safe streets, inviolable homes, public mobility free from crime, workers, public servants, farmers, professionals and investors must enjoy equal protection and freedom from fear. And this is what you, Maragtas class 2007, will provide for the people.

Therefore in ending, to the Maragtas class, my marching orders are — have a leader's heart. What is a leader's heart? I don't have to describe a leader's heart, because in her valedictory address, we heard Andrelee Mojica talk about it. She has a leader's heart. I know you all have a leader's heart in Maragtas class 2007. Have a leader's heart and love the people you serve. Become legends in your own time, not only in your success stories as you have gone through the Philippine Military Academy, but in the successes that you will share with the people in the communities that you will serve.

And in going forth to your mission to serve the people, step forth with courage, integrity and loyalty.

Congratulations!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 102nd Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) 'Maragtas' Class 2007. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151059/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1967&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 28th National Conference of Employers 2007

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 28th National Conference of Employers 2007

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, Manila City, Cavite, March 21, 2007]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Secretary Brion for your introduction. And thank you for all that you have been doing for industrial peace.

Chairman of ECOP, Mike Varela; President of ECOP, Jun Ortiz-Luis; Donald Dee; Freddie Yao, chairperson of the organizing committee; Francis Chua and the members of the federation who are hosting this lunch; chairmen, presidents and leaders of the business industry attending this conference; and of course, congratulations! To our new Lakan ng Kalakalan, Don Emilio Yap, a pillar of Philippine business and media.

Congratulations! Also to the Kapatid awardees headed by Unilab. And thank you Unilab for your ongoing 7.5 billion-peso expansion.

I'd like to also acknowledge our special citation to Buena Mano. And to thank everybody that are participating in what Serge Ortiz-Luis told me that you will be spreading your technology transfer to some of the areas recently liberated from the NPA. Thank you very much for that.

Last year, your theme was "Survive, Compete, Excel." Today, it is "Reaching Out: Competitiveness, Partnerships and Reforms." And this conference is a great opportunity for partnership, partnership between business and labor. And those are what we gave out as awards today. Reaching out small entrepreneurs to micro entrepreneurs; big entrepreneurs to small entrepreneurs. And partnership between business and government to renew our partnership and continue our close cooperation to meet vital issues such as infrastructure development, labor-related concerns, drumming up the optimistic outlook of economic zones such as the bill I signed into law yesterday restoring lost incentives to investors, liberalizing the cement industry, and maintaining confidence in reaching a balanced budget.

We should really get together, labor and business, large business and small business and micro business, business and government on infrastructure development. And that's why I'm happy to share with you a piece of good news, a report that I received from the PNCC president today that tomorrow the PNCC board will ratify the joint investment proposal with Citra for the continuation of the skyway project called stage 2.

This will certainly make it more convenient to travel to Unilab and other areas in Calabarzon. And it will make our city prettier because you see all those unsightly post when you are passing through the skyway, now they will begin to be completed.

But of course, ECOP is primarily concerned with labor management partnership. And speaking of labor-related concerns, let me affirm our belief in the regional tripartite system of wage setting. I am happy to hear that representatives of the regional wage board are here, I think first time you become part of this conference. And I want to congratulate you that through the tripartite setting, you have accomplished the third highest wage increase in the Asia-Pacific region.

Meanwhile, our search for more non-wage benefits for our workers continues without let-up.

Our partnership, business and government and labor, has gone through many economic reforms. Through hard-fought economy reform battles we have led together, the Philippine economy has finally broken loose of its lethargic economic legacy. New revenues — as mentioned by Francis Chua — better collection and a crackdown on tax cheats along with fiscal discipline has put the Philippines on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. And the world is taking notice. We thank, of course, Unilab — that's a Filipino investor. But aside from Filipino investors, just last night, I got a call from Secretary Peter Favila — he was with the Shanghai world trade group — and they gave me the good news of a forthcoming two billion-dollar tourism investment in the BCDA. And that was confirmed to me this morning in a visit by the Chinese ambassador.

Indeed, I believe, and I think we believe, the Philippines is one of the best values for money in Asia for investors.

There has been a surge in investments, exports — notwithstanding the strong peso — our export growth in January was 27 percent. Congratulations! To Ford and other exporters. And of course, job creation. Where aside from having the third largest increase in wages in Asia-Pacific, we also together created 1.16 million jobs January last year to January this year.

We are working to ensure this will be sustained. We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, health care and training along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines. And that's why I'm glad your theme says, "Reaching Out: Competitiveness, Partnership and Reforms."

I take great pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. I'm personally proud of the fact that external debt is declining at a rapid clip, optimistic that we will balance the budget on schedule, and that we are making sure to use the gains to invest in vital social and economic needs.

The new freeport zones, particularly Clark, will continue to spur investments in our super regions in Luzon, level the playing field in business, and most of all, create well-paying, modern jobs for our people. In Clark economic zone, I have visited, of course, contact centers and BPO for we all know the jobs are well-paid. But I have also visited, for instance, a very modern toy factory where the artisan in the Kapampangan has come out so beautifully and they're well-paid as well.

As more infrastructure is being laid and political stability dawns on the Philippines, we continue to liberalize the investment climate, including liberalizing the cement industry, so that when you build your factories and we build our roads cement will not be so expensive. So we liberalize the economy in a way that further energizes the economy, revs the engine of local enterprise — as many of you who received the awards are local enterprises — and fuels hope and optimism all around.

On the forefront of social returns, we've been building more than 6,000 school buildings per year during my administration; giving out 50,000 high school scholarships per year since we started the scholarship voucher system for high school; 400,000 housing units will be built between this year and 2008; we will send potable water to 300,000 households — and I thank Manila water for reducing your water rates — we will also be providing millions of free insurance premiums and more Botika ng Barangays distributing low-cost medicine; and 2,000 new Tindahan Natin outlets selling low-cost food items. These are what we call non-wage benefits or wage goods for our workers.

We're prepared to invest one trillion pesos for transport, agricultural and ICT infrastructure to move our infrastructure-to-GDP ratio closer to the Asian norm of 4.5 percent. As an example of transport infrastructure, yesterday and the day before, I was attending to the infrastructure for upland vegetables, 70 percent of which come from the cordilleras. In the cordilleras, the bulk of the vegetables come from Buguias and Kibungan. Buguias is on the Halsema highway and so we have rebuilt and modernized the Halsema highway. It used to take a whole day to travel from Buguias to Baguio. Now it only takes a couple of hours.

Now, we are working on the other side the secondary road where Kibungan is. The other day, I went on that road which they usually call the cordillera massage. And now that we have built the Halsema highway, we are building that cordillera massage, rebuilding it. It's been so rugged for so long. When I was going through the road, I came

across a gasoline station and the gasoline station was named rugged road refilling station. And when I was going back to Baguio, I met a jeepney. And you know, where they put the destination on the side of the jeepney window it said, destination dusty road. So, that's where the vegetables have to pass from Kibungan. So now we are also repairing that road the way we have modernized the Halsema highway.

After that, I went to La Trinidad. And I want to thank DOLE for putting up a plantation in Benguet. And the DOLE officials were in La Trinidad because the government has put up a pre-processing center where they can pack the vegetables and refrigerate it so that during the peak harvest time when all the vegetables are coming out and there's danger of perishing or selling it at bargain basement prices, now they can store their vegetables there and sell them to the lowlands throughout the year.

In the La Trinidad center, we sent off a refrigerated van so that the vegetables can travel refrigerated and this van traveled — again, provided by the government — traveled to Capas, Tarlac where it was unloaded and distributed to Central Luzon saving about 20 pesos in transport cost.

That is what we mean by agricultural infrastructure, because a lot of the cost in agriculture is in post-harvest losses. Now the farmers have more income and they can also pass on the price, the savings to the consumers. There's about a 20-peso difference all in all. But we are talking about farmers, we are talking about labor and management, salaried workers. Earlier, as I came in and I saw in the signatures, informal sector representatives of the business sector. Indeed, in our country, there are many informal workers or family workers or self-made entrepreneurs, and we have to serve them as well. Almost 2.5 million new micro entrepreneurs have been served by the escalation of microfinancing, and 93 percent of them are women borrowers.

And I want to take this opportunity to congratulate ECOP for your big enterprise-small enterprise program. It's a worthy break for guiding your small brothers and sisters in business, and for institutionalizing good business practices through partnerships, which are the basis for the yearly Kapatid awards and now the Lakan sa Kalakaan award of Don Emilio, the very first awardee of Lakan sa Kalakalan.

We want to partner with you on our pro-poor programs: the Tindahan Natin, which specializes in selling low-cost rice and noodles; the Botika ng Barangay, which specializes in selling half-priced medicines; the price reductions in LPG; the price reductions in water rates — again, thanks to Manila water — the price reductions now in electric power rates, to name a few. We have been accelerating these with the private sector, with our workers and the ordinary Filipino in mind.

And I'm very happy to say that many of our partners are here in this ECOP conference today. Indeed, ECOP has led industry well in this task. And I am sure ECOP will continue to lead the country to new horizons of competitiveness, partnerships and reforms.

I believe nothing is impossible with ECOP by the side of this government.

Thank you ECOP for being a true partner for growth.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 28th National Conference of Employers 2007. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151047/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1963&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 28th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) 'Sansinirangan' Class 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 28th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA)
'Sansinirangan' Class 2007**

[Delivered at the Camp Gen. Mariano Castañeda Parade Grounds, Silang, Cavite, March 22, 2007]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Secretary Ronnie Puno.

Vice President de Castro; I would also like to acknowledge the presence and greet Congressman Boying Remulla; Dr. Cojuangco; Senior Superintendent Tira; may I also congratulate, now Inspector Basiya, for your very, very impressive and substantive valedictory address; PNP Chief Calderon; Fire Director Collado; Jail Director Cruz; other government officials; staff; uniformed and non-uniformed officers; personnel; corps of cadet; mga magulang na talagang pwede ninyo ipagmalaki ang inyong mga graduating sons and daughters today; other guests:

Binabati ko ang Sansinirangan Class 2007 sa inyong pagtatapos.

Nung una binasa ko yung pangalan ng inyong class, Sansinirangan, sabi ko sasabihin ko na lang congratulations class 2007. Kasi baka mabulol ang aking pagsasalita. kaya lang nung nalaman ko nga, lalo na binanggit din ni Senior Superintendent Tira ang ibig sabihin ng inyong pangalan, napaka mabuluhan. Sansinirangan, pinaghalong salitang waray-waray nang pinagdugtong ng san, kasi yung san gaya ng sambayanan, sanduguan, ang ibig sabihin pagkakaisa o unity. Ang sinirangan naman ibig sabihin sa waray-waray bagong panimula, kaya new beginning. United for new beginning. Kaya napaka-importante ang pangalan ng inyong klase, 'Sansinirangan' Class 2007.

Ibig sabihin ang inyong grupo ay nagkakaisa, yun na yung san, na pasimulan, yung sinirangan, ang inyong pagbabago sa pagbibigay seguridad sa ating mga mamamayan. Unity for a new beginning, that is what I understand is meant by sansinirangan.

And this is the mandate addressed to you and to the rest of the Filipino people as we cross the high curve of economic growth and look forward to the triumph of democracy especially in the elections this coming may.

Bakit ko pinag-uusapan ang eleksiyon itong Mayo? Hindi dahil kayo ay dapat mamulitika kung hindi dahil meron kayong importanteng papel sa kapayapaan ng ating halalan. I don't wish nor expect violence to increase as we move closer to the elections, but you and I and Secretary Puno and General Calderon must take a number of actions — and we are taking a number of actions — through increased police presence. To protect candidates, to protect the public, to protect the right to the ballot box. The political process is just as important as the political outcome. We will have fair elections. But to you today I would like to say our efforts are also equally directed at ensuring that the elections are also free from violence. Yan ang inyong magiging unang mga assignment bilang bagong inspector.

As you enter a new phase in your career as law enforcers, whether it is police, jail management or fire protection, so is our nation entering a durable future of growth and prosperity, solidarity and reform, peace and hope. The Philippine peso continues to register record highs against the dollar. Well, this may be due to a number of factors, the biggest single act that we believe is mainly responsible for the good performance of the Philippine economy was the passage of our value-added tax, which in one bold stroke raised serious revenue to send an unmistakable signal that we are serious about moving the nation forward.

That isn't all though. Our complete focus on the economy, fiscal discipline, a balanced budget and the need for long overdue human and physical infrastructure improvements have round out the economic surge. And I am glad that your valedictorian, Inspector Basiya, among the many impressive things he said to show how he's internalized our mission and vision very aptly connected public safety to the success of our economy.

(by the way, naka at ease na ba sila? Hindi pa sila at ease? Mukhang hindi pa kayo naka at ease. At ease.)

And our focus on the economy is paying off in a strong peso, low inflation, a robust stock market, rapid inflows of foreign investment, and over five million new jobs in the last six years. Our unemployment is the lowest in a long time and our poverty rate is the lowest as well. The surge of investment is coming from all points of the compass. It doubled in the first two months of 2007 at a time when doomsayers were expressing a lag due to the forthcoming elections. The trend is now clear that investors are putting their stake in our vision for the future. This is most of all a tribute to Filipinos here and abroad who have kept faith in the great potentials of our nation, a faith that has spread far and wide across the Asia-Pacific. At the same time this government and all the institutions including the police, the fire department, the jail management bureau are closing ranks to clean up the mess of the past and forge ahead with integrity, excellence and productivity.

The political noise has largely been bypassed by the investment community. We have crossed the sound barrier. We have entered the frontier of peace, development, security and prosperity. The growing efficiency, competence and professionalism of the men and women in the Philippine National Police, the Jail Management, the Fire Bureau ride beside our overall gains in the economy and the political stability.

I would like the PNPA, the Police, the Fire Department, the Jail Management, and indeed all our national public servants to share in the social payback of our economic reforms. That is why for the benefit of our cadets in the Philippine National Academy, I'm instructing Secretary Puno to allocate five million pesos for new barracks for our PNP cadets.

And for our new policemen, new fire inspectors, new jail inspectors, as well as the rest of the police fire fighting and jail management force that you are joining, I am asking Vice President Noli De Castro, as chairman of HUDCC, and Secretary Puno to work together so that they can prepare a proclamation whereby with regard to the property right behind this campus, 50 hectares all in all, we will be proclaiming that property for off-base and on-base housing for police, firemen and jail managers and personnel.

And for you and for the rest of our national public servants, I have just signed an executive order, soon to be made publish adding yet another compensation increase for all national government employees.

Lifted by a sturdy fiscal house, a solid program of good governance, a robust payback to the poor as well as the ordinary Filipinos — one million of which are national government employees. Now including you, our young graduates — and mounting gains on the security front where you, our young graduates will also participate, we have arrived at the gates of permanent political stability under the rule of law and criminal justice.

For every criminal brought to the bar of justice, for every case resolved under due process, the good credit goes to the police officer on the beat and on patrol. And so for the sake of our economy, for the sake of our future, as Inspector Basiya has said is your role, be guardians of our streets and homes. Keep the people from harm's way. That will be your great contribution and investment in the future of our country.

Maraming salamat.

Congratulations sa inyong lahat mga graduating students!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 28th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) 'Sansinirangan' Class 2007. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151024/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1959&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the 7th Annual Publish Asia 2007 Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremony of the 7th Annual Publish Asia 2007 Conference**

[Delivered at the Polkabal Ballroom, Manila Hotel, Manila City, March 27, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Bunye

Mr. Mittelbach; Mr. Pichay; Don Emilio; the newspaper and magazine executives; movers and shakers of the publishing industry; participants in this Publish Asia; ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning and welcome to the Philippines!

I'm very happy to have the chance to open this conference and welcome you to the Philippines. But your conference is so important, you're going to see me twice today, here in the welcome ceremonies and also at dinner tonight. And this is our way of saying that we thank you for your role in broadening our regional frontiers in trade, security and political consolidation.

And we also commend the major Philippine newspapers: Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star, Inquirer and Manila Times that comprise the Philippine team hosting this event. Congratulations to all of you!

Why is Publish Asia so important that the head of the country would be with you twice in one day? It is our message, it is our way of saying that we Filipinos believe in the freedom of the press. We embrace the central role of the media in a free society. And we believe that responsible media bridges the gap between the public and the government.

Not that we always agree with members of the media. Many times we don't agree with the members of the media and what they report. But that is just part of the give and take of politics, and that is just part of our job.

Let me take this opportunity to say that I am optimistic about the future of the Philippines and the well-being of the Filipino people. Our national agenda is designed to move the nation forward toward greater political stability, economic prosperity and peace and order. The national agenda is focused on creating good paying jobs, stable prices and bringing the benefits of a strong economy to every single Filipino.

Our government has made the tough but necessary decisions to strengthen our economy. These painful steps are paying off: we now have the money to invest in job creation, new roads, bridges and ports, and more for education and health care.

For the first time in a long time, the government is doing what average households do: working to balance the budget and not keep going into debt.

We are concerned with real, everyday challenges that confront the people— alleviating hunger, creating jobs, and checking prices of essential items.

This conference of yours shows how you consider it important to have strong international and regional alliances, so also with governments. Through strong international alliances, we have forged new partnerships that have led to billions in investments that helped create five million new jobs. And we have strengthened our military and security alliances in the region and the world. This has led to major gains for peace in Mindanao, the isolation and tracking down of known terrorists, and a reduction in violent crime.

Speaking of crime, let me take this opportunity to once again deplore extra-judicial killings whether they be from left or right, especially against journalists. We have a sorry history in our nation of political violence. We aim to break this cycle of violence once and for all.

We welcome the fielding of a team from the European union, as in the headline of the manila times today, to help our law enforcers get to the roots of these crimes. We are prepared to work with legitimate institutions and well-meaning allies in the international community on this issue. We welcome the U.S. government to help the Philippines in a fight versus wrong and the quest for impartial justice. And it must be said that the communist party and their armed insurgents must also put down their arms and cease their mindless murders.

The Philippines is the most democratic country in the region. I have no tolerance for human rights violations. But let me make several points very clear. I have personally advanced the process of peace in Mindanao to a new level of engagement — focused on interfaith dialogue, economic development and mutual security. We have done so with the largest possible international involvement. Peace there is very much an issue of human rights, just as alleviating poverty is, which is our number one agenda.

Indeed, there is much to do if our nation is to work toward a more modern, just and prosperous nation. And the press has its share of the task.

You come from different countries in Asia, with different kinds of political systems, different levels of development, different social organizations, different histories, but in all the countries in which you do your business, the press has the power to change the nation through information and persuasion.

A free, dynamic and responsible press can set the people moving towards the right direction of national renewal and reform.

And even as we dish out the raw and hard truth, in different degrees, in the different countries, depending on the norms in a particular country, all of us, all of you, would serve your country well by having good news that unite and inspire.

It is in this spirit that we, the Filipino people, welcome all the participants to this great and important conference.

Mabuhay!

Welcome to the Philippines!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremony of the 7th Annual Publish Asia 2007 Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151008/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1958&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 26th Biennial Convention of the Federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 26th Biennial Convention of the Federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and
Industry**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Manila City, March 30, 2007]

Well, let me begin by thanking you, thanking you Francis, thanking you the Federation for all the support. And I'd like to thank Francis' personal support and as president of the federation extended to me as president and to our people.

Well, we had a very good audio/visual presentation of that support. You were there for us when things seemed uneasy for business and politics. And like many leaders of the federation, you brought hope and optimism when others were inclined to paint a canvas of gray skies.

We saw the many audio/visual presentations of the many projects the federation was involved in. I think more than a hundred undertakings, initiatives, programs and projects ranging from promoting trade, investments and tourism, and improving fiscal discipline to the forging of new partnerships and alliances with Filipinos and Chinese business groups. And I thank you for being optimistic about... Thank you for being optimistic about the future of the nation and the well-being of the people.

Before I came to Manila Hotel this morning, I passed by my monitor of the stock exchange and I was very happy to see that as of that time the stock market had gone up over 50 points. And that reflects also the sharp increase of the country's ranking in Grant Thornton's international business report. That report is a firm indication that growing political and economic security is driving investments up in an unprecedented scale. We have found our niche in the world through the faith and excellence of Filipinos all over.

Planning, productivity and good governance have combined to place the Philippines among the top ten destinations for booming economies growing at a faster rate than average, measured against turnover and employment. Business process outsourcing, high-tech initiatives and tourism potentials lead the road forward. We're in the right place, we're in the right time to receive supersonic investments for a supersonic journey to the ranks of the first world by the next generation.

I have no doubt that the Filipino will prevail against all odds and against the politics of tearing down and destruction. That the Filipino will prevail building on the foundations of a new economy keyed to the needs of the world and to the skills of the people as we shape a secure democratic future for peace, unity and prosperity.

As many of you know, because you have been sharing with me, you have been doing policy together with me, you have been helping me form the national agenda, the national agenda is focused on creating good paying jobs, stable prices and bringing the benefits of a strong economy to every Filipino.

And I thank you for sharing with me the vision for the day when all Filipinos can choose to live and work here in the Philippines, close to family and friends, owning a home with a high quality of life.

I thank you for joining me in seeing the day when going abroad for a job is a career choice, not the only option for work.

And I'd like to think that for the first time in a long time, the government is doing what mini-medium scale Filipino-Chinese businessmen do: you balance the budget, you avoid going into debt.

And through strong international alliances, we have forged new partnerships that have led to billions in investments that helped create five million new jobs.

And through all these, Francis and the Federation, was there with me. In our trips – how many trips did you say? Twenty-three trips? – I remember very clearly Busan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, China where we forged millions of dollars worth of agreements and credit arrangements. And we have strengthened our military and security alliances in the region and the world. The Filipino-Chinese community, which you the federation represent, has been instrumental in the realization of these unprecedented and historic gains, you had been instrumental in these gains that have strengthened our fight against poverty, ignorance, disease and injustice; in our fight for freedom, peace and prosperity.

You have poured in civic conscience in times of crisis and need. I saw in the presentation reminders of your support for the value-added taxation when you as businessmen knew that you would have to make sacrifices.

It indeed shows that you realize that there is much to do if the nation is to work towards a more just, modern and prosperous nation. We must not only hold on tightly to our gains, but push them forward with the tools of national unity and solidarity as mandated by your theme: "Shared Responsibility to Sustain the Growth Momentum." Shared responsibility — responsibility of the government, responsibility of the business community especially the most dynamic part of the business community, the Filipino-Chinese business community.

I seek your help for clean and peaceful elections in May.

We're hopeful that with your support the May elections will be about the future, not the past; about new ideas, not old complaints. And it should be about fighting or a stronger nation, and not just fighting. Business and national prosperity live and thrive on bridges of unity and teamwork – that's what shared responsibility is all about. Business does not thrive on tearing down or rending our cherished institutions.

With your continued support, I can focused on the national agenda that includes more jobs, stable prices and peace and order. And because you are there, I can leave the politicking to the candidates.

With your continued support, we will work to expand education and health care. Thank you for continuing to build school buildings. With your support, we are taking action to develop a green Philippines agenda to improve our environment and beautify our communities. Thank you Francis and the other leaders of the federation for being part of the green Philippines army.

All of these examples of carrying out shared responsibility to sustain the growth momentum show that you and I share the belief in the Philippines and its hardworking people.

Let's continue to share responsibility. Let's continue to work hard together to make economic prosperity, social justice and peace and security a reality for a new, modernizing Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Message of President Arroyo during the Lenten Season [Filipino] Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa panahon ng Kuwaresma**

[Ipinahayag sa Heroes Hall, Malacañang, ika 2 ng Abril, 2007]

Wala nang mas hihigit pa kaysa pag-alay ng Panginoon ng kanyang sariling buhay matubos lamang tayo sa kasalanan.

Tayo man ay dapat ding maghandog ng sarili nating sakripisyo para sa kabutihan ng ating sambayanan at bansa, at laging magsikap na maging mapagbigay sa paglilingkod sa mga mamamayan.

Tulad ni Kristo, dapat nating pasanin ang ating krus upang maligtas ang ating bayan mula sa kahirapan at alitan.

Alisin ang galit sa ating mga puso upang wakasan na ang di-pagkakasundo at hidwaan; maliwanagan ang isipan upang matanto ang katotohanan mula sa mga bulaang pangako.

Gamitin ang ating pananalig upang palakasin ang ating pagkakaisa at pagmamahal sa kapwa.

Idalangin natin ang kagalingan ng lahat ng Pilipino, purihin ang kadakilaan ng kanyang pasakit at humingi ng kapatawaran mula sa ating mga kahinaan at kasalanan.

Ang pagkamatay ni Hesus ay nagbadya ng isang bagong buhay sa sanlibutan. Sundan natin ang kanyang mga bakas upang makita ang sinag ng isang magandang bukas sa isang bansa na tigib ng sampalataya, pagkakaisa at tibay ng loob.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Lenten Message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150943/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2004&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Lakas-CMD National Convention, April 2, 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Lakas-CMD National Convention**

[Delivered at the Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas, Folk Arts Theater CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, April 2, 2007]

Maraming salamat. Maraming salamat.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Maraming salamat, Speaker De Venecia, pangulo ng ating partido.

Maraming salamat, Chairman Emeritus, Dating Pangulong Ramos sa iyong mga inspiring words.

Binabati ko rin ang iba't-ibang mga star-studded officials ng ating lapian: narito ang ating DVP, si Mayor Sonny Belmonte; narito ang ating Secretary General, si Nonoy Libanan; narito ang iba't-ibang kasapi sa partido na nanggagaling sa ating lapian: nandiyan si Ed Ermita, si Gabby Claudio, si Sonny Alvarez, si Raul Gonzalez; nariyan ang ating Majority Leader Boy Nograles at lahat ng ating mga congressmen; nariyan ang ating senador at susunod na punong-lungsod ng Makati, si Lito Lapid; nariyan si Rico Aumentado at lahat ng mga ating mga gobernador at provincial candidates; nariyan si Jerry Treñas at lahat ng ating mga city mayors at city candidates; nandiyan si Monching Guico at lahat ng ating mga municipal mayors and municipal candidates; at nariyan kayong lahat ang ating mga kasangga at pinagtitiyagan ng kalakasan ng Lakas-CMD, magandang tanghali at maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Malakas ang pag-asa ng lakas para sa kinabukasan ng bansa at kapakanan ng taumbayan. Ang ating mga senatorial candidates hindi ko pa binati. Mamaya pag-uusapan natin sila isang-isa. Pero sa ngayon pag-uusapan natin ang plataporma. Binalangkas ang plataporma ng lakas upang isulong ang bansa tungo sa higit pang katatagan sa pulitika, kasaganaan sa ekonomiya, kapayapaan at katiwasayan.

Nakatutok ang ating plataporma sa paglikha ng mga magandang trabaho at kita, matatag na presyo, paghatid ng mga biyaya ng malakas na ekonomiya sa bawat isang Pilipino. Ito ay platapormang maka-maralita, maka-kaunlaran, maka-modernisasyon. At sabi nga ni Pangulong Ramos, “ang prinsipyo ng Lakas-CMD ay subsidiarity.” Kaya dito sa ating plataporma, we have moved the nation forward on the strength of our phalanx of our local stalwarts like Vic Magsaysay and Chavit Singson.

Tiwala tayo sa mga opisyal sa ating partido at ng ating koalisyon na tinawag ‘Team Unity,’ na sama-sama tayong magtatrabaho upang mapagpatuloy sa landas ng reporma, social justice at pag-unlad ng ekonomiya. Kayo ang bumubuo ng sentro ng demokrasyang Pilipino, ang demokrasyang Pilipino na laging ipinaglalaban ni joker arroyo. Kayo ang mga nasa frontline ng pagbabago.

Lakas partymates, congratulations! For coming out as the most trusted political party in the country. Congratulations! For being the party perceived to be the most capable of addressing the nation’s concerns, whether the economy or security. We must internalize this distinction and embrace it as a solemn responsibility to pursue the

fight for the rightful economic and social deliverance of our countrymen. This challenge is most timely and urgent because at no other time than now in the last decade do we have real opportunity for an economic takeoff.

The grand agenda of the administration — fighting poverty and terror and building peace is the foundation of political victory in the elections. Today, the administration coalition has the most comprehensive, doable and ongoing platform of nation-building that has brought six years of continuous growth to the Philippines on top of a strong campaign for law and order, democracy and human rights. Your numbers, the numbers of Lakas push the momentum of victory for the administration at all levels mula sa senador, sa pangulo, sa senador sa congress, sa probinsya, lungsod, bayan. The campaign has still a long way to go but the air of victory rides on the tide of the optimism of the people.

Lakas is the dominant majority party, and therefore, we have the extraordinary capacity to help forge unity, stability and a united front in support of our country's progress. In achieving victory and advancing of our country's goals and visions, let us be in synergy rather than in combat with the five other parties within the 'team unity' coalition, as well as with the essential sectors of the national community.

The victory of our unity team coalition in your respective districts and localities is as crucial as your own individual victory to our nation's stability and the ability to secure the present momentum of growth and progress. And so I ask you, Lakas partymate, let each vote you gather for yourself be a vote for every senatorial candidate of team unity.

Ibig nating mawakas ang gridlock. Ibig nating magpatuloy sa landas ng paglikha ng trabaho, kapital at kapayapaan at seguridad. Gusto nating magtrabaho kasama ng lahat ng mga lapian sa ating koalisyon at kahit na sa labas kung may papasok pa upang ipasulong ang bansa at hindi ipaurong.

We have worked tirelessly to build a modern nation that will one day take its rightful place beside first-world countries.

We hope for the day when enough good jobs are created in the Philippines so that hardworking Filipinos don't have to go abroad for work. We see a day when going abroad for a job is a career choice, not the only option for work.

You and I, our administration have made the tough but necessary decisions to strengthen our economy. These painful steps are paying off. Now, we have the money — thanks to Ralph Recto — to invest in job creation, new roads, bridges and ports; and thanks also to Ed Angara, more on education and healthcare.

Through strong international alliances, we have forged new partnerships that have helped to create five million new jobs. And we have strengthened our military and security alliances in the region and the world. This has led to major gains for peace in Mindanao, from the Caraga of Butch Pichay to the Sulu of Sultan Kiram, this has led to the isolation and tracking down of known terrorists and a reduction in violent crime.

For the first time in a long time, the government is doing what average Filipino families do, yung mga Filipino families na kinakampiyon ni Tito Sotto, kaya tawag natin tito sa senado. Like the average Filipino families, the government is working to balance the budget and reduce our debt. And rather than borrowing to leave our nation in debt as has happened in the past, our administration is investing in the nation and particularly our young people. Ibig sabihin, ang ating ginagawa — MAS PARA SA KIDZ MO. Bakit ko sinabi yung "MAS PARA SA KIDZ MO." Paalala ang ating hangarin, paalala rin ang mga pangalan ng ating kandidato.

"MAS PARA SA KIDZ MO" — MAS, M-A-S: M-A for Magsaysay, S for Singson. Kaya yung mas yung dalawang gobernador. PARA, P-A-R-A: P for Pichay, A for Angara, R for Recto, A for Arroyo, sila ay mga mambabatas. Mas para SA, S-A: S is for Sotto, A is for Aquino-Oreta, yung dalawang dating senador. Mas para sa KIDZ, K-I-D-Z: K-I, Kiram; D, Defensor; Z, Zubiri. Yung...so yung si Mike Defensor at Migz Zubiri ay yung mga kabataan, si Kiram naman ay elder statesman ng Sulu. At mas para sa KIDZ MO, MO for Montano, a class of his own.

There is much to do if the nation is to work towards a more just, modern and prosperous nation.

We will work to expand education, as Tessie Aquino-Oreta has been doing and will continue to do. We will work to expand healthcare, as Cesar Montano has pledged to do ever since he came across the poisoned children in Bohol. We will take action to develop a green Philippine agenda to improve our environment, as Migz Zubiri has legislated, and through green Philippines we will beautify and put order in our communities, as Mike Defensor has implemented. And we will do all these by working with you, our local party stalwarts, to see that the benefits of the new economy are spread to every corner of the Philippines and not just Metro Manila.

Much of the stability and harmony. Thank you, thank you. Much of the stability and harmony that we wish to have in society will also depend on how politicians undertake the campaign and endeavor to attain victory with honor and dignity. Let us keep these elections peaceful and credible.

And let us join the call of the church for all candidates to spare the Lenten days of Holy Thursday and Good Friday from political noise. Let us all respect the solemnity of the height of the Lenten season and use it as a time for moral rearmament, healing and solidarity.

Pinagsisikapan nating masiguro ang katatagan ng pulitika at ekonomiya upang mabigyan ng pag-asa at inspirasyon ang milyun-milyong masisipag na Pilipino na karapat-dapat magtamo ng mas magandang kalidad ng buhay. Ang tagumpay nitong layunin ay tagumpay ng lakas.

Ang ating koalisyon ay ‘Team Unity’ — suportahan ang pangkat ng pagkakaisa.

Ang ating partido ay Lakas — palakasin pa natin ang ating samahan upang makamit ang ating pambansang mithiin. Gaya nang sinabi ni President Ramos, “kaya natin ito!” ‘di ba?

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Mabuhay ang Lakas!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA’s Speech during the Lakas-CMD National Convention. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150933/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2005&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Message of President Arroyo during Easter [Filipino]

**Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Pasko ng Pagkabuhay**

[Ipinahayag sa Malacañang Palace Grounds, Malacañang, ika 8 ng Abril, 2007]

Ang muling pagkabuhay ni Kristo ay matibay na patunay ng ginhawa pagkatapos ng paghihirap, at panibagong lakas pagkatubos sa kasalanan.

Ganyan din ang ating pambansang hangarin, ang maibalik sa tao ang mga biyaya ng isang lumalagong ekonomiya, mas higit na kaligtasan, kapayapaan at pagkalinga.

Nawa’y bigyang-sigla ng Linggo ng pagkabuhay ang pamilyang Pilipino upang magsama na puno ng pagsamba at tibay ng loob, nagsisikap makamit ang pangarap ng magandang bukas, sumasabay sa agos ng pag-asa at paniniwalang magiging mabuti ang lahat, nagtataguyod ng makabuluhang pagbabago sa ating pamumuhay.

Nawa’y itaas ng saya ng pasko ng pagkabuhay ang ating diwa upang ipagbunyi ang kahusayan ng pilipino sa lahat ng sulok ng mundo.

At nawa’y patnubayan tayo ng Poong Maykapal sa maluwalhati nating paglalakbay tungo sa isang makabago at maunlad na Pilipinas.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Easter Message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150917/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2003&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Araw ng Kagitingan

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Araw ng Kagitingan

[Read by Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita at the Dambana ng Kagitingan, Mt. Samat, Pilar Bataan, April 9, 2007]

Her Excellency Christy Kenney of the United States of America, His Excellency Ambassador Uichiro Yamasaki of Japan, Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, the Honorable Governor Enrique Garcia, Congressman Carlos Garcia, ang Kagalang-galang na Arch-Obispo Socrates, the officials of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, local officials, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, General Hermogenes Esperon and the Commanders of the Major Services, General Romeo Tolentino of the Philippine Army, Admiral Calusag of the Navy and the General Horacio Tolentino of the Philippine Air Force and the officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the officials of the Philippine National Police, ang mga kasapi ng Couples for Christ, mga mahal nating mga Beterano at ang kanilang mga mahal na pamilya, members of media, our foreign guests, other special guests, friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Ako po ay tumatayong kinatawan ng ating Mahal na Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo na nagpapahatid ng kanyang pagbati sa inyong lahat na mga Beterano at mga pamilya ng mga Beterano. Ikinalulungkot po ni Pangulong Arroyo na siya ay hindi makakarating ngayong araw na ito dahil sa hindi inaasahang pangyayari kaya ako ay naatasan ni Pangulong Arroyo na basahin ang kanyang mensahe sa inyo ngayong umaga.

With great awe and reverence, we are gathered here today to honor the Filipino soldiers who give life and treasure that we may all leave in peace and freedom. This is just after we have commemorated the death and resurrection of the greatest martyr of all time, Jesus Christ in days of prayer and sacrifice. We pay homage to the fighters of Bataan, Corrigidor and the other battlegrounds of the Philippines in the second world war and their compatriots in other campaigns, Korea, Vietnam, in an unbroken tradition of valor that stretches to today's war on terror and insurgency. Today, we are proud to be gathered with allies in the field of peace and development, in the fight against terror and poverty, in the liberation of peoples not only from tyranny but from ignorance, disease and injustice. The three nations that were the combatants of yesteryears, the Philippines, the United States and Japan are today's partner standing shoulder to shoulders in the field of common dreams and aspirations in a region fraught with challenges and opportunities.

And for the Veterans, who are still with us today, here in front of us, I shall continue to serve you and your love ones with full understanding and a deep sympathy for your needs.

For years 2006 and 2007, the National Government has released a total of P19.57 Billion for regular pension and P1.6 Billion for pension arrears for the remaining months of this year, the Department of Budget and Management will release P9 Billion for regular pension.

I am instructing the Secretary of Budget to release another P1.8 Billion for pension arrears by 2008, next year we will be up to date in our pension's payments.

In United States, the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs is scheduled to conduct a hearing on Veterans issues and depending Veterans Equity Bill on April 11, a few days from now. This is the closest the United States Legislature has come towards the possible passage of the Equity Bill for the Veterans, given their contributions to preserving the democracy and given that our historic and strategic cooperation continues in fighting challenges to the values and ideals that we all share and hold dear. We hope that all the US officials will support all these efforts to past legislation that would allow our Filipino Veterans to obtain the benefits they have long sought for and truly deserve. And we pray, that the future of this region will continue to be defined by the same ideals that we fought for

the end of war and conflict. The dawn of liberty and the ascendancy of free and fair trade across borders. For our region, this means that holding on to the fights against terror and poverty, building alliances for vigilance and developments preserving the environment and protecting human rights. Our national agenda, is focused on creating good paying jobs, stable prices, bringing the benefits of a strong economy to every single Filipino. It is a pro-poor pro-growth and pro-modernization agenda.

We have worked tirelessly to build a modern nation that will one day take his rightful place besides first world economies. We see a day, when going abroad for a job is a career choice, not the only option for work.

Our government has made the tough but necessary decision strengthen our economy, this painful steps are paying off, now we have the money to invest in job creation, new roads, bridges and ports and more for education and health care and veterans pension and with the helps of our friends in the United States Congress and the US Government, we have a vision for the day when all Filipino Veterans can choose to live in the Philippines, close to family and friends, enjoying the veterans benefits that will give them a high quality of life.

Mabuhay ang ating mga Beterano!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Araw ng Kagitingan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150903/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2002&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd National Convention of the Account Officers of the Social Security System (SSS)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd National Convention of the Account Officers of the Social Security System (SSS)**

[Delivered at the Quezon Ballroom, Great Easter Hotel, Quezon City, April 18, 2007]

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you very much, Chairman Cunanan. And I'd like to especially thank you because when last September I asked you to propose and work for the ten percent increase in benefits for the SSS members, right after that the SSS board approved it. Thank you very much for that.

Thank you also and congratulations! To Cora Dela Paz. Because under your very, very disciplined financial reforms in the SSS and making sure that investments of SSS are all sound, objective, rational, no behest investments, the actuarial life of SSS has improved from 2015 to 2038. Congratulations!

Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, maraming salamat for welcoming us here in behalf of the big city of Quezon City which is one-half of Metro Manila and I'm sure many SSS members are residents of your city.

Gusto kong batiin ang ating mga commissioners, members of the board, yung kayong lahat mga account officers ng Social Security System. Congratulations! On your second national convention and congratulations! On the 50th anniversary of SSS.

Kanina tinatanong ko kay Cora yung specific job functions ng account officers. Of course, we are all aware of what account officers do. There are account officers in banks. There are account officers in insurance companies, real estate companies, sales companies, and I wanted to see how the general function of an account officer is translated into what SSS account officers do. And from her description and her answers to my probing questions about what you do, I can gather that this is a gathering of the best and brightest in the SSS. You are the committed and dedicated foot soldiers of the institution. You spearhead collections. You spearhead good governance. Thank you for your sterling services to the people.

Bakit sabi nating good collection and good governance. Kasi dahil sa pag-collect n'yo ng magaling even if we don't have to increase contributions by 10 percent we can have increase contribution... Increase benefits by 10 percent dahil sa magandang koleksyon ninyo gumaganda ang fiscal position ng SSS. And therefore that translates into good governance.

Pag kailangan ng konting increase ng kontribusyon during our administration dahil gusto pa natin mag-recover ang ating working class sa mga nakaraang kahirapan ang nagsasagot sa employees contribution ay yung ating mga employer. Kaya maraming salamat sa ating Employers Confederation of the Philippines, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Sila ay may kinatawan sa Board of Commissioners ng SSS and these patriotic organizations spearheaded the move of the employers to shoulder whatever increase in contribution rates occurred in 2003 and this year. Thank you too to the employers.

Kung titignan natin kung ano na ang nangyari sa SSS in the past six years — and now that I have a chance to speak with you — I can't help but remember baseline situation in 2001, Sus! SSS was faced by the threat of collapse by 2015. Steep challenges that took a heavy toll on its actuarial standing. Yun na nga hindi n'yo kasalanan, nagko-collect kayo ng magaling, ang problema yung collections napupunta sa mga investments na hindi karapat-dapat.

But Cora changed that. We embarked on a radical reform program and after six years your institution is more than back to its feet. It is stronger and more resilient than ever. What a great gift for the 50th anniversary of SSS.

And if we look at the world around us, your accomplishments are even more deserving of praise in the face of emergent global crisis in social security programs that are in dire straits in other countries, while ours, yours, and our peoples is sailing steady on an even keel.

The reform of the SSS that started greatly with Cora's administration and added on in a couple of years by the policy leadership of Thelmo Cunanan and our board, these were part of the hard-fought economic reform battles through which the Philippines has finally broken loose from its historic legacy of lethargy. Everybody talks about the tax reforms. It's time that everybody knows also about the SSS reforms. When we talk about new revenues, we include increases in contributions for SSS. But not only from those small increases in contribution rates that the employers have agreed to shoulder in behalf of the workers, but your better collection and overall in our country a crackdown on tax cheats, but in your case also a crackdown on those who are cheating on their remittances. And these together with the fiscal discipline, fiscal discipline in our national budget where the money goes to where it should be in a very directed focus, but also fiscal discipline on the part of SSS making sure that the investments of SSS are sound and rational. All these have put the Philippines on a path to permanent, sustainable economic growth and stability. Yun naman ang kaibahan ng kaunlaran sa ilalim ng ating administrasyon. Six years, 24 quarters of uninterrupted growth. Nung araw kasi boom and bust. Yung boom and bust every three years akyat-baba. Ngayon tayo akyat-akyat-akyat. At ang laki ng papel ng SSS, ang reforms at yung inyong mga collection. And the world is taking notice. The Philippines offers one of the best values in Asia for investors.

There has been a significant increase in investments, exports. Sa kabila na ang lakas ng piso natin tuloy pa rin tumataas ang ating exports and job creation. Our unemployment rate has gone down. And so I ask you, let's continue to work to ensure that this positive momentum will be sustained. As part of that effort, we are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos for education, health care and training — at marami dito ay tinutulungan yung mga beneficiaries ng SSS — along with additional billions of pesos for new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines.

I really take great pride in the discipline of the stalwarts and the soldiers, including yourselves, of our administration. We are very disciplined in our focus on the economy and our overall economic health. And I'm proud of the fact that because of the improving finances of our national government and our financial institutions like SSS, external debt is declining at a rapid clip. We have repaid... Prepaid so many of our loans. We're committed to making sure we use the new resources these developments are generating to invest in vital social and economic needs. At kayo ang dami niyong ginagawa para doon. It's been a tough road — I'm sure Cora had a hard time turning around the finances of SSS and lengthening its actuarial life from 2015 to 2038 — but together, all of us, I and the members of our administration long ago made a decision not to sacrifice long-term gains for short-term political expediency.

Yung nalalabi pang mga kahirapan eh kasama yun — nagka-opera nga ang aking asawa — kasama na yun sa pag malubha ang sakit ng isang katawan pag kailangan operahan siyempre magkakaran ng sakit. Halimbawa ngayon nilalagat pa siya, bahagi yun sa post-operative complications. Nguni't sa katagalan ang mangyayari ay sustained recovery. And that is what has been done with SSS, that is what has been done with the national government.

As a result of the SSS reform program, we're really very happy and we must be proud that the actuarial life has been extended from 2015 to 2038. Malaking bagay yung inyong collections at I hope, inaasahan ko, na yung condonation program na dineklara natin nung May 1 nung isang taon ay nakatulong. I hope it enabled you to collect even more. In fact you've collected 1.7 billion pesos in delinquent accounts. Congratulations! To you for that. And because you

were able to collect all of these together with our incentive that they would have some condonation or penalties, you have brought back, I understand, 200,000 SSS members to good standing. That is congratulations! To our account officers. And because of that the SSS last year, last September, was able to grant a 10 percent increase in pensions benefiting more than one million members.

Ngayon 50th anniversary ninyo. Kaya ang aking instructions muli, ang aking request sa ating board, ay maybe let's gift the Filipino people with another 10 percent increase in benefits this year. This is social payback. Gaya nang sabi ni cora kanina, you the SSS are a fulcrum for social justice.

You are also the medium of industrial peace. Narito ang ating kinatawan ng mga manggagawa. SSS is a part of a mechanism that mitigates the financial burden of workers — basta in good standing, nakakahiram, SSS salary loans — encourages the overall productivity in the workplace and forges harmony in the economy.

But even as we celebrate our 50 years and the six years of hard-fought reforms within the institution that are now paying off for our people, we still realize that new social security schemes are imperative as we modernize our economy.

As we enter the 20th century, as SSS enters its second 50 years and so I ask SSS, the account officers, the different market developers to focus on the coverage for instance of our OFWs. Kaya sabi sa akin kanina ni Chairman Thelmo Cunanan, we are now going to focus on our overseas Filipinos in America as a trial or a pilot so that we can increase the coverage of SSS. Isa pa yung mga self-employed workers. Yun din kasi hindi naman automatic. Hindi kagaya ng korporasyon na ilalim sa batas kailangan kasama sa SSS. Self-employed workers are a very, very big source also for coverage. And we were discussing that with Cora while we were here, that's one way by which you can increase the market when you go to the community, when you talk to people, when you do your collections you can also identify new SMEs or even micro-enterprises that may want to cover themselves with SSS, self-employed workers and those who belong to the underground economy. Parang talagang insurance salesman naghahanap ng mga bagong kliyente.

And SSS also must broaden its involvement in programs that have a direct impact on the lives and welfare of the poor, such as housing kasi yung housing loans napakalaking bagay yun para sa ating SSS members. And we are doing our best in order to finance the construction of housing, so that the SSS members can also finance their own amortizations and interest payments. Kaya yun naman isang tulong para sa housing sector ay... Yung housing industry they are now... And the economy, the whole economy is now enjoying the lowest interest rates in history, 'di ba, single digit. Meron pa ngang mga prime accounts diyan three percent lang ang kinukubra sa kanila. And so you have the real estate firms putting up housing and you have SSS financing the servicing or the take out of the members of the SSS.

And therefore we have these continuing challenges. But if you have gone through the challenge of improving collections and improving the investments — those were great challenges that were almost for awhile seemingly insurmountable — I'm sure these challenges now of widening your market, improving the benefits and getting into additional investment areas or more investment areas like microfinance that should be much easier than what we have done, what you have done over the last six years. So kung ano pa itong mga hamon ay hamon ng kung paano mas gumaling pa ang SSS. Hindi na hamon kung papaano mabubuhay ang SSS, buhay na buhay na ang SSS dahil sa inyo.

And so as far as the remaining challenges are concerned which are challenges of modernization and getting into the new century and spreading the benefits to a bigger population of our people, I am confident that you are up to the challenge because you have been up to even more difficult challenges in the last six years. And so on this your second national convention, on this year your 50th anniversary my message is: let us sustain our gains, the gains that you brought about in the last six years. And let us build on them in the next many years for the brighter future of the Filipino.

Mabuhay ang account officers ng SSS!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 2nd National Convention of the Account Officers of the Social Security System (SSS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150849/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2001&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Official Opening and Welcome of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Official Opening and Welcome of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2007**

[Delivered at the Boao, Hainan Island, People's Republic of China, April 21, 2007]

First of all, I would like to congratulate my predecessor President Ramos for being reelected as chairman of the Boao Conference. And I would like to thank President Ramos and his two counterparts from Australia and Japan for having initiated this very important Forum nine years ago. Today's plenary raises a number of compelling points.

First point: To what extent will the current approaches to driving economic growth in Asia be able to sustain the social and environmental fabric in a responsible manner?

In other words to use the jargon of Boao, how do we have win-win? Rapid economic growth on one hand and a sustainable, social and environmental fabric on the other.

As our economic engines drive us to first-world status, we must not do so on the backs of the poor nor at the expense of our environment.

I am optimistic about the current approaches. I believe they can transform our economies and lift up the poor.

As a region we have a chance to get it right. We can emulate the best practices of development while avoiding the mistakes of modernization that have plagued many nations.

We must use every tool available – education, technology, microfinance – to lift up our poor, if we are to achieve equitable, sustainable growth.

In the Philippines we are investing aggressively in the IT. backbone. We are bringing the internet to every high school and spending more pesos for education. We are bringing incentives to start small and micro businesses to build an entrepreneurial class. And I would like to say that in doing this, we have learned from the participants of this Forum.

We have learned from Doctor Yunus the power of microfinance. And we have applied doctor Yunus' your trailblazing experience to millions of entrepreneurs, mostly women in the Philippines who have been able to lift their families out of poverty. Thank you for your contribution to the fight against poverty.

And the global success of Microsoft under your visionary leadership, Mr. Gates, has reminded us of the power of innovation to change the world for the better. We agree with you that technology is a powerful tool to liberate the potential of individuals and nations to grow and prosper. And learning from your wisdom and your achievements Mr. Gates, I'm happy to say that in the Philippines, the I.T. sector is the fastest growing sector in our economy today.

The second point raised in this Forum is: How crucial is it for the region to have an approach with sustainable development as a priority and what is the role of innovation in this context? Our answer is: it is essential for the region to have sustainable development as a priority.

The role of innovation in this context is vital along with political will. The Philippines is a case in point: We need to continue to develop a larger manufacturing base along with our booming service economy to create good jobs. At the same time, to have a win-win solution, we must also become more self-sufficient and cost effective in our energy consumption. There is no reason we cannot do both and have a win-win through innovation, proper policy planning and united political and civic leadership.

For instance, we have launched a biofuels program. It will rely on investment and innovation to create jobs, skills and self-reliance while keeping our environment clean. In this case, our model is Brazil which has pioneered in biofuels. We must continue to learn around the world and in our region.

We have the opportunity in Asia to learn from other nations and create our own sustained path to development.

We must think outside the box, harness technology and use innovation to break the cycle of energy dependence and environmental degradation.

Third point: As growth in Asia transitions from being export-driven to domestically-driven, what impact will this shift bring to Asia's leading lights – China, India and Japan?

The impact will likely be profound on all economies but particularly India and China, less so Japan because it is already an advanced industrial economy. We in ASEAN are delighted with the growth of China and India to add to the power of Japan in the region. In the Philippines, we benefit from this growth. It can only help lift up our nation as it lifts up the others, too. This is a good, positive, healthy development, but we must work together to add to, not subtract from, our quality of life.

Chairman Wu, China is a strong partner of ASEAN and a reliable friend of the Philippines, so let me spend a minute focusing on the implications of your surge. China's remarkable rise reflects the promise and challenge of the world in which we live in. We see your dramatic growth lifting millions out of poverty and springing your nation squarely onto the world stage as a new global power. And you also understand the need to balance growth with concerns for the environment and quality of life.

China has unleashed the human potential of its vast citizenry by the effective use of technology, science and entering. It will be these same elements that will help China bring balance to a new model of sustainable development. We are all eager for China to succeed. And Chairman Wu, we will watch closely as you manage the desires for growth, equity and environmental solidarity.

As China and India become true political and economic giants, their obligations to their neighbors will increase; separate from their obligations to their own citizens. Ascendance onto the world stage carries implications not just for economic development, but for management of our environment on a sustainable basis, and for maintaining broader peace and stability in the region and the world.

And speaking of stability for the region and the world, the relationship between China and Japan also has important implications for regional stability in Asia. And we are very happy to hear all the news all over the world about the increasingly cordial relationship between China and Japan. And I am happy to read even from the editorials of the newspapers in China that one of the reasons for the increasing relationship of trust between President Wu and Premier Wen and Prime Minister Abe of Japan has been your meeting in the Philippine island of Cebu last January.

Fourth point: What are the implications of this shift to each of these countries, to the businesses that operate within them, and their Asian neighbors vis-à-vis their political, economic and environmental relationships with these giants?

While it would be inappropriate for me to comment on how these changes would impact the internal fabric of China and India, I can begin to address how their growth and dynamism impact the rest of us.

As chair of ASEAN, we hope for greater economic integration between ASEAN and the robust economies of China, Japan and India. Last January in Cebu, we led ASEAN to make a declaration on the ASEAN charter, which is a milestone in our region's history.

And I am very happy also to acknowledge President Ramos as one of the eminent persons putting together the concept of the ASEAN charter.

As part of this charter, we are pledging to become an integrated trading bloc by 2015. We are proud that ASEAN took a bold step forward by agreeing to move toward an E.U. style institution. This is the first step toward even closer political, security, and economic engagement. It will strengthen ASEAN and the ties with our special partners such as Japan, China and India.

From the strictly Philippine point of view, we welcome the surge in economic growth and development as a healthy development for our nation and our region. Japan and China are investing billions in the Philippines, and hopefully India will one day do the same.

The internal market demands and domestic consumption of these nations are having a direct and positive impact on our nation in terms of job creation, investment and balance of trade. We hope it continues.

Let me conclude with these final thoughts. I am bullish on Asia and our ability to help drive positive change in the world – win-win.

The Boao Forum has once again brought together some of the world's leading lights to engage in meaningful conversation about the world and Asia's role in it. We must continue to build and strengthen institutions be they powerful NGO foundations like for instance the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation or empowered entities like ASEAN and East Asia summit.

I am optimistic about our ability to work together as a region and to solve our own problems and in the process, create a new Asian paradigm for progress that will be a model for the rest of the world as other regions and other nations continue on their own path to progress.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services]

Speech of President Arroyo during the International Earth Day Celebration 2007

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the International Earth Day Celebration 2007

[Delivered at the Bulwagang Rizal, Malacañang, April 23, 2007]

Happy Earth Day!

Kahapon ang Earth Day pero ngayon ang working day, kaya natin ipinagdiriwang ang Earth Day dito sa ating pamahalaan. Itong Earth Day na ito, ano ang kanyang konteksto? Ang konteksto ng ating Earth Day ay iyong ating pagsisikap na walang tigil upang magtayo ng modernong bansa na lalahok balang araw sa hanay ng mga bansang mayaman at maunlad. Iyon bang first world in 20 years. Matipuno ang aking pag-asa sa hinaharap ng sambayanan at sa pag-angat ng mamamayan. Our national agenda can transform our economy and lift up the poor.

Ngunit, dapat nating gamitin ang bawat kasangkapang hawak natin; edukasyon, teknolohiya, pautang sa maralita o microfinance upang makaahon ang ating mga kababayang mahihirap at matamo natin ang pag-unlad ng para sa lahat at para sa kalikasan.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan dahil narito si Secretary Ding Panganiban, namumuno ng NAPC, narito si Ed Pamintuan ang ating kampeon ng Luzon Urban Beltway, nandito ba ang Flying V? Yes, Flying V. Nandito ang Rotary District 3800, yes, di ba? Nandito kayo pati iyong Rotary Club ng Cosmopolitan San Juan, nandito rin iyong Philippine Confederation of Grains Association. Gusto kong magpasalamat sa inyo sa inyong kasunduang magtutulungan upang maibsan ang kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng pagkakaloob ng feeding and skills and values training sa mahihirap na benepisyaryo sa ilang prayoridad na lugar sa Luzon Urban Beltway, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

They are part of the economic engine to drive us to first world status in 20 years. But even as they do so, even as we do so, we must not do so at the back of the poor, nor at the expense of the environment.

No nation can aspire to become modern without thinking of our environment. *Napakahalagang tutukan natin ang kaunlarang makakalikasan. Kaya bawat April 22 ng bawat taon, we have marked this every year as Earth Day in the Philippines.*

Mayroon tayong isa pang Cabinet member na napakaimportante sa ating programa para sa kalikasan. Bukod kay Secretary Reyes, kay Secretary Ding Panganiban at saka kay Secretary Pamintuan, malamang sa susunod na taon kasama na natin ang Department of Education dahil itong araw na ito, I am directing the Department of Education to incorporate subjects dealing with global warming and climate change into the public school Science curriculum subjects. We want our young to be aware of global warming and other climate change phenomena.

Because we want to press ahead up to their generation with a massive **Green Philippines Environmental Plan**, that is comprehensive in scope and thorough in execution. Well, our officials from the DENR are here, I would just like to make it clear to them and to all what is this Green Philippines Plan, although I've been saying it over and over again it's time to say it again this time. This plan includes; first, reforestation; second, preservation of our reefs and waterways; third, scrubbing the land and air of pollutants that dangers the health of our citizens and fourth, energy independence.

On reforestation, we must take back our forest and replenish fallen trees with new protected forest to protect our land and our people. We must reforest that land and bring back the beauty of the Philippines, we all loved and want.

Itong darating na Mayo, ang inyong lingkod ay pupunta sa New Zealand. Kung naalaala ninyo many years ago, ang New Zealand ay tumutulong sa ating forestation sa Bukidnon. Naalaala ko noong ako ay bagong Senador noong 1992 nagtanim ako ng puno doon. Noong bumalik ako bilang Presidente ang laki-laki na ng puno. And this is New Zealand's continuing support for the Philippines, as to have expanded it to eco-tourism.

Kaya noon pumunta si Prime Minister Helen Clark dito sa Pilipinas ang kanyang attending secretary si Secretary Reyes, dib a Angie? Dahil kalikasan ang aming pinag-usapan at bumisita siya doon sa kanilang proyekto ng New Zealand doon sa Bohol, iyong mga dolphins and whales sa Pamalican Island.

Ngayon, sa pagpunta ng inyong lingkod sa New Zealand, isa sa mga tulong na ihahandog ng New Zealand kaya pupunta rin si Leonard Gibb at Narda Camacho doon ay tulong muli sa ating reforestation's program, number one program ng ating Green Philippines.

On the second program, item mode of program, first of the environmental plan, preservation of our reefs and waterways and designation of national parks and wildlife refuges. I want to turn our coral reefs and beaches after all the other wonder of the world. I want to turn them into national parks and international sanctuaries for eco-tourism and scientific research. And so as part of this, today, I thank the DENR, Angie and his officials for working very quickly so that we can have this proclamation signed today. What is this proclamation? It is a proclamation establishing a critical habitat and eco-tourism area within the coastal lagoon of Las Piñas and Parañaque and ensuring the maintenance of necessary ecological services from peripheral areas. *Ito ang ating proclamation bilang pagdiriwang sa araw ng Earth Day at pipirmahan ko ngayon.*

Iyong pangatlo, iyong anti-pollution. We want to tap the enthusiasm of young ang old alike, to clean up our environment. We need to rid our barangays and cities of trash. We need to build up more urban parks, and recreation areas, we need to purify our water and we need to clean up industrial sites that is an eye sore and are unhealthy. Unilever, thank you very much.

Kaya itong araw na ito ako ay nagagalak dahil kasama ng ating pagdinwang iyong ilang mga barangay na namumuno sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran at kalikasan sa kani-kanilang lugar. Saan dito iyong mga outstanding barangays sa ating paglinis ngkalikasan? Nandito ba sila, Narda? Okay.

Narito rin iyong ilang negosyante, iyong mga nag-oath taking kanina. Kabilang na iyong mga junk shop owners, nasaan iyong mga junk shop owners natin? Na ginagawa ang lahat para matiyak na ang kanilang negosyo ay nakakatulong sa kapaligiran at kalusugan ng mamamayan.

At kasama rin natin ang green army ng DENR, Angie? At iyong ating mga eco-aide, na matamang nagbabantay laban sa mga umaabuso ng ating kapaligiran at kalikasan.

And finally, energy independence, ito naman ay trabaho ng Secretary of Energy. The role of innovation in this context is vital along with political will. We need to develop a larger manufacturing base along with our booming service economy to create jobs. Pero kasabay nito, kailangan tayong mas umasa sa sarili at maging matipid sa paggamit ng enerhiya. There is no reason we cannot do so through, we cannot do both manufacturing and energy independence. There is no reason we cannot do both through innovation, proper quality planning and united political and civic leadership such as what we have in today's hall.

Halimbawa, naglunsad tayo ng programa sa mga bio-fuel, iyong punong batas ni Congressman Migz Zubiri, para maging Senador. Bio-fuels gaya ng ethanol at coco-biodiesel sa gawa ng pananim. Our bio-fuels program will rely on investment and innovation to create jobs, skills and self-reliance while keeping our environment clean. Dito hindi lang Secretary of Energy ang kailangan, pati Secretary of Agriculture because of the raw materials. Sa pagsisikap nating ito huwaran natin ang bansang Brazil na siyang nanguna sa bio-fuel, because we must continue to learn around the world and in our region.

May pagkakataon tayong matuto sa karanasan ng ibang bansa at magbukas ng mga bagong landas tungo sa kaunlarang maka-kalikasan.

We must think outside the box. *Gagamitin natin ang teknolohiya at innovation upang wakasan ang taung-taong pagdepende sa dayuhang langis at paglabag sa kalikasan.*

Nagmula ang ating kabuhatan sa Inang Kalikasan. Kaya sa inyong lahat na nag-aalaga sa kalikasan maraming salamat sapangangalaga ninyo at paglilingkod bilang huwaran ng paglingap sa ating kalikasan at kapaligiran.

Mabuhay ang lahat ng nagmamahal at nag-aalaga sa kalikasan!

Happy Earth Day muli sa inyong lahat!

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo on Bringing Benefits down to Every Filipino Worker, May 1, 2007

Speech

of

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

President of the Philippines

On Bringing Benefits down to every Filipino Worker

[Delivered at the Folk Arts Theater, CCP Compound, Pasay City, May 1, 2007]

That is why I'm saying our national agenda is focused on creating good paying jobs, stable prices and bringing the benefits of a strong economy to every single worker.

At gaya nang sinabi ni Ginoong Tupaz nung binasa niya yung manifesto, inaasahan natin ang araw na meron ng sapat na magagandnag trabaho na nakalikha sa Pilipinas para yung mga masisipag na Pilipino ay hindi na kailangan mag-abroad para mag-trabaho. Gaya nang sinabi ni Vladi Tupaz, ang tinitignan nating araw ay yung araw when going abroad for a job is a career choice, not the only option for work.

Kaya itong nakaraang anim na taon ginawa natin yung mga mahihirap ngunit mga kailangang desisyon para palakasin ang ating ekonomiya. And now these steps are beginning to pay off. Ngayon meron na tayong salapi para mapuhunan sa mga dibidendo ng ating social partnership.

Halimbawa, nandito si Vice President Noli De Castro, ang ating masasabi yung PAG-IBIG ay mamamahagi ng six billion pesos worth of dividends to the members. Ilan kayo dito ang PAG-IBIG members? Makakatanggap kayo ng dibidendo, total six billion. At maglalagay ng pondo... Dagdag na pondong 30 billion pesos para sa mga pautang sa mga members na kasama, pwede kayong pautangin para sa tuition at saka sa medical emergency ninyo.

Kung naalala ninyo sa nakaraan, pinatawaran natin yung mga penalty ng utang sa pag-ibig. Itutuloy natin itong condonation na ito. At ang pag-ibig ay maglalagay ng bagong 25 billion pesos para sa pabahay, six percent lamang ang interest at mababayad pa sa tatlung taon.

Yung GSIS naman, ibubuo yung programang 10-month salary loan, lalakihin yung scholarship grant, ibababa ang interes, at ire-structure yung mga housing loan. Lalawakin ang hospitalization support at aayusin ang serbisyo sa pamamagitan ng computerization — PGEA, mga hiling ninyo.

Yung SSS, ipapaibayo yung flexi fund para sa overseas Filipino workers at isasama ang informal workers sa ating SSS coverage.

Para sa mga sugar workers, magtatayo tayo ng 25 million pesos worth ng sugar livelihood centers sa Regions III, VI and X. At maglalagay tayo ng 12.6 million para sa sugar workers' socio-economic program.

Yung POEA naman ay gagamitin sampung porsiyento ng kanyang kita para labanan pang mas magaling ang illegal recruiters.

Kanina sa manifesto na binasa ni Vladimir Tupaz, sabi niya may mga nilolokong manggagawa ng Internet. Kunyari may job available, babayad kayo yun pala Hindi pala available yung job. Kaya ang gagawin ng DOLE ay titignan itong internet na ito, eeksaminin kung totoo ba iyung mga trabahong yon para ma-expose yung mga nag-i-scam sa ating mga manggagawa.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the 105th Labor Day Celebration

Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the the 105th Labor Day Celebration

[Delivered at the Folk Arts Theater, CCP compound, Pasay City, May 1, 2007]

Sa inyong lahat, mga manggagawa, isang makabuluhang Labor Day sa ating lahat

Kanina sinabi ni Mang Mocring Mendoza ang panawagan ng manggagawa ay trabahong magandang sweldo at pabahay. At yun din ang ating agenda sa ating pamahalaan. Kasi sabi nga marami pang mga walang trabaho. Totoo po yon. Pero doon sa mga bumabatikos sa mga nakaraang administrasyon, sino sa kanila ang nakalikha ng one million jobs a year? Tayo lamang sa ating administrasyon.

Yung sinundan kong administrasyon, maging meron pang iba, ang average ay 500,000 jobs sa dalawang taon. Tayo from January 2006 to January 2007, nakalikha ng 1.5 million jobs. Kaya ipinagtatrabaho natin yung magkaroon ng trabaho ang walang trabaho.

That is why I'm saying our national agenda is focused on creating good paying jobs, stable prices and bringing the benefits of a strong economy to every single worker.

At gaya nang sinabi ni Ginoong Tupaz nung binasa niya yung manifesto, inaasahan natin ang araw na meron ng sapat na magagandang trabaho na nalikha sa Pilipinas para yung mga masisipag na Pilipino ay hindi na kailangan mag-abroad para mag-trabaho. Gaya nang sinabi ni Vladi Tupaz, ang tinitingnan nating araw ay yung araw when going abroad for a job is a career choice, not the only option for work.

Kaya itong nakaraang anim na taon ginawa natin yung mga mahihirap ngunit mga kinakailangang desisyon para palakasin ang ating ekonomiya. And now these steps are beginning to pay off. Ngayon meron na tayong salapi para mapuhunan sa mga dididendo ng ating social partnership.

Halimbawa, nandito si Vice President Noli De Castro, ang ating masasabi yung Pag-IBIG mamamahagi ng six billion pesos worth of dividends to the members. Ilan kayo ditong mga Pag-IBIG members? Makakatanggap kayo ng dididendo, total six billion. At maglalagay ng dagdag na pondong 30 billion pesos para sa mga pautang sa mga members na kasama, pwede kayong pautangin para sa tuition at saka sa medical emergency ninyo.

Kung naaalala ninyo sa nakaraan, pinatawaran natin yung mga penalty ng utang sa Pag-IBIG. Itutuloy natin itong condonation na ito. At ang Pag-IBIG ay maglalagay ng bagong 25 billion pesos para sa pabahay, six percent lamang ang interest at mababayaran pa sa tatlung taon.

Yung mga bumabatikos sa atin, sino sa kanila nung panahon nila ang nakapagpababa sa interes ng six percent? Yung namana kong interes nung ako'y umupo ng 2001, 14 percent. Ngayon, napababa natin sa six percent. At dagdag pa ni Noli, yung mga nagbabayad ng dating matataas na interes, kung babayaran n'yo yung utang n'yo in advance, magkakaroon kayo ng bonus, yung early birds, bibigyan kayo ng diskwento ng two percent sa dating interest na binabayaran ninyo.

At saka marami na tayong... Kasi yung mga nakaraan na namana – hindi tayo gumawa ng kamahal-mahal na mga pabahay, hindi naman kaya ng manggagawa bayaran yung installment na yon. Ang ginagawa natin ay finor-closed natin yung mga proyektong yon at sinusubasta natin para mura kayong bumili nitong mga bahay na ito. So special discount dahil nga ang tagal-tagal nang nakabinbin hindi maibenta dahil masyadong malaki ang ginastos para sa

construction. Minana lang natin itong white elephants na ito. Gumawa tayo ng paraan para masubasta at mabenta sa inyo ng murang-mura, abot-kaya ng manggagawa.

Yung GSIS naman, ibubuo yung programang 10-month salary loan, lalakihin yung scholarship grant, ibababa ang interes, at ire-structure yung mga housing loan. Lalawakan ang hospitalization support at aayusin ang mga serbisyo sa pamamagitan ng computerization – PGEA, mga hiling ninyo.

Yung SSS, pagiibayuhin yung flexi fund para sa overseas Filipino workers at isasama ang informal workers sa ating SSS coverage.

Para sa mga sugar workers, magtatayo tayo ng 25 million pesos worth ng sugar livelihood centers sa Regions III, VI and X. At maglalagay tayo ng 12.6 million para sa sugar workers' socio economic program.

Yung POEA naman ay gagamitin ang sampung porsiyento ng kanyang kita para labanan pang mas magaling ang illegal recruiters.

Kanina sa manifesto na binasa ni Vladimir Tupaz, sabi niya may mga nilolokong manggagawa ng internet. Kunyari may jobs available, babayad kayo yun pala hindi pala available yung job. Kaya ang gagawin ng DOLE ay titignan itong internet na ito, eeksaminin kung totoo ba iyung mga trabahong yon para ma-expose yung mga nag-I-scam sa ating mga manggagawa.

Para makatulong sa re-integration program, yung ating mga OFW na nagtapos ng education, accounting at iba pa, para bumalik sila at maging professional teacher, maging professional accountant, na ang dami-daming kailangan ng accountant ngayon sa mga business process outsourcing natin. Ang Professional Regulation Commission ay gagawa ng mga examination sa Middle East, sa Hongkong at iba pang mga bansa.

At kahapon sa Malacañang, sinimulan natin at saka ng TESDA, yung 'FAST' (Free Assessment from TESDA). Kung kailangan ninyo ng certification, kasi may mga trabahong kailangan ng certification I-aassess kayo ng TESDA hindi na kayo kukobrahin ng assessment fee.

Kailan lamang ang dami nating inuwing mga manggagawa, kasalukuyan pang inuuwi natin sila mula sa mga lugar kung saan nagka-problema sila. Eto ay dahil meron na tayong standby revolving fund para bayaran yung pasahe ng pag-uwi ng ating mga manggagawa at hindi na kailangan hintayin kung yung employer ay magbabayad nung inyong pasahe.

At isa pa, OFW pension system, gagawa tayo noon. Yung Bangko Sentral naman ay binababa yung gastos ng pagpadala ng pera sa Pilipinas at yung OWWA ay naglalagay ng 50 million pesos para iangat yung skills, upgrading and bridging programs para yung ating mga seafarers ay pwedeng maging mga engineers and deck officers.

*Yung PCSO ay magbibigay ng pera sa **Migrant Workers Scholarship Fund** at isa pang daing ng mga manggagawa, pag umaalis may escort service. Kung hindi ka babayaran... Kung hindi mo babayaran, hindi maganda ang serbisyo, pahihirapan ka. Kaya yung bagong B.I.D. Commissioner, si Nonoy Libanan ay tutulungan ang manager ng airport ni Al Cusi para tanggalin na itong escort services sa airport at mga seaport.*

Yung mga informal sector naman, ang DOLE ay magdadagdag ng 50 million pesos para sa livelihood, kasama na sector yung mga magulang at pamilya ng mga child laborers dahil ito ang prinsipyo ng ILO child labor program.

Yung mga bumabatikos sa atin, ano ba ang nagawa nila nung panahon nila? Yung mga nandoon na nakatira sa riles ilang taon, walang kasilyas sa kanilang lugar. Ngayon binigyan natin sila ng maaliwalas na lugar doon sa Cavite, sa Laguna, sa Bulacan, sariling bahay, magandang bahay, maaliwalas na lugar, may trabaho at may livelihood pero yung mga tuloy na nagtatrabaho pa ecto ang ating programa ay – o, sige na nga hanggang makahanap kayo ng trabaho doon, ituloy n'yo yung trabaho n'yo sa Recto sa Maynila, libre yung train, di ba? At

saka kanina nanggaling ako doon sa unang Workers' Inn or Gwapotel para weekday nandito kayo nagtatrabaho, isang ligo-isang tulog, 25 pesos. At uuwi kayo uli sa weekend doon sa inyong mga tahanan. At yan ay for one thousand workers sa ngayon. Pero kung successful ito, magtatayo tayo ng marami pang mga Gwapotel para sa ganun, yung mga na-relocate sa labas, imbes na pumupunta ecto yung manggagawa at natutulog sa kalye during weekdays, meron kayong Workers' Inn kung saan, halimbawa, kung kayo'y nagtatrabaho sa pamahalaan, five days long kayo nagtatrabaho, four nights lang kayo maninirahan, 100 pesos a week lang, 400 pesos a month lang ang inyong gastos.

Noong Women's Day, naunawaan ko, naalaman ko, napag-alaman ko, na yung mga manggagawa ng pamahalaan ay hindi pala naaabutan ng microfinance. Kaya bukas sisimulan natin yung microfinance program kung saan ang bawat empleyado ng pamahalaan na humiram sa microfinance ay magkakaroon ng five thousand pesos pautang na walang collateral. Gagawin natin yun bukas.

At para rin sa mga manggagawa ng pamahalaan, gaya nung inanunsiyo ko doon sa Women's Day, sisimulan natin yung inyong 10 percent increase compensation for government workers itong darating na Hulyo.

Yung minimum wage. Yung minimum wage, by executive order – kasi yun ang kaya kong gawin, executive order – gumawa na tayo ng executive order na yung minimum wage-earners ay hindi babayad ng...hindi magkakaroon ng withholding tax deduction. Ngayon, eto naman ang masasabi ko para sa ating mga Team Unity congressmen at senador, kung silang mananalò, pwede rin I-commit sa inyo na itong darating na Congress magpapasa tayo – gaya ng hiling ni Vladi Tupaz – ng batas na exempted ang minimum wage-earner sa pagbayad ng income tax.

Yung minimum wage-earners naman ay sa administrasyon natin tumaas na on the average ang sweldo ng 100 pesos a day. Ngayon sa pandagdag na pagtaas ng sweldo, inaatasan ko, I'm urging the Regional Tripartite Wage Boards to speed up the resolution of pending wage issues.

Ito ay nagagawa nating lahat, pati yung paglikha ng isang milyong trabaho bawat taon, because of strong alliances. We have forged new partnerships that have led to billions in investments kaya umabot nung Enero 1.515 million ang bilang ng mga bagong trabahong nalikha, at ang ating wage and salary employment ay lumago ng 11.4 percent. At isang mahalagang patunay na epektibo ang ating social partnership, although siyempre marami pang kailangang tayong gawin para tayo ay talagang umangat pa ang kapakanan ng ating manggagawa. Pero right now, masasabi natin isang senyas na epektibo ay bumababa yung bilang ng mga strikes. In fact, from the beginning of this year, up to today, ang number of strikes na natuloy ay isa. Iisang strike lamang. Lahat ng iba naayos ang problema bago umabot sa strike.

Tayo ay naniniwala sa Pilipinas. Tayo ay naniniwala sa mga masisipag na taong-bayan ng Pilipinas. Kaya sama-sama tayong magtrabaho para maging katotohanan ang prosperidad para sa ating bansa.

Muli, mga kasama kong manggagawang Pilipino, mga umangat ang ekonomiya at ang bansa, mga hindi ipabagsak ang ekonomiya at bansa, sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat at mabuhay ang manggagawang Pilipino!

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo on the Reintegration Program of OFWs, May 1, 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the Reintegration Program of OFWs**

[Delivered at the Folk Arts Theater, CCP Compound, Pasay City, May 1, 2007]

Minding OFWs' welfare

Para makatulong sa reintegration program, yung ating mga OFW na nagtapos ng education, accounting at iba pa, para bumalik sila at maging professional teacher, maging professional accountant, na ang dami-daming kailangan ng accountant ngayon sa mga business process outsourcing natin. Ang Professional Regulation Commission ay gagawa ng mga examination sa Middle East, sa Hongkong at iba pang mga bansa.

At kahapon sa Malacañang, sinimulan natin yung TESDA, yung 'FAST' (Free Assessment from TESDA). Kung kailangan ninyo ng certification — may mga trabahong kailangan ng certification — i-a-assess kayo ng TESDA hindi na kayo kukobrahin ng assessment fee.

Kailan lamang ang dami nating inuwing mga manggagawa, kasalukuyan pang inuuwi natin sila mula sa mga lugar kung saan nagka-problema sila. Eto ay dahil meron na tayong standby revolving fund para bayaran yung pasahe ng pag-uwi ng ating mga manggagawa at hindi na kailangan hintayin kung yung employer ay magbabayad nung inyong pasahe.

At isa pa, OFW pension system, gagawa tayo noon. Yung Bangko Sentral naman ay binababa yung gastos ng pagpadala ng pera sa Pilipinas at yung owwa ay naglalagay ng 50 million pesos para ipa-angat yung skills upgrading and bridging programs para yung ating mga seafarer ay pwedeng maging mga engineer and deck officers.

Yung PCSO ay magbibigay ng pera sa migrant workers scholarship fund at isa pang daing ng mga manggagawa, pag umaalis may escort service. Kung hindi ka babayaran... Kung hindi mo babayaran, hindi maganda ang serbisyo, pahihirapan ka. Kayayung bagong B.I.D. commissioner, si Nonoy Libanan ay tutulungan ang manager ng airport ni Al Cusi para tanggalin na itong escort services dito sa airport at mga seaport.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching Ceremony of the Livelihood Lending Facility for Government Employees

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching Ceremony of the Livelihood Lending Facility for Government Employees**

[Delivered at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay City, May 2, 2007]

Thank you for putting this program very quickly together with our NGO partner 'Go Negosyo'.

Secretary Peter Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, and therefore the boss of the SB Corporation and all of the agencies that deal with small business enterprise. And Egay Generoso and all of the other microfinance sources from government who are here today.

Sa inyong lahat mga empleyado ng pamahalaan, government employees, government workers belated happy Labor Day to all of you!

Kahapon, kami ni Espie Ocampo, ang pangulo ng Government Employees Association, ay naroon sa Folk Arts Theater dahil ipinagdiwang ang labor Day doon. At sinabi ko kahapon na bahagi ng ating Labor Day celebration – kasi three days itong celebration – the day before we had a special service for job training for workers, yung accreditation, fast and free accreditation of workers who need to have certification of skills. And we also launched the electronic training of TESDA. Tapos kahapon yung main event or yung unifying event. At ngayon araw naman para sa mga manggagawa ng pamahalaan.

Ang ating mga manggagawa sa pamahalaan ay ang mga bagong haligi ng kapangyarihan ng taong-bayan. At ito ay inyong bagong pillar of power 'Go Negosyo, Go Gobyerno'. Alam ko sa pamahalaan, sabi nila yung entry point ng pamahalaan at saka yung entry point ng private sector pare-pareho lang ang sweldo. In fact, yung mga public school teacher mas mataas pa kaysa sa sweldo ng private school teacher. Pero sa pagtas natin sa hierarchy humahabol yung private sector, nagti-take over. Kaya when we go already to the specialist level, mga division chief, at pataas ng pataas naiiwanan na ng private sector. Kaya ang sinasabi nila noong araw nung ako'y nag-aaral ng economics, sabi nila kasi may psychic income daw yung public sector, and that explains the difference. Pero lumalawak na lumalawak kulang naman yung psychic income din ninyo sa paglilingkod sa taumbayan. Kaya natural lang na inaasahan ninyo magkaroon kayo ng pangalawang hanapbuhay. O kaya mga maybahay ninyo, mga panganay na anak ninyo para makatulong sa hanapbuhay ng pamilya. Kabuhayan ang ating hangarin upang itindig ang seguridad at dangal ng bawat Pilipino.

Ito ang matibay na pagkakapit-bisig ng pamahalaan at ng NGO sector, pribadong ektor upang magbunsod ng pagpapakitang-gilas at pagsasarili. At kayo mga kawani ng gobyerno ay maaring maging huwaran at inspirasyon ng mga ibig magnegosyo.

Inspirasyon nga ang marami sa inyo dahil nanggagaling sa inyo yung microfinance funds o kaya nanggagaling sa inyo yung training para gumawa ng mga project study na mga simple. Pero dapat kayo rin ay kasama sa makikinabang dahil kayo rin ay mamamayan ng Pilipinas.

Matapos ang pagdiriwang ng Labor Day kahapon, isa pang pagsulong ang mga sandaling ito para sa ating mga ector-bayangnagsisipag. Nagsisipag kayo upang mapalago ang ekonomiya. Nagsisipag kayo upang ihatid ang mga biyaya sa ating taong-bayan. Nandiyan yung mga DAR employees na naghahatid ng biyaya sa ating mga magsasaka. At nagsisipag kayo para lalong mapatatag ang ating mga demokratikong institusyon. Nandiyan yung mga NBI, nandiyan yung mga maraming ahensiyagaya ng DTI, NEA para lumago ang ating ekonomiya.

At nandito si Myrna Yao, siya yung nag-host sa akin, sa atin. Ilan sa inyo siguro ang nandoon mga female employees. Nung ipinagdiriwang natin yung araw ng kababaihan noong Marso, sinabi ko na bibigyan ang ating mga kawani ng pamahalaan ng pagkakataong makinabang din sa ating mga lumalawak na programang microfinance. At ngayon, buong pagmamalaki nating ilulunsad ang puhunang pang-negosyo para sa mga kawani ng gobyerno o 'Go Negosyo, Go Gobyerno'. Sabi nga ni Cerge Remonde, "A promise fulfilled". Yun ba ang sinabi mo kanina?

Sa programang ito makakahiram nang walang kolateral. Kasi yung microfinance talaga naman walang kolateral. Yung mga small and medium loans meron, yung mga humihiram sa bangko, pero yung microfinance wala. At maaaring bayaran ang utang, ito naman ang kaibahan ninyo doon sa mga micro-entrepreneurs na iba, kayo ay... yung iba ang ginagawa kesa istilo ng mga ektor, every week or every month may pumupunta sa inyo para kubrahin yung bahagi ng utang kasi hindi ba kung hindi para masigurado na ginagamit ninyo talaga para sa negosyong pinaghiraman ninyo. Pero iba sa pamahalaan kasi meron kayong sweldo lalo na kung kayo ay civil servant mahirap kayong tanggalin sa pwesto unless may kaso kayo. Kaya ang kaibahan ninyo sa karaniwang microentrepreneur ay pwedeng bayaran ang utang ninyo ng kaltas ng sahod. So yun ay isang bentaha ng mga government employees. Kung gusto ninyo, depende sa inyo yun. O kaya pwedeng gawin na yung kooperatiba ninyo ang magbabayad tapos sila na lang ang magkukubra sa inyo. O kaya pwede rin kayong gumawa ng mga kagaya ng mga ordinaryong microfinance, microentrepreneurs gumawa ng inyong sariling mga association. Ganun ang ginagawa ng mga karaniwang microentrepreneur na humihiram sa microfinance. Halimbawa, limang kababaihan o dalawampung kababaihan, sila mismo ay nagsasama-sama, ang utang ng isa ay utang ng lahat. Yan ang pinaka-essence ng microfinance na nanggaling sa Pakistan, si Dr. Yunus na nanalo ng Nobel Prize.

Kaya gusto kong atasan ang Philippine Government Employees Association, si Espie Ocampo, na mag-organize nitong mga microfinance associations of five women or 20 women para yung utang ng isa ay utang ng lahat. You are therefore... you are guaranteeing one another, yan ang essence ng microfinance. So may choice kayo: kunin sa sweldo ninyo yung kooperatiba ang magbabayad muna para sa inyo, o kaya gagawa kayo ng association, self-employment association.

At ang microfinance ay usually maliit. Makaka-utang ng limanlibong piso nang walang kolateral na babayaran sa loob ng tatlo hanggang anim na buwan. Yan ang usual microfinance.

Subalit kayo, dahil may sweldo kayo, parang yun ang garantiya na mababayaran ang microfinance, pwedeng higit ang ibigay sa inyo ng pamahalaan. Maaaring mapaghiram kayo ng inyong mga kooperatiba at samahan nang hanggang sandaan limampung libong piso. 'diba, tama yun? Kasi nga ang diperensya, ang kaibahan, meron kayong sweldo na pwedeng gamiting pambayad. At naka-record yun sa gobyerno. Yung ibang mga microfinance usually wala silang ibang hanapbuhay kung hindi yun. Kaya yan... At hindi lang yun, hindi three to six months binabayaran, pwede n'yong bayaran hanggang dalawang taon. Kasi gaya nang sabi ko most of you are civil servants. So inaasahan natin na unless may kaso kayo, na konti lang naman sa mga civil servants ang kinakasuhan, ay nandiyan pa kayo hanggang dalawang taon at makakasiguradong makakabayad. Kaya meron kayong mga biyaya na hindi maibibigay sa mga karaniwang mga microentrepreneurs.

Ngunit kayo alam ko na matagal na marami sa inyo talagang ang trabaho ninyo ay opisina. Ngayon ang mga nag-oopisina ba ay kayang magnegosyo? Yan ang isang tanong. At yan ang isang parating pini-preach nila Joey Concepcion, nila Mon Lopez – pwede, pwede yun basta magtuturan tayo. Kaya ngayon bahagi ng 'Go Negosyo' program... Alam ho niyo itong NGO 'Go Negosyo' ang dami-daming mga sikat na entrepreneur na sila ay kasapi ecto, mga big names. Halimbawa, first of all, sila Joey Concepcion yung may-ari nang RFM; yung may-ari ng National Bookstore; yung may ari ng Jollibee; yung may-ari ng SM; yung mga anak ni Lucio Tan. At marami ecto mga malalaki na ngayon nagsimula silang maliliit one or two generations ago. Kaya bahagi rin ng 'Go Negosyo' ay ipahayag, ikuwento sa inyo ang kanilang karanasan para matuto rin ang ating mga bagong negosyante kung ano ang mga ginawa nila para magtagumpay sa negosyo.

Kaya bahagi nitong programang ito magkakaroon ng pagkakataon ang ating manggagawa sa gobyernona matuto sa mga matatagumpay na entrepreneurs na ektor isalaysay ang kanilang mga karanasan sa paglulunsad at pagpapalaki ng negosyo. Pero hindi lang yung malalaking negosyante ngayon ang magtuturo sa inyo. Meron ding mga recent entrepreneurs, mga siguro mga limang taon nakaraan o dalawang taon nakaraan, nakahiram ng

limang libong piso. Ano ang nagawa nila sa limang libong piso nila. Yun din ay pwedeng magkuwento sa inyo ng kanilang kasaysayan.

Kanina nga nung ako ay dumadaan sa corridor may nagpa-autograph sa akin ng libro. At itong librong ito nga ay collection talaga nung iba't-ibang mga karanasan – big companies, medium-sized companies, small companies, successful micro companies.

At sana sa puhunan na available sa inyo, tapos ang mga leksyon na natutuhan ninyo doon sa mga sector matagumpay na ay magtatagumpay kayo sa second income ng inyong pamilya.

Magkakaroon din tayo, gaya nang sabi ni Cerge Remonde, ng ganito ring paglulunsad sa Cebu at sa Davao sa susunod na dalawang Linggo. Sa Cebu siguro next week, then Davao the week after.

At sa sector ng microfinance, nadadagdagan sa buong Pilipinas ang kapangyarihan ng mga pamilya na maiangat ang sarili at umahon sa kahirapan. Nagdadagdag ito sa kita, naglalagay ng pagkain sa mesa, nagpapaaral ng isa o dalawa pang anak in addition to the others.

This is part of the pay off of the hard-fought economic battles that we have led with some courageous members of Congress. Because of these hard fought battles, the Philippine economy has finally broken loose from its historic legacy of lethargy. In fact, ngayon lang nagkakaroon ng mababang interest yung mga utang sa bangko. Yung mga utang sa bangko, uutang sa pabahay hanggang six percent. Noong araw, 14 percent, mababa na yun. Ngayon, hanggang six percent. Talagang nakikinabang ang karaniwang mamamayan, karaniwang negosyante.

Ang dahilan kung bakit sa microfinance ay mas mataas ang interest ay may gastos yung nagpapahiram na pumupunta sa inyong lugar. Kasi halos home service ito, 'di ba gaya nang sabi ko yung istilong ector, yung istilong 5-6 pero mas mababa kaysa doon at walang kolateral Yun ang mga dahilan kung bakit mas mataas ang interest ng microfinance. Ganun pa man sinasabi natin na while kailangan market-oriented yung interest ng microfinance ang sinasabi natin I-benchmark more or less yung kinukubra ng Quedancor na interes, yun din ang kinukubra ng DSWD ng interes. Kasi gusto natin na pipili kayo ng negosyo kung saan yung kita ninyo ay mababayaran yung interest. Kaya ito ay hindi dole-out in that sense. It is subsidized in the sense na walang collateral at malaki ang pwedeng ipautang at mahaba ang panahon ng bayaran ng utang. But it is not a dole-out, it is meant for you to pay back with market interest para sa ganun merong dignidad ang inyong pangalawang hanapbuhay.

Gawin nating gabay sa ating pagsusulong ang bukambibig ni Joe Concepcion. Itong PICC nandito tayo ngayon. Naalala ko ito ay tinayo nung panahon... Ay, no, PTTC, panahon ni Joe Concepcion. At nung panahon niya merong malaking senyas sa labas – “Yes, the Filipino can.” At ito ang mensahe ng ‘Go Negosyo’ – “Yes, the Filipino can be a successful entrepreneur.”

Kaya kayong lahat, “Yes, the government worker can be a successful entrepreneur.” Kaya kayong lahat, mga government workers, talagang kayang-kaya n'yo ito. When we say the Filipino can, kaya ng Pilipino!

Good luck to your second income. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the launching of the capital for ‘Go Negosyo, Go Gobyerno’ Program, May 2, 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the launching of the capital for ‘Go Negosyo, Go Gobyerno’ Program**

[Delivered at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay City, May 2, 2007]

Microfinance for state workers

Inspirasyon nga ang marami sa inyo dahil nanggagaling sa inyo yung microfinance funds o kaya nanggagaling sa inyo yung training para gumawa ng mga project study na mga simple. Pero dapat kayo rin ay kasama sa makikinabang dahil kayo rin ay mamamayan ng Pilipinas.

At nandito si Myrna Yao, siya yung nag-host sa akin, sa atin. Ilan sa inyo siguro ang nandoon mga female employees. Nung ipinagdiriwang natin yung araw ng kababaihan noong Marso, sinabi ko na bibigyan ang ating mga kawani ng pamahalaan ng pagkakataong makinabang din sa ating mga lumalawak na programa ng microfinance. At ngayon, buong pagmamalaki nating ilulunsad ang puhunang pangnegosyo para sa kawani ng gobyerno o ‘Go Negosyo, Go Gobyerno’. Sabi nga ni Cerge Remonde, “A promise fulfilled”.

Sa programang ito makakahiram nang walang kolateral. Kasi yung microfinance talaga naman walang kolateral. Yung mga small and medium loans meron, yung mga humihiram sa bangko, pero yung microfinance wala. At maaaring bayaran ang utang, ito naman ang kaibahan ninyo doon sa mga microentrepreneurs na iba, kayo ay... Yung iba ang ginagawa doon ay istilo ng mga bombay, every week or every month may pumupunta sa inyo para kubrahin yung mga bahagi ng utang kasi hind ba kung hindi para masigurado na ginagamit ninyo talaga para sa negosyong pinaghiraman ninyo. Pero iba sa pamahalaan kasi meron kayong sweldo lalo na kung kayo ay civil servant mahirap kayong tanggalin sa pwesto unless may kaso kayo. Kaya ang kaibahan ninyo sa karaniwang microentrepreneur ay pwedeng bayaran ang utang ninyo ng kaltas ng sahod. So yun ay isang bentaha ng mga government employees. Kung gusto ninyo, depende sa inyo yun. O kaya pwedeng gawin na yung kooperatiba ninyo ang magbabayad tapos sila na lang ang magkukubra sa inyo. O kaya pwede rin kayong gumawa ng mga kagaya ng mga ordinaryong microfinance, microentrepreneurs gumawa ng inyong sariling mga association. Ganun ang ginagawa ng mga karaniwang microentrepreneur na humihiram sa microfinance. Halimbawa, limang kababaihan o dalawampung kababaihan, sila mismo ay nagsasama-sama, ang utang ng isa ay utang ng lahat. Yan ang pinak essence ng microfinance na nanggaling sa Pakistan, si Dr. Yunus na nanalo ng Nobel prize dito.

Kaya gusto kong atasan ang Philippine Government Employees Association, si Espie Ocampo, na mag-organize nitong mga microfinance associations of five women or 20 women para yung utang ng isa ay utang ng lahat. You are therefore... You are guaranteeing one another, yan ang essence ng microfinance. So may choice kayo: kunin sa sweldo ninyo, yung kooperatiba ang magbabayad muna para sa inyo, o kaya gagawa kayo ng association, self-employment association.

At ang microfinance ay usually maliliit. Makaka-utang ng limanlibong piso nang walang kolateral na babayaran sa loob ng tatlo hanggang anim na buwan. Yan ang usual microfinance.

Subalit kayo, dahil may sweldo kayo, parang yun ang garantiya na mababayaran ang microfinance, pwedeng higit ang ibigay sa inyo ng pamahalaan. Maaaring mapaghiram kayo ng inyong mga kooperatiba at samahan nang hanggang sandaan limampung libong piso. 'di ba, tama yun? Kasi nga ang diperensya, ang kaibahan, meron kayong sweldo na pwedeng gamiting pambayad. At naka record yun sa gobyerno. Yung ibang mga microfinance usually wala silang ibang hanapbuhay kung hindi yun. Kaya yan... At hindi lang yun, hindi three to six months binabayaran, pwede n'yong babayaran hanggang dalawang taon. Kasi gaya nang sabi ko most of you are civil servants. So inaasahan natin na unless may kaso kayo, na konti lang naman sa mga civil servants ang kinakasuhan, ay nandiyan pa kayo hanggang dalawang taon at makasiguradong makakabayad. Kaya meron kayong mga biyaya na hindi maibibigay sa mga karaniwang mga microentrepreneurs.

Kaya bahagi nitong programang ito magkakaroon ng pagkakataon ang ating manggagawa sa gobyerno na matuto sa mga matatagumpay na entrepreneur na handang isalaysay ang kaniyang mga karanasan sa paglulunsad at pagpapalaki ng negosyo. Pero hindi lang yung malalaking negosyante ngayon ang magtuturo sa inyo. Meron ding mga recent entrepreneurs, mga siguro mga limang taon nakaraan o dalawang taon nakaraan, nakahiram ng limang libong piso. Ano ang nagawa nila sa limang libong piso nila. Yun din ay pwedeng magkuwento sa inyo ng kanilang kasaysayan.

At sa bisa ng microfinance, nadadagdagan sa buong Pilipinas ang kapangyarihan ng mga pamilya na iangat ang sarili at umahon sa kahirapan. Nagdadagdag ito sa lata, naglalagay ng pagkain sa mesa, nagpapaaral ng isa o dalawa pang anak in addition to the others.

Ang dahilan kung bakit sa microfinance ay mas mataas ang interest ay may gastos yung nagpapahiram na pumupunta sa inyong lugar. Kasi halos home service ito eh. 'di ba gaya nang sabi ko yung istilong bombay, yung istilong 5-6 pero mas mababa kaysa doon at walang kolateral. Yun ang mga dahilan kung bakit mas mataas ang interest ng microfinance. Ganun pa man sinasabi natin na while kailangan market-oriented yung interest ng microfinance, ang sinasabi natin i-benchmark more or less yung kinukubra ng Quedancor na interes, yun din ang kinukubra ng DSWD ng interes. Kasi gusto natin na pipili kayo ng negosyo kung saan yung kita ninyo ay mababayaran yung interest. Kaya ito ay hindi dole-out in that sense. It is subsidized in the sense na walang collateral at malaki ang pwedeng ipautang at mahaba ang panahon ng bayaran ng utang. But it is not a dole-out, it is meant for you to pay back with market interest para sa ganun merong dignidad ang inyong pangalawang hanapbuhay.

Kaya kayong lahat, "Yes, the government worker can be a successful entrepreneur." Kaya kayong lahat, mga government workers, talagang kayang-kaya n'yo ito. When we say the Filipino can, kaya ng Pilipino!

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the General Body Membership Meeting of the Indian Chamber of Commerce Philippines, Inc.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the General Body Membership Meeting of the Indian Chamber of Commerce Philippines, Inc.**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, May 4, 2007]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Secretary Peter Favila. And thank you for leading the competitiveness task force that led to these reforms that Mr. Sitaldas talks about that have made life easier for our Filipino-Indian businessmen.

Mr. Sitaldas and the other officials of the Philippine-Indian Chamber of Commerce; Ambassador Mitter, very nice to have you here; immediate past president, Mr. Vishnu Hathiramani; members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce to the Philippines and leaders of the other important Philippine business organizations who are all here tonight; and I think we should also welcome the new commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration, former Congressman Nonoy Libanan; and other representatives from government agencies who may be here tonight.

I'm very happy to be here with you tonight. And when Ram was talking about how the importance I gave to your chamber because I came at a very... Even if I have a very busy time. You know, I'd like to let you know that the first date that this was set was during the week when my husband had surgery. And I had told my appointments' secretary, "cancel everything except the Indian chamber." But the Lord was very good and you were very good. I got the message saying that you moved your meeting to this date, tonight. So, I'm very thankful for your thoughtfulness, whether it was a coincidence or providential, thank you that you're all here together tonight. And thank you for your prayers for my husband.

I've been with the Indian chamber many times in the past. Because, of course, India is very important. Has been important for many, many years, for centuries. And by history and trade, India has been a partner of the Philippines in building a world of freedom and prosperity. In fact, Ram talked about the free press. I remember when my father was president of the Philippines, he was telling me that the acknowledged leaders of the democratic world, in other words, leaders in democracy in Asia at that time were already at that time India, the Philippines and Japan. So India's democracy is very old, very mature, and that is something we share together.

Though I've been with you many times, my being with you tonight is important, especially important. First of all because we want to support India's "look east policy." We want to take advantage of India's "look east policy." We want to take advantage of India's plans to integrate with both South Asia and Southeast Asia.

We have a big Indian community here in the Philippines. But I know that until the recent years, the Philippines as a whole, as an economy was not very much on India's radar screen. If it look east, it look to the peninsular ASEAN. In other words, it look to Malaysia, Singapore where there are very, very huge Indian populations.

But I am very happy that with the visit of President Kalam and with the participation of Prime Minister Singh in the ASEAN and Southeast Asian Summit, India has seen the Philippines and we are back on the radar screen. And that's one very important reason why this meeting between us is especially important tonight.

Another very important reason why this meeting is truly essential is our recognition and the world's recognition that within the next quarter century India will be one of the world's top economies. And India will become an undeniable driving force behind global economic growth.

So at this point in time, the integrative policies of India are indispensable also to our plans and the plans of our neighbors to build a complete Asian community.

In the past when our neighbors and Southeast Asia were growing — that was in the 1970s — they grew because of a large export market that they were able to penetrate U.S. and Europe. But now because of the growing market of India and China, Asia's growth is no longer export-driven. It is transitioning from being export-driven to being domestically-driven. In other words, Asians producing for Asians because the demand in India, China and Japan now makes up the bulk of the market for our production.

In India itself, of course, the impact will be profound. And we are delighted with the growth of India along with China to add to the power of Japan in the region. In the Philippines, we benefit from this growth. India's awakening can only lift up our nation. This is a positive, healthy development. And it is also clear that there will be political, economic and strategic implications for India and the entire region as a result of India's newfound economic power.

We welcome the economic growth of India. We hope for greater integration between the Philippines and India. And we hope the Philippine-Indian business community will be active in promoting that integration.

Last January in Cebu, the Prime Minister of India joined us, as you know, in the East Asian Summit. That plus the state visit of the president of India last year are the first steps toward closer political, security and economic engagement that will only strengthen the Philippines and strengthen our ties with our new special partner — India.

We're now receiving billions of investments from the U.S., for instance, Texas Instruments has just announced a one billion-dollar investments in the Philippines. From Europe, Shell, for instance, has put in more than five billion dollars so far. From Japan, we have Japanese companies all over Calabarzon. From Korea, in Subic alone, Korea's Hanjin is putting a billion dollars over the next ten years. It has already put about 300 million dollars so far. Hopefully, one day, we will also receive such kinds of investments from India.

And as far as trade is concerned, the internal market demand and domestic consumption of India is having a direct and positive impact on our nation in terms of job creation, investment and balance of trade. Though we are not talking yet about billions of dollars, we are already happy that Indian investors have created jobs in our business process outsourcing, in textile, and in steel. We hope it continues. And once again, we hope the Philippine-Indian business community will be active in tapping the market demand and the domestic consumption of India.

As India becomes a true political and economic giant, its obligations to its neighbors will also increase — it's already increasing — separate from its obligations to its own citizens. Ascendancy on the world stage — as what is happening to India now — carries implications not just for economic development, but for management of our environment on a sustainable basis, and for maintaining broader peace and stability in the region. These are big responsibilities of India now which will be accommodated, which will have to be accommodated in our Philippine bilateral relations with India.

Well, speaking of economic development, we've already talked about the Indian investments here — BPO, steel, textiles and others, retail trade. When the president of India made a state visit to the Philippines, one of his main agenda items was energy. He was here among many other missions to share with us India's Jatropha technology for energy independence. And when I go to India for a state visit sometime late this year, not only will we be talking about economics, not only about energy, but also we will discuss how to cooperate on peace and stability in the region. I hope that when I make that state visit, the leaders of the Indian chamber will join me on the trip.

And India's positive contribution to peace and stability is also behind the policies that we have made to make the visa rules, residence and visitors much easier for the Indian citizens.

Indeed, there is great potential for more collaboration and cooperation between our two countries — your two countries — in both trade, investments and even tourism.

I'm very happy that India has reiterated its unilateral air rights for Philippine aircrafts. It is our Philippine aircraft companies that are now having to purchase their planes that can travel a long distance from the Philippines to India. Right now their long distance planes are going to the United States, so they're buying new ones just to be able to accommodate... Not accommodate, take advantage of the air rights that India is giving the aircrafts in the Philippines.

And as travel becomes easier, not only because of the reduction in red tape on the visas, but also because of more flights, flights on Philippine aircrafts, there is a large role for the Philippine business community to play in the regard of increasing our economic relations. You can contact your counterparts in the Indian business community and they can be the distributors of Philippine exports to India, or you can be the distributors of Indian exports to the Philippines. You can also be the Philippine partners of Indian investments in the Philippines.

Ram talked about pharmaceuticals. Yes, we are buying a lot of pharmaceuticals from India as an important, essential part of our program to provide half-priced medicines for ordinary Filipinos. Most of it is traded by the Philippine International Trading Corporation. But I want to let you know that it is not our policy that PITC will be an exclusive agent. Private companies can also engage in the trade. So I urge Indian businessmen here in the Philippines to go into that trade also and bring in half-priced — half-priced from the point of view of the Philippines — pharmaceuticals from India. Indeed, I hope the Indian chamber will take advantage of that market opportunity.

So there are so many things that we can do especially now with India's economic awakening.

So let me conclude on these final thoughts. I'm bullish on India. I'm bullish on India's ability to help drive positive change in the world. And we here in the Philippines have the unique opportunity to learn from India and create our own path to development. Through our bilateral, political and business relations, and business relations with India and other parts of the world, especially with India, we have the chance, we can learn from India, how India use technology, innovation and change to the advantage of India's economy. We can do that too.

India jumped to what it is today among other things because of technology and innovation. We're also good at technology. In fact, that's why there are many good partnerships between the Indian business community and the Philippine business community on business process outsourcing because we're the two countries who are very good in that today.

And so I count on the Philippine-Indian business community to stand by our side in meeting our common challenges and taking advantage of our common opportunities.

Mabuhay ang Indian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the General Body Membership Meeting of the Indian Chamber of Commerce Philippines, Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150703/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2017&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the 1st Tripartite National Security Convention
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremony of the 1st Tripartite National Security Convention

[Organized by the Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators (PADPAO), Inc., The Philippine Association of Recognized Security Training Schools (PARSTS), Inc. and the government represented by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, May 5, 2007]

Thank you.

Maraming salamat, Undersecretary Marius Corpus.

Gusto kong batiin din ang ating mga kapulisan sa pamumuno ni Director General Oscar Calderon. At siyempre gusto kong batiin ang lahat ng mga padpao sa pamumuno ni Mr. Ramon Bergado, pangulo, pati na rin ang mga nagtuturo, nag-eensayo sa mga security guards sa pamumuno ni Pangulong Pelegria Tablang. Maaari na kayong makaupo.

Ako ay nasisiyahan na magkasama tayo muli. Naalala ko nagsalita na ako sa harap ng PADPAO noong araw. Hindi kasing-dami ngayon ang nag-a-attend, at kahit na sabado na hindi working day ay narito ako dahil napakahalagang bahagi kayo ng ating sistema ng pambansang seguridad. At itong sistemang ito ang nagpapatupad ng batas at nagpapairal ng kapayapaan at katahimikan sa ating mga pamayanan. Kaya maganda ang inyong partnership sa ating PNP.

At dahil sa inyong pamumuno, mas matiwasay, mas mapayapa, mas panatag ang ating mga lansangan, barangay at sambayanan.

Kaya itong panahon ngayon, panahon ng halalan, nananalangin tayo that violence will not increase. Na hindi lalago nang higit pa ang karahasan pagsapit ng halalan. Kaya nagsusulong tayo — at itong parating nasa likod ako, parati kong nina-nag si General Calderon — sinisikap natin, nagsusulong tayo ng mga masigasig na hakbang upang ipagtanggol ang mga kandidato, ang taong-bayan, at ang mga boto sa mamamayan. At kasama sa mga kandidatong ipinagtatanggol natin ang kanilang... Yung kanilang safety ay yung ‘AGAP,’ ‘di ba?

The political process is just as important as the political outcome. Magiging tunay na... At masisigurado natin na magiging tunay na demokratiko ang halalan at makikita, lilitaw ang niloloob ng sambayanan. Tayong lahat gawin natin ang lahat ng makakaya upang malampasan ng ating demokrasya ang pagsubok nating hinaharap. Tuwing halalan yon ay pagsubok sa demokrasya. Sa ganun lalong patitibayin natin ang pundasyon para sa magandang hinaharap ng ating bansa, ekonomiya at lipunan. Together, we can show the world that Filipinos thrive in a democratic system based on free choice. Hindi matatawaran ang halaga ng matatag na demokrasya upang lumakas ang ekonomiya at sumagana ang mamamayan.

Together, our efforts must be directed at reducing the violence. Kaya naman hinihiling ko sa mga kalahok sa kapulungang ito na pag-ukulan ng pansin kung paano makakatulong ang mga security agency sa pagtiyak ng kaayusan ng darating na halalan.

Nakataya... Ako’y nagpapasalamat din sa sinabi ni Pangulong Bergado na ang inyong institusyon, yung dalawang institusyon, ay suportado ang team unity. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Sana maikuwento n'yo sa lahat ng mga security guards na kasama sa inyong organisasyon at lahat ng mga nag-eensayo sa mga security guards na nakataya sa susunod na halalan ang kinabukasan natin. Ang nakataya at kasama rin sa nakataya ang patuloy na reporma ng ating ekonomiya, ang paglinis ng kapaligiran, ang paghusay ng mga pagamutan, pamumuhunan sa edukasyon, at paglikha ng magandang trabaho.

Sana ipaalam ninyo or ipahayag ninyo o iulit ninyo na that “reforms build; revolt destroys.” And because reforms build kaya naman ako hindi ako nawawalaan ng tutok sa aking trabaho.

Through hard-fought economic reform battles that we have led with the help of some courageous members of Congress, the Philippine economy has finally broken loose from its historic legacy of lethargy.

New revenues, better collection, and a crackdown on tax cheats along with fiscal discipline has put the Philippines on a path to sustainable economic growth and stability. Binibigyang-pansin na ito ng mundo. Kamakailan, nag-annunsiyo ang Texas Instruments ng isang bilyong dolyar na investment upang lalong palakihin ang kanilang operasyon sa Pilipinas.

The Philippines today offers one of the best values in Asia for domestic and foreign investors.

At lalong nagkakaroon ng investments maging mula sa dayuhan o maging pilipino, siyempre mga planta at opisina nila ay mangangailangan ng serbisyo ng security guard agency.

Ang ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya ay nasa bungad ng ating kampanya laban sa kahirapan. Pagsugpo ng kahirapan ang ating pangunahing layunin. Siya ang mananatiling tutok ng aking nalalabing mga taon sa panunungkulan.

Bringing down the budget deficit, which we have been able to do, is just the first step. Sa darating na tatlong taon ihahatid natin sa sambayanan ang mga mararamdamang biyaya mula sa ating mga reporma.

Mabubuo lamang ang reporma kapag nagawa nating mamuhunan sa ating taong-bayan at imprastruktura. Yung puhunan sa ating taong-bayan kasama na nga yung pagtulong upang maging madali para sa mga training schools na magpa-training ng ating security guard. Kasama yan sa puhunan natin sa taong-bayan. At katabi noon, palalakasin pa natin ang pamumuhunan sa ating bansa at sambayanan upang:

Number one. Mapaganda ang imprastruktura upang mahikayat ang mga negosyo na lumago at mag-employo nang higit pa, because more jobs means less poverty. Halimbawa, yung inaayos nating kalsada, yung north expressway patungo doon sa Central Luzon, tuloy ang dami-daming nagtatayo ng negosyo sa Clark. Doon maglalagay ang Texas Instruments ng one billion dollars, pero yung Hanjin nauna pa. Nasimula na yung kanilang one billion dollars, mga 300 million dollars of their one billion dollars nandoon na sa Subic. Naalala ko doon sa Subic nung nagpunta ako sa Hanjin, aba, siguro mga sampung libong mga welders na ang kanilang na-employo. At hindi pa tapos yon dahil hindi pa tapos yung one billion dollars investment nila. Tinanong ko doon sa mga welders, “ano ba yung hanapbuhay niyo dati?” Dati-dati marginal fishermen. Yun bang halos yung iniisda nila, pagkain lang nila, konti lang ang nabebenta sa labas. At as welders, ang laki-laki ng kanilang trabaho, ang laki-laki ng kanilang sweldo. More jobs means less poverty.

Our second program for the next three years is to improve social services such as health insurance subsidies for indigent families and food-for-school programs. Ewan ko kung yung mga security guards ay may Philhealth. Kasi iba-iba kasi ang... ‘di ba iba-iba ang employment arrangements? Merong salaried employment. Pag salaried meron yung... Kasama yun yung sss, kasama na doon ang health insurance. Meron namang iba, it’s contractual. So pagka yun not necessarily may sss. Eh yun ang hinahangad natin lalo na yung mga mahihirap na security guard. At marami akong nakikilalang mahihirap na security guard doon sa mga lugar kung saan maraming mahihirap. Pag tinatanong ko, ano’ng hanapbuhay ng asawa, ng mister niyo, halimbawa, marami doon ang nagsasabing security guard. Yung mga ganung mahihirap na security guard na usually mga extra lang yon ay yun gusto rin natin mabigyan ng Philhealth o health insurance kung hindi sila sakop ng SSS.

At ilan sa mga security guard din natin yung mga anak nila ay nag-aaral sa public school. At ewan ko kung napaalam sa kanila na ngayon sa ating mga public school sa buong NCR ay nagbibigay tayo ng food-for-school. Yung mga bata, isang bata bawat pamilya ay tumatanggap ng isang kilong bigas bawat araw na siya ay pumapasok para makakain yung mga mahihirap na pamilya.

Pangatlong programa natin. Pag-ibayuhin ang suporta sa edukasyon bilang panlaban sa kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng mga mas mahusay na gusali, mga bagong libro at materyales sa pagtuturo, at mga kursong pangkabuhayan gaya nung sinabi ng ating batang security guard, yung ladderized training for security guards na makaaabot sa diplomang Bachelor of Science in Criminology.

Biro niyo ilang... Ilan ba ang kailangan na units para magturo ng Bachelor of Science in Criminology? Kasi... Pero nalaman ko ngayon — alam ko na talagang may ladderized — pero nalaman ko ngayon, 39 units pala ang make-credit sa Bachelor of Science in Criminology. Di ang laki na nang natanggal sa kailangang idagdag na pag-aaralan. At pag kayo ay meron ng degree sa criminology, aba, pwede pa kayong pumasok sa Philippine National Police.

Dahil yung batas ng Philippine National Police kailangan college graduate. At ang Philippine National Police dahil malaki... Lumaki na ang ating budget dahil sa ating mga tax reforms ay nagha-hire ng mga bagong policemen. Kaya tuluy-tuloy ang training dapat para tuluy-tuloy as a security agency o pag natapos sila ng... Ng college graduate sa criminology dahil nagkaroon ng ladderized training ay sa ganun marami pang papasok na handang-handa sa trabaho ng pulis.

Itong ladderized training ay nagpunta nga si Mrs. Tablang sa Malakanyang nung May.. No, April 30, kasi nga ay ipinagdidiriwang natin yung ladderized training, ladderized education. At merong kasunduan ang Philippine National Police at ang Angeles University. So yung mga natututo ng ating mga trainees sa inyong mga training schools, 39 hours of that ay tatanggapin ng Angeles university para sa kanyang kurso ng Bachelor of Science in Criminology. At inaasahan natin na pag yan ay matagumpay ay marami pang ibang mga unibersidad ang gagawa ng kasunduan sa Philippine National Police.

Pang-apat nating programa. Cutting red tape and continuing to reduce production in the system.

At siyempre patuloy tayong makikibaka sa terorismo at magpupunyagi para sa kapayapaan at kasaganaan sa Mindanao. At dito rin sa paglaban ng terorismo, may malaking papel kayo upang ipagtanggol sa krimen at terorismo ang mga sentro ng ating ekonomiya.

Sa ating Human Security Act — eto yung ating bagong anti-terrorism law na hindi pa umiiral ngayon dahil it will be effective after elections — dito may matibay na panangga kayo, kayong mga private security guards at kayong mga pulis, may panangga kayo hindi lamang para sa taong-bayan kung hindi para sa ekonomiya, laban para sa mga laban sa mga puwersa ng kasamaan.

And so there is so much for us to do together. And I suppose if you are supporting team unity, it must be because during this administration, we've been able to work so closely together for the peace and order of our country.

As you close your two-day convention, therefore, my message to you is: “continue to be strong advocates and committed leaders in our campaign for peace and order.”

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremony of the 1st Tripartite National Security Convention. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150649/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2016&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo on Vying for Violence-less Elections, May 5, 2007 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Vying for Violence-less Elections**

[Delivered at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, Pasay City, May 5, 2007]

The political process is just as important as the political outcome. *Magiging tunay na... At masisigurado natin na magiging tunay na demokratiko ang halalan at makikita, lilitaw ang niloloob ng sambayanan. Tayong lahat gawin natin ang lahat ng makakaya upang malampasan ng ating demokrasya ang pagsubok nating hinaharap. Tuwing halalan yon ay pagsubok sa demokrasya. Sa ganun lalong patitibayin natin ang pundasyon para sa magandang hinaharap ng ating bansa, ekonomiya at lipunan.* Together, we can show the world that Filipinos thrive in a democratic system based on free choice. *Hindi matatawaran ang halaga ng matatag na demokrasya upang lumakas ang ekonomiya at sumagana ang mamamayan.*

Together, our efforts must be directed at reducing the violence. *Kaya naman hinihiling ko sa mga kalahok sa kapulungang ito na pag-ukulan ng pansin kung paano makakatulong ang mga security agency sa pagtiyak ng kaayusan ng darating na halalan.*

Sana maikuwento n'yo sa lahat ng mga security guards na kasama sa inyong organisasyon at lahat ng mga nageensayo sa mga security guards na nakataya sa susunod na halalan ang kinabukasan natin. Ang nakataya at kasama rin sa nakataya ang patuloy na reporma ng ating ekonomiya, ang paglinis ng kapaligiran, ang paghusay ng mga pagamutan, pamumuhunan sa edukasyon, at paglikha ng magandang trabaho.

Sana ipaalam ninyo or ipahayag ninyo o iulit ninyo na that “reforms build; revolt destroys.” And because reforms build kaya naman ako hindi ako nawawalaan ng tutok sa aking trabaho.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

**Arroyo on Investing on the People and Infrastructure
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Investing on the People and Infrastructure**

[Delivered at Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, Pasay City, May 5, 2007]

Investing on the people & infrastructure

Mabubuo lamang ang reporma kapag nagawa nating mamuhunan sa ating taong-bayan at imprastruktura. Yung puhunan sa ating taong-bayan kasama na nga yung pagtulong upang maging madali para sa mga training schools na magpa-training ng ating security guard. Kasama yan sa puhunan natin sa taong-bayan. At katabi noon, palalakasin pa natin ang pamumuhunan sa ating bansa at sambayanan upang:

Number one. Mapaganda ang imprastruktura upang mahikayat ang mga negosyo na lumago at mag-empleyo nang higit pa, because more jobs means less poverty. Halimbawa, yung inaayos nating kalsada, yung North Expressway patungo doon sa Central Luzon, tuloy ang dami-daming nagtatayo ng negosyo sa Clark. Doon maglalagay ang Texas Instruments ng one billion dollars, pero yung Hanjin nauna pa. Nasimula na yung kanilang one billion dollars, mga 300 million dollars of their one billion dollars nandoon na sa Subic. Naalala ko doon sa Subic nung nagpunta ako sa Hanjin, aba, siguro mga sampung libong mga welders na ang kanilang na-empleyo. At hindi pa tapos yon dahil hindi pa tapos yung one billion dollars investment nila. Tinanong ko doon sa mga welders, “ano ba yung hanapbuhay niyo dati?” Dati-dati marginal fishermen. Yun bang halos yung iniisda nila, pagkain lang nila, konti lang ang nabebenta sa labas. At as welders, ang laki-laki ng kanilang trabaho, ang laki-laki ng kanilang sweldo. More jobs means less poverty.

Our second program for the next three years is to improve social services such as health insurance subsidies for indigent families and food-for-school programs. *Ewan ko kung yung mga security guards ay may Philhealth. Kasi iba-iba kasi ang... 'di ba iba-iba ang employment arrangements? Merong salaried employment. Pag salaried meron yung... Kasama yun yung sss, kasama na doon ang health insurance. Meron naming iba, it's contractual. So pagka yun not necessarily may SSS. Eh yun ang hinahangad natin lalo na yung mga mahihirap na security guard. At marami akong nakikilalang mahihirap na security guard doon sa mga lugar kung saan maraming mahihirap. Pag tinatanong ko, ano 'ng hanapbuhay ng asawa, ng mister niyo, halimbawa, marami doon ang nagsasabing security guard. Yung mga ganung mahihirap na security guard na usually mga extra lang yon ay yun gusto rin natin mabigyan ng Philhealth o health insurance kung hindi sila sakop ng SSS.*

At ilan sa mga security guard din natin yung mga anak nila ay nag-aaral sa public school. At ewan ko kung napaalam sa kanila na ngayon sa ating mga public school sa buong NCR ay nagbibigay tayo ng food-for-school. Yung mga bata, isang batas bawat pamilya ay tumatanggap ng isang kilong bigas bawat araw na siya ay pumapasok para makakain yung mga mahihirap na pamilya.

Pangatlong programa natin. Pag-ibayuhin ang suporta sa edukasyon bilang panlaban sa kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng mga mas mahusay na gusali, mga bagong libro at materyales sa pagtuturo, at mga kursong pangkabuhayan gaya nung sinabi ng ating batang security guard, yung ladderized training for security guards na makaaabot sa diplomang Bachelor of Science in Criminology.

Pang-apat nating programa. Cutting red tape and continuing to reduce production in the system.

At siyempre patuloy tayong makikibaka sa terorismo at magpupunyagi para sa kapayapaan at kasaganaan sa Mindanao. At dito rin sa paglaban ng terorismo, may malaking papel kayo upang ipagtanggol sa krimen at terorismo ang mga sentro ng ating ekonomiya.

Sa ating Human Security Act — eto yung ating bagong anti-terrorism law na hindi pa umiiral ngayon dahil it will be effective after elections — dito may matibay na panangga kayo, kayong mga private security guards at kayong mga pulis, may panangga kayo hindi lamang para sa taong-bayan kung hindi para sa ekonomiya, laban para sa mga laban sa mga puwersa ng kasamaan.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the 37th Annual Convention of the Philippine College of Physicians

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Ceremonies of the 37th Annual Convention of the Philippine College of Physicians**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, PICC, Pasay City, May 11, 2007]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Dr. Espie Cabral, Secretary of Social Welfare and Development.

Secretary Alabastro, Chairman Puno, President Juaneza, the other officials of the College of Physicians, physicians, ladies and gentlemen.

I was really looking forward to coming to this convention. It's a special convention for me because it is an opportunity for me and for us to celebrate the excellence, compassion and heroism of our physicians. And more personally for me it is an opportunity to acknowledge once again the admirable proficiency of our doctors such as those doctors who saved the life of my husband. That night when he was undergoing surgery and I was in the chapel, I didn't know whether in a few hour's time I might be a widow. But that trial has reinforced my deep pride, and not only my deep pride because my husband... Because his case was very well-covered in the media, it has reinforced the deep pride of all Filipinos in the Filipino physician.

It has proven and it showed once again how world class our Filipino doctors are. Congratulations to all of you! World class in all fields of medicine and also in caring.

And as I thank the doctors who saved my husband's life, I also thank the doctors who saved the life of so many Filipinos and even foreigners all over the country, all over the world for that matter. And I thank you all for your commitment, not only for your commitment, for your initiating the Health Education Reform Order or HERO which through your support, not only through your support, but through your recommendation was launched through the Executive Order 595.

I was looking at this memorandum of agreement on HERO and it says here that the PCP and PMA help commit to orient teaching personnel of public schools all over the country on preventive health care based on current morbidity and mortality trends, help implement a yearly nationwide medical and dental check up for elementary and high school students as well as teaching and non-teaching personnel of public schools all over the country.

Through this program, we will be able to reach out or continue to reach out to thousands, not thousands, we have half a million teachers and millions of schoolchildren who will hopefully make preventive medicine a way of life for all. And if we are successful in preventive medicine this will spare the government from the burden of dealing with common ailments clogging up our secondary and tertiary health facilities. In fact, if we talk about primary, secondary and tertiary hospitals, one of the reforms we have to make in our country is to really make the division of labor proper between primary, secondary and tertiary.

My understanding is primary health care you do more of the preventive medical attention and primary health care. And then for secondary then you have the simple surgery and delivery and things like that. And then of course the tertiary will be the more specialized services. But what has been happening is that secondary hospitals or the national hospitals continue to deal with primary cases simply because of the demand and the need.

So, what we are doing is we are allocating a very big portion of our budget, DOH budget, to assist the provincial hospitals — who should be primary hospitals — to become secondary hospitals to be able to perform ordinary surgery, to be able to perform deliveries so that tertiary hospitals or national hospitals will take care of the more specialized cases. And then also in these cases the provincial hospitals become more of secondary hospitals then we should really have the community take care of preventive medicine. And HERO is going to do that with the help of our physicians.

By refocusing on prevention rather than cure, by moving from “sick” care to “health” care, by managing illness by actually avoiding it, we can dramatically improve well-being indices across all sectors. The prevention of sickness is a hallmark of our vigilance against deadly diseases.

And I trust in the leadership of our College of Physicians, and I trust in the leadership of our DepEd, our DOH, our CHED, our DOST, our DSWD to help achieve the objective of HERO within the remaining three years of my administration.

We have 19 million students. We have half a million teachers so for us to be able to do what PCP and PMA says that you will do in this memorandum of agreement, we will be needing every willing pair of hands to ensure success and to institutionalize our goals. Thousands of lives continue to be at risk because of ignorance. And it is you who can help make them aware of what they need to do in order to avoid illness.

Health means wealth for a nation aspiring to be economically strong, politically stable and socially responsive. And that is what we are trying to say in this coming election. This coming election is about our future and whether we want to continue on a path of economic reform; clean up our environment so that our people won't get sick; invest in education so that they will be more aware of what they should do with their own bodies and their health; create good jobs so that they will have the wherewithal to avoid sickness; and of course provide better health care.

But in any case, on my part, I will stay focused on my job.

I'm optimistic about the future of the nation and the well-being of our people. Our national agenda is designed to move the nation forward toward greater political stability, economic prosperity and peace and order.

Our economic reforms are in the frontline in our campaign to reduce poverty, because poverty reduction is our overarching goal. And we will continue to focus on it in the remainder of my term.

We worked hard in this first part of my term to reduce the budget deficit but that's just the first step. Over the next three years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people. We will increase investment in our country and our people to:

First, improve our infrastructure in order to create an environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and employ more people, because more jobs means less poverty including I hope investing in more private hospitals and health care clinics;

Second, improve social services such as not only the primary, secondary and tertiary hospitals but also health insurance subsidies for indigent families and food-for-school programs so that our children won't go hungry and their families won't go hungry either when we give them a kilo of rice whenever they go to school;

Third, boost educational support in our efforts to reduce poverty by investing in better school buildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators including health educators, doctors and nurses;

And fourth, cutting red tape and continuing to eliminate corruption from the system.

And, of course, we will continue to fight against terrorism and work to bring peace and prosperity to Mindanao. And may I give a special thanks to the doctors who do public health services and even private health services in the far reaches of Mindanao.

In short, I believe in the Philippines. I believe in its hardworking people. And I believe in the physicians of the Philippines.

And I ask you, physicians, let's work hard together until my term ends to make economic prosperity, social justice, and peace and security a reality for a new modernizing Philippines.

HERO is one way by which we can do it. Working to improve the services of our provincial hospitals is another way to do it. Working together to make health insurance more efficient and cover more services is still another way to do it, and the way to do that is to be able to use our taxes properly.

And so, there are so many things that we can do together. But you are such world class physicians, I have no doubt you will also be world class citizens and servants of the people.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Ceremonies of the 37th Annual Convention of the Philippine College of Physicians. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150631/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2015&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on a new paradigm for peace, May 17, 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On a new paradigm for peace**

[Delivered at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City, May 17, 2007]

A new paradigm for peace

And in the southern part of our country, which I'm sure investors are looking at as well, we have developed a new paradigm for peace. Our Philippine model for dealing with the flashpoint area of Mindanao has focused on a unique combination of soft and hard power to promote peace. We have been able to weld together confidence-building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness; investments in economics and basic infrastructure development; and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

The U.S. has worked side by side with our military on a number of community public works projects. The positive impact of these projects cannot be overstated: from health care to building schools, the outreach has built more than buildings, it has built trust, which is the basis for effective and lasting diplomacy.

Besides the U.S., we are also working with a broad range of international organizations and nations from across the spectrum including Sweden, the European Union, Japan, Malaysia, Libya and other OIC countries. This broad-based coalition is working to keep the peace, isolate genuine security threats, and promote the economic well-being of Muslim and Christian residents of Mindanao. This is a model setting a positive example. It is something we all wish to share with the rest of the world. It will lead to a permanent peace in Mindanao.

Yesterday, I was speaking with a foreign reporter and he was telling me that he had been talking with some American generals and they are studying our model in Mindanao hoping to apply it somewhat to Iraq as well.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Speech of President Arroyo during the revival of the Philippine Corporate Access Days of JP Morgan
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the revival of the Philippine Corporate Access Days of JP Morgan

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City, May 17, 2007]

Thank very much, Justice Vitug.

Mr. Dybuncio, investors, participants in this conference, ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, thank you to JP Morgan for reviving the Philippine Corporate Access Days after eight years. Welcome back to the Philippines!

It's a good time for you to be back in the Philippines. Last Monday, Filipinos demonstrated our political stability in peaceful, fair and free elections. The national elections are just starting their count, but in the congressional and local elections, the victory of the overwhelming majority of candidates sympathetic to the administration shows a vote for political stability and economic reform.

And the results will be a focus by our administration on continued economic reform — pro-growth, pro-trade and pro-investment strategies — that help lift up our people from poverty and help bring the Philippines, finally, into contention as a real investment destination. I think we are the best value in Asia today.

Mr. Dybuncio has said many things about why we are and I won't have to repeat all of them. I would just like to say in summing up what he said, that our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in a decade. Politics will not alter the course of our economic comeback. It won't undo our economic progress. The recent decision by Texas Instruments to invest an additional one billion U.S. dollars in the Philippines is a strong endorsement of our economic program.

Through hard-fought economic reform battles that we have led with some courageous members of Congress, the Philippine economy has finally broken loose of its historic legacy of lethargy. New revenues, better collection of revenue and a crackdown on tax cheats along with fiscal discipline has put the Philippines on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. And your coming back here shows that the world is taking notice. And I will repeat, I believe the Philippines offers one of the best values in Asia for domestic and foreign investors.

The biggest single act that led to the surge in our economy was the passage of our value-added tax. In one bold stroke it raised enormous revenue. It also sent an unmistakable signal that we are serious about moving the nation forward. That isn't all, though. Our complete focus on the economy — fiscal discipline, a balanced budget and the need for long overdue human and physical infrastructure improvements, investments — help round out our economic gain. Our efforts are paying off in a strong peso, low inflation, a robust stock market — which we are relying on you to continue — rapid inflows of foreign investment and almost six million new jobs in the last six years. Our average unemployment rate is the lowest among several administrations. Our poverty rate is the lowest as well.

And I don't want to keep, I mean, don't think I should stop stressing that there has been a strong increase in investments. Not just Texas instruments but this is happening across the board in a number of industries. We are working to ensure this will be sustained. There had been notable successes, indeed, but much more can and will be done. We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by, as I said earlier, making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, health care and training along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines.

We take great pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. We are proud of the fact that we are prepaying external debts, optimistic that we will soon balance the budget, and we are making sure to use the gains, as I said, to invest in vital social and economic needs. And let me be very clear: I will not sacrifice long-term gains for short-term political expediency.

And in the southern part of our country, which I'm sure investors are looking at as well, we have developed a new paradigm for peace. Our Philippine model for dealing with the flashpoint area of Mindanao has focused on a unique combination of soft and hard power to promote peace. We have been able to weld together confidence-building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness; investments in economics and basic infrastructure development; and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

The U.S. has worked side by side with our military on a number of community public works projects. The positive impact of these projects cannot be overstated: from health care to building schools, the outreach has built more than buildings, it has built trust, which is the basis for effective and lasting diplomacy.

Besides the U.S., we are also working with a broad range of international organizations and nations from across the spectrum including Sweden, the European union, Japan, Malaysia, Libya and other OIC countries. This broad-based coalition is working to keep the peace and isolate genuine security threats and promote the economic well-being of Muslim and Christian residents of Mindanao. This is a model setting a positive example. It is something we all wish to share with the rest of the world. It will lead to a permanent peace in Mindanao.

Yesterday, I was speaking with a foreign reporter and he was telling me that he had been talking with some American generals and they are studying our model in Mindanao hoping to apply it somewhat to Iraq as well.

But, to come back to the Philippines as you are I hope doing, in Mindanao and in the whole Philippines the short answer to continuing the economic growth is summed in three words: invest, invest, invest.

And that is why I would like to end by repeating your theme, "welcome back to the Philippines!"

Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Revival of the Philippine Corporate Access Days of JP Morgan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150606/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2013&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Japan Business Seminar

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Japan Business Seminar

[Delivered at the Kaikan Tokyo Hotel, Tokyo, Japan, May 23, 2007]

Thank you. Thank you Ambassador Siazon.

Other officials of the Philippine government; Chairman (Tohru) Tsuji; Chairman of the Marubeni and Chairman of the JPECC; Chairman Laurel of PHILJECC; ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, I'd like to begin by thanking and congratulating the organizers and co-organizers of this event. And to say that we are elated to see all of you in this business seminar.

Japanese-Philippine relations have never been stronger: there has been a welcome influx in Japanese tourists, an impressive upswing in Japanese direct investment, and in another notable area, Japan has made a major contribution to peace and stability in Mindanao in Southern Philippines.

The strengthening of economic ties between our two nations has been based in part on the growing strength of the Philippine economy which our two speakers have already discussed. It is providing more and better investment opportunities for Japanese companies.

The Philippines is a competitive location for all companies looking to establish or expand their operations in the Asia-Pacific region. We are right in the middle of this region. We offer a strategic location in a fast-growing region. Our workforce is well educated, productive and English speaking. Our strength lies in education and training of our people and the package of reforms that we have done.

Through hard-fought economic reform battles we have led, the Philippine economy has finally broken loose of its lethargic economic legacy. New revenues, better collection and a crackdown on tax evaders along with fiscal discipline has put the Philippines on a path to permanent economic growth and stability.

There has been a sea change in the Philippines in the past few years. We have broken the back of fiscal irresponsibility. With our revenue, fiscal and investment policies we are charting a new economic course. Our fiscal performance in the past few years is a reflection of the significant progress we have made in putting our fiscal house in order. We have lowered our budget deficit. We have raised unprecedented amounts of revenue. We demonstrated that we have the ability to keep our budget under control. We have delivered 25 consecutive quarters of economic growth. And if you will remember, some of the quarters of this years 2001 to 2007, some of our neighbors experience recession during that period but our economic growth was consistent quarter after quarter. Our commitment to make the difficult decisions to reform our economy has been a major contributor to these achievements.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in more of a decade. UBS recently said in a research report that the Philippines is one of the few countries that will experience stronger growth this year than in 2006.

To instill permanent change because we want this growth and development to be permanent, we will continue the reforms. The short answer to continuing the economic growth is summed in three words: invest, invest, invest. We are committed to raising the revenues needed to balance our budget and to invest in our country and our people. We

are following up the pain of tax raising measures with the gain that come from significant investments in people and projects. We are continuing a balanced path of targeted investment and overall restraint while enhancing our revenues. That way we will truly ensure that the progress cannot be reversed.

We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in human capital like education, health care, social services and training along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines. This, we hope in turn, will in turn will attract more foreign investments such as yours and create more jobs, ultimately improving the lives of our people.

Our strategy for the Philippines is to improve and strengthen global competitiveness. That's why we emphasize investment in physical infrastructure and in human capital, also in efficient access to financing, and in lower transaction flows and cost of doing business by cutting down red tape and minimizing corruption.

We have undertaken a strong and steady effort to curb graft and corruption through criminal justice, administrative controls and procedural reforms. This effort is focused on the tax and customs collection agencies, which as a result have improved their performance in recent years; also agencies that are in the frontline of day-to-day public services; and of day-to-day dealings with businessmen; and local governments. We take this issue very seriously. And we are pleased that progress is being made.

We take great pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. We are proud of the fact that external debt is being prepaid. We are attempting to balance the budget in 2008, two years ahead of schedule based on our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. And we are making sure as I've said earlier to use the gains to invest in vital social and economic needs. We will not sacrifice long term gains for short term political expediency.

Chairman (Tohru) Tsuji said that about ten days ago, Filipinos demonstrated our political stability through peaceful, fair and free elections. The message of our elections was that the Philippine economy is stable and strong. And as Chairman (Tohru) Tsuji said, even as the national elections are still being canvassed, in the congressional and local elections, the results are already very clear, an overwhelming majority of candidates sympathetic to the administration has emerged victorious. Some of them are here with us today the justly elected congressman from Batangas, Congressman Mandanas; the justly elected congressman from Bicol, Congressman Lagman and in fact, the wife of our chairman of the Technical and Education Skills Development Authority who's also here today has just been reelected in her constituency and our foreign minister has given us a new member of Congress in his son. And they are here, I suppose as a way of demonstrating, the path we have set for economic reform has not been upset by partisan politics. Politics will not undo our economic progress.

We can continue on the path we have set for putting people ahead of politics by focusing relentlessly on the economy. Our administration will focus on pro-growth, pro-trade and pro-investment strategies that help lift up our people from poverty and help the Philippines be in contention as a real investment destination. We are a good business environment getting even better.

The world is taking notice; we know that our Japanese friends and investors are. In fact, late last year, the company of Chairman Suji, Marubeni and Tokyo Electric Power purchased power plants in the Philippines for some \$3.5 billion and announced another \$500 million dollars expansion, the biggest single investment package by a Japanese group in the Philippines. Earlier this year, as mentioned by our chairman of PHILJEC, Mr. Francis Laurel, we attended the groundbreaking of a new Toyota transmission production facility in south of Manila.

The strong increase in investment has also recently been anchored by the announcement of an American company Texas Instruments to invest \$1 billion to build a chip plant in the Philippines, which they chose over other locations including china. Korea's Hanjin is constructing a billion dollar shipyard north of Manila similar to Tsuneishi's \$600 million shipyard in the Philippine island of Cebu. This is happening across the board in a number of industries. We are working to ensure that this will be sustained.

The Philippines has arrived. It is one of the best values for money in Asia for investors. The Marubeni-Tokyo electric investment, the Texas Instruments investment, the Hanjin investment, the Tsuneishi investment, the Toyota investment and many more across the board in a number of industries are the validation that our strategy is working.

We also like to think that the Texas Instruments investment is a validation of the quality of the Filipino worker and the quality of the infrastructure and facilities at the Clark Freeport Zone in my home province where the new plant will be located. And we worked hard to present them and other investors like you with an incentive package that is very competitive.

The Japanese businesses and the Japanese government through aid, trade and investment, have been longstanding partners of the Philippines.

Japan is indeed an important partner. And as mentioned by Chairman Suji, the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement is a milestone in our relationship. And we have here also in our delegation the Chairman of the foreign relations committee of the Senate, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who will shepherd and sponsor the ratification of the agreement in the Senate. The Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement is about bringing advantages to both nations while eliminating disadvantages. The implementation of any free trade agreement requires adjustment for both parties, but this agreement will benefit both of our economies.

The agreement will bring about liberalization of trade and services between our two countries, facilitation and greater liberalization of investment, and enhanced technical cooperation and capacity building. It will promote an increased flow of resources and help create a bigger market that will provide greater opportunities and larger economies of scale for both Philippine and Japanese businesses.

It will improve access of Philippine products and services for the Japanese market. It will immediately have a positive impact on Filipino farmers, fishermen and food processors because bananas, pineapples, crabs, shrimps, and chicken and tuna from the Philippines will have better access in Japan. Japanese industries on the other hand will be able to supply the Philippine manufacturing sector with critical inputs like Japanese specialty steel products, auto and auto parts, and electrical and electronic appliances and parts. Textiles and apparel will enjoy market access mutually in both countries, and with limited exceptions, the agreement enhances Philippine service providers' access to the Japanese market and guarantees non-discriminatory treatment. And for the first time, a historic first, Japan will accept foreign health workers — Filipino nurses and caregivers who are in great demand all over the world. On top of this, we hope to see more trade in business outsourcing which was mentioned by Mr. Laurel, and tourism, in maritime and air transport, in banking and telecommunications.

In sum, Japan is a valued development, trade and investment partner of the Philippines. And we Filipinos would like to see a further intensification and deepening of these cooperative links. More investment, more trade and trade agreements, more cooperation on peace in Mindanao, more visits and exchanges are all welcome.

And so we urge you, participants in this business seminar and leaders of the Japanese business community to come to the Philippines and explore all that the country has to offer you and your business.

Once again we thank the organizers and participants of this event for showing your interest in our country. Hope to see you there in the Philippines.

Arigato, thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Japan Business Seminar. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150551/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2011&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the conference dinner with Asian leaders

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the conference dinner with Asian leaders**

[Delivered at the Peacock Room, Imperial Hotel Tokyo, Japan, May 24, 2007]

Thank you very much.

Prime Minister Abe; Chairman Sugita; Prime Minister Badawi; Vice President Kalla of Indonesia; Deputy Prime Minister Kim of Vietnam; Minister of Commerce Nath of India; Former Prime Minister of Korea, Madame Han; Excellency, Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore; Mitarai San, Chairman of Keidanren; other officials of Japan and other leaders from all over the world; ladies and gentlemen:

We thank Nikkei Shimbun for the hospitality extended to all of us and we pay tribute to its abiding vision in the future of Asia.

We are also glad for the opportunity tonight to hear such an important and comprehensive message from Prime Minister Abe about global warming. As the new generation of leadership of the second largest economy in the world and the largest in Asia, Prime Minister Abe is a valued partner of the developing ASEAN community and major leader of the broader East Asian community. And now, following his initiatives in the Cebu Summit last January and its all important pronouncement tonight, a leader of sustainable development in the entire world.

The concept of an East Asian community, which has been the subject matter of our talks today, has become exciting because of the success of the launching of the East Asian Summit in Kuala Lumpur two years ago under the leadership of our first chairman, Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi.

Thus, it is our great honor tonight to have both Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Abdullah here with us. For us in the Philippines, these two gentlemen and the countries they lead are valuable allies in our quest for permanent peace in Mindanao.

In Mindanao, Japan has joined the international monitoring team led by Malaysia to help nurture the peace talks there to a successful conclusion. Malaysia has been facilitating the peace talks — and I thank Prime Minister Badawi for that — while Japan has been making significant economic investments to build up the economy of Mindanao — and I thank Prime Minister Abe for that.

Through the valuable support of our two friends, Malaysia and Japan, the role of “soft power” — that is non-military activities — has been the most significant development in the Mindanao peace process. The Philippines with their help and with the help of other very important countries like Indonesia who heads the committee of the 8 of the OICs to monitor the peace agreement with the MNLF, we have truly been able to forge a new paradigm for peace in Mindanao. This paradigm offers more soft than hard power. It relies on interfaith dialogue and an expanding cast of international players to keep the peace.

Japan’s involvement in keeping the peace in Mindanao inspires the Philippines to strongly encourage Japan to expand the present concept of collective security. We would like to see Japan playing a leading role in contributing to community building in the region, in leading us in the fight against global warming, and in maintaining and pursuing international peace and security as we try to forge the East Asia community of our dreams, a dream that gained momentum with the first East Asian Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Japan's values of peace with strength, innovative enterprise, green energy and enviro-technology can help save the world from a scenario of strife and hunger, ignorance and disease. And that is the framework and the vision and the strategy that Prime Minister Abe has shared with us tonight.

Japan has the political, economic and cultural power to help the region and the world choose the right path in the crossroad of the 21st century. It has the power to help the region and the world stick to that path for the harmony and prosperity of mankind especially Asia as well as its sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is much work ahead for all of us in Asia. Events such as the Nikkei forum play an important role in bringing us even closer to the goal of "deepening cooperation towards a true community." I thank Nikkei and all of the attendees of this forum for your valuable contribution towards meeting this goal of deepening integration and deepening integration towards sustainable development.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Conference Dinner with Asian Leaders. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150153/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2009&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Meeting with the Filipino Community Leaders in Japan

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a Meeting with the Filipino Community Leaders in Japan

[Delivered at the Botan Room, Imperial Hotel Tokyo, Japan, May 24, 2007]

Maraming salamat Maraming salamat, Ambassador Jun Siazon.

Mga mimamahala kong lider ng Filipino community, maraming salamat at kayo'y pumunta sa kabila ng ito ay working day. Talagang alam ko ilan diyan sa inyo ay nagsakripisyo nag-bus mula sa Osaka, nag-eroplano mula sa Hokaido. Kaya maraming salamat kahit na ito ay mahirap na araw para magkita-kita tayo. Talagang nagpapasalamat ako dito sa pagkakataong magkasama na naman tayo.

Una sa lahat, ibig kong muling ipahayag ang malaking respeto sa inyo at sa inyong sakripisyo at malasakit, malasakit sa inyong trabaho, malasakit sa inyong pamilya, malasakit sa ating bansa.

Ilang beses na akong napunta rito, at ilang beses na tayong nagkita. Naalala ko noong 2001, walong milyong Pilipino ang nasa ibayong dagat. Ngayon 2007, walong milyong Pilipino pa rin dahil habang may lumalabas, mayroon ding umuwi. Ngunit kung ang pag-uusapan natin ang remittances, noong 2001, ang remittances ng mga Pilipino sa ibayong dagat ay seven billion dollars habang ngayon ay halos nagdoble na at naging 13 billion U.S. dollars kahit na pareho ang numero.

Balita ng mga nagsusubaybay sa ekonomiya na kayong mga OFW ay nagsisimula nang mag-invest ng inyong kita sa ating bansa, sa halip na ginagamit lamang itong mga remittances para suportahan ang inyong mga pamilya. Kaya gaya nang sabi ko noon at natutupad na yata ngayon, dapat ang tawag sa inyo ay hindi na Overseas Filipino Workers o OFW kung hindi OFI or Overseas Filipino Investors. Maraming salamat sa inyong pamumuhunan sa ating bansa.

Salamat din sa ating mga Pilipinong marino sa Hapon na nagsusuporta sa ating mga marino sa Pilipinas. At sana nga sa inyong pagsusuporta, gaya nang sabi ni Captain Baes, itong ating mga marinerong Pilipino ay magiging mga marinerong opisyal o managers ng mga barko ng sa ganun ay lalong aangat pa ang lata para sa pamilya.

Itong ginagawa ngayon ng ating mga Pilipino sa ibayong dagat na dumoble ang ipinapauwi sa ating bansa, ito ang tinatawag na financial freedom. Ibig sabihin noon hindi tumitigil sa nagpapadala ng sapat na pondo para isustento ang batayang mga pangangailangan ng isang pamilya.

Nakikita natin na tinatanaw ninyo na kasing importante ang nagkakaipon ng sapat na savings at ginagamit itong salaping katas ng inyong sikap bilang solid working capital. At ito na nga ang financial freedom ng OFW na maging OFI at gamitin ang inyong iniipon bilang puhunan sa paghahanda sa kinabukasan ninyo at inyong mga pamilya.

Napag-alaman ko, na ngayon, lumalaki ang remittances na ginagamit patungo sa human resource capital sa pamamagitan ng edukasyon, at kasama na dito yung mga kontribusyon ninyo sa programang classroom galing sa mamamayan abroad. Maraming salamat doon sa mga nagbibigay ng classroom.

Yung remittances din ninyo ay namumuhunan sa health care. Ito ay bahagi ng human capital, health care ng inyong mga alaga. Pero isang malaking pagbabago, ginagamit din ninyo ang remittances, ayon sa mga sumusubaybay, sa pamumuhunan sa real estate kasama ang pagbili ng lupa at pagtayo ng tahanan. Alam ba ninyo na ang ating real

estate market na napakamasigasig ngayon, kwarenta porsiyento ay nanggagaling sa ating overseas Filipino workers or overseas Filipino investors. Kayo ang nagpabuhay muli ng ating housing at real estate industry.

Nasubaybayan din ng mga tumitingin kung saan ninyo dinadala yung inyong mga remittances na kayo rin ang naglalagay ng financial at capital investments. Meron nga akong mga nakilalang mga overseas Filipinos na naglalagay ng pera sa stock market, meron ding mga bumibili ng government bonds at treasury bills. Ano pa yun, Governor Tetangco ng Central Bank, saan pa sila naglalagay? Mutual funds.

Kaya ito ay isang malaking ginagawa ninyo at sabi nga ni Captain Baes, sana makahanap pa ng mga magandang paglalagyan ninyo ng financial instruments.

Kahapon ay nagpunta sa akin yung isang securities company, yung Aizawa, at siya ay nagtayo ng Philippine Fund para yung mga may puhunan — of course, yung kanyang main market yata ay yung mga matatandang mga Hapon na meron silang savings, meron silang pension or lump sum at hindi na sila puwedeng magtrabaho, hindi na sila puwedeng magnegosyo dahil matanda na sila — passive investment. Ito ay puwedeng ilagay sa pondong ito.

At isa pang nakikita natin na humihigit ang mga remittances na pinapadala sa mga business ventures gaya ng mga maliliit or medium-scale enterprises. Kay a dumodoble ang remittances kahit na hindi nagpapalit ang bilang ng mga Overseas Filipino, nakikita na nagpapalit ang kultura ng mga remittances.

Ngunit dito sa Hapon, habang binabati at ipinagdidiriwang natin na dumodoble ang pinadadala ng karaniwang Filipino sa Pilipinas, alam natin naman na maraming nawalan ng trabaho noong naghigpit ang Hapon sa mga entertainers. Kaya naman, gaya nang sabi ni Captain Baes, binuksan ng pamahalaan noong Marso doon sa Intramuros iyong National Reintegration Center para sa mga OFW, at nilagay natin ito sa Intramuros. Sana kayo dahil kayo ay mga lidars, kung meron kayong mga kilala na i-stranded tuloy at umuwi, sana ipaabot ninyo at kung meron pa kayong contact sa kanila, yung mga kaibigan nawalan ng trabaho na gamitin itong Re-integration Center sa Intramuros, upang mapadali ang pagsisimula ng panibagong buhay pagbalik sa Pilipinas.

Kung tutuusin natin, ang ninanais natin naman talaga ay yung araw when going abroad for a job is a career option, not the only choice for a hardworking Filipino.

Kaya naman ang ating mga plano sa ekonomiya ay nakatukoy na payagan ang Pilipinas na lumaya na dito sa sistemang kailangan pang mag-abroad upang magkaroon ng disentang hanapbuhay. Kaya nakatutok tayo sa ekonomiya at pinapaasenso ang mga rehiyon ng ating bansa. Doon sa Luzon Urban Beltway mula sa Subic hanggang Metro Manila hanggang Batangas Port, doon natin inaalok na pumunta yung mga industriya.

Doon naman sa North Luzon, dagidiay anak ti amyanan, dagidiay kakailyan ni Ambassador Siazon ken kailyan ni mamang ko nga Ilokano — doon naman ay nilalagay natin ang puhunan para magkaroon ng magandang agribusiness, ganun din sa Mindanao.

At doon naman sa Central Philippines, doon sa lugar ni Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago ay doon naman natin dini-develop yung turismo ng ating bansa. Kaya naman tuloy doon sa lugar ni Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, doon sa Iloilo ay naglagay tayo — nakabukas na, ready to operate anytime ang isang bagong international airport. Ganun ang ating mga ginawang puhunan. Dahil kailangang ipamudmod natin ang kayamanan upang makahanap ng trabaho ang ating taumbayan sa sariling bayan. Naglilikha tayo ng mga trabaho sa pamamagitan ng pagtukoy sa mga prayoridad na sektor.

Siyanga pala, meron pang isang rehiyon, ito naman yung cuts along the length of all these four Super Regions I talked about. Mula Baguio hanggang Clark-Subic, hanggang Metro Manila, hanggang Cebu, hanggang Davao, yan ang ating cyber corridor kung saan nagkakaroon tayo ng napakaraming mga call centers at business process outsourcing. Yung mga kabataan nga na nagtrabaho na doon, sinasabi nila sa akin, salamat at lumawak ang ating business process outsourcing industry dahil hindi na sila kailangan mag-abroad.

Noong 2001, noong ako ay bagong Pangulo, dalawang libo pa lamang ang mga nagtrabaho sa BPO. Ngayon 250,000 na sa loob ng anim na taon at naging two billion-dollar industry na.

Nabanggit ni Captain Baes yung halalan. Doon sa halalan noong isang linggo ipinakita ng mga Pilipino ang katatagan ng ating pulitika sa pamamagitan ng mapayapa, patas at malayang halalan. Ang mensahe ay matatag at malakas ang ekonomiya. Hindi nasisira ng pulitika ang landas na itinakda natin para sa reporma sa ekonomiya. Hindi mabubura ang progreso ng ating ekonomiya. Mukhang nakaabot na ang ating ekonomiya sa bagong antas ng maturity at katatagan. Pinakamaganda nga ang sukat ng ating ekonomiya sa loob ng ilang dekada, ngunitkailangan ipagpatuloy natin ito. At gaya nang sinasabi ni Captain Baes, isang paraan kung papano natin ipagpapatuloy ito ay pagkakaisa. Sa ibabaw ng pagkakaisa, ang maikling sagot sa kung papano natin ipagpapatuloy ang paglago ng ekonomiya ay nasusuma sa tatlong salita: invest, invest, invest. Kayo, nag-iinvest na. Maraming salamat doon.

Itong mga ginagawa naman ng gobyerno ay kahit maraming nagalit, naglagay tayo ng mga bagong buwis. Kasi noong araw panay utang ang pinanggagalingan ng ating imprastruktura. Ngayon naglagay tayo ng mga bagong buwis, kailangang sundan natin ang sakit ng pagtaas ng buwis sa pakinabang na nanggagaling lamang sa makabuluhang investment sa tao at sa mga proyekto. Sa ganoong paraan lamang natin masisiguro na ang kaunlaran ay hindi na mababaliktad.

Kaya habang ang ating ekonomiya ay nakaabot sa bagong antas ng maturity at katatagan na pinakamalalakas ang ating growth rate, ang ating interest rate, ang ating iba't-ibang mga measures sa loob ng ilang dekada, Hindi tayo dapat magpahinga, kung Hindi sumulong at isustento ang momentum. At upang maging permanente ang pagbabago, gagawa tayo ng matagal nang dapat ginawang investment sa human at physical infrastructure, gaya nang ginagawa ng ating mga overseas Filipino investors, kasama dito naman sa panig ngpamahalaan ang bilyung-bilyong pisong ginagastos na natin ngayon sa edukasyon, kalusugan at training. Kasama ng bilyung-bilyon sa mga bagong iulay, kalsada, pantalan upang i-angat ang kakayahan ng Pilipinas sa kumpetensiya.

Pag sinasabi natin na naglalagay tayo ng bilyon sa training, hindi ibig sabihin na tayo ang nagti-train, na gobyerno ang nagti-train kasi maraming private sector training centers or maraming private sector vocational and technical schools, maraming private sector na marine academies. Ang ginagawa natin ay mga scholarship para mas lalong makapasok ang ating karaniwang Pilipinong naghahanap ng mas magandang trabaho at mas magandang kita.

Ito namang ating ginagawang investments sa tao at saka sa imprastruktura ay nag-aaliw naman ng mga investments ng private sector, foreign investments, Filipino investment at naglilikha ng higit na trabaho.

Yaong halalan, hindi pa tapos ang bilangan para sa mga senador, ngunit sa mga kongresista at mga LGU, nakararaming di hamak sa mga nanalo ay kaalyado ng administrasyon. Kaya puwede talaga tayong manawagan ng pagkakaisa, at kaya rin makakapagpatuloy tayo sa landas kung saan inuuna natin ang taumbayan kaysa sa pulitika, yan yata ang mensahe ni Captain Baes, sa pamamagitan ng pagtukoy sa estratehiyang maka-kaunlaran, maka-kalakal atmaka-investment na nakakatulong i-ahon ang ating taumbayan mula sa kahirapan, at, tinutulungan ang Pilipinas na sa wakas maging isang tunay na pinupuntahan ng investments.

Hong mga investments na kailangan natin para magkaroon ng trabaho. Kamakailan lamang, nagdesisyon ang Marubeni at Tokyo Electric na mamuhunan sa Pilipinas ngfour billion U.S. dollars sa ating bansa. Ito ay ang pinakamalaking investment ng Hapon sa buong kasaysayan ng Pilipinas. Ito ay malakas na endorso sa ating programang pang-ekonomiya.

Kapag naipasa na ang Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement sa ating Senado, at si Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago ang magiging sponsor noon, higitpang luluwag ang pintuan ng Hapon sa mga manggagawang Pilipino, lalo na yung mga nurse at caregivers, hihigit rin ang kalakal at serhisyo sa dalawang bansa, hihigit din maging mas madali at bukas ang investments, at dadagdagan ang tulong ng Hapon sa technical cooperation at capability-building.

Kaya sinasabi mo Captain Baes na sana makipag-ugnay dito sa mga host countries, yung kultura, yung lengguwahe kasama iyon doon sa ating Japan-Philipping Economic Partnership Agreement. Lalong makakakilos ang puhunang

Hapon, lalong makakakilos ang manggagawang Pilipino. Lalaki ang merkado, lalaki ang oportunidad para sa mga negosyante maging Pilipino o Hapon.

At para sa ating bansa, lalong bubukas ang pintuan ng Hapon sa mga produkto at serbisyo ng Pilipinas. Agad-agad magkakaroon ng positibong epekto sa ating mga magsasaka, mangingisda at food processors dahil ang mga saging, pinya, alimango, hipon, asukal, manok at tuna ay higit na makakaabot dahil ang customs duties ng Hapon ay tatanggalin pagpasok noong mga produktong yun dito. tama ba, Peter? Tama ba iyon, kasi si Secretary Favila ang nag-negotiate noon.

Magkakaroon naman ng agaran at pang-matagalang benepisyo sa ating mga industriya sa Pilipinas, dahil ang Pilipinas ay makakasiguro sa regular na supply ng mga importanteng materyal gay a ng mga espesyal na steel products ng Hapon, sasakyan at auto parts, at mga gamit at parts na electrical at electronics sa sektor ng mga pabrika. Kaya kung mas madali sa kanilang mag-angat nitong mga raw materials na ito, mas din silang makaka-produce, mas makapagbigay ng trabaho sa mga pabrika.

At yung mga tela at damit ay kapwa tatanggalin ang customs duties sa isa't-isa. Di ba ang mamahal ng mga damit dito sa Hapon? Eh, puwede nang makapasok ng malaya at walang buwis din ano, Peter, – pag na-ratify ng Senado – ang mga damit na manggagaling sa Pilipinas.

Sinisiguro rin na maliban sa Hang mga hindi sinaling sektor, halimbawa, nga yung mga entertainers dati na nahigpitant mananatiling mahigpit. Pero sa ibang mga sektor ay walang diskriminasyon sa mga serbisyonag nagmumula sa Pilipinas. Inaasahang lalawak ang turismo, biyahe sa barko, biyahe sa eroplano, information technology at banking.

Sa anumang sukat, kasalukuyang pinakamalakas na relasyon sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at Hapon ngayon. Maraming turistang Hapong bumibisita sa Pilipinas. Kahanga-hanga ang pag-angat ng investments sa Pilipinas mula sa Hapon. Ah, binanggit ko nga yung Marubeni and Tokyo Electric, four billion dollars; yung Sumitomo maglalagay ng one billion dollars sa ating mining, at iba pa.

At sa isa pang kapansin-pansin na larangan, nakagawa ang Hapon ng importanteng kontribusyon sa kapayapaan at katatagan sa Mindanao. Kinsa taga-Mindanao diri? Okay. Ang Hapon, tuladng Pilipinas, ay maka-kapayapaan, demokratiko, at may paggalang sa karapatang-tao. Kaya inaasahan ko na maganda ang pagtrato ng batas ng Hapon sa mga Pilipinong pinapayagan magtrabaho dito pati na rin sa mga barkong Hapon.

Magkasama tayong tumindig at makipagbalikat, upang maitaguyod ang Pilipinas bilang maunlad na bansa para sa lahat ng Pilipino. Ako ay nasisiyahan na makita kayong muli. Ito ay working day kaya hindi natin naimbita ang mas maraming Pilipino. Pero kayo ang mga lidere, kayo na lamang ang magpadala ng ating patuloy na respeto sa mga manggagawa dito sa Hapon.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat at mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 13th Nikkei International Conference on the “Future of Asia”
Deepening Cooperation Toward a True Community Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 13th Nikkei International Conference on the “Future of Asia” Deepening Cooperation Toward a
True Community**

[Delivered at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan, May 24, 2007]

I thank Nikkei for inviting me once again to this prestigious forum. It's my honor to be able to speak for the third time. I was here as our moderator said in 2002 and 2003. At that time, on those two times, the topics were: **Emerging China** and then **ASEAN's Role in the Genesis of a New Asian Order**. Now I return as current chair of ASEAN and I'm very happy to hear that the theme **Deepening Cooperation Toward a True Community** was inspired by the events in the ASEAN Summit and East Asian Summit in Cebu that we hosted last January.

It is not only the 10 years after the ASEAN financial crisis that we are commemorating this year. We are also commemorating 40 years of ASEAN.

ASEAN had a vital first 40 years of existence. We are proud of what ASEAN has contributed to world peace, security and economic growth. ASEAN has kept the peace, expanded our economies and drawn closer together through trade, diplomacy and cultural exchange. Last January at the summit in Cebu, we put down a marker to draft an ASEAN charter – this is a down payment on an EU style union.

We took a bold step forward in forging a more unified ASEAN. Bold because of times and bold because we are a very diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-religious region at different levels of social and economic development. It is remarkable that ASEAN has resisted the temptation to drift apart. Instead, we remain on a steady arc of community, of comity, of cooperation.

Yet for all that ASEAN has accomplished, this latest bold step doesn't mean we have won the race. We are in a marathon, not a sprint. Our eye is not just on ASEAN at age 40 Our eye is also on ASEAN at age 80, 40 years from now We must ask: Because we're talking about the future of Asia, we must ask: What will ASEAN look like 40 years from today? If today, we are a market of 500 million people, 40 years from today, we will be a billion people in ASEAN. If today, we are the fastest growing region, in 40 years, we will likely be a more mature, modest growth region. And if today, we are unsure of global security and the threat of upstart nations getting nuclear weapons – what will we face in 40 years?

Each question begs an answer. We need to make sure our answer is consistent with our social needs, we made to make sure our answer embraces a sustainable economic model, we made to make sure our answer ensures regional and global peace.

When we think ahead and ponder the next 40 years, we see increasing prosperity and the possibility of greater income disparity. We see a more peaceful world and nations, more nations with nuclear capability. We see a cleaner environment and the challenge of global warming affecting government policies and our economic model and having a decisive impact on our lives.

All of the hope and anxiety about the future leads us to one conclusion: We must all press for ever closer cooperation in ASEAN and indeed, in all of Asia, if we are to collectively benefit from the good and collectively tackle the big challenges together.

The number of truly globe-size issues we will face in the 21st century will require truly globe-size cooperation. The place to start is building stronger regional entities like ASEAN and expanding their political, economic and security influence to other partners around the world.

This is also true of other pacts, other arrangements, other organizations, other associations. The WTO comes to mind, particularly at this time when the Doha Round is on the ropes. We hope the Doha Round is successful, because it was designed to be the round that would focus on development, to be the round that would bring the benefits of the global trading system to less developed nations.

As an economist and leader of a nation of 85 million, I believe in the value of trade to alleviate poverty and free people to live a better life. Our policy to aggressively engage the regional and global marketplace is perhaps part of the reason why our Philippine economy now has achieved 25 successive quarters of economic growth. And if we are to remember what those 25 quarters were, starting from 2001 up to now 2007, we should recall that some of those years, some of the neighboring countries of the Philippines, some of the neighboring economies, were experiencing recession but not in the Philippines.

Today, exports and imports are booming even as the Peso strengthens; we had our best year ever in foreign direct investment and with our stock market; not only two days ago, not only did our stock market surpass, the free financial crisis levels, it was the highest in the entire 80-year history of our stock exchange. And we have created 6 million new jobs under our administration.

But that doesn't mean we believe trade is pain free; it is not free from pain, not for many people, not for certain industries not for a number of nations. But in the main, it is the wave of the future.

Yet on this road to globalization, the developed nations have let many of the developing nations down. When trade served their interests, it was a green light; now that they might have to give up certain subsidies or markets, the yellow light of caution is up. And there are fears that light may turn to red before this is over.

So while we want a successful trade round, we will not just wait around: We aim to go full speed ahead in the Philippines and in ASEAN to strengthen our economic ties, regardless of what Doha does or does not bring.

As President of the Philippines, I have been aggressive in seeking multilateral and bilateral trade relationships. As current chair of ASEAN, we helped lead the call for the revival of the Doha Round. We helped in our decision to move forward with free trade negotiations. The Free Trade Agreement between ASEAN and China, as well as the FTA between ASEAN and South Korea, are moving into their final stages. It is now up to the ASEAN member countries to individually ratify these two FTAs. We are moving forward with our plans to pursue an ASEAN-EU FTA. Negotiations on the FTA with Japan also hold out a lot of promise. We hope that those involved in the negotiations would find the resolve to agree on the finer points of the draft FTA. For instance, on the rules of origin. So that by the November meeting, we could have a signing of that agreement.

These agreements demonstrate our collective voice in the ASEAN. But more importantly, they reflect our commitment to expanding global trade and investment for the benefit of all.

Because the future will belong to those nations that seek common ground to resolve common problems. This is true in virtually every aspect of our lives: economy, social justice, energy diversification, security. ASEAN is the most tested viable and mature entity at our disposal to propel our relatively smaller ASEAN nations to compete with China, India, the European Union and the US.

At the same time, for ASEAN to become a true expanding union, it must continue to nurture its relations with key partners: Japan, China and South Korea.

President Sugita was talking about our East Asian Summit in Cebu with 16 nations, at a time when the world is experiencing strains on alliances from the WTO to Iraq, vital alliances must be forged new ones to keep the world stable and strong. Some sort of Asian community will be a bold step in that direction.

We look at the experience of the EU, historically, the EU has shown how a region beset by conflict can become a force for peace and security. The same way in our region that has faced many of the same historic divisions, a more united region will also achieve the same.

But also we must recognize that community building is a long process. The EU took 50 years to reach its present stage of integration. So even if they say that we are very diverse, too much has been made of our region's diversity as a barrier. We believe our diversity is a strength not a barrier to an Asian Union. And we learned that from ASEAN.

Over the 40 years, ASEAN has proven that it can make a difference for peace and prosperity in Asia. Despite the diversity of the nations in ASEAN, and it will continue to do more as we build toward an ASEAN community by 2015.

To go back to the ASEAN community, for the East Asian Community that had the second East Asian Summit in Cebu, there is general consensus that the idea of an East Asian community has a more political, rather than geographical definition. In the process of establishing the East Asian community, we look to the engagement of all parties that have a stake in East Asia especially a stake in ASEAN because it is in the framework of ASEAN that we have developed the concept of the East Asian community. For instance, geographically India is not part of East Asia, it's part of South Asia but it is participating in our East Asian Summit. Russia is on the Pacific Ocean but it is still as of now not part of the East Asian Summit that is because economic engagement is a more compelling factor in the minds of our ASEAN brothers than a geographic location.

The East Asian community, we cannot deny is made especially important because of the emergence of China. We view the rise of China as an opportunity, not a threat.

ASEAN's relations, the Philippines's relations with China are now more confident, mature and comprehensive. They are punctuated with substantial and important projects aimed at deepening exchanges on a number of areas, especially trade and investment.

Because the region, certainly comprises at least China, South Korea and Japan, aside from ASEAN and perhaps Australia, New Zealand, cordial and stable relations between China, South Korea and Japan are essential elements of a stable and prosperous East Asia community. And we have faith that relations among them will continue to warm. We are very pleased that ASEAN is able to provide in the plus three summits regular opportunities for Japan, China and South Korea to engage each other in dialogue and consultation. We in the Philippines are pleased to have hosted such a plus three meeting on the margins of the summit in Cebu in January this year.

The relationship between Japan and China is especially important implications. It has especially important implications for regional stability in Asia. And we are happy, very happy to hear all the news all over the world about the increasingly cordial relationship between the two Asian economic giants. We are happy to read even from the editorials of the newspapers in China that one of the reasons for the increasing relationship of trust between Prime Minister Abe and Premier Wen Jiabao of China was their meeting in Cebu last January.

In East Asia, we must forge deeper international cooperation on the initial ideas for a regional security framework and we hope that the forthcoming ASEAN regional forum hosted by the Philippines in Manila this coming August will be a venue for that. We must also forge some kind of cooperation on the mobility of human resources and we must forge understanding on a regional cooperation framework on environment and energy security. This will make the ASEAN community "one caring and sharing community". The ASEAN Region must be committed to the role innovation will play if we are to succeed in a truly sustainable economic model of development. In doing this, innovation, led by countries like Japan which is still the leader in technology is as valuable as political will.

Speaking of Japan, where the population is aging, we must also rationalize age and demography within the ASEAN region to increase the flow of services, talent and knowledge.

And in accordance with the principle of rationalizing, within the ASEAN region, more Filipino nurses and caregivers will come to Japan when our economic partnership agreement – the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement will enter into force.

The Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement or JEPEPA as we call it, will bring about greater liberalization of trade and services between our two countries, it will bring about facilitation and liberalization of investment, it will bring about enhanced technical cooperation and capacity-building. All these will promote an increased flow of resources not just capital resources but human resources and all these will create a bigger market that will provide greater opportunities and larger economies of scale for both Japanese and Philippine and businesses.

Japan is the second largest economy in the world, let's not forget that. Japan is the largest in Asia, let's not forget that. Therefore, Japan is a valued partner of the developing ASEAN community and it is a major member of the broader East Asian community.

Japan has the political, economic and cultural power to help the world choose the right path in the crossroad of the 21st century in the future of Asia. It has the power to help the world stick to that path for the harmony and prosperity of mankind especially in Asia.

Japan's values of peace with strength, innovative enterprise, green energy and enviro-technology can help save the world especially Asia from a scenario of strife and hunger, ignorance and disease.

We in ASEAN, we in the Philippines are proud of the fact that Japan has become such an economic powerhouse these last 40 years. The last 40 years of ASEAN existence. So we in ASEAN like to think we helped play a nurturing role in Japan's becoming such an economic powerhouse.

Japan has been our economic anchor for a generation now. I would like to be a little personal at this point. I of course, I was not born yet during the war, World War II. But although Japan and the Philippines established diplomatic relations in 1956, the people to people relationship was not yet so cordial in the beginning. But when my father, Diosdado Macapagal invited then, the then Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Japan who are now their imperial majesties to visit the Philippines, they charmed the Filipino so much that our relationship became warm, the ice was broken and ever since then, Japan has played an important role in the Philippines.

Japan plays an important role not only in the Philippines, it's a partner of ASEAN, it plays an important role in regional diplomacy, and it is by far our largest source of official development assistance. With these role that Japan has been playing over the last 40 years, with the rise of China and with the influence of India, Japan's role will become even more central to maintaining stability and balance in the regio

For instance, in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, Japan has joined the International Monitoring Team to help nurture the peace talks there to a successful conclusion. Perhaps more important, Japan has been making significant economic investments to build up the economy of that southern region of Mindanao. The role of "soft" power – that is, none military activities – has been the most significant development in the Mindanao peace process and Japan has been leading in that. Therefore, I would like to thank Japan for helping the Philippines forged a new paradigm for peace in Mindanao. This new paradigm offers more soft than hard power. It relies on interfaith dialogue and an expanding cast of international players to keep the peace.

Aside from Japan, aside from the OIC countries, aside from our ASEAN brothers, we now have European Union, Sweden, US and other countries joining us in this peace process. The Philippines therefore joins well meaning allies in strongly encouraging Japan to expand her present concept of exercise of collective security.

We would like to see Japan playing a leading role in contributing to community building in the region, and that means also, including maintaining and pursuing international peace and security as we try to forge the East Asia community of our dreams.

Indeed, on every other major front, we see Japan being an integral player if not an outright catalyst for change and progress. Japan will provide in the years to come the necessary leadership to the important arena of sustainable development.

For the Philippines we can say that Japan-Philippines relations have never been stronger: There has been a welcome influx of Japanese tourists. There has been impressive upswing in Japanese direct investment.

Late last year, Marubeni and Tokyo electric power purchased power plants in the Philippines for \$3.5 billion and announced a \$500-million additional expansion. A few months later, the American electronics giant Texas instruments awarded the Philippines an investment of one billion US dollars to build a world-class manufacturing facility. For this Texas Instruments investment, we beat out China and a number of other nations for the privilege to be the investment destination. For us in the Philippines, greater economic integration leads to improved competition and performance that helps our people. Combined with our tight fiscal policies and our investments in infrastructure, the Philippines has finally arrived as a premier investment destination in Asia. And we thank ASEAN, we thank Japan, we thank the entire robust economy of the region in aiding our comeback.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in decades.

Last week, Filipinos demonstrated our political stability through peaceful, fair and free elections. Our elections have sent investors the message of political stability which ensures continuing economic reform. The message was that the Philippine economy is stable and strong. And even as the senatorial elections are still being canvassed, in the congressional and local elections, Filipinos have voted overwhelmingly for administration allies. Therefore, the path we have set for economic reforms has not been upset by partisan elections. The election will not undo our economic progress.

Earlier this month, in another expression of confidence, the Philippines won reelection as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council. This important development underscores the fundamental commitment of the Philippine government to uphold human rights.

The result of all this political development will be a focus by our administration on continued economic reform, pro-growth, pro-trade and pro-investment strategies that will help lift up our people out of poverty.

We are investing aggressively in our I.T. backbone. We are bringing the internet to every high school and spending more pesos for education. This is because we have found a niche in a business process outsourcing and I.T. sector. When I was a new president in 2001, there are only 2,000 employed in the business process outsourcing industry. Today, there are over 250,000 and we have a two billion dollar industry. We are bringing incentives to start micro and small businesses to build entrepreneurial class.

And we continue to develop a larger manufacturing base along with our booming service economy to create good jobs. At the same time, we realize, we must also become more self-sufficient and cost effective in our energy consumption. There is no reason we cannot do both, develop our manufacturing and be energy efficient. There is no reason why we cannot have a win-win through innovation, proper policy planning and united political and civic leadership.

For instance, we have launched a biofuels program. This program will rely on investment and innovation to create jobs, skills and self-reliance while keeping our environment clean. In this case, our model is Brazil which has pioneered in biofuels. Indeed, we must continue to learn around the world and in our region.

In conclusion, as our economic engines drive us to first-world status, and we hope to achieve that for the Philippines in the next 20 years, we must not do so on the backs of the poor nor at the expense of our environment. I am optimistic about the current approaches to economic growth. The approaches mentioned by President Sugita, were with the rise of China, the awakening of India and the re-emergence of Japan, growth is now more domestically driven within Asia rather than export oriented. I believe these approach to growth can transform our economies and lift up the poor.

As a region, as an ASEAN region, as an Asian region, we have a chance to get it right. We can emulate the best practices of development while avoiding the mistakes of modernization that have plagued many nations before. We must use every tool available – education, technology, microfinance – to lift up our poor, if we are to achieve equitable, sustainable growth.

In sum, I am optimistic about our ability to work together as a region – ASEAN and East Asia and to solve our own problems and in the process, create a new Asian paradigm for progress that will be a model for the rest of the world as other regions and other nations continue on their own path to progress. I firmly believe that comity, cooperation and community will define our collective future.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo at the Pontificio Collegio Filipino, June 3, 2007

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Pontificio Collegio Filipino**

[Ipinahayag sa Roma, Italya, ika 3 ng Hunyo, 2007]

“Ako ay Pilipino, Taos Noo”

Karangalan at pribilehiyo kong makipagkita na naman sa inyo. Una sa lahat, siyempre para ipaabot muli sa inyo ang pagkilala at pagpasalamat ng ating mga kababayan sa inyong kabutihang loob. At salamat sa inyo na nagbibigay kayo ng magandang pangalan sa lahat ng mga Pilipino dito sa Italya sa inyong kagandahang loob. Halos tuwing may italyano tayong kausap, bukap-bibig pagpuri sa mga Pilipino.

Noong isang taon, ang inyong lingkod ay narito at merong ilan sa atin nagkita rin at isang pinag-usapan natin nung isang taon, yung hiniling natin sa Pangulo at Prime Minister, dahil nakipag-ugnayan ang inyong lingkod sa kanila, ng italya yung importanteng kasunduan sana ukol sa pagkilala sa Italya ng Filipino driver's license. Naalala niyo yung pinag-usapan natin? Eh salamat sa Panginoon, congratulations! Ambassador, natupad na ito ngayon. Hindi ba ambassador, automatic nang nako-convert ang Filipino driver's license sa Italian driver's license. Kaya magiging mas madali para sa Pilipino na tumira at magtrabaho dito sa Italya at magbubukas din ito ng mga bagong pagkakataon sa serbisyo sa transportasyon.

Bukod sa mga ito, mayroon pa tayong isa pang magandang balita para sa ating mga Filipino rito. Dahil na rin sa rekomendasyon ni Ambassador, inaatasan natin ngayon ang Department of Foreign Affairs — at alam na ito, inaprub na ito ni Secretary Romulo — ibababa ang passport fee. Ibababa ang passport fee ng 65 Euro para maging 50 Euros na lang. At yung mga fee naman para sa mga affidavit, certification, notariats mula 32.50 Euros ay magiging 25 Euros na lang.

At bakit naman hindi? Dakilang mga bayani kayong mga ating mga overseas Filipinos sa inyong mga sakripisyo at malasakit sa inyong trabaho, inyong pamilya, at inyong bansa. Sampung porsiyento ng ating bansa ay overseas Filipinos. Eto ay hindi katangi-tangi. Yung mas mayamang bayan Portugal sampung porsiyento rin ng kanilang mga Portuguese ay nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa. At daig pa tayo ng New Zealand na first world na first world na bansa. Ang New Zealand 25 percent sa kanila ay nagtatrabaho sa labas ngunit may iba't-ibang asal. Doon sa New Zealand, kung saan ang inyong lingkod ay nanggaling kasama ni Secretary Romulo, ang kuwento nila sa akin kahit na nagtrahaho sa ibang bansa yung anak, yung nanay at tatay na nasa New Zealand, sila pa ang nagpapadala ng pera sa kanilang anak na nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa. Pero ang ating mga Pilipino sa labas, sa Italya, kayo ang nagpapadala sa inyong mga magulang at pamilya.

Salamat at 600 million dollars a year ang pinapadala ninyo sa ating minamahal na bansa. Alam niyo nung 2001 nung ako ay unang umupo bilang pangulo, walong milyong Pilipino ang naabutan ko sa labas. Ngayon, walong milyon pa rin dahil habang may lumalabas, may umuuwi. Ngunit ang mga overseas Filipino bagamat hindi lumaki ang total number dinoble ang pinapauwi. Yung naabutan kong seven billion bago 2001 ay naging 13 billion dollars na ngayon. Kaya maraming salamat. Sabi nga nila ito ay dahil namumuhunan na ang ating mga overseas Filipino sa ating bansa kaysa nagpapadala lamang para sa batayang pangangailangan ng mga pamilya. Kaya talaga ang dapat ibansag sa inyo ay hindi lang OFW o Overseas Filipino Worker kung hindi OFI or Overseas Filipino Investor.

Ngunit, panaginip ko ang araw na hindi na kailangan sana na mag-abroad ang Pilipino. Panaginip natin that overseas work will be just another career option and not the only choice you often have to earn a living. Gaya ng mga New Zealand, mayaman sila. Kung nag-aabroad sila, it's a career choice. May magandang trabaho nahanap,

mas maganda o na-pirate sila, hindi dahil kung hindi sila mag-aabroad hindi sila makakabuhay. Sana ganun ang ating ekonomiya. Kaya nakatutok tayo sa ekonomiya, pinapaasenso natin ang mga rehiyon ng ating bansa, sinisikap na imudmod ang kayamanan upang makahanap ng trabaho ang ating taumbayan sa sariling bayan.

Yung ating mga call center, business process outsourcing, yun naman ay mula Baguio hanggang Clark-Subic, Maynila, Cebu, Davao. Eh nung nagsimula ako sa aking pagka-pangulo, dalawang libo ang nagtrabaho doon. Ngayon, 250,000 na, two billion-dollar industry na. Kaya naniniwala akong nabibiyak na natin yung cycle unti-unti kung saan kailangan pang lumabas para makahanap ng trabaho. I like to think that as the years will come increasingly we will be keeping our best and brightest right in the Philippines, masmalapit sa mga kaibigan at kaanak, tumutulong sa ating patnayan, at nagbibigay ng susunod na liderato ng pamunuan.

Ang mga ito ay mga hindi natatawarang senyas kung gaano kalalim ang inyong malasakit sa ating inang bayan at sa kaniyang kinabukasan. Pinapakita ninyo sa inyong mga gawain ang inyong kagustuhan na manatiling bahagi ng ating dakilang trabahong nation-building kahit napakalayo sa inyong tahanan. At bagamat malayo kayo sa inyong tahanan, gaya nang sabi ko, mukhang at home na at home na tayo rito. Congratulations! Doon sa ating mga kababayang nabigyan ng pambihirang pribilehiyong umupo sa mga town council bilang Consiglieri Aggiunte, congratulations! Yes, kasi ayon sa batas ng Italya kayo ay nakakasalita doon sa mga town council sa mga bagay at isyung may epekto sa mga kapwa-Pilipino. Kaya mas lalo na ipagtatanggol ang karapatan ng Filipino dito.

Talagang inspirasyon para sa ating lahat ang inyong walang-sawang pagmamahal sa ating bansa. Your deep pride — sabi nga nung ating singer kanina, “Ako ay Pilipino, Taas Noo ” — your deep pride in being Filipino lifts up Filipinos everywhere. At inaasahan kong tidoy-tuloy nating sasamahan lahat ng ating kababayan sa Pilipinas at sa buong mundo sa pagsikikap at panalangin dahil sa ating pananampalataya ang kinabubuti ng ating bansang minamahal.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Italy

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Italy**

[Delivered at the Pontificio Collegio Filipino, Via Amel Aurelia 490, Rome, Italy, June 3, 2007]

Karangalan at pribilehiyo kong makipagkita na naman sa inyo. Una sa lahat, siyempre para ipaabot muli sa inyo ang pagkilala at pagpapasalamat ng ating mga kababayan sa inyong kabutihang loob. At salamat sa inyo na nagbibigay ng magandang pangalan sa lahat ng mga Pilipino dito sa Italya dahil sa inyong kagandahang loob. Halos tuwing may Italyano tayong kausap, buwang-bibig na pagpuri sa mga Pilipino.

Saka sa nakita ko kanina na yung ating mga next generation of Filipinos, pati yung ating former seminarians, pati si Mr. Concepcion na dalubhasa na artist dito sa lugarkung saan napakaraming mga artists. Siyanga pala mga taga Pyrennes, thank you for coming here, taga Naples. Talagang mukhang at home na at home kayo dito sa lipunan ng Italya. Well, bakit naman hindi, magkatulad ang ating pananaw, kultura at paniniwala. Gaya nang sabi ni Cardinal Sanchez, ang ating pananampalataya dito ang pinaka kapitolyo ng ating pananampalataya. Tayo ang pangatlong pinakamalaking Katolikong populasyon sa buong mundo, perosa tingin ko bagamat siyempre maraming kakulangan sa bawat lipunan, gaya nang sabi ni Cardinal, number three tayo sa Catholic population pero number one sa devoutness ng ating pagka Catholic.

Tingnan ninyo yung mga patakaran ng ating bansa, wala tayong divorce, hindi ba? Family is very important. Ang ating patakaran sa family planning ay natural family planning, wala tayong death penalty, tayo ay pro-life. At kaya yon ang isang dahilan palagay ko, kung bakit napakaganda ang tingin ng mga Italyano sa ating mga Pilipino. Hinahangaan ng mga Italyano ng iba't-ibang antas ng buhay, maging kausap ko noong isang taon yung Pangulo at Prime Minister o kaya kausap ko yung mga karaniwang mga Italyano diyan, maganda ang kanilang sinasabi sa inyong mga magagandang asal. Hindi nakakapagtaka na sa lahat ng mga overseas workers na narito, kayo ang pinakagusto ng mga Italyano, pinakagusto nila ang mga Pilipino.

Kaya ayon na rin sa pagtrabaho ni Ambassador Lhuillier, taun-taon tatlong libong Pilipino ay nakakapasok at nakakapagtrabaho sa Italya at kaunting bansa lamang ang binibigyan ng ganitong pribilehiyo. Kagaya noong kumanta kanina taas noo tayo na tayo ay Pilipino kapag naririnig nating lahat ang magandang sinasabi tungkol sa inyo dito.

Noong isang taon, ang inyong lingkod ay narito at merong ilan sa atin nagkita rin at isang pinag-usapan natin nung isang taon, yung hiniling natin sa Pangulo at Prime Minister, dahil nakipag-ugnayan ang inyong lingkod sa kanila, ng Italya iyong importanteng kasunduan sana ukol sa pagkilala sa Italya ng Filipino driver's license. Naalala ninyo yung pinag-usapan natin? Salamat sa Panginoon, congratulations! Ambassador, natupad na ito ngayon. Hindi ba Ambassador, automatic nang nako-convert ang Filipino driver's license sa Italian driver's license kung kaya, magiging mas madali para sa Pilipino na tumira at magtrabaho dito sa Italya at magbubukas din ito ng mga bagong pagkakataon sa serbisyo sa transportasyon.

Bukod sa mga ito, mayroon pa tayong isa pang magandang balita para sa ating mga Filipino rito. Dahil na rin sa rekomendasyon ni Ambassador, inaatasan natin ngayon ang Department of Foreign Affairs, at alam na ito, inaprubahan na ito ni Secretary Romulo, na ibababa ang passport fee. Ibababa ang passport fee ng 65 Euro para maging 50 Euros na lang. At yung mgafees naman para sa mga affidavit, certification, notarials mula 32.50 Euros ay maging 25 Euros na lang.

At bakit naman hindi? Dakilang mga bayani kayong ating mga overseas Filipinos sa inyong mga sakripisyo at malasakit sa inyong trabaho, inyong pamilya, at inyong bansa. Sampung porsiyento ng ating bansa ay overseas Filipinos. Ito ay katangi-tangi. Yung mas mayamang bayan Portugal sampung porsiyento rin ng kanilang mga Portuguese na nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa. At daig pa tayo ng New Zealand na first world na first world na bansa. Ang New Zealand 25 percent sa kanila ay nagtatrabaho sa labas ngunit may iba't-ibang asal. Doon sa New Zealand, kung saan ang inyong lingkod ay nanggaling kasama ni Secretary Romulo, ang kuwento nila sa akin kahit na nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa yung anak, yung nanay at tatay na nasa New Zealand, sila pa ang nagpapadala ng pera sa kanilang anak na nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa. Pero ang ating mga Pilipino sa labas, sa Italya, kayo ang nagpapadala sa inyong mga magulang at pamilya.

Salamat at 600 million dollars a year ang pinapadala ninyo sa ating minamahal na bansa. Alam ninyo noong 2001, noong ako ay unang umupo bilang Pangulo, walong milyong Pilipino ang naabutan ko sa labas. Ngayon, walong milyon pa rin dahil habang may lumalabas, may umuwi. Ngunit ang mga overseas Pilipino bagamat hindi lumaki ang total number dinoble ang pinapauwi. Yung naabutankong seven billion bago 2001 ay naging 13 billion dollars na ngayon. Kaya maraming salamat. Sabi nga nila ito ay dahil namumuhunan na ang ating mga overseas Pilipino sa ating bansa kaysa nagpapadala lamang para sa batayang pangangailangan ng mga pamilya. Kaya talaga ang dapat ibansag sa inyo ay hindi lang OFW o Overseas Filipino Worker kung hindi OFI or Overseas Filipino Investor.

Namumuhan kayo sa edukasyon at kalusugan, meron pang nagdo-donate ng mga classroom. Namumuhan kayo sa real estate, bumibili ng lupa, bumibili ng bahay, bumibili ng condominium. Alam ba ninyo ngayon at talagang namumulaklak ang real estate sa ating bansa. Ito ay 40 percent ang kanilang market ay overseas Pilipinos. Kaya maraming salamat na pinalaki niyo ang ating housing market dahil ang housing ang pinakamalaking multiplier sa lahat ng mga industriya, pinakamaraming nagagawang bagong industriya at trabaho. At meron din akong mga nakilalang namumuhunan sa financial capital gaya ng stock exchange at mutual funds at marami sa mga overseas Pilipino ay nagpopondo ng small and medium enterprises ng mga kamag-anak. Kaya maraming salamat doon.

Ngunit, panaginip ko ang araw na hindi na kailangan sana na mag-abroad ang Pilipino. Panaginip natin that overseas work will be just another career option and not the only choice you often have to earn a living. Gaya ng New Zealand, mayaman sila. Kung nag-aabroad sila, it's a career choice. May magandang trabahong nahanap, mas maganda o na-pxrate sila, hindi dahil kung hindi sila mag-aabroad hindi sila mabubuhay. Sana ganun ang ating ekonomiya. Kaya nakatutok tayo sa ekonomiya, pinapaasenso natin ang mga rehiyon ng ating bansa, sinisikap na imudmod ang kayamanan upang makahanap ng trabaho ang ating taumbayan sa sariling bayan.

Doon sa North Luzon at saka sa Mindanao pinapalago natin ang agri-business. Doon naman sa Urban Beltway ay yung mula Subic, Clark, Manila hanggang Calabarzon, Batangasport, industriya ang pinapalagay natin doon at saka mga call centers at iba pang mga services. At lately nga, yung Texas Instruments ng America ay inanunsyo na magdadagdag sila ng investments sa atin ng one billion U.S. dollars doon sa Clark. At ito ay pinili nila ang Filipinos bagamat ibang mga lugar, dalawang malaking probinsiya ng China at Thailand, ay lumiligaw sa kanila pero pinili nila na ilagay ang kanilang puhunan sa ating bansang Pilipinas.

Yung ating mga call center, business process outsourcing, yun naman ay mula Baguio hanggang Clark-Subic, Maynila, Cebu, Davao. Noong nagsimula ako sa aking pagka Pangulo, dalawang libo ang nagtatrabaho doon. Ngayon, 250,000 na, two billion-dollar industry na. Kaya naniniwala akong nabibiyak na natin yung cycle unti-unti, kung saan kailangan pang lumabas para makahanap ng trabaho. I like to think that as the years will come increasingly we will be keeping our best and brightest right in the Philippines, mas malapit sa mga kaibigan at kaanak, tumutulong sa ating pamayanan, at nagbibigay ng susunod na liderato ng pamunuan.

Mabuti nga dito sa Italya nandito yung mga anak ninyo. Ang Italya ay maluwanag sa pamilya ng mga manggagawang Pilipino. Ang Italya kasama ng Hong Kong ang may pinakamagandang mga batas para sa mga manggagawang Pilipino. At ngayon gumaganda na rin ang batas doon sa England dahil gusto natin na pupunta kayo dahil mas gusto nino, hindi dahil kailangan kayong pumunta uti. Kaya sa ating pagsisikap, itong first quarter ng 2007, lumago ang Pilipinas, ang ating ekonomiya ng halos seven percent. Ito ang pinakamataas sa halos dalawang dekada at bahagi nito ang galing, pagkabayani at kasipagan ng dakilang manggagawang Pilipino na namumuhunan sa ating bansa.

Yun ngang housing ang laking kinontribute sa ating GDP. At yung housing one-fourth noon ay kontribusyon, hindi pala one-fourth, 40 percent ay kontribusyon ng ating mga Filipino mula sa ibang bansa. Noong 2004, noong unang makaboto ang overseas Pilipino, pinakamataas na porsiyentong bumoto sa Europe ang mga Pinoy ng Italya, 62 percent sa inyo ay bumoto. At kung titingnan natin yung top ten sa buong mundo kasama kayo sa top ten sa buong mundo. Siyanga pala, Presidential Election yun, nanalo ako dito sa Italya, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Ngayong 2007 muli, ganun din karami ang bumoto sa inyo, at pinatunayan sa mundo na buhay at magaling ang demokrasya sa Pilipinas.

Ang mga ito ay mga hindi natatawarang senyas kung gaano kalalim ang inyong malasakit sa ating Inang Bayan at sa kaniyang kinabukasan. Ipinapakita ninyo sa inyong mga gawain ang inyong kagustuhan na manatiling bahagi ng ating dakilang trabahong nation-building, kahit napakalayo sa inyong tahanan. At bagamat malayo kayo sa inyong tahanan, gaya nang sabi ko, mukhang at home na at home na tayo rito. Congratulations! Doon sa ating mga kababayang nabigyan ng pambihirang pribilehiyong umupo sa mga town council bilang Consiglieri Aggiunte, congratulations! Yes, kasi ayon sa batas ng Italya kayo ay nakakasalita doon sa mga town councils tungkol sa mga bagay at isyung may epekto sa mga kapwa-Pilipino. Kaya mas lalo na ipagtatangol ang karapatan ng Pilipino dito.

Talagang inspirasyon para sa ating lahat ang inyong walang-sawang pagmamahal sa ating bansa. Your deep pride – sabi nga noong ating singer kanina, “Ako ay Pilipino, Taas Noo” – your deep pride in being Filipino lifts up Filipinos everywhere. At inaasahan kong tuloy-tuloy nating sasamahan lahat ng ating kababayan sa Pilipinas at sa buong mundo, sa pagsikikap at panalangin dahil sa ating pananampalataya ang kinabubuti ng ating bansang minamahal.

Muli, maraming salamat sa pagkakataong makipag-ugnay sa inyo.

Mabuhay ang Pilipino dito sa Italya!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Message of President Arroyo on the smooth opening of classes for School Year 2006-2007

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the smooth opening of classes for School Year 2006-2007**

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, June 6, 2006]

Ibig kong purihin ang lahat ng mga kagawaran at ahensiya at mga pamahalaang lokal na nagsama-sama upang siguraduhin ang maayos at mapayapang pagbukas ng mga klase itong taon.

Ang edukasyon ay pangunahing pinag-aabalahan nitong administrasyon at hindi tayo titigil hanggang madala natin ang lahat ng kakayahan upang magtayo ng mga dagdag na silid-aralan na pinamumunuan ng mga magagaling na guro at higit na mabuting libro, pasilidad at modernong gamit ng pag-aaral. Ang edukasyon ay importanteng inaasahan ng ating layuning umabot sa ranggo ng first world sa loob ng dalawampung taon at siguraduhin natin na ang mga Pilipino ay makakapantay sa mga sukat ng bagong milenyo pagdating sa kagalingan sa anumang larangan.

Nananawagan ako sa lahat ng ating mga institusyon, publiko o pribado, na gawing mangyari ito.

Samantala, inatasan ko ang DPWH at ang AFP, sa pamamagitan ng kaniyang engineering brigades na makipag-ugnay sa mga opisyal ng DepEd para magtayo ng pansamantalang silid-aralan sa mga eskwelang lubos ang populasyon at iyung mga apektado ng kasalukuyang mga retrofitting ng mga gusaling-aralan. Kinikilala natin ang mga problema ng ating sistema ng edukasyon at inaasahan nating harapin ito sa abot ng ating kakayahan.

Samantala, ang DepEd ay dapat tuloy-tuloy ang pagsubaybay ng lahat ng pinaka-importanteng pinag-aabalahan sa edukasyon sa buong taon at harapin ito sa tulong ng Gabinete at mga LGU.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Message on the smooth opening of classes for School Year 2006-2007. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213037/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2809&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Business Forum

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a Business Forum

[Delivered at the Brocade City Room, Jinjiang Hotel, Chengdu, Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China, June 6, 2007]

Good morning to all of you. Thank you for your warm welcome.

Open dialogue and trust between peoples and nations have never been more important than in today's world. We welcome this opportunity to communicate with the people of Chengdu and Sichuan in order to help forge stronger ties.

China is the fastest growing developing country in the world, also the most populous. China has unleashed the human potential of your vast citizenry by effective use of technology, science and engineering.

Your remarkable rise reflects the promise and challenge of the world in which we live. We see your dramatic growth lifting millions out of poverty and shaping the nation squarely onto the world stage as a new global power.

From the Philippine point of view, we welcome the surge in economic growth and development as a healthy development for our nation. The internal market demand and domestic consumption of China has a direct and positive impact on the Philippines in terms of job creation and balance of trade. Because of your consumption and your market demand, growth in Asia is transitioning from being export-driven to domestically-driven. And we hope it continues.

As China becomes a true political and economic giant, your obligations to your neighbors also increase, separate from your obligations to your own citizens. China has an important and strategic role to play in the economic development and security situation of the Asian region. We are hopeful that China will continue to pursue your foreign policy based on maintaining world peace and promoting common development. We also look towards China to lead in promoting good neighborly relations and regional cooperation.

In the Philippines, as I said, we benefit from the growth of China. China is now one of our top three trading partners. Our relationship with China is among the most important ties of our country. It can only lift up our nation as it lifts up other nations, too.

Philippines-China relations are at an all-time high, as President Hu Jintao called it, "A Golden Age." Philippine relations with China are now more confident, mature, comprehensive, punctuated with substantial and important projects aimed at deepening exchanges in many areas including economics, trade and investment, and even defense. Our relations are based on mutual respect.

Major landmarks of our relations include the Philippines-China Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Partnership framework, also the Northrail from Manila to my home province of Pampanga, the national broadband network projects in the Philippines, and continued regular exchanges of high-level visits between our two countries. We are happy with China financing our Northrail and our national broadband network because transport and communication infrastructure development is crucial to our economic development plan for our nation.

We have visited many parts of China. We come here very frequently. And now we are honored to visit Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, China's biggest province, the heartland of China and gateway to Western China.

When I was young, I used to hear of Chengdu from those who are visiting Tibet. This was the gateway to Tibet. But now Chengdu is known for itself. It has attracted investment from many leading multinational firms. You're successful in consumer electronics, steel, alcohol, animal feeds, hydropower, metallurgy, machinery, information technology, tourism, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, to name a few. And the country's largest color TV producer Changhong Electric sells a lot of its products to the Philippines.

So today, we have high-powered Filipino businessmen joining us because here in Chengdu, Filipino businessmen have joined the others in appreciating what Chengdu has to offer. Shoemart, the icon of Philippine retailing, has opened an 80 million-dollar mall in Chengdu, its third mall in China. One of our leading banks, Metro Bank, is hopefully establishing a presence in Chengdu, also the third in China. And Oishi, represented here by one of our special envoy, Mr. Carlos Chan is also contemplating an investment here in Chengdu.

Going in the other direction, the Sichuan new hope group has invested so far 11 million dollars in the Philippines to build feed factories, both have been coming in during my administration. And I'm happy to tell the president of new hope that the two places where you have put your feedmill are both in my home province of Pampanga. And the seven million dollars next coming up will be in San Simon, which is also in my home province of Pampanga. In fact, my great grandfather comes from that town.

But we all are here, the businessmen of the Philippines and the officials of the Philippines, to cooperate in various aspects – trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

We welcome the signing of the sister-province agreement between Sichuan and Cebu, which is one of our main tourist destinations in the Philippines.

Last year, one thousand tourists from Chengdu visited the Philippines. We invite more tourists from Chengdu. As an archipelago with beautiful beaches, the Philippines presents an attractive destination to the people of landlocked Chengdu and Sichuan, particularly during the summer and winter months. And we look forward to the day when Sichuan and Chengdu will substantially raise the level of investments in the Philippines.

The Philippines is the perfect regional partner to aid as a logistics partner. We have heard that Chengdu is a logistics center of central and western China. Third country logistics services are important for China because you need to source and import many of your raw materials and intermediate inputs from other countries.

The Philippines could help enhance the competitiveness of Chinese inland industries by doing procurement and pre-processing of the low value-to-weight product components in the Philippines. The Philippines could provide logistics services to Chengdu in terms of forwarding networks and procedures, supply chain services, and even local warehousing. It is especially positioned to be a supplier of logistics services to China because of its strategic position in ASEAN; because of its high-value skilled labor well-versed in international logistics; because of its existing economic zones; because of its ready supply of raw materials and intermediate products especially semi-conductors, agricultural products and mineral resources. In fact, the Philippines is already a major semi-conductor supplier to China.

Chengdu is also an important market for fresh fruit such as the famous Philippine mangoes but also bananas, pineapples, young coconut. Also for processed food such as dried nuts, dried fruits, I mean, nuts, fruit juices and puree, coconut products, canned fruits and frozen seafood like abalone.

And so to push the bilateral economic and trade relations to a higher stage, we hope that both the Philippines and Chengdu and Sichuan should push to further deepen existing cooperation between our two economies. We envision a day when the businessmen from Chengdu, when the Sichuanese and the Filipinos are trading more with each other, investing more in each other, and visiting each other more.

The Philippines offers one of the best values for China investors in Southeast Asia. As I said earlier, we offer a strategic location in a fast growing region. Our workforce is well-educated, productive, English-speaking. And we are cutting red tape to simplify the requirements for investing in the Philippines.

The Philippines is in a fight to turn around the economy to lift up its poor. You know what that fight is like because you have succeeded here in China. You have succeeded here in central and western China. And the Philippines is winning the fight. Slowly but surely, we're investing in our people and creating new hope and opportunities.

Our administration has succeeded in breaking the back of our lethargic economic legacy by a combination of tough fiscal measures and equally politically difficult decisions to raise more revenue. In one legislative stroke – and I thank our congressmen here for helping us do the important legislation – we were able to stop the backsliding and move forward to drastically reduce our budget deficit and more importantly make long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure.

The biggest single act I was talking about, mainly responsible for the good performance of the Philippine economy, was the passage of our value-added tax which in one bold stroke raised serious revenue to send an unmistakable signal that we're serious about moving the nation forward.

New revenues, better collection, a crackdown on tax cheats, prosecution of corrupt officials along with fiscal discipline has put the Philippines on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. New taxes are not easy, they are not pretty, they are not politically popular, but they have broken the cynical cycle of our political and economic life.

That's not all, though. Our complete focus on the economy, on fiscal discipline, on balancing the budget and the need for long overdue human and physical infrastructure requirements help round out the economic surge.

And it is paying off in a strong peso, low inflation, low budget deficits, low interest rates, a robust stock market – in fact, the highest index in our country's entire history is what we're enjoying today – rapid inflows of foreign investment, tripling of investments in economic zones and priority sectors, and we created almost six million new jobs in the last six years. Our unemployment rate – well, not as low as Chengdu – is the lowest in a long time. Our poverty rate is the lowest as well in a long time.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity with some of these strongest fundamentals, I was mentioning, and we have strong growth. Of course, we cannot compare to China's growth rates. No other country can compare to China's growth rates. But at least to comparing to other countries in our region or even in the world outside of China's phenomenal growth, our economy in this first quarter of 2007 expanded at the rate of 6.9 percent

We're proud of the fact that our external debt is being prepaid. But we are not resting, rather we're forging ahead to sustain the momentum.

We're committed to consolidating our gains in new revenue, as I said earlier, by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, health care and training, we thank China for participating in our distance learning project along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines. And we thank China for participating in these infrastructure projects.

Because of these investments and our strategic location, your companies from Chengdu will also become more competitive if you do business in the Philippines. By investing in one another, trading with one another, and visiting one another, we show that we have confidence in a shared future together.

And so in conclusion, we hope that the friendship we will forge here today will bring our lands and our peoples ever nearer to each other in the days to come.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo upon her visit to China, June 6, 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Upon her visit to China**

[Delivered at Sichuan Province, Peoples' Republic of China, June 6, 2007]

What RP can do for China

China is the fastest growing developing country in the world, also the most populous. China has unleashed the human potential of your vast citizenry by effective use of technology, science and engineering.

Your remarkable rise reflects the promise and challenge of the world in which we live. We see your dramatic growth lifting millions out of poverty and shaping the nation squarely onto the world stage as a new global power.

From the Philippine point of view, we welcome the surge in economic growth and development as a healthy development for our nation. The internal market demand and domestic consumption of China has a direct and positive impact on the Philippines in terms of job creation and balance of trade. Because of your consumption and your market demand, growth in Asia is transitioning from being export driven to domestically driven. And we hope it continues.

As China becomes a true political and economic giant, your obligations to your neighbors also increase, separate from your obligations to your own citizens. China has an important and strategic role to play in the economic development and security situation of the Asian region. We are hopeful that China will continue to pursue your foreign policy based on maintaining world peace and promoting common development. We also look towards China to lead in promoting good neighborly relations and regional cooperation.

In the Philippines, as I said, we benefit from the growth of China. China is now one of our top three trading partners. Our relationship with China is among the most important ties of our country. It can only lift up our nation as it lifts up other nations, too.

Major landmarks of our relations include the Philippines-China comprehensive economic cooperation partnership framework, also the Northrail from Manila to my home province of Pampanga, the national broadband network projects in the Philippines, and continued regular exchanges of high-level visits between our two countries. We are happy with China financing our Northrail and our national broadband network because transport and communication infrastructure development is crucial to our economic development plan for our nation.

So today, we have high-powered Filipino businessmen joining us because here in Chengdu, Filipino businessmen have joined the others in appreciating what Chengdu has to offer. Shoemart, the icon of Philippine retailing, has opened an 80 million-dollar mall in Chengdu, its third mall in China. One of our leading banks, Metro Bank, is hopefully establishing a presence in Chengdu, also the third in China. And Oishi, represented here by one of our special envoy, Mr. Carlos Chan is also contemplating an investment here in Chengdu.

But we all are here, the businessmen of the Philippines and the officials of the Philippines, to cooperate in various aspects — trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

We welcome the signing of the sister-province agreement between Sichuan and Cebu, which is one of our main tourist destinations in the Philippines.

Last year, one thousand tourists from Chengdu visited the Philippines. We invite more tourists from Chengdu. As an archipelago with beautiful beaches, the Philippines presents an attractive destination to the people of landlocked Chengdu and Sichuan, particularly during the summer and winter months. And we look forward to the day when Sichuan and Chengdu will substantially raise the level of investments in the Philippines.

The Philippines could help enhance the competitiveness of Chinese inland industries by doing procurement and pre-processing of the low value-to-weight product components in the Philippines. The Philippines could provide logistics services to Chengdu in terms of forwarding networks and procedures, supply chain services, and even local warehousing. It is especially positioned to be a supplier of logistics services to China because of its strategic position in ASEAN; because of its high-value skilled labor well-versed in international logistics, because of its existing economic zones, because of its ready supply of raw materials and intermediate products especially semiconductors, agricultural products and mineral resources. In fact, the Philippines is already a major semi-conductor supplier to China.

And so to push the bilateral economic and trade relations to a higher stage, we hope that both the Philippines and Chengdu and Sichuan should push to further deepen existing cooperation between our two economies. We envision a day when the businessmen from Chengdu, when the Sichuanese and the Filipinos are trading more with each other, investing more in each other, and visiting each other more.

We're committed to consolidating our gains in new revenue, as I said earlier, by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, health care and training — and we thank China for participating in our distance-learning project — along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines. And we thank China for participating in these infrastructure projects.

Because of these investments and our strategic location, your companies from Chengdu will also become more competitive if you do business in the Philippines. By investing in one another, trading with one another, and visiting one another, we show that we have confidence in a shared future together.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo on the 14th Congress, June 7, 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the 14th Congress**

[Delivered at the House of Representatives, Batasan Pambansa, Quezon City, June 7, 2007]

Hello 14th Congress!

We are glad that the elections are over and most of the winners proclaimed. On this occasion of the centennial of the Philippine Congress, we affirm the unity and forward course of the nation. The Filipino people have united behind democracy.

We congratulate all the winners in the election, and all those who are still to be proclaimed. We thank all the candidates of whatever party or political persuasion who fought hard and well to win the vote. The campaign has had its contentious moments, but it's time to be magnanimous, win or lose. The interest of the people dictates that we must close all chapters of strife and recrimination.

We close the chapter of electoral battles and open the chapter of national consolidation and solidarity. We call upon the nation to close the contest of the ballot and step up the contest of excellence in all fields all for one and one for all.

The overwhelming victory of our coalition in the House of Representatives and in the local governments is a continuing mandate of reform, unity, more work and less politics.

We all have a mandate to look forward and leave behind the contentious past. We look forward to the continuing support of Congress, and thank you for your prayers for our safe journey. It's good to be home among allies resolved to work together to lift everyone up and make sure no one is left behind.

Our work must be a national enterprise where no one loses and everybody wins. The sun never sets from the work of a president nor of Congress in the modern world. We all must do our part in honing the competitiveness of the nation. We must make sure we maintain the momentum. We're totally focused on the economy because only a strong economy will lift our people out of poverty and expand our middle-class.

We thank the 13th Congress for passing the tough reforms to move this nation forward. That was the first phase of our turnaround plan to stabilize our budget and spending and then secure increased revenue through better tax and customs collection and through an increase in taxes especially the value-added tax which you accomplished. And I thank you for that.

You accomplished what a painful but necessary steps. And you achieved that goal. And therefore because of you, the budget is under control for the first time in a very long time. And the people took the cue. With all their might, energy and will, they are rewriting our recent history.

Investments are pouring in, not only foreign investments but also investment in small, medium and micro-enterprises. And because of you, there is enough money in our budget to expand our investments in infrastructure and social welfare. Thus, because of you, we are poised to break the back of poverty.

The vision outlined in our State of the Nation Address is one that many of you in Congress share, and many of you want to see fulfilled. And I thank you because you found the resources to make these important investments possible.

After elections as a new Congress comes in, it is a season, it is a time of hope and unity. And we pray that this will be the advent of a new Filipino nation in the palm of the lord. This 14th Congress looks like it will be the most powerful Philippine legislature in terms of number, talent, and with God's grace, unity. We are confident that Congress will use the power bestowed upon you to take us a significant step forward everyday in the next three years embracing a future of peace, solidarity, stability and prosperity.

Let the ideas that this Congress has stood for in a century... Over a century—freedom, liberty and equality — like our path forward. Congress, the Executive and even the Judiciary, let us all be together in order to give a good future for our people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Special Plenary Session for the Centennial Celebration of the Philippine Congress

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Special Plenary Session for the Centennial Celebration of the Philippine Congress**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall House of Representatives, Batasan Pambansa, Quezon City, June 7, 2007]

Happy Centennial Anniversary to the Philippine Congress.

One hundred years ago, I'd like to greet Justice Quisumbing representing the Supreme Court, one hundred years ago, the hope of a nation first took form from the roots of freedom, liberty and equality. One hundred years later it is racing to a horizon full of promise, the shaping of an environment that is conducive to wealth creation with the end goal of being first-world in twenty years.

For one hundred years the legislature in various forms was the collective voice of the Filipino people. The first cry for independence rang out in the Philippine assembly – colonial Asia's first awakening to democracy.

We were a leader in Asia and we are proud of our history as a free nation. And today, the Philippines remains the most democratic country in the region.

Today, in addition to the philosophy of democracy, the prospect of greater trade and security forged in the goodwill of our global allies and combined with the blessings of the Almighty arrived with me in Manila.

Well, yes, we've just arrived from the airport. I'm very thankful to the governments of Sichuan Province, Chengdu City and Chongqing City because they adjusted their schedule to allow me to make it here in time for your session.

We are glad that the elections are over and most of the winners proclaimed. On this occasion of the centennial the Philippine Congress, we affirm the unity and forward course of the nation. The Filipino people have united behind democracy.

Once again, let me take this opportunity to extol the voters who trooped to the polls to cast their ballots. Once again, let me commend the Commission on Elections and its deputized agencies. And our commendation especially extend particularly to our teachers, some of whom gave up their lives. And even those who didn't have to give up their lives, their dedication are renowned in times like this.

Let me thank also the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, as well as all the institutions that helped the people safeguard the vote – the religious, the civic and the professional – they likewise deserve the gratitude of our nation.

We congratulate all the winners in the election, and all those who are still to be proclaimed. We thank all the candidates of whatever party or political persuasion who fought hard and well to win the vote. The campaign has had its contentious moments, but it's time to be magnanimous, win or lose. The interest of the people dictates that we must close all chapters of strifes and recriminations. We close the chapter of electoral battles and open the

chapter of national consolidation and solidarity. We call upon the nation to close the contest of the ballot and step up the contest of excellence in all fields all for one and one for all.

At a time when many places in the world are still aflame with struggles for freedom, we thank the lord for giving us the gift of democracy that has found sanctuary in our generations past and present for one hundred years, as we continue to count our blessings of economic growth and political stability.

In our trip, three times, in our audience with the Holy Father, during the canonization of Saint Marie Eugenie and before our Lady of Fatima, we immersed ourselves in communion of the Filipino people with the Almighty. And reflecting on our Filipino people, we find, we are reminded that we are a strong and resilient nation guided by the moral compass of our faith. We are reborn everyday in the fountain of spiritual renewal and ardent hopes for peace and prosperity. And our ardent hopes are being answered by the Almighty. The trend of our economy goes up and steadily as our faith deepens both in the Lord and in ourselves.

Across the continent, we flew to Central China, to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province and to Chongqing City, the largest city in the world. They are two of the most promising trade capitals where Philippine scales and investment mixed with others in the region to push forward the frontiers of East Asia integration.

China and Europe seek to tie up with the hub of the Southeast Asian region in terms of trade, security, investments, tourism and people-to-people kinship. Portugal is entering the E.U. presidency next month while the Philippines is still the chair of ASEAN.

There is affinity between Europe and ASEAN that we must consolidate through our ongoing negotiations on the ASEAN-E.U. treaty of amity and cooperation in the interest of the economy, the environment, human rights and the fight against terror. And we come home straight to congress with the plan to consolidate the nation in the postelection period.

The overwhelming victory of our coalition in the House of Representatives and in the local governments is a continuing mandate of reform, unity, more work and less politics.

We all have a mandate to look forward and leave behind the contentious past. We look forward to the continuing support of Congress, and thank you for your prayers for our safe journey. It's good to be home among allies resolved to work together to lift everyone up and make sure no one is left behind.

Our work must be a national enterprise where no one loses and everybody wins. The sun never sets from the work of a President nor of Congress in the modern world. We all must do our part in honing the competitiveness of the nation. We must make sure we maintain the momentum. We're totally focused on the economy because only a strong economy will lift our people out of poverty and expand our middle-class.

The nation is moving in the right direction. The economy is strong and growing. We have a 26 consecutive quarters of growth. Our imports and exports are both up. Revenue collection is way up. But we dedicate the 6.9 percent growth of the first quarter to the Filipino people and to you, their elected representatives.

We thank the 13th Congress for passing the tough reforms to move this nation forward. That was the first phase of our turnaround plan to stabilize our budget and spending and then secure increased revenue through better tax and customs collection and through an increase in taxes especially the value-added tax which you accomplished. And I thank you for that.

You accomplished what a painful but necessary steps. And you achieved that goal. And therefore because of you, the budget is under control for the first time in a very long time. And the people took the cue. With all their might, energy and will, they are rewriting our recent history.

Investments are pouring in, not only foreign investments but investment in small, medium and micro-enterprises. And because of you, there is enough money in our budget to expand our investments in infrastructure and social welfare. Thus, because of you, we are poised to break the back of poverty.

The vision outlined in our State of the Nation Addresses is one that many of you in Congress share, and many of you want to see fulfilled. And I thank you because you found the resources to make these important investments possible.

The economic indicators underscore the success of your economic legislation. Not only is our growth at its best in almost two decades, our peso is at its strongest in years. Our stock market is the strongest ever. Job creation is on target for creating the six million jobs that we want to create before you and I leave office in 2010.

And for the first time in a long time, we are paying less in interest on our debt. We are even prepaying our debt. This allows us to pump that money into the long overdue investments I was talking about earlier. And that is what phase two has been all about also with your support.

Phase two was to take advantage of our improved economic picture to finally make the long overdue investments in infrastructure, education and health care, to name a few areas, and because of you, we are well into that phase. Because of you, the payback to the people continues at an earnest phase. In fact, because of you and the legislation you made on revenues which brought so much confidence in our economy, we were able to pose billions of sayings last year and we plowed the savings back to the villages and barangays in terms of more schools, health insurance, housing and loans for micro-enterprises.

We reinvested the savings in infrastructure projects to stretch economic opportunities farther across the archipelago. And because we have done the enabling environment in terms of infrastructure and direct services to the people, the Filipino masses are carving the way out of the social margins through the vision and will of patriotic political leaders such as the leaders in this great hall of Congress. And now, we welcome the 14th Congress during this deliberation. And as we do so, let us write another chapter of the proud history of Congress by writing away gridlock, by writing away terror, by writing away destitution.

After elections as a new Congress comes in, it is a season, it is a time of hope and unity. And we pray that this will be the advent of a new Filipino nation in the palm of the Lord. This 14th Congress looks like it will be the most powerful Philippine legislature in terms of number, talent, and with God's grace, unity. We are confident that Congress will use the power bestowed upon you to take us a significant step forward everyday in the next three years embracing a future of peace, solidarity, stability and prosperity.

Let the ideas that this Congress has stood for in a century... Over a century – freedom, liberty and equality -like our path forward. Congress, the executive and even the judiciary, let us all be together in order to give a good future for our people.

Congratulations! On your 100th Anniversary, beloved members of Congress.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo on putting people ahead of politics, June 12, 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On putting people ahead of politics**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, June 12, 2007]

Putting people ahead of politics

One hundred and nine years ago, a nation in Southeast Asia pushed the threshold of freedom to the limit for the first time, bravely and boldly defying nearly four centuries of colonial rule.

One hundred and nine years later, the struggle for freedom still rolls forward — freedom from want and freedom from fear — as we March together in the fight against poverty and terror.

But freedom and independence in the borderless world of the 21st century are no longer a struggle against colonialism but a closer, principled and mutually rewarding engagement with other nations.

With the help of sincere allies like you, we shall continue to break free from the shackles that pin us down — poverty, divisiveness, terrorism, despondency—until one day, perhaps twenty years from now, we shall join the ranks of the first world nations among you.

Last month, Filipinos demonstrated our political stability through the mid-term elections.

The Philippine economy is strong and stable. Our economy has reached a new level of maturity with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in a generation. And we offer one of the best values and best places to invest in Asia today.

We broke the back of our lethargic economic legacy by a combination of tough fiscal measures and equally politically difficult decisions to raise more revenue. In one bold stroke, we were able to stop our backsliding and move forward towards balancing our budget and more importantly towards making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure.

We will continue on the path we have set for putting people ahead of politics by focusing relentlessly on the economy. Our administration will focus on pro-growth, pro-trade and pro-investment strategies that help lift up our people from poverty and help the Philippines finally in contention as a real investment destination.

To keep reform growing, we are determined to engage all parties to move forward in a unified way to stay on the path of economic reform and discipline. It is our deepest hope that the various parties will set aside politics for now that elections are over and continue to vote for programs that have made our nation a new destination in Asia for business and investment.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Vin D’ Honneur on the occasion of the 109th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Vin D’ Honneur on the occasion of the 109th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, June 12, 2007]

Vice President Noli de Castro, Archbishop Filoni and other members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations, Foreign Affairs Secretary Romulo and the other Cabinet members, leaders of the business community, other guests, ladies and gentlemen.

One hundred and nine years ago, a nation in Southeast Asia pushed the threshold of freedom to the limit for the first time, bravely and boldly defying nearly four centuries of colonial rule.

One hundred and nine years later, the struggle for freedom still rolls forward — freedom from want and freedom from fear — as we march together in the fight against poverty and terror.

But freedom and independence in the borderless world of the 21st century are no longer a struggle against colonialism but a closer, principled and mutually rewarding engagement with other nations.

With the help of sincere allies like you, we shall continue to break free from the shackles that pin us down — poverty, divisiveness, terrorism, despondency — until one day, perhaps twenty years from now, we shall join the ranks of the first world nations among you.

Last month, Filipinos demonstrated our political stability through the mid-term elections.

The Philippine economy is strong and stable. Our economy has reached a new level of maturity with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in a generation. And we offer one of the best values and best places to invest in Asia today.

We broke the back of our lethargic economic legacy by a combination of tough fiscal measures and equally politically difficult decisions to raise more revenue. In one bold stroke, we were able to stop our backsliding and move forward towards balancing our budget and more importantly towards making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure.

We will continue on the path we have set for putting people ahead of politics by focusing relentlessly on the economy. Our administration will focus on pro-growth, pro-trade and pro-investment strategies that help lift up our people from poverty and help the Philippines finally in contention as a real investment destination.

To keep reform growing, we are determined to engage all parties to move forward in a unified way to stay on the path of economic reform and discipline. It is our deepest hope that the various parties will set aside politics for now that elections are over and continue to vote for programs that have made our nation a new destination in Asia for business and investment.

The security situation has improved substantially, both in our fight against domestic terrorism and in our coordinated hunt for regional terrorists seeking refuge in some of our most remote islands in the south.

In Mindanao, with your support, your active support and participation, we are proving the value of a new paradigm for peace through the use of both soft and hard power. And perhaps most notable, we have worked with a broad range of international organizations and nations from across the spectrum particularly Malaysia and including U.S., Japan, Sweden, the European Union, Indonesia, Libya, Brunei, other OIC countries, Australia. So many countries in the growing cast of international allies. And I cannot mention all of them today, but many of them are represented here, and I thank you all.

It is now more important than ever to build alliances on a bilateral and multilateral basis to ensure greater political, economic and military security.

As current chair of ASEAN, we are optimistic about the unity of our region and our prospects for peace, stability and economic growth.

I thank you excellencies, all those who voted for us, so that we could be reelected with a very big vote to the U.N. Human Rights Council. And I hope that this is a recognition of the fact that the Philippines as a country, as a people value human rights and do not condone any violation of human rights.

On this note, Excellencies, please join me in a toast to international solidarity and the future of the Philippines.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Vin D' Honneur on the Occasion of the 109th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150030/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2030&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo before the Filipino community in Equatorial Guinea Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the Filipino community in Equatorial Guinea**

[Delivered on June 26, 2007]

Mga mahal kong kababayan, maraming salamat sa mainit na pagsalubong sa inyong lingkod.

I have come here to build on our commitment to enhance the bilateral relations between the Philippines and Equatorial Guinea.

President Obiang undertook a state visit to the Philippines in May last year to enhance Philippine-Equatorial Guinea bilateral ties, seek avenues for cooperation and greater interaction between the two countries' peoples.

Given our shared history and common past, dahil kapwa tayong dumaan sa pamamahala ng Espana, Equatoguineans and Filipinos can learn from each others' experiences and build on these for greater peace and prosperity.

We agreed that it would be of strategic importance for the Philippines and Equatorial Guinea to strengthen ties and increase cooperation in all forms, despite the geographical distance between our two countries. All of this is for the benefit of our people, including you, those of you who live and work here.

We are proud of the contribution of Filipino workers to the development of this country, particularly the 2,500 Filipinos employed in the banking, finance and oil sectors of Equatorial Guinea.

Sinisikap nating lalo pang mapabuti ang inyong kalagayan.

Pinararangalan ng pamahalaan at taumbayan ang mga Pilipinong manggagawa sa ibayong dagat sa inyong sakripisyo at malasakit sa inyong trabaho, inyong pamilya at inyong bansa. Tinatanggap nang buong loob ang inyong kontribusyon. Nguni't karangalan din nating sabihin na ang mga ganansya sa ekonomiya na nakikita natin ngayon sa Pilipinas ay inihahanda ang araw kung kailan hindi na kailangang mag-abroad pa ang mga Pilipino para sa trabaho, and the day when overseas work is just another option and not the only choice you have to earn a living.

Nasa landas ng permanenteng pagsulong at katatagan ng ekonomiya ang Pilipinas.

Ang pagpasa ng ating value added tax ang siyang pinakamalaking kilos na naghatid ng pag-angat ng ating ekonomiya. Sa isang matapang na kilos, nakaangat ito ng napakalaking kita ng bansa. Nagpadala rin siya ng di-mapag-kakamaliang senyas na seryoso tayo tungkol sa pagsulong ng ekonomiya. Nguni't hindi lamang iyon. Tumutulong ito na mabuo ang mga ganansya ng ating ekonomiya ng buo nating pagtukoy sa ekonomiya, sa disiplina ng kaban ng bansa, sa pagbalanse ng budget at sa pangangailangan ng napakatagal nang dapat ginawang pag-ibayo ng human at physical infrastructure. Nagbubunga ang ating mga pagsisikap.

Bumubuhos ang investments, pinakamataas sa buong kasaysayan ang ating stock market. Nakalikha tayo ng anim na milyong bagong trabaho sa nakaraang anim na taon.

Pinakamababa ang ating unemployment rate sa loob ng isang henerasyon. Pinakamababa rin ang ating poverty rate.

Nakakahalata ang mundo: Isa sa mga best values sa Asia ang Pilipinas para sa mga Pilipino at dahuyang namumuhunan.

Naka-angkla ang pag-angat ng mga pamumuhunan sa pag-ulat ng Texas Instruments na ito ay mamumuhunan ng isang bilyong dolyar upang magtayo ng electronic chip plant sa Pilipinas.

Namumuhunan rin ang Hanjin ng Korea ng \$1.65 billion upang magtayo sa Pilipinas ng pang-apat na pinakamalaking shipyard sa buong mundo. Noong isang linggo, bumili ang Marubeni at Tokyo Electric ng mga power plant sa Pilipinas sa halagang \$3.4 billion at magdadagdag pa ng half a billion dollars.

Ito ay nangyayari sa iba't ibang industriya. Nagtatrabaho tayo upang masostento ito. Tumutulong ang ating mga ambisyosong reporma na mabuwag na iyong offshore cycle. Sa pagtutuloy sa landas na ito, we will increasingly be keeping our best and brightest right in the Philippines, higit na malapit sa mga kaibigan at mga pamilya, tumutulong sa pagtayo ng ating mga pamayanan, at binibigay ang susunod na henerasyon ng liderato.

Desidido tayong ibuo ang mga ganansya ng mga bagong kita ng pamahalaan sa matagal nang dapat ginawang pamumuhunan sa human at physical infrastructure. Kasama dito ang bilyon-bilyon piso para sa edukasyon, kalinga sa kalusugan at training kasama ng bilyun-bilyon sa mga bagong tulay, kalsada at pantalan upang umangat ang kakayahang makipag- kumpetensya ang Pilipinas.

Ipinagmamalaki natin ang disiplina ng ating administrasyong tukuyin ang ekonomiya at ang ating pangkalahatang kalusugan sa pangkabuhatan. Ipinagmamalaki natin na binabayaran natin ang ating mga utang kahit na hindi pa nagkokobra ang nagpautang sa atin. Malaki ang ating pag-asa na mababalanse natin ang budget sa 2008. Sinisigurado nating gamitin ang mga ganansya upang mamuhunan sa mga napaka-importanteng social and economic needs. Hindi natin isasakripisyo ang pangmatagalang biyaya para sa pansamantalang political expediency.

Ipinakita ng nakaraang halalan ang buhay na buhay na system ng demokrasya ng bansa. Pinayagang sumali ang lahat na may iba-ibang paniniwala nguni't nagkakaisa sa mga parehong aspirasyon ng kapayapaan at kaunlaran para sa buong bansa. Tagumpay siya para sa reporma sa ekonomiya, katatagan ng pulitika at kapayapaan at katiwasayan.

Inaasahan natin na magtatrabaho ang Senado at Kamara ng Pilipinas kasama nating siguraduhing isosostento natin ang ating mga biyaya sa ekonomiya. Nakaligon tayo sa makabuluhang pag-uusap at pagtutulungan sa ating mga gumagawa ng mga patakarang masiguradong tuloy tayong sumulong sa reporma sa ekonomiya.

We have turned the corner on our economy.

Mayroon nang mga kapansin-pansin na tagumpay. Nguni't di-hamak na may higit pang magagawa at gagawin.

Sa unang pagkakataon sa isang henerasyon, binibigyan tayo ng kakayahan ng ating mga biyaya sa ekonomiya at kaban ng bayang gumawa ng malalakas na pamumuhunan sa ating bayan at ating taumbayan. Patungo doon, naglikha tayo ng estratehiyang pamumuhunang nakatukoy sa apat na pinaka-inisyatibo: 1) pag-ibayuhin ang ating imprastraktura upang lumikha ng kapaligiran kung saan may kumpanya ang mga negosyong mag-expand at mag-employ ng higit pang tao, dahil kahulugan ng higit na trabaho ay bawas sa kahirapan; 2) pag-ibayuhin ang social services gaya ng health insurance subsidies para sa mga dukhang pamilya at nutrition programs para sa mga mag-aaral at kanilang mga pamilya; 3) pagpapalakas ng suporta sa edukasyon sa ating pagsisikap na bawasan ang kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng pamumuhunan sa mas mabuting school buildings, mga bagong libro at teaching materials, at training programs para sa mga guro at school administrators; at 4) pagputol ng red tape at pagpapatuloy na tanggalin ang katiwalian sa sistema.

Ito ang mga paraan upang mai-ahon ang mga mahihirap. Ginagawa natin ito sa unang pagkakataon sa isang henerasyon.

Kaakibat kayo at ang buong pamilyang Pilipino, maisusulong natin ang ating layunin.

Together, we will push forward and fulfill our common dreams of peace and prosperity.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech before the Filipino Community in Equatorial Guinea. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145933/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2025&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the opening session of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea's Camara de Representantes del Pueblo

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the opening session of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea's Camara de Representantes del Pueblo during her
state visit to the West African nation**

[Delivered on June 26, 2007]

DISCURSO ANTE LA CAMARA DE REPRESENTANTES DEL PUEBLO

Su Excelencia Salomon Nguema Owono

Distinguidos miembros de la Camara de Representantes del Pueblo

Colleagues in the Philippine delegation,

Señoras y señores,

Buenos días.

Muchas gracias a la Camara de Representantes del Pueblo de Guinea Ecuatorial por esta sesion especial en mi honor.

La legislatura es la voz del pueblo, en Africa asi mismo en Asia. We are proud to say that in Asia, the Philippine Congress has been a beacon of freedom for one hundred years now.

Our two countries share a legacy and a similar culture though we are located far away from each other, you in the western edge of Africa and we in the eastern edge of Asia, and the color of our skin is different from each other. Equatorial Guinea is the only hispanic country in Africa and the Philippines is the only hispanic country in Asia.

At the Asia-Africa Summit held in Bandung, Indonesia in April 2005, the leaders of Asian and African countries signed a Declaration on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, which identified concrete measures for partnership. Asimismo, los lederes trataron de fortalecer los lazos tanto multilaterales como bilaterales.

Por eso nos alegramos much cuando el Presidente Obiang realiz una visita de estado en Filipinas en Mayo del año pasado. Se fue el para realizar los lazos bilaterales entre Filipinas y Guinea Ecuatorial, y explorar las maneras para la cooperacion y una mayor interaccion entre los pueblos de los dos pases.

Exploramos las nuevas areas de cooperacion y hablamos de las oportunidades que cada pais ofrece.

Durante su visita, el Presidente Obiang expres interes en las oportunidades para la formacion y un mayor conocimiento tecnico, en particular en los sectores agricola, pesquero, financiero, mientras que nosotros por nuestra parte expresamos interes en las concesiones en el petroleo.

Nosotros presenciamos la firma del Acuerdo General en la Cooperacion Economica, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnologia, y un Acuerdo sobre la Promocion y Proteccion Reciproca de Inversiones – los dos primeros acuerdos bilaterales entre Filipinas y Guinea Ecuatorial.

Agredecemos la oportunidad de reunirse de Nuevo con el Presidente Obiang para renovar las relaciones bilaterales entre Filipinas y Guinea Ecuatorial.

Esta es mi primera visita de estado a un pais Africano desde que asumi la presidencia en 2001.

He venido a Guinea Ecuatorial para fortalecer aun mas los lazos entre nuestros dos pases y continuar las iniciativas que nuestros pases han empezado durante la visita a Filipinas de su Presidente el año pasado.

Nuestra visita de estado aqui es una buena ocasion para fomentar estas formas de cooperacion y fortalecer aun mas los lazos bilaterales y, basandonos en nuestros lazos historicos, a un mayor desarrollo y progreso.

We are proud of the contribution of Filipino workers to the development of this country, particularly the 2,500 Filipino professionals employed in the banking, finance and oil sectors of Equatorial Guinea.

Estamos muy dispuestos a ayudar a Guinea Ecuatorial en el desarrollo de su capacitacion humana y la infraestructura.

El Gobierno Filipino esta dispuesto a forjar colaboraciones con Guinea Ecuatorial.

We reiterate the Philippines' readiness to enter into arrangements for joint ventures in petroleum upstream activities on the basis of equitable sharing and mutual benefit.

Distinguidos miembros de la Camara, trabajemos juntos para cerrar la brecha entre Asia y Africa y para acercar aun mas a nuestros pueblos.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech at the opening session of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea's Camara de Reprerentantes del Pueblo during her state visit to the West African nation. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150004/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2022&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 60th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 60th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force**

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Grandstand, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, July 3, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Bert Gonzales.

Troop commander give “Tikas Pahinga.”

AFP Chief of Staff General Esperon; PAF Commanding General Lieutenant General Tolentino; other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; the ASEAN Air Force chiefs; former commanding generals of the Armed Forces; AFP wives; other government officials; ladies and gentlemen.

To the Air Force, happy 60th anniversary! and welcome to our special guests on this special anniversary — the Air Force Chiefs of ASEAN!

I thanked Lieutenant General Tolentino for reminding us of my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. I remember that he sent an air force plane in 1963 carrying a medical team to help the victims of a volcanic eruption in Bali, Indonesia. That initial act planted a seed of friendship among the air forces of the Southeast Asian region. And today, especially today on this anniversary celebration, we are all together as our motto says: “Bridging Gaps, Overcoming Obstacles, Enhancing Cooperation for a Secured, Progressive and United ASEAN Region.” Mabuhay to the ASEAN air forces!

Today also, we are in a period of bold transition in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In the next three years, we shall deal a strategic defeat to the insurgency; modernized the military in its twin roles of defense and development; advance the protection of human rights; push terrorism back and build peace in Mindanao; and expand our alliances for regional and global security.

The human security act signed last march which shall be effective this July 15 shall be the basis of more effective anti-terrorism measures that will not only crush the terrorist movement in the country, but also keep it away from our shores and also make us more effective in fighting terrorism together with our ASEAN brothers.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Philippine Air Force, we each have a stone to lay in the foundation of a modern Philippines.

And in the 60 years since the creation of the air force, never has a year passed without an outstanding contribution from the air force for the national cause, exemplified by this year’s awardees, and we congratulate them.

Some achievements were much heralded like those of Captain Villamor after whom this base is named or the blue diamonds who were the very glamorous heroes when my father was president of the Philippines. But many have achieved much as well without fanfare such as the combatants in the field, the brave pilots who fly the troops or deliver the might of our armed forces to the terrorists lairs, the personnel in countless rescue and mercy missions during natural calamities, or the technicians and airmen who keep the planes airworthy.

When I became president of the Philippines in 2001, I inherited what General Tolentino calls an aging air force, not the men and women, but the equipment. And I remember that we were then beginning the Balikatan exercises and the commanding general of the PACOM would come and inspect and see how our troops were. And they felt that

the most important thing we needed was to be able to maintain our air assets. But they had nothing but praises for the men and women and our pilots. I remember what they said watching them in Mindanao, riding those old, old helicopters or flying them. They said they can practically land a helicopter on top of a coconut tree. That's how good our air force pilots are. Congratulations! And I know that for a fact because the pilots who fly me and my official and personal family to various provinces deserved special mention and I want to take this opportunity to thank them as well.

Lieutenant General Tolentino mentioned that my father made an air force officer, Pelagio Cruz, Chief of Staff of the armed forces. I also made an air force General, Benjie Defensor, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. at that time, the highest ranking officer in Malacañang from the armed forces was the senior military assistant because the presidential guard was a battalion then. And the senior military assistant was also an air force man — General Victor Dizon.

In my time now, the highest ranking is the head of the PSG and the head of my PSG is also an Air Force man — General Romy Prestoza.

So I am very grateful to the air force for the loyalty and competence that I have been able to observe at close hand.

Our Philippine Defense Reform Program moves forward under the teamwork of our major services and the leading beacon of the defense department. And as I inherited an aging air force — not the men and women, but the equipment — when we had success in our fiscal reforms no sooner did we achieve success then we started to implement once again our Philippine defense reforms.

Over the last two years, we authorized the allocation of 17.5 billion pesos for the capability upgrade plan which is a crucial part of our defense reforms. Most of these are for equipment, but a part of it is for benefits for our soldiers such as housing. The part for the air force was just groundbroken a few days ago.

On the other hand, lest our critics once again criticized us for overmilitarization, let me point out that what we have spent or allocated — we have not spent it all yet because it's a multi-year program — what we have allocated for armed forces modernization is much less than what we have allocated for agricultural modernization in these last two years of almost 30 billion pesos.

Agricultural modernization and armed forces modernization going hand and hand is a message. We are proving the value of a new paradigm for peace through the use of both hard and soft power. What we are doing is quite unique particularly against the backdrop of troubled spots in the world where hard power alone has been struggling.

In the Southern Philippines, we have been able to meld together confidence-building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness, investments in economic and basic infrastructure development, and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

This is a model setting a positive example. It is something we wish, all wish, to share with the rest of the world. By continuing with this new paradigm for peace, we will be able to achieve permanent peace in Mindanao. And permanent peace in Mindanao therefore is to be gained both by modernizing our development efforts and modernizing our armed forces.

As Lieutenant General Tolentino has said, we've already begun once again the first phase of our Air Force Modernization Program. We acquired 20 UH-1H helicopters from the United States. This was a result of my state visit to the United States. I remember, as I told you earlier, in the beginning in 2001, what the U.S. PACOM wanted to do was to concentrate their assistance on inventory of spare parts and maintenance. But I insisted that we need a new squadron. And I thanked president bush that he complied with my insistence.

Part of our modernization also was the service life extension of OV-10s. And I would like to take advantage today to help... To also to thank the Kingdom of Thailand for having provided us with ten OV-10s during our administration.

We have also refurbished six UH-1H from the United States. But all that refurbishing while we need to do it — and by the way, I think General Santillan is in the audience. I'd like to thank him for giving me the hint about those available OV-10s in Thailand so that we were able to acquire that for the Philippines — but all these refurbishing and all these goodwill that we are able to mobilize in order to expand our fleet still left me quite uncomfortable. So I instructed General Esperon and Lieutenant General Tolentino that before we buy more second-hand helicopters or almost first-hand helicopters, I want to see a bidding for first-hand helicopters.

And that is why part of the 17.5 billion pesos that we have allocated in the last two years is five billion pesos for brand-new helicopters. And I hope that our young men and women in the air force will feel safer and braver when they fly these brand-new helicopters.

But we will not only improve the equipment, we will also improve the benefits of the men and women who put their lives on the line for the security of the Filipino people. We talked about what we just groundbroke the other day. So we want to provide more on-base and off-base housing facilities. We want to provide more scholarships and livelihood opportunities for families of military personnel. And I am happy to announce that the members of the AFP will receive increases in their hazard pay and subsistence allowance starting this month.

These are parts of the first benefits of development. And now that they are at hand, let us work harder to lift the wings of the nation.

We will remain focused on growing the economy. But we will also remain focused on the course of nation-building which needs a strong armed forces for a strong republic. We will leave no stone unturned to realize the Philippine defense reform program and support the major service commands in the combined pursuit of your mission.

And so on the 60th anniversary of the armed forces, the rejuvenating armed forces, let us advance the fight for national and regional security.

Fly higher Philippine Air Force on to the next 60 years!

Mabuhay! Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Philippine Air Force. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145921/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2063&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Launching of the Human Security Act of 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Launching of the Human Security Act of 2007**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Palace, July 20, 2007]

Today we raise the bar on our campaign against terrorists who kill, bomb and maim to enforce an ideology of evil.

We have the legal muscle to help end the paralysis of fear, empowered with a law that identifies terrorism and penalizes it, a law that preserves and protects freedom.

Our resolve to criminalize and penalize terrorism through this law is not an offshoot of 9/11, for we had come face to face with this scourge ahead of the rest of the world.

The first Philippine anti-terrorism bill was filed by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile in January 1996, three years after the first bombing of the World Trade Center, five years before the Rizal Day bombing in 2000, six and a half years before the tragedy of 9/11 and eight years after the bombing of Super Ferry 14.

One can imagine the possibilities had we passed this law earlier. Perhaps, the Dos Palmas incident would not have happened, and Gracia Burnham would not have lost her husband, Martin. Many Filipino lives could have been spared had the State been equipped with the legal arsenal to flush out evil before it could do harm.

We must invest in peace and order.

The next three years will see record levels of well thought out and generous funding for investments in crushing terrorism wherever it threatens, regardless of ideology; and in putting a stop to human rights abuses whatever the excuse.

We fight terrorism for it threatens our sovereign, democratic, compassionate and decent way of life.

Therefore, in the fight against lawless violence, we must uphold these values. It is never right and always wrong to fight terrorism with terror.

Crime is down in the nation because we have made investments to put more police on the street. Our military must continue on its path to reform, becoming even more professional every day at the same time they fight to eliminate the armed terrorist threats to the nation from religious extremists or communist terrorists. Whatever ideology is being pursued that undermines our stability must be defeated.

If you are armed and kill innocent civilians, you will be tracked down and prosecuted. If you are a communist terrorist, we will stop you. If you are a religious terrorist, we will stop you. If you are a rogue element of your own police or military, we will stop you.

I have the deepest respect for our military and police institutions as do most Filipinos. We want our nation safe. We trust our men and women who put their lives on the line every day to protect our nation and our communities. As high as 99% of these hard working and patriotic men and women love this nation and abide by the rule of law.

The political terrorists who reside outside the boundaries of human justice and who have marked the stability of our nation and the rule of law for extinction live by no moral code. They lack all humanity and concern for the people. Yet for our public servants in uniform, fidelity to the Constitution is a sacred duty. These public servants have a

moral obligation to uphold the Constitution to protect the innocent. For this very reason, any violent crime that a member of the law enforcement or military community may commit against innocent people is even more wrong and must stop. No one is above the law.

There is a fundamental difference between those who take up arms and wish the violent overthrow of the state and those who take to the ballot box for political change. Our government will protect the political rights of any person who wishes to participate in our democracy, however, we might disagree on philosophy and approach. We cannot stand idly by, however, and let the purveyors of violence cloak their agenda behind the innocent men and women they hold hostage to their failed ideology. We will wrestle these failed terrorists to the ground and free the nation to live in peace and harmony.

Subalit, pangunahin pakikibaka pa rin para sa karapatan ang pagpapalaya ng masa sa gutom at hirap.

Economic and social development is still the best guarantee of achieving human security. Only equitable and sustainable growth can free us from want and fear. Poverty, though not the cause, abets terrorism.

We pay tribute to the fearless fourteen who sacrificed their lives in Tipo-Tipo and to their equally valiant comrades in arms. We mourn with their families. Our marines who were victims of a decades long conflict that can and will end. The tragic encounter will not deter us from our mission, which is to bring long-lasting peace to Mindanao.

Talk is cheap. It is action that counts. I ask the public to give the Human Security Act a chance.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Multi-Stakeholder's Dialogue on Disaster Risk Reduction

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the National Multi-Stakeholder's Dialogue on Disaster Risk Reduction

[Delivered at the New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City, July 25, 2007]

Thank you for being here today, and thank you Bert for this initiative of getting all the stakeholders together.

Indeed, disaster mitigation should be everyone's business, and I'm glad that you are all here. All of us have a stake in saving lives and keeping private and public property away from harm's way. And although everybody has that obligation, there are some who suffer more than others when there is a disaster especially the poor.

And yet, many of the risks that communities undergo and individuals undergo can really be prevented, if we all get together and decide and plan on how we will do disaster mitigation.

I remember that sometime ago, I gave Glenn Rabonza that assignment. Let's not just talk about reacting to disasters, let's have a masterplan for disaster mitigation. Of course, when we look at the world around us, we thank God that we were spared from the great crisis that have been happening around us. For instance, the tsunami. Thank God! We were spared from that great tsunami; and then the mega-earthquakes. Thank God! We have been spared from the mega-earthquakes; and our own preparedness, we were also spared from a SARS outbreak; and again thank God, in our preparedness we were spared from the avian flu and have been spared so far.

In other words, we have shown that there are things we can do, as in the case of SARS, we were able to contain it; and in the case of the avian flu, we have been able to prevent it altogether. There is something we can do, especially when we consider our own country, our own disasters. Although we have been spared from the great tsunami, the SARS, the avian flu, we have our typhoons, our floods, our landslides, our mudslides, our volcano eruptions and our man-made disasters. And if we were able to do something about SARS, then we will be able to do something about preventing avian flu so far, then there's something that we can do also about these disasters.

For one thing, it is important that our people remains strong in coping with and overcoming disasters. And it is really up to many of the agencies – national and local – to help them cope. Then it is important that the agencies of the government pool resources and manpower and team up with local government units and the private sector, to lift the beleaguered communities back to their feet and restore normalcy at the soonest possible time after a disaster strikes.

The NDCC is a council, it is not an implementing agency. Why? Because according to the local government code, disaster response is devolved. There is the Barangay Disaster Coordinating Council, there is the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council, there is a Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council and then it is in the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council where the national government comes in. In other words, under the principle of subsidiarity, the response must come from the community itself in the beginning. And when it becomes a bigger disaster, then what the community can afford to cope with, that is when the higher level of authority comes in.

Nonetheless, government of any level must always be at the forefront of compassion and social action in times of dire need. We are fortunate that our national character is such that when something bad happens to someone, we pour our hearts and contributions to the victims and their families, and the whole nation prays for those who die, and the nation prays for the speedy recovery of those who are injured in the devastated communities. And that is one good thing about our society.

In fact, one good thing about our society is that we are a very expanded social security system in itself. In other societies, when the old people grow old, they put them away in a home. In our society, when people grow old, someone a child or one grandchild takes in the person. That is what happens too when there is a disaster. Somebody will always come. Now the question is whether they will come in and spontaneous and if it's big, becomes half hazard way, or whether they will come with a lot of feeling but also a lot of organization and efficiency.

Lessons from previous disasters should guide us in further improving our strategies and work plans. We remember recent disasters — the M/T Solar 1 oil spill — and everybody came to help. Congress gave almost 900 million pesos and now Guimaras is back on its feet.

Of long ago, relatively long ago, the Payatas tragedy. And then very recently, the M/V Blue Water Princess sinking. These underscore the fragile nature of our environment, even if these are not mega-disasters such as what our neighbors have experienced especially in the Indian Ocean. But they also show, and we must as a people seek to do more to preserve our precious natural resources because at the end of the day, many of these great calamities are coming because of climate change. So if we are going to talk about disaster mitigation, we have to talk about addressing climate change. A year ago, we revealed a comprehensive blueprint called *“Berdeng Pilipinas” or “Green Philippines”* initiative. That is our entire environmental program.

We as a nation must move aggressively not only towards a Green Philippines, but remember that Green Philippines includes energy independence and protecting our land, air and sea. This is ambitious but it is achievable. Planting trees is certainly achievable. Your new boss, Secretary Reyes, has started planting trees. I'm looking for a way to justify the tree planting should transfer to the Department of Energy as well.

For environmental protection, we have to take care because the environmental protection is very, very much related to how big or how small the disaster will be when it strike. And this is very consistent with our values as a nation.

A good response necessitates coordinated information management and contingency planning. One thing that I have seen in our disaster response is that right away — we have now because we have invested in our technology. And Nina has taken care to choose very, very good leaders of our scientific agencies related to the weather and to volcanic disturbances, we have had a good system of information. And we've been able to also send out these information very quickly to the local governments. So let us put these altogether in a comprehensive framework on disaster risk reduction, that will bring together the necessary institutions and players to bear upon the task. And I understand that is the subject matter of today's meeting. Right, Glenn?

And this framework must include international — that's why Nileema is here — regional and national cooperation and coordination. Because not all disasters are national. As we have seen, the disasters really are beyond boundaries. And even if a disaster is national, sometimes in the same way that it's too much for a barangay to cope with, sometimes it becomes too much for a country to cope with. Just to give an extreme example, the 100,000 people who died in Aceh during that great tsunami. So I'm very grateful that in our own disasters where for instance we lost a thousand people in Southern Leyte, although compared to the hundred thousand people that Aceh lost just a few weeks later, still in our disaster big for us but relatively small when you compare to the events of that month. I'm grateful for the swift international assistance extended by the United Nations and other governments to augment our resources during times of disaster.

And just last year, we had those series of typhoons that hit Bicol. Again, I thank Congress for the ten billion-peso Calamity Fund that they provided of which we have already released seven billion pesos, the largest one-time release for calamity in our history.

But, because a lot of funds are coming — national government, local government, international assistance, non-NGOs — each agency of our government must be accountable in specific terms, even as we drive community participation to mitigate, endure and survive disasters.

In terms of mitigation, the DENR has a very big role to play, because it must fast-track its work in providing useful maps and geo-hazard information. Already, we have geo-hazard information for 700 municipalities and cities, but

we have almost 2,000, 1,500 plus municipalities and cities. In other words, we're about almost half of the work done. So we have to find a way to fast-track that work. Of course, the DENR was quite practical about it, they started with the eastern seaboard because most of the disasters come from the Pacific Ocean.

And then the schools, we have to build schools that will withstand earthquakes. We have to build schools that double up as evacuation centers. Gina, as our consultant, has a very nice idea of having this collapsible modules that can be set up anywhere that there is a disaster. That is something that the NDCC should be thinking of. And so earthquake-resistant schools, other infrastructures, and then we have to keep people away from landslide-prone areas. We have to take land-use planning seriously.

I remember that at the time when we had a disaster in Quezon, there was also a disaster around that time in Taiwan. And some of the agencies – foreign donors – were impatient that what they donated in Taiwan, they already saw houses being put out; what they donated in the Philippines was taking forever. Actually, part of the problem was maybe lack of organization, but also part of the problem was that that area is so geo-hazardous that we could hardly find any place near the original homes where the new homes could be built. So these are all the things that we have to do and start to systematize and all national and local governments must incorporate.

And therefore, every year, we must incorporate in all our budget at every level the annual budget we must have substantial funding allocations to support the thrust of the NDCC.

Of course, every local government has a five percent disaster fund. And sometimes... Of course, there are times when the disaster is obviously big, so we come in right away. But sometimes there's a disaster that, well, we don't know how big it is. And when the local government comes and ask for support from the NDCC, what Glenn should say is, first, have you spent your five percent? And if it's beyond their five percent, then we have to come in. So, I enjoin everyone to continue supporting us in this collective effort to keep our communities, our homes and our families safe and sound.

To all of you, thank you for having a stake in disaster mitigation.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Ceremony of the 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Speech
of**

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the Opening Ceremony of the 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, PICC, Pasay City, July 30, 2007]

A warm Filipino welcome to our ASEAN partners and allies from all over the world. Mabuhay!

Once more, we are gathered to set the course for our region. You come at a time in our history when we have made international relations a centerpiece of our economic agenda.

Our relations have never been stronger, from bilateral to multilateral relations, in our never-ending saga of cooperation, solidarity, fighting poverty and winning collective security.

During the ASEAN Summit in January, which we hosted in Cebu, we took several important steps that put us squarely on the path to create a regional community by 2015. Most notably we issued the ***Declaration on the ASEAN Charter***.

At a time of uncertainty in the world, ASEAN took a bold step forward by endorsing an ASEAN Charter that will expand and strengthen ASEAN. As chair of ASEAN, we were delighted that our fellow leaders seized the moment in history to do the right thing. That ASEAN brought so many nations and leaders together to discuss peace, security and social justice and economic growth is a testament to the desire of leaders and their people for greater collaboration between nations.

In behalf of the Filipino people, I thank you for the privilege to lead the organization in search of one caring and sharing community, a regional community in the full sense of the word by 2015.

Building the ASEAN community and voice is a long-term endeavor. There are no short cuts or quick fixes. But we are determined and will persevere to build a community that will provide a more secure, stable and prosperous life for all people.

Our collective desire to bring social justice, economic opportunity and integrated security to the region is our common ground. The declaration on the ASEAN Charter is testament to our commitment to become one, single united front.

I commend to you the important task of following through on the commitments we made at the summit in Cebu and I express my full confidence in our capacity to carry on.

An ASEAN community is clearly going to be anchored, first and foremost, on economic integration with a focus on social justice and raising the standard of living of the poor in the region. To that end, developing ASEAN is more than creating a regional community, it is about creating a dynamic force in Asia to maximize the benefits of globalization. We are actively strengthening our economic linkages not only within the region, but also with our dialogue partners including Japan, China, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

For ASEAN to become a true expanding union, it must continue to nurture its relations especially with key partners China, Japan and South Korea. Deepening integration on this level would mean completing and eventually forging the individual free trade agreements ASEAN is currently working out with these “Plus Three” countries.

We are happy to note that the ***Free Trade Agreements*** between ASEAN and China, as well as that between ASEAN and Korea, are moving into their final stages. It is now up to the ASEAN member countries to individually ratify the

two FTAs. Negotiations on the FTA with Japan also hold a lot of promise. We hope that those involved in the negotiations would find the resolve to agree on the finer points of the draft FTA.

The rise of China and of India as major economic powers provides us with fresh competition as well as cooperation.

On the other hand, the WTO's Doha Development Round has stalled, making it more difficult to agree on new global trade rule, but also underscoring the importance of regional arrangements to maintain the pace of our trading growth.

We have demonstrated our collective voice through our call in support of reviving and revising the Doha Round. We have called for the round to expand global trade and investment for the benefit of all.

At a time in the world when there are strains on alliances from Iraq to WTO, it is essential that new, vital alliances will be forged to keep the world stable and strong. Some sort of East Asia community will be a bold step in that direction.

The question isn't whether an East Asia community is necessary. The question is will we be stronger with a more united region? I believe the answer to that is clear: each member nation and the entire region will benefit. An East Asia community will strengthen our economy, security and prosperity.

There is general consensus that the idea of an East Asian community has a more political, rather than geographic definition. In the process of establishing the East Asia community, we look to the engagement of all the parties that have a stake in East Asia.

Community building is a long process. The E.U. took 50 years to reach its present stage of integration. Too much has been made of our diversity as a barrier. Our diversity is strength and not a barrier to an East Asian union.

Historically, the European Union has shown how a region beset by conflict can become a force for peace and prosperity. So too in our region that has faced many of the same historic divisions, a more united region will aid in the same. ASEAN has proven that it can make a difference for peace and security in Asia and will continue to do more as it builds toward an ASEAN community by 2015.

The meeting of the 14th ASEAN Regional Forum three days from now will be equally important. ARF has been successful in establishing confidence building measures among its 27 participating countries. The challenge before the ARF right now is to move to preventive diplomacy to be able to "nip the bud" in any potential conflicts arising and causing disputes among its members.

ASEAN is just but part of a larger regional community and the global community. Therefore, our community must contribute to the transformation of our region and the world. However, even while we pursue this task, ASEAN should also be at the heart of developments in Asia.

Asia has the brightest potential for progressing economically. And as I said earlier, the rise of China and India – the two most populated countries in the world – as global economic powerhouse has opened a lot of opportunities and challenges for all the countries in the region. Japan, of course, remains to be the second largest economy in the world and will also significantly influence the course of development in Asia.

If we are to turn this century as an Asian century, we must be able to capitalize on opportunities and strengths of Asia. It must allow other countries that have substantial stake in the region to participate in its development. Therefore, our six dialogue partners: India, Australia, New Zealand included in the concept of a larger East Asia. Even Russia, which has an Asian side, can be part of it when the right time comes and should eventually lead to this Asian community. It is, therefore, in our interest to sustain their momentum, nurture them and widen their areas of cooperation. We must, however, complement these processes with a regional security framework that will allow us to pursue our regional economic agenda.

ASEAN must also continue to point the way ahead in regional security cooperation. From Cambodia to East Timor, and from the South China Sea to the Korean peninsula. The ASEAN Regional Forum remains the only all-inclusive conclave for addressing regional security issues in the Asia-Pacific.

As ASEAN and ARF Chair, we convey the hope of ASEAN members and other countries for the continued stability, peace and prosperity of the region.

During the ASEAN Summit in Cebu, we as a region expressed grave concern over developments on the Korean peninsula. We support a diplomatic and peaceful solution to the nuclear issue.

I am sure I speak for all of the ASEAN states in expressing that we are encouraged that the six party talks aimed at resolving the ASEAN peninsula nuclear issue have resumed.

We welcome the confirmed shutdown of the Yongbyun Nuclear Reactor and the return of U.N. inspectors to Pyongyang. These developments are historic milestones in the six-party talks process. The series of positive developments inspire confidence that the six countries and major world players are exerting all they can to bring lasting stability and peace to the region.

We commend the parties for their progress so far and for their commitment and dedication. But while the talks have been moving forward, much remains to be done.

The ARF this week is a forum where all members of the six party talks will gather. It offers them a venue to promote and advance negotiations. We in ASEAN stand ready to do whatever we can to advance regional security and stability. And on the part of the Philippines, until our last day as chair of ASEAN, we will continue to strengthen our collective stake in a stable Korean Peninsula.

We did not, however, let these potential conflicts and transnational problems divide us. Our strong adherence to the spirits of the treaty of amity and cooperation in Southeast Asia, to which we all have acceded to, has enabled us to settle our disputes through peaceful means.

We are now reaping the dividends of regional peace. It has allowed member countries to devote time and allocate resources to pursue the path of economic growth during the last four decades. And I'm very glad indeed as we are in here now that fifteen years ago, we established the ASEAN free trade area which began the integration of our economies. Today, we are well on our way to creating ASEAN into a single market and production base.

ASEAN is now faced with more complex challenges than those that our founding fathers had to deal with. What started out as a simple association is now trying to evolve into an ASEAN community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible.

Building an ASEAN community is no easy task. ASEAN is fortunate to have its dialogue partners in this effort.

We have realized the imperative of having an ASEAN community if we are to stay relevant in this age of globalization. For this reason, this is the reason, we decided at the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu to accelerate the establishment of the ASEAN community to 2015 from 2020. Our goal is to realize our resources and potentials to turn our region into one of the most dynamic in the world.

ASEAN has been a force for regional peace and progress for forty years. The task ahead is how sustain this role for the next forty years in an era of growing regionalism and deepening globalization.

The 12th ASEAN Summit to today's 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting have been all geared towards this end. In a region that is getting deeper into integration, there is danger of losing sight of the very essence of a community helping each other. This is not a race of who gets richer first. A community is about growing and prospering together.

If we will be able to succeed in building such a caring and sharing community, our future generations will look back to this 40th year of ASEAN, the 12th ASEAN Summit, the 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting as the start of it all having worked together for the past 40 years.

For the past 40 years, ASEAN member countries have created our own shared history, in the same manner that we are keenly aware of our common destiny. It is this awareness that has led us to make a conscious decision to create a community, where there is unity in diversity, and which we envision to be one caring and sharing community.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Message of President Arroyo during the ceremonial ringing of the bell for the Philippine National Bank's Listing Ceremony

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the ceremonial ringing of the bell for the Philippine National Bank's Listing Ceremony**

[Delivered at the Trading Hall, Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala Ave., Makati City, August 1, 2007]

Thank you, Secretary Favila.

PNB Chairwoman Flor Tarriela; PNB Director Dr. Tan; PNB President Omar Mier; PNB Director Domingo Chua; Central Bank Governor Tetangco; PSE Chair Vitug; PSE President Francis Lim; and do we have S.E.C. Commissioner Fe Barin? Welcome! To all of you, congratulations!

This is a great day for the Philippine National Bank, the economy and the nation. It is also a milestone for the Philippine bourse and the government's privatization and revenue build-up program.

For the Philippine bourse: PNB shares traded at 40 pesos each in 2002 when BSP and PDIC started the rehabilitation of the bank. They rose to P43.77 per share when government sold a 186 million shares in 2005. Now it is being sold at 59 pesos per share, congratulations!

Congratulations are especially in order for PNB and its global coordinator and bookrunner, the UBS Investment Bank. They have both done an excellent job. As our speaker said earlier, they generated demand worth 295 million dollars after only two days of bookbuilding with the book ending over two times covered.

The major subscribers came from all over the world: Asia, the U.S.A., Europe, the Middle East and Australia.

For the government's privatization program: 45 percent of the public offer are shares of the national government through the Philippine deposit insurance corporation and the department of finance. The total offer size is a 160.8 million shares consisting of 89 million primary shares and 71 million secondary shares owned by the national government. The 71.8 million shares make up 12.5 percent ownership in PNB. And as our speakers have said earlier, this is a successful and complete exit by the national government.

This exit affirms the soundness of government's policy to uphold the private sector as the primary engine of national growth.

PNB's successful rehabilitation and full privatization overturn the cynics' view that privatized companies are white elephants. Several other privatized firms are now turning in neat profits while providing crucial services such as Manila Water, Maynilad and PNOC-EDC.

For the government's revenue build-up: this event will earn 4.2 billion pesos for the national government with its share price 48 percent higher.

I take this opportunity to affirm that we are committed to our budget balancing milestone.

While we faced some challenges in generating revenues from the BIR and the BOC, we have taken major steps to address these early revenue shortfalls and we expect collections to be back on track in the second half of the year. These steps include reorganization while tapping career officials to bypass the learning curve, and more aggressive pursuit of tax evasion and corruption cases.

To cover the fiscal gap while the tax collection efficiency is being addressed, we're accelerating privatization. And our strategy is working — from EDC to PNB, we are among the best values in Asia.

Mabuhay ang Stock Exchange!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Remarks during the Ceremonial Ringing of the Bell for the Philippine National Bank's Listing Ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145429/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2141&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening program of the 21st anniversary Celebration of the St. Luke's Heart Institute Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening program of the 21st anniversary Celebration of the St. Luke's Heart Institute

[Delivered at Auditorium 1, Cathedral Heights Bldg. Complex, St. Luke's Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Blvd., Quezon City, August 6, 2007]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Joe, for your kind introduction and congratulations for you and to Chairman Kuan for leading the team that has made St. Luke's a world power in health care. Congratulations!

Secretary Pingkoy Duque; Tony Sibulo, Director of the St. Luke's Heart Institute; the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's; the Executive Committee of the Heart Institute; the directors and department heads of this great institution; Congressman Monico Puentevella, who is not the Chairman of the Committee on Health but, are you the outstanding patient? And to all of you ladies and gentlemen, Happy Anniversary! You truly honor the memory of Bill Quasha with your excellent health care.

You're better equipped than 95 percent of American hospitals. I know for one thing you have the first pet scanner in Asia and the only one in the Philippines. And I understand from my friends who have their check-ups abroad that typically six American hospitals share one pet scan that goes around among them during the week. But you have your own exclusive machine, which I had the privilege of using during my own executive check-up. Congratulations!

And of course, your doctors and medical personnel are second to none, including and especially the institute that we are celebrating today — the heart institute which takes care of the hearts of people. So, congratulations! To Dr. Sibulo and the St. Luke's Heart Institute. to Dr. Calleja, the first head of the institute, on the occasion of your 21st anniversary.

And as a family, we know how world class heart care is in the Philippines because Dr. Rommel Cariño, our Philippine-educated heart surgeon and your team from the institute brought back my husband from the brink of death.

Now four months later, he can play 18 round holes of golf. And when I left Malacañang this morning, he was on his treadmill. So he has already put together his own healthy lifestyle as a result of all of the advice that Joe and the rest of the doctors have been giving him including Juliet Cervantes. Juliet is not a heart doctor but we first thought that mike was coming here because of his gastric problems but Juliet after observing him for so many hours said, it's too painful for it to be a gastric problem. So we had the test done all over again and sure enough then it was the aorta. So, thank you so much for saving the life of my husband.

We can only repay you by ensuring that our administration cares for the health and well-being of our people.

So while our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in a decade. We are not resting, rather forging ahead to sustain the momentum. To instill permanent change, we're making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in health care.

We're following up the pain of raising tax measures including the tax on doctors. With the gain that only comes from significant investment in people and projects, only then will we truly ensure that progress cannot be reversed.

With our improved economic conditions and fiscal situation, we're increasing investment in our country, in our people to improve social services, for instance, health insurance for indigent families.

We've enrolled four million indigent families or 20 million poor Filipinos in Philhealth, compared to 1,500 families — I think, in 2001 — in the hope that all these Filipinos who now have Philhealth cards can have greater access to world-class hospitalization like what St. Luke's has to offer.

As I said in my State of the Nation Address last time, sa unang pagkakataon, gumastos ang Philhealth ng higit three billion pesos para paospital ng maralita. And with that, Philhealth pays a portion of their bills when they are confined in great first class hospitals like St. Luke's.

And today, Pingkoy Duque's team is studying the introduction of outpatient Philhealth screening packages for cardiovascular and related diseases. If this study indicates that the program is feasible, it will empower even more Filipinos to consult and take their tests at world-class facilities like the heart institute even if they don't have to be hospitalized at the end of the test.

Our long-term goal extends beyond keeping stress and blood pressure down. Ours is a battle to save lives, to promote a good quality of life for every ordinary Filipino, and to ensure the health of the heart and the future of this nation.

Speaking of battle, we're doing all this during a time for war and welfare.

On the war track, I have sent a group of doctors and medical personnel from the V. Luna Medical Center for the military to augment the field hospital in Zamboanga. The field hospital for the West Mindanao command. The doctors will conduct free clinics in the areas affected by hostilities in Basilan, Lamitan, Isabela and even Tipo-Tipo, thereby adding a civic action dimension to their mission. As we dispatch them, I take this opportunity of national television carrying us, to issue this stern warning to the terrorists: "these medical professionals are on a mission of compassion. They will treat people whose lot you have worsened by your belligerence when the peace we have pursued would have allowed them to join the rest of the nation in productive pursuits. Harm them and Hades will come to you."

On the welfare track, we are expanding the menu of our social payback offerings, to initially include — and I was talking to Pingkoy this morning — fast tracking the creation of regional heart, kidney and lung centers in key cities. Especially for those patients who cannot physically travel to Manila not only because they can't afford it maybe but also because their health condition, their medical condition will not allow them. For instance, patients in the provinces with a torn aorta like what my husband was operated on here in St. Luke's will be more exposed to risk from the high altitude if they try to fly to Manila.

Therefore, we need little St. Luke's institutes in the different main regional centers. The regional heart, lung and kidney centers shall be piloted initially in the Vicente Sotto Hospital in Cebu, the Davao Medical Center in Davao, the Northern Mindanao Regional Center in Cagayan De Oro and the Bicol Regional Center in Legaspi. Actually, the beginnings of this is the Japanese supported project. But this morning, I instructed Secretary Duque to increase government equity and thereby expand coverage and expedite implementation.

How can we afford this? Because I got a report the other day from Secretary Nonoy Andaya that we are able to save 20 billion pesos in debt servicing from the lower interest at present we have to pay and also from the stronger peso. Debt servicing resulting from a stronger peso can be funneled to this. So it's from debt service to health service. And as I had a message for terrorists earlier, I had a message to our people. And the message is: "better fiscal health of the country results in health care closer to your home."

The regional heart, lung and kidney centers is the next logical step after we upgraded 35 local government hospitals. Thirty two primary care hospitals are being promoted to secondary care hospitals with national government support, and three secondary care hospitals are being promoted, upgraded to tertiary hospitals, again, with subsidy on the equipment from the national government.

And because health care is not only the care of the doctors and the tests but also medicines, we now have 10,000 Botika ng Barangay selling half-priced medicines. And I called on our Congress to pass legislation to bring cheaper medicines to our people. But also I called on Congress to have improved long-term care for our senior citizens.

Here in St. Luke's, I know that aside from heart care, one of the many excellent world class services St. Luke's is famous for is geriatric care. In fact, I had the honor to be your guest when the geriatric care unit was opened. So, I hope that the great doctors of St. Luke's who organized the geriatric care program of St. Luke's can also help us craft the legislation for long-term geriatric care as a public health service for the country.

But I don't know if simple old age is the largest cause of death because I understand that the number one killer of Filipinos today is cardiovascular disease, claiming more lives each year than the next three leading causes of death combined.

And I hear from the word health organization that we can cut deaths and disability from cardiovascular disease by half simply by targeting the major risk factors. This calls for the Department of Health and its allies — the Philippine Heart Association and all other professional groups who are part of the healthy lifestyles coalition — to wage an all-out campaign to educate Filipinos in their homes and communities where the real battle must be fought.

So I hope that St. Luke's Heart Institute can also help us to be advocates in our families, workplaces, schools, civic organizations, and all local and national constituencies to promote heart-healthy lifestyles.

To help us make sure that all Filipinos are aware of the dangers of hypertension and obesity, as well as other risk factors like smoking and physical inactivity; and that they learn to live and work in wholesome environments, and that they have access to affordable and quality healthcare.

This is one thing we can do together. We can advocate together a complete smoking ban in all public places for one thing.

The concerted action of the government, professional societies, advocacy groups, patients and communities are needed to win this fight.

Indeed, building healthy hearts builds a strong nation. And the St. Luke's Heart Institute has been at the heart of this vital challenge for 21 years now.

Once again, congratulations!

Mabuhay! And thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Opening Program of the 21st Anniversary Celebration of the St. Luke's Heart Institute. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145341/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2139&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 16th Annual General Assembly of the Federation of Philippine Industries, Inc.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 16th Annual General Assembly of the Federation of Philippine Industries, Inc.**

[Delivered at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, August 13, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Peter Favila and Chairman Ito Carlos for reminding me about the G11 that we used to have every Thursday when I was Undersecretary of Trade and Industry. I understand after I left it hasn't been continued so I'm asking Secretary Favila to revive the G11.

I am glad to address the champions of Philippine industry. Ito addressed you as captains but I prefer to address you as champions because you work very hard to make sure that Philippine industry is not left behind. And as Jess Arranza said in his speech, you are indispensable partners in development as well as in security. So let me begin by giving you a report on our security situation. Even as I speak, our government forces are in a full offensive against terrorist cells in Sulu.

I have ordered the Commanding General of the Philippine Army Romeo Tolentino to pitch camp in Zamboanga. Tolentino will oversee that theatre of operations. I am sending my army chief to the frontlines so he can be near my soldiers. The Army Headquarters is temporarily set up now in the Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga until the situation normalizes. Tolentino is about to retire but he has been a soldier's soldier, so this soldier's soldier will not just orchestrate punitive actions against those who maim and kill but study the peaceful overtures of those who will demonstrate remorse. As I said he is about to retire and usually at this stage of the Philippine armed forces career, retiring three-star generals do their farewell tour. Well, this will be Tolentino's farewell tour but not his last assignment. Because he will spend his last days in service in the place and the way it began: in Mindanao as the defender of the flag in a mission of peace.

In addition, this morning I issued the following security directives:

First, keep Basilan and Sulu operations firmly controlled to minimize civilian casualties, with NDCC help in evacuating them, and respect ceasefire guidelines in close consultation with the International Monitoring Team, whose mandate we should seek to be extended before it expires next month, and with the GRP-MILF ceasefire committee.

Second, hold urgent talks with the MILF under the Malaysian auspices to contain and resolve the Basilan/Sulu situation, making it clear that the government has to secure its forces and areas as part of peace efforts and law enforcement, but will not overrun MILF areas.

Third, brief the *OIC Committee of Eight* on Mindanao developments, underlining both the limited military operations and the continuing peace and development efforts, including huge outlays in the 2007 and 2008 budgets for Mindanao, including Basilan and Sulu.

Next, harness the Bishops-Ulama Conference and other religious and civil society groups for peace efforts, and the other civil society groups which include your federation with myself and other national leaders joining them in

prayers and peace rally in Mindanao, and meeting with them on the need to work together for peace and against forces and ideologies promoting violence.

Next, accelerate the development initiatives in ARRM, especially high-profile public works and social programs, including health, housing, livelihood and Muslim education. If it would not adversely affect the Philippine negotiating position and provoke alarm among Christians, a pilot implementation of the envisioned Muslim ancestral domain regime shall be undertaken, to demonstrate our sincerity to achieve peace. We have declared many ancestral domains among indigenous peoples, I really don't see why anybody should be scared if there is an ancestral domain declared for the Muslim people. Then also, hold the first peace and security assembly in Bohol. This should happen on the 23rd and 24th of August. And elsewhere, to wind down insurgency in other areas, further demonstrating the government's peace resolve while freeing up troops in case they would be needed in Mindanao. I give you this report because national security and political stability are the foundations of a strong economy.

So, today I am here to ask you first, to help me appeal to all not to exploit the peace and security issues and initiatives for politicking. After all many of the champions of industry here are very important political supporters as well. And second, to harness private sector support for revenue and anti-smuggling efforts.

I have been looking forward to meeting with major business chambers to call on you to work with government in boosting tax collection and fighting smuggling, which is a major complaint of top business leaders. And it's a good time to start with you because your federation, that's why I call you champions of industry. Your federation has especially been active in anti-smuggling advocacy to protect Philippine industry and Philippine labor.

We take the shortfall in revenue collection by the BIR and the BOC seriously. We have taken immediate steps to address this. We remain committed to the implementation of our economic reform agenda. The measures we are taking to improve the efficiency of the revenue-enhancing agencies are enabling us to increase revenue collection and get our collection efforts back on track. We also remain committed to doing everything necessary to maintain the economic delivery (recovery) that has delivered 26 consecutive quarters of economic growth and that is enabling us to invest in modern infrastructure and much needed social services.

Let us put the shortfall into context. We were not on target or the first half of this year but we have met our target for July. This shows that we knew what has to be done to get back on target. This shows that we have been taking the required actions. And if you remember in 2006 our dedication and discipline to raise revenues led to 20-percent growth in revenues from the previous year. Revenues from collection efficiency and tax administration reforms alone reached 41 billion pesos in 2006 about seven-tenths percent (0.7%) of GDP – higher than the conservative plan of one-third percent (0.3%). We have demonstrated our ability to meet the challenges of revenue generation. And we are confident that we will succeed again in this instance.

Let me describe some of the actions we have taken and will take to address this situation. We have asked our senior team to take responsibility for the actions of their agencies. We have made tough decisions regarding organization and leadership. We're vigorously implementing Actions Plans with the BIR and the BOC with the support from our development partners and our industry partners like you to improve tax collection efficiency. Some of these measures include holding separate command conferences in the BIR, which I will hold after coming from here and the BOC which we held last Friday, reviewing performance and transferring or at least warning poor performers among revenue district officers and port collectors.

To get the complete Customs picture, last Friday we did a section-by-section dissection of the revenue output of two major ports, the Port of Manila and the Manila International Container Port. Fifty-five centavos for every peso raised by the BOC come from these ports. The transaction value (volume) in these ports is so huge that a mere section of the Port of Manila has the collection equivalent of most ports outside the National Capital Region. If that is the case, I found it more productive for us to scrutinize the performance of the 15 sections in each of the two ports rather than waste time evaluating the yield of, say, the port of Surigao. Port of Manila and MICP section officials are more vital than a collector of a backwater port. To pinpoint responsibility in collection slippage it does us well to go beyond port-level performance and dissect how each of the sections fare.

I am forming a ***Revenue Enhancement Task Force*** under Secretary Gary Teves and an ***Anti-Smuggling Task Force*** under the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group under the National Competitiveness Council. This will be similar to the ***Anti-Red Tape Task Force*** under Secretary Peter Favila.

I invite the Federation of Philippine Industries to join the Anti-Smuggling Task Force. Together, let us continue to pursue peace and explore new horizons of Filipino competitiveness, more partnerships and reforms.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo at the 5th Global Filipino Networking Convention

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 5th Global Filipino Networking Convention**

[Delivered at the Sydney, Australia, September 7, 2007]

Mga kababayan sa Australia at sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo!

Ikinagagalak ng ating delegasyon, bahagi dito ay APEC delegation at bahagi rin dito ay business delegation bilateral mula Pilipinas. Meron pa tayong isang kasama pero siya ay talagang ang pinuntahan niya ay kayo, ang Chairman ng ating Philippine Retirement Authority, si Egay Aglipay. Nasisiyahan kaming lahat mula sa Pilipinas na makita kayo dito sa 5th Global Filipino Networking Convention. Salamat at nagkaroon tayo ng ganitong pagkakataon.

Congratulations to the Filipino-Australian convenors for this year's convention, as well as the community leaders who made this event a success. Congratulations to Malyn who is the president of the Filipino Communities Council of Australia, and to Lolita Farmer, head of the Global Filipinos Australia and the Convention's Organizing Committee, and one of the 2006 recipients of the Presidential Award for Overseas Filipinos.

Yaong mga hindi taga-Australia ay nagugulat, ang galing-galing raw magsalita ni Lolita. Well, what she gets her award for is because she's a very successful practicing lawyer here in Sydney.

So to all of you who are not from Australia, welcome to this part of the world and especially to the original convenors of this convention, Loida and the other leaders of NAFFA. I'm sure you're so proud that NAFFA has gone such a long way and also other community leaders from around the world.

Indeed, this is a first, it maybe your fifth convention, but it's a first because it's the first time that this Global Filipino Networking Convention is held outside the U.S. and the Philippines. *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

And congratulations for holding this event in time for the 15th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Summit.

Noong ikinukuwento ko nung Mayo because I made a state visit here, *na babalik ako rito* one day ahead of the summit because I will speak to the Filipino communities, nagulat sila, how can you swing another convention when the APEC convention is taking place? But you are all here and that is again Mabuhay to your organizational abilities.

But it's also good for the Filipinos from all over the world to be here at a time of the APEC Conference, so that we can also keep up with what's happening in APEC.

At a time of uncertainty in the world, APEC remains a central pillar of global engagement and dialogue. We Filipinos believe in strong global engagement for our country and our people – lalo na kayo, you know that, you're practicing it, to grow our economy, ensure peace and security and lift our nation out of poverty.

Figuratively speaking, the more bridges we build, the more people can cross to new lands and new ideas. You, the overseas Filipinos, have demonstrated that we must be open to the world and peoples and places other than our own. That is what the 21st century will be about.

You know, it's not so much a function of poverty, you are professionals, you didn't go all over the world because you are poor. In New Zealand which is very rich, 25 percent of their population are overseas, a lot of them are here in Australia.

And in Portugal which is not a poor country either, it's like us, 10 percent of the population are abroad.

So that really means that the 21st century is about going to new places and being with peoples other than our own.

That is why APEC plays such a large role for the Philippines – it is one of the most important bridges we can build and cross together. We want the Philippines actively engaged in local, regional and global affairs because that is the future.

In the summit, we hope to see greater regional economic integration made possible with all 21 APEC economies agreeing to pursue the path of trade liberalization and a discussion on how the APEC can work together to address the global challenges of climate change through a framework for cooperation following up the Kyoto Protocol.

Prime Minister Howard in fact, has decided to make climate change the major topic at the Summit.

So let me also tell you about us and what we're doing adapting to climate change. In the Philippines, we embrace sustainable development. We've moved forward with an aggressive effort to create a Green Philippines, including reducing reliance on fossil fuels with our biofuels, wind and solar efforts and geothermal programs. It is good for our economy and good for the health and well-being of our people to have a strong economy and clean environment. That is why we welcome Australia's initiative to discuss climate change at the APEC because there's need for concerted international action to address the global challenges of climate change. We have a clean development mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol. This has allowed developing countries like the Philippines to voluntarily reduce its greenhouse gas emissions through private sector initiatives.

But there is a need for expansion. There's a need for greater levels of international cooperation and financial support to promote strategies to adapt to climate change, capacity development and technology transfer to avert security implications of the adverse effects of climate change.

Security implications, you know, for instance, Australia is a very big exporter of milk to the Philippines. Australia is already suffering from climate change. Milk production has gone down by 10 percent. Therefore, the price of milk in the Philippines has gone up. So we have adverse affects of climate change and we have to deal with them. So that's what we call adaptation strategies.

Countries like the Philippines contribute less than 1% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. So we are not a villain as far as climate change is concerned. They call our kind of country a climate taker rather than a climate maker. So domestically for us more than working to reduce greenhouse gas, what's important for us is how to adapt to the climate change. And that is adaptation strategies, and that is what we need. It's more important than reduction. Still, reduction is important to the extent that we can contribute.

On our part, for instance, we must learn and adapt from our neighbors the technology, policies and economic tools that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time we are the second largest producer of geothermal energy in the world after the U.S., therefore we can also contribute by sharing our experience in developing clean alternative energy sources like geothermal power.

And APEC presents an opportunity to engage our allies in all of these things – in various economic, political and security issues at a time when the world needs closer cooperation.

This lunchtime, for instance, President Bush had lunch with five ASEAN leaders and the foreign and trade ministers of the seven ASEAN nations who are members of APEC. Tomorrow, I will meet Malaysian Prime Minister Badawi,

so we can discuss the peace process in Southern Philippines which is being facilitated by Malaysia. That's one of the usefulness of an APEC summit.

The APEC, along with the ASEAN and other trading agreements, provides the opportunity for nations to work together to lift up our poor, not just in the Philippines but all over the world. We believe in the power of the global trading system to alleviate poverty and modernize nations through market forces. That does not mean we believe that countries like the Philippines are ready to compete head-to-head today in every sector, but it does mean that because that is what the 21st century is all about, we cannot afford to be afraid of globalization. I guess, just as we say that we are a climate taker rather than a climate maker, we're a globalization taker rather than a globalization maker, it's there. Let us use it to fight poverty.

Poverty alleviation is the number one most important part of our agenda in the Philippines and our vision to lift the Philippines into modernized country status in 20 years.

Iyong ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya ay nasa harapan ng ating kampanyang bawasan ang kahirapan. Ito ang ating pangkalahatang layunin.

Mula nang ang inyong lingkod ay umupo bilang Pangulo hanggang ngayon, mataas ang ating hinangad para sa ating bansa. Hinarap natin ang hamon: walang nakaakalang makakakuha tayo ng mas malaking buwis and cut down on tax cheats And no one thought we could bring our budget deficit under control, pre-pay our debts and raise employment, ngunit nagawa natin ito.

And I must acknowledge our congressmen and women, including our former congressmen, because the biggest single act that led to the surge in our economy, was the passage of our Value Added Tax, which in one bold stroke raised enormous amounts of revenue. *Binigyang daan na mapabilis ang ating pag-angat ng bago nating nahanap na salapi para sa pamumuhunan.*

Ang pagbalansyado ng kaban ng bayan ay unang hakbang lamang. Ngayon, namumuhunan tayo sa matagal nang dapat nagawang pamumuhunan sa human at physical infrastructure. Kasama dito ang bilyun-bilyong piso sa edukasyon, kalinga sa kalusugan, training kasama ng bilyun-bilyon sa mga bagong tulay, kalsada, pantalan to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines. This in turn attracts more investments at lumilikha ng mga dagdag na trabaho. Mas maraming trabaho, mas kaunting kahirapan.

And we not only want to have infrastructure, human and physical infrastructure, we also want to make the environment friendly to business by reducing red tape and corruption.

Our anti-corruption advisor, Mr. Tony Kwok, who was the former anti-corruption czar in Hong Kong, who was a key player in efforts to clean up corruption there, believes that perceptions cloud the reality of our progress in reducing corruption and red tape in the Philippines. The fact is that we have undertaken the effort to curb graft through criminal justice, through administrative controls and through procedural reforms. This effort is focused on the revenue agencies, that's why they have improved their performance in recent years and agencies that are in the frontline of day-to-day public services. One of them would be the retirement authority, di ba Egay? I think Loida knows that very well, and now you're happy, because that's a frontline service that deals with overseas Filipinos.

We take this issue very seriously. And we believe perception will match reality in a few years. However, this is a problem that has plagued the Philippines and other countries for generations and, as experience has shown, it won't necessarily be eliminated overnight but progress is being made.

Mabisa ang ating plano sa ekonomiya. Itong second quarter nitong taong ito mula Abril hanggang Hunyo, umangat ang produksyon sa loob ng ating bansa o Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 7.5 percent. That brings the first semester GDP growth to 7.3 percent. Umangat naman ang mga produksyon ng mga Pilipino kasama iyong mga overseas Filipinos o Gross National Product ng 8.3 percent. Thank you.

Ang overseas remittances mula sa mga Pilipino katulad ninyo na nasa labas ng bansa ay umaabot na ng P13 billion o 11% ng ating GDP.

Ang ating Bangko Sentral ay masipag na nagtatrabaho upang iangat ang tinatawag nilang financial literacy lalo na ng mga overseas Filipino workers at kanilang mga pamilya. Nagkakampanya ang Central Bank at ang kanyang mensahe: ang financial freedom hindi tumigil sa may sapat na pondo para i-sustento ang mga batayang pangangailangan ng isang pamilya. Nag-iipon, nag-iimpok and turning this hard-earned money into solid working capital is equally important. Sa mga financial literacy campaigns ng Bangko Sentral, pinaiiral ang kultura ng pag-iimpok. OFWs and your families are encouraged to channel these savings into investments.

In the Wall Street Journal the other day, they wrote a very beautiful article about the Philippines, our harsh measures are paying off with our growth rate. And that article by James Hookway also said that a lot of the overseas Filipinos are not just sending things for basic necessities but also investing.

Ngayon, parami nang parami ang mga remittances na ginagamit sa pamumuhunan sa Human Resource Capital sa pamamagitan ng edukasyon at kalinga sa kalusugan ng mga benepisyaryo; physical capital sa pamamagitan ng real properties, kasama ang pagbili ng lupa at pagtayo ng tahanan; and also in your case our prosperous overseas Filipinos, you support Gawad Kalinga and so many other projects that are really real property investments. And also pati na rin yung sa retirement homes na binebenta ni Egay Aglipay sa ating mga overseas Filipinos; and financial and capital investment sa pamamagitan ng financial instruments gaya ng stocks, mutual funds, at mga negosyo gaya ng mga Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). At yung mga microfinance gaya ng Opportunity International, we also thank our prosperous overseas Filipinos because you have supported a lot of microfinance NGOs, kaya nagpapalit ang kultura ng mga remittance. At sana tuluy-tuloy ito.

Iginagalang ng ating bansa, ng ating mga mamamayan ang mga overseas Filipinos dahil sa inyong sakripisyo at malasakit sa inyong trabaho, inyong pamilya at ating bansa, buong loob na tinatanggap iyong mga kontribusyon whether it is as remittances to your families which, I said not just of basic needs but of investments or your contributions to classrooms, contributions to Gawad Kalinga homes, contributions to microfinance.

But we are working towards the day when the ordinary Filipino no longer needs to go abroad for a job; that overseas work is just another career option and not the only choice a hardworking Filipino has to earn for a living. Our ambitious economic reforms will help break the offshore cycle. It will increasingly be keeping our best and brightest right in the Philippines, closer to families and friends, helping to build our communities and providing the next generation of leadership.

In fact in my visits to other countries and also in my visits to our investments from abroad coming to the Philippines, more and more former Filipinos have availed of, I believe the **Dual Citizenship Act of 2003**, which Lolita talked about. And as far as the overseas voting is concerned, we are open to ideas for further improving the implementation of the **Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003** to encourage more Filipinos overseas to register and vote. I'm sure the congressmen and congresswomen who are here will be happy to listen to your suggestions on how that law can be improved.

We have also strengthened the **Balik-Scientist Program** by increasing the incentives for Filipinos to share their scientific and technological expertise for nation-building in the Philippines. One of our Filipino-Americans, Dado Banatao, is helping us put up, not just put up but now implement a science and technology-based development. And because of the masterplan that they have put together, we are now spending more than a billion pesos a year on new expenditures on science and technology, including scholarships for masters and doctoral degrees and research development.

And for OFWs coming home, we have the National Reintegration Center that has been established to assist returning Filipino overseas workers to develop skills they will need when they decide to return to the Philippines permanently.

Maraming mga overseas Filipinos ay umuuwi na para magtrabaho sa mga bagong investments and I have seen them. For instance, Texas Instruments in Clark, there are Filipinos who have come home to work there. When I went to Hanjin in Subic, it's a one billion-dollar investment in Subic and they're gonna put 700 million dollars in another facility coming up soon. When I interviewed those who were there, I asked them, ano'ng ginagawa n'yo dati? iyong iba fishermen dati, iyong iba housewife, iyong iba nagbabanda doon sa mga disco ng Olongapo. But some of them were overseas workers who found that their job in Hanjin is comparable to the job they had abroad.

Doon sa mga minahan, the mining companies also. In fact, speaking of mining, ilan sa mga minahan ay pinamumuhunan ng mga kompanyang Australyano. Kaya nandito si Secretary Lito Atienza, makikipag-usap sa kanila.

Kaya inaasahan kong lahat tayo ay tuluy-tuloy na magtutulongan para sa ikabubuti ng ating bayan. At inaasahan kong tayo'y magsisikap at sama-samang abutin ang ating layunin para sa ikauunlad ng Pilipinas.

You, the Filipino communities in Australia and around the world, have a role to play in the Philippines' participation in the international community. Whatever your profession, wherever you reside, you willingly carry the indelible mark of the Filipino. I am glad that you are confident of your competence, your brilliance and your standing in both your motherland and in your host country.

Indeed, the Filipino is a true global citizen. Ang Pilipino ay isang tunay na mamamayang global.

Kaya, mga minamahal kong kababayan: Naniniwala ako sa pangitain ng isang mamamayan, maunlad at progresibong Pilipinas. At alam ko na kayo ay naniniwala rin doon kaya taun-taon gumagawa kayo ng networking convention. What is the commonality even if you come from all over the world, you are Filipinos and you love your country.

Ito ang tanda ng progreso ng Pilipinas, imagine your 11 percent contribution to our GDP, lahat ng ito ay kaugnay ng hangarin na isulong ang progreso ng Pilipinas sa tulong ninyo. Kasi yung mga halimbawa sa mga taga-New Zealand, kinu-kwento sa akin, pag pumupunta yung 25 percent nila sa ibang bansa gaya dito, tinutulungan pa ng mga nanay at tatay nila na galing sa New Zealand. Kayo, the opposite, kayo ang tumutulong. Imagine kung ang ating bansa hindi ganoon ang kultura ninyo, kung hindi kayo tumutulong ay di yung 11 percent ng GDP, wala sana yon. So talagang napakalaking bagay na ang mga Pilipino kahit saan sa buong mundo, mahal pa rin ang Pilipinas, kaya hindi brain-drain dahil binabalik n'yo sa inyong investments, not only for the future when you go home but even while you are abroad at tinutulungan ninyo ang ating bansa.

Sa pagkakaisa at bayanihan, walang makakahadlang sa pag-usbong ng bagong Pilipinas dahil ganoon ang Pilipino, kahit na saan sa buong mundo, Pilipino pa rin.

Ako'y nasisiyahan sa inyo.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching Ceremony of the BUC-AFP-PNP Forum for Peace

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching Ceremony of the Bishops-Ulama Conference – Armed Forces of the Philippines –
Philippine National Police (BUC-AFP-PNP) Forum for Peace**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, September 12, 2007]

Thank you, Secretary Gilbert Teodoro for your introduction.

His Grace Archbishop Capalla and the other Catholic bishops; Dr. Mahid Mutilan and the other Muslim Ulamas; His Grace Bishop Gomez and the other Christian bishops; Bishop Tumalak; Secretary Gonzales and Dureza and the other government officials; General Esperon and our other officers of the Armed Forces; General Calderon and our other officers of the Philippine National Police; members of the Bishop-Ulama Conference Tripartite Commission, ladies and gentlemen.

In these sensitive times, we thank God that we have strong groups committed to God, country and the flag.

We have the Bishop-Ulama Conference, you are the bastion of collective faith in our nation. In Mindanao, we have been able to meld together confidence-building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue under the leadership of the Bishop-Ulama Conference. You're 11 years old now and so you preceded all these fashionable advocacy for interfaith dialogue. And I was very honored that during the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations when the Philippines presided over the interfaith dialogue, I could have a story to tell of the Bishops-Ulama conference and what you have been doing all these years.

And through your leadership therefore as I said, our soft power, our confidence-building measures in Mindanao are first of all spearheaded by interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness; investments and basic infrastructure development; and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace.

We have the armed forces and the police representing our fighting faith in the war between good and evil. Our men and women in uniform are good, upstanding and loyal patriots, fighting to protect our country everyday. We must respect their command structure and disclosure rules, which are indispensable for our security.

Today, we are gathered here in the cause of peace, justice and national reconciliation. We all live under one national flag and under one banner of heaven, under one God. I call on our leaders in public and private positions of responsibility, in civilian life and military life to join, to continue joining, to continue to chart a course of investment in our people and economic growth. On my part, I am bound and determined to captain a steady ship.

We live by the rule of law. We abide by what the courts of the land decide. We must be a government that honors contracts and agreements that go through the required processes despite media attacks. And we must be a government that abides by what the courts of the land decide on matters of dispute.

The government has stayed focused on what the Filipinos yearn for most. Tired of political drama and social instability, we are entering a new era where the vast majority wants a predictable future, a steady job and a calm political climate.

We are moving on as a nation. The people are concerned about maintaining peace, order and stability. We have been through many upheavals. The people deserve a stable government and economic progress. That is what they are getting now.

The Philippine economy holds great promise for every single Filipino, if only we can come together as a nation and put the nation's interests ahead of individual desires. So, we call on all leaders to rally around our country, our economy so that it can truly lift up all boats. And we ask the whole world to support the Philippines on the road to national consolidation.

The state of our economy brings hope and excitement. Our growth is the highest in a generation, revenue is now on track, and job creation is strong. Our deficit is down, consumer confidence is up, and inflation is holding steady. The foundation of our economic comeback is wide, deep and solid. Across the board, the nation's economy is pointed in the right direction and for the right reasons.

We are close to a peace agreement with the MILF — thanks once again to the Bishops-Ulama Conference — we remain optimistic because of you that we can overcome the final barriers on ancestral domain so that we can give finality to the peace. However, even now we have already achieved a great deal. The region is vastly improved in terms of safety, security and economic growth. So the current agreements that we have are making things better even as we await the final peace agreement. And it will really take off if we achieve lasting peace and the millions of foreign aid promised comes pouring in.

Kasama ng balangkas pangkapayapaan ang amnestiya at kabuhayan sa mga rebeldeng ibig bumalik sa panig ng batas. Kalahating bilyong piso ang paunang pondo rito, upang mabilis na itanim ang matibay na kapayapaan at seguridad sa mga rehiyon, sa pangunguna ng mga pinunong lokal at relihiyoso kagaya ninyo, at katulong ang buong gobyerno ng bansa.

We guarantee the leftist insurgents willing to turn their guns into plowshares and respect the rule of law another opportunity to regain normal life under proclamation 1377 issued last week. But we must emphasize that amnesty shall not apply to terrorist groups, whose violence and treacherous deeds can never be countenanced as arising from legitimate political struggle. The communist rebels have spent years as a low-level threat. It's time for their disruption and violation of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead. They impede the progress and development of a number of rural areas. They're responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses. If we are to become a modernized country, we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all. It's either amnesty or military solution. Whichever way, communist rebellion must be stopped.

The military solution is our last option, but we must be prepared to wield this option when peace is broken, when non-combatants cower in fear and development initiatives are halted. Tulad ng sinabi ko na sa ating mga sundalo ilang beses: hindi tayo aatras ng pakibaka upang mabigyan ng kapayapaan at kaunlaran ang bayan.

The Abu Sayyaf stand in the way of bringing peace, stability and order to Southern Philippines. We must wipe them out once and for all. They are a menace to peace and a beacon for international thugs who wish to join their ranks.

And so, I thank the members of the Bishop-Ulama Conference and the leaders of the AFP and the PNP for the peace covenant that you have just handed to me which we shall transform into action, on the premise that peace and development are twinned, one cannot exist for long without the other.

We reach out to all who are willing to talk peace with an olive branch. We have authorized the holding of local peace and security assemblies, the first of which was held in Bohol late last month, to bring the local government units and the civil society especially including the religious sector into the locus of peace-making and peace-keeping. Our next local assembly will be in Butuan in Agusan Del Sur. And we are looking forward to the clergy playing a major role in the peace efforts there.

The way to peace isn't through the barrel of a gun. That's why the military solution is the last option. Rather the way to peace begins with providing a person a job, food on the table and human dignity. Central to that success is to invest in the people, in education, health care, roads, bridges and schools. In Western Mindanao, we have worked closely with the U.S. military and other O.D.A. partners on an amazing number of community public works projects. The positive impact of these projects cannot be overstated, from health care to building schools, the outreach has built more than buildings, it has built trust.

We will replicate this paradigm in other poor and remote areas of our country through the KALAHI barangays and the Kalayaan barangays. The state of our economy today as I said brings hope and excitement and we will be able to afford this KALAHI barangays and Kalayaan barangays in the next few years to come. It is because revenue is now on track. For the last two months the B.I.R. and the B.O.C. have been able to achieve their targets and that is why we can spend on peace.

Our deficit is down and therefore we don't borrow so much. Our interest rates are down and that is good for our entrepreneurs. And because the interest rate is down, businessmen don't have to add interest cost so much to their goods, and that is why inflation is holding steady. So, all of these are related to the economy and we'll talk about peace.

Our economy has created six million jobs in six years. It has helped raise wages, lower the rate of poverty, even the World Bank and the ADB say that. Invest in education and health care and invest heavily in roads, bridges and vital services. This is what the people of the nation deserve. And I would like to report to our good Bishops-Uamas that to ensure transparency and good governance in our massive public investments, we are creating under the government procurement policy board, a procurement transparency group chaired by the department of budget and management, and including the justice, interior and local government, and economic planning departments, plus representatives of civil society organization for procurement reform, which trains and fields external observers in government bids and awards committees nationwide. This group which the cabinet approved yesterday shall monitor procurement bidding and report anomalies to agency heads as well as governance bodies like the ombudsman and the commission on audit.

Yesterday, the cabinet also approved the pro-performance infrastructure monitoring group which shall also harness civil society and the private sector in ensuring that public works projects serve the needs and objectives for which they are undertaken and contract terms and timetables are complied with.

We are writing a new chapter in Philippine economic history through the use of tight fiscal reforms complemented by targeted investments in our people and infrastructure. And cost-cutting measures and elimination of red tape to allow our small entrepreneurs and foreign investors alike to move more rapidly to create new businesses. And I hope that this new chapter in economic history will also bring about a new chapter in our social history.

To the extent allowed by the constitutional restriction of separation of church and state, we support the activities of religious groups to provide livelihood opportunities together with spiritual guidance to the members. We are all like-minded in our desire for peace.

And we have high hopes that the BUC-Military-Police Forum, which you have promised will happen every three months, will play a key role in the nation's peace and stability in the future.

Let us continue on this day of prayer and reconciliation to pray for peace even as we work harder to sustain it.

Mabuhay ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran! Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Maraming salamat.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the Bishops-Ulama Conference – Armed Forces of the Philippines – Philippine National Police (BUC-AFP-PNP) Forum for Peace. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412143250/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2179&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the Conservation International Foundation, Toyota Motor Corporation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Municipal Government of Peñablanca, Cagayan

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the Conservation International
Foundation, Toyota Motor Corporation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the
Municipal Government of Peñablanca, Cagayan**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, September 13, 2007]

Maraming salamat sa ating bagong Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Secretary Lito Atienza.

Congressman Manny Bamba, the congressman of the 3rd District of Cagayan where Peñablanca is located; Doctor George Ty, Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation; Okabe San, Managing Director; Mr. Prickett and Mr. Hess of Conservation International; Mayor Julia of Peñablanca; other local government officials of Peñablanca; other officers of Toyota; ladies and gentlemen.

Today, we move forward with all the stakeholders of the Peñablanca protected landscape and seascape — with the full support of the people. This is another milestone towards Green Philippines.

Toyota Motor, the biggest automaker in the world, as Mr. Okabe said, is funding this six-year project with a grant of 350 million yen. Thank you, Toyota.

Conservation International — a very well-known and prestigious team dedicated to conserving the earth's living heritage in global diversity — will lead the implementation of the project. I understand that Conservation International has long been a partner of the Filipino people in protecting vast conservation corridors in the Sierra Madre mountain range, in Palawan and Eastern Mindanao. Thank you, Conservation International.

The Department of Environment shall identify the 2,500 hectares of forest land for the two phases of this project. And it shall facilitate project implementation to make sure there are no hindrances to full success. Good luck and congratulations, DENR!

A key partner, the local government of Peñablanca, which is located at the northern tip of Sierra Madre — that's where Sierra Madre ends to the north — will lead the people, particularly the forest dwellers, to win the future with us. Kablawan dakayo amin tiga-Peñablanca ken congressman.

It's a great time to have this meeting, this launching because last Tuesday, we also launched the updating our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. And there is no better audience than this distinguished group with which to restate our environment agenda for the year 2007 and beyond — the main skeletal structure of what will be the chapter on the environment.

We are a young nation: our people are young; those under 30 years old make up 65 percent of the population. We are a young nation because our democracy, our functioning democracy is just 60 years old even though we declared a republic more than a hundred years ago. The growing pains are still with us. We are a young nation because our spirit is young. We love life: we sing, we dance, we love sports, we love innovation and technology. So we are a young nation because we are modernizing. We are young because we are true citizens of the world, part of the rapid pace of change that is taking place around the globe. We are young because we are on the cutting edge of the global workforce. Toyota knows this, and so we thank Toyota for your new expansion. Thank you.

We have a vision for a young nation, and that is what we will have in the vision paragraph of our updated medium-term plan. Our vision is that we will take our place alongside other modernized nations in 20 years. To that end, no nation can aspire to be modern without thinking of our environment. We want to press ahead with our massive Green Philippines environmental plan that is comprehensive in scope and thorough in execution. A plan that includes first, reforestation; and second, scrubs the land and air of pollutants that endanger the health of our citizens; third, energy independence; and fourth preservation of our reefs and waterways and wildlife.

On reforestation: we must take back our forests and replenish fallen trees with new, protected forests to protect our land and our people. We must reforest that land and bring back the beauty of the Philippines we all love and want. And we thank Toyota and conservation international for this task of replenishing the forest of the Sierra Madre in the northern tip in Peñablanca.

On anti-pollution: we want to tap the enthusiasm of young and old alike to clean up our environment. We need to beautify our villages and cities of trash; build more urban parks and recreation areas; purify our water; and clean up industrial sites that are an eyesore and are unhealthy.

On energy independence: as part of our Green Philippines, we want an energy- efficient nation, free from reliance on costly and exhaust-spewing cars and smokestacks. We thank Toyota for producing clean cars and providing Malacañang several years ago with the sample of that car. Part of a bright new future for our nation is to control our over reliance on energy, to become free from overdependence on foreign oil and become more self sufficient through the use of sustainable, alternative forms of energy. We can harness our sun, wind and geothermal resource, and produce our own clean fuels through biofuels and not overly rely on foreign suppliers.

And finally, conservation: preservation of our reefs and waterways, and designation of nature parks and wildlife refuges. We want to turn our coral reefs and beaches, the wonder of the world, and other wildlife refuges into national parks and international sanctuaries for eco-tourism and scientific research.

In 2002, I signed Proclamation 484 expanding the Peñablanca protected landscape in the Sierra Madres from 4,130 hectares to the Peñablanca protected landscape and seascape covering a 118,782 hectares of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

We are determined to conserve the Sierra Madre mountain range. It constitutes the largest remaining block of natural rainforest in the Philippines. We will protect the refuge of some 50 percent of threatened animals in our country, including the Philippine eagle, the Philippine crocodile, and other known species.

We have the chance to develop our nation right from the start: clean, healthy, productive and beautiful.

Investing in vital infrastructure — which is what I have largely discussed and presented in my State of the Nation Addresses for the last two years now — includes not just building up new steel structure that will endure, but to tear down those old and unreliable buildings and bridges that are no longer safe and operational. And we must also build up our environment as a reflection of our commitment to our quality of life. People need to breathe clean air and swim in clean water while we also build manufacturing and bridges to span our waters.

This will enhance our national security, lift up our economy and preserve our environment.

All the leaders and the ordinary folk who join us today have their face to the sun and feel the rays of a new day.

I want to congratulate the 3rd District of Cagayan and the municipality of Peñablanca, and thank Toyota and Conservation International for being an important part of the new Philippines.

We hope that other global citizens will invest in our environment, following the lead of Toyota Motors Corporation and Conservation International.

As the people of Peñablanca would say, ” Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin apo.”

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA’s Speech during the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the Conservation International Foundation, Toyota Motor Corporation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Municipal Government of Peñablanca, Cagayan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412143126/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2176&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Women's National Electoral Assembly 2007

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Women's National Electoral Assembly 2007

[Delivered at the Reception Hall, Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City, September 14, 2007]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Secretary Cabral for your introduction.

Ambassador Kenney, our very outstanding American woman, who's representing her country in the Philippines; our leaders of the women's movements here in the Philippines, Myrna Yao who is the chairman of our... Chairwoman of our National Council on the Role of Filipino Women; and our hosts: Mrs. Benedicto and Mrs. Villar; ladies and gentlemen.

What an honor to be here to join hands with you to celebrate 70 years of Filipino women suffrage and to extol its champions.

Seven decades ago, it was a conservative era in Philippine politics. Well, we thank Lulu Casas Quezon's father-in-law for working to give us the right of suffrage. But many male legislators who are against women suffrage at that time said that "women belonged only to the home and that women themselves did not want to have the right to vote." but they wrong. Quezon was right. And more than 400,000 Filipino women said yes.

Today, 70 years later, we can say that we are proud that women in the Philippines got the right to vote ahead of women in many other parts of the world. And women in the Philippines rose to the very top of political and corporate world ahead of women in many other developed parts... In many developed parts of the world.

Filipino women are champions in the home. We hold the purse strings unlike many other parts of the world. We are champions in political leadership. Now, aside from having a woman president, we have twenty-five percent of the Philippine congress made up of women. And we are champions in the corporate world. The statistics all over the world show what a large number of female CEOs we have in our corporate world.

But I believe that the suffrages of seventy years ago — and as we extolled them, we mentioned some of them: Sofia De Veyra, Josefa Llanes Escoda, Pura Villanueva Kalaw, Trinidad Legarda, Pilar Hidalgo Lim, Concepcion Felix Rodriguez, and many others whose memory today still inspires respect and admiration — I believe they will be able to truly rest in peace when not only can we say that women occupy top roles in politics and business. But also when we can say that every Filipina is liberated, not only electorally but in every other way to fulfill their hopes and dreams, free from fear and full of opportunity.

It often falls to the women of our nation — in fact, almost all the women of our nation are obligated, they're the ones obligated — to feed and clothe our children, and see that they go to school, ready to learn. Very, very few households are liberated enough to have a househusband and then a woman being charged of working outside. When a woman works outside, she is still the housewife ahead... On top of it. And that is why it is so important for her, for the Filipino woman that her burdens are made lighter by an economy that is moving forward.

And this is what our steadily improving economy is all about. The state of our economy today, 70 years after women won the right to vote brings hope and excitement. Our growth is the highest in a generation. Revenue is now on track, and I have to congratulate our female B.I.R. Commissioner Lilian Hefti. You know, Customs and B.I.R. are both achieving their targets for two months now. In customs, there are some underperforming units, there are some

overperforming units. So the overperforming units make up for the underperformance of the underperforming units, so customs is performing overall. In the B.I.R., every single unit is now making its targets. So we should congratulate Lilian for that.

Job creation is strong. Our deficit is down because our B.I.R. and customs are able to meet their targets. Consumer confidence is up. And that's very important because consumers are mostly women. In fact, Mrs. Benedicto has always been famous as a consumer advocate. And I asked Mrs. Benedicto, "how's your consumer group?" she said, "it's still there." so, I said, "I think we should work very closely with the Department of Trade and Industry in order to work together to promote consumers' rights."

I guess, one reason why consumer confidence is up is that inflation is holding steady. When I was in APEC in Australia, I was very proudly saying that our inflation rate is 2.5 percent. I was wrong, it's 2.4 percent.

The foundation of our economic comeback is wide, deep and solid. Across the board, the nation's economy is pointed in the right direction and for all the right reasons. The elements of this broad-based success are built on many things. And with the help of many people, institutions and economic contributors — notable among this is the Filipino woman.

The Filipino woman as homemaker or policy maker; the Filipino woman as worker, executive or entrepreneur; or as I said earlier, the Filipino woman in a combination of several of these roles.

The woman suffrages of 70 years ago, taught us a thing or two about balancing their family lives and political preoccupations. We know some of their offspring and some of their daughters are also equally very valuable and responsible members of our society. So that means they brought them up very well as well.

Whatever is our career outside the home, there is an irreplaceable value of the women's' work at home. Strong, stable families contribute to a stable nation, a culture of peace, and it promotes dialogue among diversified groups, because if you know how to deal with other members of your family, you'll know how to deal with other people in the community,

So let us exercise our right of suffrage to achieve the right of women to have more economic choice, to determine the future of their lives and the lives of their families. And to be able to exercise our right of suffrage to its fullest, let us crusade for electoral reforms.

Our administration has long provided funds for computerization of elections. Let's campaign for modernization of voting, counting and canvassing starting with the forthcoming barangay elections.

We can disagree on political goals but not on the conduct of democratic elections. And let us lobby for a law to fund poll watch dogs. And a stronger law against election-related violence.

To be able to lobby for all of these, as women, we count on organizations like the women's organizations represented here in this federation's gathering to empower women to organize at the grassroots level with training on leadership, communication, negotiation, assertiveness.

Indeed, we have come far in the fight by women for rights and participation in the political and economic process.

Women's rights are human rights.

Our society must do everything in its power to ensure that these rights are respected and protected.

So let us use the right of suffrage that our mothers and grandmothers gained for us 70 years ago to work for the day that no woman in the Philippines has to live a life of poverty or exploitation.

Let's use our right of suffrage to modernize the Philippines to make the life of our sisters a better one with more economic opportunity, greater social justice and a better future for our children.

Once again, Happy 70th Jubilee on our Celebration of Women's Suffrage!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Women's National Electoral Assembly 2007. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412143119/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2173&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Electronics Industry Forum

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the Electronics Industry Forum

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, September 18, 2007]

Congratulations for organizing this strategic forum. We all know how strategic the electronics industry is to our economy. It accounts for 2/3 of our exports, employing half a million people in well-paying jobs. In the creation of jobs, nothing beats the information technology industry: call centers, business process outsourcing, and electronics.

I understand that the Philippines supplies 50% of the world's requirements for 2.5-inch hard disk drives and 10% of the 3.5-inch hard disk drives produced by the top three global suppliers Fujitsu, Toshiba and Hitachi. And that for mobile phones, 100% of the Nokia digital signal processors and 80% of Siemens' and Ericsson's are manufactured by Texas Instruments.

Texas Instruments is expanding its factory in Baguio and, more significantly, it has started constructing a new \$1 billion wafer fab facility at the Clark Freeport Zone, which they chose over other locations including China.

I like to think that the Texas Instruments investment is also a validation of the Filipino worker and the quality of the infrastructure and facilities at Clark. It is a good deal for the thousands of workers who will be employed in that new plant. I have often said that the Philippines is the best value for investment in Asia.

There has been a sea change in the Philippines in the past few years. We have broken the back of fiscal irresponsibility and with our revenue, fiscal and investment policies we are charting a new economic course.

Aside from Texas Instruments, a number of international companies have recently invested heavily in our country in electronics and other industries. Electronics investments for the first eight months of 2007 posted more than 100 percent growth compared to the same period last year – from \$360 million to \$763 million. As to other industries, Korea's Hanjin has built a billion dollar shipyard in Subic and is already making expansion plans. Last year, Marubeni and Tokyo Electric Power purchased power plants in the Philippines for some \$3.5 billion and announced another \$350 million to expand its facilities in Pagbilao. The American power company AES recently won the bid for the Calaca power plant at \$930 million and has informed me of another \$1 billion expansion in that plant. These are validation that our strategy is working.

The Philippines has become an increasingly competitive location for manufacturing, services and high-skill jobs along with the booming call center business.

The Texas Instruments wafer fab shows that we are moving up the industry in the value chain. We also hope to increase the industry's export earnings through wireless applications (such as mobile phones, MP3s and IPODs), personal computers, and consumer electronics (such as plasma TVs).

We offer a strategic location in a fast-growing region, our workforce is well educated, productive and English-speaking. This is a quality we are working hard to maintain through investments in human capital to ensure the competitiveness of our workforce.

We are writing a new chapter in Philippine economic history through the use of tight fiscal control/ complemented by targeted investments in our people and infrastructure. Because revenue is now on track and our deficit is down – in fact, Gary Teves just reported to me the good news that we posted a budget surplus for the month of August – for

the first time in decades, less of our revenue is being used to service debt and more towards investment in our country's infrastructure and social services, including education and healthcare.

In our national competitiveness summit last year, we resolved that by 2010, the proficiency level of Math, Science and English in our schools shall have improved by 30 percent. We are on the way there, but I hereby instruct the Department of Education to fast track English training among our grade school teachers, including principals.

We are investing P3 billion in science and engineering research and development technology, including scholarships for masters and doctoral degrees in engineering in seven universities. Upgrade know-how and learning, and Filipino talent is unbeatable.

We are focused on raising our competitiveness by improving the quality of the country's human resources, lowering transaction flows and the cost of doing business, developing efficient access to financing, and building a seamless infrastructure network. We are cutting red tape to simplify the requirements for investments. Cost-cutting measures and elimination of red tape will allow our Filipino entrepreneurs and foreign investors alike to move more rapidly to create new businesses.

May pondo na tayo para gumastos ng dagdag na sandaang bilyon piso bawat taon, or P1 trillion for our Medium Term Public Investment Program to enhance the natural competitive advantages of the natural sub-economies or "super regions" of the Philippines. We are determined to raise our infrastructure spending to GDP ratio to 4.5 percent which is the ASEAN average.

Imprastraktura ang haliging nagtitindig hindi lamang ng ating makabagong ekonomiya: mga kalsada, tulay, paliparan, and power plants.

Last week I signed an Executive Order to launch GIGA – G-I-G-A – the Generating Investments in Geothermal Sites project.

That Executive Order instructs the local governments to set up economic zones in the jurisdictions near seven geothermal projects sites of the PNOC, so that industries can benefit from the local governments' use of their geothermal project royalties. In these areas local governments have large bank accounts from royalties that they use to subsidize the electric bills of their constituents.

We urge electronics investors to take advantage of subsidized electric bills power in communities hosting geothermal plants. A lower electric bill is already a powerful draw but we will make it more irresistible by throwing in other fiscal incentives which an ecozone is allowed to grant. The synergy of geothermal power and ecozones will power up progress.

The Executive Order instructs the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, whom you are all familiar with, to guide the local governments in setting up these economic zones in geothermal areas.

In the region, we will follow the roadmap for the ASEAN integration of the electronics sector, of which the Philippines is the country coordinator.

Our strengths are working to sustain our competitiveness for investment.

The state of our economy at this mid point in the year brings hope and excitement – our growth is the highest in a generation. The 7.5% GDP increase in the second quarter/ and the 10% gain in capital investment are in line with what the Asian Development Bank says the country needs in order to replicate the poverty-eradicating growth of Asia's economic success stories.

Job creation is strong. Our economy has created six million new jobs in six years and helped lower the rate of poverty, Total employment was 33.3 million last July, 1.2 percent higher than in July 2006. The unemployment rate improved to 7.8 percent from 8.1 percent of the same quarter a year ago.

Consumer confidence is up and inflation is holding steady. This slowed the clamor of higher wages, which likewise secured more employment.

The foundation of our economic comeback is wide, deep and solid. Across the board, the nation's economy is pointed in the right direction, and for all the right reasons. The elements of this broad-based success are built on many things and with the help of many people-institutions-and-economic contributors. Notable among these is the electronics industry.

We are partners for better technology, regional integration and jobs for Filipinos along the entire value chain. Thank you for your contribution to our economy.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech at the Electronics Industry Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412143031/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2170&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Speech of President Arroyo at the Electronics Industry Forum

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the Electronics Industry Forum

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, September 18, 2007]

Congratulations for organizing this strategic forum. We all know how strategic the electronics industry is to our economy. It accounts for 2/3 of our exports, employing half a million people in well-paying jobs. In the creation of jobs, nothing beats the information technology industry: call centers, business process outsourcing, and electronics.

I understand that the Philippines supplies 50% of the world's requirements for 2.5-inch hard disk drives and 10% of the 3.5-inch hard disk drives produced by the top three global suppliers Fujitsu, Toshiba and Hitachi. And that for mobile phones, 100% of the Nokia digital signal processors and 80% of Siemens' and Ericsson's are manufactured by Texas Instruments.

Texas Instruments is expanding its factory in Baguio and, more significantly, it has started constructing a new \$1 billion wafer fab facility at the Clark Freeport Zone, which they chose over other locations including China.

I like to think that the Texas Instruments investment is also a validation of the Filipino worker and the quality of the infrastructure and facilities at Clark. It is a good deal for the thousands of workers who will be employed in that new plant. I have often said that the Philippines is the best value for investment in Asia.

There has been a sea change in the Philippines in the past few years. We have broken the back of fiscal irresponsibility and with our revenue, fiscal and investment policies we are charting a new economic course.

Aside from Texas Instruments, a number of international companies have recently invested heavily in our country in electronics and other industries. Electronics investments for the first eight months of 2007 posted more than 100 percent growth compared to the same period last year – from \$360 million to \$763 million. As to other industries, Korea's Hanjin has built a billion dollar shipyard in Subic and is already making expansion plans. Last year, Marubeni and Tokyo Electric Power purchased power plants in the Philippines for some \$3.5 billion and announced another \$350 million to expand its facilities in Pagbilao. The American power company AES recently won the bid for the Calaca Power Plant at \$930 million and has informed me of another \$1 billion expansion in that plant. These are validation that our strategy is working.

The Philippines has become an increasingly competitive location for manufacturing, services and high-skill jobs along with the booming call center business.

The Texas Instruments wafer fab shows that we are moving up the industry in the value chain. We also hope to increase the industry's export earnings through wireless applications (such as mobile phones, MP3s and IPODs), personal computers, and consumer electronics (such as plasma TVs).

We offer a strategic location in a fast-growing region, our workforce is well educated, productive and English-speaking. This is a quality we are working hard to maintain through investments in human capital to ensure the competitiveness of our workforce.

We are writing a new chapter in Philippine economic history through the use of tight fiscal control/complemented by targeted investments in our people and infrastructure.

Because revenue is now on track and our deficit is down – in fact, Gary Teves just reported to me the good news that we posted a budget surplus for the month of August – for the first time in decades, less of our revenue is being used to service debt and more towards investment in our country’s infrastructure and social services, including education and healthcare.

In our national competitiveness summit last year, we resolved that by 2010, the proficiency level of Math, Science and English in our schools shall have improved by 30 percent. We are on the way there, but I hereby instruct the Department of Education to fast track English training among our grade school teachers, including principals.

We are investing P3 billion in science and engineering research and development technology, including scholarships for masters and doctoral degrees in engineering in seven universities. Upgrade know-how and learning, and Filipino talent is unbeatable.

We are focused on raising our competitiveness by improving the quality of the country’s human resources, lowering transaction flows and the cost of doing business, developing efficient access to financing, and building a seamless infrastructure network. We are cutting red tape to simplify the requirements for investments. Cost-cutting measures and elimination of red tape will allow our Filipino entrepreneurs and foreign investors alike to move more rapidly to create new businesses.

May pondo na tayo para gumastos ng dagdag na sandaang bilyon piso bawat taon, or P1 trillion for our Medium Term Public Investment Program to enhance the natural competitive advantages of the natural sub-economies or “super regions” of the Philippines. We are determined to raise our infrastructure spending to GDP ratio to 4.5 percent which is the ASEAN average.

Imprastraktura ang haliging nagtitindig hindi lamang ng ating makabagong ekonomiya: mga kalsada, tulay, paliparan, and power plants.

Last week I signed an Executive Order to launch GIGA – G-I-G-A – the ***Generating Investments in Geothermal Sites project***.

That Executive Order instructs the local governments to set up economic zones in the Jurisdictions near seven geothermal projects sites of the PNOC, so that industries can benefit from the local governments use of their geothermal project royalties. In these areas local governments have large bank accounts from royalties that they use to subsidize the electric bills of their constituents.

We urge electronics investors to take advantage of subsidized electric bills power in communities hosting geothermal plants. A lower electric bill is already a powerful draw but we will make it more irresistible by throwing in other fiscal incentives which an ecozone is allowed to grant. The synergy of geothermal power and ecozones will power up progress.

The Executive Order instructs the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, whom you are all familiar with, to guide the local governments in setting up these economic zones in geothermal areas.

In the region, we will follow the roadmap for the ASEAN integration of the electronics sector, of which the Philippines is the country coordinator.

Our strengths are working to sustain our competitiveness for investments.

The state of our economy at this mid point in the year brings hope and excitement – our growth is the highest in a generation. The 7.5% GDP increase in the second quarter/and the 10% gain in capital investment are in line with

what the Asian Development Bank says the country need in order to replicate the poverty-eradicating growth of Asia's economic success stories.

Job creation is strong. Our economy has created six million new jobs in six years and helped lower the rate of poverty Total employment was 33.3 million last July, 1.2 percent higher than in July 2006. The unemployment rate improved to 7.8 percent from 8.1 percent of the same quarter a year ago.

Consumer confidence is up and inflation is holding steady. This slowed the clamor of higher wages, which likewise secured more employment.

The foundation of our economic comeback is wide, deep and solid. Across the board, the nation's economy is pointed in the right direction, and for all the right reasons. The elements of this broad-based success are built on many things and with the help of many people, institutions and economic contributors. Notable among these is the electronics industry.

We are partners for better technology, regional integration and jobs for Filipinos along the entire value chain. Thank you for your contribution to our economy.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo at the High-level Dialogue on Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focusing on Asia-Pacific

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the High-level Dialogue on Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focusing on Asia-Pacific**

[Delivered at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters, Mandaluyong City, September 20, 2007]

Welcome to the Philippines.

We are glad to witness this follow-through of Aid for Trade from its genesis in the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference in 2005.

Congratulations to the Task Force that was set up after Hong Kong for its valuable recommendations of October 2006.

We are also glad to be made aware of the continuing discussions on Aid for Trade in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development in Geneva.

We continue the saga of this worthy program as we take great pleasure in having this high level Asia-Pacific Review of Aid for Trade.

Aid for Trade has rightfully brought together, and for the first time, the trade and finance communities.

This conference highlights the Asian dimension of Aid for Trade. This dimension is significant because the world is bullish on Asia and our ability to help drive positive change in the world.

In this conference governments, donors and the private sector address specific challenges and dialogue about what is working in the region and what is not. They prioritize needs and move towards shared solutions. The discussions will result in proposals and recommendations on how Aid for Trade should proceed within Asia and the Pacific. We look forward to beneficiary countries making trade a greater priority, and aid donors scaling up trade-related official development assistance and offering their expertise. We also look forward to stronger partnerships with the private sector to develop increased private-public financing. This conference helps create an impetus for collective action.

This meeting comes at a time when the state of the Philippine economy brings hope and excitement – our growth is the highest in a generation, revenue is now on track and job creation is strong. Our deficit is down, consumer confidence is up and inflation is holding steady.

The 7.5% GDP increase in the second quarter and the 10% gain in capital investment are in line with what the Asian Development Bank says the country needs in order to replicate the poverty-eradicating growth of Asia's economic success stories.

Poverty alleviation is the number one most important part of our agenda and our vision to lift the Philippines into the ranks of the modernized nations in twenty years.

The foundation of our economic comeback is wide, deep and solid. Across the board, the nation's economy is pointed in the right direction, and for all the right reasons.

According to Biz News Asia, there are three reasons why the economy grew so strongly in the first half – spending by consumers and the government, the expansion of services, (which means telecommunications, business process outsourcing and banking), and more industrial production.

There was plenty of money in the economy; that is why consumers and government were able to spend a lot.

Overseas workers remitted dollars, which were converted into pesos, and which were funneled into the banks and used to buy housing from developers and cellular phones and e-load from stores or retailers.

The biggest single act that led to the surge in our economy was the passage of our value added tax which in one bold stroke raised enormous amounts of new revenue. We followed up the pain of tax raising measures with the gain that comes from significant investment in people and progress.

We believe in strong global engagement for our country and our people to grow our economy, ensure peace and security and lift our nation out of poverty. Figuratively speaking, the more bridges we build, the more people can cross to new lands and new ideas. We must be open to the world and peoples and places other than our own. That is what the 21st century will be about.

We believe in the power of the global trading system to alleviate poverty and modernize nations through market forces. That does not mean we believe that countries like the Philippines are ready to compete head-to-head today in every sector, but it does mean that we cannot afford to be afraid of globalization.

The multilateral trading system, through the Doha Round, remains the best option to address poverty and improve standards of living around the world through an agreed set of international trade rules. It offers a major opportunity to put in place internationally significant reforms and reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, create meaningful and substantial market access in agriculture, industrial goods and services, and introduce improved WTO rules and trade facilitation arrangements.

This conference shows that we do not overlook the fact that the Doha Development Agenda was launched with an emphasis on integrating a developmental dimension into all elements of the negotiations. WTO acknowledges the need to provide special and differential treatment for developing members who require maximum flexibility under the international trade rules.

To make the Doha Round truly a Development Round as it is being billed: (1) there must be greater coherence or convergence of policies among international development institutions (e.g. World Bank, IMF, ADB, WTO) so that trade is mainstreamed in the development agenda and therefore capacity building can be focused and targeted and (2) we must review special and differential treatment beyond just the phasing of commitments but also capacity building and sufficient flexibility to pursue domestic development goals. Thus this conference contributes to making the Doha Round truly a Development Round.

This meeting is well timed as a global event, coming at the heels of the APEC leaders meeting in Sydney that signaled the need for breakthroughs in the WTO negotiations alongside more focused and more strategic capacity building among member economies.

The developed nations were the prime movers behind global trade when it suited them; now some countries are slowing things down. That is not right nor good for our respective economies.

There has been a ray of hope in APEC with the developed WTO members declaring that they are willing to fully adhere to the Doha mandate, in particular domestic subsidy cuts and disciplines, but they also ask to gain access to the developing world's markets.

We appreciate Pascal Lamy's visit to the Philippines last February. I told him then and I say it again: I believe it is in his hands to find the right formula of subsidy cuts and market access that will finally break the impasse.

But let me be clear: even as we work tirelessly to move the talks forward, we are not going to stand by and do nothing. For us, it is full speed ahead, preferably with Doha, but full speed nevertheless.

We recognize that fragmentation of the multilateral trading system into trading blocs will result in a more complex set of trade rules incompatible and detrimental to the interests of developing country members. But meanwhile, with a hope that there will be a successful conclusion to the Doha Round, we are maximizing the economic opportunities provided under bilateral and regional free trade agreements if only to complement efforts under the multilateral trading system.

I hope this Asia-Pacific conference ensures that WTO does not become a sideshow in global affairs. Asia and the Pacific are too important and the WTO has too much promise for that to happen.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech at the High-level Dialogue on Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focusing on Asia-Pacific. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412143023/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2163&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the High-level Dialogue on Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focusing on Asia-Pacific

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the High-level Dialogue on Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focusing on Asia-Pacific**

[Delivered at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters, Mandaluyong City, September 20, 2007]

Welcome to the Philippines.

We are glad to witness this follow through of *Aid for Trade* from its genesis in the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference in 2005.

Congratulations to the Task Force that was set up after Hong Kong for its valuable recommendations of October 2006.

We are also glad to be made aware of the continuing discussions on Aid for Trade in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development in Geneva. We continue the saga of this worthy program as we take great pleasure in having this high level Asia-Pacific Review of Aid for Trade.

Aid for Trade has rightfully brought together, and for the first time, the trade and finance communities.

This conference highlights the Asian dimension of Aid for Trade. This dimension is significant because the world is bullish on Asia and our ability to help drive positive change in the world.

In this conference governments, donors and the private sector address specific challenges and dialogue about what is working in the region and what is not. They prioritize needs and move towards shared solutions. The discussions will result in proposals and recommendations on how Aid for Trade should proceed within Asia and the Pacific. We look forward to beneficiary countries making trade a greater priority, and aid donors scaling up trade-related official development assistance and offering expertise. We also look forward to stronger partnerships with the private sector to develop increased private-public financing. This conference helps create an impetus for collective action.

This meeting comes at a time when the state of the Philippine economy brings hope and excitement, our growth is the highest in a generation, revenue is now on track and job creation is strong. Our deficit is down, consumer confidence is up and inflation is holding steady.

The 7.5% GDP increase in the second quarter and the 10% gain in capital investment are in line with what the Asian Development Bank says the country needs in order to replicate the poverty-eradicating growth of Asia's economic success stories.

Poverty alleviation is the number one most important part of our agenda and our vision to lift the Philippines into the ranks of the modernized nations in twenty years.

The foundation of our economic comeback is wide, deep and solid. Across the board, the nation's economy is pointed in the right direction, and for all the right reasons.

According to Biz News Asia, there are three reasons why the economy grew so strongly in the first half – spending by consumers and the government, the expansion of services, (which means telecommunications, business process outsourcing and banking), and more industrial production.

There was plenty of money in the economy; that is why consumers and government were able to spend a lot.

Overseas workers remitted dollars, which were converted into pesos, and which were funneled into the banks and used to buy housing from developers and cellular phones and e-load from stores or retailers.

The biggest single act that led to the surge in our economy was the passage of our value added tax which in one bold stroke raised enormous amounts of new revenue. We followed up the pain of tax raising measures with the gain that comes from significant investment in people and progress.

We believe in strong global engagement for our country and our people to grow our economy, ensure peace and security and lift our nation out of poverty. Figuratively speaking, the more bridges we build, the more people can cross to new lands and new ideas. We must be open to the world and peoples and places other than our own. That is what the 21st century will be about.

We believe in the power of the global trading system to alleviate poverty and modernize nations through market forces. That does not mean we believe that countries like the Philippines are ready to compete head-to-head today in every sector, but it does mean that we cannot afford to be afraid of globalization.

The Multilateral Trading System, through the Doha Round, remains the best option to address poverty and improve standards of living around the world through an agreed set of international trade rules. It offers a major opportunity to put in place internationally significant reforms and reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, create meaningful and substantial market access in agriculture, industrial goods and services, and introduce improved WTO rules and trade facilitation arrangements.

This conference shows that we do not overlook the fact that the Doha Development Agenda was launched with an emphasis on integrating a developmental dimension into all elements of the negotiations. WTO acknowledges the need to provide special and differential treatment for developing members who require maximum flexibility under the international trade rules.

To make the Doha Round truly a Development Round as it is being billed: (1) there must be greater coherence or convergence of policies among international development institutions (e.g. World Bank, IMF, ADB, WTO) so that trade is mainstreamed in the development agenda and therefore capacity building can be focused and targeted and (2) we must review special and differential treatment beyond just the phasing of commitments but also capacity building and sufficient flexibility to pursue contributes to making the Doha Round truly a Development Round.

This meeting is well timed as a global event, coming at the heels of the APEC leaders meeting in Sydney that signaled the need for breakthroughs in the WTO negotiations alongside more focused and more strategic capacity building among member economies.

The developed nations were the prime movers behind global trade when it suited them; now some countries are slowing things down. That is not right nor good for our respective economies.

There has been a ray of hope in APEC with the developed WTO members declaring that they are willing to fully adhere to the Doha mandate, in particular domestic subsidy cuts and disciplines, but they also ask to gain access to the developing world's markets.

We appreciate Pascal Lamy's visit to the Philippines last February. I told him then and I say it again: I believe it is in his hands to find the right formula of subsidy cuts and market access that will finally break the impasse.

But let me be clear: even as we work tirelessly to move the talks forward, we are not going to stand by and do nothing. For us, it is full speed ahead, preferably with Doha, but full speed nevertheless.

We recognize that fragmentation of the multilateral trading system into trading blocs will result in a more complex set of trade rules incompatible and detrimental to the interests of developing country members. But meanwhile, with

a hope that there will be a successful conclusion to the Doha Round, we are maximizing the economic opportunities provided under bilateral and regional FTA's if only to complement efforts under the multilateral trading system.

I hope this Asia-Pacific conference ensures that WTO does not become a sideshow in global affairs. Asia and the Pacific are too important and the WTO has too much promise for that to happen. Nations alongside more focused and more strategic capacity building among member economies.

The developed nations were the prime movers behind global trade when it suited them; now some countries are slowing things down. That is not right nor good for our respective economies.

There has been a ray of hope in APEC with the developed WTO members declaring that they are willing to fully adhere to the Doha mandate, in particular domestic subsidy cuts and disciplines, but they also ask to gain access to the developing world's markets.

We appreciate Pascal Lamy's visit to the Philippines last February. I told him then and I say it again: I believe it is in his hands to find the right formula of subsidy cuts and market access that will finally break the impasse.

But let me be clear: even as we work tirelessly to move the talks forward, we are not going to stand by and do nothing. For us, it is full speed ahead, preferably with Doha, but full speed nevertheless.

We recognize that fragmentation of the multilateral trading system into trading blocs will result in a more complex set of trade rules incompatible and detrimental to the interests of developing country members. But meanwhile, with a hope that there will be a successful conclusion to the Doha Round, we are maximizing the economic opportunities provided under bilateral and regional free trade agreements if only to complement efforts under the multilateral trading system.

I hope this Asia-Pacific conference ensures that WTO does not become a sideshow in global affairs. Asia and the Pacific are too important and the WTO has too much promise for that to happen.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 13th National Crime Prevention Week Celebration and Awarding Ceremonies for Best Peace and Order Council Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 13th National Crime Prevention Week Celebration and Awarding Ceremonies for Best Peace and Order Council**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, September 21, 2007]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Puno.

Ambassador Donald Dee and the leaders of the private sector; Commissioner Leones; General Calderon and the officers and men and women of our police force; our awardees; local government officials; representatives of the five pillars of the justice system; ladies and gentlemen.

Salamat sa inyong pagdalo rito sa ating pagdiriwang ng pag-pipigil ng krimen. Kayong mga narito ay kumakatawan sa mga napakahalagang bahagi ng ating sistema ng pambansang seguridad na siyang nagpapatupad ng batas at nagpapairal ng kapayapaan at katahimikan.

Dahil sa inyong pagsisikap, mas matiwasay, mapayapa at panatag ang ating mga lansangan, pamayanan at sambayanan.

Nakatutok ang ating pagsisikap sa pagsugpo sa krimen at pagsugpo sa kahirapan.

Hindi natin nawawalan ng tutok sa ating trabaho.

That's why the state of our economy as we celebrate Crime Prevention Week brings hope and excitement — our growth is the highest in a generation, revenue is now on track and job creation is strong. Our deficit is down, consumer confidence is up and inflation is holding steady.

The 7.5 percent GDP increase in the second quarter and the 10 percent gain in capital investment are in line with what the ADB says the country needs in order to replicate the poverty-eradicating growth of Asia's economic success stories.

The foundation of our economic comeback is wide, deep and solid across the board, in all the areas represented by our winners here. The nation's economy is pointed in the right direction and for all the right reasons. The elements of these broad-based success are built on many things and with the help of many people, institutions and economic contributors. Notable among these is the community of the five pillars of criminal justice.

Emerging regional and global imperatives involving trade, security, the environment, and information technology place a high premium on the rule of law.

When political stability reinforces economic gains, we gain a quantum advantage in competitiveness. That is why we must stop political noise and sustain the momentum of our efforts.

This government has stayed focused on what Filipinos yearn for most: a good job, steady prices, and a healthy family. We're tired of political drama and social instability. We're entering an era where the vast majority can have a predictable future, a steady job and a calm political climate.

Our economy has created six million jobs in six years, helped raise wages, lower the rate of poverty, invest in education and healthcare and invest heavily in roads, bridges and vital services. This is what the people of the nation deserve, and that is what our government is working for every single day.

The world is taking notice, from the lofty heights of the prestigious Wall Street Journal, to the billion dollar investments of Texas instruments and leading Asian firms like Hanjin, Marubeni, Tokyo Electric, and others. The Philippines is on the move.

And lest we get carried away with our success, we must be humbled by what remains to be done. And while we must never take a step back in our development, we must always reach back and lift up those who have yet to live outside poverty.

Our campaign to stamp out criminality is tied up with the war against poverty. Crime prevention policies therefore have been incorporated in national economic development plans.

Under our administration, reinventing the bureaucracy and achieving the millennium development goals of the U.N. have become living priorities aimed at a more equitable distribution of the fruits of development, bridging rural-urban disparities and increasing people's participation in all aspects of governance.

May we continue to lend our respective, valuable experiences and expertise for a safer Philippines, lalung-lalo na yung mga nagwagi ng premyo. Kaya kayo pinapatindig sa entablado para matuto lahat ng iba kung papaano dalhin ang pangmatagalang kapayapaan sa ating mga pamayanan.

Once more congratulations to our winners!

Maraming salamat at mabuhay tayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the 13th National Crime Prevention Week Celebration and Awarding Ceremonies for Best Peace and Order Council. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412142813/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2159&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Iligan Business Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Iligan Business Forum**

[Delivered at the Maria Cristina Hotel, Iligan City, September 24, 2007]

Malipayong piyesta kanatong tanang mga Iliganon!

We celebrate St. Michael's Feast Day with the good news that our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. We have aimed high and have met the challenge: six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. And no one thought we could bring our budget into balance, pre-pay our debts and raise employment, but we have.

Today the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Investments are pouring in, the peso is strong, our stock market has reached historic heights and we have created six million jobs in six years. And the world is taking notice: the Philippines is one of the best values in Asia for domestic and foreign investors.

We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, healthcare and training along with billions in new

– bridges, apil na ni-ini ang Panguil Bay bridge nga mokonekta sa Misamis Occidental ug Lanao del Norte;

– airports, apil na ni-ini ang Laguindingan Airport, nga gihatagan ug pondo nga duol sa P1billion alang sa tuig 2007. Gisugdan na ang iyang civil works ni-adtong Pebrero; and

– roads apil na ni-ini ang Iligan-Bukidnon Road, nga tibuok budget kinahanglan labaw sa P1 billion ug naga-schedule nga mokompleta sa 2012, apan ongoing na ug naa ta bag-o nga release nga P50 million aron aron sigi'g padayon ang trabaho, ug ang Iligan C-3 Road nga city road apan nitabang ang DPWH sa feasibility study, ug naa allocation sa 2008 budget nga P50 million isip contribution sa city government, all these infrastructure to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines.

Sa mga manguuma, gihatagan ug alokasyon nga P200 million matag bulan ang Farm to Market roads sa Mindanao. Karong tuiga, 24 ka FMR sa Lanao del Sur ug pito sa Lanao del Norte, nga gabili ug P 62 million ang humanon. Apil ini ang karsadang Tangcal-Tinago sa Linamon nga magpalambo sa agrikultura ug sa turismo.

Ang alokasyon alang sa irigasyon sa tibuok nasod P500 million matag bulan, ug ang P200 million ni-ini gihatag sa Mindanao. Apil sa gipasulabing proyekto sa irigasyon mao ang Malaig Irrigation project sa Butig, Lanao del Sur.

Sa koryente, kaugan kita sa inyong katuyuan alang sa pag-amyenda sa EPIRA aron dili na moapil ang 10% systems loss charges kaninyo tungod kay dool kamo sa gigikanan ug koryente.

On digital infrastructure, in my inaugural address last 2004 I said: Hangad kong makapasok sa eskuwela-ang-bawat bata, may sapat na lugar sa silid aralan at may computer linkage sa bawat paaralan.

I also said that by 2010 the network of digital infrastructure will have linked the entire country.

But due to political noise, we have suspended the national broadband and cyber education projects.

Meanwhile, I have instructed our Secretary of Transportation and Communication to discuss with the telephone companies the gap created by the suspension and ask them how they can help.

I assure our hardworking, competent civil servants planning and implementing projects that we appreciate their laudable work. I take great pride in the discipline of my administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health.

Dakong parte sa pag-uswag ang gihatag sa mga negosyante sa Iligan ug mga probinsiya sa Lanao ug ang ubang negosyante sa tibuok nasod .

We see signs of a wave of entrepreneurial activity in the Philippines. We need a vibrant middle class if we are to join the ranks of modernized nations in 20 years, which is my aspiration. In several key areas we have promoted a new entrepreneurial class. One is microfinance, where we have extended more than P100 billion in loans to low and middle income men and women all over the country who want to start their own businesses. In addition, our Central Bank has created a series of investment incentives and programs for foreign remittances to be invested in capital enterprises.

Gipangutana ko kan Secretary Favila kung nganong wala pa gipatuman ang BAMBE Law. Ang implementasyon naa sa level sa local officials. Unya sa dinner kauban ang local officials usa ni sa atong agenda items.

Ang inyong tema – Preserving economic gains through investments in peace and order – nagpa-ila sa inyong ka-andam aron mas aktibo kamo sa kalinaw ug kalambo-an.

Congratulations sa labing bag-ong gamit sa seguridad sa atong syudad, ang Camera Security System. Makatabang ni-ini sa trabaho sa incoming Chief PNP Avelino Razon.

A peace agreement with the MILF will bring a new era of economic development to Mindanao. Coupled with this is our new paradigm for peace in the region. At a time when hard power has not proven its value in the world, our model for dealing with the flashpoint of Mindanao has focused on a unique combination of soft and hard power to promote peace. We have been able to meld together confidence-building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness; investment in economic and basic infrastructure development; and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

We are very close to an agreement with the MILF. With your support, I remain optimistic we can overcome the final barriers on ancestral domain so that we can bring finality to the peace. However, we have achieved a great deal. The region is vastly improved in terms of safety, security and economic growth. So the current agreements are making things better; it will really take off if we achieve lasting peace and the millions of foreign aid promised comes pouring in.

The Abu Sayyaf stand in the way of bringing peace, stability and order to the Southern Philippines. We have decided we must wipe them out once and for all. They are a menace to peace and a beacon for international thugs who wish to join their ranks.

The Communist rebels have spent years as a low-level threat. It is time for their disruption and violation of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead. They impede the progress and development of a number of rural areas. They are responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses. If we are to become a modernized country, we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all. Gitanyag ko ang amnestiya alang sa mga rebeldeng komunista nga bu-ot nang mabuhì sa kalinaw.

Ang atong labing importanteng inisyatiba alang sa kalinaw mao ang atong human investment program aron ibalik sa katawhan ang mga bunga sa atong kalambo-an. Over the next three years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people. We will increase investment in our country and our people to: 1) improve social services such as health insurance subsidies for indigent families and food for school programs and 2) boost

educational support in our efforts to reduce poverty by investing in better school buildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators.

Alang sa Mindanao, ang atong konsentrasyon ana-a sa pagpadaghan sa mga serbisyo alang sa health ug edukasyon para sa labing pobrang mga probinsya.

We have moved on as a nation. The people are much, much more concerned about taking advantage of our economic progress than the backsliding of political protest. People want peace, order and stability. We have been through many upheavals. Time and again, the people have indicated we want a stable government and economic progress. That is what we are getting now. That is the sentiment I believe will prevail.

Ani-a sa atong mga kamot ang pagmantene sa kalinaw ug kauswagan. Pakusgan nato ang atong panaghi-usa aron padayon nga motubo ang ekonomiya ug aron momantene ang kalinaw dinhi sa atong pinanggagang syudad.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech at the Iligan Business Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412142618/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2155&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Handover Ceremony for the Leyte Optimization Geothermal Power Plants

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Handover Ceremony for the Leyte Optimization Geothermal Power Plants**

[Delivered at the Gymnasium, PNOC-EDC Milagro Administration Complex, Ormoc City, Leyte, September 25, 2007]

Daghan salamat.

Daghan salamat, Congressman Codilla. Ug congratulations! Nining inyong gwapo kaayo nga mga proyekto sa geothermal.

Chairman Pete Aquino; President Paul Aquino — but they're not related to each other — Mr. Chores; our fellow guests: Congressman Romualdez, Governor Meanne Mercado of Southern Leyte, of course, Acting Governor Bagulaya who is not a fellow guest but a fellow host; ang atong fellow host sab Mayor Codilla sa Ormoc ug sa kanangga kanang usa nga beneficiary nining mga royalties diri; my members of my party: Secretary Ebdane and Secretary Favila and Presidential Assistant Vic Domingo; tanan mga local government executives; mga board members sa mga PNOC companies; mga higala; dear guests; ladies and gentlemen, maayong buntag kaninyong tanan ug congratulations! Sa tanan.

Gapasalamat na sab ako karon sa mga leyteños sa inyong pagkamahatagon kaya ang inyong geothermal resources gina-share man sa Tibuok nasud. And we laud Ormat Leyte Co. Ltd. Which built and operated, and is now turning over the four optimization plants with total capacity of 51 megawatts for many years of bringing clean energy to the Filipino people.

Gahalipay kita sa atong nasod kay naa kita ang labing dakong steam field sa kalibutan. Mayor Codilla said that this is the largest in Asia, geothermal field in Asia, but if you talk about wet fields, Paul Aquino said, this is the largest in the whole world, kining Letye geothermal fields.

Kining atong seremonya nahitabo panahuna konusaa. It comes a time when we are developing and promoting our Green Philippines agenda which puts an emphasis on a sustainable economic model that brings economic opportunity and a concern for our environment.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. We have aimed high and have met the challenge. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. And no one thought we could bring our budget into balance as we did last month, pre-pay our debts and raise employment, but we have.

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Investments are pouring in, the peso is strong, our stock market has reached historic heights, we have created six million jobs in six years. And the world is taking notice. We believe the Philippines offers one of the best values in Asia for domestic and foreign investors.

The surge of investments has been anchored over many industries. For instance, by the billion dollar investments in our country of several major international companies including Texas Instruments in electronics, Korea's Hanjin in shipbuilding, Japan's Marubeni and Tokyo Electric in electric power and America's AES which recently won the bid for the Masinloc Power Plant for 950 million dollars and will expand it by another one billion U.S. dollars as soon as they get clearance from the Philippine Reclamation Authority. These heavy investments are coming across the board in a number of industries. We're working to make sure this will be sustained. And we are committed to

consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, healthcare and training along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines.

We take great pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. We're proud of the fact that external debt is being pre-paid at a rapid clip, optimistic that we will balance the budget in the year 2008, two years ahead of schedule, and that we are making sure to use the gains to invest in vital social and economic needs.

Oversubscribed kaniadtong Disyembre ang PNOC-EDC I.P.O. ug ang follow-through offering kaniadtong hulyo. Ang PNOC-EDC usa sa labing maayong pruwera nga viable ang atong privatization policy.

Privatization of the power generation and supply sector remains a top priority. It hasn't been happening fast enough for me, but now I'm glad we're making progress.

Reform of our power sector is essential for our long-term health. We will not be able to take the economy to the next step without it. We are seeing progress on this front this year.

We're always concerned about prices that consumers and industrial users alike pay. We want them much lower. This is why we're eager to move along the privatization of NAPOCOR which will free the government of its subsidy and allow us to make more investments in other infrastructure areas.

We offer excellent opportunities in a range of sectors for investment particularly, mining, technology, various forms of tourism including medical and eco-tourism, infrastructure, business process outsourcing and biofuels and energy.

In addition, we deeply believe that we must both sustain our natural environment and grow our economy at the same time. We're developing and promoting our Green Philippines agenda which puts an emphasis on a sustainable economic model that brings economic opportunity and a concern for our environment.

We have good working relationships with some of the world's leading environmental organizations such as the worldwide life fund, conservation international, and others to help us truly make the Green Philippines a reality.

We are so proud of our Green Philippines initiative to create a sustainable economic model that allows for growth, job creation and environmental stewardship. Too many nations, developing and developed, believe the environment must be sacrificed at the altar of growth. We believe otherwise. We believe that we have a unique opportunity to get it right from day one: to introduce new industries that are clean and profitable. This ranges from sustainable furniture, to eco-tourism, of which there are many, many opportunities here — Congressman Codilla was telling me about lake Danao for example — and to developing a biofuels and geothermal industry that helps our energy independence, create jobs and keeps our nation clean for future generations.

Nalipay ko na madawat ang royalty gikan sa inyong geothermal fields ang mga local governments. And the local governments are able to use the royalties to subsidize the constituents' electric bills. Busa ang gibayad sa mga constituents diri sa ilang kuryente mas kubos kumpara sa gibayad sa ubang lugar nga walay kaugalingong energy source.

So, geothermal plants need not only transform steam to power. They can also be harnessed to channel steam to jobs. And earlier, Mayor Codilla in his speech said, "Unta I can bring over those gwapo investors here." there is a way to do it. We can do this by convincing investors to take advantage of cheap power in the communities hosting geothermal plants. Cheap power by itself coming from your subsidies of electric bills is already a powerful draw but we will make it more irresistible by throwing in other fiscal incentives which an ecozone is allowed to grant. Thus, if we build these ecozones, the investors will come. The synergy of geothermal power and ecozones will power up progress.

Busa gipirmahan ko ang usa ka executive order nga ga-instruct sa mga lgus nga magpatindog ug mga economic zones sa mga lugar nga duol sa pito ka geothermal sites sa PNOC-EDC. Apil na ni. We call this program GIGA (G-I-G-A) for generating investments in geothermal areas. The acronym GIGA connotes bigness, gigabytes, which describes our geothermal fields, the biggest wet fields in the world as well as the potential in incubating businesses near them. What should lure investors to set up shop near geothermal plants is the same reason that led government and the private sectors such as the Leyte optimization investors to put in billions to build them — the availability of cheap and clean energy.

And as I said, it will be cheap, because in these areas local governments have large bank accounts from project royalties that they use to subsidize the electric bills of their constituents.

Nagasiling naman sining akong executive order nga ang Philippine Economic Zone Authority under Secretary Peter Favila amo mao ang mag-giya kaninyo paunsa maka-establish sa mga economic zones.

So, as to borrow the ending of Paul Aquino, I will also use the same ending but address it to the host communities: “to the whole host communities, I urge you: full steam ahead.”

Congratulations! Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA’s Speech during the Handover Ceremony for the Leyte Optimization Geothermal Power Plants. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412142132/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2151&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Sixty-Second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Sixty-Second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

[Delivered in New York, September 28, 2007]

The Philippines in the UN: Building Bridges in the 21st Century

Mr. President,

Congratulations on your election to the UN General Assembly. Congratulations also to our Secretary-General, H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, who was such a good friend of the Philippines when he was Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea. We embrace his vow to focus on strengthening the three pillars of the United Nations (development, security and human rights).

THE UN IS A PILLAR OF DEVELOPMENT.

It plays a major large role for the Philippines. Poverty alleviation is the most important part of our agenda and our vision to lift the Philippines into a modernized nation in twenty years. We want to be actively engaged in local, regional and global affairs because that is the future.

We believe in the power of the global trading system to alleviate poverty and modernize nations through market forces. That does not mean we believe that countries like the Philippines are ready to compete head-to-head today in every sector, but it does mean that we cannot afford to be afraid of globalization.

By being increasingly connected to the world, the Philippine economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years.

Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market.

And no one thought we could bring our budget into balance, which we did last month, pre-pay our debts and raise employment, but we have. We must both grow our economy and sustain our natural environment at the same time. We are developing and promoting our Green Philippines agenda. It emphasizes a sustainable economic model that brings economic opportunity and a concern for our environment.

At the Secretary General's High Level Meeting on Climate Change earlier this week, UN member nations focused on what the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol meetings in Bali this December should do.

The Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol has allowed developing countries like the Philippines to voluntarily reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through private sector initiatives. But there is a need to expand the carbon market and to expand international cooperation and financial support to promote strategies to adapt to climate change.

Too many nations, developed and developing, believe the environment must be sacrificed at the altar of growth.

We believe otherwise. We believe that we have a unique opportunity to get it right from day one: to introduce new industries that are clean and profitable. This includes a biofuels industry that helps our energy independence, creates jobs and keeps our nation clean for future generations.

We are further developing our geothermal power which is one of the two largest in the world.

We reiterate our commitment to the global trading system and when that fails us, to strengthening ASEAN, APEC and regional relations to bolster our economy.

The multilateral trading system, through the Doha Round, remains the best option to address poverty and improve standards of living around the world through an agreed set of international trade rules.

The Doha Development Agenda was launched with an emphasis on integrating a developmental dimension into all elements of the negotiations.

To make the Doha Round truly a Development Round, there must be greater coherence of policies among international development institutions (e.g. World Bank, IMF, UNDP and WTO) so that trade is mainstreamed in the development agenda and therefore capacity building can be focused on trade competitiveness.

As part of capacity-building, we call on the UN and our partners among developed nations to strengthen South-South cooperation wherein developing nations with specific strengths can share with other developing nations in need of their strength, funded by developed nations or multilaterals like the UNDP.

The developed nations were the prime movers behind global trade when it suited them; now some countries are slowing things down. That is not right nor good for our respective economies.

There has been a ray of hope with the developed countries declaring that they are willing to maximize flexibilities, in exchange for greater market access.

On the sidelines of the UN session, we hope the contending countries can continue consulting to find the right formula of subsidy cuts and market access that will break the Doha impasse.

But let me be clear: even as the Philippines works tirelessly to move the talks forward, we are not going to stand by and do nothing. For us, it is full speed ahead, preferably with Doha, but full speed nevertheless.

We recognize that if the multilateral trading system is fragmented into trading blocs, it will result in a more complex set of trade rules. That could be incompatible and detrimental to the interests of developing countries. In the meantime, while we are hoping for a successful conclusion to the Doha Round, we have to maximize the economic opportunities provided under bilateral and regional free trade agreements. This will complement efforts under the multilateral trading system.

At a time of uncertainty when the Doha Round is faltering, ASEAN took a bold step forward by drafting its Charter.

This is our first step to creating a permanent sense of security.

We are working towards a single market with free movement of goods, ideas and skilled talent.

In APEC, the world's largest economy, the United States, and the world's fastest growing economy, China, are active participants.

We have a strong alliance with the US, who remains our largest trading partner as well as our strongest strategic ally. We have stood shoulder to shoulder for many generations. We expect to continue building on our mature relationship with the US.

We have also forged a strong relationship with China. We see China's rise as a significant opportunity for the Philippines. Our overall relations are now more confident and comprehensive.

Relations are not just about trade. They are also about people. And this includes migration, a world-side reality.

We thank the Secretary General for supporting the Philippines' hosting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development next year, to which we invite all Member States to participate.

Overseas Filipino Workers are honored by the government and the people for their sacrifice and dedication to their work, their family and their nation. We welcome their contribution. But we are working towards the day when Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job, the day that overseas work is just another career option.

We believe that our ambitious economic reforms will increasingly be keeping our best and brightest right in the Philippines, closer to friends and families, helping to build our communities and provide the next generation of leadership.

THE UN IS A PILLAR OF SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

It remains the central pillar underpinning conflict resolution.

Our country is among the largest, if not the largest, contributor of police officers to UN peacekeeping missions.

The Philippines has peacekeepers, both police and military, in Afghanistan, Cote D'Ivoire, Georgia, Haiti , Kosovo , Liberia , Sudan and Timor Leste.

We will continue our participation to safeguard communities so that they may overcome conflict and regain the peace needed to pursue development.

Closer to home, I have personally advanced the process of peace in Muslim and Christian Mindanao to a new level of engagement, focused on interfaith dialogue, economic development and mutual security. We have done so with the largest possible international involvement, including the UN. Peace there is very much an issue of human rights, just as alleviating poverty is, which is our number one issue.

The Philippines is the most democratic country in our region. We have no tolerance for human rights violations at home or abroad.

We support the effort to revitalize and refocus the work of the UN in human rights. It is for this reason that the Philippines sought and won a seat in the Human Rights Council.

The attention of the international community has been drawn, with great reason and justification, to the current situation in Myanmar.

Ladies and gentlemen:

This is the time for Myanmar to return to the path of democracy and to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi – now – and to involve all the parties including the National League for Democracy in the democratization and the constitutional process.

IN CONCLUSION

Mr. President.

The number of globe-size issues we will face in the 21st century will require globe-size cooperation. We must build bridges of peace and prosperity. The place to start is building a stronger United Nations.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech at the Sixty-Second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141546/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2145&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Turnover Command in the Philippine National Police

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Turnover Command in the Philippine National Police**

[Delivered on October 01, 2007]

Maraming salamat, Kalihim Puno, sa iyong pagpakilala. Kagalang-galang na immediate past PNP Director General Oscar Calderon, honorable new Chief PNP incoming Director General Avelino Razon, Jr. or Sonny Razon as we all call him, Secretary Ebdane and the other appointive officials and former chiefs PNP, Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, Senator Zubiri and the other elective officials of the Philippine government, supporters of the Philippine National Police who are all here today, friends and family of General Calderon, friends and family of Sonny Razon, ladies and gentlemen.

Una sa lahat, batiin natin lahat ang immediate past chief PNP si Police Director General Oscar Calderon ng isang maligayang kaarawan. . Pinupugay natin siya sa tatlumpu't walong taong matatag na serbisyo. Sabi nga niya, 34 years, sabi nung iba 34 years and 8 months pero isama natin iyong 4 years sa PMA that's 39 years, congratulations for a job well done. Si Oca pati na rin si Sonny, inirekomenda ng Police Search Committee a long, long time ago. Si Oca at si Sonny bilang kasunod niya mula pa noong magre-retire si General Aglipay. Alam na natin noon kung ano ang succession upang masigurado ang katatagan ng paglipat ng liderato at iwasan ang paninira ng mga nagkakaribal sa pinakamataas na puwesto ng PNP. Kaya maganda ang paglipat kay Sonny. Naalala ko nga at naalala rin ni General Calderon noong siya ay unang umupo. Inatasan natin sa kanya na manungkulan siya noong isang taon na mamuno sa pakikibaka sa mga rebeldeng komunista gamit ang puwersa ng kapulisan, imbestigasyon at hukuman. At gayon din sa mga sindikato ng krimen na sangkot sa kidnapping, bank robbery, droga, smuggling, jueteng – lalo na ang jueteng ay talagang bilin ng mga Obispo iyon at pang-araw-araw na krimen. At sabi rin ni Oca noon ang ibig niyang gawing kanyang pamana ay ang pabahay.

And so, if we remember what he said and what I said and where we are today, I guess we can all say congratulations, Oca, for a job well done.

Iyong inatas ko kay General Calderon noon, iyon din ang inaatas ko sa kanyang karapat-dapat na kasunod our new Chief PNP, Sonny Razon. But in addition, especially because Sonny was the head of Task Force Usig, I also instruct General Razon to continue to be on top of Task Force Usig except that now he is Chief PNP his perspective must be wider now. It must not only be on police action but the entire criminal justice system. The first report I want to receive from him is an update on arrest, convictions and imprisonment of those responsible for the killings of political activist and journalist. Kung ang pamana ni Oca Calderon ay housing, inaasahan kong ang magiging pamana ni Sonny Razon ay human rights.

We deplore any and all killings of political activist and journalist. I have met personally with the journalism community and the same with the human rights activist, we share their outrage. And to stop the killings we are following the recommendations of our own Melo Commission to establish separate court and that has been done to expedite prosecutions we need to do that and we need a good investigative capability of the PNP to build a good case(?), expand victim assistance for doing that, increase funding for more investigators we have done that. And we have also told our uniformed services and I am glad that Sonny has repeated it, that if there are rogue elements, they must be brought to justice. Our nation has an unfortunate history of political violence by those from the left and the right and we hope to break that cycle, once and for all.

No one should have to die fighting for speaking out for their political beliefs. But let it also be noted that terrorists and the Abu Sayyaf and armed communists are a threat to the sovereignty of the nation and must be checked once and for all. The Abu Sayyaf stand in the way of peace of bringing peace, stability and order to Southern Philippines. As such we have decided we must wipe them out once and for all. They are a menace to peace and a beacon for international thugs who wish to join their ranks. The communist rebels have spent years of a low level threat. It's time for their disruption and violation of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead. They impede the progress and development of a number of rural areas. They are responsible for a wide range of human right abuses. If we are to become a first world country we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal act, once and for all.

Kasama ng pagpigil sa rebelyon ang amnestiya at kabuhayan sa mga rebeldeng ibig bumalik sa panig ng batas. Gusto nating mabilis na itanim ang matibay na kapayapaan at seguridad sa mga rehiyon sa pangunguna ng mga pinunong lokal at relihiyoso at katulong ang buong gobyerno ng bansa kasama na doon ang ating kapulisan.

We guarantee the leftist insurgents willing to turn their guns into plow shares and respect the rule of law another opportunity to regain normal life under Proclamation 1377. The world looks upon the Philippines to continue to reinforce our economic gains with the solid foundation of law and order.

And so, Sonny Razon, should see to it that the war against criminality and terrorism is sustained at the grass root level. And that evil is kept at bay in the streets and in the countryside. I like what you said, that you want every citizen to be only within a certain distance of the nearest policeman. The Human Security Act has helped Oca Calderon in the fight against terrorism. For he has a very (unclear) a chance to test it out and have you not noticed nobody has ever filed any case of abuse against the police for abusing the Human Security Act. The proof of the pudding is in their eating, we have a Human Security Act, we have an anti-terrorism law but we have not use it to violate human rights. Instead, the new law enhances the safety and domestic security of our country by giving us more legal power to prosecute those who commit any act of terror on our people. Our message is clear, if you're armed and kill civilians you will be prosecuted; if you are a communist terrorist, a religious terrorist or even a rogue element of our own police or military we will stop you. We are empowered by the Human Security Act to crush the terrorist movement in the country and to transform our nation's response to political violence ensuring that civil right and social justice are available to all Filipinos not just a privilege few

Sonny Razon must strive as ever to keep clean the good name of the police force, to good performance and organizational discipline within the rank. I like the concept of "*Mamang Pulis*." People's perception of government is in large partly dictated by what they experience on a daily basis. And on a daily basis people experience life with policemen, if they suffer indifference or abuse in the hands of law enforcers they're likely to harbor negative views of the whole government. But if our policemen response fast to contingencies and are honest and fair, then our citizenry will embrace them, as well as, the entire government as their protectors. Why it is important that the PNP maintains close link with citizen's groups and I am glad that the citizen's groups are here, the local government units and I'm glad we have a number of them here and other stakeholders in peace and order.

We ask the new PNP Chief to continue the transformation program of the PNP. So, I like that passing on of the torch ceremony into a better organization that lies at the foundation of our criminal justice system. And we ask him to build the PNP into a bulwark of economic development, social justice and political stability. The PNP is a partner in our war against poverty because we cannot deliver basic social services to the needy and the marginalized sectors without the mantle of peace and order. Law and order lay the ground for economic and social programs to be implemented nationwide deep into the grass roots and without any delay. We cannot have economic advancement and social progress without respect for the rule of law.

Render defective by the constant presence of policemen on the beat by the trust and faith of the community and by the sterling conduct of law enforcer.

The new chief PNP has its new job cut out for him as he himself said, by virtue of his qualifications and experience. And I hope that he will strive to make a difference during his watch. The Filipino people and the world wait upon you. Sonny, I wish you all the best and May God Almighty be with you every step of the way as you lead the PNP

towards the bold start under a new leadership. And so, I guess using your own words, congratulation, good luck to you, *Mamang Pulis* Sonny.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Turnover Command in the Philippine National Police. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412131722/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2248&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Meeting with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Meeting with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)**

[Delivered at the The Ballroom, The Taj Mahal Palace & Towers Mumbai, Republic of India, October 04, 2007]

Thank you very much, Mr. Agrawala.

Secretary Romulo, Secretary Favila and our other Cabinet members whom I shall individually introduce in the course of my statement.

Ambassador Berner, Ambassador Mitter, Miss Agwadi, members of the Philippine delegation, the business community, members of the Philippine government from Congress and from the local governments whom I will also acknowledge individually during the course of my remarks; members of the Indian business community, ladies and gentlemen.

We would like to thank the CII for the chance to be together today at a time when India has become one of the world's top economies and at a time when the Philippine economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability.

We cannot highlight enough the great strides that India has accomplished in recent years. Your impressive growth, largely fueled by a knowledge economy, is unique and worthy of emulation. It has made you the world's fourth largest economy.

India is becoming an undeniable force behind global economic growth. Because of the growing markets of India and China, growth in Asia is transitioning from being export-driven to other regions and continents to being domestically-driven within Asia. We are delighted with the growth of India along with China to add to the power of Japan in the Asian continent.

There are political, economic and strategic implications for India and the East Asian region as a result of your newfound economic power. As India becomes a true political and economic giant, your obligations to your neighbors also increase, separate from your obligations to your own citizens. Ascendancy into the world stage carries implications not just for economic development, but for the management of our environment on a sustainable basis, and for maintaining broader peace and stability in the region and the world.

That is why we support India's "Look East" policy and your plans to integrate with both South Asia and Southeast Asia. And we hope this policy will include greater economic integration between the Philippines and India.

This state visit to India upon the invitation of President Patil reciprocates the state visit to the Philippines of President Kalam in 2006, and the participation of Prime Minister Singh in the East Asian Summit held last January in the Philippine island of Cebu. We hope these three visits coming within a span of two years will lead us toward closer political, security and economic engagement.

We included this meeting with the dynamic business community of Mumbai in our itinerary because of your importance in India's fast growing economy and your importance to the Philippines. Mumbai is the base of most Indian companies that do business in and with the Philippines. And we are lucky that our honorary consul in the city is the very able and very respected Madame Rajashree Birla.

Traveling with us are top representatives of leading Philippine corporations engaged in pharmaceuticals, energy, mining, services, construction and other fields as well as leading Indian businessmen in the Philippines. We hope you will get acquainted with one another in the spirit of joint enterprise.

The Philippines, as acknowledged by Mr. Agrawala, is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso, move the stock market, pre-pay our debts and raise employment, but we have.

We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes, again as acknowledged by Mr. Agrawala, billions of pesos in new bridges, roads and ports along with billions in education, training and health care to upgrade our competitiveness and also to spread the benefits of development in order to fight poverty.

Our massive spending on health care includes importing pharmaceuticals from India as part of our program to cut in half the price of medicines commonly bought by the poor. The main importer of medicines from India is the government-owned Philippine International Trading Corporation. But we want to stress that PITC need not be the exclusive trading agent. We encourage private drugstore owners, traders and local governments to do business with Indian corporations. That's why our delegation today includes local government executives and let me now introduce them: we have from the province of Camarines Sur, Governor Lray Villafuerte; we have also Mayor Rey Navarro. "good to see you, mayor"; and we have City Mayor Hector Villanueva as well as City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian.

The private sector executives and the local government executives are interested in importing affordable medicine themselves.

Our delegation also includes members of the Philippine Congress. And let me again, now, introduce the members of the Philippine Congress: we have the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Congresswoman Girlie Villarosa; we have Congresswoman Zenaida Angpin; we have a congressman who is also a member of the Philippine pharmaceutical industry, Congressman Ferjs Biron; we have Congresswoman Janette Garin and Congressman Ed Zialcita. I'd like to address our legislators briefly and tell them that we appreciate their enthusiasm in producing for legislation that would make medicines in the Philippines more affordable just like in India.

Two days ago, the Philippine senate passed their version of this bill on second reading. The final passage of the quality affordable medicines act when reconciled with the version of the House of Representatives will be a major milestone in our administration's efforts to promote better health and longer, productive lives for our people. The people have waited far too long for this measure to be enacted. We're glad that there is now light at the end of the tunnel for millions of ailing Filipinos especially those among the poor.

When enacted into law, this bill will provide the legal framework to allow the production of cheaper medicines in the Philippines instead of just buying them from abroad. We share this good news — good news for us but I hope it's also good news for the Indian business community — to encourage your pharmaceutical companies to set up production facilities in the Philippines so that you can keep your Philippine market. You will be able to keep your Philippine market by producing it there and you can even use your production facilities in the Philippines as a base to export to farther markets like northeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Right now the balance of trade between India and the Philippines is lopsided in favor of India. But we believe that as India has become one of the world's top economies with a new middle-class of half a billion people, your internal market demand and your domestic consumption can have a direct impact, a positive impact on us, the Philippines, in terms of job creation, balance of trade and investment.

The current surge of international investments in the Philippines has been anchored by the billion dollar plus investments in our country of several major international companies, including America's Texas Instruments and AES, Korea's Hanjin and Japan's Marubeni. This is happening across the board in a number of industries. And we hope to receive more investments from India as well.

We appreciate that the Birla group established the Indo Phil group of textile companies in 1975, acquired an integrated fatty alcohol manufacturing facility in 2005 and inaugurated a business process outsourcing company last month. Mr. Agrawala has reminded us of the thriving garments industry in the Philippines where many Indians have invested since a long time ago.

And the list of I.T. and I.T. -enabled service companies in the Philippines owned by India is so long and getting even longer. We can't even mention all of the names now. Also in 2004, one of our sponsors Mittal's Ispat industries bought the steel corporation in Mindanao in Southern Philippines. And we hope after this visit, there will be more.

We offer a strategic location in a fast-growing region. Our workforce is well-educated, productive and English-speaking, very similar to India. This is an advantage not only for investments but also as a film location site for the largest movie industry in the world, Bollywood.

The Philippines is not only advantageous but a premier choice for film shooting because of its white sand beaches, enigmatic and mysterious rain forests, historical heritage sites, and crystalline scapes like lahar and sand dunes, so you can do your futuristic movies there. The Philippines is a fountain of creative and service talent. Production equipment, post- production houses and studios, sound stages and other technical and logistical requirements are available. Some members of the Philippine movie industry are with us today to pursue this exciting prospect.

We are cutting red tape to simplify the requirements for investing in or filming in or simply visiting the Philippines. We have a one-stop shop now in the Board of Investments where Secretary of Trade and Industry Peter Favila is the chairman of the board. And you only need to go now to one building in order to get all the permits that you need. This is the same as what we will do with filming.

And as part of cutting red tape, we have liberalized our visa policy towards Indian nationals. For too long we have had an anachronistic policy where Indians are considered as restricted nationals in the Philippines. But why would we want to restrict nationals from the fourth largest economy in the world. So, therefore, we have done the logical: we have removed Indian nationals from our list of restricted nationals.

Our liberalized visa policy, our white sand beaches combine with the beautiful smiles of our people to make tourism, especially eco-tourism, one of our growth sectors. We have with us our Secretary of Tourism, Ace Durano. He invites tourists and tourism investors to come over to the Philippines. And I am sure he will personally invite the Indian hotel chains, such as the Tata group and the Oberoi group to look at and consider the Philippines as a destination for their next projects.

From eco-tourism to developing a biofuels industry that helps our energy independence, create jobs and keep our nation clean for future generations, we are developing, as Mr. Agrawala said, and promoting our Green Philippines Agenda.

And we understand that two Maharashtra-based enterprises, Praj industries — whom I believe I'll be meeting individually later — and KBK engineering have turnkey projects in the Philippines for the production of bio-ethanol. We want to explore joint ventures between the Philippines and Indian institutions to produce biofuel from sweet sorghum and Jatropha. And we have with us our Secretary of Energy, Angelo Reyes, to follow up on this investment opportunities.

Aside from alternative energy crops for biofuel, our agricultural and fisheries modernization program presents potentials for partnerships among agricultural and bio-technology companies in cotton and food crops such as maize and rice. And therefore we have our secretary of agriculture with us, Secretary Arthur Yap, to push for those investments.

We likewise invite Indian corporations to participate in the bidding for our asset privatization and to invest in Philippine government-owned-and- controlled corporations.

Most of the Philippine exports to India are industrial inputs like electronics, phosphoric acid and newsprint. But with India's half a billion new middle- class, we hope we can do more trade in consumer products like fashion garments, fashion furniture, and the trendy virgin coconut oil. We hope that the Indian trading companies both in India and the Philippines will develop this market. And to make sure that we will be able to propagate these opportunities we also have our Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye with us today.

Native Filipinos and Hindus from India were already in contact by commerce during the age of the Indian Empires of Sri-Vijaya and Majapahit. In fact, the central islands in the Philippines are called the Visayan islands after the Sri-Vijaya empire. This was long before the Spaniards colonized the Philippines in the 16th century.

And today, here we are in the 21st century with India, as one of the drivers of the world's economy. We are bullish on 21st century India. We are bullish on your ability to drive positive change in the world. We have the unique opportunity to learn from you, from your knowledge-driven development and create our own path to development. And most of all we want to do business with you.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during a Meeting with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141144/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2243&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the FICCI/ASSOCHAM/CII

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the FICCI/ASSOCHAM/CII**

[Delivered at the New Delhi, October 05, 2007]

- We thank the FICCI, ASSOCHAM and CII for the chance to be together today, at a time when India has become one of the world's top economies, and at a time when the Philippine economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability.
- We cannot highlight enough the great strides that India has accomplished in recent years. Your impressive growth, largely fueled by a knowledge economy, is unique and worthy of emulation. It has made you the world's fourth largest economy.
- There are political, economic and strategic implications for India and the East Asian region as a result of your new-found economic power. As India becomes a true political and economic giant, your obligations to your neighbors also increase, separate from your obligations to your own citizens. These are big responsibilities which we hope will be accommodated in our bilateral relations with each other.
- The highlights of the bilaterals we have struck between India and the Philippines include eight agreements: (1) a Framework of Philippines-India Bilateral Relations and (2) Agreement to Establish the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation. These two agreements identify priorities, set directions and lead Philippine-India relations to a new era in various areas of cooperation such as defense and security, health and medicine, trade and investments, energy including renewable energy, agriculture, tourism, and culture.
- (3) \$50 million credit line from the Export and Import Bank of India. We hope this can finance transactions that will correct the lopsided nature of our trade in favor of India. With India now one of the world's top economies with a new middle class of half a billion people, your internal market demand and domestic consumption can have a direct and positive impact on us in terms of job creation, balance of trade and investment.
- Most of the Philippine exports to India are industrial inputs like electronics, phosphoric acid and newsprint. With India's half a billion new middle class we hope we can do more trade in consumer products like fashion garments, fashion furniture, and the trendy virgin coconut oil.
- Yesterday noon at the meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industries in Mumbai, I told the business community that the current surge of investments in the Philippines has been anchored by the billion dollar plus investments in our country of several major international companies such as America's Texas Instruments and AES, Korea's Hanjin and Japan's Marubeni.
- In the afternoon Global Steel of Mittal joined our billion dollar club by informing us of their plans to set up an integrated steel plant in southern Philippines involving investments of \$1.6 billion.
- In BPO, Credence Analytics signed a joint venture with a Philippine company, WNS informed us of their plan to set up in the Philippines, while Sutherland informed us of its plans to double its knowledge based employment in the Philippines.
- We believe the Philippines offers the best value for Indian investment today. We offer a strategic location in a fast-growing region, our workforce is well educated, productive and English speaking.
- This is an advantage also as a film location site for the Indian movie industry. The Philippines is not only advantageous but a premier choice for film shooting because of its white sand beaches, enigmatic and mysterious rainforests, historical heritage sites, and crystalline scapes like lahar and sand dunes. It is a fountain of creative and service talent. We have the production equipment, post production houses and studios, sound stages and other technical and logistics requirements.
- When we explained this to members of Bollywood yesterday, they agreed to visit the Philippines before the end of the year to look for film locations. The famous producer Aditya Raj Kapoor has decided to do a movie in the Philippines.
- Our white sand beaches combine with the beautiful smiles of our people to make tourism one of our growth sectors. Yesterday Taj Resorts agreed to go to the Philippines to look at possible investment sites. Our

Secretary of Tourism, Ace Durano, shall also invite the Oberoi Group to look at the Philippines for their next project.

- A possible area of agricultural partnership and cooperation is in the sector of dairy and livestock meat products. The Philippines imports more than 1.7 million metric tons of milk and cream products, as well as more than 50,000 metric tons of carabao beef meat.
- The Indian Ministry of Agriculture's Animal Husbandry Division has no problem with our securing livestock strengthening Philippines livestock. We are looking for partnerships in livestock technology involving artificial insemination, grow-out farms and meat processing operations. The Philippines is foot-and-mouth disease free and bird flu free. We can supply both our growing demand and that of Asia.
- On energy, we likewise invite Indian corporations to participate in the privatization of our national power assets. Yesterday Kalpataru Power Transmission said they would join the bid for the December privatization of our national transmission grid.
- (4) Philippines-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.
- (5) Memorandum of Agreement in the Field of Health and Medicine: We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in new bridges, roads and ports along with billions in education, training and healthcare to upgrade our competitiveness and alleviate poverty.
- Our massive spending on health care includes importing pharmaceuticals from India as part of our program to cut in half the price of medicines commonly bought by the poor.
- (6) Agreement between the Philippine International Trading Corporation and the Indian State Trading Corporation for the \$35 million worth of affordable medicines. But we encourage private drug store owners and local governments to do business with Indian corporations. Let me introduce the representatives of the local governments in our delegation: Governor Villafuerte of Camarines Sur, Mayor Villanueva of Bais City and Mayor Navarro of the town of Laac in Mindanao. Yesterday in Mumbai two Indian pharmaceuticals signed agreements with the Philippine private sector.
- Our delegation also includes members of the Philippine Congress. Let me introduce them: Deputy Speaker Villarosa, Congresswoman Angping, Congressman Biron, Congresswoman Garin and Congressman Zialcita. Let me also take this opportunity to thank them for their enthusiasm in pushing for legislation that would make medicines in the Philippines more affordable, just like in India. Three days ago the Philippine Senate passed their version of the bill on second reading. When combined with the version of the House of Representatives the final passage of the bill will be a major milestone in our administration's efforts to promote better health for our people. It will provide the legal framework to allow the production of cheaper medicines in the Philippines instead of just importing them.
- We share what is good news for us with the Indian business community. We want it to be good news for you, too, by encouraging your pharmaceutical companies to set up production facilities in the Philippines so that you can keep your Philippine market. You can even use it as a base to export to other markets in the Far East.
- (7) Memorandum of Agreement on Enhanced Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy: We are developing a bio fuels industry that helps our energy independence, create jobs and keeps our nation clean for future generations. Yesterday Praj Industries informed us that they are ready to roll out their Philippine bio-ethanol plant soon. We also want to explore joint ventures between Philippine and Indian institutions to produce biofuel from sweet sorghum and jatropha.
- (8) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institutes of the Philippines and India.
- (9) Memorandum of Agreement on the Waiver of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports and Official Passports. But more important, we have liberalized our visa policy towards Indian nationals. We had an anachronistic policy considering Indians as restricted nationals. How illogical to restrict nationals of the fourth largest economy when we should be courting your instead.
- The Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso, move the stock market, pre-pay our debts and raise employment, but we have.
- We are bullish on 21st century India and on your ability to help drive positive change in the world. We have the unique opportunity to learn from you and create our own path to development. And we want to do business with you. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech at the FICCI/ASSOCHAM/CII. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141103/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2242&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the State Banquet hosted by H.E. President Pratibha Devisingh Patil of the Republic of India

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the State Banquet hosted by H.E. President Pratibha Devisingh Patil of the Republic of the Republic of India**

[Delivered at the Ashoka Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan New Delhi, Republic of India, October 5, 2007]

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Your Excellency, first of all, allow us to congratulate you on your election as the first female president of India.

And thank you for inviting me to make this state visit almost immediately after Your Excellency assumed office.

Thank you for reminding us on my father's visit in India in 1961 when he was vice president. At that time, relations were defined by the cold war.

Today as we visit you, relations are defined by globalization, and India has become an undeniable force behind global economic growth.

Your impressive growth, largely fueled a knowledge economy, has made you the world's fourth largest economy. Our country emulates your path to development.

As you have said, our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. And no one thought we could reduce our deficit to almost zero, pre-pay our debts and raise employment, but we have.

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Investments are pouring in — including Indian investments — the peso is strong, our stock market has reached historic heights and we've created six million jobs in six years.

We are developing and promoting our Green Philippines agenda which, like India, puts emphasis on a sustainable economic model that brings economic opportunity and a concern for the environment.

As our respective economic engines drive us to modernization, we are both resolved not to do so at the expense of our environment nor on the back of the poor. On the contrary, poverty alleviation is our common overarching goal.

It is natural for the Philippines to emulate India in creating our path to development, because as you have said, Madame President, Indian civilization profoundly affected the culture of the Filipinos long before the Christian era and certainly long before the Spaniards colonized our country in the 16th century. The early relations between the Philippines and the Indian empires of Sri-Vijaya and Majapahit were not political but rather commercial and cultural.

Up to today, 25 percent of the words in our tagalog language are Sanskrit terms. Among such words are “asawa” for spouse, “diwa” for thought, “puri” for honor, “lakambini” for princess, “wika” for language and “maganda” for beautiful.

The Brahmanistic elements in ancient Filipino religion and the names of our ancestors’ gods and also the mythological heroes were of Indian origin. The term “Bathala,” supreme god of the ancient Tagalog, originated from the Sanskrit Bhattara Guru.

Many Filipino customs are of Indian origin. Among them: (1) placing a sampaguita flower garland around the neck of a visitor upon arrival as a symbol of hospitality and friendship. We experienced that when we arrived here in India; (2) or when guests throw rice on the bride and the groom after the wedding; and (3) when a childless couple goes on a pilgrimage to a holy shrine, believing that God will grant their prayer for fertility.

The sarong skirt and the turban of pre-Spanish Filipinos and the embroidered shawls of present-day Muslim women have Indian influence.

Yet beyond these links that bind us from the past, as you have said, it is our recent history that forms a deeper bond between our countries. We are two of Asia’s most flourishing democracies. Our workforces are both well- educated, productive and English-speaking. We both honor our overseas nationals for their sacrifice and dedication to their work, their family and their nation. We are both ranked the most attractive off-shoring destinations in the world. As you have said, these commonalities should serve as the platform from which we can take our relations to an even higher level.

Madame president, sixty years ago, when India gained its independence, our two countries forged a treaty of friendship. Today, sixty years later, earlier today, our two governments signed nine agreements that will set directions and lead Philippines-India relations to a new era in various areas of cooperation such as foreign affairs, defense and security, health and medicine, trade and investments, credit, energy including renewable energy, agriculture, tourism, and culture.

Indeed, we have a new age in the relationship between India and the Philippines.

So, ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a toast to the good health and continued success of Her Excellency President Patil and to the growth of India-Philippines relations.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA’s Speech during the State Banquet hosted by H.E. President Pratibha Devisingh Patil of the Republic of the Republic of India. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141127/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2241&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the Launching of the “Go Negosyo Caravan” Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Launching of the “Go Negosyo Caravan”**

[Delivered at the Bren Guiao Convention Center, San Fernando, Pampanga, October 8, 2007]

In just over four months, “Go Negosyo” has brought this great undertaking to five major locations in the country – Cebu, Bacolod, Baguio, Manila and now in Pampanga. On behalf of my Kabalens, we thank you.

Iting caravan a ini munta munta ya naman Cagayan de Oro, Makati, Batangas ampong Pangasinan karing tutuking mapilan bulan. Atyu tamu king pamaglakbe nung nukarin pasibayu ta yang gigisingan ing entrepreneurial spirit o ing ilig king pamagnegosyo karing Pilipinu.

We extol the recipients of the Most Inspiring Entrepreneur Awards to local businessmen whose success stories continue to inspire our people.

At keti mismu king Pampanga, atin tamung sariling inspiring stories a malyaring ikuwentu. Ing kuwentu nang Jaime “Jack” Uy, Presidente at CEO ning Sentinel Development Corporation; i Dr. Emmanuel Y. Angeles, Chancellor ampong Chairman of the Board na ning Angeles University Foundation; deng Garcia brothers ning Meken Food Corporation; i Peter Nepomuceno ning Nepomuceno Group of Companies; i Lolita Hizon na ning Pampanga’s Best; i Ryan Razon ning Razon’s Restaurant; i Wilfredo Tan of Hausland Development Corporation; i Fatima del Rosario ning Sasmuan Delicacies; ampong i Teresa David-Carlos na ning Bank of Florida.

Ila ngan matapang da’lang herapan ding pagsubuk king pamanalakad negosyu king tuktuk na ning pamana’kitan ampong responsibilidad king lipunan.

We are glad that the Center for Entrepreneurship is giving them due recognition. We hope they will be role models to the rising generation of Filipino entrepreneurs. Congratulations!

We can produce more entrepreneurs of their caliber – mapanyubuk karing bayung ba’ge, mapagpursigi at masikan lub.

In my inaugural address in 2004, I said that when we step down in 2010, part of our legacy shall be that we will have supported three million entrepreneurs by giving them loans and helping them become good managers, thereby establishing a deep foundation for a broad middle class.

In my State of the Nation Address last July, I said: Hangarin kong mapabilang ang Pilipinas sa mayayamang bansa sa loob ng dalawampung taon. By then poverty shall have been marginalized; and the marginalized raised to a robust middle class. We need a vibrant middle class if we are to be on the verge of First World in 20 years, which is our aspiration.

The current benign, stable growth conditions are likely to spark a wave of entrepreneurial activity in the Philippines. We see signs of this happening already. In several key areas we have promoted a new entrepreneurial class. One is in microfinance. The microfinance system which we have empowered has extended more than P80 billion to four million low income men and women who want to start their own businesses.

Kailangan da ding keketamung memalen ing empowerment, at iti yang kekatamung panikwanan king Small and Medium Enterprise Development Plan a ni-launch tamu inyang 2004.

Since 2004 we have extended more than P100 billion worth of loans to 50,000 middle income men and women who want to start or put up their own businesses through the SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth.

In addition, through the Central Bank we have created a series of investment incentives and programs for overseas remittances to be invested into capital enterprises.

And we are cutting red tape to simplify the requirements for small and medium investments.

Alang nanu mang kaingge political a malyaring makapigil kekatamu king pamapgpatupad na ning peka-important inisyatibo a magawang marakal a negosyong mana'kitan ampong milyun-milyon a trabaho para karing kekatamung memalen.

We continue empowering our people so they may be able to grab these opportunities. And Go Negosyo will not only empower them, but inspire them to get into the exciting world of entrepreneurship. Thank you, Go Negosyo, for helping bring out the entrepreneurial spirit of our people.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech at the Launching of the "Go Negosyo Caravan". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141037/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2238&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching of the 2007 Global Millennium Development Goals Report and the Philippine Midterm Progress Report

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching of the 2007 Global Millennium Development Goals Report and the Philippine Midterm Progress Report**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, October 10, 2007]

First of all, thank you to the U.N. Philippine team headed by Nileema and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) headed by Tito Santos for the progress report. And thanks to all the other partner agencies for the progress itself on our *Millennium Development Goals*.

I'm happy to hear that of 15 indicators, we're doing quite well in 10, and I guess this is because we're one of the few countries where the MDGs are really internalized in the economic reforms reflected in our *Medium-Term Development Plan*.

This is the mid-term of the MDG period. I was getting confused because the baseline is 1990, the end point is 2010, so I said, why are we in the mid-term? That's because we started to make the commitments in year 2000. So we are in between the commitment here rather than the baseline year of 2000 and the end time of 2015.

And our goal, and I would say that in this mid-term of our commitment, our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. And I'm glad to see the rate of poverty is down, and the general poverty as well as what we have seen, extreme poverty. And we're heartened that the ratio of Filipinos living in extreme poverty has been drastically cut from 20.4 percent in 1990 to 10.2 percent in 2006. Employment is up.

Our education and healthcare services to the poor have vastly improved. Our progress report says we have a long way to go there. But only through a strong economy can we improve the plight of the poor, our education and our health.

And to that end, I am glad we have turned the corner on our economy. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues. No one thought we could cut down on tax cheats. No one thought we could strengthen the peso. No one thought we could move the stock market. No one thought we could bring down our budget deficit to almost zero. No one thought we could pre-pay our debts. No one thought we could raise our employment, but we have.

And for that first goal about getting more revenues, thanks once again to the Congress of the Philippines. All these now allow us to invest in job creation but also better healthcare and more educational opportunities.

For the first time in decades, in our budget, less of our revenue is being used for debt service and more towards investment in our country's infrastructure including education and health care. Which is why the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability and which is why investments are pouring in; which is why the peso is strong; which is why our stock market has reached historic heights and which is why we have created six million jobs in six years. The world is taking notice.

The world and the markets acknowledge our gains in economic reforms and political stability despite efforts by some quarters to project the opposite image.

The imperative now is to sustain growth by making long overdue investments in education, healthcare and training and attract investments by fast tracking billions of pesos in new bridges, roads and ports. In fact, that's part of the recommendations of the Millennium Development Goals, to upgrade infrastructure so that we can upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines undelayed by politicking. These are the keys to lifting the poor up.

Poverty alleviation is our overarching goal. It is the goal that we will continue to focus on in the remaining years of our term – raising revenue was just the first step. The short answer to continue with the economic growth and meeting all the Millennium Development Goals, not just the 10 out of the 15 is summed in three words: invest, invest, invest.

We must follow up the pain of tax raising measures with the gain that comes from significant investments in people and projects. So, over the next three years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people.

We will increase investments in our country, in our people too, first of all improve our infrastructure as recommended by the U.N. after assessing the MDG to create an environment in which businesses feel confident, to expand and employ more people, because more jobs means less poverty and more children can go to school and stay in school and more mothers can have healthy maternal care.

Second, directly improve social services such as health insurance subsidies for indigent patients. If we see that in our Millennium Development Goals Progress Report we are lagging behind on reducing infant mortality... maternal – we're good at infant mortality but – maternal mortality, one of the solutions that we have adapted is that we are including child birth in our coverage of health insurance. It used to be that health insurance only covered sickness and so they would say child birth is not sickness, therefore, you shouldn't include child birth. But maternal mortality is something that we must avoid so we are including child birth now in our health insurance.

Also, we are spending money to upgrade local government hospitals from primary to secondary because secondary hospitals have facilities for childbirth and caesarian delivery. So, if we have better local government hospitals – no more primary mostly secondary and some may even be tertiary – then more mothers will give birth in the hospital and that will also reduce maternal death.

And then as far as health care is concerned we're also increasing our subsidies for food-for-school programs. Now one of our problems in the Millennium Development Goals is the survival rate. Lots of children enroll in school but at the end of the day they don't stay in school, they drop out somewhere along the way.

But we have some studies that say that those who go to early education which is Day Care Centers, good Day Care Centers and pre-schools are the ones that survive up to the end of grade school. That's why we're having food-for-school programs in Day Care Centers and pre-schools in order to entice their parents to send them to school.

In other words, when the children go to pre-school or Day Care, they get a bag of rice that they can bring home to their families and the whole family can eat improving the hunger situation. But also, it is an enticement for parents to send their children to school, their little children to school because they will bring home not the bacon but the rice. And so, that will keep our children and will entice parents to send their children to early childhood education and improve the survival rate up to the end of the elementary education.

So therefore, what I'm saying is that not only are the goals of our Millennium Development Goals incorporated in our Medium-Term Plan, in the way to implement our medium-term plan, we also pay very careful attention to the areas suggested by the MDG progress reports. So, we are putting money on the areas suggested by the MDG progress report.

And third, boost educational support, of course, in our efforts to reduce poverty by investing in better schoolbuildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators.

And fourth, cutting red tape and continuing to eliminate corruption from the system.

Hindi dapat mahinto ang pagsulong ng investments sa tao at imprastraktura na makakabawas ng kahirapan dahil sa batikos. Kaya naman inatasan natin ang China Projects Oversight Panel sa ilalim ni Secretary Favila na siguruhin na walang balakid ang napakahalagang proyekto ng cyber education parasa karunungan ng milyung-milyon nating mag-aaral. Kasi kung gusto natin na huwag mag drop-out ang ating mga kabataan sa malalayong lugar dapat maganda ang paaralan nila at maganda ang pinag-aaralan nila. Maganda dapat ang course content. Dapat naniniwala ang magulang nila na yung natututunan nila ay magagamit nila pagkatapos. At yun naman ang kahalagahan ng Distance Learning at Cyber Education.

*Kaya upang makasiguro na hindi na naman ito masisira o mapipigil dahil sa problema ng mga batikos hihingiin ng task force ni Secretary Favila ang tulong ng Education Task Force sa ilalim ni Father Ben Nebres ng Ateneo upang matiyak na alinsunod ang proyekto sa pangangailangan ng edukasyon. Kabalik din dito ang itinayo nating **Procurement Transparency Group** na kasama ang **Civil Society Organizations for Procurement Reform** upang maging bukas at transparent ang pagproseso ng proyekto.*

And of course, we will continue to fight against terrorism and work to bring peace to Mindanao so that we can improve all those indicators in the poorest areas of our country, namely, especially as mentioned in the report of Tito Santos, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and CARAGA.

To bring in more investments and jobs, we must also advance peace in conflict areas in Mindanao especially but also in other areas through amnesty and local peace initiatives such as being undertaken in Agusan, which is in CARAGA, as well as in Bohol which is the model for local peace processes.

In conclusion or in summary we hear and heed the advice to strengthen our efforts in five areas of education and health to make sure our Millennium targets are met. This will raise not only living standards but also when we spend on education and health care we improve the quality of our human resources and our competitiveness and this will in turn attract more investment, create jobs, ultimately improving the lives of our people in a virtuous cycle.

Our intermediate goal is to reduce the incidence of poverty by half and to meet all the MDG commitments by 2015. And this is consistent with our vision which is a Philippines on the verge of First World status in 20 years when we will have dramatically cut, reduce poverty, created a robust middle-class and then all the hallmarks of a modern society in strong, stable institutions. But while we are still in the process of strengthening our institutions, let me assure you that politics will not distract us from our tasks.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching of the 2007 Global Millennium Development Goals Report and The Philippines Midterm Progress Report

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching of the 2007 Global Millennium Development Goals Report and The Philippines
Midterm Progress Report**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, October 10, 2007]

Thank you, very much, Secretary Cabral. Thank you for your introduction.

Speaker De Venecia; our U.N. Representative, Nileema Noble; Congresswoman Soon-Ruiz; Acting Secretary Santos; our members of the legislature; our local government executives; our members of the Diplomatic Corps; different agencies involved in fighting poverty and our NGO's; ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, thank you to the U.N. Philippine team headed by Nileema and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) headed by Tito Santos for the progress report. And thanks to all the other partner agencies for the progress itself on our Millennium Development Goals.

I'm happy to hear that of 15 indicators, we're doing quite well in 10, and I guess this is because we're one of the few countries where the MDGs are really internalized in the economic reforms reflected in our Medium-Term Development Plan.

This is the mid-term of the MDG period. I was getting confused because the baseline is 1990, the end point is 2010, so I said, why are we in the mid-term? That's because we started to make the commitments in year 2000. So we are in between the commitment here rather than the baseline year of 2000 and the end time of 2015.

And our goal, and I would say that in this mid-term of our commitment, our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. And I'm glad to see the rate of poverty is down, the rate of poverty is down, general poverty as well as what we have seen, extreme poverty. And we're heartened that the ratio of Filipinos living in extreme poverty has been drastically cut from 20.4 percent in 1990 to 10.2 percent in 2006. Employment is up.

Our education and health care services to the poor have vastly improved. Our progress report says we have a long way to go there. But only through a strong economy can we improve the plight of the poor, our education and our health.

And to that end, I am glad we have turned the corner on our economy. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues. No one thought we could cut down on tax cheats. No one thought we could strengthen the peso. No one thought we could move the stock market. No one thought we could bring down our budget deficit to almost zero. No one thought we could pre-pay our debts. No one thought we could raise our employment, but we have.

And for that first goal about getting more revenues, thanks once again to the Congress of the Philippines. (applause) All these now allow us to invest in job creation but also better health care and more educational opportunities.

For the first time in decades, in our budget, less of our revenue is being used for debt service and more towards investment in our country's infrastructure including education and health care. (applause) Which is why the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability and which is why investments are pouring in; which is why the peso is strong; which is why our stock market has reached historic heights and which is why we have created six million jobs in six years. The world is taking notice.

The world and the markets acknowledge our gains in economic reform and political stability despite efforts by some quarters to project the opposite image.

The imperative now is to sustain growth by making long overdue investments in education, health care and training and attract investments by fast tracking billions of pesos in new bridges, roads and ports. In fact, that's part of the recommendations of the Millennium Development Goals, to upgrade infrastructure so that we can upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines undelayed by politicking. These are the keys to lifting the poor up.

Poverty alleviation is our overarching goal. It is the goal that we will continue to focus on in the remaining years of our term — raising revenue was just the first step. The short answer to continue with the economic growth and meeting all the Millennium Development Goals, not just the 10 out of the 15 is summed in three words: invest, invest, invest.

We must follow up the pain of tax raising measures with the gain that comes from significant investment in people and projects. So, over the next three years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people.

We will increase investment in our country, in our people too, first of all improve our infrastructure as recommended by the U.N. after assessing the MDG to create an environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and employ more people because more jobs means less poverty and more children can go to school and stay in school and more mothers can have healthy maternal care.

Second, directly improve social services such as health insurance subsidies for indigent patients. If we see that in our Millennium Development Goals Progress Report we are lagging behind on reducing infant mortality... Maternal — we're good at infant mortality but — maternal mortality, one of the solutions that we have adapted is that we are including child birth in our coverage of health insurance. It used to be that health insurance only covered sickness and so they would say child birth is not sickness, therefore, you shouldn't include child birth. But maternal mortality is something that we must avoid so we are including child birth now in our health insurance.

Also, we are spending money to upgrade local government hospitals from primary to secondary because secondary hospitals have facilities for childbirth and cesarean delivery. So, if we have better local government hospitals — no more primary mostly secondary and some may even be tertiary — then more mothers will give birth in the hospital and that will also reduce maternal death.

And then as far as health care is concerned we're also increasing our subsidies for food-for-school programs. Now one of our problems in the Millennium Development Goals is the survival rate. Lots of children enroll in school but at the end of the day they don't stay in school, they drop out somewhere along the way.

But we have some studies that say that those who go to early education which is Day Care Centers, good Day Care Centers and pre-schools are the ones that survive up to the end of grade school. That's why we're having food-for-school programs in Day Care Centers and pre-schools in order to entice their parents to send them to school.

In other words, when the children go to pre-school or Day Care, they get a bag of rice that they can bring home to their families and the whole family can eat improving the hunger situation. But also, it is an enticement for parents to send their children to school, their little children to school because they will bring home not the bacon but the rice. And so, that will keep our children... That will entice parents to send their children to early childhood education and improve the survival rate up to the end of the elementary education.

So therefore, what I'm saying is that not only are the goals of our Millennium Development Goals incorporated in our Medium-Term Plan, in the way to implement our medium-term plan, we also pay very careful attention to the areas suggested by the MDG progress reports. So, we are putting money on the areas suggested by the MDG progress report.

And third, boost educational support, of course, in our efforts to reduce poverty by investing in better schoolbuildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators.

And fourth, cutting red tape and continuing to eliminate corruption from the system.

Hindi dapat mahinto ang pagsulong ng investment sa tao at imprastraktura na makakabawas ng kahirapan dahil sa batikos. Kaya naman inatasan natin ang China Projects Oversight Panel sa ilalim ni Secretary Favila na siguruhin na walang balakid ang napakahalagang proyekto ng cyber education para sa karunungan ng milyung-milyon nating mag-aaral. Kasi kung gusto natin na huwag mag drop-out ang ating mga kabataan sa malalayong lugar dapat maganda ang paaralan nila at maganda ang pinag-aaralan nila. Maganda dapat ang course content. Dapat naniniwala ang magulang nila na yung natututunan nila ay magagamit nila pagkatapos. At yun naman ang kahalagahan ng Distance Learning at Cyber Education.

Kaya para siguraduhin na hindi na naman ito masisira o mapipigil dahil sa problema ng mga batikos hihingiin ng task force ni Secretary Favila ang tulong ng Education Task Force sa ilalim ni Father Ben Nebres ng Ateneo upang matiyak na alinsunod ang proyekto sa pangangailangan ng edukasyon. Kabalikat din dito ang itinayo nating Procurement Transparency Group na kasama ang Civil Society Organizations for Procurement Reform upang maging bukas at transparent ang pagproseso ng proyekto.

And of course, we will continue to fight against terrorism and work to bring peace to Mindanao so that we can improve all those indicators in the poorest areas of our country, namely, especially as mentioned in the report of Tito Santos, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and CARAGA.

To bring in more investments and jobs, we must also advance peace in conflict areas in Mindanao especially but also in other areas through amnesty and local peace initiatives such as being undertaken in Agusan, which is in CARAGA, as well as in Bohol which is the model for local peace processes.

In conclusion or in summary we hear and heed the advice to strengthen our efforts in five areas of education and health to make sure our Millennium targets are met. This will raise not only living standards but also when we spend on education and health care we improve the quality of our human resources and our competitiveness and this will in turn attract more investment, create jobs, ultimately improving the lives of our people in a virtuous cycle.

Our intermediate goal is to reduce the incidence of poverty by half and to meet all the MDG commitments by 2015. And this is consistent with our vision which is a Philippines on the verge of First World status in 20 years when we will have dramatically cut, reduce poverty, created a robust middle-class and then all the hallmarks of a modern society in strong, stable institutions. But while we are still in the process of strengthening our institutions, let me assure you that politics will not distract us from our tasks.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Launching of the 2007 Global Millennium Development Goals Report and The Philippines Midterm Progress Report. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412140236/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2236&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Inauguration of the Bohol irrigation Project Phase 2 [Filipino]

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the Inauguration of the Bohol irrigation Project Phase 2 [Filipino]

[Delivered at the San Miguel, Bohol, October 12, 2007]

Giabi-abi nato si Gobernador Erico Aumentado, ang mga opisyal sa lokal nga pamunuan dinhi ug ang katawhan sa Bohol ining pagkahuman sa Bohol Irrigation Project.

We commend NIA and the consultants for a job well done.

Gi-utang nato P3.6 billion sa Japan alang ni-ining proyekto nga naghulat ug pito ka tuig yuna nahuman. Karon mapun-an ug 5,300 ka ektarya ang mga uma nga makadawat ug irigasyon gikan sa Bayongan dam ug Capayas dam. Nagpahimo sab kita ug mga farm to market roads ug access roads nga 41 ka kilometro aron suportahon kining proyekto, ug aduna pa'y road improvement alang sa Ubay-San Jose-Cabulao road nga 16.7 ka kilometro. Tungod ni-ini, 42,500 ka toneladang palay ug uban pang produkto ang mapuno sa ani dinhi matag tuig.

Tungod ni-ini, makahamdom kita nga ang sunod nga sentro sa agrikultura ug negosyo dinhi sa Bohol ani-a sa bahin sa norte ug sa tunga-tunga sa probinsiya – gikan sa Pilar hangtod sa mga lungsod sa Ubay, Trinidad ug San Miguel.

We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, healthcare and training along with billions in new bridges, roads, ports and irrigation to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines.

We take great pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. I am proud of the fact that we are pre-paying our external debt. We will balance the budget in 2008, two years ahead of schedule. We are making sure to use the gains to invest in vital social and economic needs. We will not sacrifice long term gains for short term political expediency.

Kaniadtong tuig 2001, ang inyong probinsiya ika-pito sa “Club 20” nga listahan sa 20 ka labing pobreng probinsiya sa nasod. Sa tuig 2002, ang inyong na-aning humay 144, 781 metric tons lang, 895 lang ang mga narehistrong negosyante sa tibuok probinsya ug 774,000 lang ka turista ang mi-anhi bisan pa ug daghan kamo ug dapit nga angay du-awon.

Niadtong panahona, mi-abot sa 30 porsyento sa katawhan ang mga rebelde o kun ga-suporta sa mga rebelde. Bohol was a classic case of a vicious cycle of poverty and hunger driving insurgency and unrest.

Gigamit ni Gob. Aumentado ang kumprehensibong istrategiya kun diin nagkuyog ang mga programang anti-poverty ug ang mga operasyon sa militar, ug miduyog sab ang mga programa sa kalinaw nga gihimo sa simbahan, mga programa sa pagpalambo nga gipasugdan sa gobyerno nasyonal kauban ang mga gi-utang sa gawas ug gi-apilan sa pagsalig ug pakig-uban sa komunidad. Ang effectiveness sa istrategiya nagmatu-od nga dako gayod ang pagtu-o sa mga Bol-anon sa bisyon ni Gobernador.

Sa tuig 2005, napildi na hapit tanang Communist fronts. Ang usa ka nabilin nga front atu-a sa mga kalayo nga bukid sa tunga-tunga sa probinsiya. Sa tuig 2005 sab, nakagawas na sa Club 20 and 40 slots away from the poorest province.

Sa tuig 2006, gi-recognize ang Bohol nga 2nd best performing province sa poverty reduction ug gi-ila kini nga usa sa nakakuha ug labing taas nga annual growth rate. Dili na insurgency hotbed, the province recorded in 2006 tourist

arrivals triple that of 2001 figures; the number of business establishments doubled and the employment rate shot up to 92.3% from 87% in 2004.

Kining proyekto sa irigasyon maoy magpadaghan sa abot sa mga uma sa bahin sa central ug northern Bohol, apil na ang mga lugar dapit sa Pilar nga maoy kuta sa nabilin nga communist front niadtong 2005. Ang mga dalang gipa-ayo maoy agi-an sa mga produkto gikan sa mga uma ug mao sab ang modala sa mga turista sa nagkalain-laing dapit sa probinsiya. Modaghan na sab ang mga investment ug gipakusgan ang mga social services. Kining tanan maoy mosiguro that the Boholanos will enjoy permanent stability and growth.

Gipa-ila ko sa mga Peace Assemblies sa tibuok nasod ang maayong balita mahitungod sa Bohol ug ang inyong istrategiya sa convergence. Gitudlu-an sa Bohol ang tibuok katawhan nga: The way to peace isn't through the barrel of a gun. Rather it begins with providing a person a job, food on the table and human dignity. And central to that success is to invest in the people – in education, healthcare, irrigation, roads, bridges and schools.

Ipadayon nato kining atong panaghi-usa ug suportahan nato ang tanang katuyuan alang sa pagkab-ot sa kalinaw ug kauswagan para sa Bohol ug sa tibuok nasod.

Daghang salamat sa inyong kanunay nga pagsuporta kanako. Mabuhi kitang tanan!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech at the Inauguration of the Bohol irrigation Project Phase 2. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140245/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2230&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights
Institutions in Asia Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions in Asia**

[Delivered on October 15, 2007]

Thank you, Secretary Romulo.

Chairperson Quisumbing, congratulations for being a model for ASEAN and the whole world and the region; Secretary Ermita; Mr. Magazzeni, representing the United Nations; members of the diplomatic corps; human rights commissioners; Ms. Noble; delegates to this regional workshop on human rights, ladies and gentlemen.

This is a timely consolidation of the three powers of government and the Constitutional Commission on Human Rights, alongside the international community, for a fundamental human cause.

Over half a century ago in 1948, the nations of the world gathered together to declare their commitment to human rights.

Our respective human rights institutions are crucial to the rule of law. And we are proud that the Philippine Commission on Human Rights which has become a beacon for the dignity and well-being of every Filipino, as well as for the community welfare, peace and development.

We respect the commission's independence. We appreciate its human rights advisories and recommendations. We acknowledge its role as a watchdog of government's compliance with human rights treaty obligations.

As we welcome the scrutiny of the U.S., the U.N., the E.U., and other nations to help us move away from this part of our political discourse. We have tried to be as transparent as possible in resolving these historically difficult issues. The U.S. is an especially strong ally. We have worked shoulder to shoulder on a number of difficult issues over the years to our mutual benefit. And we are sure that will continue.

We deplore any and all killings of political activists and journalists. I have met personally with the journalism community and the same with human rights activists. We share their outrage. To stop the killings, we have followed the recommendations of my Melo Commission, to establish separate courts, expedite prosecutions, expand victim assistance and increase funding for more investigators.

We thank the Supreme Court for setting up the special courts to tighten the noose on evil.

We have ordered the national prosecution service of the department of justice to work closely with the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation from the beginning of the criminal investigation until the termination of cases in court.

Seventy six criminal cases on political killings are under trial; 33 others are being prepared for prosecution. Six persons have been convicted, including a former police sergeant and a former soldier.

We have told our military in no uncertain terms that if there are rogue elements, they must be brought to justice. Our nation has an unfortunate history of political violence by those on the left and the right. We hope to break that cycle once and for all. No one should have to die fighting for speaking out for their political beliefs.

Let it also be noted that terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf and armed communists are a threat to the sovereignty of the nation. They must be checked once and for all.

To ensure priority development support for peace initiatives, as Commander-in-Chief, I have ordered this morning the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the Commanding General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines national development service command to submit to the executive secretary a list of areas scheduled for local peace initiatives, and the priority programs and projects due to be sustained, extended and/or launched there in tandem with the peace efforts. The executive secretary shall then disseminate the list to agency heads for priority funding and implementation, based on the office of the adviser of the peace process and the armed forces' schedule of peace initiatives and subject to regular updating based on conditions and requirements of the ground.

The Philippines is the most democratic country in the region. We have championed that human rights be included in our ASEAN charter. We have no tolerance for human rights violations of any kind. But I have advanced the cause of peace in Mindanao to a new level of engagement, focused on interfaith dialogue, economic development and mutual security. We have done so with the largest international involvement possible. Peace there is very much an issue of human rights, just as alleviating poverty is, which is our number one issue.

We must address the spawning ground of terrorist recruitment — the specter of poverty.

We take pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. We are pre-paying our external debt, so that we will balance the budget in 2008, two years ahead of schedule. We are making sure to invest the gains in vital social and economic needs. We will not sacrifice long-term gains for short-term political expediency.

To prioritize the provision of jobs, livelihood and basic services to eradicate extreme poverty, I have ordered also this morning that the china projects oversight panel should earmark an initial 120 million dollars for programs and projects drawn up by local government units and agencies to uplift areas and communities suffering extreme poverty, as identified by the National Anti-Poverty Commission in consultation with the bishops and the NGOs. Top priority are local government units with a high incidence of severe hunger and/or high unemployment. The projects should be proposed by year's end for 2008 launching.

I have also ordered the Cabinet this morning to undertake preparatory work on programs and projects in 2008 as approved by the house of representatives, to ensure speedy implementation next year. Upon consultation with senators, agencies may also publicize those undertakings likely to be passed by the senate without major revisions. The aim is to earmark about five billion pesos worth. Along with china projects to be proposed under my earlier instructions, a total fund of 10 billion pesos would be mobilized to fund extreme poverty.

And to address the issue of terrorism and insurgency in Mindanao, we are hereby forming a panel, including the secretaries of the interior and local government, justice, the Presidential Management Staff and the National Economic and Development Authority, the leaders of the local government units, congress allies, and maybe even pro-federalism opposition leaders to draft a roadmap to federalism by 2012. The measures could include: super region planning and oversight bodies with officials and staff from the regional development councils and national agencies, to draw up programs and projects up to a stipulated amount, for inclusion in the 2009 budget; legislation to affirm and expand executive issuances, and eventually charter changes.

To address worries and difficulties over food prices, fares and overseas Filipino worker remittances, we are issuing the following instructions to relevant agencies:

First, the Departments of Trade and Industry and agriculture to devise measures to moderate the prices of flour and sugar, in consultation with industry and retail associations, producers, distributors and retailers. Among measures to consider are revenue-neutral tariff adjustments similar to those being applied to oil.

Second, the departments of transportation and energy to coordinate assistance measures to public utility vehicles, including more discount gas stations, revenue-neutral adjustments to oil tariffs, as calculated by the Department of Finance, and fast-tracking and/or expansion of social services and benefits for the public transport sector.

And third, the Departments of Labor and Economic Development to assess the impact of the strong peso on the remittances and families of overseas Filipino workers, and devise measures to moderate and cope with difficulties, including lower remittance fees, as the Department of Finance and the Bangko Sentral of the Philippines are working on, and supplemental income-generating activities.

We have to do all of these because the world needs us to be compassionate fighters in the war against poverty and terror, to keep the cause of human rights alive. The world expects us to preserve a universal framework of human decency and social justice. And that is the way we will be able to protect human rights in the best manner possible.

So, I congratulate once again the Philippine Commission on Human Rights for being a model. I thank our ASEAN neighbors also for having their institutional counterparts. And I hope that indeed this will be an integral part of the ASEAN charter that we will hopefully passed this November. And I hope that with all of us working together in the region for human rights, human rights will indeed be something that we can live everyday of our lives.

Thank you and good luck on this workshop.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions in Asia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140232/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2227&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions in Asia

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions in Asia**

[Delivered on October 15, 2007]

This is a timely consolidation of the three powers of government and the Constitutional Commission on Human Rights, alongside the international community, for a fundamental human cause.

Over half a century ago in 1948, the nations of the world gathered together to declare their commitment to human rights.

Our respective human rights institutions are crucial to the rule of law. And we are proud that the Philippine Commission on Human Rights which has become a beacon for the dignity and well-being of every Filipino, as well as for the community welfare, peace and development.

We respect the commission's independence. We appreciate its human rights advisories and recommendations. We acknowledge its role as a watchdog of government's compliance with human rights treaty obligations.

As we welcome the scrutiny of the U.S., the U.N., the E.U., and other nations to help us move away from this part of our political discourse. We have tried to be as transparent as possible in resolving these historically difficult issues. The U.S. is a especially strong ally. We have worked shoulder to shoulder on a number of difficult issues over the years to our mutual benefit. And we are sure that will continue.

We deplore any and all killings of political activists and journalists. I have met personally with the journalism community and the same with human rights activists. We share their outrage. To stop the killings, we have followed the recommendations of my Melo Commission, to establish separate courts, expedite prosecutions, expand victim assistance and increase funding for more investigators.

We thank the Supreme Court for setting up the special courts to tighten the noose on evil.

We have ordered the national prosecution service of the department of justice to work closely with the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation from the beginning of the criminal investigation until the termination of cases in courts.

Seventy six criminal cases on political killings are under trial; 33 others are being prepared for prosecution. Six persons have been convicted, including a former police sergeant and a former soldier.

We have told our military in no uncertain terms that if there are rogue elements, they must be brought to justice. Our nation has an unfortunate history of political violence by those on the left and the right. We hope to break that cycle once and for all. No one should have to die fighting for speaking out for their political beliefs.

Let it also be noted that terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf and armed communists are a threat to the sovereignty of the nation. They must be checked once and for all.

To ensure priority development support for peace initiatives, as Commander-in-Chief, I have ordered this morning the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the Commanding General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines national development service command to submit to the executive secretary a list of areas scheduled

for local peace initiatives, and the priority programs and projects due to be sustained, extended and/or launched there in tandem with the peace efforts. The executive secretary shall then disseminate the list to agency heads for priority funding and implementation, based on the office of the adviser of the peace process and the armed forces' schedule of peace initiatives and subject to regular updating based on conditions and requirements of the ground.

The Philippines is the most democratic country in the region. We have championed that human rights be included in our ASEAN Charter. We have no tolerance for human rights violations of any kind. But I have advanced the cause of peace in Mindanao to a new level of engagement, focused on interfaith dialogue, economic development and mutual security. We have done so with the largest international involvement possible. Peace is very much an issue of human rights, just as alleviating poverty is, which is our number one issue.

We must address the spawning ground of terrorist recruitment — the specter of poverty.

We take pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. We are pre-paying our external debt, so that we will balance the budget in 2008, two years ahead of schedule. We are making sure to invest the gains in vital social and economic needs. We will not sacrifice long-term gains for short-term political expediency.

To prioritize the provision of jobs, livelihood and basic services to eradicate extreme poverty, I have ordered also this morning that the China Projects Oversight Panel should earmark an initial 120 million dollars for programs and projects drawn up by local government units and agencies to uplift areas and communities suffering extreme poverty, as identified by the National Anti-Poverty Commission in consultation with the bishops and the NGOs. Top priority are local government units with a high incidence of severe hunger and/or high unemployment.

The projects should be proposed by year's end for 2008 launching.

I have also ordered the Cabinet this morning to undertake preparatory work on programs and projects in 2008, as approved by the house of representatives to ensure speedy implementation next year. Upon consultation with e2s, agencies may also publicize those undertakings lately to be passed by the Senate, without major revisions.

with China projects to be proposed under my earlier instructions, a total fund of 10 billion pesos would be mobilized to fund extreme poverty.

And to address the issue of terrorism and insurgency in Mindanao, we are hereby forming a panel, including the secretaries of the Interior and Local Government Justice, the Presidential Management Staff and the National Economic and Development Authority, the leaders of the local government units, congress allies, and maybe even pro-federalism opposition leaders to draft a roadmap to federalism by 2012. The measures could include: super region planning and oversight bodies with officials and staff from the regional development councils and national agencies, to draw up programs and projects up to a stipulated amount, for inclusion in the 2009 budget; legislation to affirm and expand executive issuances, and eventually charter changes.

To address worries and difficulties over food prices, fares and overseas Filipino worker remittances, we are issuing the following instructions to relevant agencies:

First, the Departments of Trade and Industry and agriculture to devise measures to moderate the prices of flour and sugar, in consultation with industry and retail associations, producers, distributors and retailers. Among measures to consider are revenue-neutral tariff adjustments similar to those being applied to oil.

Second, the departments of transportation and energy to coordinate assistance measures to public utility vehicles, including more discount gas stations, revenue-neutral adjustments to oil tariffs, as calculated by the Department of Finance, and fast-tracking and/or expansion of social services and benefits for the public transport sector.

And third, the Departments of Labor and Economic Development to assess the impact of the strong peso on the remittances and families of overseas Filipino workers, and devise measures to moderate and cope with difficulties, including lower remittance fees, as the Department of Finance and the Bangko Sentral of the Philippines are working on, and supplemental income-generating activities.

We have to do all of these because the world needs us to be compassionate fighters in the war against poverty and terror, to keep the cause of human rights alive. The world expects us to preserve a universal framework of human decency and social justice. And that is the way we will be able to protect human rights in the best manner possible.

So, I congratulate once again the Philippine Commission on Human Rights for being a model. I thank our ASEAN neighbors also for having their institutional counterparts. And I hope that indeed this will be an integral part of the ASEAN charter that we will hopefully passed this November. And I hope that with all of us working together in the region for human rights, human rights will indeed be something that we can live everyday of our lives.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo at the 28th Lanzones Festival in Camiguin Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 28th Lanzones Festival in Camiguin**

[Delivered in Mambajao, Camiguin, October 17, 2007]

Halos matag tuig sukad milingkod ako nga Presidente, ani-a ako sa inyong festival.

Sa akong pagbisita, nitanaw ko paunsa ninyo gigamit ang mga oportunidad nga gihatag kaninyo aron mo-ayo ang inyong kinabuhi.

Kaniadto kauban sa pulo ka labing pobreng probinsiya sa nasod. Apan sa kakugi sa Camiguin ug sa bisyon ni kanhing Gobernador, karon Congressman Pedro Romualdo, nawala na ang Camiguin sa gitawag nga Club 10.

Bisan pa ug ang Camiguin usa sa labing gamay natong probinsiya, ani-a dinhi ang labing tam-is nga lanzones sa Pilipinas ug ang inyong tourist spots dili lang nindot kung dili sab lain kumpara sa makit-an sa ubang bahin sa nasod. Ang gikinahanglan ninyo kaniadto mao ang tsansa aron ma-ilahan sa tibuok kalibutan kung unsay ikahatag ninyo; ug karon, na-a na kaninyo kining higayona.

Aduna sab kamo'y Lanzones Festivals ug mga perya nga nagadala ug daghang turista.

Camiguin offers excellent opportunities in a range of sectors, particularly various forms of tourism including eco-tourism.

We have a unique opportunity to get it right from day one: to introduce industries that are clean and profitable. This includes eco-tourism.

We believe in the power of the global trading system, *kauban ang turismo*, to alleviate poverty and modernize nations through market forces.

Ang turismo ang labing maayong istrategiya sa paglambo alang sa inyong probinsiya.

Ang pagpalambo sa inyong probinsiya ang nag-encourage kanako aron iapil kamo dayon sa Central Nautical Highway.

Kining nautical highway maoy gadala dinhi sa mga katawhan gikan sa Bohol ug Cebu, agi sa Guinsiliban, ug makadala sa inyohang mga lanzones sa mga uban ng probinsya agi sa Bohol.

Alang sa Camiguin, kining mga unang benepisyo mao ang pagpa-ayo sa RORO port dinhi sa Mambajao ug ang pagpa-ayo sa karsadang Guinsiliban-Mambajao.

Gusto nato karon nga mangita ug investor sa RORO ferry boat kan kinsa makahatag ug Development Bank of the Philippines ug concessional loan.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. And no one thought we could bring our budget deficit to almost zero, pre-pay our debts and raise employment, *salamat sa mga Congressman sama kan Governor karon JayJay Romualdo.*

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Investments are pouring in, the peso is strong, our stock market has reached historic heights and we have created 6 million jobs in six years. And the world is taking notice.

We take great pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. I am proud of the fact that we are pre-paying our external debt. We will balance the budget in 2008, two years ahead of schedule. We are making sure to use the gains to invest in vital social and economic needs.

Ang mosunod nga proyekto ang P10 million alang inyong cross-country road ug P10 million alang sa inyong palengke. Giabi-abi ko ang mga Camiguiningnon! Malipayong Lanzones Festival kaninyong tanan ug daghang salamat sa inyong kanunayg' suporta!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech at the 28th Lanzones Festival in Camiguin. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140213/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2219&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the CARAGA Conference for Peace And Development (CCPD)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the CARAGA Conference for Peace and Development (CCPD)**

[Delivered at the Ballroom, Almont Inland Resort, Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte, October 17, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

Our other Cabinet members; Bishop Pueblos, ang Moving Spirit sa Peace and Development diri sa CARAGA; may I also greet another very important Bishop who has done much for peace and development in CARAGA, the Vice-President of CBCP, Bishop Ochomao of Surigao; I'd like to, of course, greet our host, ang atong host Mayor, si Mayor Boy Plaza; ang atong host Congressman, si Congressman Joboy Aquino; ang atong host Governor sa Agusan Del Norte, Governor Amante.

Kauban sab nato mga laing-laing leaders diri sa CARAGA: Si Governor Valentina Plaza sa Agusan Del Sur, si Congressman Ompong Plaza gikan sa Agusan Del Sur sab, si Governor Ace Barbers gikan sa Surigao Del Norte; ang aton duha ka Congressman didto: Congressman Matugas ug Congressman Romarate; sa Sur Surigao, si Congressman Pichay, si Congressman Garay, ug si Governor Pimentel.

Ang aton mga Cabinet members diri aside from Secretary Teodoro who introduced me, ang atong peace process Secretary, si Secretary Jess Dureza ug ang inyong bag-o nga CORD (cabinet officer for regional development) sa CARAGA, si Secretary Ace Durano. Ngano nahimo inyong CORD si Ace Durano kay siyempre, number one: Preferably, gusto nato nga taga-diri siya. Si Ace ang iyang inahan, hedgeskies, sa Surigao Del Sur. So si Ace tunga nga Caragan, tunga nga Cebuano. Ug tungod kay... Labi na tungod kay gi-ingon ni Bishop Pueblos na gusto nato unta nga usa sa mga dako nga industriya diri ang eco-tourism, angay gyud si Ace kay siya ang atong Secretary of Tourism.

I would like to greet also our uniformed services. We have the Chief of the Police, General Razon; representing the chief of the Armed Forces who is in Africa right now visiting our Philippine troops there, so we have here vice Chief-of-Staff General Romero; and representing the National Security Council, Deputy Director General Victor Mayo.

Kaninyong tanan mga kaiguon, mga participants diri sa CARAGA Conference on Peace and Development, una sa tanan, daghang salamat sa mga resolution ug saad ninyo nga gasunod sa inyong tema, "Advancing Genuine Peace and Holistic Development for the Security of Local Communities."

Ug natan-aw nato sa liderato ni Bishop Pueblos nga ang labing epektibo sa pagtubag sa mga problema sa seguridad wala'y lain kundili ang kombinasyon sa lokal nga komunidad diri sa ubos sa liderato ni Bishop Pueblos ug kauban sa mga aktibidades ang mga pamunuan lokal.

Our regional peace and security assemblies enable stakeholders, sama kaninyong tanan, to discuss issues, share experiences, draw up plans and coordinate among yourselves. Earlier, anhi kami sa Agusan Del Sur and Secretary Dureza was recounting how important have been the inputs among the stakeholders including our Congressmen. In that case in Agusan Del Sur, he was talking about Congressman Ompong Plaza's inputs to the discussions yesterday. And we encourage the participants to learn from the best practices of other provinces and other regions.

Ang CARAGA usa sa labing malinawong rehiyon sa nasod, busa nihimo nato kining atong conference for peace and development aron mahibalo ug tibuok nasod kung unsay nahimo diri sa CARAGA busa naa ta kalinaw. And earlier, Bishop Pueblos gave an award to two important peacemakers, peacebuilders, one from the police and one from the

military, and I congratulate them both. Apan dili kini katarungan aron maghinay-hinay kita sa pagbantay. Mahimo gihapon nga threats in neighboring areas can spill over. Eternal vigilance is the price of enduring freedom.

These communist rebels have spent years as a low-level threat. Low-level busa naa tsansa na maayo nato ang problema paagi sa mga peaceful ways kay low-level man ang threat. Apan members ka naa sila didto, they impede the progress and development of a number of rural areas, including the rural areas of CARAGA. And we cannot deny that they are responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses. So if we are to become a first world country, sama sa preamble sa inyohang resolution, we have to put a stop to that ideological nonsense and criminal acts once and for all. And we want that this will end by 2010.

Yes, we have to do some hard-power action. Busa the AFP, aided by the PNP, are going after hard-core combatants, but note the term hard-core. And here in CARAGA we see that if you talked about hard-core combatants their numbers continue to dwindle in the face of continuous setbacks. Dili lang gikan sa aton mga military actions kundili sab gikan tungod sa aton mga civic actions in reaching out to the poorest of the poor.

In the military portion of the fight, the maneuver battalions do the S.O.T., conduct patrols against the NPA, clear and consolidate NPA areas, then leave behind organized Cagfus as stay-behind forces and move on to clear other areas.

Angay sab naton pakusgan ang mga institusyon sa gobyerno aron makab-ot ug magpadayon ang kalinaw ug kausbawan. Kinahanglan naton siguraduhon nga molambo ang hustisya ug human rights pina-agi sa kusog nga criminal justice system.

Kauban sa pangita sa kalinaw ang amnestiya ug kinabuhi sa mga rebelde nga gusto mobalik sa bahin sa balaod. And I'm glad that part of your resolution is urging congress to affirm the amnesty proclamation that we have made. And I look forward to our Congressmen from CARAGA who are here to be the sponsors of the affirmation of this amnesty resolution.

To ensure priority development support for local peace initiatives, as Commander-in-Chief, I have ordered the office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process headed by Jess Dureza and the Commanding General of the Armed forces' Philippine National Development Service Command, a newly created command. What are they doing? Their job is not to fight but rather to build. They build infrastructure, they build community projects and so on. I've asked them to submit to the Executive Secretary a list of areas scheduled for local peace initiatives such as what we are doing here in CARAGA and the priority programs and projects due to be sustained such as what Bishop Pueblos enumerated in the resolution. What should be the projects extended and/or launched in these places in tandem with the peace efforts. The Executive Secretary shall then disseminate the list to agency heads for priority funding and implementation, based on the OPAPP-AFP schedule of peace initiatives and subject to regular updating based on conditions and requirements of the ground.

Diri sa Mindanao dili lang ang npa ang atong... naa sa aton atubangan, naa sab ang milf. And we are close to an agreement with the MILF. We remain optimistic we can overcome the final barriers on ancestral domain so that we can bring finality to the peace. Tingali diri sa caraga tungod kay tunga sa populasyon diri mga lumad makasabot kamo kun unsa ang isyu sa ancestral domain. But even though we haven't come to that final peace agreement even now we have already achieved a great deal. Mindanao is vastly improved in terms of safety, security and economic growth. And I hope the world sees that. So the current agreements are making things better, but Mindanao will really take off if we achieve lasting peace and the millions of foreign aid promised comes pouring in because the world wants peace in Mindanao, and the world is ready to support peace in Mindanao moving towards irreversible development.

Duna pa ikatulo diri sa Mindanao ang Abu Sayyaf. The Abu Sayyaf stand in the way of bringing peace, stability and order to the Southern Philippines. We must wipe them out once and for all. They are a menace to peace and a beacon for international thugs who wish to join their ranks.

We commend our Armed Forces for their heroic efforts against the Abu Sayyaf. We deeply regret and mourn for the soldiers who have been caught in the line of fire. The Abu Sayyaf has been holding Mindanao hostage to their

agenda of mayhem. They hold even areas like CARAGA even when they're not here because they give the whole Mindanao a bad name. The travel advisories for the prospective investors. And tourist do not say, do not go to this island, do not go that island, they say do not go to Mindanao. So they hold even other areas of Mindanao hostage. But we will not be deterred from our mission, which is to bring long-lasting peace to this island. The military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf will continue, not as an act of vengeance but as a strategy to win the peace.

But even in the areas where they are and especially here in CARAGA, the way to peace, as Bishop said, isn't mainly through the barrel of a gun. Rather it begins with providing a person a job, food on the table and human dignity. And central to that success is to invest in the people — in education, health care, roads, bridges and schools. We are making those investments — it's working. The positive impacts of these projects cannot be overstated, from health care to building schools, the outreach has built more than buildings — it has built trust.

We take great pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy so that we can invest on these things and our overall economic health. I am proud of the fact that we are pre-paying our external debt. We will balance the budget in 2008, two years ahead of schedule, so that we can save on the interests. And we make sure to use the gains to invest in vital social and economic needs. And we will not sacrifice long-term gains for short-term political expediency.

The gains of our economic growth are being reinvested in our people through increased infrastructure and social service programs.

Sama sa education: The Department of Education is making sure every grade school student has a textbook in Math, Science and English. And I have instructed them to maximize the use of distance learning in the NPA areas to make sure the content is not infiltrated. And I hope Gilbert that the National Service Command, the new command, development command will also produce soldier-teachers for this purpose.

Health care: DOH and PCSO work with the local governments to provide health insurance for indigent families and improve long-term care for our senior citizens. Nagikan mi karon sa Camiguin. Of course, Camiguin is a small province, apan sa Camiguin ang health insurance universal. One hundred percent sa mga katawhan naa health insurance. And one hundred percent sab walay insurgency didto sa Camiguin. So I instruct the DOH and the PCSO to continue to work with the local government units on health insurance. Also, I instruct them to send doctors and medical personnel to conduct free clinics in the S.O.T. Area and to upgrade primary local government hospitals to the secondary level by helping them acquire the equipment to deliver babies and do simple surgery. Kaganina nagikan mi sa agusan del sur dunay usa ka gamay nga hospital didto sa Esperanza started by Governor Eddie Bong Plaza and continued by Governor Tina Plaza. And what we said, we will contribute to them is equipment to help them deliver babies, do simple surgeries and apply anesthesia. The PITC was there also. Ang role sa PITC sa atong peace process should be to set up botikas selling half-priced medicines. Ug naa sab ang nutrition council. We had a meeting the other day with the union of local authorities together with the nutrition council of the Philippines. And one of our resolutions there was the nutrition council shall also work with the local governments on anti-hunger programs.

Labi na sa agusan del sur nga maoy diay labing dakong producer sa humay ug mais dinhi sa rehiyon, kinahanglan nga mowala na ang gutom didto. Kinahanglan mowala na ang gutom sa tibuok CARAGA, and that is what we want NNC to work with. Gisugo ko na ang gabinete nga i-focus dayon sa mga probinsyang labing daghan ang gutom.

Kalsada: Nakita nato ang inyong resolution that Bishop Pueblos read. Gi-prioritize nato ang Butuan-Davao road. Murag gwapo na karon. Ang masunod under construction ang Surigao-Davao road ug ang masunod ang Butuan-Tandag road. Aron si Bishop Ochomadi dili na kinahanglan magbiyahe ug eight hours para umabot dinhi sa butuan.

Mga taytay: Gi-inaugurate nato sa akon niaging pagbisita ang dako ug gwapo nga Diosdado Macapagal Bridge diri sa Butuan. Ug kaganina nahibalo ko sa Agusan Del Sur nga katong kalsada, katong Butuan-Davao road na hapit kitaan niadto ang kontrata tungod naa slippage but because of the... but you know, when we threaten to cancel it, they worked very fast and they even had savings so they were able to build a bridge on top of all of that.

Ang DPWH ug ang DOTC are improving our infrastructure to create an environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and employ more people, because more jobs means less poverty. And we hope that with the infrastructure sama sa usa ka airport, ang airport sa Siargao na i-improve nato maadto ang mga resource didto. When I last went to Siargao there was one five-star resort with 12 rooms. But now I heard there are two five-star resort already. Improving, ever improving. The business climate must improve in order for us to have investors but they need infrastructure. So airports alang sa mga turista ang usa nga importante nga imprastraktura.

Eskwela: The deded is building and repairing schools as needed to have a maximum grade school ratio of 50 students to one classroom for two shifts. Busa kon naa pa'y grade school classrooms nga labaw sa singkwenta'y estudyante sa duha ka shift sa usa ka classroom, pahibalo kanato aron motindog pa kita ug dagdag nga classroom.

Earlier today when I was in the plane with Secretary Dureza, he also reported to us that our peace intervention in 20 barangays in CARAGA with 8,963 household beneficiaries has a total project cost of more that 20 million pesos under our act for peace program managed by the Philippine government and the U.N. with direct support from the government of New Zealand. Ug kaganina sa inyohang resolution that Bishop Pueblos read nga unta ang ccpd mahimo full partner sa aton mga development initiatives. Jess Dureza said that is already done, CCPD is an official partner of development.

On livelihood: Sa akon mga kauban kaniadto sa DTI must help the people market your products at better prices and mobilize the private business sector. Nakita ko sa inyo nga different workshops naa business sector perspective siyempre kay ang private business sector stakeholders together with the LGUs, the religious, the academic sectors and civil society.

And of course, we must enhance civil-military relations. And that was what this new command is all about that has been created, the National Development Service Command, Support Command. Because we must wield a new paradigm of peace through the use of both hard and soft power.

We must continue to pursue the peace formula that bishop described of effective capability-building programs, dialogue, and for those who are hard-core, military might. We must meld together confidence-building measures grounded on economic and basic infrastructure development. Ang eksperyensya sa CARAGA maoy dakong pruweba na mao kini ang atong kinahanglan karon.

And so I want to thank you, I want to thank bishop pueblos, I want to thank the priests not only for singing the beautiful song about the impossible dream but also making true in CARAGA the impossible dream of peace. And with that peace unta maka-abot kita sa tibuok... Sa tinuod nga kauswagan alang sa atong rehiyon.

Daghan salamat sa maayong ehemplo nga gipakita ninyo. Gihatag namo kaninyo ang kusog nga suporta. Ipadayon ninyo kini.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech during the CARAGA Conference for Peace And Development (CCPD). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140204/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2224&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the 33rd Philippine Business Conference Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 33rd Philippine Business Conference**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, October 26, 2007]

- I always feel gratified being with you. You are development-focused leaders who will take the Philippines to the verge of First World in two decades, when we will have dramatically reduced poverty, created a robust middle class and have all the hallmarks of a modern society in strong, stable institutions. And by 2010, together we will have launched the Philippines to be well on its way to achieving that vision. Already we have moved mountains with our macroeconomic condition through fiscal discipline, toward a balanced budget, pre-paying our debts and investing billions in human and physical infrastructure. And these fundamentals are paying off in huge increases in investment, 6 million new jobs and a strong peso and stock market.
- So I believe we will be remembered for making tough decisions on the economy, dramatically cutting poverty, making huge investments in infrastructure, instituting permanent change in the economy and improving the living conditions of our people.
- Poverty alleviation is our overarching goal. It is one that we will continue to focus on in the remainder of my term. Balancing the budget is just the first step. Over the next three years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people. We will increase investment in our country and our people to: 1) improve our infrastructure to create an environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and employ more people, because more jobs means less poverty, 2) improve social services such as health insurance subsidies for indigent families and food for school programs, 3) boost educational support in our efforts to reduce poverty by investing in better school buildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators, and 4) cutting red tape and continuing to eliminate corruption from the system.
- In short, we are investing in reforms for our economic, social and moral life. We want all sectors to do their bit to strengthen society's moral fiber even as we call on everyone not to be swayed by truths and partisan intrigues.
- And of course we will continue to fight against terrorism and work to bring peace and prosperity to Mindanao.
- The Human Security Act enhances the safety and domestic security of our country by giving us more legal power to prosecute those who commit any acts of terror on our people. But to strengthen it we are working with Congress on a bill to make the illegal possession of explosives nonbailable, with ample safeguards and penalties against planted evidence. Our message must be clear: if you are armed and kill civilians, you will be prosecuted. If you are a communist terrorist, religious terrorist or even a rogue element of our own police or military, we will stop you. We must be adequately empowered to crush the terrorist movement in the country and to transform our nation's response to political violence, ensuring that civil rights and social justice are available to all Filipinos, not just a privileged few.
- My faith in our military and police forces is firm and solid. I happen to believe that 99% of our military men and women are good, upstanding and loyal patriots, fighting to protect our country everyday.
- On peace and prosperity in Mindanao, the clergy of Mindanao, having the most experience in peacemaking on the ground, can best demonstrate that peace and progress are won not by intrigues but by hard work and sincere efforts.
- I thank the Catholic Bishops of Mindanao as well as the 12 bishops from the North for being the voice of reason in these times when several groups are trying to obfuscate controversial issues.
- No doubt my grant of executive clemency to former President Joseph Estrada will be debated, welcomed, criticized and given all sorts of meanings and motives.
- Part of my ten-point program is that hopefully by 2010, the divisive issues generated by EDSA 1, 2 and what some people call EDSA 3 will be just memories. Dapat wakasan na sa makatarungang paraan ang mga hidwaang bunsod ng EDSA Uno, Dos at iyong tinatawag ng iba na EDSA Tres.

- National unity and advancement, along with the rule of law, justice and accountability have guided our decisions and positions taken in the Estrada case until today. We braved a backlash from the masses when we enforced the Sandiganbayan arrest order in April 2001. We never wavered in respecting and following the edicts of the court in the past six and a half years, whatever the political cost.
- We thank the many moral and political leaders, as well as ordinary Filipinos, who enriched our decision with their perspectives, both for and against pardon.
- The Department of Justice highlighted both legal and humanitarian arguments, including the former President's age, the condition of his mother, his express willingness not to contest proceedings to recover the fruits of plunder, and not to seek public office in the future.
- For many years now this Administration has been pardoning inmates who have reached the age of 70. When that policy was announced at a forum of senior citizens many years ago, it was met with loud applause. Former President Estrada is now more than 70 years old. It is time to release him as well, and time for him to be at the bedside of his dying mother. Many of our leaders, public and private, agree.
- If I have showed concern for the personal circumstances of the former president, it is not a sign of diminished determination to see justice done.
- It is out of sensitivity to the feelings of the segments of our masa who continue to identify with his personal circumstances.
- President Nixon was pardoned before conviction. President Estrada has been in detention for six and a half years. The former Presidents of Korea were released after spending two years in detention. They were granted a special pardon by President Kim Dae-jung to help reconcile a country torn apart and enable it to focus on repairing the economy hit by the Asian financial crisis.
- Similarly, for the whole time that I have served as President, the issues surrounding former President Estrada's trial and detention constituted the single most significant cause of political noise and controversy in the national firmament. Although such noise and controversy have largely failed to derail the overall course of our administration, it has been a cause of distraction, recrimination and intrigue.
- This is a period of Constitutional healing. The wisdom of the law enables the President to exercise the power of pardon. The system of justice is working. I am using the law for what I see in my best lights as the good of the greater number.
- In the end, we had to make a decision that was bound to please and displease, impress and confound, unite and divide.
- But we must move on as a nation. The great majority of our people, including you captains of commerce and industry, are much, much more concerned about taking advantage of our economic progress than the backsliding of political protest. The great majority of our people are less interested in argumentation and more in reconciliation and what the pardon can contribute to the healing of divisions in our land.
- Let us now all pray, reflect and join hands to make the Estrada pardon a powerful force for righteousness, compassion, healing, national stability and advancement.
- The people deserve peace, order and political and economic stability. We have been through many upheavals. The people deserve a stable government and economic progress. That is what they are getting now.
- We are focused on the economy. Only a strong economy will lift our people out of poverty and expand our middle class.
- We already see signs of the current benign, stable growth conditions sparking a wave of entrepreneurial activity in the Philippines. We need a vibrant middle class if we are to reach the verge of first world in 20 years. In several key areas we have promoted a new entrepreneurial class. One is in microfinance, where the system has extended more than P80 billion in low and middle income men and women who want to start their own businesses. In addition, through our central banker, we have created a series of investment incentives and programs for foreign remittances to be invested into capital enterprises.
- It will take the private sector working together with government to create the jobs we need to build a strong middle class and a modern, first world nation.
- The high price of energy, while difficult in the near term, is actually an opportunity that we have seized in order to take our energy future into our own hands. We are resolved not to be reliant on imported oil. We aspire to be like Brazil, becoming more sufficient in bio fuels within a decade. This is the future of commerce. This is the future of our own self-reliance on alternative fuels like thermal, wind and solar.
- In the meantime, we have clamped down on price gouging. I instruct the DTI to tightly monitor supply and pricing of basic commodities. I ask PCCI to be a partner in this.

- PCCI is a true partner for development.
- Let us continue to move as one, think globally while taking pride in the Filipino.
- This partnership will not wane, it will continue to flourish through the years for it is built on the common desire to give every Filipino the decent life he deserves and claim our rightful place among the strong republics of the world.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech at the 33rd Philippine Business Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140146/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2213&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the First International Conference on Integrated Taxation (Highlights)

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the First International Conference on Integrated Taxation (Highlights)

[Delivered at the Negros Oriental Convention Center, October 29, 2007]

- Our economic strength is largely attributed to the various financial reforms, including strong revenue measures.
- The single biggest act that led to the surge in the economy was the passage of the Expanded Value Added Tax (EVAT) Law.
- Our complete focus on the economy, fiscal discipline, a balanced budget and the need for long overdue human and physical infrastructure improvements help round out economic gains.
- Our budget deficit so far is significantly lower than the ceiling. We are on track in achieving our target of balancing the budget by 2008, two years ahead of the target 2010.
- Our efforts are paying off— gleaned in the strong peso, low inflation, a robust stock market, more foreign investments and 6 million new jobs. Poverty is at its lowest rate; also unemployment rate is at its lowest.
- We have demonstrated that we have the ability to keep our budget under control; we have lowered our deficit and raised unprecedented amounts of revenue.
- Faced with challenges in revenue collections during the first half of the year, but we are on track by the second half as shown in the July-September revenue collection.
- Steps to address the revenue shortfall—appointment of new BIR Chief, more aggressive campaign against tax evaders and pursuance of corruption cases.
- We do not want to go back to unbridled deficit spending.
- Our commitment to economic reform has proven effective.
- There is no need for new taxes. We have plenty of room to increase revenues by enhancing tax administration.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). Highlights of President Macapagal-Arroyo's speech at the First International Conference on Integrated Taxation. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140139/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2205&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the International Conference on Integrated Taxation System (iTAX)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the International Conference on Integrated Taxation System (iTAX)**

[Delivered at the Negros Oriental Convention Center, Dumaguete City, October 29, 2007]

Ipa-abot nato tanan ang pag-abi sa mga opisyal sa Oriental Negros!

Kining Integrated Taxation System usa ka dako nga kontribusyon sa atong padayon na paningkamot nga motaas ang atong koleksyon sa nasod ug sa probinsiya.

Our economic strength is largely attributed to the various financial reforms, including strong revenue measures.

The single biggest act that led to the surge in our economy was the passage of our value added tax, salamat sa atong mga congressmen sa niaging Congress, kauban si Dodong Macias ug Tio Miniong Teves. In one bold stroke it raised enormous amounts of new revenue. That act also sent an unmistakable signal that we are serious about moving the nation forward. That isn't all, though. Our complete focus on the economy, fiscal discipline, a balanced budget and the need for long overdue human and physical infrastructure improvements help round out our economic gains.

Our efforts are paying off in a strong peso, low inflation, a robust stock market, rapid inflows of foreign investment and over 6 million new jobs created in the last six years. Our unemployment rate is the lowest in a generation. So is our poverty rate.

We have confidence sa anak sa Oriental Negros, Secretary Gary Teves that we will be able to meet our targets this year. We are committed to our budget balancing milestone and we will meet it. Our budget deficit so far is significantly lower than the ceiling. We are on track to achieve our target.

We have demonstrated that we have the ability to keep our budget under control; we have lowered our deficit and raised unprecedented amounts of revenue. While we faced some challenges in generating revenues from the BIR and the BOC earlier this year, we took major steps to address the early revenue shortfalls. These steps included such things as the appointment of our new BIR Commissioner Lilian Hefti, and more aggressive pursuit of tax evasion and corruption cases that will yield additional revenues. We are committed to increasing tax revenues through a range of administrative and legal actions. These efforts are already paying off with July to September revenue collections exceeding our target for the period. We expect collections to get back on track in the second half of the year.

For the first time in a generation, our budget is under control; we are lowering our deficit and raising unprecedented amounts of revenue. We do not want to and will not go back to the days of unbridled deficit spending. Our commitment to economic reform has proven effective. We are both comfortable and confident that our discipline will allow us to continue on a balanced path of targeted investment and overall restraint. We moved the target to balance the budget from 2010 to 2008. We will do this while investing in infrastructure sama sa RORO system ug social services sa PhilHealth.

There is no need for new taxes. We have plenty of room to increase revenues by enhancing tax administration.

Atong pag-abi-abi gihapon sa gobyerno sa Oriental Negros ug ang iyang mga dakbayan ug lunsod, sa ilang liderato ni-ining proyekto.

Ang tinuod nga progreso nagikan sa mga probinisiya. Gamiton nato kining iTAX system aron modaghan ang benepisyo sa katawhan gikan sa mga reporma sa ekonomiya.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Speech at the International Conference on Integrated Taxation System (iTAX). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140131/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2208&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Dinner Reception for Delegates to the Cities Alliance-Public Policy Forum

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the Dinner Reception for Delegates to the Cities Alliance-Public Policy Forum

[Delivered at the Malacañang's Rizal Hall, November 5, 2007]

This meeting comes at a time when the nation is moving and the people are more concerned about taking advantage of our economic progress, than the backsliding of political protest. People deserve peace, order and stability. We have been through many upheavals and the people deserve a stable government and economic progress. With the help of our officials here tonight, that is what they are getting now.

We like to think that even the opposition are committed to the public good and like us, that they want to find common ground to move the nation forward. We have made huge strides with our economy, including 27 quarters of growth, a surge in investments, 6 million new jobs, a strong peso and the best stock market in a generation. We are confident that politicians, especially the city officials who are here with us tonight and want to continue with the gains and not stop the progress.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. And no one thought we could bring our budget deficit down, prepay lower our debts and raise employment, but we have.

The national agenda is focused on creating good paying jobs, stable prices and bringing the benefits of a strong economy to every single Filipino. It is a pro-poor, pro-growth, pro-modernization agenda. We have moved the nation forward on the strength of our partnership with city mayors and other local government executives who form the backbone of our government.

The cities of the world are a force to reckon with in our respective countries' march to a better future.

Cities are also at the forefront of international diplomacy representing the hubs of excellence that reach out across the seas to other lands.

We are among the most rapidly urbanizing countries in East Asia. This is a double edged challenge. While rapid urbanization drives high economic growth, it can also aggravate poverty and social inequalities.

Rapid urbanization provides an opportunity to use economic of scale to fuel economic growth and thereby create the conditions for the provision of improved infrastructure, service delivery and jobs.

On the other hand, it creates the challenge of how to provide decent and secure housing, food and livelihood for the mounting numbers of poor families.

Our economic reforms are the frontline in our campaign to reduce poverty. Economic reforms have created the environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and employ more people. More jobs means less poverty. These reforms have also generated the additional revenues needed to invest in services that help poor people such as health insurance subsidies for indigent families and food for school programs. Education is also very important in our efforts to reduce poverty, which is why we are investing additional value added tax revenues in better school buildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators. It was encouraging to see the recent report released by the United Nations on our Millennium Development Goals,

which recognized the progress the Philippines has made in reaching key targets on infant mortality, gender parity in education, reduction of the prevalence of tuberculosis and HIV, reducing poverty and improving urban sanitation.

In a world of rapid urbanization, cities play an indispensable role in laying the foundations of laws, ordinances and regulations; working with and coordinating stakeholders and sectors; and leveraging investments to provide jobs.

We have several local government units worth visiting who have demonstrated that a pro-active stance in improving the conditions of the urban poor can yield significant results.

The local governments and the national government, represented in the Philippines by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council or HUDCC headed by our very devoted Vice President de Castro, team up to accelerate affordable and sustainable financing for local slum-upgrading programs, adopt an effective regulatory and institutional framework, and provide incentives for private sector and NGO participation.

We believe in the “Hernando de Soto” formula for property reform. We have carried out our socialized housing program, which has been commended by the United Nations, based on his principles. We aim to continue to harness the principles to expand his ideas whether it is through private market forces alone, or in combination with government initiatives. Either way, we must continue to liberate our poor to take possession of assets that they can use to gain a foothold and create genuine wealth for themselves.

Over the last six years, almost 200,000 families on more than 25,000 hectares have benefited from our more than 100 urban land reform proclamations where we proclaim a piece of land as available for security of tenure for those who are living there. The Vice President de Castro’s HUDCC and National Housing Authority have awarded certificates of lot allotment “de Soto” –style to more than 10,000 families in the first half of this year, bringing the total since the start of our administration six years ago to almost 30,000 families. During our administration, we have loaned out more than P4 billion for a community mortgage program whereby 85,000 family-beneficiaries 700 housing sites are able to buy the land from the owner of the land that they are squatting on. So, they are no longer squatters and the owner gets paid for the land that wouldn’t be used; otherwise it’s hard to eject thousands of people living on your land.

The idea of “cities without slums” is an ideal framework to address urbanization.

The success of the C% Development Strategies Program, funded by the Cities Alliances and implemented by the League of Cities strengthens our belief in the power of the global system to alleviate poverty and modernize nations. That does not mean we believe that countries like the Philippines are ready to compete head-to-head today in every sector, but it does mean that we need not be afraid of globalization.

I understand that the program has already been implemented in the majority of our cities, with measurable success, and that it is among the most successful in the world. Congratulations!

We hope that you will continue to work with us.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the National Nutrition Council Awarding Ceremony

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the National Nutrition Council Awarding Ceremony**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, November 7, 2007]

Good morning everyone. Sabi ko kay Secretary Francisco Duque imbes na magkaroon tayo ng programa at mga diskurso gumawa na tayo talaga ng meeting ng National Nutrition Council tungkol sa ating hunger mitigation program.

Pero una sa lahat, binabati natin ang mga tumanggap ng gantimpalang crown, (applause) gayon din ang mga pinarangalan nating national outstanding barangay nutrition scholars.

Marapat lamang na purihin natin sila, purihin kayo—mga awardees ng ating taong bayan para sa masigasig at natatanging pagsisikap ninyo.

Tungo sa lubusang pagsugpo sa gutom at kahirapan. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Patuloy tayong nakikibaka sa hamon ng kagutuman. Noong isang taon, inatasan natin ang NEDA (National Economic and Development Authority) na bumalangkas ng plano para sa layuning ito. Nakasentro ang plano sa murang pagkain, tulong sa nagugutom, patrabaho sa kalsada at kabukiran, gulayang pampamilya, microfinance, at dagdag sahod sa ilalim ng mga regional wage board.

Nakabase ang NEDA Hunger Mitigation Program Framework sa pagkikilala na nagkakaroon ng gutom. Can we have the framework now? Una, dahil kulang ang pagkaing abot-kaya, (yan from the left no?) Yung supply side. Kulang ng pagkaing abot-kaya. At pangalawa, yung sa right side yung demand side, walang pambili ng pagkain.

Sa gayon, dapat paramihin... (on the left side) ang murang pagkain– ito ang supply side strategy– (at sa right side naman) palaguin ang kita at hanapbuhay ng masa– ito ang demand side.

Mabalik tayo sa kaliwa, sa supply side, bahagi ng plano ng NEDA kung makikita niyo yung mga bahagi sa ibaba, una (yung pinaka kaliwa) palakasin ang produksiyon ng pagkain, tapos yung pangalawa doon, yung sinasabing enhance efficiency of logistics—pahusayin ang sistema ng paghatid ng pagkain.

Doon naman sa right side sa demand side, kailangan kung makikita niyo yung nasa gitna put more money in people's pockets number one, dagdagan ang kita ng tao, pangalawa, doon sa gitnang portion, ituro ang wastong pagkain or promote good nutrition at pangatlo ay palaganapin ang natural na pagplano ng pamilya, kasama ang ilang taong agwat sa pag-aanak or birth spacing.

Itong araw na ito imbes na nagkakaroon ng maraming diskurdiskursyong motherhood ibig nating itanghal ngayon ang mga programa upang palakasin ang yung left side... Produksiyon ng pagkain at pahusayin ang transportasyon ng makakain.

Yung first portion increase food production upang palakasin ang produksiyon ng pagkain, makikita ninyo doon, isinusulong natin ang mga programa sa manukan, babuyan at bakahan, pagsasaka, patubig, gulayan ng masa, at pagpapalago muli ng mga palaisdaan sa dagat. Pati na rin yung mga aquaculture.

Ito ang iniatas natin sa department of agriculture, kaya nandito si secretary art yap, ang department of natural resources at national irrigation authority. Kaya pakinggan natin ang kanilang ulat tungkol dito sa the first part yung increase food production.

(Report of Sec. Art yap)

Naalala niyo yung pangalawang bahagi doon ng supply yung paghatid, to enhance... Can we go back to the framework?

So yun there you are... So, I'm reading them now: and this is under the responsibility of the Department of Transportation, Philippine Ports Authority, that's letter b. Letter c is the farm to market roads under the responsibility of the DA, Public Works, pati DAR kaya narito si Secretary Nasser pangandaman and the Armed Forces of the Philippines dun sa mga malalayong lugar na may mga rebelde.

And then letter d is efficient local transport at hinihiling natin na ito ay under the responsibility of the local government units, the Leagues of Provinces of the Philippines, the Leagues of Cities of the Philippines, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines and the League of Barangays of The Philippines together with the Department of Interior and Local Governments and the Philippine National Police. And then letter e, ayun, ayun na.. Letter e. Is the food for school program under the responsibility of the Department of Education and the DSWD.

And then, and letter f. The creation of an NGO network to support feeding programs under the responsibility of the DSWD. Then letter g. The farmers option to buy back under the responsibility of the NFA.

Gusto ko lang malaman if we have some reports coming from the second portion halimbawa yung 'tindahan natin'. Do we have somebody who will report on the 'tindahan natin'?

Tapos nun, yung isa pang importanteng bahagi nitong programang ito, yung food-for-school program ng DepEd at saka DSWD. Meron ba tayong mag-rereport tungkol sa food-for-school program ? Yun pala si Secretary Jing Lapus ay narito. Just recently, elected as a member of the board of the UNESCO International (applause) okay, Jing.

(Sec. Jing Lapus)

(Audio cut) Mga ahensya tungkol sa mga programa dun sa supply side kasi napaka-importante na meron tayong dagdag na pagkain at mas magaling na paghatid para umabot sa mesa ng bawat pamilya. And these are the activities they're doing and to be able to improve ability to produce and deliver food more affordably to our households.

Last week, I talked to Secretary Nonoy Andaya and I instructed him to release one billion pesos to the agencies that shall continue to implement food production and delivery plans for the rest of this year.

Kaya inaasahan natin na sa pamamagitan ng DOH through the national nutrition council tuloy na susubaybayan kung saan pupunta itong one billion pesos for the rest of the year for production and distribution.

And we hope that our efforts including the efforts of our crown awardees and other LGU's who wish to emulate what they are doing and have been doing. And also with the support of our barangay nutrition scholars na napaka-importante ang papel sa nutrition education. We hope that this will yield dividends in terms of lasting food security.

So now, I will turn over the meeting to Secretary Pingkoy Duque who as supervising secretary for the national nutrition council oversees these programs, so he can have additional interaction between the participants of this meeting and those who are representing the national government agencies here.

Once again, congratulations! To our crown winners; (applause) our barangay nutrition scholars. (applause) kung lalong maraming magiging kagaya ninyo lalo nating masusugpo ang problema ng kagutuman.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech at the National Nutrition Council Awarding Ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140044/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2290&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 8th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Geriatric Medicine

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 8th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Geriatric Medicine**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, November 8, 2007]

Thank you. Thank you very much Secretary Duque.

Our very young president of the Philippine Society Geriatric Medicine Dr. De la Vega, our convention chairman Dr. Alejandro, our friend from Okinawa Mr. Etokasu, executive director of the aim policy center Potch Macaranas, (applause) delegates to the annual convention of the Philippine Society of Geriatric Medicine.

And may I give special acknowledgement to the doctor who introduced me to the value geriatric care Dr. Emmanuel Gatchalian. (applause) he came into my mind when I got the invitation to be here with you today.

And I am glad, I'm glad to be here with you today. I see people from the Philippines. People from all over the world who have the passion to improve the quality of life of our elderly. This is so important for us Filipinos because Filipinos unlike the Japanese are a young population. And so, most of our resources are concentrated on how we can take better care of the majority of our population who are young. But I thank you for being here for being a reminder that that we must take care of the elderly even though their population is not as large as the population of our young people in the Philippines. (applause) and we officially recognized this.

In my state of the nation address last July, I expressed the conviction that we must invest in strengthening our social safety net including better access to healthcare, job training and care for our elderly. In that same state of the nation address I asked congress to pass legislation that brings improved long term care for our senior citizens. (applause) and today that we are here together, I ask you who love our elderly to help our administration draft the appropriate legislation. (applause)

It is said that the expanded senior citizens' act which is passed during our administration is one of the best in the world. But we want to make it even better.

Subject to your advice, the legislation I am thinking of is one that will increase the number of older persons who will go through a geriatric health screen, especially screening for geriatric syndromes such as urinary incontinence, memory and affective illnesses, height and weight determination, and hearing evaluation.

The legislation I am thinking of is one that will put more money in the hands of the older persons for medicine, for medical care and provide some form of pension for more of them. (applause) I'm glad that Potch is here and concerned about the elderly because even if he's not a doctor, he knows finance and he knows management. And that second part of the legislation that we need is not really healthcare itself but how to access health care. And maybe A.I.M. can help us work on that as well. (applause)

But aside from the lack of money which is a very big factor, it also seems that there's lack of knowledge about health issues in old age that prevents an elderly person from seeking a sustainable healthcare program. So I propose that the Philippine society of geriatric medicine with the help of our friends from all over the world join hands with

the department of health in propagating knowledge about these issues. This convention is a very important way of doing that and let's take the momentum and continue to spread that awareness.

There's also an apparent lack of trained health professionals in the field of geriatrics and gerontology. There's inadequate research on key issues pertinent to old age.

Only four medical schools I understand, offers special geriatric content in their curriculum: the university of the Philippines, the University of Santo Tomas, St. Luke's – that's why Dr. Gatchalian was telling me all about it, St. Luke's medical school and Cebu doctor's university. In fact, upon the invitation of Dr. Gatchalian many years ago before i became president, I had the honor of being the one to inaugurate St. Luke's geriatric care center. (applause) and seeing what I saw there, I felt then I still feel now that we have to expand the field of participation.

Among state universities I am told that U.P. Manila is the lead agency for institutionalizing geriatric training. But as I said we have to expand the field. So this morning, I was talking to Secretary Duque and I think Dr. Duque that we should help U.P. Palo in Leyte, University of Northern Philippines and Mindanao State University to develop geriatric training. And I hope the society will help us to do that. (applause) tomorrow I will go to Leyte because we're going to have a conference on peace. In Leyte, they have been very successful in bringing down the insurgency but at the same time I have asked my... Those who were doing the advance work for me to include among the activities that I will be doing in Leyte a meeting with the head of U.P. Palo so that we can discuss how to develop geriatric training in U.P. Palo. And I will be bringing with me a check of one million pesos so can they do the start up of developing their curriculum. (applause)

Meanwhile as we develop this relatively stronger state universities as we help them to develop geriatric training, we ask your society and we ask our friends from around the world attending this global conference to join the DOH, in training national and regional program coordinators to cascade your knowledge to the frontline health providers among our local government units because the department of health is devolved the provincial health officer, the municipal health officer, the rural health worker – they are all reporting to their local government executives rather than to the Department of Health. Let's all work with them, cascade whatever we all know collectively so that they can help to increase life expectancy.

Earlier, I was listening to what Dr. De la Vega was talking about. And I had read about Okinawa earlier. How I wish that someday, first of all, we have to become first world like Japan but we are trying on the verge of first world in 20 years. And of course, other first world countries are not as good as Okinawa but maybe indeed someday and it's good to have a dream. I wish that someday we could be like the prefecture of Okinawa which has the most number of centenarians in the world. And the biggest percentage of centenarians in the world as well.

And I am told that in Okinawa even at a hundred or so years, they still go out to tend vegetable farms, walk to the market, and in the evenings go out for folk dances. I have seen a few of such examples in the Philippines. Some very outstanding 90-year olds who are still very active. I've seen some of them still sing in the programs of women's groups or the older person's groups. But there are very, very small percentage but the fact is this women that I've seen 93 years old, 95 years old still active, our women who have been able to have at least a comfortable middle class life. So if they are able to do that and if the institutions around us will be able to do that even for the poor then we will see more of them even if we don't necessarily reach the proportions in numbers of Okinawa.

We would like to see a significant number of our own population in this situation where at a very ripe old age of 90 at least still go to the market, still walk and still go to folk dances.

Indeed, a great deal needs to be accomplished. First of all we need to go as I said, to the verge of first world and we hope to do that in 20 years. But we need not wait 20 years before we improve our old age health care. We can begin today. The Philippines remains committed to doing this, to vigorously pursue active measures that I have mentioned earlier to create a "society for all ages".

Many of us want to live a ripe old age. So, let's all join hands to bring about the day when everyone who grows old will have a kind of care that will allow them to age gracefully and productively.

Thank you for reminding us to care for the elderly.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the 8th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Geriatric Medicine. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140037/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2288&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 3rd Regional Peace and Security Assembly (Leyte-Samar), Tacloban City

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 3rd Regional Peace and Security Assembly (Leyte-Samar), Tacloban City**

[Delivered in Tacloban, Leyte, November 9, 2007]

We hold this assembly in the midst of our continuing gains in keeping terror at bay, drastically reducing insurgency and advancing the cause of peace. In all security fronts, Region 8 has been at the vanguard. Congratulations!

The regional crime rate continues to drop. The AFP has dismantled several guerilla fronts of the Eastern Samar Regional Party Committee. Insurgents have been taken into account, including ranking operatives; and barangays have been removed from rebel control.

We are near declaring the provinces of Leyte and Southern Leyte as insurgent-free.

For over three decades, this region was the cradle of the communist movement that spread throughout the country, but not any more.

Through the end of my term, we aim to provide increased political stability, continued economic growth and sustainable peace and order. We will not let the nation slip into election year instability. We want this to be an era of peace, reassurance and hope.

The people can be assured that we lead with a steady hand to guide the nation to a new election and new leadership. We will not falter in keeping our hand on the tiller of the ship of state.

Our goal is to leave this nation stronger and more stable. To provide even more jobs and build more and better schools. And to lift up the poor through investments in infrastructure, healthcare, better housing and improved social justice.

Eradicating poverty is the central mission of this government and our society. As we enter the holiday season, it is essential that every person of means help those in need. The government is going to do everything in its power to be a catalyst for this process.

Rice is not only a staple for our people, it is symbolic of our ability to deliver on our promise to feed those less fortunate. We are committed to ensuring that the needy throughout our nation have access to affordable rice during this important holiday season.

We can't say that we have moved forward as a nation if we don't lift up the poor and hungry amongst us. Let us be a society measured by our ability to live by our faith.

Our long term vision is for the Philippines to reach the verge of first world in 20 years. To do so, we will need a robust middle class, world class infrastructure and strong institutions of government.

The Naval and Maripipi RORO ports in Biliran have been completed. Eight airports in the region are undergoing improvements, including Tacloban, Ormoc and Calbayog.

Yet in the near term, we must address the very real issues of hunger and poverty that affects us here and now.

Those living in poverty have declined.

From the 1970s through the latter part of the 1990s Region 8's provinces ranked among the poorest in the country. Only in this decade, in this administration, was a breakthrough achieved for the region's sustainable development. Your regional employment rate this year has reached 95.3%, higher than the national average. None of your provinces belong to the ten hungriest or 10 poorest provinces.

But we must accelerate the trend to eliminate poverty more aggressively. That is why, during the holiday season and beyond, we will do everything in our power to bring rice to those who need it most and work hard to protect the poor from high prices.

For the easy transport of agricultural products, farm to market roads have either been built or are being completed. Some LGUs like Ormoc City have added to the national government's assistance for agriculture and achieved a surplus in rice production. Congratulations!

I am instructing the National Food Authority to set up 100 Tindahan Natin outlets in Region 8 before Christmas.

The people want results, not rhetoric, action not political posturing. Let us get on with the people's work.

The people of the Philippines are tired of negative political rhetoric.

I thank our Congressmen here for demonstrating that when it sets aside self-interest it can produce legislation that improves the quality of life of all Filipinos. The most notable recent example is the bill that reduces the cost of life-giving medicines.

But much more needs to be done to improve human rights, secure budgets for healthcare and education, invest more in peace and order and advance our national interests with other nations on trade, economy and security issues.

Thank you all for what you have done for peace and progress in Region 8. United, we will do even more.

Maupay nga kulop and mabuhay!

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). 3rd Regional Peace and Security Assembly (Leyte-Samar), Tacloban City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140014/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2287&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 42nd Anniversary of Eastern Samar and Provincial Anti-Poverty Summit

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 42nd Anniversary of Eastern Samar and Provincial Anti-Poverty Summit**

[Delivered in Borongan City, Eastern Samar, November 9, 2007]

On the 42nd anniversary of Eastern Samar, we have many things to congratulate you for.

First, your dramatic reduction in poverty. It's faster than the national average. It's the highest decrease in Region 8.

Congratulations, Gov. Evardone, and congratulations, Cong. Coquilla on your election and forthcoming achievements.

Eradicating poverty is the central mission of this government and our society. As we enter the holiday season, it is essential that every person of means helps those in need. The government is doing everything in its power to be a catalyst for this process. Rice is not only a staple for our people, it is symbolic of our ability to deliver on our promise to feed those less fortunate. We are committed to ensuring that the needy throughout our nation have access to affordable rice during this important holiday season.

Congratulations on the 125 Tindahan Natin outlets in 21 towns to sell affordable rice. Eight of them are in Borongan.

Last night, I instructed Sec. Arthur Yap to set up 50 more Tindahan Natin outlets before Christmas. Gov. Evardone and Cong. Coquilla will choose the locations.

We can't say that we have moved forward as a nation if we don't lift up the poor and hungry amongst us. Let us be a society measured by our ability to live by our faith.

Our long term vision is for the Philippines to reach the verge of first world in 20 years. To do so, we will need a robust middle class, world class infrastructure and strong institutions of government.

We are cementing the WWII-era Guiuan airport's runway and apron. Earlier today, I inspected the Jipapad-Lapinig Road being constructed by the AFP Engineering Brigade out of the President's Social Fund. We have also improving the Artech-Lapinig.

Yet in the near term, we must address the very real issues of hunger and poverty that affect us here and now.

Ayon sa survey na lumabas noong Lunes, those living in poverty have declined. But we must accelerate the trend to eliminate poverty more aggressively. That is why, during the holiday and beyond, we will do everything in our power to bring rice to those who need it most and work hard to protect the poor from high prices.

Congratulations also for focusing on the development of your most precious resource – our people. Your lowest town literacy rate is still an admirable 91.95%. Five of your high schools were in the top 20 of the most recent National Achievement Test—with Bobon High School and Hilaboan High School placing 1st and 2nd. Congratulations to them.

Education is a core value of Philippine society and family life. The hard working men and women of this nation put their family first. The best gift a family can give to a child, and any nation can give to its people, is access to a good education.

Education is the foundation of economic prosperity and individual liberty, justice and self worth. That is why we will continue to invest in new school construction at the elementary school level.

Congratulations to Eastern Samar for enjoying the ideal student to classroom ratio of 30 to 1. We are constructing nine more school buildings. Four of them here in Borongan.

We will continue to bolster our college scholarship program for those high school students ready for higher education.

Teachers are the backbone of our educational system. Without these selfless men and women, our children would fall short of their dreams and aspirations. We are deeply indebted to the hard work and dedication of all of our teachers. Their work is noble and patriotic. They deserve the praise and respect of every Filipino.

Congratulations to Borongan City for defeating insurgency. Congratulations to the AFP for dismantling several guerilla fronts of the Eastern Samar Regional Party Committee.

Through the end of my term, we aim to provide increased political stability, continued economic growth and sustainable peace and order. We will not let the nation slip into election year instability. We want this to be an era of peace, reassurance and hope.

The people can be assured that we lead with a steady hand to guide the nation to a new election and new leadership. We will not falter in keeping our hand on the tiller of the ship of state.

Our goal is to leave this nation stronger and more stable. To provide even more jobs and build more and better schools. And to lift up the poor through investments in infrastructure, healthcare, better housing and improved social justice.

Madamo nga salamat ha iyo suporta and congratulations!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). 42nd Anniversary of Eastern Samar and Provincial Anti-Poverty Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140020/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2286&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at the launching and induction of officers of the Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the launching and induction of officers of the Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Inc.**

[Delivered at One Rizal Park, Manila Hotel, Manila, November 10, 2007]

Today's launching of the Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry paves the way for a new generation of Filipino-Chinese businessmen.

Congratulations to your newly-inducted Board of Directors, headed by Chairman Emeritus, Francis Chua; Chairman of the Board, John C. Co; and President, Anson Tan.

Through your leadership, we look forward to the PCCCI working hand in hand with the government to create more jobs and broader business opportunities.

I commend your deep concern to further our country's economic growth and progress in spite of the seemingly relentless political noise and partisan intrigues going on around us.

I know you want results, not rhetoric, action not political posturing. I ask you to tell the politicians that you support in the elections to get on with the people's work.

I know you are tired of negative political rhetoric that does nothing to bring about the legislation that will create a new future for our nation.

I ask you to call on the legislators you support in the elections to stop partisan wrangling and start legislating. Congress has demonstrated that when it sets aside self-interest it can produce legislation that improves the quality of life of all Filipinos. The most notable recent example is the bill that reduces the cost of life-giving medicines.

But much more needs to be done to improve human rights, secure budgets for healthcare and education, invest more in peace and order and advance our national interests with other nations on trade, economy and security issues.

The Filipino-Chinese community has been instrumental in realizing our gains in the fight against poverty and for peace and security.

Eradicating poverty is the central mission of this government and our society. As we enter the holiday season, it is essential that every person of means helps those in need. The government is doing everything in its power to be a catalyst for this process.

Rice is not only a staple for our people, it is symbolic of our ability to deliver on our promise to feed those less fortunate. We are committed to ensuring that the needy throughout our nation have access to affordable rice during this important holiday season. I ask you to help me in this project.

We can't say that we have moved forward as a nation if we don't lift up the poor and hungry amongst us. Let us be a society measured by our ability to live by our faith.

The strength of your partnership with the government will help take us to our long term vision is for the Philippines to reach the verge of first world in 20 years. To do so, we will need a robust middle class, world class infrastructure and strong institutions of government. Yet in the near term, we must address the very real issues of hunger and poverty that affect us here and now.

According to an independent survey that came out last Monday, those living in poverty have declined. But we must accelerate the trend to eliminate poverty more aggressively. That is why, during the holiday and beyond, we will do everything in our power to bring rice to those who need it most and work hard to protect the poor from high prices. I ask for your help in this hard work.

This week I ordered the release of P1 billion to boost the government's food production and distribution program to mitigate hunger for the rest of the year.

Part of the food distribution program is to create an NGO network to support feeding programs under the responsibility of the DSWD. I ask you to be part of that NGO network.

Education is a core value of Philippine society and family life. The hard working men and women of this nation put their family first. The best gift a family can give to a child, and any nation can give to its people, is access to a good education.

Education is the foundation of economic prosperity and individual liberty, justice and self worth. That is why we will continue to invest in new school construction at the elementary school level. We will continue to bolster our college scholarship program for those high school students ready for higher education. I ask you help me in this scholarship program.

Teachers are the backbone of our educational system. Without these selfless men and women, our children would fall short of their dreams and aspirations. We are deeply indebted to the hard work and dedication of all of our teachers. Their work is noble and patriotic. They deserve the praise and respect of every Filipino. I ask your help to make them feel such praise and respect.

Through the end of my term, I aim to provide increased political stability, continued economic growth and sustainable peace and order. With your help we will not let the nation slip into election year instability. We want this to be an era of peace, reassurance and hope.

Be assured that I lead with a steady hand to guide the nation to a new election and new leadership. We will not falter in keeping our hand on the ship of state. With your support we will also continue strong, focused leadership in the international arena to advance the interests of our nation and our people, including our relationship with China.

Our special relationship with China is marked by a glorious history of trade that has grown to make China and Hong Kong together our largest export market today. More opportunities lie ahead, which your leaders can help us develop.

Like the fabled maritime trade routes between the Philippines and China, the greater cooperation in trade and investment facilitated by the prime movers of Filipino-Chinese business can lead to an economic boom for us.

My goal is to leave this nation stronger and more stable. To provide even more jobs and build more and better schools. And to lift up the poor through investments in infrastructure, healthcare, better housing and improved social justice.

Unity is a real aspiration that manifests itself through progress.

People want to know are we strong, are we stable, are we growing as a nation. Is everyone benefiting equally, is there social justice in the land, do people feel good about themselves and the society in which they live.

Unity of purpose is driven by a common desire to know where we are going as a nation, that are leaders are strong, hard-working and committed to the best interests of the people.

Unity is about action, not discussion. It is about working together not just talking together.

Within unity there is and must be room for dissent, even conflict as part of the process of moving the nation forward. At the end of the day, unity is measured by collective hope, commitment and confidence.

I look forward to PCCCI being a true partner for development in the years ahead. United, we shall make a progressive, modernizing Philippines a reality.

Thank you and mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). Launching and Induction of Officers of the Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140005/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2285&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 13th Academic Meeting and Annual Convention of the Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists (PAMS)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 13th Academic Meeting and Annual Convention of the Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists
(PAMS)**

[Delivered at the Isla Ballroom, EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City, November 12, 2007]

Thank you so much Dr. Rene Catan and congratulations to you!

To Dr. Daisy Camitan, to PAMS Treasurer Dr. Elmer Punzalan and Dr. Gerry Genuino, and all your officers and members for being at the vanguard of a healthy and energetic society at the forefront of a strong economy. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Noong una inimbata ako, akala ko ang PAMS, Philippine Association of Medical Specialists. Pero marami akong nalaman sa unang mga minuto ng ating pagpupulong ngayon, Academy of Medical Specialists, and that makes you very special indeed. (applause)

But before we talked about your uniqueness, let me first thank you for the medical missions and self-help programs of your academy. Notably those that support our goals to cut the cost of medicine and of bringing specialized training to the provinces. (applause)

Kanina nung pinag-uusapan namin na academy pala and “A” doon sa PAMS, pinapaliwag sa akin ni Dr. Catan na itong grupo ninyo ay nagbunga noong nagkaroon ng debolusyon. At yung mga doktor na nalipat mula sa national payroll, napunta sa mga payroll ng mga local governments, eh mas maliit kasi ang... dahil sa linipat ang mga district hospitals, naging mabigat para sa local governments ang iba’t-ibang mga gastos para sa mga local health services, lalo na ‘yung specialization. Doon pumasok yung inyong academy. Tumulong para sa tuloy-tuloy na specialization ng mga devolved medical personnel.

Napaka-marangal na layunin. (applause) At sa ibabaw noon, dahil kayo ay tumutulong sa mga pamayanang lokal, doon nagbunga rin yung inyong mga medical and surgical missions.

And that is why, I would also like to... That’s why I have authorized PAGCOR, ng kakapasok ni President Butch Francisco ditto. Dalawa ang aking i-aatas sa iyo, Butch. (applause) Makinig ka hanggang sa dulo ng diskurso ko kasi doon ko ibibigay ang pangalawa. Pero una, I have authorized PAGCOR to release 100 million pesos to set up mobile clinics. (applause) This is in support of the outreach programs of your organization. (applause)

Pasalamat natin si Dr. Catan sa PAMS goal for medical advancement. (applause)

At pasalamat natin si Dr. Genuino na nag-follow up noong proposal doon sa PAGCOR. (applause) Pati na rin for initiating the “Heal the Nation Now” project. (applause) As I understand it, the “Heal the Nation Now” project aims for physical, spiritual and political healing.

‘Yung political healing. Unity is a real aspiration that manifests itself through progress. People want to know: Are we strong? Are we stable? Are we growing as a nation? Is everyone benefiting equally? Is there social justice in the land? Do people feel good about themselves and the society in which they live?

Unity of purpose is driven by a common desire to know where we are going as a nation. To know that our leaders are strong, honest, hardworking and committed to the best interest of the people.

Unity is about action not discussion. It is about working together, not just talking together. Within unity, there can be and must be room for dissent, even conflict as part of the process of moving the nation forward. At the end of the day, unity is measured by collective hope, commitment and confidence. At yun ang inaasahan natin sa “Heal the Nation Now” movement. (applause)

‘Yung spiritual healing. A leader must be driven by a strong vision for the nation and the determination to deliver a better life. I, as your leader, I’m driven by my faith in God and my faith in the people of this nation.

I get up everyday and fight in behalf of the average hardworking Filipino. We all share the same values of family, hardwork and faith. The people deserve an honest, hardworking government just as they are honest and hardworking. And so with your help, with the help of the “Heal the Nation Now” movement, we aim to renew our efforts to stamp-out corruption and set a new standard of governance for our nation.

Maraming salamat sa inyong kontribusyon. (applause)

Hindi pa ako tapos. (laughter)

And ‘yung physical healing, dahil naglilingkod kayo sa maraming mahihirap. The prescription of generic or cheaper drugs by your members has healed the sick and tempered the prevailing attitude that only expensive medicines can work. Yung inyong panawagan, nanawagan kayo sa mga legislators.

Congress has demonstrated that when it sets aside self-interest it can produce legislation that improves the quality of life of all Filipinos. The most notable recent example is the bill that reduces the cost of life-giving medicines.

But much more needs to be done to improve human rights, to secure budgets for health care and education, to invest more in peace and order and to advance our national interests with other nations on trade, economy and security issues. And since you have made your call on legislators, indeed, continue to help me call on the legislators to stop political wrangling and concentrate on legislating. (applause)

Kasama pa rin sa physical healing, thank you for offering specialization courses leading to diplomates and fellowships in the provinces. (applause)

Education is a core value of Philippine society and family life. The hardworking men and women of this nation, including you, put their family first. And the best gift any family can give a child, and any nation can give its people, is access to a good education.

Education is the foundation of economic prosperity and individual liberty, social justice and self worth. That is why we continue to invest in new school construction at the elementary school level, and to bolster our college scholarship program for those high school students ready for higher education.

At doon naman sa nagtapos na ng college, gaya ng medicine at nagtapos na ng kanilang board exams at ngayon ay nagpa-practice sa mga local governments, maganda yung inyong ginagawa. At sana makatulong sa inyo yung programa rin ng pamahalaan na ‘yung mga primary hospitals ay ginagawa nating secondary hospitals. At yung mga secondary hospitals kung saan marami ang mga populasyon pero kulang ang tertiary hospitals ay ginagawa nating tertiary hospitals. Hindi lang, ito ay makakapagbigay ng magandang paglilingkod sa taumbayan kundi doon din pwedeng magkaroon ng mga hours yung mga gusto niyong bigyan ng mga fellowships at diplomates. (applause)

Magbibigay ako ng isang halimbawa. Noong ako ay nandoon sa Eastern Samar itong weekend nagkaroon ng diarrhea outbreak doon sa Gamay, sa eastern part doon sa Pacific side ng Northern Samar. At yung hospital ng Gamay kung saan sila dinala 25 beds ang capacity pero 600 ang total number of patients. Mula sa Tacloban, nagpabili ako sa PCSO ng mga dextrose at ibang gamot. At dahil meron akong military and police helicopters na kasama at 5:30 in the morning, kasi binili yung... Nakuha yung balita ng hapon ng Biyernes, binili yung gamot nung gabi ng Biyernes. Sabado ng 5:30 am, yung helicopter kasama ng mga doktor... At iyung mga gamot kasama ng

mga doktor ng military at yung nakuhang doktor na nandoon ay lumipad sa Gamay. And thank goodness, yesterday, tumawag ako sa gobernador ng Northern Samar, ay marami nang na-discharge dahil sa dumating na mga dextrose at iba pang gamot at mga doktor na tumulong.

Pero ang leksiyon dito ay yung gamay kawawa naman. Eh hindi naman makakapunta yung mga pasyenteng may diarrhea sa Catarman dahil maraming lugar doon walang kalsada. Nagtatayo nga tayo ng mga kalsada ngayon doon sa Pacific side. Kaya mas mabuti na kaysa aayusin pa natin at gagawing tertiary hospital doon sa malayong lugar, sabi ko kay Secretary Duque, gastusan na lang natin yung hospital ng Gamay at gawin nating secondary hospital. (applause)

At sana doon sa secondary hospital kahit na meron isa lang na espesyalistang surgeon, meron isang espesyalistang anesthesiologist, meron isang espesyalistang gynecologist dahil iyon ang mga pangangailangan for secondary. Magiging pagkakataon din na yung mga doktor sa banda roon ay makapag-diplomate or fellowship training na rin sa ilalim ng PAMS. (applause)

Eradicating poverty is the central mission of this government and our society. Yun ngang lugar na yun, Northern Samar, wala na siya doon sa top 10 poorest provinces pero kasama sa top 20. Kaya kailangan ang mga kalsada, upgrading ng hospital na malayo and so on. But today, back here in Manila, nakikita ko nagtatayo na tayo ng mga Christmas decorations sa mga kalsada. As we enter the holiday season, it's essential that every person of means help those in need. The government is doing everything in its power to be a catalyst for this process.

We can't say that we have moved forward as a nation if we don't lift up the poor and hungry among us. Kaya dito darating ang aking pangalawang utos sa PAGCOR, Butch. Ewan ko kung alam ni Efraim ito. Hindi pa niya yata alam, kaya ikaw na ang bahala to make sure it happens. Aside from the P100 million for mobile clinics, I am instructing PAGCOR to contribute 100 million pesos to help ensure that the needy throughout our nation will have access to affordable rice during this holiday season. (applause)

Sama-sama tayong magtulongan. Let's be united and heal the nation politically, spiritually and physically.

Working all together, we will be able to heal the nation.

Mabuhay ang Academy of Medical Specialists!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the 13th Academic Meeting and Annual Convention of the Philippine Academy Of Medical Specialists (PAMS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135954/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2284&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the presentation of the awardees of the Microentrepreneurs of the Year Awards

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the presentation of the awardees of the Microentrepreneurs of the Year Awards**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, November 14, 2007]

Maraming salamat Secretary Cerge Remonde. (laughter)

Una sa lahat, binabati ko si Joey Concepcion ang ating consultant sa entrepreneurship dahil yung trabahong kailangan natin sa pagplano at programa ng mga entrepreneurship, yung advocacy ang isang malaking bahagi at wala ng kailangang dagdag na gawin pa si Cerge Remonde dahil ginagawa na ni Joey Concepcion. Congratulations! (applause)

I'd also like to greet the Countryhead of Citigroup Sanjeev Bora because Citibank is one of the banks that lend to the microfinance institutions who in turn lend money to our micro-entrepreneurs.

I understand from Sanjeev that one of his... One of the conduits is based in San Pablo, one of the dozens or so very successful microfinance institutions.

I'd like to greet the Chairman of the People Credit and Finance Corporation si Egay Generoso. (applause) Ito ay yung korporasyon na nalikha doon sa Anti-poverty Law na ang inyong lingkod ang principal author sa senado at talagang trabaho ng PCFC ay ipalago ang micro-finance na dinadaan din sa mga micro-finance institutions. At kaya babatiin din natin si Nestro Custodio, ang General Manager ng Rural Bank of Bulacan dahil siya nga yung isang pinagdadaanan ng salapi ng PCFC at ito ang umaabot sa ating mga nagtanggap ng tseke kanina.

Ganundin din yun National Livelihood Support Fund. Itong National Livelihood Support Fund ay ito naman yung dating KKK– kilusan... Ano ba yun? Basta yung tungkol sa... Kabuhayan at kaunlaran. At ginawa nating National Livelihood Support Fund so ito ay matagal na institusyon na at ganun din... Noong araw wala pang micro-finance talaga pero ngayon at nagkaroon ng micro-finance dahil meron naman silang puhunan pa ay dinadaan din ang kanilang salapi sa mga conduit micro-finance kagaya noong Rural Bank of Bulacan.

Pero ngayon pinagsasama-sama na natin Egay, ano? Yung NLSF at saka yung PCFC. Matagal na nagka-problema kasi yung isa ay corporate pati ang sweldo corporate, yung isa naman ay bureau at pati sweldo ay bureau. So, you can imagine sino yung mas mataas ang sweldo sa dalawa. Meron silang problemang ganun. Pero inaayos natin yun. In other words, hindi bababa ang sweldo ng kahit na sino dito sa ating pagka-kombina nung dalawang 'yun.

At gusto ko ring batiin yung iba't-ibang mga nanalo. Congratulations sa ating mga micro-entrepreneur of the year awards. Kayo ay inspirasyon sa napaka-maraming pilipinong gusto ngang maging negosyante.

At kinukwento ni Joey sa akin yung ilang mga kasaysayan ninyo na lumabas doon sa video kahapon doon sa Central Bank.

Our awardees bravely wrestled all kinds of trials and challenges to get to where they are now. Meron yung mga nabubuwag ang pamilya. Meron yung mga halos mamamatay ang anak at wala ng panggagalingang panggastos.

Nagdasal sa panginoon at lumago ang negosyo. And we can still produce more entrepreneurs of their caliber – innovative and daring.

Congratulations din kila Joey Concepcion, Citigroup, PCFC, yung NLSF, yung ating mga micro-finance institutions kagaya ng Rural Bank of Bulacan, yung Micro-SMED Council of the Philippines headed by Cerge Remonde, because of your glowing example of civic leadership. At salamat din sa Central Bank kung saan ginanap yung programa ninyo kahapon. Ay ako dun na sana ako dadalo kaya lang Tuesday ay Cabinet Day. Pero ako naman ay nasiyahan nung sinabi ni Joey kahit na hindi ako makapunta kahapon pupwedeng pumunta kayo ngayon. Eh sabi ko tamang-tama dahil gusto natin talagang i-highlight yung importansya ng micro-finance sa ating ekonomiya.

Kaya kino-congratulate din natin yung mga nagtanggap ng mga tseke mula sa Rural Bank of Bulacan kung saan ay puhunan ay dumaan sa Rural Bank at nanggaling sa PCFC at saka NLSF at yung halos lahat kayo ay second or third borrowing na ito kaya maayos na ang inyong mga unang puhunan na napaka-liit noong araw, pinalaki nang pinalaki ninyo, eh ilan sa inyo ay malapit ng maging small enterprise kung hindi pa ngayon from micro-enterprise.

The current benign, stable growth conditions are likely to spark a wave of entrepreneurial activity in the Philippines. And itong mga nanditong pumunta sa entablado, ito ay mga senyas na ito nga ay nangyayari na.

Kailangan natin ang napaka-masigasig na middle class kung aabot tayo sa pinto ng first world sa loob ng dalawampung taon na ito ang ating aspirasyon. At itong sistemang itinayo na una sa lahat ay lumaganap sa sarili pero pinalakas ng Anti-poverty Law ay sa ilang mga lugar, in many key areas we have promoted a new entrepreneurial class. At isa na nga dito ay yung micro-finance.

Itong micro-finance, itong PCFC ay nagsimula noong 2001. Although meron ng ilang mga micro-finance noon pa, yung PCFC ay nagsimula noong 2001. Yung ating programang dedicated ng pamahalaan na micro-finance ay nagsimula noong 2001. At mula noon, itong sistemang ito kasama ang PCFC, NLSF, Citigroup, yung mga micro-finance institutions gaya ng Negros women for tomorrow, yung Rural Bank of Bulacan, yung card at yung iba pang mga kagaya ng sinasabi ko isang dosenang mga napaka-successful na MFI, itong buong sistema ay nakapaghiram na ng higit sa 80 billion pesos sa nakaraang anim na taon sa mga low at middle income na lalaki at babae na gustong magsimula ng kanilang mga negosyo.

Banggit ko lalaki at babae, kasi itong micro-finance nagsimula doon sa Bangladesh, si Dr. Yunus, nagsimula ito ang kanyang talagang tanging beneficiary ay yung incomeless assetless rural women. Pero siyempre, we adjust the system to our own system. At sabi nga ni Joey kanina ay kahanga-hanga na kasama sa ating siyam na awardees ay tatlong lalaki. And that is something that is very remarkable in the Philippines. A new development kasi talagang dati-dati yung mga babae ang talagang pinaka-magaling sa micro-enterprise at pinaka-magaling magbayad ng utang.

Well, this more than 80 billion pesos that the whole micro-finance system – government and non-government – has lent has generated 1.82 new jobs in the last six years. In addition, our Central Bank who is much to be admired also for what it has been doing hindi lang sa karaniwang micro-entrepreneurs kung hindi na rin it has created a series of investment incentives and programs for foreign remittances, yung mga pera ng OFW kasi dahil lumalakas ang piso. Kung hindi naman lumalakas ang piso tataas masyado ang presyo ng bilihin dahil mataas ang presyo ng langis ngayon sa buong mundo. Pero meron syempreng mga disadvantages yung mga dollar earners gaya ng OFW kaya dapat na nadadagdagan yung kanilang pinapadala sa pamamagitan ng nagiging puhunan at hindi lamang for consumption. And the Central Bank has that program of transforming remittances into investment for capital enterprises.

Doon naman sa SME kung saan itong ating mga successful entrepreneurs hindi na siguro tatagal hindi na magiging micro-entrepreneur kung hindi small enterprises na. Hindi na kailangang humiram sa micro-finance institutions kung hindi diretso na sa mga rural bank na kahit na hindi micro-finance or sa mga savings banks. This small and medium enterprise system, more than P100 billion has been released to SME accounts under the Sulong Program which was started in 2004 and that has supported 1.71 million jobs of which half-a-million are new jobs.

We want the benign, stable growth conditions to continue.

When I came here, Countryhead Sanjeev Bora said, tough day today.

Nakikiramay tayo at nagdarasal para sa mga nasawi at nasaktan, kasama na ang ilang mambabatas, sa pagsabog sa batasan kagabi. Habang nagsisiyasat ang pulis at pinagtitibay ang pagbabantay sa bansa, nananawagan tayo na iwasan ang mga haka-haka, paratang at sabi-sabi na maaaring lumikha ng kaguluhan, takot at hidwaan at lalong sasama ang kondisyon ng mga negosyo. Sa halip na magturuan, kailangang magkapit-bisig tayo, magmatyag laban sa iba pang banta na maaaring nakaumang sa ating kapayaaan.

Walang salitang makakabigkas ng pagkasuklam natin sa karahasang ito. Subalit hindi tayo magpapasupil sa mga nagpakana nito. Kasi gusto nating tumuloy ang ating magandang at matatag na kondisyon ng pagsulong ng ekonomiya maging sa mga malalaking negosyo gaya ng Citibank or maliliit na negosyo gaya ng ating mga micro-entrepreneurs na nagwagi at nagtanggap ng renewal ng mga pantawag ngayon.

The rule of law must prevail. No person is above the law. Justice must be served and the law upheld.

We are creating by executive order a task force against political violence to be headed by the Department of National Defense with the following as members: Department of Justice, Department of Interior and Local Government, Office of the Adviser on the Peace Process, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Public Information Agency working with the Judiciary, the Council on Values Formation, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and non-government organizations.

The mandate of this task force shall be to harness and mobilize government agencies, political groups, the religious, civil society, sectoral organizations and the public for the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of political violence. The care and protection of people and communities victimized and threatened by violence, and the promotion of a culture opposed to violence and for the advancement of reconciliation and peace.

Kung itong task force ay magiging kasing-bisa nitong ating Go Negosyo partnership ng gobyerno, NGO at maliliit na negosyante ay talagang maresolba natin ang problema ng political killings gaya ng pagresolba natin ng malaking bahagi ng kahirapan dahil sa ating micro-entrepreneur and micro-finance system.

Palagay ko, kayong mga micro-entrepreneurs at yung mga nagpapahiram at tumutulong ng technical assistance gaya ng Citibank ay isang dahilan kung bakit bumaba ang self-rated poverty. Pinaka-mababa sa ating administrasyon haming sa ibang administrasyon.

And so, I thank you for all being here because with your support, we will make this an era of peace, re-assurance, stability and prosperity.

Once again, congratulations sa mga bagong pina-utang at mga nagwagi gantimpala. (applause)

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During the Presentation of the Awardees of the Microentrepreneurs of the Year Awards. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135929/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2280&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas**

[Delivered at the Oxford Hotel, Clark, Pampanga, November 14, 2007]

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Marami tayong tinatamasa ngayon – bumubuhos na pamumuhunan, gaya ng inanunsyo kanina ng Banyan Tree na siyang nagsimula ng Phuket tourism, na magtatayo na five-star resort sa Palawan; malakas na piso, masigasig na stock market, at anim na milyong trabaho sa anim na taon. Hindi natin sana natamo ang mga ito kundi sa suporta ng mga mapagmatyag na kampion ng demokrasya gaya ninyo.

Ibig kong samantalahin ang pagkakataong ito upang magpasalamat sa lahat ng ginagawa ninyo para sa ating bansa.

Lagi kayong naroon sa hirap at ginhawa.

Nagpapa-salamat tayo sa taong bayan at sa mga bahagi ng media sa inyong maingat na pag-uulat tungkol sa pagsabog sa Batasan upang maiwasan ang haka-haka. At pinupuri natin ang PNP sa mabilis na pagkilos upang bigyan ng higit na seguridad ang ating mambabatas sa patuloy nilang paglilingkod sa bayan sa kabila ng trahedyang naganap.

Sa paglaban natin sa karahasan at krimen, napakahalag ang pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan ng pamahalaan at mamamayan.

I met the National Security Council Executive Committee last night and today to assess the security situation and institute immediate measures to address any threats. Please convey our message to our people and our friends here and abroad that the Philippines and your government shall not rest until we get to the bottom of this tragedy and hunt down and punish the perpetrators.

Walang salitang makakabigkas ng pagkasuklam natin sa karahasang ito. Subalit hindi tayo magpapasupil sa mga nagpakana nito.

The rule of law must prevail. No person is above the law. Justice must be served and the law upheld.

I have instructed Secretary Andaya to boost intelligence spending for operations.

We assure Congressmen and Senators that measures are being taken to enable them to continue their sessions in peace and security.

We are permanently assigning bomb-sniffing dogs in Batasan and the Senate.

I have instructed the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office to identify and secure possible assassin targets in Congress. I propose that KBP do the same for the media.

We are determined to solve the killings of journalists. Of the 27 cases since 2001 that were related to media personalities, two perpetrators have been convicted and 21 are ongoing trial.

We are offering a P5 million reward for information to catch perpetrators of political and media killings, and/or foil future attacks, including tip-offs on illegal explosives.

We are creating by Executive Order a Task Force Against Political Violence headed by the Department of National Defense with the Department of Justice, Department of Interior and Local Government, Office of the Adviser on the Peace Process, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Public Information Agency and working with the Judiciary, Council on Values Formation, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and non-government organizations. Its mandate shall be to harness and mobilize government agencies, political groups, the religious, civil society and sectoral organizations and the public for the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and punishment of political violence, the care and protection of people and communities victimized and threatened by violence, and the promotion of a culture opposed to violence and for the advancement of reconciliation and peace.

Maganda ang ipinapakita ng inyong temang “New Beginnings, New Challenges, New KBP,” tungkol sa pagsisikapan natin alang-alang sa kagalingan ng ating bayan at bansa.

It is time for the nation to move on and focus on the issues that are important to our future: creating more jobs, lowering prices, providing affordable housing, and providing access to education for all our children.

The preoccupation with politics does not promote the stability, policy continuity, security and peace and order that we need to continue to move our country forward.

The people want results, not rhetoric; action, not political posturing. Salamat sa pag-papa-alala ninyo sa ating mga pinuno to get on with the people’s work.

Hinihiling ko sa inyo na magpatuloy sa inyong pananalig. Marami pang kailangang gawin. Hindi tayo dapat malihis.

Ipunla natin ang mga binhi ng kabutihan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Speech During the Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135938/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2279&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the San Beda College Law Alumni Association Homecoming and Fellowship Night

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the San Beda College Law Alumni Association Homecoming and Fellowship Night**

[Delivered at One Esplanade, Pasay City, November 27, 2007]

Thank you very much, Attorney Ave Cruz. And I'd like to congratulate you because earlier you talked about so many achievers among the San Beda Law alumni. And I'll have to add to those achievers, the youngest bar topnotcher, number one bar topnotcher in the history of our country and that is no other than Attorney Avelino Cruz. Congratulations! (Applause)

Justice Acosta, President of the Association; Father de Jesus, Father Rector and President; Attorney Roque, Chairman of the Board of San Beda College; Rudy Robles, another number one bar topnotcher. I remember very well attending the beautiful long gown/black tie dinner dance when he became number one in the bar. Congratulations! Again. (Applause)

I'd like to greet Senator Nene Pimentel and the other elected officials who are here with us tonight. (Applause) and of course, Justice Nachura and the other very distinguished members of the judiciary, (Applause) and to the entire San Beda Law alumni on your 55th founding anniversary. (Applause)

The law alumni association was founded 55 years ago, because those who graduated then represented the first graduates after four years of the founding of the law school in 1948. And it was in 1948, in the then newly formed San Beda College of Law that our very beloved Dean Feliciano Jover Ledesma, as Attorney Ave Cruz quoted, wanted to produce good Christians as well as highly principled lawyers to take their place among the real apostles of justice. And my family is very honored — Arthur, my brother; Kuya Echo, my cousin and I — we are very honored that one of those whom he asked to join was his classmate in U.S.T. law school, my father Diosdado Macapagal, who at that time was not yet in politics. (Applause) my father was the first bar topnotcher from U.S.T. and the second bar topnotcher from U.S.T. was Roberto Concepcion, and Dean Ledesma recruited both of them to teach at the San Beda Law School. (Applause)

There were other legal luminaries, and we have seen the list of those that we honored tonight, from the list of legal luminaries that taught in the San Beda Law School in that first batch. That group has produced one president, two chief justices, one cabinet member, two very distinguished lawyers and one future head of San Beda itself. So, indeed, no wonder San Beda went on to become one of the best law schools in the country. (Applause)

So, we thank the founding fathers of San Beda Law School for their contribution not just to the College of Law but also to the country. Not only are they role models for believing and investing in the Filipino, they produced role models and outstanding Filipinos in the legal profession whether in business or in the practice of law, or in the judiciary, or in the political world. So, congratulations once again to us, the families of the founders. (Applause)

Congratulations! Also to the Jubilarians, to the Golden Jubilarians like undersecretary Spanky Perez, who handles our search committee. Maybe that's why there are so many San Bedans (laughter) in our government today. (Applause) And Governor Colet whom I'm very happy to see after so many years, and I see also Mel Mathay belonging to the Golden Jubilee batch. (Applause)

I'd like to congratulate also the Silver Jubilarians here in such big force. (Applause) and of course, we know that Winston Garcia is the President of GSIS in our administration. (Applause)

And then of course, Arthur. You see, I'm not a Bedan but I'm a Bedan sister because Arthur, my brother is a Bedan and I have very fond memories of going to the San Beda school fairs because my brother would invite me. (Applause) And Arthur got married in San Beda, in the beautiful church, in the beautiful chapel. And for a long time, it was closed to weddings but now, I'm glad it's open again because it's also one of the most beautiful churches in our country. (Applause)

Another Bedan, though not a Bedan from the San Beda Law School, was the late Senator Ninoy Aquino. Of course, there's Raul Roco who was from the law school. But I mentioned Ninoy Aquino because today happens to be his birthday. (Applause)

And as I was of course recalling the birthday of Ninoy in my own introspection today, I remembered that I recently pardoned one of the soldiers convicted of killing Ninoy. The pardoned convict had turned 70 years old. I pardoned him in accordance with the practice that started with Memorandum Circular 155, dated November 17, 2004. That circular directed the Bureau of Corrections, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and the Board of Pardons and Parole to submit to the Office of the President records of inmates who are 70 years old and above for the purpose of extending executive clemency.

One of the reasons why I enunciated this policy of giving clemency to those 70 years and above was that some of the bishops who were ministering to the prisoners as well as the then head of prisons — I believe it was General Dionisio Santiago — were telling me about how crowded the penitentiary was. And General Santiago was the one who said why don't we decongest it by giving clemency to those who have been there for such a long time or those who probably won't be a menace to society anymore — those who've turned the age of 70.

The same policy forms the basis for my granting executive clemency to the former president, President Estrada. Both a soldier and a former president were convicted according to the rule of law and pardoned according to the rule of law. The rule of law has prevailed and proved that no person is above the law. And no person is below it either because if you're going to give that privilege to one then you give it to all similarly situated. And the rule of law must continue to prevail regarding the case of Mr. Estrada so that justice is served and the law upheld.

It is time for the nation to move on and focus on the issues that are important to our future: creating more jobs, lowering prices or at least preventing them from rising, providing affordable housing, and providing access to education for all the children of our nation.

The preoccupation with politics, past and present, does not promote the stability, policy continuity, security, and peace and order that we will need to continue to move our country forward. After all, we all need to fight poverty because poverty is a great injustice to a significant number of our people.

Eradicating poverty is the central mission of this government — many of whom whose members are Bedans — and our society. And as we enter the holiday season, it's essential that every person of means helps those in need. And the government is going to do everything in its power to be a catalyst for this.

Rice is not only a staple for our people, it's symbolic of our ability to deliver our promise to feed those less fortunate. So, we are committed to ensuring that the needy throughout our nation have access to affordable rice during this important holiday season. And that's what we're going to work on. Because we cannot say that we have moved forward as a nation if we don't lift up the poor and the hungry among us. We must be a society measured by our ability to live our faith. Just as the San Beda Lawyers are measured by your ability to live out the beautiful mission statement that was read by Attorney Ave Cruz.

Our long-term vision for the Philippines is to be on the threshold of first world in 20 years. And to do so, we will need a robust middle-class. We will need world class infrastructure. We will need strong institutions of government. Yet in the near term, we must address the very real issues of hunger and poverty that affect us here and now.

Those living in poverty have declined, thank God! But we must accelerate the trend to eliminate poverty more aggressively. That's why during the holiday season and beyond, we will do everything in our power to bring rice to

those who need it most and work hard to protect the poor from high prices. And I ask you, Bedans, to be partners in taking the Philippines to the threshold of the first world. (Applause)

I was so happy when I was listening to our earlier speakers today and they talked about Father Rector and when Father Rector took over, and you all applauded because I'm sure you know more than I what it meant. That he said, what he was going to do was to work on unity. And that's wonderful because with a people united in working for prosperity, as with San Beda united in working for advancing the San Beda type of Christian education, we can succeed.

I'm glad that Father de Jesus wants to work on unity. Unity is a real aspiration that manifests itself through progress. Whether it is the nation or a school people want to know that we are strong, we are stable, we are growing whether as a nation or as a school.

Is everyone benefiting equally when it comes to the nation? Is there social justice in the land? Do people feel good about themselves and the society in which they live?

Unity of purpose is driven by a common desire to know where we are going, whether it is as a school or as a nation. That our leaders are strong, honest, hardworking and committed to the best interests, whether of the school or the nation.

Unity is about action, not discussion. It's about working together and not just talking together. Within unity, of course, there is and must be room for dissent, even conflict as part of the process of moving the nation forward because after all we are a democracy.

But at the end of the day, unity is measured by collective hope, commitment and confidence. And so, I count on the Bedan lawyers to help in promoting unity, hope, commitment and confidence both in your beloved, our beloved institute of San Beda and also in our beloved nation.

Maraming salamat at maligayang anibersaryo sa inyo lahat!

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the San Beda College Law Alumni Association Homecoming and Fellowship Night. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135834/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2267&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Annual General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Annual General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu, November 29, 2007]

Thank you very much Secretary Remonde for your introduction.

Let me begin by greeting our host city mayor, Mayor Tommy Osmeña; (applause) and the boss of the mayors of the Cebu chapter hosting you today, Governor Gwen Garcia; (applause) of course your national president, Mayor Monching Guico; (applause) Congratulations for being the first LMP representative to head the Ulap. (Applause) To all our new officers and re-elected officers of the LMP who are here on stage and to all our mayors from all over the country.

How impressive that you're all here in the first LMP convention ever held outside Manila. (applause) Congratulations on your election last May; congratulations to the officers on your election to the LMP and congratulations and thank you to all our local officials, especially in the areas hit and threatened by the recent typhoons, for your immediate response to the needs of your constituents. Some of you, some of them are not here yet because they have not yet finished attending to the needs of their constituents. But, I'm glad that enough of those affected by the recent typhoons are here to be able to tell me as I was walking through the aisle what you have been able to do to attend to the needs of your constituents. And I congratulate you for that! (applause)

You have shown our people that you are leaders they can rely on in their hour of need. A leader must be driven by a strong vision, whether for the municipality or the city in case of Mayor Osmeña, or the province in case of Governor Garcia or the nation in my case. A leader must be driven by the determination to deliver a better life. Let us all be driven by our faith in God and our faith in the people of our municipalities and this nation. (applause)

Let us get up every day and fight on behalf of the average, hard- working Filipino in your municipalities. We share the same values of family, hard work and faith. Family and opportunity for our children is a central guiding value of every Filipino. That is why we believe so strongly in education as the key to our next generation in order to get ahead and get a good job. And that is why education is the biggest item in the national budget as well as that is why your real estate taxes go to the school fund.

Education is a core value of Philippine society and family life. The hard working men and women of your municipalities and this nation put their family first. And the best gift any family can give to a child, and any nation can give to its people, is access to a good education.

Education is the foundation of economic prosperity and individual liberty, justice and self worth. That is why we should help each other continue to invest in new school construction at the elementary school level. So, if there are any of you who still have grade schools in your municipalities where the ratio is more than 50 students to one classroom for every shift of two shifts, please let us know so that we can prioritize the building of classrooms in your municipalities (applause). Please let Monching Guico know so that he can give me the list of the municipalities where the student classroom ratio is more than 50:01 for two shifts.

And all of these values we put in education is also why we will bolster our college scholarship program for your high school students ready for higher education. We have scholars in our CHED system and Cerge Remonde who is here, mainly because he is the cord for Region VII but, also because he's the Presidential Management Staff Director General. I asked him to make sure that in our college scholarship program, the best high school graduate of every municipality will be a recipient and that will be called the "town's scholar" of your municipality (applause). While we're at it, talking about classrooms for your towns to complete the 50:01 ratio for two shift, and giving... Making sure that the best high school graduate this coming school year this coming graduation will be sure of a college education.

I also heard very loudly your applause on the request to allocate ambulances, fire trucks and patrol cars to all provincial chapters (applause). So, I told Cerge Remonde that in the chapters where not all have ambulances or not all have fire trucks or not all have patrol cars, then to allocate at least one ambulance or one fire truck or one patrol car to the provincial chapter. Okay, Cerge (applause), at least. At least because we have to check on how many have and how many don't have. Remember your resolution is provincial chapter not every municipality (applause).

In any case, over the last six years, I think if we have an accounting of how many municipalities have received at least an ambulance or a patrol car or a fire truck. Many of you have already received from the national government. So, let us work on those who do not have any of these. And we will pass it through the chapter. So, the chapter will be responsible or will be credited for at least one of them. The rest we will have to deal with each other directly.

When we talk about giving what is due to our, to those who serve the people, I think we all also have to give the proper due to the teachers. And I was talking about making sure that every municipality is complete on grade school classrooms. Every municipality's best student goes to college. It's also important that the teachers of all municipalities are properly given their rightful due. Teachers are the backbone of our educational system. Without these selfless men and women, our children would fall short of their dreams and aspirations. We're deeply indebted to the hard work and dedication of all our teachers. Their work is noble and patriotic. They deserve the praise and respect of every Filipino.

And just as the national government helps the local government with your educational needs, I would also urge the local government as much as possible to use your school board fund to give our teachers a little extra something at least for this Christmas (applause).

Even the success, even the success of the recently-held barangay elections would not have been possible without the vigor and vigilance of our teachers who selflessly showed so that we can all exercise our right to suffrage. Their industry indeed, should not go unappreciated. That's why two weeks ago we ordered the Budget Secretary to release an additional one thousand pesos to all teachers who served in the last elections (applause).

The augmentation we ordered brought to 2,500 the total remuneration teachers are receiving for the election. The 2007 budget authorized 1,500 honorariums for barangay election duty, but we adjusted this pursuant to our powers and procedures vested by law, from savings made possible by the prudent utilization of our fiscal surplus.

I'm also instructing the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Education to coordinate with the Commission on Elections in revisiting policies pertaining to the release of pay for teachers marshaled for election duty so that the miscommunication that attended the barangay polls should not happen again. And I ask you— the mayors to check also whether the teachers in your municipalities were able to receive their full 2,500 pesos for election duty. And if you know of teachers who were not able to receive this please let Monching Guico know so that we can also do justice to the teachers who teach our children so well (applause).

This financial incentive to our teachers was extended to them by a grateful government not just for the services beyond the call of duty in the last elections but to the sacrifices they continue to endure in the molding of minds of our young. We have also assuaged their sacrifices by the two salary adjustments we've had in the last two years. And if Congress will pass our bill there will be another salary adjustment for our teachers this coming July (applause). Please let them know the good news.

Because you and I should count on our teachers to teach our young the values of honesty and hard work, especially as Monching Guico said in his speech that the League of Municipalities wants to promote the values of good governance in what you will be carrying out in the next three years.

The people deserve an honest hardworking government just as they are honest and hardworking. Let us strive to stamp out corruption and set a new standard of governance for our municipalities and our nation as a whole. Corruption saps the lifeblood of our political system. It must be stamped out if the Philippines is to reach the verge of first world in 20 years which is our aspiration.

That is why in organizing our pro-performance system which where the secretariat is lodged in the Presidential Management Staff we have included the union of local authorities of the Philippines as an observer in our monitoring of projects to make sure that they are aboveboard as far as their implementation is concerned. We had a meeting recently and a representative of Ulap attended—the executive director.

Public service is an honor that the people of our municipalities provide their leaders, and the people provide their national leaders as well. But they do so with the expectation that those leaders will use that platform to deliver the programs and services needed to move our society forward. And I guess if you're wondering why I'm only giving at least one remember that I am the President that gave you your IRA in full and even paid the IRA debts of previous presidents (applause). So, let us use our IRA to maximize the services for our people.

To reach the verge of first world in 20 years, we will need a robust middle class, world class infrastructure and strong institutions of government. And that is why in creating a robust middle class in ensuring world class infrastructure, in strengthening institutions I am very grateful to the league of municipalities for your two resolutions endorsing the ratification of the Japan-Philippines economic partnership agreement (applause). I'm sure many of your municipalities have either experienced a Japanese investment or more likely experienced the blessings of a project that was funded by Japanese assistance whether a JBIC loan or a JICA grant. Therefore, we know how important Japan is to our quest to reach first world in 20 years (applause).

Yet in the near term, we must address the very real issues of hunger and poverty that affects us here and now.

Rice is not only a staple food for our people, it is symbolic of our ability to deliver on our promise to feed those less fortunate. Let us together commit to ensuring that the needy in your municipalities throughout our nation have access to affordable rice during this important holiday season. And that is why another project we would like to share with you aside from patrol cars, ambulances and fire trucks is to have the “tindahan natin” programs where you have the sari-sari stores that sell rice for only p 18.25 or p 18.50 no matter what the market price will be outside, because surely every municipality have at least an enclave where the people are very poor. And let us make sure that in those enclaves you all have a “tindahan natin” that we can capitalize (applause).

Those living in poverty have declined, in fact the poverty rate in our administration is the slowest in our history. But we must accelerate the trend to eliminate poverty more aggressively. That is why, during the holiday season and beyond, let us do everything in our power to bring rice to those who need it most and work hard to protect the poor from high prices. And rather than having a new initiative every year, I thank Monching for giving us a report on your upland development program that was launched last year. Because that is indeed a very important program.

We cannot forever be increasing the area of lowland for agriculture. We must increase productivity on the one hand on the remaining lowlands which gets smaller and smaller simply from the housing needs of the people not to mention the needs of industry and services. But if we're going to expand any land for agriculture it will have to be now in the uplands. And well, we have been to many upland areas— you and I, I think most of us have tasted upland rice. It's very good and very healthy.

So, I would want that if we are going to be self sufficient in rice and make rice affordable to our poor, let us also make sure that those uplands aside from the high value crops like vegetables, we also plant upland rice because we need that to feed our people, to feed the hungry and the poor.

Monching was talking about legacy. And I'm glad that you think of legacy not just of what will happen today or tomorrow. Through the end of our terms, let us aim to provide political stability, continued economic growth and sustainable peace and order. And i know that patrol cars, fire trucks and ambulances are important for political stability, peace and order and sustained economic growth (applause).

So, we shall help you there as much as we can but, our commitment to the provincial chapter is one of each of these (applause). But as I said, it doesn't stop us from making sure that all municipalities will eventually have at least one of these as we have been trying to do all these years from 2001. In fact, Gwen told me that she's taking a big burden away from me because she's providing all the municipalities of Cebu with these needs (applause).

The important thing is let us not let the nation slip into election year instability. Let us do what we can to make this next three years an era of peace, re-assurance and hope.

Let us assure the people that we lead with a steady hand to guide the nation. Let us not falter in keeping our hand on the tiller of the ship of state, because that ship of state at the end of the day depends on how steady the different municipalities are. I've always said that the hardest job after a president is a mayor. (applause) with due respect to governors like Gwen, I really think that mayors have a very very hard job because you're the ones in the frontline and I sympathize with you and I try my best to help you.

So, I hope that (applause) as we move along, I hope that at the end of the day, you will be able to say that you have provided what your people expected of you or what the people deserve from you– an honest, hardworking government because you strengthened your institution with the good use of your IRA and because we had a good cooperation between the national and the municipal governments.

Maraming salamat and have a very successful assembly here in Cebu (applause).

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Annual General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135813/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2261&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Local Peace and Security Assembly (LPSA)-CALABARZON (Region IV-A)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Local Peace and Security Assembly (LPSA)-CALABARZON (Region IV-A)**

[Delivered at the Villa Escudero Plantation and Resort, San Pablo City, Laguna, November 29, 2007]

Maraming salamat Secretary Bert Gonzales sa iyong pag-imbita at sa iyong pag-organisa nitong ating peace and security assembly. Maari na ho kayong umupo.

Gusto kong batiin... Wala kasi si Governor Lazaro dito, out of the country pero ang nagho-host tuloy ay ang ating bagong Chairman ng Regional Development Council, si Governor Raffy Nantes (applause) at ang ating host mayor, si Mayor Umali. Maraming salamat. (applause) Actually, malaki kasi ang Villa Escudero, ang pinaka-host natin si Mayor Vic Amante. (applause)

Gusto ko rin batiin ang ating mga kinatawan na narito ngayon, si Congresswoman Ivy Arago, ang ating host congresswoman; (applause) Si Congressman Procy Alcala, yung... (applause) kasi hindi ba ang Villa Escudero bahagi noon sa inyo, kaya dalawa ang host natin; at nandito rin si Congressman Dan Fernandez; (applause) si Congressman Mark Mendoza; (applause) si Congressman Mark Enverga na kamukhang-kamukha ng nanay; (laughter) at lahat ng mga local chief executives natin na narito, napakarami. Nandito rin yung ating mga leader ng sandatahang lakas at saka ng kapulisan, pati na rin yung mga leader ng ating mga importanteng ngo at people's organizations. Sa inyong lahat, mga minamahal kong kababayan, magandang umaga at congratulations! Sa inyong assembly. At salamat sa mga ulat na ibinigay ninyo sa akin, Sister, ngayong umaga.

Malinaw at walang duda na magkapatid ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran na hindi mapaghihiwalay. Kaya naman bahagi ng malawakan at palagiang paglago at pag-unlad ng lipunan ang lahat ng ating pagsisikap upang maging payapa at ligtas ang taong-bayan.

Layunin dapat natin ang pag-iral ng kapayapaang dinidilig ng kaunlaran. Magpursige tayo upang maging panatag ang taong-bayan laban sa mga terorista na hangad ipataw sa atin ang kanilang marahas na ugali, at laban din sa mga rebelde na humahadlang sa kaunlaran.

Dito sa buong CALABARZON, tuluy-tuloy ang pagwawagi ng ating sandatahang lakas at kapulisan laban sa mga rebelde sa rehiyong ito. Subalit ibig ng mamamayan natin na malutas ang suliraning ito sa lalong madaling panahon. Hindi natin dapat hayaang maging sagabal ang isang bigong ideolohiya sa kaunlaran at pagsulong ng sambayanan. (applause)

Hangad nating mawakasan sa taong 2010 ang pag-aalsa sa rehiyong ito, lalo na sa lalawigan ng Quezon, kung saan alam natin naroon ang pinaka-aktibong mga rebelde. Pero ako ay nasisiyahan na narinig kay Raffy Nantes at kay Procy Alcala na medyo nagwagi na tayo doon. Matagal na nga hindi natin naririnig yung tinig ng kanilang tiga-spokesman na ang kanyang kuta ay naroon sa Quezon. Kaya congratulations! Sa ating mga taga Quezon. (applause) eh congratulations! Sa lahat, kino-congratulate natin sa Quezon dahil doon ang pinakamabagsik pero sabi ni Raffy ay nananalo na.

Hindi hihinto ang ating mga kawal sa pagtugis ng mga kalabang kapit-tuko sa komunismo. Ngunit sa mga dating rebelde at tagasuporta nila na ibig magbalik-loob sa panig ng batas, alok natin ang bukas-palad na kapayapaan sa pamamagitan ng malawakang amnestiya na ating idineklara in our new paradigm for peace. At a time when hard power has not proven its value in the world, our model for dealing with the insurgency has focused on a combination of soft and hard power to promote peace.

Dapat din magdala ng pagkain sa mesa ang ating pagsusulong ng kapayapaan at kaunlaran, sampu ng mga serbisyong pangkalusugan, mahusay na edukasyon para sa mga anak at apo, hanapbuhay, pag-iral ng batas laban sa krimen at hustisya sosyal. Yung hustisya sosyal, sabi ko nga kay Bert Gonzales nung pinakikinggan ko yung ulat ni Sister ay umpisa, gitna at patapos ang pag-uusap ay karapatang pangtao.

At naalala ko nung ako ay nagpunta sa ganitong asembliya rin doon sa Eastern Samar sa Borongan at bago nagkaroon ng... Ah, hindi. Hindi pala doon. Ang asembliya nasa Tacloban pero bago nun dumaan ako ng Eastern Samar at nag lunch sa mga official at dumating yung bagong obispo na the day before lang siya na-install bilang obispo. Di nagbigay ang report yung ating mga sundalo at yung ating mga pulis tungkol sa ginagawa nila kontra sa krimen at kontra sa rebelyon dahil ang Eastern Samar din ay parang Quezon dati. Pero ngayon yung Borongan na ang dami-daming influenced barangays nung 2003 zero na ngayon ang influenced barangay.

So, ang kuwento ng obispo sabi niya, narinig niya na ang dahilan kung bakit humina ng husto ang kaliwa doon sa Eastern Samar, sabi niya, ay dahil mababait daw ang mga sundalo. (applause)

At doon din sa Surigao del Sur kung saan yun din ang pinakamabagsik na lugar doon sa sentro de grabidad din yun ng insurgency hindi pa tayo nagkakaroon ng peace and security assembly doon dahil ang huwaran ng pagsugpo sa rebelyon ay doon sa butuan diocese. Pero nagpunta rin ako sa Surigao del Sur at nag report din yung... Doon din ang pinakakuta ng rebelyon doon sa banda roon, rineport din ng commander yung kanyang mga ganansiya kontra sa rebelyon. At sa kanilang paglaban umaabot sila sa mga liblib na matagal hindi naaabutan ng pamahalaan, naging mukha tuloy ng pamahalaan ang ating mga sundalo at sila ang pinagbigyan ng mga daing ng taong-bayan, kinekuwento ng mga tao sa mga liblib na barangay na wala pala silang gamot at nagtataka ako dahil meron naman tayong barangay... Botika sa barangay. Pero dahil nakaabot sa atin itong impormasyong ito sa pamamagitan ng ating mga sundalo nakaabot sa pinakamalayong mga sitio ay nagkakaroon tayo ng programa ngayon doon sa malalayong lugar, malalayong sitio ng malalayong barangay.

Sa madaling salita, ang ating patakaran, patakaran ng ating sandatahang lakas, kapulisan at buong pamahalaan ay ang pagrespeto sa karapatang pangtao. Hindi natin patakaran ang political killings. In fact, doon sa U.N. Assembly on Human Rights may mga sampung mga bansa at magugulat kayo sa listahan ng mga bansang yun na ayaw magtanggap ng rapporteur ng United Nations. Tayo ang isa sa mga kunting-konting tumatanggap ng rapporteur. Nauna pa nga tayo kaysa sa Myanmar na hanggang ngayon ay nahihirapan pa rin yung pagpasok ng rapporteur on human rights.

Kaya bukas tayo sa pagsusubaybay at bukas din tayo sa tulong na makapagbibigay sa atin ng mabisang paraan sa imbestigasyon at prosekusyon para umabot sa konbiksyon ang mga maysala. Yung mga sundalo o mga pulis na sangkot hindi natin ino-otorga yun. At meron na tayong mga napreso, meron nang mga napo-prosecute, meron na yatang pati na-convict kaya sabi ko kay Bert Gonzales — at sayang wala si sonny razon dito dahil siya ang head ng task force usig — pero if you can give the information, jess versoza, gusto ko na ipakita ninyo sa press conference, Bert, yung mga dato ng mga pulis at mga sundalo na hinuli at kinasuhan dahil sa paglabag ng karapatang pangtao.

Dahil nobenta'y nueve porsiyento ng ating mga sundalo at pulis ay gumagalang sa tao at karapatang pangtao. Yung maliit na porsiyento o porsiyento ng porsiyento yun hindi natin ino-otorga, at kinakasuhan at pinaparusahan natin sila. Kaya yung first, middle and last recommendation ko, Sister, we are very very much internally in accordance with you.

Nagpupugay rin tayo sa pagkukusa ng department of national defense upang itigil ang mga opensiba noong nakaraang bagyo at sa gayon matutukan ng mga sundalo ang pagsasaklolo at pagbangon ng taong-bayan matapos ang bagyo. Yun namang... Dahil importante na makaabot ang pagkain sa taong-bayan, yung 'tindahan natin' eto ang pinakamahalagang sistema natin upang maghatid ng murang bigas para sa mga mahihirap. Maraming 'tindahan natin' ang nasa lalawigan ng Quezon, dahil ang Quezon — at hindi ito nakakagulat — isang dahilan kung bakit ito ang pinakakuta ng mga rebelde sa CALABARZON, eto na ang pinakamahirap na probinsiya sa CALABARZON gawa nang pinakamalayo. May dalawang daan at limampung tindahan na raw sa Quezon.

Ngayon itong Quezon gusto ko lang magbigay ng isang konting kuwento. Aking mga paalala nung ako ay undersecretary ng trade and industry at namamahala ako ng policy and planning. Nung na-promote ako bilang undersecretary, ang proyektong ito ay tawag CALABA (Cavite-Laguna- Batangas) gawa nang si Congressman Ding Tanjuatco ay nag lobby para sa Rizal ay naging CALABAR. Pagkatapos di yung mga official ng mga Quezon ay lumapit naman sa akin at sinabi sana naman isama rin ang Quezon. Di sinabi ko kasi itong mga infrastructure bakit tayo gumagawa ng masterplan para mapondohan ng hapon yung mga imprastruktura natin. Eh yung mula CALABA hanggang CALABAR naku! Matagal pumunta sa hapon, pinag-aralan muli ng mga official, buwan-buwan or taon pa nga yung umabot pero bago ako, yun nung ako umabot yung Quezon na ang pinakikiusapan sa akin ng mga official.

Eh di binalik ko sa Board of Investments, dahil member of the board ako ng Board of Investments, sabi ko, isama natin yung Quezon sa CALABARZON. Ay sagot nila pati yung funding agency kung humaba ng taon ang pagdagdag ng Rizal na hindi naman gaano kalayo ang proyektong CALABA eh hahaba na naman ang pag-aaral bago lumabas na naman ang pondo kung gagawin niyong... Isasama ang Quezon. Pero alam ko... Naalala ko ang sinagot ko, ilan dekada nang naghihintay ang Quezon para sa kaunlaran, siguro kung ilang buwan o kahit isang taon pwede maghintay. Kaya nasama yun, kaya ngayon ito ay CALABARZON. (applause) kaya nila nadagdag yung marikina-infanta road kasi yun ang paraan kung papano ang Quezon ay magiging bahagi nitong CALABA na supposed to be an industrial area.

A leader must be driven by a strong vision for the nation and the determination to deliver a better life. We're driven by our faith in god and our faith in the people of this nation.

Siya nating layunin ang makaabot ang ating bayan sa antas ng mga maunlad na bansa sa unang daigdig sa loob ng dalawampung taon. At tama yung sinabi ni Sister, etong CALABARZON ang pinakapareho sa first world sa buong Pilipinas. Sinasabi nga nila yung productivity ng Filipino ay medyo mababa. Pero sabi ng mga investors, sa nakikita nila, hindi. Kasi nakikita nila yung mga manggagawa sa mga pabrika ng CALABARZON ay kasing galing o mas magaling pa sa manggagawa ng ibang lugar. Ang problema natin ay produktibidad sa agrikultura. Yun ang nagpapababa ng ating average pero yun naman ay more or less problema ng north Luzon at saka ng Mindanao gawa ng ito ay mas lalong lumalawak ang industriya dito sa CALABARZON.

At upang mabilang ang Pilipinas sa antas ng mga first world kailangan palaganapin ang matipunong middle-class, kailangan ng world class infrastructure kaya tama rin yung linagay sa mga panukala sa inyong resolusyon at kailangan ng malalakas na institusyon ng pamahalaan.

Yet, in the near term, we must address the very real issues of hunger and poverty that affects us now.

Totoo ang CALABARZON ang pinaka-kaitsura ng first world. Ako pag pumupunta ako sa Tagaytay, pag dumadaan ako sa santa rosa, naku! Parang turista ako, tinitigan ko yung mga pabrika, ang ganda-ganda. Pero ayon din sa inyong papel kanina dito rin naman ang napakalaking pagkahiwalay, agwat sa mayayaman at mahihirap. At dito rin ang isa sa pinakamalaking unemployment gawa ng kung saan-saan sila nanggagaling dahil nababasa nila, naririnig nila, napapanuod sa telebisyon na maraming investor dito pupunta sila dito. Eh sa dami nang pumupunta kahit na may mga bagong trabahong lumalabas hindi pa rin ma- accommodate lahat, nahihiya namang umuwi uli, sasabihin na wala silang nahanap na trabaho. So, dito na nananatili, nagiging informal settler o squatter at nagiging unemployed.

Kaya pagbawas sa kahirapan ang layuning nangingibabaw.

We get up every day and fight in behalf of the average, hardworking Filipino. Kaya hindi rin ako halos makatulog nang pinuntahan ako ni Congressman Ivy Arago isang araw, isang gabi actually, nag-dinner kami dahil yung franklin baker raw ay aalis na ng san pablo. Ang blessing na lamang doon, ang silver lining na lamang ay hindi aalis para sa ibang bansa kundi aalis para sa Mindanao. So, naririnig ko naman doon sa mga taga-Mindanao, masaya naman daw sila dahil pupunta doon magkakaroon sila ng dagdag na trabaho. Kaya lang mababawasan ang trabaho dito.

Kaya nung nagpunta ako sa Singapore gawa nang ang may-ari ng franklin baker ay isa sa pinakamayamang Singaporean, dinala ko si ivy at habang ako ay nagkakaroon ng aking summit meeting, si Ivy naman ay nagkaroon ng kanyang summit meeting sa CEO ng Chem Oil na siya ang mother company ng Franklin Baker. Pero talagang sinabi na sa kanya ni Robert Chandran na talaga yung kanyang arithmetic ay talagang mas kikita sila sa Mindanao kaysa dito sa San Pablo gawa nang Mindanao mas maganda ang lupa, mas productive ang mga puno ng niyog at lahat. Ngunit dahil siguro sa charm ni Ivy, sabi ni Mr. Chandran, hindi bale maglalagay daw siya ng ibang klaseng investment dito pero hindi na agricultural investment kung hindi services investment. Possibly I.T. or possibly tourism kaya siya ay babalik dito para sa ganun ay hahanap ng kung ano ang dapat magawa para naman yung mawawalaan ng trabaho ay magkakaroon muli ng trabaho.

Kaya mamaya kung meron akong panahon hindi ako magso-socialize dito pagkatapos ng speech ko pupunta ako sa San Pablo sa Franklin Baker at kakausapin ko yung... Titignan ko yung... Talaga kakausapin ang mga tao, pag-usapan natin, tignan natin kung anong paghahanda ang kailangan nating gawin para sa kanila, para sa bagong trabahong dadating at papano natin tutulungan sila ng pagtawid in between the closure and the opening of the new investment na gagawin ng Chem Oil.

Kasi yan ang kailangan nating gawin at ito ay ginagawa natin all the time. Kaya naibaba na natin ng malaki ang lubos na kahirapan.

Those living in poverty have declined, but we must accelerate the trend to eliminate poverty more aggressively. That is why during the holiday season and beyond, we will do everything in our power to bring rice to those who need it most and work hard to protect the poor from high prices.

Rice is not only a staple for our people, it is symbolic of our ability to deliver on our promise to feed those less fortunate. We're committed to ensuring that the needy throughout our nation have access to affordable rice during this important holiday season. At itong Laguna bagamat sinasabi natin na ang dami-daming mga industriyang narito eto pa rin ang isa sa mga malalaking pinangagalingan ng ating bigas. Kaya importante pa rin na yung produktibidad ng agricultural workers ay maitaas natin.

Yung binanggit ninyong kailangan pabilisin ang imprastruktura, totoo yun. Mataas ang preyoridad ng pagpundar ng imprastruktura sa CALABARZON region, sapagkat industriya ang nagbubunsod ng paglago ng ekonomiya dito. Isa itong sentro ng industriya na kapantay ng mundo, at isa sa mga pusod ng ekonomiya ng buong bansa.

Walang hinto ang pagtayo natin ng imprastruktura at pagpapabilis upang makapantay itong rehiyon sa mga primera klaseng sentro ng industriya, kalakal at serbisyo sa mundo. Kabilang sa mga proyekto ang expressway mula metro manila hanggang Batangas Port, para makalabas ang produkto ninyo doon sa Batangas at hindi na kayo papasok ng traffic doon sa metro manila na nagbabawas ng competitiveness. Meron din yung Coastal Road hanggang Cavite, at yung Batangas Port nga ay napakaimportante kung gusto natin na yung pangangalakal ay competitive at yung ito naman ang pinapabilis yung pagdala ng crane, yung mga equipment para modern ang pagkarga ng mga gamit sa barko, yun ang ginagawa naman ng tatay ni Congressman Mark Mendoza. And tapos binanggit ko nga yung marikina-infanta road na napaka-strategic ito kung gusto natin na ang Quezon ay talagang maging bahagi ng industriya ng CALABARZON.

At nabanggit din ninyo doon sa... Hindi lang nabanggit, malaki ang... Mahaba ang sinabi rin niyo doon sa inyong resolution tungkol sa mga governance, transparency and fighting corruption.

The people deserve an honest, hardworking government just as they are honest and hardworking. And we do aim to stamp out corruption and set a new standard of governance for our nation. We recognize that corruption saps the lifeblood out of our political system and it must be stamped out.

Yung Presidential Anti-Graft Commission gumagawa ng mga lifestyle check, pero we cannot just do simplistic witch hunting expeditions. Our systems may have been largely responsible for corruption with their many loopholes and their propensity to discourage personal responsibility in the discharge of official functions. Kaya bahagi rin ginagawa ng pagc ay yung integrity development review.

Nagpupundar tayo sa pagsugpo sa katiwalian, paglutas ng mga anomaliya sa mga proseso at istraktura ng gobyerno, at pagbubunsad ng ating mga sistema bilang mga mekanismong pinagkakatiwalaan. Marami nang ahensiya ang nagpapatupad ng mga reporma sa kanilang mga sistema at proseso upang bawasan ang mga rekisitos. Pihadong maraming locator dito ang nakinabang sa mga sistemang mas makinis ang takbo, gayon din sa mga one-stop shop ng DTI na pinupuri kahit ng mga ibang bansa.

Nilikha natin ang Properformance System task Force upang subaybayan at itulak ang mga nabinbing proyekto sa imprastruktura. Ang mga LGU ay may kinatawan sa Task Force mula sa ulap. Kaya kung may naantalang mga proyektong dumaraan sa inyong mga komunidad, ipaalam agad sa Task Force. Palagay ko iniisip na nitong mga nandito, ah yung yung kalsada patungo sa Quezon kasi ma-traffic dito, di ba? At hindi ba meron tayong mga proyekto doon ngayon kung gaano kabilis yun bahala na kayong magsabi sa task force gaano kabilis o gaano kahina.

Iniatas rin natin sa Properformance Task Force at sa Procurement Transparency Group sa ilalim ng DBM na repasuhin ang lahat ng mga pangunahing proyektong kalsada at magbigay ng detalyadong ulat sa inyong lingkod. Kabilang ang mga kinatawan ng civil society sa Transparency Group na magbabantay ng pagkokontrata ng mga proyektong nagkakahalagang 100 million pesos at higit. Eto ay ating mga sagot dahil maraming mga sumbong tungkol sa mga ibat-ibang mga malalaking proyekto.

Public service is an honor that the people of our nation provide their leaders, expecting that those leaders will use that platform to deliver the programs and services needed to move our society forward. Kailangan maglatag ng matibay na pundasyon para sa malinis na halalan bilang saligan ng ating demokrasya.

We have long provided funds for computerization. We look forward to the modernization of voting, counting and canvassing. At matapos ang masusing pagtimbang, pagdating ng pebrero, magtatalaga tayo ng tagapamuno ng comelec na kilala sa karunungan, kakayahan at katapatan sa tungkulin, malamang isang dating mahistrado ng korte suprema.

The people can be assured that we lead with a steady hand to guide the nation to a new election and new national leadership. And through the end of my term, we aim to provide increased political stability, continued economic growth and sustainable peace and order. We will not let the nation slip into instability. We want this to be an era of peace, reassurance and hope.

Our goal is to leave this nation stronger and more stable. Pinalalakas din natin ang investment sa bansa at mamamayan sa larangan ng edukasyon, ang saligan ng magandang kabuhayan at malayang mamamayan, katarungan panlipunan at dangal ng tao.

Unity is a real aspiration that manifests itself through progress. The people want to know, are we strong? Are we stable?

Umaasa tayo na itong mga dumalo sa asembliyang ito, tayo ay tutugon lahat sa hamong ito.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Local Peace and Security Assembly (LPSA)-CALABARZON (Region IV-A). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135823/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2262&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during her meeting with the Filipino community in Madrid

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During her meeting with the Filipino community in Madrid**

[Delivered at the Colegio Nuestra Senora de las Maravillas, Madrid, Spain, December 2, 2007]

Maraming salamat Secretary Romulo sa iyong pagpakilala. Batiin ko rin si Mrs. Romulo. Maraming salamat Ambassador Bernardo sa lahat ng iyong ginagawa para sa ating mga Pilipino dito sa España.

Alam ninyo napakasayang makasama kayong muli. Mas marami pa nga kayo ngayon kesa noong dko'y narito noong isang taon. Maraming salamat. At salamat sa ating pagsasama dito at salamat sa mainit na pagtanggap na ibinigay ninyo sa inyong lingkod at sa aking buong delegasyon mula sa Pilipinas.

Mukhang napakasaya dito sa Madrid dahil ang darning mga Pilipino na dito!

Ang sabi ng Embajador natin sa España, si Lani Bernardo, halos umabot na ng limangpung libo ang bilang ng mga Pilipino na nakatira sa España. At salamat kung saan-saan kayo nanggaling. Napakalayong mga lugar ng Españapati mga teritoryo niya ay napuntakayo itong linggong ito, maraming salamat. Sabi rin ni Lani na halos lahat ng ating mga kababayan dito ay Spanish resident or Spanish citizen na. At may mga iba naman ay may dual citizenship na rin.

*Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan na noong 2003, nagawa na natin yung batas, yung **Citizenship Reacquisition and Retention Act**. At kayo dito ay napaka suwerte dahil kahit na meron tayong dual citizenship law, may mga bansa na ayaw na kung magiging Pilipino kayong muli mawawala na yung citizenship n'yo sa kanilang bansa. Pero dito pumapayag na magkaroon ng dual citizenship kahit na kayo ay nabigyan na ng Spanish citizenship.*

And we are happy to see firsthand, how you, our kababayan here in Spain, have integrated so well into Spanish society. You have contributed many positive benefits to your host country, you have earned the respect and affection of the Spanish people. *Kaya nga kanina sinasabi ni Ed Angara, kasi yung 300 na magtra-trabaho doon sa Andalucía ay dapat daw taga Aurora. Tapos sinasabi, nila nagbibiro sila dapat daw yung ipapadala yung mga hindi maganda kasi yung maganda raw ay hindi na uuwi dahil liligawan na ng mga kastila ditto. Kasi napaka-charming ang mga Pilipino ditto sa España. Kaya lang sabi ni Ed, wala naman daw pangit sa Aurora kaya ang dadating ditto ay magaganda pa rin. Anyway we feel very proud of your achievements here in Spain.*

And of course we know that over a century ago, Spain was also a haven, there was also a Filipino community here, the best minds and talents of the Philippines. At that time, we had a Filipino community in this country, it was probably the very first organized Filipino community abroad. *Kaya napakagiting ang inyong tradisyon — ang tradisyon ng Filipino community dito.*

Noon kilala na ang talento, ngayon kilala pa rin ang talento ng mga Pilipino dito. Kaya dahil kilala ang inyong talento madaling makapasok sa España. Halimbawa, iyong mga enhinyerong binanggit ni Lani, nandito ba sila? yung mga enhinyerong kukuha...ayun, kayo, congratulations ha. Apatnapu kinukuha ng Kastilang kompanyang Grupo Tecnicas Reunidas para ihanda yung engineering design para sa isang malaking proyekto sa Middle East. So congratulations sa inyong lahat.

At siyempre noong isang taon, binanggit din ni Lani nakilala natin yung unang grupo, isang daan muna at dalawampung Pilipinong caregivers, na pumarito, sino yung nandito noong isang toon sa mga caregiver? Ayun, kumusta kayo muli? O masaya kayo ha. Pumunta kayo rito sa pilot project upang tingnan kung mabisa ang pag-employo ng mga skilled Filipino caregivers sa bansang ito. So 130 nung isang toon, ilan na ngayon? 480 na

kinikwento ni Lani napanay puri ang natanggap ng ating embahada mula sa Ministry of Labor ng España tungkol sa pilot project na ito. At dahil dito, gaya rin nang sabi ni Lani, gustong-gusto ng Pamahalaang Kastila na ituloy niyang palawakin pa, para kumuha ng higit ng ating mga caregivers at nurses para dito sa España.

La estracha relación entre nuestros países también se manifiesta en la presencia de ustedes la gran comunidad Filipina aquí en España. Estamos orgullosos de vuestros logros y vuestras contribuciones a este país. Asimismo reconocemos vuestro papel vital en el forjamiento de los vínculos personales más estrechos entre los pueblos Filipinos y Españoles.

Overseas Filipinos like you are honored by the government and the people for your sacrifice and your dedication to your work, your family and our nation. And we welcome your contribution.

Alam nyo kanina sa Lourdes, pinag-uusapan namin yung sa obispo yung mga Filipino overseas workers. At sinabi pa nga sa sermon nung pari na kilalang-kilala ang mga Filipino sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Europa at mahal na mahal ang mga Pilipino. Kaya pinag-uusapan namin kanina, sampung porsiyento ng Pilipino ay nasa labas kasi 85 million ang Pilipino, 8 million ang nasa labas. Pareho raw ito ng porsiyento ng Portugal, sampung porsiyento rin ng mga taga Portugal ay nasa labas. Higit pa ng porsiyento ng New Zealand, 25 percent ng mga taga New Zealand ay nasa labas ng New Zealand. Kaya lang ikinuwento sa akin ng Prime Minister nila ang diperensiya, yung 25 percent ng New Zealand ay mga yuppies, pinapadalhan pa ni mom and pop mula sa New Zealand ng dagdag na allowance kung nasaan sila. Pero kayo, kayo ang nagpapadala doon sa ating bansa.

But we're working towards the day when Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job. We're working for the day when overseas work will be just another career option and not the only choice a hard working Filipino has to earn a living.

Kanina binanggit noon gating Filipino community yung ilang mga reporma na ginagawa natin para nga dumami ang inyong trabaho. And we firmly believe that our ambitious economic reforms will help break the offshore cycle and will increasingly be keeping our best and brightest right in the Philippines, closer to friends and families, helping to build our communities and providing the next generation of leadership.

Alam ninyo sabi nila, kung gusto nating sugpuin ang kahirapan sa isang bansa, kailangan mga pitong taon na 7 percent ang growth rate. Noong araw an gating growth rate kung nagpapa-five percent tayo, nagse-celebrate na tayo. Kaya ang ginawang ambisyon n gating administrasyon na by the end of my term in 2010, makaabot tayo sa 7 percent. Pero sa awa ng Panginoon, 2007 pa lamang nakaabot na tayo sa 7 percent.

Siyempre malaking kontribusyon na dito ay yung mga overseas Filipinos na hindi umaasa sa mom and pap back home at sa halip nagpapaaral pa nang susunod na henerasyon

We've been working with the Central Bank of the Philippines to raise what they call the financial literacy of overseas Filipinos and your families. We advocate that financial freedom doesn't stop at having enough funds to sustain your family's basic needs. But it's good if you will accumulate sufficient savings and turn this hard-earned money into solid capital. We've been promoting a culture of savings and encouraging overseas Filipinos and your families to channel your savings into investments.

Alam ninyo itong 8 million na numero ng Filipino, ganoon na iyon noong nagsimula ako nung 2001, ganoon pa rin ngayon, 8 million. Kasi habang lumalabas, merong umuuwi. And... meron kasing note pero hindi na. Papaliwanag ko mamaya kung bakit. Anyway, habang may umuuwi, may lumalabas, may umuuwi. Kaya 8 million noon, 8 million pa rin ngayon. Pero noong nagsimula ako, naabutan kong remittances 7 billion dollars. Ngayon 13 billion dollars na. Same number halos doble ang pinauwi. Kaya talagang ang laki ng kontribusyon ninyo sa ating bansa.

And today, your remittances are increasingly being used towards investments in human resource capital *kasi gaya nang sabi ko kanina ay pinapaaral ninyo yung mga kamag-anak ninyo, kaya kung sasabihin nila na may braindrain, meron naman kayong sinusuportahang kapalit na edukasyon doon sa ating bansa*; healthcare also for your families; physical capital because you acquire real properties, including land purchases and home construction; in fact, *ano*

nga ba yung porsiyentong sabi nila na ang ating real estate boom ngayon. Kung pupunta kayo sa Pilipinas makikita ninyo na panay construction ang nagyayari, marami doon ay government construction, pero kahit natayo ay nagpapagawa ng mga kalsada, lumiliit naman ang ating deficit, hindi lumalaki. Dahil sa reporma ng ating mga congressmen at senador, tumaas ang buwis pero nilalagay naman natin sa imprastraktura para hindi na masyadong kailangang umutang. Pero marami din sa construction ay yung mga bahay, condominium units. At sabi ng mga real estate companies, 40 percent ng kanilang real estate market ay nanggagaling sa overseas Filipinos kaya ang laki-laki ng kontribusyon ninyo sa ating housing sa Pilipinas.

And more Filipinos abroad are also investing in financial and capital investment. Maraming mga Filipino nag-i-invest na ngayon sa stock market. Kaya kanina sa pagka-intindi ko sabi ni Lani Bernardo, nagpunta na nga dito si Francis Lim, ayun, tapos ka na ba Francis sa iyong presentation, ang Pangulo ng Philippine Stock Exchange para ipahayag sa ating mga Filipinos overseas yung mga benepisyo ng pag-invest sa stock market natin sa Pilipinas na napaka-masigasig ngayon, one of the best performing stock markets in the world today. At marami rin sa inyo, nagpopondo na ng mga small and medium enterprises ng inyong mga kamag-anak.

Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan, not only do we have in this visit Francis Lim of the Philippine Stock Exchange, I have the opportunity to thank you, magpasalamat sa inyo that aside from the benefits of investing in the Philippine stock market, you also invest in direct investment for the small and medium enterprises of your families.

Kanina doon sa pahayag ng inyong suporta sa inyong lingkod, hindi lamang ninyo binanggit yung mga magagandang mga programa na nakakatulong sa inyo, binanggit din ninyo yung ligalig na nangyari nung isang araw. At salamat sa inyong suportang pinahayag sa inyong lingcod

At gusto kong ipaalam sa inyo mga minamahal kong kababayan, panatag at matiwasay ang sitwasyon sa Pilipinas ngayon. Mabisa at mabilis ang pagresolba nung ligalig sa Makati. At isang gabi lamang iyong curfew. Bumalik na ang tao sa karaniwang gawain. Normal na ang takbo ng Makati at ng buong bansa na rin.

Narapat maging magaan ang inyong kalooban, kalooban ng taong bayang Pilipinas na malakas at matatag ang mga institusyon ng ating pamahalaan at lipunang sibil Ipinagtatangol ng gobyerno ang taong bayan at nagtataguyod ng kaayusan at katatagan.

Nakita natin noong isang araw, nanaig ang rule of law. And I can assure that the transgressors will not hold our nation hostage with impunity. Paparusahan sila ng buong higpit ng katarungan. Justice shall be served and the interests of the people upheld.

At muli, sino ang naging bayani? Muli ang mga bayani ay yung mga bayaning tahimik, yung mga masisipag gaya ninyo, yung mga makabansa gaya ninyo, yung mga may malasakit na Pilipino gaya ninyo, yung mga tumalikod doon sa labis na kabaliwan kagaya ninyo. Maraming salamat sa sinabi ninyo, hindi n'yo sinusuportahan iyon.

And so once again let me thank you for being such heroes. Thank you for continuing to be a valuable member of both the Philippine and the Spanish community.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [off] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during her meeting with the Filipino community in London

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During her meeting with the Filipino community in London**

[Delivered at the Dorchester Hotel London, England, December 5, 2007]

Maraming salamat Ambassador Espiritu, sa iyong napakagandang pagpapakilala sa akin at yung mga napakagandang ulat mo tungkol sa Filipino Community dito at saka yung mga ginagawa ng ating embahada.

Ako ay labis na nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat. Magandang gabi. Salamat sa inyong mainit na pagtanggap. Salamat sa inyong malasakit na paghihintay dahil huli ang aming pagdating mula sa España. Thank you for all being here. Babatiin ko rin si Mrs. Espiritu. Masayang-masaya kami na nakapunta kayo dito ngayong gabi. Hindi ito linggo kaya kailangan after office hours ang ating miting. Alam ko bukas magta-trabaho na naman kayo kaya mas doble ang aking pagpapasalamat na naghintay kayo sa akin.

And well I was here last September, some of us saw each other. We are visiting Europe and we have to visit Europe to advance Philippine foreign policy through high level deliberations with our allies abroad. Our national security is central to our economic security – to generate foreign investments, create jobs and expand economic opportunity to every province of our great archipelago. To that end, we are being aggressively engaged with businessmen and women to continue to invest in our country.

The Philippines takes its global responsibilities seriously, from ASEAN to providing peace forces to global hotspots around the world. We believe in our commitment to be a true global citizen to advance the cause of human rights, economic progress and mutual security to secure global peace.

And our European allies are part of our history and part of our future.

Pinag-uusapan nga natin parati yung lalo na galing ako sa España, parati pinag-uusapan yung apatnadaang taon na nandoon sila. At eto ang mga henerasyon naman natin, naalala natin, yung mga tatay natin, yung mga kwento nila tungkol naman sa mga Amerikano, pero actually pati Ingletera, tatlong taon nandoon sa Pilipinas nung panahon ng mga Kastila.

So we have to continue to reach out to our European allies and let them know about the great strides forward we have made in the Philippines.

Sabi ni Ambassador Espiritu na ang Filipino community sa U.K. ay tuloy-tuloy ang paglaki sa mga nakaraang taon. Hindi lamang dahil ang daming pumapasok na mga nurses dahil siguro if they would have one million Filipino nurses here they would, pero konti lang ang mabibigay ng ating bansa at nakapasok pa ang mga pamilya. Tapos gaya nang sabi ni Ed, ang naipapanganak dito. Kaya lumalaki ng lumaki ang ating Philippine community. Di ba Ed, nung nandito ako ng Septiembre, anong sabi mo yung paglaki nila in the last five years from 50,000 it's now 200,000 in the last five years. Our OFW's are our day-to-day ambassadors to the U.K. and always, you are part of our agenda.

As I've said very often, you must have heard me say this before but I must say it again, we honor and value the contribution of our overseas workers for your sacrifice and dedication to your work, your family and our nation.

Sampung porsiyento ng ating mga Filipino ay nasa labas. Ganun din ang Portugal, sampung porsiyento ng mga Portuguese ay nasa labas. Yung New Zealand, 25 percent ng kanilang population ay nasa labas. Pero ikinuwento mismo ng mga opisyal ng New Zealand sa akin, ang kaibahan ng mga overseas Filipinos at overseas New Zealand,

yung mga lumalabas mula sa New Zealand mga yuppies. Kaya mom and pap in New Zealand, nagpapadala pa ng dagdag na allowance. Pero yung mga Pilipino, maging yuppies o maging mas matanda, nagpapadala sa Pilipinas. Kaya yun ang kaibahan.

Alam natin na ang manirahan sa ibang bayan ay hindi lamang masagana at masaya. Siyempre, meron tayong mga successful. Marami sa ating mga nurses successful. Yung ating mga chef, biro mo, executive chef ng mga malalaki at kilalang establishment, successful. Pero meron din tayong mga kababayan na humaharap sa pagsubok. Nangunguna dito yung binanggit ni Ed Espiritu kanina na kinuwento sa akin yung trabaho ng mga senior carers na humaharap sa mga bagong patakaran ng bansang ito.

Danil dito, inaatasan ko si Ambassador Espiritu na ipagpatuloy ang pakikipag-ugnay ng ating gobyerno, pati na rin ako, ang inyong lingkod, at ating mga congressmen ang pag-usap sa mga parliamentarians bukas sa mga iba't ibang opisyal ng U.K. upang mabigyan tugon ang problemang dinadanas ng ating mga senior carers. Kaya ito ay isang malaking agenda natin sa pag-uusap bukas. At sana makatulong.

But I'm proud to say that our ambitious reforms are helping to break the offshore cycle and supporting an economy that is growing at its fastest pace in 20 years, 7 percent itong taong ito so far. The economic gains we are seeing now are paving the way for the day when Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job, and the day when overseas work is just another career option and not the only choice you have to earn a living. We've created 6 million jobs, new jobs in the last 6 years. By continuing down this path, we will increasingly be keeping our best and brightest right in the Philippines, close to friends and families, helping to build our communities and provide the next generation of leadership.

We've been looking forward to meeting you our hardworking OFWs on this trip. *Kaya naman ito sa ating biyahe sa Inglatera, kayo ang unang-unang agenda item. Doon din sa España, sila rin ang unang-unang miniting ko bago yung opisyal ng España.*

At nasisiyahan akong iulat sa inyo na ang ating bansa ay nananatili sa landas patungong kaunlaran ng ekonomiya. Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, or cut down on tax cheats, or sorry ha pag-usapan natin mamayang konti, strengthen the peso, and no one thought we could move the stock market. And no one thought we could bring down our budget deficit. No one thought we could pay our debts, and certainly not before they are due and no one thought we could raise employment, all that was ... six years ago, but we have.

At itong lumalakas na piso, the fact that we even have to discuss the rising peso, is a positive reflection on the strength of the economy. *Kasi otherwise, humihina naman ang piso anung ibig sabihin noon. At para sa inyong mga pamilya sa Pilipinas, kasi tumataas ang presyo ng langis sa mundo. Eh tayo naman umaasa tayo sa importasyon ng langis para sa ating gasolina. Pero dahil malakas ang ating piso, kahit na ang lakas ng pag-akyat ng presyo ng langis sa buong mundo, pagdating naman sa presyo ng gasolina sa Pilipinas at transportasyon ay hindi gaano ang pagtaas. Kaya yung mga jeepneys, mga buses, mga taxi drivers at operators ay naiintindihan nila, nauunawaan nila, na hindi natin sila so far binibigyan ng rate increase.*

Anyway, that said, we have one of the world's best central banks and one of the world's best Central Banker si Sy Tetangco, at siya ay nananalo ng mga premyo Best Central Banker in the World and we continue to trust him to continue to manage our macroeconomic fundamentals.

Siguro marami sa inyo alam n'yo, the Central Bank is constitutionally, *hindi naman* constitutionally, legally independent. *Gumawa kami ng batas, gumawa'tayong batas nung panahon.... yung mga thrird termers dito, fourth termers or... the Central Bank is by law independent nung araw Hindu Nung araw yung Central Bank ang chairman Secretary of Finance kaya under the Office of the President. Pero gumawa ng bagong batas, kailangan independent* so we cannot influence the decisions of the Central Bank. But in any case, I want to assure you we are mindful of the impact on our overseas workers of a strong peso as you send remittances home. And we are working on ways to mitigate the impact of the peso on your families' incomes.

For one thing, *tiningnan lalo na yung mga domestic helpers ganun. Hinanap ng Department of Labor kung saan nanggagaling sila at doon pumupunta ang Department of Labor para magbigay ng espesyal na programa para sa mga pamilya ng mga OFWs.* And like what Ambassador Espiritu said, for OFWs and your families, it's very important that you keep or even enhance your financial freedom during this time of a rising peso. And financial freedom does not stop at having enough funds to sustain a family's basic necessities. Accumulating savings is part of financial freedom, sufficient savings and turning this hard-earned money into solid capital that is equally important. So we encouraged OFWs and your families to save and channel their savings into investments.

And that is why I'm glad that today, remittances are increasingly being used towards investments in human resource capital through education and healthcare for beneficiaries. *Sabi nga nila hindi ba kayo nagkakaroon ng braindrain sa dami ng lumalabas na talented overseas Filipinos? Actually, yung mga lumalabas na talented na Filipinos ay nagpapadala muli ng pera sa pamilya para mag-aral yung mga mga pamangkin, mga anak kaya nire-replace yung braindrain na yun.* And also overseas Filipinos we noticed are also now investing in physical capital acquiring real properties, including land purchases and home construction, *yung mga construction firms, yung mga housing developers, ang kwento nila sa inyong lingkod ay lumalawak ng lumalawak ang kanilang negosyo dahil kwarenta porsiyento na mga binebenta nilang mga tahanan ay binibenta sa mga OFWs. Ganun ang laki ng inyong tulong.* And now there is also financial and capital investments. For thing, *maraming OFWs pinopondohan and small and medium enterprises ng mga kamag-anak. Pero ngayon marami na rin akong naririnig, nai-interview na OFWs na nag-i-invest sa ating financial instruments. Kaya nga si Francis Lim, ang pangulo ng Stock Exchange ay pumunta dito upang ipaliwanag sa ating mga OFWs na yan ang isang napaka-gandang paraan kung paano lumaki ang inyong pinapadala sa inyong mga pamilya sa ating bansa.* And we hope this trend will continue.

Today as I said, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. And investments are pouring in, real investments or direct investments and our stock market has reached historic heights. *Ano ba Francis, narinig ko sa Umabot ng 4200 na ba yung ano.....3800, so pinakamataas, sa buong kasaysayan natin.* And the world is taking notice, I believe the Philippines offers one of the best values in Asia for domestic and foreign investors.

The surge of investments has been anchored by the announcement of several major international companies that we call the Billion Dollar Club, including Texas Instruments, pinili ng Texas Instruments, wafer fabrication sa Clark *yun ang pinili nila at hindi yung Tsina dahil sa marami silang nagustuhan sa ating bansa. Yung Hanjin ng Korea nagtayo ng shipyard ng 1.6 billion dollars sa Subic, katatapos lang nila, kaka-deliver ng mga unang barko, ngayon nagtatayo ng pangalawang shipyard, doon pa nila gagawin ang components na binibili ngayon abroad, at saan nila ilalagay? Doon sa Mindanao, sa Ozamis Oriental. Yung Marubeni bumili ng 3.5 billion dollars worth of power plants at mag-e-expand pa ng kanilang Quezon power plant by half a billion dollars. At dito sa Londres, yung pamilya Mittal, may-ari ng global steel sa Pilipinas ay maglalagay ng 1.6 billion dollars para sa Integrated Steel Mill. In fact, kakausapin ko si Mr. Mittal bukas para pag-usapan yung pangangailangan para bumilis ang kanyang investments. Kaya kasama ko yung mayor ng Iligan City para masigurado na yung investment climate sa Iligan ay maganda.*

And these kinds of investments are happening across the board in a number of industries. We're working to ensure this will be sustained. We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, healthcare and training along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines.

We take great pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. I'm very focused like a laser beam. *Ano mang mababasa n'yo sa headlines, I'm focused on the economy. We will not sacrifice long term gains for short term political expediency.*

Pag-usapan natin ng konti yung politika. Iyong nangyari sa Manila Peninsula noong isang lingo, nakita n'yo naman sa telebisyon. It's clear that the actions of these few desperate men reveal just how out of touch they are with the hopes and dreams of the average Filipino. Alam n'yo, more than anybody else that Filipinos want political stability, a bright economic future and social justice. The actions of these misguided men undermine each and every one of the genuine aspirations of real Filipinos. Instead of working to bring the nation together by working within our democratic process, their actions merely are fuel for selfish motives and for personal gain.

But in the end, the rule of law prevailed. The transgressors will not hold this nation hostage with impunity. They will be punished to the full extent of the law. Justice shall be served and the interests of the people upheld.

Yung pag-usapan natin yung rule of law. The trial and conviction of the former president was a major step forward for the rule of law in the Philippines. It proved that no one is above the law when it comes to meting out punishment, including former presidents.

I honored the request for pardon because I believe it was in the country's interest. It was a tough choice, but I have never been one to shy away from making tough choices when it comes to moving the nation forward. Now, I believe it is time to put this black chapter in our country's history behind us and concentrate on what is really important for our people, which is to ensure that all Filipinos benefit from the fruits of our economic progress.

Gaya ng mga migrante, marami sa mga migranteng Pilipinong naghanap ng kanilang tagumpay sa ibang bansa, yung sinabi nga ni Ed Espiritu kanina nauunawaan ko yung kalagayan ng marami sa inyo na yung mga anak ay apo ay ipinanganak, pinalaki at pinaaral dito sa U.K. biro mo between U.K. and Ireland six Filipinos are being born everyday. Kaya meron na tayong mga second and even third generations of Filipinos. We hope that our second and third generation kababayans would continue to develop their identity and pride as Filipinos. Sabi ni Ambahador Espiritu, na yung ating embahada sa Londres, kasama na ang ating mga organisasyong Pilipino na pinamumunuan ninyo ay nagpapairal ng mga gawain na bibigyang pagkakataon ng ating mga kasaping pangalawa at pangatlong henerasyon na matutunan ang ating mayaman at maluwalhating pamana na kanila bilang Pilipino. Kaya maraming salamat doon.

Bukas gaya nang sabi ni Ed, makikipagkita ako sa reyna at makikipagpulong sa mga negosyante mula sa bansang ito, para sa ating mga overseas Filipino. At yung inyong mga achievements halimbawa, itong ating Singles for Christ in the healthcare na ang ganda-ganda ng kanta, yung ating chefs, at iba pang matagumpay na trabaho ninyo. At sigurado pag pinag-usapan kayo wala silangmasasabi tungkol sa inyo kundi mga pagpuri, panay puri parasa inyo at inyong mga pamilya kasi ganun ang narinig ko sa ating mga Pilipino dito sa Londres.

At ipagpaumanhin n'yo, payagan ako na magkaroon ng pribilehiyo na tanggapin naman iyong mga mababait na salita nila na parangalsa inyo. Hayaan ninyo akong sabihin ko sakanila, in your behalf maraming salamat sa kanila sa paggalang sa inyo. Buo ang aking paniniwala na patuloy silang mataas ang tingn sa inyo. Talagang pwede kayong ipagmalaki.

And be assured that I will lead with a steady hand to guide the nation to a new election in three years and new leadership. I will not falter in keeping my hand on the tiller of the ship of state. And we will also continue strong, focused leadership in the international arena to advance the interests of our nation and our people.

Mga kaibigan, mga kababayan, di dalawang taon na akong pumupunta dito sunud-sunod ano. Baka ngayon it's worth try naman to visit the Philippines. Inaanyayahan ko kayong dumalaw muli sa ating bansa para makita n'yo yung tunay na katayuan ng ating lipunan, yung mga bagong nakamit natin, mga bagong nagawa natin – mga kalsada, yung construction ongoing all over the place, at yung mga bagong mga pabrika na itinatayo at dalhin din ninyo iyung inyong mga kaibigang taga rito, mga Briton, para makita nila where you come from kasi ang galing-galing ninyo.

There's more of that back home. Kasi yun ang ibig sabihin ng "ambassador" di ba? Yung magandang katangiang pinapakita ninyo. Ang mensahe ako aykinatawan lamang ng ating aking mga kababayan. Ganun din. Kung gaano ako kagaling, yun ang mensaheng ipinapahayag ng ating overseas Filipinos, kahit hindi n'yo sinasabi. Ang inyong mensahe ay kung gaano kayo kagaling, ganun ang kagalingan ng ating bansa. Kaya mas lalong dalhin ninyo ang mga kaibigan ninyo mas lalong maniniwala sila.

Kaya muli, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. At gaya nang sabi ng ating Singles for Christ, wag nating kalimutan, meron tayong Pasko, panahon ng pagmamahal sa isat' isa dahil may Panginoon na nagmamahal at nagmamahal sa atin.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Message of President Arroyo to her fellow countrymen [Filipino]

**Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa kanyang mga kababayan**

[Ipinahayag noong ika 7 ng Disyembre, 2007]

Mga kababayan, magandang araw.

Nagagalak ako para sa bayan at sa ibinubunga ng aking biyahe.

Nagtungo ako sa Europa upang isulong ang patakarang panlabas ng Pilipinas sa ating mga pulong sa matataas na opisyal ng mga kaalyado nating bansa. Napakahalaga ang seguridad ng bayan sa pag-unlad ng ating bansa. Ang pagpatuloy na pagbuo ng malalapit na alyansa sa iba't ibang dako ng mundo ay nagpapalakas ng seguridad natin sa ating bansa.

Isa pang haligi ng ating seguridad ang katatagan ng ekonomiya — sa pag-akit ng investment, paglikha ng trabaho, at paglaganap ng oportunidad sa hanapbuhay sa bawat lalawigan ng ating dakilang kapuluan. Para dito, masigasig tayong nagsisikap upang makipag-ugnay sa mga negosyanteng mamuhunan sa ating bansa.

Malaking halaga ang ibinibigay ng Pilipinas sa ating mga responsibilidad sa mundo, mula sa ASEAN hanggang sa pagpapadala ng mga pwersang pangkapayapaan sa mga bansang may labanan sa daigdig. Matibay ang ating paniniwala sa ating katapatan bilang tunay na mamamayan ng mundo, upang isulong ang karapatang tao, kaunlaran ng ekonomiya, at seguridad ng mga bansa para sa kapayapaan ng daigdig.

Kasama ng ating kasaysayan ang mga kaalyado natin sa Europa, at kasama din ng ating kinabukasan. Dapat tayong patuloy na makipag- balikatan sa kanila, at magbatid sa kanila ng ating malalaking hakbang sa Pilipinas. Ang mga OFW ang ating mga sugo araw-araw sa maraming bahagi ng mundo. kabilang sila sa ating agenda sa bawat bansa. Ipinagmamalaki natin ang kanilang kontribusyon sa maganda nating pangalan sa daigdig. lagi tayong nagagalak na maKipagtagpo sa ating masisipag na OFW sa bawat biyahe.

Minarapat kong magbigay ng pahayag mula sa biyahe upang siguruhing nakatutok ang pamahalaan sa mga mahalagang pagkilos para sa bayan at ekonomiya, sa kabila ng ligalig sa Makati noong Huwebes.

Unang-una, marapat maging masigasig ang buong Kapulisan at Sandatahan lakas sa pagtugis ng ilang nalalabing tauhan na kasangkot sa pag-aalsa, upang hindi na muling magambala ang bayan. Pupilungin ko ang National Security Cabinet Group sa pamamagitan ng video conferencing, upang repasuhin ang ating seguridad.

Ang mga pangyayari kamakailan ay nagpapabawas lamang ng pagtingin ng mundo sa Pilipinas. Bagaman napakalaki ang ating pag-angat sa bansa at sa ibayong dagat, pinakamalubha naman ang tama sa mahihirap ng mga pakana ng mga rebeldeng makasarili. At maralita rin ang pinakamalaking pakikinabang sa agos ng capital mula sa ibayong dagat, na lilikha ng trabaho at oportunidad sa bansa.

Pangalawa, ipinapa-alaala sa Gabinete na isulong nang walang lubay ang mga pagkilos na ating itinakda sa mga pulong kamakailan upang aksyunan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng langis, at maghatid ng abot-kayang bigas at iba pang handog sa masa. We must also prevent delays and anomalies in infrastructure, hit our fiscal targets, and help exporters.

Pangatlo, nananawagan tayo sa Kongreso na patuloy na magtuon ng pansin sa mga kinakailangang panukala, lalo na ang budget. Cheaper Medicines Bill, amyenda sa EPIRA para sa mas murang singil sa koryente, at amnestiya para

sa maraming rebelde na ibig magbalik-loob. Huwag natin hayaang mapinsala ng gulo noong isang ling go ang milyun-milyon nating kababayan na naghihintay ng imprastraktura, murang gamot at koryente, kapayapaan at kaunlaran.

Buo ang paniniwala ko na mabubura natin ang imahen nitong pangyayari habang nakiki- pagpanayam sa mga pinuno ng daigdig at mga investor.

Sa pakikipag-usap sa mga pinuno, mga investor at mga kababayan sa Europa, maliwanag na buo pa rin ang kanilang tiwala at pag-asa sa ating bansa. Sabi nila, basta patuloy tayong magkakaisa at magsisikap para sa masiglang ekonomiya at panatag ng bansa, lalo silang magdadala ng investment sa bansa, lilikha ng trabaho, at magsusulong ng pag-unlad.

Pagkakaisa, pag-unlad, kapayapaan at kasaganaan para sa lahat — ito ang mga adhikain natin, at hindi tayo hihinto sa ating pagsulong.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135719/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2334&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during her meeting with the Filipino community in Kuwait [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagpupulong kasama ang komunidad ng mga Pilipino sa Kuwait**

[Ipinahayag sa Kuwait, ika 9 ng Disyembre, 2007]

Mga kababayan, magandang gabi.

Maraming salamat na kahit ilang oras na pag-ulat sa inyo nakaabot kayo ngayong gabi. Alam ko naman araw ng trabaho ngayon di ba pero nakapunta kayo at thank you very much at maraming salamat din kay Ambassador Eric Andaya dahil siguro lahat ng inyong staff ay nasa telepono kaninang hapon. Maraming salamat.

Nagagalak ako para sa bayan at sa ibinubunga ng biyahe natin.

Nagtungo ako sa Kuwait upang isulong ang patakarang panlabas ng Pilipinas sa ating pulong sa kanilang hari at sa kanilang mataas na opisyal na nandoon sila lahat nung nag-tanghalian. Doon nga pinag-usapan na dapat mag-overnight ang aming grupo at maimbita kayo ngayong gabi. Napakahalaga ang seguridad ng bayan sa pag-unlad ng ating bansa. Ang pagpatuloy na pagbuo ng malapit na alyansa sa Kuwait ay nagpapalakas ng seguridad natin sa ating bansa.

Ang Kuwait ay sumusuporta sa proseso ng kapayapaan sa Mindanao.

Isa pang haligi ng ating seguridad ang katatagan ng ekonomiya – sa pag-akit ng investment, paglikha ng trabaho, at paglaganap ng oportunidad sa hanapbuhay sa bawat lalawigan ng ating dakilang kapuluan. Para dito, masigasig tayong nagsisikap upang himukin ang mga negosyante na mamuhunan sa ating bansa. Nagagalak tayo na ang Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company ay pumasok sa joint venture sa paghanap ng langis at gaas kasama ng Shell at South China Resources sa isang lugar sa dagat northeast ng Palawan.

Malaking halaga ang ibinigibay ng Pilipinas sa ating mga responsibilidad sa mundo, mula sa pagsuporta sa pagpataw ng safeguards ng International Atomic Energy Authority tungkol sa nuclear power sa middle east hanggang sa lahat ng mga pagsisikap ng pangmundong komunidad na palakasin ang pamahalaan ng iraq upang makamit niya ang pangmatagalang kapayapaan at prosperidad. Matibay ang ating paniniwala sa ating compromise bilang tunay na mamamayan ng mundo, upang isulong ang karapatang tao, kaunlaran ng ekonomiya, at seguridad ng mga bansa para sa kapayapaan ng daigdig.

Kasama ng ating kasaysayan ng mga kaalyado natin sa mga Islamic countries, at kalahok din ng ating kinabukasan. Dapat tayong patuloy na makipagbalikatan sa kanila, at magbatid sa kanila ng ating malalaking hakbang sa Pilipinas. Kayong mga OFW ang ating mga sugo araw-araw sa Kuwait. Maraming salamat sa inyo. (applause)

Mahalaga ang binibigay natin sa kontribusyon ng ating mga overseas workers sa inyong sakripisyo, sa inyong pagmamalasakit sa inyong trabaho, sa inyong pamilya at sa ating bansa. Ngunit pinagmamalaki rin natin na ang ating mga ambisasyong reporma sa ekonomiya ay tumutulong na, you know to break the offshore cycle, and tumutulong sa pagsuporta sa ekonomiya na ngayon ay umaangat sa pinakamabilis sa loob ng nakaraang dalawampung taon, 7.5 percent ang ating growth rate itong taong ito, the highest in 20 years. At itong mga ganansiyang nakikita natin ngayon ay hinahanda yung paraan para sa araw na yung mga Pilipino ay hindi na kailangang mag-abroad para sa trabaho. And the day when overseas work is just another career option and not the only choice that you have to earn a living. (applause)

Nakapagalikha tayo ng 6 na milyong trabaho sa nakaraang anim na taon. At sa pagpapatuloy sa landas na ito, tuluy-tuloy sana that we will be increasing, be keeping our best and brightest, right in the Philippines malapit sa pamilya, malapit sa kaibigan, tumutulong magpatayo ng ating pamayanan at naghahandog ng susunod na henerasyon ng liderato.

Kayo nangunguna kayo sa ating agenda sa Kuwait. Ipnagmamalaki nating ang inyong ambag sa maganda nating pangalan sa daigdig. Nagagalak tayo kanina sa makatagpo ng ating masisipag na OFW doon sa bagong mall ano ba yung pangalan ng bagong mall, yun, na kalian lamang binuksan ng kanilang hari. Sabi nga nila kanina sapat matulog kayo ngayong gabi, mag-shopping kayo at makipagkita sa mga Pilipino.

Doon sa mall, nakikita ko doon kasi nakipag-kwento ako sa mga Pilipino, ang dami-daming mga Pilipino, at nagkaroon ako ng pagkakataon makipagkwento-kwento sa kanila. At nakikita ko na marami sa inyon ang nakakaalam ng aking panguhahing pakay sa pagtungo dito sa Kuwait. (applause) Kanina nga sa mall, may isang Pilipinong nagtanong sa akin, “positive ba ang resulta ng pag-uusap n’yo?”

Ako’y nasisiyahang sabihin sa inyo positive ang resulta. (applause)

Nagkaroon tayo ng positibo at napakamabungang pagkikita sa kanilang hari kaninang umaga. Nagpapasalamat tayo sa napakamabait na pag-uunawa at konsiderasyon na ini-abot niya sa ating kababayan.

Sinisikap nating pangalagaan ang inyong kapakanan. Kailan lang, tayo ay naglunsad ng mga reporma ng patakaran tungkol sa pagpadala ng mga household service workers. Yung mga bagong patakaran kasama dito yung pag-iibayo ng kakayahan ng ating manggagawa, yung nagkakaroon ng kurso ng orientation tungkol sa mga kultura ang lengguage ng iba’t ibang mga bansa. Yung pagpoproteksyon, yung mga mekanismo kung papaano makaproteksyon ng karapatan sa mga lugar na pinagta-trabahuhan at saka inuobliga yung mga employer na sila ang dapat gumastos para sa deployment ng domestic helpers. At yung tinataas yung minimum salary sa level na karapat-dapat naman sa mga natututunang kakayahan.

Itinaguyod ng ating administrasyon ang pagtaas ng minimum wage para sa domestic service workers, mula sa \$200 a month at ginawa ng \$400 a month.

Mula nung nagsimula itong patakaran nung Disyembre ng 2006, una maraming umalma pero ngayon nakikita natin ang kanyang bunga. Halimbawa sa Hongkong, sa umpisa bumaba yung mga Pilipinong kinukuha pero ngayon nakikita natin bumabalik naman ang karamihan kahit mas mataas na ang singil ng sweldo.

Dito sa Kuwait, kapansin pansin ang pagdami ng job orders para sa mga engineers, nurses at iba pang skilled workers. Lumiit din ang bilang ng mga naitalang kaso ng maltreatment at runaway workers.

In fact, kamakailan lang, ang inyong lingkod ay nagbigay ng atas sa DSWD, sa DFA at saka sa DOLE na dapat repasuhin at ipaiba yung mga mekanismo at paglilingkod para mabilis makaabot, ready access, at mabilis makasagot, rapid response sa mga OFW na malubha ang pinaghihirapan para sa ganito hindi na mapipilitan na gumawa ng mga kilos na desperado yung ating mga OFW.

Halimbawa sabi ko dapat pag-isipan nilang maglagay ng mga toll free hotlines at assistance groups, ito meron kayong mga Pilipino dito na ang tagal-tagal na ninyong narito, pwede nga kayong mga lider, maging yung assistance groups nga sa mga lugar kung saan marami ang OFW kagaya ng Kuwait. At itong mga repormang ginagawa natin lalo na yung pagtaas ng minimum wage, nakita natin yung ibang labor-exporting countries katulad ng India at Indonesia ay sumusunod na rin sa ating halimbawa, at ngayon ay nagtataas na rin ng hinihinging sahod para sa kanilang mga manggagawa.

Alam nating marami sa inyo ang nababahal sa patuloy na pagtaas ng piso. Sa isang banda, ito ay tanda ng malakas na pambansang ekonomiya at nagbibigay din ng maraming benepisyo tulad ng di gaanong tumataas ang gasolina at hindi tumataas ang pasahe bagamat tumataas ng lubha ang presyo ng langis sa mundo. Ngunit nauunawaan din natin

ang inyong kalagayan. Dahil dito, ang pamahalaan ay gumagawa ng kaukulang hakbang para mapababa ang remittance fees. At isa pa nagtatayo tayo ng programag tutulong sa mga probinsyang maraming OFW na mababa lamang ang kita. Gumagawa tayo ng survey, saan ba nanggagaling ang ating mga domestic helpers, anung probinsya. At yung mga probinsiyang yon, doon tayo nagdadala ng tulong para sa mga pamilya ng OFW. Yan ang ating programa para mabigyan ng ginhawa yung pagtaas ng piso sa ting mga OFW.

Nakikita ko ang ating mga OFW dito ay alam na alam niyo yung balita. Una nga alam na alam ninyo kung bakit ako narito. Tapos alam na alam ninyo yung nangyari nung isang linggo.

Tungkol doon sa nagtangkang coup noong isang linggo, klarong-klaro na itong mga kilos ng iilang mga desperadong tao pinapakita na they are out of touch with the hopes and dreams of the average Filipino. Di ba, tayong mga karaniwang Pilipino, ang gusto natin ang political stability, a bright economic future, social justice. Kaya itong mga kilos itong mga misguided men ay sinasabotahe ang bawat isa dito sa mga tunay na aspirasyon ng tunay na Pilipino. Sa halip na pinagbubuo ang bansa at nagta-trabaho sa loob ng ating prosesong demokratiko, ang ginagawa nilang kilos ay parang gasolina sa makasariling motibo for personal gain. But in the end, nanaig ang rule of law. (applause)

The transgressors will not hold our nation hostage with impunity. Paparusahin sila ng buong higpit ng batas. justice shall be served and the interests of the people upheld.

Ang kailangan natin at alam niyo ito sa Kuwait, ito ang nakita ko sa inyong pamayanan nung nandito ako noong 2003, pagkakaisa, pag-unlad, kapayapaan at kasaganaan para sa lahat — ito ang mga adhikain natin, at hindi tayo hihinto sa ating pagsulong.

At muli gaya nang sabi ko sa inyo nung 2003, maraming-maraming salamat na ginagawa ninyo ating mga Pilipino dito sa Kuwait para sa ating bansa.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Salamat muli sa inyong pagdalo sa short notice. And merry Christmas to all of you! (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During her Meeting with the Filipino Community in Kuwait. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135652/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2333&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 100th anniversary of the Philippine Columbian Association

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 100th anniversary of the Philippine Columbian Association**

[Delivered at the PCA Building Plaza Dilao, Manila City, December 11, 2007]

Thank you very much past President Buencamino for your introduction. Thank you very much President Beltran for your very, very kind words.

And I'd like to greet everybody here tonight. We have such distinguished guests like Justice Velasco and (applause) Justice Hermosissima and Senator Benitez. (applause) I'd like to greet the board of directors and members of the Philippine Columbian Association. Ladies and gentlemen. Please sit down.

And a happy 100th birthday to Philippine Columbian! (applause)

You know when I was invited to come tonight I had already accepted the invitation to go to a concert in San Beda College which is the alma mater of my brother Arthur. But Evelyn Kilayko was the one who was telling me but this is not just another anniversary, this is the 100th anniversary. So, indeed, we beat my schedule because it is important to be here exactly 100 years after the founding of your important institution. (applause)

As we can see from the attendance tonight, the members of Philippine Columbian are leaders and prime movers of various sectors of Philippine society. And therefore we can say that for 100 years now the members of Philippine Columbian have demonstrated your commitment to the nation's peace, growth and pride in the Filipino.

I still remember when I was young, you had an old clubhouse. And I do remember when the new clubhouse was built and this complex has a marker that aptly conveys the legacy of Philippine Columbian as measured by Mr. Beltran, President Beltran as the "sanctuary of Filipino nationalism."

And I'm very happy to hear about the history of Philippine Columbian. I'm sure that those who will listen to my speech, because it's been covered by the media all the time, will therefore be gratified to remember that the club became the center for the campaign for Philippine independence during the leadership of President Quezon. And that it served as the headquarters of congress for the Philippine independence in 1934. And although the world war ii forced the club to hibernate, because its building was razed to the ground in 1945, so typical of the important buildings in Manila during that time. The club rebounded to become now the Philippine Columbian that we know — robust, progressive and still committed to its advocacies.

Your members' involvement and contributions have shown because many of your members are businessmen that business does not exist for and by itself, and that efficient enterprise does not only improve private profitability. It benefits the larger society.

For your sincere concern from 100 years ago up to today. For making our economy more efficient and our governance more responsive. Thank you very much from the people of the Philippines. (applause)

We look back 100 years.

We are here celebrating today.

We also look forward.

And, well, I'm sure Philippine Columbian has a vision for the future. But I do hope that you share our vision for the next 20 years because we envision that the Philippines will be ready for first-world status in 20 years. That means by that time, hopefully, we will have dramatically reduced poverty, we will have created a robust middle-class, we will have all the hallmarks of a modern society in strong, stable institutions. Because the strength of institutions is after all what the founders of Philippine Columbian fought for when they fought for independence.

And by the time I leave the presidency in 2010, I hope that with your support, we will have launched the Philippines well on its way to achieving that vision. But I'm glad to say already we have moved mountains with our macroeconomic conditions through fiscal discipline, towards a balanced budget, pre-paying our debts and investing billions in human and physical infrastructure. These fundamentals are paying off in huge increases in investment, in six million new jobs, in a strong peso and a strong stock market.

I must congratulate and thank you for the biggest single act that led to the surge in our economy — that's the passage of our value-added tax. And you are our taxpayers. That value-added tax in one bold stroke raised enormous amounts of new revenue. It also sent an unmistakable signal that we are serious about moving our nation forward. But that isn't all. It is also because of our complete focus on the economy, on fiscal discipline, on a balanced budget and the need for long overdue human and physical infrastructure. The focus on these helps round out our economic gains.

And as I said, our efforts are paying off. With the six million jobs we've created in the last six years, our unemployment rate is the lowest in a generation. Our poverty rate is the lowest as well. And to me, that is the most important statistic.

Because eradicating poverty is the central mission of this government and our society of which such prominent representatives are members of Philippine Columbian. And I am glad that we're celebrating this centenary as we enter the holiday season because it is essential that we remember that every person of means and being leaders of society — people here are persons of means — should help those in need. The government is going to do everything in its power to be a catalyst for this process.

We're making progress in alleviating poverty. Not only our poverty rate but our education and health services to the poor are vastly improved. Of course, we have a long way to go, but only through a strong economy can we improve the plight of the poor. And to that end, we have turned the corner of our economy. Of course, we face short-term challenges in meeting our projects, but revenues are up this year compared to 2006. The credit rating agencies recognized that the new revenue sources are here to stay and that our budget will be balanced. This allows us to invest in job creation, it allows us to invest in better health care, and it allows us to invest in more educational opportunities. These are the keys to lifting the poor up. And we're doing that in magnitudes that are for the first time in a generation. So, we are optimistic.

So, as we move forward, we will increase investment in our country, in our people to improve our infrastructure to create an environment in which your businesses will feel confident to expand and employ more people, because more jobs means less poverty.

Investing in infrastructure also includes building up our environment. As was very much pointed out in the Bali Convention on Climate Change this past weekend, people need to breathe clean air and swim in clean water while we build manufacturing and bridges to span our waters.

We will continue to improve social services such as health insurance and anti-hunger programs.

Let me tell you about our anti-hunger programs. Patuloy tayong nakikibaka sa hamon ng kagutuman. Nakasentro ang hamon sa murang pagkain, tulong sa nagugutom, pagtrabaho sa kalsada at kabukiran, gulayang pampamilya, microfinance, and dagdag sahod sa ilalim ng regional wage boards.

Nakabase ang neda hunger mitigation program framework sa pagkikilala na nagkakaroon ng gutom; una, dahil kulang ang pagkaing abot-kaya, at pangalawa, walang pambili ng pagkain. Sa gayon dapat paramihin ang murang

pagkain — ito ang supply side strategy. At palaguin ang kita at hanapbuhay ng masa — ito naman ang demand side strategy.

Sa supply side, bahagi ng plano ng NEDA ang number (1) palakasin ang produksiyon ng pagkain; number (2) pahusayin ang sistema ng panghatid sa pagkain, or tinatawag na efficiency of logistics and food delivery.

The logistics and food delivery program in turn consists of barangay food terminals and Tindahan NJatins. Yung barangay food terminal yung mga bagsakan yun nilalagay natin sa ibat-ibang mga mahihirap na lugar. Halimbawa sa Maynila, Metro Manila. At yung tindahan natin, ito ay parang sari-sari store pero hindi sari-sari, nagko-concentrate tayo sa murang bigas at saka murang noodles at murang lpg at murang gamot.

And then also ports, especially the roll on-roll off ports which makes transportation cheaper in bringing food from Mindanao to Luzon. Then, farm to market roads is also part of the logistic system and efficient local transport within the local government units.

And then to bring the food to the families of the very poor, we bring rice to them through the school feeding program. Instead of giving breakfast to the children which cost 20 pesos, we give them a kilo of rice each when they go to school which also cost 20 pesos, so that they can bring the rice home to their families and the entire family can benefit from that.

This is a very big program with so many schools, in so many areas that are poor. And so one of our measures to improve on this part of the supply side logistics is the creation of an NGO network to support feeding programs. I remember one time Evelyn Kilayko was telling me that many of the civic groups are looking for programs where they can tie up with the strategic needs of society. And I hope that on your centenary, one of your centennial programs will be that Philippine Columbian will join this NGO network which is under the responsibility of the DSWD to bring rice to the children of the poor when they go to school. (applause)

The good thing about the food-for-school programs is that not only does it help the families, it also entices the families to send their children to school because that's the way that they will have their rice for the day.

We will boost educational support in our efforts to reduce poverty by investing in better school buildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators.

We all know — because most of the people, all the people here are educated — that education is a core value of Philippine society and family life. The hardworking men and women of this nation put their family first. And the best gift a Filipino family feels it can give to a child, and any nation can give to its people is access to a good education.

We will also invest in cutting red tape and eliminating corruption from the system.

The people deserve an honest, hardworking government just as the Filipino people are honest and hardworking. We aim to stamp out corruption and set a new standard of governance for our nation. Corruption saps the lifeblood of our political system, it must be stamped out.

Our anti-corruption adviser, Tony Kwok, the former anti-corruption czar in Hong Kong who was a key player in efforts to clean up corruption there, believes that perceptions clout the reality of progress — our progress in reducing corruption and red tape. But the fact is that we are undertaking a strong and steady effort to curb graft through criminal justice, administrative controls and procedural reforms.

This effort is focused on the revenue agencies, that's why they have improved their performance in recent years. It's also focused on agencies that are in the frontline of day-to-day public services. And one of the things that Philippine Columbian can help us with is to give us feedback on the agencies that we interact with how are they behaving. We take this issue seriously. And we believe that perception will match reality in a few short years. However, this is a

problem that has plagued the Philippines and other countries for generations. As experience has shown, it won't be eliminated overnight but I assure you progress is being made.

Not even the empty political rumblings of an ambitious few can bring our hard-earned gains down. The actions of the few desperate men in Makati last week reveal just how out of touch they are with the hopes and dreams of the average Filipino. It's not only the leaders of Philippine Columbian but the average Filipino that want political stability, a bright economic future and social justice. The actions of those misguided men undermine each and every one of the genuine aspirations of real Filipinos. Instead of working to bring the nation together by working within our democratic process, their actions merely are fuel for selfish motives for personal gain.

But thank god, in the end, the rule of law prevailed.

The transgressors will not hold this nation hostage with impunity. They will be punished to the full extent of the law. Justice shall be served and the interests of the nation upheld. (applause)

To the caretakers of nationalism, you can be assured that I lead with a steady hand to guide the nation to a new election, a new leadership in three years.

We will not falter in keeping our hand on the tiller of the ship of state. We will also continue strong, focused leadership in the international arena to advance the interests of our nation and our people. And I thank you for your appreciation of the efforts that we had to undertake so that we could save the life of one Filipina in Kuwait. (applause)

Actually, hindi madali yung nagawa doon dahil nung kinekwento sa akin nung Emir yung krimen — at baka lumabas na sa peryodiko rin dito —napaka brutal yung paraan kung papano niya pinatay yung kanyang amo. Hindi lang isang saksak at hindi lang isang kutsilyo, dalawang kutsilyo, maraming saksak, tumakbo pa yung amo, hinabol pa niya. At in the early stages, I don't know how long or up to the end, parang unrepentant yung maysala. Ngunit... Kaya... At hindi pa yun, ngayon lang sila gumawa ng commutation, first time sa kanilang kasaysayan. Kaya hindi popular yung ginawa ng Emir, medyo maraming nagalit sa kanya. Na headline nung paalis ako na headline doon at controversial yung headline na yuon. Ngunit sabi nung foreign minister yun ay tanda ng kung gaano kinoconsider ng Kuwait ang importansiya ng relasyon ng Pilipinas. (applause)

And if we have reached the stage where our international relations can be concretely mobilized in order to benefit individual Filipinos concretely, it is because we have reached the stage of our institutions that was worked for by the founders of Philippine Columbian who fought for Philippine independence in the 1940s. (applause)

So, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for a century of achievements and valuable contributions to national heritage and progress.

I thank you all and I ask you to continue to help the country as you have been helping the country for 100 years. To help the country now again, to ensure that we will indeed have an era of peace, reassurance and hope.

Mabuhay ang Philippine Columbian! (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA Speech at the 100th Anniversary of the Philippine Columbian Association. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135629/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2331&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 45th Anniversary of Angeles University Foundation and the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. Barbara D. Yap-Angeles Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 45th Anniversary of Angeles University Foundation and the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. Barbara D. Yap-Angeles

[Delivered at the Main Campus, Angeles University Foundation, Angeles City, Pampanga, December 12, 2007]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much Manny for your introduction. Thank you for inviting me to be here for the 100th birthday of your beloved and much respected mother. Thank you for changing the date of the celebration because I had to be in a state visit in Europe during her actual birthday. Thank you also for waiting today because having arrived a day later than I was supposed to arrive, I had to compress two days of activities in one day. But maybe it's all worth it because we were able to save the life of a Filipino in Kuwait. (applause)

Our beloved Archbishop Aniceto, Chairman of the Board and our champion of pro-life policies in the church and to the government; Mr. Pama, President of AUF; our cabinet members who are here with us today: We have Jing Lapus, Ed Pamintuan and Medy Poblador; I see mayor Boking Morales of Mabalacat; I saw Mayor Gerry Pelayo of Candaba, and if there are any other mayors here, I'd like to greet them; and of course all the friends of AUF and all the admirers of Dr. Barbara Yap-Angeles. (applause)

We celebrate tonight the life of an exemplary woman, Mrs. Barbara Yap-Angeles. "B.Y.A." to most, as we often call our CEOs by their initials. She was the paragon of the determined Filipina whose values of thrift, hard work, discipline and strong faith in developing our provinces human resources led to the founding of the Angeles University. From the small Angeles Institute of Technology which reopened in 1962 rose the AUF which came to offer multi-disciplinary courses and became a university.

The AUF continued to achieve more in the service of the people of our beloved Pampanga and Central Luzon, establishing a medical school with a base hospital 20 years after its reopening. And may I again thank Angeles University Hospital because you gave my husband first aid when he had a helicopter crash in the Cordilleras many years ago when I was not yet president. He deplaned here in a helicopter, he got his aid here. (applause)

Well, going back to AUF and what you've done, you received from the CHED Autonomous Status as a Center of Instruction, Research and Community Service in 2003. You received the ISO-9001 certification. (applause) You're recognized as one of the country's centers of excellence in information technology education. (applause)

So, if we will congratulate Angeles University, we must congratulate the Angeles family led by University Chancellor Manny Angeles (applause) for never letting go of B.Y.A.'s or Ima's goal. Congratulations! Also to AUF's Chairman, our beloved Archbishop Aniceto (applause) and the board of trustees of AUF for furthering the university's reach and the positive benefits of quality education that AUF offers.

We know all about your education because my family has been involved in the growth of AUF. My late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, was Chairman of the Board of Angeles University Foundation until he passed away in 1997. And when he passed away, I succeeded him in the board until I got elected Vice-President and I had to comply with the constitutional prohibition of having another job, so I had to resign from my seat in the board. My brother Boboy took my place and now his wife sits as a member of the board. Thus, the Macapagal family is familiar with the endeavors of this university to develop the talents of our Kabalens to world-class levels. (applause) Four of us having sat in the board, we know the sacrifices of the Angeles family to maintain the university's standards. Congratulations! To the Angeles family for five decades of selflessness. (applause)

Ima's life leaves many in awe of the person and the drama in her life. But I understand that many more will come to know her story by the way of a book, a book that will teach us how to dream. Beyond the drama of the stage and the printed word, every one of us here should be encouraged by her example. Ima dared to dream big, and she gave her best to attain it.

She had her vision to bring out the best in every Kapampangan through education, and she rallied her family to achieve it. Like Ima, a leader must be driven by a strong vision for the nation and the determination to deliver a better life. I am driven by my faith in god and my faith in the people of this nation.

As a nation we have our own dream similar to the dream of Ima for Angeles University. We dream of a Philippines that's ready for first-world status in 20 years when we will dramatically have reduced poverty, created a robust middle-class and have all the marks of a modern society in strong, stable institutions. And by the time I leave the presidency in 2010, we will have launched the Philippines to be well on our way to achieving that vision. (applause)

Already we have moved mountains with our macroeconomic condition through fiscal discipline, toward a balanced budget, toward paying off our debts, and investing billions in human and physical infrastructure. One only needs to have a glimpse of our Subic-Clark-Tarlac Highway to be able to see what we mean. (applause) And these fundamentals are paying off in huge increases in investment, six million new jobs — many of them in our Clark Economic Zone where Manny was the President — and a strong peso and strong stock market.

Poverty alleviation is our overarching goal. We will focus on it in the remainder of my term. Balancing the budget is just the first step. Over the next three years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people. We will increase investment in our country, in our people to first of all, improve our infrastructure to create an environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and employ more people, because more jobs means less poverty; second, improve social services such as health insurance subsidies for indigent families and food-for-school nutrition programs; third, boost educational support in our efforts to reduce poverty by investing in better school buildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators.

And I am very glad to let you know that in working on our educational reform we have put together a task force to reengineer our educational system. And I am very happy to let you know that in this very small and select task force, one of the members is none other than AUF chancellor Manny Angeles. (applause)

Speaking of the next three years, aside from infrastructure, social services and education, number 4, we're cutting red tape and continuing to eliminate corruption from the system.

Our anti-corruption advisor, Tony Kwok, the former anti-corruption czar in Hong Kong who was a key player in efforts to clean up corruption there, believes that perceptions cloud the reality of our progress in the Philippines in fighting corruption. The fact is that we have taken an effort to curb graft through criminal justice, administrative controls and procedural reforms. This effort is focused on the revenue agencies, which is why they have improved their performance in recent years; on agencies that are in the frontline of day-to-day public services; and on large infrastructure projects.

For infrastructure projects, we have recently put up a procurement transparency group and a performance monitoring group or what we call an infrastructure monitoring task force projects performance tracking system, and both the procurement transparency group and the infrastructure performance tracking system, both have very heavy civil society participation.

We take the issue of corruption seriously. We believe that perception will match reality sooner or later. However, this is a problem that has plagued the Philippines and other countries for generations. It won't be eliminated overnight but progress is being made. And we need that also to eradicate poverty which as I said earlier is the central mission of this government and our society.

As we enter the holiday season — and I'm so happy to see all these beautiful lanterns made in San Fernando — it is essential that every person of means helps those in need. Every person of means must aim to be like Mrs. Barbara Yap-Angeles, who was not born poor but her heart was with the poor. She never faltered in her belief, as Manny said, that education is the best way out of poverty. She influenced the lives of thousands of our Kabalens by helping them acquire quality and affordable higher education.

The social impact of the institution she founded is just as laudable as she was: becoming a foundation; pioneering in the “study now, pay later plan” which opened windows to a better life to thousands of poor but bright Kapampangans; achieving a faculty-student ratio of 1:16, way above the average ratio of most Philippine colleges and universities; (applause) and keeping Barbara Yap-Angeles' missionary zeal alive by offering scholarships and financial grants to 16 percent of the student population. (applause)

Ima understood only too well that education is a core value of Philippine society and family life. She understood that the hardworking men and women of this nation put their family first. And the best gift any family can give to a child, and indeed I must say any nation can give to its people, is access to a good education.

Education is the foundation of economic prosperity and individual liberty, justice and self-worth. That is why in the government, we will continue to invest in new school construction at the elementary school level and bolster our college scholarship program for those high school students ready for higher education.

Teachers are the backbone of our educational system. Without these selfless men and women, our children would fall short of their dreams and aspirations. We're deeply indebted to the hard work and dedication of all our teachers. Their work is noble and patriotic. They deserve the praise and respect of every Filipino.

That is why on the occasion of the 100th birthday of Mrs. Barbara Yap-Angeles, we are passing on to Angeles University, providentially, a contribution made to me this morning by the Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce of five million pesos. (applause) Because I asked earlier how much is one year's tuition, and so I calculated this five million would provide one year scholarship for 100 education students. (applause) But because of our discussion in the task force on education yesterday when we said we have to improve English teaching, I would like this to be for scholarships of education students majoring in English. (applause)

Indeed, much needs to be done in our country to improve human rights, secure budgets for health care and education, invest more in peace and order, and advance our national interests with other nations on trade, economy and security issues.

Unity is a real aspiration that manifests itself through progress.

The preoccupation with politics, past and present, does not promote stability or policy continuity or security or the peace and order our country needs to continue to move forward. Through the end of my term, we aim to provide increased political stability, sustained economic growth and lasting peace and order. We will not let the nation slip into instability. We want this to be an era of peace, reassurance and hope.

Our goal is to leave this nation stronger and more stable; to provide more jobs and build more schools; and to lift the poor up through investments in infrastructure, health care, better housing and improved social justice.

Be assured that we lead with a steady hand to guide the nation to a new election and new leadership. We will not falter in keeping our hand steady on the tiller of the ship of state. And so, I would just like to say that in making sure that we keep our leadership steady, we are inspired by the leadership of the founder of Angeles University, Ima Barbara Yap-Angeles. (applause)

As we exercise leadership and as we promote education, on this 100th birthday of B.Y.A., we remember the lessons that she gave us.

Thank you to the Angeles clan, once again, for perpetuating the memory of Ima Barbara Yap-Angeles, a great Kapampangan and a great Filipino.

Thank you and merry christmas to everyone! (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During the 45th Anniversary of Angeles University Foundation and the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. Barbara D. Yap-Angeles. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135613/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2323&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Human Rights Celebration 2007

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Human Rights Celebration 2007**

[Delivered at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang, December 12, 2007]

As Chairwoman Quisumbing said earlier, this year's celebration of human rights is a milestone because the United Nations just launched a full year of activities to mark the 60th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And we are very proud that the Philippines was one of the first signatories of that declaration.

In the spirit of the constructive interaction urged by the United Nations, we thank our international partners – represented by the diplomatic corps here – who have gone beyond just expressing concern about human rights issues in the Philippines but they have gone on to extend offers of cooperation and assistance to strengthen our capacities to address these issues.

We take the Alston report seriously today, as we did when it was made almost a year ago.

Napakalungkot ang kasaysayan ng ating bansa sa karahasan sa pulitika ng kaliwa at kanan. Inaasahan nating wakasan nang lubusan ang gantihang ito. Walang dapat mamatay dahil sa kanilang paniniwala sa pulitika.

Kinokondena natin ang anuman at lahat ng pagpaslang ng mga aktibista at mamahayag. Nakapanayam na natin ang mga pangkat ng peryodista at gayon din mga human rights activists. Nakikiisa tayo sa kanilang pagkasuklam.

Sinusunod natin ang mga rekomendasyon ng Melo Commission, kabilang ang pagtalaga ng mga bukod na korte, pabilisan ang paglilitis, gayon din ang mas malawak na pagtulong sa mga biktima, at dagdag-pondo para sa mas maraming imbestigador.

Gaya nang pinakita ng ating video mahigit limampung kaso na ang nasa hukuman. And ating hinihiling sa mga korte na tuparin ang panukala ng Chief Justice para sa animnapung araw na walang tigil na paglilitis.

And we have told our military, and if they have taken it to heart, that if there are rogue elements, they must be brought to justice. They know and we all know that no person is above the law in this nation. Whether a former president, a member of the military, or an average citizen, all men and women in this nation are equal before the law. The death of any Filipino in pursuit of their right to political expression violates human liberty.

But let it also be noted that terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf and armed communists are a threat to the sovereignty of the nation. And they must be checked once and for all.

We will continue to bring perpetrators to justice, work with congress to pass new laws to protect victims and jail criminals, and the other legislation as recommended by chairwoman Quisumbing and exhort the nation to leave behind its terrible legacy of political violence and clan vendettas.

Thankfully, as was dramatically shown in the video, political killings are way down this year. We have been meeting with success in the fight to put an end to the legacy of political violence in the Philippines. But we should not rest until we reach zero political violence.

The Presidential Human Rights Committee, mentioned in the video, chaired by Executive Secretary Ermita, is now mandated to begin activities necessary to bring all stakeholders in consultation for a national human rights action plan and program, which will set the roadmap for human rights work for the next five years.

We urge all sectors of our nation to participate.

The United Nations Country Team is supporting our national action plan. Thank you. And through its various agencies, helping us to promote the rights of children, women and other vulnerable sectors as described in our video. Japan, the U.S., New Zealand are working with our investigative and security sectors which protect our society from lawless elements. And we look forward to hearing soon from the European Union on the kind of assistance it can extend to us.

Gaya nang sinabi natin, hindi natin pinapahintulutan ang anumang uri ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Subalit liwanagin natin ang ilang bagay: gaya nang sinabi ko doon sa video, isinusulong ko mismo ang prosesong pangkapayapaan sa mindanao sa bagong antas ng talastasan, nakatutok sa interfaith dialogue, kaunlaran ng ekonomiya at seguridad para sa lahat ng panig. Kabalikat natin dito ang maraming bansa. Ang kapayapaan doon sa Mindanao ay isyu ng karapatang pantao, gaya nang paglaya sa kahirapan, na siyang pangunahin nating hangarin.

We are making progress in alleviating poverty which as is part of the theme today is closely intertwined with human rights. The rate of poverty is down. Employment is up. Our education and health care services to the poor have vastly improved. We have a long way to go, we know, but only through a strong economy can we improve the plight of the poor. To that end, we have turned the corner on our economy.

While we face short-term challenges in meeting our projections, for example in the BIR, our revenues are up this year compared to 2006. Our credit rating agencies recognize that the new revenue sources which congress passed in the last session are here to stay, that our budget will be balanced, and this is the reason why our stock market is up and the peso is strong. This allows us to invest in job creation, better health care and more educational opportunities. These are the keys to lifting the poor up. We are doing that in that magnitude for the first time in a generation. We are optimistic.

We envision the Philippines that is ready to reach first-world status in 20 years, when we will have dramatically reduced poverty, created a robust middle-class and have all the hallmarks of a modern society in strong, stable institutions. One of these institutions which we have all agreed that must be strengthened is the Commission on Human Rights.

And therefore, we endorse all the recommendations and request made by Chairperson Quisumbing earlier; measures that will protect its fiscal autonomy – which means that Secretary Ermita will have to transmit the appropriate instruction to the department of budget and management; measures that will strengthen its financial resources; measures that will give it quasi-judicial powers and this would be in the realm of legislation.

A strong and independent commission is vital to the protection and promotion of human rights. And we will ask the DBM to study how the savings of the Commission on Human Rights can be applied to other programs and salary augmentation rather than being returned to the National Treasury.

We can claim advances on human rights because the Philippines is the most democratic country in the region. The universal declaration of human rights underscores that all of us have a responsibility to respect, promote and protect human rights not only within our respective national borders but throughout the world.

We stated unequivocally at the United Nations in September and again in Singapore just a few weeks ago that Aung San Suu Kyi must be released now. The government there needs to deal with her as a genuine political force and move quickly toward a democratic path. For its part, now that ASEAN has taken tangible steps to be a true union, it must accept its responsibility to advance the cause of economic and social justice within its membership.

Malaking halaga ang ibinibigay ng Pilipinas sa ating mga responsibilidad sa mundo, mula sa ASEAN hanggang sa pagpapadala ng mga pwersang pangkapayapaan sa mga bansang may labanan sa daigdig. We are firm believer in our commitment to be a true global citizen to advance the cause of human rights, economic progress and mutual security to secure global peace. And we're gratified that both the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and

the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Alston, have commended the Philippines for being a good international citizen, open to scrutiny on our human rights challenges.

Yes, we acknowledge the challenges. And today, we repeat our strong commitment to move onward and upward in our shared mission for human rights in the Philippines and in the world community.

Mabuhay ang karapatang pantao!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Region V Peace and Security Assembly

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Region V Peace and Security Assembly

[Delivered in Masbate, December 13, 2007]

Mga problema ng kapayapaan at katiwasayan ay pinahihirapan pa rin ang Bicol Peninsula at ang mga islang probinsya ng Catanduanes at Masbate.

The Communist rebels have spent years as a low-level threat. It is time for their disruption and violation of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead. They impede the progress and development of a number of rural areas. They are responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses. If we are to become a first world country, we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all. It is either get rid of them now, or get rid of them later. Whatever happens, they must be stopped.

Kailangang harapin natin itong hamon katabi ng hirap ng gutom na nanggaling sa lubhang kahirapan at pinalala ng mga tama ng malalakas na bagyo na dumaan sa Bicol sa nakaraang dalawang taon.

We can't say that we have moved forward as a nation if we don't lift up the poor and hungry amongst us. Let us be a society measured by our ability to live by our faith.

Our long term vision is for the Philippines to join the ranks of first world nations in 20 years. To do so, we will need a robust middle class, world class infrastructure and strong institutions of government. Yet in the near term, we must address the very real issues of hunger and poverty that affects us here and now.

Those living in poverty have declined, but we must accelerate the trend to eliminate poverty more aggressively. That is why, during the holiday season and beyond, we will do everything in our power to bring rice to those who need it most and work hard to protect the poor from high prices.

Rice is not only a staple for our people. It symbolizes our ability to deliver on our promise to feed those less fortunate. We are committed to ensuring that the needy throughout Region 5 have access to affordable rice during this holiday season.

In addition, we will have a Christmas rice distribution to the poorest of the poor of Masbate and Catanduanes, which are among the provinces in the country most vulnerable to hunger.

The way to peace isn't through the barrel of a gun. Rather it begins with providing a person a job, food on the table and human dignity. And central to that success is to invest in the people – in education, healthcare, roads, bridges and schools. We are making those investments. It is working.

Education – We are particular about increasing the number of high school scholarships under the GATSPE or voucher system in Camarines Sur. I am instructing the Department of Education to provide 4,000 scholarships to private high schools since there are not enough public high schools but a surplus of private high schools.

I would also like 4,000 high school scholarships to private schools given out here in Masbate which about the same shortage of public high schools as Camarines Sur.

Healthcare – Health care is also high in our list. In addition to the free indigent health insurance program carried out by PhilHealth, 315 Botika ng Barangays throughout the region sell affordable medicine.

We will increase the BnB's, paying more attention to the thickly populated provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay, but we must also increase the number of BnB's in Sorsogon which has only 5 BnB's now and Catanduanes where only 6 are currently operating.

I have also identified the Bicol Training Hospital in Legazpi City to be regional Heart and Lung Center.

Roads – We must always maintain the Quirino Highway and Andaya Highways in good condition. We must finish the road through Partido District so that travel to Catanduanes will be shorter.

Schools – The last time we were in Bicol, the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council reported that the school building repair under the Bicol CARE fund was far from completed. We are instructing the DepEd to finish them by Christmastime.

The positive impact of these projects cannot be overstated: from health care to building schools, the outreach builds more than buildings – it builds trust, which is the basis for effective and lasting peace.

Importante sa seguridad ang pag-iwas ng sakuna, lalo na iyong mga dinadaan ng bagyo gaya ng Region 5. Kapuri-puri ang mga plano ng mga local na opisyal para sa paghahanda sa mga kalamidad. Lalo na iyong mga pre-emptive measure sa nakaraang dalawang bagyo.

Ang mga pagpupulong na ginawaga natin sa kapayapaan ay nagpapakita ng suporta mula sa baba para sa ating programa ng amnestiya. Congress has demonstrated that it can produce legislation that improves the quality of life of all Filipinos. The most notable recent example is the 2008 budget especially for healthcare and education.

But we need the Congressional concurrence to the Amnesty Proclamation to improve human rights and invest more in peace and order.

Coupled with amnesty is our new paradigm for peace in Region 5. At a time when hard power has not proven its value in the world, our model for dealing with the insurgency in Region 5 focuses on a unique combination of soft and hard power to promote peace. We meld together confidence-building measures grounded on dialogue and investments in economic and basic infrastructure development.

Kailangan masigasig nating itulak ang pagkumpleto ng mga importanteng proyektong tutulak ng turismo sa rehiyon.

Kaya ng inanunsiyo natin sa mga State of the Nation Address, magkakaroon ng Region 5 ng international airport sa Daraga, dahil ito ang pinagkasunduan ng mga gobernador. Gagawa rin tayo ng maliit na airport sa Bulan at papahabain natin ang runway sa Pili. Ang roll-on-roll-off ferry port and road system ay dadaan sa sa Esperanza, Aroroy, Burias at Pasacao. Ang mga ito ay mga importanteng koneksyon ng Central at Eastern Nautical Highways na magpapadali ng pagdala at pagbaba ng presyo ng pagkain.

Karamihan sa mga paliparan at pantalang ito ay inulat ng Pro Performance System Task Force na nahuhuli dahilan sa bagyo, technical or pera. Inaatasan ko ang DOTC at PPA na bilisan ang resolusyon ng mga technical issue para bilisan itong mga proyekto.

Regular na nag-uulat sa inyong lingcod ang Pro Performance Task Force at ang Procurement Transparency Group tungkol sa kalagayan ng importanteng imprastraktura. Inaasahan nating marinig ang higit na progreso sa mga proyekto dito.

Gusto nating mamulaklak nang husto ang turismo ng Bicol: trade and agriculture to bloom fully: na ang Mt. Mayon sa Albay, Donsol sa Sorsogon, Rodeo ng Masbate, wakeboarding sa Camarines Sur, at surfing sa Camarines Norte at Catanduanes ay magdala ng libu-libong visita mula sa loog ng bansa at sa ibayong dagat.

Binabati natin ang ating mga sandatahang lakas sa kanilang mabayaning pagsisikap. Nagluluksa tayo sa dalawampu't dalawang sundalo at pulis na nasawi sa labanan mula Enero nitong taon. Ang mga rebeldeng komunista ay hinohostage ang Bicol sa kanilang agenda ng kaguluhan ngunit hindi tayo mapipigil sa ating layunin, na magdala ng pangmatagalang kapayapaan sa rehiyon. Ang opensibang military kontra sa mga komunistang rebelde ay ipagpapatuloy, hindi bilang kilos ng benggansa kundi bilang estratehiya upang ipanalo ang kapayapaan.

Ngunit, we deplore any and all killings of political activists and journalists. No person is above the law in this nation. Whether a former president, member of the military or an average citizen, all men and women in this nation are equal before the law. The death of any Filipino citizen in pursuit of their right to political expression violates human liberty.

We will continue to bring perpetrators to justice, work with Congress to pass laws to protect victims and jail criminals. We exhort the nation to leave behind the terrible legacy of political violence and clan vendetta. Thankfully, political killings are down this year but we will not rest until we reach zero.

We have also told our military in no uncertain terms that if there are rogue elements, they must be brought to justice.

But terrorists like armed communists are a threat to the sovereignty of the nation and must be checked once and for all.

The people of Bicol dream of leaving to their children a prosperous and peaceful Region 5.

Thank you and mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During the Region V Peace and Security Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135603/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2315&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 7th National Convention of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines and the 32nd Anniversary Celebration of the Occupational Safety and Health Center

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 7th National Convention of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines and the 32nd
Anniversary Celebration of the Occupational Safety and Health Center**

[Delivered in North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, December 14, 2007]

At gusto kong batiin si President Democrito Mendoza, hindi lamang siya'y Spiderman o Superman, pwede pa sa High School Musical.

Hindi ko na babatiin isa-isa ang mga narito kasi I have to conserve my voice. May pharyngitis ako and this is my last speaking engagement for the next three days, kinansel ko na lahat ang iba. Pero TUCP hindi ko pwedeng ikansel.

Binabati ko kayo sa inyong kumbensyon. Imagine 32 years old na kayo since 1975. Pinakamalaki sa Pilipinas at pinakamatagal and long lasting and long surviving. Congratulations! At nakakatuwang pakinggan yung talakay ninyo sa pagpapalawak ng mga benepisyo para sa ating manggagawa at kanilang pamilya. You want to go beyond the traditional services that a regular labor organization renders.

Nais kong bigyan ng matinding pansin ang paghahanap ng trabaho, ang pakikipag-ugnay sa mga trade unions sa ibang bansa para sa proteksyon ng ating manggagawa doon sa ibang bansa, pagtatayo ng training centers at pagbibigay ng scholarships sa mga anak ng unyonista.

Dito sa training center gaya nang sabi ni Manong Mocring kaagapay ninyo ang TESDA sa pagbibigay ng pagsasanay, at dahil dito lalo naging competitive ang mga manggagawa ng TUCP dito at sa ibang bansa. Bahagi ang TUCP sa apat na milyong Pilipinong naka-enroll sa ibat-ibang programa ng TESDA at mga accredited voc-tech schools.

Maraming programa ay dumadaan dito nga sa TUCP, congratulations! Nais ninyong bigyang pansin ang pagtatayo ng grocery at tindahan kung saan mas mura ang bilihin. Alam ko na ayun pa yun ang ginagawa ni Boy Herrera, kumukuha ng mga supply sa ibang mga trade union sa ibang bansa. Pero maganda rin na meron tayong paraan kung paano mag partner dahil nag tatayo ng mga Tindahan Natin kung saan nakabili ng murang bigas, noodles at pwede nating ipatayo and mga ito sa mga lugar ng bansa kung saan nakakaranas ng gutom. At ngayon na may halos na walong libong Tindahan Natin sa bansa, magbalikatan tayo, maglagay tayo ng TUCP Tindahan natin outlets sa mga tindahan ni Boy Herrera.

Nais din niyong bigyan pansin ang paglikha ng negosyo para tumaas ang pondo ng inyong samahan at pagtulong sa mga miyembro sa pagtatayo ng kani-kanilang negosyo.

We already see signs of the current benign, stable growth conditions sparking a wave of entrepreneurial activity in the Philippines. And it will not only help you raise money for your union, trade union, it will also help you become the vibrant middle-class we need, if we are to join the ranks of first-world in 20 years. In several key areas we have promoted a new entrepreneurial class. One is in microfinance, where the system has extended more than P80 billion loans to low income men and women who want to start their own business. In addition, through our Central Bank, we have created a series of investment incentives and programs for foreign remittance to be invested into capital enterprises.

Sa micro at SME sector, na yung dati kasama si Cerge Remonde na kasama ko na ngayon ay nakalikha tayo ng mahigit dalawang milyong trabaho mula 2004. Nakapagpautang ng P190 billion sa mahigit tatlong milyong micro at SME, at marami dito ay manggagawa.

Siguro Art Brion, abogado ka naman, pag-aralan mo kung papano ang pwede nating gawing microfinance conduit ang TUCP. Yan ay isang magandang negosyo.

Nais din niyong bigyan pansin ang pagtatayo ng murang pabahay, sabi ni Manong Mocring, at tulad ng gusto ninyo, ginagawa nating abot kaya ang mga programang pabahay para sa ating manggagawa. Ibinaba ang interest rate ng pag-ibig housing loans sa 6 percent na lamang, noong araw 9 percent. Ang interes naman para sa may 300,000 pesos and above ay bumaba na sa 9 percent mula 10 percent. At pinahaba rin ang repayment period hanggang tatlung taon. Magandang negosyo na ang TUCP pumasok sa housing for the workers.

Nais niyong bigyan pansin ang pagkakaloob ng mga tulong pang-kalusugan. Katugma nang inyong programa ang Philhealth program. Over the next three years, we will invest in our country and our people to improve services like health insurance for ingredient families. Ngayon, 63 million na ang mga Pilipinong kasama sa programang ito. Hindi lang mahihirap, lahat ng Pilipino kasama sa programang ito. Hindi lang mahirap, lahat ng Pilipino. Out of the 85 million Filipinos 63 are already covered by health insurance. At doon lubhang mahihirap na kasapi ng TUCP pwede nating tulungan bayaran and first premium ng mga kasapi ninyo para makatulong at umaangat ang kanyang kalusugan.

Yung mga Botika ng Bayan at Botika ng Barangay, nakakabili ng gamot na kalahating presyo. Meron na tayong almost 10 000 Botika ng Barangay. Ang Botika ng Bayan naman ay may more than 1,000. Yung isa over the counter, yung isa kasama ang prescription. Umaasa tayong maipasa na ng kongreso ang batas ng cheap medicine para kahit na wala sa botika ng barangay ay pwedeng makabili ng kalahating-presyong gamot. Pero in the meantime, pwede rin magkaroon ng TUCP Botika ng Bayan. Magandang negosyo rin yun ng TUCP.

Over the next three years, we'll also invest to improve our infrastructure. Kasi sabi niyo gusto niyong makahanap ng trabaho sa mga walang trabaho at kayo ang magiging trabaho niyo yung jobnet. Ang trabaho naman ng pamahalaan is to create an environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and employ more people because more jobs means less poverty.

A strong infrastructure network is the backbone of a modern nation. That's why this year, we're spending 50 percent more on infrastructure than in 2001 when our administration took over. And we're able to do that because of the additional resources generated by our economic reforms. This is part of our 1.7 trillion-peso plan to invest in social and physical infrastructure which includes billions of pesos in education, health care and training along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines. This will attract more investment and create more jobs gaya nang sabi ninyo. Mas maraming company ang maglilista sa Jobnet.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with one of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. In 2001, six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on our tax cheats, strengthen the peso, move the stock market. No one thought we could bring our consolidated public sector deficit budget into balance, or lower our debts and raise employment, but we have. Meron na tayo yatang sa ating consolidated national sector deficit ay 62 billion na yata ang ating surplus. At yung ating national government din ay bumababa dahil lumalakas ang piso.

Employment in April 2007 Tama ba ito, Art? – increased by 3.1 percent with around one million new employed workers. Employment was raised to 33.7 million from 32.7 million in April last year. So, we have kept up with our average of one million jobs a year, the highest in any administration.

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Investments are pouring in and the peso is strong. I know this is a two-edged sword and we want to help our overseas workers cope with a strong peso. Our stock market has reached historic heights and we have created six million jobs in six years. And the world is

taking notice, I believe because we have such productive workers and such rational and reasonable trade unions like TUCP, the Philippines offers one of the best values in Asia for investors. *Marami doon ay dahil sa TUCP.*

As I said earlier, we want to join the ranks of first-world nations in 20 years. As I said earlier, we'll need a robust middle-class world class, world class infrastructure, strong institutions of government. Yet in the near term we must address the issues of hunger and poverty. We can't say we have moved forward if we don't lift up the poor and the hungry among us. Let's be measured by our ability to live our faith.

Patuloy tayong nakikibaka sa kagutuman. Noong isang taon, bumalangkas tayo ng plano para labanan ang kagutuman. Nakasentro ang plano sa murang pagkain, tulong sa nagugutom pagtrabaho sa kalsada at kabukiran, gulayang pampamilya, microfinance, at dagdag sahod sa ilalim ng mga Regional Wage Boards.

At ako ay nasisiyahan at ipinagmamalaki ko na sa Regional Wage Boards halos lahat ng employees representatives ay galing sa TUCP. Nakabase ang hunger mitigation program sa pagkikilala na may gutom: una, dahil kulang ang pagkaing abot-kaya; at pangalawa, walang pambili sa pagkain. Sa ganun, kailangan paramihin ang murang pagkain – supply side; at palaguin ang kita at hanapbuhay – demand side.

Sa supply side, bahagi ng plano: palakasin ang produksiyon ng pagkain; pahasayin ang sistema ng paghatid sa pagkain. On the demand side: kailangan dagdagan ang kita ng tao; ituro ang wastong pagkain; palaganapin ang natural family planning.

Upang palakasin ang produksiyon ng pagkain, isinusulong natin ang mga programang manukan, babuyan, bakahan, pagsasaka, patubig, gulayan ng masa, at pagpapalago muli ng mga kakahuyan at palaisdaan sa dagat. Dito pwedeng pumasok ang TUCP, pwedeng tulungan ng pamahalaan.

To enhance efficiency of logistics and food delivery the program consists of: barangay food terminals. *Pwede ring maglagay ang TUCP ng bagsakan ng pagkain aside from Tindahan Natin, kaya makakatulong kayo rito; roll-on/roll-off ferry routes. Meron na kayong mga pinapatakibong pantalan ba't hindi kayo magpatakbo ng roll-on/roll-off ferry boat mismo?; farm- to-market roads; efficient local transport in the provinces; the food-for-school program; an NGO network to support feeding programs; farmers option to buy back their produce. Ito ang paraan upang maging mas mabilis ang pagdala ngpagkain.*

On the demand side of hunger mitigation, putting more money in people's pockets, the program includes: more aggressive micro financing. *Kaya kabalikat kayo; aggressive training. Kabalikat din kayo.*

To provide good nutrition, the program includes: social marketing; promoting exclusive breastfeeding; nutrition education in schools. And to promote natural family planning, responsible parenthood programs are being done, kasama ang birth spacing.

It's really time, I'm glad that TUCP is reinventing itself, because it's really time for the nation to focus on issues that are important to our future: creating more jobs, keeping prices down, providing affordable housing, providing access to education for our children.

Malaking tulong ang pagtatayo ninyo ng mga eskwelahan para maibsan ang ating pangangailangan para sa edukasyon. Education is a core value of Philippine society and life. The hardworking men and women of this nation put their family first. And the best gift any family can give to a child is access to a good education.

Education is the foundation of economic prosperity and individual liberty. That's why we will continue to invest in new school construction at the elementary school level and to bolster our college scholarship program for schools ready for higher education. *Pwede din tayong tumulong art sa pagbigay ng scholarship sa mga anak ng TUCP members. Ikaw na lang mag-aayos sa CHED.*

Teachers are the backbone of our educational system. Without these selfless men and women our children would fall short of their dreams and aspiration. We're indebted to their hard work and dedication. Their work is noble. They deserve the praise and respect of every Filipino.

Noong araw dahil ang teachers ay napakarami, half a million, pag nagbibigay ng extra bonus ang gobyerno hindi kasama ang teachers. Pero sa ating administrasyon sinasama natin ang mga guro sa ating extra Christmas bonus.

At sana yung PGEA, na kasama ng TUCP, ay mag-recruit ng mga guro bilang kasapi ninyo para mas marami tayong kabalikat sa pagpapalano ng kung anu-ano ang maganda sa mga guro.

Lubos ang aking tiwala na magtatagumpay kayo sa inyong bagong balakin. Sana rin ay ipagpatuloy ninyo ang suportang laging binibigay sa inyong lingkod.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Infant and Young Child Feeding Orientation [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa oryentasyon ng Infant and Young Child Feeding**

[Ipinahayag sa Manila Hotel, ika 17 ng Disyembre, 2007]

Thank you very much, Secretary Duque. Dr. of the World Health Organization; Dr. from UNICEF, Bernie Flores of NNC, chiefs of hospital; chiefs of medical professional services, participants from private hospitals:

Nagtitipun-tipon tayo ngayon upang protektahan at alagaan ang ating pinakamahalagang yaman: ang ating mga bata. Nagkakaisa ang ating pamahalaan, lipunang sibil at pribadong sektor sa likod ng pinakamahalagang isyu sa ating panahon: kung papano maka-ahon sa kahirapan.

Sa araw na ito, ang Manila Declaration on Infant and Young Child Feeding ay lumilikha ng isang hakbang upang wakasan ang paggutom at handugan ng malusog na panimula ang mga bata.

A strong and healthy child is as valuable as a strong a healthy nation.

Naglalayon ang infant and child feeding na punuin ang ating mga bata ng pag-asa. Kailangan ng bawat bata ang “healthy start” o malusog na simula ng buhay. Kaya sabi ko kay Secretary Duque itong mga programa sa loob ng declaration tawagin nating healthy start o malusog na simulang programang IYCF.

Tayo ay gumawa ng mahihirap na desisyon para makalikom ng bagong buwis upang ang pinakamahihirap nating mga bata ay hindi magutom. Sa salaping ating kinikita ng ating bansa tayo ay makakatulong na palakihin ang ating mga anak sa pagkaing wasto at masustansiya.

Over the next three years, ang ating plano ay ihatid ang mga biyaya ng malakas at matatag na ekonomiya sa mga mamamayan. Wala nang mas mahalaga kaysa mamuhunan sa kalusugan at kapakanan ng ating mga bata sa pamamagitan nitong infant and young child feeding, o “malusog na simula.”

Kailangan nating gawin ang lahat ng nasa ating kapangyarihan bilang isang lipunan, pamahalaan at indibiduwal na mamamayan upang alagaan ang ating kinabukasan. At ang ating kinabukasan ay ang mga bata.

Sa ating paglilibot sa ating bansa, nakakausap natin ang mga ina at mga ama na ang tanging hiling ay mabigyan ang kanilang mga anak ng mga pagkakataong hindi sila nagkaroon. Ang ating “malusog na simula” o healthy start program ay hakbang tungo sa katuparan ng mga pangarap na yan.

Ang ating adhikain na maitayo ang iisang Pilipinas ay nagsisimula sa pagtitiyak na ang ating mga anak ay mabigyan ng healthy start of malusog na simula.

Bilang nakatatanda sa kanila, may pananagutan tayo sa mga bata sa buong pilipinas na tiyakin na ang kanilang mga pangunahing panganga- ilangang pagkain ay matugunan upang sila ay makapag-ambag ng tama sa katatagan ng ating bansa.

Infant and Young Child Feeding, na tatawagin na nating “malusog na simula,” is a component of a broader accelerated hunger mitigation program.

We continue to face the challenge of cutting the incidence of hunger.

Last year, we formulated a plan to cut hunger, it is centered on low-cost food, food aid, roadworks and rural building jobs, family farms, microfinance and regional wage adjustments.

The hunger mitigation program framework proceeds from the recognition that hunger is caused by (1) unavailable or insufficient food to eat and (2) no money to buy food.

Therefore hunger mitigation consists of supply and demand measures.

On the supply side, the program is (1) to increase food production and enhance efficiency of logistics and food delivery. On the demand side, the program is (1) to put more money in poor people's pockets, (2) promote good nutrition and (3) promote natural family planning.

Let me share with you the elements of this framework: to increase food production, the emphasis is on productivity programs including livestock, crops, regeneration of mangrove and coastal fishery, farm family or (gulayan ng masa) and irrigation.

Kahapon nagsimbang gabi kami sa Smokey Mountain at dun inagurahan yung kanilang green house yung kanilang gulayan ng masa kung saan tinatanim nila lahat ng ingredients ng pinakbet.

To enhance efficiency of logistics and food delivery, we have:

A) The Barangay Food Terminals. Eto yung mga bagsakan na nilalagay natin sa mahihirap na lugar. Halimbawa sa smokey mountain maglalagay tayo ng bagsakan sa tabi ng ilog para yung mga barge na nanggaling sa palawan ibat-ibang lugar ng mimaropa ay papasok sa ilog at ibabagsak na lang doon sa river banks sa smokey mountain.

B) At saka yung Tindahan Natin. So gaya nang sabi ko yung Barangay Food Terminal bagsakan ito in the areas thickly populated by the poor. Whereas yung Tindahan Natin ay parang sari-sari store actually sari-sari store ang itsura pero specialty store ang concept. Makakabili dito ng murang bigas at noodles na kinakain sa araw araw.

Inuna nating ipinatayo ang mga ito sa mga lugar kung saan maraming nakakaranas ng gutom. Ngayon ay mayroon nang halos walong libong Tindahan Natin outlets natin sa bansa.

Yung logistics kasama dito nandun din yung roll-on- roll-off ferry ports kasi mas mura yun kaysa yung mga sinasakay sa narko ang pagkain. Sinasakay na lamang yung delivery truck. Tapos pinapabuksan din natin yung mga private ports saka private shipping. Sa ganun mas marami. When you have big supply of ports, you have lower prices ... Kumpetensya sa isa-isa.

Tapos yung farm to market roads para mura ang transportasyon mula sa sakahan hanggang sa palengke.

At saka yung efficient local transport at the local government level. Pinapaalala natin yung mga local government units ay walang kapangyarihang mag kolekta ng mga fees sa mga truck na dumadaan lamang sa kanila.

And then we have the food for school program of the national government, kung saan binibigyan ng isang kilong bigas ang mga pre-school, day care at grade one sa mga food poor areas para iuwi sa kanilang pamilya.

Dapat nating busugin ang mga puso at isipan ng ating mga bata sa pamamagitan ng biyaya ng edukasyon, subali't bago mangyari ito, kailangan muna nila ang busog na tiyan.

Dapat harapin ng ating mga bata ang bawat araw na masaya, malusog at puno ng pag-asa. Dapat panabikan nila lamang ang karunungan at hindi ang pangunahing kailangan ng pagkain.

Layunin din ng programang ito na mabigay ng wastong pagkain sa pamamagitan ng early childhood care and development system, sang ayon sa Early Childhood Care and Development Law na mukhang nakakalimutan natin ma-implement.

The ECCD system includes nutrition service programs that provide for the needs of young children from birth to age six.

One of its objectives is to achieve improved infant and child survival rates by ensuring that adequate health and nutrition programs are accessible to young children and their mothers from the pre-natal period throughout their early childhood years.

Bagamat hindi pa natin fully implemented ito, with what we have been achieving so far, we are gratified that according to the millennium development goals monitor, the child mortality rate has been reduced from 40/1000 live births. Now, we are down to 32/1000. And we're very much on track with the millennium development goal to reduce it to 27/1000 by 2015. Congratulations to all of you involved in child nutrition! (applause)

Ang pagkakaloob ng sustansiya sa mga bata na kung hindi ay gugutumin ang pinakamahalagang bagay na magagawa ng ating bansa. Ito ay kagandahang asal, panglipunang pangangailangan at kagalingang pangkabuhayan.

In our hunger mitigation program, we also create an NGO network to support feeding programs.

And we also have now given the farmers' option to buy back the rice they sell the NFA if they can get a higher price outside from the traders.

Now on the other side, the demand side: to put more money in poor people's pockets, the program includes:

First, improve productivity in coconut areas by promoting coconut coir, virgin coconut oil and other value-added products, and coconut production. Kasi ang pinakamahihirap na magsasaka atin ay yung mga magniniyog.

Second, more aggressive microfinancing.

Third, maximize employment in the construction and maintenance of farm-to-market roads, irrigation and road maintenance. Ewan ko kung nakikita niyo pag kayo ay dumadaan sa kalsada yung mga naka asul na tshirt na naglilinis linis dyaan sa mga shrubs yan ang mga tinatawag nating oyster out-of-school-youth. At yan ay para nga magkaron ng income yung kanilang pamilya.

At aggressive training importante .. Natin para maging competitive tayo.

And then, upland land distribution for jatropa and rubber.

And of course, to promote good nutrition, the program includes the following:

Conducting social marketing, of which this orientation is a part.

Nutrition education in schools.

And promoting breastfeeding, appropriate complementary feeding until two years of age, and increased consumption of vegetables. The promotion of breastfeeding for children up to two years old, with emphasis on exclusive breastfeeding for the infant's first six months, is our fundamental approach to reduce if not eliminate hunger among infants and the very young children.

There is no substitute for mother's milk, as most Filipinos know, but this knowledge has not been translated into practice. Our data indicate that more and more mothers are weaning their infants from breastmilk after only one month. A mere 16% of infants remain exclusively breastfed at 4-5 months, and very few are nourished by mothers' milk up to 2 years old. We must act, and act fast to ensure that the nation builders of the future are provided proper nourishment.

One immediate concern which is why we're having this is to involve all 1,426 accredited mother-baby friendly hospitals to fully implement the rooming in and breastfeeding act, the milk code and other laws on providing proper nourishment for infants. We need the strong will to make hospitals uphold our laws and work even harder to encourage other hospitals to join in our campaign.

The Supreme Court's decision upholding all but three provisions of the milk code encourages us to be more creative in advocating breastfeeding as the best way to nourish our young.

By breastfeeding, we promote natural family planning where we emphasize birth spacing.

And it is the DOH, through the national nutrition council, that oversees the implementation of the hunger mitigation program.

Labis nating nadarama ang kalagayan ng ating mga kapus-palad. Ang pagwakas ng kahirapan ang ating pangunahing kinakailangang gawin sa kasalukuyan. Itinuturing ko ito bilang personal na pananagutan at tungkulin ng ating pamahalaan na bigyan ng dignidad at ginhawa ang bawat mamamayan sa ating bayan.

Ang kadakilaan ng pagtao ay hindi maaaring matamo kung ang sambayanan ay gutom at hikahos. Matibay nating hinahangad maibsan ang di-makatao, imoral, di-makatungan at di-magaling sa pangkabuhayang kahirapan.

And I'm glad that we're making real progress in alleviating poverty. The incidence of extreme poverty is down, it's below 10% for the first time in our history. (applause)

So, the people can be assured that we lead with a heavy hand to guide the nation. That we will not falter in keeping our hand on the tiller of the ship of state.

As we enter the holiday season, it's essential that every person of means help those in need. Those of us in government should do everything in our power to be a catalyst for this process.

You—who are involved in infant and young child feeding are securing our country's future, for tomorrow belongs to today's child. And you cannot give the nation a better christmas gift than what you are giving now.

On behalf of the Filipino children, thank you. Merry christmas and best wishes for your continued success! (applause) Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Infant and Young Child Feeding Orientation. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135545/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2310&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the first three buildings under the “Pulis Kalinga” NCRPO Quartering Project

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of the first three buildings under the “Pulis Kalinga” NCRPO Quartering Project**

[Delivered at Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City, December 19, 2007]

Maraming salamat Secretary Puno sa iyong pagpapakilala. Maraming salamat din sa iyon... Dito ka nag christmas bagamat ang pamilya mo ay nakatira sa ibayong dagat sila ang pumunta dito kasi gusto natin iwasan ang isa pang Peninsula. (laughter/applause) Thank you. Please sit down.

General Razon, ang ating chief mamang pulis; (applause) General Versoza na siya ang namamahala sa housing. Noong araw enforcer siya, sabi ni Secretary Puno ngayon housing manager; (applause) General Barias na ang tawag ng lahat ay Richard Gerey. (laughter/applause) nagkasama kami sa isang christmas party kagabi yung pagkanta, ang pagsayaw ni Gerey ay parang si Richard Gere sa Chicago. (laughter) Pero sabi ko naman after Peninsula may ‘k.’ (applause)

Mayor Tinga of Taguig City. (applause) Talagang Global City ang Taguig, Mayor Tinga, (applause) at malaki ang tulong sa pulis, wala pang binibigay na sakit ng ulo sa pulis. In fact, ang isang selling point ng Taguig — the only rallies in Taguig are the “go kart” rallies; (laughter/applause) Attorney Joe Tale, the Chairman of Gawad Kalinga (applause) and other officials of Gawad Kalinga; other government officials, nandito nga si Thelsa Biolena representing DSWD; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Nasisiyahan tayo lahat na magkasama ang ating mga magigiting na pulis sa ilalim ng pamumuno ng numero unong mamang pulis na si Director Sonny Razon. (applause) At tayo’y narito dahil ang inyong magiting at tapat na pagtatanggol sa bayan at saligang batas dapat lamang may gantimpala mula sa sambayanan. (applause) Kaya naman nagagalak tayo mag-award ng pinakabagong imprastruktura ng PNP para sa magandang pabahay ng mga mama at aleng pulis sa Kalakhang Maynila.

Ito ang una sa, gaya nang narinig natin, labimpitong gusaling pabahay na itatayo sa Camp Bagong Diwa. Ang ganda ng presentation ni General Versoza, di ba? Yun ay para humingi ng dagdag ng pondo. (laughter/applause) Eh sabi ko naman kay Ronnie Puno, ang ating budget projections dapat by the end of November meron tayong mga 50 billion na deificit. Pero sa halip ng 50 billion na deficit meron tayong 12.0 billion na surplus. (applause) kaya sabi ko kay Ronnie, hingiin mo na kay nonoy andaya yung magagastos niyo itong buwan ng disyembre doon sa prinesenta ninyo. (applause) para sa ganun itong mga gusali na ang ganda-ganda, naka Gawad Kalinga colors pa, ay masusundan nitong iba dito sa Taguig, at yung mga binanggit na Kampo, Panopio sa Quezon City — tinatanong ko kay Ronnie, saan yung Panopio? — sa across the street from Araneta Center, biruin mo ang ganda-ganda ng location.

Doon sa San Miguel, Bulacan. Ano naman ang kasaysayan nitong San Miguel Bulacan. Ito ay isang malaking property, 1,600 hectares, tatlong beses kasinglaki ng Taguig, di ba, freddie? Na foreclose ng bangko, hinandog sa Central Bank bilang dacion en pago at yung Central Bank naman binigay sa national government bilang dibidendo instead of cash dividend. Kaya itong 1,600 ay hinati natin sa apat na bahagi — 400 hectares para sa pulis; (applause) 400 hectares para sa sundalo; (applause) 400 hectares para sa teacher; (applause) at 400 hectares para doon sa ibang government employees. (applause) kaya yan ay magiging talagang malaking government city, at nagsisimula na ba kayo ng land improvement?

Yun naman sa Camp Castañeda, doon sa Silang, Cavite. Yan yung nasa likod ng PNP Academy. Sa likod ng PNP Academy ang laki-laki pala ng lupa ng PNP doon. At kung kayo ay may bahay doon parang nandoon na kayo sa

Tagaytay, kaya napakagandang lugar yun. At yung sa Baras, Rizal naman yun ang pinakita ni mamang pulis Sonny, doon sa harap meron siyang model, ito ay bagong development.

At nagpapasalamat tayo sa Gawad Kalinga foundation at nagpupugay — (applause) very characteristic yang mga kulay ng Gawad Kalinga, yang benetton colors, Gawad Kalinga colors ang tawag natin dyaan — at nagpupugay din tayo sa housing board, lalo na sa Chairman, si Deputy Director General Jess Verzosa, dahil maagang natapos ang building na ito. (applause)

And as the year ends, it symbolizes that it's time for the nation to move on and focus on issues that are important to our future: Creating more jobs, kasama na yung recruitment ng pulis; keeping prices down. Kaya dito sa ibabaw, sa bubong kasama ng programa ng Gawad Kalinga ay magtatanim kayo ng mga gulay dyaan to help reduce the demand and keep prices down; (applause) providing access to education for all our children; and providing affordable housing.

It's wise to address the root cause of the perennial issues on performance, efficiency and discipline by first making sure that the basic needs of individual personnel are taken care of. Then the other dimensions of transformation programs will follow when the foundation for individual transformation has been laid.

Sa inyong pagtataya ng buhay para sa bayan, hindi dapat ipag-alala pa ninyo ang bubong na sisilungan ng inyong pamilya. All police personnel and their families deserve to reside in decent and dignified living quarters or housing units. (applause) And this quartering project is our way of addressing the housing needs of personnel who are yet to get their own off-base housing units. Biro niyo yung mga pulis natin marami sa inyo ay nakatira sa squatter areas. Kung minsan katabi pa nga ninyo yung mga hatchet men ng mga sindikato kaya mas dapat meron kayong disentang pabahay.

Bilang kampeon ng komunidad, kayo ang nagbabantay ng pamayanan kontra sa mga kriminal at iba pang banta ng kapayapaan at kaayusan. Ipinamalas ninyo ang inyong katapatan sa tungkulin at trabaho sa tangkang pag-aalsa sa Manila Peninsula sa Makati.

Yung mga nagtangka, it's clear that the actions of these few desperate men reveal just how out of touch they are with the hopes and dreams of the average Filipino. Gusto ng mga Pilipino ang mga bagay gaya nito — katatagan sa pulitika, maliwanag na kinabukasan at sa ekonomiya at social justice. The actions of these misguided men undermine each and every one of the genuine aspirations of Filipinos, real Filipinos. Instead of working together to bring the nation together by working within our democratic process, their actions merely are fuel for selfish motives for personal gain.

But in the end, with your fighting faith, nanaig ang rule of law. Maraming salamat sa inyo. (applause) The transgressors will not hold this nation hostage with impunity. Nandoon si Geary Barias, Ground Commander. Nandoon si General Santiago ng SAF, maraming salamat din sa inyo. (applause) Siguro nami-miss ni General Ramboanga yung action. Pero never mind, general, maganda na rin ang iyong ginagawa para sa ating lipunan as head of AFPSLAI, helping to contribute housing here.

Itong mga sa halip na naglilingkod, nanggugulo paparusahan sila ng buong higpit ng batas. Justice shall be served and the interests of the people upheld.

Katatagan at kakayahan din ang ipinakita ninyo noong naresolba agad ang pagbomba sa batasan.

Sa galing at giting na ipinakita ninyo rito at sa iba pang banta sa batas at kaayusan, nagpapasalamat sa inyo ang sambayanang Pilipino. (applause)

Yung pagresolba kaagad ng kaso sa batasan shows that we have been meeting with success in the end to put an end to the legacy of political violence in the Philippines. Sinusunod natin ang mga rekomendasyon ng Melo Commission. Iniulat natin sa United Nations ang mga pagsisiyasat at pagsasakdal na ginawa ng Task Force Usig.

Sinundan natin ito ng Presidential Task Force Against Media Harassment. Ngayon yung Task Force Usig — di ba, Sonny? — 144 na ang kaso ng pagpatay ng militante at media na ini-imbestiga ng or pinaglilitis na. Sa masusi ninyong pag-uusig, nabibigyan natin ng hustisya ang pamamaslang ng mga aktibista at tauhan ng media, at ipinapamalas sa mundo ang tunay na demokrasya at karapatang-tao na umiiral sa pilipinas. Mabuhay ang PNP! (applause)

Kinokondena natin ang pagpaslang ng mga aktibista at mamamahayag. Whether a former president, member of the uniformed services, or an average citizen, all men and women in this nation are equal before the law. The death of any Filipino citizen in pursuit of their political right to political expression violates human liberty.

And so, I instruct you — continue to bring perpetrators to justice. While we work with congress to pass new laws to protect victims and jail criminals, and exhort the nation to leave behind its terrible legacy of political violence and clan vendettas. Thanks to you, political killings are way down this year but we should not rest until we reach zero.

We can claim advances in human rights because the Philippines is the most democratic country in the region. Pinupuri natin ang mga seminar at panukala ng PNP upang pagtibayin ang inyong mga patakaran at ugaling nagtatanggol sa karapatan ng bawat mamamayan.

Napakahalaga rin ng papel ng kapulisan sa pagtugis sa mga terorista at mga hard core rebeldeng komunista.

The Abu Sayyaf stand in the way of bringing peace, stability and order to southern Philippines, while the communists rebels have spent years as a low level threat.

Marami na ang pulis na nagbuwis ng buhay upang alagaan ang sambayanan laban sa pag-aalsa at terorismo. We commend our police for your heroic efforts. We mourn for those policemen who have been caught in the line of fire. We condole with their families.

Hindi dapat kalimutan na sa mga pagkakataong ganito, ang karapatang pangtao ng mga pulis ang nilalabag, lalo na kung napatay o nasugatan sila ng mga nagtatraidor... Yung mga pagtraidor na paraan. Sa katunayan, terrorists and rebels have been responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses, sa kanilang pagpatay sa mahigit siyam na daang sibilyan mula 2001.

Hindi tayo titigil hangga't hindi masugpo ang terorismo, rebelyon at krimen. At sa lahat ng ito, katulong ng pamahalaang pambansa ang lahat ng mamang pulis at aleng pulis. Andami nating aleng pulis na nabigyan kanina ng ating pamaskong handog at nakita ko sa inyong mga maliliit na sanggol, at least you still have a life, you have a love life. (laughter/applause)

Napakalaki ng sakripisyo ninyong ginagawa upang ipagtanggol ang ating mga kababayan. Nararapat lamang na bigyan kayo ng higit na kagamitan at kakayahang labanan ang kasamaan.

The Filipino people look to you for the highest standard of service in our country. Through your sense of professionalism and commitment to your mandate, our nation has arrived at the gates of permanent political stability under the rule of law and criminal justice. For every criminal brought to the bar of justice, for every case resolved under due process, good credit must go to the police officer on the beat and on patrol. Congratulations! Maraming salamat sa inyo. (applause)

Sa paglago ng ekonomiya at kaban ng bayan sa ilalim ng mga repormang isinusulong natin, mas naipapatupad natin ang pangunahing hangarin na ma-i-angat ang kakayahan, kagamitan at kita ng ating pulis. Kaya inaatasan natin ang hepe ng PNP na dagdagan ang pulis, dagdagan ang inyong mga sasakyan, at dagdagan ang inyong mga gamit.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in a generation. Kailan pa ba tayo nagkaron ng 12.7 billion na budget surplus. (applause) Six years ago seems so long ago, no one thought we could get more revenues; no one thought we could cut down on tax cheats; no

one thought we could strengthen the peso. Ngayon umaangal dahil masyadong malakas ang piso; No one thought we could move the stock market; No one thought we could bring our public sector consolidated budget into balance; no one thought we could lower our national debt. It's lower now because of the strong peso; no one thought we could raise employment, but we have created one million jobs a year. From January to November, as I said earlier, the national government recorded a surplus of p12.7 billion at doon manggagaling ang dagdag na pabahay ng ating PNP. (applause)

Gaya nang narinig natin noong 2006, last year, noong panahon nga ni oca calderon nagsimula tayo ng accelerated hiring upang magdagdag ng labinlimang libong bagong alagad ng batas sa loob ng tatlong taon kasi nga meron na tayong budget, meron na tayong tax revenues. At bibili tayo ng 2,500 patrol cars sa buong bansa. (applause) Noong isang taon limandaan ang binili, ngayon taon limandaan pa ang nabibigay sa mga estasyon ng pulis at bansa. Sa ganitong mga proyekto, binabalik natin sa taong bayan ang mga bunga ng mas masiglang ekonomiya, mas matatag na bansa, at mas malaking kaban ng bayan na pinaghirapan natin.

Over the next three years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people. We will increase investment in our country and our people to: first of all, to improve our infrastructure to create an environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and employ more people because more jobs means less poverty; number two, improve social services such as health insurance subsidies for indigent families and anti-hunger programs, gaya ng ating gulayan sa pamilya; third, boost educational support in our efforts to reduce poverty by investing in better school buildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, and training programs for teachers and school administrators; and fourth, cutting red tape and continuing to eliminate corruption from the system of which the police transformation program is a very important part.

And of course we will continue to fight against terrorism.

At ang payapa at ligtas na mga tahanan, lansangan at pamayanan ay gagawin din natin, salamat sa mama at aleng pulis. (applause)

Gaya nang sinabi ng lahat ng nagsalita ngayon nararapat lang na matamasa ng ating mga pulis ang mga biyaya ng kaunlaran. Naunang pinagtutuunan ng pansin ang pabahay dahil, gaya nang sinabi natin, karamihan ng mga pulis ay umuupa lang at animnapu't-pitong libong pulis ay walang sariling tirahan. At gaya nang sabi natin kanina, meron pang nakatira sa iskuwater, kapitbahay ng mga kriminal. Eh anong klaseng environment yan para sa transformation? Di dapat malagay kayo sa ganitong peligro na nagiging kapitbahay ng sindikato.

Kaya inaatasan natin si Chief Sonny Razon at si DDG Versoza na siguraduhing matapos kaagad ang pabahay dito sa camp bagong diwa, at yun na nga sabi niyo kailangan ninyo ng pera kaya alam na rin ng ibang mga ahensya kasi na meron na tayong 12.7 billion surplus kaya unahan kayo kay Nonoy Andaya. (laughter/applause) Tapos yun nga ang report, nireport na kanina kung anu-ano ang kinakailangang gawin para sa proyektong pabahay sa apat pang lugar sa Quezon City, Bulacan, cCavite at Rizal. Sinabi na sa report ang kailangan ay bigyan ng pera. Kaya yun ang gawin ninyo ngayon, lakarin ninyo ang papeles sa DBM.

During the holiday season and beyond, we should do everything in our power to bring rice to those who need it most — kaya meron tayong handog pasko na binibigay dito ay halos lahat ay bigas — and work hard to protect the poor from high prices.

Inaatasan natin si Sonny Razon na makipag-ugnayan sa NFA upang magkaroon ng mga outlets dito sa neighborhood na ito ng Tindahan Natin kung saan binebenta ang murang bigas at murang noodles. At meron pang murang gamot kung minsan sa lugar na malalapit sa mga kampo ng pulis.

Binibigyan din natin ng awtoridad ang pagbibigay ng sampung libong pisong performance bonus sa lahat ng kawani ng gobyerno. (applause) Yung 10,000 ay kung kaya ng sariling budget. (laughter) Yung mga walang sariling budget ginagarantiya ng dbm na hanggang 7,000 ay meron. Pero ewan ko, kaya ba ng budget ninyo ang ten? Seven kayo, naku 7,000. Okay. Eh may pabahay naman kayo, yung ibang ahensya wala pa. (applause) At saka yung 7,000 ninyo mas malaki kaysa sa 5,000 last year. At saka nung araw hindi kasama ang PNP pag merong national government

bonus. Kaya we have to remember kasi six years ago, yung mga nae-enjoy natin ngayon wala yun six, seven years ago. Ang laki na ng kaibahan ng ating ekonomiya at yung kalagayan ng ating kaban ng bansa.

Sa ngalan ng sambayanang Pilipino, gusto nating ulitin salamat sa lahat ng pulis hindi lang sa NCR, kungdi sa ibat-ibang dako ng pilipinas. Inaasahan natin na patuloy nating pagkakaisa tungkol sa higit na ligtas, mapayapa at maunlad na sambayanan.

Kaya mabuhay ang mamang pulis at aleng pulis! Salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo' s Speech During the Inauguration of the First Three Buildings Under the "Pulis Kalinga" NCRPO Quartering Project. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135525/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2307&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 72nd Founding Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 72nd Founding Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines**

[Delivered at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, December 21, 2007]

Thank you very much Secretary Teodoro for your introduction.

General Esperon and all the officers and men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; President Ramos, my predecessor and former chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and all the other former chiefs of staff of the Armed Forces present today; members of the diplomatic corps; ladies and gentlemen.

Happy anniversary! At salamat sa mga magigiting na nagtatanggol ng demokrasya at kapayapaan — ang mga kawal ng sandatahang lakas ng Pilipinas. (applause)

Troop Commander General Dolorfino, give ‘tikas pahinga.’

Sa ngalan ng buong bansa, salamat sa lagi niyong pagsagip ng bayang Pilipino sa hamak, mga kalamidad tulad ng bagyo, baha, bulkan at guho, o mga banta ng terorismo at pag-aalsa.

We laud your valor, your sense of duty, your loyalty to our flag and constitution.

Sa inyong pagtanggol sa ating republika at saligang batas, matipuno ang ating demokrasya, matibay ang ating mga institusyon, at hindi sumusunod ang taong-bayan sa mga makasariling pakana laban sa ating konstitusyon at demokrasya.

Napag-usapan ni General Esperon yung pangyayari sa Peninsula.

It is clear that the actions of those few desperate men reveal just how out of touch they are with the hopes and dreams of the average Filipino. Filipinos want political stability, a bright economic future and social justice. The actions of those misguided men undermine each and everyone of the genuine aspirations of real Filipinos. Instead of working to bring together the nation by working within our democratic process, their actions merely are fuel for selfish motives for personal gain.

But in the end, because of you, together with the police and the citizenry, the rule of law prevailed. The transgressors will not hold this nation hostage with impunity. Sila ay paparusahan sa buong abot ng batas. Justice shall be served and the interests of the people upheld.

The guarantee of stability and the rule of law which you safeguard all across the archipelago is the foundation on which we are building the current surge of our economy.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in many, many years including a seven percent growth rate. Six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso, move the stock market, bring our budget into balance, lower our national debt and raise employment — but, we have.

If we have seven percent growth today, if we have a 12.7-billion surplus today, it's in large part because you, the men and women in uniform, are 100 percent behind the constitution and our democracy. Maraming salamat sa inyo. (applause)

Nobeinta'y nuwebe porsiyento ng mga tauhan ng sandatahang lakas ay mabuti, katangi-tangi, matapat na nagmamahal na bayan, nakikibaka upang proteksyonang ating bansa araw-araw.

We must all be true to our God, faithful to our values, and loyal to our nation. An essential part of building a modern nation in these trying times is to have a military as strong and modern as the nation it serves. We have put our money where our rhetoric is. As General Esperon has said, and you have applauded, we have invested heavily in new and better equipment, more training and more cooperation with our allies — some of whom are represented here today by their ambassadors — to professionalize our military.

We have achieved much to the Philippine Defense Reform Program which is now on its fourth year of full-pledged implementation. When I was acting secretary of defense I ordered the simultaneous roll out of all ten PDR programs. Therefore, with the AFP capability upgrade program which we started last January, we have bought Huey helicopters or upgraded them for the Air Force, plus V-150 light armor repower system upgrade units for the marines. We are also acquiring light utility and night attack helicopters with the special allotment. And we now have hundreds of squad automatic weapons, the first batch of night fighting systems, the military trucks, some of those that you see on this field so crucial in the battlefield, as well as Harris radius for what General Esperon termed as the move, shoot and communicate capability. Congratulations! To Secretary Teodoro and General Esperon for giving the capability upgrade program top priority. (applause)

Bukod sa mas matinding paglaban, hangad din nating alagaang mas mabuti ang ating mga kawal. Maraming buhay na nasagip ang kagyat na saklolo at paggamot ng forward-field medical support system. Naalala natin yung mga heart-breaking experience ng mga sundalong namatay dahil hindi nakaabot sa tamang panahon sa paggamot. They bled to death. That's why we have concentrated on forward-field medical services. Pinopondohan din natin ang pag-upgrade ng ilang hospital gaya ng Camp Aquino Station Hospital; Cavite Naval Station Hospital; Camp Capinpin Station Hospital; ang trauma hospital sa Jolo sa Sulu; ang Camp Siongco Station Hospital sa Cotabato; at ang nakatakdang upgrade din ang Camp Navarro General Hospital sa Zamboanga; at Camp Bautista Station Hospital sa Sulu. Ito ay para sa mga sundalo, para rin sa inyong mga pamilya, at para sa mga nakapalibot na komunidad.

At kung naaalala ninyo, nang ako ay naging presidente tinaas natin ang sahod ng mga sundalo, pati na rin mga pulis, upang maging kapantay sa sweldo ng mga guro. At sa programang pabahay sa mga kawal, merong mga off-base units na kasama ang pabahay sa iba't-ibang kampo ng buong bansa.

Tinataas rin natin ang tulong sa mga sundalong nasugatan o namatay sa pakikipaglaban. At yung combat pay incentive na matagal na niyong hinihiling ay binibigay na abot sa 150 pesos araw-araw sa mga kawal na mismong nakipagbarilan o actual combat. (applause) Itinaas ng 30 pesos bawat araw ang inyong subsistence allowance at nadagdagan din ng 120 pesos bawat buwan ang inyong hazard pay.

It is important to constantly enhance your welfare just as it is important to constantly enhance your ties with local communities and governments through peace and development activities, like medical missions, building of community centers and other small infrastructure.

Ako'y nasisiyahan na kasama na binigyan natin ng gantimpala o award, parangal itong araw na ito ay yung punongbayan ng tagkawayan. Parati sinasabi ko nung araw yung tagkawayan ay parang Camp Abubakar ng mga NPA pero ngayon hindi na. And that is a great symbol of the success of our fight against the npa. (applause) At binibigyan natin ng parangal hindi lamang yung mga sundalong nakakamit noon kung hindi na rin yung mga sibilyan.

It dramatizes that the way to peace isn't just through the barrel of a gun. Rather it begins with providing a person a job, food on the table and human dignity. Central to that success is to invest in the people, in education, health care,

roads, bridges and schools. We are making those investments and it is working. In southwestern Philippines, we have worked with the U.S. Military on a number of beautiful community projects.

But to have this done all over the Philippines, we ask the Congressional Bicameral Conference Committee as it meets to reconsider restoring the original amount of the Kalayaan Barangay fund which finances the infrastructure programs in conflict-ridden areas that ordinary contractors do not want to touch. (applause)

This special infrastructure program is significant to the success of our soft power strategy. These efforts have opened for you new bridges of public cooperation and trust so crucial in the fight against terrorism, crime and insurgency.

Nagagalak din tayo sa pagtutok ninyo sa reporma sa karapatang-tao. We have followed the roadmap laid out by our Melo Commission. We have been meeting with success in the fight to put an end to the legacy of political violence in the Philippines. During human rights day, the report about political killing showed a very, very drastic reduction in 2007 compared to previous years.

Anuman ang relihiyon, kabuhayan o antas sa lipunan, pantay-pantay ang lahat sa harap ng batas na dapat magtanggol sa buhay at laya ng bawat mamamayan.

Kinokondena natin ang bawat at lahat ng pagpaslang ng mga aktibista, tauhan ng media, at iba pang biktima, kabilang ang mga sundalo at pulis na marami ring nabiktima ng human rights violations. Whether a former president, member of the military or an average citizen, all men and women in this nation are equal before the law. Paglabag sa kalayaan ng tao ang pagkamatay ng sinumang mamamayang Pilipino dahil sa kanyang pagpahayag ng kanyang paniniwala.

I congratulate the AFP for creating the AFP Human Rights Office. This office has not just created the awareness of our soldiers on human rights and instructional humanitarian law. It has provided a responsive venue where the public-at-large can lodge their human rights concerns to the AFP.

At the same time and in view of our adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights, we allow no quarter to terrorists who are the most reprehensible violators of human rights in their violent quest to impose their selfish demands on us.

Let it be noted that terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf and the armed communists are a threat to the sovereignty of the nation and they must be checked once and for all.

The Abu Sayyaf stand in the way of bringing peace, stability and order to the southern Philippines. We must wipe them out once and for all. They are a menace to peace and a beacon for international thugs who wish to join their ranks. Kaya salamat sa sundalo sa inyong puspusang operasyon nagbunga ng pagkawatak-watak ng Abu Sayyaf. Congratulations! For recently neutralizing Abu Sayyaf leaders like Abu Sulayman and others with prices on their heads. (applause)

But we mourn the death and some of them very cruel deaths of our soldiers who have had to give their life in pursuit of the fight against terrorism. We also mourn for civilians here and abroad. For instance, we mourn with the family of Jean Luna, a Filipina employed at the U.N. World Food Program who died in the recent terrorist attack on the U.N. Building in Algeria. Kaya't kailangang pag-ibayuhin natin ang pakikipagtulungan sa ibang bansa upang masugpo ang terorismo sa asya at sa buong mundo sapagkat saan mang sulok ay meron tayong mga kababayang maaaring maging biktima ng terorismo.

The communist rebels, as General Esperon said, have spent years as a low-level threat. It's time for their disruption and violation of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead. They impede the progress and development of a number of rural areas. They're responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses. If we are to

become a first-world country, we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all.

And I'm very happy to hear the report that the insurgents' strength has been brought down to about 6,000 from 12,000 in 2001 and 7,000 a year ago. In other words, you have brought down their strength to one-half of what they used to be. And I am very happy to hear that from a high of 107 NPA guerrilla fronts in 2005, continuing dismantling of their structures in barangays has eliminated 20 fronts. At the rate we are going, I feel we are on track to put an end to the insurgency by 2010. Congratulations! (applause)

As for peace in Muslim Mindanao, we remain optimistic that we can overcome the final barriers on ancestral domain, that we can finally bring peace with finality. However, even now we have achieved a great deal. The region is vastly improved in terms of safety, security and economic growth. And we thank you, the AFP, for upholding the ceasefire agreement agreed upon by the government panel and the MILF way back in 2003. Our ceasefire has been holding for four years. It is making things better, and the peace will really take off, the region will really take off if we achieve lasting peace and the millions of foreign aid promised comes in.

Indeed, not only the foreign aid but many other things considered. A peace agreement will bring a new era of economic development to Mindanao. Coupled with this is our paradigm for peace in the island. At a time when hard power has not proven its value in the world, our model for dealing with the flashpoint of Mindanao has focused on a combination of what I mentioned earlier, soft power and hard power to promote peace: we have been able to meld together confidence-building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness. And I congratulate you for your AFP-PNP-BUC dialogue which has moved forward very much the interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness aspect of soft power; also investments in economic and basic infrastructure development. That's why I'm glad that part of what we gave as awards today were those who contributed to building community infrastructure in the areas in which we are working for peace; and part of soft power are mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

I would like to congratulate Secretary Teodoro and General Esperon for a fruitful year for the AFP.

And I would like to congratulate all our soldiers, lahat ng mga sundalo, mula sa sambayanang Pilipino, salamat sa inyong paglilingkod na tapat sa buong bayang Pilipinas. (applause)

At sa ating lahat, isang maligaya at mapayapang pasko!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. And happy anniversary! Once again. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the 72nd Founding Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135509/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2305&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Awarding Ceremonies of the Outstanding Volunteer Workers/Mother Leaders of Bulacan [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa seremonya ng pagbibigay-parangal sa mga Outstanding Volunteer Workers/Mother Leaders of Bulacan

[Ipinahayag noong ika 22 ng Disyembre, 2007]

Congratulations sa mga Outstanding Volunteer Workers ng Bulacan!

Isinusulong natin ang voluntarism sa ating bansa sapagkat napakarami ang dapat gawin para sa ating kaunlaran at hindi lamang dapat i-asa ang mga ito sa pamahalaan.

Ang pinaka-importanteng mithiin nitong pamahalaan at lipunan ay ang pag-ahon ng bansa sa kahirapan. Nitong Kapaskuhan, kailangan bawat may kaya ay tulungan ang mga nangagailangan. Ang gobyerno ay gagawin ang lahat para tutukan ito.

Ang bigas ay hindi lamang pangunahing pagkain ng ating taumbayan; ito ay simbolo ng ating kakayahang tuparin ang ating kompromisong pakainin iyong mga kulang-palad. Naka-kompromiso tayong isigurado na ang nangangailangan sa buong bansa ay may abot-kayang bigas dito sa panahon ng Kapaskuhan.

Hindi natin masasabing nakasulong tayo bilang bansa kung hindi natin i-aahon ang mahihirap at nagugutom sa kapaligiran natin. Dapat tayo ay lipunang nakasukat sa ating kakayahang mamuhay ayon sa ating pananampalataya.

Ang pangunahing layunin para sa Pilipinas ay makisali sa antas ng mga bansang First World sa loob ng dalawampung taon. Para gawin iyon, kailangan natin ng masigasig na middle-class, imprastrakturang world-class, at malalakas na institusyon ng pamahalaan. Ganumpaman, in the near term, kailangan nating harapin ang mga tunay na issue ng gutom at kahirapan na nakakaapekto sa atin ngayon.

Iyong nakatira sa kahirapan ay kumaunti, ngunit kailangang mas agresibo nating pabilisin ang landas patungong pagsugpo ng kahirapan. Iyon ang dahilan kung bakit, sa panahon ng Kapaskuhan at pagkatapos, gagawin natin ang lahat sa ating kapangyarihan na dalhin ang bigas sa mga pinaka-nangangailangan nito at magsikap upang proteksyonan ang mahihirap sa matataas na presyo.

Patuloy tayong nakikibaka sa hamon ng kagutuman. Ginawa natin ang programa laban sa gutom na may dalawang mahalagangistratehiya: una, ang nasa supply side na pagpaparami ng supply ng pagkain, at ang pangalawa, ang nasa demand side upang magkaroon ng sapat na salapi ang taumbayan upang mabili nila ang pagkaing kailangan.

Kasama ng supply side ang mga proyekto sa irigasyon, ang pagpapaayos ng imprastraktura upang mapabilis ang pagdadala ng pagkain sa mga sentro ng pamilihan at maibaba ang presyo ng pagkain; ang mga distribution centers tulad ng mga bagsakan na food terminals at ang halos sampung libong Tindahan Natin outlets na nagbebenta ng murang bigas at noodles. Kasama rin sa istratohiyang ito ang Gulayan ng Bayan at ang Food-for-School Program para sa mga mag-aaral na mula sa pamilya ng mga higit na mahihirap.

Ang istratohiya para sa demand side ay kinabibilangan ng mga paglikha ng mga bagong trabaho sa pamamagitan ng pagpapalaganap ng microfinancing, pagbibigay ng emergency work sa mga walang trabaho at ang pagpapalakas ng programang libreng training upang magkaroon ng kasanayan na kailangan sa trabaho sa pamamagitan ng Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). Ang karagdagang performance bonus na ibinigay sa mga kawani ng pamahalaan ay maituturing din na kasama sa demand side.

Mahalagang parte ng demand side ang pagtuturo ng tamang nutrisyon sa mga pamilya, at dapat ay magsisimula ang pagbibigay ng tamang pagkain mula sa pagkabata. Tinatawagan ko ang mga ina, lalo na ang may bagong silang na anak: mas mainam kung mag-breastfeeding kayo nang dalawang taon at gawing exclusive breastfeeding ito hanggang umabot sa anim na buwan ang inyong anak. Ang batang na-breastfeed ay lumalaking mas malusog at mas listo kaysa sa mga batang gatas ng baka ang iniinom.

Kasama rin sa demand side ang pagpalaganap ng natural family planning.

Inaasahan nating kabisado ng mga lokal na opisyal ang mga programang ito.

Puno tayo ng pag-asa na sa pagwawakas ng kasalukuyang taon at pagbukas ng Bagong Taon, ngayong Pasko, makikitang matatag, malakas at mapayapa ang Pilipinas, masigla ang ekonomiya, tumatalon ang stock market, at umaagos ang investment.

At habang marami ang nakikipagbuklod sa mag-anak sa buong daigdig, ibig nating kilalanin ang walong milyong Pilipino sa ibayong dagat, kabilang ang maraming hindi makauwi sa Pasko. Gusto nating ipabatid sa kanila kung gaano sila nami-missed ng kamag-anak at kaibigan dito.

Panghuli, nananawagan tayo sa lahat na magkapit-bisig, magdasal para sa kapayapaan, at tumulong sa mahihirap. Walang mas dakilang adhikain kaysa sa mamuhay nang payapa at ligtas sa gutom at kakulangan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech at the Awarding Ceremonies of the Outstanding Volunteer Workers/Mother Leaders of Bulacan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135454/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2303&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 107th Manila Police District (MPD) Founding Anniversary celebration

**of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 107th Manila Police District (MPD) Founding Anniversary celebration**

[Delivered at the Manila Police Headquarters, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila, January 11, 2008]

Maraming salamat PNP Director General Sonny Razon, ‘Mamang Pulis’, (applause) na naaalala ko isa sa unang pagkakataon nagkakilala kami, siya ang WPD at inimbata niya ako dito bilang senador para tignan yung kanyang facilities. Nag-shooting pa ako pero I missed the mark.

Kagalan-galang na punong-lunsod ng Maynila na dati ring chief ng WPD, Mayor Lim; (applause) Ating mga minamahal at ginagalang na mga kinakatawan ng Kamara ng Representante, kumakatawan sa Maynila, nandito si Congressman Amado Bagatsing at nandito si Congresswoman Grace Bonoan; binabati ko rin ang mga officials ng Metro Manila na pinamumuno ni General Geary Barias, si Richard Gere. (laughter/applause) Nung Christmas party namin sa Malakanyang kung siya ay kumanta ay bigay na bigay, masigasig na masigasig. Sabi ko ang galing, ang ganda ng rhythm ni General Barias. Sabi nung iba, kasi parating nasa Peninsula. (laughter) Kaya sabi ko naman after Manila Pen, may k naman siyang sumayaw at kumanta nang ganoong kasaya. At siyempre ang ating host, ang ating kasalukuyang head ng Manila Police District, si General Boysie Rosales at lahat ng mga kapulisan ng distrito; (applause)

Yung ating mga awardees, ilan ang mga outstanding police personnel at ilan naman yung mga outstanding mga donors natin, yung hindi lang si Mayor Lim, kung di na rin yung Filipino Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber, yung Filipino Chinese Business Club, yung Philippine-Chinese General Hospital at si Don Emilio Yap na nagbigay ngayon. Nakita ko yung tseke niyang P500,000 pesos; (applause) mga kaibigan; mga taga-Maynila. Kasi ako taga-Maynila rin dahil Malakanyang, sakop ni Boysie Rosales yon.

Nasisiyahan akong makasama kayong lahat, makasama nating lahat ang magigiting na pulis ng Maynila sa pamumuno ni Boysie Rosales muli sa inyong anibersaryo bilang Manila Police District.

Naalala ko nagpunta ako dito nung panahon ni Pete Bulaong, gawa nang si Pete galing sa akin. He was the head, the police head of my security force as Vice-President and as President, eh di siyempre karapat-dapat naman pumunta ako sa kanyang selebrasyon.

Usually, pag mga local officer, pupunta ako minsan, hindi na ko pupunta muli, pero napaka-importante ang Manila Police District kaya narito na naman ako. (applause) at talaga naman para makadagdag din sa pagpapasalamat sa mga binigyan natin ng parangal. At kasama sa mga binigyan ng parangal iyong inyong magiting na puno ng lungsod na dating puno rin ng WPD, si Mayor Fred Lim na isa ring pulis na tinitingala sa paglilingkod bilang alagad ng batas at bilang pinunong halal ng lungsod.

Noong si Mayor Lim ay nasa Manila Police District, na Western Police District pa noon, di ba Mayor, siya ay nagkaroon ng pagkakataon na maglingkod sa pangulo ng Pilipinas, na siya ang aking tatay si dating Pangulong Diosdado Macapagal. At nalaman ko ito nung binigyan si Mayor Lim nung siya ay umupo sa pwesto bilang mayor, binigyan siya ng dinner ng aking mga magulang, President and Mrs. Diosdado Macapagal nung unang pag-upo niya bilang mayor at pinag-usapan nila yung mga panahong yon at ang nanay ko may pinakita sa akin na litrato ni Mayor Lim nung siya ay nasa Western Police District. Tinatanong ko kanina, “Mayor, ano yung litratong yon? Kayo raw

yung nasa litratong yon?” Sabi niya “oo, kasama ako kasi doon sa police force na nag-augment doon sa inagurasyon nung iyong ama bilang pangulo ng Pilipinas.” (applause) kaya napakaganda ang ating mga coincidences dito.

At kaya tuloy malaki ang aking pagsalig sa kaniyang isang salita nung nagkita tayo sa isang function dito sa Maynila na ipagtatangol ni Mayor Lim ang panguluhan sa panahon ng inyong lingkod at sa kanyang panahon. Maraming salamat Mayor Lim. (applause)

Si General Boysie Rosales naman na ito ay kanyang unang selebrasyon bilang pinuno ng Manila Police District ay talagang dinesisyon kong pumunta rito nung nag-imbata siya dahil matagal ko na siyang sinusubaybayan. Mula noong napag-alaman natin ang kaniyang mga record-breaking na nagawa laban sa droga noong panahon nang siya pa ay nasa Quezon. In fact, doon sa aking State of the Nation Address noong 2003, tinukoy ko kasama nang ibang mga kahanga-hangang mga personalidad noon si Colonel Boysie Rosales sabi ko, kilabot ng mga drug lords, tumanggi ng suhol na P35 million pesos. (applause)

Kaya naman nang si Mayor Lim ay naging Mayor muli ngayon at sinabi niya tatanggapin niya kung sinuman ang ilalagay kong chief ng MPD, gawa nang sakop ng MPD ang Malacanang, pinili ko si General Boysie Rosales. (applause)

And with your record-setting performance, at that time, the biggest drug-bust hindi ba? Tapos na-presong mga nahuli mong mga V.I.P., now I count on Boysie to move aggressively against drug syndicates in Manila and the gang wars disturbing its neighborhood.

Kasi like si Trish, hindi ba, naglilibot-libot tayo sa mag barangay at maraming nagsasabi naiistorbo sila sa mga drug addicts at saka yung mga gang war. So yun ang isang aasahan natin na maituloy ni boysie yung kanyang magandang trabahong nakita natin sa Quezon, dalhin niya dito sa lungsod ng Maynila.

There's much to celebrate today, especially the big decrease in crimes in the past year dito sa Maynila at dito rin sa buong bansa di ba? Ano, Sonny 40 percent reduction in crimes. Kaya congratulations sa pulis ng Maynila! Congratulations sa pulis ng Metro Manila, congratulations sa pulis ng buong Pilipinas! (applause) At kanina sinabi nung ating announcer yung mga dahilan kung bakit binigyan ng award si Mayor Lim ngayon. Hindi lamang kung dahil siya'y isang outstanding alumnus na dating chief of police nyo dito, kundi na rin because the City of Manila, the government despite a reduced budget has provided the MPD with 60 new mobile cars, tapos 20 galing sa federation, two galing sa Filipino-Chinese Business Club. So, meron kayong 82 na bagong patrol cars. (applause)

Tinatanong ko kay Sonny, “Sonny, magkano ba yung gastos ng gasolina sa isang kotse?” Sabi niya, “15 liters per month... Per day, per day, I mean, oo. Kaya lang we have to listen to the speeches, hindi na ako nakapag-arithmetic. Anyway, pero sabi naman ni Sonny, pero ano naman, ang ginagawa naman binibigay natin yung ano... Yung kotse tapos tumutulong ang lgu sa gasolina. Eh dito opposite, ang LGU ang nagbibigay ng kotse kung tayo ang tutulong sa gasolina. Okay. (applause)

Kasi mataas ang krudo sa buong mundo ngayon so medyo talagang mabigat ang karga ng gasolina sa 82 na bagong sasakyan. Kaya nung bingyan ng Efren genuino ng award dahil consistent donor daw siya sa MPD. Sabi ko, “Efren, tatalagdo-donate ka naman dito sa Manila Police District sagutin mo na yung gasolina ng 82.” (applause/laughter)

Salamat din sa pamahalaan ng Maynila sa paghahatid ng mga pulis ng limangdaang dagdag na buwanang allowance, tapos meron pa yatang libreng paaral yung mga anak. At saka meron pang oo, at saka health services, at yung pabahay naman dito sa likod, meron pang malaking lote at isang malaking proyekto ng ating ‘Kalinga Pulis’ ay yung quartering. Ang ganda-ganda nga yung ini-naugurate natin doon sa Bicutan para sa Metro Manila Police. Kaya sabi ko kay Sonny Razon kanina siguro maglagay tayo ng quartering dito sa likod. (applause)

At dahil naalala ko that was December at noon binanggit ko meron tayong ano, magkano, 11 billion surplus at that time. Kaya sabi ko, pinapahayag ko sa lahat ng mga ahensiya, meron tayong surplus, total the market is expecting us to have a balanced budget 2008 pa. So ano'ng gagawin natin sa surplus? Discounted na yon ng market. Gastusin na lang natin yon para sa kinabubuti ng ating mga mamamayan. Kaya pumila na kayo sa DBM. Unahan na kayo,

makuha niyo ang 11 billion na yon. Ewan ko kung nakakuha ang PNP pero dapat nakakuha yon para doon sa mga quartering nga, okay. So kasama ngayon ang likod ng MPD sa nakuha nila doon sa budget. (applause)

At dahil mahal ang krudo sa buong mundo, I would like the men and women of MPD to have affordable food and other necessities like quartering. Wala si Secretary Yap dito. Siya ay... I mean sa ating selebrasyon, tinatawagan ko siya kaninang umaga. Pero madali namang kausapin si Secretary Yap gawa ng meron naman siyang budget. Kaya aatasan ko na lang si Sonny Razon na makipag-usap kay Secretary Arti Yap na magtayo rin yung tindahan natin dito para mabenta ang murang bigas at noodles para sa pamilya ng ating mga pulis. (applause)

On the national scale, we've also started addressing several concerns of the PNP for better law enforcement and a better life for our law enforcers.

Noon pang 2006, nung nagkapondo ang pamahalaan sa bisa ng ating mga reporma sa buwis, agad nating sinumulan ang mabilisang pagdagdag at pagsasanay. Hindi ba labinlimang libong bagong mga pulis ang ating nakuha na sa loob ng tatlong taon.

At bago pa man dagdag-pulis, nagkaroon na kayo ng dagdag-sahod. Naalala ninyo yung ating administrasyon ang nagpapantay ng inyong sahod pinantay sa suweldo ng mga guro.

At noong Disyembre tumanggap kayo ng pinakamalaking performance bonus palagay ko sa kasaysayan ninyo P7,000, (applause) at Sonny hindi ba dumoble ang subsistence allowance? Naging P180 mula P90, yung hazard pay dumoble rin naging P240 mula P120.

At the same time, we recognize that peace and order is also a result of a widening halo of development, which gives citizens more reasons to follow the law and respect our institutions.

Mas marami naghihirap, mas marami magnanakaw. Kaya mas konting naghihirap, mas konting magnanakaw.

Our efforts for peace and order should always be viewed in the context of our endeavors for sustainable growth to achieve a better life for our people.

And conversely, mas maganda ang kapayapaan, mas madaling maka-negosyo. Mas pangit ang kapayapaan, mas mahirap mag-negosyo. Napaka-intertwined ang kapayapaan at ang kaunlaran.

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. We've created seven million new jobs in seven years, kasama na yun, yung mga trabahong nakuha sa pulis. We've achieved 28 consecutive quarters of economic growth in the last seven years. And that's something that even our neighbors cannot say. There were times during this 28 quarters that the... Singapore for instance, experienced negative growth and many of our neighbors and even the United States, there were quarters when they experienced negative growth.

And in the last, in the three quarters of 2007 for which we have had our accounting completed, our economy rose 7.1 percent and this is the fastest growth in more than a decade, in a very, very long time. According to the Grand Thornton survey: business and investor confidence is on the rise. And of course, we all know that the peso was appreciated more than 15 percent since 2006, yan ay isang dahilan kung bakit nakaka-surplus tayo, gawa ng interes na binabayad natin ay lumiliit in peso terms, gawa ng mga kinakailangang i-import natin na mga gamit ay lumiliit din in peso terms, so nagkakaroon tayo ng savings at yun ang nailalagay sa inyong mga pabahay pati yung mga tindahan natin.

And therefore the Philippine currency is one of the world's best performing currencies, ngayon nga ang problema natin hindi kung papano ipagtanggol ang piso kundi kung papano nga medyo bagalan ang paglakas ng piso. Mas magandang problema naman yon kesa doon sa baligtad. Pero bahala na ang ginagamit natin para bagalan ang pagtaas ng piso, iniwasan na natin ang foreign loans.

Halimbawa kahapon, nagpunta ako doon sa cagayan de oro, nag-groundbreaking doon sa bagong airport, yun ay hiram sa Korea. Pero yung ganun kasing laking airport na ilalagay sa Bohol, sa Panglao ay hindi na foreign loan, local money na lang. Ang hihiraman ng DOTC ay ang DBP.

Kasi kung umuutang tayo ng foreign loan, di siyempre pag pinapautang sa atin, papasok ang dollar. Eh di nagpapalakas naman ang piso. So we are avoiding that. On the otherhand, we are prepaying our foreign loans. So kahit hindi pa due and demandable, basta hinto tayo magbabayad ng malaking penalty for pre-payment ay binabayaran natin. So bahagi doon sa 11.7 billion surplus na nakita natin noong November ay ginagamit natin para pagbayad ng foreign loans. Para kung babayaran natin ang foreign loans, lalabas ang dollar, so mababawasan din ang... Mababagalan din ang pagbilis ng piso. Pero gaya nang sabi ko, mas magandang problema yon kesa sa problemang tumataas nang tumataas ang palit ng piso.

And our stock market has reached historic heights. I hope that it will make our Chinese businessmen even more generous in contributing to our police enforcement.

And for the first time in our generation, our budget is under control, in a generation kaya nakakapagpila para sa kalinga. We're lowering our deficit. In fact, supposed to be and balanced budget natin ay 2010. Pero sabi ng ating mga economic managers. Hindi kaya ng 2008. Aba, kung nag-surplus tayo ng November 2007 at kung hindi nakipag-pila lahat ng ating mga ahensiya dahil kulang ang paperwork ay baka gulatin tayo ni Gary Teves paglabas ng figures ng 2007, baka masabi niya na 2007 pa lang ay nag-budget balanced na tayo. Pero hindi ko hinihintay yon. Pero kung mangyari, salamat. Kasi gaya nang sabi ko, total ang palengke, hinihintay pa naman this year, so kung magagamit natin sa taong-bayan, sa pulis, sa kalinga, eh mas gusto ko yon. Ganunpaman, magkaroon ng balanced budget or hindi for 2007, what we can say is that we are raising unprecedented amounts of revenue.

So inaasahan ko na patuloy ang ating pagkakaisa tungo sa higit na ligtas, tungo sa mapayapa, tungo sa mas maunlad na sambayanan lalung-lalo na yung ating premiere city ng ating bansa, walang iba kung hindi ang Lungsod ng Maynila.

Congratulations to all of you again! And happy anniversary! (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the 107th Manila Police District (MPD) Founding Anniversary Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412124219/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=939&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 5th Biennial Convention and 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club, Inc.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 5th Biennial Convention and 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club,
Inc.**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, One Rizal Park, Manila, January 17, 2008]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much Secretary Favila for your introduction.

Outgoing president, Mr. Lee, congratulations! On your two years of very fruitful administration of the Chinese-Filipino business club; incoming president, Mr. Siy Yap Chua whom I've known a long time ago and always reminds me to keep coming today, so here I am today; Secretary Artie yap; Don Emilio Yap, our awardee and benefactor of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club; Congresswoman Naida Angpin who represents not only her district but the Chinese-Filipino community in Congress; other leaders of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club; Ambassador Benedicto; ladies and gentlemen.

Happy 10th anniversary! (Applause) it's good to be with you again, my partners in building a progressive Philippines, on this your 10th anniversary truly a jubilee anniversary which is why I've come here today. Not only because Mr. Siy Yap Chua always reminds me to come but also ten years is a very important jubilee.

And I was recalling as I was preparing my speech about the many times we've been together. For instance, I remember six years ago, we celebrated together Filipino-Chinese friendship day.

In 2001, we celebrated together the salute the flag. And also seven years ago on your recommendation, I pushed for and signed republic act 9139, the administrative naturalization act. (Applause) And because that was mainly on the advocacy of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club, I hope you, the members, will work hard to convince many of our local Chinese to avail of that law and become Filipino citizens. (Applause)

After all, you in the Chinese-Filipino business club have shown yourselves to be good Filipino citizens in your unceasing and many activities for national advancement and the upliftment of our less fortunate countrymen. Congratulations to all of you! (Applause)

Congratulations! For helping the government provide more school buildings, materials and facilities, including two classrooms that you put up in the former MILF headquarters in Camp Abubakar.

Congratulations! For your "Van Aralan" which teaches computer know-how to children and even adults in the remotest areas.

Thank you for helping the government provide urgent services through many projects, including your "Poso Mula sa Puso" which provides water to depressed areas, and your operation brotherhood donating cash and relief goods in calamities.

Thank you for your palugaw feeding program, for your medical and dental missions, for your anti-dengue campaign.

Thank you for last week's donation of police cars to the Manila Police District. (Applause) your help to our law enforcers will go a long way to help the PNP repeat the double-digit drop in crime last year.

Thank you for your SME center, your joint undertaking with the DTI, which helps entrepreneurs through counseling in various business centers. Entrepreneurship is one of the most powerful engines of growth and prosperity, as many of you have shown with your self-made success. You have indeed been practicing the virtuous principles of Confucius: generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness and kindness.

And I hope you shared the optimism of 90 percent of our people that we will have a peaceful and successful year in 2008 as mentioned by President George Lee. (Applause) In 2008, we look forward to this year, as we're bringing with confidence on the resilience of our economy, hopeful for peace and security for our people.

2007 was the year the Philippine economy turned around. Through the tough choices we made and in which you supported me. The tough choices we made to enhance revenue, raise tax collections and run a tight budget, we are now on a path to sustained economic growth. We have the highest growth rate in a generation, the lowest unemployment, a surge in investments, high job creation and a budget coming into balance. And the peso is strong.

As a result of our focus and discipline, we have been able to take the hard-earned revenue and savings and put it to work for the people by investing in education, health care and infrastructure. We have been setting our sights on a modern Philippines, ready for joining the ranks of first-world nations in 20 years. In 2007, we made a huge down-payment toward that day. We aim to make sure we keep it that way throughout the duration of my term.

Of course, let me be realistic: 2007 was not always smooth sailing, not least of which is the political sector. The November coup attempt fizzled, but it still gives a black eye to our nation. Half of our battle in the Philippines is to overcome the self-indulgent political theatrics that send the wrong messages.

The reality is that we have become a stronger, more stable nation as these types of political shenanigans fall flat with you and with the people. I have had chance to meet with many of you not only during our events of your club but many times in small groups or one-on-one, and I can see that you, the members and leaders of the Chinese-Filipino business club, are tired of the political sideshow. And you and the Filipinos want peace and order and security. The Filipinos want a good job and a good education. Perhaps, especially pressing today are the issues of energy independence and the price of foreign oil.

We are bound and determined to move the Philippines toward energy independence based on heavy investments in biofuels, geothermal, wind, solar and other alternative energy sources. We are equally determined that conservation must be an essential part of the equation. To that end, we are holding a series of high level meetings this month and next. Out of these meetings we will develop a blueprint, or more aptly a "greenprint" for the energy future of our nation.

The poor among us suffer the most due to the high price of global oil. So any program we initiate will focus not just on energy independence in the long run, but to relieve the pain of energy cost in the short run. How this will be carried out is an open question, but we will do everything in our power to share the burden and relieve the poor from bearing the biggest burden.

Let me also touch on our peace efforts in Mindanao where you have helped us build education in Camp Abubakar. We are close, yet sometimes the closer we get, the farther the distance seems to be. We are determined that peace in Mindanao is one of the most essential building blocks this nation can achieve to secure its future.

With the continued support of the Chinese-Filipino business club, this administration will focus on working for peace in Mindanao and other areas. With your support, we will remain focused on the national agenda of more jobs, stable prices, peace and order and a better life for all Filipinos.

I look forward to the Chinese-Filipino business club continuing to be a true partner for development in the years ahead. Together, let us make a progressive, modernizing Philippines a reality.

Once again, happy 10th anniversary! Congratulations to the new president, Mr. Siy Yap Chua! And to all of you, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the 5th Biennial Convention and 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club, Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412124137/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=937&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Vin d'Honneur, January 18, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Vin d'Honneur**

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañang Palace, Manila, January 18, 2008]

Welcome to a peaceful and successful year in 2008. We look forward to this year, as together with 91 percent of the Filipino people, we're brimming with confidence in the resilience of our economy, hopeful for peace and security for our people here and at home and abroad, and determined to continue to pursue a strong foreign policy abroad.

2007 was the year the Philippine economy turned around. Through the tough choices we made to enhance revenue, raise tax collections and run a tight budget, we are now on a path to sustained economic growth. We have the highest growth rate in a generation, the lowest unemployment, a surge in investments, high job creation, a budget coming into balance, a strong peso. We're grateful for the support of our allies and development partners for our reforms and investments, which have enabled the Philippines to join the ranks of fast growing Asian economies with strong finances, infrastructure and social programs.

As a result of our focus and discipline, we had been able to take the hard-earned revenue and savings, and put it to work for the people by investing in education, health care and infrastructure. We had been setting our sights on a modern Philippines ready for joining the ranks of first world nations.

In 2007, we made a huge down payment toward that day. We aim to make sure we keep it that way through the duration of my term. For the Philippines to succeed, we must aggressively engage the world. We continue this engagement in 2007, as we have done throughout my presidency. We will continue it in 2008. We need the world and we like to think the world needs us, our hardworking people, our ideal geographic location and our reliability as a friend and ally.

The United States, China and Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, India and Australia, Spain, the Vatican, England, Portugal and France, Kuwait and Africa have all been part of our itinerary this past year forging security alliances, encouraging investments, protecting the interest of our valued overseas foreign workers. Closer to home, significant progress has been made in our fight against political violence. In less than a year, since we authorized the Melo Commission and followed up its recommendations, we have seen an 83 percent drop in violence against political activists and journalists. While we are pleased with the progress, we will not be satisfied until every last incidence of violence has stopped and every criminal prosecuted and behind bars. We must stop the legacy of violence and start the era of political harmony.

We take pride in the continued strength of democracy in our country, even as we make gains in the protection of human rights and the promotion of social justice.

Let me of course be realistic: 2007 was not always smooth sailing, not least of which in the political sector. The November coup attempt fizzled, but it still gave a black eye to our nation in the eyes of the world. Half of our battle in the Philippines is to overcome the self-indulgent political theatrics that send the wrong message to the world.

The reality is that we have become a stronger, more stable nation as these types of political shenanigans fall flat with the people. Filipinos are tired of political sideshows. They want peace, order and security and a good job and a good education.

In the international arena, we had hoped by now to have a trade agreement signed, sealed and delivered with Japan. We remain optimistic that our Senate will see the wisdom of approving this vital agreement.

Perhaps even more pressing are the issues of energy independence and the price of foreign oil. We are bound and determined to move the Philippines toward energy independence based on heavy investments in biofuels, geothermal, wind, solar and other alternative energy sources. We are equally determined that conservation must be an essential part of the equation. To that end, we are holding a series of high level meetings this month and next. Out of these meetings we will develop a blueprint, or more aptly a 'greenprint' for the energy future of our nation.

In our quest for first world status in a generation, we will safeguard not just the rights of man but those of nature too, through more support for programs to preserve the environment and address climate change while building a better life for our people.

The poorest among us suffer the most due to the high price of global oil, so any program we initiate will focus not just on energy independence in the long run, but to relieve the pain of energy cost in the short run. How this will be carried out is an open question, but we will do everything in our power to share the burden and relieve the poor from bearing the biggest burden.

The eradication of poverty has always been the overriding goal of my presidency. In its last three years, we will build a momentum in key program areas, that would make the millennium development goals well within reach by 2015.

Finally, let me touch on our peace efforts in Mindanao. We are close, yet sometimes the closer we get, the farther the distance seems to be. We are determined, as we have said to you before, that peace in Mindanao is one of the most essential building blocks this nation can achieve to secure its future. Peace is better than conflict.

Our alliances with you are also indispensable in advancing our peace efforts, in expanding international understanding and interfaith dialogue, and in keeping terrorism in check.

Once again, we look forward to another year with you and wish you every success. Our door is always open to friends in this room. We remain humble about the job we do everyday and excited about what we achieve every year.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: please join me in a toast for a year of deeper international friendships and stronger hope for peace and progress in the Philippines and the whole world.

Thank you very much.

Mabuhay!

Source: Adamson University Library

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Swiss Asian Chamber, “A Path to Permanent Economic Growth and Stability: Creating a New Philippines”, January 23, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Swiss Asian Chamber, “A Path to Permanent Economic Growth and Stability: Creating a New Philippines”**

[Delivered at the Savoy Hotel, Baur au Lac, Zurich, Switzerland, January 23, 2008]

Thank you Mr. Zuellig. I'm glad you're the one who introduced me because your family's investments in the Philippines is one of the proofs that the Philippines is worth investing and staying in. Thank you.

I thank the Swiss Asian Chamber for your warm reception and hospitality on this winter day and I thank each and every one of you for taking time out to join us today. I also want to thank those of you who visited the Philippines last year.

This meeting is timely because it's taking place during a period of great uncertainty for the global economy. This is especially crucial time for world leaders in business and government to band together to turn the challenges we face today into opportunities, challenges from the issue of climate change to volatility in the world markets, and the rise of Asia against these uncertainties. So I'm glad that there is a Swiss Asian Chamber.

And within Asia, the Philippines offers a strategic location in this, our very fast-growing region of Southeast Asia. Our workforce is well educated, productive and English speaking, and we are cutting red tape to simplify the requirements for investments. In the midst of world uncertainties, we remain a competitive location for a wide range of manufacturing and high-end services.

The Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. We have created seven million new jobs in seven years. We have achieved 28 consecutive quarters of economic growth even when many of our neighbors experienced negative growth or even recession at some time or another of the last seven years. In fact, our economy, which rose 7.1 percent in the first three quarters of 2007, is experiencing its fastest growth in more than a decade.

The Philippine economy grew faster than the rest of Southeast Asia, despite oil price volatility and a global economic slowdown. Our international reserves are also at record levels. We have a balance of payments surplus, a low inflation rate and low interest rates.

Business and investor confidence is on the rise, the peso is one of the world's best performing currencies, and our stock market has reached historic heights. Our budget is under control and we are raising unprecedented amounts of revenue.

The Philippines offers one of the best values in Asia for investment. Over the last seven years, our administration and our people have aimed high. We have met the challenge of economic and fiscal reform. Seven years ago, expanding the taxpayer base, strengthening the peso and attracting foreign investment were our biggest challenges. To some, our goals of balancing the budget, lowering debt levels and raising employment seemed ambitious at best. Seven years down the road, our unwavering commitment to installing the necessary reforms to move our nation forward has allowed us to make important progress on all these fronts.

In the midst of world uncertainties, it helps that we have one of the best and most awarded central banks in the world, which has helped the Philippines achieve a stable macroeconomic environment, that is, making us much more resilient to external volatility. We are vigilant that our efforts should not be derailed by the sub-prime crisis and the subsequent credit crunch. We count on the Central Bank governor and his team, who operate independently, to continue to ensure stable macroeconomic fundamentals to support our robust economic growth during a time of continued global economic volatility.

Foreign investment in the Philippines has grown more than five-fold from 2003 to 2007. This surge of investments has been anchored by billion dollar plus investments by several major international companies, including Texas Instruments, which chose the Philippines over other locations including China for its \$1.6 billion wafer fabrication plant, Korea's Hanjin which is putting up two shipyards for \$3.7 billion, making us the fourth largest shipbuilder in the world; Marubeni, Tokyo Electric and America's AES which have put in billions in our electric power industry, and Mittal Global which has conveyed to me their plans for putting up a \$1.6 billion integrated steel mill in Mindanao. Significant new investments are being made across the board in a number of industries, especially mining, technology, energy, tourism, business process outsourcing and infrastructure, are also creating significant investment opportunities for both domestic and international investors alike.

The Philippines is ranked among the most attractive off-shoring destinations in the world because of cost competitiveness and more importantly our country's highly trainable, English-proficient, IT-enabled quality manpower. Our outsourcing sector has the potential to grow 40 percent per year from 2007 until 2010, which would put in on track to double its global market share in three years. This rate of growth also means revenues from the outsourcing sector would grow four-fold from the current level of \$1.3 billion, and employment would triple to 900 000 jobs.

The government and private sector work together to develop talent to support the rising demand for quality workers in outsourcing, and expand outsourcing capabilities to new locations across the country beyond the centers of Manila and Cebu to tap larger talent pools.

Some of the joint initiatives include training, funding for education, and creating awareness of career opportunities to attract more graduates to pursue jobs in the outsourcing sector. The government and the private sector also work together to reassess current tertiary and secondary education curricula, to respond to the emerging needs of the market. To develop next wave cities, the government is developing IT hubs in Clark, Dumaguete and Iloilo to encourage greater levels of outsourcing investment in these locations.

In recent years, the outsourcing sector has expanded beyond call centers and IT to include a range of professional and business processes including accounting, human resources, financial analysis, design engineering, animation, medical services, legal services, insurance processes, banking processes, map making, publishing, content creation, and research.

We are certainly a leader in the outsourcing space, but we cannot underestimate the contribution of other high growth sectors to our economy: manufacturing, technology, mining, energy, tourism, and infrastructure.

Our strongest competitive advantage, our people, is also opening doors for us in medical tourism. The Philippines is recognized internationally for the uniquely Filipino brand of hospitality, care and compassion that makes us a competitive player in this sector. In fact, recently, the European Chamber of Commerce and Industry together with the American, Japanese and Korean Chambers of Commerce have endorsed our strengths in this area by forming a coalition to promote the Philippines as a healthcare destination for foreigners.

Mining is a key driver of our economy and an important sector that is bringing in significant levels of investment, creating jobs for the people and spurring exports.

The world's biggest players from Australia, America, China and Japan have already been flocking to our country to invest and to conduct exploration.

Last year, investments grew more than the last three years combined. Mining will grow into a US\$10 billion industry by 2010.

Our economy is booming, but like so many places in rich and poor nations alike, we must fight to close the gap in income inequality. There is no justification in this time and place in history that government policies should be tilted to maintaining the status quo that ensures the domination of the many by the few. And while I am fighting for social justice, I am fighting even harder for economic justice, for a strong economy is the best weapon for the liberation of the poor and oppressed.

We are now focused on further raising our competitiveness to sustain our momentum. For the first time in decades, less of our revenue is being used to service debt and more resources are being directed towards investment in human and physical infrastructure including education, healthcare and training as well as new bridges, roads and ports. Hopefully this will attract more investment, including Swiss investment.

We take pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health.

Our economy is performing at an all-time high in every aspect. We are in a stronger position than ever to instill permanent economic change in our country and to work together to ensure we achieve long-term prosperity for many generations to come. There is no better time for investors to take advantage of the many opportunities created by our strengthening economy.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo before the Dubai Business Leaders, January 27, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the Dubai Business Leaders**

[Delivered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, January 27, 2008]

I want to thank each of you for taking time out of your very busy schedules to join us.

An aggressive foreign policy is essential to the lifeblood of the Philippines. I am here to meet with investors who have expressed willingness in investing in the Philippines.

This week's global economic uncertainties underscore that business and government leaders around the world must all collaborate more closely. Being in Dubai with the business, economic and political leaders at this critical juncture is very helpful, given your rapid rise in the world of finance and economics.

Your skyscrapers and gleaming office blocks attest that your development has been well managed, demonstrating that the wealth of a nation, if well handled and channeled can change landscapes for best. The world's tallest buildings, the world's largest man-made islands, the world's most luxurious hotels, shopping malls and 'the world' are but a few of these as examples.

Emirates is fearless of the global economy.

Further economic integration among Asian nations is imperative if we, as a region, are to take advantage of the expanding global trade and economic opportunities and face the challenges of the global economy.

The Philippines imports from the UAE petroleum oils, butane, propane, aluminum alloys and urea. We encourage the Emirates to consider purchasing from the Philippines garments, consumer electronics, footwear, beauty or make-up accessories, automotive parts and accessories, air-conditioning machines as well as furniture.

The Philippine economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macro-economic fundamentals in a generation. We have aimed high and we have met the challenge: seven years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, crack down on tax cheats and smugglers, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. And no one thought we could bring our budget close to balance, lower our national debt and raise employment, but we have.

The single biggest act that led to the surge in our economy was the passage of our Value Added Tax, which in one bold stroke raised enormous amounts of new revenue. That act also sent an unmistakable signal that we are serious about moving the nation forward.

That isn't all, though. Our complete focus on the economy, fiscal discipline, a balanced budget and the need for long overdue human and physical infrastructure improvements help round out our economic gains.

Our efforts are paying off. Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent growth and stability. Investments are pouring in, the peso is strong, our stock market has reached historic heights, and we have created 7 million jobs in seven years. The peso has helped offset the impact of the rising cost of oil and has contributed to lowering the price of imports and in the process, inflation.

Our unemployment rate and poverty rate are the lowest in a generation. By continuing on our path of economic reform, we will be able to sustain this momentum.

The Philippines offers one of the best values in Asia for domestic and foreign investors today. We offer a strategic location in a fast-growing region, our workforce is well educated, productive and English speaking. We are cutting red tape to simplify the investments for investing in the Philippines.

We offer excellent opportunities in a range of sectors, particularly mining, technology, energy, various forms of tourism including medical and eco-tourism, bio fuels, infrastructure, and business process outsourcing.

The Philippines is ranked among the most attractive off-shoring destinations in the world because of cost-competitiveness and more importantly the country's highly trainable, English-proficient, IT-enabled quality manpower.

We are certainly a leader in the outsourcing space, but we cannot underestimate the contribution of other high growth sectors to our economy, for instance manufacturing, technology, mining, energy, tourism and infrastructure.

Our reforms are succeeding in attracting more foreign investments. These industries will continue to grow as drivers of the economy. Billion dollar plus investments by various international companies including Texas Instruments, Hanjin, Marubeni and Mittal Global are validations that our strategy is working.

Texas Instruments' choice of the Philippines over other destinations including China for its \$1.6 billion wafer fabrication. The surge in investments has also been anchored by the two new shipyards of Korea's Hanjin costing \$3.7 billion and making us the fourth biggest shipbuilder in the world; Marubeni, Tokyo Electric and America's AES have also invested in the power sector in the Philippines for some \$6 billion; and Global Mittal has announced plans to put up a \$1.6 billion integrated steel mill in Mindanao.

Our efforts to raise investor confidence through reforms and investments in infrastructure to improve the business environment are bearing fruit. Business confidence in the Philippines has been bolstered according to a recent survey conducted by the global audit and accounting firm Grant Thornton International, which showed the Philippine businesses were the most optimistic and bullish about their prospects in 2008.

We have had plenty of interest and investment in the mining business. Mining is a key driver of our economy and an important sector that is bringing in significant levels of investments, creating jobs for the people and spurring exports. In 2007 alone, investments grew to more than in the previous three years combined.

Our strongest competitive advantage – our people – is also opening doors for us in medical tourism. The Philippines is recognized internationally for the uniquely Filipino brand of hospitality, care and compassion that makes us a competitive player in this sector.

The global economic situation is clearly a prime issue for us because the more interconnected we become, the more we need to manage through the ups and downs of other nation's economic bubbles. This is certainly true should the U.S. economy experience more volatility.

Clearly, there will be some impact of the U.S. uncertainty on all countries because of the global significance for the U.S. economy. However, while a slowdown in the U.S. economy could dampen the growth of emerging markets, we are confident that the Philippines will withstand most of the adverse aspects of such a development largely, because of our improving economic fundamentals.

Moody's upgraded the Philippines to positive this week for very good reasons: we have the fastest growth in a generation – 7% for 2007. It was also a faster growth than our neighbors.

The good news for the Philippines is that we have matured and diversified our economy, so much the last few years that we are confident that our economic turnaround is permanent and our economy resilient to major economic disruptions.

We have one of the best central banks in the world. It has ably navigated our monetary policy and it has been a huge asset to our economic reform agenda. We trust the central bank team, who operate independently, to continue to manage our macro-economic fundamentals during a time of high oil prices and continued economic volatility.

The short answer to continuing the economic growth is summed in three words: invest, invest, invest. We must follow up the pain of tax raising measures with the gain that only comes from significant investment in people and projects. Only then will we truly ensure that progress cannot be reversed.

Our aim in the remainder of my term as president is to make our economic reforms permanent so that our nation is on a sustained path of economic growth and stability. We have turned the economy around. For the first time in a generation, we are investing hundreds of billions in human and physical infrastructure. Roads, bridges and airports as well as new schools and scholarships are the central building blocks that are necessary for the long term prospects of our citizens.

But of course, I am most interested in your investing in the Philippines. We are a good business environment getting even better. Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Program of the First Biennial National Congress on Education, January 31, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Program of the First Biennial National Congress on Education**

[Delivered at Tent City, Manila Hotel, January 31, 2008]

Education is a core value of Philippine society and family life. The hardworking men and women of this country put their family first, don't we? And the best gift any family can give to a child, and the best gift any nation can give to its people is access to a good education.

Education is the foundation of economic prosperity and individual liberty, justice and self-worth.

For this reason, we issued Executive Order No. 652, creating the Presidential Task Force for Education to assess, plan and monitor the entire educational system. We called this Congress, to discuss the progress report of the task force which will be presented after the coffee break.

But, of course, it was not only the creation of the task force that started our attention to education. From the beginning of our administration, we have recognized education as the key to our next generation in order to get ahead and get a good job.

And it is recognized all over the world, one of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, is to achieve universal primary education by 2015. And we have internalized that, even before we read the Millennium Development Goals.

In the year 2001 school year, to increase the chances of children finishing school, the Department of Education minimized the cost of going to school by stopping the collection of miscellaneous fees on enrollment day. That single act brought almost a million children to school.

Today, we have voluntary fees for the PTCA, the Red Cross and the Boy Scouts that have found their way back into the system.

Yesterday, I discussed this with Secretary Jing Lapus and I said that because the Millennium Development Goals wants us to achieve universal primary education by 2015, let's not give any excuse for parents not to send their children to school at least up to fourth grade. So the fees PTCA, Red Cross, Boys and Girls Scouts should only be collected starting grade 5, so that there will be no reason to keep children away from primary school.

In 2001, we also said in the State of the Nation Address that to reduce the time and money spent to actually travel to school we will build classrooms starting in the far-flung barangays unserved by nearby schools. Within a year, we completed more than one thousand of those school buildings. And by 2006 we had achieved our more ambitious medium-term plan target ratio of one classroom for every 50 grade school students on double shift. And even if we achieved that, because eventually we want to go to 45 students per shift, in 2007 we added another 15,000 classrooms. This year, we will start the construction season for 10,000 classrooms by a series of groundbreaking activities starting this Saturday.

There are of course still a few instances of shortages in classrooms, amid the nationwide sufficiency. The most famous or maybe infamous of these is the Batasan Elementary School in Quezon City, which makes the front page every opening of the school year. The Department of Education, the Quezon City government and the DSWD, which owns the adjoining lot, are addressing this exception because the problem is not that there are no funds but

there is no space available. So Secretary Lapus had to talk to Secretary Espie Cabral, because that is going to require the use of the very property of the main office of the DSWD itself.

Speaking of photos, today while there was a photo of a supposed tent classroom in Albay, so immediately we checked the field. According to the field, the classroom project in that school has been completed. The tent is being used as a recreational shed of children of evacuees.

Anyway, going back to attendance in schools. at Day Care Centers, pre-schools and grade 1 in depressed areas, we initiated the food-for-school program which gives a kilo of rice per day to pupils in those levels. This program not only increased class attendance, it also helped dramatically cut hunger incidence as well as self-rated food poverty, which is now the lowest in our statistical history. Now, we will begin to harmonize day care centers and pre-schools so that they can provide the needed extra year of basic education.

As a further and more direct incentive to school attendance, late last year we launched the “Ahon Pamilyang Pinoy” program of conditional cash donations to poor households who comply with rules that enhance learning and health. So we give the money because they are very poor, but the money— the condition is that they have to send their children to school among other conditions.

Now, under the proposed fiscal stimulus program to keep us resilient from the anticipated US slowdown, I have instructed Secretary Andaya and Secretary Cabral to scale up this “*Ahon Pamilyang Pinoy*” from 50 million pesos last year to five billion pesos this year.

Also, to further reduce the time and money spent to travel to school, we now invite the local governments, and I see representatives of local governments here — to join us in a bike-for-school program, similar to Thailand’s program to improve school attendance and something we have already quietly piloted in the province of Eastern Samar. In this case, two siblings whose school is 10 kilometers away and I hope that there are not too many of those cases now, can be provided a bicycle which the family will amortize at one peso a day, and then the two siblings can bike to school. That will be at one peso a day that is less than one-tenth of the 13,200 pesos they would have to spend for fare for transportation, if they have to take a ride ten kilometers away from home.

In 2001 we said, that to prepare our youth to be the next generation of knowledge workers, we would upgrade math and science teaching. By 2006, we had trained over 100,000 teachers to improve math and science instruction. Now, we can afford one billion pesos for teacher training this year, but 500 million of that will go to English training. We want all teachers to have 24 units of English, whether you get it in the course of getting your degree, or if you were not able to get 24 units during your degree years to get it in service.

In 2001, we said that to improve the quality of education as required by a new economy, we would increase the number of textbooks per student. Within a year, we distributed 54 million textbooks to 16 million elementary and high school students up to second year high school. By 2006, we had achieved an initial target, our initial target of one-to-one textbook-student ratio in priority subjects up to second year high school. And in 2007, we distributed more than 14 million textbooks, teachers’ manuals and instructional materials.

I would like to congratulate the Department of Education’s governance reforms that reduced the average cost per textbook and ensured correct and prompt deliveries, as monitored by NGOs including NAMFREL and the Boy and Girl Scouts.

But we recognized that there have been long standing problems of learning materials with erroneous or inappropriate content. If we cannot even ensure that textbooks are error-free, it would be extremely difficult to get the rest of our education program right. So sometime ago, I instructed Jing Lapus to create a high-level textbook review task force to rid learning materials of erroneous or inappropriate content, and I asked him to seek guidance and assistance from the members of the Presidential Council on Values Formation, as well as the leading institutes of education and science and technology.

In 2001, we said we would hire more teachers. Within a year, we hired 15,000 new teachers compared to 2,000 a year before, compared to 5,000 in year 2000 before I became President. Between 2002 and 2007, we've hired more than 50,000 teachers.

We have installed internet-linked computers in dozens of public high schools. We are now aiming for distance learning and cyber education where we hope to install computer linkage in every public high school especially in the rural areas, which will become community centers outside school hours.

You know, I was inspired in the Davos World Economic Forum because there was great support for this project among the information technology governors of the WEF, including Microsoft and Hewlett Packard. In fact, it was Hewlett Packard who raised it during our roundtable, not even me. So I'm very happy and I have validation that it is something that we should do and is very desirable.

On high schools, we have a lack of public high schools but we have a surplus of private high schools. We recognize the pivotal role of private high schools in national life. That is why instead of building more public high schools, we are expanding high school scholarships for the private schools. We are doing this through the voucher system and the government assistance to teachers and students in private education or GATSPE. We will build public high schools only in the jurisdictions where there are no private high schools available. So GATSPE and high school vouchers will be the key for high school education.

Likewise, in tertiary education and technical education, we have raised the number of scholarship grants and loans to give the poor access. We have increased to one billion pesos the allocation for TESDA's training program and we are encouraging scholarships in ladderized education.

I wanted to make an announcement today as far as TESDA is concerned, but I don't want to make any announcements until I confer with Secretary Nonoy Andaya. So you have something to wait for Secretary Syjuco.

Why are we able to do all these increases? We're able to do all these because for the first time in a generation, less of our revenue is being used to service debt and more resources are being directed towards investment in human and physical infrastructures including education, health care and training aside from new roads, bridges and ports.

And we are also able to do this because of the contributions to the classroom building program and computer linkage program of development-minded citizens and entities, including the chambers of commerce represented here today, including the corporate foundations, including the local governments, and including our overseas Filipinos. And we thank them all for their contribution to our human infrastructure.

And we are able to do this, the large portion that still comes from national government funds, because the Philippine economy has turned around with 28 consecutive quarters of growth, topped off by seven percent in 2007.

Our stock market is up, seven million jobs were created in seven years, and our currency is one of the strongest in Asia. Investments and many are surging and many new companies are investing in US. We're one of the best values in Asia right now, and we can be the best value if we are able to match education and job requirements.

Poverty alleviation is our overarching goal. We will continue to focus on it. Balancing the budget is just the first step. Over the next few years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people, a number one benefit is education.

We will continue to invest in new school construction at the elementary school level. We will bolster our scholarship program for high school students and for those ready for higher education.

In return, we ask colleges and universities to update themselves about the current market demands in the local and international market, and to offer the courses that fit their graduates to the skills requirements of available jobs.

Maybe no more customs administration or maybe a little bit less of business management, more of entrepreneurship, things like that.

And we instruct the Professional Regulatory Commission, to update licensure examinations to reflect technical and scientific requirements of business and industry.

We ask local government colleges and universities to comply with the standards of CHED.

Now to the teachers. You know, I asked Mona yesterday or the day before yesterday, "*Mona, how many teachers are attending our congress?*" "*Well, not that many,*" she said, "*Mostly, administrators.*" "*Mona,*" I said, "*I want my speech to be primarily a speech to the teachers. They make up the backbone of our education system. I want them to be the majority of the attendees in the Congress.*"

So I am to see all these uniformed ladies and gentlemen around here, because I want to say that the teachers indeed are the backbone of the educational system. And without you, our selfless men and women, our children would fall short of their dreams and aspirations.

I remember when I was a little girl in Iligan, my idol aside from Prinsesa Tarhata of Sulu who was like Princess Diana for me. You know, well, what Princess Diana was for many, later on at that time she was for me, my other idol was the teacher in Buroon Elementary School in our barangay.

And we are deeply indebted to the hard work and dedication of all our teachers. Your work is noble and patriotic. You deserve the praise and respect of every Filipino. That's why you received additional compensation in 2006 and a 10 percent salary increase in 2007.

That's why unlike in previous years, in our administration, teachers now receive at least the same amount of the ever increasing bonus that national government workers receive. In fact, Jing Lapus tells me your second installment of your bonus is coming soon to complete your 10,000 pesos.

And also that is why teachers are included in our administration bill for a third round of salary standardization and increase. So let us all work, Congressman De Guzman, let us all work for Congress to pass this bill. It's already in the 2008 budget.

Teachers, but above all every participant here is a stakeholder in our national effort to fight poverty by working towards a relevant and a high-quality educational system.

And so let us all move forward together.

Labanan ang kahirapan, isulong ang karunungan. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Ibon – Ebon Festival

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Ibon – Ebon Festival**

[Delivered at Poblacion, Candaba, Pampanga, February 1, 2008]

Metun a mayap a pagbati keko ngan king mumunang diling pamagdiwang ning Candaba king IBON-EBON FESTIVAL.

Abalu ku na adwa yang bage iting pamagdiwang: ing tagumpe yu king pamag-protekta da ring ayup a manibat karing aliwang lugar o migratory birds ampo ing pamanyulung king industriya na ning itik.

Pauli ning galing da ding kekayung gewang akbang ban sesen la dening ayup, lalu la pang darakal banua-banua. Balita ku, atin pang atlung e karaniwang species da ding ayup a dadayu ngeni king Candaba Swamp.

Iti metung ya karing bunga ning pamagsumikap nang Mayor Jerry Pelayo at ikayu ngang taga-Candaba, pati na ing mabilug a probinsiya ning Pampanga a akamit na ing ustung balansi king kailangan da deng tao ampo pa ing kapaligiran o “Balance Between the Needs of the People and Those of the Environment,” a tema king pamagdiwang.

In the case of our country as a whole, we have begun the Green Philippines plan. This is a blueprint for mapping our environment and economic policies that will allow for sustainable development that doesn’t fall on the backs of the poor or erode our environment. There is a cost to make the Green Philippines come to life. But the cost is greater without the plan and the investment in our people and environment.

From rising tides, to changing weather to deforestation and pollution of air, sea and land, the challenges of the environment at this time of climate change are great. As a nation made up of over 7,000 islands, rising seas due to global warming takes on a whole new meaning. Florida may lose some coastline, we lose a nation. Our response to this grave challenge may sound humorous, but our intent is deadly serious: we must work together to solve this problem. If we do, it will be one of our great achievements.

Every nation, developed or developing, must assume the mantle of leadership and work to address the challenge of climate change. Each and every person bears some measure of responsibility for what we have done today and throughout history to diminish our environment. Obviously, some are more responsible than others; and some are more responsible today than yesterday. But all that apportionment of blame does nothing against a rising tide of global warming that will swamp our nation if we do not act with solidarity.

Unity is a real aspiration that manifests itself through progress.

Unity is about action, not discussion. It is about working together and not just talking together.

Susi ya king kekatomung pamag-ahon king kakalululuwan, ing pamanese tamu king kapaligiran ampong likas a yaman. Kasabay ng pagdami ng mga ibong napapadpad sa Candaba Swamp ang pagdami din ng mga taong dadayo, local man o galing sa ibang bansa, upang manood ng kakaibang natural phenomenon na ito.

Tungkul naman king pamanese karing bibi, malamang a dakal kekayu, buri dang gawan iti pero ala lang capital.

Kaya kaniting okasyon na ning Ibon Ebon Festival, ating kung tsekeng metung a milyon para karing livelihood projects da ring memalen Candaba.

Poverty alleviation is our overarching goal. We will continue focus on it. Getting our growth rate of 7.3%, the highest in 31 years, is just the first step. Over the next few years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people. We will increase investment in our country and our people to: 1) improve our infrastructure, kalupa ning Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressay ampu ing potang umpisan tang Third Bulacan Circumferential Road, to create an environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and employ more people, because more jobs means less poverty, 2) improve social services such as health insurance subsidies for indigent families and Food for School anti-hunger programs, 3) boost educational support in our efforts to reduce poverty by investing in better school buildings, new textbooks and teaching materials, training programs for teachers and school administrators, ampu karing facilities kalupa ning binuklat tang aklatan nandin, and 4) cutting red tape and continuing to eliminate corruption from the system.

Puspusan ing pamagpatupad na ning guyernu – kayabe da karing lokal a opisyaless- karing programang tutugun karing pangunahing kailangan da ring kekatamung memalen.

Iti parte ne ning pamagbalik tami karing kekatamung membalin karing bunga na ning pamanyulung ning kekatamung ekonomiya.

Dakal a salamat kekayu at masayang pamagdiwang kekatamu ngan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Ibon – Ebon Festival. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123641/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1006&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Grand Spring Festival Reception

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Grand Spring Festival Reception hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, February 4, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Romulo, Ambassador Song Tao member to the diplomatic corps, Vice-president De Castro, other officials of the Philippine government, members and leaders of the Filipino-Chinese community, ladies and gentlemen:

It is an honor to join our Chinese friends on this auspicious occasion. Chinese New Year is widely celebrated in the Philippines and very popular even outside the Chinese community.

But while we are delighted to be together tonight, I am also sad about the reports of widespread devastation in many provinces across Central and Eastern China due to heavy snowfall.

And I speak for the Filipino people in expressing deepest sympathies to those whose family and friends perished in the disaster.

The extensive damage to property and the disruption of the normal course of life for many of our Chinese brothers and sisters before the spring season are tremendous challenges.

More snows in China may mean higher world commodity prices this year as demand remains strong while agricultural supplies are badly hit by weather.

In the face of these trials, the Filipino people stand squarely with the Chinese people in the hope and confidence that resolve and commitment will lead to full recover of all distressed individuals, and the complete rehabilitation of all affected communities.

With the resilient nature of the Chinese people and under the able leadership of President Hu Jintao, we are sure that the challenges the people of China face now will be overcome.

This disaster and the global economic situation are a key issue for us because the more interconnected we become, the more we need to manage through the ups and downs of other nation's problems. And this is true certainly with any further volatility in the big economies of the world.

To keep our economy resilient to major economic disruptions, we have ordered a surge in infrastructure spending – 200 billion pesos from the national government, government corporations and local governments; three thousand kilometers of roads and 10,000 school buildings – these are a firewall against the world volatility and as a springboard for further growth. We are focused like a laser pointed on frontloading the infrastructure boom and expansion of public services.

We are able to do this because of the additional resources generated by our economic reforms.

Our economy through those reforms has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in a generation. And I thank Ambassador Song Tao for acknowledging a 7.3 percent growth rate. (applause)

Seven years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. No one thought we could bring the budget close to balance, lower our national debt and raise employment, but we have.

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent growth and stability. Investments are pouring in.

China's Jinchuan, Citic and Jilin Nickel are some of the investors who have expressed interest in project in the Philippines. In terms of mining, China is one of the world's biggest consumers of metal so for the mining industry, this represents a significant opportunity in terms of mining exploration, development and mineral exports, particularly at a time when we are looking to develop our 1 trillion dollars worth of mineral reserves across the country. We hope to see the nickel and other Chinese investments come to fruition soon.

With Beijing hosting the 2008 summer games, the Olympics and China's rise as the third-largest economy in the world, China's performance is also expected to bring heightened economic progress in our region.

We see the rise of China as a significant opportunity for the Philippines. Our overall relations with China are now more confident, mature, and comprehensive, they are punctuated with substantial and important projects not just the legal mines, many projects aimed at deepening exchanges in a number of areas, including trade and investment. On trade, China is now our largest export market (applause) and as Ambassador Song Tao has said, we have had a substantial trade surplus with China since 2002. Our framework agreement on expanding and deepening bilateral economic and trade cooperation is further enhancing bilateral merchandise trade with China.

And even though both our economies are booming, Philippines with a 7.3 percent, the lowest poverty rate, self-rated in actual, unemployment rate down, and China with its continuing double-digit growth like so many places in the world whether rich and poor alike, we must both fight to close the gap in income inequality. We are cautiously optimistic that both our countries have worked to manage our economy so that we can weather any storm whether it be economic or a snow storm or a typhoon in the near term. We are bullish about the long term economic prognosis of our two countries and we are even more bullish about our relationship with each other.

An aggressive foreign policy is essential to the lifeblood of the Philippines, that is why we are so gratified, reflecting on our relationship during this Chinese new year's eve that the Philippines and China, and our relations with each other have so much to expand and build on in 2008.

And so as we prepare to toast the lunar new year, we wish the Chinese people all over the world, and especially the Chinese people and the Filipino-Chinese in the Philippines, a happy and prosperous year of the rat. (applause) May we all have—the Chinese, the Filipinos and our friends from all over the world, may we all have a meaningful and progressive 2008 ahead.

Kong hae fa tsoi. Xiexie. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the Grand Spring Festival Reception. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123633/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1004&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Energy Summit, February 5, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Energy Summit**

[Delivered at the SMX Convention Center, Roxas Boulevard, Manila, February 5, 2008]

Thank you for your expression of support.

This is a great day for energy independence as we meet in this summit to enhance policies and programs, attract investments and technology, and launch development projects that will impact favorably on energy in the medium term. In this energy summit, we especially want to reach consensus on efforts to moderate energy costs — a top concern of investors and ordinary Filipinos alike.

Even before crude hit \$100 a barrel, we instituted a plan for immediate relief, including the rollback in oil tariffs, which recently cut one peso off the diesel price. We have cracked down on kotong and colorum activities, eroding the earnings of franchised buses and jeepneys. Congratulations to Secretary Reyes and his anti-kotong and anti-colorum task force. I have also instructed Secretary Favila to make the Bureau of Consumer Protection, petition the Energy Regulatory Commission to grant bigger electricity discounts for low-income consumers.

We are always concerned about prices that consumers and industrial users alike pay. We want our power costs to be about average for the region.

That is why seven years ago, I signed the **EPIRA** into law to provide competitive power rates for our electric power consumers. It provides for open access once we privatize 70% of the power generating plants of NAPOCOR.

We are eager to move along the privatization of NAPOCOR. Not only will it enable open access, it will also free the government of its subsidy and allow us to use the windfall proceeds to subsidize power costs.

We made important progress last year, with the successful sales of four NAPOCOR generating plants worth a total of more than \$2 billion. This is in addition to the \$3.9 billion bid for the concession contract for TRANSCO, where the government received much more than we asked for. We are confident we will be able to sustain this momentum.

Yet, seven years after the EPIRA, we continue to experience the high cost of electricity. I have been wondering why power costs in the Luzon Urban Beltway are so high, when Luzon is reliant on imported oil for only 1% of its power.

Preliminary information from NAPOCOR indicates that MERALCO buys 45% from NAPOCOR, 45% from its Independent Power Plants, and 10% from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market. The average selling price of NAPOCOR to all Luzon electric cooperatives is P4.11 per kilowatt hour, if they buy 100% from NAPOCOR. MERALCO buys electricity from NAPOCOR and WESM at peak hours, which are more expensive at P6-10 per kilowatt hour. So the general charge of Meralco is much higher because of the blended mix. I instruct NAPOCOR, to charge Meralco the same rate it charges Luzon electric cooperatives. I instruct the DTI, to petition ERC to enjoin MERALCO from buying electricity from WESM at peak hours.

We also learned that the charges of TRANSCO are not equally distributed by MERALCO to industrial commercial and residential users. Since they differentiate anyway, I instruct the DTI to petition ERC to ensure preferential treatment for poor households and power-intensive industries in the distribution of TRANSCO charges by MERALCO.

We also learned that MERALCO's system loss is charged as a separate item. I instruct the Bureau of Consumer Protection, to petition ERC to prohibit this.

We also learned that MERALCO's distribution charge is the highest among all 140 distribution utilities and electric cooperatives in the country. Veco, Cebeco and Davao Light have a lower distribution charge. I instruct the DTI's Bureau of Consumer Protection, to petition ERC to require MERALCO to charge the same as Veco, Cebeco or Davao Light.

Another way we could mitigate the high cost of electricity and give our industrial consumers the power of choice is, to accelerate the implementation of open access. With 42% of NAPOCOR generating capacity sold, the consumers still do not have a choice of where they can source the most competitive rates. Therefore we have proposed the amendment of EPIRA to remove the 70% privatization as a requirement for open access.

The private sector has expressed their willingness for an early implementation of open access even without the 70% privatization. I therefore urge industry players, particularly private generation companies and distribution utilities, to cooperate in finding solutions on how to implement open access now. This way, instead of EPIRA, we can prioritize the *Renewable Energy Bill*, which we have certified as urgent.

Energy security also demands the development of indigenous and renewable sources, including domestic oil and gas, geothermal, solar, wind, wave and biofuels. We have made gains in energy independence, with domestic sources having grown 43% since our administration started in 2001 and now supplying 60% of our needs. The strong peso has helped offset the impact of the rising price of oil. But we must further cut our reliance on foreign oil.

The publicly-listed Chemrez is producing coco-biodiesel in Quezon City, while Sember is producing in Lucena City. But both are working at under-capacity levels for lack of coco oil supply. I instruct the Philippine Coconut Authority, to help them look for the supply and to plant more coconut in Luzon.

We cannot underestimate the contribution of energy to our economy. We are encouraged by major investments in generating facilities.

In 2005, we launched the *National Ethanol Fuel Program* by breaking ground of the San Carlos Bioenergy plant in Negros Occidental, which will go on stream in December.

For indigenous power sources, the windmills in the north are supplying almost all the energy needs of an entire town in the Ilocos. Vince Perez, who used to be Secretary of Energy but is now back in his private sector role as investment banker, was with me in my last trip to Dubai. He has raised \$150 to invest in renewables like wind power.

The first Philippine-made bioethanol from molasses will be on in March in Ormoc, with investment from Praj Industries – a result of our India State Visit last year.

The Northwind Power Corporation in Luzon will be completed this year, the Sibulan hydro-electric plant in Mindanao to be completed in 2009, the Mindanao Geothermal in 2010, and KEPCO, Nasulo Geothermal and Global Business Power Corporation, all in the Visayas to be completed in 2010.

Bionor Transformacion of Spain is looking for 100,000 hectares for jatropha nursery in Palawan – a result of our Spain State Visit last year. Abengoa of Spain is interested in 60,000 hectares for cassava bioethanol nursery. They are looking at Misamis Occidental.

We must also sustain and expand investments in the delivery of non-traditional fuels, like compressed natural gas from now available to dozens of provincial buses through mother-daughter CNG stations. We must make CNG available to hundreds, not dozens of buses by pursuing the large investors from Japan and India, who have long expressed interest in building a chain of CNG stations and natural gas pipeline from Batangas to the various stations in that chain.

Solar power is lighting up rural homes in Mindanao. Aside from the projects in the land reform areas, the private investment in Cagayan de Oro is the largest solar power plant in the developing world.

The geothermal fields in South Luzon, the Bicol region, central Visayas and some Mindanao provinces make us, in the words of Bill Clinton, the world's geothermal leader.

Your knowledge in energy conservation are also all-important in our quest for energy security. Like Australia, we should phase out incandescent lights by 2010.

The unceasing combustion of fossil fuels on a planetary scale is the main culprit of climate change. From rising tides, to changing weather to deforestation and pollution of air, sea and land, the challenges of climate change are great. As a nation made up of over 7,000 island, rising seas due to global warming takes on a whole new meaning. Florida may lose some coastline, we lose a nation. Our response to this grave challenge may sound humorous, but our intent is deadly serious: we must work together to solve this problem.

Every nation, developed or developing, must assume the mantle of leadership and work to address the challenge of climate change. Each and every person bears some responsibility for what we have done today and throughout history, to diminish our global environment. Some nations are more responsible than others; some are more responsible today than yesterday. But all that apportionment of blame does nothing against a rising tide of global warming that will swamp our nation, if we do not act with decisiveness and solidarity.

In the case of our country, we have begun the Green Philippines Plan, a blueprint for mapping out our environment and economic policies, including energy policy, that will allow for sustainable development that doesn't fall on the backs of the poor or erode our environment. There is a cost to make the Green Philippines come to life, including investments in developing alternative fuels, renewable energy and energy efficiency. But the cost is greater without the plan and the investment in our people and our environment.

Compounding the challenges we face on the energy front is the global economic situation. It is clearly an issue for us because the more interconnected we become, the more we need to manage through the ups and downs of other nations' economic bubbles. This is certainly true with any further volatility in the US economy. The good news for the Philippines is that, we have matured and diversified our economy so much the last few years that our economic turnaround is permanent and our economy resilient to major economic disruptions.

I have ordered a surge in infrastructure spending as a firewall against US volatility and as springboard for further growth. We are focused like a laser pointed on the infrastructure boom and expansion of public services.

As of last month, there are now lights in all but 3% of the country's 42,000 barangays. We will wire up the remaining 1,400 villages before 2010. At the same time, expect to see me groundbreaking projects the whole month of February, as we frontload our 2008 budget for the surge.

We thank the DOE and the collaborating agencies and program partners of this summit.

Let us now move in concert, and together, fulfill the opportunities to sustain our development even in this time of volatility. Thank you

Source: **Adamson University Library**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 17th anniversary Celebration of the Philippine National Police (PNP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 17th anniversary Celebration of the Philippine National Police (PNP)**

[Delivered at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Quezon City, February 6, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Puno for your introduction.

Former President Ramos, not only former president of the Philippines but also former Chief of the Philippine Constabulary; General Razon and the other officers and men and women of the Philippine National Police; members of the diplomatic corps; colleagues in the Armed Forces and the civilian government agencies; benefactors and friends of the Philippine National Police; awardees; ladies and gentlemen.

Sa ating mga mamang pulis at aling pulis, happy anniversary sa inyong lahat! (Applause)

At taos-pusong pagbati sa lahat nang tumanggap ng parangal kanina. Una sa lahat, nabigyan natin ang isang biyuda ng isang pulis na nagbuwis ng buhay para magsagip sa iba. (Applause) Nagbigay din tayo sa mga nakasolusyon at nakahuli doon sa nagbomba sa Batasan at doon sa nakasagip kay Father Bossi mula sa kamay ng mga teroristang kidnapper. (Applause) at nagbigay tayo ng pinakamataas na parangal doon sa mga nagpamalas ng kagalingan at katapatan sa tungkulin noong pangyayari sa Manila Pen. (Applause)

Yung nangyari sa Manila Pen pinapakita that people want political stability, a bright economic future and social justice. Those who dream of doing things to disrupt our progress are out of touch with the hopes and dreams of the average Filipino. We have been through many upheavals and time and again, the people have indicated they want a stable government and economic progress — that is what they are getting now. And thanks in no small measure to mamang pulis and aling pulis. (Applause)

Tamang-tama rin yung special award sa Human Rights Office dahil nga ang tema ng anibersaryo ninyo ay, “Mamang Pulis: Tagapagtaguyod ng Karapatang Pangtao Tungo sa Kapanatagan ng Mamamayan.”

And together with you, in fact, you have made it easy for us to follow the roadmap laid out by the Melo Commission to get at the bottom of unexplained political killings. Thanks to Mamang Pulis and we should say Aling Pulis because the head of the Human Rights Office is a woman. We have been meeting with success in the fight to put an end to the legacy of political violence in the Philippines.

And with the priority you have given that legacy, we will continue to bring perpetrators to justice, jail criminals, and exhort the nation to leave behind its terrible legacy of political violence. And thanks to your investigations and the building-up of evidence and arresting perpetrators, political killings were down 83 percent last year. Congratulations! (Applause) But we must not rest until we reach zero.

Pinupuri ko ‘yung mga ginagawa ng human rights office ng PNP. Yung mga seminar at panukala ng PNP upang pagtibayin ang inyong mga regulasyon at tradisyon nagtatanggol sa karapatan ng bawat mamamayan.

And congratulations as well for decreasing last year's total crime volume by 7.4 percent. And especially, I'm sure the Chinese community — Don Emilio and the other members of the federation and the business club — will thank you especially, the kidnapping went down by half. Congratulations also for that! (Applause)

And congratulations for your neighborhood partnership program which was cited by the U.N. Agency for Asia and Far East Institute for Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders as a model for community participation in crime prevention. That institute also noted the PNP's achievements against the trafficking of persons, particularly child sexual exploitation.

And so you have devoted yourselves to the protection of human rights not only in the political sphere but in the sphere of women and children's welfare. Malapit na 'yung Children's Month. Dati-dati nagsi-celebrate tayo ng PNP anniversary sa Enero pero ginawa nating Pebrero ngayon, early February, dahil hindi pa natin alam noon nung hinahanda ninyo ito kung kailan ako babalik mula sa Davos at Dubai. Mabuti na rin dahil tayo ay nasa runup na patungo sa selebrasyon ng Women's Month at magandang pagkakataon lalo na dahil sa naganap niyong gantimpala tungkol sa child protection against sexual abuse, tungkol... pwede nating i-highlight ngayon yung mga ginagawa ng pulis para proteksyunan yung mga bata at mga kababaihan.

Ang Women and Children's Concerns Division ay pinalakas natin, pinalakas ninyo bilang Women and Children's Protection Center. And I am glad that after ordering the hiring of 2,000 policewomen in 2006, equivalent to four battalions, now we can unveil the center as the country's first all-woman police outpost. (Applause) And I was saying that this center should also serve as a prototype station women's desk. Not that all the other stations should be all women but that woman's desk or the cubicle should showcase a woman's touch. It should be in cool pastel colors or feminist purple. It should have victim-friendly reception rooms. It should have shelves that will display 'help' literature on domestic violence, and it should have a clean comfort room.

Pero mayroon na rin tayong all-women SWAT team at CDM team mula sa regional special actions units ng NCRPO at sa Quezon City Police District. Sana nakatulong ito kay Police District Director Gatdula na siya ay nakakuha ng Outstanding na Police District Office dito sa Metro Manila. We will meet the all-women swat team later. We will present them to the media. And they should be able to respond to extreme cases of domestic violence when hostage taking is involved. We want to show that police girl power is not limited to sisterly counseling. It packs a mean firepower as well. (Applause)

We need today as much as ever all the hallmarks of our police forces, male and female — patriotism, loyalty and professionalism which you have all shown as epitomized by our awardees but also the entire organization. With the support of our policemen and policewomen, we will leave this nation stronger and more secure for all. With your support, we will continue to provide increased stability, economic growth and peace and order.

Patuloy tayong magkaisa. Ang PNP sa ibabaw ng mga katangiang pinakita ninyo itong nakaraang taon. Pinakita ninyo ang pagkakaisa. Ituloy natin ito tungo sa higit na ligtas, mapayapa at maunlad na sambayanan.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, sa inyong anibersaryo, hindi ko na uulitin yung mga benepisyong inulat ni General Sonny Razon. Ang sasabihin ko na lamang, congratulations sa inyong magandang gawain!

Mabuhay ang PNP!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during The 17th Anniversary Celebration of the Philippine National Police (PNP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123606/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1001&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Local Peace and Security Assembly for Region XI

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Local Peace and Security Assembly for Region XI**

[Delivered in Tagum City, Davao Del Norte, February 8, 2008]

Kining Peace and Security Assembly gisundan ang usa sa labing makasaysayang hitabo dinhi sa atong nasod – ang unang higayon nga usa ka tawo gikan sa Mindanao ang galingkod isip Speaker sa House of Representatives.

Nahinumduman ko nga sa kumperensiya sa Peace and Security sa Cagayan de Oro, niadtong Hulyo sa miaging tuig, mihangyo kanako si ang mga taga-Mindanao agi kan Cong. Rufus Rodriguez nga kung mahimo, ihatag unta ang traynta porsyento isip alokasyon sa Mindanao gikan sa atong national budgat matag tuig. Gisugo ko dayon ang mga namuno sa Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Agriculture (DA) ug Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) aron siguruhon nga masunod dayon kini sa ilang mga programa.

Peace will bring a new era of economic development to Mindanao. Coupled with our increased budget for Mindanao is our new paradigm for peace in the island. At a time when hard power has not proven its value in the world, our model for dealing with the flashpoint area of Mindanao has focused on a unique combination of soft and hard power to promote peace. We have been able to meld together confidence-building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness; investments in economic and basic infrastructure development; and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

Congratulations to the region's military and police in their joint efforts with the military in curbing terrorists and rebels.

The terrorists stand in the way of bringing peace, stability and order to Southern Philippines. We have decided we must wipe them out once and for all. They are a menace to peace.

Recently, six of our soldiers died and eight were wounded in an ambush by the New People's Army (NPA) in Davao Oriental.

We commend our armed forces for their heroic efforts. We regret and mourn with the families of those soldiers who have been caught in the line of fire.

The communist rebels have spent years as a low-level threat. It is time for their disruption of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead. They impede the progress and development of a number of rural areas and they are responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses. If we are to become a First World country, we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all.

I have specified a timeline – 2010 – to end armed rebellion.

Kauban sa angay masumpo ang trese ka guerilla fronts dinhi, labi na gayod kadtong ga-kuta didto sa Compostela Valley ug kadtong ana-a sa boundary sa Davao del Sur, Agusan ug Bukidnon.

I extended the term of AFP Chief of Staff General Hermogenes Esperon for three months because I want him to continue the AFP's current initiatives in fighting terrorism.

I hereby announce the Investment Defense Force function of the military to give protective shield to power assets, other infrastructure, and mineral development projects.

We have made peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) a cornerstone of our Administration. We have made great progress thanks to the commitment of the parties involved and to the support of our friends and allies including Malaysia, Libya, Brunei, Japan and others. We are close to an agreement. Our negotiating team has just created a new draft paper on creating a homeland for Muslims in Southern Philippines. We are hopeful this will help restart the talks with the MILF and equally hopeful that it will result in a definitive peace agreement.

However, even as we have achieved a great deal, the island is vastly improved in terms of safety, security and economic growth, our paradigm for peace in the island is really making things better; it will really take off if we achieve lasting peace and the millions of foreign aid promised comes pouring in.

We take the issue of human rights seriously. We have followed the roadmap laid out by the Melo Commission. We have been meeting with success in the fight to put an end to the legacy of political violence in the Philippines.

We deplore any and all killings of political activists and journalists. No person is above the law in this nation. Whether a former president, member of the military or an average citizen, all men and women are equal before the law. The death of any Filipino citizen in pursuit of their right to political expression violates human liberty.

We will continue to bring perpetrators to justice, work with Congress to enact the law on human rights compensation, and exhort the nation to leave behind the terrible legacy of political violence and clan vendetta. Thankfully, political killings were down 83 percent last year but we will not rest until we reach zero.

Ang atong mga kampanya kontra sa terorista ug rebelyon kinahanglan nga ikonekta sa atong pakiglaban sa kapobrehon.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 30 years, including a 7.3 percent growth rate. Seven years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. And no one thought we could bring our budget close to balance, lower our debts and raise employment, but we have.

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Investments are pouring in, the peso is strong, our stock market has reached historic heights and we have created seven million jobs in seven years.

The global economic situation is a key issue for us because the more interconnected we become, the more we need to manage through the ups and downs of other nation's economic imbalances. This is true with any further volatility in the US economy. The good news for the Philippines is that we have matured and diversified our economy so much the last few years that we are confident our economic turnaround is permanent and our economy resilient.

I have ordered a surge in infrastructure projects. We have allocated almost 200 billion pesos for these infrastructure projects. These funds will come from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other concerned agencies.

Daghang mga proyekto sa imprastraktura ang gibutang dinhi sa rehiyon sa Davao ug Compostela Valley, sama sa Davao-Surigao Coastal Road nga gisa-ad ko sa akong State of the Nation Address, ug ang pagpadako sa pantalan sa Sasa nga mura'g mahuman na.

Apil ining mga imprastraktura ang otsenta'y syete nga Farm to Market Roads sa inyong upat ka probinsiya, kauban ang disisyete nga gitukod dinhi sa Davao del Norte.

Ni-labaw na sa 500 ang mga Botica ng Barangay sa inyong rehiyon. Ang mga probinsiya sa Davao del Norte ug Compostela Valley ang may labing daghang outlets tungod kay kini ang mga probinsya sa rehiyon nga mas daghan ug kinahanglanon. Hapit sa 400 ang gidaghanon sa Tindahan Natin nga gabaligya ug baratong bugas.

I-focus nato ang atong mga gihimo aron makab-ot nato ang permanenteng kalinaw dinhi sa rehiyon ug sa tibuok nasod samtang gipadayon ang mga paningkamot alang sa pag-usbaw.

Pina-agi sa inyong tabang, sa suporta sa ubang pang Pilipino ug sa kalu-oy sa atong Gino-o, malampuson kining atong mga paningkamot aron makab-ot ang atong mga tuyo.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech at the Local Peace and Security Assembly for Region XI. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123552/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=999&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Sentenaryu: 100th Year Celebration of Pampanga High School

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Sentenaryu: 100th Year Celebration of Pampanga High School**

[Delivered at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center, San Fernando, Pampanga, February 11, 2008]

Masayang pamagdiwang ning sentenaryu Pampanga king High School.

Malapit ya king puso ku ing PHS uli na ning ing kanakung tatang, i Presidenti Diosdado Macapagal, kabilang ya king Batch 1929 na niting eskuwelahang iti.

In 1925 when he was 15, he was chosen class valedictorian in Lubao Elementary School.

The nearest high school was in San Fernando, some 40 kilometers from Lubao.

For the children's sake, his mother moved the entire family to San Fernando. She rented a nipa house in San Fernando and accepted boarders in order to meet their our living expenses.

Pampanga High School opened a completely new world for my father. For one thing, education, which until then had been a chore, though an easy chore, began to be a pleasure. He started to make friends who would remain with him for life, even as far as Malacanang. One of them recalled, "He borrowed textbooks because he could not afford to buy them. Ten minutes before class he would ask a classmate for a textbook and stand under the shade of an acacia tree skimming it. Then, to the astonishment of everyone, he always knew the lesson."

His four years of stint in the secondary courses were spiced with memorable events. He did his best to rank among those at the head of his class from school year to school year, to show his undying gratitude to his mother.

My father's experience reflects that of many Filipino families. Education is a core value of Philippine society and family life. The hard working men and women of this nation put their family first. The best gift any family can give to a child is access to a good education.

Education is the foundation of economic prosperity and individual liberty, justice and self worth.

Ding eskuwelahan ila ding pangadwang bale na ning metung a anak, inya pin yang metung a maragul a panibatan na ring mayap a bage a dadala na king mabilug nang bie.

Deting bage deni ilang pigkalub ning PHS karing keyang estudyante king kilub na ning metung a siglo.

Ngening aldo iti, pagdiwang taya ing metung a siglo ning tradisyon ning PHS king academic excellence ampong dekalidad at relevant a edukasyon a bibie na karing kekatamung kabalen a kayanakan ban saupan lang magsadya para karing pagsubuk king karelang panahun at maka-ambag la king kekatamung pagnasan a bawasan in kasakitan.

We are making real progress in alleviating poverty. The rate of poverty is down, both objective measures and self-rated poverty. Employment is up. Our education and healthcare services to the poor vastly improved. Only through a strong economy can we improve the plight of the poor. To that end, we have turned the corner on our economy.

Today the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Investments are pouring in, the peso is strong, our stock market has reached historic heights and we have created 7 million jobs in seven years.

For the first time in a generation, we are investing heavily in human and physical infrastructure. Roads, bridges and airports as well as new school buildings and scholarships are the central building blocks that are necessary for our long term prospects.

Later today we will ground-break new classrooms in Mexico, part of the 10,000 classrooms we will build this year.

King Pampanga High, binie na ning gubyerno ding rehabilitation na ning Gabaldon Building, Elevated Drainage System, Dama de Noche Building at ing Diosdado Macapagal Inner Court.

Kinimut tamu ban pasikanan ing kalidad ning edukasyon king elementary among High School.

Sasaupan tala ding estudyante king high school a maki-agape la king panahun na ning internet kapamilatan na ning pamalage ning computer linkage balang metung a public high school. Atin na ba king Pampanga High School?

Makanyan mu naman, ban ta lang adinan tsansa ding pakakalulung estudyante king high school a makapag-kolehiyo, digdagan ta la ding scholarship para king kolehiyo at pesikanan ta ya ing ladderized system, para karing vocational/technical students a magnasang manikwang diploma king kolehiyo.

Teachers are the backbone of our educational system. Without these selfless men and women, our children would fall short of their dreams and aspirations. We are deeply indebted to the hard work and dedication of all our teachers. Their work is noble and patriotic. They deserve the praise and respect of every Filipino.

Kaya menikwa ta nang migit-kumulang 53,000 tala-turu manibat 2002 hanggang 2007.

Teachers received additional compensation in 2006 and a 10% salary increase in 2007.

Unlike in previous Administrations, teachers now share the increasing bonus that other national government workers receive. Teachers received a P10,000 bonus in 2007.

Teachers are included in the salary increase provided in our Administration bill for a new third round of salary standardization. Let's ask our Capangpangan Congressmen to author the bill.

Pasibayu, congratulations king Pampanga High School, king kekayung pamagdiwang king kekayung sentenaryu. Pupugayan da ko king pamilyag yu king kinabukasan kapamilatan na ning pamag-tuun yung pansin king panyulung da ding kekatamung peka-maulagang yaman – ding kayanakan.

Dakal a salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during the Sentenaryu: 100th Year Celebration of Pampanga High School. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123517/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=995&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the CEO Forum of E-Services Global Sourcing Conference and Exhibition with the theme “Centers of Excellence”, February 11, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the CEO Forum of E-Services Global Sourcing Conference and Exhibition with the theme “Centers of Excellence”**

[Delivered at the Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City, February 11, 2008]

Good morning to all of you and welcome to the Philippines!

Welcome, to our delegates from the various centers of excellence of global offshoring and outsourcing or the “O&O industry”.

This meeting comes at a time when the global economic situation is clearly an issue for us. The more connected we become, and I.T. has connected us so much, the more we need to manage the ups and downs... through the ups and downs of other nations’ economic bubbles. This is true especially with any further volatility in the U.S. economy. At this time, firms are working to support their margins and the good news for the Philippines is that, we have matured and diversified our economy so much the last few years that, we are confident that our economic turnaround is permanent and our economy is resilient to major economic disruptions.

This is the result of seven years work. Seven years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. No one thought we could bring our budget close to balance, lower our national debt and raise employment — but, we have. So our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 30 years.

Moody’s investor service upgraded the Philippines to positive last month for very good reasons. We have the fastest growth in a generation — 7.3 percent for 2007. We have created seven million jobs in seven years, our peso is strong, our stock market up. We have a surge in foreign reserves at the same time our budget is almost in balance.

The strong peso has helped impact the rising cost of oil, reducing the cost of servicing some of our national debt, and it has contributed to keeping the price of imports down and in the process keeping inflation down.

That’s why today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Investments are pouring in, especially in E-services.

In October 2007, the Philippines was named “Offshoring Destination of the Year” by the National Outsourcing Association of the U.K.

In international data corporation’s top 10 list of BPO destinations in the Asia-Pacific region, Manila was ranked number 2, second only to Bangalore.

In a survey commissioned by the London Financial Times, Quezon City, Cebu and Davao were included in the top 10 Asian cities of the future, with Quezon City ranked 7th, Cebu 8th and Davao 10th, comparable with cities like Hongkong, Singapore and Taipei which were the top three.

In another study conducted by Tholons— and we thank Tholons for being a partner in organizing this event in a study conducted on the top 50 emerging cities, Cebu was ranked number 4, just behind three Indian cities.

These distinctions from the global ICT firms and experts in the O&O sector provide our investor friends who have come to E-services Philippines, with objective third-party assessments of our O&O capabilities. They validate our position as a major player in the global O&O market.

The Philippines is ranked among the most attractive offshoring destinations in the world because of cost competitiveness and more importantly, the country's highly trainable, English-proficient I.T. enabled quality manpower.

And as Peter Favila has said, in recent years, the outsourcing sector has expanded beyond call centers and I.T. to include a range of professional and business processes including accounting, human resources, financial analysis, design engineering, animation, medical services, legal services, insurance processes, banking processes, map making, publishing, content creation, and research.

This is a quality we are working hard to maintain through investments in human capital, to ensure the competitiveness of our workforce. We will continue to leverage our level of I.T. proficiency, that currently includes almost a hundred thousand licensed professionals with technical expertise in software development and engineering design.

Upgrading our curriculum in all levels of education is a main thrust of our administration. We recently held an education congress where challenges were presented and solutions explored by our educational institutions and stakeholders from the O&O industry.

The government and the private sector work together under the BPOAP (Business Process Outsourcing Association of the Philippines) roadmap, we work together to develop talent to support the rising demand for quality workers in outsourcing and to expand outsourcing capabilities to new locations across the country, beyond the centers of Manila and Cebu to tap larger talent pools.

And as Secretary Favila has said, a major portion of our joint initiatives is training. We are accelerating the O&O “near-hire” training effort, as Secretary Favila has said, by allocating a budget of 350 million pesos this year exclusively for this sector, together with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). And more than 40,000 maybe, 55,000 young potential recruits will be recipients of training vouchers and most probably 40,000 should be offered jobs within two months of completion. This is a sizeable contribution to building manpower development and employment in line with our administration's commitment to create 10 million jobs all over the country.

The runaway growth of the O&O industry has echoed throughout the entire system, spawning impressive growth in other sectors like real estate, telecommunications, food and retail, among others.

The demand for prime real estate for BPO operations has spawned feverish construction for office space and campuses, that can house the current demand for expansion sites. This trend is expected to grow by more than 30 percent in the next few years.

The up-and-coming O&O destinations in the Philippines are of course outside Metro Manila. And in support of this, our public-private sector partnership has been assessing various cities, which, I understand will be presented tomorrow to delineate what we have been calling but now we will delineate the area more specifically — the Philippine Cyber Corridor, which are positioned as viable alternatives for O&O locators. The scorecard used by the BPOAP together with the government for assessing the competitiveness of each location includes criteria such as number of graduates, telecom infrastructure, office space and local government support.

Indeed, the information revolution has been good to the Philippines. As a government, we have insisted on building world class I.T. infrastructure for developing the skills of our citizens and as an essential backbone to attract global business.

A strong infrastructure network is the backbone of a modern nation. That is why this year, we're spending almost 200 billion pesos in infrastructure. We're able to do that because of the additional resources generated by our economic reforms. This is part of the two trillion-peso public-private sector medium-term plan, to invest in social and physical infrastructure which includes billions of pesos in education, health care and training along with billions in new bridges, roads, and ports, and connectivity to upgrade our competitiveness.

In the classroom, in the community and across our business sector, our investment on I.T. has paid off well and quickly. We have been able to take advantage of our great Filipino worker by utilizing fully the voiceover internet protocols and landline capacity, to deliver quality voice and data services to any point on the globe.

The speed of innovation can be your friend or your foe. That's why we have our annual meeting. And that's why we want to cement our gains in I.T. and BPO services, to make sure we continue to build up our local industries and move up the value chain. This requires not only good public-private sector partnerships, but a huge investment in our educational system in order to produce the engineers and I.T. professionals of tomorrow.

The competition is fierce, we know that. Change is happening at an accelerated pace. We must live and work in a global environment. We must move quickly to exploit technology innovation to our advantage.

Let me give you an example. When I took office in 2001, the BPO and I center space hardly existed. Today, we employ over 300,000 people and next to India, the Philippines has become the premier global destination for these types of I.T.-enabled services. We are proud of what we have achieved, but we are anxious to solidify our gains. We are anxious not to be complacent in the face of rapid change.

For 2008, we have targeted to grow our O&O workforce by 40 percent in order to cope with the industry demands, and also, achieve a 40 percent growth rate in the O&O sector.

But let me end by applauding all of you, the movers and shakers of global e-services — many are here today — you're on the cutting edge of innovation and change. We admire the risks you are taking to push the envelope, to turn wild ideas into indispensable tools to advance business and the quality of our lives.

Thank you for your support and commitment. *Maraming salamat.*

Source: **Adamson University Library**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd General Assembly of the League of Provinces of the Philippines,
February 13, 2008**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd General Assembly of the League of Provinces of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Villa del Ray, Pili, Camarines Sur, February 13, 2008]

Thank you for your support. Thank you for working together with me toward a first world Philippines in 20 years.

Together we are making real progress in alleviating poverty. The rate of poverty is down, employment is up. Our education and healthcare services to the poor are vastly improved. We have a long way to go, but only through a strong economy can we improve the plight of the poor together. To that end, together we have turned the corner on our economy. This allows us to invest together in job creation, better healthcare and more educational opportunities. These are the keys to lifting up the poor.

Our economy has reached a new level of stability, with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in three decades. Together, we have aimed high. We have met the challenge. Seven years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. No one thought we could bring our budget close to balance, lower our national debt and raise employment. But we have.

The 2007 National Government deficit was P9.4 billion, versus the deficit target ceiling of P6.3 billion. Total revenues amounted to P1.13 trillion, P15.9 billion more than target. Interest payments declined 14 percent and posted P36.5 billion in savings. We could have had a surplus or balanced budget if we wanted, but we decided to take the opportunity of our good fiscal position, to provide for higher spending especially for infrastructure to sustain a high growth in 2008. Funds were disbursed to government owned and controlled corporations and government financial institutions, for pump priming activities and to allow additional contributions from them in 2008 including dividends.

I have always supported the LGUs' right to receive your IRA in full. When I became President, I waived the President's prerogative to retain part of the IRA, as the Local Government Social Equalization Fund. We have provided automatic appropriation for your IRA. We have even paid debts of previous administrations. I have asked Nonoy Andaya, to study how to securitize the IRA shortfalls from the years when we had re-enacted budgets.

But while the fiscal numbers are better than expected, we need to work harder and more effectively in improving the tax effort together. I ask our governors to join the BIR's LGU Assurance Program which will result in better collections of both national and local taxes, as illustrated by the experience of Calbayog City.

We have secured a new loan from the Asian Development Bank in the Yen equivalent to \$300 Million for Local Government Financing and Budget Reform.

The program will support the DOF's efforts to help the LGUs improve your capacities to plan and budget, as well as deliver better services for the general welfare of your constituent communities. The program will support reforms in (i) intergovernmental fiscal relations; (ii) fiscal management, planning and public expenditure at the LGU level; (iii) LGU performance measurement and service; (iv) credit financing; (v) local-own source revenue.

We have ordered a surge in infrastructure spending, as a firewall against the economic slowdown in the United States, and as a springboard for further growth.

The global economic situation is clearly a key issue for us. The more interconnected the world becomes, the more we need to manage the ups and downs of other nations' economic bubbles. This is certainly true with any further volatility in the U.S. economy. The good news for the Philippines is that we have matured and diversified our economy so much the last few years that we are confident our economic turnaround is permanent and our economy resilient to major economic disruptions.

We can afford to and should spend more for infrastructure, hopefully, P200 billion between the national government, the GOCCs, and you, the local governments.

Investing in vital infrastructure includes building up our environment as a reflection of our commitment to our quality of life. People need to breathe clean air and swim in clean water while we build manufacturing and bridges.

These programs and activities mirror how you have operationalized your theme, *“Enhancing National and Local Government Partnerships in Improving Environmental Governance and Natural Resources Stewardship”*.

From rising tides, to changing weather to deforestation and pollution of air, sea and land, the challenges of climate change are great. As a nation made up of 7,000 islands, rising seas due to global warming takes on a whole new meaning. Florida may lose some coastline, we lose a nation. Our response to this grave challenge may sound humorous, but our intent is deadly serious: we must work together to solve this problem. If we do, it will be one of the great achievements of our partnership.

We must assume the mantle of leadership and work to address the challenge of climate change. Each and every person bears some measure of responsibility for what we have done today, and throughout history to diminish our global environment. Our nation has been more responsible than others. But all that apportionment of blame does nothing against a rising tide of global warming, that will swamp our nation if we do not act with decisiveness and solidarity.

We have begun the *Green Philippines Plan*, a blueprint for mapping our environment and economic policies that will allow for sustainable development, that doesn't fall on the backs of the poor or erode our environment. There is a cost to make the Green Philippines come to life, but the cost is greater without the investment on people and environment.

We aim to make our economic reforms permanent, so that our nation is on a sustained path of economic growth and stability. We have turned the economy around and for the first time in a generation, we are investing hundreds of billions in human and physical infrastructure. Roads, bridges and airports as well as new school buildings and scholarships are the central building blocks that are necessary for the long term prospects of our citizens.

Moody's upgraded the Philippines to positive last month for very good reasons. We have the fastest growth in a generation – 7.3% for 2007. And we have a surge in foreign reserves at a time our budget is almost in balance.

An aggressive foreign policy is essential to the lifeblood of the Philippines. Nowhere is it more important, than protecting and advancing the interests of our overseas workers. That is why we include a governors' representative in my trips abroad.

I want to spend more time with you more often. Let us stay united and continue to work together for a Philippines that will be ready to be in the first world in 20 years.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Message of President Arroyo during the 50th anniversary of the Philippine College of Criminology Alumni Association, Inc.

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 50th anniversary of the Philippine College of Criminology Alumni Association, Inc.**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, Intramuros Manila, February 14, 2008]

Happy golden anniversary, and Happy Valentine's Day!

We fondly remember PCCR's founder, the late Supreme Court Justice Felix Angelo Bautista, represented here by his grandson, law professor Gregory Allan F. Bautista, who had the vision to establish the country's first learning institution for police and detective science.

Before the PNPA and other police training institutions were set up, the PCCR was the main source of government's police investigators and other law enforcers.

Nangunguna sa mga nagtapos dito sina dating PNP Chief at ngayon Public Works and Highways Secretary General Jun Ebdane at si retired General Pete Bulaong, ang presidente ng inyong asosasyon at unang graduate ng PCCR na naging Hepe ng Manila Police District, at ngayon Assistant Director ng NBI.

Marami pang ibang nagtapos dito at naglingkod sa sambayanan. Maraming salamat. Sa inyong sipag, laging mamamayani ang kaayusan at batas, upang magtamasa ng kapayapaan at katarungan ang ating mamamayan.

The five pillars of criminal justice system — enforcement, investigation and prosecution, the courts, the correctional system, and the community — underpin the nation's peace and the people's assurance of security.

The alumni of the PCCR play central roles at least two pillars of the criminal justice system — enforcement and investigation — and provide crucial support to the other three tenets.

Malaki na ang pagsulong ng ating laban sa krimen at karahasan. Natatandaan ko maraming taong nakararaan, dahil sa pagkilos ng ilang listong pulis, natuklasan ang planong pagpatay sa Santo Papa John Paul II, pati na rin ng isa pang malagim na pakana na maglunsad sa Maynila ng mga unang atake ng terorismo. The slay plot against the Pope was foiled, the terrorist attack was not as gruesome as planned, and Manila policemen were lauded by the Interpol for bringing to the world's attention the beginnings of international terrorism.

A number of PCCR graduates have figured prominently in the solution of many high profile crimes.

Last year's total crime volume decreased by 7.4% and street crimes went down by 18.2% from 2006 figures. Kidnapping incidents were cut by half.

Through all these measures, we do not forget that peace is vital to development, and development is vital to lasting peace.

2007 was the best year for the Philippine economy in over 30 years. Economic growth was 7.3%; a million new jobs were created; unemployment is down, poverty is down; the peso is up and the stock market is up.

Investment from abroad is pouring in; we have been cited by the Financial Times of London and the International Data Corporation as the Offshore Destination of the Year and the top global outsourcing destination after India, respectively.

Our billion dollar investment club includes Texas Instruments with its \$1.6 billion wafer fabrication facility; two new shipyards of Korea's Hanjin costing \$3.7 billion and making us the fourth biggest shipbuilder in the world. And Marubeni, Tokyo Electric and America's AES have all invested over a billion dollars to join the ranks of Intel and Proctor and Gamble to name but a few major investors.

And 2008 holds real promise for a different reason: not only do we expect strong growth in the 7% target zone, but as a result of our total economic overhaul, we are poised to weather a global economic slowdown for the first time in our history.

The real story for 2008 is that our macro economic fundamentals are as strong as they ever have been due to tough choices on raising new revenue, cracking down on tax cheats, bringing reform to our revenue collection and modernizing our banking and financial sector. And we have reformed our budget so that we will be in balance way ahead of schedule.

In your time as students at PCCR and in current times, several facts stand out: Our people want peace, stability and progress, our people want to feel secure in a harmonious society, and the whole nation is clamoring for growth and development.

I have been informed that this association has several proposals to achieve peace for the nation and enhance the profession of crime-fighting. I thank you for your willingness to help. I am prepared to refer these proposals to the proper agencies.

Sustaining growth should be done not only by the police and military personnel. There are tasks for everyone in our quest for peace and development.

With your and the rest of the nation's support, we will meet the challenges squarely to fulfill our destiny as a progressive nation.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's message during the 50th anniversary of the Philippine College of Criminology Alumni Association, Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123433/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=981&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine Economic Briefing with the Economic Team and IRO, February 15, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine Economic Briefing with the Economic Team and IRO**

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City, February 15, 2008]

Thank you all for coming. And thank you Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, the Manila Overseas Press Club, and I understand, the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines, for putting together the audience for this briefing.

2007 was the best year for the Philippine economy in over 30 years. Economic growth was 7.3 percent, as we have seen and you all know; a million new jobs were created; unemployment is down, poverty is down; the stock market is up; the peso is at its highest level in many, many years.

Investments from abroad is pouring in. We have been cited by the Financial Times of London as the “offshore destination of the year” and by the International Data Corporation, as the top global outsourcing destination after India.

Our billion-dollar investment club includes Texas Instruments with its new, well, rising 1.6 billion-dollar wafer fabrication facility; two shipyards of Hanjin, one up and one coming up costing 3.7 billion-dollar total which makes us the fourth biggest shipbuilder in the world; Marubeni, Tokyo, AES have all invested billions of dollars in our power sector. And most recently, Mittal Global joined the ranks of Intel and Proctor and Gamble, to name but a few of our major investors.

2008, holds real promise for a different reason. Not only do we expect strong growth in the seven percent zone, but as a result of our total economic overhaul, as we have seen in the video, we are well-positioned to weather a global economic slowdown.

The real story for 2008 is that, our macroeconomic fundamentals are stronger than ever due to tough choices on boosting revenues, cracking down on tax cheats, bringing reform to our revenue collection and modernizing our banking and financial sector. We have reformed our budget to be in balance ahead of the medium- term plan schedule of 2010.

Last year, our deficit was only P9.4 billion, the lowest in ten years and far below the ceiling of P63 billion. Revenues were up 16 percent from 2006. Seven years ago, no one thought we could do it, but we have. We are continuing the pace of progress that has made our economy so strong.

This maturity in our economy has brought a new confidence that forms the foundation of sustained economic growth moving forward. We are at a tipping point. And I’m confident that the Philippines will tip forward in pursuit of reaching the status of first world, within a generation.

We should all be proud of what we have accomplished. I thank our economic managers. I thank the leaders of industry and most important, all the hardworking and dedicated Filipino workers leading this nation to a new beginning.

It is the people of this nation whom we serve, whom our government serves, and it is to the people that we owe our allegiance and dedication, to advance this nation every single day. We have weathered a global transformation together, as we fight to rise above the political noise in order to uplift the poor and dispossessed who deserve a rightful place at the table of economic opportunity and social justice.

The global economy is facing challenges. The slowing of the economy in North America and Europe, as we have seen also in the audio-visual presentation, is top of mind in our calculations to protect our economy. To that end, we have developed a program that includes: first, to ensure a surge in investments in people and infrastructure; second, to ensure that we continue to pursue anti-corruption initiatives and to cut red tape; and third, to blunt the global rise in energy by providing targeted relief to the poorest amongst us who suffer the most from the high price of global energy.

We take the ZTE issue very seriously. I moved quickly to cancel the project as soon as I could after proper consultation with the government of China, which after all is our largest export market. We want to fight corruption. The Ombudsman, who is constitutionally independent, has announced that she will carry out a review of this issue and the related allegations. And I have given clearance to the Secretary of Justice to investigate those implicated who are not within the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman. I cannot comment more on this until the reviews are complete, except to say that, I trust that the Ombudsman will investigate this issue thoroughly and I trust that she will ensure a transparent process in doing so. And I instruct the Secretary of Justice to be likewise thorough and transparent in his investigation.

And let me also note that these types of charges have regularly emerged even in previous administrations, as part of our less than impressive political culture. I just hope that this set of charges will not be a political football.

We do not want to tolerate corruption. There is no room in the development of our country wasting money on corruption, when so much remains to be done to invest in the nation. It is a sad fact that the Philippines has a legacy of political corruption. While that legacy will not be erased overnight, we have made tremendous strides. We have made anti-corruption one of the key areas of focus for reform in the remainder of our term.

Last year, we organized the Anti-red Tape Task Force headed by Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, and many of you are helping him in that. We also organize a procurement transparency group headed by Budget Secretary Andaya. Last week, I reminded them to link up with the business sector, academe and the church to implement reforms in government systems. But as Andaya has reminded the public in a very beautiful interview a few days ago, as early as last year, he already had representatives of the Makati business and clergy, in his procurement transparency group, so the reforms are underway.

The foundation of our economic renaissance is built on a vision for our nation that includes strong global engagement, tough economic reforms, and huge investments in people and infrastructure to move our nation forward. Our day in the sun will come if we redouble our efforts to achieve a moral transformation, social justice and economic equality.

The work of governance is difficult. The ability to change the status quo is an uphill fight every day, as exemplified by the struggles we have to go through in our tax reforms. We battle to liberate every Filipino from poverty and invest in their health, education and welfare.

We will not rest until we leave office in 2010, from keeping this nation on the path of progress. We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go. Though poverty has gone down, both by objective measure and by self-rated poverty, there are still too many poor. Though hunger has gone down, there are still too many hungry. There are still too many left out of our political processes. And there are too many who cloak themselves in easy rhetoric and lazy charges who would put personal ambition ahead of national progress.

We call on our political leaders of all parties and preferences to look to our future. We call on them to ensure stability for the sake of the nation. Let us put aside partisan wrangling as candidates jockey for the presidency.

Let us focus on a common agenda of growth, hope and opportunity that lifts up rather than tears down our nation at this important time in our history.

The results of 2007 show the promise of what the Philippines can and should be. Let us work together to make sure we attain this promise uninterrupted.

We are confident and bullish on our economy, our people and our ability to join hands to move this nation forward. As the theme of this economic briefing succinctly puts it, “the Philippines is defying gravity, rising steadily.”

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd National Convention of the League of Cities of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd National Convention of the League of Cities of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Isla Ballroom, EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, February 18, 2008]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Puno.

Other Cabinet members, Mayor Benhur Abalos, Mayor Jerry Treñas, Mayor Mel Sarmiento, the other city mayors, the other city officials who are all here to give their moral support to our mayors, other guests, ladies and gentlemen:

To all of you, good noon. And thank you for this opportunity to address you at a time when we really need to join hands against the global crisis.

As we all know, the global financial turmoil has spread and jeopardized the well-being of people across the globe.

It is a crisis for two-thirds of the world. And we are not one of the two-thirds yet, so we must all join together to prevent this global crisis from becoming a Philippine crisis.

This is a time when national and local leadership must give all its attention to managing the impact of the global crisis. And in doing this, we must not neglect those who feel the hardship of the global downturn. As we continue to build an economy, we continue to grow and offer long-term opportunity. Crisis management is one area where the League of Cities of the Philippines has shown utmost efficiency and remarkable success in the past. (Applause)

For instance, the League of Cities exhibited leadership and effective governance in crucial moments in the life of this nation, like the crisis over SARS and the avian flu and the numerous natural disasters and calamities.

And as we... I believe should be our theme today, this time of the world situation, the League of Cities also deserves commendation for instituting ways to simplify business practices in the cities. (Applause)

For instance, many of you I have visited have one-stop shops. Your idea of one-stop shop for businessmen applying permits is a convenience well-appreciated by investors. This puts the Philippines on the map of attractive destinations for business which will ultimately redound to the benefit of our people in terms of jobs and income.

In my first State of the Nation Address in 2001, I said that we should minimize bottlenecks to productivity such as red tape at the national and local government levels. I said that we should try to make setting up a business a seamless procedure between national and local governments.

Again, in the Competitiveness Summit of October 2006, where the League of Cities was very active, one of the recommendations was to set a target that 50 percent of our local government units should be ISO-certified. With the backing of the Cities, this initiative will bring down the barriers of red tape, increase government efficiency and opening up the door to doing business more easily at the local level.

During this time of the year... or not of the year... During this time of economic history when there are firms under strain from the global financial crisis, what the Metro Manila cities have presented today is truly monumental and momentous.

They have especially gone a long way to comply with the requirements of competitiveness through the standardization of the Metro Manila city business registration and permit processes which was launched in this convention. What was presented today will reduce red tape and the cost of doing business in Metro Manila. So, congratulations to our Metro Manila cities! (Applause)

And we hope that in the other cities as well, whatever is the clamor of the firms who are under strain will be the response of the different cities — each one: urban city, rural city, Luzon city, Visayas city, Mindanao city — there'll be different needs of the different firms. And therefore, you all have your own solutions to helping the firms becoming competitive in this global crisis.

Your achievements contribute to the Philippines remaining an island of stability in an otherwise stormy global sea of economic troubles.

You supported me when we had to reboot our economy several years ago, and that rebooting of the economy has held us in good stead.

As a result of dramatic reforms in revenue collection and generation — and some of you were congressmen then when this was done — fiscal controls, banking reforms in 2007, our GNP grew 8.0 percent.

And in 2006 when two-thirds of the world went into recession, our GNP still grew at 6.0 percent.

We have therefore, so far, weathered the initial global shocks well, and that is because of the painful reform medicine we took several years ago.

You were supportive when we made massive reforms in tax collection, revenue raising, banking and financial regulation, fiscal controls and the like. But more importantly — because we've done that reform already before. Now, we are less concerned about rebooting our economy than rebalancing our priorities against the dramatic change in the global landscape.

For instance, we are making transformational investments in physical and human infrastructure, not just to soften the blow of a softening world economy, but to prepare ourselves for the rebound.

As you know, because you travelled to coming here, it now only takes half an hour from Caloocan or Quezon City to Angeles City using the North Luzon-Clark Expressway.

Construction is ongoing to connect C-5 to NLEX so that we will have a seamless expressway system from Olongapo City to Batangas City.

And you can also travel by car from Laoag City to General Santos City through our Roll-on/Roll-off Ferry Nautical Highway System. (Applause) That makes your bonding even easier to do.

The increase in Value-Added Tax also increases your IRA. Although temporarily, there were new cities that had to share in your IRA (applause) for a while, it was not your actual income that went down, but your potential income.

And because Secretary Nonoy Andaya had said that if there's any city that would going to suffer actual declining income, he was ready to compensate from other sources. Like for instance, "Kilos Asenso" or other sources in the budget. (Applause)

But at the end of the day, if you look at your finances before VAT and after VAT, your IRA in absolute terms has increased. That's why in partnership with you, we have been able to invest unprecedented amounts in all those things that Benhur mentioned: in education, healthcare, and other services along with infrastructure.

And, we speak of infrastructure, we speak of building — building the edifice of a strong republic is the responsibility of all levels of government.

And I want to thank you, to take this opportunity to thank you, for taking the need for economic stewardship very seriously. You make the job of national government easier because you take on so much of what has to be done for economic reforms.

So on this day, together, let us renew the call for everyone to forge an alliance to face the daunting global challenges. The resilience of our economy is acknowledged by economic experts. The most recent group that acknowledges is Moody's Investor Services, and these acknowledgements, internationally by accepted experts make us confident that, in spite of the global economic crisis, we are on our way to sustainable growth and the vision of having the Philippines on the verge of first world in 20 years.

So, let us continue to pursue that vision.

As I said earlier, and you were happy to be acknowledged, the League of Cities is very good in managing crisis. (Applause)

The League of Cities is very good in knowing what the businessmen need. And in complying the League of Cities will continue to be very good in pursuing our goal to be first world in 20 years.

Congratulations sa inyong lahat! (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the 2nd National Convention of the League of Cities of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105345/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20689&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the Binalonan Airfield and Aircraft

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the inauguration of the Binalonan Airfield and Aircraft on the occasion of Binalonan Town Fiesta

[Delivered in Binalonan, Pangasinan, February 18, 2008]

Dios ti agngina unay, kasinsin ko ni apo Mayor Mon Guico. (applause) ken congratulations kenni Vice-mayor Guico ken napintas nga airport na, private airport.

Kasama ko ngayon si Secretary Jesli Lapus of the Department of Education at saka si Undersecretary Ann Lontoc of the Department of Transportation. Let us also greet our Congresswoman Rachel Arenas (applause) and the different mayors of Pangasinan who have come to join us for the annual town fiesta of Binalonan.

Umuna, kayat ko nga dios ti agngina kadakayo amin manen, kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko ti kanayon nga suporta yo kanyak.

Maykadua, congratulations toy napintas nga airport and I would like to say, kausap ko kanina si Undersecretary Ann Lontoc, diay Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan para ti North Luzon. Ti North Luzon ket ti agri-business superregion tayo para ti Luzon. Kadua dagidiay importante nga imprastraktura para ti agri-business toy North Luzon ket dagiti no frills airport for agricultural cargo. Iso nga importante toy airport ta as the ATO. has said this is 800 meters, if it becomes 1.2... Pwede na for agri even at 800, for agricultural cargo? At 800 meters, the Air Transportation Office is prepared to give a license to this airport for use commercially for agricultural cargo. (applause)

Ta ti Pangasinan ket ti kadakkelan nga probinsiya toy North Luzon, toy North Luzon Agri-business Quadrangle. And last month, President Ramos wrote two columns about Pangasinan. Kuna na, Pangasinan's more strategic role today is that... Oh! I have to greet also ni governor tayo, Governor Espino. Sorry, okay. (applause) Because we're talking about Pangasinan, haan laeng ti ili tayo nga Binalonan, Pangasinan's more strategic role today is that of investment route and development destination but kuna na Pangasinan is still a laggard compared to even small provinces in seaports, airports and agricultural efficiency. Iso nga no kayat tayo nga ti kadakkelan nga probinsiya ti North Luzon agri-business quadrangle, ag-improve ti agricultural efficiency, importante dagiti no frills agricultural airports kasla ti airport ti Binalonan. (applause)

Importante met sabali pay nga airport diay bangir ti Pangasinan. So I have also asked the ATO... The DOTC to make a feasibility study on where other airports' no frills airports to begin with and eventually to develop into tourism airports dagidiay sabali pay nga ili wenno siyudad ti probinsiya ti Pangasinan. (applause)

Maykadua, no kayat tayo met nga nangato ti agricultural efficiency ti Pangasinan, importante met nga data importante nga resource tayo ti capital investment tayo ti San Roque Dam nga itatta ket anti-flooding dam, agbalin met agricultural irrigation dam. Iso nga ta adda tayo nga six billion pesos tawen-tawen para ti irigasyon, importante nga dakkel nga parte ti irrigation funds tayo mapan dagidiay downstream irrigation canals nga gapo ti San Roque Dam. And that is what I will instruct Secretary Arthur Yap to release maybe the first 100 million that is needed for the downstream irrigation dams of San Roque ken gapo na ti San Roque Dam, adda diay karruba tayo diay ili ti san manuel ta mapan dagidiay naduma pay nga ili ti Pangasinan sigurado it will I suppose pass through Binalonan and also benefit the farmers of Binalonan. (applause)

Maykatlo, malpas ti airport ken ti irrigation, kuna ni Presidente Ramos, importante met nga ti Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway nga asidegen malpas this coming month, kuna na kuma nga agtuloy aging gana rosales, Pangasinan where we gave him the good news, not very long ago just like this one which is a private sector investment, a private

sector corporation, consortium was able to win the unsolicited proposal contract for a build-operate-and-transfer expressway from Clark all the way up to Rosario, La Union. (applause)

Ikauppat, kuna na, sapay koma nga ti railroad ti northrail nga itatta, dagiti plano tayo mapan aging gana clark, sapay kuma, kuna that it should go all the way up to Dagupan. And so we will also ask the DOTC, Undersecretary Ann Lontoc, to also make the study so that the Northrail now which is plan to go from Caloocan to Malolos, to Clark should also be extended up to Dagupan. (applause)

And finally, awan kano ti napintas nga seaport toy probinsiya tayo. Of course, it cannot be here in Binalonan because we are landlocked. But it is important also for the DOTC, iso nga importante nga addadtoy ni Undersecretary Ann Lontoc, that the DOTC should also look to see where there should be the best place for a seaport for the province of Pangasinan.

So lima dagiti importante tayo, importante para ti masterplan ti Pangasinan — dagiti airprots, ti expressway, ti railroad, ti irigasyon ken ti seaport. And also ta ti San Manuel, asideg diay Cordillera, and there's already a beautiful lake in San Manuel. We can also have, Ann, water transportation in San Roque that can bring us all the way to the Cordillera and close to Baguio City so that Binalonan will be able to go to Baguio City two ways — ti Kennon Road ken ti San Roque through a beautiful water transport. (applause)

So data, apo Governor Espino, data ket ti masterplan tayo para ti probinsiya ti Pangasinan and the reason why I am saying this here in Binalonan is that these are the challenges kuna ni President FVR, ken kuna na, likewise challenged is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo whose beloved mother Doctora Evangelina Macaraeg-Macapagal comes from Binalonan, and also it is a challenge to Mayor Ramon Guico because not only is he a mayor of Binalonan, he is also the president of the Mayors' League of the Philippines and therefore of Pangasinan. (applause)

Iso nga agyamanak nga addadtoy tayo amin, tano am-ammo tayo amin anya ti kayat tayo nga agbalin ti probinsiya tayo ken ti ili tayo and I'm happy to be here once again kasla dagidiay malpas nga tatawen to be here always together to remind ourselves that we are one family, one province and one nation.

Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin ken naragsak nga fiesta. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Inauguration of the Binalonan Airfield and Aircraft on the occasion of Binalonan Town Fiesta. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123354/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=969&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 35th Founding Anniversary of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH), Inc.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 35th Founding Anniversary of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH), Inc.**

[Delivered at the Manila Bay Ballroom, Bayview Park Hotel, Roxas Blvd. cor. U.N. Ave., Manila, February 21, 2008]

Thank you.

Thank you so much Chairperson Lovely Romulo for your introduction and thank you for consenting to be the chairperson of the Council for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities. Please sit down.

Sister Valeriana Baertz, thank you very much for what you have done over the last 35 years. And we're so happy that we have two women here who are such leaders in the care of persons with disabilities. This is not of course to belittle the role of the gentlemen.

So, I would like to also thank our awardees, Mr. Gonzalez for your many, many years of service as the head of the Tahanan ng Walang Hagdanan; (applause) and our best wishes to a very well-known leader of the community of persons with disabilities now president and CEO of TWH, Mr. Manuel Agcaoili, congratulations and good luck to you! (applause) Undersecretary Alice Bala, representing the DSWD; I would like to greet also Bishop Gabby Reyes; and of course to our awardees led by the two great pillars of the Tahanan and also the outstanding products of Tahanan ng Walang Hagdanan; to all the partners, donors, sponsors of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, congratulations for 35 years of fruitful service! (applause)

Indeed, Tahanang Walang Hagdanan has lived up to its name as a tahanan — a home that gives shelter, comfort and care to persons with disabilities, and that it has continued to this date. Thirty five years is a long time despite some rough times sometimes within its walls testifies to all of you and your strong faith in the human spirit and the will to persevere in your cause.

Tahanang Walang Hagdanan celebrates its 35th anniversary in the middle of the Philippine decade for persons with disabilities which is 2003 to 2012. We proclaimed this in keeping with our country's commitment to the U.N. Convention of the rights of persons with disabilities. And in tandem with this proclamation, we also have Republic Act 9442, which amended the Magna Carta for disabled persons. This was put in place to grant more privileges and incentives to the differently-abled and to make sure that Philippine society will regard persons with disabilities with due respect. We have also put together the national plan of action for this Philippine decade of persons with disabilities.

And as a result of the work that you're all doing together, I am very happy to see that more PWDs because of laws, policies and advocacies more PWDs now enjoy discounts in various establishments and service sectors, from drugstores to public transport. I'm happy to learn that more LGUs have complied with the law to install PWD-friendly sidewalks, that more buildings have constructed ramps and more public utility vehicles have reserved seats for PWDs as well as the elderly.

And among our recipients of the awards today, we can see that ICT-related businesses like call centers, transcriptions, web content and design, and other services are areas where the differently-abled can feel equal to non-PWDs. We urge outsourcing and offshoring firms to consider hiring more of them.

And we'd like to thank Joey Concepcion of 'Go Negosyo' because he also has the program to highlight the achievements of the entrepreneurs with disabilities — disabilities some were physical but very abled as far as organizing and running a business is concerned. And our awardees had been able to show that.

We have been encouraging businesses to hire disabled but qualified workers. I myself when I was vice-president, I took in a number of PWDs in my staff and when I became president, they moved with me to Malacanang. And we're very happy of the good work that they do.

This year, so that we can have more and more of persons with disabilities to be able to have good jobs and even persons without disabilities, we have allocated four billion pesos for vocational training, especially 350 million pesos for call centers and other BPO for near hires. And I hope that Tahanang Walang Hagdanan can avail of the scholarships being provided by TESDA for this purpose. In fact, Tahanang Walang Hagdanan I hope is or should be one of the accredited training institutions for the scholarships of the TESDA. And if it's not that way yet, I'll ask Alice Bala to make sure that that is done. (applause)

I think that's the best way to celebrate the 35th year for Tahanang Walang Hagdanan to explore with the DSWD and TESDA the possibility of more scholarships and work training grants.

Persons with disabilities, yes, have a fair chance of competing with non-disabled in entrepreneurial activities, and we have seen that from one of our awardees. And the DSWD also has its own microfinance but DSWD can also link up the persons with disabilities with microfinance institutions. These are for those who want to start and with very, very small businesses.

Our plan of action makes special mention of women with disabilities because women with disabilities being female and disabled have a double discrimination.

Pero tignan natin naman ang nangyari ngayon halos lahat ng ating mga awardees ay kababaihan. Kapansin-pansin ang mga babae sa pinaparangalan natin ngayon. At angkop na angkop ito dahil sinisimulaan natin ang pagdiriwang ng Araw ng Kababaihan na mangyayari sa pag-umpisa ng Marso, ikawalo ng Marso ang Women's Day. Kaya for a whole month... For a whole month before and the month of March we're celebrating women. And today, we celebrate women with disabilities and women who work for persons with disabilities. So, we thank you and congratulations! (applause)

So, siyempre pagdating ng araw ng kababaihan ay maraming selebrasyon, maraming pagdiriwang. So Alice, siguro dapat ang DSWD sa pagdiriwang ng araw ng kababaihan bigyan ng espesyal na lugar sa pagdiriwang ang mga babaeng nakakamit ng parangal itong araw na ito because you are really truly (applause) such worthy role models to emulate.

Puspusan ang pagkilos ng pamahalaan upang mapabuti ang kalagayan ng mga may kapansanan maging mga mahihirap. Kasi hindi masasabing umuunlad ang bansa hangga't hindi natin mai-angat ang kalagayan ng mga maralita at yung may ibang mga disadvantages gaya ng mga kapansanan.

And just as Tahanang Walang Hagdanan has helped the differently-abled in its care and allowed them to develop into productive citizens, as we see from our awardees, government will continue to invest in the Filipino. Government will continue to nurture people's talents that's why we're spending for the first time almost 200 billion pesos in human capital to give every citizen a better chance to live a purposeful life. And we can afford to do this now, offer scholarships to Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, because our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in more than 30 years.

Seven years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues to afford these things because no one thought we could cut down on tax cheats. No one thought we could strengthen the peso to be able to import your raw materials at lower cost. No one thought we could move the stock market and make the top 16 corporations so rich that their foundations can afford to support beautiful projects like Tahanang Walang Hagdanan. No one thought we could

bring our budget close to balance or lower our national debt so that instead of spending on debt service, we're spending on training. And no one thought we could raise employment, but we have.

We have created seven million jobs in seven years. And thanks to Tahanan, some of these jobs are being enjoyed by persons with disabilities.

And we hope that in this 35th year there can be even more because of more expanded care in the home that we call Tahanan ng Walang Hagdanan.

And just like the residents of Tahanan are courageous and hopeful, our Filipino people in general are hardworking and determined to carve a better future. And so, on this occasion of a jubilee anniversary, 35th anniversary, let us all face tomorrow confidently, as we saw in our video presentation, let us all be winners.

Maraming salamat, maligayang anibersaryo muli sa inyong lahat! (applause)

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech During the 35th founding anniversary of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH), Inc. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123340/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=966&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Building a School and “Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino” (APP) Program

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Building a School and “Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino” (APP) Program

[Delivered at the Silanganan Elementary School, Phase II, Caloocan City, February 25, 2008]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat Secretary Cabral sa iyong pagpakilala. At maraming salamat din, Mayor Echeverri sa inyong mainit na diskursong pagtanggap. Maraming salamat, Congressman Malapitan dahil ang Kongreso ay nagpapasa ng budget na nagbibigay sa atin ng pagkakataong mapagawa itong ating proyektong ito.

Mga kababaihan, maupo ho kayong lahat.

Happy Edsa Anniversary sa inyong lahat.

Itong araw ang pag-apat o huling araw ng apat na araw na pagdiriwang natin ng Edsa — February 22 hanggang February 25. At pinagdiriwang natin ang Edsa dito sa paligid ng mga karaniwang mamamayan dahil iyon ang tunay na diwa ng People Power o kapangyarihan ng taong bayan.

At kanina, tayo ay tumulong maglagay ng dalawang hollow block dito sa ating eskuwelahang tinatayo. Magkano nga itong eskuwelahang ito? Ilang classroom, Undersecretary Bacani? P8.6 million na bahagi ng P200 billion na gagastusin natin sa imprastraktura nitong taon at anim na classroom sa mahigit 10,000 classroom na itatayo natin.

Dahil alam natin na sa karaniwang Pilipino, ang pamilya ang lahat at ang kinabukasan ng mga anak ay sagrado at kaya malaki ang pinupuhunan na nilalagay natin sa edukasyon.

Itong taon, yung budget na ginawa nina Congressman Malapitan na pipirmahan natin sa ilang darating na araw, maybe the first week of March ay P160 billion ang nilalagay sa edukasyon. Pinakamalaking porsiyento ng budget na pumunta sa edukasyon sa ilang taon ng nakaraan.

Kaya itong ginagawa natin, kung minsan, nag-i-inaugurate, kung minsan nagga-ground break, kung minsan nagdadagdag ng hollow block depende kung anong stage ng construction ng ating mga proyekto.

Ngayon, gusto natin kasi na lahat ng bata ay pupunta sa eskuwelahan at libre naman ang eskuwela, eh. Kaya kung tutuusin mo, dapat walang dahilan. Kaya lamang kung minsan, may mga pamilya na lubha ng kahirapan, kahit na libre ang eskuwela, hindi nagpapadala ang mga bata sa eskuwelahan. Ito yung mga pinakamahirap sa ating bansa. At para tulungan isagot yang problemang yan, na kahit na libre ang eskuwelahan, sa sobrang..., hindi pa rin mapadala ang mga bata sa eskuwela ay linulunsad natin itong programang ‘Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino’.

Ano itong programang ito? Ito ang programa hindi sa mga mahihirap kundi sa pinakamahihirap sa lahat ng mahihirap. At gaya ng nakita natin — cash ang binibigay. Dadaan sa atm ng LandBank of the Philippines kaya nandito ang pangulo ng LandBank, si Gilda Vitug. Dalawampu ang binigyan natin nong ATM card ngayon. Pero dito sa Caloocan, Espie? Isang libo ang nakitang pamilyang bahagi sa pinakamahirap sa buong Pilipinas. Nandito ba yung isanglibo? Nandito ba sila? Ah, kayo palang naka-uniporme, okay. At iba-iba ang amount na binibigay sa inyo depende sa pangangailangan ninyo, depende sa ilang anak ninyo at lahat. Pero may kondisyon ito — ang kondisyon kailangan ang mga anak niyo, pumapasok sa eskuwelahan. Kung maliit, kung 5-years old or below dapat nagpupunta sa day care. At kung 6-years old and above, dapat nagpupunta sa elementary school. At buwan-buwan

pa, bibisitahin kayo ng DSWD para masigurado na tinutupad niyo yung mga kondisyon. At ito ay habang tinutupad ninyo ang kondisyon at habang ako ay pangulo, buwan-buwan — ibibigay ito sa inyo.

Kasi alam natin na kahit na kung anong ganda ang takbo ng ating ekonomiya, at sa kasaysayan ng ating ekonomiya sa mahigit isang henerasyon, ito na ang pinakamaganda. Meron pa ring mga lubos na naghihirap at yun ang pinakamagdudusa, nagdudusa kapag sa mundo, humihina ang ekonomiya ng mundo ng Amerika, o tumataas pa ba ang presyo ng langis sa mundo, ang pinakanahihirapan ay yung mga pinakamahihirap. Kaya itong programa nating ‘Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino’ ay para makatuwid kayo, para makapag-aral ang inyong mga anak. Para pumunta kayo sa mga health center para malusog ang inyong pamilya. At sa ganon, makakaahon ang inyong pamilya sa lubhang-lubhang kahirapan.

Kaya ito ang tunay na diwa ng People Power — tulungan yung mga pinaka-naghihirap maging pangmatagalang paghihirap, kahit kayo ay kasama sa pinakadukhang pamilya sa ating bansa o kaya nagdudusa kayo kahit pansamantala dahil nagkaroon ng sakuna. Gaya ng nangyayari sa ating mga kapatid: sa Bicol, sa Samar, Leyte, sa Mindoro. Kaya bahagi rin ng diwa ng EDSA, hinihiling din natin don naman sa mga mas maykaya, tulungan natin yung mga kapatid natin na nagdudusa doon sa mga lugar na yun dahil sa mga lubhang ulan.

Yang mga lubhang ulan ay dumating naman dahil sabi nila, yung climate change — nag-iiba-iba tuloy ang panahon, somosobra ang ulan. Kahit na hindi Pilipinas ang may kasalanan, pangmundo yung climate change, ang sagot na lang natin doon ay sikapin nating alagaan ang ating kalikasan.

Dito sa mga barangay, dito sa mga lungsod, ang ating kontribusyon sa ating kalikasan o Green Philippines ay conservation. Linisin natin yung mga basura. Siguraduhin natin na ang tubig ay malinis, kasi yun ang kailangan sa kalusugan.

Marami tayong kailangang gawin, sa susunod na dalawang taon at kalahati, doon tayo maglalagay ng ating pagdiin: yung gumanda ang ekonomiya at iahon ang pinakamahihirap na sumama sa kaunlaran, yung edukasyon na susi ng kinabukasan ng susunod na salinlahi at yung pag-alaga ng ating kalikasan. Sa ganoon sa darating na henerasyon, mas malusog at mas may ginhawa ang ating mga bata ng kasalukuyang panahon.

Ito ang diwa ng People Power na gusto nating ipagdiriwang itong araw na ito.

Maraming salamat. Mabuhay Caloocan, mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). PGMA's Speech during the Building a School and "Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino" (APP) Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123327/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=956&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Peace Rally at the Capitol grounds

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Peace Rally at the Capitol grounds**

[Delivered at the Trece Martires, Cavite City, Cavite, February 25, 2008]

Maraming salamat. Maraming salamat po. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Maraming salamat, Governor Maliksi sa inyong pagpakilala sa akin at pinayagan niyo akong mag-gate crash sa inyong talakayan.

Maraming salamat Congressman Pedie Barzaga, ang ating host congressman dahil doon sa Kongreso, isa kayo sa sinasandalan ng inyong lingkod.

Maraming salamat, Mayor De Sagun sa inyong pag-host nitong talakayan ng mga pamahalaang lokal at mga NGO.

Maraming salamat Mayor Roy Loyola sa inyong pahayag sa pangalan ng lahat ng punong bayan ng Cavite province.

Maraming salamat dating Congressman Del Abaya at salamat din na meron tayong kinatawan ng pamilya ni General at President Emilio Aguinaldo.

Maraming salamat sa lahat ng mga opisyal ng probinsiya, mga opisyal, mga mayor ng iba't-ibang bahagi ng Cavite; maraming salamat sa ating mga pinuno ng NGO na narito; maraming salamat kay Ginang Liabres, ang pangulo ng chamber dito sa Cavite; ako'y nasisiyahan na narinig sa iyo kung gaano kaliksi ng ating mga small and medium enterprises dito. At maraming salamat din sa pahayag ninyo mula sa mga malalaking namumuhunan, Pilipino o dayuhan na isang pinakahinihintay na imprastraktura ay walang iba kung hindi yung Coastal road na apat na pangulo na ang nag-groundbreaking, pang-apat ako doon pero ako naman ang makakatapos dahil ito ay matatapos ayon kay Governor Maliksi, ang schedule katapusan nitong taong 2008.

Maraming salamat Ginang Caraan, na kumakatawan sa mga kababaihan ng Cavite. Napaka-importanteng narito ka para magsalita sa pangalan ng mga kababaihan dahil sa March 8 pagdidiriwang natin ang Araw ng Kababaihan at marami na tayong mga gawain para sa run-up para sa araw ng kababaihan at isang dapat nating pinagdiriwang nga ay ang kung papano lumalakas ang mga karapatan sa pangtao at sa ekonomiya ng ating mga kababaihan.

Malaking karangalan ko na nakatulong doon sa mga kabalikat ng silang sa kaunlaran at naalala ko yung malaking problema noon nong nagkita tayo ng 2005. Yung problema ng ating mga magsasaka. Pero ngayon kuwento na ni Governor Maliksi kung gaano kaunlad ang sakahan dito sa probinsiya ng Cavite.

Maraming salamat kay Ginoong Sarmiento na kumakatawan sa ating mga taga-sports at may kapansanan at talagang gusto natin na ang kabataan ay parating malusog at kung may problema sa kalusugan kagaya ng kapansanan, hindi magiging hadlang sa kanyang pagkakataon.

Maraming salamat kay Ginoong Alvarez at ako'y nasisiyahan na marinig na yung pamana ay isa sa mga millionaire cooperatives na naalagaan natin, P51 million ang kanyang asset days. At yung dalagang doon na kanina pa sumisigaw, kumusta ka? Maraming salamat, karaniwang mamamayan, binabati kita, binabati ko kayong lahat, isang mainit na pagdiriwang ng Edsa People Power revolution.

Yung ating mga supporters, meron silang pagdiriwang ng Edsa People Power doon sa Liwasang Bonifacio ngayong hapon. Pero inisip ko na sa halip na pumunta sa isang pagdiriwang ng mga pagdidiskurso, pupunta ako kung saan puwede nating ipagdiriwang ang tunay na diwa ng People Power kung saan nandoon ang karaniwang mamamayan.

Kanina nandoon ako sa Caloocan dahil tumulong magtayo ng paaralan at nagsimula ng pagbibigay ng cash transfer sa pinakamahihirap. Malayo ang Caloocan mula sa Cavite pero nong isang araw, binalita sa akin ni Bert Gonzalez na magkakaroon kayo ng talakayan dito: local government, mga NGO, kaya sabi ni Bert Gonzalez maganda dumaan sandali dito. Yun ang dahilan, yung ang istorya ng aking pag-gate crash sa inyong talakayan. At maganda na dumaan sandali sa Cavite gawa ng kung pag-uusapan natin ang People Power o pag-uusapan natin ang kalayaan, saan ba napanganak ang kalayaan ng ating bansang Pilipinas? Walang iba kung hindi sa lalawigan ng Cavite.

Gaya nga ng sabi nila, kung ano raw yung pagka-importante ng June 12, 1896 doon sa 19th century, ganon din ka-importante yung apat na araw ng Edsa noong 1986 doon naman sa 20th century.

Yung mundo pinagdiriwang ang Edsa 1. Yung mundo pinayagan ang Edsa 2. Yung mundo hindi patatawaran ang Edsa 3. Sasabihin ng mundo, ano ba yang Pilipinas? Pinakamagaling na manggagawa sa buong mundo kaya hinahanap sa buong mundo tapos parating binabaril ang sarili at hindi matatag? Kung ganon, sino ang darating na investor dito? At ang Cavite, napakalaki ng stake ninyo sa katatagan ng pulitika dahil ang Cavite ang isa sa pinaka-industrialized sa ating buong bansang Pilipinas.

Ang Cavite, isa sa pinakamaraming mga investors either small and medium enterprise or foreign investors. At yung mga foreign investors neninerbiyos kapag nakikita nila na hindi matatag ang ating pulitika. Ganoon na lang ang ginagawa natin: si Governor; si Congressman; mga mayor ng iba't-ibang lugar kung saan mayroong mga investments; the DTI; si PEZA na sinasabi parati sa mga investor dito na kayo, kung ano ang ibibigay sa inyo ng ibang bansa, ibibigay din namin sa inyo pero puwede nating mapag-usapan yung diskuwento sa taxes gaya ng ginagawa ni governor maliksi, puwede nating pag-usapan yung diskuwento ng kuryente gaya ng ginagawa ng Department of Energy, pero ang katatagan ng pulitika ay nasa kamay ninyo — taongbayan ng Cavite at Pilipinas.

Yung Coastal road, pinaka-importanteng imprastraktura para sa Cavite, matutupad na natin sa wakas. Yung isang hinahanap niyo — yung LRT nabibinbin sa mga banta ng imbestigasyon kaya nasa kamay na rin ninyo na yung mga nagsasabing nagmamahal sila ng Cavite, huwag naman nila bigyan ng peligro yung hinahanap niyong LRT na aabot ng mga pasahero sa Cavite at sa Kamaynilaan. Kaya ang laki ng tungkulin ng mga Cavite. Malaki ang inyong ginawa nong 19th century para sa ating kalayaan, malaki rin ang magagawa ninyo para sa ating kaunlaran. Ang inyong tinig ay dalhin niyo hanggang doon sa senado. Yung mga sinabi niyo ngayon, yes! Lahat tayo laban sa katiwalian ngunit ang ipinaglaban naman ni Emilio Aguinaldo ay rule of law, democratic principles, ipaglaban natin yun.

Ang paglilitis hindi dinadaan sa tsismis. Ang paglilitis dinadaan sa ebidensiya. Merong sapat, merong karapat-dapat na korte para doon. Kaya kung pag-uusapan natin ang kalayaan, kung pag-uusapan natin ang demokrasya, pag-uusapan natin ang rule of law at ako ay nasisiyahan na ako ay nakadaan dito sa bungad ng ating kalayaan para sa ganon, maalala natin ang tunay na diwa ng People Power — demokrasya and rule of law.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). PGMA's Speech during the Peace Rally at the Capitol grounds. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123306/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=962&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 28th Joint Meeting of the Philippines-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee (PHILJEC) and the Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Committee (JPECC)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 28th Joint Meeting of the Philippines-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee (PHILJEC) and
the Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Committee (JPECC)**

[Delivered at the Rigodon Ballroom, The Peninsula Manila, Makati City, February 27, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Remonde for your introduction.

Ambassador Katsura, please thank the Prime Minister for his wonderful words in greeting this event.

Mr. Hagiwara and other delegates from Japan; Chairman Alcantara and other delegates from the Philippines; Mr. Tsuji; Roy, Mr. Navarro; ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, to all our friends who have traveled from Japan for these important discussions, welcome to the Philippines! I am pleased to see such distinguished representation from Keidanren, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Keizai Doyukai and from the private sector.

To JPECC and to PHILJEC, to the members of the Philippine-based Japanese and Philippine diplomatic and private sector communities working hard to achieve the already positive relations between our two nations, thank you. We value your commitment to help us achieve our economic goals.

Japan has been one of our most important trade, investment, tourism and development assistance partners, since February 1953 or 56 years ago, when President Elpidio Quirino received the first Chief of the Permanent Japanese Mission.

When my father was President in the 1960s, the Crown Prince and Princess, now Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, made a state visit to the Philippines.

And today Japanese-Philippine relations have never been stronger. Japan remains one of our country's largest sources of foreign direct investments. Japan has made a major contribution to peace and stability in Mindanao. And as in the case of many recipient countries, and in fact, the world at large, witnessed the announcements of Prime Minister Aso with regard to the IMF fund in the G20 meeting and the fund for developing countries in the Davos meeting, Japan is by far the number one source of Official Development Assistance.

While the global economic crisis has created unprecedented challenges for all countries in the world, we are fortunate to have inaugurated the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement as a milestone in our relations. This landmark agreement can play a significant role in helping our nations capitalize on the mutually beneficial economic opportunities that will support our efforts to meet the global challenges and build a stronger long-term economic relationship.

The JPEPA is about bringing advantages to both nations while eliminating disadvantages. Any trade agreement requires adjustment for both parties, but this agreement will benefit both of our economies.

The agreement will bring about liberalization of trade and services between our two countries, facilitation and greater liberalization of investment, and enhanced technical cooperation and capacity building. It will promote an increased flow of resources and help create a bigger market that will provide greater opportunities and larger economies of scale for both Philippine and Japanese businesses.

Also, it will improve access of Philippine products and services for the Japanese market. It will immediately have a positive impact on farmers, fishermen and processors because bananas, pineapples, crabs, shrimps, chicken, and tuna will have better access. Japanese industries will be able to supply the Philippine manufacturing sector with critical inputs such as Japanese specialty steel products, auto and auto parts, and electrical and electronic appliances and parts. Textiles and apparel will enjoy mutual elimination of tariffs. With limited exceptions, the Agreement enhances Philippine service providers' access to the Japanese market and guarantees non-discriminatory treatment. For the first time, Japan will accept foreign health workers — our very much in-demand Filipino nurses and care workers. We hope to see more trade in outsourcing, tourism, maritime and air transport, banking and telecommunications.

This is particularly important because with the global economy and trading system under assault it is essential, as Mr. Hagiwara said, that political and business leaders throughout the world stand up and face down those challenges.

This certainly isn't the time to raise barriers to trade, as what was done in the 1930s or to retreat into domestic isolation, as what destroyed the world in the 1930s. Instead, we must come together — as we are doing today — to address our common economic needs as we have done in the past and will continue to do for many years to come. So I congratulate both the Philippine and Japanese delegations for your efforts to find ways to expand trade, investment and other levels of cooperation. History will look back on this dark period in the world economy as one that rewarded those who had the foresight to look beyond current challenges and recognize that long-term solutions can only be found if they are based on mutual trust, respect and benefit. This first year of JPEPA's implementation gives both the Philippines and Japan an opportunity to build on and reinforce the high level of existing cooperation between our two nations.

It is, of course, natural as what happened in 1930s, for any country to do what it can to protect its citizens against the threats posed by the global economic crisis, to consider setting aside commitments to reform and to liberalization, and to seek short-term relief at the expense of long-term benefits. But having learned our lessons from the past, and if we review the world figures cold-bloodedly in the last few years, we cannot overlook the fact that trade has been good for the world; it has helped reduce poverty and lift up the poor. True, we have far to go before we can rid the world of poverty, but the journey would be longer if we abandon our commitment to a strong global trading system. The Philippines is more committed than ever to a strong global trading system, but one where the interests of the developing countries take a rightful place in the global order.

And that is why I thank our speakers. I thank the Japanese Prime Minister for giving importance to the G20 because it is much more representative of the world than the G7 or the G8, and perhaps the G20 should become a G30 to be even more representative. On the part of the Philippines — yes, as I said — it is natural to want to protect your citizens. And on our part, we have made sure that the way to protect our citizens is to focus our government resources on programs to see the poor through the lean times first. We must adjust and change, but we must not do so at the backs of those who can least afford it.

We have accelerated our assistance to the poor and our investments in 2009. That is our version of the economic stimulus; we call it an 'Economic Resiliency Plan.' These expenditures are not meant to break the bank, but to further stimulate our economy to help our people, and to sustain the growth that has been so important to our economic success that has generated 8.0 percent GNP growth in 2007 and 6.1 percent GNP growth in 2008 when two-thirds of the world went into recession.

If there is any bright side to the darkening world economy, it is this: we all have an opportunity to do things differently. To fix what hasn't worked; to repair what has worked; to experiment and innovate; and to unleash the creative spirit of all our peoples.

We have the opportunity to create new industries to clean our environment, save energy, and create new and rewarding jobs in the process. And I congratulate Japan for its pioneering work on this way back in the Kyoto Protocol.

Today, in the Philippines, I have an Executive Order on climate change. And every Friday is “Anti-climate Change Day.” It is a day when I devote my own activities to making sure that we promote the work that has to be done to mitigate climate change. One of them is making sure that our government agencies across the board have their own solid waste management facilities. And after this event, I will be going to the Manila Police District to make sure that they work on that. And I can’t help but think, “I’m glad that my meeting with you today is on a Friday.” It’s on a day, a Climate Change Day, because it is also a means for us to be able to recognize and congratulate Japan’s leadership in fighting climate change.

We must be bold and try harder in trying global times. The JPEPA is the greatest test of keeping our bonds strong and our economies open to each other.

And so I look forward to a more brisk and energetic collaboration between the Philippines and Japan. The “Land of the Morning” and the “Land of the Rising Sun” to mutually benefit our present and future generations.

Arigato. Maraming salamat. Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the 28th Joint Meeting of the Philippines-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee (PHILJEC) and the Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Committee (JPECC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104529/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21492&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the League of Municipalities Congress – Mindanao Cluster

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the League of Municipalities Congress – Mindanao Cluster**

[Delivered at the Davao City, February 27, 2008]

Daghang salamat. Daghang salamat Secretary Jess Dureza, ang atong Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process ug ang atong Cabinet Officer for Regional Development sa Region 11.

I'd like to greet also his fellow cabinet member, Bayani Fernando, our MMDA Chairman;(Applause) And I'm very happy to be able to sign the law on the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund whose principal sponsor is Senator Edgardo Angara; (Applause) And Congressman Baja Mitra; (Applause) may I greet our host congressmen here in Davao City: Congressman Vince Garcia (Applause) and Congressman Sid Ungab; (applause) And of course our host for this affair, the Mayors' League of the Philippines headed by Mayor Monching Guico, president. (Applause) And Mayor Mon Abalos, President LMP Mindanao; (Applause) I would also like to greet our soldiers headed by General Ding Luna, our East Mindanao Commander; (Applause) and our policemen headed by General Andy Karo. (Applause) And governor Cora Malanyaon of Davao Oriental. (Applause) I'd like to greet also DILG Assistant Secretary Panadero; (Applause) And all of you tanang atong mga mayors na nakaanhi din... Mga taga-Mindanao, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan.

Una sa tanan, daghang salamat sa inyong padayon nga pagsuporta kanako. (Applause) Salamat sa resolusyon gihatag ninyo agikan Mayor Abalos, thank you very much. (Applause) Salamat Sab sa tema: "Unity Amidst Diversity Towards Genuine Peace, Progress and Countryside Development."

And that's why I'm very happy to be here to sign the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund extension because that is a key to peace, process and countryside development. We've decided to do the signing here even if it's a session day and most of the other congressmen... Oh! May I also, I'm sorry. I'd like to thank OIC Mayor Ortis for your kind words of welcome. (Applause) Okay. And well, we decided to have the signing of this bill into law here in the League of Municipalities Convention for Mindanao even if it's a session day and most of the congressmen are in Manila for the session because our Super Region creates five major regions and two of them are agri-business regions. The Northern Luzon and Mindanao which is agribusiness. And we wanted to sign this bill here in front of you so that our mayors from all over Mindanao will be able to witness yet another means of helping your constituents, the farmers in your municipal list become competitive. Of course, the northern islands of Mindanao are tourism islands, that's their part of another Super Region. But that will be another way of helping them. The agricultural competitiveness enhancement fund is to help our agricultural sector and also it is a means to spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Metro Manila.

I'm very happy to be here also to have included in your program and thank you for allowing us to include in your program our honoring our soldiers — the soldiers and our policemen. The soldiers who are able to have very important victories in our battle against terrorism, like our soldiers who caught the Jemaah Islamiyah international terrorists and this has made this island even more peaceful. The soldiers who have been wounded, the soldiers who have died or the soldiers who have won in the battles against the NPA and the civilians who helped them do it. It only stresses that we have advanced the process of peace in Mindanao to a new level of engagement, and many of you are involved in this new level of engagement. It's focused not only on fighting but on interfaith dialogue on economic development and mutual security. And we have been able to focus on this new level of development with the largest possible international involvement and many of the mayors of Mindanao are witnesses to this new level

of engagement. I was looking at the mayor of Barira here where Camp Abubakar is located and I just want to let you know, Mayor, that there is, right now a Singaporean group here in Davao and they are looking for 3,000 hectares of land for banana plantations. (Applause) and maybe Camp Abubakar will be a beautiful place to host them. (Applause) In any case, they are here because we have such a big market for bananas now in the world. We're number one in Japan, number one in China, number one in the Middle East and these are huge markets. And that is all part of Agribusiness Mindanao. We thank Mindanao for your contribution to our strong and growing economy.

A strong and growing economy is the central pillar that together you — the mayors, our legislators and I have labored to create, to help guarantee peace and order and stability in our country especially in Mindanao. That's what the new level of engagement or peace is all about. If we want peace, we have to have development. This is our motive for getting up every day to work hard and focus like a laser beam to fix our economy. We have made tough and unpopular decisions, tax reforms to raise revenues and crack down on tax cheats so that we could invest in our physical infrastructure and in our people. I am glad that our speakers earlier recognize that the more value added tax we collect, the more the internal revenue allotment becomes bigger. (Applause)

Of course, we are in a world where there is a lot of economic uncertainty. The high price of gasoline and everyday commodities hits our poor the hardest. This hits Mindanao because seven of the ten poorest provinces in the country are in Mindanao. While the high price of oil is a global issue outside the control of government, we have nevertheless taken and will continue to take actions to reduce the pain on the people of these high prices. We have cut tariffs on oil. We have begun providing targeted cash payments to the poorest of our poor, especially in the seven poorest provinces in Mindanao to help them cope. For instance, we started this conditional cash transfer in the province of Misamis Occidental in the town of Lopez Jaena. And we also have extended this to Agusan Del Sur in the town of Esperanza. We started 2007 with 7,000 families, we hope to reach at least 150,000 families this year the poorest of the poor. And I hope that the seven of the ten provinces in the country who are the poorest, the seven here in Mindanao will soon begin to feel this assistance from the tax revenues that we have all worked to be able to pass into law.

And today, we signed the law to extend the agricultural competitiveness enhancement fund up to the year 2015 to help the farmers and the agribusinessmen especially the small agribusinessmen, many of whom are in Mindanao, become more competitive and improve their lives.

Paagi sa ACEF, ang mga kaayuhan gikan sa atong paglambo mubalik sa katawhan pinaagi sa pagpadaghan sa higayon aron modako ang ani ang makabutang ang katawhan ug igong pagkaon sa ilang mga mesa.

Paagi sa ACEF, ang buot ipasabot sa pagpamuhunan sa katawhan mao nga makakita ug makagamit ang mga Pilipino labi ng mga taga-Mindanao ug mga proyekto ug serbisyo nga maoy mo-ayo sa inyong kinabuhi, labi na gayod ang kinabuhi sa labing kabos nga daghan nga mang-uuma. Bu-ot sab ipasabot niini nga padaghanon ug siguruhong mahuman ang labing kinahanglanong imprastraktura sa agrikultura nga maoy modani ug mga inbestor sa agribusiness, sama sa mga investor sa gikan sa Singapore, nagingkon kanina kay sila ang mogama ug mga bag-ong trabaho alang sa mga ordinaryong lumulupyo.

Ang ACEF mahatabang sa pagdaghan sa pondo sa nasod, and earlier, when we we're having an interview in the airport, we were asked by Edith Regalao of Philstar, how much is this going to be? Well, it depends on what is the difference between the way it works is, when we use to have quantitative restrictions, that only so much of a particular product can come in. Beyond that, it cannot come in. Now what we've done is beyond that amount, it can come in but at a higher tariff and that higher tariff is the source of the agricultural competitiveness enhancement fund. And so it depends therefore on how much we can collect. But the estimated Baja was giving me earlier in the plane is about 6 billion pesos. And of the 6 billion pesos tuod kay sa adta nga trenta porsiyento sa atong mga lumpsum, labi na sa agrikultura muadto sa Mindanao of the 6 billion pesos (applause) we will be able to put 2 billion pesos here in Mindanao. Kining 2 billion pesos, kining tibuok nga 6 billion pesos makatabang sa alokasyon nga 200 billion sa imprastraktura, ug apil sa pondohan niining kantidad mao ang farm to market roads, irigasyon alang sa mga probinsiya sa Mindanao nga mo-abot sa 2,000 ka kilometro ang gusto nato nga mahuman sa farm to market road and irrigation, we would like to make sure that we have about 200 million a month times twelve months, that would be for irrigation here in Mindanao.

Pondohan sab niini ang mga importanteng kalsada, pantalan ug airport, agricultural airports aron moabot ang mga produkto sa agrikultura nga paspas ug barato.

Senator Angara has always been telling me about the need for no frills agricultural cargo airports and this ACEF fund hopefully will be able to provide also for that.

That is why I'm honored to sign the ACEF extension in Mindanao, because you are the nation's food basket. With the ACEF, we can strengthen the infrastructure juggernaut of the P200 billion budget which comes partly from the appropriations act, the government corporations and you the local governments. Apil ining mga proyekto sa infrastructure juggernaut ang pagpatukod ug bag-ong bangkerohan bridge dinhi sa davao aron molu-ag ang trapiko ug aron mopasas gihapon ang pagdala sa mga produkto sa uma ngadto sa merkado sa bangkerohan. Because this is an important bridge that was destroyed in a previous calamity and therefore we have to rebuild this and this is about P200 million plus. Gangina, gi-inspect nato ang tulay and I'm glad to hear that this bridge will be finished by August 10.

Kauban sab sa infrastructure juggernaut magpatindog kita ug kapin sa diyes mil ka kwarto sa eskwelahan. Adunay bahin ang Davao City sa mga proyekto sa eskwelahan, ug ang labing bag-o dinhi mao upat ka classroom ggroundbreak naamo kanina sa Sirawan Beach Elementary School sa distrito ni Congressman Ungab dito sa Toril and that is a Muslim community and I'm very happy to hear that I'm one of the few presidents who have been able to visit such a far, far part of the City of Davao (applause) and that's also the district of OIC mayor, Mayor Ortis.

Ang imprastraktura importante gayod aron masiguro nga igo kanunay ang atong pagkaon pinaagi sa pagpadaghan sa produksiyon ug sa paspas nga pagdala sa merkado. So ginapirmahan nato sa inyong tungod kining balaod sa Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement nga mosiguro nga kanunay mapundohan ang mga aktibidad alang sa agrikultura ug agribusiness. Siguradong dako murag ingong ko kanina ang madawat nga benepisyo sa mga lungsod, laing-laing lungsod sa Mindanao tungod kay ang tibuok isla ang kinadak-ang food producer sa atong nasod.

Gipadak-an nato ang budget sa internal revenue allocation. As Mayor abalos said, you have a bigger IRA because we have bigger value added tax, ug karun tuiga ang allocation P210 billion kini, wala'y labot ang budget sa mga ahensiyang dunay proyekto sa inyong mga lungsod.

Unta seguruhon nga ang 20% sa IRA sa matag LGU, sa matag lungsod gamiton sa mga proyektong direktang makahatag ug paglambo sa inyong lungsod labi na sa pag uswag sa atong mga mang-uuma.

Gisuportahan nato kanunay ang katungod sa LGU nga makadawat sa inyong tibuok IRA. Kun mahinumduman ninyo, wala nako gigamit ang katungod sa presidente nga ung nasa una, yung ...(audio cut).... (applause) usa ka bahin sa IRA isip Local Government Social Equalization Fund, diretso na tanan sa atong mga lungsod. Ug ako sab ang milihok aron mahimong automatic appropriation sa budget ang IRA. So dili na kinahanglan pa nga ma-submit ug laing-laing mga papeles sa dbm. Ug kumahog naman ninyo, gibayran ko sab ang utang nga IRA sa mga miaging administrasyon. Ug gisugo ko na si Secretary of the Budget Nonoy Andaya nga estudyuhan kung unsay paagi aron mabayran ang kulang nga IRA niadtong mga tuig nga re-enacted ang budget sa akong administrasyon. Duha ka tuig.

Gi-anunsyo nako sa Peace Assembly didto sa Tagum nga ihatag gayod sa Mindanao ang 30% sa budget, ug gisugo ko dayon ang DAR, DA ug DENR ug karon ang ACEF nga igahin ang 30% sa budget sa mga programa sa Mindanao.(Applause)

Muhangyo ko nga tumanon ninyo ang inyong saad nga alang sa malungtarong kalinaw sa Mindanao.

Kamo ug ako dunay katungdanan nga angay tumanon: kini mao ang paghatod ug mga serbisyo ug programang makapadayon sa atong pag-uswag. Gasalig ako nga manguna kamo aron kanunay nga sundon sa inyong katawhan ang dalan sa pag-uswag.

Congratulations sa tanang atong mga mayors sa Mindanao, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the League of Municipalities Congress – Mindanao Cluster. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123250/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=953&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Program of the Philippine-Japan Manning Cooperative Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Program of the Philippine-Japan Manning Cooperative Forum**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), February 28, 2008]

Thank you very much, Secretary Brion.

President Manese; His Excellency the Japanese Ambassador, the Panamenian Ambassador; the leaders and officers of the associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines; the Japanese Shipowners' Association; the cadets and trainees of the maritime and shipping academies; guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Today we celebrate the special partnership between the Philippines and the Japan on a very important sector of both our economies — the Filipino seafarers who work in Japanese vessels.

We are proud of Japan's faith in the ability of Filipinos, particularly our seafarers and caregivers. The doors of Japan to Filipino caregivers will open once the Philippine senate ratifies the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement. In the meantime, we have a robust partnership with regards to our seafarers who dominate the manpower on Japanese vessels. More and more Filipinos are becoming management level officers such as masters and chief engineers. And so that is another welcome development.

Most Filipinos are natural-born sailors. The country's 7,000 plus islands with a total coastline of 18,000 kilometers make our people comfortable with the sea. This inborn inclination and the great Filipino workers' drive to excel in whatever he does explain the country's stature as the world's manning capital. A quarter of our kababayans comprise 28 percent of the international maritime industry's total workforce.

Our Japanese friends have acknowledged the superior quality of Filipino seamen. The 30,000 Filipinos working in Japanese ships comprise 80 percent of the total manpower complement of Japanese vessels.

Being the largest sector among our OFWs, seafarers also constitute a major factor in the rise of the Philippine economy and contribute to the 14.4 billion-dollar remittances last year. Our seafarers are truly making waves in serving not only the nation but the world.

The rising remittances and the continued effectiveness of the economic reforms we have implemented for a few years now, have made 2007 a banner year in our economic history. We achieved 7.3 percent, the highest in more than three decades.

A strong and growing economy is the central pillar we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our economy. This is our motivation for getting up everyday to work hard and focus like a laser beam to fix our economy. We have made tough and unpopular decisions to raise revenues and crackdown on tax cheats so that we could invest in our physical infrastructure and in our people.

We are reinvesting the gains of our growth in people. People-oriented programs, for instance, to further hone the skills and talents of Filipinos. We are making sure the marginalized have better chances to acquire relevant and adequate skills training.

We would have to spend a lot more on seafarers and marine officers training if we did not have the Filipino and Japanese private sector. So we thank the Japanese shipowners and their Filipino partners who not only employ Filipino seamen but who also aggressively invest in maritime education and training of Filipinos. Our Japanese-backed maritime schools and training centers contribute, superior as they are, to ensure that the Philippines will continue to be the undisputed manning capital of the world. (Applause)

Furthermore, the Japan seamen's union and its Filipino counterpart, the associated marine officers and seamen's union of the Philippines headed by Captain Gregorio Oca, attend to the well-being of Filipino seafarers not only in ensuring that their wages are competitive and good for their families but also by providing social facilities like the hospitals located in Manila, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao, housing projects for seafarers plus a world-class maritime school, the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific. Do we have some of the cadets from there? (Applause)

I also thank the Japan Seamen's Union, which is dominated by Filipinos, that's why they always allow me to use their facilities as a venue when I want to meet the Filipino workers in Tokyo. (Applause) Any way you measure it, Japan-Philippine relations have never been stronger. Aside from the human link provided by Filipino seafarers and officers on Japanese vessels, there has been a welcome influx in Japanese tourists, an impressive upswing in Japanese direct investment. We only need to remember, for instance, Marubeni and Tokyo Electric who have invested about four billion dollars in our power sector or Sumitomo which has invested almost a billion dollars in our mining sector, Toyota which has put up additional facilities in our country, and so many other Japanese contributions. And very importantly, Japan is making a major contribution to peace and stability in Mindanao.

We thank the Japanese investors when we bring in investments and create jobs, our people have a more stable and predictable life. With more investments come more revenues in taxes that can be invested in schools, roads and bridges as well as health care, education and the environment. And over time, everyone will benefit.

Yet we are aware that no matter how much improvement there is at the top of the economic ladder, many of our people still struggle mightily. And we are deeply aware that many hardworking Filipinos work hard every day just to put food on their table and provide adequate shelter for their families. And furthermore we are aware that many of these hardworking Filipinos find their way to Japanese vessels. (Applause)

And so we thank you, shipowners, investors in maritime training, investors in the manning industry for preparing our youth for a better future as world-renowned seafarers and officers.

Congratulations! Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During the Opening Program of the Philippine-Japan Manning Cooperative Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123230/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=948&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Women's Month kick-off ceremony

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Women's Month kick-off ceremony**

[Delivered at the New City Hall Grounds, Calamba City, Laguna, March 3, 2008]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Cabral, ang ating kababaihan sa Gabinete na siya ang namamahala sa pag-alaga ng mga kababaihang kailangan alagaan.

Batiin na rin natin ang isang member ng Cabinet na narito, si Secretary Pingkoy Duque. (Applause) Kanina nung kami ay nandoon sa... Nanggaling sa isang tulay na in-inaugurate, dumaan sa ospital at may nagsabi sa ospital, "Marami may sakit dito." at sabi ni Governor Lazaro, marami kasing typhoid fever ngayon kaya narito si Secretary Duque para asikasuhin yung mga may typhoid fever. (Applause)

Nabanggit ko na si Governor Lazaro. Batiin din natin si Governor Lazaro, isa sa pinakamasenior sa dumadami nating kababaihang gobernador sa ating bansa, gobernador ng makasaysayan na lalawigan ng Laguna, ang kababaihang gobernador, governor Ningning Lazaro; (Applause) At dito naman sa lunsod ng Calamba, nagpapasalamat tayo sa ating host, ang ating host city mayor, si Mayor Jun Chipeco; (Applause) Pati na rin yung kanyang batang-batang mga kasamahan sa trabaho, yung kanyang batang-batang anak, si Congressman Timmy Chipeco; (Applause) si Vice-Mayor at yung mga konsehal na napakarami ay batang-bata rin dito sa Calamba; (Applause) At batiin natin yung dalawa nating mga legislators na kasama itong araw na ito. Ang isa sa mga dumadaming kababaihan na congresswomen, si Congresswoman Ivy Arago (Applause) at saka si Congressman Dan Fernandez. (Applause)

Batiin natin lahat ng mga board members, si Vice-Governor Hernandez at yung mga mayors na ang dami-daming narito. Sorry at nakatindig kayo dahil napuno ang lugar kaya pati yung mga upuan ninyo, naupuan. At lahat ng ating mga ibang mga opisyal na narito, si General Obañana at yung mga sundalo at mga pulis na nag-aalaga sa atin. Yung ating mga scholar at awardee na binigyan natin kanina. Halimbawa yung mga taga-Self Employment Assistance na taga-Siniloan lahat ay binabati natin kayo at mga kababaihan ng Siniloan. Yung mga binigyan natin ng kagamitan para magamit sa kanilang inensayo sa TESDA at binabati rin natin ang representate ng mga TESDA rito, yung mga tricycle driver na natutong mag-ayos ng kanilang sariling tricycle at yung ating mga massage therapists na marami ang pagkakataon dito sa Calamba at saka doon sa Pansol sa ating mga spa. At sa inyong lahat, mga kababaihan ng Calamba at ng lalawigan ng Laguna, happy Women's Month sa ating lahat! (Applause)

Ang tema ng buwan ng kababaihan itong taon ay — "CEDAW ng Bayan: Yaman ng Kababaihan." CEDAW ng bayan ha, hindi sigaw ng bayan. Ang CEDAW ay C-E-D-A-W, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, sa ilalim ng United Nations. Ang CEDAW ay yaman ng kababaihan sa buong mundo dahil pinagtatangol ang karapatan ng kababaihan sa buong mundo sa ilalim ng United Nations. Ayun si Mayor Arcillas ng Santa Rosa, (Applause) Babae rin ay may malaking delegasyon dito — "CEDAW ng Bayan: Yaman ng Kababaihan." ang CEDAW ng Bayan ay yaman rin ng kababaihang Pilipina sapagkat dahil sa ating mahusay na pagpapatupad ng CEDAW ay maraming kababaihang nagkaroon ng pangkabuhayan kagaya ng mga kababaihan ng siniloan na binigyan natin dito kanina, yung mga naka-pink. (Applause) At dahil sa ating masusing pagpapasunod sa programa para sa karapatan ng kababaihan, pinarangalan tayo ng U.N. nung nakaraang taon bilang bansang may malaking pinagbabawas sa diskriminasyon sa kababaihan. At inimbata rin tayo sa World Economic Forum at binigyan ng parangal bilang tanging bansa sa Asia na nasa top ten sa buong daigdig sa gender parity.

Kasi on schedule tayo sa pagtataguyod ng U.N. Millennium Development Goal na umabot sa gender equality by 2015, kasama yung ibang mga layuning eradicate extreme hunger and poverty; achieve universal primary education;

reduce child mortality; combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; at magbuo ng global partnership para sa kaunlaran. Itong mga millennium development goals, ito ang laman ng ating medium-term development plan. Kaya sabi ng development guru na si Jeffrey Sachs, ang plano ng Pilipinas sa ating ekonomiya ang pinakamagandang nakita niyang development plan sa lahat.

At kaya dito pang-anim tayo sa buong mundo sa gender parity. (Applause) Alam niyo, ang nauuna lamang sa atin yung New Zealand at saka yung apat na Scandinavian countries, tapos tayo na ang pinakamagaling sa karapatan ng kababaihan. Sa Asia, tayo lamang ang nakasarado na ng gender gap kapwa sa edukasyon at sa kalusugan. At isa lang tayo sa anim sa buong mundo na nasarado na ang gender gap sa kalusugan at sa edukasyon. (Applause)

Halimbawa, sa edukasyon, nangunguna tayo sa kapantayan ng gender sa literacy rate at sa enrollment rate maging primary, secondary at tertiary. Sa katunayan, yung mga babae — sorry ha, Mayor Chipeco, Congressman Chipeco at Congressman Fernandez — ang mga babae lamang sa mga lalaki sa simple literacy rate at functional literacy rate. (Applause) Lamang rin ang mga babaeng Pilipina sa enrollment rate at lamang din ang mga babae sa net enrollment rate dahil mas maganda ang participation rate at yung drop-out rate ng mga babae ay mas mababa kaysa sa mga lalaki. At kaya mas maraming babaeng nabubuo ang pag-eskuwela kaysa sa mga lalaki.

Pati sa scholastic achievement, lamang rin ang mga babae. At habang umaakyat sa higher grade sa primary school, mas lumalamang ang babae sa achievement rate.

Sa kalusugan naman at haba ng buhay, nangunguna rin ang Pilipinas sa kapantayan. Mas mahaba ang buhay ng mga Pilipina kaysa sa mga lalaking Filipino. (Applause)

And most surveys indicate a decline in the mortality ratio in the Philippines. Ngunit doon sa walong millennium development goals nasa pito ay on schedule tayo, ang talagang pinakadapat itrabaho natin ay yung pangwalo. Kailangan tayong magtrabaho para bumaba pa ang mortality rate o maternal mortality rate.

Kaya ito ang ginagawa natin. The government addresses maternal health through a two-pronged strategy: yung isa, health services to pregnant women for safe motherhood; at yung pangalawa, natural family planning.

Merong survey na nagawa noong 2006, ayon doon sa survey sa mga babaing may asawa na within reproductive age, 15 to 49, 50.6 percent ang gumagamit ng family planning. Karamihan contraceptives, may konti natural family planning. Pero gusto natin dahil ang ating bansa ay bansang katoliko, at ayon sa pag-aaral, isang malaking nag-iimpluwensiya ng desisyon natin tungkol sa family planning ay ang ating relihiyon at ang ating mga kultura. Pinapairal natin ang natural family planning para itong 50.6 percent na gumagawa ng tinatawag na responsible parenthood ay maitaas natin at gawing 60 percent by 2010 sa pamamagitan ng dagdag na pag-ensayo sa natural family planning.

For safe motherhood naman, we are shifting to facility-based delivery instead of home-based delivery kasi yung mga nanganganak sa bahay, yun ang maraming pinanggagalingan ng maternal health. Kaya para mas maraming pumasok sa ospital para manganak ay, hindi ba Pingkoy Duque, yung pregnancy puwede ng magamit ang Philhealth ngayon? At yung mga hospital naman, yung mga health services, sa katunayan ito ay devolved sa mga local government kaya isa sa mga malaking problema ni Governor Lazaro na sinasabi niya kanina bagamat mayaman ang Laguna, napakalaki ang populasyon, ang bigat-bigat raw sa kanya yung mga health services, yung mga ospital na kailangan itayo o ipalawak dahil ang dami-daming district hospital at provincial hospital dito. Kaya bagamat devolved ang health services ay inatasan ko si Secretary Duque na tulungan ang mga local government na i-upgrade ang mga ospital. Yung mga primary hospital gawing secondary, tapos yung mga secondary hospital gawing tertiary. Anong ibig sabihin ng secondary hospital? Eh tama ba ako, Pingkoy at saka Espie dahil doktor kayong dalawa? Yung mga secondary hospital ay yung mga may gynecological, may obstetric at may surgical services para yung mga nanay ay manganganak doon sa mga ospital.

Kanina, dumaan tayo sa ospital at tinanong ko, “Ning, yan ba yung ospital ng provincial dito sa Calamba?” Hindi, sabi niya, iba pa yun. Pero inulit na naman niya yung kanyang problema sa mga ospital niya at sinabi nga niya dito sa Calamba meron ding district hospital na kailangan tulungan. Kaya itong araw na ito ay meron tayong dalang tseke

alang-alang sa pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng Kaabaihan. (Applause) Meron tayong kontribusyon sa ospital, sa district hospital dito sa Calamba pero sana ilagay natin sa mga kama at gamit at kuwarto para sa maternity. (Applause)

Tayo ang unang bansang nagtakda ng pondo para sa mga programang pangkababaihan at yung maglalagay tayo ng pondo sa ospital pero nakatukoy doon sa tutulong sa kababaihan kasama doon sa ating ginagawang CEDAW.

Noong ako ay senador, ginawa ko yung batas na nagtataguyod ng partisipasyon ng kababaihan sa mga gawaing may produktibidad at kita. Kaya naman malaki ang gusto nating ipairal sa SEA-K at sa microfinance sa kababaihan. At bilang pangulo, nagpirma naman tayo ng batas na nagbibigay ng proteksyon sa kababaihan at kabataan mula sa karahasan.

Kaya ang gagawin natin dapat, kung ang CEDAW ng bayan ang isang susi sa kayamanan, tutukan natin, tinututukan natin ang paglago ng ekonomiya sapagkat ito ang tanging daan kung papano aahon sa kahirapan maging babae o lalaki.

Kaya sa buwang ito, tutukan natin ang pagpapalawak ng mga gawain para sa CEDAW at sa kaunlaran. CEDAW at hindi sigaw ang panlaban sa kahirapan.

Happy women's month sa ating lahat! (Applause)

Maraming salamat. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the Women's Month kick-off ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123217/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1073&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Signing Ceremony of the Act on Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Signing Ceremony of the Act on Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 04, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Ermita.

Vice-president de Castro; other members of the Cabinet; Speaker Nograles; other officials of both Houses of Congress especially the authors and sponsors. And I'd like to recognize those in the head table. On the part of the Senate, Senator Ponce Enrile, the principal author and sponsor and Chairman of the Committee on Public Services; (Applause) Senator Angara, principal author; (Applause) Senator Zubiri, co-sponsor. (Applause) On the part of the House aside from Speaker Nograles, I'd like to acknowledge Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar, (Applause) Deputy Speaker Villarosa, (Applause) Majority leader Defensor; (Applause) Congressman Puentevella, principal author and sponsor and Chairman of the Committee on Transportation; (Applause) Congressman Angara, principal author; (Applause) Congressman Zamora, principal author; (Applause) Congressman Edcel Lagman. Members of the Diplomatic Corps; representatives of the air transport and airline industries; other government officials; ladies and gentlemen.

Una sa lahat, salamat sa Kongreso sa pagpasa ng Civil Aviation Authority Act na ating lalagdaan ngayon. Magandang tanda ito para sa bayan at sa mundo na patuloy ang pamahalaan sa paglilingkod sa tao at pagsusulong ng kinakailangang reporma tungo sa mas mahusay na pamamahala.

Salamat sa bagong batas na lilikha ng Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, magiging mas ligtas ang mga biyahe sa eroplano, at mawawalang sagabal sa paglago ng turismo at investment na lumilikha ng daan-daang libong trabaho para sa bayan o milyung-milyon pa nga. Ito ang ating mga pakay noong hiniling sa State of the Nation Address na maging batas ito. At nagalak tayo sa pagtuon ng ating mga mambabatas sa ating panawagan.

Today's enactment of the Civil Aviation Authority Law is an opportune time to underscore the immense value of the rule of law. The rule of law is the foundation and protection of every citizen's rights of peace and order in society, and of confidence in our country among investors in the Philippines and around the world. This is indispensable in attracting investment and jobs for our people.

Later on, we will, in the Cabinet meeting, discuss the International Law of the Seas and the filing of the Philippine claim over resource areas within our exclusive economic zone. Through this claim, we shall advance the rights and interests of our nation in harnessing these rich resources. We appreciate that former Secretary of Justice Estelito Mendoza has lent his unrivaled expertise in this field to help strengthen the Philippine claim on this very valuable portion of our national patrimony.

Tunay naman dapat mangibabaw ang batas at bayan kaysa sa pulitika. Pagtupad sa batas ang panata ng bawat pinunong halal at opisyal na hinirang. Ito ang ating gagawin kahit hindi muna maunawaan ng marami lalo na kahit bigyan pa ng masamang kulay ng mga namumulitika.

That's why we uphold the principle of due process in investigating and adjudicating criminal allegations against any citizen. No one's rights must be sacrificed just to spare government leaders from the ire of protesters and the fire of politicians.

Susunod ako sa saligang batas at sa sarili kong nais na bumaba sa pwesto sa pagwakas ng termino sa 2010. Pero hanggang sa araw na yon, magsisikap tayo sa pagsulong sa mga reporma upang maiwan natin nang matipuno ang bansa sa susunod na pinuno. (Applause)

In the Philippines, there is and there shall continue to be due process, rule of law, and utmost respect for the Constitution. This is my pledge as President and Commander-in-Chief.

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Signing Ceremony of the Act on Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123202/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1072&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Maliksi-Cavite Mass Housing Project and the Women's Month Provincial Kick-off Ceremony "0", March 5, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Maliksi-Cavite Mass Housing Project and the Women's Month Provincial Kick-off Ceremony "0"**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 5, 2008]

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng mga taga-Cavite at nagpapasalamat sa tuloy ninyong suporta sa ating administrasyon.

Doble ang pagdiriwang natin ngayon, ang pagdiriwang ng buwan ng kababaihan dito sa Cavite at yung pasinaya nitong pabahay sa masa na sinulong ni Governor Ayong Maliksi. Ang ganda-ganda, "Pamayanang Maliksi". In other words, energetic community, yun ang ibig sabihin ng "Pamayanang Maliksi".

Mapunta muna tayo sa kababaihan. Ipinagbubunyi natin ang tema ng buwan ng kababaihan, "CEDAW ng Bayan: Kayamanan ng Kababaihan." CEDAW, hindi sigaw.

Ang CEDAW ay U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Ito ang nagtatanggol sa karapatan ng mga kababaihan sa buong mundo. Pero ipinagmamalaki natin ang ating bansa, gawa ng kinikilala tayong mahusay sa pagtupad ng CEDAW na pinagmumulan ng maraming kabuhayan at pagtanggol ng karapatan ng kababaihan, kaya't tayo sa buong mundo ay pang-anim na bansa sa husay ng pagsunod sa mga panukala ng CEDAW. Ang nangunguna lamang sa atin ay yaong apat na Scandinavian countries at saka yung New Zealand, tapos tayo na, pang-anim sa buong mundo.

Bakit tayo pang-anim sa buong mundo? Doon sa mga ebidensiyang tinignan nung mga naghuhusga, tayo lamang ang bansa sa Asya na nasarado ang gender gap sa edukasyon at sa kalusugan, at isa sa anim lamang sa buong mundo na nasarado na itong gender gap na ito.

Halimbawa sa edukasyon, nangunguna ang Pilipinas sa kapantayan sa literacy rate at sa enrollment rate sa eskwelahan—ayun si Mayor Strike Revilla, nandiyan. Strike, sinabi ko na yung problema mo kay Vice-President Noli De Castro ha? kaya mag-usap kayo. Ito yung mga mangingisda na nagkakaproblema dahil doon sa pagtayo ng bagong Coastal Road, o bukas, Strike.

Sa katunayan lamang yung mga babae sa mga lalaki sa simple literacy rate. Sorry na lang governor ha, kaya masunurin ang mga Kabitenyo dito. Lamang din ang mga babae sa pag-enroll sa paaralan at mas mababa ang drop-out rate ng mga babae. Sa mga honor students, lamang din ang mga babae. Sa kalusugan at haba ng buhay, nangunguna ang Pilipinas sa kapantayan ng babae at lalaki. Sa katunayan, mas mahaba ang buhay ng mga Filipina kaysa sa lalaking Pilipino.

Pinuri na natin si Justice Herrera, si Senadora Helena Benitez, si Vicky Bataclan, yung mga kababaihan sa pamumuno ni Gobernadora at saka ni Mayora ng Dasmariñas, yung mga kabataan at kababaihan ng pamumuno ng ating Mutya ng Kalayaan, pero kung papayagan ho ninyo ako, hayaan niyong purihin ko rin ang isang Kabitenya, ito ay ang pangalan niya Escolastica Romero. Siya ay taga-Cavite City pero nag-asawa sa isang Kapampangan at naging Mrs. Macapagal. Siya ang lola ng aking tatay. Siya'y isang komadrona at isang catechism teacher sa Catholic school. Siya ang nagpaanak sa kanyang apo at nagbigay ng pangalang

“Diosdado”, bigay ng Diyos, dahil very religious siya. At noong ang tatay ko pagkatapos mag-high school, bago nag-aral ng abogasiya at bago nag-topnotcher doon sa bar exams, kumuha muna siya ng civil service exam at nag-number one din siya sa. Pero kahit na number one siya, hindi siya makahanap ng trabaho. Ganun din pala noong unang panahon. Pero yung aking lola sa tuhod, si Eskolastika Romero, dahil marami siyang mga pasyente bilang komadrone, merong isang pasyente si Mr. Mills, isang mistesong Aleman na nagtrabaho sa Bureau of Lands. Siya ang kumuha sa aking tatay sa unang trabaho niya bilang civil servant.

Kaya kung naaalala ko yun, yung kahirapan ng paghanap ng trabaho kahit na number one sa civil service, at ang ating mga suliranin sa ekonomiya ngayon, talagang iniisip ko na noon hanggang ngayon isang malakas at lumalagong ekonomiya ang sinisikap nating ilikha upang tumulong tiyakin ang kapayapaan, katiwasayan at katatagan ng ating bansa. Ito ang dahilan sa ating nagiging maliksi yung pagbabangon natin araw-araw para magsikap at mag-focus, parang laser beam upang ayusin ang ating ekonomiya. Gumawa tayo ng mahihirap at hindi popular na mga desisyon upang maiangat ang koleksyon ng pamahalaan at habulin ang mga nagdadaya sa buwis upang makapuhunan tayo sa ating imprastruktura at ating taumbayan.

Kaya naman, pag humihiling si Governor Maliksi ng kalsada na maging maayos, maaliwalas ang entrance at exit dito sa magandang pabahay na proyektong ito, puwede nating atasan kaagad si Undersecretary Aquino, ayusin mo yung hinihingi ni Governor Maliksi.

Kapag nagdadala tayo ng mga puhunan, at ang daming namumuhunan sa Cavite at naglilikha ng mga trabaho, may higit na matatag at predictable na buhay ang ating taong bayan. At sa mga higit na pamumuhunan ay kasama ang higit na koleksyon sa buwis na maaaring ipuhunan sa mga eskwela, mga kalsada gaya ng hinihingi ni Governor Maliksi at yung mga tulay gaya ng hinihingi ni Mayor Ferrer, huwag mong kalimutan ha? Dapat i-groundbreaking na natin yung isang tulay doon sa tatlong hinihintay nila, Undersecretary Aquino. At pati na rin sa kalinga at saka sa kalusugan, at saka edukasyon at saka sa kapaligiran. Sa dating ng panahon, sa ganun, makikinabang ang lahat.

Ngunit batid natin na gaano pa man nagkakaroon ng pag-ibayo sa taas ng economic ladder, marami pa rin sa ating mga taong bayan ay kumakayod ng maliksi. Batid na batid natin nagtatrabaho araw-araw ang marami sa mga nagsisikap na babae at lalaki para lamang makalagay ng pagkain sa mesa at makapagbigay ng shelter sa pamilya.

Dahil sa pag-akyat ng ating ekonomiya ay layunin natin na makagastos ng apatnapu't apat bilyong ang ipupuhunan sa pabahay. Ang walong bilyon dito ay manggagaling sa national budget, at sabi ni Vice-President De Castro, meron tatlung bilyon na nanggagaling naman sa PAG-IBIG na napakababa ang interes. At meron ding nanggagaling sa pribadong sektor at sa mga bangko, meron ding binalita si Vice-President De Castro na yung Asian Development Bank ay nagpahiram ng Official Development Assistance sa Development Bank of the Philippines na puwedeng gamitin ng take-out kaya yung mga bibili ng bahay dito puwedeng humiram sa PAG-IBIG, puwedeng humiram sa DBP para sa take out dito sa bahay na ito. Kasi yun ang sistema pag pribadong sektor ang nagtatayo ng pabahay.

Pero dito, bagamat private sector ang magtatayo ng bahay, ang gobyerno ng Cavite ang bumili ng lupa kaya mura ang pagbibili ng lupa dito, 500 pesos lamang tapos around P1,300 yung bahay, so P1, 800 ang gastos ng pabahay dito. At ang daming puwedeng manirahan dito, walong libo, maging yung mga dating squatters or yung mga sundalo.

Binabati natin si General Obañana at yung ibang mga officers natin dito. So General, yung inyong mga sundalo ay puwedeng manirahan dito at P1,800 a month. Mga pulis, so binabati rin nating si General Padilla, yung mga pulis niyo dito puwede rin kasi walong libo ang puwedeng pabahay dito, tatlong libo na di ba, Governor, ang meron na? Although sa bilang ni Governor Maliksi, mga labinlimang libo palagay niya ang maghahanap ng bahay dito, saka kalahati ng mga nangangailangan ay mabibigyan.

Kaya nagpapasalamat tayo kay Governor Maliksi sa patuloy niyang suporta sa pambansang layunin na matugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng ating kababayan.

Itong bagong pabahay sa Cavite para sa mahigit walong libong pamilya mula sa iba't-ibang sektor gaya ng sabi ko, dating squatter, lalagyan ng bahay ng Gawad Kalinga. So hindi kasama yun sa P1,800, di ba? Iba yon. Yung mga P1, 800 more or less mga guro, mga trabahador sa pabrika, mga pulis at sundalo, lahat makikinabang sa bahay na tinatayo kasi ito ay limampu't tatlong hektarya na suwerte naman, ano, sa napakasiksik na lugar sa Luzon Urban Beltway nakahanap pa si Governor ng mahigit limampung hektarya ng puwedeng bilhin para sa taumbayan.

Kaya congratulations, Governor Maliksi! Napakagandang paraan kung papano natin ipagdiriwang ang buwan ng kababaihan sa Cavite dahil yung mga maybahay ay magkakaroon ng bagong bahay.

Sa inyong lahat, congratulations mga Caviteño, babae o lalaki at mabuhay ang Caviteño at Caviteña!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Speech of President Arroyo during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Pamayanang Maliksi-Cavite Mass Housing Project and the Women's Month provincial kick-off ceremony Speech

of

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

President of the Philippines

During the groundbreaking ceremony of the Pamayanang Maliksi-Cavite Mass Housing Project and the Women's Month provincial kick-off ceremony "CEDAW ng Bayan: Kayamanan ng Kababaihan"

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 05, 2008]

... Pagpakilala at paghayag ng inyong suporta at suporta ng lalawigan ng Cavite sa ilalim ng inyong liderato.

Binabati natin si Vice-President at HUDCC Chairman Noli De Castro, (Applause) na siya ang namamahala sa pabahay sa ating administrasyon; binabati rin natin si Mrs. Maliksi at lahat ng kababaihan ng lalawigan ng Cavite ; (Applause) binabati natin si Congressman ninyo, si congressman Pidi Barzaga at ang kanyang maybahay na si Mayora Barzaga ng Dasmariñas; (Applause) Binabati natin si Congressman Jun Abaya (Applause) At meron siyang lola sa tiya na isa sa pinakakilalang kababaihan ng Cavite , si Justice Amorfin Herrera; (Applause) Binabati natin ang ating kababaihan sa Gabinete, si Secretary Espie Cabral at lahat ng mga nag-aalaga ng kababaihan sa Cavite at saka sa buong bansang Pilipinas.

At nagpapasalamat tayo sa mayor ng General Trias, si Mayor Ferrer sa magandang welcome niya sa atin kanina; (Applause) At nandito rin yung mayor ng yung tatlong bayan na sinasakupan nitong proyektong ito, si Mayor De Sagun ng Trece Martires (Applause) At saka si Mayor Arayata ng Tanza; (Applause) At nandito rin ang iba't-ibang mga mayor, nandito sa entablado si mayor ng Tagaytay City, si Bambol Tolentino; (Applause) Nandito si Mayor Loyola na kinakatawan ng iba't-ibang mayor na narito rin ngayon pati na rin si Bise-Gobernador at yung ating mga board member na nandito in full force; (Applause) si Vice-Mayor Campaña binabati natin; At gusto rin nating batiin siyempre ang lahat ng mga tumanggap ng mga biyaya itong araw na ito lalung-lalo na yung mga maybahay na ang pamilya nila ay titira dito sa napakagandang housing project ng lalawigan ng Cavite . (Applause)

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng mga taga-Cavite at nagpapasalamat sa tuloy ninyong suporta sa ating administrasyon. (Applause)

Dahil araw ng kababaihan, kaya't pinaakyat ko si Gobernadora at saka si Mayora na maybahay ni Congressman. Batiin din natin yung Mutya ng Kalayaan na narito. (Applause) At saka binati natin si Mayora Cantimbuhan na nasa Palawan na pala ngayon at yung isa kong babaeng ambassador, si Vicky Bataclan na taga-Cavite . (Applause) tayo ay binabati natin espesyal yung mga Caviteña maging kilalang sa labas, kilala sa loob, nabanggit ko na si Justice Amorfin Herrera na siya ay apo ni Pangulong Emilio Aguinaldo. Pinagmamalaki natin rin si Senadorang Helena Benitez, kaya maraming-maraming kilalang Caviteña.

Doble ang pagdiriwang natin ngayon, ang pagdiriwang ng buwan ng kababaihan dito sa Cavite at yung pasinaya nitong pabahay sa masa na sinulong ni Governor Ayong Maliksi. Ang ganda-ganda, "Pamayanang Maliksi". In other words, energetic community, yun ang ibig sabihin ng "Pamayanang Maliksi". (Applause)

Mapunta muna tayo sa kababaihan. Ipinagbubunyi natin ang tema ng buwan ng kababaihan — "CEDAW ng bayan: kayamanan ng kababaihan." CEDAW, hindi sigaw. Ang CEDAW ay U.N. Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Ito ang nagtatanggol sa karapatan ng mga kababaihan sa buong mundo. Pero ipinagmamalaki natin ang ating bansa, gawa ng kinikilala tayong mahusay sa pagtupad ng CEDAW na pinagmumulan ng maraming kabuhayan at pagtanggol ng karapatan ng kababaihan, kaya't tayo sa buong mundo ay pang-anim na bansa sa husay ng pagsunod sa mga panukala ng CEDAW. (Applause) Ang nangunguna lamang sa atin ay yuong apat na Scandinavian countries at saka yung New Zealand, tapos tayo na, pang-anim sa buong mundo.

Bakit tayo pang-anim sa buong mundo? Doon sa mga ebidensiyang tinignan nung mga naghuhusga, tayo lamang ang bansa sa asya na nasarado ang gender gap sa edukasyon at sa kalusugan, (Applause) At isa sa anim lamang sa buong mundo na nasarado na itong gender gap na ito.

Halimbawa sa sa edukasyon, nangunguna ang Pilipinas sa kapantayan sa literacy rate at sa enrollment rate sa eskwelahan — ayun si Mayor Strike Revilla, nandiyaan. Strike, sinabi ko na yung problema mo kay Vice-President Noli De Castro ha? (Applause) Kaya mag-usap kayo. Ito yung mga mangingisda na nagkakaproblema doon sa pagtayo ng bagong Coastal Road, Strike. O bukas, Strike.

Sa katunayan lamang yung mga babae ay lamang sa mga lalaki sa simple literacy rate. Sorry na lang governor ha, kaya masunurin ang mga Kabitenyo dito. Lamang din ang mga babae sa pag-enrol sa paaralan at mas mababa ang drop-out rate ng mga babae. Sa mga honor students, lamang din ang mga babae. Sa kalusugan at haba ng buhay, nangunguna ang Pilipinas sa kapantayan ng babae at lalaki. Sa katunayan, mas mahaba ang buhay ng mga Filipina kaysa sa lalaking Pilipino. (Applause)

Pinuri na natin si Justice Herrera, si Senadora Helena Benitez, si Vicky Bataclan, yung mga kababaihan sa pamumuno ni Gobernadora at saka ni Mayora ng Dasmariñas, yung mga kabataan at kababaihan ng pamumuno ng ating Mutya ng Kalayaan, pero kung papayagan ho ninyo ako, hayaan niyong purihin ko rin ang isang Kabitenya, ito ay ang pangalan niya Escolastica Romero. Siya ay taga-Cavite City pero nag-asawa sa isang Kapampangan at naging Mrs. Macapagal. Siya ang lola ng aking tatay. Siya’y isang komadrona at isang catechism teacher sa catholic school. Siya ang nagpa-anak sa kanyang apo na si... Dahil komadrona siya, siya ang nagbigay ng pangalang “Diosdado”, bigay ng Diyos, dahil very religious siya. At noong ang tatay ko pagkatapos mag-high school, bago naging... Nag-aral ng abogasiya at bago nag-topnotcher doon sa bar exams, kumuha muna siya ng civil service exam at nag-number one din siya sa civil service exam. Pero kahit na number one siya, hindi siya makahanap ng trabaho. Ganun din pala nong unang panahon. Pero yung aking lola sa tuhod, si Eskolastika Romero dahil marami siyang mga pasyente bilang komadrona, merong isang pasyente siya na si Mr. Mills. Isang mistesong Aleman na nagtratrabaho sa Bureau of Lands. Siya ang kumuha sa aking tatay sa unang trabaho niya bilang civil servant. Kaya kong naaalala ko yuon, yung kahirapan ng paghanap ng trabaho kahit na number one sa civil service, at ang ating mga suliranin sa ekonomiya ngayon, talagang iniisip ko na noon hanggang ngayon isang malakas at lumalagong ekonomiya ang sinisikap nating ilikha upang tumulong tiyakin ang kapayapaan, katiwasayan at katatagan ng ating bansa. Ito ang dahilan sa ating nagiging maliksi yung pagbabangon natin araw-araw para magsikap at mag-focus parang laser beam upang ayusin ang ating ekonomiya. Gumawa tayo ng mahihirap at hindi popular na mga desisyon na iangat ang koleksyon ng pamahalaan at habulin ang mga nagdaya sa buwis upang makapuhunan tayo sa ating imprastraktura at ating taumbayan.

Kaya naman, pag humihiling si Governor Maliksi ng kalsada na maging maayos, maaliwalas ang entrance at exit dito sa magandang pabahay na proyektong ito, puwede nating atasan kaagad si Undersecretary Aquino, (Applause) Ayusin mo yung hinihingi ni Governor Maliksi.

Kapag nagdadala tayo ng mga puhunan, at ang daming namumuhunan sa Cavite at naglilikha ng mga trabaho, may higit na matatag at predictable na buhay ang ating taong bayan. At sa mga higit na pamumuhunan ay kasama ang higit na koleksyon sa buwis na maaaring ipuhunan sa mga eskwela, mga kalsada gaya ng hinihingi ni Governor Maliksi at yung mga tulay gaya ng hinihingi ni Mayor Ferrer, huwag mong kalimutan ha? Dapat i-groundbreaking na natin yung isang tulay doon sa tatlong hinihintay nila, Undersecretary Aquino. (Applause) At pati na rin sa kalinga at saka sa kalusugan, at saka edukasyon at saka sa kapaligiran. Sa dating ng panahon, sa ganun, makikinabang ang lahat.

Ngunit batid natin na gaano pa man nagkakaroon ng pag-ibayo sa taas ng economic ladder, marami pa rin sa ating mga taong bayan ay kumakayod ng maliksi. Batid na batid natin nagtatrabaho araw-araw ang marami sa mga nagsisikap na babae at lalaki para lamang makalagay ng pagkain sa mesa at makapagbigay ng shelter sa pamilya.

Dahil sa pag-akyat ng ating ekonomiya ay layunin natin na makagastos ng apatnapu’t apat bilyong ang ipupuhunan sa pabahay. Ang walong bilyon dito ay manggagaling sa national budget, at sabi ni Vice-President De Castro, meron tatlung bilyon na nanggagaling naman sa PAG-IBIG na napakababa ang interes. At meron ding nanggagaling sa

pribadong sektor at sa mga bangko, meron ding binalita si Vice-President De Castro na yung Asian Development Bank ay nagpahiram ng Official Development Assistance sa Development Bank of the Philippines na puwedeng gamitin ng take-out kaya yung mga bibili ng bahay dito puwedeng humiram sa PAG-IBIG, puwedeng humiram sa DBP para sa take out dito sa bahay na ito. Kasi yun ang sistema pag pribadong sektor ang nagtatayo ng pabahay.

Pero dito, bagamat private sector ang magtatayo ng bahay, ang gobyerno ng Cavite ang bumili ng lupa kaya mura ang pagbibili ng lupa dito, 500 pesos lamang tapos around P1,300 yung bahay, so P1,800 ang gastos ng pabahay dito. At ang daming puwedeng manirahan dito, walong libo, maging yung mga dating iskwaters or yung mga sundalo. Binabati natin si General Obañana at yung ibang mga officers natin dito. (Applause) So General, yung inyong mga sundalo ay puwedeng manirahan din dito, P1,800 a month. Mga pulis, so binabatin rin nating si General Padilla, yung mga pulis niyo dito puwede rin kasi walong libo ang puwedeng pabahay dito, tatlong libo na di ba, Governor, ang meron na? At although sa bilang ni Governor Maliksi, mga labinlimang libo palagay niya ang maghahanap ng bahay dito, (Applause) saka kalahati ng mga nangangailangan ay mabibigyan.

Kaya nagpapasalamat tayo kay Governor Maliksi sa patuloy niyang suporta sa pambansang layunin na matugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng ating kababayan.

Itong bagong pabahay sa Cavite para sa mahigit walong libong pamilya mula sa iba't-ibang sektor gaya ng sabi ko, dating squatter, lalagyan ng bahay ng Gawad Kalinga. So hindi kasama yun sa P1,800, di ba? Iba yon. Yung mga P1,800 more or less mga guro, mga trabahador sa pabrika, mga pulis at sundalo, lahat makikinabang sa bahay na tinatayo kasi ito ay limampu't tatlong hektarya na suwerte naman, ano, sa napakasiksik na lugar sa Luzon Urban Beltway nakahanap pa si Governor ng mahigit limampung hektaryang puwedeng bilhin para sa taumbayan.

Kaya congratulations, Governor Maliksi! (Applause) Napakagandang paraan kung papano natin ipagdiriwang ang buwan ng kababaihan sa Cavite dahil yung mga maybahay ay nagkakaroon ng bagong bahay.

Sa inyong lahat, congratulations mga Caviteño, babae o lalaki at mabuhay ang Caviteño at Caviteña!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Pamayanang Maliksi-Cavite Mass Housing Project and the Women's Month provincial kick-off ceremony "CEDAW ng Bayan: Kayamanan ng Kababaihan". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123147/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1071&Itemid=38

**Send-off Speech of President Arroyo during the Sagip-Tulong ni PGMA Caravan Send-off Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Sagip-Tulong ni PGMA Caravan**

[Delivered at the Villamor Airbase, Pasay City, March 06, 2008]

Recent widespread flooding and heavy rains have severely damaged crops and infrastructure in several regions of the country, especially V and VIII.

We thank everyone involved in this “Sagip-Tulong” Caravan for calamity victims in Samar, who will be in the eastern seaboard of Region VIII for one week and return to Manila via Region V.

Nagpapasalamat din ako sa lahat ng ating mga kababayang nakiki-isa at nagpapalakas ng loob ng mga biktima ng kalamidad. Salamat at ipinakikita ninyo na patuloy ang diwa ng malasakit at bayanihang likas sa ating mga Pilipino.

When I visited Eastern Samar last month, we brought goods for almost 35,000 people. Each victim municipality also received a share of the 500 kilos of seaweed seed-stock worth P75 million to help the victims back on their feet.

We have also ordered the line agencies to effect as soon as possible the rehabilitation of all the provinces on the Eastern Seaboard hit by the heavy rains, especially the repair of roads and other infrastructure needed to return normalcy.

Our country prone to natural calamities such as flooding, landslides and earthquakes, caused in large part by climate change and global warming. The Philippines is a climate taker rather than a climate maker because we are to be blamed for less than 1% of the total global bas emissions to the environment. While climate change is a global issue outside the control of government, we have nevertheless taken and will continue to take actions to mitigate the pain on our people.

Protecting the environment is one of our top priorities. An example of our efforts to preserve the “Green Philippines” is our support for the Samar Island protected area, the Southern Leyte ecosystem and the Bicol River Basin. These are initiatives that seek to protect the fragile ecosystems in Central Philippines, as part of the responsibility of the Philippines to future generations.

On a broader scale, we have also begun the Green Philippines plan, a blueprint for mapping our environment and economic policies that will allow for sustainable development that does not fall on the backs of the poor or erode our environment. There is a cost of making the Green Philippines come to life. For instance, the enforcement against logging in the Samar Island protected area, the relocation of the Ginsaungon, Southern Leyte families to a new community and the P250 million budget this year for the Bicol River Basin. But the cost is greater without the plan and the investment in our people and our environment.

Malakas at lumalagong ekonomiya ang sinisikap nating ilikha upang makatulong tiyakin ang kapayapaan, katiwawayan at katatagan sa ating bansa. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit bumabangong tayo araw-araw para kumayod at mag-focus parang laser beam para ayusin ang ating ekonomiya. Gumawa tayo ng mahihirap at di popular na mga desisyong itaas ang buwis at hulihin ang mga nandadaya sa buwis para tayo ay makapuhunan sa ating imprastruktura at sa ating taong bayan.

Kapag nagdadala tayo ng mga pamumuhunan gaya ng surfing tourism sa Guian, Eastern Samar, at lumilikha ng trabaho, may higit na matatag at predicable na buhay ang ating taong bayan. Sa higit ng mga pamumuhunan kasama ang higit na buwis na maaaring ipuhunan sa mga paaralan, kalsada at tulay gaya ng mga itinatatyo natin muli sa

Eastern Samar at Bicol pati na rin sa kalinga sa kalusugan, edukasyon at ang kapaligiran. Darating ang panahon na lahat ay makikinabang.

Ganumpaman, batid nating kahit gaano gumaganda ang ibabaw ng kumakayod pa rin ang marami sa ating taong bayan. Batid na batid natin na maraming masisipag na tao ay nagtatrabaho araw-araw para lang maglagay ng pagkain sa kanilang mesa at magbigay ng sapat na shelter sa kanilang mga pamilya.

Binibigyan natin ng pangunahing pansin ang mga naging biktima ng kalamidad.

The government has responded quickly, digging into calamity funds and harnessing agencies to accelerate assistance to hard-hit communities and bring back normalcy.

Malaki ang pasasalamat natin sa mga lokal na pamahalaang tumutulong upang maibsan ang paghihirap ng Samar, Leyte at Bicol. Salamat din sa iba pang LGU na kumikilala sa pag-iral ng batas bilang susi sa kasaganaan.

Sa lahat ng kabalikat sa caravang Eastern Seaboard, , sa mga ibang patuloy na sumusuporta sa ating mga gawaing pang-kaunlaran at sa lahat ng mga Pilipinong patuloy na nagsisikap para sa kaunlaran at kapayapaan — maraming salamat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's send-off speech during the Sagip-Tulong ni PGMA Caravan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123128/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1070&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Lakas National Directorate Assembly

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Lakas National Directorate Assembly**

[Delivered on March 10, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Ermita, for your introduction. Ed Ermita has been with Lakas since its founding and since the start of his own political career. Thank you, Ed for your reliable and trustworthy work as the primus inter pares of our Lakas-led Cabinet.

President Ramos, beloved chairman emeritus, thank you for your words of wisdom. Thank you for continuing to be the beacon of sobriety, unity and peace not only for our party but also for our country. Every single one party member in this hall finds great relevance and urgency in your challenge and admonition.

Speaker Boy Nograles, congratulations on your election as President of Lakas. With your leadership, CMD will be in very able and worthy hands. A bar top-notch, a leader of Mindanao and now Speaker of the House, you have the qualities, experience and stature not only to uphold the lofty traditions of our party but also of our country.

Beloved partymates, thank you for being my steady allies. Thank you for sustaining our party's eminent role in the life of the nation.

In the last elections, our party's victory brought us thousands of Lakas officials, including three senators, 96 members of the House, 41 governors, 38 vice governors, 67 city mayors, 49 vice mayors, 605 municipal mayors, 495 vice mayors, and a slew of governors, vice governors, city mayors and vice mayors, municipal mayors and vice mayors, provincial board members and city and municipal councilors.

Now, the merger of Lakas with Kampi will combine the talents and resources of two great political parties into a powerhouse team of 5 senators, an absolute majority of the House with 143 representatives, 55 governors, 85 city mayors, 945 municipal mayors and over 7,000 vice governors, board members, vice mayors and councilors.

Together with our other coalition partners, our merged party can create the dominant support infrastructure that is a key to delivering the governance that our people expect and deserve. Our merged party will be a colossus that calls to mind Mahatir Badawi of Malaysia, whose decades-old dominant political machinery, supported by key business groups, provided the underpinning for Malaysia's development. Similarly, a composite of Ramos, Arroyo, and our successor will mean a two-decade period, 1992 to 2016, interrupted only by 2-1/2 years of Estrada, a two-decade period of political leadership by our coalition.

With the Lakas-Kampi merger, our energies can be devoted to the strong and growing economy which is the central pillar our party has labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. This is our motivation for getting up every day to work hard and focus like a laser beam to fix our economy. Our party has made tough and unpopular decisions to raise revenues and crack down on tax cheats so that we could invest in our physical infrastructure and in our people.

When we bring in investments and create jobs, our people have a more stable and predictable life. With more investments come more tax revenues that can be invested in schools, roads and bridges as well as health care, education and the environment. Over time, everyone will benefit.

Yet we are aware that no matter how much improvement there is at the top of the economic ladder, many of our people still struggle mightily. We are deeply aware that many hard working men and women work every day just to put food on their table and provide adequate shelter for their families.

The high price of gasoline and everyday commodities hits our poor the hardest. While the high price of oil and the high world price of rice are a global issue outside the control of any one government, we have nevertheless taken and must continue to take actions to reduce the pain on our people of these high prices. We have cut tariffs. We have started providing targeted cash payments to the poorest of our poor to help them cope. We are spending billions on seed support, irrigation, farm to market roads, no-frills agricultural cargo airports and roll-on-roll-off ferry systems for agricultural cargo to ensure food security. We have introduced in Congress an amendment to the EPIRA to protect our citizens from unreasonably high electric power rates.

We live in a time of great challenges. The issues we champion define our party. We count the fight for a strong economy to dramatically cut poverty, the fight for a clean environment and the fight for a quality education the highest imperatives of our time. These three issues – the three “E’s” of Economy, Environment and Education – are central to lifting our nation up and preparing the next generation of leaders, hopefully many of them from our party.

With our reinvigorated party’s leadership, and with our continuing unity, I remain bullish on our country, optimistic about our future and deeply committed to being a force for good. I am humbled at having the privilege of serving this nation not only as President of the Philippines but also as Chair of Lakas.

Let us work hard together for the good of the nation and for our party’s victory in 2010, when, by the mighty hand of Lakas and the blessings and support of the Filipino people, I shall pass on the torch of national leadership in a milieu of tranquility, justice, hope and economic well-being for our beloved countrymen.

Mabuhay ang LAKAS CMD!!!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Lakas National Directorate Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123058/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1069&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 4th Mindanao Cooperative Summit [Filipino] Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 4th Mindanao Cooperative Summit [Filipino]**

[Delivered at the Atrium, Lim Ket Kai Center, Cagayan de Oro City, March 10, 2008]

Giabi-abi ko ang tanang mitambong dinhi sa Summit sa mga kooperatiba sa Mindanao.

Magpahalipay sab kita kang Administrator Rosalinda Villaseca nga gasaulog sa iyang birthday karon.

Ang kooperatiba gapadaghan ug gapadako sa negosyo nga maoy gikanan sa mga bag-ong trabaho ug labaw pang pag-usbaw sa negosyo. Gipadayon sa gobyerno ang pagpakusog sa mga kooperatiba isip epektibong paagi aron mabuntog nato ang kapobrehon. Gapamatu-od sab kita nga ang kooperatiba maoy gapadako sa kabubut-ong pagboluntaryo ug gahatag sab sa matag tawo ug kumpiyansa sa kaugalingong paninguha.

Nalipay ako nga kahibalo ang mga taga-Mindanao sa pagka-epektibo sa kooperatiba. Ang paglampos sa mga kooperatiba dinhi gapakita kung unsay himuon aron managkuyog ang profit, innovation and competitiveness ug ang katuyuan nga social justice. Dunay hapit ka kooperatiba dinhi ug may labaw usa ka milyong miyembro. Sa matag napulo ka adults nga gapuyo sa Mindanao, usa ang miyembro sa kooperatiba. Maayo kini ng ratio, ug gahamdom ako nga modaghan pa kamo kay sa 100 best cooperatives sa nasod, traynta niini ani-a sa Mindanao. Gahandom sab ako nga kining traynta maka-apil sa mga labing dakong negosyo dinhi sa Mindanao.

Dako ug gitabang ang kooperatiba sa Mindanao sa pagpa-usbaw sa nasodnong ekonomiya, kay mi-abot sa hapit P25Billion niadtong tuig 2006 ang business volume dinhi, ug nakahatag kamo ug trabaho sa hapit 30,000 ka tawo. Nalipay sab ako nga saysenta porsyento sa inyong mga kooperatiba ana-a sa microlending, tungod kay kini usa sa labing importanteng programa sa pamunuan alang sa paglambo sa nasod ug pag-create ug mga trabaho.

Kahibalo ako sa inyong mga isyu, labi na ang mahitungod sa mga buhis. Ang mga matters nga naa sa korte magpadayon didto sa mga korte, labi na ang isyu sa kwalipikasyon sa mga kooperatiba. Samtang tungod kay aduna representante ang kooperatiba sa Kongreso, gatu-o ako nga daghan ang mosuporta sa mga balaod alang sa kaayuhan sa kooperatiba.

Gapasalamat ita sa pamilya ni Kongresman Guillermo Cua nga representante sa NATCCO Party List sa ilang donasyong yuta aron patindugan sa co-op training center sa Mindanao. Naa ta kontribusyon aron matabangan kamo sa pagpatindog ining HRD center.

Tomorrow we will sign the budget passed by Congressmn Cua and his colleagues in the legislature. It is a budget that reflects the will of the government to work together with Congress to invest in the people and keep the economy on a strong, stable path.

Tuyo sa atong mga paningkamot nga pakusgan ang mga kooperatiba aron motabang kamo kontra sa kapobrehon.

A strong and growing economy is the central pillar that we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. This is our motivation for getting up every day to work hard and focus like a laser beam to fix our economy. We have made tough and unpopular decisions to raise revenues and as we in the executive crack down on tax cheats so that we could invest in our physical infrastructure and in our people.

When we bring in investments including the cooperatives' investments and create jobs, our people have a more stable and predictable life. And with more investments come more tax revenues that can be invested in schools, roads and bridges as well as healthcare, education and the environment. Over time, everyone will benefit.

Yet we are aware that no matter how much improvement there is at the top of the economic ladder, many of our people still struggle mightily. We are aware that many hard working men and women especially in Mindanao work every day just to put food on their table and provide adequate shelter for their families.

The high price of gasoline and everyday commodities hits our poor the hardest. While the high price of oil is a global issue outside the control of government, we have nevertheless taken and will continue to take actions to reduce the pain on our people of these high prices. We have cut tariffs. We have started providing targeted cash payments to the poorest of our poor to help them cope. We ask Congress to enact Consumer Bill of Rights to protect our citizens from price gouging, false advertising and other scams that prey on our people.

Cooperatives can do much to reduce the pain on our people of high prices through bulk buying of inputs and transportation services and joint marketing. I instruct CDA Mindanao to work with DA, DTI, DOTC so that the Mindanao cooperatives can do more of these activities.

We live in a time of great challenges. The issues we champion define our being. We count the fight for a strong economy to cut poverty, the fight for a clean environment and the fight for a quality education the highest imperatives of our time.

Cooperatives have helped bring positive and lasting change for the nation. Cooperatives have helped create some of the 7 million in jobs and brought in some of the billions in new investment. Cooperatives have helped bring unemployment down and bring down the incidence of hunger.

Ang mga kooperatiba apil sa mga na-a sa unahan sa atong pagpamuhunan sa katawhan, sama sa edukasyon, serbisyo sa panglawas ug uban pang serbisyong labing kinahanglanon.

Mangayo ang gobyerno ug tabang sa mga kooperatiba aron magpadayon ang pagtubo sa negosyo kay kini ang nagpa-usbaw sa ekonomiya.

Ang mga kooperatiba sa Mindanao dako ug gitabang sa pag-usbaw sa atong nasod. Sa mosunod nga mga adlaw, magpatabang ako kaninyo aron mopaspas pa ang pag-uswag ug Mindanao, kay gipakita na ninyo nga dako ang inyong ikahatag sa atong pag-usbaw.

Gasalig ako nga ang mga kooperatiba dinhi magpadayon sa inyong role isip usa sa mga labing importanteng driver pag-uswag sa sa Mindanao.

Many things are left to be done. I plan on working hard with you the next two years to fulfill our Philippine Reform Agenda until the day I leave office in 2010. I will count on you as we fight for the Economy, Education and the Environment. Will count on you as we work to fix the corruption that still plagues our nation.

I remain bullish on the cooperative movement, optimistic about the future of cooperatives and the future of our country. I am grateful for the privilege of serving Mindanao and the nation together with you.

Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during the 4th Mindanao Cooperative Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123111/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1068&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Ceremonial Signing of the General Appropriations Act of 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Ceremonial Signing of the General Appropriations Act of 2008**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 11, 2008]

Vice-president de Castro; Speaker Nograles; Senator Enrile; Senator Angara; Chairman of the Finance Committee and Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Congressman Lagman and the other members of Congress; Speaker Nograles; other members of the House of Representatives; members of the Cabinet; members of the business community; members of the government.

At gusto kong batiin ang ilan sa ating mga espesyal na panauhin, yung ating mga kaibigan mula sa Parola, Tondo; (Applause) ating mga kaibigan mula sa Baseco; (Applause) ating mga kabibigan mula sa Navotas; (Applause) nandiyan din si Congressman Alvin; (Applause) at yung mga household beneficiaries ng DSWD, (Applause) Mga kaibigan ni Espie Cabral; yun ding ating mga leaders sa corn program; (Applause) Sa rice program yung mga seed growers natin; (Applause) Sa high value crops program (Applause) Nandiyan ang Phil-foodex; yung livestock; (Applause) yung fisheries; (Applause) ating mga guro at mga estudyante; (Applause) at sa inyong lahat, magandang umaga.

Today is a good day for the Philippines. The people elected members of Congress and me, Noli in the executive, our LGUs to work for the common good. The people are tired of politics of division and despair. They want us to make tough decisions on the economy to fight against poverty, to keep our nation safe, secure and moving forward.

With this in mind, we're all here to celebrate another milestone in the forward progress of our nation with the signing of our national budget. This budget is significant for many reasons, let me note three this morning:

First, this budget reflects our values and policy priorities for investing in our people. This budget invests in what we call the three 'E's,' they're the essential building block of our nation, namely, the economy, education and the environment. Every Filipino wants a good job, food on the table, sound education for their children and a healthy environment with clean air, clean water and clean land.

Second, this budget represents another important step in the economic development of the Philippines. We've the strongest economy in over thirty years as a result of the tough reforms we have made to break the cycle of despair which has kept our nation back. Part of the plan includes a march toward a balanced budget for the first time in many years. The average Filipino must live within their means so must the government. For the first time in a generation, the tough political choices we made have left us with more revenue to invest in our people. This is what this budget is going to do.

Lastly, this budget proves once again that members of Congress from both the House and the Senate and all parties can come together to work with the executive branch to get things done for the nation. Indeed, the people are tired of partisan wrangling and want all of us to do our job — which is to work for the interest of the people, keep the nation strong and stable, and always moving forward.

On behalf of a grateful public, we thank each political leader for being here today and to paraphrase the bible, "for forging unity out of the swords of partisanship."

Our strengthened economic fortunes comes none too soon, for there are clouds on the economic horizon that we must guard against. Much remains to be done to lift up our poor in particular. The global forces that are driving up the price of oil. The environmental forces that are driving up the price of rice. The forces driving down the U.S. and European economies are hurting us here in the Philippines. The recent rise in the incidence of poverty is tied to the rising global demand for oil and the decelerating supply of rice due to global warming.

The budget we are signing today is a major step forward for investing in our people and our nation. It provides a buffer to mitigate the pain of a deteriorating global economy and the accompanying rise in prices which affects food and transportation the most.

Concerning the first “e” — the economy. Let me tell how this budget and our overall policies are being directed. Perhaps no other issues are more important to the average Filipino than the high price of gasoline, electricity and everyday commodities like rice. And these issues hit our poor the hardest. While the high price of oil and rice in the world market is a global issue outside the control of any one government, we have nevertheless taken and will continue to take actions to reduce the pain on our people.

We have cut tariffs on oil. We have started providing targeted cash payments to the poorest of our poor to help them cope – Espie, sila yung kasama sa ating mga bisita ngayon — because the price of rice per metric ton in the world market has gone up from a 180 dollars in 2001 to 400 dollars this year. We have had to spend unprecedented amounts on rice subsidies. That’s really a strain on the NFA budget. And we are spending on agricultural modernization. I hope senator Angara will be happy to know that we have allocated 23 billion for agricultural modernization, more than what you demanded in your AFMA, and this is over and above the credit provided by our GFIS.

Our central objective to create more jobs and grow our economy is to invest, invest, and invest. We’ve been doing that and with this budget, the march to modernization through human and physical infrastructure will continue.

Key components of our economic investments include key physical infrastructure projects across the nation to build up our roads, bridges and ports. And to also invest in our people through better healthcare, improved social services and housing, and a more productive, modern and profitable agricultural sector.

The final pillar of a strong economy is an open and transparent economy — free from corruption. This budget invests more and more to clean up the culture of corruption that has plagued this nation for generation.

To fix the corruption that still plagues our nation, we call on Congress now that you have passed the budget to work with us to pass a comprehensive anti-corruption reform act in 2008. On our part, we will hold officials accountable if they are found to be corrupt after due process. Let the chips fall where they may as investigations are concluded and friend and foe alike are brought to account for their actions in the proper courts.

Meanwhile, I instruct the implementing agencies of the budget to submit project and procurement information requested by the procurement transparency group on the priority projects earmarked for monitoring. And I instruct all national government agencies, GOCCS and GFIS to provide their annual procurement plans, also requested by the procurement transparency group for monitoring of major bidding processes.

The infrastructure budget of 200 billion pesos from the GAA, the GOCCS and the local governments enable us to implement key infrastructure projects. For instance, national roads like the Surigao-Davao, the Davao del Norte-Bukidnon, the Lebak-Maguindanao, the Butuan-Esperanza in Agusan del Norte, the Sibuco-Siraway-Siocon-Baliguian in Zamboanga del Norte, some examples of major projects in Mindanao;

In central Philippines: sta. Barbara airport to Iloilo city; Caticlan-Pandan-Libertad in Panay so that Boracay tourism can spread; Bacolod to Silay airport; El Nido to Rio Tuba in Palawan ‘cause there are some segments that are not yet completed; Esperanza to Aroroy in Masbate — I see the governor here — the Caramoan peninsula road in Camarines Sur;

In the urban beltway: the c5-nlex-slex link, which Bayani Fernando is working very hard on because there are relocation and right of way issues that we have to address; and the Marikina-Infanta road;

In the North Luzon agri-business quadrangle: the Halsema highway, the Bontoc-Tabuk-Tuguegarao, the Tarlac-Nueva Ecija-Dingalan;

The farm-to-market roads and irrigation projects together worth 15 billion pesos;

Bridges like Panguil Bay Bridge in Mindanao between Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte;

Airports like the remediation works on NAIA 3 to comply with FAA standards; Cotabato, Pagadian, Siargao, Zamboanga airports in Mindanao; Panglao, Tacloban, Dumaguete, Daraga, Puerto Princesa in Central Philippines, among others; and in the North Luzon agri-business quadrangle, a series of no-frills airports including Alaminos in Pangasinan and San Vicente in Cagayan;

Seaports like Dingalan in Aurora; Healthcare infrastructure like the upgrading of hospitals from primary to secondary hospital care;

Housing and relocation — with five billion pesos, Noli? Almost? — Aside from his Pag-Ibig funds of 30 billion pesos.

The second “e” – education — takes a front seat in this budget. No other issue is as important to Filipinos as the opportunity education affords the next generation to be liberated from poverty and live a life of hope, optimism and prosperity.

The 200 billion pesos allocated for various agencies dealing with education allows us to invest in more than 10,000 classrooms; 36 million new textbooks; 900 plus computer labs in public high schools; 60,000 Gastpe scholarships under the education service contracting; and for the separate high school voucher, an increase in each voucher from 5,000 pesos to 7,000 pesos, and per recommendation of Jing Lapus because it's more expensive in Metro Manila said, 10,000 for Metro Manila;

Engineering, RD, technology and science scholarships at high school, college, masters and Phd levels at 1.4 billion pesos overseen by Nina Alabastro, unprecedented in our history; other college scholarships worth 400 million pesos; vocational training worth three billion pesos, including p350 million for BPO training; 10,000 more teachers; teacher training in math, science and English worth a billion pesos with 500 million of that going to English.

And finally, the third “e” — the environment. Filipinos love our nation. We must be careful stewards of our natural environment. Our environment is God-given; we must not abuse what god has created. This includes a commitment to clean air, clean water and a clean, healthy environment, free from toxic wastes that can harm each and every one of us.

The GAA will help — just help, not fund the whole thing — it will help fund the creation of a green Philippines that encompasses: conservation to beautify our villages and cities of trash; build more urban parks and recreation areas; purify our water and clean up industrial sites that are an eye-sore and are unhealthy. And the DENR has a five billion allocation mainly for conservation.

We have almost 300 million also to support DOE's energy independence. But Angie Reyes has various PNOG corporations have a lot more resources to fund our quest for energy independence.

Reforestation at 300 million pesos. So when I asked Angie to move to DOE, I asked him also to allocate some of the PNOG resources for reforestation. And I asked our ODA partners who are here and I have asked especially New Zealand that hopefully all forthcoming ODA from New Zealand will go to reforestation.

We also want to turn our coral reefs and beaches, our mountain vistas and our tropical forests into national parks and international sanctuaries for eco-tourism and scientific research. And we have 240 million pesos to start that up, but we can put PTA funds to augment that.

While we have accomplished much, much remains to be done. We plan on working hard the next two years until the day our term ends in 2010 to fulfill our Philippine reform agenda. We must and we will press forward with more reforms. We will fight for the economy, education and the environment. We will fight to feed the poor, improve job creation and do everything in our power to mitigate the global forces increasing the price of commodities like oil and rice.

Overall, we remain bullish on our economy, optimistic about our future and deeply committed to being a force for good.

To all of you, thank you for joining us — not just joining us today — but joining us in the work that we must do.

Thank you for demonstrating your commitment to our nation's stability and to invest in the people.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Ceremonial Signing of the General Appropriations Act Of 2008. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123042/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1067&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching of the Giant Turtle Conservation Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Launching of the Giant Turtle Conservation Program**

[Delivered at the Pawikan Center, Nagbalayong, Morong Bataan, March 12, 2008]

Maraming salamat sa mga opisyal at mamamayan ng Nagbalayong sa Morong, Bataan. Kapuri-puri ang inyong malasakit sa ating pawikan at ang pagtatag ninyo ng Bantay Pawikan People's Organization. Malaking tulong ito sa Pawikan Conservation Project.

Pinakawalan natin sa dagat kanina ang mga batang pawikan. Mas mabubuhay sila roon, at lalo tayong makasisiguro sa ating pangangalaga. At sa mahabang panahon, makikinabang sa yaman ng karagatan ang mga Pilipino ngayon at sa hinaharap.

Ipinamamalas din natin ang ating pagpapahalaga sa kapaligiran na isa nang haligi ng ating balangkas pangkaunlaran.

Kahapon pinagdiriwang natin ang isang importanteng hakbang sa pag-alaga ng ating kalikasan sa pagpirma ng ating pambansang budget.

Linalarawan ng ating budget ang ating mga asal at prayoridad sa patakaran para mamuhunan sa ating taong bayan. Naglalaan tayo ng pondo sa mga bagay na magpapa-assenso lalo sa ating bansa. Ito ang tintatawag na "Tatlong E" – Ekonomiya, Edukasyon at Environment.

Bawat Pilipino gusto ng mabuting trabaho, pagkain sa mesa, mabuting edukasyon para sa kanilang mga anak at isang malusog at malinis na kapaligiran na may malinis na hangin, malinis na tubig at malinis na lupa.

Sa araw na ito, ipinagdiriwang natin sa Bataan ang Environment. Mahal ng mga Pilipino ang ating bansa. Kailangang tayo ay maingat ng taga-alaga ng ating likas na kapaligiran. Bigay ng Panginoon ang ating kapaligiran. Dapat hindi natin abusuhin ang linikha ng Panginoon. Kasama dito ang commitment sa malinis na hangin, malinis na tubig, at isang malinis at malusog na kapaligiran, ligas sa mga nakakalasong basura na maaaring saktan bawat isa sa atin.

Sa Environment tayo ay tututok sa:

1) Conservation – We need to beautify our villages and cities and rid them of trash; build more urban parks and recreation areas; purify our water and clean up industrial sites that are both unhealthy and aesthetically unpleasant. From our newly-approved budget that is allocating the biggest chunk to social services, we have put aside P 5 Billion for conservation activities from the DENR's P 8 Billion total budget.

2) Energy independence – We need to tap alternative indigenous sources of power and energy, and we put a premium on green and renewable energy. We are veering away from imported fossil fuels whose prices are not only sky high, but also highly volatile. Our budget gives P274.16 million to support DOE's efforts on energy resource development and utilization and conservation activities. The PNOC has its own billion of corporate funds for the development of New and Renewable Energy sources even as we work harder to convince investors to venture into the promising areas of solar, wind, geothermal and biofuel energy.

3) Reforestation – We will recover our lost forests through massive tree planting with the help of communities. The DENR budget sets aside P 300 million for reforestation. We have also convinced several countries like New Zealand to give their grants as reforestation projects. Inatasan din natin ang PNOC na gumastos sa forestation upang bawiin ang oxygen na kinakain ng langis kaya nagkakaroon ng global warming.

4) The protection of our national parks and wildlife refuges is also high in our priority. We want to turn our coral reefs and beaches, the rice terraces — our contribution to the wonders of the world — as well as our mountain vistas and tropical forests into national parks and international sanctuaries for eco-tourism and scientific research. P 240 Million will be spent for protected areas, apart from what they can raise as gate receipts from holidaymakers. There are specific provisions for wildlife sanctuaries, including P 5 million for the Pawikan Conservation Project. Inaatasan ko ring gumamit ng pondo ng Philippine Tourism Authority para dito. Samantala, may dala akong tseke bilang tulong sa livelihood nga Sagip Pawikan para magtayo ng lodging rooms para sa mga turista at marine biologists sa sentrong ito.

Habang marami na tayong nagawa, marami pa ring dapat gawin. Balak nating magtrabaho nang masipag sa susunod na dalawang taon hanggang mataposang aking termino sa 2010 para matupad ang ating Philippine Reform Agenda. Kailangan at gagawin natin, susulong tayo ng higit pang mga reporma. Ipaglalaban natin ang Ekonomiya, Edukasyon at ang Enviroment.

“Alagaan ang Kalikasan — Panlaban sa Kahirapan” — angkop ang temang ito sa hangad nating pagsamahin ang edukasyon at ekonomiya sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan. Maging ang nag-u-umapaw na yaman ng kalikasan, madaling mau-ubos kung salaula ang paggamit. Ngunit kung maayos ang pangangalaga, higit tayong bibiyayaan ng dagat, gubat at lahat na nakapaligid sa atin, at sa yamang ito aahon sa hirap ang milyun-milyong mamamayan ngayon at ang mga susunod pang henerasyon.

Halimbawa, dati, marami sa inyo ang nangunguha ng itlog ng pawikan o nanghuhuli ng pawikan upang ibenta, ngunit ngayong alam na ninyo ang halaga ng nilalang na ito, nangunguna kayo sa pangangalaga. At kayo na rin ang nagpatunay na mas gaganda ang inyong kabuhayan kung ipagtatanggol ninyo at tutulungan dumami ang pawikan sa halip na lipulin ito sa walang awang pagtugis.

Nagbalayong is a good example of how conservation efforts can be turned into livelihood opportunities that can lift people up from poverty. Maraming salamat sa inyong magandang halimbawa.

Aasahan kong ipagpapatuloy ninyo ito. Inaasahan kong tularan kayo ng lahat ng Pilipino sa tindi ng inyong pagsisikap na alagaan ang kalikasan bilang laban sa kahirapan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s speech during the Launching of the Giant Turtle Conservation Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123032/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1066&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during her meeting with Students and Teachers on Education Budget

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During her meeting with Students and Teachers on Education Budget**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacanang, March 13, 2008]

Maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalaw sa Malacanang. Kapuri-puri ang inyong malasakit sa bansa. Malaking inspirasyon kayo sa ating pamamahala.

Inihalal ninyo ako at mga mga mambabatas para magtrabaho para sa ikabubuti ng lahat. Thank you for expressing your weariness of the politics of division and despair. Salamat sa inyong pahayag na gusto ninyong gumawa kami ng mahihirap ngunit wastong desisyon para sa ekonomiya, labanan ang kahirapan, at panatiliin ang ating bansang payapa at maunlad.

Ito ang nasa isip ko nang nilagdaan ko noong Martes ang pinakamalaking budget na naipasa sa kasaysayan ng Kongreso – P1.2 trillion para sa 2008. Isusulong nitong pondo ang tatlong E – ekonomiya, edukasyon at environment – ang mga programang pinakamahalaga upang gumanda ang ating buhay.

Ipinamamalas ng ating budget ang ating pagkilos at prayoridad sa patakaran para mamuhunan sa ating taong bayan.

Hindi ba, gusto ng bawat Pilipino ang mabuting trabaho, pagkain sa mesa, mabuting edukasyon para sa mga anak, at maaliwalas at dalisay na kapaligiran na may sariwang hangin, malinis na tubig at mayamang lupa.

Siguro nakalimutan na ng ibang tao at mga pulitiko, ngunit sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon sa isang henerasyon, nagkaroon tayo ng badyet at ekonomiya na nagbibigay ng revenue na pwedeng gastusin sa pagpapaganda at pagaangat ng buhay ng Pilipino. Noong araw, sapat lang ang budget para sa sweldo, interes sa utang at IRA (Internal Revenue Allotment) sa mga pamahalaang lokal. Noong araw, kailangang umutang pa para magtayo ng imprastraktura. Ngayon hindi na. Pwede na tayong gumastos sa imprastraktura at social services sa sarili nating kakayahan at hindi na sa utang.

Itong tinatawag nating “Social Payback” ay nagsimula noon pang isang taon nang simulan nating lakihan ang pondong panggastos para sa mga imprastraktura at sa mga pangunahing serbisyo sa ating mga kababayan, kasama na dito ang edukasyon.

Education, in particular, is taking a front seat in our budget this year. Hindi ba, wala nang ibang mas importante para sa mga Pilipino ngayon kundi ang edukasyon? Ang oportunidad na magkaroon ng kalidad na edukasyon ang siyang paraan para sa inyong mga kabataan na nabibilang sa susunod na henerasyon na makalaya sa kahirapan at mamuhay ng maginhawa.

Education is a core value of Philippine society and family life. Edukasyon ang pinakatanging hiyas na pamana ng bawat magulang, kuya, ate, tiyo o tiya sa kanyang anak, kapatid o pamangkin. Upang makatapos ang kapamilya, magpupuyat sa trabaho of mangingibang-bansa ang Pilipino, titipirin ang pananghalian, mamumulot ng basura, at iba pang sakripisyo, alang-alang sa ina-asam na diploma. Iyan ang halaga ng pag-aaral.

Sapagkat pinakamahalaga ang edukasyon para sa pamilyang Pilipino, sinisikap ng pamahalaan na ilaan ang pinakamalaking pondo ng bansa sa edukasyon.

Ngayon, dahil sa ating mga reporma sa buwis, mas malaki na ang alokasyon sa mga programang panlipunan kaysa sa pambayad sa utang. Umaabot halos dalawandaang bilyong piso ang sa edukasyon. Ito rin ang pinakamalaking bahagi ng budget na napunta sa edukasyon sa mahabang panahon.

Tatanggap ng malaking pondo para sa edukasyon ang Department of Education (DepEd) na may P150 bilyon para sa elementarya at high school, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), state universities and colleges, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) at Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Paiiralin ng DepEd ang pre-school sa dalawang bilyong piso. Unti-unti gagawing pre-school ang mga day care centers.

Tatlo't kahalating milyong maralitang mag-aaral sa pre-school ang tatanggap ng bigas sa ilalim ng Food for School Program.

Mga P6 bilyon ang nakalaan sa 11,000 na silid-aralan.

Mamamahagi ng lampas 35 milyong libro.

Kasama rin sa budget ang pag-hire ng sampung libong karagdagang mga teacher.

May P1 bilyon para sa teacher training sa Math, Science at English.

At may probisyong pantaas ng sweldo, baka sa gitna ng taon.

Mahigit 60,000 na estudyante sa buong bansa ang bibigyan ng tulong upang makapag-aral sa pribadong high school sa ilalim ng Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GATSPE) Education Service Contracting.

Itataas ang high school voucher sa National Capital Region (NCR) sa P10,000 mula P5,000.

Bibili ng halos sanlibong computer laboratories sa high school.

Tatlong bilyong piso para sa pagbibigay ng mas maraming vocational training, kasama ang isang bilyong pisong scholarship para sa 100,000 na mahihirap at P350 milyon para mag-training para sa mga business process outsourcing (BPO) at call center.

Strengthening the ROTC program consistent with the doctrine of a citizen's army enshrined in the Constitution.

College scholarships na nagkakahalaga ng P700 million, kasama ang P300 million sa science.

Masters at doctorate sa Science at Engineering na higit P1 billion.

Marami na tayong nagawa, marami pang nalalabing kailangang gawin. Balak nating magtrabahong masipag sa susunod na dalawang taon hanggang sa araw na matapos ang aking termino sa 2010, upang ipatupad ang ating Philippine Reform Agenda. Kailangang sumulong tayo at susulong tayo sa dagdag pang mga reporma. Ipaglalaman natin ang Ekonomiya, Edukasyon at ang Environment.

Overall, we remain bullish on our country, optimistic about our future and deeply committed to being a force for good. Salamat na narito kayo ngayon. Thank you for demonstrating your commitment to our nation's stability and to investing in the people.

“Isulong ang Karunungan — Panlaban sa Kahirapan.”

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during her meeting with Students and Teachers on Education Budget. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123006/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1065&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Presentation of the 2008 Budget on the Economy with the Liga ng mga Barangay and the Working Poor, March 14, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Presentation of the 2008 Budget on the Economy with the Liga ng mga Barangay and the Working Poor**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 14, 2008]

Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Nagpapasalamat ako kay Congresswoman Reyes at yung ibang mga congressmen at senators doon sa budget na ipinasa na napakaganda na pinirmahan natin noong Martes. Itong budget na ito ang atin binibigyan-diin at halaga sa pamumuhunan sa taong-bayan. Namumuhunan ang ating budget sa tinatatawag nating tatlong “E” — Ekonomiya, Edukasyon, Environment

Di ba, pinakamahalaga sa bawat Pilipino ang magandang trabaho, pagkain sa mesa, mahusay na edukasyon para sa mga anak, at maaliwalas at dalisay na kapaligiran na may sariwang hangin, malinis na tubig at mayamang lupa.

Nakalaan sa social services ang pinakamalaking bahagi ng budget, kasama ang paaral; paggamot, gaya ng 11,000 na Botika sa Barangay na nagbebenta ng kinalahating-presyong gamot, at ito ay isang magandang programa natin mga taga barangay; pag-uupgrade ng mga primary hospital sa inyong mga probinsiya para maging secondary hospital, para magkaroon ng surgeon, anesthesiologist at obstetrician, at pagpalawak ng sakop ng PhilHealth sa pitumpung milyong benepisyaryo; at nakalaan din ang pautang sa munting negosyo, lalo na yung micro-entrepreneurs tulad ng mga sidewalk vendors. Salamat vendors, taga-Baclaran, salamat sa inyong suporta. May grocery na kayo, hindi ba? Okay.

Yung DSWD may 43 million pesos dito sa budget na ito, pero ito ay bahagi lamang ng 50 billion pesos sa ating banking system para sa small and micro finance.

Nakalaan din sa budget ang pabahay. Kanina kausap niyo si Vice-President Noli de Castro, siya ang namamahala sa pabahay gaya ng housing project na nakabiyaya sa mga sundalo sa Taguig at iba pa. At doon may 30 billion pesos ang budget ng Pag-ibig para sa housing, meron pang 5 billion pesos sa budget para sa housing ng mga hindi kasapi sa Pag-ibig.

Ang budget natin din ay buffer upang maibsan ang hira sa maaring idulot ng ekonomiya sa pagbaba ng ekonomiya ng daigdig at yung walang humpay na pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at bigas sa mundo, na naka-aapekto sa presyo ng ating pagkain at transportasyon.

*Mayroon programang **Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino**. Ito ay nagbibigay ng targeted cash payment sa isangdaang libong pinakadukha sa ating bansa — isangdaang libong pamilya. At kanina, kausap ko yung World Bank at sabi nila ay tutulong din sila upang dumami itong Pamilyang Pantawid at humigit sa 100,000 sa poorest of the poor ng ating bansa.*

Laman ng international news network ngayon ang worldwide shortage sa bigas. Meron na ngang problema ng langis ngayon may worldwide shortage sa bigas. Noong 2001, 200 dollars ang presyo ng bigas sa pandaigdigang

merkado. Ngayon, 700 dollars na, ganun tumaas ang bigas sa buong mundo. Kaya bilyun-bilyong piso ang ginagastos ng NFA upang sa kabila ng pagtaas ng presyo ng bigas sa mundo nang ganito, nananatili ang bigas sa mga Tindahan Natin na P18.50 kada kilo.

Ganun na lang ang ating paghahanap ng ginhawa para sa ating taong-bayan na nagdudusa sa mataas na presyo ng langis at bigas sa buong mundo. Para maibsan ang pasakit ng mataas na presyo ng langis at bigas sa buong mundo, babawasan ng Manila Water at Maynilad ang singil sa maralita para sa tubig.

Binaba ng SLEX-PNCC portion naman ang toll ng sampung porsiyento noong nakaraang Lunes.

Pero itong sa bigas, ang hinihiling ko sa ating mga leader sa barangay, sana samahan ninyo sina Kalihim Peter Favila at Secretary Arthur Yap na habulin yung mga rice hoarders para hindi naman masayang yung inilatag natin sa NFA. Alam niyo, meron ng apat na opisyal ng NFA na kakasuhan kasi nakikipagsabwatan sa mga unscrupulous traders, yung murang bigas ibinebenta sa traders at yung traders ibinebenta sa commercial market Eh, biro mo ang subsidy natin kung gaano kalaki na ang presyo ng bigas ngayon kaya dapat hulihin natin yung mga nagsasamantala dahil ninanakawan nila ng murang bigas yung mahihirap.

Kaya yun ang pagtutungan rin natin mga barangay. Kasi kung hindi, hindi lang sayang yung ating NFA subsidy, sayang din yung inilalatag natin na farm-to-market roads sa buong kapuluan para dumami ang ating ani at hindi na kailangan bumili sa labas sana. Dahil naglalagay tayo sa budget na ito ng pondo para sa farm-to-market road: dalawang libong kilometro sa Mindanao; dalawang libong kilometro sa hilagang Luzon, dahil ito ang mga lugar na agricultural; isanglibong kilometro sa Central Philippines, Bicol at Visayas; isanlibong kilometro dito sa Luzon, sa Southern Luzon, Southern Tagalog at sa Central Luzon sa Bulacan.

At itong farm-to-market roads na ito ay matatayo natin dahil meron tayong nakalagay na halagang pitong bilyong piso sa budget para sa farm-to-market roads At para dumami rin ang ani, mamumuhunan din tayo ng walong bilyon na inilaan para sa irigasyon. Itong seven billion para sa farm-to-market roads at eight billion para sa irigasyon kasama ito sa 23 billion pesos na alokasyon para sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura.

Kasama rin ito sa dalawangdaang bilyong piso mula sa Pambansang Budget, mga korporasyon, yung inyong bahagi ng tinatawag nating development fund ng IRA ng pamahalaang lokal na gugugulin natin para sa imprastruktura. Kabilang ang mahahalagang kalsada, halimbawa, napakarami pero babanggitin ko ang ilan: yung Sibuco-Siraway-Siocon-Baliguian Road sa Zamboanga del Norte. Nandito ba yung mga taga Zamboanga del Norte? Yun! meron. Okay; yung pag-ayos ng Maharlika Highway sa Samar Island. Meron ba tayong mga taga Samar dito? Kasi hindi ba nasira na ng husto, okay; yung Halsema Highway sa Cordillera. Meron bang mga taga Cordillera dito? Yes; at saka dito naman yung pagdugtong ng C-5 at NLEX para konektado na ang SLEX, C-5 at NLEX.

Mga daungan gaya nang doon sa Dingalan, sa Aurora; doon sa Kawit sa Marinduque; doon sa Esperanza, Cauayan at Aroroy sa Masbate; at iba pang mga dadaanan ng roll-on/roll-off ferry na magdadala ng pagkain mula Mindanao hanggang dito para maging mas mura o hindi gaanong tumaas ang presyo ng pagkain. At maglalagay din tayo siyempre ng mga daungan na mas maganda sa mga mahihirap na lugar kagaya ng probinsya ng Tawi-Tawi. Kaya tinanong ko kay President Echeverri, meron ba tayong taga Tawi-Tawi rito? Napakalayong lugar, pinakamalayo sa atin.... hindi. Batanes ay mas malayo pero ang Batanes dahil sa konting-konti ang tao mataas ang antas ng buhay. Doon sa Tawi-Tawi malayo at mahirap ang buhay.

Magtatayo rin tayo ng mga paliparang no-frills sa Hilagang Luzon para makapunta dito yung kanilang mga produkto at para makapunta rin doon yung mga eco-tourists, kagaya ng doon sa Alaminos sa Pangasinan. Meron bang taga Pangasinan dito? Okay. At saka doon naman kung saan maraming mga turistang pumupunta, maglalagay naman tayo ng international airport, kagaya doon sa Panglao doon sa Bohol, at nakita ko si Board Member Conching Lim doon.

Maglalagay din tayo ng pera para sa pagpapakabit ng kuryente sa mga barangay na wala pang kuryente at tubig at sa mga bayang wala pang tubig. At tututungan natin sa connectivity yung mga gustong puntahan ng mga

namumuhunan sa call center. Bahagi rin sa ating budget yung commuter trains, hindi ba dito yung LRT natin U shape, gagawin nating O shape para kahit na saan pwede kayong umakyat, kahit na saan pwede kayong bumaba para makamernos din sa gastos ng transportasyon.

Kausap ko nga kanina si Secretary Larry Mendoza ng DOTC, sabi niya kasi hinati nila sa tatlong package yun, meron nang na-award sa dalawang package, yung isa walang nag qualify, so uulitin muli yung bidding. Pero sa madaling salita, at least yung dalawa o kahit na naniniwala sila na itong pagkakaroon ng bidding magiging successful this time. So at least, hopefully 18 months from now meron na tayong O shape at hindi na lang U shape or horseshoe shape na loop dito sa Metro Manila.

Yung mga IRA para sa inyo, Local Governments, mula sa budget ay P210.7 billion. Nawa'y gamitin ng mga local officials kasama yung mga barangays ang 20 percent nung development fund ninyo para sa imprastraktura at social services. In other words, lahat tayo mamuhunan sa sambayanan.

Marami na tayong nagawa. Kayo sa inyong mga barangay pero napakarami pa rin ang dapat nating gawin. Kaya dadagdagan natin ang ating pagsisikap upang makamit ang mga layunin ng ating Philippine Reform Agenda.

Kaya kayo mga barangay officials, kayo ang pinaka grassroots na mga leaders, kaya aasahan ko kayo, aasahan ko ang tulong ninyo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Speech of President Arroyo during the Presentation of the 2008 Budget on the Economy with the Liga ng mga Barangay and the Working Poor

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Presentation of the 2008 Budget on the Economy with the Liga ng mga Barangay and the
Working Poor**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 14, 2008]

Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Mga lider ng Liga ng mga Barangay; si Congresswoman Carmencita Reyes na sinamahan ng kaniyang ABC dito; mga nagtatrabaho sa formal sector, mga manggagawa; mga nakatanggap ng mga biyaya ng housing; mga nagtatrabaho sa informal sector, (applause) mga vendor; (applause) mga gumagamit at nagpapatakbo ng transportasyon.

At gusto kong batiin si Secretary Ed Pamintuan, si Secretary Panganiban at saka si Undersecretary Soliman. At sa inyong lahat, kayo ay mga leaders ng grassroots. Maraming salamat na kayo ay narito. (applause) At salamat na pinahayag ninyo na ibig ninyong magtrabaho ang Pangulo at mambabatas para sa kinabubuti ng madla.

At nagpapasalamat ako kay Congresswoman Reyes at yung ibang mga congressmen at senators doon sa budget na ipinasa na napakaganda na pinirmahan natin noong Martes. (applause) Itong budget na ito ang atin binibigyan-diin at halaga sa pamumuhunan sa taong-bayan. Namumuhunan ang ating budget sa tinatatawag nating tatlong “E” — Ekonomiya, Edukasyon, Environment.

Di ba, pinakamahalaga sa bawat Pilipino ang magandang trabaho, pagkain sa mesa, mahusay na edukasyon para sa mga anak, at maaliwalas at dalisay na kapaligiran na may sariwang hangin, malinis na tubig at mayamang lupa.

Nakalaan sa social services ang pinakamalaking bahagi ng budget, kasama ang paaral; paggamot, gaya ng 11,000 na Botika sa Barangay na nagbebenta ng kinalahating-presyong gamot, at ito ay isang magandang programa natin mga taga barangay; (applause) pag-uupgrade ng mga primary hospital sa inyong mga probinsiya para maging secondary hospital, para magkaroon ng surgeon, anesthesiologist at obstetrician, at pagpalawak ng sakop ng PhilHealth sa pitumpung milyong benepisyaryo; at nakalaan din ang pautang sa munting negosyo, lalo na yung microentrepreneurs tulad ng mga sidewalk vendors. (applause) Salamat vendors, tiga-Baclaran, salamat sa inyong suporta. May grocery na kayo, hindi ba? Okay.

Yung DSWD may 43 million pesos dito sa budget na ito, pero ito ay bahagi lamang ng 50 billion pesos sa ating banking system para sa small and microfinance.

Nakalaan din sa budget ang pabahay. Kanina kausap niyo si Vice-President Noli de Castro, siya ang namamahala sa pabahay gaya ng housing project na nakabiyaya sa mga sundalo sa Taguig at iba pa. At doon may 30 billion pesos ang budget ng Pag-ibig para sa housing, meron pang 5 billion pesos sa budget para sa housing ng mga hindi kasapi sa Pag-ibig.

Ang budget natin din ay buffer upang maibsan ang hirap na maaring idulot ng ekonomiya sa pagbaba ng ekonomiya ng daigdig at yung walang humpay na pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at bigas sa mundo na naka-aapekto sa presyo ng ating pagkain at transportasyon.

Mayroon programang Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino. Ito ay nagbibigay ng targeted cash payment sa isangdaang libong pinakadukha sa ating bansa — isangdaang libong pamilya. At laman... kanina kausap ko yung World Bank

at sabi nila ay tutulong din sila upang dumami itong Pamilyang Pantawid at humigit sa 100,000 sa poorest of the poor ng ating bansa. (applause)

Laman ng international news network ngayon ang worldwide shortage sa bigas. Meron na ngang problema ng langis ngayon may worldwide shortage sa bigas. Noong 2001, 200 dollars ang presyo ng bigas sa pandaigdigang merkado. Ngayon, 700 dollars na, ganun tumaas ang bigas sa buong mundo. Kaya bilyun-bilyong piso ang ginagastos ng NFA upang sa kabila ng pagtaas ng presyo ng bigas sa mundo nang ganito, nananatili ang bigas sa mga Tindahan Natin na P 18.50 kada kilo. (applause)

Ganun na lang ang ating paghahanap ng ginhawa sa ating taong-bayan na nagdudusa sa mataas na presyo ng langis at bigas sa buong mundo. Para maibsan ang pasakit ng mataas na presyo ng langis at bigas sa buong mundo, babawasan ng Manila Water at Maynilad ang singil sa maralita para sa tubig. (applause)

Binaba ng SLEX-PNCC portion naman ang toll ng sampung porsiyento noong nakaraang Lunes. (applause)

Pero itong sa bigas, ang hinihiling ko sa atin mga leader sa barangay, sana samahan ninyo sina Kalihim Peter Favila at Secretary Arthur Yap na habulin yung mga rice hoarders para hindi naman masayang yung inilatag natin sa NFA. (applause) Alam niyo, meron ng apat na opisyal ng NFA na kakasuhan kasi nagkakasabwatan sa mga unscrupulous traders, yung murang bigas ibinebenta sa traders at yung traders ibinebenta sa commercial market. Eh, biro mo ang subsidy natin kung gaano kalaki na ang presyo ng bigas ngayon kaya dapat hulihin natin yung mga nagsasamantala dahil ninanakawan nila ng murang bigas yung mahihirap.

Kaya yun ang pagtulungan rin natin mga barangay. Kasi kung hindi, hindi lang sayang yung ating NFA subsidy, sayang din yung inilalatag natin na farm-to-market roads sa buong kapuluan para dumami ang ating ani at hindi na kailangan bumili sa labas sana. Dahil naglalagay tayo sa budget na ito ng pondo para sa farm-to-market road: dalawang libong kilometro sa Mindanao; dalawang libong kilometro sa hilagang Luzon, dahil ito ang mga lugar na agricultural; isanglibong kilometro sa Central Philippines, Bicol at Visayas; isanlibong kilometro dito sa Luzon, sa Southern Luzon, Southern Tagalog at sa Central Luzon sa Bulacan.

At itong farm-to-market roads na ito ay matatayo natin dahil meron tayong nakalagay na halagang pitong bilyong piso sa budget para sa farm-to-market roads. (applause) At para dumami rin ang ani mamumuhunan din tayo sa walong bilyon na inilaan para sa irigasyon. Itong seven billion para sa farm-to-market roads at eight billion para sa irigasyon kasama ito sa 23 billion pesos na alokasyon para sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura.

Kasama rin ito sa dalawangdaang bilyong piso mula sa pambansang budget, mga korporasyon, yung inyong bahagi ng tinatawag nating development fund ng IRA ng pamahalaang lokal na gugugulin natin para sa imprastruktura. Kabilang ang mahahalagang kalsada, halimbawa, napakarami pero babanggitin ko ang ilan: yung Sibuco-Siraway-Siocon-Baliguian Road sa Zamboanga del Norte. Nandito ba yung mga taga Zamboanga del Norte? Yun! meron. Okay; yung pag-ayos ng Maharlika Highway sa Samar Island. Meron ba tayong mga taga Samar dito? Kasi hindi ba nasira na ng husto, okay; yung Halsema Highway sa Cordillera. Meron bang mga taga Cordillera dito? Yes; at saka dito naman yung pagdugtong ng C-5 at NLEX para konektado na ang SLEX, C-5 at NLEX.

Mga daungan gaya nang doon sa Dingalan, sa Aurora; doon sa Kawit sa Marinduque; doon sa Esperanza, Cauayan at Aroroy sa Masbate; at iba pang mga dadaanan ng roll-on/roll-off ferry na magdadala ng pagkain mula Mindanao hanggang dito para maging mas mura o hindi gaanong tumaas ang presyo ng pagkain. At maglalagay din tayo siyempre ng mga daungan na mas maganda sa mga mahihirap na lugar kagaya ng probinsya ng Tawi-Tawi. Kaya tinanong ko kay President Echeverri, meron ba tayong taga Tawi-Tawi rito? Napakalayong lugar, pinakamalayo sa atin.... Ay, hindi. Batanes ay mas malayo pero ang Batanes dahil sa kunting-konti ang tao mataas ang antas ng buhay. Doon sa Tawi-Tawi malayo at mahirap ang buhay.

Magtatayo rin tayo ng mga paliparang no-frills sa hilagang Luzon para makapunta dito yung kanilang produkto rin at para makapunta rin doon yung mga eco-tourists kagaya ng doon sa Alaminos sa Pangasinan. Meron bang taga Pangasinan dito? Okay. At saka doon naman kung saan andami-dami ng turistang pumupunta maglalagay naman

tayo ng international airport kagaya doon sa Panglao doon sa Bohol, (applause) at nakita ko si Board Member Conching Lim doon.

Maglalagay din tayo ng pera para pagkabit ng kuryente sa mga barangay na wala pang kuryente at tubig sa mga bayang wala pang tubig. (applause) At tutulungan natin sa connectivity yung mga gustong puntahan ng mga namumuhunan sa call center. (applause) Bahagi rin sa ating budget yung commuter train dito sa... Hindi ba dito yung LRT natin U shape, gagawin nating O shape para kahit na saan pwede kayong umakyat kahit na saan pwede kayong bumaba para makamernos din sa gastos ng transportasyon.

Kausap ko nga kanina si Secretary Larry Mendoza ng DOTC, sabi niya natapos... kasi hinati nila sa tatlong package yuon, meron nang na-award sa dalawang package, yung isa walang nag qualify, so uulitin muli yung bidding. Pero sa madaling salita, at least yung dalawa o kahit na naniniwala sila na itong magkakaroon ng bidding magiging successful this time. So at least mga hopefully 18 months from now meron na tayong O shape at hindi na lang U shape or horseshoe shape na loop dito sa Metro Manila.

Yung mga IRA para sa inyo, Local Governments, mula sa budget ay P210.7 billion. (applause) Nawa'y gamitin ng mga local officials kasama yung mga barangays ang 20 percent nung development fund ninyo para sa imprastraktura at serbisyo sosyal. In other words, (applause) lahat tayo mamuhunan sa sambayanan. (applause)

Marami na tayong nagawa. Kayo sa inyong mga barangay pero napakarami pa rin ang dapat nating gawin. Kaya dadagdagan natin ang ating pagsisikap upang makamit ang mga layunin ng ating Philippine Reform Agenda.

Kaya kayo mga barangay officials, kayo ang pinaka grassroots na leader, kaya aasahan ko kayo, aasahan ko ang tulong ninyo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the Presentation of the 2008 Budget on the Economy with the Liga ng mga Barangay and the Working Poor. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122951/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1063&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the 103rd Philippine Military Academy Graduation Rites

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 103rd Philippine Military Academy Graduation Rites**

[Delivered at Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City, March 18, 2008]

Congratulations to BAGHAWI Class of 2008.

Congratulations to your parents, other family members and friends who shared your dreams and inspired and supported you.

Congratulations to the people of the Philippines who spent for your military education so that you will work for the common good. They are tired of the politics of division and despair. They want you to keep our nation safe, secure and moving forward.

Every Filipino wants a good job, food on the table, a sound education for their children. Dear parents, congratulations to you and the PMA for giving your children a sound education.

BAGHAWI Class of 2008, know the multifaceted roles of a twenty-first century soldier: not just a combatant but a military professional, a manager, a partner in development. Your four-year stay in the Academy honed the skills you to perform these roles.

PMA exposed you not only to military science but to other aspects of national life such as the actual experience of building the hopes of our fellow Filipinos through the Gawad Kalinga and distributing relief goods to the calamity stricken.

Innovations gave your class a sense of distinction. The greatest paradigm shift in the military protocol which is at the helm of those innovations was the deviation of the class from “Rank has its Privilege” to “Rank has its Responsibility.”

Your classes focused on institutional building and shifted from personality-driven to institutional leadership.

You will be leaders of character.

You will be fine pillars of a strong economy and a strong military free from corruption.

We have placed mechanisms to fix the corruption that still plagues our nation, such as a Procurement Transparency Group, a partnership between government and civil society to make sure that biddings for projects will be above board. The group has members from the Makati Business Club and the Ateneo School of Government G-Watch, among others, and lately the National Secretariat for Social Action of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines. At present, this group monitors 40 priority projects, including the petroleum, oil and lubricants procurement of the AFP.

An essential part of building a modern nation in these trying times is to have a military as strong and modern as the nation it serves. We have put our money where our rhetoric is. We have invested heavily in new and better equipment, more and better training and more cooperation with our allies in professionalizing our military.

We are investing in brand new helicopters, in watercraft, squad automatic weapons, mortars and military trucks radio systems and force protection equipment. We are investing in the great Filipino soldier through better care and

improved services. Maraming buhay na nasagip ang kagyat na saklolo at pagamot ng Forward Field Medical Support System. Pinopondohan din natin ang pag-upgrade ng mga ospital ng hukbo, gaya ng Camp Bautista Trauma Hospital sa Jolo, at hindi kukulang sa isang bilyong pisong pabahay.

The 2008 budget allocates of P12 billion for a 10% increase in the basic salary of civilian, military and uniformed personnel starting July.

We have set 2010 as the deadline to win the war against the insurgency. As of last year, we had succeeded in halving the number of active insurgents in 2001.

The way to win isn't just through the barrel of a gun. Rather it begins with providing a person a job, food on the table and human dignity. Central to that success is to invest in the people – in education, healthcare, roads, bridges. We have allocated P1 billion in the 2008 DND budget for this.

Our central objective to create more jobs and grow our economy is to invest, invest and invest. We have been doing that. We have the strongest economy in over 30 years as a result of the tough reforms we have made to break the cycle of despair which has kept our nation back.

Our strengthened economic fortunes come none too soon, for there are clouds on the economic horizon that we must guard against. Much remains to be done to lift up our poor.

I learned that the battle cry of the BAGHAWI Class 2008 is “BAGHAWI-Buo.” This emanated from the earlier cry “BAGHAWI – Not One Less.” Buo nating itaguyod ang mga pangarap ng bawat Pilipino. Not one less of the BAGHAWI Class 2008 shall stray from the time-tested virtue of the Philippine Military Academy – Courage, Loyalty, Integrity. Much will be expected of you.

I now pardon the outstanding punishments of the cadet corps of the PMA as may be prescribed by the Superintendent.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the 103rd Philippine Military Academy Graduation Rites. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122935/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1062&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Research and Production of Vegenoodles

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Research and Production of Vegenoodles**

[Delivered at Brgy. Betag, La Trinidad, March 22, 2008]

I wish to take advantage of my visit to instruct the study of manufacturing of vegenoodles whose raw materials can be sourced from the salad bowl of Cordillera and the pinakbet bowl of Pangasinan (Villasis et al). The vegenoodles can be part of Tindahan Natin stock. The program is given a substantial allocation in this year's national budget. Vegetable-fortified noodles will make them more nutritious and delicious and less costly to manufacture in this era of soaring wheat prices. They will improve the income of farmers, and solve storage problems of what by nature are quickly perishable items.

Benguet State University can partner with vegetable processors and noodle makers, which include family of Mr. GoNegosyo, Joey Concepcion, with respect to the technological aspect of commercial production, DA to ensure supply through technical assistance to growers of these high-value crops, PMS to ensure credit assistance, and DTI to support marketing concerns.

Filipino companies, notably the Chan family of Oishi fame, have been producing veggie-based and veggie-added snacks and noodle. These patriots, I know, will join in any national project that will feed our children, help our farmers and give our consumers more and better nutritional choices.

I am giving a check of P10 million to Benguet State University with the instruction for them to concentrate on vegenoodles as their research and development mandate.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech: Research and Production of Vegenoodles. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122811/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1061&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine Development Forum, March 26, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine Development Forum**

[Delivered in Clark, Pampanga, March 26, 2008]

It is my pleasure to join you in our constantly productive and insightful dialogue on Philippine development.

2007 was the best year for the Philippine economy in over 30 years. Economic growth was 7.3 percent; a million new jobs were created; and foreign investments have been strong. We have been cited by London as the “offshore destination of the year” and by the International Data Corporation as the top global outsourcing destination after India.

Our billion-dollar investment club includes Texas Instruments with its 1.6 billion dollar wafer fabrication facility under construction; Hanjin with two shipyards. One up and one coming costing \$3.7 billion total, which makes us the fourth biggest shipyard in the world; Marubeni, Tokyo Electric and AEA which have invested billions of dollars in our power sector. They join the ranks of Intel and Proctor and Gamble, to name but a few of our major investors.

Just this month the IMF lauded our economic growth, the substantial reduction in our budget deficit, low inflation and the improvement in consumer confidence. The IMF highlighted in particular our fine Central Bank, for smoothening foreign exchange fluctuations as the peso touched an eight-year high against the dollar in recent months. During this time, the country has built its foreign exchange reserves to a record high.

2008 holds real promise for a different reason. Not only do we expect to sustain our growth, but as a result of our total economic overhaul, we are well-positioned to weather a global economic slowdown which, unfortunately, will affect all of us, something which I will discuss in greater detail in a few moments.

The real story for 2008 is that our macroeconomic fundamentals are stronger than ever due to tough choices we have made on boosting revenues, cracking down on tax cheats, bringing reform to our revenue collection and modernizing our banking and financial sector. We have reformed our budget to be in balance way ahead of the medium-term plan schedule of 2010.

Last year, our deficit was only P12 billion the lowest in a decade and far below the ceiling of P63 billion. Revenues were up 16 percent from 2006. Seven years ago, no one thought we could do it, but we have. There will be no rest. We are continuing the pace of progress that has succeeded in strengthening our economy.

The maturity in our economy has brought with it a new confidence that forms the foundation of sustained economic growth moving forward. We are at a tipping point. I’m confident that the Philippines will tip forward in pursuit of reaching the status of first-world within a generation.

Our strengthened economic fortunes come none too soon. As we are all aware, there are clouds on the economic horizon that we must guard against. The global economy is facing significant challenges. The slowing of the economies in North America and Europe, is top of mind in our calculations to protect our own economy. To that end, we have developed a program that includes: first, to ensure a surge in investments in people and infrastructure; second, to ensure that we continue to pursue anti-corruption initiatives and to cut red tape; and third, to blunt the

global rise in the cost of energy by providing targeted relief to the poorest among us who suffer the most from the high global price of energy.

These global forces are putting more strain on our working poor, as prices for commodities like rice and fuel increase. We are a price-sensitive nation. So while our macroeconomics are strong, the benefits are still working their way down more slowly than we would want to lift up our citizens who live and work pay day to pay day.

We need a strong middle class to become a strong modern nation. We are working to soften the blow from the current global economic challenges to those working hardest, to make it to the middle class.

The best thing we can do in the short term is to provide responsible, targeted relief to those most in need. The best thing we can do for the remainder of my term until I step down in 2010, is to stay focused on further economic reforms while providing peace, order and stability. Our last two years will be dedicated to one main objective: invest, invest and invest some more in the nation.

The national budget which I signed a few weeks ago, provides a roadmap for realizing our priorities in 2008 and for the remainder of my term. It should provide you with a sense of our priorities and our thinking about the future of our nation.

First, the budget reflects our values and policy priorities for investing in our people. This budget invests in what we call the three 'E's.' They're the essential building blocks of a nation, namely, the economy, education and the environment. Every Filipino wants a good job, food on the table, sound education for their children and a healthy environment with clean air, clean water and clean land.

Second, this budget represents another important step in the economic development of the Philippines – namely, fiscal discipline. We have the strongest economy in over thirty years as a result of the tough reforms we have made, to break the cycle of despair which has held our nation back for so many years. Part of the plan includes a march toward a balanced budget for the first time in many years.

Lastly, this budget proves once again that members of Congress from both the House and the Senate and all parties can come together to work with the Executive Branch, to get things done for the nation. Political noise need not interfere with economic progress and reform. This budget helps make that point. The people are tired of partisan wrangling and want all of us to do our job – which is to work for the interest of the people, keeping the nation strong and stable, and always moving forward.

Overall, the budget provides a buffer to mitigate the pain of a deteriorating global economy, and the accompanying rise in prices which affects food and transportation the most. Most importantly, it is a budget dedicated to investing in the vital physical and human infrastructure to continue to modernize our nation. Roads, bridges and ports along with education and healthcare build up the foundation of the nation and make us more competitive.

The issue of corruption that has plagued our nation for several generations is an issue we take seriously. As an economist, I know that first and foremost, a strong economy is an economy that is transparent and free from corruption. This budget invests more and more to clean up the culture of corruption that has plagued this nation for generations.

To fix the corruption that still plagues our nation, I have called on Congress to pass a comprehensive anti-corruption reform act in 2008. On our part, we will hold officials accountable if they are found to be corrupt after due process. Let the chips fall where they may as investigations are concluded and friend and foe alike are brought to account for their actions in the proper courts.

With its budget doubled since 2002, the country's primary anti-corruption body the Office of the Ombudsman, has hired several dozen prosecutors and investigators, and trained them better. As a result, the Ombudsman's conviction rate has hit nearly 60%, from just 6% historically.

We have undertaken an effort to curb graft through criminal justice, administrative controls and procedural reforms. Just to name an example, we established the Procurement Transparency Group, to make sure that biddings for projects will be above board. The group is partnership between the government and civil society. At present, this independent group is monitoring 40 priority projects.

To apply the same government-civil society synergy to revenue generation, yesterday, I instructed the DOF to form watchdog bodies for the BIR and BOC, with private sector and civil society participation to monitor tax collection and big BIR and Customs cases.

While we have accomplished much, more remains to be done. We plan to work hard the next two years until the day our term ends in 2010, to fulfill our Philippine reform agenda. This includes legislative efforts to improve our banking and finance system; to strengthen our tax collection and continue to broaden our tax payer base; and crack down on corruption and red tape.

We will fight for the economy, education and the environment to feed the poor, improve job creation and do everything in our power to mitigate the global forces increasing the price of commodities like oil and rice.

Our use of official development assistance will necessarily be guided by the three E's of our priority thrusts, as well as our need to adjust foreign exchange flows to avoid excessive upward pressure on the peso. We ask our creditor community to work with us on standardizing ODA loan conditionalities. We will likewise apply the targeted spending of ODA. For health related projects, foreign borrowings shall focus on upgrading primary hospitals to secondary, half-priced medicines and health insurance. I have recommended to particular ODA lenders that loans for environmental protection be assigned to reforestation. For education, we prioritize early childhood education, grade school classrooms, vocational education, high school and college scholarships, teacher training in English, and graduate courses in science, technology and engineering.

We are bullish on our economy, optimistic about our future and committed to being a force for good for our nation.

Thank you all for your commitment to the Philippines.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine Development Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine Development Forum**

[Delivered in Clark, Pampanga, March 26, 2008]

It is my pleasure to join you in our constantly productive and insightful dialogue on Philippine development.

2007 was the best year for the Philippine economy in over 30 years. Economic growth was 7.3 percent; a million new jobs were created; and foreign investments have been strong. We have been cited by London as the “offshore destination of the year” and by the International Data Corporation as the top global outsourcing destination after India.

Our billion-dollar investment club includes Texas Instruments with its 1.6 billion dollar wafer fabrication facility under construction; Hanjin with two shipyards. One up and one coming costing \$3.7 billion total, which makes us the fourth biggest shipyard in the world; Marubeni, Tokyo Electric and AEA which have invested billions of dollars in our power sector. They join the ranks of Intel and Proctor and Gamble, to name but a few of our major investors.

Just this month the IMF lauded our economic growth, the substantial reduction in our budget deficit, low inflation and the improvement in consumer confidence.

The IMF highlighted in particular our fine central bank for smoothening foreign exchange fluctuations as the peso touched an eight-year high against the dollar in recent months. During this time, the country has built its foreign exchange reserves to a record high.

2008 holds real promise for a different reason. Not only do we expect to sustain our growth, but as a result of our total economic overhaul, we are well-positioned to weather a global economic slowdown which, unfortunately, will affect all of us – something which I will discuss in greater detail in a few moments.

The real story for 2008 is that our macroeconomic fundamentals are stronger than ever due to tough choices we have made on boosting revenues, cracking down on tax cheats, bringing reform to our revenue collection and modernizing our banking and financial sector. We have reformed our budget to be in balance way ahead of the medium-term plan schedule of 2010.

Last year, our deficit was only P12 billion the lowest in a decade and far below the ceiling of P63 billion. Revenues were up 16 percent from 2006. Seven years ago, no one thought we could do it, but we have. There will be no rest. We are continuing the pace of progress that has succeeded in strengthening our economy.

The maturity in our economy has brought with it a new confidence that forms the foundation of sustained economic growth moving forward. We are at a tipping point. I’m confident that the Philippines will tip forward in pursuit of reaching the status of first-world within a generation.

Our strengthened economic fortunes come none too soon. As we are all aware, there are clouds on the economic horizon that we must guard against. The global economy is facing significant challenges. The slowing of the economies in North America and Europe is top of mind in our calculations to protect our own economy. To that end,

we have developed a program that includes: first, to ensure a surge in investments in people and infrastructure; second, to ensure that we continue to pursue anti-corruption initiatives and to cut red tape; and third, to blunt the global rise in the cost of energy by providing targeted relief to the poorest among us who suffer the most from the high global price of energy.

These global forces are putting more strain on our working poor as prices for commodities like rice and fuel increase. We are a price-sensitive nation. So while our macroeconomics are strong, the benefits are still working their way down more slowly than we would want to lift up our citizens who live and work pay day to pay day.

We need a strong middle class to become a strong modern nation. We are working to soften the blow from the current global economic challenges to those working hardest to make it to the middle class.

The best thing we can do in the short term is to provide responsible, targeted relieve to those most in need. The best thing we can do for the remainder of my term until I step down n 2010 is to stay focused on further economic reforms while providing peace, order and stability. Our last two years will be dedicated to one main objective: invest, invest and invest some more in the nation.

The national budget which I signed a few weeks ago provides a roadmap for realizing our priorities in 2008 and for the remainder of my term. It should provide you with a sense of our priorities and our thinking about the future of our nation.

First, the budget reflects our values and policy priorities for investing in our people. This budget invests in what we call the three 'E's.' They're the essential building blocks of a nation, namely, the economy, education and the environment. Every Filipino wants a good job, food on the table, sound education for their children and a healthy environment with clean air, clean water and clean land

Second, this budget represents another important step in the economic development of the Philippines – namely, fiscal discipline. We have the strongest economy in over thirty years as a result of the tough reforms we have made to break the cycle of despair which has held our nation back for so many years. Part of the plan includes a march toward a balanced budget for the first time in many years.

Lastly, this budget proves once again that members of Congress from both the House and the Senate and all parties can come together to work with the executive branch to get things done for the nation. Political noise need not interfere with economic progress and reform. This budget helps make that point. The people are tired of partisan wrangling and want all of us to do our job – which is to work for the interest of the people, keeping the nation strong and stable, and always moving forward.

Overall, the budget provides a buffer to mitigate the pain of a deteriorating global economy and the accompanying rise in prices which affects food and transportation the most. Most importantly, it is a budget dedicated to investing in the vital physical and human infrastructure to continue to modernize our nation. Roads, bridges and ports along with education and healthcare build up the foundation of the nation and make us more competitive.

The issue of corruption that has plagued our nation for several generations is an issue we take seriously. As an economist, I know that first and foremost, a strong economy is an economy that is transparent and free from corruption. This budget invests more and more to clean up the culture of corruption that has plagued this nation for generations.

To fix the corruption that still plagues our nation, I have called on Congress to pass a comprehensive anti-corruption reform act in 2008. On our part, we will hold officials accountable if they are found to be corrupt after due process. Let the chips fall where they may as investigations are concluded and friend and foe alike are brought to account for their actions in the proper courts.

With its budget doubled since 2002, the country's primary anti-corruption body, the Office of the Ombudsman, has hired several dozen prosecutors and investigators, and trained them better. As a result, the Ombudsman's conviction rate has hit nearly 60%, from just 6% historically.

We have undertaken an effort to curb graft through criminal justice, administrative controls and procedural reforms. Just to name an example, we established the Procurement Transparency Group the Procurement Transparency Group to make sure that biddings for projects will be above board. The group is partnership between the government and civil society. At present, this independent group is monitoring 40 priority projects.

To apply the same government-civil society synergy to revenue generation, yesterday I instructed the DOF to form watchdog bodies for the BIR and BOC with private sector and civil society participation to monitor tax collection and big BIR and Customs cases.

While we have accomplished much, more remains to be done. We plan to work hard the next two years until the day our term ends in 2010 to fulfill our Philippine reform agenda. This includes legislative efforts to improve our banking and finance system; to strengthen our tax collection and continue to broaden our tax payer base; and crack down on corruption and red tape.

We will fight for the economy, education and the environment, to feed the poor, improve job creation and do everything in our power to mitigate the global forces increasing the price of commodities like oil and rice.

Our use of official development assistance will necessarily be guided by the three E's of our priority thrusts, as well as our need to adjust foreign exchange flows to avoid excessive upward pressure on the peso. We ask our creditor community to work with us on standardizing ODA loan conditionalities. We will likewise apply the targeted spending of ODA. For health related projects, foreign borrowings shall focus on upgrading primary hospitals to secondary, half-priced medicines and health insurance. I have recommended to particular ODA lenders that loans for environmental protection be assigned to reforestation. For education, we prioritize early childhood education, grade school classrooms, vocational education, high school and college scholarships, teacher training in English, and graduate courses in science, technology and engineering.

We are bullish on our economy, optimistic about our future and committed to being a force for good for our nation.

Thank you all for your commitment to the Philippines.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Philippine Development Forum. Retrieved https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123139/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1059&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 29th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), “Oman-Silang” Class 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 29th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), “Oman-Silang” Class 2008**

[Delivered at the Silang, Cavite, March 28, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Puno.

Inspector Enciso give ‘tikas pahinga’.

Vice-President Noli de Castro; Director General Avelino Razon; president of the Public Safety College, Dr. Cojuangco; Police Chief Superintendent Abarzosa and other officials of the PNPA; Secretary Remonde and other government officials; faculty of the Philippine National Police Academy; other PNP officials; mga magulang; mga kaibigan na nagtatapos nang araw na ito; Graduate Class PNP “Oman-Silang” Class 2008. Congratulations sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Natatanging pagbati rin sa ating dalawang kababaihan na kasama sa sampung pinakamagaling estudyanteng nagtatapos. At salamat sa sampung pinakamagaling na estudyanteng nagtatapos. (applause) At isang pagbati rin at pagpasalamat sa pagpapasigurado ng inyong valedictorian, si Inspector Enciso, sa katapatan ng “Oman-Silang” Class 2008 sa ating Konstitusyon at sa ating demokrasya. (applause)

Congratulations to Chief Superintendent Abarzosa, the first PNPA alumnus to be named director of this Academy. (applause) Noong isang araw nabasa natin yung full page ad ng mga alumni at inaasikaso yung mga isyu doon ni Secretary Puno. Pero kung pag-uusapan natin yung systematic prejudice against non-PMA, siguro si Abarzosa ay isa ng napaka-gandang halimbawa. Dahil si Abarzosa very junior siya, hindi siya PMA, very junior siya nung ginawa ko siyang chief ng Manila Police District. Isang talagang hinahangad na assignment. (applause) Congratulations din sa ating pangulo ng Public Safety College, si President Tingting Conjuangco for initiating reforms, among them allowing new graduates of previous classes to undergo the officers basic course.

Ito ang napaka-importante gaya nang sabi ng ating valedictorian — yung reporma. Reporma ang ating isinusulong ngayon sa bansa — reporma sa ekonomiya, gobyerno at seguridad.

Doon sa ekonomiya, 2007 was the best year for our economy in over 30 years. Our strengthened economic fortunes come none too soon for there are clouds on the economic horizon that we must guard against. The global economy is facing significant challenges.

The global forces are putting more strain on our working poor, at marami sa ating working poor yung mga ordinaryong mga pulis. As prices for commodities like rice and fuel increase in the world market, ‘di natin maiiwasan na tatamaan din ang ating bansa. We are a price-sensitive nation. So we are working to soften the blow from the current global economic challenges to those working hardest to make it into the middle class at kasama nga dito yung ating ordinaryong pulis.

The best thing we can do in the short-term is to provide responsible, targeted relief to those most in need. Kaya halimbawa sinasama na natin yung mga pulis sa Extra Performance Bonus sa Disyembre na noong araw hindi ginagawa. At pinalaki natin ang subsistence allowance at hazard pay ng ating mga pulis.

At sinisimulan na natin ang malalaking proyektong pabahay para sa mga pulis dahil hindi natin gusto makita ang mga pulis nakatira sa squatter area katabi pa ng mga hatchet men ng mga sindikato. Kaya dito sa likod ng PNPA, at sabi nga ni Tingting meron pang nasa labas ng bakod na talagang lupa ng PNPA, ito ay dapat gawing pabahay.

Kanina tinanong ko ano ang nangyari na dito sa ating proyektong pabahay lalo na't nandito si Vice-President de Castro na siya ang namamahala sa ating pabahay. Hinihintay pala yung Memorandum of Agreement ng PNPA at AFP dahil officially pala ang may-ari ng lupa ay AFP gawa nang ang PCI dating bahagi ng AFP. Eh sabi ko keysa maghihintay pa tayo ng red tape nung Memorandum of Understanding, 'di pagbigyan na natin, gawin nating joint housing for the AFP and the PNP itong lupa sa likod at lupa sa tabi. (applause)

The 2008 budget allocates P12 billion for a 10 percent increase in the basic salary of civilian, military and uniformed personnel starting July kasama ang ating mga pulis. (applause)

For the remainder of my term until I step down in 2010, the best thing we can do is stay focused on further economic reforms while providing peace, order and stability. At yan ang trabaho ng ating bagong nagtapos, PNPA "Oman-Silang" Class 2008 — peace, order and stability.

From investigating and apprehending different kinds of criminals, petty thieves as well as the most dangerous of terrorists, nadadagdagan parati ang trabaho ng pulis, lalo na't magkabalikat ang pulis at sundalo sa laban kontra sa insurgency gawa ng ating Executive Order. Kaya kailangan pabilisin ang modernisasyon ng PNP. Lalo na't we have set 2010 as the deadline to win the war against insurgency.

I am glad that as of last year, we had succeeded in cutting by half the number of active insurgents compared to 2001. Ibig sabihin noon nag-ugat na ang reporma sa PNP.

Sa pag-unlad ng ekonomiya nagmula ang pondo upang madagdagan ang 15,000 na bagong pulis ang PNP sa loob ng tatlong taon. Tayo ay nasa pangalawang taon na nitong 5,000 a year for three years na bagong mga pulis. (applause) At sa halagang natipid natin sa pagbayad ng interes ng utang nagmula ang mga unang patrol cars na ipinamahagi sa mga istasyon ng kapulisan sa buong bansa.

Bahagi yun sa ating modernisasyon pero pinapabilis natin ang modernisasyon ng PNP, kasama dito ang pagbili ng dalawampu't tatlong helicopter at anim ang darating ngayon, itong taon. (applause) Kasama ang patrol craft para sa Maritime Command. Kasama ang specialization sa mga lugar ng turismo for tourism police — yun bang baywatch, ganun. Naka-shorts, sabi ni Vice-President de Castro. Totoo yun, sa Boracay hindi mo mahahalata kung sino ang pulis at sino ang turista dahil naka-shorts. For instance, in Cebu the top tourist attraction for foreign tourists, the placing of close circuit TV to protect the tourists.

Also bringing your weaponry to par with the syndicated crime, like night vision equipment and intelligence. And against terrorism, increased forensics and investigative crime laboratory aids.

Daragdagan pa rin ang mga patrol cars, di ba Sonny? Kahit na nagpalabas na tayo dadagdagan pa rin at dadagdagan din ang gasoline allocation, totoo ba yun? Kasi mahal ang presyo ng gasolina kaya kailangan dagdag ng allocation. Pero nagpapaalala tayo na dahil mahal ang gasolina ay huwag nating sayangin yung ating gasoline allocation.

Ang pangunahing hamon na hinaharap ng mga miyembro ng Class "Oman-Silang" 2008 sa pagpasok ninyo bilang regular na miyembro ng kapulisan o ng jail management o ng fire protection kasama ng mga datihan nang mga Mamang Pulis at Aleng Pulis, ay sugpuin ang krimen at ipairal ang proteksyon ng karaniwang mamamayan maging mula sa krimen, mula sa sunog at siguraduhin na yung mga kriminal ay hindi tumatakas mula sa ating mga preso. At importante rin ang paglaban kontra sa rebelyon. Kaya ang inyong trabaho itaguyod ang kapayapaan at katahimikan upang magpapatuloy ang ating kaunlaran.

You know, whenever I see members of the uniformed service, I remember the poem, 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' — "Theirs is not to reason why, theirs is but to do or die." Yan ang kapalit ng paghawak ng baril. Hindi

ang humahawak ng baril ang nag-phiphilosophize, ang nag-phiphilosophize ay yung mga totally civilian leaders. Kayo, ang inyong talagang problema — peace, order and stability.

When you start your regular service, you will see every single day as a challenge and an opportunity. Embrace the opportunity. That is how to apply what you have learned in the Academy and to grow as a professional, as an individual — yes, as a concerned citizen of our Republic. Pero nung nanduon ako sa PMA graduation pinaalala rin nung isang speaker, in return for your guns, there are certain civil rights that you have to give up and that is the right to speak politically. So, yun kasama doon ang disiplina.

At ako naman ay nakakatiyak na buong husay ninyong matutupad ang inyong katungkulan sapagkat gaya nang sabi ng inyong valedictorian, sinanay kayo sa PNPA upang manguna sa pagsugpo ng krimen at rebelyon, at bagamat hindi kayo makakasali sa pulitika maging magandang halimbawa ng bagong sibol na kapulisang nag-aalaga sa kaligtasan at katahimikan ng ating bansa.

Once more, to your parents and to you PNP “Oman-Silang” Class of 2008, Congratulations! More power!

Mabuhay! (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Speech during the 29th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), “Oman-Silang” Class 2008. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122509/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1058&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Cebu City Galing Pook Awards

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Cebu City Galing Pook Awards**

[Delivered in Cebu City, March 28, 2008]

Gapahalipay ako sa mga Lupong Tagapamayapa Volunteers nga maoy nagpadaog sa Cebu City sa Galing Pook Awards tungod sa programang Strengthening the Justice System in the Grassroots.

Gia-abi-abi ko sab si Mayor Tommy Osmena kay gihatag niya ang dungog sa mga volunteers kay matud pa niya, sila ang tinuod nga mida-og, ang “real and deserving winners.”

Alang kanako, kamong tanan ang midaog: ang otso syentos ka volunteers nga gasiguro nga dili maolayi ang pagdala ug hustisya sa barangay ug maoy nakatipig alang sa gobyerno ug milyones nga gastuhon unta sa mga korte; si Mayor Tommy Osmena kansang paghatag ug credit sa sa iyang katawhan gapakita sa iyang matuud nga pagka-lider; ug ang syudad sa Sugbo nga gapadayon sa pag-uswag tungod kay maayo ang serbisyong gidawat sa mga Sugbuhanon gikan sa ilang mga opisyales. Ang ika-upat nga midaog mao ang good governance sa mga lokal nga pamunuan kay aduna sila’y maayong role model sa Cebu City.

Ang ubang LGU’s mahimong mosunod sa mga paagi ninyo dinhi sa Cebu City. Makalipay nga 72% sa mga kasong gidala sa inyong mga barangay ang nasolbad sa pakigsabot. Sa tibuok nasod, kamo ra ang barangay mediation group nga gihatagan us saktong training. Ug ang trabaho sa mga volunteers gisuportahan gayod sa lokal nga pamunuan, sa pagpanguna ni Mayor Tommy Osmena nga maoy mihatag sa matag volunteer ug dagdag nga P 1,000 nga allowance kada bulan. Unta sundon sa ubang LGUs sa nasod ang mga gihimo sa mga volunteers dinhi.

Daghang mga syudad ug lungsod naga-hesitate nga adopthon ang gihimo dinhi tungod kay dili sila kulang ang ilang kwarta. Aduna’y solusyon ni-ini. Tingali, kadtong mga interesadong LGU’s makahangyo kang Mayor Osmena kung mahimong patabangon ang iyang kwarenta’y syete ka accredited trainors aron mo-extend ang mga representante sa ubang LGUs, ug ang pondong gamiton sa training mogikan sa 20% sa ilang IRA nga angay gamiton para sa mga development projects, labi na gayod kay gipadak-an ug maayo ang IRA karong tuig-a.

Ang gipadak-ang IRA ug ang gipadak-ang national budget gikan sa tough choices we have made on boosting revenues, cracking down on tax cheats, bringing reform to our revenue collection and modernizing our banking and financial sector.

2007 was the best year for the Philippine economy in over 30 years. Economic growth was 7.3 percent; a million new jobs were created; and foreign investments have been strong. We have been cited by London as the “offshore destination of the year” and by the International Data Corporation as the top global outsourcing destination after India. Kusog kaayo ang industriya sa BPO tungod sa mga call centers nga na-a sa syudad sa Cebu.

Just this month, the International Monetary Fund lauded our economic growth, the reduction in our budget deficit, low inflation and the improvement in investor confidence.

2008 holds real promise for a different reason. Not only do we expect continued strong growth, but as a result of our total economic overhaul, we are well-positioned to weather a global economic slowdown which, unfortunately, will affect all of us.

Our strengthened economic fortunes come none too soon, for there are clouds on the economic horizon that we must guard against. The global economy is facing significant challenges. The slowing of the economies in North American and Europe is top of mind in our calculations to protect our own economy. To that end, we have developed a program that includes: first, to ensure a surge in investments in people and infrastructure; second, to ensure that we continue to pursue anti-corruption initiatives and to cut red tape; and third, to blunt the rise in the cost of energy and rice by providing targeted relief to the poorest amongst us who suffer the most from the high global price of energy and rice.

These global forces are putting more strain on our working poor as prices for commodities like rice and fuel increase. We are a price-sensitive nation. So while our macroeconomics are strong, the benefits are still working their way down more slowly than we want to lift up our citizens who live and work payday to payday. We need a strong middle class to become a strong modern nation. We are working to soften the blow from the current global economic challenges to those working hardest to make it to the middle class.

The best thing we can do in the short term is to provide responsible, targeted relief to those most in need. The best thing we can do for the remainder of my term until I step down in 2010 is to stay focused on further economic reforms while providing peace, order and stability. My last two years will be dedicated to one objective: invest, invest and invest some more in the nation.

Ang Syudad sa Cebu naa'g maayong pagpamuno tungod kay ang inyong mga programa gapatipig ug pondo samtang paspas ug maayo ang gihatod nga mga serbisyo sa katawhan.

Ang atong mga Lupong Tagapamayapa volunteers dinhi daghan ug nahimo aron paspas ang paghatod sa hustisya sa mga pobre sa syudad sa Cebu. Tingali, pinaagi kang Mayor Tommy, mahimo ninyong padak-an kining inyong pagtabang sa mga kabos kun motabang kamo sa pagbantay sa presyo. Siguruhon nato nga ang presyo sa mga labing kinahanglanong palaliton dili molapas sa presyo sa listahan sa DTI, ug siguruhon sab nato nga kanunay nga dunay ibaligyang bugas sa mga pobrang barangay dinhi sa syudad.

Ang mga Lupong Tagapamayapa volunteers, kauban ang inyong Mayor, mao ang garbo sa pamunuan sa syudad sa Sugbo. Gasalig ako nga sa mga mosunod nga adlaw mas daghan pa ang inyong himuon aron labaw pan'g ma-ila ang iyong pagpromote sa Katarungang Pambarangay.

Daghan salamat sa gipakita ninyong maayong example.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Cebu City Galing Pook Awards. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122559/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1057&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Formal Launch of OFQ Savings Instruments of DBP and LBP with the Filipino Community in Hong Kong, March 30, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Formal Launch of OFQ Savings Instruments of DBP and LBP with the Filipino Community in
Hong Kong**

[Delivered at the Tiffin Lounge, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong, March 30, 2008]

Nagagalak ako na makasama kayong muli. Linggo ang karaniwang araw ng pagpapahinga, pero nandito kayo ngayong gabi kaya maraming, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

At narito si Secretary Romulo at saka si Ambassador Brady mula pa sa Beijing, dahil nowhere is foreign policy more important than in protecting and advancing the interests of our overseas workers, kayo ang napakaimportanteng layunin ng ating foreign policy lalo na doon nga sa mas malayong lugar kaysa Hong Kong — Bert I'd like to congratulate you all. The DFA recently reported a seaman released after 14 years in a Bangladeshi jail. At kung naalala ninyo noong ako ay nagpunta sa Saudi Arabia napalaya natin ang 700 na mga bilanggo. Ngayon meron namang 150 being freed from Middle East jails. At napaka-importante yun doon sa Middle East, dahil dalawang milyon ang Pilipino doon.

Pero dito sa Hong Kong popular na popular din ang Hong Kong bilang destination ng OFWs. Kayo ay 120,000 na Pilipinong nakatira at nagtatrabaho dito, at saludo sainyong lahat ng mga tagarito sa Hong Kong. Congratulations! Eh lang dapat naman, hindi matatawaran ang inyong sipag at ang inyong kalidad ng trabaho, yung inyong mabuting asal, yung inyong katapatan sa tungkulin. Kaya bagama't si Sonia Brady ay malayo, nandoon sa Beijing, meron tayong 120,000 Philippine ambassadors dito sa Hong Kong — kayo na nga ang ating overseas Filipinos.

At hindi lamang dito kaya mas lalong matimbang kayo sa ating bansang Pilipinas. Ipinagdarangal at binibigyan ng halaga ang inyong sakripisyo at katapatan sa inyong trabaho, sa inyong pamilya at sa ating bansa.

Kanina sabi ni Consul General, kumokonti na raw yung mga nag-e-emigrate mula sa Southern Europe, pero kung titignan natin yung Portugal, medyo mayaman-yaman na rin, 10 percent pa rin ang population nila ay Overseas Portuguese Workers kagaya ng Pilipinas, 10 percent.

Doon sa New Zealand, mayaman siya pero 25 percent ng New Zealand overseas din. Ang kaibahan ng New Zealand bagama't yung kanyang mga yuppie nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa pinapadalhan pa rin ng pera ng mom and pop yung anak na nasa ibang bansa. Ang mga Pilipino, kayo ang nagpapadala sa inyong pamilya ng inyong tulong, hindi the other way around, kaya tumutulong kayo sa pamilya niyo, tumutulong kayo sa ating bansa. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Ngunit hinahangad natin ang araw, gaya nang sabi ni Consul General na sana hindi na kailangang mangibang-bansa pa ang isang masipag na Pilipino upang makahanap ng disenteng trabaho. We're working for a strong and growing economy, to pave the day when Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job, and being an overseas worker is just another career option, not the only choice one has to earn a living.

A strong and growing economy is the central pillar that we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. And it is paying off: 2007 ang pinakamagandang taon para sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas sa mahigit tatlung taon. Kaya lamang pag malakas ang ekonomiya ay malakas din ang piso.

Kaya lang hindi rin kaila, talagang hindi kaila, na ang nakabawas ang paglakas ng piso sa panggastos ng mga pamilyang OFW. Kaya lang naman nakinabang din ang 80 milyong Pilipino dahil hindi tumama gaano sa kanila ang buong presyo ng pagtaas ng langis sa mundo. Kasi kung 55 pesos kada dollar ang palitan, gaya noong araw, mas mataas pa sana nang five pesos bawat litro ng presyo ng gasolina at diesel. Nabawasan din ang dolyar na utang ng gobyerno at mga korporasyon, kung kaya mas nailalaan natin sa budget para sa mga proyektong pangmasa. Bumaba rin ang singil sa pautang ng bansa, kaya mas mababa pa rin ang interest sa pabahay at pahiram sa negosyo, six percent na lamang yung Pag-ibig. Ngayon lang nangyari yun dahil yun sa malakas na piso. Kung hindi lumakas ang piso, mas malala pa sana ang pagtaas ng presyo sa bansa.

Ganunpaman, upang hindi lubhang mabigat ang paglakas ng piso sa mga OFW, nakita ninyo kaninang hapon ang mga masigasig na pagkilos ng ating administrasyon. Inatasan natin ang mga institusyong pinansiyal ng gobyerno na lumikha ng mga paraan upang lubus-lubusin ang pakinabang ng OFW sa inyong kinikita. Kung naalala ninyo noong Enero, hindi ba pumunta dito si Bise Presidente Noli de Castro para ilunsad yung programa sa Hedging ng Development Bank of the Philippines. Kasama niya noon si Mike Arroyo, ang aking asawa. He was here at that time para proteksiyunan ang halaga ng kinikita ninyo.

Sa programang Hedging, you can already decide, gaya nang sabi ni Jojo, what exchange rate you can change your U.S. dollars for your pesos in the future. Or you can get some insurance and have the option to sell your dollars for pesos in the future, either at a certain protected rate or at the prevailing market rate, whichever is better for you.

Itong DBP Hedging Program — ito nandito si President ng DBP, hindi ba nandiyan si Rey David, nakita ko. Ayun! Rey nabanggit na ba niyo kanina yung incentive to the first 100 OFWs? Ang DBP ay magbibigay ng incentive sa unang 100 OFWs na kukuha ng peso insurance. Bibigyan ng 50 percent discount sa insurance fee ng remittance. Basta lang hindi lalampas ng HK\$30,000 ha bawat buwan.

Samantala, mayron naman, binanggit na ni Consul General Vicente yung i-Net Negosyo Program ng DBP para maka-asenso, makaka-pagnegosyo ang inyong mga pamilya sa Pilipinas. Mayron isang bilyong pautang ang DBP para makapagtayo ng mga munting istasyon ng internet ang mga OFW.

Atin ding inilunsad ang mga programa ng Bangko Sentral, nandiyan ang ating Central Bank of the Philippines Governor, si Say Tetangco. Alam niyo si Say hindi yan pwedeng mautusan kasi independent yan sa national government, pero nandito siya kasi tinuturuan niya ng Financial Literacy program ang mga OFW. At nandito yung mga stock exchange para kayo ay mag-invest sa stock exchange, mas mabuti yun keysa doon sa mga pyramid. Yung stock exchange nakikita niyo minuto-minuto kung ano ang presyo ng inyong stock. Itong mga ito ay para magbigay ng kaalaman sa pera at mamuhunan ang mga OFW at sa inyong mga pamilya. Kasi hangad natin na bigyan ang mga OFW ng pagkakataong hindi lang maging Overseas Filipino Workers, hindi lang maging ambassador to Hong Kong kundi maging Overseas Filipino Investors or OFI's.

Isa pang programa, yung Tindahang Pinoy. Nung pumasok kayo meron kayong nakitang booth na Tindahang Pinoy, para sa gustong magbenta ng mga produktong Pinoy sa mga lugar na pinagtatrabahuan ng OFW. Pinagsama-sama nang mga Tindahang Pinoy ang iba't-ibang produkto na gawa sa atin, gaya ng Cornick o Boy Bawang, gapo diay amianan, broas at iba pang kakanin sa katimugan; sardinas mula sa Sarangani Bay — madami yatang taga South Cotabato diyan, magbenta kayo ng sardinas from Sarangani Bay sa Mindanao, at dried mango mula sa Cebu. At hindi lang pagkain. Bahagi din dito ang pagsasanay sa negosyo para sa uuwing OFW, na ipinapatupad ng OWWA, na noong araw ang namumuno ay ang ating bagong Secretary of Labor, si Nitoy Roque. Congratulations, Nitoy!

Ang DOLE at ang OWWA ay magbubukas ng call center training program para sa mga OFW dito sa Hong Kong. Di ba maraming OFW ditong mga teachers? Oh, mga teacher na magagaling mag-Ingles. O yung Ingles ninyo sa call center training ay lalaki pa ang kita niyo pagbalik sa Pilipinas. Ang training cost ay bibigyan ng subsidy ng OWWA, sa pamamagitan ng kanilang scholarships for OWWA members bilang paghahanda sa inyong pagbabalik-trabaho sa Pilipinas.

Yung Land Bank naman ligtas at abot-kaya basta meron kayong 20,000 pesos na minimum. In fact, itong 20,000 pesos mas maliit pa kaysa sa maraming time deposit, mas mataas ang interest for five years or ten years na deposito kaysa sa karaniwang pag-iimpok sa bangko.

Tungkol naman sa singil sa pagpapadala ng pera, may OFW Cash Card ang Land Bank na madaling gamitin at mas mura ang remittance. At nandiyan si Manny Pangilinan, isang OFW sa Hong Kong, by choice not by necessity. Yung Smart, hindi ba? Manny, yung Smart ay yun din ay electronic remittance. So, yun ang serbisyo ni Manny dahil alam niya ang buhay ng OFW bagamat mayaman na mayaman na OFW si Manny Pangilinan.

Anyway, binabati ko ang mga gumagamit ng mga produktong ito. Congratulations, to those who have availed of these products. Mahikayat nawa ang iba sa pakinabang ninyo sa mga programa ng gobyerno.

Siya nga pala, speaking of remittances, nandito si Congressman Danny Suarez. Ayan. Meron siyang panukalang batas, reducing the transaction cost for money remittances from abroad coursed through the Philippine Banking System and Remittance Centers paramakatulong sa ating OFW.

Magbalik tayo sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas. Malakas ang agos ng investment. We're close to balancing our budget. Pero nung araw, we had to make tough and unpopular decisions to raise revenues and crack down on tax cheats, so that we could invest in our physical infrastructure and in our people. Pero alam natin ang mga problemang humaharap sa ating bansa at kung ano ang inaasahan ng taong- bayan. And we are delivering the economy, education and the environment. Gusto natin na pag-uwi ninyo sa Pilipinas maganda ang uwian ninyo, na may trabaho kayo hindi lamang dahil sa reintegration program, ngunit dahil marami ang oportunidad sa Pilipinas.

Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong mga sakripisyo dito sa Hong Kong, sana pag-uwi ninyo sa Pilipinas maginhawa ang inyong buhay dahil sa ating mga pagsisikap na palakasin ang ekonomiya ng ating bansang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat at mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Speech of President Arroyo during the Formal Launch of OFQ Savings Instruments of DBP and LBP at the Reception with the Filipino Community in Hong Kong

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Formal Launch of OFQ Savings Instruments of DBP and LBP at the Reception with the Filipino
Community in Hong Kong**

[Delivered at the Tiffin Lounge, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong, March 30, 2008]

Maraming salamat. (applause)

Maraming salamat Secretary Romulo sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

At binabati natin ang ibang mga Cabinet members at national government officials na narito ngayon sa ating business mission; binabati ko rin ang ating mga elected officials na narito sa pamumuno ni Deputy Speaker Giraldo Villarosa ng Mindoro Occidental; (applause) binabati ko ang ating mga official na Pilipino na nandito sa Hong Kong at saka sa China sa pamumuno ni Ambassador Brady (applause) at saka ni Consul General Vicente; (applause) at binabati ko rin si Jojo, thank you; (applause) at kayong lahat na mga Pilipinong narito, mga minamahal kong ... (audio cut)... magandang gabi sa inyong lahat. (applause)

... (audio cut)... nagagalak na kasama kayo muli. (applause) Linggo ang karaniwang araw ng pagpapahinga, pero nandito kayo ngayong gabi kaya maraming, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

At narito si Secretary Romulo at saka si Ambassador Brady mula pa sa Beijing dahil nowhere is foreign policy more important than in protecting and advancing the interests of our overseas workers — kayo ang napakaimportanteng layunin ng ating foreign policy. (applause) Eh doon nga sa mas malayong lugar kay sa Hong Kong — Bert I'd like to congratulate you all. The DFA recently reported a seaman released after 14 years in a Bangladeshi jail. At kung naalala ninyo noong ako ay nagpunta sa Saudi Arabia napalaya natin ang 700 na mga bilanggo. Ngayon meron namang 150 being freed from Middle East jails. At napaka-importante yun doon sa Middle East dahil dalawang milyon ang Pilipino doon.

Pero dito sa Hong Kong popular na popular din ang Hong Kong bilang destination ng OFWs. Kayo ay 120,000 na Pilipinong nakatira at nagtatrabaho dito, at saludo kayong lahat ng lahat ng mga tagarito sa Hong Kong. Congratulations! (applause) Eh dapat naman, hindi mapapatawaran ang inyong sipag at ang inyong kalidad ng trabaho, yung inyong mabuting asal, yung inyong katapatan sa tungkulin. Kaya bagama't si Sonia Brady malayo, nandoon sa Beijing, meron tayong 120,000 Philippine ambassadors here in Hong Kong — Kayo na nga ang ating overseas Filipino. (applause)

At hindi lamang ito mas lalong matimbang kayo sa ating bansang Pilipinas. Ipinagdarangal at binibigyan ng halaga ang inyong sakripisyo at katapatan sa inyong trabaho, sa inyong pamilya, at sa ating bansa.

Kanina sabi ni Consul General, kumokonti na raw yung mga nag-e-emigrate mula sa Southern Europe pero kung titignan natin yung Portugal, medyo mayaman- yaman na rin, 10 percent pa rin ang population nila ay Overseas Portuguese Workers kagaya ng Pilipinas, 10 percent.

Doon sa New Zealand mayaman siya pero 25 percent ng New Zealand overseas din. Ang kaibahan ng New Zealand bagama't yung kanyang mga yuppie nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa pinapadalhan pa rin ng pera ng mom and pop doon sa anak na nasa ibang bansa. Ang mga Pilipino kayo ang nagpapadala sa inyong pamilya ng inyong tulong, hindi the other way around, kaya nagtutulong kayo sa pamilya niyo, tumutulong kayo sa ating bansa. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Ngunit hinahangad natin ang araw, gaya nang sabi ni Consul General na sana hindi na kailangang mangibang-bansa pa ang isang masipag na Pilipino upang makahanap ng desenteng trabaho. We're working for a strong and growing economy to pave the day when Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job, and being an overseas worker is just another career option, not the only choice one has to earn a living.

A strong and growing economy is the central pillar that we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. And it is paying off: 2007 ang pinakamagandang taon para sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas sa mahigit tatlong taon. Kaya lamang pag malakas ang ekonomiya ay malakas din ang piso.

Kaya lang hindi rin kaila, talagang hindi kaila, na ang nakabawas ang paglakas ng piso sa panggastos ng mga pamilyang OFW. Kanya lang naman nakinabang din ang 80 milyong Pilipino dahil hindi tumama gaano sa kanila ang buong presyo ng pagtaas ng langis sa mundo. Kasi kung 55 pesos kada dollar ang palitan, gaya noong araw, mas mataas pa sana nang five pesos bawat litro ng presyo ng gasolina at diesel. Nabawasan din ang dolyar na utang ng gobyerno at mga korporasyon, kaya mas nailalaan natin sa budget ang mga proyektong pangmasa. Bumaba rin ang singil sa pautang ng bansa, kaya mas mababa pa rin ang interest sa pabahay at pahiram sa negosyo, six percent na lamang yung Pag-ibig. Ngayon lang nangyari yun dahil yun sa malakas na piso. Kung hindi lumakas ang piso, mas malala pa sana ang pagtaas ng presyo sa bansa.

Ganunpaman, upang hindi lubhang mabigat ang paglakas ng piso sa mga OFW, nakita ninyo kaninang hapon ang mga masigasig na pagkilos ng ating administrasyon. Inatasan natin ang mga institusyong pinansiyal ng gobyerno na lumikha ng mga paraan upang lubus-lubusin ang pakinabang ng OFW sa inyong kinikita. Kung naalala ninyo noong Enero, hindi ba pumunta dito si Bise Presidente Noli de Castro para ilunsad yung programa sa hedging ng Development Bank of the Philippines. Kasama niya noon si Mike Arroyo, ang aking asawa. He was here at that time pati na rin si... kaya ito ay para proteksiyunan ang halaga ng kinikita ninyo.

Sa programang hedging, you can already decide, gaya nang sabi ni Jojo, what exchange rate you can change your U.S. dollars for your pesos in the future. Or you can get some insurance and have the option to sell your dollars for pesos in the future either at a certain protected rate or at the prevailing market rate, whichever is better for you.

Itong DBP Hedging Program — ito nandito si President ng DBP. Hindi ba nandiyan si Rey David, nakita ko. Ayun! nagre-raise pa nga... (applause) Rey, nabanggit na ba niyo kanina yung incentive to the first 100 OFWs? Ang DBP ay magbibigay ng incentive sa unang 100 OFWs na kukuha ng peso insurance. Bibigyan ng 50 percent discount sa insurance fee ng remittance. (applause) Basta lang hindi kayo... basta lang hindi lalampas ng HK\$30,000 ha bawat buwan.

Samantala, mayron naman, binanggit na ni Consul General Vicente yung i-Net Negosyo Program ng DBP para maka-asenso, makapagnegosyo ang inyong mga pamilya sa Pilipinas. Mayron isang bilyong pautang ang DBP para magtayo ng mga munting istasyon ng internet ang mga OFW.

Atin ding inilunsad ang mga programa ng Bangko Sentral, nandiyan ang ating Central Bank of the Philippines Governor, si Say Tetangco. Alam niyo si Say, (applause) hindi yan pwede mautusan kasi independent yan sa national government, pero nandito siya kasi tinuturuan yung Financial Literacy program ng mga OFW. At nandito yung mga stock exchange para kayo ay mag-invest sa stock exchange, mas mabuti yun key sa doon sa mga pyramid. Yung stock exchange nakikita niyo minuto-minuto kung ano ang presyo ng inyong stock. Itong mga ito ay para magbigay ng kaalaman sa pera at mamuhunan ang mga OFW at sa inyong mga pamilya. Kasi hangad natin na bigyan ang mga OFW ng pagkakataong hindi lang maging Overseas Filipino Workers, hindi lang maging ambassador to Hong Kong kungdi maging Overseas Filipino Investors or OFI. (applause)

Isa pang programa, yung Tindahan Pinoy. Nung pumasok kayo meron kayong nakitang booth Tindahan Pinoy para sa gustong magbenta ng mga produktong Pinoy sa mga lugar na pinagtatrabahuan ng OFW. Pinagsama-sama ang mga Tindahan Pinoy ang iba't-ibang produkto na gawa sa atin gaya ng Cornick o Boy Bawang — gapo diay amyanan — broas at iba pang kakanin sa katimugan, sardinas mula sa Sarangani Bay — andami yatang South Cotabato diyaan, magbenta kayo ng sardinas from Saranggani Bay sa Mindanao — at dried mango mula sa Cebu. At hindi lang pagkain. Bahagi din dito ang pagsasanay sa negosyo para sa uuwing OFW, na ipinapatupad ng OWWA,

na noong araw ang namumuno ng OWWA ay ang ating bagong Secretary of Labor, si Nitoy Roque. Congratulations, Nitoy! (applause)

Ang DOLE at ang OWWA ay magbubukas ng call center training program para sa mga OFW dito sa Hong Kong. Di ba maraming OFW dito teacher? Oh, mga teacher magaling mag Ingles. O yung Ingles ninyo sa call center training ay lalaki pa ang kita niyo pagbalik sa Pilipinas. Ang training cost ay bibigyan ng subsidy ng OWWA sa pamamagitan ng kanilang scholarships for OWWA members bilang paghanda sa inyong pagbalik-trabaho(audio cut)... sa Pilipinas.

Yung Land Bank naman (audio cut)... ligtas at abot-kaya basta meron kayong 20,000 pesos na minimum. In fact, itong 20,000 pesos mas maliit pa kaysa sa maraming time deposit, mas mataas ang interest for five years or ten years na deposito kaysa sa karaniwang pag-iimpok sa bangko.

Tungkol naman sa singil sa padala ng pera, may OFW Cash Card ang Land Bank na madaling gamitin at mas mura ang remittance. At nandiyan si Manny Pangilinan, isang OFW sa Hong Kong, by choice not by necessity. (applause) Yung Smart, hindi ba? Manny, yung Smart ay yun din ay electronic remittance. So, yun ang serbisyo ni Manny dahil alam niya ang buhay ng OFW bagamat mayaman na mayaman na OFW si Manny Pangilinan.

Anyway, binabati ko ang mga gumagamit ng mga produktong ito. Congratulations! to those who have availed of these products. Mahikayat nawa ang iba sa pakinabang ninyo sa mga programa ng gobyerno.

Siya nga pala, speaking of remittances, nandito si Congressman Danny Suarez. (applause) Ayan. Meron siyang panukalang batas, Reducing the Transaction Cost for Money Remittances from Abroad coursed through the Philippine Banking System and Remittance Centers para makatulong sa ating OFW. (applause)

Magbalik tayo sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas. Malakas ang agos ng investment. We're close to balancing our budget. Pero nung araw, we had to make tough and unpopular decisions to raise revenues and crack down on tax cheats, so that we could invest in our physical infrastructure and in our people. Pero alam natin ang mga problemang humaharap sa ating bansa at kung ano ang inaasahan ng taong- bayan. And we are delivering the economy, education and the environment. Gusto natin na pag-uwi ninyo sa Pilipinas maganda ang uwian ninyo, na may trabaho kayo hindi lamang dahil sa reintegration program ngunit dahil marami ang oportunidad sa Pilipinas.

Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong mga sakripisyo. Dito sa Hong Kong sana pag-uwi ninyo sa Pilipinas maginhawa ang inyong buhay dahil sa ating pagsikap na palakasin ang ekonomiya ng ating bansang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Formal Launch of OFQ Savings Instruments of DBP and LBP at the Reception with the Filipino Community in Hong Kong. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122432/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1056&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo in Hong Kong

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
In Hong Kong**

[Delivered on March 30, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Romulo sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin. Binabati natin ang ilang mga Cabinet Members at national government officials na naririto ngayon sa ating business mission. Binabati ko rin ang ating mga elected officials na naririto sa pamumuno ni Deputy Speaker Girlie Villarosa ng Mindoro Occidental. Binabati ko ang ating mga opisyal na Pilipino na nandito sa Hong Kong at saka sa China sa pamumuno ni Ambassador Brady at saka ni Consul General Vicente at binabati ko rin si Jojo, thank you! At kayong lahat na mga Pilipinong naririto, mga minamahal (transmission cut) magandang gabi sa inyong lahat!

Ako ay nagagalak na makasama kayong muli. Linggo ang karaniwang araw ng pahinga, pagpapahinga pero nandito kayo ngayong gabi kaya maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. At narito si Secretary Romulo at saka si Ambassador Brady mula pa sa Beijing dahil nowhere is foreign policy more important than in protecting and advancing the interest of our overseas workers, kayo ang napakaimportanteng layunin ng ating foreign policy. Doon nga sa mas malayong lugar kaysa sa Hong Kong, — Bert, I would like to congratulate you all. The DFA recently, reported that a seaman (was) released after fourteen (14) years in a Bangladeshi jail. At kung naaalaala ninyo, noong ako ay nagpunta sa Saudi Arabia, napalaya natin ang seven hundred (700) na mga bilanggo. Ngayon, mayroon na namang mga one hundred fifty (150) being released from Middle East jails. At napakaimportante iyon doon sa Middle East dahil dalawang milyon (2,000,000) ang mga Pilipino doon, pero dito sa Hong Kong — popular na popular din ang Hong Kong bilang destination ng mga OFW's. Kayo ay one hundred twenty thousand (120,000) na Pilipinong nakatira at nagtatrabaho rito at saludo kayong lahat — ng lahat ng mga taga-rito sa Hong Kong. Congratulations!

Dapat naman, hindi matatawaran ang inyong sipag at ang inyong kalidad ng trabaho, iyon inyong mabuting asal, iyon inyong katapatan sa tungkulin, kaya, bagamat si Sonia Brady ay malayo, nandoon sa Beijing, mayroon tayong one hundred twenty thousand (120,000) Philippine ambassadors here in Hong Kong, at kayo na nga iyon, ang ating mga overseas Filipino. At hindi lamang ito, mas lalong matimbang kayo sa ating bansang Pilipinas, ikinararantal at binibigyan ng halaga ang inyong sakripisyo at katapatan sa inyong trabaho, sa inyong pamilya at sa ating bansa.

Kanina sinabi ni Consul General, kuma-kaunti na raw iyong mga nag-i-immigrate mula sa Southern Europe. Pero kung titingnan natin iyong Portugal, medyo mayaman-yaman na rin, ten (10) percent pa rin ng population nila ay Overseas Portuguese Workers, kagaya ng Pilipinas, ten (10) percent. Doon sa New Zealand, mayaman siya, pero twenty five (25) percent ng New Zealand ay overseas (workers) din. Ang kaibahan ng New Zealand, bagamat iyong kanyang mga yate ay nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa, pinapadalhan pa rin ng pera ng mom and pap iyong anak na nasa ibang bansa. Ang mga Pilipino, kayo ang nagpapadala sa inyong pamilya ng inyong tulong, hindi the other way around. Kaya, tumutulong kayo sa pamilya ninyo, tumutulong kayo sa ating bansa. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

Ngunit, hinahangad natin ang araw, kagaya ng sinabi ni Consul General na sana ay hindi na kailangang mangibang bansa pa ang isang masipag na Pilipino upang makahanap ng disentang trabaho. We are working for a strong and growing economy to pave the way when Filipino's no longer need to go abroad for a job and being an overseas worker is just another career option, not the only choice for (someone) to earn a living. A strong and growing economy is the central pillar that we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. And it is paying off, 2007 ang pinakamagandang taon para sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas sa mahigit na talumpung (30) taon. Kaya lamang, kapag malakas ang ekonomiya ay malakas din ang piso. Kaya lang hindi rin kaila ang paglakas ng piso sa paggastos ng mga pamilyang OFW's. Kaya lang naman, nakinabang din ang eighty (80) milyong Pilipino dahil hindi gaanong tumama sa kanila ang buong presyo ng pagtaas ng langis sa mundo. Kasi

kung fifty five (55) pesos ang palitan kada dollar kagaya noong araw, mas mataas pa sana ng five (5) pesos ang bawat litro ng gasoline at diesel.

Nabawasan din ang dolyar na utang ng gobyerno at mga korporasyon kaya mas nailalaan natin sa budget ang mga proyektong pang-masa. Bumaba rin ang singil sa pautang ng bansa, kaya mas mababa rin ang interest sa pabahay at pahiram sa negosyo. Six (6) percent na lamang iyong Pag-ibig, ngayon lang nangyari iyon, dahil iyon sa malakas na piso. Kung hindi lumakas ang piso, mas malala pa sana ang pagtaas ng presyo sa bansa.

Ganunpaman, upang hindi maging lubhang mabigat ang paglakas ng piso sa mga OFW's, nakita ninyo kaninang hapon ang mga masigasig na pagkilos ng ating administrasyon. Inatasan natin ang mga institusyong pinansiyal ng gobyerno na lumikha ng mga paraan upang lubos-lubusin ang pakinabang ng mga OFW's na inyong kinikita.

Kung naaalaala ninyo, noong Enero, hindi ba pumunta rito si Bise Presidente Noli De Castro para ilunsad iyong programa sa Hedging ng Development Bank of the Philippines. Kasama niya noon si Mike Arroyo, ang aking asawa, he was here at that time. Ito ay para proteksiyunan ang halaga ng mga kinikita ninyo. Sa programang Hedging, you can already decide, kagaya ng sinabi ni Jojo, kung what exchange rate at you can change your US Dollars into Pesos in the future or you can get some insurance and have the option to sell your Dollars for Pesos in the future, either at a certain projected rate or at the prevailing market rate, whichever is better for you. Itong DBP Hedging Program, heto nandito ang President ng DBP, hindi ba nandiyan si Rey David, nakita ko? Hayun! Rey, nabanggit na ba ninyo kanina iyong incentive to the first one hundred (100) OFW's? Ang DBP ay magbibigay ng incentive sa unang one hundred (100) OFW's na kukuha ng Peso Insurance. Bibigyan ng fifty (50) percent discount sa insurance fee ng remittance, basta lang hindi lalampas ng thirty thousand (30,000) dollars bawat buwan. Samantala, mayroon naman binanggit si Consul General Vicente, iyong I-net Negosyo Program ng DBP para makaasenso, makapagnegosyo ang inyong mga pamilya sa Pilipinas. Mayroong isang bilyong (1,000,000,000) pautang ang DBP para magtayo ng mga munting estasyon ng internet ang mga OFW's.

Atin ding inilunsad ang mga programa ng Bangko Sentral, nandiyan ang ating Central Bank Governor, si Say Tetangco, alam ninyo si Say, hindi iyan puwedeng mautusan kasi independent iyan sa national government, pero nandito siya kasi itinaturo niya iyong Financial Literacy Program sa mga OFW's. At nandito iyong mga stock exchange para kayo ay mag-invest sa stock exchange. Mas mabuti iyon kaysa doon sa mga pyramids. Iyong stock exchange, nakikita ninyo minu-minuto kung ano ang presyo ng inyong stocks. Itong mga ito ay para magbigay ng kaalaman sa pera at mamuhunan ang mga OFW's para sa inyong mga pamilya. Kasi hangad natin na bigyan ang mga OFW's ng pagkakataon, hindi lang para maging overseas workers, hindi lang para maging ambassador to Hong Kong, kung hindi para maging Overseas Filipino Investors o OFI's. Isa pang programa ay iyong Tindahang Pinoy. Noong pumasok kayo, (hindi ba) mayroon kayong nakitang booth? Iyon ay Tindahang Pinoy. Iyon ay para sa mga gustong magbenta ng mga produktong Pinoy sa mga lugar na pinagtatrabahuhan ng mga OFW's. Pinagsama-sama ng Tindahang Pinoy ang mga ibat-ibang produkto na gawa sa atin, kagaya ng Kornik o Boy Bawang, gapo diyay Amianan, broas at iba pang kakanin na nagmula sa Katimugan; sardinas na mula sa Saranggani Bay — ang dami yatang mula sa South Cotabato diyan, magbenta kayo ng sardines from Saranggani Bay sa Mindanao at dried mango mula sa Cebu. Hindi lang pagkain, bahagi rin dito ang pagsasanay sa negosyo para sa mga uuwing OFW's na pinapatupad ng OWWA, na noong araw, ang namumuno ng OWWA ay ating bagong Secretary of Labor, si Nitoy Roque. Congratulations Nitoy! Ang DOLE at ang OWWA ay magbubukas ng call center training program para sa mga OFW's na nandito sa Hong Kong. Hindi ba maraming OFW's na teachers? Mga teachers na magaling mag-Ingles? Iyong Ingles ninyo, kapag may call center training (kayo) lalong lalaki ang kita ninyo pagdating sa Pilipinas. Ang training cost ay bibigyan ng subsidy ng OWWA, sa pamamagitan ng kanilang scholarship for OWWA members bilang paghahanda sa inyong pagbabalik-trabaho sa Pilipinas. Iyong Land Bank naman, (coverage cut) ligtas at abot-kaya, basta mayroon kayong twenty thousand (P20,000) pesos na minimum. In fact, itong twenty thousand ay mas maliit pa kaysa maraming time deposit, mas tataas ang interest for five (5) years or ten (10) years na deposito kaysa sa karaniwang pag-iimpok sa bangko.

Tungkol naman sa singil sa padala ng pera, may OFW Cash Card ang Land Bank na mas madaling gamitin at mas mura ang remittance. Nandiyan si Manny Pangilinan, isang OFW sa Hong Kong, by choice, not by necessity, iyong Smart hindi ba? Manny iyong Smart, iyon din ay electronic remittance. So, iyon ang serbisyo ni Manny dahil alam niya ang buhay ng OFW. Bagamat mayaman na mayaman na OFW si Manny Pangilinan.

Anyway, binabati ko ang mga gumagamit ng mga produktong ito, congratulations to those who have availed of these products. Mahikayat nawa ang iba sa pakinabang ninyo, sa mga programa ng gobyerno. Siya nga pala, speaking of remittances, nandito si Congressman Danny Suarez. Mayroon siyang panukalang batas, reducing the transaction cost for money remittances from abroad coursed to the Philippines Banking System and remittance centers para makatulong sa ating mga OFW's.

Magbalik tayo sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas, malakas ang agos ng investment, we are close to balancing our budget. Pero noong araw, we have to make tough and unpopular decisions to raise revenues and crackdown on tax cheats so that we could invest in our physical infrastructures and in our people. Pero alam natin ang mga problemang humaharap sa ating bansa at kung ano ang inaasahan ng taumbayan and we are delivering the economy, the education and the environment. Gusto natin na pag-uwi ninyo sa Pilipinas, maganda ang uuwian ninyo, na may trabaho kayo, hindi lamang dahil sa Reintegration Program, ngunit dahil sa marami ang oportunidad sa Pilipinas. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong mga sakripisyo dito sa Hong Kong. Sana sa pag-uwi ninyo sa Pilipinas, maginhawa ang inyong buhay dahil sa ating pagsisikap na palakasin ang ekonomiya ng ating bansang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Hong Kong. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122348/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1055&Itemid=38

**Keynote Address of President Arroyo at the 11th Asian Investment Conference with the theme
“Modernization, Investing in the Future”, March 31, 2008 Keynote Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 11th Asian Investment Conference with the theme “Modernization, Investing in the Future”**

[Delivered at the Main Ballroom of Conrad International Hotel, Hong Kong, China, March 31, 2008]

The year 2007 was the best year for the Philippine economy in over 30 years. Economic growth was 7.3 percent; a million new jobs were created; and foreign investments have been steady and strong. We have been cited by London as the “offshore destination of the year” and by the International Data Corporation as the top global outsourcing destination after India.

Our billion-dollar investment club includes Texas Instruments, with its new 1.6 billion-dollar wafer fabrication facility under construction and two shipyards of Hanjin, one up and one coming up costing 3.7 billion-dollar total, which makes us the fourth biggest shipbuilder in the world. In addition, Marubeni, and AES have each invested billions of dollars in our power sector. They have joined the ranks of Shell and Proctor and Gamble, to name but a few of our major investors.

We will continue to be increasingly strong in manufacturing, high technology, services across the board from outsourcing to aircraft maintenance, as well as tourism and real estate. We see many, many opportunities for investors—the Philippines one of the best values in Asia. We hope you all find out why.

Just this month, the International Monetary Fund lauded our economic growth, the substantial reduction in our budget deficit, low inflation and the improvement in investor confidence.

The IMF executive directors highlighted, in particular, our fine Central Bank for smoothening foreign exchange fluctuations as the peso touched an eight-year high against the U.S. dollar in recent months. During this same time, the country’s foreign exchange reserves reached a record high.

2008 holds real promise for a different reason. Not only do we expect continued strong growth, but as a result of our total economic overhaul, we are well-positioned to weather a global economic slowdown which, unfortunately, will affect all of us.

The real story for 2008 is that, our macroeconomic fundamentals are stronger than ever due to tough choices we have made on boosting revenues, cracking down on tax cheats, bringing reform to our revenue collection and modernizing our banking and financial sector. We have reformed our budget to be in balance ahead of the medium-term plan schedule of 2010.

Last year, our deficit was only P12.4 billion, the lowest in ten years and far below the ceiling of P63 billion. Revenues were up 16 percent from 2006. Seven years ago, no one thought we could do it, but we have. There will be no rest. We are continuing the pace of progress that has succeeded in strengthening our economy.

Tax revenues in 2008 aren’t stagnant: they are up 17% over 2007. They will continue to improve with more money for enforcement, modernization and computerization and closing of loopholes.

This maturity in our economy has brought with it a new confidence, that forms the foundation of sustained economic growth moving forward. We are at a tipping point. I’m confident that the Philippines will tip forward in pursuit of reaching the threshold of first-world nation within a generation.

Our strengthened economic fortunes come none too soon, for as we are all very aware, there are clouds on the economic horizon that we must guard against. The global economy is facing significant challenges. The slowing of the economies in North America and Europe is top of mind in our calculations to protect our own economy. To that end, we have developed a program that includes: first, to ensure a surge in investments in people and infrastructure; second, to ensure that we continue to pursue anti-corruption initiatives and to cut red tape; and third, to blunt the global rise in the cost of energy and rice by providing targeted relief to the poorest amongst us, who suffer the most from the high global price of energy and food.

These global forces are putting more strain on our working poor as prices for commodities like rice and fuel increase. We are a price-sensitive nation. So while our macroeconomics are strong, the benefits are still working their way down more slowly, than we want to lift up our citizens who live and work paycheck to paycheck. We need a strong middle class to become a strong modern nation. Our middle class made up of the families of the overseas Filipino workers. We are working to mitigate the impact of the movement of the peso on them. We are working to soften the blow from the current global economic challenges, to those working hardest to make it into the middle class.

The best thing we can do in the short term is provide responsible, targeted relief to those most in need.

The political environment will not force us to do anything we do not think is in the best interests of the nation. The economic environment, however, will dictate that we provide a buffer, as much as prudently possible, to the poorest who suffer most from rapidly rising prices. We will continue on the path of reform and economic discipline; the near-term pain will provide long-term gain for our nation. It may not be popular, but it is setting the nation on a new course. Within our existing budget, we will frontload investments to stimulate the economy and we will provide additional funds to help cushion the high price of fuel and food.

The best thing we can do for the remainder of my term until I step down in 2010, is to stay focused on further economic reforms while providing peace, order and stability. Most importantly, my last two years will be dedicated to one main objective: to invest, invest and invest some more in our nation.

The National Budget which I signed a few weeks ago, provides a roadmap for realizing our priorities in 2008 and for the remainder of my term. It should provide you with a sense of our priorities.

First, the budget reflects our values and policy priorities for investing in our people. This budget invests in what we call the three 'E's,' the essential building blocks of our nation, namely, the economy, education and the environment. Every Filipino wants a good job, food on the table, sound education for their children and a healthy environment with clean air, clean water and dean land.

Second, our budget represents another important step in the economic development of the Philippines – namely, fiscal discipline. We have the strongest economy in over thirty years as a result of the tough reforms.

We have been able to strike the appropriate balance, since coming to office between the competing objectives of spending more on much-needed social programs and public investment and keeping the fiscal deficit low. Part of the plan includes, a march toward a balanced budget for the first time in many years.

Lastly, this budget proves once again that members of Congress from both the House and the Senate and all parties can come together, to work with the Executive branch to get things done for the nation. Political noise need not interfere with economic progress and reform.

Our budget provides a buffer to mitigate the pain of a deteriorating global economy, and the accompanying rise in prices which affects food and transportation, the most. It is a budget dedicated to investing in the vital physical and human infrastructure, to continue to modernize our nation. Roads, bridges and ports along with education and healthcare, build up the foundation of the nation and make us more competitive.

Let me also address head-on the issue of corruption. It is an issue we take seriously. As an economist, I know that first and foremost, a strong economy is an economy that is transparent and free from corruption. We are freeing ourselves of the shackles of corruption evidenced by our growing economy, which is increasingly free of corruption and inefficiency. Our budget invests more and more to clean up the culture of corruption. It pumps billions of pesos into the country's investigative arm to weed out corruption.

We have called on Congress to pass a comprehensive anti-corruption reform act in 2008. We will hold officials accountable, if they are found to be corrupt. For our part, any allegations of wrong doing go straight to the independent Ombudsman. We will let the chips fall where they may, as investigations are concluded and friend and foe alike are brought to account for their actions.

While we have accomplished much, much more remains to be done. We plan on working hard the next two years until the day our term ends in 2010, to fulfill our Philippine Reform Agenda.

This includes legislative efforts to continue to improve our banking and finance system; to strengthen our tax collections and to continue to broaden our tax payer base; and crack down on corruption and reduce red tape. We will balance needed investments in our people and infrastructure, with a prudent eye toward fiscal discipline. We will invest most where the country will benefit most: in the economy, education and the environment.

We must and we will press forward with more reforms. We will fight for the economy, education and the environment. We will fight to feed the poor, improve job creation and do everything in our power to mitigate the global forces increasing the price of commodities, like oil and rice.

Overall, we remain bullish on our economy, optimistic about our future and deeply committed to being a force for good in our nation and in our region.

Thank you for your interest in the Philippines and for a strong, united Asia. Thank you.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat at mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Keynote Address of President Arroyo at the 11th Asian Investment Conference “Modernization, Investing in the Future”

**Keynote Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 11th Asian Investment Conference “Modernization, Investing in the Future”**

[Delivered at the Main Ballroom of Conrad International Hotel, Hong Kong, March 31, 2008]

2007 was the best year for the Philippine economy in over 30 years. Economic growth was 7.3 percent; a million new jobs were created; and foreign investments have been steady and strong. We have been cited by London as the “offshore destination of the year” and by the International Data Corporation as the top global outsourcing destination after India.

Our billion-dollar investment club includes Texas Instruments with its new 1.6 billion-dollar wafer fabrication facility under construction and two shipyards of Hanjin, one up and one coming up costing 3.7 billion-dollar total which makes us the fourth biggest shipbuilder in the world. In addition, Marubeni, and AES have each invested billions of dollars in our power sector. They have joined the ranks of Shell and Proctor and Gamble, to name but a few of our major investors.

We will continue to be increasingly strong in manufacturing, high technology, services across the board from outsourcing to aircraft maintenance, as well as tourism and real estate. We see many, many opportunities for investors; the Philippines one of the best values in Asia. We hope you all find out why.

Just this month, the International Monetary Fund lauded our economic growth, the substantial reduction in our budget deficit, low inflation and the improvement in investor confidence.

The IMF executive directors highlighted, in particular, our fine central bank for smoothening foreign exchange fluctuations as the peso touched an eight-year high against the U.S. dollar in recent months. During this same time, the country’s foreign exchange reserves reached a record high.

2008 holds real promise for a different reason. Not only do we expect continued strong growth, but as a result of our total economic overhaul, we are well-positioned to weather a global economic slowdown which, unfortunately, will affect all of us.

The real story for 2008 is that our macroeconomic fundamentals are stronger than ever due to tough choices we have made on boosting revenues, cracking down on tax cheats, bringing reform to our revenue collection and modernizing our banking and financial sector.

We have reformed our budget to be in balance ahead of the medium- term plan schedule of 2010.

Last year, our deficit was only P12.4 billion, the lowest in ten years and far below the ceiling of P63 billion. Revenues were up 16 percent from 2006. Seven years ago, no one thought we could do it, but we have. There will be no rest. We are continuing the pace of progress that has succeeded in strengthening our economy.

Tax revenues in 2008 aren’t stagnant: they are up 17% over 2007. They will continue to improve with more money for enforcement, modernization and computerization and closing of loopholes.

This maturity in our economy has brought with it a new confidence that forms the foundation of sustained economic growth moving forward. We are at a tipping point. I’m confident that the Philippines will tip forward in pursuit of reaching the threshold of first-world nation within a generation.

Our strengthened economic fortunes come none too soon, for as we are all very aware, there are clouds on the economic horizon that we must guard against. The global economy is facing significant challenges. The slowing of the economies in North America and Europe is top of mind in our calculations to protect our own economy. To that end, we have developed a program that includes: first, to ensure a surge in investments in people and infrastructure; second, to ensure that we continue to pursue anti-corruption initiatives and to cut red tape; and third, to blunt the global rise in the cost of energy and rice by providing targeted relief to the poorest amongst us who suffer the most from the high global price of energy and food.

These global forces are putting more strain on our working poor as prices for commodities like rice and fuel increase. We are a price-sensitive nation. So while our macroeconomics are strong, the benefits are still working their way down more slowly than we want to lift up our citizens who live and work paycheck to paycheck. We need a strong middle class to become a strong modern nation. Our middle class made up of the families of the overseas Filipino workers. We are working to mitigate the impact of the movement of the peso on them. We are working to soften the blow from the current global economic challenges to those working hardest to make it into the middle class.

The best thing we can do in the short term is provide responsible, targeted relief to those most in need.

The political environment will not force us to do anything we do not think is in the best interests of the nation. The economic environment, however, will dictate that we provide a buffer, as much as prudently possible, to the poorest who suffer most from rapidly rising prices. We will continue on the path of reform and economic discipline; the near-term pain will provide long-term gain for our nation. It may not be popular, but it is setting the nation on a new course. Within our existing budget, we will frontload investments to stimulate the economy and we will provide additional funds to help cushion the high price of fuel and food.

The best thing we can do for the remainder of my term until I step down in 2010 is to stay focused on further economic reforms while providing peace, order and stability. Most importantly, my last two years will be dedicated to one main objective: to invest, invest and invest some more in our nation.

The national budget which I signed a few weeks ago provides a roadmap for realizing our priorities in 2008 and for the remainder of my term. It should provide you with a sense of our priorities.

First, the budget reflects our values and policy priorities for investing in our people. This budget invests in what we call the three 'E's,' the essential building blocks of our nation, namely, the economy, education and the environment. Every Filipino wants a good job, food on the table, sound education for their children and a healthy environment with clean air, clean water and clean land.

Second, our budget represents another important step in the economic development of the Philippines – namely, fiscal discipline. We have the strongest economy in over thirty years as a result of the tough reforms.

We have been able to strike the appropriate balance since coming to office between the competing objectives of spending more on much-needed social programs and public investment and keeping the fiscal deficit low.

Part of the plan includes a march toward a balanced budget for the first time in many years.

Lastly, this budget proves once again that members of Congress from both the House and the Senate and all parties can come together to work with the executive branch to get things done for the nation. Political noise need not interfere with economic progress and reform.

Our budget provides a buffer to mitigate the pain of a deteriorating global economy and the accompanying rise in prices which affects food and transportation the most. It is a budget dedicated to investing in the vital physical and human infrastructure to continue to modernize our nation. Roads, bridges and ports along with education and healthcare build up the foundation of the nation and make us more competitive.

Let me also address head-on the issue of corruption. It is an issue we take seriously. As an economist, I know that first and foremost, a strong economy is an economy that is transparent and free from corruption. We are freeing ourselves of the shackles of corruption evidenced by our growing economy – which is increasingly free of corruption and inefficiency. Our budget invests more and more to clean up the culture of corruption. It pumps billions of pesos into the country's investigative arm to weed out corruption.

We have called on Congress to pass a comprehensive anti-corruption reform act in 2008. We will hold officials accountable if they are found to be corrupt. For our part, any allegations of wrong doing go straight to the independent Ombudsman. We will let the chips fall where they may as investigations are concluded and friend and foe alike are brought to account for their actions.

While we have accomplished much, much more remains to be done. We plan on working hard the next two years until the day our term ends in 2010 to fulfill our Philippine reform agenda.

This includes legislative efforts to continue to improve our banking and finance system; to strengthen our tax collections and to continue to broaden our tax payer base; and crack down on corruption and reduce red tape. We will balance needed investments in our people and infrastructure with a prudent eye toward fiscal discipline. We will invest most where the country will benefit most: in the economy, education and the environment.

We must and we will press forward with more reforms. We will fight for the economy, education and the environment. We will fight to feed the poor, improve job creation and do everything in our power to mitigate the global forces increasing the price of commodities like oil and rice.

Overall, we remain bullish on our economy, optimistic about our future and deeply committed to being a force for good in our nation and in our region.

Thank you for your interest in the Philippines and for a strong, united Asia.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Keynote address at the 11th Asian Investment Conference "Modernization, Investing in the Future". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122300/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1054&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a State Banquet in Honor of President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. and First Lady Debbie Remengasau of the Republic of Palau

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a State Banquet in Honor of President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. and First Lady Debbie Remengasau
of the Republic of Palau**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, April 02, 2008]

President Tommy Remengesau and Madame Debbie, other very distinguished members of the Palau delegation, Vice-President de Castro and other officials of the Philippine government, His Excellency Archbishop Adams and the members of the diplomatic corps, members of the business community, admirers of Palau, ladies and gentlemen.

It is our great pleasure to welcome one of Palau's most youthful and energetic leaders. Not just one of Palau's leaders but one of the leaders of our region, especially in the field of environment.

His Excellency holds the distinction of being the first and the youngest in so many ways in Palau. He was the youngest senator elected to the Palau National Congress at the age of 28. He was the youngest Vice President to be elected in Palau. And at 44 years old he was the youngest President to be elected in Palau.

His Excellency is younger than the friendship of our two countries which dates back to the 1940s immediately after the second world war and almost 50 years before Palau gained independence, when some Filipino servicemen of the United States Navy were invited to work in Palau to commission a power plant. Today, there are some 4,000 Filipinos working and residing in Palau and we are proud of their contribution to Palau's economic development.

His Excellency, President Remengesau is known to be a hero of environmental protection. And his efforts are certainly paying off because Palau is one of the most attractive spots in the world for diving tourism. And on our part, we also receive tourists from Palau especially in medical tourism.

President, His Excellency, knows that my daughter Luli has been diving in Palau. But his sister and many other officials and prominent citizens of Palau have also been availing of the medical services here as medical tourists. So, we have a wonderful interaction of people between our two countries.

That is why we were happy that today there was a signing of an amendment, an expansion of our air services agreement with each other, so that this two-way exchange of tourists, diving tourists and medical tourists, will become bigger than ever.

At a time when both Palau and the Philippines are making a name. The Philippines is also an attractive dive spot, among the most attractive dive spots in the world. When tourism is increasingly becoming a source of prosperity for many countries, it's imperative that we both stay focused on containing to strengthen our respective economies through aggressive outreach to investors and to enhance our cooperation with each other.

That's why we're very happy to receive His Excellency today. Palau is only two hours flight away from the Philippines. We are the closest neighbor of Palau and therefore it is really good for both of our countries to be more aware of each other, more familiar with each other's people and more familiar with each other's culture and attractions and have more economic exchange with each other.

We appreciate that among our economic interactions, we have Filipino companies who do business with Palau, especially the Filipino companies who do fishing business in Palau in joint ventures. We have two of them doing

joint ventures. And we hope that we can soon forge a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Fisheries Cooperation so that this economic exchange will expand even more.

In addition to that, His Excellency the President, is inviting economic cooperation on the development of the aquaculture of Palau because in a country that receives so many tourists, they do need to serve in a lot of grouper and crabs. And so we can do that economic cooperation with them, one of the many potential engagements we can have with each other that we were able to discuss in our bilateral conversation today.

We're also very happy that PLDT signed an agreement with the Telecommunications Commission of Palau so that they will avail of the mobile and fiber optic services of our corporation. And with our fiber optics connecting Palau and the Philippines that will be another connection aside from air connection and sea connection.

Indeed, it's important for us to work together because there are global forces in the world today that threaten the resiliency of our respective economies.

I'm speaking about global forces outside our control including a major economic slowdown in North America. Both our countries have a great economic interaction with the United States, so we know that we must both work together to reduce our vulnerability to any slowdown that should occur in the United States.

We also are both oil-importing countries, so we both have to work together with other countries on how to cope with a historic spike in the price of oil. We are both rice-importing countries, so we also have to work together to exchange ideas on how we can help the vast majority of the poor in our population cope with the near crippling spike in the price of rice.

So, His Excellency's State Visit is an action to continue to bolster our economies through more economic exchange and to confer with each other on cooperative steps we can take to cushion ourselves in the Pacific against these global issues.

We want to learn more from Palau as far as their championship of the environment is concerned.

On our part, we are happy also that there will be exchanges between our higher educational system and that of Palau. More exchanges of people and more exchanges of ideas.

So, we thank Your Excellency for honoring us with this state visit. It certainly enhances our interest in the growing economic fortunes of Palau.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a toast to the health and happiness of President and Mrs. Remengesau and to the evolving partnership between Palau and the Philippines.

Mabuhay!

Mabuhay, Mr. President! Debbie, Mabuhay! (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During a State Banquet in Honor of President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. and First Lady Debbie Remengasau of the Republic of Palau. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122231/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1361&Itemid=38

Keynote Speech of President Arroyo during the National Food Summit

Keynote Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the National Food Summit

[Delivered at the Fontana Convention Center, Clark Air Base, April 4, 2008]

A strong and growing economy is the central pillar we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. It is paying off: we have the strongest economy in over 30 years, a strong peso, with investments surging in, and we are close to balancing the budget.

Our economic comeback comes none too soon, for there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice.

Half of the planet depends on rice but stocks are at their lowest since the mid-1970s when Bangladesh suffered a terrible famine. Rice production will fall this year below the global consumption level of 430 million tons.

Wheat is suffering greater pressures, with price up 115 percent in a year.

Farmers worldwide are worried about feed costs.

For the last seven years we have been spending P20 billion a year from budget and off-budget sources on Philippine Agriculture.

Since the global situation became apparent many months ago, I have been committed to helping increase and stabilize the supply of rice, as well as to deliver targeted subsidies to the poor who are most directly affected by the global price rises. We have reached out to our neighbors in Vietnam and others in ASEAN to ensure stable rice supplies. We have directed our government to crack down on price gouging; increase the supply of rice where necessary; invest more in planting and agricultural modernization; and to provide rice subsidies for our poor. I have delivered rice to the poor and gone to markets across the country to spot-check prices to protect our consumers.

We must work harder to grow and breed what we need.

We are going to cluster our food production drive in six assistance packages, which are the essential ingredients in making food abundant, accessible and affordable. It is called FIELDS – F-I-E-L-D-S. F is for fertilizer. I is for irrigation and infrastructure. E is for extension and education. L is for loans and insurance. D is for dryers and other post-harvest facilities. S is for seeds.

On fertilizer, we will renew our push for organic fertilizer because the price of urea fertilizer, being oil-based, has increased 200 percent in the last two years. We must set aside P500 million from the ACEF fund for fertilizer support and production, especially for organic fertilizers. Specifically, the DA must utilize proven technologies like Bio-N to increase the yields of rice farmers in the current wet season and third crop.

On irrigation and infrastructure, I direct NIA to finish the rehabilitation of irrigation systems by 2010. On new construction, we encourage small irrigation systems, except for the large ones we have already committed to, like Kabunanan, Balintingan, Malmar and San Roque. We will spend P6 billion a year on irrigation and P6 billion on infrastructure, including farm to market roads, roll-on-roll-off ferry ports, and no-frills airports for agricultural cargo.

On extension and education, we recognize the importance of continuous training of farmers and fisherfolk on new technology. I instruct the DA to continuously implement programs and interventions with close cooperation from the DILG and the LGUs, as well as the DOST, aimed at training more trainors and technicians on new technology for dissemination to farmers; utilize the SUCs in its extension-related activities; provide more funds for training of farmers and fisherfolk on new and emerging technology. We will allocate P2 billion in research and development, P1 billion in capability building, P1 billion in trainors and technicians and P1 billion in the agricultural and fisheries education system.

On loans, I direct Secretary Yap to study how to maximize bank compliance to the agri-agra law. Meanwhile, the government financial institutions can assure P15 billion available for agricultural credit. But for farmers to have access to all this formal credit, I ask Congress to enact a law making farm land acceptable as loan collateral.

On dryers and other post-harvest facilities, I instruct the DA to establish appropriate integrated processing and trading centers in collaboration with the private sector, like the cold chain system and rice and corn processing centers. We will spend P2 billion on this from budget and off-budget sources.

On seeds, the most important is to support the seed growers. Their success will enable rainfed-lowland areas presently planted to good seeds to migrate to certified rice seeds and those planted to certified seeds, to migrate to hybrid seeds. Some 600,000 hectares this year will be targeted all over the country for certified seeds, with another 900,000 hectares for hybrid seeds planted by our farmers from 2009-2010. We must sustain funding this program which will require P2.7 billion for hybrid seeds and P6.5 billion for certified seeds for 5 harvests from 2009 until 2010.

In all these programs, we must be transparent. We will work to fix the corruption that still plagues our nation, including in the agri-business sector. We especially prohibit officials from dealing with fertilizer brokers and agents. They can only deal with official distributors in the regions and provinces.

The DA, NFA and NBI shall strictly monitor rice deliveries and investigate cases of hoarding, price manipulation and other illegal activities. We are holding officials accountable that have found to be corrupt and conniving with unscrupulous traders; we are letting the chips fall where they may as investigations are concluded and friend and foe alike and brought to account for their actions.

I have directed the DA and NFA to cancel the existing licenses of rice traders, retailers and bodegas. They have to apply all over again for accreditation.

According to Congressman Baham Mitra, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, the DA cannot watch over all transactions. According to him, RA 6670 gives power to appoint more Deputy Ombudsmen. In 1990 such deputy was appointed for the military. Considering the fact that farm spending may now be bigger than defense spending, a Deputy Ombudsman may be needed in agriculture. The appointment of a Deputy Ombudsman will be pursuant to our transparency initiative. It will also ensure that money is spent wisely.

Many things are left to be done. We plan on working hard the next two years to fulfill my Agri-business Agenda until the day I leave office. We will fight for Economy, including food security, Education and the Environment. We remain bullish on our country, optimistic about our future and deeply committed to being a force for good.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Keynote Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the National Food Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122218/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1359&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Observance of the 66th Anniversary of “Araw ng Kagitingan”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Observance of the 66th Anniversary of “Araw ng Kagitingan”**

[Delivered at the Dambana ng Kagitingan, Mt. Samat Shrine, April 9, 2008]

Thank you very much, Secretary Teodoro. Thank you.

Her Excellency Kristie Kenney, His Excellency Makoto Katsura, other members of the diplomatic community, Senator Richard Gordon, members of the House of Representatives. And I would like to acknowledge them individually: we have Deputy Speaker Girlie Villarosa; (applause) we have Majority Leader Art Defensor; (applause) we have the Representatives of Bataan, Herminia Roman (applause) and Abet Garcia. (applause) I'd like to greet also Abet's father, Governor Garcia. (applause) And I'd like to greet the Vice Chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House, Joey Solis (applause) and Buhay Congresswoman Iyay Coscolluela (applause) who together with Congressman Solis, both of them, were the principal authors of the Veterans Law of 2008 as Dick Gordon was the principal author in the Senate. Thanks to all of them. (applause)

I've greeted Governor Garcia, I'd like to greet all the people of Bataan; General Esperon and the other officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. I've greeted Secretary Teodoro, I'd like to greet all other government officials at higit sa lahat ating mga beterano at kanilang mga pamilya. (applause)

Sa araw na ito, gaya nang ginawa ng ating nagsalita na kanina, nagpupugay at sinasariwa natin ang kabayanihan at kadakilaan ng ating mga bayaning kawal pati na rin yung mga kawal ng ating mga kakampi na buong tapang na lumaban at nag-alay ng buhay noong World War II. Ginugunita na rin natin ang kabayanihan ng iba pang sundalong Pilipino sa ibang digmaan at pati ang mga nakikibaka sa mga terorista at rebelde hanggang ngayon sa iba't-ibang dako ng bansa.

Kadakilaan ng ating mga sundalo, kabilang kayo, mga iginagalang nating mga beterano, ang siyang pinagkakautangan ng ating pagtamasa ng kalayaan. Kaya, minamahal naming bayani, maraming salamat sa inyo. (applause)

Sa ating kasaysayan, buong tapang na nakipagtagisan ang mga Pilipino para sa ating paglaya at para sa kalayaan at kapayapaan ng mundo. Hindi sapat na magpasalamat ang sambayanan sa inyo, ating mga beterano. Dapat ding siguruhing natutugunan ang inyong mga pangangailangan.

Sabi nga nila hindi lang dapat salapi pero yun ang napakaimportante lalo na sa mga edad ng ating mga beterano ngayon. Kaya kahit noong panahong gahol tayo sa pondo, nasimulan nating bayaran nung 2005 ang utang sa mga beterano. At noong 2007, nabayaran ang halos dalawang bilyong utang sa pensiyon sa matatanda para sa higit 12,000 na beterano at milyun-milyong benepisyo sa mahigit tatlong libong beterano. Napondohan din ang utang sa eskwela ng mahigit limang libong estudyante na mga anak ng mga beterano.

Since last year, thanks to our Congressmen, we have doubled the budget for the payment of arrearages, the debt to you our veterans, to three and a half billion pesos so that hopefully all outstanding old age pensions can be settled by the end of this year 2008. (applause)

The government, the PVAO has also reduced claims processing time and it's delivering faster the pensions through bank payments. Today, I understand from Secretary Teodoro that nearly all pensioners now get pensions through ATM.

We also continue working for the Filipino Veterans Equity Bill in the United States. A joint Philippine Executive-Legislative delegation including Senator Gordon and Congressman Solis will leave this month to lobby for its passage. (applause) But of course, we will begin our lobbying with Ambassador Kristie Kenney right here in Mt. Samat. (applause)

And in the meantime, today at the end of my remarks, I will sign before you the "Filipino World War II Veterans Pensions and Benefits Act of 2008." (applause)

The courage and patriotism of all war heroes live on. You are bequeathed to today's Filipino soldiers who battle lawless violence to protect citizens and brave deadly calamity to rescue disaster victims.

Courage and patriotism also shine through our efforts to forge lasting peace, shown by peace advocates who persevere in building trust and restraining violence despite years, if not decades of strife.

Ambassador Katsura talked about the peace process. We thank Japan. We thank the U.S. We thank all our allies represented by the ambassadors here for this help in the peace process.

Courage and patriotism are manifest also in the determined toil of farmers who are doubling their efforts to produce more food for our people.

Our near-term objective is to focus on putting food on the table for our people. The global rise in the price of basic commodities like fuel and rice is putting a strain on all hardworking Filipinos and veterans, and others who live on fixed pensions and especially our very poor.

We aim to prevent these strains on individuals and your families by preventing these strains from becoming a crisis by taking decisive action.

Concerning rice, it is essential that the people of the nation understand exactly what the situation is and what we are doing about it. It would be unfortunate if panic overtook logic, because we will endure and survive the moment and come through it stronger, the way we endured Bataan, survived the war and came out stronger.

In the meantime, however, just like Bataan, it will take unity and hard work.

Overall, our strengthened economic situation gives us the ability and flexibility to respond forcefully to make sure we maintain control of the situation. Specific to the rice issue, we have an Action Plan, comprising three phases, to make sure our rice situation remains stable: First, is to secure supply; second, to ensure proper distribution; third, is to guarantee enforcement to protect of our people against price gouging and corruption.

The Philippines is not alone in seeking to manage this challenge, just as the Philippines was not alone in the Second World War. There is a convergence of global forces that are buffeting the Philippines and every other nation at this time. This includes an economic slowdown in our allied countries; it includes a surge in the price of oil, a surge in the price of important food commodities such as rice.

In anticipation of time such as this, we have been working every day since I came to office to rebuild the Philippine economy to weather this kind of storm. We have increased our foreign reserves, raised revenues, stimulated

investments, diversified our export base. Regionally and globally, we have developed strong partnerships with our allies, some of whom used to be our fiercest enemies in the war and now are among our most ardent allies in our war against poverty. Most importantly, we have been able to turn our strong economic gains into investments for our people in terms of jobs, education, health care and roads, bridges and ports.

With this newfound stability, we are in a much better position to weather these economic and price pressures than ever before. That does not mean it lessens the pain on our poor when rice and gas prices increase, but we are able to help ease this burden.

I thank Governor Garcia for saying that the provincial government will provide rice subsidies to the veterans of Bataan and their families. That is a great example. (applause) It is essential for our political leaders to join hands and close ranks to meet this challenge. This is no time for political posturing. We need food on the table, not headlines in the newspapers.

We must invest, not just investigate. It is time for action, not political wrangling. The people deserve that we focus on a positive agenda, not get wrapped up in political jockeying.

No endless investigation will put rice on the table, a computer in a classroom or a health clinic in a barangay. We must put the interests of the individual Filipino above all else and make sure to reassure our people that we are providing steady and strong leadership at this critical point in time. To repeat: We must put rice on the table and not politics on the front page.

As we manage our way through the fuel and food spikes, we must not lose sight of advancing the long-term interests of our nation. We remain focused on the essential building blocks: economy, education, environment.

While we invest in our people, we will also not lose sight of the economic gains we have made through fiscal discipline. We will not only meet the near-term investment needs to prevent any type of food crisis, but we will further reach for a balanced budget. This means to put greater pressure on revenue collection through enhanced use of technology and some of the administrative measures that were proposed by Governor Garcia as well as the political will to get the job done. The revenue is there to bring us to the threshold of first-world in 20 years; we just need to ensure that we collect it.

Para sagutin lahat itong hamon huhugutin ang lakas ang sambayanan mula sa huwaran ng katapangan at kadakilaan na ipinamalas ng ating mga beterano. (applause) Mga minamahal nating beterano, matapang kayong nakipaghamok noon, nararapat lang na matapang din ang kasalukuyang henerasyon ng inyong mga anak at apo sa pagharap sa mga banta sa kaunlaran.

Kayong beteranong Pilipino ay tunay na gabay ng sambayanan tungo sa pagkakaisa, kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Nagpapasalamat kami sa inyong kadakilaan. Mga kababayan, suklian natin ang kabayanihan ng ating mga beterano sa pamamagitan ng nagkakaisang pagkilos upang malampasan ang mga balakid sa pambansang layunin na pangmatagalang kapayapaan at kaunlaran.

At ngayon alang-alang sa ating mga minamahal na beterano, iniimbita ko ang ating senador, ang ating mga congressmen, ang ilang kinatawan ng ating mga beterano ng World War II na sana ay pumunta rito sa aking paligid para maging testigo sa ating pagpirma ng bagong batas para sa inyong kapakanan. (applause)

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During the Observance of the 66th Anniversary of "Araw ng Kagitingan". Retrieved from

https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122150/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1354&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Observance of the 66th Anniversary of “Araw ng Kagitingan”, April 9, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Observance of the 66th Anniversary of “Araw ng Kagitingan”**

[Delivered at Dambana ng Kagitingan, Mt. Samat Shrine Bataan, Philippines, April 9, 2008]

I would like to thank Congressman Solis, both of them, were the principal authors of the Veterans Law of 2008 as Dick Gordon was the principal author in the Senate. Thanks to all of them.

I'd like to greet all government officials *at higit sa lahat ating mga beterano at kanilang mga pamilya.*

Sa araw na ito, gaya nang ginawa ng ating nagsalita na kanina, nagpupugay at sinasariwa natin ang kabayanihan at kadakilaan ng ating mga bayaning kawal pati na rin yung mga kawal ng ating mga kakampi na buong tapang na lumaban at nag-alay ng buhay noong World War II. Ginugunita na rin natin ang kabayanihan ng iba pang sundalong Pilipino sa ibang digmaan at pati ang mga nakikibaka sa mga terorista at rebelde hanggang ngayon sa iba't-ibang dako ng bansa.

Kadakilaan ng ating mga sundalo, kabilang kayo, mga iginagalang nating mga beterano, ang siyang pinagkakautangan ng ating pagtamasa ng kalayaan. Kaya, minamahal naming bayani, maraming salamat sa inyo.

Sa ating kasaysayan, buong tapang na nakipagtagisan ang mga Pilipino para sa ating paglaya at para sa kalayaan at kapayapaan ng mundo. Hindi sapat na magpasalamat ang sambayanan sa inyo, ating mga beterano. Dapat ding siguruhing natutugunan ang inyong mga pangangailangan.

Sabi nga nila hindi lang dapat salapi pero yun ang napakaimportante lalo na sa mga edad ng ating mga beterano ngayon. Kaya kahit noong panahong gahol tayo sa pondo, nasimulan nating bayaran nung 2005 ang utang sa mga beterano. At noong 2007, nabayaran ang halos dalawang bilyong utang sa pensiyon sa matatanda para sa higit 12,000 na beterano at milyun-milyong benepisyo sa mahigittatlong libong beterano. Napondohan din ang utang sa eskwela ng mahigit limang libong estudyante na mga anak ng mga beterano.

Since last year, thanks to our Congressmen, we have doubled the budget for the payment of arrearages, the debt to you our veterans, to three and a half billion pesos so that hopefully all outstanding old age pensions can be settled by the end of this year 2008.

The government, the PVAO has also reduced claims processing time and it's delivering faster the pensions through bank payments. Today, I understand from Secretary Teodoro that nearly all pensioners now get pensions through ATM.

We also continue working for the Filipinos the Veterans Equity Bill in the United States. A joint Philippine Executive-Legislative delegation including Senator Gordon and Congressman Solis will leave this month to lobby for its passage. But of course, we will begin our lobbying with Ambassador Kristie Kenney right here in Mt. Samat.

And in the meantime, today at the end of my remarks, I will sign before you the “Filipino World War II Veterans Pensions and Benefits Act of 2008.”

The courage and patriotism of all war heroes live on. You are bequeathed to today's Filipino soldiers who battle awless violence to protect citizens and brave deadly calamity to rescue disaster victims.

Courage and patriotism also shine through our efforts to forge lasting peace, shown by peace advocates who persevere in building trust and restraining violence despite years, if not decades of strife.

Ambassador Katsura talked about the peace process. We thank Japan. We thank the U.S. We thank all our allies represented by the ambassadors here for this help in the peace process.

Courage and patriotism are manifested also in the determined toil of farmers who are doubling their efforts to produce more food for our people.

Our near-term objective is to focus on putting food on the table for our people. The global rise in the price of basic commodities like fuel and rice is putting a strain on all hardworking Filipinos and veterans, and others who live on fixed pensions and especially our very poor.

The aim to prevent these strains on individuals and your families by preventing these strains from becoming a crisis by taking decisive action.

Concerning rice, it is essential that the people of the nation understand exactly what the situation is and what we are doing about it. It would be unfortunate if panic overtook logic, because we will endure and survive the moment and come through it stronger, the way we endured Bataan, survived the war and came out stronger. In the meantime, however, just like Bataan, it will take unity and hard work.

Overall, our strengthened economic situation gives us the ability and flexibility to respond forcefully to make sure we maintain control of the situation. There is a convergence of global forces that are buffeting the Philippines and every other nation at this time. This includes an economic slowdown in our allied countries; it includes a surge in the price of oil, a surge in the price of important food commodities such as rice.

In anticipation of time such as this, we have been working every day since I came to office to rebuild the Philippine economy to weather this kind of storm. We have increased our foreign reserves, raised revenues, stimulated investments, diversified our export base. Regionally and globally, we have developed strong partnerships with our allies, some of whom used to be our fiercest enemies in the war and now are among our most ardent allies in our war against poverty. Most importantly, we have been able to turn our strong economic gains into investments for our people in terms of jobs, education, health care and roads, bridges and ports.

With this newfound stability, we are in a much better position to weather these economic and price pressures than ever before. That does not mean it lessens the pain on our poor when rice and gas prices increase, but we are able to help ease this burden.

I thank Governor Garcia for saying that the provincial government will provide rice subsidies to the veterans of Bataan and their families. That is a great example. It is essential for our political leaders to join hands and close ranks to meet this challenge. This is no time for political posturing. We need food on the table, not headlines in the newspapers.

We must invest, not just investigate. It is time for action, not political wrangling. The people deserve that we focus on a positive agenda, not get wrapped up in political jockeying.

No endless investigation will put rice on the table, a computer in a classroom or a health clinic in a barangay. We must put the interests of the individual Filipino above all else and make sure to reassure our people that we are providing steady and strong leadership at this critical point in time. To repeat: We must put rice on the table and not politics on the front page.

As we manage our way through the fuel and food spikes, we must not lose sight of advancing the long-term interests of our nation. We remain focused on the essential building blocks: economy, education, environment.

While we invest in our people, we will also not lose sight of the economic gains we have made through fiscal discipline. We will not only meet the near-term investment needs to prevent any type of food crisis, but we will further reach for a balanced budget. This means to put greater pressure on revenue collection through enhanced use of technology and some of the administrative measures that were proposed by Governor Garcia as well as the political will to get the job done. The revenue is there to bring us to the threshold of first-world in 20 years; we just need to ensure that we collect it.

Para sagutin lahat itong hamon huhugutin ang lakas nang sambayanan mula sa huwaran ng katapangan at kadakilaan na ipinamalas ng ating mga beterano. Mga minamahal nating beterano, matapang kayong nakipaghamok noon, nararapat lang na matapang din ang kasalukuyang henerasyon ng inyong mga anak at apo sa pagharap sa mga banta tungo sa kaunlaran.

Kayong mga beteranong Pilipino ay tunay na gabay ng sambayanan tungo sa pagkakaisa, kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Nagpapasalamat kami sa inyong kadakilaan. Mga kababayan, suklian natin ang kabayanihan ng ating mga beterano sa pamamagitan ng nagkakaisang pagkilos upang malampasan ang mga balakid sa pambansang layunin na pangmatagalang kapayapaan at kaunlaran.

At ngayon alang-alang sa ating mga minamahal na beterano, iniimbata ko ang ating senador, ang ating mga congressmen, ang ilang kinatawan ng ating mga beterano ng World War II na sana ay pumunta rito sa aking paligid para maging testigo sa ating pagpirma ng bagong batas para sa inyong kapakanan.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Local Peace and Security Assembly in Abra
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Local Peace and Security Assembly in Abra

[Delivered at the Bangued, Abra, April 10, 2008]

Agkakadwa tayo tatta tapno pagsasaritaan no ania pay iti pagtutulongan tayo para ti kinatalna ken seguridad ti Cordillera.

Addu nga sumsumrek no pagsasaritaan ti kapia ken kinatalna. Uray no karigatan ti kadasaran nga rason ti panagalsa, ti rebelyon met iti mangmangted ti aglalo nga rigat dagiti umili.

Maragsakanak ti anunsyo ti AFP ken ti PNP nga dakkel ti naikkat ti pigsa dagiti immalsa ti CAR iti napalabas nga mano nga tawen. Kablaawak dagiti soldado ken pulis para ti panggep tayo nga maabak ti rebelyon ti 2010. Makilamay-ek met kadagiti soldado nga nagbuis ti biag daytoy nga tawen diay Abra.

Ti entiro nga pagilyan, dakkel met ti naaramid dagiti soldado ken pulis kontra ti rebelyon.. Iti napalabas nga tawen, bimaban ti 6,000 dagiti immalsa nga armado. Kayat tayo tatta nga babasit da pay tapno malpasen iti manu nga dekada nga panagalsa.

Panggep ti AFP daytoy nga tawen nga maabaken 38 kadagiti insurgent fronts. Namnamaek nga maykada itoy iti ennem nga insurgent fronts ti CAR nga adda pay impluwensya na iti 45 nga barangay, ken idtoy Abra iti kaaduan kadagitoy nga barangay.

Pinalakasan natin ang AFP at PNP upang makamit ang layunin ng pangmatagalang kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa lahat ng dako ng Pilipinas. Sa ilalim ng Philippine Defense Reform na tinutupad ng ating administrasyon, at ng PNP Modernization Program, matindi na ang paghahanda n gating mga sundalo at pulis upang labanan ang rebelde.

Subalit hindi tayo magwawagi sa pamamagitan lamang ng armadong pakikipaglaban. Pinakamabisang sandata ang pinagsanib ng pwersa at confidence building — soft and hard power. Subok na ang estratehiyang ito sa mga probinsiya nga dati nga lugar ti rebelede ngem natalna ken narang-ayen tatta.

Ngem pigsa ti aramaten kadagiti rebelede nga agmadmadi ti kapia ken rang-ay.

Meanwhile, soft power ti panangited dagiti serbisyo para ti nasayaat nga panagbiag ken kinabukasan saan laeng dagiti dati nga immalsa ken dagiti timultulong kaniada, ngem ti amin met nga umili. Kadwa itoy iti nasayaat ken kanayon nga panagsarita kadua ti umili, ken ti panangited ti kinalaing ken imprastraktura tapno sumayaat ti biag.

Kayat ko nga ipapigsa nga kadwa kadagiti proyekto para ti rang-ay dagiti soldado ken kapulisan. Makitkita ti adu kadatayo iti gaget dagiti pulis ken sundalo tayo nga agsagip ti umili ti bagyo, layos ken sabali pay nga kalamidad. Ken soldado ti AFP Engineering Brigade iti ipatpatulod kadagiti lugar nga peligroso para kadagiti nga pribado nga contractor, tapno agaramid dagiti dalan ken rangtay. Ken kadagiti lugar natigil dagiti klase gapu ti kaguluan, dagiti soldado met iti agsursuro.

Dagitoy ti baro nga soldado ken pulis nga bunga ti reporma tayo ti militar ken kapulisan — agsalsalig ti natalna nga dalan ti panangkontra ti immalsa, ken dumaydayaw ti human rights. Disiplinado da tapno agpayso nga agserbi ti umili ngem no masapul, napigsa met ti pwersa da.

Saan masapul nga panagbuis ti biag no ma-abot iti panggep nga kapia babaen ti pannangted ti ad-addu nga gundaway nga sumayaat ti biag ti amin. Ad-adda nga makatulong ti soft power gapu ti amin nga umili, kadwa dagiti immalsa nga kayat da nga agbaliw ti panagbiag, nga ada tayo programa para kenya.

Mangnam- namaak nga na iti panagmaymaysa ti pigs ken panagrang-ay ket malpansen ti panagalsa sakbay nga malpas ti terminok kas Pangulo.

Maysa nasayaat nga bunga ti seguridad ken kapia iti makan ti lamisaan ken pagsayaat ti pagbiagan.

Our near-term objective is to focus on putting food on the table for our people. The global rise in the price of basic commodities like fuel and rice is putting a strain on all hard-working Filipinos, particularly on our very poor provinces like Abra.

We aim to prevent these strains on individuals and their families from becoming a crisis by taking decisive action.

Specific to the rice issue, we have an Action Plan, comprising three phases, to make sure our rice situation remains stable. First, is to secure supply. Second, to ensure proper distribution. Third, is to guarantee enforcement of prices to protect our people.

To help secure supply, today we launch the Abra Sustainable Development Program that will improve small-scale irrigation and therefore boost agricultural production.

Ditoy CAR, ti panagtalon ti ibinibiag ti kaaduan. Nataba ti daga ti CAR ken panagmulmula ti palay, mais ken sab-sabali nga gulay. Isu nga ti puonan kadagiti taga-CAR ket dagiti proyekto nga makatutulong tapno padakkelen ti panagtalon ti rehiyon.

Kas puonan kadagiti taga-Abra ket inrugik tattay iti Abra Sustainable Agricultural Development Program nga espesyal nga paraan iti padanum iti upland farming tapno magamit dagiti talon ti pagpapadakkel ti palayan ti Abra.

The program is an integrated approach to communal upland farming. It utilizes planning and the application of appropriate soil and water conservation technologies that will transform areas into productive self-sufficient farming communities.

A few days ago, I instructed DPWH Secretary Ebdane to complete the long unfinished Manabo Bridge, a monument to corruption because it was started many administrations ago and is standing half built. It needs P290 million for its completion.

Para ti entero nga CAR, dagdag ti gobyerno dagiti imprastraktur ti transportasyon kas dagiti Farm to Market Roads, tapno nadardas nga mapan dagit ani yo diay tindaan, ken dagiti adanum para iti babassit nga pagtalonan. Itatay nangted ti DAR ti P5 million diay Pilar. We expect the mayor to use it for the uplands in the area and use labor-intensive method so that many of his constituents can be employed.

The DA Bureau of Soils and Water Management gave P5 million for an Upland Water Impounding Project and fruit trees that can be used for agro-reforestation in Pilar.

Agpatakder tayo iti maduma-dum nga padanum kas iti Small Water Impounding Systems, Small Farm Reservoirs at Shallow Tube Wells iti sab-sabali nga pagtalonan ti rehiyon tapno maaddaan ti danum dagiti taltalon yo ken aglalo nga pumigsa iti ani ken dumakkel met ti kita ti agtaltalon.

For the first phase of DA's Upland Development Program Sec. Yap has set aside an initial P100 million that I am instructing to include: 1) Organic Agriculture (production of organic fertilizers),

2) FMR, Small Scale Water Projects, Watershed and Spring, and Tramlines (Footbridges),

3) Education, extension and distribution of basic farm implements, tools and equipment,

4) Loans,

5) Dryers, and

6) Seedlings for upland trees suitable for sloping land above 18 degrees like Abaca, Jackfruit, Falcata (trees used for boxes), Rubber, Coconut, Mango, Pili, Durian and Rambutan), seeds for assorted vegetables and legumes like mongo, beans, peanuts, bataw and kadyos, and small ruminants dispersal like goats and poultry and hograising.

34.5% iti porsiyento dagiti pamilya nga marigrigat ditoy CAR, ken 60% iti Apayao ken Abra. Insigida nga inbaon ko ti Gabinete nga kadwa iti Apayao ken Abra iti Priority One provinces tayo nga un-unaen nga ikkan iti tulong, nangruna iti makan para iti karigatan. Kayat nga siguraduen ti gobierno nga maikkan iti insigida nga pamuspusan iti bisin ka dagiti karigatan ken kayat tayo met nga siguraduen nga iti natulungan nga pumanaw iti karigatan ket saan manen maibilang kadagiti pinakamarigrigat.

Dagiti probinsiya nga adda ti Priority One iti un-unaen nga ikkan iti benepisyo babaen iti programa nga Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino nga mangted iti bassit kuarta kas tulong kadagiti pamilya nga agrigrigat. Nailista na ti DSWD iti 10,000 nga pamilya nga adadiay Apayao ken Abra nga mabalin nga umawat ti benepisyo aggapu daytoy nga programa.

Dawdawatek kadagiti lideres ditoy nga aglalo pay nga agkaysa tayo amin tapno maabaken iti bisin, maabak iti rigat, maabak ito harahasan, ken mapigsa ti kapia ken rang-ay.

Agtimulongtayo amin tapno maituloy iti rang-ay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Local Peace and Security Assembly in Abra. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122129/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1352&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a visit to the Expansion Facility of Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing, Inc.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a visit to the Expansion Facility of Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing, Inc.**

[Delivered at Brgy. Makiling, Calamba City, Laguna, April 14, 2008]

Congratulations sa Yazaki Torres at sa mga Batanguenos sa inyong expansion at sa inogurasyon ng Cancer Institute ng St. Frances Cabrini.

Lumaki na ang Yazaki Toress mula dalawang daang empleyado noong 1974 hanggang walong libo ngayon, na sineserbisyo ang pangangailangang wiring harness ng mga sasakyan sa buong mundo.

Napag-alaman ko na ang St. Frances Cabrini ay nagsimula upang paglingkuran ang mga health requirements ng mga empleyado ng Yazaki-Torres at ibang mga kliyente sa industriya.

We are visiting factories to personally attend to the working conditions of labor. I encourage wage and non-wage benefits like the medical center in Cabrini and day care centers for mothers in the work place.

As we travel abroad, we will continue to fight for the interests of our vital OFWs in places that are far from home, including Japan. Our government has worked long and hard to improve the quality of life of our brothers and sisters abroad. We will remain vigilant in that effort until the end of my term.

We will also leave no stone unturned as we seek even more foreign investments to bring more jobs to our nation. We will do everything to project a positive image of the Philippines to the world. The Filipino worker is the best in the world. We want the world to know that we not only have great people, but that as a nation we live up to our global responsibilities.

The success of Yazaki-Torres is a tribute both to the excellence of its Filipino workforce and to the vision of its Filipino and Japanese investors.

The Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement will further enhance our partnership.

To quote the respected economist Winnie Monsod:

The benefits of the JPEPA far exceed the costs. The draft agreement has been available on the internet since sometime the end of 2003/beginning of 2004. And the agreement is negotiated every five years.

The Philippines was the first country (after Singapore) with which Japan pursued the idea of an Economic Partnership Agreement. But it has entered into the same kind of agreements with Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Brunei. Here we are, at the starting point, with everybody moving in front of us.

The Philippine Institute of Development Studies estimates JPEPA benefits between P 6.5 billion and P 110 billion, due to an improved investment climate, with projected direct foreign investment from Japan amounting to P365 billion, plus more than 200,000 jobs; compared with costs of around P 4 billion because of tariff reductions. The studies also show an overall positive impact on poverty eradication.

Tariffs on our farm goods would fall to zero, boosting exports of Philippine produce. Add to that the high-wage hiring of our nurses and caregivers.

About the environmental issue – the fear that we are going to be made a dumping ground for Japanese toxic wastes. Their importation is banned (by international as well as national fiat). In any case, Japan has signed a side letter making that even clearer.

The JPEPA is worth it. We cannot afford not to ratify, because with everyone else but us on board, dadalhin ng Hapon ang negosyo sa kanila.

We hope the Senate will ratify the JPEPA when Congress convenes next week.

Magtulungan sana tayong lahat para sa sama-sama nating kaunlaran at magandang kinabukasan!

We must put the interests of the individual Filipino we above all else.

In this challenging task, I count on the cooperation of all hardworking Batanguenos.

Mabuhay ang ating mga kababayan sa Yazaki Torres!

At maraming salamat po muli sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During a Visit to the Expansion Facility of Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing, Inc.. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122119/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1349&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening of the First Siargao Invitational Billfish Tournament

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening of the First Siargao Invitational Billfish Tournament**

[Delivered in Siargao Island, April 17, 2008]

In behalf of the people of the Philippines, welcome to Siargao.

Economic development in our rural areas is not just about promoting modern agricultural practices or investment in our mining sector, it is also about working to responsibly develop those parts of our country that are uniquely suited for development as environmentally sensitive destinations for domestic and international tourists.

Siargao, known around the world as one of the best surfing destinations, also has incredible game fishing resources. These serve to help position Siargao as an adventure sports tourism paradise.

This is the first and what will be hopefully be a regular sport fishing tournament. It will help put this beautiful area on the world tourism map.

Tourism has the potential to be a major driver of economic development for our rural areas. As part of our commitment to helping develop the tourism assets of areas such as Siargao we are local governments improve their infrastructure. That includes the development of the Siargao airport, the road from Siargao to Cloud 9 our championship surfing spot, and the improvement of the Siargao hospital.

I have met with a number of companies in my travels around the world to promote international investment in the Philippines who say that the natural beauty of our provinces are magnets for tourism investments. We are working with local officials to ensure that these investments materialize. This includes infrastructure development, environmental protection initiatives, and even staff training.

Thank you all for being here. I hereby open the First Siargao Invitational Billfish Tournament.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During the Opening of the First Siargao Invitational Billfish Tournament. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122056/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1343&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the First Quarter Fellowship meeting of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers, Incorporated

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the First Quarter Fellowship meeting of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers, Incorporated**

[Delivered at the AGFO Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, April 18, 2008]

Sa patuloy na pagtataguyod ng AGFO sa ating Saligang Batas at mga proseso ng batas, maraming maraming salamat.

Hindi matawaran ang mataas na pagtingin sa inyo ng ating mga kawal at kapulisan, at ng taong bayan. Tunay na patuloy kayong tinitingala ng marami.

You continue to play your role in nation-building.

With your inspiration, we have succeeded in cutting by half the number of active insurgents from the 2001 numbers. Our AFP Chief of Staff and all those who served in his post before him have imparted the right principles to our soldiers. Congratulations.

With your inspiration, crime rates have dropped over the years even as our police forces have proven themselves in enforcing the law and defending the Constitution. The leadership of the PNP and their predecessors have built up the PNP into the dutiful civilian force it is meant to be. Congratulations.

We have had an unfortunate legacy of political violence. I abhor it, and we have tackled it head on. We have met with a lot of success since we announced the formation of what was to become the Melo Commission. Extrajudicial killings are down and prosecutions are up. We will not be satisfied until we are at zero, but we are making progress.

As we improve the security of the parts of the country that have known some degree of violence, we are able to quickly move to develop the economy of those areas. When we do that we ensure a lasting peace and order that ensures that security is no longer an issue.

Our vision is based on a strong and growing economy. It is the central pillar that we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. It is paying off: we have the strongest economy in over 30 years, the peso is strong, investments are surging in, we are close to balancing our budget.

We have made tough and politically unpopular decisions to raise revenues and crack down on tax cheats so that we could invest in our physical infrastructure and in our people, including our soldiers and policemen.

In both the PNP and the AFP, we have had an increase in salaries and benefits along with improvements in equipment, materials and support services.

In the AFP, we have cleansed the pensioners list, saving millions of pesos and cutting processing time for veterans' claims. With this rationalized list, I hope all outstanding old age pensions can be settled by year end, especially since we have doubled since last year the budget for paying arrearages to P3.528 Billion. I signed last week the law granting pensions to Filipino WWII veterans who get pensions from the U.S. And we continue to lobby for the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Bill in Washington.

As for the shortfall for pensioners that AGFO has pointed out, the Defense Secretary can perhaps request a supplemental budget to make the pensions current.

I am also directing Secretary Teodoro to give me a full report on the actions taken on the RSBS. Let us have an end to this issue that will give satisfaction to our men and women in uniform.

The people want, and we are delivering, investments in three critical areas – what we call the three “E’s” – namely, the Economy, the Environment and Education — all this to elevate the quality of life of our people.

Our first obligation and commitment is to put food on the table in the Philippines. Rice is a global issue and has deeply impacted the Philippines. We are taking strong, swift decisive action to make sure it doesn’t become a crisis, with a singular focus on mitigating price to the best of our ability.

Since the global situation became apparent many months ago, I have been committed to helping increase and stabilize the supply of rice, as well as to deliver targeted subsidies to the poor who are most directly affected by the global price rises. We have reached out to our neighbors like Vietnam and others in ASEAN and elsewhere to ensure a stable supply and affordable prices.

We will continue to work with our neighbors in the region to secure rice supply. We work with nations of the world to share best practices and best ideas to make sure this is a one time global event. We have directed our government to crack down on price gouging; increase the supply of rice where necessary; invest more in planting and agricultural modernization; and provide rice subsidies to the poor.

Our strengthened economic situation gives us the ability and flexibility to respond forcefully to make sure we maintain control of the situation.

With this base of new-found economic stability, we are in a much better position to weather these economic and price pressures than ever before. That does not mean that it lessens the pain on our poor when rice and gas prices increase, but we are able to help ease this burden.

With your support, I remain bullish on our economy, optimistic about our future and deeply committed to being a force for good.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapaga-Arroyo’s Speech During the First Quarter Fellowship meeting of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers, Incorporated. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122002/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1340&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the University of the Philippines (U.P.) Charter Bill Signing Ceremony

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the University of the Philippines (U.P.) Charter Bill Signing Ceremony**

[Delivered at the U.P. Cebu Library Conference Hall, UP Library Bldg., Cebu City, Cebu, April 29, 2008]

Daghang salamat, UP Cebu, ang atong host karon, ang alma mater og akong inahan sa iyang pre-med.

It is an honor to mark the year of the UP centennial anniversary by enacting the law to “Strengthen the University of the Philippines as the National University.”

There is no greater pleasure for a UP alumna and former faculty member like me, than to be able to sign into law what will confer on our alma mater the enhanced capability to fulfill its mission and spread the benefits of knowledge to our people.

Surely the pride and honor are shared by the legislators who authored, co-authored, sponsored, co-sponsored and refined the bill that now becomes law. Most of them graduated from UP, or have children attending UP. All of them believe in the mission of the University of the Philippines. To all our authors and sponsors and all who voted for the law, thank you.

UP has been the training ground of the country’s top leaders in government including many of our Presidents, pillars of business and various professions, and of a great number of our intellectuals past and present.

Strengthening the UP Charter now is timely, not only because the University turns a hundred years old this year, but also because new challenges in the 21st century call for new ways of thinking and new approaches to modern situations.

The new Charter ensures that the revenues of UP will be plowed back into its programs. It safeguards the University’s physical assets and exempts its earnings, including donations and grants, from taxes. It exempts UP personnel from the Salary Standardization Law.

By providing institutional autonomy, the UP Charter protects students’ democratic access, strengthens the University’s administration through the Board of Regents and upholds academic freedom.

It recognizes the effectiveness of the UP System, which has set up constituent universities in strategic parts of the country, including our host campus today.

Furthermore, as a centennial gift, this law provides for the allocation of P500 million to the University of the Philippines, to be released over five years.

This is in addition to the P200 million we gave the PGH in 2006 and 2007 and in addition to the P500 million for the science and technology complex in Diliman.

We set up the science in technology complex because in 2004 UNESCO found that the number of researchers, scientists and engineers in a developing country is 340 per million of the population. In our country we have only 48 per million Filipinos. To achieve the UNESCO benchmark in the shortest possible time and to boost our effort at global competitiveness, the Philippine government is investing P3 billion from budget and off-budget sources in Engineering Research and Development Technology, including the UP Science and Technology Complex, between

2007 and 2010. This is to promote engineering R&D activities in the country at a significant scale in order to modernize every aspect of the economic underpinnings of the Philippines, including agriculture, to propel economic growth. Modernization will need a critical mass of R&D-capable manpower that will attract technology-based investors to the country. Since last school year, seven universities led by the UP College of Engineering have been offering scholarships for masters and doctoral degree programs in all fields of engineering.

The consortium steps up the creation of a favorable environment for science and technology to flourish. We can do it; we have the knowledge to build the basic industries that engage in high-value added activities such as design, R&D, product conceptualization, product development, and innovation. Investors know our caliber; our manpower is world class. At the forefront are our engineers; they are indeed the engines for national growth as they help spawn high-tech companies. With engineering R&D, led by the University of the Philippines, we further hone their skills and create our own technology roadmaps that will bring science and technology right at the doorstep of the Filipino nation.

With UP as the National University, the primus inter pares among state universities in our country, the leader in academic standards, and the primary seat for advanced studies, research and advancement of intellectual thought, this law ensures the hundred-year tradition of producing the best minds.

With this law, may the minds produced by UP become modern-day exemplars of the famed Oblation, that enduring symbol of the University's offering of itself to the Filipino people.

To the UP students, faculty, staff and officials in all of its campuses, and to the authors of the strengthened UP Charter, congratulations!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the University of the Philippines (U.P.) Charter Bill Signing Ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121940/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1338&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd Strong Republic Nautical Highway Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd Strong Republic Nautical Highway Conference**

[Delivered in Xavier Estates, Cagayan De Oro City, April 30, 2008]

In 2002 I presented to the Cabinet a work program to reduce transport costs from the food basket of Mindanao to the large consuming population of Luzon. Then Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo and then Philippine Ports Authority General Manager Al Cusi had started doing something about decreasing handling and wharfage costs. I instructed the DBP to take the lead for other measures like financing logistics, storage and port facilities.

We pulled out from the DBP filing cabinet an obscure master plan of a Sustainable Logistics Development Plan initiated by their SVP Marietto Enecio made up of 48 Road and Roll-on-Roll-Off routes.

At a Mindanao Shippers Conference that year, we launched the DBP Program with P 20 billion for long-term lending.

When we completed the Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte to Dumaguete, Negros Oriental and Roxas, Mindoro Oriental to Catiguan, Aklan routes in 2003, we baptized as the Strong Republic Nautical Highway, a 900-kilometer seamless stretch of roads and ports that cut travel time by 12 hours from Dapitan to Batangas port and on to any point of Luzon by land.

Thanks to the U.S. government, this Nautical Highway can now connect through the Dapitan-Siocon Road which we are completing, to the Zamboanga-Basilan-Sulu-Tawitawi Corridor made up of the GEM RORO ports in Lamitan, Basilan, in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, in Siasi, Sulu in and Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

Indeed, the U.S. has worked side by side with our military and local governments on a number of community public works projects. The positive impact of these projects cannot be overstated: from RORO ports to health care to building schools, the outreach has built more than buildings – it has built trust, which is the basis for effective and lasting diplomacy.

Now we showcase the Central Nautical Highway. We started last Monday by launching the link from Bulan, Sorsogon to Masbate City to Cawayan, Masbate, to Bogo, Cebu to Cebu City, which has an existing RORO link to Tubigon, Bohol. Yesterday we traveled by road from Tubigon to Jagna, Bohol and by RORO to Mambajao, Camiguin, from where you can motor to Benoni, Camiguin. This morning we saw off a RORO ferry in Benoni bound for Balingoan, Misamis Oriental. In sum, the Central Nautical Highway goes from Sorsogon to Misamis Oriental.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Speech during the 2nd Strong Republic Nautical Highway Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121922/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1336&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the general assembly and induction of officers of the Federation of Philippine Industries and launching of the FPI-FFCCCII Advocacy “Buy Pinoy-Buy Local”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the general assembly and induction of officers of the Federation of Philippine Industries and
launching of the FPI-FFCCCII Advocacy “Buy Pinoy-Buy Local”**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City, May 2, 2008]

Thank you. (applause)

Thank you Secretary Ermita for your introduction and thank you for being here at the same time that your brother is here. It turns out he’s a member of the Board of Directors of FPI. Now, we have a direct link between Malacañang and the FPI. (applause)

Chairman Carlos, President Arranza, Executive Vice President Coseteng, other officials of FPI, other officials of the Philippine government — we see Bayani Fernando and Bebot Villar here — officials of the Federation, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, Congratulations to the newly-inducted officers of FPI. And thank you for working with the government and the rest of the business community and the labor community as well to promote the growth of the nation’s industries.

Congratulations on your fight against smuggling! Congratulations on your joint project with the Federation on your “Buy Pinoy – Buy Local” campaign. The campaign against smuggling and the campaign to ‘Buy Pinoy,’ as Jess Arranza said earlier, are related to each other because as Jess quoted earlier, “When the buying stops, smuggling stops.” So, the move to ‘Buy Pinoy’ is a market-based solution to smuggling.

Other things being equal, economists like me focus on market-based solutions except that many times economists like me interpret the market-based solution to mean that they don’t necessarily believe in buying local because they don’t necessarily believe that buying local is always in the best interest of the nation. The argument given in Orthodox Economics is that other things being equal, there are instances when it will cost a huge amount of money and create inefficiencies to merely buy local.

But as has been said on this platform earlier other things are not equal when there is smuggling.

And so, therefore, we support the campaign to buy local. (applause) And to support your campaign, I hereby instruct Secretary Ermita — your brother in Malacañang — to reissue our Executive Order regarding the Government’s Preferential Procurement of Materials and Supplies Produced, Made and Manufactured in the Philippines. (applause)

The challenge here is to reconcile the legitimate interests of our local businessmen, on the one hand, with the obligation to make available the best goods and services for our taxpayers at the lowest cost from a truly open and competitive market. But given the track record of FPI in supporting our initiatives for a better life for our people, there is enough good faith and goodwill in FPI for us to master that challenge together.

We share the challenge of fighting smuggling. The leaders of FPI here on stage and I also share a governance style based on faith and hard work. I have made tough and politically unpopular decisions to raise revenues and crack down on smugglers so that we could invest in our infrastructure and our people. There is no room in the development of our country to tolerate smuggling and the corruption that goes with it when so much remains to be done to invest in the nation.

We have a lot of room to increase our tax and customs collections through strengthening investments in technology and innovation, bolstering our compliance and anti-corruption efforts, and regulatory and legislative reforms we will deliver on the necessary revenue to balance the budget and make the vital investments that have been neglected for a generation. We count on FPI to help implement new innovations and also to evaluate the use of sophisticated technologies that will allow us to increase collections.

We will soon have watchdog bodies for the Bureau of Customs, as mentioned by Jess. I note a recent report that the PORTALS program linking customs with industry sectors is getting ready for start-up. We expect the FPI to be part of the PORTALS. (applause)

I guess some of you might have noticed that I was on the phone and on the text while I was still seated, that's because I called up Customs, and you know earlier when we were in Customs there was a name that keep frequently coming up among the importers, about three cases, successive, that with the reports from industry or with our spot checks they came out and now charges are being filed against them. In fact, charges had been filed against them and new charges are being filed against them. So I said, the problem is how did they get accredited to begin with. So, I asked Jess Arranza earlier, "Remember the last time I spoke before the FPI, I said I want you to be part of the Accreditation Committee." So he said, it hasn't been done yet, that's why I called up Boy Morales. So he said, "Please tell them it's going to be done. FPI will be part of the new Accreditation Committee." (applause) You see Boy reorganized the Accreditation Committee, because precisely as I said, how come this guy gets caught three times in a row. How did he get accredited in the first place? So, Boy had to reorganize the Accreditation Committee and in this reorganized Accreditation Committee you will be there.

I have put a lot of pressure on our Customs Bureau. You've seen part of it on TV, a lot of it is also behind closed doors and executive sessions. But I have also taken an interest in making sure that this area gets the support it needs for me to deliver positive results.

But the principle of "No buyers, No sellers" — if there are no buyers, there will be no sellers — applies not only to smuggled goods. It also applies to the anti-corruption program. So, I ask the FPI to make sure that the private sector does not seek "slight favors" from your working friends in the Customs. That should be one of the responsibilities of FPI — that kind of culture in the business community

From the day I took office, we have been focused not only on protecting our industries from the unfair competition of smuggling but also on modernizing every aspect of the underpinnings of global competitiveness, so that you will be at par even with the fair competition. And we have in last year's State of the Nation Address... no, two years ago in 2006, I enumerated the strategic areas where we are working, investing in a comprehensive program on competitiveness including:

1. Making food affordable to keep our labor cost globally competitive. And I'm glad, as was mentioned earlier — was it Ito who said? — that the labor sector has been very cooperative with us. And it is only right that we make sure that their food remains affordable;
2. Reducing the cost of electricity to make our factories regionally competitive;
3. Modernizing infrastructure to efficiently transport goods and people;
4. Mobilizing and upgrading knowledge and technologies for productivity; and

Reducing red tape — and the ultimate red tape is corruption — reducing red tape in all agencies to cut business costs.

Let me say a little bit about each of these five. On food, we have been working on agricultural modernization, from the development of new hybrids — which we have been working with the IRRI, for instance. I just came from there today — to see how their new innovations can be rolled out. To unprecedented investments in irrigation — 1.4

million hectares, never seen before in history. And to dramatic increases in loans, four-fold as a matter of fact, to help our farmers purchase better equipment.

But as Ito mentioned, there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice. And again as Ito mentioned, thankfully, we are now in a vastly improved position to weather this storm than at any other time in recent memory.

I've seen this coming for some time now — certainly before the world took notice. That is why we were reaching out to Thailand and Vietnam for rice supply long before the headlines. So don't be alarmed by today's headlines, both Thailand and Vietnam and other neighbors elsewhere, have already concluded contracts with us of 1.2 million metric tons enough to cover the 10 percent differential between our production and our consumption. (applause)

If we're to go into the market again it's for buffer stocks so that's why it's a "take it or leave it" situation as far as NFA is concerned. In other words, we can take it or we can leave it, depending on how the prices are. We are managing the issue the best way possible through our three-step program to contain price and prevent a crisis. FAO named 36 countries in a rice crisis. Certainly, the Philippines is not one of them. FAO has said that too. One of the three phases is to ensure supply, which as I just mentioned earlier, we have essentially done for the foreseeable future. Two, guarantee distribution, particularly to those most in need, and we are doing that through our own distribution to schools when classes start, as well as through the church and religious network. Third, we are ensuring enforcement of consumer protection by a fierce effort to crack-down on rice bandits especially those who divert NFA rice and tag it as commercial rice so they can get a higher price for it.

On the second area of competitiveness – electricity. I have been wondering aloud why power costs in Luzon, in the Luzon Urban Beltway, where many of you operate, should be so high when Luzon is reliant on imported oil for only one percent of its power.

And therefore we know there is room for improvement in the rates. I have instructed NAPOCOR to charge Meralco only P4.11 per kilowatt hour, the same rate it charges Luzon Electric Cooperatives, instead of the 6 to 10 pesos at which Meralco has been buying from NAPOCOR and from WESM at peak hours.

Last night, at a meeting after midnight — one of the very few meetings we have after midnight because Ed and I usually sleep very early — but Ed was in the meeting and we are happy that when we were asking NAPOCOR to account for it, they did even better. The generation cost of high load factor PEZA Ecozone locators has been reduced to an average NPC billing rate to Meralco not of P4.11 but of P P3.52 per kilowatt hour. (applause)

There are a number of petitions I instructed to be filed before the Energy Regulatory Board:

- 1) Is to enjoin MERALCO from buying electricity from WESM at peak hours;
- 2) Is to ensure preferential treatment for poor households and power-intensive industries in the distribution of Transco charges by Meralco;
- 3) Prohibit Meralco's system loss from being charged as a separate item. (applause) Remember these are petitions we don't know how ERC will finally judge and they're independent of us, so we can't dictate on them how they will judge;
- 4) To require Meralco to charge the same as VECO, CEBECO or Davao Light, whose distribution charges along with all the 140 utilities and cooperatives are all lower than Meralco. (applause)

We spent last night, or maybe this dawn Ed Ermita and I and a couple of officials who are involved in the petition, where the papers are, what are the missing links, how can they fast track. To make a long story short the ERC will hear these petitions on Tuesday, May 6. (applause) Yes, Jess Arranza said you will be there. Please be there with all your legal luminaries because this is going to be a tough legal fight. And you will be the beneficiaries, your workers

will be the beneficiaries, your consumers will be the beneficiaries, the Filipino people will be the beneficiaries, but you are the ones with the means and the articulateness to be able to make a good case before the ERC. (applause)

In the other branch of government, Congress is in the process of amending the Electric Power Industry Reform Act to remove the requirement of 70 percent power privatization for open access because open access will give industrial consumers like you... we allow industrial consumers like you to enjoy the power of choice which will also mitigate the cost of electricity.

On the third item, infrastructure. This year, investment, public investment will be about 200 billion pesos from the national government, the government corporations and the local government for among other things 9,000 kilometers of roads together with other investments in education, healthcare and training along with new bridges and ports to upgrade our competitiveness among others.

Investing in the vital infrastructure also includes building up our environment as a reflection to our commitment to the quality of life. People need to breathe clean air and swim in clean water while also building manufacturing and bridges to span our waters.

Speaking of clean water. Last Earth Day, we celebrated the environment and the theme of the DENR was "Clean Water." We had a Cabinet meeting on that day, Tuesday is a Cabinet day. And Secretary Ermita gave us his program on the requirements for clean water. One of the most important waters we have to clean is the Pasig River. And one of the most important reasons for why the Pasig River is not clean is that we have only a five percent coverage, sewerage coverage in Metro Manila. Now sewerage is the responsibility of the two concessionaires so I guess if we want to really be competitive, FPI should also help us to be very persuasive with the two water concessionaires to fast track their sewerage system for which they are charging us after all.

Boosting spending on infrastructure, we are also building a firewall against any global economic volatility and we are creating a springboard for further growth to ensure we are able to sustain our economic momentum.

On knowledge, as part of the billions we are spending in education and training, we are investing three billion pesos in Science and Engineering Research and Technology Development, including scholarships for masters and doctoral degrees in Engineering in seven universities. Upgrade know-how and learning, and Filipino talent is unbeatable.

Speaking of learning and training, I'm glad to hear about the interface between FPI and TESDA, in order to tap TESDA's resources in education and training to improve the skills and capabilities of workers employed by FPI members.

On red tape. Earlier this year, I instructed the Anti-Red Tape Task Force headed by Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, who can't join us today because after our dawn meeting he had to go to Indonesia to Bali for the Asean Economic Minister's Meeting. But he heads the Anti-Red Tape Task Force. I tasked him and I tasked the Procurement Transparency Group of Secretary Nonoy Andaya to link up with the business sector, the academe and the church to draft reforms in government systems.

Through constant consultations with your leaders, and with all of you whenever we can, the Cabinet where Ed is the primus inter pares and I will continue to seek ways to improve... to help improve industry efficiency. On your part, I encourage local industries to find, defend and expand your competitive niches.

We will continue to support "Buy Pinoy – Buy Local."

We will continue to partner with you against smuggling. That's why we have Bebot Villar signing the MOA with FPI. And I'd like to thank Mrs. Arranza because Jess says you're the one who tells your husband always to be supportive of me. No wonder you are there whenever we need you.

We will be there when you need us.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech During the General Assembly and Induction of Officers of the Federation of Philippine Industries and Launching of the FPI-FFCCCII Advocacy "Buy Pinoy-Buy Local". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121912/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1420&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Oas Town Fiesta celebration [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa selebrasyon ng Oas Town Fiesta**

[Ipinahayag sa Oas, Albay, ika 6 ng Mayo, 2008]

Okay, Dios mabalos Nonoy Andaya, apo ng Oas.

Sa lahat ng ating mga panauhin, at mga hosts; mga narito sa entablado; mga mayor ng 1st and 2nd districts; sa inyong lahat; Dios marhay nga aga as in advanced happy fiesta sa indo gabos! (applause)

Ang dami pala nating taga-Oas dito pati si Nonoy Andaya, apo ng Oas. Kaya hindi masyadong mahirap yung mga iuutos ko mamaya. (applause)

Ako'y nasisiyahan, thank you, Mayor Ricarte for inviting me sa inyong fiesta. At ako naman ay gustong-gusto kong pumunta rito dahil ang Oas ay malapit sa puso ng aking tatay, si President Diosdado Macapagal. (applause) Gaya nga ng sabi ni mayor, ang unang pangulo na nagpunta dito ay si Diosdado Macapagal dahil siya ay isang malapit na malapit na kaalyado ng dati ninyong Mayor, si Mayor Jose "Peping" Ricarte, ang tatay ni mayor ngayon. (applause)

At ako ay nagpapasalamat kay Mayor na kinilala niya na tinulungan kayo ng aking tatay upang masimulan yung Oas-Mabayawan-Cagmanaba Road. (applause) At ako ay nasisiyahan na narito, pinili ko pumunta rito ngayon kasi kahapon ang wedding anniversary ng aking tatay, so parang selebrasyon na rin ng kanyang wedding anniversary. (applause)

At ngayon, bilang regalo sa kanyang nasa langit na, at sa panungkulan ng mga anak ng magkaibigang Macapagal at Ricarte, aayusin natin yung kalsadang tinayo ng ating mga ama. (applause) Kaya salamat na lamang at taga-rito pala sa lolo si Nonoy Andaya, kasi magpapa-release tayo kay Nonoy — sa DA, sa DAR, sa DPWH (applause) at sa PDAF ni Congressman Reno Lim, yung pondong kailangan para ayusin yung kalsada doon sa Coastal Barangay na kailangan sa pag-ayos nong kalsadang yun.

At gusto natin ayusin talaga yun kasi importante sa produksiyon ng palay at bigas ang farm- to-market road. At gusto kong batiin ang Oas hindi lamang sa inyong fiesta kundi na rin dahil napakahalaga ang Oas sa produksiyong ng pagkain ng lalawigan. (applause) Sabi ni Joey Salceda governor, na ang Oas ang pinakamalapad na lupain sa probinsiya, pinakamalapad na may surplus na bigas sa buong lalawigan. (applause) Kasi sabi ni Joey, hindi kagaya ng Camarines Sur na nag-eexport ng bigas sa ibang probinsiya, ang Albay ay nagiimport. Pero ang Oas ay nakakatulong dahil ang Oas ay nag-eexport sa ibang bayan ng lalawigan ng Albay. (applause) Kaya nagagalak akong marinig na kayo ang may pinakamalaking surplus sa bigas sa taong ito – umabot sa 75 metric tons ang inyong produksyon itong taong ito. Congratulations sa mga magsasaka ng Oas! (applause)

Malaki ang naitutulong ng inyong sobrang palay hindi lamang sa Albay kundi na rin sa buong bansa. Lalong nagiging importante ang pagpalago ng ani ngayon because there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice. Thankfully, we are now in a vastly improved position to weather this storm than at anytime in recent memory.

Tungkol sa isyu ng pagmaneho ng bigas, ito ay problemang pangmundo na nakita na natin matagal na, kaya matagal ng trinatrabaho natin na makaraos pagdating nitong panahong ito. Yung sagot natin sa pangmundong pagkukulang ay para sumagot sa tatlong saligang pangangailangan.

Number one, siguraduhin ang supply. Kaya matagal na tayong nakipag-usap at nakipagsarahan ng kontrata, hindi ba Secretary Artie Yap? Sa Thailand, sa Vietnam, sa Pakistan, sa Amerika, matagal na bago dumating, bago pa tumama yung shortage. At tayo ay namuhunan ng mabigat sa mga production efficiency at saka sa bagong mga binhi.

Para sa Oas, nagpatayo ng dalawang dam, rubber dam — ang halaga ay P250 milyon. (applause) Ito ang ginagamit na patubig ng mga palayan.

Sa Barangay Mayao, may taga-barangay Mayao ba dito? Sa Barangay Busac, kayo ang pinagmulan ng tubig para sa irrigation. Maraming salamat sa inyo. At hindi lamang kayo nagpapatubig sa Mayao, sa Busac, pati na rin sa Saban, pati na rin sa Gumabao, pati na rin sa Manga at pati na rin sa katabing bayan hanggang sa Libon ni Mayor Gonzales.

Yung isang dam naman ay nasa South Quinale. Ah! yun kayo nga yun. Pero narinig ko na yung dam na yun ay mas makakatulong pa kung maglagay pa tayo ng mas maraming irrigation canal. (applause) Kaya si Artie Yap na hindi kasama namin ni L-Ray Villafuerte at Reno Lim at ang anak ko si Dato kahapon doon sa Camarines, pinapunta ko ngayon, pinahabol ko ngayon para sabihin kay Artie na maglagay ng 50 milyon para sa irrigation canal. (applause) Eh, mabuti at si Nonoy Andaya ay taga-Oas kaya magre-release si Nonoy kay Artie Yap. (applause)

Second response, to make sure that the distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most — efficiently and cost-effectively. Kaya para maganap ito, we have moved to utilize distribution through churches, Father Jun, ewan ko kung nagsimula na yung bigasan sa parokya ninyo para ituro ninyo kung sino yung mahihirap at doon ibebenta. Pati na rin sa eskuwelahan pag simula na ang mga klase. Pati na rin yung sariling distribution network ng pamahalaan.

Kahapon doon sa Camarines Sur, sa Caramoan, sa Lahuy ay nagmudmod tayo ng family access cards sa mahihirap. Wala tayong family access card dito ngayon, ano? Walang family access card dito ngayon? Okay, ano'ng ibig sabihin sa mga family access card? Doon mga lugar kung saan nagbibigay na, ibig sabihin non, na-identify na yung mga mahihirap. At sila, yung mga may family access card, yun ang puwedeng bumili ng NFA rice na P18.25. Kasi, yung iba, yung hindi gaanong mahihirap, puwedeng bumili ng commercial rice lalo na ngayon at bumababa na ang presyo ng commercial rice.

Pangatlo, kailangan magmatyag tayo para yung mga unscrupulous traders ay hindi magsamantala sa sitwasyon. Sinisigurado natin na kung sinuman ang mahuling nagnanakaw ng NFA rice sa taong bayan ay paparusahan at kasama dito yung mga opisyal ng NFA na nahuling nakipagsabwatan sa mga unscrupulous traders. (applause)

Mamaya sa miting ng mga Obispo, AFP, PNP at mga gobernador at mga regional director, magrereport si Artie Yap tungkol sa kung ano na ang nagawa don sa mga nahuli dito sa Albay na nakipagsabwatan sa unscrupulous traders.

Ngayon ang Bicol, nong ako ay unang umupo, second poorest region sa buong bansa. Ngayon, hindi na, number four – number four nag-graduate na. (applause)

Kasi gaya ng sabi ni Joey, gaya ng sabi ni Reno, gaya ng sabi ni Mayor ay nagbuhos tayo dito ng maraming serbisyo na bahagi ng ating 10-point program, kasama doon yung ating SEA-K. (applause) Okay, para dumami ang mga maliliit na entrepreneur dito sa Oas at saka sa Albay, congratulations sa inyo. (applause)

At bahagi rin sa ating programa, magkaroon ng tubig sa bawat bayan, at kuryente sa bawat barangay. At binabati ko ang Oas dahil lahat ng inyong barangay ay meron ng kuryente. (applause) At tungkol sa tubig naman, very recently nagrelease tayo ng P5 million para sa tubig dito sa Oas. (applause)

Gusto natin pabilisin ang kaunlaran, hindi lamang ng Oas kung hindi ng probinsiya, hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng palay, o hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng SEA-K, tubig at kuryente kundi na rin sa pag-unlad ng turismo dahil ang Bicol ay bahagi ng Central Philippines kung saan 55% ng mga turista sa ating bansa ay pumupunta sa Central Philippines. Kaya ipromote natin ang turismo ng Albay. After all, ano ba ang original tourism attraction ng Bicol?

Walang iba kung hindi ang Mayon Volcano. Wala pa man nga yung Camarines Water Complex, wala pa man yung Donsol, wala pa man yung Caramoan, nandoon na yung Mayon Volcano.

Kaya Joey, magkampanya naman tayo para iboto yung Mayon Volcano as one of the world's new seven wonders. (applause) Dapat lahat ng mga taga-Albay, lahat ng mga taga-Bicol ay bomoto www.new7wonders.com para sa Mayon Volcano. Pero dahil kailangan bomoto kayo sa pito, huwag niyong kalilimutan, bomoto rin kayo sa Tubattaha Reef, sa Chocolate Hills, at saka sa Puerto Princesa Underground River.

Sa pagpa-unlad ng turismo, ang papel ng pamahalaan ay access – kalsada at paliparan. Ang kabutihan ng Mayon Volcano ay malapit na nga sa airport, maganda ang kalsada at nasa Maharlika Highway. Pero dito sa Bicol, kung gusto natin dumiretso na ang mga turista dito mula sa ibang bansa, kailangan ng international airport. Pero hindi naman puwedeng bawat probinsiya, may sariling international airport, kasi hindi naman magkakasya yung mga eroplano, hindi naman pupunta dito kung maliliit lang ang pasahero, dapat marami. Kaya pinagkasunduan ng mga gobernador na yung international airport ng Bicol ay ilalagay sa Daraga dito sa Albay. (applause)

Tamang-tama kasi yung Cagsawa ruins hindi ba nasa Daraga? Ang status ngayon, tinanong ko kay Secretary Lary Mendoza kagabi, binibili na yung lupa para sa ganon, kasi kung international airport, malaki yun kaya binibili na yung lupa. Kaya importante na masimulan natin ang international airport at maayos parati ang Maharlika Road.

Alam niyo kahapon, yung Maharlika highway, at saka may Quirino Highway, tapos naging Maharlika Highway sa Bicol, Kahapon pinuntahan natin yung Andaya highway na dating bahagi ng Quirino Highway, tinutukso naming si Congressman Reno Lim na dapat yung bahagi ng Maharlika Highway na dumadaan sa distrito ninyo, ay tawagin naman, imbis na Quirino highway, kay Reno highway. (laughter/applause)

Pero yan ang ating mga vision sa Albay, yumaman sa turismo and our vision is based on a strong and growing economy. It's the central pillar we have labored to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country.

At yung inyong pag-angat, mula sa second poorest region at naging fourth na lamang, kasama na rin yun sa naabutan natin – ang pinakamalakas na ekonomiya sa loob ng tatlumpong taon. Kaya tuloy tayong magtulungan kagaya yung panahon ng tatay ko, ayun o, may litrato yung tatay ko at saka yung tatay ni Mayor Greg, ayun. (applause) Kagaya nong panahon niya, sa panahon natin muli ngayon, magtulungan tayo para yung mga programang binanggit natin at yung programang iba pa, meron tayong mga grocery packs para sa mahihirap, meron tayong gamot na kalahating presyo na ibebenta sa mga botika, lahat itong mga programang ito ay magdadala ng higit pang pagpalakas ng ating kaunlaran, sa Oas, sa Albay, sa Bicol, sa buong bansang Pilipinas.

Dios mabalos, happy fiesta sa indo gabos.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Oas Town Fiesta Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121851/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1418&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Luncheon with Soroptimist International of the Philippines Region
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Luncheon with Soroptimist International of the Philippines Region

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, May 9, 2008]

Thank you very much Celia.

That was Celia, right? Yes. I didn't see you but I could recognize your voice. (laughter)

Miss Wells, president of Soroptimist. Congratulations on your election as president!

Our Soroptimist members of the house. Ang kaakit-akit na mga Congresswomen ng Bulacan — (laughter/applause) Lorna and Neneng Nicolas; (applause) Governor Villarica, our beautiful head of Soroptimist in the Philippines; Commissioner Amelou Benetiz-Reyes; our awardees, very outstanding indeed; members of the Soroptimist from America and of course from the Philippines; to our friends from the United States, welcome to the Philippines! And to our Soroptimist friends and our awardees from the Philippines, welcome to Malacañang! (applause)

It's a pleasure for me to break bread with some of the most active advocates of women empowerment.

And as I learn about the Soroptimist, I learned that from a handful of determined Filipinas in 1966, Soroptimist International in the Philippines has grown to 2,000 with 88 clubs and making up two percent of the worldwide membership of Soroptimist. So, Congratulations! (applause)

You have been an important presence in Soroptimist International not just because of your large percentage of the membership, but you've also been a very important presence in our country. You've been working to improve the lot of the poorest and the most marginalized Filipinas in health, in environment, in education — as we have seen from our awardees — in human rights and in socio-economic development.

Because of your meaningful programs, I have learned that you are one of the few global women organizations consulted by UN bodies like the UN ECOSOC, the UNESCO and the ILO. Congratulations for that! (applause)

Speaking of the UN, the UN and in its Millennium Development Goals Report recognizes our country for gender parity. And if we have been successful in this and recognized for this, I think one of the reasons is that our administration's programs hew very closely to your organizations programs. So we have been working together and in synergy. This common commitment has helped our nation become one of the leaders in gender parity.

For instance, in the World Economic Forum Gender Gap, we are ranked number six in the world among all countries and the only Asian among the top ten in the world in closing the gender gap. And we are the only Asian country and one of only six countries in the world to have closed the gender gap on both education and health. And if you look at who is outranking us in the top 6, it's New Zealand the the four Scandinavian countries, and then comes the Philippines.

So indeed it is a group that we should be very proud of as becoming a member, the top 6 in gender parity. (applause)

What puts us in the top 6? We are number one in gender parity, or in fact, gender equality in the world in terms of the literacy rate and enrollment in primary, secondary and tertiary education. In fact, more females enroll in schools than males and less females drop out. Our females have a slight edge over our males in both simple and functional literacy.

There is also a gender gap in scholastic achievement but in favor of girls. And the gap widens in favor of the girls as the children move up to higher grades in elementary school.

No wonder we end up leading the world on gender equality among managers and professional and technical workers.

The number of women in the labor force has increased as well because of the better education that the women are getting than the men.

Women dominate the civil service at the technical level.

We lead in gender parity among legislators and senior officials. Four out of 24 Senators are women and our two beautiful Soroptimist are two of the 54 of the 239 members of the House of Representatives. Five of 15 Supreme Court Justices are women. And our nation has entrusted its top leadership to a woman twice within 15 years. (applause)

What also makes us number 6 in the world is that on health, we are number one in gender parity on life expectancy. In fact, Filipinas live longer than Filipino men. (laughter)

And most recent demographic surveys indicate a decline in the maternal mortality ratio.

I mention all of these because I want to thank the Soroptimist for contributing to these manifestations of women's rights.

For example, because we have awarded one of your beneficiaries with regard to education. And because of the work that Soroptimist has done in education, you have helped close the gender gap in education. You have helped close the gender gap in health and helped reduce maternal mortality because you have a good health program in place and women's health is among your top concerns.

Thank you for the medical missions you regularly send to your adopted barangays. Thank you for what I understand is the success of your Breast Cancer Awareness program.

Well, one of our beneficiaries is also an example of... awardees is an example of your training activities. You have helped increase the labor force participation of women through your technical-vocational courses that the clubs offer to make unskilled women economically productive and able to enter the wage labor force.

And over and above that our third awardee, though not a beneficiary, is an example of what you have done to promote women's human rights not only by advocacy against women and child trafficking but also I know about Soroptimist role since I was Vice-President in promoting Women's Humans Rights through your assistance to the PNP's Woman and Child Protection Desk. (applause)

Indeed, we have a common vision. You as an NGO and we, as government. Our vision is based on a strong and growing economy. It's the central pillar we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. And it's paying off — we have the strongest economy in 30 years, the peso is strong, investments are up and we are close to balancing our budget.

Thank to the tax reforms that our two beautiful Soroptimist Congresswomen help to enact into law.

The results of our efforts come none too soon. As we all know, you are educated women. You all know that there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice.

A combination of factors in the whole world including spiralling petroleum costs; increased demand from countries like China and India; negative climatic conditions probably due to climate change; record low closing stocks

therefore decreasing investment over the years in productive agriculture all over the world; encroaching urbanization all over the world and because of climate change and trying to mitigate the use of oil and gas which contribute to climate change; the diversion of agricultural land for bio-fuels to reduce climate change. All of these have all acted together in the world to drive up the price of all food especially rice.

The typical reaction is for exporting countries to husband their own stocks because prices are going up even in the exporting countries. Thailand and Vietnam are selling their rice at home higher now than we are selling our NFA rice in the Philippines. So they have to contain their own inflationary tendencies while importing countries make all efforts to buy their food not only for their normal requirement, but also to stock up and increase the national security stock, what we call the buffer stock. And even locally, traders, importers and even families also tended to 'stock up.' All of these lead to a shortage which has been further exacerbated all over the world by panic situations and hysteria created by the media and political opponents in various countries.

This year some destinations will not get to buy what they want. It will not be for lack of funds, but just the sheer unavailability of the rice. Traditional relationships are a key element as sellers are forced to choose between hordes of willing buyers with open wallets. So buyers who bought early are the only ones with rice. Only those who come to the party early leave with party favours. Thank goodness, the Philippines is one of them. (applause)

How did we become an early arrival in the party? Well, on the issue of rice management — this is a global problem that we have seen coming. And I thank the Secretary of Agriculture and the NFA for plugging this to me way before it really happened. So we have worked to head it off for some time now. Our response is based on three fundamental needs:

One, to ensure supply. So, we have reached out to Vietnam and Thailand long before the shortage hit. And we had invested heavily in production efficiencies and new strains like the hybrid rice which is now a household word in agriculture.

Two, to make sure distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most — efficiently and cost-effectively. To this end, we have moved to utilize distribution through the churches and faith organizations, and the schools when classes start in June, in addition to our own government distribution network.

Lastly, we must be vigilant that unscrupulous traders do not price gouge and exploit the situation. We are making sure that anyone caught robbing the people of rice is punished.

Well, we have American visitors here. The American statesman Adlai Stevenson once said, "that a man who is hungry is not a free man."

Hunger mitigation measures are important in a democracy if we really want to have freedom. And they consist of supply side and demand side measures.

On the supply side, as I said earlier, we must increase food production and enhance the efficiency of logistics and food delivery. Our agricultural modernization program — and again I thank Congress for funding this — has allowed us to increase our rice production by more than the population growth rate of 2.04 percent.

On the demand side, we are challenged to put more money in poor people's pockets. That's why your training program to enable women to have jobs is so important. We are challenged to promote good nutrition. We are challenged to promote birth spacing because even if our rice production is growing more than our population we have been importing rice since the Spanish times and we have not yet closed that gap in a sustainable manner. We are thankful, as I said earlier, that your training programs help put more money in poor people's pockets.

And as you continue to help our women find their true strength in health, in the environment, in education, in human rights and in economic and social development, I hope that in this trying times for the world, the Soroptimist will also take up the challenge of promoting good nutrition and birth spacing. The ultimate winners of the combined

program of your health program combined with nutrition and birth spacing will be the Filipino people and the Filipino women.

And so therefore in congratulating the Soroptimist on the occasion of your convention and the turnover of Linabelle to her successor. Together let us work to assure that in this great democracy of the Philippines where women's rights have been quite well-promoted not only by government but by groups like yourself. Let us make sure that all women, children and men are fed and therefore free to live with dignity and liberty.

To all Soroptimist in the Philippines, Congratulations and more power to you! (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the Luncheon with Soroptimist International of the Philippines Region. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121829/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1417&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Change of Command Ceremony of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Change of Command Ceremony of the Armed Forces of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the GHQ Grandstand, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, May 12, 2008]

Thank you Secretary Teodoro for your introduction.

Troop commander, please give ‘Tikas pahinga.’

General Esperon, former AFP Chief of Staff; General Yano, our new Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; (applause) members of the Cabinet; members of the Diplomatic Corps; Speaker Nograles and the members of the Legislature; Senator Enrile, both senator and former Secretary of National Defense; Senator Dick Gordon; Governors; Congressmen and women; Mayors; General Ibrado, the incoming Commanding General of the Philippine Army; (applause) Vice-Admiral Calungsad; Lt. General Cadungog; PNP Chief Avelino Razon; the Unified Commanders, almost all of whom are new in their commands; our new Vice-Chief of Staff and the Deputy Chief of Staff; ladies and gentlemen.

General Esperon, I speak for everyone in congratulating you and thanking you for a job superbly done! (applause)

General Yano, Congratulations and welcome to a job so tailor-fit for you! (applause)

Subok na natin ang kakayahan nila General Esperon at General Yano. We have known and worked with these two gentlemen for years. They are outstanding leaders in the finest tradition of our Armed Forces. The men and women of the AFP are doubly fortunate to have been well-led by Jun Esperon and to have a man of Alex Yano’s character and talent leading them into the future.

General Esperon, your leadership has helped our country realize its key security objectives. You came to your job well-prepared. Hero of Rajamuda, rescuer of many of the Dos Palmas victims, one time outstanding alumnus of the Philippine Military Academy. Indeed, well-prepared for leadership. Your credentials, your legendary audacity and your extensive background in both staff and field positions. And may I say, showing all of these excellence in performance at a time especially when as a widower for many years, you had to be what we all women try to be — a supermom. You had to try to be a superpop (laughter) because you had to raise very young children at a time exactly when your career was taking off, and that challenge in your private life I think contributed to the excellence of your work in public life. (applause) All of these challenges in private and public life prepared you for the challenges you faced in the transition of the AFP into a solid and truly dependable Armed Forces.

The Communist as you have said, the Communist rebels, had been spending years as a low level threat and as you started your watch, I said, it is time for their destruction and violation of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead. The Communist rebels had been impeding the progress and development of a number of rural areas. They are responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses. And so I said, during your watch that if we are to become a first world country, we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all by 2010.

And may I say, Jun, you have done well in leading the AFP’s charge towards this mission success. Congratulations! (applause)

We have heard it in the citation given to you for your award today. We have heard it in your own tour of duty summary that you gave today. Indeed, going by the results of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008 with so many an unprecedented number of guerilla fronts dismantled and many others downgraded we have every reason to be optimistic about Alex Yano's tour of duty.

All insurgency parameters are on the downtrend, from NPA numbers plummeting to a historic low to firearms now not many more than the rebels themselves.

You have done this because of many reforms you made. You revitalized the CMO. You organized the AFP National Development Support Command to pursue grassroots upliftment efforts across the country all in the interest of expanding the AFP solidarity with the people while at the same time dismantling the support networks of the enemies of peace.

You and I, and I am glad Alex Yano too, has said, that the frontline against terrorism begins with alleviating poverty, which is exactly what we are focused on. And in Mindanao, where you served for so much of your career, you have proved the value of our paradigm for peace through — and you used the term in your address — the use of both hard and soft power. What you have done there is quite unique, particularly against the backdrop of other trouble spots in the world where hard power alone has been struggling. With your leadership of the Armed Forces, we have been able to meld together confidence building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness; investments in economic and basic infrastructure development; and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

Under your leadership, indeed, we have had success in fighting terrorism. Our country is vastly improved in terms of safety, security and economic growth, particularly in the southern part of the country. Your experience in Mindanao before you became CSAFP served you indeed well. Your daring exploits and your victories in Basilan especially have helped you make the right decisions about Mindanao.

You established the EASTMINCOM and the WESTMINCOM. You rationalized the forces and resources there, that is why over the last few years we have made important captures and eliminated key figures of the Abu Sayyaf and the JI terrorists who in fact you named in your own Valedictory address. Yes you have hit them hard and most important you have hit them with success. Congratulations! (applause)

Not only did you use your Commander's prowess, not only do you use your managerial capabilities of organization but also your care for the men that they should be well-equipped and well-cared for.

You worked tirelessly to have unprecedented amounts released for Armed Forces modernization, for AFP housing, and increased hazard pay and subsistence allowance.

And not only have I been so comfortable having you as commander in chief, I have full confidence in the men and women of our Armed Forces who are loyal to our Constitution and to our nation. (applause) The dismal failure of destabilization attempts underscore just how out of touch the plotters are with the mood of the nation. The nation wants peace, order and stability — not more political shenanigans.

Ninety nine percent of our military men and women are good, upstanding and loyal patriots, fighting to protect our country everyday. Where there are rogue members of the military — and indeed, General Esperon you used the word rogue members in your speech — where there are those involved in adventurism or in human rights violations, you have substantiated your commitment to let the wheel of military justice roll smoothly. You have shown that no one is above the law, even as you support and as you have repeated in your address, the support of the pardon of a number of Magdalo officers who have shown remorse and utmost potential for rehabilitation.

As my last act as Commander in Chief of CSAFP Jun Esperon before I stood up as we were sitting down while Alex was still beginning his job as the new CSAFP my last approval of General Esperon's recommendations is to approve his recommendation on the Magdalo soldiers. (applause)

And now we have General Yano. Indeed, in the term of Jun Esperon — the fight against the communist insurgents snowballed so much which is the reason why many of the officers in the field said, let's keep General Esperon at least for awhile so that this snowball can really be sustained, the momentum will not be stopped. And so, I extended the term of General Esperon for three months. I would have if I could extend it all the way for the three years that we're allowed to have a Chief of Staff but General Esperon himself said that it would be better to have a short extension, announced from the beginning of the extension the choice of his replacement so that there can be a smooth phase in, phase out so that even if in General Yano's time we are giving him a whole new slate of field commanders, the phase in and phase out has been so smooth and seamless that this snowball will turn into an avalanche by 2010. We hope. (applause)

General Yano says, he doesn't know the rhyme or reason behind his being chosen as AFP Chief of Staff. Well, there is one thing that we call meritocracy. General Yano you were highly recommended by the Defense and AFP top brass, and even by the Cabinet. And more importantly, you were clearly voted by the Team AFP itself in my discussions with many field officers owing to your reputation as a soldier's soldier, a no-nonsense combat leader, simple and frugal as you want the whole AFP to be during your tour of duty, and one with a heart. Now you know why you are AFP Chief of Staff. (applause)

You have had a glittering career, that's why I made you Army chief, to begin with. And before that, that's why I appointed you head of the Southern Luzon Command whose jurisdiction covers the government priority areas for counter-insurgency operations comprising CALABARZON, MIMARO and Bicol. And before that, you played a crucial role in curbing terrorism in Mindanao and a crucial role also in a peaceful solution to the Kabatangan standoff.

As chief of the AFP, you are expected to bring the AFP modernization to new heights. You are expected to bring the anti-insurgency campaign as I said, from its snowball to an avalanche towards the defeat of the rebels by 2010.

Under your leadership, as you have rightly foreseen as guardians of our security and a pillar of the rule of law, the AFP shall play a central role in countering forces hoping to exploit the global clouds in the horizon driving up the cost of oil and rice, to advance their agenda of violence and lawlessness.

Thank you for foreseeing that. Thank you for being prepared for that.

And as we have all celebrated today, you are the first Army Chief and the first AFP Chief to come from Mindanao. (applause) That's why the first speaker from the House of Representatives from Mindanao is here (applause) to wish you well and the entire, almost the entire officialdom of Mindanao, almost all the governors, congressmen, mayors of Zamboanga del Norte, the ARMM Governor are here. Buti na lang nandito si Congressman Celeste to represent Pangasinan to see off General Esperon. (applause)

We count on you therefore to help bring lasting peace to your native island of Mindanao.

Peace remains within reach in Mindanao. We have made huge progress across the board, as General Esperon said in his tour of duty report, in terms of stability, peace, order and goodwill. Yes, there are political dynamics and we are working to sort them out. But I can think of nothing more desirable for the people in Mindanao and our nation than peace during our administration. And hopefully peace during the tour of duty of the son of Mindanao as CSAFP. (applause) It would really be such a wasted moment if our Muslim brother did not take advantage of our dedication to this effort and conclude a peace deal in the next few years.

In all of these, in all of the important missions that you have to accomplish, General Yano, the national leadership is behind you, behind you and the Armed Forces in your important mission. We will support you with resources and political will, to provide you the wherewithal to do your job.

To keep our troops' morale high, a 10 percent increase in base pay is coming this year. (applause)

To complement the AFP's capability upgrade program and further improve counter-insurgency, as has been mentioned by General Esperon, one billion has been allocated to finance the Kalayaan Barangays Program.

As we improve the security of parts of the country that have known some degree of violence, we are able to develop quickly the economy of those areas. When we ensure that, we ensure a lasting peace and order that ensures that security is no longer an issue. Yes you have said in your speech General Yano, that you realized that development is primarily a function of the economic team but you also realize that you have enumerated the role of the AFP in contributing to development and to fighting poverty.

In other words, 'Magaling na Kasundaluan Laban sa Kahirapan.' I know that the AFP will rally behind the new Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces in its mission so crucial to bringing us to the first world in 20 years.

And so Alex, I congratulate you and I wish you well in your important role of leadership. And to Jun, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. If I extended your term by a few months, one of the reasons why I am happy to do that was that we were able to have your daughter get married in Malacañang Park where she spent many of her young years when you were my PSG Commander. This just shows how important family is and how important it is for us to be one family — the family of the Filipino people.

Have a well-deserved vacation, Jun. Hurry back to serve our people again.

Alex, congratulations!

Mabuhay kayong lahat. Thank you. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Change of Command Ceremony of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121804/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1412&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 29th National Conference of Employers by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 29th National Conference of Employers by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines
(ECOP)**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, City of Manila, May 15, 2008]

Thank you very much, Mike for your very kind and generous introduction.

Secretary Favila and the other members of government who are here today; Jun Ortiz-Luis, Donald Dee and the other top brass of ECOP; David Chua, the new generation representative who chairs this Conference; (applause) ladies and gentlemen.

Congratulations! for being devoted to striking a balance between employers' interest and workers' welfare. That is what ECOP is known for.

Since your birth in 1975, ECOP has been the voice of the business community on employment, industrial relations, labor and related social policies. Thank you for your special task and thank you for doing it so well. (applause)

Your theme this year, "The Empowered Workplace," recognizes that today in order to create an empowered workplace, management's role must change from a command-and-control mindset to a responsibility-oriented and supportive environment in which all employees have the opportunity to do their best.

I was just re-reading the book, "The World is Flat" because when I was reading the talking points and the introductory material for your theme, it's as if I was reading "The World is Flat." Although I read it three years ago, I re-read it again today. This is the bestselling book by the author and journalist Tom Friedman. He uses the terminology the world is flat, but the world he is describing is exactly the world that John Tan was describing earlier.

And I can see that ECOP's vision of the empowered workplace embraces the notion indeed that the world is flat. Friedman outlines the compelling and revolutionary change that has affected the world as a result of tectonic shifts in the post-cold war order. You know, when the Berlin Wall fell started the coming of age of China, Russia, the Eastern countries, Russia breaking up into not one empire but many equal nations. And also the changes that happened with the impact of technology. Our awardee for this year, Andrew Tan is really a personification of the recognition of the importance of technology because Andrew's shares, Andrew's stock has risen because he pioneered in being the landlord of all those BPOs and that is a representation of the new world that ECOP is describing. (applause)

ECOP's theme underscores the substantial elements that make up the new and thriving face of the Filipino employer in the flat world. In the world that is flat, office zones are designed by borderless business, and enterprise competitiveness is driven by labor creativity and technological innovation.

Yes, the world is flat! You don't have to have large starting capital to make it if you have creativity and innovation. And if you know how to bring out the best in those who work in your theme. Yes, the world is flat and the flatter it gets, the more it requires companies to adapt and innovate, to survive and thrive. And that is what the theme of ECOP is all about this year.

More and more companies are realizing that developing and supporting an empowered workplace results in a return on investment for all stakeholders in the enterprise, not just the workers but also the employers and the customers and the suppliers.

Employers, labor and government, make joint decisions because the world is flat. And our joint decision-making at the policy level is institutionalized by the Regional Tripartite Productivity and Wage Boards where ECOP is very active.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to join me in thanking the Wage Boards for doing overtime work last Labor Day. Thank you very much to all those who are in the Wage Board. (applause)

You know in the past and up to today, in order to promote domestic tourism — although we celebrate the national holiday on the day itself determined by law where all the ceremonies and all the commemorations are done — we usually move the day-off to the day, the closest day to the weekend, either Monday or Friday. But Labor requested that, “No, let us not make Labor Day the day-off Friday.” ‘Coz Labor Day was Thursday this year. They said, “Keep the Labor Day day-off Thursday not Friday.” So it was a no-work holiday for all on May 1, except for the Wage Boards. And because the Wage Boards have been working very hard, last night Secretary Marianito Roque — who is not here today because I will explain in a moment what other job he has to do today — last night Nitoy Roque reported to me that as a result of the discussions initiated on Labor Day, the NCR Wage Board has come to some agreement which will be refined further today in a meeting, ongoing, and that was why Nitoy Roque is attending to that. The agreement they have come to is 20 pesos added to the minimum wage in the sense what is... but the refinement to be determined today is whether it will be 15 minimum wage addition plus 5 percent... 5 pesos COLA or 20 minimum wage addition. Nitoy Roque will be coming I believe to join ECOP when their meeting is finished today and you will get the final decision of the Wage Board.

Last night, Nitoy also reported — and I thank the Region X for being here — that the Region X Wage Board has also finished its deliberations. Before the deliberations, the existing cost of living allowance in Region X was 26 pesos. The Regional Wage Board decided that of the 26 pesos, 16 pesos will now be part of the integrated minimum wage. And of the remaining 10 pesos COLA, there will be an additional 12 pesos. So, a 12-peso increase in the take-home pay of our workers.

So thank you to the Wage Boards who have finished your work, and we look forward to the Wage Boards in the other regions coming up with their work soon.

We have also been working for non-wage benefits. Yesterday, I understand Senator Angara and Congressman Manny Guinigundo were here in ECOP where you discussed the legislative agenda of ECOP. And earlier our speakers talked about the things that you have to be doing in the days to come on legislation, Jun Ortiz-Luis mentioned some of them being in the resolutions but let us also thank Congress, especially the House of Representatives for work already accomplished. Let us thank the House of Representatives for the swift passage of the tax exemption bill for minimum wage-earners.

This bill has been balanced with a measure on simplified income taxation. I hope that... I want to congratulate the House for a beautiful bill and we hope the Senate will soon pass its own version.

I understand from our Legislative Liaison Office that the Senate has a different version but also a very good version. So, we hope that whatever version will come out or whatever compromise will come out in the Bicameral Conference Committee will be something that will be good for employers and good for workers as well. So, this is what we wish to do in an empowered workplace.

It is especially important to empower the workplace at a time today, not just because the world is flat, but also there are clouds in the world that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice. Thankfully, in large part because we have taken advantage of the blessings of a flat world including information technology, education using Business Process Outsourcing and knowledge outsourcing as among our drivers of growth. We are now in a vastly improve position to weather the global storm than at any time in recent memory.

Our response to the rice situation is based on three fundamental needs: One, to ensure supply; two, to make sure distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most efficiently and cost-effectively; and lastly, to be vigilant that unscrupulous traders do not price gouge and exploit the situation.

To help in our fundamental need, number one, which is to ensure supply. Last May 2nd, I signed an Executive Order — still to be released by Secretary Ermita — encouraging large corporations to provide for the rice requirements of their employees. But because the world is flat, we use the word ‘encourage,’ we do not use the word ‘require.’ The one that we gave an order to is not the corporation. We gave an order to the National Food Authority to encourage large corporations to provide for rice requirements of their employees either by engaging in the production of rice or by importing rice to meet their employees’ requirements.

I remember going to one of the top cement factories in Cebu — one of the model employers, in fact — and when I was telling them about rice, they said because Cebuanos eat kamote and corn, they will instead plant either kamote or corn in their available land. We encourage those large corporations with existing landholdings determined to be suitable for rice production, to indeed engage in rice production. Those without landholdings who decide to engage in rice production may lease public agricultural lands for the purpose or subject to mutual agreement with landowners whose lands are still idle to plant on those lands. Again subject to mutual agreement because the world is flat it must be because of common consensus and not anybody forcing anybody to do anything. Those corporations who decide to import rice may register with the NFA so that the importations can be coursed through the NFA and so that they may be eligible for fiscal privileges provided through the NFA.

Now these are for large corporations, meaning, 500 employees and above. But other corporations may enter into agreements or other forms of combination among themselves for the purpose of engaging in the production and/or importation of rice for employees.

This is an important non-wage benefit at this important time in our history. After all, the law provides for tax exemption for benefits up to 1,000 pesos worth per month.

Making food affordable to employees, indeed, brings about an empowered workplace. Because if they have the rice, they don’t have to worry about the most basic need of their families.

I would like to thank ECOP and congratulate you because ECOP has long realized the importance of developing and maintaining an empowered workplace. You have become a cornerstone of our country’s development. Prior to the flat world we wanted an empowered workplace because of social justice. But now that the world is flat, your message is clear — an empowered workplace is also good for business, good for the economy, and good for our country.

And therefore, in promoting an empowered workplace ECOP is a major partner in helping the Filipino nation take advantage of the flatness of the world and move into the first world in 20 years.

So to ECOP, I say, “Salamat, “flat-worlders.” Maraming salamat sa inyong ginagawa para sa kapakanan ng manggagawa at inyong mga negosyo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Speech during the 29th National Conference of Employers by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121730/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1405&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 14th Quadrennial Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO of Asia and the Pacific Region

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 14th Quadrennial Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO of Asia and the Pacific
Region**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City, May 19, 2008]

Thank you very much, Acting Secretary Ebdalin for your introduction.

Ambassador Soliven, Secretary Lapus and the other officials of the Philippine Government, Mr. Sayyad, Dr. Tait, National Commissions from the member nation of the Asia and the Pacific Region, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, welcome to our partners in Asia and the Pacific Region!

We're honored to host this conference of UNESCO of the National Commissions and the Director Generals Consultation on your new program and budget. It's a great opportunity to have you here and to be able to speak with you and to thank UNESCO for supporting our country's priority programs which dovetail with the mandates of UNESCO and the overarching objectives of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008 and 2013.

This is a very informative experience because, as Mr. Sayyad said, you have just recently approved the Medium-Term Strategy and it is important for us, the national officials, to be aware of your five overarching objectives and see how our own programs dovetail with UNESCO and where we can work together.

UNESCO's first medium-term overarching objective is attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning. And we are very proud that our own Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan for 2004 and 2010 gives high priority to education for all. In fact, we have used that term as one of the ten points of our administration's ten-point agenda.

We hear and heed the U.N.'s advice to expedite the implementation of the basic education sector reform agenda in order to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. Our education services to the poor have vastly improved though we have a long way to go. We're expanding early childhood education. We're paying cash to the poorest of the poor who send their children to school. We're providing food-for-school programs in food-poor areas in the elementary school. We're abolishing all fees collected in public primary schools.

And, as Ambassador Soliven has said earlier in her speech in support of UNESCO, we have issued an Executive Order establishing a center for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development of the Philippines. We are also proud to be in tune with UNESCO's second overarching objective in its Medium-Term Strategy which is mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development.

We are investing billions in Science and Technology Research and Development including scholarships for Masters and Doctoral degrees in Engineering. Sustainable development is one of our top priorities. We have begun the "Green Philippines Program", and I am glad we have some environmentalists here in our audience with us. Our Green Philippines plan is a blueprint for mapping our environment and economic policies that allow for sustainable development that doesn't fall on the backs of the poor or erode our environment.

In this regard, we thank UNESCO for re-nominating the expanded Tubbataha Reef Marine Park to the UNESCO World Heritage list and for encouraging the nomination of Mt. Apo Natural Park as the first site in Mindanao to be inscribed in the World Heritage list. We also thank UNESCO for facilitating the establishment of an efficient

emergency communication infrastructure network and communication system for the Department of Health in Eastern Visayas in Central Philippines which is quite disaster-prone.

So, we thank UNESCO for helping us achieve UNESCO's second overarching objective.

The third overarching objective of UNESCO in the Medium-Term Strategy is addressing social and ethical challenges such as poverty, biotechnology, human rights. Our improved fiscal position is allowing us to invest in job creation, better healthcare and more educational opportunities. These are the keys to lifting the poor up. We have the support of UNESCO here and therefore we are optimistic.

We also count on UNESCO to help us work out the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology and its products as one of several means to achieve and sustain food security, equitable access to health services, sustainable and safe environment, and industry development.

And on the issue of human rights, since the formation of a special commission to tackle our unfortunate history of political violence, extrajudicial killings are down and prosecutions are up. Of course, we will not be satisfied until we are at zero and we count on UNESCO's support for this.

The fourth overarching objective of the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy is fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace. And so, we thank UNESCO for including the Jose Maceda Music Collection in the international memory of the World Register. This attests to the universal significance of preserving the traditional music of the Philippines which are very important part of our culture.

Our society is a multi-ethnic society and multi-cultural. It should be founded on social justice for all and the institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions.

So, we have adopted inter-faith dialogue as an official policy of our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. The role of inter-faith dialogue in restoring peace in Southern Philippines is an experience we would like to share with the world through UNESCO.

Finally, the fifth overarching objective of the strategy is building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication. Our information structure is cost- competitive and we have a highly trainable English Proficient, I.T-enabled management and manpower. That is why we are a leader in the outsourcing space.

And even more than that, we are deeply committed to press freedom and its role in building inclusive societies. Well, I might not always like what the media writes about me, I respect their right to say it because we live in a vibrant and robust democracy.

As we improve security in the parts of the country that have known some degree of violence, with the support of UNESCO, we're able to move quickly to build inclusive societies and develop the economy of those areas. And as a neighbor and friend in an inclusive regional society, we all I'm sure share the anguish of the Chinese and the Burmese in their current moment of tragedy.

Together, we will rise above catastrophe with the support of UNESCO.

So, it is fitting that this conference highlights 'Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration in Asia and the Pacific Region.' By working together, we can combine efforts and resources toward the mission of UNESCO to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and inter-cultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

I understand that by next week, the UNESCO Secretariat will start to draft UNESCO's program and budget for the next biennium.

So, I wish all of you a fruitful and productive discussion as you plan the region's strategic programs to bring about a culture of peace and to deepen and develop mutual understanding, reconciliation and dialogue.

Once more, to all of you, welcome, mabuhay and thank you. (applause)

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the 14th Quadrennial Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO of Asia and the Pacific Region. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121719/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1402&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Region VI Local Peace and Security Assembly

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Region VI Local Peace and Security Assembly

[Delivered at the Planta Centro Bacolod, Mabini cor. Araneta Sts., May 22, 2008]

Thank you Secretary Gonzales for your introduction.

Other Cabinet members and national officials who are here with us today; ang atong host diri sa Bacolod City, Congressman Monico Puentevella and Mayor Bing Leonardia; and then although jurisdictionally Bacolod is not part of Negros but geographically it is, so we also consider as our host, Governor Zayco. Congratulations! (applause)

I'm also happy to see Governor Niel Tupas here, thank you very much for joining us; (applause) and I'm happy to see Mayor Jerry Treñas here aside from the other city mayors and municipal mayors all over the country; (applause) Congressman Jeffrey Ferrer, I have him listed here. He's coming. Okay, alright. Soon, okay.

So, sa inyo nga tanan, maayong aga and thank you for your resolutions. Many of your resolutions are very welcome — well, all are welcome — but many are especially welcome because they give us a good reminder of our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010 where we have a whole chapter on the peace process. And in this Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan on the Peace Process, the peace process consists on the one hand, peacemaking and peacekeeping, and on the other hand, peace-building and conflict prevention.

Peacemaking and Peacekeeping include:

1. Continuation of peace talks and the conclusion, hopefully, of a peace agreement with the CPP-NPA-NDF which is why Nieves Confessor has just come from Netherlands with an informal no agenda discussion with the leaders of the NPA-NDF-CPP;
2. Complementary measures to reduce the level of violence arising from armed conflicts. And there are many examples of these but I think the most relevant is the LGU or civil society-led localized “peace talks” that is something that we encourage;
3. Full implementation of existing final peace agreements. And that is also very relevant to Western Visayas because there is an existing peace agreement with the RPA-RPM;
4. And this is very strong in your recommendation, the Implementation of an Enhanced Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Amnesty program. The enhance reintegration and rehabilitation is provided for now by Executive Order under what we call the Social Integration Program. And the Amnesty Proclamation has been done; we are awaiting the concurrence of Congress. But I think Congress has already concurred, right Monico? We're awaiting the concurrence of the Senate for this amnesty to take full place although even now we're already beginning to implement it at the Executive level.

The other aspect of the peace process – Peace-building and Conflict Prevention include:

1. Rehabilitation and development of conflict areas, and I have more to say about that here later, and
2. The conduct of healing and reconciliation programs in conflict-affected areas.

Because as we improve the security in parts of the country that have known some degree of violence, we should be able to move quickly to develop the economy of those areas. Because when we do that we ensure a lasting peace and order that will ensure that security will no longer be an issue.

And indeed, considering how important development is to former NPA- controlled areas, I want to thank again Mayor Montilla for her hospitality yesterday, because yesterday some friends and I went diving in Sipalay. And I couldn't help thinking Sipalay for one, more recently, it was named by the Women in Travel as the best-kept secret in tourism destinations. And I remember saying that in one of my speaking engagement here in Bacolod, but it's a secret no more. So many beautiful private vacation houses and commercial resorts are now located there. It's amazing especially when we remember that Sipalay is the S in the once dreaded CHICKS area, the area of the NPA stronghold. Now it is a popular tourism destination. It validates the thesis that when insurgency is defeated, it has been defeated in the CHICKS area that promotes growth.

One of your recommendations indeed recognizes that Western Visayas as a growth sector tourism. And you have asked for assistance for a Masterplan for tourism development, it dovetails with Mayor Montilla's number one recommendation which she gave me yesterday. She also would like to have a Master Development Plan for Sipalay Tourism. I think that is one very important resolution that we must follow through because Western Visayas is truly such a beautiful region.

And it highlights that the way to peace isn't through the barrel of a gun. Rather it begins with providing a person a job, food on the table and human dignity. And central to that success is to invest in the people — in education, healthcare, roads, bridges and schools — that is part of the resolutions made here and we are making those investments.

Now to go to that portion of the peace process about implementing peace agreements that are already there, and I said that is very unique here in Western Visayas because of the peace agreement with RPA. We want our peace agreement with the RPA to bring a new era of economic development to areas like — and I ask my new P.A., Mayor Baniyas, to take this all down — Barangays Caliling, Lumbia, Tomina, Sura, Talacdan and Tambad in Cauayan; Payauan and Agboy in Candoni; Bago, Bagong Silang and Pinowayan in Don Salvador Benedicto; Alegria, Amayco, Pandanon, Silos and Santa Cruz in Murcia; Guimbala-on in Silay; Ara-al and Yubo in Carlota; Amontay in Binalbagan; Baviera, Bulanon, Himoga-an Baybay, Himoga-an and Puey in Sagay; Laga-an and Villasin in Cadiz City; Magsaysay and Paitan in Escalante; Winaswasan in Calatrava; Cayhaga in Sipalay; Asia, Bulwangan, Daug and San Rafael in Hinoba-an; Magballo in Kabankalan; and Pinggot in Ilog, all in Negros.

In Aklan, Aparicio, Malindog and Monlaque in Ibajay, where I will visit this coming, I think... June 2, I'm going to Ibajay, and I hope to have a report on what we are doing in those barangays. In Iloilo, Governor Tupas' province, Isian Victoria, Cabutongan and Salngan in Leon; and Camia, Jawod and Santa Ana in San Joaquin. What are these areas? These are the RPA areas that are now the subject of our concluded peace talks and should be the subject of the implementation of bringing development in a post-conflict areas.

Coupled with this is our new paradigm for peace even in areas where we still have no peace talks or no peace agreement. At a time when hard power has not proven its value in the world, our model for dealing with flashpoints has focused on a unique combination of soft and hard power to promote peace. We have been able to meld together confidence-building measures, investments in economic and basic infrastructure development financed by the Kalayaan fund, and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace.

We are very happy on the other side of Negros of a post-conflict Rebel Returnee program in Seaton and when General Yano was still the PA Chief. We remember we discussed that about how to bring that same Seaton model here in Negros Occidental. Because when we were in Dumaguete a few weeks ago, we met with some recent rebel returnees and even with oldtime rebel returnees. Well, the one in Seaton is going quite well because they have a livelihood program with a ready market because the program was market-driven. It started with a demand and then the DTI brought the demand to the community of rebel returnees. We want to do the same thing here in Region VI. So my friend Nick Abad — I don't know if he is here — we'll be counting on him for that.

We have achieved a great deal. Well, not only in CHICKS, but Western Visayas is vastly improved in terms of security and economic growth. And I believe that one of the reasons for that is the current agreement with the RPM-RPA is making things better. And because our soldiers have been able to very well combine soft and hard power to defeat insurgency in many areas.

We are making headway in reducing poverty and building a bigger middle- class. Self-rated poverty is down, employment is up. Our education and healthcare services to the poor are vastly improved. That said, we have a long way to go.

And the results of our efforts comes none too soon because there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice. Thankfully, we are now in a vastly improved position to weather this storm than at any time in recent history.

As the recent global oil and food price surge has underscored, the Philippines is a price-sensitive nation. The poor who are doing well can be setback very quickly when these types of price problems arise. So we are very concerned about that.

On the issue of rice management, this is a global problem that we have seen coming. We have worked to head it off for some time now. Our response is based on three fundamental needs: One, to ensure supply. We reached out to Vietnam and Thailand long before the shortage hit. I was wanting to stay here in Negros longer but I have to go back today to Manila because the Prime Minister of Thailand is making an official visit and it's a good opportunity to thank him for selling us rice very, very early in the day. So that now, at least we have enough rice in our bodegas.

We have also invested heavily in production efficiencies and new strains. And here again, I saw in your recommendations that we have to strengthen also agriculture in Western Visayas, especially Iloilo is a rice granary not only for Western Visayas but also for the rest of the country. We used to be a rice granary for Luzon but now with the Roll-on/Roll-off ferry you're a rice granary for everywhere else. So, it is also very important to continue to strengthen agricultural productivity in rice granaries like Iloilo and also in Antique.

Second fundamental need, make sure the distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most efficiently and cost-effectively. To this end, we have moved to utilize distribution through churches and faith-based organizations, in addition to our own government distribution network.

Lastly, we must be vigilant that unscrupulous traders do not price gouge and exploit the situation. Anyone caught robbing the people of rice shall be punished. We have done this in Bicol. We are doing this in Northern Mindanao. I hope nobody is committing the crime in Western Visayas so that we don't have to do anything in Western Visayas.

Aside from rice management, in Western Visayas you have in addition a special problem. And that is the issue of fuel management, especially in Panay and to a lesser extent in Negros Occidental because it is affected by the situation in Panay. Panay has no indigenous source of power. Including what it imports from the rest of the Visayas, including Negros Island which should be going, I mean from Oriental it should be going all to Occidental, but it has to go to Panay as well. Panay has just enough electricity for its basic needs. No buffer supply. So that if there is any shutdown whether accidental or for maintenance, there will be a power shortage. And since Panay has to import from Negros Island, Negros Occidental is also affected. And therefore because Negros Occidental is already affected by the lack of an indigenous power source in Panay, there is no additional power for additional economic or population growth.

So, I see here about energy and I see here about... but at the same time protect the environment. Of course at the same time protect the environment, but let us be reasonable about believing whether the technology can protect the environment or not. Let us be reasonable about looking at the track record of the proponent in other countries whether they have protected the environment or not. Because if the opposition to new power plants prevails, and if investors are driven away from the Panay power sector, as they are being driven away, the people of Panay will indeed face a dark future. But let that not be said that we told you so this early.

Ug sa subong ang Panay may ara pa nga bag-o nga problema, ginapadanga nato ang atong pagkasubo tungod kay damo gid ka pamilya sa Iloilo, Governor, ang naapektuhan sang nagligad nga 'Cosme.' Mapadala ang gobyerno sang padayon pa nga bulig.

Tulad sa una, mabuylog ang mga sundalo sa pagluwas kag sa lain-lain nga disaster response activities. Makapadayon ang mga sundalo sa ila ginahimo sa mga hilimuon sa civic action kag sa kauswagan and the development activities. Magabulig sila sa rescue and rehabilitations sa panahon sang mga natural nga kalamidad, and also for longer term basic infrastructure development especially in the former conflict areas.

Apan padayon nga magin alerto ang mga pulis kag sundalo sa mga aktibidades sang mga dako nga grupo sang rebelde na padayon sila sang extortion kag pagpangita sang mga recruit.

The Communist rebels have spent years as a low-level threat. It is time for their disruption and violation of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead. Look at Sipalay, how long it was a well-kept secret because the Communist rebels were impeding the progress and development of CHICKS, and that is true of a number of rural areas. And not only that, I'm glad when you talked about human rights here by state and non-state agents — I think the Armed Forces and the Police are doing their part to put their house in order — but let us not forget that the Communist rebels are responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses.

Thank you for putting in your preamble that we want to become a first world country at least in 20 years. If we are to become a first world country, we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all.

Some would ask why do we want to be a first world country in 20 years, because in a first world country poverty is marginalized; in a first world country the marginalized are raised by a robust middle-class. In a modern country, institutions are strong and all your issues of governance become very minimal. But now we are not yet first world we have to work doubly hard on good governance.

By 2010, we hope that the Philippines should be well on its way to achieving that vision. But for that to happen, by 2010 insurgency must be defeated.

Kalinong ang ginapakita naton tungod kay gusto naton ang kalinong kag kauswagan.

And so, I thank you for your very wise resolutions and action agenda. Secretary Bert Gonzales and his group will put this together with the results of the other Regional Peace and Security Assembly so that they can come up with a master work program that will be implemented and that the National Security Council will make sure will be implemented.

So my dear friends, mga kasimanwa, salamat gid sa very very active workshop that you had yesterday and I do hope that our success in peace and security will be something we can be proud of in the years to come.

Damo gid nga salamat sa inyo nga tanan. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Speech during the Region VI Local Peace and Security Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121659/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1397&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Program of the 16th ASEAN Farmers' Week Celebration and Joint Convention Rural-Based Organizations, May 22, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Program of the 16th ASEAN Farmers' Week Celebration and Joint Convention Rural-Based Organizations**

[Delivered at the Grand Caprice Convention Hall, Grand Caprice Hotel, Misamis Oriental, May 22, 2008]

To our delegations from the other ASEAN countries, welcome to the Philippines and to Mindanao.

Your presence here today affirms the commitment of the Philippines and not only as one country but as a member of ASEAN, to realize shared goals with our ASEAN brethren for the agricultural advancement of our region. And when I say our region, I don't only mean the region of Northern Mindanao. I mean the region of ASEAN, especially in agricultural training and extension. This is one of the thrusts of ASEAN.

And as our previous speakers have said, our meeting this week is timely because of the global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice which is a staple food in the ASEAN.

We are totally sensitive to the fact that a large segment of our population is price sensitive. We feel deeply for our poorest who, one minute, are doing well and moving up the ladder but then, almost overnight, are subjected to pain and setbacks as a result of high fuel and rice prices.

On the issue of rice management, this is not only a national problem, it is not only an ASEAN problem, it is a global problem that we have seen coming. In the Philippines, we have worked to head it off for some time now. Our response is based on three fundamental needs: one, to ensure supply. We have reached out to our ASEAN neighbors who happen to be among the big rice exporting countries long before the shortage hit. And we have as well invested heavily in rice production efficiencies in which agricultural training and extension is important and also in new strains, especially our hybrid.

Number two fundamental need, to make sure distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most efficiently and cost-effectively. To this end, we have moved to utilize distribution through churches, faith-based organizations and the schools, especially in our food-poor provinces. For instance, I saw a delegation from Shariff Kabunsuan, that is one of the provinces where we have — and tell me if it's not working — a food-for-school program where we distribute rice to the children when they go to school so that they can bring it home to their families. This is in addition to our own government distribution network.

Lastly, we must be vigilant so that unscrupulous traders do not price gouge and exploit the situation. We are making sure that anyone caught robbing the people of rice is punished, and in fact, Cagayan de Oro and Region X, Artie, were our first cases that was cracked by the Department of Agriculture.

From the day I took office, we have been focused on our economy and modernizing every aspect of the economic underpinnings of the Philippines. This includes agriculture from, as I said earlier, the development of new hybrids, to investments in irrigation, to dramatic increases in loans to help our farmers purchase the needed equipment, among other activities.

And lately, we have directed our government to crackdown on price gouging and increase the supply of rice where necessary. For instance, in provinces that are poor but don't produce their own rice, like Dinagat Island we have to supply them with additional rice.

In the case of Misamis Oriental, because you are a high-value crop producing province, your people have the income to buy the rice that comes from other provinces. But there are those who are very poor and still don't produce their own rice, so that is a very important target where we must make sure there is supply of rice.

Also, I have directed our officials since long ago to invest more in planting and agricultural modernization. And that is what Artie Yap was saying earlier, when he introduced me and finally provide rice subsidies for the poor. Our program that we call FIELDS — F for fertilizer; I for irrigation and infrastructure; E for equipment, education and extension; L for loans; D for dryers and post-harvest facilities; and S for seeds — is our summary of our agricultural modernization program. This has allowed us to increase our rice production by more than the population growth rate of 2.0 percent. What's our rice production this year, Artie? Five percent? 5.69 compared to our 2.0 percent growth rate in population. This is a result of our ongoing economic, including agricultural, reforms.

These efforts will ensure that we will be able to improve the livelihood of each and every Filipino in this country in the longer term, including the Filipinos represented in our Congress today.

We have yet to determine the long-term plan for the National Food Authority, but it would be a mistake to shift all of our attention to long-term policies at the expense of near-term efforts to stabilize the situation and put food on the table for our people.

For today, definitely, there is still a role for the National Food Authority. And because of their work and the hard work of our farmers, for now we have the supply issue well in hand. The price, of course, is another matter. But then, as I said clearly, this is a global phenomenon and this global phenomenon is a global wake up call that we must address both individually as a country and collectively as ASEAN.

We must realize that we must spend considerable time as we are doing today and in the months ahead not just resolving the situation in our individual countries, but dedicating ourselves to the regional and global discussions on what must be done for emerging nations such as ASEAN on the vital issue of food security.

We must work together to resolve this — work together in the country, work together in ASEAN. That's why we should all work with the International Rice Research Institute, which happens to be located in the Philippines, to explore ways of meeting the future needs for rice in the Philippines and that of other rice-producing countries in ASEAN.

These techniques range from ensuring that farmers are aware of and can use the latest techniques in crop establishment, to making sure that social safety nets are in place. We must work together in the Philippines and in ASEAN to improve agronomic practices, to enhance the ability to utilize rice varieties more effectively. It's not enough that we have hybrid rice seeds that have a specific way of planting and cultivating the hybrid rice. And also to promote rice breeding because many want to plant hybrid rice but where will they get it, so rice breeding is very important and, of course, the subject matter of ASEAN's very close coordination building training capacity. If we work together on these priorities, this will help prevent any global food crisis in the longer term.

And so because we are all together here to determine, indeed to work together, we remain bullish on our country. We remain bullish on our region, the ASEAN. We are optimistic about the future.

Let us all be deeply committed to being a force for good and a force for food security in the Philippines and the ASEAN.

To all of you thank you and welcome!

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the State Dinner in Honor of their Majesties King Mswati III and Queen Lankhambule of the Kingdom of Swaziland

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the State Dinner in Honor of their Majesties King Mswati III and Queen Lankhambule of the
Kingdom of Swaziland**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, May 26, 2008]

His Majesty King Mswati III and Queen Lankhambule; Vice President De Castro; members of the Swaziland delegation; members of the Swazi Royal Family; Secretary and Mrs. Romulo; His Excellency Edward Joseph Adams, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps; Executive Secretary Ermita; Senator Angara; members of the Diplomatic Corps; members of the Cabinet, the Senate and the House of Representatives; other government officials and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; guests for the private and business sector; ladies and gentlemen.

We welcome His Majesty King Mswati III, the members of the Royal Family and our other distinguished guests from the Kingdom of Swaziland. We greet His Majesty a belated 40th Happy Birthday last month and Advance Congratulations on the forthcoming 40th anniversary of Swazi Independence. And we congratulate Swaziland that on the occasion of your 40th anniversary as an independent state you have just completed your constitutional reform.

His Majesty's visit signifies the strengthening of our two countries bilateral relations and helps bridge the gap between Asia and Africa. The global clouds in the horizon driving up the cost of fuel and food demonstrate the need for the various nations of the world to diversify their trading partners.

We welcome this state visit which demonstrates Swaziland's intent to draw our countries together.

We both labor to create a strong and growing economy in our respective countries to help guarantee peace, order and stability. And in our discussions today, His Majesty and I agreed to push our relations forward particularly in the fields of education and trade, and also in tourism which is the reason why we invited a number of members of the tourism industry tonight.

King Mswati has brought with him a remarkable business delegation. I hope that their meeting tomorrow with the Philippine Business Community would increase commercial interaction between our two countries. And I was happy to hear from His Majesty that he liked the world-class furniture that he saw during his visit to Cebu.

Indeed, this is a good opportunity for us to know the people of Swaziland more and for the leaders of Swaziland to get to know the Philippines more.

We are bullish on our two countries. We are optimistic about our future relations. We're deeply committed to developing our friendship.

On this note, may I invite you all to raise your glasses and offer a toast to the good health of His Majesty King Mswati III, to the prosperity and happiness of the people of Swaziland, and to the relationship between Swaziland and the Philippines.

Mabuhay! (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the State Dinner in Honor of their Majesties King Mswati III and Queen Lankhambule of the Kingdom of Swaziland. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121638/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1391&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of PLDT's 2nd International Cable Landing Station of the Asia-America Gateway (AAG) Fiber Optic System

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of PLDT's 2nd International Cable Landing Station of the Asia-America Gateway
(AAG) Fiber Optic System**

[Delivered at Brgy. Baccuit, Bauang, La Union, May 27, 2008]

Thank you Ray for your introduction.

Chairman Manny Pangilinan and President Polly Nazareno, and all the officials of PLDT and all their partners, Congratulations! Governor Ortega, Congressman Ortega, Congressman Dumpit and the other officials of La Union, congratulations on the location of this important gateway here in your province.

I'd like to greet also Congresswoman Luna from Abra and Congressman Joseph Santiago, the chairman of the ICT Committee in the House of Representatives; Cabinet members; Ladies and Gentlemen.

Congratulations, first of all, to PLDT on your 80th Anniversary, 80 years of service to the Filipino people. (applause)

So this year is an auspicious moment to launch the Asian-American Gateway. As we have heard from the other speakers, your company's second International Cable Landing Station.

The first gateway facility of PLDT in Batangas was a watershed in the development of the country's telecoms infrastructure. But today it is exceeded by this new landing station, which as we have heard from the speakers earlier, links our country through over 20,000 kilometers of submarine fiber optic cable to our neighbors in Southeast Asia, Hong Kong as well as our Pacific partners, Hawaii and the continental U.S.

We thank PLDT and its partners for this over half a billion dollar cable system. And may I mention the list of partners they gave me: AT&T of the U.S., Bharti of India, CAT of Thailand, StarHub of Singapore, PT Telkom of Indonesia, Telstra of Australia, TM of Malaysia, VNPT of Vietnam, and the Government of Brunei. What a great international partnership!

And this award winning system will support, as we have heard, the rapidly growing telecommunications traffic between our country and the rest of the region as well as the U.S. It will provide us with a resiliency and redundancy of service that is not easily disrupted by natural disasters like the Taiwan earthquake of December 2006. I remember that earthquake, it was a very, very short disruption but our BPOs especially our call centers cannot even afford a few minutes of disruption. So they demanded for redundancy if our industry was to continue growing and I'm happy that PLDT has provided this redundancy. Thank you. (applause)

Now, the BPO and all the other IT companies can breathe easier.

This is what I was referring to in my last State of the Nation when I said and I quote: "So that no Taiwan tremor can cut off our cyber services from their global clients, PLDT and Globe are investing 47 billion pesos in new international broadband links through other regional hubs." And here it is. Congratulations! (applause)

The AAG International Cable System and Landing Station represent a big boost, as we have said, as Ray have said, to the continued growth of our ICT industries, especially offshoring and outsourcing which depend on reliable international broadband services.

Spending on transport, digital and human infrastructure remains central to the ability of our nation to break the historic cycle of despair and to meet the challenges of the future, and the future has landed. And we will continue to invest heavily in new spending. We thank PLDT and its partners for sparing the government the need to be the one to build this gateway.

When the private sector puts up an important infrastructure such as this gateway, it spares the government to be the one to put it up, we are better able to balance the budget which remains a very important priority. We have always said that a balanced budget was our goal by the time we leave office. That remains our target. We are well on our way to meeting that goal, thanks to private infrastructure investors like PLDT. Our surplus in April when PLDT paid its income tax more than doubled year-on-year due to higher tax collection. (applause) Our cumulative budget deficit from January to April fell to P25.8 billion. I'm confident we will be able to sustain progress on the budget front.

Thanks to private infrastructure spending like this international gateway, for the first time in a generation, our budget is under control; we are lowering our deficits and raising unprecedented amounts of revenue. Again, thanks to big taxpayers like PLDT. We do not want to and will not go back to the days of heavy deficit spending. Our commitment to economic reform has proven effective. We're both comfortable and confident that our discipline will allow us to continue on a balanced path of targeted investment and overall restraint. Balancing the budget as I said remains a very important priority that will not be abandoned. But we will do this while investing in much-needed infrastructure and social services.

With firms like PLDT taking on a large part of the burden of building vital infrastructure, there is no need for new taxes. We have plenty of room to increase revenues by enhancing tax administration. And tax administration can be enhanced because we have better internet services. This continues to be one of our main focus areas this year. That is also how we will address the short-term challenges we face in meeting our revenue-generating targets.

Rating agencies like Moody's which investors listen to, which raised our credit rating outlook to positive recently, have recognized our fiscal progress. We are determined to show that we are a government that delivers on its commitment, and one of our most important commitments is to have a friendly environment for business. We are confident that the Filipino people themselves, the masses, the ordinary citizens will acknowledge the sustainability of our reforms in the long-term.

Our Medium-Term Plan for the government and the private sector to invest in social and physical infrastructure includes billions of pesos in education, healthcare and training along with billions in new bridges, roads, ports and digital infrastructure to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines. This will in turn attract more investment and create more jobs, which at the end of the day is our goal to improve the lives of our people.

We thank PLDT for this redundancy because as I said when the tremor from Taiwan hit everybody said, you need redundancy. Now, the industry tells me, 'coz I told them, well, the PLDT is putting it up in Northern Luzon. They said, but now that the cybercorridor is all over the country, maybe we should have another redundancy in Southern Philippines. And I'm very glad that very readily the way Manny answered me the first time, when I said Manny we need a redundancy because of what happened in Taiwan. And Manny said we've already started working on it. Today, I said, Manny the BPO industry are asking for a redundancy in the South, and Manny said we are already working on it.

Thank you very much, Manny. (applause) Thank you PLDT. Thank you for giving us our future. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Inauguration of PLDT's 2nd International Cable Landing Station of the Asia-America Gateway (AAG) Fiber Optic System. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412124840/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1383&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Inauguration of the Sentrong Pamilihang Bayan, May 28, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Inauguration of the Sentrong Pamilihang Bayan**

[Delivered at Brgy. Sampaloc 2, Sariaya, Quezon, May 28, 2008]

Talagang nagagalak akong magbisita sa inyong Sentrong Pamilihang Pambayan. Una sa lahat, dahil gaya ng sabi ko ay tatlong taon nang kinekwento ito sa akin ni Procy. At pangalawa, dahil ang dami-dami ninyong narito, ang ganda ng ating pagsasama-sama. At pangatlo, yung manager na kinuha ni Procy, ito ang dating nagkakampanya sa akin mula pa noong 1992, si Ariel Mañalac. Kasama siya ni Mely Jabola na aking PA ngayon dito sa Region IV.

So, Congratulations Procy sa inyong napakagandang proyekto. Ito ay isa na namang patunay na tagumpay na nakakamit natin pag nagtutulungan ang pamahalaan at saka ang ating mamamayan.

At bagamat ang Quezon ay bahagi ng CALABARZON ngayon ang parang pinakabungad o pinakasentro ng industriya ng ating bansa, importanteng-importante pa rin itong proyektong ito gawa ng napag-alaman ko, 70 percent pala ng taga-distrito ni Procy at lalo na yung ibang mga distrito mas malayo pa sa Maynila, ay ang hanapbuhay sa agrikultura.

So, itong Kalakalang Bayan bukod sa pagtatag nitong Kalakalang Bayan malaki ang naitulong ng pagsasama-sama ng pamahalaan at saka mamamayan sa paglatag ng mga makabuluhan at makamasang proyekto at pagkilos tulad ng mga pautang na walang interes pala, Procy? Tulong teknikal na tumulong din ang Department of Agriculture; yung libreng gamit nitong Kalakalang Bayan, hindi kayo nagbabayad; transportasyon kaya meron tayong itinulong na mga reefer van, di ba, Artie? para... ayun, naglo-load ngayon para kahit na nagbi-biyahe yung mga gulay ay parang nasa refrigerator, hindi mabubulok, mananatiling sariwa; at siyempre, tulong para sa pagbebenta para sa ating mga magsasaka. Dito sa Pamiling Bayan puwedeng dumiretso ang magsasaka, puwedeng dumiretso ang mga namimili sa ganun, hindi na kailangang dumaan sa mga trader o sa mga middlemen. Kaya congratulations sa inyong lahat! Congratulations kay Procy Alcala sa magandang ideyang ito.

Ako ay nasisiyahan na bahagi ng ating kontribusyon ay sa ibabaw nung mga reefer van, yung cold storage, iyan naman ay kontribusyon ng Department of Agriculture daan na ang ating Pamahalaang Pambansa. At kanina ako rin ay nasisiyahan na yung ating mga magsasaka ngayon, yung tumanggap ng mga dokumento para sa katiyakang panlupa ay hindi na mga tenant sa sariling lupa. Kayo na ang talagang may karapatan doon.

Kaisa ito sa mga proyektong isinusulong upang harapin ang hamon ng kahirapan at itaguyod ang kaunlaran ng bawat mamamayan. Kasi gusto natin na magkaroon ng isang malakas at lumalagong ekonomiya, pinagsisikapan natin itong ilikha upang tumulong na matiyak ang kapayapaan, katiwasayan at katatagan ng ating bansa. Ikinikuwento sa akin ni Procy na yung anak ni Ka Remo ay nasawi pala kasama ni Hector pero dito ngayon dahil lumalago, gumaganda ang buhay ng mga magsasaka ay hindi na gaano at humihina tuloy ang rebelyon, humihina ang NPA at mas lalo nagiging mapayapa ang lalawigan ng Quezon.

Kaya nagkakabunga ang ating mga pinagsisikapan. Ikini-kwento nung ating magnu-niyog kung papano tumaas ang presyo ng copra sa ilalim ng pitong taon, at ito rin ay bahagi ng kabuuan na ngayon pinakamalakas ang ating ekonomiya sa mahigit tatlumpung taon. Nakikita naman natin lumalakas ang piso, dumadagsa ang mga mamumuhunan at malapit na nating mabalanse ang ating budget.

Gumawa tayo ng mga mahihirap at hindi popular na desisyon na itaas ang koleksyon ng bansa para makagastos para sa mga magsasaka at iba pang mga mamamayan. Linalabanan natin ang mga smuggler para yung makokolekta natin ay magiging puhunan sa imprastraktura at sa ating taumbayan. Kaya kanina, yung pinakita sa

atin ni Engineer Boner Seguit, yung ating mga kalsada bukod doon sa mga ikiniwento ni Governor Raffy Nantes sa atin ay may dalawang importanteng kalsada para mas lalong lumapit ang Sariaya sa Kamaynilaan.

Sa nakita ko dito, alam na alam ni Procy ang suliranin na hinaharap ng taga-distrito niya at kung ano ang inaasahan ng ating taumbayan mula sa ating mga namumuno. Gusto ng taumbayan ay nagdadala tayo ng mga pamumuhunan sa tatlong importanteng bagay ang tinatawag nating tatlong 'E' — ito ang ekonomiya, kaya ang ating mga magsasaka ay tinutulungan sa pamamagitan nitong Pamilihang Bayan at mga kasamang mga proyekto; yung environment, ito ay ipinakita sa akin ni Congressman Alcala yung kanyang proyektong organic fertilizer na mas maayos para sa environment kaysa doon sa urea fertilizer, kaya ito ay dapat ding tulungan ni Secretary Artie Yap; pinupuhunan din natin ang edukasyon. Kanina, bago kami dumaan dito ay dumaan muna sa isang eskwelahan doon sa Lucena dahil tiningnan natin yung bagong Science Laboratory ng ating mga bata. At pinanood ko yung microscope na nadeliver sa kanila, tinitignan nila yung mga ibat-ibang bahagi ng mga halaman. Eh, pag maganda ang pag-aaral nila sa botany, ay magiging magagaling na magsasaka o kaya mga technician o kaya mga engineer sa mga darating na panahon. Kaya itong mga ito ay nasa puso ng pag-ahon ng ating bansa at kanyang paghahanda sa susunod na henerasyon ng mga lider.

Ang pagbalik ng ating ekonomiya ay napapanahon, dahil may mga pangmundong ulap na nagpapataas ng presyo ng langis at pagkain. Kaya napakaimportante itong proyektong ito.

Batid natin na kahit na ano ang pag-ibayo sa ibabaw, marami sa ating taumbayan ay kumakayod pa rin nang matindi. Batid na batid natin na maraming mga nagsisikap na nagtatrabaho araw-araw para lamang makapaglagay ng pagkain sa inyong mga mesa.

Pero tumataba ang aking puso nung narinig natin yung mga kwento ng tagumpay nung ating tatlong mga nagsalita na nagsimula sa proyektong ito. Kaya congratulations sa inyo!

Kaya ang masasabi kong leksiyon sa ating pagdiriwang nitong araw na ito, magtulungan tayo para sa tagumpay ng ating mga programang mag-aalok ng higit na kalakal at pamumuhunan at para sa tagumpay ng iba pa nating mga pambansang adhikain. At sa pagkakaisa, makakamit natin na uunlad ang ating bansa, uunlad ang inyong distrito, inyong probinsiya, inyong pamayanan.

Nananatili akong malaki ang pag-asa ng ating bansa, malaki ang pag-asa sa ating kinabukasan at buong loob na maging pwersa sa ikabubuti.

Mahal natin lahat ang ating bayan. Mahal ninyo lahat ang inyong probinsiya, inyong distrito, inyong bayan. Talagang nakakataba ng loob na makakita ng mga kabalikat sa trabaho gaya ng mamamayan ng Sariaya at dito sa lalawigan ng Quezon.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat. Mabuhay ang ating bansa! Mabuhay itong Pamilihang Bayan!

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching of the Tawi-Tawi Modified Mariculture Development Project, Sibutu-Sitangkai (Phase 1A and B)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching of the Tawi-Tawi Modified Mariculture Development Project, Sibutu-Sitangkai (Phase 1A and B)**

[Delivered at the Sibutu Municipal Complex, Sibutu, Tawi-Tawi, May 29, 2008]

Maraming salamat Secretary, Artie Yap, na ang kanyang lola ba, lola?... great grandmother ay tiga-Sulu, Jolo, Sulu. Kaya apo ng Mindanao.

Maraming salamat Congressman Nur Jafaar dito sa napakagandang ideya ninyo para tumulong sa taumbayan ng Tawi-Tawi.

Maraming salamat Governor Sahali sa inyong pag-welcome at yung paliwanag naman ninyo tungkol sa isa pang napaka-importanteng proyekto, yung hatchery.

At gusto kong batiin ang mga opisyal ng Tawi-Tawi, mga opisyal ng Sibutu sa pangunguna ni Mayor Pajiji, mga opisyal ng Sitangkai sa pangunguna ni Mayor Ahaja, ang ating iba't-ibang Cabinet members ay narito pati na rin ang aking pamilya. At bagamat dahil nabanggit na yung iba hindi ko na sila babanggitin. Babanggitin ko lang na kasama rin natin ang kauna-unang Armed Forces Chief of Staff na nanggagaling sa Mindanao, si General Alex Yano. (applause)

Sa inyong lahat, Assalamu alaikum Tawi-Tawi!

Binabanggit kanina ni Congressman Jaafar yung aking State of the Nation Address noong isang taon, July 27 ba yun? 23. At doon sinabi ko and I quote: “Magtatayo tayo ng mariculture o palaisdaan sa dagat sa Sibutu. Hiling ito ni Nur Jaafar.” (applause)

And here we are launching that project, and we are happy that we are in the midst of the leaders of the community. And I bring you the greetings of the dignitaries from Muslim nations who are in Bongao who would have wanted to come to be here but they are waiting for us because we will launch yet another mega-project as Governor Sahali calls them. These are the countries supporting the peace process, they greet you and I greet the beneficiaries of this development project — the people of Sibutu and the people of Sitangkai. (applause)

This project I very heartily agreed to to put in the State of the Nation Address not only because it was proposed by our very important ally and leader Congressman Jaafar but also because this project is in line with our Super Regions plan, the creation of five major regions including Agri-business Mindanao to spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Metro Manila.

Gaya nang napaliwanag ni Congressman Jaafar, ang proyektong ito ay mahusay na paraan upang palakihin ang kinikita ng mga taga-rito habang inaalagaan ang mga lamang-dagat na mamanahin ng inyong mga anak at apo. Sa ibang salita — sustainable development. Hindi lang mga mangingisda ang makikinabang dito, kung hindi pati na ang mga nag-aani ng perlas at agar-agar o seaweed.

Malaki ang inaasahang kikitain ng proyektong ito. Ang mga isdang aalagaan dito ay matataas ang halaga sa bilihin tulad ng mameng. Ang mameng ang endangered species (applause) pero kung aalagaan sa fish cage hindi pa rin pwede sabi ng aking anak na environmentalist. Pero yung lapu-lapu pwede pa, yung abalone pwede pa. Okay. So isang payo dahil gusto natin na alagaan ang kinabukasan — lapu-lapu, abalone, perlas, agar-agar. (applause) Kaya

sa palaisdaan lamang, kung makakabuo kayo ng limang daang kilo tuwing anihan, hindi malayong umabot sa sandaang milyon piso ang kikitain ng komunidad. Hindi pa kasama dito yung perlas at agar-agar.

Pinakikinabangan ng proyektong ito ang likas na kaalaman ng mga taga-rito tungkol sa pag-aalaga at lamang-dagat. Tinanong ko nga kay Congressman Jaafar kanina bakit ang tawag mo modified mariculture. Sabi niya kasi hindi lamang yung scientific knowledge galing sa ibang lugar kung hindi yung likas na kaalaman ng taga-rito kasama sa inyong teknolohiya. Kinu-combine ito at ang mga siyentipikong pamamaraan nagmumula sa pananaliksik ng Mindanao State University Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography. (applause)

Napag-usapan natin itong Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography. May nakita ako yatang tseke dito na two million pesos galing sa CHED. Ito ay para sa scholarship program ng inyong eskwelahan dito kasi gusto natin... Ewan ko kung ilan ang mga naka-enrol sa fisheries dito. Ilan ba? Gusto natin doblehin, (applause) gusto natin maging 2,000 ang mag-aaral dito kaya meron kayong scholarship fund dito na two million pesos para makatulong na maging 2,000 ang inyong enrollment. (applause)

The way to peace begins with providing a person a job — ito magbibigay ng trabaho sa inyo. Providing a person food on the table — ito magbibigay ng pagkain sa inyo and, therefore, human dignity. Central to that success is to invest in the people — in education kagaya ng ating scholarship, in healthcare, roads, bridges na ilo-launch natin mamamaya sa Bongao.

Spending on physical and human infrastructure network remains central to the ability of Tawi-Tawi to break out of what Congressman Jaafar described — the poverty, the historic cycle of despair, and to prepare and to meet the challenges of the future. So we have and will continue to invest heavily in new spending. (applause)

Later, it will be in Bongao, right Jess? Jess Dureza will update us on the development programs in Mindanao. Baka yun na ang magiging huling report ni Secretary Jess Dureza dahil aalis na siya bilang Office of the Adviser on the Peace Process. Siguro ang susunod na pagbisita ko dito sa Tawi-Tawi pag kasama ko si Jess Dureza, pupunta na siya dito hindi bilang OPAP kung hindi bilang Press Secretary na ng ating bansa. (applause)

Anyway, Jess has done a great job, as OPAP and as BIMP-EAGA head where Tawi-Tawi is very important. Through him we have worked closely with our allies on an amazing number of public works projects. I talked about the bridges and roads.

Later today, we will launch the 324 million-peso Tawi-Tawi Bridge-Road Partnership Project, which is funded by the USAID, the DPWH and the ARMM government. It is a long road in the Tawi-Tawi mainland with a bridge to connect the five towns of the mainland to Bongao. This is important because we need infrastructure in Tawi-Tawi if we are going to bring Tawi-Tawi out of poverty.

And we are happy that our allies are only too willing to help Muslim Mindanao. When we were coming to Bongao in the airplane, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Wali gave me a note. Saudi Arabia has a loan with us of 20 million dollars which we are already implementing. But he also said that Saudi Arabia is willing to loan another 80 million dollars for priority projects in Muslim Mindanao. (applause) But we need not new ideas but those we already have, those that already have feasibility studies, those already in the pipeline, those already in the GAA budget. And so I have instructed, for one, Secretary Arthur Yap to put the projects in the pipeline, submit it for Saudi funding including the four phases of the Mariculture project of Tawi- Tawi. (applause)

And then because we want to double the enrollment of students in the schools of agriculture and fisheries in Muslim Mindanao, I asked Commissioner Ricafort and Commissioner Omar also to present a full-blown feasibility study and proposal to the Saudi fund for doubling the enrollment in the schools of the Autonomous Region for agriculture and fisheries. (applause)

Investing in vital infrastructure also includes building up our environment as a reflection of our commitment to our quality of life. So, with regard to the road that's being built now or going to be built now in Bongao and in mainland Tawi-Tawi — although it will be implemented by the private sector — I count on Governor Sahali and the mayors

of the towns directly benefiting from the Tawi-Tawi Bridge-Road Partnership Project to ensure that construction will be done with the least damage to the ecosystems of the project area.

Speaking of the environment, I am glad also that Congressman Jaafar mentioned the strategic location of Tawi-Tawi in the coral triangle. This is the largest almost contiguous collection of corals in the whole world. And the reason why I was asking my daughter Luli for her opinion on the mameng is that in the World Wildlife Fund she happens to be the policy officer of the coral triangle. (applause) So, please follow her advice on how to make mariculture here sustainable. In return, I will ask her to help you to also prepare project proposals for sustainable fisheries in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao that we can submit to funding for the Saudi fund. (applause)

Later today also in Bongao, we will visit a Madrasah being spruced up for the opening of classes because before the students can enter the Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography they must first be able to finish grade school and high school. So, we will inspect the desks and the chairs which are part of the one billion-peso national budget for school furniture to prevent 'standing room only' or SRO schools.

ARMM being autonomous has his own DepEd. It has his own budget for education. But because we have provinces in the Autonomous Region that are very poor we are also providing help from national government budget including helping repair the Madrasahs and helping make sure that your school furniture is complete.

These investments in people and in physical infrastructure will in turn attract more of the private investment that Governor Jaafar says he is hoping for and it will create more jobs, ultimately improving the lives of the people of Tawi-Tawi. Congressman Jaafar has already mentioned the 2006 figure says Tawi-Tawi is the poorest province in the country. It has a poverty incidence of 7.89 percent, and we must do something together to bring that percentage down.

We are aware that no matter how much improvement there is at the top of the economic ladder, many of the people in Tawi-Tawi still struggle mightily. Dahil dito, ilulunsad rin natin mamaya yung programang Conditional Cash Transfer. Sa Bongao din yata yun gagawin. Tatlong libong pinakamahihirap na pamilya ng Tawi-Tawi ay makakatanggap ng pera buwan-buwan. Pero may mga kundisyon. Halimbawa, kailangan pumasok sa eskwela yung mga anak na sa edad pang-elementarya. Yan ang isang halimbawa, kailangan pumasok, ito ay buwan-buwan pero may kundisyon, kailangan pumasok sa eskwela ang mga anak na nasa edad elementarya.

At para lalo pang himukin ang mga magulang na mag-aral ang kanilang mga anak, at upang mabawasan ang gutom sa Tawi-Tawi, itinatag natin ang Food-for-School program. Sa programang ito — ewan ko kung nandito na yun, sana nandito na yun — yung mga estudyanteng elementarya ay mag-uuwi ng isang kilong bigas araw-araw (applause) para sa ganun — hindi pa ba ginagawa yun dito? O, ginagawa na — para sa ganun maiwasan ang gutom at may incentive para pumasok ang mga bata.

Mamaya pupunta tayo sa NFA bodega. We will help segregate rice for Food-for-School in a National Food Authority bodega.

I like to call what we are doing today our focus on three areas. The three "Es" — the Economy like this mariculture project, the Environment where we have to make sure the mariculture and the road projects all conform to the requirements of the coral triangle, and Education which I have mentioned several times in connection with the Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography, the Food-for-School and the Madrasahs and the desks and chairs. These are central to lifting up the people of Tawi-Tawi.

Kanina binanggit ni Governor Sahali na apat na beses na raw ako nagpunta dito sa Tawi-Tawi. Yung apat na beses yun ang yung kasama siya. Pero sa katotohanan siguro mga anim na beses na ako nagpunta rito.

Kanina binanggit ni Congressman Jaafar na noong 1949 ba yun? 48, yung aking tatay ay nandito. Noong panahong yun siya ay Assistant Secretary ng Department of Foreign Affairs. Siya ang nag-negotiate para mabalik ang Turtle Island sa Pilipinas mula sa Malaya. (applause) Nung siya ay Vice-President na, 1958 yata, ay nagpunta siya muli sa Tawi-Tawi, nagpunta siya muli sa Turtle Islands at dala-dala niya yung kanyang anak, ako na nga yun. Kaya

(applause) naalala ko doon sa bisitang yun ay binigyan ako ng regalo, isang malaking turtle. Nakatali parang yung mga kabayo o mga carabao na may tali, binigay sa akin. Tapos nakita ko yung turtle lumuluha. Umiiyak pala ang mga turtle. Sabi ko sa Nanay ko, “Ma, the turtle is crying.” Sabi nung Nanay ko... kasi noon dala ko... ang Tatay ko dala ang Nanay ko at saka dala ako. Ngayon dala ko ang asawa ko at saka dala ko rin ang anak ko. Kaya sabi ni Nur, history repeats itself. (applause) Sabi ko, “Ma, the turtle is crying.” So, yung Nanay ko pumunta doon sa... ewan ko kung Governor ng Tawi Tawi o — Sulu pa noon, di ba? Sulu pa — o Mayor ng Turtle Island, sabi niya, pakawalaan na lang natin yung turtle. So, pinakawala yung turtle, nanduon kami sa beach. Aba nung pinakawala yung turtle, ang bilis tumakbo hanggang dagat. Akala ko ang turtle symbol ng mahinang kumilos, marunong pala... ang turtle pala hindi lamang marunong umiyak, marunong din palang tumakbo. Pero mula noon talagang nakita natin dapat inaalaan natin ang ating kalikasan. Kaya yung Turtle Islands bagamat hindi ako magbibisita doon nitong araw na ito, alagaan natin ng husto. Ito rin ay bahagi nung tinatawag na Turtle Islands Heritage Park, isa ring project ng World Wildlife Fund.

Yung naalala kong pangalawang bisita ko dito ay doon sa Balimbing, noong bagong halalan pa lamang at nung bagong halal pa lamang ako bilang Senador. At nagse-celebrate pa yung mga local officials dahil sila rin ay bagong halal. Di nagpunta ako doon, at sabi nila, “Eto, eto kain kayo dito meron tayong — ano’ng tawag dito? — yung roast calf.” Ay, ang daming roast calf naman sa Manila. So, “hindi,” sabi ko, tinitignan ko yung lobster. Naku! pina-uwì ako ng isang basket ng lobster. Yung yamang-dagat talaga ng Tawi-Tawi, yan ang ating aanihin ngayon sa inyong mariculture para sa ganun gaganda ang buhay ng ating taumbayan.

Naalala ko rin noong ako ay Vice-President, or Senador pa nga yata, Senador pa nga yata, isa pa. Nagpunta naman ako doon sa Mapun sa Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi. Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na aside... tapos siyempre Bongao ilang beses na gaya ng sabi ni Governor Sahali at noong Vice-President ako doon sa Sitangkai — yung kapatid o tatay? — kapatid ni Mayor Ahaja ang mayor, yung Vice-Mayor ngayon, at ngayon — ah, noon bahagi pa ang Sibutu ng Sitangkai, ngayon hiwalay na — at nasisiyahan ako ngayon na narito tayo sa Sibutu. Kaya anim na bayan na sa labing ilang bayan ninyo ang nabisita ko. Pero naririnig ko na yung susunod na phases, mga binanggit na pangalan ni Congressman Jaafar ay mga bayang hindi ko pa napupuntahan. Kaya susunod na phase ng mariculture, imbitahin niyo muli ako para mabisita ko yung inyong limang bayan ng Tawi-Tawi. (applause)

To all of you, Congratulations! Ngayon ang simula ng pagbangon ng Tawi-Tawi.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Speech during the Launching of the Tawi-Tawi Modified Mariculture Development Project, Sibutu-Sitangkai (Phase 1A and B). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121608/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1366&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Kick-Off Ceremony of the first-ever Minalin Egg Festival

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Kick-Off Ceremony of the first-ever Minalin Egg Festival

[Delivered at the Apung Monica Covered Court, San Nicolas Town Plaza, Minalin, Pampanga, June 4, 2008]

Dacal a salamat.

Dacal a salamat, Secretary Ed Pamintuan king pamagpakilala mu. At mayap abak karing kekatang officials na ning Pampanga ning distrito ampo ning balen Minalin y Governor Ed Panlilio, ing Mayor Flores, y Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc Sagun. Kayabi naman tamu karing aliwang Congressman keti Pampanga y Tarzan Lazatin ampo y Dong Gonzales. At salamat naman karing Provincial Board Members naning Pampanga, manibat keng 1st district atyu keti y BM Garbo, BM Halili — nukarin ya y Lina Bagasina? okay — y Art Salalila... ah y Edna David atyu ya keti, y Edna David; ampo karing keng 3rd District y Jake Quiambao; manibat king 4th District BM Calara ampu Rick Yabut; at y BM Joel Simpangco ing Federation of Barangay Captains ning ABC. Atyu keni pa y Raul Macalino ampo y Eric Tumang? Alayu oneng mayap a abac karela. At karing kegana-ganang mayors sa Pampanga atyu keti. Ana ning Mayor ning Candaba ana karakal namang biyaya keti, kegana-ganang balen ning Pampanga atin biyaya manibat king gobyerno. The egg producers, karing egg producers; karing poultry farm workers; karing farmers and fisherfolk; our bus and trucking operators that we invited here today; our national government officials who are here with us today; kekayung kabalen ko keti king Pampanga; Monsignor Mercado, mayap a abac kekongan.

Ampong mayap a oras karing tau-Minalin king kekayung egg industry, oneng ali mu keng egg industry. Uling ana y Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc, ikayu naman ing number one king crabs, karing prawns exported, ing tilapia dadalan king Metro Manila, fresh, A-rated and your other products that you have shown today. Congratulations! king masanting a production king agrikultura. Ana pin ning Mayor Flores, atandakanan na pa king panahon na ning Pinatubo, nilahar ing Minalin, oneng mibangun pasibayu and now you are the “egg basket” of the Philipines.

Karakal ing ambag ning industriya ning ebum ampo king ali-aliwang produkto yu, king kekatamung agrikultura ampo maulagang sustansiya king mesa ning pamilyang Pilipino.

Inya pin, I’ve come to Minalin not only to deliver some of the support for the people of Minalin but also I have chosen to come to our province to make a very important announcement to highlight the importance not only of raising production but also lowering the cost of bringing food products to the market. Then, we can lower the cost of food through lower delivery cost. Last month through Secretary Larry Mendoza, I instructed the Toll Regulatory Board to review the toll rates of the Manila North Tollways Corporation at the critical North Luzon Expressway.

Uling, the favorable peso-dollar exchange rate has dramatically reduced the debt service load of MNTC, therefore, MNTC has been generating a financial windfall for its toll road operations. It’s clear that the MNTC can pass on a part of this huge windfall to the public via reduced toll rates.

The MNTC secured dollar-denominated loans to rehabilitate the NLEX at an average of 54 to a dollar, and now it is 43 to a dollar. The high debt service cost was heavily factored in the computation of its toll matrix. Transport groups whom we have invited today now estimate that the debt servicing cost of MNTC for its NLEX loan is now 31 percent lower because of the favorable exchange rate regime and the favorable interest rate regime.

Therefore, today, I direct the Toll Regulatory Board to approve a new Toll Rate Adjustment Formula. This shall result in a package of benefits for all types of vehicles using the NLEX. TRB’s approval of the new formula will facilitate MNTC’s conversion of its remaining U.S. dollar loans into pesos. The operation of this new toll rate adjustment formula will reduce the toll in NLEX since MNTC will realize foreign exchange gains that resulted from

the favorable economic conditions. The foreign exchange gains in turn shall be passed on to NLEX motorists in the form of lower toll rates.

I hereby direct the TRB to implement the downward adjustment of NLEX toll rates as a result of the new toll rate formula to take effect on June 30th this year 2008.

A toll rate reduction will bring relief to the areas within the NLEX axis, particularly Metro Manila, North Luzon, Central Luzon kayabi na ing kekatang probinsiyang Pampanga.

It is expected to bring down the cost of rice and basic food items and construction materials.

Malaking biyaya ang bawas-singil sa lahat na bumibiyaha sa NLEX, lalo na sa pagtalon ng presyo ng langis sa buong mundo. At malaking tulong din ito sa pagsisikap nating maghatid ng abot-kayang pagkain sa bawat mesa.

We expect that the benefits to the public of a toll rate reduction will be immense, specifically on the cost of basic food items.

Metro Manila and the several areas in the CALABARZON depend on haulers whom we have invited today and food producers from Central Luzon and Northern Luzon for their rice, meat, poultry and vegetable needs. And being 'egg basket' of Central Luzon, Manila, Minalin more than 50 percent of Metro Manila's egg supply comes from the Minalin 'egg basket' keti king Pampanga.

Lower rate tolls means lower transport cost for producers and haulers.

Sa pagbaba ng singil sa NLEX, inaasahan nating bababa ang gastos sa pagdadala ng pagkain sa Kamaynilaan. Hinihiling natin sa mga mangangalakal na makikinabang sa bawas ng singil na partihan naman ang mamimili at saka ang magsasaka. Bawasan sana ang presyo ng pagkain at dagdagan ang bayad sa magsasaka. Marapat lamang makinabang ang lahat sa ating walang patid na pagsisikap bawasan ang gastos ng tao at negosyo.

With a toll rate reduction at the NLEX, transport fares charged by the major bus operators between Central Luzon and Metro Manila and Northern Luzon will hopefully remain at the 2004 level.

The toll rate reduction will hopefully impact on the cost of construction materials being moved to Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal and Laguna.

The resulting stability of the toll rates will generate for NLEX motorists these additional benefits: First, there shall be no increase of toll rates within the next two years and six months; and second, subsequent increases shall be in smaller increments owing to the new adjustment rate formula that is no longer subject to foreign exchange fluctuations.

Pasibayu, mayap a oras karing tau-keti king matagumpe a produksyon yu king ebun at ali mu king ebun karing ali-aliwang produkto na ning agrikultura. And let us thank the MNTC for agreeing to this toll rate reduction, saup-saup tamu ngan ban ayabut tala ding kekatamung paninap, asundut taya ing pamanangat ning ekonomiya at akamtan tamu ing malambat a pamanyulung.

Mabuhay Pampanga! Mabuhay Minalin!

Dacal a salamat kekongan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Speech during the Kick-Off Ceremony of the First-Ever Minalin Egg Festival. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121525/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1574&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching of the New Students' Assistance Fund for Education for a Strong Republic and Presentation of DBP's "Iskolars ni GMA", June 5, 2008 Speech
of

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines

During the Launching of the New Students' Assistance Fund for Education for a Strong Republic and Presentation of DBP's "Iskolars ni GMA"

[Delivered at Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology Gymnasium, Nagtahan, Manila, June 5, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Neri for your introduction *at maligayang bati rin sa lahat ng mga mag-aaral, mga guro, mga administrator narito kayo at alam ko lahat kayo ay bising-bisi sa pagsisimula ng klase sa darating na linggo.*

Today, we launched the second of the major components of the fruits to be made available this year by our lower than program budget deficit which can be attributed to VAT reforms. Congressman Abante, *pwede mong i-congratulate ang inyong sarili at mga kasama mo dahil itong mga binigay natin hindi mangyayari kung wala tayong value-added tax.* Thank you.

From January to April, four billion pesos was generated from the value-added tax on oil products. And during the last Cabinet meeting, two billion pesos was allocated to provide cash transfers to the four million poorest of the poor and those using up to 100 kilowatt electricity consumption. That was our first program yung "*Katas ng VAT: Pantawid Kuryente.*"

Now, this is the second program. The Cabinet also approved the amount that Nona mentioned, one billion pesos to provide interest free loans and scholarships to poor students. Gaya nang sabi ni Nona, half a billion for the loans, half a billion for the scholarships, ito ang tatawagin nating Students' Assistance Fund for Education or SAFE.

Binabati natin yung mga estudyanteng tumanggap ng pautang sa matrikula mula sa ating bagong SAFE. Dahil sa SAFE, may programang pahiram na hindi lalampas sa 8,000 pesos bawat semester na pambayad sa tuition, libro at iba pang pangangailangan.

Aside from the one billion that we've set aside from our VAT – *ito na nga, kaya tawag natin dito kung yung isa ay yung two billion ay "Katas ng VAT: Pantawid Kuryente," itong for SAFE naman ay "Katas ng VAT: Pantawid Pag-aaral."*

And aside from the one billion from the VAT, we have also from the Development Bank of the Philippines, advocating quality education for poor but intelligent students *yun ang kaibahan, kasi yung Katas ng VAT kahit na hindi kayo masyadong matalino basta pumapasa kayo, okay. Pero itong DBP kailangan matalino kayo.* Through its 10-year, one billion-peso program also to pay for the tuition and other fees of college students from poor families. DBP is opening a wide window of opportunity for 1,000 bright high school students who pass the program's academic and other requirements. Nandito yata yung— to our first 125 who comprised the first batch of DBP scholars, and I understand you will take up nursing in the Bank's partner schools. Good luck to all of you. *Congratulations na kaagad!*

Mona talked about our meeting with the SUCs a couple of weeks ago, so I would like to tie that up with what we're doing today and I'm glad that Mona anticipated what I would want and she made the announcement. But I just want to repeat — for those in the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle and Agri-business Mindanao, indeed, the focus should be on student loans and scholarships in agricultural courses. And because we're talking here about poverty, they're the ones who bear the biggest brunt of the increasing price of fuel and power, there should be a special quota for the 10 poorest provinces in the country, namely: Tawi-Tawi, especially for the fisheries courses of the Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography; Zamboanga del Norte, including their access not only to the state

college in Zamboanga del Norte but also to the West Mindanao State University; Maguindanao, including their access not only to the state college in Mindanao but also in education in the good private schools in the vicinity like Notre Dame; Apayao and Abra, not only access to their own state college but also access to the education in the private colleges and universities of Baguio City; Dinagat Islands; Lanao del Sur, especially for agriculture education at the Mindanao State University; Northern Samar; Masbate, which I understand has the smallest state college in the whole country but with the scholarship they can have more students and can become more viable; and Misamis Occidental which is a very, very good state college.

There should also be a quota for those provinces which do not belong to the 10 poorest but are part of the 10 most food-poor provinces, namely: Agusan del Sur, Kalinga and Surigao del Sur, especially for agriculture because we want them to produce more food. And in the case of Surigao del Sur, especially for agriculture and mineral courses at the Surigao del Sur State Polytechnic College.

We're doing this because everyone in this nation, public and private, has an obligation to meet the needs of the nation on education, food security and vital services like energy.

Because we are *distributing Katas ng VAT na binabayaran ng mga nagkunsumo ng langis at kuryente*, 80 percent of whom are well-off, eh, *pag-usapan nga natin ang enerhiya at ang pamahalaan, mga opisina ng pamahalaan* including SUCs, including DBP.

Starting today, all government agencies and entities, including government-owned and controlled corporations are directed to start electricity and fuel saving measures, using widely accepted practices and creative and innovative ways that can be employed to substantially lower fuel and electricity consumption. For this purpose, last June 2nd, I signed an Administrative Order to this effect:

1. All agencies shall reduce transport fuel consumption in liters by ten percent starting June.
2. Government buildings shall turn off airconditioners — walang problema ang EARIST, hindi airconditioned — government buildings shall turn off airconditioners at 4:30 p.m., except those with 24-hour work. *Halimbawa ang mga ospital, hindi naman kailangan.*
3. Agencies shall implement, starting July, plans to replace all incandescent bulbs and make them fluorescent.
4. Agencies shall convert twenty percent of their vehicles in major cities, not in the provinces, to liquid petroleum by September 2008 kasi mas mura ang LPG.
5. Agencies shall install and/or adopt other energy saving technology with the help of the Department of Energy and/or the Department of Science and Technology.

We are also appealing to the local government units to undertake similar saving measures.

The era of cheap and plentiful fossil fuel, the source of much of our fuel and the fuel of the world and a major generator of electricity in the Visayas and Mindanao, is definitely over. In this context, cutting down on fuel and electricity consumption is an economic imperative, a moral duty and a global obligation. Huwag nating kalimutan na buong mundo ang nagdudusa sa mataas na presyo ng langis at mataas na presyo ng pagkain. Therefore much of the world has adopted stringent measures to cut down the consumption of fuel and electricity.

We are celebrating World Environment Day, so we can add that reducing our use of fossil fuel is also 'a direct boost to our environmental programs, specifically efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Adhering to this directive, or going the extra mile to be creative and innovative in cutting down fuel and electricity, will have its rewards. The savings, translated into peso value, shall be given back to the personnel of the complying

agencies in the form of additional rice and transportation subsidies. This will provide immediate relief from the rising price of rice in the whole world and adjusted transport fares.

Alam niyo kanina, meron akong kausap na mga congressmen, sabi nila, pwede bang dagdagan yung P18.25 na bigas? Sabi ko, depende kung ano ang isasakripisyo natin doon sa ating budget and at the same time hindi masyadong malaki ang deficit na tataas tuloy ang interest rate. Magkano ba? Eh, sabi ko kung ano yung diperensya ng commercial at ang diperensya ng NFA, lahat yan halos subsidy yan. Sabi nung congressmen, ganun pala, hindi namin alam, akala namin yang P18.25 na NFA talaga yun ang presyo. Hindi yun ang presyo, binibili ng NFA ng mahal binebenta ng mura. Akala ng congressmen sabi nila, akala namin meron kayong special price. Totoo yun, meron tayong special price. Halimbawa, kung 1,200 dollars nilang binebenta sa ibang bansa, yung mga kaibigan natin, siguro ibebenta sa atin ng 800 dollars pero yung 800 dollars doble naman yun binibili ng buong mundo nung araw ng 400 dollars kaya kahit na meron tayong special price malaki pa rin ang dinagdag nating bayad kaya malaki ang subsidy. Kaya napakaimportante na tayong lahat ay nag-iimpok.

A breakdown of the household expenditures of employees, public or private, shows that a sizable portion of a family's household income expense goes to rice and transport fares.

So, I direct the Chairman of the Philippine National Oil Company Development and Management Corporation, si Waldo Flores, and the Department of Budget and Management, Nonoy Andaya, to monitor the compliance of government entities with the directives I gave in my Administrative Order.

The PNOC-DMC and DBM are tasked to submit quarterly reports on the compliance of government agencies, so that we will know how much additional rice and transport subsidies can be released to their employees every quarter at kasama doon ang ating mga state universities and colleges.

Itong ginagawa natin ngayong hapon ay sang-ayon sa tatlong “E” — the Economy, the Environment and Education. These are central to lifting our nation up and getting it ready for you — the next generation of leaders.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, ating mga scholars, ating beneficiaries ng loan program, Congratulations!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the 7th Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Celebration Night

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 7th Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Celebration Night (Organized by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. or FFCCCII)**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Sofitel-Philippine Plaza Hotel, Pasay City, June 9, 2008]

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Dr. Tan for your introduction.

May I also greet Mr. John Tan and the other officials of the Federation; His Excellency Ambassador Song Tao and the other friends from the People's Republic of China; members of the Cabinet; our host mayor in Manila, Mayor Lim; our distinguished Filipino-Chinese members of the Legislature: Congressman Ong and Congressman Angping, Congresswoman Angping; our awardees; friends; ladies and gentlemen. (applause)

Greetings to our Chinese friends and our Filipino-Chinese friends on the anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

It was my honor when I was Co-Chairman then of the Association for Philippines-China Understanding, to have been among those who worked for our diplomatic relations 33 years ago, in recognition of the friendship between our two peoples that has existed for centuries.

And as mentioned by our speakers earlier, again, it was my honor to sign Presidential Proclamation No. 148 in 2002 to celebrate June 9th of every year as Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day, in recognition of the indelible bonds between our two countries that has enriched Philippine life for so long. (applause)

Since that day, that first celebration of Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day in June of 2002, since then our overall relations with China have become more confident, mature, and comprehensive. Our relations are punctuated with substantial and important projects aimed at deepening exchanges in many areas, including trade, investment and official development assistance. China is currently our largest export market today. We have a trade surplus with China since 2002. Our Framework Agreement on Expanding and Deepening Bilateral Economic and Trade Cooperation further enhances our bilateral merchandise trade with China.

Tonight's commemoration of friendship, expanding trade and economic cooperation assumes greater significance in the grim shadow of the tragedy that struck Sichuan province a few weeks ago.

We share in the suffering of our Chinese brethren. In behalf of the Filipino nation, we reiterate our heartfelt sympathies to the earthquake victims but we know that the Chinese people under the leadership of President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao will recover swiftly from this tragedy, rebuild their lives and march on toward greater progress. (applause)

We wish China our best as it hosts the Beijing Olympics. This global event will showcase what China can offer as the fastest growing economy in the region and in the world. (applause)

Tonight, as we witness the awards given to many of the leaders of the Filipino-Chinese business community for their contributions to the Federation's projects, tonight is a good occasion to thank our organizer, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry not only for hosting this and many other events to deepen the

friendship between our two countries, but also for the immense contribution of the Federation and its members to Philippine economic and social life. (applause)

Your contribution and support are especially vital at this time with the high price of fuel and food is a global problem affecting the poor and middle-classes all over the world. The volatility of the price of rice is a challenge faced by countries around the world. The Philippine government is working hard to solve the rice and price issues facing our country and our people. Our efforts to address this challenge are focused on doing whatever is possible to ensure access to supplies of rice at fair prices.

Our rice czar, one of our two Filipino-Chinese in the Cabinet, Secretary Arthur Yap, the other being Secretary Rey Chua of ICT. Artie Yap has secured adequate supplies of rice for current needs. We have secured adequate supplies of rice for our needs for the rest of the year from both domestically produced rice and from imports. Further imports of rice will be made when prices and conditions are acceptable to expand buffer stocks. Our current target is consistent with our historic approach to buffer stocks.

We will do everything in our power to stabilize and lower prices and to crack down on price cheaters. Our actions include providing NFA rice at subsidized prices to those members of our society who are most vulnerable. They also include working with the Local Government Units like Mayor Lim, I hope, faith-based organizations and others to carry out targeted distribution of NFA rice.

Rice traders and others who carry out price gouging and hoarding are criminals who demonstrate by their actions that they have no concern for the plight of their countrymen. We will work diligently to continue to track down and prosecute them until these anti-Filipino practices are stopped. Actions we are taking in this regard include the filing of charges against 73 traders and against the Regional Directors of NFA of Regions V and X; the NFA Provincial Managers of North Cotabato, Camarines Sur and Misamis Oriental; the Assistant Provincial Manager of Misamis Oriental.

We are focused by our distribution, supply and enforcement efforts on both fair prices today and fair prices in the years to come. The new economics of global food security now make it imperative that we control our own destiny in terms of rice. We are taking control of our food supply. We are working with all levels of government in our country with multilateral agencies and our other development partners, and with the private sector to achieve rice self-sufficiency in five years from now. (applause)

Our longer-term efforts to promote rice self-sufficiency will also ensure that we will no longer have to rely on expensive imports to meet our country's needs for this important commodity. The actions we are taking to achieve self-sufficiency include providing unprecedented amounts of investment in fertilizers; in irrigation and other infrastructure; in agricultural education, extension and equipment; in dryers and other post-harvest facilities; and in seeds.

As the government increases our programs to cushion our people from the pain of price shocks, we hope that the FFCCI will continue to believe firmly in our economic reforms and will continue to be a strong partner of our social and economic development programs. (applause)

And as we continue down the path of greater regional economic and security cooperation, we are confident that our relations with the People's Republic of China will become even stronger. (applause)

Once again, to our Chinese and our Filipino-Chinese friends, xie xie.

Thank you. Thank you. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the 7th Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Celebration Night (Organized by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. or FFCCCII). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121428/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1565&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 110th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence
Plaza San Lorenzo Ruiz Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 110th Anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence Plaza San Lorenzo Ruiz**

[Delivered in Rizal Park, Manila, June 12, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Kalihim Lapus.

Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Mayor Lim; the congressman from this district, Congressman Amado Bagatsing; our other Congress persons who are here today with us: Congressman Benny Abante, Congressman Asilo, Congressman Roxas, Congresswoman Susano — Oh? No, I greeted Bagatsing first, it's his district, okay. It's his district, okay. Didn't I greet you first? Okay — (laughter)...Our members of the Committee who worked very hard to make this out-of-the-box Independence Day Commemoration headed by Secretary Lapus but we have Chairman Ambeth Ocampo who's been very active as well; other members of the Cabinet and national government officials who are here today; our officers of the Armed Forces and the police; non-government organizations; mga ibang kasama ko sa pamahalaan; mga Kababayan; ladies and gentlemen.

Happy 110th Anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines!

Mga Kababayan:

Isang siglo't isang dekada na ang nakalipas mula noong ideklara ang kasarinlan ng bagong Republikang Pilipinas doon sa Kawit, Cavite. Noon tulad din ngayon, maraming banta at maraming hamon ang hinarap ng ating bayan. Kahit isinigaw na ang kasarinlan sa Kawit, marami pa ring bahagi ng Pilipinas ang nasa ilalim ng puwersa ng kolonyalismo.

Nguni't hindi umatras ang mga bayaning nagtatag ng ating bayan. Hindi sila nagpagapi sa anumang pag-aalinlangan tungkol sa kanilang magiging kinabukasan. Bagkus, pinalakas nila ang loob ng buong sambayanan upang ipaalam sa buong mundo na may bagong silang na bansa, ang bansang Pilipinas, na handang lumahok sa komunidad ng malalayang bansa sa buong mundo.

Sa kasalukuyang panahon, sa harap ng mga banta at hamon na hatid ng kapalaran ng buong mundo, dapat nating isaloob at patuloy na buhayin ang mga katangiang nagbigay-dakila sa ating mga ama, ina ng ating bayan. Ang kanilang magiging makabayan, ang pagmamalasakit sa kapwa, ang tibay ng kanilang kapasiyahan na magtatag at magtanggol sa isang malaya at maunlad na bansa.

Para sa ating Independence Day sa taong ito, ang bumabalot na tema ay ang "Republic Service sa Ganap na Kalayaan at Kaunlaran."

Chairman Ambeth Ocampo was telling me, was telling us about his first chairmanship of the working group in 2002, that the parade was too short. I was telling him I wasn't really scolding him because it had been the Cabinet members who said, "Let's make the parade short." But after the parade, I was watching TV and one of the citizens who came all the way from Isabela told the TV reporter, "I came all the way from Isabela to see all those floats and I didn't see too many of them." So it's really very difficult to figure out what is the right length of a parade.

Anyway, this year we have no such dilemma, but we have decided that in keeping with how we are trying to conserve our resources so that we can give direct service to the people during this period of high world prices of oil and food, we have decided to dispense with the parade and use the budget instead to give direct service to the poor.

Kaya binibigyang diin ng temang ito ang nangingibabaw na tungkulin ng ating pamahalaan na paglingkuran ang mamamayan, upang mabigyan ng katubusan ang mahaba nating pakikibaka para sa kalayaan, at upang magkaroon ng kaganapan ang pambansang kaunlaran.

Ang pananagutang maglingkod ay lalong matingkad na ihandog sa hanay ng mahihirap, pinakamahihirap sa ating kababayan, na kasalukuyang hinahagupit ng mga kasalukuyang suliranin hatid ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya. Kung hindi man natin kayang iwasan ang mga problemang ito na angkat mula sa ibayong dako, saklaw pa rin ng ating tungkulin ang mamahagi ng tulong para sa pinahihirapan nito.

Nakapagtindig ng matipunong ekonomiya ang Pilipinas, na tumutulong harapin ang hamon ng panmundong sibat ng presyo ng pagkain at langis. Nagbubunga na ang ating pagsisikap: sa 2007, naabot ng ekonomiya ang pinakamataas na paglago sa mahigit tatlung taon, malakas ang piso, malapit na nating mabalanse ang budget.

Bunga ng pagsigla ng ekonomiya, nakapamumuhunan tayo sa mga pangunahing sektor para sanggahan ang dagok sa maralita ng tumatalong halaga ng bigas at krudo. Naitutuloy din nating mamuhunan sa kailangang imprastraktura gaya ng mga kalsada, mga tulay, edukasyon, para banggitin ang ilan lamang. Habang binabalanse natin ito mga napaka-kailangang pamumuhunan sa pangakong matupad ang ating mga obligasyong piskal at mabalanse ang budget sa 2010.

Ang katatagan ng mga batayan ng ating ekonomiya ay natutulungan din ng dumadaming iba't-ibang bansang bumibili ng ating produkto. Halimbawa, hindi na tayo gaano umaasa lamang sa ating benta sa Amerika, at di-hamak malakas na tayong nakakapasok sa Tsina at iba pang mga palengke sa Asya.

Walang pagod tayong nagpupursige upang tugunan ang mga hamong bunga ng paghina ng ekonomiya ng mundo at pagsipa ng mga presyo ng langis at pagkain. Malubha ang tama sa mahihirap nitong mga puwersang pandaigdig.

Maliwanag na ang kalagayan ng ekonomiya, dala ng mahal na langis at pagkain sa mundo ay isang hamon, at hinaharap natin ito nang buong sigasig. Nakikialam tayo upang ipagtanggol ang ating pinakamahihirap.

Nagsisikap ang pamahalaan upang tiyakin na ang kasapatan ng pagkain ng bansa ay matatag at maglagay tayo ng pagkain sa hapag ng bawat Pilipino.

May tatlong haligi ang ating plano: tiyaking sapat ang ating bigas, subaybayan ang maayos na pagbebenta ng bigas, at hulihin ang mga nagtatago at nagpupuslit ng bigas.

Marami na ang mga nagsasamantala na ating natunton, napigil at nakakasuhan. Bagaman matagal ang proseso ng batas, at tama naman sa demokrasya, huwag magkamali: mabilis tayong kumikilos nang buong bagsik laban sa mga lumalabag sa batas.

Nakatutok din sa pinakamahihirap ang ating pagsisikap, upang siguruhin na sila ang mangungunang makakuha ng bigas na kailangan nila.

We have adequate supply of rice today, and we have a solid plan for self-sufficiency. This is important for our domestic and international audiences to appreciate. Samantala, nag-aambag tayo ng bigas at pagkain para sa reserba, ngunit para sa hinaharap. Magagawa nating maghatid ng pagkain sa hapag. And I am gratified and grateful to the Lord that notwithstanding the very high price of rice in the whole world market in the last two quarters, hunger has gone down significantly. Thank God for that.

Lagi tayong nag-aabala sa ibinabayad ng kuryente ng mga pamilya. Habang kaya, gusto nating bumaba ito.

Pagdating sa langis, pinakamabigat ang tama ng mataas na presyo ng diesel at pang araw-araw na bilihin sa maralita. Bagaman pandaigdigang problema ang mataas na presyo ng langis at labas sa kapangyarihan ng isang gobyerno, nagpapatupad tayo ng mga programa upang tulungan ang ating mamamayan. Ibinaba natin ang taripa o customs

duty sa langis, ginawa na lamang nating zero. Nagbibigay rin tayo ng pera para sa pinakamahihirap para tulungan silang makayanang bayaran ang kanilang kuryente.

Subalit anuman ang ating gawin, pangdaigdigang problema ito, at dapat tayong magbalikatan upang maibsan ito, upang magkaroon ng lutas sa malayong hinaharap.

Sa enerhiya, gaya ng sa pagkain, pandaigdigang itong isyu at labas sa ating kakayahan ang malaking bahagi na magagawa nating kilos. Gayon pa man, nagbibigay tayo ng kapili-piling pang-ginhawa sa krudo at langis na nakatutok sa pinaka-nangangailangan. Nagsusulong tayo ng mga mahigpit na pagkilos upang magtipid sa enerhiya at mas umasa sa sarili nating pagkukunan ng enerhiya, sa bisa ng mga investment sa natural gas, geothermal at kuryenteng galing sa araw at hangin. At salamat din na meron tayong produksiyon ng sariling krudo para umabot sa diyos porsiyento ng ating pangangailangan ang sarili nating produksiyon ng krudo.

Malaking pabigat sa buong mundo at sa Pilipinas ang mga problema ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya. At mamumuhunan tayo sa taong-bayan upang makaraos sa panahong ito.

Marami ang kailangang gawin. Magtatrabaho tayo upang tuparin ang ating mga planong reporma para sa Pilipinas. Ipaglalaban natin ang Ekonomiya, Edukasyon at ang Environment.

Itinaguyod ng ating mga sinaunang bayani ang isang bagong bayan sa pamamagitan ng kanilang pagbuklod, pagsakripisyo at pag-iisang damdamin. Kung pupunuin din ang ating mga puso ng kasintulad na pagmamahal sa bayan, makakamit din natin ang matatamis na bunga ng kalayaan, katarungan at kaunlaran. Makakahanay din natin ang ibang mga dakila't malalayang bansa sa mundo.

Tungo sa matayog na layuning ito, hinihiling ko ngayon na magkaisa tayong lahat alang-alang sa Inang Bayan, alang-alang sa pamilya ng bawat mamamayan, alang-alang sa mga darating pang salinlahi.

Muli, sa ating lahat, Happy 110th Independence Day.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the 110th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence Plaza San Lorenzo Ruiz. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121347/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1562&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the reception for the 110th anniversary of Philippine Independence
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the reception for the 110th anniversary of Philippine Independence

[Delivered at the Malacañang Palace, June 12, 2008]

One hundred and ten years after we broke free of foreign bondage, we remember with deep gratitude our heroic forebears who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the altar of freedom so that we may live as a sovereign people.

The centuries-old struggle continues. Instead of colonizing powers, we must now protect our freedom and future as a nation from global economic storms and security threats.

The Philippines has built up a strong economy which is helping us meet the challenges of the global surge in the price of food and fuel. A strong and growing economy has been the central pillar we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. It is paying off: our economy reached its highest level of growth in 30 years last year, the peso is strong, and we are close to balancing our budget.

As a result of our economic comeback, we are able to invest in key sectors to cushion the harsh impact of rice and fuel on our poor. We are also able to continue to invest in necessary infrastructure like roads, bridges and education, to name a few. All the while, we are balancing these vital investments with a commitment to meet our fiscal obligations and balance the budget in 2010.

We have been working tirelessly to address challenges arising from the slowdown in the global economy combined with the spike in oil and food prices. The government is working to make sure that our food supplies remain stable and that we put food on the table for every Filipino.

In terms of oil, the high price of gasoline and everyday commodities hits our poor the hardest. While the high price of oil is a global issue and outside the control of government, we have introduced measures to lift the burden of our people.

However, no matter what actions we take, this is a global problem. We must work together to resolve this if there is going to be any long-lasting improvement.

As a responsible member of the international community, we are doing our part to create a world that is more humane.

We have reached out in sympathy to our Chinese brethren in Sichuan Province.

Likewise, we have sent medical teams and continue to make those teams available to help the people of Myanmar. And we coordinate with our ASEAN neighbors on the level of financial aid that each of us sends to Myanmar.

Now that ASEAN has taken tangible steps to be a true union, it must accept its responsibility to advance the cause of economic and social justice within its membership.

As for the passage of the ASEAN Charter: we would love nothing more than to see ASEAN consolidate its gains and move closer together. However, we'll leave this up to the Philippine Senate which has been asked to review the charter for ratification. Certainly, economic integration among Asian nations is imperative if we, as a region, are to take advantage of the expanding global trade and economic opportunities. We are thrilled at the prospect of a vibrant

ASEAN. We hold great hope for the ASEAN Charter which will be the first and the boldest step towards the creation of a regional economic community.

Our strong course of global engagement has been an essential part of our economic turnaround.

It is important to acknowledge the important role that our international friends and allies have made to our national development. This includes the countries and organizations who are our development partners and the foreign investors who have become part of our business community and who have brought their technologies and capital to the Philippines. You are a part of the Philippine economic success story. We are grateful for your contributions and your commitment to our nation and our people.

Be with us in our steadfast desire for the Philippines to break free from the bondage of poverty and to be able to join the first world in 20 years.

We stand today – aware of the challenges we face and the responsibilities we carry. When we act with a singularity of purpose and a focused vision in solidarity with our allies in the world, we can achieve great things.

Indeed, our nations can achieve greater strides when we work as a united force, for we share ideals and possess the same aspirations of peace, stability, freedom and progress.

Ladies and gentlemen, join me in a toast to international solidarity and a resurgent Philippines.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Speech during the reception for the 110th anniversary of Philippine Independence. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121403/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1563&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the reception for the 110th Anniversary of Philippine Independence, June 12, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the reception for the 110th Anniversary of Philippine Independence**

[Delivered at Malacañang Palace, June 12, 2008]

One hundred and ten years after we broke free of foreign bondage, we remember with deep gratitude our heroic forebears who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the altar of freedom so that we may live as a sovereign people.

The centuries-old struggle continues. Instead of colonizing powers, we must now protect our freedom and future as a nation from global economic storms and security threats.

The Philippines has built up a strong economy which is helping us meet the challenges of the global surge in the price of food and fuel. A strong and growing economy has been the central pillar we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. It is paying off: our economy reached its highest level of growth in 30 years last year, the peso is strong, and we are close to balancing our budget.

As a result of our economic comeback, we are able to invest in key sectors to cushion the harsh impact of rice and fuel on our poor. We are also able to continue to invest in necessary infrastructure like roads, bridges and education, to name a few. All the while, we are balancing these vital investments with a commitment to meet our fiscal obligations and balance the budget in 2010.

We have been working tirelessly to address challenges arising from the slowdown in the global economy combined with the spike in oil and food prices. The government is working to make sure that our food supplies remain stable and that we put food on the table for every Filipino.

In terms of oil, the high price of gasoline and everyday commodities hits our poor the hardest. While the high price of oil is a global issue and outside the control of government, we have introduced measures to lift the burden of our people.

However, no matter what actions we take, this is a global problem. We must work together to resolve this if there is going to be any long-lasting improvement.

As a responsible member of the international community, we are doing our part to create a world that is more humane.

We have reached out in sympathy to our Chinese brethren in Sichuan Province.

Likewise, we have sent medical teams and continue to make those teams available to help the people of Myanmar. And we coordinate with our ASEAN neighbors on the level of financial aid that each of us sends to Myanmar.

Now that ASEAN has taken tangible steps to be a true union, it must accept its responsibility to advance the cause of economic and social justice within its membership.

As for the passage of the ASEAN Charter, we would love nothing more than to see ASEAN consolidate its gains and move closer together. However, we'll leave this up to the Philippine Senate, which has been asked to review the Charter for ratification. Certainly, economic integration among Asian nations is imperative if we, as a region, are to take advantage of the expanding global trade and economic opportunities. We are thrilled at the prospect of a vibrant ASEAN. We hold great hope for the ASEAN Charter, which will be the first and the boldest step towards the creation of a regional economic community.

Our strong course of global engagement has been an essential part of our economic turnaround.

It is important to acknowledge the important role that our international friends and allies have made to our national development. This includes the countries and organizations who are our development partners and the foreign investors who have become part of our business community and who have brought their technologies and capital to the Philippines. You are a part of the Philippine economic success story. We are grateful for your contributions and your commitment to our nation and our people.

Be with us in our steadfast desire for the Philippines to break free from the bondage of poverty and to be able to join the first world in 20 years.

We stand today, aware of the challenges we face and the responsibilities we carry. When we act with a singularity of purpose and a focused vision in solidarity with our allies in the world, we can achieve great things.

Indeed, our nations can achieve greater strides when we work as a united force, for we share ideals and possess the same aspirations of peace, stability, freedom and progress.

Ladies and gentlemen, join me in a toast to international solidarity and a resurgent Philippines.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) launching ceremony of its Transport Modernization Program: “Mga Makabagong Sasakyan para sa Kalusugan at Kapaligiran” [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa seremonya ng paglulunsad ng Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) ng kanilang Programa ng Modernisasyon ng Transportasyon: “Mga Makabagong Sasakyan para sa Kalusugan at Kapaligiran”

[Ipinahayag sa One Esplanade, SM Mall of Asia complex, Lungsod ng Pasay, ika 16 ng Hunyo, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Mendoza sa iyong pagpakilala. At sa iyo, kay Tom Lantion at lahat ng mga nagtatrabaho sa DOTC at saka sa LTFRB, happy 21st anniversary!

Pwede na ho kayo umupo.

Secretary Reyes; Secretary Limcaoco na nandiyaan; ating mga congressmen na narito: si Mikey, si Congressman Roxas at saka si Congressman San Luis at yung ama ng Biofuels Act, si Migz Zubiri; ang ating host dito sa Pasay City, si Mayor Peewee Trinidad; ang ating host naman dito sa gusaling ito, si Mr. Hans Sy; iba’t-ibang mga negosyante, mga investor, mga driver, mga manggagawa na bahagi ng napaka-importanteng industriya ng transportasyon, sa inyong lahat din, happy 21st anniversary sa LTFRB. Kasi kayo lahat ay mga stakeholders dito. Ay! batiin ko rin pala ang chairman ng Biofuels Corporation, si Rene Velasco.

Gaya nang sabi ni Tom Lantion, itong anibersaryo ng LTFRB ay ipinagdidiriwang sa panahon, at sabi nito ni Migz Zubiri na nakapagtindig na tayo ng matipunong ekonomiya ng Pilipinas, na tumutulong sa atin harapin ang hamon ng pangmundong sibat ng presyo ng pagkain at langis. At nagbubunga itong ating tinayong ekonomiya, sa 2007 naabot natin ang pinakamalakas na paglago ng ating ekonomiya sa loob ng tatlung taon, dahil malakas ang piso — at nakita ko doon sa peryodiko kahapon — dumoble and pamumuhunan noong unang tatlong buwan nitong taon, at malapit na nating mabalanse ang budget.

Bunga nitong pagsigla ng ekonomiya, nakakapagpamuhunan tayo sa inyong mga pangunahing sektor para sanggahan ang dagok ng tumatalong halaga ng bigas at krudo sa maralita. Naglaan tayo ng apat na bilyong piso mula sa value-added tax sa langis upang pondohan ang iba’t-ibang programa na tinatawag nating “Katas ng VAT.”

Itong enerhiya, gaya ng pagkain, pandaigdigan itong isyu at labas sa kakayahan ng isang pamahalaan ang malaking bahagi ng magagawang kilos. Gayon pa man, nagbibigay tayo ng kapili-piling pangginhawa sa krudo at langis na nakatutok sa pinaka-nangangailangan. At kayo yun yung mga nagmamaneho at nagpapatakbo ng mga sasakyan.

Nagsusulong tayo ng mga mahigpit na pagkilos upang magtipid sa enerhiya at mas umasa sa sarili nating pagkukunan ng enerhiya sa bisa ng mga investment gaya ng natural gas, sariling langis, biofuels — doon nga yung batas ni Migz Zubiri, yung renewable energy na malapit na maging batas ni Migz Zubiri at saka nung anak kong si Mikey, pareho silang Juan Miguel, ang pangalan nila Juan Miguel — renewable energy ang tawag sa kanila.

Kamakailang pinalad tayo magsimula ng produksyon ng langis naman, pati langis doon sa Galoc, di ba, Angie? Sa dagat, sa kanluran ng bansa, na mag-aangat ng produksyon ng krudo sa bansa hanggang sampung porsiyento ng ating konsumo. So yun ay isang swerte rin natin o pagbasbas.

Pero binabati rin natin si Migz at saka si Congressman San Luis hindi lamang dahil sa Biofuels Law kung hindi dahil kasama nila yung mga kasapi ng Laguna Biofuels Development Cooperatives — saan kayo? Ha, hindi

pumasok yata. Sa likod ba, saan kayo? Ayun! Ayun! Okay — na nagtitiyak sa ating magkakaroon tayo sa hinaharap ng karagdagang produksyon ng biodiesel galang sa jatropa.

Nagalak tayo na puspusan na ang paghahanda ng Laguna Biofuels Development Cooperative, kasama ang U.P. Los Baños — nandito ba yung ating mga taga U.P.? Nandoon sila. Congratulations sa inyo! — upang palawakin ng jatropa. At nagkaroon na pala ng launching kamaailan lang yung cooperative, yung U.P., si Migz at saka si Egay at sinabi ni Congressman San Luis na maglalagay siya ng mga farm-to-market road upang maging malapit yung jatropa sa pagdadalhan, kaya maraming salamat sa inyo Congressman San Luis.

Bilang Katas ng VAT at ng Vehicle Pollution Control Fund, inilulunsad natin ngayon ang isang bilyong pondo, isang bilyong pisong pautang sa mga namamasada sa jeepney at iba pang pampublikong sasakyan upang magpalit ng makina para magamit ang LPG, compressed natural gas at iba pang alternatibong pangkarga sa sasakyan na malaking mura kaysa sa gasolina at diesel.

Inatasan ng inyong lingkod ang Department of Energy kasama ng DOST ng DTI, ng DOTC na to oversee the shift or conversion to alternative fuels from fossil fuels towards the implementation of Migz Zubiri's Biofuels Act. Kaya yan ang ginagawa natin ngayon. Kasi kung... halimbawa, yung mga sasakyan ng pamahalaan, 20 percent — Angie, di ba? — ng lahat ng sasakyan ng pamahalaan ay dapat i-convert. At kayo naman mga nagmamaneho, nagpapasada kailangan din hindi lamang dahil sa utos kundi dahil para man makakita pa kayo kasi kung hindi kayo magco-convert talagang napakataas na ang presyo ng langis.

Ngayon, abot sa dalawangdaang libong piso ang kailangan kung magpapalit ng makina, abot sa 70,000 kung bibili ng conversion kit, abot sa 550,000 kung bibili ng bagong jeepney na gumagamit na ng alternative fuels kaya tutulungan kayo ng pamahalaan. Target nating magpa-convert ng sampung libong jeepney, at para na rin sa mga bus at mga taxi. Kaya nasisiyahan ako na nandito yung mga lider ng ating industriya ng transport hindi lamang jeepney, bus pati taxi. At itong pondong ito ay ipapautang ng Development Bank of the Philippines. At sabi ko, hindi lang DBP, Larry, pati yung Postal Bank dapat lalaanan din ng pondo para pwede kayong pumili, pwede kayong humiram sa DBP, pwede kayong humiram sa Postal Bank kung saan mas malapit, mas convenient para sa inyo.

Sa matitipid ninyo sa LPG, CNG o biofuel, mababayaran niyo ang utang, at maaaring magpahiram pa itong mga bangko sa ibang namamasada upang sila naman ay makakatipid. Sabi nga ni Larry ang bayad ay yung boundary ninyo 80 pesos per day ang ibabayad ninyo sa utang. So, yun ang ginagawa natin para magaan ang bayad. Saan kayo makakahanap ng ganung pautang na ang bayad ay 80 pesos per day lamang kung hihiram kayo ng 200,000. At hindi lang yun walang interest, so siguro mababayaran niyo paunti-unti sa loob ng dalawang taon. So, sa loob ng dalawang taon 'di lahat noon inyo na ang kita.

Kaya binabati natin ang mga tsuper ng jeepney at bus kayo ang unang makakatanggap nitong benepisyo. Congratulations sa inyong lahat! Pero hindi lang congratulations, salamat, nabasa ko kanina sa peryodiko ang pahayag na 'di na itutuloy ang hiling na itaas ang pasahe. Maraming salamat din.

Bukod doon, inatasan natin si Energy Secretary Angie Reyes na sugpuin ang mga kotong at kolum na kumakaltas, kasi dinig ko hanggang apat na libong piso raw sa kita ng tsuper bawat buwan ang nakakaltas sa mga kolum at kotong. Eh biro mo kung wala na yun eh di mas madali kayo makabayad ng inyong utang.

Sa mga nakalipas na linggo, meron din tayong ibang mga Katas ng VAT na nailunsad na. Sinimulan natin ang unang programa ng Katas ng VAT sa paglunsad ng Pantawid Kuryente, ito naman ay tulong ng limangdaang piso para doon sa mga kumukunsumo ng hindi hihigit sa 100 kilowatts per month. At inaasahan natin na apat na milyong pamilya ang mabibiyayaan ng dalawang bilyon na nakalaan sa programang ito — Katas ng VAT: Pantawid Kuryente. Kayo naman yung inyo — Katas ng VAT: Pantawid Pasahe.

Nagbigay din tayo ng Katas ng VAT para sa mga estudyante sa halagang isang bilyong piso rin — kalahating bilyon bilang scholarships sa mahihirap, at kalahating bilyon bilang pautang sa mga gastos na maliliit. Nakalaan ang mga scholarships sa mga nag-aaral sa mga kursong kailangan sa pagpapalago ng produksiyon ng pagkain tulad ng agrikultura at fisheries. Samantala, sa ilalim ng programang SAFE 4 SR (Student Assistance Fund for Education for

a Strong Republic), makakahiram ng walong libong piso bawat semester ang mga estudyanteng nasa third, fourth or fifth year ng pag-aaral para sa diploma, sa kanilang uniporme, sa kanilang toga o kung ano yun.

Kaya wala tayong pagod na nagpupursige upang tugunan ang mga hamong bunga ng paghina ng ekonomiya ng mundo at pagsipa ng mga presyo ng langis at pagkain. Malubha ang tama sa mahihirap nitong mga puwersang pandaigdig.

Kaya ang mensahe natin sa araw na ito, sa 21st anniversary ng LTFRB ay ito: gagawin ng pamahalaan ang lahat ng makakaya upang mapagpatuloy ang nasimulan na nating pag-angat ng ating ekonomiya.

Sa inyong lahat, Mabuhay! At sana patuloy ang inyong kaunlaran.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). PGMA's Speech during the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Launching Ceremony of its Transport Modernization Program: "Mga Makabagong Sasakyan para sa Kalusugan at Kapaligiran". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121335/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1560&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the declaration of merger of the Lakas-CMD and the KAMPI Parties in Davao region (Region XI)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the declaration of merger of the Lakas-CMD and the KAMPI Parties in Davao region (Region XI)**

[Delivered in Apo View Hotel, Davao City, June 18, 2008]

Thank you very much, Secretary Puno, chairman of Kampi. I would like to greet also and congratulate our host, Speaker Nograles, president of Lakas, and all the many VIPs of Lakas and Kampi who are present here today. Congratulations to all of you, to all of us for this merger.

(dialect)...from Luzon and the Visayas, who are also the big leaders of Lakas and Kampi. (dialect)...At the core of those organizations is a strong economy, not just the core but the product that the Philippines has built up under our two parties' leadership now to become one which is helping us meet the challenges of the global surge in the price of food and fuel.

A strong and growing economy has been the central pillar that together our two parties, now to become one, have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. It is paying off. Our economy's ... reached its highest growth in 30 years last year; the peso is strong; and in the first quarter of the year, approved investments doubled; and we are close to balancing our budget. (dialect)... plus the head of the local government league. Mayor Guico, Governor Ocampo and City Mayor Abalos. (dialect) This collaboration has given the final push to our economic comeback, as a result of which we are able to invest in key sectors. And Nonoy Andaya is here with us to help us make that investment to cushion the harsh impact of rice and fuel on our poor.

And due to our collaboration, we are also able to invest, continue to invest in necessary infrastructure project like roads, like the Manay-Boston road (?) which we should be groundbreaking soon; the Tandag-Butuan Road which will travel on to Molo; bridges like the Bankerohan bridge which opened in time for classes here in Davao City; and we're able to invest in education, to name a few. All the while we are balancing this vital investment with the commitment to meeting our fiscal obligation and balancing the budget in 2010. (dialect)

Peace is a central ingredient in the nation's and island's future. It is a path that we are firmly committed to achieving. This includes defeating the NPA, wiping out the Abu Sayyaf once and for all and returning the Mindanao countryside to the people. I have ordered the AFP to launch a massive manhunt for the kidnappers of Ces Drilon. (dialect). At East MinCom we will also meet with rebel returnees. And I ask the stalwarts of Lakas-Kampi who are here to work for amnesty concurrence which will enable the insurgents to rejoin society. The path of peace also includes working with the MILF to achieve permanent peace in Mindanao.

I would like to announce that yesterday, our National Security Council ...(unclear) government's draft of the ancestral domain agreement in our negotiation with the MILF. So, I now direct our negotiators to present our government position to the MILF so that we can quickly resume the stalled negotiations and hopefully hasten the signing of our final peace agreement with the MILF and bring sustainable peace and development not only to Mindanao but to the country as a whole.

Our choice of candidates in the forthcoming elections of the ARMM is anchored on the commitment of every Lakas-Kampi candidate to work for permanent peace. Later we will open this separator here and officially present our ARMM candidates led by ARMM Governor Zaldy Ampatuan. And I know that you will all join me when I tell them that we, their party mates look upon them, the vanguards of peace and the front liners in the fight against poverty in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. I have no doubt that our candidates in the ARMM will win the elections as I have no doubt that our candidates in the next national elections will also win.

So, this early we will ask Zaldy Ampatuan to prepare his plan for a peace offensive centered on expanding the people's economic opportunity. And this early I ask our president Boy Nograles, Lakas president, to convene the party institute so that they can work on refining our party vision and party draft for the years to come. Many things are left to be done. We will continue working to strengthen our merged party to increase the mass of like-minded individuals. We will continue to work hard to fulfill our Philippine reform agenda until the day I turn the national leadership over to my successor who, I'm sure, will be whoever Lakas –Kampi will support.

We will work for victory to propagate our reform agenda. And I depend on you, party mates, to carry on our program and continue to fight for the economy, education and the environment. (dialect) I remain bullish on our country, optimistic about our future and deeply committed that LAKAS-Kampi shall be a force for good of Mindanao, of Region 11, of the entire Philippines .

Congratulations! and.... (dialect)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Declaration of Merger of the Lakas-CMD and the KAMPI Parties in Davao Region (Region XI). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121254/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1556&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Conferment of the Golden Heart Award

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Conferment of the Golden Heart Award

[Delivered in Washington, D. C., June 24, 2008]

Thank you very much. Thank you, thank you.

Our honorees... Secretary Romulo and the other members of the Philippine delegation, ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

The Order of the Golden Heart represents our nation's humble way of recognizing those who help build life to the noble aspirations of the Filipino people. Relations between the United States and the Philippines will always be close as well as special. In fact, those of BBC poll (?) released this past April our global perceptions towards the US. And you guessed it, Filipinos are, hands down, the most supportive nation of the US in the world.

Against the backdrop of these close bilateral relationships are tonight's... who have forged an even stronger bond between our two nations. We're here tonight to honor our distinct awardees with the Golden Heart Award for their exemplary contributions to the Filipino people, especially to Filipino veterans. The Golden Heart award is given to those with a golden heart. One of these gives hope for our nations and our people.

And so, on behalf of the 85 million Filipinos and their families and friends who make up the four million Philippine-American community, thank you for continuing the deep friendship. Thank you also for your expression of support and... thanks from our friendly half of Congress. And if you appreciate... (unclear) about our Filipinos, and we do hope as you have said that we will find more survivors, and thank you for all of the support that you have given.

And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody here in the Capitol who has expressed sympathy and who has also provided support for our efforts now in the Philippines. And we are very happy to have so many friends in Washington and we are very happy to have the three gentlemen that we are honoring tonight among the leaders of that friendship.

Once again, congratulations!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Conferment of the Golden Heart Award. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412120357/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1544&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 41st Founding Anniversary of Davao del Sur

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 41st Founding Anniversary of Davao del Sur

[Delivered in Digos City, Davao del Sur, July 1, 2008]

Daghang salamat, Mark sa imong pagpaila kanako. (applause) Daghang salamat, Governor Dodo Cagas sa imong imbitasyon. (applause) Kami anhi ni sa inyong sa inyong anibersaryo.

Atong mga congressman na Franklin Bautista, daghang salamat sab na unity karon diri sa probinsiya sa Davao del Sur. (applause) Tanang opisyal sa Davao del Sur, kauban na si Mrs. Cagas; si Vice Governor ug tanan mga mayors; mga board members; barangay officials; kaninyong tanan mga kaigsuunan, kauban ko karon sab ang duha a cabinet member: si Jess Dureza nga taga-Digos diay; (applause) ug si Cerge Remonde na inyong guest sa crowning sa inyong Mutya kagabii, (applause) kaninyong tanan mga kaigsuunan, malipayong anibersaryo sa Davao del Sur! (applause)

Sa pagsulong sa anibersaryo sa probinsya, ang labing maayong panahon aron magpasalamat sa mga grasya sa tibuok tuig nga gikan sa Gino-o. Pasalamatan nato ang Gin-o kay usahayra ang mga bagyo diri sa Davao del Sur. (applause) Kay murag ingon ni Governor Cagas kinahanglan maadto ako sa mga laing lugar — 45 provinces ang naga-suffer karon tungod sa typhoon Frank. Ug tungod pa sa ferry apan ang Davao del Sur nalibre ngining mga aksidente. (applause)

The terrible tragedy left in the wake of typhoon Frank and the ferry accident was constantly on our mind during our trip to the United States. Overseeing relief efforts was part of our daily agenda. We were in constant contact with our officials. We directed our operation practically on a minute by minute basis hangtod karon. We have demanded a full accounting of the ferry accident. Ang Coast Guard humingi ng 15 days within which they will submit their findings. We were able to receive extensive assistance to aid in search, recovery and relief.

But now we are happy to be back on Philippine soil and happy to be back diri sa Davao del Sur. (applause)

Salamat usab sa Gin-o nga daghan ug mga resources ang inyong probinsya: mga uma kun di-in matambok ang mga tanom, maayong klima, walay bagyo, katawhan murag sa upat nga bar topnotchers gikan sa Davao del Sur, (applause) kauban na si Governor, (applause) katawhan nga desidido nga gatabang sa pagpa-uswag dili lang sa probinsiya kundi sa tibuok nasod. And that is important. Your beautiful soil, your beautiful climate, your brilliant and productive people because there are big issues rocking the world, namely the high price of food and fuel that is affecting everyone around the globe, particularly the poor. At every meeting during our trip to the United States, we worked to help secure additional funding and support for stabilizing prices and discussing ways to help secure additional funding and decrease our reliance on imported rice and imported oil.

Nipirma si Agricultural Secretary Arthur Yap ug ang iyang counterpart sa America si Secretary ____ sa D.A. sa America bahin sa:

Number one, collaboration on sanitary and phytosanitary measures tungod kay ubsa hay dugay mga sulod sa atong produkto sa Amerika and the use sanitary measures to prevent products from going there. Apan ingon ni Governor Cagas garbo ninyo mga makasulod ang mango gikan sa Davao hangtod sa Australia. (applause) Unta tungod ngining bag-o nga agreement between Secretary Yap sa Pilipinas and Secretary _____ sa Amerika muabot ang panahon nga makasulod sab ang Davao del Sur mango sa Amerika mismo. (applause)

Ikaduha, agricultural market, institutional, and rural development;

Ikatulo, biotechnology and other new technologies;

Ug ikaupat, an improved climate between entrepreneurs of America and the Philippines for agricultural trade and investment.

The trip to the United States affirmed the strong ties between our two nations and advanced important issues we have between us, with the US, our most important strategic ally.

We were able to speak with President Bush, the Speaker of their House, the Senate Majority leader and other officials to press for economic aid, food security and stronger military cooperation.

In this very important presidential year in the US, we were able to conduct far ranging discussions with the Presidential candidates, Senator McCain and Senator Obama. There is a new generation of leadership murag ang bag-o nga generation diri, si Mark Cagas, dito sa America nasab bag-o that will emerge to lead the United States. It was important for Philippine interests for us to have first hand contact with Senators McCain and Obama to discuss US-Philippine relations. We are comfortable that either of these leaders will continue the strong relation between our two countries.

We met with a number of investors and business leaders in New York. We secured new commitments for job creation and investments in the Philippines.

Usa sa mga negosyante kan kinsa kita na kistorya ang Target. Tingali kamo nagabisita sa Amerika kaila ninyo katong target, ang usa ka tinda, ang isa nga importante nga store retail outlet, ug kining Target, daghan na ang napalit nila gikan sa Pilipinas, sama sa mga natural fiber o dried grass, mga storage jars, mga laing-laing items o furniture and also of accessories, labaw pa ang ilang gustong mopalit ni-ining produkto, mga natural fibers, busa gusto nila nga ang raw materials sa ilang mga vendor sigurado. Kay ang mga vendors kay natural fibers sa una pa nakabulu ka na diri sa Davao provinces, sama sa Davao del Norte naan ang mga produkto gikan sa natural grass o dried grass. Apan ang problema, wild kanong mga grass so depende sa availability gikan sa nature apan kini mga dagko nga mga tienda sama sa Target, gusto nila dagko sab ang ilang order. So busa importante unta makatanom ang atong mga uma sa Davao del Sur sa grass, dili na ng wild, itanom na nato nga mubaliga sa mga vendors kaya sigurado ang market. So mau ang atong mga kinahanglan mahimo sukad sa akong pagbisita sa Amerika aron maka-share ang mga probinsiya sama sa Davao del Sur sa mga resulta sa atong international relations.

Ug aron masiguro nga mapadayon ang kalambo-an, kinahanglan ang kalinaw ug seguridad sa Mindanao. We repeat the primacy of the peace process. But we direct the AFP to be vigilant and take appropriate action to protect citizens from harm by elements who disrupt the peace.

Sa ako niaging pagbisita diri dito sa Davao City, na-meeting mi bahin sa kalinaw diri sa Davao provinces, sa Region 11, sa gitawag nilang Eastern Mindanao Command ug dako giyud ang kinahanglang mahimo alang sa kalinaw diri sa Davao provinces ug dako ang mahimo ug atong bag-o nga Chairman sa Regional Peace and Order Council, walay laing kundiri ang Gobernador sa Davao del Sur, si Governor Dodo Cagas. (applause)

Atong pag-abi-abi usab kan Dodo ang gi-upgrade nato nga provincial hospital gakanina dunay gipadak-ang' Outpatient ug naapa kamo bag-o nga under construction nga Pediatric Center. (applause) Kini ang usa nga example sa partnership between the national government and the provincial government of Davao del Sur. Mao kanunay ang gifollow-up ni Congressman Mark Cagas kanako dito sa Manila, (applause) kaingwan niya pet project ng iyang amang kining upgrade sa inyong ospital, so congratulations sa atong gi-inaugurate gakanina.

Gipatindog sab nato ang tulay sa Hagonoy. Nahuman na ba? Human na? ongoing karon.

Ug Gusto usab nato pa-lambo ang Southern Davao del Sur ang JAGS-CT o Jose Abad Santos-Glan-Saranggani Cooperative Triangle. (applause)

Dito sa Pikas, nagpatindog ug mga pantalan sa Glan, gusto nato nga maconnect ang Glan diri sa Davao del Sur — ang Glan Abad Santos Road. (applause) Ingon ni Governor Cagas nahuman na ang dito sabahin sa Glan, so karon kinahanglan, mahimo nato ang Abad Santos portion. (applause) Naakita ug bag-o nga Secretary, sa DA, si Undersecretary Momo, asan siya? Okay. Nagikan siya sa Caraga ... ngano siya ang gipili ni Secretary Ebdane nga mu-appoint ko isip undersecretary tuod kay dito sa Caraga nga lisod kayo mga kalsada basta naako ug direksyon sa iya, o sa kining adlaw kinahanglan mahuman kining kalsada, nangahuman ni Director Momo, (applause) so karon ang atong bag-o nga direksyon sa iya, katang Glan Abad Santos Road, gakanina, kaistorya ko si Secretary Ebdane, naakita ug bag-o na 100 milyon pesos release kinahanglan mao ang imong inaugural duty isip undersecretary sa Mindanao, director.... Layo kaayo ang Abad Santos busa ingonamo ni Secretary Ebdane basig kung lisod alang sa mga private contractors bisan ang engineering brigade sa armed forces ang makaconstruct aron paspas ang construction ug maabot (applause) ang kauswagan dito sa Abad Santos. Kay gusto nato, tibuok Davao del Sur, maduol sa palengke, kay ang produksyon sa bugas sa Davao Del Sur, garbo ninyo. (applause)

Ang labing-taas nga productivity sa tibuok nasod Pilipinas, aniya diri sa Davao del Sur. (applause) 5.6 tons kada hektarya. Ug kung magpabiling' makugi sa produktibidad ang katawhan dinhi, sama sa inyong na-andan, ug kung mo-paspas ang uban nga maapas ang uban mga probinsya, moabot ang atong nasod sa self-sufficiency.

Apan in the meantime, bisan naapak kita ug 10% sa tibuok ... sa nasod, nag-iimport nato, garbo sa Davao del Sur nga kamo, nag-i-export sa mga laing probinsiya sa inyong produksyon. (applause)

So nalipay kong makapabisita diri sa Davao del Sur para makapag-abi-abi kaninyong tanan sa inyong mga kontribusyon sa atong nasod, ug aron makaistorya saon sa ang gusto sab tibuok nasod nga mahatag diri sa Davao del Sur. Busa kaninyong tanan, malipayong anibersaryo! Tuod nga garbo ninyo na kamo taga Davao del Sur.

Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the 41st Founding Anniversary of Davao del Sur. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412120235/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1625&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 61st Anniversary of the Philippine Air Force

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 61st Anniversary of the Philippine Air Force

[Delivered at the Mactan Air Base, Lapu Lapu, Cebu City, July 2, 2008]

Thank you very much, Secretary Teodoro, for your introduction. Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force General Cadungog, our host for today's celebration; the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines General Yano; commanding General of the Army General Ibrado; Vice Admiral Calunsag; our all other officials of the Armed Forces and the Air Force; Governor Garcia; Congressman Salimbangon; Congressman Gullas; and the other officials of the Province of Cebu; Secretary Remonde and Secretary Esperon and other appointees of our government; our awardees; men and women of the Air Force; ladies and gentlemen.

Congratulations to the Air Force on your anniversary!

I would like to start by expressing a personal tribute to the Air Force on the occasion of your anniversary. I have entrusted my life to the Air Force. The head of our Presidential Security Group Brigadier General Celedonio Boquiren is from the Air Force. His immediate predecessor and now head of the Intelligence Service of the AFP Brigadier General Romeo Prestoza is from the Air Force. The head of the Presidential Guard Battalion Lt. Colonel Ralph Mamauag is from the Air Force. Your Commanding General Lt. General Pedrito Cadungog was the head of my Presidential Air Lift Wing. Thank you very much Philippine Air Force for your care for me and my family.

Today, of course, we honor not just those who take care of me and my family but we honor those who have risked their own lives to save others. Our Gold Cross awardee won his award in battle, but most of the other awardees are those who have won their awards by saving other people's lives or incidentally Troop Commander, Gibtikas Pahinga.

Since General Cadungog was my – was the head of my Presidential Air Lift Wing I was comfortable enough to ask him on a very short notice to transfer your anniversary celebration to Cebu, coming on the heels, as he has said, of the terrible tragedy left in the wake of the typhoon and the ferry accident. Because we want to focus attention on the heroism of the members of the Philippine Air Force who flies, search, rescue and relief mission out of these days and to pay our respects to the casualties of the calamity, most of whom are the Cebuano victims of the ferry accident.

Dahil balita na ang pagdating ng bagyo ilang oras bago ako umalis patungong Estados Unidos, noong gabing iyon bago ako umalis, pumunta muna ako sa Villamor Air Base, upang tiyaking handa ang Air Force tumugon sa pagsaklolo o pagtulong sa taong bayan. At pagbalik sa madaling araw unang pinuntahan muli ang Villamor Air Base para kumustahin ang mga nagkakarga ng gamit sa C-130 para dalhin sa Panay Island ang pinakanasalang lugar. Twenty four hours nagtatrabaho ang Philippine Air Force dito sa kalamidad na ito. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

When I was away, the Presidential planes were used as part of the assets and in fact they were used here in Cebu, in Northern Cebu, especially to help out in search, rescue and relief. The trip to the United States reaffirmed the strong ties between our two nations and advanced important issues with the US, our most important friend and strategic ally. We were able to meet with President Bush, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority leader, and other important officials to press for economic aid, food security and stronger military cooperation. We have strengthened military cooperation with the US to continuously implement the Philippine Defense Reform Plan, particularly the capability upgrade program. So, among other things, we expect more skills upgrading programs for our air men and other soldiers sponsored by the US, on top, of course, of the hard assets. For hard assets we are not just relying on the US; we are also relying on the fruits of the reforms of the Value-Added Tax, so that we can finance much of our

own modernization. This is why we have been able to set aside billions of pesos for the purchase of new helicopters and not just reconditioned ones. And they will be bidden out soon.

A number of primary and basic trainer aircraft are also coming soon. These should prevent the Air Force from running out of planes and prevent pilots from running out of the Air Force. As for personnel in non-combat missions, PAF reservists, who count Secretary Teodoro among them, have more wings than the Air Force. So, we have a great force multiplier. They can fly planes for peace while PAF regulars press on with missions to end conflict. And because we are so appreciative of the work of the Air Force, the work of the Armed Forces and the work of all government workers, we have a 10% pay increase for all government employees starting this month including all AFP personnel.

With your better pay must come better means to do your work not only hard assets but operating expenses. Secretary Teodoro will make sure that your MOOE for petroleum, oil and lubricants and spare parts is always adequate. With all these to help you do your work even better, may I ask you, may I enjoin you, brave and hardworking men and women of the Philippine Air Force, as you pro-fly to provide lift, to deliver support, to revive hope, to ensure peace for a nation that is taking off and hoping to rise to the level of first world in 20 years,. I call on you surge on full power, fly safely and press on with your role as the all- embracing wings of our nation.

Once again, Happy Anniversary!

Mabuhay and Thank you!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the 61st Anniversary of Philippine Air Force. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412120143/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1622&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of Shangri-La Hotel

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of Shangri-La Hotel

[Delivered at The Fort, Taguig City, July 3, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Yap for your introduction.

Sir Robert Kouk, Ambassador Cojuangco, our three Senators Ed Angara, Loren Legarda and Chiz Escudero, Cabinet members, Mayor Freddie Tinga, other officers of the Kouk group and the San Miguel group, ladies and gentlemen.

In the space of the last hour we have seen two laudable objectives. One, that will go a long way to attracting visitors and investors and enhancing our image as a choice tourist destination in Asia; and the other, which will have a great impact towards food self-sufficiency for our countrymen. Both are important, both redound to the benefit of the Filipino people. To the Kouk group, thank you for your faith in the Philippines.

I've met with Mr. Kouk in two of my working visits abroad: in Singapore and in Hong Kong. The purpose of which was to secure new commitments for job creation and investments in the Philippines. And we are happy that our meetings have borne such valuable fruit. We are encouraged by your investing our country. Thank you very much, Sir Robert Kouk.

Shangri-la is one of our image models for demonstrating that the Philippines has become an increasingly attractive location for tourism investments, along with other services that you will see already coming up and still to come up in this beautiful development in Fort Bonifacio. Congratulations to Freddie Tinga and congratulations also to the executives of Fort Bonifacio.

In fact, we think we are the best value and the best place to invest in Asia. We offer a strategic location in a fast growing region. Our work force is well-educated, productive and English speaking. We are cutting red tape, especially, I am sure here in Taguig, to simplify the requirements for investment.

In fact, in the Millennium Challenge Corporation in Washington, when we were talking about our compliance with requirements of the Millennium Challenge for governing well to fight poverty, Taguig was one of our examples of a very business-friendly environment in which it takes only a very short time to start a business. Congratulations, Freddie.

Our strengths are working to sustain our competitiveness for investment. And we are happy to hear that aside from Shangri-la, there will be four other hotels coming up here, but Freddie says Shangri-la will definitely be the most luxurious of them all.

In the rest of our country, other heavy investments have been and are coming in. Sir Robert already talked about Shangri-la Boracay. And we have others — huge investments like Texas Instruments in its way for a fabrication plant in Clark Economic Zone, which is attracting its suppliers and downstream customers to come, and therefore promoting a whole industrial estate within the Clark Economic Zone to cater to Texas Instruments' customers and suppliers downstream.

Korea's Hanjin has a multi-billion dollar shipyard in Subic, and tomorrow we will be inaugurating their first large ship coming out of there. Marubeni, Tokyo Electric, AES and other electric power giants purchased power plants in the Philippines worth billions not to mention Ashmore's purchase of controlling shares in Petron.

During our trip to New York, Libby's foods announced a \$500-million investment in a pineapple plantation and processing plant in Bicol. I mention Libby's because as we have said earlier, we are glad to have food investments in our country.

As our speakers have said earlier, there are big issues rocking the world namely, the high price of food and fuel that is affecting everyone around the globe but particularly the poor.

At every occasion, we work to help secure additional support for stabilizing prices and ways to ensure food supplies. That is why to the Kouk and San Miguel groups, thank you for answering the government's call for private sector investment in the issue of food security.

That Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage company and one of the region's largest food, sugar and vegetable oil companies have convened to launch this program feeding the future offers a signal that food security transcends both the private sector, the public sector and private institutions. It demands action from all sectors.

When government and private sector come together for public good, the results can be powerful. So, we thank the Kouk and San Miguel groups for your generosity, for your cooperation in food security.

And may I add, I would also like to thank you because I have a note here that the San Miguel Corporation will be donating half a million dollars for the victims of typhoon Frank, and that the Kouk Group of Companies will also donate half a million dollars to match the donation of San Miguel Corporation.

Thank you, thank you, thank you and see you all again when we inaugurate Boracay Shangri-la in November.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of Shangri-La Hotel. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412120050/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1620&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Hanjin Subic Shipyard

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Hanjin Subic Shipyard**

[Delivered at the Redondo Peninsula, Subic Freeport Zone, Zambales, July 4, 2008]

Thank you Secretary Pamintuan for your introduction. Other Cabinet members, Chairman Nam Ho Cho and the other officials of Hanjin; Chairman Papadimitriou and your beloved parents; and the other officials and guests. Our friends from Greece, our Father of Subic, Senator Richard Gordon, Governor Deloso and Governor Tet Garcia, Congressman Magsaysay, and Congressman Monico Fuentabella, Mayor Jeffrey D. Khonghun, and the other officials of Subic, the host municipality. Chairman Salonga, Administrator Arreza and the other officials of Subic, not to mention, our very, very proud work force that we all proud to have.

Ambassador Hong Jeong-KI of South Korea and the Charge-de-affairs of the Greek Embassy, Philippine Ambassador to Greece, Bobbi Tiglao, Mr. Shim.

I had mentioned already our Cabinet members, Peter Favila and Cerge Remonde, our beloved countrymen especially the proud people of Zambales and Subic, ladies and gentlemen.

Congratulations to Hanjin for this milestone achievement in shipbuilding. Congratulations too, to the Dioryx Maritime Corporation — the first shipping firm to buy, the first ship from Hanjin Philippines, the largest ship in the Philippines and the first of six ships which had have a total of half a billion dollars worth. Thank you very much and congratulations. Oh, \$1.2 billion for the six ships, wonderful.

Congratulations to the workers of Hanjin for your superior Filipinos here. And congratulations to the Filipino people for having the fourth largest shipyard in the world. We are very proud of that.

This very first ship that sails out of Hanjin's Shipyard, the largest ship ever built in the Philippine, M/V Argolikos, is a marvelous showcase of sound engineering and design, completed six months ahead of schedule. This 41,000-ton container carrier, its brings pride to its creator, it brings pride to us as the host of its creation. M/V Argolikos shows off to the whole world the excellence of the Filipino workforce in building vessels sailing the seven seas. Noong araw, kilala ang ating mga Filipino dahil magagaling na mga seamen, ngayon, kilala na rin, dahil magagaling sa paggawa ng mga seacraft.

Kaya, lalung-lalo na, congratulations sa lahat ng mga manggagawang Pilipino na nakaparte sa paglikha nitong higitang barko. And we thank Hanjin Philippines and the Dioryx Maritime Corporation for giving us this opportunity. I remember three years ago, almost to the same date, July 2005, when Congressman Monico Fuentabella of Negros, of Bacolod, brought Mr. Shim to me in Malacañang to tell me Hanjin is going to put up a \$1-billion dollar investment to the Philippines. I said, wow, that's fantastic and not very long after, we were here groundbreaking the \$ 1.7 billion Hanjin Shipyard.

A massive boost to the Philippines' bid to be the best value for investment in Asia. So today, we see the first fruit of Hanjin's investment in this shipyard. And we are elated and proud. Hanjin is helping secure our country's place as an attractive investment destination. It is a display of our countrymen's skills and work ethic. Hindi lang kayo magagaling, masisipag at may malasakit. And we are happy to hear that at the end of the day Hanjin will have created at least 21,000 new jobs here.

We join Hanjin in looking forward to the five other ships of Dioryx that will be built here. One is being built, we look forward to its christening also this coming November and we look forward to ask other vessels for other international companies.

Our vision, as Armand Arreza said, there are three ship building or ship-related establishments here in Subic. Our vision is to develop the Clark-Subic corridor into the most competitive international service and logistics center in the region. The Clark-Subic corridor is at the northern edge of the superregion that we call Luzon Urban Beltway which extends all the way from Subic-Clark through Metro Manila through Calabarzon to Batangas Port. The economic activity along this beltway generates 55% of national economic production. And therefore, the biggest challenge of this beltway is to remain competitive.

The Clark-Subic corridor literally opened a few months ago when we inaugurated the Subic-Clark Expressway. Businesses can now optimize the services of the Clark International Airport and this beautiful Subic International Airport linked by a half-hour drive, like similar seaport-airport, tandems across the Southeast-Asian region.

And to our friends here, our Korean friends here, KAMSAHAMNIDA for keeping faith in our country and our people.

May ships built in this shipyard and hopefully, very soon also in the shipyard of Mindanao from Hanjin, sail over the seven seas of the world for many years.

Thank you for your investment in Asia.

Mabuhay ang Hanjin.

Mabuhay ang Dioryx.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Hanjin Subic Shipyard. Retrieved https://web.archive.org/web/20100412120027/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1617&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Ceremonies of the 8th 'Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Science and Technology Week and the 50th National Science and Technology Week, July 7, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Ceremonies of the 8th ASEAN Science and Technology Week and the 50th National
Science and Technology Week**

[Delivered at the World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, July 7, 2008]

Good morning. Welcome to all our guests from all over ASEAN! It's an honor for us to host this very important sets of conferences on this very happy 50th anniversary of the Department of Science and Technology. Happy anniversary, DOST!

On this 50th anniversary of our DOST, thank you all for gathering to help further our collective goals of peace, security and sustainable development through science and technology. On the part of the Philippines, to pursue our vision to join the First World in 20 years. We have proclaimed technology as the foundation of future economic development.

Our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan defines a strategy to further S&T and mobilize our advances through a four-pronged approach: first, enhancing the competitiveness of our human capital; second, developing a critical mass of scientists and R&D personnel; third, speeding up knowledge creation and dissemination to push productivity; and fourth, improving the mechanisms that promote technology-based entrepreneurship.

Even as we pursue the vision of reaching first world in 20 years, we remain focused on solving everyday problems. We are focusing on fighting for the average Filipino. Therefore, we are focused on putting food on the table. To put more money in poor people's pockets so that they can afford the higher world price of food, the programs of DOST include improving productivity in coconut areas, where we have a million farmers. For instance, we want virgin coconut oil to be as familiar in kitchen cabinets as olive oil.

Through its research projects carried out in various laboratories such as those of DOST's own Industrial Technology Development Institute and Ateneo University, the DOST is speeding up the development of physico-chemical and biological studies for virgin coconut oil to ensure its high quality in international and local markets. It is carrying out clinical tests to verify the therapeutic claims for this very simple yet very useful coconut derivative. Another good example of a coconut derivative is a dye that went into this particular dress I'm wearing. So, these are examples of how an indigenous product like coconut can make its mark in this modern day and age.

Our government is investing a special three billion-peso fund in research and development technology between 2007 and 2010, including the Science and Technology complex at the University of the Philippines headed by our scientists of ASEAN for this year. This is to promote engineering R&D activities in the country at a significant scale in order to modernize every aspect of the economic underpinnings of the Philippines to propel economic growth. Modernization will need, indeed, as we said in our Medium-Term Plan a critical mass of R&D-capable manpower to bring our country to first world in 20 years. Since last year, a Science and Technology consortium of universities headed by the University of the Philippines has been offering scholarships under our R&D development program for masters and doctoral degrees in Science and Engineering.

In this year's budget, the DOST received the largest percentage increase — 51 percent. Our research and development efforts prioritize food and agriculture, energy, public health, information and communication technology, and the environment, including disaster prevention. National know-how shall advance the three priority E's of our country — Economy, Education and Environment.

The best response by the Philippines to the rise in global commodity prices today is: if on the liability side of the national balance sheet we sustain a loss from rising prices of commodities that we import, that is oil and rice, then we should endeavor to generate compensating gains on the asset side through the commodities we can export. This asset side consists of “hard” commodities such as primary products supplemented by “soft” commodities such as outsource business processing under the leadership of our chairman of ICT Secretary Rey Chua seated in the front row. In the new exciting world of ICT, we now have the Cyber Corridor which encompasses the business process outsourcing centers. This corridor runs the whole length of the country from north to south. It has been configured by the Business Processing Association of the Philippines to include aside from Metro Manila, which is ranked number two next only to Bangalore in International Data Corporation’s list of Top 20 Outsourcing Cities in Asia and the Pacific, we have the 24 next wave centers: Tuguegarao, Baguio, Dagupan, Urdaneta, Cabanatuan, Clark, San Fernando in Pampanga, Subic, Cainta, Bacoor, Santa Rosa, Lipa, Batangas City, Camarines Sur, Legazpi, Iloilo, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Cebu, Leyte, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and General Santos — that comprises our Cyber Corridor.

To provide the resiliency and redundancy needed to protect our cyber services from interruption, such as what happen for a very short while during the Taiwan earthquake, the new international broadband links of the two telecommunication giants, PLDT in La Union and Globe in Cagayan, both in northern Philippines, will be operational in 2009. So, no tsunami or earthquake, nothing will interrupt gateway services to the Philippines.

We look at science and technology to do these things only as examples. We look on science and technology to do many other things to put food on the table, to save lives and prevent calamities, to harness renewable and indigenous energy, to cure and prevent illnesses, and to create more high-quality jobs. And I know that all the ASEAN has this same aspirations. So, I thank you all for working together to achieve ‘One Caring and Sharing’ ASEAN community through the empowerment provided by Science and Technology.

Maraming salamat. Welcome to the Philippines.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Courtesy Call of the delegates to the 4th Annual Ambassadors/Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour (ACGTDT) of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Courtesy Call of the delegates to the 4th Annual Ambassadors/Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour (ACGTDT) of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, July 14, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Ermita.

Secretary Romulo, Durano, Favila; Ambassadors Gaa and Brillantes; our Consuls General and Consuls, Honorary Consuls; Tourism officials; our Balikbayans; ladies and gentlemen.

I join Secretary Romulo in welcoming you to Malacañan Palace.

This is an annual event now, as our Speakers have said, and it has consistently drawn hundreds of participants since it started in 2005. In fact, this has become such an important occasion for us. Secretary Favila remembers that in the 2005 visit, that was the time when I announced Secretary Favila as the new Secretary of Trade and Industry, and now here he is serving you the people of the Philippines from America and Canada. Secretary Durano was afraid that because of the global crisis and the slowdown in America we would have a much smaller number this year. But here you are, all of you, thank you for being here.

We are pleased to see that many of our kababayans from the United States and Canada are eager to participate in this Tour. Some have joined the Tour even more than once. So, welcome to the second and third timers who are here today. And your applause to Secretary Romulo said that we should do this twice a year, upon the recommendation of Secretary Durano, is a testament to your desire to reconnect with your proud, colorful and unique cultural heritage. It's also perhaps an indication that this has become a new tradition of sorts, one that we look forward to with anticipation each year, like a grand homecoming or family reunion.

So, we hope that you will encourage your friends and colleagues to join this Tour in the future, so that they also may be able to share in this tradition.

Let me say once again, that Filipinos in the United States and Canada are truly a significant and positive force for development.

Four million-strong in the U.S. now and half a million-strong in Canada, you are an important partner of Government in ensuring that the Philippines remains firmly on the path of progress.

Your remittances, make up the bulk of the record-setting 16 billion dollars that we received in remittances in 2007, and therefore you have helped fueled the growth of the Philippine economy.

In fact, our GDP growth is 5.2 percent but because of your remittances our GNP growth remains at 7.0 percent. Thank you very much for that. Your investments in small and medium enterprises have fanned the flames of entrepreneurship among your siblings, children, nieces and nephews. Your investments in real estate have been instrumental in renewing the real estate market during my administration and sustaining its considerable growth.

And now you might have noticed our Philippine Stock Exchange is courting your investments as well. You are a crucial part of Team Philippines. We encourage you to continue championing Philippine initiatives aimed at lasting peace and development.

On our part, in the Philippines, we continue to build bridges and neighbors, and strengthen ties with allies around the world, especially America. That is why your Tour is important. But at the same time, at this moment in world history, with the rapid rise in food and fuel prices, which you're also experiencing as the whole world is experiencing, the Philippines must take greater control of its own destiny. We must become more self-reliant and self-sufficient.

We are in uncharted waters that we must navigate in the new and uncertain era.

The world crises did not catch us unprepared or without reserves.

We took hard decisions several years ago, hard on our people, unpopular with big business, but good for the country, as events have shown beyond any doubt.

These hard decisions were intended to raise new revenues, large amounts of new revenues from bold fiscal reforms — more money for more bridges, roads, ports and other infrastructure to create more opportunities for new wealth and new jobs, all towards a self-sufficient, self-reliant, strong republic.

With more money, we spent a lot on health and education, we spent a lot to train and retrain a growing workforce. And not just for specific tasks but for whatever challenges a wayward world economy may throw up.

And because we have been prepared for it, we have been able to shield our nation from the worst effects of food and fuel crises worldwide.

Had we acted differently, or not acted at all, all would be lost today.

So we remain committed to the path we have taken. The best solution is the one that has worked.

We remain on track and firmly focused on getting the country well on the road by 2010 to first world, like what you are enjoying, in 20 years.

We are sticking to and we are widening the fiscal reforms that have earned us the respect of international finance bringing our interest rates down and making our peso stronger. We shall plant them deeper in the structures of government of the economy. All this is for the benefit, not only of our people tomorrow, but the next President as well.

With the fiscal wherewithal bestowed by our reforms, we are now focusing on the day-to-day problem... we can focus on the day-to-day problems that have taken all countries by surprise including the U.S. in the world food and fuel crises, while continuing to invest for a better tomorrow.

All over the world food prices have spiked. In Thailand — from whom we buy rice — rice is 56 pesos per kilo, in Vietnam 67. So when we have commercial rice at 35, that's a blessing. Our subsidized rice is 18.25 and 25 pesos; Indonesia's subsidized rice is 25.30 and Malaysia's is 27. Either we are all handling the crisis well or equally bad.

The prospect of a real world food shortage has generated a real world crisis. Some say it is due to speculation, as money moved from subprime mortgages to commodities, and to food and now to fuel. You know very well the subprime events in the U.S. Others point to the very real increase in demand as millions more Chinese and Indians move up to the middle-class.

But when it comes to food and fuel, definitely, we cannot run the risk of no one selling us both unless we pay impossible prices. National food self-sufficiency and national fuel conservation are now entrenched as the first principle of statecraft. And that is why having prepared for this, we have adequate supplies of rice today, and we have a solid plan to reach self-sufficiency in the very near future.

We spent the last two years preparing for such world crises in two ways: first, by increasing productivity, with the help of the International Rice Research Institute which you have visited. Second, by increasing demand with bigger incomes and smaller income tax bites. Today, minimum wage earners no longer have to pay income tax.

We should have the world food crisis well in hand in the Philippines, with the programs we launched, combined with more vigilance over prices and greater severity against price manipulation.

In disaster-stricken areas such as Panay — and I understand you will be visiting Iloilo soon, you will see the devastation there — Panay, Romblon and Masbate, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has a cash-for-work program. This is part of the 1.7 billion pesos released for relief, recovery and rehabilitation from typhoon Frank. But I take this opportunity to thank our Filipinos in the U.S. and Canada because you have been so generously sending over support for our calamity victims. Maraming salamat.

We are clustering the programs of DSWD, Department of Health, GSIS, SSS, and other anti-poverty agencies into a National Social Welfare Program to shield the poorest from these ongoing global-wide developments.

But our best response in the longer term to the global commodity crisis is this: What is lost in rising costs of commodity imports like oil and rice must be offset by increasing volumes and hopefully increasing prices of commodity exports, whether hard commodities like primary products or soft ones like tourism. Whereas, Secretary Romulo said our tourism is going to be three and a half million this year; five million hopefully by 2010. But remember before our administration started it was not even one million, so it has increased indeed by millions. And we thank... it's still our number one source of tourism, U.S. and Canada? Okey. Another source of soft commodity exports to earn us the dollars to buy petroleum and food is the Business Process Outsourcing, where we rank second only to Bangalore.

And in all of these means, whether it is disaster response or building up tourism or building up primary exports or building up BPO, we acknowledge the role that the private investment, both domestic and foreign, especially American makes to our development. Filipino and foreign businessmen and especially Fil-Ams and Fil-Canadians are an important part of the Philippine economic success story. Maraming salamat din sa inyong lahat.

International finance agrees we are making important progress. International credit rating agencies like Moody's, Standard & Poor and Fitch have kept their positive or stable outlook on the country. A couple of years ago, we tasked Secretary Peter Favila to head our Competitiveness Council and we are happy that the World Competitiveness Yearbook, the latest edition, shows a remarkable improvement of five notches in the rating of the Philippines.

So as you wind up your brief official tour, and go on to your post-tour, we hope that you experienced first-hand that the Philippines is truly what the credit rating agencies and the Competitiveness Yearbook say.

And we count on you to spread the good news about the Philippines to your loved ones and our other kababayans and friends in the United States and Canada.

Mabuhay! Welcome muli sa inyong lahat!

Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). PGMA's Speech during the Courtesy Call of the delegates to the 4th Annual Ambassadors/Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour (ACGTDT) of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115939/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1613&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Forum on Alternative Fuels for Public Transport and Launching of Department of Transportation and Communications' "Katas ng VAT: Microfinance for the Wives and Immediate Families of Public Utility Drivers and Conductors", July 16, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Forum on Alternative Fuels for Public Transport and Launching of DOTC's "Katas ng VAT:
Microfinance for the Wives and Immediate Families of Public Utility Drivers and Conductors"**

[Delivered at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay City, July 16, 2008]

Unang-una, congratulations at salamat sa DOTC sa mabilis na pagtugon sa utos na tulungan ang mga driver ng jeep at iba pang pampasaherong sasakyan sa panahong ito sa biglaang pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at iba pang biling sa buong mundo hindi lamang sa Pilipinas.

Ang sunod-sunod na pagtaas ng presyo ng langis ay nagmumula sa pandaigdigang pamilihan. Sa sandaling ito sa kasaysayan ng mundo, sa mabilis na pagtaas ng pangmundong presyo ng gasolina at pagkain coupled with the rising frequency and intensity of disasters, kailangang hawakan ng Pilipinas ang ating sariling kapalaran. We must become more self-reliant and self-sufficient.

Sa bago at di nakasisigurong panahon, we must navigate uncharted waters.

As we ponder the weighty issues we face, the first imperative is to listen. To listen to the cry of our people for succor and support. To ponder the call of well-meaning sectors for longstanding policies to be reviewed. And to lend our ears to one another's insights and ideas, united by a singular wish to ease the pains and address the concerns of ordinary Filipinos.

We have been listening, pondering, lending our ears, and taking needed actions, harnessing all the resources at our command.

To give relief to the millions of our poor burdened by escalating world rice prices, we have maintained NFA rice at 18.25, and to do that we have spent eight billion pesos and counting. *Sa Thailand, 56 per kilo ang bigas, sa Vietnam 67 at doon pa tayo bumibili. Ang bigas ng Indonesia na may subsidyo ay 25.30 at ang Malaysia ay beinte siyete. Kaya mas mababa ang ating presyo maging commercial o maging NFA. Either magaling tayong lahat na mga bansa na humawak ng pangmundong krisis, o kasinsama lamang tayo sa isat-isa.*

For jeepney drivers and commuters squeezed by the quadrupling of diesel's cost, we are fighting kotong and colorum to boost driver's income while keeping fare increases to the cost of one text message per ride.

Noong isang buwan, magkasama tayong muli, nagpalabas tayo ng apat na bilyong piso mula sa koleksyon ng value-added tax sa langis — dalawang bilyon para sa pambayad ng kuryente ng apat na milyong mahihirap at isang bilyon bilang scholarship at pautang sa 70,000 na estudyanteng maralita. Noon nilabas natin, magkasama tayo, kalahating bilyong pautang upang palitan ang motor ng mga sasakyang pampubliko ng mas matipid na makinang LPG, CNG o biofuels. Na sa pag intindi ko itong forum na ito ay follow up doon.

Doon sa biofuels, upland farmers also stand to benefit from jatropha seedling propagation or planting. Meron ng 900 hectares sa Tamlang Valley sa Negros Oriental, 500 sa Fort Magsaysay, 200 sa Camarines Sur, isang daan sa General Santos City — na bibisitahin ko pagdating ng 21st of July — 60 hectares in Narra, Palawan, 40 para sa TRICAP — yung mga katutubo in Cagayan de Oro, 14 hectares in Bohol, 5 hectares in Cadiz in Negros Occidental.

Mamaya ilulunsad ang kalahating bilyon upang palitan ang makunsumong bombilya sa mas matipid na fluorescent para sa mga palengke, paaralan, ospital, gusali ng pamahalaan, kalsada, tahanan at traffic lights. Doon ako pupunta mula dito, nauna na nga si Mayor Peewee Trinidad dahil participant din siya doon.

Sa sunod na katas ng VAT na nakolekta naman mula Abril hanggang Hunyo, may karagdagang one billion na pambayad ng kuryente ng mahihirap at yung — ginagamit ko itong pagkakataon para ilunsad — kalahating bilyon ng kapital na ipauutang sa mga maybahay at kapamilya ng mga namamasadang tsuper at konduktor.

To put more money in poor people's pockets, our programs include more aggressive microfinance. Cumulative loan releases to low and middle income men and women who want to start or expand their own businesses have reached a102 billion pesos or 36 times more than the P2.8 billion we started with in 2001. Some of the institutions involved are the Land Bank with a loan portfolio of P69 billion; People's Credit and Finance Corporation, P8 billion; National Livelihood Support Fund, P3 billion; DBP one billion and DSWD's SEA-K, P800 million. And before big banking raises an eyebrow, let me say that the repayment rate is 98 percent. Kaya malakas ang loob nating magpahiram sa mga maybahay at kapamilya ng mga tsuper at konduktor.

So today, I take this opportunity to direct all government-owned-and-controlled financial institutions and corporations currently involved in grassroots microfinancing to craft a special, easily accessible, half a billion peso microfinancing program for the wives and the immediate family members of drivers and conductors of public utility vehicles such as PUJs, PUBs, taxis and FX, to be funded from additional VAT revenues resulting from the high price of oil.

I am also enjoining, thru Cerge Remonde who is in touch with them, private-run microfinancing institutions to carry out a similar microfinancing program with the wives and immediate family members of drivers and conductors of public utility vehicles as target beneficiaries.

Kailangan humanap ng naiibang mga paraan sa panahon ng pagsubok. Bago at naiibang pagtugon ang programa sa munting pautang para sa mga maybahay at kapamilya ng mga manggagawa sa hanay ng transportasyong pampubliko. Umaasa tayo na makadaragdag ito sa kita ng kanilang mga mag-anak at hindi aasa lamang sa nag-iisang kita ng tsuper or konduktor sa pamilya.

Mapasibol din sana ng programang microfinance ang masigasig na diwa ng pagnenegosyo na ating pinasisigla para sa paglago ng ekonomiyang pambansa. Alam ng mga maybahay at kapamilya ng mga namamasadang manggagawa ang labas-pasok ng kabuhayan ng lansangan bilang mamimili ng mga produktong pinopondohan ng mga tagalabas at madalas ibinebenta nang hulugan, in schemes defined by their own jargon — “two gives,” di ba yun ang tawag? Two gives or even more.

Dalawang uri ng kabuhayan ang maaaring paggamitan ng munting pautang: kapital sa pagbebenta ng mga produktong kasalukuyang binibiling mga umuutang na kapamilya o puhunan upang sila na ang gumawa ng mga bagay na iyon.

Napakalaki ang mga gawain at biyayang pangkabuhayan na ibubunga ng programa sa munting pautang para sa mga pamilyang magbebenepisyo. At harinawa, mababawasan din nito ang paulit-ulit na pagtaas ng pasahe tuwing aakyat ang presyo ng krudo, na nakabibigat sa ating mga mananakay

Sa mga darating na araw, may kalahating bilyong ding halagang ilulunsad natin upang mapataas ang kakayahan at kasangkapan ng mga munting ospital sa lalawigan, yun bang primary care hospitals gagawin nating secondary care hospitals para magkaroon sila ng delivery caesarian, simple surgery.

Para sa mga kalamidad naman, maglalagay tayo ng bumabagay na halaga para sa Panay at ibang mga pulo na natamaan nung bagyong Frank.

Balancing the budget this year would have been a nice target for our fiscal turnaround. But amid the call to review economic policies, we have in fact done our review months ago. Even then we said that we may need to forego the pleasure of a balanced budget in the present global environment. We announced our willingness to spend as much as 75 billion pesos if necessary on social welfare. But if things improve next year, we will return to our target.

Sa madaling salita, dinig natin ang hinaing at panawagan ng karaniwang mamamayan, at tumutugon tayo, gamit ang lumalagong kaban ng bayan.

The global crises did not catch us unprepared or without reserves. Thank God and thank to the Value-Added Tax.

We took hard decisions, hard on our people, unpopular with big business — but good for the country, as events have shown without doubt.

We raised new revenues from bold fiscal reforms: more money for more and better roads, ports and other infrastructures. With more money, we spent a lot on health and education. We spent a lot to train and retrain a growing workforce. And because we prepared for it, we have been able to shield our nation from the worst effects of the food and fuel crises worldwide.

Our 56 percent energy self-sufficiency is the highest in Philippine history. We are promoting, as we are doing here today, natural gas for transport; we are promoting geothermal steamfields, which are among the largest in the world; we are promoting windmills like those in Ilocos and Batanes; we are promoting solar power that lights up many communities in Mindanao even today.

The new Galoc oil field should produce 17,000 to 22,000 barrels per day, eight percent of our daily oil consumption.

The Renewable Energy Bill has passed the House. It is now up to the Senate.

And so therefore on this day, as we have this forum on alternative fuels, and as we launch the microfinance for the wives and immediate families of public utility drivers and conductors, let me assure our people of one thing: your government shall continue to harness all the resources at our command to help ordinary Filipino families pressured by cost and calamity, at the same time, we continue to build a better tomorrow.

Maraming salamat sa lahat nang tumutulong sa ating adhikain.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

**Speech of President Arroyo during launching of “Palit Bombilya” Electricity Conservation program of the
Department of Energy (DOE) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the attendance to the launching of “Palit Bombilya” Electricity Conservation program of the
Department of Energy (DOE)**

[Delivered at the Summit Hall C and D of the PICC, July 16, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Reyes and congratulations for the SWITCH convenor Ito Carlos and the other convenor, our very distinguished mayors of Metro Manila, other officials present, representatives of different sectors with a stake in energy efficiency, ladies and gentlemen.

Inilulunsad natin ngayon ang isa pang programa mula sa malawakang katas ng VAT na pinopondohan ng buwis sa langis galing sa may kaya. Ngayon, nakatuon ang ating pansin sa wasto at matipid na paggamit ng kuryente. Congratulations kay Secretary Reyes at inorganisa ng D.O.E. itong programang SWITCH upang bigyang kaalaman at pakilusin ang taumbayan para sa mga proyekto kasama na iyong palit ilaw na inilunsad natin ngayon. Sinisimulan ngayon ang SWITCH dito sa kamaynilaan. Sa mga susunod na araw ilulunsad ito sa iba’t ibang rehiyon ng ating bansa. Makararating sa lahat ng Pilipino ang kahalagahan ng wasto at matipid na paggamit ng kuryente. Sa buong mundo nagtaas ang presyo ng langis dala ng mga puwersa sa pandaigdigang ekonomiya at merkado.

The global crisis did not catch us unprepared or without reserves. Thank God and thank the Value Added Tax. We took hard decisions, hard on people, unpopular with business, but good for the country as events have shown beyond doubt. We raised new revenues from bold fiscal reforms, more money for more and better roads, bridges, ports and other infrastructure to create more opportunities for new wealth and new jobs all towards a self-sufficient, self-reliant, economically strong Republic.

With more money, we spent a lot on health , and education; we spent a lot on train and retrain a growing workforce and not just for specific task but for whatever challenges a wayward world economy may throw in. And because we prepared for it, we have been able to shield our nation on the worst effects of food and fuel crises worldwide. So, we remain committed to the path we have taken, the best solution is the one that has worked.

With zero tariff on oil starting last month, we have curbed pump price increases to some degree. But refilling other taxes on oil and power will strip the vast majority of our people of the means to ride out the world food and energy crisis. In our discourse on the most effective solutions to our people’s travails, we will not agree on everything. It’s easy to understand why many would want to see taxes on oil and electricity removed but we have to carefully address some hard questions. If VAT on oil and power is lifted, how do we replace more than P70 million in revenues, mostly used to fund projects for the poor? VAT boosted investor confidence in recent years. From P56.50 to \$1 the peso strengthened to P40.23 before the oil and rice imports brought it back to P45.55. Imagine, if without VAT our starting point was P55.00. Wouldn’t the removal of VAT erode confidence, lift exchange rates, lift interest rates and therefore raise cost anyway and slow down the economy?

Will scrapping VAT not be pro-rich who consume 84 percent of energy products . Isn’t it better to use the VAT collected mainly from the well-to-do for direct assistance to sectors hard-hit by rising global prices of food and fuel? Like for instance, this movement as Ito says, he’s been in the energy conservation movement for 13 years. And I remember the movement to switch to fluorescent has been there since 2005. It was supposed to be done last Christmas. It was supposed to be launched last January. Why did it take so long? Because we needed funds to be able to make the many who cannot otherwise afford the initial purchase, make them be able to afford it now. And that is the reason why as we launch this program, this is part of the fruits of the VAT collections on the additional price of oil in the first three months of this year of P4 billion. We allocated P1 billion of that to help 4 million poorest of the poor families pay their electric bills. We allocated half a billion to be able to help the transport sector shift to cheaper fuel like LPG, CNG and Biofuels. And we allocated another half a billion to be able to provide

scholarships and student loans for college students whose families have to pay higher electric bills. And now for this Palit Ilaw we are allocating P500 million to fund the procurement of fluorescent bulbs.

We have come too far, made many sacrifices on the hard but wiser road taken to turn around now and give up enduring strengths for popular but counter productive short term gains. Yes, let us discourse, debate and without delay decide, but wherever our discourse leads let me assure our people of one thing, your government shall continue to harness all the resources at our command to help ordinary Filipinos pressured by cost and calamity like, helping them switch to fluorescent while still pursuing investments needed in our people, our infrastructures and our institutions.

National Fuel Conservation is now entrenched as a first principle of state craft. All government agencies have to reduce their energy bills by 10 percent. At gaya ng sabi ko, para sa proyektong Palit Ilaw, kalahating bilyong piso mula sa dagdag na kinita ng VAT ang inilaan sa tulong ninyong lahat upang himukin ang lahat ng Pilipino na palitan ang ginagamit an incandescent bulbs ng fluorescent lights. Sinisimulan natin sa pagpalit ng mga bombilya sa mga kalsada, opisina ng pamahalaan, ospital at iba pang pampublikong lugar. At ako ay nasisiyahan na narito ngayon ang mga mayor ng Metro Manila, pati na rin si Congressman Binay ng Makati na nagpakita ng suporta sa programang SWITCH .

Sa mga narito at sa iba pang mga kababayan sa buong bansa kasama ang libo libong pinuno ng lokal na pamahalaan na sumusuporta sa programang SWITCH at Palit Ilaw, sa inyong lahat maraming salamat. Let us switch fluorescent. Let us be for energy fluorescent.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the attendance to the launching of “Palit Bombilya” Electricity Conservation program of the Department of Energy (DOE). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115909/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1608&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the joint regional consultative meeting of LAKAS-CMD and KAMPI

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the joint regional consultative meeting of LAKAS-CMD and KAMPI**

[Delivered at the CAP-JH Trade and Cultural Center Camp John Hay Club House, Baguio City, July 18, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Puno sa pagpakilala at salamat sa iyong trabaho para sa merger na ito.

Speaker Boy Nograles, thank you very much also for this very, very important merger in the Cordillera; Senator Migz Zubiri, secretary-general of the party, congratulations also; and of course as Speaker Nograles said, Congressman Maurice Domogan, thank you for going all over the Cordillera to promote this merger the way you went all over the Cordillera in 2004 to make sure that your presidential candidate, me, would win in the Cordillera. (applause)

Governors and members of the Mayors' League, our various Congresspersons who are here today, our different officials both of LAKAS-CMD and KAMPI, other government officials, ladies and gentlemen, congratulations kadakayo amin... kadatayo amin tatta. (applause)

Dakkel nga panagbaliw iti istorya dagiti pagilian iti maaramid no dagiti madaydayaw nga lalaki ken babbai, ket agkakadua para ti maysa nga noble cause. Iti panagkaykaysa ti pigsa iti LAKAS-CMD ken ti KAMPI, iti dua nga kapigsan nga partido iti Pilipinas, iti mangsusulong ken mangiturong iti pagilian tayo tapno maikadua iti First World status dagiti progresibo nga pagilian no sumangpet ti husto nga edad dagiti kayan-anak tatta. So we thank you because our unity will more strongly pave the way to bring our country to First World by the next generation.

Kagabi, kausap ko yung mga MOPC (Manila Overseas Press Club) at binalita ni Tony Lopez, yung kanilang chairman o presidente, na sinabi ng Goldman Sachs, within 20 years, makakasama nga ang Pilipinas sa mga mayayaman na bansa, so our dream will be coming true. (applause) But we can do that if we maintain our solidarity and make sure we promote the right policies between now and 2010 and beyond.

Tunggal maysa, iti LAKAS-CMD ken ti KAMPI ket dagiti nangruna ken kapigsan nga partido iti pulitika iti pagilian. No agkakaysa da, aglalo nga mapa-extend tayo ti kangrunaan nga papel tayo iti pulitika ken panangpasayaat iti nasyon, ken iturong iti pagilian tayo papan ti progreso nga ekonomiya.

Kalpasan na, awan ti agpayso nga diperensya ti ideology dagiti plataporma tayo. Para ti LAKAS-CMD ken ti KAMPI. Ti napigsa nga partido ket adda iti sentro ti estabilidad ti pulitika nga kadua kadagiti susi, it is stable, democratic ken progresibo nga pagilian nga supsuportan iti pinapigsa nga umili.

No pay kasta, patuloy ti panangdingngeg tayo kagaditi kadua tayo. It is even more important for us to be wholly together because due to the world spikes in the price of fuel and food, and the slowdown in the Western economies, we are in an uncertain era, navigating uncharted waters.

National food self-sufficiency for the Cordillera is so crucial because you supply 70 percent of the vegetables to the major markets of our country. National fuel conservation, both of them, food self-sufficiency and fuel conservation are now entrenched among the first principles of statecraft.

As we ponder these issues, the first imperative is to listen. To listen to our own partymates, to listen to the cry of our constituents for succor and support. To ponder the call of well-meaning sectors for longstanding policies to be reviewed. To lend our ears to one another's insights, united by a singular wish to ease the pains and address the concerns of the ordinary Filipinos who voted us into office.

We have been listening, pondering, lending our ears, taking action, harnessing all our resources.

We have heard our people burdened by soaring rice prices, and we responded positively and decisively. I understand, rice has gone back down somewhat to 35 pesos. In India, rice is 95 pesos per kilo; Thailand, P56; Vietnam, P67; Singapore, P45. All much higher than our P35. And aside from our commercial P35, we have kept rice for the poor at 18.25 pesos per kilo at a cost of eight billion pesos and still counting. Indonesia and Malaysia subsidized their rice also but at P25.30 for Indonesia and P27 for Malaysia, higher than our P18.25 by a mile.

For jeepney drivers and commuters squeezed by the quadrupling of the cost of diesel, we have fought kotong and colorum to boost the income of drivers, while keeping fare increases to one peso, the cost of one text message. Speaking of text messages, I was just in communications, I was just in La Union a few weeks ago because PLDT just finished its gateway, international gateway to make sure that whenever there are weather disturbances around the region, we will continue with our telecommunications. And I suspect one reason why they put that 2nd or 3rd gateway for our country here in the north is because of the progressive, very progressive ICT industry and call center business that is taking place now here in Baguio. Congratulations! to the Cordillera. (applause)

Balancing the budget this year would be a laudable milestone in our fiscal turnaround, but not if it puts a millstone around our necks. Thus, even before we heard the call to review our policies, we already did so. Months ago, we said that we may need to defer a balanced budget in the challenging global environment. We declared our willingness to allocate as much as 75 billion pesos on social spending. And if things improve next year, we will return to our target.

Sa madaling salita, dinig at dama natin ang hinaing at panawagan ng ating mga constituents at tumutugon tayo, gamit ang kaban ng bayan.

The global crises did not catch us unprepared or without reserves, thank God and thank our LAKAS-KAMPI majority in Congress.

You and I made hard decisions — hard on our people, unpopular with big business — but good for the country, as events have shown.

Our preparations now shield our nation from the worst effects of the worldwide food and fuel crises as I illustrated with the difference in price of rice in our country and in other countries.

We spent the last two years preparing for such world crises in two ways: First, by increasing food productivity. Second, by increasing the ability to buy food with bigger incomes and smaller income tax bites. Starting this month, those earning 200,000 pesos a year or less don't have to pay income tax. Again, thanks to our partymates in Congress. (applause) By passing the law on the exemption of minimum wage earners from the income tax, you have provided them an extra 12 billion pesos of disposable workers' income.

With the zero tariff on oil from last month, our pump prices are also lower than many of our neighbors. Philippine diesel is P55.90, I understand. Thailand, P60; New Zealand, P67; Hong Kong, P71; U.S., P60.

Our bold fiscal reforms have also raised more billions for development without relying on outside loans, as in decades past. And we are very, very happy that here in the Cordillera, foreign loan or no foreign loan we will be working on the Halsema Highway — (applause) Baguio, Bontoc to the Rice Terraces. With our own resources, we are building more roads. For instance, the Kibungan-Kapangan and Baguio, that's not in foreign funding. We build ports and other infrastructure, ports including airports. We're building a beautiful airport in San Fernando, La Union. We were about to close the Baguio Airport when that airport is completed because Texas Instruments and many of the other factories want to locate in Baguio and they need flat land. But we hear the cry of our leaders in the Cordillera, don't close the airport yet. (applause). Only I ask you, help me find a flat land so that those investors will still continue to invest in the Cordillera.

These roads open wider areas and more opportunities for new wealth and new jobs. And I don't only mean roads in the Cordilleras but also roads to the Cordilleras. We have built the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Road. Tarlac portion is going to reopen — it open and close again for repairs — it will reopen, I understand, this month but what is also important is that the private sector found our business climate good enough to build on a BOT basis a road from Tarlac to Rosario, La Union so that it will be easier to come to the Cordilleras. (applause) All these opened a way for new jobs, all towards a self-sufficient, self-reliant, strong republic as mentioned by Speaker Boy Nograles.

We can also spend billions more on health and education, and to train and retrain our workforce.

So we remain committed to the course we have taken. The best solution is one that has worked.

We have come too far, made too many sacrifices on the hard but wiser road taken to reverse now and give up enduring strengths for popular but counterproductive short-term gains. But we can continue to exercise political will only if we have the political strength that comes from the unity of our two very strong parties.

In deliberating on the best solutions to our people's travails, we won't agree on everything. But we must try our best to agree within LAKAS and KAMPI.

It is easy to understand why many would want to see taxes on oil and electricity removed. But we have to carefully address some hard questions.

If VAT on oil and power is lifted, how would we replace about 80 billion pesos in revenues, mostly used for the poor? Including the farm-to-market roads that have to built in the uplands like the Cordillera to increase more our productivity.

VAT boosted investor confidence. Interest rates for 91-day treasury bills went down from 7.7 percent to 2.92 percent after VAT. The peso, from P56 to \$1, strengthened to P40.20 before bad world economic news brought it back to P45. And we're talking about all of these investors who want to put up call centers here in Baguio or who want to put up their factories if they can find flat land here in the Cordilleras. Wouldn't lifting VAT erode their confidence, and accelerate the rise in interest and exchange rates and raise the cost of living even more? In other words, with or without VAT, with the world being the way it is, prices will go up. But we would rather that those prices will somehow partially go to taxes that we can spend on the poor than that those high prices will just go to the payment of interests which will go to creditors and foreign creditors at that.

And won't scrapping the VAT on energy benefit mainly the well-to-do, because it is the well-to-do who consume 84 percent of oil and 90 percent of power, while depriving the poor of billions in programs now funded by VAT if we remove the VAT? In other words, wouldn't it strip the vast majority of our people the means to ride out the world food and energy crises?

But wherever our discourse leads us, in other words, the national discourse, we in LAKAS-KAMPI must be one in assuring our people of one thing: our LAKAS-KAMPI administration will continue to harness all the resources at our command to help ordinary Filipinos pressured by cost and calamity, while still pursuing needed investments in people and in infrastructure. That must be our message to our people.

Seguraduak nga sumangpet iti aldaw no caano nga ti kinapobre ket naikkaten iti pagilian tayo, ken amin dagiti kailian tayo ket maikadua iti productive workforce iti natalna, progresibo ken maipannakkel nga pagilian tayo. Dayta nga aldaw ket sumangpet babaen ti nagkadua nga trabaho dagiti kadua iti LAKAS ken iti KAMPI.

Tayo, nga kadua ti partido ket ready, we are ready for that day. We should be ready for that day where we can really be part of the First World. Ready not to accept it but ready to bring it about through our work. Patuloy nga pasayaaten ken papigsaen tayo iti mission ken vision ti partido tayo para kadagiti umay nga tawen.

Daytoy ket panawen iti nalaing nga reflection. Masapul nga dagiti leaders iti dua nga kadakkelan nga partido agkakadua tapno maamo-an no kasano nga papigsaen ti sistema met ti pulitika.

Nagkadesisyon iti LAKAS ken iti KAMPI ditoy Cordillera, ken kablaawan kayo iti desision yo, congratulations to all of you! (applause) Simmampet kayon iti decision. I am so impressed when I was invited to come to this consultation for a merger. I said, I don't want to go to consultations, I want to go when there's a merger. And they enumerated all the mergers that they have been decided — very impressive indeed! And I congratulate all our leaders in the Cordillera for such selflessness.

Pasayaaten tayo iti pigsa ken siglat iti partido LAKAS-KAMPI. (applause) Lalaingen tayo iti panagtrabaho para ti maysa nga napigsa nga ekonomiya, papigsaen iti panag-adal ken panan-alaga ti environment. Agtitinulong tayo tapno makaited iti makan ti tunggal lamisaan ken ti trabaho ti tunggal Pilipino.

Agbiag iti LAKAS ken iti KAMPI! Congratulations to all of you!

Mabuhay LAKAS-KAMPI! (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the joint regional consultative meeting of LAKAS-CMD and KAMPI. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115828/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1606&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Keynote Address of President Arroyo before the Joint Regional Merger of Lakas CMD and KAMPI

**Keynote Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the Joint Regional Merger of Lakas CMD and KAMPI**

[Delivered at the Cap Trade & Cultural Center, Camp John Hay, Baguio City, July 18, 2008]

Dakkel nga panagbaliw iti istorya dagiti pagilian iti maar-aramid no dagiti madaydayaw nga lalaki, ken babbai, ket agkakadua para iti noble cause.

(We can create big changes in the country when distinguished men and women come together for a noble cause.)

Iti panagkaykaysa ti pigsa iti LAKAS-CMD ken iti KAMPI, iti dua nga kapigsaan nga partido iti Pilipinas, iti mangsusulong ken mangiturong iti pagilian tayo tapno maikadua iti FIRST WORLD status dagiti progresibo nga pagilian no sumangpet ti husto nga edad dagiti kaiyan-anak tatta

(The merging of the strength of the two biggest political parties in the Philippines – LAKAS-CMD and Kampi – will lead the country towards First World status by the time newly born Filipinos reach the age of majority.)

Tunggal maysa, iti LAKAS-CMD ken iti KAMPI ket dagiti nangnangruna ken kapigsaan nga partido iti politika iti pagilian. No agkaykaysa da, aglalo nga mapa-extend tayo iti kangrunaan nga papel tayo iti politika ken panangpasayaat ti nasion, ken iturong iti pagilian tayo papan ti progresibo nga ekonomya.

(Both the LAKAS-CMD and the Kampi are the strongest political parties in the land. United, the more we could extend our foremost roles in the politics and progress of the nation, and direct our country towards a progressive economy.)

Kalpasan na, awan ti agpayso nga diperensia ti ideology dagiti plataporma tayo. Para iti LAKAS-CMD ken iti KAMPI, ti napigsa nga partido ket ada iti sentro iti estabilidad ti politika nga kadua kadagiti susi iti stable, democratic ken progresibo nga pagilian nga supsuportaan iti pinapigsa nga umili.

(In the end, there is no real difference in the ideology of our platforms. For both the LAKAS and Kampi, a strong party is the centrepiece of political stability which is one of the keys towards a stable, democratic and progressive nation that is supported by a strengthened citizenry.)

Iti panagkaykaysa ti pigsa iti LAKAS-CMD ken iti KAMPI, iti dua nga kapigsaan nga partido iti Pilipinas, iti mangsusulong ken mangiturong iti pagilian tayo tapno maikadua iti FIRST WORLD status dagiti progresibo nga pagilian no sumangpet ti husto nga edad dagiti kayan-anak tatta.

(The merging of the strength of LAKAS-CMD and Kampi, the two biggest political parties in the Philippines, will bring and lead the country towards the First World status of progressive nations by the time newly born Filipinos reach the age of majority.)

No pay kasta, patuloy ti panangdingngeg tayo kagaditi kadua tayo.

(Even then, we continue to listen to our fellow party members.)

We are in an uncertain era, navigating uncharted waters.

National food self-sufficiency and national fuel conservation are now entrenched among the first principles of statecraft.

As we ponder these issues, the first imperative is to listen.

To listen to the cry of our people for succor and support. To ponder the call of well-meaning sectors for longstanding policies to be reviewed. To lend our ears to one another's insights, united by a singular wish to ease the pains and address the concerns of the ordinary Filipino.

We have been listening, pondering, lending our ears, taking action, harnessing all our resources.

We heard our people burdened by soaring rice prices, and we responded positively and decisively.... In India, rice is P95 per kilo; Thailand, P56 per kilo; Vietnam, P67; Singapore, P45. Our rice is now P35 (?). We have kept rice for the poor at P18.25 per kilo, at a cost of P8 billion and still counting. Indonesia's subsidized rice is P25.30 and Malaysia's is P27.

For jeepney drivers and commuters squeezed by the quadrupling of the cost of diesel, we have fought kotong and colorum to boost the income of drivers, while keeping fare increases to P1, the cost of one text message.

Balancing the budget this year would be a laudable milestone in our fiscal turnaround, but not if it puts a millstone around our necks. Thus, even before we heard the call to review our policies, we already did so. Months ago we said that we may need to defer a balanced budget in the challenging global environment. We declared our willingness to allocate as much as P75 billion on social spending. And if things improve next year, we will return to our target.

Sa madaling salita, dinig at dama natin ang hinaing at panawagan ng karaniwang Pilipino, at tutumugon tayo, gamit ang kaban ng bayan.

The global crises did not catch us unprepared or without reserves, thank God and Congress.

You and I made hard decisions – hard on our people, unpopular with big business, but good for the country, as events have shown.

Our preparations shield our nation from the worst effects of the worldwide food and fuel crises.

We spent the last two years preparing for such world crises in two ways: first, by increasing food productivity, second, by increasing the ability to buy the food with bigger incomes and smaller income tax bites.

Starting this month, those earning P200,000 a year or less don't have to pay income tax, thanks to our partymates in Congress. That's an extra P12 billion of disposable worker income.

With the 0 percent tariff on oil from last month, our pump prices are even lower than that of many neighbors. Philippine diesel is P55.90. Thailand, P60. New Zealand, P67. Hong Kong, P71. US, P60.

Our bold fiscal reforms have also raised more billions for development without relying on outside loans, as in decades past. With our own resources, we are building more roads, bridges, ports and other infrastructure. They open wider areas and more opportunities for new wealth and new jobs, all towards a self-sufficient, self-reliant, strong republic.

We can also spend billions more on health and education, and to train and retrain our workforce.

So we remain committed to the course we have taken. The best solution is one that has worked.

We have come too far, made too many sacrifices on the hard but wiser road taken, to reverse now and give up enduring strengths for popular but counterproductive short-term gains.

In deliberating on the best solutions to our people's travails, we won't agree on everything.

It is easy to understand why many would want to see taxes on oil and electricity removed. But we have to carefully address some hard questions.

If VAT on oil and power is lifted, how do we replace about P80 billion in revenues, mostly used for the poor?

VAT boosted investor confidence. Interest rates for 91-day treasury bills went down from 7.7 percent to 2.92 percent. From P56.50 to \$1, the peso strengthened to P40.20 before bad world economic news brought it back to P45(?). Wouldn't lifting VAT erode confidence, and accelerate the rise in interest and exchange rates, raising the cost of living even more?

Won't scrapping the VAT on energy benefit mainly the well-to-do, who consume 84 percent of oil and 90 percent of power, while depriving the poor of billions in programs now funded by VAT? Wouldn't it strip the vast majority of our people of the means to ride out the world food and energy crises?

Wherever our discourse leads, let us assure our people of one thing: our administration will continue to harness all the resources at our command to help ordinary Filipino families pressured by cost and calamity, while still pursuing needed investments in people and infrastructure.

Seguraduek nga sumangpet iti aldaw no katno nga ti kinapobre ket naikkaten iti pagilian tayo, ken amin dagiti kailian tayo ket maikadua iti productive workforce iti natalna, progresibo ken maipannakkel nga pagilian tayo.

(I assure you that the day will come when poverty will finally be wiped out from our nation, and all Filipinos could join the productive workforce of a peaceful and progressive country that we could be proud of.)

Dayta nga aldaw ket sumangpet babaen ti nagkadua nga trabaho dagiti kadua iti LAKAS ken iti KAMPI.

(The dreamed-of day of progress will surely come because of the combined efforts of the Lakas and Kampi.)

Sitayo nga kadua ti partido ket ready para dayta nga aldaw. Patuloy nga pasayaaten ken papigsaen tayo iti mission ken vision ti partido tayo para kadagiti umay nga tawen.

(We, members of the party, are ready for that day. We will continue to improve and strengthen our mission and vision to prepare for that coming day.)

Daytoy ket panawen iti nalaing nga reflection. Masapul nga dagiti leaders iti dua nga kadakkelan nga partido agkakadua tapno maamo-an no kasano nga papigsaen ti urnos ti politika.

(It is time for deep reflection, thus the need for the leaders of the two biggest political parties to come together to find the best way to strengthen political stability.)

Nagka-desisyonon iti Lakas ken iti KAMPI ditoy Cordillera, ken kablaawan kayo iti desision yo. Simmampet kayon iti decision. Pasayaaten tayo iti pigsa ken siglat iti partido LAKAS-KAMPI.

(The CAR LAKAS and Kampi have decided, and I bless your decision. You have arrived at a decision. Let us strengthen the merged party, LAKAS-Kampi.)

Lalaingen tayo iti panagtrabaho para iti maysa nga napigsa nga ekonomya, papigsaen iti panag-adal ken panan-alaga ti environment. Agtitinulong tayo tapno makaited iti makan ti tunggal lamisaan ken ti trabaho ti tunggal Pilipino.

(Let us do our best in working for a stronger economy, let us strengthen educational reforms and environmental protection. Let us help each other to provide food and job for each and every Filipino.)

Sitayo nga kadua ti partido, ket ready para dayta nga aldaw. Patuloy nga pasayaaten ken papigsaen tayo iti mission ken vision ti partido tayo para kadagiti umay nga tawen.

(We, members of the party, are ready for that day. Let us continue to improve and strengthen our mission and vision for the coming years.)

Agbiag iti LAKAS CMD ken iti KAMPI!

(Mabuhay, LAKAS CMD and Kampi!)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Keynote Address of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Joint Regional Merger of Lakas CMD & KAMPI. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115849/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1603&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the upgrading of Datu Odin Sinsuat Municipal Hospital [Filipino]

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the upgrading of Datu Odin Sinsuat Municipal Hospital**

[Delivered in Odin, Sinsuat, July 22, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Nasser Pangandaman, ang ating CORD dito sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Ating iba't ibang mga Cabinet members na narito. ARMM Governor Datu Zaldy Ampatuan, maraming salamat sa iyong words of welcome and support. Congressman Dilangalen and Mrs. Dilangalen, maraming salamat din sa inyong pagdalo dito sa programa na ilulunsad natin ngayon mula sa national government. Mayor Sinsuat ng Datu Odin Sinsuat, iba't ibang mga government officials ng national governments, pati na rin ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, mga taga ospital ng Datu Odin Sinsuat, mga kaibigan...

Noong Hunyo, nagpalabas tayo ng P4 billion mula sa koleksiyon ng Value Added Tax sa langis. Dalawang bilyon para pambayad ng kuryente ng apat na milyong mahihirap. Siguro, Nasser, i-check mo kung mayroon ng tumatanggap dito sa tsekeng iyon o iyong credit nila. Ito iyong mga bumibili ng less than one hundred kilowatts of power a month. Isang bilyon bilang college scholarship o pautang sa 70,000 na estudyanteng maralita. Iyon din sana, Nasser, i-check mo kung mayroong mga tagarito na nakakatanggap nitong scholarship na ipauutang. Kalahating bilyon pautang upang palitan ng mga mas matipid na LPG-CNG o biofuel ang motor ng libu-libong sasakyang publiko. I-tsek mo rin iyon ha? At kalahating bilyong pagkabit ng fluorescent sa mga kalsada, opisina ng pamalahaan, mga ospital at iba pang pampublikong lugar. Kasi kung mapapalitan ng fluorescent ang lahat ng bombilya sa Pilipinas, makakatipid tayo ng lampas P2 billion. Kaya importante iyon. Kasunod naman ng katas ng VAT, may karagdagang P1 billion na pambayad ng kuryente ng mahihirap. Kalahating bilyon para sa matatandang hindi sakop ng GSIS o SSS, at kalahating bilyong capital para sa maybahay at kapamilya ng mga namamasadang tsuper at konduktor, at kalahating bilyon upang mapataas ang kakayahan at kasangkapan ng mga munting ospital sa lalawigan.

Kaya ngayon, naglulunsad tayo itong programang ito, kalahating bilyong pisong programa upang dagdagan ang kasangkapan at kakayahan ng mga primary care hospital para maging secondary care hospital na makakagawa na mga simpleng operasyon, pati pagpapanak ng Caesarean. Ito ay galing sa pondo na nakolekta ng VAT mula Abril hanggang Hunyo. Kaya dito sa Datu Odin Sinsuat, pinili natin na ilunsad ang programa dahil inuuna natin ang mga lugar kung saan mas marami ang mahihirap na pinakanangangailangan ng kalinga. Kabilang ang inyong lalawigan sa ating priority provinces upang pag-ukulan ng higit na serbisyong mabawasan ang kahirapan. Sa ating pagtataas ng kakayahan ng inyong pagamutan, namumuhunan tayo sa inyong mga mamamayan.

Kaya para dito sa Odin Sinsuat Hospital, aayusin itong gusali, aayusin iyong bakod, kasi iyong bakod ninyo, eh, wire, chicken wire. Okay. Barbed wire, hindi naman chicken wire. In fact, kung chicken wire, maganda iyon. Sa Marikina, mga chicken wire ang kanilang mga bakod para see-through at magbibigay ng X-ray. Wala raw kayong X-ray? (Voice: Wala po) Laboratory diagnosis equipment, operating room, mga instrumento, ayun ang ating ibibigay para sa inyo. Kaya ang tseke, ibibigay natin sa inyong regional secretary ng Health ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Paki-witness nga, ARMM Governor Ampatuan and Congressman Dilangalen.

The sad irony of Mindanao as food basket is that Mindanao, aside from being a food basket, also has the highest hunger and malnutrition.

Salamat na lamang sa nakaraang mga buwan, bumaba ang kagutuman sa Mindanao. After all, Mindanao has the largest field of high productivity, but Mindanao also has six or seven of the 10 poorest provinces in our country.

One of the reasons they give for this unfortunate fact is that the endless conflict has affected Mindanao for so many years. For decades, a comprehensive peace has eluded us, but I am proud the talks will soon resume, and we are on the threshold of peace. If we can truly move from arms to farms in Mindanao, we can give the gift of peace and prosperity to Mindanao and to the whole country. Kaya inaasahan ko ang tulong ninyong lahat para sa kapayapaan at tagumpay ng ating peace talks.

Naging malaki rin ang epekto ng typhoon Frank upang hilahing pababa ang pamumuhay dito sa ARMM at sa mga katabing probinsya. Kami nga ni Governor Sacdalan, nanggaling sa Makilala, palipad dito at nakita namin iyong bahang-bahang lugar. Kaya para sa kalamidad, maglalagay tayo ng angkop na halaga.

Climate change is a key factor in increasing frequency and intensity of typhoon. Over the last 36 years, it cost the country 0.5 percent of the GDP. Our disaster management consists of mitigation, preparation, response and rehabilitation. At para asikasuhin itong apat na pangangailangan ukol sa kalamidad, dito mamaya pagkatapos nitong affair natin, magpupulong ang Cabinet at ang Disaster Coordinating Council ng ARMM upang pabilisin ang pagkilos para sa pag-ahon nitong rehiyon mula sa kalamidad.

The dramatic surge in the price of fuel and food has created a global price crisis unseen since the Great Depression and the wake of World War II. The economic uncertainty moved like a mighty tsunami around the globe affecting every nation, rich and poor. We must continue to build and buttress bridges to neighbors, and strengthen ties with allies around the world to bring in the rice we need to feed our people.

Kanina, nagtanung-tanong ako – dahil kahapon pa ako dito sa Mindanao – kung magkano na iyong bigas sa Mindanao, iyong commercial na karaniwan, doon sa General Santos. Sabi ni Mayor Jun Acharon, P32 to P35. Aba, maganda iyong presyong iyon, eh si Governor Sacdalan sa North Cotabato, sabi mo, Governor, P26, ang ganda-ganda ng presyo. Dito yata sa banda rito sa ARMM ay medyo mataas pa, pero kung naaayos na sa ibang lugar, we can say that we have the world food crisis well in hand for now. We have done this with our farming program combined with more vigilance over prices, and greater sovereignty against price manipulation under the leadership of our rice czar, Arty Yap, na mamaya kasama natin yata doon sa ating Cabinet meeting.

Pero itong umagang ito, sa araw ng panglunsad ng katas ng VAT para sa mga maliliit na ospital, binabati ko ang mga taga-Odin Sinsuat, kayong lahat, doon sa pagkakaroon ninyo ng pinalalaki at pinalalakas na ospital. Hindi kayo pababayaan ng pamahalaan, ngunit kailangan rin ng pamahalaan ang inyong patuloy na pagsusuporta na gaya ng sabi naman ni Zaldy sa kanyang diskurso, lagi naman ninyong binibigay sa mga programang pagtulong at pag-ahon ng buong bansa mula sa kahirapan. Kaya sa inyong lahat, congratulations! At (inaudible) sana, sunod-sunod pa itong mga ospital na maliliit na bibigyan ng kakayahan ng gamit para gumawa ng mga simpleng operasyon. Sa inyong lahat, congratulations sa Datu Odin Sinsuat Hospital!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the upgrading of Datu Odin Sinsuat Municipal Hospital. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115820/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1600&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the Road Network “Widening and Concreting of Imelda Avenue” and launching of Katas ng VAT for the Elderly: “Tulong Para kay Lolo at Lola” [Filipino]
Talumpati

ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas

Sa inagurasyon ng Road Network “Widening and Concreting of Imelda Avenue” at paglulunsad ng Katas ng VAT for the Elderly: “Tulong Para kay Lolo at Lola”

[Ipinahayag sa Brgy. Manggahan, Lungsod ng Pasig, ika 25 ng Hulyo, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Cabral sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Maraming salamat naman, Congressman Roman Romulo, sa iyong imbitasyon. At kasama ko ngayon yung minamahal at ginagalang nating ama ni Congressman Roman Romulo, si Secretary Bert Romulo.

Kasama ko rin pumunta rito dahil nagtingin kami sa palengke bago pumunta rito, ang Trade and Industry Secretary, si Peter Favila, taga-Pasig din — ang bahay ba Valle Verde? — Valle Verde, okay. At salamat din kay Kapitan Bobby Bobis at iba’t-ibang mga kapitan na narito ngayon. Maraming pinakilala si Roman sa akin. At siyempre ang ating mga lolo at lola mula Pasig at iba’t-ibang lugar ng Metro Manila.

Una sa lahat, binabati ko ang mga taga-Pasig sa inagurasyon ng inyong mga kalsada. Nandito lang tayo sa Imelda Avenue pero ang ipinagdidiriwang natin ay lahat ng mga proyektong inilakad at pinagtrabaho ni Roman Romulo na mga kalsada dito.

Malaking tulong sa mga mamamayan ng Pasig at karatig-lugar ang mga kalsadang ito. Mas mapapabilis at maginhawa ang inyong mga pagbiyahe. Di ba sa bilis ng progreso ng Pasig eh naging masikip ang traffic? Kaya tuloy nahihirapan pumunta dito yung mga investor na dagdag at saka yung mga nagkokomersyo. Pero ngayon maluwang na maluwang pa at, hindi lamang yun, noong huling binagyo dahil nagawa na itong drainage sa pagsisikap ni Congressman Roman Romulo, tinatanong ko doon sa mga taga-dito, ano, binaha kayo the last time? Hindi na. Okay. O ikaw, ano? Pero nakikita ko yung mga taga-Pasig na constituent mo, Roman, si Evelyn. Sa inyong lugar, binabaha kayo? O, hindi na rin. Okay, mabuti at peryodista yan. Kaya lalong makakatulong pag maluwang at hindi na binabaha, makakatulong talaga ito upang lumago pa ang negosyong dinaraan ng mga kalsadang ito.

At ginamit na namin din ni Secretary Cabral itong pagkakataon na dalhin ang tulong sa mga senior citizens ng Pasig, “Astig Pasig,” kasama ang marami pang mga ibang senior citizens sa buong Metro Manila, pero ito ay magiging programa para sa buong bansa — tulong na nagmumula sa mas malaking Value-Added Tax nitong huling buwan.

Noong Hunyo, nagpalabas tayo ng apat na bilyong piso mula sa koleksyon ng value added tax sa langis, dalawang bilyon para pambayad ng kuryente ng apat na milyong mahihirap. Ito yung mga bumabayad ng less than 100, ‘no? kilowatts? Meron ba sa inyong less than 100 kilowatts ang inyong...? O, ano, nakuha na ba ninyo yung pantawid kuryente? Ay, good. Tumatango sila Espie. Okay? Kasi sabi ni Espie, karamihan sa Metro Manila ay nakakuha na. Okay, so meron pang mga iba, pero makukuha niyo ito doon sa Land Bank, di ba Espie? Sa Land Bank ang mga distributing agent.

Tapos, doon sa VAT na yun ay nagpabigay din tayo ng isang bilyong piso bilang college scholarship o pantang sa 70,000 na estudyanteng maralita; ito naman ay dinadaan sa mga eskuwelahan. Yung pondo nandoon na sa kolehiyo. So yung mga estudyante, pupunta sa opisina ng kolehiyo para makinabang dito.

At meron ding kalahating bilyong pantang upang palitan ng mas matipid na LPG, CNG o biofuel ang motor ng libu-libong sasakyang pampubliko. Ewan ko kung meron ditong mga namamasada, mga operators ng jeepney o bus, sila

ang bibigyan ng pautang. Kaya please pupunta kayo doon sa mga bangko gaya ng Postal Bank kung gusto niyong palitan yung makina ninyo na diesel ngayon o gasolina at maging LPG, CNG o biofuel dahil mas mura.

At meron din tayong kalahating bilyong piso pangkabit ng fluorescent sa mga kalsada, opisina ng pamahalaan, mga ospital at iba pang pampublikong lugar. At inaasahan natin na si Congressman Roman Romulo ay sisiguraduhin niya na lahat ng mga yun ay nakikipag-ugnay sa programa ng Department of Energy. Papahiramin din ng pera o kung masyadong mahirap bibigyan ng fluorescent lamp. Pero siyempre ang pagbayad ng kuryente pagkatapos kayo na. Kaya lang mas mura di hamak ang fluorescent.

Sa sunod na 'Katas ng VAT,' may karagdagang one billion na pambayad pa rin ng kuryente ng mahihirap. Kasi Espie, ilan yun? Eight million yung mga mahihirap na nangangailangan ng umento sa kuryente.

Kalahating bilyong kapital para sa maybahay at pamilya ng mga namamasada. At kalahating bilyon upang mapataas ang kakayahan ng mga kasangkapan ng mga ospital... kasama na nga yung sinabi ni Congressman Romulo na tinulungan natin yung ospital dito, yun ay isa ring katas ng VAT. At itong pondo natin ay mga kalahating bilyon din.

At ngayon naman, isang bahagi ng katas ng VAT ay kalahating bilyon para sa mga lolo at lola na hindi sakop ng GSIS at SSS. At kung sinabi ni Roman kanina na nagpapasalamat siya dahil mula ngayon, yung mga nagsusuweldo ng mas maliit sa 200,000 pesos bawat taon ay hindi na mangangailangan magbayad ng income tax. Ibig sabihin nuon, 12 billion pesos sa lahat-lahat ang nagkaroon ng ginhawa, yung mga mahihirap at karaniwang manggagawa. Kung siya ay nagpapasalamat sa akin na tinulong ko yun, ako naman nagpapasalamat din kay Congressman Roman Romulo na siya ay trinabaho yun sa Kongreso. Kaya congratulations, Congressman Romulo!

Itong pandaigdigang krisis, ang kanyang hamon: self-reliance against global imponderables.

Kanina, nanggaling kami ni Peter Favila diyaan sa kabila, sa Karangalan Market. Tinignan yung mga presyo ng bigas. Ay, sa wakas, meron nating nakikitang presyo ng bigas na 32 pesos, commercial. At tumawag ako kay Artie Yap, sabi ko, magkano naman doon sa Pasig? Sa Mutya Market, meron kayong makikitang commercial regular rice, P29; well-milled, P33 hanggang P35. Ibig sabihin yun, mukhang hawak na natin ang sitwasyon ng pagkain.

Itong tagumpay ay pambansang sikap sa mga programang magsasaka, kasama ang higit na pagmamatyag ng presyo and greater severity against price manipulation, sa masigasig na koordinasyon ni Artie Yap, na tinutulungan ng kapatid ni Congressman Romulo, si Undersecretary Berna Romulo-Puyat. Ay, ayun! At tinanong ko kay Roman, kung kasama ang mga LGU, mga barangay officials sa ating pag... yung pagdala ng mga NFA rice sa mga barangay-barangay, oo raw. Kaya salamat sa mga barangay officials, pasalamat din sa mga pansimbang grupo na tumutulong dalhin ang NFA rice sa mga mahihirap. So maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Yung NFA rice na 18.25 subsidized at itong presyong ito ay mas mura kaysa sa ibang mga bansa sa ating rehiyon. Habang kunswelo sa atin na mas maayos ang ating sitwasyon haming sa maraming ibang bansa, walang kapalit ang pagkasolusyon ng problema ng bigas at fuel sa sarili nating bayan.

At sa ginagawa natin, we have to be honest and clear eyed — there has been a fundamental shift in global economics. Ang presyo ng pagkain at fuel ay malamang mananatiling mataas. Yang 32 mababa na kaysa sa mga 40 noong araw. Pero yung mga 22 ganun, baka yun ang sinisikap natin para baka medyo matagal bago natin makita yun sa palengke habang meron namang NFA rice na mas mababa kaysa doon. Wala magiging madali; the government cannot resolve these problems overnight. But we can work to ease the near-term pain and invest in longer-term solutions.

Kaya bahagi ng paginhawa ng kahirapan kasalukuyan ay itong ating programa para sa mga lolo at lola.

Sa hanay ng tinatayang mahigit 5 milyong matatawag na senior citizens, marami naman sa inyo ang regular na tumatanggap ng pensyon, kaya't maituturing na may sariling kita. Ang GSIS, may old-age pensioners, halos kalahating milyon, kasama ang 123,000 na biyuda at biyudo ng mga GSIS members. Ang SSS naman, may old-age

pensioners, halos 600,000 katao, at kung isasali sa bilang ang mga biyuda't biyudo at mga may kapansanang tumatanggap ng pension, aabot sa 1.25 million ang mga retiradong tinutulungan ng SSS.

Ang PhilHealth naman ay may nakalistang halos 400,000 na mga retirees na hindi na kailangang magbayad ng kanilang premium. Kung magkasamang bibilangin ang mga retirees na ito at ang mga nakalistang dependents ng mga miyembro, aabot sa dalawang milyong senior citizens ang tumatanggap ng biyaya mula sa PhilHealth tuwing sila ay naoospital.

Ngunit kailangan din nating tulungan ang mahigit tatlong milyong senior citizens na hindi sakop ng GSIS o SSS at maraming hindi rin naka-enrol sa PhilHealth. Kaya uunahin ng 'Katas ng VAT' for the Elderly ang pinakamahihirap na sektor na ito. Kayo yun, kaya kayo ay dinala dito mula sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng Metro Manila dahil kayo ang pinili doon sa survey ng DSWD. Bibigyan kayo ng minsanang halaga ng limang daang piso bilang tulong ng pamahalaan upang mapagaan ang inyong kahirapan.

Kalahating bilyon ang inilaan para sa programang ito, at ito'y makatutulong sa isang milyong matatandang maralita. Ang higit na mabibigyan ng tulong na ito ay yung pinakamahihirap na senior citizens. Dapat lang na kayo ang maunang tumanggap ng tulong upang mabawasan ang inyong dinadaranas na paghihirap.

Kaya pangarap ko sana, sa araw na ito, na patuloy nating susuportahan ang mga programang nagbibigay ng ginhawa sa mga mamamayan upang sabay-sabay nating babalikatin ang mga pasaning dala ng kasalukuyang panahon sa buong mundo — mga pasaning may kabigatan nguni't matitiyak nating may hangganan din basta't tayo ay nagkakaisa at nagtutulungan. Pinili natin itong lugar ng Pasig para ilunsad itong ating programa gawa ng kailangan ang pagtutulungan at ginawa na rin natin ito bilang pagpapasalamat kay Congressman Roman Romulo dahil siya ay isa sa pinakamatulunging congressman para sa akin.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat. Congratulations!

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Speech during the Inauguration of the Road Network "Widening and Concreting of Imelda Avenue and Launching of Katas ng VAT for the Elderly: "Tulong Para kay Lolo at Lola". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115746/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1594&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Launching Ceremony of “Proud Harvest” Vegetable-Enriched Canton Noodles [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa seremonyang naglulunsad sa “Proud Harvest” Vegetable-Enriched Canton Noodles**

[Ipinahayag sa Dagonoy Public Market, Onyx cor. Dagonoy Sts. San Andres, Manila, ika 30 ng Hulyo, 2008]

Maraming salamat Secretary Remonde sa iyong pagpakilala at sa konting pagkwento ng background nitong ating proyektong ito.

Congressman Amado Bagatsing, Mayor Alfredo Lim, congratulations sa inyong dalawa! Sabi ni Amado ito noong araw isa sa pinakamahirap na bahagi ng Maynila — Dagonoy. Ang ganda-ganda na ng ating palengke at itong mga commercial building dito, congratulations sa mga taga-Dagonoy! (applause) Si Joey Concepcion isa sa nabanggit natin doon sa State of the Nation Address dahil sa tulong ng “Go Negosyo!” sa mga maliliit na mga negosyante, congratulations din dito sa launching. (applause) Si Pangulong Colting, pangulo ng Benguet State University, congratulations din! (applause)

I would like to acknowledge the presence also of Special Envoy Carlos Chan (applause) dahil siya ang inaasahan din natin na magde-develop naman ng snacks, Oishi snacks, gumagamit ng vegetables from Benguet. (applause) I’d like to acknowledge the presence also of former Secretary of Trade and Industry, Joe Concepcion and Mrs. Concepcion, (applause) and congratulate the whole family dito sa Golden Anniversary ng RFM Corporation. (applause) Sabi ni Joey ang selebrasyon daw nila ng 50th anniversary ay sa pamamagitan ng hindi itataas ang presyo ng apat na importanteng produktong binibili ng karaniwang taumbayan, baka pa nga bumaba ang presyo in the whole year 2008. Congratulations at maraming salamat. (applause)

Pero ngayon inilulunsad natin itong vegetable-enriched pancit canton na ang tatak “Proud Harvest,” talagang pinagmamalaki natin na ito ay nagmula sa pananaliksik ng Benguet State University. Kay Dr. Rogelio Colting, presidente ng unibersidad, at lahat ng mga guro at researchers ng BSU, sa inyong matagumpay na paggawa nitong vegenoodles. Congratulations! (applause)

Kay Joey Concepcion at sa kumpanyang RFM, na distributor nitong veggie noodles, salamat. (applause) Gaya nang sabi ko, na kilala na si Joey bilang nangunguna sa pagpapalaganap ng maliliit na negosyo sa pamamagitan ng programang “Go Negosyo!” (applause) Malaki ang maitutulong ng RFM ngayon upang makilala ng taumbayan ang kahalagahan ng masustansyang noodles na ito sa pagbibigay-lunas sa problema ng kagutuman.

At kay Cerge Remonde, Director General ng PMS at sa buong PMS, salamat. (applause) Noong Marso, gaya nang sabi ni Cerge Remonde, noong Holy Week nagpalabas ako ng sampung milyong piso upang tulungan ang pananaliksik tungkol sa veggie noodles, dahil si Cerge ay kasama ko nuon at dahil hihingiin namin ang tulong ng “Go Negosyo!” na kabalikat ni Cerge inatasan ko si Secretary Remonde na tutukan ang proyektong ito. Napakabilis ang produksyon, sa loob ng apat na buwan may veggie noodles nang mabibili sa palengke, congratulations! (applause)

Ang noodles na inihain natin ngayon, gaya nang sabi ni Joey, ay nagmula sa kalabasa. Panimulang produkto lang ito. Sa mga susunod na buwan, inaasahan ko ang Benguet State University na maglalabas ng noodles galling sa carrots, saluyot, at iba pang mga gulay, at gagawa rin sila ng iba pang mga produktong pagkain na hango sa gulay kagaya ng snacks na inaasahan natin si Ambassador Carlos Chan naman ay tutulong mailabas.

Pinagsamantala ko nga ang pagbisita sa Benguet noong Holy Week para atasan ang pag-aaral ng paggawa ng veggie noodles na raw materials na ang maaaring kunin sa salad bowl ng Cordillera, at huwag mong kalimutan, President Colting yung pinakbet bowl ng Pangasinan, tulungan din natin gaya ng Villasis.

Sabi ko noon, ang vegenoodles ay maging bahagi ng mga binibenta sa Tindahan Natin stock. Yung mga mahihirap na lugar meron tayong Tindahan Natin, pwedeng ibenta ang veggie noodles doon. Itong programa ay binibigyan ng malaking alokasyon sa pambansang budget itong taon. Ang mga veggie noodles na pinalakas ng gulay ay naging mas masustansya at masarap at mas mura gawin sa pahanong ito kasi lumilipad ang presyo ng arena kaya mas mura ang veggie noodles. At pag-iibayuhin din ang kita ng mga magsasaka, at bibigyan lutas ang problema ng storage kasi ang gulay madaling mabulok kaya pag naprocess sa veggie noodles wala nang mabubulok na gulay.

Pakakanin nitong pambansang proyekto ang ating mga bata, tutulungan ang ating mga magsasaka, at magbibigay sa ating mamimili ng higit at mas mabuting pagpipiliang sustansya.

Sa susunod na linggo mabibili na ang Proud Harvest sa mga palengke ng Cordillera, Ilocos at Cagayan Valley at pati na rin sana dito sa Metro Manila, pati na rin sana dito sa palengke ng Dagonoy. (applause)

Ang veggie noodles at iba pang masustansyang processed food ay kabilang sa ating mga programang naglalayong bawasan ang kagutuman. Hinahatid natin sa mas maraming mamamayan ang masustansyang pagkain sa abot-kayang halaga. Dagdag dito ang paggawa ng pagkaing ganito ay tumutulong din sa paghahanapbuhay ng mga nagtatanim ng gulay.

Ang ginagastos natin para sa ganitong mga programa magtitiyak sa kakainin ng taong bayan ay pawang nangagaling sa Value Added Tax. Ang VAT sa langis at mga produktong petrolyo ang pinagmumulan ng walumpung bilyong piso na ibinabalik ngayon ng pamahalaan sa taong bayan bilang mga programang tumutulong sa mahihirap, nagpaparami ng trabaho, nagpapalaki sa kinikita ng taong bayan.

Kumprehensibo ang ating programa sa pagkain. Sinusunod natin ang istrategyang supply at demand. Sa supply, pinapalago natin ang produksiyon sa pamamagitan ng mga programa katulad ng FIELDS. Kabilang dito ang pataba, irigasyon, pamumuhunan, punla, binhi at mga kagamitan sa pagtatanim at pag-ani, at maayos na distribution system na binubuo ng magagandang kalsada, mga farm-to-market road, mga RO-RO at mga bagsakan ng ani, at pati rin mga Tindahan Natin outlets na nagbebenta ng mura, murang bigas at murang noodles. Iyan ang specialty ng ating Tindahan Natin. Kaya itong noodles na ito ay ibebenta sa Tindahan Natin.

Malaki na rin ang iniunlad ng ating distribution system ng pagkain, magmula noong tinapos natin yung Western Nautical Highway, yung RO-RO van na dumadaan ng Iloilo, Negros mula Mindanao hanggang Luzon noong 2003. Naging mas kaya ang transportasyon ng mga pagkaing bilihin. Yung mga RO-RO ports na nagdudugtong sa ating nautical highway magsisiguro na pare-pareho ang presyo ng ating veggie noodles maging dito sa Maynila, sa Mindanao o sa mga tinamnan ng gulay sa Benguet.

Sa demand side naman, upang maging sapat ang kinikita ng mamamayan para sa pagbili ng pagkain ginagawa natin ang lahat para mas umangat ang pamumuhay at mas dumami ang trabaho. Tinuturuan din ng pamahalaan ang wastong pamamaraan ng pagkain para balansiyado ang sustansya, at wastong pagpapalano ng pamilya sa pamamagitan ng natural family planning.

Kaya ngayon higit nating kailangan ang sipag at pagkakaisa. Sana magkapit-bisig tayong lahat para makamit natin ang mga pangarap ng mga taga Manila pati na rin ng sambayanang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Tangkilin natin ang Proud Harvest at matuto tayo ng wastong pagkain.

Congratulations! Mabuhay Dagonoy! (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of "Proud Harvest" Vegetable-Enriched Canton Noodles. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115711/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1589&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching of the Department of Education's Supplemental Feeding Program for School Children

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching of the Department of Education's Supplemental Feeding Program for School Children**

[Delivered at Flora West Central Elementary School, Poblacion West, Flora, Apayao, July 31, 2008]

Dios ti agngina unay, Apo Governor Bulut ti napintas nga introduction yo kanyak. Ken agyamanak nga ammo amin itatta dagidiay naduma-duma nga projects tayo toy probinsiya ti Apayao.

Apo Congressman Butch Bulut, naimbag a bigat yo met Apo Congressman ken importante diay trabaho yo diay Kongreso ta sika ti chairman ti Land Reform Committee, Dios ti agngina unay. (applause) Agtugaw kayo amin, apo.

Apo Mayor San Jose, ti Mayor ti Flora; ti baro nga Assistant Secretary of Education, Thelma Santos; (applause) Apo Presidential Assistant Tom Quilip; dadiay naduma-duma nga opisyaes; gapo naduma-duma nga ili ti probinsiya ti Apayao; dagiti opisyaes ti Department of Education; dagiti teachers; dagiti estudyante; dagidiay amma ken inna; kakailyan, naimbag a bigat yo amin, apo. (applause)

Idi maysa nga aldaw, idi State of the Nation Address ko, imbagak iti panagirugi daytoy programa nga Massive School Feeding. Sangapulo nga piso iti inted para ti kanen iti maysa nga ag-adal-adal nga ubing nga maibilang daytoy nga programa, tapno maikkan da ti masustansya nga makan kada sumrek da ti eskwela. (applause) Maragdagan iti maala nga sustansiya ti ubing gapu ta kadua ti makan nga iti noodles nga ninayunan dagiti bitamina, wenno arroz caldo nga nalaukan ti marunggay nga nabaknang ti protina or whatever in the locality can be found that will be nutritious. Ken dakkell nga dayaw para kanyak nga agrugi datoy programa awan sabali no diket toy ili ti Flora ti Apayao. (applause) Agsarita ak tatta ti Tagalog ta gapo na ti panagrugi ti baro nga programa idtoy, kayat ko nga maamuan ti intero nga pagilyan.

Ang isang malakas at malusog na bata ay katumbas ng isang malakas at malusog na bansa.

Bawat bata ay kailangan ang “Healthy Start” o malusog na simula ng araw-araw, malusog na simula ng buhay. Kaya Assistant Secretary Santos, ang itatawat natin sa programang ito ay “Malusog na Simula” or “Healthy Start.” Ang Healthy Start Child Nutrition program na ito ay naglalayong punuin ang ating mga bata ng pag-asa gayundin isang malusog na almusal.

Dapat nating busugin ang mga puso at isipan ng ating mga bata sa pamamagitan ng biyaya ng edukasyon, subali’t bago mangyari ito, kailangan muna nila ng tiyan na busog din.

Ang ating mga bata ay dapat simulan ang bawat araw na masaya, malusog at puno ng pag-asa. Ang dapat lamang nilang panabikan ay karunungan at hindi ang pangunahing pangangailangan ng pagkain sa mesa kapag almusal.

Ang pagkakaloob ng masustansiyang almusal sa mga bata na kung hindi ay gugutumin ang pinakamahalagang bagay na magagawa ng ating bansa. Ito ay kagandahang-asal, kinakailangang panlipunan at kagalingang pangkabuhatan.

Iso nga mamatiak nga no agtitinnulong dagiti umili, awan panggep wenno tarigagay nga maisupiat kadatayo.

Iso nga Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin, agyamanak ti dayaw nga makapagrugi ditoy importante nga programa, awan sabali no di ket toy napintas uray bassit nga probinsiya ti Apayao.

Dios ti agngina manen kada kayo amin. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the launching of the Department of Education's Supplemental Feeding Program for School Children. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115625/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1585&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching of the National Supplemental Feeding Program [Filipino]
Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa paglulunsad ng National Supplemental Feeding Program

[Ipinahayag noong ika 31 ng Hulyo, 2008]

Ang isang malakas at malusog na bata ay katumbas ng isang malakas at malusog na bansa. Bawat bata ay kailangan ng healthy start o malusog na simula ng araw-araw malusog na simula ng buhay.

Kaya Asst. Secretary Santos, ang itatawag natin sa programang ito ay “Malusog na Simula” or “Healthy Start”.

Ang healthy start sa nutrition program na ito ay naglalayong punuin ang ating mga bata ng pag-asa gayundin isang malusog na almusal.

Dapat nating busugin ang mga puso at isipan ng ating mga bata sa pamamagitan ng biyaya ng edukasyon. Subalit, bago mangyari ito kailangan muna nila ng tiyan na busog din. Ang ating mga bata ay dapat simulan ang bawat araw na masaya, malusog at puno ng pag-asa. Ang dapat lamang nilang panabikan ay karunungan at hindi ang pangunahing pangangailangan ng pagkain sa mesa kapag almusal.

Ang pagkakaloob ng masustansiyang almusal sa mga bata, na kung hindi ay gugutumin, ang pinakamahalagang bagay na magagawa ng ating bansa. Ito ay kagandahang asal, kinakailangang panlipunan at kagalingang pangkabuhayan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Launching of the National Supplemental Feeding Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115651/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1581&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Local Peace and Security Assembly of Region II

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Local Peace and Security Assembly of Region II

[Delivered at the Roma Hotel, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, July 31, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Bert Gonzales sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Apo Governor Antonio, ti host governor tayo. Please sit down.

Amin nga opisyaales ti Region II; members of the National Security Council; I see here Congressman Junie Cua, he's here a while ago? Yes, and the other congressmen, the other local officials who are here; I see Governor Castillejos, I see Governor Cua and Apo Bishop Villena; Father Rani and other leaders of the religious sector; our leaders of the military and the police; mga leaders ti NGO, naimbag a bigat yo amin apo.

Ah, adda diay ni Governor. Sorry, Governor. Okay. They cut off your name. (laughter) O siguro, they didn't know that the governor of Nueva Vizcaya was so young and beautiful.

Bueno, anyway, agyamanak la unay kadagiti resolution nga inted yo kanyak. Dagitoy nga baro nga hamon or challenge iti pagilian tatta, saan tayo maliplipatan dagiti immuna nga panggep papan iti patuloy nga pagrang-ayan. Nangnangruna ditoy iti kinatalna ken kapia iti entiro nga pagilian. Isu nga patuloy tayo nga ar-aramiden dagitoy Regional Peace and Security Assemblies, this is the eighth? The ninth, nalpasen ti eight, tapno ipamuspusan ken sungbatan dagiti isu nga mangrigrigat iti permanente nga kapia ken urnos. And I would like to congratulate for the improvement of the crime rate here, kuna dagidiay inputs diay PMS. Congratulations to the PNP! General Damian. (applause)

Ngem kunada, adda pay il-ili ditoy nga ngumatngato pay iti crime rate, ken iti kunada ket maipanggep iti pulitika dagitoy nga krimen, sapay koma. Isu nga daytoy ti immuna nga pakpakaasik kadakayo. Kadagiti lokal nga lider, sadinno adda pay nangato nga crime rate, isantabi yo pay laeng dagiti away, gapu ta adayu pay met iti eleksyon. Pagsasaritaan tayo dagiti pakaigapuan dagiti problema in a peaceful and civilize way. That is the way we can discuss our difference tatta. And also for the decline in the number of armed rebels. Congratulations to NOLCOM! (applause)

Adda pay mano laengen nga non-combatants nga nabati, kuna da, awanen ti 500, wala ng 500 yung mga naiiwang NPA ti entiro nga rehiyon, ngem mamati ak nga mabalin met isuda nga akayin papan iti dalan ti panagbalbaliw ken kapia. And that is what we want to do in this Regional Peace and Order Assembly.

Naurnos iti pamuspusan nga Convergence nga inusar iti NOLCOM tapno bumassit iti bilang dagiti immalsa nga armado. Ngem ti kayat ti umili — from what I hear, what I understand for your inputs — ken kayat ko met ket komprehensibo iti kapia ditoy rehiyon yo, tapno saan nga ag-istorbo iti rang-ay. Bilbilinik iti NOLCOM to defeat the rebels that are still there in the hinterlands of Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

Nakakadanag met ti report nga nagbaliw iti taktika dagiti rebelde, agpapaadu laengen iti recruitment, ken kanayon nga agaramid ti harassment ken extortion tapno dumakkel iti pondo da. Saan tayo nga kayat nga pumigsa manen iti rebelyon no umadu dagiti recruits. And that's why among the resolutions is to spread the culture of peace, pakisaritaan tayo iti umili nga tumulong tapno saan matuloy dagiti extortionists nga makadadael ti negosyo.

Uray no karigatan ti kadasaran nga rason ti panag-alsa, ti rebelyon met iti mangmangted ti aglalo nga rigat kadagiti umili.

The Communists have spent years as a low-level threat. It is time for their disruption and violation of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead. They impede the progress and development of many rural areas. They are responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses. So if we are to become a first world country, as you say in the resolution in 20 years, we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all. And our instruction is, our goal is — they must be stopped by 2020. That is what we want to do.

Iso nga idi rabii, when I had coffee with the media, they were asking me, “So, what is the insurgency situation now?” So I asked Bert Gonzales to answer that. Sure, it is going down but the reason why we are having this Regional Peace and Order Assembly is that — yes, it’s going down, and it’s always there, low-level threat so we have to finish it once and for all so that our country can have a decade of total peace which will bring us to the first world in 20 years. And that is not a pipe dream, because there’s a Goldman Sachs analysis that indeed in 20 years it is possible for us to become first world but we have to do what we must to do. Maysa dagiti ket ti peace and order and political stability toy pagilian tayo.

But to the rebels who genuinely and sincerely speak peace, we will respond in kind. And I hope that the congressmen who are here today will help us pass the amnesty resolution soon. The most important part of our counter-strategy is the soft power of economic progress, dialogue and continuing efforts to arrive at mutual understanding. We continue to devise programs as fruits from these assemblies that will advance peace and development for the benefit of our country, especially the poor. It should no longer be necessary to lose lives on both side of the conflict, when so many opportunities are now available to improve the people’s welfare.

Itattay napanak diay Apayao, and Governor Bulut was telling me, so many new programs, we never saw these programs before. And I said, well, that’s because of the fiscal reforms that we have made, Congress acting on new taxes, and now improvements in tax administration.

Going back to Region II, the origin of the insurgency in this region can be traced to the problems that stood in the way of regional development. And you, in your assembly have analyzed what are the roots of insurgency that you share with other regions and what are the roots that are unique to this region.

And in our administration, we are resolving many of these. For instance, maysa dagiti prominent nga recommendations yo ket ti Cagayan Economic Zone wenno Port Irene. Yesterday, I went to the Cagayan Economic Zone, went to Sta. Ana and I saw there thousands of jobs have been created in that Cagayan Economic Zone that I visited yesterday. The airport, as I said in my previous SONA, before in my previous SONA, I said we will build a new airport in Lal-lo but the next year I said, upon further assessment, because the Navy, the CEZA and the private sector are willing to put up the international airport in Port Irene, we will just transfer our ambitions there. And sure enough, di napanak diay Port Irene, I saw the new expanded airport. Before the expansion, only six passenger planes could go there. Now the airport is bigger than the airport in Caticlan. But many of the international tourists land in Manila and then land there in a 20-seater plane. Or they land in Tuguegarao and ride two and a half hours to go there, so they complain. So the investors, the joint venture with CEZA and the investors from Macau wanted to expand that airport to an international airport but if they lengthen it some more, they will come across communities which we relocated and they don’t want social problems. So because of that, they look for an entirely new area without any communities and they will build a brand new international airport. (applause)

Gapo ti helicopter, I also saw the beautiful beaches of the Eastern Pacific Coast of Cagayan. And I was told in the briefing yesterday, that no less than three developers are interested in putting up resorts there just waiting for that new international airport to start being built because when it starts being built, they can start building because they know that by the time they finished, the airport will also be finished.

So iso ti maysa nga importante nga proyekto tayo para ti progreso ti Cagayan Valley. Maysa met nga ado nga indigenous peoples toy region yo, it is also important that we have Ancestral Domain Reform. And I am happy that one of the heroes I praised in my SONA last Monday is here but not wearing his fashionable outfit, si Chieftain Rosario Camma. (laughter/applause) He was on the frontpage of the newspapers outshining all those beautiful gowns of the ladies who were there but highlighting also, highlighting also how the Bugkalots of the Quirino-Vizcaya-Aurora tri-boundary after the Ancestral Domain Reform have been able to improve a thousand hectares of

ancestral land returned to them by the government to his tribe and how they have built small irrigation facilities, increased planting activity and improved their incomes. Congratulations manen kada kayo, Apo Chieftain! (applause)

The FIELDS program is especially important in your region. Because you are number one in corn production and number two in rice production. So FIELDS is very important ken dagidiay probinsiya, as far as provinces are concerned, in the self-sufficiency program that were done together by IRRI and DA, uray number one it Nueva Ecija iti rice production, because the government has poured so much already there, which is why they are number one to begin with. Kuna ti self-sufficiency program, the number one that must receive now the most assistance from FIELDS is the province of Isabela. (applause) So that will be the part of the... Oh! our new cabinet secretary's smiling from ear to ear, Secretary Bebot Bello. But of course, that doesn't mean that we are not talking about the other parts of Region II. Because of the fertile soil of the Cagayan River Valley, the mightiest river in the country, and the hardworking farmers as I said, you'll be number one and number two.

Diay State of the Nation Address ko idi kunak nga ti Pilipinas gapo pay ti tiyempo dagidiay it Kastila, Español, we've already been importing rice. In fact, during that three years that we exported rice, we were also importing rice. So we've always been importing rice. Why? Because we have an archipelago with rocky, rough-laden and sparse soil and we don't have a mighty Mekong and vast fertile plains like Thailand and Vietnam. The closes thing we have to a Mekong in the Philippines is none other than the Cagayan River that is why it is the fertile plains of Cagayan Valley that will be the secret to our success of self-sufficiency in the future. (applause)

So, it is important to maintain your progress in agriculture, not only because you will feed the country but because so many of your communities depend on it. And in turn, your communities provide food for so many of our countrymen.

So we talked about the inputs to agriculture, talk about what we have to spend, and precisely because in our country, we don't have natural, great natural sources of irrigation, we have to build irrigation systems unlike in Thailand and Vietnam where the Great Mekong has so many tributaries that is natural irrigation.

So, this morning I visited the Abulog-Apayao Irrigation Project, which I started in 2001. It is very important both to the Cagayanons and to your neighbors in Apayao who share your water resources. It provides irrigation to three towns in... or four in Apayao : Sta. Marcela, Pudtol, Flora and Luna, and four towns in Cagayan province : Aparri, Allacapan, Ballesteros and Abulog — of course, that's the name of the project. And so we hope that with this new irrigation project and the new irrigation canals, there will be more and more lands available.

Panawen daytoy iti panagtitinulong ken damayan. Agkakadua tayo nga agbirok ti pamuspusan tapno: una, ma-conserve iti energy because we are now in the midst of a world energy and food crisis. Ken kayat ko nga Dios ti agngina ken ag-congratulate kenni Governor Antonio ta kunana next month, there will be a windmill project that will begin in Northern Cagayan province. (applause) And that will provide for the investment needs of the northern part where a lot of investors seem to want to go because of the beauty of Angid, etc. and the facilities of the airport. And also, maysa pay, because the gateway, the information technology gateway of the telecoms, the redundancy so that it does not... tsunami in Taiwan or something continued pay ti call center services tayo. The Globe put its redundancy gateway in Aparri and the expectation is that it will be cheaper to have telecoms in Northern Cagayan and that will bring call centers here. So I was telling the TESDA Director yesterday that she should start working with the good schools here like, for instance, St. Paul and... you have many good schools here in Cagayan and to put up already the Business Process Association accredited curriculum for call center training so that tapno by the time that the call centers are put up there and they start hiring, they will not have a difficult time rejecting so many applicants.

So there are so many things that can happen to Cagayan Valley — tourism, exemplified by the beaches of the Pacific Coast, and then even industry and services like possibly the call centers. Energy, kasla dagidiay windmill projects ken umay pay nga hydro project, but the most basic where the people count on you is really agriculture, agri-business. And with agri-business, we talk about countryside development. And with countryside development, we need peace and order in the countryside.

Iso nga agkakadua tayo met nga agaramid tapno maituloy iti rang-ay nga nangrugi iti napalabas nga pito nga tawen. But let us make sure that the people will feel the benefits of development, and one key to that is that Cagayan Valley will continue to be a food basket for the rest of the Filipinos.

Dios ti agngina kada kayo amin, apo. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Local Peace and Security Assembly of Region II. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115656/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1583&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Luncheon with the Filipino Olympians and the Filipino Community in Beijing [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa handaang pananghalian kasama ang mga Filipino Olympians at komunidad ng mga Filipino sa Beijing

[Ipinahayag sa Grand Ballroom, Asia Hotel, Beijing, China, ika 9 ng Agosto, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Romulo, sa iyong pagpakilala.

Maraming salamat din, Speaker Nograles at ibang mga kasapi ng Philippine delegation na nagpunta dito sa Beijing, lalo na para magbigay ng parangal at to cheer on ang ating mga atletang Pilipino dito sa Beijing. (applause)

Gusto kong ipakilala sa inyo ang ilan sa ating mga Southeast Asian Games gold medalists na nandito ngayon sa Olympics. Well, hindi siya Southeast Asian Games gold medalist pero una sa lahat, nakilala ninyo ang ating four-time world champion ng boxing, si Manny Pacquiao.(applause) Dala niya yung kaniyang inspiration, si Jinkee.(applause)

Si Manny ngayon ang tinuturing na pinaka-greatest Asian boxer sa kasaysayan (applause) gawa ng apat na kategorya na siya nag-world champion. Ngayon ipaglalaban niya ang pang-lima, nagtra-training na sa Amerika, pero bumalik dito sa Asia para magbigay ng parangal sa ating mga atleta. (applause)

Yung ating mga gold medalist sa Southeast Asian Games na nandito ngayon para makapagpaligsahan sa Olympics, nandito si Miguel Molina (applause); si Daniel Coakley (applause); si Ryan Arabejo (applause); si James Walsh (applause); si Sheila Mae Perez (applause); si Ryan Fabrega (applause). At gusto ko rin tumindig yung ating ibang mga atleta na makikipagpaligsahan ngayon. (applause)

Alam niyo nung ginagawa nila itong... nung protocol yung schedule na ito, sabi nga nila sa Filipino community imbitahin natin yung mga atleta. Sabi ko, kaya lang, ‘wag natin silang pipilitin kasi gusto natin yung pahinga nila, yung training nila, hindi maistorbo kasi ang pinakamalaking parangal na maibibigay nila sa ating kababayan ay manalo sila at ayaw natin na magkaroon ng sagabal sa kanilang pananalò sa pagpunta dito.

Pero kaninang umaga, tinanong ko, “Ano, may mga atletang pupunta?” “Meron.” Sinabi ba ninyo, hindi kailangan kasi gusto natin na magpahinga sila, mag-ensayo sila? Alam raw nila ‘yon pero kusang sila ay pumunta rito para makibati rin sa ating Pilipino. (applause)

At dito sa China, meron din tayong mga gold medalists na Pilipino. Hindi sa Beijing Olympics necessarily pero sa kanilang ekonomiya, sa kanilang community.

Eh noong huling ilang beses na nagpunta na ako dito sa China, ang ating isang celebrity ay si Jimmy Flor Cruz. (applause) At yung isang torch bearer na pinakilala ni Ambassador Sonia Brady na binabati ko rin ngayon ay yung anak pala ni Jimmy Flor Cruz, di ba? (applause)

Isa pang torch bearer na pinakilala ni Ambassador Brady ay si Marco Torres (applause) na kumakatawan sa Filipino community dito sa entablado. At ako ay nasisiyahan na si Marco Torres ay marketing manager ng isa sa mga leading design firms sa Asia. Yan ang halimbawa ng mga magagaling na Pilipinong narito sa Beijing at saka sa China. (applause)

Meron pa tayong isang superstar, si Ben Lim ng Reuters (applause). At isa pang e-e-export muli ng China patungong Pilipinas, kasi si Vlad Reyes ay magiging manager ng Peninsula doon sa Pilipinas. (applause)

At yung ibang mga teachers, professionals, musicians na binanggit ni Sonia kanina, congratulations sa inyong lahat. Ang ganda-ganda ng inyong pagkakatawan sa ating bansa dito sa Tsina. (applause)

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa pagkakataong makita kayo muli. Ilan sa inyo nakita ko na sa mga nakaraang pagbisita gaya nang sabi ko si Jimmy Flor Cruz ay isang parati nating pina-flag wave dahil sa kaniyang celebrity status. Pero ako ay nasisiyahan na narito kayo muli at para iulit yung sinabi ni Sonia na ginagalang kayo ng pamahalaan at ng taumbayang Pilipino dahil sa inyong sakripisyo at malasakit sa inyong trabaho, sa inyong pamilya at sa ating bansa.

At tinatanggap ng buong loob ang inyong kontribusyon. Ngunit gaya nang sabi ni Sonia, nagtatrabaho rin tayo sa bisa ng pag-angat ng ating ekonomiya para sa araw na hindi na kailangan pumunta pa ang Pilipino sa ibayong dagat para magtrabaho, that the day can come when overseas work is just a career option and not the only choice you have for a good job. (applause)

Noong isang taon, naranas natin sa Pilipinas ang pinakamataas na pag-angat ng ating ekonomiya sa loob ng isang henerasyon. Pero itong taong ito, buong mundo ay nahihirapan sa global economic slowdown at saka sa pagtaas bigla ng presyo ng langis at pagkain.

Kaya walang pagod tayong nagtatrabaho para harapin itong mga hamong nanggagaling sa paghina ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya na sinasamahan pa ng pagsipa ng matataas na presyo ng langis at pagkain. Masipag tayong nagtatrabaho para tiyakin na matatag ang supply ng pagkain sa ating bansa at may pagkain sa bawat mesa. At salamat na lamang na siguro pag kayo ay nanonood ng telebisyon, nakikita niyo ang food riot sa iba't-ibang mga bahagi ng mundo. Doon sa Pilipinas, hindi tayo nawawalaan ng bigas. (applause)

Hindi lamang yon, ang presyo ng bigas ngayon sa Pilipinas ay mas mababa keysa sa presyo ng ating mga karatig-bansa. Gumagawa rin tayo ng mga hakbangin upang bawasan ang pasanan sa ating taumbayan nitong matataas na presyo ng langis at pagkain sa mundo.

Halimbawa, may subsidyo tayo sa bigas at kuryente para sa pinakamahihirap. Kaya meron tayong... ang presyo ng bigas sa, halimbawa, Thailand o Vietnam umaabot ng 50, 60 pesos. Sa ating bansa, meron tayong mabibiling bigas, market price na 32 pesos. Yung Malaysia, yung Indonesia, sila ay nagsa-subsidize ng bigas. Yung kanilang subsidized rice mga 25, 27 pesos; yung ating subsidized rice, 18.25. At nagagawa natin ito dahil sa reporma ng buwis na nagawa natin ilang taong nakaraan. Meron tayong malaking kaban ng bayan ngayon para sa mga subsidyong ganoon. Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat uli sa ating mga congressmen na narito ngayon dahil kung hindi niyo nagawa yuon nung ilang taong nakaraan ay hindi natin makakaya itong krisis na nangyayari sa buong mundo. (applause)

Yung sa presyo ng langis, ang pinakamalaking epekto noon dapat ay sa transportasyon. Ngunit sa kabila ng napakalaking sipa ng presyo ng langis sa buong mundo, dahil meron tayong mga tulong na naibibigay sa sektor ng transportasyon, pumapayag naman sila na ang pagtaas ng pasahe sa Pilipinas ay one peso lamang, parang presyo lamang ng isang text message ng inyong mga kamag-anak sa Pilipinas. At doon naman sa kuryente na pangalawang pinaka-epekto ng mahal na langis sa mundo, yung mga pinakamahihirap ay nagagawa natin na mabigyan ng konting subsidyo rin, subsidy, para tulungang bayaran ang kanilang mga electric bills. Kaya ito ang mga nagagawa natin, kasama ng ibang mga paraan para maibsan ang napakalaking kabigatan na kinakarga ng karaniwan at mahihirap na Pilipino.

Nagtuturo rin tayo ng Nutrition Education o wastong pagkaing hindi masyadong magastos. Kasama na nga dito ang pagpapa-iral ng breastfeeding para hindi tayo kailangan umangkat masyado ng gatas mula sa ibang bansa. At kaya naman tinanggap natin na ilunsad dito sa harap ninyo ang 2008 Breastfeeding Olympics o Worldwide Synchronized Breast-feeding. Kaya, congratulations! (applause)

Ganunpaman, anuman ang kilos na ginagawa natin, itong problema ng pagkain at langis ay pandaigdigang problema. Kailangan sama-sama tayo magtrabaho upang maresolba itong mga isyu kung gusto natin makita ang makabuluhang pagbangon muli ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya.

As President Hu Jintao said yesterday in his state lunch for the guests of the Olympics, and I quote, he said, “The international community faces grave challenges unprecedented in history. There has never been a greater need for us to understand, accommodate and cooperate with each other.” Yun ang sinabi ni Pangulong Hu Jintao kahapon.

At itong Olympics ay naghahandog sa bawat bansa sa mundo ng pagkakataong isantabi yung mga nagpapahiwalay sa atin at tunay na magsama-sama at ipagdiriwang ang human spirit. At kaya naman ipinagmamalaki natin ang ating mga atleta na naka-qualify sa Beijing Olympics.

Alam niyo, 15 ang ating athletes kasi ang hirap-hirap maka-qualify pa lamang. Kaya, the fact that they have qualified, sila ay mga kampeon na sa puso ng mga Pilipino. (applause)

Gaya ni Manny, yung ating Olympic athletes ay huwaran para sa susunod na henerasyon ng mga Pilipino. Kasi ang ating bansang Pilipinas, hindi ba napaka-hilig natin sa sports? At hindi ba tinatanaw natin yung mga sakripisyo ng ating mga atleta para makipag-kumpetensiya sa antas ng world class? Kaya si Manny Pacquiao ay isang talagang idol ng napakarami dahil nakikita natin ang kanyang sakripisyo at nakikita natin ang bunga ng sakripisyo sa pamamagitan ng kanyang tagumpay sa world stage. Dito sa Olympics, kinakatawan ng Pilipinong delegasyon ng mga atleta ang lahat ng mga Pilipino. So I’m glad that they are here even if we did not require them to come. I’m glad that they are here in this lunch para naman malaman that the whole country is cheering for them. (applause)

China has worked hard to bring the world a truly memorable Olympics. At kayo mismo kasi nakatira kayo dito sa Beijing, testigo kayo, first hand, sa napakahirap na trabahong ginawa ng China para mabuo these spectacular facilities and the exciting events associated with these games.

Naalala ko tuloy yung APEC Summit noong 2001. Ilan sa atin magkasama noon doon sa Shanghai. I have had the pleasure of attending a number of APEC Summits but the one I remember most was the summit that China so ably hosted in Shanghai in 2001. Para na rin yung pag-host nila nitong Olympics ngayon. It was my first summit after I became president. But more than that, it was the first summit coming on the heels of the tragedy of 9/11, which had changed the world, heightened global concern regarding terrorism which generated so many unfortunate events, including a global economic slowdown, similar doon sa nangyayari ngayon na global economic slowdown.

Sa pag-aalala ko noon under China’s oversight, that APEC Summit in Shanghai played a major role in sending a clear and strong message to the international community that the Asia-Pacific community was united in its efforts to counter the threat of terrorism and that the economies of APEC were also united in their efforts to promote APEC’s vision of free, open and prosperous economies.

Sabi nila, coming out party ito ng China. Yung APEC Summit, coming out party nila yun sa ekonomiya ng mundo. And the fact that APEC subsequently gave its support to China’s membership in the WTO, that year can clearly be attributed in great part to the leadership that China showed at the summit and afterwards. (applause)

First impressions are always powerful. In this case, not only was China my first APEC Summit, but China was also one of the first to congratulate me when I was sworn in as President of the Philippines in 2001. (applause) Sa mensahe noon ni President Jiang Zemin, he called me an “old friend of the Chinese people.” Alam naman natin lahat, for the Filipino people as well as for the Chinese people, reference to an “old friend” is an expression of deep respect and openness toward the other. The APEC Leaders’ Summit in Shanghai was also my first visit to China as head of state, though as vice-president, nagpunta na ako dito bilang panauhin din ni Vice-President Hu Jintao noong panahong yun kaya matagal na — old friend na nga.

So, I particularly remember the warm reception I received from the leaders of China, who manifested China’s wish to build our relations. At yun ay hindi sa salita lamang.

Today, Philippines-China relations are at an all time high.

Kahapon sa state luncheon ni President Hu Jintao, alam niyo, walumpu ang kanyang heads of government na nagpunta rito, isang dosena lang mauupo niya sa kanyang head table, kasama doon ang pangulo ng Pilipinas. (applause)

At sa walumpung mga pinuno na narito, hindi niya pwedeng ma-meet lahat sa bilateral, so may iba grupo-grupo. Ilan lang ang talagang bilateral na one-on-one at isa doon, ginanap kaninang umaga, kiniwento nga ni Sonia Brady, ay ang delegasyon ng Pilipinas. (applause)

At lumalawak nang husto ang ating kalakal kaya, eto, tignan niyo yung mga naka-amerikanong mga guwapo diyaan, sila ay kumakatawan ng ating malaking business delegation na narito ngayon. (applause) Kinatawan lang sila dahil ang daming ibang merong ongoing bilateral, you know, yung mga bilateral meetings between Chinese businessmen.

Kanina nga, binanggit ni President Hu Jintao na ang ating pangangalakal sa isa't-isa ay umabot na sa 30 billion U.S. dollars, number one export market natin ang China ngayon.(applause)

Tuloy rin nating pinapalalim ang pagsasapalaran natin sa ibang bagay. At ang isang importanteng kasama dito ay ang importanteng kontribusyon ninyo, ang ating Overseas Filipinos dito sa China. (applause) Oo nga't 1,500 lang kayo dito sa Beijing, gaya nang sabi ni Sonia, pero grabe naman yung 1,500 na yun, napakabigat na mga kasapi ng Beijing (applause) kayo dito. Ating mga Filipino professionals, ating mga skilled workers, ating mga technical workers, malaki ang inyong kontribusyon sa ekonomiya at sa kultura ng People's Republic of China.

Kaya sa inyong napakagalang-galang na pagtra-trabaho at mga pwesto sa inyong pinagtrabahuan dito sa China, ang laki ng inyong tulong sa pagpapalakas ng ating relasyon sa pamamagitan ng Tsina at Pilipinas.

Kaya bukod sa mga remittances na pinapadala ninyo, napakalaki ang inyong kontribuson sa kaunlaran ng ating bansa.

Kaya ako'y nagpapasalamat sa ating 1,500 Filipinos na narito sa Beijing, salamat sa inyong tulong sa ating gumagandang relasyon, lalong gumagandang relasyon sa Tsina.

Salamat sa inyong tulong sa kaunlaran ng ating bansa. At nawa'y tuloy-tuloy pa ang inyong suporta sa ating minamahal na bayang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat (applause).

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during a Luncheon with the Filipino Olympians and the Filipino Community in Beijing. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412113406/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1648&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the State Luncheon for the Swiss President Pascal Couchepin

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the State Luncheon for the Swiss President Pascal Couchepin**

[Delivered on August 11, 2008]

President Couchepin and Madam; distinguished officials of the delegation; officials of the Philippine government; members of the business community; members of the diplomatic corps; ladies and gentlemen.

We welcome President and Madam Couchepin on this first visit of a Swiss President to our country. Although it is a first visit of a Swiss President, it is not his Excellency's first visit to the Philippines. He visited the Philippines as a young man. From the description of where he went, he went to Laguna because he was able to see the residence of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, and the beautiful falls that we know as Pagsanjan Falls.

The Philippines and Switzerland share a strong commitment to peace, freedom and democracy. Our national hero, whose birth place his Excellency visited as a young man and whose monument he visited earlier this morning, was so inspired by the legendary story of William Tell and his values of freedom and civil rights, and he translated the story from German to our native language. And as fate would have it, the monument of Rizal in Luneta was designed by the same Swiss sculptor as the monument of William Tell in Switzerland.

We thank the Swiss government not only for the values of freedom and civil rights that are enshrined in its culture but also for its willingness to share its experience in federalism with the Institute of Federalism located in Fribourg in Switzerland, which has been helping us do our studies on this form of government. We advocate federalism as a way to ensure long lasting peace in Mindanao. As for our economic ties, we acknowledge the important role that the sixty Swiss firms operating in the Philippines have made to our national development. Some of the CEOs of those firms are here today. We also appreciate the hospitality of Switzerland to our 10,000 Filipinos working there either as UN professionals or as health care professionals in institutions and homes for the aged. And we are grateful because his Excellency has said that we should expand our ties even more. We are grateful for the recognition that will be given to our country in 2009, and we will be the featured guest country in Muba, the biggest consumer trade fair in Switzerland. May that gesture and this visit of your Excellency to the Philippines transform our cordial relations into true relations. In this spirit, I invite all our guests to join me in a toast for the continued success and good health of President and Madam Couchepin.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the State Luncheon for the Swiss President Pascal Couchepin. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115610/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1645&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a State Dinner in Honor of President Jose Ramos Horta of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a State Dinner in Honor of President Jose Ramos Horta of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, August 12, 2008]

His Excellency President Ramos Horta, His Excellency President Ramos, Vice President de Castro, other officials of the Philippine government, members of the delegation from Timor Leste, ladies and gentlemen.

We're gathered here tonight in honor of an old friend of the Filipino people, an international icon, a noble prize laureate. President Jose Ramos Horta has been to our shores on numerous occasions but we welcome him tonight on his first visit as President of his nation. He would have been here earlier, but six months ago, an assassin's bullet almost put an end to his life and therefore causing his trip to be postponed for his recovery.

Since then, however, his land of one million people has been peaceful. Rebel leader was killed in the Presidential compound and 800 rebel soldiers have pledged allegiance to the government.

The Philippines is a natural partner of Timor Leste in many ways. Filipino religious missionaries, peacekeepers and development workers, minister to the needs of the Timorese people and stayed with them during the dark days of their struggle for independence at great risk to their own safety and welfare.

Today, the Filipino community in Timor Leste come from various backgrounds such as, aside from religious missionaries, include police officers who are part of the U.N. Police, international consultants and aide workers, U.N. volunteers and construction workers. A Filipino military general commanded the U.N. Peacekeeping Forces, a Filipino Police General led the U.N. Police in Timor Leste.

During the Philippine Independence Day in Dili, where President Ramos Horta was guest of honor, he graciously honored five outstanding Filipinos in Timor Leste. (applause)

During our Bilateral meeting this morning, we welcomed the opportunity to have all the technical cooperation and partnership that there can be. Major areas we are pursuing for partnership are education and training, labor deployment, infrastructure development, housing construction, oil and gas supply chain, construction supply chain, fisheries and air links.

This morning, we witnessed the signing of a Memorandum on the Training of Diplomats at the Philippine Foreign Service Institute. A Fisheries Agreement and an Agreement on Academic Cooperation which will be the loadstone of the Philippine commitment to Timor Leste's long term development.

We hope that the Timorese scholars who will be studying here in the Philippines will be the future leaders of Timor Leste.

As I said earlier, the Philippines is an appropriate partner of Timor Leste in many ways.

On this note, I propose a toast to the continued good health and success of President Jose Ramos Horta and of the Timorese people.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during a State Dinner in Honor of President Jose Ramos Horta of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115559/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1641&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening of the 2nd Philippine International Motor Show (PIMS)
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening of the 2nd Philippine International Motor Show (PIMS)

[Delivered at the World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, August 21, 2008]

Thank you. Thank you very much Secretary Favila for your introduction.

And congratulations to CAMPI President Beth Lee for your beautiful opening remarks and for putting all of these together.

I'd like to also greet and acknowledge our host congressman, Congressman Roxas; (Applause) officers and members of CAMPI; members of the automotive industry; workers; ladies and gentlemen.

Congratulations again to CAMPI on this second motor show! This show tells the world we are ready to compete. As Beth says, the presence of 15 leading global auto brands reflects the confidence of the big auto makers of the world in our local industry and the economy.

I understand that CAMPI was formed 13 years ago — that is 1995, when I was a senator — to respond to the challenge for the private sector to play a key role in the country's motor vehicle development. And I remember 1995 was also the year that WTO started, and that was the year that all those special protection programs of quantitative restrictions for the motor vehicle industry ended. So you were organized at a very important time for your industry, and indeed you have been playing a key role.

You were involved in crafting the New Motor Vehicle Development Program, which focuses on the use of local parts for vehicle assembly and also on exportation. And that is the way the automotive industry in the Philippines can survive and flourish.

You have also taken a strong stand for regional integration of the automotive industry given that you have shifted your focus to exportation and for the required international standardization, including compliance with safety and the environment, safer motoring as symbolized by your support for the Safety Belt Law and cleaner motoring as symbolized by your support of the Clean Air Act.

You have come up with automotive units that not only comply with the Clean Air Act but are also fuel-efficient. The automotive industry of the Philippines produces hybrid models producing flexifuel engines that blend ethanol with gasoline fuel. We await the hybrid models that shift from gasoline fuel to electric power at the touch of a button.

I asked Beth here, "So, when are we going to have that kind of hybrid model?" She said, "coming soon." We look forward to that. And I understand from Peter Favila that he was talking to Pepito Alvarez, and Pepito said, that he is coming up soon with that. So, we look forward to that. I saw Pepito Alvarez somewhere here earlier. Oh good! I'm glad you're sitting down. Thank you. Congratulations Pepito and Good luck! (Applause)

And we want all of these for many reasons: for one, this is part of our Green Philippines Program, wherein we want an energy efficient nation, free from reliance on costly and exhaust-spewing cars as well as smokestacks. Renewable energy is a very big help in our Green Philippines Program. So that is why we are waiting for the hybrid to become bigger in our automotive industry.

In general, for renewable energy, we can harness our sun, wind and geothermal resources and produce our own clean fuels through biofuels and not rely on foreign suppliers. But we need the will of the people and the support of

CAMPI to move our political leaders to embrace this new clean Green Philippines. I asked Congressman Roxas to sit here in front because I want to thank him and through him Congress for passing the Renewable Energy Bill in the House of Representatives. (Applause)

Now, I ask CAMPI to help us in our call on the Senate to pass this urgent legislation on the development and promotion of renewable energy sources. We are confident that your voices will be heard. I have heard the term 'influential' many times this morning. And, indeed, CAMPI is influential.

We have not forgotten that you were among the supporters of the law rationalizing the excise tax on motor vehicles, and that you were among the staunchest campaigners for the Biofuels Act. So, I would like to thank you so much for your support. (Applause)

The search for cheaper and cleaner fuel has become a necessity not only because we want cleaner motoring but also in the light of the worsening global environment, environment both in terms of the ecology and the economy, and the increased pressure on economies that have little or no energy sources of their own.

The rise in oil prices we know is a global problem that is affecting consumers in developed and developing countries alike. However, we realize the reality that the problem is global, it provides little comfort for those here in the Philippine who are faced by this global challenge in their homes and in their barangays.

But because tough choices have been made on tax reforms, the global crisis does not catch us helpless and unprepared. Through foresight, grit and political will, we built a shield around our country that has slowed down and somewhat softened the worst effects of the global crisis. We have the money to care for our people.

We have acted to provide price relief to our most vital industries such as transportation to minimize costs to owners, employees and commuters. Halimbawa, para sa namamasada at namamasahe sa dyip, nagpalabas tayo ng kalahating bilyong pautang upang palitan nang mas matipid na LPG, CNG o biofuel ang motor ng libulibong jeepney.

I have already authorized the Secretary of the Budget to transfer half a billion pesos from the National Treasury to the Postal Bank which will be the main conduit for this kind of loan for transforming the engines of our public transport vehicles.

I have mandated government agencies to lower fuel consumption in liters by 10 percent and to convert 20 percent of their vehicles in major cities to use liquid petroleum gas. So, we call on the automotive industry to respond by providing more hybrid models and more vehicles using LPG, CNG or biofuels.

And we call on all businesses to respond by providing transport assistance to workers, for instance, company buses and eliminating unnecessary energy usage until prices somehow come back down.

And we call on our people to increase conservation and decrease use of unnecessary travel and energy use.

Meanwhile, we do not want our local automotive industry to suffer from unfair competition posed by smuggled Special Utility Vehicles especially. (Applause) You know when there's a smuggled sports car, we sell it an auction with a special committee composed of NGOs overseeing it and we earmark the proceeds of the auction for social welfare projects. Because super luxury cars don't compete with any cars produced in the Philippine, but SUVs do. So rather than sell them at auction, we'd rather do away with the small taxes that we have to sacrifice in order to save the industry itself who pays more taxes. That is why you have seen pictures of smuggled Special Utility Vehicles literally being smashed by the government's wrecking teams. (Applause) So, let us together sharpen our drive against corruption and smuggling.

Last March, I instructed the Department of Finance and Customs to form a government-civil society body called PORTAL or Ports Transparency Alliance to monitor collection efforts, gather lifestyle and corruption information,

and follow up major evasion or smuggling cases, in close coordination with the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group. I hope CAMPI is active in PORTAL.

And on the macro picture, in order to promote the growth of industries like yours, as well as the best interest of the majority of our citizens, it's essential for government to maintain a peaceful and orderly society. Most of you are aware of the disturbance of peace and order from the MILF-affiliated rebel groups who recently attacked civilians and destroyed properties in North Cotabato, Sarangani and especially Lanao del Norte.

As Commander in Chief, I think most of you also have heard me ordered the AFP and the PNP to pursue and neutralize those responsible for these treacherous attacks. But we remain committed to the peace process in Mindanao. We are not at war with the Muslim communities.

These recent developments in the South lead to a change in the basic premise of our peace efforts — the focus of our talks shall shift from the armed groups to the communities. The parameters governing our negotiations shall be a balance between constitutionality and public sentiment.

The objective of our peace processes shall be the end of all forms of armed rebellion in the country. Translated, this shall mean a national rejection of armed struggle as a means of achieving political and societal change and re-affirming our commitment to democracy.

Our engagements with all armed groups shall be about disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation or DDR. From negotiations, our focus shall shift to dialogues with the communities, or government conducting authentic conversations or dialogues with the people. All armed groups must account for all of their actions not only to the government but most especially to the people. The force of arms does not entitle any armed group to represent the people.

DDR is about the people and government telling armed groups to give up armed struggle. Change shall be defined primarily by the people and the government.

So in this way that CAMPI has been a steady partner in our nation's 28 quarters of consecutive growth, I have high hopes that CAMPI will also be a staunch supporter, in fact, an influential supporter in our quest for long-lasting peace in Mindanao and therefore in the whole Philippines.

And in this environment, I have high hopes that the Philippine automotive industry will stand strong and continue to expand our country's presence in the global value chain of automotive manufacturing.

Maraming salamat sa inyo. Congratulations on this motor show! (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Speech during the Opening of the 2nd Philippine International Motor Show (PIMS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115527/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1635&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Toyota Motor Corporation's Twenty Years of Solid Partnership Celebration

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Toyota Motor Corporation's Twenty Years of Solid Partnership Celebration**

[Delivered at the Rizal Grand Ballroom, The Shangri-La, Makati City, August 22, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Favila for your introduction. Chairman Cho, Chairman Ty, Ambassador Katsura, Senator Angara, Congressman Zialcita, other officials of Toyota, President Roman of the University of the Philippines, other Filipino guests, ladies and gentlemen: Please sit down of those of you who have seats.

Congratulations, Toyota Philippines, on your 20th anniversary. (Applause) And on this occasion you inaugurated your new 5.6 billion peso transmission plant. Congratulations! (Applause)

Your expansion brings Toyota's investment in our country to 20 billion pesos, thank you. (Applause) And as Chairman Ty said earlier you have paid over 80 billion pesos in taxes to the Philippine government and you give jobs to 12,000 workers. (Applause) Moreover, you export 700 million dollars a year of auto-parts and components making up 27 percent of our exports. (Applause) Thank you for that.

You contribute to the growth of the great Filipino worker with your 100 million peso donation to the University of the Philippines on its 100th anniversary, thank you. (Applause) You contribute to Green Philippines, by reforesting the Sierra Madre in Peñablanca, Cagayan, (Applause) and you contribute to the world's effort to reduce climate change by selling fuel-efficient and environment- friendly new hybrid models.(Applause) These models can shift from gasoline-fuel to electric power at a touch of a button. We hope to see them soon in the Philippines. I already have one, (laughter) but more than that, we hope you produce a part of them in the Philippines. Just like our economy, one of the best values for investment in Asia, the local automotive industry has been able to withstand the full force of a growing global economic slowdown. Local vehicle sales have grown by 14 percent this year, in sharp contrast to the two-digit slump in automobile sales in the U.S. Congratulations! (Applause) And back in Sta. Rosa Laguna, we have a Detroit of the Philippines. (Applause)

And to have you grow your market, upon my instructions, the Department of Finance, Customs and the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group have formed PORTAL or Ports Transparency Alliance. This is a government-civil society body tasked to monitor collection efforts, gather lifestyle and corruption information, and follow up major smuggling cases. We hope Toyota is active in this body. (Applause)

Let's work together to stop smuggling, and thereby ensure an expanding market for local-made vehicles. (Applause) That way, we can encourage more of your investments in the Philippines.

For your investments, it is also essential to maintain a peaceful and orderly society. You're our neighbors in Japan; you do a lot of business in the Philippines, so most of you are aware of the recent violence created by lawless MILF groups. I have directed the military and police forces to conduct full, vigorous and unrelenting pursuit operations against the rogue MILF elements.

The targeted 105th, 103rd and 102nd Base Commands are historically the recalcitrants. They have created trouble before and during the proceedings of the peace process. And they are the ones we would expect to create problems even after a final agreement would be forged between the government and the MILF.

The peace process must be anchored on justice. Hence, the MILF must turn in Commanders Umbra Kato, Bravo and Pangalian to face the bar of justice. We have never deviated from the objectives of the peace process. The campaign we are waging is intended to remove the obstacles to peace.

There is no all-out war. We are doing this to have an all-out peace in Mindanao. We have enough troops and law enforcers to address the situation, protect the people, prevent the lawless MILF groups from further terrorizing them, and maintain peace and order in Mindanao. But I bring these news here on this festive occasion because we need the support and cooperation of all sectors, including the automotive and other industries, including civil society and NGOs like the Toyota Foundation.

With the support of all sectors, there will be permanent peace in Mindanao. We have worked hard together, in fact, we are talking about 20 years of partnership and earlier in the private call, Chairman Ty said that Toyota, Philippines has been working as hard as the President of the Philippines. (Applause) With our hard work together and with our strong economic fundamentals which has helped us to be able to weather the global economic slowdown, we will attain the vision of First World status within in the next 20 years of Toyota in the Philippines.

Happy Anniversary and thank you! (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Toyota Motor Corporation's Twenty Years of Solid Partnership Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115522/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1633&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Global Gateway Logistics City,
August 25, 2008**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Global Gateway Logistics City**

[Delivered at Clarkfield, Pampanga, August 25, 2008]

Last December, we were in Kuwait. The visit was a humanitarian mission, to ask for the commutation of Marilou Ranario and May Vecina's death sentences. And we thank His Royal Highness the Amir of Kuwait for granting our plea.

The visit also gave us the chance to advance Philippine economic and investment opportunities with business leaders. We're able to showcase our country's extraordinary value for investment: a strategic location, a productive and English speaking work force. These are increasingly being recognized by foreign investors all over the world, from Europe and North America to the Middle East as explained to us by his Highness Sheikh Al Sabah.

We have had a chance to meet with many prestigious Kuwaiti companies and we are very happy about the interests that they are expressing to invest here in the Philippines. Among the firms, the Kuwaiti firms we've met with are the Kuwait Gulf and Link group or KGL. And we encouraged them to avail of the significant opportunities offered by our country.

I remember one night, or was it a day time when Ambassador Rabi brought Sheikh Al Sabah, and we talk about the prospective investments here and want some of the bottlenecks might be, and I called up Nestor Mangyo and behold, the bottlenecks were gone, right Nestor? Congratulations!

And so it is with joy that we now launch the logistics and service center of KGL, to be called the Global Gateway Logistics City here in Clark.

Last April during my birthday celebration, we witnessed the signing of the agreements for this project. Now, it's only four months after that, and we see it beginning to take off. Welcome to Clark! Welcome to the Philippines! We thank you for your trust in our economy.

We ended 2007 with the strongest economic growth in a generation.

Our nation is on the move. For the first time in a very long time, we're on track to balance our budget. We have the revenues needed in the bank to invest in our people. And Invest we do: in education, the environment, healthcare. In roads, bridges and basic infrastructure like the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway. How many of you have driven through the SCTEX? I'm sure a lot of you and I'm sure those who have will agree that it improves our transport system and ability to move people and products.

We have made tough choices. And our congressmen helped us make those tough choices. I want to thank them again through our Congressman Tarzan Lazatin here. And the congressman from Batangas, another favorite destination of Kuwaiti investors, Dodong Mandanas. And because of these tough choices that Congress helped us with, the global crisis occurring now did not catch us helpless and unprepared. Through foresight, grit and political will, we have built a shield that has slowed and somewhat softened the worst effects of the global crisis on our country.

And with the investment venture we are launching today, KGL joins Texas Instruments and other members of our billion dollar club.

As was explained in the briefing earlier, the Global Gateway Logistics City will be a world class logistics and business park, eventually worth over \$1 billion. We are here, we can hardly wait to see it when it's there, a billion dollars worth of logistics and service facilities.

This is part of the 10-point legacy that I unveiled in 2004. The 10-point legacy can be remembered by the acronym BEAT THE ODDS: budget, education, automated elections, transport and digital infrastructure, terminating the rebellion and bringing peace to Mindanao, healing the wounds of EDSA, electricity and water, opportunities for jobs, decongesting Metro Manila, and finally, DS in BEAT THE ODDS is Developing Subic-Clark into a competitive service and logistics center.

And that's why I made it a point to have this event because today's launching boosts our legacy number 10.

The Global Gateway Logistics City as shown in the briefing earlier will be the first fully integrated master-planned center for airport and aviation-oriented operations and businesses in the Philippines. It will be a crucial hub in what we envision to be the best service and logistics center in the region. We anticipate with excitement their state-of-the-art facilities – we see the drawings — including excellent infrastructure, a comprehensive security system, which is just the phase I and sophisticated communications networks, along with many other physical amenities. And we count on Global Gateway to be managed and maintained to the highest international standards, befitting the international companies who will be locating here.

Today's launching also gives flesh to the agreement on tourism signed earlier this month during the official visit of His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait.

During its construction phase and when it becomes operational, this project will give job opportunities for the great Filipino worker. Our great Filipino workers' skills are known and acknowledged in Kuwait. Kuwait hosts the third largest Filipino community in the Middle East – over a hundred thousand Filipinos. But when His Highness the Prime Minister visited last week, he said they would welcome even a million Filipinos. There is no limit; there is no quota to limit the number of Filipino workers in Kuwait. Indeed, we're happy to have KGL here because Kuwait has been a very good friend of the Philippines.

Kuwait was the first Arab country to extend a developmental loan to the Philippines 30 years ago. Its biggest project is the road from Pagadian through Lanao del Norte and Sur and Maguindanao to Cotabato City -115 kilometers. And now during the visit of the Prime Minister, they formalized the offer to help upgrade the Davao Regional Hospital into a national cancer center, the Cotabato Regional Medical Center into a regional cancer center, and modernize the Zamboanga Medical Center surgery block.

The Kuwaiti government's projects and the Kuwaiti investments in our country such as these KGL Logistics and Service Hub inspire our efforts to achieve legacy number 5, to bring peace to Mindanao so that our Muslim brothers would be truly a part of the unified Philippine society.

We have never deviated from the objectives of the peace process. But peace must be anchored on justice. The rampage of some lawless MILF groups in Mindanao calls for resolute military and police action. The P10 million reward for Commanders Kato and Bravo manifests the government's firm resolve to hasten the neutralization of these criminals so that justice can be achieved and we can move on with the peace process. The targeted lawless groups are historically the recalcitrant commands. They are the ones who've been creating trouble before and during the proceedings of the peace process. And, they likely will be the ones to create problems even after a final agreement would be forged between the government and the MILF. So the campaign against them is intended to remove the obstacles to the peace process.

So I say to the Filipinos; to the world; to our Muslim brothers in the South; to the OIC through our Kuwaiti friends, there is no all-out war. What we are doing, we are doing to have all-out peace in Mindanao.

We wish for all insurgents to turn their swords into plowshares, their arms to farms.

We ask all sectors to be with us, including our brothers in the OIC.

To our Kuwaiti and American friends, for your support for Mindanao, for your compassion for our Filipinos in Kuwait and in the United States, and for this investment, in these all important Logistics and Service Center, we thank you! We are confident that Global Gateway Logistics City will become a sterling investment of beacon and progress.

Thank you very much. *Daghang salamat kekongan.*

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the 100th anniversary of the Philippines Free Press Magazine

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 100th anniversary of the Philippines Free Press Magazine

[Delivered at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City, August 27, 2008]

Thank you. Thank you very much, Teddy. That was such a beautiful introduction. And to all the other members of the Locsin family; to the Philippines Free Press publishers, personnel, readers, fans; to everyone, Happy Centennial! (Applause)

No one can do justice to such a venerable institution as the Philippines Free Press in quantifying its one century of contribution to national life.

To begin with, any privately-owned publication who reaches a hundred years deserves congratulations enough for surviving in one of the most competitive industries anywhere in the world.

What more if in its long and remarkable history, the publication can boast, not only of producing so many great Filipino writers, but also of reflecting in its own life the saga of the Philippines itself.

The struggles of our nation are interwoven with the work of the Philippines Free Press' people: the publisher who steered it over decades, ensuring its survival against economic and political threats; the editors and writers who made sure it not only gave people the news accurately and in timely fashion each week, but also helped cast the information and analysis in a manner that, as you've said earlier, inspires and illuminates in a manner that encourages discernment and inspired action.

And, of course, as we celebrate the centennial of Philippines Free Press, we cannot do it without paying tribute to the man who did the most in shaping the Philippines Free Press into a magazine that has become so irresistible as a fountain of truth and knowledge — Teodoro Locsin, Sr. (Applause)

He was a tireless worker, a brilliant writer, but beyond that he was a social advocate. He was in the newsroom, but he was beyond the newsroom. He lived as he believed; he advocated, as Teddy said, the noble causes of social justice, democracy and freedom in every possible way, disregarding the consequences to his own self.

He staked his fortune, liberty and life for causes. He opposed the Japanese invaders. He opposed martial law. In fact, he refused to open his paper, reopen his magazine until the snap elections were announced.

My own personal favorite part of his career, of course, was the one in between these two great historic events — that moment of his career when his life, his mission, as Teddy recounted so eloquently, was intertwined with the life mission of my father, President Diosdado Macapagal.

Because Teodoro Locsin, next only to freedom, was most concerned with social justice. And among the most important social causes that he advocated was the cause of land reform. And, indeed, Teddy recounts the great difficulties of my father in enacting land reform.

My father knew that in abolishing tenancy, he would encounter the traditional and formidable opposition of the landlords and powerful interests, and so he was so fortunate to have the support of Teodoro Locsin — the man in the Philippines Free Press who was the most advocate champion of land reform.

So realizing that the Senate was in control of the opposition, my father could only count on the most important, most effective countervailing force then, and that was the support of Teodoro Locsin, Sr. (Applause)

And so, it's propitious for me now to be present at this most important milestone to represent my late father because had he been here, he would even be more profuse than I in paying tribute to Teodoro Locsin, one of the finest personifications of Philippine journalism. Why is it propitious today? Not only because of the intertwining of the mission of Teodoro Locsin, Sr. and my father but also because this year the life of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law will lapse in December.

And once again, I count on a Locsin, a Locsin in Congress and the Locsins in the Free Press to champion its extension. (Applause) And I hope that we can work together, the way your father and my father did to have an extension of land reform with reforms that will truly emancipate and empower the farmer to be an agribusinessperson. Indeed, tonight, what we are saying is that history repeats itself.

In this mission to extend land reform, I count not only on the Philippines Free Press but on other media advocates for social justice.

Journalists are critical to maintaining our strong democracy. We need not overstress that. On the other hand, as Teddy says, it can reveal, it can conceal. In the words of Joseph Pulitzer: "A cynical, mercenary, demagogic press will produce in time a people as base as itself."

These are words of great precautionary value to those who seek shelter under the freedoms advanced by such as Pulitzer and Locsin, but disdain the concurrent responsibilities on their part to be disinterested and public spirited. Freedom in the hands of such as these who want the freedom without the responsibility degenerates into a callous license to aspire to little more than gossipy headlines and inflated circulation numbers, no matter what cost must be paid in the debasement of public discourse. That's why in times like this, we need institutions like the Philippines Free Press to stand like pillars of our most important freedoms and our most important responsibilities.

I deplore the killings, be they from left or right, against journalists. We aim to break this sad historical cycle. We are focused on bringing perpetrators to justice, working with Congress to pass new laws to protect victims and jail criminals, and exhort the nation to leave behind its terrible legacy of political violence and clan vendettas.

We've been making progress in stopping the tragic killings of journalists. Our law enforcement agencies have been achieving success in bringing to justice those who carry out these crimes. That has been the case in the tragic killings of the broadcasters: Dennis Cuesta, Martin Roxas and Bert Sison. I established a task force to especially pursue the cases of the killings of journalists with Administrative Order 211. That's why the task force is called Task Force 211. It is a body established specifically to address these terrible crimes against journalists, and the head of this right now is the Undersecretary of Justice Ric Buenaflor.

A few days ago, and a few minutes ago when I talked to him on the phone, he said that the cooperation of the families of the broadcasters, of these three broadcasters, contributed greatly to the solution of these cases. The cases were solved in an average of nine working days after the perpetration. And in the case of the killing of Roxas, the suspected killers have already been arrested.

It only shows that crimes such as these cannot be resolved by the government alone. Task Force 211 and our various law enforcement agencies need the support and cooperation of all stakeholders if we are to end these killings once and for all. Individuals who provide vital information against criminals who prey on journalists will be placed, if they choose, in the Department of Justice's Witness Protection program for their security and protection. What I would like to say this evening, in this tribute to 100 years of the Philippines Free Press, in this tribute to the great proponent of freedom, Teodoro Locsin, Sr., that we will stop at nothing to protect the lives of our nation's media men and women.

We welcome all the cooperation that media can provide, especially we welcome the cooperation from such a fine paper as the Philippines Free Press.

The lifelong cause of the Philippines Free Press has been, not just to chronicle the most important moments of the republic, but to articulate the sharpest insights and deepest aspirations of its people. In having done these tasks so well, the Philippines Free Press itself is worthy of being chronicled. The Philippines Free Press has lived for a hundred years, but worthy as it is to be chronicled we cannot even begin to quantify the debt that the Filipinos owe the Philippines Free Press for all the triumphs over evil, over ignorance, over despair. And, certainly, I will not even try. As Teddy says, all we have to do is to look at the treasure trove of the Philippines Free Press. And we can see that each story will live forever as the flame that burns in the hearts of all good and free peoples in the Philippines and all over the world.

Once again, Congratulations and Happy Centennial to the Philippines Free Press! Thank you. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the 100th Anniversary of the Philippines Free Press Magazine. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115515/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1629&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 10th anniversary celebration of the Busig-On Festival [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa selebrasyon ng ika-10 anibersaryo ng Busig-On Festival**

[Ipinahayag sa Labo Sports Center, Brgy. Piña, Labo, Camarines Norte, ika 1 ng Setyembre, 2008]

Maraming salamat Secretary Andaya, ang ating Cabinet Officer for Regional Development, sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin. Although namiyesta na ako dito dati kaya magkakilala na tayo, di ba?

Mayor Winnie Oco, salamat sa pag-imbata mo sa akin ngayong fiesta. Noong huling inimbata mo ako vice mayor ka pa. (applause) I'm very happy to be here again. Congresswoman Chato, Governor Typoco, lahat ng official sa lalawigan at iba't-ibang bayan ng Camarines Norte, mga kaibigan, Happy Busig-on Festival sa inyong lahat! (applause)

At pagkakataon kong magpasalamat sa inyo sa tulong ninyo sa akin, dahil mula nung nagsimula akong tumakbo noong 1992 bawat halalan nananalo ako sa Labo. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Kanina nung lumipad kami papunta dito sa helicopter dinaanan yung malaking ilog ng Busig-on at nabasa ko na yung bale yung summary noong epiko ni Busig-on, at ang masasabi natin ang bayan ng Labo ay tulad ni Busig-on — malakas, matapang, matibay. (applause) Kayo'y karapat-dapat na angkan ng inyong epic hero. At nangunguna sa pagpupunyagi ang inyong masipag na pinunong lokal, si Mayor Winnie Oco, Outstanding Mayor of 2006. (applause) Kasi mula nung nagpunta ako dito nang namiyesta sa inyo, dito mismo sa plazang ito, bago na ang palengke, nadagdagan ang commercial building at kalsada. Gumanda ang munisipyo. May bago kayong local government site. So, congratulations mga taga Labo! (applause)

At ang inyong Mayor si Winnie ay pangulo ng Mayors' League ng Camarines Norte at ng buong Luzon. (applause) At si Vice Mayor Pardo naman ay pangulo ng Vice Mayors' League. (applause) Pati pangulo ng Municipal Councilors' League ng Camarines Norte ay galing sa inyo. Kaya, congratulations sa mga taga Labo! (applause)

At isa pa, nandoon yung inyong opisyal sa Malacañang hindi nagtatagal kasi kayo ang nasa National Gawad Kalasag Hall of Fame (applause) for being the Best Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council sa buong Pilipinas dahil tatlong taong sunod-sunod ay nanalo na kayo as Best Municipal Coordinating Council kaya Hall of Fame na kayo. (applause) Sana lalo pang mapatuloy ang magandang disaster coordination ninyo lalo na at ngayon ay may naibigay na dalawang rubber boat sa inyo para sa inyong mga rescue operations.

At padagdag natin, nagkamit din ng 2008 National Gawad Kalasag Individual Citation Award ang inyong municipal defense coordinator, si Dr. Carlos Galvez. (applause) Na hindi ba kayo rin Dr. Galvez ang sumulat ng epiko ni Busig-on. (applause) Kaya, congratulations!

Noong ako ay naupo bilang pangulo nung 2001, ang Bicol na inabutan ko ang pangalawang pinakamahirap na rehiyon sa buong bansa. Pero hindi na ngayon. Ang Bicol nalampasan na ang dalawang rehiyon sa laban sa kahirapan. Congratulations sa inyong pag-angat! (applause) Nakatulong nang malaki rito ang kahandaan at kakayahan sa trabaho ng mga taga-Bicol at ang paggugol ng pamalahaan ng malaking pondo sa inyong rehiyon. Pati nga ang ating Secretary of the Budget ay anak ng Bicol, si Nonoy Andaya. (applause) Matibay ang political will ng pamahalaang lokal at pambansa para sa Bicol.

And para sa Bicol at buong bansa, we have been working tirelessly to address challenges arising from the slowdown in the global economy combined with the spike in high oil and food prices. But the fact is this is a global phenomenon. These global forces are causing real difficulties for our people.

Kaya, we have been working very hard to make sure that our country's food supply remain stable and we put food on the table for every Bicolano and every Filipino. Itong Camarines Norte, hindi kayo net producer ng bigas. Kayo ay bumibili ng bigas mula sa ibang lalawigan. Yung IRRI, yung International Rice Research Institute, ang kanilang recommendation kung gusto natin na agad-agad lumaki ang ani ng bigas, dapat ibuhos ang pera doon sa mga probinsyang marami nang pinoproduce ang bigas. Kaya kung susundin natin yung guideline na yun ay medyo ang gagawin sa Camarines Norte ay hindi production kung hindi transportation.

Ngunit sabi ni Governor Typoco na ang kailangan ninyo ay three million pesos para gumawa ng feasibility study para magkaroon ng irrigation yung Busig-on River, na sabi naman ni Congresswoman Chato ay maghahalaga ng 360 million buong-buo. Para masimulaan ninyo ang feasibility study ay meron akong tsekeng 1.5 million pesos counterpart, (applause) para magsimula ng feasibility study ng Busig-on Irrigation System. Pero gaya nang sabi ko, hanggang matayo yung irrigation system ngayon ang sagot para sa Camarines Norte para hindi magmahal ang pagkain na binibili ninyo lalo na ang bigas, we are cutting costs through more efficient transport.

At importante maganda ang inyong Maharlika Highway, lalo na mula sa Camarines Sur gawa nang ito ang pinanggagalingan ng inyong bigas. Kaya siguro nahahalata niyo ilang tulay ay halos sabay-sabay na ginagawa dito sa bandang Labo to Daet, at natapos na yung nasa Barangay Malangkaw to Basud. Ito ay para mabilis at hindi magastos ang biyahe.

Nabalitaan ko rin na malapit nang matapos ang farm-to-market road network ng bayang ito. Meron nga akong binigay nang kaunti diyaan kay Winnie pero ang kabutihan ay bumili raw kayo ng heavy equipment at nagtutulong-tulong ang iba'tibang barangay at maging mga pamahalaang lalawigan para dumami ang inyong farmto-market roads at barangay roads. Kaya, congratulations! (applause)

Kanina nung kami ay lumilipad hindi lamang yung Ilog Busig-on ang napapansin kung hindi yung malawak na taniman ng niyog at naaalala ko nung huling pagpunta ko rito marami rin kayong pinyahan. Yung niyog marami pero kulang pa.

Noong 2005, nagpunta rito, nagsimula yung Birla Group diyaan sa Jose Panganiban. Yung Birla Group ay isa sa pinakamalaking conglomerate sa India, at sila ay nagtayo ng kumpanyang Pan Century Surfactants upang gumawa ng fatty alcohol mula sa coco feedstock. Nung nalaman nila na ako ay pupunta dito sa Labo, sabi nila kung pwede dumaan doon pagkatapos. Mag ga-groundbreak tayo ng isang expansion nila, pero dinig ko na isa sa idadaing sa akin ay kulang sila sa raw materials ng niyog. Yun talaga ang nangyayari ngayon sa Southern Luzon. Yung doon sa Quezon, yung Franklin Baker na malaki-malaking pabrika lumipat sa Mindanao kasi binibili na nila yung kaniyang niyog mula sa Mindanao, kulang na sa Quezon. So ayaw natin na lumipat naman yung mga pabrika mula dito sa Camarines Norte, kaya meron din akong dalang tseke na one million pesos para palaguin ang inyong niyog na pwede maibenta doon sa Birla. (applause)

Sa pinya naman, ang Camarines Norte ay kilalang-kilala sa queen pineapple. At kwinento ni Governor Typoco sa akin na sa Basud, yung meron nang Chinese Corporation na bibili ng one million boxes of queen pineapple kaya importantengimportante palaguin natin ang pinya, yung queen pineapple. At siguro naririnig ninyo niyo yung tatak na Libby's, yung canned good, Libby's. Natikman ng mga may-ari ang ating queen pineapple dito sa CamNorte. Kaya pumunta sila dito para maghanap ng queen pineapple at kung kailangan magtayo ng joint venture na gagawa ng taniman at gagawa ng canning para sa pinya.

Pero yung isang malaking gumagawa ng pinya dito, nagtatanim, si Flora, si Aling Flora, sabi ni Liway, ay malaki na ang kanyang benta — raw, raw pinya sa ibang bansa. Eh yung fresh mas maganda ang presyo kaysa sa canned kaya hindi dapat tanggalin yung fresh para gawing canned dapat magdagdag tayo ng pinya, queen pinya dahil yung kasalukuyang production ng queen pinya sa Camarines Norte, maging sa Basud, maging sa Daet is already fully booked with orders. Kaya pagkakataon sana na pasukan ito ng Labo. Yung gastos para magpalawak ng patanim ng pinya at para gumawa ng canning factory at para magkaroon ng testing ng DOST yung shelf life ng pinya, queen pinya, ang gastos doon ay 10 million U.S. dollars. Eh hindi ko dala ang tsekeng 10 million U.S. dollars. Pero handa ang Department of Agriculture at ang Development Bank of the Philippines na pondohan ang farm development and

canning plant kung papayag ang Labo na magtatanim kayo at gagawa kayo ng pabrika. Payag ba kayo doon? (applause) Yes.

In the meantime, we have also been introducing measures to lift the burden of high oil prices on our people. However, no matter what actions we take, this is a global problem. We must work together to resolve these issues if we are to see any significant recovery in the global economy. Kaya kanina mayroon tayong mga binigay na piglet at binhi ng mais at gulay para dagdag na kita ng iba't-ibang mga bayan ng Camarines Norte. At sana nakatulong rin yung Bicol CARE Fund na inilagay ni Nonoy Andaya sa budget nung isang taon pagkatapos daanan kayo ng apat na malalakas na bagyo dito sa Bicol.

Ang pasiya o political willpower ng mga Bikolano at ang katatagan ng inyong katauhan ay kay dami nang beses nasubukan. Maging karaos lamang ng unos ng bagyo, mababakas sa pagmumukha ninyo ang matibay niyong pasiyang mamayani.

Kaya mga kababayan sa Labo, sa inyong pakagandang mga katangian, mga katangian ni Busig-on patuloy pang gaganda ang takbo ng inyong buhay sa bayan ng Labo. (applause)

Kaya sa inyong lahat, sa mga nakamit na ninyo at makakamit pa rin ninyo, sa susunod na sampung taon pa na pinagdidiriwang ang epiko ni Busig-on, congratulations sa inyong tagumpay. At sa inyong suporta, maraming-maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 10th anniversary celebration of the Busig-On Festival. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412111951/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1710&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the commemoration of the 112th anniversary of the “Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija” [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa komemorasyon ng ika-112 anibersaryo ng “Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija”**

[Ipinahayag sa Main Hall, Nueva Ecija Convention Center, Lungsod ng Palayan, Nueva Ecija, ika 2 ng Setyembre, 2008]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Governor Oyi Umali sa iyong pag-imbita sa akin dito sa napakaimportanteng pagdiriwang ng Nueva Ecija, ang Anibersaryo ng Unang Sigaw.

Maraming salamat din kay Mayor Capinpin, ang ating host city mayor; (Applause) ang ating mga congresswomen, si Cherry Umali at saka si Nely Chavez; (Applause) at ang ating iba’t-ibang mga opisyal ng lalawigan maging yung mga opisyal ng iba’t-ibang bayan ng Nueva Ecija. At hindi ko na babanggitin ang napakaraming Cabinet members a kasama ko itong araw na ito pero open sila lahat mamaya pag gusto maginterview ang ocal media sa kanila. (Applause)

At siyempre higit sa lahat sa matatapang at magigiting na mga Nuevo Ecijano, Happy Anniversary ng Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija! (Applause)

Nakilala ng buong sambayanan ang katapangan ng mga taga-Nueva Ecija nang tanggapin ang hamon ni Andres Bonifacio na mag-alsa laban sa mga Kastila. Kabilang kayo, pati na rin yung aking lalawigang Pampanga, sa unang walong lalawigang naghimagsik. Kaya yung ating probinsya nakatanim na sa ating kasaysayan ang kadakilaan dahil sinigasig sa walong sinag ng araw ang ating bandila kasama ang probinsiya kong Pampanga. Kaya naalala niyo nung nag celebrate tayo ng Independence Day nung June 12 kasama ang Nueva Ecija sa walong lalawigan kung saan ipinagdiriwang natin ang Independence Day. Congratulations sa ating lahat! (Applause)

Lalo pang hinangaan ang pag-alsa ng Nueva Ecija nang talunin ninyo sa San Isidro ang mga Guardia Sibil at prayle, sa pangunguna nina Kapitan Mariano Llanera at Kapitan Pantaleon Valmonte.

Napagtagumpayan natin ang ating kasarinlan sa mga hintulong ng Nueva Ecija. Ngunit ngayon patuloy pa rin tayong hinahamon sa kasalukuyang panahon. Pero iba na ang ating kalaban, ‘di na Kastila. Tumutulong pa nga ang mga Kastila sa atin ngayon. Ang hamon sa atin ngayon ay kaunlaran sa harap ng paghina ng ekonomiya ngayon sa buong mundo, at hamon din ay kasarinlan sa bigas, dahil masyadong nagmamahal na ang presyo ng bigas sa buong mundo. At ang sigaw din ay kakayahang bilhin ang langis sa pamamagitan ng ating kitang dolyar.

We have been working tirelessly to address challenges arising from the slowdown in the global economy combined with the spike in high oil and food prices. The fact is that this is a global phenomenon. These global forces are causing difficulties for all countries around the world, at hindi exempted ang Pilipinas. So, we have been working hard to make sure that our country’s food supplies remain stable and we put food on the table for every Filipino.

At dito sa pagsisikap na ito napakahalaga ang Nueva Ecija. (Applause) Nangunguna kayo sa produksyon ng bigas sa buong bansa. (Applause) Biniyayaan kayo ng malawak at kapatagan at mayamang lupain na pinanggagalingan ng bigas para sa ating mga kababayan. Alam niyo tinatanong nga nila, bakit ba tayo ay nag-iimport pa ng bigas? Eh, dahil hindi lahat ng lalawigan ay parang Nueva Ecija. Yun ang dahilan. (Applause) Maraming ibang lalawigan sa Pilipinas bulubundukin, yun lupa mabato at walang malaking ilog na nagpapabigay ng tubig. Kung yung Nueva Ecija, yung kapatagan at yung pagkaganda ng lupa ay ganun sana yung buong Pilipinas, ‘di parang Vietnam na sana

tayo na yung buong Vietnam ay Mekong Delta, pero hindi ganuon. Kanya lamang, although wala ring Mekong ang Nueva Ecija, pinuno naman natin ito, gaya nang sabi ni Oyi lalo na sa ating administrasyon ng napakalaking gastos sa agrikultura, sa irigasyon pati na rin malalaking kalsada. At sabi ni Oyi kayo ay kapwa bahagi ng North Luzon Agri-business Quadrangle dahil nga kayo ay nangunguna sa produksyon ng bigas pero bahagi rin kayo sa Luzon Urban Beltway. Kaya nagtatayo tayo ng magagandang kalsada kasama kayo dito sa ating ginagawang kalsada. (Applause)

Kanina nga tinanong ko okay Oyi kumusta na yung ating... yung parang sphere kasi meron tayong napakagandang expressway system mula Tarlac at saka Subic, daan ng Clark hanggang Metro Manila. May aayusing koneksyon sa North Luzon Expressway hanggang sa C-5 diretso na hanggang sa Batangas Port. Pero meron diyang branch magko-cross ng Nueva Ecija hanggang sa Aurora. (Applause) Tanong ko kay Oyi kanina, kumusta yung kalsadang yun? Sabi ni Oyi, ang nagkukulang doon ay yung sa Pantabangan hanggang sa border. Eh, tinatawagan ko na si Jun Ebdane, mabuti kinorek ako ni Cherry Umali. Sabi niya, nandoon na sa budget ng 2008. (Applause) Kaya yun ay bahagi ng inyong pagka Luzon Urban Beltway.

Pero hindi lamang yun, mula 2001, naglagay tayo ng mga bagong patubig para sa dalawangdaang libong ektarya para sa Nueva Ecija, kasama na dito ang Casecnan at yung Aulo. Noong isang taon nga, wala ako sa malaking pulong niyo na ganito nung Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija, pero nandoon kami nina Oyi, nina Cherry doon sa Aulo Dam dahil binuksan natin yung Aulo Dam nung isang taon. (Applause) Pero hindi lang yun, pinapaalala sa akin ni Artie Yap na ito ang mga Irrigators Association president sila mismo ang nagsabi pinabuhay muli natin yung mga lumang patubig sa labinlimang libong ektarya. In fact, ang ating administrasyon lamang ang nag-repair ng lahat ng irigasyon na napabayaan mula nang sila itinayo. (Applause)

Noong 2001, wala pang isandaang libong ektarya ang may irigasyon sa Nueva Ecija. Ngayon, 135,000 hectares na. (Applause) Magbigay lang tayo ng ilang halimbawa — nandito yung mga presidente ng mga Irrigators Association — pero sabi ko kay Arty, bigyan mo lang ako ng dalawang halimbawa ng individual na nakinabang sa ating irigasyon.

Si Marcelo de Vera — nandiyan ba si Marcelo de Vera? Yun! Ginoong Marcelo – ang kasaysayan, si Ginoong Marcelo ay taga Santa Ana, Guimba. Noon nagbubungkal ng limang ektarya at nag-aani ng pitungpong cavan. Ngayon at may Casecnan nagbubungkal ng sampung ektarya, at bawat ektarya 130 cavans per hectare ang kanyang ani. (Applause) Dito naman mismo yung binuksan natin nung isang taon na Aulo — nandiyan ba si Ginoong Onofre Bautista? Yun! Barangay Aulo — (Applause) nandito siya umakyat dito sa entablado, sabi ko, Ginoong Bautista kikwento ko ang istorya mo ha? Dati nagbubungkal ng isang ektarya lamang at nag-aani ng animnapung kaban. Ngayon at may irigasyon sa Aulo, nagbubungkal siya ng dalawang ektarya, nadoble, at per hectare 170 cavans. (Applause)

Kaya dapat isigaw ng Nueva Ecija, Mabuhay! ang mga irrigator ng Casecnan-Aulo-Pantabangan at iba pang maliliit na sistema. (Applause)

At maraming nagpapanukala na gagawin din ang patubig ng Balintingon sa pamamagitan ng build-operate-and-transfer. (Applause) So, Oyi sana pormal na ipasok na nila yung kanilang proposal. Samantala, inatasan ko si Secretary Artie Yap na ihanda na rin yung bidding documents para kung nahihiya sila mag-submit ng proposal i-aadvertise na lang natin para mag-submit ng mga proposal. (Applause)

Kanina, meron tayong mga binigay na mga tseke — yun ay mga tsekeng pampautang. May mga diretso galing sa Land Bank, may mga dadaan sa mga iba't-ibang rural bank at mga cooperative. At ito lang ang mga ilang halimbawa na mga napahiram nung Land Bank itong taong ito sa magsasaka ng Nueva Ecija. At ang buong pautang ay 1.2 billion pesos na ang napautang ng Land Bank sa magsasaka ng Nueva Ecija itong taong 2008 lamang. At para mas mabisa ang paggamit ng pautang, inatasan ko rin si Secretary Artie Yap na palakasin ang mga kooperatiba nung Nueva Ecija — 48 silang lahat-lahat Artie, hindi ba? May mga halimbawa diyan na pinapalakas sa Nueva Ecija yung mga umakyat dito sa entablado, yung Talabutab, yung Pakul, (Applause) yung Bagong Bayan, yung UPRIS, at iba pa. Papano sila pinapalakas? Sila ay binibigyan ng preyoridad na makakuha ng pautang sa pamamagitan ng guarantee fund ng Land Bank. So, eto ay isang tulong din sa ating magsasaka.

At bahagi rin nung mga tsekeng na ibigay natin — ‘di ba mga subsidiyo yun para sa seeds? Nagbigay tayo sa Nueva Ecija ng subsidiyo mula Mayo hanggang Agosto, ito yung planting season. At kanina may dagdag pa dahil malapit na kayo mag-ani, malapit na kayo magtanim muli. Para sa 140,000 bags ng binhi, ang subsidiyo ay 1,500 pesos para sa hybrid at 760 pesos para sa certified seeds. (Applause)

Kanina, sa talumpati ni Oyi, sabi niya sa inyo, na para bang narinig ko yung sinabi ni John F. Kennedy: “Ask not what the country can do for you, but what you can do for the country” — kayo mga taga Nueva Ecija. Isang masasabi ko, in return for what we have invested in the farms of Nueva Ecija to meet the challenge of today, we count on Nueva Ecija to feed our people (Applause) and get them through these globally hard times.

Pero hindi lang kayo ang nagpapakain, hindi lang kayo nagpapakain sa taumbayan dahil tayo ay kailangan umangkat ng langis na 10 percent lamang natin napo-produce sa loob ng ating bansa at kailangan din tayo mag-earn ng dollars sa pamamagitan ng export. At kayo bilang bahagi ng Luzon Urban Beltway ay inaasahan din kayo doon at yun ang dahilan kung bakit nandito ang Gabinete hindi lang para ihatid ang mga proyektong lalong magpapasigla sa agribusiness kundi na rin sa export ninyo. Baka nagugulat kayo, nag-eexport din ang Nueva Ecija — yung organic brown rice, yun ineexport yun. Yung isang korporasyon ay yung Better Country Community Corporation sa Gapan City — nandito ba sila? Inimbata ko sila doon sa Cabinet meeting – nageexport din kayo ng rice coffee, nanggaling ito sa Science City of Muñoz Food Products. Nag-eexport din kayo ng handicraft from cogon at saka yung Runo Handicrafts at iba pa. At yun ay pag-uusapan mamaya dahil yung buong Export Development Council ng buong Pilipinas ay nandito ngayon kasama ang Gabinete. (Applause)

We have also been introducing measures to lift the burden of high oil prices.

At para dito patuloy na gagamitan ng pamahalaan ang lumalago nating yaman upang tulungan ang mga pamilyang naghihirap sa taas ng bilihan sa buong mundo at hampas ng bagyo habang nagpupundar upang sanggahan ang bayan sa mga krisis na hinaharap.

Maraming kwinento si Oyi nung panahon nang siya ay congressman, at gusto ko naman magpasalamat kay Oyi na nung siya ay congressman isa siya doon sa mga tumulong para maipasa natin yung mga reporma sa buwis na nagpopondo ngayon ng mga irigasyon, pautang, at iba pang mga naitutulong natin sa magsasaka ng Nueva Ecija. (Applause)

At ngayon naman bilang Gobernador iba naman ang kanyang papel para mamuno sa ating pagkakaisa sa pagsalubong sa bagong hamon ng panahon na hinaharap ng Nueva Ecija. Kaya gaya nang sabi ni Oyi, eto: “Pagkakaisa para sa Patuloy na Pagbabago ng Nueva Ecija.” Magkaisa tayo para sa patuloy na pagbabago ng Nueva Ecija at ating bansang Pilipinas. Magkaisa tayo sa baong sigaw — sigaw ng kaunlaran, sigaw ng sapat na pagkain para sa lahat ng Pilipino!

Salamat sa malaking kontribusyon na pagkain na nanggagaling sa Nueva Ecija. (Applause)

Mabuhay ang diwa ng Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Speech during the Commemoration of the 112th Anniversary of the “Unang Sigaw Ng Nueva Ecija”. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115459/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1706&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Program of Technical-Vocational Education and Training with Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) – DepEd Jobs Fair for Muslims, September 3, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Program of Technical-Vocational Education and Training with Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education at the TESDA-DepEd Jobs Fair for Muslims**

[Delivered at Hall A & B, Philippine Trade and Training Center, Pasay City, September 3, 2008]

Thank you for being here. *At sa inyong lahat, ating mga kapatid na Muslim na naririto, sa lahat ng Muslim ng Pilipinas, lahat ng Pilipinong hindi Muslim, Assalamu Alaikum and Blessed Ramadhan!*

Congratulations sa mga kabataang Muslim na nakatapos ng mga training sa ilalim ng programang ALIVE. Ang ganda naman ng programa ninyong ALIVE, buhay na buhay or Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education ng DepEd na sinundan ng skills training.

New and better collection has put the Philippines on a path to permanent, sustainable economic growth and stability. We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in physical and human infrastructure. This includes along with billions of pesos for new bridges, roads and ports billions of pesos for education, healthcare and training.

In training halos walong milyong katao ang nakatapos sa iba't-ibang training program sa ating administrasyon, double the number in the previous 14 years. Hangad natin kayong mga kabataan na matuto nang kasanayang magagamit para sa inyong kinabukasan. Pinaggastusan natin ng iba't-ibang training programs kabilang ang maikling pagsasanay na pagkakakitaan agad tulad ng pananahi—may nakita akong dressmaking dito, sabi ni Boboy maganda ang mga opportunity, o pag-ayos ng buhok, sana maganda rin ang opportunity doon. Yung pini-phase out na natin yung caregiving kasi sobra na ang supply. Kaya yung mga hindi makakuha ng trabaho sa caregiving ngayon pumasok kayo muli sa ibang klaseng training dahiI marami pang iba.

Yung mga mas mahahabang programa tulad ng welding, automotive, cell phone repair, na malaki ang demand sa labas ng bansa, at mga kursong vocational o technical kabilang na ang skills upgrading. Eh, eto alas diyes tayo nagsimula ng programa pero anong oras nagsimula itong jobs fair? 8 o'clock. Eh, sabi ni Secretary Lapus sa akin, ilan na diyan ay nakakuha na ng trabaho. Diyan sa call centers meron nang nakakuha ng trabaho.

This is an auspicious way of celebrating the first days of Ramadhan. Kasisimula ng Ramadhan, and I want to use this opportunity to deliver to all of you our deepest prayer *na sana'y maging daan ang Ramadhan* towards achieving peace and quiet in the whole nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the highest respect shall be accorded to our Muslim brothers and sisters during the month of Ramadhan.

I would like to assure you that the law enforcement activities in Mindanao shall give the utmost consideration to the unhampered observance of Ramadhan by peace loving and law abiding Muslims.

Marami sainyo ay kabataang Muslim ng Metro Manila at kapaligid, Cavite hanggang Pampanga, at marami sa inyo o magulang ninyo ay lumikas mula sa Mindanao. Mindanao continues to feed you even if you are here in Manila. Mindanao is a food basket of the Philippines, but the sad irony of Mindanao as food basket is that it has some of the highest hunger in our nation. Yun siguro ang isang dahilan kung bakit kayo, pamilya ninyo ay lumipat dito.

Mindanao has the large fields of the highest productivity, yet it also has the majority of our ten poorest provinces. The prime reason is the endless Mindanao conflict. A comprehensive peace has eluded us for half a century. And we thank our Muslim neighbors, we thank Malaysia for helping us in our search for that comprehensive peace in Mindanao. But, we must bring stability to the region and regain order before we can effectively reactivate the peace process in earnest.

In the light of the recent violent incidents committed by lawless MILF groups, the government will not sign the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain. The peace process — and we'd like to assure you and our neighbors and continue to convey our gratitude to Malaysia — the peace process must proceed. But, only after we have expanded the number of stakeholders for consultation.

We have refocused all peace talks from one that is centered on dialogues with rebels to one of authentic dialogues with the communities. Our commitment is to peace, the constitutional process, and the rule of law.

Let me take this opportunity also to be very clear to those elements who seek disruption and destruction: There will be no peace gained through violence. No peace agreement can or will be reached through intimidation or the barrel of a gun. The way to peace isn't through the barrel of a gun rather it begins with providing a person a job, food on the table and human dignity.

Central to that success is to invest in people, in education like ALIVE, in healthcare, roads, bridges and training such as TVET. And we are making those investments as we see in this affair, this jobs fair today. *Bukod tangi ang programang TVET with ALIVE sapagkat ito ay nakalaan lamang para sa mga kabataang Muslim habang binibigyan kayo ng mga alternatibong kaalaman at livelihood training, binibigyan din kayo ng mga karagdagang kaalaman na sang-ayon sa mga panuntunan ng Islam.*

Sa programang TVET with ALIVE, ipinagsasama ang programa ng Madrasah at ang pagtuturo ng kasanayang pangkabuhayan. Batay sa ginawang pagsangguni sa mga kabataan sa tatlumput walong bayan na karamiha'y Muslim, napili ang mga kursong tumututok sa mga pangangailangan at hinahangad na trabaho ng mga kabataan na Muslim.

Nitong nakaraang limang buwan, halos isang libong Muslim na out-of-school youth mula sa Metro Manila at Pampanga ang binigyan ng ALIVE training kasama ng pagsasanay para sa kabuhayan o TVET. At sabi ni Jing Lapus, ang target ay 25,000 Muslim youth to be able to benefit from TVET with ALIVE. At sa pamamagitan nitong jobs fair, inaasahan nating makapaghanap kaagad, kayong mga kabataang Muslim ng trabaho kaya natin idinaos itong exclusive na jobs fair para sa inyo.

Peace is a central ingredient to the nation's future. It is a central ingredient for stability in our region. And we'd like to thank again our Malaysian brothers and to assure them that peace is a path we remain firmly committed to achieving, and this includes working to achieve a permanent peace in Mindanao.

With all of us working together, *mga Muslim, mga Kristiyano, mga nandito sa Metro Manila, mga nandoon sa Mindanao*, and all our brothers in the Muslim world and all our brothers and sisters outside the Muslim world, if we all work together, peace will happen. *Samantala, sa ating jobs fair ngayon, hangad natin ang tagumpay ng kabataang Muslim.*

Blessed Ramadhan *at maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.*

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the Libmanan Biogen Power Plant [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa seremonyang naglulunsad sa Libmanan Biogen Power Plant**

[Ipinahayag sa Brgy. Bahay, Libmanan, Camarines Sur, ika 4 ng Setyembre, 2008]

Dios mabalos sa aking anak na si Dato and happy birthday! (Applause)

Ating kagalang-galang na mga opisyal ng First District ng Camarines Sur at ang ating mga bisita. Nandito si Congressman Danny Suarez na... sorry, nagsalita siya bago natin winelcome siya kasi tinawag kaagad dahil excited tayo marinig yung Biogen project niya; Congressman Joey Solis mula sa Sorsogon at si Nonoy Andaya, ang dating congressman sa distrito ninyo at ngayon ang Secretary ng Budget and Management; (Applause) si Mayor Jimenez, ang ating host mayor; at lahat ng mga mayor na narito ngayon sa buong distrito; iba't-ibang mga opisyal, Dios marhay nga aga sa indo gabos. (Applause)

Alam niyo talagang hiningi kong magpulong tayo ngayong birthday ni Cong. Dato dito para pag-usapan ang ilan sa napakaraming gusto nating gawin para sa railroad towns o yung First District ng Camarines Sur. Yung unang-una ngang item sa ating agenda bago pa man nag welcome remarks ay tinawag na kaagad dahil excited tayo tungkol doon sa Biogen Power Plant na minumungkahi ni Congressman Danny Suarez ng Quezon, at napaliwanag na ni Danny sa inyo na ito ay magbibigay ng enerhiyang mas mura at makakatulong pa sa waste disposal ng mga daan-daang libong metric tons na pinagtatalupan o ipa na nakukolekta taun-taon mula sa palay, mais at niyog dito sa Kabikulan.

Ang isang 10-megawatt power plant na iniisip ni Congressman Suarez ay 28 million U.S. dollars or one billion pesos. Ganun kalaki yang proyektong yan. Sabi ng DBP, pwede ring paliitin depende kung magkano ang capital na ilalagay ng mga investor ni Cong. Suarez eh merong debt equity ratio na sinusunod ng DBP kung magkano ang ipapautang nila. Basta sigurado ang pagkukunan ng pinagtatalupang feedstock. Yan din ang isang tinitignan ng DBP. Kaya kailangan maguhit nila o masukat nila magkano ang makukuhang mga bunot dito sa Kabikulan, dito sa First District.

Kung magtayo si Congressman Suarez ng planta dito sa Libmanan o doon man sa Pamplona na meron pang malaking lugar pala na pag-aari ng gobyerno na sequester, basta depende kung saan, salamat sa kuryenteng malilikha. Kung itatayo niya sa Bondoc Peninsula muna yung kanyang pinanggagalingan na katabi naman ng distritong ito, salamat pa rin dahil makakabenta tayo ng waste products sa kanya. So, yun ang importante, makakabenta tayo ng waste products. Hindi masasayang yung waste at baka magkaroon pa ng kuryente na kinekvento ni Danny na makaka-save yung mga drying mechanical dryers keysa magbibilad tayo ng bigas sa semento na hindi naman efficient yun.

Pero bukod sa waste products ng Biomass Power Plant, ang First District ng Camarines Sur ay napakaimportante rin dahil watershed ng Bicol River Basin. At yung ikalawang topic na yun ang gusto kong pag-usapan ngayong umaga. Kailangan manguna ang distrito sa pag-aalaga ng punongkahoy dahil tayo ay watershed.

Preyoridad natin ipagtupad ang Bicol River Basin Project na sinasakop ang forest management, irrigation at flood control. In fact, noong ako ay pumunta sa America nung 2001, yung unang pagbisita ko kay President Bush, yun ang unang-unang pinirmahan ng Philippine Government at yung World Bank para pondohan ang Bicol River Basin Project. (Applause)

Pero ngayon salamat sa tulong nila dating congressman nga, Nonoy Andaya, Congressman Danny Suarez, Congressman Joey Solis dahil pinasa nila yung Value Added Tax. Hindi na tayo kailangan umutang sa World Bank

para sa River Basin Project ng Bicol. (Applause) Kaya dumating man yun o hindi, depende kung... o dadating ang ibang component pero hindi lahat magagawa kaagad, pwede na tayong magsimula.

Sa Forest Management halimbawa, nandoon sa budget naglagay na si Nonoy ng...meron ng 129 million pesos (Applause) para sa reforestation. At hindi lang yun, kasalukuyang bini-bid out na ng DENR, kaya malapit na ang implementasyon.

Ngayon, merong DENR component, merong mga local government component. Kasi kung matatandaan natin ayon sa batas yung communal forest ay devolved na sa local government. Kaya itong araw na ito inisip ko na bilang regalo sa Bicol River Basin communities sa birthday ni Cong Dato ay bibigyan ko ng tseke para sa reforestation ang iba't-ibang mga bayan, sampung bayan nitong distrito. (Applause) Iba-iba ang amount kasi iba-iba ang kalakihan ng mga bayan. Pero ang masasabi ko yung mga mas maliit na makukuha ang amount kung mai-implement ito kaagad dadagdagan naman hangang maging pare-pareho kayo lahat. So, ito di ba kasi may mga populasyon 30,000 or below, meron naman napakalaking bayan ng Libmanan kaya iba-iba ang mga amounts pero basta matapos ninyo ay dadagdagan muli.

Para sa irigasyon naman, pag-iibayuhin ang Libmanan-Cabusao Irrigation Project. (Applause) Kuwento sa akin nung ibang mga pare dito na itong irrigation na ito, yung ilan sa irrigation canals yan panahon pa ng aking tatay, ni Presidente Diosdado Macapagal. Pero ang problema doon sa mga natayo noong araw, ever since then sa buong Pilipinas ito, wala talagang administrasyon na nagre-rehabilitate kaya isa sa ating priority sa ating administrasyon ay mag-rehabilitate ng mga lumang irrigation projects. Pero dito sa Libmanan-Cabusao narinig ko naman sa mga magsasaka na namamahalan sila dahil pump irrigation.

Kaya mas mabuti na gawin nating dam and gravity. (Applause) At hindi ba pag dam, gravity na, ano? Pag dam, gravity na, di ba? Okay. So, yung kasalukuyan naglilingkod sa 1,500 hectares, gagastos tayo ng 700 million pesos para sa dam para magkaroon ng apat na libong ektaryang madidiligan ng Libmanan-Cabusao. (Applause) Sayang si Artie Yap wala dito kasi may flu kasi gusto niya personally ipakita sana sa inyo yung kaniyang advertisement sa Philippine Star. Dahil last Saturday, ginawa na yung unang publication para sa bidding ng Libmanan-Cabusao Dam and Irrigation Project na siya ang pinakamalaking component ng Bicol River Basin Project. (Applause)

Para naman sa flood control. Kailangan ang 600 million pesos para sa dalawampu't apat na kilometrong embankment sa gilid ng ilog sa Libmanan-Cabusao, pati na rin ang flood gates. Mula nung 2005, baka hindi niyo nahahalata, kunti-konti naglalabas tayo, nagtatayo ng revetment at 170 million na ang nagastos. Pero gusto natin pabilisin. Kaya kinausap ko si Secretary Ebdane na magrelease na ngayon ng 200 million pesos pa para mapabilis ang embankment ng Bicol River Basin. (Applause)

Pero hindi lang yung Bicol River Basin ang isang importanteng pinanggagalingan ng tulong mula sa national government. Yung Bicol CARE, kung naalala ninyo, yung "Bicol Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation". At doon sa Bicol CARE project na yun napagalaman ko na kumpleto na ang Center for Health Development sa San Fernando at maraming tulong pati hanggang sa Sorsogon. Doon sa Bicol Sanitarium sa Cabusao, malapit nang matapos pero nagkulang pala ang pondo dahil may dinivert sa Albay — ni hindi dinivert sa Sorsogon, sa Albay dinivert, hindi bale — para tutulungan punuin yung na-divert meron din akong tsekeng one million pesos para sa communication system ng Bicol Sanitarium sa Cabusao. (Applause)

Eh hindi pa pala tapos lahat nuon, meron pang additional request na kung pwede raw magtayo ng Libmanan-Canaman Bridge. (Applause) At tinignan ng DPWH kung magkano ang gastos nuon, 800 million pesos raw, pero tinawagan ko si Jun Ebdane baka naman meron tayong mga bridge projects funds na pwede pang magamit natin para makamenos ng gastos. Dahil parang dalawang bridge ito eh, may island in between, so tinignan daw niya yan. But whatever it is, whether it's the whole 800 million or something less than that, sabi ni Secretary Ebdane ay gagawin raw niya. (Applause)

Kaya ito... sa ganitong bagay imbes na 40 minutes ang travel from Pili Airport to Naga, imbes na 40 minutes magiging 15 minutes na lamang ang travel. (Applause)

Kaya ito ang ating mga balak gawin para sa mga bayan dito sa First District ng Camarines Sur.

Ang hinihingi ko sa inyo ipagpatuloy natin ang pagkakaisa, magtulungan tayo — pamahalaang nasyonal, pamahalaang lokal, lahat ng mamamayan ng iba't-ibang bayan tungo sa pagpapabilis ng kaunlaran hindi lamang ng railroad towns ng Camarines Sur kundi na rin buong Kabikulan at buong Pilipinas.

Dios mabalos sa indo gabos. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of the Libmanan Biogen Power Plant. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115400/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1694&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Message of President Arroyo on the 108th Anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the 108th Anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service**

[Delivered at the Presidential Broadcast Studio, Kalayaan Hall, September 8, 2008]

Happy Anniversary Month to our nation's Civil Service!

This September, we celebrate the accomplishments of Filipino civil servants who play an essential role in our national life. From government think tanks where public policies are crafted to frontline services where they interface with the public, our government professionals serve as the important link that connects our government and our people.

Lalong mahalaga ang pagkikilalang ito ngayon, sa harap ng mga hamon ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya at mga ligalig sa ilang sulok ng bansa. Kailangan ngayon ng taong bayan ang pagsulong at pagtanggol ng pamahalaan. Nagpupugay tayo sa mga kawani at opisyal na tapat at masigasig na tumutugon sa panawagan ng sambayanan.

Our faithful civil servants have been behind every stride, every challenge and every triumph that we have faced as a people, tirelessly working to provide service to the people and working to realize the dreams and aspirations of an entire nation through the different programs and projects that they are entrusted to implement.

A strong and growing economy has been the central pillar we have labored together to create to help ensure peace, order and stability in our country. And it is paying off — our economy is more resilient today than ever before. We have created almost seven million jobs in seven years. Investments continue to come in despite continued volatility in the global markets. As a result of our economic turnaround, we are also able to invest in key sectors to cushion the harsh impact of high prices for food and fuel on our poor.

In addition, we are investing in modernizing infrastructure like roads and bridges on an unprecedented scale. We are also investing in expanded education, healthcare, and other social services. All the while, we are balancing these vital investments with a commitment to meet our fiscal obligations and balance our budget in 2010.

It is time that a grateful nation recognizes and thanks our civil servants for their service.

Ngayong Setyembre, sumaludo tayo sa lahat ng “lingkod-bayang Pinoy”.

Pasalamat natin sila sa kanilang paglilingkod sa bayan. Kilalanin natin ang mga sakripisyong kanilang pinagdadaan upang matamo ang tagumpay para sa ating lahat.

Many things are left to be done.

Congratulations to the Civil Service Commission for its endeavors to uplift the morale, efficiency, responsiveness, courtesy and integrity of our servants nationwide!

Let's continue to work hard together to fulfill our Philippine Reform Agenda.

Mabuhay ang Serbisyo Sibil ng Pilipinas!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). PGMA's Message on the 108th Anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115331/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1691&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 37th ‘Araw Ng Quirino’ Anniversary or the celebration of “Panagdadapun Festival”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 37th ‘Araw Ng Quirino’ Anniversary or the celebration of “Panagdadapun Festival”**

[Delivered at the VIP Grandstand, Provincial Capitol Sports Complex, Cabarroguis, Quirino, September 11, 2008]

Dios ti agngina unay apo Secretary Bello ti napintas nga introduction yo kanyak.

Apo Congressman Junie Cua, ti baru nga chairman ti Committee on Appropriations diay Kongreso, the first chairman of the Committee on Appropriations nga anak ti amyanan; (Applause) Apo Congressman Rodito Albano gapo Isabela; Apo Governor Daks Cua ken Mrs. Cua, the former Congresswoman Cua; Apo Bishop Villena; other Cabinet members; other officials ti probinsiya ti Quirino; amin nga mayores ken opisyaes dagidiay naduma-duma nga ili ti Quirino; kakabsat ken gagayyem, naimbag a bigat yo amin ken maragsak nga fiesta kadakayo. (Applause)

Ken iso nga ti tema ti fiesta yo ket “I Love Quirino.” Immay kami met ta siyak met I love Quirino. (Applause) And I consider it a humbling experience to be able to serve, as Congressman Junie Cua mentioned in the various ways that we work together, the people of Quirino and thank you for the honor of serving you. (Applause) Uray no Quirino, adda sab-sabali nga ethnic groups. Dagiti Ilokano, dagiti Bugkalot, Ifugao, Kankana-ey, Ibaloi, Agta, nagkakadua kayo kas maysa nga umili tano agaramid para ti vision ti pagilyan tayo to become a first world nation in 20 years.

Ipakpakita yo iti panagayat yo, saan laeng ti probinsiya yo ngem iti dadduma iti Pilipinas babaen ti panang-share yo iti bounty iti daga yo kadagiti sabali nga probinsiya, dagiti vegetables yo nga pinadakkel ditoy ket agpakpakan iti ado kadagiti kailyan yo iti sabali pay nga parte iti Luzon ken iti Visayas. Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin. (Applause)

Tungtungpalen yo iti importante nga role tatta nga adda kakurangan ti makan iti intero nga lubong daytoy nga tawen. Self-sufficient kayo iti bagas and you even export a part of it ken iti probinsiya yo ket iti immuna nga banana producer iti Region II. Ikikkan yo met dagiti sabali nga probinsiya iti kape, mani, ken sabali pay nga ani gapo iti industriya dagiti umili ti Quirino ken sabali nga probinsiya nga self-sufficient iti bagas, masapul laeng nga ag-import tayo ti 10 percent ti kasapulan tayo iti bagas. Sakbay nga dagiti rice exporting countries ket nagsardeng nga aglako dagiti sabali nga pagilyan. We have been working tirelessly to address challenges arising from the slowdown in the global economy combined with high oil and food prices. Iti tulong iti probinsiya ti Quirino, we have succeeded in ensuring that our country’s food supplies remain stable.

Isu nga pinagpigsa tayo iti agricultural production aglalo kadagiti probinsiya nga kangatuan iti yields da, babaen kas pagarigan ti irigasyon. (Applause) Ken kadua ti programa tayo ket ti Addalam Irrigation System (Applause) nga inrugi tayo idi Mayo. Ken kasla kuna ni Governor Daks Cua, adda gastos tayo nga 1.3 billion pesos (Applause) tapno maipatakder, but it will give us irrigation of 5,000 hectares — actually, 5,800 — of which 1,000 hectares already have been irrigated since last May diay ili ti Aglipay ken Saguday ditoy nga probinsiya ken kasta met iti Jones ken Echague diay Isabela. Manipud idi rugi daytoy nga panangaramid daytoy irrigation network ket nangaramid met tayo nga 1,200 nga baro nga trabaho.

And we have those who have benefited from this project. Elmer Pagaduan – addadtoy ni Elmer Pagaduan? Diak ammo no addadtoy because you’re so many here — used to have an idle land of 1.5 hectares diay Saguday. Itatta nga addan Addalam Irrigation System, fully irrigated, he expects to harvest at least 120 cavans this late September (Applause) compared to 60 cavans no idi no awan pay ti Addalam Irrigation System. Ta tatta, he is now assured of two croppings a year.

Maykadua iti proyekto iti Addalam River, adda met nagpaaramid met tayo iti 29 nga basbassit nga Community Irrigation Systems wenno Small Water Impounding Projects iti intero nga probinsiya nga mangpadanum iti 2,000

nga ektarya. (Applause) Ti intero nga pagilyan, we have restored about a million hectares of old rundown irrigation systems, including 2,000 hectares in Quirino. So the new and the restored irrigation systems have increased our nation's irrigation land to 1.5 million hectares, including 10,000 hectares here in the province of Quirino. (Applause)

In terms of oil, the high price of oil and gasoline and everyday commodities hits our poor the hardest. While the high price of oil is a global issue and outside the control of the government, we have introduced measures to lift the burden of our people. Several months ago, we removed the tariff on oil. We have also been providing targeted cash payments to the poorest of the poor to help you cope with their electric bills. Diak ammo no idtoy Quirino, dagidiay consumers ti menos ti 100 kilowatts ti kuryente, addan diskuwento para makatulong kadakayo amin nga nagrigrigat ti kuryente. (Applause)

But the fact is that this is a global phenomenon and these global forces are causing real difficulties for all countries around the world. So no matter what actions we take, we must work together to resolve these global issues if we are to see any significant recovery in the world economy.

Toy Quirino, saan laeng importante ti agtaltalon, importante met ti reporma ti daga. Committee dak ti land reform, kas anak daydi Pangulo nga nangirugi iti emancipation dagiti agtaltalon babaen iti land reform.

I know for a fact from being around my father — who incidentally was a protégée of President Quirino after whom your province was named — I learned from him how challenging it is to govern our nation especially with the media that is the freest in the whole world as it was during my father's presidency. But a President governs for the benefit of all Filipinos and should not be focused on public relations.

Ni papang ko, kuna ni former Governor Espino nga idi ti Quirino ket kadua ti Nueva Vizcaya, na ni papang ko iso ti nagrugi ti Diffun-Maddela road idi tiyempo na. (Applause)

My father was my greatest mentor, role model and inspiration. I learned early from him the meaning and importance of fortitude. Kasla kuna ni Congressman Junie Cua idi 38 years ago, awan pay nga napipintas nga kalsada, irigasyon, awan pay nga uray anyan. So nangruna pay idi tiyempo ni papang ko, and so the time when they came to open the Diffun-Maddela road, nagbiyahe da to... wen, 9 hours nagbangka gapo, saan? Sadinno? Gapo Aglipay inggana Maddela, 9 hours ti biyahe idi ngem itatta, nalpasen dagiti kalsada tayo, napipintasen dagiti kalsada tayo. But this lesson, travelling 9 hours by boat which is part of the two days of travel by land, is the lesson that still keeps us going everyday as we go about making tough decisions that we hope will set the Philippines on the path to becoming a modern, prosperous nation. (Applause)

Serving the people of our country iso ti importante. And I am very happy nga akas chairman ti Appropriations Committee itatta, Congressman Junie Cua, (Applause) will serve not only the people of Quirino but all the people of this great nation. (Applause) And I know he will be tireless in working to bring about the changes that will deliver a better life for all Filipinos including all the people of Quirino. And so, we work with the very strong work ethic at the same time promote an agenda that has delivered the strongest economy in more than 30 years and a better quality of life for millions of our countrymen including, I hope, the Bugkalots of Quirino. (Applause)

Dagiti Bugkalot kadagiti tallo nga probinsiya ti Quirino, Aurora ken Nueva Vizcaya ket naikkanen ti Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles para ti 100,000 nga ektarya. Dagitoy CADTs, kadua dagiti sabali nga agricultural inputs ket mangikari to bring iti adu nga produksyon ken nangatngato nga kita. And that's the reason why your mayor chieftain, Rosario Camma, was the best dressed person in the opening of Congress. (Applause)

But that is to symbolize ti importansiya ti Quirino para ti intero ti pagilyan. You know, all provinces, all districts lobby to be included in the SONA. Ngem diay SONA is only a 35-minute speech kadua ti palakpak maybe one hour, so you cannot talk about everybody. Ngem iti SONA tayo, Quirino was mentioned two times — Addalam River ken dagidiay Bugkalots nga nabaro nga CADTs. (Applause) Iso ti importansiya ti Quirino para ti intero nga pagilyan. Immuna ti kontribusyon yo dagidiay kanem ti pagilyan na ikadua ti kontribusyon yo para ti social justice para dagidiay indigenous population.

Iso nga no agkakayat tayo ti Quirino agkakayat tayo met ti intero nga pagilyan. (Applause) And so that's why here we are — we love Quirino and we love the whole Philippines. And we are here to thank Quirino because you love the Philippines, you help feed the Philippines and you help the Philippines achieve social justice.

Dios agngina kadakayo amin and Happy 37th Anniversary! (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the 37th 'Araw Ng Quirino' Anniversary or the Celebration of "Panagdadapun Festival". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115240/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1690&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Statement: President Arroyo during the National Competitiveness Council meeting with the turnover of Intel Philippines check donation amounting to U.S. \$2.04 million

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the National Competitiveness Council meeting with the turnover of Intel Philippines check donation amounting to U.S. \$2.04 million

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, September 15, 2008]

Good morning everyone.

Please sit down, ladies and gentlemen. Morning.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Welcome again to Malacañang!

Well, let me start by thanking Intel Philippines for the generous donation that will build thirty classrooms, provide a brighter future to thousands of school children, and contribute to our global competitiveness.

I decided that instead of receiving Intel's donation privately or in a separate meeting, I would call it in the middle of the meeting of the National Council on Competitiveness, to make sure that we remain on track to improve our business and investment climate and to continue to improve our global competitiveness.

The National Competitiveness Council will be two years old next month, but ladies and gentlemen, you have already accomplished a lot. I congratulate you all for the competitiveness initiatives that have influenced the direction of many industries and government agencies. Your efforts contributed to the five-notch improvement in our country's ranking in the Institute for International Management and Development survey and the four-rank improvement for competitiveness in the World Economic Forum. Congratulations! And thank you.

I called this meeting also to reassure the investment community, domestic and foreign, that the government is acting responsibly, will stay the course and has a plan for the future.

If you recall, in my State of the Nation Address last year, 2007, I outlined five comprehensive strategies for global competitiveness. Oh! Rather, 2006, two years ago:

Number one, plentiful and affordable food to keep our labor cost globally competitive;

Number two, reduced cost of electricity to make our factories regionally competitive;

Number three, modernized infrastructure to efficiently transport goods and people;

Number four, upgrade knowledge and technologies disseminated for productivity;

Number five, reduced red tape to cut business costs.

With regard to the first and second strategies, plentiful and affordable food and reduced cost of electricity, the upheaval in the global economy this past year has certainly had a significant and painful impact through higher prices of food, fuel and rice. This has led to an uptrend in inflation and even greater pressures on our very poor and working poor.

With the price of crude oil on the global market some 44 percent over the past year and the price of rice on the global market up some 43 percent over the past year, our economic team has been challenged, to say the least. Our team is doing their best on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures, provide the safety net for those members of our society who are hit hardest by these global developments and deliver the economic growth that will continue to generate jobs.

While the economic picture been challenging, thankfully we had the foresight to plan for this day through our tough choices to reform our tax system. It is important to remind ourselves of the tough past choices that have allowed for the revenues and stability to see the nation through this rainy day – namely, the successes of the revenue collection which is allowing for greater investment in the people during this tough time. The revenue collection has given us the funds to invest in targeted relief to our most-poor through programs aimed at relieving the high price of energy, food and other daily staples. In fact, our foresight is allowing us to expand this program to see our nation through this difficult time until the global economy turns around.

For instance, starting last July, those earning 200,000 pesos a year or less don't have to pay income tax — a 12 billion-peso tax break to keep our labor cost competitive.

I am proud of the advocacy of the Competitiveness Council for lower power rates. I thank the Council for your involvement in reducing power cost by P1.50 per kilowatt hour in the 13 economic zones under PEZA, and for pushing the Interim Open Access which the ERC has approved.

On the third strategy, modernized infrastructure, I recognize the role that the Competitiveness Council plays in the completion of vital infrastructure and the private sector-government joint projects that you continue to champion. A number of these projects were the result of recommendations presented by the private sector in 2006 during the Competitiveness Summit.

On the fourth strategy, upgraded knowledge, aside from contributing classrooms, I thank you for your support for improvements in the English, Math and Science proficiency of our elementary pupils. With the Council's help in aligning education projects, together with the infusion of more government funds into basic education, our elementary pupils have shown marked improvement in their National Achievement scores.

On the fifth strategy, reduced red tape, thank you for campaigning for such schemes as the Visa Upon Arrival for Chinese and Indian businessmen and the reduction of fees for exporters. The Competitiveness Council's constant campaigning for our cities to achieve ISO certification has also encouraged more LGUs to improve systems and procedures.

The recent challenges we are facing are broadly external. The heights to which oil and other commodity prices have risen were unexpected and the depth of financial market turbulence in the U.S. is still unknown. Against this backdrop, the best buffer we have to external vulnerability is our own domestic, internal strength. Building a stronger, healthier economy driven by domestic consumption and investment and relying less on external markets is exactly what our reform agenda is about. This is one of the key contributors to our renewed economic strength and stability in recent years. This is indeed what is keeping our economy on its path of long-term sustainable growth.

We will continue on the path of economic reforms. Our reforms to date have helped us in this time of global economic upheaval. Without them, we would not be as confident as we are that our economy withstand these external shocks. We will continue to be vigilant against further challenges to our economy. We must maintain the fiscally prudent policies that have given us the strength to weather this global storm.

We are doing everything in our power to focus on the fundamentals, keep the economy steady, and provide relief for those most in need.

That can only happen if we all commit to continue to work together to create a stronger and more competitive Philippines.

Thank you. And congratulations again for all you have achieved! (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement during the National Competitiveness Council meeting with the turnover of Intel Philippines check donation amounting to U.S. \$2.04 million. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115154/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1683&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Mid-Year Philippine Economic Briefing

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Mid-Year Philippine Economic Briefing

[Delivered on September 17, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Teves for your introduction.

Governor Tetangco, Cabinet members, members of the media, members of the financial community, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

There is no doubt that the global economy has hit the Philippines hard. The upheaval in the global economy this past year has clearly had a significant and painful impact on every Filipino through higher prices of food, fuel and rice. This has led to unfortunate levels of inflation and even greater pressures on our poor.

Crude oil prices smashed through the hundred-dollar barrier. World rice prices crossed the previously unimaginable price of a thousand dollars per metric ton.

Some blame speculators moving billions of dollars from subprime mortgages, whose collapse forced the icons of the U.S. financial might into making huge write-downs, and the fund managers transferred their money to commodities like fuel and food. Others point to rising demand from the Brazil, Russia, India and China economies; to the diversion of wheat, corn and the like to ethanol production; to crop failures due to climate change-induced weather shifts; and to protective cut backs on grains exports by some producing countries.

With the price of crude oil on the global market reaching a high of some 44 percent over the past year and the price of rice in the global market some 43 percent over the past year, our economic team has been challenged, to say the least. As you will hear from them and as you have somehow seen in the introductory video, our economy has not been spared by the global economic downturn. Our economic growth has been impacted.

Our growth in gross domestic product slowed down to 4.6 percent in the second quarter, a far cry from the sizzling 8.3 percent growth posted last year. But growth eased in our neighbors as well. Singapore grew by only 2.1 percent compared to 9.0 percent the year before. Hong Kong posted 4.2 percent compared to 6.2 in the same quarter last year. South Korea's growth is similar to ours at 4.8 percent.

Our team is doing their best on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures, provide a safety net to those members of our society who are hit hardest by these global developments, and deliver the growth that will continue to generate jobs and the tax revenues that we need to fuel our investment in the future.

While the recent economic picture has been challenging, there is also no doubt that thankfully we have had the foresight to plan for this day through tough choices to reform our tax system. This has given us the funds to invest in targeted relief to our most-poor through programs aimed at relieving the high price of energy and food. Examples of key projects and programs that are in place to alleviate the pain include removing tariffs on petroleum products; "Pantawid Pamilya" providing targeted direct payments for the most-poor linked to school attendance and good health practices; "Food-for-School" giving school children in the most food-poor communities a kilo of rice a day to augment the family food supply; "Pantawid Kuryente" to help pay the electric bill of indigents; "Pantawid Pag-aral" for interest-free college loans and scholarships; fuel discounts for public utility vehicles; "Pantawid Pasahe" to convert the engines of jeepneys and trucks to the less costly LPG, CNG or biofuels; microfinancing for the wives and immediate family members of drivers and conductors of public utility vehicles; "Tulong para kay Lolo at Lola"

for the elderly who are not covered by SSS or GSIS; upgrading of hospitals that cater to the rural poor; a supplemental calamity budget; and income tax exemption for those earning 200,000 pesos a year or below.

The recent challenges we face are broadly external but they nevertheless require strong, decisive and targeted action internally. The heights to which oil and other commodity prices have risen were unexpected and the depth of the financial market turbulence in the U.S. is still unknown. Against this backdrop, the best buffer we have to external vulnerability is our own domestic internal strength.

Building a stronger, healthier economy driven by domestic consumption and investment, and relying less on external markets is what our reform agenda is about.

The statistics on slower growth reflect what we hope is a lagging indicator.

We hope the worst is behind us and we have weathered the worst of the global storm.

We may have already seen the worst of the oil price spikes. You have felt it at the pump — fuel prices are starting to come down.

The results of the July 2008 round of the Labor Force Survey show that employment generation for this period reached 1.3 million.

The August inflation rate of 12.5 percent to a high was only 0.2 percentage points above the previous months, in contrast to the acceleration last April and June.

While no one can predict the future during these uncertain global economic times, it seems that our measures at home are seeing us through the toughest times as we prepare for a day with lower global fuel and food prices.

But even as some external challenges are letting up, we will continue to focus on reining in inflation, bringing down prices of the most essential commodities; increasing targeted investments to our poor and getting our economic engine moving in a higher gear.

We will work hard also to strengthen the banking system, improve our fiscal health, encourage investment in our most promising growth sectors, and expand our potential sectors.

We have a targeted strategy for food self-sufficiency; for less energy dependence; for greater self-reliance in our attitude as a people and our posture as a nation.

While it's good news that we are being more self-reliant and taking control of our own destiny, we must become even more globally competitive. To that end, we met with the National Council on Competitiveness early this week to make sure we remain on track to improve our business and investment climate and to continue to improve our global competitiveness.

The cut in corporate income tax rates next year will give companies more headroom to reduce their prices to the public and be more competitive.

We will continue on the path of economic reform. Our reforms have helped us in this time of global economic upheaval. Without them, we would not be as confident as we are that our economy will withstand these external shocks. We will continue to be vigilant against further challenges to our economy. We must maintain the fiscally prudent policies that have given us the strength to weather this global storm.

The global economy may have knocked us down, but we have gotten up off the mat and dusted ourselves off. Filipinos are fighters, naturally optimistic, and we don't quit. Our story as a people has a practical, down-to-earth theme: BEAT THE ODDS.

We are doing everything in our power to focus on the fundamentals, keep the economy steady, and provide relief for those most in need. But we will only be successful if every segment of society pulls together and commits to building an ever-stronger Philippines.

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the Mid-Year Philippine Economic Briefing. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135348/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1682&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Local Peace and Security Assembly Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Local Peace and Security Assembly**

[Delivered at the Conference Hall, Dakak Park and Beach Resort, Barangay Taguilon, Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte, September 18, 2008]

Thank you very much, Secretary Gonzales, National Security Adviser and convenor of this series of Local Peace and Security Assemblies.

Atong mga host diri sa assembly, si Governor Yebes, si Congresswoman Carreon, si Mayor Carreon; ug si Congressman Jalosjos, atong mga leader sa laing-laing mga probinsya ug highly urbanized cities sa Zamboanga Peninsula gikan sa South, si Governor Au Cerilles kauban si Congressman Cerilles; ug ... sab nato, ang first speaker from Mindanao, Speaker Boy Nograles (applause); gikan sab sa South si Congressman Vic Yu (applause); ug gikan sa Zamboanga Sibugay, si Congressman Belma Cabilao (applause) and beside la ciudad highly urbanized de Zamboanga City, Mayor Celso Lobregat (applause); mayors, vice mayors, board members from the different cities and municipalities of Region IX, other officials of the national government, other participants, especially those coming from the religious, academe NGOs, farmers and fisherfolk, representatives kaninyong tanan, maayong udto ug buenos dias (applause).

Daghang salamat y muchas gracias sa mga resolusyon. Dunay guid mga espesyal nga problema dinhi sa Region 9 nga lahin sa mga uban tungod kay ang Zamboanga Peninsula usa ka melting pot sa lain-laing ethnic communities gikan sa Luzon, Visayas ug Mindanao ug mga lumad sab. And I'd like to recall that my own family reflects this particular quality or characteristic of Zamboanga Peninsula. My grandfather, Juan Macaraeg, was an Ilocano from Binalonan, Pangasinan and, in the 1920s he came to Zamboanga Peninsula to work for Sta. Clara Lumber, so he's one of those who contributed to the ethnic richness and diversity of this peninsula. He was already married to my lola who is from Pangasinan from San Carlos, and when they came, my lolo and my lola, they brought not only my mother, their only child, but they also brought my grandfather's cousins, my lola's siblings, a whole clan came over. And I think that's very typical of those who came over to that new frontier in the 1920s. My mother was in primary school and my grandfather, from my mother's stories of course... percent of Sta. Clara Lumber didn't spend most of his time in the big city of Zamboanga. He spent it in the hinterlands of Zamboanga Peninsula, then only one province, and my mother had many recollections of my grandfather being in Margosatubig.

And that's why I was so happy when Congressman Cerilles brought me then as senator to that town of Margosatubig. Now, as Governor Cerilles tells me, it's one of the oldest towns—the oldest town in what has become Zamboanga del Sur. So my grandfather left my mother in Zamboanga City in the care of the Lorenzo family, Celso's grandfather and grandmother. And that's how my mother became a very fluent speaker of Spanish aside from Chabakano. So, my grandfather being the head of that whole clan that came over was very patriarchal. One of his cousins, a Guico, because my grandfather was Guico-Macaraeg, was a bachelor and my grandfather decided that he would choose the bride for his cousin and he chose a member of the prominent family in Manukan — the Sagario clan — to be the bride of his cousin. And that's why the Guicos of Manukan, my cousins, have been my supporters here since I first ran in 1992. And being a nobody then, I still had an overwhelming victory here in Zamboanga del Norte because I have such a big clan here. Thank you for that (applause).

Today, in fact, I invited them to come to have lunch with me, forty of them are outside waiting to have lunch together with us.

So, that's one characteristic diri sa Zamboanga Peninsula mahimo ug melting pot. And I guess your... the first Chief of Staff from Mindanao, General Yano (applause) from Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte must also be one of the examples, one of the fruits of that melting pot.

Dako sab dili lang diperensya sa ethnicity dako sab ug diperensya ang kita sa mga lumulupyo dinhi like my mother, when she was living with the Lorenzo family, was interacting with the old elite, not only the Lorenzos but the Aranetas, etcetera, etcetera, the Alanos. But on the other hand, dinhi naman sa Zamboanga del Norte kauban ang Sian. Ang labi kabus nga lungsod sa tibuok nasud Sian guid sa tibuok nasud. So aside from that, pila ka armadong grupo ang ga-impluwensya sa nagkalain-laing lungsod dinhi, ug sa pipila sa ka pobreng lungsod, kaapin sa usa ka armadong grupo ang gasamok-samok. In fact, Secretary Bert Gonzales said 'that here in Zamboanga del Norte, this is a microcosm, because all the armed groups are represented somewhere here in Zamboanga del Norte labi na sa pikas ha? Sa distrito ni Cesar. And because it's like it's so isolated from the rest of Zamboanga del Norte that it is like a different world altogether. Gumikan dini ang mga problema sa peace and order.

We are committed doing everything possible to bring lasting peace not only to Zamboanga Peninsula but to the whole of Mindanao and to end 40 years of fighting that has killed more than 120,000 Filipinos. It is in the interest of all Filipinos, Muslims and Christians, to end the violence that has held this part of our country back. We remain committed to the peace process. We have negotiated in good faith with our Muslim brethren to keep the peace these last seven years and also to look for a lasting peace for generations to come. However, lately, lawless groups within the MILF have taken the law into their own hands and that will not stand.

We will not negotiate with a gun pointed at our head. So, no matter what the Supreme Court ultimately decides, the government will not sign the proposed MOA-AD (applause).

We have refocused all peace talks from one centered on dialogues with rebels to one of authentic dialogues with the communities. And I hope that, that will address some of your resolutions that are expressed in many paragraphs about consulting with the communities, with the stakeholders. And disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) is the context of our engagement with all armed groups. And I thank you also that you agree with that as reflected in your resolution.

Indeed, your resolution contains the essential elements to any lasting peace and if everyone supports these elements and the national government is committed on our part to do such support, Mindanao can indeed be the bread basket for the country. I congratulate Zamboanga Peninsula for being self-sufficient in rice but it can be even more than that as long as we have lasting peace in this island. Maayo nga mahimug bread basket ang Mindanao, ara sa tibuok nasud mayo alang sa Mindanao mayo alang sab sa nasud.

Kay nasayod kita tanan sa epekto kanatong Pilipino sa kalibutang problema sa ekonomiya ni-ining tuig sa pagtaas sa presyo sa pagkaon, lana ug bugas, sa pagtaas sa inflation ug sa pag-antus ng mga kabus.

Usa ka dakong hagit sa atong mga economic managers ang pagtaas sa presyo sa krudo sa kalibutan ug 44 percent ug sa bugas sab kalibutan nga 43 percent sa sulod sa usa ka tuig.

Maayo na lang kay nakapangandam kita pina-agi sa atong tough choices to reform our tax system. And we have some of our congressmen here who were those who helped us make the tough choices and the tough tax reforms. Nga karon nakahatag ug pondo alang sa pamuhunan sa mga programa nga motabang aron makalingkawas ang mga kabos sa mga problemang gumikan sa pagtaas sa presyo sa lana, pagkaon ug uban pang labing kinahanglanon.

Ang Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino ang usa nining atong mga importanteng programa kining programa gahatag kada bulan sa mga labing kabos sa nasud ug cash kung matuman sa mga pamilya ang pipila ka kundisyon, labi na sa school attendance. Dinhi sa Zamboanga del Norte naa'y labaw 116,000 nga kabus nga pamilya; 32 percent sa ila apil na sa Pantawid Pamilya from 13 municipalities.

On this occasion, I reassert the concern of the government to continue and even expand these targeted direct payments to the most-poor to see them through this tough time. Busa kagabii na storya mi ni Secretary Espie Cabral who has just arrived from a leave of absence ug ingon sab ko sa iya nga pun-an nato moabot sa 50 percent sa mga pamilyang kabus sa Zamboanga del Norte ang moapil sa Pantawid Pamilya (applause).

Karong adlaw sa, gi-abrehan nato ang usa ka programa ga gi-announce ko ni adtong State of the Nation Address. We call this program “A Healthy Start” because it starts in the morning when the children go to school; it also starts their life, because we’re talking about the preschool daycare and grade one students of the poorest areas of the country. Kung diin ang mga gagmay nga estudyante sa mga labing food-poor nga probinsiya hatagan ug pamahaw. Gisugdan na kini karong adlaw sa Central Elementary School sa Dapitan, Mayor Jalosjos ug sa mga day care centers sa La Libertad, Mutia, Piñon, Polanco, Rizal, Sibutad, Liloy, Salug, Siocon, Siraway ug Tampilisan.

We will also work hard not only to provide this direct assistance to the poorest of the poor but also to work on strengthening the economy to further strengthen the banking system, to improve our fiscal health, to encourage investment in our most promising growth sectors and expand our potential sectors for growth. Here, diri sa Zamboanga Peninsula, the potential sectors for growth include seaweed farming for Zamboanga City and Zamboanga del Sur. Rubber is especially strong in Zamboanga Sibugay, in fact, we acknowledged that in our State of the Nation Address.

Apan, we will only be successful if every segment of society pulls together and commits to build an ever-stronger Zamboanga Peninsula and therefore hopefully an ever-stronger Philippines.

So, once again, I thank you for your resolution—the roadmap to an ever stronger Zamboanga Peninsula. Let us all together pull together and work towards that vision. Daghan salamat. Muchas gracias (applause).

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the Local Peace and Security Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135326/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1677&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremony for the officers and men of the AFP and PNP in recognition of their heroic acts

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding ceremony for the officers and men of the AFP and PNP in recognition of their heroic
acts during encounters with MILF**

[Delivered at the 104th BDE, 11D, Barangay Ditucalan, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, September 18, 2008]

Salamat, General Yano, ang first Armed Forces Chief of Staff from the island of Mindanao. Members of the Cabinet, Speaker Nograles, Governor Dimaporo, Congressman Dimaporo; Congressman Belmonte, Mayor Cruz, officials, men and women of the Armed Forces and the PNP, ladies and gentlemen.

At ease! Congratulations to the troops engaged in operations versus the lawless MILF groups under Kato, Bravo and Pangalian.

Nagpapasalamat ang sambayanang Pilipino sa ating mga kawal in your pursuit of justice for the victims of the lawless MILF groups. The support of the different LGUs, LGAs, NGOs, GOs and POs is clearly manifested in the donation in various forms that continue to be given to our troops.

This indicates the gratitude of the entire Filipino nation to the AFP's efforts. Continue to be relentless in the pursuit of justice for peace. Ensure that the criminal elements and lawless MILF groups are brought to justice. The communities affected by the armed conflict need your continual support and protection to ensure peace in their villages.

Ang inyong katapangan sa pagtugis sa masasamang elements sa MILF ay nagpatunay ng inyong kagustuhang maiwasto ang mga karahasang ginawa ng mga grupong ito sa ating mga sibilyan.

Tayo ay magtulong-tulong para managutan pa ang mga grupong responsible sa mga kaguluhang ito.

Rest assured that the government will support you in your objective to bring peace not only to Northern Mindanao but to the whole of Mindanao.

Let me remind you, but I know you're doing it that we must ensure that the rights of civilians are ensured and protected especially during the period of Ramadan.

In deference to Ramadan, I have directed the CSAFP to be deliberate and purposeful in the delivery of heavy firepower in order to avoid collateral damage.

Also, adjustments had been made on the ground to allow the faithful Muslims unimpeded religious practice during the Ramadan period. We are doing everything possible to bring lasting peace to Mindanao and end 40 years of fighting that has killed more than 120,000 people. It is in the interest of all Filipinos, Muslim and Christians, to end the violence that has held this part of our country back.

We remain committed to the peace process. But we will not negotiate with the gun pointed at our head.

Innocent civilians should not be terrorized for crass political gain. We can restart a dialogue when the area is secure and our people are safe through your efforts — our brave men and women of the armed forces and the police.

We have refocused all peace talks for one centered on dialogues with the rebels to one of authentic dialogue with the communities. And if everyone will support the essential elements to any lasting peace—Mindanao can be a bread basket for the country which we need very much at this time.

Batid nating lahat maging sibilyan o sundalo, kung paano humagupit ang pandaigdigang ekonomiya sa Pilipinas. Ang unos ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya nitong nakaraang taon at itong taong ito, ay nagkaroon ng importante at masakit na epekto sa lahat ng Pilipino sa pamagitan ng pagtaas ng presyo ng pagkain, langis at bigas.

Nagbigay daan ito sa hindi kanais-nais na inflation at mas mabigat na pasanin sa ating mga mahihirap kasama na ang mga pamilya ng maraming kawal ng ating bansa.

Naging napakalaking hamon sa ating mga economic managers ang nangyaring pagtaas mahigit 40 percent sa mga presyo ng krudo at bigas sa world market. Bunsod nito, ginagawa ngayon ng lahat ng ating economic team upang pababain ang inflation, alalayan ang mga labis na tinamaan at ipagpatuloy ang paglago ng ekonomiya na siyang tanging pagmumulan ng mga trabaho at koleksyon ng buwis na ipamumuhunan sa kinabukasan ng bayan.

Salamat na lang at nagkaroon tayo ng sapat na pangitang paghandaan ang araw na ito sa pamamagitan ng mga mahihirap na repormang ginawa ng ating mga Congressmen at tayo, ang Executive, sa nakaraang sistema ng buwis.

Dahil dito’y nagkaroon tayo ng mga pondong ilaan sa mga programang nakatutok sa mga mahihirap pati na rin ang pondong pag modernize sa ating Armed Forces at sa ating Police. Examples of key projects and programs that are in place to alleviate the pain include: yung pagtataas ng inyong sweldo na nagsimula nitong nakaraang Hulyo sa ibabaw ng inyong combat incentive pay na tinaas noong isang taon (applause), at para doon sa mga ang kita ay 200,000 pesos a year or below. Salamat din sa ating mga Congressmen, income-tax exempted yuong income na yun (applause).

On this event with you, our great Filipino soldiers, not only are we giving out medals to some examples of the brave men and women who achieved tremendous great victories and also who underwent sacrifices, some at the cost of their lives. We are also here to expand the benefits and programs to help you through this difficult period.

Up there, while you are fighting, there’s cold weather and harsh conditions in your operating area. That is why to each of the 5,000 soldiers involved in the Lanao campaign, we are giving one sleeping bag each (applause).

I know that this is not part of the normal equipment of the soldier but you deserve it at the very least. Also as you are separated from your families and loved ones, your cellphones are your most convenient link to them. Therefore, for each of these 5,000 soldiers, I am giving you free cell card loads of 300 pesos each. (Applause)

Ilan pang halimbawa ang ating mga programa to alleviate the pain of the present global economic storm include “Pantawid Pag-aral” para sa pautang at scholarships ng mga estudyante sa kolehiyo. Kaya bukod sa ibibigay kong pondo para sa sleeping bags at saka para sa cellphone cards, ay magbibigay din ako ng pondong isang milyong piso (P1M) na gagamitin sa pautang or scholarship funds sa mga college students na anak ng ating mga outstanding soldiers sa Lanao campaign. (Applause)

Bahagi rin ng programa ng pamahalaang pambansa ay ang “Tulong Para kay Lolo at Lola” for the elderly who are not covered by SSS or GSIS. Kaya magbibigay din ako ngayon ng isang milyong pisong pondo para pantulong sa mga magulang naman ng ating mga outstanding soldiers dito sa labanang ito.

Kasama rin sa ating biyaya na nanggaling sa ating reporma sa buwis ay yung upgrading of hospitals at kasama dito ang mga military hospital. (Applause)

I hope these projects will boost your morale as you pursue your mission against the lawless groups.

Bilang bahagi ng sariling kakayahan, we must now secure peace, order and stability in Mindanao and re-assure all the people that we can then move ahead with any broad-based discussion on the peace process. This includes bringing relief to affected refugees and victims and bringing to justice those purveyors of violence.

Great soldiers I reiterate the support of the Filipino people in your campaign for peace and justice. And I give this message as well to our great policemen. Continue performing your excellent job.

Mabuhay ang ating mga sundalo at pulis! Mabuhay ang mga mamamayan ng Lanao at ng buong Mindanao!

Congratulations, Team AFP! (Applause)

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat! (Applause)

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the awarding ceremony for the officers and men of the AFP and PNP in recognition of their heroic acts during encounters with MILF. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135340/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1680&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2008 Parangal at Pasasalamat Awards Rites in Commemoration of the Philippine Civil Service 108th Anniversary Celebration, September 19, 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2008 Parangal at Pasasalamat Awards Rites in Commemoration of the Philippine Civil Service
108th Anniversary Celebration**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, September 19, 2008]

To all of you, I'm very happy that we are together celebrating this event. *At* congratulations *sa ating mga awardees ng 'Dangal ng Bayan,' 'Pagasa' at lalo na yung 'Lingkod Bayan' awardees!*

Ipinagdiriwang natin ngayon ang tagumpay hindi lamang ng ating mga awardees, kundi na rin sa lahat ng mga lingkod-bayan sa pamahalaan, sa inyong napakahalagang papel sa buhay ng ating bansa. Mula sa mga think-tank, at ang daming think-tanks ang binigyan natin ng parangal ngayon na bumabalangkas sa mga programang pangkaunlaran, hanggang sa mga guro gaya ni Mrs. Banaag, mga pulis, mga duktor at iba pang kawaning front line, ang Serbisyo Sibil ang nagdurugtong sa pamahalaan at mamamayan.

Lalong mahalaga ang ating parangal ngayon, sa harap ng mga hamon ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya, na mas lalong kinakailangan ang paglilingkod ng bayan at mas lalong nadawit din yung mga mas mahihirap sa ating lingkod bayan.

Walang dudang humagupit ang unos ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya nitong taon sa bawat isang Pilipino sa pamamagitan ng pagtaas ng presyo ng pagkain, langis at bigas. Dahil dito, umakyat sa di kanais-nais na inflation at bumigat ang pasanin ng ating mga mahihirap, kasama na lalo yung mga mas mahihirap na mga kawani ng pamahalaan.

Ang pagtaas ng mahigit 40 percent sa presyo ng krudo at bigas sa world market ay naging napalaking hamon.

Ang ekonomiya natin ay hindi naiwasan sa pagbaba ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya. Sa katotohanan, bumagal nga ang paglago ng ating ekonomiya.

Our growth in gross domestic product slowed down to 4.6 percent in the second quarter, a far cry from the sizzling eight percent growth last year. But growth eased in our neighbors as well. Singapore grew by only 2.1 percent, compared to eight percent a year before. Hong Kong posted 4.2 percent, compared to six percent in the same quarter last year. South Korea's growth was similar to us, at 4.8 percent.

Ngunit umaasa tayo na ang mga numerong ito ay tumutukoy na lamang sa nakaraan na. Ganunpaman, ginagawa ang lahat ng ating economic team, kasama dun si Secretary Favila, kasama doon yung mga taga-Sentral Bank, na tumanggap ng award ngayon upang pababain ang inflation, alalayan ang mga labis na tinamaan at ipagpatuloy ang paglago ng ekonomiya na siyang pagmumulan ng mga trabaho at koleksyon ng buwis na pinamumuhunan sa kinabukasan ng ating bayan.

Habang nakahahamon ang kasalukuyang larawan ng ekonomiya, salamat na nagkaroon tayo ng sapat na foresight na paghandaan ang araw na ito, sa pamamagitan ng mga mabibigat na repormang sinadya natin sa ating sistema ng buwis. Binigyan tayo nito ng mga pondo para ilaan sa mga tulong na nakatutok sa ating pinakamahihirap.

Sadyang hiniling ko na imbitahin ngayon ang maraming mga sub-professional civil servants, hindi lamang yung ating security guard ng SBMA na tumanggap din ng award kundi na rin marami pang ibang kagaya niya upang bigyan diin ang mga pinalawak na tulong programa sa mahirap na panahon.

Nang naging sunod-sunod ang pag-angat ng ating ekonomiya sa 2006 at 2007, at lumaki ang pondo ng bansa, inatasan ko na bahaginan ang lahat ng kawani ng national na pamahalaan ng mga benepisyo ng paglaki ng ekonomiya. Kaya't noong Hulyo ng 2007, tinaasan ng sampung porsyento ang suweldo ng lahat ng national government employees at ang combat incentive allowance ng mga sundalo. At nitong nakaraang Hulyo ay ibinigay din sa inyo ang pangalawang 10-percent increase.

At ngayon, ang mga kumikita lamang ng P200,000 o mas maliit kesa dito ay hindi na kailangang magbayad ng income tax.

Noong Marso ng nakaraang taon, inatasan ko na maglunsad ng programang pautang para sa kawani ng pamahalaan na nais magpundar ng maliliit na negosyo. Ito yung 'Go Negosyo, Go Gobyerno' program, kung saan nagpapahiram sa mga empleyado ang Land Bank, ng halagang hanggang P150,000 bawat isa. Kaya kanina, yung 600 ay hindi 600 pesos para sa kanila, kundi 600,000 pesos yun para sa kanila.

Mula ng inilunsad ito noong Mayo ng 2007, P2.89 bilyon na ang naipahiram ng programa sa 164 na kooperatiba at samahan ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan. Halos 19,000 na ang empleyadong nakikinabang. At halimbawa lamang, yung mga 223 government employees mula sa limang kooperatiba to whom we awarded checks today.

Nais kong lumago pa itong programang ito, kaya hiningi ko na dito tayo magbibigay ng tseke sa ilan, gusto kong lumawak pa itong programang ito sa mga hanay ng serbisyo sibil. Kaya aasahan ko ang Civil Service Commission sa pagtulak ng Go Gobyerno, Go Negosyo.

Ang mga hamong kaharap natin ngayon sa pangkalahatan ay galing sa labas ng bayan, but they nevertheless require strong, decisive and targeted action internally. Hindi inaasahang ganuon ang itataas ng pandaigdigang presyo ng langis at ibang commodities. Hindi pa alam kung gaano kalalim ang kasalukuyang gulo ng financial market sa Amerika. Ganumpaman, ang pinakamatibay nating depensa ay sarili at panloob nating kalakasan.

Bagamat magandang balita na higit na umaasa tayo sa sarili at pinanghahawakan ang sarili nating kapalaran sa ekonomiya, totoo ring kailangan tayong higit na kayaning makipagtuligsa sa pandaigdigan.

To be world-class for global competitiveness, we invest in reducing red tape in all agencies to cut business costs. Ayun ang ating ginawa kaninang simbolo.

Binabati ko si Chairman Ric Saludo, yun chairman, at ang buong Komisyon; si May at saka si Cesar at pati na rin ang ibang ahensiyang lumahok sa paggawa ng Anti-Red Tape Implementing Rules and Regulations na pormal nating sinisimulan nitong araw na ito. Kaya ang dami nating kailangang gawin.

Tuloy-tuloy tayong magkapit-bisig upang isakatuparan ang pambansang agenda ng reporma at kaunlaran, kung saan napaka-importante ang papel ng ating serbisyo sibil.

Sa inyong lahat Happy Anniversary, Congratulations sa inyong paglilingkod sa ating bayan!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

**Speech of President Arroyo during the World Islamic Call Society 4th Iftar (Breaking of the Fast),
September 20, 2008 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the World Islamic Call Society 4th Iftar (Breaking of the Fast)**

[Delivered at the Sunset Pavilion, Sofitel Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila, September 20, 2008]

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatu! Peace be unto all of you!
We praise and thank Our Lord, Allah for another chance to break bread together.

As we celebrate Ramadhan, we are hopeful that lasting peace for the whole country and especially for Mindanao will soon be counted among our blessings.

The sad irony of Mindanao is that it is our bread basket or food basket, and yet it has some of the highest hunger in our nation. It has large fields of high productivity, yet it also has the majority of our poorest provinces.

The prime reason is the endless Mindanao conflict.

Our archipelagic nation has had its share of religious strife, ethnic tension and violence. For years, we have worked earnestly and honestly to achieve peace in that southern island of our country only to have the peace process upended by the recent violence carried out by lawless elements.

Notwithstanding the setbacks in our peace process, I stand before you tonight to declare loud and clear that the Philippines will have peace in Mindanao. There is no alternative to peace. With the help of friends like the World Islamic Call Society, and our other nation friends from the Islamic countries, we will bring peace to Mindanao. So, we take this opportunity to acknowledge here tonight the central role of so many friends and allies in bringing peace and hope to the Philippines.

We have traveled many miles to keep the peace these last seven years, that gives me hope and confidence that we will rekindle the will to focus on peace.

We will refocus all peace talks from one that is centered on dialogues with rebels to one of authentic dialogues with the communities, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration or DDR shall be the context of our engagement with all armed groups.

And we thank our friends in the Islamic World both within this country, in the Middle East and Southeast Asia who have played or wish to play a role in making this possible.

Each and every one of our friends — these friends represented here tonight — these friends of peace and of the Philippines, have made the world better and safer because of your concern for what happens in Mindanao. For that, we are eternally grateful.

DDR is an internationally and UN-accepted process for resolving armed conflicts.

DDR is a UN peacekeeping term. It is part of the peace process in the post-conflict scenario being applied in such places as Liberia and Afghanistan.

Disarmament entails the physical removal of the means of combat from ex-belligerents, such as weapons and arms. Demobilization entails the disbanding of armed groups. Reintegration describes the process of reintegrating former combatants into civil society, ensuring against the possibility of a resurgence of armed conflict.

DDR activities are crucial components of both the initial stabilization of war-torn societies as well as their long-term development. As such, needs for DDR must be integrated into the entire peace process from the initial peace negotiations through peacekeeping and follow-on peace-building activities.

The objective of the DDR process is to contribute to security and stability in post-conflict environments, so that recovery and development can begin. DDR lays the groundwork for safeguarding and sustaining the communities in which individuals can live as law-abiding citizens, while building capacity for long-term peace, security and development.

We have high hopes that our friends in the Islamic World will support our focus. We maintain high hopes as well in the strength of our program of interfaith dialogue as a means to achieving the end of building bridges rather than barriers between communities of different faiths, cultures, traditions and ethnicity.

In continuation of this effort, the Philippines next year, will host the first ever Special Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue for Cooperation and Development in May. And we hope that we will have the support of our brothers from the Muslim world. We will also cooperate with the Alliance of Civilizations.

Peace and dialogue are more vital than ever with the world undergoing economic turmoil.

Almost overnight, the global economic environment has turned 180 degrees. The dramatic surge in food and fuel prices and the financial turmoil in the world markets have created a global price crisis, the worst since the Great Depression and the end of World War II.

This is a complex time that defies easy and simple solutions. It's hard to identify villains, unlike in the 1997 financial crisis. Everyone seems to be a victim, rich countries and poor, though certainly some can take more punishment than others.

So, we must all band together now and find the right balance between our global economic dependence and national self-reliance.

In our shared quest for a brighter future, both in terms of peace and in terms of prosperity, we hope the peoples of the world can perceive that underneath the external differences among regions, tribes and religions, there remains one common truth: we are all in this world by the grace of a merciful God. A God that is called Allah in the Islamic language and that is called "Ama" in the Filipino language. But that is the same God and we must therefore praise, glorify and obey Him.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Retirement Honors and Change of Command Ceremonies

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Retirement Honors and Change of Command Ceremonies

[Delivered at the PNP Headquarters, camp Crame, Quezon City, September 27, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Puno.

General Razon, happy birthday and congratulations! (Applause) Likewise to Mrs. Razon and Nanay Razon and the other members of the Razon family. (Applause)

Our new Police Director-General Jess Versoza, congratulations! (Applause) Likewise to Mrs. Versoza, Jess' parents and other members of the family. (Applause)

Secretary Ebdane here representing not only all the appointive officials of our administration but also all the former chiefs of the Philippine National Police (PNP) whom I all greet today. (Applause) Members of Congress, Don Emilio Yap and the other private benefactors of the Philippine National Police (applause), members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen:

Nagpapaalam tayo itong araw na ito sa isang outstanding na pinuno ng Pambansang Kapulisan ng Pilipinas at tinatanggap ang isa pang katangi-tanging opisyal na sinisimulaan naman ang kaniyang panahon bilang pinuno ng PNP.

Director-General Avelino I. Razon Jr., as he said to us in his tour-of-duty report, started the first three months of his term as PNP Chief with three big bangs that tested his mettle fast: the Glorietta tragedy, the Batasan bombing, the Manila Pen coup attempt. And with those trials, the public very quickly got to know this loyal, perceptive and determined police officer, the unflappable man in uniform who won the public's trust in him and in the PNP.

Kaya nakamit ng kapulisan ang approval rating na pinakamataas sa nakaraang pitong taon. Congratulations, Mamang Pulis Sonny Razon! (Applause) Ang simbolo ng pag papamuno ni Sonny Razon ay Mamang Pulis and of course, Aleng Pulis, because at least 10 percent of our police force is made up of women. Itong simbolong pinapairal ni Sonny Razon na simbolo ng huwarang pulis ay pulis na maaasahan, magmalasakit, madaling lapitan, presentable, makatao at maka-Diyos, at bihasang tumugon sa iba't ibang uri ng pangangailangan ng sambayanan, maging ito ay pagsasaayos ng gulo sa loob ng bahay o sa labas ng kalye, pagdakip sa mga kriminal, o pagtugis sa mga nag-aalsa at terorista. Bunga ito ng mga progresibong gawain sa ilalim ng programang binanggit ng ating dalawang panauhing pangdangal, yung transformation program ng PNP.

At isang malaking nagawa ni Sonny sa transformation program na ito ay yung manpower allocation, which has seen more and more of Mamang Pulis and Aleng Pulis in the streets, downloaded to the ratio of 95 percent from headquarters, to sustain an increased number of patrol and checkpoint operations and ensure police visibility in the localities.

At hindi lamang yung statistic ng tumaas ang approval rating ng PNP ang dapat ipagmalaki, isa rin dahil nga naaalala ni Sonny nung isang taon dito sa bulwagang ito — mas maliit pa nuon malaki na ngayon, pinalaki ni Sonny — ang sinabi ko na inaasahan ko na maging legacy ni Sonny ay yung pag-iral ng karapatang-pantao ... o human rights. And so aside from the increased approval rating we must congratulate Sonny Razon for working on the issue of human rights so that, as he himself has reported, the number of extra-judicial killings or political killings has gone down by 85 percent, congratulations! (Applause)

The Mamang Pulis paradigm that Sonny Razon brought to the PNP and the transformation that he moved forward, a transformation that, as Jess Versoza said, spans several PNP chiefs during our administration, starting from the concept that has started during the time of General Jun Ebdane, is indeed a microcosm of how we came to office determined to change the strategic paradigm for the Philippines and especially the Philippine economy.

The Philippine economy and peace and order are twins of each other. Without peace and order we cannot have a strong economy. And, conversely, a strong and growing economy has been the central pillar we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country.

Our efforts are paying off: not only an increased approval for the PNP, not only the giant reduction in political killings but also in that our economy is more resilient today than before, also that we have created almost seven million jobs in seven years, and that investments continue to come despite continued volatility in the global markets.

As a result of our economic turnaround, we are also able to invest in key sectors to cushion the harsh impact of high prices for food and fuel on our poor that has hit not only our country but the whole world this past year.

In addition to modernizing the PNP, we are investing in modernizing infrastructure like roads and bridges on an unprecedented scale. And we are also investing in expanded education, healthcare, and other social services.

Kasama na dito yung pinalawak na programang pabahay at pangkabuhayan para sa mga pulis at kanilang mga pamilya na binigay ng pangalang “Pulis Kalinga”. Naalala ko nung Disyembre, nagpunta tayo sa Bicutan ba yun? Di ba Sonny? Kung saan ang ibang mga yunit ay inumpisanhan natin pero natapos na sila sa panahon ni Director General Razon.

At patuloy din ang mga proyektong pabahay sa Baras, Rizal; yung binanggit ni Sonny sa San Miguel, Bulacan, ito ba yung bahagi nung, ano ba? 1,600 hectares na nakuha natin mula sa Central Bank bilang dibidendo ng Central Bank sa ating bansa; at yung 1,600 hectares ay hinati natin sa apat na bahagi — 400 hectares para sa pulis, 400 hectares para sa mga kasama ni General Yano sa military, 400 hectares para sa mga guro, at 400 hectares para sa ibang mga manggagawa at empleyado ng pamahalaan.

Kaya ako’y natutuwa na dun sa bahagi ng PNP naumpisahan na ni Sonny Razon ang horizontal development. Meron din dun sa Camp Castañeda sa Silang, Cavite at iba pa, maraming binanggit si Sonny Razon na mga lugar ng ating housing program para sa mga pulis. Para sa mga bata naman, mga anak, at ako ay, I want to give my best wishes to Miss Versoza as she takes her bar exams at sana lahat ng anak ng mga pulis ay maka-abot duon at para maka-abot sa ganung kataasan na pag-aaral libu-libong anak ng pulis din ay nakakapag-aral sa ilalim ng iba’t ibang klase ng ating mga scholarship.

Itong mga biyaya sa pulis ay tumulong sa mga transformation na ginawa ni Sonny at kanyang mga predecessor sa pagbawas sa incidente ng mga krimen, lalo na yung mga street crimes. Yun ang malaking ibinaba nung panahon ni Sonny Razon. And that is something that the ordinary Filipino feels if his street is more crime-free than ever before. At natitiyak tayong maipagpapatuloy ang maganda halimbawa ni Mamang Pulis Sonny nang papalit sa kaniya.

Our new PNP chief Jess Versoza had also a very, how shall I say, very varied experienced in the police force and as he was talking about how Ronnie Puno would advise him, inspire him, or comfort him as the case maybe, during the highs and lows of his career. I could not help but remember in my own mind the different things that Jess underwent at least during my administration. But one thing I’d like to point out is that he has been assigned to practically every hot spot of the country, including Basilan and Maguindanao.

And of the rich experience of Jess Versoza, I specifically point this one out because his experience is valuable to what we are seeking to do today. That is we are committed to do everything possible to bring lasting peace to Mindanao and end 40 years of fighting that has killed more than a 120,000 people.

It is in the interest of all Filipinos, not just to have his street free of crime but also to end the violence that has held the southern part of our country back and that has required our investment of hundreds of millions of pesos to support our military and police presence in Mindanao. As I said to the UN General Assembly a few days ago, we will pursue the peace process in Mindanao.

The recent violence has reminded us all that peace is the only option for our country and the people of Mindanao but also everybody in his own street even here in Metro Manila. However, we must end the armed rebellions through disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation. And a very strong role of the PNP is expected in making sure that Mindanao remains peaceful.

After all, what is happening there in Mindanao is a law-enforcement exercise. It is not an all-out-war. We are now focused on dialogues with all of the communities involved in the peace process – both Muslim and Christians.

We are building more bridges to affected communities and to all men and women of good will who reject the use of armed struggle as a means of achieving political and societal change.

Kanina binanggit at pinatindig ni DG Versoza ang ilang mga mamamayan, mga sibilyan na gumamit ng kanilang karapatan bilang mamamayan para magkaroon ng pagbabago duon sa pulis.

At ito rin ang inaasahan natin sa ating peace process — yung ginagawa ngayon nung kaklase ni Sonny si Jun Esperon — bringing the peace process to the people themselves. At gusto natin na kagaya nang ginawa ng ating dalaga dito sa third row, na nanggaling sa kanya na dapat magkaroon ng pagbabago dun sa serbisyo ng pulis sa police station. Inaasahan din natin na manggagaling sa taongbayan mismo na yung mga rebelde ay dapat itabi na dapat ang kanilang mga armas para sa ganun buong bansa ay makasulong na.

And so with these new directions in the police, in the peace process, in our country at large against the gale force winds of the global economy, we remain bullish on our country, and with that continually transforming police under the leadership now of our new DG Jess Versoza, we're optimistic about our future. I am very pleased to hear the deep commitment of our police leaders to being a force for good.

Mahal nating lahat ang ating taong bayan. And as Commander-in-Chief, I can only end by saying, I am very grateful to the Lord, as Sonny calls "The Architect of the Great Universe", because He has given me the privilege to have Sonny Razon and Jess Versoza with me in serving the country.

To both of you, congratulations! Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Retirement Honors and Change of Command Ceremonies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135218/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1658&Itemid=38

Sponsorship Speech of Senator Benigno Simeon Aquino III on Senate Bill No. 1370, September 30, 2008

**Sponsorship Speech
of
Honorable Benigno Simeon Aquino III
Senator of the Philippines
On Senate Bill No. 1370**

[Released on September 30, 2008]

The 1987 Constitution expressly states that “the State shall regulate the relations between workers and employers, recognizing the right of labor to its just share in the fruits of production and the right of enterprise to reasonable return on investments, and to its expansion of its growth.”

Such an ideal can be realized if companies share a reasonable portion of their profits with the people who help achieve them: their employees.

Profit-sharing, a system in which the people who work for a company receive a direct share of the profits, can help improve performance and productivity in a business organization the way basic salary systems cannot.

Small local firms, such as One Network Bank, a network of over 70 rural banks in Mindanao, benefit from profit-sharing. In a 2007 statement, the bank’s president, Mr. Alex Buenaventura, mentioned that One Network Bank’s employees received an additional 15% of their salary in 2005 and 26% more in 2006. This improvement was largely due to their company’s productivity incentives program which he said, encouraged his employees to be more conscious of the bank’s performance, and therefore more actively involved in achieving their company’s targets.

This evidence of growth suggests that through profit-sharing, workers are endowed with a greater stake in the outcome of their organization. Their entitlement to a reasonable share of the company’s profits tends to heighten their level of participation in increasing the firm’s overall productivity.

Senate Bill No. 1370 or “An Act Granting An Annual Productivity Incentive To All Workers in the Private Sector, Establishing Mechanisms For Its Implementation, And For Other Purposes” is a recognition of the indispensable contribution of the labor force to the success of the business enterprise. It seeks to provide additional measures for the mutual benefit and industrial harmony between labor and management, which are not subsumed in the extend law, Republic Act No. 6971 or the “Productivity Incentives Act of 1990.”

Through this legislative initiative, workers can be expected to work harder as they assured of a just compensation for their labor. They will be encouraged to help their company sustain long-term growth, as this in turn, will benefit them. They will be empowered to live up to the core values of fairness and equity, which the company promotes by providing productivity incentives to its workforce.

This bill upholds the worker’s rights to improve their quality of life as well as the management’s rights to a reasonable return on their investments. It is a vital tool in changing the role of business enterprises from mere profit machines to socially responsible agents that place a high premium on the contributions of their people.

Source: Legislative Library, House of Representatives

Aquino, B. S. III (2008). Sponsorship speech of Senator Aquino. *Journal of the Senate*, 1, 590-591.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 107th Anniversary of the Office of the Solicitor General

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 107th Anniversary of the Office of the Solicitor General**

[Delivered at the Philippine Army Officers' Club, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, October 2, 2008]

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Agnes, the first female Solicitor General in our country. (Applause)

Justice Nachura and the other very distinguished former solicitors general who are all here (Applause) in very prominent other positions in our society;

(Applause) General Ibrado, our host in this setting; members and officials of the Office of the Solicitor General; ladies and gentlemen.

Happy Anniversary sa OSG! (Applause)

The OSG has an important role in achieving our vision of a Strong Republic that's ready for first-world status in 20 years. In our vision of a first-world country, we envision one where we will have dramatically reduced poverty, created a robust middle-class and have all the hallmarks of a modern society in strong, stable institutions.

And among the strong, stable institutions we refer to is an effective government, from the national to the local governments, with a professional and dedicated civil service, like the civil servants in the OSG. (Applause)

You not only help strengthen the civil service of our country by your own good work but also by the important decisions that you work for in court. For instance, the success of the OSG on the constitutionality of the Attrition Law, which was decided on last month, should strengthen the civil service of the revenue agencies to neutralize smugglers and tax cheats and increase our revenues. Another way of strengthening our Republic.

An effective government delivers basic services for everyone — the most important of which is an environment of peace and the rule of law and the necessary infrastructure.

Among the services that you have helped to deliver for an environment of peace is your success as mentioned earlier in the Writ of Amparo cases. Congratulations for that! (Applause)

You have also contributed to delivering an environment of peace by your clarification of the MOA-AD in Mindanao. And I think it's a good time on the occasion of your anniversary to reiterate that no matter what the Supreme

Court ultimately decides, in the light of the recent violent incidents committed by MILF Lawless Groups, the government will not sign the MOA.

We are committed to doing everything possible to bring lasting peace to Mindanao and end 40 years of fighting that has killed more than 120,000 people. It is in the interest of all Filipinos, Muslims and Christians, to end the violence that has held that part of our country back and required an investment of hundreds of millions to support our military presence there.

As I said to the U.N. General Assembly last week: we will pursue the peace process in Mindanao. The recent violence has reminded all of us that peace is the only option for our country and for the people of Mindanao.

However, we have refocused all peace talks from one that is centered on dialogues with rebels to one of authentic dialogues with the communities, both Muslim and Christian. Those dialogues are directed at ending all forms of armed rebellion in the country. We must make all armed groups accountable to the people and the government for all their actions. Our people, together with the government, will be the primary force in defining and shaping the direction of societal change, not the force of arms.

Disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation will be the overall framework governing our engagement with armed groups in all peace talks.

And I thank the Office of the Solicitor General for helping us pursue the peace process. (Applause)

An effective government rests on the rule of law. And Solicitor General is essential for the rule of law.

The Office of the Solicitor General is the law firm of the Philippine government, both here and abroad. Your office engages in a wide range of legal issues, from titling lands to defending the position of the Philippine government before our Supreme Court and international tribunals. The Solicitor General is probably the busiest among Filipino lawyers. And the work of the Solicitor General, as said in your video presentation, requires the range of knowledge, the depth of wisdom, and the integrity of no less than a member of the Highest Court of the land.

Witness — former OSG Nachura becoming now a justice of the Supreme Court. (Applause)

The success of the OSG in prominent cases filed before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals has indeed helped ensure the rule of law in our land. And we thank you for that.

The OSG helps in the task of a strong republic also to deliver the necessary infrastructure. For instance, your decisive action on properties along the NLEX and the SLEX from Calamba, Laguna to Sto. Tomas, Batangas enabled the completion of improvements in these crucial highways. Your success in the PIATCO case has provided the basis for opening NAIA 3. These improvements in turn eased the flow of goods and services and made the Philippines a better economy. Salamat. (Applause)

A strong republic must help not only in the decisions of the government, not only in providing infrastructure, not only in making sure that the rule of law prevails, not only in promoting peace but also must help its poorest and weakest citizens and empower them.

And again here, you have a role to play.

The function of land registration may appear merely ministerial to some, but your decisions of the OSG regarding land registration have given hope to thousands of small landowners and helped provide a good middle-class for our country. Salamat. (Applause)

If we want to be ready for a first-world in 20 years and be a strong republic, our justice system must be strengthened to become an efficient institution.

And so tonight, on this anniversary of the OSG, we celebrate RA 9417 or the Nachura Law, which strengthens the OSG system. It's called the Nachura Law not because Congressman Nachura made it a law but because OSG Nachura had still so many friends in Congress from his term that he was able to get it passed into law. (Applause)

And this law from what has been described gives the OSG more teeth in resolving cases. It provides the executive branch effective and far-reaching legal advice. It grants the SolGen more latitude in selecting the best minds to assist in performing the work. Now, the pay of our very young lawyers in the SolGen is competitive with the pay in the private sector. So, we can have the best minds. (Applause)

Kaya binabati ko ang lahat ng bumubuo ng OSG, dahil itong araw na ito sa okasyon ng anibersaryo ng OSG magiging epektibo na ang RA 9417 ngayong pumasa na ang implementing rules. Ngayon itataas ang sweldo. Okay. (Applause)

Next to the rule of law, a second institution of a strong republic on its way to first-world is a vigorous economy. And I've mentioned earlier how you helped to give us a vigorous economy.

We came to office determined to change the strategic paradigm for the Philippine economy. A strong and growing economy has been the central pillar we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country. And it's paying off: we have created almost 7 million jobs in 7 years, investments continue to come — just witness all the cranes that are here in this area — despite the continued volatility in the global markets.

As a result of our economic turnaround, we are also able to invest in key sectors to cushion the harsh impact of the high prices of food and fuel on our poor that have hit the whole world this past year.

In addition, we are investing in modernizing infrastructure like those highways that you're able to make us build because of your action, like the expressways, and we're able to do these roads and bridges on an unprecedented scale.

We are also investing in expanded education, healthcare, and other social services. All the while, we are balancing these vital investments with a commitment to meet our fiscal obligations and balance the budget in 2010.

We have been working tirelessly to address the challenges arising from the slowdown in the global economy combined with the spike in oil and food prices. But the fact is this is a global phenomenon. We have been working hard on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures, provide a safety net to those hit hardest by these global developments and deliver the growth that will continue to generate jobs and the tax revenues we need to fuel our investment in our nation's future including the things that we have to spend to make the OSG competitive with the private sector.

Most notably, on the part of our food problem in the whole world, we have been working hard to make sure that food supplies remain stable and we're working hard to put food on the table for every Filipino. We have also been introducing measures to lift the burden of high fuel prices off our people.

On the same token, our economic team, in coordination with the Bangko Sentral, is closely monitoring developments in the global financial markets. Our economy is more resilient today than ever before. It is strong enough to withstand the external financial turmoil. The economic and fiscal reforms that we have implemented in recent years, through the cooperation of Congress, have resulted in the strengthening of our macroeconomic fundamentals and our banking system.

We are working hard to further strengthen the domestic economy by accelerated spending for infrastructure — that's why we need your help in all those writs of possession — and agriculture; fast tracking financial reforms to further strengthen the banking system; improve our fiscal health by improved revenue collection through better tax administration. And we thank you again for the decision of the Attrition Law as well as legislative measures, and encouraging investment by such measures as reducing regulatory bottlenecks for strategic industries. All these to

sustain our economic growth momentum and to insulate our economy from volatility in world markets. Continuing these efforts will ensure that we are able to weather the global storm, that we are able to achieve the economic rebound we are projecting for next year, and that we're able to work for the strengthening of our Republic through the strengthening of institutions like the OSG.

The events in the U.S. and the slowdown in the global economy are really causing real difficulties for countries around the world. And like many countries around the world, we are not insulated from them. But the Philippine economy will remain resilient amid these challenges.

So, against the gale force winds of the global economy, we remain bullish on our country, optimistic about our future and deeply committed to being a force for good. And in being a force for good, I am very grateful that we have the Office of the Solicitor General to help us there.

I am grateful for the privilege of serving the Republic of the Philippines together with such fine men and women as we have in the Office of the Solicitor General. (Applause)

Kaya sa mga masisipag at mahuhusay na miyembro ng Office of Solicitor General: Mabuhay kayong lahat! Happy Anniversary! At maraming salamat.

(Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 107th Anniversary of the Office of the Solicitor General. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135204/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1762&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 10th Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI) CEO Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 10th Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI) CEO Forum**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 06, 2008]

Thank you. (Applause)

Thank you, Secretary Favila.

Chairman Arthur Young, President Ernie Santiago, all the members and officers of SEIPI, welcome once again to Malacanang!

Many of you may remember the last time we met as a group two years ago. But between then and now, I've met some of your principals at international fora and I get to see many of you individually during the many company events that have taken place in the industry. And I stay updated on your many successes as well as your concerns. For after all, you have made, as our two speakers have said, tremendous contributions to our economy. Thank you to the industry. (Applause)

A special thanks to the 242 companies that form SEIPI, the moving spirit that has made your sector among the most united and organized of Philippine industries. I have heard about your GAINS program for global competitiveness, advocacy, information, networking and services, and that it is the most forward-looking industry strategy in the country. Congratulations to you! (Applause)

We saw a part of your work in the two presentations today and for the ordinary Filipino, the Philippine economic landscape of the 21st century would be unrecognizable without your industries. You have every right to claim to be the "driver of the Philippine economy," as Ernie said in the beginning of his speech, you produce two-thirds of Philippine exports. Over a billion Philippine-made memory chips, power devices, disk drives, digital signal processors, magnetic heads and similar products are found in various electronic appliances all over the world coming from you. Because of you, our country has an 18 percent share of the global electronics market since 2006. I thank you also personally because during my presidency you have earned 200 billion dollars for our country. Your exports have grown almost 50 percent — from 22 billion dollars in 2001 to 31 billion dollars a year. And I was looking at the growth rate of the world and of Asia, your exports in the last seven years have grown faster than the rest of Asia.

Your industries have been major job creators. You give direct employment to almost half a million Filipinos, that is the same number as our Department of Education, which is our largest single government employer.

Your sector invested five billion dollars during my administration. And the peak, the rise in investments was with Texas Instruments which by itself is pumping more than a billion dollars for a new operation in Clark, not to mention its new activities in Baguio. So, we thank Bing for bringing that investment over. (Applause)

I've also had the fortune of presiding over the expansion of other companies like SunPower, large expansion. So, I'm very grateful for that.

In 2001, I was telling Ernie, but in 2001 you had a negative growth rate, didn't you? And Ernie remembers that 2001 had a minus 22 growth rate. It was a negative 22 percent. At that time, that was right after the 9/11, but even before 9/11 the global market was already slowing down. In 2001, the main market for Philippine-made electronics and semiconductor items was the United States. Then the U.S. market suffered a drop in sales. That's why your growth rate was minus 22 percent, though I might say that at that time, I remember how I said, "Naku! kakaupo ko lang magnegative growth rate ang Pilipinas," because electronics is such a major part of our economy. But we work to do other things to strengthen the domestic market, release all the arrears of IRA to the local governments, work on the housing industries, spend on agriculture, as a result of which the Philippine economy still had a positive growth rate even if the electronics industry had a negative growth rate. But in the meantime, just as we were working on how to make the Philippine economy remain with a positive growth rate, you were also working, you were looking for other markets. And indeed, you found other markets. So that when we met in 2006, China was already your main customer, taking in 26 percent of your exports. And today, with even more changes in the global economic arena, you have shifted your focus again. This year 2008, 'cause most of your figures are 2007, Ernie confirmed to me that about 22 percent of your products go to Europe, 15 percent to Japan, 14 to the U.S., 13 percent to China and the rest to other Asian countries.

But Arthur was telling me that there is a lot of potential, as you've shown us in the presentation, within our own region. And so, with such dynamism, your industry — though it had a negative growth rate for the first six months of the year — in June, it managed to grow 2.6 percent year-on-year, and maybe that means that the slump is over and you're beginning to go back to your upswing.

We have been working tirelessly as we did in 2001, and now even more to address challenges arising from the slowdown in the global economy which this time is combined with the spike in oil and food prices. We all know this is a global phenomenon. Your presentation shows how aware you are, and you need to be aware, because you're so integrated with the global economy of what's going on in the world.

The events in the U.S. and the slowdown in the global economy are causing real difficulties for countries around the world. But we are not insulated from them, but our economy is more resilient today than ever before. And I would say more resilient than some other countries in our region. In some other country, which is also an attractive area for your investments otherwise, the overheating is so much that the government has to cut down on infrastructure spending. We have not reached the stage of overheating and we are not cutting down, in fact, we are increasing infrastructure spending.

We're able to do this because of the economic and fiscal reforms that we have implemented in recent years through the cooperation of Congress. These have resulted in the strengthening of our macroeconomic fundamentals as well as our banking system. So our economy is strong enough to withstand the external financial turmoil.

We've been working hard on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures, to provide a safety net to those hit hardest by these global developments, and deliver the growth that will continue to generate jobs and tax revenues that we need to fuel our investments in our nation's future.

We've been working hard to make sure that food supplies remain stable and to put food on the table for every Filipino in order to avoid demands for a wage spiral and therefore keep you competitive. We were discussing what we know when Arthur was making his presentation about our... the cost being a small portion of the cost of goods sold compare to other places. So overall, there is still a good amount of competitiveness here and we contribute to that among other things by trying to keep the cost of food low or affordable so that there will be no demand for a wage spiral.

We've also been introducing measures to lift the burden of high fuel prices off our people. So that there will be no big transportation cost increase for the workers who go to work for the same reason to avoid demands for a wage spiral.

On the same token, our economic team, of which Peter is a member, in coordination with the Bangko Sentral, of which Peter is our government representative to the Monetary Board, our economic team is closely monitoring

developments in the global financial markets. We're working hard to further strengthen the domestic economy by accelerated spending for infrastructure. As I have said, whereas other countries around us may be pressured to reduce infrastructure spending, we're accelerating infrastructure and agriculture, fast-tracking financial reforms to further strengthen the banking system, improve our fiscal health by better tax collection and also by legislative measures, and encouraging investment by such measures as reducing regulatory bottlenecks for strategic industries like the semiconductor and electronics industry.

Texas Instruments, Bing was telling us, came to the Philippines and it was not easy for us to make sure that they come to the Philippines. There were other very attractive or prospective hosts, and we are all vying and the key was the red tape. And we won over our other rival possible destinations and Texas Instruments decided to do their new plant here. The same thing with some other multi-hundred million-dollar investments coming up soon. Peter who is chairman of our Anti-Red Tape Task Force is working hard to make sure that old bottlenecks are removed and I hope we will be seeing this new investment soon.

We are addressing most of the concerns you presented in 2001, aside from the concerns that are presented by individual prospective investors. And I remember infrastructure was one of your biggest concerns. And your companies were among the ones we thought of when we pushed for big infrastructure projects across the nation. The SLEX, the Alabang Viaduct is now 83 percent complete — should be finished soon. But even now with one lane already completed, it has eased the flow of traffic from CALABARZON towards NAIA. The Batangas Port which was completed last year, last December, services some of your companies. The SCTEX has been completed also for the convenience of the factories located in the northern part of the Luzon Urban Beltway.

Now, I remember the last time we had a meeting, you saw all the infrastructure coming up. So you were confident about that, so you said the infrastructure we must work on now must be the power sector. And on power costs, PEZA now offers reduced rates for its locators. And hopefully, we will have the implementation of open access which would hopefully bring power cost down some more, and probably the milestone for that will be the consummation of the Calaca investment in the power sector, perhaps by November.

Earlier than that, we began the 'time of use method' of computing power rates along with the WESM, then MERALCO's Customer Choice program and High Load Factor Discount for customers consuming at least 5 MW, and that's certainly you. Other provisions of the EPIRA, particularly the condonation of the loans of electric cooperatives have been implemented. And let me point out that there are areas around the country where the host municipalities and barangays give discounts or subsidized the electric bills of their customers. So I would reiterate my invitation that when you do your expansions you think of locating in these areas where the local government has the royalties from the power sources that are in their areas and they used these royalties to subsidize electric bills.

One example would be Palinpinon in the town of, is it Dauin or Zamboanguito? Ah, no in Valencia in Negros Oriental and that's the reason why we're making the airport better so that your airports... so that your whole logistics will be acceptable to you. Another example would be the geothermal areas in Leyte in Tongonan, in Ormoc and the neighboring town of Kananga, I believe, because they also have a lot of royalties. Some barangay residents don't even pay any electric bill at all. And we have an airport in Ormoc or even in Tacloban that can be suited to your requirements, as Texas Instruments has seen, we are doing with La Union Airport for their Baguio operation. So these are things that will help you to reduce your power costs. And we will spend in the infrastructure that you need for your transport competitiveness.

And most recently an ERC ruling lowered to 8 percent the recoverable systems loss of distribution utilities.

But together let us look for more ways to reduce power costs especially for small and medium companies outside of PEZA's some of whom are your own suppliers and subcontractors.

On manpower, Ernie Santiago said I should announce to you because not all of you know, that we are promoting Engineering R&D activities in the country at a significant scale. Three billion pesos is our budget for that in order to modernize every aspect of the economic underpinnings of the Philippines, including semiconductors and electronics, to propel economic growth. Because we know that modernization needs a critical mass of R&D-capable manpower

that will further attract technology-based investments like semiconductors and especially electronics. This three billion pesos that I'm talking about started last year. It's an investment in Engineering Research and Development Technology. As a part of this, as a big part of this since last school year, seven universities led by the U.P. College of Engineering have been offering scholarships for masters and doctoral degree programs in all fields of Engineering including what specialized field you might want for your own industry.

But I must congratulate SEIPI because they're already a part of this program spearheading linkages with U.P. and other reputable academic institutions for specialized masteral and doctoral training for your industry.

Government consults SEIPI on the steps that can strengthen your industries, expand your markets, and increase your convincing power in bringing in more investors to your sector. Ernie last appeared before a Cabinet meeting only last month, so he can attest to how frequently we consult SEIPI when we need to do our industrial planning.

A continuation of these efforts will help us weather the global storm and make sure that we are able to achieve the economic rebound that we are projecting for next year.

As I said, if you think of the fact that we will have flat growth this year, remember, you were minus 22 percent in 2001 and how you recovered, and you will recover even more now because we can see the investments that are under gestation. Texas Instruments will formally open in January and with their market of three billion dollars a year, we can expect that by yearend, we will have a very big increase in the electronics exports not to mention those new industries that Peter is nursing, or those new factories that Peter is nursing for them to locate here in the Philippines.

So, against the gale force winds of the global economy, we remain bullish on our country and your industry. We are optimistic about our future, your future, and we're deeply committed to being a force for the good of your industry which is good for our people. The semiconductor and electronics industries and the government have a strong synergy. You are an invaluable partner in Philippine growth.

So, from a grateful nation, mabuhay at maraming salamat sa inyo!

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 10th Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI) CEO Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135155/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1761&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Media Launch of the Global Forum on Migration and Development,
October 7, 2008**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Media Launch of the Global Forum on Migration and Development**

[Delivered at the Presidential Briefing Studio, Kalayaan Hall, Malacañang, Manila, October 7, 2008]

Secretary Romulo and Undersecretary Conejos have put this global forum in the context of overall development. Let me put it in the context of what we are experiencing in the world today.

As we face the most significant global economic and financial crisis in a generation, the poor feel it most.

I direct our economic team to work hard on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures and provide a safety net to those hit hardest by these global developments. I also direct them to draw up a contingency plan, to cushion the impact of a possible economic recession of the developed economies on the ordinary people of the Philippines. Possible, but you hope it will not happen, but it's important to have a contingency plan. And I direct the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Labor and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas to draw up a similar plan for overseas Filipinos.

Migration, as pointed out in the presentation of Undersecretary Conejos, is a growing global phenomenon.

We have 8 million Filipinos abroad, but, it's only a fraction of the 191 million migrants all over the world. Overseas Filipinos however in our country continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability.

You know, when I was in New Zealand, they were telling me that they have an even bigger percentage of New Zealanders who work abroad than the Philippines. The difference is that mom and pop send their expatriates money abroad to help them with additional income. In our case, our overseas Filipinos send us money here and help their families, their communities and our economy.

And I might also add that one very, very well-known and well-paid Filipino working overseas says that we should begin to call our overseas Filipinos "expatriates", because the nature of their job is increasingly more on skilled professions. And they should be called expatriates because expatriates usually get higher pay than if you just call them workers.

The government and the people honor our overseas Filipinos, whether you call them OFWs, OCWs, as Dante Ang, likes to call them Overseas Filipino Investors. And I agree, that we should begin to call them expatriates rather than OFWs. But in any case, we honor them for their sacrifice and dedication to their work, their family and their nation.

We welcome their contribution. But we are working towards the day when Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job; for the day that overseas work is just another career option and not the only choice they have, to earn a living. This Filipino I'm talking about, that they should be called expatriates rather than OFWs, is working abroad because it's a career choice. He's one of the highest paid persons in his profession in the whole world.

Meanwhile, while we're working for that day, when for everybody, it will be just a career choice and not a necessity to go abroad, on the basis of our expatriates' contributions and on our nation's humanitarian responsibilities to our people wherever they are, whether they are here or abroad, our government works doubly hard to strengthen the protection of our workers.

Our policy is not to export labor. Our policy is to protect our workers when the market conditions both abroad and in the Philippines give them an opportunity to work abroad. And it is in this context today, in this day and age and its particular time in the economic development of the whole world, that it is our honor to host the Global Forum on Migration and Development this month.

So, I congratulate Secretary Romulo and his team for the preparations, and I hope that everybody contributes to making this a success not only for the sake of the organizers but for the sake of the Filipinos, whom we are proud of and who make a good name for our country all over the world.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Media Launch of the Global Forum on Migration and Development

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Media Launch of the Global Forum on Migration and Development

[Delivered at the Presidential Briefing Studio, Kalayaan Hall, Malacañang, October 07, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Romulo.

Mr. Zobel de Ayala, Cabinet members, members of media.

Secretary Romulo and Undersecretary Conejos have put this global forum in the context of overall development. Let me put it in the context of what we are experiencing in the world today.

As we face the most significant global economic and financial crisis in a generation, the poor feel it most.

I direct our economic team to work hard on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures and provide a safety net to those hit hardest by these global developments. I also direct... I direct them to draw up a contingency plan to cushion the impact of a possible economic recession of the developed economies on the ordinary people of the Philippines. Possible, but you hope it will not happen, but it's important to have a contingency plan. And I direct the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Labor and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas to draw up a similar plan for overseas Filipinos.

Migration, as pointed out in the presentation of Undersecretary Conejos, is a growing global phenomenon.

We have 8 million Filipinos abroad but it's only a fraction of the 191 migrants all over the world. Overseas Filipinos however in our country continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability.

You know, when I was in New Zealand, they were telling me that they have an even bigger percentage of New Zealanders who work abroad than the Philippines. The difference is that mom and pop send their expatriates money abroad to help them with additional income. In our case, our overseas Filipinos send us money here and help their families, their communities and our economy.

And I might also add that one very, very well-known and well-paid Filipino working overseas says that we should begin to call our overseas Filipinos "expatriates", because the nature of their job is increasingly more on skilled professions. And they should be called expatriates because expatriates usually get higher pay than if you just call them workers.

The government and the people honor our overseas Filipinos, whether you call them OFWs, OCWs, as Dante Ang likes to call them Overseas Filipino Investors. And I agree that we should begin to call them expatriates rather than OFWs. But in any case, we honor them for their sacrifice and dedication to their work, their family and their nation.

We welcome their contribution. But we are working towards the day when Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job. For the day that overseas work is just another career option and not the only choice they have to earn a living. This Filipino I'm talking about, that they should be called expatriates rather than OFWs, is working abroad because it's a career choice. He's one of the highest paid persons in his profession in the whole world.

Meanwhile, while we're working for that day, when for everybody, it will be just a career choice and not a necessity to go abroad, on the basis of our expatriates' contributions and on our nation's humanitarian responsibilities to our

people wherever they are, whether they are here or abroad, our government works doubly hard to strengthen the protection of our workers.

Our policy is not to export labor. Our policy is to protect our workers when the market conditions both abroad and in the Philippines give them an opportunity to work abroad. And it is in this context today, in this day and age and its particular time in the economic development of the whole world, that it is our honor to host the Global Forum on Migration and Development this month.

So, I congratulate Secretary Romulo and his team for the preparations and I hope that everybody contributes to making this a success not only for the sake of the organizers but for the sake of the Filipinos whom we are proud of and who make a good name for our country all over the world.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Media Launch of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135147/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1760&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 20th Anniversary of the Metro Manila Council of the Women
Balikatan Movement**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 20th Anniversary of the Metro Manila Council of the Women Balikatan Movement**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 8, 2008]

Maligayang ika-dalawampung anibersaryo ng inyong kilusan! Sabi nga ni Narda, taun-taon nandito kayo pero espesyal ito, 20th Anniversary Jubilee. Congratulations!

Kanina, ipinakilala ni Narda yung bumibili nung basura at talagang kilala kayo sa inyong ginagawang pangunguna sa pagbubukod ng basura or garbage segregation para mabili. At sabi ni Narda, mula sa mga bahay-bahay, 1.8 million ang nabili noong isang taon. Congratulations!

Ngunit itong taon, dahil 20 years, pwede nating irepaso yung mga ginagawa niyo sa maraming nakaraang taon. Isa rin kayo, sa pagkaintindi ko, sa naunang kumilos upang alagaan ang ating kapaligiran. Kaya itong pagbibili ng basura at recycling, ay isa lamang sa inyong maraming ginagawa sa loob ng nakaraang dalawampung taon at higit pa.

Noong 1980, hindi pa mainit ang isyu tungkol sa environment, sinimulan na ninyo ang kampanya sa pagtatanim ng punongkahoy, di ba Narda? At sa pag-organisa ninyo ng mga kooperatibang pangkababaihan mula sa Cagayan Valley, hanggang sa Mindanao, marami ang natutulungang magkaroon ng hanapbuhay.

At ngayon naman, sa pagkaintindi ko, nakatuon naman ang inyong pansin sa pagpapasimula ng mga kooperatiba at pagtuturo ng kasanayang panghanapbuhay at wastong pagkain sa kababaihan. Kaya congratulations sa Women's Balikatan.

At mula noong kayo ay nagsimula ng inyong kilusan 20 years ago, marami na ang nagbago magmula nuon sa kababaihan dito sa Pilipinas. We are proud of the gains in gender equality in the Philippines. Ito'y isa sa pinakamahalagang tagumpay natin sa ilalim ng United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Nasabi ko na yata sa inyo noon, we are among the top six in the world and the top in Asia in terms of gender parity. We are number one in the world in terms of gender parity in literacy and in health. Sa katunayan, nahihigitan ng mga Pilipina ang mga lalaki sa larangan ng simple and functional literacy.

We are also number one in gender equality in terms of enrollment in primary, secondary and tertiary education. In fact, more females enroll in schools than males, and fewer females drop out.

But as we face the most significant global economic and financial crisis in a generation in the world, women take a harder hit. A disproportionate number of women are single heads of households living in poverty and receive low-quality maternal care.

Salamat na lamang at bumabagal na ang ating inflation rate. Because with the soaring prices of food and oil, yung mga mahihirap na kababaihan are on the frontlines of managing the strains that these uncertain world economic ties are placing on families and communities.

Ang Women's Balikatan Movement ay maaaring maging kampiyon ng kababaihan nitong oras ng pandaigdigang pangangailangan. Higit kailanman, ngayon kailangan marinig ang boses ng kababaihan upang ipagtanggol ang mga karapatan at mga oportunidad ng mga babae, na yun naman ay ipinapakita ng Women's Balikatan Movement.

Kaya ipagpatuloy natin ang laban para sa katarungan, karangalan at pagkakapantay-pantay para sa kababaihan. Siguruhin natin na ang bigat na dala ng sumisikip na pandaigdigang ekonomiya ay hindi magdudulot ng karagdagang pagdurusa sa mga kababaihan.

Malaki na ang natulong ng inyong Movement sa kababaihan. At malaki rin ang naitulong ninyo, gaya ng sabi ni Narda, sa mga programa ng ating administrasyon, ang tinatawag nating 3 E's — Ekonomiya, Edukasyon at Environment.

We came to office determined to change the strategic paradigm for the Philippine economy. *Matibay at lumalagong ekonomiya ang pinakahaliging sinikap nating maipundar upang tumulong sa pagtamo ng kapayapaan, katiwasayan at katatagan sa ating bansa.*

Walang humpay tayong nagtatrabaho upang tugunan ang mga hamong dala ng paghina ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya na sinamahan pa ng pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at pagkain. But the fact is, ito'y nangyayari sa buong mundo. Ang mga pangyayari sa Estados Unidos, at sa paghina ng ekonomiya ng mundo ay tunay na nagpapahirap sa bansa sa buong mundo. And we are not insulated from them.

Ngunit ang ating ekonomiya ay higit na matatag ngayon kaysa kailanman. Ang mga repormang pang-ekonomiya't para sa pananalapi, huwag nating kalimutan yung mga economic and fiscal reforms natin sa ating administrasyon ay sinimulan ng anak ni Narda, si dating Secretary of Finance Lito Camacho, at ipinatutupad natin hanggang ngayon nitong mga huling taon sa pakikipagtulungan ng Kongreso. Ito ang nagpalakas ng ating macroeconomic fundamentals, at ng ating sistema ng mga bangko o financial system. Our economy is strong enough to withstand the external turmoil.

We have created almost seven million jobs in seven years. Investments continue to come in, despite continued volatility in global markets. *Yung isang anak ni Narda, si Boy, may dalang investors ngayon. Congratulations! Welcome, our investors!*

As a result of our economic turnaround, *nagawa rin nating mamuhunan sa pinakamahahalagang sector, upang maginhawaan ang mabagsik na hagupit sa ating mahihirap ng pagtaas ng presyo ng pagkain at langis na tumama nitong taon. Bukod dito, namumuhunan tayo sa pinakamalawak sa kasaysayan na pagmoderno ng imprastraktura gaya ng kalsada at tulay. Di ba yung mga galing sa Isabela, ang ganda-ganda na ng ating North Expressway at iba pang mga kalsadang dinadaan doon.*

Inaayos natin yung banding, nung nag-kotse ako patungong Quirino, merong bahagi doon sa bandang Nueva Vizcaya, di ba? Doon malubak so pinapaayos natin yun. Ewan ko kung nandoon na yung mga bulldozer ngayon. Nandoon na ba? Very good. See. At least pag nakakautos tayo, nagagawa kasi meron tayong salapi para doon.

Namumuhunan din tayo sa mas pinalaking edukasyon, kalinga sa kalusugan at ibang panlipunang serbisyo. Samantala, binabalanse natin itong mga kinakailangang pamumuhunan, with a commitment to meet our fiscal obligations. Kaya bumababa rin ang utang ng ating bansa.

We have been working hard on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures. *Kaya gaya ng sabi ko kanina, salamat na lamang kahapon maganda ang ating balita, nagle-level off na ang inflation. Inflation this past month was lower than the month before. We have also been working hard to provide a safety net to those hit hardest by these global events. Most notably, nagsisipag tayo upang matiyak na tatag ang supply ng pagkain at upang may pagkain sa bawat mesa.*

Doon nga sa Millennium Development Goals, yung goal, to cut down hunger by one-half by 2015, ayon sa mga pagsusukat ng U.N., kayang-kaya natin. Ipinasok din natin ang mga programa to lift the burden of high fuel price off our people.

And though we are hoping that the U.S. will not slide into recession, I have directed our economic team to draw up a contingency plan, to cushion the impact of such a possible recession on the ordinary people of the Philippines.

Marami pa ang dapat gawin. Nagsisikap tayo upang makamit ang ating Philippine Reform Agenda. Patuloy nating ipagtatangol ang ekonomiya, edukasyon, environment, gaya ng sinabi ko kanina. And we will work to fix the corruption that has unfortunately long plagued our nation.

Kaya sa kabila ng unos sa pangdaigdigang ekonomiya, malaki ang paniniwala natin sa ating bansa. Malakas ang pag-asa na mararating natin ang magandang bukas. We are deeply committed to being a force for good. *Kung kaya't sa nakaraang ilang taon, taun-taon dito kayo nagdiriwang ng inyong anibersaryo. Ito ay dahil mahal ko ang Women's Balikatan Movement. At kailanpaman, ako ay nagpapasalamat na tayo ay magkabalikat sa paglingkod sa ating bansang Pilipinas.*

Maraming salamat at Happy Anniversary! Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008.*[Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 20th Anniversary of the Metro Manila Council of the Women
Balikatan Movement**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 20th Anniversary of the Metro Manila Council of the Women Balikatan Movement**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 8, 2008]

Thank you very much, Chairperson Myrna Yao, yung ating namumuno sa Konseho ng Kababaihan sa Pilipinas.

Mrs. Leonarda Camacho, ang moving spirit ng Balikatan; kayong lahat, mga kaibigan; our friends, you may sit down.

Maligayang ika-dalawampung anibersaryo ng inyong kilusan! Sabi nga ni Narda, taun-taon nandito kayo pero espesyal ito, 20th Anniversary Jubilee. Congratulations!

Kanina, ipinakilala ni Narda yung bumibili nung basura at talagang kilala kayo sa inyong ginagawang pangunguna sa pagbubukod ng basura or garbage segregation para mabili. At sabi ni Narda, mula sa mga bahay-bahay, 1.8 million ang nabili noong isang taon. Congratulations!

Ngunit ‘tong taon, dahil 20 years, pwede nating irepaso yung mga ginagawa niyo sa maraming nakaraang taon. Isa rin kayo sa pagkaintindi ko sa naunang kumilos upang alagaan ang ating kapaligiran. Kaya itong pagbibili ng basura at recycling, isa na lamang sa inyong maraming ginagawa sa nakaraang dalawampung taon at higit pa.

Noong 1980, hindi pa mainit ang isyu tungkol sa environment, sinimulan na ninyo ang kampanya sa pagtatanim ng punongkahoy, di ba Narda? At sa pag-organisa ninyo ng mga kooperatibang pangkababaihan mula sa Cagayan Valley, hanggang sa Mindanao, marami ang natutulungang magkaroon ng hanapbuhay.

At ngayon naman, sa pagkaintindi ko, nakatuon naman ang inyong pansin sa pagpapasimula ng mga kooperatiba at pagtuturo ng kasanayang panghanapbuhay at wastong pagkain sa kababaihan. Kaya congratulations sa Women’s Balikatan.

At mula noong kayo ay nagsimula ng inyong kilusan 20 years ago, marami na ang nagbago magmula nuon sa kababaihan dito sa Pilipinas. We are proud of the gains in gender equality in the Philippines. Ito’y isa sa pinakamahalagang tagumpay natin sa ilalim ng United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Nasabi ko na yata sa inyo noon, we are among the top six in the world and the top in Asia in terms of gender parity. We are number one in the world in terms of gender parity in literacy and in health. Sa katunayan, nahihigitan ng mga Pilipina ang mga lalaki sa larangan ng simple and functional literacy.

We’re also number one in gender equality in terms of enrollment in primary, secondary and tertiary education. In fact, more females enroll in schools than males, and fewer females drop out.

But as we face the most significant global economic and financial crisis in a generation in the world, women take a harder hit. A disproportionate number of women are single heads of households living in poverty and receive low-quality maternal care.

Salamat na lamang at bumabagal na ang ating inflation rate. Because with the soaring prices of food and oil, yung mga mahihirap na kababaihan are on the frontlines of managing the strains that these uncertain world economic ties are placing on families and community.

Ang Women's Balikatan Movement ay maaaring maging kampiyon ng kababaihan nitong oras ng pandaigdigang pangangailangan. Higit kailanman, ngayon kailangan marinig ang boses ng kababaihan upang ipagtanggol ang mga karapatan at mga oportunidad ng mga babae, na yun naman ay ipinapakita ng Women's Balikatan Movement.

Kaya ipagpatuloy natin ang laban para sa katarungan, karangalan at pagkakapantaypantay para sa kababaihan. Siguruhin natin na ang bigat na dala ng sumisikip na pandaigdigang ekonomiya ay hindi magdudulot ng karagdagang pagdurusa sa mga kababaihan.

Malaki na ang natulong ng inyong Movement sa kababaihan. At malaki rin ang naitulong ninyo, gaya ng sabi ni Narda, sa mga programa ng ating administrasyon, ang tinatawag nating 3 E's — Ekonomiya, Edukasyon at Environment.

We came to office determined to change the strategic paradigm for the Philippine economy. Matibay at lumalagong ekonomiya ang pinakahaliging sinikap nating maipundar upang tumulong sa pagtamo ng kapayapaan, katiwasayan at katatagan sa ating bansa.

Walang humpay tayong nagtatrabaho upang tugunan ang mga hamong dala ng paghina ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya na sinamahan pa ng pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at pagkain. But the fact is, ito'y nangyayari sa buong mundo. Ang mga pangyayari sa Estados Unidos at sa paghina ng ekonomiya ng mundo ay tunay na nagpapahirap sa bansa sa buong mundo. And we are not insulated from them.

Ngunit ang ating ekonomiya ay higit na matatag ngayon kaysa kailanman. Ang mga repormang pang-ekonomiya't para sa pananalapi — huwag nating kalimutan yung mga economic and fiscal reforms natin sa ating administrasyon ay sinimulan ng anak ni Narda, si dating Secretary of Finance Lito Camacho — at ipinatutupad natin hanggang ngayon nitong mga huling taon sa pakikipagtulungan ng Kongreso. Ito ang nagpalakas ng ating macroeconomic fundamentals at ng ating sistema ng mga bangko o financial system. Our economy is strong enough to withstand the external turmoil.

We have created almost seven million jobs in seven years. Investments continue to come in despite continued volatility in global markets. Yung isang anak ni Narda, si Boy, may dalang investors ngayon. Congratulations! Welcome, our investors!

As a result of our economic turnaround, nagawa rin nating mamuhunan sa pinakamahahalagang sektor upang maginhawaan ang mabagsik na hagupit sa ating mahihirap ng pagtaas ng presyo ng pagkain at langis na tumama nitong taon. Bukod dito, namumuhunan tayo sa pinakamalawak sa kasaysayan na pagmoderno ng imprastraktura gaya ng kalsada at tulay. Di ba yung mga galing sa Isabela, ang gandaganda na ng ating North Expressway at iba pang mga kalsadang dinadaan doon.

Inaayos natin yung bandang... meron akong... nung nag-kotse ako patungong Quirino, merong bahagi doon sa bandang Nueva Vizcaya, di ba? Doon malubak so pinapaayos natin yun. Ewan ko kung nandoon yung mga... ewan ko kung nandoon na yung mga bulldozer ngayon. Nandoon na ba? Very good. See. At least pag nakakautos tayo, nagagawa kasi meron tayong salapi para doon.

Namumuhunan din tayo sa mas pinalaking edukasyon, kalinga sa kalusugan at ibang panlipunang serbisyo. Samantala, binabalanse natin itong mga kinakailangang pamumuhunan with a commitment to meet our fiscal obligations. Kaya bumababa rin ang utang ng ating bansa.

We have been working hard on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures. Kaya gaya ng sabi ko kanina, salamat na lamang kahapon maganda ang ating balita, nagle-level off na ang inflation. Inflation this past month was lower than the month before. We have also been working hard to provide a safety net to those hit hardest by these global events. Most notably, nagsisipag tayo upang matiyak na matatag ang supply ng pagkain at upang may pagkain sa bawat mesa.

Doon nga sa Millennium Development Goals, yung goal, yung to cut down hunger by one-half by 2015, ayon sa mga pagsusukat ng U.N., kayang-kaya natin. Ipinasok din natin ang mga programa to lift the burden of high fuel price off our people.

And though we are hoping that the U.S. will not slide into recession, I have directed our economic team to draw up a contingency plan to cushion the impact of such a possible recession on the ordinary people of the Philippines.

Marami pa ang dapat gawin. Nagsisikap tayo upang makamit ang ating Philippine Reform Agenda. Patuloy nating ipagtatangol ang ekonomiya, edukasyon, environment, gaya ng sinabi ko kanina. And we will work to fix the corruption that has unfortunately long plagued our nation.

Kaya sa kabila ng unos sa pangdaigdigang ekonomiya, malaki ang paniniwala natin sa ating bansa. Malakas ang pag-asa na mararating natin ang magandang bukas. We are deeply committed to being a force for good. Kung kaya't sa nakaraang ilang taon, tauntaon dito kayo nagdiriwang ng inyong anibersaryo. Ito ay dahil mahal ko ang Women's Balikatan Movement. At kailanpaman, ako ay nagpapasalamat na tayo ay magkabalikat sa paglingkod sa ating bansang Pilipinas.

Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 20th Anniversary of the Metro Manila Council of the Women Balikatan Movement. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135140/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1759&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the Agrilink/Foodlink/Aqualink 2008

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the opening ceremonies of the Agrilink/Foodlink/Aqualink 2008

[Delivered at the World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, October 9, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Artie Yap for your introduction. And thank you for reminding everybody about how we were among the first in the party, that's how we got party favors.

Senator Ed Angara, thank you and please convey to all the senators who ratified the JPEPA last night, our heartfelt thanks. Yes. One of the biggest winners of the JPEPA is our agriculture, food and aquaculture industry, kaya sa lahat nang nagtataguyod nitong Agrilink, Foodlink at Aqualink Exhibits na nagkaroon ng bagong palengke, congratulations sa ratification!

Congresswoman Nelly Chavez who represents the Farmers' Party of the Philippines na ang kanyang Tagalog translation ay nagkaroon ng acronym BUTIL Party List; ang ating mga host dito sa Pasay City, si Congressman Jun Roxas at saka si Mayor Peewee Trinidad; si Mrs. Dulce Gozun at saka si Lyndon Tan; His Excellency Ambassador Chesnel and our French delegation, which is one of the biggest delegations in this exhibit, benvenuto!

This event is timely because a whole new market has opened up for the Philippine agribusiness through the JPEPA ratification. This event is also a venue to remind ourselves that four years ago, we resolved to develop one million hectares of agribusiness land and water to make them productive and to transport their products to the markets efficiently.

“Sustaining Agricultural Growth through Niche Markets” is indeed the way to go in a globally competitive world.

While we may know how to grow rice well, our productivity per hectare is very high. Topography doesn't always cooperate. Nature did not gift us with a mighty Mekong-like Thailand and Vietnam, with their vast and naturally fertile plains. Nature instead put our islands ahead of our neighbors in the path of the typhoons from the Pacific. Thus, instead of producing 100 percent of our needs, the last ten percent of the rice we consume is imported because it had been more expensive to produce them on marginal land. And we earn the foreign exchange to buy the rice by exporting our own niche commodities like primary products, call center services, niche tourism, and as the theme of this exhibit, “niche agribusiness”.

However, at the price levels reached last year even if the Philippines is a rocky, densely populated archipelago with relatively few resources of fresh water, in one of our meetings with Congress and the industry we all agreed that it is now desirable to become self-sufficient in rice while still increasing our production of other plants, fruits, fish and livestock for the markets.

Therefore, the global credit crunch should be an opportunity, not a crisis, for Philippine agribusiness.

The U.S. financial crisis appears deeper than most anticipated. Any slowdown or even recession in the U.S. is not good for the global economy. That said, the Philippines appears in relatively good shape, thanks to our fiscal reforms — again, thanks to Congress and the Senate. Ed and Nelly were very active in our fiscal reforms — that manifested a seven percent plus GDP growth last year. Our debt-to-GDP ratio has gone down, and our credit ratings reflect it.

We came to office determined to change the strategic paradigm for the Philippine economy. Matibay at lumalagong ekonomiya ang pinakahaliging sinikap nating maipundar upang tumulong sa pagtamo ng kapayapaan, katiwasayan,

at katatagan sa ating bansa. Walang humpay tayong nagtatrabaho upang tugunan ang mga hamong dala ng paghina ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya na sinamahan ng pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at pagkain.

Notwithstanding all that, we have created almost 7 million jobs in 7 years, many of them in agribusiness. Investments continue to come in despite continued volatility in the global markets.

And I am pleased to see here that in this exhibit, we have a wide range of non-mainstream products like mangosteen and papaya pastes, yogurt, civet coffee, goat's milk soaps, the golden "Dory" fish, black tiger prawns, low-fat salad dressings, palm sugar, indigenous plant and unconventional cutflowers. Mayroon pang bagong produktong organic fertilizer — di ba organic fertilizer yun, Artie? — na ilulunsad ngayon sa kanilang booth pagkatapos nitong programa na tinatawag "Nutrisphere". All of these will all appeal to different segments of local and foreign markets.

I am also pleased to hear about the use of nutritious indigenous vegetables like malunggay — which we are using extensively for our school feeding program — alughati, saluyot, katuray and pako or fern. These are not only promising niche crops that translate into more incomes for the planters, they are also excellent sources of the vitamins and minerals we all need.

In fisheries, the profitability of mariculture has been demonstrated. Growing fish in the seas has proven to be one of the best methods to increase fish production and meet demand without significantly reducing the volume of fish outside the cages. We now have 34 mariculture farms throughout the country.

We have diversified our economy not only in terms of niche agri products and aqua products and food products but also in terms of markets. So that the U.S. is no longer our top export market; that now is China. And now Japan will open up with the JPEPA ratified. And with our French ambassador here and the French delegation, we also look at the European market.

As a result of our economic turnaround, nagawa rin nating mamuhunan sa pinakamahahalagang sektor gaya ng agrikultura, pagkain at pangingisda upang maginhawahan ang mabagsik na hagupit sa ating mahihirap ng matataas na presyo ng pagkain at langis na tumama nitong taon. Bukod dito, namumuhunan tayo sa pinakamalawak sa kasaysayan na pagmoderno ng imprastraktura gaya ng kalsada kasama ang farm-to-market roads, tulay at pantalan.

Namumuhunan din tayo sa mas pinalaking edukasyon, kasama na ang enrollment sa agriculture na binibigyan natin ng maraming scholarship, kasama na ang kalinga sa kalusugan at ibang panlipunang serbisyo. Samantala, binabalanse natin itong mga kinakailangang pamumuhunan with a commitment to meet our fiscal obligations.

And as we have done this, our part, the production is actually to be done by the private sector, by the business community, by the agribusiness community. And therefore, we encourage continued activity by the agriculture, food and aquaculture business groups. This also means the government continues to promote privatization, including the Food Terminal, Incorporated, as a counterpoint for our own pump-priming.

To the fiscally strong, this is a time of opportunity. To the likes of the oil-producing countries, for instance, this is a time to fill up the financial vacuum. Similarly, in the private sector, this is the time for agribusiness to exploit the financial liquidity of our strong banking sector to expand your role in your respective niche markets.

Sabi ko, strong banking sector, dahil napapatunayan natin ito dito sa global credit crunch. The potential exposure of our banking sector to the asset deflation triggered by the sub-prime mortgage losses in the U.S. accounts for less than one percent of their total system assets here in the Philippines. This exposure is fully reserved, our banks are well-capitalized, and the innate conservatism of our bankers is matched by the prudence of our regulators.

At magpasalamat tayo sa mga bangko, kagaya ng mga cooperative bank na itinataguyod ni Congresswoman ng BUTIL, dahil yung kanilang bangko ang pautang ay apat... four percent at hindi dinidiscunt. Kaya makinabang sana ang agrikultura doon. At sabi ko nga kay Nelly, inaasahan nating magiging mas madali ang proseso ng paghiram sa bangko kapag natutupad na ang malapit nang pipirmahan kong Credit Information System Act na isang

pet bill ni Senator Angara. Maraming salamat, Ed. Pipirmahan natin yun pagkabalik ni Ed Angara mula sa World Bank conference.

Of equal importance to sheer financial capacity is the ability to decide and move quickly — the road between the decision to buy and the actual placement of the order is fraught with uncertainty. Sa ating bansa, ang mabilis kumilos yung mga SME pero mabilis din kumilos yung mga higanteng negosyante sa agribusiness.

Internationally, the bastions of wealth with both financial capacity and quick execution are the Middle East powers, given their oil-driven wealth and their unitary government apparatus. The fact that the Philippines has a Mindanao close to the hearts of powers such as Saudi, the UAE and Libya opens up opportunities for niche marketing of products especially from Agribusiness Mindanao.

Kaya kanina masaya ako noong dumadaan diyaan sa red carpet, maraming bumati sa akin na mga delegates galing sa Mindanao. Ito ay pagkakataon dahil mahal kayo ng mga Middle East countries na andami-daming pera ngayon para bumili ng ating produkto.

We have been working hard on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures. Salamat naman at naglevel off na ang inflation. Mas mababa ang inflation noong Setyembre kaysa Oktubre.

We've also been working hard to provide a safety net to those hit hardest by these global events. Most notably, nagsisipag tayo upang matiyak na matatag ang supply ng pagkain at upang may pagkain sa bawat mesa.

Kaya napakalaki ang importansya nitong Agrilink, Foodlink at Aqualink. Malaki ang naitutulong upang paramihin ang ani at palawakin ang mga merkado ng mga produkto natin mula sa bukid at sa dagat. Regular na idinaraos ang exhibit na ito sapagkat buo ang samahan ng mga kasapi ng sektor ng agrikultura, pagkain at pangangisda. At gusto kong batiin kareng cabalen ko queta king Clark dahil meron ng permanent Agrilink doon sa Clark na ginagawa. Lagi kayong nagtutulungan upang tiyakin ang pagkakaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa.

From the day we took office, we have been focused on our economy and modernizing every aspect of the economic underpinnings of the Philippines. This includes agribusiness, from development of new hybrids, to unprecedented investments in irrigation, to dramatic increases in loans to help our farmers, among other activities. Again, Senator Angara is here because of his love for agriculture. And we are carrying out his Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act.

What happened this year with rice and global prices notwithstanding our preparation is a once-in-a-millennium global crisis.

Sa harap ng unos sa pandaigdigang ekonomiya, lalo nating kailangan ang magpakatatag, magtulong-tulong, at magsumikap na iligtas ang ating mga kababayan sa gutom at pagkakabaon sa kahirapan.

Sa kabila nitong unos, malaki ang ating paniniwala sa ating bansa. Malakas ang pag-asa na mararating natin ang magandang bukas kaya magbuong loob tayo lahat na maging pwersa para sa kinabubuti, at itong Agrilink, Foodlink at Aqualink ay napakaimportanteng pwersa sa kinabubuti ng ating magsasaka, mangingisda at karaniwang mamamayan na kailangan magkaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa.

So to all of you, on this occasion of this exhibit, mabuhay kayong lahat at maraming salamat.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135119/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1757&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Economist Conferences Business Roundtable Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Economist Conferences Business Roundtable**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City, October 10, 2008]

There is no doubt that we live in unsettled times today. The world is at a tipping point.

The U.S. financial crisis appears deeper than most anticipated.

Just a week ago, the U.S. government approved an unprecedented bailout worth 700 billion dollars for a large section of its financial services industry. But despite the obvious concern and commitment showed by the U.S. Congress, the markets barely reacted.

The setbacks from the global shocks of the past year and the past weeks are real and profound. It will take time and perseverance to put the pieces back together.

Against this backdrop, the Philippines is in relatively good shape. Thanks to our fiscal reforms that manifested in the more than 7.0 percent GDP growth last year.

The potential exposure of our banks to the asset inflation triggered by sub-prime mortgage losses account for less than one percent of total system assets. This exposure is fully reserved, our banks are well-capitalized, and the innate conservatism of our bankers is matched by the prudential foresight of our regulators.

Our Central Bank governor who is independent of the Philippine government, is in Washington together with our secretaries of finance and budget and our planning secretary for the IMF World Bank Meeting, but we have with us our secretary of Trade and Industry, who is the national government's representative to the Monetary Board.

We are proving the value of a new paradigm for self-reliance through the use of: first, a targeted strategy with a set of precise prescriptions to ease the price challenges we are facing; second, rice self-sufficiency and more energy independence; and third, long-term reforms.

To ease our price challenges, since the volatile global economic situation became apparent many months ago, we have increased and stabilized the supply of rice. We've delivered targeted subsidies to the poor. We have reached out to our neighbors in the Mekong region to ensure a stable supply. We've clamped down on price gouging and corruption in the rice trade, and invested more and more billions in planting and agricultural modernization.

The Central Bank, through all these periods in several tranches increased the rate base's points by 100 base's points. And this is an example of what our economic team has been doing to work tirelessly on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures, provide a safety net to those members of our society who are hit hardest by these global developments, and deliver the economic growth that will continue to generate jobs and the tax revenues that are fueling the investment in our future, including the infrastructure that can visibly be seen and that was referred to by Mr. Goddard.

I am pleased at the downturn in the consumer price growth last month. While no one can predict the future during these uncertain global economic times, it seems that our measures at home are seeing us through the toughest times. We hope the worst is behind us in the Philippines and that we have weathered the worst of the global storm.

On rice self-sufficiency, from the day we took office, we have been focused on modernizing our economy, modernizing every aspect of the economic underpinnings of the economy. This includes agriculture, from

development of new hybrids, to unprecedented investments in irrigation, to dramatic increases in loans to help our farmers, among other activities.

But, while we have achieved a high productivity of rice per hectare, nature did not gift us with a mighty Mekong and a vast and naturally-fertile plain. Nature instead, as we can see today from the rain, put our islands ahead of our neighbors in the path of typhoons from the Pacific. Therefore, it had been more economical to import 10 percent of the rice that we consume rather than produce that 10 percent on marginal lands.

But with what happened this year with the rice and global prices notwithstanding our preparation, we reached a consensus with the Legislature — and I'm glad that we have two members of the Legislature here with us, Congressman Puentevella and Congressman Mercado — and with the business community — and I'm glad we have members of the business community here with us — we reached a consensus altogether that even if the Philippines is a densely-populated, rocky archipelago with relatively few sources of fresh water, it has become desirable to be self-sufficient in rice.

The centerpiece of our drive towards self-sufficiency in rice is a multi-billion package for agricultural modernization that we have nicknamed F.I.E.L.D.S.: an acronym that stands for Fertilizers; Irrigation and farm Infrastructure; Education and agricultural extension work; Loans; Dryers and other post-harvest facilities; and Seeds, especially hybrid and certified seeds.

On energy independence. It's auspicious that we have this meeting today because yesterday, our new Galoc Oil Field started pumping oil to what we believe will redouble our crude oil production in our country. This is part of what we have done to increase energy independence during our administration from 41 percent to 58 percent — the highest in our history — through the greater use not only of oil exploration but of geothermal, biofuels and renewables. And with the Galoc Oil Field starting its production yesterday, we expect to attain 60 percent energy independence in two years. But you will hear more about that this afternoon, I understand, at 4:00 o'clock p.m., because as I was coming here in my car, I was talking to our Secretary of Energy, getting the figures correct. And he told me that he is on board to speak before you at 4:00 o'clock this afternoon.

On long-term reforms. I came to office determined to change the strategic paradigm for the Philippine economy. A strong and growing economy has been the central pillar we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability.

Our gains in the last seven years were hard-earned. We made tough and sometimes painful reforms to reset our economy: tax increases, again, I thank Congress for helping me do those very painful measures; banking reforms, that's why our exposure to the sub-prime crisis is minimal; crackdown on smugglers and tough fiscal discipline, to name a few as part of our anti-corruption efforts.

It is paying off. Our economy is more resilient today than ever before. We have created almost 7 million jobs in 7 years. Our international reserves cover six months of imports. And the reforms have given us some running room to weather the wave of global price shocks that reverberated across the world this year.

It hasn't been easy, but Filipinos are tough and resilient and that is one of our sources of competitiveness. We have pulled together. We have been able to draw on additional revenues to provide targeted investments in food and fuel to keep our poor afloat until a better day.

We are doing everything in our power to focus on the fundamentals, keep the economy steady, and to provide relief for those most in need.

In addition, as has been mentioned earlier, we are investing in modernizing infrastructure like roads and bridges, but what makes it different is that it is now on an unprecedented scale because now, we can afford it with our tax reforms. Incidentally, our secretary of education was the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means that led us through these tax reforms.

We are also investing in expanded education, healthcare, and other social services. ICT is a major element of our education reform program. We expect it to continue taking on an increasingly significant role in improving the access and quality of education to the people. And that is why, I have asked our Secretary of Education Jesli Lapus, to join us here not only to banner him as the author of our tax reforms, but also, that he can talk more about ICT in education later on in our open forum.

We encourage continued activity by business groups such as those represented in this audience today. And business groups such as those who read your very prestigious publication. This also means the government continues to promote privatization as a counterpoint to our own pump priming.

Privatizing our economy is a top priority. It is moving forward well, from power and energy, to our stake in jointly owned assets with private investors. Our philosophy is that, "the marketplace performs better than government". We want to reap the rewards of our investment and use these rewards when we divest to invest in the people of the nation.

And notwithstanding some of the constraints mentioned by Mr. Goddard, I'm glad that investments continue to come despite continued volatility in the global markets. Mr. Goddard talked about our neighbors.

We view the ASEAN community and our other neighbors like China and India as partners in economic development. We are working together to build a more cohesive regional community, that will strengthen the economic clout of all our nations in our rapidly growing region. Intra-ASEAN trade has already become one of the major drivers of our respective economies. And to ensure that, we remain a competitive player within the region and are able to attract investment not only from outside ASEAN but also within. We have invested heavily in improving the quality of the country's human resources, lowering transaction flows and the cost of doing business, which includes fighting corruption. And we have Secretary Favila here, as the Chairman of our Anti-Red Tape Task Force, developing efficient access to financing. In a few days time, I will be signing a bill into law on a Credit Information System, that will reduce the paper requirements for accessing financing and building a seamless infrastructure network, as you are seeing, from the expressways to the North, all the way up to Clark-Subic; beyond that, to Tarlac, and our expressways to the South, all the way to Batangas Port. We are also focusing on developing our strongest sectors, including commodities, business process outsourcing and niche tourism, where we have, as Mr. Goddard says, unique competitive advantages, and where we can offer significant value for foreign investors. These and other measures we are taking, will ensure that we will continue to attract the investments that we need to create jobs.

And so, we are glad that efforts to improve our competitiveness have been recognized globally, with the Philippines moving up five notches this year in the World Competitiveness Rankings.

We will continue on the path of economic reform, including reforms to improve transparency in our governance system. Our reforms have helped us in this time of global economic upheaval. Without them, we would not be as confident as we are that our economy will withstand these external shocks. We will continue to be vigilant against further challenges to our economy. We will maintain the fiscally prudent policies that have given us the strength to weather this global storm.

Even as some external challenges are letting up, we will continue to focus on reining in inflation, bringing down prices of the basic commodities including rice and oil and power, increasing targeted investments to our poor, taking care of our environment and, we have our secretary of Environment and Natural Resources here, also to answer questions regarding mining and getting our economic engine moving in a higher gear. We will also work hard to further strengthen the banking system, which has shown itself to be quite strong during this crisis of the world so far. Encourage investment again as I said in our most promising growth sectors that was mentioned earlier, but also expand the field of our potential sectors.

So, we can see that all these measures do require strong actions internally, even if the challenge we face are broadly external. They require decisive and targeted action internally, and, we have done that. We repeat that the best buffer we have to external vulnerability is our own domestic internal strength. Building a stronger, healthier economy driven by domestic consumption and investment and relying less on external markets for things like food, things like

energy, is what our reform agenda is all about. Also things like foreign loans that we used to need to finance our infrastructure, not anymore now, we can finance it by our own resources.

These are the things that are keeping our economy on the path to long-term sustainable growth.

To the fiscally strong, the global credit crunch is a time of opportunity, not crisis. To the likes of oil-producing countries, the Singapores of the world and others of such fiscal strength, this has been a time to exploit the financial vacuum, as we have seen there purchases into the world financial institutions earlier this year. Similarly, in the private sector, this is the time for the businessmen who have the financial liquidity to expand their role in their respective markets. And in the Philippines, we have quite a few of those businessmen who have that financial clout.

Of equal importance to sheer financial capacity is the ability to decide and move quickly, the road between a decision to invest and the actual writing of the check is fraught with uncertainty. And from my experience, the bastions of wealth with both financial capacity and quick execution are the Middle East powers, given their oil-driven wealth and their unitary government status. The fact that the Philippines has a Mindanao, close to the hearts of Middle East powers opens up such opportunities for us, and we have been mobilizing these opportunities not only in Mindanao but in our urban beltway as well.

Our investment offer is excellent. It includes a government committed not only to continuing infrastructure expansion and, as I said, we can afford it now on our own steam, but also to working with individual companies to ensure that their needs are met. It includes one of the most productive and competitive work forces in the region, and a strong macroeconomic environment. If there is any doubt that we don't value any particular company's investment, including a company experiencing some attempts to make illegal money out of them, we want to know about it. Secretary Favila will take care of your problems and crack the whip. We can assure you that we will do anything we can to address your concerns. So, we thank you for your interest in the Philippines.

We will work hard to help you expand your presence in what we are determined to be the best investment location in Asia.

Thank you.

*Source: **Adamson University Library***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Economist Conferences Business Roundtable with the Government of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Economist Conferences Business Roundtable with the Government of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Tithani Hotel, Makati City, October 10, 2008]

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Goddard.

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

There is no doubt that we live in unsettled times today.

The world is at a tipping point.

The U.S. financial crisis appears deeper than most anticipated.

Just a week ago, the U.S. government approved an unprecedented bailout worth 700 billion dollars for a large section of its financial services industry. But despite the obvious concern and commitment showed by the U.S. Congress, the markets barely reacted.

The setbacks from the global shocks of the past year and the past weeks are real and profound. It will take time and perseverance to put the pieces back together.

Against this backdrop, the Philippines is in relatively good shape. Thanks to our fiscal reforms that manifested in the more than 7.0 percent GDP growth last year.

The potential exposure of our banks to the asset inflation triggered by sub-prime mortgage losses account for less than one percent of total system assets. This exposure is fully reserved, our banks are well-capitalized, and the innate conservatism of our bankers is matched by the prudential foresight of our regulators.

Our Central Bank governor who is independent of the Philippine government, is in Washington together with our secretaries of finance and budget and our planning secretary for the IMF World Bank Meeting, but we have with us our secretary of Trade and Industry, who is the national government's representative to the Monetary Board.

We are proving the value of a new paradigm for self-reliance through the use of: first, a targeted strategy with a set of precise prescriptions to ease the price challenges we are facing; second, rice self-sufficiency and more energy independence; and third, long-term reforms.

To ease our price challenges, since the volatile global economic situation became apparent many months ago, we have increased and stabilized the supply of rice. We've delivered targeted subsidies to the poor. We have reached out to our neighbors in the Mekong region to ensure a stable supply. We've clamped down on price gouging and corruption in the rice trade, and invested more and more billions in planting and agricultural modernization.

The Central Bank, through all these periods in several tranches increased the rate base's points by 100 base's points. And this is an example of what our economic team has been doing to work tirelessly on all fronts to manage inflationary pressures, provide a safety net to those members of our society who are hit hardest by these global developments, and deliver the economic growth that will continue to generate jobs and the tax revenues that are fueling the investment in our future, including the infrastructure that can visibly be seen and that was referred to by Mr. Goddard.

I am pleased at the downturn in the consumer price growth last month. While no one can predict the future during these uncertain global economic times, it seems that our measures at home are seeing us through the toughest times. We hope the worst is behind us in the Philippines and that we have weathered the worst of the global storm.

On rice self-sufficiency, from the day we took office, we have been focused on modernizing our economy, modernizing every aspect of the economic underpinnings of the economy. This includes agriculture, from development of new hybrids, to unprecedented investments in irrigation, to dramatic increases in loans to help our farmers, among other activities.

But while we have achieved a high productivity of rice per hectare, nature did not gift us with a mighty Mekong and a vast and naturally-fertile plain. Nature instead, as we can see today from the rain, put our islands ahead of our neighbors in the path of typhoons from the Pacific. Therefore, it had been more economical to import 10 percent of the rice that we consume rather than produce that 10 percent on marginal lands.

But with what happened this year with the rice and global prices notwithstanding our preparation, we reached a consensus with the Legislature — and I'm glad that we have two members of the Legislature here with us, Congressman Puentevella and Congressman Mercado — and with the business community — and I'm glad we have members of the business community here with us — we reached a consensus altogether that even if the Philippines is a densely-populated, rocky archipelago with relatively few sources of fresh water, it has become desirable to be self-sufficient in rice.

The centerpiece of our drive towards self-sufficiency in rice is a multi-billion package for agricultural modernization that we have nicknamed F.I.E.L.D.S. — an acronym that stands for Fertilizers; Irrigation and farm infrastructure; Education and agricultural extension work; Loans; Dryers and other post-harvest facilities; and Seeds, especially hybrid and certified seeds.

On energy independence. It's auspicious that we have this meeting today because yesterday, our new Galoc Oil Field started pumping oil to what we believe will redouble our crude oil production in our country. This is part of what we have done to increase energy independence during our administration from 41 percent to 58 percent — the highest in our history — through the greater use not only of oil exploration but of geothermal, biofuels and renewables. And with the Galoc Oil Field starting its production yesterday we expect to attain 60 percent energy independence in two years. But you will hear more about that this afternoon, I understand, at 4:00 o'clock p.m., because as I was coming here in my car, I was talking to our Secretary of Energy, getting the figures correct. And he told me that he is on board to speak before you at 4:00 o'clock this afternoon.

On long-term reforms. I came to office determined to change the strategic paradigm for the Philippine economy. A strong and growing economy has been the central pillar we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability.

Our gains in the last seven years were hard-earned. We made tough and sometimes painful reforms to reset our economy: tax increases — again, I thank Congress for helping me do those very painful measures, banking reforms — that's why our exposure to the sub-prime crisis is minimal; crackdown on smugglers and tough fiscal discipline, to name a few as part of our anti-corruption efforts.

It is paying off. Our economy is more resilient today than ever before. We have created almost 7 million jobs in 7 years. Our international reserves cover six months of imports. And the reforms have given us some running room to weather the wave of global price shocks that reverberated across the world this year.

It hasn't been easy, but Filipinos are tough and resilient and that is one of our sources of competitiveness. We have pulled together. We have been able to draw on additional revenues to provide targeted investments in food and fuel to keep our poor afloat until a better day.

We are doing everything in our power to focus on the fundamentals, keep the economy steady, and to provide relief for those most in need.

In addition, as has been mentioned earlier, we are investing in modernizing infrastructure like roads and bridges but what makes it different is that it is now on an unprecedented scale because now we can afford it with our tax reforms. Incidentally, our secretary of education was the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means that led us through these tax reforms.

We are also investing in expanded education, healthcare, and other social services. ICT is a major element of our education reform program. We expect it to continue taking on an increasingly significant role in improving the access and quality of education to the people. And that's why I've asked our Secretary of Education Jesli Lapus to join us here not only to banner him as the author of our tax reforms but also that he can talk more about ICT in education later on in our open forum.

We encourage continued activity by business groups such as those represented in this audience today. And business groups such as those who read your very prestigious publication. This also means the government continues to promote privatization as a counterpoint to our own pump priming.

Privatizing our economy is a top priority. It is moving forward well, from power and energy to our stake in jointly owned assets with private investors. Our philosophy is that, "the marketplace performs better than government". We want to reap the rewards of our investment and use these rewards when we divest to invest in the people of the nation.

And notwithstanding some of the constraints mentioned by Mr. Goddard, I'm glad that investments continue to come despite continued volatility in the global markets. Mr. Goddard talked about our neighbors.

We view the ASEAN community and our other neighbors like China and India as partners in economic development. We are working together to build a more cohesive regional community that will strengthen the economic clout of all our nations in our rapidly growing region. Intra-ASEAN trade has already become one of the major drivers of our respective economies. And to ensure that we remain a competitive player within the region and are able to attract investment not only from outside ASEAN but also within. We have invested heavily in improving the quality of the country's human resources, lowering transaction flows and the cost of doing business — which includes fighting corruption. And we have Secretary Favila here as the chairman of our Anti-Red Tape Task Force — developing efficient access to financing. In a few days time, I will be signing a bill into law on a Credit Information System that will reduce the paper requirements for accessing financing — and building a seamless infrastructure network, as you are seeing, from the expressways to the North, all the way up to Clark-Subic; beyond that, to Tarlac, and our expressways to the South, all the way to Batangas Port. We are also focusing on developing our strongest sectors, including commodities, business process outsourcing and niche tourism, where we have, as Mr. Goddard says, unique competitive advantages, and where we can offer significant value for foreign investors. These and other measures we are taking will ensure that we will continue to attract the investments that we need to create jobs.

And so we are glad that efforts to improve our competitiveness have been recognized globally, with the Philippines moving up five notches this year in the World Competitiveness Rankings.

We will continue on the path of economic reform, including reforms to improve transparency in our governance system. Our reforms have helped us in this time of global economic upheaval. Without them, we would not be as confident as we are that our economy will withstand these external shocks. We will continue to be vigilant against further challenges to our economy. We will maintain the fiscally prudent policies that have given us the strength to weather this global storm.

Even as some external challenges are letting up, we will continue to focus on reining in inflation, bringing down prices of the basic commodities including rice and oil and power, increasing targeted investments to our poor, taking care of our environment — and we have our secretary of Environment and Natural Resources here also to answer questions regarding mining — and getting our economic engine moving in a higher gear. We will also work hard to further strengthen the banking system which has shown itself to be quite strong during this crisis of the world so far. Encourage investment again as I said in our most promising growth sectors that was mentioned earlier but also expand the field of our potential sectors.

So we can see that all these measures do require strong actions internally even if the challenge we face are broadly external. They require decisive and targeted action internally, and we have done that. We repeat that the best buffer we have to external vulnerability is our own domestic internal strength. Building a stronger, healthier economy driven by domestic consumption and investment and relying less on external markets for things like food, things like energy is what our reform agenda is all about. Also things like foreign loans that we used to need to finance our infrastructure, not anymore now, we can finance it by our own resources.

These are the things that are keeping our economy on the path to long-term sustainable growth.

To the fiscally strong, the global credit crunch is a time of opportunity, not crisis. To the likes of oil-producing countries, the Singapores of the world and others of such fiscal strength, this has been a time to exploit the financial vacuum, as we have seen there purchases into the world financial institutions earlier this year. Similarly, in the private sector, this is the time for the businessmen who have the financial liquidity to expand their role in their respective markets. And in the Philippines, we have quite a few of those businessmen who have that financial clout.

Of equal importance to sheer financial capacity is the ability to decide and move quickly — the road between a decision to invest and the actual writing of the check is fraught with uncertainty. And from my experience, the bastions of wealth with both financial capacity and quick execution are the Middle East powers, given their oil-driven wealth and their unitary government status. The fact that the Philippines has a Mindanao close to the hearts of Middle East powers opens up such opportunities for us, and we have been mobilizing these opportunities not only in Mindanao but in our urban beltway as well.

Our investment offer is excellent. It includes a government committed not only to continuing infrastructure expansion — and, as I said, we can afford it now on our own steam — but also to working with individual companies to ensure that their needs are met. It includes one of the most productive and competitive work forces in the region, and a strong macroeconomic environment. If there is any doubt that we don't value any particular company's investment, including a company experiencing some attempts to make illegal money out of them, we want to know about it. Secretary Favila will take care of your problems and crack the whip. We can assure you that we will do anything we can to address your concerns.

So, we thank you for your interest in the Philippines.

We will work hard to help you expand your presence in what we are determined to be the best investment location in Asia.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Economist Conferences Business Roundtable with the Government of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135109/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1756&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the rededication ceremony of the RFM flour mill and launching of the RFM pasta plant in celebration of RFM Food Corporation's 50th anniversary

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the rededication ceremony of the RFM flour mill and launching of the RFM pasta plant in celebration
of RFM Food Corporation's 50th anniversary**

[Delivered at the RFM Industrial Compound, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, October 13, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Remonde.

If you think I'm such a hard working president, you can blame my slave driver boss in the Department of Trade and Industry, Joe Concepcion, for training me to be hard working. (Applause) Chairman and Mrs. Concepcion, Joey, Marie and the other members of the Concepcion family, Peter Favila, officials of RFM, ladies and gentlemen.

To the RFM family, happy golden anniversary! (Applause) And congratulations on your new Fiesta Pasta Plant, the largest pasta factory in the whole of Asia! (Applause) Joey was telling us in his speech about what happened fifty years ago in the founding of RFM. But, while we were listening to Joey, Marivic was also telling us how a lot of eyebrows were raised — even the government was against it at that time — when Mr. Jose Concepcion, Sr., Don Salvador Araneta, Mr. Server, Mr. Alvino Sycip and other partners put up a flour mill because they said we don't grow wheat. What will you do putting up a flour mill, and you're going to have to aircondition the whole plant? But today, that pioneering company has grown into a huge, diversified conglomerate, steered successively by three able generations of Jose Concepcions. (Applause)

Under the leadership of my boss, JoeCon, Jr., RFM strengthened its forward and backward linkages, venturing to feed milling, hog and poultry raising, and meat processing. And as he pushed his flagship company into new frontiers, JoeCon kept reminding his people, his consumers, and the Filipino public that — “Yes, the Filipino Can!” (Applause) He brought this motto with him when he joined the Department of Trade and Industry. And I guess, that's where I learned from him not only the value of very very hard work because we use to start our days with breakfast meetings and work well into the night. But one time he told me, “You know, you're married so you should have some family life, so you can go home after dinner.” He used to tell me that.

But today even outside of government and back in business, JoeCon continues to play a leading role in public affairs especially in the ASEAN Business Advisory Council which is so important for our country. (Applause)

And when his turn at the helm came, Joey III held on, as he said earlier, to his grandfather's vision and his father's philosophy as he further expanded into other products that are now household brands like Selecta, Sarsi, and now Fiesta, to name just a few. Joey is even at my request producing vegetable-based noodles that is called “Proud Harvest” and aptly so. (Applause) We were not embarrassed to ask Joey to help our farmers in the Cordilleras and also to help our consumers look for a cheaper substitute for flour or wheat-based noodles because Joey is supporting the government's program for entrepreneurs by helping them become good managers under the “Go Negosyo!” (Applause)

This is truly a partnership with our government program to establish a deep foundation for a broad middle class. Thank you for your support, Joey, for “Go Negosyo!” and also for Proud Harvest. (Applause)

I am sure that during this third generation of Jose Concepcion's leadership, RFM will continue to be a giant in food processing in our country and even abroad, in foreign shores in the next 50 years. For instance, Peter told me that these spaghetti products are going to be exported to Vietnam. See, hindi ba sabi nila ang Vietnam ang ating kumpetensya, pero nagbebenta tayo sa Vietnam dahil sa competitiveness ng RFM. Congratulations! (Applause)

We encourage continued activity by big and sturdy business groups like RFM. This also means we hope RFM will participate in the bidding in the privatization that government continues to promote, as a counterpoint to our own pump priming. The global credit crunch can be an opportunity, not a crisis for sturdy giants like RFM. Indeed, this is a time of opportunity to the fiscally strong. On the side of economies, to the likes of oil-producing countries, the Singapores of the world and other fiscally strong economies, this is a time to exploit the financial vacuum, as they did earlier this year by buying into large financial institutions. Similarly, on the part of corporations in the private sector, this is the time for the business group like RFM who have the financial liquidity to expand their role in their respective markets. And I am glad Fiesta is a symbol of their response to that challenge. Congratulations! (Applause)

Of equal importance to sheer financial capacity is the ability to decide and move quickly — the road between a decision to do business and the actual writing of the check is fraught with uncertainty. But Peter told me that this plant was put up in 80 days so RFM has the financial clout and also the decisiveness to be a major player in this globally competitive world. (Applause)

Going to nations again, the bastions of wealth with both financial capacity and quick execution are the Middle East powers, given their oil-driven wealth and their unitary government apparatus. The fact that the Philippines has a Mindanao close to the hearts of Middle East powers opens up such opportunities. I hope that a large and sturdy and decisive company like RFM will avail of these opportunities and do business with the Middle East soon.

Because the U.S. financial crisis appears deeper than most anticipated; Fortunately, on the home front, the Philippines appears in relatively good shape. Thanks to our fiscal reforms — that manifested in seven percent plus GDP growth last year. The impact of the current world financial turmoil on the Philippine banking system is limited. Local banks are generally domestically-oriented and still focusing on the traditional banking business of accepting deposits and granting loans to creditworthy companies like RFM.

Therefore, the exposure of Philippine banks to distressed banks is minimal. When the crunch burst into a crisis, our banks exposure was only two-fifths of one percent of the total asset of the banking system when Lehman Brothers declared bankruptcy. After that, our banking systems have frequently reduced this exposure to one-third of one percent, and this exposure is fully reserved.

The solvency position of the Philippine banking system is adequate to whether the present world financial crunch. The innate conservatism of our banks is matched by the prudential foresight of our regulators. The reforms that the Central Bank instituted in the past years in terms of capital buildup, enhanced risk management, and adherence to good governance are serving us in good stead. These reforms have resulted in a stronger banking system, well-capitalized and improved asset quality including holding the loans of sturdy companies like RFM.

I count on JoeCon's help, not as the head of RFM because that's Joey now, but to the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, as during these important times, I have proposed for

ASEAN Plus 3 to convene on the sidelines of the ASEM Summit in Beijing next week to tackle the impact of the current credit crunch.

I am asking developing and emerging economies to unite and come up with a coordinated approach to cushion the impact of a collapse of highly developed economies. I'm urging the developed countries or G7 to consider the interest of developing countries in their plan to prevent a worldwide economic meltdown.

As part of our initiative, on my instruction — Secretary Gary Teves, who is now in Washington — convened a meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers and they have come up with some common actions in order to prepare for any contingencies that may happen in ASEAN. And I will be sharing this with you in the next few days. For the moment, I can say, quoting what our boss Joe Concepcion used to say almost everyday in our meetings at the Department of Trade and Industry — “Yes, the Filipino Can!” (Applause)

The Filipino can withstand the global credit crunch and soon arrive at a better day to achieve our dream of reaching the threshold of first-world in 20 years.

Yes, the Filipino can because we have companies like RFM. Yes, RFM can maintain the quality of its products, increase its growth and sustain its commitment to social responsibility to help our less fortunate stand on their own.

And so on this day, as we celebrate what the Filipino can, let us say, “Mabuhay RFM!”

More power in the next fifty years.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the rededication ceremony of the RFM flour mill and launching of the RFM pasta plant in celebration of RFM Food Corporation’s 50th anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135058/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1753&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during dinner with delegates of the 5th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During Dinner with delegates of the 5th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum**

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 15, 2008]

Welcome to the Philippines! And welcome to the Palace of the people — Malacañang!

Again, everybody says in the beginning that this is a very important time, auspicious time, historic time for this meeting.

Every week brings a new chapter in the financial drama that is gripping the world. Some might say the recent chapters read like a horror novel. Two weeks ago, the U.S. government approved, as we know, an unprecedented bailout worth 700 billion dollars that many thought would calm the waters. Last week, those waters were roiling across the globe as Asian and European markets and governments scrambled to respond in kind.

Today, markets around the world have swung back in a positive direction again. Who knows where they will be next week? One thing is sure: we must not lose sight of the impact on real people who bear the brunt of these market fluctuations. We must not revert to complacency just because the markets swing to the positive.

The last few weeks have revealed that confidence is important, but confidence alone is not enough. We need fundamental structural reform and global cooperation. This is why I have proposed a meeting of ASEAN+3 next week in Beijing on the sidelines of the ASEM, the Asia-Europe Meeting. This meeting should aim at preventing the financial firestorm from engulfing our markets and at putting in place solid stabilization measures.

Along the same line, this past week, I instructed our Finance Secretary Gary Teves to meet with the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and their representatives together with the World Bank, IMF and ADB senior officials in Washington, to hammer out a deal to aid our region if it should become necessary. As a result, they reached an understanding to establish a standby facility to assist ASEAN countries who would need to cope with severe liquidity problems.

I keep talking about the subjunctive because we don't have an ASEAN economy in that condition yet, but it's always important to be prepared. The facility can also be used to purchase toxic assets and recapitalize troubled financial institutions and private companies. The World Bank indicated that it can initially commit to 10 billion dollars as its contribution to the facility. Hopefully, the IMF, ADB, Japan and China, and the rest of ASEAN will contribute at least the same. In addition, we should aim for viable binding market monitoring and regulation. How to do that, through what institution, that is something we all have to think about.

I have also called, and I continue to call on the G-7 countries, to include the emerging economies in the bold actions and extraordinary measures that they plan to undertake to ease the global crunch. The emerging countries should not be isolated from the grand plan. The systemic failures that are sweeping the globe from the tropics to the arctic and therefore they should lead to a universal solution, not merely a patchwork of regional remedies.

Now, to talk about the Philippines. The Philippines appears in relatively good shape — thanks to our fiscal reforms that manifested in, as Dato Timothy pointed out, 7 percent plus GDP growth last year. We took decisive action few

years ago to fundamentally alter our economic fortunes. When some governments were cutting taxes, we raised them. When some governments were deregulating, we were bringing more discipline and order to our financial regulatory environment. When some governments were going deeper into debt, we were fiscally prudent, building up our reserves, investing in our infrastructure, and yet paying our debts.

These were not easy decisions. But they built for us a stronger economic foundation. To quote Standard and Poor's, and I quote: "Yes, the Philippines is 'lucky' because they have made the necessary adjustments and reforms when times were still good. So they are facing the global market problems and economic slowdown from a considerably improved position compared to what they were in 3 to 4 years ago."

To continue the quote: "The Philippines is an 'island of calm' currently, while there is turmoil in the higher rated and previously stable countries."

Nonetheless, I have directed our economic managers to draw up a contingency plan, to cushion the impact of a possible U.S. economic recession on the ordinary Filipinos. The plan includes strategies to pump-prime growth, to upgrade the country's infrastructure and social services, and to protect labor. But it is imperative that we all find real community in this global credit crunch that we can find common solutions to our shared problems.

The upheaval in the global economy this past year has clearly had a significant and painful impact on the whole world, including ASEAN through higher prices of food, fuel and rice. This has led to greater pressures on our peoples, especially the very poor and the working poor.

S&P recently said in a report that the epicenter of the financial crisis that is now taking place is much farther away from our region compared to 1997. Yet, Asia is not entirely insulated from developments in advanced financial markets. Growth has eased all around the region. However, our region has thus far proven to be resilient and resourceful in dealing with the latest round of challenges, more so than ever before.

For the Philippines, our macroeconomic fundamentals remain. Inflation has moderated, but we still remain vigilant. Over the past several months in different crunches, our Central Bank where our Secretary of Trade and Industry Peter Favila is our national government representative to the independent Central Bank, the Central Bank raised policy rates a hundred basis points total.

The potential exposure of our banks to the asset deflation triggered by the U.S. financial losses accounts for less than one-third of one percent of total system assets. And this very, very small exposure is fully reserved, our banks are well capitalized, and the innate conservatism of our bankers is matched by the prudential foresight of our regulators.

Nonetheless, in the Philippines as well as in the rest of the world, 2008 is certain to go down in the history books as one that confounded all manner of economic assumptions and expectations. We were all surprised by the heights to which oil and other commodity prices soared earlier this year. The U.S. financial crisis appears deeper than most anticipated. In these unsettling times, the best buffer we can have against external vulnerabilities has been and will continue to be our own domestic internal strength. By that, I mean, both within our own respective economies and as an increasingly integrated regional economy.

Building a stronger, healthier economy driven by domestic consumption and investment and relying less on external markets is exactly what our reform agenda and ASEAN's vision and charter are all about. For the Philippines, investors recognize that this is one of the key contributors to our renewed economic strength and stability in recent years.

For the region, it is exactly because of such uncertainties in the world economy that are now taking place that we, as a region need to take a bold step forward in creating a self-sufficient, self-reliant region that is insulated from global volatilities.

We as individual economies and as a region need to continue to focus on reining in inflation, increasing targeted investments to our poor, and getting our economic engines moving in a higher gear. We need to work hard to further strengthen our banking systems, to continue to improve our fiscal health, and to encourage investment in our booming industries.

For the Philippines, we will continue on the path of economic reform. Our reforms to date have helped us in this time of global economic upheaval. Without them, we would not be as confident as we are that our economy can withstand these external shocks. By creating a stronger economy, the Philippines will be in a better position to contribute to the development of our region.

However, no matter what actions we take, this is a global problem. We must work together to resolve these issues, to see any significant recovery in the global economy.

The global financial and economic system is indeed, as we all know, under deep stress. You might even say, the current system isn't working, or at least it hasn't proved to work yet to adjust to what is happening every day to markets and economies, and more important to people the world over.

The answers to these questions are not evident, as I mentioned earlier, where do you find a mechanism for a binding monitoring and regulating system. And the answers will not come easily, but we can be sure that the events of this year will prompt, perhaps for the first time, a serious and thorough-going reconsideration of the policy alternatives.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the global economy, I remain optimistic about our fortunes here in the Philippines. We are a tough, resilient and hardworking people, as most of you, as Dato Timothy says, most of you who have come in contact with our Filipino expatriates know — we love our nation, we love our friends and neighbors in the world.

This is why I'm truly honored to see so many members of our ASEAN family, especially our future leaders, come together in unity. For being with us tonight, I thank you.

Source: Adamson University Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during a dinner with the delegates of the 5th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a dinner with the delegates of the 5th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 15, 2008]

Thank you very much Mr. Ryan.

Dato Timothy, all our guests, ASEAN business leaders, members of governments, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to the Philippines! And welcome to the Palace of the people — Malacañang!

Again, everybody says in the beginning that this is a very important time, auspicious time, historic time for this meeting.

Every week brings a new chapter in the financial drama that is gripping the world. Some might say the recent chapters read like a horror novel. Two weeks ago, the U.S. government approved, as we know, an unprecedented bailout worth 700 billion dollars that many thought would calm the waters. Last week, those waters were roiling across the globe as Asian and European markets and governments scrambled to respond in kind.

Today, markets around the world have swung back in a positive direction again. Who knows where they will be next week? One thing is sure: we must not lose sight of the impact on real people who bear the brunt of these market fluctuations. We must not revert to complacency just because the markets swing to the positive.

The last few weeks have revealed that confidence is important, but confidence alone is not enough. We need fundamental structural reform and global cooperation. This is why I have proposed a meeting of ASEAN+3 next week in Beijing on the sidelines of the ASEM, the Asia-Europe Meeting. This meeting should aim at preventing the financial firestorm from engulfing our markets and at putting in place solid stabilization measures.

Along the same line, this past week, I instructed our Finance Secretary Gary Teves to meet with the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and their representatives together with the World Bank, IMF and ADB senior officials in Washington, to hammer out a deal to aid our region if it should become necessary. As a result, they reached an understanding to establish a standby facility to assist ASEAN countries who would need to cope with severe liquidity problems.

I keep talking about the subjunctive because we don't have an ASEAN economy in that condition yet, but it's always important to be prepared. The facility can also be used to purchase toxic assets and recapitalize troubled financial institutions and private companies. The World Bank indicated that it can initially commit to 10 billion dollars as its contribution to the facility. Hopefully, the IMF, ADB, Japan and China, and the rest of ASEAN will contribute at least the same. In addition, we should aim for viable binding market monitoring and regulation. How to do that, through what institution, that is something we all have to think about.

I have also called, and I continue to call on the G-7 countries, to include the emerging economies in the bold actions and extraordinary measures that they plan to undertake to ease the global crunch. The emerging countries should not be isolated from the grand plan. The systemic failures that are sweeping the globe from the tropics to the arctic and therefore they should lead to a universal solution, not merely a patchwork of regional remedies.

Now, to talk about the Philippines. The Philippines appears in relatively good shape — thanks to our fiscal reforms that manifested in — as Dato Timothy pointed out, 7 percent plus GDP growth last year. We took decisive action a

few years ago to fundamentally alter our economic fortunes. When some governments were cutting taxes, we raised them. When some governments were deregulating, we were bringing more discipline and order to our financial regulatory environment. When some governments were going deeper into debt, we were fiscally prudent, building up our reserves, investing in our infrastructure, and yet paying our debts.

These were not easy decisions. But they built for us a stronger economic foundation.

To quote Standard and Poor's, and I quote: "Yes, the Philippines is 'lucky' because they have made the necessary adjustments and reforms when times were still good. So they are facing the global market problems and economic slowdown from a considerably improved position compared to what they were in 3 to 4 years ago."

To continue the quote: "The Philippines is an 'island of calm' currently, while there is turmoil in the higher rated and previously stable countries."

Nonetheless, I have directed our economic managers to draw up a contingency plan to cushion the impact of a possible U.S. economic recession on the ordinary Filipinos.

The plan includes strategies to pump-prime growth, to upgrade the country's infrastructure and social services, and to protect labor. But it is imperative that we all find real community in this global credit crunch that we can find common solutions to our shared problems.

The upheaval in the global economy this past year has clearly had a significant and painful impact on the whole world including ASEAN through higher prices of food, fuel and rice. This has led to greater pressures on our peoples, especially the very poor and the working poor.

S&P recently said in a report that the epicenter of the financial crisis that is now taking place is much farther away from our region compared to 1997. Yet Asia is not entirely insulated from developments in advanced financial markets. Growth has eased all around the region. However, our region has thus far proven to be resilient and resourceful in dealing with the latest round of challenges, more so than ever before.

For the Philippines, our macroeconomic fundamentals remain. Inflation has moderated, but we still remain vigilant. Over the past several months in different crunches, our Central Bank where our Secretary of Trade and Industry Peter Favila is our national government representative to the independent Central Bank, the Central Bank raised policy rates a hundred basis points total.

The potential exposure of our banks to the asset deflation triggered by the U.S. financial losses accounts for less than one-third of one percent of total system assets. And this very, very small exposure is fully reserved, our banks are well capitalized, and the innate conservatism of our bankers is matched by the prudential foresight of our regulators.

Nonetheless, in the Philippines as well as in the rest of the world, 2008 is certain to go down in the history books as one that confounded all manner of economic assumptions and expectations. We were all surprised by the heights to which oil and other commodity prices soared earlier this year. The U.S. financial crisis appears deeper than most anticipated. In these unsettling times, the best buffer we can have against external vulnerabilities has been and will continue to be our own domestic internal strength. By that, I mean, both within our own respective economies and as an increasingly integrated regional economy.

Building a stronger, healthier economy driven by domestic consumption and investment and relying less on external markets is exactly what our reform agenda and ASEAN's vision and charter are all about. For the Philippines, investors recognize that this is one of the key contributors to our renewed economic strength and stability in recent years.

For the region, it is exactly because of such uncertainties in the world economy that are now taking place that we as a region need to take a bold step forward in creating a self-sufficient, self-reliant region that is insulated from global volatilities.

We as individual economies and as a region need to continue to focus on reining in inflation, increasing targeted investments to our poor, and getting our economic engines moving in a higher gear. We need to work hard to further strengthen our banking systems, to continue to improve our fiscal health, and to encourage investment in our booming industries.

For the Philippines, we will continue on the path of economic reform. Our reforms to date have helped us in this time of global economic upheaval. Without them, we would not be as confident as we are that our economy can withstand these external shocks. By creating a stronger economy, the Philippines will be in a better position to contribute to the development of our region.

However, no matter what actions we take, this is a global problem. We must work together to resolve these issues to see any significant recovery in the global economy.

The global financial and economic system is indeed, as we all know, under deep stress. You might even say, the current system isn't working, or at least it hasn't proved to work yet to adjust to what is happening every day to markets and economies, and more important to people the world over.

The answers to these questions are not evident, as I mentioned earlier, where do you find a mechanism for a binding monitoring and regulating system. And the answers will not come easily, but we can be sure that the events of this year will prompt, perhaps for the first time, a serious and thorough-going reconsideration of the policy alternatives.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the global economy, I remain optimistic about our fortunes here in the Philippines. We are a tough, resilient and hardworking people, as most of you, as Dato Timothy says, most of you who have come in contact with our Filipino expatriates know — we love our nation, we love our friends and neighbors in the world.

This is why I'm truly honored to see so many members of our ASEAN family, especially our future leaders, come together in unity. For being with us tonight, I thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a dinner with the delegates of the 5th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134921/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Oath Taking of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Oath Taking of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, October 15, 2008]

Thank you Secretary Claudio for your introduction.

At una sa lahat gusto ko mag-congratulate sa ating mga bagong halal na officials ng ULAP sa pamumuno ni Chairman Governor Leo Ocampos and President Benhur Abalos. And also to thank immediate past President Monching Guico for the work he did as interim president for a year and to greet the elder statesman of ULAP, Governor Aumentado, and thank you for the beautiful Loboc Youth Ambassadors' performance today. (Applause)

I want to congratulate not only the presidents of the leagues who are here on the platform but also the other leagues who are on the front row. To all of you, congratulations! And most of all, congratulations sa inyong pagkakaisa. Yung mga diskurso ni Leo at saka ni Benhur ay tungkol sa pagkakaisa. At ipinakita ng ULAP ang pagkakaisa. Maraming salamat and congratulations! (Applause)

Ang inyong pagkakabalikat ay sa ikabubuti ng bansa at ng taong bayan. Salamat sa inyong malasakit at sa sakripisyo lalo na sa harap ng binabanggit niyong hamon ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya, mga ligalig sa ilang sulok ng bansa, at mga tangkang manggulo na naman sa katatagan ng pamamahala.

Malakas ang aking pagsanib sa inyong mga pinunong local. Kayo ang haligi ng ating pamahalaan. Nagpapasalamat ako na nakikipagtulungan kayo sa isa't-isa pati na rin sa akin sa pagsisikap na lumikha ng malakas at lumalagong ekonomiya upang makatulong matiyak ang kapayapaan, katiwasayan at katatagan ng ating bansa. Kayo ang nasa bungad ng kaunlaran, kapayapaan at katatagan, di tulad ng ilang gusto pa ring manggulo sa ating bansa.

Salamat at kasangga ko kayo kontra sa mga ilang nakakapit pa rin sa pulitika ng kaguluhan. At salamat at kabalikat ko kayo sa reporma at pag-angat ng ekonomiya. Salamat sa inyong panawagan na tigilin na ang tagisan sa pulitika at ituloy ang bansa sa landas ng higit pang trabaho, kapital, kapayapaan at seguridad.

Salamat at magkabalikat ang lahat ng panig ng ULAP. Sama-sama nating ihahatid ang sambayanan, hindi paurong gaya nang gusto ng ilan, kundi pasulong gaya ng inyong mga resolusyon. Salamat sa tulong ninyo sa ating pinagsisikapang masiguro ang katatagan ng pulitika at ekonomiya.

This is a great time for the regular election of our officers of ULAP or the election of our regular officers of ULAP, the unified ULAP. This is a crucial time for our local government executives to be united.

The U.S financial crisis appears deeper than most anticipated. But the Philippines is in relatively good shape — thanks to the fiscal reforms that ULAP supported that manifested in 7 percent plus GDP growth last year.

We have thus far been able to withstand the full force of the global contagion. We had mentioned earlier of the meltdown in Iceland. Imagine, a developed country declaring itself bankrupt, but we have been able to withstand that because with your support we took decisive action a few years ago to fundamentally alter our economic fortunes. When some governments were cutting taxes, we raised them. But we couldn't do that without your support. When some governments were deregulating, we were bringing more discipline and order to our financial regulatory environment. When some governments were going deeper into debt, we were fiscally prudent, building

up our reserves and investing in our infrastructure and also giving out the IRA in full. And even paying the debts of previous administrations to you. (Applause)

These were not easy decisions and I paid a steep political price in terms of popularity. But I could still do it because you were there for me through thick and thin. Maraming salamat. (Applause)

You recognized that what we did was what needed to be done. And now these actions have allowed us to build a stronger economic foundation which is serving us well during this time.

The potential exposure of our banks to the asset deflation triggered by the U.S. financial crisis accounts only for one-third of one percent of total system assets. This exposure is fully reserved, our banks are well capitalized, and the innate conservatism of our bankers is matched by the prudential foresight of our regulators.

In fact, Standard & Poor's has said in a now quite well quoted statement and I quote: "Yes, the Philippines is 'lucky' because they have made the necessary adjustments and reforms when times were still good. So, they are facing the global market problems and economic slowdown from a considerably improved position, compared to what they were in 3 to 4 years ago." And Standard & Poor's continues and I quote again: "The Philippines is an 'island of calm' currently while there is turmoil in the highly rated and previously stable countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, India, etc."

Against this background anyway, I directed our economic managers — when this is one of the recommendations I should acknowledge of Governor Ben Evardone who is our LGU adviser for public affairs — I directed our economic managers to draw up a contingency plan on the impact to respond to the impact of a possible U.S. economic recession on the ordinary people of the Philippines.

In yesterday's Cabinet meeting, the economic managers and DOLE came up with these contingency plans. The plans include strategies — well, they'll be presented in greater detail maybe in the Philippine Business Forum on the 22nd of October — but in general may I say the plans include strategies to pump prime growth, to upgrade the country's infrastructure, to protect labor, and to expand social services.

Now let me talk about the infrastructure spending, the accelerated infrastructure spending provided for in that contingency plan. It includes greater participation by the GFIs, GOCCs, the private sector and the LGUs in infrastructure projects. Our economic managers have come up with a Comprehensive and Integrated Infrastructure Program. This is an expanded version of the infrastructure portion of the Medium-Term Public Investment Program. The financing scheme comes from public and private sector sources: ODA loans, the GAA, the public-private partnership or joint venture, corporate funds, proceeds accruing from those mandated by law like EPIRA and NG-LGU cost-sharing.

Thus, our contingency measures involved you the LGUs. Kaya yung sinabi ni Benhur kanina, yung resolution ninyo tungkol sa census... Nonoy Andaya is still abroad, on the way back from the IMF World Bank meeting in Washington. And I understand the IMF also had very good words for our, you know, for our being able to weather the global credit crunch relatively well. But he's a lawyer so it's good, I'll take it up in good time and ask him if it can be done.

Samantala, tuloy-tuloy na naibibigay nang buo ang inyong mga IRA. At aasahan nating gagamitin ninyo ito upang maibsan ang kahirapan. At sana, although we will not touch any purely locally government funded project because you have local autonomy, sana yung inyong development fund ay magamit para sa imprastruktura na pinag-uusapan natin — yung NG-LGU partnership.

Part of the contingency plan is a labor contingency plan and this includes "Expatriate Livelihood Support Fund". Kasi sabi nung isang kilalang OFW, hindi naman, si Jun Palafox 'no? One of the top architects in the world who does a lot of work in Dubai, sabi niya dapat tinatawag na ang ating OFW hindi OFW kung 'di "expats" because the bulk of them are professionals and skilled workers. They shouldn't be called OFW because that gives them a lower salary. But when you call them "expat", psychologically they get a higher salary. So, we have this "Expat

Livelihood Support Fund” to serve as buffer fund that Filipino expats that may be displaced by the global economic meltdown, can access. It can serve as a counterpart fund for returning expats’ livelihood progress. The details will be fleshed out by DOLE and will be presented in another event.

The last few weeks have revealed that the world needs more than confidence. Just as we had structural reform when times were better, the world also needs structural reform and global cooperation. That’s why I have called for a meeting of the ASEAN+3 next week when we have our ASEM, the Asia-Europe Meeting in Beijing. It’s a parallel initiative to what the leaders of the G-7 have undertaken.

President Sarkozy, he was able to call that meeting because he is the president of the European Union. Now we are no longer chairman of ASEAN this year, the chairman is Thailand, so I have made a proposal to Thailand to call a parallel meeting in Beijing. Per my instruction also, in Washington last October 11, Secretary Gary Teves, who is there with Nonoy Andaya in the World Bank Meeting, met the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and their representatives together with the World Bank, the IMF and the ADB senior officials. And they — this is a very important result — they reached an understanding to establish a standby facility to assist ASEAN countries who have severe liquidity problems — thank God we’re not of them yet. The facility can also be used to purchase what the bankers call toxic assets and recapitalize troubled financial institutions and private companies. The ASEAN+3 members and the multilaterals welcomed our initiative not only in providing access to financing but also more importantly in boosting confidence in the ASEAN economies.

The World Bank and the IMF will draft the implementing mechanism as soon as possible, in consultation with ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

Immediately thereafter, they will convene another meeting to discuss the guidelines for the facility which we suggested should be quick disbursing with minimal conditionalities. And another very important element here, the World Bank indicated that it could initially commit to 10 billion dollars as its contribution to the standby facility. Hopefully, the IMF, ADB, Japan, China, and the rest of ASEAN will contribute an equivalent or even larger amounts. I’m also calling on the G-7 countries when we meet together with them in Beijing next week to consider the emerging economies in the bold actions and extraordinary measures that they plan to undertake to ease the crisis in the global financial system.

At sa gitna nitong unos sa pandaigdigang ekonomiya, dito naman sa ating bansa ipagpapatuloy natin ang mga programang pinakamabisa sa paglaban sa kahirapan at kagutuman, sapagkat ito rin ang magsisilbing kalasag natin sa pandaigdigang krisis.

So, I thank you again for pointing out in your discussions that political grandstanding as you said in your resolution should take a back seat to the pressing tasks we must carry out in order to reduce the impact of the global credit crunch.

And I thank you once again for leading by example in setting aside political bickering and posturing and uniting to make our country and your jurisdictions move forward.

I’d like to congratulate Mayor Lawrence Cruz and Vice Mayor Henry Lim for the Supreme Court decision on the case that you filed. We respect the position of the

Supreme Court on that matter, after all — and I think Lawrence knows this – many times I have publicly announced that no matter what the Supreme Court ultimately decides, the government will not sign the proposed MOA.

And I have also announced many times in public that we have refocused our peace talks from one centered on dialogues whose with rebels to one of authentic dialogues with the communities. And that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is the context of our engagements with all armed groups.

Our LGUs are the frontlines of the communities. So, I ask our LGEs with jurisdiction over communities covered by the dialogues to help us. I also ask you to help us ensure that no one will take undue advantage of the verdict that would lead to the deterioration of the situation on the ground and that would pull the nation further apart. And as you have united I know you have the capability to help unite our country as a whole.

In the light of everything we need to do, I look to you, our local government executives, to be the frontline examples of good governance, and I look to you to continue to be a bastion of support.

Once again, congratulations to our newly-inducted officers!

At maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Oath Taking of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134929/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a dinner with the delegates of the 5th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a dinner with the delegates of the 5th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 15, 2008]

Thank you very much Mr. Ryan.

Dato Timothy, all our guests, ASEAN business leaders, members of governments, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to the Philippines! And welcome to the Palace of the people — Malacañang!

Again, everybody says in the beginning that this is a very important time, auspicious time, historic time for this meeting.

Every week brings a new chapter in the financial drama that is gripping the world. Some might say the recent chapters read like a horror novel. Two weeks ago, the U.S. government approved, as we know, an unprecedented bailout worth 700 billion dollars that many thought would calm the waters. Last week, those waters were roiling across the globe as Asian and European markets and governments scrambled to respond in kind.

Today, markets around the world have swung back in a positive direction again. Who knows where they will be next week? One thing is sure: we must not lose sight of the impact on real people who bear the brunt of these market fluctuations. We must not revert to complacency just because the markets swing to the positive.

The last few weeks have revealed that confidence is important, but confidence alone is not enough. We need fundamental structural reform and global cooperation. This is why I have proposed a meeting of ASEAN+3 next week in Beijing on the sidelines of the ASEM, the Asia-Europe Meeting. This meeting should aim at preventing the financial firestorm from engulfing our markets and at putting in place solid stabilization measures.

Along the same line, this past week, I instructed our Finance Secretary Gary Teves to meet with the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and their representatives together with the World Bank, IMF and ADB senior officials in Washington, to hammer out a deal to aid our region if it should become necessary. As a result, they reached an understanding to establish a standby facility to assist ASEAN countries who would need to cope with severe liquidity problems.

I keep talking about the subjunctive because we don't have an ASEAN economy in that condition yet, but it's always important to be prepared. The facility can also be used to purchase toxic assets and recapitalize troubled financial institutions and private companies. The World Bank indicated that it can initially commit to 10 billion dollars as its contribution to the facility. Hopefully, the IMF, ADB, Japan and China, and the rest of ASEAN will contribute at least the same. In addition, we should aim for viable binding market monitoring and regulation. How to do that, through what institution, that is something we all have to think about.

I have also called, and I continue to call on the G-7 countries, to include the emerging economies in the bold actions and extraordinary measures that they plan to undertake to ease the global crunch. The emerging countries should not be isolated from the grand plan. The systemic failures that are sweeping the globe from the tropics to the arctic and therefore they should lead to a universal solution, not merely a patchwork of regional remedies.

Now, to talk about the Philippines. The Philippines appears in relatively good shape — thanks to our fiscal reforms that manifested in — as Dato Timothy pointed out, 7 percent plus GDP growth last year. We took decisive action a

few years ago to fundamentally alter our economic fortunes. When some governments were cutting taxes, we raised them. When some governments were deregulating, we were bringing more discipline and order to our financial regulatory environment. When some governments were going deeper into debt, we were fiscally prudent, building up our reserves, investing in our infrastructure, and yet paying our debts.

These were not easy decisions. But they built for us a stronger economic foundation.

To quote Standard and Poor's, and I quote: "Yes, the Philippines is 'lucky' because they have made the necessary adjustments and reforms when times were still good. So they are facing the global market problems and economic slowdown from a considerably improved position compared to what they were in 3 to 4 years ago."

To continue the quote: "The Philippines is an 'island of calm' currently, while there is turmoil in the higher rated and previously stable countries."

Nonetheless, I have directed our economic managers to draw up a contingency plan to cushion the impact of a possible U.S. economic recession on the ordinary Filipinos.

The plan includes strategies to pump-prime growth, to upgrade the country's infrastructure and social services, and to protect labor. But it is imperative that we all find real community in this global credit crunch that we can find common solutions to our shared problems.

The upheaval in the global economy this past year has clearly had a significant and painful impact on the whole world including ASEAN through higher prices of food, fuel and rice. This has led to greater pressures on our peoples, especially the very poor and the working poor.

S&P recently said in a report that the epicenter of the financial crisis that is now taking place is much farther away from our region compared to 1997. Yet Asia is not entirely insulated from developments in advanced financial markets. Growth has eased all around the region. However, our region has thus far proven to be resilient and resourceful in dealing with the latest round of challenges, more so than ever before.

For the Philippines, our macroeconomic fundamentals remain. Inflation has moderated, but we still remain vigilant. Over the past several months in different crunches, our Central Bank where our Secretary of Trade and Industry Peter Favila is our national government representative to the independent Central Bank, the Central Bank raised policy rates a hundred basis points total.

The potential exposure of our banks to the asset deflation triggered by the U.S. financial losses accounts for less than one-third of one percent of total system assets. And this very, very small exposure is fully reserved, our banks are well capitalized, and the innate conservatism of our bankers is matched by the prudential foresight of our regulators.

Nonetheless, in the Philippines as well as in the rest of the world, 2008 is certain to go down in the history books as one that confounded all manner of economic assumptions and expectations. We were all surprised by the heights to which oil and other commodity prices soared earlier this year. The U.S. financial crisis appears deeper than most anticipated. In these unsettling times, the best buffer we can have against external vulnerabilities has been and will continue to be our own domestic internal strength. By that, I mean, both within our own respective economies and as an increasingly integrated regional economy.

Building a stronger, healthier economy driven by domestic consumption and investment and relying less on external markets is exactly what our reform agenda and ASEAN's vision and charter are all about. For the Philippines, investors recognize that this is one of the key contributors to our renewed economic strength and stability in recent years.

For the region, it is exactly because of such uncertainties in the world economy that are now taking place that we as a region need to take a bold step forward in creating a self-sufficient, self-reliant region that is insulated from global volatilities.

We as individual economies and as a region need to continue to focus on reining in inflation, increasing targeted investments to our poor, and getting our economic engines moving in a higher gear. We need to work hard to further strengthen our banking systems, to continue to improve our fiscal health, and to encourage investment in our booming industries.

For the Philippines, we will continue on the path of economic reform. Our reforms to date have helped us in this time of global economic upheaval. Without them, we would not be as confident as we are that our economy can withstand these external shocks. By creating a stronger economy, the Philippines will be in a better position to contribute to the development of our region.

However, no matter what actions we take, this is a global problem. We must work together to resolve these issues to see any significant recovery in the global economy.

The global financial and economic system is indeed, as we all know, under deep stress. You might even say, the current system isn't working, or at least it hasn't proved to work yet to adjust to what is happening every day to markets and economies, and more important to people the world over.

The answers to these questions are not evident, as I mentioned earlier, where do you find a mechanism for a binding monitoring and regulating system. And the answers will not come easily, but we can be sure that the events of this year will prompt, perhaps for the first time, a serious and thorough-going reconsideration of the policy alternatives.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the global economy, I remain optimistic about our fortunes here in the Philippines. We are a tough, resilient and hardworking people, as most of you, as Dato Timothy says, most of you who have come in contact with our Filipino expatriates know — we love our nation, we love our friends and neighbors in the world.

This is why I'm truly honored to see so many members of our ASEAN family, especially our future leaders, come together in unity. For being with us tonight, I thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a dinner with the delegates of the 5th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134921/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Local Peace and Security Assembly (LPSA) in MIMAROPA Region

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Local Peace and Security Assembly (LPSA) in MIMAROPA Region

[Delivered at the La Filipiniana Hotel, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, October 16, 2008]

Maraming salamat Secretary... ay, Secretary... tama Secretary nga siya ng HUDCC pero Vice-President de Castro at anak ng Mindoro Oriental sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. (Applause) Noli Boy ang tawag sa kanya dito pala.

Maraming salamat din Governor Arnan Panaligan sa iyong welcome remarks. At maraming salamat sa ating dalawang congressman at deputy speaker sa Mindoro Island na narito si Girlie Villarosa, si Rod Valencia, na “RGV” ang tawag dito, at saka si Boy Umali. At salamat din na sa ating mga gobernador si Nene Sato at saka si Bong Carreon sa pagpunta rito sa ating importanteng meeting. Honorable Bishop, thank you for being here, the church is so important to our peace efforts. (Applause) And Mayor, thank you, and the different mayors of the region for being here, siyempre kayo ang nasa frontline ng ating pagsisikap sa kapayapaan. Kasama natin dito hindi lang ang aking mister na hindi usually sumasama sa akin pero gusto niyang makita ang Mindoro Oriental. (Applause) Ang ating mga Cabinet members, ang ating mga matataas na opisyal ng military at saka pulis, at pati matataas na opisyal ng ilang mga importanteng department na may kinalaman lalo na dito sa MIMAROPA.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan sa inyo at salamat sa inyong patuloy na suporta sa ating peace process. Kayo ang unang LPSA na nagtatalakay kung papano magagapi ang mga rebeldeng komunista alinsunod sa bagong sukatan ng ating prosesong kapayapaan. So, paumanhin at itong ating bagong proseso ay isasummarize ko sa Inges kasi siguro it's about the first time we talk about this in greater length.

The new premise of our peace efforts focuses our peace process not on negotiating with armed groups only but more importantly on authentic dialogues with the people in the communities. At maganda na yung inyong resolution ay kasama doon sa mga pag-uusap sa mga stakeholders.

These dialogues with the communities will be centered on ending all forms of armed rebellion in the country. By talking directly with the people, we hope to generate a national consensus against armed struggle as a means of achieving political and social change.

Ang ating pangkabuuang pag-uusap naman sa mga armadong grupo ay DDR or Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration. Ito ang ating framework ngayon sa ating pakikipagharap sa mga alinmang armadong grupo sa mga peace talks. DDR, as espoused by the communities, should be a notice to armed groups that the communities reject armed struggle; it should be a way of showing that the force of arms does not entitle them to represent our people.

Through these engagements, we hope that our people will make all armed groups accountable to them and to the government for all their actions. So, eto ang ating mga layunin sa ating mga pag-uusap na pangkapayapaan ngayon sa mga komunidad mismo.

Ang kapayapaan ay katuwang ng kaunlaran. At gaya nang sabi ni Arnan sa kanyang diskurso napakaimportante ang pag-uusap ng kaunlaran gawa ng sitwasyon sa buong mundo ngayon.

There is, as Arnan says, a global economic crisis that is responsible for driving up the prices of food, fuel and rice in the Philippines and around the world. We are not in crisis here at home, but we are facing strong challenges. During these troubled times, papel ng pamahalaan to help insulate the Filipino people from these price shocks and economic pressures.

Ang inyong pamahalaan ay ginagawa ang lahat sa kapangyarihan para maglagay ng pagkain sa bawat mesa at proteksyunan ang inyong mga kinikita mula sa matataas na presyo at mataas na inflation. At malaki ang pagpapasalamat ng buong bansang Pilipinas sa Mindoro Island dahil kayo ay nagtatanim ng palay at nagpapakain sa Pilipinas. (Applause) We are also continuing to invest in the nation's system of healthcare, education and social services.

Sa harap ng krisis sa Amerika, the Philippines appears in relatively good shape. Thanks to the fiscal reforms that our congressmen enacted that manifested in 7 plus percent GDP growth last year. Were it not for the painful reforms of the past seven years, the impact of the global crisis would have been much worse as it is in fact in other developing countries. Instead, as the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's says, "The Philippine economy is a relative 'island of calm' in a very stormy sea of global uncertainty." (Applause)

But this relative strength and resilience of our people on our economy, ito ay hindi pa rin konsuelo sa mga Pilipino na nagbabayad ng mas mataas na presyo para sa mga batayang mga bilihin. At we are aware of the pressures that you face mula sa matataas na presyo at matataas na inflation. At alam natin na nag-aabala kayo sa katiyakan ng trabaho at kung ano ang mabibili ng inyong kinikita. We are also concerned with that kaya nagsisikap tayo, nagtatrabaho ng masipag para manatiling bumaba ang presyo ng bigas, pagkain at gasolina at diesel, at upang dumami ang bilang ng mga trabaho at mga pamumuhunan na tutuloy na maglikha ng oportunidad sa trabaho para mas marami, mas nahihigit sa ating mga kababayan lalo na dito sa MIMAROPA. At congratulations for being the fastest growing economy of 2007! (Applause)

The government has made sure that we now have a solid supply of rice for the foreseeable future. At siyempre nagpapasalamat muli sa Mindoro Island, and I hope that distribution of rice is working. I hope that people are getting the rice that they need. One reason why I go to the provinces is I want to hear if it is not so.

And our farmers are getting the investments they need. Maganda yung isa sa inyong mga resolusyon, and may I say that your resolutions are very well taken. I could say that almost all of them can be adopted immediately; some will be discussed with appropriate departments. Pero yung isang resolusyon ninyo tungkol sa sana ma-repair ang mga irrigation facilities — iyan ay pwede kong i-commit sa inyo. (Applause)

At dahil kayo... kasi kinekwento ni Noli na okay pa rin sa Mindoro Oriental, I believe your rice production is up. Pero doon daw sa Mindoro Occidental ay lumilipat sa mais. Eh hindi naman natin pwedeng pilitin ang magsasaka na manatili sa bigas kung mas mataas ang kita niya sa mais. Kaya ang magagawa lang natin ay magdagdag pa ng lupain pwedeng taniman. At ang paraan doon ay yung mga matatagal nang natayo na irrigation facilities na — in fact, this is true of the whole country — yung mga tinayo ng previous... yung mga unang panahon never, never ni-repair. Sa panahon lang ng ating administrasyon rinerepair at andaming nadadagdag na lupa para doon. (Applause)

At salamat nga dahil sa magandang ani ng Mindoro Oriental, na major rice-producing province, inflation has started to come down. Salamat sa inyo. The price of rice has started to come down from the heights they had last summer. And thanks to other conditions in the world the price of fuel has also started to come down. At kung bumababa ang presyo ng bigas at bumababa ang presyo ng krudo, we expect the earning power of your salaries or your income from business to increase.

Our economic team is working to rein in inflation, to monitor prices and to put price gougers out of business. Si Artie Yap wala dito ngayon dahil marami siyang ginagawa para sa katiyakan ng bigas at pagkain. Kausap ko lang siya kanina at pina-follow up ko sa kanya, "O, Artie yung mga nahuli natin nung araw na nagsasamantala sa presyo ng bigas." So, magbibigay siya ng report kung ilan na yung na-cancel na lisensya dahil doon para pagdating muli ng next lean months sana may leksyon na yung mga ginawang halimbawa nitong nakaraang lean month.

But we will continue to make spot checks in the markets to make sure that no one is taking advantage of their fellow citizens during this extraordinarily challenging time.

Si Vice-President Noli de Castro ang ginawa nating chairman or co-chairman

sa DTI ng Price Coordinating Council, di ba Noli? At yun ang isang mga ginagawa niya, nagbabantay sa mga presyo ng bilingin doon sa mga palengke.

October na nung minsan lumabas ako ng Malakanyang, dumaan ako doon sa South Super Highway, nakita ko na yung mga Christmas lanterns binebenta na. Naku! We are now coming into the holiday season, we should all count our blessings and we should look to the future with greater hope, confidence and optimism.

Yung... magaling ang ating mga sundalo sa paglaban kontra sa insurgency, at nagpapasalamat tayo doon. (Applause) Magaling din ang ating mga pulis dahil sa ating executive order kabalikat ang pulis at ang mga sundalo sa paglaban sa mga rebelde. At marami pang kailangang gawin para sa kapayapaan. Doon sa resolution ninyo yung mga pagpoproteksyun sa kalikasan, sa mga dagat, eh nung ako ay papunta rito yung isang environmentalist kwinto sa akin may mga nagbabantay ng Apo Reef kung saan kami ni Girlie at saka ni Nene ay nag-diving at nag-snorkeling ng ilang araw nuon, summer, nakita nila may mga barkong parang PSG boat, akala nila nung una PSG boats na binabantayan, I mean, na hinahanda itong pagbisita namin ngayon. Pero sabi nila hindi mukhang PSG boat kasi yung PSG boat dalawang motor lang, ito tatlong motor, so mas advanced. Tapos nung lumalapit sila doon para malaman kung sino yun, aba umalis, pumunta patungong Palawan. At sa pag examine, pag interview sa kanila parang iba ang lengwahe hindi Tagalog. Kaya sabi ko eh yun, halimbawa yun, mabuti nakita ng mga taga Apo Reef, yung mga nagbabantay ng Apo Reef. Dapat ngayon hanapin sila, kung pumunta patungo sa Palawan hanapin sila. Eh akala ko muna baka Abu Sayyaf, pero hindi ano eh hindi Tagalog ang salita eh, so baka dayuhan. Naman maging Abu Sayyaf sila o dayuhan silang poacher kailangan habulin sila at hulihin. So, yun ang isang kailangang gawin para sa kapayapaan.

Pero the fact na yung nagbabantay ng Apo Reef nakita sila, linalapitan sila, tumakbo sila, tuloy maganda ang pagbabantay at magpasalamat tayo sa lahat ng mga 'Bantay Dagat,' all the forces — government, civilian, military, non-government — na nagbabantay sa mga dagat ng MIMAROPA. Maraming salamat sa lahat. (Applause)

Yung amnesty, salamat uli sa mga congressmen at deputy speaker na napasa na sa House of Representatives. Yes, (applause) kulang na lamang sa Senado. Kaya sana etong resolution ay ipapadala ng ating secretariat doon sa Senado para malaman nila na ang taong bayan ng MIMAROPA ay gustong pumasa na yung amnesty para mas maraming magbalik-loob na ating mga nanduon sa labas.

Our people must come together this holiday season to celebrate faith and families. Our communities must pull together and set aside personal feuds, political differences, and focus instead on what positive things we can do to improve our lives.

I am optimistic about our future and the hope, optimism and resilience of the Filipino people. I am optimistic about MIMAROPA's growth prospects. I remember there was a time — kasi hindi ba ako yung gumawa ng MIMAROPA — nung araw kasama kayo sa Region IV kaya lang tuwing nagkakaroon ng RDC meeting parating tungkol doon sa mga CALABARZON ang pinag-uusapan. So, nag-decide ako ihiwalay na lang yung MIMAROPA para may sariling mga patakaran, kasi iba naman ang patakaran para sa mga industrialized areas, iba naman ang patakaran sa MIMAROPA na mas mahirap. But there was a time I was regretting what I did, kasi parang nakikita ko eh you're only trading... because, because you have different regional directors and different planning, para you're ending up just interacting with one another, baka naman you're just reinforcing each others' poverty rather than being able to benefit from the wealth that is in Region IV-A. Pero the fact that you're the fastest growing region hindi pala nagkamali yung inyong panukala magkaron ng sarili. (Applause)

And what the MIMAROPA Regional Director should do as the representative to the government here is to be vigilant in bringing government services to the people. Isang problema ng MIMAROPA ay kalat-kalat yung mga regional offices, meron pang nandoon pa sa Maynila kaya meron tayong bagong secretary or Presidential Adviser for New Government Centers, yun dati kong kasama sa Department of Trade and Industry, si Vic Domingo at talagang marami na siyang, I mean, he's right now on vacation leave bago siya pumasok sa kanyang trabaho pero nakipag-usap na siya sa mga kinauukulan. And I think he's already had his dialogue with you para nga mapabilis yung paglipat talaga ng Regional Center dito sa Calapan na pinili bilang kapitolyo ng MIMAROPA Region.

It is important that your government works for you; it's important that you can expect the government to deliver the services you deserve. Kaya kailangan nandito silang malapit. At higit na kailangan ngayon itong ginagawa nating LPSA, higit na kailangan ngayon ang seguridad at kapayapaan. But, as I said, under the leadership of my former PSG head, who was with me in Malacañang and as Vice-President for eight years, si Del Bangit, pati na rin our commander of the Western Command, I am optimistic about peace and security in MIMAROPA. Pati si Louie nga inaanak ko, hindi ba sa anibersaryo. So, I'm very optimistic because these are handpicked officers to help bring about peace and security in the region. So, let's all work together because we know that peace is a very, very meaningful and real prospect. I would even say it's here already in Mindoro except for a few of the influenced barangays, but in the whole MIMAROPA, it's already here.

Let's use this peace that we are enjoying to bring economic opportunities and human dignity to every man, woman and child in MIMAROPA. Yung mabilis na pag-iral ng kapayapaan, yung mabilis na pag-angat ng ekonomiya ng MIMAROPA napakalaking puhunan yun para higit na gumanda ang buhay ng bawat mamamayan ng MIMAROPA. Kaya sa inyong lahat, congratulations and good luck and more power in the future!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Local Peace and Security Assembly (LPSA) In MIMAROPA Region. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135024/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1749&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Inauguration of the Building and Studio Facilities of the GMA Network Center Annex

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Inauguration of the Building and Studio Facilities of the GMA Network Center Annex**

[Delivered in Jamboree St., Diliman, Quezon City, October 17, 2008]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Atty. Gozon.

Mrs. Gozon and the other members of the Gozon clan; former Congressman Bebit Duavit and the other members of the Duavit family; Vice-President de Castro and the other officials who are here tonight; Dr. Laya and the other members of the corporate family of GMA; ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, congratulations to GMA — my tokayo — (laughter) in your inauguration of your GMA studios. Well, we saw your leadership in the broadcasting industry in your audio-visual presentation, and indeed your leadership in this industry is a testament to your company's visionary leadership as well as the talent, hard work and dedication of the men and women who make up the Kapuso family. Imagine a one billion-peso expansion without any loans, that's really leadership. (Applause)

From your early years as radio station DZBB in 1950, you have grown into a media giant and diversified into a wide range of related industries, from movie making to post production services to film syndication, music, video recording, and of course, the exciting world of new media.

I understand that GMA Network now owns about 49 TV stations and 24 radio stations nationwide. And as Henry said, you have gone global through your two international channels, GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Live, both of which are available in the United States, Canada, Singapore, Japan, and many other countries.

GMA Network truly has much to be proud of. You inform, update, entertain and educate our people daily. You are with them in their everyday lives — workdays, weekdays and holidays. Your pervasive influence opens windows for them into the lives of their neighbors and the workings of the world, enlisting them as a virtual community in the everyday tasks of building the national community.

Media plays a large role, and you can never repeat this enough, in the public life of our nation. People rely on it for news and understanding. So owners and reporters, like public officials, have a deep obligation to upholding the public good.

As Atty. Gozon said, you did this huge expansion as evidence of your faith in the resiliency of our economy, I'm also counting on the media to sustain our people's hope in their future.

There is a global economic crisis that's responsible for driving up the prices of food, fuel and rice in the Philippines and around the world. Fortunately, we're not in a crisis here at home, but we are facing strong challenges. During these troubled times, it's the role of government to help insulate the Filipino people from these price shocks and economic pressure.

Government is doing everything in its power to put food on the table and to protect the wages of the GMA employees — and I'm glad there'll be more with this expansion — and all other workers from high prices and high inflation. And we are continuing to invest in the nation's system of healthcare, education and social services.

Sa harap ng krisis sa Amerika, the Philippines appears in relatively good shape, thanks to the fiscal reforms that manifested in 7%+ GDP growth last year. Were it not for the painful reforms of the past seven years — and I should thank Bebitson and the members of the family like... of the Kapuso family like Bong Revilla, a son-in-law, and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, without the reforms that they legislated, the impact would be much worse as it is in other developing countries. Instead, as the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's says, "In a very stormy sea of global uncertainty, the Philippine economy is a relative island of calm."

But this relative strength and resilience of our people and our economy is still no consolation to the average Filipino who is paying higher prices for basic commodities. We are aware of the pressures that the average Filipino faces from high prices and high rates of inflation. We know the average Filipino is concerned about job security and the buying power of his or her wages. We are concerned, too. That is why we are working hard to keep down the prices of rice, fuel and food, and to increase the number of jobs and the investments that will continue to generate employment opportunities for more of our people.

That's why, I congratulate GMA Network Studios, not only because of the important role of media but because you will give more jobs and you are investing, and that is what we need. And of course, we must dedicate ourselves to the poor and unfortunate among us. And your tagline "kapuso" signifies your corporate social responsibility as carried out by the GMA Kapuso Foundation through your umbrella programs of health and disaster relief, education, and values formation. These programs provide much-needed succor to our poor and marginalized countrymen.

Napakahalaga ang maging kapuso, ang magbukas-puso sa isa't-isa; magdamayan, magtapatan, at magmalasakit sa kapwa; at hanapin kung saan tayo maaaring magsama-sama't magkaisa. Ito ang dakilang hangaring inaasa natin na patuloy na itaguyod ng GMA Network.

As we start seeing Christmas lanterns for sale in the streets and move into the holiday season, we should all count our blessings and look to the future with greater hope, confidence and optimism. Our people must come together this holiday season to celebrate faith and families. Our communities must pull together and set aside personal feuds and political differences and focus instead on positive things we can all do together to improve our lives.

The challenges of the future are truly enormous. We will need to come together as a people in order to meet them. The need for more information to manage our lives will also continue to grow, as technology brings new and profound changes in the way we live and work. And also in the way that news and entertainment are brought to the listener and the viewer, and that those new ways are exemplified in this new studio.

So, for responding aggressively and confidently to these challenges, as symbolized by the new GMA Network Studios to the GMA Kapuso family, congratulations!

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Inauguration of the Building and Studio Facilities of the GMA Network Center Annex. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135015/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1743&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Visit to the 6th Infantry Division and Awarding Ceremony of Soldiers Involved in the Maguindanao Operation against MILF Rogue Leader Kumander Kato

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Visit to the 6th Infantry Division and Awarding Ceremony of Soldiers Involved in the Maguindanao Operation against MILF Rogue Leader Kumander Kato**

[Delivered at the Camp Siongco Grandstand, Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Kabunsuan, October 18, 2008]

General Yano, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and the other officials of the Armed Forces; Secretary of Social Welfare, Secretary Cabral and the other members of the National Government; ARMM Regional Director Zaldy Ampatuan and the other officials of ARMM in the provinces herein; Bishop Bacatorio and our other community leaders; ladies and gentlemen.

Unang-una sa lahat, my salute and congratulations to you, our valiant soldiers! (Applause) The government and the Filipino people appreciate and recognize your sacrifices in the pursuit of justice for the victims of the lawless MILF Groups.

And together, we thank the civic spirited citizens of Mindanao, most especially those from General Santos and Davao, for their generous donations. We also give thanks for the resolutions and manifestos of support from the LGUs, NGOs, PO's and other civic organizations nationwide. These expressions of support, both material and moral, to the Armed Forces is, I'm sure, morale boosting. They indicate the people's faith and support and the unity of the government, the AFP and the peace-loving citizens in bringing peace.

Congratulations to you for succeeding in constricting the movement of the LMGs. Your law enforcement operations prevent them from committing further terrorism.

But even as we pursue these criminals, we remain committed to peace. We must all work to bring peace in Mindanao in a way that is open and transparent and represents the true will of the people.

There is no alternative to peace. So I count on you, our soldiers, to work to isolate the renegades as we listen to the local communities and await responsible elements in the MILF to regain control.

I remind our troops that in the performance of your mandate against the LMGs and other lawless elements, the strictest observance of human rights of the civilians and non-combatants is paramount.

Your operations having characterized by a high moral ground. You have tempered and adjusted your operations to allow our brethren Muslims unimpeded observance of their religious practices, especially during the last Ramadan. It was the LMGs who continued committing atrocities despite Ramadan.

We fully support your sacrifices. Because of your sacrifices, I am optimistic that we will have peace in Mindanao. As I said earlier, war brings no good to anyone. And as I said earlier, it is essential that we bring the violent renegades to justice and receive assurances from responsible MILF leaders that violence will never again mar the peace.

Our gallant soldiers, to boost your morale and the welfare, your welfare and that of your families, you saw some... you read the announcement of some of the support, additional support we are giving you, and let me repeat them.

Issuance of sleeping bags for the more or less 7,000 troops of the 6th ID, including the 102nd Infantry Brigade operating in Sarangani. (Applause) Kasi doon sa mga... pag umaakyat na kayo sa bundok, maginaw sa gabi lalo na palapit na yung panahon ng kalamigan. So kailangan talaga niyo ang sleeping bags.

Cellphone loads worth 300 pesos for each soldier, (applause) para naman ma-contact ninyo ang inyong pamilya paminsan-minsan.

Expedited processing and release of the Special Assistance for the families of our soldiers killed in action and for the wounded with major injuries. And we have set aside funds totaling one million pesos in loans or scholarships for your children who because of your special service in the Mindanao campaign. This is part of our “Pantawid Pag-aral” program. We also have set aside a fund of one million pesos for your parents who are not beneficiaries of SSS, GSIS or Philhealth, as part of our program “Tulong para kay Lolo at Lola.” (Applause)

Many of you are still confined; some of you who went up the stage, so we are upgrading the Camp Siongco Station Hospital to better cater to the medical requirements of our soldiers and your dependents, most especially to our battle casualties. (Applause) These are but a few gestures to let you know that the Filipino people are grateful and I lead the greater Filipino people in saluting each and everyone of you.

Mabuhay! (Applause)

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during a Visit to the 6th Infantry Division and Awarding Ceremony of Soldiers Involved in the Maguindanao Operation against MILF Rogue Leader Kumander Kato. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135004/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1736&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 29th Camiguin Lanzones Festival

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 29th Camiguin Lanzones Festival**

[Delivered at the Camiguin Tourism Center, Mambajao, Camiguin, October 18, 2008]

Daghan salamat, Secretary Durano, murag idol sa mga teenager diri sa Camiguin, (Applause) sa inyong pagpaila.

Ang atong padre de pamilya, Congressman Loloy Romualdo, salamat sa imong kanunay na suporta kanako sa Camiguin ug sa Kongreso; (Applause) Governor JJ Romualdo ug tanan opisyal sa probinsiya; Mayor Romualdo ug tanan opisyal dinhi sa capital town; ang akong kauban nga dinapit, si Congressman Pancrudo na enjoy sab diri sa inyong fiesta; tanan aton mga kaigsuonan, mga Camiguinon, congratulations sa Lanzones Festival gihapon! (Applause)

Ingon ko gihapon, tungod kay murag ingon ni Secretary Durano, diri la sa inyong fiesta na ang presidente kada tuig naanhi. (Applause) Sa mi-aging tuig, ang Camiguin maoy ika-duhang paborito adtuan dinhi sa Northern Mindanao. Gibantog na ang inyong lugar, mao nga niadtong tuig 2007, hapit duha ka gatos ka porsiyento ang pagdako sa inyong turismo. Congratulations! (Applause)

Ang mga hinungdan kun nganong gusto mobalik-balik dinhi ang mga turista, kauban sa inyong ‘buaan’ nga labing tamis sa tibuok kalibutan, (Applause) mao ang halos walay krimen dinhi, almost zero crime rate ug 100 percent ang crime rate solution, congratulations! (Applause) Ug daghan kaayo ang mga laing-laing nga klase nga tourist spots ug labi na karon agi sa... paagi sa RORO, mas barato na ang makabiyahang dinhi gikan sa laing-laing lugar sa Pilipinas ug siyempre usa ka importante nga rason, the warmth of the people of Camiguin. (Applause)

Kining mga positives gipun-an pa ug quality basic services nga gihatag ug inyong mga lokal nga lider, nga gipangunahan ni Mr. Camiguin mismo, si Congressman Loy Romualdo; (Applause) ug ang iyang anak, si Gov. JJ; ug ang uban pang inyong mga officials. Congratulations kaninyong tanan! (Applause)

Murag ingon ni Congressman, kahibalo kamo nga dunay krisis sa ekonomiya sa tibuok kalibutan nga maoy gapataas sa presyo sa pagkaon, lana ug bugas dinhi sa Pilipinas ug sa ubang parte sa kalibutan. Kita, murag ingon sab ang atong mga opisyal, wala pa’y krisis apan gi-atubang nato ang mga kusog nga hagit. Sa mga panahon sama ni-ini, katungdanan sa gobyerno nga tabangan ang katawhan aron dili kamo malisdan kaayo sa mga epekto sa price shocks ug economic pressures.

Gibuhat sa inyong gobyerno ang tanang mahimo aron dunay kanunay pagkaon sa tanang mesa, ug ingon gyud ni Governor Romualdo ni anhi gyud ug aron hatagan ug proteksiyon ang inyong kita ni-iniing panahon nga mahal ang palaliton ug taas ang inflation. Padayon sab ang atong pagpamuhunan sa aton mga sistema sa maayong panglawas, sa edukasyon ug sa uban pang mga serbisyo sosyal. Ug gi-report ni JJ sab kaganina nga katong aton mga katas ng VAT nakaabot dinhi sa Camiguin.

And so, ang Pilipinas appears in relatively good shape, salamat sa aton mga reporma sa buwis ug pondo sa gobyerno nga gisuportahan ni JJ niadtong congressman pa siya. (Applause) Kining kapag-on nato nakit-an niadtong nabaton nato sa mi-aging tuig na 7%+ nga pagtubo sa GDP. Kauban na ang 200 percent increase sa tourism dinhi sa Camiguin. Kung wala nahiluna kadtong mga mabug-at nga reporma sa milabay nga pito ka tuig, mas kusog pa gyud

unta ang bunal kanato ni-ining problema sa kalibutang ekonomiya sama sa gi-antos sa ubang nasod karon. Mi-ingon ang Standard & Poor, usa ka importante nga credit rating agency nga ingon nila, “In a very stormy sea of global economic uncertainty, the Philippine economy is a relative island of calm.” And I must add, because we have islands like Camiguin. (Applause)

Apan bisan pa ug kusgan ang katawhan ug ang ekonomiya ug ang duna kita’y kasarong aron magpahi-ayon sa bisan unsang mahitabo, dili kini makahatag ug kunswelo sa Pilipino nga ordinaryo nga ga-antos sa taas nga presyo sa mga palaliton. Nahibalo sila sa kabug-at nga inyong gipas-an gikan sa taas nga bili sa mga palaliton ug paspas nga pagbukad or inflation. Nahibalo kita sa... nabalaka kamo alang sa inyong mga trabaho ug kung mo-igo pa ang inyong pangabuhi, ang inyong kita. Nabalaka sab ako alang kaninyo. Busa, kusog gyud ang atong paningkamot aron pakubsan ang presyo sa bugas, uban pang pagkaon ug lana aron magpadayon kita sa paggama ug bag-ong trabaho ug aron sab modaghan ang mga mamuhunan nga maoy mohatag ug labaw pang daghang trabaho alang sa atong katawhan.

Ug diri sa Camiguin ang kaugmaun gyud ang turismo. Gisiguro sa gobyerno nga dunay igong bigas alang sa tanan hangtod sa umaabot nga mga bulan. Epektibo murag ang sistema nato sa pag-apod-apod sa bugas. Dunay bugas alang sa katawhan bisan kanusa kamo manginahanglan.

Gibaton sa aton mga mang-uuma ang puhunan nga ginakinahanglan nila ug kauban diri sa inyong lugar. Midako ang aton produksyon sa humay. Salamat sa ginoo ug sa aton mga investments sa agrikultura. Tungod ni-ini, mihinay na ang inflation. Mi-ubos na ang presyo sa bugas ug sa gasolina. Gadahum kita nga modaghan na sab ang inyong mapalit sa inyong kita.

Ang aton economic team galihog aron pahinayon ang inflation, mobantay sa mga presyo and put the price manipulators out of business. Magpadayon kita sa pag-inspeksyon sa mga merkado aron masiguro nga walay manikas sa ilang isip ka-Pilipino sa panahon sa pagkapi-ot sama ni-ini.

Ug karon, naka-celebrate kita sa Lanzones Festival. Unya, hapit na ang Pasko. Samtang nagkaduol ang panahon sa Kapaskuhan, angay kitang malipay sa atong mga dinawat nga mga grasya. We should look to the future with greater hope, confidence and optimism. (Applause) Kinahanglan nga magtipon-tipon ang katawhan sa atong Holiday Season. Diri sa Camiguin nasugdan na ang holiday Season sukad sa Lanzones Festival dayon diretso sa Pasko. Ug kining holiday season, let us celebrate faith and families. Angay nga mangihiusa ang mga komunidad.

Para kanako, sukad pa sa akong una nga pagkandidato sa senador sa 1992, nataw-an ko na ang unity sa Camiguin. Kay ako naka benefit sa inyong unity kay sukad pa sa 1992 dako na ang akong pagdaog dinhi sa Camiguin. Salamat kaninyong tanan. (Applause) Ug murag ingon ko, si Cong ug si Governor, sa congressman pa siya, kanunay ang suporta sa Kongreso kanako. (Applause) Gapasalamat ako sa kanunay ninyong pagduyog kanako. Kung kanunay kitang na naghiusa, magmalampuson ang pag-atubang nato sa bagyo sa ekonomiya sa kalibutan, ug dali ra makadayon ang kusog nga pag-uswag sa Camiguin. Kay dili ko makalimot nga sa dili pa ako presidente ang Camiguin number what? Six sa mga poorest provinces sa atong nasud. Karon, kamo mga middleclass na kay number 36 na, layo na gikan sa ten poorest provinces.

So, maayo ang kinabuhi dinhi sa Camiguin. (Applause) Ug gusto nato na padayon kining inyong pag-uswag, kay kun mauswag ang Camiguin dako sab ang matawang sa kauswagan sa tibuok nasod.

Busa sa kaninyong tanan, congratulations gihapon and more power to the people of Camiguin! (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the 29th Camiguin Lanzones Festival. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134951/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1740&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo at the Kongreso ng Tricycle Drivers Associations

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Kongreso ng Tricycle Drivers Associations**

[Delivered at the Mall of Asia, October 20, 2008]

Nagagalak ako na makasama kayo muli.

Ang tricycle ang paboritong pampasaherong sasakyan sa maraming probinsiya, pati na rin dito sa Kamaynilaan, lalo na sa mga lugar na hindi abot ng rota ng jeep at bus at sa makikipot ang kalsada.

Nuong minsan tayong magsama, naikwento ko nuon ang aking karanasan, noong Senador pa ako at napilitang mag-emergency landing sa Romblon ang sakay kong eroplano. Sa tricycle ako sumakay mula sa airport para pumunta sa bahay ng mayor. Kaya naiintindihan ko ang inyong halaga.

Nitong huling Kongreso n'yo na sinalihan ko, nabanggit ko na dapat magtulong-tulong ang lahat upang labanan ang kahirapan sa ating bayan, at upang i-angat ang kabuhatan ng karamihan. Pinag-usapan natin kung papaano natin palalakihin ang inyong kinikita bilang tricycle drivers at operators, kung maaalala ninyo.

Marami na rin ang nangyari mula noon. Ang ilang mga drayber sa inyo ay nagsumikap ng husto at nakapagpundar ng kanilang sariling tricycle. May iba naman na nakapag-ipon at nakapagtayo ng munting negosyo, at ang iba naman ay nakapagpaaral ng mga anak.

Ngayon, iba naman klaseng hamon ang kaharap natin. There is a global economic crisis that is responsible sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at bigas sa pandaigdigan. We are not in a crisis here at home, but we are facing strong challenges. During these troubled times, tungkulin ng pamahalaan na pagaanin ang pabigat sa taong bayang Pilipino na dala nitong mga biglang pagtaas ng presyo at mga pahirap ng pangmundong ekonomiya.

Ginagawa ng inyong pamahalaan ang lahat sa abot ng kakayahan upang makapaghain ng pagkain sa bawat mesa, at upang mabigyan ng proteksyon ang inyong kinikita laban sa matataas na presyo at mataas na inflation. Patuloy ring pinalalakas ng pamahalaan ang sistema ng serbisyong pangkalusugan, edukasyon at social services.

Kasama sa serbisyong pangkalusugan, bibigyan ang isang libo ninyong drayber, operator at pamilya ng PhilHealth Cards.

Sa edukasyon, bibigyan kayo ng mga scholarship sa technical at vocational training na tinatawag TEKBOOK. Matutulungan kayong magkaroon ng kasanayang magagamit sa hanapbuhay, tulad ng pag-aayos ng buhok, pagmamaneicure at pedicure, pagmemekaniko at pagmasahe. Ang kabuuang halaga nitong mga scholarships para sa inyo ay P2 milyon.

Para naman sa inyong may mga anak sa kolehiyo, inatasan ko na ang DOE na makipag-ugnayan sa mga kinauukulang ahensiya nang maturuan kayo kung papaano magkaroon ng scholarship or pautang sa pag-aaral ng inyong mga anak. Inatasan ko rin ang DOE na makipag-ugnayan sa kinauukulang ahensiya kung papaano kayo matutulungan mabigyan ng diskwento sa drug-testing fee.

Kumpara sa iba, medyo magaan ang sitwasyon ng Pilipinas, thanks to our fiscal reforms that manifested in 7%+ GDP growth last year. Were it not for the painful reforms of the past seven years, the impact would be much worse

as it is in other developing countries. Instead, ayon sa mga dalubhasang ekonomista, in a very stormy sea of global economic uncertainty, the Philippine economy is a relative island of calm.

Nagpapasalamat tayo sa Shell na nagtayo ng kanilang programang Pepeng Pasada Club. Ang mga nagta-tricycle na miyembro ay bibigyan ng diskwento na isang piso bawat litro para sa regular Mogas at iba pang uri ng gasolinang ginagamit ninyo, dalawang piso para sa gasolinang 2T, at limang piso bawat litro para sa Advance na ginagamit ng mga scooter. Salamat, Ginoong Ed Chua.

Tinatapos naman ng DOE ang mga detalye ng programang Palit Makina, upang mapautangan ang mga drayber at operator ng jeep ng pamalit-makina sa LPG na mas mura kaysa sa gasolina. Habang tinatapos ang mga plano para sa jeep, sinisimulan din ng DOE ang pakikipag-usap sa mga ahensiya para malaman kung ano dapat ang mga patakaran sa conversion ng mga makina ng tricycle, at nang makagamit din kayo rito ng LPG at iba pang alternative fuels. Kailangan ng masinsinang usapan upang masigurong maayos ang pagkabit ng tangke ng LPG at matiyak ang kaligtasan ng pasahero at drayber.

Ibababa ng LTO P 40.00 ang bayad para sa emission testing.

May moratorium sa MMDA Ordinance No. 6 nila, kaya pinayagan kayong tumawid ng EDSA. Nakita naman ninyo na todo-suporta sa inyong kongreso. Dinig ko, mayroon pang motorcycle escort sa mga tricycle na pumunta rito mula pa sa Quezon City, Pasay, at iba pang malalayong siyudad ng Metro Manila.

At magbibigay tayo sa TODA ng isang milyong piso bilang pambayad sa bigas.

Sa araw na ito, TODA-BIGAY tayo, tulad ng isinasaad ng inyong tema, sapagkat kayo rin ay toda-bigay sa pagsulong ng ekonomiya. Mabuhay at salamat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech: Kongreso ng Tricycle Drivers Associations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134916/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1731&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Closing Ceremony of the 34th Philippine Business Conference and
ExpositionSpeech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Closing Ceremony of the 34th Philippine Business Conference and Exposition**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, October 22, 2008]

Thank you.

Thank you Mike for your introduction. And I'd like to thank you and your fellow hosts — Don Emilio Yap and Jimmy — Laya for being such gracious hosts to this event.

Secretary Favila and the other officials of the Philippine government who are here today; Freddie Yao, chairman of the conference; President Lacson; the other officials of PCCI; Francis Chua, who was last year's chairman who led the awardees, and the other very well-deserving awardees, star-studded awardees that we have today; officers and members of the Chamber; movers and shakers of Philippine Business and Industry; ladies and gentlemen.

Every week brings a new chapter in the financial drama that is gripping the world. Three weeks ago, the U.S. government approved an unprecedented bailout that many thought would calm the waters. Last week, those waters were roiling across the globe as Asian and European markets and governments scrambled to respond in kind. Then markets around the world swung back again in a positive direction again.

Who knows where they will be for the rest of this week and next week. One thing is sure: we must not lose sight of the impact on the ordinary Filipino who bears the brunt of these market fluctuations. The global economic crisis as you businessmen and women all know is responsible for driving up the prices of food, fuel and rice in the Philippines and around the world. During these times, it is the role of government to help insulate the citizens from price shocks and economic pressures.

Therefore, today, let me present a proposed contingency plan to cushion the impact on the average Filipino of a possible recession of the U.S. economy. We hope that recession will not happen. But if the worst comes to pass, what happens?

First, the Philippine economy has certain shock absorbers. We have a solid banking system. A global slowdown will result in lower oil prices. The projected expatriate inflows was 10 percent growth; actual growth so far is 18 percent. Even if the U.S. economy sank, expatriates there are in sectors less sensitive to recession, i.e. teachers, nurses, IT-related workers, caregivers.

The Arab engine is up due to the past five years of costly oil. This has led to construction booms in the Middle East and a surge in remittances. In addition, the fact that the Philippines has a Mindanao close to the hearts of the Middle East, opens up opportunities not only for Mindanao but for the entire country.

The slowdown in merchandise exports is countered by strong growth in service exports, especially the BPO sector, and it's so fitting and timely that we've given an award to Andrew Tan, the first landlord of all these BPOs.

The corporate income tax falls from 35 percent to 30 percent in 2009, providing relief to your firms.

The programmed NG deficit for the year is 75 billion pesos, one-half of one percent of GDP, right Peter? So far, as of the end of September 2008, it is P53.4 billion which we can extrapolate to P71.2 by the end of the year, and privatizing Petron will provide additional headroom of P25.7 billion.

Our Dubai oil assumption was a 115-125 dollars per barrel. The average so far is only 107 dollars. Inflation is at the lower end of the forecast band.

Nonetheless, in order to pump-prime growth, we present some of our key strategies.

The government shall continue its support for agriculture via the FIELDS program. Our farmers will be getting the investments they need. Last year, NFA procured from our farmers less than 100,000 metric tons. Starting this season, NFA will procure one million metric tons from our farmers (applause). So, that is compared to less than 100,000 last year.

We will give renewed emphasis to housing.

We will market Philippine BPO as the cost-cutting solution for U.S. firms.

In the meanwhile, you also have a role to do — we encourage our exporting firms to diversify, innovate and technologically upgrade.

We will provide more lending support for the SMEs.

We will expand our trade, investment and tourism with our giant neighbor, China.

We will attract more investments from the Arab nations awash with oil revenues.

And to pump-prime more next year, to do all these things, we will improve our revenue capacity.

On infrastructure, we will improve the absorptive capacity of government agencies. So, we direct the infra agencies to prepare their engineering plans now for the projects in the proposed 2009 budget which we hope will be passed in time. We will promote greater participation by GFIs, GOCCs, LGUs and the private sector — you the private sector — in our infrastructure projects.

That is why to upgrade the country's infrastructure; we have now the Comprehensive Integrated Investment Program (CIIP) which is an expanded infrastructure portion of the Medium-Term Public Investment Program. As differentiated from the MTPIP, the CIIP contains projects funded by both public and private sector sources, such as ODA loans, GAA, NG-LGU cost-sharing, Private-Public Partnership and Joint Venture, corporate funds, and proceeds accruing from those mandated by law while excluding purely LGU funds.

Under the 2008-2010 CIIP, the transport sector has the highest investment share at 38 percent or 755 billion pesos out of the two trillion pesos total investment requirement that we would want to put up in case of a recession in the U.S. economy.

And Roads and Bridge projects are being pursued in support of the Government's thrust of linking the entire country through an effective transport network that would open up new economic opportunities, reduce logistics costs, and increase access to social services. Roads are being linked, as you know, with the Roll-on Roll-off or RORO projects.

But given the huge investment associated with transport projects, 755 billion pesos, the government will increasingly tap the private sector in the development of priority projects under the BOT law. Projects like the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Toll Expressway, C-6, Manila-Cavite Coastal Road, the North Metro Manila Skyway, Southern Luzon Expressway (SLEX), Southern Luzon Arterial Road (STAR) — these are underlined in the slide — among others are proposed for private sector financing.

But if the U.S. recession happens, we would need more private financing and BOT so that we can realign some of our infrastructure money to strengthen programs that promote human capital formation. The Pantawid Pamilya Program of conditional cash transfers, measures to optimize market opportunities from JPEPA, scholarships, palay

procurement and Philhealth. That is why I welcome the proposal that was given to me on the platform today by Donald, while Ed was making his speech, that perhaps we shall have a 100 billion-peso fund, private-public, 50 billion from the GFIs and 50 billion from the private banks and financial institutions.

We have Peter Favila here, head of NDC. Rey David of DBP has already said yes to Donald. Donald is a member of the Board of SSS and we hope the private banking sector will join in this. And that way, we can put our money in human capital formation which will provide direct income and services to the poor during the coming period.

We will strengthen financial sector supervision. We have asked Congressman Joseph Violago to file a bill to increase deposit insurance from 250,000 pesos to one million pesos (applause).

We now look at how we can safeguard our workers amidst the global storm. As a starting point, the DOLE Philippine Overseas Labor Office reports that so far, there has been no displacement of expatriates related to the financial crisis; The employment of the two million expats in the Middle East remains secure; The employment of 500,000 expats in Europe is also secure and stable so far.

And aside from the booming Middle East market, overseas employment opportunities are emerging in other expatriate markets: Canada, 30,000 in the next 2 years; Australia, another 30,000; New Zealand, 10,000 in the next 2 years; and Guam, 20,000 starting 2010 when the base in Okinawa begins to move to Guam.

Nonetheless, what is our contingency agenda for expatriates?

- 24/7 heightened monitoring of overseas labor-market displacements;
- Monitoring of job orders for any decrease in overseas labor demand;
- We will register our workers so we can get track of them;
- And we will redeploy them to emerging labor markets;
- We continue to identify and develop new market niches;
- And we assist in repatriation.

For returning expatriates, should there be, we will have:

- Constant monitoring of job orders of foreign principals;
- We will have an expanded livelihood and business formation program, with a 250 million livelihood fund through NLSF and the Reintegration Center which has business counseling;
- And we will strengthen the reintegration services;
- We are also, as I said, registering workers who will be displaced.

So, we will need, if there should be a recession in the U.S., a massive skills upgrading and retooling service. And we will continue to facilitate the mobilization of expatriates. But all of these need strengthened partnership with you — the private sector.

Your theme says, “One Global Filipino” — which has been your theme. In addition you say, sustaining growth — and that’s a challenge. But I’m glad you’re going beyond the challenge, sustaining growth and surging ahead, for indeed, for the fiscally strong, the global credit crunch can be an opportunity rather than a crisis. On the part of countries, to the likes of the oil-producing countries, for instance, and other fiscally strong economies, this is the time to fill the financial vacuum.

Similarly, in the private sector — your world — this is the time for the business groups to take advantage of the strength and financial liquidity of our banking system to expand your role in your respective markets. Equally important to financial strength is the ability to decide and move quickly — the road between a decision to invest and the actual writing of the check is fraught with uncertainty.

On the part of countries — the Middle East powers — are the bastions of wealth with both financial capacity and decisiveness. They have oil and they have governments with unified commands.

On the part of business, therefore, I call on you to also decide, be decisive and avail — or not just avail — seize the opportunities provided by the closeness of the Middle East to Mindanao and to our Filipino workers.

I hope you will send a delegation to our Middle East trip, which we will be doing before Christmas. Because if we're going to be one Filipino — we should work together.

Let us work together to bring economic opportunities and human dignity to our people during this special holiday season and — this special Holiday Season of hope, love and faith — because Christmas is just around the corner. We're already seeing the Christmas lanterns being sold in the streets. So, this early, may I not just congratulate you on this conference, but also wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year wherein we will continue our growth and surge ahead.

Congratulations and thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Closing Ceremony of the 34th Philippine Business Conference and Exposition. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134900/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1727&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the UN-WTO 6th International Tourism Forum for Parliamentarians and Local Authorities

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the UN-WTO 6th International Tourism Forum for Parliamentarians and Local Authorities**

[Delivered in Cebu, October 22, 2008]

Welcome to the Philippines and to the island of Cebu.

We meet in the midst of a global economic crisis that has been responsible for driving up the prices of food, fuel and rice around the world.

Every week brings a new chapter in the financial drama that is gripping the world. Some might say the recent chapters read like a horror novel. Three weeks ago, the US government approved a bailout worth \$700 billion that many thought would calm the waters. Last week, those waters were roiling across the globe as Asian and European markets and governments scrambled to respond in kind. Then, markets around the world swung back again in a positive direction.

Who knows where they will be at the end of this week and next week. One thing is sure: we must not lose sight of its impact on the ordinary people who bear the brunt of these fluctuations. We must not revert to complacency just because the markets swing to the positive.

Costly commodity imports like oil and rice should be offset by commodity exports, hard commodities like primary products, and soft ones like leisure, eco, and medical tourism.

After all, in the past, tourism has shown its strong resilience in the face of global problems. The financial crisis in 1997 came and went with barely a dent on the volume of tourist arrivals. Bali and the rest of ASEAN have suffered terrorist attacks, and most of ASEAN has endured the SARS scare, but the numbers of inbound visitors to our region have continued to increase.

Let us therefore look beyond the difficulties posed by the current global economic slowdown. Let us address the major issues which will continue to influence the strategic directions of global tourism. Issues like climate change, the role of women, and the relationship between tourism and poverty alleviation.

On climate change, protecting the environment is one of our top priorities. An example of our efforts to preserve the “Green Philippines” is our support for the Coral Triangle Initiative. This is a program that will seek to protect the rich coral areas which abound in six countries in our region, most especially the Philippines. Preserving the Coral Triangle will maintain our reputation as the best diving destination in the world. It is also part of the responsibility of our six countries to future generations.

On a broader scale, we have also begun the “Green Philippines” plan. This is a blueprint for mapping our environment and economic policies that will allow for sustainable development. Sustainable growth should not fall on the backs of the poor or erode our environment. Yes, there is a price to make the Green Philippines come to life. But the cost is greater without the investment in our people and our environment.

On the role of women, the tourism industry is a major creator of wholesome jobs for women. As theme of last year’s World Tourism Day said, “Tourism Opens Doors to Women.” Indeed, product development like souvenir handicrafts and spa therapy, conservation efforts like mangrove protection and clean-up dives, and marketing and promotion are areas that lend themselves well to gender parity.

On fighting poverty, tourism is a major creator of jobs and livelihood. Throughout Asia, we have models of strategies that have successfully integrated poverty alleviation with the growth of tourism.

For example, we have a community-based tourism initiative in the Philippines, GREET, G-R-E-E-T, or Grassroots Entrepreneurship in Eco-Tourism. With the help of financial and technical grants, GREET has benefited almost 4,000 households in 15 Philippine tourism destinations.

Our concept is based on transforming attitudes, such that individuals who used to unwittingly damage the environment have successfully become the protectors of environmentally fragile sites. Slash and burn farmers have become mountain and forest trail guides for hikers and wilderness trips. Boatmen who used to hunt our whale sharks are now ecoguides for tourist interaction with those beautiful creatures. Alan Amanse, 40-year-old college undergraduate and father of two, was earning P100 a day from driving a tricycle and fishing in our whaleshark sanctuary in Donsol in Central Philippines. Now, as whaleshark-watching officer, he earns P1,000 a day, ten times his former income, and he is building his dream house.

Global economic realities threaten the fight to reduce poverty worldwide. But we must stay hopeful. Let us keep our faith in tourism as a powerful instrument to alleviate poverty. As you discuss how to do it, may every participant enjoy the natural wonders of our country and the natural warmth of our people.

Once again, mabuhay and welcome. Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the UN-WTO 6th International Tourism Forum for Parliamentarians and Local Authorities. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134908/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1721&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Session of the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Session of the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, PICC, Pasay City, October 29, 2008]

His Excellency Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, thank you for coming to the Philippines and showing how important this Global Forum on Migration and Development is for the United Nations and the peoples of the worlds.

Thank you all for coming together for a cause that is important to my country and to yours, namely, the nexus between migration and development.

This is a cause especially dear to the hearts of millions of Filipinos, here and overseas, who are interconnected through a vast diaspora of expatriate workers.

Migrant workers are honored by the government and the people for their sacrifice and dedication to their work, their family and the nation. We welcome their contribution.

But we long for the day when going abroad for a job is a career option, not the only choice, for a Filipino worker. Our economic plans are designed to allow the Philippines to break out of this cycle. That is why we remain so stubbornly focused on the economy. We need to create and spread the wealth and keep the people working here at home. We are working to create appealing employment opportunities by focusing on the development of certain priority sectors that give high-income jobs, for instance, business process outsourcing which has created about 400,000 jobs in the last seven years.

All in all, we have created almost 7 million jobs in the last 7 years. By continuing down this path, we hope to increasingly be keeping our best and brightest right here in the Philippines, closer to friends and families, helping to build our communities and providing the next generation of leadership.

For the Philippines and for any country, for your countries, people are our biggest national asset at any time in the course of our economic, social and political development. Development cannot occur in the economy without human development, that is, without human beings who are healthy, educated, employed, and able to care for their families.

As both His Excellency Secretary General Bank Ki Moon and Foreign Secretary Romulo have said, today some 200 million people live outside of their nations of birth, many of them working. This number rises every year, keeping pace with the advance of globalization. Indeed, migration is one of the dynamic forces behind the globalization that draws our world ever closer together.

We inhabit a world where people, countries, businesses, cultures and economies are so closely interconnected, that we all catch cold if one of us sneezes hard enough. It is at one of those interconnections — the interface between migration and development, that we confront some of the most serious challenges to us to work together.

As people migrate, they draw more than one country into their lives. Their work, their family, the gains they make from migration, and their need for personal security and well-being become matters of import that cross national boundaries.

These movements occur in all directions, not just south-to-north, but also south-to-south, north-to-north, and in every other conceivable direction. It is this ceaseless and restless movement of people that truly links our respective countries, not just the capital or goods that economists love to build their growth models on. It is people who stimulate the trade, business and economic exchanges that keep the global economy moving along.

But, unfortunately, countries are less equipped often to protect their people abroad in times of trouble than they are, their money or businesses. The global financial crisis currently taking place challenges us again to gather our forces, within government and in partnership with other countries, to better protect our people abroad against financial and economic shocks, and the side effects of such shocks like exploitation, abuse, and other forms of ill treatment.

All eyes may be glued on the stock market, but we must never lose sight of the often unseen impact of the global credit crunch on the long-term needs of the poor, including the migrant poor.

It is the duty of our governments, of the United Nations, and I thank His Excellency Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for his attention to the world's poor, especially during this time of the financial crisis. It is the duty of all international organizations and global civil society to gather our collective will, our joint resources, and our common efforts to raise them up.

We can draw encouragement from the fact that governments, the United Nations, international organizations and civil society are now increasingly focused on all aspects of migration.

In the United Nations and throughout the international development community, growing attention is devoted to research, studies, projects and programs on migration and development. And we thank His Excellency Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, for recounting some of them. Of course, more remains to be done, but this is a good start. The Philippines stands ready to champion the cause of migrant workers.

We have established what is considered one of the best-regulated expatriate worker programs in the world. On the basis of their contributions and of the nation's humanitarian responsibilities to its people wherever they are, our government works doubly hard to strengthen migrant workers' protection — protection from the depredations of domestic recruiters as well as of overseas employers, agents and officials, and protection from physical harm.

Our comprehensive and multi-dimensional "life-cycle" strategy covers all facets of the overseas employment process, from pre-departure orientation to post-return reintegration and retraining. The effectiveness of this approach in terms of protecting workers has been repeatedly acknowledged by international bodies.

However, the full protection and empowerment of migrants is a task that goes far beyond what individual countries of origin can do on their own.

During our ASEAN chairmanship in 2006, the Philippines led in formulating the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and commencing the establishment of an implementing committee.

We also hosted the International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development in Manila last month. There, the delegates discussed the gender dimension of the social costs and benefits of migration, the upholding of the rights of women migrant workers, and seizing opportunities for enhanced gender equality and benefits of migration for women and their families.

And now, we are honored to be the first developing nation and the first Asian country to host the GFMD.

For the Philippines, which is at the forefront of the global migration issue, hosting this meeting represents a high point in our efforts to assist migrants through intensified global dialogue and networks for consultation and cooperation.

It is good that the leaders of the nations of migrant origin and those nations hosting migrant have come together in our Global Forum to seek common ground on ways to coordinate assistance to our economies and protection to our workers. We must do so in a way that puts the interests of the poor and dispossessed ahead of the rich and powerful. We must do this in a way that offers a global solution to a global challenge. Indeed, we call for fundamental global reform. And to that end, we look upon the United Nations for leadership. And may I say, we are grateful we are getting that leadership in the person of Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

We urge all countries, which have not yet done so, to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

We are having this global forum. Meanwhile, as we campaign for that, we are having this global forum because coordinated action among nations is the better path than going it alone.

It is essential that the major economies of the world along with strong representation from emerging economies, who are the source of migrant workers be part of the global consultations to resolve challenges in the global financial system and its impact on migrant workers.

And as Secretary General said, whether there's a financial crisis or not, instead of viewing migrants as depersonalized movable components of globalization, or worse, as inconvenient necessities, we must embrace them as human beings who contribute to our essential well-being in this age of vast movement and change. We must prepare them for and make them full partners in our world of developmental, demographic and democratic transformation.

This must be our commitment in the Global Forum for Migration and Development. We must work together for that transformation to a better world by ensuring the globalization is for everyone and not just for the strong and the fittest, by valuing the real contribution of all workers, migrants and non-migrants, a world where we are all equally and without discrimination part of a caring and sharing global community. We must work together to protect our migrant workers in times of financial and economic stress as the world is experiencing now. But as Secretary General said, even if it is not a time of financial stress.

Our Global Forum offers us a community space to explore those challenges together and to find the best policies, the best practices to meet the challenges of migration in mutually beneficial ways.

As Secretary Romulo said, many of your governments support and invest in this practical consultative approach. We are truly grateful for the contributions you have made and your engagement with the practical preparations of this meeting. Without your belief in this Global Forum and in our decision this year to examine the migration-development complex from the human angle, we could never have nurtured this tender process thus far. You have helped the GFMD come of age.

In being here to discuss migration and development, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, may you get the chance to taste the hospitality that we traditionally extend to friends and family, many of you may have already experienced with our expatriates abroad.

My best wishes to all of you on the proceedings of the Global Forum on Migration and Development!

Maraming salamat.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a State Dinner in Honor of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Madame Ban Soon-Taek with Conferment of the Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Raja to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a State Dinner in Honor of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Madame Ban Soon-Taek with
Conferment of the Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Raja to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 29, 2008]

Your Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Madame Ban Soon-Taek, Vice-President de Castro, Senate President Villar, Deputy Speaker Villarosa, Secretary and Mrs. Romulo, Senator and Mrs. Angara, His Excellency the Papal Nuncio, members of the Secretary-General's delegation, members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the Cabinet, members of the House of Representatives, members of the private sector, ladies and gentlemen.

Your Excellency, welcome to the Philippines!

We're happy to have you here, not only because you honor us by being able to have the Secretary-General of the United Nations be here in the Philippines, but also because you are an old friend of the Philippines. When you were Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea you were already a valuable partner in the development of our country, and now all the more.

Our history of friendship and cooperation motivates us to give you our unstinting support in your work in the United Nations — in your work to institute far-reaching reforms, for instance, in the United Nations and in your work to search for peace and to keep peace all over the world. We are very proud of the signing of the agreement earlier for a standby arrangement for our peacekeeping forces. We are very proud that our peacekeeping forces especially the police force is one of the largest contingents to the U.N. Peacekeeping Operations.

Your Excellency, we also thank you for your support in our efforts to bring peace to Mindanao. It will be recalled that the government canceled the proposed Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain with the MILF even before the injunction of the Supreme Court. We have embarked, as we've explained to you earlier, on a new paradigm for the peace process focusing on authentic dialogues with the communities. We want to bring peace to Mindanao in a way that is open and transparent and represents the true will of the people.

Our negotiations with the armed groups shall now be within the framework of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration — a U.N. accepted process for resolving armed conflicts. The number of persons displaced by the attacks of renegade elements of the MILF and the law enforcement operations that followed has now been reduced by half, as has been reported to you earlier.

We thank the U.N. for your assistance which enables us to assist more internally displaced persons inside and outside evacuation centers.

Excellency, your visit is an opportunity to reintegrate our search for a lasting peace in Mindanao. There is no alternative to peace. And as you have been quoted earlier, there is no alternative to dialogue. So, we are working to

isolate the renegades. Listen to the local communities. And count on responsible elements in the MILF to regain control.

In continuation of this effort, we will cooperate with the Alliance of Civilizations especially on interfaith dialogue which is also one of your areas of great interest.

Your Excellency, in the midst of the global credit crunch, you have said that, and I quote, “We need to restore order to the international markets.” It is timely that you organized this year’s U.N. agenda around the impact of the global economy on the poor. We congratulate you for your many actions towards this including your comprehensive framework for action on the global food crisis.

The world is fortunate that in Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, we have a man of stature, vision, energy and leadership, who will be with us as we manage these momentous issues that affect us all.

Your Excellency also said in your recent address at Harvard, your Alma Mater – and we have several Harvard alumni here with us tonight to greet you — you said and I quote, “We need to think more about those people with no street — Wall Street, Main Street — no street; the solutions must be devised for all.”

We share the Secretary-General’s belief that global solidarity is a necessity to achieve the common good.

On this note, ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to rise and join me in a toast to His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Madame Ban Soon-Taek.

Mabuhay! Madame, Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during a State Dinner in Honor of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Madame Ban Soon-Taek with Conferment of the Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Raja to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135133/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1713&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Session of the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Session of the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, PICC, Pasay City, October 29, 2008]

Thank you very much, Secretary Romulo.

His Excellency Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, thank you for coming to the Philippines and showing how important this Global Forum on Migration and Development is for the United Nations and the peoples of the world; Vice-President de Castro and the other officials of the Philippine government; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished delegates:

Thank you all for coming together for a cause that is important to my country and to yours, namely, the nexus between migration and development.

This is a cause especially dear to the hearts of millions of Filipinos, here and overseas, who are interconnected through a vast diaspora of expatriate workers.

Migrant workers are honored by the government and the people for their sacrifice and dedication to their work, their family and the nation. We welcome their contribution.

But we long for the day when going abroad for a job is a career option, not the only choice, for a Filipino worker. Our economic plans are designed to allow the Philippines to break out of this cycle. That is why we remain so stubbornly focused on the economy. We need to create and spread the wealth and keep the people working here at home. We are working to create appealing employment opportunities by focusing on the development of certain priority sectors that give high-income jobs, for instance, business process outsourcing which has created about 400,000 jobs in the last seven years.

All in all, we have created almost 7 million jobs in the last 7 years. By continuing down this path, we hope to increasingly be keeping our best and brightest right here in the Philippines, closer to friends and families, helping to build our communities and providing the next generation of leadership.

For the Philippines and for any country, for your countries, people are our biggest national asset at any time in the course of our economic, social and political development. Development cannot occur in the economy without human development — that is, without human beings who are healthy, educated, employed, and able to care for their families.

As both His Excellency Secretary General Bank Ki Moon and Foreign Secretary Romulo have said, today some 200 million people live outside of their nations of birth, many of them working. This number rises every year, keeping pace with the advance of globalization. Indeed, migration is one of the dynamic forces behind the globalization that draws our world ever closer together.

We inhabit a world where people, countries, businesses, cultures and economies are so closely interconnected that we all catch cold if one of us sneezes hard enough. It is at one of those interconnections — the interface between migration and development—that we confront some of the most serious challenges to us to work together.

As people migrate, they draw more than one country into their lives. Their work, their family, the gains they make from migration, and their need for personal security and well-being become matters of import that cross national boundaries.

These movements occur in all directions, not just south-to-north, but also south-to-south, north-to-north, and in every other conceivable direction. It is this ceaseless and restless movement of people that truly links our respective countries, not just the capital or goods that economists love to build their growth models on. It is people who stimulate the trade, business and economic exchanges that keep the global economy moving along.

But, unfortunately, countries are less equipped often to protect their people abroad in times of trouble than they are, their money or businesses. The global financial crisis currently taking place challenges us again to gather our forces, within government and in partnership with other countries, to better protect our people abroad against financial and economic shocks, and the side effects of such shocks — exploitation, abuse, and other forms of ill treatment.

All eyes may be glued on the stock market, but we must never lose sight of the often unseen impact of the global credit crunch on the long-term needs of the poor, including the migrant poor.

It is the duty of our governments, of the United Nations, and I thank His Excellency Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for his attention to the world's poor especially during this time of the financial crisis. It is the duty of all international organizations and global civil society to gather our collective will, our joint resources, and our common efforts to raise them up.

We can draw encouragement from the fact that governments, the United Nations, international organizations and civil society are now increasingly focused on all aspects of migration.

In the United Nations and throughout the international development community, growing attention is devoted to research, studies, projects and programs on migration and development. And we thank His Excellency Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for recounting some of them. Of course, more remains to be done, but this is a good start. The Philippines stands ready to champion the cause of migrant workers.

We have established what is considered one of the best-regulated expatriate worker programs in the world. On the basis of their contributions and of the nation's humanitarian responsibilities to its people wherever they are, our government works doubly hard to strengthen migrant workers' protection — protection from the depredations of domestic recruiters as well as of overseas employers, agents and officials, and protection from physical harm.

Our comprehensive and multi-dimensional "life-cycle" strategy covers all facets of the overseas employment process, from pre-departure orientation to post-return reintegration and retraining. The effectiveness of this approach in terms of protecting workers has been repeatedly acknowledged by international bodies.

However, the full protection and empowerment of migrants is a task that goes far beyond what individual countries of origin can do on their own.

During our ASEAN chairmanship in 2006, the Philippines led in formulating the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and commencing the establishment of an implementing committee.

We also hosted the International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development in Manila last month. There, the delegates discussed the gender dimension of the social costs and benefits of migration, the upholding of the rights of women migrant workers, and seizing opportunities for enhanced gender equality and benefits of migration for women and their families.

And now, we are honored to be the first developing nation and the first Asian country to host the GFMD.

For the Philippines, which is at the forefront of the global migration issue, hosting this meeting represents a high point in our efforts to assist migrants through intensified global dialogue and networks for consultation and cooperation.

It is good that the leaders of the nations of migrant origin and those nations hosting migrant have come together in our Global Forum to seek common ground on ways to coordinate assistance to our economies and protection to our workers. We must do so in a way that puts the interests of the poor and dispossessed ahead of the rich and powerful. We must do this in a way that offers a global solution to a global challenge. Indeed, we call for fundamental global reform. And to that end, we look upon the United Nations for leadership. And may I say, we are grateful we are getting that leadership in the person of Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

We urge all countries, which have not yet done so, to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

We are having this global... (applause) Meanwhile, as we campaign for that, we are having this global forum because coordinated action among nations is the better path than going it alone.

It is essential that the major economies of the world along with strong representation from emerging economies who are the source of migrant workers be part of the global consultations to resolve challenges in the global financial system and its impact on migrant workers.

And as Secretary General said, whether there's a financial crisis or not, instead of viewing migrants as depersonalized movable components of globalization, or worse, as inconvenient necessities, we must embrace them as human beings who contribute to our essential well-being in this age of vast movement and change. We must prepare them for and make them full partners in our world of developmental, demographic and democratic transformation.

This must be our commitment in the Global Forum for Migration and Development. We must work together for that transformation to a better world by ensuring the globalization is for everyone and not just for the strong and the fittest, by valuing the real contribution of all workers, migrants and non-migrants, a world where we're all equally and without discrimination part of a caring and sharing global community. We must work together to protect our migrant workers in times of financial and economic stress as the world is experiencing now. But as Secretary General said, even if it is not a time of financial stress.

Our Global Forum offers us a community space to explore those challenges together and to find the best policies, the best practices to meet the challenges of migration in mutually beneficial ways.

As Secretary Romulo said, many of your governments support and invest in this practical consultative approach. We are truly grateful for the contributions you have made and your engagement with the practical preparations of this meeting. Without your belief in this Global Forum and in our decision this year to examine the migration-development complex from the human angle, we could never have nurtured this tender process thus far. You have helped the GFMD come of age.

In being here to discuss migration and development, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, may you get the chance to taste the hospitality that we traditionally extend to friends and family, many of you may have already experienced with our expatriates abroad.

My best wishes to all of you on the proceedings of the Global Forum on Migration and Development!

Salamat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Opening Session of the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134836/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1716&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2008 Sangguniang Kabataan National Congress

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2008 Sangguniang Kabataan National Congress**

[Delivered at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Lahug District, Cebu City, Cebu, October 30, 2008]

Thank you so much Jane, for your introduction and thank you so much to all of you—leaders and members of the SK who are here today.

Congratulations on the best attended SK Convention in history! And thank you to all who signed your manifesto of support for our administration.

We have here with us today leading officials of the Philippine government and the Cebu government: we have Secretary Cerge Remonde, who is our Cabinet Officer for Regional Development of Region VII; we have one you can identify with, very young acting mayor of Cebu City, Mike Rama; we have Raul del Mar, who is the host congressman of this district where you're having your convention; and we have Secretary Gabby Claudio, my adviser for Political Affairs, the SK relations are part of his jurisdiction; and we have our NYC Chairman Richard Nalupta, himself an SK alumnus.

And we should have a special welcome for the biggest delegation, the delegation of Pangasinan. And a special congratulations for all those who organized this event because Jane said that you did not get a professional event organizer. This event was organized by youth leaders from different parts of the country, congratulations!

Indeed, the way you have organized this event reflects your choice of the conference theme: "Transform Leadership, Transpire Action, Transcend Competence." And indeed, times call for strong decisive leadership.

We have been working tirelessly to address challenges arising from the slowdown in the global economy combined with high oil and food prices. We have succeeded in ensuring that our country's food supplies remain stable and we put food on the table for every Filipino.

In terms of oil, the high price of gasoline and everyday commodities hits our poor the hardest. While the price of oil is a global issue and outside the control of government—when oil was going high up in the world market in price, we introduced measures to lift the burden off our people. Several months ago, we cut the tariff from three percent to two percent when the crude price went to 86 dollars, to one percent when it went down to 92 dollars, and to zero percent when it went up to 104 dollars. We have also been providing targeted cash payments to the poorest of the poor to help them cope with their electric bills.

Now that the price of oil is going down in the world market, on my way here upon landing, I talked to Secretary Angie Reyes of Energy, who just arrived from a conference abroad. I said, Angie, the price of oil is going down. We must do something to convince — since we have a free enterprise economy and we can't force businessmen to make decisions unless there's an emergency — we must find a way to convince the oil companies and the gasoline stations to bring down the price of gasoline faster, and that's what he is going to work on. But many things are left to be done.

We work hard to fulfill our Philippine Reform Agenda. We fight for the Economy, Education and the Environment.

And you the SK are important to this agenda because you represent the young, and we are in fact a young nation. Our people are young — you represent those who are under 30 years of age and you make up more than half of the population. We are a young nation — our democracy is just 60 years old. The growing pains are still with us. We are

a young nation — our heart is young. We love life. We sing. We dance. We love sports but our minds are also young. We love innovation and technology. We are young because we are true citizens of the world. We can keep up with change. We're part of the rapid pace of change that is taking place around the globe. In fact, we are on the cutting edge of the global workforce.

And so, on this occasion — of the best attended SK Congress in our history, organized by you yourselves not by any professional — I call for a Vision for a Young Nation. It is you, the youth of this nation who have the energy to make your dreams come true. And as SK, you have a share in the internal revenue allotment so you have the means to make your dreams come true.

It is now time for you, the young generation to get involved in civic life, as the SK is involved in civic life, and to take action and take responsibility for your own fortunes. You belong to the SK system. You can work within the system to make a better world. Use the tools afforded to you by government; meaning, your budget and the local government. The tools accorded you by your family; meaning, your education. The tools afforded you by the nation. On the tools afforded to you by your family (your income, your family incomes), the tools afforded to you by your nation (the educational and career opportunities) use these tools to become doctors, lawyers, farmers, healthcare workers, leaders in high tech and clean tech and many other noble professions.

The vision we have of a young nation must include creating high-paying jobs right here at home, not just abroad. We love and value our expatriates. We honor their service and their sacrifice. Yet, we must work for a day, a day when you will be at your peak when a job abroad is a career choice and not the only option available to a hardworking Filipino. In addition to jobs at home, we must build a new quality of life that keeps you our young people here that keeps our nation young and beautiful like you the majority of its people.

So, it is to you, the next generation that I ask to join me in a 'Green Philippines' campaign. What is the meaning of this 'Green Philippines' especially for our young? We must take back our forests and replenish fallen trees with new, protected forests to protect our land and our people. That is for you who live in the mountain areas of the country. We must reforest that land and bring back the beauty of the Philippines we all love and want. We want to tap the enthusiasm of young and old alike to clean our environment. For you who come from areas with no forest because you're in the urban areas — we need to beautify our trashy barangays and cities. We need to build more urban parks and recreation areas. We need to purify our water. We need to clean up unhealthy and eyesore industrial sites. Some of these need to be done by the national government and the regulators but some of them can be done by the youth especially the SK.

As part of our 'Green Philippines,' we want an energy-efficient nation, free from reliance on costly and exhaust-spewing cars and smokestacks — that is for our regulators. We can harness our sun, wind and geothermal resources and produce our own clean fuels. Again, to do geothermal power, solar power, wind power — that is for the business community. But we can also produce clean fuel through biofuels and rely less on foreign suppliers. And SK can plant the materials for biofuels. We need the will of the people to encourage the political leaders to embrace this new clean, green Philippines. And you represent the majority of our people.

This is a perfect time to devote ourselves to 'Green Philippines' programs because Congress has passed legislation on the development and promotion of renewable energy sources, which I will soon sign into law.

We want to turn our coral reefs and beaches, the wonder of the world, into national parks and international sanctuaries for eco-tourism and scientific research. The proclamation will be done by the national government. The scientific research will be done by the science professionals, but promoting eco-tourism is something that can be done by the young in the SK.

We have the chance to develop our nation right from the start: clean, healthy, productive and beautiful. And I hope you, our young people today, you our SK will be part of this 'Green Philippines.' And your terms are... what? How long is it going to be, three years, five years? Three years. Let's try to make this happen within the three years of your term. These are just a few ideas, because you the SK can provide your own ideas when you start thinking of what projects you should do. But I call on you our youth to respond to this call to bring to action new innovative

thinking on land management, on care for our environment and ways to create jobs and have a clean, socially responsible environment policy.

We need to get beyond the era of “either/or thinking” on the environment. We must embrace change and be bold in creating a ‘Green Philippines’, that is both green and economically successful. The Philippines can become a model of environmental stewardship within ten years. In ten years you will be at your prime — you will be the leaders not only of your communities but of the nation. And if you begin this ‘Green Philippines’ now, you will have a much easier time being a leader of the nation in ten years from now. That is why we need your help to move that vision forward.

I have strong faith in our youth. I have strong faith in our SK. I know you will not shirk from these challenges. I know you will not neglect your country and abandon your future.

And so, what I would like to do in order to encourage you to be able to allocate your SK funds into this ‘Green Philippines’ campaign, some of which I have already given examples of, I will give a fund to the SK of 10 million pesos as equity in the projects that will be approved by your council.

To all of you, congratulations! Best wishes on your National Congress! Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the Signing Ceremony of Republic Act No. 9510 or the Credit Information System Act

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Signing Ceremony of Republic Act No. 9510 or the Credit Information System Act**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 31, 2008]

Congratulations to everybody who made this bill a reality.

The Credit Information System is a very welcome addition to the legislation to strengthen our financial system by improving the regulatory environment. Amidst the global economic storm, we have thus been able to withstand the full force of this global contagion because Congress, the Executive and the Central Bank have been taking decisive action for several years to fundamentally alter our economic fortunes.

When some governments were cutting taxes, we raised them. When some governments were giving free rein to easy money adventures, we were bringing more discipline and order to our financial regulatory environment.

When some governments were going deeper into debt, we were fiscally prudent, building up our reserves, investing in our infrastructure, but paying our debts. These were not easy decisions. Together we did it because it needed to be done; but we must not become complacent.

Our country has been hit with high food and fuel prices, and we are aware of the severe impact on the poorest among us. Our government has been doing everything in our power to ease the impact of this global crisis on the Philippines, and our measures at home including congressmen and congresswomen and senators, your valuable and timely legislation are seeing us through this period of tremendous change as we prepare for the lower global fuel and food prices that are now beginning to come down. We remain vigilant to uncertainties in the global market. We must monitor closely the global developments so that we can continue to respond with the right policies to sustain the gains we have made. And those policies include the law we signed a few weeks ago to facilitate the restructuring of socialized and low-cost housing loans, and now our bill today.

As Bernie Sayo said, a credible and comprehensive Credit Information System run by the Credit Information Corporation will cut credit processing time; will lower transaction cost; will reduce the risk of defaults because of better credit information; will reduce the credit premium charged by lenders; and will increase lending volumes. It will expand the reach of credit to small and medium enterprises.

Of course, all eyes are glued on the stock markets. We acknowledge the proposals of the Philippine Stock Exchange to strengthen our equity markets as well aside from the credit markets that we are strengthening today.

We ask Congress to look closely at their suggestions that require legislation. For instance, they have been asking to extend the documentary stamp tax exemption through next year for shares traded to the Exchange. They're asking for reducing by half the stock transaction tax in order to make the Philippine Exchange more competitive.

The challenge is how to do this in a revenue neutral way.

Congress has given our people an early Christmas gift through this Credit Information System bill we will soon pass into law and to the restructuring of low-cost housing loans. We look forward to Congress adding even more gifts to better protect our people. We cannot waste time on political intrigues and grandstanding. Remaining reforms await our common action.

Let us continue to endeavor to help the ordinary Filipino stretch his paycheck.

So, to all the principal sponsors, principal authors, the co-authors who are here with us today, congratulations and thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st Laguna Investment and Business Expo

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st Laguna Investment and Business Expo**

[Delivered at the Event Center, SM Sta. Rosa, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, November 04, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Lazaro. Maraming salamat sa pagpakilala mo sa akin at maraming salamat sa inyong pag-imbata sa akin at sa mga Cabinet members na dumalo dito.

Mayor Arcillas Nazareno, congratulations din! Congressman Dan Fernandez, Congressman Evie Arago, siyempre si President Mamon ng Laguna Chamber otherwise known as Mr. Enchanted Kingdom, (applause) at ang ating mga Cabinet members na napakaraming narito and the national agencies. Congratulations on this Investment and Business Expo! (Applause)

This Expo demonstrates a vibrant private-public sector partnership. And held in the midst of the global economic storm, it also demonstrates that the Philippines is in relatively good shape. Gaya nga nang sabi ni Ning Lazaro kanina nung kami ay nakaupo, “Eh tignan niyo naman ang Laguna parang walang global crisis.” Congratulations sa Laguna! (Applause)

Laguna has carved out a name as the industrial area with perhaps the widest array of investment venues in what we call the Luzon Urban Beltway. And it is also part of the Cyber Corridor. In fact, one reason why Rey Chua is here, our ICT chair, together with Larry and Peter, is that we are proud to congratulate Metro Laguna, made up of Sta. Rosa, Calamba, San Pablo, Cabuyao and Los Baños, as having been selected by the Business Process Outsourcing Association as the next wave city’s, number one after Metro Manila. (Applause) So, it is indeed a part of the Cyber Corridor as well.

And it is also one of the nation’s major rice producing provinces. So, talagang microcosm ang Laguna ng buong bansang Pilipinas.

But today, we’re talking about the Luzon Urban Beltway, the Cyber Corridor — dalawa sa ating limang natural sub-economies or “super regions” of the Philippines kung saan gumagastos tayo ng daan-daang bilyon sa ilalim ng ating Medium-Term Public Investment Program.

The Luzon Urban Beltway consists of most of Central Luzon, Metro Manila, CALABARZON, Mindoro and Marinduque. And if it has to be a good urban beltway, it must be globally competitive for urban service and industrial sectors with a high quality of life for its people. And indeed, this Luzon Urban Beltway produces more than one-half of the country’s Gross Domestic Product.

To be globally competitive in our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan we invest in five strategic measures:

1. Make food plentiful at reasonable prices to make our labor cost competitive.
2. Reduce the cost of electricity to make the cost of running our machines and our manufacturing processes regionally competitive.
3. Modernize the physical infrastructure and logistics system at least cost to ensure efficient movement of goods and people.

Eh kita naman niyo yung SLEX inaayos natin at pagkatapos nito yung SLEX ikakabit sa STAR. At yung SLEX nakakabit sa C-5 ay ikakabit sa NLEX. So, lahat nito ay pag-uusapan mamaya sa ating Cabinet meeting which we are holding here in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. (Applause)

Yung logistic is movement of people and goods. So, kasama dito yung gastos sa pagbiyahe at kasalukuyan, sabi ni Secretary Larry Mendoza sa akin, ay may hearing na ginaganap ang LTFRB para pag-usapan kung papano bumaba ang pasahe dahil bumababa ang presyo ng langis.

4. From competitiveness, mobilize and disseminate knowledge to upgrade our technologies and increase our people's productivity. Nandiyan ang U.P. Los Baños — nandito, nandito pa nga sa ating Expo ngayon – at napakaraming mga eskwelahan at mga VOCTECH centers. So, productivity is very high in CALABARZON.
5. Reduce red tape in all government agencies to reduce transaction costs. Ako ay nasisiyahan na meron na kayong NERBAC dito sa CALABARZON (applause) at inaasahan ko rin ang mga local government units gaya ni Governor, yung mga city mayor, mga municipal mayors para ayusin yung mga ilang kusot na mga investors kasama na rin yung mga investors ng Build-Operate-and-Transfer para sa ating mga importanteng expressway.

Pero ang gusto kong pag-usapan ngayon to reduce the cost of electricity in the urban beltway, PEZA now offers reduced rates for the locators. And the implementation of open access awaits the consummation of the Calaca investment in the power sector. Inaasahan natin na ito ay matapos ng Nobyembre. At ang hinihintay naman ng Calaca ay yung desisyon ng Energy Regulatory Commission tungkol sa pwedeng ma-icharge na mga power generating plants.

Earlier than this, we began the “Time of Use” method of computing power rates along with the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market and MERALCO's Customer Choice Program and High Load Factor Discounts for consumers that are consuming at least 5 megawatts. Loans of electric cooperatives have been condoned. And recently, the ERC ruled that the system's loss recovery cannot be more than 8 percent.

Mamaya sa ating Cabinet meeting ay pag-uusapan rin kung papano pa tayo makakababa ng ating energy cost lalo na para sa SME at para sa karaniwang Pilipino.

Your government is doing everything in its power to put food on the table, dahil ang busog na empleyado ay hindi parating hihingi ng omento sa kanyang sweldo. And to protect the paycheck therefore from high prices and high inflation, we are also continuing to invest in our nation's system of healthcare, education and social services.

Because the relative strength and resilience of our people and our economy is still no consolation to the Filipino who has to pay higher prices for basic commodities, we are aware of the pressures you face from high prices and high rates of inflation. We know that you, especially those employees and professionals, are concerned about job security and the buying power of your wages and salaries. We are also concerned.

That is why we are working hard to keep down the prices of rice, food and fuel, and to increase the number of jobs and investments that will continue to generate high-paying employment opportunities for more of our countrymen. Kaya kami ng Cabinet ay nagpunta dito dahil itong Expo ay malaking kontribusyon dito sa paghanap ng marami pang investment.

Yung mga magsasaka naman, they're getting the investments they need. The government will continue its unprecedented support for agriculture via the F.I.E.L.D.S. program. NFA will buy one million metric tons from Filipino farmers compared to last year's less than 100,000 metric tons. In fact, sabi ni Arty Yap sa akin, to date 330,000 metric tons na ang nabili ng NFA compared to 30,000 the last time around. Sana ang ating magsasaka, dahil marami sa kanila maganda ang presyong natatanggap mula sa NFA, ay magtanim pa ng higit pang palay.

And with this, we expect inflation, which has started to come down, to come down even more. And the price of rice, which has started to come down, should go down even more. And with that, we expect the earning power of your workers and officers' paycheck to increase.

Our economic team, eto si Peter, is working to rein in inflation — kasi Peter is a member of the Monetary Board — and to monitor prices. Yun nga ang trabaho niya kasama ng local government bilang DTI Secretary and put the price manipulators out of business.

He and we will continue to make spot checks in markets to make sure no one is taking advantage of their fellow citizens during this challenging time. Pero itong challenging time na ito ay nakakapag Expo pa rin ang Laguna.

This Expo — Congratulations to all of you! — (applause) this Expo makes me optimistic about our future. It makes me optimistic about the hope—optimism and resilience of the people of Laguna.

Mahalagang layunin nitong Expo na patunayan ang kagalingan ng probinsiyang Laguna bilang sentro ng pamumuhunan at negosyo. Nagsisilbi din siyang patunay ng kahusayan, kagandahan, kahandaan at tibay ng loob ng mga taga-Laguna sa pagsulong ng kaunlaran.

So, for playing such an important role in our country's economy, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 1st Laguna Investment and Business Expo. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134804/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1766&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st Founding Anniversary of the Bulacan Polytechnic College and Groundbreaking Ceremony of its proposed 2-Hectare New San Jose Del Monte Campus

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st Founding Anniversary of the Bulacan Polytechnic College and Groundbreaking Ceremony of
its proposed 2-Hectare New San Jose Del Monte Campus**

[Delivered in Bulacan Polytechnic College, Brgy. Graceville, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan, November 05, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Congressman Robes. (Applause) Salamat sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at salamat rin sa iyong imbitasyon na ako ay pumunta rito. At salamat din sa pakipagkakasundo mo sa Parliamentang Victoria upang mabigyan ng trabaho doon yung mga kwalipikadong taga-rito na sang-ayon sa mga standards ng Australia.

Salamat din kay Governor Jonjon Mendoza sa iyong napakagandang mga sinabi at salamat sa mga congressmen. Salamat sa ipinasa niyong malaking budget, pinakamalaki sa kasaysayan: 1.4 trillion pesos para sa 2009. Kaya salamat kay Congresswoman Ning. (Applause) Salamat kay Congresswoman Chavez at salamat kay Congressman Pancho at salamat kay Congresswoman Lorna dahil yung pinakamalaking budget sa buong kasaysayan na pinasa nila ay yun ang makakapondo ng ating mga pangangailangan sa economy, sa environment at saka sa edukasyon kasama ang Bulacan Polytechnic College. (Applause)

At dito ay binabati rin natin yung dating congressman, si Mayor Roquero (applause) at marami tayong mga senior statesmen ng Bulacan na narito. Nandito si former Governor Josie Mendoza at narito si former Congressman Lito Sarmiento. So lahat-lahat, lahat-lahat nagkakasundo sa kinabukasan ng ating susunod na henerasyon. Congratulations sa inyong lahat! At sa mga opisyal ng Bulacan Polytechnic, congratulations sa first anniversary ng inyong campus sa San Jose del Monte! Nawa'y mabigyan niyo ng tamang kasanayan! Halimbawa para sa Victoria ang inyong mga estudyante. And we welcome the representative from the Parliament of Victoria, Mr. Smith to our shores in the Philippines. (Applause)

We hope that this campus will be able to prepare students for the things that Congressman Robes arranged with the Parliament of Victoria. But, of course, we also long for the day when going abroad is a career option, and not the only choice for a hardworking Filipino. Itong ating mga plano sa ekonomiya. These are designed to allow the Philippines to break out of that cycle. That is why we remain so stubbornly focused on the economy. We need to spread the wealth and keep the people working here at home. So, we are creating appealing employment opportunities by focusing on the development of priority sectors. Halimbawa, diyan sa Metro Manila na katabi lamang nitong barangay ninyo maraming mga call center doon. Nawa'y may mga kurso dito sa Bulacan Polytechnic San Jose para sa mga kursong ganun na magaganda ang sweldo.

We have created almost 7 million jobs in the last 7 years. Kung hindi dahil sa mga repormang ipinatupad natin sa mga nakaraang pitong taon — at yung mga congressmen natin ngayon at dating congressman natin ay lahat sila ay tumulong para sa mga repormang ito — 'di sana naging mas malala ang kalagayan natin ngayon gaya ng ibang mga bansa na lubos ang pagdudusa nila ngayon dito sa global credit crunch. Sa halip, sabi nga ng dalubhasang ahensiyang Standard & Poor: "The Philippine economy is a relative island of calm in a very stormy sea of global uncertainty."

Pandaigdigang krisis sa ekonomiya ang siyang tumulak sa pagtaas ng presyo ng pagkain, bigas at langis dito sa atin at maging sa buong mundo. During these troubled times, papel ng pamahalaan is to help insulate the Filipino people from these price shocks and economic pressures.

Subalit yung kalakasan, dahil yung kalakasan at katatagan ng ating taongbayan at ng ating ekonomiya haming sa iba ay hindi pa rin sapat na konswelo para sa bawat Pilipinong nagbabayad ng mataas na presyo para sa mga

pangunahing bilingin. Batid ko ang pasanin na hinaharap ninyo mula sa matataas na presyo at mataas na inflation. Batid ko nag-aalala kayo tungkol sa katiyakan ng trabaho at kung ano ang mabibili sa inyong sweldo. We are also concerned. Kaya naman kumikilos tayo ng masipag upang mababa ang presyo ng pagkain at gasolina — na salamat ay bumababa na ang presyo – at upang tuloy ang pagdami ng trabaho at mga pamumuhunan tuloy-tuloy na dadagdagan ng pagkakataon ang trabaho para sa higit pa sa ating mamamayan.

At sana itong eskwelahang ito, itong campus ay makakatulong na ihanda ang ating kabataan sa mga trabaho. Ginagawa ng inyong pamahalaan ang lahat upang tiyakin na palaging may pagkain sa bawat mesa, at upang proteksyunan ang inyong kinikita mula sa pagtaas ng presyo ng bilingin. Inaalagaan natin din ang inyong kalusugan, ang mga serbisyong publiko at ang edukasyon, kasama na nga ang Bulacan Polytechnic. (Applause)

Bukod sa importanteng sentro ng industriya ang Bulacan pinanggagalingan pa rin ng bigas. Our farmers are getting the investments they need. Patuloy ang suporta ng pamahalaan sa agrikultura, pinakamalaking suporta sa kasaysayan natin. Kung dati kulang sa 100,000 tonelada ng palay ang binibili ng pamahalaan mula sa ating mga magsasaka, ngayon ay ginagawa na itong isang milyong tonelada. Yun ang binibili ng pamahalaan ngayon sa ating magsasaka. Kaya nawa'y ma-engganyo silang itaas ang produksyon ng bigas para kayo lahat dito ay hindi magkukulang ng bigas at mabibili sa tamang presyo. Bunga nito, umaasa tayo na ang inflation ay bumababa na at bababa pa. Ang presyo ng bigas na nagsimula nang bumbaba nawa'y bababa pa. At inaasahan natin sa ganung paraan lalaki ang kayang bilhin ng inyong mga sweldo. And by continuing down this path, we will increasingly be keeping our best and brightest, not having to go abroad but having the option to go abroad or to stay right here in the Philippines if they want. Mas malapit sa mga pamilya, mas malapit sa mga kaibigan, tumutulong itayo ang pamayanan, kagaya nitong pamayanang ito, and providing the next generation of leadership.

Napakahalaga para i-angat ang ating bansa at ihanda ito para sa susunod na henerasyon ang ekonomiya, environment at edukasyon.

Kanina nang dumating ako marami sa reception mga kabataan. Tanong ko nga, “kayo ba’y mga estudyante sa Bulacan Polytechnic?” “Opo,” sabi nila. Magtatapos ako sa mensahe para sa kanila. Sa kabataan nakasalalay ang enerhiya upang pagsasakatuparan ang mga panaginip, panahon na para sa susunod na henerasyon na makialam sa buhay ng pamayanan — Ay, sorry. Hintay muna, mabanggit ko pala si Vice Governor Alvarado na nandito hindi lamang sa kanyang sarili kinakatawan din si Congresswoman Marivic Alvarado. (Applause)

Anyway, yung ating mga bata panahon na rin para magsalita, kumilos at maging responsable para sa ating kapalaran. Magtrabaho sa loob ng sistema upang ipabuti ang mundo. Gamitin ang mga oportunidad kagaya nitong Polytechnic College na binibigay ng pamahalaan, pamilya at bansa upang maging doktor, abogado, magsasaka, mga nagtatrabaho sa kalinga ng kalusugan, at maging lider sa high tech at sa malinis na teknolohiya at marami pang ibang mga maginoong propesyon. (Applause)

Tinatawagan natin ang mga kabataan, ang susunod na henerasyon ng Bulacan na makikinabang sa ituturo ng Bulacan Polytechnic sa San Jose at pati na mga kabataan ng buong bansa. Tinatawagan kayo makilahok sa pagtunggali laban sa kahirapan na dala ng pandaigdigang unos. Mag-aral nang mabuti. Tapusin ang mga kurso agad sa takdang panahon, at nawa'y makatrabaho agad, abroad kung gusto ninyo pero dito rin kung gusto ninyo. Nawa'y meron kayong career choice. Huwag sasayangin ang pagkakataon sapagkat ang magiging matibay na sandalan sa oras ng kagipitan ay ang edukasyon.

Kailangan ng bansa ang tulong ng susunod na henerasyon, pati na rin ang kasalukuyang henerasyon. Sa pagtutulongan ng lahat, maitatawid natin ang kasalukuyang pandaigdigang unos. Muli tayong makakabalik sa dating landas ng mabilis na pag-unlad.

Sa inyong lahat, salamat at narito lahat-lahat ng panig ng Bulacan.

Nagkakaisa tayo sa pag-alay ng ating sarili sa edukasyon ng kabataan ng Bulacan.

Sa inyong lahat, Mabuhay! at maraming salamat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 1st Founding Anniversary of the Bulacan Polytechnic College and Groundbreaking Ceremony of its proposed 2-Hectare New San Jose Del Monte Campus. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134757/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4546&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Local Peace and Security Assembly in Region III

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Local Peace and Security Assembly in Region III**

[Delivered at the El Centro Convention Center – Legenda, Waterfront Road, Subic Freeport Zone, Zambales, November 07, 2008]

Maraming salamat Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, secretary ng National Defense at anak ng Tarlac.

Our political leaders in the region: we have here the governor of Zambales, Governor Amor Deloso; Congresswoman Mila Magsaysay of this district where we are now; Mayor Bong Gordon, our host mayor because a part of Subic is from Olongapo City but we have also Mayor Khonghun on the other side because a part is also from Subic town; and then, Congresswoman Iyay Coscolluela of Buhay Party List is very familiar with Subic having worked here for such a long time; and Congressman Violago from Nueva Ecija, thank you for being here.

We have Governor Tet Garcia with us and his son Congressman Abet and we have Congresswoman Herminia Roman with us. So, we thank all of them for being here at lahat ng mga local officials na nakita ko, nabati ko, mga punongbayan ng ibat-ibang mga lungsod at bayan dito sa Central Luzon, very happy to see all of you.

Mga sundalo at pulis na narito ngayon, we're very happy that you are here and participated in this very important assembly. At mga kinakatawan ng simbahan, nakita ko nga ay halos lahat ng workshop leaders ay mga leader ng tinatawag nating Christian churches. At mga grupong sibilyan, salamat sa mga resolusyon; at itong mga resolusyon na ito ay hihimayin ng grupo ni Secretary Bert Gonzales, na wala ngayon bagama't siya ang namamahala sa mga asembliyang ito dahil meron siyang importanteng meeting doon sa Davao sa Mindanao at hindi naman natin makansel itong buong assembly para lang hintayin siya. Pero yung kanyang grupo, itong mga nakaupo dito sa ating front table, hihimayin ang mga resolusyon ninyo lalong-lalo na yung mga bahagi ng resolusyon na lumalabas din doon sa resolusyon ng ibang mga assembly. Kasi yun ang pinakaimportante na sagutin or harapin ng ating pamahalaan nasyonal, at yung mga pamahalaang lokal naman ninyo ay sana asikasuhin yung mga probisyon ng resolusyon that are specific to your region. Salamat sa binigay ninyong tulong sa prosesong pangkapayapaan dito sa Region III.

Tungkulin ng pamahalaan na siguruhing ligtas ang mamamayan sa mga kuko ng kaaway, rebelde man o kriminal. At nagagalak tayo na nabawasan na ang mga aktibong rebelde dito. Halos kalahati na lang sila kung ihahambing natin doon sa 1998, at malaki rin ang nabawas sa kanilang mga armas. Tagumpay ito ng pinagsanib na pagsisikap ng military, ng kapulisan at ng taumbayan. Kaya congratulations sa inyong lahat! (Applause)

Humina man ang pwersa ng mga rebeldeng ito, kailangan pa rin nating maging masigasig upang tuluyan nang matigil ang mga engkwentro at mabawi mula sa impluwensya ng kaliwa ang 111 barangays na marami dito ay nasa Bataan, Aurora at Pampanga. Sa alam ko dahil ako ay Kapampangan parati kong sinusubaybayan yun, I think we have no more influenced barangays, tama ba ito? But there are many barangays that are threatened barangays. Kailangan matigil na ang pagsabotahe ng mga rebelde sa mga cell sites. Kailangan matigil na ang kanilang pananakot, pangingikil at pagre-recruit ng mga bagong kasapi. Sa nakikita natin sa inyong resolusyon may mga underlying conclusions na nagbibigay daan sa inyong mga resolusyon. At isang importanteng conclusion palagay ko sa inyong workshops: kawalan ng trabaho, problema sa reporma sa lupa, maging sa sakahan o sa indigenous peoples, at isyu ng katarungang panlipunan ang naging mga sanhi ng paglakas ng rebelyon at ito rin ang problema

noong dekadang singkuenta at muli noong dekada setenta. At lahat ng ito'y naka-ugat sa kahirapan na sinusubukan naman tugunan ng mga ibatibang administrasyon.

Here in our administration, a strong and growing economy has been the central pillar we have labored to create precisely to help ensure peace, order and stability in our country. And it's paying off: our economy is more resilient today than ever before, thanks to our fiscal reforms at andami sa mga congressmen dito o kaya yung kanilang mga predecessor gaya ni Tony Roman, predecessor ni Herminia at saka si Tet, predecessor ni Abet, marami silang tumulong sa masasabi nating mga repormang ginawa sa Kongreso that manifested in a 7 plus percent GDP growth last year. (Applause) At kasama ditto sa GDP growth last year, every year, every quarter kahit na nagkakaroon ng recession doon sa ibang bansa — noong 2001 may recession sa Singapore, sa Korea at kung saan pa yun — we were still growing. So, for the last seven years, we've created almost 7 million jobs in 7 years.

Subalit yung kalakasan at katatagan ng ating taumbayan at ng ating ekonomiya haming sa iba ay alam ko hindi pa rin kunswelo para sa karaniwang Pilipinong nagbabayad ng mas mataas na presyo para sa pangunahing bilihan.

Before the U.S. financial crisis, which we are weathering quite well so far, we were hit by a dramatic rise in the global price of rice, food and fuel. This hit all Filipinos; and it hurt us. It hit us where it hurts — at the kitchen table and in our daily lives. So even though we have created almost seven million jobs in seven years and provided a remarkable amount of human and physical infrastructure, at the end of the day, this remains a price-sensitive nation. When prices rise, people naturally feel the pain. And we don't think in terms of overall macroeconomic conditions, we just think whether we can put food on the table.

Sa ganitong mga panahong nakakaabala, papel ng pamahalaan is to help insulate the people from these price shocks and economic pressures. Batid ko ang pasanin na hinaharap ninyo mula sa matataas na presyo at mataas na inflation, na salamat naka-headline kanina ay malaki na ang ibinaba. Batid kong nag-aalala kayo tungkol sa katiyakan ng trabaho at kung ano ang mabibili ninyo sa inyong sweldo. Nag-aalala rin ako. Kaya naman kumikilos tayo ng masipag upang mababa ang presyo ng pagkain at gasolina, at upang tuloy ang pagdami ng trabaho at mga pamumuhunan tuloy-tuloy na dagdagan ng pagkakataon para sa trabaho para sa higit sa ating mga mamamayan.

Salamat na lang at investments continue to come in despite continued volatility in the global markets. Halimbawa kanina, yung mga nasa entablado, halos lahat ay kasama natin doon sa inauguration ng Petron Fuel Blending Plant. Ano itong "fuel blending plant" na ito? Eto yung isa sa produkto nito ay yung ethanol na sinasama na sa kanilang gasolina para pag kayo ay pupunta sa isang Petron gasoline station pwede kayong pumili, pwede niyong bilhin yung gasolina purong gasoline o pwede niyong bilhin yung gasolinang blended with ethanol and the price of the blended gasoline ethanol is four pesos cheaper than the price of ordinary gasoline. Yan ang importansya nung investment na pinanggalingan namin kanina.

At mula naman doon sa planta patungo dito, si Armand Arreza, ang ating administrator ng SBMA ay pinapakita yung ibat-ibang lupa na kinukuha na ng ibat-ibang mga investments na parating dito sa Subic, kaya marami tayong mahihintay na bagong investments dito sa Subic. At salamat na lamang nalaman ko na 85,000 na pala ang nagtratrabaho dito sa Subic. Kaya yan ang pinakaimportanteng biyaya na maibibigay ng mga economic zones sa ating mga karaniwang mamamayan — trabaho, trabaho, trabaho.

As a result of our economic turnaround, we are also able to invest in key sectors to cushion the harsh impact of high prices for food and fuel on the poor. We are investing in modernizing infrastructure — alam naman nating lahat, 'yang Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and other roads and bridges on an unprecedented scale. Kanina nakita ko may listahan ng mga kinakailangang farm-to-market roads from the point of view of security and peace. Kaya inaatasan ko ang ating mga heneral dito na isama yung mga farm-to-market roads sa inyong program "Kalayaan Barangay." (Applause)

We are also investing in education, healthcare and other social services. Pinalawak natin ang sakop ng reporma sa lupa. At sana ang ating mga congressmen ay ipapasa ang extension ng CARP. (Applause) At anuman ang mga sabihin nating shortcomings ng implementasyon ng land reform na higitan ang target nating magmudmod ng dalawang daang libong ektarya tauntaon.

We have exceeded the target. Mas marami ang nagkakaroon ng sariling lupa, pati na rin ang mga indigenous peoples ng Region III na ngayon lang nabigyan ng titulo para sa Ancestral Domain. Meron pa ngang naiwan, gaya nang sinasabi niyo, at talaga naman dahil bago ako naging pangulo wala naming nagbibigay ng Ancestral Domain titles. Nagsimula lang sa ating administrasyon. So, itong mga linagay dito sa Regional Peace and Security Assembly na mga areas ay hihingin ko rin sa ating National Security Council o kaya sa ating P.A. for Region III, kay Relei Fajardo na i-follow up doon sa NCIP kung bakit hindi pa nagagawa. At tignan natin kung papano natin madagdagan ang pondo. Although as I said, yung target na binigay natin para sa Ancestral Domain titles ay nakamit na natin, dahil hindi naman natin sinabing 100 percent nating gagawin sa ating administrasyon. Ganunpaman, sisikapin nating dadagdagan pa ang pondo para magkaron pa ng mga bago. (Applause)

And all the while, we are balancing these investments with a commitment to meet our fiscal obligations. Dahil kung sumobra naman ang gastos ng pamahalaan over and above our taxes sasama naman ang credit rating natin. Tataas naman ang interest rate, hihina naman ang ating piso. Mas lalong mahihirapan naman ang mga taong-bayan dahil tataas na naman ang presyo ng bilihin. Yan ang balancing act na kailangan gawin sa economic management.

We cannot predict the full impact of the current global financial crisis on the Philippines or any country next year. However, we can do our best to plan for any and all contingencies, which we have done. At ito nga ay in-unveil natin doon sa annual conference ng Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. But indeed, we can say that our economy is stronger than it has been in generations. It has demonstrated that the hard choices we made regarding economic reforms — and I again congratulate either our congressmen now or their predecessors for helping us here — because these reforms have allowed us to have the resources to mitigate the impact of the global financial crisis and the high prices for food and fuel on all Filipinos. These efforts have served us well.

These actions are seeing us through this period of tremendous change as we prepare for the day which we see has already started to come with lower global and food prices. We are not insulated from events taking place internationally, so we will have to monitor developments closely and take action where for necessary to ensure that any impact will be minimal and short-lived.

Now more than ever, in this time of global economic turmoil, it is essential that we stay focused on meeting the challenges and helping our people. We would hope that our opponents would join us in putting the people first. Unfortunately, some will opt to put politics and even obsolete ideology ahead of the people. But for us, we will continue to protect the poor and move the nation forward during this challenging time.

Our priority is implementing the pro-poor and economic reform agendas that have given our country the strongest and most resilient economy in decades. This is a time when our nation's leadership must give all its attention to managing the impact of the global financial crisis on our own economy, and part of that is addressing the insurgency.

The communist rebels have spend years as a low-level threat. But even if they are low-level, they impede the progress and development of a number of rural areas. If we want to become a first-world country in 20 years, meaning, when poverty has been marginalized or the marginal have entered the middle-class and institutions become strong if we are to achieve that we have to put a stop to the ideological nonsense once and for all. And the reason why we're having all these Local Peace and Security Assemblies is that together with the citizens, we have to get rid of the insurgency now by 2010.

I thank the resolution for recognizing the new premise on our peace efforts. It focuses our peace processes no longer on mainly negotiating with armed groups but more importantly on authentic dialogues with the people in the communities.

These dialogues will be centered on ending all forms of armed rebellion in the country by talking directly with the people; and you are the first conversation in Region III on the part of the national government, and we hope to bring this all the way down to the grassroots. We aim to generate a national consensus against armed struggle as a means of achieving political and social change. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), ang ating pangkabuuhang framework ngayon sa ating pakikipagharap sa alinmang armadong grupo sa mga peace talks. DDR,

as espoused by you, hopefully, by the communities will be a notice to armed groups of your rejection of armed struggle; and a way of showing that the force of arms does not entitle anyone to representing our people.

Through these engagements, you, our people will necessarily make all armed groups accountable to the people and the government for all their actions. At habang tayo ay nagkakaroon nitong ating assembly at pinag-usapan niyo kung papano magkaroon ng kapayapaan. Limampung araw na lang at Pasko na. As we move into this holiday season, we should count all our blessings and look to the future with greater hope, confidence and optimism. Our people must come together this holiday season to celebrate faith and families. Our communities must pull together and set aside personal feuds and political differences. We must focus instead on what positive things we can all do together to improve the lives of the people.

I, for one, am optimistic about our future and the hope — optimism and resilience of the Filipino people. We will make sure our government is vigilant in bringing government services to the people. It is important that your government work for you. It is important that your government deliver the services you deserve. We must dedicate ourselves to the poor and unfortunate amongst us everyday, but even more so during the holiday season. We must work to bring economic opportunities and human dignity to every Filipino man, woman and child during this coming holiday season of hope, love and faith.

Mabuti na lang na marami sa ating workshop leaders ay nanggagaling sa ating mga faith-based groups. At sana nga dito sa darating na Pasko, habang hinahanap natin ang pagmamahal at pananampalataya, ipagsama na natin sa ating paghanap ng pagmamahal at pananampalataya ang paghanap ng kapayapaan at katatagan ng seguridad ng ating minamahal na Central Luzon.

Sa inyong lahat, mabuhay at maraming salamat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Local Peace and Security Assembly in Region III. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134747/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4553&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Dinner in Honor of H.E. Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat of the Kingdom of Thailand

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Dinner in Honor of H.E. Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat of the Kingdom of Thailand**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, November 10, 2008]

His Excellency Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, members of his delegation, Vice-President de Castro, Secretary Romulo, Congressman Cuenco, other members of Congress, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps His Excellency Edward Joseph Adams and other members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the business and private sector, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Your Excellency Prime Minister, welcome to the Philippines! And congratulations on your election as Prime Minister of Thailand and on your assumption as Chairman of ASEAN!

All eyes may be glued to the world's stock market but under your leadership, ASEAN does not lose sight of the often unseen impact of the global economic crisis on the long-term needs of the poor.

Last month, you called the leaders of the nations of ASEAN to come together to seek common ground on ways to coordinate assistance to our economies just as our countries have done so on so many other important issues. And we are doing this in a way that puts the interest of the poor and dispossessed ahead of the rich and the powerful. And we are doing this in a way that offers a global solution to a global challenge.

We all agree that we must instill confidence in our market economies, but we must also take action to provide hope for those who need it most. And it is clear to us, under your leadership the coordinated action among nations is the better path than going it alone.

Our global financial system must learn from its mistakes and embrace fundamental reforms so that this global storm does not turn into a tidal wave of despair. We count on Thailand as chairman of ASEAN to champion the cry of the poor as we work together to solve the global financial crisis. And we are very pleased Your Excellency, that under your leadership, we are strengthening the Chang Mai initiative into a large and quick disbursing fund for liquidity.

Thailand and the Philippines — were among the five founding countries of ASEAN 41 years ago. Bilaterally, we've a longer history of kinship and cooperation.

Next year, we mark the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. As the second largest economy in ASEAN in terms of Gross Domestic Product, Thailand is a key player in the region and in the Philippines. Thai companies including Siam Cement, Dusit Hotel, Bumrungrad and many others whose local CEOs are here with us tonight are among the foreign direct investors in our country. And the CP Group, one of the largest food companies in the world, we hope will be expanding their presence in the Philippines soon.

Several Filipino companies including San Miguel, Universal Robina and Oishi have made their presence as investors in Thailand. Thailand also plays host to 10,000 Filipino expatriates in the kingdom, many of whom are teachers, executives and musicians. We are happy with the development of our relations.

In the Philippines, we have been working tirelessly to address challenges arising from the slowdown in the global economy combined with high oil and food prices which thankfully are beginning to calm down. But we would like to take this opportunity to thank Thailand for your support, being one of the great rice-exporting countries of the world which are vast and naturally fertile Mekong Delta and having no typhoons. You have helped us succeed in

ensuring that our country's food supplies remain stable and we put food on the Filipino table. No matter what actions we take, however, we must work together to resolve the global economic issues surrounding the world today if we are to see any significant recovery in the world economy. This is what the ASEM Meeting last month — where we met each other — the ASEAN + 3 Meeting convened by Your Excellency, and the forthcoming G20 Summit aimed for.

On this note, I ask everyone to join me in a toast to the health and happiness of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand, and to the success of Thailand's chairmanship of ASEAN.

Mabuhay! Congratulations! (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a Dinner in Honor of H.E. Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat of the Kingdom of Thailand. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134738/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4557&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Meeting with the Filipino-American elected officials and community leaders

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Meeting with the Filipino-American elected officials and community leaders**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A, November 11, 2008]

Thank you, Ambassador Gaa, for your kind introduction; and thank you for organizing this meeting of the Filipino-American community in Chicago, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and the other parts of the Midwest.

Consul General Cabrera, thank you for your warm words of welcome. And, of course, to our veterans, happy Veterans' Day to you!

I'm very happy also to be here with all of you. Dr. Jose Evangelista and the other leaders of the Filipino-American community here, thank you for being here tonight. And I'd like to also greet the Chicago Committee for Chicago City's bid for the 2016 Olympics.

I don't know if you've met them earlier but we have here several members of Congress and the Cabinet: We have, to the right of Ambassador Gaa, our Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Girlie Villarosa from Mindoro Occidental; to her right is our representative from the BAHAY Party List, Congresswoman Iyay Coscolluela; and to her right is our congressman from Leyte, Martin Romualdez; and to his right is our Press Secretary, Jess Dureza; to the left of Consul General Cabrera is our congresswoman from Manila, Zenaida Angpin; to her left is our cabalen, congressman from Pampanga, Dong Gonzales; and to his left is Secretary Peter Favila.

To all of you, ang unang gusto kong sabihin, nagalak ako na magkasama tayo ngayong gabi. Ating dactal a capampangan keti mayap a bengi kekongan. Matula kung kayabe dakongan ngening bengi, karing kabalen kung capampangan. And I would imagine that we have some Ilocanos here tonight, dagiti kailay ti bangir ni mamang ko naimbag nga rabii kadakayo amin. And I am sure, well, I know that, for a fact, I saw already one of my cousins from Mindanao, so sa aton kaiguonan gikan sa Visayas ug Mindanao, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan. Sa mga kasimanwa, maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan.

I'm really very happy to be here with all of you tonight. And, of course, on the election of your senator from Illinois as President of the United States, congratulations! And to our delegation of Ohio on the election of Philippine-American Steve Austria, congratulations also! You have a new congressman and together with Bob Scott, we now have two Filipino-Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We are here on a very quick trip to the United Nations. The King of Saudi Arabia – which, by the way, hosts the second biggest Filipino community abroad next only to the United States — invited us to participate in the United Nations General Assembly Session on a Culture of Peace. This meeting aims to promote interfaith dialogue, which means that we talk to each other whether we are Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists or from any other religion to promote understanding and tolerance in the interest of peace.

But, of course, that is for New York. Here, I'm sure you'd like to know about what's happening at home.

While no one can predict the full impact of the current global financial crisis on the Philippines, our economy is stronger than it has been in generations. Because tough choices were made, we've been able to build a firewall around the Philippines, our economy that has slowed down and somewhat softened the effects on the Philippines of the global crisis.

You must have heard of the VAT, the Value-Added Tax, its result has been, on the one hand, more unpopularity for me, but on the other, to save the day for our country now that there is a global economic crisis. That was designed to address several historic challenges: first, it enabled us to have more investments in infrastructure and in people so that we can create an

environment in which businesses feel confident to expand and give more jobs; second, it has provided money to advance our pro-poor agenda; and third, it has provided revenues to pay down our national debt and shore up our fiscal independence.

On that first use of VAT – infrastructure. We are investing in modernizing infrastructure like roads and bridges on an unprecedented scale. For instance, your Fil-Am from San Francisco, Lupita Kashiwahara, who is with us tonight, told me that it took her only an hour and a half from Clark to Ayala, Alabang using the North Luzon-Clark Expressway. And Carissa Coscolluela, who was working in Subic for a long time before she became congresswoman, used to have to travel three hours to Subic. Now that trip has been cut in half because of our expressway. And next time you go to the Philippines, we invite you not only to travel to Clark, to Subic, to Baguio on this nice new expressway but also you can travel by car from Aparri to Sulu through our Roll-on/Roll-off Ferry Nautical Highway System.

You, I understand that you had a presentation, a video presentation about tourism in the Philippines. And, in fact, that is one of our biggest dollar-earners and employers today. So, next time you go to the Philippines, you can also visit the different resorts that we now have like Boracay, Cebu, Bohol, Palawan; or see for real the Apo Island that is featured in the Shedd Aquarium of Chicago. Actually, there are two Apo Islands, and both of them have beautiful reefs. The one that I think is depicted here in Chicago is the Apo Island in Negros Oriental. But there is also another Apo Island in the Apo Reef in the province of Congresswoman Girlie Villarosa and is really a contest on which of the two is the more beautiful reef. But there's so many of them, you should go and tell us yourselves which one is more beautiful for you.

The reason why we are so strong in tourism is not only because we have so many beautiful beaches, so many beautiful reefs, so many beautiful mountain vistas but also because aside from our beautiful beaches, we have the beautiful smiles of our people, and you bring those beautiful smiles here also to the mid-west United States.

Our strongest advantage indeed is our people, and that is also opening doors for us in medical tourism and retirement villages. So, I hope that next time you have a general check up, you will do it in the Philippines. I think, it will cost you less. Or when it's time for you to retire, instead of going to an old age care center here in the United States, you can also do it right in the Philippines. These are all made possible because we have provided the infrastructure for private investors to put up these facilities that serve you and other people all over the world.

In our pro-poor agenda, we are investing in expanded education, healthcare, and other social services.

But of course we know that the relative strength and resilience of our people and our economy is still no consolation to a Filipino who is paying higher prices for basic commodities. We are aware of the pressures your families back home face from inflation. Prior to the global economic crisis, our inflation in the Philippines was only 2.8 percent and then it went up to 12 percent, but, thank goodness, it's going down again. Nonetheless, it's still not back to 2.8 percent. So, we know that your relatives back home are as concerned as you are here about job security, and they are as concerned as you are here about the buying power of wages and the remittances that you send them. We are concerned as well. That is why we are working hard to keep the prices of rice, food and fuel down and to increase the number of jobs through investments.

In a time of global tensions and economic uncertainty, the U.S. and the Philippines remain steadfast allies and friends.

The Philippines will continue to be friends and allies with the administration of President-elect Obama, just as we have under President Bush. Before the election, I received a letter from Senator Obama which reassured us of a strong U.S.-Philippine relation.

In his letter, he acknowledged the long history and alliance that has bound our two countries together for decades. He recalled that we fought together against fascism in World War II and stood up successfully against a common adversary during the cold war. And that today we find ourselves shoulder-to-shoulder in a common struggle against terrorism and extremism. And he enumerated several issues that are of future concern to us: climate change, food security, poverty reduction, the future of ASEAN, human rights in Burma, and defense reform. So these are issues that he recognizes as the Philippines and the U.S. sharing common interests, just as we share a common faith in democracy.

And now that it's Veterans' Day, I should also recall that when I spoke with him last June, Senator Obama expressed his support for Veterans' Equity. But I think we should not wait for the bill to be refiled in the next Congress. There's still something we can do in this present Congress. So, on this day, Veterans' Day, I gave my instructions to Ambassador Willy Gaa — and let's all do it, Filipino-Americans here in the United States — let us urge the U.S. Congress to act now to organize the Bicameral Committee to reconcile Senate Bill 1315 and House Bill 6897 so it can become a Veterans' Equity Law.

So, I thank you for your plaque, our veterans. And let us continue to work for Veterans' Equity. You see, this is the first time in the history of our advocacy that the bill finally passed both Houses of Congress. Let's not waste that and have to go back to first base again in the next Congress. We've got to convince them that this is the time to have a Bicameral Conference Committee.

Yes, the two versions are very different, but that's the way it is in all bicameral democracies. Our congressmen and congresswomen can tell you, in the Philippines, very often on a specific subject matter the bill passed by the House, the bill passed by the Senate are as different as night and day. But, that's the reason why our institutions provide for a Bicameral Conference Committee to reconcile the conflicting provisions and that should be our mission for this coming month and the next month. So, let's all work for that.

Senator Obama also proudly made special mention of you, his Filipino-American constituents. And in his letter, he wrote that the special bond of the Philippines with the U.S. is enriched by the vibrant and successful Filipino-American community that has made such enormous contributions to this country. Indeed, that is so true. You, our Filipino-Americans, especially here in the Midwest, in Chicago and surrounding areas, are successful in your chosen professions. And you are successful in your chosen businesses when you choose to be entrepreneurs in restaurants, in forwarding, in remittance businesses, whatever. And as a recognition of how important you are to the community, there are Philippine landmarks and community centers in strategic locations all around Chicago and the nearby states. These are evidence that indeed you are honored by America. Of course, you are honored by the Philippines as well.

Our overseas Filipinos are honored by our government and our people for your sacrifice and dedication to your work, your family and your nation. We welcome your contribution. You know, 10 percent of Filipinos live abroad, and that includes the four million Fil-Ams here in the United States.

In New Zealand, they were telling me that 25 percent of the New Zealanders also live abroad. But the difference is that, mom and pop back home in New Zealand send additional allowance to their yuppies who are working abroad. In your case, even if your whole family is already here, you still send money back to grandchildren, nieces, nephews, communities, so indeed, you really never left the Philippines. In your heart, you are truly Filipino as you are American.

But we long for the day when going abroad for a job is a career option, not the only choice for a Filipino worker. That is why we remain stubbornly focused on the economy. And so I thank you all, our beloved Filipino-Americans, because you make us proud, you have a tremendous contribution to the American economy and the American society. And therefore, it's not only Willy Gaa who is our ambassador to the United States. It's each and every one of you, four million Fil-Ams who are living here and giving such a good name to what you call the Filipino. Thank you so much for that.

So, in conclusion, sa inyong malasakit sa trabaho, sa pamilya at sa bayan, at sa inyong kontribusyon sa ating ekonomiya, maraming, maraming salamat at mabuhay ang Filipino-American!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Thank you, thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Meeting with the Filipino-American elected officials and community leaders. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134727/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6071&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 63rd United Nations General Assembly Meeting: Culture of Peace
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 63rd United Nations General Assembly Meeting: Culture of Peace

[Delivered at the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, New York City, November 12, 2008]

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Your Majesties, Your Excellencies, Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. President, thank you for convening this high level meeting of the General Assembly. And congratulations to His Majesty, the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques, for drawing attention to the World Conference on Dialogue held in Madrid last May.

In that conference, Their Majesties, the King of Saudi Arabia and the King of Spain, brought together Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and representatives of other religions, in the hope of promoting understanding and tolerance among followers of the world's faiths. This is also the hope for this meeting here in New York.

The Philippines fully supports this initiative, because we take a great interest in promoting world peace and in encouraging greater cross-religion exchange.

Allow me at the outset to introduce Draft Resolution No. A/63/L24 entitled "Promotion of Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace," tabled jointly by the Philippines and Pakistan and co-sponsored by about 60 states. This draft resolution emerged as a consensus text after a series of consultations.

Among the salient points of the resolution is the affirmation that mutual understanding and inter-religious dialogue constitute an important part of the alliance of civilizations and of a culture of peace.

The resolution encourages the promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations. It emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression. It also affirms that the exercise of this right carries with it duties and responsibilities necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals.

The resolution also requests for the proclamation of a UN decade for inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace.

I commend the resolution for adoption, at the close of our plenary meeting tomorrow. This will demonstrate once again our solidarity for the promotion of interfaith dialogue, as a powerful aid to ensure durable peace worldwide.

The resolution is especially relevant to the United Nations under the leadership of His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, because for the first time in UN history, the Secretary-General has issued a report on interreligious and intercultural activities.

Likewise, the UNESCO works on interreligious dialogue, Mr. President: Regrettably, the story of faith has too often been twisted into a source of despair and destruction among peoples and nations. There are those who wish to instigate religious war. There are those who use faith to divide, rather than unite us. They camouflage their evil designs by invoking religious prejudice, in the hope of heightening a clash of civilizations.

In this era of propaganda on the clash of civilizations, we must especially pursue broader interfaith dialogue to promote solidarity. Our challenge is to redeem the true meaning of our faith, if we are to truly bring peace and prosperity to the world. We must make this challenge, an opportunity to forge religious understanding but we must not mistake tolerance and understanding of other faiths and belief systems as a blank check for abuse. We will never accept violence cloaked in religion by anyone at anytime.

Mr. President, the Philippines has actively advocated interfaith dialogue.

Interfaith dialogue is an official policy of the Philippine government. It is also a historical truth among our diverse peoples and beliefs. Faith is ingrained in the lives of our people. It is the primordial seed of humanity. It offers hope, confidence, courage and commitment to make a better global neighborhood.

As we integrate interfaith understanding in development policy, it becomes more effective in resolving conflict.

Our archipelago of more than 7,000 islands has had its share of religious strife, ethnic tension and violence.

For years, we have worked to achieve peace in Mindanao in Southern Philippines. The Peace Process was recently dealt a setback by violence carried out by lawless renegade elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. But we are fully committed to the peace process. There is no alternative to peace. We are working to reach as much progress as possible on peace within the parameters set out by authentic dialogues with communities. However, before we can actively and effectively reactivate the peace process again in earnest, we must first bring stability back to the island, restore order and be able to trust that responsible elements of the MILF have regained control.

Religious leaders can speed up dialogue and reconciliation. They are our partners in the peace-making process.

The historic divide between Christians and Muslims in our country is narrowing dramatically. This is in no small part due to our focus on interfaith dialogue and a willingness to accept the sincerity of those who differ with us in faith.

The Bishop and Ulama Conference is our format for interfaith dialogue. It is a movement of Catholic and Christian bishops and Muslim ulamas organized to promote mutual understanding of faiths and religions for peace.

We all want to see peace and prosperity in the Philippines. Through interfaith dialogue under the leadership of the Bishop and Ulama Conference, through global engagement with the largest possible international involvement, including the UN, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia and others in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Spain, Sweden and the EU, the US, Japan, Australia and other bilateral ODA partners; and, through economic assistance at the community level, we are confident that peace will happen.

Mr. President: three years ago, we had the honor of chairing the first Summit on Interfaith Dialogue here in the UN.

At the regional level, we are one of the convenors of an ongoing series of Asia-Pacific interfaith dialogues that began in Indonesia in 2004. Subsequent dialogues were held in the Philippines in 2006, New Zealand in 2007 and Cambodia in 2008.

Presently, we are preparing to host the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, scheduled in May 2009.

Our participation today in this initiative on culture of peace advances our relationship with Middle Eastern and Islamic nations. Their support in carrying out our interfaith dialogues has been critical to our progress in promoting peace in southern Philippines.

What we are doing together here today and tomorrow is every bit more powerful than bullets, military tanks and armaments to fight those who bring misery and violence to people at home or across the globe.

We must follow our faith and have faith in each other if we are to truly lift up the poor, transform war into peace and stamp down the intolerance and hatred wrought by a false reading of the divine message.

We maintain high hopes in inter-faith dialogue as a means for building bridges, to replace barriers between communities of different cultures and ethnicity.

We are here today united by our faith and determined to bridge the valley that unnecessarily divides us, whether we live across the street, across rivers, or across oceans and continents. We can and must bridge the divide through the alliance of civilizations so that we can advance the common good of humanity.

Let us embrace the power of dialogue here today and tomorrow for peace, development and human dignity.

Let us adopt Draft Resolution No. A/63/L24 Revision One, on the “Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace.”

I thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 63rd United Nations General Assembly Meeting: Culture of Peace

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 63rd United Nations General Assembly Meeting: Culture of Peace**

[Delivered at the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, New York City, November 12, 2008]

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Your Majesties, Your Excellencies, Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. President, thank you for convening this high level meeting of the General Assembly. And congratulations to His Majesty, the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques, for drawing attention to the World Conference on Dialogue held in Madrid last May.

In that conference, Their Majesties, the King of Saudi Arabia and the King of Spain, brought together Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and representatives of other religions in the hope of promoting understanding and tolerance among followers of the world's faiths. This is also the hope for this meeting here in New York.

The Philippines fully supports this initiative because we take a great interest in promoting world peace and in encouraging greater cross-religion exchange.

Allow me at the outset to introduce Draft Resolution No. A/63/L24 entitled "Promotion of Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace," tabled jointly by the Philippines and Pakistan and co-sponsored by about 60 states. This draft resolution emerged as a consensus text after a series of consultations.

Among the salient points of the resolution is the affirmation that mutual understanding and inter-religious dialogue constitute an important part of the alliance of civilizations and of a culture of peace.

The resolution encourages the promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations. It emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression. It also affirms that the exercise of this right carries with it duties and responsibilities necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals.

The resolution also requests for the proclamation of a UN decade for inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace.

I commend the resolution for adoption at the close of our plenary meeting tomorrow. This will demonstrate once again our solidarity for the promotion of interfaith dialogue as a powerful aid to ensure durable peace worldwide.

The resolution is especially relevant to the United Nations under the leadership of His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon because, for the first time in UN history, the Secretary-General has issued a report on interreligious and intercultural activities.

Likewise, the UNESCO works on interreligious dialogue...

Mr. President:

Regrettably, the story of faith has too often been twisted into a source of despair and destruction among peoples and nations. There are those who wish to instigate religious war. There are those who use faith to divide rather than unite us. They camouflage their evil designs by invoking religious prejudice in the hope of heightening a clash of civilizations.

In this era of propaganda on the clash of civilizations, we must especially pursue broader interfaith dialogue to promote solidarity. Our challenge is to redeem the true meaning of our faith if we are to truly bring peace and prosperity to the world. We must make this challenge, an opportunity to forge religious understanding but we must not mistake tolerance and understanding of other faiths and belief systems as a blank check for abuse. We will never accept violence cloaked in religion by anyone at anytime.

Mr. President:

The Philippines has actively advocated interfaith dialogue.

Interfaith dialogue is an official policy of the Philippine government. It is also a historical truth among our diverse peoples and beliefs. Faith is ingrained in the lives of our people. It is the primordial seed of humanity. It offers hope, confidence, courage and commitment to make a better global neighborhood.

As we integrate interfaith understanding in development policy, it becomes more effective in resolving conflict.

Our archipelago of more than 7,000 islands has had its share of religious strife, ethnic tension and violence.

For years, we have worked to achieve peace in Mindanao in Southern Philippines.

The Peace Process was recently dealt a setback by violence carried out by lawless renegade elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. But we are fully committed to the peace process. There is no alternative to peace. We are working to reach as much progress as possible on peace within the parameters set out by authentic dialogues with communities. However, before we can actively and effectively reactivate the peace process again in earnest, we must first bring stability back to the island, restore order and be able to trust that responsible elements of the MILF have regained control.

Religious leaders can speed up dialogue and reconciliation. They are our partners in the peace-making process.

The historic divide between Christians and Muslims in our country is narrowing dramatically. This is in no small part due to our focus on interfaith dialogue and a willingness to accept the sincerity of those who differ with us in faith.

The Bishop and Ulama Conference is our format for interfaith dialogue. It is a movement of Catholic and Christian bishops and Muslim ulamas organized to promote mutual understanding of faiths and religions for peace.

We all want to see peace and prosperity in the Philippines. Through interfaith dialogue under the leadership of the Bishop and Ulama Conference; through global engagement with the largest possible international involvement, including the UN, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia and others in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Spain, Sweden and the EU, the US, Japan, Australia and other bilateral ODA partners; and through economic assistance at the community level, we are confident that peace will happen.

Mr. President:

Three years ago, we had the honor of chairing the first Summit on Interfaith Dialogue here in the UN.

At the regional level, we are one of the convenors of an ongoing series of Asia-Pacific interfaith dialogues that began in Indonesia in 2004. Subsequent dialogues were held in the Philippines in 2006, New Zealand in 2007 and Cambodia in 2008.

Presently, we are preparing to host the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development scheduled in May 2009.

Our participation today in this initiative on culture of peace advances our relationship with Middle Eastern and Islamic nations. Their support in carrying out our interfaith dialogues has been critical to our progress in promoting peace in southern Philippines.

What we are doing together here today and tomorrow is every bit more powerful than bullets, military tanks and armaments to fight those who bring misery and violence to people at home or across the globe.

We must follow our faith and have faith in each other if we are to truly lift up the poor, transform war into peace and stamp down the intolerance and hatred wrought by a false reading of the divine message.

We maintain high hopes in inter-faith dialogue as a means for building bridges to replace barriers between communities of different cultures and ethnicity.

We are here today united by our faith and determined to bridge the valley that unnecessarily divides us, whether we live across the street, across rivers, or across oceans and continents. We can and must bridge the divide through the alliance of civilizations so that we can advance the common good of humanity.

Let us embrace the power of dialogue here today and tomorrow—for peace, development and human dignity.

Let us adopt Draft Resolution No. A/63/L24 Revision One on the “Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace.”

I thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the 63rd United Nations General Assembly Meeting: Culture of Peace. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134707/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6075&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the Busuanga Airport [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa inagurasyon ng Busuanga Airport**

[Ipinahayag sa Brgy. Ecalachao, Coron, Palawan, ika 17 ng Nobyembre, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Mendoza at congratulations sa iyo at lahat ng mga officials ng DOTC dito sa ating napakagandang bagong airport. Congratulations! (Applause)

Governor Joel Reyes, thank you very much for your kind remarks, at thank you for the recollections of the time when I came here to your fiesta and this was just a dirt airport and it was nice to see it now as a real holiday airport. Congratulations! (Applause)

Our Congressmen Tony Alvarez and Baham Mitra, Congratulations also! (Applause) And congratulations to Tony for your new airport also in San Vicente which was finished last October 31st and to Baham, congratulations on your forthcoming terminal which will be finished in May in 2009. (Applause)

Ambassador Choi Choong Kyung, thank you for this airport which was funded by a grant from KOICA. (Applause) Thank you for the friendship between the people of the Philippines and the people of Korea. I'm glad that you talked about your early struggles when the Philippines sent a contingent to Korea to help you in your fight against communism, and I'm very honored that at that time, the one who signed... who authored that resolution to send troops to Korea was Congressman Diosdado Macapagal, my father. (Applause)

Mayor Mario Reyes and all the officials of Coron in Busuanga, I say that because people get confused. They said, you know, we wanted to go to Busuanga Airport but they send us to Coron instead, so we have to tell everybody that it's one and the same airport, it's Coron, "comma" Busuanga. So, congratulations to you! (Applause) And may you be therefore now the hub of tourism in the Calamianes Islands.

Tamang-tama ang pagbukas nitong airport para sa Christmas holidays. Sabi nga ni Secretary Larry Mendoza punong-puno na raw, three times bigger na raw ang traffic dito sa Coron, Busuanga mula noong nagsimula itong pag-ayos ng airport na ito. At by the end of the year, sabi ni Larry, baka makaabot na ang full capacity ng airport baka kailangan mag-expand na naman tayo para sa GAA starting next year. (Applause)

At tamang-tama nga, we're opening this airport as we open the start of the holiday season. Habang papalapit ang Kapaskuhan, dapat nating bilangan ang ating mga grasya at higit na pag-asa at kumpiyansa, harapin ang kinabukasan. Sabi ng mga dalubhasa, "in a very stormy sea of global economic uncertainty, the Philippine economy is a relative island of calm."

Nitong Kapaskuhan, dapat magkasama-sama ang ating taong-bayan upang ipagdiwang ang pananampalataya at pamilya. Dapat magkaisa ang ating mga komunidad at isantabi ang mga personal na banggaan at mga alitan sa pulitika. Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan sa narinig ko sinabi ni Joel (applause) lahat ng kanyang mga kasamahan dito na nagtatrabaho sabay-sabay, sama-sama para sa kaunlaran ng Palawan. (Applause)

Dapat talaga ito ang ating paningin sa mga positibong bagay na kaya nating gawin sama-sama upang ma-ibayo ang ating mga buhay. Naniniwala tayo na magiging maganda ang ating kinabukasan, lalo na ang kinabukasan ng Calamianes Islands. (Applause)

Naniniwala ako sa pag-asa, pananalig at katatagan ng taong-bayang Pilipino. Titiyakin nating matyag ang pamahalaan sa paghatid ng mga serbisyo sa taong-bayan. Mahalagang pinagsisilbihan kayo ng pamahalaan at naibibigay sa inyo ang mga nararapat na serbisyo.

Ginagawa ng inyong pamahalaan ang lahat sa abot ng kakayahan upang maglagay ng pagkain sa bawat mesa at protektahan ang inyong kita mula sa mataas na presyo ng bilihin at mataas na inflation. Tuloy din nating pinamumuhunan ang sistema ng kalinga sa kalusugan, edukasyon at serbisyong panlipunan ng bansa.

Nagsisikap tayong pababain ang presyo ng gasolina, ng bigas, ng pagkain at patuloy na paramihin ang mga trabaho at ang pamumuhunan na patuloy na lilikha ng mga pagkakataong trabaho para sa higit pa nating mga kababayan. Kaya sabi nga ni Joel kanina, eto na yung mga nagsimula ng Boracay Boat Station 1 ay maglalagay na dito sa Calamianes. (Applause) At yung Banyan Tree na nagsimula ng Phuket ay magsisimula na rin ng construction doon sa isang pulo dito sa Busuanga. (Applause) Kaya kasama sa mga importanteng pamumuhunan na naglilikha ng maraming trabaho ang turismo.

Sa una nating State of the Nation Address nung 2001, sinabi natin na higit itutulak ang mga industriyang mabilis lumago at kung saan pinakamarami ang trabahong may matataas na kita. Isa rito ang “Information and Communication Technology”, at bukod doon isa pa rin na malaki ang lamang natin ay turismo.

Malaki ang lamang natin sa magagandang natural na tanawin sa ating bansa, at sa likas na kabaitan ng ating taong-bayan. Sinasabi nga nila — eto ha, hindi nanggagaling sa akin ito — sinasabi nga nila ang pinakamagandang probinsya raw sa buong Pilipinas ay ang Palawan. (Applause) Eh mabuti sabihin ko na hindi nanggagaling sa akin, narinig ko ito sa ibang tao. Sinabi nating gagawin natin ang mga kalsada at mga pasilidad upang maka-abot ang mga turista doon sa mga magagandang tanawin, at yan ang pinagdidiwang natin ngayon. Nararapat na pambansang prayoridad ang turismo dahil sa epekto nito sa panlipunang kaunlaran. Sa trabaho, matatawag natin isang “big tent” industry ang turismo. Ano ang ibig sabihin ng “big tent”? Ibig sabihin noon lumilikha ito ng maraming trabaho, maging skilled o unskilled. Maglilikha ito ng trabaho saan man may potensyal ang turismo, hindi kailangang sa siyudad. At bawat dayuhang bisita, sabi ni Secretary Ace Durano, ay lumilikha ng isang trabaho. At dahil personal ang pag-asikaso dito, personal ang serbisyo, hindi napapalitan ng makina ang tao kaya makakabigay ng katiyakan sa trabaho, yun ang kabutihan ng turismo.

Sa ating State of the Nation Address noong 2006, pinakilala natin ang superregion na tinatawag na “Central Philippines”. Itong malaking rehiyon ay sinasakop ang Palawan at Romblon, Visayas at Bohol, hanggang sa mga hilagang isla ng Mindanao na Camiguin at Siargao. At isang dahilan kung bakit inimbiba ko si Governor Carrion ng Marinduque ay titignan natin kung ano ang magagawa natin para maisama rin ang Marinduque sa Central Philippines.

Sa pangunguna ng Boracay, Cebu, Bohol at Palawan, itong apat na probinsyang ito, humahatak ito sa mahigit kalahati sa mga turistang dumadayo sa Pilipinas, kaya Congratulations sa inyo! Kaya naman ang prayoridad dito ay pamumuhunan sa turismo.

Kailangan ng turismo ng Palawan, gaya nang sabi ko kanina, na ayusin ang airport ng Puerto Princesa, Busuanga at San Vicente, yun ang sinabi ko noong 2006. At kailangan magtayo ng bagong airport sa Balabac, at kailangan makumpleto ang kalsadang El Nido-Bataraza na nagsisilbing backbone ng buong Palawan.

Gaya nang sabi ko, tapos na yung upgrade ng San Vicente noong Halloween, holiday din. At yung Puerto Princesa inaayos ang terminal matatapos sa Mayo at sabi nga ni Baham, para naman maging full development lang bagamat ngayon kaya na ang mga eroplano galing sa ibang bansang malalapit ay gusto rin ni Baham — ito siguro masyadong malaki baka hindi tayo makakuha ng grant sa KOICA — but Ambassador, according to Congressman Baham Mitra we will try to have a loan from the Korean Exim Bank for the airport development of Puerto Princesa. (Applause)

Ang Balabac naman, inaasahan natin na pribadong sektor ang gagawa pero halos tapos na ang feasibility study para hindi na sila ang gumastos para sa feasibility study. At marami na ring bahaging natapos sa El Nido-Bataraza Highway. At upang mapabilis ito sinabi ko kay Secretary Ebdane na kunin ang pondo sa Malampaya funds. (Applause) At narito tayo ngayon sa pagtutupad ng pangako tungkol sa airport sa bayan ng Coron sa isla ng Busuanga. Inuulit ko, kagaya ng sabi ko, maraming nalilito, akala dalawang airport ang Coron at Busuanga. Hindi nga dalawang airport isa lamang pero napakaganda na. (Applause)

At sinabi ni Governor Reyes na ipapangalan itong airport ng Francisco B. Reyes Coron, Busuanga Airport bilang parangal sa Mayor ng Coron noong 1936 hanggang 1939 na siyang nagbigay ng donasyong lupa na tinatayuan nitong airport ngayon. (Applause)

Bukod sa turismo, ang Palawan rin ay isa sa mga pangunahing probinsiyang nagtatanim ng palay na inuunang bigyan ng pamahalaan ng pangangailangan sa pagtanim, pag-ani at pagbenta dahil malaki ang potensyal na mapalago ang ani dito. And our farmers are getting the investments they need. Patuloy ang suporta ng pamahalaan sa agrikultura, pinakamalaki sa kasaysayan. Kung nitong nakaraang taon ay kulang sa 100,000 metric tons na palay ang binili sa mga Pilipinong magsasaka, ngayon gagawin natin itong...ginagawa natin itong isang milyong tonelada, upang ma-engganyo ang pagtaas ng produksyon ng bigas. At bunga nito, umaasa tayo na patuloy bababa ang inflation rate at dapat patuloy ring bumaba ang presyo ng bigas. Inaasahan nating lalaki ang kakayahan ng inyong paycheck o kinikita. Kaya sa mga magsasaka ng Palawan at sa iba pang probinsiyang nakapag-ani ng surplus, maraming maraming salamat sa inyo. (Applause)

Sa araw-araw, dapat nating ihandog ang ating sarili sa pagtulong sa ating mga kababayang mahihirap at kapuspalad, ngunit lalung-lalo na sa panahon ng Kapaskuhan. Sa panahong ito ng pag-asa, pagmamahalan at pananalig, dapat magtrabaho tayo upang mabigyan ng oportunidad at pangkabuhayan at pantaong dignidad ang bawat Pilipino.

At itong airport na ito, na magpapalago ng turismo, yun nga ang kanyang magagawa dito sa Northern Palawan.

Ang pagsisikap ng mga magsasaka sa Palawan at ang bagong airport na ito ay nagpapalakas ng tiwala natin sa ating kinabukasan at sa pag-asa at katatagan ng mga Palaweño at ng taong-bayang Pilipino.

Kaya sa inyong lahat mga taga-Coron, congratulations! Mga taga-Busuanga, congratulations! Mga taga Northern Palawan at buong probinsya ng Palawan, congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Maraming salamat! (Applause)

May you have many more tourists to come.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the inauguration of the Busuanga Airport. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134654/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8829&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2008 General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and Gawad Saka 2007-2008 Awarding Ceremonies

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2008 General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and Gawad Saka
2007-2008 Awarding Ceremonies**

[Delivered on November 19, 2008]

Maraming salamat Secretary Yap sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at maraming salamat na ipinagsama natin yung pagbibigay ng parangal sa ating mga magsasaka dito sa harap ng ating mga punong-bayan.

Sa napakasipag na pangulo ng League of Municipalities, Mayor Monching Guico, at sa lahat ng mga ibat-ibang mayor na narito itong araw na ito, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat, Mabuhay kayo! (Applause)

City Mayor Lim, thank you for welcoming all of us and I also like to greet Mayor Escalante of Negros Occidental and all of the other officials of the different municipalities coming from all over the Philippines to be here today.

I'd also like to greet the members of the House of Representatives who are here today and also the members of the Diplomatic Corps who are here with us today, thank you very much for being with our mayors.

At sa ating mga binigyan ng parangal ng Gawad Saka, congratulations sa inyo, ating mga outstanding farmers! (Applause)

Hiningi kong magsama ang LMP at Gawad Saka sa isang okasyon upang bigyan diin ang isa sa mga importanteng trabaho ng mga punong-bayan ngayon — food security o tiyakin ang supply at pagmudmod ng bigas.

Maliwanag na patunay ng layuning ng LMP para sa kaunlaran ang tema ng inyong Kongreso ngayon: “LMP Achieving Greater Heights, Strengthening Local Governance Through Collective Action to Address Issues on Food Security, Climate Change, Local Economic Development and Peace and Security”; And we are all engaged in battles on all these fronts.

Pag-uusapan din niyo lahat ng mga araw na ito. Ngunit pinag-uusapan niyo lahat ito but at this point in time, it is very obvious to everybody that we continue to battle hunger. As Artie said, “The global spike in the price of rice, food and fuel has put a tremendous strain on all Filipinos.” And obviously as public servants, you and I — our main concern, our first concern is for the people particularly the poor. The high prices have put more pressure on our people kaya isa sa ginagawa ng pamahalaan ay tumulong upang itong pressure sa sweldo o kita ng mamamayan ay magkaroon ng ginhawa. One of the things that we try to do in spite of the increase in the price of gasoline and world oil in the past months we try to keep the cost of transportation down. And we thank the transport sector for having been so cooperative.

Ngunit sinabi naman natin sa kanila ay tutulungan natin sila pati yung mga nagsusweldo sa kanila, mga driver, mga konduktor. Kaya kanina ay nagbigay tayo ng mga unang microfinance checks sa ilalim ng programang D.R.I.V.E. Eto yung dagdag sa kita ng mga tsuper at konduktor ng bus at jeepney sa pamamagitan ng pagpahiram ng microfinance saka yung mga maybahay at kanilang mga pamilya, mga kaanak. That's one of the things that we are doing to help ease the pressure on the paycheck.

During the particularly difficult times earlier this year, with a huge spike in prices on a global level, we work extra hard to keep prices in check like the price of transportation and to ensure the supply of basic food, fuel and rice for people continues.

We had to respond to this global challenge in a swift, measured and targeted manner. Our first priority was to stabilize the supply of rice as harvested. Batid naman natin na mula pa noong panahon ng Kastila, ten percent ng ating kinakain ay nanggagaling sa ibang bansa dahil ang ating bansa ay bulubundukin, konti lang yung malalaking ilog kagaya ng Mekong. And so, we saw early on that rice prices would climb; so we went to the rice exporter such as Vietnam and put in early bids to buy rice before the major rice surge hit. And once we secured the needed supply, we needed to make sure we had a distribution mechanism in the right place to get the rice to the right people at the right price. And we achieved this by working through churches, schools, civic organizations and you, the municipal chief executives.

Salamat sa tulong ninyo nakaabot ang pagkain sa mesa ng mahihirap.

(Applause)

We also needed to ensure that no price gouging occurred. We have done that by prosecuting unscrupulous vendors and the officials conniving with them. And Artie Yap had to file cases against officials within his own attached agencies.

We will continue to work tirelessly in cooperating with the NGOs, the faith-based groups, the farmers organizations and our municipal chief executives to make sure that our people don't go hungry. It is important that the poorest among us continue to receive assistance with the rice they purchase. It is part of our commitment to share the results of economic success with all Filipinos.

As a matter of good public policy, we must target those who need it most and not get in the business of a general subsidy that hurts the true marketplace and allows for free riders who can afford market rate rice or to take advantage of subsidized rice that should only go to the poor. Kaya napakalaki ang papel ng local governments para sigurado na yung mga maykaya naman hindi sila yung bumibili ng subsidized rice. So the local chief executives remain an important part of our rice distribution program. But this is as far as the situation this year is concerned, and we don't want this to happen again, so that what happened will not be repeated. The most important measure taken by our administration with your support and the support of our model farmers is to move to rice self-sufficiency.

To that end, we are investing heavily in our farmers. Kaya yung sinabi ni Monching Guico na dapat gawin sa budget ng DA at yung technology transfer ng DA ay sabi ni Artie, "Yun ay tutuparin niya, yung hiling ng ating mga LMP."

(Applause)

Kung matatandaan din ninyo nung Hulyo tinaas natin mula sa 11 pesos ginawa nating 17 pesos — hindi ba, congresswoman ng BUTIL? — yung binibili nating palay sa NFA, ngunit noon ay less than 100,000 metric tons ang binili natin. Kaya upang maging mas masigasig ang pagtanim ng palay sa mga magsasaka, itong mataas na presyong 17 pesos na binibili sa magsasaka, inutos natin sa NFA na hindi 33,000 metric tons ang bilhin kung hindi one million metric tons mula sa ating magsasaka.

Kaya yun, we hope by continuing to provide this financial support to our farmers we hope to be rice self-sufficient within five years. But remember, agriculture is a devolved department kaya napakalaki ang papel ng mga mayor because at the end of the day, your IRA is supposed to include agricultural services. So therefore, food security in your jurisdiction must be addressed by the local chief executives.

And I thank you that you recognize that responsibility based on your program of showing best practices in agricultural productivity. But I am also glad that you have not placed your obligation to the environment and to peace and security in the backseat.

Let me speak about peace and security. War is never the answer. We must provide security and order and protect the people especially in Mindanao from renegade violence. At the same time, in Mindanao, we must reach out in authentic dialogues with the people in the communities to move forward with the peace process.

Our new peace policy for dealing with armed groups is the framework of “Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration” which is in fact part of the Hague Convention. And as espoused by the communities, your communities, the DDR will be a notice to armed groups that the force of arms does not entitle them to representing our people. Sino ba ang kumakatawan ng ating taongbayan, yung bang may armas o yung hinalal nila kagaya ng ating mga punongbayan? Kaya kayo ang tunay na kinatawan ng taong-bayan, hindi yung mga may armas.

We hope that this new policy will restart the peace process and move our country closer to lasting peace. In the search for peace, it is really essential that the voices of our people, your people be heard. Armed groups claim to speak for the people when in fact they only speak for themselves. In the authentic dialogue to the people in the communities, the government is not even the one taking the lead— the national government anyway. We’re assuming a supporting role and we are letting credible non-government institutions that are supporting the peace effort spearhead the discussions and consultations on the problematic concerns. We hope that this will strengthen the final outline of a peace agreement which I hope, and I’m optimistic, we can achieve with the support of the local governments.

Indeed, we long for the day when we finally have lasting peace in Mindanao, when we are self-sufficient in rice, when our children are sure that we have preserved our resources for their use as well. And when going abroad for a job is not the only choice for a Filipino worker. Yun ang kailangan. Kaya kayo rin ay inaasikaso niyo ang local development.

To hope that Filipinos no longer need to go abroad for a job is a tall order because it is a longstanding problem. But let us together through your governance, through your local development try to break a cycle that has been part of our economic situation for so many generations. We are making progress.

The first thing we needed to do was to acknowledge the problem that we cannot continue to send our people abroad as the only choice for employment. It is essential to create good high-paying jobs here at home so that going abroad is a career choice and not the only option. It will take maybe another 10 to 15 years to break this offshore cycle but it is happening. Itong walong milyong Pilipino na nasa ibang bansa hindi na lumaki yung numero sa ating administrasyon, habang may lumalabas may pumapasok, andito rin, so dumoble na ang kanilang kita. So, it is now more for going abroad for a good salary as a career choice, not those who have to go abroad for starvation wages there.

And I am pleased that the progress, the progress we have made in establishing the Business Process Outsourcing sector and in successfully competing for value-added BPO business is a good example of our ability to address this challenge. Gusto natin na magkaroon ng maraming call center sa buong bansa. Hindi natin kayang maglagay sa lahat ng inyong mga bayan pero sana naman lahat ng inyong probinsya. So, I have instructed the Commission on ICT to make a technical study on the resources needed to transform every province in the country into an ICT-enabler.

In addressing these issues of most concerned to you, you are not without armor nor artillery. Etong mga panukalang batas na sinabi ni Monching Guico na sana ay i-certify as urgent dahil mas gaganda ang inyong kakayahan pagka lumabas ito sa mga Committee, Monching, we will certify them as urgent. (Applause)

In the meantime, siguro kung naaalala ninyo sa lahat ng mga pangulo itong ating administrasyon ang nagtiyak that you get your IRA in full. (Applause) In fact, we’re even paying what previous administrations owed you. (Applause) O, naalala ko si Joey Lina nung... and Joey and Don Emilio nung siya ay DILG secretary dahil gobernador siya yun ang parating nina-nag niya sa akin, tanggalin na natin yung — ano ang tawag doon, yung LGSEF? — at ibigay na

natin buong-buo sa mga punong-bayan at mga gobernador gaya nina Governor Cerilles at saka si Governor Sally, who is here today.

The national government strives harder so that you will get your IRA in full and on time. And I know that you have been following up the IRA differentials for the years 2001 and 2004 when we were on a reenacted budget, and so I signed EO 723 last May to give the LGUs a choice between monetizing your differentials in advance at a discounted rate or receiving them in full spread over seven years. We have fast-tracked the EO so that the IRA differential could be used as an additional shield against inflationary pressures, and majority of the LGUs committed to their differentials to increase agricultural production. And we hold you to your promise. You can really play pivotal roles to ensure supply and distribution of rice in your own municipalities.

During the LMP Assembly last year, I directed the PMS — if some of you remember — to make sure that the best high school students from every municipality will be assured of a college education. And to allocate at least one ambulance, fire truck or patrol car to every chapter for a town that does not have any ambulance, patrol car or fire truck, you remember that? (Applause) So, the PMS informs me that based on the choices you have made, seven fire trucks and eight patrol cars have been distributed, and 67 ambulances shall be distributed within sixty days. (Applause) In the course of serving which towns have no ambulance, we came across the information that there are many municipalities that have ambulances but they are no longer serviceable. So many, about 2,000. Well,... and so what we are doing for these towns, you already have an ambulance but it's in an advanced state of disrepair, with bridge financing from the Land Bank, the PCSO shall make available to every municipality without a serviceable ambulance, on a cost-sharing basis, one ambulance each. So yun ang gagawin natin — LMP, PCSO and Land Bank para makuha ninyo kaagad.

As for the town scholars, PMS shall convene the CHED, DepEd and DBM to implement the program starting this summer session. Kaya andami-dami nating pwedeng gawin magkasama tayo, magkaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa, magkaroon ng edukasyon sa pinakamatalinong mga bata, at maayos ang kalusugan ng mga mamamayan lalo na pag may emergency. Andaming kailangang gawin para ngayon o kinabukasan kaya pati ang ating kalikasan ay inaalaan ng mga local governments.

So, I thank you for all of these, and I thank what Monching Guico said in his speech that you the mayors are not affected by the noise prematurely generated by the 2010 elections. (Applause)

Thank you for being focused on your jobs. Thank you for realizing that effective governing is not a popularity contest. (Applause) Thank you for understanding that, the people deserve for their leaders to deliver results. (Applause) And finally, thank you because you stand up and deliver.

Maraming salamat. Congratulations sa inyong lahat! (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the 2008 General Assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and Gawad Saka 2007-2008 Awarding Ceremonies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134644/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8903&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of U.P.-Ayala Land Techno Hub

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the inauguration of U.P.-Ayala Land Techno Hub

[Delivered at Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City, November 21, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Alabastro for your introduction. And thank you for helping me so much make Science and Technology the foundation of Philippine Economic Development.

Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Jimmy Ayala and the other officials of the Ayala Land; Dr. Roman, CHED Chair Angeles and the other members of the Board of Regents and the whole U.P. family; Mayor Belmonte; our Congresspersons from Quezon City: Nanette Daza and Annie Susano; Vice-Mayor Herbert Bautista and everybody from Quezon City, to all of you, congratulations!

The U.P.-Ayala Land Techno Hub is one giant step to bring our country closer to the goal we declared in 2001 of making technology the foundation of our economic development. This is an important step together with the three billion pesos that the government is investing, has been investing in R&D manpower development, and the one billion pesos that was mentioned by President Roman that we put in the national budget for U.P. to build its own Science and Technology Complex.

And now here we are, we have the S&T Park of the U.P., with the Techno Hub as indeed its hub. And as Jim Ayala said, we can now create our own version of Stanford University's Silicon Valley and MIT's Route 128, the birthplace of so much research that has changed lives and lifestyles. The numerous applications of the research from these two cradles of modern technology today define the way people all over the world do business, work and spend their leisure. And we hope this U.P. -Ayala Techno Park will do the same. With this Science and Technology Park, of which this hub is a central portion, we hope that U.P., the country's premier academic institution, will ignite a new technological revolution that will upgrade our total science and technology capability and bring our country to the threshold of the first-world in 20 years.

This Park will serve as our country's foremost IT laboratory, training ground and incubator of new and high value-adding products and services. Together with the Science and Technology Complex and the Science and Technology Park, it will provide the nurturing environment for new IT-based businesses that transform new technologies into useful and commercially viable services.

We must make sure that it has the physical infrastructure to support the academic, scientific and technological pursuits of noted U.P.-based specialists. And as Jim said earlier, this community-like environment, campus-like environment will strengthen the synergy between the academics in R&D and the technology-based entrepreneurs. The closeness to U.P. will offer the academics a better appreciation of the needs and risks of businesses, and the entrepreneurs located so close to U.P. here in the hub and in the entire Science and Technology Park will give the entrepreneurs valuable information about R&D.

As the pioneer academically-based IT Park, U.P.- Ayala Land Techno Hub plays a central role in the future of the bigger U.P. Science and Technology Park.

Techno Hub will set the standard against which future S&T Parks and locators will be measured. And that is the same for the country as a whole. Even in the face of new challenges brought about by the financial asset meltdown and the deepening recession abroad, our priority projects such as technology and R&D development will continue.

We all know, that there is a global economic crisis that has been responsible for driving up the prices of food, fuel and rice in the Philippines and around the world. In the country, we are not in crisis, thank God. But, we are facing strong challenges like all other countries. During these troubled times, it is the role of the government to help insulate the Filipino people from these price shocks and economic pressure. That is why the government is doing everything in its power to put food on the table, and protect the paycheck from high prices and inflation. And one way by which we are protecting the U.P.'s paycheck is to increase the paycheck. That is why we have exempted you from salary standardization and we've also given (applause) the power to the Board of Regents to increase your salaries. We are also continuing to invest not only in education like U.P. but in the nation's system of healthcare and social services.

Were it not for the painful reforms of the past seven years — and we thank our Congresspersons for helping much make those fiscal reforms — the impact on our country of the global meltdown would be much worst as it is in many other developing countries. Instead, the credit rating agency Standard & Poor says that, "the Philippine economy— in a very stormy sea of economic global uncertainty, the Philippine economy is an island of relative calm." (Applause) But this relative strength and resilience of our people and our economy is still no consolation to the average Filipino who is paying higher prices for basic commodities. We are very aware of the pressures the average Filipino faces from high prices and high rates of inflation. We know the average Filipino is concerned about job security and the buying power of his wages. We are also concerned. That is why we are working hard to keep the prices of rice, food and fuel down and to continue to increase the number of jobs and the investments that will continue to generate employment opportunities for more of our countrymen.

What we are inaugurating today is one of those investments. We are dealing with the effects of the worldwide financial crisis through a comprehensive program that creates emergency jobs through pump priming measures, ensures food on every table, delivers targeted relief to the most vulnerable sectors, and encourages investments like this in industries with high resistance to the economic crisis.

Right now, the ICT sector is one of the areas where growth is robust, employment generation is on the rise, and investors are excited and placing money to back up that excitement.

Yesterday, we were very alarmed to read the news that one of the call centers supposedly laid off 700 workers. So we checked with that center, ACS, and they totally denied it. In fact, they are looking for more workers. And they were even telling us the story that when other call centers like Teletech and others read the news, they called up ACS and said, where are the workers you're laying off, we want to absorb them right away. But ACS says we're not laying off anyone. We're looking for more.

And so because of this robustness of ICT, I have instructed the Commission on ICT to make a technical study on the resources needed to transform not just Sonny Belmonte's hub but also every province in the country not necessarily a hub like this but to be an ICT-enabler.

After completing the technical studies, the national government through the CICT, shall guide the LGUs concerned on how to pursue the technology programs with these twin objectives:

1. Develop a technology hub — a small one, not one like this — in each of the country's provinces with the hub capable of hosting, at the very least, contact center operations; and
2. Expand the capabilities of provinces that are already currently ICT-enablers so that they can increase their absorptive capacities and expand into hardcore ICT operations.

The national government will merely provide guidance and advice on a menu of pathways and strategies towards these objectives. It will be the LGU leaders who will decide on the level of technology and development they want; each to its own need. And Sonny has decided that this city will have the highest level of ICT; each to his own need. And this is what we can do, given that we have not been able to put together a national broadband. This is a good second best.

In the ICT jargon, we need to “wire” the entire country to attract more BPO and hardcore technology companies and help train young Filipinos into world-class workers in programming, embedded technologies and network engineering.

There is a wealth of technical and created talent from where to draw this world-class pool of technology workers and there is the U.P. Science and Technology Complex to develop their potentials.

Let us direct the talent of the young away from hacking and other disruptive undertakings into productive ones. The CICT can utilize the National Computer Center and seek the support of state colleges and universities specializing on courses in ICT, like the U.P. We cannot let this window of opportunity close.

Technology has also helped the government make sure that we now have a solid supply of rice for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, we are happy that distribution of rice is working. The people are getting the rice they need.

Our farmers are getting the investments they need. Instead of buying only 30,000 metric tons of rice from our farmers as before, this harvest season government is buying one million metric tons. This should encourage rice production to go up. With this, inflation has started to come down. The price of rice together with fuel has come down. And we expect the earning power of U.P. employees and others’ paychecks to increase. We want to harness the wonders of technology to produce more food, create more jobs — as what will be created here — and improve our productivity. The U.P.-Ayala Techno Hub and the whole S&T Park and the U.P. S&T Complex will help achieve all these objectives.

So, I thank Ayala Land. I thank the early locators, who are already here, sounds like a nice place to spend an afternoon having coffee and spaghetti here. I thank you all for your continuing faith in the nation’s ability to stand up to any challenge.

Our people are as optimistic as you, and as eager to work harder to get our country back on the growth track.

This afternoon, we leave for the APEC Leaders Meeting in Peru. We are optimistic as we leave about our future and the hope, optimism and resilience of the Filipino people, because we are revitalized by what we see here.

We will express to the other leaders of APEC the hope of our people that in seeking common ground on ways to coordinate assistance to our economies, we must do so in a way that puts the interests of the poor and the dispossessed ahead of the rich and the powerful.

As we inaugurate a symbol of a new age of technology in the Philippines, let us continue to be hopeful that the global storm will soon subside.

Let us wish the whole world the best. And here within our country, let us resolve to work even harder to keep our economy resilient.

To Ayala Land and U.P. for your contribution to these important goals, congratulations and thank you. (Applause)

* * *

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s speech during the Inauguration of U.P.-Ayala Land Techno Hub. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134635/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9493&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Handog ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo para sa Economically-Displaced Overseas Filipino Workers

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Handog ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo para sa Economically-Displaced Overseas
Filipino Workers**

[Delivered in Malacañang, Manila, December 5, 2008]

Ang pagtulong ng mga Pilipinong nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa na nangangailangan ng suporta ng pamahalaan ay patakarang di lalabagin ng ating pamahalaan. Kahit kailan, hindi tayo tumatalikod na gawin ang lahat ng makakaya upang matulungan ang expatriate Filipino workers na dumaranas ng hirap.

Sa ngayong mga sumusubok na panahon para sa expatriate Filipino worker, hindi dapat nagpapabaya ang pamahalaan. Dapat suklian ang ating expatriate Filipino workers, sa kabayanihang ipinapakita nila. Moral na tungkulin ng pamahalaan at inisyatibo ng patakaran ang mabilisang pagtugon sa agarang pangangailangan nila.

Sa ngayon, it is only a trickle of our overseas Filipino workers or expatriate Filipino workers that have lost their jobs because of the world financial crisis. In fact, some of these have already found new jobs. We have 200 Filipino workers on shipping companies coming back but they have left again or are leaving again because they have found new employment.

Nakikipagtulungan tayo ngayon sa ilan, 100 plus, na nawalaan ng trabaho doon sa Taiwan upang mabigyan ng mga sumusunod na tulong; Nandito ang ating presidente ng PhilHealth dahil binibigyan sila ng PhilHealth card para sa medical insurance; nandito ang vice president ng SSS dahil nagbibigay rin tayo ng SSS cards; at, nandito ang ating Chairman and Director-General ng TESDA, si Buboy Syjuco, na malaking-malaki ang approval rating, second to the highest, only a few points behind the highest sa TESDA. Congratulations, Buboy! At ang kanyang dala, na nandoon sa baskets ninyo, ay scholarship mula sa TESDA upang magkamit kayo ng mga bagong kasanayan at mahahasa ang inyong kagalingan, at nang maaari kayong makipagsabayan saan man sa mundo.

Ngayon yung mga tseke na binigay natin ay tseke para lang bayaran yung mga materials ng Technology and Resource Center o TRC, nandito naman yung ating head ng TRC na magbibigay ng ensayo sa inyo. Hindi pa ito yung livelihood, iba pa ang livelihood check, at yun naman pagkatapos ay ia-assess kung ano ang balak niyong gawin para matulungan kayo sa inyong bagong livelihood. At yung tsekeng yun, yung susunod na tseke, yun ang magagamit sa pagsimula ng mga gustong mag-negosyo sa ilalim ng ating Emergency Livelihood Program.

Ang mga ito ay nagsisilbing programa na nagbibigay ng panandaliang tulong sa mga expatriate Filipino workers na nawalan ng trabaho. Napakahalaga ng nai-ambag ninyo sa ating bansa, kaya't nararapat lang na maibigay sa inyo ang buo at walang aliniangang suporta ng pamahalaan. Habang isinasagawa natin ang mabilisang pagresponde sa inyong agarang pangangailangan, nagtatrabaho tayo sa mga patakarang mas malaki at may mas malawak na sinasakupan upang tulungan ang ating mga bagong bayani.

Mag-papairal tayo ng buong programang pagtanaw ng utang na loob sa ating mga expatriate Filipino workers, para tulungan yung mga napipilitang umuwi dahil ang mga bansa kung saan nagtatrabaho ay kasalukuyang hinahagupit sa krisis sa ekonomiya na ang tindi at sakop ay hindi pa maarok.

Ang Department of Labor and Employment at ang OWWA ang mangunguna sa pagpapatupad nitong payback program ng gobyerno para sa mga expatriate Filipino workers. Ang unang bahagi nitong programang pagsusukli ay ang pagtatag ng Filipino Expatriate Livelihood Support Fund sa halagang 250 million pesos mula sa OWWA, at kung kailangan suportado ng mga ahensiya ng gobyerno na magpapahiram ng pera. Ang mga expatriate Filipino

workers na nawalan ng trabaho ay makakakuha sa pondong ito, pautang para tumulong sa pagsisimula ng negosyo, pagpapatuloy ng pag-aaral o pagkamit ng kasanayan, o sa panimulang kapital sa anumang gawaing pangkabuhayan.

Dapat gawin agad ng DOLE ang Implementing Guidelines.

Kailangan simple lang ang mga alituntuning dapat upang makapangutang kaagad. Ang mga nagbabalik na expatriate workers ay hindi dapat mapapasa-ilalim sa mga masalimuot at walang katuturang regulasyon or red tape.

Inatasan ko ang DOLE at OWWA na makipag-ugnayan sa mga ahensya ng pamahalaan, kaya nga nakipag-ugnayan sa TRC para sa ekonomiya at pamumuhunan upang matukoy ang mga negosyong maaaring pasukin ng mga nagbabalik na expatriates.

Ang ikalawang bahagi nitong reciprocity program ay ang suporta ng pamahalaan, na ibibigay ng buong-buo, upang tulungan ang mga nagbabalik na manggagawang Pilipino sa paghahanap ng mga trabahong kumikita ng maganda. Dalawang patakaran ang nakapaloob sa bahaging ito:

Una, ang paglikha ng mga trabaho dito sa ating bansa na makakapagbigay ng maganda ng kita. Meron ilan sa inyo, sabi niyo naghahanap kayo ng trabaho dito.

Pangalawa, ang puspusang paghahanap ng mga bagong merkado sa ibang bansa para sa ating manggagawa, pati na ang mga nagtatrabaho sa mga barko.

At kanina, masayang ni-report ni Secretary Nitoy Roque sa akin, 100 plus ang nawalan ng trabaho doon sa isang pabrika sa Taiwan, pero sabi ni Nitoy Roque, may 1,000 jobs available sa hotel and restaurant industry ng Bulgaria, kaya kaagad four times ang jobs available sa nawalaan ninyo.

So, upang makakuha ng mga serbisyong ito, inatasan ko ang DOLE at OWWA na maglagay ng mga opisina sa lahat ng probinsiya o desk, na magbabagay ng trabaho sa kagalingan, kakayahan at experience ng nagbabalik na manggagawa. Dapat din magkaroon ng palagiang online information tungkol sa mga bakanteng trabaho, at dapat libre itong information sa mga nagbabalik na expatriates.

At para sa ating bumabalik na expatriate Filipino workers na gustong lumipat ng ibang mga bansa kung saan kailangan ang inyong kaalaman at kagalingan, inatasan ko — bukod pa dito sa Bulgaria na 1,000 jobs available kaagad sa hotel and restaurant industry — gumawa ako ng Administrative Order na ang Philippine Overseas Employment Administration ay dapat magpatupad ng isangmarketing blitz upang lumawak ang merkado para sa Filipino expatriates.

So again, the government, even if it's only a trickle of our workforce that's coming back, the government will not sit idly and do nothing for our modern-day heroes in this time of great economic uncertainty.

Hindi pababayaang ng pamahalaan ang ating mga bagong bayani sa panahong ito na walang katiyakan sa ekonomiya.

We assure you of full and unequivocal support.

Sa inyong lahat, ating returning expatriate Filipino workers, good luck sa inyong bagong hakbang ng inyong career path!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the walk-through of EDSA-Quezon Avenue loading and unloading provincial stations and connecting footbridges [Filipino]

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the walk-through of EDSA-Quezon Avenue loading and unloading provincial stations and connecting footbridges**

[Delivered on December 5, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Mayor Sonny Belmonte, at maraming salamat sa ginagamit mo yung pondo ng Quezon City para tumulong gumawa ng mga kalsadang kinakailangan ng national government. Maraming salamat doon.

Chairman Bayani Fernando, maraming salamat din sa iyong malasakit sa kalagayan ng mga commuters mula sa probinsya at patungong probinsya. Gusto ko rin batiin yung ating mga congresspersons ng Quezon City: si Mat Defensor, si Annie Susano, si Nanette Daza; yung ating mga gobernador mula sa Central and Southern Luzon: si Governor Tet Garcia, Governor Mendoza, Governor Umali, Governor Lazaro at Governor Yap. At nandito rin yung mga mayor ng Metro Manila na si Mayor Fernando saka si Mayor Ureta, si Vice Mayor Bautista, ating mga opisyal ng DOTC at saka ng MMDA, ating mga members ng transport sector, congratulations sa ating lahat!

Dumaranas ang daigdig ng isang krisis sa ekonomiya na naging dahilan ng pagtataas ng presyo ng pagkain, langis at bigas dito sa Pilipinas at sa buong mundo. Dito sa Pilipinas wala tayong krisis, ngunit humaharap tayo sa mga malalakas na hamon. Sa maproblemanag panahon tulad nito, tungkulin ng pamahalaan na tulungan mabigyan ng pananggalang ang sambayanang Pilipino laban sa nakakagulat na pagtaas ng presyo at mga pagbigat.

Ginagawa ng pamahalaan ang lahat ng makakaya upang makapaglagay ng pagkain sa bawat mesa at upang proteksiyunan ang inyong kita laban sa matataas na presyo at inflation. That is why, yesterday, the LTFRB under the chairmanship of Tom Lantion approved the rollback of transport fares. Tama ba ito Tom, ikorek mo sa akin, mag raise ka ng kamay mo kung mali ha?

– For taxis, it removed the 10 pesos add-on rate.

– For jeeps, it further reduced the fare by 50 centavos for the first four kilometers and 10 centavos for succeeding kilometers. So, the new rate is P7.50 for the first four kilometers and P1.40 for the succeeding kilometers.

– Metro Manila ordinary buses have a reduction of 50 centavos for the first five kilometers and 10 centavos for succeeding kilometers. The new rate is 9 pesos for the first five kilometers and P1.85 for the succeeding kilometers.

– For airconditioned Metro Manila buses, the fare reduction is 15 centavos for the succeeding kilometers. So, the new rate is 11 pesos for the first five kilometers and P2.20 for the succeeding kilometers for the airconditioned buses.

– Provincial buses reduction is 5 centavos per kilometer both ordinary and airconditioned. For ordinary buses, it used to be P1.40 per kilometer, now it's P1.35. For airconditioned buses, it used to be P1.60, now it's P1.55.

The effectivity is December 15. Congratulations sa DOTC at LTFRB! Ngunit maraming, maraming salamat sa ating transport sector sa inyong malasakit.

Ang modernisasyon naman ng ating mga kalsada ay naglikha ng bagong uri ng mga commuters — mga taong bumabiyahе araw-araw sa pamamagitan ng Kamaynilaan at mga probinsiya ng Central Luzon at pamamagitan ng Kamaynilaan at probinsiya ng Southern Luzon.

Ang mga probinsiya ng Central at Southern Luzon na malalapit sa Metro Manila ay pwede na nating tawaging exurbs imbes na bagong satellite areas na namumulaklak dahil sa mabilis at maginhawang pagbiyahe na sanhi naman ng ating modernong road network — yung mga expressway natin.

Itong mga estudyanteng nag-aaral sa iba't-ibang unibersidad at kolehiyo; mga negosyante, mga aplikante ng trabaho sa ibang bansa na nagdadala ng papeles sa POEA o sa mga employment agencies; mga empleyado ng mga BPO sa iba't-ibang lungsod ng Kamaynilaan, at pati na rin ang mga mamamayan ng aking probinsiya na araw-araw nagbabiyahе sa Metro Manila upang magdala ng iba't-ibang maipagbibili.

Malaking pakinabang ang naidulot sa Kamaynilaan ng araw-araw na pagko-commute. Nababawasan ang mga saligang amenities na kinakailangan ihandog kung dumadayo lamang. Pinasisigla din nitong mga commuters ang negosyo ng transportasyon at serbisyo sa Metro Manila at kanilang probinsiya.

But without bus stops, imagine that a senior citizen from Zambales who wants to go to Megamall will have to stop at the terminal of Victory in Pasay, then take a Metro Manila bus or MRT to reach Megamall. Kaya gumawa si Bayani ng bus stop sa Megamall, di ba Bayani? Tapos na. Maraming salamat.

An employee from Rustan's, from say, San Fernando will have to disembark either at Pasay or Cubao provincial bus stations, then take the MRT or Metro Manila bus again to Makati. This is an additional expense. Kaya upang matulungan itong army ng commuters, dinadagdagan natin ang bilang ng mga provincial bus stop sa EDSA. At yun ang ginawang presentation kanina ni Bayani.

Inaasahan nating inayos ang mga paraan para sa mabilisang pag-akyat at pagbaba ng mga pasahero sa mga itinalagang ligtas na mga lugar. Bayani, hindi ba, penalty shall be imposed on buses that stray off from these bus stops.

The designation of the bus stops will end the “guerrilla” practice of picking up and unloading passengers along EDSA. And it will address the legitimate economic and safety imperatives that have been raised by provincial commuters and by the governors who have told us that their constituents were having a hard time. Kaya inimbita natin sila ngayon para maikwento nila sa mga commuters nila na nakita nila yung mga bus stop.

We will make sure our government is vigilant in bringing government services to the people. Nawa'y makapagdulot sa ating kapwa Pilipino ang proyektong ito ng pangkabuhayang pagkakataon at makataong dignidad lalo na ngayong Kapaskuhan.

Kaya sa ating transport sector, salamat sa Christmas gift ninyo sa mamamayan. At sa MMDA, salamat rin sa Christmas gift ninyo sa mga taga Central Luzon at Southern Luzon.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the walk-through of EDSA-Quezon Avenue loading and unloading provincial stations and connecting footbridges. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609071541/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13708&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Handog ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Para sa Economically-Displaced Overseas Filipino Workers [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Handog ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Para sa Economically-Displaced Overseas Filipino Workers**

[Ipinahayag noong ika 5 ng Disyembre, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Nitoy Roque sa iyong pagpakilala.

Ating mga iba't-ibang opisyal ng pamahalaan na tumutulong sa ating mga bumabalik na expatriate Filipino workers; ating mga manggagawang bumabalik.

Ang pagtulong ng mga Pilipinong nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa na nangangailangan ng suporta ng pamahalaan ay patakarang di lalabagin ng ating pamahalaan. Kahit kailan, 'di tayo tumatalikod na gawin ang lahat ng makakaya upang matulungan ang expatriate Filipino workers na dumaranas ng hirap.

Sa ngayong mga sumusubok na panahong para sa expatriate Filipino worker, hindi dapat nagpapabaya ang pamahalaan. Dapat suklian ang ating expatriate Filipino workers sa kabayanihang ipinapakita nila. Moral na tungkulin ng pamahalaan at inisyatiba ng patakaran ang mabilisang pagtugon sa agarang pangangailangan nila.

Sa ngayon, it is only a trickle of our overseas Filipino workers or expatriate Filipino workers that have lost their jobs because of the world financial crisis. In fact, some of these have already found new jobs. We have 200 Filipino workers on shipping companies coming back but they have left again or are leaving again because they have found new employment.

Nakikipagtulong tayo ngayon sa ilan, 100 plus, na nawalaan ng trabaho doon sa Taiwan upang mabigyan ng mga sumusunod na tulong. Nandito ang ating presidente ng PhilHealth dahil binibigyan sila ng PhilHealth card para sa medical insurance. Nandito ang vice president ng SSS dahil nagbibigay rin tayo ng SSS cards. At nandito ang ating chairman and director general ng TESDA, si Buboy Syjoco, na malaking-malaki ang approval rating, second to the highest, only a few points behind the highest sa TESDA. Congratulations, Buboy! At ang kanyang dala, na nandoon sa baskets ninyo, ay scholarship mula sa TESDA upang magkamit kayo ng bagong kasanayan at mahahasa ang inyong kagalingan, at nang maaari kayong makipagsabayan saan man sa mundo.

Ngayon yung mga tseke na binigay natin ay tseke para lang bayaran yung mga materials ng TRC — nandito naman yung ating head ng TRC na magbibigay ng ensayo sa inyo. Hindi pa ito yung livelihood, iba pa ang livelihood check, at yun naman pagkatapos ay ia-assess kung ano ang balak niyong gawin para ganun matulungan kayo sa inyong bagong livelihood. At yung tsekeng yun, yung susunod na tseke, yun ang magagamit sa pagsimula ng mga gustong magnegosyo sa ilalim ng ating Emergency Livelihood Program.

Ang mga ito ay nagsisilbing programa na nagbibigay ng panandaliang tulong sa mga expatriate Filipino workers na nawalan ng trabaho. Napakahalaga ng nai-ambag ninyo sa ating bansa, kaya't narapat lang na maibigay sa inyo ang buo at walang alinlanang suporta ng pamahalaan. Habang isinasagawa natin ang mabilisang pagresponde sa inyong agarang pangangailangan, nagtatrabaho tayo sa mga patakarang mas malaki at may mas malawak na sinasakupan upang tulungan ang ating mga bagong bayani.

Mag-iiral tayo ng buong programang pagtanaw ng utang na loob sa expatriate Filipino workers para tulungan yung mga napipilitang umuwi dahil ang mga bansa kung saan nagtatrabaho ay kasalukuyang hinahagupit sa krisis sa ekonomiya na ang tindi at sakop ay hindi pa maarok.

Ang Department of Labor and Employment at ang OWWA ang mangunguna sa pagpapatupad nitong payback program ng gobyerno para sa mga expatriate Filipino workers. Ang unang bahagi nitong programang pagsusukli ay ang pagtatag ng Filipino Expatriate Livelihood Support Fund sa halagang 250 million pesos mula sa OWWA at kung kailangan suportado ng mga ahensiya ng gobyerno na magpapahiram ng pera. Ang mga expatriate Filipino workers na nawalan ng trabaho ay makakakuha sa pondong ito — pautang para tumulong sa pagsisimula ng negosyo, pagpapatuloy ng pag-aaral o pagkamit ng kasanayan, o sa panimulang kapital sa anumang gawaing pangkabuhayan.

Dapat gawin agad ng DOLE ang Implementing Guidelines.

Kailangan simple lang ang mga alituntuning dapat upang makapangutang kaagad. Ang mga nagbabalik na expatriate workers ay hindi dapat mapapasa-ilalim sa mga masalimuot at walang katuturang regulasyon or red tape.

Inatasan ko ang DOLE at OWWA na makipag-ugnayan sa mga ahensya ng pamahalaan, kaya nga nakipag-ugnayan sa TRC para sa ekonomiya at pamumuhunan upang matukoy ang mga negosyo maaaring pasukin ng mga nagbabalik na expatriates.

Ang ikalawang bahagi nitong reciprocity program ay ang suporta ng pamahalaan, na ibibigay ng buong-buo, upang tulungan ang mga nagbabalik na manggagawang Pilipino sa paghahanap ng mga trabahong kumikita ng maganda. Dalawang patakaran ang nakapaloob sa bahaging ito:

Una, ang paglikha ng mga trabaho dito sa ating bansa na makakapagbigay ng magandang kita. Meron ilan sa inyo, sabi niyo naghahanap kayo ng trabaho dito.

Pangalawa, ang puspulang paghahanap ng mga bagong merkado sa ibang bansa para sa ating manggagawa, pati na ang mga nagtatrabaho sa mga barko.

At kanina masayang ni-report ni Secretary Nitoy Roque sa akin, 100 plus ang nawalaan ng trabaho doon sa... itong pabrika sa Taiwan, pero sabi ni Nitoy Roque, may 1,000 jobs available sa hotel and restaurant industry ng Bulgaria, kaya kaagad four times ang jobs available sa nawalaan ninyo.

So, upang makakuha ang mga serbisyong ito, inatasan ko ang DOLE at OWWA na maglagay ng mga opisina sa lahat ng probinsiya o desk, na magbabagay ng trabaho sa kagalingan, kakayahan at experience ng nagbabalik na manggagawa. Dapat din magkaroon ng palagiang online information tungkol sa mga bakanteng trabaho, at dapat libre itong information sa mga nagbabalik na expatriates.

At para sa ating bumabalik na expatriate Filipino workers na gustong lumipat ng ibang mga bansa kung saan kailangan ang inyong kaalaman at kagalingan, inatasan ko — bukod pa dito sa Bulgaria na 1,000 jobs available kaagad sa hotel and restaurant industry — inatasan ko, gumawa ako ng Administrative Order na ang Philippine Overseas Employment Administration ay dapat magtupad ng isang marketing blitz upang lumawak ang merkado para sa Filipino expatriates.

So again, the government, even if it's only a trickle of our workforce that's coming back, the government will not sit idly and do nothing for our modern-day heroes in this time of great economic uncertainty.

Hindi pababayaan ng pamahalaan ang ating mga bagong bayani sa panahong ito na walang katiyakan sa ekonomiya.

We assure you of full and unequivocal support.

Sa inyong lahat, ating returning expatriate Filipino workers, good luck sa inyong bagong hakbang ng inyong career path!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the Handog ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Para sa Economically-Displaced Overseas Filipino Workers. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134612/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13697&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of AMOR Village

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the inauguration of AMOR Village

[Delivered at the AMOR Village, Brgy. San Francisco East, Anao, Tarlac, December 9, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Gilbert Teodoro sa iyong napakagandang pagpakilala sa akin. And I'm also very proud to have you as my Secretary of National Defense. (applause)

Congresswoman Nikki Teodoro, Gilbert and Nikki, on the occasion of your wedding anniversary, congratulations! Happy Anniversary! (applause)

Our cabinet members who are here with us today; officials of Tarlac headed by Governor Victor Yap and including his father, Apeng Yap and also Jesli Lapus; kareng aliwa kung cabalen a Capampangan queti king Tarlac; (applause) dagiti kakailyak nga Ilocano, naimbag nga malem yo amin Apo; (applause) mayap gatpanapon kekongan.

And first and foremost... ah, Bishop Senense. Very happy to have you here (applause); and Mayor Felipe and all the other mayors and board members who are here with us today, and the barangay captains, teachers, everybody, our military and police officials, members of the Cojuangco-Teodoro family, members of the Lopez-Prieto family, all of you, Merry Christmas to all of you because this is a Christmas party as well. (applause)

First of all, Nikki, thank you for AMOR Village. It's such a wonderful Christmas gift to the needy children of your district and province. And the name is so appropriate — Amor. It's appropriate because we're celebrating the amor of Nikki and Gilbert. (laughter/applause)

In fact, Nikki calls Gilbert "Amor". (applause) Amor because Christmas is a time of love and AMOR which stands for Accelerating Minors' Opportunity for Recovery. And that expresses the commitment of its sponsors, and Nikki tells me there are so many sponsors, not only DSWD and Espie, and everybody here from DSWD but also our various NGOs.

It shows their commitment to love and nurture the children under their care. And it reminds us that the spirit of Christmas is all about love for others, it's all about AMOR.

Inaldaw nga masapul nga ited iti bagbagi tayo kadagiti napanglaw and the unfortunate among us, ngem aglalo no panawen iti Pasko. Rebbeng nga agtrabaho tayo tapno makaited iti gundaway iti ekonomiya ken dignidad para iti tunggal nga Pilipino nga lallaki, babbai ken ubbing tatta nga panawen ti nama, panagayat ken pammati. (applause)

Iti panangpili ti Anao para iti AMOR Village ket maibagay unay. Iti AMOR ket ammo nga maysa iti Most Child-Friendly Municipalities iti pagilyan, (applause) isu nga kabaawan tayo iti gobyerno nga lokal ken umili. Congratulations! To Anao. (applause)

Thank you, Nikki for acknowledging Anao as a very child-friendly municipality even though, as Victor Yap confirmed, it is the smallest municipality of Tarlac. And thank you, Nikki for continuing the advocacy you started for children while you were still a congressional spouse. Children all over the country have benefited, not just in Tarlac. Because today Congress has a permanent committee that looks after matters and issues relating to the welfare of Filipino children and that is chaired by no less than Congresswoman Nikki Prieto Teodoro. (applause)

Tamang-tama na ginawa natin itong okasyong ito, dahil bukas ang ika-animnapung anibersaryo ng U.N. Declaration of Human Rights. Kaya bukas at ngayon tinatawagan ko ang bansa na itaon ang ating pinagsamang lakas tungo sa pagpapalakas at pagpapalago ng mga karapatang pantao ng mga batang Pilipino, ang ating mga anak. (applause)

Apat ang kategoriya na nakapaloob sa U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child para sa karapatan ng mga bata:

1. Survival. Ang karapatan ng bata na mabuhay. Ang ibig sabihin nito ay pagtitiyak na mabibigyan ng pagkain, serbisyong pangkalusugan, masisilungan at damit ang bata.
2. Development. Ang karapatan ng bata na makamit ang kanyang buong potensiyal. Sakop nito ang edukasyon, karapatang makapagpahinga at makapaglaro, makasali sa gawaing ispirituwal, at tumanggap ng pag-aalaga.
3. Protection. Sakop ng karapatan tungkol sa proteksiyon ang pananggalang laban sa pang-aabusong pisikal, and we congratulate Nikki for filing the bill. And as chairwoman of the committee, she will be the one to move it forward until it passes before 2009 ends, the bill against Corporal Punishment of Children. (applause)

Pero sabi ni Nikki hindi lamang yung mga pinipingot o yung nilalatigong mga bata ang magiging laman ng batas, also verbal abuse in the schools because part of the rights of the children is protection against mental abuse at kontra rin sa pang-aabusong sekswal. At kasama na rin ang panangga laban sa pagpabaya at eksploytasyon ng mga bata. Kailangan magbigay ng higit na suporta sa mga bata sa kategoriyang ito. So to Nikki, for being a champion of the protection of children, with this AMOR Village as symbol but also with your work in your committee in Congress, congratulations! and thank you. (applause)

4. Pang-apat na karapatang pantao ng mga bata — Participation. Ito'y nagtitiyak na ang bata ay mabibigyan ng karapatan upang sabihin kung ano ang iniisip o nararamdaman at makasali sa mga gawain ng kanyang mga kapwa-bata. Kabilang dito ang karapatang mabigyan ng pangalan at maging kabilang ng isang bansa at karapatang kilalanin bilang miyembro ng isang pamilya, isang komunidad o lipunan.

Amin dagitoy ket maysa nga rason no apay nga patuloy nga ag-invest tayo maipanggep ti salung-at, panagadal ken social services. Inikkan tayo iti ad-adu nga atensyon iti salun-at ken panagadal iti ubbing. AMOR Village and similar other children shelters assist government in looking after the mental health and emotional rehabilitation of handicapped children or those who were abandoned and victims of domestic abuse. These are the neediest ones. They should always receive our preferential attention and care. Tatta nga papaserrek ti Pasko, rebheng nga agyaman tayo amin dagiti grasya.

kadatayo ken kitaen iti masakbayan nga ad-adu nga nama ken talek ken optimism.

Dapat magsama-sama ang taumbayan ngayong Kapaskuhan upang ipagdiwang ang ating pananalig sa Diyos at ang pagkakaisa ng mga pamilya. Tamang-tama ang ating selebrasyon ngayon. (applause) AMOR, Amor ng Pasko because it's a Christmas party, Amor sa mga bata because of AMOR Village, at ang Amor ni Gilbert at Nikki. Amor din natin silang dalawa. (applause)

Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin, Apo. Thank you. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the inauguration of AMOR Village. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609062628/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14683&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 60th anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with awarding of the 2008 Ten Outstanding Policewomen of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 60th anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with Awarding of the
2008 Ten Outstanding Policewomen of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, December 10, 2008]

Thank you Secretary Ermita for your introduction.

Secretary Ermita is, as our Master of Ceremonies said, the Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Human Rights; and the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, Leila De Lima; the other members of the Commission and the other officers of CHR: Thank you for being here with us in our separate celebration aside from the one you had this morning because I wanted to highlight the independence of the Commission on Human Rights.

Our members of the Diplomatic Corps headed by no less than His Excellency the Papal Nuncio, Secretary Puno and the officers of the DILG and the police who we incorporated in to this event in order to highlight the commitment of the police to the promotion of human rights.

Our officers of ZONTA led by Lieutenant Governor Beng Puyat, thank you for honoring our Ten Outstanding Policewomen every year for the last seven years now.

Our awardees; the different guests who are here today: NGOs, our friends in UNICEF whom I invited specifically today because you will see why when I give my speech; and of course, our members of Congress who are here with us today; ladies and gentlemen.

I greet the Filipino people on our celebration today of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On this day 60 years ago, our young Republic signed a U.N. declaration that embodied man and society's deepest quest from time immemorial — the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

We can draw vivid images on what transpired on December 10th 1948. A Republic barely one year old, still clearing the rubble of a terrible war, standing foursquare behind one of the greatest declarations ever made by the U.N. that human beings are born free and equal, and entitled to all the human rights.

We thank our speakers whom we invited here today, the chair of the CHR, Leila De Lima and the deputy commissioner of the UNICEF for your observations on the challenges on human rights in the Philippines. And may we add among those challenges the many human rights violations of the New People's Army and the blatant human rights violations of the three renegade MILF commanders who brazenly murdered and pillaged innocent civilian communities. And if we talk about unsolved crimes, may we also point out and help seek a solution to the murder of Popoy Lagman way back in 2001.

We have made major inroads on promoting the rights of individuals in the past few years. The institutions that used to be the targets of criticism for alleged human rights abuses have undergone a significant transformation that has been noted and praised by both local people and the international community. For instance, in a remote part of Central Philippines, a newly-installed religious leader there told me that the people had shifted their support from the insurgents to our soldiers because they had observed how the soldiers worked hard to protect their rights from the human rights violations of the NPA.

Our efforts to improve our human rights record has earned us a seat in the Human Rights Council in the U.N. in 2006 and enabled us to be reelected to the same council and Secretary Ermita was applauded by the reviewers when he underwent in behalf of the Philippine government the U.N. Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review.

We are committed to further refining our procedures for the promotion and protection of human rights. That's why to this end today, I signed an administrative order further strengthening government policies and programs for human rights with at least one provision in the administrative order for each of the human rights in the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights.

And today, and this is the reason why I asked UNICEF to be part of our program, I also ask the nation to focus its collective effort on enhancing and promoting the human rights of a precious, valuable but vulnerable sector — this is the Filipino child, our children. The future of the nation; Jose Rizal's hope of the fatherland.

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Philippines ratified in 1990, spells out four broad categories under which the rights of children are clustered:

1. Survival. Like humans in general, as pointed out by Chairperson De Lima, the rights of a child to live. And by this, we include provisions for food, health care, shelter and clothing.
2. Development. The rights of a child to attain his or her full potential. These cover education, rest and recreation, spiritual activity, love and care.
3. Protection. The rights that cover protection from physical, mental and sexual abuse, and from neglect and exploitation. Support for the children is also imperative under this broad category.
4. Participation. The rights that enable a child to express his or her thoughts and feelings, to speak his or her opinion and to be with his or her own peers. Under these rights fall the right to a name and nationality, the right to be identified as a member of family, community or society.

The U.N. CRC has a bedrock principle. Whatever the decisions of societies and governments are the "best interests of children" should be a primary consideration. And that is why we share the concern of UNICEF about the rights of children in a situation of conflict especially the use of child combatants by the insurgents. We were the first country to launch a formal campaign against child abuse when I proclaimed the observance of Child Abuse Prevention Year from October 2006 to 2007.

We have been religiously working on the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, which include preparing a better future and protecting the rights of children. We have passed many laws in behalf of our children, including those that protect them from abuse including the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, including the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, including the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act.

These laws are complementary to the concrete, ground-level work to provide the best for our children, to act according to the best of their interests, to prepare them for adulthood via a seamless transition.

To carry out these laws, we have launched various programs such as the PNP's program which today has its own Women's and Children's Desk. And today, I decided to add a dimension in the celebrations with the awarding of the Ten Most Outstanding Policewomen of the year. My congratulations to all the honorees! You bring pride not only to the PNP but to every Filipina. And I am pleased particularly with your handling of the rights of disadvantaged sectors especially the children. And I decided to put your awarding in today's event because so many of you are receiving awards because of your work for the children and on sensitivity to vulnerable sectors. Congratulations! (applause)

We are very religious about the U.N. Development Goals. In fact, six out of eight goals are already assured of being achieved by 2015. Of the remaining two, the one is on maternal mortality which we are working on and the other as

mentioned by the deputy commissioner is on Universal Primary Education. And indeed, we are working very hard on that.

We are breaking through the usual investment threshold in order to give our children a first-world education and health care within the medium-term. The education sector will get some 200 billion pesos budget in 2009. Of course, we count on our congressmen to pass this budget for us. And the health sector including services for maternal health led by the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation will be given P36 billion in 2009. And in addition, government hospitals continue to retain and use their income.

To move the enhancement of children's rights to a higher level, I talked to the secretary of social welfare this morning and I said that I am directing her and the Council for the Welfare of Children to craft the pooling of a Children Defense Fund, which shall document and help prosecute cases of child abuse and exploitation everywhere.

Our goal is a child-centered human rights agenda. This shall be built on training, preparing and equipping our children to be global citizens in a changing world. And protecting them with an intensity and fierceness that was practiced in ancient times to shield children against abusers and predators.

But even as we work to increase awareness and promotion of human rights, we are similarly focused on a particular basic right of individuals — the right to earn a decent living. The pursuit of one's economic rights is fundamental in enabling the exercise of most other rights.

Our country can expect that the government will do everything in its power to protect our people from the global crisis that is sweeping the world. But we will do everything in our power to prevent the global crisis from becoming a Philippine crisis.

We are aiming for easing inflation — which we have been achieving — easing price in fuel, easing price in food and rice. At the same time, we will continue to grow our economy. And most importantly, as deputy commissioner mentioned, like Manny Pacquiao, we are fighters. We will prevail even in the toughest of times.

The toughest of global times requires no less than the concerted effort of every Filipino. In celebration of Human Rights Day, I call on everyone to make our human rights programs and our economic programs a successful shield not only against those who would violate these rights but also against the storm winds of the global economic hurricane. With all of us working together, we will weather the global storm. We will see the bright light of a day when we will be ready to join the ranks of the first-world, when poverty shall have been marginalized, and when we will have achieved all the hallmarks of a modern society where institutions are strong especially the institutions of human rights.

To all of you, happy anniversary on the Declaration of the U.N. Human Rights!

Thank you. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with Awarding of the 2008 Ten Outstanding Policewomen of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609071533/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14684&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Signing Ceremony of Republic Act 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Signing Ceremony of Republic Act 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, December 16, 2008]

Thank you Secretary Ermita for your introduction.

Other members of the Cabinet with special mention to the DOE family; Senate President Enrile and Senator Angara and Senator Zubiri; Speaker Nograles; members of the House of Representatives especially the members of the Senate Energy Committee; my son Congressman Mikey (applause) and Congressman Villafuerte; (applause) and the other members of the House Energy Committee; our Deputy Speakers: Raul Del Mar and Girlie Villarosa; Majority Leader Art Defensor; Monico Puentevella and the other congressmen and congresswomen who worked so hard and supported this first and most comprehensive Energy Law in Southeast Asia. Congratulations and thank you. (Applause)

Members of the Diplomatic Corps, environment NGOs and private companies, committed private companies for your support and for highlighting the effects of climate change and the benefits of Renewable Energy, thank you. And as I said to the Secretary of the DOE Angie Reyes and to the whole DOE Family, congratulations! (Applause)

The global spike in the price of rice food and fuel a few months ago put tremendous pressure on Filipinos, but we responded to this challenge in a swift, measured and targeted manner. We assisted the transport sector, so that transport fare hikes would be minimal and rolled back when fuel prices went down again.

There is indeed a global economic crisis, but fortunately, through a mix of careful planning, congressional economic reforms and the hard work of many people, including Congress, we were able to prevent the global crisis from becoming a Philippine crisis.

The fact that we have avoided the crisis that is plaguing the rest of the world is a testament to the tough choices we made together with Congress several years ago. Economic reform has been the central pillar of our coalition administration. It is because we took the politically unpopular move to raise new revenue that we have been able to generate additional resources and invest in physical and human infrastructure, roads, bridges, ports and expanded access to healthcare, improved education and social services, including targeted subsidies to help the poor and the ordinary Filipinos from price shocks and economic pressures.

These are helping to provide a social safety net at a time when it is most needed. And these actions taken by Congress where there even before the hint of a global crisis –they are now serving us so well.

We are fortunate because through these congressional actions, we have a cushion in place to help the poor. But new revenue measures are only part of the equation. We have also focused on building up new industries like the biofuels industry, encouraged by last January's Biofuels Act, and now the renewable energy industry through our bill signing today.

The Biofuels Act made a significant contribution to our energy self-sufficiency program. And it will make our country one of the 15 most attractive destinations for biofuels investment. From 45 percent before our administration, we have become 57 percent self-sufficient in energy, and we aim to reach 60 percent by 2010.

Thanks in part to previous legislation and also in part to industries developing our renewable energy resources. We are the second largest geothermal power producer in the world. We have the highest wind potential power in the world. We also have high solar power penetration and abundant hydropower and biomass resources.

So now with our Renewable Energy Act we can move aggressively to develop these resources. In fact, there have been big leaps in renewable energy throughout the world in recent years.

Last year when renewable energy reaped a milestone — 71 billion dollars in investments — even oil giants like Abu Dhabi put up a special renewable energy corporation.

So our new Renewable Energy Act will enable us to capture a part of this investment inflow through what you have given: tax holidays, tax credits and other incentives for companies engaged in renewable energy development and distribution. And this is also timely because it mitigates climate change.

There are efforts... all of these efforts are working to improve the overall quality of life of the Filipino people. But we must continue on a path of fiscal discipline, targeted investments and targeted relief to the poor as we weather this global storm. And that gives us the legislative agenda for our new Senate President, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and the Speaker Nograles and all of our congressman and senators.

This dawn, we arrived from Doha and Abu Dhabi. And it is important to underscore that; thus, far employment abroad remains strong. Very few of our expatriates have lost their jobs. In fact, employment overseas has held steady. Some jobs have gone, about a little more than a thousand, but new jobs are being created like the 37,000 needed in Qatar. So at this point, there is no need to panic. That said, we never want even one of our hardworking Filipinos to lose a job.

So, we are closely monitoring the impact of the global economic situation on our workers. We will not hesitate to take any action required to help them wherever they may be, abroad or at home. We are also developing retraining programs that can prepare our workers for employment in the Philippines should that be required. We are also taking our professional licensure examinations, particularly engineering license examinations to selected international locations where large expat worker populations are present so they can move up the career ladder there or in the Philippines should they need to do so or should they wish to do so.

So, during this holiday season, as we sign this bill into law, let us thank Congress for giving a wonderful gift to the Filipino people and let us congratulate our great Filipino worker because from what I have seen they are the first to be hired and the last to be retrenched.

But we long for the day when we will have enough jobs in the Philippines, so that work abroad will only be a career choice — you know, like Vince, it's a career choice — and not the only option for a hardworking Filipino. That is economic independence and part of economic independence is also energy independence.

So we thank Congress for providing us yet another great milestone in our aspiration for energy independence. Congratulations, Congress! (Applause)

And to all of you, Merry Christmas!

Maraming Salamat. (Applause)

* * *

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the Signing Ceremony of Republic Act 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134602/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=15645&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo During the Signing Ceremony of Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Signing Ceremony of Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañang, December 16, 2008]

Thank you very much to all of you who worked so hard and supported this first and most comprehensive Energy Law in Southeast Asia. Congratulations!

The global spike in the price of rice, food and fuel a few months ago put tremendous pressure on Filipinos, but, we responded to this challenge in a swift, measured and targeted manner. We assisted the transport sector, so that transport fare hikes would be minimal and rolled back when fuel prices went down again.

There is indeed a global economic crisis, but fortunately, through a mix of careful planning, congressional economic reforms and the hard work of many people, including Congress, we were able to prevent the global crisis from becoming a Philippine crisis.

The fact that we have avoided the crisis that is plaguing the rest of the world, is a testament to the tough choices we made together with Congress several years ago. Economic reform has been the central pillar of our coalition administration. It is because, we took the politically unpopular move to raise new revenues that we have been able to generate additional resources and invest in physical and human infrastructure, roads, bridges, ports and expanded access to healthcare, improved education and social services, including targeted subsidies to help the poor and the ordinary Filipinos from price shocks and economic pressures.

These are helps to provide a social safety net at a time when it is most needed. And these actions taken by congress where there, even before the hint of a global crisis and they are now serving us so well.

We are fortunate because through these congressional actions, we have a cushion in place to help the poor. But new revenue measures are only part of the equation. We have also focused on building up new industries like the biofuels industry, encouraged by last January's Biofuels Act, and now the renewable energy industry through our bill Signing today.

The Biofuels Act made a significant contribution to our energy self-sufficiency program. And it will make our country one of the 15 most attractive destinations for biofuels investment. From 45 percent before our administration, we have become 57 percent self-sufficient in energy, and we aim to reach 60 percent by 2010.

Thanks in part to previous legislation and also in part to industries developing our renewable energy resources. We are the second largest geothermal power producer in the world. We have the highest wind potential power in the world. We also have high solar power penetration and abundant hydropower and biomass resources.

So now with our Renewable Energy Act, we can move aggressively to develop these resources. In fact, there have been big leaps in renewable energy throughout the world in recent years.

Last year, when renewable energy reaped a milestone — 71 billion dollars in investments — even oil giants like Abu Dhabi put up a special renewable energy corporation.

So our new Renewable Energy Act will enable us to capture a part of this investment inflow through what you have given: tax holidays, tax credits and other incentives for companies engaged in renewable energy development and distribution. And this is also timely because it mitigates climate change.

All of these efforts are working to improve the overall quality of life of the Filipino people. But, we must continue on a path of fiscal discipline, targeted investments and targeted relief to the poor, as we weather this global storm. And that gives us the legislative agenda for our new Senate President, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and the House Speaker Nograles and all of our congressman and senators.

This dawn, we arrived from Doha and Abu Dhabi. And it is important to underscore that; thus, far employment abroad remains strong. Very few of our expatriates have lost their jobs. In fact, employment overseas has held steady. Some jobs have gone, about a little more than a thousand, but new jobs are being created like the 37,000 needed in Qatar. So at this point, there is no need to panic. That said, we never want even one of our hardworking Filipinos to lose a job.

So, we are closely monitoring the impact of the global economic situation on our workers. We will not hesitate to take any action required to help them wherever they may be, abroad or at home. We are also developing retraining programs that can prepare our workers for employment in the Philippines should that be required. We are also taking our professional licensure examinations, particularly engineering license examinations to selected international locations where large expat worker populations are present, so they can move up the career ladder there or in the Philippines should they need to do so or should they wish to do so.

So, during this holiday season, as we sign this bill into law, let us thank Congress, for giving a wonderful gift to the Filipino people and let us congratulate our great Filipino worker because from what I have seen they are the first to be hired and the last to be retrenched.

But, we long for the day when we will have enough jobs in the Philippines, so that work abroad will only be a career choice — you know, like Vince, it's a career choice — and not the only option for a hardworking Filipino. That is economic independence, and part of economic independence is also energy independence.

So, we thank Congress for providing us yet another great milestone in our aspiration for energy independence. Congratulations, Congress!

And to all of you, Merry Christmas!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Speech of President Arroyo at the launching of LPG Conversion Program for tricycles [Filipino] Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa paglulunsad ng LPG Conversion Program para sa mga traysikel

[Ipinahayag noong ika 20 ng Disyembre, 2008]

Maraming salamat, Mayor Sonny Belmonte, sa iyong pagpakilala, at maraming salamat sa laging suporta mo sa ating pamahalaang national.

Congresswoman Nannete Daza, congratulations sa iyong mga initiative gaya nito.

Mga officials ng national government sa transportation at energy, mga local officials ng Quezon City, sa inyong lahat, mga local official ng Quezon City, at sa ating mga tricycle drivers, maligayang Pasko.

Maaga ang ating Pasko – five days early. Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat, at ngayong nagsisimbang gabi na tayo, dapat bilangin natin lahat ng mga biyaya natin at tingnan natin ang kinabukasan na mas malaki ang ating pag asa, ang ating kumpiyansa, ating optimism.

Gaya ng sabi ni Sonny Belmonte, nakakagulat! Ang Philippine economy had an added kick for the last quarter, at itong added kick ay sa kabila ng kahirapan sa mundo. Two-thirds of the globe is now in recession pero ang Pilipinas, hindi.

Kaya kailangan magsama-sama ang taungbayan nitong pasko, magdiriwang ng pananampalataya at pamilya at ang ating pamayanan ay dapat magsama-sama at isantabi na yung pag-aalitan at pagkakaiba sa pulitika. At itukoy natin kung ano ang magandang positibong magagawa nating lahat magkasama para pag-ibayuhin ang ating mga buhay.

Napag-usapan ni Sonny yung nakakagulat, dahil sa gitna ng krisis — hindi mapagkakaila na may krisis ang pandaigdigang ekonomiya — ang hamon sa atin ay huwag maging krisis sa Pilipinas ang krisis ng daigdig.

At ang panahon tulad nito, tungkulin ng pamahalaan na tulungan ang taungbayan na makaraos sa mga pahirap na dala ng inflation at humihinang ekonomiya ng ibang bayan.

And during this troubled time, it is the role of government to help insulate the Filipino people from shocks and economic pressures. Kaya ginagawa ng inyong pamahalaan — executive, legislative, national, city — ang lahat na makakaya upang may pagkain sa bawat mesa, at bigyan proteksyon ang kinikita ninyo, pati mga tricycle drivers, to put food on the table and protect your earnings.

At ituloy-tuloy natin ang ating pamumuhunan sa ating sistema ng kalinga sa kalusugan, edukasyon, serbisyo sosyal.

At yung sinasabi na suwerte. Siguro suwerte tayo dahil nagsikap tayo para maging suwerte.

Kasi kundi dahil sa mga masasakit na reporma na ginawa natin sa nakaraang pitong taon — at salamat, si Nannete ay isang malaking bahagi nung mga repormang yun sa Kongreso — the global crisis would have become a Philippine crisis as well.

Sa halip sa magulong-magulong kapaligiran sa mundo, sabi ng mga eksperto ng mundo, ang Pilipinas ay parang isla ng mapayapang ekonomiya. Ngunit itong ating kalakasan at katatagan ng taungbayan at ekonomiya ay hindi pa rin sapat na konsuwelo sa karaniwang Filipino kung siya kailangang magbayad ng mas mataas na presyo para sa mga saligang pangangailangan.

At alam natin ang mga pressures ninyo, sumasakay sa pasahe, mga namamasada. Hindi pa natin makalimutan yung inyong pressures na hinarap ninyo ilang buwan lang nakaraan.

Hindi natin nakakalimutan yung matataas na presyo, yung matataas na inflation; at kahit na bumababa na ngayon ang mga presyo nito, siyempre alam natin na nagulat kayo at nag aalala sa seguridad ng trabaho at kung ano ang mabibili ng inyong kinikita.

Lahat tayo ay nag aabala dito, kaya tayo nagtatrabaho, nagsisikap para manatiling mababa ang presyo ng bigas, ng pagkain at ng ating fuel, lalo na sa mga tricycle drivers at operators.

At ito na nga ang pakay ng programa ni Congressman Nannete Daza na kinuwento niya sa akin nung kami ay nag-dinner doon sa Malakanyang. Kinuwento niya itong proyektong ito — at siyempre si Nannete, talagang aggressive yan, at kumuha siya ng tulong sa ating national government na idadaan natin yung pondo at salamat naman at pumayag si Mayor Sonny Belmonte sa Quezon City government.

At tama naman na ipinaglalaman kayong mga tri-cycle ni Nannete dahil malaki ang papel ng mga tri-cycle sa pang-araw-araw na pamumuhay ng Filipino – multipurpose nakakapasok sa mga lugar na hindi napapasukan ng jeep o kotse, at marami pa rin sa dako ng lungsod na tanging tri-cycle lamang ang ginagamit na pampasaherong sasakyan.

Kaya mahalaga na tulungan natin ang mga nagta-tri-cycle upang hindi na kailangan magsingil pa ng pataas na pataas na pamasaha ang napakaraming sumasakay sa inyo sa mga liblib na barangay.

Kaya ito isang magandang halimbawa ng pagtulong — na tulungan ang mga tri-cycle drivers na magpalit ng makina upang makagamit ng LPG.

Gaano na kahalaga ang mas mura ngayon, Nannete? Hindi ba 50 percent na ng gasolina ang LPG? Ang sabi nga ni Sonny Belmonte, 80 percent na ng taxi ay nag-LPG. Kaya sabi ni Nannete, tulungan nga natin yung mga tri-cycle na magkaroon din ng savings sa pamamagitan ng LPG.

Inaangkat natin halos lahat ang ating pangangailangan ng krudo kaya yun ang isang problema, ngunit tayo may kaunting natural gas mula sa tinatawag na malampaya project.

At itong natural gas na ito ay nakakatulong upang mabawasan ang dami ng inaangkat na langis, kaya ang LPG ay sagot sa krudo dahil meron tayong LPG na puwedeng manggaling sa sarili natin. Although marami pa rin tayong inaangkat, kaya't pumayag tayo na tulungan ang ilang mga tri-cycle drivers and operators na nandito ngayon na mabigyan ni Nannete ng LPG conversion kit at upang tulungan punduhan ito.

Kasi nung sinabi ko kay Nonoy Andaya, nagkakamot ng ulo, saan kukunin ang pondo nito, sabi niya. Sabi ko, isali sa programa ng pondo ng engine conversion mula sa katas ng VAT.

Kung naalala ng ating DOTC officials, kamakailan lang... Kasi nung tumaas ang krudo, tumaas din ang collection ng buwis. Kaya yung itinaas na yun ay ginamit natin para tumulong sa mga naghihirap sa pagtaas ng krudo; at bahagi ng may ginamit natin para yung mga jeepney ba yun ay mag-convert sa LPG.

Kaya ngayon, itong pondong ito ay yun ang pagkukuhanan natin para tulungan ang project ni Nannete.

Pinadala lang ni Secretary Angie Reyes si USec Ampatuan para ipaalala na huwag kalimutan ikumpleto yung proseso ng safety approval ng DOE itong conversion kit na ito.

Itinatatag nga natin ito — program “katas ng VAT” — noong Hunyo, noong panahon na tumaas ang presyo ng gasolina at nagkaroon ang pamahalaan ng karagdagang pondo.

Kaya ito, ibinabalik natin sa mamamayan, binabalik natin sa mga jeepney driver, jeepney operator. At ito ay pang-sukli sa mga mamamayan ng kinita ng ating pag-angat bilang pamumuhunan sa taungbayan sa lahat ng programa nagtataguyod ng patuloy nating pag-unlad at sasagip sa pagdurusa ng mahihirap na sila ang unang tinatamaan pagtumatalon ang presyo, lalo na sa langis.

Ngayon bumaba na ang presyo ng gasoline, diesel at LPG, pero hindi natin alam kung ano ang mangyayari sa kinabukasan, kaya mabuting meron option na ito.

Pero ngayon at bumaba ang presyo ng LPG, gasolina at krudo, ayaw ko naman pabayaan ang pagkakataon na magpasalamat naman muli sa mga drivers ng bus at jeep ng Central Luzon, Southern Luzon at Kamaynilaan, dahil nung bumaba ang presyo ng langis, krudo at LPG, itong mga bus at jeep ay pumayag agad na bumaba ang pasahe mula noong ika-15 ng Disyembre.

Pasalamatan natin lahat ang mga bus at mga jeepney. Ito na ang kilos ng taungbayan — ng private sector, ng transport sector — ay nagbibigay sa atin ng buong-loob tungkol sa ating kinabukasan, at tungkol sa pag-asa optimism, ang resilience ng taungbayan Filipino.

Sabi ng mga survey, 70 percent na mga Filipino ay tumatanaw sa kinabukasang buo ang pag asa. Tayo naman — executive, legislative, national, city — sisiguraduhin na matiyak ng pamahalaan na magdala ng serbisyong bayan sa ating taungbayan.

Kaya itong araw na ito, nagpapasalamat tayo kay Nannete sa napakagandang ideya, napakagandang aguing sa ating mga tricycle drivers at operators.

Sa inyo at sa lahat ng mga narito, maligayang pasko, salubungin natin ang darating na bagong taon na punong-puno ang puso ng pag asa, at pagtiwala sa ating kakayahan. Merry Christmas, congratulations and thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Launching of LPG Conversion Program for Tricycles. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134547/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16816&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo at the 73rd Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the 73rd Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)**

[Delivered at the GHQ Grandstand, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, December 22, 2008]

Thank you, Secretary Teodoro.

Troop Commander, give “tikas pahinga.”

His Excellency President Ramos and the other former Chiefs-of-Staff of the Armed Forces; General Yano and the other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; Archbishop Tumulak and our other friends of the Armed Forces from the civilian sector; members of the Diplomatic Corps; the family of 2nd Lt. Gutleng and the family of the other soldiers who gave their lives in defense of our nation; Sergeant Villar and the other combatants who have been awarded for their heroism during this past year; CAFGU Cabarles at yung ibang mga nasugatan maging sundalo o CAFGU doon sa mga panahon kung kinailangan sugpuin ang ating bansa; Don Emilio Yap and our other civilian awardees, thank you for your support to our soldiers; General Rommel Gomez and the other officers who have received awards for your exemplary leadership of our combat troops; our Presidential citation recipients, congratulations also for your distinguished service in your last assignments!

Men and women of the Armed Forces, Happy Anniversary to us all!

Another year marks the gallantry of the Filipino soldier performing the duty to advance peace, freedom, development and human security.

Ang ating mga sundalong inaasahan ng mamamayang Pilipino upang itigil ang pananakot ng mga terorista at ang panggugulo ng mga rebeldeng komunista, at upang dalhin ang kapayapaan sa Mindanao. The communist guerilla fronts have dropped to 63 from 107 in 2005. This year alone, our troops neutralized 15 of the most notorious communist insurgents, 58 Abu Sayyaf and Al Khobar operations and three foreign terrorists. Congratulations to all our soldiers!

And we congratulate our incumbent officers among the medalist of valor because by their leadership they had inspired many of these acts of valor in the battlefield. Mga sundalo rin ang una nating tinatawag tuwing may sakuna dahil sa bagyo, baha, at iba pang kalamidad. Noong na-trap yung mga maliliit na minero doon sa Benguet kaya meron tayong awardee mula doon sa pangyayaring yuon. Noong lumubog ang barkong Princess of the Stars sa Romblon. Noong kasagsagan ng bagyong Frank. Noong nagkaroon ng typhoid outbreak sa ilang bayan ng Quezon province at pati na rin sa pag-aayos ng mga kalsada, tulay at eskwelahan. At sa pagtulong sa mga pamilyang apektado ng bagyo’t mga kaguluhan sa Mindanao. Salamat sa lahat ng ating mga sundalo.

I will give my command guidance during our command conference on January 8th. For today, we focus on aspirations rather than orders. Peace is the only path for Mindanao and the nation. I was so glad to hear Genral Yano saying that our soldiers are not really fond of fighting, they want to have peace because war is never the final answer. We are committed to peace and restarting the peace process. And in order to do that, we count on our Armed Forces to bring stability to the island, to regain order, to bring the lawless renegade elements to justice. This is the way we can be confident that responsible elements regain control of the MILF so that we can effectively reactivate the peace process again in earnest. The peace process must proceed. And we are assembling the pieces to get the peace process started again in a way that upholds our commitment to peace, to the strong sentiments of the communities, and to the rule of law.

The key to resolving peace in Mindanao is for all sides to be committed to peace, progress and prosperity. This includes reaching out to all sides and hearing the voices in the communities. We must all be willing to put ourselves

in each other's shoes and understand various points of views and be willing to give and take to bring permanent peace to the island. And that is the way that we can promote democracy and a strong republic.

We always support efforts to strengthen democracy. But we are not focused on politics. And I thank General Yano, and I congratulate the Armed Forces, that as General Yano says, "the enemy has been slain, the enemy that is called politics in the Armed Forces." Congratulations for that!

Our priority is implementing the pro-poor and economic reform agendas that have given our country the strongest and most resilient economy in decades. This is a time when our nation's leadership must give all its attention to managing the impact of the global crisis so that it does not become a Philippine crisis. The national leadership's attention must not be on politics but on the economy with our soldiers taking care of security in the background.

There is indeed a global economic crisis, but fortunately through a mix of careful planning, economic reforms and the hard work of many people, we have thus far prevented the global crisis from becoming a Philippine crisis.

Two-thirds of the globe is now in recession, but not the Philippines, which is growing 4.6 percent after growing 7.2 percent last year. The Bank of New York Mellon says, "The Philippines is inherently strong, a potential beneficiary of the financial woes."

JP Morgan says, "The Philippines is in a relatively strong position to weather the global downturn with the economy driven by private consumption and services, which are less vulnerable to external shocks."

Congratulations to all the Filipino people!

The fact that we have avoided the crisis that is plaguing the rest of the world is a testament to the tough choices we made several years ago. Economic reform has been at the center of my presidency. It is because we took the politically unpopular decision to raise unprecedented new revenue that we have been able to generate additional resources and invest in physical and human infrastructure: roads, bridges and ports — many of which were built by our soliders; expanded access to healthcare, including improved military hospitals; education and social services, including more housing for our soldiers and their families. And on top of all these the upgrading of our defense capabilities, including new helicopters, Squad Automatic Weapons, inflatable boats and other facilities and equipment. Upgrading will continue, particularly in training. We will make the Philippine Defense Reform work to stop the insurgency by 2010.

Kasama sa Philippine Defense Reform, at bilang pasasalamat sa kabayanihan ng AFP, noong isang taon, sa inyong hiling, dinagdagan ang subsistence pay at dinoble ang hazard pay ng ating mga sundalo. At itong taon dinagdagan naman ang inyong base pay.

Ito ay maliit na paraan kung papano ipaabot sa inyo ang napakalaking pasasalamat ng taong-bayang Pilipino. Itong ating pagdiriwang ng Armed Forces Day ay laging ginagawa ilang araw lang bago Pasko. Kaya sa Paskong ito, let us all count our blessings and look to the future with greater hope, confidence and optimism. At dahil sa napakagandang paglilingkod ng ating kawal Pilipino, inaasahan natin na maging lalong mapayapa itong darating na Pasko at lalong maging makabuluhan ang lahat nang ginagawa ng ating kawal Pilipino para sa taong-bayan.

To all of you once again, Happy Anniversary! Merry Christmas! and thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Speech of President Arroyo at the 73rd Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134530/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17051&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 41st Founding Anniversary of Camiguin Province

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 41st Founding Anniversary of Camiguin Province

[Delivered at the Camiguin Sports Center, Brgy. Poblacion, Mambajao, Camiguin, January 7, 2009]

Salamat, Secretary Arthur Yap for your introduction and for introducing yourself also to the people of Camiguin.

Aton halangdon nga host diri sa probinsya, Governor JJ Romualdo ug sa Vice Governor ug tanang mga opisyal sa probinsya. Ang akon higala sa Kongreso, si Congressman Loloy Romualdo (applause) kauban ang aton mga ginapid sab gikan sa Kongreso, Congressman Joeboy Aquino ug Congressman Anton Lagdameo, (applause) Mayor Romualdo, Vice Governor Lasacar, aton mga lainglaing mga kaigsuonan diri sa Camiguin, maayong hapon, malipayon bag-ong tuig ug happy anniversary kaninyong tanan. (applause)

Ang istorya sa Camiguin sama sa istorya kung unsay gihimo nato aron ang krisis sa kalibutan dili niabot kanato. Kining inyong probinsya maayo ehemplo kun unsay kausbang ang pag-abot kung ang mga bunga sa reporma gisuportahan sa katawhan ug apilan ug maayo mga plano ug maayong pagpasunod. And I'm very happy sa mga istorya ni JJ ug ni Congressman ang daghan nga first diri sa probinsya. Ug usa sa inyong first sa probinsya ang first water system nining region. Ug dili pa kamo probinsya naa na ang inyong water system, ug dako dungog kanako nga ang Presidente nakahatag sa inyong water system walay laing kundi ang akong amahan, si President Diosdado Macapagal. (applause)

Karon ma-post forward kita sa tuig 2000, ang Camiguin ika-unom sa listahan sa Ten Poorest Provinces sa nasod sa year 2000. Apan sa sulod lamang sang unom ka tuig, natangtang na kamo sa listahan sa pulo ka labing pobre. Ika-34 na kamo sa tunga nasa listahan tanang probinsiya. (applause) Tungod kay didto na kamo sa tunga sa lista, pwede na naton maingon nga middle-class na ang Camiguin. Congratulations! (applause) Salamat, DSW Poblacion.

Ug murag ingon ni JJ bisan gamay ra ang yuta nga katamnan dinhi, nakasaka pa kamo sa 11 percent sa inyong productivity, so mao ang rason ngano natangtang ang Camiguin sa ten poorest tungod sa kakugi sa katawhan dinhi sa Camiguin. (applause) Ug sa inyong 11 percent sa gamay nga yuta hibaw ninyo na dili angay mosalig lang sa agrikultura para sa inyong pag-usbaw. Nakita ninyo sab nga sa gamay ninyong yuta, daghan ug mga attraction sa mga turista sama sa labing tam-is nga lanzones sa tibuok kalibutan, (applause) ang bulkang Hibok-Hibok, ang ginikanan sa Camiguin kay kamo ang probinsyang 'Born of Fire,' the fire of Hibok-Hibok, busa naa kamo mga hot and cold na bukal, natural soda water, naa pa kamo ug sunken cemetery ug lain gwapong dive attractions.

Kanina nagikan mi sa Gingoog City, sa ubos sa helicopter nakita namo usa ka gwapo kaayo nga pulo. So sa akon pag-abot nangutana ako kay Congressman, "unsay kanang gwapo nga manindot nga pulo ng isla?" Ingon niya, ang Mantigui Island. (applause) Mao diay kay ang Mantigui usa sa labing famous karon nga dive site sa tibuok Pilipinas. (applause) Ug naa pa, dili lang dive site sa ubos, sa taas sab ang mga gwapo mga baybayon. Ug tanan kining mga tourist attraction gipuno pa gyud ang mga but-an ug mapinag... sa pagpalangga nga katawhan sa probinsiya sa Camiguin. (applause) Busa gikan sa tanan ninyong mga tourist attractions ug sa inyong natural hospitality, beautiful smiles to match the beautiful beaches, gihimo ninyo nga developed ang pag-anhi sa mga turista. Busa kamo usa sa aton mga favorite tourist destinations dinhi sa Pilipinas. (applause)

Busa ang national government ug ang local government, gisumpay nato ang Camiguin sa Central Nautical Highway, murag ingon ni JJ kanina, pina-agi sa mga pantalan sa RORO dinhi sa Mambajao paingon sa Jagna, ug katong usa nga daan na gikan sa Balingoan, gipa-ayo nato sab ang mga dalan nga galibot sa inyong probinsiya. Ug tungod kay ginpa-ayo nato ang imprastraktura, dali na sab ang pagbiyahe ug turista. Ug murag ingon sab ni JJ, dili lang ang turista kundili sab ang mga produkto. Ang mga produkto ug dala ug pagkaon dinhi gikan sa mainland Mindanao, gikan pa sa General Santos, ingon ni JJ, ug sa mga isla sa Visayas, busa kanunay bastante ang pagkaon bisan pa sa

panahong daghan kaayo ang mga turista. Kining mga pantalan sa RORO ang hinungdan sab nga mi-abot nga presko ang matam-is ninyong lanzones sa lainlaing siyudad sa Luzon ug Visayas. And so, Artie Yap will assist you to make sure that this year the harvest of lanzones will be as productive as the harvest of your palay. (applause)

Apan kinahanglan nga mas kukugi kita sa Camiguin ug sa tibuok nasod aron dili moabot ang world economic crisis dinhi sa Camiguin ug dinhi sa Pilipinas. Misamot ang gahinay sa pagtubo sa kalibutan ug naa nay recession sa twothirds sa kalibutan apan wala sa Pilipinas, wala sa Camiguin ang recession. Salamat sa Ginoo. (applause)

Daghang ekonomista ang natingala ug midayeg kanato tungod sa pagtubo sa aton ekonomiya samtang mikunlod na ang uban. Just for the new year January 2, ang nagawas sa international television ang stable outlook sa China, Philippines ug Indonesia, the most resilient economies – strong currency, strong fiscal position. Ang aton strong fiscal position salamat sa tabang gikan sa aton mga congressmen sama ni JJ kaniadto ug ni Lolo karon.

Salamat sa ila. (applause) Tungod sa ilang suporta sa aton mga reporma sa Kongreso sa ekonomiya, we are among the few Asian economies that fared best in 2008 and that are projected to do well in 2009. Ug murag ingon ni JJ, na padayon nga P18.25 ra ang bugas diri sa Camiguin mao usa ka rason ngano Philippine inflation has gone down to 8 percent last December compared to double digit sa laing aton mga silingan nga ekonomiya.

Wala'y nakahibalo kun hangtod kanusa modugay kining hinay nga ekonomiya sa kalibutan. Apan gala-um ako nga paagi sa aton kumprehensibong economic resiliency programs, dili gyud mahimo'g Philippine crisis o Camiguin crisis ang world crisis.

Alang sa aton economic resiliency, padayon ang aton pagpamuhunan sa katawhan, sama sa aton tabang gikan sa mga katas ng VAT ug sa mga epektibong programang imprastraktura sama nini inyong bag-o nga oval ug sports complex (applause) nga ingon ni JJ sa pag-anhi ko sa kining tuiga nga lanzones festival mokumpleto na ug mga serbisyo sa katilingban. Mas dako ang gastuhon sa gobyerno alang sa edukasyon, serbisyong panglawas sama sa inyong upgrading sa ospital ug paghatag sa training sa mga nangita ug trabaho. Mas dako sab ang gastuhon sa pagpatindog ug dugang pang imprastraktura aron mosaka ang atong pakigkumpitensiya sa tibuok kalibutan labi na ang atong pagkumpetensiya sa turismo.

So, sa inyong birthday sa probinsya ang akong hangyo kaninyo nga ang katawhang Camiguinon nga ipadayon ang pagsalig sa atong kaugalingong kusog. Sige kita na naghiusa ug molantaw sa usa lang ka direksiyon – ang direksiyon sa stability ug pag-uswag. Gipakita na ug mga Camiguinon ang inyong abilidad sa pagsukol sa mga kalisod. Padayuna kining inyong kakugi na maoy hinungdan na nakalingwas kamo sa listahan sa ten poorest provinces ug nahimo kamo ug middle- class nga probinsya. (applause) Ipadayon nato ang pagkakugi, ang panaghiusa aron muanhi ang adlaw nga dili ra middle-class ang Camiguin kundili sab mahimo usa ka first-world sa within the next 20 anniversaries.

Daghan salamat ug salamat kanunay sa inyong suporta. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 41st Founding Anniversary of Camiguin Province. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105738/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17566&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Vin D'Honneur

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Vin D'Honneur**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, January 20, 2009]

His Excellency, the Papal Nuncio; other members of the Diplomatic Corps; Vice-President De Castro; Senate President and Ambassador Enrile; Speaker and Mrs. Nograles; Secretary and Mrs. Romulo and other officials of the Philippine government; members of the Diplomatic Corps who are our main guests today; ladies and gentlemen.

Happy New Year to all of you!

2008 was a year for the history books. The global financial turmoil spread and jeopardized the well-being of billions of people across the globe. It was a crisis year for two-thirds of the world.

In the Philippines, we avoided the full brunt of the economic downturn. We kept our sights set on navigating the treacherous waters. We kept the crisis at bay — thanks to the fiscal, economic and structural reforms we implemented in the past — even while it was unpopular to do so.

As an economist, I also know that things can turn quickly. That is why we are planning for better days — even as we are developing contingency plans if things get worse. We have worked fervently — even before the crisis took root — to cushion the blow to our people.

We took the rice issue head on and wrestled it to the ground. We ensured supply for the foreseeable future and put in place a targeted distribution system to get subsidized rice to those who qualify for it. We stepped up enforcement to stop unscrupulous government and commercial interests from benefiting from the plight of the poor.

In addition to the food challenge, in 2008, we revitalized our agricultural modernization program and target self-sufficiency in rice within five years. We also strove for greater energy independence through intensified oil exploration and the greater use of geothermal, biofuel and renewable energy. We are nearing 100 percent self-sufficiency in using indigenous sources for electric power generation.

Moving forward: we are not complacent. An Economic Resiliency Plan in the amount of 300 billion pesos is in the offing to pump-prime the economy. The Plan aims to upgrade infrastructure, expand social protection and ensure sustainable growth in the midst of the global economic crisis.

We are upbeat that our sound economic management and our measures will see us through the tough global times. Nine out of ten Filipinos look forward with hope to the new year. The international financial community shares our confidence. Fitch underscored that our economy remains “reasonably healthy.” Credit Suisse announced that Philippine macroeconomic risk is lowest. Standard and Poor’s compared our country to an island of relative calm amid the stormy seas of global economic uncertainty. The Bank of New York Mellon said, “The Philippines is inherently strong, a potential beneficiary of these financial woes.” JP Morgan agreed, and I quote, “The Philippines is in a relatively strong position to weather the global downturn with the economy driven by private consumption and services, which are less vulnerable to external shocks.”

I assumed the Presidency in 2001 with no budget to spare. Our coffers were in the negative — I'd like to greet President Ramos, Happy New Year, Sir! — Because of our financial reforms and sound fiscal management since 2001, our economy has posted uninterrupted growth over 36 quarters — growth that has brought down the rate of poverty; growth that has brought up average annual new employment; growth that has supported seven million microentrepreneurs — and banker Chuching Tambunting told me that things are doing well for the SMEs — and revenue enhancement measures; growth and revenue enhancement measures that have given us 100 billion pesos more in financial resources each year.

Thus, we have been able to build the most roads, from highways to farm-to-market roads; the most ports, from modern airports to the RORO system spanning Mindanao to Luzon; the most barangays electrified; the most classrooms; three salary increases for teachers; the most scholarships by far for high school, college, and post-graduate degrees in science and engineering; billions of pesos for training — not just millions as in the past; the most land for our indigenous peoples; and decent homes for our workers at six percent interest — the lowest rate ever.

With the revenues from the expanded value-added tax and alcohol and tobacco excise tax, we have been able to expand access to healthcare as never before. Health insurance now covers 74 percent of the population, public hospitals are being upgraded, and the poor can buy their essential medicines at half the price of year 2000. Our social services now include a 10 billion-peso budget for targeted cash payments to the poorest of the poor, conditioned on their children going to school.

Likewise, local governments can avail of 40 percent of this new revenue as additional Internal Revenue Allotment.

Our efforts at maintaining a strong and growing economy always have one fundamental operating principle. We put the highest priority on eradicating poverty and ensuring that safety nets are in place for the most vulnerable.

New legislation — thanks to Congress — grants income tax exemption to annual earnings of as high as 150,000 pesos, a bonanza for wage earners and salaried workers. New legislation has also allowed Pag-Ibig, GSIS and SSS members to avail of longer loan terms and condoned penalties on delinquent loans. For our farmers, we have raised the buying price of palay from P11 to P17 per kilo and increased the volume purchased from 30,000 to a million metric tons.

We have new industries like BPO, a sunrise sector that will continue to boom as global cost-cutting is transformed into outsourcing and offshoring. Our increased budget for science and technology research and development is beginning to generate exportable products with high income potential when things get better for the world.

So far, overseas employment remains stable and strong. We are doing what we can to address the needs of those who have been displaced, but by no means has this become a crisis.

In 2001, I inherited a state of all-out war in Mindanao. Since then we made steady progress towards permanent peace until the setback of August 2008. I hope 2009 will be a comeback year for peace, progress and prosperity in Mindanao. The new government panel on the peace process is headed by Ambassador Rafael Seguis, who is familiar to most of you.

The panel has been directed to touch base with our facilitators and the MILF leaders to schedule the resumption of peace talks. The panel is poised and ready to embark on substantive discussions, including ceasefire-related issues, the International Monitoring Team, and accelerated development for Mindanao. We hope all parties are as committed as we are to resume negotiations soon.

Our new paradigm for peace includes interfaith dialogue, authentic consultation with communities, and the principle of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration for armed rebel groups.

To advance peace and progress in Mindanao, as in the past, we hope to be able to count on the support of our partners in the International Monitoring Team — Brunei, Japan and Libya — Malaysia who has been an ardent facilitator, our other friends in the OIC, in Europe, and the U.S.

The obligation and commitment of our government goes well beyond economic, security and global challenges. A civilized, democratic nation must also be vigilant in strengthening democracy and advancing human and civil rights.

Human dignity starts with alleviating poverty and it relies upon the sacred obligation of government to preserve, protect and defend the freedom of every Filipino to participate fully in society and politics without fear.

We are one of the vibrant democracies in our part of the world. Our commitment to human rights remains paramount even in the midst of active insurgencies and other threats to national security. Based on Task Force “Usig” data, there has been a marked decline in politically-motivated killings as a result of intensified government efforts in partnership with the community. In 2008, the number of cases dropped 90 percent compared to 2006.

Last year, the U.N. Human Rights Council conducted its periodic review of the situation here. The President of the Council lauded the Philippines as “outstanding” in our transparent, consultative and comprehensive report. The Council appreciated that our government frankly acknowledged the challenges, as well as outlined the steps it is taking, to address such areas as activist killings and the protection of women and children.

The positive review has not lulled us into complacency. There will be no let up in our campaign against human rights violations, including violence against women and children, human trafficking, abuses on Filipino workers abroad, and the killing of political activists and members of the media.

Finally, I would be remiss not to mention the installation of a new American President on the eve of his inauguration in Washington.

America plays a special role in the life and history of the Philippines. Our ties run deep. Over two and a half million Americans are of Filipino descent. We fought side by side with America in World War II and in virtually every other conflict since.

In my conversations with Senator Barack Obama before the elections, and President-elect Obama after his election, it was made clear that the special relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines will continue unabated. We look forward to working with the new President and we welcome him to the world stage.

Closer to home, the economy will be the central focus of our government, and advancing the peace process in Mindanao my personal commitment in 2009. I am cautiously optimistic about the new year, the way I heard many bankers say it in yesterday’s Central Bank reception.

I prefer to look to a brighter future for the Philippines, and indeed for the entire world. So please, join Atty. Arroyo and myself in a toast for more success in 2009.

Let us hope that this year finds all of us living in peace, prosperity and harmony.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s speech during the Vin D’Honneur. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105713/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18681&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 18th anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 18th anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP)**

[Delivered at the PNP Multi-Purpose Center, Camp Crame, Quezon City, January 26, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Puno for your introduction.

PNP Chief Versoza, Secretary Ebdane and the other former chiefs of the PNP; General Yano, members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the House of Representatives, awardees, officers and members of the Philippine National Police; ladies and gentlemen: Happy Anniversary sa PNP! (applause)

In his remarks to which we listened very intently, the Chief PNP said this day belongs to the policemen and the policewomen. Indeed, it is a day for acknowledging the sacrifices of our policemen and women who conscientiously do their jobs manning the stations, responding to calls for help, and keeping order in our communities. It is a day for commiserating with the policemen and women wounded in action. It is a day for mourning those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Policemen and women of the Philippines, for your courage and dedication to duty, thank you. Thank you for assuring that the citizens can rest easy because the police will keep the peace for them.

We have seen the positive indicators like the crime solution efficiency climbing. We have seen negative indicators continue to go down like index crimes and street crimes and especially bank robbery, kidnapping and stolen vehicle incidents. And we have been reminded in the report of General Versoza that the outcome of incidents like the RCBC robbery shows PNP's efforts to uphold human rights and follow operational guidelines.

Years ago, when we started the PNP modernization, which you subsequently called "the PNP transformation," we were saddled by budgetary constraints. But we persevered, stretching our funds. We pushed on to boost the force's sagging morale in the beginning by implementing a pay increase in 2001 followed by 2002, followed by three other pay increases subsequently — five increases during our eight-year administration. (Applause)

As government revenues continue to go up, we increased recruitment, accelerated training, and boosted equipment and facilities. By the end of last year, we'd increased the force by over 12,000 men and women, so that General Versoza could speak in behalf of 125,000 members of the police force.

And I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the recent agreement the PNP has entered into with PDEA to fight the evil of drugs. And I enjoin you to cooperate with the PDEA, with the local government units and other agencies, as we crack down on the big drug lords.

Let us wage a fiercer war against them on the fronts of law enforcement, judicial action and policy-making. It is expected that you will tighten your intelligence network throughout the country, which is indeed very vast, and endeavor to eliminate the number of drug cases dismissed due to mere technicalities. The report of General Versoza showed an increase in drug cases filed. Let's make sure by building up a good case that they will go all the way to conviction.

As for Mindanao, in 2001, I inherited a state of all-out war. Since then, we made steady progress towards permanent peace until the setback of August 2008. With the PNP doing its share in keeping the peace and running after the

renegade elements who have broken the law, I hope 2009 will be a come back year for peace, progress and prosperity in Mindanao.

The new Presidential Adviser on the Peace Progress is familiar to all of you, former Chief PNP Sonny Razon, who is here with us today. Congratulations, Sonny! (Applause)

Under Sonny's oversight, the peace panel has been directed to touch base with our facilitators and the MILF leaders to schedule the resumption of peace talks. The panel is poised and ready to embark on substantive discussions, including ceasefire-related issues, the International Monitoring Team, and accelerated development for Mindanao. We hope all parties are as committed as government to resume negotiations soon.

Our new paradigm for peace includes interfaith dialogue, authentic consultation with the communities, and the principle of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration for armed rebel groups. This approach gives the PNP a more active role in the peace process, for one thing, by helping to activate and strengthen local peace and order councils.

We saw in the report of General Versoza about the two directorates for integrated police operations in Western and Eastern Mindanao. This will be very helpful to General Razon. And these directorates after all were the ones directly responsible for the capture together with the AFP for the capture of JI terrorists and bomb experts as well as other notorious characters. So, to the PNP, congratulations for your fight against the JI and other terrorists! (Applause)

And as reported to us by General Versoza, though he did not say it verbally, we saw it in the screen about the MILF bombers being given... what is it, MILF bombers, right? Yeah, they are called MILF, right? Whatever they were... the notorious bombers were given life sentences. So, that is an important accomplishment because that's one example of a case that—with your good build up of the case—we're able to bring all the way to conviction. (Applause)

To advance peace and progress in Mindanao, as in the past, we hope to be able to count on the support of our partners in the International Monitoring Team (Brunei, Japan and Libya); Malaysia who has been an ardent facilitator, our other friends in the OIC, our friends in Europe, and the United States.

Our policemen and women have been valuable contributors to the peace in Mindanao and to the peace all over the country — in the countryside, in the streets — that has brought us uninterrupted economic growth for 36 successive quarters, which is a historical record. Never before did we have 36 quarters of uninterrupted growth. And this growth has brought down the rate of poverty; brought up the annual average new employment; supported seven million microentrepreneurs, some of whom I hope are your families because we have microfinance services just for the PNP. This growth and our revenue enhancement measures — thanks to our congressmen and women who are here with us today — forming the virtuous cycle that has given us the financial resources to increase your ranks and your benefits.

This virtuous cycle has given us the ability to build the most roads in history, from highways to farm-to-market roads; the most ports, from modern airports to the RORO system spanning Mindanao to Luzon; the most barangays electrified; the most classrooms; the most scholarships for high school, college and post-graduate degrees in science and engineering, some of which scholarships I hope are enjoyed by your children; billions of pesos for training, not just millions as in the past, some of which

I hope are enjoyed by your families; and the most land for our indigenous peoples, which I hope include members of the police; and decent homes for our policemen and women.

Para sa ating mga pulis, we have housing for the PNP such as in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan; Camp Macabulos in Tarlac; Camp Castañeda in Silang; Camp Capistrano in Cagayan de Oro. And you have 400 hectares reserved for you in San Miguel, Bulacan.

In preparation for our celebration today, over the weekend, I talked to the Secretary of the DBM to allocate 300 million pesos for police housing. (Applause) And SILG will confirm to you that I instructed him to have the bidding for the whole amount done in the next few days. (Applause)

With the revenues from the expanded value-added tax and the alcohol and tobacco excise tax — again, thanks to our Congress — we have been able to expand healthcare as never before. Health insurance now covers 74 percent of the population, including policemen and women.

When a policeman or woman dies, the spouse becomes an automatic lifetime member of Philhealth, including the family.

Public hospitals are also being upgraded. I instructed SILG and the Secretary of DOH to include in the DOH upgrading program the upgrading of the PNP clinics serving the poorest provinces in ARMM, CAR and CARAGA, so that they will become not clinics but small hospitals. (Applause)

And today — again, thanks to the Cheaper Medicine Bill of Congress — the poor from whose ranks many policemen and women come, can buy their essential medicines at half the price of year 2000.

At inaatasan ko rin ang Kalihim ng Interior and Local Government na dagdagan kasama ng DOH ang bilang ng mga Botika sa Barangay na itatayo sa loob o malapit sa mga kampo ng PNP sa Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Norte, Maguindanao, Apayao, Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Lanao del Sur, Northern Samar, Masbate, Abra, Misamis Occidental, Agusan del Sur, Kalinga at Surigao del Sur. In other words, the areas where you have the biggest populations and the most hungry... the biggest poor populations and the most hungry populations are located.

You interact a lot with local government officials. One of the good side effects of the tax legislation that we have had is that local governments can now avail of 40 percent of the new taxes as additional Internal Revenue Allotment. This enables them to support police operations more. I know how important it is for the police and the local governments to work together. Some of those who receive awards here for outstanding performance are also known to have received a lot of support for their local governments.

Ngunit lahat nito ay nangyari dahil sa mga repormang ginawa natin sa ekonomiya at pananalapi ng bayan. Kung hindi dahil sa mga repormang nailatag natin bago mangyari ang pandaigdigang krisis sa ekonomiya, malamang ay napabilang na tayo ngayon sa mga ekonomiyang naghihirap bumangon mula sa pandaigdigang krisis.

And we have legislation not only to do reforms but legislation to help the poor directly. We thank Congress for granting new legislation that provides income tax exemptions to annual earnings of as high as 150,000 pesos. This is a bonanza for wage-earners and salaried workers, including the police.

At binuo ng pamahalaan ngayon ang ating Economic Resiliency Plan na naghahalaga ng 300 billion pesos. Layunin ng malaking programang ito na lalo pang palaguin ang ekonomiya sa pagpatuloy ng ating reporma ng imprastraktura, alagaan ang pinakamahirap na sektor, at lumikha ng mga trabahong pang-emerhensiya.

Doon sa emergency employment, malaki ang tulong ng pulis. Mula pa noong 2001, inatasan ko na nasa ating Emergency Employment Program dapat ang chief of police ng bawat station ang magre-recruit ng out-of-school youth na bibigyan ng employment. Bakit sabi nila yung chief of police? Eh kasi yung out-of-school youth na walang trabaho yun ang mga siga-sigang kanto boy. So, ang tinitingala lang nila ay yung pulis kaya dapat yung pulis ang magre-recruit sa kanila, magdidisiplina sa kanila. At itong programang ito ngayon ay tinatawag na OYSTER. Many don't know what OYSTER stands for. Might as well because we have to give it a name for this particular period of the world economic history — Out-of-School Youth Serving Towards Economic Resiliency. Kaya ito ay isang malaking kontribusyon ng ating pulis sa ating Emergency Employment and Economic Resiliency Program.

Mga pulis, congratulations sa inyo! (Applause) Mga pulis gaya nga nang sabi ni Sonny Razon nung panahon niya, 'Mamang Pulis at Aling Pulis.' Ang hinihiling ko sa inyo sa araw ng anibersaryo, lalo pa niyong pag-igihan ang inyong paglilingkod. Kasi nagbago ang pananaw ng sambayanan sa mga pulis — kung dati may takot, may duda, ngayon bumalik ang pagtingin sa mga policemen at policewomen. In fact, our people cite the PNP as number six best performing government agency today. (Applause) And that is indeed cause for celebration especially on your anniversary.

So, sa inyong lahat, congratulations for your accomplishment! More power to our PNP!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the 18th anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105703/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19021&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 3rd Annual Butil [Filipino] Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Ikatlong Taunang Butil**

[Ipinahayag sa Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, ika 30 ng Enero, 2009]

Maraming salamat at happy birthday Congresswoman Chavez. Bukas ang birthday mo, pero salamat na pinaaga mo dahil wala ako bukas. So, thank you very much, Nelly, na ginawa mo ito. Nagkaroon tayo ng pagkakataon magkasama tayong lahat.

At congratulations din doon sa mga nagwagi ng Gintong Butil awards pati na rin iyong mga nakatanggap ng mga iba't ibang biyaya na ipinamahagi ngayon. At binabati ko lahat ng mga kasapi ng Butil na narito mula sa iba't ibang bahagi ng buong Pilipinas. At siyempre ang ating mga host, lahat ng mga taga-Nueva Ecija sa pangunguna ni Governor Oyie Umali, binabati ko rin.

Binabati ko rin ang ating host congresswoman, si Cherry Umali, kasama niyang host congressman si Congressman Violago. At nandito dahil merong mga magsasaka galing sa kanilang probinsiya at hindi lamang iyon dahil sila'y barkada ni Congresswoman Chavez, nandito rin si Congresswoman Neneng Nicolas at saka si Congresswoman Vicky Alvarado; kaya binabati ko rin sila. Si Mayor Capinpin ng Palayan, magandang umaga. Thank you for hosting us. Si Butil SecGen, ang aking Kabalen, si SecGen Guanlao; iyong aking PA for Central Luzon na taga-Palayan, si Reli Fajardo; at iyong aking makakasama mamaya sa aming trabaho doon sa Fort Magsaysay, si Secretary of Environment, Lito Atienza.

Ang parangal ng Gintong Butil ay hinahandog ngayon sa gitna ng kasalukuyang dinaranas ng mundo na isang matinding krisis sa ekonomiya. Lahat ay naghahanap ng "magic wand" na magsasagip sa ekonomiya ng mundo. May mga nagsasabing hindi pala tamang economic system ang umiiral ngayon. Kailangan daw ay buwagin ang kasalukuyang sistema. Kailangan daw gumawa ng radikal na pagbabago. Ngunit may mga nakatayang buhay. It's arrogant to think that we can wipe the slate clean for the common good if large segments of our population are to suffer in the meantime.

Kaya bago tayo gumawa ng kung anumang radikal na pagbabago, we must be sure we don't inflict more damage, or neglect the hardships of those most hurt by the global downturn. Sa ganoon, bago tayo gumamit ng radikal na kilos sa ating ekonomiya, tiniyak muna natin na itukoy ang mga kakayahan ng pamahalaan sa mga programa para makaraos ang mahihirap sa panahon ng kakulangan. Oo, kailangan mag-adjust tayo, magbago ngunit hindi sa pasanin ng mga pinaka hindi makakaya ito.

Kaya ang programa ng ating administrasyon kasama nga si Nelly at iyong ibang mga congressman at congresswoman na nandito, kasama si Oyie at iyong ibang mga local government officials, ang programa natin ay pasiglahin ang ekonomiya. Kaya naglahad tayo ng pondo para sa mga prayoridad gaya ng paglikha ng trabaho at pagbawas ng kahirapan, negosyo sa sakahan at kaunlaran sa kanayunan, paggastos sa imprastraktura, reporma sa mga iba't ibang sektor, pagbawas ng gutom at panlipunang kaunlaran.

Ang mga kilos na ginagawa natin upang makamit ang Millennium Development Goals ng United Nations gaya ng pagbawas ng lubhang kahirapan, kapantayan para sa kababaihan, edukasyon para sa lahat, kalusugan ng mga ina, pag-aalaga ng kalikasan, pakikipag-ugnay sa buong mundo, ito rin at iyong mga ibang millennium development goals ang mga kilos na mabuti para sa kalusugan ng ating pambansang ekonomiya. At itong mga ito ang magsisilbi sa atin at nagsisilbi ng mabuti sa kasalukuyang pandaigdigang krisis. At inaasahan natin na mauunawaan ng developed world na ang patuloy na kontribusyon nila sa tulong sa mga developing world ay kailangang maging bahagi ng anumang pagsisikap na sagutin ang kasalukuyang krisis.

Sa ating kaso, mapalad pa tayo hanggang ngayon – iyon nga ang sinasabi ni Governor Oyie Umali kanina na nakaupo kami magkasama – at least tayo, hindi pa rin tayo gaanong bumagsak ang ekonomiya gaya ng ekonomiya ng kabagsakan ng two thirds ng buong mundo.

We took our medicine – our economic medicine – years ago through fundamental economic reform that included raising taxes. Salamat sa suporta ng Butil at iyong mga congressman at congresswoman dito. Ikaw pa ba ang congressman noon, Oyie? Also cutting down on smuggling. At ito ay isang malaking programa natin kasama ng mga magsasaka ng Nueva Ecija lalo na iyong mga onion growers, mga poultry, di ba? Reforming our tax collection system and improving our banking laws. At ito naman ay sinuklian ng mga bagong kita para sa pamumuhunan sa human and physical infrastructure. At sa ating performance ng ekonomiya na every quarter mula noong pumasok ang ating administrasyon, 36 consecutive quarters of growth. Well, hindi pa nangyari iyon sa buong kasaysayan ng ating henerasyon. Including our GNP growth of 8% in 2007 and 6% in 2008.

Pero nagawa natin itong growth na ito dahil maganda ang ani ng ating magsasaka. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Pero hindig-hindi tayo kampante; buong kinikilala natin na ang ating kaunlaran ay hindi mahihiwalay doon sa ibang bansa ng mundo, doon sa mga bansang mayayaman. Kinikilala rin natin na bahagi sa solusyon ng pandaigdigang krisis na ito ay nakasalalay sa mas malawak na kooperasyon sa rehiyon.

Ngayon, kakagaling ko lang sa Malakanyang gawa nang bisita natin ngayon ang Sultan of Brunei. Pero nasagot ko na si Nelly na pupunta ako sa kanyang birthday party. In fact, inurong pa nga niya ngayon kaya nandito ako. Kasangga natin ang ating mga kapit-bansa sa ASEAN. Kasangga natin ang mga dialogue partners ng ASEAN – China, Japan at Korea. Alam naman ninyo dito sa Nueva Ecija, ang daming mga proyekto ng China dito sa agrikultura. Nagtatrabaho tayo magkasama upang iangat ang kooperasyon at koordinasyon sa ating rehiyon. At kasama dito ang pinapanukala ng Pilipinas na magkaroon sa ASEAN pati na rin kasama iyong tatlong dialogue partners natin, Japan, Korea at saka Tsina na magkaroon ng pangagalingang suporta ang mga bansang may hamon sa cash flow.

Alam ninyo, iyong Credit-Suisse, naglabas sila ng credit worthiness for equity investments ng mga iba't ibang bansa. Siguro tatlong dosena ang rinanggo nila. Nandoon, number one ang Pilipinas; doon sa kahuli-hulihan iyong Iceland dahil buong bansa ang naging bangkarote. Kaya ayaw nating mangyari iyon sa ating rehiyon. Kaya ito ang pinapanukala ng Pilipinas dito sa ASEAN. At kanina sinabi ng Sultan of Brunei na susuportahan niya itong panukala ng Pilipinas doon sa ASEAN meeting.

Itong krisis na ito na dinaranas ng mundo walang kapantay sa kasaysayan maging sa kalakihan ng krisis or kalaliman ng krisis o maging sa kalawakan ng krisis. Pero ang mundo ay marami na ring natuto mula sa mga nakaraang pandaigdigang hamon sa ekonomiya. Halimbawa, iyong Great Depression wala pa tayo, di pa tayo pinanganak. Ah, wala si Nelly, pinanganak na ba noon? Pero karamihan sa atin hindi pa noong 1930s. Pero natuto na ang mundo, marami na ang ginawang mga patakaran na wala noon. Iyong mga fiscal stimulus wala pa noon, noong panahon ng Great Depression, ngayon mayroon na. At para sa atin naman sa Asia, natuto rin tayo ng mahalagang leksiyon mula doon sa Asian financial crisis noong 1997 at 1998. So, ginagamit natin iyong mga leksiyon na iyon. Ganumpaman, iyong nagsasabing kailangan may radical na pagbabago, totoo pagkat siguraduhin natin na tutulungan na natin ang mahihirap, puwede na nating pag-isipan iyong mga radical na pag-iisip. Ano itong mga radical na pag-iisip na kailangan?

Una, kailangan ng saligang pagbabago ang global financial regulation. Di ba bumagsak ang ekonomiya dahil bumagsak iyong sub prime, iyong mga umuutang sa Amerika na bumibii ng bahay 10 percent lang babayaran tapos iyon pala hindi naman masyadong maganda ang kanilang credit rating? Eh kasi sa dami ng mga papeles, papeles, hindi na nakikita iyong mga saligang credit worthiness. So iyon, kailangan ang mga pagbabago doon. At bago pa naman tayo madamay, kailangan tayo rin – hindi man pagbabago kasi umuubra naman ang sistema, in general — pag-iibayo. Kaya itong si Nelly, mula noong umupo ako dito, walang tigil na pag-uusap tungkol sa cooperative bank, at iyon ay isang kailangang pag-ibayuhin natin. At salamat sa Butil at sa inyong cooperative bank, kayo ay pioneer sa pag-iibayo ng ating cooperative banking system.

Pangalawang radical na paiisip ay hindi na puwedeng magdikta iyong mga mayayamang bansa sa pandaigdigang patakaran sa ekonomiya para sa mundo. Eh, sila nga ang bumabagsak tayo ay nakatindig pa. kaya ang leksiyon doon, umasa tayo sa ating sariling pondo, umasa tayo sa ating sariling mga patakaran. At iyon din ang ginagawa ng Butil. Kaya tinuloy ninyo at ginawa ninyo itong mga cooperative banking system, at binigyan natin ng mga halimbawa iyong mga outstanding cooperatives, cooperative bank at mga beneficiary ng cooperative banking. So, itong sistemang tinatayo ninyo ay malaking tulong para makaasa tayo sa ating sariling sikap. Iyan ang pangalawang leksiyon, iyan ang radical thinking.

Ngunit panghuli, kailangan tuloy ang pangangalakal. Huwag nating isarado ang ating mga pintuan sa isa't isa sa mundo. Kasi kung hindi tayo mangangalakal, liliit ng liliit ang bawat ekonomiya. Iyon ang nangyari noong Great Depression, eh mas lalong babagsak, pati tayo babagsak. At tayo naman, gaya ng halimbawang binigay ko, iyong ginagawa ninyo sa cooperative banking system, iyong iba't ibang mga binanggit ni Nelly na ginawa ng aking administrasyon, iyong ibat ibang mga tulong kanina, iyong ginawa ng mga huwarang nakakuha ng gantimpala, iyong mga ginagawa ng mga nakatanggap na beneficiary, ginagawa natin ang lahat ng makakaya natin alang-alang sa sambayanan. At nagalakal akong makita na karamihan sa inyo mga Butil ay kumikilos para sa kapakanan ng nakararami. At nakikita ko ito sa sipag ninyo, sa sipag ng ating mga magsasaka. Sabi ni Oyie, pinakamagandang magsasaka sa Kongreso raw nandito.

So, sa pagsisikap ng ating pinakamagandang magsasaka sa Kongreso at kayong iba't ibang mga magsasaka na kinakatawan ninyo na nagsisikap na maparami ang ani upang may sapat na pagkain ang mga Filipino, iyan ang isang sinasabi kong radical thinking. Umasa tayo sa ating sarili. Hindi na tayo dapat sa loob ng limang taon bibili pa ng bigas sa iba; tayo na lamang ang magtanim ng ating sariling bigas. Kaya ngayon bumibili tayo ng palay sa ating magsasaka, hindi 30,000 metric tons kung hindi one million metric tons mula sa ating sarili.

Nakikita ko rin ang inyong malasakit sa sipag ng ibat ibang mga manggagawa dito sa Nueva Ecija, pati na rin sa ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas, pati na rin sa mga sektor. Salamat naman at nauunawaan ninyo na sa pinagsama nating sipag at lakas, buong tatag nating mahaharap kung anuman ang hamon na dadalhin sa atin ng buong mundo.

Kaya sa araw na ito, bisperas ng birthday ng ating pinakamagandang magsasaka sa Kongreso at sa araw ng pagdiriwang ng magsasaka "Farmers Day", ang aking mensahe sa inyo, saludo ang Pilipinas sa ating magsasaka. Salamat pinapakain ninyo ang buong bansa at kumikita pa kayo para sa ganoon umangat ang buong bansa.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the 3rd Annual Butil. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105634/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19408&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo before the Filipino Community in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa komunidad ng mga Pilipino sa Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

[Ipinahayag noong ika 2 ng Pebrero, 2009]

I am so happy to be with all of you... matula da kong kayabe, kaluguran kung kabalen...naragsakanak nga kakadwa tayo amin, kakailiak ti bangir ni mamang ko...nalipay ako nga kauban kita tanan, mga kaigsuonan gikan sa bisayas ug Mindanao...malikliketak ya wadia ed sikayon amin.

Nagagalak ako na magkasama tayo, mga minamahal kong kababayan. Labis akong humahanga sa walang sawang malasakit ninyo sa inyong pamilya, trabaho, at bansa.

Itong nakaraang taon, 2008, napakamakasaysayan. Kumalat ang kaguluhan ng ekonomiya ng mundo at linagay sa panganib ang kinabubuti ng bilyun-bilyon sa buong daigdig.

Hindi ko na siguro kailangang sabihin sa inyo: Dito sa Saudi, ang pinakamalaking-expatriate Filipino community sa buong mundo. Gusto kong tiyakin na matatag ang trabaho ninyo dito, sa kabila ng pandaigdigang krisis sa ekonomiya dahil may mga kababayang nawawalang trabaho sa iba't ibang bansa. Ngunit gusto kong ibalita na mas marami naman ang bagong trabahong inaalok. Kaya umaangat pa rin ang remittances ng 13%. Maraming Salamat sa inyo.

Samantala sa ating bansa, tinutuloy natin ang ating programang lumikha ng mas maraming trabaho. Sa ganoon, gaya ng parati kong sinasabi, nawa'y dumating ang araw na ang pagtrabaho sa ibayong dagat ay career option lamang, at di ang tanging choice para sa masipag na pilipino. Isa sa mga ginagawa natin ay magbuo ng mga retraining program sa Pilipinas gaya ng mga training sa call center, welding, baker at chefs at iba pa, na maaaring ihanda ang mga bumabalik na expatriate para makatrabaho sa atin. Dinadala rin atin ang mga professional licensure examinations sa mga piling lugar kung saan may maraming expat workers gaya ng Qatar, Hong Kong at ngayon sa Saudi para maihanda kayo sa mas matatag na trabaho at mas mataas na suweldo. Halimbawa, para sa mga nagtapos ng engineering pero wala pang lisensya, ang Professional Regulation Commission natin ay magdadala ng professional exams dito sa Saudi. Sa gayon, kung kayo ay pumasa, maaari kayong ma-promote at madagdagan ang sweldo at mas tiyak pa ng inyong pwesto.

Sa panahong ito ng pagsubok sa mga expatriates, ang inyong pamahalaan ay hindi natutulog.

For government, it is now payback time. The heroic efforts of the expatriate workers will not go unreciprocated.

A program of full reciprocity shall be carried out para tulungan iyong mga nawalan ng trabaho.

Ang DOLE at ang OWWA ang mangunguna sa pagtupad ng programang ito para sa inyo, pati na rin para sa mga manggagawa sa ating mga export industries.

Ang unang bahagi nito ay Filipino Expatriate Livelihood Support Fund sa halagang P1 billion na popondohan ng OWWA at suportado ng mga government lending institutions gaya ng Development Bank Of The Philippines at

Land Bank. maaaring gamitin ng mga expatriates na nawalaan ng trabaho ang pondong ito para mamuhunan sa mga bagong negosyo o pondohan ang dagdag na pag-aaral o training.

Nandito si Secretary Roque ng DOLE. Inatasan ko siya na tiyakin na ang mga reglamento at proseso para maka-abot sa pondong ito ay simple at hindi complicated. Huwag nating pahirapan pa sa daan ng maraming red tape ang mga bumabalik na expatriates.

Ang DOLE at OWWA ay inatasang makipag-ugnay sa mga ahensiya pangkabuhayan at pamumuhunan ng pamahalaan gaya ng Department of Trade and Industry at Department of Agriculture – narito si Secretary Peter Favila at Secretary Artie Yap – upang maitukoy ang mga bagong negosyong maaaring pasukan ng mga bumabalik.

Ang pangalawang bahagi ng buong suporta ng pamahalaan ay pagtulong sa mga bumabalik na expatriates na makahanap ng pagkikitaang trabaho.

Ang DOLE-OWWA ay nagtatayo ng mga help desks sa bawat probinsiya. Para sa ganoon, matutulungan kayo at mapapantayan ng trabaho ang inyong kakayahan, training at karanasan. We match the jobseeker with the job.

Mayroon pang tulong na mabibigay. Ito ang online information. ang gawain nito ay tungkol sa mga bakanteng trabaho, parang classified ads, “wanted: Carpenter o wanted: Welder o wanted: Plumber.” Mayroon na ngayong mga isang daang touch screen kiosks para dito sa buong bansa. Maaari nang ma-access sa internet sa phil-job.net.

Para sa mga bumabalik na expatriates na nagnanais tumawid sa ibang bansa na nangangailangan ng kanilang kakayahan at talento, ang POEA ay nagsasagawa ngayon ng malawakang pagbubukas ng employment opportunities sa maraming bansa. Marketing blitz ang ginagawa natin.

Kaya nating pondohan lahat nitong mga programa dahil kung ihahambing sa maraming ibang bansa, ang pilipinas ay nananatiling island of stability in an otherwise stormy global sea of economic troubles. Hindi lang ako ang nagsasabi nito kundi ang mga dalubhasa sa pananalapi gaya ng standard and poor’s. Pinagbago natin ang ating ekonomiya ilan taon nang nakaraan. Ito ay tumutulong sa atin ngayon. bilang resulta ng mga dramatic na reporma sa pagkoleksyon at paglikha ng mas malawak na buwis, pagmatyag sa gastos, at reporma ng mga bangko, ang ating ekonomiya ay lumago.

Gumagawa tayo ng nakapagbabagong pamumuhunan sa taong bayan, gaya ng edukasyon, training, kalinga sa kalusugan, social services, ganoon din sa imprastraktura. We are investing in modernizing infrastructure like roads and bridges on an unprecedented scale. Alam niyo ba na kalahating oras na lang mula sa Monumento hanggang Clark kapag dadaan sa north Luzon at Clark Expressway. The next time you go to the Philippines, maaari na kayong mag-drive mula sa Aparri hanggang Jolo sakay ng ating roll-on-roll-off sa nautical highway system. O maaari na kayong magbakasyon sa iba’t ibang world-class resort natin gaya ng Boracay, Cebu, Bohol at Palawan.

Sa atin, ayon sa mga survey, nine out of ten look forward with hope to the new year. Napakahalaga ng pagsama-sama nating lahat. Patuloy tayong magtulungan sa lahat ng paraang makabubuti sa ating bansa.

Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s speech before the Filipino Community in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105615/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19526&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Multi-Sectoral Jobs Summit “Joining Hands Against the Global Crisis”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Multi-Sectoral Jobs Summit “Joining Hands Against the Global Crisis”**

[Delivered at the Heroes’ Hall, Malacañang, February 9, 2009]

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Secretary Roque.

Vice-President De Castro, other Cabinet members, Congressman Guinigundo, business leaders, labor leaders, ladies and gentlemen:

We’ve just been around the world in eight days; Peter and I, and compared to many parts of the world, we can truly say that we in the Philippines have weathered the worse of the global crisis thus far.

This is because we “rebooted” our economy several years ago. We took our economic medicine through fundamental reform by raising taxes, cutting down on smugglers and reforming our tax collection system and banking laws. Our reform moves have paid off with revenue for investments in human and physical infrastructure. I think you all recognize that it only takes about half an hour by car now from Monumento to Clark using the North Luzon-Clark Expressway. And that you can travel by car from Aparri to Jolo, island hopping on our Roll-on/Roll-off ferry Nautical Highway System. We are likewise investing unprecedented amounts in expanded social services.

As a result of our investments, our GNP grew 8.0 percent in 2007. And in 2008 when two-thirds of the world went into recession, our GNP still managed to grow by 6.0 percent. Nonetheless, this is a time when government, business and labor must join hands against the global crisis so that it does not become a crisis in the Philippines. In doing this, we must not neglect those who feel the hardships of the global downturn, especially firms under strain and workers facing layoffs.

We are here to follow-up initiatives from the tripartite meeting two weeks ago with specific measures and actions on concerns raised. So, may I therefore review some of the concerns raised two weeks ago as summarized by Secretary Nitoy Roque and givesome of the responses to those concerns.

Number one. SSS to condone penalties and surcharges on loans of affected workers. (Applause)

In response to this concern raised two weeks ago SSS is already implementing such a program for one year.

Number two. DOLE and OWWA to establish a stand-by fund for displaced seafarers and land-based OFWs.

As a matter of fact, a program is being carried out to help expatriate workers who might return home from their host countries that are now being buffeted by the economic crisis. This program is being made available as well to workers being laid off in export-oriented industries.

The DOLE is the lead in carrying out the government's program for the returning expatriates and the retrenched export workers. The first component of this program is an Expatriate and Export Workers' Livelihood Support Fund in the amount of one billion pesos financed by OWWA for the OFWs and supported by government lending institutions such as the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Land Bank and the SB Corporation. Displaced expatriate and export-oriented workers can access the fund to help capitalize start up businesses or finance further studies and training.

I have told Secretary Roque that the rules and mechanics of accessing to this money must be simple and hassle-free. Returning expatriate workers and retrenched export workers should not be subjected to irrational rules and red tape.

Number three. Implement training programs, training interventions specifically targeted for workers displaced as a result of the global financial crisis at the community level. And Secretary Buboy Syjuco and I have been talking, and TESDA will do this starting in CALABARZON, then Subic, Clark and Mactan.

Two weeks ago, one area that was suggested to be explored is the TESDA and its accredited training institutions tap as trainers skilled workers, both local and OFWs, who have been displaced, either permanently or temporarily. And TESDA will specifically seek in-bound returning workers and domestic retrenched workers with experience who will become trainers of TESDA.

Number four. Reduce the cost of doing business. One suggestion given two weeks ago was to provide fuel subsidy to firms operating in the export processing zones that transport their workers to and from the zones. Another is to lower the costs of business licenses and permits. Secretary Favila who was with me in the trip, instructed PEZA's Lilia de Lima to implement the fuel and transport subsidy, right, Peter? And the forthcoming standardization of the city business registration and permit process in Metro Manila which will be launched on eighteenth of February, I believe during the meeting of the League of Cities of the Philippines will also reduce red tape and therefore the cost of doing business.

In addition, due to difficulties currently encountered by some firms in accessing credit from the private banking sector, the government financial institutions will provide loan facilities, such as working capital, to creditworthy firms. We have requested the BSP also through the national government's representative in the Monetary Board, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, to provide liberal terms for rediscounting windows and allow the banks particularly the GFIs some flexibility on regulatory financial ratio compliance.

Number five. Stimulate domestic production and product demand and consumption by addressing smuggling. Our Anti-Smuggling Task Force has been working hard on this. I ask business and labor to join the task force. And we have here in front Jess Arranza of the Chamber of Philippine Industries, whose very mission is to help stop smuggling. And I reiterate my instructions that the Chamber of Philippine Industries as well as the PCCI should be an integral part of the task force.

Number six proposal or concern raised, was study the possibility of imposing a moratorium on wages and other economic benefits for a limited period. The issue on moratorium on wages can be discussed when wages are due for annual review between July and August. As for the benefits, that's why we have business and labor here with us together because those are better left to labor and management to agree on among themselves.

Number seven. Mainstream and expand training partnerships between government and private companies such as that being done in San Miguel and Max's. And TESDA will handle this, so Secretary Syjuco will be in touch with San Miguel and Max's on what they are doing, how they're doing this, expand that partnership with them, and expand it to other firms who are willing to do this.

Number eight. Government and industries to share information on industry employment, number of companies affected, number of workers affected either through retrenchment or flexible work arrangements, and other related information in order to come up with an accurate and reliable picture of the actual impact of the global financial crisis on employment and business and allow both government and industry to develop appropriate responses and interventions. Because when we are abroad we have heard strange, huge numbers that just depressed the people but

really are very far from what it really is. So, Secretary Roque has already had a discussion I understand with Jun Ortiz-Luis who is the President of the Employers' Confederation, and it is with the Employers' Confederation that the DOLE will coordinate and share information. And it's through them that DOLE will coordinate and share information with major industries and the business sector. And let us emphasize on what government, business and labor are doing to save and generate jobs.

Even before this tripartite consultation started, our Economic Resiliency Plan has already been put together. In fact, I presented the first draft to the PCCI in your annual conference way back last October. And under this Economic Resiliency Plan which is our stimulus program, we will continue our unprecedented investments. I direct key agencies to show solid progress in bidding out and/or implementing major infra and social projects under the 300 billion pesos stimulus plan. We consider this the most important government initiative this year. And the agencies, you should start seeing the agencies rolling out tangible results. This will be part of our subject matter in our Cabinet meeting tomorrow.

Among other items of the resiliency plan, we will put all budget-funded energy independence and environment jobs in one box called "Green Collar Jobs."

This will include those who will be hired under the two billion-peso reforestation fund, whether in the re-greening of logged-over uplands like the mountains of Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, Lanao del Sur or in the regeneration of mangrove areas; under the GREET program of Tourism, coastal cleanup and Baywatch groups; jatropha planting and the replanting of coconut farms to ensure stable and sustainable biofuel feedstock; LPG retrofitting of tricycles and PUVs; Barangay electrification using solar panels or connecting them to hydroelectric powered grids; designating bike lanes using OYSTER labor ("OYSTER" stands for Out-of-School Youth Serving Towards Economic Resiliency); installation of solar-powered street lights, and other clean energy initiatives that the newly signed Renewable Energy Act can unleash. So these are part of the Green Collar Jobs that are part of our Emergency Employment Program.

Also, some 6,000 short-term jobs have been opened up in the government's 650 million-peso poverty mapping project which the DSWD will undertake once the 2009 budget takes effect in about six weeks, just in time when school is out. This project will be a major component of the government's Youth Employment in Summer or YES program.

Also, we are launching NARS or Nurses Assigned in Rural Areas. Nurses who have low overseas demand for their services due to lack of training – because there's a big demand for trained nurses but those untrained that's their problem — they shall be mobilized in their hometowns. These warriors for wellness shall do three I's: "Initiate" primary health, school nutrition, maternal health programs, first-line diagnosis etc.; "Inform", inform about community water sanitation practices and do health surveillance; and third, "Immunize", immunize children and mothers. They shall also serve as roving nurses for rural schools. How much will this cost on the nurses? If they're paid an allowance of P8,000 a month, and you have two 6-month tours of duties of nurses, five nurses for each of the 1,000 poorest municipalities, that will cost less than half a billion pesos. And I've talked to Nonoy Andaya about this (program) this morning. The stipend can be increased if — and I call the attention here of the President of the Mayors' League of the Philippines, Monching Guico — if the host LGUs offer a counterpart of say 2,000 pesos, which is the official cell phone bill of a town official. (laughter)

I ask Corporations to chip in as well – shirts can come from manufacturers, insurance, vitamins from pharmaceuticals, cell phones that will make the program truly a national enterprise with private equity.

Truly, if anything, a tight economy should prompt people to yearn for greater stability and harmony and working together; not working apart. So let us all pull together to make sure the country puts jobs and the economy ahead of political and costly conflicts. Let us focus on "Joining Hands Against the Global Crisis."

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Multi-Sectoral Jobs Summit "Joining Hands Against the Global Crisis". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105408/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20056&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 9th e-Services Global Sourcing and Exhibition

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 9th e-Services Global Sourcing and Exhibition**

[Delivered at Function Room 1, SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City, February 9, 2009]

Thank you Secretary Favila for your introduction.

Chairperson Rey Chua of CICT, members of the Diplomatic Corps, our leaders of the E-service industry both here in the Philippines and around the world, ladies and gentlemen, Welcome to the Philippines!

As the world heads deeper into recession, we meet today in interesting times, so to speak. But to the fiscally strong, this is a time of opportunity. The Philippines has been compared to an island of stability amidst the raging world economic storm. That's not just coming from me. Standard & Poor's said it. "Reasonably healthy." — Fitch said it. "Macroeconomic risk the lowest." — Credit Suisse. "Inherently strong, a potential beneficiary of the world's financial woes." — JP Morgan, speaking of the Philippines.

We now have 36 quarters of uninterrupted growth since I took office as President in 2001. We have created almost 8 million jobs in eight years. We remain cautiously optimistic that our resources and plans will allow us to manage our way through this time. This is because we "rebooted" our economy several years ago with dramatic reforms in revenue collection and generation, fiscal controls and banking reform. All of these actions were taken before there was a hint of a global crisis. They have held us in good stead. Our GNP grew 8.0 percent in 2007 and in 2008, when two-thirds of the world went into recession; we managed to still have a respectable GNP growth of 6.0 percent. And we have a cushion in place to help the poor.

Aside from revenue, we have focused on reducing our debt-to-GDP ratio, and building up new industries such as the BPO sector. We have created the BPO's industry from almost nothing in 2001. In 2001 there were 4,000 BPO workers when our Administration started; today there are 400,000 BPO workers. Thank you so much for so much job creation. (applause)

I've been asking your industry leaders, how was the industry? And the response is that our BPO industry continues to boom as global cost cutting is sent to outsourcing. As you know the Philippines is ranked among the most attractive off-shoring destinations in the world because of cost competitiveness and more importantly the country's highly trainable, English-proficient, IT-enabled quality manpower.

Early in our Administration, we understood that we must act rationally and strategically, to foster a digital culture that maximizes the benefits of ICT. We initially concentrated our efforts on three areas.

The first area was the building of physical infrastructure. We worked to speed up the telecommunications network infrastructure by bringing down the cost of connectivity. We supported wider public access to communications and information services through the provision... encouraging the provision of broadband services in cities and identified growth areas, and a redundancy of telecommunications gateways. This infrastructure improvements have been among the most important reasons why BPOs have been coming, flocking to the Philippines.

The second area was ensuring an appropriate policy and legal environment. It is not the role of government to determine technological outcomes — that is the role of the market. Our role is to provide the environment to grow ICT. To that extent, I created a Cabinet level Commission on ICT headed by Rey Chua to lead our ICT policy formulation and implementation. Its function includes harmonizing and coordinating all public ICT initiatives. Our ICT sector is successful because it is driven by the private sector with minimal government intervention.

Finally, the third area of development is the development of human capital to close the digital divide and to provide the world-class workers that you need for your industry. The Philippines is one of the highest among the different countries in the number of training facilities for computer programming and other computer-related courses. And to make BPO world competitive, the world competitive industry that is today, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority is working closely with the Business Process Association of the Philippines or BPAP on training courses on BPO to further enhance English proficiency to help near-hires develop the skills needed to qualify for employment.

To date, the Commission on Information and Communications Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry, in cooperation with the Business Process Association of the Philippines, have identified what they called the Next Wave Cities that are best capable of hosting IT-BPO and E-services operations. The original Cyber Corridor spanned Metro Manila, going down south to Iloilo, Bacolod, Cebu up to Davao. Now it has been lengthened — and I hope I get the facts right, they came to Peter Favila — to include Baguio, Dagupan, Tarlac, Pampanga especially Clark, Metro Manila especially Marilao, Meycauayan and Malolos, Metro Rizal namely Cainta and Antipolo, Metro Cavite where we have Dasmariñas and Imus, Metro Laguna where we have Santa Rosa and Calamba, Metro Batangas where we have Lipa and Batangas City, Dumaguete, and Cagayan de Oro. In any case if there are refinements to this list that comprises the cyber corridor that will be discussed during this conference.

What we can say is that, BPO and E-services are key drivers of our economy.

They generate investment, they generate jobs, they alleviate poverty, they improve the lives of our people. And we are proud to be among the world's leaders in this field. So we are proud to have you all today in this conference and exhibition.

To our first-time visitors who have come here to check out the opportunities we offer, I'm sure you will find that the Philippine BPO and E-services sector is among the best in the world. And to our existing investors, thank you for being a big part of the country's sustainable and resilient growth.

Maraming salamat. Thank you and Welcome once again! (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 9th e-Services Global Sourcing and Exhibition. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105433/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20098&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the welcome reception for the Philippines-Republic of Korea Business Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the welcome reception for the Philippines-Republic of Korea Business Forum**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavillion, Manila Hotel, City of Manila, Metro Manila, February 18, 2009]

Thank you, Secretary Favila.

Other Cabinet members, Mr. Chang, Don Emilio, Ambassador Choi, other officials of the Philippine government, leaders of the business community –both of Korea and of the Philippines, ladies and gentlemen:

To our Korean friends, first of all, welcome to the Philippines!

And to Manila Bulletin and the Maeil Business Newspaper, congratulations for organizing this Business Forum.

It is a testament to the strong and mutually-beneficial relationship that has characterized the ties between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea.

As mentioned by Mr. Chang, I am very proud that in 1950, the Philippines participated in the Korean War by virtue of a Congressional Resolution authored by my father who was then Congressman and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

And I am very proud that in recognition of this, when my father retired after 1965, he was invited to go to Korea and he brought me along where he received an award of appreciation from the Korean government. (Applause)

And now, I'm equally proud that in celebrating this year, the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of our relations, I have the honor to declare 2009 as "Philippines-Republic of Korea Friendship Year" (applause) and the coming March 3rd as our "Friendship Day." (applause)

As we have heard from the speakers earlier, the partnership between our two countries is hearty and robust, especially in terms of economic and people-to- people interaction. Our number one tourists to the Philippines are the Koreans, and with students and retirees, as mentioned earlier, there are twice the number of Koreans in the Philippines as Filipinos in Korea.

When I made my state visit to Korea in 2003, the number of Filipinos in Korea was the same as the number of Koreans in the Philippines. But today, there are twice as many Koreans in the Philippines as Filipinos in Korea. Maybe that means something about how Koreans like being in the Philippines. (applause)

As mentioned by Mike Varela, Korean companies are among the country's largest investors. There are about 900 Korean companies operating in the Philippines, among them such marquee names as Hanjin Heavy Industries, Samsung, LG, Eastern Group and the Korea Electric Power Corporation.

The billions of dollars that they have injected into the Philippines, particularly Hanjin's factories in Subic and Misamis Oriental, KEPCO's power plants in Batangas and Rizal, and now as of this week, Samsung's logistics hub

in Clark. All of these not only demonstrate the Korean private sector's belief and confidence in the Philippine economy, but also the Korean people's willingness to help uplift the lot of the Filipinos by providing thousands of good jobs and creating opportunities for livelihood.

Even in development cooperation, the Republic of Korea has been a dependable partner, helping us achieve our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, always conforming to the priorities of the Philippine government. The Republic of Korea's aid program to the Philippines has been increasing significantly each year in areas like infrastructure. For instance, the Metro Manila-North/South Railway Link; the Olongapo-San Fernando-Gapan Road widening which passes through my hometown; the Laguindingan Airport in Mindanao; health projects, like the Cavite Hospital; information technology, like the training centers in Quezon City, Davao and other places; and agriculture.

And I am glad that now we have this business delegation to look at more opportunities in the Philippines. The Philippines has weathered the initial global shocks of the world economic crisis quite well because of the painful reform medicine we took several years ago. We took our economic medicine through fundamental economic reform by raising taxes, cutting down on smuggling, reforming our tax collection system and our banking laws and regulations. Our reform moves paid off with revenue for investments in human and physical infrastructure and an economic performance that has seen 36 consecutive quarters of growth over the last eight years, including 8.0 percent GNP growth in 2007 and 6.0 percent GNP growth in 2008.

And I am hopeful that the G20, especially under the upcoming leadership of the Republic of Korea, will make positive strides in engaging both the developed and developing world in coordinating effective responses to the global crisis.

I also hope that we develop a series of closely consulted and meshed regional alliances to complement the G20, or what we hopefully will become even a G30. For example, the countries of ASEAN, Korea, China and Japan have reiterated the agreement to set up a multibillion-dollar multilateral foreign exchange reserve pool through what we call an "Enhanced Chiang Mai Initiative" to ensure liquidity in our region, and thereby contribute stability in the world.

And this coming... in a couple of months from now, in a few weeks from now, Korea will host the ASEAN-Korea Summit. And I am very glad that during that period, I will also have the opportunity to make yet another official bilateral visit to the Republic of Korea.

I will be sharing again with the business community there as I would like to share with you the Philippine Economic Resiliency Plan which aims to save and create jobs, protect the poorest of the poor and returning Overseas Filipino Workers as well as those in export industries. Also to ensure low and stable prices to support consumer spending so that all those electronics from Korea will still continue to find a good market here in the Philippines. And also it aims to enhance our country's competitiveness in preparation for the global rebound that we know will happen.

First of all, we pump-prime the economy primarily by front-loading infrastructure investments in the first half of the year and by raising the absorptive capacity of government agencies to allow them to use their budgets productively and efficiently; And I am glad to see many Korean companies participating in this infrastructure investments. For example, I have been joking in Mindanao that the Cagayan de Oro-Iligan Corridor should be called the Hanjin Corridor because Hanjin has practically constructed every important infrastructure there including the road and now the Laguindingan International Airport.

In parallel, we are also focused on further raising revenues through improvements in tax administration and a public-private sector fund to support the initiatives in the resiliency plan. And we count on the leaders of the Philippine Business Community like Bulletin President Mike Varela to make this private-public sector fund a reality as soon as possible.

On the corporate front, we have provided tax relief for the private sector by reducing corporate income tax from 35 to 30 percent. Also, exempting minimum wage earners from personal income tax and increasing personal exemptions.

And to further enhance social protection, we are raising the allocation of conditional cash grants to the poorest households; we are doubling the funds for the national health insurance program to ensure the full national government contribution to that fund; and we are doubling the allocation for the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, which is the recipient of Korean grants incidentally— all these among other healthcare and education initiatives.

Finally, we are ensuring that adequate support is provided to our workers, both domestically and overseas, through retraining programs to ensure they remain competitive and able to fully take advantage of job opportunities and find higher paying jobs; and also through reintegration services and livelihood assistance should any expatriate workers in Korea or in any part of the world return to the Philippines.

We are doing all these to take care of our people during the difficult times with the whole world, but also to ensure that you, the Korean investors invest in the Philippines. If you decide to go into the export market, you have the skilled Filipinos, the great Filipino worker making you competitive. And if you decide to invest for the domestic market, you have the consumer, the Filipino consumer who has the ability and the willingness to pay for the products that you produce.

This morning, I had a visitor, an American CEO of one of the large corporations dealing in, not export, but services for the domestic market. And he was telling me about how, though in his home country even during the height of the Christmas season, hardly anybody was buying things in the malls and department stores and boutiques. But he went to a mall yesterday, on a Tuesday, and it was so crowded with consumers. So, he is very confident about the consumption patterns of our country. I told him if that was the crowd you saw on a Tuesday, can you imagine what it will be if you were to go on Friday evening or Saturday anytime during the day.

So, dear friends from Korea, we must help our two countries navigate the current world economic crisis. We must combine the wisdom of our shared past and an enthusiasm for our common future to create a firm and strategic bond of cooperation. Very few relations exceed the warmth and depth that is found in the cordial and amiable friendship between the Philippines and Korea. Koreans are such a visible part of any scenery in the Philippines. In Baguio, for instance, in the John Hay Country Club for every one Filipino flight, you will find five Korean flights — they're there, they stay there, their children study English, and they play golf, and they're very much a part of that community. And we're only talking about one of the many that have Koreans as a very visible part of the community.

I flew over an area in Northern Cebu and I saw a golf course dedicated to Korean players and I saw a very nice housing project dedicated to the players who want to stay there whether a few days, a few weeks, a few months or a few years depending on what they're doing in the Philippines.

And so, this is our relationship — 60 years after we started and also after that first flight to the Philippines mentioned by Mr. Chang when there were only five passengers coming to the Philippines. Well, we heard from Mr. Chang that 60 years represents an important milestone in Korean philosophy. He said 60 years symbolizes the beginning of a new cycle, a fresh start, a new round.

So this year is a fresh start for our two countries as we celebrate our yesteryears with an eager participation of a stronger, brighter tomorrow. (applause) Notwithstanding the global economic crisis, I am optimistic that the future is bright — bright for the Philippines, bright for Korea, bright for a more vigorous partnership and a meaningful interaction between our two countries and our two peoples.

Thank you. Kamsahamnida. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the welcome reception for the Philippines-Republic of Korea Business Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105403/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20893&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 23rd anniversary celebration of EDSA One Revolution

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 23rd anniversary celebration of EDSA One Revolution**

[Delivered on February 22, 2009]

It is an honor to launch this year's celebration of the four days of the EDSA 1 anniversary in the company of that small band of patriots in uniform who chose to draw their line in the sand 23 years ago today, led by then Secretary of National Defense, now Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

If the patriots had not acted when they did—planning boldly, improvising on the way, but always moving forward decisively—then this historical watershed might not even have taken place. And had the Filipino masses not taken their side so quickly, the patriots holed up in Camps Aguinaldo and Crame might have been crushed and the whole episode reduced to a footnote in history.

But our people took to the streets in their support, sa kahabaan ng EDSA, mula sa harap ng Camp Crame at Aguinaldo, na walang sandata kundi ang pusong nagliliyab sa pagmamahal sa bayan at mataimtim na paniniwala sa Diyos. Together, as one people, we reclaimed democracy.

The world embraced EDSA 1 in 1986. The world tolerated EDSA 2 in 2001. The world will not forgive an EDSA 3 but would instead condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable.

Our political stability today is one of the reasons why we have escaped thus far the worst effects of the global recession. We must prevent the world crisis from becoming a Philippine crisis, and protect those most hurt by the global downturn.

Let us honor the boldness of the leaders of EDSA, the boldness of our ordinary countrymen, the boldness of our faith in God. Let us look back to those four days of EDSA 1, not to relive them, for history must move on, but to recall their lessons and refresh our spirit as a people against the new challenges of today.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 23rd Anniversary Celebration of EDSA One Revolution. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105230/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20965&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the 2-storey, 4-classroom schoolbuilding of the Binalonan South Central School, Poblacion South

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of the 2-storey, 4-classroom schoolbuilding of the Binalonan South Central School,
Poblacion South**

[Delivered in Binalonan, Pangasinan, February 24, 2009]

Thank you very much Secretary Lapus for your introduction.

Other Cabinet members; other officials of the DepEd including our principals and teachers; Governor Espino and the other officials of Pangasinan; Mayor Guico and the other officials of Binalonan. And we have here on the... in our platform, Secretary Cabral, Secretary Esperon and P.A. for Education Mona Valisno: Dagiti kakailiak iti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga bigat yo amin apo. (applause)

Ken maysa nga panangkablaaw kadakayo manen, kakailiak ti panagpiyesta tayo manen. (applause) Kablaawan kayo met para kadagiti proyekto iti edukasyon nga asegurado nga makatulong iti ili tayo.

Swerte iti Binalonan gapu ti our forebears valued intellectual pursuits and education very highly. We have, for instance, isu nga mano nga kakailian tayo became successful earlier than other Filipinos, ken nangted dagiti kinalaing kadagiti dadduma pay nga kakailian tayo. For instance, we have the famous Filipino-American writer from Binalonan, Carlos Bulosan, who wrote America is in the Heart. Adda diay met ni mamang ko, ni late First Lady, Doktora Evangeline Macaraeg, nga maysa nga doktora, anak ni Engineer Juan Guico Macaraeg. Maysa nga engineer, one of the first Filipinos who have completed an education in the United States.

Ti nagan ni apong lakay ko, adadiayen iti maysa nga eskwela, ti eskuwela idia highway. Tatta agyamanak kadakayo iti panangnangan iti baru nga library hub iti Binalonan a kas Doña Eva Macapagal Memorial Library Hub. (applause) Agyamanak iti amin nga nagtulong nga pondohan daytoy nga proyekto. And so, I'm glad to hear daytoy nga library hub. At first I thought that it had 35,000 book holdings, kunkuna da it has 60,000 book holdings, but a lot of them had already gone out and 35,000 are inside the library right now. Ket maysa nga benepisyo para kadagiti eskwela iti intero nga school division. Ti Northern Pangasinan ba Monching o Eastern Pangasinan? Ah, Eastern Pangasinan. Seguro nga mangted kadagiti agad-adal iti adu nga masapul nga edukasyon. Maragsakanak met para kadagiti estudyante iti Juan Macaraeg National High School nga libre nga maka-connect iti internet babaen daytoy baro nga e-library tayo.

In education, I'm glad that Monching made this theme education, with the invitation to the e-library and our two-storey school building here. Because it is a time for us to give a message that we can generate more social impact from education if the efforts are targeted and consolidated. This year, we have begun the effort to cluster the programs of DepEd, of CHED, of TESDA to create a forward-looking National Education Program.

Monching mentioned that Presidential Task Force on Education which I organized sometime ago. They submitted recommendations on improving the different states of the main education highway, that starts from pre-school, to elementary school, to high school, to voc-tech, to pre-college for some courses, college, and for some specializations, master and doctoral education. That is the education highway. And earlier today diay bangir, ano? Wen diay bangir, we showcased our reforms in pre-school education, particularly Executive Order No. 685 on the Standardization of the Pre-school Curriculum for 5-year olds with the goal, as Monching says, "increasing the participation rate for Grade 1." And Monching was talking about the drop-out rate. We're going to bring it down to less than 5.0 percent by 2010. And according to Jing Lapus, that's really a challenge, because Jing was telling me when we were in the audience that UNESCO has given up. He said the world will not be able to achieve one of the

Millennium Development Goals and that is universal primary education. But even if the world may not be able to achieve it by 2015 with all our efforts here in Binalonan, Binalonan will be able to achieve it. (Applause)

Our special audience in the presentation of Secretary Lapus on the pre-school curriculum, the new pre-school curriculum was your Local School Board, because an active and supportive local school board is very important. The Local School Board is chaired by the municipal mayor and the district supervisor. The members include other key local officials; it's good that we have Governor Espino there with us also as well as representatives of the PTA and teachers' organizations.

The Local Government Code allot a special education fund of 1.0 percent tax on real property to Local School Boards for expenses related to school improvement and development. I was listening to how we want to use the budget — the Local School Board now I'm addressing them. But I waited for this program to announce that whatever the Local School Board will allocate to implement the pre-school curriculum, I will give Binalonan an equivalent amount. (Applause)

The people of Binalonan... Ah, okay. So, how much will you allocate? (laughter) Okay. So, if I know how much you allocate today, before I leave I can write the check today. (applause/laughter) But the people of Binalonan will always have a reason to feel optimistic despite news about the global economic recession. The structures that enable us to improve our lives, we've started even before anyone noticed that a global recession would occur. We already had our shields in place. We had installed programs that would increase our yields and allow us to help other provinces even more. Dagiti tattao iti Binalonan, you have always been supportive of our administration's goals.

And so, I'd like to take this opportunity once again to thank you. Thank you for the unity that you show our local officials and the national government, just like what you are doing for this week's fiesta celebration.

Isu nga tatta nga fiesta manen tayo, ti mensahe gapo kenyak ket let us commit ourselves to helping our townmates, our provincemates, and the rest of our countrymen who are not as fortunate as the professionals that abound here in Binalonan.

Iselebrar tayo iti pagkakaysa nga panakaigapuan nga dagiti umili iti Binalonan ket makaiturong dagiti mapagballegi nga fiesta kada tawen.

I remember kadda tawen, I remember thirty years actually since I became a senator, I've only missed one fiesta. But every year I come, in some form or another, I even invite guests usually. I remember the many years that I was crowning guest iti rabii Secretary Esperon came to look at the poultry industry here, and he ended up being the crowning guest. So, he was very happy about that.

Nakikaduaak iti fiesta tayo tatta gapu ta kayat ko nga agyaman kadakayo, dagiti kakailiak, iti panang-ayat yo kaniak ken iti panang-ayat yo ti umili tayo. Isu nga kadakayo amin, happy fiesta ken Dios ti agngina manen kadda kayo amin kakailliak!

(applause)

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the inauguration of the 2-storey, 4-classroom schoolbuilding of the Binalonan South Central School, Poblacion South. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105136/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21254&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the “ALDO NING PARANGAL: A Tribute to the Past Presidents of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Pampanga Chapter”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the “ALDO NING PARANGAL: A Tribute to the Past Presidents of the Integrated Bar of the
Philippines-Pampanga Chapter”**

[Delivered at Ballrooms 1 & 2, Holiday Inn Resort Hotel, Clark Freeport Zone, February 24, 2009]

Dakal a salamat.

Dakal a salamat Secretary Ed Pamintuan ing Cabinet Officer for Regional Development in Region III, ing Chairman ning NorthRail, ing Chairman ning Subic-Clark Alliance for Development, ampu Luzon Urban Beltway Super Region Champion. Salamat king introduction at ali tinuknang mag text para mumunta ku ngeni.

Our Cabinet members who are here today, Congressman Lazatin alibang opisyaes keti pu queng Pampanga. Karing judges, i Attorney Tuazon, ing malagu tamong presidenti ning IBP Pampanga. Past presidents, prosecutors at karing aliwa pang mamuntukan at miyembro na ning Integrated Bar of the Philippines keni king Pampanga, mayap a oras kekongan.

Muna, salamat king kekayung pamagsuporta king kakatamung administrasyon at karing inisyatibo tamu para king panyulung na ning kekatang bansa lalo na ing probinsya tang Pampanga.

Mayap a oras mu rin karing kekatamung parangalan keni, nung sabyan ko ngan, balamu meg roll call tamu karing peka magaling na ning legal profession alimu keti king Pampanga, but in the entire country.

Congratulations!

At salamat kaniting oportunidad a makisabe kekayu king panahun a kailangan mag join hands tamu kontra king global economic crisis.

The global financial turmoil has spread and jeopardized the well-being of billions of people across the world. Two-thirds of the world ing mekaranas yang pamagbagsak na ning kayang GDP. In the fourth quarter of 2008, Japan's GDP declined by 12.7 percent, U.S. by 5.1 percent, Taiwan by 9.2 percent, Thailand by 4.3 percent, Singapore by 3.7

percent, South Korea by 5.6 percent. But in that same quarter, the Philippines managed a 4.5 percent growth. And for the whole year a GDP growth of 4.6 percent and a GNP growth of 6.1 percent.

Ing rason? We “rebooted” our economy several years ago. We took our economic medicine through fundamental economic reform by raising taxes, cutting down on smugglers, reforming our tax collection system and banking laws. Our reforms paid off with revenue for investments in human and physical infrastructure.

Deng gagawan ning Japan ampo U.S. a paralan para misalba ing karelang ekonomiya — ini ngan pegumpisan ta nang gawan bayu pa mika crisis ing ekonomiya king mabilug a yatu. In 2008 in January we approved a stimulus of 1.4 percent of GDP and implemented it in March as the global food crisis erupted. Though the stimulus package is 1.4 percent of GDP, the deficit that we had to suffer to achieve that was less than 1.0 percent of GDP.

Ketang milabas a Marso, biklat ta ne ing SCTEX. Ding balang lalabas at manakit, metung mu ing sasabian da: “Metung yang karing pekamasanting diling dalan king mabilug a yatu.” Metung karing apulong legacy program cu,

ya ing gawan ing Clark-Subic Corridor ing metung a competitive international service and logistics center king rehiyon. Alimu quing rehiyon Region III, but the region, the Southeast Asian Region. Lalam na ning kekatamung pamanungkulan, dininan tayang bie ing Diosdado Macapagal International Airport keti king Clark. Deti agawa tamu ngan kapamalatan da ring infrastructure development programs — king pamanyalese karing kekatamung airport facilities, pati na ing bagya-bagya tamung pamag implement karing policy reforms na memuklat pasbul, para karing mas marakal a international flights. Nung dati 44 la mu ding international flights a linub nyang 2003, when we started our development of Clark Airport. King kasalukuyan, atin ta ng 54 international flights kilub ning paruminggu. Ing milabas a paruminggu, mibuklat ing logistics hub na ning Samsung keti king Clark.

Tungkul karing policy reforms na kailangan para akwa ta ya ing patalakad tamung metung a competitive logistics hub king Subic-Clark Corridor, ing SCAD na penigobra de ing harmonization na ning immigration, customs at quarantine policies. One of the big achievements of Ed Pamintuan anti mung chairman na ning Subic-Clark Alliance for Development para king Clark at Subic. Pegumpisan ta ne inyang Disyembre ing pamag automate karing admission and transit procedures para king flow of logistics king Clark at Subic. King daratang a bulan ning Marso, target tamung apa-implement ing revised visa and work permit program, pati na ing customs admission rules at ing revised immigration, customs and quarantine manual para king Clark at Subic.

And of course, now you can travel by car from Clark to Boracay or Jolo. And you all know that it has cut down the time on travel from Clark to Metro Manila by one-half. You can travel by car from Clark to Jolo or Boracay, island-hopping on our Roll-on/Roll-off Ferry Nautical Highway System. We are likewise investing unprecedented amounts in expanded education, health care and other social services. We have accelerated our investments here in 2009. Our 300-billion peso stimulus spending or 7 billion dollars is bigger than Indonesia's 6 billion dollars, Malaysia's 4 billion dollars, and Thailand's 3 billion dollars, but it will not break our bank. We have brought forward investments to further stimulate our economy, to help our people, and to sustain the growth that has been so important to our economic success.

We remain mindful that this acceleration of investments must be balanced. We cannot abandon our hard-fought gains in fiscal discipline. We are well aware that we must both spend wisely and be prudent if we are to leave our nation in a healthy condition for the next generation. That is the road we were on before the onset of the global crisis. That is the road on which we would like the country to continue when this challenge has passed.

We pump-prime the economy primarily by front-loading infrastructure investments in the first half of the year and by raising the absorptive capacity of government agencies to make them use their budgets more productively and efficiently. In parallel, we are also focused on further raising revenues through improvements in tax administration where our lawyers can help so much and a public-private sector fund to support resiliency plan initiatives.

On the corporate front, we have provided tax relief for your clients in the private sector by reducing corporate income tax from 35 to 30 percent. Also by exempting minimum wage earners from personal income tax and increasing personal exemptions.

To further enhance social protection, we are doubling the allocation of conditional cash grants for the poorest households. We are doubling the allocation for PhilHealth — my half Kapampangan Cabinet member Pingkoy Duque is here — to ensure the full national government contribution to the national health insurance programs. And we are doubling the budget for the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. These, among other healthcare and education initiatives. And we have our Kapampangan from Tarlac Cabinet Member Jing Lapus here with us today along with Angie Reyes and our own Manny Angeles.

Finally, we are ensuring that adequate support is provided to our workers both domestically and overseas through retraining programs among which will be right here in Clark to ensure that our workers remain competitive, fully take advantage of job opportunities because there're still are job opportunities. In fact, POEA is processing 3,000 new jobs a day. And therefore, we want to have our workers find higher paying jobs, or avail of reintegration services and livelihood assistance should any expatriate workers return to the Philippines, or for the export workers who get retrenched.

Ding economic indicators a pepakit na ning kekatamung bansa, mepansin la karing international economic institution and credit rating agencies. For example, para kang Dr. Victor Fung, ing Presidente na ning International Chamber of Commerce, ing ekonomiya na ning Pilipinas ing pekamatingkad king South East Asia. Sinangayun ya mu naman ing Moody's Rating Agency king positive rating outlook na ning bansa. Mimie lang pamangilala ing IMF at ing ADB karing kekatamung gewa para iangat taya ing kekatamung ekomiya. Ikayu mo, bilang abugado at huwes, nanu kaya ing pwede yung agawa para makasaup kayu para a sulung i momentum na ning national economy arapan da ring mangabayat at kapagsubukan? Well, I am not a lawyer, you see, although my father was a lawyer, a Kapampangan lawyer, number one in the bar, but I'm not lawyer so I need lots of help from lawyers. I'm an economist not a lawyer that's one way by which you can help. Di ba ing objective ning IBP, ay i Attorney Tuazon, "to ensure that the Bar discharges its public responsibility more effectively." Ing buri ng sabian ning "public responsibility," kalupa ne mu rin ing pamag-angat ning bie pang ekonomiya ding kekatamung memalen. Nung mag-survey tamu, ali ta na mabibigla nung keraklan karing kekatamung politiku, abugadu la. Pero ing sobrang pamamulitika, aliwa ne, lalu na ngening panahun, a mas kailangan tamung pi abe-abe ing kekatamung sikanan para arapan ing peka-matinding kapagsubukan ning yatu king kekatamung bie.

Maka pamie tula na ara karing surveys ding kekatamung memalen manatili lang matas a pag asa king kinabukasan na ning kekatamung bansa. In fact, we had the survey that said that 92 percent of the Filipinos look forward to the New Year with hope. Mamasa ku sana makasaop-saop tamu, in nurturing that sense of optimism among our people, by continuing to do our best. Bilang panauli, paburen yu kung saludu karing magaling a miyembu ning IBP-Pampanga. Kayabe ko karing kekatamung bayani. Thank you so much for your support. Mayap a oras.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the "ALDO NING PARANGAL: A Tribute to the Past Presidents of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Pampanga Chapter". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105147/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21253&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Philippine economic briefing “Challenges and Opportunities in Global Crisis”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Philippine economic briefing “Challenges and Opportunities in Global Crisis”**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City, Metro Manila, February 25, 2009]

Thank you, Secretary Teves for your introduction.

Cabinet members, leaders of business, Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you for joining us once again in this semi-annual activity and this time is a special time like in the World Economic Forum — it was the biggest attendance ever in their history because of the times we are in.

We’re all very much aware of the challenges of the global economic crisis confronted by countries around the world. But I hope we’re also all aware that ensuring that they continue to weather the global economic storm will require the cooperation and partnership of the government and the private sector.

As I’m sure you can remember, a year ago, we were riding the wave. This year, along with all other developed and developing economies alike, we’re working hard to make sure that we are not swamped by the world economic crisis.

In 2007, the Philippines generated an 8.0 percent GNP growth. In 2008, when two-thirds of the world went into a recession, we still managed a 6.1 percent GNP growth. In the fourth quarter of 2008, Japan’s GDP declined by 12.7 percent, U.S. by 5.0 percent, Taiwan by 9.0 percent, Thailand by 4.0 percent, Singapore by 3.7, Korea by 5.6. But our GDP went up by 4.5 percent. Up to late last year, Filipinos had no difficulties finding and keeping the important jobs overseas that were helping their families and contributing to the economy; food prices were coming under control and inflation was being checked.

Since then, the global financial turmoil has spread and jeopardized the well-being of billions of people across the globe. Late last year, 5,500 of our expatriates lost their jobs. Thank goodness, today, the number still remains largely the same. Between then and now, 39,000 domestic workers mostly in the export sectors of electronics, auto parts, garments and mining have lost their jobs, though 3,000 new jobs are being processed daily. I just came from the POEA office before coming here because part of our four-day EDSA celebration is to use the spirit of EDSA, the spirit of unity to join hands against the global crisis. And because the biggest challenge is the challenge of jobs — we had a jobs fair and the fair had just started a couple of hours ago and I was able to interview workers who were hired right on the spot.

So, we hope that this trend will continue, that there is room for those who have lost their jobs in new jobs. Some of them may require retooling but others need not. For instance, one of the biggest job opportunities that I found earlier today was a Dunkin Donuts store in— and would you believe it, in Dubai, which we hope... which we thought was experiencing a lot of difficulties but they have these openings and the pay is good. An electronics worker can get into the job. A garments worker can get into the job. The important thing is that they have the Filipino traits of a smiling face and a congenial personality.

Tourism according to the latest report of Secretary Ace Durano is bucking the regional trend; with our hotels and resorts fully booked for the first quarter, though they are going, they’re leaving... well, it’s a... they go from month to month and are not complacent about the rest of the year.

In many respects, we were prepared for this global crisis. That preparation has mitigated some of the hardships that have arrived with this worldwide challenge.

Our domestic strength comes in large part from our early response. In January 2008, we approved a stimulus of 1.4 percent of GDP and we implemented it in March as the global food crisis erupted. The resulting deficit though the stimulus was 1.4, the deficit was less than 1.0 percent of GDP. In reacting to this first wave of the economic downturn that early 2008, we worked hard to manage the huge spike in the prices and accessibility of food, fuel and rice. That stimulus that we approved in January and implemented in March included an 11 billion budget for the augmentation of the Department of Agriculture for its program towards rice self-sufficiency in five years. It included 24 billion for the National Food Authority for rice subsidies, 36 billion pesos of tax relief to the middle-class which increased the take home pay of minimum wage earners, and that has buoyed up demand.

If I may go earlier again to my trip to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, we not only saw displaced workers finding new jobs. We also saw displaced workers finding new livelihood opportunities — food processing, and would you believe, perfume making. So, these displaced workers in their new livelihood are doing their work in their own homes and selling in their own homes. And the one who was doing meat processing has a very brisk business, so she has decided that she will also study part time in TESDA so she can go into commercial cooking and expand her little meat process business into a restaurant because she is doing very well where she is now.

The other one is producing perfumes. And I said, “why did you get into the idea of perfume?” Then she said, “Well, you know we Filipinas, we never get out of our house without putting perfume on. So, I figured that I would have a good market.” So, she had this... she went into the training; and I’d like to acknowledge Tommy Alcantara and MECO because all of these, many of these displaced workers came from Taiwan and right in Taiwan they were already told about the training, livelihood and new job opportunities. And so she was trained by the Technology Resource Center. They gave her all the possible sources of supply; so she has her supply of her bottles, her essential oils and so on. And so I said, “How is your business doing?” She said, “Very well. I have a very, very good market.”

So, we really thank the consumption, our domestic consumption because they buoy up the new opportunities for our displaced workers. And a lot of that, I would like to think, was also encouraged by the tax relief of minimum wage earners that Congress passed last year.

To go back to that stimulus that we approved in January and carried out in March, part of that included also 5 billion pesos of conditional cash transfers, 7.5 billion (pesos) of various cash grants, and 32 billion pesos that went into a 10 percent salary increase for government employees, another stimulus for domestic consumption. And then we worked just as hard to meet the next wave — the crisis that has come to be called the global tsunami, the worldwide financial calamity. Our GDP and GNP growth in the face of global recession show that stimulus works. It shows it is not bound to fail. But we all have to work together to make sure that it succeeds.

We have acted to protect the poor as we also worked to protect our nation. While our efforts have been reasonably successful, we know that no country has been totally insulated from the pain and hardship being felt throughout the world. So, we are vigilant in our efforts to respond quickly to changing circumstances. Ralph Recto gave us a 300 billion-peso stimulus package or 7 billion dollars; bigger than many of the South East Asian countries even if our growth rate is better than theirs, but that stimulus package is always open for refinement as we go along.

We have been relatively lucky — I keep hearing that swerte, swerte, swerte — We have been relatively lucky because we worked hard to be lucky. We have been able to cushion the blow today because of the pain we endured yesterday. With the support of Congress and our dedicated civil servants, we took the economic reform medicine and improved our banking system, raised revenue, cracked down on smugglers and streamlined our revenue system.

That allowed us to have the resources to make significant investments in our country for the first time in those quantities in a generation; new money for roads, bridges, and ports; new investments in healthcare, education and social services.

Our domestic strength also comes in large part from our countercyclical policy. When I was in Davos, one of the famous professors was saying, the problem with many of the countries that have to follow the multilaterals is that their policies are procyclical. But in our country, we have been able to do a countercyclical policy.

On fiscal policy, we increased taxes in good times, and now we have increased spending in bad global times. Both the national and the local governments now have room to spend and borrow because the local governments this year are enjoying the biggest increase of 40 billion pesos in their internal revenue because there is a 3-year lag in the computation. So, since we increased the VAT, we implemented the VAT increase three years ago; now they will get their share from the VAT increase while the serendipity they can spend now when spending is needed.

On monetary policy, well, we all know that aside from Gary Teves being the Finance Minister of the Year for Asia, Say Tetangco has been rated among our 'A' central bankers in the world. The Central Bank has been prudent, with rates generally high during good times, while now lowering rates during bad global times, and some more room to ease if necessary.

The financial sector has been strengthened to supplement its innate domestic orientation and inherent conservatism. Learning from the 1997 financial crisis, we worked out reforms, including the Special Purpose Vehicle Assets Act, and other banking reforms leading to lower non-performing loans and loan-deposit ratios.

And we have healthy gross international reserves of almost 40 billion dollars much more than our need for imports compared to the 15 billion dollars that our administration inherited several years ago.

But we must move quickly if we are to ensure that our economy stays on path. So, that is what I was just telling Peter Favila earlier when we were in the holding room waiting for Gary to finish his talk. We have to move quickly. Let's not wait for that, and that to move before we do. Let's not wait for Congress to pass this or that because we have lump sums in our budget. Let's not wait for the private sector to come up with their part of the promise of the 100 billion-peso private sector fund. Let's work on our 50 billion contribution.

We have accelerated our investments in 2009. These expenditures however, are not meant to break the bank. We have brought forward investments to further stimulate the economy, to help our people, and to sustain the growth that has been so important to our economic success.

We remain mindful through all this spending that this acceleration of investments must be balanced. We cannot abandon our hard-fought gains in fiscal discipline. We may increase the deficit, yes, but it must be a finite number and not the sky is the limit. We must have a projection, a ceiling that we will stay under. We are well aware that we must both spend wisely and be prudent if we are to leave our nation in a healthy condition for the next generation. That is the road we were on before the onset of this global crisis. That is the road on which we would like the country to continue when this challenge has passed.

The world financial crisis appears deeper than most anticipated. However, I don't think our plans are doomed to fail. We remain cautiously hopeful that we can continue to insulate the Philippines from the full frontal assault that much of the world is experiencing. Yet, we realize with each passing day, that objective becomes a greater challenge and therefore we must always be ready to innovate.

Our government is up to the challenge. But it is clear that our success will come only if it is a true team effort. Government will do its part, but the private sector must step up and seize the opportunity we have created: a nation that is more stable and secure than at any time in recent memory. Working together, we have created a better deal if you will, than many countries in the region. So now, I call upon the leaders of our private sector to take up the challenge at this important time: join your government and continue to invest in our nation's future. Work with us to ensure that our nation's limited resources, finite resources are able to meet the objective of improving the lives of the people of the Philippines.

We must all band together to shoulder the responsibility of bringing our nation through these challenging global times. As I said, to date, we have been successful. But now is not the time to be laid back or inactive. It is the time to step up to the challenge and work hard to ensure our nation's bright economic future.

We are a tough, proud and resilient people. Our resilience has proven its worth this past year. It will see us through to the global economic rebound that we all know will eventually come. But if we are to continue on the path to progress, we must act together, in common purpose; to provide the long-term opportunities our people want and deserve.

Finally, for your commitment to the Philippine economy; a commitment that will continue to pay dividends for many years to come.

To all of you, maraming salamat and thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Philippine economic briefing "Challenges and Opportunities in Global Crisis". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104657/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21313&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 18th National Convention of the Vice-Mayors' League of the
Philippines Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 18th National Convention of the Vice-Mayors' League of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Grand Mindanao Ballroom, Pryce Plaza Hotel, Cagayan De Oro City, Misamis Oriental, February
26, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you very much Secretary Claudio for your introduction.

And I would like to also congratulate and thank Vice Mayor Mike Rama and the other officials of the Vice Mayors' League, (applause) including our host vice mayor, Vice Mayor Yap of Tagaloan; (applause) our other hosts in this gathering: we have Cagayan de Oro Congressman Uy and Congressman Rodriguez, (applause) from the province of Misamis Oriental; we have Governor Moreno and Congressman Emano; (applause) and their neighbor here in Northern Mindanao Congressman Pancrudo from Bukidnon; (applause) and to all of you vice mayors, first of all, happy 20th anniversary to your League! (Applause) And thank you, congressmen, governor, vice mayor for hosting this important event — the 20th Anniversary of the League of Vice Mayors.

And I'd like to take this opportunity first to convey a message to the people of Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro through Secretary Ebdane because we had been here several times due to the recent floods; but since the DPWH dredger that was here was in need of repairs during the time of your great floods, DPWH has instead deployed a Cebu-based commercial barge-mounted dredger and reported that it started its operation last February 16. So, I hope that that is solved. (Applause)

So, I came here to Cagayan de Oro not just to make sure that that dredger is already here and working, but also, of course because the vice mayors of the Philippines are crucial partners... are an important player in the country's fight against poverty and therefore an important player especially now that the nation is warding off the fall-out of the global economic crisis.

I thank Vice Mayor Yap for pointing out that we've so far been able to weather the global crisis quite well. And Governor Moreno who was a banker before he entered politics, was rattling off to me all the indicators that show how well our country is doing during these very bad global times.

Along with all other countries, developing and developed alike, we are working very hard not to get swamped by the world financial meltdown. In many respects, we were prepared for this global crisis. Our preparation has mitigated some of the hardships that have arrived with this global challenge.

The Philippines generated 8.0 percent GNP growth in 2007; and in 2008 when two-thirds of the world went into recession, we still managed a 6.1 percent GNP growth. All around us, we see countries having a much more difficult time.

In the fourth quarter of 2008, Japan's GDP declined by 12.7 percent, U.S. by 5.1 percent, Thailand by 4.3 percent, Singapore by 3.7 percent, and Korea — Hanjin's home country — by 5.6 percent. But our fourth quarter GDP went up by 4.5 percent. (Applause) And up to late last year, Filipinos had no difficulties finding and keeping the important jobs overseas that were helping their families and contributing to our economy; food prices were coming under control; inflation was being checked.

But since that time, the global financial turmoil has continued to spread and it has jeopardized the well-being of billions of people across the globe. Just before our meeting here, I had a meeting with the vice mayors of Metro Manila and they said that they want to help to address the needs of the displaced workers. Well, as far as OFWs are concerned, it seems that the Filipinos are the first to be hired and the last to be fired. That's why since November up to today, (applause) of our 8 million Filipinos abroad, only 5,500 have had to come back because they lost their jobs. Here in our own country, we have 39,000 domestic workers mostly in the export sectors of electronics, auto parts, garments and mining who have lost their jobs, although 3,000 new jobs are being processed daily. That is why after this event, I will proceed to an event with the TESDA where they are working on jobs that are already connected to the recruiters and the employers.

Well, we are here and you're all tourists, most of you because you've come from all over. I'd like to let you know also according to Ace Durano, the province mate of Mike Rama, that tourism is bucking the regional trend; and I hope that the hotels here, this hotel and the other hotels in Cagayan De Oro are sharing the experience of other hotels and resorts which are fully-booked for the first quarter of this year. (Applause)

Our domestic strength comes in part from our early response. In January 2008, we approved a stimulus of 1.4 percent of GDP. We implemented it in March when the global food crisis erupted. And in spite of that 1.4 percent of GDP stimulus, our deficit was less than 1.0 percent of GDP. We reacted to this first wave of the economic downturn. We worked hard to manage, I'm sure you remember, the huge spike in the prices and accessibility of food, fuel and rice. So, we spent 11 billion to augment the D.A. for its rice self-sufficiency program to be completed in five years; P24 billion for National Food Authority subsidies; P36 billion of tax relief to the middle-class which increased their take home pay because of the tax exemption for minimum wage earners that our congressmen here worked very hard to pass; P5 billion of conditional cash transfers; P7.5 billion of various cash grants; and P32 billion that went to a 10 percent salary increase for government employees. That was our response to the first wave of the crisis.

But there was a second wave of the world crisis, no longer food and fuel but now financial — the crisis that has come to be called the global tsunami. But through this time, because our GDP and our GNP have been growing, it shows that fiscal stimulus works and that should work not only for the national government but also for the local governments and you are in charge of how to spend the budget of your localities. (Applause)

We have acted to protect the poor as we have also worked to protect our nation. But while our efforts have been reasonably successful, no country can be totally insulated from the pain and hardship being felt throughout the world. That's why we must all be vigilant in our efforts to respond quickly to changing circumstances.

We've been relatively lucky because we worked hard to be lucky. We've been able to cushion the blow today because of the pain and unpopularity that we have had to endure. But with the support of your Congress and you, our dedicated public servants in the local government, we took the economic reform medicine, we improved our banking system. You helped us crack down on smugglers; you helped us streamline our revenue system. That has allowed us to have the resources to make significant investments in our country for the first time in a generation; new money for roads, bridges, and ports — maybe some of you were able to travel here using the RO-RO Nautical Highway; new investments in healthcare, education and social services.

And these programs successfully bore fruit because you, our local government officials supported them. You, the local governments have helped build our economy's reputation as "an island of stability in an otherwise global sea of economic troubles." You, our local government officials have played a crucial part in the country's impressive growth. And I thank you for that.

I'd like to point out one of the benefits — well, anyway, among the immediate benefits from our reforms — I'd like to point out one of them because you have 40 percent of every increase in internal revenue; 40 percent of every increase in the Value Added Tax, and that amount you get your share has a three-year lag. What you get this year is your share of the 2006 collections. Well, because we had about a 100 billion-peso increase in Value Added Tax every year since 2006. This year for the first time, you're going to have your biggest increase in IRA of 40-billion pesos. (Applause)

Of course, when Gabby Claudio said that I'm the best friend of the local government units, it is because giving the IRAs due to our LGUs is a top priority for me because... (applause) because you handle the budgets of your LGUs. You already know even before the VAT increase years before when we were very short of funds in the early years of my presidency. We still managed to pay your allocations in full and we even paid the debts owed to you by previous administrations. (Applause) That is because I realize that the IRA is your primary tool to serve your constituencies. And used correctly, it will go a long way towards ensuring that our people will get the kind of local government they want. The vice mayor as the chief legislator of her town or city holds great power in directing how the IRA will be used.

And it is clear that our success will only come if it is a true team effort. National government will do its part, but we count on the local governments to step up and seize the opportunity we have created and that is that local governments today are more empowered than at any other time in recent history. We have worked together on many things. In Metro Manila, again, because I had just had a meeting with our vice mayors there, all but three of the vice mayors are in-charge of their anti-drug campaign; and that is very valuable because we have put the anti-drug campaign on the forefront of our crime fighting and fighting against corruption.

And because they handle their budgets, in charge of allocating the budgets, they have been able to allocate budgets for innovative livelihood programs and urban agriculture that can help their people. A great example that I'm sure is being done under your own circumstances in the different municipalities and cities of the Philippines.

Together, we have created a better deal, if you will, than many countries in the region, which have not yet devolved power to the local governments. I remember early in my administration, in Thailand they had this one-million baht for every locality as microfinance, but I found out the reason why they have to do that is because they don't have an internal revenue allotment. So, you don't have to beg from the national government. You can do it on your own and especially the vice mayors who are the heads of the local government legislators.

So, on this, your 20th anniversary in very auspicious economic times for the world, the challenge for you is to continue to allocate your increased revenues to invest in the future of your local government units because if you invest in your cities and municipalities' future, the sum total of that will be the nation's future.

So, let us all work together to ensure that our nation's resources which are finite even if they are bigger than before are able to meet the objective of improving the lives of the people of your constituencies and therefore the entire Philippines.

Let us all band together to shoulder the responsibility of bringing your cities and municipalities, and therefore, our nation through these challenging times. As mentioned by Vice Mayor Yap, to date we have been successful. But now is not the time for being laid back or being inactive. Now is the time to step up to the challenge — work hard to ensure our nation's bright economic future.

Kangina nga Governor Moreno was talking about, ibang klase talaga yung ating mga OFWs; the way they keep sending remittances back to the Philippines. An example of being a tough proud and resilient people. And I was telling him, you know, in New Zealand — which incidentally is another country with a negative growth rate right now — 25 percent of their population works overseas. Imagine first world country but 25 percent work overseas. So, it's not a sign of poverty that you have people working overseas. We have 10 percent of our people living overseas. But with the case of New Zealand, even with 25 percent are working overseas, many of them are yuppies because New Zealand is a rich country, well, mom and pop from New Zealand still send additional allowance to their yuppies abroad.

In our case, even if your mother, father, uncle, brother, sister will sacrifice in Dubai, Milan or wherever he or she is, they will still send money home. That is the kind of people the Filipinos are — (applause) tough, proud, and resilient. And our resilience has proven its worth these past few months. And your support to our administration, vice mayors, heads of the legislatures of your municipalities and cities has also been very clear because you have aligned your own priorities with our national economic priorities. And I thank you for that.

So, for your commitment to the economy of your constituencies and therefore to the economy of the Philippines, a commitment that will continue to pay dividends for many years to come — I thank you , I wish you all the best and I congratulate you!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 18th National Convention of the Vice-Mayors' League of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104605/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21493&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Jobs Forum on Overseas Employment

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Jobs Forum on Overseas Employment**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, March 2, 2009]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Marianito Roque sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Secretary Boboy Syjuco, ang chairman ng TESDA; ang ating ibang mga opisyal ng DOLE; yung ating mga stakeholders; yung ating mga presentors: si Lita Hizon for the land-based and Marlon Roño for sea-based recruiters; lahat ng mga iba’t-ibang mga sektor na interesado, lalo na yung mga manggagawa:

Thank you all for coming.

I called for this second round of the job summit to focus on overseas employment. And I’m very glad to hear from the report of Undersecretary Padilla that there are 500,000 jobs available abroad because we have lost about 5,000 jobs. So for every worker who has lost his or her job, 100 are waiting depending on the skills.

In this second round, people on the ground, like labor attaches and welfare officers have been invited. I asked for at least one for Asia — saan ang ating labor attaché o welfare officer mula sa Asia? — okey, very good, thank you. (applause) For the Middle East — saan yung taga-Middle East natin? — very good, yes. (Applause) Saudi and Al Khobar, okey. Siyempre kasi Saudi has 1.5 million of our 8 million people abroad. Europe, (applause) Geneva and Americas (applause) from Canada. We invited them, instead of only the officials of the head office of the DOLE. Kasi kailangan marinig ang boses ng mga nandoon sa mga nasusugatan at nakikibaka.

And I have often said that in recent months, we were lucky to be less battered than others during the initial surge of the global economic crisis, because we have worked hard to be lucky. Years earlier, we decided to swallow the bitter pill of reforms that later fortified our economic fundamentals and gave us financial space to do all the things we need to do now in order to ease the burden on our workers losing their jobs. We raised revenues; we cracked down on smugglers; we reformed our tax collection system, our banking laws and practices. We borrowed sparingly, we brought down our foreign debts and we spent prudently, even as we moved fast to improve our human and physical infrastructure, lalo na ang ating human infrastructure na kailangang-kailangan ngayon.

The result of our tough choices is evident. Yung sinabi ni Undersecretary Padilla na 500,000 jobs are available — well, dito sa Pilipinas yung Grant Thornton Business Survey, that I think our Cabinet members should disseminate, reports that many Philippine companies will hire more people and raise pay despite the global slowdown. So the challenge is to match jobs with skills. So malaki ang papel ni Boboy Syjuco dito sa hamon na ito. Kaya kanina pinag-uusapan natin, at doon kay Boboy, kung gaano kalaki ang hamon niya dahil sa report na nandoon yung trabaho, ang problema or ang hamon, yung matching.

Eh kasi si Nitoy isang career official, matagal na matagal na siya nasa gobyerno. So Nitoy sabi ko, di ba di hamak ang laki ng budget natin sa TESDA haming sa noong araw? ‘Di ba noong araw budget sa TESDA 100 million, 200 million? Sabi ni Nitoy, “80 million pa nga,” eh sabi niya. So 80 million, 100 million, 200 million. Tapos nung pumasok yata tayo ginawa nating half a billion, tapos ginawa nating one billion. Ngayon ay two billion ang budget ng TESDA. (Applause) At sabi ko kay Boboy, “at huwag kang mag-alala, don’t try to have to live within two billion

kung kailangan. Kasi kung maubos mo yang two billion eh di meron tayong policy sa pamahalaan ngayon sa mga ahensya — use it or lose it. So kung maubos mo yung two billion sa pangangailangan to match the skills, aba yung mga ibang medyo makupad na maggamit ng kanilang... yung mahinang absorptive capacity na ahensya, eh di yun ang babawasan natin ng budge,t at ililipat natin ang budget nila sa DOLE at saka sa TESDA.” (Applause)

So the message is, let us join hands against the global crisis. Let us join hands now to prevent the world crisis from becoming a Philippine crisis. Let us join hands to make sure that we stay on track towards sustainable growth. Kaya sa inyong lahat, mabuhay! Maraming salamat.

Di na kailangan ng maraming salita. Ang importante ay magtrabaho tayong lahat.

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the Jobs Forum on Overseas Employment. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104453/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21526&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the New Rizal Provincial Capitol Building [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa inagurasyon ng bagong gusali ng New Rizal Provincial Capitol**

[Ipinahayag sa New Provincial Capitol Bldg., Ynares Center Complex, Brgy. San Roque, Antipolo City, Rizal, ika 4 ng Marso, 2009]

Maraming salamat Congressman Duavit. (Applause) Maraming salamat sa inyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Bagay na bagay na si Congressman Duavit ang magpapakilala sa akin kasi totoo yun. Yung mga kinekwento ni Congressman Frisco San Juan, wala pa si Bibet noon kasi naalala ko nagsimula na sumikat si Bibet nung siya ay kasama ng aking tatay sa Constitutional Convention. (Applause)

So, batiin ko lahat ng mga nasa entablado dito at siyempre lalo na si Governor Junjun Ynares. Una sa lahat, happy, happy birthday, Junjun! (Applause)

Hindi ko na babanggitin lahat ng mga VIP sa entablado dahil nabanggit na ni Junjun kanina. Pero sa inyong lahat, congratulations sa bagong kapitolyo! (Applause)

At special mention na pagpasalamat sa Ortigas and company (applause) dahil kayo ang nagbigay ng lupa sa unang kapitolyo sa Pasig at kayo naman ang nagbigay ng gusali na napakaganda. (Applause)

Naalala ko nga mahigit tatlung taon nang nakalipas mula humiwalay ang bayan ng Pasig sa inyong lalawigan. At naalala ko nung ako ay isang bata pa ang aking address ay 157 Laura St., San Juan, Rizal dahil lahat dito ay Rizal. (Applause) Ngunit sa pagkwento nga ni Ka Frisco, yung pagpahiwalay ng Pasig, at hindi lamang yun, yung pagpahiwalay ng buong Metro Manila na dati ay Rizal. Kaya tamang-tama naman sa pagkatapos ng mahigit tatlung taon muling naibalik ang kapitolyo ng Rizal mismo sa inyong probinsiya. (Applause)

At bagay na bagay naman na dapat ang inyong probinsya ay magkaroon ng sariling kapitolyo sa loob ng probinsya dahil ang lalawigan ng Rizal. Ayon sa ating mga datos ay isa sa pinakamaliit na poverty incidence sa buong bansa. Kaya nangungunang probinsya kayo. (Applause)

Inaasahan ko na yung mga ginawa natin nitong nakaraang walong taon ay nakapagtulong sa pagbaba ng maliit na kahirapan ng Rizal. Kasi ewan ko kung naalala ni Governor Nini Ynares nang siya ay gobernador tinanong ko, “Nini, kumusta yung mga namumuhunan dito?” At sabi ni Nini, “Papano naman pupunta ang namumuhunan dito hindi naman makadaan sa traffic.” Kaya ewan kung naalala pa niya yun pero ako hindi ko nakalimutan yun, kaya pinalawak natin yung Ortigas Avenue at saka yung Marcos Highway. (Applause)

At ngayon nakikita natin ang kaunlaran na nangyari sa Rizal sa ilang nakaraang taon at gaya nang sabi ko, nawa’y nakatulong yung ating mga imprastraktura.

Gusto ko rin magpasalamat kay Junjun dahil inimbata niya ako sa kanyang kaarawan.

Actually, naalala ko nung isang taon, inimbata ako ni Junjun hindi ako nakarating.

Ngayon maaga niya ako inimbata kaya napai-schedule natin. (Applause)

At importante itong magkasama tayo ngayon, public sector-private sector represented by Ortigas; national government-local government, dahil sa kasalukuyang panahong bumabagsak ang pandaigdigang ekonomiya, higit na kailangan ang pakipagbabalik ng pambansa at lokal na pamahalaan.

Ang buong layunin ng ating administrasyon ay umahon ang mahihirap, magbigay ng pagkakataon pag maganda ang panahon at magbigay ng proteksyon pag masama ang panahon. At sa gitna nitong kakayahan nating magkalinga sa ating mahihirap maging maganda o masamang panahon ang patakaran ng mahirap na ginawa natin ilang taong nakaraan upang ayusin ang kaban ng bansa at itaas ang kita ng bayan upang mamuhunan tayo sa ating taong-bayan.

Kaya special mention sa ating congressman, ating mga congressmen, ating Senador Revilla lalo na yung mga nandoon nung ginawa natin yung mahirap na Value Added Tax. Si Bong nandoon na at saka si Jack Duavit nandoon na noon. Yun ang nagbibigay sa atin ng pondo ngayon. (applause) At yung ginawa nila tinulungan ako kahit na mahirap, kahit na hindi popular, ngayon ay hulog ng langit sa kasalukuyang pandaigdigang krisis. (Applause)

Kasi napapalaki natin ang ating pamumuhunan sa mga serbisyo sosyal upang mapalawak natin ang safety net na importante sa pinakamahihirap na kasapi ng ating lipunan.

Halimbawa, dito sa Rizal, bagamat isa kayo sa pinakakonting mahihirap sa buong Bansa, may mga nawalan ng trabaho dahil sa pandaigdigang krisis. Meron akong listahan: walong daan mula sa Walter Garments sa Cainta, halos animnapu sa Panasonic sa Taytay, mahigit sandaan sa Miyano Machinery sa Cainta, pitumpu't lima sa RNB Garments sa Taytay, hindi kumukulang sa apatnapung OFW, at dalawampu't tatlo sa KNJ International sa Binangonan.

Ngunit sa ating Economic Resiliency Program, na papabilisin ang paggastos ng pamahalaan sa mga larangan gaya ng pagsulong ng imprastruktura at pagsulong ng agri-business, ay sinadya ring lumikha ng maraming bagong mga oportunidad sa trabaho para doon sa mga na-apektadong malubha ng pandaigdigang krisis ngayon sa kasalukuyan.

Kasama dito ang mas maraming emergency employment. Kaya inatasan ko ang lahat ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan gaya ng DOTC ni Secretary Larry Mendoza na siya ang CORD para sa Region IV-A; at yung DILG ni Secretary Puno, yung anak ng Antipolo, na dapat magtabi sila ng 1.5 percent ng kanilang MOOE budget para sa emergency employment sa susunod na anim buwan. Inaasahan natin na ito ay makapagbigay ng mga trabaho doon sa kasalukuyang naghihintay na bumalik muli ang ekonomiya ng mundo.

Si Secretary Ronnie Puno — gawa nang siya ay taga rito, dati nga siyang congressman ng Antipolo, ngayon ang kapatid niya si Robbie ang congressman —si Ronnie ay mamamahala sa emergency employment ng Rizal. (Applause)

Kanina kausap ko siya, nagsimula na siya ng OYSTER — yung OYSTER ay ang Out-of-School Youth Serving Toward Economic Resiliency — pero inatasan ko siya na bigyan ng pansin na espesyal yung mga manggagawa na mga binanggit kong pabrika na nawalan ng trabaho. Kaya dala ko yung listahan — nasa 'yo na ba yung listahan, Ronnie? Ayun! ayun ang listahan — meron silang pangalan, meron silang address, yung mga walang address, yung address ng pabrika para hahanapin sila ni Ronnie at tignan kung papano maitutulong sa hanapbuhay. (applause)

Maraming klaseng emergency employment ang pwedeng maibigay. Halimbawa, kanina... sino ba yun? Si Gerry Calderon pa ang nagbanggit sa akin, yung Ecocenter, yung recycling, yung basura na ginagawang bricks o concrete block pwede ring concrete blocks para sa construction, yun ay isang pwedeng emergency employment.

O meron na tayong One Town, One Product, pwede na rin matulungan yuon. Yung microfinance, yung pag mentina siyempre ng mga kalsada, yung flood control at yung mga green collar jobs gaya nga nung brick-making. Meron kayong mga bundok na pwedeng mai-reforest o pwedeng matamnan ng jatropha. Meron kayong lawa, yung Laguna na pwedeng linisan at bantayan. At meron kayong mga public utility vehicles na pwede lagyan ng LPG para maging

mas mura. Meron kayong mga barangay na kailangan pang lagyan ng kuryente, pwede mag-empleyo ng manggagawa doon, at iba pang inisyatibo sa malinis na enerhiya.

Kahapon binisita ko yung isang Teletech Business Process Outsourcing. Itong Teletech ang pinakamalaking call center sa buong mundo at ang pinakamalaking puhunan nila ngayon ay nandito sa Pilipinas. Mga 23,000 na ang kanilang empleyado gusto pa nilang magdagdag. Nung paalis na ako sa kanilang call center kahapon sinabi nung kanilang resident vice president, yung mga electronics halimbawa Panasonic Electronics yun sabi niya, palagay nila yung mga empleyado ng electronics pwedeng mga inhinyero at may mga maraming marunong mag Ingles konting training na lamang pwedeng ma-absorb ng BPO industry. Kaya yan ang isang gusto kong magawa ni Ronnie.

At bukod sa emergency employment pinapakita nung Teletech na marami pang trabaho sa pribadong sektor. Kanina si Secretary Roque ay na-interview sa radio station, sinabi niya sa katotohanan meron talagang 300,000 new jobs available. Kalahati noon ay nasa call centers at BPO. Pwedeng paglipatan ng mga nawawalang trabaho kung mapantay sana ang kwalipikasyon. Kaya ang malaking hamon ngayon ay palawakin ang skills training para sa mga trabahong malaki ang demand kaya dinoble natin ang budget ng TESDA itong taon. Kaya ako nagpapasalamat ako kay Jack at saka kay Bong kanina. Nagpapasalamat din ako kay Deline at saka kay Lito at saka kay Robbie na binanggit ko na kanina dahil doon sa budget linaki niyo ang budget ng TESDA na makakatulong ngayon (applause) na maibagay yung nawalan ng trabaho sa mga available na trabaho.

Kaya at doon sa preyoridad ng TESDA gumawa ako ng Executive Order na kailangan isama sa preyoridad ang training sa mga in-demand skills, at kasama sa preyoridad yung mga nawawalaan ng trabaho dito sa Rizal lalo na yung kababaihan. Bakit kababaihan? Dahil yung mga nawalaan ng trabaho mga electronics at garments at nakakarami doon ay mga kababaihan. Kaya sila ang namimiligro sa panahong ito.

Patuloy tayong namumuhunan sa ating pinakamahalagang kayamanan, ang sarili nating mamamayan. At umaasa ako sa province of Rizal na nakatutok din sa... sana maging mas magaan ang pasanin ng taong-bayan nitong mga panahon ng pandaigdigang krisis. Gaya nang sabi ni Bibet, para maging all-weather economy tayon, at umaasa ako sa pamahalaang lalawigan ng Rizal, kay Junjun na maging kabalikat dito sa mga programang ito sa pagka-ibsan ng paghihirap ng mamamayan at upang umiwas na ang global recession ay maging Philippine recession. (Applause)

Yung ginawang batas noon nila Bong Revilla at Jack Duavit, yung Value Added Tax.

Actually 40 percent noon ay pumupunta sa IRA. Pero tatlong taon na ang agwat ng computation. Kaya yung unang implementation ng IRA nangyari nung 2006... ng VAT nangyari ng 2006, lumaki ang VAT ng 100 billion pesos. So, three years now, ngayon 2009, this year magsisimula ang 40 percent ng 100 billion o 40 billion pesos na pupunta na sa local government bilang IRA. (Applause)

Kaya mararamdaman ng probinsya ng Rizal ang malaking lukso ng IRA.

Ngunit ang Rizal ay mayaman naman, maraming negosyo, ewan ko kung malaki o maliit na bahagi ang IRA, pero nevertheless yung IRA ay malaking lukso.

Kaya matatag na mahaharap ng Rizal ang mga hamon ng pandaigdigang krisis.

At ako naman nananalig naman ako kay Junjun Ynares kasi siya ay dating chairman ko ng Lake Laguna Development Authority bago siya tumakbo ng gobernador. (Applause)

Kaya kung nakaya niya na alagaan ang lawa at palawakin ang mga activity sa kapaligid nung lawang yun lalo na sa tulong ng ating bagong mayor ng Antipolo City, si Mayor Leyble. (Applause)

Dito sa malaking siyudad ng Antipolo marami kayong magagawa dito sa capital city of Antipolo pati na rin sa buong lalawigan ng Rizal sa liderato ng ating birthday boy na si Junjun Ynares.

Congratulations! Happy birthday! (Applause)

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the inauguration of the New Rizal Provincial Capitol Building. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104425/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21773&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the 34th Asia-Pacific Convention of the Kiwanis International Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremony of the 34th Asia-Pacific Convention of the Kiwanis International**

[Delivered at the Atlantic Hall Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Lahug District Cebu City, Cebu, March 13, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you, Cerge, for your introduction and, of course, a heartfelt congratulations to Kiwanis!

First to my Cabalen, Chairman Navarro, congratulations! To our guests, our guests headed by Kiwanis International President Don, welcome to the Philippines; and our host Kiwanis Club Cebu; and we have, of course, to congratulate Marit Remonde and Miguel del Gallego. Our officials of the Philippine government; of the province of Cebu led by Governor Gwen Garcia who, I understand, hosted a very nice dinner for you last night; And in the table next to the Presidential table, we have our national officials such as our legislators. We have Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar — is this your district, Raul? Is this your district? So he is our host congressman. And then next to him we have my Presidential Adviser on Climate Change Sonny Alvarez; and Congressman Neri Soon Ruiz; former congresswoman and spouse of the incumbent congressman, Congresswoman Nancy Cuenco and Congressman Benhur Salimbangon:

So, we're all very happy to be here and I'm sure I speak for all of them when I say to all the foreign delegates to this convention, welcome to the Philippines! Welcome to Cebu! And to the Kiwanis Club of Cebu City, whom the Mayor called the best civic club in his city, for hosting this Convention, congratulations also!

I guess we should congratulate, as I said earlier, that this South District Governor Marit and Convention Chairman Miguel for leaving no stone unturned. I understand that Marit worked very hard to bring this event to her husband Cerge's province, which is now also her home province. But one of these days, Chairman Navarro and I will host you also, won't we?

Now Cerge was introduced as a fellow Kiwanian, because I understand that Cerge was president of Kiwanis Cebu in 1997-1998, not really so long ago. So it was Cerge who first got Marit interested in Kiwanis. But in 2001, when Cerge joined my new administration, then Marit took his place as a full-fledged member of the Kiwanis Club. So now we have Press Secretary Cerge Remonde. He took his oath of office before me sometime ago but Marit wasn't there so we didn't have the picture taking, we simply will have a reenactment of the picture taking here when Marit is around and all of you are here. And we have Marit of Kiwanis Philippines South.

Originally, I understand, that originally founded as a business club way back in 1915, Kiwanis soon transformed itself into a service organization dedicated to changing the world; one child, one community at a time. Cerge and I and our other officials...that is our national officials, are dedicated also to a common vision: a Philippines on the verge of First World in 20 years; when we hope that by time we will have dramatically reduced poverty, created a robust middle-class and have all the hallmarks of a modern society in strong, stable institutions.

I'm glad that you are all here. Chairman Miguel was saying that he was afraid that because of the global financial crisis, there might be not such a good attendance. But thank you for this good attendance, 400 strong from the region are here.

And I hope that as you go around you will see that our economy is stronger than it has been in generations. It has demonstrated that the hard choices we made together with our congressmen and congresswomen in recent years regarding economic reforms have allowed the resources to mitigate the impact of the global financial crisis on the

Philippines. These efforts have served us well. They have helped to ensure that at least, thus so far, the global crisis does not become a crisis in the Philippines.

Having said that, we have not been immune to the impact of the global crisis. When we were in the bus from the airport coming here, I asked Governor Gwen Garcia, “do you have displaced workers in our economic zone, in our economic export zone?” She said, “yes,” because we have a strong electronics and furniture export industry here, and it’s export industries that are taking the brunt in the Philippines of the global crisis.

So, therefore, we must continue to focus on jobs. We must focus... and also not only jobs but also keeping prices low because if there is unemployment created in the export sector, well, the cost of living becomes more difficult for them. So, the government must provide incentives to help the private sector to keep and create jobs. One of the things that we are doing together with the Secretary of Labor is for those electronics firms who said that they don’t want to fire all of their workers because they know that there will be a rebound — it’s just that they don’t know when the rebound will happen in the electronics sector. So, they said if the government could help them and keep their workers even if their workers don’t have real work to do but to train in the meantime. So, that’s what we’re doing. They can pay their workers half of the minimum wage because they won’t be working anyway while the government is training them for higher skills for the rebound. And so this half of the minimum wage is not a wage, it is just an allowance for their food and their transportation to their training. So, that is among the things that we’re doing to help the private sector keep and create jobs.

Also, while the electronics and the furniture sector of Cebu, which is heavily export-oriented, is doing retrenchment, other companies are expanding. So even as we speak now, my Secretary of Tourism, who is from Cebu, is conducting a jobs fair somewhere here in Cebu because tourists continue to come to Cebu. There is a 6.0 percent increase in tourism so far this year in spite of the global economic crisis.

The government must also continue to come to the rescue of the poorest among us with targeted subsidies of food, fuel and rice. And all that of course will cost money. In challenging economic times, therefore, the government must tighten its own belt and live within its own means, so that we can have the money to pay for all of these subsidies and programs that I mentioned earlier. So we must live within our own means just like the average Filipino household.

So to that end, the government is taking a series of actions to stop unnecessary and wasteful spending. For example, when we were in the airport today, I checked to make sure that they start to use fluorescent lights rather than incandescent lights, that’s one way of saving. The taxpayers deserve no less from the government and public servants.

One of the other actions is my Executive Order to all government agencies to reduce by one, 1.5 percent their respective Maintenance, Overhead and Operating Budgets. This translates to a 7-billion peso savings, and these savings are not to be kept in the bank. The government must pour all its savings and revenue into programs that help the poor and even the middle-class.

This includes more and more investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure. And in my Executive Order, I mandated that savings from MOOE be allocated to emergency employment for the next six months. I mentioned this because Kiwanis Clubs are always open to partnerships with others, including governments throughout the world. So, I invite you, the Kiwanis, to increase the reach of your civic projects by considering partnerships with our government in these important initiatives.

Education may be an important program thrust that would be most interesting to Kiwanis Clubs like those who are here present. Your organization has a long history of supporting the growth and development, and especially the education of children.

I heard, for instance, that the Kiwanis Club of Cebu has been running for almost 30 years now — Cerge? — a successful collegiate scholarship program. And I understand that the program has sent numerous poor students to college and that out of the hundreds that Kiwanis has sent through college in Cebu since 1980, I understand that

there are 10 summa cum laude, 47 magna and 29 cum laudes. So, congratulations for that! Also, congratulations for the Kiwanis Book Club. One of these days, Cabalen, I hope that we can also look at Kiwanis Pampanga and see what projects we can do together.

For one, perhaps we can all support programs for providing meals for our children in school and jobs and training opportunities for our young graduates that indeed is crucial.

We must tackle many challenges at once to keep our economy and way of life going strong. That's why on the part of government, we must live within our means and run a lean, efficient government. All the while, we must also simultaneously invest in people.

For this reason, in the light of the global crisis, in the implementation of the rationalization program of government, I have asked Secretary Andaya to make sure that nobody is dislocated. If in accordance with the rationalization program an employee is occupying a position that is declared redundant due to rationalization, but he still prefers to stay in government, then the position will only be abolished upon his regular retirement when he turns 65 or when he turns 60 and takes his voluntary retirement. Because it would really be quite ironic if we're setting aside money for emergency employment and then we're letting other people go in the meantime. So a lot of the positions declared redundant are anyway going to be vacated by retirement in a few years time.

And I believe we can wait for that time.

So these are the things that we're doing in spite of the fact that in 2008 when many countries were having a negative growth rate, the Philippines had a GNP growth rate of 6.0 percent. We are not complacent. We have to work hard to make sure that the Philippines remains resilient in the face of the global crisis. So, we are not complacent but we are hopeful.

In the Kiwanis Cebu Club website, a song of hope plays in the background while one browses the contents of the site. In part the song goes like this: "Together, we can; together, we strive this task to fulfill." Indeed, if we are together, we can make a difference. After all, we share a common passion: a civic organization like Kiwanis and a government institution like the government of the Philippines. So, therefore, let us all be in service together.

To Kiwanis Filipinos — let us all be in service together.

To Kiwanis from all parts of the region — welcome and I hope you will also be there with your governments and are working with the Kiwanis here to help our people as well.

To all of you, welcome! Congratulations! And thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Speech during the Opening Ceremony of the 34th Asia-Pacific Convention of the Kiwanis International. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104321/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21988&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 104th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) “Masiglahi” Class 2009

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 104th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) “Masiglahi” Class
2009**

[Delivered at the Philippine Military Academy, Fort Gregorio del Pilar, Baguio City, Benguet, March 16, 2009]

Thank you. (applause)

Thank you Secretary Teodoro for your introduction.

Vice President Noli de Castro and the other civilian officials who are present here today; Superintendent of the PMA, Vice Admiral Calderon, congratulations! on your first graduation as superintendent of the PMA; (applause) administration, faculty and staff of the Philippine Military Academy; AFP Chief of Staff General Yano; the other major service commanders; all the officers and men and women of the Armed Forces who are present here today.

Officials of the area: Congressman Domogan, Mayor Bautista, Governor Fongwan, and I’m sure they all welcome their colleague Governor Bella Angara Castillo and all the officials of Aurora who are here to greet their favorite son. (applause)

Members of the Diplomatic Corps, other local officials, other Local Government officials present; AFP and PNP officials present; at kayo mga kasapi ng PMA “Masiglahi” Class of 2009 pati na rin inyong mga magulang at kaibigan, congratulations! sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Congratulations! sa ating valedictorian and also condolence on the untimely demise of your grandmother, but I’m sure that she is very happy that you are the first PMA graduate to be both valedictorian and the recipient of the athletic saber — brain and brawn combined. (applause) Congratulations! also on your sister, topnotcher in the Medical Board examination. (applause)

Binabati ko ang lahat ng ating mga nag-graduate pati na rin yung mga guro, magulang at iba pang kaanak. At yung mga sa hindi matagal na panahon ikakasal na, congratulations din and best wishes to your spouses! (applause)

Malaking karangalan ang mapiling kadete sa Philippine Military Academy, kung saan libu-libong estudyante ang naghahangad na pumasok taun-taon. Lalong malaking karangalan ang makapagtapos ditto, whether it’s four years, five years or six years to take you to graduate. Napakaraming sakripisyong dinanas ng inyong mga magulang at ibang kamag-anak upang masigurong makabilang kayo sa mga tumatanggap ng diploma sa araw na ito.

Ngayon ang pagkakataon upang ibahagi naman ninyo sa inyong mga mahal sa buhay ang karangalang ito at upang ibahagi rin ninyo sa bansa na siya ang nagtrabaho at gumastos para mag-aral kayo. Kaya sa ating lahat, congratulations and good luck! (applause)

You have chosen as your class goal to bring back the finest glory of the Filipino soldier. MASIGLAHI (Mandirigmang Sigaw ng Lahi), the name you have chosen to respond to the call of the people for soldiers willing to make sacrifices to protect the people and our Constitution, uphold our sovereignty, and join the main catalysts for national development.

You are recipients of the reforms introduced into the Academy. You belong therefore to a new breed of military officers equally adept in the battlefield as in community building. You have been thoroughly trained not only by your commandants and his experts in the science of warfare, but also to be role models equipped with the mind, discipline, professionalism, drive for excellence, and the heart to stand for what is just and right for our country and our people.

The kind of officer you have been trained to be is crucial at any point in time but more so now for meeting the challenges of a deepening global economic crisis.

We must continue to focus on creating jobs and keeping prices low. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is one of the areas of government expanding its recruitment, together with the police and the Department of Education. But it is in the private sector... it is primarily to help the private sector to keep and create jobs that the government must provide incentives for. The government must also continue to come to the rescue of the poorest among us with targeted subsidies of food, fuel and rice.

Some of the poorest among us are the disabled soldiers and the families of soldiers killed in action. For their families, our special rescue comes in the form of housing assistance. In this regard, yesterday, I instructed the release from the President's Social Fund of more than 125 million, the biggest release I've ever had from the President's Social Fund. (applause) This will be for housing assistance for over a thousand disabled soldiers and families of those killed in action to whom we will give a 180,000 pesos each. (applause)

But even as we help provide homes for the families of the disabled and the slain, in these challenging economic times, the government must tighten its belt and live within its means, just like the average Filipino household. To that end, the government is taking a series of actions to stop unnecessary and wasteful spending. The taxpayers deserve no less from their government and public servants, just as the taxpayers deserve no less from you than the utmost courage, integrity and loyalty.

With regard to belt tightening in government, I have issued an Executive Order to all government agencies — and this should include the Department of Defense, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Philippine Military Academy — to reduce their respective Maintenance, Overhead and Operating Expense budgets by 1.5 percent. Government-wide, this shall translate into a savings of 7 billion pesos.

I also take this opportunity to remind all government agencies and entities including the DND, the AFP and the PMA that as early as last year when the price of fuel started to go up, I had issued a directive to start electricity and fuel saving measures, using many already widely accepted practices as well as creative and innovative ways that can be employed to substantially lower fuel and electricity consumption. And the government, including the DND, the AFP and the PMA, must pour all savings and revenue into programs that help the poor and the middle-class. Thus with regard to savings from MOOE, in my Executive Order regarding that, I said that savings must be allocated to emergency employment for the next six months. Secretary Gilbert Teodoro has been designated as Emergency Employment Champion for Region XII, Central Mindanao, with priority to that towns in that region that belong to the 100 poorest towns in the country.

Helping the poor and the middle-class includes also more and more investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure. There will be those among you who will be called upon to help in these investments: building classrooms or serving as soldier teachers, conducting medical missions, building bridges and roads especially in conflict areas. You will be called upon to win communities away from the insurgents and provide the means to live peaceful, productive lives for those communities through the Kalayaan Barangays.

And whether in conflict areas or in the communities in which you are located, we must all support programs for providing meals for our children in school, and job and training opportunities for our young graduates. On jobs and graduates, PMayers are among the fortunate few who have jobs waiting right after graduation. Your colleagues in other colleges are now anxious about finding jobs in April or May. Thus, we have escalated our jobs matching program to make information about job vacancies available to more people, simultaneously with accelerated skills training program.

I mentioned meals for children in school, so from your savings, from the savings of the military camps, I asked them, including PMA, to spend part of the savings for providing breakfast for the day-care, pre-school or Grade One children in the school within or nearest the camp.

We must tackle many challenges at once to keep our economy and way of life going strong. On the part of government, we must live within our means and run a lean, efficient government, including the DND, the AFP, the PMA and the units that you our young graduates will soon be commanding. Running a lean and efficient unit includes continued fiscal prudence while the national government, undertakes efforts to work towards a balanced budget. But all the while, we must also simultaneously invest in key programs for our people. For the DND and the AFP, the most key of these programs of my ten point agenda is to arrive at a just completion of our peace process.

Peace conduces development and development conduces peace. Armed conflicts slow down growth. Conversely, a long period of extreme economic difficulty is a powder keg that threatens the community's security. We must move fast to stop the conflicts and I will need your greatest military skills there. But we must also move fast to promote growth. Therefore, you play a vital role in winning battles and winning the peace.

At the first PMA graduation rites I presided over as President, I said that the peace process is a function of Defense, especially as it proactively seeks to transform conflict into dialogue and consensus and thereby strengthens the ramparts of our internal security. Indeed, peace is always our preferred choice but we also need your military skills to make sure that it will be the preferred choice of all parties in the conflict.

For armed groups, we have adopted the U.N.-approved framework of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

Our new paradigm for peace is community-based and recognizes the needs of various stakeholders of the peace process. The men with guns do not speak for the people. That is why we are conducting authentic dialogues with communities. They have a bigger stake in peace and deserve a stronger voice.

The peace we seek is anchored on Peace Talks for All, and Projects for Peace many of which it will be the AFP that will implement.

So, young PMA graduates, as new officers you are expected to be a unifying force to bring together your fellow soldiers and the civilian communities where you will serve in endeavors that will win battles but also further peace and development.

Be proud that you are among the few who have been molded especially to make a difference in our people's lives as you rule your own life with "Courage, Loyalty and Integrity."

Congratulations and make good! (applause)

I now pardon the outstanding punishment of the cadet corps of the PMA as may be prescribed by the Superintendent.

Congratulations to all of you!

Thank you. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 104th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Masiglahi" Class 2009. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104305/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22035&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 30th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) “Kaisang-Bisig” Class of 2009

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 30th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) “Kaisang-Bisig” Class of 2009**

[Delivered at the PNPA Campus Grandstand, Camp Castañeda, Silang, Cavite, March 26, 2009]

Thank you very much Secretary Puno for your introduction.

Tikas pahinga.

Vice President de Castro, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Dr. Cojuangco, Police Chief Superintendent Abarzosa, PNP Chief General Versoza, Head of our Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Dian, Acting Chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection Bandilla, Mayor Tolentino and other local government officials, other national government officials, PNP 'Kaisang-Bisig' Class of 2009:

Congratulations! Lalo na kay Cadet Roan Marie Bascugin, class valedictorian, congratulations! (Applause)

Pinagmamalaki kong kababaihan ang ating valedictorian itong taong ito. (applause)

Sa mga magulang, kaanak at kaibigan ng mga nagsisipagtapos, congratulations din! (Applause) Dahil sa inyong pagsisikap, nakapagtapos sa Akademya ang inyong anak, kapatid, kaibigan. At special na congratulations sa ama ni Cadet Roan Marie Bascugin, si Police Superintendent Bascugin. (applause) Talagang 30th Commencement Exercises na ito dahil ang ama ni Marie Bascugin ay Class '84 ng PNPA. (Applause) Kaya second generation na itong ating mga nagtatapos ngayon.

Ang 'Kaisang-Bisig' ang napili ninyong pangalan ay nagbibigay ng pagkakaisang kailangan para sa kapayapaan at kaunlarang makakamit lamang sa pagtutulungan ng ating kapulisan, mga bumbero, at mga jail officers.

And together with Secretary Puno who inducted you, who received you into the service of the Department of Interior and Local Government, I welcome you, the country's newest police, fire and jail inspectors, to permanent government service. (Applause)

Yung ginamit ni Secretary Punong salitang 'permanent' ay napakamakabuluhan sa mga panahong ito sa buong mundo. At mabuti naman at sa ngayon may mga bakante pa ring mga naghihintay sa mga kwalipikadong aplikante sa sektor ng kapulisan, ng military at ng edukasyon.

We must continue to focus here at home on creating jobs as well as keeping prices low. Salamat na lamang na nakaya ng taong-bayan ang mga presyo ng bilihan ng pagkain kaya malaking binaba ang hunger rate ng ating bansa itong Enero. (Applause) But the government must provide incentives to help the private sector to keep and create jobs. The government must also continue to come to the rescue of the poorest among us with targeted subsidies of food, fuel and rice.

How do we fund all these? The answer is: "Cut government waste."

In challenging economic times, the government must tighten its belt and live within its means, just like the average Filipino household. To that end, the government is taking a series of actions to stop unnecessary and wasteful spending. The taxpayers deserve no less from their government and public servants. Kaya ipinag-utos ng inyong

lingkod ang belt-tightening measures sa lahat ng ahensiya ng pamahalaan, kasama na rito ang DILG, PNP, BJMP, BFP at PNPA. Mabuti na lang at noon pa natin itinaas ang sweldo ng mga pulis. Sa loob ng nakaraang walong taon, limang beses itinaas ang sweldo o allowance ng ating mga pulis. (Applause)

Ngayong dapat magtipid, nilagdaan ko ang Executive Order upang bawasan ang mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan ang Maintenance, Overhead and Operating budgets ng 1.5 percent. Aabot ng 7 billion pesos ang salaping matitipid.

I have directed electricity and fuel saving measures. Our targets: Bring down consumption by 25 percent of fossil fuels; reduce electric consumption by at least 10 percent; turn off airconditioners at 4:30 except those with 24-hour work.

Ipinag-utos ko rin na gumamit ang lahat ng ahensiya ng fluorescent bulbs imbes na incandescent upang makapagtipid tayo sa inaangkat na kuryente; and convert 20 percent of our government vehicles in major cities to non-fossil fuels. At dapat umpisahin na nating gawin ito, Ronnie, sa ating mga police vehicles.

Government vehicles not on official trip, including police cars and fire trucks should be garaged in the agency office and the keys kept by the guards during weekends and holidays. Government vehicles used by officials below Cabinet rank may not have security plates unless there is imminent danger to the lives of the officials involved.

This coming Independence Day, we will forego the annual parade which costs 30 million pesos. Instead, we will hold a mega-jobs fair so that our 45,000 workers displaced by the global crisis can find employment and livelihood.

The government, including the DILG, PNP, BJMP and BFP and PNPA, must pour all savings and revenue into programs that help the poor and the middle class.

Savings from MOOE shall be allocated to emergency employment for the next six months. Secretary Puno has been designated as Emergency Employment Champion for the Province of Rizal, while Secretary Jun Ebdane of Public Works has been designated as Emergency Employment Officer for the Province of Cavite; and in both cases, in fact in all cases, with priority given to displaced workers in the export industry.

Helping the poor and the middle-class also includes more and more investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure. Kaya sa edukasyon kasama na doon ang PNPA. Thus, I directed the Secretary of Interior and Local Government to provide more slots for PNPA next school year. (Applause)

Itong klase ninyo — I think, 315 or 14 kayo nagsimula — at sabi ni President Cojuangco next year ay 380 ang pwedeng makapasok. Sabi ko sa kay Secretary Puno dagdagan yun at gawing 400 ang tatanggapin. (Applause)

Inatasan ko rin ang upgrade ng PNP hospital at mga clinics — meron ba kayong clinic dito? O, i-upgrade din natin ang clinic dito. Gawin nating primary hospital kung clinic-clinic pa lang siya (applause), para makapaglingkod na rin sa kapaligiran sa pamayanan. At hindi lang dito yun din ang dapat — sinabi ko na kay Ronnie noon — na gawin sa malalayo at mahihirap na lalawigan.

Working on infrastructure also means more road repair, where we can use OYSTER (Out-of-School Youth Serving Towards Economic Resiliency) at importante ito para sa inyo dahil ang recruitment officer ang dapat ang chief ng police station.

And all agencies must support programs for providing meals for our children in school and job and training opportunities for our young graduates.

Yung kanina nung nakaupo kami at sinabi ni Ronnie he's accepting you in the permanent service, yun nga sabi ni Vice President Kabayan yan trabaho rin yan. Kaya mapalad kayong mga nagga-graduate dahil meron nang trabahong nagihihintay sa inyo. (Applause) Kaya bilang sukli, I am instructing all police camps, including the

PNPA, to spend also part of your savings for providing breakfast to the day care, preschool and Grade 1 children in the school nearest your camp para sa kinabukasan ng susunod naman na henerasyon.

We must tackle many challenges at once to keep our economy and way of life going strong. On the part of government, we must live within our means and run a lean, efficient government. This includes continued fiscal prudence on the part of every agency including PNPA as our national government officials and economic managers undertake efforts to work towards a balanced budget. All the while, we must also simultaneously invest in key programs for our people, and certainly one of these key programs is public safety.

Natutuwa ako at tuloy-tuloy ang naging pagbaba ng ating ibat-ibang crime rates. Halimbawa, malaki ang naging pagbaba ng mga bank robberies at mga insidente ng kidnapping, hindi ba General Versoza? Tama yun. But there are still challenges we have to address. We must bring political killings to zero, including assassinations of government officials and media personalities.

This morning I talked with General Versoza and I said that Davao broadcaster Elgin Damasco should be offered police protection, and the texts threatening him should be investigated.

Kaya maraming nagawa ang inyong mga predecessors, mga Class 2009, at marami pa ring kailangang gawin ang inyong klase pagpasok niyo sa police, sa jail management at saka sa fire protection.

Our people have given you the rare opportunity to develop your potential. Go now and give back what you received by keeping the people safe. And as you keep the people safe, you will be able to carry out through your careers your theme today of, “Justice, Integrity and Service: Essential Values Towards a Strong and Globally Competitive Republic.”

Sa inyong lahat, congratulations! Good luck! And thank you. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Speech during the 30th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) “Kaisang-Bisig” Class of 2009. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104248/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22670&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Reception

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Reception

[Delivered at ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, March 27, 2009]

Thank you very much, President Kuroda for your very kind words; and thank you and congratulations for organizing this very first ADB Reception ever. Congratulations to all of you.

Other officials of the Asian Development Bank; members of the diplomatic corps; Philippine officials; ladies and gentlemen:

I would like to thank ADB, indeed for this very first ADB Reception. It's a great occasion to celebrate what President Kuroda said, "it's our strong relationship."

On a personal note, I am proud to recall that it was in my father's administration that ADB started building its main headquarters here in the Philippines. I remember how hard my father worked for that and he provided valuable land in Roxas Boulevard in order to make sure that ADB would make its home in the Philippines.

Since then, ADB's financial and technical assistance for the development of Asia-Pacific has touched millions of lives in the region. And to date has even become more valuable as we strive to shield our peoples from the global economic downturn.

We must continue to focus here at home on creating jobs and keeping prices low. The government must provide incentives to help the private sector to keep and create jobs. The government must also continue to come to the rescue of the poorest among us with targeted subsidies of food, fuel and rice.

How do we fund all these? Before going to the ADB for technical assistance or loans, we must first and foremost, "cut government waste."

In challenging economic times, the government must tighten its belt and live within its means, just like the average Filipino household. To that end, our government is taking a series of actions to stop unnecessary and wasteful spending. The taxpayers deserve no less from their government and public servants.

I have instructed all national government agencies, including Government Owned and Controlled Corporations to reduce their Maintenance, Overhead and Operating Expenses by 1.5%. This translates to a saving of P7 billion.

I have directed national agencies to save fuel and electricity. Our target: bring down the use of fossil fuels by 25% and reduce electric consumption by at least 10%. National agencies must turn off their airconditioners at 4:30 p.m., except those with 24-hour work; and they use fluorescent rather than incandescent bulbs. If all bulbs in the country were to shift to fluorescent, we could save P2 billion. And I thank the ADB for supporting this endeavor.

Twenty percent of national government vehicles in major cities shall be converted to non-fossil fuel users. Government vehicles not on official trip shall be garaged in the agency office and the keys kept by guards during weekends and holidays. And this Independence Day, we will save the diplomatic corps including President Kuroda of the need to go to Luneta to watch a P30 million parade because instead we will hold a mega-jobs fair so that the 46,000 workers in the export sector displaced by the global crisis can be matched to the jobs that are certainly still available.

In this regard, I was happy to hear for Indophil that rather than laying off workers, they're looking for additional workers, so certainly jobs are still available. The government must pour all savings and revenue into programs that help the poor and the middle class. This includes more and more investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure. And we must all support programs for providing meals for our children. This is part of our template — our formula that has contributed to the drastic reduction in our hunger rate these past few months. And of course, it is summer time, graduation time; we must also work hard to provide job and training opportunities for our young graduates.

To keep our economy and way of life going strong, we must tackle many challenges at once. On the part of government, we must live within our means and run a lean, efficient government. This includes fiscal prudence not only on the part of government, national government but also local governments. I just come back from Mindanao where I spoke in Davao before the Board Members of the Philippines, those who make the loss in the provincial governments. And I told them about our cost-saving measures and they have said that they will replicate these same measures by legislating belt-tightening measures in their own provinces. This is very welcome as we in the national government undertake efforts to work towards a balanced budget. And I'm glad that Secretary Teves just walked in because that is his important task together with our Secretary of the Budget. All the while, we must also simultaneously invest in key programs for our people.

And here, we thank the ADB for your support for our key programs. President Kuroda enumerated the many kinds of programs that you have provided for us, your assistance you have given which has benefited the urban and the rural poor of Tawi-Tawi to Cagayan Valley with projects ranging for so many all those things that President Kuroda mentioned. But I would also like to thank not only the institutional ADB but also ADB and its staff for giving a lot of attention to Metro Manila with your community projects and welfare assistance.

International financial institutions like the ADB had a particular significance during this global economic downturn, orienting your financial products to be more responsive to countries vulnerable to the crisis and using all your resources to mobilize rapid assistance. And given the magnitude of the global downturn, all multilaterals should come together to provide counter-cyclical financing as other sources might begin to dry up.

And we count on you for your technical assistance and support to share knowledge and experiences on how different countries are responding to the crisis. We also count on you and we will be seeing President Kuroda in Thailand in the East Asian Summit soon. We count on the ADB to help strengthen ASEAN's surveillance activities which is so important for our region's economic resiliency.

To do all that you have been doing and to do what has to be done, in order that our region should continue to be resilient in the face of the global economic downturn, I agree that ADB should be well-equipped in its participation in the world's efforts to address the global crisis. So we support what President Kuroda expressed as his wish in his all remarks the capital increase of the bank, you have our support there Mister President. (Applause)

And because we cannot temporize, we call for its finalization by the Annual Meeting this coming May.

You helped us strengthen our economies; strong economies interacting together will bring about a comprehensive strength for the region that will be greater than the sum of our individual national strengths. And for this, we look forward to the ADB in the many years to come to continue to forge partnerships to strengthen our respective national economies and thereby to strengthen the economy of the whole Asian Region.

To ADB, thank you for all that you have been over this more than 40 years to the Philippines, to the region and therefore to the world.

Congratulations, mabuhay and thank you. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Reception. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105813/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22867&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 18th National Assembly of the Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 18th National Assembly of the Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Ballroom, The Apo View Hotel, Davao City, Davao del Sur, March 27, 2009]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Gabby Claudio sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

And I would like to greet and give my hats off to Speaker Boy Nograles for his firm leadership of the House of Representatives. (Applause)

And thank you also, Boy and the other people of Davao City for hosting this very important convention. (Applause)

Board Member and President Pearl Angeli Pacada, congratulations also on your leadership of the Board Members League. (Applause)

Pag-usapan natin kung papano tayo makakapagtulungan doon sa hinihingi niyong kontribusyon sa inyong condotel doon sa Ortigas. (Applause)

Other officials of the Board Members' League, at kasama rin natin ditto, our Cabinet member from Mindanao, Secretary Nasser Pangandaman. (Applause)

To all of you, thank you for inviting me here.

I got the invitation a few weeks ago. My schedule was already full today because Friday is Climate Change Day and I had some visits scheduled to see Solid Waste Management facilities and to advocate among the different local governments; but I decided to redo my schedule and do my Solid Waste Management Day right here in Davao City and in the surrounding areas. (Applause)

And I thank you that, that is one of your advocacies — fighting global warming, fighting climate change — and solid management waste is a very important contribution to that. Because next to fossil fuels, the second biggest source of climate change is the methane coming from garbage.

And all of these you are doing in accordance with your theme: “Moving Forward in Unison Towards the Provincial Board Members’ Vision for a Stronger Philippines.” I thank you for your theme, it is very similar to the vision I have been speaking about of a strong republic.

Indeed, this is an important convention because Board Members are crucial to the growth and resilience of a province. Put together, your power of the purse and your power to legislate, just like the power that Boy Nograles and his colleagues wield, can wield significant influence; Boy in the country, you and your provinces’ growth path and the pace by which your provinces’ programs are executed. That is why when you came forward the several occasions to support me during the trials of my presidency, it was really important and crucial support because of your importance in your provincial governments. Thank you for that. (Applause)

Now, the experience you have in your respective Boards and your will for your provinces are being summoned to address the concerns being raised by the economic crisis that is sweeping the world today. We must all continue to

focus here at home on creating jobs and keeping prices low. The government, national and provincial, must provide incentives to help the private sector to keep and create jobs.

One of the things we are doing in the electronics industry, to help the electronics which is the hardest hit industry of the global crisis keep and create jobs, is, that if they don't lay off their workers and they keep them, waiting for the rebound even if they are not doing any real work, they can pay them minimum wage while TESDA finances the industry specified training program. That is something we're doing in the national level. Something that you might look at also at the local level.

The government must also continue to come to the rescue of the poorest among us with targeted subsidies of food, fuel and rice. And I thank your local governments for helping us to do this distributions because as a result of our being able to provide a food, fuel and rice at subsidized prices to the poorest of our constituents, the country has experienced a drastic decline in the hunger rate this past month. Thank you again for your support there. (Applause)

To fund all the things we need to do, to keep the Philippine economy strong during this global economic crisis, we must "cut government waste." And that is at the national and provincial levels.

In challenging economic times, the government — national and provincial — must tighten its belt and live within its means, just like the average household.

To that end, at the national level, we are taking a series of actions to stop unnecessary and wasteful spending. The taxpayers deserve no less from their governments and public servants. And these measures are probably things that also the provincial governments can replicate. So I call on you to the extent practicable, to legislate programs similar to what we have done. The series of belt-tightening measures that we have done for the national government which I hope the provincial governments through your legislative powers can replicate. For instance, I have ordered all national government agencies, including Government-owned and Controlled Corporations, to reduce their Maintenance, Overhead and Operating Expenses by 1.5 percent and allocate the savings to emergency employment for the next six months.

I have directed national agencies to undertake electricity and fuel saving measures. Our targets include bring down consumption of fossil fuels by 25 percent; reduce electric consumption by at least 10 percent; turn off air conditioners at 4:30 except those with 24-hour work; gumamit ng fluorescent bulbs imbes na incandescent bulbs; convert 20 percent of vehicles in major cities to non-fossil fuel users.

Government vehicles not on official trips should be garaged in the agency office and the keys kept by guards during weekends and holidays.

This coming Independence Day, we will forego the annual parade which usually costs 30 million pesos and instead hold a mega jobs fair so that our workers, our 46,000 workers displaced by the global crisis can find livelihood or employment.

Indeed, the government — national and provincial — must pour all savings and revenue into programs that help the poor and the middle-class. This includes more and more investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure which are well within the spending authorities of the provincial governments. And now that we have lowered the hunger rate, let us continue with successful programs, let us all support programs for providing meals for our children in school; and I'm glad that Board Member Pacada mentioned your support for the early childhood development because part of that is giving our day care, pre-school and grade one children a healthy start with a nutritious breakfast.

It doesn't have to be sumptuous but it can be nutritious — rice, malunggay — these are very good for nutrition. Also, we all have to work together at our different levels to help provide job and training opportunities for our young graduates, because not only are we holding this convention during women's month, we're also holding it during graduation month and there are those young graduates looking for a job soon.

One of the things we are doing in the national government is that DSWD is doing a poverty mapping. And so, for enumerators to find out who are the poorest of the poor, DSWD is using the young graduates so that they have a job immediately. That is a few thousand of them and I hope that you can also look for activities whereby you can mobilize the young graduates.

We must tackle many challenges to keep our economy and way of life going strong. And on the part of government — national and provincial — we must live within our means and run a lean, efficient government. This includes on the national and local governments continued fiscal prudence as we in the national government together with Congress, which has the power of the purse and the power to tax, work towards a balanced budget. And all the while, we must also simultaneously invest in key programs for our people.

We have our programs at the national level, you have yours at the provincial Level; but over these past eight years, we have been jelling our programs together and I'm very happy with that.

On our part, the national government has increasingly invested in the growth of our local government units. Even in the cash-strapped early years of my administration, because I inherited a very parse purse when I became President in 2001, we still took great pains if you remember, to release your IRA in full, even if we had to sacrifice the national government spending and we even paid the debt that previous administrations owed to our LGUs.

One of the areas in which you, the Board Members have supported me was in the massive reforms that we made in taxes. In 2005, we made the most massive of those reforms, the Value Added Tax which was at very great cost to my popularity. Not only that, it was challenged in court but it was finally implemented in 2006.

Forty percent of all internal revenue, including the Value Added Tax goes to IRA, with a three-year lag in computation. So when we first implemented VAT, the expanded VAT in 2006, the VAT went up by 100 billion pesos. And so now, three years later, due to the three-year lag in computation, this year, the IRA went up by 40 billion pesos. (Applause)

So maybe you're beginning to notice this big increase that you have to budget. So this year, you the local governments, are reaping the benefits of my political sacrifice. But one of my konsuelos is that the Board Members supported me (applause) during that period of sacrifice.

And certainly, it will be doubly worth the sacrifice if you in the League take up the challenge now that you have this big increase in IRA, to make sure that each province spends your IRA windfall prudently. Not on trimmings, but only on strategic programs that will keep us growing in spite of the slump in the world today, and that will lay the foundation for sustainable growth, because that is indeed what a stronger Philippines is all about.

So, together — and I thank you for your resolution and it looks like that we will continue to be together — together, we can achieve our common vision: a strong and resilient Philippines; because each of your provinces through your wise legislation remains strong and resilient during this period of crisis. The country as a whole will be greater than the sum of its parts. And the strength of your provinces will be more than an equal contribution to the strength of our Republic.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat sa inyong suporta at nawa'y magtagumpay ang mga resulta ng inyong mga workshop kung papaano palakasin pa ang inyong mga probinsya at ating republika.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104237/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22856&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during an Official Banquet in Honor of H.E. Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare of Papua New Guinea

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During an Official Banquet in Honor of H.E. Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare of Papua New Guinea**

[Delivered at Shangri-La's Boracay Resort & Spa, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan, March 29, 2009]

His Excellency, The Right Honorable Grand Chief Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare; Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is our honor and pleasure to welcome to the Philippines, The Right Honorable Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

Sir Michael is my seatmate in APEC, but of course more than that, he is the founding father of the Independent Papua New Guinea, the Commonwealth's longest surviving politician with 40 years of service and Papua New Guinea's longest serving prime minister.

He is a valuable friend of the Philippines, and a good brother of ours in the Pacific. We invited His Excellency — even if he has been here before, two times — to express our gratitude for Papua New Guinea's unwavering support to our initiatives and our aspirations in the United Nations.

Papua New Guinea has not only been consistent and constant, often it has also influenced the other Pacific islands to support us.

The relations between the Philippines and Papua New Guinea go back to the 1800s when 14 Filipino missionaries accompanied European priests to Papua New Guinea to teach catechism. I understand there is a monument at the Holy Rosary Parish Church in Port Moresby with an inscription that reads and I quote: "In remembrance of the first group of Filipino Lay Missionaries in Papua New Guinea who arrived on Yule Island during the 1880's and other whose names are known only to God."

This is followed by the names of the 14 missionaries who set foot on Papua New Guinea and by coincidence the parish church of Boracay is also called the Holy Rosary Parish Church.

In any case, these missionaries started the wave of cultural, intellectual and technical exchanges between our peoples that 120 or so years later still continues to this day.

I am pleased to note the presence of Filipino workers, Filipino technicians and Filipino firms in Papua New Guinea. For instance, the Kenmore Group which was founded over 30 years ago who hosted Sir Michael at lunch today; And we have Rodrigo Rivera's RD Tuna Canning based in General Santos but with a very big investment in Papua Guinea whom we would have wanted to visit for tomorrow but the schedule of Sir Michael is so full of many other activities so he will postpone that for some other visit. And another big investor is the Fravel Fishing Corporation of Francis Tiu Laurel. And I'm very happy that we have Mr. and Mrs. Tiu Laurel here with us tonight.

And with these big investments in fishing in Papua New Guinea, it is significant that the Memorandum of Understanding on Fisheries Operation will be signed during his visit containing especially our common commitment to sustainable development.

This commitment to sustainable development is made doubly significant by Papua New Guinea's being a partner of the Philippines and four other countries in the Coral Triangle Initiative; the other four countries being Malaysia, Indonesia, East Timor and Solomon Islands.

Papua New Guinea not only has that great jungle under the water in the Coral Triangle, it is also home to the third largest jungle in the world, next only to the Amazon Jungle and the Great African Jungle.

Another important area in which Papua New Guinea has an influence in the world, in the region and on the Philippines is in the Pacific Islands Forum and the Southwest Dialogue. Papua New Guinea is a leading member, and the Philippines is a dialogue partner.

And this I believe, is another significance of our relationship because the Pacific Islands Forum and the Southwest Dialogue can be part of the solution to the current global slowdown. It should be part of a larger Pan-Asia body in Asia that should include East, South and Central Asia, the Middle East, Russia and Oceania to which Papua New Guinea belongs.

If we have this, Asia will be stronger with the more united region. This large Asian community can strengthen our economy, security and prosperity. It can help us maximize growth, trade, investment and financial stability in our great region and continent which is best suited to weather the global crisis and come up the strongest compared with other regions.

So, on this note, for all these reasons which make Papua New Guinea such an important country to us, I invite you all to join me in a toast to Her Majesty The Queen, who is the Head of State of Papua New Guinea; to Sir Michael, the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Somare of Papua New Guinea; and to the people of Papua New Guinea.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during an Official Banquet in Honor of H.E. Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare of Papua New Guinea. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104203/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22953&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) National Federation launching of its Environmental Program “Sama-Sama Para Sa Kalikasan” and bill signing of the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) Speech

of

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) National Federation launching of its Environmental Program “Sama-Sama Para Sa Kalikasan” and bill signing of the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES)

[Delivered at Bohol Wisdom School Gym, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, April 1, 2009]

Daghan salamat Jane ug daghan salamat sa imong maayo nga liderato sa atong SK sa tibuok nasud. (Applause)

Our leaders of Congress headed here by Girlie Villarosa and the authors of the very important Youth Student Training Program, and as we heard earlier, principally sponsored by Congressman Edgar Chatto; our leaders of the province headed by Governor Aumentado ug nianhi karon ang mga tanang congressmen ug mga mayors dinhi sa Bohol, maayong udto kaninyong tanan; our members of the Cabinet those who will be helping to implement the law on student employment; aton mga SK from the whole Philippines, thank you for being here, 6,000 of you, congratulations on this excellent attendance! (Applause)

And you couldn't have chosen a better place to gather today. Not only because we are in the home province of your national federation president, but also because dito sa Bohol — the only province I understand with an Environmental Code being implemented — dito ninyo naisipang ilunsad ang kampanyang “Sama-sama Para sa Kalikasan.” Congratulations! (Applause)

“Sama-sama” is as important as the word “kalikasan.” Yung “sama-sama” now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and the community. We must initiate a new era of volunteerism and community spirit. This should include the government, the religious and civic groups and non-government organizations harnessing our people to engage in coordinated volunteer activities. We should focus on initiatives such as cleaning up our environment, building parks and planting trees, and bringing comfort to the poor through food banks and bringing the dignity of literacy to adults who cannot read.

SK's adoption today of environmental protection as your priority program is a declaration that you are ready to train your energies on activities that will slow down or hopefully even reverse the harmful effects that mankind has brought on our planet. And you have my support, as Jane said, the last time we were together in Cebu, I awarded your organization 10 million pesos for use in your environmental protection projects. (Applause) And I am glad that Jane said you will focus on cleaning up our environment, including solid waste management and also on planting trees.

During these trying times of the world, the Filipino spirit and commitment to caring should prompt each one of us to count our blessings and give back to those who are less fortunate. Our nation needs us all pulling in the same direction. Volunteering time, skill and resources that is a noble undertaking we should all take seriously.

In lean global economic times, we need to tap into national support for “volunteerism.” We need to promote citizen involvement to help friends, families, communities and the less fortunate, notably revolving around the poor and the environment.

In the Sangguniang Kabataan, you the youth have a vehicle by which you can achieve our shared vision of a Philippines that provides a high quality of life and protects our resources for future generations. I am happy that you have taken on the challenge of protecting the environment and mitigating the effects of climate change.

This is in line with the Task Force on Climate Change that I created, to address issues related to environmental protection. It has 14 Task Groups covering a whole range of concerns, from waste management to water and air pollution and energy utilization. Each Task Group is headed by a Cabinet Member who is assigned to draw up activities on an approved design or implement assigned tasks.

I hope the SK can align your environmental activities along with those of the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change. Your tasks can be as simple as educating our people about proper solid waste management or helping plant trees in logged-over areas. Or they may be as complicated as linking up with various government agencies to assist in the monitoring of projects. A laudable idea would be a data bank, as I understand Jane Cajes has proposed, which may be pursued in coordination with the DENR and your respective revenues.

How timely it is also that today in front of the youth of our country, I have just signed an Executive Order promoting a Youth National Service and therefore...

Well, that's different yet from what Edgar did. Aside from what Edgar has done, I also signed an Executive Order for a Youth National Service.

This targets 18 to 24 year-olds, tamang-tama SK is in that age. This national service shall be composed of a National Service Corps and a Youth Conservation Corps.

The National Service Corps shall be like a domestic "Peace Corps." It shall be geared to the unemployed or underemployed skilled youth or college graduates. It will focus on their contributions to education and community service programs. So, I ask the SK to help me recruit such youth to undertake a national service commitment with a modest stipend.

On the other hand, the Youth Conservation Corps or YCC shall be composed of the unskilled or less-educated youth. They shall focus on environmental and infrastructure projects. I also ask the SK to help me recruit you to likewise undertake a national service commitment with a modest stipend. Maybe some of you know the OYSTER program that will be subsumed into this new YCC.

OYSTER means "Out-of-School Youth Serving Towards Economic Resiliency." The police implements that. That will be subsumed into the YCC.

And as what we did earlier, I was very happy to sign before the youth of our country the new law creating as sponsored by the Boholano, Edgar Chatto and the other congressman who are here today, a Special Program for Employment of Students. As Bernie Sayo explained earlier this law will expand opportunities for poor students to acquire hands-on training and earn some money which they will use to continue schooling.

The number of companies allowed to participate has been increased, and government partly pays for the students' allowance in the form of vouchers that all schools are ordered to accept.

And that is so important because in today's global economy, knowledge is the greatest creator of wealth. The government must pour all savings and revenue into programs that help the poor and the middle-class. This includes more investments in the economy, environment and education.

The social safety net programs of our administration are focused like a laser on expanding educational opportunities to enable the upward mobility of young men and women from poor families. Our administration readily addresses educational concerns.

Two concerns have been brought to my attention: One, the rigid tuition fee payment rules — where is Chairman Angeles? Yun — of state universities and colleges; and the second, the clamor to expand the coverage of the Student Assistance Fund for Education or SAFE.

The “no payment, no periodic examination policy” I understand is one of the main reasons why young students from poor families drop out of college. This has to change to ensure a decent graduation rate for college. Rigid tuition fee payment rules cannot be allowed to sabotage the great educational agenda of our Administration. (Applause)

Likewise, the benefits of our Student Assistance Fund for Education should receive the fullest of endowments. You know you have a president from Bohol, President Garcia. And I am also the daughter of a president, Diosdado Macapagal.

And being the daughter of a president, speaking to those who come from the province of another president, I think we can all agree that the most inspiring stories of the Filipinos as a people are the great stories of meritocracy, and driving, fueling and enabling those great success stories is one constant — education. For instance, my father was born into abject poverty, but because a philanthropist gave him a scholarship to finish school. He was number one in the bar examinations. He was able to work in a good law office. He was able to join the government. He became congressman, vice president and president. And I want all the youth of our country to have the same chance. (Applause)

So, inspired by his story and others like his, to make sure that as many graduates from college as one too, I have issued an Executive Order for the Commission on Higher Education to instruct all state universities and colleges to devise a flexible, socially-sensitive tuition fee payment plan, and reform the “no payment, no periodic examination policy” that is currently being applied.

(Applause)

That Executive Order also instructs the administrations of the SAFE or the Student Assistance Fund for Education to expand the coverage of the program.

On top of tuition, beneficiaries of the program should be able to borrow from the fund for a monthly stipend to subsidize the students’ transport fares and laboratory, research and book allowance.

My dream for the youth that you represent is that in the prime of your life which is today — no, not yet today — in the prime of your life ten years, twenty years from today, you will see the Philippines on the verge of first world. That in the prime of your life, poverty shall have been marginalized; and the marginalized raised to a robust middle-class. That in the prime of your life, we will have achieved all the hallmarks of a modern society where institutions are strong.

And by today, when you are not yet in the prime of your life, you are already strengthening the institution of the SK. I know that you the SK have the drive and the will to achieve a Strong Republic in the first world by the time that you are the adults and the leaders of our country.

Congratulations! And good luck to all of you! (Applause)

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Speech during the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) National Federation launching of its Environmental Program “Sama-Sama Para Sa Kalikasan” and bill signing of the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104130/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23022&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 27th Biennial Convention of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese
Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 27th Biennial Convention of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and
Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII)**

[Delivered at Function Rooms 1 & 2, SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City, April 3, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Favila for your introduction.

Ambassador Liu of the People's Republic of China, thank you for being here with us; Secretary Roque; the elder statesmen of the Federation, the previous presidents, honorary presidents and senior advisers; Mr. Henry Sy, our host for today and his family and corporations; and Tessie, thank you for your contributions to the Philippine economy, and thank you Tessie for your kind words about our economy and our economic management; the outgoing officers headed by President John Tan, congratulations for a job well done!

Under John, the Foundation has continued to be government's strong partner in development programs. Our incoming Board and Officers headed by Alfonso Uy of Iloilo, whom I've known for a long time in Iloilo, congratulations for being the first Federation president coming from the province!

This makes the Federation truly national and I am optimistic that our partnership will grow even stronger under the next set of officers who will officially be chosen during this convention. But because Dr. Uy is running unopposed, he was already introduced to me by Francis Chua as the next president or their incoming president.

It is so impressive that such a large ethnic-based group can be so cohesive and keen in preserving your unity, your cultural identity, and yet be so thoroughly assimilated to Filipino culture and traditions. Just looking at this room, if I had maybe an hour to speak, there would be so many that I could mention that I can recognize on this floor of Chinese ancestry. Of course, we have your congresswoman from Chinatown, Naida Angping, and her husband Chairman Harry Angping, but we also have mayors, city and municipality, we have prominent businessmen that I have interacted with not only in Manila but in the provinces and so many of you. And this is just a tribute to your ancestors who chose to make the Philippines their home.

And let me say that because of your ancestors and you, our country has been culturally and economically enriched several times over. In fact, most Filipinos have a Chinese ancestor in their family tree. So you're really considered of Chinese ancestry if you can trace it very specifically in your family tree. Because if you cannot trace it, then everybody has Chinese ancestry. In my case, I'm very happy that my grandchildren can have traceable Chinese ancestry because my husband's middle name, Tuason, came from his Chinese ancestor, Son Tua, whose gallantry in helping defend the Philippines against the British forces in the mid-18th century earned for him a Spanish nobility title and lands stretching from today's Sta. Mesa to Diliman to Marikina. So, we are part of you.

The government's partnership with your Federation started ever since you were founded. The numerous projects that your Federation launched in support of government's programs have touched the life of every Filipino in one way or another. Just speaking of John Tan's administration, and he gave us his report, the Federation provided assistance in lobbying for far-reaching economic laws, sponsoring various trade fairs and investment and promotion campaigns, providing police patrol cars — and how many times I was there to witness the turnover together with other equipment necessary to maintain peace and order — training our youth, building schools in far-away communities, delivering relief goods in places visited by calamities. So, thank you, John again and your Board and thank you to the elder statesmen and senior advisers of the Federation.

The Federation is among the most active of groups complementing government's social services delivery. You have the best volunteer fire brigades in the country. You have mobile clinics that have helped cure thousands of the sick. Your speedy relief to victims of calamities such as typhoons Cosme and Frank in the region of your new president has been exemplary.

And the people especially thanked the Federation for your landmark championing the cause of quality education. You have shown that classrooms can be built at half the cost estimated for these projects. That's why I decided that in support of what the good you're doing for our people on the occasion of the inauguration of the new Board, I will give you a 35 million-peso check. So that you can be even more generous, as you have already been generous, with your two-classroom school building donations to the "Operation Barrio Schools." I only ask — you have linked up with the DepEd to build so many units of two-classroom buildings. And I thank you for that — I only ask, for this one, you will specifically put it in the grade schools where the ratio of students to classroom is 100 for one shift or two-fifth students for two shifts. Because if the ratio is more than that, that is where the lack is really there. So that is where I would like you to put this money where the ratio is bigger than 100 to one for one shift or fifty to one for two shifts.

And I'm glad that John already told you about the Executive Order that I signed authorizing your Federation to fund raise for your "Operation Barrio Schools" and that all the funds generated from contributions shall be tax-exempt. Meaning, the donor or contributor shall be allowed to deduct the donations or contributions for income tax purposes.

At no time in written history do strong partnerships matter more than now, when our nation faces concerns brought about by the global economic crisis. As you all know, this global recession is not of our making, yet we have to deal with its challenges.

In challenging economic times, we must tackle many challenges at once to keep our economy and way of life going strong. On the part of government, we must live within our means and run a lean, efficient government. This includes continued fiscal prudence, which Tessie said is one of the keys to our resiliency today, and efforts to work towards a balanced budget. All the while, we must also simultaneously invest in key programs for our people.

So this coming Independence Day, we will forgo the costly annual parade. In the past, I looked forward so much to your dragon dance which I insisted to my organizers that must be included together with the 'tinikling' or what Muslim dance are there because the Chinese-Filipinos are Filipinos and your culture is part of Philippine culture. But we won't have that now because we won't have a parade.

Instead, we will hold a countrywide mega-jobs fair so that our — is the number correct, Nitoy? — 46,000 displaced workers can find employment and livelihood. And I enjoin your Federation, with your network of 170 member organizations all over the country, to be actively involved in the jobs fairs.

I am happy to recognize the Federation's action also in signing the Memo of Agreement with the DOLE, that's why Nitoy Roque is here, for the reemployment of workers who would be displaced by the global crisis.

By the way, I'd like to thank Mr. Sy and family for having the Gaming Exhibit downstairs because we've lost 5,000 jobs abroad, right? But Nitoy Roque was able to get openings in Sentosa in Kuala Lumpur for 5,000 jobs. So, now what we have to take care of are those losing their jobs in our export-oriented industries in the Philippines.

On the part of the people, now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and the community. We must initiate a new era of volunteerism and community spirit. This should include the government, religious and civic groups such as the Federation, and non-governmental organizations harnessing our people to engage in coordinated volunteer activities. We should focus on initiatives such as cleaning up our environment, building parks and planting trees and bringing comfort to the poor through food banks and bringing the dignity of literacy to adults who cannot read.

During these trying times, the Filipino spirit and commitment to caring should prompt each one of us to count our blessings and give back to those who are less fortunate. Our nation needs us all pulling in the same direction.

Volunteering time, skill and resources is a noble undertaking that the Federation has taken seriously all these years. And I thank you for that and I hope you will be an example for many other Filipinos.

Because in lean economic times for the world, we need to tap into national support for “volunteerism.” We need to promote citizen involvement to help friends, families, communities and the less fortunate, notably revolving around the poor and the environment. You know, today is Friday. I devote Fridays to concerns and initiatives for environmental security. On this Friday that I am with you, I especially appeal for your help in promoting proper waste management, solid waste management, and also in putting sewerage treatment plants in your respective office buildings so that the water that will flow into the system, into the Pasig River will be already treated and clean water.

I also ask your help for the Youth National Service targeting 18 to 24-year-olds that I launched last Wednesday in Bohol at the Sangguniang Kabataan National Convention. The National Service Corps shall be like a domestic “Peace Corps.” It shall be geared to the unemployed or underemployed skilled youth or college graduates. It shall focus on their contributions to education and community service programs. We are recruiting such youth to undertake a 2-year national service commitment with a modest stipend. And I ask that the Federation help me with the stipends.

We look to our reliable partners for support to create new jobs, deliver targeted relief to the sectors that have been hardest hit by the global economic slump, and spend more judiciously on programs that give the greatest positive impact.

Also, I’m sure that you are very much concerned that in times when money is difficult and crimes are expected to rise, the police must become even more vigilant, so with the military.

This morning, I was able to talk on the phone with Ms. Lacaba. And I told her we are happy that she is back with us. And we give credit — as I told her, those who worked hard for her release — to the local crisis committee, the troops, the DND, the DILG and the PNRC leaders. We call for more of such concerted efforts to end lawless violence.

Here in Metro Manila, I have put a new director for the whole region for NCR. Somebody that many of you are familiar with because he was the head of the Manila Police District and maybe some of you in the provinces are familiar with him because he was able to have for a long time the biggest drug bust in Quezon province and put in jail the highest ranking fish in the drug trade. That is your new director for NCR, General Boysie Rosales, and my special instruction to him is look into the kidnapping incidents in Metro Manila. He has done a good job in Manila because of the support of your community and your Federation. And now I’m sure you’re supporting him in his bigger area.

I thank the Federation for your contributions that help the police keep the peace and make our people feel safe in their homes, their workplace and in the streets. As Tessie said and our other speakers, the theme of your biennial convention is: “Working Together, Overcoming Crisis.” Indeed, we have been working together for a long time and produced inspiring results.

The people of the Philippines recognize your efforts to make life better not only for the Filipino-Chinese in our country but for everyone else. Tessie praised our economic management for our resiliency. But let me in return say that your efforts, the Filipino-Chinese business community, helped our country achieve a record 36 successive quarters of growth during my Presidency, capped by the 8.0-percent GNP growth in 2007.

Last year, when two-thirds of the world went into recession, we managed a 6.1- percent GNP growth last year. And this year, while 46,000 of our workers have lost their jobs in our export-oriented industries and 5,000 workers have lost their jobs abroad. There are 5,000 jobs available abroad and our economy has increased employment by 500,000 also so far this year.

So we have created more than 500,000 jobs here and there are 500,000 jobs abroad, and hunger has gone down significantly. This was achieved with members of the Federation playing vital roles in propelling the economy upward as well as delivering more social services to the poor. For your contributions to this achievement, we thank you.

FFCCCII has promoted the growth of business and integrated the Chinese community into our society. And most importantly, the Federation has worked hard to achieve our vision of a modern Philippines.

In these challenging times, we need to work together even more closely, complementing each other's actions to keep the global crisis from becoming a Philippine crisis and to keep our country on the path of long-term growth.

With your support, I have high hopes of sustaining our economic resiliency and attaining a vision of a Philippines at the threshold of first world in 20 years.

To the officers to be elected, congratulations!

And to all of you, maraming salamat muli sa inyong lahat.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Speech during the 27th Biennial Convention of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104123/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23265&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Heroism at the National Shrine, April 9, 2003

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Heroism at the National Shrine**

[Delivered in Capas, Tarlac, April 9, 2003]

KEEPING THE FLAMES OF HEROISM ALIVE

The soldiers who fought in World War II, most of whom are no longer around, are pillars of courage and heroism, we'll forever be indebted to them. This memorial that we unveil today is a tribute to them. Nothing is ever enough however to show our gratitude for their sacrifice. On the wall we unveiled today, are inscribed the names of 32,285 gallant men who took part in the Bataan-Corregidor campaign, and the Death March from Bataan to Capas.

Max Soliven's father, Commander Major Benito Soliven, who commanded 1,000 men has his name inscribed in that wall. Seven of my uncles have their names inscribed in that wall. One uncle, Angel Macapagal, does not have his name inscribed in that wall because as he marched from Bataan through Lubao, on the way to Capas, passing through his hometown, he knew where he would have some drinking water from a well, and he was very thirsty. He went to the drinking water and found out that nobody noticed that he had gone, so he did not go back to the Death March and he survived. But the seven others did not survive. And I am proud that my family, the Macapagal family, is part of the Death March and part of Capas and part of Bataan.

Each of those men, the 32,285 men whose names are inscribed in this wall, is a hero. An example for us in today's difficult times, faced with a mortal crisis, they embraced a collective destiny and gave their all for the flag.

Hinahandog natin ang ating taos-pusong pasasalamat at dasal sa mga magigiting na ito na ang kanilang mga pangalan ay nakasulat dito sa pader sa Heroes Memorial. At naaalala natin sila lalo na sa mga panahong ito, mga panahon na maraming hamon sa mundo at sa bansa na kailangan ng mga bayani lalo na sa mga araw na ito.

Tayong mga Pilipino ng kasalukuyang henerasyon, hinaharap natin itong mga banta at ang masasabi ko bilang inyong Pangulo, para harapin ang tagumpay at itong iba't-ibang mga banta, kailangan ko ang suporta ng buong taongbayan. Halimbawa, iniimbestiga natin ang nagpapatok sa Davao. The arrest of the suspects is only the beginning. We shall uncover the larger conspiracy behind the terrorist acts in Davao, and expose the face of the enemy to the people.

I have directed the probe to be determined and unrelenting. The people must know the motive and the mastermind behind these acts. Even if we have to chase the truth across frontiers with the cooperation of our allies against terrorism. I commend the vigilance of our security forces as they fight for our freedom from violence.

I ask our people for your support, together we shall show the world that this country will never be a safe haven for terrorist groups.

Isa sa ating sandata kontra sa terorismo ay ang kagalingan ng ating mga sundalo na pinag-iibayo sa pamamagitan ng mga pagsasanay kagaya ng Balikatan. Itong taon, ang Balikatan ay gaganapin sa ilang lugar kasama na rito ang Sulu. The Province of Sulu is strategically important, that is why "Balikatan" will partly be held there.

The local governments want it, and this is important to our national security. Anti-terrorism exercises will improve the capability of our soldiers to gain ground. We are determined to cut down the entire body of terrorism in the country, and the Sulu connection is vital to this objective. There is a nexus in Central Mindanao connected with

another hub in Sulu, both interlinked with militant cells in several urban centers. We have to take down all the nodes and cells to contain the threat and we must not take this effort in isolation.

We acknowledge the opposition to this exercise. We will take that into consideration in the constitutionally adherent terms of reference.

Ang laban ng mundo kontra sa terorismo ay umabot sa giyera sa pamamagitan ng Amerika at Iraq. The U.S.-Iraq war is virtually over. The Coalition is now crossing the bridge between mopping up operations and the beginnings of restoration. We must remember that we have also benefited in a significant way from this victory. We are now safer from weapons of mass destruction. We are now more secure from the tentacles of worldwide terrorism abetted by rogue states. We have won freedom as much as the Iraqi people have won their freedom.

Thus, today, Heroes Day becomes even more meaningful as a time to reminisce the sacrifices of our own soldiery and people during the past war. Celebrating the nobility of the soldiers gives us an opportunity to pay homage to the Coalition Forces as well as to the Iraqi soldiers who died in the conflict. We also join the Iraqi people in their struggle for freedom whose profound meaning we had always known throughout our history. This meaning of freedom is the stuff our heroes of Bataan and Capas were made of. Many fought shoulder to shoulder until death. Others perished out of hunger and disease.

In their memory and in honor of those among them who continued to live among us, let us all work together and harder than ever to win the battle against terrorism, to win the battle against poverty, to win the struggle for democracy, independence and freedom.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Speech of President Arroyo during the Dubai Job Summit Conference and Luncheon

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Dubai Job Summit Conference and Luncheon

[Delivered at the Al Thuraya Ballroom, Renaissance Hotel, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, April 12, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Roque for your introduction and for organizing this very important conference.

Secretary Romulo and the other members of the Philippine Cabinet who are here with me today. Ambassador Cabactulan and the other officials of the Philippine government based here in the Middle East; Deputy Speaker Villarosa and the other members of Congress who are here with us today; Governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Zaldy Ampatuan and our other Muslim leaders who are here with us today in Dubai upon my invitation; employers; recruiters; and all those who are working for more employment for Filipinos here in the Middle East.

Thank you for coming to this conference. And thank you for your manifesto that provides 200,000 new jobs aside from those already in the roster of the POEA. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

The world economy continues to challenge developed and developing nations alike. So, our top officials not only the Cabinet members, legislators and Muslim leaders here but even the Vice President of the Philippines have traveled to Dubai to promote the interests of our expatriate workers here in the Middle East. Economies had been difficult in several countries but we thank the governments and the employers of the region, of the Gulf Region and Northern Africa that Philippine workers are still, Philippine workers are still in demand and that they are still the most sought-after workers in the region. So, we have come here to champion our workers before the governments of the Middle East and those firms that are hiring workers.

Central to keeping our economy moving is keeping our workers employed, both at home and abroad. The central mission of the Philippine government is the health, security and safety of our people. Good jobs and good wages will continue to help achieve these goals.

In these trying times for Filipino workers, both overseas and domestic workers in the Philippines in the export-oriented industries, the government will not sit idly and do nothing. For government, it is now payback time. The heroic efforts of our Overseas Filipino Workers whom we call our modern-day heroes will not go unreciprocated. So, we have a program of full reciprocity being carried out to help Overseas Filipino Workers in the host countries that are now being buffeted by the economic crisis.

Naturally, Secretary Roque and his department, the Department of Labor and Employment, is taking the lead in carrying out the government's payback program for the Overseas Filipino Workers. One of the components of this full government support in helping Overseas Filipino Workers who have been displaced is to find remunerative jobs.

And for OFWs who want to cross over to other countries or to other companies in the same country that are in need of their skill and talent, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration — and Jennifer Manalili is here — is carrying out a marketing blitz to expand the market for our Overseas Filipino Workers, and part of that marketing blitz is our Job Summit today and tomorrow.

So far — correct me if I'm wrong, Nitoy? — but it seems a number of Filipino workers deployed thus far has continued double-digit growth. The market for Overseas Filipino Workers remains high and resilient. Of course there are some challenging spots, but overall while some expatriates have lost their jobs, employment overseas is holding steady because new jobs are being created at the same time like the 200,000 new jobs that you, the employers, recruitment agencies and hardworking government officials had been able to put together.

We are proud that our expatriate workers are increasingly skilled and diversified in their fields. And we are glad that bilateral discussions with many countries are opening up new employment opportunities abroad for Filipinos in a wide range of skilled sectors.

I thank you that your manifesto specified the country, the skills so that this can be provided to our Technical Education and Skills Development Authority which has been given a budget of billions of pesos as opposed to hundred millions in previous administrations. And we will tailor those scholarships that it is handling out to the specific skills that are spelled out in your manifesto.

Given the global environment, indeed, we must be prepared, which is why we are doing everything possible to continue to create jobs at home and abroad.

Aside from tailoring the skills training to your specific needs as spelled out in your manifesto, we are taking the licensure examinations of the Philippine Professional Regulation Commission to selected international locations where large expatriate worker populations are present, including Dubai I suppose, so that these workers who have finished their college degree in a specific skill but still have not taken the professional licensure examination can do so and therefore by getting that license they can prepare for higher paid and more secure employment. We are doing this, for instance, for the professions of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Architecture, Certified Public Accountants, Civil Engineering, and teachers.

So, let me once again reiterate, the government will not sit idly and do nothing for our modern-day heroes in this time of great world economic uncertainty. And I thank the employers, the recruitment agencies, and the hardworking Filipino bureaucrats who are here, for supporting us in identifying business and employment opportunities amidst the global challenges.

May you have a fruitful Job Summit. And thank you once again for being here and giving jobs to our Filipinos.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). PGMA's Speech during the Dubai Job Summit Conference and Luncheon. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104059/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23452&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the meeting with the Filipino community in Dubai

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the meeting with the Filipino community in Dubai**

[Delivered at the Auditorium, Fairmont Hotel, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, April 12, 2009]

Maraming salamat Secretary Romulo sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. At ako naman ay ipapakilala ko rin yung aking mga kasamahan dito sa entablado natin.

Nandito ang ilang mga Cabinet members dahil kami ay nanggaling pa sa ASEAN Summit doon sa Thailand. Ang ating Secretary of Finance si Secretary Margarito Teves. Ang ginagampanang papel ni Secretary Teves doon sa ASEAN ay kasama ng ibang mga finance ministers ng ASEAN at ng Japan, China at saka Korea ay magbuo ng isang pondo para doon sa mga nagkakaproblema ang liquidity kaya ito ay isang inaasahan na masisimulaan sa darating na buwan.

Nandito naman ang kanyang talagang pakay hindi nga siya kasama doon sa Thailand, nagsalubong dito ay si Secretary Mariano Roque ng DOLE, at palagay ko karamihan sa inyo alam ninyo kung ano ang kanyang pakay dito sa Dubai; mamaya pag-uusapan natin yun. Nandito rin ang ating Secretary of Trade and Industry, si Secretary Peter Favila. At si Secretary Favila ay kasama ko rin dito sa Dubai at saka sa Abu Dhabi ilang buwang nakaraan dahil panahon na na kunin na ng Pilipinas ang bahagi ng mga investments na pwede manggaling dito sa Middle East, at eto nga ang ginagawa. Kanina kausap namin ang ilang mga investors, yung iba kasama ako, yung iba hindi ako kasama, si Peter lang. At bukas, ipa-follow up din yung mga pinag-usapan namin ng Emir ng Abu Dhabi na siya ang pangulo ng UAE tungkol sa mga inaalok nating investments sa Pilipinas.

Nandito rin si Secretary of Agrarian Reform Nasser Pangandaman. Ang isang dahilan kung bakit siya ay nandito ay dahil ito ay isang bansang Muslim, si Nasser ang Muslim na miyembro ng ating Gabinete. At kanina ay pinirmahan ko ang isang proklamasyon dahil kung Pasko at saka Easter at All Saint's Day na Christian Feast ay National Holiday sa ating bansa. Pinirmahan ko rin kanina na ang Eid'l Fitr at Eid'l Adha ay maging isang National Holiday din sa ating bansa.

Well, hindi ko na ipapakilala si Ambassador Cabactulan at saka si... at magpapasalamat ako kay Consul General Valeriano sa kanyang pag welcome kanina. Yung ating mga delegasyon mula sa Kongreso ay pinamumunuan ni Deputy Speaker Girlie Villaros, pati na rin si Congressman Danny Suarez na ginamit ang pagkakataon ng pagbiyahe kasama ko para pag-usapan kung papano makakabuo ng pondo para madagdagan ang computer literacy sa ating mga eskwelahan, di ba, Danny? Nandito rin si Congressman Munir Arbison ng second district of Sulu dahil inimbata ko nga yung mga legislators at governors ng Muslim community para nga matestigo yung pagpirma nung Eid'l Fitr/Eid'l Adha bilang National Holiday. Nandito naman mula sa Batangas si Congressman Dodo Mandanas, at malaki ang papel na ginaganap ni Congressman Mandanas dito sa ating biyahe. Kung matupad yung mga nilalakad ni Governor Mandanas para sa ating bansa ay meron tayong maikakasama sa Billion Dollar Club mula dito sa Middle East. Etong Billion Dollar Club ay yung mga namumuhunan sa Pilipinas ng at least one billion dollars gaya ng Texas Instruments, gaya ng Hanjin, gaya ng... at saka yung... — sino ba yung sa ano eh Tokyo Electric and Marubeni? Ano, Marubeni? — at ilan pa at magkakaroon ng isang palagay ko isang kasapi ng Middle East doon sa Billion Dollar Club kaya let us hope that Congressman Mandanas will be successful in nursing that investment.

Nandito rin mula naman sa Lanao del Sur si Congressman Pangalihan Balindong kasama sa ating Muslim Legislators delegation. Doon sa kabila naman ng Lanao del Sur nandito si Congresswoman Faysah Dumarpa at saka nakikita ko yung kanyang maybahay doon, si Mr. Salik Dumarpa. Nandito rin mula sa Leyte si Congressman Martin Romualdez na merong ipinapangakong ipakilala isang prospective investor sa akin mamayang gabi, okay. At karing kabalen kong Kapampangan tang Kapampangan keti ke Congressman Dong Gonzales. Kasama rin sa ating Muslim congressmen si Congressman Mujiv Hataman ng Party List, Anak Mindanao. Isa pang congressman mula sa

Christian Mindanao naman, si Congressman Anton Lagdameo at ang governor ng Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, si Governor Zaldy Ampatuan. Ang kanyang ama, ang governor ng Maguindanao, si Governor Andal Ampatuan; governor ng Lanao del Sur, si Governor Adiong; governor ng Basilan, si Governor Akbar; governor ng Tawi-Tawi, si Governor Sahali. Meron tayong mahiyaing secretary na ayaw umupo kasama ng mga kapwa Cabinet members, si Secretary Mely Poblador. At yung napakilala ko si Mr. Dumarpa na maybahay ni Congresswoman Dumarpa. Nandito rin si Mrs. Lovely Romulo at saka si Mrs. Favila. Ah, sino si Bert Romulo? Eh siya nga ang nagpakilala sa akin eh. Tapos yung nag-alaga ng aking mga bisita sa lunch kanina, yung mga media at saka press at saka photographer ng UAE, si Secretary Cerge Remonde. Hala, ayun! Oo nga no, si Cerge Remonde. Kasi you're in between two absent Cabinet members. Sige, okay.

Anyway, ako ay nasisiyahan na nandito kayo ngayon, Happy Easter to all of you! At ating kabalen ug naa pay mga ig agaw gikan sa Mindanao, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan. Oh! mga Bisaya sab gikan sa Cebu ug laing-laing probinsya sa Visayas. Ilokano, naimbag nga malem yo amin, Apo.

Naalala ko nung ako'y nagpunta dito sa Dubai in January of last year, yung St. Mary's Choir ang kumanta, ang galling noon, ang galing pa rin ngayon, congratulations! Noong araw ang problema natin ang lakas-lakas ng piso. Ngayon may problema, hindi yung kalakasan ng piso, yung problema ng buong mundo.

The world economy continues to challenge developed and developing nations alike. At ako ay nagpunta dito sa Dubai dahil alam ko abalang-abala kayo to promote the interests of our expatriate workers here. And I want to let you know, if last time we came, we were talking about how to alleviate the problems of a strong peso. Now, I'd like to tell you about a program of full reciprocity that is being carried out to help OFWs in host countries that are now being buffeted by the economic crisis.

Ang Department of Labor ang nangunguna sa pagtupad ng tinatawag nating payback program dahil kayong mga OFW ay sabi nila bagong bayani, we have to pay back to you what you have done for our country sa panahon na nanganganib sa at least sa feeling ninyong nanganganib ang mga trabaho dito.

Ang unang bahagi nitong reciprocity program ay ang Filipino Overseas Livelihood Support Fund sa halagang isang bilyong piso, ito ay galing sa OWWA at sa mga bangko ng pamahalaan. Ang mga OFW na nawawalan ng trabaho ay maaaring gamitin itong pondo sa bagong negosyo o dagdag na pag-aaral at training.

At yung kanina nung nag luncheon kami ng mga Dubai-based media ang kinekwento ay may ilang mga umuwi pero hindi nag register, hindi nagkaroon ng pagkakataon na mag register sa POLO na nawalaan sila ng trabaho. Kaya pagpunta sa Pilipinas at gusto i-access ito hinihingan ng certification, eh wala namang certification dahil ang ginawa na raw ng kanilang boss employer ay hiningi ang kanilang registration kaysa officialling ire-trench sila. So, sinabi ko kay Nitoy Roque, "Nitoy, gawin nating hassle-free itong mga... ang reglamento eh ipakita na lamang sa passport na nandito kayo sa Dubai ng ilang taon." Very obvious nagtrabaho kayo dito.

Ang pangalawang bahagi ng kumpletong suporta ng pamahalaan ay tulungan ang mga bumabalik na OFW na makahanap ng trabahong maganda ang kita. Kaya may libreng online information tungkol sa mga bakanteng trabaho sa Pilipinas at may Help Desk sa mga probinsiya para maibagay ang inyong kagalingan, training at karanasan sa mga trabahong available.

Ngunit sa alam ko karamihan sa mga OFW ang balak rin niyo ay hindi umuwi kung hindi maghanap ng ibang trabaho, maging sa ibang bansa o maging sa ibang kompaniya sa parehong bansa. Para doon naman, para yung gustong lumipat sa ibang bansa o ibang kompanyang nangangailangan ng inyong kagalingan at talento, ang Philippine Overseas Employment Administration ay gumagawa ng marketing blitz upang palawakin ang market para sa ating OFW.

Kaya kanina yung ginawang Job Summit bahagi yun doon sa ating marketing blitz. Alam ko na dito panay kwento ninyo, kwento ng mga nakikilala kong mga manggagawa dito naghihirap ang trabaho dito sa Dubai ngayon may ilang mga nawawalaan. At kwinto pa nga ng ating mga media community dito na may mga hindi nairereport dahil nga hinahatid na lamang. Kaya importante, gaya nang sabi ni Engineer Deliso, yung inyong pakikipag-ugnay sa

isa't-isa at yung kabayanihan. Sa mga panahong ito kailangan ng volunteerism, at isang malaking volunteerism ay kung meron kayong alam na nawawalaan ng trabaho o nawalaan na ng trabaho at umuwi na nga na hindi nagkaroon ng pagkakataong ireport sa POLO sana ang Philippine community ang magrereport sa POLO para sa kanila. Ito ay isang malaking paglilingkod na maigagawa ninyo, kasi kung hindi nagreport sa POLO hindi malalaman. Pero kung maireport ninyo kahit na umuwi na sila, kahit ibigay niyo na, narinig niyo na, naitsismis sa inyo, ito ay malaking bagay para magtulungan sa isa't-isa.

But we are grateful from what we have seen in the Job Summit that Philippine workers are still the most sought-after workers here in the Middle East. Kanina nagbigay ng manifesto yung mga employers, recruitment agencies, at yung ating mga labor attaches at naka specify doon there are 200,000 new jobs available here in the Middle East.

Nanduon ang mga bansa. Nanduon ang mga kailangang skills. So, I hope that each one of you, if you have a problem or you have a friend who has a problem, can go to the POLO and to be able to help crossover to another job. And here we have also come to champion your cause before the governments and before those firms that are hiring workers in the Middle East.

Bukas nga bago umalis dito sa bansang ito ay ang inyong lingkod ay pupunta kasama ng ilang Cabinet members para makipag-ugnay nga sa Hari ng Abu Dhabi na siyang pangulo ng UAE. At doon din ay siyempre pag-uusapan kung paano matulungan ang Overseas Filipino Workers dito sa UAE.

May mga problema sa ilang lugar, mas alam ninyo yun kaysa sa akin. In fact, kailangan nga ipaalam ninyo sa ating POLO yung mga problema na dumadating sa inyong pansin. Ngunit habang may mga OFW na nawawalaan ng trabaho, nakita natin doon sa 200,000 may mga nalilikhang bagong trabaho naman, kaya sa kalahatan, ang trabaho sa ibayong dagat ay matatag pa rin.

Central to keeping our economy moving is keeping our workers employed at home and abroad. The central mission of the Philippine government is the health, security and safety of our people. Good jobs and good wages will continue to help achieve those goals.

But while we honor the value and contribution of our expatriate workers, we are very much focused on changing the opportunity paradigm. My vision is to help launch an economic revolution where one day soon going abroad will be a career choice and not the only option for our hardworking Filipino workers. This is exactly what our economic reform program is helping us to do.

Global engagement has been an essential component of what has kept the Philippines from getting pulled under the raging economic waves sweeping most countries. Abroad, our economy is increasingly diversified. Noong unang umupo ako sa pagkapangulo napakalaki ang ating inaasahan sa American market — ano noon, Peter, 28 percent? — ngayon, ang American market is mga 17 percent. So diversified na ang ating market at isang malaking bagong market natin nga ay ang Middle Eastern market. Halimbawa, yung ating mga bananas, hindi ba, pag maraming bananas dito pumupunta sa Middle East at iba pa. At yung halal, yung RFM Foods nagbebenta na ng halal dito sa Saudi Arabia at iba pang bahagi ng Middle East na nangangailangan ng halal. So, we have...

And overall, we have also... so, we have lessened reliance on one market alone. And we are relying now on many markets and that makes us more resilient. Kaya ang natamaan sa ating bansa ay yung ating mga exports to America, yung electronics natin. At kanina nga si Peter dahil maraming mga opening for engineers — kaya ang daming engineers dito, di ba? — andaming openings for engineers, yung mga electronics maraming mga engineers doon. So doon sa 200,000 jobs available, hahanapan ni Peter kung papano yung mga electronics workers natin na nasa Pilipinas ay siguro makakahanap ng mga pagkakataon doon.

But today, exports are a smaller component of our total production compared to when I started as President. Today, we are a very strong consumer-driven nation. We like to rely less and less on exports and more and more on our own domestic economy. Kaya yung ating GNP growth rate nung isang taon ay 6.0 percent pa rin kahit na may global economic crisis.

Sabi nga nila yung mga nagsu-survive sa crisis na ito ay yung mga malalaking populasyon na mataas ang consumption kaya China, India, Pilipinas kasama doon. Ang pinaka naghihirap ay yung mga maliliit na populasyon na masyadong umaasa sa exports, halimbawa, Singapore. Kaya yun ang isang mabuting nagawa natin, we've been able to strengthen our domestic demand. Hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng household spending kundi na rin dahil sa mga buwis na itinaas natin ilang taon na ang nakaraan, although it was very unpopular ngayon may kakayahan ang gobyerno na gumastos sa imprastruktura, sa healthcare, sa education, sa training para sa ganun ay manatiling ang ang domestic demand.

Kailangang harapin natin kaagad ang maraming hamon upang manatiling malakas ang ating ekonomiya at paraan ng pamumuhay. Sa hanay ng pamahalaan, kahit na meron tayong dagdag na pondo mula sa mga buwis na ginawa nung ilang taong nakaraan, we must still live within our means at magpatakbo ng matipid at mabisang pamahalaan. This includes continued fiscal prudence and efforts to work towards a balanced budget. Yan ang malaking trabaho ni Secretary Gary Teves. All the while, we must also simultaneously invest in key programs for our people, at isa dito ay yung training. Nuon doon sa mga nakaraang administrasyon, hundreds of millions ang budget for training. Ngayon sa ating administrasyon, billions ang budget for training. Sa hanay naman ng taong bayan — gaya nang sabi ko kanina, gaya nang sabi ni Engineer, ang inyong pangulo — ito ang panahon upang tayo'y magkaisa. Harapin ng lubusan ang ating pamilya at pamayanan, ang inyong pamayanan ay ang OFW community dito sa Dubai at saka sa UAE.

Dapat nating simulan ang isang bagong panahong nagtataguyod ng boluntarismo at ng diwa ng pagkakaisa. Dapat magsama-sama sa kilusan, sa ganitong kilusan ang pamahalaan, ang simbahan at ang mga samahang sibiko gaya ng inyong mga 60 organizations upang himukin ang bawat mamamayang Pilipino, maging nanduon sa Pilipinas o nandito sa UAE, na lumahok sa mga gawaing nagkakatatugma para sa kawanggawa.

Doon sa Pilipinas tinutuon natin ang mga inisyatiba sa gawaing tulad ng paglilinis ng kapaligiran, pagtatayo ng mga parks, nagtatanim ng puno, nagbibigay ng ginhawa sa mahihirap sa pamamagitan nang pamamahagi ng pagkain, pagtuturo ng pagbasa sa mga mangmang para bigyan sila ng dignidad. Dito palagay ko very obvious ang kailangang gawin ninyo. Magtulungan sa isa't-isa lalo na tulungan yung mga nawawalaan ng trabaho.

At yung sinabi ni Father kanina, hindi ko masyadong alam yung kasaysayan na yun, yung Pilipinong kapwang niloko ang Pilipino, at least ang kabutihan doon ay yung ibang mga Pilipino naman ay talagang tumulong ng lubusan doon sa mga naging biktima. So, ganun ang mga kailangang gawin natin bilang boluntarismo.

Sa mga panahong ito kung kailan dumadaan sa pagsubok ang buong mundo, angat ang pagiging mapagmahal at mapagkalinga ng Pilipino. Sabi nga nung ating mga reporters kanina na andaming mga Pilipina ay nililigawan ng mga... sabi ni Father ... at tinatanong bakit, bakit gustong-gusto niyo ang mga Pilipina? Kasi nga mapagkalinga, mapagmahal. At ito ay napakaimportante hindi lamang para makahanap ng kapwang intelihenteng asawa kung hindi na rin para magtulungan sa ating pamayanan ng mga Pilipino dito.

So, gamitin natin ito upang magpasalamat para sa mga biyayang tinatamasa natin at upang mamahagi din ng biyaya sa mga mas naghihirap sa atin. Kailangan tayong lahat ng ating bansa ngayon. Kailangan kayo ng ating bansa ngayon, hindi lamang doon sa remittances ninyo na patuloy pa rin, kundi na rin para mahanap yung mga kailangan nating tulungan na mga kababayan na narito dito sa UAE o kaya umuuwi. Kailangan kayo ng bansa upang magkaisa't sama-samang tumungo sa iisang direksyon.

Ang pagtugon sa hamong ito sa pag-aalay ng ating oras, kakayahan at kagamitan ay isang dakilang adhikain na dapat pagtulungang gampanan ng lahat. Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat sa pagkakataong maglingkod sa inyo. At ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong malasakit sa inyong bansa at sa isa't-isa. Talagang dito sa Dubai inaasahan ko na kayo ay magtutulungan at tulungan ninyo ang pamahalaan na hanapin yung mga dapat tulungan.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na nagkita tayong muli. Talagang pinili ni Nitoy Roque sa Dubai natin gagawin itong meeting kanina dahil alam ko na dito ay napakamalaking pag-aabala na nararamdaman ng Filipino community. Sana itong pagbisita ng inyong lingkod, ng ating kasamahan at yung Jobs Fair kanina ay makakatulong upang magkaroon ng konting ginhawa ang inyong mga panganib.

Kaya salamat sa inyong pagpunta ngayong hapon. Thank you for spending Easter Sunday afternoon with all of us. And may our world economy have an Easter of recovery very soon sa kinabubuti nating lahat.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). PGMA's Speech during the meeting with the Filipino Community in Dubai. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104110/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23451&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening program of the 28th Asian and Oceanian Stock Exchanges Federation (AOSEF) General Assembly

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening program of the 28th Asian and Oceanian Stock Exchanges Federation (AOSEF) General Assembly**

[Delivered at the Mactan Ballroom, Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort & Spa, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, April 23, 2009]

Thank you very much, Secretary Favila for your introduction.

Chairman Vitug; Francis Lim, the president; our officials of the Philippine government who are here with us today; participants in this what we consider a very important general assembly; ladies and gentlemen:

To all the officials and members of the bourses that comprise the Asian and Oceanian Stock Exchange Federation, welcome to the Philippines!

And I understand that this is the first time a head of state welcomes you to a conference. So, I'm very glad and I hope that this shows you how important is the capital market to our country and to the region.

To the Philippine Stock Exchange, which is serving as host, congratulations!

This is a fitting homecoming for the Federation which was organized in the Philippines in 1990, in order to promote closer ties among the stock exchanges in the East Asian and Oceanian region.

It is a good idea that we seek to put together the economic and financial activities of Asia and Oceania. In fact, I have been advocating that we should push for an Asian Economic Community including the Middle East; Central, South and East Asia; Russia and Oceania, to maximize growth, trade, investment and financial stability in the Asian region, which is best suited to weather the global crisis and come out the strongest, compared with other regions.

The question isn't whether a larger Pan Regional body is necessary. The question is rather, "will we be stronger with a more united region?" And the answer should be an Asian Community, including Oceania, will strengthen our regional economy, our security and our prosperity.

During this time in the world, as we all know there are strains on alliances from the Middle East to the WTO, and we are facing as you all know, one of the most powerful economic downturns in modern history. So, it is essential that new, vital alliances be forged to keep the world stable and strong. Some sort of Asian Community would certainly be a bold step in that direction. And your Federation uniting the bourses of Asia, East Asia and Oceania, is a very good start.

As I said earlier, the Asian economies have been weathering the global crisis better than other regions, but that doesn't mean that there are no challenges that we are facing.

Indeed, today, the global challenges faced developed and developing nations alike. But, I am very glad that Asia is weathering it well. And in spite of the global economic downturn, like many countries in Asia, the Philippines is not

standing still. We have weathered the worst of the global crisis this far. That doesn't mean we have not been affected. But we are holding our own. We remain cautiously optimistic that our resources and plans will allow us to manage our way through this difficult time. Because we "rebooted" our economy many years ago, and this has held us in good stead.

As a result of dramatic reforms in revenue collection and generation, as a result of fiscal controls and banking and financial reform, we hope to continue our economic growth this year.

I would like to congratulate the Philippine Stock Market because you registered a 16 percent gain from March 16 to April 13. Congratulations for that! (Applause)

And we cheer the rebound in foreign portfolio investment in the first quarter, with a P55-million net inflow compared to the P130-million net outflow in the first quarter of 2008. So, congratulations for that! And thank you for helping keep the Philippine balance of payments in surplus. That is the contribution that the Philippines Stock Market makes to our economy.

And you have contributed also to our economic and financial reforms. Through the coordinated efforts of the stock exchange, we have enacted landmark legislation that establishes a market-friendly and sustaining environment for capital market transactions and participants. We hope including those who belong to the different stock exchanges that are members of this Federation.

Among the significant laws passed in the Philippines is the Personal Equity and Retirement Law, the counterpart of the United States' 401-K system, that stimulates personal saving and investment for retirement through tax exemptions.

We also passed the Credit Information System Act to enhance the accuracy of credit information and to improve market efficiency and liquidity by reducing credit processing times and transaction costs and lowering default risk.

Indeed, we need all this legislation because we must tackle many challenges at once to keep our economy and way of life going strong. On the part of the government, we must live within our means and run a lean, efficient government. This includes continued fiscal prudence and efforts to work towards a balanced budget. All the while, we must also simultaneously invest in key programs for our people.

On the part of the people, now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and the community. We must initiate a new era of volunteerism and community spirit.

This should include the government, religious and civic groups and non-governmental organizations like the stock exchange harnessing our people to engage in coordinated volunteer activities.

We should focus on such initiatives not related to our core activities as organizations such as cleaning up our environments, building parks, planting trees, bringing comfort to the poor through food banks, and bringing the dignity of literacy to adults who cannot read.

All the while, as members of the stock exchange, you must also simultaneously invest in making your own organization and your own industry efficient and competitive: investing to improve your methods of cooperation and synergy, investing to turn market challenges into market opportunities, investing to continue to play a role – a leading role in the recovery of the economies of the region, investing in the renewed prosperity of the capital markets that you collectively represent.

So, this is the reason why the President of the Philippines is here to welcome you personally to show you how important you are to the economies of our region in your role to strengthen the capital market and in your role as leading citizens of the different economies.

And so as you have this convention in our, what I hope you consider very beautiful Mactan Island of Cebu, I wish you the best wishes not only for the success of this conference, but also for the success of your business and civic endeavors in your respective economies.

Mabuhay! Welcome once again to the Philippines!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the opening program of the 28th Asian and Oceanian Stock Exchanges Federation (AOSEF) General Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104016/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23699&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 30th National Conference of Employers

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 30th National Conference of Employers**

[Delivered at the Centennial Room, Manila Hotel, City of Manila, Metro Manila, April 29, 2009]

Thank you. (applause)

Thank you very much Mike, for your introduction and thank you to the other officers of ECOP for inviting me once again to be here and congratulations on your successful conference!

Don Emilio, thank you for hosting lunch today. And of course congratulations to Mr. Henry Sy and the Sy family. (applause) To Joe Ledesma's team in St. Luke's (applause) and to all our other awardees for being such model employers, and we need model employers in times like this. (applause) And to all of you and to all of the leaders and officers of ECOP led by Jun Ortiz Luis this year, thank you also through all the years that I have served as President, ECOP has always shown the sense of community and corporate social responsibility that I have asked from Philippine business. Salamat Jun, salamat sa iyong buong team. (applause)

You have always focused on what the synergy of government and the private sector can do to upgrade our human resources, to lower the cost of business, and to generate quality jobs for our growing labor force.

And today once again, I would like to thank you for the resolutions that you have made: Number one, to preserve whatever jobs and businesses you have. Number two, to minimize job losses and business dislocations. Number three, to build the capacity of the domestic economy to create jobs and businesses; and number four, to unite and support of reform and transformation in society. In your resolution, you have given several means by which you and we will attain all of these. So, thank you so much for that and congratulations! (applause)

The success of business and industry depends on how well on we get together, and it also depends of course on the excellence of our labor force, the genuine concern of the employers for the well-being of their workers as well as their companies — and this what our awardees exemplify — and government's sound policies that serve as the framework for continuous growth.

In these trying economic times for the global economy, we must tackle many challenges at once to keep our economy and way of life going strong. On the part of government, we must live within our means and run a lean, efficient government. This includes continued fiscal prudence and efforts to work towards a balanced budget. All the while, we must also simultaneously invest in key programs for our people. For instance, food on the table, education for all, skills training, and good health for everyone.

And at this special time in world economic history, we are focused on creating jobs and keeping existing ones to prevent the global economic slump from becoming a Philippine crisis. Our priorities are on activities that can create the most number of jobs while allowing us to improve our people's lives.

As I said earlier in government, we are undertaking massive belt-tightening in order to fund among other things the Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program or CLEEP.

CLEEP is area-specific. Secretary Nitoy Roque who helped in choosing our outstanding employers today — but who is not here because his son is graduating, isn't it? — has identified with your help the names of the employees of the workers who lost their jobs because of the global crisis. And we have farmed out those names by area to different cabinet members, and the different cabinet members are supposed to supervise the CLEEP in their respective areas. Among other things, to spur emergency jobs in specific sectors that are best suited to each region's resources and potential for development. A lot of you are in industry, a lot of industries in CALABARZON and a lot of our problems are in CALABARZON, a lot of which are in Laguna.

So, Secretary Peter Favila is the one handling that together with you — Oh, I see Mr. Mamon, is the chief in Laguna — but I think Enchanted Kingdon is still doing well, right? Congratulations!

But I am really very much concerned over the fate of our over 50,000 local workers, I guess excluding... that doesn't include the SM workers because you're doing well with the good domestic consumption. (applause) This 50,000 local workers are mainly from industrial parks and export-oriented companies. And these are the 50,000 domestic workers in those export-oriented companies who have been sidelined from work by the global crisis.

Because of our special concern for them the Export Development Council chaired by Secretary Peter Favila, who is not here now because he's waiting for me in my next appointment, which is to meet with the exporters of the Philippines. Well, that Council — but some of you are members here — has submitted the "bill of materials" for the one billion-peso export support fund. I hope that's part of Bobby Amores' papers. (applause)

And I have instructed Secretary Favila to work with the Presidential Management Staff, the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget to facilitate the final evaluation of the various proposals with the intent of releasing the fund soonest. And I hope that that will help our export sector. (applause)

But it's not only the government, it's not only our employers as employers, it's also the people as people that need to work altogether. On the part of the people, now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and the community. We must initiate a new era of volunteerism and community spirit. And as I said, this should include the government, that's why we're working on CLEEP. It should include the religious sector, it should include civic groups, it should include non-government organizations like ECOP harnessing our people to engage in coordinated volunteer activities.

I remember visiting, for instance, Yazaki Torres where — 'coz I saw Toti Torres here — where your people, your employees were doing volunteer activities. And that is what a lot of the firms can be doing, focusing on such initiatives not part of your core activities like cleaning up our environment, building parks, planting trees, giving comfort to the poor through food banks, and bringing the dignity of literacy to adults who cannot read.

Yes I know, it is a great challenge because you're trying to keep your business together. You're trying to keep your workers within the fold. And on top of that, we are asking you and your workers to do volunteer work. Indeed, these are trying times, but during this trying times, the Filipino spirit and commitment to caring should prompt each one of us to count our blessings.

For instance, those companies that had not yet had to retrench, we must count our blessings and give back to those who are less fortunate. Our nation needs us all pulling in the same direction. Volunteering time, skill and resources is a noble undertaking we should all take seriously.

I remember, for instance, when I visited Dole, a lot of your wives... of the executives do a lot of volunteer work, and they have organized the wives of those who are working there. So, there's so much that can be done. And I know it's a bigger challenge during this times but that's why we're specifically making a call to continue to do that as well as appreciating your resolve to continue to fight hard to keep the jobs that you have been giving and to create new ones as much as possible.

We conducted a number of worker-employer consultations with a view to integrating the initiatives of you the private sector with the coping strategies of labor. ECOP has been a strong presence in these fora whether or not you

were invited as ECOP because you hold so many hats, sometimes you're there but you were invited as PCCI or something else. But ECOP has always been a strong presence. And I thank you for that whether or not you have a formal invitation as ECOP. (applause)

And you know where you have been as a result of our consultations, we have followed a lot of your recommendations. For instance, we have doubled TESDA's training budget this year to reach out to more members of the workforce, including displaced domestic and overseas workers. In this connection, I thank the many corporations, especially the early participants who partnered with TESDA in training workers and allowing their own workers to participate in internally generated work sharing and training arrangements.

And I would like to reiterate, for those of you who don't want to let your workers go, who are willing to make them... to keep them and then make them work full time again when times get better — and I hope that times are beginning to get better because some orders are coming back — I'd like to remind you that the DOLE is giving you the privilege of paying only half of the minimum wage if your workers will enter our training program on our scholarship. So the half of the minimum wage that you are giving them is to help their transportation and their accommodations while they are training.

And we would like you to do the curriculum for the training so that when things get better, and I said I hope we have bottomed out already in the world, their workers will even be more productive than they were before the global crisis.

In Yazaki Torres where we visited last week, Toti is doing that. He's keeping some of the workers even if they're not working, paying them 25 percent because he's paying about double the minimum wage, so that's about half the minimum wage, and then TESDA can train them at the expense of TESDA not at your expense. Let's do that to be able to keep our workers on your payrolls and getting better for the recovery.

I was talking about SM keeping its market, and I think St. Luke's is probably keeping its market and many companies are keeping their market a lot of these are keeping their markets and their employment because of our strong domestic demand. And this is not unique to the Philippines. China, India and Indonesia demonstrate that large populations can reasonably sustain business through the sheer number of domestic consumers. So while we do not have a population as large as theirs, our numbers so far seem to be able to support local industries during these challenging times. And I point this out because yesterday I was listening to the sermon of Cardinal Vidal against the Reproductive Health Bill because indeed during these times it is the countries with large populations with the reasonably good per capita income like the Philippines that are able to resist the worst effects of the global crisis.

I thank you all for trying as much as possible to keep our workers so that the number of displaced workers is very finite. Nitoy Roque can make a list and give it around to the cabinet members. Imagine all those other countries where the unemployment is down by two million. Oh, you cannot make a list that way and you cannot give it to cabinet members to take care of each subset of the list. But I thank ECOP because I think the list would have been much longer or it might have become infinite if you were not there to help us to keep the jobs even if you are making your own sacrifice.

I thank ECOP for the constant support and trust that you have given me not only during this time when you are keeping many workers even if you don't specifically need them now but on other matters of policy. But during this time, I thank not only ECOP, I thank labor — and we have our labor leaders here — for the industrial peace we have enjoyed over the years. Salamat sa inyo. (applause)

Palagay ko dahil napakabait ang ating labor, may malasakit, mas nagaganahan yung mga employers na tumulong at 'wag mag lay off kahit na mahirap ang panahon. And of course, we have the government agencies to help cement the strong bond of the tripartite.

And our most important message is that: we must and we will sustain this partnership as we work together to hasten our country's economic rebound. And that is our response to the global crisis: staying together, pulling together, nagkakaisa sa ating kapatiran.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 30th National Conference of Employers. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412103927/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24880&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 19th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 19th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, PICC, Pasay City, April 30, 2009]

Thank you. (applause)

Thank you Secretary Gonzalez for your introduction.

Incoming President, Atty. Rafael Morales of the Philippines; incumbent President Libby; other officials of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association. First of all, Atty. Morales, the new president of IPBA, congratulations! (applause) And to all our delegates from the Pacific region, welcome to the Philippines!

I'm glad that you have chosen for your conference's theme, "Legal Practice: Coping with Diversity and Change." Indeed, a timely choice. I was told that your conference sessions will cover the global credit crisis, law firm continuity, and other major risk issues.

They say that a lawyer's practice, unlike other livelihoods, is recession-proof. In good times when the economy is booming, you need a lawyer to set up a company, do the paperwork to obtain the financing, draft employment contracts. And when things turn bad, the same lawyer can help you close the company, restructure the debt and retrench workers.

But I understand that in these particular global times of today, especially tough times, even lawyers are feeling the crunch as well. That well-established law firms are downsizing offices around the world; that lay-offs are tracking the reported downturn in revenues of law firms.

Timely therefore to talk about continuity. We must tackle many challenges at once to keep our economies and way of life going strong. On the part of the Philippine government, for instance, we must live within our means and run a lean, efficient government. This includes fiscal prudence and efforts to work towards a balanced budget. All the while, simultaneously investing in key programs for our people. And that is a challenge indeed.

But also we should be ready to take full advantage of a rebound, if it happens soon. According to Ben Bernanke of the U.S. Fed, "There are signs the sharp decline in the U.S. economy is slowing, indicating a first step toward recovery."

The Japanese Prime Minister refers to "a few glimmers of hope."

China's stimulus package is working. The pick up in China will "strongly" support growth in the rest of Asia by raising demand for commodities and products, says the World Bank. IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn says, "Free fall may be abating." It will probably have much more to go before these bits of good news we are hearing really become a positive trend, but just as bad news should not take us by surprise, recovery should also be prepared for. And I think the law profession should be part of those preparing for that.

So in the Philippines, as we implement a fiscal stimulus package to create and keep jobs, we also proceed with the groundwork to enhance our business environment, and that includes the regulatory framework. There is the new program of Secretary Gonzalez in the Department of Justice granting instant visas to foreign business locators who will employ at least a hundred local people. There is the accelerated anti-smuggling and anti-tax evasion programs

being run by the Department of Finance so that legitimate businessmen will not feel the challenges from unfair competition. And there is the tight price watching by the Department of Trade and Industry.

And yesterday, I signed a law increasing government insurance coverage on individual bank deposits.

On your part, as lawyers, because of your expertise and the ethics of your profession, you're in a unique position to help solve part of the crisis and that is the crisis of pinpointing responsibility. If we recall, how did this crisis begin? Well, first of all, there was the combination of the high prices of food and oil early last year and then there was the subprime credit crisis. Well, how did the subprime credit crisis happen? Because there was very little monitoring of subprime credit activities. So, the hot money moved from subprime to commodities. Prices of oil and rice went up some more and the credit crunch in the subprime deepened and it spread to even the A-rated corporations. And when that happened then everything broke loose. So a lot of it had to do with accountability, pinpointing responsibility.

And as lawyers, you can be the one to teach that lesson to your clients. You can seek to ensure that from now on if they have not done so, your clients comply, not just with the letter but also with a spirit of the law; because we have seen how not doing that can result in a global crisis. So, instead of trying to bend the law to suit your client's interests, now as your contribution to recovery and sustained recovery we count on you to creatively recast the interests of your clients to conform to the law.

As lawyers, you indeed have the responsibility to lead a crusade for selflessness and especially for respect for the rule of law. Whether you are a managing partner of a big corporate law firm, or a single practitioner in your hometown, a lawyer is bound by your moral obligation to help people, not only achieve their objectives, but to achieve them responsibly. Because you're the ones who can advise them on what the law expects of them.

And on your part not just as lawyers but as people, and on the part of your clients as people, now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and the community. Over and above your work as lawyers, we must initiate a new era of volunteerism and community spirit. This should include the government, religious, civic groups and non-government organizations like the bar associations, harnessing our people to engage in coordinated volunteer activities.

In other words, aside from focusing on your work which is so crucial for bringing the world back to recovery, we should focus on non-core activities, non-core initiatives like cleaning up our environment, building parks, planting trees, bringing comfort to the poor through food banks, bringing the dignity of literacy to adults who cannot read.

And I am certain that the Inter-Pacific Bar Association is one organization that has the capability to take this ethic to heart.

Once again, to Atty. Morales, we are proud to have you a Filipino head the Inter-Pacific Bar Association. Congratulations on your take over in two days from now! (Applause)

And to the delegates, may you all thrive in your profession, not just for the luster or the wealth that your profession brings, but for the opportunity it gives to each one of you to make a difference in our people's lives especially now that there is a great change happening in the world, and especially because as Inter-Pacific, you do deal with diversity.

Good luck to all of you! And may you have more power as you cope with diversity and change!

Mabuhay to all of you! Thank you. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 19th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA). Retrieved

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412103202/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24939&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Change of Command Ceremony

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Change of Command Ceremony**

[Delivered at the GHQ Grandstand, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, May 1, 2009]

Thank you, Secretary Teodoro.

Troop Commander, give ‘Tikas pahinga.’

General Ibrado, our new Chief of Staff; General Yano, our recently retired Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces; other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; members of the Diplomatic Corps; members of the civilian officialdom; Bishop Tumulac; our other guests; the great Filipino Soldier:

Araw-araw nitong taon ay Labor Day. Mula noong nagkaroon ng recession ang Amerika at nagkaroon ng krisis sa ekonomiya ng buong mundo, araw-araw binubuhos natin ang ating kakayahan para magsagip at maglikha ng trabaho para sa manggagawang Pilipino.

So today, May the 1st is the occasion for the nation to celebrate the resiliency of our economy that has so far protected us from the worst of the global recession and allowed us so far to continue to grow. The skills and talents of our workers at home and abroad are confounding the gloomy forecast of pessimists, as they continue to seek out ever more jobs. And may I say at this time that among the jobs available to the great Filipino worker are jobs in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

We salute our great Filipino worker for remitting more funds to our shores, for sustaining the hopes of our country and the dreams of their families. Yes, we honor the Filipino worker today.

A grateful government pledges its unwavering support to the great Filipino worker and the bright future that our workers are building for our country.

Today, we also honor a particular sector of the working class — the great Filipino soldier. As General Yano calls it, calls him or her, the ‘Kawal Pilipino’ — the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who continuously demonstrate their devotion to duty and to our Constitution. Our military men and women are good, upstanding and loyal patriots, fighting to protect our country everyday.

We honor the great Filipino soldier for being ready to make the supreme sacrifice in war, as well as for exemplifying the spirit of sacrifice that uplifts people in times of needs and succor. In honor of the great Filipino soldier, our administration has invested heavily in new and better equipment, more training, more cooperation with our allies to professionalize our military. We have invested in higher pay, more housing, better healthcare, better force protection.

So it is in this special regard that on top of his many achievements enumerated in the citation on the legion of honor, enumerated in the invocation of Bishop Tumulac, enumerated in his own tour-of-duty report, enumerated in the tributes paid by his successor. In addition to all this, I applaud our recently retired General Alexander Yano because

as fiercely as he fought the enemies of the State, he worked just as passionately to secure the well-being of the ordinary soldier and to give former rebels a chance, a second chance to live in peace, a second chance to be part of the great Filipino workforce.

To modernize and strengthen his revered Armed Forces of the Philippines, Alex Yano focused on improving the life of the ordinary soldier. He was the one who proposed to me the issuance of sleeping bags and prepaid cellular cards to the soldiers fighting in the wilderness of Lanao and Cotabato. These benefits, funded by the value-added tax were soon followed by scholarships for soldiers' children and financial assistance for parents of military men, the senior citizens, parents of the military men assigned to the field.

More benefits were provided during the tenure of General Yano not only to the soldiers fighting in Mindanao, but also to every man and woman in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. With his frequent reminders, the Department of Health continued the rehabilitation of military hospitals. The housing program for soldiers proceeded with the highest priority given to families of soldiers killed or severely wounded in action.

As the only son of Mindanao so far to be named Chief of Staff, General Yano applied his knowledge of the intricacies of the conflict in Mindanao and went all out in support of the peace process through the various developmental and cultural integration programs, as well as through the efforts and successes of the fighting kawal Pilipino.

And now General Yano will continue to pursue peace in Mindanao as our next Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam. (Applause) General Yano, if he were to retire on his birthday, would not be able to reach the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments because that would have happened after the Congress adjourns sine die. Therefore, upon recommendation of the Foreign Affairs Secretary, his retirement from the military was advanced by a few weeks in order to have sufficient time for his confirmation, hopefully, before Congress adjourns in early June. He has had smooth-sailing in previous confirmations in the Commission on Appointments. And I hope this one will be just as smooth and so that soon enough, we will be able to congratulate Alex as the next ambassador to Brunei Darussalam. (Applause)

Once again Alex, congratulations and thank you for all that you have done in the Armed Forces and for the great Filipino soldier.

Now we welcome the former Commanding General of the Philippine Army, Victor Ibrado, as our new Chief of Staff. This member of PMA Class of 1976 and holder of a Master's degree in Public Administration is one of the most bemedalled of our soldiers.

There is one important thing going for our new Chief of Staff — the respect and admiration of the ordinary Filipino soldier. From the lowest ranks to the top brass, our soldiers whom I consulted have all given their vote of confidence to General Ibrado, who is well-known for his fairness and collegial style of decision-making as well as his excellent commanding skills in the field. (Applause)

I expect General Ibrado to build on the gains of his predecessors, not only on the military front, and we have heard his no-nonsense declarations of what he intends to do on the military front. But I also expect him to build on the work of his predecessors especially with regard to the soldiers' welfare. I hereby instruct General Ibrado, along with the heads of civilian agencies, to do the following:

First, implement the shuttle service for government employees. Well, I know the soldiers have their shuttle service, but the civilian employees in the Armed Forces, in the Defense Department, and the other departments of the Philippine government should likewise have a similar service.

Second, financial subsidy and other needed support to make the Botika ng Bayan more accessible to government employees, including our soldiers in the various military camps.

Third, more scholarships for the children and siblings of government employees, including those of our soldiers.

And fourth, implementation of PX markets and provision of seed fund so that we can have them all over not only in the military camps but in the various large agency offices.

I count on General Ibrado to do this within the Armed Forces not only using the budget of the Armed Forces but also to harness the Filipino spirit and commitment to caring to prompt those who benefit from peace and security provided by the Armed Forces; for instance, the business community and the NGOs, many of which have been enumerated by General Yano. For all of them, I count on General Ibrado to inspire and to count their blessings and give back to those who are less fortunate among our ordinary Filipino soldiers.

Bong Ibrado, you have talked about the great challenges that faced you, but with your background, with your character, with the support of the great Filipino soldier, with the support of all the civilians who have learned to care for and to take care of our Filipino soldiers, I have faith that you can hurdle all the challenges of the times and in your unique way make a difference in our shared goals of peace and prosperity.

Once again, to you Bong, congratulations and best wishes! To you, Alex, congratulations and may you have the same success in the next stage of your career.

At sa inyo, ang magiting na manggagawang Pilipino, kawal Pilipino, maraming salamat.

Congratulations to all of you!

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Change of Command Ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412103149/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24940&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Butil Farmers' Day and thanksgiving of Butil Partylist Representative
Agapito Guanlao
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Butil Farmers' Day and thanksgiving of Butil Partylist Representative Agapito Guanlao**

[Delivered at the Main Exhibit Hall, Hilaga (Paskuhan Village), Brgy. Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga,
May 8, 2009]

Dacal a salamat cabalen at mayap a oras keng kekatang bayung halál a sectoral representative na ning BUTIL, Congressman Agapito Guanlao. Congratulations! (applause)

Kekatang congressmen, congressman and congresswoman who are here today y Congressman Dong Gonzales (applause) ning distritu keti and Congresswoman Nelly Chavez; (applause) and of course ing kekatang host city mayor, Mayor Oca Rodriguez; (applause) karing ali-aliwang opisyaes ning Pampanga atyu keti, dening Board members, councilors, Mayor Flores y Chairwoman Zeny Ducut and our Undersecretary of Agriculture Jess Paras, capampangan ya naman, (applause) capampangan oneng ing pengari na megsettle keng Cagayan de Oro oneng capampangan karin karas keng Cagayan de Oro; and of course kekatang Presidenti na ning BUTIL keti king Pampanga, y Presidenti Galang; (applause) ampo karing ali-aliwang ortelano, leaders da ding ortelano keti king Pampanga, pati na rin sa Nueva Ecija, pati na rin sa Bulacan, atlong probinsya, are all here today. Congratulations, Happy Farmers' Month! (applause)

Dahil ang month of May, gaya nang sabi sa akin ni Lito, is Farmers' Month pero wala talagang Farmer's Day kaya isa sa mga initiatives ni Congressman Guanlao ay magkaroon ng Farmers' Day aside from Farmers' Month — May 15 ang fiesta ni San Isidro Labrador. Kaya kagaya nung Women's Day, atin tang Women's Month king Marso, atin tang Women's day king March 8; atin tang Farmer's Month king Mayo, ala tang metung a Farmer's Day. So, iya ing metung a initiative ning kekatang bayung Congressman. Congratulations, Lito! (applause)

At masaya ku at aisip yung gawan ing okasyong iti keti king Pampanga a metung karing pekamaragul a producer ning pamangan keti king bansa. Although siyempre kinikilala natin ang Nueva Ecija ngayon, ang number one agricultural province dahil ang Pampanga ay malaki na ang industrialization at bilang service center at bilang hub ng yung Clark-Subic. Ganun din ang Bulacan malaki na rin ang industrialization sa Bulacan kaya bagamat ganun malaki pa rin ang produksyon ng Pampanga at Bulacan although number one na ang Nueva Ecija.

Maulaga ya king kasaysayan da ding ortelanong Pilipino ing kekatamung probinsiya. Ketu ya mibait ing kilusang pang-masa, na ing mumuna nang layun iya pin ing mabawas ing pamang-api da ring makibanding gabun karing ortelano. Ketu ya rin king Pampanga menibat kalupa ning sinabi nang Congresswoman Chavez ing ginawang takbang king reporma queng gabun, y Presidente Diosdado Macapagal at sinakripisya na ing suporta da ding keying kaluguran a makibandi karing mangaragul a gabun pauli na ning buri nang mitugunan agad ing kasakitan da ding ortelano pauli ning tenancy. So keng administrasyon ning pengari ku, natanggal yung share tenancy para sa ganun ang ani ng magsasaka ay sa kanya pupunta at kung hindi kanya yung lupa babayad na lang siya ng rent kagaya ng nagbabayad ka ng rent sa iyong apartment. Yun ang isang programa tapos yung pangalawang programa is land to the tiller.

Manalig ku na ing manimuna ya ing BUTIL ban mahikayat la ding representante a ipasa da ne ing batás na extension ning Agrarian Reform bayu sana mag-adjourn king Hunyo ing kongreso. (applause)

At marami na rin gaya nang sinabi ni Congresswoman Nelly Chavez at di ko na uulit yung mga sinabi niya pero nakita natin marami na rin yung programang tinatag natin para tumaas ang kita ng mga magsasaka at patuloy ang pagpalakas nitong programang ito. Yung pinakatampok nating programa para sa agricultural sector ay yung FIELDS. Alam niyo lahat kung ano yung FIELDS kung saan pinapalakas natin at pinapalawak yung mga

imprastrakturang pakikinabangan ng mga magsasaka. At sa ilalim din ng FIELDS nagbibigay ang gobyerno ng tulong pati subsidy para maging mas kaya ang presyo ng kagamitan kagaya ng binhi, pataba, mga driers. Pero ang ating bagong paksa ay higit sa sikapin magkaron ng subsidy sa mga inputs itaas na lang ang kita ng magsasaka para makaya yung inputs.

Kaya nung nakaraang taon ay pinataas natin ang presyo ng pagbili ng palay at dinami natin. Kung nung araw 33,000 metric tons lang, hindi ba? ang binibili ng 17 pesos, ngayon ay one million metric tons na. Kaya dumami ang magsasaka na pwedeng magbenta sa pamahalaan ng kanilang palay sa 17 pesos na pinakamagandang presyo sa ating kasaysayan. (applause)

Metung halimbawa ning saup ning gubyerno quing agrikultura, yapin naman ing irigayson o letrang “I” ning programang FIELDS. Sa loob nitong programang ito, sa loob ng walong taon ng aking pagkapresidente ilang hundreds of thousands of hectares ang ginawa natin Jess, di ba? na dating walang tubig kaya hindi mataniman. Inayos muli, binigyan muli ng patubig sa programang rehabilitation and restoration, kasi sabi nila mula nung tinayo yung mga irrigation system ay wala nang nagre-rehabilitate rinehabilitate natin, prinayoritize natin yun kaya maraming libong daang ektarya ay tinataniman na muli.

So agyang atin tang industrialization keti king Pampanga pati na rin sa Bulacan dahil sa irigasyon ay tuloy pa rin na dumadami ang ektarya para sa ating pagtatanim. At lalo na dito sa Luzon isa sa pinakamalaking nagtatanim o nagbibigay ng bigas para sa ating bansa tuloy-tuloy yung proyekto ng irigasyon at inaayos natin. Ang ating priority ayusin yung mga nasirang irigasyon dahil umaabot sa halos isang milyong ektarya yun. At pangalawa naman yung mga wala pang irigasyon ay tulungan natin magkaroon ng mga small scale communal irrigation system.

Para king pataba, preyoridad tamu ing macasaup caring ortilano a magproduce ning organic fertilizer mula sa composting ng solid waste, ito ay makakatulong sa mga magsasaka at makakatulong din kontra sa climate change. Dahil ang climate change ang pinanggagalingan ng masamang panahon parati bagyo imbes na ordinaryong ulan, bagyo, madalas, malakas, mahirap para sa magsasaka. Kaya kailangan tumulong tayo na maiwasan or tumagal pa ang pagdating ng climate change.

Ing number one cause na ning global warming yung paggamit ng gasolina kaya naghahanap tayo ng mga bagong panggagalingan ng ating fuel at marami dito ay yung biomass yung tinatanim ng mga magsasaka na gagawing fuel kaya malaki ang magagawa ng magsasaka para maiwas ang climate change. At pangadwa, pangalawang pinanggagalingan ng global warming ay yung methane na nanggagaling sa solid waste kaya dapat iwasan natin yun. Dapat zero waste tayo. Yung solid waste natin ay dapat hahatiin natin, gawin yung recyclable bago ire-recycle, yung biodegradable ay gawin nating fertilizer. So yun ang kailangan, yun ang pwedeng magawa ng ating mga magsasaka. Kaya bilang... tutal marami na akong nabigay sa pamamagitan ni Congresswoman Chavez bilang buena mano ni Congressman Pitong Guanlao ay para yung mga magsasaka ng keti king Pampanga, Nueva Ecija at Bulacan para makatulong kayo sa programang solid waste management na gawin niyo yung solid waste na makukuha ninyo sa paligid ninyong mga taniman at gawing fertilizer, organic fertilizer. Alam niyo yung multi... sabi ng DENR yung multi... yung Materials Recovery Facility na nag... yung solid waste ay ginagawang fertilizer at ginagawang recyclable materials yung mga recyclable.

Depende kung gaano kalaki it can be worth 200,000 pesos or it can be worth two million pesos kaya masanting a proyekto ita. Kaya para makatulong si Pitong sa maraming mga magsasaka na tumulong din sa kanyang mahalal bibigyan ko siya ngayon ng 10 million pesos para — (applause) ang peya BUTIL, ayan, okay — para sa solid... ang peya BUTIL ali ya Congressman Guanlao a peya BUTIL para king proyekto tamung conversion of solid waste into organic fertilizer para karing ali-aliwang gabun ding kekatang ortilano kasingit ni naing oras ning pamangilus, umpisan tana iti ngeni ing Climate Change Mitigation program karing ortelano ning BUTIL keti king Pampanga at dito sa Nueva Ecija at saka Bulacan.

Mabuhay ang BUTIL! (applause)

Congratulations, Pitong! at Happy, Happy Farmers’ Month sa ating lahat! Dacal pung salamat. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Butil Farmers' Day and thanksgiving of Butil Partylist Representative Agapito Guanlao. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412103109/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24985&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Regional Development Committee's One Visayas Initiative on Climate Change Summit and signing of R.A. 9593

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Regional Development Committee's One Visayas Initiative on Climate Change Summit and
signing of R.A. 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009**

[Delivered at the Dubhe Ballroom, Imperial Palace Waterpark Resort & Spa, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, May 12, 2009]

Maraming salamat Secretary Atienza sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

To our members of the Senate, Senator Zubiri the majority leader and Dick Gordon the sponsor and author of the Tourism Law, the Tourism Act; to our several members of Congress who are here today either because they are from Cebu or because they are authors and sponsors of the Tourism Act — but of course all the congressmen of Cebu are authors of the Tourism Act — members of the Cabinet; chairpersons of the Regional Development Councils and the other members of the councils; the governors; city mayors; municipal mayors; other officials of the whole Visayas who are here today. To all of you, this is a wonderful day.

First to the authors, sponsors and co-authors of the Tourism Law, and the members of the tourism industry who are here today with us, congratulations! (applause)

To the local government officials in Regions VI, VII and VIII, for putting up this One Visayas Initiative, and to our NGO leaders Bebet, Tony and Father Jet and the other leaders who are here today, congratulations! (applause) for getting this very important summit together to act on an issue that threatens the well-being of our nation and our people, and an issue that if we address it properly will enhance the attractiveness of Central Philippines as a tourism destination. Congratulations also to you! (applause) That's why I thought of putting the two events together because they are so closely link to each other. And it's timely to have this event today not only because the tourism industry has been waiting for this law for so many years now but also because climate change is here. Human activity has caused it. Fossil fuels. Land use. Solid waste.

Although we can tell ourselves and be proud that with our total gas emissions constituting less than one percent of the total emissions from the whole world, the Philippines is not a climate maker, but we are a climate taker. Even if we say we contribute less than one percent to climate change, yet we suffer as much or maybe even more than climate makers because we are an archipelago. If climate change were to reach its tipping point Florida may lose some coastline, but we may lose entire islands. Weather patterns are changing. You in the Visayas only know too well how super typhoons like Frank killed hundreds of our countrymen and wrought damage worth hundreds of millions of pesos on public and private property. Because of climate change and the many things that happen that are not as predictable as they use to be.

Planning and implementation will be increasingly difficult. That is why this summit is so important because you have come up with your output on what you should do because of climate change and that becomes a blueprint moving forward even as planning and implementation become more difficult. I think we need not overstress, it must have been said yesterday over and over again, that climate change is bad for the Philippine economy. And it will be especially bad for the Visayan economy whose future is eco-tourism. So, we do not have much time. But we should find comfort in the thought that solutions exist today.

Humanity started climate change. It is humanity that can stop climate change. And the sooner we fix it the cheaper it will be. So, we have to work together. The framework to drive climate change effectively is largely present in the architecture of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol of 1997. That framework, the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Plan of Action of 2007 have pointed out two strategies that must be simultaneously activated by all countries in response to climate change. The first is adaptation, where we apply strategies to cope with the effects of climate change as they hit us; or even before they do and the second is mitigation to significantly reduce greenhouse gases that we release.

Here in our country our reforestation efforts to have more trees absorb more carbon dioxide; our early warning systems, including coordinated action for rescue and rehabilitation in times of floods and other climate change-related activities; and even our training in alternative livelihood activities for people who use to earn their living from now degraded forests and mangrove areas — all these are examples of adaptation.

We have likewise been involved in mitigation, and they are reflected in our laws: the Clean Air Act, the Solid Waste Management Act — which I was honored to have signed as my very first law when I became President in 2001— and the Clean Water Act. The Tourism Act today will likewise contribute to our efforts to reduce the effects of climate change by giving more teeth to our tourism jobs creation policy, which has a very strong environmental protection component. I was asking the various authors what they considered so important in the law and their contribution to it.

We have here two Deputy Speakers, Girlie Villarosa and Raul de Mar of Cebu. While riding in the plane with Raul Del Mar I asked Raul, “what do you think was your most important contribution?” — because Raul authored one of the three bills in the House that eventually became the Tourism Act. I asked Raul, “what do you feel was your most important contribution?” And he said that it was strengthening the Department of Tourism in implementing the strategies — that was his most important contribution. And then I asked Dick Gordon, who was my Secretary of Tourism and therefore that... and I remember when I told him why I wanted him to be Secretary of Tourism, I told him I want you to make a Subic out of the whole country. So he continued with that work. I asked him now, as we were signing, “so, Dick, what is the most important part of the law as far as you are concerned?” And he said it is the strengthening of the policy, the incentives in the tourism zones which will be administered by the Department of Tourism for the contribution of Raul del Mar and the strengthening of the infrastructure component.

And so, indeed, we will be having all kinds of tourism areas all over the country, but I am sure that as 55 percent of our tourists come to visit Central Philippines, I figure 55 percent of those tourism zones will also be in Central Philippines especially the Visayas and here in Cebu. (applause)

As mentioned by Mel Sarmiento — who welcomed us and who was the one who called me to come and attend this conference — in late December last year, I reorganized the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change with the use of a draft submitted to me by Tony Oposa. In that draft as per his recommendation... in that Executive Order, I made myself the chairperson. But the Task Force has 14 task groups for various concerns, and every task group is headed by a Cabinet member to draw up action plans and set targets for a specific area related to climate change. For instance, Secretary Atienza is the head of the Task Force on Solid Waste Management, also on protected areas, and that is why he goes around with me every Friday in order to communicate to all our local governments that the Solid Waste Management Law mandates every single barangay in the country to have a Materials Recovery Facility. Now, that's not such a tall order really because depending on how simple or how elaborate you want your MRF to be it can be as cheap as less than 200,000 pesos or it can be as sophisticated as two million pesos.

And so, therefore, this is something we want every barangay to do. In fact, I will also like to take advantage of this occasion to thank the League of Municipalities because even as we speak they are now on a caravan all over the Philippines to communicate to all the mayors that they should help and assist their barangay in putting up Materials Recovery Facilities.

We have also task forces on fossil fuels, renewable energy and, of course, needless to say that Angie Reyes is in-charge of the energy-related task forces as well as DOTC Secretary Mendoza with regard to shifting from fossil fuels to other fuels. And part of the requirement of the task force is that we should really promote renewable energy

which is a law that was sponsored by Migs Zubiri here, the two Juan Miguels, Juan Miguel Zubiri and my son Juan Miguel Arroyo. But when I said that the framework is largely in the U.N. Convention and the Kyoto Protocol there are still key remaining elements.

We still have to set new targets for the post 2010 period. We still have to establish suitable carbon markets. The carbon markets I have seen in the Philippines have been very well done. For instance, I have seen the Toyota reforest the Northern part of Sierra Madre using carbon credits. I have seen landfills being transformed into methane-driven power plants using carbon credits. Although may I add a caveat, this is not an excuse to put up new sanitary landfills. Let's just clean up the old ones but instead of sanitary landfills, let us just concentrate on MRFs in every barangay. (applause)

We still have to formalize funding arrangements so that developing countries like us can meet the additional cost of low emission technology. We still have to reach agreements on administrative arrangements for the adaptation fund that the developed countries are supposed to help us with. And as far as the post Kyoto is concerned, the Philippines supports an 80 percent reduction of carbon emissions. (applause) In order for the world to agree to this, there is an urgent need to crop a new Climate Treaty that is viable in the long- term and binding under international law and we hope to do this in the forthcoming Copenhagen Conference. The decision to avoid dangerous climate change does not rest in the future but in today's national and local governments and businesses including the tourism industry, the hotel industry including especially those in the Visayas.

We all have the opportunity to devise replicable models to identify national vulnerability and build formulas for adaptation. Here in the Visayas, for instance, the world's largest wet steam fields are right here in Leyte, in Negros Island, and tapping our geothermal sources has enabled us in fact not only in Negros Island but in several parts of the country, they have helped us to become 60 percent energy-sufficient. Likewise, biogases co-generation plants like in Negros Occidental can tap the waste product of sugarcane manufactured to produce energy instead of being left to rot and discharge more methane into the atmosphere. And since we're talking about the Visayas and what the laws require there is an earlier law that also requires the municipalities, the coastal municipalities to set aside 15 percent of your waters for marine sanctuary. (applause)

The environment cannot take a back seat to economic development. There is no reason that job creation and a good, clean and sound environmental policy cannot exist. I think tourism, the kind of tourism that we have today shows that, because our tourism is very, very eco-friendly. So different from tourism in the days of old. I remember when I was a young activist we were all against tourism because of the sex tourism. But now I remember, on the other hand today, how times changed, there is a certain area in the country where the religious are against a casino. So they said... then the local officials say, but it creates jobs. So, the answer of the religious was, "why not create jobs through tourism?" See, because now the understanding of tourism is eco-tourism. So that is a best example of what we're trying to say that caring for the environment is an important contribution to job creation.

That is why this One Visayas Initiative in the heart of our tourism region is significant and timely. It is led by local government executives through the Regional Development Councils. We have here Mel, our host Governor Gwen and Sally, and it has the support of the academe, private sector representatives, civil society as members and Father Jet comes from the church.

And as I see all of you coming here together to put this One Visayas Summit together on Climate Change, I am reminded that now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and the community. Now is the time to initiate a new era of volunteerism and community spirit. Climate change adaptation and mitigation is not only a job of the government but also of religious and civic groups and nongovernmental organizations harnessing our people to engage in coordinated volunteer activities. Volunteer activities can focus on initiatives as cleaning up our environment; because trash is not only ugly it contributes to methane. Building parks because building parks build up greens, produce oxygen and reduces climate change, the same with planting trees. These are just as important as bringing comfort to the poor through food banks and bringing literacy to adults who cannot read.

So, I thank all of you for being here today. And I say to all of you, to our green legislators who love and promote eco-tourism, to our green LGUs, to our green NGOs and to our green industry in tourism, congratulations to all of you! (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Regional Development Committee's One Visayas Initiative on Climate Change Summit and signing of R.A. 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412103057/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25031&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and India

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and India**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City, May 15, 2009]

(applause) Thank you. Thank you. (applause)

Thank you Secretary Romulo for your introduction.

Other members of the Cabinet and senior government officials who are present here today; Ambassador Mitter and Madame Mitter; of course, Ram Sitaldas and all the other leaders of the Indian Business Community; members of the Diplomatic Corps; former Senator Letty Ramos-Shahani who is a daughter-in-law of India; ladies and gentlemen. (applause)

First of all, to the Indian Chamber of Commerce now to be called the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, (applause) for your many initiatives including holding a full-year celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Ties between the Philippines and India, congratulations! and thank you. (applause)

Ram and I were talking about the implications of the change from an Indian Chamber to a Federation of Indian Chambers, and the new roles and the new character of the Federation. While one of them is that, hopefully, individual Indian businessmen who are CEOs of large multinationals like Citi Bank, Nestle, Sutherland and so on can become individual members and Filipinos who do business in India can also be members — that is truly a significant transformation of the Indian Chamber into the Federation. (applause)

And it is only so fitting because India and the Indian people play an important role in the Philippine experience. Hundreds of years before diplomatic relations were established between our two newly independent countries in 1949, in the 18th century, trade was already flourishing between Manila and the Coromandel Coast in Bengal, involving Philippine exports of tobacco, silk, cotton, indigo, sugar cane and coffee.

Politically, the Philippines is Asia's first democracy and India is today the world's largest democracy. (applause) The Philippines has become a second home to thousands of Indians, and I'm glad to hear from Ram that majority have already acquired Philippine citizenship. (applause)

Gone are the days when Indian people coming to the Philippines were considered as restricted aliens. Today, you are very welcome visitors and residents to our country and even citizens. (applause)

In terms of the economy, India and the Philippines are ranked the two most attractive offshoring destinations in the world, and this brings us to another important level of joint venture partnership between Indian corporations and Philippine business investors. We are buying a lot of pharmaceuticals from India as part of our program to cut the price of medicines for the ordinary Filipinos. Many other kinds of relationships were already enumerated both by Ambassador Mitter and by Ram — I need not mention all of them again — they both mention the exchange of high level visits. India's Head of State and Head of Government both came to the Philippines, and I as Head of State and Head of Government combined have also visited India together with several of you who are part of the Chamber now the Federation. And I'm sure that you all know what memories I have of India, fond memories, not only from that State Visit but from the many times I visited India during my youth. And having visited India in my youth and having made a State Visit two years ago, I witnessed the transformation of India into the fourth largest economy in the world. (applause)

In fact today, BRIC has now become an important acronym standing for Brazil, Russia, India and China, the four new economic giants to whom the world looks today to stimulate economic recovery because the traditional giants of America, Japan and Europe are not to be the ones who will bring us to recovery. India's projected growth rate of 6.0 to 7.0 percent in this time of global recession is admirable. Having said that, the world economy continues to challenge developed and developing nations alike.

So for us, for Filipinos, for Indian friends living in the Philippines, now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and the community. We must initiate a new era of volunteerism and community spirit. This should include the government, the religious, the civic groups, the nongovernmental organizations like the Federation of the Indian Chambers harnessing our peoples to engage in coordinated volunteer activities.

We should focus on such initiatives like cleaning up our environment, building parks, planting trees, bringing comfort to the poor through food banks, bringing literacy to adults who cannot read. During these trying times, the Filipino commitment and caring – which includes the Filipino-Indian community because having stayed here for so long you have already all these Filipino traits of caring – should prompt each one of us to count our blessings and give back to those who are less fortunate. Our nation, the nation you have chosen to call your home, needs us all pulling in the same direction. Volunteering time, skills and resources is a noble undertaking we should all take seriously.

In lean global economic times, we should tap into national support for “volunteerism.” We need to promote citizen involvement including the Indians who have become Filipino citizens and resident involvement including the Indian citizens who have been residing in the Philippines for so long, we need all of you to help friends, families, communities and the less fortunate, notably revolving around the poor and the environment.

I mentioned all these because I have declared the month of May as Volunteerism Month. And I hope as part of your yearlong anniversary, 60th Anniversary celebration of our diplomatic relationship, the Federation of Indian Chambers can use this month to launch some of your volunteer projects for the poor and the environment.

Also within the context of a turbulent world, it is essential to keep our own continent as calm and coordinated as possible. Perhaps because of the strength of India and China and other parts as well including ASEAN, the Asian continent is the best situated to weather the global crisis and come out the strongest compared with other continents like America and Europe.

It is time to harness the potential of Asia, to capitalize on its resources and to give the Pan-Asian Region a stronger voice in shaping the world economic order. One way to achieve this is for ASEAN and India to accelerate the negotiations for an ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement. I hope the Filipino-Indian Business Community, the Federation of Indian Chambers will make this advocacy as one of your missions for this 60th Anniversary of our relations. (applause)

Our government views Asian neighbors like India as partners in economic development. We count on you, the Philippine-Indian Business Community, to ensure that our two countries work together to build a more cohesive regional community that will strengthen the economic clout of all nations in our rapidly growing region.

And on our part, to ensure that we remain a competitive player within the region and are able to attract investments from countries like your home country of India, with the support of the Indian Business Community and the then Indian Chamber getting all your inputs, we have invested heavily in improving the quality of the country's human resources, in lowering transaction flows and the costs of doing business, in developing efficient access to financing, and building a seamless infrastructure network. I have mentioned, for instance, the ease now of immigration procedures for the Indian Business Community and many other types of red tape we did away with because you pointed them out to us.

And as mentioned by our two speakers earlier, we are also focusing on developing our strongest sectors, including commodities, BPO in great partnership with the Indian Business Community in India and around the world and niche tourism. One of the niche tourism sectors we identified is to invite Indian movie companies in Bollywood to

come and do films in the Philippines. We have had a couple come. They are happy about the site. They're happy about the talent. They're in fact happy about the assistance they get from agencies. They have difficulty because there's no direct flight. So, what I heard about the direct flight earlier is I think something that we must all work for. We have an air agreement... (applause) We have an air agreement, don't we? It's now the economic decision making of the airlines that we must work for, and that would be in the hands of the business community because you are the one who can assure these airlines that they can make money with the load that you will provide with your business activities.

We have unique competitive advantages in these areas. We offer significant value for investors. We thank the Indian companies who have come to invest here over these years where we had different kinds... waves of investments as mentioned by our speakers: textile industry, retail industry, now high-tech and high-value. I remember when I was a young girl living in Iligan and I would go to town to go to the market in that very, very multi-ethnic society. I made a lot of friends among the Indian retail owners of the stores there. So, that's where you've been for a long time, you're still there, and you are now in high-tech and manufacturing as well.

The Philippines and India, both with strong decades-long democratic traditions, are partners in the continued growth and development of the countries of Asia. So, for the next 60 years and even more, may our two peoples continue to work for the deepening of our relationship that has been mutually beneficial to both our countries.

To all of us, Happy Jubilee of our Diplomatic Relations between the two countries!

Thank you. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and India. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412102706/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25090&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and India

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Coral Triangle Initiative Summit**

[Delivered at the Grand Kawanua Convention Center, Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, May 15, 2009]

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Ramos Horta, Prime Minister Somare, Prime Minister Sikua, Prime Minister Najib, development partners, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you President Yudhoyono for making this Summit happen. At a time when the world seems mired in bad news, the Coral Triangle Initiative is genuine good news. Here, we have nations coming together in common purpose to protect a vital segment of our common global environment.

During times of economic hardship, the pressures are greatest to abandon our obligation to the environment or to loosen the rules. That is precisely why now, we must be even more vigilant in advancing the CTI Program.

To a world struggling with global warming, we are showing the way toward a united front to keep our biodiversity intact, our food resources strong, and our environment pristine.

The Coral Triangle is potentially the world's most important refuge for marine life. But only if we do our part to keep it in good health. For too long, we have let our environment become degraded; our natural resources diminished; our social contract with nature destroyed. It is time to rebalance our approach, develop a strong economy, provide full employment and maintain the sacred relationship of human beings to mother earth.

This is not an either/or proposition. This must be a win-win solution to not just stopping the degradation but also improving, restoring and enhancing our ecology. We rely on the sea for food, jobs and pleasure. Let us not destroy this resource.

President Yudhoyono's CTI proposal was welcomed at the 2007 APEC, ASEAN and BIMP-EAGA Summits. CTI Ministerial and senior officials developed a joint action plan, a regional plan of action which we are slated to adapt today.

We in BIMP-EAGA reinforce the synergies with the CTI. We are pursuing the establishment of a joint fisheries consortium among our private sectors. We are pursuing the adaption of policies that call on the tuna industry to share the costs of caring for tuna spawning grounds in the Coral Triangle.

As acknowledged earlier by His Excellency President Yudhoyono funding and assistance has been provided by the multilaterals present here today and the Australian and United governments among others. International nongovernmental organizations such as Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy and the Worldwide Fund for Nature are also joining forces to work with the Coral Triangle governments in pursuing the Regional Plan of Action as well as National Action Plans.

I have just signed Executive Order 797 mandating the Philippine National Plan of Action that follows the general outline of the CTI Regional Plan and adapts the guiding principles enunciated by our six Coral Triangle countries in 2007. My earlier Executive Order 533 adapting Integrated Coastal Management as a national strategy to ensure the sustainable development of our nation's coasts, oceans and marine resources is further adherence to the CTI. We have taken decisive action of the community, local government, provincial, district and national levels on coastal resource management and multisectoral climate change adaptation planning with national budget funding.

I thank President Yudoyono for showing the way for the rest of us on how much Indonesia will be allocating to this effort and the Philippines will do the same, Mr. President. (applause)

As part of these funds, we have allocated funds this year in our national government appropriations to support the conservation of important species and management of several protected areas including the Apo Reef Natural Park. The Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary and the renowned Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site.

If we are going to impact the climate change dialogue we must strive to carry the message of Manado into the ongoing meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We must call on all countries, but most importantly the major industrialized nations and the rest of the developed world, to live up to the UNFCCC obligations particularly those related to access to affordable and appropriate technology and the provision of funding for climate change management programs.

Going back to the Philippines, we are also carrying out a joint effort of our government, conservation international and WWF to identify a new priority seascape in line with the regional plan of action and our own national plan. This is a true government-NGO partnership that is successfully working to protect our marine resources.

We hope to continue our collaboration with our development partners, particularly in expanding opportunities for private sector participation in the CTI. We have initiated constructive dialogues with global players in the tuna and tourism industries at an event we co-hosted with our international NGO partners.

Our national plan uses the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine-Eco Region program, the SSME, as its platform in such areas as the management of marine protected areas and networks, and the use of an ecosystem approach to sustainable fisheries management.

Our current SSME efforts include the development and planned implementation this year, with Malaysia and Indonesia of the Trinational Sulu-Celebes Seas Small Pelagic Fisheries Management Project. This project with funding support from the Global Environment Facility through the U.N. supports the goal of the CTI Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries Management.

The Philippines is honored to take the lead in its implementation. We are also working to strengthen our bilateral relations with CT countries. We signed separate MOUs on Fisheries Cooperation with Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea as part of our commitment to the sustainable development of the fishing industry. These exchanges will contribute to capacity building in each of our nations. We are interested in Papua New Guinea's leadership in innovative and effective tuna fisheries management as we look at ways to effectively protect the juvenile and spawning grounds of tuna in our own part of the Coral Triangle.

In the next few years, we will work to improve practices and policies towards achieving sustainability of the live reef fish trade in Palawan, a major source of live reef fish for restaurants all over Asia. We have made great strides in engaging the traders and industry players active in Palawan with the help of WWF. We look forward to the day when Palawan seafood will be recognized as sustainable seafood.

The Filipino people love the environment. They embrace the need to invest in keeping our environment clean, our seas full of fish and our coral free from exploitation and degradation. That is why we have the Green Philippines Initiative. This includes a national commitment to clean air, clean water, and clean land. We are also working to find harmony between jobs and the environment and to find new ways to provide clean energy.

We have a moral obligation to ensure that the beauty and bounty of the land, air and sea remain for the rest of time.

So colleagues, I join our Chairman in calling on everyone to continue our efforts towards sustainable development of our shared coastal and marine resources. There is no higher calling than the protection of our environment. The CTI is central to our individual sense of self-worth, the prosperity of our nations and our commitment to a sustainable globe. Thank you. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Coral Triangle Initiative Summit.

Retrieved

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412103047/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25089&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Sponsorship Speech of Senator Benigno Simeon Aquino III on House Bill No. 3206, May 18, 2009

**Sponsorship Speech
of
Honorable Benigno Simeon Aquino III
Senator of the Philippines
On House Bill No. 3206**

[Released on May 18, 2009]

In presenting House Bill No. 3206 for the Body's consideration, Senator Aquino delivered the following speech:

The Committee on Local Government is honored to present Committee Report No. 231, recommending the approval with amendments of House Bill No. 3206, introduced by Representative Glenda Ecleo, entitled "An Act Amending Section 1 of Republic Act No. 6769, Entitled An Act Creating the Municipality of San Jose in the Province of Dinagat Islands."

Section 442 (b) of the Local Government Code states that the territorial jurisdiction of a newly created municipality shall be properly identified by metes and bounds.

The Municipality of San Jose in the Province of Surigao del Norte was created by virtue of Republic Act No. 6769 on November 15, 1989.

In the course of finalizing the town planning and zoning of the municipality with the technical assistance of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLRUB), the actual survey conducted reveals an inconsistency in the narrative and technical descriptions defining the boundary of two municipalities, namely San Jose and Basilica.

Such an irregularity affects the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) share of the said municipality.

In order to correct this, a joint session was conducted by the head officials of both municipalities who agreed to correct and clearly define the boundary. This correction, which rectifies the technical description of the municipal boundary of the Municipality of San Jose in the Province of Dinagat Islands, was discussed in the hearing of the Senate Committee on Local Government last April 29, 2008.

The people of San Jose are responsible for the resources that exist within their jurisdiction. They are also entitled to a share of the internal revenue allotment that is commensurate to the size of the land they occupy. A well-defined physical boundary is therefore sought to prevent boundary disputes from arising and to award the right amount of government funding that is due them.

Source: Legislative Library, House of Representatives

Aquino, B. S. III (2009). Sponsorship speech of Senator Aquino. *Journal of the Senate*, 3, 2208.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Sponsorship Speech of Senator Benigno Simeon Aquino III on House Bills declaring public holiday, May 20, 2009

**Sponsorship Speech
of
Honorable Benigno Simeon Aquino III
Senator of the Philippines
On House Bills declaring public holiday**

[Released on May 20, 2009]

In presenting the House bills declaring public holidays, Senator Aquino delivered the following speech:

The Committee on Local Government is honored to present Committee Report Nos. 398, 399, 400 and 401, recommending the approval of the following local holiday bills:

- House Bill No. 3685 — An Act Declaring October 2 of Every Year an Official Nonworking Holiday in the Municipality of Majayjay, Province of Laguna and in All its Barangays, to be known as the “Majayjay Day”;
- House Bill No. 1314 — An Act Declaring September 18 of Every Year a Special Non-Working Holiday in the City of Bislig, Province of Surigao del Sur;
- House Bill No. 1125 and Senate Bill No. 1979 — An Act Declaring July 18th a Special Non-Working Holiday in the Province of South Cotabato in Commemoration of its Foundation Anniversary and the Culmination of the T’nalak Festival; and
- House Bill No. 206 — An Act Declaring September 29 of Every Year as a Special Non-working Holiday in the Municipality Balilihan, Province of Bohol.

We recognize the need to observe local holidays that remind citizens of the legacy of their ancestors. The memory of their achievements inspires people to work for a better future.

Each locality is separated from others by their own distinct and colorful history. This uniqueness entitles localities to celebrate key historic milestones that are a source of pride for their constituents.

The authority to declare local holidays is vested with the President, through a Presidential proclamation, or with Congress, through the enactment of a law.

Chapter 7, Book 1, Section 27 of Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987) states that “the President may proclaim any local special day for a particular date, group or place.”

Under the authority of the President, it is necessary to declare local holidays every year. This has led to repetitive declarations of the same holidays every year.

In contrast, Congress sets in stone the need to observe such local holidays through its power to legislate. This helps eliminate the recurring and seemingly wasteful practice of annual holiday declarations.

In view of this, we therefore seek the approval of the abovementioned bills to place these holidays permanently in the consciousness of the people and to immortalize pivotal local events that helped transform Filipino society in general.

Source: **Legislative Library, House of Representatives**

Aquino, B. S. III (2009). Sponsorship speech of Senator Aquino. *Journal of the Senate*, 3, 2267.

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd National Convention of the Liga ng mga Barangay National [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Ikalawang Nasyonal na Konbensyon ng mga Liga ng mga Barangay (National)**

[Ipinahayag sa SMX Convention Center, Lungsod ng Pasay, ika 20 ng Mayo, 2009]

Maraming salamat President Echiverri sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at sa iyong napakagarang diskurso na may laman naman dahil yung full benefits nga ay nagaganap na sa ating mga barangay leaders. (applause)

Ang ating ibang mga officials: si Mayor Peewee Trinidad, ang ating host city mayor (applause) at yung ibang mga officials na narito ngayon; yung ibang officials ng Liga ng Barangay at kayong lahat mga leader ng barangay sa buong Pilipinas, congratulations! din dahil dalawang libo kayong narito, mas malaki keysa nung nakaraan. (applause)

Ako naman maligaya at nagkaroon na naman ng pagkakataong magtipon-tipon kasama ninyo. Gaya nga nang sabi ni President Echiverri, ni Kapitan, ang mga lider ng barangay, kayo, ang grassroots leader pinaka nasa unahan sa paghatid ng serbisyo mula sa pamahalaan. Kaya't nagpapasalamat ako sa lahat ng tulong ninyo, etong huling resolusyon na naman ninyo of support.

Salamat sa tulong ninyo sa pagtataguyod ng programa ng ating administrasyon. Maraming salamat. (applause)

Alam na ninyo na humina ang ekonomiya ng daigdig. Marami tayong kailangang harapin na mga hamon sabay-sabay upang manatili ang ating ekonomiya at manatili ang ating paraan ng pamumuhay. Sa bahagi ng pamahalaan at kasama na rito ang barangay kailangan tayo ay we must live within our means and run a lean efficient government, kasama dito yung patuloy na fiscal prudence, kasama dito yung magtrabaho para balansyado ang budget, habang sa kabilang dako naman, we must simultaneously invest in key programs for our people.

Salamat doon sa binanggit ni President Rico Judge Echiverri yung suporta ninyo sa aking ten-point program. Isa na nga dito sa ten-point program ay yung pagdala ng kuryente para sa lahat ng mga barangay. Kaya kung meron pang mga barangay dito na wala pang kuryente, ipaalam na sa Liga headquarters para tugonan ng National Electrification Administration ang inyong pangangailangan agad-agad. (applause)

Isa pa doon sa ten-point program ay yung makamtan ang makatarungang kapayapaan. Kaya nasisiyahan ako na kasama doon sa programa — yung sa Resolution of Support ninyo kanina — yung tutulong kayo sa laban kontra sa insurgency at saka terorismo. At diyan talagang kailangang-kailangan ang ating mga barangay officials. Kaya ang alyansa ng mga LGU at Armed Forces of the Philippines ay isang malaking tungkod ng ating administrasyon. You complement the efforts of the Armed Forces of the Philippines under the National Internal Security Plan. The AFP looks to you, looks to the strong and active participation of our local leaders in the fight to end insurgency in the country. The AFP looks to you and recognizes your local initiatives, peace initiatives.

Kaya nananawagan din ako sa mga barangay captain gawa nang kayo ay nagbigay ng resolusyon na sumusuporta sa laban kontra sa insurgency kayo na ang manguna to lead and engage in local peace talks and in the campaign for rebel surrenders. (applause)

Nandito tayo sa Pasay City hindi ko maiwasan yung mga modelong programa ng Pasay City tungkol sa Solid Waste Management na binisita ko na at yun din ang isang inaasahan ko sa ating mga barangay — itupad ang ating batas ng Solid Waste Management. Kasi may probisyon na bawat barangay ay dapat maglaan ng lupa para sa Materials Recovery Facility or MRF. Ito ay imbakan ng mga basura kung saan yung mga basurang biodegradable or yung mga

nabubulok kagaya ng pagkain, mga dahon ay maaaring gawing compost, charcoal briquettes o ibang mga bagay na magagamit muli. At yung recyclable naman, yung non-biodegradable gaya ng plastic ay mare-recycle na nga para sa ibat-ibang mga produkto.

Halimbawa, doon sa Boracay — ewan ko kung nandito yung mga tatlong barangay captain ng Boracay — ginagamit nila yung plastic waste, ginagawang mga bricks at yun ang ginagamit na mga foot walk ngayon doon sa magandang resort ng Boracay. At alam ko... magkano ba itong mga Materials Recovery Facility na ito, depende kung simple o elaborate. Yung mga simple less than 200,000 pesos. Yung mga elaborate umaabot ng two million pesos, so depende kung gaano kayaman yung inyong barangay. Pero ang gobyerno, national government ay tutulong. We are, sabi ng Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, ready to contribute 20 percent of what you will spend. Halimbawa, kung gagawa kayo ng 200,000-peso MRF at kayo ay gagastos ng 160,000 pesos, handa ang national government na mag-contribute ng 40,000 pesos para sa ganun buong bansa (applause) magkaroon tayo ng MRF.

At itong MRF na ito may proseso para sa biodegradable, may proseso para sa recyclable or non-biodegradable. Kaya para sa ganun madali niyo ipasok yung isang machine o sa ibang machine yung mga basura kailangan upang madaling gamitan ng MRF. Nanawagan din ako sa inyong lahat na lumahok sa kampanya tungkol sa wastong pagtapon ng basura — ihiwalay yung mga biodegradable doon sa mga recyclable. Yun ang isang malaking magagawa ninyo dahil kung kayo ay mayrong MRF at magpo-produce kayo ng compost, fertilizer, bricks – ano pa ba ito? – yung mga charcoal briquettes mabebenta pa niyo ito, so kikita kayo at makukuha niyo uli yung puhunan na ilalagay ninyo.

Marami ng mga barangay ang gumagawa nito, kaya isang pwedeng magawa ng Liga ay ipakita kung papano ginagawa nung mga barangay yung ibat-ibang kanilang mga Solid Waste Management. Yung League of Municipalities ginagawa na ito. Ang pinapakita nila Best Practices.

Ako para sa akin, sabi ko, ‘di na kailangang ipakita ang best practices, medyo magastos iyon. Yung Pasay City best practices yun. Pero yung sa mga barangay level lalo na yung mahihirap na barangay eh baka naman madismaya sila doon sa gastos ng best practices na ginagawa ng mga mas may kayang barangay. Ipakita na lang yung mga minimal practices para makita na kayang-kaya ng bawat barangay magkaroon ng malinis na kapaligiran.

I also call on the barangays to intensify your anti-drug campaigns. The LGUs that can declare a barangay a “drug-free zone” will be rewarded with development projects to sustain your efforts and ensure a bright future for our children and communities.

Panahon talaga ngayon upang ating higpitan ang ating pagkakaisa at tumukoy sa pamilya at pamayanan. Kailangan magsimula tayo ng bagong panahon ng boluntarismo at diwang makapamayanan. Mahalagang magsama-sama ang pamahalaan, at kasama dito ang barangay, ang simbahan, mga samahang sibiko, at ang mga NGO harnessing our people to engage in coordinated volunteer activities. Dapat itoon natin ang mga inisyatiba sa gawaing tulad ng paglilinis ng kapaligiran — iyon ngang solid waste management na binanggit ko kanina o pagtatayo ng mga parke at pagtanim ng mga puno, lalo na yung mga barangays na nandoon sa mga bundok, pamamahagi ng pagkain sa mga mahihirap, pagturo ng pagbabasa sa mga adult na hindi marunong magbasa upang magkaroon sila ng dignidad.

Sa mga masubok na panahong ito, ang diwa ng commitment ng Pilipino sa kalinga ay dapat bigyan tayo ng inspirasyon to count our blessings and give back to those who are less fortunate. Kailangan tayo ng ating bansang patungo sa isang parehong direksyon kaya lalong nagpapasalamat ako sa resolusyon na binigay na naman ninyo muli sa akin. And this time, volunteering time, skill and resources is a noble undertaking na dapat siryosohin nating lahat.

Higit sa kailanman, kaya ng barangay itong mga binanggit kong gawain. Kasi kwarenta porsyento ng Value Added Tax ay pumupunta sa mga pamahalaang lokal, tatlong taon ang agwat ng komputasyon. Kaya dahil noong 2006 tumaas ang VAT ng 100 billion pesos dahil sa ating batas; three years later, 2009, itong taong ito hindi ba niyo nahahalata lumulundag ng 40 billion pesos ang IRA ng mga local government, at kasama na doon ang lukso ng kita ng mga barangay. (applause) Inaasahan ko na maunawaan ninyo na tumaas ang inyong IRA itong taon dahil tumaas ang revenues ng bansa mula sa Value Added Tax.

At tinitiyak ko, gaya nang palagi, ang IRA sa mga lokal na pamahalaan sapagka't kayo ang unang humaharap sa sambayanan upang magbigay ng serbisyo ng gobyerno. Kahit nga noon nung wala pa tayong tax reforms at kapos tayo ng pondo sa national government naalala niyo naghanap pa rin tayo ng pondo upang bayaran ang inyong IRAng buo. Binayaran pa nga ang IRA na utang ng mga previous governments.

Kaya ngayon sa pamamagitan ng inyong malaking dagdag na kita sa IRA himukin natin ang bawat Pilipino na makiisa. Dapat nating itaguyod ang partisipasyon ng lahat ng mamamayan na tumulong sa pag-angat ng pamumuhay ng mga maralita at sa pagbibigay ng proteksiyon sa ating kalikasan.

Hindi natin maaaring pabayaaan pa ang kapakanan ng ating bansa. Working together as one nation and people, not only will we survive, we will prosper in this time of global crisis.

Magkaisa tayo bilang isang bansa na pinagbubuklod ng ating iisang pinagmulan at magkaparehong hangarin sa hinaharap. Mga kapitan ng barangay sa buong Pilipinas sa patuloy ninyong suporta sa ating nagkakaisang layunin. Maraming, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Thank you. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 2nd National Convention of the Liga ng Mga Barangay National. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412102600/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25133&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the general membership of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the general membership of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP)**

[Delivered at the Tower Club, Philamlife Tower, Makati City, May 21, 2009]

Thank you. (applause)

Thank you Secretary Roque.

Secretary Cabral, our other senior government officials, our leaders of the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Industry header by Mr. Aragon and the other officers of PHAP, ladies and gentlemen.

This is a timely meeting. The world is once again on high alert with the emergence of the deadly Influenza AH1N1 virus.

We thank the providence of the Lord Almighty and the cooperation of the government and the people for the continued resilience of the Philippines against the swine flu. Just as we have so far been relatively resilient from the global economic crisis.

According to the WHO there are now more than 8,000 cases in 36 countries, but by the grace of God and the carefulness of all of us, there is still no swine flu case in our country. Nonetheless, on my instruction, the DOH has put up a stock of more than one million capsules of tamiflu as a precautionary measure.

But let's continue to pray and work hand-in-hand, as we did during the SARS and bird flu outbreaks, in order to keep the Philippines free from swine flu. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank not only the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Industry but also all the people for their prayers and trust in government I understand that PHAP has started to print Influenza AH1N1 information materials from the DOH, and that these materials are on their way to the provinces. So, I thank you for that.

As more diseases emerge, the role of the pharmaceutical industry in developing and distributing cutting-edge drugs to combat disease has become even more important. And we saw that in the presentation of PHAP. Saving people's lives is at the core of your mission, the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines.

For over 60 years, it has been providing cures for diseases, and through your very good PHAPCares Foundation — congratulations to the executive director! — sharing with our indigent countrymen large numbers of life saving medicines, medical missions, participation in emergency and disaster response activities, campaigns for the prevention and treatment of major diseases and support for the victims of these ills.

I laud PHAP for your support especially of what was presented today, our project NARS. And that excellent presentation saves me the trouble of explaining what it's all about except to just summarize that it was a project we developed both as an emergency employment measure and as a training ground for nurses who wish to obtain some hands-on experience before they can qualify for greener pastures abroad.

And I am happy to learn about all the things that they have pointed out there — your agreement together with the NARS Steering Committee sponsoring the stipends of about a hundred nurses, but now more because you have 3 more companies coming in, fielded to 20 more municipalities. So for that, maraming, maraming salamat.

The work of the PHAPCares Foundation is something I would especially like to highlight during this meeting during this month of May. Because I have proclaimed May as Volunteerism Month and PHAPCares is a great example of volunteerism.

Now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and the community. We must initiate a new era of volunteerism and community spirit. This should include the government, religious, civic groups and NGOs like PHAPCares harnessing our people to engage in coordinated volunteer activities. That is why your partnership with DSWD and now your partnership with DOLE is really an excellent example of pulling together.

But may I make a call also to focus on initiatives not just related to your core activity of health but also non-core activities like cleaning up our environment — which is after all very much related to health — building parks and planting trees, bringing comfort to the poor not only through medicines but through food banks because nutrition is also important for health, and the dignity of literacy to adults who cannot read. Because the more literate the adults are, the more they know how to take care of their health.

During these trying times, the Filipino spirit and commitment to caring should prompt each one of us, even the non-Filipinos among you, for after all whether your corporation is Filipino or multinational, it's still a Filipino corporation operating in the Philippines and PHAP is a Filipino association. All of us should count our blessings and give back to those who are less fortunate as you are doing in PHAPCares.

Our nation indeed needs us all pulling in the same direction, and one way to do it is to volunteer time, skills and resources. That is a noble undertaking we should all take seriously. And, of course, you're all aware that with the poorest of our people in mind, one of the key programs of our government is to bring down the cost of medicines frequently purchased by the poor to one-half of their 2001 prices. I made that declaration in my 2001 State of the Nation Address because when I came in to the presidency our prices were double that of our neighbors. That's why I made a goal to bring it down to one-half.

But let me stress that this program is not meant to be a grave threat to the viability of the pharmaceutical industry. And I appreciate that PHAP has been active in the campaign against intellectual property and the counterfeiting of products affecting public health and safety, and I appreciate that.

After all, our government supports intellectual property. It supports research and development which requires the protection of intellectual property rights. You do a lot of research but I was asking your Executive Director Mr. Gloor, how much are indeed you do here. You do testing here, but I hope that you can also move towards more basic R & D. And in order to encourage you to do this, we have spent billions of scholarships to include scholarships in the PhD and masteral level for Science and Engineering. And I hope that that will help you that pool of manpower we are putting will help you to make a decision to put more basic research here in the Philippines.

And I'd like to and also assure you that we religiously implement laws that uphold patent protection as a major incentive for scientists and researchers to discover new and effective products. We are joined together in a common fight against fake products, more so of medicines which are crucial to a patient's survival.

Earlier before the general meeting, we had a meeting with some of your leaders and very concerned corporations about two matters: one, is the recent Supreme Court ruling about the very liberal importation of pharmaceutical products; and the other one, is a recent BFAD ruling about discount cards. On the Supreme Court ruling I understand that you have somebody among you has a motion for reconsideration. So, we will await the Supreme Court's final ruling on that case.

In the case of the BFAD's policies on discount cards, I think Undersecretary Alex Padilla made many things clear in the meeting and that can be a subject matter for you to disseminate among your members in other meetings or later in the day. But I think Alex has... from the way you understood everything, it really is something that the industry can very well be able to live with and remain viable. Because after all, government and PHAP need not be on opposite sides. We are both concerned that the Filipino people will be healthy and strong. We are both concerned

that the people will be free of disease. We are both concerned that the people of the Philippines live quality lives, and able to contribute to the nation's continued growth and development.

So, let me finally say that working together as one nation and people, our economy and your industry will not only survive, but will do quite well in this time of global crisis.

Once again, thank you for your cooperation with the government. Let's continue to work together for the good of the Filipino people.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the general membership of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412102435/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25132&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo at the Independence Day reception

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At the Independence Day reception**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Palace, June 12, 2009]

Today we remember once again those historic events of a hundred and eleven years ago when a band of patriots announced to the whole world the birth of a new and sovereign nation, one with full rights to dream its own dreams, choose its own leaders, and work towards its own goals and aspirations.

Our freedom, paid for by the blood of heroes, has been challenged several times since. But our people rose to the occasion at every turn, defending their liberty with everything they had, prepared to render the ultimate sacrifice if asked to do so.

Those external threats to our freedom are no more. Our former conquerors have become our close friends and allies in our quest for development. Yet we must remain united and vigilant as ever, not only against foreign domination, but—more urgently—against a familiar enemy who continues to eat away at our people’s capability to exercise their free will. That enemy is poverty, and the hunger, ignorance and despair that it brings.

We have fought poverty for decades, and we were starting to gain the upper hand through strong political will and our people’s full support. But factors not of our own making are now eroding those gains. The Filipino people are called to action once again to fight off these threats before they reverse our development and return us to our economic Dark Ages.

Where before our heroes fought to gain political freedom, today we must rely on our sense of community and solidarity to gain freedom from economic deprivation in the face of the global economic crisis.

No nation is immune from the impact of the global crisis. A few are faring relatively better than the others. The Philippines fortunately belongs to those few, not because of luck, but because we chose years ago to prepare for an emergency like this by taking the bitter pill of fiscal and economic reforms.

On those reforms we built our growth, the fruits of which we invested in turn in long overdue physical and human infrastructure. We worked hard to bring increasing balance to our national economy. Pumping more money into infrastructure and welfare, we expanded our domestic demand, which decreased our reliance on exports. Our export to GDP ratio now is only 28.5%, compared to 49% in 2000.

We moved quickly to diversify our trade partners as well as the overseas destinations of Filipinos going abroad. At the same time, we worked to build up new industries and develop new sectors, and encouraged our people to build up their skills in accordance with shifting demand. All of these measures, among other things, helped loosen our ties to the fortunes of the world’s biggest economies when they started going down last year.

I am proud to say that the Philippines is now one of only two countries in the region whose growth rate remained positive the first quarter of this year, albeit much slower than before.

Nonetheless, I do not mean to diminish the pain and disruption the global crisis has brought upon our economy. We are feeling the pain just like the rest of our neighbors. And the poorest among us are the ones being hurt the most.

We must continue to focus here at home on creating jobs and keeping prices low, while rescuing the poorest among our people with targeted subsidies of food, fuel and rice.

Government has tightened its belt and put a stop to wasteful spending, just like the average Filipino household. Government must pour more of its savings and revenue into programs that help the poor and the middle class, without neglecting the investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure that will be the springboard of our growth when the global economic rebound happens.

We are tackling many challenges all at once in order to keep our economy and way of life going strong. Running on a lean and efficient machinery, government must continue exercising fiscal prudence and working towards a balanced budget, even as we continue to invest in key programs for the people.

It is not enough for us to celebrate our day of freedom by remembering our heroes. We must also think about their hopes for a better life for us, and commit to work even harder to realize them. Only then can we say that we deserve the gift of freedom our forefathers gave us.

During these trying times, the Philippine spirit and commitment to caring should prompt every Filipino to count his blessings and share them with the less fortunate. Now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and community. We must start a new era of volunteerism and community spirit that embraces all sectors – government, the religious, civic groups, non-governmental organizations as well as our foreign friends. The nation needs all of us pulling in the same direction.

I believe that when the rebound occurs, our relative position within the region and the world will continue to improve. Not only do we have the resources to absorb the global shocks, but we also have our economic resilience and continuing fiscal reforms that will enable the nation to pull ahead when the global recovery begins.

We are heartened by pieces of good news from all over the world indicating that this global economic slump may already be bottoming out. There are growing signs of recovery in some of the biggest international markets. We earnestly hope there will be more of these positive signs pointing to an early global turnaround.

We must look at the present with clear eyes, ever mindful of the goals that we hope can be realized soon. Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan ang magdadala sa atin tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan. Courage, Excellence and Industry – the Filipino has all these qualities, in abundance. Add to these the unity of a people determined to rise from poverty once and for all. They are the building blocks of our new growth.

We hope our foreign friends, whose friendship we continue to cherish through the years, will continue to be with us, as the Philippine Ship of State navigates through the murky waters of the global crisis towards the sunlit port of prosperity, security, and sustainable growth.

Let us all work together to apply the lessons learned from this global crisis, so that together we may create a global village that celebrates the sovereignty of each nation even as it works as one in pursuit of our common goal: a world that is free from fear and free from want.

May I invite you now to raise your glasses in a toast to international solidarity and mutually beneficial growth, and a bright future for the Philippines.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). Speech of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Independence Day reception. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101715/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25337&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing session of the High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific: Developmental Challenge

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the closing session of the High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific:
Developmental Challenge**

[Delivered at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters, Mandaluyong City, June 17, 2009]

Thank you very much Secretary Atienza.

Thank you very much President Kuroda. I'd like to congratulate also Director General Pachauri for the event, for this conference that you have just concluded. Former Prime Minister of Korea — how very nice to have you here — and also I'd like to greet ADB Vice President Ursula Preuss, thank you. And we have together with us not only Secretary Atienza on the platform but also our Presidential Adviser for Climate Change Sonny Alvarez.

I'm very glad that you have had this conference because we must not lose sight of the challenges we were already addressing before the onset of the global economic crisis. Climate change ranks high on the list of challenges that must not be forgotten in a rush to fix a world economy in crisis. The challenge of climate change, and the devastating permanent impact it will have on economies around the world, will still be with us long after the global economy returns to health.

Indeed, we are all here today because climate change is here. Weather patterns are changing. Human activity has caused climate change. Fossil fuels. Land use. Solid waste.

Climate change is already impacting adversely on many of the world's peoples. It will have catastrophic effects if we don't take immediate and sufficient action to curb the industrial emissions and the forest loss that have been clearly identified as among its major causes.

Though the Philippines produces only one-third of one percent of the global Green House gases, much lower in per capita income than those of industrialized nations; and we are not a climate maker, we are a climate taker. And that is our very special reason for being involved in climate change mitigation and adaptation. We suffer as much or even more than climate makers because we are an archipelago.

From rising tides, to changing weather, to deforestation and pollution of air, sea and land, the challenges of climate change to us are great. As a nation made up of over 7,000 islands, rising seas due to global warming take on a whole new meaning. Florida may lose some coastline, we lose a nation. Our response to this grave challenge may sound humorous, but our intent is deadly serious and we must all work together to solve this problem. If we do, we in Asia and the Pacific and the world for that matter, hopefully, it will be one of the great achievements in our history.

Every nation, developed or developing, must assume the mantle of leadership and work to address the challenge of climate change, but not only every nation every person as well. Each and every person bears some responsibility for what we have done today and throughout history to diminish our environment. Obviously, some are more responsible than others; and some are more responsible today than yesterday. But all that apportionment of blame

does nothing against a rising tide of global warming that will swamp our nation and many parts of our region and our world if we do not act with decisiveness and solidarity.

We have a Green Philippines Agenda and it covers not only the work of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources but the work of other department as well especially the Department of Energy. Our Green Philippines Agenda puts an emphasis on a sustainable economic model that brings economic opportunity and a concern for our environment.

It is devoted to a sustainable economic model that allows for growth, job creation and environmental stewardship. Too many nations, developed and developing, used to believe — and I hope they don't anymore — that the environment must be sacrificed at the altar of growth. We firmly believe otherwise. And because we are only doing our take off now, we have a unique opportunity to get it right from day one: to introduce new industries that are clean and profitable. This ranges from furniture made with environmental-friendly practices and materials, to eco-tourism, to developing a biofuels industry that helps our energy independence, creates jobs and keeps our nation clean for future generations but not at the expense of food supplies.

Our Green Philippines includes reducing reliance on fossil fuels with our biofuels, wind and solar efforts and geothermal programs, and other renewable energy programs. It is good for our economy and good for the health and well-being of our people to have a strong economy and a clean environment.

I have two Cabinet members here with me today because as I said, mitigating and adapting to climate change are not just the work of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Not even our whole Green Energy Program is just under one department, because biofuels, renewable energy are under our Department of Energy. So much more so many other aspects of climate change that is why I have created a Presidential Task Force on Climate Change and the chair of the task force is no other than myself. (applause) And the work that has to be done day-to-day to carry out the provisions in the Executive Order that I wrote and signed on the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change is done or is overseen to make sure that it's complied with by our Presidential Adviser on Climate Change.

There are 17 task groups under these Presidential Task Force and 11 of them are headed by Cabinet members. Every Friday, Secretary Atienza, Secretary Alvarez and I spend about five hours together with different groups because among other things that he has to do to mitigate and adapt to climate change, Secretary Atienza is also chair of the Task Group on Solid Waste Management. And every Friday we go around the country to make sure that all our local governments know about the Solid Waste Management Act and their obligations under that Act, and we look to see how they're doing, and we look to see where we can work together.

We've been doing this for the last ¼ almost six months now and soon — oh, after we've started because we have had so many local governments already aware of their obligations — we are adding to our agenda for Fridays also discussions on the obligations of the community towards reforestation and mangrove rehabilitation and other similar activities.

Together with the Asian Development Bank — and President Kuroda has already mentioned this in his remarks — we have a program to replace and phase out incandescent bulbs and replace them with compact fluorescent bulbs. The logic is simple. An incandescent bulb consumes five times more energy than CFL that produces the same amount of illumination. For instance, a 60-watt bulb could be replaced by a 12-watt CFL. This saves close to 50 watts without losing illumination. If we replace one million incandescent bulbs with one million CFLs, we will have obviated the need to set up a 50-megawatt power plant which would cost us at least 50 million dollars to put up.

So, in accordance with the program that was mentioned by President Kuroda, by August we will distribute five million free CFLs in Metro Manila, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao cities. This is only the first tranche because the entire program calls for the distribution of 13 million free compact CFLs.

This was funded to the tune of 500 million pesos out of our Value Added Tax proceeds. I released this to the Department of Energy which is the partner, maybe I would say the primary partner of the Department of

Environment in adapting to and mitigating climate change. And this fund in turn^{1/4} this is our contribution to the joint ADB-DOE project, which in turn, provided a 31.1 million dollars concessional loan with 50 percent Clean Development Mechanism paid in advance.

I have seen many examples of the Clean Development Mechanism work in our country. This CDM under the Kyoto Protocol has allowed developing countries like the Philippines to voluntarily reduce our Green House gas emissions through private sector initiatives. But as we all know, as you all know, is set to expire by 2012. And as we have heard from our speakers earlier an ambitious comprehensive agreement, negotiated within the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and building on the Kyoto Protocol, must be achieved no later than this year in Copenhagen. And that is why your conference here is so important for us to work together towards a good outcome of that conference in Copenhagen and to work together towards a good implementation of the outcome of that conference.

Indeed, there is need for greater levels of cooperation and financial support to promote not only mitigation but adaptation strategies, capacity development and technology transfer to avert the security implications of the various effects of climate change. But we must do it in a way that puts the interests of the poor and the dispossessed ahead of the rich and powerful. And that is why this is so important that nations in the Asia and in the Pacific should be here together to make sure of that particular characteristic of the outcome of whatever new agreement we will be able to come up with.

If our country is to do its fair share, then the developed nations, with their historically much greater contribution to the onset of climate change, must help us take a less carbon intensive road to sustainable development, including through expanded carbon markets, investment, and technology transfer.

As an international community those of you here who belong to the world that Asian Development Bank assists we must act together. And we must act with the rest of the world. And most important, we must act effectively and act now. That is why your meeting has been so important.

Thank you once again for coming and more power to all of you! (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the closing session of the high-level dialogue on climate change in Asia and the Pacific: Developmental Challenge. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101503/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25382&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community [Filipino] Talumpati
ng**

**Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa pagpupulong kasama ang komunidad ng mga Filipino

[Ipinahayag sa Hotel Mariners' Court, Tokyo, Japan, ika 19 ng Hunyo, 2009]

Maraming Salamat, Secretary Romulo sa iyong pagpakilala. Maraming salamat, Ambassador Siazon sa iyong mga salitang pag-welcome sa atin at sa mga ginagawa mo na rin dito sa Hapon para sa ating bansa at pati na rin sa ating mga Pilipino na narito sa Hapon.

Kasama ko rin itong gabing ito ang ilang mga kasapi ng ating pamahalaan bilang miyembro ng ating delegasyon. Nandito hindi lamang ang aking si Atty. Mike Arroyo, ang aking asawa; nandito rin si Senator Edgardo Angara; nandito rin ang ilang mga congressmen at kumakatawan sa kanila dito sa entablado, si Deputy Speaker Eric Singson; Meron din tayong mga gobernador, mga negosyante at siyempre mga kasapi ng ating kabinete at senior government officials na kasama sa pag-uusap sa mga opisyal ng Hapon dito sa ating pagbisita.

Kami lahat ay bumabati sa mga Pilipino dito sa Hapon. Careng cabalen cung capangpangan, mayap a bengi quecongan. Dagiti cacailian ni Ambassador Siazon, naimbag nga rabii yo amin. San saray kabaleyan nen mamang ko, masantos ya labi ed sikayon amin. oy konti lang ang Pangasinan dito. Kanatong mga kaigsunan gikan sa Bisayas ug Mindanao, maayong gabii. And I saw earlier mga kasimanwa sang akong bana, mga Ilonggo maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan; Sa mga Bicolano, marhay nga banggi sa indo gabos. Ayon nandito si Nonoy Andaya, yung ating Bicolanong cabinet member; at magandang gabi sa inyong lahat.

Malaking pagbati at pasasalamat sa lahat ng mga dumalo dito ngayon. Salamat, mabuhay din kayo! Alam ko na iba sa inyo ay nanggaling pa sa mga malalayong lugar, hindi ba Ambassador Siazon? Sa Nagano, sa Ibaraki, sa Kanagawa, sa Chiba, ay iba pala yung prefecture kaya maraming salamat sa pagbiyahe niyo dito.

Sa nadinig namin yung inyong mga iba't-ibang adhikain bilang Overseas Filipino Workers dito sa Hapon. At bumulong na sa akin si Secretary Roque na yung OFW Wing sa Philippine General Hospital ay itatayo na magsimula sa susunod na buwan. (applause) Hindi lang doon magtatayo rin ng OFW Wing doon sa Iloilo, so doon tayong magsisimula next month.

And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Japan Seamen's Union for always being supportive of the Filipino community here. I'm so familiar with this place because the old Japan Seamen's Union has always allowed us so generously to use this venue everytime we have a gathering with the Filipino community. So in behalf of the 38,000 Filipino Seafarers who work on Japanese shipping lines and our members of all Japan Seamen's Union, tonight we conferred a Special Presidential Citation on the Japan Seamen's Union together with the three hospitals that have been helping so much our Filipino workers.

Kanina nanggaling ako sa... nakipagkain nga ako sa Japan Seamen's Union pati na rin sa Japan Ship Owner's Association, pinag-uusapan ang kapakanan ng mga seafarers lalung-lalo na yung mga panganib hindi lamang dahil sa global economic crisis, kundi na rin yung panganib sa inyong katawan dahil marami sa mga Filipino Seafarers ay umaabot sa Gulf of Aden at kung minsan, hindi lang kung minsan, siyempre may panganib na baka makasama kayo doon sa dadamputin ng mga pirata doon sa bandang Somalia. At nagpapasalamat ako dahil yung Hapon, ayaw naman nilang i-ban natin ang mga Sea Filipino Seafarers kasi talagang sa hirap natin, na sunod-sunod naririnig natin noon ang mga balita na kinikidnap yung mga Pilipinong mga Seafarers doon sa Gulf of Aden, pinag-isipan nga ng Department of Foreign Affairs dahil sila parati ang kailangang magnegotiate pag merong mga nakikitang nahohostage na siguro i-ban na lamang yung mga seafarers na nagtrabaho sa mga barko na dumadaan doon pero anong mangyayari sa buong industriya ng Hapon? Ano ang mangyayari doon sa ating mga 38,000 Seafarers? At hindi lang tayo nag-iisip noon, ang Hapon ang nag-iisip noon, ang gobyerno at ang Japanese shipping industry.

Kaya ang magandang balitang ibinigay sa akin kanina nong kanilang Minister of Transportation and Member of Parliament, binalita rin ni Prime Minister Taro Aso kahapon na kanina, pinasa ng Japanese Diet yung batas na yung mga Patrol Trucks, yung Self Defense Force ng Hapon ay puwedeng pumunta sa Gulf of Aden upang ipagtanggol hindi lamang yung mga barkong mga Hapon kundi lahat ng barko sa buong mundo, kaya yon ay makakatulong sa kaligtasan ng ating mga Pilipino.

Palagay ko yun ay isa sa pinakamagandang balita na maiuuwi natin sa ibang mga seafarers na nandoon sa Pilipinas na natatakot sa kanilang kapalaran, at yun ay kwinento nga ng mga Hapon na mula pa nong Marso, nagsimula na sila. Ngunit nong Marso, ang ipinagtatangol lang nila, ang binabantayan lang nila yung mga barkong Hapon ngunit pinahayag nila kay Secretary Romulo, ang ating DFA Secretary na siyang kailangan parating nagne-negotiate pag merong nakikidnap na Filipino Seafarer mula nong yung Hapon ay nagsimula na bantayan yung mga barko nila sa Gulf of Aden, wala nang kidnapping na nangyari, lalo na ngayon na lahat ng barko kahit na anong bandila ay puwedeng ipagtanggol at puwedeng proteksyonan ng mga Seacraft at Aircraft ng Japanese Defense Force. Sabi nga ni Secretary Romulo, maraming nagsasalita tungkol sa problema ng pagkapirata sa bandang Somalia, pero ang Japan ang unangunang nagbigay ng kumprehensibong sagot para ipagtanggol at proteksyonan ang ating mga Filipino Seafarers na dumadaan doon.

And this shows how Japan is a strong and reliable partner to the Philippines and to our region as a whole. With the global economic crisis continuing to create challenges for all our economies, there is no better time than now to strengthen our partnership between Japan and the Philippines.

At ito ang ating pinagdidiriwang sa aking pagbisita ngayon ay yung bagong Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement o JPEPA, na ito ang magiging sanhi na kailangan para dalhin ang mga benepisyo ng higit pang kooperasyon sa ekonomiya sa pamamagitan ng Hapon at Pilipinas at ang taumbayan ng dalawang bansa natin. At ang dahilan kung bakit ang inyong lingkod ay nagpunta dito kasama ng ating mga economic managers ay upang makipagtrabaho, to work closely with Japan to ensure that the JPEPA is fully implemented and effectively implemented para naman yung mga oportunidad na nalilikha ng agreement ay talagang puwedeng makita natin yung paglikha ng trabaho, yung paglawak ng ekonomiya at yung mga oportunidad sa negosyo dito sa mga mahihirap na panahon.

Malaking bagay sa ating bansa ang pagpapatupad ng JPEPA. Magdadala ang JPEPA ng mas madaling pangangalakal sa pamamagitan ng ating dalawang bansa. Magiging mas madali ang investment sa Pilipinas galing sa Hapon, at madadagdagan ang mga tulong ng Hapon sa Pilipinas.

Mas madaling makapasok sa Hapon ang mga galing sa Pilipinas na saging, pinya, alimango, hipon, manok, tuna. At mas makakagamit ang mga pabrika ng Pilipinas ng mga importanteng gamit mula sa Hapon gaya ng mga produktong espesyal na bakal, mga auto parts, mga electronic and electrical parts para mas efficient ang ating manufacturing, mga tela at damit ay mas madaling papasok sa isa't isa.

At dahil sa JPEPA, mas maraming mga kababayan natin ang magkakaroon ng trabaho dito. Noong Mayo lamang, 283 na mga nurse at caregiver ang dumating dito. Meron ba dito mga nurse, kayo ang mga dumating? Okay at bukas bibisitahin na natin yung iba. At nagsimula na ng training sa salitang Hapon. Sa mga darating na araw, linggo at buwan, higit pang maraming Pilipino ang makakakuha ng trabaho dito lalo na pag nagsimula na yung recovery ng Japan, ang economic recovery ng Japan ay nasisimulan na nating makita ngayon hindi lang sa mga nurse at caregiver kundi pati na rin sa mga English teacher at mga nagtatrabaho sa Information Technology.

Dito sa Hapon, marami ring siyempre, 38,000 ang Seafarers, yun ang napakalaking bahagi ng Filipino Community dito, pero dinig ko, 200,000, is that right Ambassador Siazon ang buong Filipino Community dito? At marami dito ay nandito dahil kayo ay napangasawa at nagkaroon na ng pamilya dito sa Hapon. At nong ako ay nagbisita, kami ni Atty. Arroyo at ako nagbisita sa kanilang mga Mahistad, ang Emperador at Emperadora ng Hapon ay binigyan niya ako ng permiso na sabihin sa inyo na parati niyang iniisip at parating gusto niyang mangyari na maganda ang pamumuhay ng mga Pilipina na nag-asawa sa mga Hapon dito sa kanyang bansa at sa ating bansa.

On your regional and global level, Japan deserves special credit for its role in working to return the world to sustainable economic growth. Yung kanyang liderato, innovative, generous and bold, doon sa G-7, yung pitong pinakamamayamang bansa sa buong mundo, o yung G-20, yung dalawampung pinakamalalaking ekonomiya sa buong mundo o yung ASEAN Plus Three kung saan kasama ang Pilipinas o yung East Asia Summit, labing-anim na mga bansa kasama ang Pilipinas at yung maaga niyang pangako na magcocontribute siya ng \$100 billion sa IMF para magpahiram sa mga bansa na nagkakaroon ng cash flow problems. Ito ay hindi lamang nagbigay ng napakaimportante at may kinakailangang tulong at suporta sa napakamaselan na panahon, it also encouraged other economies to step up to the plate and make similar pledges. Kahit na naghihirap ang ekonomiya ng Hapon, nauuna pa sila sa tumulong sa buong mundo. And Japan has done much to support the region and it will continue to play the role of a valued partner for economic development and regional stability.

Kaya kayo ay nakatira sa isang napakaimportanteng ekonomiya ng buong mundo. Lumalaki nga ang Filipino community dito sa Hapon. Noon, hindi naman 200,000 ang numerong sinasabi at lalaki pa pag napupuno na natin at nabubuo na natin yung mga pakinabang na manggagaling sa JPEPA.

At gusto kong gawin itong pagkakataon na gamitin itong pagkakataon na magpasalamat sa inyo, ang ating mga masisipag na Pilipino na nagpapadala ng mga remittance sa inyong pamilya. Kasi itong mga remittance na ito ay tumutulong upang magkaroon tayo ng magandang tinatawag na domestic consumption. Kasi tignan niyo yung mga naghihirap na ekonomiya sa buong mundo ngayon, ito yung mga maraming ini-export.

Halimbawa, yung Amerika noong nahirapan ang ekonomiya, nong bumagsak ang ekonomiya, yung mga pinagbibilhan niyang mga ekonomiya ay bumabagsak din. Pero sa ating bansa, noong araw, noong hindi pa ako Pangulo, 49% ng ating produksyon ay pumupunta sa ibang bansa, export. Pero ngayon dahil marami tayong domestic consumption sa loob ng ating bansa mismo ay 28.5% na lang ang ating inaasahan na mag-export kaya ang domestic consumption ay napakalaking gabay para sa pagsulong ng ating ekonomiya. At yun ang isang napakalaking tulong ng ating mga Overseas Filipinos, yung mga inuuwi niyo o mga pinapadala niyo na mga remittance ay nakakatulong, yung pamilya ninyo ay namimili, pumupunta sa mall, at kung anu anong ibang bagay na pinaggagastusan, yun ang malaking domestic demand.

Or also, however, over the last eight years, we have been building greater internal strength to our economy. At bagamat maraming nawawalaan ng trabaho sa buong mundo pati na rin sa ating export oriented industries, meron naman tayong mga bagong mga trabaho na nalilikha ng ating ekonomiya, di ba Secretary Roque? So, we continue to create employment opportunities for our people at home. At yung ating development na ito ay tumutulong na magkaroon tayo ng cushion sa mga kahirapan na nanggagaling sa volatility of the global economy.

Pinag-iibayo ng pamahalaan ang ating programa hindi lamang upang mabawasan ang epekto ng pandaigdigang krisis sa ekonomiya natin, kundi na rin kasi gusto natin na pag dumating ang araw na tayo ay maunlad. At itong kaunlaran na ito, we are working for the day when, because there are good jobs in the Philippines, we hope that someday, going abroad will just be a career option and not the only choice for a hardworking Filipino. Yan ang ating hinahangad.

Halimbawa, itinayo natin yung Business Processing Sector kagaya ng mga call center. Halos wala yan nong araw. Nong ako ay naging pangulo, ang naabutan ko, 4,000 workers sa BPO sector. Ngayon 400,000 workers ang nandoon sa BPO center sector. Ito ay mga trabahong maganda ang suweldo at marami din sa mga young Filipinos and Filipinas ay sinasabi sa akin na salamat po sa trabaho sa call center, mananatili na lang sila sa Pilipinas at hindi na kailangang mag-abroad. Yun sana ang gusto nating mangyari sa ating ekonomiya.

And well, in terms of our economy, we recorded modest growth in the first quarter of the year. But the fact is, against considerable odds that are challenging all countries, the fact that we have managed a positive growth shows that our economy is relatively strong and resilient. And we have been able to avoid the worse effects of a crisis in the Philippines dahil we took the bitter pill of economic reform years ago. Puwedeng ikuwento sa inyo ni Secretary Ralph Recto yung mga kinahirapan niya nong siya ay senador dahil siya ang nag-author ng ating mga tax reforms.

And those efforts are now creating, ang tinatawag ng ekonomista — firewall, siguro alam natin yun. Pagka dalawang bahay ang nagkadikit, pag nasunog yung isa, sunog din yung isa. Pero kung mayroong pader sa pamamagitan nila, yun ang firewall, pag nasunog yung isa, hindi masyadong masusunog yung kabila o konti lang. And these reforms that we have are creating a firewall kaya bagamat naapektuhan tayo, hindi lubha ang epekto sa atin ng global economic downturn.

But we do face considerable pressures and we're working hard to keep the global economic wave from washing over the Philippines. Bahagi don sa prosesong yun sinisikap natin, masipag tayong nagsisikap na tiyakin ang ating pangangailangan sa pagkain, sa gasolina, at sa bigas. Tayo ay namumuhunan sa energy, and rice self-sufficiency.

Tayo ay tinatayo natin ang ating mga eskuwelahan, and we are jumpstarting the economy with much-needed infrastructure projects. Itong mga proyektong ito ay human infrastructure gaya ng training at physical infrastructure gaya ng kalsada, tulay at iba pa.

Yung training, education and health care, malaki ang ating nilaki ng gastos doon. Halimbawa, doon sa training. Noong bago nong administrasyon natin, sabi ni Nonoy Andaya, ang ginastos ng pamahalaan sa skills training ay P200 milyon. Itong taon, ang ginastos natin sa skills training ay P3 billion.

At yung mga kalsada, ewan ko kung gaano katagal na kayong... since the last time you went see the Philippines pero siguro yung mga lately umuwi, siguro nakita ninyo kung gaano na kabilis umuwi ng Nueva Ecija kung kayo ay taga-Nueva Ecija dahil sa Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway o kaya puwede kayong pumunta mula sa Maynila hanggang sa Visayas o Mindanao na naka-bus lamang o nakapunta sa Boracay, nakabus lamang dahil yung bus ang sasakay sa Roll-on-Roll-off ferry. So itong mga imprastrukturang ginawa natin ay titiyakin na we would be well-positioned for higher growth once the global economy rebounds. Pero kanina, sinabi ko, ang tinamaan talaga sa ating bansa ay yung export sector. Salamat na lamang na 28.95% na lamang ang ating inaasahan sa export.

Ito talagang isang natamaan sa ating ekonomiya ngunit gaya ng sinasabi dito sa Hapon, nakikita na natin ang konting recovery ng mga exports bagamat hindi pa pareho doon sa nakaraang taon. But this is already a very good improvement kung ihahambing natin sa ibang mga bansa sa rehiyon. Yung export market, yung 28.5% malaki pa rin yun. It's a major driver for our economy, at may ganon din sa buong mundo. Kayat ginagawa natin ang lahat para suportahan ang ating mga exporters. Halimbawa, meron tayong P1 billion Fund para suportahan ang export pero para suportahan naman ang ating mga OFW, na baka nawawalaan ng trabaho, meron din tayong P1 billion Filipinos Overseas Livelihood Support Fund. kaya yun ang sinasabi ni Noel sana mapalawak ang reintegration, ito na nga pinopondohan natin ng P1 billion. (applause) Ito ay pautang sa mga OFW, mga Seamen na nawalan ng trabaho dahil sa krisis, magagamit itong pautang para sa pamumuhunan kung gusto ninyong magsarili ng negosyo o kaya panggastos sa retraining para makahanap ka yo ng ibang trabaho at ito ay bahagi ng ating programa para sa OFW bilang panukli sa inyong malasakit sa ating bayan.

Bahagi rin ng programa ang tulong para maghanap ng bagong trabaho, merong mga kiosk ang DOLE para malaman ninyo kung saan yung mga available jobs at gumagawa sila ng aggressive marketing sa mga bagong mga merkado para sa overseas Filipinos. At gaya ng binanggit ko na P3 billion ang ginastos natin ngayon sa training. At marami don ay para sa mga Overseas Filipinos na umuwi para sa ganon ay ready na kayo muli sa ibang klaseng trabaho.

Really now is the time to work together to strengthen the competitiveness of our great Filipino worker. Now also is the time to work together to strengthen trade at yun ang ginagawa ng JPEPA. Ito ang sinisikap gawin ng JPEPA on a bilateral level between the Philippines and Japan.

Itong JPEPA ay importanteng support system para sa mga Filipino exporter, para sa mga Japanese exporters, ito ay magbibigay ng importanteng oportunidad para sa mga negosyo itong panahon ng paghihirap sa buong mundo.

At masasabi ko sa inyo, ako ay nagpapasalamat sa pagkakaon na magkasama tayo ngayon. And I am pleased that we had been able to institute improvements on a wide range of fronts.

Kung titignan natin ang Pilipinas ngayon at titignan natin ang Pilipinas maybe ten years ago, ibang-iba na. Meron tayong bansa na ligtas at mas secure. Meron tayong ekonomiya na mas malakas at kayang to withstand the shocks like what the global financial crisis is throwing at us. At tayo ay namuhuhan sa bago at modernong imprastructure at itong mga imprastructura ay magbibigay ng benepisyo hindi lang ngayon kundi sa mga darating na henerasyon at maging mas competitive ang ating ekonomiya.

Milyun-milyon ang bagong trabaho na nalikha, milyon ang mga umabot sa health care at edukasyon na nong araw hindi sila makaabot dito. At ginagawa natin lahat nito habang we stay the course to beat our fiscal obligations, ginagawa natin ito pero binabayaran pa natin ang ating mga utang para sa ganon ay mabalanse ang ating budget in the long term. Kaya talaga ngayon ay panahon na magtrabaho tayo at magsama-sama tayo.

Kanina, nong papasok ako dito, meron isang tumakbo at sinabi sa akin, we want to help. Siya ay isang nakapag-asawa sa hapon at siya ay nagtrabaho bilang caregiver at sabi nga we want to help. Nasisiyahan ako na ang Filipino community sa Hapon ay active sa civic work. Tignan mo yung organization ni Noel Cristobal, Philippine Assistance Group kaya talagang tumutulong, yun ang layunin at dahil sa kayo ay matulungin, nagagawa rin niyong maimpluwensiya yung ibang mga kaibigan niyong Hapon na tumulong din, our old Japan Seamen's Union has been very supportive, our three hospitals have been very helpful, talagang panahon ng pagtutulongan.

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyo dahil kayo ay matulungin sa isa't-isa Manalangin tayo sa ikabubuti ng ating bansa, para sa mas mabilis na pagbangon muli ng ekonomiya ng mundo. At maraming salamat sa inyong malasakit, maraming salamat mabuhay ang Pilipinong manggagawa dito sa Hapon.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). PGMA's speech during a meeting with the Filipino community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101452/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25407&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Forum organized by the International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC) Japan-ASEAN Economic and Cultural Committee, and the Asian International Exchange System (AIS)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Forum organized by the International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC) Japan-ASEAN
Economic and Cultural Committee, and the Asian International Exchange System (AIS)**

[Delivered at the Fuji Room, Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan, June 19, 2009]

Thank you very much.

Mr. Inamori, Mr. Hanioka, officials of the International Friendship Exchange Council, Secretary Romulo, other officials of the Philippine government who are here today, members of the business delegation, ladies and gentlemen.

I thank the Chairman and President of the International Friendship Exchange Council for inviting me to address you, the members of the FEC. I thank the various Ambassadors who have also joined us here today. The FEC are friends of the Philippines. We share many goals.

As we are all aware, the world is experiencing unprecedented economic challenges. Without doubt, this is a global economic crisis that has affected all nations, rich and poor, developed and underdeveloped, North and South.

This is also a crisis that has taught us all many lessons that will serve us well as we work together to restructure the global economic system. The most important thing we have learned is that our economies are all closely interconnected. We sink or swim as one global economy.

Only months ago, the condition of that global economy was quite grim. Today, while we are by no means out of the woods, there are rays of hope. I heard this from leaders of the business community that I spoke with yesterday, and I heard this with officials of the Japanese government as I have been hearing from American economists and other experts from around the world.

Japan deserves special credit for its role in working to return the world to sustainable economic growth. Its innovative, generous and bold leadership in the G-7, G-20, ASEAN Plus Three and East Asian Summit, and its early pledge to provide the IMF 100 billion dollars for lending to countries facing financial liquidity not only provided much-needed support at a very critical time, it also encouraged other large economies to make similar pledges.

Japan's commitment to global and regional development has also been instrumental in tripling the capital of the Asian Development Bank and in increasing to a 120 billion dollars the level of funds for the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization, which is an ASEAN solution to an ASEAN challenge.

Moreover, Prime Minister Aso's "Growth Initiative towards Doubling the Size of Asia's Economy" comes at a very crucial time for developing Asia. We in the Philippines will do our part to meet its objectives because we recognize that it can contribute to enhancing the economic prosperity of East Asia and lead to greater economic stability throughout the world.

If there is any silver lining in this crisis, it is that the world will emerge from this challenge with a structure that is more aligned to global realities than it was before the global downturn. But we must not look only at the economic situation of the world, we must also look at the security of our region. And in doing this, we cannot overlook the important issue of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its nuclear weapons' program.

The Philippines stands with our trusted friend and ally, Japan, against the dangerous experimentations with nuclear weapons by North Korea. Japan has stood with the Philippines, with ASEAN, and with the region. Now we must stand with Japan for the success of critical talks about the future of the Korean peninsula. In this regard, we support the decisions of the United Nations Security Council.

And while we all want North Korea to become a responsible member of the world of nations, the Six-Party Talks is the appropriate forum to make this happen.

The Philippines is committed to work for a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, we continue to work as a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure an efficient and effective Agency for the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and for the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation.

In cooperation with the IAEA, the Philippines is in the process of renewing our energy options including the use of nuclear power. We seek the cooperation of Japan for the training of our technical people and for Japan's counsel and advice in this very sensitive area.

As part of our drive for energy independence, the Philippines is also engaged in the development of renewable energy sources like geothermal, solar and wind which are climate friendly.

We also have projects for alternative transport fuels in biodiesel and bioethanol. Large tracks of land have been identified for the development of alternative fuels. They offer tremendous opportunities for foreign investment. And just this morning, before I came to this hall for this talk with you, I received the Chairman of Toyota who said that, indeed, Toyota intends to invest in this alternative energy in the Philippines.

Forty four percent of Philippine energy requirements are supplied from renewable resources. We intend to increase the share of this renewable energy in power generation. In this regard, we are seeking the cooperation of Japan. And later this shall be part of our message when we have our conversation with JBIC.

As an island developing country, the Philippines is seriously affected by climate change. And that is why renewable and climate friendly energy is important to us. According to a recent report of the ADB, Southeast Asia could face falling rice yields, a lack of water and higher costs to our economy due to the impact of climate change.

But while Southeast Asia is especially vulnerable to climate change, for the whole world, the challenge of climate change and the devastating permanent impact it will have on economies around the world will still be with us long after the global economy returns to health. That is why we must all take immediate and collective action to do everything possible to halt the practices that cause climate change.

Action on this front is urgent. We count on Japan to use its considerable influence to convince other major economies to commit to medium-term targets and the 80 percent 2050 target for emission cuts. The Philippines would like to see a meaningful medium-term target and a goal of an 80 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in line with the upper limit announced by former Prime Minister Fukuda.

Without diminishing the urgency of climate change as an important challenge for our nation, the Philippine economy remains, of course, our priority. In 2007, Philippine GNP grew by 8.0 percent, the highest in many years. Last year, when two-thirds of the world went into recession, our GNP grew at 6.1 percent. For the first quarter of this year, GNP growth was 4.4 percent. We remain optimistic, though cautiously optimistic, about our prospects for growth in 2009. We are heartened by the fact that we are still so far a growth story in the midst of this global challenge. We certainly don't take this for granted. We will remain vigilant. We will continue to take whatever action is required to preserve our hard-earned economic progress.

The Philippines has resisted the worst effects of the global downturn so far because we resisted the temptation, we broke the temptation to continue on our nation's previous path of debt, deficit and slow growth. That cycle was broken a few years ago when we pushed through fundamental reforms that changed the way we do business.

Today, the Philippines is one of the best investment choices in Asia, with our strong workforce, our world-class information and communications technology infrastructure, and our renewed commitment to economic reform, fiscal responsibility and global engagement.

Since 2004, Philippine national government debt has improved from more than 78 percent of GDP to about 56 percent at the end of 2008.

Our ability to reduce debt has been due in large part to our success in raising revenue. This can be attributed in turn in large part to the increase of our Value Added Tax in 2006. Tax reforms, including tax administration, as well as an aggressive privatization program, have provided the much-needed space for fiscal expansion during the current economic downturn.

The Philippines is finally unlocking its full potential and value for the benefit of its people but also for the benefit of its strategic partners. And no partner is more crucial to our success than Japan. I would love nothing more than for our two nations to accelerate our economic relations and build on the Japan Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement or JPEPA that was ratified recently by the Senate, by our Philippine Senate.

We are proud that our Philippine Senate — represented here in the hall by Senator Angara and in our trip by Senator Miriam Santiago as well who chaired the Committee on International Relations that took care of the ratification — we are proud that our Senate, very independent by tradition, joined hands with our Administration and forged ahead with a new strategic economic relationship with Japan that will help define the contours of our economic relations for generations. And that is the reason why we are here again here in Japan for the seventh time in my Administration including a State Visit in 2002 because this time our focus is on making sure that we have a smooth implementation of the Japan-Philippines EPA.

Last May, Filipino nurses and caregivers, who came to Japan under the new Japan-Philippines EPA framework, started language training in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Hiroshima. This I hope is the beginning of a mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries in the important healthcare sector. I am confident that these our first batch of Filipino nurses and caregivers and other Filipino healthcare workers who are very much in demand in the whole world will help satisfy the fast-growing manpower requirements of Japan's aging population.

Our countries are also cooperating closely in the maritime sector. The Philippines accounts for approximately 70 per cent or 30,000 seafarers of the sailors manning Japanese vessels. It is no wonder that whenever I have a meeting with the Philippine community here in Japan we always hold it in the headquarters of the Japan Seamen's Union because they are such a dominant presence in that union.

Japan shipowners have established schools and training facilities in the Philippines. This is an important and creative approach to economic cooperation. It could be applied in other sectors of Japanese industry, in particular, the health sector now that the Japan-Philippines EPA has opened the doors for health workers to come to Japan.

As a major supplier of the world's seafarers, we greatly appreciate Japan's decision to send vessels from the Maritime Self-Defense Force to the Indian Ocean to protect Japanese ships and foreign ships from the scourge of piracy. Piracy is an international crime that requires close cooperation if it is ever to be stopped.

The active participation of Japan in combating piracy in the Indian Ocean is an example of the many roles that Japan have assumed internationally. This action and other actions clearly demonstrate that Japan should be a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

And as Asia's largest economy and largest source of Official Development Assistance, Japan is also in a position to work towards or to lead the work towards an Economic Community of Asia, to include South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, Central Asia, Russia and Oceania, to maximize growth, trade, investment and financial stability in the Asian region. Because if we look at the world around us, Asia is the best situated to weather the global crisis and come out the strongest, compared with other regions. Japan is in a position to convene the regional groups such as the East Asian Summit, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation or SARC, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Southwest Pacific Dialogue to discuss an Economic Community of Asia as a bulwark against economic crisis.

Ladies and gentlemen, FEC members, members of the diplomatic community, members of the Philippine delegation, we have all learned from the Japanese experience. We would do well to remember that in good times and bad, Japan has been there for all of us these last 50 years. In every endeavor, Japan has helped move mountains, be it in areas of regional peace and security, global economic stability or environmental stewardship.

On the part of the Philippines, we will remain on our path of reform and renewal, of fiscal prudence, targeted investments, and the fight against poverty. We want to succeed someday as Japan has succeeded. We need the continued investment, development assistance, and political leadership of Japan now more than ever.

With deep appreciation for all that Japan has done and is doing for our people and the world, I express our heartfelt thanks from a grateful nation for the historic support from the people of Japan.

We may all be challenged by the current state of the global economy, but I dare say our best days are ahead of us maybe because precisely of the lessons we have learned from this global crisis. Asia, the best place to survive the crisis and come out the strongest for it has tasted the bitter sting of economic setback, but we Asians are fighters. Far from setback, we are poised for a comeback.

And we are glad that the Japan-Philippines EPA will be there to help us in this Asian comeback.

I thank you. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Forum organized by the International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC) Japan-ASEAN Economic and Cultural Committee, and the Asian International Exchange System (AIS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101432/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25435&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a stopover visit and breakfast meeting with the Filipino community in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a stopover visit and breakfast meeting with the Filipino community in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.**

[Delivered at the Los Angeles International Airport, Los Angeles, California , U.S.A., June 20, 2009]

Aside from Secretary Bert Romulo and Senator Miriam, we have with us a number of senior government officials and Cabinet members and members of Congress, and our job is to protect the Philippines and our people from the full brunt of the global economic recession.

To date, we have kept that wolf away from the door through a combination of targeted stimulus investment and providing strengthened social safety nets for our most poor.

Well, I know you know what it means to have a recession or a slowdown. Our economic growth in the Philippines has also slowed, we have been affected but the good news is that we are comparatively better off than most other nations in the region and in the world.

Thank you. Salamat, salamat. Thank you for your support.

The slowdown even if it's not a recession, a slowdown tends to be on the back of the poor although every citizen is affected — middle-class, poor and rich alike. So, we have an economic resiliency plan and it has been designed to provide short-term relief to our most affected citizens while investing in the long-term prosperity of our nation.

But it is essential that we look a year or two ahead and prepare for long-term recovery and rebound and not be totally consumed with just managing through short-term challenges. And we are prepared for the rebound.

We took the necessary medicine in the past years to strengthen our revenues — and that is why I like to acknowledge our members of Congress, our Senator because they helped, they were the ones who legislated — the difficult revenue measures that we needed, and we have been able to use these revenues to invest in the people and the nation.

We have also made fiscal prudence and working towards a balanced budget, a central component of our long-term health. We will never lose sight of our need to balance our budget and for our government to live within its means.

We would have balanced the budget this year. In fact last year, it was almost balanced. But, as you all know, the global recession intervened. And with the global recession comes the need to provide stimulus for our economy. And we are here to support for our people who have been impacted. But we can take heart in the fact that there are signs of recovery in America, where you live; in America which is the biggest market in the world. And when America goes the rest of the world economy goes.

The prognosis from American economists about U.S. recovery starting sometime between July and next March further buttresses recovery expectations. U.S. manufacturing has slowed down the rate of contraction. And there are early signs of improvement in consumer spending — that's you, you're part of the U.S. consumers. And also signs of recovery in consumer confidence, and there's greater stability in the financial sector. AMEX and J.P. Morgan are raising equity. Dow Jones and S & P reached their highest levels since January and November, respectively.

So, if there are these signs of American recovery — the recovery of the economy that you have been contributing too as well and benefiting from — these are also signs that the global gloom is lifting. And when the rebound comes, we in the Philippines will be poised for growth and a balanced budget.

In this time of need, because we are still in time of need, we should continue to make tough choices that benefit the nation. As I said earlier, the government for its part must live within its means as a normal Filipino family does. But having said that, it is also essential to understand that one key to having kept our economy strong at home, has been a strong engagement with other countries abroad.

Through aggressive engagement, we've championed our OFWs. We have brought in new foreign investment. We have kept the Philippines top of mind with world leaders. And now more than ever, you our Overseas Filipinos, are keeping our nation resilient in times of global challenge. Thanks to your unswerving dedication, you our far-flung heroes have been a major contributor to our nation's economic resilience.

That is why I spare no effort to visit our valiant heroes across the globe, from the Middle East to the Midwest in the U.S.A., from Asia to North America to Brazil, you our Overseas Filipinos are first and foremost great patriots and great family men and women, and we salute you. Maraming salamat.

Everyone must step up and share in moving the nation forward.

Friend and foe alike must all join hands to see our nation through these times. It is important — and I saw some young Filipino-Americans here — it is important that our next generation will have hope and opportunity and not be mired perennially, permanently in economic paralysis.

The coming year will continue to be a challenge. At home in the Philippines and here in the United States, but I remain hopeful and optimistic. The global economy will still buffet our nation. America, as I said, were beginning to recover according to most of the economists but that recovery is not necessarily going to be rapid recovery.

So, therefore, there is still work to be done on the economy this year and next year. And we will remain vigilant to keep the recession from our shores.

What I would like to ask the FILUSA and the Filipinos here is to convey to our other Filipino compatriots here in the U.S.A. that we, I — and I think the members of Congress who are here with me today, and I think Senator Santiago, she's here with us today, and I think our Cabinet members who are here with us today — I think they will agree that I speak for them when I say that we will do everything within our grasp to keep the nation and the economy steady.

Filipinos are very special. We're among the most optimistic people in the world. And this optimism about our future keep showing survey after survey. So, I would like to ask FILUSA, the newly-organized organization that wants to communicate and empower the Filipino... to communicate too and empower the Filipinos here in America — let us keep the fire of optimism of our people burning. Because if we keep that optimism, and we our officials do our part to keep the nation steady, and each and everyone of the Filipinos in the Philippines and here in the United States where we have the biggest Overseas Filipino community in the world and where the biggest remittances come from. (applause) Yes, we must never forget that of the eight million Filipinos living abroad, three million are here in the United States, but you send us two-thirds of all the remittances.

And I thank you that inspite of the recession in the United States tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang tulong ninyo sa ating bansa.

So, with our Filipinos in the United States, and especially here in the Los Angeles area where within the United States we have the biggest community of Filipinos here. With you continuing to support us, as I have seen in your placards, then we can really say that we can be in good stead and our country are still in good hands. Good hands not only of the leaders of the government, good hands in the form of the hands of the leaders of the communities not only in the Philippines but here among the Filipino-Americans in Los Angeles and in the United States.

Mabuhay ang ating mga Pilipino dito sa Amerika!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a stopover visit and breakfast meeting with the Filipino community in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101352/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25436&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a Meeting with the Filipino Community in Hong Kong Sar (Presidential Citation Award to OFW Mildred Perez) [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagpupulong kasama ang komunidad ng mga Filipino sa Hong Kong SAR**

[Ipinahayag sa Hong Kong SAR, ika 28 ng Hunyo, 2009]

Maraming salamat sa halimbawang binigay mo, pero alam ko rin na bagamat hindi kasing traumatic ang kwento, ang kasaysayan ng inyong mga ibang mga OFW dito lahat kayo ay magandang halimbawa ng ating bansa, ng ating kababayan.

At inyong lingkod naman, gaya nang sabi ni Secretary Roque, ang ating pamahalaan kasama ng ating mga congressmen ay binibigyan talaga ng halaga ang ating mga Overseas Filipino Workers lalo na ngayon sa pagkakataon ng kahirapan sa buong mundo at pati na rin Hong Kong may nararamdamang kahirapan mas lalong kailangan asikasuhin ang inyong kapakanan. Kaya tamang-tama yung sinabi ni Secretary Nitoy Roque na maraming naghahanap ng mas malawak na reintegration program. At gusto ko ipaalam sa inyo, at pinapaalam natin sa iba't-ibang mga bahagi ng mundong may OFW na mayron nga tayong programa para doon sa mga mamalasin na kailangan umuwi o kailangan maghanap ng ibang trabaho at ito ay isang buong programang komprehensibo na pwedeng ipaliwanag or ipatupad na ng ating labor office dito.

Una sa lahat para sa doon sa kailangang babalik meron tayong Filipino Overseas Livelihood Fund, ang halaga nitong pondo ay one billion pesos, at ito ay pwedeng abutin ninyo bilang pautang doon sa mga kailangang bumalik. Magagamit ninyo para magsimula ng inyong sariling puhunan o kaya magkaoron ng panibagong training para sa ibang kakayahan na malaki ang demand para sa trabahong yun. At kung kailangan niyo ng training ay kasama rin sa ating programa yung TESDA ay nagbibigay ng talagang na nanggagaling sa hiniling ng mga prospective employers kasi gusto natin na kung anuman kung magre-retraining kayo dahil nawalaan ng trabaho ay kailangan makakahanap ng trabaho, so dapat yung training doon na magbibigay ng bagong trabaho. Kaya kaugnay na ng DOLE at ng TESDA ang mga employers, nililista ng employers kung ano ang mga kailangan doon, doon nag-eensayo sa mga returning OFWs. In fact, napaka-successful yung programang yun kung minsan hindi na kailangan bumalik dahil diretso meron nang ibang naghahanap na employer.

At doon din tayo sa isang ating programa yung paghanap ng bagong trabaho sa inyo. Kaya yung Secretary of Labor natin pati na rin yung POEA ay gumagawa ng hindi lang proteksyon ng manggagawa, ang ginagawa natin dahil may global recession maraming lugar nawawalan ng trabaho may mga lugar naman na hindi nawawalaan ng trabaho dahil nagsu-survive sila sa crisis at nagdadagdag pa at doon naman nagkakaroon ng marketing blitz.

At magbibigay ako ng isang halimbawa, nung kami ay pumunta sa Dubai sabi ni Secretary Nitoy Roque kasi napakarami nating manggagawang nawalaan ng trabaho sa Dubai. In fact, yung unang nagbalita sa akin na isang congressman dahil sumulat sa kanya yung kanyang constituent sabi na lalay off kami dito sa Dubai. Eh hindi tayo makapaniwala noon nung maaga pa ito dahil dinig natin na yung Middle East ay hindi natamaan ng krisis pero nung tsinek totoo pala yung Dubai ay natamaan. So, nag-schedule tayo ng biyahe sa Dubai at meron naman nagsasabi, bakit ka pupunta sa Dubai? Anong investment makukuha mo doon ngayon naghihirap ang Dubai?

Ang sagot doon ay hindi naman investment ang hinahanap natin doon kung hindi trabaho. At the end of the day, trabaho ang hinahanap natin kahit ako investment ang hinahanap natin trabaho pa rin ang hinahanap natin para sa ating mga mamamayan. So nagpunta kami dito sa Dubai, at hindi lang kami nagpunta sa Dubai ang ginawa inimbata yung mga employers sa buong Middle East na pumunta sa Dubai dahil pangulo ng Pilipinas ang nag-iimbata, mga may-ari ng malalaking kumpanya ay nagpunta doon, mga head ng malalaking employment and recruitment agencies ay nagpunta doon. At yung nawalaang trabaho — mga ilan? 5,000 workers — 5,000 workers nawalang trabaho sa Dubai pero ang na-offer ng mga employers na pumunta doon sa Dubai dahil nagkaroon ng summit ay 221,000 jobs.

Kaya lahat nang may available jobs sa lahat ng 5,000 na nawalaan. Kung merong hindi nakapasok ay dahil mali ang skills nila kaya ...(audio cut)... may mga 200,000 jobs na binigay nung mga employers ay linista nila yung ano ang pangangailangan nila para sa ganun mayron dun sa 5,000 na hindi pumasok ...(audio cut)... trabaho.

Kaya yun ang isang ginagawa natin para masigurado ba yung ating mga Pilipino sa buong mundo dahil meron tayong global recession ay hindi magkakaroon ng lubhang kahirapan. Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na makapunta dito, makipagbalita sa inyo at tamang-tama dahil hinahanap niyo yung reintegration program na yun, eto yung reintegration program at papalawakin natin yung training dito. At yung training na gagawin ni Nitoy ay hindi yung ordinaring basta ano lang training ang gagawin, eto yung training sa mga skills na hinihingi mismo ng prospective employers specifically specific skills.

So, inaasahan ko na yun ang ating magagawa para sa inyo. At Mildred, salamat sa iyong halimbawa at pinataas mo muli ang profile ng ating dakilang anggagawang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a meeting with the Filipino community in Hong Kong Sar (Presidential Citation Award to OFW Mildred Perez). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101245/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25516&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing program of the Strategic Conference on Social Welfare and Protection

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the closing program of the Strategic Conference on Social Welfare and Protection**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, July 7, 2009]

Thank you very much Secretary Cabral.

This document that's handed over to me by Secretary Romy Neri is the result of what I announced in my State of the Nation Address last year that we are integrating the programs of DSWD, DOH, GSIS, SSS, and other Anti-Poverty agencies.

And this is one reason why I accepted the invitation of Brazilian President Lula da Silva to make a State Visit, where Espie Cabral was one of the members of my official party, because we wanted to study Brazil's exemplary social protection program. The World Bank and others say that Brazil's social protection program especially 'Bolsa Familia' program had immediate and significant effects on the living conditions of its poor population, without discouraging work and job search. In fact, Brazil has already reached the Millennium Goal of reducing extreme poverty by half for 2015. So, it is indeed a model that we should study.

Brazil's Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger was created in January 2004 to coordinate social assistance, food and nutrition security, and income transfer action. They have a single system of social assistance and food and nutrition security.

Similarly in our country, as a result of the work in progress then of what is this document now, we tasked the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development to coordinate the programs that were set forth in this document, in this plan whose crafting was headed by Romy Neri. And these programs are implemented not only by DSWD but also by SSS, GSIS, PhilHealth, DOH and the Nutrition Council, TESDA, DepEd, CHED, PAG-IBIG, NHA, Micro SMED Council, Department of Energy and others.

Brazil's system of social assistance includes continuous benefit for aging and disabled people, fight against sexual abuse, violence and exploitation for child and adolescent victims, and its flagship or its most popular smarky project — the 'Bolsa Familia' Program.

Similarly in the Philippines, SSS and GSIS provide pensions for aging people. Employers, in fact, we should thank for they have funded the two increases in SSS benefits since 2005. And GSIS pensions have been indexed to inflation and have increased every year since 2001. The elderly who are not covered by SSS and GSIS were given a one-time 500-peso medical assistance last year when we had a big increase in our VAT collections. Senior citizens enjoy 20 percent discount on food, transportation and recreational services. And Vice President de Castro was the author of that Senior Citizens Act when he was a senator.

Benefits for disabled people include mandatory 20 percent on discounts on medicines for the aged, medical and dental services, transportation fare for domestic air and sea travel and public utility, and educational assistance. The PNR, in fact, offers 50 percent for train rides.

Educational skills training opportunities are available to persons with disabilities. We facilitate their mobility by requiring public places and buildings to have access ramps, and mass transport facilities to reserve places with special fittings for them. Businesses are encouraged to hire qualified PWDs. In the Office of the President, I am proud of the PWDs that we have had with us for the last eight years.

In our fight against sexual violence, abuse and exploitation of children and adolescents, the DSWD provides community based services and operates residential and non-residential centers and institutions for the disadvantaged, including children, youth and women. Community based services cover such activities as adoption; foster and legal guardianship; travel clearances; counseling; educational support and legal assistance. Financial, transportation and medical assistance may also be offered to the disadvantaged during crisis situations.

A landmark in our campaign against the exploitation of women and children as the passage of our Anti-Trafficking of Human Persons Act. Putting emphasis on prevention, we are now more strict in the enforcement of the law at exit points, particularly at our international airports.

Two years ago — was it two years? — we've introduced a program similar to Bolsa Familia called Pantawid Pamilya.

Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program is a direct conditional cash transfer created in 2003 by Federal Law, whereas, our Pantawid Pamilya is still an administrative program. But I am glad that I have brought with me to Brazil a congressional delegation and they have committed to sponsor a bill to institutionalize our pantawid Pamilya into a "Bolsa Pamilya" Program. Because if that Brazilian's program is Bolsa Familia, why we also have Bolsa Pamilya.

The three dimensions of the Brazilian Bolsa Familia Program are relief, conditionalities, and third, capacity development. Relief we know the income transfer to the beneficiary families. In Brazil it consists of three components:

There's a basic of 30 dollars paid to families whose monthly per capita income is 35 dollars. In the Philippines our basic benefit is 500 pesos.

And then in Brazil there's a variable benefit, two variable benefits, in fact, 10 pesos is paid to families even if their income is 70 dollars not 35 if they have adolescent children. And under 15, with a maximum of three benefits per family plus youth, and benefit of 15 dollars if they have adolescents age 16 and 17, that's because they have a lot of I think exploitation of teenagers with a maximum benefit of two benefits per family.

In the Philippines, we have one variable benefit. That's 300 pesos per month per child age 3 to 14, with maximum benefits of 1,400 pesos per month per family.

Now in Brazil, to be registered, a family has to answer a questionnaire. Then the Federal Government analyses the information and identifies the families that should enter the program. Then the benefits are paid by the Federal Government directly to the families who draw them monthly from banks and other establishments using a magnetic card.

In the Philippines, it's very similar, the benefits are also withdrawn from the ATM service of the Land Bank unless other arrangements need to be made. For instance, in Siargao Island there's no Land Bank branch, so to get the ATM money from Surigao City they end up spending their whole month's stipend. So, now there's another arrangement for them in Siargao Island itself.

And in the Philippines, the way that Espie chose the beneficiaries, they're selected from: First, the poorest provinces listed in the 2006 Family Income and Expenditure Survey; second, the poorest municipalities in those poorest provinces according to the National Statistical Coordination Board Small Area Estimates of 2003; and in addition, 15 highly urbanized cities with large pockets of poverty; and fourth, results of a household survey where families are ranked according to their socio-economic status through a Proxy Means Test like the way their house looks or appliances they have and so on.

Now, in Brazil, upon entering the Bolsa Familia Program, the family is committed to comply with conditions to keep children and adolescents of school age in school, and to fulfill a vaccination schedule for children 0-6 years,

and pre-natal and post-natal care for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. And that's very similar to our Pantawid Pamilya.

In Brazil, however, the program has a capacity development component among the families, by means of separate but complementary actions from the three governmental levels — Federal, State and Provincial. The Single Registry data, because they only have one master list, enables identification of the characteristics of the families, and it orients the delivery of public services according to their profile, and this contributes to their autonomy and emancipation. And President Lula told me or the Governor of Recife told me that there are those who, in fact a lot, have already graduated from that program.

Some of these capacity building programs include literacy courses, popular housing is what they call it and we call it social housing, access to electric energy, inclusion in banking or microcredit, and work and income opportunities, particularly in civil construction, which we call public works, in partnership with private companies and for the 26 capitals and the Federal District, tourism as well. And what they do first is to train the members of the beneficiary families for this occupations.

And that is something that can enrich our Pantawid Pamilya Program. In other words, and that's why I asked the several Cabinet members to come and join us today, Pantawid Pamilya families should also have access to adult literacy courses — who does this, is it DepEd?; social housing under PAG-IBIG for those who are members and National Housing Authority for those who are not members of PAG-IBIG; microcredit through the Micro SMED Council of Peter Favila — I'm looking for him — and which is chaired by the Secretary of Trade and Industry; and training scholarship of TESDA for tourism skills for NCR and Central Philippines and company-specified courses for the Luzon Urban Beltway, and construction skills for the rest of the country. And the DOE's Barangay Electrification program should also form part of the Pantawid Pamilya.

Now by itself, even in Brazil, the Bolsa Familia is not a self-sufficient strategy to reduce poverty and inequality. It is in fact, part of a broader social protection and promotion network in Brazil. Such should also be the case in the Philippines, which is why we asked Romy Neri to lead in putting this document together.

The Brazilian National System on Food and Nutrition Security was also implemented by Federal Law in 2006. For our part, we also have a Hunger Mitigation Program coordinated by the National Nutrition Council, which is under the DOH's oversight. And the survey say that this program has been successful in bringing down hunger. But we can still improve in this program just a little bit more, as I said in my SONA last year, by having a massive schoolfeeding program worth 10 pesos per child in our poorest and most food poor provinces, namely: Tawi-Tawi, Zambo Norte, Maguindanao, Apayao, Surigao del Norte and Sur, Dinagat, Lanao Sur, Northern Samar, Masbate, Abra, Misamis Occidental, Agusan Sur and Kalinga. And we should make this Hunger Mitigation Program also part of our Integrated Social Welfare Program. Tise Integrated Social Welfare Program should also include SSS and GSIS salary loans, health insurance, and scholarships such as the "One Town, One Scholar" Program.

We are proud that aside from offering free basic education, college scholarship funds have doubled, while private high school scholarship funds have almost tripled to almost 700,000 slots this schoolyear from less than 300,000 slots when we started in 2001.

And since 2001, we have passed nine very good laws protecting the most vulnerable members of our society, those who are intended beneficiaries of our social services. This include as I mentioned Noli's law on Senior Citizens, which we added to during our administration; what we mentioned earlier, the Trafficking of Persons, the Magna Carta for the Disabled, the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children.

And now that the Integrated Social Welfare and Protection Program is under way — and that is what your meeting is all about — I have been meeting with teachers now and other educators. I formed a Task Force for Education composed of heads of public and private agencies, it was headed by Romy Neri when he was the head of CHED, now headed by Father Bienvenido Nebres, president of Ateneo University. So, Romy started the study also and it includes business and professionals to get a first-hand look at the improvements we need to make. I have listened to what they have to say and therefore these fine public servants and stockholders what they have to say.

And I am glad they have produced the Philippine Main Education Highway which maps out the reforms and interventions needed to ensure that the Filipino family's investments are properly translated into best results. The successful completion of each stage of the Education Highway — early childhood, elementary school, high school, college or vocational and technical education, and for some even post-graduate education is a means to a productive and well-paying job and a good future.

So, these are the two programs that are really important for us to integrate. One is a Social Welfare and Protection Program, where although there are many departments involved, many agencies involved we have asked Romy to put them together first and enumeration of what they're doing and then filling in the gaps and how to consolidate now that we implemented, being implemented at the direction of the DSWD, and the second other integration is the integration of our educational system.

So, I thank everybody involved in putting together these two very important plans, and I wish the best to all those who are in charge of implementing our Integrated Social Welfare and Protection Program.

Maraming salamat and Good luck to all of us!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the closing program of the Strategic Conference on Social Welfare and Protection. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101139/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25552&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the provincial launching of the National Youth Service Program
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the provincial launching of the National Youth Service Program

[Delivered at the Covered Court, Guagua East Central School campus, Brgy. Sta. Filomena, Guagua, Pampanga,
July 9, 2009]

Dacal a salamat. Dacal a salamat king anak kung Congressman Mikey.

At pupugayan king kekatang congressman naman king BUTIL Party List y Congressman Pitong Guanlao; at siyempre king kekatang mayor, Mayor Rivera ampo y Vice Mayor Tuaño; Secretary Cabral, thank you so much for joining us today and thank you for your very active participation here in our program; ing NYC Chairman Richie Nalupta and all the other officers of NYC, thank you for helping put this very important program together; and General Versoza a very active participant of this program; and we have also from Guagua Undersecretary Bacani, and the DPWH just showed us that more than that will be used for their active participation in this program.

Kekatang Board Member keti king distrito y Board Member Catalina Bagasina, Happy Birthday, belated! Karing kekatamung volunteers, youth service, mayap a oras karing kayanakan. Ngening aldo iti, susulung taya ing National Youth Service Corps para mamie obra ampong oportunidad kareng kekatamung kayanakan edad disiotso angga beintekuwatro, ding ausan dang formative years.

Ing national youth service tamu kalupa ning sinabi ning Richie Nalupta nandin atin yang adwang parte: a National Service Corps and a Youth Conservation Corps. Ing metung, ing menona National Service Corps is geared to the unemployed or underemployed college graduates. It focuses on their contributions to education and community service program. Mudeni kanayakan are recruited to undertake a service commitment natin ditak a allowance. Ing metung naman, ing Youth Conservation Corps, composed ya deng out-of- school youth. Mag-focus la karing proyekto ning environment ampu imprastraktura.

Alimbawa, kalupa ning sinabi ng Richie nandin, mumuran na, rainy season na — salamat keni aldo ali mumuran — oneng rainy season na ngeni, panaun na para mag-obra na OYSTER king danum. Oneng bansagan taya ini antimong Organized Youth Stewards of Esteros and Rivers, OYSTER naman, at kalupa ning sinabi ng Richie maging lang amphibian component ning maragul a OYSTER. Linisan ta deng kanal ampong estero — retang mangalati na y na kailangang makina. Linisan da ing basura at sana nang da ing polusyon nukarin dadalan ing danum. At saka la sana makisabi, mangumbinsi karing makatuknang karing gilid ilog a maging aktibong kasaup ban kanita e la lumbag at saka ing estero eya naman maging basurahan. Balu yu, qing Marikina, masanting ya ing riverbank. Menikayat na ng y nga LGU karelang kabalen at meging alimbawa ning mabisang community action king waterway rehabilitation ita ing kekatamung model king project tamung ini.

Kaya ing importante patuluy tayang patnubayan ing kekatamung ekonomiya anggang agyu. Salamat sa lahat ng mga agency na nakikipag-ugnay dito sa proyektong ito kasi eta mu dapat masaul king global economic crisis. Patuluy tang mamuhunan karing kekatamung memalen at king kekatamung bansa ban siguraduan tamu ing pundasyon ding memalen para king masanting a kinabukasan.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, maraming, maraming sa lahat ng ahensyang tumutulong at congratulations karing kayanakan a kasapi king kekatang National Youth Service Corps.

Congratulations kekongan!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the provincial launching of the National Youth Service Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101108/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25579&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a call by the delegates of the 5th Ambassadors/Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour (ACGTDT)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a call by the delegates of the 5th Ambassadors/Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour
(ACGTDT)**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 11, 2009]

Thank you, Thank you.

Thank you, Ambassador Brillantes for your introduction.

Secretary Romulo; Secretary Favila, our Secretary of Trade and Industry; Undersecretary Palabyab of the Department of Tourism; our Consuls General; our tourism officers, attaches, representatives; and of course, our visiting friends from the United States whether Filipinos or friends of the Filipinos.

Welcome back to the Philippines! Welcome to Malacanang!

As Secretary Romulo said, today is the fifth year of this Ambassadors/Consuls General, and Tourism Directors Tour. And I'm happy to see that the tourist, bigger than ever, that interest has not waned one bit among our kababayans and friends in North America about visiting the Philippines.

And as always, as in every year, I understand that once again, the biggest contingent of participants come from Hawaii. Aloha! Naimbag nga bigat yo amin.

For some of you, this may be your first time to visit and discover the motherland. For others, it may be a homecoming of sorts and a reconnection to old but unbroken ties. For all of you, whether you're a first timer or a repeater, a real balikbayan in that sense, I hope that this journey becomes a journey of appreciation for the country, the people, and the unique spirit of the Philippines.

And as our officials here in the platform said, "this trip defies all global economic odds." And we all know, especially North America, that the past twelve months have been a year for the history books. The global financial turmoil has spread and jeopardized the well-being of billions of people across the globe.

And the stark reality is that even Philippine economic growth has slowed. We have been affected. But we are comparatively better off than most other nations.

Last year, we managed to grow our GDP by 3.8 percent and our GNP by 6.2 percent. In the first quarter of this year our GNP continued to post positive growth of 4.4 percent, GDP at 0.4 percent. Standard & Poor's reports of nine countries seem to post positive growth in 2001. And one of those nine countries is the Philippines.

This is a reality from which we can and should take heart and hope. Our work is never done. But the Philippines we see today is different from the Philippines eight years ago. Back then was a perilous time for our economy with our country teetering near bankruptcy.

Since 2001, our economy has posted uninterrupted growth for 33 quarters. It has doubled its size from 76 billion dollars to a 168 billion dollars. We have brought down the rate of poverty. It has increased per capita GNP from 967 dollars to a middle-class of 2,051 dollars. The economy supported 7 million entrepreneurs; reversed our balance of payment deficit to a record surplus of 8.6 billion dollars in 2007; grew the business process outsourcing industry from almost nothing to a six billion-dollar industry; and enhanced tax revenues by P291 billion more between November 2005 and December 2008.

And I'm very glad that we've been able to do all these because we hope that you, our Overseas Filipinos will be very proud of us for that.

We took the bitter medicine years ago — that's why we had this 291 billion pesos extra money now — we took the bitter medicine in the past years to strengthen our revenues and invest in the people and the nation. Now, we have an economy that is stronger and able to withstand shocks such as what the global financial crisis is throwing at us.

We have also invested in new and modern infrastructure. For those of you who will travel to the north by car, there's the first-world Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway as one example. But on the other side of the spectrum, there's also the 13,000 kilometers of farm-to-market roads. Indeed, among administrations we have built the most roads, the most international airports, and the most seaports.

The Roll-on/Roll-off or RORO system has three nautical highways composed of roads and vehicle ferry routes that go from Mindanao to Luzon.

Our job today is to protect the Philippines and our people from the full brunt of the global economic recession. We would have balanced our budget this year were it not for the global recession and the need to provide stimulus for our economy and welfare support for our people who have been impacted. But through all these efforts I'm talking about and how we've been able to withstand the global recession, let me say that one key to keeping our economy strong at home has been our vigorous engagement with other countries abroad.

We have championed our OFWs and brought in new foreign investment. Net foreign direct investments multiplied from a 195 million dollars in 2001 to a peak of almost three billion dollars in 2007. But now more than ever, it is you, our Overseas Filipinos who are helping very much, keeping our nation resilient in times of global challenges. Your remittances reached a record 16.4 billion dollars in 2008; you contributed 10 percent of our GDP. Thank you for that.

And so far this year, your remittances will overall, the whole world are already higher by 2.58 percent than last year's. And for that I thank your unswerving dedication. You are really our far-flung heroes. When I said 2.5 percent overall, I had to point out overall because Filipinos in the U.S. and Canada remain the top two remitters of funds to the Philippines. Thank you again for that. And I especially note that those of you based in Canada have already remitted 65 percent more than last year. So thank you so much for that.

So, it should not be surprising that I spare no effort to visit our Overseas Filipinos across the globe — from Asia to Brazil, from the Middle East to the Midwest in the U.S. One of the benefits of our travels is the protection of our OFWs in difficult situations. For instance on my request, King Juan Carlos of Spain and Prince Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain, even though there are very few problems in their countries of our OFWs, they've been interceding with their peers in other countries in behalf of our OFWs.

In 2005, on the occasion of my visit, the state visit to Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah triggered a process of amnesty to more than 700 detained OFWs. And I brought a planeload of them home as part of my entourage. Among those pardoned was the death convict Sarah Dematera, who has since returned home. Likewise through my personal intervention, the Emir of Kuwait commuted the death sentences of OFWs Marilou Ranario and May Vecina.

Another benefit of our international engagement has been the chance to work with you, our Fil-Ams to promote our veterans' rights. The day I visited Washington early this year was the day Senator Daniel Inouye successfully sponsored the inclusion of the lump-sum benefits for Filipino veterans in the Fiscal Stimulus Package of the U.S.

So, we're able to work together on that. And you, the Filipinos in the U.S., know only too well how long you have struggled in order to get recognition for our veterans.

The whole nation is grateful to our Overseas Filipinos for your dedication. So I hope that when you return home — well, first you return home to your provinces here and enjoy yourselves and then you return home to your new land, your new home — I hope you can bring to our kababayans in your communities the message that your countrymen and women at home fully appreciate the many ways you, our Overseas Filipinos, share your skills, time and resources with the Philippines here, and what a contribution you have made to the resilience of your homeland.

On our part, to the best of our ability, let us assure you that we will continue to work to keep the global recession from overwhelming our country — your country here. It won't be easy, but with the support of our people, and with the continuing support of you, our Overseas Filipinos, I'm sure we can rise to the challenge.

So more than ever, I thank you all. And I wish all of you an enjoyable stay in the Philippines.

Mabuhay! Welcome! And thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a call by the delegates of the 5th Ambassadors/Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour (ACGTDT). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100858/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25629&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Opening Ceremony of the 15th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit on behalf of the Asian Group

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Ceremony of the 15th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit on behalf of the Asian Group**

[Delivered at the Congress Hall, Maritim Congress Center, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, July 15, 2009]

Your Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak Your Majesties; Your Excellencies; His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon; Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President, I am honored to address this distinguished assembly on behalf of the Asian Region and the heads of State or Government, and the Heads of Delegations to the 15th Conference of Leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement, in this beautiful city of Sharm El Sheikh.

We are delighted to see you, Mr. President, at the helm of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President, we are confident that under your very able stewardship, our organization, the voice of the developing world, will be able to forge increased international solidarity as we work to address such significant challenges as faster and more equitable levels of economic development and poverty alleviation, climate change, the quest for greater peace and security, closer interfaith dialogue and the protection of migrant workers.

Mr. President, the theme for this Conference, “International Solidarity for Peace and Development,” is a timely and fitting response to the crying needs of our time. Your Excellency understands well the realities of the world’s economy and politics today.

We, as part of an integrated global community, must work together to halt the divisions in international relations that work against our common effort to promote peace, stability, development and progress. We must intensify our collective efforts to enhance equity, democracy, inclusiveness, the rule of law and justice in the international system. Giving just recognition to differentiated approaches, based on different national capacities among us, serves to strengthen our solidarity as a strong voice in the world today.

Mr. President, Your Excellency takes the leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement at a critical time. The world remains in the grip of the deep and negative impacts of the global financial crisis. The road to saving the planet from global warming at the upcoming meeting in Copenhagen is strewn with barriers to international consensus in our global fight against climate change. The world’s nuclear arsenals can lead to human distinction.

The Non-Aligned Movement brings together nations to address such global challenges as well as such issues as the welfare and development of migrant workers in this increasingly globalized world and also the importance of interfaith and intercultural understanding.

The issues confronting humanity are so grave that there is no time, no time for rigid ideologies while the poor suffer. The global economic crisis has taught the world many lessons but the primary one is that: peace and development and the return to stability in our global financial system can only move forward in an atmosphere of international cooperation. In our continent of Asia, there is such an example of this, the ASEAN Plus Three countries have been

engaged in such cooperation. Among other actions we are multilateralizing our Chang Mai Initiative to help solve liquidity problems that may occur in our region.

Such cooperation can only come through dialogue. Dialogue creates mutual understanding, respect and tolerance. And for more than 50 years, the Non-Aligned Movement has been one of the most respected platforms for dialogue amongst the developing countries in the world.

Mr. President, international solidarity can be effectively developed through dialogue amongst peoples, civilizations, and religions. Toward this end, Asia will contribute its share, including the hosting by the Philippines of the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace on December 1st to 3rd this year in Manila.

The meeting in December will mark the first time that the Non-Aligned Movement will harness the great potentials of interfaith dialogue and cooperation to advance our secular concerns for a durable and lasting peace and sustainable development. This meeting will give representatives from the over 100 Non-Aligned Movement member countries an opportunity to focus on the role interfaith dialogue and cooperation can play in averting and ending the conflicts that are bringing death and destruction to countries around the world.

I hope to see all our Non-Aligned Movement member countries in Manila.

We also take this opportunity, Mr. President, to thank the NAM membership for endorsing the Philippines' presidency to the 2010 Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty which was mentioned by His Excellency Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in his statement earlier today and which he said, "we must not allow to fail." And so, I hope that all the Non-Aligned Movement member countries having selected the Philippines to head this Review Conference will support that conference and make it a success.

Mr. President, if the developing world speaks as one and the Non-Aligned Movement we can speak as one, we have the potential to speak as one then we have the power to move forward toward faster solution to the many challenges facing the world today.

And in behalf of Asia, Mr. President, I'm sure I speak for each and every member country coming from Asia when I say that you can count on the full cooperation of all the Asian Non-Aligned Movement member countries in the pursuit of the goals and principles of our great movement.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Opening Ceremony of the 15th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit on behalf of the Asian Group. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100746/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25647&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the League of Municipalities of the Philippines-Zero Bazura Caravan 2009

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the League of Municipalities of the Philippines-Zero Bazura Caravan 2009**

[Delivered at the Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City, July 17, 2009]

Thank You.

Other cabinet members; Monching Guico and the other mayors who are here with us today; we have Congressman Anton Lagdameo Congressman Way Kurat Zamora here with us, good morning to you; and to all of you; to the municipal governments under the able leadership of Monching Guico, for spearheading very important caravan that responds to issues on the environment and health, congratulations to all of you!

And thank you for the Manifesto that you have presented Monching. I understand this is the manifesto from all the caravans that have been done starting with Region I because this caravan today is the culminating activity of all the caravans all over the country as Gerry Calderon has reported to you. And I hope that among those commitments is a common commitment to put up or to invest in MRFs in your different barangays.

I have just returned from the Conference of Leaders of the Non Aligned Movement or NAM held in Egypt. And I spoke in behalf of Asia, and I expressed confidence that the developing world will be able to forge increased international solidarity as we work to address such significant global challenges as faster and more equitable levels of economic development and poverty alleviation, the quest for greater peace and security, which is an issue that unfortunately Mindanao knows only too well, closer interfaith dialogue, the protection of migrant workers, and climate change.

Even there in the NAM, it was acknowledged that we must not lose sight of the challenges we were already addressing before the onset of the global economic crisis. And high on the list of these challenges is climate change.

Amidst climate change we have put into action our drive for energy security and environmental conservation. This includes initiatives for which financing up to \$250 million could be sourced from the Asian Development Bank and through the trading of Philippine carbon credits. Now as local government units, you have corporate powers. You can access this facility of the ADB and you can create in carbon credits.

In fact, as an example, this partnership is presently undertaking a program to replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. That is a national program of the DOE to the ADB, but you can have your own individual programs using carbon credits.

Well, Sonny Alvarez is here, our presidential adviser for climate change. And he's been talking to the ADB, perhaps you can help them on how to access that ADB facility for which the Philippines can grow up to \$250 million. It's actually a two-billion facility, but every country can access up to \$250 million.

Also, one of the jobs of Sonny Alvarez as my PACC is to participate in the crucial negotiations leading to the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held this December in Copenhagen.

The Philippines is active in the preparatory discussions and negotiations. Because if we are going to impact the climate change dialogue and we must, because we're going to be one of those who will suffer the most from climate change, we must carry a message to the ongoing meetings.

We must remain actively involved in negotiations concerning carbon emission reduction targets, because we are not a big contributor to carbon emission which causes climate change, but we are a big victim, so we have to convince the other countries, the ones who are emitting a lot of carbon to reduce their carbon and to present _____ for carbon emission reduction.

Also because they have contributed to global warming because of their carbon emission, the industrialized countries should somehow make up to that by providing financing for countries like us who are not really at fault but who are victimized to adapt to climate change. And also share with us technology that we can use to adapt to climate change. So, the industrialized countries must decide, before the Copenhagen meeting on how much they will reduce their carbon emission. And what they announced as a target will enable us to determine whether or not we can keep global temperature rise to less than 2 percent. Why is 2 percent so important? Because beyond that point, countries like us and our neighbors in Southeast Asia could lose as much as 6.7 percent of GDP yearly by 2010. We will suffer more than twice the rest of the world according to the Asian Development Bank.

Our region of Southeast Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change because we have a high economic activity along our long coastlines. Imagine coastlines disappear because climate change, global warming will cause the polar ice capture the north pole in Antarctica to melt and the water will rise in the ocean, and our coasts on which we rely so much for the livelihood of our people will disappear. Also we depend heavily on agriculture, forestry and other natural resources. And with climate change and global warming comes all these aberrations in the typhoons, getting more frequent, getting stronger and therefore that will also impact on us.

As I said earlier, we produce only one-third of one percent of the global green house gases, much lower in per capita terms than those of industrialized nations. But from rising tides, as I mentioned to changing weather, and even to deforestation and the pollution of the air, sea and land, to us the challenges and change are great. We are 7,000 islands, and for us when the seas rise due to global warming that's a whole new meaning. 7,000 islands and many of them are, you know, there a few islands that are called 'luli'. I thought they were named after my daughter Luli. Yun pala they are short for 'luluboglilitaw – luli'. When the tide is high, they go under water. When the tide is low, they surface. Well, if the tide becomes permanently high, talagang lulubog. And that will be a lot of island of the Philippines. In fact, they have a saying, "With climate change and global warming Florida may lose some coastline, but some of us may lose a nation. That's why we must work together to solve this problem. And if wdo, it will be one of the great achievements in our history.

Whoever is at fault, we're saying we're not at fault. But every nation, developing or developed, must assume the mantle of leadership and work to address the challenge of climate change. On the part of the Philippines, we have begun the Green Philippines plan. This is a blueprint for mapping our environment and economic policies that will allow for sustainable development that doesn't fall on the backs of the poor or erode our environment. Yes, there is a cost to make the Green Philippines come to life.

For instance, a factory will have to spend extra money for treating its water, that's extra cost. There is a cost to making the Green Philippines come to life. But the cost is greater without the plan and the investment in our people and the environment.

Because what happens when we spoil the environment. The cost may not be so much for one factory or maybe for one town. But it will be very large for the country as a whole in terms of lower production of agriculture, fisheries have been lower in output because of the rising tides. Health being bad because of the pollution.

We took the bitter pill in the past years to strengthen our revenues and invest in the people and the nation. And we enhanced tax revenues by P291 billion more between November 2005 and December 2008. Kauban si Waykurat kaniadto when he was already a congressman during the time of our difficult tax reforms.

And this year, the LGUs have started to enjoy 40 percent of that increased in taxes. In other words, from the P100 billion additional value added tax, P40 billion now goes to the local government units.

So, I hope that the members of the League of Municipalities will use part of your increased IRA to invest in the MRF that Gerry Calderon was telling us about in his report.

Patuloy natin ang pamumuhunan sa 3 E's — Ekonomiya, Environment, Edukasyon.

Dear mayors, together we have been working all these years, 8 years now, we've been able to work to get the economy working again. But still there are two Philippines as I've said very often: One is where the economy is working again and moving ahead; the other is where the political system is badly broken. And I thank you for advocating the need to fix the broken political system.

But even as we begin fundamental political reform to fix our broken political system, let me say in no uncertain terms: there will be elections in 2010. (applause) Anyone who questions our resolve on this critical issue is undermining our nation's commitment to a vibrant democracy.

And let me thank this opportunity to congratulate the COMELEC for putting the finishing touches to put in place the automation of next year's polls.

And I call on all of you dear mayors, not only to put up your MRFs in your barangays but to support the COMELEC in making the first ever nationwide automated elections in our country a success. These elections will send a signal that our democracy remains strong, viable and stable. So much depends on our local government units — the future of our country because of sustainable development and concern for the environment, the future of the political stability of our country as well.

So, to all of you, congratulations! Daghang salamat. Mabuhí kitang tanan!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the League of Municipalities of the Philippines- Zero Bazura Caravan 2009. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100724/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25676&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the Aboitiz Power Brand

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of the Aboitiz Power Brand**

[Delivered at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City, July 22, 2009]

Thank you very much Secretary Reyes for your introduction. Vice President Noli de Castro, Aboitiz Chairman Endika Aboitiz, Aboitiz Vice Chairman Jon Aboitiz, Aboitiz Power President Moncho Aboitiz, Secretary Teves, Zeny Ducut, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

This is a great day for energy independence as we launch the Aboitiz Power Brand and the latest geothermal plants of Aboitiz Power, congratulations! (applause) Congratulations to the Aboitiz group for your 70 years of being in power. You are demonstrating by your investments today that our electric power industry reform has set into motion greater competition in the power sector. Moncho told us many things about the state of the power industry today. But let me walk you through some of the beginnings of the reform. The reform program was initiated with the passage of the EPIRA in 2001 after a delay of seven years. We aimed to address the issue of high power rates and improve delivery of power supply to end-users by encouraging greater competition and efficiency in the electric power industry.

Although the new law did not produce the intended effect within the same year, it nevertheless became the basis for a reduction of prices around two years later. Sometime in 2003 the electric bills of the poor went down after we unbundled costs and strictly implemented the provision on lifeline users. But that was not enough, studies from the Asian Development Bank and our various financial and technical advisers then indicated that we would need an additional 6,000 megawatts of generating capacity over the next 10 years, if we are to avoid shortages and higher power prices. It takes years of lead time from planning, to construction, to operation, in order to establish a power plant. Thus, we needed to act right away.

The studies then also showed that we would need 400 billion pesos in order to finance these power plants, as well as support transmission and distribution facilities. Historically, the main companies providing these power-related assets had been the National Power Corporation or NAPOCOR for power generation, the Transmission Company for power transmission, and MERALCO for the bulk of power distribution. At that time, these companies were all in bad financial shape, so how could they finance our future needs?

NAPOCOR was a case study. In the past years before our administration, NAPOCOR had incurred losses of almost a hundred billion pesos and had seen its debt rising from 4.5 billion dollars in 1983 to seven billion dollars in 2002. On top of these losses and borrowings, the level of service of NAPOCOR had been attacked as being unreliable, and of course in its operations, NAPOCOR was accused of inefficiency and many other allegations.

Therefore the answer to sourcing the huge capital requirements of our power sector was privatization. The first key to privatization was to create an investment climate that is attractive to both domestic and foreign investors. The second key was to create a privatization process that is transparent and free of corruption.

The privatization that is taking place now, exemplified by the involvement of the Aboitiz group will help reduce the cost of electricity in the next administration. Aboitiz power and all the other players who are joining the privatization program will keep competition keen in this industry. Competition forces players to improve services and bring down costs, the beneficiary of healthy competition is the Filipino nation.

Meanwhile, our administration has brought to 98 percent the barangays with electric power. I hope Aboitiz Foundation will help bring that ratio to 100 percent.

We increased energy self-sufficiency from 48 percent to 58 percent. We reduced oil consumption from a 110 million barrels to 86 million. This should be further reduced with the Renewable Energy Act and the Biofuels Act, especially as Aboitiz group and other responsible investors avail of the opportunities provided by those laws.

When I was sitting with Jon Aboitiz in the table and we were looking at the presentation about how we're moving away from oil and moving into renewables, I saw a chart there that said that the Aboitiz group uses 66 percent of its operations uses renewable energy. But that figure is wrong it seems, it's out of date. Aboitiz is now 77 percent renewable energy, congratulations!

The Philippine energy sector has confronted many challenges, both local and global, in addressing energy security and price volatility. Our energy and power users have always been price sensitive, and that is particularly true amidst the global financial turmoil today that threatens the well-being of billions of people across the globe.

The past twelve months had been a year for the history books. Financial meltdown has spread throughout the world. Financial systems in the West shattered; even conservative financial systems in the East were shaken to their foundations. Grand names in international finance fell into disrepute and vanished overnight. Tens of millions have lost their jobs; billions across the globe have been hurt — the poor always harder than the rich. No one has been spared.

It has affected us already. But the headline story of the Philippines in 2008 is that the country decently survived a succession of global crises in fuel, then food, then financial and finally economic with still keeping our economic fundamentals intact and without losing focus.

My job is to work and to lead, to protect and to preserve our country and our people, especially during this difficult global times. I am gratified that investors like the Aboitiz group understand that philosophy. I am gratified to see evidence of confidence in that philosophy by the investments of the Aboitiz group.

Presidents have terms, but businesses continue as long as the market provides for it. I therefore count on the Aboitiz group to look ahead to ensure that our momentum for growth and for an efficient power sector is maintained. We will continue to focus like a laser on the long-term recovery and rebound of the world, and our own long-term development. And for that, to our valued investor, Aboitiz, for your unwavering support to the nation and your strong faith in our people.

Congratulations! and thank you.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the launching ceremony of the Aboitiz Power Brand. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100640/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25716&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 155th Bohol Foundation Day Celebration

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 155th Bohol Foundation Day Celebration**

[Delivered at the Bohol Cultural Center, CPG Ave., Tagbilaran City, Bohol, July 22, 2009]

Daghan salamat Secretary Cerge Remonde and aton Press Secretary ug ang aton nga Cabinet Officer for Regional Development diri sa Region VII.

Daghan salamat sab Governor Aumentado, salamat sa imbitasyon kanako ug salamat sa Sikatuna Award. Aton mga congressmen: Congressman Chatto, ang chairman sa Tourism sa House; Congressman Cajes, and amahan ni Jane ug Congressman Jala, ang akong mga kauban ug dako ang tabang kanako sa mga importanteng nga reporma sa Kongreso, salamat sab. Vice Governor Julius Herrera salamat sa imong pag welcome kanako; ang atong vice mayor diri sa Tagbilaran, Vice Mayor Veloso; ang aton nga Obispo nga dako ang iyang papel karon sa pagsegurado na mobilin ang kalinaw dinhi sa Bohol, Bishop Medroso. Mrs. Garcia, Mr. Cagaanan, aton mga Cabinet members who are here today, and we have here Secretary Jing Lapus of Education, Secretary Duque of Health, and Secretary Esperon of the Presidential Management Staff aside from Secretary Remonde na siya ang nagpa-ila kanako, ug ang tanang opisyaes dinhi, aton mga board members, mga mayors, tanan-tanan mga opisyal sa barangay ug tanang Bol-anon: Happy Bohol Day kaninyong tanan!

Sa gihapon daghan salamat sa Sikatuna Award. Kining pasidungog makalipay gyud tungod kay gi-ila ninyo ang akong handom nga motabang aron ilhon ang inyong dapit isip usa ka labing matahom ug progresibo nga isla sa tibuok kalibutan.

Ingon ni Edgar gyud ako lang ang presidente nakabisita na sa kada lungsod dinhi sa Bohol. Ug matagduaw ko sa Bohol kanunay ako makakita dinhi ug mga bag-ong proyekto nga makahatag ug kaayuhan sa katawhan. Sa ulahi kong pagbisita sa mga youth aron ilunsad ang programa sa Youth Commission, nakita ko kon gi-unsang pagpangga sa mga kabataan dinhi ang inyong environment. Congratulations! Jane ug tanang kabataan dinhi.

Ang katawhan sa Bohol kanunay gyud nga mapasalamaton alang sa mga laing-laing programa. Ug salamat sa Sikatuna Award nakalista ang aton mga mega projects, maayo nga souvenir sa akong pagserbisyo dinhi sa probinsya sa Bohol.

Busa tungod kay kanunay ga-recognize kamo sa aton mga nihimo kauban ang gobyerno nasyonal gahatag pa ug mga programa nga makatabang aron labaw pa kamong mo-uswag. (applause) Murag ingon sa awarding gyud sa miaging walo ka tuig sa akong administrasyon gi-revive nato gyud ang Bohol Irrigation Phase II. This is one example of the two million hectares nationwide of new and rehabilitated irrigation that we built during our administration. Some of them were built together with the private sector. This one we borrowed in order to build but because there were cost overruns we also had to finance it from our own taxation.

Kay gipahimo nato ug gipadako nato ang Bohol Circumferential Road. This is one example of the infrastructure all over the country that our administration has completed. It is one example to show that compared to other administrations we built more infrastructure, including roads and also including airports of international standard. Gisugdan na ang preparasyon sa airport sa Panglao aron mas daghang turista ang mo-anhi dinhi. Usa ka benepisyo sa akong pagbisita sa mga probinsya sa okasyon sa akong pagbisita sa mga staff work nga kinahanglan mahimo bag-o

ako makaabot naa kita kanunay nga mga update sa atong mga proyekto, mga dlagko nga proyekto ug importante nga proyekto.

Ug nangutana ko kan Secretary Mendoza, na kagabii kauban nato, unsa na ang nahitabo, kumusta na ang atong Panglao Airport project. Napalit na 'no, Governor ang yuta, kumpleto na. Ug nahuman na ang detailed engineering karon, ang detailed engineering ug ang iyang final costing kinahanglan karon maagi sa NEDA aron ma-aprub ug NEDA ang project cost, ang final project cost. So kinahanglan maagi sa Investment Coordination Committee ug sa NEDA Board ug ang timetable ni Larry Mendoza paspasan ang pag-agi sa Investment Coordinating Committee na mahimo ug technical evaluation sa costing.

Unya unta ingon ni Larry Mendoza next week sa NEDA Board. Ah dili next week, sa first week of August kay next week sa ICC, first week of August sa NEDA Board. Apan ako wala naman ako diri sa first week of August kay naa ko ug official visit sa White House. So ingon ko kan Larry Mendoza dili ko gusto na mao lagi kining project nato. So si Vice President de Castro na ra ang mo-preside sa NEDA Board aron bisan wala ako ma-aprub ang final stage sa proyekto sa Panglao.

Gi-mention sab sa pag award kanako na nagpatukod sab kita ug mga RORO aron dunay koneksiyon sa kotse ang Bohol sa Camiguin, sa Cagayan de Oro, sa Cebu ug bisa pa sa Southern Leyte, 'no Governor? Busa niya na ang mga pasilidad ug busa daghan na ang inyong mga turista. Usa kamo sa paborito sa mga turista nato bisan ang aton mga Boholanons in America and other parts of the world. Mas daghan ang nianhi karon tuiga.

Ngano nato nihimo tanan kining mga imprastraktura, because through improved financial condition, to our improved national financial condition — thanks to the support of our Boholano congressmen — we were able to put up the infrastructure which added to your natural hospitality of the people of Bohol. We developed tourism in the Philippines from 1.8 million visitors in 2004 to 3.14 in 2008 when tourism became a five billion-dollar industry. Ingon nila sa mga laing-laing nasud tungod sa world economic crisis dunay mga nasud, mga leading tourism destinations kaniadto na dili na kaayo taas kaayo, the tourism has gone down. Apan dinhi sa Bohol, tourism is up 15 percent. Congratulations!

Sa Amorita asa ako nitulog kagabii, ingon ng tag-iya, kay tungod supposedly lean season karon kay rainy season, gipabakasyon nila unta ang pila ka staff. Apan sa daghang mga turista, gipabalik nila gihapon ang ilang mga staff gikan sa ilang bakasyon. So nangutana ko kanila, naa kamo ug room for expansion? Oo gyud, ga-expand sila karon more than double their present capacity. Di nanganhi na gyud ang mga investor dili lang sa Amorita kundili sab sa laing-laing lugar asa naay touristic attractions ug laing-laing pa na mga industriya ug agrikultura dinhi.

Apan tungod kay kanunay ako naman gaanhi dinhi bisan senador pa ko, sa dili ko pa nalipatan, dili ko pa nalimtan na dili sama nining pag-uswag ang nahitabo sa probinsya ninyo kaniadto. Dili ko makalimot diri mismo sa atong cultural center ang atong hearing alang sa aton development sa Bohol. Ako ang chairman sa Committee on Trade and Industry. O, Secretary Yap just arrived. Hello! Arty. Arty Yap, ang ating Secretary of Agriculture.

Ug katong panahona dili pa kaayo mauswag ang Bohol apan naa na ang inyong damgo. Dako nga dungog para kanako nga senador pa ko nahibalo ko na kung unsa ang inyong kinahanglan, unsa ang inyo mga damgo, unsa ang inyo mga vision busa karon na ako nahimo presidente magkauban kita sa pagtuo, pagpatinuod kining aton mga vision alang sa Bohol.

Dili pa nato nakalimtan tingali sa tuig 2001, sa una ko pagsulod isip presidente apil pa ang Bohol sa pulo ka labing pobrang probinsiya sa nasod. Pila na sab ka dekada sab kamo ang gi-istorbo sang mga rebelde. Nakit-an ni Governor Aumentado — congressman kamo kaniadto sa una, 'no? — na ang pagkakabos maoy gapadako sa rebelyon ug ang mga rebelde maoy gadala sa labaw pang pagkakabos sa katawhan. Busa gituyo na niya nga putlon na gyud ang kadena sa kapobrehon ug rebelyon.

Ang kumbinasyon nga gihimo ug inyong mga opisyal sa diri kauban sa atong mga sundalo — terrific partnership between the local government and our armed forces. Ang kusog nga paglaban sa mga armadong grupo samtang gapatuman sa mga proyekto aron ma-uswag ang mga komunidad maoy rason kon nganong mihinay ang suporta ug

katawhan sa mga rebelde tungod kay nabati nila ang pag-uswag gumikan sa mga programa. Busa sa tuig 2005, nalibre na ang probinsiya sa mga rebelde. Ang gagmay nga grupong nabilin, tuwa na nagtago sa mga bukid sa central Bohol. And this model of peace and development of Bohol has in fact been touted as the lesson for the model of peace and development in all provinces of the country.

That award that was given earlier to SPIN, that is the Rebel Returnee Program of the DTI, a terrific partnership between the DTI and the Armed Forces, so we can ask Aster... Colonel... Aster. And it is a peace and development program for rebel returnees that is patterned after the peace and development concept of the province of Bohol now spread out throughout Region VII and even in other parts of the country. Salamat sa inyong example.

Sa pag-abot sa kalinaw, misugod sab dayon pagsulod sa kauswagan. Busa sa tuig 2006, layo na kamo sa listahan sa pulo ka labing pobrang probinsya, middle-class na karon ang Bohol. Middle-class ug tingali sa mahuman ang airport, sa mahuman ang mga bag-ong investment sa tourism, sa daghan pang-anhi ang mga turista basi — dili basi — tingali sigurado moabot ang adlaw that Bohol will in fact be one of the ten richest provinces in our country.

Garbo ko alang sa Bohol, ang Bohol usa sa labing maayong ehemplo sa mga lugar nga labing paspas ang pag-uswag nining atong administrasyon. Busa makasigurado kamo sa akong suporta alang sa aton mga damgo alang sa Bohol. (applause) Magkauban kita niadtong senador pa ako sa pagplano alang nining mga damgo ug karon magkauban kita gihapon sa implementasyon sa aton mga damgo sa atong pinalangga nga Bohol.

Ug sa inyong suporta kanako na kanunay naa niya sukad pa sa ni kandidato ko sa senador sa 1992, sa akong reelection sa '95 na nahimo ko ug number one, sa akong landslide sa '98 isip vice president, sa akong mga senador niadtong 2001, sa akong pagka-presidente sa 2004 sa election nga nidaog dinhi sa Bohol usa ka labing dako nga mayoriya sa tibuok nasud, sa aton mga kandidato senador niadtong 2007, sa inyong kanunay nga suporta kanako. Daghan salamat.

I love Bohol. Thank you. Happy Bohol Day! kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 155th Bohol Foundation Day Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100651/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25715&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Oath Taking Ceremony of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) Officers

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Oath Taking Ceremony of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) Officers**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 23, 2009]

Thank you Secretary Ermita.

Dr. Alfonso Uy, your new President; Dr. John Tan, Honorary President; Secretary Favila; officers and members of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, of course, led by Alfonso Uy, welcome the new set of officers!; (applause) and to the immediate past officers headed by Dr. John Tan, thank you for your service to the Federation and the nation. (applause)

I am happy that in Dr. Tan's time, and now in Dr. Uy's time the Federation continued to share our enthusiasm, our many other projects for improving the quality of education of our youth, particularly through your donation of so many classrooms.

I was a teacher, so pardon my partiality for the teaching profession. That is why I have invested so much in education, skills development and training, and that is why I appreciate the Federation's contributions to education among your many other contributions to so many other areas of Philippine society.

Your contributions were part of the 87,000 classrooms that we built during my administration. And to fill up those classrooms, our pupil-teacher ratio is now 1 is to 36 for elementary schools, and 1 is to 39 for secondary schools because our administration created 60,000 teacher items from 2001 to 2008. And to make these teachers good and better we allocated 1.5 billion pesos for teacher training, especially for 107,000 English teachers. And early in my term, we revised the basic curriculum to emphasize English.

One of the most difficult Millennium Development Goals is Education for All, meaning, universal primary education by 2015. Most countries will not achieve it. But we are trying. We cut the cost of going to school by building more classrooms nearer to homes, and you help so much in that. Also, we stop the collection of miscellaneous fees for primary school and declared school uniforms optional.

Our administration provides government assistance to now 47 percent of students in private high schools. Maybe that is why National Achievement Tests show trends towards mastery.

In technical education and skills training, our 27 billion pesos is more than three times that of three previous administrations combined. We have provided 600,000 college and post-graduate scholarships.

The Presidential Task Force on Education headed by Jesuit educator Father Bienvenido Nebres, which has interacted very much with leaders of your Federation, has come out with a Philippine Main Education Highway towards a knowledge-based economy. It envisions seamless education from basic education covering pre-school,

grade school and high school, and on to vocational schools or colleges. It recommends the restoration of compulsory Scholastic Aptitude Tests for college admission.

For professions seeking international recognition — engineering, accountancy, architecture, pharmacy and physical therapy — it recommends radical reform: 10 years of basic education and then two years of pre-university before three years of university.

The Task Force identifies career, job, entrepreneurship and life-long learning as goals for the Education Highway. Our educational system indeed should make the Filipino fit not just for whatever jobs happen to be on offer today, but also for whatever economic challenge life will throw them. So, again, I thank the Federation for contributing to these goals.

But aside from the school buildings the list of programs you have supported is very long. You have sponsored volunteer fire brigades possibly the best ones in the country, regular fund campaigns for the victims of calamities, mobile clinics, and many other programs. And I thank the Federation for this morning's 3.6 million check donation for the National Youth Service Corps.

I want to pay you back tenfold. So, I will give you a 36 million-peso donation for your school buildings. I just asked that among these school buildings you will build if you could begin to build the beginnings of a high school in the last two remaining towns in our country which still have no public high schools.

The past twelve months — you know more than me because you're businessmen — have been a year for the history books. Financial meltdown spread throughout the world. Financial systems in the West shattered. Even conservative financial systems in the East were shaken to their foundations. Grand names in international finance fell into disrepute and vanished overnight. Tens of millions have lost their jobs; billions across the globe have been hurt — the poor always harder than the rich.

But it has affected us already. But the headline story of the Philippines in 2008, and I believe it is you who can attest to this, is that the country decently survived a succession of global crises in fuel, then food, then financial, and finally economic, keeping economic fundamental strong and not losing focus.

To work and to lead, to protect and to preserve our country and our people, that is why I became President with the support of many of you including our new president now in Iloilo.

When my father who was also very close to your Federation left the presidency, the Philippines was second to Japan. I like to recall how close he was to your Federation. At that time, the head of your group was Antonio Roxas Chua, the grandfather of my cabinet member now, Rey Anthony Roxas Chua. Well, of course, in your present leadership you also have the father of Secretary Arty Yap, so, good we continue our family friendship.

Anyway, speaking of my father I share his vision. If not second to the best, then a vision of a Republic ready to join the first world in 20 years.

Towards that vision, we made key reforms, difficult reforms, unpopular reforms but always supported by your Federation.

So, I want to use this occasion to thank you, members of the FFCCCII, our biggest and most influential Filipino-Chinese group, for sharing our vision, for supporting our reforms and for working hard to attain the Filipino dream.

I have no doubt that your new officers will continue the Federation's tradition of providing support for the programs of government.

So once again, thank you, Johnny and your team, and congratulations Alfonso and the incoming officers.

Mabuhay tayong lahat! Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Oath Taking Ceremony of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) Officers. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412053057/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25717&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a dinner meeting with the FILUSA (Filipinos International of the U.S.A.)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a dinner meeting with the FILUSA (Filipinos International of the U.S.A.)**

[Delivered in Washington, D.C., USA, July 29, 2009]

Thank you

Thank you.

Thank you very much Secretary Pamintuan for your introduction.

I'm happy to be here with you tonight with an official delegation who will be meeting with their counterparts. We have here the Speaker of the House of Representatives Speaker Boy Nograles and several members of Congress who will be attending the various meetings with members of Congress tomorrow. We have here, of course, several Cabinet members who will be meeting with their counterparts headed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Bert Romulo and Executive Secretary Ed Ermita. We have with us also members of the Senate, Miriam is not here with us tonight but we have Lito Lapid here with us tonight. We have a governor, Governor Tet Garcia of Bataan, and we have two city mayors: Mayor of Marikina Marides Fernando and Mayor of Danao City Nitoy Durano

And of course, I'd like to greet the leaders of the Filipino community here headed by our Ambassador to Washington Willy Gaa. And Henry and Jackie, thank you so much, and all of you who came from everywhere Maryland, San Francisco, Virginia, of course, Washington.

Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat. At king kekatang 60 percent ni attendance ngening bengi, mayap a bengi kekongan. Thank you. Thank you. Of course, we must also greet the other Filipinos from various parts of the country: sa mga kaigsuonan gikan sa Visayas ug Mindanao maayong gabii kaninyong tanan; sa indo gabos Bikolano, marhay nga bangi; sa mga kasimanwa sang akon bana nga ari naman subong, maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan; dagiti kakailyan ni mamang ko, naimbag a rabii yo amin

And, of course, congratulations to the Filipinos International of the United States of America or FILUSA here in Washington and surrounding areas, and the other American organizations here tonight. Thank you very much for coming despite the very short notice and thank you for waiting. You know when we arrived in Canada a half an hour ahead of schedule, so I was so happy... Oh, we'll arrive in Washington half an hour ahead of schedule instead combination of paper work and inclement weather along the way made us not leave half an hour ahead of schedule, not in _____ schedule it made as leave an hour and a half later than schedule, but thank you for waiting. I'm so sorry for that

Last month, I met with the FILUSA chapter in Los Angeles. And I congratulated your organization, as I congratulate now FILUSA-Washington D.C., as Jackie described it your efforts in helping unify the Filipino community here in the U.S. and in projecting the good news about the Philippines. And I'm happy about the launching tonight here in Washington your "Proudly Filipino" campaign. Congratulations!

And as you have said, we are really very pleased to accept the invitation of President Obama to be the first leader from our region to meet with him at the White House.

The Oval Office meeting with President Obama comes at a pivotal time for U.S. relations in Asia. We're very hopeful that the Obama Administration will put America on the radar screen in Asia. The visit to the region by

Secretary Clinton where she met with Secretary Romulo in Thailand and now the early outreach by President Obama sends strong signals that the U.S. is committed to a new, more robust engagement with the region.

The fact that President Obama sought out the Philippines for this first opportunity is a testament to the strong and deep ties between our two nations. Kaya maganda yung placard ninyo, “Mabuhay RP-U.S. Relations!” Ayun, thank you for that. “Long Live our U.S.-Filipino Relations!” Yeah, thank you.

The early invitation also reflects the ongoing relationship we have built up through a series of phone conversations and correspondences reaching back to when Senator Obama was the candidate for President.

Our expectations for this trip are straightforward: to meet the new U.S. President and to advance the interests of the Philippines with our strongest friend and ally. The U.S. is essential to our economic, diplomatic and national security. We plan to ensure that these objectives remain front and center and on track between our two nations.

High on our agenda will be peace and security issues, including ways to continue to strengthen regional cooperation on anti-terrorism.

We will also discuss the global economic crisis that has swept the world and what we can do to mitigate the impact on the poor, especially in Asia and the Philippines.

The other day, I delivered my State of the Nation Address. As we all know, the past twelve months had been a year for the history books. As you know more than I do because you experienced it personally, financial meltdown in the West spread throughout the world. Billions across the globe had been hurt. Tens of millions have lost their jobs.

It has affected the Philippines as well. But, and Jackie said, your proposition tell the good news, the story of the Philippines in 2008 is that the country weathered a succession of global crises in fuel, in food, then in finance, and finally the economy in a global recession, but never losing focus and with economic fundamentals intact

A few days ago Moody’s upgraded our credit rating, in the middle of a global recession, citing the resilience of our economy. Therefore, I could say, the state of our nation is a strong economy

I want our Republic to be ready for first world in 20 years. And towards that vision, we, the senators, the congressmen, Speaker made key reforms. Our economic plan centers on putting people first. Higit sa lahat, ang layunin ng ating mga patakaran ay tulungan ang masisipag na karaniwang Pilipino. New tax revenues were put in place to help pay for better healthcare, more roads, and a strong education system.

Housing policies were designed to lift up our poorer citizens so they can live and raise a family with dignity. Ang ating mga puhunan sa agrikultura ay naglalayong kilalanin ang atin mga magsasaka bilang backbone ng ating bansa, at bigyan sila ng mga modernong kagamitan to feed our nation and feed their own family.

In 2008 up to early 2009, we were among only a few economies in Asia-Pacific that did not shrink, contrast that to 2001 when I first became President. Asia was then surging, our country was on the brink of bankruptcy. Now it’s the other way around. The world is in recession. Our country remain strong.

Since 2001, our economy posted uninterrupted growth for 33 quarters, and more than doubled its size — in 2001 it was 76 billion dollars; in 2008 186 billion dollars, more than double what it was eight years ago. And the average GDP growth during our administration is the highest among all administrations in the last 43 years. From January 2001 to April 2009 we created eight million jobs — source of that, the National Statistics Office Labor for Survey. That is an average of a million a year more than at any other time in our history.

Our foreign debt ratio we cut in half from 73 percent before I started to 32 percent of GDP. Kaya kung meron man tayong malaking kaaway na tinalo, walang iba kung hindi yung utang, yung foreign debt. Others conjured the demon of foreign debt. We exorcised foreign debt from our country

Our average inflation rate is the lowest since 1966. Sabi nga ni Governor Salceda sa akin, Joey Salceda who is an economist, “Alam mo, Ma’am, ang nakatalo lang sa record mo sa ekonomiya yung tatay mo, si President Diosdado Macapagal.” And last June, a month ago, inflation dropped to 1.5 percent

What do all these things mean? They mean that we have a strong economy in a strong fiscal position to withstand global shocks. And we were able to achieve this at the same time that we were building new modern infrastructure and completing unfinished ones. And the economy is more fair to the poor than ever before. Aside from that, we are building a sound base for the next generation. And International experts have taken note that we are safer from natural and man-made disasters.

Sa hiram at ginhawa, ang ating bansa ay pinapatatag ninyo, ang ating Overseas Filipinos, kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa inyo. Kahit hindi gaanong lumalaki ang numero, eight million nung nagsimula ako bilang Presidente, more or less eight million pa rin ngayon. Iyong padala ninyong 16 billion dollars noong isang taon ay record. At itong taon, mas mataas pa kaysa sa record na ginawa noong isang taon. At pinakamalaking bahagi ng remittances ay nanggaling dito sa ating mga kababayan sa North America. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyo

But even as we honor you for your hard work at malasakit ninyo sa inyong bansa, sa ating bansa, we are doing our best to create good paying jobs at home, so that overseas work will just be a career choice, and not the only option for a hardworking Filipino.

In fact, meron akong mga kaibigan na nasa Los Angeles. A lot of Filipinos in Los Angeles are doing well over the past years in real estate, eh pero ngayon bumagsak ang real estate. Well, they went back home and got into the real estate business and they’re doing better there. So, that was what I would want — that every Filipino has an option. You can be in America and be okay, and you can be in the Philippines and be okay — that is our ambition. Salamat.

Meantime, meantime, as Jackie said, you have the usual critics in the opposition and also in the ideological groups of the left and the right. While we’re doing our best to create jobs, they’re also doing their best and their worst in trying to bring me down. And if you look at all their charges, the things I’ve never done any of the things that have scared them so much. They seem to be frightened by their own shadows.

The noisiest critic of constitutional reform tirelessly and shamelessly attempted Cha-Cha when they thought they could take advantage of it. Now that they feel they cannot benefit from it, they oppose it. So, what is that? For bested interest versus national interest

I never declared Martial Law, but they’re running scared as if I did. Really in truth, what they are really afraid of is their own weakness in the face of this self-imagined threat.

And I never expressed the desire to extend myself beyond my term. But many of those who accuse me of it were the ones who tried to cling like nails to their own posts

My term does not end until next year. And until then, with your support, I will fight for the ordinary Filipino. There is much to do as head of state up to the very last day. And I trust that the Filipino-American community, the FILUSA, the different organizations here will continue to support and have faith in the Philippines.

So, I am so happy to be able to be with you tonight kahit na naghintay kayo — I feel so guilty about that — kahit na nagutom kayo, akala ko kumain na sana kayo bago... habang hinihintay ako, but thank you so much for waiting for me. Thank you what you’re saying — you support peace and progress in the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a dinner meeting with the FILUSA (Filipinos International of the U.S.A.). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100613/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25801&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Geographic Society Coral Triangle Initiative Program Stakeholders' Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the National Geographic Society Coral Triangle Initiative Program Stakeholders' Forum**

[Delivered at the Grosvenor Auditorium, National Geographic, Washington, D.C., USA, July 30, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Yap for your introduction.

Mr. Fahey, president and CEO of National Geographic; Madame Weiner; Madame Ellis; Dr. Sala; oh, Mr. Francis Tiu Laurel, president of Frabelle Fishing; Ladies and Gentlemen:

As some of you are aware, I am passionate about the environment and the Coral Triangle. And we were able to share some of our passion on climate change, earlier today, I believe — thank you, Arty during... — not only here with you but also earlier in the White House with President Obama.

And because of our passion against climate change we have our desire to reassemble a stakeholders working group meeting on the Coral Triangle. And in this action, we could think of no host better than the National Geographic Society, thank you so much. Actually, this organization should be called the International Geographic Society rather than a National Geographic Society because children from across the globe have grown up reading the famous yellow-bordered magazine, learning about the exotic and glorious world in which we live. I was one of those children. And our Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, who's here with us today, was also explaining how she was one of those and at least one of my children is also that way.

But I was also saying that now in this generation, you don't even have to be an avid reader, you don't even have to be especially interested because you turn on your cable TV and you watch the National Geographic Channel and I know a lot of people who are not intellectuals, not environmentalist, not conservationist but they love to watch National Geographic. So you've done a lot to make people aware.

The Society's mission resonates loudly: Inspiring People to Care about the Planet.

During times of economic hardship, the pressures are greatest to abandon our obligation to the environment or to loosen the rules. This is why at this point in time we must come together in the world community and be even more vigilant in advancing efforts to conserve the six million square kilometers that form the resource-rich Coral Triangle.

The Coral Triangle is potentially the world's most important refuge for marine life. But only if we do, if we all do our part to protect it from further environmental degradation. It's time to rebalance our approach as we work to develop strong economies, to provide employment, and maintain the sacred relationship between human beings and Mother Earth.

The political will of the governments of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste, the Coral Triangle six countries to protect the Coral Triangle is high. At a time when the world is focused on bad news associated with the global economic crisis, the Coral Triangle Initiative driven by our

six nations is good news. The countries responsible for the stewardship of the waters and resources of the Coral Triangle have created a strong and united force to keep our biodiversity intact, our food resources strong, and our environment pristine.

During a meeting of the leaders of the Coral Triangle held in Indonesia last May, we agreed to a series of new commitments to safeguard the world's richest marine resources and to ensure the income and food security of millions of people in our countries who depend on the resources of the Coral Triangle for their livelihood.

In our Leaders' Declaration on the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, we adopted a comprehensive plan for the conservation of our marine and coastal resources. The ten-year regional plan of action sets time-bound steps to address not only the growing threats to the region's coral reefs, fisheries, mangroves, threatened species, and other marine and coastal resources, but also the challenge of climate change.

This initiative also recognizes the urgent need to tackle the poverty affecting the people throughout the Coral Triangle region, especially those in coastal communities.

Climate change and the management of our coastal areas are linked inextricably. A great human tragedy that will arise from climate change will be the migration that will be forced by sinking coastlines and in some cases, such as in Tuvalu and the Maldives, even sinking countries. As more sites are rendered inhospitable to human life and economic activity, as many as one billion people may be affected globally and half of them will come from Asia. As families scatter to upland sites throughout the globe, climate change will spawn global change.

This is something the countries of the world must address together and for us. As a nation of over 7,100 islands, this is something that is of great concern to the Philippines. If the flood waters rise, you may lose Florida; we lose a nation.

So, we the fellow Coral Triangle country leaders agreed that we would bring our collective voices into the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. We want to make an impact on the climate change dialogue. And we want to call on all countries, but in particular the major industrialized developed countries, to live up to the UNFCCC obligations, including affordable and appropriate technologies, and funding for climate management.

Economic development and national stability depend on parallel initiatives aimed at environmental sustainability and social equity. We must aim for this as one living planet.

One of those parallel initiatives is our effort to conserve the marine and coastal resources of the Coral Triangle. Aside from political will, however, to achieve this goal, it will also take the collective efforts of our six nations, our development partners, including the support that is already being provided by friends such as the United States, the NGOs, the domestic and international business, and private citizens around the world.

This is not an either or proposition. We must find a win-win solution to not just stopping the degradation, but also restoring and enhancing our fragile ecology. We rely on the sea for food, jobs and pleasure, and we cannot allow this resource to be further compromised.

One approach to that solution begins with the Regional Plan of Action, I mentioned earlier, adopted by the six Coral Triangle countries with the support of donor countries and such NGOs as Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy, the Worldwide Fund for Nature — I keep calling it Worldwide Life Fund, the old name, but now it's Worldwide Fund for Nature — among others, and National Action Plans created by each Coral Triangle government. These national action plans are specific programs with commitments of the financial and human resources needed to bring a halt to the practices that have jeopardized the future of their Coral Triangle and resources found there.

For our part in the Philippines, our National Strategy to protect our marine resources is focused on an Integrated Coastal Management approach to the sustainable development of our nation's coasts, oceans and marine resources.

As part of this program, we are working at the community, local government, provincial, district and national level on the twin goals of coastal resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The National Strategy also includes support for the conservation of important species and the management of several protected marine areas including the Apo Reef Natural Park, the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary, and the renowned Tubbataha Reefs National Park, which is a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site.

In addition, we are carrying out a program, in cooperation with Conservation International, to prepare a master plan for a second priority seascape in line with the regional plan of action and our own national plan. That seascape is the South China seascape, it covers more than 800,000 square kilometers, so that is our second seascape. The first seascape being the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Eco-Region. The seascape plans focus on the management of protected areas and networks and an ecosystem approach to sustainable fisheries management.

We are also working on a bilateral basis with our fellow Coral Triangle government partners, especially on the sustainable development of the fishing industry, and tuna in particular, with the help of our private sector who have major investments in our region. Together we want to protect the juvenile and spawning grounds of tuna in our own part of the Coral Triangle. We are also working towards the sustainability of the live reef fish trade in Palawan, which is a major source of livelihood for restaurants all over Asia and beyond.

We have made great strides in engaging the traders and industry players in Palawan with the help of WWF, and we look forward to the day when Palawansourced seafood is recognized as sustainable seafood. We can only achieve these goals on fisheries with the active participation and input of the private sector. So, I look forward to your involvement.

As you can see, the countries touched by the Coral Triangle are not sitting idly by as the marine resources of this vast and rich area are subjected to the challenges of human degradation and climate change. The very valuable work being carried out is being supported by our own resources and the resources of our development partners, NGOs, the private sector, and individuals. But much more needs to be done.

So, in that regard, I call on all who are concerned about the future of our oceans and our seas to share the story of the work being done to preserve the Coral Triangle. Of course, I would be honored if we could find a way to work with the power of the National Geographic Society to bring our story to the world.

So, let me quote in closing the late French undersea explorer and oceanographer, Jacques Cousteau. He said, “The sea, the great unifier, is man’s only hope.” Now, as never before, the old phrase has a literal meaning: we are all in the same boat.

Again, a special thanks to National Geographic and to each and every one of you for your concern about our good Earth.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the National Geographic Society Coral Triangle Initiative Program Stakeholders’ Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100446/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25854&Itemid=38

**Message of President Arroyo on the death of former President Corazon C. Aquino Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the death of former President Corazon C. Aquino**

[Delivered in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., July 31, 2009]

Today, the Philippines lost a national treasure. Cory Aquino helped lead a revolution that restored democracy and the rule of law to our nation at a time of great peril.

Our nation will mourn her passing.

History was thrust upon her when her noble husband was cut down in the prime of his life as he fought for democracy and the rule of law. She picked up the standard from the fallen warrior, Ninoy, and helped lead our nation to a brighter day.

I am announcing today that we will officially observe a ten-day period of national mourning.

Our hearts go out to the family in this hour of grief and sorrow. The nation prays for Cory and her family.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's message on the death of former President Corazon C. Aquino. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100430/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25858&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a dinner meeting with FILUSA (Filipinos International of the U.S.A.)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a dinner meeting with FILUSA (Filipinos International of the U.S.A.)**

[Delivered in New York City, U.S.A., August 1, 2009]

Dakal a salamat, Ed.

And before I begin, please join me first in a moment of prayer for President Cory Aquino.!

Thank you. First of all, I'd like to thank our speakers earlier, Bert and Romy and Jackie for your very kind words. And I'd like to acknowledge some of the members of our official delegation: we have our two senators with us, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago and Senator Lito Lapid; we have Cabinet members who met with their counterparts headed by Executive Secretary Ed Ermita; we have members of Congress who certainly had many counterparts because we spent one whole day in different events with the members of Congress of the United States of America headed by Deputy Speaker Girlie Villarosa; and we have local governments: Governor Tet Garcia of Bataan and City Mayors Nitoy Durano of Danao in Cebu and Marides Fernando of Marikina.

I'd like to acknowledge also our officials from the Philippine Government but representing our government here in the United States. Our Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Willy Gaa and Consul General Cecille Rebong and all the officials of the Embassy; and our ambassador to the United Nations, former Chief Justice Davide. And to all of you, magandang gabi sa inyong lahat.

At king kekatang 60 percent ngening attendees ngening bengi, mayap a bengi kekongan kabalen. Ug kaninyong tanan mga taga Visayas ug Mindanao, maayong gabii. Sa mga Bikolano, marhay nga bangi sa indo gabos. Ang mga kasimanwa sang akon bana kag ni Miriam, maayong gab-i sa inyo nga tanan. Ken dagiti Ilocano, naimbag nga rabii yo amin.

And of course, congratulations to the Filipinos International United States of America or FILUSA here in New York headed by Bert, in New Jersey headed by Romy, and in California headed by Jackie, thank you for your touching words — Girlie said her hair was standing when you are telling your story — and even George from Michigan. So, thank you all for being here and Congratulations to the FILUSA and to the other Filipino-American organizations here tonight! To our two wonderful singers, congratulations, bravo! To them and to you for coming despite the very short notice, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Last month, we met with the FILUSA Chapter in Los Angeles and last Wednesday in Washington, D.C. I congratulated your organization, as I congratulate today FILUSA-New York and New Jersey, for your efforts in helping unify the Filipino community here in the U.S., and projecting the good news about the Philippines.

As Bert said, we are pleased to... and of Ed, to be the first Southeast Asian leader to meet with President Obama at the White House. The fact that he sought out the Philippines for this historic opportunity is a testament to the strong and deep ties between our two countries. Our two countries have a shared history, our two countries have a commitment to a vibrant democracy, but most of all today, our two countries have family ties. Four million Philippine-Americans here in the United States and four hundred thousand Americans in the Philippines, so those are our family ties. So you, the Filipino-Americans here in America are the strongest link between the Philippines and the U.S., and thank you for being that link. The meeting with President Obama, early meeting in his administration also reflects the ongoing relationship we have established through a series of phone conversations and correspondences reaching back to when he was a candidate for President.

Sabi ni Bert, sana marinig kung ano ang mga pinag-usapan doon. Well, President Obama and I high in our agenda — and Miriam was there and Ed Ermita was there — high in our agenda was peace and security issues. The U.S. is essential to our economic, diplomatic and national security. And our meeting, our visit here and our meeting with President Obama has served to ensure that these objectives remain front and center and on track between our two nations.

We discussed the strong cooperation between the U.S. and the Philippines to combat terrorism. That will continue to be strengthened. In addition to the ‘hard’ power of military engagement and intelligence sharing is the need for ‘soft’ power — the pressing need to win over the hearts and minds of the people. And we shared with President Obama the successes of this ‘soft’ power paradigm that we have developed with America in Southern Philippines.

I don’t know how many of you here are from Southern Philippines, from Mindanao, but like the rest of the country there is a very big difference between the Mindanao of eight years ago and the Mindanao of today. If we go to the whole country, there is a very big difference between the Philippines today and the Philippines of eight years ago. Eight years ago, Asia was surging but the Philippines was on the brink of bankruptcy.

Today, two-thirds of the world is in recession, but the Philippines just got upgraded in his credit rating by Moody’s. For Mindanao, eight years ago, I inherited an age-old conflict exacerbated by a popular but nearsighted policy of massive military retaliation. That only provoked the other side to continue the war.

Today, we were very happy to share with the Filipinos we’ve met, with the officials of America that we’ve met including President Obama, that the Philippine Government Panel and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have just announced that they are working towards the resumption of formal peace talks and that we are now on ceasefire. So that is the difference between eight years ago and today.

And how did we get to where we are, mahirap yung umaabot doon. Nakikita natin doon sa Jakarta mismo, capital ng Indonesia, nagkaroon ng pag bobomba pero tayo’y pumapasok sa pangungusap sa kapayapaan at yun na nga yung ating pakikipagbalikatan sa America. Yung hard power trinaining yung ating mga sundalo at nakikipag-ugnayan sa intelligence. At tsaka yung soft power, nagtatayo ng mga eskwela, mga kalsada, mga tulay para sa ganun ay yung pamayanan ay maging mas maganda.

And another thing that we talked about is we applauded President Obama’s leadership on climate change especially because just recently, the U.S. House of Representatives — and their counterparts among our delegation congratulated them — just passed the ACES Act. What is this ACES Act ? This is the American Clean Energy Security Act. It is now pending in the Senate, in the U.S. Senate, but the important thing about this bill passing in the House after a longer date is that under the Obama Administration they recognize the pressing need for the U.S. to step up and take action against climate change by reducing carbon emission.

And that’s important to us, as a developing nation, we need to balance economic growth and environmental sustainability very seriously. Because we are an archipelago with a very long coastline, so the Philippines is particularly vulnerable to dramatic changes in our weather and our rising seas. I’ve often said, oceans rise and Florida gets wet; oceans rise and the Philippines and our nation is gone. So that is how important it is, for us to avoid climate change. We will do everything in our power, I said, to work with the U.S. on this vital issue that confronts the Philippines but also the entire human race.

This is but one example of efforts we are taking to preserve our environment. On another front, we have been active in the Coral Triangle Initiative. Itong Coral Triangle, ito yung “Amazon of the Underwater.” It covers the entire Philippines and parts of five other neighboring countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Solomon Islands. And this initiative is to bring together the food users of the world to protect the breeding grounds of the fish that feed the world. Yes, the Coral Triangle wherein those six countries are located is the one that provides the fish that feeds so much of the world.

And therefore we need to protect our natural environment. We also need to protect the livelihood of the fisherfolks, and we have to protect the source of food supply for much of the world.

A lot of you are very fond of tuna, and when you're eating tuna whether a nice tuna sandwich from a fast-food store or a fancied tuna meal in a fancy restaurant, if you're eating that chances are it comes from the Philippines. Or for sure almost it comes from the Coral Triangle, and that is what we are seeking to preserve.

In addition with President Obama, we met with Secretary Clinton and other members of the Cabinet. We also met with Speaker Pelosi and other Congressional leaders. And I hope that you don't mind, that I said in your behalf, we are thanking them for passing the recognition and benefits of Filipino World War II veterans that they included in the Fiscal Stimulus Package or the American Recovery Act, after 60 long years of waiting we finally got that stage. And as important as these official meetings are, I always meet with the members of the private sector, including financial leaders in New York.

This morning, we met with Coca-Cola, who had just bought back their plant just a couple of years ago with a hundred million dollars, but today they announced their expansion plan of — that will total including what they've put in since they bought the firm back and what they're going to put in in the next few years — they announced that their total investment is going to be one billion dollars. So they have joined our Billion-Dollar Club.

We also met with members of the ICT industry. You know, there's a World ICT Conference that was taking place here in Jersey City, Thursday and Friday. I couldn't attend that because I was in Washington but the big participants came to see me in New York today because they reported how this a world conference, they reported how the Philippines together with India dominated the Conference in terms of attractiveness as a destination for investment.

And it shows in the Philippines. When I first became President there were 6,000 employees in a virtually non-existent BPO industry. Today there are 600,000 workers, young Filipinos in a six billion-dollar industry. In fact one of the leaders of the ICT industry in the meeting I had today was saying about how he met me five years ago and how we were talking about ICT, call centers and BPO, and at that time nobody could imagine what a big driver of growth it would become. Now it has begun such a big driver of growth with unprecedented investments, and so it gives terrific jobs to young people, good paying jobs that keep them at home and not abroad.

You know, we really value how much you our Fil-Ams love the Philippines. We value your dedication to your family, to your nation, to your work like Jackie says, she brings her son to the Philippines so that he will be proud of being a Filipino.

But we are working for the day when there will be enough jobs at home, good jobs so that going abroad will only be a career choice and not the only choice for a hardworking Filipino. But we could not do that with the condition that I inherited eight years ago. As I said at that time even when Asia was surging, the Philippines was on the brink of bankruptcy. At that time, what was it? Our budget was like maybe 900 billion pesos and our tax revenues were 700 billion pesos.

And the tax revenues were only enough to pay the Local Governments' Internal Revenue Allotment, the salaries of the government workers, and the debt service, because for generations they have been living on debt. If we want to spend on infrastructure or for social services, we would have to borrow, we could'nt finance it from our own internal resources. And the more we borrowed, the bigger our debt service would become. And in fact there was a scheduled moment in 2004, had we not done our proper financial management, that our expenditures including debt service would have been bigger than our budget, than our tax revenues and that would have been really a financial collapse on our country. But quietly without headlines — because how do you headline restructuring of debt with foreign creditors, it's too technical — we did it and no financial crisis happened, and then in 2005 our senators and our congressmen helped us with our financial tax reforms.

Bitter medicine to raise taxes. We took the bitter medicine at economic reforms those years ago but those efforts have helped to create a firewall that softened the pressures arising from the global economic downturn. Why did they get a Moody's upgrade? Because we could spend on our own fiscal stimulus and at the same time our deficit is a smaller percentage of GDP compared to our neighbors. In fact in 2007, we virtually balanced the budget. And we could have balanced it in 2008 except that the world economic crisis happened. And what is the use of balancing the budget if it's going to be on the backs of the poor. So we had to do our own fiscal stimulus package, but our deficit

this year of three percent is lower than the deficit of our neighboring countries, our peers which is why Moody's said that we are more resilient and we deserve a credit upgrade.

That is also why we were able to maintain positive economic growth during the global economic downturn up to the first quarter of 2001 while many of the rest in the region saw contractions. Our macro-economic stability is a major strength that will put us in a stronger position as an attractive investment and business destination.

In fact, to all those Brookline activists who say all those terrible things about our country and our administration, if during this crisis we were able to have a credit upgrade, if we are growing while many other countries are experiencing recession, if we had been able to create in this last twelve months 1.4 million jobs, while many other countries are losing jobs, we must be doing something right. Thank you.

That said, yes, we have additional pressures. We're working hard to keep the global economic wave from washing over the Philippines, so we have been tireless in securing our fuel, food and rice needs. Because of the revenues our senators and congressmen raised for us, we are investing in energy and rice self-sufficiency, we're building up our schools, we're jump-starting the economy with long-needed infrastructure. These projects are geared to investments in human and physical infrastructure including education and healthcare along with roads, bridges and ports. For instance in education, do you know that almost half of private high school enrollees are receiving government scholarships in private high schools?

And do you know that in skills training — that's why our work force continues to be so competitive — our administration is spending, investing three times more than the three previous administrations combined. And as far as roads are concerned, I guess many of you have just come back or who've been to the Philippines, have been on the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway. Well, that's the corridor that's overseen by Ed Pamintuan. Its... everybody who passes it says, "Wow! its like being in the first world." And yes that's a preview because our vision is to make the Philippines ready for the first world in 20 years. These infrastructure investments, human and physical, will ensure also that we are well-positioned for higher growth once the global economy rebounds.

One of the drivers, growth drivers in Asia is our ingenuity and the ability to identify new opportunities and to play niche roles in the global economy. And in the Philippines, as I said earlier, a number of high growth, high potential industries that nobody ever thought could become a major driver of growth are now taking off and bringing unprecedented amounts of investment in our country like BPO, like the 6,000 workers which have become 600,000 workers. Have you ever heard of an industry that grew 100 times in an eight-year period? And so we are very happy that today the BPO and call center industry employs 600,000 young Filipinos. And another industry that is growing in a similarly dramatic manner is tourism. Nitoy Durano's son, Red Durano's brother, Ace Durano is the Secretary of Tourism, and since he became Secretary of Tourism in 2004 up to today, tourism has almost doubled and has become a five billion-dollar industry.

The good thing about tourism is that, Ace calls it a big tent industry, because you have employment opportunities from the least skilled to the most skilled, it covers everyone, it accepts everyone of all level of skills, and the jobs are very good. I remember the story of a single mother in southern... Oh, yeah, Lupita and I were there in Badjan Island. Remember, Lupita? Beautiful spa and there's the story of a formerly single mother, hand-to-mouth as far as feeding her child was concerned, she became a spa therapist and she's earning terrific now and she has no more problems about the future of her child.

So as I said, these are good paying jobs that keep our people home and not abroad. And I repeat: we are doing our best to create good paying jobs at home. So that if anyone of you want to go back home, or if anyone of you would want to stay, it's a choice, you can stay and have a good life, you can go back home and have a good life — that is our ambition for a Filipino-American.

Samantala, habang sinisikap natin na maging ganun and ekonomiya, sa hrap at ginhawa naman, kayo ang ating mga kababayan na nasa ibang bansa talagang pinapatatag din ninyo ang ating ekonomiya. Yung padala ninyong 16 billion dollars last year noong isang taon ay record. Record na nga noong isang taon, this year, tumataas pa kaysa

noong isang taon. At pinakamalaking bahagi ng mga remittances ay nanggagaling dito mismo sa ating mga kababayan sa North America. Kaya maraming, maraming salamat sa inyo lahat.

I've given you a few pieces of good news. I have given you some news that Bert asked about our meetings in Washington. I hope that we can continue to exchange news and I count on the continuing support of FILUSA and the Fil- Am community. And thank you for being proudly Filipino.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a dinner meeting with FILUSA (Filipinos International of the U.S.A.). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100409/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25855&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st Philippine-Russian Business Forum

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 1st Philippine-Russian Business Forum

[Delivered at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC), August 7, 2009]

Thank you Secretary Remonde for your introduction.

To my dear friend, Honorary Consul General of Russia, Mrs. Armi Lopez Garcia, congratulations for steering this organization and this assembly!

To my other dear friend, Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, thank you for being here inspite of a very important day tomorrow; the Honorable Charge d' Affaires of the Russian Embassy, thank you for being here tonight also, this is a very important event for us and I hope it's an important event for your country; our visitors from Russia, welcome to the Philippines!; and the participants from the Philippine side, welcome as well to this beautiful convention center that Gwen Garcia built for the ASEAN Summit a few years ago, thank you.

The theme says, “ New Ties, New Markets, New Ways.” I would agree with new markets, new ways, but then maybe the ties are not necessarily that new. In the 19th century the Russian Grand Duke Alexis visited the Philippines.

In the 20th century, Manuel Quezon, who became the first President of the Philippine Commonwealth, traveled on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Vladivostok to Moscow.

So, I hope what we will have now will be renewed ties. I hope this centuries-old history of travel between our two countries will be revived and multiplied by this assembly.

We were in Russia recently, with Governor Garcia and Honorary Consul General Garcia.

After all, Russia is one of the world's largest economic powerhouses of the 21st century, together with the other BRIC countries: Brazil, India and China. And because geographically the most part of Russia belongs to Asia, we consider the fact that three of the BRIC belong to Asia and that is one of the drivers of growth of our region.

And indeed, we are fortunate to have these drivers of growth in our region, especially in the light of what has been happening to the world economy these past twelve months. I've often said the past twelve months had been a year for the history books. Financial meltdown in the West spread throughout the world. Tens of millions lost their jobs; billions across the globe have been hurt, the poor always harder than the rich. No one was spared.

We have learned a number of lessons as a result of this global economic crisis. The first has to do with the value of what we did before the crisis. In the Philippines, namely, to get our fiscal and financial house in order to prepare the nation to weather times like these. This involved making tough decisions on raising revenue, cutting down on tax cheats and smugglers, reining in our budget deficit, and working to balance our budget.

Next is that we made a conscious decision to bring increasing balance to the economy. We worked to expand and diversify our trading partners to spread the risk and diversify our economy. And that is why this is important — new markets. We want to increase our trade relations with Russia. At the same time, we worked to build up new industries such as the BPO industry, where today the Philippines is a global powerhouse, as well as to develop our mining sector, of course, in a sustainable manner.

And I'm sure Russia understands what we mean by sustainable manner because when we were in St. Petersburg one of the things we learned is that the carbon footprint of Russia is very small — you are a responsible people as far as environment is concerned. And I was so glad to hear from the speech of Honorary Consul General Armi Lopez Garcia that indeed among the industries that you are promoting it's BPO and mining.

The most important thing that we have learned though is that our economies are all closely interconnected. We sink or swim as one.

When the world faces unprecedented economic challenges, countries must work together to forge stronger relations, to keep trade open and to make greater strides in integrating the global economy so that we emerge from the crisis stronger than before, and so that we instill global systems that ensure that such a global crisis does not happen again.

That is why we welcome Russia and the Philippines working together.

During these challenging times we must stand up and be counted, continuing to work together to build a future that is based on mutual trust, respect and understanding.

I see here my old professor, Ernie Pernia, and I hope he will agree with me when I say that the story of the Philippines in 2008 is that of a country that weathered a succession of global crises in fuel, in food, then in finance, and finally the economy in a global recession, never losing focus and with economic fundamentals intact.

Last month our credit rating was upgraded, citing the resilience of our economy. We are one of the few nations in the region to have withstood the onslaught. Last year and up to the first quarter of this year we kept our growth positive. So, I would like to conclude that our economy is stable and strong. Inflation now is at the lowest in 22 years and we are ready for the economic rebound, especially with a new market, renewed ties and new ways of working together with Russia.

We consider Russia indeed as I said as one of our neighbors because a large part of you is in East Asia. We want to strengthen our economic ties and bring down trade barriers with each other. One of the most important barriers we seek to bring down is the barrier to travel.

I am happy to note the successful results of our Air Services Consultations in Manila last year. We have authorized our Ambassador to sign the resulting Philippine-Russia Air Services Agreement. I count on the Russian business community and the Russian Embassy, and our Honorary Russian Consul General to follow up with your Ministry of Transport to already give the clearance to the Department of State and Policy in Civil Aviation to sign for the Russian side.

I ask the Honorable Charge d' Affaires, is there a problem? He said, it's really technical. And they're trying to match the ministers to sign. I said I have no problem with that. I will send my transportation minister anywhere anytime just so that the two ministers can sign that agreement together.

I can just visualize how much tourism will grow when we have that Air Agreement because already Russia and the CIS countries are our fastest growing tourism market. Everytime I come to Cebu, almost everytime anyway, I always see in the... there in the apron a Russian plane, for Cebu is indeed a favorite of Russian tourists as it is the favorite of international tourists because Cebu is the number one destination for international tourism in our country.

So, we welcome you our friends from Russia and we welcome more Russian tourists to enjoy our sunny weather and our people's warmth, especially the Russian winter is about to come. We are an ideal counterbalance with your winter.

In this ever more globalized world, we must accept that no nation can remain an island. And I am glad, and this event tonight shows it, that the gap between our two countries has been closing slowly to our mutual interest.

So, I thank all of you who are here, who are helping the relationship between our two countries move up to the next level.

So, to all of you, thank you for being here. Enjoy your stay in the Philippines! Let us have renewed ties. Let us have a new market in each other. And let us have new ways of working together for our mutual interest. Congratulations and welcome again to the Philippines!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 1st Philippine-Russian Business Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100359/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25925&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 9th Maasin City Charter Day Anniversary and inauguration of Maasin City Wet Public Market

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 9th Maasin City Charter Day Anniversary and inauguration of Maasin City Wet Public Market**

[Delivered at the Maasin City Integrated Market and Terminal Complex, Southern Leyte, August 9, 2009]

Daghang salamat.

Daghan salamat Congressman Oging Mercado sa imong pagpaila kanako ug salamat sa imong kanunay nga suporta sa aton mga balaod didto sa Kongreso, salamat.

Kan Governor Mian Mercado na sa una mayor dinhi sa Maasin City, daghan salamat sab sa imong kanunay nga suporta busa dako kaayo kanunay ang akon pagdaog dinhi sa Maasin City. Kan Vice Governor Maamo; sa atong bishop, Bishop Cantillas, dili lang Bishop sa Maasin kundili sab ang head sa Episcopal Commission sa mga ating OFWs at bishop. Ug kanatong host, si City Mayor Samaco ug tanan mga opisyaes sa Maasin City, salamat sa inyong imbitasyon kanako. Ug sa akong mga kauban sa national government, si Secretary Jun Ebdane ug si Secretary Gabby Claudio, ug si Chairman sa National Youth Commission si Richard Nalupta, ug kaninyong tanan, mga kaigsuonan diri sa Maasin, Happy Anniversary sa inyong Charter Day!

Nalipay ako nga nakabisita na gyud ako dinhi. Niadtong Hulyo pa sa Southern Leyte Day unta giplano na ang akong pagduaw apan gi-postpone. Apan maayo man sab tingali kay karon nakaduaw kita sa Charter Day sa Maasin ug alang sa probinsya naman Mian duna kay okasyon, oportunidad nga makit-an ang nahuman na nga Agas-Agas Bridge, ang flagship bridge sa atong probinsya.

Tingali murag ingon ni Congressman Mercado hibaw na ninyo tanan nga ang paginvest sa human and physical infrastructure usa ka central pillar sa atong plano sa ekonomiya. Ang mga lisod nga desisyon nga gihimo nato to raise revenue and to regain control of our fiscal condition sa tapos na daghan kaayo, dugay kaayo nga mga tuig sa neglect sa aton mga revenues is paying off ug nalipay ko nga Southern Leyte is benefiting.

Bisan kining atong covered court center, as reminded by Governor Mian, atong joint project ni ug ang Agas-Agas Bridge ug daghan pa ang aton nautical highway sa San Ricardo hangtod na sa Tacloban. Kasi gusto ko nga maka build-up sa aton mga probinsya aron ma-spread nato ang mga benepisyo sang ekonomiya beyond Manila. And to that end, ang Southern Leyte ug ang Maasin City dako ang inyong papel sa atong decentralized development.

Ang Southern Leyte ug ang Maasin City apil sa Central Philippines ang atong sentro sa turismo. And that alone makes Maasin, ang kapital sa Southern Leyte, usa ka importante nga parte sa atong Tourism Superregion master plan. Salamat nga bisan na ulahi ang among pag-abot you're still here. Medyo naulahi tungod kay didto sa Agas-Agas Bridge naa pay demonstration sa bungee jumping, sky diving ug lifeline trip kay ma-o gyud ang gusto nato na matan-aw ug tibuok Pilipinas ang atong mga unique nga tourism attractions diri sa Southern Leyte. Ug bag-o pa nining atong mga adventure sports sa Agas-Agas Bridge kaila na ang inyong diving didto sa Limasawa. So importante gyud ang Southern Leyte sa aton Tourism master plan.

Kauban sab kamo sa aton Eastern Nautical Highway kaniadto ang highway, hibaw ni Direktor Matugas ni kay taga-Surigao siya, kaniadto gikan sa Lipata hangtod sa Liloan, apan karon gihimo nato ang Surigao City hangtod sa San Ricardo ug ipaayo naton ang kalsada hangtod sa Tacloban unya Biliran unya Masbate hangtod sa Bicol ma-o ang atong Eastern Nautical Highway. Ug ang plano nato padayon kanunay i-update, enhance nining mga developments aron makahuman kita sa worldclass infrastructure sa tibuok nasud that will raise our competitiveness as an investment, business and tourism destination.

Bisan karon pa lang sa aton gi-inaugurate ang Eastern Nautical Highway 'no sa San Ricardo, gistorya na ni Governor Mian Mercado nga duna nay mga European investors 'no sa mga beach resorts so what more kay gwapo na ang mga kalsada, gwapo na ang Agas-Agas Bridge mag daghan pa ang mga investors na moanhi unta dinhi sa Southern Leyte. Kasi and aton gobyerno nakafocus like a laser beam sa aton mga economic fundamentals sukad sa adlaw na ako nahimo Presidente and kauban didto siguraduhon nato na naa ta ug maayo, solid ug realistic na budget nga nakatubag sa mga kinahanglanon sa atong nasud.

So sa umaabot nga tuig, murag sa nihimo nato sa mga recent years tungod sa mga additional resources generated by our fiscal reforms — ug salamat kang Oging kay dako ang iyang tabang sa mga atong fiscal reforms — padayon pa kita sa pagka-invest sa mga importante nga imprastraktura nga proyekto ug mga social services sama sa edukasyon, sama sa healthcare aron ang aton katawhan makabenepisyo sa atong mga reporma. Samtang gabilin kita nga committed sa fiscal reform ug sa pagbaba sa atong budget deficit aron siguraduhon nato na ang atong nasud mabilin sa kalsada or on the path of sustainable development sa dugay na panahon.

So, mobalanse kita sa aton gusto na fiscal prudence murag usa ka pamilya that does not overspend ug ang balansyado na budget ma-o ibalance nato sa atong kinahanglanon nga mo-invest sa katawhan.

Alang nini ganina, gilunsad nato ang atong National Youth Service Corps, aron mahatagan ang kabataan, gikan sa edad 18 hangtod sa edad 24, ug trabaho ug mga higayon alang sa panginabuhi. Kini ang mga edad kun diin gasugod sila ug huna-huna alang sa ilang kaugmaon. Gusto naton siguruhon nga mahatagan sila ug higayon nga motabang sa mga kahalukan alang sa pag-uswag sa nasod ug higayon sab aron pauswag ang ilang kaugalingon.

Busa on track kita sa atong proposed budget sa umaabot nga tuig. And as a matter of procedure, ang Presidente naay 30 days after Congress convenes, ang atong State of the Nation Address July 27. So, August 27 isubmit nato ang atong budget kan Congressman Oging Mercado ug ang imong kauban sa Kongreso.

Ug paagi sa budget na ihatag nila kanako padayunon nato ang pag-giya sa aton ekonomiya, ihatag nato ang tanan nga mahimo nato aron dili kita malunod sa global recession na naa karon sa tibuok kalibutan. Apan sa akong pagbisita diri sa Southern Leyte, murag ingon ni Roger fourth or fifth time na, fourth or fifth time isip Presidente apan isip DTI, isip senador, isip Bise Presidente countless na.

Kay siyempre nalipay ko sa pagbisita kaninyo kay namati ko ang inyong suporta kanunay sa akong una nga pagkandidato sa senador, sa akong mga... sa bise presidente, sa akong mga senador niadtong 2001, sa akong kaugalingon pagkandidato sa 2004, sa akon mga senador gihapon sa 2007 kanunay dako ang pagdaog dinhi sa Southern Leyte.

Busa kung gapadayon ang inyong suporta, ug hibaw ko nga padayon gyud, mahimo nato ang unsa ang kinahanglan alang sa kauswagan sa nasud ug espeyalmente dinhi sa Southern Leyte ug sa Maasin City.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 9th Maasin City Charter Day Anniversary and inauguration of Maasin City Wet Public Market. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100332/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25928&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the commemoration of the 400th year of Christianization and founding anniversary of Baler

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the commemoration of the 400th year of Christianization and founding anniversary of Baler**

[Delivered at Baler Municipal Plaza, Baler, Aurora, August 19, 2009]

Maraming salamat, Senator Ed Angara, former Senate president, sa iyong magandang pagpapakilala at maraming salamat sa laging suporta mo sa mga patakaran lalo na tungkol sa ekonomiya ng ating administrasyon. Thank you very much for that.

Governor Bellaflor Angara Castillo, maraming salamat din sa iyong mga ipinahayag na pag welcome at pagpapaliwanag ng ating pinagdidiriwang ngayon. Binanggit nga ni Ed yung aking pagpunta dito nung ako’y isa pang young matron, martial law pa noon nagsusurfing dito. Pero nung ako ay pumasok na sa public service isa sa unang aking pagbisita rito naalala ko nasa private sector pa si Bella at kasama kami nag helicopter dito. Kaya maraming salamat din Bella sa lagi mong magandang pag welcome sa inyong lingkod.

Kay Congressman Sonny Angara, maraming salamat din sa iyong pag imbita sa akin dito at sa iyong magandang mga ginagawa doon sa Kamara de Representante. At siyempre kay Mayor Arturo Angara at lahat ng mga mamamayan at opisyal ng Bayan ng Baler, Happy 400th Anniversary sa inyong lahat!

I would like to greet the members of the Diplomatic Corps, thank you for joining this 400th anniversary of the founding of Baler. And thank you in behalf of the officials of Aurora for the support that you are giving to the development of this beautiful province.

Meron tayong mga kasamang ilang mga opisyal ng national government, kanina nga tumindig na dito si Ambeth Ocampo at saka si Vic Badoy; at nandito yung aking assistant for Region III, si Reli Fajardo; nakikita... nakikita ko rin si Mike Romero ng Development Bank of the Philippines at yung Chairman ng Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa nandito rin, si Jolad Santos; and we are very proud to have one of our favorite painters, Jovenal Sanso; at siyempre yung pamilya, yung pamilya ng pinagdidiriwang... ng bayani ng Baler at Aurora na pinagdidiriwang natin ang kanyang kaarawan ngayon yung mga kasapi ng Quezon family, lalo na si Ricky at si Pia at yung ibang mga apo sa tuhod ni President Manuel Quezon. At sa inyong lahat, mga tiga Baler isang mainit na pagbati sa mga tiga Baler sa inyong 400th Anniversary ng pinakamamahal ninyong bayan. Yung mainit medyo literal iyon, sabi nga ni Ambeth — naku! mainit — sabi naman namin ni Mayor Arturo Angara mabuti na’t mainit keysa umuulan kaya... kasi malayo ang Baler kaya pag umuulan mahirumunta dito.

And I would like also to greet our generals who are here headed by on the side of the military si General David, our Northern Luzon Commander, and on the side of the police, General Nilo dela Cruz, our Region III Director, at lahat ng mga officials ng national government regional na narito ngayon.

Kanina binuksan natin yung marker at doon in a very short, concise way nanduon ang kasaysayan ng Baler. Ang mga unang banggit ng ating kasaysayan tungkol sa bayang ito ay nuong itinatag ang Baler bilang isang friar mission nung taong 1609, kaya nga 400 years ago. At nanduon din nung magkaroon ng isang malaking tsunami na pinaglikasan ng labing-apat na pamilyang Balereño papunta sa kasalukuyang kinalagyan nitong mas mataas na lugar, at mula doon, pero ang akala mo pa rin ay kabilang sa mga pamilyang nakaligtas at itinuring nang mga

nagtayo ng Bayan ng Baler ay mga ninuno ni Senator Ed Angara at Congresswoman Castillo at Mayor Angara at Congressman Angara — mga founding fathers nila, hindi ba? — ng Bayan ng Baler.

Tapos makaraan ang panahon, muling nabanggit ang Baler nang mapabilang ito sa komunidad na tinawag na El Principe, nanduon din yun sa marker. Naging matagumpay ang pagturo ng mga prayle ng Kristyanismo sa mga taga-rito — ayan, ang ganda-ganda ng inyong simbahan. At nung kami ni Ed Angara ay nagpunta sa España sa bayan ng Almonte ay meron silang museo na replika nitong simbahan ng Baler. Kaya doon tanda ito ng pagpapalaganap ng pananampalataya at kasama nito natuto rin ang mga taga-rito ng kultura at salitang banyaga. Eh yung kultura hanggang ngayon nakikita natin nung kami'y magkasama ni Ed Angara sa Senado. At even before that time nung naririnig ko tungkol sa kanya, wala pa ako sa Senado, talagang alam ko nuon pa si Ed Angara isang culture vulture siguro dahil nga sa tinatawag nating kostumbre at tradisyon dito sa Baler.

Ngunit ang pinakadakilang pangyayari siguro na nababasa natin ay bago naging ganap na bansa ang Pilipinas yung tinawag na Siege of Baler noong 1899 kaya nga nagkaroon ng replica ng Baler Church doon sa Almonte.

Baler is historic because it was here in Baler where a group of Spanish soldiers took their last stand against one of the longest sieges in Philippine history. It was also here in Baler where the enduring friendship between Spain and the Philippines took root through the magnanimity of the revolutionary General and President Emilio Aguinaldo, the first president of the Philippines.

And speaking of presidents, this town of Baler as we have heard today and many times over is also historic because it is the hometown of President Manuel L. Quezon, second Philippine president after Aguinaldo and the first president of the Philippine Commonwealth at Ama ng Tagalog bilang batayan ng Wikang Pambansa — kaya nandito si Jolad — and whose birthday we celebrate today.

Bilang pagpapahalaga sa papel ng Baler sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, sinuportahan natin ang resolusyon na pinasa ni Senador Angara sa Senado, at pinirmahan natin ang Proclamation 1696 noong nakaraang taon upang maghanda ang mga taga-Baler, sa pagdiriwang ng ginagawa natin ngayon, yung 400th Anniversary ng inyong bayan. And we have heard about all the beautiful events that had been taking place.

And gaya nang sabi ni Ricky Avanceña kanina, if President Quezon brought Baler back to the limelight in his time, the Angara family also have brought to this historic town a national prominence once more. Not only has Ed Angara made headlines with his achievements for the nation; he has also done a yeoman's job of bringing to Baler and the whole province of Aurora the development that it deserves. And I am very grateful to have the opportunity to be able to help him in his efforts.

We must also thank Senator Angara not only for what he has done here for Baler and Aurora, but I thank him as President of the country for his staunch support and sponsorship, as I said earlier, of many of the economic reforms and the financial reforms that gave the country an unprecedented 33 quarters of growth, hindi lang culture vulture si Ed, hindi lang educator kundi na rin isang napakadalubhasa sa ekonomiya. And with his support we have reinvested the gains of our growth in programs and projects that have enabled the country to survive the global economic slump and put us in an even better position to compete once the world's economies regain their health.

Kanina pinag-uusapan namin ni Ed yung ekonomiya ng mundo, and I congratulate the Chinese government because they are leading the world in economic recovery. And Ed and I were talking about this coco quire here, and China needs a lot of these. So, since China is doing a lot of pump priming on infrastructure including slope protection they're going to need these a lot. Sabi ko kay Ed, let us be ahead in taking advantage of the economic recovery of the world, ibenta na natin kaagad ang ating coco quire sa China.

Yung pag-uusap ng “Ramdam sa Kaunlaran,” palagay ko naman yung Aurora ay nararamdaman naman ang bunga ng kaunlaran, di ba? Kasi Aurora province has had its share of growth programs. May darating pa, yung Aurora Special Economic Zone Authority sponsored by Ed and Sonny, R.A. 9490 passed in 2007, this will hasten the entry of investments and the creation of more jobs.

Itong Aurora Economic Zone na ito ang vision ni Ed is that it will be the country's first "green" economic zone. It is taking shape to bring in investments in agriculture. In fact sabi ni Ed, merong malapit nang darating na aquaculture dito sa ating economic zone.

Also, eco-tourism and related services. It has already attracted the interest of Japanese — thank you, Ambassador — Spanish and other European investors. At dinig ko yung Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant ay naganap dito recently sa Baler, so it again rekindles the people's interest in Aurora and the economic zone. And we all hope that physical development will begin in the first semester next year.

Para dalhin din ang bunga ng kaunlaran sa taumbayan ng Aurora pinaibayo natin yung una yung airstrip sa Casiguran bilang isa sa ating priority programs. Sabi nga ni Sonny, ako lang daw ang pangulo na naglagay ng Aurora sa aking State of the Nation Address, and I am glad... I'm glad to note the improvements in the airport are now about 82 percent complete. Sana matapos itong airport itong taon na ito.

At katabi ng ating airport or para kumpletuhin yung mga infrastructure doon sa Casiguran dahil sa economic zone ay yung Casiguran Port project na inaasahan din natin ay matatapos sa loob ng ilang buwan.

Nung ako naman ay senador pa ay ako ang nakikita ko bilang taga Pampanga, taga Central Luzon ay kailangan ng pantalan sa Pacific Ocean, that is why it was in our interests to push also for the Dingalan Port. At yun naman kaya nung ako ay naging presidente iyon ang inuna kong ginawa, isa rin sa ating priority projects. Binisita natin ito nung isang taon at nakita pa natin ang isa sa pinakaimportanteng proyekto para papunta doon ay yung Tarlac-Nueva Ecija-Aurora-Dingalan Road project. Nagawa natin yung Dingalan Port to Dingalan Road at Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija nung 2007 tapos yung Bongabon to Gabaldon nung May. Pero palagay ko ang pinakaimportanteng imprastraktura para maramdaman ng mga taga Baler ang bunga ng kaunlaran ay yung SCTEX to Baler Road.

Kaya pag-upo ko sa coaster yun ang unang tinanong kong status kay Governor Bella, at mabuti naman kwinento na ni Senator Ed sa akin, nakausap niya ang Regional Director ng DPWH at tuloy-tuloy ang construction at inaasahan na matatapos yung kalsadang yun by the end of this year. Yun ang talagang bunga ng kaunlaran.

Pero dahil ang gusto natin ay yung economic zone ginagawa rin nating priority yung Baler-Casiguran Road na sinimulan natin nung 2007 at half-way through na ngayon.

Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan na kahit na maliit na Bayan ang Baler at Lalawigan ng Aurora makasaysayan naman at malaki ang potential, at yung mga mamamayan ay masisipag at matalino kaya karapatdapat lamang na pagbigyan kayo ng talagang... karapatdapat para sa inyo at kaya dito sa ating ika-apat na raang anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag ng Baler, ginugunita natin ang inyong kasaysayang bunga ng pananampalataya ng mga prayle, bunga ng pagkakaisa yung mga founding fathers, at mahusay na pamamahala na nakikita natin sa kaunlaran ng Baler itong mga kasalukuyang panahon.

At higit sa lahat, ipinagdidiriwang natin ang kaunlaran hindi lamang ng Baler kundi na rin ng buong Aurora. Happy 400th Anniversary and Happy Quezon Day sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the commemoration of the 400th year of Christianization and founding anniversary of Baler. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100300/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26021&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2009 World Breastfeeding Celebration

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2009 World Breastfeeding Celebration**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, August 27, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you, Boboy for your introduction.

Our other Cabinet members: Espie and Jing. And we have, I see too, former Cabinet members in our audience, my Dad's NEC chairman, the former NEDA Larry Henares, and former DOT Secretary Tony Gonzales. Congresswoman Bondoc, City Mayor Bautista, Elvira and the other leaders of the Breastfeeding Movement, ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome to Malacanang on this year's celebration of World Breastfeeding Month!

Since our proclamation in 2005, every year, we have held a program in Malacañan Palace to celebrate this very important month for mothers and infants. We do it to show our endorsement of the most economical way to nourish infants. We do it to support natural family planning practices because breastfeeding is indeed a safe method of natural family planning. We do it because we want only the best for the Filipino child, and that includes the best source of baby's nutrition — mother's milk.

Breastfeeding as you have heard from our Department of Health representative is part of our five-year national program for Infants and Young Child Feeding. And for this cause let me say that our mentor is a gentleman I mentioned earlier, Larry Henares, my late father's chairman of the National Economic Council.

It is not only women who can be advocates of the breastfeeding movement. In fact, aside from Secretary Henares, there is an outstanding American gentleman who played a key role in the international movement to make people aware, more aware of the benefits of breastfeeding.

We offer the deepest sympathies of the Filipino people to the family of that gentleman, the late U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, who just passed away yesterday. And it is fitting we hold this celebration today also to commemorate his memory and his contributions.

Senator Kennedy, Edward Kennedy was the youngest of the famous Kennedy brothers who contributed much to the U.S. advancement in human rights, in standing up to the Soviets during the Cold War, and in asserting the superiority of democracy over totalitarianism. Aside from what he did in common with his brothers, among Senator Edward Kennedy's greatest achievements were accomplished as chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. In this role he served the Philippines and the world when he chaired a session in 1979, that is 30 years ago, of the U.S. Senate Sub-Committee on Health to hear the testimony of a Filipina doctor, Dr. Natividad Clavano, about a 10,000-baby study on the experiences of the General Hospital in Baguio City. The study had shown a 95 percent decrease in infant mortality as the result of exclusive breastfeeding.

Reacting to this and related findings, Senator Edward Kennedy hurled a challenge to the World Health Organization. In two years' time, the WHO formulated the International Code on the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and other Related Products.

For his singular role in promoting human rights and public health, including the passage of that International Milk Code, we honor the late Senator Edward Kennedy. And we will soon present to his family our highest Presidential award, through Special Envoy Dr. Elvira Lichauco Henares-Esguerra for the public health component of the award and Presidential Adviser Sonny Alvarez for the human rights component of the award.

We also recall the pivotal role played by Dr. Nicholas Alipui, who was in the audio visuals today, former UNICEF country representative to the Philippines and now the programme director of the UNICEF, his role was large in promoting breastfeeding in our country. So, also through Elvira, our special envoy, we will be awarding him the Order of the Golden Cross, rank of Maringal na Krus.

But, these are the men who have helped us very much in the breastfeeding movement. But let us not forget the women. We further commend Elvira and Dr. Nona Castillo for their herculean efforts, in fact, they have been behind the revival of interest in breastfeeding in the country. We also thank my cabalen Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc for today in the Philippines though we have a Milk Code, we have to strengthen that with a strong implementing rules and regulations which the Supreme Court has upheld. And now, thanks to the efforts in Congress of Anna, hopefully, those implementing rules and regulations can be institutionalized into a revised Milk Code.

Through the efforts of Larry, Elvira, Nona, Anna, our Cabinet members here, the breastfeeding movement has gained a lot of supporters in our country, including those in disaster prevention and mitigation — and earlier, Elvira already acknowledged them — the boy scouts, the nurses, the policemen, the firemen from different walks of life, that seem to have nothing to do with breastfeeding but a lot to do with disaster response. There is so much support for breastfeeding that, as pointed out earlier by Elvira, we even won the Guinness World Records for several first in breastfeeding. So, congratulations for all of that!

The more advocates we have, the stronger the movement becomes to reach out and convince every mother to breastfeed their child. The mothers who are the staunchest supporters of this movement are willing to breastfeed even infants who are not their own. We saw earlier the heroic effort, the heroic role that the Chinese policewoman played after the Sichuan earthquakes, when she breastfed nine of the surviving babies. Without her breastfeeding other mother's babies, those babies would also have perished in the aftermath of that earthquake. That is why, as you saw also in the audio visual, we presented to her the World Breastfeeding Gold Medal Award in Beijing last year.

So, once again, in closing, I thank and congratulate all of you for your support and leadership in the breastfeeding movement. And together, our message to the Philippines is — and this is a message that was carried by our media because they always carry my speeches:

“Muli, tinatawagan natin ang sambayanan: suportahan nating lahat ang Breastfeeding Movement. Ang gatas ng ina ay mas matipid at mas masustansya. Nakakatipid tayo, nakakatulong tayo sa natural family planning, at higit sa lahat mas nakasisiguro tayo na magiging malusog at matalino ang ating mga sanggol at anak.”

Mabuhay ang mga ina at mga sanggol ng Pilipinas!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100228/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26194&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Awarding of the Builders of Baguio in Celebration of Baguio's Centennial Anniversary

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Awarding of the Builders of Baguio in Celebration of Baguio's Centennial Anniversary**

[Delivered at the Baguio City Hall, Baguio City, August 28, 2009]

Dios ti agngina unay, Apo Congressman Domogan, thank you so much for your very kind and very encouraging introduction. Thank you also for your good work as congressman and former mayor of the City of Baguio.

Mayor Rey Bautista and the other elected officials of Baguio City; the Baguio Centennial Commission headed by Chairman Bautista; our Builders of Baguio Awardees; our various leaders and representatives of the different communities of Baguio City, Happy Centennial Anniversary!

Congressman Domogan said that I'm always here in your important occasions. I'm also always here even in unimportant occasions, because we vacation here about two or three times a year every year since I was a young married woman.

Baguio is one of the most unique places in the country. You have your own climate and vegetation that is hardly found anywhere else in the country but now being imitated. And these were what attracted the Americans to Baguio.

When Baguio became a chartered city in 1909, a hundred years ago which is what we are celebrating, Baguio became a major tourist destination. It became the country's summer retreat from escape from the sweltering heat of the lowlands. It became the summer capital of the country. Even the Supreme Court chose to hold its sessions here during the hot season, and that practice continues to this day.

It became fashionable to vacation in Baguio during the hot months. My mother, Dra. Evangelina Macaraeg Macapagal, who hails from a town just an hour and a half drive away of Binalonan had so many stories of her high school vacations in Baguio in the early 1930s during the American period. She would come up every summer vacation and live in Engineer's Hill because her father was a District Engineer of the American administration. Everyday she would be fetched by a car of the Madrigal family to join her classmate and best friend, Macaria Madrigal who became Mrs. Macaria Madrigal de Leon, and they would go to Burnham Park and other places — remember they were teenagers — and they would watch popular young men like Carling Sevilla and Raul Manglapus who were very very popular on the dance floor — great memories of my mother.

And, even then, Burnham Park was the fashionable destination for the young people. The American architect Daniel Burnham, after whom Burnham Park was named, is remembered by outsiders as of now after whom Burnham Park was named but of course for oldtimers of Baguio and for us, for everybody else celebrating 100 years of Baguio one of the learnings is how the great Architect Daniel Burnham, architect and city planner, architect of the City of Chicago also became the architect of the City of Baguio and designed the city so magnificently, complementing not altering the natural contour of the land, and leaving Baguio with the distinct feel of an American city of the early 20th century.

And so I was telling Mayor Rey Bautista, Baguio and Chicago are both products of Burnham, both children of Burnham, how natural for Baguio and Chicago to become sister cities. (applause) But while that is being worked out in his honor and in honor of the Baguio Centennial as Mayor Bautista has said we have devolved Burnham Park to the city of government here in Baguio on the occasion of the start of your centennial celebrations last January 2009.

As part of your centennial celebrations also we... the Philippine Tourism Authority are contributing to the development of the Baguio Centennial Park where this beautiful statue is going to be unveiled on September 1, and that is also something that has been given even earlier by President Ramos to the City of Baguio. And indeed, I hope that with Baguio City owning these properties you can use your good income to develop and continue to sustain this beautiful attractions of Baguio City.

While Baguio is 100 years old as a chartered city, as Father Cosalan reminds us in his prayer, is really much older than that as a community. As we celebrate the centenary of Baguio City we're also made aware of its history of the 12 Ibaloi families, the Ilokano migrants, the German expatriate who founded Baguio. We are told that they were followed soon by the Spaniards. Then came the American colonizers who came here starting with Baguio as a hill station then getting bigger and bigger as a summer capital. And then the Japanese and other nationalities who helped build Kennon Road in 1905. One of the Japanese descendants is Mrs. Cecille Hamada Afable, and her son Yongyong became a member of my Cabinet.

The Baguio Centennial Commission as we saw earlier today is honoring the Builders of Baguio, pioneer families, and I congratulate Pauling Molintas for being a member of the Suello family; outstanding men including former Mayor Paraan; and outstanding institutions. One of the things we learn by celebrating the Centennial of Baguio is that Baguio Central School was the very first public school in the entire Philippines.

Mayor Rey Bautista tells us the story of his grandfather who was a teacher in Manila and then was recruited to teach in the new Baguio Central School at three times the salary of what the teachers in Manila were receiving, very attractive indeed, so he uprooted himself, started teaching in Baguio, and he's another third generation member resident of the City of Baguio. And the council as I look at you I also recognize other old families of Baguio City, so this is in honor of all of you as well and all your families.

One of the honorees is Eusebius Halsema. We outside know him as the man after whom was named the Halsema Highway which my father built as the major route to the northern towns of the Cordilleras. Now in this centennial celebration we learn more about Halsema as the mayor and architect of Baguio's transformation from 1920 to 1927. No wonder when my mother started to come here from 1928 to 1934 it was already such a destination for young people as it continues to be even today.

But speaking of Halsema, it is my honor as mentioned by Congressman Domogan to rehabilitate the Halsema Highway. I do it not only to honor the memory of my father Diosdado Macapagal who built it as a highway but also we hope it can be completed during this Baguio centenary as a tribute to Baguio as the center of the Cordilleras. In fact, the way to Baguio from the Halsema Highway is Magsaysay Avenue. And remember a few years ago, when Magsaysay Avenue was destroyed by a calamity, we immediately rebuilt it because it is a major artery not only for Baguio City but for the entire Cordilleras.

Also in furtherance of Baguio as a center of the Cordilleras, earlier this year, on your centenary, we inaugurated the Baguio-Aritao Road which connects Baguio to the rice terraces. So, therefore, all the more we make now Baguio-Banaue as one tourism package.

But that is Baguio of today, going back to Baguio of yesterday, we are not surprised to learn that the lure of Baguio and the Cordilleras was originally the rich minerals underneath its soil as well as the rich soil on the surface. The pioneers who developed Benguet mines also started the country's mining industry. The farmers of the province also found their gold mine in the vegetables and strawberries that came to be known as Baguio vegetables up to now even if they're producing Buguias and Baguio strawberries, even if they're producing La Trinidad. They're all known as Baguio because the way you know Manila as Manila even if it's in Quezon City or Bacoar for that matter it's Manila, anywhere here it's called Baguio.

But we want to promote this. To promote this tradition especially of the vegetables in the towns that surround Baguio, we have worked hard also to put value added. For instance, we funded the Benguet State University to start a Veggie Noodle Center so that the vegetables in the surrounding areas of Baguio can continue to be sustainable

whether the bumper harvest... whether their harvest is bumper, whether there are many cheap imports the important thing is vegetables remain an important part of the culture of Baguio and its surrounding areas.

Remembering a hundred years of Baguio includes commemorating its great tragedies: the World War II, which started and ended in Baguio City; the earthquake of 1990. We recall the start of the war and the earthquake with mourning, but we also marvel at how Baguio bounced back after the war and bounced back after the earthquake to be the bustling center it is today.

Baguio is perhaps the only city in the Philippines whose development was supported by the mining industry and the tourism sector. That your city was nurtured by two seemingly incompatible industries is a testament that development is not an either/or proposition. Congressman Domogan is a testament to how mining has helped the community. He started as a janitor in Lepanto, rose up to be lawyer. And we were talking earlier about the Ms. Philippines of 2001 also who was educated to become a lawyer by her father who was working in the mines. And that has not stopped Baguio from being a tourism destination.

Up to today, when there are so many other tourist destinations in the country, my family and I try to take a trip to Baguio every New Year and Holy Week. And this is long before I became president because my husband's family was one of the many families who stayed in Baguio so often during the whole summer break that they built their second residences here in Baguio including my husband's family which built the Tuason compound for their own residence.

But to go back to mining and tourism as a combination, on Mirador Hill there is a property that belongs to the Presidential Management Staff, and I have given permission that this will be used to build a mining museum. For your Baguio Convention Center we want that the surrounding trees will be preserved. So I have instructed Secretary Ermita to instruct the GSIS that any development to be undertaken must be done only in the built up areas and not in any place that is still with plenty of trees.

Because I've been coming here as I said every year practically since I got married but even before I got married, you know, recalling the history of Baguio I'm trying to recall the first time I went to Baguio, I can't remember because I've been coming all my life. I remember when I was very very young — maybe like three years old or some, which is when most of our earliest memories are — we were house guests of my father's brother-in-law, Rogelio dela Rosa in his house which became I think the Girl Scouts House now and then later on we would continue to come and sometimes in my cousin's house, sometimes in my classmate's house and then in the Vice President's Cottage. When my father was congressman and chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations in the Foreign Affairs House on Cabinet Hill, and then as vice president in the cottage, and then as president when my father were in The Mansion, that's why it's my second time now to be a resident of Mansion House.

And so, why do we keep coming here even if there are so many other tourism destinations that have developed over the last 100 years, because we love the mountains, we love the rice terraces of the neighboring provinces, we love the fresh air, we love the greenery of Baguio. These are the things that have been taken for granted not just in this country but around the world.

The environment — that is something that has been given to us by God but that are being ruined with mankind's own hands. But for the most part, environmental degradation is a result of lack of awareness that is happening. It's also therefore lack of making it a priority. That is why environmental conservation takes a very high priority in our development agenda. And we thank the leaders of Baguio for sharing this philosophy.

Together, we are finding ways to ensure that we balance economic and environmental interests exactly so that we can preserve our country's natural beauty found in such places as the beautiful City of Baguio, the City of Love as Father Cosalan says.

Isu nga kablawaak dagiti umili ti Baguio on your 100th year. Congratulations to all the people of Baguio City for 100 beautiful years! — that is what your streamers are saying. And may you have many many more not years but centuries of beautiful and sustainable development.

Agbiag ti Baguio! Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Awarding of the Builders of Baguio in Celebration of Baguio's Centennial Anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100110/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26198&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the meeting with the Filipino Community
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the meeting with the Filipino Community

[Delivered at the Golden Tent Hall, Tripoli, Libya, August 31, 2009]

Maraming salamat Secretary Roque sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin.

At siguro kilala na rin niyo si Secretary Bert Romulo ang ating Secretary of Foreign Affairs; si Secretary Cerge Remonde ang ating Press Secretary; si Secretary Bert Gonzales ang ating National Security Adviser; saka si Ambassador Paeng Seguis na siya ang Chairman ng ating Peace Panel na nakikipag-usap sa MILF.

Gusto kong batiin si Pangulong Makabinta at ang buong Philippine community, pati na rin kay Ambassador Vicente — welcome to Libya from being Consul General in Hongkong — and Mr. Jamal, our friend from Libya who's been taking good care of us since we arrived here today. Pwede na kayong maka-upo. Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Congratulations sa ating mga graduates! At doon sa iba maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo dito. King kabalen kung Capampangan, dactal a salamat king pamanyatang yu ngening bengi. Sa mga kaigsuonan gikan sa Visayas ug Mindanao, daghan salamat sa pag-anhi. Dagiti kakabsat nga Ilocano, agyaman ti ... tatta nga rabii. Sa mga kasimanwa, salamat gid nga ari kamo subong.

At gusto kong sabihin sa inyo, siguro alam naman ninyo ito, sa nadidinig ko sa mga tiga rito, saludo sa inyo ang lahat ng mga taga dito sa Libya. Congratulations!

I'm happy to learn that companies in Libya compete with the Filipinos working for them whether as nurses in Libyan hospital — congratulations! sa mga nasa Medical Center — or engineers building the towers of Tripoli, our mechanics manning the oil fields in the desert, at yung iba-iba niyong mga trabaho rito, my hats off to the Filipino workers in Libya.

Talagang hindi matatawaran ang sipag at kalidad ng inyong trabaho, gayundin ang mabubuting asal at katapatan ninyo sa tungkulin. Kaya kahit narito si Ambassador Vicente kayo ang mga tunay na embahador ng Pilipinas sa Libya. At hindi lamang ito kung hindi lalong matimbang kayo sa ating bansa — pinagdadarangal at pinapahalagahan ang inyong sakripisyo at katapatan sa inyong trabaho, sa inyong pamilya at sa ating bansa.

Gaya na nang sabi ni Ambassador Vicente parati kong sinasabi nasa hirap at ginhawa pinapatatag ninyong mga OFW ang ating bansa. Yung padala niyong 16 billion dollars mga OFWs sa buong mundo nung isang taon kahit na nagkaroon na ng economic crisis yun ay record sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa. Pero itong taon mas mataas pa ang pinapadala ninyo kaya maraming salamat.

At alam ko na ito ay nanggagaling sa sakripisyo. It is not a sacrifice joyfully borne, it is lonely work, very hard work. Although here in Libya, I hear it is not as lonely for some of you especially those who are working in the oil fields compared to other countries because many of you have been allowed to bring your family with you, hindi ba? Isang malaking bentaha yan haming sa mga OFW ng ibang bansa. And this way you're even able to look after your family members yourselves.

Hindi ako nag-aatubiling bisitahin ang ating taong bayan at inyong mga host sa buong mundo mula sa Middle East hanggang sa American Midwest gaya ng Chicago, mula Libya hanggang London nakikinig sa inyong mga problema at pangangailangan. Inaalam kung papano kayo matulungan ng ating pamahalaan by working out better policies on migrant labor or by saving lives and restoring liberties.

And I'm so glad that here in Libya there are not too many problems with the law. And I don't have to come here to ask for salvation from the death penalty for any Filipino worker. My visit here this time, kasi meron sa inyo nakilala ko na nung nag state visit ako ng 2006, but this time my visit has given me the opportunity, to renew the opportunity to engage the leaders of Africa who are important to our country. We were invited by Libya, by the chairman of the African Union to come to their summit and also to the 40th Anniversary tomorrow of the Libyan Revolution.

Africa is becoming more important, more and more important to the Philippines. We are directly affected, our energy security is directly affected by the peace and order in Africa. But even more than that the safety and welfare of many of our Overseas Filipinos are also affected by the peace and order of Africa especially our seafarers. Malapit nang matapos ang East African monsoon, so we feel a surge of pirate attacks of the coast of Somalia where many of our seafarers work on board the ships that pass through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aden.

Bagamat marami na ang pinakawalaan mahigit dalawang daan Filipino seamen ang nagdusa sa kamay ng mga pirata kaya masigasig tayong nagsisikap para proteksyunan ang ating mga seafarer. This is one issue where it is crucial for Africa to work together to bring peace and order in the affected areas of the Coast of Somalia.

Earlier today I had the opportunity to speak with the President of Somalia. He is also worried, he is also concerned about the terrorists who harass the boats that pass through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aden of the Coast of Somalia. And he realizes how important it is to us because we are the number one seafaring people in the world.

So, one way by which we can help to address the problem of peace and order in Somalia is by institution-building. Halimbawa, palakasin yung kanilang civil service, palakasin yung kanilang coast guard, at alam naman ninyo ang mga Pilipino eksperto sa mga ganung bagay, yung mga human resource development. Kaya dahil mahalaga ito sa ating mga seafarer ang pinag-usapan namin ng pangulo ng Somalia kanina ay tutulong ang mga Pilipino sa pag training sa kanilang mga civil servants. Ikabubuti ng Somalia at ikabubuti din ng ating mga Pilipino.

On the part of Libya, Libya has always been standing by us. During my administration, Libya's help has been so big in bringing peace and hope to the Southern Philippines. And also, in helping to strengthen and form a deeper relation with the other Muslim countries. (applause) Together with Brunei and Japan, Libya monitors our ceasefires with the MILF.

And I am glad to see some of the students who are studying in the Islamic Call Society because that is a very important institution for us to teach the real Islam, the Islam that loves peace and abhors hatred. And it is our honor that during our administration we were able to accord the Libyan Islamic Call Society diplomatic status (applause) to make it easier for us to work together for peace and development.

Libya's role in our peace is also important because of the connection of peace to development. As we improve the security of the parts of the country that have known some degree of violence — and we are doing this together with the help of the international community, kasama na nga ang Libya — mas mabilis tayong kumilos para magdala ng kaunlaran sa mga lugar na yun na nung araw ay marami ang labanan. Marahil yun din ang isang dahilan kung bakit isa tayo sa iilan lamang mga bansa sa buong mundo na nakakaraos sa kasalukuyang world economic recession at tuloy pa rin na positive ang ating growth rate.

Itong pandaigdigang krisis ng ekonomiya ang isang naipakita ay yung ating ekonomiya ay matatag at malakas, mababa ang inflation, at handa na tayo para sa economic rebound. Yung ating mga business outsourcing at call centers tuloy-tuloy ang kanilang boom. Yung tourism, kausap ko lang si Secretary Durano kanina sa telepono, umaakyat yung ating manufacturing sector, umaangat na naman muli pagkatapos nang bumaba nung panahon ng world economic crisis. Yung mga bagong construction tuloy-tuloy walang tigil. Yung ating mga hotel punong-puno ng mga negosyante mula sa buong mundo.

Kaya tayo ay bullish para sa ating prospects for a solid recovery. At ito ay importante dahil nagsisikap tayong lumikha sa ating bansa ng mga trabahong maganda ang kita para sa ganun kayo overseas work will just be a career choice and not the only option for a hardworking Filipino.

Samantala, sa ating mga nag graduate ngayon at sa mga organisasyon na tumutulong dito sa programa gusto kong magpasalamat sa inyong lahat na mataas ang tingin sa Pilipinas dito sa bansang Libya dahil pinapakita ninyo ang excellence ng great Filipino worker.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, congratulations! More power to you!

Maraming, maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the meeting with the Filipino Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100052/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26199&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo on the death of Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño G. Manalo

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the death of Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño G. Manalo**

[Delivered at the Presidential Lounge, NAIA Terminal II, September 2, 2009]

Ang pagpanaw ni Ka Erdy Manalo ay isang malaking kawalan hindi lang para sa kapatiran ng Iglesia ni Cristo kundi na rin sa lahat ng Pilipino.

Bilang punong gabay sa ispiritwal na pamumuhay ng milyon-milyong katao sa buong mundo, nagpamalas si Ka Erdie ng natatanging pamamahala na puno ng pagmamahal at pagmamalasakit sa kapatiran. Siya'y huwarang Pilipinong nagpalaganap ng pananampalataya at pagkakaisa.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa mga payo at tulong na ibinigay ni Ka Erdie sa akin mula noong ako'y Senador pa.

Ako at ang aking Gabinete, kasama ang aking pamilya, ay taos-pusong nakikiramay sa naulilang pamilyang Manalo at sa kapatiran sa pananampalataya ng dakilang Ka Erdie.

Pasalamat nating lahat ang Panginoong Diyos sa ginawang paglilingkod ni Ka Erdie

sa sambayanang Pilipino.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's message on the death of Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño G. Manalo. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412095903/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26200&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Filipino World War II Veterans Assembly

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Filipino World War II Veterans Assembly

[Delivered at Camp Aguinaldo, September 3, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Teodoro for your introduction. And thank you also for helping me fight for the cause of the veterans in the United States.

Undersecretary Carolina, President of the Veterans Federation Colonel de Ocampo, Chairman Diaz of the Veterans Affairs Committee. And we have here Congresswoman Roman and her husband Antonino Roman, Congresswoman Herminia Roman and her husband former Congressman Roman, and Congressman Roman Romulo — panay Roman tayo dito ah — and Congressman Dodo Mandanas. General Ibrado and the other members of the Armed Forces, our dear veterans, our sons and daughters of the veterans, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Una sa lahat, binabati ko ang mga beteranong narito ngayon. Kasi gusto kong ulitin na kinikilala ng buong sambayanan na malaking karangalan ang inyong binigay sa ating bansa. Kaya karangalan ko ngayon na makasama kayo, kayo ang mga bayaning nagtanggol sa kalayaan ng ating bayan at ng buong mundo. Dahil sa matinding pagtatanggol ninyo sa Bataan at iba pang bahangi ng Pilipinas nung yung mga kalaban ay pumunta rito, natagalan yung giyera dito hindi nakapunta sa ibang mga lugar na pupuntahan pa nila pagkatapos, kaya you saved not only the Philippines but the whole world.

At naalala ko kayo kahit na nung ako ay nasa Africa kung saan ako nanggaling, why? Because Africa today means so much to our peace and stability. The peace and stability of Africa means so much to our energy security, but more importantly, the safety and welfare of many of our overseas Filipinos, including our seafarers.

And on our part, like you during the Second World War contributing to the safety of the whole world, we also are an important contributor to peace and stability on the African continent. Because we have hundreds of Filipino soldiers and policemen in different United Nations missions in Africa including Darfur in Sudan and Cote d' Ivoire. And these were very important conflicts that were discussed during the African Summit on Conflict Resolution that I just attended. Our soldiers and policemen in Africa are helping to preserve peace and they are a tribute to the professionalism and dedication of our men and women in uniform. They are our nation's investment in global peace and they are your heirs, your spiritual heirs, they continue your tradition of courage for the cause of freedom.

And I know that their sacrifice in Africa is not a sacrifice joyfully borne. It is work where it can be found in faraway places, among strangers with different cultures and it is very lonely to be there in those distant outpost of the world. Kaya nagsisikap tayong lumikha dito sa atin ng mga trabahong maganda so that overseas work will just be a career option and not the only option for a Filipino.

And one of the things we try to do to be able to create good jobs here in the Philippines is to develop our PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate. So, for instance, I was asking Colonel de Ocampo, how is PHIVIDEC of which he is the chairman representing the veterans? And he said it's okay, doing fine. Thanks to the support of the national government and we are hoping that very soon — actually, they've already started to put up a training center. Hanjin which has a major project, a billion-dollar project in Subic and Bataan and Zambales will do its even bigger billion-dollar plus expansion in the PHIVIDEC area of Misamis Oriental.

Hindi ako nag-aatubiling bisitahin ang ating taong-bayan at kanilang mga hosts sa buong mundo mula Africa hanggang American Midwest — ngayon ang hometown ni President Obama — nakikinig sa mga problema ng ating mga Pilipino, mga pangangailangan ng ating mga Pilipino doon at inaalam kung papano sila matutulungan ng ating pamahalaan by working out better policies on migrant labor, for instance.

Halimbawa sa Libya, iniwanan ko doon nung ako ay umuwi kagabi si Secretary Nitoy Roque para mabuo niya yung kanyang labor agreement doon sa Minsitry of Labor ng Libya. Another thing we do is to save lives and restore liberty. Yung mga ating mga manggagawa, kasi kung by the law of average if we have eight million people abroad siguro naman may ilang magkakaroon ng problema sa batas at merong mga bansa na may death penalty. Yun ay malaking napapakiusap natin na kung hindi tayo pumupunta doon at personal na humihingi ng pabor sa mga pinuno nila ay marami doon ay nagkaroon na ng kanilang execution ng death penalty.

Our vigorous international engagement has also brought in foreign investments. Kaya tignan naman ninyo itong mga investments na pumasok sa ating administrasyon, 15 times over what we started with at kasama ng ating mga overseas Filipinos, itong mga investments natin ay nagdoble tuloy ang ating foreign exchange at pinalakas ang ating piso at naiwasan ang lubhang pagtaas ng presyo. In fact, our inflation rate is the lowest today in many many years. At sa gitna ng ating global recession na upgrade pa ang ating credit rating. Kaya habang yung ating mga kapaligirang bansa ay bumababa ang kanilang foreign exchange reserves over the past years, yung atin naman ay lumalaki by three billion dollars. At kahit na two-thirds ng mundo ay nasa recession during the last twelve months, tayo 34 quarters of uninterrupted growth. Yun ang ating nararanasan sa Pilipinas.

Pero yung global engagement natin ay hindi lamang para sa kapayapaan, hindi lamang para sa investment, it has also corrected historical injustice. Gaya nga ng sabi ni Colonel de Ocampo hindi pa ako pangulo ay pag pumupunta ako sa America parating bahagi ng aking agenda ay yung veterans rights from the beginning. And I was so happy that last February, the day that we visited Washington, Senator Daniel Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations sponsored the benefits for our veterans as part of American's stimulus package.

Mabuti sinabi nga ni Undersecretary Carolina nandiyaan yung language nung nasa batas mismo na provision that recognizes our veterans. Siguro para meron siyang kapareha, I will also give you what Senator Inouye gave me what he said when he defended the veterans provisions. But let me tell you what he said verbally first. He said: "On January 26, 1941, the President of the U.S., Mr. Roosevelt, issued a military order through General MacArthur calling upon Filipinos to volunteer in the Army to serve in the Navy, to serve in the Air Force, because the President sensed correctly that there was much instability and violence in Asia. He felt the time had come for the U.S. to be prepared for any eventuality. As a result of that call, 470,000 Filipinos stepped forward and volunteered to serve in the military under the command of General MacArthur."

As we all know, on December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was bombed, and then the forces of Japan began advancing to the Philippines. The first major target was the Bataan Peninsula. The 14th Japanese Army surrounded the peninsula. That peninsula contained at the moment 80,000 troops. We all assumed that the 80,000 were American troops, sabi niya. No, about 18,000 were American troops; the rest were Filipinos. Yes, the majority of the troops in Bataan were Filipinos, but somehow, sabi niya, if you look at Hollywood on the Bataan Death March, you will hardly see a Filipino marching. So kaya siguro hindi kinikilala ang ginawa ng mga Pilipino nung panahong yun. In fact, sabi niya sa akin sa ibang mga conversation, ang nakikita nila doon si Audie Murphy pero hindi yung ating mga magiging na Pilipino.

But anyway to continue what he said on the Senate floor: "Of the survivors of Bataan, 15,000 were Americans, 60,000 were Filipinos. The march took a little over a month. They were not given medicine or water. But the time it ended, 54,000 survived. Very few Filipinos survived. And then we had Corredigor. The same thing."

In March 1942, the Congress of the U.S. — the Senate and the House of the U.S.— passed a measure thanking the Filipinos for their gallantry, for their heroism, and said: "If you wish, you may become a citizen of the U.S. and get all the benefits." But the war ended, and in February of 1946, the U.S. Congress passed a bill rescinding, repealing the Act of 1942. Sabi nga ni Senator Inouye, believe it or not, Congress declared that the service the Filipinos had rendered was not active duty. So yun ang malaking insulto na nangyari sa ating mga beterano sa ating bansa.

And to go back to Senator Inouye, and he speaks for all of us when he said, we waited all this time. We have had measure after measure presented. We did so in the proper fashion but we got filibustered, we got ruled out and everything else. Yun ang sabi niya.

Well on my part, as I said, in my visits to the U.S. even before I became president and especially since 2001, I have been fighting for our veterans cause, for our veterans benefits. Naalala ko yung dating U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs ay talagang nahihirapan na siya sa akin kasi tuwing pumupunta ako doon I would call him to come and see me and we talk about this bill. Hirap na hirap siyang maipasa sabi niya, pero nagbigay sila ng mga interim measures. Kasama sa interim measures na binigay nila, the U.S. has been equipping our Veterans Hospital since my state visit of 2003 in America, another direct benefit of our engagement with the United States. In any case, after the sponsorship speech of Senator Inouye, on that day that we were in Washington, the U.S. recognized you our Filipino World War II veterans.

So last July, I accepted the invitation of President Obama to be the first Southeast Asian leader to meet him at the White House, partly in order to express our appreciation for recognizing our veterans in their fiscal stimulus package. And I told him that this long overdue recognition will hopefully go a long way toward rewarding you, our patriotic Filipinos who fought side-by-side with Americans under U.S. command during those heroic days.

I also thanked him and the U.S. government for equipping our military and training them to enhance their professionalism and effectiveness, and to advance “soft” power by helping build schools, roads, bridges and building our local economy through American development assistance in Mindanao and across the nation. These joint efforts have helped strengthen our paradigm for peace in Mindanao.

Andaming naitutulong ng mga Amerikano sa ating laban kontra sa terorismo lalo na tuwing nagkaron ng meeting ang inyong lingkod at ang Pangulo mas gumaganda ang tulong. Halimbawa ngayon meron tayong mga kaso kontra sa mga Abu Sayyaf, yung ating mga prosecutors ay tinutulungan ng American forces sa kanilang safety, sa kanilang transportation at lahat-lahat kaya gumaganda ang prosecution. Kasi nung araw halos walang gustong pumunta sa Sulu magprosecute dahil natatakot ngunit dahil tinutulungan sila sa mga facilities, while Americans cannot find on the ground, they can help in so many other ways. So those are some of the ways that many don’t know about by which they help our fight against terrorism.

Nung ako ay pumunta sa Washington kasama ko si Gilbert, Senators Inouye and Daniel Akaka, who is Chairman of the U.S. Veterans Affairs Committee of the Senate, visited us at the Presidential Suite to receive also our thanks for being most instrumental in having the veterans recognition included in the stimulus package.

Naalala ko nung hindi pa Democrats yung nanduon sa majority ng Senado at Congress, at Senator Inouye was the ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, naalala ko sinabi niya sa akin minsan dahil parati tayo nakikipag-ugnayan sa kanya dahil siya ang champion ng mga beterano sa package veterans compensation. Sabi niya sa akin, hayaan mo at pag bumalik na yung mga kapartido ko at magiging majority kami muli ako muli ang magiging chairman ng Committee on Appropriations at titiyakin ko magbibigay tayo ng karapatan sa ating mga Filipino veterans, at yun na nga ang nangyari.

I also met with the Philippine Friendship Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives to thank them for all the years they have fought for our veterans benefits. Yung mga yun parati kong binibisita sa Kongreso para palakasin ang kanilang loob so that they will continue to fight for us, kasi remember yung mga lumalaban para sa atin ay yung mga kung saan maraming Filipino. Halimbawa San Diego, yung mga congressmen ng San Diego talagang pinaglalaban nila ang ating veterans benefits. Kaya lang meron din naman yung mga congressmen doon sa mga lugar na walang masyadong Filipino nagiging very protectionist sila ngayon doon sa recession ng America. Sila naman ay lumalaban, sabi nila, bakit mo bibigyan ng pera yung mga nandoon sa ibang bansa. Eh kaya nga natin dito kaya kailangan pinapalakas natin ang loob ng ating mga kaibigang congressman doon and that is what we have been doing. Last February, we did that and now this July, we thanked them.

At binanggit ng mga senador at kongresista, nang kami ni Gilbert ay nagpasalamat sa kanila, na yung lump sum payment na naisama doon sa stimulus package ay bukod pa sa mga benepisyong dating binibigay sa inyo. Sabi nga

nila: "Please make sure to remind everybody that what we are providing for in the stimulus package is in addition to the present benefits they're already getting, not as a replacement of the present benefits."

Pinapaalala nila, in addition to the recognition of your military service and your lump sum payments, those enjoying the supplementary security income will continue with it. For instance, si U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, si Eric Shinseki binisita rin kami ni Gilbert sa Presidential Suite. He pointed out that outside of the new veterans... when he called on us during our Washington visit that outside of the new veterans benefits his department has also been disbursing funds to veterans and their families, including death pensions in the amount of 17 million dollars a month. Sabi nga ni Kristie Kenney 12 million dollars, ang nag correct si Congressman Mandanas, sabi niya: "No, it's not 12 million dollars, it's 17 million dollars." So yung buong sum na yun, the aggregate sum is even bigger than the new stimulus package.

They're cumulatively more than what the stimulus package provides for. And he also assured me that the assistance to the Veterans Hospital would continue. He reported that the U.S. is providing an MRI facility to the veterans hospital. Tapos siguro I hope you don't mind sinabi ko rin sa kanya, sana sa mga darating if you can help put up facilities for veterans in the provinces where a lot of them live then that would be very helpful kasi matatanda na ang mga veterans. Sana hindi na kailangang magbiyahe pa sa Pilipinas para magkaroon ng treatment.

Alam ko kasi... alam na natin kasi ngayon kung saan nakatira yung mga nakararaming beterano dahil nung nilagda ni President Obama ang mga benepisyo, agad tayong kumilos upang masimulan ang proseso ng application at pagsumite ng dokumento, at kabilang sa direktiba ko tungkol dito ang pagpapatayo ng mga processing center sa mga probinsiya kung saan marami ang mga beteranong nakatira kaya alam na natin ngayon where the veterans live. And therefore I hope and I will ask Secretary Teodoro to make sure that that is carried out, that future facilities will not only be in the Veterans Hospital but in areas around the Philippines where we have many many veterans living there.

Nung ako ay magmimiting na kay Secretary Shinseki maraming mga beteranong nag text sa akin — although they went through friends whom they know have my text number — nag text sa akin, and their message was: that they look forward to the speedy implementation of the provisions for Filipino veterans. At yun ang sinabi ko kay Secretary Shinseki na sana hanapan ng paraan kung papano mas mabilis pa ang pagproseso ng veterans benefits. And he replied that his Department if needed would hire additional personnel to fast track the claims. When I apprised her, so ito kailangan din i-follow up nila Gilbert yung pangako ni Secretary Shinseki, na paparamihin nila yung mga empleyado nila na nagpoproseso ng claims para mas mabilis asikasuhin yung claims ng ating mga beterano.

When I apprised Senators Inouye and Akaka of the developments in the processing of the claims, he asked whether the funds for the processing of claims would be sufficient. And Secretary Teodoro reported that more than 31,000 claims have already been filed with the PVAO headed by Nessie Carolina, whereas the original estimate was only 18,000, so halos doble ang nag file compared to the estimate. So that is one of the problems, so now Senators Inouye and Akaka know about that. The first payment if you remember was issued last April 8. Now we expect hopefully the filing of claims to go faster now that Secretary Shinseki made his commitment and Secretary Teodoro will follow up on that commitment.

We must beat the February 16 deadline next year for the filing of all claims. And that is what I'm glad to be able to have the chance to meet with you about, to remind everyone, tell all your members they have to file the claims before the 16th of February.

You know Colonel de Ocampo was talking about our efforts for the veterans benefits. Kung hindi natin ginawa itong efforts baka hanggang ngayon wala pa ito. And therefore I was very honored, I am very honored that it was during our administration now that the U.S. Congress and the U.S. administration recognized more than 60 years of struggle endured by the surviving Filipino World War II veterans. I am also honored that it was under our administration that the veterans of WWII as well as of other wars finally received your old age pensions that were not paid by previous administrations.

Nung ako ay pumasok bilang pangulo nakita ko yung arrears, seven billion pesos, eh budget deficit na, malaking budget deficit natin nuon parang imposible na mababayaran natin itong utang na ito, but now we have paid them. And that is thanks also to our congressmen, they can always put a provision paying you, but if they don't help you with the tax measures we won't be able to pay you. But they have helped us with the tax measures, with the Value Added Tax, kaya nabayaran ang mga utang ng old age pensions ng ating beterano.

Now, that we paid the old age pensions, the arrears, we go to looking at the other debts that the national government has incurred because of unfunded legislation. Ang isa dito yung total administrative liability, ang laki-laki nang utang na yun. Kaya kausap ko si Nonoy Andaya kagabi at hanggang kaninang umaga, hanggang ngayon dito nung nakikita niyong nagtext ako, nagcellphone ako, si Andaya ang kausap ko. Papano natin masisimulaan na bayaran ito? Sabi ko kay Nonoy, at least bayaran natin yung total administrative liability ng World War II veterans for the year 2009 at doon tayo magsisimula.

Kaya magtulungan tayo lahat para maipaabot sa mga beterano natin, ang ating mga bayani ng kahapon, na dapat ituloy ang paggalang hanggang ngayon ang mga beterano na tulungan sa mga benepisyong nararapat.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat sa pagkakataon maglingkod sa inyo. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Filipino World War II Veterans Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412095511/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26202&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing ceremonies of the Mindanao Island Cluster Conference of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the closing ceremonies of the Mindanao Island Cluster Conference of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)**

[Delivered at Hotel Stotsenberg, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, September 3, 2009]

Maraming salamat Mayor Monching sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at saka sa magandang idea mong nagkakaroon itong mga ibat-ibang mga cluster meetings.

At dakal a salamat naman Mayor Tarzan Lazatin king masanting a pag magwelcome yu kiring kekatang a kaluguran manibat king a Mindanao. And I'd like to congratulate also Mayor Dennis for hosting some of the affairs here, and of course Mayor Abalos and all of the mayors of Mindanao. According to Mayor Abalos some of you it's the first time you come to Clark, so welcome to my home province of Pampanga.

We are meeting at a very important time in the history of our country when the world has been shaken by global economic crisis. But thank God, we are one of the few nations, out of the two-thirds of the world that went into recession, we are one of the one-third that have withstood the onslaught and kept our growth positive.

Part of the reason is that the bitter and unpopular medicine of economic reform that we did years ago — thanks to the help of our congressman like Congressman Tarzan Lazatin — helped to create a firewall that softened the pressures arising from the global economic downturn. Hindi ba madalas may sunog sa mga probinsya pati sa Manila, kung dikit-dikit yung mga barong-barong lahat nasusuno, pero kung meron kayong firewall hindi umaabot sa kabila ng pader yung sunog. And our economic reforms caused that firewall. That is why we were able to maintain positive economic growth not only during this global economic downturn when the world two-thirds went into recession but for 34 uninterrupted quarters of our administration.

Yung sinasabi natin noon na palalakasin ang ating economy nung mga tax reforms natin napatunayan dito sa recession because the world recession showed our economy is stable and strong. Yung growth natin sa second quarter of this year mas mabuti pa keysa sa growth ng first quarter. At yung ating inflation isa sa pinakamababa, halos zero ang ating inflation ngayon, sa buong kasaysayan ng ating bansa. So, we are ready for the economic rebound. And our macroeconomic stability is a major strength that will put us in a stronger position as an attractive investment and business destination.

Halimbawa, kahit na sa Mindanao umabot na yung ating mga business processing and call centers, doon sa Davao meron na, sa Cagayan de Oro. Our business process outsourcing and call center industry continues to boom. Our tourism is way up. Our manufacturing sector na bumaba nung recession it's picking up again. New construction continues unabated, kung dumaan kayo sa Metro Manila panay makikita niyo mga cranes, construction cranes, and our businessmen... our hotels are full of businessmen from around the world. So, overall I am quite bullish about our prospects for solid recovery.

Imagine two-thirds of the world went into a recession, tayo hindi, hindi lang ito nagkaroon pa tayo ng credit upgrade. At siguro dapat maalala natin ang situation ngayon compared to 2001 nung nagsimula lang tayo. Kasi ngayon kapaligiran natin marami nang naghihirap na bansa tayo umaangat. Nung 2001, Asia was surging but the

Philippines was on the verge of bankruptcy. And do you remember before our administration you could not even get your IRA paid in full.

But since then, what did we do? What are those economic reforms? We put new tax revenues in place so that we could pay for better healthcare — nandiyan si Secretary Pingkoy Duque inimbata ko para kasama natin ngayon — so that we could pay for a strong education system, so that we could pay for more roads gaya nang mga sinabi ni Congressman Tarzan Lazatin na nawitness sa kanyang distrito, so we could pay for more roads and ports. Binanggit ko yung ports kasi yung ating RORO system that was for the very purpose of bringing Mindanao products to Luzon at a faster and lower cost, hindi ba, Mayor? Nakatulong sa inyo.

Doon naman sa Mindanao andami nating kalsadang mga itinayo o nakumpleto, isang halimbawa lamang, yung Pagadian-Zamboanga Road, kamusta na siguro tapos na by now. It used to be called the longest road because it took the previous administration so long to build so little pero nakumpleto natin. Tapos yung Cagayan de Oro-Surigao Road, we've also improved that and it has cut travel time and it has revived commerce in Agusan.

We designed with our tax reforms housing policies to lift up our poorest citizens so they can live and raise a family with dignity. Our tax reforms also even if agriculture is devolved, our tax reforms funded agricultural investments, and that is a lot of it went to Mindanao which is our food basket. They strengthened our farmers as the backbone of the nation, and they gave our farmers the modern tools to feed our nation and feed their own family. At higit sa lahat, siguro para sa inyo ngayon buo na ang binabayad na IRA ninyo, 'di ba? Hindi lang yun we even paid the IRA that past administrations owed you. At hindi lang yun dahil sa Value Added Tax kung tumataas yung Value Added Tax tumataas din yung inyong IRA. So, this year you participated in the biggest VAT increase in history of 40 billion pesos for the local government.

And I want to thank you for using your IRA bonanza to contribute to our country's economic resiliency. At dagdag pa sa inyong IRA tinanong ko kay Monching kung binriefing na kayo tungkol doon sa mga foreign assisted projects na nahahanap ng League of Mayors, League of Municipalities, so congratulations to Monching and the leadership of LMP because they found through their global engagement creative ways of having on top of your IRA additional projects funded by various development institutions. Tinanong ko kay Monching kung pinresent niya yung Canadian Executive Service Organization — so it was presented on the first day — kasama yun ng ating Commission on ICT, our own Commission on Information and Communication Technology. I understand that the Canadian Executive Service Organization and CICT helped to computerize the tax system of 43 towns in Luzon, so sana yung mga bayan ng Mindanao ay makinabang din.

Tapos tinanong ko rin kay Monching kung pinresent rin niya yung ILO program at — yes, he did — to enable mayors, the ILO-sponsored programs to enable mayors to share best practices on livelihood projects for your workers in your constituents. So para sa mga pandagdag sa IRA na programang ganito, congratulations sa League of Municipalities!

So the LMP shares the lesson that I have been imparting that global engagement is what has been an essential component of what has kept our country from getting pulled under the raging economic waves sweeping most countries. At bahagi nitong global engagement kadadating ko lang galing sa Libya. Ang Libya ay ay isang key ally na nagpapalakas ng ating paradigm for peace in Mindanao.

Ang Libya ay laging pinanindigan tayo. Nung una pang nagkaroon ng terrorists crisis tayo nung 2001, yung Dos Palmas, nakausap ko si President Khadafi at tinatanong nga niya kung anong tulong ang kailangan natin. At sinabi ko ang tulong na gusto ko labanan yung mga terorista dahil ayaw ko magbigay ng ransom. At sabi niya, “sige, tutulong ako,” and he has been helping. Malaki ang tulong ng Libya sa pagdala ng kapayapaan at pag-asa sa Mindanao, at hindi lang yun dahil si Khadafi ay isang leader sa buong Africa na napakaraming mga Muslim countries doon. Malaki rin ang kanyang tinutulong sa pagbuo ng ating mas malalim na relasyon sa mga bansang Muslim. At kasama ng Brunei at Hapon, ang Libya, silang tatlo ang ating international monitoring team ng ceasefire natin kasama sa MILF.

Bukod doon sa pagpapalakas ng relasyon natin sa kanila ay kausap ko rin yung Khadafi Foundation, na gustong tumulong sa pamamagitan ng investment sa Mindanao. Ang pinag-usapan namin, kagabi lang yun — ay, hindi makalawang kagabi pala — ay bago ako umalis ay yung maglagay ng investments doon sa mga paligid ng Liguasan Marsh at saka Agusan Marsh. Tulungan natin silang gumawa ng magandang proyekto.

That is a very important part of our poverty alleviation program which we want to do throughout the Philippines but especially in Mindanao where six of our poorest provinces are located, namely: Tawi-Tawi, welcome! sa ating mga mayors ng Tawi- Tawi; Zamboanga del Norte; Maguindanao, diyan welcome! nakita ko yung mga mayors doon; Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands; and Lanao del Sur. Likewise six of our most food-poor provinces, namely: Zamboanga del Norte, Tawi-Tawi, Agusan del Sur — nakita ko yung isang mayor ng Agusan del Sur diyan — Maguindanao, Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands. They're also in Mindanao. So, we are working to use the larger part, the biggest part of our resources go to our mission of alleviating poverty.

So, once again I ask you, mayors, let us work hard to fulfil our Philippine Reform Agenda until our terms end.

Let us fight for the Economy, Education, the Environment.

Bahagi ng ating poverty alleviation, we have a National Anti-Hunger Task Force — yun ang nasa ilalim ng panguluhan ni Secretary Pingkoy Duque kaya I ask him to come here today because six of the most food-poor provinces are in Mindanao. And I asked the National Nutrition Council to conduct more... no, the Anti-Poverty Task Force to conduct more frequent visits to the most food-poor provinces to identify the problems first-hand and to do what is necessary to address them as quickly as possible.

Ngayon dahil hindi naman makapunta kaagad ang National Nutrition Council sa lahat ng bahagi ng ating bansa, I asked them to create local Anti-Hunger Task Forces in the provinces to assist in locating the problems and resolving them as soon as possible. Gusto natin na yung sistema ng national and local Anti-Hunger Task Force ay palalakasin ang cooperation ng national government at local government para harapin ang problema ng kagutuman sa ating bansa sa paraang mas mabilis at mas mabisa.

There are already Regional Anti-Hunger Task Forces organized by the National Nutrition Council in such provinces as Sarangani, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Agusan del Sur, Maguindanao, Surigao del Norte at yung unang-una yung Lanao del Norte. Pinuntahan ko nga yung Lanao del Norte at sa interview pinaliwanag ni Governor Dimaporo, Kali Dimaporo kung ano ang ginagawa nung Anti-Hunger Task Force ng Lanao del Norte at sana magawa ito sa lahat ng mga probinsya ng Mindanao lalo na yung anim na most food-poor provinces ng Mindanao. And I hope that our mayors will be active in those councils.

Kaya tinawag ko si Secretary Duque dito para tiyakin na in those provinces that I just mentioned now we will organize local Anti-Hunger Task Forces kaagad. So meron kayong output nitong meeting ninyo dito on top of the ones that Mayor Guico was able to brief you about.

Dear Mayors, you have laid your own plans to make your respective constituents more productive and to bring your towns nearer to your growth targets. And it's good that you're the ones making your plans, it's good that the league is working together to help you make your plans better and implement them better. Because it is you rather than the national government that know best how to strengthen your respective local units.

Our part was to reform the internal revenue to assure you of funds to finance your projects. All of us are doing this, national and local, for our people. We are elected officials. They have placed us where we are so we cannot but give them the best of our efforts. And as you have enjoyed your two nights and three days of I hope pleasurable meetings here in Clark, I hope that you will go back home refreshed to continue to give your constituents the best of your efforts.

Welcome once again! Daghan salamat. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the closing ceremonies of the Mindanao Island Cluster Conference of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412095714/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26201&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the official luncheon for H.E. Prime Minister Jan Fischer of the Czech Republic

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the official luncheon for H.E. Prime Minister Jan Fischer of the Czech Republic**

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, September 7, 2009]

His Excellency Prime Minister Jan Fischer, members of the delegation, leaders of the Philippine government and Philippine business, ladies and gentlemen:

Your Excellency, welcome to the Philippines! This is your second visit to the Philippines in a very short time, but your first visit as prime minister. Congratulations!

Although we are located far away from each other, it is natural for our two countries to cooperate with each other. We share similarities in our respected histories and culture. Our peoples are religiously devoted to the Sto. Niño. We have Sto. Niño de Praga and we have Sto. Niño de Cebu. We even have Sto. Niño de Praga and shrine in our Benedictine Abbey which you visited yesterday.

Our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, was a very good friend of Ferdinand Blumentritt, so much so that one of the important thoroughfares in our metropolis is called Blumentritt Street. And while the Czech people on the other hand have statues, plaques and a museum dedicated in the memory of Dr. Jose Rizal. And there's even a chapter of the Knights of Rizal in the Czech Republic.

In World War II, 14 Czech soldiers fought soldier-to-soldier with Filipinos and Americans, seven of them have their final resting place in Capas, Tarlac. Just about two hours drive north of Manila. We have a congressman from that area there today. Our People Power Revolution of 1986 was one of the world's 100 greatest events of the 20th century. Similarly, the Velvet Revolution was an event that became an inspiration for a wake of political changes in Eastern Europe. These links are a solid foundation for further strengthening our relations.

Thank you, Your Excellency, for bringing with you a business delegation and for addressing the business seminar this morning. Hopefully, this will lead to greater commercial ties between our two countries. And, as you mentioned, not only trade but joint ventures as well.

So far, among the results of our trade relations with each other are the train coaches for the MRT tracks on EDSA and the continued supply of their spare parts. Also, most of the grand chandeliers in this palace are from the Czech Republic. I understand that the Czech Republic has also supplied equipment for sugar cane mills in Negros, Luzon and Mindanao. For aircraft, for Zest Air, and rifles for Philippine sports' shooters. And we welcome the benefits brought to the rural communities in Bohol by the Czech hydro power company Geotest. We're happy to know that the Geotest is also conducting a feasibility study for a similar hydro power project in Baguio where you have provided Official Development Assistance for water along with Aurora province, another beneficiary of your Official Development Assistance.

Thank you also for your ongoing ODA projects on drinking water for Metro Manila and solid waste management in Naga City as well as your humanitarian aid on the oil spill removal in 2006 in connection with typhoon Durian.

Excellency, while our countries are far from each other, you have continued, your people have continued the friendship of the two great men of our countries — Rizal and Blumentritt. And we hope that your visit will lead that friendship to become even greater, wider and deeper by increasing economic and people-to-people contact with each other.

On that note, I invite our guests to join me in a toast to the continued good health, success and prosperity of Prime Minister Fischer and the enduring friendship between the Filipino and Czech people.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the official luncheon for H.E. Prime Minister Jan Fischer of the Czech Republic. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134432/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26206&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) International Conference on Green Industry in Asia

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the closing of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) International
Conference on Green Industry in Asia**

[Delivered at the PICC, September 11, 2009]

Thank you, Secretary Romulo.

Mr. Director General and other U.N. officials, our two Cabinet ministers here: Secretary Atienza and Secretary Favila and the different ministers who are here participating in this conference, other participants, our foreign guests, welcome to the Philippines! Our Filipino participants, thank you for being here with us today.

It is a privilege for our country to host this first International Conference on Green Industry in Asia. And we thank UNIDO, UNEP, ILO, the Asian Development Bank and other international institutions for making this conference possible together with our Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

This International Conference on Green Industry in Asia comes at the most opportune time as our speakers have said earlier. We're only three months away from the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen where countries will seek agreement on a new multilateral framework to deal with climate change. And we are honored to host this conference because this issue is essential to us. As a nation of more than 7,000 islands, the Philippines feels the pain of natural disasters and rising seas more than most nations. Because of this we take every opportunity we can to call on all countries to collectively secure a positive outcome to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

The Philippines as one of the key negotiators of the Group of 77 and China in the climate change talks is focused squarely on this objective as we travel on the road to Copenhagen.

We call on all the developed countries referred to as the annex one countries in the Climate Change Convention to table their firm post-Kyoto Greenhouse Gas Emission targets taking into account the ideal level suggested by the international scientific community and to do this without conditionalities.

We also call on them to assist developing countries to mitigate and adapt to worsening changes in climate by fulfilling their treaty obligations to provide. In our country, as Secretary Atienza said, we are pressing ahead with the massive Green Philippines Environmental Plan that is comprehensive in scope and thorough in execution. A plan that includes reforestation, preservation of our reefs and waterways. A plan that includes scrubbing the land and air of pollutants that endanger the health of our citizens. A plan that includes energy independence.

As part of our concrete contributions to green industry, last year, we enacted a landmark law promoting the development, use and commercialization of renewable energy resources. To stimulate investments in the renewable energy sector, the law provides generous fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. Feed-in tariffs provide reassurance to investors in wind, solar, ocean, run-of-river hydropower and biomass resources. The law also seeks to institutionalize a renewable portfolio standard requiring the country's electric utilities to obtain a certain portion of

their electricity from clean homegrown renewable energy sources. It also exempts the proceeds from the sale of carbon credits from all taxes.

Our Green Philippines Agenda puts an emphasis on a sustainable economic model that brings economic opportunity and a concern for our environment, indeed, a model of green industry. It is devoted to a sustainable economic model that allows for growth, job creation, and environmental stewardship.

Too many nations have believed that the environment must be sacrificed at the altar of growth.

We have always believed otherwise.

And because we are on the take off stage, we have a unique opportunity in our country to get it right from day one, to introduce new industries that are clean and profitable. This includes, this ranges from furniture made with environmental friendly practices.

To eco-tourism, to developing a renewable energy industry that helps our energy independence creates jobs and keeps our nation clean for the future. For instance, in eco-tourism, we have a program called Grassroots Entrepreneurship in Eco-tourism, G-R-E-E-T or GREET that offers livelihood assistance to small and micro-tourism related enterprises with a green component.

For the larger companies, Secretary Favila and his Board of Investments have very generous incentives for environment friendly practices.

As for energy independence. During our administration we increase indigenous energy from 48 percent to 58 percent, and attained 67 percent self-sufficiency in electric power production. With our Renewable Energy Law we plan to double the amount of power generated from renewable energy by 2020.

Together with inroads in the use of indigenous energy, we continue to find ways to reduce fossil fuel consumption. We have initiated the switch from incandescent bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps. Because if we could save up to 50 megawatts, we save ourselves the cost of having to build a new power plant.

This year, we aim to distribute five million compact fluorescent lamps in selected urban areas.

Our Biofuels Act is also making a significant contribution to our Green Philippines Program. It is expected to make our country one of the fifteen most attractive destinations for biofuels investments in the world but not at the expense of food. In February this year, we started phasing in the mandated biodiesel blend, starting with one percent which we have now increased to two percent. We've also started to mandate a five percent bio-ethanol blend for unleaded gasoline.

Furthermore, aside from biofuels, we want to promote the use of compressed natural gas among buses plying the region immediately south of Metro Manila. This involves pursuing investors in building a chain of compressed natural gas stations and a natural gas pipeline from the landing port of our indigenous natural gas to the various stations in that chain.

These are but a few examples of what we are doing to promote green industry. There is indeed a wide opportunity if the world is willing to change but that window is closing fast. In the phase of climate change we have to move quickly, and I am happy and proud that in this conference we have increased that phase.

Thank you. Mabuhay! to all the peoples of the world.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the closing of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) International Conference on Green Industry in Asia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134445/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26205&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino Community Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino Community**

[Delivered in Istanbul, Turkey, September 16, 2009]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Romulo sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin. Thank you.

Maraming salamat rin Ambassador Pete Chan sa iyong magandang pagbati kanina.

At kasama ko ngayong gabi ang ilan sa mga opisyal ng ating pamahalaan na miyembro din ng ating delegasyon. Bukod kay Secretary Romulo na nagpakilala sa akin, at nandito siya nung March 2009, nandito rin ang ating Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila at ang ating Press Secretary, si Cerge Remonde. Meron din tayong kasapi ng business delegation, si Ginoong William Kho, nandoon.

Kaming lahat ay nagpapasalamat at bumabati dito sa ating mga kababayan sa Turkey. Salamat sa inyong pagdalo ngayong gabi. King kabalen kong Nilo dakal a salamat at karing aliwang Kapampangan, salamat king pamanyatan ngening bengi. Kay Catherine naman — tiga-saan ka Catherine? Ah, from Aklan — maayag-ayag nga gab-i kag salamat gid sa pag-ari karon... subong. Okay. Sa mga kaigsuonan gikan sa Bisayas ug Mindanao, daghan salamat sa inyong paganhi karon, karon gabiuna kag dagiti kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko nga Ilocano, agyamanak ta immay kayo.

At narinig natin yung pagkuwento nung ating dalawang leaders ng Filipino community. In fact, I'm very happy to Sid Nilo, my kababayan, na nandito ka rin nang pumunta ako dito nung ako ay Vice President, so nice to see my kabalen again. At yung mga kuwento ni Ms. Mirano tungkol sa mga iba't-ibang mga Outstanding Filipinos dito sa Turkey. Kaya sa pagkuwento nila labis ako natutuwa na ang ating mga kababayan dito sa Turkey ay patuloy na umaani ng papuri ng mga tagarito. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

At nakatanggap naman ako ng report sa Department of Foreign Affairs na halos lahat ng mga Filipino dito, maganda ang pagtrato sa inyo at maganda naman ang inyong suweldo. At yung grupo nga, yung grupo nga ni Catherine, sabi ni Ambassador Pete Chan, ang inyong ginagawa talaga ay tumulong, mag-e-extend siya ng Embassy dito sa Istanbul, gawa ng nandoon sa Ankara, kaya kayo ang first line of defense kapag may problema dito ang mga Filipino. Kaya congratulations sa inyong mga ginagawa na nagkakaisa.

I would also like to greet Mr. Zaimuglo, our Philippine Honorary Consul to Istanbul, whom I met in Manila.

Itong biyahe namin dito, bahagi ito sa ating pangkalahatang stratehiya na ma-engage ang pandaigdigang pamayanan para makabenipisyo ang ating ekonomiya, pati na rin proteksiyunan kayo, ang ating mga Overseas Workers at para ipairal ang ating national security.

Napapanahon yung pagbisita ko ngayon muli, after nine years, dahil itong taon ang ating 60th Anniversary ng ating diplomatic relations sa pamamagitan ng Pilipinas at Turkey. At kayong lahat, kayo ay testigo sa magandang relasyon ng ating dalawang bansa dahil kayo ay nakatira at nagtrabaho dito sa Turkey. At alam ninyo na itong bansang ito, this is a great nation straddling the East and the West. Kanina nga, nung lumilibot ako ay at even the last time, gustong-gusto kong sabihin, "Ah, now we're in Europe. Ah, now we're in Asia, just crossing the bridge." Pero talaga naman, geographically and culturally, Turkey is a natural bridge for dialogue among civilizations and cultures, East and West, Asia and Europe, Islam and Christianity.

And we are greeting the gentleman who has the Turkish schools in Zamboanga and San Juan, and I understand our young people in the table over there are alumni of the Turkish schools in the Philippines. So we're very happy that you're all here pero talagang kayo ay masasabi nating bahaging-bahagi ng dynamic economy ng Turkey.

Kanina, nandoon kami sa Ankara, nakipagkita kay Pangulong Gul, ang pangulo ng Turkey. Bahagi nga ito sa ating pagdiriwang, sabi nga ni Ambassador Pete Chan, ito ang highlight ng ating pagdiriwang ng 60th Anniversary. Sabi nga ni President Gul kanina, merong isang commonality ang ating dalawang bansa, sabi niya, I mean, among the many commonalities. Ang Pilipinas at ang Turkey, sabi niya, pareho tayong milyun-milyong mamamayan ay nakatira at nagtrabaho sa ibayong dagat. At ako'y nagpasalamat sa kanya dahil maganda ang general working environment sa ating mga Pilipinong manggagawa na nagtrabaho dito. Sabi nga niya, they try their best to give a working environment dahil alam na ang damdamin ng isang bansa na maraming mamamayan ay nasa labas kaya sinisikap din nila na yung mga mamamayan ng ibang bayan na nandito ay maganda ang environment. At sabi nga nila, sabi nga niya, na kung may mga problema ay sisikapin nilang maging mas maganda pa ang environment dito para sa Pilipinong manggagawa.

Isa pang importansya ng Turkey ay malaki ang tulong at suporta sa ginagawang peace efforts natin sa Mindanao. Yung papel ng Turkey bilang kasapi ng OIC Peace Committee sa Mindanao, labingdalawang bansa sila na tumutulong sa ating peace process sa Mindanao on the part of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, ito ay pinapakita ang sensiridad ng Turkey na tulongan tayong makahanap ng solusyon sa ating mga pagsisikap para sa kapayapaan sa ating bansa.

And since we have students here, isa ring pinag-usapan kanina, ang Turkey ay nagalok ng scholarship para sa mga estudyanteng Pilipino. Importante ito para sa ating kapayapaan at seguridad dahil yung ating mga kabataan ay mai-expose dito, yung moderate, mainstream Muslim democracy, yun, pluralistic, secular — yun ang kinakampeon ng Turkey at importanteng ma-expose ang ating mga kabataan dito kaysa yung naee-expose sila doon sa mga nagtuturo ng radical Islam. Yun ang isang kinabubuti din ng relasyon natin sa Turkey.

Yung ating defense cooperation ay lumalawak. May kumpanyang Turkish na siya ang nag-a-upgrade ng ating armored personnel carrier, yung mga tangke ba natin, inaupgrade dito. And in November, magde-deliver sila ng anim na armored personnel carrier. At kanina, sa aming pagmiting ni President Gul, sabi nga niya, sana tayo ay makapagpirma ng kasunduan tungkol sa defense at military cooperation.

Maraming-maraming pagkakataon sana ng kalakal sa ating dalawang bansa. Kaya kaninang hapon, si Secretary Favila ay nakipagkita sa Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Kasi gusto natin lumawak ang ating pangangalakal sa isa't-isa. Dito sa Turkey, nagpo-promote tayo ng precious and costume jewelry at pati rin yung halal food at saka yung fresh and processed food, lalo na yung sa mga saging at iba pang mga agricultural commodities. Yung jewelry ay inaalok natin dahil ang Pilipinas ay tinuturing bilang isa sa mga pinakamataas na exporter ng jewelry sa buong mundo, number 12 tayo sa costume jewelry exporting countries. Yung costume jewelry natin sa Pilipinas ay galing sa mga natural materials: sea shells, coconut shells, bamboo, fossilized stones, abaca, sinamay, amber. At mabuti itong negosyong ito, itong industriyang ito dahil yung costume jewelry labor intensive. At ang Philippine costume jewelry ay tinuturing ng marami na mas magaling kung ihahambing sa ibang bansa ng Asya sa ating mga handmade items na umagamit ng natural materials at coloring schemes. Kasi ang mga Pilipino kinikilala bilang very creative na mga tao.

So ito ang mga sinisikap natin na ma-promote pa at si President Gul mismo ang nagsabi na talagang malaki ang ating potensyal. Sabi niya kasi ay ginagalang nila ang Pilipinas dahil tayo'y isa doon sa ilan lang sa ating rehiyon na hindi nagkaroon ng recession nitong nakaraang world economic crisis. Kaya't tinuturing nilang matatag ang ating ekonomiya sa East Asia.

And on the economy, our trips — like what we are trying to do now here — in other places where we have gone, our trips have helped secure important trade opportunities and foreign investments, and this in turn have helped us to achieve yung sinasabi nila — 34 quarters or more than eight years of uninterrupted growth. At ito ang achievement kung bakit ay we were able to withstand the recession that is now raging around us.

Doon sa ating bahagi ng ating mundo, ang hindi natamaan ng recession, yung hindi nag-negative ang growth rate ay yung China, yung Indonesia, yung Vietnam at saka yung Pilipinas. Yung ating ibang mga kapit-bansa nagkaroon sila lahat ng recession. Kung naalala ninyo, September last year, doon nagkaroon ng crisis yung world economy. Kung naalala ninyo doon sa New York, siguro laman ng mga peryodiko pati dito sa Turkey yung collapse nung Lehman Brothers na napakaraming bangko sa buong mundo ay nalugi. Yung Merrill Lynch nagka-fire sale, yung American Insurance Group — yung may-ari nung Phil-Am Life sa Pilipinas, yung mother company — nagkaroon ng liquidity crisis. So yun ang simula nitong global economic crisis. Ito yung parang yung stock market crash nung 1929. Ito naman yung crash ng Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch at AIG.

At itong global economic crisis na ito, one year na, a long nightmare for many people and many nations. Pero yung mga pinakamahihirap, at marami doon sa mga developing countries, yun ang pinaka-apektado sa buong mundo. Yung mga headline, panay Wall Street or dahil kulang daw ang global regulation or maraming mayayaman na nalugi pero dapat tawagin din ng pansin yung pangangailangan na tiyakin na yung mga developing countries ng mundo ay mabigyan ng suporta na kailangan, the support they need to ensure na kung magkaroon man tayo ngayon ng economic rebound, na mukhang nagsisimula na, dapat ito ay talagang inclusive, sana sakop na rin yung mga mahihirap at talagang truly global, buong mundo.

Kaya gaya ng sabi ko nga, kung yung mundo ay hindi lang parating tinitignan yung mga banking capital — mga New York, mga London ganun, mga Singapore — if the world would take a minute to shift its sights from the banking capitals, baka magugulat na matuto, mapag-alaman yung mga quiet success na mahahanap sa ibang bahagi ng mundo kagaya ng Pilipinas. Kaya ako ay nandito at pupunta ako sa London para pag-usapan yung ating tagumpay at yung ating oportunidad na pwedeng maihandog sa mga investors maging dayuhan o maging Pilipino.

We have weathered, we are so far weathering the global economic storm without fanfare. Bakit tayo matatag? Dahil tayo ay handa. Bakit tayo ay handa? Dahil gumawa tayo ng mga mahihirap na desisyon ilang taong nakaraan para repormahin ang ating banking system. Halimbawa, yung Lehman Brothers nung bumagsak, less than one percent ng ating banking system ay exposed doon. At yung less than one percent na yun fully covered by reserves and capital, at alam ng lahat kung magkano dahil very transparent ang mga disclosure sa ating banking system. Yun ang isang ginawa natin, reforming the banking system.

Mas mahirap pa, we had to raise new revenues, taxes, yung tinatawag na Value Added Tax, very unpopular pero ginawa natin yun at lumaki ang ating revenue by 100 billion pesos every year at yung proceeds na yun ay ginagamit natin para mamuhunan, mamuhunan, mamuhunan sa ating taong-bayan at para sa maging competitive ang ating economy.

Kasi ang gusto kong mangyari ay makatulong para maging competitive ang ating economy para sa ganun darating ang araw na yung mag-a-abroad ay career choice at hindi lang the only choice for a hardworking Filipino worker.

Palagay ko yung aking kabalen, career choice yun, ang ganda-ganda ng trabaho niya dito pero merong mga iba kinailangan pumunta sa ibayong dagat dahil walang pagkakataon sa sariling pamayanan. Sana yun, yung pangalawa yun ay sana maging mas maging konti ng konti ng konti hanggang mawala yung ganung klaseng pag-aabroad. Sana career choice na lamang at yun ang dahilan kung bakit ginagawa natin ang mga reporma sa ating ekonomiya.

Samantala, habang pinagtrabahuan pa natin yung araw na yun, nagpapasalamat tayo, nagpapasalamat ang Pilipinas sa inyong lahat, mga Overseas Filipinos natin sa inyong malasakit, malasakit sa inyong pamilya, malasakit sa inyong trabaho, malasakit sa inyong bansa. Yun, para sa doon, maraming, maraming salamat.

At salamat sa inyong parating suporta at sana palaging Mabuhay ang Pilipino dito sa Turkey!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a meeting with the Filipino Community.
Retrieved
from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412095258/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26204&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo at The Economist's, "Emerging Markets Summit"

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
At The Economist's, "Emerging Markets Summit"**

[Delivered at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, September 18, 2009]

Thank you for the kind introduction. Many thanks to the Economist for such a stimulating program.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: good afternoon.

This summit has been asking the question. What are southeast Asia's economic prospects?

The answer is that the region is doing well given the overall global economic picture. The prospects for growth in Southeast Asia are strong. This is reinforced by a recovery that has already started.

The nations of Asia are addressing the challenges of the economic crisis cooperatively and with confidence that the region will recover quicker and emerge stronger than ever. Asia's response to this crisis has shown that our region is well positioned to accelerate its growing share of the global economy once the storm clouds of this crisis have abated.

When the recovery comes, what form will it take?

Although all Asian economies have felt the pain of the global recession, that pain has not been evenly distributed. There are at least three "Asias" to consider when examining the depth of the current recession and the path that nations in our region are taking to return their economies to full recovery. These three Asias are: First, the nations of China and India; Second, the trade-dependent economies, such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea and Malaysia, and third, the domestic consumption states, which includes the Philippines, among others.

China and India will long remain regional and global outperformers. While they are growing at levels below their incredible pre-recession performances, that growth is still very respectable. Given that the global recession has led to a virtual collapse in international trade, the most trade-dependent states in our region have been the worst hit. They have endured months of recession that, fortunately, now appears to be easing. The consumption-driven states have been able to avoid recession altogether.

These states, the Asian states that have been performing best, and that are still enjoying positive growth, are those emerging markets where private consumption is a high proportion of GDP. Indonesia and Vietnam both have private consumption at 65%, the Philippines 70%, Sri Lanka 65%, Bangladesh, 75%. These states are outperforming the trade-dependent economies.

Looking to 2010, the three Asias will see differing pace of recoveries. The trade-dependent states will continue to underperform while China and India, as well as the consumption-driven states should be the region's outperformers.

Also, those of us who took the bitter medicine of reform some years ago have done better. That is certainly the case with the Philippines.

As much of the world sets its sights on the traditional global financial capitals, the world might be surprised to learn of the quiet successes to be found in other parts of the globe – in places such as the Philippines.

My friends, as the final Summit speaker, I want to leave you with an understanding of how your interest in emerging markets can be applied in the Philippines, a country that I am pleased to say has demonstrated the strength and resiliency of emerging market economies during this period of global economic crisis. In that regard, I cite the report of the UK Trade and Investment and the Economist Intelligence Unit that has tagged the Philippines as among the top ten key emerging markets beyond the BRIC countries.

Well before the global crisis, we were setting a new economic course for the Philippines. This course was at the core of our economic reform agenda. Our reforms generated 34 consecutive quarters of growth and the fastest growth in 30 years, they created 8 million jobs, and allowed us to maintain the lowest inflation in a generation. More importantly, poverty went down, revenue went up and the nation acquired the money to invest in human and physical infrastructure for the first time in a generation. We were rapidly heading toward a balanced budget.

Without the global recession, we would be in balance right now.

From the temporary setback in our plans due to the global financial crisis, we are back on track, to balance the budget by 2013. We are confident of our target because we have weathered the hardest part of the storm and we are poised for a rebound.

The rating agencies have upgraded our country's credit rating in the middle of a crisis. This saves millions of dollars in interest which we can pour into building up our nation.

Moody's Executive Vice President said: "The upgrade was prompted by the relatively high degree of resilience exhibited by both the country's financial system and external payments position in the face of the global financial and economic crisis."

The peso, the Philippine peso has also remained relatively strong and stable even amidst the global financial downturn. Goldman Sachs predicts that the peso will rise 4.7% in six months to the highest levels of 2008 as the growth of remittances from our overseas workers still defy expectations and because fiscal concerns are now recognized as overblown. This is a good indicator and reflection of the stability of our economy.

The Philippines, however is not alone. While many nations in Asia have been deeply affected by the global downturn, many have also been havens of stability and islands of calm during this period of tremendous volatility.

Which industry sector will bounce back the strongest?

In the Philippines, growth never left our outsourcing industry. It will now only gain in strength from 6,000 employees in 2001 to 600,000 soon in large part due to our efforts to continually modernize our infrastructure, the high level of productivity and English language skills of our workforce, and our ability to attract investment from some of the world's leading companies. Private construction has grown by 17% due to the surge in middle and low-income housing. Small retail businesses are gaining strength. Therefore, the services sector will recover quickly. Our mining sector is also showing strong growth of 16%.

So how is consumer confidence of behavior evolving?

Consumer confidence is coming back.

But we are not relying just on the consumption pattern of our 90 million people to keep our momentum of 34 consecutive quarters of economic growth going. We are relying on a mix of economic stimulus, sound economic and monetary policies, and pro-business reforms to keep our economy steady.

What is happening regarding Foreign Direct Investment flows?

Capital is returning to the region.

The Philippines' resilient economy, improved credit ratings, and continued fiscal consolidation efforts have produced a country with an economy that should be in every emerging market investors' portfolio. With Foreign Direct Investment posting an 86% increase in the first 7 months of this year, it is clear this message is getting across.

Are foreign and local banks doing enough?

Despite tight liquidity conditions in the global market, loan growth is particularly strong among the economies of emerging Asia. In Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan, loan growth has improved since the last quarter of 2008. New loans in China make up 50% of its GDP growth. The loans in China in the first half of this year have reportedly exceeded the total amount for 2008. In the Philippines, bank lending growth has remained healthy.

We have one of the best central banks in the world. Its reforms have created the solid fundamentals that underpin our banking sector today. The fundamentals are reinforced by conservative banking practices. These values have significantly sheltered our country's finances.

We give our central bank team our full trust to implement a sound monetary policy conducive to growth and one that will help us manage volatilities arising from the global economy. The monetary policy of the Central Bank has ensured sufficient liquidity in the market and bolstered confidence in the financial system. This contributed to the resilience of our economy throughout the global economic crisis.

How is the mind-set at domestic and multinational firms currently? Is there returned appetite for risk?

Yes, there is. The EIU report has projected investor sentiment to improve in 2010 and 2011.

The overall business confidence index being tracked by our central bank has reverted to positive territory for the first time since the third quarter of last year. We expect this trend to continue.

But at the end of the day, if the global financial system does not learn from its mistakes and embrace reforms, we will all lose more than we have already.

Therefore, what remains to be done regarding financial sector reform?

As we move forward, we need to look closely at the values, or in some cases, complete lack of values, that led to the collapse of the financial system. A problem in one financial market can quickly become a problem in many others. We must work cooperatively to contain that contagion or, better yet, provide the inoculation that will keep it from happening.

As we are all aware, in the period leading up to the current crisis, there were many cases of inappropriate and misunderstood risks. This was compounded by financial engineering and disproportionate risk-taking in the financial sector that's motivated by the pursuit of short-term profits. It was also compounded by the emergence of unregulated and opaque financial instruments.

In the Philippines, we have implemented extensive financial and economic reforms. More can and should be done, but my biggest concern is with the lack of progress on global reform. Here we are a year after the Lehman Brothers collapse and subsequent economic contagion, and already some of the same firms that got us into this mess are pretending it never happened. In the euphoria of the emergence of the green shoots that we all hope are harbingers of economic rebound, we are losing sight of the calls early in the crisis for the overhaul of global financial regulations.

Governments the world over must insist that we come to grips with what happened and make sure we put in place rules so that it doesn't happen again. We cannot expect the poor in places like the Philippines to lose their shirt because someone on Wall Street made a bad bet.

It is my duty to our people to insist on drawing attention to the need to bring sense to a global financial system that is clearly not suited to the complexities of the current global challenges. That is why I am stepping up the call for action for governments to come to grips with the need for a new global financial regulatory regime. The G-20 leaders, in particular, will be meeting soon. They must take strong decisive action to push forward tough new regulations.

What about in the Southeast Asian region? What policy initiatives do we need?

As we did in 1997 and 1998, the region must continue to learn from what happened this time in order to make ourselves even stronger. Our region has made substantial progress with the Chiang Mai initiative that will provide liquidity support to governments in our region. We have taken it upon ourselves as a region to be more self-sufficient. While decoupling from the US and Europe cannot and probably should not occur, that doesn't mean we shouldn't take more firm steps to control our own destiny. We must continue to press for closer cooperation and consultation.

The global economic crisis has been a long nightmare for many people and many nations. The poorest – many of them in emerging market economies – have been affected the most. The headlines scream about Wall Street, the failure of government regulation, and the noise of lost wealth. But they should also scream about the need to ensure that the world's emerging markets – many of them committed free traders – are given the support they need to ensure that any economic rebound is truly inclusive and truly global.

To what extent has the experience of the 1997-98 financial crisis helped governments cope with the storm?

Painful economic slowdowns are not new to the countries of Southeast Asia. As you are all aware, our region went through a gut-wrenching financial crisis more than a decade ago. In retrospect, it seems very much like a dress rehearsal for today's turmoil. Companies defaulted; banks collapsed, stock markets tanked and economies shrank at double digit rates as foreign investment slowed to a trickle. In addressing this crisis, Southeast Asia dutifully swallowed the bitter medicine of austerity. It devalued currencies and worked off debts while banks restructured and companies patched up balance sheets.

Asia has benefitted, if you will, from the dreadful experience of the 97-98 Asian financial crisis. Thanks to the lessons learned by that crisis, and the actions taken by the government since then throughout Asia, As a nation and a region, most of us are much better prepared to cope with the challenges we have been facing over the past year. The previous crisis showed Asian governments that it was important to rebuild foreign exchange reserves. It encouraged major Asian companies to de-leverage their balance sheet, restructure their businesses and improve their cash flow. It led domestic banks to cut non-performing loans, improve liquidity and consolidate the industry.

This augurs well for our regional trading outlook – and for the development of the ASEAN regional trading bloc we will have in place by 2015. It also speaks well for the prospects of our emerging market economies.

Because of that experience, the prospects for growth in Southeast Asia today are some of the strongest in the world.

Regional and global investors I believe will step up their risks in our region because they know we have been through it before and that we emerged stronger than ever.

But will national rivalries preclude meaningful progress toward regional political or economic integration?

To answer this question I would look at what we have achieved rather than what is left to be done. ASEAN has made significant progress towards integrating our economies, breaking down trade barriers, and asserting

macroeconomic control over our regional economies. Of course there are always issues, national issues and regional issues to overcome, but they are not greater than the threats to our region from global forces.

In sum, in spite of the need to urgently address global economic policy considerations, my outlook for emerging markets is very positive. The best opportunities for the medium-term are found in Asia for several reasons.

First, we have a healthy financial system that remains stable and ready to support growth. Our region's banks are virtually free of toxic assets. They have not needed government bailout money. Years of trade surpluses and high savings rates have contributed to record foreign reserves. Debt loads – for governments, corporations and consumers – are a fraction of those in the U.S. and Europe. Inflation and interest rates have fallen rapidly as our central banks have deftly managed this fluid global environment.

Second, while each market is different, the nations in our region represent a varied mix of opportunities for any investor. The governments in our region have an ongoing commitment to policy reforms which are crucial in any investment decision. They are also committed to address the challenges in the bureaucracy and infrastructure that will shape the direction of their economic growth over the next decade. Most of emerging Asia is addressing these areas and we will return to high rates of economic growth. Because of that, now is the time to prepare for the significant opportunities that will accompany this growth.

There is no better emerging market to take advantage of that growth than the Philippines. I encourage each and every one of our emerging market investors to consider the Philippines as you look for the best trade and investment opportunities that will come out of the return to high levels of economic growth.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech at The Economist's, "Emerging Markets Summit". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134412/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26261&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino Community in the United Kingdom

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino Community in the United Kingdom**

[Delivered at Intercon London Park Lane Hotel, September 19, 2009]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Pamintuan sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin. At gusto ko ring magpasalamat kay Ambassador “Tonet” Lagdameo, sa iyong pagbati, ating bagong embahador ngunit hindi ako nagugulat, very, very active si Tonet, nandito rin si Mrs. Linda Lagdameo.

At kasama rin natin ngayon ang ilan sa mga opisyal ng ating pamahalaan na bahagi ng ating delegasyon. Siyempre, nandito si Secretary Bert Romulo, ang ating Secretary of Foreign Affairs; nandito si Deputy Speaker Girlie Villarosa; at yung team ni Secretary Pamintuan ay nakilala na niyo yata kanina; nandito si Secretary Cerge Remonde, ang ating Press Secretary; si Congressman Martin Romualdez ng Leyte; si Congressman Dong Gonzales ng Pampanga; yung anak ko si Congressman Dato Arroyo; ayun sa kabila si Congressman Danny Suarez ng Quezon; si Congresswoman Ana Bondoc ng Pampanga rin; at saka si Chairman Rey Chua ng Commission on Information and Communication Technology. Gusto ko rin batiin ang ating staff mula sa Philippine Embassy a napakasipag sa paghanda ng mga events natin dito sa aking pagbisita.

And I understand, we have our Honorary Consuls from the different parts of the United Kingdom at siyempre yung ating mga lider ng Filipino Community na parating tmutulong, maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo itong umagang ito.

Deng cabalen cung capangpangan, mayap a bat kekongan, dakal a salamat qng pamanyatang yu. Sa mga gikan sa Bisayas ug Mindanao, daghang salamat sa inyong pag-anhi. Cacabsat ken gagayyem nga Ilocano, naimbag a bigat yo amin. (applause) At marami raw sa inyo ay nanggaling hindi lamang dito sa London kundi sa mga malalayong lugar gaya ng Manchester, Birmingham, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland pati the Isle of Man for joining us here today, thank you very much.

Itong biyaheng ito gaya nga ng sabi ni Ambassador Tonet, apat na beses na akong napunta dito sa England. At ito ay bahagi ng ating pagkalahatang stratehiya to engage the global community, to benefit our economy, to promote the welfare of our overseas Filipinos and to enhance our national security.

Yung national security, nagpapasalamat tayo sa United Kingdom dahil tinutulungan tayo’t sinusuportahan ang ating peace efforts sa Mindanao. Kasama na nga rito ay pinapahayag nila at pinapamahagi nila yung kanilang sariling karanasan with securing peace in Northern Ireland. At tungkol naman sa mga karaniwang krimen at yung mga international crimes gaya ng terrorism, ay sa biyaheng ito, kahapon nakapag-conclude tayo ng extradition treaty at mutual legal assistance treaty sa pamamagitan ng ating dalawang bansa.

Tungkol naman sa ekonomiya, ang ating mga biyahe ay nakatulong na makamit ang mga importanteng oportunidad sa pangalakal at pamumuhunan that have in turn helped us to achieve, siguro lumabas na ito sa presentation kanina, 34 uninterrupted quarters or more than eight years of uninterrupted growth, a first in the Philippines at kahit

na sa buong mundo, konti lang ang nakakakamit nito. And it is this achievement that enables us to withstand the recession that is now raging around us. Yung recession na palagay ko, kayong nakatira dito sa United Kingdom ay alam na alam ninyo at nararanasan.

Bagamat ang United Kingdom ay kasama sa mga nahihirapang ekonomiya dito sa Europe, still it is among the leading foreign investors in the Philippines. Kaya hindi dapat mawawala yung investment na yun sa atin kahit na nagtitipid sila at pinagpipilian ng husto kung saan sila mag-invest. Laging ang United Kingdom ang pinakamataas sa ating mga portfolio investors. At yung portfolio investors, madaling matakot yun, kapag merong economic crisis, kaya importante na sa panahong ito, when they have to be more choosy about their investments due to their fewer resources and the global crisis, we have to affirm to them that the Philippines resilient economy, improved credit ratings, and continued fiscal reforms have produced a country with an economy that should be in every emerging market investor's portfolio.

At ito ang ginawa natin kahapon, nakipag-usap sa Bloomberg, nakipag-usap sa influential economic publication The Economist. At ako'y nasisiyahan na kahapon doon sa komperensiya ng The Economist, they named the Philippines as one of the top emerging market destinations for investors.

So gaya ng sinabi ni Ed na nong araw, basket case ang tawag sa atin, ngayon, one of the top investment destinations among emerging markets. At nagpunta rin tayo dito para tiyakin yung mga pamumuhunan sa Pilipinas na mula sa mga British companies na sila ay malaking kakayahan pa rin na mag-invest in power, in energy, in water, financial services and other services.

Kahapon, maging mamaya, tuloy-tuloy ang aking miting, ating miting sa iba't-ibang mga kumpanya at business personalities na nandito sa Londres. Halimbawa kahapon, nakipagmiting tayo sa Bronzeoak group, sila ang nagtayo ng unang-unang bioethanol plant sa Pilipinas. Nong 2005 ay pumunta ako sa San Carlos City, sa Negros Occidental para i-groundbreak yung kanilang first bioethanol plant, at earlier a few weeks ago, dapat pumunta rin ako doon para sa inauguration kasi it takes years to construct and policy regulations have to be refined dahil bago itong mga patakaran na ito, hindi ako nakapunta because of bad weather. Pero salamat naman at nag-courtesy call sila dito at napag-usapan ang iba't-ibang mga kailangan upang dagdagan pa nila ang investments nila sa Pilipinas. At balak nilang magtayo pa ng mas malaking investment — bioethanol plant doon sa Capas sa Tarlac.

At dinala naman rin kahapon ni Lord Peter Mandelson ang kagustuhan ng ilang mga negosyanteng Ingles sa mamuhunan sa ating renewable energy sector at kung anong mga patakaran ang makakatulong para mas magaan ang pamumuhunan nila sa ating bansa.

Kagabi, nagdinner tayo kasama ng HSBC na napakamatulungin sa pinapahayag sa mga negosyante yung positive growth aspect ng Pilipinas. Malaki ang bangko ng HSBC sa Pilipinas, more than 100 years old sila sa Pilipinas ngunit isang malaking dinagdag nilang investment ay dinala nila doon yung kanilang business process outsourcing. Yung accounting nila, financial services nila dinala nila sa Pilipinas kaya ngayon 7,000 ang empleyado ng HSBC sa Pilipinas. At hindi lamang yun, dahil sa ating magandang pakikipag-ugnayan ay dadagdagan pa nila yung mga business process outsourcing nila sa Pilipinas. Kasi yung mga nanggaling sa ibang bansa ay ililipat nila sa Pilipinas.

In fact, we have become the favorite business outsourcing and call center destination of the British firms since I led a BPO investment mission here about four years ago, at nong panahong yun, nong pinakilala natin sa mga Ingles yung mga BPO at call center attractions natin ay ginawa nila ang Pilipinas na outsourcing destination of the year for British firms at patuloy-tuloy pa rin ito. Yun ay bunga ng isa sa ating apat na biyahe dito sa Englatera.

Ginagawa natin itong lahat because we are working to create high paying jobs at home so that overseas work will just be a career choice and not the only option for a talented Filipino in search of a better life.

Samantala, nakakatuwa na ang ating mga kababayan dito sa UK ay patuloy na umaani ng papuri sa inyong pagiging propesyonal, pagiging organisado, at yung inyong kaaya-ayang pag-uugali. And that is one of our competitive advantages, di ba? Whatever your work may be — doctors, nurses, senior carers, radiographers and other health workers; yung ating bedside banners ay napaka-importante. Yung ating world-class performing artists, nakikita natin

doon sa theater. Yung ating mga chefs, mga hotel workers; yung ating domestic staff na nandito; yung mga IT experts, mga engineers; mga social workers, mga teachers; mga bangkero, mga financial analysts. Kahapon, nakilala ko yung isang mataas na nagtrabaho doon sa accounting services ng Harods halimbawa; artists, designers, aerospace workers — however you choose to serve, saan mang kumpanya kayo naglilingkod at naghahanapbuhay, humahanga ang bansang United Kingdom sa inyong dedikasyon — sa inyong dedikasyon, sa inyong talino, at kakayahan. At kanina nga binanggit ni Ambassador Tonet that one of our very own, Ms. Naty dela Cruz of London and Cagayan de Oro was just recognized as the “Amazing Carer” of the year for UK.

Kaya kung ang Pilipinas ay hanggang ngayon I think will hopefully will be named again outsourcing destination of the year, si Naty naman ay ‘Carer of the Year,’ so pareho tayung ‘of the Year’ Salamat Naty sa halimbawang ipinamalas mo at lalong pinataas mo ang respetong ipinagkakaloob sa manggagawang Pilipino dito sa UK. Isang libo ang kakumpitensiya ni Naty sa kanyang paligsahan pero siya ang nanalo.

And we hear that the professionalism and dedication of the Filipinos in the UK now cuts across not only different professions, but different generations. Nalaman natin na meron ng second and third generation Filipino-British nationals, ang tawag raw “Britnoys”, but we are happy to hear that these second and third generation British-Filipinos are rediscovering their Filipino roots and have in the process become active in promoting our country.

We are told that among the next generation of Filipinos, some have even formed an association called “Philippine Generations.”

Kaya sa inyong lahat, mga Pilipino sa iba’t-ibang mga propesyon, sa iba’t-ibang mga lugar ng United Kingdom, sa iba’t-ibang henerasyon, salamat sa inyong lahat dahil kayo ang ambassador ng ating bansa at ng ating taumbayan.

At higit sa lahat, mabuhay kayo sa inyong malasakit — sa inyong trabaho, sa inyong pamilya at sa inyong bansa. At dala ko ang pagpapasalamat ng buong sambayanang Pilipino maging na rin ang aking sarili.

Maraming maraming salamat! Mabuhay ang ating Pilipino dito sa United Kingdom. Thank you.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during a meeting with the Filipino Community in the United Kingdom. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134422/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26266&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino community**

[Delivered at Movenpick Hotel, Al-Khobar, September 20, 2009]

Thank you. Maraming salamat. Maraming salamat, Secretary Roque sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. At maraming salamat din Ambassador Villamor sa iyong welcome remarks kanina.

At kasama naman natin ang ilan sa mga opisyal ng ating pamahalaan sa ating delegasyon. Babanggitin ko yung mga nandito sa entablado natin. Unang-una siyempre yung ating Secretary of Foreign Affairs, si Secretary Bert Romulo, ang boss ni Ambassador Villamor; katabi naman ni Secretary Romulo ay si Secretary of Trade and Industry Peter Favila; at katabi niya ang Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary Artie Yap; at nandito rin ang ating Secretary of Agrarian Reform, Secretary Naaser Pangandaman. Two presidents have appointed Muslims of full cabinet positions — President Diosdado Macapagal and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Well, kilala na ninyo si Secretary Roque, siya nga ang nagpakilala sa akin at ang katabi naman niya ang ating Press Secretary, Secretary Cerge Remonde; at gusto naming batiin — kaming lahat binabati namin — kayong lahat – mga leaders ng Filipino Community dito sa Eastern Province, si Mary Jane Tupas, congratulations! At yung ating ibang leaders ng Filipino Community at yung mga Bagong Bayani Awardees natin. At yung ating mga ang gagaling kumanta na mga kabataan ng Filipino Community. Gusto naming makilala ang mga magulang ninyo mamaya dahil ang galing-galing ninyo, we want to congratulate them also aside from you. At sa inyong lahat, dahil ngayon ang Eidl Fitr Eid Mubarak,

Maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo. Deng cabalen cung capangpangan, dakal a salamat qng pamanyatang yu.Uy karakal yu. Sa mga taga-Bisayas ug Mindanao, daghan salamat sa pag-anhi; kakabsat ken gagayyem, naimbag nga rabii yo amin.

Talagang ang saya-saya namin, ang saya-saya ko na makapunta muli dito sa Eastern Region. Hindi ko akalain na gaya ng sinabi ni Mary Jane, ako pa lang pala ang pangulong nakapagbisita dito sa iyo at two times pa at iniisip ko, natural lang yun kasi kung sinasabi natin na pinakamalaking Overseas Filipino Worker Community ang Saudi Arabia, eh one-third yun ay nandito sa Eastern Province – 400,000 kayo. Sabi nga ni Ambassador Villamor – “and growing”. Naalala ko nong akong huling magbisita dito sa Dammam, yung isang nilalakad ko ay magkaroon pa ng mga Filipino worker doon sa pagtayo nila ng 2, at mukhang natupad. Kaya mas lalong lumaki pa ang Filipino Community dito.

Itong biyahe ditto, as I said it’s always a pleasure to be with the Filipino Community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and here in the Eastern Province.

Our trip here ay importanteng bahagi ng ating pangkalahatang stratehiya to engage the global community sa kinabubuti ng ating ekonomiya, sa kinabubuti ninyo, ang ating Filipino Overseas Workers at sa ikinabubuti ng ating national security.

Yung national security, malaki ang tulong ng Saudi Arabia sa pagkamit natin ng pangmatagalang kapayapaan sa Mindanao. Dahil siya ang lider ng mga bansang Muslim, ang laki ang impluwensya ng Saudi Arabia sa pananaw ng iba pang mga bansang Muslim. At matagal nang tumutulong sa atin ang Saudi Arabia upang tuloy-tuloy ang pagpapatupad ng ceasefire agreement sa Mindanao. Malaki rin ang tulong niya sa paghimok sa mga rebeldeng grupo na bumalik sa negosasyon.

Meron silang itinalagang Saudi Fund nong hindi pa ako Pangulo para sa mga proyekto natin para sa kapayapaan sa Mindanao. Ngunit ang ating administrasyon ang nakagamit noon, at Naaser, di ba isa sa malaking proyekto nila

yung kalsada doon sa Camp Abubakar – na yung Camp Abubakar, yun ang kampo noon ng MILF, nong nagkaroon na tayo ng usapang kapayapaan, nagtayo tayo ng magandang kalsada don at funded by the Saudi Fund.

At isa pa, binabanggit ni Naaser doon sa kanyang probinsiya yung Lake Lanao, yung ... kasi, naalala ko yung tatay ko, sabi niya yung Lake Lanao mas maganda pa kaysa sa Lake Geneva. At isang proyekto niya ay gumawa ng kalsadang paikot sa Lake Lanao pero inumpisahan niya yun, ngayon ay natatapos natin sa pamamagitan din ng Saudi Fund. Lahat ito ay tulong para sa ating kapayapaan sa Mindanao.

Tungkol naman sa inyo, proteksyon ng ating mga Overseas Filipino. Kaya nga ako nagbibisita para makita ang inyong mga adhikain, inyong mga hinaing at kanina yung dalawang resolution na natanggap ko ay — yung isa nga ay nagpapasalamat dahil nagbibigay tayo ng Professional Licensure Examinations.

Actually, nong nagsimula yung global economic crisis last September, last year, don ko inannounce na magpapadala tayo ng Professional Licensure Examinations, pero ang community na rin ninyo ang humingi na ipostpone ito hanggang November this year para magkaroon kayo ng panahon para sa inyong review. At yung aking natanggap na resolution ay sinasabi kung puwede kong gawin itong taun-taon. Ngayon at even beyond my term kaya sabi ko, si Ambassador Villamor, igawa mo ako ng draft Executive Order na ginagawa itong taun-taon at sala na inuutos ang Philippine Professional Regulatory Commission na ilagay niya sa budget niya taun-taon.

Yung isang resolution naman ay hinihingi ang embassy on wheels. Kaya sabi ko kay Secretary Romulo, “o, humihingi ng embassy on wheels”, sabi nia, “puwede yun”. Pero siyempre, sabi ko “ang ibig sabihin non kailangan ang budget”. So “puwede rin yun,” sabi ni Secretary Romulo at mag-uusap sila ni Ambassador Villamor.

Dahil ang Saudi Arabia ang pinakamalaking Overseas Filipino Worker Community sa buong mundo ay talagang number one agenda kayo parati pag nagbibisita dito.

Yung binabanggit ni Mary Jane at marami sa inyo, sabi “welcome back”, ibig sabihin non, nagkita tayo noon. Yung pagbisita ko dito sa Al Khobar, Dammam at saka sa Dharan ay bahagi noon ng aking state visit na ginawa sa Saudi Arabia. At doon sa state visit na yun, palagay ko ang pinaka-importanteng nagawa ko ay yung hari ay nagbigay ng amnesty sa 700 na mga OFW na nasa loob ng kulungan.

In fact, marami sa kanila umuwi kasama ko kaya umuwi akong dalawa eroplano, hindi isa dahil yung isang eroplano, punong-puno ng Overseas Filipino Workers. Alam naman niyo naman ang batas dito di ba? May public crime, may private crime. So okay lang, “no problem”, sabi nila yung public crime they can forgive it, pero yung private crime ay medyo mahirap dahil kakausapin pa yung mga magulang ng biktima. Yun naman ay isang ipinagpasalamat ko kay Prince Muhammad, yung gobernador ng Eastern Province.

Kanina ay nagmiting na kami, sinalubong niya ako sa airport at ito nga ang pinag-usapan nmin. Kasi noon yung 700 na napatawad ng hari, may iba doon kinailangan nga na kausapin pa yung pamilya tungkol sa private crime. At natupad naman. At gaya ng sabi ko, malaking tinutupad yung ginagawa ni Prince Muhammad. Siguro alam ninyo yung kasaysayan halimbawa ni Sarah Dimatera, noon pa, di ba nandon na siya? Nandon na siya sa death row nong nagkaroon tayo ng state visit dito. Pero ang mabigat yung patawad ng pamilya ng biktima. At si Prince Muhammad ang nagsikap na kumbinsihin yung kanilang kamag-anak, pamilya at sa wakas, nakauwi na rin sya, napatawad na rin di ba, Nitoy?

At hindi lang yun ang ginawa ni Prince Muhammad, ininstitutionalized niya ito, gumawa siya ng Reconciliation Committee, malaking tulong yung tinayo ni Prince Governor ng Reconciliation Committee composed of Outstanding Religious men to help persuade the families of murder victims in the Eastern Province to forgive the perpetrators. At sabi nga niya sa akin sa nakikita niya, at least so far naman, meron silang 80% ... average, so masayang masaya siya at I hope you don't mind, sa pangalan ninyong lahat, ako'y nagpasalamat sa kanya, sa kanyang ibinigay.

Balita ni Secretary Roque sa akin, na yung ating Filipino Community Organizations dito sa Eastern Province, kayo ay nagkakaisa. At kayo ay laging handang tumulong sa mga programa't serbisyo ng embahada at ng POLO. Maraming salamat sa inyong tulong sa ating pamahalaan.

Dito raw sa Eastern Province sabi ni Nitoy, matatagpuan ang mga pinakamatatag na mga organisasyon ng mga Pilipino.

Sabi niya buong taon, hindi ba Nitoy? Buong taon, meron kayong mga proyekto at higit sa lahat itong mga proyekto ay sumusuporta sa ating mga programa ng administrasyon.

Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong malasakit para sa inyong pamilya, inyong trabaho at inyong bansa.

Yung sa bansa, napakalaki ang naitutulong ng inyong mga remittances sa pagpatuloy ng kaunlaran ng Pilipinas at alam ko, ito ay bunga ng sakripisyo, kasi naghahanap kayo ng trabaho, nagtrabaho kayo kung saan makahanap ng trabaho – sa malalayong lugar — sa pamamagitan ng mga hindi kilala at ibang mga kultura at kung minsan, lonely at mahirap na trabaho. Kaya naman tayo ay nagtatrabaho upang lumikha ng mga trabahong maganda ang sweldo sa ating bansa. Para sa ganon, yung mag-iibayong dagat ay magiging career choice lamang at hindi only choice para sa isang masipag na Pilipino.

Sa tulong ninyo at sa bunga naman ng ating mga reporma, we have weathered the storm of the global economic crisis. We've been resilient because we've been prepared, and we were prepared precisely because we've made very tough decisions several years ago to reform our banking system, to raise new taxes, naku! that was very unpopular, but to take the proceeds of those taxes para mamuhunan, mamuhunan, mamuhunan sa ating taumbayan para maging mas competitive ang ating ekonomiya.

At bunga noon, itong nakaraang taon, habang ang buong mundo, ay! hindi naman buong mundo, two-thirds ng mundo ay nagkakaroon ng recession, ang ating private construction ay umangat ng 17%. Bakit? Yung malaking pagpalawak ng middle at low income housing at marami don na housing na binili ng ating Overseas Filipino Workers. Salamat sa inyo.

Pati nga yung mining ay umangat ng 16% at yung Business Process Outsourcing or Call Center Industry ay lumaki ng lumaki — mula 5,000 workers nong 2001, ngayon paabot na sa 500,000 workers.

Ito ay dahil parati nating mino-modernize ang ating infrastruktura, siguro yung mga lately umuwi at nakatira sa north, siguro nakadaan na kayo sa bagong NLEX at SCTEX, ang ganda-ganda ng ating highway. Ang bilis ng pumunta ng Pampanga, ng Clark, ng Tarlac, ng Pangasinan, ng Baguio. At saka siyempre rin yung mataas na produktibidad natin at yung language skills ng ating mga Pilipino.

Pati nga government consumption ay lumaki dahil nagtaas tayo ng suweldo ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan. At siyempre isang malaking dahilan din kung bakit resilient tayo, yung sinabi ko kanina, yung remittances galing sa inyo.

Alam niyo, yung mga dalubhasa, sabi nila dahil two-thirds of the world is having recession, sabi nila, yung overseas remittances, lalo na marami don taga-America, I mean, although you are the biggest Overseas Filipino worker population, the biggest overseas Filipino population is in America. At they're very deep in recession. Kaya sabi ng mga dalubhasa, suwerte ang Pilipinas kung magiging flat yung growth ng remittances, same as last year pero baka bumaba pa nga, pero hindi bumaba, hindi flat, tumaas pa at magiging record ang remittances natin itong taon.

So you have defied, our remittances have still defied expectations, hindi bumaba, hindi nagstand still, record din, maraming maraming salamat.

Nanggaling lang ako sa London, at isang mabuting balita na nakuha natin doon, ay sabi ng The Economist, at saka ng UK Trade and Investment Office na ang Pilipinas ay isa sa pinaka-top emerging markets ngayon for investment.

Kasama ang Pilipinas don, kasama rin ang Saudi Arabia. Kasi Saudi Arabia hindi rin natamaan ng recession, di ba? Matatag din. At hindi lang matatag dahil matatag dahil mayaman na mayaman ang Saudi Arabia, maraming oil, at mabilis magdesisyon yung mga tagarito ay marami ring investment opportunities. Kaya magmimiting kami sa ilang mga interesadong kumpanyang mamumuhunan sa Pilipinas, maging dito sa Eastern Province at saka doon sa Jeddah. Kasi interesado sila. Pero ngayon at may krisis, may diprensiya sa interest at yung magbubunga sa desisyon. Meron ngang nagpunta sa Pilipinas na Saudi Investment Mission, di ang saya-saya natin. Yun pala, sampo ang pinuntahan nila kasi meron silang parang semi-finalists sa kanilang analysis. Tapos, pinuntahan – parang beauty contest, may mga semi-finals pero iinterbiyuhin at hindi lahat mapipili, magkakaroon ng finalists, magkakaroon ng winner. Kaya, yung investment mission na galling sa Saudi, sampung bansa ang pinagpipilian at siguro mga lima at the most ang talagang pupuntahan kaya importante na makasama tayo doon sa finalists at importanteng makasama tayo doon sa winners kaya yun ang isang pakay din natin sa pagbisita ngayon – to follow up and make sure na kung anuman yung mga duda nila, kung saan man sila diskumpiyado — sa proseso, sa patakaran ay masasagot natin yoon para matuluyan yung kanilang puhunan sa Pilipinas.

Pero bagamat yun ay isang malaking dahilan din sa pagbisita natin dito, higit sa lahat, ang pinaka-importanteng pakay ay ang inyong kapakanan.

Ang pagpapahalaga sa mga sakripisyo ng ating mga Overseas Filipino Workers ay malaking bahagi ng ating panunungkulan at ako naman ay taos-pusong nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng suportang binibigay ninyo sa ating mga sinisikap na gawin para umunlad ng tuluyan ang ating bansa. At asahan ninyo na gaya ng pagtugon natin sa inyong mga resolusyon, mula nong resolusyon niyo the last time at resolusyon ngayon, tinutupad pag may hinihingi kayong resonabli – resonabli naman ang mga hinihingi ninyo, laging tutulong ang ating pamahalaan upang mapabuti ang kapakanan ng ating mga Pilipino dito sa napaka-importanteng pangalawang tahanan ninyo, ang Saudi Arabia. (applause)

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

because we have been prepared. We were prepared precisely because we made very tough decisions several years ago to reform our banking system, raise new revenues (very unpopular), and take those proceeds and invest, invest, invest in our people and the competitiveness of our economy.

Ang laki ng pag-angat ng private construction – 17% — due to the surge in middle and low-income housing; iyong mining naman ay umangat ng grew by 16.% at iyong business process outsourcing and industry ay lumaki mula 5,000 employees in 2001 hanggang mga 500,000. in large part due to our efforts to continually modernize our infrastructure and the high level of productivity and English language skills of our workforce; pati government consumption ay lumaki dahil nagtaas tayo ng sweldo sa pamahalaan; at syempre, the growth of remittances from you, our overseas workers, which are very important to our economy, have still defied expectations: sabi nila bababa or standstill, pero record pa rin ang inaabot. Maraming salamat.

There are also many opportunities for investment from Saudi Arabia. Kaya may meeting ako sa ilang mga kompanyang interesado mamuhunan sa Pilipinas. Dapat ang interes nila ay bumbunga ng talagang puhunan. Noong isang taon, may pumuntang investment mission sa Pilipinas galing sa Saudi. Ngunit mga sampung bansa ang binisita nila para pagpiian. Kailangan isa tayo sa mapipili.

Higit sa lahat, ang pagpapahalaga sa mga sakripisyo ng ating mga manggagawa, sa loob at sa labas ng bansa, ay malaking bahagi ng ating panunungkulan. Taus-pusong akong nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng suportang binibigay ninyo. Asahan ninyo na lagi akong tutulong upang mapabuti ang kapakanan ng mga Pilipinong nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa.. Maraming salamat, at mabuhay ang mga Pilipino Saudi Arabia!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a meeting with the Filipino community. Retrieved

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134400/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26267&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino Community in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino Community in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**

[Delivered at the Habitat Hotel, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, September 22, 2009]

Thank you. Maraming salamat, maraming salamat, Secretary Nitoy Roque sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin. At salamat din kay Ambassador Villamor at Consul General Tago sa inyong welcome remarks.

Gusto kong ipakilala yung iba't-ibang mga kasapi ng ating delegasyon na nandito nakaupo sa ating entablado: katabi ko ay ang ating Secretary of Foreign Affairs, yung boss ni Ambassador Villamor, si Secretary Bert Romulo. Katabi niya yung Deputy Speaker ng House of Representative, si Girlie Villarosa; kilala niyo si Secretary Nitoy Roque dahil matagal na siyang... nong araw pa Labor Attache dito; sa kanan naman ni Ambassador Villamor ay si Congressman Danny Suarez; at yung aking kabalen, si Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc-Sagun; sa likod kilala niyo ito, palagay ko yung mga nandito ng matagal dahil matagal siyang Ambassador dito sa Saudi Arabia, ngayon, Chairman ng ating panel sa peace talks sa MILF, si Ambassador Paeng Seguis; katabi niya ang ating Press Secretary, si Cerge Remonde; tapos, ang ating Trade and Industry, si Secretary Peter Favila; ang ating Secretary of Agrarian Reform na ako ay malaki ang karangalan para sa akin na dalawang beses nag-secretary sa cabinet ang mga Musli — panahon ni Diosdado Macapagal at panahon ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. at yung laki sa Saudi Arabia at balik Saudi Arabia bilang Consul General, yung inyong nag-aalaga sa inyo dito, si Consul General Tago, kilala na rin ninyo.

Kaming lahat ay bumabati sa ating mga kababayan dito sa Jeddah at sa Western Province. Maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo. Karing cabalen kong Kapampangan, dakal a salamat qng pamanyatang yu, karakal yo keti. Sa ating mga kaigsuunan, gikan sa Bisayas ug Mindanao, daghan salamat sa inyong pag-anhi. dagiti kakailyak ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag a rabii yo amin, agyamanac nga inmay kayo amin. San saray kabaleyan, masantos ya labi ed sikayon amin. At meron tayong nakilala mga Bicol Association, good evening to all of you. Diyos mabalos. And sa atong mga Ilonggo, salamat gid sa pag ari subong.

Ako'y nasisiyahan na nandito na namang muli at ilan sa atin ang nagkakita noong nag-state visit ako nong 2006, ngayon nagbalik para tanggapin yung imbitasyon ng His Majesty The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques para sa pagbubukas ng KAUST kung saan ang ating anim na scholar ay nag-aaral doon. Dinig ko anim kayo, anim kayo — limang masters at isang PhD. Sino sa inyo ang PhD dito. Congratulations! at ito ay Science and Technology, alam niyo, napaka-importante ito kasi sa ating bansa, two years ago, pinag-aralan natin yung ating Research and Development Manpower at kinailangan ang conclusion ng pag-aaral, we need a quantum leap sa ating Research and Development Manpower per number of population kung gusto natin na maging talagang maging sentro ng development. Kaya two years ago, nagsimula tayo ng programa para magkaroon ng scholarships yung mga estudyante sa masters and doctorate ng Science and Technology sa pitong unibersidad ng Pilipinas, kasama nga doon ung Ateneo kung saan kayo nanggaling. Pero dahil ito libre lahat, may apartment pa kayo bawat isa, nalibre ako ng anim na kailangan pang ipag-aral ng masters and doctorate, so congratulations sa inyo at maraming salamat sa Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Itong pagbisita natin, pagtanggap ng imbitasyon ay bahagi rin ng ating pangkalahatang istrategiya to engage the global community to benefit our economy, to enhance our national security and of course, to promote the welfare of our OFWs – the biggest community of which is right here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Yung tungkol sa national security, malaki ang tulong ng Saudi Arabia sa ating proseso

ng kapayapaan sa Mindanao, lalo na dahil siya ang lider ng bansang Muslim. Malaki ang kanyang impluwensiya sa iba't-ibang mga bansang Muslim pa rin natin sa ating mga Muslim sa Pilipinas. At malaki ang tulong ng Saudi upang umangat ang buhay ng ating mga kapatid na Muslim sa Mindanao, sa ganoon mabawasan ang isang malaking dahilan ng gyera. Halimbawa, yung Saudi ay tumulong sa atin para itayo yung magandang kalsada ngayon doon sa Camp Abubakar, yung dating kampo ng MILF na ngayon ay isang pamayanan na ng mga Iranon. Sila rin ay tumutulong upang matapos natin yung Circumferential Road ng Lake Lanao na siya ay mas maganda kaysa sa Lake Geneva, kailangan lang maganda ang kalsada para maenjoy natin lahat yung magandang view doon.

At pati na rin sa mga pagkakataon na magtrabaho dito sa Saudi. Kanina nga, I want to congratulate our Philippine Nurses Association dahil nagkaroon sila ng for the first time an organization here and they had their oath taking at ginamit ko yung pagkakataon na tanungin kung totoo nga ba na para maging nurse sa Mecca o Medina, para sa mga Pilipinong Muslim, hindi kailangang maging nursing board passer. Yun ay bahagi ng tulong para sa ganon, yung ating mga nursing students na Muslim ay magkakaroon ng pagkakataon doon sa Mecca at Medina. Pero yun ang para doon, pero sa ibang lugar, kailangan pa rin. Kaya kung siguro, several times, nagkaroon tayo ng board exam dito sa Saudi Arabia at Nitoy, November magkakaroon tayo ng board exam, di ba ? Last week of November, magkakaroon tayo ng board exam. Pero hindi lang yun, nagpapagawa ako kay Ambassador Villamor ng draft ng Executive Order para sa ganon, hanggang ito ay ma-rescind ng ibang pangulo, every year magkakaroon ng board exam dito sa Saudi Arabia.

Nong papasok ako, Philippine Nurses, PICPA, ang dami-dami ng iba't-ibang mga profession na narito sa Saudi Arabia, sa Jeddah, at natutuwa ako na yung 1.4 milyong Pilipino gaya ng sabi ni Consul General Tago ay pinupuri sa inyong sipag, sa inyong husay sa pagtatrabaho, sa inyong kagalingan sa pakikisama.

Bago ako pumunta dito, binisita ko yung mga Pilipino doon sa Red Sea Mall, maraming nurses doon, maraming mga chefs, maraming mga waiters, maraming iba't-ibang mga empleyado doon. Yung mga nurse hindi nandoon dahil nag-empleado, no, nagsha-shopping sila. Pero nagkaroon kami ng pagkakataon magkuwento tungkol sa kanilang buhay dito. At karamihan sa 1.4 milyon, maganda ang sitwasyon, pero siyempre kung 1.4 million kayo, by the law of averages, may ilang daan na nagkakaproblema ng malubha.

Kaya ito ang isang importanteng asikasuhin at noong ako ay nag-state visit tatlong taong nakaraan kung saan nagkita ang ilan sa atin, pinatawad ng Hari ang pitong-daang OFW na nasa kulungan noon. And a planeload of them came home with me.

Bukas naman, sa tulong din ng kanilang pamahalaan, an initial group – yung magkakasya sa eroplano ko – 120 workers na may malubhang problema, babalik sa Pilipinas, makakapiling muli ang kanilang mga pamilya. Inaasahan nating marami pang makakaalis, pagkatapos sikapin na maisaayos ang kanilang alitan sa kanilang mga employer.

Kaya inatasan ko ang DOLE na tuparin ang mga repormang ginawa natin kasi ang karamihan na may problema, yung mga household workers. Kaya sabi ko sa DOLE, pinaalala ko sa kanila, ipatupad ng husto yung ating mga repormang ginawa upang makapagbigay sa mga household service workers ng higit na proteksyon:

Number one, tinaas natin yung minimum wage. Nong araw, bago ako pumunta rito the last time, \$200, dinoble natin kasi gusto natin na yung mga edukado lang at yung mga may kaya lang ang magha-hire ng household workers dahil mas maganda ang pagtrato.

Pangalawa, walang placement fee.

Pangatlo, mandatory skills certification upang tiyakin na kaya naman nong magpupunta dito yung household job. Kasi kung manggagaling ka kung saan sa Pilipinas, na ni wala kang karanasan na nagtrabaho sa isang bahay sa Maynila, tapos pupunta ka dito, hindi marunong magplantsa, hindi marunong magluto, hindi marunong maglaba, di siyempre, magkakaroon ng awayan, at magkakaroon ng sakitan, so kailangan ang certification.

And fourth, basic culture pre-departure orientation para maka-adjust sa kapaligiran ng pagtatrabahuan.

Inatasan ko rin ang DOLE na ang POLO ay dapat mas mabilis kumilos sa hiling na tulong ng ating mga manggagawang may malubhang problema. At inatasan ko na dagdagan ng DOLE ang kanilang tauhan sa Saudi Arabia bago magtapos ang taon upang mas mabilis tumugon.

At isa pa, inatasan ko rin si Ambassador Villamor na dapat magkaroon, kahit na mayroon kayong consulate sa Jeddah, dapat magkaroon pa rin ng Embassy on Wheels. para every two months, naglilibot yung mga consular officials sa iba't-ibang mga establishments kung saan marami ang Pilipino, para sa ganon, marernew yung passport ninyo at iba pang inyong pangangailangan.

Ngayon, bago ako pumunta rito, nabalitaan natin iyong kaso ng mga nasa ilalim ng tulay. Narinig na rin ba ninyo yun? Nasa ilalim ng tulay. So, siyempre pinaimbestiga ko ito kay Secretary Nitoy Roque, at ito ang kanyang report, maraming taon na palang ginagamit ng Jeddah immigration ang Khandara Brige bilang pick-up point para sa overstaying pilgrims galing sa iba't ibang bansa. At mula sa tulay, dinadala sila sa Haj Terminal para iproseso and for documentation. Pagkatapos binabalik sa kanilang bansa.

Ngayon ang nangyari, ginamit itong tulay bilang gathering point ng 300 OFW kasama ang mga batang napanganak sa Saudi. By the way mga batang Saudi, congratulations sa inyong napakagandang orchestra and chorus. Bunga pala ng kombinasyon ng iba't-ibang mga Philippine schools dito, congratulations!

So yan ang mas typical pero meron ding ilan na mga anak na namomroblema ang magulang, pati anak, namomroblema rin. At ito na nga, kasama doon sa mga nagpunta sa ilalim ng tulay. At marami dito raw ay takas sa kanilang employer o sponsor. At ilan daw sa kanila ay matagal nang nag-free-free-lance o nagpa-part-time o nagnenegosyo.

Kaya ang gagawin doon ngayon ay inasikaso natin itong problemang ito at ako naman ay nasisiyahan na dito sa 300, may report na mga 100 na kababaihan at mga bata ay nakauwi na. One hundred ! Ngayon, yung two hundred— mga lalaki ay prinoproseso na ngayon at siyempre dahil Ramadan, alam naman ninyo mahirap ang opisina sa Ramadan, pero ngayon na tapos na, at pagkatapos ng Edl Fitr ay inaasahan natin na mas mabilis ang proseso para sila ay makauwi na.

Pero ito ay isang leksyon, kaya inatasan ko si Ambassador Villamor na makipag-ugnayan sa iba't-ibang ahensiya ng pamahalaan upang mas mabilis ang pag-asikaso sa ating manggagawang may problema. At inatasan ko ang DFA, si Secretary Romulo; ang DOLE, si Secretary Roque; pati na rin ang NBI, tinawagan ko si Secretary Agnes Devanadera sa Manila na ipa-investigate ang NBI na asikasuhin itong mga manggagawa, hindi lang yung 66 women and 31 children who have rejoined their families in the Philippines. Pati na rin iyong nalalabing mga 200 na nasa final stage of processing para mai-uwi. Ano ba ang problema talaga, bakit tumakas? At sino ang nag-alok sa kanila na pumunta doon sa ilalim ng tulay na usually, ang nagpupunta doon ay pilgrims so lahat ito ay kailangan malaman natin, maimbestiga kaya iyan ang ating isang ginagawa.

Gaya ng sabi ko, may ilang daan na may problema. Kaya iyan ang ginagawa ko, nakikipag-usap, pati yung mga hotel workers natin dito ay kausap kanina at kausap ni Ambassador Villamor at gaya ng sabi ko, kung 1.200, may mga ilang daan na may problema at dapat asikasuhin yun.

But above all, ang pinaka-importante is to help make our economy competitive enough so that one day going abroad will just be a career choice and not the only option for our hardworking Filipino workers.

At ito din ang isa sa mga pakay ng ating mga pagbibiyah. Our trips have helped secure important trade opportunities and foreign investments that have in turn helped us to achieve 34 quarters — or more than eight years — of uninterrupted growth. And it is this achievement that enables us to withstand the recession that is now raging around us.

Ginagawa natin ang lahat, para mamantini itong growth na ito. At sa ngayon, bagamat meron tayong recession sa buong mundo, malakas ang pag-angat ng ating mining; malakas ang pag-angat ng ating construction lalo na't may surge sa middle and low-income housing; and by the way, marami doon sa housing, kayong mga OFW rin ang mga bumibili, maraming salamat doon. Pati consumption ng pamahalaan na nanggaling sa pamahalaan ay umangat din dahil tinaas natin ang sweldo ng mga nagtatrabaho sa pamahalaan, at mayroon tayong programang pantawid pamilya para sa mga pinakamahihirap na pamilya ng ating bansa; at umaangat din yung ating business process outsourcing at call center industry na lumaki mula 5,000 employees noong 2001 hanggang halos 500,000 employees ngayon. So ganon kalaki ang increase in an 8-year period. At syempre, isang malaking pinanggagalingan din ng ating GNP growth rate ay yung mga remittances galing sa inyo na napakaimportante sa ating ekonomiya at itong taon aabot sa record high sa kabila ng sinabi ng mga dalubhasa na bababa ang inyong remittances, tumataas at aabot record itong taong ito, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Kaya ako ay naparito dito upang makipagkuwento sa inyo, upang malaman ang iba't-ibang mga pangangailangan lalo na yung pangangailangan ng mga malulubhang may problema. Mga pangangailangan din ng mga hindi masyadong malubha may problema gaya ng embassy on wheels, gaya ng board examinations dito pero higit sa lahat, para magpasalamat sa inyong malasakit para sa inyong pamilya, para sa inyong trabaho, at para inyong bansa.

Maraming, maraming salamat at Mabuhay ang Pilipino sa Western Province. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech a meeting with the Filipino Community in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134322/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26268&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo on the drastic effect of Typhoon Ondoy

**Message
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On the drastic effect of Typhoon Ondoy**

[Delivered at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, September 26, 2009]

I am calling on our countrymen, especially residents in Metro Manila and other provinces in the path of typhoon Ondoy, to please stay calm, follow the instructions of your local officials and civil defense authorities, and be ready at all times to help others as we manage our way together out of this latest natural calamity.

Your government is mobilizing all its resources to rescue people from the floodwaters, attend to the food and medical needs of the displaced, maintain public utilities and other essential services, and preserve public order.

After the crisis is past, I ask you as well to donate clothes and blankets, foodstuffs, medicines and other essentials that will surely be needed by those among us who were victimized by the typhoon.

As ever, let us pull together and look out for each other in the finest Filipino tradition of caring and sharing.

Thank you and may God bless us all.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's message on the drastic effect of typhoon Ondoy. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134313/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26299&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo regarding “Oplan Sagip Center” in Malacañang in the aftermath of Tropical Storm “Ondoy” [Filipino]

**Mensahe
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Ukol sa “Oplan Sagip Center” sa Malacañang para sa mga naapektuhan ng Bagyong “Ondoy”**

[Ipinahayag sa Bahay Pangarap, Malacañang Park, ika 28 ng Setyembre, 2009]

Kahit na hindi natin inaasahang mangyari muli sa ating buhay ang tindi ng kalamidad na dulot ng kakadaang bagyong Ondoy, ito ay di masyadong nagbibigay ng gaang loob sa ating mga kababayang nasalanta ng bagyo, na ngayon nangangailangan higit sa kailanman, ng ating kalinga at ating tulong habang sinisikap nilang maitayo muli ang kanilang mga buhay.

Bilang kontribusyon sa pangkalahatang pagsisikap, pinabuksan natin ang Malacañang bilang emergency center para sa gawaing relief, bilang isa sa mga sentrong tanggapn at pamamahagi ng mga donasyon at bilang pansamantalang evacuation center ng mga pamilyang nawalan ng tahanan ng bagyo.

Ang mga evacuees ay bibigyan ng silong sa lugar na available sa mga gusali ng Malacañang at sa mga tolda na itinayo sa pagitan ng gusali. Kung kailangan, ang mga empleyado ay magsisiksikan upang may lugar ang ating mga kababayang nasalanta. Ako ay lumipat muna sa kabila ng ilog sa PSG compound.

Ang aking ama, si dating Pangulong Diosdado Macapagal, na ngayon ang kaniyang kaarawan, sa panahon niya, may “Common Man’s” day sa Malacañang tuwing biyernes. Ngayon, kahit hindi biyernes, dapat ganoon din sa ganitong panahon ng krisis kung kailan ang ating mga kababayan ay dapat nagkakaisa at nagtutulungan. Buo ang aking paniniwala ang lahat ng ating mga namumuno ay magbibigay ng tamang halimbawa, ano man ang kulay ng kanilang pulitika o partidong sinasamahan, habang tayo ay hinahamon ng na muling ipakita na ang sambayanang Pilipino ay hindi nagkukulang sa mga katangiang maglalabas ng kabayanihan nating lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s message regarding “Oplan Sagip Center” in Malacañang in the aftermath of tropical storm “Ondoy”. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134302/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26306&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the launching of “Nurse Assigned in Rural Service” (NARS) Project in
Region 12 [Filipino] Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa paglulunsad ng “Nurse Assigned in Rural Service” (NARS) Project sa Rehiyon 12**

[Ipinahayag sa Passenger’s Waiting Area, Cotabato Airport, Awang, Cotabato, ika 30 ng Setyembre, 2009]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Roque sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Maraming salamat rin, Mayor Sema sa iyong words of welcome at words of comfort. Yung dinadanas ng Metro Manila ngayon, dinanas din ng Cotabato area nong bumaha yung Mindanao River. So, alam ko na alam ninyo yung damdamin ng mga taga-Metro Manila. Ating mga NARS trainees; other officials; friends; ladies and gentlemen.

Ewan ko kung naalala ninyo, anim na buwang nakaraan, sa tuktok ng pandaigdigang krisis ng ekonomiya, bilang bahagi ng ating Economic Resiliency Program, naglunsad tayo ng NARS, N-A-R-S. Ibig sabihin noon — Nurses Assigned in Rural Service.

Ang pakay niya ay resolbahan ang sumobrang mga nurses na walang karanasan — yung mga new graduates, wala pang experience — so, magamit sila, so mamobilize sila at ipairal ang kalusugan ng taong bayan at ipalapit sa pamahalaan ang taong bayan. Ang diwa nito ay i-mobilize sa trabaho yung mga nurses na naghihintay sa kani-kanilang bayan dahil dulot ng krisis sa America, bumaba ang demand for nurses kaya ang mga experienced nurses ang pinipili, yung mga walang experience, hindi kinukuha. Kaya gumawa tayo nitong programang ito — sa programang ito, hindi lamang natin nagagamit ang mga walang ginagawang professionals, nakakadagdag pa tayo ng sundalo laban sa sakit.

Ang panahon ng serbisyo nila ay anim na buwan. We started six months ago, ngayon, tapos na ang anim na buwan, and our nurses here in front with the tag are finishing their program today — last day, September. At inaasahan natin na ngayon at meron na kayong mga karanasan, yung sinasabi ni Secretary Roque na usually nga, kayo pa ang magbabayad para mag-training sa ospital, nagkaroon kayo ng karanasan, so, nadagdagan na yung inyong capability to be hired permanently at tutulong ang DOLE sa pagpili sa inyo ng permanent ng trabaho.

Ngayon at natapos na ang first six months — first batch, meron tayong pangalawang recruitment na magsisimula bukas, October 1.

At sa pagkakataong ito, ito naman yung ating mga nasa likod, sa pagkakataong ito, ipinag-iibayo natin ang programa.

So, DOH take note na itong instructions ko ay nasusunod. Inilulunsad natin ngayon ang pangalawang NARS, N-A-R-S. Ngayon ang tawag ‘Nurses Assigned in Rural Schools’. Ang mga sumasali dito ay maglilingkod bilang mga nurse na lilibot sa mga school districts kasi wala tayong mga school nurse sa public schools. At Wow! Hindi kayo magkukulang ng trabaho, magtuturo kayo ng hygiene, magtuturo kayo ng wastong pagkain, magtuturo kayo ng sanitation, at sa ibabaw ng tungkulin na ito, ito ay gagawin ninyo sa ibabaw ng karaniwang paglilingkod ninyo na nagbibigay ng paglilingkod sa mga nangangailangan ng health care, at referral.

At sa ibabaw ng paghandog ng presensya ng kalusugan ng pamahalaan sa mga paaralan, kayo naman ay dahil nandoon kayo, at least mababawasan niyo yung trabaho na ginagawa ng mga organic personnel tungkol sa pangalusugan. So, ito ang ating bagong NARS. So, inaasahan natin na itong second batch ay tutulong hindi lamang sa kalusugan ng komunidad, tutulong pati para gumanda ang ating school system.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, congratulations! Kayo ay bahagi sa 5,000 na bagong trainees ng NARS na magsisimula ng inyong six months bukas at pagkatapos noon, ay mas qualified na kayo at hopefully by that time, baka gumaganda na ang pandaigdigang ekonomiya at magkakaroon ng mas malaking demand para sa ating napakamagaling na mga nurses sa Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat at congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the launching of "Nurse Assigned in Rural Service" (NARS) Project in Region 12. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134230/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26352&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 95th Foundation Day Anniversary of Glan, Sarangani and the 10th Lubi-Lubi Festival

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 95th Foundation Day Anniversary of Glan, Sarangani and the 10th Lubi-Lubi Festival**

[Delivered at the Municipal Gymnasium, Brgy. Poblacion, Glan, Sarangani, October 8, 2009]

Daghan salamat Secretary Dureza sa imong pagpa-ila.

Governor Miguel Dominguez daghan salamat sab sa imong pag welcome ug sa kontribusyon gikan sa probinsya sa Sarangani alang sa mga biktima sa flood victims didto sa Metro Manila, salamat sa tabang; Vice Governor Solon ug siyempre ang atong host diri si Mayor Yap ug si Mrs. Yap, daghan salamat sa inyong imbitasyon kanako; Vice Mayor Wata; tanan aton mga kaigsuonan opisyal diri sa Glan; our two national officials, Commissioner of Customs Boy Morales and Commissioner of Immigration Nonoy Libanan who are here to open the CIQ One-Stop Shop in our Glan International Port today. Aton mga kaigsuonan diri sa Glan, Malipayong Anniversary kaninyong tanan!

Mao nga ang akong ikatulo nga pagbisita diri sa Glan busa ang akong una isip senador karon duha ka beses isip Presidente. Ug usa nga rason gyud ngano nalipay ko sa kada pagbisita ko diri kay kamo tanan dako ang inyong suporta kanako. Ug murag ingon ni Secretary Dureza nga ako ang Presidente nagamahal sa Glan, ako naman ang Presidente nga gimahal diri sa Glan. Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Salamat sa tabang kanako sa mga eleksyon kay murag ingon... sama sa ingon ni Mayor Yap kanunay daog ako dinhi sa Glan ug salamat naman sa inyong suporta sa eleksyon ug dili sa eleksyon kay daghan kaayo ang inyong suporta sa akong administrasyon labi na sa mga maayo na nahimo ninyo diri alang sa kauswagan sa lungsod, sa probinsya, sa rehiyon sa Mindanao sa atong nasud.

Nining inyong anibersaryo 95th Anniversary, we have a very important milestone, your new One-Stop Shop Action Center to serve the Customs, Immigration, Quarantine and Security needs of the BIMP-EAGA. Ug sa inyong security gusto ko sab ipaabot ang akong pag abe-abe kaninyong tanan kay ang kalinaw klaro diri sa inyong lungsod na Glan. Wala na kamong NPA, wala na kamong MILF, wala na kamong MNLF, wala kamong Abu Sayyaf, so congratulations sa kalinaw dinhi sa Glan. And we thank also our soldiers headed by General Rey Mapago here, our policemen and the other law enforcers.

Ug tungod kay gwapo ang inyong kalinaw dinhi ug meron na tayong magandang One- Stop Action Center sa ating pantalan, ang ating international port takos ganini ang panagkauban ug ang komersyo sa BIMP-EAGA, ang atong Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asia Growth Area. Sa akong niaging pagbisita gyud diri giabri nato ang inyong international port, and Governor Dominguez and I and Mayor Yap saw off the first boat going to North Sulawesi which is only 150 kilometers away. So bringing goods, coke and other beverages to the Northern part of Indonesia. Karon, now that we have the One-Stop Action Center for quarantine and immigration and customs the more there will be trade, and Glan will be one of the most important international ports for our BIMP-EAGA progress.

Busa ang akong tuyo lang kaninyo kay sigurado naman ako sa inyong suporta nga ipadayon nato ang mga imprastraktura nga mo-attract ug mga mamumuhunan ug magpaspas sa pagdala sa mga pagkaon ug gamit sa laing-laing dapit sa rehiyon, labi na ang atong flagship project diri ang Jose Abad Santos-Glan-Sarangani Cooperation

Triangle o JAGS-CT. Gisugdan nato kining proyekto niagi pang 2006. Uban sa atong pagsugod ang paghatag sa pondo alang sa Glan-Abad Santos Road, niaging 2006 pa nahuman na ang Sarangani portion, ang Glan portion, congratulations! Karon under construction ang Abad Santos portion. Apan para kanako ang usa ka dako nga resulta nining atong bag-o nga kalsada nga ang mga produkto nga gikan ug paadto sa Southern Davao del Sur, sa Abad Santos mo-agi na sa pantalan sa Glan tungod sa kalsada.

Gusto ko unta ipatuyo sab nga ipadayon nato ang pagbutang ug puhunan sa edukasyon, serbisyong panglawas, ug uban pang kinahanglanong serbisyo aron maabot sa tibuok nasod ang kauswagan. Apan diri diay sa Glan sa dili pa ako nakahangyo kaninyo nahimo na ninyo kay nahibaw ko karon nga diri dinha... sa diay sa Glan libre ang eskwela gikan sa grade school hangtod sa high school, hangtod sa college. So, congratulations kan Mayor Yap sa iyang pag puhunan sa edukasyon, ug dinhi diay sa Glan libre resulta ang pag pa-ospital so maayo sab ang inyong serbisyo sa health services sa aton mga katawhan. Ug tungod kay... so nangutana ko kan Mayor tingali kadako kaayo ang imong income sa lungsod kay nahimo ninyo kining tanan, mga nining tanan mga serbisyo inyo na dili lang ordinaryo lang compared sa mga laing-laing lungsod.

Apan ang importante ang prioritization, walay mga luxury sa operation sa gobyerno tanan sa development ug miniayo walay graft and corruption sa procurement so walay nga waste nga pondo so nakita nato sa maayong governance maayo ang kauswagan diri sa Glan. Angay gyud nga kamo ang mahimo nga aton international port sa Southern Philippines paadto sa BIMP-EAGA.

Daghan salamat ug congratulations kaninyong tanan!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 95th Foundation Day Anniversary of Glan, Sarangani and the 10th Lubi-Lubi Festival. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134147/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26442&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the 24th National Convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association (CREBA), Inc.

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the 24th National Convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders'
Association (CREBA), Inc.**

[Delivered at the Grand Caprice Atrium, Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, October 8, 2009]

Thank you Secretary Dureza for your introduction.

Governor Oscar Moreno whom I understand you visited earlier and he knows your industry very well because before he became a government official he was for a long time in your industry with Ayala and he knows your needs very well including securitization. Of course, Jimmy Cura thank you for the invitation for me to join you today and congratulations on holding this national convention and the theme of your convention. I would like to also congratulate the CREBA Chapter of Cagayan de Oro Edward Argayoso (applause) for hosting this convention of your very important national association. And I'm looking at your theme, "Pinoy Economic Stimuli in a Global Recession: — and you recognized two stimuli — the Mass Housing and the World Class Tourism." And so I suppose during your meeting this is what you will be talking about — how to avail of the many opportunities that await you in these two areas.

And as Jimmy Cura mentioned about our resilience let me quote The Economist Intelligence Unit which says: "Where the Philippines differs from its neighbors, and indeed from most crisis-hit economies, is that the crisis has generated less pronounced economic ups and downs. The economy has not contracted at all in year-on-year terms during the global current crisis."

How true this is, indeed.

Because we have achieved much in the areas of infrastructure investment, job creation, macroeconomic stability and improvements in our overall business environment — including your industry real estate and building — your industry has helped us through the worst of the global economic crisis. And I thank you for that. The result is a Philippine economy that is stronger and more able to withstand shocks such as those that the global financial crisis is throwing at us. Not only have we sustained positive economic growth throughout the global recession, we even exceeded expectations in the second quarter of this year.

Moreover, financial reforms — including the ones that Oca did when he was still in the Congress — have created the fundamentals that underpin our financial sector today, reinforced by conservative banking practices. And these values have significantly sheltered our country's finances and therefore allows our banking sector to continue to have the liquidity to finance your projects because we know in today's modern times real estate construction housing all are dependent on how smooth is the credit system of the country.

We know how the U.S. economy collapsed — the sub-prime credit. But here in this country we don't really have sub-prime credits the conservative banking practices have kept your credit clients and your own members as creditworthy. So, in recognition of this stability, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the Philippine credit rating last July.

And a lot of this is because of the bitter medicine of reform that we took early on and the economic resilience that it has in turn created, so we are today a stronger, more robust nation. And now that we are seeing some signs of a recovery in the world that we hope will be sustained, we are poised to ride the wave of the impending global

economic rebound and to offer your industry what you have recognized these opportunities to capture the growth prospects provided by the impending world recovery.

So you mentioned world class tourism, indeed, there are more and more tourists coming to the Philippines and travelling even within the Philippines. For instance, within the Philippines, more and more people are flocking to the centers of commerce and tourism here in Mindanao as well as the Visayas, as tourist destinations spread to what we call the super region called Central Philippines which covers Bicol, Palawan, the Visayas, and the northern islands of Mindanao. The gateway to one of those islands, Camiguin, is Cagayan de Oro which by itself as well is the regional center and the most populous highly urbanized city in Northern Mindanao.

Very important project of ours — we talk about it everytime Oca and I see each other is the first thing we talk about — is the Laguindingan Airport. And I am happy to hear upon my arrival here that concrete is already going to start pouring on the runway this week. So, congratulations for that Oca! (applause) And that will make tourism even stronger here in Northern Mindanao when you will be able to have first the regional airlines coming, the international airlines that will take sometime because we have to wait for America and Europe to recover but the airlines around will be able to land in that airport, that runway that we are now concreting.

In fact tourism in the Philippines grew significantly in the past eight years, and our Undersecretary here who is one of your speakers — I see Undersecretary Palabyab. Have you done your speech? Not yet — can attest to that that in the past eight years we fleshed out our tourism plan. In the early part of our administration the DOT got Mc Kinsey to do a tourism masterplan, and that is essentially what we are following. And we have transformed that into what we call our Tourism Central Philippines.

One breakthrough for domestic tourism was when we completed the Western Nautical RORO Highway in 2003. It allowed travel by car or bus from Manila, not only to Boracay but also to Northern Mindanao.

And now with the Western, Central and Eastern Nautical RORO Highways, we have had busy tourist traffic in the past five years in Central Philippines and many parts of Mindanao. So I am glad that you are looking at world class tourism as an important opportunity because our tourism is growing and the only limit to its growth is the availability of the tourism establishments. All our resorts are fully booked all the time. So, Ace Durano tells me rather than promoting tourism he promotes tourism investments because what seems to be happening is you build it and they come. So that is a great opportunity.

Now, as you rightly recognized, mass housing is another good opportunity inspite of the global recession in the Philippines this past year. Jimmy Cura said you were so scared a year ago when the recession started in the world, but during this past year Philippine private construction grew by 17%. Congratulations to all of you! And why did it grow that fast because of the surge in middle and low income housing.

The primary cause of demand for homes is migration to urban centers in search of jobs or livelihood. And the most workable solution is not for the government to build the houses but for you private sector low-cost housing. And this trend is encouraging you, the land developers and the builders, to explore outside Metro Manila for more opportunities to build homes for our people.

And now that there is natural calamity our plan, and we will be discussing this some more on Tuesday in our next NDCC Cabinet Level Meeting, is that because we know that many years ago or over the decades people have been occupying riversides, creeksides and lakeshores — not the lake shore that is... that lakeshore that's an artificial lake, it's the shore of an artificial lake. What we're talking about lakeshores like Laguna de Bay, okay. The lakeshores, the dangerous places over the decades people have been staying there, not you know, not really your clients but rather informal dwellers.

And what we want is that those who evacuated should not go back to those places anymore. So we have to work very quickly on their relocation rather than returning to the same dangerous places that they have now escaped from. So, yesterday, we started the first relocation of the evacuees, from Marikina they went to Sta. Rosa and I will visit them tomorrow.

And I understand from Vice President de Castro — who I see is one of your speakers that... and he will maybe tell you more about it tomorrow — that several of you the developers have committed that in some of the areas that were already prepared for development by the government or even not yet prepared but the land is there a lot of the developers have said that within one month you will be able to have houses that people can move into. So we thank you very much for that because that is a great opportunity for your industry, it's also a great opportunity now to transform our informal settlers, dwellers in those dangerous places to legitimate homeowners in places where they will be safer from natural calamities.

And to ensure that your market will be sustained, that you will continue to have this market that market that made you grow 17 percent during a world crisis and maybe even faster when the world rebounds, we will continue to work aggressively to ensure that our growth that has been generating jobs and revenue to invest in new infrastructure and critical social programs will be sustained.

We will continue our Economic Resiliency Plan and its important components like the Conditional Cash Transfers of the poorest of the poor. This is the allowance we give to the identified 700,000 and now one million poorest families in the country. We give them a very modest allowance on the condition that they send their children to school and they go to regular public health services. Ang tawag na Pantawid Pamilya para makatawid sila para maging mas matatag ang kanilang pamumuhay and then they will begin to think of microfinance, microbusiness and begin to be able to hopefully afford their own modest housing coming from your industry.

Through the support of all levels of government, provincial governments for instance like Oca Moreno, and the hard work of our people, including your industry, we will not be deterred in our effort to maintain growth. We will intensify our investment in infrastructure. Because you're building houses you need infrastructure to go to the houses that you will build.

We will continue our Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program so that the people can continue to pay their installments and the credit system will continue to support your industry. In fact Secretary Peter Favila is meeting now in a Monetary Board Meeting, he represents the national government, and they will be discussing about how to provide, how to make credit easier. For one thing, they will maintain their interest rates so that your industry will continue to have this important facility. GSIS, SSS and Pag-IBIG have been instructed to give deferral of the repayment of their loans because that deferral increases their take home pay and therefore they can continue therefore to continue with whatever installments they need from you or to have additional new loans to repair their homes or to build new ones.

We will continue to work with you to ensure our public-private sector partnership. I think you know more than I, and Vice President will elaborate tomorrow I'm sure that HUDCC has dropped interest rates, it has increased the coverage of socialized housing loans and the maximum loanable amount. And as I said earlier, the Bangko Sentral even if during a calamity normally it would want to raise rates to avoid an inflationary pressure will be keeping the key policy rates unchanged.

So, because we are doing a public-private sector partnership as President Cura said even if we're very busy in Luzon on things to address the natural calamity. I'm here because CREBA is an important partner in our public-private sector partnerships. And I count on CREBA to continue to be the government's efficient shelter partner because that is the way by which we can move towards the first world in 20 years.

Once again to all of you, congratulations on your terrific growth during this global economic crisis and may you have more progress yet in the year to come.

Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134201/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26441&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 52nd anniversary of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) on the Base of the Pyramid

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 52nd anniversary of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) on the Base of the
Pyramid**

[Delivered at the Grand Plaza Ballroom, Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, Pasay City, October 8, 2009]

Thank you Secretary Favila for your introduction.

Thank you also President Andaya and the other officers of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines for inviting me to be here with you today. I'd like to greet also President of PDIC, President Nograles — I hope you don't have too many clients from the rural banking system — and Gilda Pico, President of the Land Bank, I hope you have many, many clients from the rural banking system. All other officers and members of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

First of all, Happy Anniversary to all of you!

And second, as President Andaya said, mentioned, congratulations for helping the Philippines to be number three in having the best microfinance system in the world and number one in Asia. And of course through you I thank the whole banking sector for your efforts to make your services available to your clients even at the height of typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

And I thank your association for your donation, I believe especially to the flood victims of Rizal, which is the worst hit province of all in this past typhoon Ondoy. I have also my own pride in helping to strengthen the rural banking system to what it is today, because when I was a senator, I was the principal author of the law that help to rehabilitate and strengthen the rural banking system of the Philippines.

And now here we are in what we hope is the tail end of a global economic crisis; also in what we hope is the tail end of a once in a lifetime calamity. And with your support, we will I continue to work aggressively to ensure that our economic growth that has been generating jobs and revenue to invest in new infrastructure and critical social programs will be sustained. With your support we will continue our Economic Resiliency Plan and its important components like the Conditional Cash Transfers to the poorest of the poor. We hope that this poorest of the poor to whom we give allowances as long as they send their children to school and avail of rural health services will soon graduate from extreme poverty.

Kaya ang tawag Pantawid Pamilya, sana makatawid sila para sa umabot sa kalagayan na pag-iisipan nila na magnegosyo at humiram sa mga rural banks. And here in this response to the calamity, through the support of all levels of government and the hard work of our people, both you and your clients, we will not be deterred in our effort to maintain growth. We will intensify our investment in infrastructure, especially shovel-ready repair and rehabilitation.

Right now, three things need to be done: garbage collection, draining of flooded areas, and cash for work for the thousands displaced by Ondoy and Pepeng, initially in helping clean and repair the roads. And for this purpose, we will continue our Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program.

Going into the more medium-term, but we have to begin now — in fact, we started yesterday — we do not want to return the evacuees who came from the endangered areas. They have been living in the creeksides, riversides, lakeshores for decades now. And therefore, it's been a Herculean job for the local governments to convince them to

stay out of those or get out of those endangered areas. But now that many of them did this is the opportunity to make sure they don't return. But the way to do that is to make sure that they have relocation sites. And that is what we have been doing. We'll be having a meeting again of the NDCC on Tuesday, and we will be having a report on this. But in the meantime, yesterday, the first batch of evacuees who will now be relocatees, and these are evacuees from Marikina, move to Sta. Rosa. And I will be visiting them tomorrow to make sure that they are well on their way to a new life. And we are continuing to do this and this is in fact the most important step that we have to take after the clean up and the draining.

But we work with you the private sector in the meantime because they need to have a new life to ensure that there is capital for our micro and SMEs to keep operating or even expand, and also to ensure public-private sector partnerships. And to make it easier for you to participate in rebuilding broken lives but also in continuing to build up the lives that were not broken.

In this regard, the Bangko Sentral, where Peter Favila is a member of the Board representing the national government, the Bangko Sentral has decided to keep the key policy rates unchanged rather than raising them to avert an inflationary pressure.

And as providers of banking services to the base of the economic pyramid, which is your theme, you play a key role as the primary conduit of funds to micro and small businesses and small farmers. And this, indeed, is an important component of the resiliency that we have been able to show during this global economic crisis.

Because during this crisis, although all economies have felt the pain of the global recession, that pain has not been evenly distributed. For instance in Asia, the economies that have been performing best and that are still enjoying positive growth and not negative are those emerging markets where consumption is a high proportion of GDP rather than exports. The Philippines has domestic private consumption 70% of GDP, Indonesia and Vietnam 65%, so with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh 75% even though it's very poor. But because of the strong domestic consumption of these countries with large population they had been keeping the economies afloat and these economies are outperforming the trade-dependent economies. And how can we sustain this private consumption, it is because of institutions like the Rural Banks that cater to the small and the very small.

So as our country comes to rely more heavily on the local market, because we have seen that the international market is really just too unstable and volatile. Your role as a major engine of local finance activity becomes more important. You help to keep business humming in the base and by doing so you prove once again that commercial viability and the social necessity of our rural banks.

Well, if you and we in government together were able to bring about a system that is third best in the world and best in Asia in microfinance, it is because we have both believed you and we in government in microentrepreneurship. We have campaigned actively for more Filipinos to become entrepreneurs. We have put great emphasis on micro enterprises which comprise maybe 90% of our total economic activity. In the last eight years, through the government, through the Land Bank mostly, about a P150 billion — is that right, Gilda? — has been unleashed for microcredit. Much of this amount, thought it came from Land Bank, the Land Bank does not retail. So, it has reached micro entrepreneurs in the countryside through cooperatives, accredited NGOs, and of course, the accredited rural banks.

Peter Favila sent me a text message on my way here — couldn't put it in my speech anymore — that the private banking sector, mostly rural banks, has provided... has an outstanding loan portfolio now for microfinance of six billion pesos to 900,000 clients with over 200 banks involved. And so I thank you all for taking care of them because your microclients are the same microenterprises that are helping enable the economies of our towns to remain active despite the global slump.

The report of the Philippines being number three in the world and number one in Asia in microfinance was also reported not only by the IFC but it was several multilateral financial institutions and announced by The Economist Intelligence Units. And may I add another quotation from The Economist Intelligence Unit which said: "Where the Philippines differs from its neighbors, and indeed from most crisis-hit economies, is that the crisis has generated less

pronounced economic ups and downs.” Certainly, we had no economic ups and downs in the last eight years. We only had uninterrupted growth. I remember when I went to Washington with Secretary Favila and I met some senators who had been friends of U.S. senators who have been friends of the Philippines since the 1980s, one of them said, “The problem with the Philippines is you have your cycles, your ups and downs every...” “No,” I said, “Mr. Senator, not anymore, not since 2001. We have not had a boom and bust cycle anymore. It’s been boom, boom, boom and even during the crisis though our growth slowed down, it’s still positive.” And therefore that is one of the big differences, and private consumption and rural banks are a very important ingredient in that sustained growth. So, thank you very much to all of you.

And to continue what The Economist said, “The economy has not contracted at all during the current global crisis.”

How true this is, indeed. We have achieved much in the areas of infrastructure investment, job creation, macroeconomic stability and improvements in our overall business environment that has helped us through the worst of the global economic crisis. The result is the Philippine economy that is stronger and more able to withstand shocks such as those that the global financial crisis is throwing at us. Not only have we sustained positive economic growth throughout the global recession, but we even exceeded expectations for the second quarter.

Moreover, financial reforms including the bill that I authored which became law now since I’m a senator and later on through the Central Bank of the Philippines, financial reforms have created the solid fundamentals that underpin our banking sector today reinforced by your conservative banking practices.

Your values have significantly sheltered our country’s finances. And that is why you are among those who helped that in recognition of this stability, Moody’s Investors Service upgraded the Philippines credit rating last July.

Because of the bitter medicine of reform that we took early on and the economic resilience that it has in turn created, today indeed as I said earlier where a stronger, more robust nation. And we are poised to ride the wave of the coming global rebound because the signs are there for a global rebound. Let’s hope it is maintained. And therefore as the rebound comes because we are fundamentally strong. We’ve survived the crisis. The rural banks have an opportunity to capture the growth prospects that will come with the global recovery, especially for the base of the pyramid.

Therefore, we look to our rural bankers to continue to play an active role in promoting growth in the countryside. And I know you will not shirk from this role, because as a sector while some banks have failed as a sector, you have never yet failed our people.

So, side by side, let us continue to beat the odds so that with strong microfinance with a strong base of the pyramid, the rural banking system will be one of the institutions that will propel our country to the edge of the first world in 20 years when you turn 70 years old as an association.

To all of you, Congratulations and Happy 52nd Anniversary!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the 52nd anniversary of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) on the Base of the Pyramid. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134209/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26440&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Mid-Year Philippine Economic Briefing

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Mid-Year Philippine Economic Briefing

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City, October 14, 2009]

Thank you Secretary Teves for your introduction.

Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, Cabinet members, Economic managers, Business leaders, ladies and gentlemen.

I start off by reading you a quote from The Economist Intelligence Unit: “Where the Philippines differs from its neighbors and indeed from most crisis-hit economies is that the crisis has generated less pronounced economic ups and downs, the economy has not contracted at all in year on year terms during the current global crisis.” How true this is indeed. And this is a story that many of you know but many outside don’t even know. In fact, when I made a visit to one of the countryside I’ve been to, one of the leaders there said, “you know, the problem with the Philippines is that you always have a boom and bust cycle.” And I said, not in the last eight years. We have had uninterrupted quarter growth every quarter and that is one of the important things we have achieved and which has enabled us to be resilient during the food global and now climate change crisis.

We have achieved much in the areas of infrastructure investment, job creation and macroeconomic stability that have helped us to the worst of these crisis. As I said earlier, first there was a global food crisis, then a global financial and economic crisis, and now we have a climate change crisis. But the result of our reforms is a Philippine economy that is stronger and more able to withstand shocks such as those that the global crisis, the three global crisis have been throwing at us. And our economic managers will be the ones to give the figures not me. But I can say in summary that we have sustained positive economic growth throughout the global recession and even exceeded expectations for the second quarter.

We have had important financial and fiscal reforms. The financial reforms have created solid fundamentals that underpin our banking sector today. They reinforce the conservative banking practices. These values have significantly sheltered our country’s finances. In recognition of this stability, Moody’s Investor Service upgraded the Philippine credit rating last July, and even the damage from the two recent typhoons that hit Manila and most of Luzon was “deemed manageable” so that rating and multilateral agencies maintained their outlook for positive economic growth this year. And let me give my appreciation to the banking sector. Aside from the fact that their innate conservatism together with our financial and Central Bank reforms have given us a sound banking system to the global financial crisis in the Economic Resiliency Program which we discussed in the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Conference last year.

Where we asked the private sector to contribute — or not that we asked the private sector — the private sector committed to contribute 50 billion pesos to a 100 billion-peso investment fund, per the report of Secretary Favila to me, the private sector has complied with its 50 billion pesos, especially in financing the power investments. Thank you very much for that.

Aside from the financial reforms you’re of course familiar with the fiscal reforms, the bitter medicine of fiscal reform that we took years ago. Also you are familiar with the economic resilience that it has created so that as I said today, we have a stronger more robust nation. And therefore now, we are poised to ride the wave of the impending global economic rebound and to offer investors an opportunity to capture the growth prospects that come with that rebound.

For as we know there are already early signs or green sprouts that the long awaited global rebound is on the horizon. The Asian Development Bank has reported signs of return of investor risk appetite supported by such indicators as the Morgan Stanley Capital International Index showing a rise from its lowest level last November indicating that investor appetite for Asian equities is rebounding.

The Philippine Stock Exchange has risen by double digit is an understatement, and I'm glad to see that we are quite close now to the levels that we had before the financial crisis.

Meanwhile, foreign direct investment coming into the Philippines have also posted a double digit increase. The Business Expectation Survey carried out by our Central Bank shows that business sentiment continued to improve in the third quarter. The overall confidence index is back to positive territory compared to the third quarter of last year.

We will continue to work aggressively to ensure that the growth that has been generating jobs and revenue to invest in new infrastructure and critical social programs will be sustained. We will continue with our Economic Resiliency Program and its key components not just that fund for infrastructure, public sector fund but also Conditional Cash Transfers, the Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program and the bigger faster absorption of the budget by our agencies. Through government support at all levels and the hard work of our people, we will not be deterred in our effort to maintain growth. We will intensify our investment in infrastructure, especially post-calamity reconstruction.

I think you have seen in the news that I have just created a Special National Public-Private Reconstruction Commission whose task shall be: 1. To undertake a study of the causes, costs and actions to be taken in the wake of typhoons "Ondoy," "Pepeng" but not only those two, also last year's typhoon "Frank" from which we have not fully recovered; 2. Undertake the rehabilitation plan for wrecked infrastructure and other priorities; 3. Raise funds, especially grants to fund reconstruction; 4. Prioritize programs; 5. Oversee implementation; 6. Serve as a clearing house for international assistance which the donors themselves implement using the cluster approach. This has been used, for instance, in the reconstruction of typhoon "Reming" and we can do the same template for these three typhoons, and; 7. Coordinate an international pledging session with the World Bank and the United Nations I'm sure you also read that the Commission shall be headed by a leading businessman with the Department of Finance and a leader of the church as cochair. The government members of the Reconstruction Commission will be the user agencies, need agencies or implementing agencies. For instance, DSWD, HUDCC and the Office of Civil Defense.

But we will also be harnessing private sector, business leaders, NGO leaders both domestic and international. Harnessing domestic private initiatives into the governments overall reconstruction efforts — including business groups, the institutional church and civil society organizations — makes for good policy and better mobilization of external and incremental resources. It also allows us to be able to pick the brains or tap technical expertise and networks of the private sector and NGO leaders.

Depending on the recommendation of the special commission, we may issue reconstruction bonds. I've already discussed this with Peter Favila who supervises the NDC which seems to be the favorite recommendee of economic managers and business leaders as far as being an issuer of bonds is concerned whether peso or dollar, to which multilaterals such as the World Bank and the ADB may subscribe to.

Why the NDC? Why a government corporation? Because of the impact of the global crisis on the fiscal capacity of the national government of the Philippines. But even then, we'd rather that the primary response of our administration to the enormous calamities which climate change is bringing to our vulnerable country cannot just be another borrowing program. We don't want to let grant opportunities go to waste. Although lesser in size than loans, they remain substantial.

And even if we resort to bonds in bringing in exogenous resources, we will go beyond a mere borrowing program to provide the development framework that is required by ODA programs.

In sum, we will be pushing, first, for more grants or non-repayable inflows. The underlying doctrine is that: the Philippines is a victim of climate change, not a culprit. We are not a climate maker but we certainly are a climate

taker. In fact, we can be proud of what we have been doing against climate change, to mitigate climate change. In our initiatives and legislation as well as in expenditure programs for environmental protection such as clean water, solid waste and clean air. We also can be proud of what we are doing on poverty reduction such as the Pantawid Pamilya conditional cash transfer program. And on disaster risk reduction such as the Climate Bill I am scheduled to sign on the 30th of this month and also the Disaster Risk Reduction Bill which has passed the Senate and which I hope the House will pass soon.

We will be having a LEDAC Meeting on Thursday so we can discuss legislative response to our calamities. As I said, we are a climate taker not a climate maker. We are not a culprit in climate change contributing only less than one percent to global warming. We are a victim. Victims are compensated, not penalized with high interest rates or conditionalities. And that is why we are very grateful to the United Nations for the flash appeal that they have launched to mobilize grants.

Second to grants, we will push for concessional loans. For instance, JICA's zero interest or 25 bases points yen loan package. But here, we do not forget that we can only spend from loans if there is a budget provided for loan proceeds, and not just the local counterpart. If we have a trillion peso budget, for instance, and we have maybe 800 billion pesos in taxes, the 200 will have to come from loans but they have to be part of the budget. Not just the local counterpart including the loan proceeds.

For our local counterpart, we count on Congress for a joint resolution authorizing us to avail of the so-called unprogrammed provision. I believe it has passed the committee level, Nonoy? and is up for plenary discussion.

So after in importance or in priority after grants and then concessional loans. Third, commercial borrowings either through bonds — the one that the business community and economic managers whom I'm expecting Peter to issue — or other instruments should be the last financing option. As I said, because borrowing with high interest rates or whatever the markets will give is the less preferred to grants and concessional loans!

I mentioned that one of the mandates of the new commission is to organize an international pledging session. And even before I organized the commission, actually, Gary Teves was already preparing for the annual World Bank led Philippine Development Forum coordinated by the Department of Finance. So many organizations that would be tapped or sounded off will be included. But I have asked Secretary Teves to work with the new reconstruction commission to make it a public-private sector partnership rather than DOF led and to coordinate a special exercise with a higher international profile.

This special pledging session would tap into the huge underlying global constituency for climate change adaptation. It would capitalize on the ongoing discussions and negotiations leading to Copenhagen. In fact, the Philippine case is being cited as proof for the need for adaptation financing. And that is why we should use the umbrella not only of the World Bank but also of the UN framework.

As we prepare to capture the opportunities presented by the cause of climate change adaptation, however, we must not lose sight of our longer-term economic reforms and the very real pain many of our poor have sustained not only from the typhoons but also as a result of the global downturn. While we may finally be emerging from the global economic crisis, much remains to be done not only to reconstruct but to ensure that the Philippines remains or sustains its path to long-term economic prosperity and that the Philippines builds a strong middle-class.

On the part of economic management, we want to reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio, which is why we would rather have grants than loans, and we would rather have a government agency issuing bonds than the national government itself. We want to reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio so we can stop wasting our resources on debt service, and so that we can maintain higher spending for infrastructure and human capital as we have done before and during the global food, economic and now climate change crisis.

Having the ability to invest, which we will be able to gain because our tax reforms, is a gift that we must not squander. Having money to provide a safety net for our poor, to invest in our children's future, and to lay the groundwork for long-term prosperity must be sustained in the years to come.

We must do this so that we will continue down the course we charted before the global crisis hit. That is the course that generated not only what I mentioned: uninterrupted economic growth for over 30 quarters but also the fastest growth in 30 years; growth that created 8 million jobs; and the highest level of revenues in decades. That is also the course that has enabled us to provide one of the world's most competitive locations for business process outsourcing, an industry that today employs 400,000 workers compared to only 4,000 in 2001. Many cite our BPO industry as a symbol that we have been able to move to a higher level in our economic development.

That is also the course that has enabled us to provide some of the most skilled and qualified workers in the world and one of the best values for investment among emerging markets. This Administration has delivered over the last eight years. And I am hopeful that our economic progress will be sustained, and that the Philippines will continue to be one of the havens of stability among the emerging markets of the world.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Mid-Year Philippine Economic Briefing. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134116/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26485&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Joint Membership Meeting of the Philippine Garments and Textile Industry Associations

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Joint Membership Meeting of the Philippine Garments and Textile Industry Associations**

[Delivered at the Davao Room, Sofitel, Philippine Plaza, Pasay City, October 14, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Favila for your kind introduction.

Thank you also to the leaders of the garment and textile industry for inviting me to be with you today although we all know that I wanted to be invited by you. So thank you for accommodating my desire. Our other members of the Philippine government, ladies and gentlemen.

Well, why did I want to have the chance to be with you? Because I think you all know that the welfare of the garments industry is very special to me. I remember being appointed by Secretary Concepcion without much notice that I was going to be the new head of GTEB. And I was quaking in my shoes because there was this great woman named Siony Kalalo who had been the head of GTEB and who brought it to great heights and so I attempted to replicate her feats and I'm glad that during my term we were able to reach that benchmark of one billion dollars and the industry became the largest net dollar earner for the country.

But today, I'm seeing Mr. Tan of Luen Thai, and I was thinking that the industry has gone to so many changes. Because in the past if I would meet the leaders of the garments and textile industry I would see... when we see CONGEP, we will talk about novelty and all those other companies that were doing simple baby things because of our quota and because they were simple to do and the Philippines had plenty of labor.

But things changed very much after my term. For one thing, China received the Most-favored-nation status from the United States. And I heard about that news when I was a senator and I said, "Oh! there goes our market for baby wear." And sure enough soon we started to see them go away because we lost much of the low-skills, low-end garments market to China.

We had some reprieve from a total collapse because we still had, we could still rely heavily on quotas from our trading partners, even as our garments companies were losing their upstream support from a declining textile industry. Then the quota system ended. So we had to look for ways to enable the industry to survive. And why have you survived? We found those ways in the innate artistry of the Filipino, the natural ingenuity and craftsmanship, the sense of style and color that appeals to the upper end of the market.

These advantages allowed us to move upmarket, create new niches, and compete based on better quality rather than cheaper price. While we may have lost ground in the mass market, Filipino designers and Filipino manufacturers and even Philippine manufacturing of foreign names are making a name for themselves on the world stage with the good designs and the finely-worked garments. And that is your niche today — no longer the low-skilled, low-priced garments but rather the higher-skilled, better-priced and better quality garments.

Of course, when you go shopping abroad you see Josie Natori with her “underwear as outerwear” designs embroidered by Filipino artisans. But that’s the name and there are many others with foreign names but with great designs all made in the Philippines.

So, by late last year, the garments and textile industry had recovered again to become this time the country’s second largest net dollar earner. And I’m hearing about your targets of 3 to 4 billion dollars — what a way to move forward from those dark days of China’s MFN status, entering to MFN and the end of the quota system.

I wanted this meeting since my last trip to the U.S. because I wanted to report to you what we have done in the last two trips. The trip that I could not attend was supposed to be the third trip working for our garments industry. Our trips and our meetings with the textile industry and the leaders gave us a new ray of hope for our garments industry. And I was very happy that I was meeting with leaders of the industry and the lobbyists of their industry who used to be dealing with us also when I was in GTEB.

So, as I see old friends when I’m here, I saw old friends again working for the same cause in the United States. And that is as you know the filing in the U.S. Congress of House Bill 3039 otherwise known as the “Save Our Industries Act of 2009” or the “SAVE Act.” And in our last two trips to the U.S. we devoted much time and effort to push for this bill and what should have been my last trip we were going to continue with that as described by our gentleman here, by Lawrence. It was a very difficult decision for me to have to forego the trip to New York because it was a very important choice I had to make between making the trip and going to Saudi Arabia to see the King of Saudi Arabia about something that is also of great importance and that is our peace process.

Actually, I tried to negotiate to be able to make both events but the date with the King of Saudi Arabia was non-negotiable. And I felt that we would be very well-represented with your friends in the U.S. Textile Industry and your own leadership of the garments industry, and I think we did not lose any ground by my not being there.

You know what we’re talking about, but you know the media joins me all the time, so for those who are wondering what we’re talking about, this is a bill that was supposed to save the U.S. textile industry but it’s a win-win solution. And in the two trips I made before the last one that I wasn’t able to make, I was able to bring this up to the various congressmen, to the various senators, to the Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton because they’re all concerned about the recession in the U.S. However, they’re also concerned that in the longer run if they become very protectionist, it will become a “beggar thy neighbor” situation in the world. So I would point out this bill as an example of a win-win solution. And as I said for those who are not really familiar, the idea here is that the United States manufacturers will have a program to import garments sewn in countries like the Philippines but with fabrics coming from the United States and yarn coming from the United States.

As I said our textile industry is really no longer around even during my time it was already in it’s death rows, and so a lot of our products were using textiles from Japan, Taiwan, other parts of Asia and then being shipped to the U.S. with Philippine labors. But in this particular case now, we are encouraging through this bill there will be an encouragement of the Philippines using U.S. textiles to expand its industries. So what will happen here is that if a garment is made from U.S. made fisheries fabrics and yarns and cut and assembled in the Philippines it can enter the United States duty free. When I explained this to the leaders of Congress and the Executive they found that to be a very good combination. Of course, if it is made of U.S. fan or yarn formed in the Philippines, it can still enter the United States at a discounted duty.

And this covers cotton and manmade fiber knit shirts, trousers, underwear, swimwear, they are garments that our people can easily and readily design and make. So if this new bill is passed into law it will not only help the U.S. textile industry, because after all that’s what congressmen and senators in the U.S. are there for to protect their industry, but it will also be a boon to Philippine garment producers and exporters, and it will create new jobs, it will showcase Filipino talent to a wider public, it will differentiate further our exports from the cheap, mass-produced clothes being turned out by other countries in the region.

I remember that I met in one of the two previous trips that I went to — oh, yes the last one — because in the second to the last trip I made that was the day that Senator Inouye sponsored the Veterans Bill Provision in the Fiscal

Stimulus Package. And in my next trip, I went back to Congress to thank the senators and the congressmen who sponsored and worked very hard to pass at last a veterans provision in the Fiscal Stimulus Package.

And I told them, thank you for that and now we have something else to ask you. And what I asked them was for the passage of this bill. So we are lobbying for the early passage of this bill with the same fervor with which we lobbied for the Filipino World War II veterans' benefits. And just as the U.S. was finally receptive to the plight of Filipino veterans of World War II, we also hope it will be sympathetic to the needs of Philippine garment makers who have supplied the U.S. market for so many years because it is a formula that will also help the U.S. textile manufacturers.

So my message for you today is: we are here and I'm happy we are altogether working for this. And I hope that we will continue to work hard together for the speedy reapproval of the Save Act by Congress, by the U.S. Congress. Just as the Filipino-American community and the Filipino veterans at that time worked very hard with the Philippine government for the veterans' benefits. Now let your industry and our government and our friends in the U.S. textile industry pour all of our dedication and talent into that common and noble effort.

So, I thank you all for helping many legislators see the light. Let's continue to work until that bill is passed into law.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Joint Membership Meeting of the Philippine Garments and Textile Industry Associations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134128/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26494&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the National Nutrition and Gawad Saka Awarding Ceremonies

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the National Nutrition and Gawad Saka Awarding Ceremonies

[Delivered at the Reception Hall, PICC, Pasay City, October 15, 2009]

Thank you very much maraming salamat Secretary Pingkoy Duque, Chairman ng National Nutrition Council at host nitong ating gawain ngayon. I'd like also to greet the members of the Diplomatic Corps and congratulate Secretary Artee Yap, also the officials of the National Nutrition Council and the agriculture department as well as the Landbank of the Philippines; our recipients of the different awards congratulations sa inyong lahat! Mainit na pagbati sa mga tumanggap ng Gawad Saka at Nutrition awards.

Hiniling ko na makasama itong dalawang pangyayari ang gawad saka at nutrition awards dahil sila ay kapwa importante para sa pagkain ng ating bayan.

At sa pamamagitan ng mga parangal na binibigay ngayon, ipinapakita na maraming mahuhusay na Pilipinong opisyal, volunteer, magsasaka, nutrition worker na dapat tularan sa kanilang kahandaang tumulong upang maiwasan natin ang gutom at mapalakas ang ating laban sa kahirapan.

At isa pa yung kaninang gagawain sana pero iba yung nasa TV napakaimportante baka nanunuod kayo ng video iba naman ang ginagawa dito ngayon ay gagawain ko na rin. Hiningi kong isama sa ating selebrasyon ang isa pang pangatlong pangyayari—the P150 billionth na pautang ng Land Bank of the Philippines sa ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda sa loob ng ating administrasyon. So, now I would like to ask the Land Bank and to call on our recipient of the 150 billionth peso loaned out during our administration. So ito ay 50 million pesos para sa Cooperative Rural Bank of Bulacan. You are receiving the 150 billion peso of loans from the Land Bank during our administration, congratulations!

Tapos nun itong 50 million na pinahiram natin sa Cooperative Rural Bank ng Bulacan ay ipapahiram naman sa ating mga magsasakang humihiram sa Rural Bank eto na ang tseke sa kanila. So congratulations sa Land Bank congratulations sa Cooperative Rural Bank of Bulacan at congratulations sa mga magsasakang tumanggap ng lending! 150 billion pesos ganun na karami ang naitulong ng Land Bank, sa ating adminstrasyon at ako ay nasisiyahan na ganito kalaki ang naitutulong ng Land Bank dahil and Land Bank ay parang kapatid ko dahil sa inilka sa panahon ng aking ama, ang dating Pangulong Diosdado Macapagal, na siya ang ama ng land reform.

My father, President Diosdado Macapagal, wrote in his memoirs his conviction that the basis for achieving equitable prosperity is: to release the impoverished tenant farmers from bondage. He fought an uphill battle against several landlords to push his land reform programs, walong special sessions ang ginawa niya dahil hindi maipasa pasa yung programa tinitigil.. pumasa sa Congress, tinitigil ng mga landlords doon sa senado, but after eight special sessions, nakuha rin niya yung Republic Act 3844 or the Agricultural Land Reform Code and that included the creation of the Land Bank, the primary conduit of agricultural loans for our farmer sector.

Matagal na yung land reform 1964, 1963 siguro nakalilimutan na nain yung kalagayan ng mga magsasaka bago nagkaron ng land reform. Bago nagkaroon ng reporma sa lupa, ang umiiral na sistema ay share tenancy. Yung mag magsasaka ang tawag ay kasama— they share may kasama yung landlord sa kanilang ani. Malaki ang share ang landlord sa kanilang ani may porsyento malaking porsyento kaya tawag sa kanila kasama. At yung landlord din ang pinanggagagalingan ng pautang na mataas ang interes, tapos babayaran pagdating ng ani kaya pagdating ng ani halos wala nang naiwan sa magsasaka except for his own subsistence. Kaya walang insentibo o kakayahan ang kasama na mamuhunan upang tumaas ang kaniyang produktibidad.

Ngunit sa Republic Act 3844, tinanggal ang share tenancy. Sa ganoon, nagkaroon ng dalwang programa yung isa— bilhin ng pamahalaan ang sakahan para ibenta sa magsasaka ng mga magaang mga terms and conditions o kaya yung share tenancy magiging lease tenancy babayad na lang ng fixed rent para lahat ng kita ay doon sa magsasakamismo, hindi magsheshare bawat tumaas ng produktibidad me share parati yung landlord. At para hindi na kailangan parating sa landlord umaasa ng pahiram doon nga tinayo ang Land Bank para mapahiram sa ating mga magsasaka.

The ultimate goal of land reform is to fight poverty. By providing the incentive and the means for the farmers to be more productive, kaya malaki rin ang kanyang papel sa food security at hunger mitigation na importanteng ipinagdidiriwang natin dito. Yung mga nabigyan ng premyo dahil yun ang pangunahing trabaho ngayon special task ng Nutrition Council labanan ang kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng labanan ang pagkagutom.

And as I have said since two years ago when we gave this task to the Nutrition Council we approached the problem of hunger and food security from two sides— demand and supply.

On the supply side nga, malaki yung papel ng mga magsasaka at saka yung land reform— increase the production of food; bawasan ang wastage at spoilage; kagaya nung binanggit ni Artee Yap sa kanyang diskurso meron tayong mag binigyan ng premyo yung barangay bagsakan mga ganung bagay that's to provide effective delivery systems for farm products to the consumers, pati yung RORO yung ating mayor ng Roxas ay nandito at malaki ang inangat ng ekonomiya ng Roxas dahil sa ating RORO. At saka yung mga driers ... para hindi nilalagay sa kalsada yung drying at yun ang isang malaking programa na ginagawa ni Artee ngayon bilang rehabilitation ng ating mga magsasaka yung driers dahil maraming nabasa nga mga produkto.

On the demand side, we aim to increase the ability to buy food by increasing incomes; by educating our people on proper nutrition, kaya trabaho ng Nutrition Council yun nuon pa including I want to remind Bernie information on breastfeeding; because up to six months breastfeeding is the best kind of nutrition, and including managing our population through natural family planning.

Sa demand side at sa supply side, importante ang magsasaka nasa kamay ng magsasaka na iangat ang produksyon at kung ang magsasaka ay maganda ang kanyang kita siya rin ay consumer magkaron ng mas pagkakataon na makabili ng mga kakanin. Kasi hindi parating pareho yun parati nating pinag aaralan yung ten poorest provinces and ten most food poor provinces. Meron halimbawa Kalinga hindi siya mahirap hindi bahagi ng ten poorest provinces tapos siya pa ring isa sa mga exporters ng rice sa ibang probinsya pero kasama sa ten most food poor provinces. Hindi ko maintindihan bakit kasi yung iabng pagkain ang kulang doon hindi yung bigas so malaki talaga ang farmer mismo ay consumer din at dapat magkaron ng income sa kanyang kamay para mabili niya yung hindi lamang yung kanyang sariling produkto kungid yung iabng produktong kailangan niya para makakain siya.

Ang land reform ay importante sa produktibidad, and during our administration, I am very gratified that we have distributed almost a million hectares of privately owned land under the comprehensive agrarian reform program, over 800,000 hectares of public land for agricultural use, and almost 700,000 hectares of ancestral domain land. All in all 2.5 million hectares more than any other administration. So We have distributed much more land with our record of over 2.5 million hectares of private, public and ancestral domain lands for agriculture. At talagang nalampasan na natin yung ating target dahil yung isang sinabi ko sa SONA we will distribute a 100,000 hectares of land reform per year walong taon lang tayo nandito dapat 800,000 hectares yun nakaabot na ng 2.5 million so that is a SONA commitment that is over complied with.

Ang gusto natin narinig ko kanina the term agribusiness we want to turn our farmers into agribusinessmen. Kaya napakaimportante ang Land Bank pero napakaimportante rin yung panukalang batas na sana magamit ang agricultural land para sa collateral para sa pautang. Because that way our farmers can join the formal credit mainstream and not rely on loan shark or long for the days when they still had to count on their landlords even if they have to harvest to hock their harvest for them.

Naalala ko kasi nandito yung ating mga kaibigan sa Bacolod Talisay yung arian ng pamilya ng aking asawa niland reform natin maaga pa sa ating administrasyon a couple of years ago sa isang pagbisita ko sa Bacolod nakita ko sila di akala ko ang saya saya na nila nadistribute na yung lupa sa kanila ... ay hindi kasi ang problema nga nila wala na

wala na kami wala nang magpapahiram at hindi naman sila makahiram sa bangko dahil hindi naman magagamit ang kanilang lupa sa collateral. So you see that is very important ... a new land reform we must allow land to be used as collateral.

This is part of our efforts in poverty reduction and also in hunger mitigation and I am very happy that these efforts are producing results. Kanina nung pumasok ako yung ating mga magagandang binibini ng Nutrition Council na maganda ang kanilang kimona at patadyong ay binati ako at nalaman ko na dito sa nakaraang bagyo nabaha ang Nutrition Council hanggang sa bewang sabi ko, I'm sorry to hear about that pero congratulations pa rin kasi kahit na nababaha kayo nababa niyo yung incidents of hunger from 20 percent three months ago to 17.5% today kaya congratulations sa inyo!

But speaking of the typhoons napag usapan na ni Artee given the destruction the two recent typhoons in the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, na marami sa atin nakatanggap ng premyo belong to the agribusiness North Quadrangle nandyan si governor ng Cagayan, nandyan si governor ng Quirino, nandyan si Governor ng Ilocos Sur they are all producing our food. So we have to guard against food shortage and an increase in hunger. Kaya malaking bagay yun nasusubaybayan na naman ng Nutrition Council yung supply side thru the Department of Agriculture para tiyakin na meron kaagad na produksyon kasi nga maraming nasayang pero magtatanim muli sa Nobyembre di ba? Kaya sabi ko kay Artee Yap tiyakin mo na bago All Saint's Day yung seeds na kailangan paramagtanim muli ay nasa kamay na ng ating magsasaka.

Sabi ni Artee, bastat hindi nabaha ang lugar magmumudmud na kami ng mga seeds. So uunahin yung mga hindi nabaha kasi syempre kung baha pa eh bakit magbibigay ka ng seeds sayang lang hindi pa magagamit so yun ang gagawing timing yun ang gagawing sequence ni Artee yung mas nawalaan ng baha yun ang uunahin na bibigyan ng tulong for seeds.

And I hope that with your support our outstanding farmers we will continue with our reduction in hunger. And I hope that with our outstanding nutrition workers and nutrition government officials we will be able to continue to make sure that on the demand side your constituents will know how to spend their hard earned money to buy the right products for their food and the good of their family.

So I am very happy about the awardees and their accomplishments we thank the hardwork of many of our government agencies and officials. We thank the hardwork of the many selfless individuals like today's awardees who work hard—you are working hard not for yourselves but for others. You are working to give food to the people of the Philippines.

My late father said: unless the government acted decisively and speedily this is with regard to land reform— the goal of land for the landless would not become a reality.

We continue with our reforms, especially now that we pass thru a global crisis in 2008, a global economic crisis in between 2007 a global food crisis, 2009 a global climate change crisis. We must become more decisive and daring because we know that the world economy will recover and we hope it will be soon. We must be daring because we know that climate does not assure as of food supply that is sufficient every year. And we must be daring we know because as far as climate and weather is concerned, uncertainty is the rule and no longer the season that we can always rely on.

So we must combine the political will of the citizenry and the government and work on our goals together. Only then can we hope to realize our bigger goals of land for the landless, food security, and emancipation from poverty. At yung mga nakatanggap ng mga parangal itong araw na ito nagpapatunay kayo na kaya ng Pilipino magkaisa sa kanyang pamayanan para tiyakin na sapat ang pagkain at umangat ang kita ng ating mga magsasaka at lahat ng mamamayan. Congratulations to all of you!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the National Nutrition and Gawad Saka Awarding Ceremonies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134111/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26503&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 58th “Handurawan” Charter Day Anniversary of Moises Padilla Municipality

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 58th “Handurawan” Charter Day Anniversary of Moises Padilla Municipality**

[Delivered at the Municipal Auditorium, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental, October 16, 2009]

Salamat Congressman Arroyo. Iggy sa mga pumuluyo diri at ang sa among pamilya Ignacito ang iyang nickname kay little Ignacio ang among... may Ignacio, Sr.

Governor Zayco, salamat gid sa imo nga mga ginsiling sa inyo nga diskurso; si Vice-Governor Yulo ug taga members sa Sangguniang Panlalawigan; ang silingan nga congressman diri, si Congressman Jeffrey Ferrer; siyempre ang atong host mayor, Mayor Nazareno, salamat sa imong imbitasyon; sa mga tanan opisyal sang Moises Padilla; ang silingan nga mga mayor; ang mayor sa amon nga banwa diri sa distrito, si Mayor Malabor; isa pa nga silingan si Mayor Bascon; mga laing-laing opisyal; mga pumuluyo; mga kasimanwa:

Malipayon nga anibersaryo sa mga tawo sang Moises Padilla!

Maayo gani kay maayo ang panahon diri samtang naga-selebrar kamo subong, because nakaabot ang imbitasyon ni Mayor Nazareno sa akon ug sa pag schedule abi ko na maka-ari ako indi lang sa selebrasyon kun hindi sa relief mission. Salamat sa Diyos nga ang gwapo ang panahon sa atong selebrasyon subong. Didto sa Metro Manila, Central kag Northern Luzon, gabangon pa sila asta subong sa epekto sang labing grabe nga mga baha sa sulod sang kwarenta ka tuig. Kag salamat nga ang typhoon na tani maga-agi diri, it stayed away, it went for a shortwhile sa Bicol kag sa Romblon but did not stay and went out right away through Palawan.

Madumduman ko pa sang ulahi ko nga pagkari sadtong 1994, senador pa ako, nagbisita ako diri, si Mayor Garcia ang mayor, sa inagurasyon sa bag-o ninyo nga Municipal Hall. Subong nga presidente na ako, salamat sa oportunidad nga makabisita sa liwat sa inyo selebrasyon. Ug subong pa bayaw ko ang inyo congressman, si Congressman Iggy Arroyo, so ako sister-in-law sang distrito kag Moises Padilla.

Nakita ko gilayon nga kinahanglan nga padaku-on pa gid ang serbisyo diri sang kuryente, sa ako nangin presidente, amo gani nga sang una nga tuig pa lang sa akon termino, matakod dayon ang kuryente sa duha ka barangay nga wala sini. So, subong tanan barangay sa Moises Padilla may-ara na kuryente.

Kag para magdako pa gid ang kitaon sang mga mag-uuma sang Moises Padilla, as the Mayor Nazareno said naka-benepiso sa iyang 5-year Agricultural Development Program nga upod ang national government sa 2,500 ka beneficiaries sang CARP nga taga-dir. Diin sila diri, wala diri kamo subong ang aton CARP beneficiaries, ha? Diin ang aton mga CARP beneficiaries diri? Congratulations sa inyo nga tanan.

Nabati-an na ninyo nga may economic crisis sa bilog nga kalibutan halin pa sang nagligad nga tuig. Apektado ang tanan nga pungsod, apan salamat naman sa Diyos indi parehas ang epekto sini sa mga pungsod. Kag ang Pilipinas isa sa pila lang ka pungsod sa bilog kalibutan nga indi nag-negative ang aton growth rate, salamat sa Diyos. Tungod kay una pa kita nga nagpatuman sang mga malisod apan kinahanglan nga reporma sa ekonomiya. Sa mga taxes agod makagastos kita sa inyo mga ginakinahanglan. Like for example, the kuryente and also the help for our land reform.

Sang wala pa ang global krisis, ginsuguran na naton ang bag-o nga dalan para sa ekonomiya. Ining dalan sang ekonomiya ginhimo sang aton reform agenda nga amo rason kun ngaa nakahimo kita sang eight ka milyon nga trabaho sa bilog pungsod tani diri sa Moises Padilla mayara naman nga damo nga gatrabaho diri tungod sa aton mga reporma sa ekonomiya.

Padayon kita nga nagatindog bisan sadtong panahon sang krisis sa bilog nga kalibutan. Handa kita kaysa iban pa nga pungsod. Sini nga adlaw, ang akon ginapangayo sa inyo nga tani masunod ninyo ang ginhandom sang founders sang inyo banwa nga mangin-progresibo ini kag makahatag sang dako ang kontribusyon sa pag-uswag sang aton pungsod. I am very glad that as part of the celebration today we have a ceremony that honored the founding fathers of your town. The mayors, from the first mayor elected in 1951 to the last mayor that sat up to 2007. They are the founding fathers of the town of Moises Padilla. And we congratulate also your outstanding municipal employee because he represents the hardworking people of Moises Padilla who will bring your town to greater heights of progress.

Sang nakaabot ang imbitasyon sa ako para sa inyong selebrasyon subong, may-ara nagsiling sa ako, why are you going to go to Moises Padilla, very very small town. Siling ko importante nga makaabot sa Moises Padilla. Labi na subong, today October 16 up to October 18, we are celebrating the International Day to Fight Extreme Poverty. Gani gusto ko nga sa adlaw sa selebrasyon sang Laban Kontra sa Extreme Poverty indi ko gusto sa Manila ang selebrasyon. Gusto ko makadto sa isa sa mga gamay mga banwa. And so, it was very providential that the invitation of Moises Padilla came so that I can celebrate the Day for Fighting Extreme Poverty with this small but very hardworking town of Moises Padilla.

So, gusto ko i-congratulate, pag-abi-abi sa aton bag-o nga mayor, Mayor Nazareno tungod kay naa na siya sa iyang 5-year Agricultural Development Plan may-ara na siya ang iyang prioritization sa pag laban kontra sa kapobrehan sa mga pumuluyo.

And so on this day, I am glad to hear about what the good mayor has planned. And I hope that we can all work together to fulfill those plans to fight poverty, extreme poverty especially diri sa banwa sang Moises Padilla. Nagasalig ako nga pamatian ninyo ang akon ginapangayo tungod kay pirmi gid ang inyong suporta sa akon.

So, thank you so much for your support to me all these years halin pa sa 1992 sa akon una nga pagkandidato sa senador asta sa subong. And I'm very glad to be able to spend this important day, important day for the whole world fighting extreme poverty, important day for this small but hardworking town of Moises Padilla. And on this day sa liwat, salamat sa inyo suporta kag Mabuhi ang mga taga-Moises Padilla!

Damo gid nga salamat sa inyo nga tanan!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 58th "Handurawan" Charter Day Anniversary of Moises Padilla Municipality. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134103/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26547&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 30th Camiguin Lanzones Festival and the 300,000th Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (CLEEP) Milestone Celebration

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 30th Camiguin Lanzones Festival and the 300,000th Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency
Employment Program (CLEEP) Milestone Celebration**

[Delivered at the Camiguin Tourism Center, Mambajao, Camiguin Island, October 20, 2009]

Daghan salamat sa aton Secretary of Tourism Ace Durano nga kada tuig mao gapaila kanako, hindi bala?

Sa akon mga higala ug dako ang ilang suporta kanunay gyud kanako. Congressman Romualdo ug Governor Romualdo, daghan salamat sa inyong imbitasyon kanako gihapon ining aton Lanzones Festival. Kan Vice Governor, kay Mambajao Mayor Romualdo, tanan nga opisyal sa diri. Kauban ko sab karon ang akon nga laing-laing Cabinet members, dili lang si Ace Durano, aniya sab si Secretary Nitoy Roque sa labor ug si Secretary Panganiban sa NAPC. Kauban nato sab mga laing opisyal gikan sa mga laing probinsya ug distrito nga nagaturista kami subong, si Governor Moreno gikan sa Misamis Oriental, si Congressman Aquino gikan sa Agusan del Norte ug si Congressman Pancrudo gikan sa Bukidnon.

Aton mga kaigsuonan, Malipayong 30th Lanzones Festival kaninyong tanan. Nalipay ko ug dako nga dungog nga makabalik usab sama sa kada tuig sa akon pag-Presidente. Nakumpleto nato ang record aron pagduyog sa inyong selebrasyon nga espesyal kining tuiga kay mao ang ikatulo nga dekada o Pearl Anniversary sa pagsaulog sa Lanzones Festival dinhi sa probinsiyang may labing tam-is nga lanzones sa tibuok kalibutan. Angay gyud ang pearl anniversary kay ang lanzones ang perlas sa Camiguin ug perlas sa Pilipinas.

Kauban ninyo ako karon sa pagpasalamat sa aton Ginoo nga bisan naay daghan nga kusog nga bagyo sa Luzon, maayo sa panahon sa Camiguin karong tuiga, (applause) busa daghan ug bunga dili lang ang lanzones kundili ang inyong uban nga produkto sa probinsya. Congratulations kan inyong tanan!

Apan siyempre sa paghitabo sa mga bagyo didto sa Luzon, dili naton makalimot nga niadtong 2001 gyud naeksperyensya sab ninyo ang dakong kadaot nga gidala sa pag-usab sa klima sa atong panginabuhì or climate change. Amo ang epekto sa climate change nakita nato for the first time sa aton administrasyon niadtong 2001. Diri sa Camiguin nga dili naman, wala naman sa path sa typhoon apan nahitabo ang typhoon niadtong 2001. Apan karon, sa aton natan-aw diri sa aton pagka-upa sa pagtrabaho sama sa mga giingon ni Governor Jayjay Romualdo aton mga laing-laing proyekto rehabilitated na ang Camiguin gikan sa katong bagyo sa 2001. At para doon sa mga nanonood sa Luzon, dahil parati kasama ko ang mga media dito siguro kahit na kayo ay abalang-abala doon sa mga bagyong nangyayari, siguro kung makikita ninyo isang maliit na probinsyang Camiguin na nagkaroon ng ganung salanta noong 2001 rehabilitated na ngayon at siya ay progresibo kaya huwag tayong mawalan ng pag-asa para sa Luzon.

Sa bagyong Ondoy ug Pepeng nga naghit po sa Luzon nahibaw-an ko nga dunay taga-Camiguin ang tuwa gapuyo sa Metro Manila ug probinsya sa Rizal ug nag-antos sab sila sa pagbaha sama sa uban nagpuyo didto. Gusto gyud nako pasalamat si Cong. Loloy ug si Gov. Jayjay sa ilang hinabang pinaagi sa DSWD alang sa mga Camiguinon ug uban pa nga naapektohan sa baha. Daghan salamat Congressman ug Governor.

Nagpasalamat sab ako kaninyong tanan sa inyo mga pag-ampo alang sa mga biktima. Katong mga Camiguinon nga nagapuyo sa... kasi nangutana ako kan Congressman, kaninong mga taga-Camiguin nga nagapuyo sa Metro Manila ug nahimo biktima sa flooding? Asa sila nagapuyo sa endangered areas o sa usually safe areas? Ingon ni Congressman, naay sa mga ordinary ug okay nga areas apan naay nagapuyo sa mga endangered areas. So, sa mga nagapuyo sa endangered areas sa Metro Manila o Rizal unta ayaw na mubalik sa ila mga balay, o kung gusto nila mubalik sa Camiguin naa kita ug programa “Balik Probinsya.”

Balik probinsiya entails the DSWD providing transportation and other assistance to families desiring to start anew in the province or city of their choice. Aside from transportation they are provided with food supply good for one month and household items such as beddings and clothing. At destination, diri sa Camiguin, they are linked to appropriate government agencies that will help them get started. For instance, DA for farm implements and seedlings, DOLE under the leadership of Secretary of Labor Nitoy Roque for employment, and also microfinance to start a small business.

NHA also has its own program, which they are using now for those that have to be resettled from the endangered areas. They give cash assistance equivalent to 60 days times minimum wage to families that have to relocate involuntarily from those endangered areas.

Pwede sab nato tabangan sila sa aton Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program o CLEEP. In fact kanina, karong adlaw, sa inyong festival, usa sab ka importanteng panahon aron ilaunch nato kag hatagan ang taong dili na lang 300,000 jobs kundili 350,000 nga taong nakadawat ug benepisyo sa CLEEP, usa sa aton mga programa apil sa Economic Resiliency Plan.

Ang aton mga nurse kauban sa CLEEP. Katong mga 100 plus nga gidawat ni Mayor Romualdo ang certificate nga 500,000 pesos apan ang importante ang katawhan, so 111 na katawhan, 'no? Okay, katong 111 na katawhan plus ang aton mga nurse karon usa sa ila ang 350th beneficiary sa atong CLEEP Program.

So, nalipay ko nga nakatabang kita diri sa Camiguin dili lang sa atong emergency employment, dili lang sa balik probinsya — kung kinsay gusto mabalik — kundili sa aton mga laing-laing imprastraktura aron gyud dako ang progresso sa probinsya sa Camiguin. But, murag ingon... sama sa ingon... murag ingon ni Congressman Romualdo mutual naman ang aton pagtinabangay sa usat-usa, busa sa akon nga... sa ako gusto ko ipaabot gihapon ang akon dako nga pagpasalamat sa suporta nga kanunay gihatag kanako ang mga taga-Camiguin opisyal ug katawhan.

Ug wala akong duda nga magpadayon kamo sa inyong suporta kanako, busa dili na ako nagahangyo, nagapasalamat na lang ako kaninyo.

Salamat sa inyong tabang kanako sa pulitika sukad pa sa 1992, ug salamat sa inyong padayon nga tabang sa atong paningkamot paadto sa kauswagan alang sa tanang Pilipino, alang sa mga taga-Mindanao, ug alang sa mga taga-Camiguin. Sa akong 9th time nga pag-abot sa inyong Lanzones Festival, daghan salamat gihapon ug malipayong pagsaulog sa 30th Lanzones Festival sa akon mga pinalanggang Camiguinon!

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 30th Camiguin Lanzones Festival and the 300,000th Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (CLEEP) Milestone Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134056/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26548&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 35th Philippine Business Conference and Expo (PBC&E)
One.Global.Filipino “Regional Economic Development: Frontline to Sustainability”**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 35th Philippine Business Conference and Expo (PBC&E) One.Global.Filipino “Regional
Economic Development: Frontline to Sustainability”**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, October 21, 2009]

Thank you very much, Mike for your very kind introduction.

Ed Lacson, President of the PCCI; Bobby Amores, Chairman of this conference; Donald Dee; Don Emilio Yap, our host in this hotel and Dr. Laya who gave us the welcome remarks; Jun Ortiz-Luis; Francis Chua; of course, my fellow member of the government in charge of taking care of our business sector, Secretary Peter Favila; our very, very deserving awardees; ladies and gentlemen; members of the business community.

Before anything else, my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the provincial and regional chapters, and the other affiliate business chambers for your assistance to the victims of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

And as we have a respite between those two typhoons and the coming one, I’m very happy to see all of you again. The Philippine Business Conference is an important platform from which to launch milestone policies. I remember when I first addressed you as your new President in 2001, the U.S. had just come out of the tragedy of 9/11 that shocked everyone and redefined national security throughout the world.

Because of the dangers posed by terrorism to our own politically vulnerable economy, I said then to your assembly that our deliverance from event risks such as 9/11 was best assured by finding our place among the emerging economies of our Region.

Now, I am gratified that because of our partnership over this last eight years, we are now considered indeed a frontline among emerging economies not only of Asia but of the world, no longer the sickly economy of the Region. To emphasize my point, the day that I addressed the Emerging Market Conference of The Economist in London last month, we were recognized as one of the top emerging markets in the world. Thank you to the business community.

In 2004, it was again at the Philippine Business Conference where I warned of the steps we needed to take to strengthen our strained fiscal position. Our fiscal capability was being weighed down by the burden of short-term loans contracted by previous administrations but coming due in 2004. It was before you that I broached the idea of undertaking difficult but necessary fiscal and tax reforms — a proposal which was met with resistance by many who were uncomfortable with change. But though many resisted, I was fortunate to have the PCCI on my side. You and the Executive branch and brave souls in Congress pushed for these reforms. We implemented some of the toughest fiscal and financial reforms in our history. But they became the building blocks for 34 quarters of uninterrupted and unprecedented economic growth. In other words, with those reforms supported so wholeheartedly by the PCCI, we were able to tame the boom and bust cycle that had plagued our economy for generations.

Last year, when most of the world was shaking in its boots because of an economic recession, a world economic recession, I unveiled before you our Economic Resiliency Plan. I remembered then that the private sector offered to finance half of a proposed P100 billion-peso public-private sector infrastructure program to unlock the liquidity of our banking sector held. And I am proud that one year later, I am proud to acknowledge that the private sector has honored your P50 billion-peso end of the bargain, especially for financing power projects. Thank you and congratulations! Now that lock liquidity is there building up power projects for our increasing competitiveness.

Indeed, our reforms and our partnership have provided our economy with the resilience to bear the heaviest blows of the crisis and still remain standing rather than have our economy contracting like many others in the world and in the region. In fact, we would have balanced our budget this year, had the global economic crisis not intervened. But I think with everybody else, going into deficit, ours is quite understandable as well.

So, let us continue with our partnership not only on the Economy but on what I call the three E's: Economy, Education, Environment.

On the Economy, Ed Lacson made a presentation of the many aspects of our partnership. This partnership has helped maintain our domestic demand-driven economy. In fact, one of the things in common, among the economies that have survived this crisis, are that they are domestic-demand driven, and we are one of them. While the export-driven economies continue to reel from the economic crunch, economies like ours are kept afloat by the size and buoyancy of our domestic market. In other words, our large population with our middle-income level \$2,000 per capita and our investments enabled by our reforms — that provided us domestic demand.

Aside from domestic consumption, indeed, one big source of domestic demand has been our investment in infrastructure. As pointed out in the President report of Ed Lacson, PCCI is a member of the Pro-Performance Steering Committee that monitors our infrastructure projects. And in that capacity, PCCI has witnessed how the projects were planned, bidded out and implemented. And I hope that the PCCI members on the Committee have also seen for themselves how the projects have impacted positively on the lives of the people in addition to providing the domestic demand that has kept our economy surviving during the world crisis.

Another fruit of the partnership between the government and the PCCI resulted in Nonoy Libanan being awarded today especially. The PCCI and the Bureau of Immigration partnered for the visa-upon-arrival of the Bureau of Immigration, and this helps in increasing tourism as one of the factors boosting our GDP this year.

Still another fruitful private-public sector partnership is in the skills training for Business Process Outsourcing. And I remember in 2001, not in the PCCI meeting but in my State of the Nation Address, ayes predicted that the growth sectors of our future would be the skills intensive service sectors like information and communication technology and tourism. And looking back, it has come true. But this is not to negate the importance of our export manufactures and agri-export, and I was looking at the latest macro-economic figures — Peter, am I not right? — That now even our hard-hit export sector is starting to recover month-on month? But Bobby Amores is still very worried in behalf of the exporters, so he asked me to assure the business community, many of whom are in the export sector, that the export support fund is still there and Peter Favila has just received the request for the next tranche for release and we have to examine that each one, each peso of those hundreds of millions of pesos in the balance will go to something that will directly increase our exports, but the fund is there for you.

Regained confidence in our economy is also indicated not only by the inflow of tourism receipts, or the inflow of BPO receipts, or even the reviving inflow of export receipts, but also by the net inflow of \$200 billion dollars of investment into our capital markets during the first semester of this year. In sharp contrast to the negative outflow during the height of the global crisis last year. And of course, there is our upgraded credit rating which has been maintained despite the onslaught of the recent typhoons.

On Education; again, in the report of Ed Lacson, he talked about the active involvement of the PCCI in our Education System Task Force which gave us and pointed out what you call the Philippine Education Highway. This highway is a framework for seamless education from early childhood education to basic education to tertiary education, whether it is college or vocational school. And for PCCI's quiet but steady work in this Commission or Task Force on Education, where you're in improving industry-academe linkages, curriculum upgrading and skills development, in order to resolve the long-term mismatch of jobs and skills, I thank the PCCI and I congratulate you.

On the Environment, there is much to do. But, if we speak about urgency, the most urgent concerns we must now address have to do with adaptation measures to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. For instance, the increasing frequency and intensity of typhoons due to global warming. I have created — I think you've all read in

the papers and heard it in the news and saw it on TV — a special national public-private sector reconstruction partnership, which is tasked with the following:

First, undertake a study of the causes, costs and actions to be taken in the wake of typhoons Ondoy, Pepeng, Frank and now Ramil;

Second, undertake the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure and other measures for the reconstruction of the areas, industries, and the population affected by the calamities, and this includes agriculture as the first item that was presented to me by Bobby Amores in your resolution — the rehabilitation of agriculture;

Third, tap the resources of the private sector and enhance and facilitate the cooperation and coordination between government and the private sector in formulating and implementing the reconstruction strategy;

Fourth, raise funds, especially grants to fund reconstruction;

Fifth, prioritize the projects and programs for the reconstruction efforts;

Sixth, oversee the implementation of the reconstruction program;

Seventh, serve as the clearing house for the international assistance implemented by the donors themselves — and I would like to acknowledge the presence of the diplomatic community here — using the cluster approach; and

Eighth, request the UN and the World Bank to coordinate an international pledging session.

On the government side, the Reconstruction Commission will be chaired by Finance Secretary Gary Teves. The membership will be the agencies that will use the funds: namely, the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. The private commission, as you all must have read, heard or seen will be chaired by PLDT Chairman Manny Pangilinan with Cardinal Vidal as co-chair, and I am happy that PCCI President Ed Lacson has agreed to be one of the members of the private sector commission. The NEDA and the Office of Civil Defense will provide the Secretariat which will be headed by Ric Saludo.

The public-private sector partnership has been very busy already, it has scheduled meetings with JICA tomorrow, the World Bank the day after, and others in the donor community and the private sector in the weeks to come. They will present the partnership and update them on the work program. And then this will be followed by an expanded dialogue to seek support in the reconstruction efforts. The public-private sector partners will interact regularly with our development partners and with media.

But, even as we are organizing for reconstruction, typhoon Ramil is approaching. And therefore I would not want to end my remarks to you today without asking you to join me in a prayer.

I ask you to rise, bow our heads and put ourselves in the presence of the Lord as we pray:

Almighty Father, we raise our hearts to You in gratitude for the wonders of creation of which we are part, for Your Divine Providence in sustaining our needs, and for Your Wisdom that guides the course of the universe.

As we face typhoons, floods, volcanic and other calamities we trustingly seek Your help, aware that You are the Master of Creation.

We acknowledge that as an entire humanity we have not been good stewards of Nature. We have confused your command to subdue the earth.

The environment is made to suffer our wrongdoing, and now we reap the harvest of abuse and indifference.

Global warming is upon us. Natural calamities occur in increasing numbers and intensity. We turn to you, our loving Father, and beg forgiveness for our sins.

We humbly beg that we be spared from the dire consequences of calamities.

We beseech you to inspire us all to grow into responsible stewards of Your creation, and generous neighbors to those in need.

Amen.

Thank you all for joining me in this prayer.

Thank you for continuing our partnership.

Mabuhay ang PCCI! Mabuhay ang business community!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 35th Philippine Business Conference and Expo (PBC&E) One.Global.Filipino "Regional Economic Development: Frontline to Sustainability". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134029/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26599&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 3rd Philippine International Sisterhood and Twinning Association, Inc. (PHISTA) Region IV-A (CALABARZON) Chapter Assembly Cum Seminar Workshop and 1st Tourism Summit [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa Ika-tatlong Philippine International Sisterhood and Twinning Association, Inc. (PHISTA) Region IV-A (CALABARZON) Chapter Assembly Cum Seminar Workshop at Kauna-unahang Tourism Summit

[Ipinahayag sa Batangas Provincial Auditorium, Provincial Capitol cmpd., Batangas City, Batangas, ika 22 ng Oktubre, 2009]

Maraming salamat. Maraming salamat Secretary Mendoza sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin. Bagay na bagay na si Secretary Mendoza ang magpapakilala sa akin dahil siya ay isang tunay na anak ng Batangas, tiga-San Juan, Batangas. At hindi lamang yun yung kanyang bayan ng San Juan naroon yung pinakabagong tourism attraction ng Batangas at ng CALABARZON, yung Laiya Beach. Congratulations!

Pero bago sa lahat, pagkatapos ng aking pagpapasalamat ay gusto ko rin batiin ang ating mga opisyal na nagbuo nitong pagpupulong na ito: unang-una ang ating host governor, si Ate Vi, si Governor Vilma Santos Recto; at ang ating host city mayor naman, si Mayor Eddie Dimacuha. Naalala mo Eddie nung ako ay senador biglang sumisipot ako sa iyong bahay para magbreakfast, thank you for accommodating me when I come uninvited for breakfast. Pero salamat din kay Benny Brizuela, ang pangulo ng PHISTA Region. Salamat sa iyong imbitasyon at salamat din sa expression of support na binigay sa akin itong araw na ito ng mga opisyal ng PHISTA.

Congratulations! kay Mayor Sandoval, siya pala ang namamahala sa mga twinning na napakaimportante at malaking tulong sa ating mga local government. At binabati ko rin si Governor Mark Leviste, ang ating napakabatang vice governor dito sa lalawigan, at si Undersecretary Palabyab ng... undersecretary in Department of Tourism, pati na rin ang mga ibang opisyal ng Tourism na narito. At kayong lahat mga opisyal, mga mamamayan, nakita ko maraming estudyante, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Bagamat maganda ang umaga ngayon hayaan niyong manawagan naman ako sa inyo, para sa lahat na tayo ay magdasal para sa ating taong-bayan sa buong Luzon. Unang-una yung mga nawalaan ng mga minamahal, mga tahanan, pagaari, at para sa marami yung nawawalaan ng pag-asa sa kinabukasan dahil sa mga kalamidad ng kalikasan that is still wreaking havoc on parts of our islands.

At magdasal tayo na itong bagong bagyong parating ay maligtas naman tayo sa malaking mga kasakitan kasi parating tina-track ko ito. At suppose to be nung midnight nung isang gabi nararamdaman na sana ang ulan at hangin, at suppose to be na itong araw na ito darating na yung landfall at may threat nuon na maging super typhoon. Pero sa ating panalangin sa huling balita from 195 kilometers per hour na akala natin ay aakyat ng 200 plus mukhang bumaba na sa 160 kilometers per hour. At lumiit yung rainband suppose to be kahit na tatamaan niya ang Cagayan province ang kanyang ulan at hangin ay aabot hanggang sa Central Luzon pero ngayon lumiit yung kanyang rainband at humina ang pagpapatakbo dahil may high pressure area ang pumipigil sa kanya so baka sa Monday pa maglandfall so mas mahaba ang panahong paghahanda. At magdasal tayo para tuluyang humina at tuluyang pagdating dito or maiwasan sana tayo ay mahinang-mahina na sana at wala nang masyadong sakuna na dadalhin sa atin.

Pero ang ganda ng panahon ngayon nagkaroon kayo ng pulong in between supposedly big typhoons at magandang-maganda ang panahon yun ay isang malaking pagpapasalamat sa ating Panginoon, ibig sabihin nuon blessed itong PHISTA General Assembly ninyo. Kaya salamat sa PHISTA at kay Ate Vi sa paghost nitong Tourism Summit. Sa inyong kagandahang loob, pinapaalala ninyo ang lahat ng kagandahan ng CALABARZON. At dahil nandito kayo sa Batangas ang kagandahan ng Batangas na napakaraming magandang beach resorts at kilala hindi lamang sa pagiging makasaysayan kung hindi pati sa kagandahan ng inyong kapaligiran.

Kaya ang ganda-ganda ng inyong tema: “Together, we will Build CALABARZON LGUs’ Economic Growth through Community Partnership, Education and Tourism.” Hindi ba, Benny yun ang inyong tema? Napapanahon ang tema ninyo ngayon para sa rehiyon at para sa ating bansa dahil ang makakamit natin para sa turismo ng CALABARZON na ito ang pinakamalaking rehiyon sa buong bansa ay magkakaroon ng epekto sa buhay hindi lamang ng mga tagarito kung hindi sa buong bansa at hindi lamang sa ngayon kung hindi sa ibat-ibang mga henerasyon.

Alam niyo nung una nasa schedule ko itong affair na ito, pagkatapos nakansel sandali yung aking presencia dahil supposedly pupunta ako sa Espanya sa imbitasyon ng gobyerno doon. Pero dahil sa mga sakuna kinansel ko at nakapunta uli dito ngayon. Pero binanggit ko ang Espanya kasi ang Espanya ang kanyang kayamanan ay nanggagaling sa turismo at umabot pa ang panahon na mas malaki ang kita ng Spain sa tourism kaysa sa kita ng Saudi Arabia sa langis kaya ganun kalaki ang pwedeng mangyari sa turismo sa isang ekonomiya.

Kaya importante itong gawaing ito at importante rin napapanahon dahil ang gawain natin ay ginaganap sa panahon ng isang krisis ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya na hanggang ngayon umiiral pa rin sa maraming lugar ng mundo, at nangyayari rin sa panahon ng krisis na nanggagaling sa kalamidad ng kalikasan. Sabi nga nila, in 2007, nagkaroon, nagsimula yung food crisis, tapos in 2008 nagkaroon ng financial and economic crisis — buong mundo itong pinag-uusapan natin — at ngayon nagkaroon ng krisis ng climate change.

Ang krisis ng ekonomiya aminadong galing sa tao dahil masyadong madalas ito ay bilang resulta ng maling pagpapasya ng ilan sa ating mga kasamahan sa mundo. Halimbawa, yung doon sa Amerika yung sobrang pagpapahiram, yung kung anu-anong klaseng pagpapahiram kahit na hindi maganda ang credit, yung mga dalawampung credit card ang hawak ng isang tao. Ewan ko kung yung mga kabataan napanood ninyo yung Confessions of a Shopaholic, yung dalawampu yung kanyang credit card at bili siya nang bili kahit na hindi niya kayang bayaran. Yun ay talagang may katotohanan yun at yung ganung klaseng credit ang pinanggalingan ng krisis una sa Amerika, at dahil ang Amerika ang pinakamalaking bansa sa buong mundo umabot sa ibat-ibang lugar ng mundo. So galing sa tao yung krisis na yun.

Pero dumadalas ang kalamidad ng kalikasan din. Sa ating rehiyon ay nabibintang na rin sa global warming na sino naman ang gumawa ng global warming — sangkatauhan din. Dahil masyadong gumagamit ng langis, coal, dahil yung mga basura pinapabayaang, dahil mga puno pinapatay mga nagkocontribute yun sa global warming.

Kung ang mga tao ang gumawa nitong mga problema, sa ganun din mga tao rin ang dapat magsolba nitong mga problemang ito. At walang ibang panahon higit ngayon na kailangan ang higit na kooperasyon at pagkakaisa, at ang laki nang kinalalaman ng turismo hindi lamang sa ekonomiya kung hindi na rin sa kalikasan kasi mas maganda ang kalikasan mas nakakaakit sa mga turista ang isang lugar.

Kaya binabati ko ang mga LGU na may mga town twinning. So over 60 na pala kayo ngayon Benny at inaasahan ninyo maging 100 kaya magandang advertisement ito sa twinning kaya binabati ko ang PHISTA Chapter ng CALABARZON. Congratulations sa ginagawa ninyo! Malaki ang maitutulong ng konsepto ng twinning ng mga bayan at lungsod. Madalas ang ka-twin, gaya nang binanggit ni Benny naka-twin ang Lucena, ay mga lungsod sa mga mauunlad na ekonomiya, kaya ka-twin ninyo yung mga ganung klaseng ekonomiya may matututunan ang mga bayan natin ng mga bagong pamamaraan mula sa mga bayan sa ibang bansa, lalo na tungkol sa mga makabagong sistema at teknolohiya na nagaganap na sa mga mayayamang ekonomiya.

Sila naman meron din silang matututunan sa atin, lalo na sa naipapakita nating maaari tayong sama-sama upang harangin ang hamon ng pandaigdigang kalamidad sa ekonomiya at magkabalikat upang maghandog ng tulong at maglaan ng mga bagong paraan para labanan ang mga kalamidad ng kalikasan.

Eh, yung sa ekonomiya hindi ako makakapunta sa Batangas at hindi ako pwedeng makipagpulong kay Ate Vi kung hindi pag pinag-uusapan natin kung papano tumatag ang ating ekonomiya kontra sa global economic crisis dahil na rin sa mga sakripisyong gawaing ginawa ni Senator Ralph Recto sa ating fiscal reforms.

Bagamat tinamaan ang daigdig ng krisis sa ekonomiya, tayo naman ay matatag pa rin haming sa ibang mga bansa. Kaya inaanyayahan ko ang mga taga- CALABARZON na paghandaan ang muling paglago ng ating pangmundong ekonomiya. Kasi marami nang natutunan na mga leksyon yung mga reporma na kailangan bumalik uli ang ekonomiya ng mundo ay ginagawa na. Meron namang maliliit na senyas na pagbalik ng ekonomiya ng mundo, halimbawa, dito sa CALABARZON — eto ang heartland ng industriya ng ating bansa — ang ating export sector yun ang bumaba. Bagamat ang ibang bahagi ng ekonomiya ay nanatiling matatag yung export natin ay bumaba. Pero ngayon unti-unti bumabalik na.

Kaya tiyak na makakasama muli ang CALABARZON sa mangunguna sa kaunlaran sapagkat kayo ay may malakas na pananampalataya sa Panginoon, kayo'y masisipag, kayo'y malalakas ang loob. Hindi ba yung mga Batangeno kilalang-kilala sa katapangan at may tiwala sa inyong sarili sa community partnership na siyang tema ninyo dito sa inyong assembly, partnership para sa kaunlaran. Kaya binabati ko kayong lahat, ang CALABARZON ay kilala sa industriya pero hindi ibig sabihin na hindi rin niyo gagamitin yung kagandahan ng rehiyon na binigay ng Panginoon.

Alagaan ito at ito ang magdadala pa ng dagdag na kaunlaran sa pamamagitan ng turismo sa CALABARZON.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat at Mabuhay ang CALABARZON!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 3rd Philippine International Sisterhood and Twinning Association, Inc. (PHISTA) Region IV-A (CALABARZON) Chapter Assembly Cum Seminar Workshop and 1st Tourism Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134019/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26595&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) General Assembly

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) General Assembly**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, City of Manila, October 28, 2009]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat Secretary Claudio sa iyong pagpapakilala sa akin. Maraming salamat at congratulations Mayor Monching Guico sa iyong napakagandang mga ginawa para sa League of Municipalities of the Philippines! Don Emilio Yap, maraming salamat din dahil ang Manila Hotel ay parating matulungin para sa ating LMP tuwing meron silang gawain dito sa Maynila. Mayor Escalante, Mayor Tiu, other officials of the LMP, local chief executives, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Una sa lahat, pagkatapos ang congratulate ko kay Mayor Guico pinupuri ko naman kayong lahat sa tulong na inihandog ninyo sa mga nasalanta ng mga nakaraang bagyo. Maraming salamat sa inyo at sa inyong mga mamamayan.

Tama yung sinabi ni Mayor Guico, sa loob ng walo o halos siyam na taong nagkasama tayo — kayo bilang punong-bayan, ako naman bilang punong-bansa — sa tuwing idinaraos natin itong General Assembly may nakikita akong bago na dapat purihin sa LMP. Napaka consistent kayo doon.

And through all of these, I am thankful that through all these years, a great majority of our mayors have always been by my side. Together, we have been seeking ways to improve the quality of governance and the delivery of services down to the grassroots. And the LMP has been, as Monching said, a key instrument in the effective performance of our municipal local government executives. Congratulations LMP!

Mayor Guico enumerated in his report the many accomplishments in these years of his watch. Most impressive has been the single-mindedness of the mayors and the LMP leadership to gain credibility as an organization devoted to good governance, and not merely a social club of politicians. Kanina doon sa ating exhibit, exhibit 'A' talaga, that tells us no nonsense performance has been your key to earning the support of various international organizations, among others — and many of them have exhibits to show how they had been working with you — the UN, the ILO, the USAID, the Asia Foundation, CIDA, ADB, the European Union, AusAID, them and many others. They support and their support continues to fund your development, capability-building and livelihood training programs for your towns as well as the LMP itself.

Kaya naman lalong ginaganahan ang pamunuang nasyonal na hanapan ng paraan parati para magkasama tayo. Noon ngang unang LMP meeting nung 2001 maraming long list, pero sabi ko kay Monching, antay muna ang pera ng gobyernong namana natin ay wala at... pero kaya nga nung mga nakaraang pamahalaan ni hindi kayo nakakakuha ng buo ng IRA ninyo. So sabi ko, Monching, maghanap kayo ng paraan, magsariling sikap pero ang masasabi ko yung IRA ninyo ay tatanggapin ninyong buong-buo, yun ang isang repormang ginawa natin. At hindi lang yun na nagkaroon tayo ng mga konting pera binayaran ko pa ang utang sa inyo ng mga nakaraang administrasyon. At nung nagkaroon tayo ng mas malaking pondo dahil sa VAT, aba kasama kayo doon, 40 percent ay pumupunta sa inyo three years later, and since it was implemented in 2006, yung three years later is 2009, kaya itong taon palagay ko naramdaman niyo ang pinakamalaking taas ng inyong IRA — 40 billion pesos para sa mga LGUs.

At dito mula sa mga reporma ng VAT nagkaroon kayo ng mas malaking pondo. At sa ibabaw pa ng mga sinasabi ni Monching na nagawa ng Liga mismo, inaasahan kong gagamitin ng mga mayors yung malaking dagdag ng inyong pondo para makipagbalikat pa rin tayo sa mga programa laban sa kahirapan.

Halimbawa, sa microfinance. In the last eight years, a P150 billion pesos has been unleashed for microcredit. Much of this amount came from the government and reached the microentrepreneurs in your jurisdictions through cooperatives, accredited NGOs and rural banks. Ngunit ang mga LGU ay korporasyon din, meron kayong corporate powers. Kayo rin pwede kayong mag microfinance sa inyong... yung inyong development fund.

Isa pang panlaban sa kahirapan ay yung conditional cash transfer na tinatawag nating Pantawid Pamilya. Our firewall against economic recession includes this emergency protection for the poorest of our poor. Itong conditional cash transfer program sa kasalukuyan tumutulong sa 700,000 families among the poorest of the poor. At bago matapos ang taon, we will expand the coverage of this Pantawid Pamilya to one million families by the end of the year. Pero ang listahan natin ng poorest of the poor ay two million families. Baka naman ang mga munisipyo ay makapag-angkin ng ilan doon sa mga over and above the one million na hindi pa nakakatanggap ng conditional cash transfer.

Isa pang importanteng panlaban sa kahirapan ay ang reporma sa lupa. Sa pamamahagi ng milyun-milyong ektarya mahigit isang milyon sa inyong mga constituents na magsasaka ay naging CARP beneficiaries at 700,000 sa mga katutubo ng inyong mga upland municipalities ay may-ari na ng sariling lupa. Malaki ang maitutulong ng mga LGU para alalayan sila dahil ang Department of Agriculture ay devolved sa inyo. So, yung mga dating tenant na wala ng landlord, nag-iisa na lang sila, naninibago, baka yung Municipal Agricultural Officers ninyo ay maka-alalay sa kanila para magpatuloy ang kanilang pagsasakang maganda.

At dahil sa Philhealth naman, sakop na sa health insurance ang 86% ng ating populasyon na sila ay mga constituents ninyo ngunit gusto kong ipaalala na ayon sa batas ng Philhealth ang obligasyong na bayaran ang premium ng mga pinakamahihirap ay nasa LGU at hindi nasa national government. Kaya lang para ipakita natin kung ano ang mga biyaya ng Philhealth nagbigay ang national government ng mga premium. Pero ito ay dapat obligasyon ng local government, kaya ngayon ay malaki na ang inyong IRA dahil sa ating VAT starting this year, sana naman sa mga susunod na taon ay saluhin ng mga LGU yung inyong obligasyon na bayaran yung premium ng pinakamahihirap sa inyong mga ibat-ibang bayan.

These are some of the things that I hope that the LGUs, the municipal governments will do in our fight against poverty and of course all the programs that Monching mentioned. We could go on and on about the numerous programs that allow you to effectively cascade basic services to the most vulnerable of your constituents. And indeed, as you have been applauding as Monching mentioned your different accomplishments, you deserve the accolades because the harvest of mayors we have had over these past years has raised the bar of local governance. Kung gagamitin natin ang jargon ng mga kabataan, municipal governance has leveled-up. And much of this has come together with the reforms of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.

Inaasahan natin that you will be able to institutionalize your best programs and methods, improve on any systems that have rendered less than satisfactory results, and seek new methods for the new challenges we will face, and Monching has identified several of them.

And so, my wish is for LMP to go forward as a stronger, more confident and more effective organization.

Let us continue to work aggressively to ensure that the growth that has been generating jobs and revenue to invest in critical social programs both of the national and municipal level to fight poverty will be sustained. Through government support at all levels and the hard work of our people, let us not be deterred by any calamity, man-made or natural, in our effort to remain growing as an economy.

Once again, Monching, maraming salamat for your exemplary leadership of the LMP. And once again, to our mayors thank you for your unwavering support.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) General Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134005/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26649&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2009 Sangguniang Kabataan National Congress

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2009 Sangguniang Kabataan National Congress**

[Delivered at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center, Subic Bay Gateway Park, Subic Bay, Olongapo City, Zambales, October 28, 2009]

Thank you. Thank you.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat at maraming salamat din Jane sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. At congratulations sa inyong lahat dahil doble ang attendance itong taon compared to last year, congratulations!

At narito ang mga matataas na opisyal ng inyong host jurisdictions to greet you all: from Bataan, si Governor Tet Garcia; from Zambales, pero tignan mo sa kanyang kabataan, kagandahan, black t-shirt at saka jeans na akala niyo SK siya, hindi, siya ang Congresswoman Mitos Magsaysay; Congressman Tony Diaz, sa kabila ng Zambales; mula sa Bataan, si Congresswoman Hermie Roman, Herminia Roman at si Congressman Abet Garcia.

Kasama ko rin si Secretary Gabby Claudio na nag-aalaga sa ating mga SK at saka si Chairman Salonga and Administrator Arreza, your host here in Subic, they're all here to welcome you. So, all our SK leaders dito sa entablado at saka nandiyan sa harap wearing your black, green, and our student leaders over there in Luzon, congratulations to all of you for being here!

Parati niyong naririnig sa mga matatanda, youth development is vital to nation building. And I think you have heard from me that we are in fact a young nation: our people are young; you are young and you make up 65% of the population. So, we are a young nation: even our democracy is young, 60 years old and the growing pains are still with us. We are young because of our character — we love life, we sing, we dance, we love sports; and even in science we love innovation, creativity, technology. We are young because we are true citizens of the world, part of the rapid changes that is taking place around the globe. That is why we are on the cutting edge of the global workforce.

And as I said before, it is you the youth of this nation who have the energy to make your dreams come true. That it is now time for you, the next generation, to get involved in civic life, whether in the SK or in student leadership to speak up, to take action, to take responsibility for your own fortunes. To work to make a better world. And of course to use the tools afforded you by government, your family, your country, to become doctors, lawyers, farmers, healthcare workers, and many other noble professions and also to become leaders in high technology and green technology and many other noble professions.

Kung naalala ninyo nung isang taon, when half of you were present — ngayon, double present today — doon sa Bohol, di ba o sa Cebu? ako ay nagbigay ng sampung milyong piso para sa inyong 'Sama-Sama para sa Kalikasan.' So last year, we launched a Green Philippines campaign and I'm so happy that your teacher says, "think green because together we have been taking back our forests, we have been replenishing fallen trees with new protected forests to protect our land and our people."

Together we have been reforesting the land and bringing back the beauty of the Philippines we all love and want. At dahil narinig ko na active na active ang SK na ginamit itong pondo para sa inyong reforestation and tree planting,

itong taon... no, last year binigay ko galing sa PSF kasi walang budget for reforestation, pero itong taon may budget for reforestation sa ating GAA kaya kagabi sinabi ko sa DBM at sa DENR na mag release muli ng P10 million pesos para sa SK para sa inyong reforestation.

Pero itong taon palagay ko hindi lamang yun ang pwedeng panggalingan ng inyong mga proyekto kasi nung ako ay naging pangulo... nung mga nakaraan kasi kulang ang binibigay ng national government ang IRA pero nung ako'y naging pangulo ay binigay ko ng buo ang mga IRA ninyo. At alam naman natin na may bahagi ang SK sa IRA pero sa ibabaw nuon nung 2006, sa tulong ng mga congressmen na narito sa atin ngayon ay gumawa tayo ng reporma ng buwis, yung Value Added Tax. So, aside from binayaran ng buo ang inyong IRA ay nagkaroon tayo ng reporma ng Value Added Tax, at nung lumaki yung kita ng pamahalaan dahil sa Value Added Tax, with the three year lag tumataas din ang IRA, so we implemented the Value Added Tax 2006.

So 2009 ay nagkaroon ng malaking dagdag ang IRA ng LGUs of P40 billion pesos at may bahagi ang SK doon sa IRAng yun. Kaya I hope naramdaman niyo na yung SK budget ninyo ay lumaki itong taon, yun ay dahil sa Value Added Tax three years ago. Kaya nagkaroon kayo ng di hamak mas malaking pondo itong taon, at inaasahan ko na gagamitin ninyo itong dagdag na pondo para makipagbalikat pa tayo sa mga programa hindi lamang para sa kalikasan kung hindi na rin para sa laban sa kahirapan.

Halimbawa, sa microfinance. During my administration, P150 billion pesos has been unleashed for microcredit, malaking bahagi nito nanggagaling sa pamahalaan umaabot sa mga microentrepreneurs sa inyong mga barangay sa pamamagitan ng cooperatives, NGOs at rural bank. Ang isang pwedeng gawin ng SK pwede rin niyong gawing proyekto na tulungan yung mga young, would-be microentrepreneurs na gumawa ng mga proposal para humiram sa mga microfinance institutions. Yan ay isang pwedeng magawa ng SK laban sa kahirapan.

Isa pang panlaban sa kahirapan ay yung conditional cash transfer, yung Pantawid Pamilya, na binibigyan ng tulong, maliit na allowance sa pinakamahihirap na pamilya sa ating bansa. Right now, 700,000 yung beneficiaries na yun. Binibigyan sila ng maliit na allowance pero may kundisyon dapat laging pumapasok ang kanilang mga anak sa eskwela at dapat laging nagpapatingin sa Rural Health Unit. Yung 700,000 na ito ay gagawin nating one million families poorest of the poor by the end of the year. Sana makatulong ang SK na subaybayan yung mga pamilyang tumatanggap para tiyakin na ginagawa nila yung kundisyon, para tiyakin na talagang pumapasok sa eskwela yung kanilang mga anak at yung mga bata ay pumupunta sa Rural Health Unit for check up. In other words, maging bahagi kayo sa community monitoring team.

Isa pang importanteng panlaban sa kahirapan ay yung reporma sa lupa. Sa pagpapamahagi ng milyun-milyong ektarya ng land reform mahigit isang milyong benepisyaryo ng CARP at 700,000 na katutubo ay taas-noong may-ari na ng sariling lupa. Maaaring makatulong ang SK sa kanilang mga pamayanan, lalo na sa isang proyektong inaasahan ko sa inyo at sinabi ko na rin nung isang taon, yung solid waste management kung saan ang organic waste ay pwedeng gawing organic fertilizer. Magandang proyekto rin yan para sa kabataan and that is also thinking green.

At isa pa, dahil sa Philhealth naman, sakop na sa Philhealth sa health insurance ang 86% ng ating populasyon. Ngunit gusto kong paalala na ayon sa batas ang dapat nagbabayad ng premium ng pinakamahihirap para sa Philhealth ay yung local government. Inumpisahan ng national government bayaran ang premium para mademonstrate kung gaano nakakatulong sa mga card holders itong Philhealth. Pero sana dahil ang SK nakaupo sa Sanggunian sana ang SK ipaalala sa inyong mga Sanggunian na may tungkulin ang local government ninyo na bumayad ng premium ng mga pinakamahihirap na mamamayan ninyo para manatiling kasapi ng Philhealth. So yun ang ibat-ibang pwede pang magawa ng mga SK sa ating laban sa kahirapan.

Para sa mga kabataan naman, we have created the National Youth Service Corps and the Youth Conservation Corps coordinated by the National Youth Commission, some of whom are present here today, to provide jobs and livelihood opportunities for those aged 18-24. 'Di ba sakop ng jurisdiction ng SK yung mga edad na yun? And right now, more than 15,000 young individuals are working under both programs. Sana makipag-ugnayan ang Youth Commission at ang SK para maging matagumpay pa rin itong programang ito.

So, andami nating pwedeng magawang magkasama, at yung sinimulan niyong reforestation ay sana tuloy-tuloy pa rin itong taong ito.

I thank you for your continuing support. When I look at you I see not only that you are thinking green, I see determination and enthusiasm in your faces. I see sound leadership, I see hope, I see a brighter future for your generation.

Kayo ang mga mukha ng kinabukasan. At ako bilang isang lola na ikinararangal kong makabalikat kayo, mga kasapi ng SK. So muli... muli, maraming salamat sa ating pagkakasama, sa ating mga reporma.

Mabuhay ang Kabataan!

Mabuhay ang Kalikasan!

Mabuhay ang Laban sa Kahirapan!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech 2009 Sangguniang Kabataan National Congress. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134012/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26662&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 37th General Assembly Bishops-Ulama Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 37th General Assembly Bishops-Ulama Conference**

[Delivered at the Aguila Grand Ballroom, Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao, Lanang District, Davao City, Davao del Sur, October 29, 2009]

Maraming salamat Secretary Gonzales sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

And Archbishop Capalla and our other Reverend bishops including the incoming president of CBCP, Bishop Otchimar. Thank you also for inviting me to be here with you today.

Dr. Barra, Dr. Gomez and the different members and leaders of the Protestant and the Muslim community who are here with us; Father Alejo and your very good team; Secretary Dureza, our Presidential Adviser for Mindanao and I'd like to introduce our new adviser on the Peace Process, Secretary Annabelle Abaya. And of course you have mentioned him, you know, our chairman of the Peace Panel with the MILF, Ambassador Paeng Seguis. Well, you know him... Paeng you were not here in the room when they said that the people of Mindanao want to know you more. But as far as Archbishop Capalla said that you are happy to be with me today, I am also very happy to be with you today. So, thank you for inviting me here.

And I'm very happy to meet the academicians and other professionals who comprise 'Consult Mindanao.' And I thank you for making the rounds of your consultation and for coming up with a very professional piece of work that add on not I but also the Presidential Adviser on the Security and on the Peace Process can I'm sure receive us a lot of inputs for the work that they have to do. And very prevalent, pervasive in your report is that the confirmation that understanding the belief, faith and culture of people from diverse background is a major step in reducing tension and conflict. And you have said again through dialogue, we can reach out and understand the condition of those that are differently placed because of culture and religion, so that appropriate culturally-sensitive interventions to address their needs are developed and undertaken.

And, of course, you have also said that hand-in-hand with dialogue is the need for economic development especially at the community level. And, indeed, this has been what we have been trying to do. These are what we call the main elements of our "soft" power.

All the programs and actions for peace and development, of course — and we have been reminded by the Supreme Court — must be framed by our being a sovereign nation, by the integrity of the national territory, and by our fundamental law, the Constitution. And it is quite significant to learn — no, not to learn because we know it intuitively — but to have a confirmation that it's difficult for the people to see the difference between the different groups. For instance, the different branches of government, the different factions of the Bangsa Moro, but it is important that we point out that though we may differ with one another there is something that we must all reject — and that is terrorism in any form.

We have as I said earlier a new Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Secretary Annabelle Abaya. Father, you were saying that the women were complaining how come there is no woman in the GRP-MILF Peace Panel. Well, there is none but there boss is a woman and that's Annabelle Abaya. And she and Paeng Seguis who is from Mindanao, in fact from Surigao, are here today. All the members of the peace panel for the MILF negotiations in fact are from Mindanao. Paeng Seguis is a Mindanaoan from Surigao, a constituent of Bishop Otchimar. And maybe during the conversation today and in succeeding conversations, Annabelle and Paeng can brief you more on what is happening in the peace process with the MILF. But what I can say in general is that we are hopeful that the formal resumption of the GRP-MILF Peace Talk is imminent. Is that the right word, Paeng?

Paeng has just been back from Kuala Lumpur, but before that I had directed him to conduct massive consultations and dialogues with our people especially in Mindanao. And I'm glad that he has now the output of the consultations of Consult Mindanao, so that what he brings to the negotiations will be truly reflective of the people's will.

Part of what Paeng has been able to do this past weeks are two very important achievements: one, the GRP and the MILF have concluded an agreement to operationalize, what Father Bert referred to, the International Contact Group for the GRP-MILF Peace Process, and I'm sure that the inputs that you put here will be a very important... ah, the output you've put here will be a very important input as he moves forward to operationalize this International Contact Group. And just a few days ago, the two panels have also come to an agreement on a civilian protection component of the International Monitoring Team. And we are happy that to date the respective declarations of the GRP and the MILF on the suspension of military offensives and actions continue to hold firmly.

You have given us a very pithy output on the report, very substantive, much to be studied from the national government, from the OPAPP and the peace panelists, the National Security Adviser and even the Adviser for Mindanao who supervises the MEDCO.

So, we thank you very much and my speech is not the main event, the main event is the presentation of the output. So, I would like to thank you, Archbishop Capalla and all the members of the BUC, for being consistent champions of peace and sustainable development. And we will very carefully look at what you have done what you have presented us and seek to do what we can practicably carry out. But we thank Consult Mindanao for giving the opportunity to be able to reach out to more Mindanaoans and also for keeping them aware of the path to peace.

So, to all of you, thank you, whether you are Muslim, Christian or Lumad. Thank you for keeping the peace through your hard work and steady faith in the Almighty.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 37th General Assembly Bishops-Ulama Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133940/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26713&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 1st Mindanao Cooperative Peace Forum

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 1st Mindanao Cooperative Peace Forum**

[Delivered at the Xavier University Gymnasium, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, October 29, 2009]

Thank you very much Chair Juarez for your introduction.

I would like to begin by greeting all our awardees today and to greet also the officials of Northern Mindanao who have come to be here with us and the cooperative movement. We have the mayor of the City of Cagayan de Oro, Mayor Jaraula, thank you for your welcome; we have a congressman from Cagayan de Oro, Congressman Rufus Rodriguez; from the province of Misamis Oriental, we have Governor Oscar Moreno and Congressman Bambi Emano; from Agusan del Norte, Congressman Joboy Aquino and from Agusan del Sur, Governor Tina Plaza. And to all of you leaders of the cooperative movement especially here in Mindanao, congratulations for convening this very 1st Mindanao Cooperative for Peace Conference!

Makasaysayan kining atong okasyon karong adlaw, ug usa sab ka importanteng adlaw kay gipauban nato ang espiritu sa kooperatiba sa mga pundasyon sa kalinaw. Nalipay ako nga gipasugdan ang paggamit sa diwa sa kooperatiba paingon sa kalinaw.

Because especially in Mindanao, I think we all know — those who are here today — the development must come hand to hand with peace, because the problem is rooted in economic exclusion. Kulang diri ang mga oportunidad alang sa pagpapalambo labi na sa mga ethnic communities ug mga communities sa laing-laing kultura kini ginikan ang mga giyera sa pila ka dekada.

Ako mipuyo dinhi sa Mindanao, didto sa Iligan niadtong bata pa ako. Nakitan ko kaniadto ang panagkauban sa mga tao gikan sa lain-laing sektor o laing-laing ethnic origins ug mga relihiyon. Sa ako bata pa ang akong lola na akon kauban diri, busa ako gapuyo sa iyang balay, taga-Pangasinan ang iyang mga ig-agaw, Pangasinan ug Ilokano. Ang akon mga laing-laing mga batan-on nga higala mga Bisaya, ang trainer nga gapalit sa among copra Chinese, ang tag-iya sa electric company mestizo Espanyol, ang daghan sa mga nagabaligya sa tiangge sa palengke mga Muslim. Kami tanan kanunay kauban, walay giyera, walay conflict. Apan karon lain na ang aton sitwasyon, masabtan ko ang kasakit nga gibati sa taga Mindanao karon nga gipag away! away naman ang mga Muslim, Kristiyano, Lumad. Kauban ko busa sa gibati sa mga taga-Mindanao ang dakong paglaum samtang gigamit nato ang mga prinsipyo sa kooperatiba alang sa kalinaw.

Ingon ni Director Ravanera, ang aton convenor — ug ikaw ‘di ba ang nagimbita kanako, nagsulat nga unta makaabot ako diri — ang mga prinsipyo sa kooperatibismo mahimong gamiton sa pagpa-uswag sa nagkalain-laing serbisyo ug sektor. Ug dinhi sa Mindanao duna kamo’y mga agricultural cooperatives nga gapahulam kapital nga ipalit ug mga farm inputs. Importante ni labi na karon adlaw kay karon ang anibersaryo sa Indigenous Peoples Rights Act nga daghan sa ila mga mang-uuma.

Unta dako ang motabang ug mga kooperatiba sa reporma sa ancestral domain ug ang aton mas dako nga reporma, the bigger reform kay ang ancestral domain law kauban sa reporma sa yuta o land reform. Ug nalipay ko ug garbo

para sa atong administrasyon sa pagpapamahagi ng milyun-milyong ektarya ng lupa sa buong Pilipinas, mahigit isang milyong benepisyaryo na ng CARP at halos ganun din karaming katutubo ay taas-noo na may-ari na ng sariling lupa sa ating administrasyon.

Sa tibuok nasod, sukad sa pagsugod sa atong administrasyon, kay ang aton administrasyon lang ang nakahatag ug CADTs ug CALTs, nakahatag na kita ug 3.6 million hectares alang sa labaw sa 800,000 nga benepisyaryo. Busa ang mga Lumad sa Mindanao naman... busa mga Lumad naga control na sa ilang mga yuta ug ila mga natural resources. Kay diri sa Mindanao dunay CADTs alang sa 1.7 million hectares alang sa hapit 400,000 nga benepisyaryo. Busa ang mga Lumad sa Mindanao naa nag control sa mga yuta ug sa natural resources apan tingali kinahanglan nila ang mga kooperatiba aron makatabang sa ila to be able to practice the rights that they now have according to law.

I understand that in Region 10, we have 40 cooperatives of Lumads and 15 cooperatives of Muslims including cooperatives of former MNLF combatants. And indeed, that is a concrete way by which we can say cooperatives promote peace. Several cooperatives of the Lumads are into Community-Based Forest Management Agreements with the DENR.

Apan adunay pila ka kooperatiba na they were formed kay gusto nila magnegosyo ug kining mga kooperatiba na gi-organize alang sa negosyo sa mga Lumad dunay pila nga nagalisud kay wala kaayo nga experience ang mga miyembro sa pagmaneho sa kooperatiba. Unta ang usa nga akong hangyuon sa mga dagko nga kooperatiba labi na katong mga experienced sa mga gintawag nilang millionaire cooperatives kay dako na kaayo, dugay na kaayo, experience na kaayo, successful kaayo, unta kamo ang makatabang kining mga bag-o nga kooperatiba.

We see cooperatives as an important instrument to fight poverty and therefore because poverty and conflict go together, peace and progress go together, it also becomes an important instrument to be able to bring about peace. And it is important that we integrate our efforts to fight poverty in order to promote peace.

In the national government, we have been integrating the programs of the DSWD, the DOH and other Anti-poverty agencies into a National Social Welfare Program to protect the poorest from the global crisis, to help those whose earnings are limited whether by illness, disability, loss of job, old age, and also those who are poor because they live in marginalized communities sama gyud sa aton mga IPs na sila ang labing kabus nga mga community sa atong nasod. And we seek to support them and help them through an integrated social welfare program that includes livelihood projects, skills and technology transfer, emergency and temporary employment, pension funds, food aid, cash subsidies, child nutrition, adult health care, medical missions, salary loans, insurance, housing programs, educational and other savings schemes, cheaper medicine — thanks to our congressmen who are here today and their colleagues — and microfinance ug diri gihapon importante ang atong mga kooperatiba.

Kinahanglan ang mga kooperatiba nga gapahulam sa kapital sa mga microentrepreneurs. During our administration, there is an unprecedented P150 billion pesos unleashed for microcredit. And much of this, though it came from the national government, reached microentrepreneurs through rural banks, accredited NGOs and cooperatives. And there again is your important role in fighting poverty and promoting peace.

Nalipay ko nga mahibaw-an nga 60% sa mga kooperatiba dinhi sa Mindanao gatabang sa mga microenterprises, congratulations kaninyo. Kini epektibong panginabuhian sa kadaghanan sa aton katawhan. Nakahatag na ug hapit three million nga trabaho sukad sa 2001 hangtod Hunyo sa tuig 2009 ang mga microentrepreneurs ug daghan sa ila nagasalig sa mga kooperatiba aron makatabang sa ila not only from financing microfinance but also from... in order to learn the management skills that cooperatives labi na ang aton mga millionaire experienced cooperatives dako na ang experience.

Busa kining adlaw, mga kooperatiba, mga leaders sa aton cooperative movement ang atong tuyo karong adlaw ang tuyo sa national government sa amon bahid busa niuban kami nining aton nga okasyon karon ipadayon nato ang mga programa nga makatabang sa tanan sektor ug makatabang sab sa pagpalambo sa kalinaw sa Mindanao ug sa nasod.

Ug mosalig ako nga ang mga programang gisugdan sa mga kooperatiba mao gyud ang inyong tuyo, and that will also be your accomplishment — prosperity and peace sa tibuok Mindanao ug busa sa tibuok nasud.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 1st Mindanao Cooperative Peace Forum. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133957/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26685&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 26th General Meeting of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 26th General Meeting of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA)**

[Delivered at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City, October 30, 2009]

Thank you very much.

I'd like to thank my Presidential Adviser, the Honorable Alfonso Yuchengco, for introducing me and also for inviting me to be in this very, very important event.

I'd like to also acknowledge Dr. Jeffrey Koo, the founder of the ABA, a well-known personality in the APEC Business Advisory Council and a renowned banker, and Madame Susan Chang. And I'm sure Secretary Favila and the other officials of the Philippine government join me in welcoming all our guests. Welcome to the Philippines!

I would also like to acknowledge, I see in this gathering three former Cabinet members: I see former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, former Secretary of Finance as well; I see former Trade and Industry Secretary Roy Navarro, of course, because RCBC is the host and he is also the incumbent chairman of the Clark Development Corporation; and I see my former Secretary of Finance who with great pain and suffering worked to do the reforms that are now making our economy resilient today, Secretary Lito Camacho.

The backdrop to this summit, as we have heard from Presidential Adviser Yuchengco, is an economic crisis that still grips much of the world, complicated by natural disasters that have left and are still leaving a tragic scar in our part of the world. The economic crisis is surely man-made, too often as a result of the poor judgment of some of our fellow global financial citizens. And increasingly even our natural disasters are being laid at the feet of manmade global warming.

I was just reminded that the last time I was here in this building was when we heard "The Inconvenient Truth" that was being preached then about global warming, and here we are today. Today, we have again a momentous event, a discussion on what's ahead for Asian banking. Of course, you are the bankers, you are the experts, you will be the ones to come up with the answers, but what I can say is that if men and women make these problems, then men and women must solve them, too. And at no time has the need for greater cooperation been demanded of the international community than now.

But, I congratulate the Asian banks, because as Ambassador Yuchengco said, you have shown that you can come together to beat back the challenge of economic calamity. Compared to other regions, Asia has a healthy financial system that remains steady and ready to support growth. Our region's banks are virtually free of toxic assets. In general, you have not needed government bailout money. Years of trade surpluses and high savings rates have contributed to record foreign reserves. Debt loads for governments, corporations and consumers are a fraction of those in the U.S. and Europe. Inflation and interest rates have fallen rapidly as you the Asian banks have deftly managed this fluid global environment. So, we can say looking at the Asian banking sector that given the overall global economic picture, the region is doing well and therefore prospects for Asian banking are strong. This is reinforced by a recovery that has already started.

The nations of Asia are addressing the challenges of the global economic crisis cooperatively, and your meeting here together is an example of that. Asia's response to the crisis has shown that our region is well-positioned to accelerate its growing share of the global economy once the storm clouds of this crisis have abated.

Although all Asian economies have fought the pain coming from the global recession, that pain has not been evenly distributed — Do I see also Gabby Singson, former Central Bank governor? How are you, Governor? — To go back to the different Asian economies, China and India as we know and we expect will long remain regional and global out-performers. Their growth continuous to be remarkable. The most trade-dependent economies in our region have been the worst hit because the global recession has led to a virtual collapse in international trade. They have endured months of recession, fortunately, that now appears to be easing.

The Asian states that have been performing best, that are still enjoying positive growth are those emerging markets where private consumption is a high proportion of GDP. Indonesia and Vietnam have private consumption at 65%, the Philippines 70%, Sri Lanka 65%, and Bangladesh 75%. These states are outperforming the trade-dependent economies. Also, those of us who took the bitter medicine of reform some years ago have done better. That is certainly the case with the Philippines, which is why I mentioned Secretary Lito Camacho earlier, he was the one who started those reforms.

The Philippines is therefore a country that I am pleased to say has demonstrated the strength and resiliency of emerging market economies during this period of global economic crisis. The Economist magazine has tagged the Philippines as among the top key emerging markets beyond the BRIC countries, because as I said earlier, well before the global crisis and before Lito went back to the private sector, to banking sector, we were setting a new economic course for the Philippines. This course was at the core of our economic reform agenda. Our reforms have generated 34 consecutive quarters of growth, the fastest growth in 30 years, created 8 million jobs, and allowed us to maintain the lowest inflation in a generation. More importantly, poverty went down, revenue went up, and allowed the nation to invest in human and physical infrastructure unprecedented in a generation.

The rating agencies upgraded our rating. Moody's said: "The upgrade was prompted by the relatively high degree of resilience exhibited by both the country's financial system and external payments position in the face of global financial and economic crisis."

The peso has remained stable and strong even amidst the global financial downturn. The growth of remittances from our overseas workers still defy expectations, a good indicator and reflection of the stability of our economy.

The Philippines, however, is not alone. While many nations in Asia have been deeply affected by the global downturn, many have also been havens of stability and islands of calm during this period of tremendous volatility. And I am glad to see that capital is returning to the region.

This is a good setting in which to ask not only what's ahead for Asian banking but to influence what is ahead for Asian banking. These are good setting in which to step up the formation of a new global financial regulatory regime that can accommodate the new scope and complexities of the world's financial transactions today.

And I am confident that the Asian bankers will be a catalyst having been successful through this crisis, a catalyst in the gathering groundswell for the reforms in the banking system of Asia and the world to make the new financial order more responsive to the needs of the 21st century.

So, my very best wishes for your success. Congratulations in the previous successes and all the best once again for the future.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 26th General Meeting of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133928/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26712&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICEP) Summit

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICEP) Summit**

[Delivered at the Jasmine Hall, Fontana Convention Center, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, November 5, 2009]

Thank you very much Chairman Ray Chua for your kind introduction.

I'd like to thank also Chairman Sorio for his very kind welcome remarks and also Mr. Rosenberg for your being the host of this event, Cyber City Teleservices president. Of course, our host developer is Mr. Benny Ricafort, president of CDC, and our host congressman, Congressman Tarzan Lazatin. And I see our host city mayor, Mayor Blueboy Nepomuceno also here with us today. Thank you, Blueboy. Because Clark is made up of Angeles City and Mabalacat, we have other host mayor, Mayor Boking Morales, also here with us today. We have other national government officials, our president of the NorthRail and chairman of the Subic-Clark Corridor, Secretary Ed Pamintuan, and a number of mayors of Pampanga who are here today. And I'm very glad that they're all here with us. And of course, I greet not only George Sorio and Mr. Rosenberg but all the officers and leaders of the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines or NICEP for this very important summit.

And I congratulate not only Ray Chua but the other commissioners and all the other colleagues in the Commission on ICT for your partnership with the private sector. Congratulations also to all of you, all of us for being selected again by the National Outsourcing Association of the U.K. as the off shoring Destination of the Year.

Indeed, the Philippines ranks as among the best off shoring hubs in the world because of cost competitiveness and more importantly our highly trainable English proficient IT enabled management and manpower. Our having won the off shoring Destination of the Year Award again also highlights the growing importance of the Philippine IT-BPO industry in the global market.

If in previous administrations electronics was the big ticket item for our dollar earnings, today we are creating wealth by developing the labor-intensive, skills intensive service sector like BPO and tourism as the key growth sectors, just as I predicted during my first State of the Nation Address in 2001. At that time, 2001, the Philippine ICT industry was virtually nothing — 4,000 workers. Well, there was a small one here, AOL. But we gave ICT a central role in our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

We initiated efforts in three areas:

First, we built up the telecommunications infrastructure and opened the market for internet phone calls. In 2001, I said that interconnectivity is a must. We supported wider public access to communications and information services promoting interconnectivity and also establishing IT internet connections in public high schools which should serve, hopefully, as internet cafes during off school hours and through encouraging the provision of more broadband services in cities and identified growth areas. As a result of our push for telecommunications infrastructure and connectivity, international calls went down from 40 cents to today in VOIP, Rey Chua just told me, it's down to two cents from 40 cents for IDD.

But when I saw that we all had our interconnectivity done, and the cost of connectivity had gone down, then the BPO operators gave us a new requirement for infrastructure redundancy. These demand came after the Taiwan tremor so that no Taiwan tremor could ever again cut off our cyber services from their global clients, we encouraged the telecoms giants — PLDT and Globe — to invest billions in international redundancy.

I remember groundbreaking the one of PLDT in La Union, and I remember the ceremonial groundbreaking which was held in Makati for the Globe which enters through Ballesteros in Cagayan. And because that Ballesteros has to have a connection all the way to Manila, any point from Ballesteros, Cagayan — is that Ballesteros? Yeah — all the way up to Manila can now have an internet connection because of that backbone.

And just to show how our redundancy and our infrastructure has caused us to be resilient and to have uninterrupted services, I remember a few years ago — was it typhoon Milenyo that hit NCR? — and I went to Convergy's and I was talking to the Philippine president of Convergy's and I asked her how did the typhoon affect you. Well, she said, "well, my roof in my house was blown off but the BPO services continued 24/7, no problem with that."

Now we had Ondoy again and I went back to the same company for yet another expansion and I asked them, so how did the last typhoon affect the services? Nobody... ah, the first day of Ondoy when the floods were very high there were some absences, but the next day everybody was on the job and our infrastructure was not affected at all. So that is one of our joint accomplishments. Congratulations to the industry!

The second area for our efforts was to ensure an appropriate policy and legal environment. We've been asking Congress to create a Department of ICT, but while we still don't have that, we started with the Public-private Sector Task Force on ICT with myself as chairman. Then, I created by Executive Order a Commission on ICT, and we are guided by the philosophy that it is the market, not the government that should determine technological outcomes. For instance, when we started in 2001, we thought that we would become very, very big in programming but the market provided that we will become very, very big in contact centers.

That is market determined, that is private-sector determined, and the job of the government is not to dictate which sub-sector will grow the fastest. Our job whether it is fast growth of contact centers relative to programming, our job in accordance with our philosophy is that the ICT sector should be driven by the private sector with minimal government intervention and regulation. So our job, our role is to provide the environment to create the growth of ICT.

As part of that enabling environment, we created a new title in the investment priorities plan called IT parks for purposes of giving incentives, and we assisted investors in identifying promising provincial sites, and we built more transport facilities and telecoms facilities to the sites where investors wanted to go. For instance, I recall investors were very happy and impressed with the English that is spoken in Baguio but they did not have good connectivity. So, I talked to the telecoms giants to provide the connectivity. We still continue to follow the market and make it move more smoothly — that is our work. Now the market is leading us to train our sights on growing the higher value added segments of the off shoring and outsourcing industries like accounting, legal, human resources and administrative services.

Geographically we identified a Cyber Corridor as one of the country's five super regions for economic development, together with Mindanao for agribusiness, Central Philippines for tourism, the Luzon Urban Beltway and North Luzon also for agribusiness. Our cyber corridor started with Metro Manila up to Metro Cebu. This hub now according to our public-private sector task force which drew up our road map for RICT, this is now the core but not the only elements of the strategic plan... oh, I wouldn't even call it the core but the opening, the original seeds for the future development of business process outsourcing. And as part of this road map, you in the private sector together with the government expanded that cyber corridor from the two centers of excellence: Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, to span what you call the 10 next wave cities — and because we're talking about a corridor I'll talk about it geographically from South to North — Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod, Iloilo, Lipa; that's five. The others are Metro areas: Metro Laguna consisting of Sta. Rosa, Calamba, Los Baños, Cabuyao and San Pablo; Metro Cavite consisting of Bacoor, Dasmariñas, Imus and Cavite City; South Bulacan consisting of Malolos and Calumpit; Central Bulacan consisting of Baliuag, Marilao and Meycauayan; and we are very happy Central Pampanga

consisting of Clark, Angeles and Mabalacat. In fact, I congratulate Clark for your fast ICT growth, you have now 15,000 ICT workers.

We are now number three. In other words, after Metro Manila and Metro Cebu comes Metro Pampanga. That is where the market has brought us and as far as infrastructure is concerned telecom infrastructures, infrastructure needed for a good ICT operation, BPO operation, Rey Chua tells us, wala nang makakatalo sa Clark. Congratulations!

Finally, the third area to support the growth of ICT is the development of human capital to close the digital divide. Well, George mentioned to us the term of digital divide, not only the digital divide but also the voice culture divide. In technical education and skills training, one of the sources of pride of our administration is that we have invested three times that of three previous administrations combined. A very large portion of this investment goes to our call center training partnership with the Business Process Association of the Philippines represented here by Oscar Saniez.

TESDA partnered with BPAP to train near-hires for call centers and other IT related fields. Since 2006, that was when this partnership was drawn up; TESDA has provided more than half a million training slots in various fields of ICT, including more than a hundred thousand directly supervised by the BPAP. In fact, if you're going to talk about how much government has invested directly for ICT development, we have invested five billion pesos for ICT development particularly R&D, manpower, infrastructure, including the U.P. Science and Technology Complex, which we hope will become a premier technology and business IT incubator.

So today, where are we? Eight years later from when I said that ICT will be a growth sector of the future, from 4,000 BPO workers in 2001, now it's like around 400,000 with good paying jobs that keep our young people at home rather than having to go abroad for a nice job. The BPO phenomenon speaks eloquently of our competitiveness and productivity.

But, it also happened because you the private sector and we the government sector shared a belief in ICT as the growth sector of the future, and we shared our vision of nurturing this sector.

So, I thank you all for having achieved this together. Thank you for forming the NICP and may you have more success.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 2nd National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICP) Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133923/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26742&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the 35th Top Level Management Conference of
the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP)**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the 35th Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga
Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP)**

[Delivered at the Ballroom 1, East Wing Bldg., Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, Cavite, November 12, 2009]

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you very much Cerge, former National Chairman of the KBP, the first KBP Chair to be elected to six terms, the first broadcaster to rise from the ranks of the provincial reporters to become KBP Chair, and I just found out he still has a title in the KBP, KBP Chairman Emeritus. Congratulations, Cerge!

Greetings to our host officials, Governor Maliksi and City Mayor Tolentino. And of course greetings to the officers of the KBP once again headed by Butch, Herman, Rupert Nicdao and March, and all the other officials and leaders of the broadcast industry who are here. I say greetings again because as Butch is asking me how long have you been attending our KBP fellowships. Oh! from the time I was still a senator every year: national, regional NCR, Region III, sometimes other regions. I'm probably the one official who has attended the biggest number of KBP conferences.

In fact, as Butch said in his very nice way of putting it, what he said echoes what many pillars of the KBP say that no other president has been as close to this organization as me. So, I hope you will not begrudge me for wishing that the broadcast media will be kinder to me during the rest of my term as president. But although certain individual broadcast institutions and personalities have been very much against me, as an organization, I do acknowledge that KBP has been supportive. And I thank you for that.

KBP as an organization is the voice of moderation, reason and professionalism. Years ago you developed a code of standards and business practices. That is a good start for a self-regulating industry.

You meet in very challenging times today, as Butch says, as the broadcast industry prepares for wide-ranging technological changes. These are brought about by the ICT revolution. If centuries ago there was an agricultural revolution, then there was an industrial revolution, now we have an ICT revolution. And there is no stopping ICT from becoming the wave of our future, whether in your industry or in any other industry. Our country should use it to enhance our competitiveness. And I know you will use it to enhance yours.

The most basic step to achieve this is to build up telecommunications infrastructure. That is why part of the ten-point program of our administration, one of the ten points, is to develop a network of not only transport but digital infrastructure to connect the entire country. And the most cost-effective way to do this would have been to set up a national broadband network, and that is why we obtained financing from China for that purpose.

But when the NEDA Secretary alleged to me a bribery attempt attending the deal, involving a constitutional officer not under the administrative supervisory jurisdiction of the President of the Philippines, I advised the Executive

Secretary and the DILG Secretary about it with the view of having the matter discreetly investigated. ES directed the National Security Adviser to carry out the investigation while the DILG Secretary conducted his own. The findings reported back to me were “inconclusive.” Nevertheless, for the sake of propriety, I moved to cancel the project after explaining the matter to the President of China.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of unsubstantiated allegations and gossip and innuendos mixed up with the facts of the case. This is part of our immature political system. It is part of our immature institutions. And this immaturity hurts the growth of the nation. That is why after economic reform, I have long called for fundamental reform of our political system and our institutions.

I have worked tirelessly to change our economy, and I have set it on a path of reform. That is why the World Bank in 2008 upgraded our income standing from a low-income country to that of a middle-level income country. With our rise in status, from low-income to middle-income the expectations for accountability and transparency arise. Per the benchmarks of the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation, we pass the score card of a low-income country standard for ruling justly including control of corruption, investing in people and economic freedom. But now that we have moved to middle-income level status, we must hurdle a higher benchmark.

That is why once again I call for fundamental reform of our political system to ensure greater accountability and transparency. But also reform to make politics less destructive.

The media can also do so much to ensure greater accountability and transparency, and you can also do so much to make politics less destructive. Of course, I do not expect you to be part of a government propaganda machine. But I and certainly our people expect you to deliver truthful stories based on facts. And that is I’m sure the guiding principle of your self-regulation as an industry.

You are self-regulating because you are free, except for the martial law period; the Philippines have always had one of the freest media environments in the world. What has changed, however, between then and now is the speed in which news travels. This is again part of technology and this is part of what your conference is all about. This newly competitive news that utilizes so many fantastic technologies has the upside that you must seize but there is also a downside. The downside is the huge temptation to get the story out quickly rather than spending time to get the facts right. And this can lead to innuendo and rumor presented as facts.

So with the great power of the new technology comes the great responsibility to be evermore mindful that your primary duty is to tell the truth, exercising objectivity and impartiality, always with an eye to the repercussions for the country that your stories may create. And again, that is your great responsibility because you are a self-regulating industry.

You are performing a function not only of your media institution as private sector business institutions but a function that other countries sometimes exercise from the regulator’s point of view. But you are the one exercising that, so you are also in that sense — public servants.

And as you continue to render your services to our people, I wish you well in responsibly exercising this self-regulating function that becomes even more compelling with the growth of technology. And on top of that, I also wish that media would spend more time imparting a message of hope and of renewed opportunities. Everyday there are numerous stories waiting to be told that inspire our people.

So, as you continue to render your services to our people, I congratulate the KBP for upholding loyalty to professional standards. You have become a valuable partner in development, congratulations!

And when Butch was talking about “Beyond Broadcasting” we’re not only talking about how the different media are now converging but also what you do as KBP beyond your broadcasting business, you have your own corporate social responsibility as KBP. And in this connection, I am supporting your nationwide tree planting project that you have called “Broadcastreeing.”

This is a welcome contribution to our efforts to confront the challenges of climate change. For KBP to have pioneered in this I am sure of your success and in advance, I am most grateful. I also congratulate the many members of the KBP who keep to the straight and narrow path because of your loyalty to your professional standards, you have indeed become among our heroes who are gathering the stones to help build a strong republic.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming, maraming salamat. May you have a successful convention.

Thank you.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the opening ceremonies of the 35th Top Level Management Conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133907/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26807&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino community**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, The Fullerton Hotel, Singapore, November 13, 2009]

Thank you. Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat. Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Romulo for your introduction.

Thank you Ambassador Mindy Cruz for your very, very eloquent warm words of welcome and tribute to our quality Pinoys here in Singapore.

I'd like to introduce also the members of our delegation who are here on the head table. If I may go from my left to my right: Our Press Secretary is Cerge Remonde, gikan sa Cebu; our congresswoman from the BUHAY Partylist, Iyay Coscolluela; our Secretary of Finance, Secretary Gary Teves; our congresswoman from Pangasinan, Congresswoman Rachel Arenas; and then next to Secretary Romulo, our Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Girlie Villarosa; ing congresswoman kong kabalen, si Congresswoman Anna Bondoc; our congresswoman from Manila, Naida Angping; and our Secretary of Trade and Industry, Peter Favila.

At naman sa inyong lahat, magandang gabi, mayap a bengi king kabalen kong Kapampangan. Dagiti kakailay ti bangir ni mamang ko, naimbag nga rabii yo amin. San saray kabaleyan, masantos ya labi ed sikayon amin. Sa mga taga-Visayas ug Mindanao, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan.

Maraming, maraming salamat sa muli ninyong mainit na pagsalubong, na kasing-init ng pagbati ninyo noong 2007.

Natutuwa ako at muli tayong nagkaroon ng pagkakataon na magkasama muli, na ako'y nagkaroon ng pagkakataon na makadalaw muli sa inyo at makadalaw dito. Actually, Dr. Reyes mentioned the times that I have visited, I visited one or two more times but I come here for lunch, for a business lunch and then I leave, so hindi ko kayo nakikita sa mga ganung panahon. Pero ngayon, masarap naman at nagkasama tayo at ako naman ay masayang-masaya dito sa ating "Salute to the Filipinos in Singapore." Thank you for giving me the opportunity to join in this Salute.

At talaga naman, balitang-balita yung kabutihang ginagawa ng mga Pilipino dito, at ang laki ng inyong kontribusyon sa ekonomiya ng Singapore, ang laki din ng inyong kontribusyon sa inyong mga pamilya at sa ating mga kababayan sa Pilipinas. Kaya kapuri-puri ang lahat ng ginagawa ninyo.

What you have shown here, totoo yun. Kilalang-kilala ang taga-rito. You are hardworking, you are talented, you are truly quality Filipinos. Nakita natin sa diskurso ni Mindy, ni Dr. Reyes, sa ating video yung iba't-ibang klase ng manggagawang Pilipinong nagtrabaho dito. Siyempre, yung unang nakararaming Pilipino na nagpunta rito in the earlier — maybe like ten, fifteen years ago — yung mga kasambahay. Ngayon, nakita natin may mga Pilipinos nasa industriya ng transportasyon kasi dinig ko kay Mindy, bahagi doon sa mga gumagawa ng inyong train system na pinagmamalaki ng mga Singaporeans ay mga Pilipino.

Sa IT, yun na nga yung isa sa mga kasunduan natin nung nag-state visit ako ng 2001, at naalala ko noong nagpunta ako rito in one of my visits and we had a chance to meet with a smaller group of the Filipino Community — one table only — grabe yung mga IT talents dito, ang babata. Noong bumalik ako sa Pilipinas, sabi ko doon sa aming ICT, at that time, Private-Public Sector Task Force, naku! ang tatanda na natin, yung mga genius doon ng IT na Pilipino, who are earning so well, they're all so young, they are all young enough to be our children, talagang bagong henerasyon, quality Filipinos and I'm sure that there's more of you in the generations to come.

Yung mga bangko, nabanggit nga si Lito Camacho at saka si Ding de Guzman. Yung mga ospital, naku! di lang nurse at doctor, noong nagkaroon ng SARS dito sa Singapore, yung mga nurse kasama sa mga bayani ng Singapore na pinagmamalaki ng Pilipino.

At pati nga yung mga kasambahay, mas mahusay ngayon, piling-pili at karamihan dumadaan pa sa training. At I'm so happy that that Bayanihan Center that we worked hard for — I remember even when I was still Vice President asking the Singapore government na sana ilibre yung lupa tapos tinayo ng mga Filipino community dito, sila Ding de Guzman very active doon — I'm so happy to see in the video na napakasagisag pa ang kanyang paglilingkod sa ating mga Pilipino dito.

And as we have seen our OFWs in Singapore have moved up the value chain to higher-paying jobs that require more complex skills. We have seen that Filipinos here excel in various fields, yun na nga si Rico Hizon kasama doon, si Vice President Bonilla ng Citibank.

The OFW community over the years has experienced such a significant improvement in your quality of life as well. Even the once who used to earn less are earning more because they are more skilled, and of course, first and foremost in importance, you continue to uphold the reputation of Filipinos as excellent and dedicated workers. Congratulations!

Natutuwa rin ako na nakikilala na ngayon ang kulturang Pilipino dito sa Singapore dahil sa inyong pagpupunyagi, dahil kilala kayo, dahil matagumpay kayo dito, nakakatulong kayo na magdala at magpakita ng kultura ng Pilipinas. On this 40th Anniversary of our Diplomatic Relations, one of the... no! not one but three or even four of the exhibits are happening right now about Philippine Culture in three different places because we came from the other two exhibits and it's so good to know that the Singaporeans are getting to know more about our culture. One of the exhibits is dedicated to the fiesta, kaya kilalang-kilala, nakikilala ang fiesta at iba't-ibang mga kultura at kaugalian ng iba't-bang mga rehiyon ng Pilipinas.

Early this evening, we were with Lito Camacho, one of the sponsors of the exhibit of Philippine Art at the Singapore Art Museum. And I am so happy and I encourage everyone to support these events. Maybe you can invite your Singaporean and other friends to see and experience the wealth of our culture.

As you know, I will attend the APEC Leaders' Economic Meeting here in Singapore starting tomorrow. The theme of APEC 2009 is "Sustaining Growth, Connecting the Region." We will discuss four priority areas:

First, addressing the crisis and preparing for recovery; Second, supporting the multilateral trading system; Third, accelerating regional integration; and Fourth, strengthening APEC.

Yung una nga, yung pinag-uusapan, addressing the crisis, preparing for the recovery, yun naman talaga ay isang napakaimportanteng pag-uusapan dapat.

Noong unang tumama ang global economic crisis, maraming mga ekonomista ay nangamba na baka tayo sa Pilipinas ay babagsak din. At isang dahilan sabi nila na baka babagsak tayo ay baka raw bumaba ang mga remittances ng OFW dahil marami sa mga OFW ay nagtrabaho sa mga bansa na naapektuhan ng krisis. Halimbawa nga dito sa Singapore, ngunit sa kabila ng maraming mga Pilipino ay nagtrabaho sa maraming mga bansa na natamaan ng krisis, pinakita ninyo na hindi ninyo pinapabayaang hindi pinapabayaang ng Pilipino ang kanyang pamilya at kanyang bansa, kahit na dumanas pa sa maraming hirap. Kaya sa halip na bumaba ang

remittances ay tumaas pa. And now, as of the month of August, remittances in fact reached already \$11 billion dollars.

At alam ko na ito ay nanggagaling din sa mga sakripisyong pinapasan niyo sa ibang bansa upang makapagtrabaho at makapagdala sa inyong pamilya. I'm glad that there are several of you, especially the expat executives who can have your families here, pero marami din ay hindi puwedeng magdala ng kanilang pamilya. Yun ay malungkot na trabaho at batid ko ang hirap at lungkot na dinadanas nitong mga ganitong uri ng pagtrabaho na hindi madadala ang pamilya dito.

And so my vision is to help make our economy competitive enough, and I've said this to you before, so that one day going abroad will just be a career choice, not the only option for our hardworking Filipino workers. And how to do that in this ever interconnected world? Well, the world is safer, more secure and more vibrant when leaders from so many nations come together to solve problems and look to the future together. That is the strength and the hope of the APEC meeting that will start tomorrow: to work hand in hand with our Pacific neighbors to forge a more perfect world.

Here, I know that every person has felt the devastation of the setback in the global economy that affected even such a strong economy as Singapore. At lalo na yung mga hindi naman executive ang trabaho or hindi naman IT expertise and trabaho, mahihirap na pamilyang mga pinanggalingan sa Pilipinas, yung mga kamag-anak nung mga nagtrabaho na nanggagaling sa mga mahihirap na pamilya sa Pilipinas, their relatives back home are the most vulnerable to the global shocks; their relatives are the most price sensitive. They feel the real pain when prices surge, when jobs are lost, when food prices are out of reach.

But one of the things we can say in APEC is that at least here in Asia, we are on a solid comeback; we have weathered the storm better than other regions and with greater resilience. Even the Philippines, with the challenges of a developing nation was prepared for the global shocks. It could have been worse if we had not taken the hard and unpopular but necessary economic and fiscal reforms several years ago. Kasama nga doon si Lito Camacho when he was still Secretary of Finance at kasama rin doon yung isang dating Singapore expat din, si Vince Perez who was BOI Managing Head for a while and move to other Economic Ministries like the Department of Energy later on. These reforms have what we could say, have kept the wolf away from the door. But the wolf is still out there. Isa nga sabi nung nag-meet yung mga nagsalubong sa akin na Singaporean officials — because they had meetings of the finance ministers, isn't it, Gary? the trade ministers — pinag-uusapan on when the fiscal stimulus should start to be taken but because all the countries did fiscal stimulus including us. And I said: no, it's too early for an exit plan. But then yes, they all agree. Sabi ko, actually, ang isang malaking problema kasi lahat naman tayo I think agreed that it's too early for an exit plan. It's too early to stop the fiscal stimulus, ang problema, how do you finance the stimulus? Yun ang problema at at least masasabi ko sa Pilipinas, we can still finance the fiscal stimulus, our bonds are still very, very marketable. So, yun ang dahilan kung bakit among many other things, I believe we are resilient and we will bounce back to that growth that Dr. Reyes has talked about, was talking about when I came here in 2007 that rapid growth that we achieved before it slowed down somewhat but at least never turned negative during the global economic crisis.

Our trip to attend the APEC Summit reflects the commitment of our administration to active engagement in trade, commerce and economic cooperation among nations. This energetic engagement, for instance, my many visits to Singapore has helped us in the country lift up the poor and feed the hungry. And so, it is important that we continue to engage globally.

Now, one of the things that I would like to point out tomorrow in the Summit is that one of the major dynamics of the 21st century is likely to be not just the flow of financial capital, not just the flow of goods and services but human capital, and I say that from experience. Tignan niyo, yung ating quality Pinoys na narito. You are just the pioneers of what will become, I believe in this coming century, a real global phenomenon.

The flow of labor will determine much about how the world grows and works together. So we have had a lot of trade now in goods, we're having a lot of trade in services like air services, for instance, telecommunications. We are also now about to enter a great age of global labor.

Today, it is the Filipinos among the leaders but tomorrow it will be many, many countries doing this. But we are pioneers here and we can tell the world that we have the chance to make sure we tap the possibilities. It is very important I believe that as we must recognize that as trade has expanded in goods, as trade has expanded in services, trade will expand as far as labor mobility is concerned. And the world might as well recognize it for one thing to make it orderly and the other one also, the more you recognize it, the more orderly you make it, the more you stop the abuse that sometimes preys on global laborers of all walks of life in economic strata.

Dito nga sa Singapore sa mga nakaraang taon, naririnig natin yung mga karanasan ng ating mga manggagawa, mga domestic helpers, di ba? nagkakaroon ng abuso kontra sa kanila but as the market becomes more sophisticated with the entry of the professionals, the CEOs, the COOs, mas napoproteksiyon ang ating mga manggagawa, lalo na yung manggagawa in the more manual kinds of work that are more vulnerable to abuse. So we need to put order there, the way that WTO was intended to put order in trade, and we need to put order also in the flow of human capital. Kasi, yun na nga, because we are pioneers in this new age of global labor, it is our obligation to make sure that we protect our workers wherever they may be.

Talagang gusto kong pasalamatang ang mga Pilipinong nagtatrabaho dito sa Singapore. Una sa lahat nga, tinaas ninyo ang antas ng mga Pilipino dito, nakakatulong sa proteksiyon ng kapwa niyong Pilipino dito. At patuloy, gaya ng kwenento niyo kanina, ang malasakit na pinapakita ninyo para sa ating bansa. Tunay kayong mga kaakibat, katuwang, kapuso sa pagkamit ng ating mga layunin sa isang magandang kinabukasan.

Ako'y nagpapasalamat doon sa nagpadala ng mga tulong dito sa ating mga nasalanta doon sa ating mga bagyo na nangyari itong nakaraang Setyembre at Oktubre. And that again shows how you Filipinos here in Singapore never forget the folks back home no matter how successful you are here. And so I am very grateful that our global Filipino, our quality Filipino — global, quality, Filipino pa rin. And you love your country and I really thank you very much and appreciate you for that.

Ipagpatuloy natin nawa ang ating pagtutulungan at pananalig sa ating mga programang pangkaunlaran, sabay-sabay nating kamtan ang magandang hinaharap para sa lahat.

I thank you very much for your words of appreciation, Dr. Reyes in behalf of the whole Filipino Community, and may I tell you that you are also very, very much appreciated not only by me but all the folks back home.

Maraming salamat. Mabuhay ang quality Pinoy ng Singapore!

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a Meeting with the Filipino community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133854/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26860&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Kongreso ng Pamahalaan (Congress of Government Beneficiaries)
[Filipino] Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Kongreso ng Pamahalaan (Congress of Government Beneficiaries)

[Ipinahayag sa Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Rizal Memorial Sports complex, Manila, ika 16 ng Nobyembre, 2009]

Maraming salamat Secretary Pamintuan sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Maraming salamat din kay Congresswoman Nayda Angping na sa ngalan ng kanyang kabiya, si Chairman ng Philippine Sports Commission Harry Angping ay nagamit natin itong lugar para sa ating gawain. Maraming salamat din at welcome Congresswoman Nikki Teodoro, at maraming salamat kay Ginang Daisy ang kinatawan ng mga benepisyaryo na nandito sa entablado, pero sa inyong lahat maraming, maraming salamat din at nagkasama tayo dito. Maraming salamat din kay Congresswoman Nayda Angping na sa ngalan ng kanyang kabiya, si Chairman ng Philippine Sports Commission Harry Angping ay nagamit natin itong lugar para sa ating gawain. Maraming salamat din at welcome Congresswoman Nikki Teodoro, at maraming salamat kay Ginang Daisy ang kinatawan ng mga benepisyaryo na nandito sa entablado, pero sa inyong lahat maraming, maraming salamat din at nagkasama tayo dito.

Natatangi ang araw na ito. Sa higit walong taong panunungkulan ko bilang Pangulo, ngayon lang nagkatipon-tipon ang mga kinatawan ng iba't-ibang mga sektor upang patunayan ang walang tigil nating pagsisikap na mapabuti ang buhay ng mamamayang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat doon sa mga resolusyon na inilatag ninyo na kumikilala sa mga nagawa ng ating pamahalaan para matulungan ang inyong mga sektor. Noong ako ay naging Pangulo sinabi ko, ang hamon natin ay labanan ang kahirapan ng taumbayan.

Mula noon hanggang ngayon, patuloy tayong nagsisikap na harapin ang hamong ito. Ang pagkikilala ninyo sa mga pinagpaguran natin ay nagpapataba sa puso at nagbibigay ng karagdagang lakas upang lalong maging masigasig ang ating ginagawa.

Noon pa'y ating nakita na kailangan nating ipatupad ang malawakang reporma na magsasa-ayos sa iba't-ibang aspeto ng ating pamumuhay. Ang pangangailangan agad ng pagbabago ay ang katayuan nuon ng ating ekonomiya at pinansiya. Ang naabutan kong kalagayan noong una ako umupo bilang Pangulo ay habang umaangat ang ekonomiya ng maraming mga bansa sa buong daigdig, ang ating ekonomiya naman ay humihina. That was the start of 2001, Asia was surging but our country was on the brink of bankruptcy.

Kaya gumawa tayo ng mga masusing reporma. Ang ating planong pangkabuhayan ay nakatukoy, una sa lahat, sa taumbayan — sa inyo. Higit sa lahat, ang layunin ng ating mga patakaran ay tulungan ang karaniwang Pilipino — tulungan kayo.

Sinimulan nating ipatupad ang mga mahihirap ngunit kailangang-kailangang repormang pinansiyal at pang-ekonomiya. Marami ang umayaw, nagalit sa akin ngunit ang mga bagong buwis ay nakatulong bayaran ang mas mabuting kalinga sa kalusugan — sino ang mga benepisyaryo dito ng Philhealth? — galing yan sa ating mga reporma. Mas magandang kalsada — sino yung umakyat dito sa Tarlac na gumanda ang kanyang negosyo dahil gumanda ang mga kalsada, ang SCTEX, sino yun? Yun! yang mga gumanda ang negosyo dahil gumanda ang mga kalsada na magdadala sa inyo ng customer at makakapaghatid ng inyong mga produkto — galing yan sa ating mga reporma.

At yung mas malakas sa sistema ng edukasyon — sino diyan ang ating mga scholar na nagtapos (crowd cheering) at nagkaroon ng trabaho — yan din ay nanggaling sa ating mga reporma. Hinubog ang mga patakaran ng pabahay

upang iahon ang higit na mahihirap para naman manirahan at alagaan ang pamilya sa paraang may dignidad. Sino ngayon ang nakinabang sa mga pabahay natin? Yan din ay galing sa ating reporma.

Ang ating mga puhunan sa agrikultura ay naglalayong kilalanin ang ating mga magsasaka bilang backbone ng ating bansa, at bigyan ng mga modernong kagamitan para pakainin ang ating bansa at pakainin din ang mga pamilya. Sino diyan ang mga magsasaka na nakinabang sa mga programa ng ating pamilya? Oy! nakita ko si Ariel. Yan din ay galing sa ating mga reporma.

At itong mga ito ang ibat-ibang mga detalye ng kabuuan na sa loob ng tatlumpu't apat na sunod-sunod na quarters ay lumago ang ating ekonomiya hanggang sa umabot sa pinakamabilis nating paglago noong taong 2007. At siguro kasama kayo doon sa bilang ng masasabing mahihirap sila na bumaba mula nung 59% bumaba ng 47% yung nagsabing sila ay mahihirap.

At yan ay kahit lumaki ang ating populasyon, kahit lumaki ang ating populasyon dalawang milyon ang umahon, dalawang milyon ang nag graduate mula sa bilang ng mahihirap, naging middle-class na sila at hindi na mahihirap. Isang dahilan din kung bakit may mga umahon ay sa walong taon lumikha tayo ng walong milyong trabaho o isang milyon bawat taon, di hamak mas mahigit kaysa anumang ibang administrasyon. Sino diyan ang nagkaroon ng trabaho sa ating administrasyon? Meron kaninang umakyat, tinanong kung anong biyayang nakuha mo — employment. At yun ay isang napakaimportante para umahon mula sa kahirapan. At yung pagtaas ng ating presyo ng bilihin, kahit nagkaroon tayo ng bagyo. Dati-dati kung magkakaroon ng bagyo grabe ang taas ng presyo ng bilihin, pero ngayon pinakamababa ang inflation natin sa loob ng isang henerasyon, at yung piso ay lalong tumatag.

Tumaas ang tingin sa atin ng mga nagpapautang at namumuhunan, importante yun kasi pag mataas ang ating credit rating bumababa ang interes sa pautang. Kaya mas maraming nakakapagbukas o nagpapalawak ng negosyo. Sino diyan ang nakapagtayo o nakapagpalawak ng negosyo? Ayun! Kasama yan sa ating mga reporma.

Dumagsa pabalik ng bansa ang mga investors. Sino diyan ang mga nagtrabaho sa mga bagong mga investments dito? Ah, dapat i-recruit natin sila sa mga darating na panahon bilang Class 2010 dahil sila rin ay nakabiyaya sa ating administrasyon.

Higit sa lahat, dahil sa paglaki ng kaban ng bayan, nagkaroon tayo ng mas malaking pondo na ginagamit upang ipatupad ang programang imprastruktura at mga serbisyong kinakailangan, kasama na ang mga programang inyong napapakinabangan. Yun ang bunga ng ating mga reporma.

Ngayon alam nating lahat, noong isang taon hanggang ngayon, bumagsak ang pandaigdigang ekonomiya. Di ba alam natin lahat yun? At alam ko na bawat isa sa atin dito sa stadium na ito ay naramdaman ang sakuna na nanggaling dito sa pagbagsak ng pangmundong ekonomiya. At ang mga pinakamahihirap na mamamayan ang pinakanapapanganib sa mga kasindakan ng pandaigdigan. Ang mga pinakamahihirap ang pinaka-nakakaramdam pag tumataas ang presyo ng bilihin o pag nawawala ang trabaho o pag yung pagkain ay wala na sa abot-kaya. Ang pinakamahihirap ang nakakaramdam ng tunay na kasakitan pag yun ang nangyayari pag nawawala ang trabaho, pag nawawala sa abot-kaya ang presyo ng pagkain.

Ngunit nanggaling nga ako doon sa Singapore, nakipagkumpara sa ibat-ibang mga bansa, ano ang epekto ng krisis sa ibat-ibang mga ekonomiya haming sa maraming ibang bansa. Dito sa atin, higit tayong nakaraos sa bagyong dinanas ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya.

Ang Pilipinas, sa kabila ng mga hamon ng isang bansang umuunlad pa lamang, ay nakahanda para sa mga pandaigdigang kasindakan. Mas malala pa sana ang nangyari dito kung hindi natin ginawa ilang taon nakaraan yung mga kailangang reporma sa ekonomiya at kaban ng bayan. Nakapigil itong mga repormang ito, yung papasok sana na impakto ng pandaigdigang krisis napigil natin siya sa ating pintuan.

Hindi natin nakalilimutan na kasama kayo sa mga suporta sa ating mga reporma. Kaya't nararapat lamang na ibalik sa sambayanan, na ibalik sa inyo ang mga bunga ng reporma na bunga rin ng ating sama-samang sakripisyo. Kaya umaasa ako na simula dito sa ating kongresong ito magtutulung-tulungan tayo upang mahatak paitaas yung mga

hindi pa rin umaangat sa ngayon. At natutuwa ako na naalala ninyo na magpasalamat kanina sa mga biyayang natanggap ninyo.

Kayo mga kinatawan ng milyun-milyong nakabiyaya sa ibat-ibang mga programa natin. Siguro wala nang ibang administrasyon na ganun kalawak ang mabibilang niyong nakabiyaya sa ibat-ibang mga programa natin. May mga wala rito siyempre dahil milyun-milyon yun — ang laman lang naman nitong lugar na ito, ang stadium ay limang libo lamang — so, meron ding nasa labas na kumikilala rin sa maraming magagandang nangyari sa buhay nila sa nakalipas na walong taon. At sana marinig natin ang kanilang mga tinig sa inyong pamamagitan.

Kayo, kasama ng mga tahimik na sumusuporta sa atin, ang inaasahan kong magtataguyod, magtatanggol sa ating mga reporma upang bumalik at manatili ang sigla ng ating ekonomiya at magtuloy-tuloy ang ating kaunlaran.

Ang hinihiling ko sa inyo, manalig tayo sa Panginoon. Manalig tayo sa ating sarili at magkakatotoo itong ating mga hinahangad para sa ating bansa. Pero higit sa lahat, Class 2010, inaasahan natin, inaasahan ko ang inyong suporta. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong pagtitiwala sa pamahalaan at sa inyong lingkod.

Mabuhay ang Class 2010! Mabuhay ang lahat ng nagbenepisyo sa mga programa ng ating pamahalaan!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Kongreso ng Pamahalaan (Congress of Government Beneficiaries). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133828/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26861&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the LAKAS KAMPI CMD National Convention, November 19, 2009

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the LAKAS KAMPI CMD National Convention**

[Delivered in PICC, Reception Hall, Pasay City, November 19, 2009]

Thank you very much Secretary Claudio.

Our leaders of the party, those on the head platform and those of you who are all on the floor welcome to the National Convention of LAKAS KAMPI CMD. Our party is the dominant party of our generation. Our party has been the largest political party in the country for 15 of the last 17 years. Seventy two percent of the country's elected leaders are part of us. Think of it: almost three out of every four elected leader is a party member. This overwhelming majority confirms that our party is the true party of the people.

We were a coalition of LAKAS-CMD and KAMPI. Now, this coalition is a full-fledged national political party. The Commission on Elections has upheld the validity of our merger. We have successfully hurdled the legal challenges thrown our way by those whose personal interests were prejudiced by the merger. It is now time to consolidate our ranks and fortify our Party for the electoral battle ahead.

Let us transform LAKAS KAMPI CMD from the "Party of the present" to become the "Party of the future." To that end, I am relinquishing today my position as National Chairperson and handing over the reigns of the Party top leadership to the brilliant young standard-bearer selected by the our National Executive Committee, Gilbert Teodoro.

Our Constitution and By-laws reserve the power of nomination to the National Executive Committee acting as the National Electoral College. Nonetheless, though that Executive Committee have sufficed to choose and nominate our standard bearer, our Party leaders have decided to involve a wide membership of the Party, through this convention process represented by you, the National Council today assembled here.

I congratulate the Executive Committee for this far-sighted decision to share the selection process and made that process truly a process of the party leaders from all over the country. This is a far-sighted decision and it keeps the tradition of free, democratic, and transparent selection of candidates that our Party holds sacred.

Thus, we have convened today to nominate and then to proclaim the Party's presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Over and above the legal qualifications imposed by law, what we want to do today is to nominate presidential and vice-presidential candidates who possess the idealism, the confidence and even the youth to move our nation forward to win the fight against poverty and bring our country to the verge of First World within a generation.

In the fight against poverty, in the quest to bring our nation to First World within a generation to bring prosperity to the greatest number of our people, our Party has initiated reforms especially economic reforms that were due in no small measure to the vision and determination of our party members in Congress and across the local governments. Our congressional leaders passed much-needed reform legislation. Our local government leaders using your fully released IRA and also your own earnings of an increasingly active business environment, our local leaders stayed on

the course of reform, exercises firm political will, and on top of their own local initiatives replicated the national programs in the countryside and in the urban centers. At a time when others, other parties were succumbing to the temptation of settling for the populist line, our Party sustained the reforms and emerged vindicated by an unprecedented 34 quarters of growth that the country enjoyed on our watch, and further vindicated by the resilience that our economy has demonstrated in the face of the global financial crisis. Our sacrifices to achieve these results attest that indeed our Party is the party that holds the nation's best interest at heart.

The people deserve, and our party is delivering, investments in three critical areas, what I call the three "E's" — the Economy, the Environment and Education. These issues are central to lifting up our nation and getting it ready for the next generation of leaders. And that is our battlecry — the next generation of leaders.

With our selection of capable, competent, energetic leaders to lead us into the next generation, our national initiative to fight poverty and reach the First World within the generation can succeed. But, first things first. Let us get them elected, elected with as big a mandate as you our leaders in the countryside and urban centers can win from our people, so that they can go beyond building on the gains of the programs of this administration and lead a new reform agenda on pro-people reforms, ever guided by the institutional ideology of our Party, the ideology of Christian democracy enriched by your interfaith dialogue with our Muslim brothers and sisters.

This is a big and arduous task. But our Party has been challenged many times before and has won. The presence of so many familiar faces, recognizable names, walang hinakot na kung saan-saan lang nanggaling, all leaders, genuine leaders who are all here as many as it can fit in this room, kasi marami diyang mga leaders halal na hindi pa nga makahanap ng upuan dito. So many leaders here from all over the country with a genuine mandate from their own people demonstrate that indeed our Party is a party that can win. With the hard work of party stalwarts, with the hard work of party grassroots, our Party can win the future for our nation.

To further enable to transform our Party from the 'party of the present' to the 'party of the future,' even before I made my offer to relinquish my position as chair, our Interim President Ed Ermita and our Interim Secretary-General Gabby Claudio, even ahead offered to step down and give way to other dynamic, capable and young representatives of the next generation. I thank them for the hard work that they have done as party caretakers. I congratulate the National Executive Committee for the choices you will make today for the new Party President and the new Party Secretary General. But let it be said, that though we are turning over the highest leadership of the Party to the next generation, our present generation and even the generation before me in our 17 year-old party have much to contribute the shoulders, the backbone will be the party stalwarts who have been there with us all these years.

Partymates, it is you representing the wide membership of the Party, who are selecting our new leaders and our new national standard bearers today. Inaasahang paninindigan ninyo ang mga desisyon na gagawin itong araw na ito. May each and every party leader and each and every party grassroots member work hard and work together for the victory of our Party, our party's standard bearers, and all our party's candidates in 2010.

To you all, Mabuhay ang LAKAS KAMPI CMD!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Lakas-Kampi CMD National Convention. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409181028/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26889&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 10th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) with the theme: “World Prosperity Through Chinese Entrepreneurship” (addressing the challenges of the global crisis)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 10th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) with the theme: “World Prosperity
Through Chinese Entrepreneurship” (addressing the challenges of the global crisis)**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City, November 20, 2009]

Secretary Favila, xie, xie.

To all of you, ni hao!

Welcome, especially to Chairman Jia Qinglin of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. And thank you for your very comprehensive review of China’s role in the world economy and the role of the Chinese entrepreneurs all over the world.

Filipinos have been visited by China’s most important officials in the last eight years. President Hu Jintao in 2005, Premier Wen Jiabao in 2007, NPC Chairman Wu Bangguo here in 2003, and now we have Chairman Jia Qinglin. Congratulations!

Welcome to the overseas Chinese entrepreneurs from all over the world, headed by Mr. Huang Mengfu, Chairman of the All China Federation of Industry and Commerce; and Dr. Jonathan Choi, thank you not only for being President of the Hong Kong Chinese Chambers but also for your pushing for this conference to be held here in Manila.

Congratulations for making that push on the part of the Philippines to Special Envoy Francis Chua; thank you Dr. Lucio Tan for being such a big sponsor of this event; as well as to the other members of the organizing committee, especially of course, the Federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines headed by President Alfonso Uy. They ensured the great honor for the Philippines of hosting this Convention.

In a world that has been made smaller, much smaller by technology, there is still no substitute for face-to-face contact to strengthen old ties and form new ones.

The world is more safe, secure and vibrant when business leaders from so many nations come together, as you, the world Chinese entrepreneurs have done today to solve problems and look to the future together. That is the strength and the hope of this World Chinese Entrepreneurs’ Convention: to work hand in hand among the Chinese entrepreneurs from different countries and with your respective governments to forge a more perfect world.

Every entrepreneur has felt the devastation of the setback of the global economy. Our collective commitment must be to make sure to learn from our mistakes, whether they are mistakes of government policy or mistakes of business and financial practices and make sure it never happens again.

As such, we must diversify our economies, work on greater cooperation while becoming more self-sufficient, and we must participate in the reform of the global financial system. It would be a travesty for finance entrepreneurs to revert to the old ways and not look back at the destruction that the financial system wrought through reckless disregard for the global good.

At least among economies with a very strong Chinese business community, especially the People's Republic of China itself, we are on a solid comeback. In the Philippines and the other countries, the other economies with a very big Chinese business community, we weathered the storm better and with greater resilience. Even the Philippines, with the challenges of a developing nation, was prepared for the global shocks. It would have been worst if we had not taken the hard and unpopular but necessary economic and fiscal reforms several years ago, but we can only have done that and we were able to do that because we had the support of the Filipino-Chinese business community.

Filipino-Chinese entrepreneurs — and that means over 90% of the Filipino-Chinese population — possess a sharp business sense, the keen ability to discover opportunities to offer goods and services that improve lives, the courage to take risks, the work ethic, focus and determination to attain your goals. These are the qualities that have made the Filipino-Chinese crucial to Philippine development and have made them also major contributors to our country's unprecedented growth over 34 successive quarters during my administration.

The sterling qualities of the Filipino-Chinese entrepreneur are on display even in activities that do not directly create wealth or even in activities that are not directly business. For instance, the generosity behind their federation's outstanding civic program to build classrooms or the efficiency of the Filipino-Chinese fire volunteers who are recognized as our country's best firefighters.

The Chinese have been an integral part of Philippine life for a millennium. Centuries before Spain laid claim on the Philippine archipelago, the Chinese had already established a strong presence in these islands as traders. Some intermarried with natives and were assimilated. We all know that the Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, descended from a migrant from Jinjiang in Fujian province.

My husband's ancestor, Son Tua, also came from Fujian. During the Spanish period, the British came and invaded the Philippines and my husband's ancestor fought the British and was rewarded by the Spanish government with a nobility title along with vast tracts of land. I am proud to say therefore that my husband and my children are part Chinese.

Many of our leaders in government are Filipino-Chinese. For example, my Secretary of Agriculture, Arthur Yap, is Chinese; my Chairman of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, Rey Chua, is Chinese; my Chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission, Harry Angping, who is with us today is Chinese; his wife, Congresswoman Naida Angping is the Representative of the District of Manila that covers the Filipino-Chinese Community or Chinatown. She's also here with us today. They come from Chinese entrepreneurial families.

Chinese entrepreneurs are resilient. And you Chinese entrepreneurs from all over the world are one reason why the world will bounce back from the global economic crisis.

So, my message to you today is let us do everything in our power, in government and in business, to ensure that we do not slip back into the same patterns as before.

We, in government are altogether all over the world looking for solutions to reform the global financial and economic system and as far as the business sector is concerned, I believe in the Chinese entrepreneurs and what you can do to change the world.

So, I am more hopeful than ever today that the more than 3,000 overseas Chinese entrepreneurs here from more than 20 nations are testament to the vitality and promise of a strong world business community that can help breathe new life into the world economy.

May you therefore have a productive and memorable stay in the Philippines, and may the outcome of your convention serve to make our world better and better.

Xie, xie.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 10th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) with the theme: "World Prosperity Through Chinese Entrepreneurship" (addressing the challenges of the global crisis). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133806/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26913&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the Philippine Tourism Congress and the Php 555 Billion investments in tourism infrastructure milestone

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremony of the Philippine Tourism Congress and the Php 555 Billion investments in
tourism infrastructure milestone**

[Delivered at the Marriott Hotel, Resorts World Manila, Newport City, Pasay City, Metro Manila, November 25, 2009]

Thank you very much.

I'd like to thank my Presidential Adviser, the Honorable Alfonso Yuchengco, for introducing me and also for inviting me to be in this very, very important event. I'd like to also acknowledge the principal sponsor of the Tourism Act which we are now implementing with this Tourism Congress, congratulations!

Our former secretaries of Tourism who blazed the trail that has now become a road and our other officials of the Tourism family and of course the very valuable private sector members of the tourism industry which are officially recognized by the Tourism Act, the very first law on Tourism in our country as pointed out by Congressman Chatto. To all of you, congratulations!

In my State of the Nation Address in 2001, I said, we have the competitive edge in tourism in the natural wonders of our country and the natural warmth of our people. I said, we will provide roads to those wonders and the means to take the tourists there. I said, we will continue to liberalize the airline industry.

At that time, the global tourists knew us only for Boracay, Palawan and Cebu. We needed to reintroduce ourselves. Thus, the Department of Tourism commissioned the international consultants McKinsey and Co. to study Philippine tourism with a view to increasing our market share in the booming tourism industry of Southeast Asia. McKinsey recommended, among other things, developing the northeast Asian market in addition to our traditional U.S. market. As a result, the biggest numbers of our tourists now come from neighboring Asian countries, with Koreans topping the list for several years. Also impressive is the 500 percent growth since 2001 of tourists from China.

Around that time also, on another issue, in order to lower the cost of transporting food from Mindanao to Luzon, we built a nationwide network of RO-RO-capable ferry routes. In the process of bringing down the cost of transporting food, the RO-RO connections also encouraged more tourists to take the bus trip to Boracay, which costs one-tenth the price of a plane ticket to the same destination.

We formed our Super Regions, with each super region emphasizing a particular growth track and therefore a particular priority for investments. The Central Philippines Super Region, which extends from Bicol, to the whole of the Visayas, to Palawan and to the islands of Northern Mindanao, has tourism for its core growth strategy. That means giving higher priority to infrastructure that will provide access to tourism destinations in that super region. For instance, we have completed new airports in Iloilo and Bacolod-Silay. We also fixed the airport in Busuanga. We're working on the airport in Panglao; the airport in Guiuan, we also improved; the airport in Siargao which is part of Central Philippines because it's an island in Northern Mindanao. And we fixed the roads going to the favorite tourism destinations.

Policy reforms in infrastructure and transport, including the progressive liberalization of the airline industry, also had given our tourism a boost. Liberalized policies increased air access from major tourist markets, including new flight from Incheon, Busan, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Kaohsiung.

And while the national government readied the infrastructure, the DoT likewise escalated its tourism investment promotions, encouraging establishments to build more hotels and other facilities. A variety of financing schemes and a stronger pitch for tourism investments facilitated the building of new hotels and other facilities in favorite destinations and up and coming tourist attractions. And that is part of why we are also here today not only to convene this Tourism Congress, the first activity in compliance with the new Tourism Act, but also to celebrate 555 billion pesos of investments in tourism. And this is Marriott which represents the 555th billion pesos of investments.

So far, the Andrew Tan Group has already spent 500 million dollars in this complex, and they will be spending 700 million dollars before this complex is completed. And there is another group that Andrew has gone into partnership with, with the Shimao Group, one of the biggest groups of China. Shimao had originally wanted to put up a one billion-dollar investment in BCDA but the land available that they wanted was not all available for them. And so they entered into an agreement, they looked for a good Filipino partner, they found one in Andrew Tan and they are putting up another 700 million dollars investment in Fort Bonifacio. So the Andrew Tan Group here and in partnership with Shimao in Fort Bonifacio will give us 1.5 billion dollars in tourism investment, a member of our Billion-dollar Club.

But today, we are celebrating that the private sector has poured 555 billion pesos into building accommodations and tourism utilities.

Investments in tourism transport also expanded. In 2004 it was a 163 million; in 2008 it became 30.5 billion with the airline sector undertaking aggressive re-fleeting programs to meet the growing demand.

Today, three to four major airlines service tourist destinations with flights of at least two to three times daily, giving tourists greater choices of time and more value for their money. Your participation, the private sector participation in tourism has taken a new promising turn in recent months, with major players pouring investments not only in resorts, not also in airplanes but even in infrastructure projects. For instance, the expansion and modernization of the Caticlan Airport is not being done by government. It's being done by the private sector. The waste water treatment facility in Boracay Island is being done not by the government but by the private sector.

And of course we must thank even the agencies outside the DoT family for doing their share to facilitate tourism. For example, the Bureau of Immigration's Visa on Arrival program has effectively reduced the document requirements and the hassle that tourists detest.

And so because of all of these efforts, all of us together, we have witnessed an impressive increase in our tourism arrivals. Our tourists for the first six months of this year are more than double the tourists for the whole year of 2001, congratulations to all of you!

With the rise in tourist arrivals has come an increasing job opportunities. Employment in tourism and related industries account for almost 10 percent of total employment. The industry directly employs more than three million Filipinos now, more than three times the job it created in 2001. So tourism has doubled but has created three times the job.

With Republic Act 9593, the Tourism Act of 2009, we shall not only strengthen the Department of Tourism, but we shall also strengthen a strategic partnership between government and the private sector. And that is why we are gathered here today to cement in accordance with the law that strong government-private sector partnership.

And so on this day, as we convene this Congress, I thank you for all the hard work that you in the private sector had given to bring Philippine tourism to where it is today. And I congratulate your partners in the government sector as well.

I am pleased to witness this Congress convene for the first time, and I trust that your success will be repeated again and again in the future.

Mabuhay ang Philippine Tourism! Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the opening ceremony of the Philippine Tourism Congress and the php 555 Billion investments in tourism infrastructure milestone. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133754/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26956&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening program of the 3rd Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening program of the 3rd Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009**

[Delivered at the Summit Hall, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City, Metro Manila, November 26, 2009]

Thank you, Secretary Atienza for your introduction. And thank you for the good work you've done in hosting this conference, forum and congress in behalf of the government of the Philippines.

Mr. Chairman Chua; Miss Badcock; and, of course, my former Cabinet member, PEMSEA Executive Director Lotilla; members of the Diplomatic Corps; ministers; delegates; ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome! The Philippines is honored to host this forum and congress of the Partnerships in Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia or PEMSEA. Congratulations on your tireless efforts in continuing dialogue and coordinated actions to protect the seas and rebuild coastal communities in this part of the world.

The backdrop to this forum is that with representatives meeting in Denmark to advance cooperation to stop global warming, we here in East Asia are literally treading water from the last blow of typhoons that have increased in ferocity as global warming has increased in scope. Island nations such as the Philippines and many in this room, are particularly vulnerable to rising tides and shifting sands.

And increasingly, our regional natural disasters are being laid at the feet of man-made global warming. If men and women make these problems, then men and women must solve them, too. The path to sustainable global growth is a low-carbon economy, better energy efficiency, cleaner and renewable energy, and good coastal resource management.

That is why our position in the Philippines on climate change is very strong: we are calling for a binding outcome in Copenhagen. We can no longer afford to play the blame game while we are mired in a climate debate. Climate change does not make a distinction between developed and developing economies when it hits. Both have respective roles and responsibilities in addressing this challenge, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities.

It is of primary interest to us that to ensure that any outcome in Copenhagen includes a cohesive and comprehensive financing mechanism to support climate change adaptation, such as disaster control and management, and integrated coastal management.

When we were having an impromptu summit in APEC on climate change, the President of the United States said that even as the developing countries, the G-77 of which the Philippines is a very active member, are demanding binding commitments in carbon reduction from the Annex I countries. The developing countries too should go to Copenhagen with their own commitments so that the financing can be transparent and accountable. And I have said the Philippines is ready to go with its commitments.

One of the commitments that the Philippines is prepared to comply with is that we must have a certain percentage of our municipal coastal waters in every municipality, 15 percent set aside as a sanctuary. And that is something we can bind because it is accordance with our laws.

As leaders of the world's fastest growing region, we should set the tone for the success of Copenhagen and marshal the resource to secure the survival of countries, cultures, and ecosystems that are threatened by climate change.

At no time has the need for greater cooperation and connectivity been demanded of East Asia than now. We can come together to work hand-in-hand to provide assistance and put in place new measures to combat natural disasters. PEMSEA has a big role to play. And the Philippines is happy to have hosted for the last many years PEMSEA as a regional program funded by the Global Environmental Facility as implemented by the UNDP. But we are very happy that today PEMSEA gets its own legal personality with the Philippines as its headquarters. Congratulations!

Our country's support for PEMSEA foreshadowed the Philippine position, as mentioned by Popo Lotilla earlier, to place the oceans in the mainstream of climate change discussion, a stand similarly taken by the Manado World Oceans Conference in May this year.

In Manado we also adopted the Coral Triangle Initiative Plans of Action that affirm the valuable role of Integrated Coastal Management in climate change adaptation.

PEMSEA has, indeed, been a major influence in making the peoples of this Region aware that as stakeholders all of us are expected to contribute to efforts to stop the degradation of our marine waters.

In 2006, I issued Executive Order 533 adopting Integrated Coastal Management as a national strategy to ensure the sustainable development of coastal marine environment and resources as a means of achieving food security, sustaining livelihood, as well as reducing poverty.

This Executive Order has been applied in several important coastal and ocean management programs in the Manila Bay, in Batangas, Cavite, Bataan and Guimaras. The Manila Bay area, the bailiwick of Secretary Lito Atienza where we are now, is part of the urban beltway that generates 52% of our country's GDP. PEMSEA's invaluable assistance, along with the support of scores of national government agencies and local government units, NGOs and financial institutions, resulted in the crafting of the ICM plan for the bay that was later replicated in all coastal provinces comprising the Manila Bay area. And I thank PEMSEA for your central role in doing that master plan.

As the tragic aftermath of the recent typhoons have shown, global warming and the impact mankind has made on our global environment is no longer a hypothetical issue. And while global warming is not the root of every change in climate, it is here, the rain is falling, the tide is rising, and we must all stand up and take action.

There are many things each individual nation can and will do. Certainly, in the Philippines, as I have mentioned with some of the examples that I gave earlier, we are forging ahead to invest and plan accordingly. But our individual efforts will not suffice. This is an issue for everyone. We must rise and fall together; we are all interconnected. Your supply of fish may come from the rich fishing grounds in the Philippines; our supply of steel may come from a coastal port in a neighboring nation. Each dependency will be threatened if we do not act together.

Global economic recovery which is the other big challenge we have today does not mean restoring the global economy to what it was before. It also requires a climate change response and a new paradigm for growth. That paradigm means that every country must fundamentally transform the structure of its economy and create growth that is truly 'green.' And for us to create growth that is truly 'green,' we must create seas that are truly 'blue.'

So to all of you, congratulations on the role of PEMSEA!

Thank you for coming and Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the opening program of the 3rd Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133724/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26991&Itemid=38

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Arroyo during the 34th National Prayer Breakfast (NPB)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 34th National Prayer Breakfast (NPB)**

[Delivered at the Malago Grounds, Malacañan Park, PSG Compound, November 26, 2009]

Thank you, Isabel.

Congressman Joe Tan Ramirez, Mayor Lim, and I see some other elected officials here. I see Congresswoman Thelma Almario, I see Governor Sally Lee, many other government officials who are part of our Executive Branch, Honorable bishops, our speakers and readers, Ambassador Choi and their Korean delegation, to all of you, welcome to Malacañan Park!

In 1997, I attended a National Prayer Breakfast here as well, and it was held in Malacañan Park. And I thought that I would repeat that because I felt that in the grounds of this historic site we can be inspired, we can have profound insights that come only from prayerful communion with the Lord.

Actually, I wanted it under those trees but I understand that the organizers wanted you all to be more compact here. So I said, let's transfer the tent, they don't have to cover the food, they have to cover the people. So the tents are coming here so you won't feel the heat of the sun so much because it is important that we have some peace and comfort as we pray and we meditate on the things that we should pray and think about today.

We gather here today in the shadow of the tragedy that was recently visited upon so many of our brothers and sisters in Mindanao.

It was a blight on our nation.

Men and women, young and old, political battlers and journalists: all were victims of a shameful crime that has no place in civilized society. It cries for the fullest measure of retribution from our institutions of justice.

Yes, there is no condemnation in the Lord but on the other hand, on earth, there is a system of justice and the perpetrators will not find a way to escape justice.

Political violence has been a sad legacy of our nation; we had made considerable progress in protecting our people from such violence in the last few years. Now, let us pray today that the events of this week will not deter this nation from breaking the bonds of violence that plagues our political system.

Let us pray today that peace will prevail in the Philippines.

Let us pray that commitment to human rights and human dignity will prevail.

We are a civilized nation. We are a nation, we're children of God.

Let us pray for the grace not to allow a travesty of our nation's commitment to uphold the basic humanity of every single Filipino.

Today is our National Breakfast Prayer Day and I have asked Secretary Ermita to do the appropriate documentation that today on this occasion of our National Prayer Breakfast we declare: a National Day of Prayer and Mourning for the victims.

That crime is too outrageous not to prick the conscience of the nation. So on this day, let us pray that the grieving relatives and friends of the victims be granted the solace of faith and peace of mind.

Let us pray that the burden of anger and revenge be lifted from their hearts, so that they may become instruments of a return to peace rather than the continuation of violence.

Let us pray that they will be uplifted by the continuous support of their communities and the sympathies of a bereaved nation.

Let us pray that outrage is overcome by reason and the need to live our lives in peace, honor and human dignity. And that is what I can discern from the reading of today that Joe Tan read: that there is no condemnation in the Lord.

Let us pray for peace in Mindanao. It will be a blessing for all its people, Muslim, Christian and Lumads. It will show other multi-faith communities that there can be common ground on which to live together in peace, harmony and cooperation that respects each other's religious and even political beliefs.

Ang tanong ay hindi, "Sino ang mananalo?" kung hindi, "Bakit pa ba kailangang mag-laban laban ang kapwa Pilipino tungkol sa mga isyu na alam naman natin lahat na 'di malulutas sa dahas, at ang paraang pangresolba ay paraang demokratiko."

Let us pray for the grace to improve the security of those parts of the country that have known much violence, so that as we move quickly as we're able to move quickly to develop the economy of those areas when there is peace when we do that we ensure a lasting peace as well that ensures that security is no longer an issue.

The darkness of the human heart must submit to Divine law and Divine will. We cannot escape moral responsibility to restrain the darkness in our imperfect hearts from striking out a conscienceless behavior. It is God Himself we heard speaking to Joshua, the son of Moses, who admonishes us: "To be strong and courageous. To be careful to obey the laws he has given us." It is God Himself who warns us that there are laws from Him that are intended to be obeyed at all times.

And so even if there is no condemnation in the Lord, there are also the commandments that he wants us to follow. Not the least of these laws, as set forth in the two tablets brought down by Moses is a very clear commandment: "Thou shalt not kill."

But we have two readings today because there is the question: "Is there more to our experience of the Divine than the structures set forth by the Old Testament, by the Mosaic law? Is this the only place where God's voice may be heard by the families of the victims, inconsolable in their grief or impassioned with revenge? Is this the only venue of redress for our countrymen seeking to understand what happened and to commiserate with their afflicted brethren? Is this the sole source of comfort vouchsafed by God to us?"

We share with our Muslim brothers the Old Testament. On top of that, we Christians have the New Testament. And the New Testament through the New Testament, it is through these larger questions that again the Creator speaks, where the disciple St. Luke assures us that "the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

In the reading that was read earlier, when the crowd complained about Jesus seeking shelter in the house of the hated tax collector Zacchaeus, they had to be reminded that the redeemer of souls turns away no one. But let us not also overlook what Zacchaeus said in order to be deemed worthy of receiving Jesus into his house. The tax collector gave away half his possessions to the poor and offered to recompense four times over anyone whom he may have wronged.

Indeed, we are directed by our conscience. We are hounded by our conscience to make sure that the heart and spirit who receive God's grace must seek always to be pure and worthy.

It is our common aspiration to such purity and worthiness that binds us together as Filipino Christians and makes our nationhood worthwhile. It is an aspiration that is also shared — in another vocabulary, perhaps, but with no less passion — by our fellow Filipinos of other faiths, especially our Muslim brethren in the South. Their religion is just as offended — no less than others — by criminal actions and the suffering of families victimized.

We are entering our election year. This is the last National Prayer Breakfast I will be joining you as president. This time next year another leader of our country will hopefully break bread with you in common prayer and fellowship. As we go about the process of selecting that leader and others like him next year, I ask for your prayers that the process shall no longer be marred by violence and strife.

Let us pray that this will be a time to empower the people, not to cower the people. And in the meantime, though this is my last National Prayer Breakfast as president, I asked Joe Tan, "Do you only have a prayer breakfast once a year?" He said, "No. One big one once a year but we have many other frequent small ones."

Isabel and I were discussing that our administration would like to be more involved in your little prayer breakfast. And as I have hosted this prayer breakfast here in Malacañang — the bigger one — I hope that there will be other occasions before I step down to have to be able to host other little prayer breakfast with you.

We must do this more frequently now in the next few months because we must stand together as a nation, holding hands as one, to fight malevolence in every form and beyond fighting malevolence, to promote the good that is in every one of us.

Nawa'y lagi tayong bantayan, basbasan at patnubayan ng Poong Maykapal nating lahat.

Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 34th National Prayer Breakfast (NPB). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133732/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26990&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd Public-Private Sector Dialogue on Post-Disaster Assistance

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 2nd Public-Private Sector Dialogue on Post-Disaster Assistance

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, December 2, 2009]

Thank you very much Secretary Teves.

Other members of the Cabinet, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Chairman Manny Pangilinan, Archbishop Vidal and the other members of the private sector, multilateral and bilateral organizations, ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon and thank you all for what you are doing here today.

If you recall, during the Mid-year Economic Briefing last October, I announced the creation of a special public-private reconstruction partnership to study the causes, costs and actions to be taken in the wake of typhoons Ondoy, Pepeng and Frank, and to seek fresh aid to fund reconstruction.

The idea was to harness domestic private initiatives, including business groups, the Church and civil society, into the government's overall reconstruction effort. We felt this was good policy and we felt it would be a better way of mobilizing external and incremental resources, technical expertise and networks.

On October 22, if you recall, I issued an Executive Order creating the public sector portion, the Special National Public Reconstruction Commission. Correspondingly, the private sector headed by Manny organized the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation to serve as the counterpart organization of the public sector for post-disaster rehabilitation and construction efforts. The commission and the foundation then immediately signed a cooperation agreement to carry out the purposes that I announced during the Mid-year Economic Briefing. And I am very glad that all these have happened. And I thank Cardinal Vidal; I thank Gary for their leadership in this urgent and crucial task. And of course I thank the representatives of international organizations and foreign governments involved in this vital undertaking.

I reiterate the gratitude of the Filipino people for your speedy, and I must say, substantial response to our appeal and for your continuing desire to help us. Substantial because the pledges that Gary mentioned are even more than the needs assessment that have been made, so I really thank you for that.

Your support is crucial in meeting the needs identified not only by the private sector but also by the DSWD, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, and the Office of Civil Defense. And I hope that we will be able to tap also the huge underlying global constituency for climate change adaptation, because our recovery from those typhoons is certainly part of climate change adaptation.

Because of the impact of the global crisis on the fiscal capacity of the Philippines, the primary response of our administration to the enormous calamities which climate change is bringing to our vulnerable country cannot be just another borrowing program. And so, though we have an annual Philippine Development Forum, I ask Gary to replace that for this year with this session, with this forum that we are having now, which I said to Gary should also weigh very heavily on grants because we don't want to let grant opportunities go to waste though less in size than loans, they remain substantial as we have seen from the collection of pledges that Gary has pointed out.

And even if we resort to bonds in bringing in exogenous resources, we want to go beyond a mere borrowing program to provide the framework that is usually required by ODA programs. And I am very grateful that Gary

presented the summary of the work on the need assessment because that is going to provide the framework for the things that we will source funds for.

So in sum, I hope that we can push, first, for more grants or non-repayable inflows. The underlying doctrine, as I said before, is that the Philippines is a victim of climate change, not a culprit. Victims are compensated, not penalized with high interest rates or conditionalities.

Second to grants, we want to push for concessional loans.

And third, commercial borrowings either through bonds or other instruments as may be recommended by this partnership should be the last financing option.

As we prepare to capture the opportunities presented by this partnership, this private-public sector reconstruction partnership and the resources that it is tapping in this session to recover from recent national calamities, we must not lose sight of our longer-term economic reforms and the very real pain many of our poor have sustained as a result of the global downturn. While the world may finally be emerging from the global economic crisis, much remains to be done to ensure that the Philippines continues on its path to long-term economic prosperity and that we are able to build a strong middle-class.

As our development partners know the story of the Philippines in 2008 and 2009 is that the country weathered a succession of global crisis in fuel, in food, then in finance and finally the economy in a global recession, but we never lost focus and we kept our economic fundamentals intact.

Our GDP is still in the block.

We will continue to work aggressively to ensure that the growth that has been generating jobs and revenue to invest in new infrastructure and critical social programs will continue. And I am very grateful to all of you, for your sincere and invaluable efforts to help the Filipino nation.

With your help, as summarized by Secretary Gary Teves, we will be on track very soon. And I hope, indeed, that as the people know that this is happening and that they can look forward to a meaningful reconstruction. I hope indeed that everyone, the nation will have a Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year!

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 2nd Public-Private Sector Dialogue on Post-Disaster Assistance. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133717/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27019&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the conferment of the 2009 Galing Pook and Bagong Bayani Awards

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the conferment of the 2009 Galing Pook and Bagong Bayani Awards**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, December 4, 2009]

Thank you. Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat Secretary Remonde sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

I'd also like to greet Mr. Rene Cristobal and the other officers of the Bagong Bayani Foundation; Lito Coscolluela, SRA Administrator and other officers of the Galing Pook Foundation; Nitoy Roque and the other government officials who are here with us today. Siyempre yung ating mga awardees, mga namuhunan ng mga Magaling na Pook at ating mga Bagong Bayani.

Isang mainit na pagbati sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at mga OFW na nagkamit ng parangal na Galing Pook at Bagong Bayani.

Binibigyan natin ng parangal ngayon ang pinakamahuhusay sa dalawang sektor na bagamat magkaiba ay nagkakaisa sa layunin — ang tumulong sa pag-unlad ng ating bansa.

Sa pagkakataong ito, kasi narinig natin yung kanilang mga nagawa at hindi na natin kailangang ulitin kahanga-hanga, sana rin batiin natin yung iba pang mga tunay na bayani nitong bansa those who have gone unsung. Those unsung heroes don't demand the spotlight or expect red carpet treatment. These men and women are motivated by the simple but profound values that drive this nation forward. Kapayapaan, pag-asa, charity, pagmamahal sa pamilya, hangad sa mabuting edukasyon at karapatan tungo sa magandang trabahong may disentang sweldo na magbigigay sa kanila ng kakayahang pakainin ang pamilya at pag-aralin ang mga anak.

Sino ang mga bayaning ito? Yung mga tumanggap ng awards ngayon, siyempre bayani sila, pero bayani rin ang karaniwang Pilipino.

Ang nars na sumisikap alagaan ang matatanda.

The farmer who fights flood and famine to deliver life-saving crops needed to nourish our nation.

Yung taxi driver who literally drives our nation forward, bringing people to their places of work, worship and friendship.

And of course yung ating mga overseas Filipino workers, the overseas worker who is making the ultimate sacrifice by seeking career opportunities overseas and sending back remittances to celebrate the holiday season with their families, at gumagawa ng mga kontribusyon upang manatiling lutang ang ating ekonomiya itong mga panahon na mahamon.

Kaya ang ating mga overseas Filipino workers ay lagi nating tinatawag mga bagong bayani ng ating bansa. At sa inyong mga nagtanggap ng Bagong Bayani Awards itong taon, congratulations sa inyo!

Among our heroes are also the dedicated public servants who reach higher year after year to raise our governance standards so that our government can better serve our citizens. Kabayanihan din ang maayos na pamamahala ng mga

barangay, bayan, lungsod at probinsiya natin. Kaya sa ating mga Outstanding Local Government Executives sa mga Galing Pook, congratulations sa inyo!

But as I said sa araw na ito, as we honor our LGU and OFW awardees, we also celebrate the unsung heroes who are our country's source of strength, our backbone, our hope for the future. They are a reminder to all of us that we must never lose sight of the importance of growing our economy, providing peace and security, and now more than ever, ensuring peaceful elections and a smooth transition so that the gains of the last eight years will be locked in and our nation will remain strong.

Just as we celebrate our hardworking heroes, both the ones who received the awards so deservedly today and those who are unsung, your government is doing everything in its power to put food on the table and protect the paycheck from high prices and high inflation.

Patuloy rin tayong namumuhunan sa mga sistema ng ating bansa para sa kalinga sa kalusugan, edukasyon at mga serbisyo sosyal. Gaya nang ginagawa ko sa nakaraang walong taon, patuloy akong nagigising araw-araw, hanggang sa huling araw ng aking panunungkulan, at masipag na nagtatrabaho at masiglang ipinaglalaban ang karaniwang Pilipino. Our people deserve no less.

Habang pumapasok tayo sa panahon ng Pasko, kailangan bilangin natin ang ating mga biyaya and look to the future with hope and optimism. We must come together in this season of peace and celebrate faith and family at ipagdasal iyong mga hindi kasing-palad.

Kailangan magkaisa tayo upang magdala sa ating mga pamayanan ng kabutihan, hindi pananakit o pagbibintang. We must put aside our differences, be they personal or political. And I say this at a critical time in our nation's history as we prepare for the elections next year.

Ang pinakaimportante, kailangan ihandog natin ang sarili natin sa mga mahihirap na kasama natin lalo na sa panahon ng Pasko, gaya nang ginagawa araw-araw para sa atin itong ating mga bayani, na binigyan natin ng parangal ngayon, as well as our unsung heroes.

Sa kabila ng mga hamong hinaharap natin bilang bansa, I am optimistic about our future due in large part to the optimism and resilience of the Filipino people.

Titiyakin natin na ituloy ng ating pamahalaan ang masipag na pagtatrabaho para dalhin ang mga serbisyo ng pamahalaan sa taong-bayan. Importante na ang pamahalaan ay nagtatrabaho para sa taong-bayan. Again, I will repeat — the people deserve no less.

Kaya sa inyong lahat na naglilingkod sa taong-bayan maging kayo ay private citizens working overseas o kayo ay public servants lahat ng mga binibigyan natin ng parangal ngayon at sa lahat ng mga namamahala ng mga barangay, bayan, lungsod at lalawigan na sumusuporta sa ating mga reporma at sa lahat ng mga OFW, karangalan kong makasama ang mga buhay na bayani sa pagtahak sa daan tungo sa magandang bukas.

Dahil sa inyo at sa iba pa nating mga bayani, sumusulong ang bansa.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, maraming, maraming salamat and congratulations!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the conferment of the 2009 Galing Pook and Bagong Bayani Awards. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133709/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27051&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the lecture series for Quezon City public school teachers

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the lecture series for Quezon City public school teachers**

[Delivered at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang, December 15, 2009]

Maraming salamat Secretary Jing Lapus sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. And to all of you beloved teachers; welcome to Malacañang!

Thank you for participating in this lecture series which, as has been explained earlier, is part of the continuing education of teachers. We're holding this event in the Palace of the People because of my partiality for the teaching profession.

After all, I was a teacher. At nung ako ay teacher marami akong naabutan at nakilalang mga napakatalinong mga estudyante at isa doon sa estudyante kung yun ay mas magaling na ekonomista kasya sa akin, si Joey Salceda, kaya siya ang magpapaliwanang sa inyo ng mga bagay tungkol sa ekonomiya.

Kaya napunta ako rito, hindi upang magbigay ng lecture tungkol sa ekonomiya, gagamitin ko itong pagkakataon, I'll take advantage of this occasion to address not only you but through you all our people on another very important and timely subject.

My fellow countrymen and countrywomen, people of the Philippines:

Being a President is about making tough choices, sometimes the path to those choices is very clear but sometimes it is shrouded in fog. Yet one thing is always true, there is no shirking the responsibility to make those decisions. There is no place to hide if they are not made, many of the decisions to keep our nation moving forward rest solely on the shoulders of the President and no one else. The challenges that go with being President are with me every second of the day. It's a big responsibility, I sought it out, and I have always been humbled by it.

But I am always aware of my obligation to serve the people, abide by the Constitution and follow my faith as I seek the wisdom and the guidance to do what is right for our nation each and every day.

Just a few shorts weeks ago, on November 23rd, there was a terrible slaughter in Maguindanao. It shocked this nation. The images and details of the carnage also shocked the world. It was a dark day in our nation's history. When arrests started to be made and witnesses started to surface the ring leaders and their followers took up arms with heavy weapons to thwart justice, bring governance to a halt and challenge national authority.

The nation faced a rebellion that could have ignited total chaos in Maguindanao and likely spread throughout Mindanao.

As President, I have a constitutional obligation to defend this nation from internal rebellion just as I do external aggression. So based on careful consultation with advisers on the ground, with our National Police, with our military leaders, with our National Security Council, I took decisive action and declared Martial Law on December 4th. This action was consistent with our obligation to our nation. No one will ever be allowed to bring rebellion to this country, let alone murder and go free.

The objective of our government from the moment Martial Law was imposed was to maintain it only as long as required and to work to lift it once crucial objectives had been met. That included arresting the leaders of the rebellion and their accomplices including the murderers, restoring the rule of law, disarming those who raised arms

against our government's prerogative to ensure law and order, ensuring the proper functioning of the provincial government and protecting terrified witnesses so that justice would truly be served.

Since imposing Proclamation 1959 the results have been substantial. They met the objectives set by our government, these include the ability of justice officials and the police to mount and carry out a comprehensive investigation into the tragic crimes of November 23rd and the rebellion that followed. The investigation has so far resulted in the arrest or taking into the custody of more than 600 individuals including the alleged masterminds and many of the alleged triggermen.

The seizure of over a thousand high powered weapons and armaments and over 500,000 rounds of ammunitions that presented a continuous challenge to the security of our nation.

It also included the replacement of key regional government and law enforcement officials to ensuring that justice will be served as investigators continue to pursue all those responsible for the crimes in Maguindanao. Those individuals who have come forward to provide testimony as witnesses to these crimes have been given the protection they require as they prepare to testify in the trials for murder and other illegal acts that will follow the completion of this thorough investigation.

Throughout the imposition of Martial Law many critics found fault with our actions. They had no faith in our Constitution. They had no faith in the men and women in the military and the police to do their job, in fact, I'm not sure they had faith in democracy itself. Our critics dragged their feet and took their time grandstanding when the situation demanded decisive action. Yet we must act quickly to secure the peace and ensure justice and safety for the people. That is what we did.

Unfortunately, if the critics had their way, rebels could have taken over the province and lawlessness would have spread to other parts of Mindanao and murder suspects could have slipped away from justice as witnesses cowered in fear for their safety due to the breakdown of law and order governance in Maguindanao. Inaction would have had dire consequences; we would not let that stand.

At the end of the day, we made the tough choice. I made the tough choice. It was based on sound information, a clear reading of the Constitution, and a deep desire to quell rebellion and restore order. The results vindicate the choice we made. We make no apologies for acting where others fear to tread.

Wanton murder was followed by act of rebellion. The very moral and legal core of this nation was on the line; we would not let it be crossed.

My heart, our hearts go out to the people of Central Mindanao, particularly the friends and families of the victims. To them, we say, your loved ones have not died in vain. Justice shall be served, peace will come to the province of Maguindanao, and our nation will be stronger for the pain.

To those who stood with us in the pursuit of justice and upholding the Constitution, I thank you. To those who honestly questioned my decision, I respect the fact that you cherish the Constitution just as fervently as I do. For those seeking higher office, it's time for action, not just tough talk.

If anything positive can come out of the terrible tragedy in Maguindanao, it is that the heartbeat of peace is very much alive. This is clear by the very passion by which people across the nation condemned the violence and by the positive developments we are once again seeing in our efforts to restart peace talks in Mindanao. Only lasting peace will bring true justice to Mindanao and ensure that these crimes cannot be repeated.

Thank you.

Sa inyong lahat, dear teachers, thank you for allowing me to take this opportunity to speak to the nation through you. I hope you will find the rest of your day in Malacañang meaningful.

Have a Blessed Christmas! And may we all have for our country a Prosperous New Year!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the lecture series for Quezon City public school teachers. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133702/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27128&Itemid=38

Departure Speech of President Arroyo for her participation at the High Level Segment of the 15th Conference of Parties (COP-15) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark

**Departure speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
For her participation at the High Level Segment of the 15th Conference of Parties (COP-15) to the U.N.
Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark**

[Delivered at Terminal 2, NAIA, Pasay City, December 16, 2009]

Sinasagot ng ating bansa ang hamon ng bagyong pandaigdigang ekonomiya, ngunit may higit na mabagsik na bagyo ang humaharap sa atin: the devastation of Mother Nature accelerated by the mistreatment of the fragile environment by human beings all over the world.

The long-term security and prosperity of our nation and, indeed, the world, relies on coming to grips with the man made devastation that is warming our planet. Everyday we delay is a day the glaciers melt, the waters rise, food supplies are threatened and the poor suffer. That is why the Global Warming Summit in Copenhagen is vital for our nation, for the future of our children and for the fate of the world. Let us pray that progress will be made at the Summit.

Ilang buwang lamang nakaraan ang mga pag-asa para sa Copenhagen ay lumalabo. But today, developed and developing nations alike seem closer to assuming their burden and doing something positive about solving one of the great issues of our time.

In recent weeks, we have been meeting with our Global Warming Task Force in preparation for the talks in Copenhagen. We want to make inroads in Denmark based on science that shows that our nation is being battered by global warming even if we ourselves have a very good carbon footprint. In fact, with my meeting with the multilaterals the other day, the World Bank country representative pointed out that, in fact, we are where we want the rest of the world to be. But our carbon footprint is already there. We are doing our part for the environment. And yet, while we are not a climate maker — because we are not a source of climate change — we are a climate taker.

The typhoons are becoming more horrific; the rains more violent; the seas more savage. Global warming is affecting our agriculture, our fishing stocks, our forests and our cities. Kailangang magtrabaho tayo kasama ng buong sangkatauhan para makipagbalikat, gumawa ng mabibigat na desisyon, at palitan ang direksyon upang sagipin ang Inang Kalikasan at sa ganoon, sagipin ang sanlibutan.

Pupunta tayo sa Copenhagen na may patunay kung paano ang pagpapalit ng klima ng mundo ay negatibong inaapektohan ang Pilipinas. Gaya nang sinabi nating maraming beses na, the greatest human tragedy that will arise from climate change will be the migration that will be forced by sinking coastlines and in some cases, such as Tuvalu and the Maldives, sinking countries. As more and more sites are rendered inhospitable to human life and economic activity, it is estimated that as many as one billion people may be affected globally. Kalahati sa kanila ay manggagaling sa Asya. Habang nagkakalat ang mga pamilya sa mga matataas na lugar sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng mundo, climate change will spawn global change. Ito ay isang bagay na kailangan sama-samang tugonan ng mga bansa ng mundo. Bilang bansang may higit pitong libong pulo, ito ay bagay na malaking abala sa Pilipinas. Kailangan linawin din natin ito sa mundo.

Panahon na para ang mga bansa ng mga mundo ay angkinin ang ating mga tungkulin gaya nang sabi ko ang Pilipinas inaangkin na natin ito kaya nga maganda ang ating carbon footprint. Ang ating trabaho ay ipasulong at ipagtanggol ang interes ng Pilipinas. Ang paglutas sa problemang ito ay kakailanganin ang maraming taon, ngunit

ibig nating tiyakin na simulan natin ang proseso ngayon, upang sa ganoon ang mga sumusunod ay maaaring ipagpatuloy na tulungan ang ating bansa ngayon at sa darating na mga taon.

Ito ay lalong importante dahil sa panahon ng paghihirap ng pangkabuhayan, the pressures are greatest to abandon the obligation to the environment or to loosen the rules and put economic objectives above environmental interests. This is precisely why at this point in time we must call on the world community to be even more vigilant in advancing efforts to tackle the global challenge of climate change.

Para sa Pilipinas, we will not go to Copenhagen looking for a handout. We will go to join hands with other nations to band together to solve this problem imposed by man. Lagi nating sinasabi na para sa makatarungang resulta, it is essential for developed countries to lead in reducing emissions, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. A financial mechanism must also be established to meet the costs of adaptation for developing countries and for an effective development and transfer of technology.

Ngunit habang ang mas mayayamang bansa ay may higit na responsibilidad at pasanin, iyan ay hindi dahilan para ang mga umuunlad pang bansa ay iwasan ang kanilang responsibilidad. Kailangan gawin nating lahat ang ating bahagi at yan ang ating pakay para sa ating summit sa Copenhagen.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's departure speech for her participation at the high level segment of the 15th Conference of Parties (COP-15) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133653/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27142&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino community

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a meeting with the Filipino community

[Delivered at the Ballroom, Hilton Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark, December 16, 2009]

Thank you.

Maraming salamat Ambassador Buensuceso sa iyong magandang mga sinabi. Salamat sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. Salamat na pinakilala mo yung mga leaders ng Filipino community rito at ang ating Honorary Consul General. Salamat din na maganda ang pag-alaga mo sa ating mga Filipino dito at pati na rin sa relasyon ng ating mga bansa. Si Ambassador Buensuceso ay talagang ang kanyang swerte ay naroon siya bilang embahador pag pumupunta tayo sa isang importanteng pulong. Halimbawa, nung nagkaroon ng ASEAN Summit sa Laos siya ang ambassador natin doon. Ngayon itong napakaimportanteng Copenhagen Climate Change Summit siya na naman muli ang ambassador dito kaya congratulations sa iyo.

Kasama ng aking asawa, si Atty. Mike Arroyo, ang ibat-ibang mga bahagi ng miyembro ng ating Philippine delegation, so if I may introduce them starting from the left of my husband, si Deputy Speaker Girlie Villarosa, congresswoman ng Mindoro Occidental; sa kanyang kaliwa naman, si Congressman Ignacio Arroyo Jr., na siya ang chairman ng Committee on Natural Resources na napakaimportante sa ating climate change meeting; at sa kanyang kaliwa ay si Secretary Angie Reyes, ang ating Secretary of Energy, na malaki ang kinalaman tungkol sa climate change; at sa kanyang kaliwa siguro masasabi natin member na rin ng inyong Filipino Danish community, si Secretary Cerge Remonde, dahil ang kanyang maybahay ay taga Denmark, si Marit Remonde; dito naman sa kabila narito si Secretary of Trade Secretary Peter Favila dahil sa ibabaw ng ating pag-uusap tungkol sa climate change ay meron tayong mga kauserp na mga investor at mga negosyante rin dito sa Denmark; at sa kanyang kanan naman ay ang congresswoman ng Bulacan, si Congresswoman Neneng Nicolas na siya ang Vice Chairman ng Appropriations, at kung ano ang ipinangako natin na gagastusin natin para iwasan ang climate change, lubhang climate change o kanyang mga epekto, siya ang magtatrabaho doon sa Kongreso; sa kanyang kanan ang ating bagong Vice Chairman ng Climate Change Commission, si Secretary Sonny Alvarez, siya ang pinaka workhorse ng ating delegasyon dito sa Copenhagen; at sa kanyang kanan naman ang namamahala sa ating Reconstruction Commission, yun bang commission na nagbubuo ng mga kailangang gawin para sa ating recovery mula sa typhoon Ondoy at Pepeng na siya'y dala naman sa ating bansa ng climate change, si Secretary Ric Saludo.

Kaming lahat ay bumabati sa inyong lahat, magandang gabi sa mga Pilipino dito sa Denmark. Keni pu kabalen kong Kapampangan mayap a bengi kekongan. Oh, at yun pala. Okay. Kadagiti kakailayak ti mamang ko naimbag rabii yo amin. Adda ti Ilocano 'toy? Oh, you are an Ilocana. And sa mga gikan sa Visayas ug Mindanao, maayong gabii kaninyong tanan. Oh, labing daku. Maraming salamat na kayo ay pumarito dito sa ating salu-salo kasi nga alas siyete ang dating namin alas otso ang ating party pero nung ako ay pumasok nandito na pala kayo. Kaya sabi ko sige akyat na lang tayo sandali hihintayin na lang natin yung luggage para makabihis kasi gusto ko sana magsuot ng Filipino attire kaya lang medyo natagalan yung luggage at kusot din ang damit ko kaya sabi ko hindi bale kahit na nakatravelling clothes basta lang huwag na maghintay ng lalo pa yung ating mga kababayan dito. Dahil alam ko na nagsakripisyo naman kayo weekday ito para sa ganun ay makapunta kayo dito ngayong gabi. At ako ay natutuwa na makita kayong lahat dito.

Sabi ni Ambassador Buensuceso matagal na niyo ako hinihintay. Totoo nga, eto ay unang pagkakataon kong nakapunta dito sa Copenhagen bilang pangulo at ako ay nasisiyahan na magkaroon ng pagkakataon na magpasalamat sa inyo sa inyong malasakit sa ating bansa at magbigay din ng mga ulat or salita or pahayag kung papano kayo hinahangaan ng atin mga kababayang Pilipino doon sa ating bansa.

Kasi yung sinasabing kayo ay bagong bayani ng ating bansa katotohanan talaga yun at hindi natin talagang makakalimutan ang katotohanang yun. Tahimik kayo sa inyong kabayanihan, hindi kayo naghahangad ng parangal, hindi kayo nagpapabida, you are motivated by the simple but profound values that drive our nation forward. Kapayapaan, pag-asa, pagtulong sa kapwa, pagmamahal sa pamilya, paghahangad ng mabuting edukasyon at karapatan tungo sa magandang trabaho at disenteng sweldo na maghahatid ng pagkain sa pamilya at edukasyon sa mga anak.

Kabilang ang maraming karaniwang Pilipino sa ating mga bayani kasama siyempre kayo na mga overseas Filipinos o yung sabi ng mga Filipino sa ibayong dagat. You make the ultimate sacrifice sa pagsisikap sa ibayong dagat upang makapagdala ng ikabubuhay ng inyong mga pamilya na hindi naman ninyo makakapiling sa araw ng Pasko. At sa bisa ng inyong mga kontribusyon walang patid ang pagsulong ng ating ekonomiya sa halos siyam na taong nagdaan pati sa kasalukuyang panahon ng hamon sa pandaigdigang ekonomiya. Kaya kayo ay laging tinatawag na mga bagong bayani ng ating bansa. At hindi yun cliché, hindi yun corny, katotohanan yun. Kayo ay bagong bayani ng ating bansa.

Dito sa Denmark napag-alaman ko na di gaanong malaki ang komunidad ng mga Pilipino, mahigit lamang kayo ng sampung libo sa bansang ito. Ganunpaman, gaya nang sabi ni Ambassador Buensuceso, katangi-tanging pamayanan kayo sa bansang ito dahil tinataguyod ninyo ang ekonomiya ng Denmark habang sinusuportahan din ang ating ekonomiya sa pagdala ninyong kabuhayan sa inyong mga pamilya. Tunay na kapuri-puri ang inyong mga ginagawa at talagang hinahangaan kayo ng mga tiga rito sa Denmark. Kaya maraming salamat sa karangalang binibigay ninyo sa ating bansa dahil ang gagaling ninyo at pinapakita ninyo ang kagalingan ninyo dito sa Denmark.

Kaya naman pinarangalan kayo ng ating pamahalaan pati na rin ng ating taong-bayan sa inyong sakripisyo at malasakit sa inyong trabaho, sa inyong pamilya at sa ating bansa. But I want you to know that we are working to create a strong and competitive Philippine economy na may magagandang hanapbuhay so that one day going abroad for a job will become just a career choice and not the only choice for a hardworking Filipino worker. Yun ang ating hangarin para sa ating bansa.

Mahalaga rin para sa taong-bayang Pilipino itong mga negosasyon sa Copenhagen. Yung aking mga asal na narinig natin kanina ay puno ng asal na maging matagumpay itong mga pag-uusap dito sa Copenhagen. At yung dalawang ating Filipino na nagwagi ng gantimpala sa CNN debate on climate change, congratulations! Pinapatunay ang importansya ng isyung ito sa ating mga Pilipino. Tayo sa Pilipinas binibigyan natin ng halaga itong problema ng climate change at ginagampanan natin ang ating tungkulin upang iwasan ang pandaigdigang krisis ng klima. Napakamunti ng pagbuga ng karbon ang Pilipinas.

Yung average carbon emission ng buong mundo ay six tons per capita at dapat raw kung gusto natin iwasan ang lubhang epekto ng climate change by 2015 dapat three tons per capita lamang ang average emission, tama ba yun Sonny? Pero ang Pilipinas ang kanyang ating emission ay 1.6 tons per capita lamang.

Kaya tayo ay maganda ang carbon footprint, we are responsible for our environment. Pwede nating ipagmalaki yun, di hamak mas maliit key sa average sa mundo at maging sa kailangang gawin. Kaya gaya nang sabi ng World Bank sa atin, “where we want the world to be on carbon emissions, the Philippines is already there.” Kaya pwede tayong magsalita, meron tayong ‘k’ na magsalita dito sa Copenhagen.

And yet kahit na responsable tayo tungkol sa ating kalikasan, the Philippines is disproportionately vulnerable to the devastation of Mother nature accelerated by the mistreatment of the fragile environment by human beings not in our country but all over the world. Kasi pag umiinit ang mundo hindi lang yung bayan nagpapainit sa kanyang bansa, ang naiinitan umaabot sa buong bansa. At isang dahilan kung bakit lubos pa ang epekto sa atin mangyari kapuluan ang ating bansa na may mahigit pitong libong isla at naninirahan sa mababang lugar ang higit na nakararaming mamamayan natin nakalantad sa mga panganib ng panahon.

Malagim ang mga hamong hinaharap ng Pilipinas dahil sa pagbabago ng klima ng mundo. Ayon sa mga sayantipiko ng Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at iniulat ng United Nations na kabilang ang Pilipinas sa labindalawang bansang pinakananganganib dahil sa pagpalit ng klima. Sa katunayan nangunguna tayo sa listahan ng

mga bansang namimiligro sa mas madalas at mas mababagsik na mga bagyo sa pag-init ng klima ng mundo. The changing global environment is really dramatically and negatively affecting the Philippines in spite of the fact that our own carbon emissions are very small.

Tropical storms of historic scale have inflicted devastation and a tragic loss of lives upon our country. Alam naman niyo yung dalawang unos na tumama sa bayan natin, yung Ondoy at yung Pepeng, sumira ng halagang apat na bilyong dolyar. Eto ay halos tatlong porsiyento ng ating GDP at walo hanggang sampung porsiyento sa produksyon ng ating mga rehiyong pinanggagalingan ng pagkain ay nasira rin dahil mahigit anim na daang ektarya ng pananim ang nasira. At anim hanggang walong porsiyento ng GDP ay nawala sa mga lugar ng industriya ng ating bansa. Siyam na milyong katao ang naapektuhan, sigurado ako lahat kayo may kamag-anak na naapektuhan. Higit siyam na daan ang namatay. Higit dalawang daang libong tahanan ang nagkapinsala o nawasak. At dumating pa itong kalamidad na ito habang nakikipagbuno tayo sa hagupit ng unos ng pandaigdigang krisis sa ekonomiya.

Ngunit nagkaisa tayo bilang sambayanan. Sinimulan na natin itayo muli ang mga apektadong bahagi ng ating bansa, malaking dahilan dito ang pandaigdigang tulong na tinatanggap natin nitong mga nakaraang buwan, nagpapasalamat tayo sa ating mga kaibigan at kabalikat sa kaunlaran sa oras ng pangangailangan. At doon sa mga Pilipino dito sa Denmark na tumulong, na nagpadala ng tulong maging sa mga kamag-anak, maging sa mga NGO, maging sa pamahalaan para tumulong makaraos sa mga bagyo, maraming maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Ngayon narito ang delegasyon ng Pilipinas sa Copenhagen kabalikat ang ibang mga bansa upang bumalangkas, alam naman ninyo ito dahil narito kayo, upang bumalangkas ng plano para mapigil ang mababagsik na epekto ng pagpalit ng panahon, yung tawag na climate change, at iwasan ang pandaigdigang krisis ng klima. Sa ilalim ng bagong kaayusan sa mundo dapat sana maging magkaanib at hindi magkaaway ang pag-unlad ng ekonomiya at ang pangangalaga ng kalikasan. Panahon na upang akuin ng lahat na bansa sa mundo ang ating sama-samang pananagutan.

Tiyak na aabutin ng maraming dekada ang paglutas ng problemang ito. Ngunit kailangan simulan natin ang pagkilos ngayon. At upang magkaroon ng makatarungang kasunduan karapatdapat manguna ang mga mauunlad na bansa sa pagbabawas ng buga ng carbon dioxide kasi nanggaling naman sa kanila ang marami dito sa global warming. Yung industrialization, kasi nung mga unang panahon lalo na yung industrialization, mga smokestacks, kung anu-ano, yung paggamit ng gasolina ng coal, yun ang malaking kontribusyon sa climate change. Kaya yung mga mauunlad na bansa sila ang dapat manguna sa pagbaba ng carbon emission. Eh tayo ano ang ibababa natin sa ating carbon emission, we're already in fact one-half of what is needed, what should be the goal of other countries. So, siyempre we want to do our own part, we want to contribute pero napakaliit naman ang kontribusyon na magagawa natin because right now we're already even below the maximum that they would want the world to have.

Kailangan din pero tayo ang magandang halimbawa ng climate taker, hindi climate maker; hindi tayo nagsasala sa climate change pero tayo ang biktima. Maraming ganun kaya kailangan din ng matimbang na sistema ng pananalapi upang mapondohan ang gastos sa paghahanda ng umuunlad na bansa para sa pagbabago ng klima, yun ang tinatawag nilang adaptation kasi naapektuhan tayo, we have to adapt to climate change na nanggagaling sa ibang bansa. At para na rin sa paglikha, paghahatid ng mga makabagong teknolohiya sa mga nangangailangang bansa kagaya natin isa sa mga biyaya natin sa relasyon sa Denmark ay ang paggamit ng mga windmill, hindi ba ang Denmark ang pioneer ng windpower? 'Di ba Denmark isa sa mga... kaya nga nag host sila nitong climate change meeting kasi may 'k' rin sila, mababa rin ang kanilang carbon footprint dahil matagal na silang gumagamit ng windpower renewable energy, at mga Danish companies meron silang investments ng windpower sa Pilipinas. Meron sila sa Bangui doon sa Ilocos Norte at saka doon sa Batanes at marami pang iba na pinaplanong ilagay sa Pilipinas.

Yung mga bagong teknolohiyang yun ay mahal. Sabi nga nila yung windmill ay 15 years ang payback period kasi malaki ang initial capital. Kung iiwanan mo lang sa ekonomiya or sa mga computation ng payback lahat gagamit ng coal kasi yun ang pinakamaliit na investment. Kaya kailangan na tulungan ang mga bansa gaya ng Pilipinas na ma-afford itong mga bagong teknolohiyang ito at malaki naman ang tulong sa atin ng Danish financing dahil pinifinance sila yung sarili nilang mga investor.

Kaya ito ang mga kailangan nating gawin, tiyakin na yung mga mayayamang bansa na sila ang nag contribute sa climate change ng malaki ay bawasan ang kanilang emission at tiyakin din na tayo na mga biktima ng climate change ay magkaroon ng sapat na kakayahan na gawin ang kailangang gawin para maka adapt tayo sa mga problema ng climate change.

At hindi tayo dapat lumikas sa Copenhagen nang walang kasunduang mahigpit alinsunod sa mga pananagutang dapat tanggapin ng lahat bagamat iba-iba ang nakaatas sa bawat bansa. Tao ang lumikha ng suliraning ito at tao rin ang lulutas nito.

Kanina nga yung dasal sabi nung ginawa ng Panginoon ang ating mundo walang polusyon kaya itong polusyon ay nanggaling sa tao at tao rin ang dapat makahanap ng solusyon.

At ang hinihingi ko sa inyong lahat ay... ang panawagan ko sa inyong lahat, itaguyod ang ating gobyerno sa ating pagsusulong sa ating bansang Pilipinas ng kaunlarang gumagalang sa kalikasan. Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng tulong ninyo at suporta ninyo. Nasisiyahan akong marinig kay Ambassador Buensuceso na kapag may magandang balita tungkol sa Pilipinas kayo ay nasisiyahan at kung may malungkot o masamang balita tungkol sa Pilipinas kayo naman ay nagdadamay at nagdedepensa. Sana ituloy ninyo itong paggabay sa ating pamahalaan at kayo rin naman, siguro naman ay nararamdaman din niyo ang pagmamahal ng ating bansa para sa inyo.

Salamat kay Ambassador Buensuceso. And we thank our Honorary Consul General, salamat sa mga leaders ng Filipino community dito na tumutulong sa pag-aalaga ng ating mga Pilipino dito. Kayo ay over 10,000 Filipinos sa Denmark. I hope that you are 10,000 happy Filipinos because you are 10,000 beloved and respected Filipinos, respected not only in Denmark but in your home country the Philippines.

Maraming salamat at Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a meeting with the Filipino community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133647/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27149&Itemid=38

Message of President Arroyo on Christmas Day

Message of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines On Christmas Day

[Delivered at the Malacañang Palace Garden, December 23, 2009]

On the very first Christmas, we were gifted by the Almighty with the greatest present of all – His only Son Jesus Christ, who brought us new hope as the living proof of God’s unequalled love for mankind.

On this Christmas, we call to memory once again this Sacred Gift. We draw renewed strength from the certainty that within our hearts and around us dwells the likeness of the Son of God.

This year, every test we faced carried with it an opportunity to lighten the burdens of life. We experienced God’s love for us in the charity and hopefulness that Filipinos gave to each other in their time of need.

This Christmas, let us remember the lessons that we learned this year. Let us remember that we can be assured that God will understand and comfort us.

Let us come together for the Almighty this Christmas. Let us fill our hearts with gratitude and share with our fellowmen the gift of love and hope, so that we may become worthy of God’s Greatest Gift.

I humbly thank the Almighty for the opportunity He has given me to serve our people the best that I can. And I thank the millions of Filipinos who love our country for their dedication to achieve our common dream of a better future.

I wish all of our countrymen a Christmas filled with love and a New Year full of peace.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Christmas Message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133619/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27178&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 74th Armed Forces of the Philippines' Day

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 74th Armed Forces of the Philippines' Day**

[Delivered at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, December 24, 2009]

Thank you General Ibrado. Senate President Enrile; Senator Biazon, Executive Secretary Ermita; Undersecretary Santos representing Secretary Gonzales who is on temporary medical leave, Major Service Commanders, members of the diplomatic corps, Former Secretary de Villa, Bishop Tumalak, Congressman Arbison, other government officials present, officers men and women of the Armed Forces, General Icarma give “tikas pahinga”

Isang mainit na pagbati sa ating mga sundalo sa pagdiriwang nitong ating anibersaryo.

Espesyal na pagbati rin sa mga nagkamit ng parangal itong araw na ito.

And I thank you all once again for the many ways that the great Filipino soldier renders service to the Filipino people.

Those who were assigned to implement martial law in Maguindanao showed our people that the Philippines is a law abiding democratic nation that upholds the rule of law and respects human rights. I thank our soldiers very much for that. I have instructed the Secretary of National Defense and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces to give medals and promotions to the deserving men and women who were in that assignment. Congratulations to all of you!

Today we started that process by giving unit awards to those who were involved in the implementation of Martial Law in Maguindanao. Soon to follow will be their individual promotions and also their individual awards. If anything positive can come out of the terrible tragedy in Maguindanao, it is that the heartbeat of peace and human rights is very much alive. This is clear by the passion by which people across the nation condemned the violence, but also by the admirable behavior of our troops who implemented Martial Law, and by the positive developments we are seeing once again in our peace talks in Mindanao.

We are gratified that even in the midst of Martial Law in Maguindanao; we were able to resume formally our peace negotiations with the MILF. The ceasefire we broken years ago in 2003, six years ago with the MILF continue to hold. And as I said, we have resumed formal peace negotiations.

Let us pray that this will result in a permanent peace. I can't think of nothing more desirable for the people in Mindanao and for our nation than peace at the soonest possible time. Only lasting peace will bring true justice and ensure that crimes such as those that were committed in Maguindanao and those that were committed also in Basilan cannot be repeated.

During our administration, we have made several important captures and the elimination of key figures of the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists. You, the great Filipino soldier have hit them hard and with much success. As reported to us earlier by General Ibrado, the Abu Sayyaf strength has been significantly reduced, but there is more to be done if we are to attain long-lasting peace.

Let us continue to strengthen our relations with the people in those areas by literally building bridges with the local population as well as schools, medical facilities and other infrastructure that wins over the people and narrow support for the terrorists. The Kalayaan Barangay Projects that you are putting up have improved the quality of life in those areas rendered vulnerable to the serene songs of rebellion or terrorism because of poverty, maraming salamat para doon.

And I am glad that the unit heads of those involved in the outstanding Kalayaan Barangay Projects also received their awards today.

Those who have been or are now involved in the various campaigns against armed communist groups are showing how to put to rest the destruction and violation of human rights by the communist rebels so that the nation can move ahead. Again, as reported by General Ibrado, insurgent strength has been on the decline since three years ago because of the faithful implementation by the great Filipino soldier of our hard and soft power strategy. Indeed, hard and soft powers go together, peace and development go together.

As we improve the security of the parts of the country that have known some degree of violence, we had quickly able to move to develop the economy in those areas. When we do that, we ensure a lasting peace and order that ensures that security is no longer an issue. Witness the rapid increases in development, in formally infested areas such as Ifugao and Sulu. But also witness that nationally, there is no question about the crucial role that the AFP has played in keeping the peace that has brought us an unprecedented continuous growth for 34 quarters.

Those who participated in the rescue and the rehabilitation efforts in the aftermath of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng and now in the Mount Mayon explosions showed our people the meaning of courage and sacrifice outside the battlefield. I am very gratified that today, we honored the units that were involved in those rescue and rehabilitation efforts and also we honored the two great Filipino soldiers who gave up their lives in this effort, thank you from a grateful nation.

In my years as your Commander in Chief, I am proud to have presided over the training and the equipping of our military to be more professional and effective. But I am most especially proud to have presided over the biggest increases in benefits in the history of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Barely three months into my term, I gave you my commitment to the modernization program, including the adjustment of salaries and other benefits for our soldiers. At that time, government was scraping the bottom of the cash barrel when I first assumed office, but together with the Congress and the Senate, we worked for a salary increase starting with making the soldiers' pay equivalent to that of a teacher. Our soldiers did not deserve to wait any longer. They did not deserve to wait until we would be able to have more fiscal reforms.

But after that, with successive gains in our economy and with the fiscal reforms, the great Filipino soldiers has had three more increases in basic pay, hazard pay and subsistence allowance. As mentioned by General Ibrado, we have also expanded housing and other benefits for our soldiers, including more scholarships for your family members and more protection for your retirement benefits. So, I am also glad that during these awarding ceremonies, we gave awards to the association of state universities and colleges who have been a good partner in providing those scholarships. We also make sure that the families of those who were killed or wounded in battle will be provided for at least during the grieving period.

Yes, we have modernized or we have started to modernize and we are at the process of modernizing our armed forces, but I am even more proud that we have started to modernize and continue to modernize the benefits for the great Filipino soldier.

Hindi lang sa salita kayo pinasasalamatan. Kaya sa ating mga sundalo, ipagpatuloy natin ang pagtugis sa mga kalaban ng bansa na sumisira sa katahimikan at kabuhayan ng sambayanan. Huwag kayong titigil hangga't napapayapa ang lahat ng kabayanan. Ipagpatuloy din natin ang gawaing iniatas sa mga sundalo sa panahon ng kalamidad at para sa kaunlaran. At upang matupad ang lahat na itong kakayahan, dapat ipagpatuloy ng AFP ang modernisasyon at pagtataguyod sa kahandaan ng dakilang sundalong Pilipino.

So on this, your anniversary, our anniversary; I thank the great Filipino soldier once again for your professionalism, your courage and your dedication to duty and the chain of command.

Ipinagkakapuri ko kayo. Kayo ay dakilang dangal ng lahing Pilipino. Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan na kasama kayo itong Christmas eve. Kayo ay nagbibigay ng magandang Pasko sa ating bansa.

Maganda at mapayapang Pasko!

Kaya sa inyong lahat naman, maligayang Pasko at mabuhay, Maraming maraming salamat sa dakilang sundalong Pilipino. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 74th Armed Forces of the Philippines' Day. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133615/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27186&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 55th General Assembly of the League of Cities of the Philippines

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 55th General Assembly of the League of Cities of the Philippines**

[Delivered at Coral A Room, Manila Pavilion, Maria Orosa St. cor. U.N. Ave., Manila, January 14, 2010]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Puno.

Mayor Abalos and the other officers of the League of Cities, city mayors from all over the country: Happy New Year to all of you, to all the members of the League of Cities of the Philippines!

And let me say, you know, Benhur was talking about the past years of his presidency of the League and reviewing these past years, let me say that the cities have been among the most efficient and effective of the National Government's LGU partners.

You have many successful programs, and your most successful programs ensured not only the economic viability of your cities, they also helped to enable our country to escape recession last year even as two-thirds of the world was devastated by the worst economic slowdown in 60 years. Not only with our growth stays positive, but Business writer Tony Lopez even quoted Han Sy, many of you know him because you have SM malls all over the cities. Han Sy said, that SM malls had their best year ever in 2009. That means that whatever the macro figures are about positive growth are translated into spending power for the ordinary Filipino.

But not only SM but also your cities are to be congratulated for their success because most of the SM malls and other major businesses for that matter are located in the cities. And your governance plays a big role in business friendliness. In fact, Benhur was talking about the different things you've been doing to make your cities more business-friendly. Certainly here in Metro Manila, we have been proud to tell the world about the cutting down of red tape because of the shortened and also synchronized licensing and permit system. And I understand that there is a continuing effort that every city achieves ISO certification. These efforts, these achievements are particularly impressive.

And the success of the cities is due in no small part to the leadership of the League of Cities. So for the hard work, Benhur and the other officials of this League have put to improve the quality of governance in our cities, congratulations and thank you. Hindi matatawaran ang naitulong ng League of Cities sa kaunlarang tinatamasa ng iba't-ibang mga siyudad.

And therefore, what the nation has achieved in the last nine years is not only a record of the achievements of national government, but it's also a story of your success. Why? For one thing Benhur is right about the number of persons who now lived in cities and urban areas. When my father was in politics seventy percent of the people were in the rural areas but now that's no longer the case, the people are in the cities.

Urbanization is a joint product of demographic growth and economic development. It is they say an irreversible feature of modern life. I remember a few years ago there was a book about trends in the 21st century, and one of these trends is increasing urbanization. This presents opportunities, and you know more than I do, as well as problems. It presents rewards, and you know more than I do, together with the risks. And that's why I can understand the concerns that the League has over the increasing urbanization, including the increasing number of cities.

At the end of the day the issue is performance and results. And if we are to review what we did together, Benhur previewed some of the things we did together. All of the things that Benhur said I did for you were an implementation of what together you and I set out to do nine years ago. And that is to get our economy moving again, to regain control over the fiscal insanity that we inherited, and invest in the people for the first time in a generation. By any measure, our economy has performed better than any economy in the Philippines over the past 30 years — peaking at more than 7.0 percent growth in 2007 before the global recession.

I will quote Tony Lopez again who points out: during this period, per capita GNP more than doubled — one thousand dollars in year 2000 to over 2,000 by 2008. Even if 18 more Filipinos were born, still per capita income doubled. And the economy itself more than doubled. It was 75 billion dollars in year 2000; it's worth 189 billion dollars today, that's more than double.

And how does it translate into the lives of ordinary Filipinos? The best measure is the people who buy from SM. Why do they buy from SM? Because there are more jobs available. We've created nine million new jobs including creating an entire new industry almost from scratch — the call centers and BPO industry that has put the Philippines on the global map. I just came now from yet another call center and BPO center located in Eastwood, and there they have a thousand employees now, they're going to double that and that is the story of almost every call center here. India's BPO business is at nine billion dollars; ours is seven billion dollars, we're not very far behind. And if it comes to call centers themselves we have more workers, half a million in call centers, than India does because India has more in the IT portion of it. So that is only one source, half a million people of the nine million new jobs created. Nine million new jobs is certainly a substantial result.

One of our key legacies in terms of steering the Philippine economy forward in the new millennium is the sheer momentum of economic growth on our watch: 34 straight quarters of growth and that is unprecedented, capped by continued positive growth as I said even through the depths of the worst global recession in decades. And as Benhur said, we've also stabilized inflation, strengthened our currency, and we have increased the access of three million children to education through investments in schools, classrooms and textbooks. And I must thank the cities, because even if education is not yet evolved, you the cities use a lot of your own IRA and your income from licenses and real estate taxes in order to put up more classrooms, hire more teachers and buy more textbooks. So we can say that together, we have invested in the people as a result of our tight fiscal controls, as a result of our new revenues both national and city, and because of all these the lower cost of borrowing and the bigger empowerment of the cities to borrow as Benhur said. Now you can go straight to the financing institutions, get your own terms and borrow on your own credit rating. That has led to more and better schools, more healthcare, and more economic opportunity.

Another legacy is the fiscal reforms we instituted, capped by the Expanded Value Added Tax which brought down our deficit ratios. You see, when people talked about deficits, it shouldn't be the number itself. When people talked about our loans, it shouldn't be the loans themselves. It should be as a ratio of our own total production and certainly that ratio has gone down tremendously. Because a big corporation can borrow more than a small company, because they can absorb the debt servicing more. And it is a way by which you can expand the economy more. And that is why even if our critics point to absolute numbers, our ratings have been upgraded, our cost of borrowing has been lowered, that means we have much better credit and economic rating than ever. And our revenues have funded economic stimulus and social safety nets against the worst of the global recession. Yes, these reforms were bitter and unpopular but they have spared our country the worst of the global financial shocks.

And equally important, they gave you and me the resources to stimulate the economy. Kinuwento ni Benhur kung papano lumaki ang IRA, ang kalahatang IRA over the past years pero ang pinakamalaking laki ng IRA ay nangyari noong isang taon, 2009, the first year that the LGU shared in the new EVAT, that's why last year the IRA increased by 40 billion pesos. It went up to 249 billion pesos from barely P210 the year before. And this year it will be P265 billion, imparting strength throughout the country at every level of government, and I can understand your concern about how the cities will share in this new IRA. Of course, I can't comment on it in sub judice but we respect whatever the League of Cities and individual cities will do as far as that is concern.

The immediate challenge coming up now is for you to make your respective cities a model of free, fair and open elections. With the help of our newly established automated polling system, let's work hard to help the COMELEC ensure this for the people of the Philippines and the people of your cities.

Meanwhile, until June 30th we are in our respective offices so there should be no respite in our efforts to make our cities more and more liveable. Let us look forward into the future to see what more we need to do in the next six months to ensure that the Philippines and your cities continue down a path of growth in the long-term.

With your unceasing hard work and with your support and with our supporting each other, I know that we will beat the odds and bring most of your cities to the first world in twenty years.

Maraming salamat. And on this last meeting of yours, congratulations to the League of Cities!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 55th General Assembly of the League of Cities of the Philippines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100410090039/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27286&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the Coral Triangle Initiative Business Summit with the launching of the photo exhibit “New Partnership for Sustainable Growth in the Coral Triangle”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremony of the Coral Triangle Initiative Business Summit with the launching of the
photo exhibit “New Partnership for Sustainable Growth in the Coral Triangle”**

[Delivered at the Rizal Ballroom, The Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City, January 19, 2010]

Thank you, Secretary Yap.

Secretary Yap together with Department of Agriculture and Secretary Quinto of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are the two lead Cabinet members in charge of the Coral Triangle in our country. But I'm happy that Secretary Gary Teves of the Department of Finance is also here with us today.

Chairman Vince Perez, chair of this first ever Business Summit in an eco-region, the very first in the world. Congratulations Vince for putting this together. Dr. Lida, who conceived of the Coral Triangle a few years ago, I understand, in Tagaytay over lechon and green mangoes. Congratulations for where we are today.

Ladies and gentlemen, a warm welcome to the Philippines, and thank you for joining us here today.

We gather here today because of our shared commitment to sustain the viability of the world's largest and most important marine nursery and sanctuary, the Coral Triangle. Convening this business summit for the Coral Triangle Initiative is one among many activities we have this year to support the United Nation's declaration of the year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. As a party to the Convention on Biological Biodiversity, it is our obligation to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Of course, all of you are stakeholders in the Coral Triangle. So, all of you know that the Coral Triangle spans a vast area of six million kilometers. Its waters wash the shores of seven nations, six of whom are members of the Coral Triangle Initiative — Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and the Philippines. It also washes the shores of Brunei, whom we have invited and who has accepted to be a member of the CTI. The Coral Triangle is home to an estimated 80% of the total known species of corals. It is a major source of food not only for our countries located in the triangle but also for many other countries to whom we supply our marine products. It is likewise a significant provider of the livelihood and trade of our countries located in the triangle.

This makes it imperative for us to work together and protect and enhance the sustainable development of these shared coastal marine resources.

The Coral Triangle Initiative, as I learned last night, was conceived in Tagaytay City. But it was first officially proposed by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the 2007 summit of APEC. Since then, the countries involved in the CTI have approved important agreements for concerted and bilateral cooperation that will contribute to the sustainability of the Coral Triangle's resources. Each of our countries went through extensive consultations with our different constituencies to ensure that our collective plans embodied the aspirations of our people and answered the most daunting challenges we face through solutions that we will endeavor to work on together.

For this CTI's Businessmen's Summit, we aim not only to gather the businessmen's commitment to protect the Coral Triangle, but also to look for ways to support businesses and industries dependent on the resources of the Triangle. We want to show that environmental protection on the one hand, and economic growth and poverty reduction on the other hand, can co-exist side by side and mutually prosper by exploring business initiatives that support both goals.

We want to change the traditional thinking that forces us to choose between economic growth and environmental protection. We want to infect businesses throughout the world with our enthusiasm and show hard evidence that businesses can thrive, not in spite of, but because of sound environmental practices. To this end, the government of the Philippines hereby announces its support for the mainstreaming of the use of circle hooks to dramatically reduce turtle by catch in long line fishing operations.

We thank the Philippines and other corporations who are already doing this, and we urge more to do this as well. This should be not only by our successful private tuna fishing companies, but more importantly by our small fishermen and fisherfolk groups.

We want to add our organized businessmen's voices to the growing clamor for nations, particularly the developed countries, to take more responsibility for the damage they have wrought on our environment all these past years. They must contribute more to arrest climate change.

The Philippines is a climate taker, not a climate maker. We are buffeted by terrible typhoons and terrible droughts and yet our carbon emissions constitute less than one percent of the world's total toxic gas emissions to the atmosphere. We are not complacent about our responsibility to the environment.

The environment is in fact one of the three E's, together with Education and the Economy, of our development agenda that has been the focus of our Administration for the last nine years. We have worked hard to create a Green Philippines agenda to ensure that our economic growth is balanced with the need for environmental conservation that our growth is sustainable.

Secretary Arthur Yap in introducing me mentioned some of the important legislation we have done to promote the protection of the environment. The culmination or the latest of which is the Climate Change Act of 2009 which provides a framework for climate change planning. This includes prioritizing the issue of climate change in the national development planning process.

We've also as he said, enacted the Solid Waste Management Act, the Clean Water Act. We have also enacted a Biofuels Law and a Renewable Energy Law that altogether forged a new energy and environmental policy that creates more jobs, provides a blueprint for a green, sustainable economy and decreased reliance on foreign sources of energy.

Some of our achievements include: Successfully raising our energy self-sufficiency levels from less than half in year 2000 to almost 60% today; Fruitful investment promotion in renewable energy and bio-fuels which has led to more than 3,000 new megawatts of renewable energy the past year.

This may be part of why in Copenhagen, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank made available for us 250 million dollars from the Climate Technology Fund.

I mentioned this to point out that as saving the world from fossil fuels can be profitable, so also can saving the Coral Triangle be profitable.

Therefore, I call on you today to join the new breed of businessmen who believe that profit and environmental protection can co-exist. I invite you to look at the opportunities for environmentally sound business opportunities in the countries comprising the Coral Triangle. There is no other way to go for you and me.

Mabuhay and thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the opening ceremony of the Coral Triangle Initiative Business Summit with the launching of the photo exhibit "New Partnership for Sustainable Growth in the Coral Triangle". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100410085959/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27308&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching of the PGMA projects on modernizing agriculture in Region I

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching of the PGMA projects on modernizing agriculture in Region I**

[Delivered at the Teatro Ilocandia, Mariano Marcos State University, Batac City, Ilocos Norte, January 27, 2010]

Dios ti agngina unay, Apo Secretary Esperon, anak met ti amyanan, naggapo ti Asingan, Pangasinan.

Apo Governor Keon; Apo Congressman Ablan; Apo Mayor Nalupta; amin nga mayors ti probinsiya ti Ilocos Norte addadtoy tatta; Secretary Vic Domingo, anak met ti Laoag,

Secretary ti Public Works; amin nga opisyaales, of course, President Pascua; dagiti opisyaales; maestra; maestro; ken estudyante, naimbag a bigat yo amin, Apo.

And congratulations to Apo Pascua and the whole MMSU for your leadership in Agribusiness, Research and Education in the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle.

But I am very proud to say that in our administration had a great deal to do with that leadership. When President Pascua return to our seat, after she enumerated all the things you've done and with all the funds, I asked her, "Has any administration ever helped you as much as my administration?" She said, "No one. I'ts been in this administration."

We are undertaking a thorough and aggressive tour — which I'm starting today — to each region to review our legacy of accomplishments in each of our super regions, and that's why I'm glad that we started with the review of the accomplishments of MMSU which is a vital element in our agribusiness development.

Our super regions are the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, where we are; the Luzon Urban Beltway; Central Philippines; Agribusiness Mindanao; and the Cyber Corridor. Agrugi tayo ti Regional tour tayo toy Region I, nga nagapoan ko met ti bangir ni mamang ko nga taga- Binalonan, Pangasinan. Ken ti Apong ko, naggapo ti Bacarra ti Ilocos Norte. And I'm happy to visit you in this school because your school is an essential backdrop to any visit, to any review of accomplishments in the Ilocos Region.

Congratulations! to the Ilocos Region. You're one of the four... top, you're number one... ah, no. You're number four among the most progressive regions of our country. Idi year 2000 nga awanak pay, your per capita income was 23,000 pesos. Itatta it's more than 30,000 pesos.

Adayun iti nadanon ti Pilipinas haan laeng ti Ilocos, manipud idi Enero iti 2001. Ub-ubing pay kayo idi year 2000, year 2001, ten years ago, you were all very, very young. You were children, idi ken agyaman tayo nga binura iti panawen, memories of that tumultuous time nga awan pay sangapulo nga tawen iti napalabas, idi nga iti pagilyan teetered on political chaos and financial bankruptcy.

Iti ekonomya was jammed in reverse. Bassit iti agipupuonan, bassit iti baro nga trabaho. The national debt was 3.6 trillion pesos, bigger than the gross national product of 3.3 trillion pesos. Itatta, haanen. It's much, much lower.

Iso nga idi nadadakkel iti uppat nga porsyento iti produksyon tayo magastos kada tawen tapno mabayadan laeng dagiti interest ti foreign debt tayo. Nakaing-ingpis iti foreign reserves tayo idi ten years ago.

Para kadagiti tattao, panawen isuna iti manmano nga trabaho laeng, nababbaba nga tangdan, nababa nga sweldo ken nangato nga inflation. In the Ilocos at that time ten years ago, unemployment was double digit. Not anymore today. Idi ten years go, gapu iti kulang ti kwarta ti gobyerno ken dakkel ti utang, agkurang iti naipaay nga puonan tapno mapalawa ti healthcare, mapasayaat iti edukasyon, makaited iti nadalus nga danum ken masapul nga kuryente kadagiti adayu nga barangay.

Internationally, nabatin iti Pilipinas, ken adayu ti radar screen. It had forfeited its strategic importance, weakened iti alyansa na iti rehiyon ken iti lubong, ken iniklat iti bagi na iti pagpilpilian dagiti mangipuonan kas lugar nga para iti puonan ken iti baro nga trabaho. Ngem itatta, I'm glad, courtesy of Congressman Ablan, we have here an investment from the Middle East who is looking at where to invest in the Ilocos.

Kadagitoy dismal picture tayo idi 2001 sumrek tayo. Idi 2001, saan ko nga dinawat iti Office of the President; it was thrust upon me. But instead of shirking from this onerous task, I rolled up my sleeves, nga determinado nga baliwen iti Pilipinas.

Kas maysa nga laser beam iti imatang ko nga makaited iti real results tapno mapasayaat dagiti biag iti kadawyan nga Pilipino. Kas maysa nga ekonomista, ammok nga tapno mabaliw iti adu nga tawen iti economic decline, masapul to instill fiscal discipline, parang-ayen iti ekonomya ken mangipuonan iti human ken physical infrastructure.

Manipud iti immuna nga aldaw, dagitoy nga aramid iti nagbalin nga building blocks panagbaliw nga nangted iti 35 nga agsasaruno nga quarter iti panagrang-ay, iti panakaaramid iti siyam nga milyon nga trabaho, iti addition of 53 milyon nga healthcare, ken iti stable fiscal situation.

Nangted tayo ti sangkailian nga sistema iti transportasyon that binds the nation together, tapno dagiti tattao ken produkto can be delivered faster, cheaper, and safer from one end of the nation to another.

Region I kasla kunak pay itattay, kadua ti North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle. Here, that is why MMMSU is doing so much agricultural research, agribusiness research and education is because we prioritize agribusiness investment in North Luzon. The agricultural and fisheries potential of Ilocandia, the Cordilleras and Cagayan Valley can feed Luzon affordably. And nearness to North Asia holds the rich promise of agricultural exports and tourism. Haan laeng agricultural exports, even mineral exports like the sand in Sarrat which is an export to China.

Well, we have provided MMSU with more assistance than any other administration. But I'm also proud that we have built more roads and bridges than three previous administrations put together.

For Region I, that means more than 1,000 kilometers of roads, including farm- to-market roads and 15 major bridges, and improved highways such as the Patapat Road linking Ilocos and Cagayan.

Last December, I inaugurated two half-kilometer bridges: the Amburayan Bridge in the La Union-Ilocos Sur boundary and the Quirino Bridge in Ilocos Sur. And today before coming here, we inaugurated the Sarrat Bridge, also half a kilometer. These bridges cost about half a billion pesos for each bridge. S 500 million pesos for the Sarrat Bridge of half a kilometer. And why did that 500 million pesos well invested? It used to take one hour just to cross the river in Sarrat, and you had to go through Laoag to go from the farms of Sarrat to the market of Sarrat. But now, with that bridge it's only five minutes — a very important farm-to-market bridge.

We have other big ticket items such as the Laoag River Flood Control. In Pangasinan, the Agno River Flood Control. In fact later today, we will visit the Agno River project in Pangasinan.

We have not yet even counted in this 1,000 kilometers the La Union-Pangasinan-Tarlac Expressway which will make it so easy to come to Ilocos when that is done years from now. Later today, we will go to Rosario, La Union to launch that build-operate-and-transfer project.

Well, of course, Ilocos is quite far, we want to make it nearer with this improved roads but we also need upgraded airports and we have done that. Two of the upgraded airports have been elevated to international status: Laoag and Poro Point International Airports. Those are important for the transport of people and the transport of our agricultural products.

For instance, our friends from the Middle East, why are they coming to look at the Philippines? And the Philippines is I understand was one of the top five choices for investments from the Middle East on agribusiness and food. They started doing this in 2008 when there was a food crisis. Of course, you remember the food crisis two years ago. That affected the whole world including the Middle East, which is mostly desert. Therefore, it is not self-sufficient in agriculture and they experience a very great difficulty in importing their food requirements. So after that they made a decision that they would use their accumulated petro dollars to look at other countries where they can produce agribusiness products for exportation back to the Middle East. They went to maybe like 20 countries, brought it finally down to five countries as finalists, and the Philippines is one of them. And I am glad that Agribusiness North Luzon Quadrangle is one of the choice areas for these investments.

Iso nga para dagiti mannalon tayo, importante ti tulong ti imprastruktura. So we have filled especially for our farmers or rehabilitated irrigation systems to water a 156,000 hectares; in 2001 it was only 16,000. One of the important irrigation projects is in Ilocos Sur, the Banaoang Irrigation Project which we will also visit today. And to further encourage agricultural development, we distributed 48,000 hectares of agricultural lands.

Whether in agriculture or in other sectors, the people of Region I have benefited from increased release also to finance Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. In the last five years, haan pay counting the last ten years, P5 billion has been loaned out to 200,000 clients in this region. And to help in the skills, TESDA has enabled almost 60,000 trainings just for one year 2009. We have attained gains in the quality of education in Region I. And I am glad that MMSU is one of the centers of excellence for education.

Going to basic education, the biggest gains are in the retention rate in elementary grades, meaning keeping children in school because. In the past, in grade school, there was a 9% dropout rate; now it has gone down to 4%. So the dropout rate has gone down to one-half. That is in grade school. The same thing in high school, it used to be 8% dropout rate; it is now down to 4%. Among the reason for this, sapay kuma are the scholarships. I don't know if you know it, young ones, but even in private schools, half of the students are on government scholarships and that is something that is new, that quantity is new.

Nangaramid met tayo iti energy and environmental policy nga nakaaramid met iti ad-adu nga trabaho, nangibaba iti reliance iti energy aggapu kadagiti sabali nga pagilyan, ken nangited iti blueprint para iti green ken sustainable economy.

I'd like to congratulate Region I for hosting the first commercial wind mill farm, the Bangui Bay Wind Project in Ilocos Norte, (applause) which now provides electricity for the whole town and has reduced the oil dependence of the region and the country as a whole. And for rural folks, if you remember the beginning of my statement, idi year 2000, ado nga barangay nga awan ti kuryente. I'm very happy that today in Region I, all the barangays already have electricity.

Iti pagpili iti nasayaat nga trabaho wenno clean economy is a false choice: mabalin tayo maaddaan iti rumangrang-ay nga ekonomya ken iti berde, healthy economy. And we have achieved that in our last nine years in office.

Mangibati tayo iti legacy of hard work, a strong and stable economy, a renewed global engagement, kaduwaan dagiti sumsumrek nga investors, major investments in healthcare and education kasla dagiti investments tayo ti education toy MMSU, and dramatic improvements in physical infrastructure as I was mentioning some examples earlier.

In fact, I was so happy driving from the airport to Laoag to Sarrat to see how many things there are now in the skyline of Laoag. Now, many new dormitories for students which means bustling education, very nice developments

for housing like the one of Robinsons, beautiful malls and so these are signs, visible signs of progress not only government infrastructure but private sector investments.

Adu pay iti masapul nga aramidin, ngem determinado tayo nga ipasa to a new government, anew Philippines, one that is ready for bringing our nation to the verge of first world in 20 years.

But to do that, free and fair elections are important. And you, the students, need to get involved in a positive way in the civic life of the nation. That is why I felt that for a regional tour, I must have a visit to a school and I chose MMSU to be the school to visit.

So, one that I ask you to do is to involve, be involved in civic life. Two, that I ask you to do is to encourage a “no guns, no violence” campaign. I think it is the young people who can do this campaign, so we can try to change the culture of violence.

Young people of this region and all of the youth of the land, we, your elders, count on you to be bold — not for yourselves only but for others: for your family, your friends, the generations after you, and for our beloved Philippines. I remember when I was young long ago, full of dreams — and I know you are full of dreams — dreams that will bring our country to greater glory and give the Filipinos the quality of life that we deserve. And I can only pray that during this past nine years of our administration, we gave you the means to be able to dream those dreams and the foundation on which you can make your dreams for yourselves and for our country come true.

Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s speech during the launching of the PGMA projects on modernizing agriculture in Region I. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235329/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27372&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a visit to the College of the Holy Spirit

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a visit to the College of the Holy Spirit

[Delivered at the 163 E. Mendiola St., Manila, January 28, 2010]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Commissioner Defensor for your introduction. I think you know Commissioner Defensor's sister also, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Sister Salva and the rest of the sisters, faculties, students and staff of Holy Spirit, thank you very much for the warm welcome.

Thank you for receiving me at short notice. I invited myself to come here. I wasn't able to attend the concert where we featured the piano from Malacañang but I thought that I would therefore do one of my first visits to the students in your school which is just across from where I lived and worked.

I'm doing this visit because one of my New Year's resolutions is that before the end of my term I should continue to reach out to the youth of this nation. And you, why? Because you're the future. You, the youth are our future. And that is also why education is essential.

I think you all know, I think you're all here in school because you know that a good education is the ticket to a better life. You know that education is the great equalizer which will allow every young Filipino a chance to realize your dreams. That is why our administration has invested so much in education and skills training. I don't know if you know it, but from 90 billion plus pesos before my administration, the combined budget of DepEd, NEDA, CHED and the state universities and colleges has doubled to over a 180 billion pesos.

And what did we do with this money? For one thing, we built over a 100,000 classrooms, and many of these are in about a thousand barangays where there used to be no schools at all. And what is the reason why we're doing this? Because the U.N. Millennium Development Goals is for us to reach... to achieve primary universal education by 2015. It's very hard to reach this; in fact the U.N. says probably no country will get to reach this except Cuba — small country, so easy to build classrooms for everyone.

And why do we need to build schools, classrooms especially in the thousand barangays where there were none? Because if you're in a far away barangay and the next school is two hours walk away, and your child is six years old, you won't send your child to school. And we found out that 58% only is the enrollment of six year-olds to enter primary school, others enter much later, others don't enter at all. So we've got to get them when they're six year old and the best way to do it is to build a school at least for grade 1 and 2 in the same barangay where the children live.

It is important so that you can save on transportation going to school and also on the safety and the comfort of the parents whose children have to walk to school. We asked many parents, why don't you send your six year old to school? And they've said, well, transportation is one problem, the other thing is although school is free as far as tuition is concerned in public schools, they cannot pay for the miscellaneous fees and they cannot pay for the uniforms. So we have removed in the public schools the requirement for uniforms and in primary school we have removed the miscellaneous fees. That's why the government has to spend more. In fact, what would be covered by miscellaneous fees? In fact, one time, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines came to see me. Now that miscellaneous fees are taken out, they said — at least miscellaneous compulsory fees — what happens now to our Girl Scouts fees?

And I said, well, in grade 5 they can start paying, but in grade 1 to 4 they shouldn't, otherwise they might not go to school because of the pressure to pay for all these miscellaneous fees. And they said, but it's the grade school, it's the primary school fees that keep the Girl Scouts going. So I said, well, we'll just have to contribute more to the Girl Scouts from the government rather than getting them from our students.

We also have another program to have the poorest one million families in our country send their children to school. This is our Pantawid Pamilya program which provides them with an allowance. One million poorest families in our country have an allowance of 800 pesos to P1,400 a month, depending on the size of their family, but depending on certain conditions. One of them is that the children from 3 years old up to 16 years old should go to school, whether day care, pre-school, elementary or high school. And we hope that will increase our access to universal primary education. Because as I said, you know more than I do that education is the ticket to a better life.

So, aside of course, the most basic is to make sure that children go to school, the nearest next thing is once they go to school, we've got to make sure that they have a good education. And today I was just having lunch with the newspaper, Business Mirror, and one of the columnists who are a foreigner said he sent his children to public schools in Makati. And he was saying that although he's from Hong Kong, although he is a foreigner, the school facilities may not be as nice as they have in America, one big difference is that our Filipino teachers are much more devoted to the teaching profession than teachers in many other schools. So, a tribute to our teachers.

The quality of teachers is indeed important and if you are going to have additional schools, classrooms, we certainly need additional teachers. So in our administration, we increased the number of teaching jobs by 60,000 and we also increased the salaries of public school teachers. A teacher who used to receive 9,000 pesos now earns 14,000 pesos in the public school. But one of the things that we need to do is to make sure, as far as a good quality of education is concerned, that if you're going to have a good chance for a job after college, you must be good in English. This is a great... a very competitive world.

During our generation, and maybe even in Sister Genoveva's administration and Commissioner Nenalyn's administration, the medium of instruction was English. We were very competitive; we were second only to Japan in economic development in Asia. Then sometime later, in the 1970s, that was removed as the medium of instruction and we started to lose one of our big sources of competitiveness. Now the world is even more competitive, and one of our big assets is the Business Process Outsourcing where you would have a very good job, a very chance to have a good job if you speak good English. Unfortunately... so what we did was to restore English as the medium of instruction but one of the problems we found is that our very devoted teachers grew up in the generation where English was no longer the medium of instruction, so some of them did not even had their own problems with English. So we had to spend 1.5 billion pesos for teacher training, especially in Math, Science and especially in English.

So, we had now increased the use of English as a medium of instruction from 40% of hours to 55% in elementary school and from 45% to 70% in high school. I guess you are noticing that in your own school. And we also increased Science and Math hours by 50%. Well you wouldn't be able to notice that, because when we talk about 50%, I mean from ten years ago when you were still very young, so you're having much more English training now, you are having much more Science training now, you're having much more Math training now than about ten years ago because we want to make sure that you will be more competitive and you will have a better job when you get out of school.

I was talking about what we spend on public schools, but we also spend a lot on private schools. You know because we have had an increase in teachers' salaries in public high schools, we've had spending classrooms in public high schools. In my father's time, when he was still very young, he had to go to San Fernando, Pampanga to go to high school because there was no high school in Lubao, our hometown. Now there is a high school in every barangay in Lubao. One of the problems here is that private education has started to suffer because you have to pay your way through private high school but your public high school is free, but we don't want the private schools to die especially schools that give a good Catholic education like the College of Holy Spirit. And the way we've done this to help out is to increase the scholarship funds of GATSPE and education vouchers for private education. In fact, in private high schools — I don't know if the ratio is that way here in Holy Spirit — almost half of all private high school students are government scholars. And I asked Sister if the College of Holy Spirit participates in that. You do

participate, isn't it, Sister? You do participate in the scholarship programs. So many of you, your tuition is subsidized by the government. That is our way of helping the private high schools because we want you to continue and we want you to flourish and we want to keep up your good standard of education.

This scholarship is also provided for college and post-graduate education. As I said earlier, almost half of high school private students have scholarships in college and post-graduate, it's over 600,000 scholars. In technical education and skills training, we have invested three times that of three previous administrations combined. As a result of our investments in education, the National Achievement Test scores have improved a lot in our administration. Forty-four percent to 65% in elementary schools; 36% percent to 47% in high schools. Much better than before, but I think still needing a lot of improvement.

And so to further improve our educational system, we have a Presidential Task Force on Education headed by a private educator, Jesuit educator Father Bienvenido Nebres of Ateneo. And this task force has come up with a proposal, a masterplan of a Main Education Highway towards a Knowledge-Based Economy which envisions seamless education from basic education, meaning pre-school or daycare, all the way up to vocational school or college and even beyond.

Because as I said, school is important for a successful life. But on top of making your lives have a better chance to be successful, I also want our educational system to instill in our youth a pride in our nation and a desire to get involved in the civic life of our country. There is a need for you, the students to get involved in a positive way in the civic life of the nation. And that is why I have decided to visit you today. Because I want to give you the message that the Philippines has come a long way since you were little children in January 2001. I'm sure you remember very little of that time because you were little children. But time itself has gratefully erased many memories of that tumultuous time less than ten years ago, when the nation teetered on political chaos and financial bankruptcy.

The economy was jammed in reverse. Few investments were being made, few jobs were being created. Our public sector debt was even bigger than our GDP 'cause our GDP was P3.3 trillion, our public debt was P3.8 trillion. Imagine a public debt bigger than the whole production of the country. And so understandably, foreign reserves were razor thin. It was a time of lower salaries, a time of high inflation. Very few taxes were coming in, that's why insufficient investments were being made to expand healthcare, improve education or even provide clean water and electricity to remote barangays. Those things were very difficult to do.

So into this dismal picture we stepped in.

Today, I was hearing mass — where some of the Holy Spirit sisters often come and join me for mass, in my daily mass — and the priest said because there was... the sermon was about asking things from God and praying. And he said, "Reflect on the gifts that God has given you. How much of them were given to you because you prayed and asked for them. How much of them were given to you even if you did not ask for them." And I started to reflect, and really it's very hard to tell to be able to make that comparison. But one thing I can say, in 2001, I did not seek the Office of the President. It was thrust upon me. But rather than shirk from the onerous task, I rolled up my sleeves and I was determined to turn the Philippines around.

I focused myself like a laser beam on delivering real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. As an economist, I knew, however that to reverse years of economic decline I had to instill fiscal discipline. I had to grow the economy. I had to invest in human and physical infrastructure. And these things that we did would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would eventually, nine years later, deliver 35 quarters of uninterrupted growth, which other administrations have not experienced for the longest time since 1966. The creation of 9 million new jobs, again, with other administrations did not create a million jobs a year. The addition of 53 million to healthcare, health insurance from 29 million before I came in to 82 million today, and still on top of all that a stable fiscal situation.

And so that people and goods can be delivered faster, cheaper and safer from one end of the nation to the other. We built RORO ports, airports and more roads and bridges than in the past three administrations. And you from the

province I hope you can see — no, you will not see ‘cause that was ten years ago — and now, but travel is much better now.

But this is very relevant to you: from scratch, we created what is today a global powerhouse, the Philippine Business Process Outsourcing industry. We were able to do this with vision, determination and smart government policies. First of all, we promoted strategic investments in telecommunications connectivity, and so billions of dollars came in to the country in investments, creating half a million new jobs in call centers and BPO alone, and counting. In fact, I’m sure many of you when you get out of school, you would like to be working in one of those very nice call centers and BPOs. And we have a million, a half a million jobs today, and more jobs are available.

How did we do all of these? How were we able to afford all of these?

We have never shied away from taking on tough issues. Most notably, my popularity dipped when I went against the grain and championed the passage of more taxes especially the Expanded Value Added Tax. Even before I did it I knew it would be unpopular, but someone had to get the nation’s fiscal house in order and bring in revenue to invest in the people. It was the right thing to do. It has served people well. It has served a lot of you well through scholarships, through the infrastructure, through the jobs available. And on top of all that, our government’s finances are in much healthier position than nine years ago. Revenues are up. We have enough revenues both for debt servicing and for investing in you, our people. I said earlier that when I started, our debt was bigger than our GDP. Today, our debt is only over 60% of our GDP. Why? Ah, and our foreign debt to GDP ratio has also come down. It used to be 70%, now it is down to just 30%. Why? Because our GDP has grown so much over the past years, it has doubled from 76 billion dollars when I started, to a 168 billion dollars today. And even per capita, it’s more than doubled. When I started, per capita income was \$967. Today, its \$2,000 and that puts the Philippines now no longer in the rank of the poor countries but the rank of a middle-class country.

And this doubling of per capita income, this doubling of GDP, this increase in GDP compared to debts was enabled because our average growth is higher than all past periods, and our average inflation is lower than at any time since my father’s administration way back in the 1960s. In fact, during this global financial crisis, we were one of few countries to avoid negative growth. We even secured a credit upgrade during the financial crisis of the world.

In fact, if we compare, ‘cause I’m ending my term, if we compare the state of the economy at the end of each President’s term: in 1986 there was an economic crisis; in 1992 there was a power crisis; in 1998 in the middle during the transition from one government to another, there was negative growth because of the Asian financial crisis; in 2001 there was a political crisis. What we have now is an upgrade of our credit outlook. And this is the only administration where the peso is stronger in the end than in the beginning.

And for those who refuse to see progress, just look at the skyline of Manila or Cebu or Fort Bonifacio or Santa Rosa in Laguna. Today, it’s a skyline with new, modern buildings, construction cranes, better roads, hotels, shopping malls that you enjoy, small businesses. This is part of the Philippines we have helped nurture and create.

Also, we inherited a culture of lawlessness and kidnapping that was directed in fact at certain domestic ethnic groups like the Chinese and foreign investors. We worked to end kidnapping as a major problem. We also narrow the lair of hardcore terrorists in the South and we continued to confine and limit the communist insurgency. So compare to nine years ago, people are certainly safer today.

But, there is still that culture of violence. Look what happened in Maguindanao. So, one of the reasons why I’m here because I want to call on all the school age youth to help our society become more safe and let less violence. I want you to help me do a “no guns, no violence” campaign geared at young people trying to change the culture of violence. You can help be the guardians of non-violence as you interact with adults and others in our community. And this is especially important now because there is a gun ban during elections, and we especially want to reduce violence during election time because that is usually when violence flares up.

Free and fair elections are important. You our young can help begin to ensure that we have not just a free and fair election, but one that is free from violence. And I hope you can help me do that.

And as I end my term, I can say that we will leave a legacy of hard work, a strong and stable economy, major investments in healthcare and education, and dramatic improvements in physical infrastructure. Yes, much work remains to be done. But a President's work is never done. So, it's never an excuse to strive to stay in office forever.

What is important is that we are determined to turn over to a new government a New Philippines, one that is ready to reach the verge of the first world in 20 years.

And as I'm sure you can hardly remember what was there 10 years ago, 20 years from now, you will remember, hopefully, what we did today so that in 20 years from now you will be the leaders of our country whether in business, whether in government, whether in civic life. But I hope that when you have that role of leadership in a country that's on the verge of first world in 20 years, I hope that the education that you have during this period will have prepared you well for your own role and your own duties as the leaders of a country on the verge of first world in 20 years.

To all of you, good luck and may you have a good future.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a visit to the College of the Holy Spirit.

Retrieved

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235318/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27389&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 19th anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 19th anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP)**

[Delivered at the PNP Multi-Purpose Center, Camp Crame, Quezon City, January 29, 2010]

Thank you, Secretary Puno.

General Verzosa; other officials and men and women of the Philippine National Police; members of the Diplomatic Corps; other government officials; ladies and gentlemen. Please sit down.

Maligayang bati sa lahat ng mga kasapi ng PNP sa inyong anibersaryo.

As we have seen from the report of General Verzosa, the PNP has come a long way since January 2001 when you played a central role in a highlycharged political crisis at the start of the decade. You tilted the balance in favor of good governance and you proceeded to transform the PNP.

You inherited a society with a culture of lawlessness and kidnapping that was directed, if you remember at that time, at certain domestic ethnic groups and foreign investors. But through sheer energy and focus, you led the way in working to end kidnapping as a major problem, virtually erasing this plague from the Philipines. Congratulations!

As a woman, I want to especially point out that during these years with your vigor and determination the incidence of domestic violence and crimes against women and children has gone down. Congratulations as well!

But let me be more general, through all of your work, the people are safer than ever today. And that deserves a big congratulations.

Going to international relations, you have played a large role in the fight against global terrorism, boosting our intelligence gathering and sharing with key allies while lifting up your professionalism and training. And I don't need to talk about how you have lifted up your professionalism and training because General Verzosa has given a comprehensive report about how you have done that.

But let me point out also my gratitude that in quelling the attempts of delusional individuals and conspiracies to subvert Constitutional authority, always, you stood by the Constitution. And you did it without having to resort to force, while allowing dissenting voices to express their grievances. You the members of the PNP have conducted yourselves professionally in handling the various coup attempts, mass actions and other politically-motivated activities. That is why mass actions are now less violent than many other administrations in the past. I admire you and the people admire you, our police forces for demonstrating more temperance compared to the past even in the face of provocation.

I also congratulate you on your campaign against loose firearms, which netted over a hundred thousand firearms from July to September last year. And in response to what General Verzosa has said, I confirm that I have certified necessity of immediately enacting the bill imposing stiffer penalties on illegal firearms and light weapons. (applause) This is particularly important because of our continuing fight against terrorists and armed criminals, and also because we want to reduce election violence.

It is unfortunate that the Maguindanao tragedy happened, and I'm glad that you had an introspection and is part of the process of addressing that. But in the ensuing declaration of Martial Law, I am proud to say that the combined

PNP and Armed Forces assigned to implement it were models of good comportment and that you really have to be congratulated for.

Sa iba't-ibang klase ng hamon: bagyo at baha, mga sakuna at mga trahedyang gawa ng masasamang loob, the Philippine National Police always rose to the occasion, preventing crime, providing quick response, saving lives, assisting in rescue and rehabilitation.

Nandiyan yung mga binigyan natin ng mga awards, talagang you deserved the awards that you got. Nabanggit ni General Verzosa ang cop hero ng MV Baleno, si PO2 Mark Valiant Rey, na hindi inalintana ang pansariling kaligtasan maligtas lamang ang labinglimang pasahero ng lumubog na barko sa Batangas noong Kapaskuhan. Nariyan din ang kalingang ipinakita ng kapulisang tumulong sa pagsagip ng mga hinagupit ng bagyong Ondoy at Pepeng, kahit na marami sa kanila ay dumanas din ng pinsala mula sa bagyo.

Indeed, whether in your core activity of fighting crime and violence, or your very important additional civic activity of saving lives and helping people, our policemen and women, you have given so much of yourselves to remain faithful to your sworn duty to serve and protect our nation and our people. Some of your heroics have become plots of movies, but even more stories about your valiant deeds will probably remain unknown.

But whether they are celebrated or whether there everyday occurrences or hidden achievements, for your valor and sacrifice, our nation is grateful. As General Verzosa pointed out, the PNP has received a high approval rating of 67 percent from our countrymen. That is indeed a thank you from the people of the Philippines.

At hindi lamang dito sa ating bayan naipamalas ng kapulisan ang inyong giting at tapang. Kabilang kayo sa pinakamaraming peacemakers or peacekeepers ng U.N. sa buong mundo, at lately yung peacekeepers natin sa Haiti ay nandiyan sa gitna ng eksena, ang ating mga pulis, at nagpapasalamat tayo na ligtas pa rin sila sa panganib at kasalukuyang tumutulong sa search and rescue operations. Talagang dapat din silang magkaroon ng medalya. At inatasan ko ring magpadala pa ng dagdag na peacekeepers sa Haiti.

Kasama ko ang buong sambayanan sa paghanga sa inyong ipinamalas na kabayanihan, kabayanihang hindi naging madali sa harap ng mga pagsubok at mga hamong tumambad sa inyo.

Like the PNP, the Philippines itself has come a long way since January 2001. Time has gratefully erased many memories of that tumultuous time less than ten years ago, when the nation teetered on political chaos and financial bankruptcy.

The economy was jammed in reverse. Few investments were being made, few jobs were being created. The public sector debt of P3.6 trillion pesos was bigger than the GDP of P3.3 trillion pesos. The foreign debt was 73 percent of GDP. Foreign reserves were razor thin.

It was a time of lower salaries, including for the police force. You had a bill, you had a law increasing your salaries but it couldn't be implemented by the time I had come in. And there was high inflation to further disturb you low salaries. Due to the large debt to GDP ratios, insufficient investments had been made to expand healthcare, improve education, provide clean water and needed electricity to remote barangays.

Internationally, the Philippines had fallen far, far off the radar screen. It had taken itself out of consideration by investors as a place to invest and create jobs.

Into this dismal picture we stepped.

In 2001, I did not seek the Office of the President. It was thrust upon me, with as I said earlier, the PNP playing a central role in EDSA II. Rather than shirk from the onerous task, together with you, I rolled up my sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around. Together with you, I was focused like a laser beam on delivering real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. As an economist, I knew that to reverse years of economic decline we

had to instill fiscal discipline, not just discipline of the citizenry to the police. We had to grow the economy and we had to invest in human and physical infrastructure, including investment in the police.

And I'm glad that General Verzosa already talked about the supplemental P10 billion pesos Capability Building Enhancement Fund as an offshoot of the PNP Modernization Program, including the two billion pesos release to acquire firepower and mobility and communication equipment for our police stations from 2008 to 2012. And I'm also glad that every police station now has at least one patrol vehicle. How could we afford this?

From day one, our actions to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy, and invest in human and physical infrastructure would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver 36 consecutive quarters of growth, create 9 million new jobs, including more than 20,000 in the police. And our turnaround also delivered the addition of 52 million people to healthcare and a stable fiscal situation that allowed us to afford your transformation.

You have never shied away from taking on tough challenges, as I have never shied away from taking on tough issues. Most notably, my popularity dipped when I went against the grain and championed the passage of the Expanded Value Added Tax. I knew it would be unpopular. But someone had to get the nation's fiscal house in order and bring in revenues to invest in the people, including in the police. It was the right thing to do. It has served the people and the PNP well, and I have no regrets about it.

We have also ensured that more and more families are able to own a home. During our tenure, more than 300,000 low-cost housing for the Filipino people have been built, including housing programs for the police as showed by General Verzosa such as those in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Camp Macabulos in Tarlac, Camp Castañeda in Silang, Camp Capistrano in Cagayan de Oro. This is in keeping with what I said in 2001 that I would be studying "how to make the lives of policemen and their families better." Since that time, as I said before I came in, there had been a law giving you higher salaries but they couldn't be implemented. Since that time, the men and women of the PNP have been granted five increases in salaries and allowances, so that today you're earning more than double what you did in 2001. This is on top of scholarships for your children, and cheaper medicines and food sold in outlets within the camps. And the other many benefits that General Verzosa inventoried which I don't need to add after that.

In conclusion, in summary, we will leave a legacy of hard work, a strong and stable economy, renewed global engagement, major investments in healthcare, education and law enforcement, and dramatic improvements in physical infrastructure. Yes, much work remains to be done, but through your support, we are determined to turn over to a new government a New Philippines, one that is ready for the challenges of bringing our nation to the verge of first world in 20 years which would include a modern and thoroughly professional police force.

Kinikilala ng sambayanan ang napakalaking kontribusyon na ipinagkaloob ninyo para sa pambansang katahimikan at pangkahusayan — dalawa sa mahahalagang mga sangkap ng pangmatagalang kaunlaran.

Kaya ang aking hiling sa inyo, patuloy ninyong bigyan ng dangal ang organisasyong ito sa pamamagitan ng inyong tapat na paglilingkod.

Maraming salamat muli sa inyong suporta. And Happy Anniversary sa inyong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 19th anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235159/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27400&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a visit to the Angeles University Foundation Information Technology Training Center

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a visit to the Angeles University Foundation Information Technology Training Center**

[Delivered at the Angeles University Foundation, Angeles City, Pampanga, February 1, 2010]

Thank you, thank you.

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Chairman Angeles for your introduction.

Thank you very much Congressman Tarzan Lazatin for joining us today and thank you Attorney Joseph Angeles for your warm words of welcome and for introducing the subject matter to our audience of Angeles University, faculty and students. I have here with me also my Presidential Assistant for Region III, former Mayor of Palayan City, Reily Fajardo.

I'm very glad to be with you again. Again because many years ago when you students were still children, I used to be a member of the board of Angeles University when I was a senator. (applause) I only resigned because I became vice president and the Constitution prohibits the vice president from having any employment anywhere else. So, I'm very glad to be here again.

And I'm glad to do this as we start a comprehensive tour of every Super Region because before the end of my term, I want to review our legacy of accomplishments. And I'm glad to do it here in Angeles University. I will explain to you why in a short while aside from the fact that I feel at home here having been a member of the board. The Super Regions were designed to spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Metro Manila. The Super Regions are: Agribusiness Mindanao, Tourism Central Philippines, the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, the Luzon Urban Beltway and the Cyber Corridor, where we are. Actually, we are in two of the Super Regions: the Luzon Urban Beltway and the Cyber Corridor.

But for today, we will talk about the Cyber Corridor. And as Attorney Angeles said, this is an industry, the cyber industry is something which our administration created almost from scratch. And that is why I am very proud of our Cyber Corridor. The Cyber Corridor is made up of the strongest potential locations for ICT investments, services and activities, including call centers, back office, software development like what Angeles University is doing for free for the Department of Health. It also includes medical transcription, engineering design, animation and game development. The ICT or the Cyber Corridor presently houses 750 call centers and BPO companies served by three high bandwidth backbone and digital networks.

The composition of the Cyber Corridor is jointly identified and periodically updated by the private sector, the academe and the government. For now it starts here in the north from Metro Pampanga and goes up to the south in Davao City. It includes Metro Manila and Metro Cebu which were the country's two original ICT Centers of Excellence, and 10 urban areas being promoted at the so-called Top 10 "Next Wave Cities" to be the best new

destinations of the ICT industry. These are: Metro Laguna composed of Santa Rosa, Calamba, Los Baños and San Pablo; Metro Cavite composed of Bacoor, Dasmariñas City, Imus and Cavite City; Iloilo; Davao; Bacolod; Metro Pampanga including Clark, Angeles, Mabalacat and Dau, in other words the district of Congressman Lazatin. Metro Bulacan composed of Baliuag, Marilao and Meycauayan; Cagayan de Oro; Central Bulacan composed of Malolos and Calumpit; and Lipa. Pasig, Cebu, Quezon City and Mandaluyong are ranked among the top 50 cities worldwide suited for BPO.

But I'm very proud to tell you that next to Metro Manila and Metro Cebu which were our original centers of excellence, the third most popular destination for BPO investments is none other than here in our own beloved Pampanga.

We are starting the Super Region tour in your school because as Attorney Joseph Angeles pointed out, this is the only school in the Central Luzon and one of only two schools in the Northern part of Luzon to be considered as ICT Center of Excellence and Center of Excellence in Computer Engineering. (applause) And I want to start my Cyber Corridor tour in the school because I want to continue to reach out to the youth of this nation. You are the future. The future of this nation depends on you, the next generation.

When I said that you were very little children when I left Angeles University as member of the board in 1998 and you were very small children yet in January 2001, the Philippines has come a long way since January 2001. Most of you were little children at that time, so you probably don't have much recollection of how it was like at that time. In fact, even for your elders, time has gratefully erased many memories of the tumultuous time less than ten years ago, when the nation teetered on political chaos and financial bankruptcy.

The economy was jammed in reverse. Few investments were being made, few jobs were being created. The public sector debt of 3.8 trillion pesos was bigger than the Gross Domestic Product of 3.3 trillion pesos. Foreign reserves were razor thin.

It was a time of lower salaries and high inflation. And due to low tax revenues, insufficient investments had been made to expand healthcare, improve education, provide clean water and needed electricity to remote barangays.

Into this dismal picture we stepped. I did not seek the Office of the President in 2001; it was thrust upon me. But rather than shirk from this onerous task, we rolled up our sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around.

We were focused like a laser beam on delivering real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. As an economist, I knew that to reverse years of economic decline we had to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy and invest in human and physical infrastructure.

These actions would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver 36 quarters of uninterrupted growth, the creation of 9 million new jobs, the addition of 53 million to healthcare, and a stable fiscal situation.

We are creating wealth by developing the labor-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors such as ICT and tourism as the key growth sectors, as I predicted during my first State of the Nation Address in 2001.

From scratch with only 2,000 workers before I became President, we have created what is today a global powerhouse: the Philippine BPO industry. We achieved this by promoting strategic investments in key areas:

First, a connectivity infrastructure backbone. We encouraged the provision of more broadband services in cities and identified growth areas. Thanks to these investments the cost of international calls went down from 40 cents to single digit. I see there it says, 2 cents. The number of internet users jumped from two million in 2000 to more than 24 million internet users today.

And so that no Taiwan tremor or tsunami can cut off our cyber services from their global clients, we encouraged PLDT and Globe to invest billions in international gateway redundancy.

The second investment we made was an investment in an appropriate policy and legal environment. We created the Commission on ICT, with the guidance that the ICT sector should be driven by the market and the private sector, not by government interference. Instead of interfering and regulating, what government did was to give incentives to developers of IT parks, assisted investors in identifying promising provincial sites, and built more transport facilities to those sites. This philosophy drove the fast growth of contact centers. Now the market is leading the growth of the high value added segments of the offshoring and outsourcing industries, such as accounting, legal, human resources and administrative services.

Third area of investment was the development of human capital. More than 5,000 schools mostly high schools in the public school system now have computer laboratories while almost 4,000 schools have been connected to the internet. In technical education and skills training, we have invested three times more than the previous three administrations combined. A very large portion of this goes to scholarships for call center training such as what Angeles University is offering on top of its ICT education.

Thanks to these strategic investments, billions in investments have been poured into the country, creating half a million new jobs in BPO. Today, the Philippines have challenged India for BPO supremacy. Compared to 24 million dollars in 2001, the BPO industry has earned or will be earning 7 billion dollars this year. And that is not far behind India's 9 billion dollars for call centers.

For the second time, the United Kingdom's National Outsourcing Association awarded the Philippines as the Offshoring Destination of the Year in recognition of the healthy environment as well as the power and infrastructure support in making the country attractive to foreign business.

The 500,000 jobs created in the BPO industry are part of the legacy I will leave. A legacy of hard work, a strong and stable economy, renewed global engagement, major investments in healthcare and education, and dramatic improvements in physical infrastructure.

Much work remains to be done, but I am determined to turn over to a new government a New Philippines, one that is ready for the challenges of bringing the nation to the verge of first world in 20 years.

As I said, ten years ago you were small children, you hardly knew, you hardly remember what it was like. Twenty years from now, you will be at the prime of your life, you will be the leaders of this nation whether you will be in politics, in business or in civic life. And I hope that 20 years from now, when we're on the verge of first world, the educational system and the opportunities made available for investments and employment in matters like ICT and other important job creating skills enhancing industries will have helped you become leaders of a country ready for the first world.

To all of you, Congratulations! Good luck! and thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a visit to the Angeles University Foundation Information Technology Training Center. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235138/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27425&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Cyber Corridor National Capital Region Tour: Visit to Jose Rizal University (JRU)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Cyber Corridor National Capital Region Tour: Visit to Jose Rizal University (JRU)**

[Delivered at the Jose Rizal University, #80 Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, February 2, 2010]

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much.

Thank you Secretary Rey Chua, Chairman of the Commission on ICT for your introduction. Thank you also to President Vince Fabella for your very kind words of welcome and for showing me an example of your ADEPT classes.

I'd like to introduce also the Chairman of CHED, Manny Angeles; our new Press Secretary Jun Icban; and my special fond greeting to one of the ladies of my father's... one of the Cabinet ladies, Mrs. Marinella Fabella of my father's time.

I am really very happy to be here at JRU, and although it is not the reason why I am here now, I'm happy to hear the recollection of Vince about Armand Fabella, revered member of the Fabella family who founded this school. He was one of the youngest Cabinet members of my late father's administration. He was the head of the program implementation agency which later on combined with the National Economic Council became the National Economic and Development Authority. And as Vince said... well, no, I will add the commentary, he was so young in my father's Cabinet that 40 years later in my own administration, I was still able to tap him to be Chairman of the UCPB. And he led a team that turned that bank around from an insolvent bank to now a going concern. So, I'd like to thank him for that posthumously.

One of the things that President Vince did not point out to you is that one of my favorite laws that I passed when I was a senator was the expanded Build- Operate-and-Transfer Law which improved the BOT Law and expanded it to other private sector participation and physical infrastructure, and one of the most important resource persons I had sitting if I was here defending the bill sitting right there in the gallery whispering to me all the answers to the technical questions was no other than analyst consultant Vince Fabella. So, I thank him for that.

And the result of that law I think you can see all over Metro Manila and the provinces, all the BOT projects being built: the North Luzon Expressway, the South Luzon Expressway, the Skyway, the Caticlan Airport and so many others. So, I'm glad to be here and I was happy that the last time I was here I was here for the installation of Dr. Fabella as president of your university.

Now I am here as part of a tour of the Super Regions to review our legacy of accomplishments. The Super Regions were designed to decongest Metro Manila and spread development. They are: Agribusiness Mindanao, Tourism Central Philippines, the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, the Luzon Urban Beltway and the Cyber Corridor.

Mandaluyong where we are, Metro Manila where we are belongs both to the Luzon Urban Beltway and the Cyber Corridor.

The Cyber Corridor is made up of the strongest actual and potential locations for ICT investments, including call centers, back office, software development, medical transcription, engineering design, animation game development and others. It currently houses 750 call centers and BPO companies and counting, and these companies are served by three high-bandwidth backbone and digital networks.

What composes the Cyber Corridor is jointly identified and periodically updated by the private sector, the academe and government. For now it starts from the north from Metro Pampanga and goes down to the south in Davao City. It includes of course Metro Manila and Metro Cebu which were the country's two original ICT Centers of Excellence, and 10 urban areas being promoted as the so-called 10 "Next Wave Cities" to be the best new destinations of the ICT industry: Metro Laguna, Metro Cavite, Iloilo, Davao, Bacolod, Metro Pampanga, Metro Bulacan, Cagayan de Oro, Central Bulacan and Lipa. And ranked among the top 50 cities worldwide as suited for BPO are Cebu, Pasig, Quezon City and Mandaluyong. These are worldwide choices of the top 50. So, I congratulate Mandaluyong and its citizens like JRU.

And I like to believe that JRU is a factor as identified by the world's industry for Mandaluyong's potential for BPO and ICT because you offer, aside from a B.S. in IT, a B.S. in Engineering, your ADEPT. I understand that there are only 20 schools offering ADEPT. This is a six-unit course that at the end of the six units brings about a 60 or 70 percent chance of your being taken in for a job in a BPO or ICT industry. And so more power to JRU and more power to our students going to the ADEPT program.

So, I came here because they arranged for me a look in, a drop in into an ADEPT class because if we are to visit any Super Region, visits to schools are an essential backdrop like for instance in ICT and BPO we cannot have that without the school's providing the manpower to be able to make that industry flourish.

And that is true of every Super Region, so we must visit the schools especially because I want to reach out to the youth of this nation. You the youth are our future. The future of this nation depends on the next generation.

The Philippines has come a long way since January 2001. Most of you were kids at that time, so you probably don't remember much about that tumultuous time less than ten years ago. Even for your titas and your lolas, they probably have forgotten that at that time the nation was on the brink of political chaos and financial bankruptcy.

The economy was jammed in reverse. Few investments were being made. Few jobs were being created. The debt of the government and its corporations, I believe including UCPB at that time, a 3.6 trillion pesos was bigger than our GDP of 3.3 trillion pesos. There were almost no foreign reserves.

It was a time of lower salaries and higher prices. Tax revenues were so low that we could hardly invest in expanding healthcare, improving education, and providing clean water and needed electricity to remote barangays.

Into this dismal picture we stepped. I did not seek the Office of the President in 2001; it was thrust upon me. But rather than shirk from this onerous task, we rolled up our sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around.

We were focused like a laser beam on delivering real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. As an economist, I knew that to reverse years of economic decline we had to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy and invest in human and physical infrastructure.

These actions would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver an unprecedented 36 quarters of uninterrupted growth, create 9 million new jobs, and add 53 billion people to healthcare, while keeping government coffers stable enough to merit credit upgrades at the height of the global recession.

In my first State of the Nation Address, I said that we would create wealth by developing the labor-intensive, skills-intensive sectors such as ICT. From scratch with only 2,000 workers we created what is today a global powerhouse — the Philippine BPO industry. We achieved this by promoting strategic investments in three areas:

First, digital infrastructure. We encouraged more broadband services in cities and identified growth areas. Thanks to these investments in connectivity, the cost of international calls went down from 40 cents to 2 cents a minute through the VOIP. The number of internet users jumped from 2 million in year 2000 to more than 24 million today.

That's why you have an infrastructure for BPO and ICT to develop. And so that no Taiwan tremor or tsunami can cut off our cyber services from their global clients, we encouraged PLDT and Globe to invest billions in having more than one international telecommunications gateway. So throughout all of the calamities around the world our BPOs continue to operate 24/7.

The second area for investing was an appropriate policy and legal environment. We created the Commission on ICT chaired by Rey Chua. It is guided by the policy that the ICT sector should be guided by the market, with minimal government interference. For example, if the market calls for call centers, we should not force them to specialize in something else. Instead of regulating, we gave incentives to developers of IT parks, assisted investors in identifying promising provincial sites, built more transport facilities to those sites. And this morning I went to one of the IT inaugurations and the chairman of the board told me, that after he met me in 2007 in New York in one of my trips, he decided to come and invest in the Philippines because we have a very strong Intellectual Property Regulatory framework.

This philosophy of letting the market determine business decisions but supporting them drove the fast growth of call centers. Now the market is further leading the growth to the higher value added segments of the offshoring and outsourcing industries, such as accounting, legal, medical, personnel and administrative services.

And third... oh no, before I go the the third. About the second, about how the markets has been leading to these services. Earlier I mentioned in year 2000 salaries were very low. Today, a BPO agent begins with 15,000 pesos not including bonuses and allowances. And as you go up the value chain into IT, today when I went to the IT Center, many of the employees that I talked to were expatriates. They had done IT work in Singapore, in New York, in China, in the UK but they came home because the salaries are comparable to what they were receiving abroad plus they are able to be with their families. So because of BPO and ICT we have a regime of better salaries and better pay.

But that means the third investment, and this is where JRU is so important, the development of human capital. We start with the basic education, English as the medium of instruction which we are restoring, and we're making our high school students familiar with the computer and the internet. So more than 5,000 public high schools now have computer laboratories. Almost 4,000 of them have been connected to the internet.

And in technical education and skills training, we have invested three times as much as the combined budgets for three previous administrations and a very large portion of these investments goes to scholarships for the BPO and IT industry.

But I understand that ADEPT is in JRU is a self-supporting course. You are not getting any money from the government for that, in fact, you are giving the government skilled manpower that will man the future of our economy and that is the growth sectors like ICT. So, congratulations to JRU for that!

So thanks to these strategic investments by the public and the private sector like JRU. Billions of investments had been poured into the country, creating half a million new jobs in BPO and ICT.

Today, the Philippines with 90 million people has challenged India's one billion population for BPO supremacy. Compared to 0.02 billion in 2001, our BPO industry earned 7.3 billion dollars in 2009, not far behind India's 9 billion dollars for call centers. And for the second time, the United Kingdom's National Outsourcing Association awarded the Philippines as the Offshoring Destination of the Year.

The 500,000 jobs we are creating in ICT are part of the legacy that I am happy to leave. A legacy of hard work, a strong and stable economy, renewed global engagement, major investments in healthcare and education, and dramatic improvements in physical infrastructure like roads and bridges, irrigation and RORO ports.

Much remains to be done, but I am determined to turn over to a new government a New Philippines ready for the challenge of bringing the nation to the verge of first world in 20 years. Ten years ago, you were children, 20 years from now, you will be the leaders of our country whether you are in politics, in business or in civil society. I hope that by that time, the preparations that had been made for you in this generation will serve you well. And in these preparations, I want to thank JRU for playing such a big role in preparing our human capital to go to the first world in 20 years.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Cyber Corridor National Capital Region Tour: Visit to Jose Rizal University (JRU). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235122/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27420&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Cyber Corridor Visayan Tour: Visit to Teleperformance Bacolod City

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Cyber Corridor Visayan Tour: Visit to Teleperformance Bacolod City**

[Delivered at the Luxur IT Center, Lacson St. cor. Magsaysay Ave. Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, February 3, 2010]

Thank you very much Secretary Chua, our outsourcing czar.

Thank you very much Mayor Leonardia and Governor Zayco for your warm words of welcome. I'd like to also greet Congressman Monico Puentevella, our host congressman and Congressman Ignacito Arroyo of Negros Occidental.

I'd like to congratulate Attorney Sigue and the leaders of the ICT industry here in Bacolod, and of course, thank you to Teleperformance for hosting this occasion that I asked to be held.

I still can't forget in 2006, I was here in the ballroom of this hotel for the Vice Mayors' League Convention and I said, "this is our last event in this place as a ballroom because tomorrow it will be transformed into a call center." And after we left, Teleperformance stepped in and here they are stronger than ever. Congratulations!

And so it's fitting that we should be here today as part of a tour of the Super Regions: Agribusiness Mindanao, Tourism Central Philippines which Negros is also a part of Bacolod, the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, the Urban Luzon Beltway and the Cyber Corridor which we are featuring today. These Super Regions were designed to spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Manila.

I understand that some from the media would like to know how do they become a part of the Cyber Corridor. Well, let me answer in this way, the Cyber Corridor was identified jointly by the private sector, the academe and the government. And these elements or parts of the Cyber Corridor where the areas that they identified as comprising the strongest actual and potential locations for ICT investments like call centers, back office, software development, medical transcription, engineering design, animation and game development.

As we have heard glimpses earlier, certainly, the Cyber Corridor includes Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, because they were the two original ICT Centers of Excellence in our country. But now, they have included also 10 urban areas being promoted as the best new destinations for ICT: Metro Laguna, Metro Cavite, Iloilo, Davao, Bacolod, Metro Pampanga, Metro Bulacan, Cagayan de Oro, Central Bulacan and Lipa. Well, being already talked about some of the contents of the brochure on the Cyber Corridor and congratulations for being number one in business environment. I'm also told by the industry that Bacolod's best assets are its people, you the people and your progressive mindset that spills over to the BPO employees who come from different parts of the region to live and work in Bacolod. Also another very important element is the infrastructure.

During our administration we completed the Bacolod-Silay Airport and we are beginning the Bacolod-Silay access road, but that airport according to the industry certainly boosted Bacolod's potential as an IT hub. With such infrastructure now, Bacolod offers a conducive climate for ICT investments, and we have heard about the different IT-BPO companies in the area, the biggest number of IT parks outside of Cebu and Metro Manila. And we have giant investors here like Teletech, Convergys and of course our host Teleperformance.

ICT, BPO and the Cyber industry have come a long way since 2001. The Philippines itself has come a long way since January 2001. Many don't remember much about the tumultuous time less than ten years ago when the nation was teetering on the brink of political chaos and financial bankruptcy. The economy was jammed in reverse, few

investments were being made, few jobs were being created. The debt of the government and its corporations of 3.6 trillion pesos was bigger than our GDP of 3.3 trillion pesos. There were almost no foreign reserves.

It was a time of lower salaries and higher prices. Tax revenues were so low that we could hardly invest in expanding healthcare, improving education, and providing clean water and needed electricity to remote barangays.

Into this dismal picture we stepped. I did not seek the Office of the President in 2001; it was thrust upon me. But rather than shirk from this onerous task, we rolled up our sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around.

We were focused like a laser beam on delivering real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. As an economist, I knew that to reverse years of economic decline we had to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy and invest in human and physical infrastructure.

These actions would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver an unprecedented 36 quarters of uninterrupted growth, create 9 million new jobs, add 53 million people to healthcare, with government coffers that helped us withstand the global economic crisis.

In my first State of the Nation in 2001, I said that we would create wealth by developing labor-intensive, skills-intensive services such as ICT. And sure enough from scratch with only 2,000 workers in the year 2000, we created what is today a global powerhouse: the Philippine BPO industry. We achieved this by promoting strategic investments in three areas:

First, digital infrastructure. We encouraged more broadband services in cities and identified growth areas. Thus the cost of international calls went down from 40 cents to 2 cents a minute for those using the VOiP. The number of internet users jumped from 2 million in 2000 to more than 24 million today. That is why we have an infrastructure for BPO.

And so that no Taiwan tremor or tsunami can cut off our cyber services from their global clients, we encouraged PLDT and Globe to invest billions in having more than one international telecommunications gateway into our country.

Second area of investment was an appropriate policy and legal environment. We created the Commission on ICT. Rey Chua, our chairman, has been guided by the policy that the ICT sector should be guided by the market, with minimal government interference. For example, if the market calls for call centers, we shouldn't force our investors to specialize in something else. Let them make the decision. Instead of regulating, we gave incentives to the developers of IT parks like the ones that are here in Bacolod, we assisted investors in identifying promising provincial sites that's why we designed the Cyber Corridor, and we built more transport facilities to those sites like the Bacolod-Silay Airport.

Also because, of course, ICT is more than call centers and the other side of the spectrum we have the IT. Yesterday, we opened an IT Center in Taguig in Metro Manila. And the Chairman said that one of the reasons why they decided to come to the Philippines after he met me in 2007 and learned of the possibility of doing IT in the Philippines, he was convinced by our very good Intellectual Property Protection environment.

So, that's what we mean by supportive rather than regulating. And this philosophy drove the fast growth of call centers. But now the market is leading to the growth of the higher value added segments of the offshoring and outsourcing industries, such as accounting, legal, medical, personnel and administrative services.

Third area of investment, human capital. To increase the country's share in the global market for offshoring and outsourcing services, the government intensified the implementation of various programs to train the workforce to enable them to find jobs in the BPO sector, and educate the young on the use of computers and internet for the next generation of IT and BPO workers. More than 4,000 public schools are now connected to the internet, including 22 schools in Bacolod.

In technical education and skills development training, we have invested three times as much as the combined budgets of the three previous administrations. A very large portion of this investment goes to scholarships for the BPO industry, including 3,000 scholarships here in Region VI.

Thanks to these strategic investments, billions in investments have been poured into the country by the private sector creating half a million new jobs in BPO alone.

Today, the Philippines with 90 million people has challenged India's one billion population for BPO supremacy. Compared to almost nothing in 2001, 0.02 billion dollars, our BPO industry in 2009 earned more than 7 billion dollars.

I'd like to think that the 500,000 jobs we are creating in ICT are part of the legacy that I will leave, that is the legacy of hard work, a strong and stable economy, renewed global engagement, major investments in healthcare and education, and dramatic improvements in physical infrastructure like the Bacolod-Silay Road, the Bacolod-Silay Airport, the RORO ports and other important infrastructure. Much work remains to be done, but I am determined to turn over to a new government a New Philippines ready for the challenge of bringing the nation to the verge of first world in 20 years.

And what other precursor of the first world we see in the Philippines than more than the BPO industry especially here where we are today. This is the only BPO center I know that has a swimming pool. So this is an industry that will continue to grow and grow. It is an industry that with all of your support and your active participation will really lead us to the verge of first world in 20 years.

Damo gid nga salamat sa inyo nga tanan!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Cyber Corridor Visayan Tour: Visit to Teleperformance Bacolod City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235030/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27440&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Cyber Corridor Visayan Tour: Visit to John B. Lacson Foundation
Maritime University RRLS Information and Communication Technology Academy**

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Cyber Corridor Visayan Tour: Visit to John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University RRLS
Information and Communication Technology Academy**

[Delivered at the John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University, Molo, Iloilo City, Iloilo, February 3, 2010]

Thank you, thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you Secretary Chua for your introduction.

Thank you very much Chairperson Arcelo for your very very kind words of welcome; Dr. Sebastian. I'd like to thank the officials of the Philippine Government who are here with us today: City mayor of Iloilo, Mayor Jerry Treñas; Governor of the province of Iloilo, Niel Tupas; my Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, Raul Gonzalez; the head of TESDA who has helped provide all these scholarships, Buboy Syjuco; our new Press Secretary, Cris Icban; Secretary Ric Saludo, who is taking care of the Reconstruction Commission that includes the areas of typhoon "Frank"; and from the province of Negros Occidental, Congressman Ignacio Arroyo Jr.; other officials of this esteemed university. I'm happy to call it a university, the first and only private Maritime University in Southeast Asia. Congratulations for that!

But excellent as your Maritime education is, we're actually here now to showcase your ICT education. I'm here as part of a tour of the Super Regions: Agribusiness Mindanao, Tourism Central Philippines, the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, the Luzon Urban Beltway and the Cyber Corridor. These Super Regions were designed to spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Manila.

The Cyber Corridor was identified by the private sector, academe and government comprising the strongest actual and potential locations for ICT investments like call centers, back office, software development, medical transcription, engineering design, animation and game development. This Corridor includes Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, the two original ICT Centers of Excellence. And now in addition, 10 urban areas being promoted as the best new destinations for ICT: Metro Laguna, Metro Cavite, Davao, Bacolod, Metro Pampanga, Metro and Central Bulacan, Cagayan de Oro, Lipa and of course, the City of Iloilo.

And I dare say, that one of the factors why Iloilo has been identified as a great potential for BPO investments is your ICT Academy. I'd like to congratulate you for that! I understand that you offer courses in Contact Center Services, Medical Transcription, Computer Hardware Servicing, Programming, Spreadsheet Application and Photoshop. And I also understand that you will soon offer Visual Graphics Design and Technical Drafting courses. That's why it was essential that I visit you in the course of the Cyber Corridor tour. Visits to schools are an essential backdrop of our Super Regions tour because I want to reach out to the youth of this nation. You are the future. The future of this nation depends on you, the next generation.

You're very young and you were children in January 2001, so I'm sure you hardly remember what it was like. Certainly, the Philippines has come a long way since that time when you were still kids. But even your titas and your

lolas, even for them, they probably have forgotten that at that time the nation was on the brink of political chaos and financial bankruptcy.

The economy was jammed in reverse. Few investments were being made, few jobs were being created. The debt of the government and its corporations of 3.6 trillion pesos was bigger than our GDP of 3.3 trillion pesos. There were almost no foreign reserves.

It was a time of lower salaries and higher prices. Tax revenues were so low that we could hardly invest in expanding healthcare, improving education, and providing clean water and needed electricity to remote barangays.

Into this dismal picture we stepped. I did not seek the Office of the President in 2001; it was thrust upon me. But rather than shirk from this onerous task, we rolled up our sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around.

We were focused like a laser beam on delivering real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. As an economist, I knew that to reverse years of economic decline we had to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy and invest in human and physical infrastructure.

These would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver an unprecedented 36 quarters of uninterrupted growth, create 9 million new jobs, and add 53 million people to healthcare with government coffers that helped us withstand the global economic crisis.

In my first State of the Nation Address in 2001, I said that we would create wealth by developing the labor-intensive, skills-intensive services such as ICT.

From scratch with only 2,000 workers in year 2000, we created what is today a global powerhouse: the BPO industry. We achieved this by promoting strategic investments in three areas:

First, digital infrastructure. We encouraged more broadband services in cities and identified growth areas. Thus, the cost of international calls went down from 40 cents to 2 cents a minute for those using VOIP. And the number of internet users jumped from 2 million in year 2000 to more than 24 million today.

And so that no Taiwan tremor or tsunami can cut off our cyber services from their global clients, we encouraged PLDT and Globe to invest billions in having more than one international telecommunications gateway into the country from abroad.

The second area of investment was an appropriate policy and legal environment. We created the Commission on ICT headed here by Secretary Rey Chua. It was guided by the policy that the ICT sector should be guided by the market, with minimal government interference but rather with government support. For example, if the market calls for call centers, we should not force the investors to specialize in something else. Instead of regulating, we gave incentives to developers of IT parks, assisted investors in identifying promising provincial sites like Iloilo and built more transport facilities to those sites. For instance, the Iloilo Airport and the access road from the airport to Iloilo.

This philosophy drove the fast growth of call centers. And now the market is leading to the growth of the higher value added segments of the offshoring and outsourcing industries, such as accounting, legal, medical, personnel and administrative services.

Third area of strategic investments, the development of human capital. More than 5,000 public schools now have computer laboratories. Almost 4,000 of them are connected to the internet. In technical education and skills training, Buboy Syjuco has invested three times as much as the combined budget of the three previous administrations, a very large portion of this investment goes to scholarships for the BPO industry. For example, as Dr. Lacson Arcelo said, your school has produced over 400 of our scholarships under the Finishing Course for call center agents. And I'm so proud the 250 have already been assured of jobs, that's more than... that is about 60 percent hiring rate. You know that nationally the hiring rate is 6 percent, so your 60 percent hiring rate is 10 times more than the national average.

Our 400 young trainees form part of almost 3,000 graduates of Region VI's BPO training programs. Thanks to the strategic investments, billions of investments have been poured into the country creating almost half a million jobs in BPO alone. Today, the Philippines with 90 million people has challenged India's one billion population for BPO supremacy. Compared to 0.02 billion dollars in 2001, which is almost nothing, our BPO industry has earned more than 7 billion dollars in 2009. And that's not far behind India's 9 billion dollars for call centers even if their population is one billion and ours is 90 million.

The 500,000 jobs created in ICT are part of the legacy that I am happy to leave behind. And I am happy with what Dr. Lacson Arcelo said at the end of her remarks that: "your achievement is our achievement; your legacy is our legacy." And I'm proud to say that that is a legacy of hard work, a strong and stable economy, renewed global engagement, major investments in healthcare and education, and dramatic improvements in physical infrastructure like roads and bridges, irrigation and RORO ports.

Much work remains to be done. But with your help, I am determined to turn over to a new government a New Philippines ready for the challenge of bringing the nation to the verge of first world in 20 years. And I believe that during that time the leaders of our nation whether it will be in politics, in civic life or in business and the professions will include among them our outstanding alumni from the John Lacson Foundation Maritime University and its related ICT Academy.

To you, Congratulations! And thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Cyber Corridor Visayan Tour: Visit to John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University RRLS Information and Communication Technology Academy. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235043/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27439&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Cyber Corridor Mindanao Tour: Visit to Concentrix

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Cyber Corridor Mindanao Tour: Visit to Concentrix**

[Delivered at the Concentrix, Damosa IT Park, J.P. Laurel Ave. Davao City, Davao del Sur, February 3, 2010]

Good evening everyone. Please sit down.

I am very happy to be here. Davao is known for many things but tonight I want to stress Davao as an important part of actually two of our Super Regions, one is the Agribusiness Mindanao and the other is the Cyber Corridor. So I am here as part of a tour of the Super Regions. As I said, Agribusiness Mindanao is one of the regions. Tourism Central Philippines is another, the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, the Urban Luzon Beltway and the Cyber Corridor. These Super Regions were designed to spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Manila.

The Cyber Corridor was identified by the private sector, the academe and government comprising the strongest potential locations for ICT investments like call centers, back office, software development, medical transcription—what is medical transcription? Well, of course, our agents here know what it is but for purposes of the media and for purposes of the general public who will listen to the media and read the media, an example of this would be an American doctor talking into a microphone and discussing the diagnosis of the patient and that has to be digitized, his voice tape is sent to the Philippines and the Filipino transcriber puts it together. Of course, that means that you cannot have just anybody coming from the street, it's somebody who has to know medical terms and understands something about medicine. So, that's one example.

Engineering design, I think you're all aware of that. Animation, Pixar uses animation services from the Philippines, and game development. The IT Corridor or the Cyber Corridor includes the two original ICT Centers of Excellence, Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, and 10 so-called 'next wave cities' being promoted as the best new destinations for ICT: Metro Laguna, Metro Cavite, Iloilo, Bacolod, Metro Pampanga, Metro and Central Bulacan, Cagayan de Oro, Lipa and Davao. That's why I'm here tonight, to announce that Davao is an important part of our Cyber Corridor. It is one of what we call the next wave cities for ICT investment.

Some of the reasons given for putting Davao in the Top 10 next wave cities is that Davao has nearly 500,000 high quality workers. You know that's the largest talent pool among all the next wave cities. You will not find another city in the Philippines or even a group of Metropolis cities in the next wave cities having that number.

So no wonder there are three PEZA IT parks, including this one plus facilities in Ayala Land, Robinsons Land and SM, and six more applying. And I understand there are 18 call centers in Davao City with almost 7,000 employees, including major players like Call Box, Cyber City, Global Connect, Sutherland, Western Wats, and our host, Concentrix. (applause) Indeed, Davao has come a long way as far as ICT is concerned.

Actually, the Philippines itself has come a long way since January 2001. Many have forgotten much about that tumultuous time almost ten years ago. But at that time, the nation was on the brink of political chaos and financial bankruptcy.

The economy was jammed in reverse. Few investments were being made, few jobs were being created. The debt of the government and its corporations of 3.6 trillion pesos was bigger than our GDP of 3.3 trillion pesos. There were almost no foreign reserves.

It was a time of lower salaries and higher prices. Tax revenues were so low that we could hardly invest in expanding healthcare, improving education, and providing clean water and needed electricity to remote barangays.

Into this dismal picture we stepped. I did not seek the Office of the President in 2001; it was thrust upon me. But rather than shirk from this onerous task, we rolled up our sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around.

We were focused like a laser beam on delivering better real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. But as an economist, I knew that to reverse years of economic decline we had to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy, and invest in human and physical infrastructure like the completion of the modern Davao International Airport.

These actions would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver an unprecedented 36 quarters of uninterrupted growth, create 9 million new jobs, add 53 million people to healthcare, with government coffers that helped us withstand the global economic crisis.

In my first State of the Nation Address in 2001, I said that we would create wealth by developing the labor-intensive, skills-intensive services such as ICT. From scratch with only 2,000 workers in year 2000, we created what is today a global powerhouse: the Philippine BPO industry. We achieved this by promoting strategic investments in three areas:

First, digital infrastructure. We encouraged more broadband services in cities and identified growth areas. Thus the cost of international calls went down from 40 cents to 2 cents a minute for those using VOiP. The number of internet users jumped from 2 million in year 2000 to more than 24 million today.

And so that no Taiwan tremor or tsunami can cut off our cyber services from their global clients, we encouraged PLDT and Globe to invest billions in having more than one international telecommunications gateway into the country. Here in Davao all BPO facilities are supported by Bayantel, PLDT and Smart which offer broadband connection with resiliency and redundancy. So if one system fails the others are still there. In fact in 2008, PLDT upgraded its network facilities for several IT-BPO locations in Mindanao.

The second area of investments was an appropriate legal and policy environment. We created the Commission on ICT headed now by Chairman Rey Chua, over here. Are you the youngest Cabinet member or is Durano younger than you? You're the youngest. But that's the reason why because ICT is an industry of the young people. So CICT was guided by the policy that the ICT sector should be guided by the market, not by government interference. Maybe by government support but not interference.

For example, if the market calls for call centers, then we should not force the investors to specialize in programming. So instead of regulating, we gave incentives to developers of IT parks like this one. We assisted investors in identifying promising provincial sites, ergo the Cyber Corridor and as part of what I'm doing now is to let the people know, the investment community know that there is Davao part of the Cyber Corridor. And we built more transport facilities to those sites where Davao International Airport is crucial, was crucial in the choice of Davao as part of the Cyber Corridor.

So this philosophy of encouraging rather than regulating drove the fast growth of call centers. But now the market is also leading to the growth of higher value added segments of the offshoring and outsourcing industries, like accounting, legal services. Legal services like a lawyer, a law firm in America will send to somebody here assignments for legal research, for example, so that is certainly higher value added because you are a researcher but you are not doing this for someone in Davao City, you are doing this for somebody in Dallas, Texas or something like that. The same thing with medical and personnel and administrative services. And of course engineering design, we are such creative people, we don't have to travel abroad and get a job, working in an architecture office in another country because we can do that right here or somebody else in another country.

And IT services software development that is a growing area for the Philippines. Just the other day we inaugurated the IT Center of one of the Top 21 in the world, UST Global. And the Chairman of the Board said in his speech that he had met me in 2007 in one of my trips to the United States. I mean, it was actually... it was in fact part of my trip which as always an investment promotion meeting and he was one of them. And what he really liked about the Philippines among many others that I mentioned earlier, one very important factor was we have a good Intellectual Property Protection regime. So that's a policy environment that promotes investments.

Third, the development of human capital. To increase the country's share in the global market for offshoring and outsourcing services, the government intensified the implementation of various programs that will train its workforce to enable them to find jobs in the BPO sector, and to educate the young on the use of computers and internet for the next generation of IT/BPO workers. So more than 4,000 public schools are now connected to the internet, including 57 schools in Davao City. In technical education and skills training, we have invested three times as much as the combined budgets of three previous administrations. A very large portion of this investment goes to scholarships for the BPO industry, including more than 4,000 in Region IX.

The other day, Secretary Buboy Syjuco of TESDA, forwarded to me a text message from one of those 4,000 saying, "Thanks, Secretary Syjuco because I was one of the scholars and now I'm in Concentrix." There you are, that's Sarah Genial. That's why we decided to have this event here in Concentrix so we could see where Sarah is now training. So thanks to these strategic investments, billions in private investments poured into the country, creating half a million new jobs in BPO alone.

Today, the Philippines with 90 million people has challenged India's one billion population for BPO supremacy. Compared to almost nothing in 2001, 0.02 billion dollars, our BPO industry now earns more than 7 billion dollars, not far behind India's 9 billion dollars for call centers.

And the 500,000 jobs that we're creating in ICT are to me part of the legacy that I will leave. And this is a legacy I'd like to think of hard work, a strong and stable economy, renewed global engagement, major investment in healthcare and education, and dramatic improvements in human and physical infrastructure.

Much work remains to be done, but I'm determined to turn over to a new government a new Philippines ready for the challenge of bringing the nation to the verge of first world in 20 years.

And how do we do that? You know 200 years ago there was the... or more than that the Agriculture Revolution, then there was the Industrial Revolution. Now we have the Knowledge Revolution and that's the way to bring us to the first world. And I'm glad that Davao is part of that corridor that will lead us to the first world.

Congratulations to all of you!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Cyber Corridor Mindanao Tour: Visit to Concentrix. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235053/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27449&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Cyber Corridor Visayan Tour: Visit to Qualfon Philippines Quality Contact Services

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Cyber Corridor Visayan Tour: Visit to Qualfon Philippines Quality Contact Services**

[Delivered at the Skyrise 3 Bldg., Asiatown IT Park, Lahug, Cebu City, Cebu, February 3, 2010]

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Secretary Rey Chua for your introduction.

I'd also like to thank Mayor Tommy Osmeña for your kind words of welcome to your city. To acknowledge also Governor Gwen Garcia in the province of Cebu who are partners with Ayala in this development project here. Of course, Mr. Monera, Mr. Belen, thank you for your presentation.

I'd like to introduce aside from Rey Chua the other members of the Cabinet who are here. We've our new Press Secretary, Cris Iban; we have Secretary Boboy Syjuco whose TESDA has been invaluable in developing the manpower for the ICT and BPO industry; and Secretary Ric Saludo, our spokesperson aside from being the Executive Director of the Reconstruction Commission on typhoons Ondoy, Pepeng and Frank which fortunately does not have to include Cebu in the reconstruction.

Members of the media whom I especially invited to be here today. You are actually the guest of honor because we are doing this for you making this presentation. IT executives especially our hosts from Qualfon, ladies and gentlemen.

I am very happy to be here in Cebu City. We always talked about Cebu as the most popular destination for foreign tourists in our country, but you are two things, not just the most popular destination for foreign tourists in our country but number one in the Tholons list of emerging cities for IT and BPO. So, congratulations!

And so today for once we are not here as a tourist. We are here on a tour but a tour of the Super Regions again, not the Tourism Super Region of which you are a part but of the Cyber Tourism Region. But just to refresh everyone's mind, our Super Regions are: Agribusiness Mindanao, Tourism Central Philippines of which Cebu is such an important part, the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, the Urban Luzon Beltway and the Cyber Corridor which we want now to stress Cebu is also an integral part. We designed this Super Regions to spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Manila.

The Cyber Corridor was identified by the private sector, the academe and government together as the corridor that comprises the strongest potential and actual locations for ICT investments like call centers, back office, software development, medical transcription, engineering design, animation and game development. It includes 10 urban areas being promoted as new destinations for ICT: Metro Laguna, Metro Cavite, Iloilo, Davao, Bacolod, Metro Pampanga, Metro Bulacan, Cagayan de Oro, Central Bulacan and Lipa, and of course, the two original Philippine ICT Centers of Excellence: Manila and Cebu.

But I should say as far as Tholons is concerned, they have listed among the top 50: Quezon City, Pasig and Mandaluyong but they listed number one Cebu City, so I should say Cebu City and Metro Manila. So to be in that

survey of the “Top 50 Emerging Global Outsourcing Destinations,” and as Mr. Belen pointed out, better than many of those world capitals that we all read about in the front pages. And why do they put Cebu as number one? According to Tholons, it’s mainly due to the scale and quality of the workforce, of the modern infrastructure, of the business catalysts, of the risk profile, and the cost and quality of life.

So that is why we should not be surprised that there are now, what? Seventy, I was surprised outsourcing and offshoring companies here. I knew there were more than 50 but 70 is a very big number employing more than 20,000 individuals. It is attractive to investors because of the high quality of the graduates from nine universities and 50 colleges. And because also our administration has invested in or promoted the necessary infrastructure support to create a better business environment for Cebu.

Aside from miles and miles of roads, there is now three-fourths completed a 200-megawatt power plant expected to be finished next year. And as we can see from this IT Asiatown, Class A facilities are available to accommodate BPO-IT locators in Cebu.

I was supposed to sign today ceremonially the Cebu Business Park, that would be still another location but the paper work wasn’t completed. So anyway, that’s another one upcoming and when entering this and entering that I’m sure when it is completed, it’s really like entering the first world, isn’t it? So world class, congratulations to Cebu!

Mr. Belen said, he pointed out about your industry, how it’s gone long way since early 2001, and indeed I can say that about the entire Philippines.

The Philippines has come a long way since January 2001. Most of you probably don’t remember much about that time anymore, the tumultuous time ten years ago. Many of you may have forgotten that at that time the nation was on the brink of political chaos and financial bankruptcy. That the economy was jammed in reverse. That few investments were being made. That few jobs were being created and maybe, many are not aware that at that time, the debt of the government and its corporations of 3.6 trillion pesos was bigger than our GDP of 3.3 trillion pesos. There were almost no foreign reserves.

It was a time of lower salaries and high prices. Tax revenues were so low that we could hardly invest in expanding healthcare, improving education, and providing clean water and needed electricity to remote barangays.

Into this dismal picture we stepped. I didn’t seek the Office of the President in 2001; it was thrust upon me. But rather than shirk from this onerous task, we rolled up our sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around.

We were focused like a laser beam on delivering real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. As an economist, I knew that to reverse years of economic decline we had to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy and invest in human and physical infrastructure like roads. Like I remember that road to the south, from Cebu to Santander. You know my grandfather built that road when he was working for the... well, at that time, the American administration. And when I came here in 2001, oh! it was so ugly. So I decided now... 2004. So 2004, we started constructing that road, now it’s not an ugly road anymore, it’s a beautiful road. And then the Cansaga bridge which is going to make the northern part of Cebu, also very accessible especially given that the second biggest employer in the country is there, Mitsumi in Danao City. It used to be the biggest employer, it’s now the second because it got beaten by a BPO teletech. It’s now the biggest employer in our country.

And then, we also built the RORO Nautical Highway System. So these thing, all these actions would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver an unprecedented 36 quarters of uninterrupted growth, create 9 million new jobs, add 53 million people to healthcare, with government coffers that helped us withstand the global economic crisis.

In my first State of the Nation Address in 2001, after your very important ICT Conference here in Cebu City, I said that we would create wealth by developing the labor-intensive, skills-intensive sectors such as ICT. From scratch with only 2,000 workers in year 2000, we created what is today a global powerhouse: the Philippine BPO industry. And we promoted this... we achieved this by promoting strategic investments in three areas:

First, digital infrastructure. We encouraged more broadband services in cities and identified growth areas. Thus the cost of international calls went down from 40 cents a minute to 2 cents a minute for those using the VOiP. The number of internet users jumped from 2 million in 2000 to more than 24 million today. No wonder we had the stage set for BPO. And so that no Taiwan tremor or tsunami can cut off our cyber services from their clients for even one minute, we encouraged PLDT and Globe to invest billions in having more than one international telecommunications gateway.

For instance, Ayala who is partner with the province in this IT Park, has built an international gateway from Ballesteros, Cagayan going all the way up to Manila and then to the rest of the Philippines, so that if there's a tremor somewhere else and the other gateway collapses that is still there. And that is one very important reason why investors come to the Philippines, they know there'll be not a single minute of service interruption even if there is a calamity somewhere in the region.

Second area of investment was an appropriate policy and legal environment. We created the Commission on ICT, appointed Rey Chua with the guidance that the ICT sector should be guided by the market, with minimal government interference. For example, if the market calls for call centers, we should not force them to specialize in doing something else like programming or software development. Let the market determine that. So instead of regulating, we gave incentives to developers of IT parks like this, assisted investors in identifying promising provincial sites hence our cyber corridor, and built more transport facilities to those sites.

This philosophy drove the fast growth of call centers. Now the market is leading to the growth of higher value added segments of the offshoring and outsourcing industries, like accounting, legal, medical, personnel and administrative services. And also, the very high end IT services themselves. I saw in your chart that IT has been here since a long, long time ago. But now, it is expanding again in an explosive magnitude. And the other day, we inaugurated an IT center in Global City in Taguig and the Chairman of the Board who is one of the company, UST Global, which is one of the top 21 IT companies in the world said that the reason why he decided to come to the Philippines after he met me on one of my trips to New York in 2007, was that he was convinced and he's still convinced that we have a good intellectual property protection environment. So an enabling environment rather than an environment that dictates to the investors what sector they should specialize in.

Third area of major strategic investment, the development of human capital. To increase the country's share in the global market for offshoring and outsourcing services, the government intensified the implementation of programs that will train the workforce to enable them to find jobs in the BPO and also to educate the young on the use of computers and internet for the next generation of IT and BPO workers. That's why more than 4,000 public schools now are connected to the internet, including 117 schools in Metro Cebu. And that was the job that my daughter used to have when she came here to Cebu in 2005, she was the Executive Director of an NGO called FITEd, Foundation for IT Education, because we were putting internet and computers in the schools that teachers had to be taught how to use that. And that was part of my daughter's work until she moved over to the environment field. She is now to the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

In technical education and skills training, we have invested three times as much as the combined budgets of three previous administrations. A very large portion of this goes to scholarships for the BPO industry, including more than 8,000 scholarships here in Region VII. So thanks to these strategic investments, billions have been poured into the country by investors creating half a million new jobs in BPO alone.

So today, the Philippines with its 90 million people has challenged India's one billion population for BPO supremacy. Compared to \$0.02 billion in 2001 or almost nothing, our BPO industry earned 7.3 billion dollars in 2009. And I must congratulate Cebu because you are a center of excellence, one of only two and a bigger center of excellence than any city in Metro Manila.

The 500,000 jobs created in the ICT are part of the legacy that I am honored to leave, and I'm happy to say and I hope you will agree with me, that this is a legacy of hard work, a strong economy, a stable economy, renewed global engagement, major investments in healthcare and education, and dramatic improvements in physical and human infrastructure.

Much remains to be done, but I am determined to turn over to a new government a New Philippines ready for the challenge of bringing the nation to the verge of first world in 20 years. When we entered this IT park, I said, “Wow! it’s like we’re in the first world.” So, Cebu and this IT park are a forerunner of the first world Philippines in 20 years. Congratulations to all of you!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the Cyber Corridor Visayan Tour: visit to Qualfon Philippines Quality Contact Services. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235108/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27448&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the International Autism Conference

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the International Autism Conference**

[Delivered at the Plenary Hall, PICC, Pasay City, February 3, 2010]

Thank you very much, Secretary Cabral. Thank you.

Dr. Reyes, Dr. Amaral, Dr. Shih, Lynda, Dr. Marnan, and I think we have our new Secretary of Social Welfare and Development Celia Yangco here. I'd like to acknowledge also the first cousin of Lynda Borromeo, Secretary Ed Paminutan, who is Chairman of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development and who in that capacity is helping Lynda obtain a property in the Clark Economic Zone for the Autism Center of Asia. I'd like to also acknowledge the presence of one of Espie Cabral's predecessor, Dr. Quasi Romualdez, former Secretary of Health.

I welcome to the Philippines all the participants in this conference. And also for the Filipinos, welcome also to Manila! Welcome to this conference!

It's a great honor for our country to host this first ever International Autism Conference. So, to Autism Hearts Philippines and its program partners, Autism Speaks, UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute, the Philippine Society of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, and the Autism Society of the Philippines, for gathering in this conference some of the world's best neuroscientists and medical professionals, educators and psychologists to share with us the advances made in research and intervention on Autism Spectrum Disorder. Congratulations to all of you!

We are especially thankful to Dr. David Amaral and his team's support for the public information campaign on this disorder.

This conference also launches the Global Autism Public Health Initiative in the Philippines to increase public and professional awareness of ASD, particularly on early detection and treatment as well as service delivery by those looking after ASD patients.

Indeed, there is a need for everyone in the world to better understand autism, so that those afflicted with it, and their families, may be given more sympathy, reassurance and hope. In this age of speedy technological developments and miracle drugs, we hope science can soon find answers to prevent if not permanently cure ASD.

Autism Speaks, the world's largest autism science and advocacy group, has built up enough influence to convince the UN to endorse the holding of a World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd. Congratulations for that! And also to convince individuals and nations to contribute substantial amounts for research in ASD.

With the establishment of GAPH Philippines, we are taking another significant step to gain the Filipino people's support for a disorder that afflicts half a million Filipinos. Of the half-million Filipinos with autism, only around 2 percent are undergoing regular treatment, although surely most of them are being given tender loving care by their family members. And here in the Philippines, we are very proud of our medical doctors and scientists. They are eager to learn from these discussions and to share what they have learned.

Filipino doctors and medical personnel are famous and well in demand all over the world. And on top of their competence, Filipino doctors and the rest of our people have an ample supply of heart — empathy for the sick and the distressed. We are a very caring people, which is why our caregivers are among the most in-demand in the world. And we have many specialists in various diseases as well as hospitals whose level of medical expertise and facilities rank among the best in Asia. That is why we are confident that as we have more awareness and interest in autism, whatever special treatment may be required, there will always be or there will emerge excellent Filipino doctors and other medical staff to provide it with quality care.

Competence, dedication, tender loving care — they collectively constitute effective treatment not only of physical illnesses but also of other ailments, even social and economic ills. I can cite as illustration the turnaround our economy has enjoyed in the past decade.

The Philippines has come a long way since January 2001. Time has gratefully erased many memories of that tumultuous time less than ten years ago, when the nation teetered on the brink of political chaos and financial bankruptcy. The public sector debt at that time of 3.6 trillion pesos was larger than the Gross Domestic Product of 3.3 trillion pesos. For our people at that time, it was a time of great difficulty and because tax revenues were very low, insufficient investments could be made to expand healthcare. And into this dismal picture we stepped in.

I did not seek the Office of the Presidency in 2001. It was thrust upon me. But, rather than shirk from this onerous task, I rolled up my sleeves and went to work determined to turn the Philippines around.

We focused like a laser beam on delivering real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. But as an economist, I knew that to be able to do this, we had to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy, and invest in physical and human infrastructure, which includes healthcare.

From day one, these actions would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver an unprecedented 36 consecutive quarters of growth, the creation of 9 million new jobs, a stable fiscal situation, and the addition of 53 million Filipinos to healthcare especially PhilHealth. And so, therefore, I am happy that as we have taken care, I believe, to a large extent of basic public health we can now work on something that afflicts half a million Filipinos.

I am happy that Autism Hearts Philippines is closely linked with other similar organizations worldwide and that it is playing a major role in linking up with other ASD-related groups in Asia.

As our economy regains its growth momentum, I am more optimistic than ever that more public and private investments will be poured into the different areas of public health, as well as into continuing research on special disorders and diseases.

I'm proud of my husband Mike has put in a lot of effort and done his part in addressing the problem of Autism in the Philippines. And I trust that with the participation of experts as knowledgeable and determined as many of our speakers today, the ASD public awareness campaign will soon take off and we will eventually muster enough support to establish finally that ASD Institute here in Asia right there in our home province of Pampanga in Clark.

To all of you, have a good conference. Mabuhay! And thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the International Autism Conference.

Retrieved

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100505232745/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27413&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the Extension Building of Sentro ng Karunungan Vocational Institute

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of the Extension Building of Sentro ng Karunungan Vocational Institute renamed
Honorio Lopez Technical Institute**

[Delivered at the Brgys. 232 & 234, Zones 21 & 22, Tayuman, Tondo, Manila, February 5, 2010]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Congressman Lopez sa iyong imbitasyon, sa iyong pagpaliwanag, sa inyong pag welcome sa akin.

Binabati ko rin si Mayor Lim, si Congressman Asilo, yung ibat-ibang opisyal ng pamahalaan at lahat ng mga opisyal na narito, pati na rin lalo na yung mga kabataan na nag-aaral dito. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Nagalak akong makabisita nitong bagong pinangalan na Honorio Lopez Technical Institute. Maganda yung pangalang technical dahil linalarawan ang pangangailangan ngayon itong ating panahong ito. Ang eskwelahang ito ay gaya nang sabi ni Congressman ilang taon na. At marami nang natulungan, mga kabataan at kahit yung hindi gaanong kabataan natulungan upang magkaroon ng disentang trabaho. Nakita natin kanina yung Fashion Jewelry Making, Cosmetology, Hair Science, Reflexology, Hotel and Restaurant Services, Food Trades, Baking pati Cell Phone Repair at Maintenance, at Computer Technician at Computer Literacy.

Karangalan ko na halos isang libo na mga scholars dito ay scholars ng Pangulong Gloria. Ito ay yung sa mga Food and Beverage, Barista, Manggugupit, Masahista, Motorcycle Repair, Carpentry, Plumbing, Masonry, Welding at darating, magbubukas at Culinary Arts.

This is very important dahil ang pundasyon ng oportunidad ay edukasyon at sa edukasyon napakaimportante ang technical and vocational education. Ito ay susi... ang edukasyon ay susi sa mas magandang buhay. At sa mga panahong ito ang malakas na edukasyon ay dapat kasama ng malakas na backbone ng teknolohiya. Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan na may kurso dito na Computer Technician at Computer Literacy. Congratulations!

Because we have to build the mind and we have to connect to the world. Edukasyon at teknolohiya, yan ang magkambal na gabay kung saan inaasahan ang ating kinabukasan, kinabukasan ng ating bansa. Kaya napakalaki ang puhunan natin sa edukasyon at skills training. Salamat na rin sa mga congressmen gaya ni Congressman Lopez na siya ay congressman mula nung ako ay nagsimula bilang pangulo. Mula sa 90 billion pesos bago sa ating administrasyon, ang budget ng DepEd, TESDA, CHED at mga state universities and colleges ay nagdoble, naging 180 billion pesos.

Hindi lang ito ang layo nang naabot, buong Pilipinas malayo na ang naabot mula Enero 2001. Salamat at nabura na ng panahon ang maraming ala-ala tungkol sa napakagulong panahon na yun wala pang sampung taong nakaraan, nang ang bansa ay nasa dulo ng lubhang kaguluhan sa pulitika at pagkabangkarote sa pananalapi.

Ipit paurong noon ang ekonomiya. Kunti lang ang puhunan pumapasok, kunti lang ang trabaho linilikha. Ang utang ng pamahalaan sektor na 3.6 trillion pesos ay higit pa kaysa sa ating GDP ng 3.3 trillion pesos. Halos walang dolyar.

Panahon noon ng mas mababang mga sweldo at mas matataas na presyo. At sa napakababang kita sa buwis, halos hindi makapuhunan sa pagpapalawak ng kalinga sa kalusugan, pag-ibayo ng edukasyon, at kailangang kuryente sa malalayong barangay.

Sa miserableng eksenang ito pumasok tayo. Hindi ko hinabol ang Panguluhan noong 2001; hinulog ng langit. But we rolled up our sleeves buong loob na mabaliktad ang landas ng Pilipinas.

Nakatukoy tayo parang laser beam, upang maghatid ng mga tunay na resulta para pag-ibayuhin ang mga buhay ng mga karaniwang Pilipino. Bilang ekonomista, alam ko na upang mabawi ang pag-urong ng ekonomiya kailangan-kailangang lagyan ng disiplina sa kaban ng bayan, kaya salamat na rin sa ating mga congressmen gumawa tayo ng tax reforms kahit na hindi popular ito.

At kailangan ito para palakihin ang ekonomiya at mamuhunan sa tao at sa imprastraktura. Halimbawa, yung mga imprastrakturang ginawa natin dito, yung dredging ng mouth ng Pasig River, yan ang isang dahilan kung bakit mabilis bumaba sa Maynila ang baha kahit na noong napakaraming ulan sa bagyong Ondoy dahil yun sa imprastraktura natin sa Maynila.

Ang mga gawaing ito ay humubog ng mga building blocks sa pagbabago na nagdala ng 'di pa nangyari nung araw na 36 quarters na walang patid na pagsulong ng ekonomiya. Naglikha tayo ng siyam na milyong bagong trabaho, sana makaabot ng sampung milyon pagkatapos ng ating administrasyon. At nagdagdag ng 52 million katao sa kalinga sa kalusugan, at matatag pa rin ang kaban ng bansa kahit na namuhunan tayo doon sa mga yun dahil nga sa ating mga reporma sa buwis.

At kasama dito nagtayo tayo ng isandaang libong silid-aralan kasi gusto natin Education for All. Kinekwento nga ni Congressman Lopez na yung konti lang ang nagga-graduate doon sa mga nagsisimula pero ang Education for All ibig sabihin ng UN Millennium Development Goals universal primary education.

Mas malubha pa nga ang problema dahil 58% lang ng mga 6 years old ang pumapasok sa eskwela, kaya kailangan natin papasukin sila. Yung iba dahil malayo ang eskwela, halimbawa, naalala ko doon sa aking probinsyang Pampanga nagpunta ako, nagbukas ng isang eskwela sa isang... ah, no, binisita ko yung isang barangay sa bundok ng mga Aeta. Merong isang nagpunta doon na nag-attend at kwinento na sa akin dalawang oras siyang naglakad mula sa kanyang barangay dahil wala siyang eskwela doon. Kaya nagtayo tayo ng eskwela doon, kaya nagtayo tayo nang ganun mga eskwela sa mga isang libong barangay kung saan nung araw walang eskwela.

At para rin hindi masyado magastos pumasok tinanggal natin yung miscellaneous fees sa public primary school, 'di ba Superintendent? I hope you're carrying that out. At hindi kailangan mag-uniporme, optional ang uniporme. Kung mas mura bumili ng uniporme, okay. Kung mas mura mag t-shirt, okay. At sa isang milyong pinakamahirap na pamilya sa ating bansa sa "Pantawid Pamilya" program may allowance itong mga isang milyong pinakamahirap na pamilya sa kundisyon pumasok sa eskwela ang kanilang mga anak.

Para lumawak din ang edukasyon nagdagdag tayo ng 60,000 na guro at tinaas pa ang kanilang sweldo. At naglaan tayo ng 1.5 billion pesos para sa teacher training, especially for English teachers. We increased the use of English as a medium of instruction from 40% to 55% in grade school, from 45% to 70% in high school because we have to return our competitiveness and advantage in English. At dahil sa kailangang teknolohiya, we increased Science and Mathematics hours by 50%.

Etong mga pinaggastusan natin ay hindi lamang sa public school because in private schools, almost half of the students are there on scholarship by the government. And especially in Science and Engineering, we provided college and post-graduate education for over 600,000 scholars.

Sa technical education and skills training naman, yung kwinento nga ni Congressman Lopez na pinuhunan natin ng malaki ang TESDA at iba pa sa skills training. Actually, gaano kalaki? It is as much as three previous administrations combined, yan ang linagay natin sa technical education.

Kaya meron halos isang libong mga scholars dito sa Honorio Lopez Technical Institute. Bilang resulta ng ating mga pinuhunan, the National Achievement Test scores went up from 44% to 65% in elementary schools and 36% to 47% in high school, better than before but still needing improvement.

That is why we remain dedicated in our last months in office to promoting, advancing, pushing for more and better education and better technological infrastructure. We have come far in both, but we still have far to go and we must not rest. We will continue hands-on governance until the day we leave office. We're both leaving office, di ba, Congressman? We will focus on three areas:

One, bringing more power and growth to each region to decongest Manila. Yan ang isa sa ating mga hangad.

Two, continue to promote the importance of the three E's: education, the economy and the environment to our effort to create sustainable and equitable development.

Third, a continuous focus on the youth of our nation as our best hope for a brighter, better Philippines.

We have made progress in many areas, but more needs to be done. Everything our government has worked hard to achieve has been to make the future brighter for the next generation of Filipinos. The youth of our nation are our hope and inspiration. Everything we do must be to build a better life for each and every young person in this nation.

While I am proud of what our government has achieved, past achievement is only as good as the ability of the nation to grow and prosper. I fervently desire that the progress we have made will not stop; that what remains to be done will be picked up by the next generation of leadership.

As a nation, we must set our sights firmly on the future, to build on what is good and work even harder to meet the challenges of what remains to be done. And the young of our nation, gaya nung mga nag-aaral dito sa technical institute na ito, they are the bridge between the past and the future. It is for them that we right the wrongs, fight for change and seek to make a brighter day.

As I said, our nation has come far, but it still has far to go. And the youth represent the aspirations of our nation. It is to them that we dedicate the efforts of our government to lift up the Philippines.

I have a deep desire to see a brighter future for the hardworking men and women of this nation. Most important, I have an abiding interest in seeing that the young people today come into their own, seize the value of education and modernity, and use these tools to advance themselves and the nation.

Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na meron tayong mga institusyon gaya nitong Honorio Lopez Technical Institute, malaking tulong ito para sa kinabukasan ng ating bansa.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the inauguration of the Extension Building of Sentro ng Karunungan Vocational Institute renamed Honorio Lopez Technical Institute. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100505232734/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27470&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Urban Luzon Beltway Tour: Visit to the University of Batangas

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Urban Luzon Beltway Tour: Visit to the University of Batangas**

[Delivered at the Multi-purpose Gymnasium, University of Batangas, Batangas City, Batangas, February 8, 2010]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Pamintuan, ang ating champion ng Urban Luzon Beltway sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Maraming salamat din at congratulations, University President Nani Perez sa iyong welcome at sa iyong pagkapangulo dito; at maraming salamat Vice President Noli de Castro dahil usually ang Presidente at Vice President hindi nagkakasama sa isang okasyon pero dahil importanteng-importante itong ginagawa natin dito, nandito si Vice President Noli de Castro.

Salamat rin, Congressman Dodo Mandanas na kasama ko mula pang Maynila, congressman dito sa distrito ninyo, sa iyong pagdalo dito sa ating pag-uusap sa Urban Luzon Beltway kung saan hindi ka pa gobernador ay malaki na ang ginawa mo tungkol dito.

Binabati ko rin ang mag-ama, si Congressman Dong Mendoza at saka si Secretary Larry Mendoza. At siyempre, Mayor Dimacuja, maraming salamat sa iyong very kind welcome remarks. Naalala ko nung pinaplano pa lahat ito, hindi pa nga ako presidente, di pa vice president, senador pa ako o undersecretary, pumunta ako sa bahay ni Mayor Dimacuja para kumain ng breakfast doon na hindi imbitado, naalala mo ‘yun, Eddie? Okay.

At gusto ko ipakilala ang bagong Press Secretary, si Jun Icban. At ‘yung pinapawisan dahil sinabi ni Nani kailangan matapos ng Mayo ‘yung inyong “bridge of promise,” si Vic Domingo, Secretary of Public Works. Tinatanong namin ni Noli de Castro kay Congressman Mandanas, ba’t ba tinawag na “bridge of promise” ‘yun? Kasi sabi ni Dodo, matagal na matagal nang pinapangako ‘yun, ang tagal bago natupad. Kaya ngayon kung matutupad ni Vic Domingo ‘yung hinihiling ni Nani na maaga matapos, kailangan tawaging “bridge of fulfillment.”

Sa inyong lahat, mga opisyal ng Batangas University, mga guro at mga estudyante, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Ako’y natutuwa na nakaparito rito sa inyong unibersidad upang talakayin ang tinatawag nating Urban Luzon Beltway. Una sa lahat, kasi napakalaki ang papel ng Batangas Port sa Urban Luzon Beltway at napakalaki ang papel ng dating Secretary of Transportation, si Nani Perez, sa pagkonsepto ng Urban Luzon Beltway. At naalala ko nga noong panahon ‘yun, inaayos din natin ‘yung relocation, kaya si Dodo inimbita pa ako doon dahil nga siyempre gusto natin na humanitarian ang kaunlaran.

Isang dahilan ako’y nasisiyahan kung bakit nakapunta dito kasi hindi ako nakapunta noong na-install si University President Nani bilang pangulo ng Batangas University kaya kahit na nahuli nandito ako para bumati at mag-congratulate. At double ang congratulations kasi hindi pa nga ako nakapunta dito, si Nani nagpunta na sa Malacañang dahil doon tinanggap niya ‘yung Certificate ng Deregulated Status ng Batangas University.

Malaki talaga ang karangalan sa akin, gaya ng sabi ni Nani, na 'yung sinimula niyang proyekto lalo na 'yung Batangas Port ay natupad sa ating administration kaya congratulations sa ating lahat.

Nagpapasalamat din ako sa inyong University President dahil malaki ang tulong niya kasama ni Larry Mendoza noong EDSA Dos, at pagkatapos nung EDSA Dos, si Larry naging chief ng aking PNP at si Nani ay naging cabinet member ko nung January 2001. At malayo na ang naabot ng Pilipinas mula noong Enero 2001. Kayo mga estudyante, maliliit na bata pa kayo noon, 2001. Kaya palagay ko hindi niyo naaalala kung gaano napakagulo 'yung panahon na yun, wala pang sampung taong nakaraan, 'yung bansa ay nasa dulo ng lubhang kaguluhan sa pulitika at pagkakabangkarote ng pananalapi.

Nung panahong 'yun, ipit ang ekonomiya paurong. Kaunti lang ang namumuhunan, kaunti lang ang trabahong linilikha. Ang utang ng pamahalaang sektor ay 3.6 trillion pesos higit pa doon kaysa sa GDP na 3.3 trillion pesos lamang. At halos ubos ang ating dolyar.

Panahon noon mababa ang mga sweldo. Mabilis tumaas ang mga presyo. At sa napakababang kita sa buwis, kulang ang puhunang ginawa para sa pagpalawak ng kalinga sa kalusugan, pag-ibayo ng edukasyon, at kailangang malinis na tubig at kuryente sa malalayong barangay.

Sa miserableng eksenang ito pumasok tayo. Hindi ko hinabol ang Panguluhan noong 2001, kundi hulog ng langit. Ngunit sa halip na umatras sa mahihirap na gawaing ito, we rolled up our sleeves, buo ang loob na mabaliktad ang landas ng Pilipinas.

Nakatutok tayo parang laser beam, upang maghatid ng tunay na resulta para pag-ibayuhin ang mga buhay ng mga karaniwang Pilipino. Bilang ekonomista, alam ko na upang mabawi ang pag-urong ng ekonomiya, kailangan lagyan ng disiplina sa kaban ng bayan, palakihin ang ekonomiya, at mamuhunan sa tao at sa imprastraktura gaya nga ng imprastraktura sa tinatawag nating Urban Luzon Beltway. Yung Batangas Port na nga na sinimulan ni Nani nung siya ay Secretary of Transportation, tinapos natin noong 2007. Ito ay dugtong sa mundo, inaasahan natin bilang international port at bilang RORO port dugtong sa probinsiya ni Vice President Noli de Castro, 'yung Mindoro na merong dalawang RORO port din: 'yung RORO port doon sa Calapan, may magandang kalsada tapos Roxas Port hanggang sa katimugan na ng Pilipinas.

Kasama dito sa ating Urban Luzon Beltway mula sa Batangas Port, gaya ng sabi ni Nani, ay ginawa natin 'yung daan hanggang sa Southern Luzon Arterial Road or STAR na tinapos natin noong 2008. At ngayon naman ay dinudugtong natin 'yung STAR at 'yung Southern Luzon Expressway, kasalukuyang ginagawa at mamaya pagkatapos nito magmo-motorcade tayo mula sa Batangas Port hanggang sa dulo ng STAR kung saan patapos na 'yung connection hanggang sa SLEX.

Ang SLEX naman ay pinapalawak natin, halos tapos na, di ba, Vic? Tapos na nga, tapos na nga, kakatapos lang. Ang koneksyon ng SLEX sa North Luzon Expressway or NLEX ay gagawin or ginagawa sa pamamagitan ng tinatayang highway mula sa C-5 hanggang sa Valenzuela Exit ng NLEX, 'yun pupuntahan bukas.

Ang NLEX naman ay pinalawak noong 2005 hanggang umaabot sa Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway or SCTEX na binuksan natin noong 2008; at ang Subic Port na ginagawa rin nating world-class, nagawa nung 2008. Sa mga dulo ng beltway dito sa southern part, 'yung STAR ay dinugtong din sa San Juan, Batangas, sa distrito ni Larry at saka ni Dong, dahil dinugtong sa RORO Port ng Sa Juan, Batangas na dinugtong naman sa pinag-ibayo nating mga RORO ports sa Marinduque patuloy sa Lucena. At doon naman sa Norte, ang SCTEX ay dinugtong sa Tarlac-Nueva Ecija-Aurora Road hanggang sa Dingalan Port sa Aurora. Yan ang ating tinatawag na Urban Luzon Beltway.

Si Noli, sasama sa akin sa helicopter sana pero nagdecide siya na magkokotse na lamang pero halos pareho ang biyahe namin. Ang bilis-bilis sabi ni Noli, alam naman niyo ito dahil nagbibiyahe kayo. Ang gulat niya, ang bilis ng biyahe mula sa Manila hanggang dito sa Batangas City. The STAR reduced the Batangas City-Lipa travel from one hour to just a few minutes, mas alam niyo ito kaysa sa akin.

And the soon to be completed SLEX-STAR Road, which is the Sto. Tomas- Calamba Road will reduce travel time from Batangas Port to Alabang by an hour. Palagay ko puwede niyong paniwalaan kasi nakita niyong bumaba ng isang oras ‘yung biyahe papuntang Batangas dahil sa STAR maniniwala kayong ganun din ang mangyayari dahil sa STAR-SLEX connection. At dahil pinalawak natin ‘yung SLEX, inaayos na ‘yung traffic sa Manila hanggang sa Calamba. At dahil doon, mas maraming tao ay nagdesisyon na tumira na lamang sa suburban Laguna kahit na sila ay nagtrabaho sa Maynila. ‘Yung C5-NLEX highway naman sa Norte ganun din, undergoing construction. Ito rin ay babawasan ‘yung travel time between North and Southern Luzon by half an hour. ‘Yung NLEX expansion, ‘yung travel time mula sa Balintawak hanggang Clark ay hinati kaya ‘yung mga nagtrabaho sa NCR, marami roon ay nakatira na rin sa mga suburbs sa Norte gabi-gabi kaya nadedecongest ang Maynila.

Lahat nito ay ginawa na... all these made housing projects outside of Metro Manila where land is cheaper and the lifestyle more conducive to the family viable. At dahil dito, we have also ensured that more and more families are able to own a home. Sa ating administrasyon doon sa department ni Vice President Noli de Castro, halos kalahating milyong murang pabahay ang naitayo at nagbigay ng ganoong karaming pamilya sa buong bansa ng pagkakataong makamit ang kanilang hangarin mag may-ari ng tahanan. At higit sa 300,000 dito ay nasa bandang Urban Luzon Beltway. Doon nga sa waresite, sabi ko kay Noli, magbibisita tayo ng isang housing project sa bandang NLEX, para ipakita kung gaano ang dami ng mga housing development ay lumabas na sa Maynila.

Doon naman sa kabila, sa Norte, for a long time Subic and Clark had been left idle. They were mere ghosts of their past glory, they were undeveloped assets, they were a painful reminder of the loss of the strategic importance of the Philippines, they were as empty as our foreign relations.

Pero ngayon, Subic and Clark — magnet of economic activity. International airlines bring half a million tourists to Clark. At Subic, the biggest world-class ship ever built in the Philippines and among the biggest ever built in the world was launched, followed by others. The SCTEX connects the two economic zones; more than 150,000 jobs have been created.

Sa loob naman ng Kamaynilaan, trabaho ni Larry Mendozang Batangueño, dinugtungan ang riles at magkakabit na ang LRT at MRT mula Monumento hanggang North EDSA. Ang kailangan na lang gawin Larry, di ba, iti-testing na lamang ‘yung pagpatakbo ng mga tren para sigurado na ligtas ‘yung biyahe. At itong tren na ito, ‘yung LRT ay pinaabot rin hanggang Pasig at Marikina, at kinonekta natin and Northrail at Southrail patungong Lucena.

So we have delivered a nationwide transportation system not only in the Urban Luzon Beltway but nationwide, that binds the nation together as never before, so that people and goods can be delivered faster, cheaper and safer from one end of the nation to another.

We have turned around the Government’s dire fiscal situation that was inherited from past administrations. While challenges remain, our government’s finances are in a much healthier position today than nine years ago. Kanina, sinabi ko nung nagsimula tayo, ‘yung utang ng bansa mas malaki pa kaysa sa ating GDP. Ngayon, it is only now 63% of GDP, marami, malaki na tayong naibaba. This has resulted in an improvement in our credit ratings, and today, wala na tayong utang sa IMF.

Bakit? We never shied away from taking on tough issues. Most notably, ‘yung aking popularidad bumagsak nung ako ay... when I went against the grain and championed the passage of the expanded Value Added Tax. Salamat na lang sa mga congressmen kagaya ni Dodong Mandanas na sinuporta tayo doon. We knew it would be unpopular, but someone had to get the nation’s fiscal house in order and bring in revenues, fresh revenues para mamuhunan sa taong bayan. It was the right thing to do. Maayos ang inilingkod sa ating bansa, hindi tayo nagsisisi na ginawa natin yun.

Ang mga gawaing ito ay humubog ng mga building blocks ng pagbabago na nagdala ng di pa nangyaring 36 quarters na walang patid na pagsulong ng ekonomiya, naglikha ng siyam na milyong trabaho, nagdagdag ng 52 milyong katao sa kalinga sa kalusugan, at matatag pa rin ang ating bansa, ang kaban ng bansa.

And for those who refuse to see progress, just look at the skyline of Manila or Clark or Santa Rosa today. It is a skyline with new, modern buildings; construction cranes, better roads, hotels, shopping malls and small businesses. This is the part of the Philippines we have helped nurture and create.

We have made progress in many areas, but more needs to be done. Halimbawa, higit pang dalawang taon bago matapos ang Northrail. Pero ang masasabi ko, lahat ng ginawa ng ating gobyerno na makamit ay para gawing mas matinag ang kinabukasan ng susunod na henerasyon ng mga Pilipino. Kaya narito ako sa inyong eskuwela, upang makipag-ugnayan sa mga kabataan. Ang kabataan ng ating bansa ay ang pag-asa at inspirasyon natin. Lahat ng ating kailangang gawin ay dapat para magtayo ng mas magandang buhay para bawat isa sa mga kabataan ng ating bansa.

At habang ipinagmamalaki natin kung ano ang nagawa ng ating gobyerno, ang mga nakamit sa nakaraan is only as good as the ability of the nation to continue to grow and prosper. Talagang inaasahan natin, ninanais natin na 'yung progreso na ginawa natin ay hindi titigil, na kung ano 'yung nalalabi pang gawin ay will be picked up by the next generation of leadership.

At ang kabataan, kayong mga kabataan ng ating bansa ang tulay sa pamamagitan ng nakaraan at kinabukasan. At para sa inyo, ating mga kabataan ang tinatama natin ang mali, pinaglalaman natin ang pagbabago, at humahanap ng mas matinag na araw. Malayo na ang naabot ng ating bansa, pero malayo pa rin ang dapat abutin at kayo, ating mga kabataan, kinakatawan ninyo ang mga aspirasyon ng ating bansa.

Para sa inyo ating kabataan, dini-dedicate natin ang pagsisikap ng ating bansa na iahon ang Pilipinas. Kaya ako ay nasisiyahan na narito.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Urban Luzon Beltway Tour: Visit to the University of Batangas. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100505232725/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27526&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 10th e-Services Global Sourcing Conference and Exhibition

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 10th e-Services Global Sourcing Conference and Exhibition**

[Delivered at Function Room 1 & 2, SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City, February 8, 2010]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Favila for your introduction.

Secretary Romulo, Alabastro and Chua. Ms. Laskowski, Mr. Dayrit, participants from the local and international industry, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to the Philippines for those of you who are from abroad. I understand two thirds of the foreign delegates are from New York, welcome especially to you!

This event has been going on for ten years, since the start of my administration. I have attended every year because from the beginning, as Secretary Favila said, we declared technology as the foundation of our future economic development, and we declared that we would create wealth by developing the labor-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors such as ICT as the key growth sectors.

And I am glad that today nine years later, we did it.

From scratch, with only 2,000 workers and \$24 million in revenues in year 2000, we have created what is today a global powerhouse: the BPO industry. Almost half a million workers last year, expected to be 600,000 this year; more than \$7 billion in revenues last year, expected to exceed \$9 billion this year. We created this powerhouse for smart business solutions such as what you can offer with vision, determination and smart government policies in three areas:

First, digital infrastructure. We encouraged more broadband services in cities and identified growth areas. Thanks to these investments in connectivity, the cost of international calls went down from 40 cents a minute to 2 cents through VOiP. The number of internet users jumped from two million in year 2000 to more than 24 million today.

And so that no Taiwan tremor or tsunami can cut off our cyber services from their global clients, we encouraged the major telecommunications companies to invest billions in redundancy connections.

The second set of smart policies was an appropriate legal and business environment framework. We created the Cabinet-level Commission on ICT, headed now by Rey Chua, with the philosophy that the ICT sector should be guided by the market, with minimal government interference but rather government encouragement instead of interference. For example, if the market calls for call centers, we shouldn't force the investors to specialize in data management. Instead, we gave incentives to the developers of IT parks, assisted investors in identifying promising provincial sites now known as the Cyber Corridor, which we have been touring the past week and which ends today with this e-Services Conference. And we built more transport facilities to those new sites in the provinces.

This philosophy drove the fast growth of call centers. But now the market is also moving our services towards the higher value added segments of the offshoring and outsourcing industries, namely: the non-voice critical business processes such as software development, engineering design, game development, animation and knowledge process outsourcing. For instance, in animation, don't fail to see the upcoming animated film "Up," proudly Filipino-made.

And it is said that the highest IT value in the world can be found right here in the Philippines, the Deutsche Knowledge Services. It is the leader, the world leader, in terms of its financial services and its technology workflow development.

Third smart policy, the development of human capital. To increase the country's share in the global market for offshoring and outsourcing services, the government intensified the implementation of various programs that will train its workforce to enable them to find jobs in the BPO sector and to educate the young on the use of computers and the internet for the next generation of IT and BPO workers. More than 5,000 of our 6,000 public high schools now have computer laboratories. Almost 4,000 of them are connected to the internet. In technical education and skills training, we have invested 36 billion pesos, or about... well about, almost about 700 million dollars, three times as much as the combined budgets of the three previous administrations.

More than one billion pesos of this investment goes to BPO scholarships. Of this amount, the larger share goes to the skills training program for near hires supervised by the Business Process Association of the Philippines. The training programs dovetail with the trends and changing needs of the industry, so for now we offer programs to close the voice divide.

With all of these developments over the last nine years, I'm so proud that today the Philippines with 90 million people shares with India's one billion population the center stage in BPO supremacy.

As early as 2007... Thank you. As early as 2007, the Philippines was already recognized as the center of excellence in customer service. Last year, for the second time, the United Kingdom awarded the Philippines as the Offshoring Destination of the Year.

And among our cities outside Manila, Cebu is the number one Emerging Outsourcing City in the world, according to Tholons Global Services

Iloilo and Davao were included in KPMG's list of 31 Emerging Outsourcing Destinations in the world. Global brands continue to choose the Philippines as the BPO destination of choice: Accenture, Teletech, Convergys, Genpact, HP, Deutsche Bank — as I mentioned — HSBC, IBM, JP Morgan, Sitel, Sykes, Transcom, to name just a few.

So to my colleagues in government and the private sector who brought the Philippine ICT to where it is now, and to our locators, I thank you.

And to our participants who are still looking, may their success encourage you to come and join the surge of the Philippines as an e-Services powerhouse.

Mabuhay to all of you! And thank you

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 10th e-Services Global Sourcing Conference and Exhibition. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100505232716/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27502&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Education Event: Introduction of expanded pre-school coverage to include children enrolled in Daycare Centers (E.O. 685) [Filipino]

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Education Event: Introduction of expanded pre-school coverage to include children enrolled in
Daycare Centers (E. O. 685)**

[Delivered at the Real Elementary School, Brgy. Real, Calamba City, Laguna, February 9, 2010]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Lapus sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at sa iyong pagpaliwanag kung ano ang ginagawa natin at bakit tungkol sa curriculum ng pre-school.

Maraming salamat din, Governor Lazaro sa iyong welcome remarks at huwag kang mag-alala, hindi ka nahuli, kami ang maagang dumating. Kasi 10 o'clock yung affair natin, wala pang 10 o'clock, maaga tayo lahat. Kaya lang 9:20 kami dumating, kasi ang luwang-luwang na ng SLEX ngayon dahil inayos natin, di ba?

Maraming salamat din, Mayor Chipeco sa iyong welcome remarks at congratulations sa Calamba na siya ang hindi lamang birthplace ni Dr. Jose Rizal, siya rin ang tahanan ng mga maraming industrial estate at siya ngayon ang sentro ng buong CALABARZON. Congratulations!

Maraming salamat din sa 'yung pagdalo dito, Congressman Dan Fernandez, nung umakyat, nag-aapologize din at nahuli. Hindi ka nahuli, maaga kami masyado.

At gusto kong batiin mga kasama kong mga cabinet members. Hindi naman babatiin kasi magkasama kami, basta babanggitin para mas makilala niyo sila. Nakilala na niyo, nagsalita na si Secretary Jing Lapus, ang ating Secretary of Education. Nandito rin si Secretary Jun Iban, ang ating bagong Press Secretary. Nandito rin si Secretary Tessie Aquino-Oreta na siya ang Chair ng Early Childhood Development Council dahil siya rin ang author ng Early Childhood Development Law. At ang tumutulong sa akin dahil napakaraming ahensiya na namamahala sa edukasyon: may DepEd, may CHED, may TESDA, may Regulatory Commission, may DSWD pa dahil doon sa mga five-year olds ay si Presidential Assistant Mona Valisno ng Education.

Nandito tayo dahil tinutuloy natin 'yung ating hands-on governance hanggang sa huling sandali ng ating pagkapangulo. At para doon, pinapairal natin ang mga masusing inisyatibo na sinimula or ginawa ng ating pamahalaan mula noong tayo ay umupo. Ang ating tukoy ay sa tatlong lansangan:

Una, dalhin ang higit na kapangyarihan at pagpalago sa bawat rehiyon para hindi na naka-concentrate lahat sa Metro Manila. Kaya meron tayong tour ngayon sa Urban Luzon Beltway na sabi ko ang Calamba ang isa sa mga masususing lugar. Ay batiin ko pala si former Mayor Lulu Lajara.

Ikalawa, ipairal ang importansiya ng ating 3 Es: Edukasyon, Ekonomiya, Environment, upang maglikha ng sustainable and equitable development.

At pangatlo, patuloy na pagtukoy sa kabataan ng ating bansa bilang ang ating pinaka pag-asa para mas matinag at mas magandang Pilipinas.

Ang pundasyon ng oportunidad ay edukasyon. Ito ang susi sa mas mabuting buhay, ito ay nagbubukas ng mga utak at nagbubukas ng mga pintuan. Kaya malaki ang... kaya naman ganun na lang kalaki, napakalaki ang ating pinuhunan sa edukasyon.

Bago nung ating administrasyon, ang budget ng state colleges and universities, DepEd, CHED at TESDA — 19 billion pesos. Ngayon, higit na sa 180 billion pesos, dinoble natin.

Nagtayo tayo ng sandaang libong silid-aralan. Congratulations kay Governor Lazaro, doon sa tinayo natin nag-contribute siya ng 1,600 na classrooms.

Nagdagdag tayo ng 60,000 na guro at tinaas ang sweldo, di ba? Yung dating 9,000 pesos na Teacher I, naging P14,000 plus na ngayon. At nag-allocate tayo ng mahigit 2 billion pesos kasama na ang budget ng year 2010, na kakapirma ko lamang, para sa teacher training lalo na sa English.

Yung pinakamahirap na Millennium Development Goals ay yung tinatawag nilang universal primary education. Sabi nila, walang bansang makakamit nito maliban siguro sa Cuba, isang diktadorya na maliit na bansa pero sinisikap pa rin natin. Ang mga hakbang na ginagawa natin, isang milyong pinakamahirap na pamilya, binibigyan ng allowance sa kondisyon na pumasok sa eskuwela ang mga anak. Yun ang ating tawag na Pantawid Pamilya.

Nabati ko na ba si Celia Yangco? Binanggit ba kita? Okay. Ang ating DSWD Secretary. Naalala ko kasi ang DSWD ang nagpapakabo ng Pantawid Pamilya.

At para mas maraming pumasok, sabi ko kay Secretary Lapus, tanggalin na natin yung miscellaneous fees sa public primary school, at hindi na obligasyon na mag-uniporme. Kung mas mura ang uniporme, okay, mag-uniporme kayo; kung mas mura mag T-shirt, mag T-shirt kayo. Kaya nagugulat ako, ba't lahat sa mga Day Care naka-uniporme pa, hindi kailangan. Kasi baka gamitin niyong dahilan na hindi papasok ang mga bata.

Nagtayo tayo ng eskuwelahan, sabi ko kanina, di ba? 100,000. Kasama dito ang mga silid-aralan sa higit isang libong barangay na dati walang eskuwela.

Meron akong kuwento sa inyo. Minsan, ako ay nasa Barangay Villa Maria doon sa mga bundok ng Zambales mountains. Nag-inaugurate ako ng classroom na tinayo ng mga sundalo. Nakilala ko doon ang isang Aetang 16 years old, si Joann. Sixteen years old pero grade 5 pa lamang. Kasi nung siya ay maliit na bata, walang eskuwelahan sa kanilang barangay kaya hindi pinapapasok ng magulang. Nagsimula siya na medyo malaki na siya kasi nalaman ko sa kanya na Linggo hanggang Biyernes siya at mga tulad niya, nakikitira lang doon sa mga kamag-anak, doon sa Barangay Villa Maria kung nasaan ako. Kasi kung hindi sila makikitira, lalakad sila ng dalawa o tatlong oras araw-araw para pumasok, dadaan sa mga palayan at dadaan sa mga bulubundukan.

Nagdadala sila ng sampung kilong bigas, gulay at kung ano pang mabibigay sa kamag-anak na tinitirahan nila — Sunday to Friday. Noong nalaman ko ang istorya ni Joann, sabi ko sa kanya, magkakaroon din kayo ng eskuwela. Six months later, kasi sinabi ko, we have built 100,000 classrooms — kasama kita yata Jing nung nagpunta tayo doon sa Barangay Diaz — yung 100,000 classroom. May lumapit sa akin na bata na may luha sa mga mata. Siya si Joann, yung nakilala ko noon sa Barangay Villa Maria, tuwang-tuwa siya dahil nagkaroon na siya ng classroom halos tabi ng bahay niya, taga-Barangay Diaz pala siya. Ako naman ay medyo naluha kasi sunod-sunod, pagkikita namin yun ni Joann, nung paalis na ako, humabol sa akin, bitbit niya ang isang sakong saging bilang pasasalamat niya, pinili raw niya ito, pinakamagandang bunga para ibigay sa akin dahil ngayon yung mga mas bata doon sa Barangay Diaz, hindi na maghihintay na maging 10, 11 years old bago magpunta sa eskuwela. Puwede nang mag-aral kasi sabi ng Millennium Development Goals, ang binibilang na primary school kung 6 years old ka, dapat grade 1 ka. Kung 11 years old ka at grade 1 ka, hindi ka bilang sa universal primary education.

So yan ang ating ginagawa at gaya ng sabi ni Secretary Lapus, isang dahilan kung bakit pinapa-aral natin ang ating mga bata, pre-school, ay kasi, pag nasa pre-school ang bata, mas malaki ang chance na matutuloy siya magtapos ng kanyang eskuwela. Pero hindi lamang public schools ang tinuturuan natin, sa private high school, halos kalahati na ng mga estudyante ay may government scholarship. At maging sa college, kasama na pati yung masters and doctorate sa engineering and science, meron tayong scholarship para sa higit 600,000 na scholars.

Doon naman sa technical education and skills training, tayo ay namuhunan na ng 36 billion pesos, ito ay kasinlaki ng nakaraang tatlong administrasyon — sama-sama na sila lahat.

Bilang resulta ng ating pamumuhunan, yung mga national achievement test scores umakyat. Noong araw sa grade school, 44% ang average Jing; ngayon umakyat sa 65%. Noong araw, sa high school, 36% umakyat sa 47%. Mas mabuti kaysa dati pero kailangan pa ipag-ibayo.

Marami na tayong progreso sa ilang lansangan pero kailangan marami pang gawin. Kayat meron tayong Presidential Task Force on Education. Ang namumuno dito ay si Father Bienvenido Nebres, pangulo ng Ateneo. Sama-sama silang nagtayo ng framework na tinatawag na Main Education Highway na kanyang hangarin ay iabot sa ating mga bata yung seamless pa in quality education mula sa pre-school hanggang sa college o tech-voc at igabay sila sa mga kurso kung saan magkakaroon sila ng trabaho.

Kaya importante na ma-mainstream natin yung Early Childhood Development in Basic Education. Dahil ang ating mga anak, they are our most cherished possessions. Sa maaagang taon ng kanilang buhay, kailangan tiyakin natin na meron silang malusog na simula sa buhay. Dapat tama ang pagkain nila para sa malusog na katawan, dapat tamang edukasyon nila para sa right and inquiring mind, at pantay ang oportunidad para sa makabuluhang trabaho.

Kaya pinirmahan ko yung EO 685 nung 2008 para sumunod sa RA 8980 na yun naman ang batas ni Tessie Aquino-Oreta providing for early childhood care. Itong EO ko, sabi ko, habang pinapalawak natin yung pre-school sa buong bansa, yung mga day care — kasi may iba't-ibang mga taon — yung mga 5 year-old sa day care, bigyan na ng curriculum ng pre-school para pagpasok nila sa grade 1, eh, alam na nila yung... binantayan natin dito kanina, 5 plus 3 equals 8. Dapat alam na ng ating mga 5 year-old yun para pagpasok nila hindi na sila magda-drop out ng eskuwela.

Sabi naman ng Task Force para sa college, kasi naman hindi lahat raw bagay sa college. Baka magda-drop out lang sila pagkatapos. Kaya dapat raw merong mandatory scholastic achievement test, at sabi rin ng task force na yun, yung mga private at saka yung mga state colleges, dapat magkapareho ang kanilang curriculum at standards, at dapat ang CHED ay dapat sinu-supervise kahit na yung mga local universities and colleges.

At doon naman sa mga propesyon na kailangan ng international recognition gaya ng engineering, architecture, accountancy, pharmacy, physical therapy — dapat raw dapat sampung taon ng basic education at dalawang taon bago pre-university bago magkaroon ng university.

Lahat ng ginagawa ng ating pamahalaan ay para maging mas matinag ang kinabukasan sa susunod na henerasyon ng ating mga Pilipino.

Ang ating kabataan ng ating bansa ang ating pag-asa at inspirasyon. Lahat ng ating ginagawa ay dapat para itayo ang mas magandang buhay para sa bawat isang bata dito sa ating bansa.

Gusto natin na makita ang mas matinag na kinabukasan para sa mga masisipag na tao nitong bansa. At importante makita natin meron tayong interes na yung mga bata ngayon, sila, that they will come into their own, seize the value of education and use this tool to advance themselves and the nation.

Kaya sa lahat na mga tumutulong para maganda ang simula ng edukasyon, lahat ng mga tumutulong sa pre-school, lahat ng tumutulong ng mga day care, yung mga 5 year-old magkaroon ng curriculum ng pre-school. Maraming salamat at ituloy natin itong ating magandang trabaho.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Education Event: Introduction of expanded pre-school coverage to include children enrolled in Daycare Centers (E.O. 685). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100505232706/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27506&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Urban Luzon Beltway Tour: Visit to the New Era University Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Urban Luzon Beltway Tour: Visit to the New Era University**

[Delivered at New Era University, Central Ave., Quezon City, February 10, 2010]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat Secretary Pamintuan sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at sa inyong pagpakilala sa ating subject matter itong araw na ito.

Kagalang-galang na Vice President Noli de Castro, na usually hindi magkasama ang pangulo at vice president sa isang okasyon, pero ngayon dahil importanteng-importante ang audience natin kagaya nito. Chairman ng New Era University, Justice Cuevas at ibang mga leader natin ng members of the board; Pangulo ng University, Dr. Osorio, salamat sa iyong welcome remarks at congratulations sa napakaraming nakamit na dangal ng New Era University. Bukod sa kay Secretary Pamintuan at kay Vice President de Castro kasama rin natin ang ating bagong Press Secretary na si Secretary Jun Ichan; mga leaders ng Iglesia; mga leaders ng New Era University; mga guro; mga staff at siyempre mga estudyante, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Ako ay natutuwa na nakaparito dito sa unibersidad upang ngang talakayin itong tinatawag nating Urban Luzon Beltway. Nasisiyahan ako na narito kasi pagkakataon din para magbigay-galang at magpasalamat sa kabataan ng Iglesia ni Cristo sa pamamagitan ninyo. Naalala ko nung 1995 doon sa, siyempre lahat ng kandidato humihingi ng tulong, naalala ko nagkakampanya ako last days na doon sa Laguna, tapos sabi ko, “Oy! lumabas yung kanilang sample ballot, tinignan ko, number one sa listahan si Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.” Maraming salamat sa inyo.

At tapos noon ay salamat sa tulong ninyo, lagi ninyo akong dinadala at dala rin niyo si Noli nung unang takbo niya noong 2001 bilang senador. At nung 2004 yung aming katandem ang inyong sinuporta rin, kaya maraming, maraming salamat sa inyo.

Dahil tinulungan niyo akong maging Vice President, ako’y naging Pangulo noong 2001. Panahon noon na nasa dulo ng lubhang kaguluhan sa pulitika at pagbangkarote ng pananalapi ang ating bansa. Kaya bilang ekonomista, alam ko na upang mabawi ang pag-urong ng ekonomiya, kailangan lagyan ng disiplina sa kaban ng bayan, palakihin ang ekonomiya, at mamuhunan sa tao at imprastraktura gaya ng tinatawag nating imprastraktura ng ating Urban Luzon Beltway.

Yun na nga kwinento ni Ed Pamintuan itong Urban Luzon Beltway. Yung Batangas Port na tinayo natin umaabot ito sa Southern Luzon Arterial Road or STAR, na tinayo rin natin, dinudugtong ngayon itong STAR sa pinalawak nating Southern Luzon Expressway or SLEX hanggang sa C5 malapit na dito na pinalawak natin at nilalagyan ng Commonwealth overpass hanggang Luzon Avenue at Mindanao Avenue para hind na kayo masyadong matrapik papasok sa eskwelahan.

Dinudugtong naman natin ito sa ginagawang bagong Valenzuela exit patungong North Expressway o NLEX hanggang sa Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway na abot sa tinayo nating Subic Port. Yan ang pinaka main artery ng Urban Luzon Beltway.

At ano ang mga ginhawa nito para sa inyong mga naninirahan dito o sa kapaligiran? The STAR reduced the Batangas City-Lipa travel from one hour to just a few minutes. Yung matatapos nang...tapos nuon yung... ngayon kasalukuyang kinakabit yung STAR at saka yung SLEX — sabi ni Vice President de Castro, tatawagin natin ngayong STARLEX Road — eto yung Sto. Tomas, Batangas hanggang Calamba na napakatrapi ngayon pero tinatayo natin itong expressway, it will reduce travel time from Batangas Port to Alabang by one hour.

At sapagkat pinalawak natin 'yung SLEX, inaayos na 'yung traffic sa Manila hanggang sa Calamba. At dahil diyan, mas marami ang nagdesisyon na tumira na lamang sa suburban Laguna kaysa sa napakakitid na Maynila.

'Yung C5-Commonwealth-By-pass Luzon Avenue-Mindanao Avenue-Valenzuela-NLEX highway naman ay magbabawas ng travel time between North Luzon and Southern Luzon ng kalahating oras. At dahil sa NLEX expansion, kalahati na rin lamang ang travel time mula sa Balintawak hanggang Clark, kaya marami na ring naninirahan sa mga suburbs ng Bulacan at Mexico, Pampanga at nadedecongest ang Metro Manila.

Kaya ewan ko kung ilan sa inyong mga estudyante sa New Era ay nakatira doon sa bandang Bulacan at Pampanga o bandang Laguna, inaasahan ko mas maginhawa na pag pumapasok kayo sa eskwela dito sa New Era.

At ganun na nga kaugnay dito, we're also able to ensure that more and more families are able to own a home dahil doon sa labas, mas mura ang lupa maging gobyerno ang bibili o private sector ang bibili at maaliwalas, magandang hangin, mas conducive sa pamumuhay ng pamilya.

Naalala ko isa sa unang importanteng relocation sites yung ginawa ng Iglesia na mga kapatid doon sa Nueva Ecija matagal ng nakaraan. Kaya kayo ay pioneer sa housing for relocation. Malaki rin ang tulong ninyo doon sa ating housing doon sa Montalban. Kaya sa ating administrasyon ito ay nakaka-inspire, kaya sa ating administrasyon tuloy halos kalahating milyong murang pabahay na ang naitayo natin sa buong bansa. At higit sa 300,000 sa half a million na tinayo sa buong bansa ay dito nga sa bandang Urban Luzon Beltway. At yan ang inaasikaso ni Vice President de Castro sa ating administrasyon bilang namumuno ng Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

Doon naman sa bandang Norte, sa bandang Central Luzon, nung pinaalis ang mga Amerikano sa Subic at Clark, matagal na naging anino na lamang siya sa kanyang nakaraang kaluwalhatian. Pero ngayon, Subic and Clark are magnets of economic activity. International airlines bring half a million tourists to Clark. At Subic, one of the biggest world-class ships in the world ever built was launched, kasi ang Subic Hanjin ang fourth largest shipyard in the world ngayon.

Yung SCTEX naman kinokonek tayong dalawang economic zone and more than 150,000 jobs have been created in what we call the Subic-Clark Corridor.

Sa loob naman ng Kamaynilaan, kung saan kayo nakatira, tayo nakatira, dinugtong ang riles at magkakabit na ang LRT at MRT mula Monumento hanggang North EDSA. Kaya tignan niyo yung drawing, buo na, whole circle na yung ating train system. Tine-testing na lamang 'yung pagtatakbo ng tren para tiyakin na ligtas ang pagpapatakbo.

Nagdagdag rin ng train ang LRT at siguro kung maalala ninyo, ating administrasyon pinaabot ang LRT hanggang Pasig at Marikina mula Recto sa Maynila.

Ginagawa rin ang tren mula Kalookan hanggang Malolos hanggang Clark. Pero yun mga mahigit dalawang taon pa bago matatapos, under construction ngayon.

Doon naman sa South kinokonekta rin ang Northrail at Southrail patungong Lucena kaya nakikita niyo doon di ba dapat andami-daming mga informal settlers o squatter doon sa South? Doon sa bandang Osmeña Highway ba yun? Pero sa maganda at makataong paraan na-relocate ni Vice President Noli de Castro sila doon sa mga ibat-ibang lugar ng Laguna, halimbawa sa SLEX, yun din ang ginagawa dito sa ruta ng ating tren patungo sa Norte.

Kaya maraming nakatira ngayon sa NLEX area at SLEX area na dating squatter na masikip na masikip sa Maynila, ngayon maaliwalas ang buhay at mas maganda ang kanilang buhay. Binibisita namin ni Noli de Castro sila doon, mas masaya sila doon at meron na rin silang trabaho, meron na silang pamayanan, kaya iyon ang isang magandang resulta ng ating Urban Luzon Beltway.

Bukod sa pagdugtong ng NLEX at SLEX, pinalaki at pinaayos din natin ang makasaysayang kalsada ng EDSA. Ito ay tumulong sa biyaheng Kalookan hanggang Baclaran. At upang mabawasan naman ang baha, partly operational

ang KAMANAVA Flood Control Project. Mas mabilis na bumababa ang baha sa mga lugar ng Kalookan, Malabon, Navotas. Ganun din ang dredging ng bibig ng Pasig River.

Kung naalala ninyo yung Ondoy, pinakamalaking ulan na pumasok sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas. Mabilis umakyat ang tubig pero doon sa bandang Maynila, bandang sa bibig ng Pasig River, konti lang ang binaha at mabilis na mabilis bumaba dahil hindi niyo nakikita dahil nasa ilalim ng ilog yun, na-dredge na ng 6 meters yung bibig ng Pasig River. Kaya yun ang isang mga ginagawa natin para maiwasan ang lubhang paglulubog ng Maynila, ng Metro Manila kasi dahil sa climate change, talagang darating ng darating ang mas madalas at mas mabagsik na mga bagyo dito sa bahagi ng mundo ng ating bansa.

Yung NAIA, pinag-usapan ko yung Clark Airport pero yung NAIA rin, sa ating administrasyon, sa wakas natapos yung International Passenger Terminal 3. At ngayon, 170 na na eroplano ang nagdadala ng 16,500 na pasahero araw-araw. Pero meron tayong choice, yung malalaking airline kung pupunta kayo sa Amerika, diyan siyempre doon sa NAIA, pero kung gusto niyong pumunta sa Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, saan pa? Korea, budget airlines, pati Middle East, doon sa Clark, yun ang sentro ng ating budget airlines, kaya meron kayong choice kung saan kayo sasakay ng eroplano.

At para naman yung kuryente ay matiyak natin, lumalawak ang populasyon, nagtayo tayo ng Biñan-Sucat Transmission Line para madagdagan ang kuryente sa kinagiginhawa ng pamumuhay dito sa NCR.

For those who refuse to see progress, just show them the skyline of Manila or Eastwood or Global City today. Itong Eastwood, itong Global, ilang taon lang nangyari yang mga yan. It is a skyline with new modern buildings; construction cranes; better roads; hotels; shopping malls; small businesses. This is the part of the Philippines we have helped to nurture and create.

Lahat ng ginagawa ng ating gobyerno ay para gawing mas matatag ang kinabukasan ninyo, ang susunod na henerasyon. Kaya nagsisikap ako pumunta dito para maipaliwanag sa inyo ano ang ginagawa natin para sa inyong kinabukasan.

Kaya, kayong mga kabataan ang pag-asa at inspirasyon natin. Lahat ng ating kailangang gawin ay dapat para magtayo ng mas magandang buhay para bawat isa sa ating kabataan.

Kaya ako'y nagpapasalamat sa sinabi ni President Osorio na kayo ay kabalikat ng ating pamahalaan para sa kaunlaran ng ating bansa.

Salamat sa inyong matagal ng pagsuporta sa akin nung ginawa niyong number one ako na senador, siguro marami sa inyo hindi pa napanganak. Kaya nabuksan ang inyong mata, magkabalikat na tayo at inaasahan kong hanggang sa dulo ng kailangan nating gawin para sa ating bansa, magkabalikat pa rin tayo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Urban Luzon Beltway Tour: Visit to the New Era University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100505232657/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27529&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Urban Luzon Beltway Tour: inauguration of the Main Building of the Bulacan Polytechnic College San Jose del Monte campus [Filipino]

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During Urban Luzon Beltway Tour: Inauguration of the Main Building of the Bulacan Polytechnic College
San Jose del Monte Campus**

[Delivered at the Bulacan Polytechnic College Campus, Brgy. Graceville, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan,
February 11, 2010]

Maraming salamat din Congressman Robes sa iyong welcome remarks pati na rin yung iyong suggestion na gawin natin dito ang pag-uusap sa mga estudyante.

Kasi ako ay nasisiyahan na narito. Noon nandito ako nung groundbreaking, ngayon nandito naman sa inauguration, kaya congratulations sa ating lahat!

Binabati ko rin si Mayor Lito Sarmiento, ang mayor ng San Jose del Monte City pati na rin ang pangulo ng Bulacan Polytechnic College, si Pangulong Jerry Cruz; at dito sa ating front row may mga opisyal ng ating bansa at probinsya, nandito ang ating bagong Press Secretary, si Secretary Jun Icban; nandito ang ating Commissioner on Higher Education, si Nenalyn Defensor; nandito ang congresswoman at ang congressman sa mga karatig na distrito, si Congresswoman Marivic Alvarado at saka si Congressman Pedro Pancho; at ang Vice Governor ng Lalawigan ng Bulacan, si Willy Alvarado; mga opisyal ng San Jose del Monte, ng barangay, ng eskwelahan, mga guro, mga estudyante, magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat.

Gaya nang sinabi ko ako'y natutuwa na makaparito dito sa inyong eskwelahan. Nakita ko before, nakita natin after at itong ating pagbisita dito ay kasama sa pag inspection natin ng tinatawag nating mga Super Region. Kung titignan niyo yung screen sa aking kaliwa, hinubog natin ang mga Super Region upang ipamudmod ang kaunlaran away from an inequitable concentration in Manila. Ang mga Super Region ay yung Agribusiness Mindanao, yung Tourism Central Philippines, yung North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, yung Cyber Corridor at saka yung Urban Luzon Beltway, kung saan dumadaan sa Bulacan.

Malayo na ang naabot nitong mga Super Regions natin mula nung sinimulan natin itong proyektong ito. Malayo na ang naabot ng Pilipinas mismo mula nung January 2001. Kayong mga estudyante maliliit na bata pa kayo noon nung January 2001, kaya marahil hindi niyo naalala kung ano yung pangyayari nung panahong yun kahit na inyong mga magulang. Salamat at nabura na ng panahon ang alaala ng napakagulong panahon na yun wala pang sampung taong nakaraan. Eh yung mga 17 years old na mga freshmen sophomore, seven years old kayo nuon. Maliit pa kayo nuon nang ang bansa ay nasa dulo ng lubhang kaguluhan sa pulitika at pagkakabangkarote ng panalapi.

Bilang ekonomista, alam ko na upang mabawi ang pag-urong ng ekonomiya, kailangan lagyan ng disiplina ang kaban ng bayan, palakihin ang ekonomiya, at mamuhunan sa tao at sa imprastraktura gaya nga ng imprastraktura sa tinatawag nating Luzon Urban Beltway. Kasama dito sa mga imprastraktura yung Batangas Port na tinayo natin pagkatapos nung 2007, tapos ito ay nakonekta natin sa Southern Luzon Arterial Road or STAR, na ginawa rin ng ating administrasyon, natapos nung 2008. At kasalukuyang dinudugtong itong STAR sa pinalawak nating Southern Luzon Expressway or SLEX hanggang C5 na pinalawak natin at dinudugtong naman sa pinalawak na North Luzon Expressway or NLEX hanggang sa ginawa nating Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway na abot naman sa tinayo nating Subic Port.

Para doon sa ayaw magbayad ng toll sa NLEX, pinalawak at pinaganda rin natin ang MacArthur Highway at kanikanina dinaanan natin yung Mozon... basta Mozon hanggang Mangga na ginawa nating national road at nagkokonekta ng Quirino Highway hanggang sa Marilao exit para sa kaghinhawaan ng mga nagbabayahe dito sa San Jose del Monte.

Yung STAR doon sa Katimugan ng Luzon binawasan ang pagbiyahe mula sa Batangas City hanggang Lipa, mula sa isang oras ngayon ilang minuto na lamang. At yung matatapos natin... Oy, sino naman nagsabi, ten minutes? Oo, alam mo yun. Noong araw isang oras, totoo yun. Yeah, okay. Nung araw... ah binabasa mo kasi, okay. Akala ko nagbabiyahe ka doon, okay. Nagtataka ako, naku nakatitra sa Lipa, nag-aaral sa Bulacan. Hind pala, okay.

Ngayon yung matatapos nating STARLEX Road, tawag STARLEX kasi kinokonekta yung STAR at saka yung SLEX. Ito ay magbabawas ng travel time from Batangas Port to Alabang ng isang oras ang bawas. Yun namang C5-Commonwealth Bypass-Luzon Avenue-Mindanao Avenue-Valenzuela-NLEX Highway naman ay magbabawas ng travel time from North and Southern Luzon ng kalahating oras kasi hindi na dadaan sa Edsa. At sapagkat pinalawak natin yung SLEX pati na rin yung NLEX pati na rin yung North Road, inaayos na 'yung traffic sa Maynila hanggang sa Calamba sa Katimugan at kinalahati ang travel time mula Balintawak hanggang Bulacan at Clark. At dahil diyan, mas maraming tao ang nagdesisyon na tumira na lamang sa suburban Laguna at suburban Bulacan o Pampanga kaysa sa Maynila. Nakikita natin ito, di ba? Sa San Jose del Monte andami kong nakitang mga housing project kanina.

Tiniyak natin na lalong humigit ang pamilyang nakakapagmay-ari ng sariling tahanan. Sa ating administrasyon halos kalahating milyong murang pabahay ang naitayo sa buong bansa. Higit sa 300,000 ay nasa bandang Urban Luzon Beltway.

Dito sa 300,000 ang mga siguro yung mga dating squatters halos kalahati nuon yung mga dating squatters sa NLEX sa riles, sa riles ng Northrail, sa riles ng Southrail pati na rin may ilang mga linipat nung pinalawak yung... ginagawa yung NLEX, ngayon kinokonekta sa C5, at saka yung mga nasalanta ng Ondoy at Pepeng. Yun ay halos a 150,000 at sila ay nalipat na sa ibat-ibang lugar ng Bulacan, Pampanga, Valenzuela at saka Laguna.

Yung nalalabi naman yung kalahati or higit kalahati 150,000 yan ang mga Pag-Ibig members na bumibili ng mga tahananang mura at dahil dumami yun dahil binaba natin ang interest rate ng pabahay ng 6 % kaya mababa ang interest rate, mababa rin ang presyo ng lupa dito sa malalapit na probinsya ihahambing natin sa Maynila. Kaya andami nang mga nakatira sa mga suburbs sa Bulacan, sa Laguna at Pampanga.

Doon naman sa Norte, nang pinaalis ang mga Amerikano sa Subic at Clark, matagal naging anino na lamang sila sa kanilang nakaraang kaluwahatian. Pero ngayon Subic and Clark are magnets of economic activity. Mga international airline nagdadala ng kalahating milyong turista sa Clark. In fact, bukas magbubukas ang bagong airline na galing sa Taiwan para magdala rin ng turista sa Clark. Sa Subic naman ilan sa pinakamalaking mga world class na barko ay nagawa doon sa Hanjin sa Subic. Yung SCTEX kinokonekta yung dalawang economic zones at higit 150,000 ang trabahong nalikha.

Sa loob naman ng Kamaynilaan, tinapos natin ang NAIA Terminal III. At dinugtong ang riles at magkakabit na ang LRT at MRT mula Monumento hanggang North EDSA. Tine-testing na lamang 'yung pagtatakbo ng tren para siguradong ligtas 'yung biyahe.

Tapos kinokonekta naman natin gumagawa tayo ng Northrail train mula sa Kalookan hanggang Malolos at saka Clark. At kinokonekta rin ang Northrail at Southrail patungong Lucena.

Merong BOT project private sector ang gagawa ang tawag dito ay MRT7 at ito ay papunta dito sa San Jose del Monte. Nung kami ay nasa coaster tinatanong nung officials ninyo, kumusta na yung ating MRT7. Kaya tinawagan ko yung mga opisyal na kaugnay nuon, ano na ang status ng MRT 7. Na-award na raw sa proponent kaya lang bumalik muli sa gobyerno yung proponent kasi meron silang pinapalitang plano, meron silang pinapalitang design pero tataas ang presyo ng 20%. Kaya yun ang kailangan e-eksamenin muna ng NEDA kung yung mga sasakay sa tren ay makakaya nila itong pagtaas ng fair.

So yan ang... pagkatapos kong umalis dito tatawagin ko yung NEDA para desisyunan na kaagad para malaman naman ninyo kung tuloy o hindi, at para naman makahanap tayo ng paraan para talagang matuloy na siguro kung tataas man ang presyo ay yung makakaya ng ating mga estudyante na pagbiyahe. Yan ang paraan kung papano maging mas malapit pa ang MRT dito sa San Jose del Monte.

Itutuloy natin ang hands-on governance hanggang sa huling sandali ng ating tungkulin. Nakaprogreso na tayo sa maraming larangan, ngunit hindi pa rin ang lahat... marami pa rin ang kailangang gawin. Halimbawa, hindi pa tapos yung Northrail hanggang Bulacan at hanggang Clark. At yung MRT7 ay pinag-aaralan pa rin yung hinihingi nang gagawa na itataas ang gastos. Pero lahat ng pinagtiyagaan natin ay para gawing mas maliwanag ang kinabukasan ninyong mga kabataan — kayo susunod na henerasyon.

Kasi kayong mga kabataan ang ating pag-asa at inspirasyon. Lahat ng ginagawa natin ay dapat magtayo ng mas mabuting buhay para sa bawat kabataan ng ating bansa.

Habang ipinagmamalaki natin ang nakamit ng ating pamahalaan, ang nakaraang nakamit ay kasimbuti lamang ng kakayahan ng bansang tumuloy na lumaki at mag-prosper. Matindi kong nais na ang progresong nagawa natin ay hindi titigil; na ang nalalabing dapat gawin ay aakuhin ng susunod na henerasyon ng liderato.

Bilang bansa, dapat matatag tayo nakatukoy sa kinabukasan, to build on what is good. Kaya itong ating mga ginagawa gusto kong malaman ng ating mga kabataan kasi kayo ang magbebenepisyo at kayo rin ang magtutuloy nitong mga gawaing ito upang sa ganun tuloy-tuloy ang kaunlaran ng ating bansa.

Kaya sa inyong lahat mga estudyante, nasa inyo ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Urban Luzon Beltway Tour: inauguration of the main building of the Bulacan Polytechnic College San Jose del Monte campus. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100505232646/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27537&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the proposed aeronautical highway of Northern Luzon

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of the proposed aeronautical highway of Northern Luzon**

[Delivered at the Binalonan Airfield, Brgy. Linmansangan, Binalonan, Pangasinan, February 19, 2010]

Thank you very much.

Dios ti agngina unay, Secretary Jun Esperon, ti Cabinet Officer for Regional Development tayo para ti Eastern Pangasinan. Agyamanak ti introduksyon yo kanyak.

Agtugaw kayo amin, Apo.

Mayor Monching Guico, President of the Mayors' League of the entire Philippines, mayor of Binalonan, and with all of our work and support, hopefully, future senator of the Republic of the Philippines. Governor Bong Revilla, present senator of the Republic of the Philippines and a very outstanding one, we're very happy to have you here with us. Si Bong at saka si Monching, magka-partner sa pagkanya. So, thank you Bong, ikaw ay siguradong-sigurado, inaasahan natin na ang inyong kampanya rin para sa ating anak ng Binalonan, kay Monching Guico. Vice Mayor Monmon Guico, thank you for your explanation of this very important project and congratulations to you, to Monching and to our mayors here on this very, very important initiative for the Luzon Northern Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle.

Addatoy met Monching, acknowledge Mayor Kimmy Cojuangco as the next congresswoman but it's very important also to recognize her as the spouse of the present congressman of the district of Pangasinan, Congressman Mark Cojuangco. And we have here so many Cabinet members: we have here Governor Mads Espino, thank you so much and congratulations for all of the infrastructure projects that we put up together. You've talked about dam, the seaport, and here we have an airport, so Pangasinan is really a transport hub now in the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle.

Our cabinet meetings here aside from Jun Esperon who introduced me, we have to his left Secretary of Public Works Vic Domingo; to his left, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Horace Ramos whom I will give an assignment later on; and to the right of Governor Espino, Secretary Sonny Alvarez, our Climate Change Secretary; and to his right is Secretary Peter Favila whom I will give an assignment too later on as Secretary of Trade and Industry.

We welcome all the other officials here, and we welcome the mayors of the partner locations of this airline, and we welcome the President of San Beda, thank you for helping to bring up University of Eastern Pangasinan. Ken kadakayo amin, kakailayak ti parte ni mamang ko, dagiti kasinsin ko, naimbag nga malem ken maragsak nga fiesta kada tayo amin.

Kablaawan kayo met amin iti recognition ti ili tayo kas first class municipality iti napalabas nga tawen. Kung ang nagawa ni Mayor Monching Guico para maging first class municipality ang Binalonan, matutulungan rin niya yung ibang mga bayan para sa kung papano umangat ang inyong mga bayan kung siya ay mapalad na sa tulong nating lahat ay maging senador ng ating bansa.

Pero isang malaking kasama sa pagka-first class ng Binalonan ay itong no-frills airport built by the private sector, nilunsad natin noong 2008 at ito ay naalala ni Monmon yung sinabi ko, kailangan ng bahagi ng imprastruktura ng North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle ang mga no-frills airport para magdala ng produkto ng agrikultura ng North

Luzon sa iba't-ibang lugar. Kaya mula Binalonan, may eroplano na, tiniyak ko kay Monching, patungong Cauayan meron na; ngayon patungong Maconacon at Palanan sa Isabela, Divilican din ba? Divilican. Sa Tuguegarao, meron na; sa Calayan darating; sa Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, darating; sa Laoag City darating; sa Baguio City darating; sa Batanes magkakaroon na ngayon. Kaya ito ang kagandahan dito, isang halimbawa ng gamit nitong airport na ito, yung mga produktong sugpo at lobsters ng Maconacon, Palanan at Divilican ay makakarating na rito sa pamamagitan ng airport. At mula dito sa magagandang kalsada naman ng Pangasinan at SCTEX ay mabilis na ihahatid sa ibang mga bahagi ng Luzon.

Adon nga napanan iti pagilyan tayo gapo 2001. Haan laeng ti ili tayo, haan ko kinayat nga ag-Presidene idi 2001, ngem naggapo idtoy ti destiny. Haan tayo nag-atras iti challenge ken ti responsibilidad nga agbaru iti ekonomiya ti Pilipinas.

Kasla laser beam ti atensyon tayo para mangala dagiti serbisyo nga makabaru iti biag iti ordinaryo nga Pilipino. Kas ekonomista, ammok nga tanno makasubli tayo iti dalan iti progreso, masapul ti disiplina ti pondo, padakkelan ken ag-invest dagiti tattao ken imprastraktura.

Nangaramid tayo dagiti nagrigrigat ken saan popular nga desisyon tapno makontrol ti deficit tayo ken agbayad ti future ti pagilyan tayo. Ako'y nagpapasalamat sa mga senador gaya ni Senator Bong Revilla na tumulong sa aking gumawa ng mga mahihirap na mga batas gaya ng pagdagdag ng buwis, hindi popular pero yun ang dahilan kung bakit nakakagawa tayo ng mga proyekto na binanggit ni Governor Amado Espino kanina. Agwantak dagiti kritisismo uray adlaw-adlaw ken manen-manen tano makita nga agprogreso ti pagilyan tayo.

Ket ti edukasyon, ti environment, ti ekonomiya — isoda ti kadakkelan nga parte ti kwarta. Masapol nga dagiti ububing iti pagilyan nasaysayaat iti biag da kumpara dagidiay amman ken inna da. Makita tayo kenya iti napintas nga adlaw. Awan nga presyo nga sobra tano bayadan iti edukasyon da and the future of their success. But we are so happy about University of Eastern Philippines and the tie up with San Beda because that improves the life and the education of our young people here in Eastern Pangasinan.

Part of a good education is a strong culture. So today in this fiesta, we have not only Secretary Sonny Alvarez of Climate Change, we also have Presidential Assistant Cecille Alvarez — I can't see where she is — for Culture because during this fiesta, aside from launching this symbol of the future of Binalonan, as a hub of the pasada, we also want to honor the buzz of Binalonan through a book launching in honor of Carlos Bulosan who is also a great writer and native of Binalonan.

At mabuti nandito si Secretary Favila at saka si Secretary Ramos dahil gusto ko ring ilunsad itong araw na ito ang isang proyekto na makakatulong sa edukasyon at saka sa kalikasan, ang Engineered Bamboo Project na pinagsasamahan ng Department of Trade and Industry at Department of Environment and Natural Resources dahil inaasahan natin na 25% ng mga kinakailangang desk ng Department of Education ay manggagaling sa kawayan at hindi sa punong gubat. Ang DENR ang mamamahala sa bamboo nursery at dispersal growing, samantala ang DTI ay inatasan para ipairal ang pagpagawa ng produktong kawayan. Ang DTI sa pamamagitan ng Cottage Industry Technology Center ay merong mga makina para makagawa ng mga desks mula sa kawayan, kaya kanina, inatasan ko si Secretary Peter Favila na bigyan ng bamboo desk-making machine ang bayan ng Binalonan para gumawa ng bamboo desks para sa buong Pangasinan. So ito ay darating, itong makina ay darating sa isang buwan because it takes one month to fabricate this kind of machine.

Umayak manen iti piyesta tayo, manen-manen, tawen-tawen ta iti maysa nga importante, iti dakkel nga panawen nga iti ited tayo iti pananglibot iti naduma-duma nga probinsiya ti pagilyan. Saan tayo laeng agbiyahe kadagiti sabali pay nga probinsiya tayo, no di ket agpuonan tayo kanya da, ta narigat ti proseso tayo ti pulitika ken ekonomiya, ken sobra ti poder nga napan iti Manila. Iso nga in-focus tayo nga inted iti gundaway iti intero nga pagilyan embes dagiti power brokers ken elite iti Manila.

Iso nga agyamanak ken dagiti mayors tayo, ken ti private sector who put up and invested in this very important airport because by making the products of those distant towns nearer to the markets, we will be able to spread

development away from too much concentration in Metro Manila and we will be able to develop North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle into the food basket of Luzon.

Kadakayo amin nga kakailyak, maysa nga panagyaman ko ti amin nga suporta nga it-ited yo kanyak. Let us always continue to work together for the good of Binalonan.

Dios ti agngina kada kayo amin ken Happy Fiesta

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the launching ceremony of the proposed aeronautical highway of Northern Luzon. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080608/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27591&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Joint National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Cabinet Group and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting and launching of the
Tourism Central Philippines Tour
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Joint National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Cabinet Group and National Anti-
Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting and launching of the Tourism Central Philippines
Tour**

[Delivered at Sabang Port, Brgy. Sabang Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, February 23, 2010]

Good morning to all of you.

We are very happy to hold our Cabinet Meeting here in Puerto Princesa which together with the province of Palawan during our administration the number one destination for tourism investments. So it is important for us to do this event today as part of our tour of the Super Regions.

Since the day we took office, it has been a goal of our government to lift up every part of the Philippines — not just Manila. The provinces are the heart and soul of our nation. Our job has been to nourish that heart and soul with investments in our people and our infrastructure, so that every Filipino can thrive.

Our tours of the nation have been a staple of our time in office. More importantly, we have not only traveled to the provinces, we have invested in the provinces. Our political process is warped. It funnels too much economic and political power in Manila. We have aimed to spread the opportunity across the nation, and take back the tilt to the power brokers in Manila.

To spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Manila, we designed the Super Regions. If you will look at the screen, you will see the Super Regions: Agribusiness Mindanao, the Cyber Corridor, the Luzon Urban Beltway, the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, and Tourism Central Philippines, where we are today.

Central Philippines consist of the Visayas, Bicol, MIMAROPA, and the Islands of Northern Mindanao. It attracts the majority of foreign tourists to the Philippines, anchored by Boracay, Cebu, Palawan and Bohol, because of its natural wonders and the natural warmth of its people. The job of the national government is to provide the means to take the tourists to those wonders through transport facilities, meaning, ports, airports and roads.

For instance, let's begin with Boracay, the leading overall tourism destination. There, we upgraded the Kalibo Airport to take in international flights, and these international flights have been helped along by the ASEAN Open Skies Policy. We've also improved what used to be called the "abortion road" to Caticlan. And now a private investment in the Caticlan Airport itself has started construction.

We have also built good roads from Boracay to its spillover destinations in Panay, and I want to invite our Cabinet members here to interrupt me anytime that something is wrong or to — not accurate — or to elaborate because this is a working report. So we're just opening it to the media.

So, as I said earlier, we have also improved other roads leading from Boracay, for instance, the Aklan-Libertad-Pandan Road. And also since we built the new international airport in Santa Barbara, Iloilo we have also built the road from Santa Barbara, Iloilo to Iloilo City. And Iloilo City connects to Guimaras and its beaches — where is Larry Mendoza? I want him to validate this — via the RORO-capable Jordan wharf. And on the other side of Guimaras, we built the Sibunag RORO Port to connect to Bacolod.

In Negros, we built the Bacolod-Silay Airport and we are building a second access road between the new airport and Bacolod City and further on to Sipalay, with its Mediterranean ambience.

As I said earlier, the number one tourism investment destination is Palawan. While Boracay is the number one tourism destination, the number one tourism investment destination is Palawan anchored by the Banyan Tree investment. Banyan Tree was the one who developed Phuket and so, therefore, we hope that Northern Palawan will become another Phuket with the leadership of Banyan Tree.

Palawan has nearly 2,000 islands. Imagine we have 7,100 islands in the Philippines and about 1,700 are in Palawan. So how do we take the tourists to Palawan? We take the tourists to its wonders by upgrading the airports of Puerto Princesa and Busuanga, and building the San Vicente Airport. Also by completing the road backbone from El Nido to Rio Tuba whose gaps we filled. For instance, when I used to come here when I was running for senator and even when I was a senator, you couldn't go by land from Puerto Princesa to El Nido. Now, you can. Now, you can. Okay.

And also, where we came from now, the Underground River of Puerto Princesa, the guide was telling us that when she was young it took them the whole day to travel from Sabang to Puerto Princesa. Now with the new road that we have built, it's much more convenient and together with the publicity of the world's 7 New Wonders the tourism to the underground river has tripled according to our host Mayor Hagedorn.

So if Boracay is the number one overall tourist destination and Palawan is the number one tourism investment destination, Cebu is the number one destination for foreign tourists. And they say it is because it has a world class airport, very near world class resorts, especially in Mactan Island and convention centers.

But there were some ugly roads in Cebu that we have inherited from the past; we have made them beautiful. Just as we have done in Palawan where we are building the... or have built the backbone from north to south, the same thing with Cebu province. For instance, from Cebu City going south to the resorts of San Fernando, Moalboal and Badian, and then going up north to the treasure sharks of Malapascua — which we'll visit tonight and tomorrow morning — and even onwards to Masbate's white sand beaches through the Cebu-Masbate RORO nautical highway.

There is an energy gap in the Visayas but it is being plugged by a 200-megawatt plant in Naga, Cebu and a billion dollars worth of investments by Metro Bank and its partners for more than 600 megawatts in Cebu and Iloilo. In fact, their new 250-megawatt plant in Toledo, Cebu soft-opened last Sunday and will be inaugurated on March 1 with myself as the guest of honor.

We have likewise extended the Dumaguete runway. And the Roll-on/Roll-off ferry system connects Negros Oriental to the beaches of Siquijor. Now I mentioned the anchor tourism destinations in Central Philippines: Boracay, Cebu, Palawan and Bohol.

Bohol became a destination distinct from Cebu since the time it defeated the communist terrorists in 2005 and since we completed the Bohol Circumferential Road. That is why now it deserves its own international airport which we are building in Panglao Island.

We also built the Jagna, Bohol and the Balbagon, Benoni and Guinsiliban RORO Ports in Camiguin which makes Camiguin's beaches accessible to the Visayas. And in Camiguin, we have built a beautiful circumferential road and on the other side of Northern Mindanao Islands a better road to Dakak beach in Dapitan City.

Going back to the Visayas in the eastern part, our upgraded airports in Tacloban, Guiuan and Siargao provide the means to the perfect surfs of the Pacific. The Tacloban Airport whose upgrading we have begun is also the gateway to the dive spots of Southern Leyte, especially Limasawa.

For Bicol, which is part of Central Philippines, the access road to the proposed new international airport in Daraga, Albay has just been completed. You see they have no real international airport... to me there's an international airport in Legazpi, but the governors feel that for international flights to come to Bicol they must have one really

good international airport comparable let's say to at least Puerto Princesa or Cebu. And they all agree that it should be in Daraga in Albay. The road has been finished; the right-of-way for the runway has been acquired 30%, enough to start the construction of the runway itself. So the local government is in-charge of purchasing the right-of-way and then the national government with the DOTC builds the runway itself and the terminal.

And of course roads. We're improving roads like the one leading to the beaches of Caramoan in Camarines Sur and there the Development Bank of the Philippines provided the province of Camarines Sur with a P700-million loan to develop the Caramoan beach and the water sports complex in Pili.

Donsol in Sorsogon is the number one eco-tourism destination according to Time Magazine in Asia. We modernized the old rickety one-way bridge to Donsol, Sorsogon whose whale shark interaction is as I said, the best eco-tourism experience in Asia. And the traffic increase has turned Donsol from a fifth class municipality to a first class with a P70-million contribution to the economy last year. Its small banca operators exemplify the benefits of our GREET program. GREET means, Grassroots Entrepreneurship for Eco-Tourism. In fact in one of my State of the Nation addresses, I cited Alan Amanse, a college undergraduate and young father, who used to earn 100 pesos a day from fishing and driving a tricycle in Donsol. He became a whale shark-watching guide, and his income jumped tenfold to a 1,000 pesos a day and he started building his dream house.

We were in Donsol yesterday and I looked for him and I asked him, how's your dream house? He said under construction pero meron pa, bubuksan ko na ang sariling resort ko this coming May, because he found an investor to invest in him. That's an example. And this where we are here, this resort, are examples that the private sector has responded to our investment in roads and airports and RORO by their own investments in hotels, lodging houses and infrastructure worth almost 600 billion pesos nationwide between 2004 and 2009 alone during the term of Secretary Durano as Secretary of Tourism. Congratulations, Ace!

And as I said earlier, Central Philippines receive half of this investment, and of the almost half of this investment most of it is here in Palawan. So congratulations to our host, the Palawefños!

Our nation has been blessed with some of the most scenic beauty in the world. Even more important, our nation has been blessed with the most welcoming, energetic and friendly people on earth.

If we are to succeed in building up our tourism, and it is a huge economic boost to our nation — how much Ace of our GDP is now attributable to tourism, you were telling me? In 2008 9.0% and it's been growing at 15% every year. So, that's more than 10% by now for sure — we must invest in our people, our infrastructure and our environment. So, as part of this investment, we declared nature parks in Tubbataha Reefs. Right, Joel during our administration?

In Northwest Panay, near Boracay; in North Negros, near the Bacolod-Silay Airport; in Central Cebu; in Mt. Isarog in Bicol. We are funding the Bicol River Basin Watershed Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Conservation Project. And in the Underground River of Puerto Princesa, which was declared a nature park ages ago, in 2003, we declared it as a National Geological Monument.

We have also set up almost a 100 marine and fish sanctuaries in Central Philippines since 2001, including Tubbataha and the whale shark sanctuary of Donsol.

We have provided also billions for rehabilitation efforts for climate change adaptation especially in the aftermath of typhoon "Frank" in Panay, the series of calamities that hit Bicol like "Reming," the landslides of Southern Leyte, and the oil spill in Guimaras. So the people are back on their feet and the tourists are back on the beaches.

We embrace the concept of a sustainable economic model: where there is no conflict between a clean, healthy environment and a robust economy. We can create jobs and keep our environment safe and sacred. For instance, here in the underground river, tourism has tripled in the last three years. But Mayor Hagedorn said that there is an informal estimate that the carrying capacity of tourism there is only 300 tourists a day. But at its peak, there are

1,000 who want to see it. So, I'm glad that there are resorts like this so that the tourists can wait for their turn and not insist on being there even beyond 300 because they have other things to do here in the resort.

But on the other hand, the 300 is a guesstimate, and I am asking Secretary Nina Alabastro who was with me in the underground tour earlier if DOST can make a real scientific estimate, what is the real carrying capacity of the underground river. Because if it's more than 300 then they can rest easy that there will be more tourists and yet the environment is taken care of.

To invest in all this infrastructure and environmental care, we have made many tough and unpopular choices to control the deficits and increase taxes to pay for the future of this nation. So we thank our congressmen who are here today with us and the other congressmen for helping us to enact those taxes even if they were unpopular for me.

The nation must expand its political and economic footprint to lift up all nations — not just Greater Manila. That is why we have insisted on investing billions of pesos across the nation to link the nation together through a better, more modern transportation system and also to keep our nation clean, safe and beautiful to tap the best of our natural beauty.

From day one of my presidency, we have been committed to investing in our people and our provinces away from Manila. To lift up our God-given attributes: our people, our land, our culture. The world has responded by coming to the Philippines. We take great pride in bringing more political power, economic opportunity and social justice to the regions.

And I think nowhere is that more evident than here in Palawan with all those tourism investments coming in. So, congratulations to the people of Palawan! And thank you.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Joint National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Cabinet Group and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting and launching of the Tourism Central Philippines Tour. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080559/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27592&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Tourism Central Philippines Tour: RORO from Cebu to Bohol

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Tourism Central Philippines Tour: RORO from Cebu to Bohol on board Supercat 34 Fast Craft

[Delivered while sailing over the waters of Cebu going to Bohol, February 24, 2010]

I'd like to thank Ann Lontoc, Undersecretary of Transportation, for presenting the white paper on the RORO industry. This was prepared by CRC or University of Asia and the Pacific but published by the Asian Development Bank. So now, what I'd like to do is to present an overview of our Tourism Policy and Program.

Since I became President, we've made it a policy of the government to spread development to all the parts of the Philippines not just Manila, the provinces at the heart and soul of our country. And our work is to nourish that heart and soul by investing in our people and in our infrastructure in order to be able to bring development to every Filipino.

Our visits to the nation are an important part of my presidency, and the more important, not only do we visit the different provinces, we invest in the provinces. The political process and the economic process in the Philippines is very... is warped and it brings too much power to Manila. So our goal has been to spread the opportunity across the nation in order to take back the tilt to the power brokers and elite in Manila.

To spread the development away from an inequitable concentration in Manila we created the Super Regions. If you will look at the screen, the Super Regions are the following: Agribusiness Mindanao, the Cyber Corridor where Cebu is part, the Urban Luzon Beltway, the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle and Tourism Central Philippines where we are right now. Central Philippines consist of the Visayas, MIMAROPA, Bicol and the northern islands of Mindanao. This area attracts the majority of our foreign tourists and tourism is anchored on Boracay, Cebu, Palawan and now including Bohol.

The biggest advantage of these places of Central Philippines is the natural wonders and the natural warmth of the people. And as far as our policy is concerned the job of the national government is to provide the access to those wonders. Roads, airports, ports because it should be the private sector who will build the resorts, it should be the travel agencies who should do the bulk of the promotion. But our job is what would be difficult for the private sector to do and that is infrastructure access.

So let me begin with Boracay which is the number one overall tourists' destination, domestic and foreign. What we have done is we have upgraded the Kalibo Airport in order to make it receive international airlines. We have also more international airlines not only in Kalibo but in other parts of the country because of our liberalized air policy, and especially now Larry has just entered into an open skies policy with other ASEAN countries. And there in Boracay we have fixed the road from Kalibo Airport to Caticlan. It used to be called the "abortion road" but it's now a very pleasant drive.

But even if we have made Caticlan closer to Kalibo Airport and closer to the international world by internationalizing Kalibo, we're very happy that private sector initiative has also started a BOT airport project right in Caticlan itself. So, we are happy that there is infrastructure development even by private sector. Because Boracay is such a hub and it's spilling over with so many tourists, we want to spread that development also outside Boracay. So, we've also improved the roads that are spillover destinations from Boracay. For example, the Aklan-Libertad-Pandan Road... Actually that should be... it is really Boracay, Ronnie, it is Boracay to Libertad to Pandan so that Pandan is only about an hour drive away now, so you can stay in a less costly resort in Pandan and then you can go swimming and enjoying the night life in Boracay. And we've asked the Tourism Association of Aklan to have dawn trips so that you think you can go back to the mainland or wherever you want to go and not have the litter on the beach and spend the night in a tent.

Now, we've also done other international airports. We built the Santa Barbara Airport and we fixed the road from Santa Barbara Airport going to Iloilo and on to the beaches of Guimaras which we have connected by RORO. Guimaras is also being connected to the other side, to Bacolod, also by RORO. In Bacolod, we have also built the Bacolod-Silay Airport.

Now, let's go to Palawan. Palawan's distinction is that it is the number one tourism investment destination. And what have we done to promote tourism and therefore tourism investments in Palawan. Palawan is the longest province in our country and that road from north to south of Palawan is as long as the road from Manila to Laoag — it's 500 kilometers. All previous administrations from the Commonwealth to my immediate predecessor cemented 100 kilometers; I cemented 300 kilometers. I remember when I was still running for senator — no, even before that when I was just a housewife — and I learned from my friends that they couldn't go to El Nido from Puerto Princesa because there was no road, but now you can do that. So the whole road network has been done, and we also built some other important roads. For instance, the road to the number one of the "7 Wonders of the World," Puerto Princesa Underground River. That used to take the whole day's travel but now it only takes... we took the trip last time, it only takes about over an hour.

Now, the reason why we have to do all of these is because as I said Palawan is very long. Aside from being very long, Palawan also has the biggest archipelago within our archipelago. We have 7,100 islands; Palawan has 1,700 and almost each one of them is surrounded by a beautiful white sand beach. So how do we bring the tourists there? Well, first we fix the road but how do we bring tourists there? We have fixed the Puerto Princesa Airport. We have fixed the Busuanga Airport. When I was a senator that was a dust airport, now it is a concrete airport. And Larry designed such a pretty terminal, energy-efficient and very tourist-friendly. The moment you get there it's already the holiday ambience. And also we have also built a new airport in San Vicente which is on the other side of Puerto Princesa in the Pacific side.

So that is what we've done, as I said, 500 kilometers, we built 300. And I am so glad that now we're able to travel, so you get to Puerto Princesa in a nice airport and you go to whatever destination you want to go to on the mainland on a nice road and many of the resorts offer also a nice yacht ride from the airport nearest to them so that the experience begins there as you very well know.

Now, what about Cebu? Well, Cebu is the number one favorite destination of foreign tourists, and when we started our administration we contracted McKinsey and Associates to do a study of tourism. And the reason why Cebu is the favorite of foreign tourists is because it's got a good international airport and then the beaches are just a few minutes away, and then there are some beautiful resorts. And also, Cebu has plenty of convention space. I was able to do the South East Asian Summit in Cebu and I've tried to do some other summits in other parts but they just don't have the convention space and they don't have the number of rooms to house so many VIPs. So that's one very big advantage of Cebu.

And just as we fix the roads from the north to the south of Palawan, we've done the same thing for Cebu from the north to the south of Cebu. In 2004, we started with the south because from my recollection before I was president most of the resorts were in the southern part of Cebu: Moalboal, Argao — what is that, Polka? — Polka in San Fernando and so on. And the road was horrible and I felt bad about that because it was my grandfather who built that road when he was district engineer of the Visayas, the entire Visayas during the American administration. And then when I went there in 2004, it was horrible, so we fixed that first so we have now a very nice road going to the south.

And then in the north, the father of Ace Durano kept telling me that you know because at that time the biggest employer in the Philippines was in Danao City in Mitsumi, and the father of Ace was telling me that for Mitsumi's competitiveness it's very difficult for them to transport their products to the wharf, to Cebu Port. So he said, we need — he was explaining to me about a bridge — he said, we need a bridge, but he mentioned the name of the bridge but I couldn't picture what he was talking about at first. I thought he meant one of the bridges along the main highway that it should be widened. I didn't know he meant we had to build a whole new billion-peso bridge which is the Cansaga Bay Bridge which we have just finished. So now that we have finished building the Cansaga Bay Bridge at a cost of more than a billion pesos. Now, the northern part of Cebu is also very accessible and that's great because we have great tourism spots in the northern part of Cebu.

I just came back from diving in Malapascua, proud to have seen my thresher shark after just 18 minutes under the water, whereas, other tourists sometimes stay 5 days, 7 days to wait for their first shark. And the owner of the resort told me that... well, she married a Dutch man and when she came back — she is from Sibonga and then — but her husband decided that they would have their own first a private resort in Malapascua. And she didn't want to go there at first because its four hours drive. Well, now it's not four hours drive anymore, we drove through it it's about two hours drive now. So it's half the travel time.

And all along going there Ace and I took the helicopter and we saw so many resorts really cropping up through that whole area. I remember when I was a senator I wanted to book in the only world class resort then which was Alegre, but it was fully booked, but that's a good problem for you. I'm glad that it was fully booked. One of these days we'll get there. Okay.

And then in the City of Cebu and Talisay we have the SRP so that's really now gonna be a whole road network from the north to the south. I know that if you wanna have continued to have your world class amenities I know that you need to have good power and good water. And I know that there... a few months ago you started to experience rotating brownouts. Well, I've been meeting with Secretary Reyes on that, he's been here to Cebu, he's been here for several days now, he just went back to Manila yesterday. And what he wanted me to reiterate to you is that on March 5, since I'm going to inaugurate Cebu Energy, the first 200 megawatts of its total of 600 megawatts investment in the Visayas totaling a billion dollars that makes them one of our Billion Dollar Club. The power situation in the Visayas, Angie Reyes said, will now be stable. So, you can rest assured that you have enough power.

For water, when I was not yet president I was already aware of the water problem of Cebu, and at that time, what everybody was talking about was to solve that problem was to bring water from Bohol to Cebu. When I became president I came across a big howl from the people of Bohol because they said, Cebu already took our sand, now Cebu will take our water. So, therefore, there was a very big objection and somewhere along the way in the steps required where you need local government approval, it stopped somewhere there. So, the next solution was to look for water from Carmen but somewhere along the way also that BOT project did not push through because of differences between the Metro Cebu Water District and the proposed supplier which was Ayala, and so it didn't push through. But today, when we were driving through that now very nice road from the north to Mandaue City and down to Cebu, Mayor Nito Durano of Danao told me that he is developing a water project for Danao City and it's going to produce more water than Danao needs and has already entered into a contract with the City of Cebu. So your water needs will also be soon complied with.

So, it's important because I was telling Nitoy... because I understand now the water is now being rationed in the sense that you have rotating no water also. And I said, but you know, Cebu is a world class city so when you open the faucet it's expected that there'll be water in the faucet. So that they will soon come because these things are already in the pipeline.

Now we're going to Bohol. We were gonna go there on the RORO ferry because we have the presentation of the RORO but it's 4 hours or 5 hours and I don't think we can give you enough seminars or lectures or dialogues to fill up 4 hours, so we just took this fast craft but we've included Bohol because in our presentation of anchor destinations because Bohol has become a favorite destination for tourists separate from Cebu. It used to be Cebu-Bohol but now Bohol is its own destination. And one of the reasons is, first of all, Bohol was able to defeat the communist insurgency, so now the peace and order is very good. And, of course, its natural wonders, the sand of Cebu came from Bohol in the first place according to the Boholanos, so therefore you can go now to the original owners of the sand. But to be able to do that we also had to finish the circumferential road of Bohol. So, again, it's infrastructure that brings people there. And because Bohol is now a destination of its own, it also deserves its own international airport which we are building in Panglao Island. And one of the reasons why I'm going to Bohol is I'd like to find out from Governor Aumentado what is the status now of the Panglao Airport because the first step in bidding an international airport is we've got to buy the land from the owners for the runway and the terminal, and that's usually the job of the local government.

There was a presentation of the RORO here. We don't have to elaborate much but you see originally I envisioned the RORO system to be the out of the back solution to the problem of freight rates. There was such a long impasse between the freight users and the shipping industry, so we decided to go to this route, so the original idea was to be

able to bring the plentiful agricultural products of Mindanao to the big markets of Luzon especially the Urban Beltway passing through this RORO routes. But as Ann has pointed out, one of the good side effects of that is it has developed tourism. For instance, you have to pay 5,000 pesos for a plane ticket... you had to pay 5,000 pesos for a plane ticket to Boracay; you just pay 500 pesos for a bus ticket to Boracay. And so therefore even the airlines have to bring down the rates as well.

Then Masbate and its own beaches can now be accessible even from Cebu through the RORO ports and then Negros Oriental where we are having a nice... we're fixing the airport can also be connected to Siquijor — and where else are you connecting Siquijor, Paul? — also to Cebu, Southern Cebu, so also to the RORO. And then Camiguin can now be accessible not only from Mindanao but also from Bohol, so you have the RORO from Cebu to Tubigon to Jagna and then on to Bohol. And then you have other ports, Ubay Port to Maasin, Leyte so that you can also access the dive spots of Maasin — no, not Maasin — of Southern Leyte especially places like Limasawa.

So, I'm very glad and I'm very grateful to the private sector that they have responded to our investments in road, airports and ports by their own investments, but you the private sector have invested in capacity in hotels lodging houses and even infrastructure. And during the time especially when Ace Durano became Secretary of Tourism, since that time, we have had investments in these facilities of almost 600 billion pesos during our administration. Half of the P600 billion goes to Central Philippines where we are. But of that half that goes to Central Philippines almost all of it goes to Palawan, that's why I said it is the number one destination for investments. And the biggest investment is the investment of Banyan Tree in Diwaran Island of Coron.

The story of the Banyan Tree investment is that Lito Camacho, who used to be my Secretary of Finance, has become the vice chairman since then of Deutsche Bank, so it's his job to lend money to investors and then to help them find good investment facilities. So, Banyan Tree is his client; Banyan Tree is the founder of Phuket. And so he enticed Banyan to put up its own Phuket in the Philippines. Showed him first another property but when the CEO of Banyan Tree was flying over the islands in the northern part of Palawan he saw this Diwaran Island and he said, that's where I want to put our resort. So he is already... he's just now gotten his ECC, his Environmental Compliance Certificate, so he's ready to start construction but he was ready even before but he was waiting for the ECC. And what we had agreed with him is that as soon as he starts construction we also start our construction, di ba Larry? Of the... Because there's the Busuanga Airport which we have fixed then we have a road from... it's already an existing road but we have to make it tourist class, tourist-friendly from Busuanga Airport up to the shore just opposite Diwaran and then Larry will fix a port there. So I realized that the ECC is sometimes such a big bottleneck even Badjan Resort still has a problem. So I'm gonna call the Secretary of Environment today to find out whatever happened to that problem. I know their problem is because they look askance at these stilt types of cottages because they don't know how the sewerage will be handled. But I'm sure that that's their problem. So I'll call up the Secretary of Environment now so we can discuss it with him. Anyway he's a career official so I think he is very familiar with the technical aspects of DENR.

So to make a long story short, our nation is blessed with some of the most beautiful scenic beauties in the whole world. And more important our nation is blessed with the most welcoming, energetic and friendly people on earth. So, if we want to succeed in building up our tourism industry, and we should because the tourism industry has such a big contribution to our economy. Ace said in 2008 it contributed 9% of our GDP, a total of 11 billion dollars, so that's a huge contribution comparable to the OFWs' contribution of about, at that time, 15 billion dollars and perhaps bigger than the contribution of the BPO industry of 6 billion dollars.

So, we really should develop tourism and what we have to do is we have to invest in our people. We have to invest in our infrastructure. We have to invest in our environment. So the reason why I'm visiting a school that teaches tourism in Bohol today is that I want to demonstrate that we have to invest in our people as well if we want to promote tourism. And as far as investing in our environment is concerned, that is the reason why we have declared several nature parks. For instance, here in Central Cebu which Ace tells me stretches the... which are the mountains in the Central of Cebu stretching from Carmen in his district to Talisay in the south, thus, declared as a nature park.

And on March 5, when Cebu Energy inaugurates its coal fired plant — of course, it's clean coal now, meaning, that the emission, the carbon emission is much less than in the past technology. Still, I've asked them, could they make their project as carbon neutral as possible by having the Metrobank Foundation invest in reforestation in the Central

Cebu forests. So since their plants will be in Toledo I'll ask them to start their plantation in Toledo. So we have to do those things, and that the same thing, for instance, in Malapascua when my nephew started diving there in year 2000 he could see 8 sharks at one time. Today, we're cheering because we saw three sharks, and some stay for one week and they don't get to see any shark because there's a tendency for the sharks to shy away when there are too many people, when it's already over visited. But we're still lucky here in Cebu because in many other parts of the country, which were originally beautiful when I was young, they're not so beautiful anymore under the water because of all of the dynamite fishing. But here it's still quite under control and it is important that we continue to maintain the pristine beauty of our nature both on top of the ground and under the water.

So, we have declared also many nature... well, we're gonna go to Bohol so, you know, you're in the tourism industry so you know Bohol's natural wonders, and I want to remind the young people of Bohol that they should take care of the Chocolate Hills, they should take care of the marine life which attracts so much dive tourism in Panglao and — is it Pamilican or Pamilacan? —Pamilacan? I get them confused all the time. How will I remember? Pami, Bohol came later than Pamilican in Palawan. Maybe I'll remember that. Pamilican letter A went ahead. Okay. And there, what we have to stop there is dynamite fishing. So, some of my friends who dive still hear that but I don't think they hear that in Cebu, so that's a good thing about that.

We have developed about a hundred marine sanctuaries in Central Philippines since 2001, that's a lot but still the law says that every single municipality, every coastal municipality should have... should set aside 15% of its municipal waters for marine sanctuary. So, a lot are doing that. I asked the mayor of Medellin, "Yes, he has his marine sanctuary." I asked the mayor of Danao, "Yes, he has a marine sanctuary." But we'd like to have that done everywhere. And, in fact, one of the environment NGOs, Conservation International, which did the marine sanctuary of Sipalay in Negros Occidental, also one of our upcoming resort areas, I'm asking him to help me put up more marine sanctuaries. And we're getting funding from the global environment facility of the UN — what is F? — UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which is part of the goodies I was able to get from the Copenhagen Summit. Although they will be starting from the northern part of Central Philippines which is the Verde Island Passage, supposed to be the center of the center of marine diversity. Because the Philippines is the center of marine diversity, the Philippines is one of the six countries in the Coral Triangle which is the Amazon of the underwater. But it's the entire Philippines that's in the Coral Triangle whereas in the other five countries it's only a part of the countries in the Coral Triangle.

So, they say that the center of that is the Verde Passage but some say it is really in Tubbataha, so we don't know. I mean, there's a debate about that but the long and short of it is that I have to mention the environment whenever I talk about tourism because we have embraced the concept of a sustainable economic model where there should be no contradiction between a clean and healthy environment and a strong economy.

We can create jobs while we continue to keep our environment safe and sacred. So, to be able to do all of these, we have had to do some very difficult and unpopular decisions in order to be able to control our deficit and to increase our taxes especially the Value Added Tax in order to be able to pay for our economy's future. Our Value Added Tax, though it made me very unpopular from which I have never recovered, at least gave us a hundred billion pesos of new revenues every year. So that's what's funding these roads, these airports, these RORO ports, and so what I can say is in its first day of my being president, we have committed to invest in the regions to bring development not just in Metro Manila but as much as possible away from Metro Manila through the Super Regions. We have to spread the footprint, the economic and political footprint of our nation in order to be able to make all regions develop not only Metro Manila.

That is why I insisted on investing billions in the whole country. Look at that, that Cansaga Bay Bridge is over a billion pesos by itself alone. So you can imagine how much all these others cost. So we've invested billions to connect the whole country and we thank the RORO industry for helping us connect our country. Also to be able to improve education so that we can improve the chance of our young to have a better life in the future. And also the third is to work on our environment so that our nation can continue to be beautiful and so that we can also tap the best of our natural beauty in our country in order to bring up the lives of our people.

And all of that is really being done by the tourism sector, by the transport sector, and I want to thank you all for your contribution to our economy.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Tourism Central Philippines Tour: RORO from Cebu to Bohol on board Supercat 34 Fast Craft. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080543/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27627&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Tourism Central Philippines Tour: Visit to the Holy Name University

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Tourism Central Philippines Tour: Visit to the Holy Name University**

[Delivered at the Corner Lesage and Gallares Sts., Tagbilaran City, Bohol, February 24, 2010]

Daghan salamat.

Daghan salamat sa atong poster boy na si Secretary of Tourism Ace Durano.

Daghan salamat, Father Estepa sa inyong welcome remarks ug salamat sa pagdawat ninyo sa akong pagbisita diri sa inyong eskuwela.

Daghan salamat sab kan Governor Aumentado sa inyo nga welcome ug sa imong vision sukad pa sa una nga ako senador ug ikaw congressman kay kaniadto pa giplano na nato kauban kita sa pag-develop sa tourism diri sa Bohol. Ug daghan salamat sab kan Congressman Chatto kay siya ang author atong Tourism Act of the Philippines. Salamat sab kay Mayor Lim, ang mayor sa Tagbilaran sa imong welcome ug congratulations sa mga guwapo nga sites ug mga katawhan diri sa Tagbilaran City.

Aside from Ace Durano, I would like to introduce also to you our Press Secretary, Secretary Jun Iban. Kaninyong tanan mga kaiguon, nalipay ko nga agi ko karon makabisita kaninyo, makabisita sa Bohol gihapon ug karon makabisita sa aton kabataan nga importante gyud para kaninyo ang kaugmaon ug ang turismo, importante sab kamo ug ang inyong edukasyon sa turismo diri sa Bohol ug sa tibuok Pilipinas.

Suwerte kamo kay importante ang edukasyon ug kamo nagadawat sa maayo nga edukasyon gikan sa atong SVD fathers and that is...

Gabisita ako karon tungod kay sukad sa paglingkod nato sa Panguluhan, gihimong tuyo sa gobyerno ang pagpalambo sa tanan lugar sa Pilipinas, dili lang sa Manila. Ang mga probinsiya maoy kasing-kasing ug ispirito sa atong nasud. Ang aton trabaho mao to nourish the heart and soul pinaagi sa pagpamuhunan sa aton katawhan ug sa aton imprastraktura, aron mo-uswag ang matag Pilipino.

Ang aton pagduaw sa nasud importanteng parte sa atong panahon sa pwesto. Labaw pang importante, dili lang mibiyahen kita paingon sa mga probinsiya, nagpuhunan kita sa mga probinsiya. Dili angay ang aton proseso sa pulitika ug sa ekonomiya. Gadala sa daghan kaayong poder sa Manila. Gituyo nato to spread the opportunity across the nation ug bawi-on ang bentaha sa mga power brokers ug elite sa Manila.

To spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Manila, gihimo nato ang mga Super Regions. Kung tan-awon ninyo ang screen, makita ninyo ang mga Super Regions: Agribusiness Mindanao, Cyber Corridor, Urban Luzon Beltway, North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, ug ang Tourism Central Philippines, kun asa na anya kita tanan.

Ang Central Philippines gi-apilan sa Visayas, Bicol, MIMAROPA, ug ang mga isla sa Northern Mindanao. It attracts the majority of our foreign tourists. They come here to Central Philippines. Ang sentro niini mao ang Boracay, Cebu, Palawan ug karon ang Bohol. Ang labing dakong bentaha ining mga lugares sa Central Philippines

mao ang matahom kaayo nga mga natural wonders ug ang natural warmth sa katawhan. Ang trabaho sa national government mao ang mga pasilidad aron dali ra maka-adto ni-ining mga wonders ang mga turista.

For example, alang sa Boracay nga maoy nag-unang tourist destination, gi pa-upgrade nato ang Kalibo Airport aron makatugpa sab ang mga international nga mga airlines. And we have had more international airlines coming to the Philippines because we have liberalized our air policy. Dili na kita istrikto kaayo nga muanhi ang mga airlines kanato.

Ang ilang mga pasahero sa maabot sa Kalibo Airport, mosakay sa sakyanan aron maadto sa Caticlan ug maagi sa kalsada nga kaniadto gitawag nila nga “abortion road.” Apan karon dili na abortion road, gipa-ayo na nato kining dalan busa dili na malisod ang pagbiyahe paingon sa Caticlan ug Boracay. Ug karon gipasugdan pa sa usa ka private investor ang pagpatukod sa Caticlan Airport to make it an international airport right there across the narrow channel from Boracay.

Nagpahimo sab kita ug maayong dalan gikan sa Boracay paingon sa mga tapad niyang lugar sa Panay nga mahimo mga spillover destinations, sama sa Caticlan-Libertad-Pandan Road, paabot sa Antique ug ang dalan gikan sa Sta. Barbara Airport nga gihimo nato, gi-construct nato paingon naman ang kalsada sa siyudad sa Iloilo.

Gipatukod sab nato ang Bacolod-Silay Airport sa Negros Occidental.

Karon sa Palawan. Ang Palawan ang labing popular nga destination sa tourism investors. Tingali 40% sa mga investments karon sa tourism gaadto sa Palawan. And, ngano? Well, una sa tanan, sa aton 7,100 islands sa Pilipinas, 1,700 tuwa sa Palawan. So, daghan kaayo ang mga isla, daghan kaayo ang mga white sand beaches. Ang problema kaniadto lisod ang kalsada kun naay kalsada kay Palawan is the longest province in the country. Ang iyang length gikan sa El Nido hangtod sa Rio Tuba is 500 kilometers. That is as far as Manila to Laoag City. That’s how long Palawan is — 500 kilometers. Ang mga Presidente sukad sa Commonwealth hangtod sa akong predecessor, ang gihuman nila nga concreting sa 500 kilometers, 100 kilometers; sa aton usa lang nga administrasyon gihuman nato ang 300 kilometers, busa kumpleto na ang tibuok kalsada gikan sa Norte hangtod sa South sa Palawan.

Ug tingali nga nahibal-an na ninyo nga sa mga bag-o nga 7 Wonders of the World, karon ang gacontest sa number one ang Amazon River ug ang Underground River sa Puerto Princesa, busa gihimo sab nato ang kalsada gikan sa Puerto Princesa hangtod sa underground river. Murag ingon ko kangina ang nanguna sa tourism investment mao ang Palawan.

Dili lang ang kalsada ang importansya sa Palawan, kay isla man ang Palawan o daghang mga isla, kinahanglan sab nato ang mga airport tungod kay daghan kaayo ang mga isla so kinahanglan dalhon naton ang mga turista didto agi sa mga airport sa Puerto Princesa ug Busuanga nga gi-upgrade nato o kun sa gipatukod natong bag-o nga airport sa San Vicente, ug dayon mo-agi sila sa dalan along the whole length of Palawan islands, 500 kilometers, just as I said earlier, parehas sa Manila hangtod sa Laoag. So now, 500 kilometers makabiyaha na kamo sa tibuok Palawan sa atong administrasyon.

Karon sa pikas diri, ang Cebu naman, ang number one nga paboritong duawon sa mga foreign tourists. Tungod kay world class ang iyang airport ug duol lang ang mga baybayon sa airport. Ang ila mga resorts world class sab. Ug labi na kadtong sa naa sa Mactan Island ug naay dagko nga convention center.

Kaniadto, dunay mga dili maayo nga dalan sab sa Cebu. Gipa-ayo sab nato kini, labi na giuna nato ang dalan paingon sa South Cebu hangtod Santander kay daghan kaayo ang mga tourist attraction didto ug sa North hangtod Daanbantayan kun diin daghan sab ang mga tourist attractions kauban na diri ang mgaresher sharks sa Malapascua. Katong mgaresher sharks rare kaayo maybe as rare as your tarsiers kay angresher sharks their tail is as long as the body and the only place where you can find them is in the Philippines. Kay sa mga laing mga nasud they’re two far deep below but here in the Philippines every morning they go up to have themselves cleaned and that’s where you can catch them.

Sa una, upat nga oras gikan sa Cebu City aron makadto sa Malapascua. Karon, gitunga na ang biyahe tungod sa mga kalsada na gihimo nato.

Ug tingali nahibaw... Ako hibaw kun gibati ninyo ang problema diri sa Bohol kay sa Visayas ingon nila naay problema sa kuryente, nga kun barko hangtod sa Bohol naa busa gabisita ako karon apan whether naa kamo ug problema sa mga rotating brownouts karon o wala ang atong mensahe sa tibuok Visayas sa March 5 mo-inaugurate kita sa usa ka dako nga power projects sa Cebu which is part of an investment in Cebu and Iloilo of one billion dollars. And this first investment of 250 megawatts will now solve the power problem in the Visayas starting on March 5.

So, naistorya na kamo na ako alang sa Boracay, Palawan, Cebu. Sa una, ang gitawag nila sa tourism diri Cebu-Bohol tourism. Apan karon ang Bohol nahimo na paboritong duawon sa mga turista nga lahi para sa Cebu sukad, una, napildi nato didto ang mga komunistang terorista niadtong 2005. Congratulations! sa aton mga opisyal. Ug ikaduha nga rason, gihimo nato, gihuman na nato ang Bohol Circumferential Road. Busa karon gipatindog kita sang international airport sa Panglao Island.

Ganina, na nakalingkod kami sa entablado, samtang nitindog si Father Estepa sa iya nga welcome, nangutana ko kan Governor Aumentado, kumusta na karon ang atong airport? Ingon niya nga nahuman na ang bidding, naa nay nidaog, dili niya hibaw kun kinsa but tuwa na kita sa post qualification procedures. So kun kinsa man nidaog sa bidding, kun wala siya mga disqualification, mahatag na ang kontrata tingali bag-o sa March 26. So mahuman na, magsugod na tingali — na dili tingali — naa kita dako nga paglaum masugdan na ang construcion sa Panglao Airport aron kamo sab naa na kamo ang inyong kaugalingong international airport ug daghan pa ang moadto mga turista diri sa Bohol.

Gitukod sab nato ang mga pantalan, ingon ni Congressman Chatto, ang cruise ship port mahuman na sa Mayo, so katong mga dagko nga cruise ships muanhi sa Bohol ug bisita kaninyo.

Karon naa kita port alang sa mga international cruise ships, naa kita sab mga pantalan alang sa mga gagmay nga mga barko, RORO nga muod sa mga laing-laing lugar aron makakonekta ang mga turista samtang sa Cebu konektado sa Bohol paagi sa Tubigon Port, ug ang Bohol konektado sa Camiguin paagi sa Jagna Port, ug ang Bohol konektado sa Leyte, sa Southern Leyte paagi sa Ubay Port. So ang mga turista sa Cebu makaanhi sa Bohol, ang mga turista sa Bohol makaadto sa Cebu, mga turista sa Bohol makaadto sa Camiguin, sa ilang mga baybay, mga turista sa Bohol makaadto sab sa Southern Leyte sa mga diving spots nila. So konektado ang kining parte sa Central Philippines paagi sa atong RORO.

Mao nga ang Bohol labi na sa mahuman ang international airport mahimo usa ka anchor or hub asa diin makadto ang mga turista sa laing-laing lugar, laing-laing isla nga silingan sa Bohol. So importante kining mga progreso labi na naa ang inyong eskuwela nga kurso sa turismo aron siguro masigurado nato na ang aton mga estudyante nag-ara sa turismo naay trabaho sa pag ilang pag-graduate.

Nalipay ko nga gitubag sa pribadong sektor ang aton pagpamuhunan sa dalan, airport ug RORO. Ang ilang tubag mao ang pagpadaghan sa kapasidad sa hotel, lodging houses ug uban pang imprastraktura, ug kining tanan nilang investments ga-abot sa term ni Secretary Durano isip Secretary of Tourism hapit 600 billion pesos sa atong administration. Ug karon murag naa sa atong audience usa ka prospective investor nga unya istoryahon nato siya kag ang iyang tuyo kun tingin ko na malipay siya sa atong conversation naa siya ug one billion investment diri sa Bohol.

Apan dili naman siya ang nanguna kay daghan na kaayo ang mga resorts. Ako nakaabot na sa tanan mga lungsod sa Bohol ug kada usa sa inyong mga lungosd, ingon gyud ni Congressman Chatto, naay potential alang sa tourism. Ug nakita ni ang private sector kay sa akong pagbisita sa dugay na panahon, kada pagbisita ko mupuyo ako sa bag-o nga resort nga kanunay mas guwapo kaysa sa naunahing resort. So karon naa gihapon nga bag-o nga under construction o lapit na ang iyang groundbreaking, ang Bellevue Investment, so daghan kaayo. Ang Eskaya usa sa most expensive resort sa atong nasud and yet it is full of customers. So guwapo kaayo ang investments dinhi.

Ang aton nasud, ang Bohol gibendisyon sa pila sa labing matahom nga scenic beauty sa tibuok kalibutan. Katong diving oh, daghan ang diving sa Bohol. Mas importante pa gyud gibendisyon ang atong nasud sa labing welcoming, energetic ug ma-amiguon nga mga tawo sa kalibutan.

Ang kuwento sa akon mga higala gabakasyon diri, bisan mapuyo sila sa usa ka high-class, five-star expensive resort nalipay sila sa paggawas nila sa resort ug magpasyal sa mga kalsada kay tanan nga Boholano nga makita nila welcoming kaayo, so nice, so friendly, so kusog ang culture, ang tourism culture dinhi sa Bohol. So you are part of the attraction of Bohol.

Kun gusto nato mo-succeed sa pagtindog sa atong turismo, ug dako kaayo ang ikatabang niini sa ekonomiya sa nasud ug sa Bohol kay ang turismo sa tuig 2008 ang gihatag sa atong nasud 6%... 9% sa atong GDP ug 11 billion dollars ang earning sa tibuok nasud. Diri sa Bohol, sa una, sa wala pa ang atong administration, kauban kamo sa 20 poorest provinces. Salamat nga dako nga papel sa turismo kamo usa na ka middle-class nga probinsiya o dili na sa mga kabos nga probinsiya. So, congratulations sa Bohol!

So kun gusto nato nga padayon kining atong progreso sa turismo, kinahanglan kitang mamuhunan sa aton katawhan, sa aton imprastraktura ug sa aton environment. Gikuwento ko na kaninyo ang aton investment sa imprastruktura. Sa katawhan, kinahanglan gyud ang aton mga kabataan naay mas maayo kun naay mga kurso sa turismo, busa sa akong pagbisita sa akong tourism Super Region tour, giapil ko ang bisita sa kada eskuwela nga ga-offer sa tourism course. And I'm happy that I am here in Holy Name University.

Karon bahin sa environment. Ganina sa atong klase, gi-observe nato sa tourism class ang ilang lesson for the day was about environment. Angay gyud ni, angay gyud ni kay kundili gwapo ang environment, dili gwapo ang tourism. Busa diri sa Bohol nga daghan kaayo ang inyong natural beauty, importante nga gugmaon nato ang atong environment. Gugmaon nato ang mga gubat, ang mga tarsier, gugmaon nato ang Chocolate Hills, gugmaon nato ang marine life nga ga-attract ug dako nga dive tourism sama sa Balicasag; Pamilacan, daghan kaayo; Panglao, daghan kaayo, ug labanan nato ang dynamite fishing. Mao ang kinahanglan aron padayon ang atong eco-tourism nga mao ang specialty diri sa Bohol.

Nakapatukod kita ug hapit 100 marine sanctuaries sa sulod sa Central Philippines sukad sa tuig 2001. Apan ingon sa balaud, kada coastal town kinahanglan hatagan ug 15% sa iyang municipal waters alang sa marine sanctuary. Busa, unta siguraduhon nato kada usa kamo kun nakapuyo kamo sa coastal municipality, siguraduhon ninyo sa inyo mga opisyal nga naay marine sanctuary sa inyong lungsod.

Ang aton gi-obra mao ang konsepto sa sustainable economic development kun diin walay kontra ang limpiyo ug healthy nga environment sa kusog nga ekonomiya. Mahimo kita o mo-create ug mga trabaho samtang gapadayon nga safe and sacred ang atong environment.

Sa aton paghatag sa puhunan, daghan kita ug gihimo sa mga malisod kaayo ug dili popular nga mga desisyon aron ma-kontrol ang atong budget deficits ug padak-an ang atong buhis aron bayaran ang kaugmaon ni-ining nasud. Agi sa aton mga kalsada, mga airport, mga port sila tanan kinahanglan ang buwis aron maka-finance sa ila.

Sukad sa unang adlaw sa akon pagka-Presidente, committed kita nga mo-invest sa aton katawhan ug aton mga probinsiya — halayo sa Manila.

Kinahanglan padak-an sa nasud ang iyang political and economic footprint aron maka-uswag ang tanang rehiyon, dili lang ang Greater Metro Manila. Busa gipilit nato nga mo-invest ug bilyun-bilyong peso sa tibuok nasud aron makonekta ang nasud pinaagi sa mas epektibo ug mas modernong sistema sa transportasyon paagi gyud sa airport, road ug RORO, ug mas maayo nga kaugmaon sa atong kabataan paagi sa mas maayong edukasyon, sama sa edukasyon na gahatag, ginahatag diri sa inyong Holy Name University ug kinahanglan mo-invest kita aron magpadayon nga limpiyo, clean ug matahom kining atong nasud aron mogamit nato ang labing matahom sa atong natural beauty.

Busa, giana ko karon makaistorya sa atong kabataan, kay kamo ang kaugmaon, kamo sab ang paagi kun pa unsa kita makaabot sa aton kaugmaon sa maayo nga paagi kay kun gusto nato ang turismo nga mahatag sa progreso sa Bohol, kinahanglan kauban sab ang aton kabataan.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech during the Tourism Central Philippines Tour: Visit to the Holy Name University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080549/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27626&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the flag raising ceremony in celebration of the 24th anniversary of the peaceful EDSA People Power Revolution

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the flag raising ceremony in celebration of the 24th anniversary of the peaceful EDSA People Power Revolution**

[Delivered at the People Power Monument, EDSA, Quezon City, February 25, 2010]

Thank you, Secretary Ermita.

Other members of the EDSA Commission; former President Ramos, one of the key players of EDSA; Mayor Belmonte; Mayor Lim; other officials of the Philippine government both civilian and military; ladies and gentlemen; mga kababayang Pilipino.

In February 1986, Filipinos taught the world how to be free again. Today, almost a quarter century after that glorious revolution, we join in celebrating — please sit down to those who have seats — we join you in celebrating the bloodless revolution that has inspired many peoples all over the world to stand up for their own freedom. Peaceful revolution is a hallmark of the Filipino struggle. It is also our guide now as we wage war on various fronts: against poverty, against hunger, against ignorance.

People Power is the force that we will use to win this war.

People Power is not partisan; it is not about whose politics one supports. It is about the heroism of the many who held strongly to their faith in the Filipino and who have sought a new Philippines that would stand proudly beside any free nation in the world. It is a spirit that brought to the fore the greatness of the Filipino. The greatness that is continuously manifest today in the millions of our countrymen and women who make their own daily sacrifices so that our country can turn around.

The world embraced EDSA 1 in 1986.

The world tolerated EDSA 2 in 2001.

The world will not forgive an EDSA 3 but would instead condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable. Under these circumstances who would invest, foreigner or Filipino in the Philippines; how would we weather the difficulties arising from the global economic crisis.

The Philippines has come a long way since 1986. We regain our freedom and our national pride but somewhere along the way we became complacent.

People Power gained a partisan meaning which started to divide the nation once more.

A few years ago I declared, that one of our goals is to heal the wounds of EDSA to some extent but not necessarily to the extent that we want it, we have achieved this to some extent. Most of those who used violence to express their opposition have a change of heart and are now working with mainstream society to fast track our growth.

The few who have vowed to fight the constitutional authority many of them are now seeking their own place in our political system placing themselves under the Rules of the Constitution.

Today at EDSA, we celebrate not only EDSA's historical role in people power but its role as the main artery of the metropolis.

After this ceremony here in EDSA Shrine, we will walk along EDSA once again, not in order to wage a peaceful revolution but instead to do something that is very important to our future — the future of our economy.

We will inaugurate, we will walk to the nearest MRT-LRT station and inaugurate the closing of the loop that connects the LRT and the MRT, and therefore that will bind the metropolis as never before so that people can travel faster, cheaper and safer from any part of the metropolis to another.

EDSA 1 is a testament to the courage of the ordinary people who troop this stretch of highway in 1986. Today's EDSA we troop again this stretch of highway as a testament to the quiet heroism of the ordinary Filipino — the commuter who travels the MRT or the LRT everyday to and from work, to and from school.

This commuting Filipino is a symbol of the Filipino that will bring us to the verge of first world in 20 years.

Mabuhay ang People Power! kaya Mabuhay ang karaniwang Pilipino!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the flag raising ceremony in celebration of the 24th anniversary of the peaceful EDSA People Power Revolution. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080535/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27660&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the 105th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) “Masidlak” Class 2010 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 105th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) “Masidlak” Class
2010**

[Delivered at the Borromeo Field, Philippine Military Academy, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, Benguet, March 1, 2010]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Gonzales for your introduction.

Vice President de Castro, other elected officials and appointive officials of the country, General Ibrado, Vice Admiral Calderon, other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Admiral Calderon and the rest of the faculty and staff of the PMA, congratulations for producing such a fine harvest of graduates!

Class “MASIDLAK,” parents and loved ones of our graduates, your batch has the most number of “starmen” or honor students distinguished in academics in many years and the lowest attrition rate among recent classes. Congratulations for such academic excellence!

I therefore address Class “MASIDLAK” not just as young officers but as leaders of the next generation. And I address PMA today not just as a training ground for officers of the Armed Forces but as a higher education institution.

Everything our government has worked hard to achieve has been to make the future brighter for the next generation of Filipinos. You, our graduating class, the youth of our nation, are our hope and inspiration. Everything we must do must be to build a better life for each and every young person in this nation.

Therefore, we will continue hands-on governance until the day I leave office. To that end, we will promote the key initiatives our government has advanced since the day I took office. We will focus on three areas:

One, bringing more power and growth to each region, away from the dominance of Manila.

Two, continuing to promote the importance through our efforts to create sustainable and equitable development of the three E’s: the environment, the economy, and education, including a good PMA education.

Third, a continuous focus on you, the youth of our nation, as our best hope for a brighter, better Philippines.

The foundation of opportunity is education, for instance, a good PMA education. It is the key to a better life. It opens minds and opens doors.

And I think there is no better example of what a good PMA education can do to open up new opportunities than our very own valedictorian, Lieutenant Belen, whose father is a tricycle driver and I congratulate his parents!

Because you want PMA to be not just a good school for officers but a good educational institution. In 2002 our new administration reviewed the PMA policies and curriculum. This resulted in what Vice Admiral Calderon mentioned the PMA Strategic Plan or Roadmap.

Because of this strategic plan, entrance standards are now stiffer but administered to a broader selection of qualified students. For instance, this explains why we have a lower attrition rate today and also why we have such a big batch of honor students. I understand that Batch 2010, for many of you, this is your second degree. You already had a degree when you entered the PMA, that's why your record of academic excellence is terrific, and also it is because of our new recruitment policies. Congratulations to all our honor students!

And just as we have increased the pay of our soldiers, our typical soldier now earns twice as much as he did in year 2000. We have also increased PMA basic stipends from P10,000 plus in year 2000 to almost P19,000 for 2010. I hope that helps more of our students stay on campus, in the school, in PMA, and helps them also to take care of their parents in the meantime.

Like other higher educational institutions, we now require professors to have a graduate degree. And during our administration, a 142 of our core of professors took up masteral and doctoral studies, 50 new officers were recruited to the core of professors, and more than 30 professors were sent to foreign schooling. So, I dare say that our professors in PMA are as good as any other professors in any excellent center of higher education.

On physical facilities, which we also need for a good education, Vice Admiral Calderon talked about what we have done to improve physical facilities in this school, in this academy. And I believe yesterday Secretary Bert Gonzales already enumerated what those different things are that we have done, how we have invested millions, about 60 million pesos, to address long-running clamor for specific investments, improvements in physical facilities. And aside from that, we've improved the campus roads. General Ibrado made sure that they would be finished just in time for this graduation. Congratulations to that!

One of the reforms of the PMA Roadmap is the continuous improvement of the communicative skills of the cadets, starting from your first year in the academy until your last day as cadets of PMA. I remember when I was a senator, our impression was that: the PMA curriculum was very heavy on engineering subjects — that was up to 1996 — and then the amount of engineering units pared down. Because I remember also alumni saying that they would have preferred less engineering and more communication skills. And now we are giving that to our cadets.

But at the same time, we must recognize that in today's world, a strong education must be accompanied by a strong backbone in technology. To build the mind and connect to the world. Education and technology are the twin pillars upon which the future of the nation rests. That is why we remain dedicated in our last months in office to promoting, advancing, pushing for more and better education, including in the PMA, and more and better technological infrastructure.

We have come far in both, but we still have far to go and we must not rest. We have made progress, but more needs to be done. That is why before my term ends, a curriculum review will take place for PMA headed by a committee with chair, Dr. Consuelo Estepa of the UST Graduate School. This should result in a new curriculum for the next batch of entrants. And I instruct Admiral Calderon to make sure that this new curriculum should emphasize technology, the way engineering was emphasized in the 1990s and earlier. This new curriculum should conform not only to the needs of the Armed Forces but also to the requirements of a center of academic excellence here in the north.

We have a deep desire to see a brighter future for our hardworking men and women of this nation, including you, our young PMA graduates today. More importantly, we have an abiding interest in seeing that you, the young people today come into your own, seize the value of education as you have done with a PMA education, and seize the value of modernity and use these tools to advance yourself and the nation.

In advancing the nation, you will build up on what your seniors have achieved in the defense and security of our nation. Therefore, though I have spoken mainly of PMA as an academic institution, let me now conclude by acknowledging the achievements of the AFP for which you were specially trained.

In the lawless provinces of the South, we have brought peace and stability through a combination of strict military hard power and the effective use of soft development tools, namely: the building of roads, bridges and schools and ports, to lift up the economy, the local economy.

I trust that you, the new officers of our Armed Forces will apply the same hard and soft power to achieve lasting peace in Mindanao and other insurgency-affected areas.

While lasting peace has yet to be achieved, we have taken heavy political risks to broker a peace. We have reached within the affected communities to change the peace paradigm. We have brought together an amazing international consensus to aid the process from the outside. Japan, Australia, the U.S., England, the OIC nations, Malaysia, and so many others now have a vested interest in peace in Mindanao.

We have been active in the fight against global terrorism, boosting our intelligence gathering and sharing with key allies, while lifting up the professionalism and training of our own armed services, including PMA training.

As a result, we have narrowed the lair of hardcore terrorists in the South and continue to limit and confine the communist insurgency which is sputtering on empty fumes. As a result of all these, the people are safer than ever. We thanked your seniors in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Congratulations to you!

While we are proud of what our government has achieved, past achievement is only as good as the ability of the nation to continue to grow and prosper. We fervently desire that the progress we have made will not stop; that what remains to be done will be picked up by you, the next generation of leadership, our graduates of Class 2010.

As a nation, we must keep our sights firmly set on the future, to build on what is good and work even harder to meet the challenges of what remains to be done.

You, our graduates, the young of the nation, are the bridge between the past and the future. It is for you that we right the wrongs, fight for change, and seek to make a brighter day. Our nation has come far, but it still has far to go.

You, our graduates; you, the youth, represent the aspirations of our nation. It is to you that we dedicate the efforts of our government to lift up the Philippines. Now, you will join us in those efforts.

Good luck to all of you! Mabuhay! Congratulations!

And in your honor, I will now sign the Pardon of Punishment in observance to the time honored tradition of the Philippine Military Academy. So, I hereby pardon all outstanding punishments of the cadet corps as recommended by the superintendent, PMA effective today.

Mabuhay to our brilliant Class of PMA 2010!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 105th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Masidlak" Class 2010. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080527/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27661&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle Tour

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle Tour: Visit to F. L. Vargas College, Centro Tuguegarao**

[Delivered at the Gymnasium, F.L. Vargas College, Centro Tuguegarao, F. Blumentritt St., Tuguegarao City,
Cagayan, March 2, 2010]

Thank you.

Maraming salamat, Secretary Arthur Yap, sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. At dahil nagsubmit ka na ng iyong resignation dahil ikaw ay unopposed candidate for Congress sa Bohol, maraming salamat sa iyong paglilingkod.

Governor Antonio, agyamanak ti welcome remarks yo, and thank you for recognizing and acknowledging the assistance we have given to this very important agribusiness province of Cagayan.

Apo Mayor Delfin Ting; the Vargas family, thank you for your hospitality in letting us use this facilities of your excellent school to be able to make our presentation of Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle. And I would like to also recognize former Mayor Randy Ting and former Assemblyman Tony Carag. And aside from Secretary Arthur Yap, I'd like to introduce two other cabinet members: Secretary Peter Favila of Trade and Industry, and Jun Ichan, Press Secretary. So, Mayor Baby and the other mayors, senior member and administrator, as I said the Vargas family, dagiti estudyante, dagiti teachers, dagiti faculty ti Vargas Colleges, naimbag a bigat yo amin, Apo.

Manipud idi aldaw nga nagtugaw tayo kas Presidente, panggep ti gobyerno tayo nga mapasayaat iti tunggal lugar iti Pilipinas — saan laeng iti Manila. Dagiti probinsya ket puso ken kararua iti pagilyan tayo. Iti trabaho tayo ket to nourish the heart and soul of our nation babaen dagiti pagpuonan kadagiti tattao tayo ken imprastraktura tayo, tano agrang-ay ti tunggal Pilipino.

I'm very glad to be here again in Cagayan province. I've come so often, I have visited every single town of Cagayan province.

Dagiti panagbiyahe tayo iti pagilyan ket kangrunaan iti panawen ti kinapangulo tayo. Mas importante, saan tayo laeng nagbiyahe kadagiti probinsya, nangipunoan tayo kadagiti probinsya. Ik-ikan na iti sobra nga pannakabalin ti ekonomiya ken pulitika diay Manila. So we have aimed to spread iti gundaway iti intero nga pagilyan, and take back the prejudice that is towards Manila.

To spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Manila, we designed the Super Regions. If you will look at the screen, you will see the Super Regions: Agribusiness Mindanao, Tourism Central Philippines, the Luzon Urban Beltway, the Cyber Corridor and North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle or NLAQ, where we are.

The North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle consists of Regions I, II and CAR and the northern part of Region III. This is rugged country, you're between the Sierra Madre Mountains and the Cordillera Mountains, but the rugged north of our country has some of the most hardy and hardworking people in the Philippines. The long history of grit and determination especially of our farmers and small businessmen has kept this nation moving forward.

Hardworking people want good jobs and good wages.

Iti nasayaat nga trabaho iti North Luzon ket makita iti agribusiness. Ditoy administrasyon tayo, ti inpautang ti Land Bank kadagidiay mannalon, mangalap ken negosyante ket ngan-ngani doble iti nagkakadwa nga sabsabali nga napalabas nga administrasyon. Isoda amin kadua-kadua ket P97 milyon ti inpautang da. Ti maysa laing nga

administrasyon tayo, 161 billion pesos. Ken P14 billion ditoy ket napan diay babassit nga mannalon ken fishermen, doble ti intero nga inpautang from 1982 to year 2000.

Hardworking people want a good education for their children. We built more than a 100,000 classrooms during our administration. And of this, more than 12,000 were for NLAQ schools. Ken nagrugi tayo dagidiay ladderized system of education in more than a hundred schools, kas iti Vargas Colleges. Kadagitoy eskwela nga adda ladderized education, mabalin nga agrugi dagidiay vocational courses, inton malpas, mabalin ag-graduate ken agtrabahan wenno agtuloy para ti college degree. And I am glad that here in Vargas College, you are one of those offering the ladderized system of education.

Ta ado nga oportunidad wenno gundaway para ti agribusiness. I was asking, nagsaludsodak kenni Board Member Vargas no adda kayo nga Agribusiness courses, awan pay kano. So, we will ask TESDA to be able to help you. Also Secretary Arthur Yap, before you leave, after all, my last day for appointing your successor is still March 10. Before you leave, maybe you can help them put together a short Agribusiness course here in Vargas College for ladderized education.

Ta we have been pushing for more enrollments in Agribusiness courses in the 20 state colleges and universities that offer them. And I'm glad, itatta nga aldaw, we see some of the scholars, the provincial scholars, studying agriculture in the various state universities and colleges of Cagayan province. Thank you for joining us today.

We have also provided college and post-graduate education for over 600,000 scholars, on top of the billions that we have provided... billions of pesos we have provided for vocational and technical education, and I'm glad to hear from Board Member Vargas that Vargas College is a very strong recipient of CHED scholars.

Hardworking people want improved roads and bridges in order to get to work and conduct business. Kaspangarigan, in my father's time in the 1960s, he built the Halsema Highway from Baguio to Bontoc. But by neglect by succeeding administrations, that road deteriorated. Idi kalman, we inaugurated the rehabilitated road. Kuna ni Loreta Bayaan idi kalman, maysa nga farmer leader, kunana from a mountain trail, President Diosdado Macapagal gave them a highway, and then it went back to a mountain trail after his administration. But now, President Macapagal Arroyo restored it back to a highway. Saan laeng data, we also extended it to Ifugao. Saan laeng data, it's not gonna be on the chart, Baguio to Bontoc, we're also building a connection from Bontoc to Tinglayan, and as you know, Tinglayan is already connected to Tabuk and to Tuguegarao. So it will be very easy to travel between Tuguegarao and Baguio once that Bontoc to Tinglayan segment is finished, we have a problem with right of way but the other portions are already done or will be done in a few weeks time.

Apay importante dagiti kalsada? Well, just to give an example of the Halsema Highway. Before the rehabilitation, the "ahente" bought the Benguet vegetables for a low price because they were no longer fresh when they reached Baguio, worse when transported to Manila. Today with the Halsema Highway, their vegetables are transported quickly from their gardens to Baguio. And the roads going to Manila are also improved with the SCTEX and the NLEX, so the "ahente" now buys their vegetables at a good price. The road will even be better and the trip will even be faster with the private sector Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Toll Road which started construction yesterday.

Aggapo SCTEX addan napipintas nga kalsada inggana Baler ken Dingalan diay Aurora. Adda met baru nga kalsada aggapo Baler inggana Casiguran diay Aurora. And as I said, ti Tabuk-Tuguegarao Road which will hopefully connect all the way to Bontoc but maybe the right of way — I don't know if it can be done during my administration — but at least there's only one part of the chain that's not completed by the end of our administration.

Ngem haan laeng dagiti dadakkel nga kalsada, iti administrasyon tayo met ket nagaramid met iti nasurok nga 2,000 kilometers of farm-to-market roads in the entire NLAQ.

Nagaramid met tayo wenno nangpasayaat dagiti airports para dagidiay produkto iti agribusiness. Kaspangarigan, ti Poro Point International Airport nga nalpas idi napalabas nga tawen; the Bagabag Airport diay Nueva Vizcaya which my father built for the Rice Terraces and which we have lengthened; duwa nga airport diay Batanes; ti umay nga airport nga kuna ni Governor Antonio itattay, diay Lal-lo, which is where the international airport of Cagayan

Valley will be, asideg ti Cagayan Zone, adda met dagidiay airport diay Baler ken Casiguran; adda private sector airport diay Binalonan, Pangasinan which started operating since 2008; and ti airport diay Alaminos, Pangasinan nga inaramid idi bidding idi Disyembre. So North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, with a plenty of airports for your agricultural cargo.

Dagidiay pantalan, we rehabilitated the port in Santa Ana, Cagayan. Agaramid met tayo iti feasibility study para iti Salomague Port diay bangir diay Ilocos Sur. So this is important, 'cause you did infrastructure in order to be able to transport your products.

Hardworking people also want more support in science and technology to improve our crops and productivity. Ta no awan nga technology, no awan nga science, no adda El Niño, awan nga harvest. Ngem itatta ta adda technology, uray adda El Niño, we should be able to overcome, and that's why we have almost 500 irrigation pumps for your towns in the southern part of Cagayan province. But I am glad to hear that the northern part of Cagayan province is not feeling the effects of El Niño and we can still expect a good harvest from the northern part.

Nangipuonan tayo para ti 400...

Oops! there's an earthquake. Wow! Okay. Well, let's pray it will not be anything like Chile or Haiti.

Nangipuonan tayo para ti 400 nga post-harvest facilities ditoy NLAQ manipud idi 2004 kas iti cold chain para ti Trinidad, Benguet, a refrigerated storage facility and refrigerated trucks to deliver vegetables to Manila. Idtoy Cagayan, our most important post-harvest facilities are the flatbed dryers tano haan masapol nga ag-dry dagiti corn and rice yo dagidiay kalsada because that produces 30% of post-harvest losses. So flatbed dryers are more scientific and better technology.

Kadua met ti teknolohiya ket ti irigasyon, tano uray awan nga uran, adda danom. Iti administrasyon tayo ket, not only this irrigation pumps, pinadanuman iti 700,000 hectares iti NLAQ babaen iti baro, restored wenno rehabilitated irrigation systems. Kaspangarigan, babassit nga irigasyon ket pinadanuman iti 500,000 hectares ti farmland ti intero nga NLAQ. Madamdama agbisita tayo iti maysa dagiti rehabilitated irrigation systems diay Delfin Albano, Isabela. Adda met diay bangir ti San Roque Dam nga balbaliwen tayo iti Agno River Project nga mangted iti irigasyon iti 35,000 nga ektarya diay Eastern Pangasinan, Western Nueva Ecija ken Northern Tarlac nga malpas no 2012. Ti Casecnan Dam Irrigation Project met, nalpas idi Disyembre agtultulong dagidiay 55,000 hectares iti Nueva Ecija, our largest rice producing provinces, and iti Banaoang Irrigation System, namnamaen nga pamadanuman iti 6,000 hectares nga ektarya iti Ilocos Sur.

Tano makaurnong iti dolyar and to save our air from climate change, windmills in Batanes and Bangui, Ilocos Norte turn megawinds into megawatts. Ti Bangui Bay project ket mangmangted tatta iti 30% iti masapul nga enerhiya iti Ilocos Norte. Ti San Roque mangted iti hydropower into no 2013. But me, I don't like hydropower, especially big ones, because when you have El Niño, they don't work, like what is happening now in Mindanao. Mas nasayaat ti wind power, which we get plenty of wind here in Northern Luzon. Ken I remember, Governor Antonio telling me nga umay dagidiay wind projects, wind power projects iti Pamplona ken Aparri.

(Off-mike Response from Cagayan Gov. Alvaro Antonio)

Okey, so the equipments are now being off loaded, so asidegen ti wind power idtoy Cagayan province.

Kas land reform, nagdistribute tayo ti 150,000 nga ektarya nga private land ken 600,000 nga ektarya ti public land, kadua dagiti ancestral domain. Kaspangarigan, 100,000 nga ektarya para kadagiti Bugkalots ken Ilongots iti Quirino, Aurora ken Nueva Vizcaya. Iso nga 150,000 nga Bugkalot didiay ket nangaramid iti irigasyon ken planted their own vegetables and corn.

I also remember attending a land distribution combined land reform and ancestral domain in Rizal in the neighboring province of Kalinga.

Dagiti mannalon ket nang-benepisyo met babaen iti agro-forestry kas iti jatropa, kaspangarigan, 200 hectares idia Fort Magsaysay in Northern Nueva Ecija. Adda met dagiti proyekto nga panagmula iti niyog kas dagiti inrugi tayo idia Lal-lo, Cagayan in my one of my recent visits here, idi malpas nga tawen ken idia Nueva Vizcaya ken Isabela into no March 16, coconuts in the northern provinces.

Tano pondoan dagito puonan, we have made very tough and unpopular choices to control the deficits and increase taxes to pay for the future of this nation. Education, the economy and the environment have received the largest share of the money. I would suffer the criticism any day and over and over again to see our nation prosper. You, the youth of our nation in particular, deserve a better deal than your parents. In you, we will see a brighter day. No price is too high to pay for your education and your future success.

The nation must expand its political and economic footprint to lift up all regions, not just Metro Manila. That is why we have insisted on investing billions of pesos across the nation to tie the nation together through a better, more modern transportation system; to lift up you, our next generation with more schools to ensure a better education; and keep our nation clean, safe and beautiful to tap the best of our natural beauty.

Maysa laeng tayo nga pagpagilyan. We are one nation. So let us all stand shoulder-to-shoulder to lift up our nation, to lift our nation up and to give you, our next generations even more opportunity.

Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin, Apo.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle Tour: Visit to F. L. Vargas College, Centro Tuguegarao. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080518/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27667&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during an Anchor Education Event: Visit to the Philippine Women's University (PWU) offering Ladderized Education Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During an Anchor Education Event: Visit to the Philippine Women's University (PWU) offering Ladderized Education Program**

[Delivered at the Philippine Women's University, Taft Avenue, Manila, March 3, 2010]

Thank you very much Secretary Syjuco, our outgoing Chairman and Head of TESDA. Outgoing because he is running for Congress in his district. But I'm glad that you're here for one of your last acts as head of TESDA because Secretary Syjuco when he was still a congressman was the father of the concept of Ladderized Education.

Chairperson Tita Helen Benitez, I'm always so happy to see such elegant and venerable lady at the helm of PWU. CEO Freddie Reyes, new generation; past president Amelou, thank you very much for your ideas about the 12 years. I hope that we can... I will ask my PA Mona Valisno of Education to take up your solution with the Presidential Task Force on Education. I think we're going to have a luncheon meeting one of these days. Maybe we can have Amelou join us in that meeting.

Our different CHED Commissioner Defensor, our different officials, our faculty and staff of PWU, our students of PWU and guest students from other schools, I'm so glad to be here with all of you.

And I am so glad to be here again in PWU. Again, because I've come here very often. And every time I come here I feel very, very happy. I feel happy because I remember my mother. PWU is my mother's high school alma mater. And the friends she met in high school — it was PWC at that time — her seatmates to the left and to the right for four years became her lifelong best friends.

And then when I was a teenager, she sent me to study folk dancing here, under the great Mommy Urtula of the great Bayanihan. So I am happy to be here with you, with the young CEO of PWU, with the young students of PWU, and the young scholars from the other schools. Because you, the young of our nation, are the bridge between the past and the future. It is for you that we right the wrongs, fight for change and seek to make a better day.

Our nation has come far, but it still has far to go. So we will continue hands-on governance until the day I leave office. Just like Buboy Syjuco working until the judicial notice from the Supreme Court comes here. To that end, we will promote the key initiatives our government has advanced since we took office. We will focus on three areas:

One, bringing more power and growth to each region and decongesting Manila.

Two, continuing to promote the importance of the three E's: education, economy and environment, to our efforts to create sustainable and equitable development.

Three, a focus on you, the youth of our nation as the best hope for a brighter, better Philippines.

We have made progress in many areas. When we took office in 2001, our plan to promote growth and equity centered around four components that I pointed out in my first State of the Nation Address:

First, an economic philosophy of private enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. For example, private enterprise in education. We don't want state universities and colleges to kill private universities. We don't want public high schools to kill private high schools. That is why we invested very heavily in scholarships because we know that state universities and colleges are very highly subsidized. Private universities and colleges have a lower cost per

student, meaning, more efficient than state universities and colleges. But since you had no subsidies, you have to have charged a higher price because the state universities and colleges charged a much lower price because the tuition is not the one paying for their operations, it's the government allocation. So to equalize that we have spent a lot on scholarships and I hope that many of the students in PWU are either CHED or TESDA scholars, part of our promoting private enterprise.

Because under this philosophy, the way to fight poverty is to create jobs. And to create jobs, we attract investments. And to attract investments, we have to attend to macro measures and concerns. For instance, to be able to fund all these scholarships government revenues have to be raised and government expenditures have to move from profligate to prudent without compromising such priorities as education, also health, agricultural modernization and our technological progress.

Our investments in the sectors that have the potential to make significant contributions to our nation's drive for job creation and investment attraction have strengthened our ICT sector. So I'm glad that you're offering IT courses and Call Center Ladderized courses here. And these efforts have modernized our tourism and agricultural sectors. So, I'm glad that your ladderized education began with HRM.

Our BPO sector was employing 4,000 people when we took office in 2001. Today that number has increased to more than 400,000, and counting. So, I'm sure that our graduating students from their call centers or IT from PWU will have jobs waiting for you in the BPO sector.

The second component of our development plan announced in 2001 was a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. And I am glad that we have created almost two million new jobs in agriculture during our administration. To achieve this, we invested no less than P20 billion pesos a year in agriculture and fisheries modernization including promoting organic fertilizer, irrigating over a million hectares, agricultural education, Land Bank loans to farmers and fishermen of over a P160 billion pesos, dryers and other post-harvest facilities including more than 10,000 kilometers of farm-to-market roads, and seed support that have increased average yield per hectare.

We distributed millions of hectares to almost a million indigenous people and more than a million Agrarian Reform beneficiaries.

A third component of our plan is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. We expanded healthcare, adding 50 million beneficiaries to Philhealth care, upgrading primary health centers and clinics into secondary and tertiary hospitals, and selling medicines commonly used by the poor at half price even before the Cheaper Medicines Act was passed.

We built 100,000 classrooms, mostly grade school. Because I don't want to build many new high schools 'cause we don't wanna compete with the private high schools. And we built many of these classrooms in barangays that had no schools at all before.

You know one time I was in a remote barangay, mountain barangay in the Zambales mountains, to look at their electricity projects, barangay electrification. But there I met a group of young teenage Aetas and they were telling me their story. One of them was... named Joan was telling me their story. They don't come from that barangay. They come from another barangay where they have to walk 2 or 3 hours over rugged mountain trails and crossing rivers and creeks to be able to go to school to the barangay where we went. And she was already 16 years old but still in grade school, because when she was 5 or 6 her parents wouldn't make her do that travel to go to another barangay to go to school. And even at her age, she didn't travel everyday three hours, she had to board with some other Aeta family in that barangay where we were and they had to pay them with vegetables and other produce.

So, she was telling me I wish we could have our own school. I said, "yeah, it will come," because we have a program to build schools classrooms in all barangays especially grade 1 and 2 so that the 6 year-olds will go to

school when they're already 8 years old they can go with their classmates to another barangay. But 6 to 7, their parents will not make them go to another barangay.

Then time passed, a few months later, I went to another remote barangay, far... even more remote than the first one to celebrate our 100,000th classroom, and there she was, the girl I had been talking to three walking hours away that 100,000th classroom was her barangay and now her younger cousins don't have to walk 3 hours anymore to go to another school.

Education must be at the center of any government's economic development platform.

And to be able to do all of the things we're doing — scholarships, building classrooms and so on — we have invested an education budget that is more than 200 billion pesos this year compared to less than 100 billion pesos before my administration. As a result, national achievement test scores went up from 44% to 65 in grade school and 36% to 47 in high school. A long way to go but a long way has also happened.

We have also provided, as I said, college and post-graduate education for 600,000 scholars, some of them are here in PWU.

And Buboy Syjuco has talked about what we have invested in technical education and skills development. Is it correct Buboy, P36 billion pesos in the last nine years? To provide technical education and skills training to 11.5 million graduates, some of them are here with us today — you.

And as Dr. Amelou Benitez Reyes said, there are students who by choice or circumstance do not immediately go to college but instead finish a shorter term technical or vocational course and get their job before deciding to return to university. Ladderized education allows you the students who take that choice to obtain a college degree later and have most of your previous vocational courses given the equivalent credits.

And I congratulate PWU, you're a pioneer in many educational and, I must say, cultural endeavors, after all Bayanihan was born here in PWU. And among your being pioneer in education is that you're among the first of the higher education institutions accredited to offer ladderized education. Congratulations!

A fourth component of our plan is effective governance. The fight against corruption has been going on for years. It must continue. But we have achieved significant success. This success has resulted in higher levels of tax revenue for the Bureau of Internal Revenue as well as enhancement in governance in many government departments. But more needs to be done in this and in many other aspects of governance.

Everything our government has done, has worked hard to achieve has been to make the future brighter for you, our next generation of Filipinos. You, the youth of our nation, are our hope and inspiration. Everything we must do must be to build a better life for each and every young person in this nation.

While I am proud of what our government has achieved, past achievement is only as good as the ability of the nation to continue to grow and prosper. I fervently desire that the progress we have made will not stop; that what remains to be done will be picked up by you, the next generation of leadership.

As a nation, we must keep our sights set firmly on the future, to build on what is good and work even harder to meet the challenges of what remain to be done. And you, the youth represent the aspirations of our nation. It is to you that we dedicate the efforts of our government to lift up the Philippines.

And the foundation of opportunity is education. That's why you're here, that's why you're studying. Your parents know and I think you know it is the key to a better life. It opens minds, it opens doors. And in today's world, a strong education must be accompanied by a strong backbone of technology.

To build the mind and connect to the world. Education and technology are the twin pillars upon which the future of the nation rests. That is why we remain dedicated in our last months in office to promoting, advancing, pushing for more and better education like the education you receive in PWU and better technological infrastructure.

We have come far in both. But we still have far to go. We must not rest.

I have a deep desire to see a brighter future for the hardworking men and women of this nation. And most importantly, I have an abiding interest in seeing that you, the young people of today, come into your own, seize the value of education — as we have done with PWU education — and seize the value of modernity and use these tools to advance yourselves and the nation.

So for all the students of PWU, and all the students who are not from PWU but who are in technical education and skills development and ladderized education, good luck to you! And may you have a great future.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during an Anchor Education Event: Visit to the Philippine Women's University (PWU) offering Ladderized Education Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080504/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27673&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Year-End Philippine Economic Briefing with the theme – “The Philippines: Opportunity in the Global Recovery”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Year-End Philippine Economic Briefing with the theme – “The Philippines: Opportunity in the Global Recovery”**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Thani Hotel, March 3, 2010]

Thank you Secretary Teves for your introduction.

Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, leaders of our domestic and international business communities, government officials, ladies and gentlemen.

The last two years have been remarkable for the economy of the world. History is not always a straight upward projectory of progress as we have seen. This was certainly true of the economic and social setbacks the world felt during this tumultuous time.

Yet the world will recover and become stronger and more resilient. So, too, the Philippines. We have been able to withstand the global devastation better than most for a simple reason: we were prepared. We made the tough choices on raising revenue, instilling budget discipline and most importantly, using our savings and new revenue to invest in the people.

At the end of the day, it is still all about investment and growth. No nation can move forward without expanding growth and opportunity. The global recession put the poor all over the world in deep jeopardy.

In the Philippines, the global setback force as to delay our long desired objective of balancing our budget but it was a worthy delay. We invested in our poor and middle-class to keep their heads above water during this very difficult time.

Our stimulus package and targeted subsidies for the poor answered the pressing need to protect our people from harm.

Today, we stand before you feeling more confident about the future and proud of what we have done not just these last two years but over the entire nine years of our administration.

Our record of accomplishments is a solid one: 36 quarters of uninterrupted growth; low inflation; higher job creation; expansion of human and physical infrastructure.

The story of our administration started with some daunting statistics. In the first quarter of 2001, inflation was 7.5%; our overall balance of payments position was a deficit of \$202 million; external debt was 72.9% of GDP; but worst, our total public sector debt was larger than our whole GDP; unemployment was double digit at 11%.

We inherited an economy that was not even on the radar screen of international investors or the international financial community. Net foreign direct investment inflows were less than \$200 million in 2001.

During the previous government investor confidence was so low that one credit rating agency Moody's, said in 2000, and I quote: "Recent weak economic management overshadows the decade-long improvement in the country's economic foundations that resulted from reform and liberalization." Moody's also said that, "prolonged political uncertainty or economic mismanagement would depress domestic and foreign investment, potentially reversing the recent gains in external flexibility and hurting the country's creditworthiness."

Today we are seeing the Philippines in a different light. Even in a depth of the global financial crisis in February 2009, the same Moody's said, and I quote again: "The Philippines has so far demonstrated a remarkable degree of resiliency to the global financial and economic crises, and has largely preserved gains achieved in recent years in improving the country's economic, external payments and fiscal fundamentals."

Yes, we have come a long way. Nine years ago, we were our own poison. But today, the Philippines' internal strength and resilience, which we built up through investment in our country and sound economic policy, are helping to keep our economy afloat even as some of the world's strongest economies have fallen.

The future for the Philippine economy is, indeed, much brighter now that it was in 2001. However, capitalizing on our potential will only be possible if we continue to have leadership willing to make the tough and often unpopular decisions that are required to break the hold of entrenched special interests and keep our economy moving.

We call on all those who aspire to this, the highest office of our land to always put the right thing for the country ahead of political expediency. It doesn't matter how popular you are if our economy is not providing the broad-based opportunity that our people deserve.

When we took office in 2001, we had very clear development objectives and an equally clear action plan to meet those objectives. Our plan to promote growth and equity centered around a focus on the following components I pointed out in my first State of the Nation Address in 2001:

First, an economic philosophy of private enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. Under this philosophy, the way to fight poverty is to create jobs. To create jobs, we attract investments. To attract investments, we attend to macro measures and concerns like instituting fiscal discipline and strengthening the banking sector. Government revenues had to be raised and government expenditures had to move from profligate to prudent without compromising such core priorities as education, health, agricultural modernization and our nation's technological progress. The government has also continued to work with the Bangko Sentral to pursue legislative reforms aimed at ensuring that international standards were maintained to eliminate such illegal practices as money laundering.

Our efforts to invest in the sectors that have the potential to make significant contributions to our nation's drive for job creation and investment attraction have resulted in a stronger ICT sector and the modernization of our tourism and agriculture sectors.

Our BPO sector was employing 4,000 people when we took office in 2001. Today that number has increased to more than 400,000 and still counting. This did not happen by accident. It has required a joint public-private sector investment in the future of that important sector of our economy.

International cooperation was also central to our efforts to promote economic development. Opening new markets, increasing trade and providing leadership in regional and international organizations has benefited our national economy. Bilateral economic, political and security cooperation with such countries as Japan, China and the United States and others have been vital to the growth of the Philippine economy. They have also been vital to our efforts to promote and protect our expatriate workers, our OFWs, in countries throughout the world.

Second component of the focus that I pointed out in my first State of the Nation Address was a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. I said then that we should try to create a million jobs in agriculture. Almost two million jobs were created in that sector.

To achieve this, we invested no less than P20 billion pesos a year in agricultural and fisheries modernization including promoting organic fertilizer; irrigating over a million hectares; agricultural education; Land Bank loans to farmers and fishermen of a P161 billion in our one administration compared to P97 billion for all previous administrations combined since the bank was established; dryers and other post-harvest facilities including more than 10,000 kilometers of farm-to-market roads, double that of two previous administrations combined; and seed support that increased average yield per hectare.

To fight poverty, agricultural modernization must be socially equitable. That is why we redeemed in earnest the promise of land reform by distributing millions of hectares to almost a million indigenous people and more than a million Agrarian Reform beneficiaries.

Third component of the plan we announced in 2001 was a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. We recognized that our development must provide essential safety nets for the poorest members of our community, those who would otherwise be marginalized by expanded national development. It is for that reason that we expanded healthcare, adding 50 million beneficiaries to Philhealth, upgrading primary health centers and clinics into secondary and tertiary care hospitals, and selling medicines commonly used by the poor at half price even before the Cheaper Medicines Act was passed.

We built more schools, brought water to remote towns, electricity to remote barangays, and provided conditional cash allowances to the poorest one million families in the country.

We also recognized that education must be at the center of any government's economic development platform. In that regard, we have invested an education budget that is more than P200 billion pesos this year compared to less than P100 billion in year 2000.

As a result, national achievements test scores went up from 44% to 65% in grade school and 36% to 47% in high school still a long way to go but much better than before.

We have also provided college and post-graduate education for over 600,000 scholars, including masters and doctors in science and engineering.

We have also ensured that more and more families are able to own a home. During our tenure, 300,000 low cost housing units have been built, thus, giving 300,000 families in locations across the nation a chance to meet their goal of home ownership. Part of this 300,000 families are 90,000 families that we relocated from the riles; 90,000 families, and did you hear of any big controversy? It was done with the best of social preparation.

We also recognized that if development was going to be equitable and sustainable, it must not be restricted to the Metro-Manila region. We must ensure that all regions, in every corner of our nation, realize the benefits of economic development. The record shows that our investments in farm-to-market roads and other infrastructure, rural electrification, education and health services have made a difference in lifting up the competitiveness and quality of life of millions of our people throughout the Philippines.

Fourth agenda item, effective governance. The fight against corruption has been ongoing for years. It must continue. But we have achieved significant success. It has resulted in higher levels of tax revenue for the Bureau of Internal Revenue as well as enhancements in governance in many government departments. And I would like to congratulate Secretary Teves and the BIR because for the month of February, for the third straight month, the BIR has come back to meeting or even surpassing its targets. Congratulations!

I would also like to acknowledge our outgoing Secretary of the Budget, Secretary Nonoy Andaya for the reforms that he made in procurement. Maraming salamat. And while we're at it, a big thanks to outgoing Secretary Arthur Yap for the 1.8 million jobs that we created in agriculture through your leadership.

A critical component of our economic growth has been our efforts to establish security and stability throughout all corners of our nation. This has included increased allocation of resources to the military and police, expanded cooperation with the international law enforcement agencies, and economic development targets for areas such as Mindanao. Our streets are safer to walk today than they were when we took office. The people of Mindanao are already reaping the benefits of a peace dividend that will expand once agreement is reached on lasting peace for that important part of our country. As we have said on many occasions, we will fight for that peace until our last day in office.

The growth that has resulted from our economic development programs is very evident when we travel throughout our nation, as we have done regularly for the past nine years. During those visits, we see firsthand the tangible benefits of our policies and programs. This was certainly the case again during the visits we recently made to each of the five Super Regions that have been a key focus of our development efforts to spread development: Agribusiness Mindanao, the Cyber Corridor, Tourism Central Philippines, the Urban Luzon Beltway and the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle.

We started my remarks with a review of economic indicators we inherited when we took office in 2001. We now close with indicators based on recent numbers:

Inflation today is stable, 2.9% for the fourth quarter of 2009. And we have the lowest average inflation rates among administrations after my late father.

Our balance of payments position is now at over \$5 billion dollars.

External debt as a percentage of GDP has been cut by half to 34%, but to me what is more gratifying, the total public sector debt which used to be larger than our GDP has been cut to about 72%.

Unemployment is now single digit compared to 2001, at 7.5 percent.

Our GDP, our economy has doubled over the last nine years.

And we are back on the radar screen of international investors. Claro Cristobal already told us that net foreign direct investments have grown more than six times during our administration.

Those are real numbers. They are making a positive impact on the lives of real people.

We have created almost eight million jobs in nine years.

We built 100,000 classrooms, many of them in over a thousand barangays where there were no schools at all before.

I remember one time I went to what was already a very remote barangay in the Zambales mountains in order to look at some development there electricity for the barangay etcetera. And one young Aeta girl came to see me, teenager, she was in grade 1 or 2 in that barangay which was not her own barangay. Because if she were... she had no school in her own barangay and if she were to study and she would have to travel like 2 or 3 hours walking through mountain trails, crossing rivers to go to school every day. So she had to go to that barangay where we were Monday to Friday, live with some people there, and pay them vegetables or something for her rent. So she said, I wish... then she told me her story. She said, I wish that we could have a school in our own barangay.

I said, it will come. Because our project is to have a school in every barangay where there was none. At least for grade 1 and 2, so that like in her case she was a teenager in grade something because when she was 5 or 6 years old her parents certainly would not send her to another barangay to study.

So later on, months later, I went to celebrate the 100,000th classroom, and when I was there, here comes the same teenager, this was her barangay. Now she had the school. She was crying, she was thanking me, and she was giving me the best bunch of bananas that she could harvest from what her family had planted.

More than 11.5 million people received technical education and skills training scholarship.

Barangay electrification has reached 99%.

Philhealth beneficiaries, I said we added 50 million, because that is an increase from less than 30 million before our administration to more than 80 million today.

We have constructed and rehabilitated almost 50,000 kilometers of roads, more than three previous Administrations combined, plus 10,000 kilometers of farm-to-market roads, as I mentioned earlier. We also built and upgraded airports, and built the RORO Ferry Nautical Highway System. These are all contributing to better connectivity, lower cost and higher efficiency of transport and travel.

Yesterday, or was it the day before yesterday, we re-inaugurated the Halsema Highway which my father had built from a mountain trail from Baguio to Bontoc. And a farmer leader told me that that used to be a mountain trail, my father made it a highway but subsequent neglect turned it back into a mountain trail. And now I have turned it back into a highway.

When it was still a mountain trail again, he said, the “ahente” would buy their vegetables for a very low price. Because by the time it reached Baguio with that horrible travel the vegetables were no longer fresh. And worst when it went to Manila.

He said, now, that we have this highway — in fact, it is from Baguio to Bontoc and then expanded to Ifugao Rice Terraces — now that we have this highway which they have benefited from for sometime now, at least the Baguio to Mt. Data portion, he said, the travel to Baguio is very fast. And he heard that travel to Manila is also just as good because he heard of the SCTEX and the NLEX, so now the “ahente” buys their produce at a much better price. A difference in the lives of ordinary people.

So all these investment in transportation gives a boost to visit activity across the nation and across different scales of business.

Also, my friends tell me, we should point out ours is the only administration with a stronger peso at the end of our administration than at the beginning. And of course, the incidence of poverty went down.

These are just some of the many important achievements we have made over the last nine years to improve the quality of life for our people and to put our economy on a sustainable path of growth. But what is important is not so much what we have done, rather where the nation is going.

I have been committed to turning over to a new leader a nation that is in better shape than we found it. But long after we have left office, I want this nation to succeed, to win.

I want the people to prosper, the poor to be lifted out of despair, a middle-class to expand and lead this nation to the verge of first world in twenty years.

And you, the movers and shakers of business, hopefully, will be there to lead us.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Year-End Philippine Economic Briefing with the theme – "The Philippines: Opportunity in the Global Recovery". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080456/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27668&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during a courtesy call by the Philippine Women Judges Association (PWJA) Members

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a courtesy call by the Philippine Women Judges Association (PWJA) Members**

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañang, March 4, 2010]

Justice de Castro, outgoing Secretary Devanadera, incoming Secretary Dizon but not for the same position, women judges, lady members of the bench, welcome back to Malacañang!

This event is timely as we join with the rest of the world in celebrating March as Women's Month. So, Happy Women's Month to all of you!

We are proud of the great strides the Philippines have made in women empowerment. And you, the women judges with your 500 members have contributed much to that to uplifting the lives of our women.

The Philippine Women Judges Association has been truly a potent force in fostering an independent, efficient, and highly competent judiciary since your inception almost a quarter century ago. In the practice of continuous trial system, for instance, as well as in other areas of effective court management, such as the mandatory wearing of judicial robes, the PWJA has shown us how much our lady judges can do to influence the direction and quality of our judicial system.

Guided by such luminaries as Justice de Castro and past leaders of PWJA, this association I'm sure will go even farther to improve the welfare of our womenfolk. I hear that one of the topics of this year's convention is Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta for Women. This is one of the most important pieces of legislation to come out during my administration. I hope that this law will help you and even your male colleagues in the adjudication of cases involving abuse and discrimination against women. So as womenfolk, as fellow women, let us continuously work hand in hand.

We in the Executive are certainly very willing to work hand in hand with the courts to ensure the full protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, especially those who are marginalized. And we're also very much willing to work with the courts on the promotion of the social, political and economic equality of men and women in our society.

A recent report shows that the gap between male and female socioeconomic standings in the Philippines has significantly narrowed. And this on top of already a very good record. In fact in the U.N. and in the World Economic Forum, we are actually number six among all countries in gender parity in the whole world. The only ones ahead of us are New Zealand and, of course, Scandinavian countries and then we're next.

And even at that, the latest report shows that our gender parity has improved even more. The 2010 Mastercard Worldwide Index of Women's Advancement looks at four male-to-female ratios: labor force participation, enrollment in tertiary education, employment in managerial positions, and the number of those earning above the median income. We were already doing very well, better than all other countries in the world except for five. And now the results for 2010 indicate that we scored better this year than last year, so we're getting better and better all the time.

And if you compare us to our neighbors in the Asia Pacific, our absolute score and our improvement were much higher than the score and the improvement across Asia Pacific countries.

And I am sure the women judges helped make this happen because you have put your trademark discipline and long hours to work on behalf of a nation.

You've had a very long day, so I will not prolong it anymore with a long speech or a lecture. I just want to say: for strengthening the institutions of justice in this country, congratulations!

And thank you once again for your continuing support. And Happy Women's Month!

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a courtesy call by the Philippine Women Judges Association (PWJA) Members. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080444/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27675&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo before the Global Filipino Teachers (Globe Telecoms IT Training for Teachers)
Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the Global Filipino Teachers (Globe Telecoms IT Training for Teachers)

[Delivered in Cebu City, March 5, 2010]

Thank you. Thank you Secretary Lapus for your introduction. And thank you for letting our teachers know how much we have put investments in IT enabled education aside from IT education.

Mr. Cu, President of Globe, other officials, Dr. Labe and the other members of the partners who have put this together, the Cabinet members, our officials, Gwen Garcia, Neri Soon-Ruiz, Mayor Cortes, beloved teachers, congratulations to all of you!

Congratulations especially to those who have finished this Global Filipino Teachers Program! And who are ready to receive a certificate. And good luck for those who still have that last remaining component which is to demonstrate what you have learned from here in the classroom setting.

And of course, a big “thank You” to Globe for sponsoring this training.

The foundation of opportunity is education, and I thank our teachers for choosing education as a career. Pardon my partiality for the teaching profession. I was a teacher before I joined government.

Which is why as Jing Lapus said, that we realize and we acknowledge the role of the teachers in the whole comprehensive framework of education. And I am glad that during our administration we’ve been able to increase the pay of teachers about 50 % and you get another increase starting June this year.

Education is the key to a better life. It opens minds and opens doors. And in today’s world, a strong education must be accompanied by a strong backbone of technology. So, I thank Globe for helping us provide that backbone together with our other telecommunications companies.

To build the mind and to connect to the world. Education and technology are the twin pillars upon which the future of the nation rests. So, I congratulate GlobeBridgeCom for your contribution to these twin pillars. You have been a great help in reducing our people’s fear of new technologies by demonstrating how new instruments using these technologies can provide us with more accurate information at a quicker time, therefore giving people more time for other activities.

Actually computers are so much friendlier now than when I was a teacher. I remember when I was doing my PhD and I had to do I’ve to learn computer programming so that I could do my dissertation we had to learn with ... that was our program and we had to use this index cards. But now, it’s so easy and it’s just that psychological barrier that we have to overcome.

But this is not the only program that Globe has done to be in partnership with our stress on ICT as one of the growth sectors of the future. We’re very grateful for GlobeBridgeCom’s technology-based youth-oriented special program in more than 3,000 barangays, particularly Text2Teach which uses the SMS I mentioned this because many years ago in the early years of my presidency I was also the guest of honor in the launching of Text2Teach Program.

And I am very grateful to Globe for the internet connection the internet in school program providing interconnectivity to schools because one of our programs one of our most important programs our reforms in education is to provide connectivity to public high schools. Because having your computer in a school or even 10 or

20 computers I think is not enough I'd rather have one computer in every high school that's connected than 20 computers that are not connected.

So interconnectivity connectivity is so important. And as Mr. Cu said, in supporting our program Globe has helped us connect 1,500 high schools the biggest number the biggest contribution among all private telecoms company. In fact, you are helping us with 1,500 with the 4,000 public high schools that we have provide connectivity for... that's a very big percentage.

And now, this training program which has turned out the first batch of 97 most of which are ready with a certificate today some of whom still have to prove to Dr. Labe that they're ready for their certificate.

So, congratulations to our teachers of Cebu, Bohol and Negros Oriental.

With this training, you, our global Filipino teachers will now be able to help our youth seize the value of education and modernity to lift up their lives and lift up our nation.

Congratulations kaninyong tanan! Salamat gyud.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech Global Filipino Teachers (Globe Telecoms IT Training for Teachers). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080428/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27676&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Switch-On Ceremony of the First 82-Megawatt Power Generation Unit of the 3×82 MW Clean Coal-Fired Power Plant and launching of the environment-related project

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Switch-On Ceremony of the First 82-Megawatt Power Generation Unit of the 3×82 MW Clean
Coal-Fired Power Plant and launching of the environment-related project**

[Delivered at the Cebu Energy Development Corp. (CEDC) Multi-purpose Hall, March 5, 2010]

Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Reyes. Thank you for your introduction.

Chairman Ty; President Sebastian and your other partners in this very important investment; Governor Garcia; Congressman Pablo John Garcia; Mayor Zambo and the other officials of this jurisdiction. I would also like to recognize Congressman Benhur Salimbanon from the northern part of Cebu.

Members of the Cabinet: we have already had Secretary Favila acknowledged and Secretary Reyes. Also, we've had Secretary Horacio Ramos who signed the Memorandum of Agreement today on Reforestation. Secretary Durano who is our Cabinet Officer for Regional Development here in Region VII and Secretary Jun Ichan, Office of the Press Secretary. Other government officials who helped make this possible. To all of us, to all of you, Mrs. Ty and the other ladies who provide inspiration here.

Congratulations to Cebu Energy! Congratulations to Metrobank and its partners for being part first of all of our Billion Dollar Club! The Billion Dollar Club is that exclusive club of investors putting in one billion dollars in our economy during my administration. I have welcomed several other members of the Billion Dollar Club to our country but I'm very happy that this is the first that I am welcoming which is majority-owned Filipino. Congratulations! Your one billion dollars in power plants in Cebu and Iloilo are the solution to the power shortage in the Visayas.

By the way, let me also acknowledged our Ambassador from the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Liu. Thank you for joining us here.

Early in my administration, one of the very first bills that we passed into law was the Electric Power Industry Reform Act. That law privatized the electric power sector. It prohibited the government from being the one to put up new power plants. Henceforth, it had to be the private sector to produce the energy infrastructure to match the demands of our growing economy. And so, we have had to campaign hard for the private sector to invest in power generation, and we are happy to have positive responses from development-oriented companies like Metrobank and its partners. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

I am happy that Metrobank or Global Business Power through its Cebu Energy Development Corporation and on the other side of the Visayas, the Panay Energy Development Corporation has responded to the challenge.

Today, the Visayas grid has a generation deficiency of 45 megawatts that is why we have been experiencing some brownouts. But with the inauguration today of the first 82-MW generating units of this 246-MW plant, the whole of the Visayas can now meet its present needs and a little more for its reserves.

This additional power signals the end of rotating brownouts in the Visayas and it also marks the end of importing power from Luzon which is also burdened by huge power requirements.

We now look forward to other significant power start-up dates calendared by the Metrobank related power companies: the synchronization of the 2nd and 3rd 82-MW units of this Toledo plant in May and then in December of this year; and the synchronization of the generating units of Panay Energy Development Corporation, an additional 82 megawatts in October and another 82 in December, all of this year. And we hope that the power plant of KEPCO, which we passed by on the way here in Naga, under construction will also provide additional supply by October of this year.

So, from being an importer of power, now that Cebu will be producing more power than it needs, it can even become an exporter of power to Luzon and to Mindanao.

We also congratulate this Toledo plant and the Panay power plant for using clean technology so that even if they are coal-fired, our air would have less carbon emissions than the old style coal-fired plants. Our Administration has forged a new energy and environmental policy that has created more jobs, decreased reliance on foreign sources of energy, and provided a blueprint for a green, sustainable economy. Choosing between a good job and a clean economy is a false choice. We can have a growing economy and a green, healthy economy. And we thanked the Metrobank group for complying with my request — that was the signing ceremony was all about — to augment their clean coal investment with a reforestation project in Central Cebu to make this plant even more carbon neutral.

To Dr. George Ty, Chairman of the Metrobank Group of Companies and all the others mentioned by Francis Sebastian earlier, who have made possible the operation of this Toledo plant, I would say what the Cebuanos have been already saying when Arlene said it already, but I say it once again: To you, daghang salamat and congratulations to all of us.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Switch-On Ceremony of the First 82-Megawatt Power Generation Unit of the 3×82 MW Clean Coal-Fired Power Plant and launching of the environment-related project. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080436/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27674&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 2nd Go Negosyo Women Entrepreneurship Summit and launching of the book “Tagumpay mula sa Kahirapan”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2nd Go Negosyo Women Entrepreneurship Summit and launching of the book “Tagumpay mula sa Kahirapan”**

[Delivered at the World Trade Center, March 8, 2010]

Maraming salamat, outgoing Secretary of Trade and Industry Favila, incoming member of the Monetary Board.

Outgoing Secretary of Education and incoming Secretary of Trade and Industry, Jesli Lapus; former Secretary of Agriculture Arthur Yap; ang ating mga napakagaling na nag-organize nitong ating pagdiriwang ngayon at nag-organize ng mga entrepreneur ng ating bansa, Joey Concepcion; Chairperson Myrna Yao; Congressman Lito Roxas; Mr. Sanjiv Vohra, our Citi Bank Head of the Philippines; (ang ating mga 100 model entrepreneurs, our inspiration, our women icons inspiration for the women of the Philippines; mga kababaihan, Maligayang Araw ng Kababaihan sa ating lahat!

Nung araw ko pang sinasabi na dahil sa ating administrasyon dalawa ang ating pinakaprograma sa kababaihan: isa, karapatang pantao at yung isa ay karapatang pangkabuhayan lalo na sa entrepreneurial development. Sabi ko dapat nagdidiriwang tayo ng Women’s Day parati na ipinagdidiriwang natin ang women entrepreneurs. Kaya ako’y nagpapasalamat sa Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, sa pamunuhan ni consultant natin for entrepreneurship na si Joey Concepcion at ang Commission on Women ni Myrna Yao sa pag-organisa nitong “Go Negosyo Women Entrepreneur Summit” pinakabagay na pagdiriwang ng ating Women’s Day.

Pangalawang taon na itong Go Negosyo Women at 15,000 na ang nakilahok. Kaya naman ito ay nagpapakita pwedeng ipagmalaki ng buong bansa ang temang “Babae, Tagumpay Ka ng Bayan” dahil sa pagtagumpay ng negosyo ng libu-libong kababaihan sa buong bansa. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

At muli espesyal nating binabati ang mga binigyan ng parangal na Go Negosyo-Philippine Council of Women Inspiring Women of the Year. At yung ating isang daang entrepreneurs na hindi naman lahat ay women pero nakararami sa ating entrepreneurs ay women at sila ay naging inspirasyon sa libro ni Joey Concepcion “Tagumpay sa Kahirapan.” Congratulations!

Nung nanumpa ako bilang Pangulo nung 2004, ipinahayag ko na hangaring makasuporta sa tatlong milyong entrepreneur sa panahon ng ating administrasyon, sa pamamagitan ng pautang at tulong na maging mabuting manager, sa ganun makakapagtatag ng malalim na pundasyon para sa malawak na middle-class.

At ngayon na patapos na si Secretary Peter Favila bilang Secretary of Trade and Industry at Chairman ng Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development nagbigay siya ng ulat na sa ating administrasyon from 2001 to 2009, nakapaghiram tayo ng P340 billion pesos sa halos anim na milyong micro, small at medium enterprises at nakapaglikha rin ng anim na milyong trabaho kaya nalampasan natin ang ating target na supporting three million entrepreneurs. Congratulations Peter at lahat nang tumulong sa inyo!

Kaya naman para may parating may tatanggol ng microenterprise, a small enterprise loans sa Monetary Board ng Central Bank, nagdesisyon ako na i-appoint si former Secretary Peter Favila bilang member ng Monetary Board para ipagtanggol kayong mga entrepreneurs.

Doon naman sa pag-ensayo kung papano maging mabuting manager, eh hindi naman tamang gobyerno ang nagtuturo dahil gobyerno mga bureaucrats. Dapat manager ang nagtuturo kaya nagpapasalamat tayo sa Go Negosyo

dahil sila ang nagtuturo at nagbibigay ng inspirasyon kung papano maging magaling na entrepreneur ang ating kababaihan pati na rin ang ating kalalakhian.

Isa pang magandang balita. Sa microenterprises, nobeinta porsiyento sa pinahiram ay mga babae. Talagang tagumpay sa negosyo ang kababaihang Pilipino.

Actually, kinikilala sa buong bansa ang Pilipinas bilang number one sa Asya sa gender parity at number six sa buong mundo. Sa buong mundo ang nakakatalo lamang sa atin sa gender parity ay yung New Zealand at apat na Scandinavian countries tapos tayo na. Kaya talagang maganda ang ating gender parity. At this year, sa world index mas gumaganda pa, so maganda na nga nuon, lalong gumaganda pa taun-taon.

Halimbawa, yung pagbibigay-karapatan sa pag-aaral, lamang ang mga babae kaysa sa lalaki, kasi mas mataas ang enrollment rate at saka mas mataas din ang retention rate ng mga babae at mas marami rin ang mga honor students na mga babae. So lamang ang babae sa edukasyon. Mas maraming babae ang nagsisimula at nagpapatuloy ng pag-aaral kumpara sa mga lalake.

Sa kalusugan naman, mas mahaba ang buhay ng mga Pilipina kaysa sa mga lalaking Pilipino. At eto na nga, sa mga maliliit na entrepreneur, lamang na lamang ang kababaihan. Kaya marami tayong pwedeng ipagdiriwang.

Malaking katuwaan ito para sa akin, dahil noong senador pa lamang ako, sinulat ko yung Republic Act 7882, na nagbigay ng tulong sa mga kababaihang may sariling micro at cottage business enterprises.

Naisabatas naman natin sa ating administrasyon ang Barangay Micro Business Enterprises o BAMBE Law at yung binanggit ni Myrna Yao yung Magna Carta kung saan... kaya pati na rin yung Magna Carta for SMEs yung Magna Carta for Women at ang Magna Carta for SMEs kung saan isinama ang microenterprises kaya nagtatag yung Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development kung saan naging Chairman si Secretary Favila bilang Secretary of Trade and Industry pero ginawa nating Vice Chairman sa Enterprise Council walang iba kung hindi ang Vice Chairman ang ating entrepreneur consultant, si Joey Concepcion, ang Vice Chairman ng ating MSMED Council.

So, talagang inaasahan natin na ang pribadong sektor, ang NGO na Go Negosyo, ay patuloy na magpapairal ng kapakanan ng ating entrepreneurs and women's entrepreneurs.

Ang tagumpay na ito ay dahil sa pagtutulungan nating lahat, mababae o malalaki, upang kilalanin na ang mga babae may pantay na karapatang pangkabuhayan ganun na rin sa karapatang pantao.

At sa tulong ni Joey at iba pang grupong nagpapalago ng entrepreneurship, lalong lumalaganap ang kakayahan ng kababaihan sa pagnenegosyo.

Kaya yun ang ating ipinagdiriwang itong araw na ito: Women's Day; Women's Month, Hurray! for women entrepreneurs.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 2nd Go Negosyo Women Entrepreneurship Summit and launching of the book "Tagumpay mula sa Kahirapan". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080421/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27687&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the Citizenship Advancement Training (CAT) Military Exercises and
PGMA Scholarship Report Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Citizenship Advancement Training (CAT) Military Exercises and PGMA Scholarship Report**

[Delivered at the Quadrangle, San Sebastian College-Recoletos Campus, March 8, 2010]

Thank you. Troop commander give “tikas pahinga.”

Thank you, outgoing Education Secretary Jesli Lapus. Outgoing Education Secretary because he’s the incoming Secretary of Trade and Industry.

And down there in the stage, because she has not yet taken over, our incoming Secretary of Education Mona Valisno; Congresswoman Naida Angping; CHED Commissioner Nenalyn Defensor; our host, Father Murillo, thank you for inviting me to this event; Commandant Aseron and of course Principal Aliwalas; other school officials, teachers, parents, graduating students of the CAT and your colleagues in San Sebastian, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Congratulations! to all those graduating from the Citizenship Advancement Training.

You know, Naida was telling me how nice that you could come today. Actually, Father, when the invitation arrived — you see, all my invitations go through a Committee on Appointments — and when the invitation arrived, my Committee on Appointments turned it down. But when I saw it, I said, “No.” I overruled their turning it down and I said, “No, I will come. I want to come.”

For one thing San Sebastian is a neighbor. I’ve been here many times but only to the church to be ninang in weddings and to admire the most beautiful example of gothic architecture in our country. So, it’s time for me to visit the school itself.

And I think the CAT graduation is just proper because I want to highlight how important is the CAT course to our vision to have a Strong Republic ready to join the first-world in 20 years. To strengthen our Republic, it is important that we engage the support of the people by enhancing civil-military relations. We want to review the reservist and reserve force development program of the AFP, the ROTC and other similar programs like the CAT consistent with the doctrine of a citizen’s army enshrined in the Constitution.

I hope that our CAT graduating students will join the ROTC or its equivalent and will join the reservist force afterwards when you graduate from college. Also enshrined in the Constitution is that the President must hold office until the 30th of June. And for that purpose, I will continue hands-on governance until my last minute in office.

To that end, we will promote the key initiatives our government has advanced since I took office. We will focus on three areas:

One, bringing more power and growth to each region, and decongesting Manila. Starting March 15, the loop, the MRT-LRT loop, will be completed and open for public transport so I hope some of our students will be able to benefit from that.

Second focus, continuing to promote the importance of the three E’s: education, the economy and the environment, to our efforts to create sustainable and equitable development.

Third, a continuous focus on the youth of the nation as our hope for a brighter, better Philippines.

We have made progress in many areas. For instance, CHED Commissioner Nenilyn Defensor told me about our unprecedented scholarship program for college. But we have also an unprecedented scholarship program for high school. In fact, today almost 50% of all high school students are on government scholarship. And I ask Father Murillo whether San Sebastian College and High School are benefiting from our unprecedented large scholarship program. He said, "Yes, San Sebastian is a beneficiary of government scholarship program." Congratulations to you!

You know the reason why I insisted on having especially a high school scholarship program, because many years ago, we had no public high schools. My father, for instance, when he was living in Lubao he studied in grade school in the Lubao Elementary School but for high school he had to go to San Fernando High School. There was only one high school in the whole province of Pampanga that was public school.

Today, in every barangay in Lubao, there is a high school, a public high school. And so therefore what happens to the private high schools if parents have a choice especially if they have financial difficulty of sending their children to a free high school versus sending their children to a paying high school? Of course, they will send their children to a free high school. What will happen to the private high school system? It will die just like the private grade school system which is very, very small.

So, I've been telling Jing Lapus and all the officials of the DepEd, let us not kill the private high schools. Instead of building more classrooms for public high schools, let us use the money for scholarships so that our young people can have a good private high school education paid for partly by the government.

So we have made progress in many areas but more needs to be done. Everything our government has worked hard to achieve has been to make the future brighter for the next generation of Filipinos. You, the youth of our nation, our hope and inspiration. Everything we must do must be to build a better life for each and every young person in this nation.

While I am proud of what our government has achieved, past achievement is only as good as the ability of the nation to continue to grow and prosper. I fervently desire that the progress that we have made will not stop. So, I hope the next administration will continue this extensive private high school scholarship program instead of building more public high school buildings.

I also hope that what remains to be done will be picked up by you, the next generation of leadership. As a nation, we must keep our sights firmly set on the future, to build on what is good and work even harder to meet the challenges of what remains to be done.

You, the young of our nation, are the bridge between the past and the future. It is for you that we right the wrongs, fight for change and seek to make a better day. Our nation has come far, but it still has far to go. You, the youth, represent the aspirations of our nation. It is to you that we dedicate the efforts of our government to lift up the Philippines.

The foundation for opportunity is education. It is the key to a better life. It opens minds and opens doors. That is why we remain dedicated in our last months in office to promoting, advancing, pushing for more and better education. We have come far, but we still have far to go and must not rest.

I have an abiding interest in seeing that you, the young people of today, seize the value of education, of a good education like San Sebastian education. As Father Murillo said, number one sa BAR, number one sa NCEE at number one sa dami ng BAR reviewers. Congratulations to San Sebastian!

And may you, our young people seize the value of education and use this tool to advance yourselves and the nation. Your CAT training, my dear young graduates will help you advance our nation.

Congratulations! Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Citizenship Advancement Training (CAT) Military Exercises and Pigma Scholarship Report. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080413/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27688&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Change of Command Ceremony

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Change of Command Ceremony**

[Delivered at the Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, March 10, 2010]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Bert Gonzales.

Group commander give 'tikas pahinga.'

Vice President Noli de Castro, our new Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and just appointed general, General Del Bangit.

General Victor Ibrado, Happy Birthday and Congratulations! I also greet the Ibrado clan whose members trooped from different parts of Antique and Iloilo to be part of this memorable event. Together with Vice President Noli de Castro, I greet our other officials, appointive and elective; Bishop Tumalak and other guests from the civilian sector; members of the Diplomatic corps; men and women, officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The change of command honors not only the outgoing and incoming commander but also every soldier, airman, sailor and marine serving the nation. We sleep peacefully at night because these courageous men and women stand on guard. We enjoy the freedom of our democracy because they surrender theirs to the restraint of soldiery and the Spartan discipline of the uniform. We continue to benefit from the tangible progress of our economic modernization because the great Filipino soldier is there to safeguard us, to protect us, to secure our lives and livelihood.

Under Bong Ibrado's leadership, we have narrowed the lair of hardcore terrorists in the South and continued to confine and limit the communist insurgency, which is now sputtering on empty fumes. Congratulations! Bong to your achievements.

A strong national defense and a strong economy are the twin pillars of any nation's strength. This is certainly true in the Philippines as well. As President, it is my constitutional obligation to maintain the peace, order and stability of our nation while investing in our people and growing our economy.

With the appointment of General Bangit, we are pleased to provide the continuity required to keep our nation stable and strong. As we have heard from the endorsement of General Ibrado, as we have heard from the remarks of General Bangit, General Bangit will always put the nation first in performing his duty to uphold the Constitution and protect our citizens. Congratulations! Del.

The history-rooted ceremony of the change of command that we are having now reminds ourselves that leaders are transient but the authority and responsibility endure as they are transferred to another leader. As it is with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, so it is with the entire Republic of the Philippines. So, too, is our entire Administration devoted to ensure a smooth transition to a new government. The people come first.

Our accomplishments and progress to date must be passed on to new leaders to continue the forward march of progress. In the meantime, we will remain totally focused on governance and advancing the key programs we have advocated since coming to office, namely: infrastructure, education, healthcare, job creation and economic stability. And, of course, advancing our national security and the smooth operations of our men and women in the Armed Forces who serve our nation with professionalism and distinction. They put their lives on the line for us everyday to

protect our freedom and our way of life. And therefore today, not only do we congratulate and thank General Ibrado. Not only do we congratulate and wish well General Bangit. We congratulate and thank the great Filipino soldier.

Together with our soldiers, we have made considerable progress since we came to office. While nothing is ever completely achieved, we will turn over our nation having achieved a number of rock-solid accomplishments. From the beginning, we put forward very specific plans and detailed programs including for the continuing modernization and professionalization of the Armed Forces.

We have worked hard everyday to make sure we delivered on our plans and programs. In the national life of our economy most notably, we have made major progress improving our national infrastructure with more roads, an expanded commuter rail system, bridges and ports. We have made major gains in education, building more classrooms, installing internet access, improving teacher salaries, but together with teacher salaries also soldier salaries, so that in the last nine years the soldier's pay has been doubled from the time when we started. And, of course, part of our educational reforms is more scholarships for deserving young people including families of our soldiers.

While more certainly needs to be done, we have made major gains in multiplying access to Philhealth, 82 million of our 90 million population have access to Philhealth. In other countries that will be considered universal coverage. We have made progress in electrifying barangays, increasing tax collections, creating new markets with foreign countries and improving relations with other nations including security relations.

Our 36 quarters of consecutive growth have been unprecedented. We maintained our positive growth even during the global recession that started almost two years ago. Sadly, though, the progress we made was dealt a setback with the global recession in the sense that the global recession particularly hurt the poor and the middle- class even if we did not have recession in our country.

The global recession prevented the economic growth from really reaching the poor. It has prevented our economy from lifting all boats as we had hoped and planned. Yet the progress we made can be passed on for the next administration to build on.

We will be leaving the nation in better shape than we found it. We will be leaving the nation safer than we found it because of the great performance of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. From day one, we have always offered very specific programs to achieve our vision for a more modern, vibrant nation including a more modern vibrant Armed Forces.

We cannot put food on the table with just hope; we need a detailed plan of action and the ability to execute that plan and turn it into tangible results. That is what we have tried to do every single day. That is what our Armed Forces have done every single day with their area of responsibility. And I congratulate them for that.

Much remains to be done, but we have made good progress on many fronts. We are optimistic and hopeful about the future of this nation. We remain deeply committed to a smooth transition to a new government. And as we have heard from our outgoing and our incoming chiefs of staff, we count on the Armed Forces to help us prove that our democracy works for the future of our nation's children.

To Bong Ibrado, a big thank you from the Filipino people whom you have faithfully served. And to General Del Bangit, the very best of luck.

At sa ating mga sundalo, maraming salamat at Mabuhay!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Change of Command Ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080409/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27702&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the the Mindanao Agribusiness Tour: Visit to Jose Rizal Memorial State University

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the the Mindanao Agribusiness Tour: Visit to Jose Rizal Memorial State University**

[Delivered at the Jose Rizal Memorial University, Zamboanga del Norte, March 11, 2010]

Daghan salamat Secretary Dureza, ang aton bag-o nga Chairman sa Mindanao Development Authority. Congratulations!

Governor Yebes, Congressman Jalosjos, Congresswoman Carreon, Mayor Jalosjos ug laing-laing opisyaales diri, mga laing-laing mayor, Dr. Valbuena ug tanan atong mga opisyaales, manunudlo ug estudyante sa bag-o nga Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial State University, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan.

Nalipay ko nga makabisita kaninyo. Niabot na ako diri niadtong bag-o pa ako nga senador niagi ko gikan sa Dipolog sa airport paadto sa Ipil, so niagi ko diri apan karon adlaw naa ko'y chance ug makabisita sa inyong university labi na kauban... ug congratulations kan Congresswoman Celia nga siya ang principal author kay ang Dapitan ang main campus sa inyong university.

Gabisita ako kaninyo kay padayon kita sa pag-abtik nga gobyerno hangtod magawas ako sa pwesto. Alang kana, ma-promote kita sa mga labing importante nga inisyatibo nga gipasulong ug atong gobyerno sukad sa akong panglingkod sa pwesto. Mo-focus kita sa tulo ka bahin:

Usa, pagdala sa labaw nga poder ug kauswagan sa kada rehiyon, gawas sa pagkadaminate sa Manila. Busa, migasto kita alang sa dagkong kalsada sama sa gahimo nato karon nga Zamboanga West Coastal Road or Triple SSS B Road kag gibisita nano ganina. Kapin sa 170 kilometers kini ug kapin sa P4 billion pesos ang atong gigastos diri. Ang labing mo-benepisyo ang mga lungsod sa Triple S B towns o Sibuco-Siraway-Siocon ug Baliguian tanan sa distrito ni Congressman Cesar Jalosjos nga apil sa labing kabus nga mga lungsod sa Zambo Norte.

Kining Triple S B dili ko makalimot sa ako bag-o pa nga senador — no, dili pa bag-o — sa ako ni kampanya para senador dili ako nakaabot sa distrito ni Cesar Jalosjos kay isip bag-o nga kandidato walay daghan nga gacontribute kanako, wala akong helicopter, so dili ako nakaabot. Ug ang akong mga ig-agaw kay naa ko diri sa Zamboanga del Norte tungod kay ang akon lolo si Juan Macaraeg nahimo manager sa Sta. Clara Lumber nga apil ang tibuok Zamboanga Peninsula ug ang iyang ig-agaw nga iyang kauban nag paasawa sa usa ka taga Manukan sa Zamboanga del Norte busa daghan ang akong ig-agaw diri ug sila nagpaila kanako kan Congresswoman Celia Jalosjos ug kan Romy Jalosjos kaniadto nga sila dako ang ilang suporta kanako busa bisan dili ako nakaabot sa third district — third district ni, di ba? — nadaog ako dinhi sa Zamboanga del Norte. Daghan salamat kaninyo.

So dili ko makalimot dili ako nakaabot tungod kay walay kalsada. Ug sa ako nahimo senador kanunay ako nianhi kauban ang akon mga ig-agaw, kauban si Celia nga ig-suon pa... dili pa sa una congresswoman, ig-suon pa ni Congressman Jalosjos ang iya nga designation kaniadto. So, gafiya mi sa tanan-tanan mga lugar, niabot mi hangtod sa Gutalac na fiesta didto, hangtod sa Labason nifiya mi didto apan hangtod karon ra kay wala nang kalsada hangtod sa Baliguian.

So, sa ako nahimo presidente kaila ko na ang problema diri, ang problema sa Western Zamboanga del Norte, nga mao ang usa ka rason sa pagka kabus sa probinsya. Busa bisan dako kaayo ang gastos, ang budget gi-ingon ko sa DPWH ug sa DBM dili feasibility ang atong consideration diri, ang aton consideration ang atong laban kontra sa pagka kabus sa Zamboanga del Norte kinahanglan ang dalan sa SSS B ang Siocon-Siraway-Sibuco ug Baliguian. So karon naa na, gi-inspect nato and according to the Public Works and Highways they will try to finish this road by June of 2010.

So karon nga naa na kalsada gikan Sibuco-Siraway-Siocon-Baliguian ug diri sa bahin diri sa Tampilisan paadto sa Zamboanga Sibugay mao maadto sab sa Dipolog sa Dapitan. Ug didto naman sa Dapitan gi-upgrade nato ang Dapitan Port niadtong 2003, nihimo nato isip Roll-on/Roll-Off Port so karon ang mga produkto gikan sa distrito ni Cesar Jalosjos makaabot dili lang sa Dipolog o sa Dapitan hangtod pa sa Cebu ug sa laing-laing mga palengke. Maayo alang sa mang-uuma diri sa Western Zamboanga del Norte.

Sa aton nga Western Nautical Highway, Dapitan Port niagi sa Negros Oriental, Panay Island, Mindoro Island hangtod Batangas ma-o ang aton una nga Nautical RORO Highway ug karon tulo na ang aton nautical highway.

Dinhi sa inyong probinsya sab, bag-o ko nahimo ug Presidente, 416 nga barangay sa inyong 691 wala'y kuryente. So minority lang sa barangay naay kuryente niadtong 2001, around 200 out of 600. Karon kumpleto na nato tanang barangay naa na kuryente nakumpleto niadtong Pebrero.

Ikaduha nga focus nato, padayunon nato ang pag-promote sa importansya sa tulo ka 'E': education, economy ug environment sa aton paningkamot nga mahimo'g sustainable ug equitable angay-angay ang kauswagan.

Ikatulo, ipadayon nato ang focus sa atong kabataan. Asa ang aton mga estudyante diri? Okay, maayo. Focus kaninyo kabataan sa atong nasud isip ang atong labing maayong paglaum paingon sa mas mahayag, mas maayong Pilipinas.

Nahimo na nato ang daghang progreso sa daghang bahin, apan labaw pang daghan ang kinahanglan himuon. Tanan nga paningkamot sa aton administrasyon mao'y alang sa paghimo sa kaugmaong mas mahayag alang sa mosunod nga henerasyon nga mga Pilipino. Ang kabataan sa atong nasud mao ang atong paglaum ug inspirasyon. Tanan nga kinahanglan himuon nato mao'y magpatindog sa mas maayong kinabuhi alang sa kada bata nining atong nasod.

Samtang garbo ko sa tanang nahimo na sa atong gobyerno, ang kaayuhan sa mga nahuman na depende lang sa abilidad sa nasud sa pagpadayon sa pagdako ug pag-uswag. Giandom ko nga ang progreso nga gihimo nato dili na mowala; nga kon unsa'y nabilin nga kinahanglan pang himuon, himuon ninyo, ang mosunod nga henerasyon sa atong mga leader. Isip nasud, angay natong tutukan ang atong kaugmaon ug pun-an pa ang tanang kaayuhan nga nahimo na, ug labaw pang maningkamot sa pag-atubangan sa hagit sa mga pag-angay pagahimuon.

Kamo ang aton mga bata sa atong nasud, ang taytay sa kagahapon ug sa kaugmaon. Para kaninyo mga bata gituid nato ang mga sayop, makiglabaon kita alang sa pagpabag-o ug ganingkamot kita nga mahimo'g mas mahayag nga adlaw. Layo nga ang giabot ug atong nasud, apan layo pa ang kinahanglan abuton. Ug ang kabataan ga-represent sa mga damgo sa atong nasud. Sa mga kabataan gihalad nato ang paningkamot sa gobyerno aron mo-uswag ang Pilipinas.

Ug sa kalibutan nining ang kusog nga edukasyon kinahanglan mao gyud ang backbone sa teknolohiya. Labi na diri sa Mindanao ang importante ang teknolohiya sa agrikultura tungod kay ang Mindanao mao ang bread basket sa tibuok nasud labi na karon sa una walay inspirasyon sa produktibidad diri sa Western Zamboanga tungod kay walay kalsada so bisan daghan kaayo ang mga lobsters, daghan kaayo ang mga squids, giant squids dili man makaabot sa palengke. Apan karon makaabot na importante ang produktibidad dili lang ang bunga sa dagat, ang bunga sab sa yuta.

Busa ang teknolohiya sa agrikultura. Alang sa pagpakaon sa tibuok nasud, alang sab sa pagpagawas sa atong mang-uuma ug ilang mga pamilya sa pagka kabus. Ug ang pundasyon sa oportunidad mao ang edukasyon. Kini ang yawe sa mas maayong kinabuhi. Ga abre-abre siya sa huna-huna ug ga-abre sab ug mga pwertahan. Busa maayo ang gihimo ni Celia ug ni Cesar na ma-combine ang tulo ka eskwela ug limang campus alang sa usa ka unibersidad. Aron naay economies of scale ug ang budget imbes nga daghan kaayo ang mga administrative expenses sa kada usa ka eskwela o kada usa ka campus ma-combine sila tanan ug ang mga MOOE ug bisan ang capital mainvest sa mas maayo nga edukasyon, nga standard of edukasyon labi na sa teknolohiya diri sa Jose Rizal State University. So, congratulations!

Tungod kay sa kalibutan nining adlaw, ang kusog nga edukasyon kinahanglan ubanan sa kusog nga backbone sa teknolohiya. Ug katong backbone gyud kauban na gyud diri ang aton mga proper methods of agronomy, ang agricultural technology.

Pagpalahum sa panghuna-huna ug pag-koneksyon sa kalibutan paagi sa mga kalsada, sa mga RORO ug bisan sa telecommunications technology. Ang edukasyon ug ang teknolohiya mao ang twin pillars asa gatukod ang kaugmaon sa nasud. Busa sa akon mga ulahing bulan sa pwesto, padayon kitang dedikado sa pag-promote sa mas daghan o mas maayo nga edukasyon ug sa daghan ug mas maayo imprastraktura ug teknolohiya.

Layo na ang naabot nato nining duha apan layo pa ang kinahanglan adtoan nato. Dili kita angay magpahulay.

Busa padayon ang akong interes nga kamo, ang kabataan karon, makatindog kamo sa inyong kaugalingon, paagi sa maayo nga edukasyon gamiton ang balor sa upgraded education sa university education ug sa modernong paagi sa pagpauswag sa inyong kaugalingon ug sa pagpauswag sa atong nasud.

Kaninyong tanan, labi na sa tanang mga estudyante sa Jose Rizal State University, congratulations! Sa kauban, ang atong opisyaes ug ang atong mga university officials.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the the Mindanao Agribusiness Tour: Visit to Jose Rizal Memorial State University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080354/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27711&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) End-Term National Assembly 2010 Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremony of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) End-Term National Assembly 2010

[Delivered at the Summit Hall, Cebu International Convention Center (CICC), March 11, 2010]

Thank you very much Secretary Ace Durano, our Secretary of Tourism and our Cabinet Officer for Regional Development for Central Visayas.

King kanakung cabalen, Councilor Victor Ferrer; our host, Congresswoman Neri Soon-Ruiz, our host city mayor, Mayor Cortes; all the other officials of the PCL; all the other guests including the candidates who are all here to meet all of you.

Congratulations to the PCL for this End-Term General Assembly. But I am glad that even if it's an end-term assembly you still have a theme and the theme is: "Be a Pro-Active Partner on Climate Change... Be a Leader." Congratulations to you for continuing to be relevant until your last day in office.

And indeed this is very relevant. The Philippines is ranked 9th most vulnerable country to natural disasters. Our country is a victim of climate change although it is not a culprit. We have what they call a good carbon footprint. Our carbon emissions are only 1.6 tons per capita. The world average is 6 tons per capita and the world is trying to bring it down to 3 tons per capita. But we already surpassed the target, we're only 1.6. So, we are good neighbors, good citizens of the world. And we should congratulate ourselves for that.

Yet, we are disproportionately vulnerable to the devastation of Mother Nature. This devastation is accelerated not by us. This mistreatment of the fragile environment is not by us but by human beings in other parts of the world. And yet we are a victim because of the fact that we're an archipelago of 7,000 islands, and we're located at the first stop of Pacific typhoons, and the majority of our people live in low-lying areas that are prone to climate hazards. So that is why there is much reason for us to do adaptation to climate change brought about by others, even as we take our own measures to help mitigate climate change.

Part of adaptation is our disaster preparedness measures which are all very well within the scope of your councils — ranging from early warning signals to forced evacuation. And I congratulate our Local Government Units, whom you represent, for having become very good at this — warning, evacuation and other adaptation measures. Congratulations to you!

Even national government we have a Green Philippines Agenda that consists of measures to help mitigate climate change:

First, reforestation. Why? Because when you have forests the trees absorb the carbon dioxide that we exhale, so it reduces global warming.

Second, managing solid waste and promoting clean water and clean air. Why? Solid waste produces methane which is very, very bad for climate change.

Third, clean energy. For instance, just last week we were here in Cebu and we inaugurated a Clean Coal Power Plant that emits less carbon emissions than the previous technology. But even at that the investor, the Metrobank Group, is also investing in reforestation of the area around so that whatever carbon will be emitted by the coal plant will be absorbed by the trees that they will plant to make it carbon neutral.

Our fourth area of Green Philippines is protected areas like parks and sanctuaries. For instance here in Cebu, the central mountains of Cebu have been declared as a protected area, areas like Malapascua where we went diving last week, and also areas like Olango Island where the bird watching is are protected areas, and there are many of them in your different jurisdictions.

Many of your councils have your local version of our Green Philippines Agenda. Many of you have incorporated in your local legislative agenda many measures to clean up our air, to clean up our waters, to clean up our land. Many of you have passed local ordinances on waste segregation, recycling and reducing the use of pollutants and non-biodegradable products, and other environment-friendly practices. So for those of you whose councils have passed all these measures, congratulations for your contribution against climate change!

To support the Local Government Units in the performance of your tasks, not only against climate change but all your other tasks, our administration has seen to it that your IRA shares get to you as prescribed. Maybe you might have learned to take this for granted but before my administration you didn't always get your IRA as prescribed. Even in the early years of my Presidency, when we had to scrape the bottom of the barrel for funds, not only did we make sure that you the LGUs would have your IRAs, but we also paid you what previous administrations owed you.

And when government coffers received a bonanza from our tax reforms, we passed on to you the LGUs your fair share. That is why last year the LGUs received a first-ever for all, for you, a windfall of P40 billion pesos which is 40% of the additional P100 billion pesos we were able to collect from the Value Added Tax. So, I hope you felt all that money in the treasury of your Local Government Units.

Indeed, much has been done, yet much more remains to be done.

Our Administration is devoted to smooth transition to a new government. The people come first. Our accomplishments to date must be passed on to new leaders to continue the forward march of progress. To that end, let us do everything, we will do everything to make sure the new President and his team hit the ground running when they assume office.

There is no more important legacy than to leave the nation with a free and fair election and a smooth transition to a new government. Our people deserve to have confidence that their vote counts and that our democracy works.

To protect the integrity of the vote and the election results, we encourage and welcome independent, outside election observers to verify that the elections are in fact free, fair and open and the results valid, free from any political interference. Here in Cebu there is a very credible election watchdog, the CCFREL, and that is something that we encourage all over the country both from the Philippines and from outside.

It is important to have independent verification to give the people the confidence that the election works and the transition to a new government comes in smoothly. For my self, I will be staying out of the election process. I will trust the Comelec to ensure the new voting machines work, the votes are protected and counted, and the results are delivered in a rapid manner to the satisfaction of voters.

In the meantime, we will remain totally focused on governance and advancing the key programs we have advocated since coming into office, namely: infrastructure, education, healthcare, job creation and economic stability, including adapting our country to climate change. First the typhoons and now El Niño that's part of the work that you and I have to do until our last moment in office.

This election is about hope and building a brighter future for the next generation. The next government must continue to build on the investments we have been making to move our nation forward in the areas of investment that create jobs, new vibrant sectors like climate change adaptation technology, and to invest in our people through better education and healthcare. And for the LGUs especially healthcare because health is a devolved function to the local governments.

Well, it is your end-term assembly; it's also my end-term. I think that you and I can say that we will be leaving the nation in better shape than we found it.

Much remains to be done, but we have made good progress on many fronts. Therefore I am glad to be able to join you today to open your assembly and to use this opening of your assembly to say, for all your support through the years, I sincerely thank you.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the opening ceremony of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) End-Term National Assembly 2010. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080402/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27725&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of Compliance to Medicine is Wellness Campaign featuring the DOH generic drugs promotion mascot “Saver Generics”

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of Compliance to Medicine is Wellness Campaign featuring the DOH generic
drugs promotion mascot “Saver Generics”**

[Delivered at the PSC-ABAP Boxing Gym, Rizal Memorial Stadium Complex, March 12, 2010]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat Secretary Cabral.

Maraming salamat, Chairperson Angping, Congresswoman Angping; Undersecretary Padilla; ang ating mga lider ng industriya; ang ating ‘Saver Generics,’ hindi lang yung ating mascot, kundi na rin yung mga industriya na nagpro-produce ng generics. Congratulations! sa inyong lahat.

Isang malusog at maligayang araw!

Narito tayo upang bigyan ng suporta ang programa ng DOH sa pagpalaganap ng paggamit ng generics, bilang bahagi ng ating programang mababang presyo ng gamot na madalas binibili ng madla. Itong Saver Generics, tinatawag nitong pansin ng mamamayan sa mga benepisyo ng mga gamot na generics na kasing-bisa ngunit di hamak na mas mura kaysa sa mga branded na gamot.

Mula nung taong 2001 hanggang ngayon, marami na ang tagumpay na nakamit natin sa sektor ng kalusugan lalo na kung presyo ng gamot at serbisyong pangkalusugan ang pag-uusapan. Ang Generics Drug Law ay higit dalawampung taon na ang batas na ito, ngunit sa ating administration, doon siya talagang naging popular ang generics sa ating bansa. Marami na ngayon ang mga kumpanya ng gamot na gumagawa ng generics, narito yata sila ngayon. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Kaya malayo na ang naabot ng generics industry sa ating administrasyon, kagaya ng maraming bagay na naabot ng Pilipinas mula noong January 2001. Salamat at nabura na ng panahon ang maraming alaala tungkol sa napakamagulong panahong, yung wala pang sampung taong nakaraan, nang ang bansa ay nasa dulo ng lubhang kaguluhan sa pulitika at pagkalugi sa pananalapi.

Naka-ipit ang ekonomiya sa pag-uurong. Walang namumuhunan, kunti lang ang trabahong nililikha. Ang utang ng public sector ay mas malaki pa kaysa sa ating GDP. Halos walang dolyar sa kaban.

Para sa taong-bayan, panahon ng mas kulang sa trabaho, mas mababang kita at mataas na pag-angat ng presyo. Dahil kulang ang kita ng pamahalaan, kulang ang pinuhunan upang palawakin ang kalinga sa kalusugan.

Sa nakakadismayang eksenang ito pumasok tayo. Hindi ko hinabol ang Panguluhan noong 2001; hinulog ng langit. Kaysa talikuran ang mabigat na trabaho, we rolled up our sleeves, buong loob na paikutin muli ang Pilipinas.

Nakatukoy tayo parang laser beam sa paghatid ng mga tunay na resulta para pag-ibayuhin ang buhay ng karaniwang Pilipino. Bilang ekonomista, alam ko na upang mabawi ang ilang taong pag-urong ng ekonomiya, kailangan ipairal natin ang disiplina ng kaban ng bayan, palaguin ang ekonomiya at mamuhunan sa imprastrakturang pisikal at pantao.

Mula sa simula, ang mga kilos na ito ay huhubog ng pagbalik ng pagdadala ng 36 quarters of consecutive growth, walong milyong trabaho, matatag na sitwasyon ng kaban ng bansa at dagdag ng mahigit limampung milyong katao sa kalinga sa kalusugan.

Mula sa wala pang tatlumpong milyong Pilipino, naging higit sa 80 milyon ang nabigyan ng Philhealth coverage. Sa ating populasyon na 90 milyon, ito ay matuturing nang universal coverage. Kaya congratulations sa lahat ng nagtrabaho ditto.

Pinag-ibayo natin ang higit dalawandaang Barangay Health Stations, sandaang Rural Health Units at halos dalawandaang maliliit na ospital. Pinalawak ang kakayahan nila kaya't maaari na silang magbigay ng mas maraming serbisyong pangkalusugan. Maraming Rural Health Units ngayon ay kaya nang mag-opera at magpa-anak. Noong taong 2000, 25 pa lang na Rural Health Units ang pwedeng gumawa nito. Ngayon, 1,300 na ang puwedeng gumawa nito.

Pinag-ibayo rin natin ang 34 na malalaking pampublikong ospital sa buong bansa, kaya ang mga nakatira sa malalayong probinsiya ay hindi na kailangan tumungo sa Maynila upang magpagamot sa espesyalista.

At bago pa man pumasa ang Cheaper Medicine Law nung 2008, napababa natin ang presyo ng mga gamot na madalas gamitin ng mahihirap na maysakit. Nagsimula tayo sa pagbebenta ng mga murang gamot na kalahating presyo haming sa taong 2001. Gaya ng sabi ni Undersecretary Padilla, binebenta ang mga ito sa mga Botika ng Barangay at Botika ng Bayan sa ibat-ibang lugar sa Pilipinas. At ngayon ay may mahigit 17,000 na ang bilang ng naitatag na mga Botika ng Barangay at Botika ng Bayan. Ngunit hindi na kailangan doon lang bumibili, salamat sa ating generics industry, at iba pang miyembro ng industriya, makakahanap tayo ng kalahating presyong gamot sa karaniwang mga botika. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Nakapagsulong na tayo sa maraming larangan. Bagamat ipinagmamalaki natin ang nakamit ng ating administrasyon, ang nagawa sa nakaraan ay kasing-buti lamang ng kakayahan ng bansang tumuloy na lumago at umunlad.

Mataimtim kong inaasahan na ang progresong nagawa natin ay hindi titigil, na ang nalalabing dapat gawin ay aakuin ng susunod na henerasyon ng liderato. Bilang bansa, dapat matatag na nakatukoy tayo ang ating tanawin sa kinabukasan, to build on what is good and lalo pang magsikap upang harapin ang mga hamon ng nalalabi pang kailangan gawin.

Malalim ang ating nais na makita ang mas matinag na kinabukasan para sa masisipag na taong-bayan nitong bansa at malaki ang magagawa ng ating generic medicine at ang ating mga wellness program sa kinabubuti ng karaniwang mamamayang Pilipino.

Congratulations muli sa lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the launching ceremony of Compliance to Medicine is Wellness Campaign featuring the DOH generic drugs promotion mascot "Saver Generics". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080345/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27734&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during an Education Event: visit to Froilan D. Lopez Technical-Vocational High School

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During an Education Event: visit to Froilan D. Lopez Technical-Vocational High School**

[Delivered at the Froilan D. Lopez Technical Vocational High School, Camarines Norte, March 15, 2010]

Thank you very much. Dios mabalos Undersecretary Vilma Labrador. Salamat sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Governor Typoco, Congresswoman Chatto, Mayor Alegre, Principal Estravez, ating mga kaibigan na narito, ating mga estudyante, mga guro, Dios marahay nga aga sa indo gabus.

Ako ay nagbibisita sa inyo dahil gaya nang sabi ni Mayor tinutuloy natin ang aktibong pamamahala hanggang sa huling sandali na ako ay nasa pwesto. At para sa layuning yon, ipinaiiral natin ang mga masusing inisyatibong ginagawa natin mula nang manungkulan ako, lalo na ang tatlo nating mahahalagang programa:

Una, gaya rin nang sabi ni Mayor dalhin ang karagdagang kapangyarihan at pagkakataong umunlad ang bawat rehiyon, upang hindi lamang ang Manila ang tumatamasa sa kaunlaran.

Pangalawa, ipagpatuloy ang pagpapalago ng three E's – Edukasyon, Ekonomiya at Environment – upang tuloy-tuloy at pantay-pantay ang kaunlarang makakamit.

At pangatlo, nakatutok tayo sa kabataan ng bansa bilang ating pag-asa para sa mas magandang kinabukasan ng Pilipinas.

Marami na ang nagawa nating makipagbibigay ng kaunlaran sa iba't-ibang aspeto ng pamumuhay. At subalit mas marami pa ang dapat gawin. Lahat ng pinaghihirapang gawin ng pamahalaan ay para sa ikagaganda ng kinabukasan ng susunod na henerasyon ng mga Pilipino.

Kayong mga kabataan kaya binibisita ko kayo kahit na high school pa kayo ay... ng ating bansa ang nagsisilbing pag-asa at inspirasyon natin. Lahat ng ginagawa natin ay kailangan nakatuon upang mabigyan kayo mga kabataan ng mas maginhawang buhay.

Habang ipinagmamalaki natin ang mga nagawa ng ating pamahalaan, ang karangalang ito may maituturing lang na ganap na mahusay kung may kakayahan ang bansang ipagpatuloy ang pag-unlad at paglalago. Umaasa tayo na ang pag-unlad na nagawa natin ay hindi hihinto; na aakuin ninyo, ang ating susunod na henerasyon ng mga namumuno, ang anumang pang dapat ipagpatuloy.

Bilang isang bansa kinakailangan nating tutukan ang ating kinabukasan, magpundar sa kung ano ang makabubuti, at masipag na harapin ang mga hamon pang darating.

Kayong mga kabataan ang tulay ng ating nakaraan at kinabukasan. Alang-alang sa inyo ang itinatama natin ang mali, ipinaglalaban natin ang pagbabago, at umaasa tayo sa mas maginhawang buhay.

Malayo na ang narating ng ating bansa, subalit malayo pa rin ang kailangan nitong tahakin. Kaya ako ay nagpupunta sa mga bayan gaya ng San Vicente na hindi nabibisita ng ibang mga namumuno. At kaya naman pinili ko na pagbisita dito eskwela ang pupuntahan kasi kayong mga kabataan ang kumakatawan sa mga pangarap ng ating bansa. Sa inyo natin iniaalay ang lahat nang ginagawa ng ating pamahalaan upang maiangat ang Pilipinas.

At dahilan kung bakit ako ay nagpunta sa eskwela ang edukasyon ang pundasyon ng oportunidad. Ito ang susi sa mas maginhawang buhay. Binubuksan nito ang isipan at pintuan ng pag-unlad. At sa mundo ngayon ang malakas na edukasyon ay dapat sinasamahan ng malakas na backbone ng teknolohiya.

Hubugin ang kaisipan, makipagsabayan sa daigdig. Ang edukasyon at teknolohiya ang dalawang pundasyon kung saan nakasalalay ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa. Dahil dito'y inaalay natin ang mga huling buwan ng panunungkulan sa pagtaguyod ng mas matatag at dekalidad na edukasyon at mas mabuting imprastraktura sa teknolohiya.

Kaya pagdating ko kanina hindi muna ako pumunta ng entablado hinanap ko muna yung inyong internet laboratory dahil... at nagalak ako na may internet connection kayo dahil ang internet ay ang pinakamahalagang imprastraktura sa teknolohiya sa modernong pamumuhay. Kaya congratulations! at meron kayong internet connection.

So, nag-usap kami ni Principal, apatnapu raw ang inyong computer. Mabuti yun kasi para sa akin ang importante kahit na isang computer lamang basta may internet kaya yung 40 na may internet at... kaya lang narinig ko nung ginagawa ko yung homework para sa pagbisita dito merong ilang mga nasirang computer kaya yun ang una kong tinanong kay Principal: "Principal, anong ginawa natin sa mga nasirang computer?" Sinabi naman niya may 15 na nasirang computer every so often nasisira siyempre sa... lalo na yung mga luma pero parati namang inaayos at yun ang importante rin, 'wag nating sayangin. At itong 15 na computer ang problema lang naman pala ay power supply, so yung spare parts na kailangan ay power supply. Mabibili naman daw sa mga hardware dyaan sa Daet. So within a week's time maayos itong mga labinlimang nalalabi.

So importante na binibigyan natin ng preyoridad ang pag-aalaga ng inyong computer at ang pagbabayad sa inyong bill para sa internet connection. Iyan ang pinaka teknolohiya na dapat asikasuhin ng ating mga public high school. At yun nga dapat bigyan ng preyoridad sa MOOE na parating nagagawa yuon. At para naman yung ating mga teacher ay ma-engganyo rin na sumabay sa mga bagong teknolohiya ang importante ay yung inyong pagsasanay pero importante rin ay yung inyong hanapbuhay.

So, sa ating administrasyon, tinaasan natin ang sweldo ng mga guro. Yung dating P9,000 ang tinatanggap ng Teacher I, naging mahigit P14,000 na ngayon, ganun kalaki ang naangat ninyo. At meron pang parating na pantaas sa Salary Standardization Law at yan ang sinabi ko sa DBM tiyakin niyo na may pondo tayo para sa susunod na pagtaas ng sweldo ng ating mga teachers at iba pang mga kawani ng ... na nagtatrabaho sa pamahalaan. Maging sa teachers, sa ordinary employees, sa military at sa lahat.

At para rin sa pagsasanay sa mga teachers, kasi teknolohiya ang importante, tayo ay nagpalabas ng mahigit two billion pesos para sa pagsasanay ng mga guro lalo na sa Ingles. At narinig ko na dito sa Camarines Sur meron ng 750 na guro ng Camarines Sur na nabigyan ng special training sa English, Math o kaya Science. At hindi ba Undersecretary Labrador itong summer na ito meron tayong Special English Training? Starting today, di ba?

O, kailan ba ang graduation ninyo rito? 29, okay. Okay, so April ang ating mga teacher ha yung inyong training, yung English training ninyo yun ang napaka importante. Kasi kung tayo ay makikipagsabayan sa buong mundo kailangan ibalik natin ang English bilang medium of instruction kasi yun ang lengwahe ng teknolohiya.

Malayo na ang naabot atin sa edukasyon at teknolohiya, ngunit malayo pa rin ang dapat abutin natin. Hindi dapat magpahinga. Binuo ko, binuo natin ang Presidential Task Force for Education upang suriin ang ating sistema ng edukasyon. Sa ganun meron tayong maihahandog na rekomendasyon sa susunod na henerasyon. Kung ano ang nakita ng task force na yun na ang namumuno ay si Jesuit educator Father Bienvenido Nebres para kung ano pa at ano ba ang nagawa natin para sundin ang rekomendasyon nila at ano pa ang nalalabi na rekomendasyon nila na pwede nating ma-endorse sa susunod na administrasyon.

Meantime, samantala, nawa'y kayong mga kasalukuyang kabataan, I fervently desire that you will come into your own, bigyan niyo ng halaga ang edukasyon at modernidad. Gamitin ninyo itong mga sandata para sa ikabubuti ng inyong sarili, sa ikabubuti ng bansa, at sa ikabubuti ng lalawigan ng Camarines Norte at bayan ng San Vicente.

Maraming salamat sa inyo. Dios mabalos sa indo gabus!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during an Education Event: visit to Froilan D. Lopez Technical-Vocational High School. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100505232210/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27735&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 28th year anniversary of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research Development (PCIERD) Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 28th year anniversary of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research Development (PCIERD)

[Delivered at Hyatt Hotel, March 17, 2010]

Thank you Secretary Alabastro for your kind introduction.

Thank you also Usec. Yumul for telling us about what PCIERD is doing especially with regard to climate change, and to all of you PCIERD members, staff, clients — Happy Anniversary!

I'm very glad to join your celebration for two reasons: one is sentimental the other is strategic. The sentimental reason is that I was a member of PCIERD's Council in my early years in government and I still remember how hard the PCIERD people work. So, congratulations to all of you for your hard work.

The strategic reason is to highlight your contributions to the nation's growth. Your theme: "Taking the Extra Mile in Facing Global Climatic Challenges" says it all. The extra mile is what PCIERD enables, R and D in industry and energy. And now because the world and especially the Philippines face this very difficult challenges of climate change. That is the extra mile provided by PCIERD R and D especially in adaptation. Why are we stressing adaptation? Well, as we all know there are two responses to climate change, mitigation and adaptation.

But in our case, I don't think we have to feel very guilty about what we're doing about mitigation. When I was in Copenhagen I said with the world that we have a good carbon footprint. We are a good citizen as far as mitigation is concerned. The world's average carbon emission is 6 tons per capita and the world wants to bring it down to 3. But we are already 1.6, so we're even better than what the world is trying to aim for. So our challenge is adaptation because even if we are such a good world citizen as far as climate change is concerned we are one of the most affected, we're one of the biggest victims of climate change, we're the most vulnerable. For one thing, due to the fact that we are on the western rim of the Pacific. We are in the front door of all those typhoons that come and so we owe it to ourselves to do research and development for climate change adaptation.

And when you need research you need researchers and you need research grants. In 2004, UNESCO founded the number of researchers, scientists and engineers in developing countries should be 340 per million of the population. We have much less than that. So we want to move fast forward to try to achieve that in the shortest possible time and also to face global challenges like global climatic challenges.

So, three years ago, after we got our Expanded Value Added Tax reforms we decided that over and above what is usually provided in the science and technology budget we'd invest a fresh three billion pesos from our budget and all budget sources for R and D technology. And a lot of that has gone to scholarships for R and D related disciplines. The DOST as per our records has provided scholarship slots to about 27,000 beneficiaries during our administration.

Then given about a 100,000 scholarships... I've been calling Nina Alabastro last night, "Nina, how can you have 100,000 scholarships and 27,000 beneficiaries?" It turns out when I asked my staff, we've opened more than a 100,000 scholarship slots for natural sciences and mathematics. But how come we are talking about 27,000 beneficiaries. It turns out that some of the scholarships are not given for four years or two years for the whole course, they give out every year, so one person will be getting it four times, one person like getting it two times, so it's 100,000 scholarships for 27,000 beneficiaries.

But anyway, the important thing is of this number 1,900 are masteral and doctoral students in various fields of science and math, and 155 of them are from PCIERD. So, congratulations to all of you 155!

We have also invested — Nina, this is on top of the three billion, right? — One billion pesos for the University of the Philippines in Diliman so it can build its own P1.6 Science and Technology complex. So that would already be almost 5 billion pesos over and above the usual budget for research and development. I don't know if any other administration will do the same thing after me. They haven't done it before, I don't know if they'll do it after. I hope they do.

All of this is to promote Engineering R and D activities in the country at a significant scale in order to modernize every aspect of the economic underpinnings of the Philippines to propel growth, including in your case industry and energy. Also in your case climate change adaptation because climate change cut across different areas of the research and development so you do have your own industry and energy component for climate change adaptation and even mitigation.

I saw in the exhibit earlier some of the projects you have been doing for climate change mitigation and especially adaptation, so I congratulate you for that! Because we have to modernize as well as protect ourselves from climate change, both protecting ourselves and modernizing, both need a critical mass of research and development capable manpower. And because we're talking industry here we need to work on a manpower that will attract technology-base investors to the country.

Yesterday, I met the international chairman of NIDEC, an electronics company that has been in the Philippines for the last 13 years but decided yesterday that he would put in a fresh 300 million-dollar investment in our country. And he said he's willing to go all the way up to one billion dollars, but he said his problem is that he doesn't have enough engineers. He has three plants in Laguna. Okay, good supply of engineers. He has one plant in Subic, he's complaining about that, he can't find enough engineers there. And he has put up a fifth plant, that's 300 million dollars, again, in Laguna.

So he said, I want to expand some more but I can't find enough engineers. So, Lilia de Lima, the head of the PEZA said, "No, we'll help you find." And we told him about this program. See, the last time he was here was two years ago and he said, "Wow! what a big change in infrastructure you have. It takes half the time now to travel to my plant compared to when I was here two years ago." Well, we told him what has happened in the physical infrastructure is also happening in the human infrastructure. These lacks of engineers you're talking about we're curing that. We're spending all this billions on scholarships for science and engineering, and not only that a lot of scholarships are of masters and doctorate. So, that is the type he said of engineers that I would like to have and scientists because right now, I do the electronics here but I do the R and D in Japan. So if you have that then I will do the R and D in the Philippines as well. And that is one of the fruits of the works of PCIERD. So I'd like to congratulate you for that!

Because PCIERD is key to the creation of a favorable environment for science and technology to flourish — we can do it. With PCIERD we can have the knowledge to build the basic industries that engage in high-value added activities not only climate change adaptation but design R and D, product conceptualization, product development, innovation.

Investors know our caliber. Our manpower is world class. At the forefront are our engineers and they think we don't have enough of them but we are providing for more. All of these knowledge workers are the engines for national growth. They help spawn high-tech companies. With engineering R and D facilitated by PCIERD, we can further hone their skills and create our own technology roadmaps that will bring S and T right at the doorstep of the Filipino nation. And who is the one in-charge of creating that roadmap that R and D for industry and energy — no other than PCIERD. That is how important you are to our nation.

So, I take this opportunity to thank PCIERD and to Secretary Alabastro for all those things that you have done as exhibited outside especially one of the things I mentioned in my State of the Nation Address two times already I think for having patiently pushed for the installation of the additional Doppler radars that have boosted the weather-forecasting capabilities of PAGASA. No one can tell how many lives will be saved by the early warning derived from these instruments. This is really a very important climate change adaptation tool. And I was asking Nina, what is the role of PCIERD in our Doppler radars? She said it was the PCIERD who packaged the proposal to make that a reality.

We have now — thanks to you and your proposal — a total of ten weather radars now, five of which will be fully operational within the next two years.

Industry and Energy. Energy. During the Energy Summit two years ago, I also directed PCIERD to focus on energy. And I'm glad to see again outside that your researches have been a lot on energy. You have research in wind turbine generation, compressed natural gas. You have research that has proven to be commercially viable. For instance, the wind farm in Ilocos Norte is providing electricity to the whole town of Bangui and the CNG-operated buses have been given franchises to ply the Southern Luzon route.

Indeed, PCIERD is expected to meet a number of global challenges in the coming years especially global climatic challenges. I have an unshakeable faith in science and technology as the main driver of modern-day growth. And now as the main protector against the onslaughts of climatic changes.

As early as my first days in the Presidency, in fact in my first State of the Nation Address, I declared technology as the foundation of future economic development. How frustrated I was all these years, I couldn't put money, more money than we had for R and D. Finally after VAT, we were able to do it in 2007.

Indeed, there is a need to promote R and D activities so as to modernize our lives, so as to modernize industries and energy, and so as to modernize our capability to protect ourselves from destructive climatic changes.

We followed the pronouncement about technology being the foundation of development in our Medium-Term Plan. We put a four-pronged approach in our Medium-Term Plan:

First, enhancing the competitiveness of our human capital; which we finally we're able to put in billions for R and D related science courses.

Second, developing a critical mass of scientists and R and D personnel, and that's what we're spending this billions on.

Third, speeding up knowledge creation and dissemination to push productivity; that's PCIERD doing that work.

Fourth, improving mechanisms that promote technology-based entrepreneurship which is why I put TRC under the supervision and control of the DOST so that they will fund or they will give technology transfer not to sardine-making but to something more technology-based.

We are laying the foundation also for a sound education with a strong technology backbone to serve future generations. 'Cause if we want more scientists and researchers, well, we need to make the children, the young people more at home with science and math. So that's why the basic education level, we strengthened Science, Math and English teaching by increasing contact hours for these subjects and we need 50% more than we had for. Also by retraining and upgrading at least 100,000 teachers in these subjects, and especially in English which is the language of science and technology. And in today's world so much research is done on line and besides you have to be internet savvy if you want to be a techie technology savvy.

So, we have installed more than 5,000 of the country's 6,000 public high schools with internet connectivity. I hope that with this preparation we're doing on human capital and physical technological capital, PCIERD will have many, many more opportunities to provide. The important research for industry and environment and energy — environment because of the climate change — I hope that there'll be a lot of work that PCIERD can do and a lot of resources that you can continue to access so that you can do the work you have been doing so well in a much, much grander scale than we were able to do in the past.

So once again, to my fellow lovers of science and technology from PCIERD, thank you for all your support for our technology programs. And Happy 28th Anniversary!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 28th year anniversary of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research Development (PCIERD). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100505232157/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27740&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the opening ceremonies of the Special Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the opening ceremonies of the Special Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting on
Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development**

[Delivered at the PICC, March 17, 2010]

Thank you Secretary Romulo, Chairman of this Special Non-Aligned Movement Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation.

President Treki, welcome to the Philippines! When my godfather and uncle of Secretary Romulo, General Carlos Romulo, became the first president from Asia of the General Assembly he said, I am the President of the World. So, we welcome the President of the World to the Philippines today!

Minister Zakzouk, Minister of Religious Affairs of Egypt, Republic of Egypt and who is the chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, thank you for agreeing to have this conference, very important conference and very important conference for us, thank you for agreeing to have it here in the Philippines. We're grateful for that.

Dr. Vendley, thank you also for the cooperation of all of those who have been working hard for interfaith dialogue. Thank you for being here with us as well today.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: To all of you as well, welcome to the Philippines!

For more than 50 years, the Non-Aligned Movement has been one of the most respected platforms for dialogue amongst the developing countries in the world. The Non-Aligned Movement is made up of 118 member countries, the largest outside the United Nations Organization itself. This organization, the NAM, prides itself as the intergovernmental grouping committed to promote and protect the principles of respect for cultural and religious diversity, tolerance, understanding and dialogue. So it is but fitting that the NAM should sponsor an Interfaith Dialogue at the Ministerial Level for peace and development.

We recognize that ours is a diverse world, that is part of the principles of the NAM, and we recognize though that we are bound together by our common desire for peace and development.

We in the Philippines are honored that our Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, is being held in the Philippines and being chaired by our Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Secretary Romulo. We are proud to have this here because this is a country that bears living witness to the importance of intercultural and interfaith tolerance, understanding, respect and dialogue for peace and development.

We in the Philippines consider our intercultural and interfaith dialogue policy framework as an enduring basis for a coming together of the country's different cultures and faiths within a shared environment of peace, security and development based on mutual understanding, trust and respect. Interfaith dialogue is not a theory for us. For a long time now, it has been a reality among our diverse people and beliefs.

Philippine society is a multi-ethnic one. Our policy framework calls for Philippine society to be founded on social justice for all and the institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions. Muslim and Christian, Chinese and Spanish mestizo, Tagalog and Cebuano, these are but a few of names to which the Filipino responds in a wondrous testimony to our rich and varied heritage as a nation.

In the Philippines I say that interfaith dialogue has been a reality for a long time, not just theory. Because for a long time now, for instance, the Bishops-Ulama Conference brings Catholic and Christian Bishops and the members of the Mindanao Ulama League in constant dialogue and a common search for comprehensive development through the unifying aspiration for peace.

The promotion of intercultural and interfaith dialogue and cooperation, rooted in tolerance, mutual understanding, trust and respect, is also a primary strategy to achieve peace as well as a key element in the country's peace process and this is embodied in our country's Medium-Term Development Plan.

Thus, interfaith dialogue is officially and in reality a major contributor to peace and stability in Mindanao.

While lasting peace has yet to be achieved, we have taken heavy political risks to broker a peace in Mindanao. We have reached within the affected communities to change the peace paradigm, to change it into a combination of soft and hard power, not just a military solution but a solution of dialogue, a solution of community development, a solution of talking peace.

Through our steady promotion of interfaith dialogue and respect for the diverse cultures, traditions and practices of the peoples of Mindanao, we have been able to build in Mindanao roads that opened up remote areas into the mainstream of economic activities. We have been able to construct irrigation systems in farmlands that used to be impenetrable to construction companies because of conflict.

And in all these community development, dialogue, peace talks, we have brought together an international consensus to aid the process from the outside. Japan, Australia, the U.S., England, the OIC nations, Malaysia, so many others, Libya have a vested interest now in peace in Mindanao.

In the United Nations, the Philippines and Pakistan, with the full support of the NAM member countries, have been actively pursuing the promotion of interfaith and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace since 2004.

The United Nations General Assembly, we are happy, has adopted by consensus our annual resolution on the promotion of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace. This is further proof that we are all united by our common humanity and our common quest for peace and prosperity.

The Philippines is also honored that during the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations when the leaders of almost all the nations gathered together for a few days to conduct a series of summit meetings, one of the summit meetings was on interfaith dialogue, attended by the heads of government and heads of states of countries from all over the UN member nations. And that was chaired by the Philippines, so we see this chairing of the Philippines as a natural consequence and a natural follow-up of that interfaith dialogue conference, that summit conference that we held in the United Nations itself during its 60th Anniversary.

Interfaith dialogue is a foundation that creates an improved awareness and understanding of our common values. With that improved awareness, the next step is real cooperation.

And that is our expectation of that Draft Manila Declaration that you will adopt, that it will contain an action plan of practical, action-oriented policies culled from numerous local, regional and multilateral interfaith and intercultural dialogues.

Interfaith practical actions can focus on education, youth empowerment and development and media to combat stereotypes and misperceptions.

For after all as we have heard our different speakers say, all great religions advocate love; all great religions hold life to be sacred; all great religions profess peace and promote understanding.

Our challenge in promoting interfaith dialogue and cooperation is to redeem that true meaning of our respective faiths, so that we can bring lasting peace and prosperity to the world.

To all of you, Mabuhay! And once again, welcome to the Philippines!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the opening ceremonies of the Special Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080304/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27741&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on “Forging Alliances with the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) for Nutrition and Hunger-Mitigation” and new town visit

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on “Forging Alliances with the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) for Nutrition and Hunger-Mitigation” and new town visit**

[Delivered at the Multi-purpose Gymnasium, Lanao Agricultural College (LAC), March 18, 2010]

Magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat.

Congratulations dito sa pagpirma natin ng kasunduan sa pamamagitan ng National Nutrition Council at ang DOH ng ARMM. Baka gusto niyong malaman kung anong laman nitong agreement na ito para malaman natin kung ano ang aasahan natin.

So, yung first part, di ba ang NNC; yung second party, ang DOH ng ARMM. At ano ang nilalaman nito? Ang DOH ng ARMM ay magtatayo ng National Nutrition Council ng ARMM. At ang DOH ng ARMM ang magpapatupad ng mga proyekto, gawain, paglilingkod tungkol sa promote good nutrition. In other words, kung ano yung ginagawa ng National Nutrition Council sa ating bansa, yun din ang gagawin ng Regional Nutrition Council. At tutulungan ng National Nutrition Council ang ARMM Nutrition Council. Yung pondo na itutulong ay ilalagay ng National Nutrition Council sa Development Bank of the Philippines Cotabato Branch, bukod yun, separate account yun, para parang isang department. At itong pondong ito ay gagamitin para nga doon sa mga gawain tungkol sa nutrition education. At ito ang pinakalaman na tungkulin ng ating DOH-ARMM.

Yung National Nutrition Council naman, ano ang kanyang tungkulin? Ang National Nutrition Council ay tutulong sa ARMM Nutrition Council. Tama ba itong amount, Bernie? Sa pamamagitan ng P28 million pesos. Ito ay initial funding at ito ay para nga sa iba’t-ibang mga gawain kagaya ng pag-training ng mga trainers sa infant and child feeding at pagbasa ng nutrisyon para sa iba’t-ibang provincial center. So, tuturuan yung mga magtuturo rin kung ano ang dapat kinakain ng ating mga mamamayan para bumaba ang ating gutom. At magkakaroon ng mga siyempre, itong nutrition program na ito, ang mangyayari diyan, ang magpapakabo ay yung iba’t-ibang mga siyudad at saka mga munisipyo. Yun ang unang gagawin, yun ang unang activity at itong halagang ito sa unang activity ay halos P2 million pesos — yung training program ng mga trainers, doon tayo magsisimula.

Pagkatapos nuon, iti-train naman yung mga mag-i-implement ng nutrition program doon sa mga siyudad, doon sa mga munisipyo at doon sa mga barangay nutrition scholars. Pagkatapos nuon, magkakaroon ng training sa good nutrition para sa barangay. At pagkatapos nuon naman, yun na nga, tuloy-tuloy na ang training sa barangay level.

So ito ang gagawin kaya tayo ay nagpapasalamat na sa wakas ang DOH ng ARMM ay magtatayo ng Regional Nutrition Council at ang National Nutrition Council naman ay tutulong sa Regional Nutrition Council. So, magtulungan tayo lahat. Pero gusto kong ipahayag though ito’y isang bahagi lang ng ating Anti-Hunger Mitigation program.

Maraming dahilan kung bakit nagugutom ang tao. Maraming dahilan kung bakit nagugutom ang tao, halimbawa, sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Ang isa nga, dahil baka nasasayang yung ginagastos sa mga bagay na hindi naman nakakatama sa nutrisyon. Halimbawa, gagastos kayo ng canned milk or bottled milk, cow’s milk para sa inyong mga sanggol. Eh dapat naman mag-breastfeeding for at least six months. So, malaki ang maibabawas yun sa gastos at malaki ang maidadagdag sa nutrisyon, bahagi yun sa mga training.

Isa pang napakaimportanteng dahilan kung bakit may siguro nagugutom ang taong-bayan dito sa Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao ay baka dahil sa mga presyo ng bilihin. Kaya nandito ang ating bagong Secretary of

Trade and Industry, si Secretary Jing Lapus, dahil yung presyo ng bilingin ay kailangan tignan niya. Alam ba niyo si Secretary Lapus nagbuena mano, nung first day ng kanyang pagtrabaho bilang Secretary of Trade of Industry, nakapasok siya agad ng \$300 million dollars na investment. Sana buena mano rin yung kanyang unang pagbisita dito sa Mindanao upang harapin ang mga problema ng mataas na presyo ng bilingin dahil yun ang isang pinanggagalingan ng gutom. Although, tinatanong ko kanina kay Governor, “kumusta ang mga presyo dito?” Okey naman daw. Pero yun ang isang iva-validate ni Secretary Lapus lalo na bigas, napaka-importante ang bigas, presyo ng bigas. Pag mataas ang presyo ng bigas, nagugutom ang tao, pag mababa ang presyo ng bigas, bumabawas ang gutom.

So yun ang dalawang pakay natin sa pagbisita dito ngayon sa Mindanao. Yung isa, itatayo ang Regional Nutrition Council ng ARMM at yung pangalawa, itse-check natin ang mga presyo ng bilingin hindi lamang dito sa Autonomous Region of Mindanao pati na rin doon sa Western Mindanao kaya bagamat wala siya sa ARMM, nandito rin si Governor Aurora Cerilles ng Zamboanga del Sur dahil pagkatapos nito, titignan natin yung mga presyo ng bilingin doon sa bandang Zamboanga.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, magtulungan tayo, labanan natin ang kahirapan, labanan natin ang kagutuman.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on “Forging Alliances with the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) for Nutrition and Hunger-Mitigation” and new town visit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080233/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27755&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during an Education Event: Visit to Ramon Magsaysay National High School / JH Cerilles State College (New Town Visit)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Duringan Education Event: Visit to Ramon Magsaysay National High School / JH Cerilles State College (New Town Visit)**

[Delivered at the Ramon Magsaysay National High School Campus, Zamboanga del Sur, March 18, 2010]

Daghan salamat Secretary Dureza sa imong pagpaila.

Daghan salamat Governor Cerilles sa imong maayong pag welcome kanamo, Congressman Vic Yu, Congressman Cerilles, Mayor Bulahan ug tanang mga opisyal sa Ramon Magsaysay, ang aton principal diri Mr. Logdonio, ang aton nga academic head sa Cerilles State College, Dr. Valeria — asan si Dr. Valeria? Wala diri kay ang kining eskwela diay sa buntag high school, sa gabii college — kaninyong tanan mga kaigsoonan, maayong hapon, maayong ugto, hapon, hapon, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan.

Nalipay ko makabisita kaninyo ang eskwela nga high school sa buntag ug college sa gabii. Sa buntag Ramon Magsaysay National High School, sa gabii JH Cerilles State College nga ginpangalan sa inahan ni Congressman Tony Cerilles. Nalipay ko sab na mahibaw-an nga 22 na sa inyo mga lungsod naa na ug extension sa JH Cerilles State College kay murag ingon ni Congressman Cerilles ang mga kabus nga sa una kinahanglan pa magawas sa lungsod karon dili na kinahanglan, makatrabaho na sa pang-uuma sa buntag, makasulod sa eskwela sa gabii.

So, hibaw ko sab nga sukad sa pag-abre ining inyong campus niadtong 2006, dunay 100 plus nga batan-on ang nakahuman ug mga kurso diri ug maayo ang ilang performance sa mga board exams, congratulations!

Ang pagbisita sa mga probinsiya sama sa Zamboanga del Sur usa sa labing importanteng trabaho sa akon panguluhan. Pagpadayon kita sa aktibo nga pagtrabaho hangtod sa ulahing adlaw sa atong termino. Alang nana, gi-promote nato ang mga dagkong inisyatiba nga gipasulong sa aton administrasyon sukad nilingkod kita sa pagpamuno. Tulo ka bahin ang aton ginpalabi:

Usa, paghatag sa matag rehiyon ug mas dakong gahom ug pag-uswag dili lang sa Manila.

Duha, pagpadayon sa pag-promote sa importansya sa atong three E's: Edukasyon, Ekonomiya ug Environment — sa aton mga paningkamot sa pagkab-ot sa malungtaron ug angay-angay nga kauswagan.

Tulo, padayon nga focus sa kabataan sa nasud isip atong labing pagla-um alang sa mas mahayag ug mas maayong Pilipinas.

We have made progress in many areas. Governor Cerilles, Congressman Yu and Mayor Bulahan has told us some of those. Ug sa tibuok nasud in the past twelve months, I'm happy that we were able to create a record 1.7 million jobs even in the middle of a global economic crisis. And that brings now to about nine million jobs created during my administration.

Ug gikwento nga ni Governor Cerilles ang mga laing-laing proyekto naton nga priority diri sa Zamboanga, ang Pagadian Airport, ug tinuod ba Au nga naa mga commercial flights, naa na? Next month, congratulations! So next month moanhi na ang mga commercial flights.

Ug nahuman na sab karon ang pagpa-ayo sa gitawag nilang 'longest road,' ang Pagadian-Zamboanga City Road. Longest road kay longest to construct murag sukad pa sa panahon ni Marcos gi-construct na gina-construct na, ang aton administrasyon ang nakahuman nining kalsada.

Ang suma tatal gyud sa mga dalan nga gipatukod nato sa Region IX maabot sa 1,295 ka kilometro. Dako ug gitabang kining mga kalsada alang sa mga mang-uuma, aron madal-on ang mga produkto sa bukid nga adto sa mga sentro sama sa Pagadian ug bisan pa tingali sa gawas sa Region IX. Dako sab ang tabang sa mga negosyante, aron dili kaayo motaas ang mga presyo. Kasi isa doon sa gusto nating mangyari dapat ang presyo ng pagkain ay kayang-kaya ng pamilya. At importante na ang transportasyon, ang logistics alang nining atong tuyo.

Kaya today I have with me our new Trade and Industry Secretary, Secretary Jing Lapus; used to be Secretary of Education, so this used to be his jurisdiction. Now, his jurisdiction will be our next stop, the public market, because we'll look at how the prices are here in Zamboanga del Sur.

Indeed, more needs to be done. Everything our administration has worked hard to achieve has been to make the future brighter for you, the next generation of Filipinos. Ang kabataan sa atong nasud ma-o ang atong paglaum ug inspirasyon. Ang tanang kinahanglan himuon nato kinahanglan alang sa pagtukod ug mas maayong kinabuhi para sa matag batan-on sa atong nasud.

Samtang gikagarbo nato ang mga nahimo na sa atong gobyerno, ang nahimo sa kagahapon epektibo lamang sama sa abilidad sa nasud nga padayon molambo ug mo-uswag. Unta ang progreso nga gihimo nato dili mohunong; nga ang mabilin pa nga angay buhaton himuon sa mosunod nga henerasyon sa liderato, kamo gyud kanang masunod nga henerasyon. Isip nasud, angay natong tutukan ang atong kaugmaon, pun-an ang kaayuhan ug labaw pang maningkamot aron matubangan ang hagit sa kon unsa pay nabilin himuon.

Ang kabataan sa nasud maoy tulay sa kagahapon ug sa umaabot nga panahon. Alang kaninyo ang gitul-id nato ang mga sayop, gitindugan nato ang pagbag-o, ug naningkamot kitag himuon ang mas maayo nga adlaw.

Layo na ang na-abot sa atong nasud, sama sa mga kalsada layo na ang inyong maabot tungod sa aton mga gwapo karon nga kalsada. Apan layo pa ang angay niyang adtu-an. Kamo ang kabataan garepresentar sa mga aspirasyon sa atong nasud. Kaninyo gihalad nato ang mga paningkamot to lift up the Philippines.

Ang edukasyon ma-oy pundasyon sa oportunidad. Ma-o ang yawe sa mas maayong kinabuhi. Abrehan niya ang panghuna-huna ug abrehan niya ang mga pwerta. So maswerte gyud kamo nga daghan kaayo nga mga lungsod ninyo na anay extension sa state college campus. Maswerte sab ang katawhan sa Zamboanga del Sur kay nahibaw-an ko kumpara sa ubang probinsiya, mas daghan kamo ug mga eskwela dinhi sa Zamboanga del Sur. Congratulations!

Ug sa karong adlaw, sa karong kalibutan ang kusog nga edukasyon kinahanglan kauban ang usa ka kusgan nga pundasyon sa teknolohiya. To build the mind and connect to the world. Education and technology are the twin pillars upon which... (there must be a micro... siguro naay radyo nagakonekta sa usa ka microphone. Sirado na? Okay.) Busa sa mga ulahing bulan sa aton pagpamuno, padayon gihapon kita sa paghandos sa mga buluhaton alang sa mas maayo ug mas lig-on nga edukasyon ug imprastraktura sa teknolohiya. Usa unya gusto ko mahibaw kung kamo na-a na kamo internet connection diri sa inyo nga eskwela? Na-a na, congratulations! Congratulations, Principal! Kay ma-o gyud ang labing importante nga imprastraktura sa teknolohiya. So, I'd like to congratulate also si former Education Secretary Jing Lapus because he left the DepEd with 5,500 high schools now with internet connection.

Layo na gyud ang atong na-abot. Sukad sa 2001, nakapaghatag ug scholarships sa Region IX kapin sa 6,500 ka estudyante sa college ug sa graduate school. Dinhi sa Zamboanga del Sur, 5,000 ang nakabenepisyo sa lain-laing technical ug vocational scholarships, ug apil niini ang 551 sa Ladderized Education.

Unsa kining ladderized education? Tingali masulod kamo sa agri tech six months, one year, two years ug balik sa pang-uuma. O like what you do here sa gabi-i mo-aral, sa ugma matrabaho, sa buntag matrabaho ug kung gusto

ninyo sa mahuman ang inyong certificate modayon sa college, Bureau of Agricultural Science, ang inyong learning sa agri-tech magamit isip credits o units alang sa inyong college degree. Ma-o ang ladderized education.

Ug nalipay ako nga kining Ramon Magsaysay branch sa JHC State College gatanyag dili lang na na-a kamo ug internet connection ang card gakanyang diploma courses sa edukasyon, ug duna pa'y kamong technical certificate courses sama gyud sa agri tech, automotive tech ug computer tech. Kay importante gyud kanang mga kurso because they represent technology. Congratulations to our academichead!

Apan murag ingon ko kanina layo pa ang angay naton adtu-an. Dili pa angay magpahuway. Unta kamo, ang kabataan sa karong adlaw, gamiton ninyo, value, value your education, value modernity, gamiton kining mga instrumento aron palambo ang inyong kinabuhi ug ang atong nasud ug ang inyong gwapo kaayo nga probinsya nga Zamboanga.

Ang akong lolo, si Juan Macaraeg, sa gamay pa ang akong inahan, she was only in primary school, ni trabaho siya diri sa Zamboanga isip manager sa Sta. Clara Lumber ug kanunay ni-anhi siya sa nahimo'g later on Zamboanga del Sur sa Margosatubig — lain-laing pantalan diay sa Margosatubig — busa ang Zamboanga Peninsula duol sa kasing-kasing sa akong pamilya.

Ug gusto ko ipaabot sab kay mahuman na ang akong national politics, ang akong pagpasalamat kan Au ug kan Tony kay sukad sa akong una nga pagkandidato niadtong 1992, '95, '98, 2004 ug ang akong mga senador sa 2001 ug 2007 nga sa una, labi na bag-o nahimo'g presidente dili naman kami... we ____ sa mismong partido apan kanunay ang ilang suporta tuwa kanako.

So, salamat Au, salamat Tony. Salamat kaninyong tanan, aton mga igsuonan, unta gyud kining atong nga nihimo makauban kita mahimo gyud usa ka pa-agi sa labi pang kauswagan sa Zamboanga del Sur.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during an Education Event: Visit to Ramon Magsaysay National High School / JH Cerilles State College (New Town Visit). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080240/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27754&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 113th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Army

Speech of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the 113th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Army

[Delivered at the Philippine Army Grandstand, March 22, 2010]

Thank you Secretary Gonzales for your introduction.

Give ‘Tikas pahinga.’”

General Bangit, Lt. Gen. Mapagu, Vice Admiral Marayag, other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, members of the Diplomatic Corps, men and women of the Philippine Army, ladies and gentlemen:

Maligayang Anibersaryo sa Philippine Army!

The Presidency and the Philippine Army were born on the same day one hundred thirteen years ago, when Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo was elected President of our First Republic at the Tejeros Convention and Gen. Artemio Ricarte was elected Captain General of the Filipino Revolutionary Army. Since then the fortunes of the Presidency and the Army became inseparably interlocked. And so today, I congratulate our awardees of this year for your outstanding service to the Army and to the Filipino people. I also congratulate the Army for the last nine years of hard but very fruitful work.

Nine years ago, we inherited a culture of lawlessness and kidnapping. Through sheer energy and focus, we worked to end kidnapping as a major problem. Similarly, in the lawless provinces of the South, we have brought peace and stability through a combination of strict military hard power and the effective use of soft development tools, namely: the building of roads, bridges, schools and ports.

While lasting peace has yet to be achieved, the ceasefire with the MILF declared in 2003 is holding. I have taken heavy political risks to broker a peace. We have reached within the affected communities to change the peace paradigm. And we have brought together an amazing international consensus to aid the process from the outside. Japan, Australia, the U.S., England, the OIC nations, Malaysia and so many others now have a vested interest in peace in Mindanao.

You our soldiers, our great Filipino soldier, you have led the way in the fight against terrorism, boosting our intelligence gathering and sharing with key allies, while lifting up the professionalism and training of our own men and women. When I became President in 2001, one of the first things I did, indeed, to boost your professionalism and effectiveness is to lobby with Congress to increase the basic pay of our soldiers so that the ordinary soldier’s basic pay would be equal to that of a teacher. Since then, our uniformed personnel have had five salary increases, and this year’s basic pay is now almost double what it was in 2001.

For instance, a private used to receive P5,500 in year 2001; today, he receives P10,808 and in the middle of this year he will receive P12,149. A private first class used to receive a basic pay of P5,830 in 2001; today it is P11,513 and it will soon be P12,993 pesos. Due to the Salary Standardization Law which we worked for, our soldiers can look forward to yearly increases starting this year until 2012. You know, for the salary standardization law, the increases cost the government P4 billion pesos a month. I have heard from our ordinary soldiers if there is a way to increase or to frontload the increases before July 2010. I have asked the DBM to help us find the means so that you can receive it somewhat earlier. Let us cross our fingers that the DBM will find a solution.

We have also ensured that other benefits would be given: we have doubled the benefits for soldiers killed or wounded in action; more scholarships for soldiers' children; wide tracts of housing projects for the AFP; more amenities for the men and women in the field; more force protection as we have seen in some of the examples given in the table down here; and more modern equipment, the latest of which is the night fighting equipment to make you even more effective. But I am glad that this morning, as part of our celebration, we had the review of some of the things we did to modernize our Philippine Army and I hope that they have helped you. I'm sure they have helped you because you become more effective, more professional and have achieved more victories during our last nine years together. Congratulations!

As a result of your increased professionalism, your increased effectiveness, we have narrowed the lair of hardcore terrorists in the South and continued to confine and limit the communist insurgency which is sputtering on empty fumes. The people are safer than ever. I thank all of you, men and women of the Philippine Army, for everything you have accomplished for this nation. Indeed, the Army has achieved much and is expected to do even more.

For the coming elections, you have been duly deputized to assist the COMELEC. We all know it is the COMELEC's job to ensure the new voting machines work, the votes are protected and counted, and the results are delivered in a manner to the satisfaction of voters. You are deputized to help the COMELEC, but for myself, I will be staying out of that process. I will remain focused on governance and advancing the key programs we have advocated since coming to office, namely: infrastructure for which the Army has helped me much to do, education, healthcare, job creation and economic stability. And of course, advancing our national security and the smooth operations of our men and women in the armed services who serve our nation with professionalism and distinction.

You our soldiers put your lives on the line for us everyday to protect our freedom and way of life. And with your protection, we have made considerable progress since we came to office. While nothing is ever completely achieved, we will turn over our nation having achieved a number of rock-solid accomplishments. Most notably, we have made major progress improving our national infrastructure with more roads, an expanded commuter rail system, bridges and ports. We have made major gains in education, building more classrooms, installing Internet access, improving teacher salaries to which the soldier's salaries is pegged, and more scholarships.

We have made major gains multiplying access to Philhealth, electrifying barangays, increasing tax collections, creating new markets with foreign countries, and improving relations with other nations including and especially security relations.

Our 36 quarters of consecutive growth have been unprecedented. And we have created in the midst of a global economic crisis 1.7 million jobs in this past year. We maintained our positive growth even during the global recession that started almost two years ago.

Now, our administration is devoted to ensure a smooth transition to a new government. Our accomplishments and progress to date must be passed on to new leaders to continue the forward march of progress. As I reflect over the past nine years, I can truly say that in the best of times and in the worst of times, the Army has given my administration tremendous support while it continued to protect the nation. And so, I end this celebration by thanking you for your sincere and excellent service to our Filipino people and by giving you a fond and snappy salute.

Maraming salamat. Congratulations sa Philippine Army!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 113th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Army. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080218/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27760&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the Pangulong Gloria Scholarship Graduation Exercises from the Institute of Creative Computer Technology (ICCT) Colleges

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Pangulong Gloria Scholarship Graduation Exercises from the Institute of Creative Computer Technology (ICCT) Colleges**

[Delivered at the Ynares Center, Antipolo City, Rizal March 22, 2010]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat Director General Guiao sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Congratulations! din kay Dr. William Co at yung ibang mga officials ng ICCT Colleges at nakikiramay ho ang lahat sa nawala na sa atin piling, si Dr. Consuelo Co, ang pangulo ng ICCT Colleges.

Governor Jun Ynares, maraming salamat sa iyong pagkuwento tungkol sa aking ama, President Diosdado Macapagal, na siya ang isang malaking katunayan na ang edukasyon ang susi ng oportunidad at ang kailangan lang ng maraming mahihirap ay may tutulong na scholarship para makuha nila itong susi ng oportunidad. Congratulations! sa iyo rin at sa lahat ng mga taga-Rizal na kinakatawan ninyo.

Ating mga batch 2010 na scholars ng ICCT, congratulations!

Binabati ko ang lahat ng mga kasamahan ni Dr. Co, mga opsiyal, mga kawani, mga guro sa sigasig at dedikasyon upang maturuan ang mga graduate natin.

At salamat din sa mga magulang at iba pang mahal sa buhay ng ating mga graduates na tumulong para maka-abot kayo dito kung saan pwede kayo makatanggap ng scholarship at makapagtapos ng importanteng kursong makapagbibigay ng trabaho.

Nag-uusap kami ni Chairman Co kanina tungkol sa inyong eskwelahan. Fifteen thousand ang kanilang estudyante sa regular na kurso, ngunit sa pamamagitan ng ating scholarship program sa technical and vocational education nadagdagan ng limang-libo, kaya limang-libo ang naka-graduate natin ngayon.

At sa laki ng eskwelahan ni Dr. Co, hiniwalay yung mga regular na mag-graduate doon sa may scholarship ng VocTech — kayo na nga yun — kaya congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Itong pagbibigay ng scholarship sa vocational at technical education ay bahagi ng hands-on governance na tinutuloy natin hanggang sa huling sandali ng aking pamumuno. Para diyan, pinapairal natin ang mga masusing inisyatiba na pinasulong ng ating administrasyon mula ng inyong lingkod ay nanungkulan.

Tinutukoy natin ang tatlong aspeto: Una, pagbibigay sa mga rehiyon ng karagdagang kapangyarihan at kaunlaran palayo sa dominasyon ng Maynila; pangalawa, ipagpatuloy na ipairal ang halaga ng tatlong E: edukasyon, ekonomiya at environment sa ating mga pagsisikap na lumikha ng tuloy-tuloy at pantay-pantay na kaunlaran; at

pangatlo, patuloy na tutok sa inyo mga kabataan ng bansa bilang ating pinaka-pag-asa para mas matinag, mas magandang Pilipinas.

Naka-progreso na tayo sa maraming larangan. Nadoble ang pangkalahatang budget ng DepEd, TESDA, CHED at mga state universities and colleges magmula nuong umupo tayo sa Panguluhan. Noong tayo ay nagsimula noong 2001 wala pang P100 billion ang budget ng edukasyon, ngayon lampas na sa P200 billion. Kaya naman nakapagbibigay ng scholarship dahil lumaki ang budget ng doble.

May mga 600,000 na tayong college scholarship na nabigay sa ating administrasyon, at doon naman sa VocTech itong taon lang ito, isang taon lang halos 600,000 na rin. Ngunit higit pa ang kailangang gawin. Lahat ng pinagsisikapang makamit ng ating administrasyon ay para gawin mas matinag ang kinabukasan para sa susunod na henerasyon, kayo yun, susunod na henerasyon ng mga Pilipino. Kayo, ang ating kabataan ng ating bansa gaya ng sabi ko kanina, ang ating pag-asa at inspirasyon. Lahat ng ginagawa natin ay dapat para magtayo ng mas mabuting buhay para sa bawat kabataan ng bansa.

Habang ipinagmamalaki natin ang nakamit ng ating administrasyon, ang nakamit sa nakaraan ay kasimbuti lamang ng kakayahan ng bansa na lumago at umunlad. Nais ko na ang progresong nagawa na natin ay hindi titigil; na kung ano ang nalalabing gagawin ay aakuin ng susunod na henerasyon ng liderato. Halimbawa, sabi ko nga kay Dr. Co, “Naku! Dr. Co meron kang limang-libo na graduate na scholar ng TESDA, naku sana naman yung susunod na administrasyon pantayan yun o lampasan pa sana.”

Bilang bansa, dapat matatag na itukoy natin ang isang tanawin sa kinabukasan, to build on what is good at lalo pang magsikap upang harapin ang mga hamon ng nalalabi pang gawin. At kayo, ang ating kabataan ng ating bansa ang tulay ng nakaraan at kinabukasan. Para sa inyo ang pagtutuwid natin sa mali, ang pakibaka natin para sa pagbabago, at ang paghanap nating gumawa ng mas matinag na araw.

Malayo na ang narating ng ating bansa. Most notably, we have made major progress improving our national infrastructure with more roads. Noong araw naalala ko... ewan ko kung bagong senador ba ako o vice president pa ba ako? No, hindi senador. Vice president o bagong pangulo. Kailan Junjun nag-governor yung nanay mo? 2001. Okay, bagong pangulo pa lang ako. So sabi ko, Governor Nini kamusta na ang mga investor dito? Sabi niya, papaano naman darating ang mga investor dito ang hirap-hirap maka-abot dito, traffic, sama ng kalsada. Eh ngayon pinalawak natin ang mga kalsadang patungo ng Rizal kaya marami ng investor ang pumupunta rito.

Isa pa ring nagawa natin, yung expanded commuter rail system, para sa ganun mula sa Maynila hanggang sa malalapit na probinsya gaya ng Rizal ay pwede kayong magbiyahe sa ating LRT-MRT. Kasama sa mga kalsadang ginawa natin yung mga importanteng tulay.

And we have made major gains in education, building more classrooms lalo na sa public grade school, installing Internet access lalo na sa mga public high school, improving teacher salaries, and more scholarships for the young people gaya ninyo ating mga kabataan.

Kasi nga, gaya ng pinatunayan ng aking tatay, ang edukasyon ang bukal ng oportunidad. Gaya ng kuwento ni Governor Junjun Ynares, ang tatay ko mahirap lamang ngunit pina-aral ni Don Honorio Ventura, naging abogado, naging number 1 sa bar at yun ang naging susi niya sa kanyang tagumpay. Kayo rin pinapa-aral natin, pinapa-aral ng pamahalaan, kayo ay binibigayan ng susi sa mas maginhawang buhay.

Ang edukasyon, binubuksan nito ang isip, binubuksan ang mga pintuan. At sa kasalukuyang mundo, ang malakas na edukasyon ay dapat kasama ang malakas na backbone ng teknolohiya. Kaya natutuwa ako na ang ICCT ay kilalang-kilala sa larangan ng ICT. Tinanong ko kay Dr. Co, ano ang ibig sabihin ng ICCT? Sabi niya, Institute of Creative Computer Technology. Doon nagsimula ang ICCT, sa computer, 1981 pa, wala pa tayong internet age computer na ang itinaturo ng ICCT. Congratulations! sa inyong vision.

Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan na dito sa ating 5,000 na nag-graduate ay 2,000 ay nag ga-graduate sa computer programming. Inaasahan ko naman na itong iba ninyong mga kurso na pinili ninyo ay yung mga kurso na pinag-aralan ng TESDA na malaki ang pag-asa na makakuha kayo ng trabaho pag-graduate ninyo.

Kaya kayong mga kabataan, malaki ang ating pag-asa sa inyo, nabigyan kayo ng susi ng oportunidad, gamitin ninyo ito sa inyong kinabubuti at kinabubuti ng ating bansa.

Congratulations! sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Pangulong Gloria Scholarship Graduation Exercises from the Institute of Creative Computer Technology (ICCT) Colleges. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080225/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27762&Itemid=38

**Speech of President Arroyo during the U.S. Congressional Reception and Awarding of the 2010 ICCF Teddy Roosevelt International Conservation Award Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the U.S. Congressional Reception and Awarding of the 2010 ICCF Teddy Roosevelt International Conservation Award**

[Delivered in Washington DC, USA, April 13, 2010]

Thank you very much.

Congressman Tanner, Congressman Royce, other members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. Congress, Ms. Barbut, other NGO leaders, distinguished officers and advisers of the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, friends, ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

In behalf of the 85 million Filipino people who love our 7,100-island nation with tens of thousands of marine species and some of the most beautiful coral reefs and fishing grounds in the world, thank you for awarding me the Teddy Roosevelt International Conservation Award for 2010.

Named for the larger-than-life conservationist President Theodore Roosevelt, this award gives further inspiration to all my compatriots and those around the world who join me in doing all we can to conserve our precious natural resources.

Our country is truly blessed with an outstanding diversity of both terrestrial as well as marine species.

Societies and governments and the ICCF show these. Societies and governments around the world are increasingly recognizing the link between maintaining healthy ecosystems and providing food, clean water, clean air, a stable climate, and cultural and recreational services.

As a food source, wild stocks of fish are still the largest single source of animal protein for the world's human population. In 2005, the value of fish production from the Philippine waters exceeded one billion dollars.

From an economic standpoint, the global tourism industry benefits significantly with nature-based tourism being the largest growing tourism segment.

As a natural defense system, healthy coral reefs and mangroves serve as safety barriers against storm surges and tsunamis, not to mention their importance as habitats and nurseries for thousands of species of fishes and invertebrates.

For basic survival, watersheds also provide clean water for domestic consumption, power generation and irrigation.

The ecosystems that surround us also hold undiscovered secrets that have the potential to offer unimaginable benefits.

Recently, I presented a Presidential Citation to Filipino scientist Dr. Baldomero Olivera who was awarded the Harvard Foundation Most Outstanding Scientist Award in 2007 in recognition of his contribution in the field of Marine Drug Discovery and Neuropharmacology.

Dr. Olivera and his team had discovered a compound now used as a painkiller which was extracted from a predatory cone shell called *Conus magus*. The compound is 1,000 times more potent than morphine minus the addictive

properties; it is now being administered to bring relief to patients with chronic pain. It is awe-inspiring to imagine the other latent benefits stored in the tens of thousands of other marine species found in our marine ecosystems.

The bottom-line is this: we have a moral obligation to the next generation to protect the beauty and bounty of the land, air and sea for the rest of time. I am honored to represent the Philippines in this noble effort.

My first responsibility as president is to provide for our people, to lift up the poor, generate economic growth and leave the world in better shape for the next generation of Filipinos. Central to that mission is to harmonize economic growth with the full protection of our environment.

The trade-off between a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and strong economic growth is a false choice. We need both. That is precisely what I have undertaken during my tenure as president.

I take particular pride in our efforts in the Philippines and the region to build up and not tear down our ecosystem. We cannot eliminate poverty if the price of achieving that goal is polluted land, depleted seas and unbreathable air. Nowhere is our interconnectedness with the world more profound than the resources we all truly share. It is truly a global environment. We must all do our part to conserve it, grow it, sustain it.

Well, as you are now aware, because of this award, I am a strong advocate for the preservation and restoration of the Coral Triangle, considered the richest area of marine biodiversity in the world. Ms. Barbut liked it when I described the Coral Triangle as the Amazon of the underwater.

This remarkable area is the source of food for hundreds of millions of people across the globe. Therefore, strengthening the Coral Triangle is more than a task for the six nations that currently coordinate governance and management of the Coral Triangle Initiative. In addition to the Philippines, the governments also include Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste.

In our last meeting in ASEAN, I proposed that Brunei also be a member of this Coral Triangle. We are united in our goal to protect this resource called the Coral Triangle. It is not only critical to the future of our nations, but also to the world.

If you have a tuna dinner or a tuna lunch or a tuna sandwich, chances are your food is coming from the Coral Triangle. It is precisely because of this that the world must step up and help. This is particularly so during times of economic hardship, when pressures are greatest to abandon our obligation to the environment or loosen the rules as we continue to address the issue of global warming.

As the world struggles to meet these challenges, we must take leadership — the ICCF here in the United States, we the leaders of the different nations — we must take leadership in showing the way toward a united front to find a common approach to keeping our biodiversity intact, our food resources strong, and our environment pristine.

In a developing nation such as ours, even if choosing between environment and the economy is a false choice. Still, many times in practice, making decisions that will ensure a healthy balance between development and conservation can be difficult.

I am proud to have laid down enabling policies and foundations under the Green Philippines Initiative that are helping to ensure healthy and productive ecosystems. These, which include landmark Biofuels and Renewable Energy Laws, the Climate Change Act, the Integrated Coastal Management and maybe 20 or 30 other measures which promote sustainable development of our coastal and marine environment and resources will become a legacy of my administration. They will benefit coming generations of Filipinos.

While we now have an enabling natural resource conservation policy environment, however, we continue to face the serious challenge of effectively implementing and enforcing these laws. To that end, we thank all our international partners: the UN, the World Bank, the GEF. The Asian Development Bank, and our US-based donors, many of

whom are here tonight, among others, for providing the much needed development assistance for the Philippines and enabling us to implement many of our environment policies.

As we launch the International Year of Biodiversity, let us all recognize and embrace the fact that biodiversity is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems which are in turn vital to our very own survival and the basic underpinning for poverty alleviation and human wellbeing.

Cooperation among nations need not be fraught with bureaucracy and take years to show results. Our work in the Coral Triangle is an example. It only started three years ago, but we have already put the region on the global conservation map. We've already enlisted the support of public-private-NGO partnerships that is a model for cooperation.

When three tragic earthquakes hit Chile just a few weeks ago, our new tsunami warning system prevented even more loss of life all across the Pacific precisely because we came together to solve a common problem. We can come together to the benefit of the world to sustain our fisheries, forests and landscapes.

There is no greater threat to our sustainability as a people and a world than nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists or rogue nations. Anchoring my visit to Washington this week is my attendance at the Nuclear Security Summit along with leaders from 47 nations.

Let us ensure that these precious sources of power are always used for the peaceful generation of energy and maintaining peace between nations and are never used in violence.

Also, let us therefore work together to preserve this beautiful planet we share and leave it as a lasting and shining legacy for our children and our children's children.

Once again, for this award, thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the U.S. Congressional Reception and Awarding of the 2010 ICCF Teddy Roosevelt International Conservation Award. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080156/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27822&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a meeting with the Filipino Community

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a meeting with the Filipino Community**

[Delivered at the Ambassador's Residence, #4 Calle de Eresma, Madrid, Spain, April 14, 2010]

Maraming salamat Secretary Romulo sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Maraming salamat sa ating tisay na Embajadora dahil nagtatagalog din pala siya sa iyong pagpa imbita sa ating mga Filipino community, at salamat naman sa inyong lahat na kahit na hindi niyo day off ay nakapunta kayo rito. Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat ating mga kababayan.

Kunada, ado nga Ilocano idtoy, naimbag a rabii yo amin kadagiti kakailiyak ti bangir ni mamang ko. Marhay nga hapon sa indo Bikolano. Kun dunay Bisaya diri, maayong hapon kaninyong tanan. Ampo siyempre agyang ditak mu deng cabalen a Capampangan queti, mayap a gatpanapun quecongan. Tan san saray kabaleyan, masantos ya labi ed sikayon amin.

O, ako ay nasisiyahan na narito tayo and together with me not only Secretary Romulo, we have our Secretary of Trade and Industry Secretary Jesli Lapus, taga Concepcion. I think I met somebody here from Concepcion, Tarlac if you remember Secretary Lapus used to be your congressman in Concepcion, Tarlac. And then we have... when I see them I will introduce them but right now they're mingling around.

But gusto ko lang sabihin sa inyong lahat, salamat na nagkaroon tayo nitong pagkakataon na madalaw kayo muli. Naalala ko 2007 magkasama tayo, so ngayon pagkakataon muli upang magpasalamat sa inyong lahat.

First of all, thank you for your hard work and dedication to our country. Everywhere I go, lalo na dito sa España nagkita nga tayo nang 2007. Bilang pangulo ito ay pangatlong pagkakataon ko na magbisita. Nagpunta ako 2006, official visit; 2007, state visit; at ngayon muli upang tumanggap ng Premyong Don Quijote. Salamat na kayo ay narito. At dito sa lahat ng aking pagbisita tuwing nakakausap ko yung mga Kastila, private citizens and government leaders, compliment our Filipino workers for being diligent, trustworthy, efficient, unparalleled skills. Congratulations sa inyong lahat!

We applaud you for the good track record that you have created for our country. Dahil ang ganda-ganda ng inyong track record we're in a strong position to continue capturing job opportunities. Lalo na kung saan nagmumulikta ang Europa galing sa kanilang problema sa global economic crisis.

But, as I said even in the past, while we honor our OFWs for your sacrifice for our nation and your families, my vision has been to help launch an economic revolution towards being first world in 20 years to break this offshore cycle by creating more jobs in the Philippines so that working abroad will become only a career choice not the only option for our hardworking men and women. Yan ang aking hinahangad na araw.

Kanina sa aking pagpunta rito, meron akong isang nakilala dito, sabi niya, kamusta na ang Pilipinas ngayon? Ay, sabi ko, yun ang ikekvento ko mamaya. So kamusta na nga ang Pilipinas ngayon? Well, ang masasabi ko the Philippines has come a long way since January 2001 nung ako ay unang umupo bilang pangulo. Siguro marami nang nakalimot kung ano yung nangyayari nung panahong yun. Nung panahong yun, 2001, napakagulo ng panahon. That

was less than ten years ago. Time has gracefully erased many memories of that time. Nung panahong yun yung ating bansa, the nation was teetering, kaguluhan sa pulitika, lubhang kaguluhan sa pulitika at pagka bangkarote ng kaban ng bansa.

Yung ating ekonomiya naka estangka sa pag-uurong, walang mga pamumuhunang nangyayari, konti lang ang trabahong nililikha. Yung utang ng ating bansa ay mas malaki pa kaysa sa ating GDP nung panahong yun. At yung ating foreign reserve ang nipis-nipis. Para sa taong-bayan noon, panahon ng kuntang-kuntang trabaho, mababang sahod, matataas na presyo. At dahil kulang ang koleksyon ng buwis kulang din ang pamumuhunan para palawakin ang kalinga sa kalusugan, pag-ibayuhin ang edukasyon, magbigay ng malinis na tubig at kinakailangang kuryente sa malalayong barangay.

And internationally, yung Pilipinas ay naiwan na noon, malayo na sa radar screen. Wala na yung kanyang importansya sa mundo. At humina yung kayang mga alyansa sa mundo at hindi na pinagpipilian ng mga investors bilang isang lugar kung saan mamuhunan at lumikha ng trabaho. Yun ang larawan noong 2001.

At doon sa napakalungkot na eksenang yun pumasok tayo. Nung panahong yun hindi ko sinikap na maging pangulo, nangyari sa akin hulog ng langit. Pero sa halip nang tanggihan ko yung responsibilidad na mabigat, I rolled up my sleeves, I rolled up my sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around.

Nakatukoy tayo parang laser beam para makahatid ng tunay na resulta para pag-ibayuhin ang buhay ng karaniwang Pilipino. Bilang ekonomista, alam ko na upang mabaligtad natin yung ilang taon na humihina ang ekonomiya kinailangan na ipasok natin ang disiplina, palawakin natin ang ekonomiya, mamuhunan tayo sa human at physical infrastructure.

Mula sa unang araw, itong mga kilos na ito ay humubog ng building blocks ng pag-iikot muli ng ekonomiya that would deliver now 37 quarters of economic growth. In fact, alam natin na yung Europa ay nasa global economic crisis. Pero doon sa Pilipinas ni minsan hindi tayo nagkaroon ng negative growth rate kahit na nagkaroon ng global economic crisis. Nakalikha tayo sa aking administrasyon ng siyam na milyong bagong trabaho, nakadagdag tayo ng mga limampung milyong Pilipino sa healthcare, at naging matatag ang sitwasyon ng ating kaban ng bansa.

At siguro... ewan ko kung ilan sa inyo ay nakabakasyon na sa Pilipinas lately? Ewan ko kung nahahalata ninyo kung nakabiyahen na kayo mula Manila hanggang bandang Pampanga nangalahati na lamang ang tagal ng biyahe mula Maynila hanggang Clark, naalala niyo or Subic? Dahil sa pagpapalawak at pagpaayos sa mga lumang kalsada gaya ng NLEX at nagtayo ng mga bagong kalsada gaya ng SCTEX. Bumilis din ang biyahe mula Maynila patungo sa katimugan dahil sa mga bagong kalsadang din papuntang, halimbawa, papuntang Batangas Port ngayon mga dalawang oras na lamang, kalahati na rin ang biyahe. At pwede pa kayo mag bus mula Maynila hanggang Boracay dahil makakasakay kayo sa RORO — yes, sa RORO port. Iyan ang mga ginagawa natin para pag-ibayuhin ang ating imprastraktura.

And into the arena of international relations, the Philippines is back. ‘Di na tayo naiiwan. The Philippines has been a steady climber in Asia and the world. In fact doon sa Asia, mabibilang mo ang kung ilan ang mga bansa na tuloy pa rin na umaangat kahit na nagkaron ng mga global economic crisis. Halimbawa, Tsina, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Pilipinas. Tayo yung mga tuloy na umaangat kahit na nagkaroon ng global economic crisis. And we have new relations with the world, halimbawa, yung España. Once again, Spain is a very strong ally of the once-isolated Philippines.

Halimbawa, gaya nang sabi ko nagkita tayo nang 2007 sa state visit. Alam ba niyo mula nung state visit ko sa España, Spain is now our biggest European donor. Eh, siyempre pinapaganda natin ang ating relasyon sa ating Inang Bayan. We are reintroducing the Spanish language in selected high schools and in TESDA. Si Secretary Jing Lapus ng Trade and Industry ngayon siya na ang Secretary of Education nung iyon ay sinimulan... Ay! eto na yung dalawang congressmen na hinanap ko para ipakilala sa inyo. Kasi nung sinabi ko mga maraming Bikolano dito, yung aking anak si Dato ang ninuno ng kanyang ama ay mga tiga-Bikol kaya siya ang congressman ng Bikol, si Dato Arroyo. At saka sa mga Waray, pero konti lang yata yung mga Waray dito, si Congressman Martin Romualdez. Ah eto rin yung cabalen, tiga-Lubao kagaya ko, ang ating Press Secretary, si Jun Ichan.

So, anyway, napag-usapan natin si Jing Lapus na Secretary of Trade and Industry natin ngayon, nung siya ay Secretary of Education doon natin sinimula yung programa na ibabalik ang Kastila sa ating mga high school. At saka hindi lang sinimulan niya sa ilang mga selected high school pati na rin sa TESDA pwede kayong mag-aral ng Español. Ah, nandiyan yung ating... yung... why? Well, not only it is because we want to reestablish and strengthen our ties with Spain but also because there are many Spanish-speaking jobs. Kahit na sa Pilipinas mismo maraming Spanish-speaking jobs dahil lumalakas ang ating call center industry.

And our efforts to promote the Spanish language have been as appreciated here. Binanggit ko nga kanina na ako'y napunta rito ngayon para tanggapin yung Premio International Don Quixote de la Mancha mula sa kanyang Majestad King Juan Carlos bukas at yung Fundacion Santillana.

Muchas gracias es un gran honor recibir este premio y brindare mis mejores esfuerzos para promover la cultura y lengua Hispanas en Filipinas y para ustedes tambien. Because improved relations with Spain have opened the doors of economic opportunity for those Filipinos who have chosen to go to Spain for work.

Naalala ko nung ako ay pumunta dito nung 2006, yung unang pagpunta ko rito, isa sa mga binati ko noon ay yung ating mga health workers na kakabukas lamang ang pintuan sa health workers. Now, there are more than 200 health workers in Spain. At yung isang si Charmaine, yung pumasok bilang caregiver ay nurse na ngayon. Congratulations! to Charmaine.

That's the result of the Memorandum of Understanding on Migration Flow that we signed in 2006. Nung pumarito ako noon nung 2007, binati naman natin ang grupo ng mga enhinyerong gumagawa ng engineering design.

Kaya itong ating pagkakaibigan sa España muli ay magbibigay ng pagkakataon para sa ating mga kababayan. Itong ating diplomasya rin ay tumutulong na ipagtanggol ang interes ng ating mga masisipag na Pilipino dito sa España as in every other part of the globe.

Halimbawa, eto ay importante para sa inyo pero hindi pa pala natatapos ang mga problema. Kung naalala niyo nung 2007 binanggit ko na na ang ating administrasyon ay nakikipag-ayos sa España para magkaroon ng Agreement for Exchange of Driver's License. Lalo na ngayon na nahihirapan ang Europa ay marami nagla-lay off mas malaking tsansa yung mga may driver's license kaysa doon sa wala. So ibig sabihin nito Filipinos pwedeng gamitin yung Philippine driver's license para magmaneho sa España mas malaking tsansa magkaroon ng trabaho. Pero kaninang tsinetsek ko kung ano ang status, nandiyan na nga ang agreement pero may hitches daw yung implementation. Sabi ko, ano yung hitch ng implementation? Kasi pag kukuha kayo ng lisensya siyempre ipapakita niyo yung lisensya, siyempre proseso nuon ive-verify sa Manila kung genuine yung lisensya niyo. Doon ang problema kasi yung computer program dito iba pala sa computer program doon. So inaayos kung pwedeng by text, so yun ang status natin ngayon. Kaya nung nalaman ko yun tinawagan ko yung Secretary of Transportation, si Anne Lontoc at saka yung head ng LTO, si Bert Suansing. Sabi ko, ay naku kung alam ko lang na yun ang problema sinama ko na sana isa sa inyo pero ngayon nalaman ko yun isa sa inyo pumunta na dito. You take the next flight here para nandito pa lang ako ay makipag-usap na tayo sa Tehete para sa ganun ay mabilis na itong ano ang gagawin niyong sistema para naman ang ating mga Pilipino ay maging mas competitive dahil merong lisensya.

In the meantime, samantala, mabuti naman kinikilala ng España ang ating Dual Citizenship Act na ginawa sa ating administrasyon nung 2003, and this Dual Citizenship Act has benefited more than 1,500 former Filipino citizens.

At hindi lamang yun, ayaw naman nating na magkaroon ng panahon na may magkakaroon ng problema sa batas ang mga Pilipino dito pero kung halimbawa yung hindi natin inaasahan ay mangyari meron rin tayong pagkasunduan sa España, yung Transfer of Sentenced Persons. Kung halimbawa magkaroon kayo ng problema sa batas kailangan, sa awa ng Diyos huwag sana mangyari, ma-convict kayo kailangan maipreso pwede kayong malipat sa Pilipinas at doon na lang niyo iseserve yung sentence ninyo at hindi dito. Pero sana hindi mangyari pero pinag-uusapan natin ang mga nasa presong Pilipino, yun hindi nangyayari dito pero may mga Pilipino halimbawa sa Middle East dahil iba ang kultura — hindi nangyayari dito dahil pareho ang kultura natin — doon sa Middle East nagkakaiba ang kultura maraming naipreso.

Pero salamat sa ating pagkakaibigan sa Hari ng España dahil siya ay Royalty marami sa Middle East Royalty din parang mga kapatid niya, parang mga pinsan niya merong ilan doon ay ide-death sentence na sana, alam ba niyo na yung Hari ng España ang nakikipag-usap sa mga Hari ng iba't-ibang mga lugar sa Middle East para patawarin yung ating mga Pilipino doon. Kaya yun ang isang malaking pinagpapasalamat din natin.

Binabanggit ko itong global economic downturn, at dito nga sa Europe hindi pa tapos itong global economic downturn, aangat na sana nagkaron naman ng problema sa Greece. Eh isang ekonomiya lang ito so parang nagkaroon na naman ng epidemic. So, I just want to let you know that we have put in place a stimulus package that is geared to helping our workers keep and get new jobs.

Eto nga itong lisensya importante ito, but that's not all. We have a program that we call Reciprocity Program. Bakit reciprocity? Kasi andami niyong binibigay sa ating bansa. Ngayon namang pagkakataon pag mahirap ang trabaho sa isang bansa dapat mag reciprocate naman ang ating bansa. And this Program of Reciprocity is supposed to help our expatriate workers who might return home from their host countries that have been affected by the global crisis.

Itong unang bahagi nitong programa ay yung Filipino Overseas Livelihood Support Fund. Nung nangyari itong global economic crisis nagsimula ito nung September of 2008, naglaan na tayo ng one billion pesos mula sa OWWA at government lending institutions para sa naghihirap na mga OFW. At sa one billion pesos nagamit na ang 200 million pesos para suportahan yung mga OFWs na nawalaan ng trabaho.

At isa pa nagkaron din tayo ng retraining program para tulungan ma-upgrade ang kakayahan ng mga Filipino workers para manatiling competitive at magkaroon ng mas mabuting tsansa sa promotion at mataas na salary at overall job security. So eto nagdarasal tayo na hindi tatagal ang recession dito sa Europa para tumigil ang ating hindi katiyakan sa trabaho. But in the meantime, there is that facility available to whoever Filipino worker would want to use that kasi nga eto ay reciprocity para sa inyo.

Dapat naman suklian kayo nitong mga programa dahil ang laki ng inyong tulong sa ating bansa. At kaya ako ay sinikap kong magkaron ng pagkakataon kahit nga na overnight lang ako dito ito lang ang aking pagkakataon makipagkita sa inyo salamat naman na kahit last minute ay nakapunta kayo rito. Ito ay sana gagawin ko sa Barcelona, pero kinansel ko yung Barcelona side dahil may sakit yung aking asawa, he just came out of the hospital at in fact I'm still getting reports about him, hindi pa siya fully recovered. Pero itong binuksan nga natin yung ating Consulado sa Barcelona dahil mas maraming Filipino sa Barcelona kaysa sa Madrid at hindi ako naka... — yes, city to city, yes — at hindi ako nakapunta dito pero salamat naman ang ating Consul General at ang ating leaders ng Filipino community sa Barcelona ay pumunta rito dahil hindi ako nakapunta doon, muchas gracias por demir.

Y atodos ustedes Filipinos aqui. Una vez mas, os agradezco a todos los Filipinos en España por vuestro apoyo y el honor que brindais a nuestra patria.

Mabuhay ang mga Pilipino sa España!

Maraming salamat sa inyo.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a meeting with the Filipino Community. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080149/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27829&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during an inspection visit of various project components of the Bayanijuan sa Southville 7 Community Center Project of the ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc. Speech of

**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines**

During an inspection visit of various project components of the Bayanijuan sa Southville 7 Community Center Project of the ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

[Delivered in Brgy. Dayap, Calauan, Laguna, April 19, 2010]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat Secretary Jun Iban, ang ating bagong Press Secretary, sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at pwede na kayong umupo lahat.

Dala natin si Secretary Jun Iban dahil dala natin yung media para makita itong napakagandang halimbawa ng pagtutulungan ng pamahalaan at pribadong sektor para sa pabahay ng ating mga kapwa at minamahal na Pilipino.

Maraming salamat rin Governor Ningning Lazaro sa inyong pag welcome sa amin dito at sa pag welcome din ng inyong probinsya dito sa mga bagong taga Laguna. Thank you very much Gina Lopez, for all the things that you're doing here and all the other places where you have made a difference in the lives of the people of the community. Maraming salamat kay Mayor Berris at saka kay Mrs. Berris dahil sa pag welcome niyo tuloy itong resettlement site ay mas malaki keysa doon sa dating bayan ng Calauan kaya marami kayong bagong alaga pero kayang-kaya naman niyong inalagaan yung lumang bayan. Kayang-kaya niyo rin alagaan ang mga bagong mamamayan ng Bayan ng Calauan.

At narito rin si General Manager ng NHA si Rico Laxa gawa nang siya sa mga ahensya ng pamahalaan ang pinaka nagpapartner sa ibang ahensya at sa pribadong sektor. At kasama rin natin ngayon si Secretary Arthur Yap, private sector na rin siya ngayon pero temporarily nagresign siya as Secretary of Agriculture dahil tatakbo ng congressman, pero sabi ko temporary pagka private sector niya kasi kahit na siya lang ang boboto sa sarili niya magiging congressman na kasi unopposed si Arthur Yap.

Binabati ko ang lahat ng mga narito, una nga si Gina, siya ang nag-isip ng konseptong BayaniJuan o Bayanihan kung saan nagtutulong-tulong ang mga ahensya ng gobyerno, pribadong sektor, benepisyaryo sa mga gawaing magbibigay ng ginhawa sa buhay. At ang pangunahing partner, ang NHA, dahil NHA ang nagpapatayo ng pinakamaraming bahay dito pero andami nang binanggit ni Gina kanina sa media tour ng mga private sector at private foundations at private individuals na nagko-contribute din ng maraming pabahay dito sa Calauan.

Kanina pinag-uusapan namin ni Gina, sabi niya zero ang resistance sa paglipat dito, at yun ay kaiba-iba doon sa mga nangyayari nung mga nakaraang administrasyon. At kinekvento ko sa kanya doon sa riles ng tren dito rin sila napunta, marami sa riles ng tren, 90,000 na pamilya ang linipat sa iba't-ibang lugar halos wala ring resistance. Ano ang kaibahan ng mga paglilipat natin at paglilipat nung mga nakaraan? Dahil ang paglilipat may kasamang hanapbuhay — yan ang pinakaimportante. At isa sa mga paraan ay yung mga tinatayong livelihood center dito, mga pabrika ng mga ahensya ng pribadong sekto, at ang TESDA ay tumutuloy sa kasanayan ng pang hanapbuhay.

Kanina nga nagpunta kami doon sa gumagawa, yung master carpenter, si Mang Roger yung gumagawa. Siya ang nagsupervise ng pagpagawa ng mga furniture na gagamitin din dito. 'Di siya ay galing sa ilalim ng tulay sa Paco Market kaya tinanong ko sa kanya, ano Mang Roger, palagay ko nung araw natatakot kang umalis doon kasi tinanong ko Mang Roger nung ikaw ay nasa ilalim ng tulay ano ang trabaho mo, ano ang hanapbuhay mo? Sabi niya karpintero ako, meron akong mga construction projects na pinagpapasukan. Sa palagay ko sabi ko, Mang Roger natatakot ka muna lumipat dito kasi baka mawala yung hanapbuhay mo, yung construction sa Maynila, ganun na nga sabi niya. Pero pagdating niya dito meron din palang hanapbuhay dito. Kaya yun ang maganda dito sa ginagawa natin.

At isa pa, doon sa mga nagkabit ng kuryente, congratulations din! Sabi ni Gina nung araw nung madilim itong bahaging ito at maraming krimen, drugs may isa pang rape, pero nagkaroon tayo ng kuryente dito at ang ginagawang kuryente dito ay solar energy, solar power. Kaya mahal lang ang pagtayo ng poste at ilaw tapos nuon wala lang binabayaran na electric bill, di ba Gina? Wala na binabayaranang electric bill kaya meron ng kuryente dito. So, congratulations! sa lahat at sa iba't-ibang kumpanya na tumutulong: yung Telus; yung Consunji; yung, well, ABS-CBN; yung Aboitiz; yung San Miguel; yung Sun Life, napakaraming tumutulong. Maraming salamat sa inyo sa tulong ninyo sa BayaniJuan Foundation, kasi yun si Gina yun ang moving spirit, siya ang nagbuo sa inyong lahat. At si Arty Yap pinaupo ko dito kahit na siya ay ex na, private sector, nagsisipsip din tayo kasi magiging congressman. Pero hindi lang yun dahil sa ilalim niya ang Department of Agriculture ay nagbigay din ng tulong dito: tilapia, vermi composting, vegetable seeds, shredder, land preparation, household gardens. Ewan ko kung dito ginagawa lahat nuon pero sila ay tumutulong sa BayaniJuan Foundation sa iba't-ibang mga ginagawa nila.

At pinaupo ko rin si General Segovia at saka si General Anonuevo dito dahil ang importante rin kung lilipat at gagawa ng isang pamayanan yung kapayapaan. So siguro ginamit ng mga sundalo ni General Segovia ang CAFGU training module siguro dahil andami nating mga... yung mga naka white t-shirt, mga martial dito na trinaining ng military para tutulong sa pulis na manatili ang kapayapaan dito sa inyong resettlement sa Calauan. Kaya congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Dito sa nakikita natin, nakikita natin magandang halimbawa ng tatlong programa ng pamahalaan na sinusulong ng BayaniJuan ni Gina. Una, bigyan ng proteksiyon ang mga taong napalapit sa sakuna dahil sa kanilang dating tinitirahan na dapat hindi naman sila dapat tumira doon pero walang lugar. Pinag-uusapan nga namin ni Gina kanina yung mga nakatira doon sa ilalim ng tulay sa Paco, hindi naman sila lubhang mahihirap, may mga CPA — ayun si Mang Roger may trabaho sa construction — ang problema sa Kamaynilaan kung minsan hindi yung pagkakulang ng hanapbuhay kung hindi yung kulang ng lupa. At kaya dahil doon kahit na sa mga prohibited area yung mga katabi ng ilog, katabi ng lawa, katabi ng Manila Bay tinitirahan. Kaya dapat yun ay bigyan ng pagkakataon at i-engganyong lumipat sa ibang lugar kagaya ng Laguna na pinalapit na natin sa Metro Manila, nagiging Greater Metro Manila dahil sa ating SLEX na pinalaki at yun ang isang paraan kung papano. Ang importante ngayon hindi na lamang yung Metro Manila kungdi yung Urban Luzon Beltway dapat isang unit na lamang yun.

Pangalawa, pangangalaga sa kalikasan, lalo na yung Ilog Pasig. Si Gina talagang yun ang passion niya, yung Pasig River. At nung nakaupo kami sabi ko, Gina let's do more for the Pasig River. Tignan mo yung Pasig River rehabilitation kung papano natin magagawa through the Pasig River Rehabilitation yung mga ginagawa mo as private sector siguro mas maraming magagawa sa paraang ganun. Dahil ang Pasig River ang pinakamalaking ilog sa Metro Manila kaya napakaimportante yun.

At ang pangatlo, pabahay para sa mahihirap. Yung pagmamahal ni Gina sa kalikasan, yun ang dahilan kung bakit inaasikaso niya ang polusyon sa Ilog Pasig. Ano ba ang pinanggagalingan ng polusyon sa Ilog Pasig? Una, yung mga basura na nagmumula sa mga bahay na nakapaligid sa ilog. Kasi kulang ang ating sewerage system kaya kahit na nga yung mga nasa bahay na akala nila tinatapon nila yung kanilang waste water sa tamang lugar hindi pa natitreat nang masyado lahat. In fact, sinasabi ko sa lahat ng opisina ng gobyerno na nanduon maglagay na lang kayo ng inyong 5 million pesos sa sariling sewage treatment plant para pagpunta ng tubig ninyo sa Pasig malinis na yung inyong tubig. Tulungan natin yung mga utilities dahil ilang taon pa yung kanilang programa para mabuo nila yung sewerage system ng Pasig.

In the meantime, yun ang ginagawa ni Gina, tinutulungan na itigil ang pagtapon ng basura sa pinakamalaking ilog ng Manila. At ang pinakaimportante ay yung mga nagtatapon ng basura na nakatira sa tabi ng ilog na dapat hindi naman nakatira doon ay ilipat sa ibang lugar at sila rin ang humaharap sa peligro sa tuwing biglang lumalakas ang agos at natatangay ang kabahayan. Kaya ang importante inutos natin ang paglilinis at pag-aayos ng Ilog Pasig. Kasabay ng pagpapatupad ang mga paglilipat ng mga informal settlers na dati nakatira sa tabi ng ilog, pati na rin ang paglinis at rehabilitation na ginawa ni Gina ng Paco Market na dati ay isang malaking pinanggagalingan ng duming tinatapon sa ilog. Ngayon ang ganda-ganda na, ang bango-bango na, hindi na mabaho.

This is so important, which is why from my President's Social Fund, I contributed to the fulfillment of Gina's dream to have an ideal relocation that addresses the needs against pollution and poverty and lack of housing. Because during our Administration, we have ensured that more and more families are able to own a home. Layunin ng

pamahalaan natin na magkaroon ng bahay o sariling lupang pagtatayuan ng bahay ang mga pamilyang wala pang sariling tahanan. Sa ating administrasyon, natulungan natin ang mahigit 800,000 na pamilyang mahihirap sa ilalim ng Socialized Housing and Land Tenure Security programs.

In addition to that almost 300,000 low-cost housing units have been built, so we have given more than a million families in locations across the nation a chance to meet their goal of home ownership kasama na nga yung mga tagarito. Para magkaroon ng yung walang resistance sa paglipat, hindi lamang hanapbuhay ang hinahanap, eskwela. Kaya binabati natin si Undersecretary Bacani at lahat ng mga teacher at official dito, malaki ang inyong papel para maligaya ang ating mga nakatira na dito sa Calauan Resettlement Site. Congratulations sa inyo!

Napakalaki ang tulong nitong BayaniJuan Southville Project sa programang pabahay ng pamahalaan. Halos limang libong pamilya na ang nabigyan ng lote dito at higit kalahati sa mga lote ay may naitayo nang mga bahay. Marami sa benepisyaryo ang dating nakatira sa gilid ng Pasig at mga informal settlers mula sa Estero de Paco. Lilipat din dito ang mga pamilyang nawalan ng bahay dahil sa bagyong Ondoy — mga 2,500 na pamilya mula sa Pasig at halos apat na daan mula sa Marikina.

Kaya Governor Lazaro, Mayor Berris magkakaroon kayo talaga ng napakaraming bagong constituents. Siguro medyo mabibigla kayo pero hindi naman kasi andami nang dumarating dito, di ba, ilang taon na sa ating administrasyon? Pero ang bunga naman noon ang Laguna ay magiging isa sa pinakamalaki at pinakamakapangyarihang lalawigan sa ating bansa. At salamat sa inyong pag-aalaga sa mga bagong dating. Salamat din kay Gina at lahat ng mga foundation na kinupkop niya at lahat ng mga government agency na inawitan niya. Kaya dahil doon meron tayong napakaganda at pwedeng ipagmalaking pamayanan dito sa bagong resettlement site ng Calauan.

Maraming salamat at congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during an inspection visit of various project components of the BayanJuan sa Southville 7 Community Center Project of the ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080140/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27848&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the closing ceremony of the 31st National Conference of Employers

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the closing ceremony of the 31st National Conference of Employers**

[Delivered at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, April 21, 2010]

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you.

Thank you again Mike for your very kind introduction once more.

President Edgar Lacson, Conference Chairman and Lakan awardee Alfonso Uy and Chairman of the Conference Alfonso Siy; Secretary Roque; Francis Chua, President of PCCI; our host, Jaime Laya of Philtrust; Donald Dee; members of the Diplomatic Corps; leaders of business; leaders of the labor sector, our partners who are here today; ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all of you and thank you for your kind welcome.

It's a pleasure to be with friends and allies, among whom I've always counted the members of your Confederation. I thank ECOP for nine years of fruitful cooperation and productive partnership.

I recall that when I first joined you at this conference as your new President, nine years ago, I enumerated the measures that needed to be adopted immediately to breathe new life into our economy and to make our country globally competitive again.

Reviewing where we've gone since then, I think what you have said in your speeches is that: the Philippines has come a long way since January 2001. Time has gratefully erased many memories of that tumultuous time less than ten years ago, when the nation teetered on political chaos and financial bankruptcy.

The economy was jammed. You were not making investments. Few jobs were being created. The public sector debt was bigger than our entire GDP. Our short-term debts were coming due. Foreign reserves were razor thin.

Into this dismal picture we stepped. I did not seek the Office of the President in 2001. It was thrust upon me. But rather than shirk from this onerous task, with your encouragement, I rolled up my sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around.

As an economist, I knew that to reverse economic decline, we had to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy, and invest in human and physical infrastructure.

I suppose that's what you mean when you say the reforms that we should be unleashing now.

From day one, we worked on these reforms, together with your support, our actions would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver not only 36 quarters anymore, but 37 consecutive quarters of growth. And you, the employers created nine million new jobs, and you helped me bring about a stable fiscal situation. We even reached a record 7.1% growth in GDP in 2007 — the highest in over 30 years.

And now or last year, you were saying, indeed, that last year when you met, when we met you were working on how to survive the global crisis. At a time when more than half of the countries of the world were reeling from negative growth and job losses were estimated to reach 50 million worldwide, in contrast, as you have said, we maintained positive GDP growth and actually more jobs were created than the jobs that were lost.

Yes, one of the things that ECOP and our partners, government and labor can boast of is that: together we managed to keep millions of jobs intact and created even more along the way even during the global crisis of last year. At the time we met at the beginning of the global crisis, although that was not at the beginning, it was already somewhat well into the way because if you remember they gave the date of the global crisis was the day that Lehman Brothers had its collapse. The way that in the 1930s depression, they counted the date that the stock market collapsed.

Well, when we all met together tripartite there are earlier projections of over 200,000 job losses in the Philippines resulting from the global recession. But with the measures instituted by DOLE under the leadership of Nitoy Roque and ECOP, like flexible work arrangements, actual job losses turned out to be only around one-fourth of the forecast. And most of those job losses were temporary, and many of the dislocated have regained their jobs within the year.

On the other hand, many of the unemployed as well as new labor entrants were found so that during this global crisis while the world lose 50 million jobs, the Philippines — correct me if I'm wrong, Nitoy — had the net gain of over one million new jobs.

We should not be surprised therefore over the recent report that self-rated poverty has gone down this year, down this year to 43% — the lowest self-rated poverty in 23 years.

A major source of our economic strength is our harmonious industrial relations system. The number of strikes in the country is at an all-time low, low even if our labor law is one of Asia's most democratic. This is because you, our employers and you our labor leaders are able to communicate with one another in a professional and open manner without resorting to bluster and threats. You have agreed that the fastest way to resolve differences is over the negotiating table, not through messy strikes and lockouts. So, congratulations to ECOP and its labor partners!

On the national level, together with government, our tripartite partnership is also able to hold positive dialogues on how to deal with global crises in a collective and non-partisan way. I cite the leadership and constructive role of ECOP in all of these dialogues.

We have made other reforms that hopefully have made your businesses more convenient. We have delivered a nationwide transportation system that binds the nation together as never before, so that people and goods can be delivered faster, cheaper and safer from one end of the nation to the other. And almost from scratch, you have helped me create what is today a global powerhouse: the Philippine BPO industry. We did this with vision, determination, and smart government policies.

You have adverted in your speeches earlier to some of those government policies, some of those reforms that we are unleashing now. With your support, I have never shied away from taking on tough issues and tough reforms. And as Francis Chua pointed out, my popularity dipped when I went against the grain and championed the passage of the EVAT never to regain my popularity anymore.

I knew it would be unpopular, but someone had to get the nation's fiscal house in order and bring in fresh revenue to invest in the people. It was the right thing to do, it has served the people well. We were able to turn around the dire fiscal situation that we inherited from the past.

While challenges remain, today, our revenues are up, both BIR and BOC have exceeded their targets for this year so far. Our deficit to GDP ratio is acceptable, especially during a time when the world has agreed it is not yet time for an exit strategy from the global crisis policies. Our country's debt stock is more manageable than before. This has resulted in an improvement in our credit ratings. Today we are debt-free from the IMF.

For those who refuse to see progress, just look at the skyline of Manila or Cebu or Global City or Eastwood or even key areas... centers of Mindanao and the Visayas. Today, it is a skyline with new, modern buildings, construction cranes, better roads, hotels, shopping malls, small businesses. They were not there before in 2001.

This is part of the Philippines that you and I helped nurture and create. You have certainly helped in building up that skyline. And I said not only Manila, Cebu but other parts as well. Mike Varela was telling me about Sumitomo Fruits, also changing the skyline in the southern part of our county. Thank you Paul for your expansion. And we hope, we wish you well in the new economic zone that you have been putting up. Congratulations!

And to all of you friends in ECOP, for all the support you have given our programs, our reforms, I sincerely thank you. And most importantly, I thank you for being the one to unleash the reforms because it is up to you to put up the businesses; it is up to you to do the hiring, the creating jobs.

Certainly, we would not have generated jobs for millions of our workers without you and, therefore, for unleashing our reforms, Mabuhay ang ECOP! At muli, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the closing ceremony of the 31st National Conference of Employers. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080117/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27858&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the Commemorative Stamp for brother Eraño G. Manalo

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of the Commemorative Stamp for brother Eraño G. Manalo**

[Delivered at the Bulwagan, Iglesia ni Cristo Central Office, New Era, Quezon City, April 23, 2010]

Thank you.

Maraming salamat Secretary Chua sa iyong pagpakilala.

Sa ating ginagalang na Executive Minister ng Iglesia ni Cristo Ka Eduardo Manalo, ang lahat ng mga tumutulong sa kanya dito sa Iglesia ni Cristo, Senate President Enrile, Speaker Nograles, Senator Santiago, Secretary and Mrs. Romulo, Justice Velasco, Congresswoman Pizaro, Mayor Belmonte, Vice Mayor Bautista, our officials here, Postmaster General Villanueva, mga kapatid, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Masaya ako dahil sama-sama nating ginugunita muli ang naging bukod-tanging buhay ng yumaong Executive Minister ng Iglesia ni Cristo, si Kagalang-galang at pinakamamahal na Eraño Manalo. Sa pamamagitan ng bagong selyong ito, at sa pagdiriwang ng anibersaryo ng kaniyang panimulang paglingkod bilang pangkalahatang tagapamahala ng Iglesia ni Cristo, mananatiling sariwa at buhay ang alaala ni Ka Erdie, hindi lamang sa kapatiran ng Iglesia ni Cristo, kundi pati na sa lahat ng Pilipino.

Sa kabuuan ng siyamnapu't anim na taong kasaysayan ng Iglesia ni Cristo, si Ka Erdie ang namahala rito bilang Executive Minister sa loob ng apatnapu't anim na taon, mula Abril ng 1963, panahon ng aking ama, si Diosdado Macapagal, bilang Pangulo ng Pilipinas. Isang malaking ala-ala na laging kinikwento sa akin ng aking ama ay ang napakagandang proyektong pabahay na itinayo ng Iglesia ni Cristo sa Laur, Nueva Ecija noong panahon niya. Itong proyekto ay larawan ng pagkalinga ng Iglesia ni Cristo sa mga magsasakang nawalaan ng lupa. Ito rin ay pioneering project na sinundan ng marami pang proyektong pabahay sa iba't-ibang dako ng bansa.

Gaya ng ama ko, ako rin ay nagkaroon ng karangalan na masaksihan ang mahalagang pabahay na tinayo ng Iglesia ni Cristo, doon naman sa Rodriguez sa Rizal.

Noong kapanahunan din ng aking ama, noong 1965, pinasinayaan ni Ka Erdie ang Felix Y. Manalo Memorial Puericulture Center and Maternity Clinic noong 1965. Ang klinikang yun ay lumaki nang lumaki, kaya't ang Iglesia ni Cristo ngayon ay mayroon nang world class New Era General Hospital. Sa ospital na yun nagkaroon din ako ng karangalan na bisitahin si Ka Erdie nung siya ay confined. Naalala ko doon sa isang pagbisita ko sa kaniya, nakapagbigay pa siya sa akin ng mahahalagang payo tungkol sa MNLF na sinunod ko naman. Kaya ngayon ay meron pa rin tayong kapayapaan sa Mindanao kahit na hindi pa natatapos ang ating peace talks.

Nang bawiin si Ka Erdie ng ating Panginoon, ito ay naganap sa mismong Araw ng mga Bayani ng Pilipinas, Agosto trenta'y uno. Marahil ay pahiwatig ito na si Ka Erdie Manalo ay dapat natin igalang, hindi lamang bilang huwarang tagapamahala ng Iglesia ni Cristo, kundi na rin bilang isang natatanging Pilipinong makakahanay ng mga bayani ng ating lahi.

At ako rin naman ngayon, gaya ng aking ama, malaking karangalan naman para sa inyong lingkod na sa aking panahon naman bilang pangulo ay naupo ang bagong pangkalahatang tagapamahala ng Iglesia ni Cristo si Ka Eduardo Manalo.

Pinahahalagahan ko ang mga payo at suporta ni Ka Eduardo gaya ng pagkahalaga ko sa mga magagandang payo at suporta ni Ka Erdie sa akin. Di ko makalimutan ang lubha kong kaligayahan, naalala ko noong 1995, nagkakampanya ako bilang senador nanduon ako sa Laguna malapit na ang halalan tapos pinakita sa akin nung mayor nung bayang pinuntahan ko yung sample ballot ng Iglesia ni Cristo. Ang laki ng tuwa ko, lumundag pa yata ako at sumigaw, dahil number one ako sa listahan ng mga senador, kaya maraming salamat sa 'yo.

Lagi kong damdamin ang pagpapasalamat sa matatag na suporta ng Iglesia sa akin bilang senador, bilang bise presidente, bilang pangulo. At lagi kong dala-dala ang mga aral na ipinamahagi ni Ka Erdie sa akin, hanggang sa maging pangulo ako. At ngayon, ganun di ang tiwala ko sa payo at suporta ni Ka Eduardo.

Kaya malaking karangalan para sa akin na maging panauhin dito sa ginagawa natin ngayon. Ipagdiwang natin ang pagpalabas nitong bagong selyo na nagpapa-alala sa atin ng kadakilaan ni Ka Erdie Manalo, isang dakilang Pilipino.

At batiin natin muli si Ka Eduardo na tiyak na maaasahan din ng bansa bilang huwarang tagapamahala at huwarang mamamayang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the launching ceremony of the Commemorative Stamp for brother Eraño G. Manalo. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080109/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27876&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the Department of Health Program “Vaccine Against H1N1 for Health Workers” with awarding of certificates for the Botika ng Barangay Program

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of the Department of Health Program “Vaccine Against H1N1 for Health Workers” with awarding of certificates for the Botika ng Barangay Program**

[Delivered at the Municipal Gymnasium, Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte, April 26, 2010]

Maraming salamat Secretary Cabral sa iyong pagpakilala at congratulations sa magaan mong kamay sa pagbigay ng vaccine.

Aton nga halangdong governor, Governor Yebe, daghan salamat sa imong welcome remarks ug Congressman Jalosjos, daghan salamat sab sa imong pag welcome; Congressman Cely Carreon, salamat nga ngi-uban ka karon kanunay naman kauban mi bisan sa mga laing barangay, mga laing distrito ug kan Vice Governor Olvis ug kan Mayor Baliling, salamat sa imo pag welcome kanamo; aton mga laing-laing mayors diri; aton mga kandidato; aton mga health workers; aton mga barangay officials; mga katawhan dinhi sa Kalawit, maayong udto kaninyong tanan.

Nalipay ko nga nakabisita na ko gayod kaninyo dinhi. Murag ingon ni Governor sa karon sa akong pagbisita, nabisita ko na tanan mga lungsod sa tibuok Zamboanga del Norte.

Ang aton pagduaw sa mga probinsya maoy importante nga trabaho sa panahon sa akon pagka presidente. Apan labaw pa nga importante, dili lang pagduaw ang aton gihimo kundili napuhunan sa mga probinsya labi na sa inyong probinsya. Tuyo nato nga ipahatag ang oportunidad sa kauswagan sa tibuok nasud, aron dili lang ang Manila ang makabenepisyo sa paglambo. Kinahanglan bawi-on ug mga probinsiya ang mga bentaha nga maoy kanunay matilawan sa elite sa Manila.

And, we are constantly gratified by the unprecedented numbers that really matter to the welfare and future of our people. Kauban ko karon dili lang si Secretary Cabral, nandito rin sa atin kasama si Secretary Vic Domingo of Public Works and si Secretary Jun Iban, Press Secretary. And Jun Iban can tell you about our nine and a half years of continuous economic growth despite kining niaging nine years dunay global oil shock, dunay giyera sa Middle East, dunay world financial crisis. But through all that, padayon ang kauswagan, ang growth rate sa atong nasud Pilipinas.

Ug karon milyun-milyon sa ordinaryong Pilipino gabiyahe na sa RORO Nautical Highway. Mas daghan kaayo kon i-compare nato sa mga niaging tuig. Ug diri, dinhi sa Zamboanga del Norte gipreyoridad nato ang pantalan sa Dapitan ug Dipolog. Dili ko pa makalimot sa unang giabre nato ang pantalan, RORO, sa Dapitan walay shipping company na gusto magbutang ug RORO boat didto kay lugi kuno. So, we forced them to do i. Karon, round the clock, di ba? Oras-oras naa na biyahe. So, nahimo na duol ang Zamboanga del Norte sa tibuok nasud.

Ug aron makabenepisyo naman ang tibuok probinsya nining atong RORO na nakaabot sa mga laing-laing lugar sa Pilipinas, ang Zamboanga del Norte labaw sab nga nakabenepisyo sa mga laing-laing proyekto sama sa ingon ni Governor ug ni Congressman ang ating Sibuco-Siraway-Siocon Baliguian sab ang SS-B Road na gapakusog sa produksyon ug kita sa mga mang-uuma diri sa distrito ni Cesar. Ang mga katawhan sa mga lungsod nga agi-an ug duol sa dalan sama diri sa Kalawit nga mahimo nang modala hangtod sa Dipolog, mahimo na modala sa Dipolog ang mga produkto... o sa Dapitan ug paagi sa Dipolog ug sa Dapitan sa RORO hangtod pa sa Cebu ug sa laing-laing lugar sa Pilipinas. So nahimo’g dako ang inyong palengke sa inyong mga produkto. Murag ingon sab ni Governor ug ni Congressman, nakahuman sab kita ug farm-to-market roads sa inyong probinsya, ug ang suma total sa atong farm-to-market roads sa inyong probinsya hapit na... ah, labaw pa sa 250 ka kilometro.

Busa sa una ang Zambo Norte ang labing kubos sa mga probinsya apan dili na karon, ug sa aton mga daghan pa mga nahimo'g proyekto sa mga umaabot na panahon makasigurado kita na mas daghan pa ang aton mga katawhan sa Zamboanga del Norte sa mograduate hangtod sa pagkakabus. Busa sukad sa mga nagsugod ang mga survey sa self-rated poverty katong mga nangutana, do you consider yourself poor? Sa atong administrasyon nahimo ang lowest self-rated poverty sa average tungod sa atong mga proyekto nining mga probinsya sama sa Zamboanga del Norte.

Gi-ingon sab ni Governor ug ni Congressman ang atong Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino program nga gisugdan ni Secretary Cabral nung siya ay nanduon pa sa Department of Social Welfare. Gahatag ang atong Pantawid Pamilya nga salapi sa labing kabus nga pamilya apan dunay sundon nga kundisyon sama sa pagsigurado nga gasulod sa eskwela ang mga bata. Ug usa pa nga kundisyon nga makapag-examine ang pamilya sa aton mga Rural Health Workers, aton mga Rural Health Units. Dinhi sa Zamboanga del Norte labaw sa 75,000 na ang gadawat ug benepisyo gikan sa atong Pantawid Pamilya.

Ug murag sab ingon ni Governor ug ni Congressman, ang mga barangay sa inyong probinsiya dunay koneksiyon na sa mga kuryente, daghan sa ila sa atong administrasyon. Kanina nangutana ako kon naa pay barangay, naa pa kuno gamay nga barangay na dili pa naton na electrify. So, sa pag human kining atong programa karon tawagon ko ang aton bag-o nga Secretary of Energy, si Nonoy Ibazeta, aron seguraduhon na katong mga barangay na wala pang kuryente ibutang nato ug kuryente.

Ang pagsiguro nga naa na sa maayong panglawas ang katawhan usa sab ka importanteng bahin sa atong agenda. Busa karong adlaw, gilunsad nato dinhi sa Kalawit ang usa ka programa alang sa tibuok nasud, kini ang programa sa DOH aron hatagan ang aton mga health workers ug libreng tambal kontra sa AH1N1 o Avian Flu. Espie, itong Avian Flu, it's also good for ordinary flu? Specifically for Avian Flu.

Ngano, kamo, ang aton mga health workers maabtik kaayo. Kamo gyud ang hinungdan kon ngano mulampos kita aron dili makasulod ug makahatag sa nasud ang mga international nga mga epidemic sama sa SARS o sa Avian Flu. Dako ang inyong sakripisyo matag adlaw kontra sa sakit sa inyong barangay samtang duol sab kamo kanunay sa peligro sa mga virus. Busa kinahanglan hatagan ug proteksiyon ang mga tawo nga gahatag kanato ug proteksiyon kontra sa mga sakit, busa gilunsad nato karon kining programa ug ang atong una nga beneficiary mao gyud ang aton mga health workers diri sa Kalawit.

Gusto sab nato hatagan kamo ug mga oportunidad aron nga makapalit kamo dayon ug mga baratong tambal. Busa karong adlaw, kining mga sertipikado kaganina nahatag kita ug sertipikado alang sa pag-abre ug Botika ng Barangay, ug kining mga kahon ang first seed capital sa mga Botika sa Barangay sa lima ka barangay diri Kalawit. Ang mga Botika sa Barangay sa inyong probinsiya mi-abot na sa hapit 200. Daghan sab ang taga-dinhi nga gi-apil sa programa sa PhilHealth sa inyo probinsya, 200,000, hapit 200,000 ang member sa Philhealth unta padayon kining ating mga programa sa mga sunod nga administrasyon.

Sa akong pagbisita sa naulahing lungsod sa Zamboanga del Norte na dili ko pa nabisita kaniadto, gusto ko gamiton kining okasyon apan pasalamaton kamong tanan, pasalamaton si Lando, si Cely, si Cesar sa ilang dako nga suporta kanako kanunay ug unta kanunay, kanunay kitang magkauban sa pagserbisyo sa nasud ug sa probinsya hangtod sa kahangturan.

Daghan salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the launching ceremony of the Department of Health Program "Vaccine Against H1N1 for Health Workers" with awarding of certificates for the Botika ng Barangay Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080058/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27884&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the 35th foundation day of the Philippine College of Hospital Administrators (PCHA)

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 35th foundation day of the Philippine College of Hospital Administrators (PCHA)**

[Delivered at the Bayanihan Center, United Laboratories (UNILAB), April 27, 2010]

Thank you Secretary Cabral for your very kind introduction.

Thank you Mr. Lirio, president of the College; Dr. Morales; Dr. Hernandez; the officers and members of this very important College of Hospital Administrators, Happy 30th Foundation Day to all of you!

You know, I was telling Dr. Morales that when my... you know, presidents receive many invitations, and so we have a committee that takes care of it. Well, we got your invitation less than a month ago, so it was a little late and I had lots of previous engagement on this day. So the committee that handles my appointments turned it down but when I saw the list, I overruled them; I transferred one of my appointments to another day so that I could make it with you today.

And I guess one of the reasons is that: in our administration we put a lot of emphasis on health and so I wanted to be able to be with you so that we can work together or speak together or think together on how to promote health. And I'm very glad that our former Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, who used to be administrator of the Heart Center of the Philippines, is now our Secretary of Health, Secretary Espie Cabral.

The medical profession and the allied professions, including hospital administration, have been an effective partner of our administration. And I know how important it is to have a good hospital administration because my husband is in and out of the hospital. So, I thank you sincerely for your hard work in having good hospital services for our people.

I have been familiar with the concerns of the health services since I was young. We literally had a doctor in our house, my mother, the tukaya of Dr. Morales, Dr. Evangelina Macaraeg Macapagal. And she became a doctor because her mother had been very sickly. My grandfather's work as engineer during the American period both in the private sector and in the public sector necessitate that he would be assigned to different places in the country. He was assigned first to the Department of Public Works in Tayabas and then he joined the private sector. He went to Zamboanga where he founded a branch in Gingoog then he went back to the public sector and he went to Cebu. And everytime my father was assigned to a new place, the first thing they would do because my grandmother was so sickly, was to look for a good hospital. That's how important hospitals are in the lives of people especially the many people who are sickly. And I am sure your hospitals have also played an important role in the lives of people the way it played an important role in the life of my own grandmother.

And my mother would always say, and you know this for a fact and you tell everybody this I'm sure, that the people's health means wealth for a nation aspiring to be economically strong. Every effort that they expend to promote our people's health contributes to our advancement as a nation and conversely, we are faced by the reality that only a strong economy can best improve the plight of the poor and provide for their needs, including health care.

Sabi ni Dr. Morales parang nag-i-identify ito sa akin because the job of a president is about as hard as the job of a hospital administrator. It's very difficult, in other words, a very difficult job. And in a sense, I was also in the hospital business in the early years of my presidency tending however to one really sick patient — our economy.

And as you have gone a long way over the last 35 years, I think we can also say that the Philippines have come a long way since January of 2001. Time has gratefully erased many memories of that tumultuous time less than ten years ago, when the nation teetered on political chaos and financial bankruptcy.

It was a time of few jobs, lower salaries, high inflation. Due to insufficient revenues, investments had... insufficient investments had been made to expand healthcare or provide clean water which is needed for good health for our people.

Into this dismal picture we stepped. I did not seek the Office of the President in 2001; it was thrust upon me. But rather than shirk from this onerous task, I rolled up my sleeves, determined to turn the Philippines around.

We were focused like a laser beam on delivering real results to better the lives of ordinary Filipinos. As an economist, I knew that to reverse economic decline we had to instill fiscal discipline, grow the economy, and invest in human and physical infrastructure.

From day one, these actions would form the building blocks of a turnaround that would deliver 37 consecutive quarters of growth, the creation of nine million new jobs, and I guess important for you, the addition of 50 million members to healthcare, so that they can help... the government can help pay for the bills of these people even in private hospitals such as yours. And we were able to do that and still have a stable fiscal situation.

Because I have never shied away from taking on tough issues. Most notably, my popularity dipped when I went against the grain and championed the passing of the EVAT which is what funds our Philhealth. I knew it would be unpopular, but someone had to get the nation's fiscal house in order and bring in revenues to invest in the people. It was the right thing to do. It has served the people well.

So we are constantly gratified by the unprecedented numbers that really matter for the welfare and future of our people: Nine and a half years of continuous economic growth, despite the fact that over these nine years, we've had global oil shocks, wars in the Middle East, world financial crisis, and now millions of ordinary Filipinos also travel the RORO Nautical Highways.

And tonight, if you're going to watch the ANC Forum on the Economy, you will see ADB testifying there that poverty incidence in our country decreased from 33% in 2001 to 28% today, despite the increase in the population and the global crisis.

In the health sector, where did we spend our EVAT money? Our stable government coffers resulted in the biggest investments in the country's history. The Department of Health budget rose from P10 billion before my administration to P29 billion this year. And that doesn't include the billions we have put in for water which we have put under the Oversight of the Department of Health because there's a very close relationship between clean water and the health of the people.

Now, talking about Philhealth which I think is our biggest connection to you — the private hospitals. When this administration started in 2001, there were less than 8 million people enrolled in Philhealth. And that's because they were salaried employees, so it's part of their medicare. Barely 400,000 were indigents where their premium was paid for by the government in accordance with the Philhealth law.

So when I became President, we set ourselves a target to cover 500,000 new beneficiaries every year, where we have achieved not 500,000 new beneficiaries every year, which should have been five million for the past ten years, but 50 million new beneficiaries instead. And from 400,000 indigent families, five million families or 25 million

individuals are now members of Philhealth, because our Philhealth membership coverage has been expanded to include retirees, non-pensioners, overseas workers and also the indigents that the government must pay for.

We have also improved some 70 government hospital facilities. But I always tell our DOH, we don't want to put the money for improvement of facilities in big hospitals where there are already private hospitals because Philhealth should cover that. We should put our upgrading money there in the far-flung barangays for rural health units to become clinics, for clinics to become primary hospitals, for primary care hospitals to become secondary. That's where we should put the money so that we can have a good symbiotic and mutually reinforcing relationship with each other.

For example, I don't think that you would be interested in putting up a hospital in some remote town like Lope de Vega of Norther Samar — that's where we should improve on the facilities there. Now, I suppose private sector would be interested in developing hospitals in Catarman where there is a big town. Then that's not where we should put up our facilities there. In other words, we want the private hospitals to thrive because that's part of a good economy and we want to help you through our Philhealth.

We also want to help you make the medicines affordable to your clients, your patients. When they are confined, I think medicines are included in the coverage of Philhealth. But when they're outpatients they're not covered. So, therefore you should have, you should be able to give them prescriptions for medicines they can afford.

And even before the passage of the Cheaper Medicines Act of 2008, we already established the Botika ng Barangay and Botika ng Bayan system in order to offer our countrymen and women medicines commonly used by the poor at prices half of what they were in 2001.

And I am glad that we are here in a UNILAB facility because I want to acknowledge UNILAB, because when we had our program that we announced way back in 2001 of bringing down medicines commonly used by the poor to one-half of what they used to be, UNILAB was one of the first to respond and they put up the Ritemed medicine (applause) which is in fact one-half or even less the price of what the medicines where in 2001.

Part of our public health expenditure also has been to deploy more than 200 physicians to doctorless municipalities, also nurses more than 10,000 have been mobilized in 1,200 poor cities and municipalities. This is our NARS (Nurses Assigned in Rural Service). In that way, we not only improve health services of a particular poor municipality, we also create new jobs, and most of these nurses we send there are those that are recent graduates or they just got their license and you're not ready to hire them yet because they don't have experience yet. So they get an experience in the province so that after they finish their six months — Espie, 'no? — then hopefully, they will be able to have a better chance of landing a job in your hospitals.

Because of all of these things that we have done, where almost half of the world's economies, even strong nations were in the sick bay, we were able to make progress.

Yes, we have made progress, but more needs to be done.

And while I am proud of what our government has achieved, past achievement is only as good as the ability of the nation to continue to grow and prosper. That's why I congratulate you on your theme: "Looking Forward to a Healthier Tomorrow."

I fervently desire that the progress we have made will not stop. Because as a nation, and you as a profession, we must keep our sights firmly set on the future, to build on what is good and work even harder to meet the challenges of what remains to be done.

So, it is really fitting that the Hospital Administrator should look forward to a healthier tomorrow. And may this Congress help you move forward to that healthier tomorrow.

Mabuhay kayo! at maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 35th foundation day of the Philippine College of Hospital Administrators (PCHA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080051/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27885&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) Project Segment 9

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) Project Segment
9**

[Delivered in Valenzuela City, April 30, 2010]

Thank you very much Secretary Domingo for your very kind introduction.

Congratulations to Manny Pangilinan and Mr. Fernandez and all their colleagues, partners, financiers of this very important project. Congratulations also to Congressman Magi Gunigundo at lahat ng mga Valenzuela na makikinaabang dito sa proyektong ito. Sabi nga ni Congressman Gunigundo this will lead to exponential progress in the City of Valenzuela and the surrounding areas, congratulations! Kaya sa ating lahat magandang tanghali at congratulations!

Gaya nga nang sinabi ni Ginoong Fernandez kanina, isang taon na ang nakaraan tayo ay narito, Abril 2009, magkasama tayo sa groundbreaking ng bagong proyekto imprastraktura na ito at ito ang tinatawag nilang Segment 8.1 ng NLEX. Eh para sa ating mga laymen, ano yung Segment 8.1? Yan ang Valenzuela exit, hindi ba, na layuning tumulong sa pagkonekta ng NLEX at SLEX sa pamamagitan ng C5. Yan ang importansya nitong 8.1 para sa atin. At tulad nang binalak natin noong nakaraang taon, nagawa itong bahagi ng NLEX-SLEX connection sa labingdalawang buwan, kaya congratulations!

Bagamat it will be opened to the general public in one month's time, itong araw na ito, dadaan tayo dito sa Segment 8.1 at susundan natin yung ruta na sinabi ni Ginoong Fernandez that should make it only 15 minutes from NLEX to SLEX at least yung bahaging tapos na pupunta tayo ng Mindanao Avenue Underpass, pupunta tayo ng Luzon Avenue, ganun ba yun Vic? Pero doon titigil muna yung ating joyride dahil under construction ngayon yung overpass naman from Luzon Avenue na crossing over Commonwealth hanggang Katipunan, at yan ay matatapos sabi ni Vic Domingo ng June 15. Kaya pag natapos yun June 15 yun na nga yung 15 minutes travel from NLEX to SCTEX.

Today's event attest to the strong partnership between our government and the private sector in building one of the most important of our infrastructure programs, eto ang tinatawag nating Luzon Urban Beltway from Tarlac to Batangas Port, or from Subic Port to Batangas Port. This is central to the network of transport infrastructure that our government has embarked on in 2001 to link the entire country.

Eto ang ginagawa ng NLEX etong exit pati na rin yung pinalawak na NLEX nung mga nakaraang buwan at taon at yung pagtayo ng SCTEX dito sa North. Doon naman sa South, yung improvement ng SLEX at yung pagtayo ng STAR (Southern Tagalog Arterial Road), those are important elements of the Luzon Urban Beltway ngunit ang kailangan ay ipagdugtong sila.

The NLEX which belongs to the Metro Pacific Group and the SLEX were built and improved by the private sector, whereas, the SCTEX and the STAR were built by the government. And now this SLEX-NLEX connection will also be a combination because this Valenzuela exit for the Segment 8.1 is private sector, whereas, the Mindanao-Luzon Avenue and overpass will be the private sector going to C5 and going to SLEX which is private sector again.

This is one way by which we will make the Luzon Urban Beltway seamless but what we are groundbreaking now is a second way to make the Luzon Urban Beltway seamless kasi itong grinoundbreak natin ngayon in a year and a half's time makokonekta itong Valenzuela exit hanggang sa North Harbor. Tapos nuon yung North Harbor ay ikokonekta naman ni Manny sa Skyway na halos tapos na rin and the Skyway goes all the way to SLEX. So there

will be two connections between NLEX and SLEX. That will make two ways to have the seamless Luzon Urban Beltway kaya lalong ginhawa ang biyahe sa buong Pilipinas at sa loob naman ng Metro Manila lalong ginhawa ang congestion at lalong lalago ang Bayan Lungsod ng Valenzuela.

And all of these will help our vision of a Philippines on the verge of first world in twenty years. Kaya maraming, maraming salamat to Manny and the Metro Pacific Group. And congratulations to DPWH, Magi and the people of Valenzuela. To all of us congratulations!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) Project Segment 9. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080039/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27900&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo on Labor Day

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
On Labor Day**

[Delivered on May 1, 2010]

Kay Secretary Nitoy Roque sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at gusto ko rin magpasalamat kay Brother Victorino Balais, ang kinatawan ng mga manggagawa sa SSS sa inyong panukala para ngayon at sa darating na panahon. Gusto ko rin batiin si Allan Montaña ang Federation of Free Workers, si Renator Robles ng Alliance of Filipino workers mga OFW ang kinakatawan ninyo? Si Rico Hermoso ng ... congratulations sa nanalo ninyong kasapi; si Sister Bernadette de Guzman na tumutulong sa mga migrante; si Brother ... ng Alliance of Workers sa Informal Economy at nakatanggap ng certificate para sa training vouchers sa mga kasapi, si Espie Ocampo ng PGEA, si Leonardo Desierto ng Alliance of Independent Union in Hotels and Restaurants, ibat-ibang mga lider at member ng National Labor Groups, ang ating host dito si Tessie Sy-Coson of SM Group na andami daming trabaho ang naibigay at sa mga dakilang manggagawang Pilipino na kinakatawan ninyo isang mainit na pagbati sa Labor Day!

Ito'y araw ng pasasalamat sa dakilang manggagawang Pilipino. Nagbubunyi at nagdidiriwang tayo para sa lahat ng nagawa ng ating mga dakilang manggagawa tungo sa pag-unlad ng bansa. Ito'y araw ng pasasalamat sa inyong lahat, kasi nga ang tema "Kaagapay sa Pagbabago" Salamat sa inyong pag aagapay sa pagbabago, mga katuwang tungo sa kaunlaran. Itong araw din ng pasasalamat sa lahat ng mga tumulong upang magtagumpay ang mga manggagawa sa inyong mga adhikain sa loob ng siyam na taon. Nariyan ang mga kinatawan ng inyong mga employer, nariyan rin ang mga katawan ng pamahalaan dahil tripartite ang ating patakaran sa ating administrasyon.

Marami ang sinabi ni Dan na kailangang gawin at nagbigay ng kanyang at inyong panukala or five-year plan para maibayo pa ang kalagayan ng manggagawa dito. Ngunit nagpapasalamat ako din ako sa kanya na kinilala naman niya na marami na rin tayong nagawa nitong ating administrasyon.

Kasi talaga naman napakalaki ang agwat ng kalagayan noong Enero 2001 at ngayon. Harinawang nabura na ng panahon sa isipan ang mga masasakit na ala-ala ng panahong iyon, kung saan magulung magulo ang ating pulitika at nasa bingit tayo ng pagka-bangkrote.

Noong panahon nuon 2001, walang gustong mamuhunan at kayat halos walang bagong trabahong nalilikha. Panahon iyong ng kawalan ng trabaho, maliit na maliit na sweldo at mataas na mataas na inflation. Ang utang ng bansa ay mas malaki pa kaysa sa ating GDP nung panahong iyon at manipis at halos sagad na ang ating foreign reserves nung panahong iyon.

Nung ako ay napasok bilang pangulo alam ko, bilang ekonomista, na dapat pigilan ang palabas na daloy ng salapi at kumilos agad upang mapalaki ang pondo ng bansa. Sa madaling salita, kinailangan ng mga mahigpit na repormang masakit man ngunit magbigigay naman ng pangmatagalang kaunlaran sa huli.

Isinulong ko ang mga reporma sa gitna ng batigos. Isinakripisyo ko maging ang aking popularidad upang maisagawa ang reporma sa ekonomiya at kaban ng bansa. Ngunit nagagalak naman ako na marami sa mga sector ng manggagawang kinakatawan ngayon ay kabilang sa mga unang nagbigay ng suporta sa akin. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Mula sa simula, itong mga gawaing sinuporta ninyo at ang inyong napakalaking tulong ay humubog ng building blocks ng pagbabago na naghahatid ng 37 quarters ng sunod-sunod na paglago ng ekonomiya, at paglikha ng siyam na milyong bagong trabaho, nung panahong iyon nung pumasok ako 27 million ang may trabaho ngayong 36 million na siyam na trabaho ang naibigay. Ibig sabihin nun sa siyam na taon ng aking pagka pangulo ay mga isang milyon average nabilang ng Pilipino ang nagkaron ng trabaho kung ikukumpara natin ito nung panahon mula 1987

hanggang 2000 ang average na trabahong nalilikha nuon ay lumalampas lang ng konti sa half a million workers. So ang ating job creation sa ating panahon ay almost double sa job creation nung mga nakaraang mga tatlong administrasyon.

Ginagalang natin yung mga sinabi ni Brother Vic at sisikapin natin na ipagtrabaho yun at sa mga darating na mga panahon pero gusto ko ring hayaan ninyo ulitin din ang sinabi ng Vice President TUCP na si dating Congressman Alex Villaviza nung isang araw. Tinukoy niya halimbawa nakatulong ang workers income augmentation program natin ... kasapi ng unyon sa mga nawalan ng trabaho, sa on formal sector at kanilang mga pamilya, yung mga binigay natin na mga tseke kanina o yung mga binigyan natin ng awards yun ang mga outstanding workers enterprises eto ay isang malaking nagawa natin nung ating panahon.

Yung mga nawalan ng trabaho yung expats livelihood fund nung nagkaron ng global economic crisis nawawalan ng trabaho sa Dubai, nawalan ng trabaho sa Taiwan naglaan tayo ng 1 billion pesos na pondo para sa mga mawawalaan ng trabaho. At salamat sa Panginoon 200 million lamang ang kinailangan so far kaya meron pa tayong pondo doon kaya kanina nagbigay tayo ng pondo dito sa ating napakagandang dilag sa harap at tinanong ko ano ang ... saan ka nga naggaling... sa Riyadh. At ngayon ay nakapagpatayo ng beauty salon sa Payatas sa pamamagitan ng ating Workers Enterprise at Expat Livelihood Support Fund.

Kaya ngayon gusto ko ngang bisitahin sa Pagadian yung hotel na tinayo ng mga... pinatatakbo ng mga workers mismo siguro pupuntahan ko yun sa Pagadian itong Tuesday. Sisikapin kong ayusin ang aking schedule... Kasi nakikita natin ang mga microenterprises o maging medium enterprises na pinapatakbo ng mga manggagawa hindi lamang yung hotel hindi lamang yung beauty parlor mga botikang nagbebenta ng generic at murang gamut; produksyon ng organic fertilizer na tumutulong ning lumikha ng trabaho, at itong maganda sa organic fertilizer hindi lamang trabaho tinitiyak ang sustenableng kapaligiran at naglilikha ng luntiang trabaho, at pag-iawas sa climate change; nakapagbigay din tayo sa mga manggagawa ng bigas na may diskwento, at mga tindahan, at marami pang iba.

Si Vic ay kasapi ng SSS siguro naaalala niya nung nagkaron ng malubhang kalagayan nung tumaas ng presyo ng mga nung nagkaron tayo ng oil crisis yata... sinagot ng mga employer ng SSS yung pagtaas ng SSS premium. Bunga yun ng ating Tripartism. At ngayon naman dahil nagkaron naman ng global economic crisis nagpanukala yung mga manggagawa ng amnestiya sa SSS at Pag-Ibig at ito ay tinupad natin.

Sana marami sa inyo ang nakinabang doon sa amnestiya ng SSS at Pag-Ibig at kanina nagulat nga yung mga labor lider dito yung mga lider na tumitindig tumatanggap ng certificate eto ay yung para sa TESDA ang pondo ng TESDA para sa skills training ay nakapag-pwesto ng maraming kabataan sa mga trabahong hinahandog, kasama na dito ang BPO maging ang TUCP di ba meron kayong training para sa BPO pati market vendors natutunan ma training para sa BPO. Dito sa sistema ng TESDA pati sa scholarships, sa mga private training institutions sa ating administrasyon, lumampas sa 11 million ang mga graduates ng iba't ibang skills and livelihood training.

Dumami ang mga trabahong matataas ng sweldo gaya nga ng BPO IT at iba pa at kahit na sa karaniwang manggagawa, bagamat marami pa ang hamon halos taon-taon nakapagtaas ng sweldo.

At dito sa inyong hiling na dapat magtaas muli ng sweldo ay merong ongoing talks para sa tripartite kaya sinasabi ko kay Secretary Nitoy Roque na ang isang career labor official Nitoy siguro gawin mo ang paraan kung papano mas mapapabilis itong ating tripartite na pag-uusap tungkol sa minimum wage.

Gusto ko lang rin maabot sa kaaalaman ninyo pabor sa ating manggagawa ng minimum wage ngayon kumpara sa ibang bansa sa rehiyon. Ang buwanan pasahod dito ay depende sa rehiyon \$148 hanggang \$256, eto ay mas mataas kaysa sa mga minimum wage ng Vietnam, China, Indonesia at Thailand kung tutuusin niyo Thailand, Indonesia at China mas mayaman kaysa sa atin pero mas mataas ang ating sweldo. Aat nagpapareho na rin ang ating sweldo sa Malaysia na di hamak rin mas mayaman kaysa sa atin.

Ganunpaman, gusto natin na gaya nang sabi ni Brother Vic maramdaman ng manggagawa na nakikinabang siya sa kaunlaran kaya bilisan natin ang pag-uusap ng wage increase.

Pero isa rin na sana maunawaan kung maaalala natin na nanatiling mababa ang ating inflation sa loob ng ating administrasyon, kaya masangat ang kalagayan ng ating manggagawa kaysa doon sa mga karatig nating bansa na nagdudusa ng mataas na inflation.

At para naman sa mga manggagawa ng gobyerno, Espie di ba pinatupad natin ang Salary Standardization Law. At napakataas na ilang beses ng tumaas at tataas pa rin dahil for the next three years nagawa na natin ang batas para 2010, 2011, 2012 tataas ang sweldo ng manggagawa sa ating pamahalaan.

Nung nagkaroon ng global economic crisis ay nagkaron tayo ng emergency employment program gaya ng CLEEP, OYSTER, NARS tumulong din sa paglikha ng trabaho.

At yung mga pondo nga ng TESDA para sa pagsasanay ay naglagay ang libo-libong mga kabataan sa mga trabahong hinahandog ng trabaho mercado linagay nito ang mahihirap at maraming kabataan sa higit na bentahang kalagayang punuin ang mga trabahong naghahanap ng manggagawa.

At nung nakikita natin na may darating na krisis nung panahon na tumataas ang presyo ng pagkain nung 2008, naisabatas natin Tax Relief Package Law of 2008 na huwag nang pabayaran ng income tax ang minimum wage earners at at iba pang parehong kita; kaya ngayon pag minimum wage ang inyong binabayaran hindi na kayo babayad ng income tax. So yun din ay inyo ng income pandagdag sa inyong kita.

Meron ding batas na nagpapalakas sa karapatan ng mga manggagawang mag-organisa ng sarili; at yung Magna Carta ng Kababaihan na hinahangad tiyakin ang pagkapatay ng mga babae at lalaki; at ang batas na humahangad na mawala ang mga pinakamalupit na trabaho ng mga bata; at meron din tayong nagawang batas na kontra sa trafficking ng kababaihan at bata; at yung Migrant Workers Act dinadagdagan ng proteksyon at serbisyo sa mga OFW.

Dun naman sa ating kasunduan sa ibang bansa pinagtibay natin ang tatlong importanteng kasunduan ng ILO: tungkol sa pilit na trabaho at dalawang kasunduan tungkol sa mga migrante. Kaya sa lansangan nang pagpapatupad ng ILO conventions ang Pilipinas ay kabilang sa ito ang Pilipinas ay kabilang sa mga lider ng Asya at Pacific.

Ang ating mga patakaran ay binigyan ng kapangyarihan ang pagkakatawan ng uring manggagawa sa iba't ibang mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan halimbawa nga yung SSS at iba pang antas ng mekanismo at proseso ng paggagawa ng desisyon.

Yung NLRC Tripartite idn yun yung binabanggit merong malalim na ginamit na salita si Brother Vic hindi ko na maalala ... pero tinanong ko anong ibig sabihin nun? Ang sabi niya yung magandang ginawa niyoni Secretary Roque nasasapawan nung labor injustice ta pinag-usapan natin anong ibig sabihin nun... sabi ni Allan yung NLRC kasi andami daming layers kaya matagal na matagal ang proseso. Pero sabi ni Nitoy Roque sa ngayon at naka appoint tayo ng 46 na labor arbiters mas bumibilis na ngayon ang proseso. Kaya inaasahan natin na yung sumasapaw sa ating ginagawa na labor injustice ay yun din ay matutugunan na ngayon sa NLRC system.

Tutoo na marami pa ring hamon para sa katarungan para sa manggagawa at kailan lang nagtayo tayo ng Tripartite High-Level Monitoring Body upang tingnan ang mga mahihirap na kaso ng unyon at manggagawa. Ito ang halimbawan ng katotohanang mas pinalakas na ngayon ang tripartism.

Kaya ang 37 quarters nating walang-patid ng paglago ng ekonomiya ay bunga ng ating mga reporma hindi lamang sa ekonomiya kundi na rin para sa manggagawa, at bunga na rin ng inyong malasakit. Nagmula sa pawis ng manggagawa ang natamasa nating pag-angat.

Pinasalamatan kayo sa inyong mahalagang kontribusyon upang mapanatili rin sa mahabang panahon ang industrial peace. Salamat at mas marami ang sumasang-ayon ngayon ng mas mabilis, mas maganda, at katanggap-tanggap ang paglutas sa mga di-pagkakaunawaan kung nanggagaling ito sa maayos na usapan at hindi dinadaan sa gulo.

Noong 1998, halos tatlong daan ang strikes. Dumami ba ang trabaho? Ngayon... nakaraang taon, apat na lamang ang strikes dumami ang trabaho, tumataas ang sahod at patuloy ang dapat usapan sa Tripartite Wage Board.

Ikinararantal ko ang maging Pangulo ng ibang bansang binubuo ng mahuhusay na hiuwaran ng kadakilaan ng manggagawa katulad ninyo.

Kaya sa dakilang manggagawang Pilipino, maraming maraming salamat sa pagkakataong maglingkod sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080031/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27897&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 112th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Navy

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 112th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Navy**

[Delivered at the Philippine Navy Headquarters, Roxas Blvd., Manila, May 11, 2010]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Gonzales for your introduction.

General Bangit; Vice Admiral Golez; the men and women of the Navy, the Fleet and the Marines; our awardees, ladies and gentlemen.

Mabuhay ang lahat ng kasapi ng Hukbong Dagat ng Pilipinas at Maligayang Anibersaryo!

Congratulations to our awardees and congratulations to our Navy Flag-Officer-in-Command, who will celebrate his 56th birthday soon, Vice Admiral Ferdinand Golez. Congratulations also to all his predecessors as Philippine Navy FOIC especially those who served since 2001.

You have presided over a sea-change in the Navy which started with the revisiting of your principles as I ordered early in my first term, and which came alongside our pursuit of modernization of the Navy over the years. The reforms in the Navy and indeed in the entire AFP resulted in re-energized personnel using better weapons and facilities. I was happy to see your state of the art communication services today. I was happy to see the equipment that you have put together, some of them that you have fashioned yourselves in order to save our people from the disasters of the past and disasters yet to come because of climate change.

I am happy to see what you have done with what other countries have helped us in naval assets. And I recall with gratification how we were able to provide all kinds of needed naval assets from the cyclone, which the U.S. government gave us during my first official visit in 2001, up to the rubber boat and now your new material boats which you need not only for rescue but for your battles in that many rivers and seaways of our archipelago. I cannot forget how we were so frustrated by the fact that the enemy would have faster boats than we and it was because we were concentrating our purchases on the bigger boats and realizing the need for the smaller boats in the waterways. But we were hampered because the procedure for buying a small rubber boat of a million pesos or less was the same procedure after buying one of the big BRPs.

So, when I was acting Secretary of National Defense, I decentralized the procurement of assets of one million pesos or less to our field commanders precisely so that you can buy those smaller but faster seacraft that can defeat our enemies.

Now, we have a trimmer yet meaner Philippine Navy, Philippine Fleet and Philippine Marines capable of doing battle against enemies of the state as well as against poverty and against natural disasters which as I said will be coming in greater frequency and intensity with climate change.

Our Navy's achievements make me proud to have been your Commander-in-Chief. You have shown that the Navy can well defend our people's rights and liberty against all manner of modern-day threats, whether homegrown like Abu Sabaya or offshore like the poachers that try to raid our seas off the shores of Palawan.

That battle which resulted in the fall of Abu Sabaya was spectacular. In fact, it has found its way into the annals of U.S. Doctrine, so congratulations for that! But we have had many other great victories, some of them participated in

by some of our awardees today in Basilan, in Mantangguli, in Palawan which some day will become one of our premiere tourist attractions, but first we need you there to rid that island of the enemies of the state. And there is your Coast Watch together with the U.S. and also your joint patrols together with our neighbors in Southeast Asia.

And because I am so proud of all these that you have done, we listened attentively to the plans and visions of Admiral Golez even as he talked about his accomplishment. And I would like to say on this your anniversary, that I am very supportive of the intention of the Navy to procure your multi-role vessels.

I am happy to say that today on your anniversary, this is a great day for the Navy, and yesterday was a great day for our nation: the votes are coming in and the election was free, fair and open. Our democracy is strengthened by the power of the ordinary Filipinos who exercised their constitutional right to vote to shape the direction of our nation.

The new electronic voting was a great leap forward for ensuring a smooth and protected vote. I would like to think that it was a fulfillment of the automation that we pushed for from the start of our presidency. Since my first State of the Nation Address in 2001, I have asked Congress to finance the full computerization of elections. In the acronym BEAT-THE-ODDs which summarizes our 10-point medium-term agenda, the 'A' in the BEAT-THE-ODDs stands for automating our electoral process. We made it one of the top ten goals of our agenda because it is vital to national harmony. So to all who made automation a reality and a success, congratulations!

A true hallmark of a strong, functioning democracy is a smooth transition to a new government. As Admiral Golez will transition to a new leader of the Navy, so does the entire government soon.

The people deserve to have their new leaders and old leaders put aside politics and focus on the future and the business of governing. So, I call on the Navy and everyone else in our government: let us do everything in our power to make sure the new government has the benefit, from day one, of a strong, stable government ready to continue working on behalf of the people it was elected to serve.

You of the Armed Forces have once again done your part to ensure that our elections are safe from interference and to protect the sanctity of the ballot box. For your vigilance during the election, and of course, for every day you serve to protect the freedom. Thank you and congratulations!

As we wait for COMELEC and or Congress to officially determine the election winners, let us all respect the work that the dedicated men and women of COMELEC are carrying out. No matter which candidates emerge victorious, we must all respect the outcome and work with these newly elected officials to take our country forward.

We must now turn our sights to preparing for a new president, a new congress, and a new set of local government officials. To ensure a smooth transition to a new government, I am putting our government at the disposal of the incoming leadership. To that end, I have instructed Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza to lead our Administration's Transition Cooperation Team and to work closely with representatives of the next president to ensure a peaceful, orderly and effective transition on the 30th of June.

Our goal is to support a process that will help the next president hit the ground running as soon as they take office. The next president and his Cabinet, they will be assuming tremendous responsibility. We all need to do what we can to support them. Part of that responsibility includes serving as Commander-in-Chief and working with all sectors of our Armed Forces to ensure peace and order and protecting our shores from external aggression.

I count on you, the men and women of the Philippine Navy, and all other sectors of our Armed Forces to give the new Commander-in-Chief the same support and cooperation you have given me during my tenure as President of the Republic of the Philippines. And I take this opportunity to thank you for that support to me.

You have honored our country with your commitment to our Constitution. And so let us proceed with the transition.

Upon my instructions to Secretary Mendoza has already begun the transition process. He has prepared an Administrative Order which I have signed creating the Presidential Transition Cooperation Team. He is preparing the first draft of the transition blueprint for our discussion at today's Cabinet meeting right after these ceremonies.

We hand over to the next Administration a nation that has a strong momentum on a number of fronts. We have been able to provide 37 quarters of consecutive growth in the Philippine economy since we took office. There is no other economic record in our nation's modern history to match our overall economic performance. Nine million new jobs were created; 85% of the nation is now enrolled in the Philhealth system; we have built a hundred thousand new classrooms; the Internet and computers in high schools are now part of everyday life for many of our youth.

Ours is the only administration with a stronger peso at the end of our term than in the beginning. Our reforms fended off the global economic recession of the last two years and gave us the resources to spend on stronger safety nets for the very poor. This probably explains why the latest survey indicated a tremendous drop in self-rated poverty — the lowest in 30 years — even though the global economic slump was not yet over.

We have increased the pay of the great Filipino worker, whether in the private sector or in the government, including the military, the Navy, the Fleet, the Marines. In 2001, a private in the Navy received P5,000 basic pay; today, he receives almost P11,000 and can look forward to the next round of salary increase under the Salary Standardization Law we passed in our administration to take effect in the middle of this year, and which provides for a yearly increase until 2012.

Likewise, an ensign in the Navy, who had a monthly basic pay of P12,000 in 2001, will get almost P24,000 starting the middle of this year. And that goes all across the board among different ranks. There have also been non-wage benefits, some mentioned by Admiral Golez, others more general to the Armed Forces like housing such as those in Camp Claudio in Parañaque and Sangley Point in Tanza in Cavite.

And as we leave you, our men and women of the Navy, the Fleet, the Marines, we reiterate that we are committed to doing what is required during this transition to give the next team the support they need to keep our country moving forward.

I remember the first time I joined you as president to celebrate your anniversary, I was full of praise for the Philippine Navy, and I can say nine years later, you have not disappointed me. Maraming salamat.

Today, I give you my sincere thanks for the deeds of heroism and loyalty that showed your fidelity to our Constitution and the chain of command, and your readiness to defend our freedom, our democracy and our Republic.

So brave men and women of the Navy, sail on. Continue to be victorious as you defend our seas, our 7,107 islands, and our people.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Mabuhay ang Navy!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 112th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Navy. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080023/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27947&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during a new town visit: Siruma, Camarines Sur

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a new town visit: Siruma, Camarines Sur**

[Delivered in Siruma, Camarines Sur, May 13, 2010]

Maraming salamat.

Thank you very much Secretary Ray Chua, ang ating Chairman ng Commission on ICT sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Maraming salamat rin kay Mayor Nonito Vier sa inyong magandang pagsasalita upang ipahayag ang mainit niyong pagtanggap sa inyong lingkod. Thank you. Kasama ko rin ngayon si Undersecretary Ramon Bacani ng Department of Education. Sa inyong lahat, mga mamamayan ng Siruma, Dios marahay nga aga sa indo gabus!

Sabi ni Mayor Vier ako raw ang unang pangulo na nakapagbisita sa inyo, mabuti na rin pala na nabigo ako nung balak kong pumunta dito bilang senador kasi pupunta na ako sana dito nakaschedule na pero sumama ang panahon. Eh alam naman niyo malayo ang Siruma, mahaba ang biyahe, bundok ang dinadaan kaya hindi ako nakatuloy dito. Kaya sabi ko bago naman ako umalis sa national politics dapat makabisita ako sa Siruma, kaya nung hindi ako nakapunta dito bilang senador, nakapunta naman ako dito bilang presidente. Kaya ako ay nakaranas na yung kahirapan nang makapunta dito at yun na nga dahil malayo kayo sa Naga, six hours ang biyahe raw, bundok kasi ang dinadaan at tapos madalas pa kayong daanan ng bagyo, yun na nga ang dahilan kung bakit hindi natuloy ang aking biyahe kahit na nanduon ako sa Naga noon.

Kaya sinama ko ngayon si Director ng DPWH, si Danny Manalang. Saan siya? Yun, kasi pinag-usapan ko sa kanya papano natin mapapadali naman yung biyahe patungong Siruma. Eh bundok kasi yun ang problema. Eh hindi ba kahit na Baguio malayo talaga ang biyahe dahil bundok kaso talagang mula sa Manila so... sabi ko pero sana naman huwag masyadong maputik yung daanan. So kulang siguro ang pag mantini kaya inatasan ko si Director Danny Manalang kumuha ng pondo mula sa Road Board para maayos ang inyong maintenance ng inyong bundok. Malayo ito at maliit ang populasyon so ang maaring magagawa ayon sa cost benefit analysis yung road re-gravelling man lang, yun ang dapat nating gawin para tiyakin na hindi kayo parating pinuputikan at mahirap magbiyahe.

Gaya nang sabi ni Mayor kayo ay nasisiyahan na ako'y narito kahit na nasa huling mga buwan ng aking administrasyon kasi tuloy nating pinapairal ang aktibong pamamahala hanggang sa araw na iwanan ko ang panungkulan. At para diyan tatlo ang ating tinutukoy: Una, dagdagan ang kapangyarihan at kaunlaran na dinadala sa mga rehiyon palayo sa dominansya ng Maynila. Pangalawa, patuloy na itataguyod ang halaga ng tatlong 'E' — edukasyon, ekonomiya at environment, sa ating mga pagsisikap para lumikha ng tuloy-tuloy at pantay-pantay na kaunlaran. At pangatlo, tuloy-tuloy na tutok sa kabataan ng bansa bilang ating pinaka pag-asa para sa mas matinag, mas magandang Pilipinas.

Nakaunlad tayo sa maraming larangan, halimbawa dito sa Bicol, nagbuhos tayo sa Bicol ng maraming programa upang maging madali ang pagpunta rito pati na ang mga turista. Eh gaya nga nang sabi ni Mayor, eto ay yung Hidden Paradise kasi meron kayong mga white sand beaches pero hidden talaga dahil may mga bundok na naghihiwalay sa inyo sa ilang mga makakabisita.

Ganundin ang kasaysayan ng buong Camarines Sur nuon maging buong Bicol kaya inayos natin yung mga kalsada, yung Maharlika Highway at Andaya Highway, inayos natin yun para sa ganun ay mas madali ang biyahe dito o kaya kayo yung Maharlika Highway na dumadaan sa Camarines Norte pero inayos rin natin yung Caramoan Road. Inaayos natin yung Caramoan Peninsula Road kaya mabuti rin nagbibisita sa inyo tinatanong ko kung papano makakatulong itong Caramoan Peninsula Road sa Siruma, hindi naman pala kayo dumadaan doon, dumadaan pala kayo sa Calabanga-Tinambac, at bundok ang dinadaan ninyo. Kaya dapat bukod na re-gravelling ang kailangan nating gawin.

At para din maging mas malapit, kasi yung Hidden Paradise hindi na dapat magbiyahe naman mula ng Maynila ng kalsada, dapat eroplano kaya pinalaki natin o nagpatayo tayo ng dalawang airport dito sa Bicol, in fact, gumagawa tayo ng international airport doon sa Daraga sa Albay. Gawa na yung access road, ginagawa na yung runway para sa ganun hindi na kailangan dadaan sa Maynila ang mga turista, pwede na manggaling sa Hong Kong, sa Korea, sa Japan, sa China, diretso na sa Daraga na magiging mas malapit ang mga baybay ng Bicol kasama na doon ang Siruma.

Inaayos din natin ang mga pantalan na durugtong sa Bicol sa Kabisayaan. At kaya ko naman ginawa yung Caramoan Peninsula Road para mas malapit din ang Catanduanes sa inyo. Ewan ko kung papano makakatulong kasi ngayon, halimbawa, yung mga beaches ng Caramoan ang ginagawa ng mga tao naglalanding dito sa Virac tapos konting biyahe na lang papunta dito. Ewan ko kung yun ay maging mas mabuting biyahe rin para sa inyo.

Pero sa madaling salita ginagawa natin ito kaya naman ngayon patuloy ang pagdagsa ng mga turista sa inyong rehiyon at sana darating ang araw na hanggang dito sa Hidden Paradise ninyo ay mahahanap na rin ng mga turista. Itong ganitong pag-unlad ay inaasahan nating makakarating din sa Siruma. Ngunit gaya nang sabi ko dahil Hidden Paradise pa rin kayo, ibig sabihin nuon higit pa ang kailangan gawin para hindi na kayo Hidden Paradise.

Ang lahat nang pagsisikap ng ating administrasyon ay upang magkaroon ng mas maginhawang kinabukasan ang susunod na henerasyon ng mga Pilipino, ang kabataan ng ating bansa ang ating pag-asa at inspirasyon. Lahat na dapat nating gawin ay para magtayo ng mas mabuting buhay para sa bawat kabataan nitong bansa. Habang ipinagmamalaki ko ang nakamit ng ating administrasyon ang nakaraang nakamit ay kasing-buti lamang ng kakayahan ng bansang magpatuloy lumago at umunlad. Halimbawa, mamaya pupuntahan natin yung inyong Botika ng Barangay kasi nakapagtayo ng Botika ng Barangay dito para makabili kayo ng mas murang gamot, mga bagay na yun ay dapat maituloy.

Mataimtim kong ninanasa na ang progresong ginawa natin ay hindi titigil ng nalalabing gagawin ay kukunin ng susunod na henerasyon ng liderato, bilang bansa kailangan matatag na ituon natin ang tanawin sa kinabukasan. Magtayo mula sa kung ano ang mabuti at lalo pang sumikap para tugunan ang hamon ng kailangan pang gawin. Ang kabataan ng ating bansa ay tulay sa pamamagitan ng nakaraan at kinabukasan.

Para sa mga kabataan natin — saan ba yung mga kabataan natin? Alam ko summer vacation ngayon kaya wala sila pero meron akong ilang nakikitang mga bata dyaan — para sa kanila natin tinutuwid ang mga mali. Pinaglalaman ang pagbabago at hinahanap ang mas mabuting araw. Ayun! mga bata nanduon. Malayo na ang inabot ng ating bansa ngunit malayo pa ang dapat puntahan, dapat puntahan ang mga bayan gaya ng Siruma ng kaunlaran. At kinakatawan ng mga kabataan ang mga adhikain ng ating bansa, sa kanila natin hinahandog ang pagsisikap ng ating pamahalaan na iangat ang Pilipinas.

At ang edukasyon ang pundasyon ng oportunidad. Ito ang susi tungo sa mas maaliwalas na buhay, nagbubukas ng mga utak at nagbubukas ng mga pinto. Mula sa mga reporma na pinatupad natin sa simula ng aking panungkulan nagkaroon tayo ng karagdagang pondong ibalik naman sa sambayanan. Inayos natin ang curriculum ng eskwelahan upang mas mabilis matutunan ng kabataan ang agham, matematika at Ingles. Pinalaki ang pondo para mas marami ang mabibigyang training ang mga guro. Nandito ba ang mga guro natin? Yun, meron na bang ilan sa inyo nakadaan na doon sa training for English? Very good, sana mas marami pa. At para maging mas maayos ang pagtuturo. Bakit isa lang? Undersecretary Bacabi dapat mas marami sa kanila. Kasi dalawang bilyon na ang nilagay natin para sa teacher training, two billion pesos na ang nilagay natin, even more for teacher training.

At sa kasalukuyang mundo... ay, hindi lang yun. Yung mga classrooms, nagtayo tayo sa buong bansa ng isang daang libong classrooms, at dito sa Siruma nakapagtayo tayo ng walong classroom. At inaasahan ko na — maliit naman kasi ang populasyon ng Siruma — ang ating kuwan dito... sa grade school ito, ang ating patakaran dito ay dapat two shifts, morning ang afternoon sa grade school at 50 students maximum sa isang shift sa isang classroom. Doon natin ibinabase kung ilan ang dapat classroom na itayo natin.

At sa kamundong ito ang malakas na edukasyon ay dapat kasama ng malakas na backbone ng teknolohiya kaya ang sinama kong Cabinet member ay si Secretary ng CICT, si Secretary Ray Chua. Kasi ang teknolohiya at edukasyon hinuhubog ang utak at kinokonekta sa mundo. Ang edukasyon at teknolohiya ang mga kambal na sandalan ng kinabukasan ng bansa. Dito sa Camarines Sur nagtayo tayo ng computer laboratory sa halos dalawang daang paaralan at ilan dito ay nagkaroon na ng internet connection. Yan ang aking tinitignan ang internet connection ng mga high school. Eh dito sa Siruma High School wala pala kayong broadband connection dito sa Siruma sa layo ninyo. Pero dinig ko meron kayong labing isang computer dito, sayang naman yung labing isang computer ninyo kung computer games lang ang matututo. Kaya dapat para sa teknolohiya kailangan ang internet connection.

Kaya inatasan ko si Undersecretary Bacani na, at sabi niya magagawa raw niya ito bago magsimula itong bagong schoolyear natin itatayo, itatayo ang satellite broadband para magkaroon kayo ng internet. Yan ang aking recuerdo para sa inyo.

Itong mga huling buwan ng aking panunungkulan nananatili ako nakatutok sa pagtaguyod ng mas mabuting edukasyon at higit at mas mabuting imprastraktura ng teknolohiya. Malayo na ang naabot sa dalawang yun ngunit hindi dapat mamahinga habang may mga lugar gaya ng Siruma na kailangan itutok ang ating atensyon para magkaroon ng teknolohiya. Meron akong patuloy na interes na makita na ang mga kasalukuyang kabataan ay ipagsasamantala ang halaga ng edukasyon at modernidad. At gamitin ito itong mga sandata upang ipasulong ang sarili at ang bansa. Sa pagbigay natin ng mas maraming pagkakataon upang maging moderno ang pag-aaral ng kabataan ng Siruma, umaasa tayo na matututo sila ng mga kakayahang magagamit para sa hanapbuhay. At sana hindi ninyo, mga mamamayan ng Siruma, sayangin itong pagkakataon na makapag-angat ang antas ng pamumuhay rito at nang tuluyan nang umunlad ang lahat ng mga taga Hidden Paradise ng Siruma.

Dios mabalos sa indo gabus!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during a new town visit: Siruma, Camarines Sur. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080015/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27956&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the launching program of “The Life and Times of Diosdado P. Macapagal: A Photo Exhibit” in commemoration of the late President’s 100th birth anniversary

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching program of “The Life and Times of Diosdado P. Macapagal: A Photo Exhibit” in
commemoration of the late President’s 100th birth anniversary**

[Delivered at The Struggle Square, Angeles University Foundation (AUF), May 25, 2010]

Thank you very much.

Thank you Chairman Angeles for your very kind introduction, for your tribute and for organizing this very important event.

Vice President de Castro and the other members of the Cabinet; Atty. Angeles and the Angeles family; the faculty, staff and students of Angeles University; my brother Arthur and the other members of the family; City Mayor-elect Ed Pamintuan and Vice Mayor-elect Vicky Vega who used to be my speechwriter, and the other officials of Angeles City, especially Congressman Tarzan Lazatin.

Dear friends, first of all, to Angeles University, Happy 48th Anniversary of your school and Happy 39th Anniversary of the Foundation! Congratulations!

And to Manny Angeles, thank you, for welcoming us back to Angeles University on the occasion of your school’s anniversary, and for including in this anniversary celebration the kick-off of the commemoration of our father’s 100th Birth Anniversary.

Our family is grateful that you remember Diosdado Macapagal not only as president of the country but very fondly as Chairman of the Board of Director until his death in 1997. Thank you for honoring his legacy not only as Chairman of the Board but also as president, his legacy is now going to be remembered because you’re helping enable Filipinos for generations to come to know his life and times and his contributions to the Filipino nation, and to be able to remember those memories from an objective and historical point of view, and also through those who knew him during his lifetime.

Our family hopes that historians and the academe will be able to study the personal papers that he and my mother left, particularly here at Angeles University at Clark and with the alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas, and also the books he authored after his term as president.

There are also still enough scholars around, including in our province, who were already living during my father’s political career, from the time he first ran as congressman, to his senatorial run, to his trying years as vice president, to his trail-blazing presidency, to his pivotal role as president of the 1971 Constitutional Convention, to his later years as member of the opposition to authoritarian rule and mentor to the next generation of politicians, and to his international involvement in promoting peace and democracy around the world.

Manny Angeles is one of these scholars, one who enjoyed a lifetime of friendship with my parents. Thank you Manny for your moving tribute to my father, and for continuing to keep faith in his legacy. I hope that the Diosdado Macapagal Foundation which has recently been reconstituted and where Manny is a member will be able to marshal the proper scholars to document his lasting contributions to the nation.

In my father's inaugural speech in 1961, he expressed how he viewed the role of each president. He said: "Nation-building is an exacting and endless endeavor. No president can build the whole edifice of a nation. All that he is called upon to do is to add a fine stone to that edifice, so those who shall come after him may add other fine stones that will go for a strong and enduring structure."

My father declared that "the task of the nation is to fight poverty." He said: "We must be concerned with the plight of the common man as an imperative of justice. We must help bridge the wide gap between the poor man and the man of wealth, not by pulling down the rich to his level, but by raising the poor towards the more abundant life." This philosophy is contained in one of the statements in the photo exhibit and I thank Angeles University for such a good research.

In his twilight years, our father's own assessment of his term's contribution to the edifice of our nation was highlighted to his mind by the abolition of tenancy and the land reform program in the Land Reform Code of 1963. In fact, he said, from the signing of the Land Reform Code was the happiest day of his life. My father was born of peasant staff the only president whose class origin's came from the peasantry. And when he became a public servant he studied Taiwan's successful land reform program and that became his model as president.

Thus, the ultimate purpose of his land reform was to make feasible agro-industrial growth and to make prosperity available for the greatest number. That battle for land reform was an uphill battle, at that time, in the early 60s, the Philippines was controlled by the elite, the political and economic elite, and many of them were hacienderos who contributed heavily to politicians. So, therefore he had great difficulty getting the bill passed in the two houses of Congress. He had to call eight special sessions until they passed it into law. And that is why August 8, 1963 was the happiest day of his life — the day the Land Reform Code was enacted.

Land reform was the flagship of still another trailblazing contribution of our father, the first Medium-term Philippine Development Plan to be approved by Congress. He called this Medium-term Philippine Development Plan his five-year Socio-economic Integrated Development Program. The economic portion of it was anchored on the philosophy of free enterprise by the private sector. But, instead of calling it merely an economic program, his medium-term plan was called "socio-economic" to emphasize the basic social objective that the prosperity sought must extend to the masses of the people.

Thus, he had land reform. He had housing for the poor. He had... he increased the Minimum Wage Law from the first time that it was increased since he as congressman authored the Minimum Wage Law.

Our father also considered as his contribution to the edifice of our nation an independent foreign policy of promoting and achieving true independence from foreign domination. This was symbolized by the change of Independence Day from July 4 to June 12, thus, by recognizing that we were born as a nation on June 12, 1898 rather than July 4, 1946.

He recognized the heroism of the Rizal, Bonifacio, Aguinaldo and their compatriots who fought for the nationhood of our country. His foreign policy began when he was still in Congress and he authored the Foreign Service Act that professionalized our foreign service officer corps. Before his political career, he was tapped by President Quirino to be one of the pioneers of our foreign service. That is why he knew foreign policy so well.

In his capacity as a member of the foreign service, he was able to negotiate with the British government to return Turtle Islands to the Philippines. He expanded ties with Japan and Spain when it was not yet the fashion in our country. It was not the fashion then to be friends with Japan because that was fresh after the war. But when he invited the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess Akihito and Michiko to make a State Visit to the Philippines that was the beginning of the thawing of our prostrate relations with each other. And now Japan is our number one source of Official Development Assistance.

He also developed close ties with Indonesia that was frowned upon by the western powers, that was the height of the cold war, Sukarno was not exactly pro-American. But my father explained to the Americans, how would you feel if

the international community objected to your friendship with Mexico, your next door neighbour? Mexico is to you what Indonesia is to us. And we have to be good neighbours within the region.

Together with Malaysia and Indonesia, he forged the beginnings of ASEAN through what they called MAPHILINDO which stood for Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia.

My father also considered as his contribution to the edifice of the nation his deliberate and integrated acts in treating the nation like a mature and advanced democracy. He dissuaded bloc voting. He eschewed electoral violence and terror tactics. In this he was guided by the wisdom of Don Honorio Ventura, who paid for his schooling and gave him the opportunity to top the Bar and to climb out of poverty by education. Don Honorio told him to give back to the community and be among the minority of politicians who ruled with integrity.

I remember my father telling us, after he topped the Bar; he went to Don Honorio Ventura and said, how can I repay you for everything you have done? By that time, he already had a job waiting for him in the biggest law firm of the country: Ross, Lawrence, Selph and Carrascoso. And then what Don Honorio Ventura said, the only way that you can repay me back is this: with your qualities, someday you will enter politics. He said many politicians; in fact, most politicians enter politics because they have self-interest or a vested interest to protect. Well, that was Don Honorio's judgment, it's not necessarily my judgment, but that was Don Honorio Ventura's judgment.

And he says, a minority of the politicians enter because they want to serve the country with no vested interest. I want you to be that minority.

And so, therefore, Don Honorio Ventura's prognosis later became true and my father did become a politician. But I can truly say that the Capampangans who supported him from the time that he ran for Congress in 1949 up to the time he ran for president in 1961, certainly, helped him to be that politician without vested interest. They supported him financially throughout his electoral campaigns. They did not ask him for any political favors.

There was one time when he was a congressman and one of his financial supporters went to him and said: "Dadong, I'm not asking you anything for myself, but now all these friends are coming here and they're all asking me to ask you help for this and for that." That was the time of the import controls and you know import controls have a lot of discretion on the part of decision-makers. And then he said — you know, he said — I guess, it really depends on what you envision me to become. If you just want me to stay where I am now, then, that's where it is. But if you think that someday I will go farther and be able to help the country, help me by telling all those people that you cannot influence me in making decisions or in peddling influence for among those decision-makers who have the discretion to make certain decisions to pay for people.

And that particular friend of his, a prominent businessman, said: okay, now I understand, I know what to answer. And then never again did he approach my father with any of the request from other businessmen.

My father believed in business. He believed that democracy went hand in hand with an open market economy. What he said was: "the wealth must be created by the private sector. And with the taxes they pay that is where the government redistributes the wealth."

During his time, the Philippines was the second most prosperous economy in Asia. He believed in raising the dignity of the Filipino and he opened Malacañang to what he called "the common man" — every Friday was "common man's day," so that anyone could have direct access to the highest office of the land. He believed in the integrity of the family, raised us to be hardworking, productive and good citizens of society.

So, I am very happy that today, not only the family is commemorating the year of his 100th anniversary but the extended family of the Angeles University where he served for almost a decade.

So today, as we commemorate a humble man's life, I hope that we will all move forward and contribute to our own fine stones to the edifice of the nation. That would be the highest form of praise we could give to our father's legacy.

So once again, to Angeles University; to the Angeles family; to the faculty, staff, students of Angeles University; to the members of the students who believe in the ideals of this university, in the ideals of you former chairman, Diosdado Macapagal, dactal a, dactal a salamat kekongan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the launching program of "The Life and Times of Diosdado P. Macapagal: A Photo Exhibit" in commemoration of the late President's 100th birth anniversary. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080001/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27985&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Arroyo during the International Negotiator's Conference on Mindanao Peace Process

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the International Negotiator's Conference on Mindanao Peace Process**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, New World Hotel, Makati City, May 28, 2010]

Thank you very much Secretary Abaya for your very kind introduction.

Excellencies and the members of the Diplomatic Corps, guests negotiators, Vice President Kalla, Governor Yusuf, Deputy Foreign Minister Satti, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Dajani, Mr. Othman, Mr. Gorman, Undersecretary Seguis, representatives of International Organizations, participants of the International Negotiators Conference, our delegates and guests, a warm welcome to the Philippines. Thank you for coming to our country.

This international conference is timely.

Mindanao is poised for peace. Whether we achieve it in the near future remains to be seen. For sure there is more work to be done, but the efforts we have made over the last nine years have brought us closer to achieving long-term peace in the region.

The sad irony of Mindanao is that it is a food basket but it has some of the highest hunger in our nation. It has large fields of high productivity, yet also it has six of our ten poorest provinces.

The prime reason is the endless Mindanao conflict. A comprehensive peace has eluded us for half a century.

Unless we as a people come to terms with Mindanao, we will never attain our full promise as a nation, much as America had to overcome its baggage of racial inequity and prejudice in order to become the great democracy that it is today. Thus, at the start of my term as President I sought to arrive at a national consensus on the principles to guide our search for peace. I offered the following for our people to consider.

One principle is that: our ultimate objective should be both peace and development. A second principle is that: our framework should be based on constitutionality, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. A third principle is that: our society is a multi-ethnic one which should be founded on social justice for all, and the institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions. Christian and Muslim, Chinese and Tisoy, Tagalog and Cebuano, these are but a few of the names to which the Filipino responds, in a wondrous testimony to our rich and varied heritage as a nation.

To these three broad principles, we added a fourth. In our search for peace, there is no role for terrorism or inhuman brutality. Such acts must be universally condemned.

Looking back over the last nine years, we have broken down barriers and we have deterred terrorist activities by encouraging people to focus on building better lives for themselves and future generations, rather than destroying them. We have done this through the use of 'soft power.' Soft power has provided economic opportunity, better access to healthcare and education, and basic necessities for better lives including clean water, food, housing for the people of Mindanao.

We are making small but important steps toward long-term peace.

We always knew that from day one this is a process that will take time and patience but what is important is that we are continuing to make progress in the right direction.

In our 10-point Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan with the acronym BEAT THE ODD, one of the “T” two Ts means terminate the hostilities with the MILF towards a just conclusion of our peace process. And indeed, since 2003, there has been a ceasefire between the government and the MILF. And I think our three levels of monitors for that: the Community-based Monitor, the Monitor made up of members of the government and the MILF and the International Monitoring Team.

We have signed many agreements over the last nine years the various agreements are vital towards ensuring the implementation of the ceasefire. And hopefully, all of these agreements will come together and bring us closer to the completion of the peace process.

We recognized from the start that peace requires two-way dialogue and mutual respect and cannot be achieved just through the barrel of a gun. It is through our commitment to this belief that we have made significant progress in the peace process. What is needed now is recognition by all parties that a political settlement will translate the peace on the ground to a permanent and just and comprehensive peace, and lead to better economic prospects and a brighter future for the people of Mindanao. That is the best result for everyone.

Yes, there are political dynamics. Let us sort them out with the utmost sobriety, patience and restraint.

But we cannot do it alone. That is why we have worked so hard to bring an international consensus to provide moral, financial and diplomatic support for peace in Mindanao. The many countries represented here today and so many others now have had a vested interest in peace in Mindanao. And with the help of our Muslim brethren around the world, we are establishing a new paradigm for peace between religions in Mindanao.

And I think the Bishops Ulama Conference for helping us to move that dialogue forward.

When I became President I declared a policy of all-out peace in Mindanao. As President, I have fought every day in office to bring that peace to that great island. And I will continue to do so until the last moment of my term as President. And maybe even beyond because as Congresswoman, I will file the bills that I feel are needed in order to bring just and lasting peace to Mindanao.

To all of you, for your support for peace, maraming maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the International Negotiator’s Conference on Mindanao Peace Process. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609075953/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28000&Itemid=38

Speech of President Arroyo during the 112th Philippine Independence Day and 35th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China and the 9th Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day

**Speech
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 112th Philippine Independence Day and 35th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between
the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China and the 9th Filipino-Chinese Friendship
Day**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, June 4, 2010]

Thank you very much Secretary Roque for your very kind introduction.

Thank you very much Dr. Alfonso Uy for your very kind support kind words of welcome and appreciation for the work we have done for the friendship between the Philippines and China. And thank you for the gesture of appreciation from the federation. Ambassador Liu thank you also for remembering what we have done including my days as co-chairman of the Association of the Philippines-China Understanding working for diplomatic relations many many years ago.

Mayor Lim, Congresswoman Angping, Mr. John Ng, Mr. John Tan, Mr. Domingo Yap and I should also greet Congressman-elect Arthur Yap, leaders of the Filipino-Chinese community, other government officials whom I see all over the place tonight, other elected officials if they should be here, ladies and gentlemen good evening. Ni Hao!

I am very pleased once again to join our Chinese friends and the Filipino-Chinese community in this advance celebration of Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day. As our earlier speakers acknowledged when I became President I made June 9 of every year Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day. In the past, I set aside June 9 to attend activities to mark Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day in Manila. But this year, many of you will be with me in Shanghai to celebrate this occasion that is why we are holding our Manila celebration in advance.

It's a good way to acknowledge the significance of our growing partnership we will have two celebrations one in Manila and one in Shanghai.

Over the past 35 years, the development of our bilateral ties with China with our Trade and Economic Cooperation serving as the engine driving our relations to great heights has been a very important part of our history. And it is not only the last 35 years where China has become a very important part of our history.

Our geographical ties, our trade relationship, our family relationships date back centuries before. Our diplomatic relations and even before our two republics were established. These centuries for thousand years of relationship in fact, has resulted in practically every Filipino having Chinese ancestry though, not everybody can truly be able to claim to trace his family tree to China. But one of those again who really traced his family tree to China is my husband whose great grandfather was Chinese. His great grandfather was a successful businessman from China who fought under the Spanish flag to defend Manila against the British. Therefore, he was awarded with a nobility title by the Spanish government and he changed his name from the Chinese family name of Sontua to the Spanish sounding family name of Tuason. That is only one example.

Because of the intricate and abiding connections of blood and geography, the Philippines and China grew to become more than good neighbors more than good partners and more than good friends. We are family—China and the Philippines are family.

We are family more than neighbors. But as neighbors, as neighbors, we look out for each other's welfare and security. We are family more than partners, but as partners, we have strong ties across all levels and sectors—political, economic, social, cultural, people-to-people exchanges, and even twinning arrangements between cities and provinces.

Our speakers have talked about my ten visits to China over my last nine years as president. During my visits to China over the last nine years, many of which were in your company, I had the privilege of visiting many cities all over China and of meeting with the highest ranking officials including President Hu Jintao, Premiere Wen Jabao, and former President Jiang Zemin. And of course, we also had a very memorable State Visit to the Philippines by President Hu Jintao. Together, President Hu Jintao established as Ambassador Liu said, "A strategic and cooperative relation for peace and development." President Hu and I, agreed that our relationship is going through a "golden age of partnership," meaning, a period of prosperous endeavors and great promised.. how true that was indeed.

As Ambassador Liu has pointed out Bilateral trade has grown a hundred-fold since we established our relationship in 1975. From 20 million dollars to 3 billion dollars. And China therefore, is now our third largest trading partner.

China is also today one of the fastest growing sources of tourists for the Philippines, the tourism from China grows by an annual average of 43 percent since 2001. Our tourism officials are nodding in pleasure.

We also significantly contribute to each other's development. You the Filipino businessmen have invested almost \$3 billion in China.

Likewise, Chinese investments in the Philippines have also grown in the past decade. Highlighted two years, ago by China's State Grid Corporation successfully forming with its local partners, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines which manages the transmission line in our country. This investment from China State Grid will be 3.95 billion U.S. dollars. Thank you very much Ambassador Liu and China.

More than business partners, China has also become a development partner of the Philippines, by participating in our priority agriculture and infrastructure projects, for instance, the Philippines-Sino Center for Agricultural Technology in our number one agricultural province of Nueva Ecija and the Northrail Project, which are enhancing our country's competitiveness as a place for doing business, and in turn attracting more investment and creating more jobs for our people.

During my time, an essential component of my foreign and economic policy has been to aggressively expand our trade and diplomatic relationships around the world. The expanded diplomatic and trade agenda we have forged in China is an outstanding case in point. I am proud that enhanced Philippines-China relations are a hallmark of my Presidency.

And I would like to think that even beyond my time, the Philippine will be committed to working with China to let our golden age of partnership flourish as a testament to the deep friendship between our countries and people.

I am proud that long before I entered politics or government with the Association of China Understanding, all the way to my career as politician, Senator, Vice President and now President, I have worked hard to establish a new and more dynamic relationship with China especially now to match China's growing influence.

I may not be President anymore next month, next year, in the years to come. But as Congresswoman, in wherever else divine providence will bring me, let me assure you that I remain as committed as ever to promoting and further strengthening the solid partnership between our two countries.

So to all of you, Happy Philippines-China Friendship Day! Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 112th Philippine Independence Day and 35th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China and the 9th Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609075934/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28026&Itemid=38

MESSAGES TO THE CONGRESS

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, First State of the Nation Address, July 23, 2001

**First State of the Nation Address
By Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
14th President of the Philippines
Opening of the 1st Regular Session of the 12th Congress**

[Delivered at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City, on July 23, 2001]

His Excellency President Ramos; Senate President Drilon and the other Senators; Speaker de Venecia and the other congressmen and congresswomen; the Justices of the Supreme Court; the members of the diplomatic corps; mga maralitang tagalungsod na nanonood ngayon sa video wall at sa TV; mga maraming nakikinig sa radyo; mahal kong kababayan:

Kamakailan, may sumulat sa aking tatlong batang taga-Payatas, sina Jayson, Jomar, at Erwin. Ginawa nilang paper boats ang liham at pinalutang sa Pasig river patungo sa Malacañang.

Ito ang sinulat ng sampung taong gulang na si Jomar Pabalan: “Sana po ay mabigyan ng permanenteng trabaho ang tatay ko para hindi siya mahirapan.”

Sabi naman ni Jason Vann Banogan, 10 taong gulang: “Sana po matulungan ninyo ako na makatapos sa pag-aaral ko hanggang kolehiyo, kasi po ang nagpapaaral sa akin ay ang lola ko lamang.”

At ang tanging nais ni Erwin Dolera, walong taong gulang: ipasara ang Payatas dumpsite, at bigyan ng lupa ang kanyang pamilya.

Napakalinaw, napakasimple ang hiling ng mga anak ng Payatas: Trabaho. Edukasyon. Sariling tahanan. Idagdag na rin: pagkain sa bawat mesa. Ito ang mithiin ng masa.

And this, in common sense and plain talk, is the core of my vision.

A vision for the future must be rooted in the past.

A revolution gave birth to the first republic in Asia.

A sense of nationhood was born but also the dream of a better life for all Filipinos. Andres Bonifacio, the poor man, the great plebeian who started this revolution, nurtured this dream.

In 1963, another poor man rose. He rose to the most powerful position in the land and risked everything to fulfill the poor man’s dream.

Inspired by the great plebeian, my father, President Diosdado Macapagal, promulgated the Land Reform Law to emancipate the peasant from a feudal bondage to the soil.

In 1986 Filipinos peacefully reclaimed their civil liberties in the people power revolution. Under the leadership of Corazon Aquino, we reaffirmed our commitment to freedom and democracy on a mere stretch of highway—with hardly a drop of blood shed or a shot fired in anger.

Six months ago, on that same highway, people rose up to restore morality as the first institution of society and as the animating principle of justice and the rule of law.

Thus, we see, the historic pillars of a national vision: prosperity, freedom, justice.

Ito ang mga layuning ipinaglaban ng bayan mula nang ito'y isilang: kasaganaan, kalayaan, katarungan.

We also see in our great history a progressive advancement towards the ultimate goal to transfer power over the state from the traditional economic and political bosses to the people.

Last May 1, the poor raised their voices in anger and their fists in fury. Imprisoned in poverty, shackled to shame, denied justice in society, they personally delivered the message that, 100 years after they revolted to establish this nation, they had yet to partake of the national dream.

Dinig na dinig ko ang pahayag nila, at napakumbaba ako. Hindi ba't nasa balikat ko ang tungkuling mamuno sa pakikibaka laban sa salot ng kahirapan? Ako na siyang anak ng tinawag na "poor boy from Lubao"?

I take this duty upon my shoulders.

I do so without fear or foreboding of failure.

For I know that the greatest obstacle we as a nation must overcome is inside us. The enemy to beat is ourselves: when we spread division rather than unity; when we put ourselves above country and profit above fairness; when we think the worst of those with whom we should be working for the common good, and when we wallow in despair rather than rise to achievement—indeed, when we make politics replace patriotism in our country's hour of need.

Let us, here in the home of democracy, therefore resolve, to grab hold of this enemy within, and beat him.

The internal enemy engaged, the battle will not be easy. We inherited very difficult problems.

From 2.5 million jobless four years ago, unemployment now stands at 4 million. From a budget surplus in 1997 under President Ramos of more than a billion pesos, my government inherited a deficit exceeding 140 billion pesos. In the same period, poverty incidence rose from 36.8 percent of the population in 1997 to 40 percent in the year 2004.

And, unlike the situation in 1997 when a battered Asia could still lean on the strength of the advanced economies, today our main trading partners like Japan and America are slowing down as well.

But we will prevail. We will prevail because the mainstream of our nation is united.

In the May elections, this administration received a solid mandate to carry on with the business of governance and reform.

I do not view this mandate as a choice between personalities of this administration and those of the opposition.

I see it rather as a vote for all of us—administration and opposition—to roll up our sleeves, stop looking back, and move forward, most especially in the fight against mass poverty.

Hinalal tayo upang labanan ang kahirapan, hindi ang isa't isa.

Our challenge is clear: Sugpuin ang kahirapan.

In this spirit, I appeal to everyone here today to undertake something unconventional but much to be desired in these especially hard times.

From today, let us set aside bickering and politicking for at least one year. We may congratulate ourselves on our forbearance at the next State of the Nation Address.

Sa halip ng alitan, isang taon tayong magtulungan sa ikabubuti ng taong bayan.

This is our duty. This is our mandate. This is our mission.

Unity for the country's recovery will set the stage for national mobilization needed to undertake the great and difficult tasks ahead.

What are these tasks?

When I became president last January, I told the people about my vision of winning the war against poverty within the decade.

To succeed, the template of our national agenda must revolve around four components—apat na elemento ng pakikibaka sa kahirapan.

The first is an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century. Pagnenegosyo upang dumami ang trabaho. Not a pitiless free-for-all but free enterprise with a social conscience.

The second component is a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity. Palalaguin ang kita at ani ng maralitang tagabukid.

The third component is a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan. Pagkalinga sa mga bahagi ng lipunan na naiiwanan ng kaunlaran.

And the fourth component is to raise the moral standards of government and society. Moralidad sa gobyerno at lipunan bilang saligan ng tunay na kaunlaran.

Pagnenegosyo, pagpapaunlad ng agrikultura, kalinga sa nagigipit na sektor, at moralidad sa gobyerno at lipunan—ito ang mga sandata natin sa digmaang-bayan laban sa kahirapan.

I have therefore organized my interpretation of the state of the nation along these four components of our national antipoverty ideology.

The first is an economic philosophy for the 21st century. Under this philosophy, the way to fight poverty is to create jobs, not destroy them.

To create jobs, we will attract investments. To attract investments, we will attend to macro measures and concerns.

In addressing macro concerns, we will focus on long-term structural issues. We started with the reform of the power sector, and I congratulate those of you who are here and who were in the previous congress for this accomplishment. Now, we will turn to other basics like infrastructure, productivity, and the savings rate.

In focusing on infrastructure, we will harness the private sector via the Build-Operate-Transfer Law. Our priorities include telecommunications facilities for high-speed productivity at low cost, roads to target tourist destinations, infrastructure for the modernization of agriculture, mass transport infrastructure for Metro Manila, and commuter and transport systems to disperse communities towards Subic-Clark and CALABARZON.

We will minimize bottlenecks to productivity, such as the high cost of power, deterrents to investments in agriculture, overly confrontational labor-management relations, and corruption and red tape at the national and local government levels.

To reduce the cost of power, we will begin implementing the Power Sector Reform Law which the previous Congress just passed.

To reduce deterrents to investments in agriculture, I ask Congress to enact a law making farmland acceptable as loan collateral.

To reduce excessive friction in labor and management relations, we will go the extra mile to work for industrial peace, and to work with labor and business to retrain workers for the fast-changing technologies of the new economy.

To reduce corruption in the Executive Branch, Cabinet Secretaries will have to deliver tangible results within 12 months in fighting graft. Our new e-Procurement Program will save billions and minimize anomalies. And I gave the reinforced Presidential Anti-Graft Commission added teeth to investigate and prosecute *moto proprio* corruption in high places. And we will make the BIR and Customs showcases in this fight against graft and corruption.

To reduce corruption among elective officials, we will help honest people get elected by financing the full computerization of elections. We have released 2 billion pesos of the 3.4 needed for computerization. I ask congress to add another 500 million in the 2002 budget. Let us make the polls of May 14, 2001 the last national elections that use primitive methods of voter identification and ballot tabulation.

To reduce red tape in the national government, within 12 months, all government agencies will implement measures to cut in half the number of signatures required for their service. Housing permits shall only need 45 approvals, instead of 188. If legislation is required to effect this efficiency, the agencies concerned will draft appropriate bills for my endorsement to Congress.

I congratulate the LTO for issuing licenses in half an hour. I congratulate the NBI for issuing clearances in one day.

I ask our local governments likewise to streamline their operations and slash red tape. There must be continuity between national and local governments in their efforts to be investor-friendly.

We will address issues related to the savings rate, so that the cost of domestic capital can be reduced. These issues are tied up with the strength of the financial and fiscal sectors.

With regard to the financial sector, I ask Congress to amend the BSP charter and the Banking Act to improve supervision and promote financial prudence. These amendments should take us out of the money laundering list.

We adhere to a freely convertible peso and market exchange rates. However, we support the Central Bank's measures to curb speculation.

To those speculating against the peso, I only have this to say: Have you no pity for the common people, have you no love for your country? *Makunsiysya naman kayo.*

Instead of speculating, let us further strengthen the financial sector. We will design innovative policies to develop our capital market. We will set up a secondary housing mortgage market, an asset management company, and a provident fund for overseas Filipinos. We will simplify and clarify the system of incentives. We will interpret investment laws in favor of the investor.

And I ask Congress to enact laws on capital market reform such as the Personal Equity Retirement Act, the Investment Company Act, the Securitization Act, and amendments to the Securities Regulation Code.

With regard to the fiscal sector, we will control the budget deficit by collecting taxes vigorously and spending money prudently. For the longer term, I ask Congress to enact a law providing for a gross income tax.

Alisin na natin ang mga tax deduction na nagiging sanhi lamang ng katakut-takot na corruption.

The strength of the financial and fiscal sectors partly lies in how we use the realities in the global and regional environment to our benefit. Thus, we will enhance our relations with the United States, whose economic and military power continues to make it important as a factor in the affairs of the region and in the nation. We will also strengthen bilateral economic and political relations with Japan, our biggest source of development assistance and a major trading partner. And more and more, we will design foreign policy and foreign trade policy in the context of ASEAN. And I ask Congress to enact a law giving overseas Filipinos, who continue to play a critical role in the country's economic and social stability, the right to vote.

Preparing our growth sectors of the future enables us to tap the opportunities of the 21st century.

We will promote fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful. One of them is information and communications technology, or ICT. Our English literacy, our aptitude, and skills give us a competitive edge in ICT. Filipino workers are ranked number one in the field, number one among knowledge workers. And analysts point to two developing countries as the likely world centers for software development and data management in this decade: India and the Philippines. We will live up to that forecast.

As a first step, let us declare that technology is the foundation of future economic development, as China did in 1998. ICT will jumpstart our old stalling economy and make it leapfrog into the new economy.

High-speed connectivity at low cost will increase the use of ICT. It is also the way for Smart and Globe to properly interconnect. Then we will finally hear the last of those annoying words, "network busy."

Our rules will promote rather than regulate ICT, but in turn, I ask cellular phone companies to stop charging on dropped calls; this is both irritating and unfair to the public.

I ask Congress to enact laws to address Internet privacy and security, allow for multimedia convergence, and create a department of telecommunications and information technology.

To prepare our youth to be the next generation of knowledge workers, we will upgrade math and science teaching in basic education.

We will take a hard look at education and ask: Is it preparing the youth for the jobs of the new economy? Or is it just-keeping-them-off-the-streets-until-they-are-thrown-there jobless after graduation? If they finish school at all.

To increase the chances of Filipino children finishing school, we will minimize the cost of going to school. When we stopped the collection of miscellaneous fees last enrollment day, 900,000 more students enrolled than anticipated. And to reduce the time and money spent to actually travel to school, I want a school building in every barangay by 2004. Ibig nating tumalas ang ulo ng mga estudyante, at hindi malaspag ang paa.

To improve the quality of education as required by the new economy, we will increase the number of textbooks per student as well as the quality of instruction. This year all public school students will have textbooks for priority subjects in grades 1 to 4 and in the 1st and 2nd years of high school. And they will have better paid and therefore better motivated teachers, not to mention more teachers because sound fiscal management enabled us to provide a supplemental budget of 1.5 billion pesos to hire more teachers and increase their pay without increasing our deficit.

Aside from ICT, we also have the competitive edge in tourism in the natural wonders of our country and the natural warmth of our people. We will provide the roads to those wonders and the means to take the tourists there. Thus, we will continue to liberalize the airline industry.

The second component of our national agenda to fight poverty is the modernization of agriculture founded on social equity.

Nasa bukid ang nakararaming maralita, kaya payayamanin natin ang pagsasaka at pangingisda.

There can be a million new jobs in agriculture and fisheries. Within the year, the Department of Agriculture shall begin to implement the program to generate them. We will approach this with a sense of urgency. I do not want the one million new jobs to come in the long term. I want a timetable. I want to identify accountabilities. I want milestones.

Hindi ito pangakong mapapako dahil nakasalalay rito ang kabuhayan ng milyong-milyong maralitang pilipino.

Mga kababayan kong magsasaka, ang inyong pangulo mismo ang magbabantay sa kagalingan ninyo.

Starting tomorrow I will hold office at the Department of Agriculture, until i can get a clear and demonstrable picture of our agricultural accomplishments for our first 100 days and I can see the program for the million new jobs get off the ground, and I can see that short-term goals are in sync with the goals of farmer groups and agribusiness.

Upang lumikha ng isang milyong trabaho sa kanayunan, tutuparin natin sa wakas ang Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act o AFMA. Hindi bababa sa 20 bilyong piso ang gagastusin upang mapalakas ang kita, ani, at huli ng magsasaka at mangingisda. Kasama na rito ang mga sumusunod: 6 na bilyon sa patubig; 2 bilyon sa postharvest facilities; 2 bilyon sa imprastraktura; 2 bilyon sa pautang; at 2 bilyon sa research and development.

There is money—and there will be money—and the Department of Agriculture shall demonstrate its capacity to use these funds.

Sa 6 na bilyong piso sa patubig at 2 bilyon sa postharvest mula Aparri hanggang Jolo, makakalikha tayo ng 800,000 trabaho. Sa pagbukas ng 200,000 ektarya ng bagong lupang masasaka, makakalikha ito ng 200,000 trabaho. Sa ganitong paraan malilikha ang 1 milyong trabaho sa kanayunan.

Ngunit dapat tiyakin ang merkado ng produksyon ng mga bagong magtatrabaho sa agrikultura at pangingisda pati na rin ng kasalukuyang magsasaka at mangingisda.

Para sa kaginhawaan ng taong bayan, dapat hindi nagkukulang ang bigas. Sabi nga ng AFMA, sikapin nating magkaroon ng rice self-sufficiency. In the meantime, we will remove the monopoly of the NFA in importation. If a shortage seems likely, we will allow the farmers themselves to import rice, basta magbayad sila ng customs duties. Gagamitin naman ang binayarang buwis para sa modernisasyon ng rice production.

Murang bigas at masaganang magsasaka—ito ang hangad natin para sa masa.

Mas malaki pa ang matutulong ng gobyerno sa mga magsasaka ng niyog oras na maresolba pabor sa magsasaka ang kaso ng coconut levy. Kapag mangyari ito, gagamitin ang pondo para sa modernisasyon ng mga niyugan. Pinawalang-bisa ko ang kautusan sa coconut levy mula sa dating administrasyon upang hindi madehado ang magsasaka. Hindi tayo hihinto habang hindi nakikinabang ang mangniyu-niyog sa coco levy fund.

To fight poverty, agricultural modernization will be socially equitable. We shall redeem in earnest the promise of land reform, a commitment that spans several presidents. Isa pa itong pangakong hindi dapat mapako.

Bawat taon, mamamahagi ang gobyerno ng 200,000 ektarya para sa reporma sa lupa: 100,000 of private land and 100,000 hectares of public land, including 100 ancestral domain titles for indigenous peoples.

We will bring our war against poverty to rural Mindanao, especially the areas most affected by the past conflicts. We have helped more than half of the 27,000 evacuee families return to their farms and rehabilitate their homes. The

rest will go back home this year. In the next 12 months, we will spend 500 million pesos from the OPEC fund for community projects in these areas.

If the long-delayed Malmar irrigation dam is not completed by September, I will transfer its construction to the army engineering brigade. This dam is so important because it will irrigate 3,000 hectares immediately, with another 10,000 to follow next year.

We will make Mindanao the gateway to ASEAN by putting back on track the East ASEAN growth area.

Inshala, mahimo tinu-od ang saad sa Mindanao ubos sa akong administrasyon.

The third component of our national agenda is a social bias to balance economic development.

This social bias consists in immediate measures for the poor as well as improving and ensuring the quality of life of the masses.

Bukod sa magbubukid, maralitang taga-lungsod ang malaking sektor na kailangan ang dagliang tulong.

Upang agad silang matulungan, nabigyan na ng ating administrasyon ang karapatang bumili ng lupang tinitirahan sa mahigit 80,000 pamilyang maralita. And we will work double time to give security of land tenure to 150,000 urban poor families every year; 150,000 pamilya taun-taon ang magkakaroon ng karapatan na bumili ng sariling tirahan. Ginagawa ko ito dahil nalulungkot ako 'pag may nakikita akong squatter sa sariling bayan.

Dapat din tugunan ang karaingan ng madla sa mahal na bilihin at kulang na sahod. Umaasa akong magpapasya ang kongreso o wage board sa nararapat na sweldo. Pansamantala, nananawagan ako sa mga negosyanteng may kakayahan: Magbigay na kayo agad ng emergency cost of living allowance. Maaari naman itong i-credit kapag may bagong sahod o allowance mula sa batas o sa wage board.

Sa kabilang dako, kumikilos ang gobyerno upang mapigilan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng manggagawa. Binabantayan ang presyo ng langis, at salamat naman na bumaba ito noong Biyernes. Pinagsisikapan din ng gobyernong huwag itaas ang pasahe, lalo na ang LRT.

Dahil ang presyo ng bigas ay napakaimportante sa mga manggagawa, magpapasada tayo ng 1,000 rolling stores. Ang mga manggagawa at maralita ay makakabili dito ng bigas sa halagang 14 na piso sa halip na 18 bawat kilo.

Bababa din ang presyo ng gamot. Sa loob ng isang taon hahatiin natin ang presyo ng gamot na madalas bilhin ng madla.

At upang iwasan ang malaking gastos sa pagpapagamot, itong taon, ilalahok sa national health insurance ang kalahating milyong maralitang taga-lungsod. Sa ganoong paraan, ang insurance ang magbabayad ng pagpapagamot.

At upang maiwasan ang pag-upa na nagbabantang tumaas, tinutulungan natin na magkaroon ng sariling tahanan ang mga manggagawa at maralita. Handa na ang 10,000 tahanan sa iba't ibang lugar para lumipat na rito ang manggagawa at maralita. Pinondohan na rin natin ang pagtayo ng 18,000 pang tahanan. Taun-taon, magtatayo ng 100,000 tirahan para sa manggagawa at 50,000 pabahay para sa higit na maralita. Nakahanda sa government financial institutions ang 20 bilyong piso para sa pabahay ng manggagawa.

Itaga ninyo: 20 bilyong piso para sa mga tahanan ng masa. Ito ang handog ng gobyerno para sa seguridad ng pamilyang Pilipino.

Upang mapatakbo ng mabuti ang mga programang ito, hinihiling ko sa Kongreso na lumikha ng kagawaran ng pabahay. A department of housing will not only build homes for the poor, it will also spark the housing industry and create jobs.

Hinihiling ko rin sa Kongreso na sa tax reform na gagawin ninyo, damihan ang kategoriya ng manggagawang hindi na kailangang magbayad ng buwis.

Mayroon tayong espesyal na proyekto para sa mga kabataang maralita ng Metro Manila na hindi na makapag-aral, ngunit walang trabaho. This is the Emergency Employment Program. Bawat taon, 20,000 out-of-work, out-of-school youth ang bibigyan ng dagliang trabaho. Maaari magtagpi ng bubong, mag-ayos ng railing, mag-gwardya sa eskwela ng kanilang barangay, maglinis ng kalsada o estero, o iba pang dagliang trabaho.

The social bias in our economic development plan involves ensuring the quality of life of the masses.

Sa sulat ni Erwin na taga-Payatas—‘yung binanggit ko kaninang pag-umpisa ng diskurso—hiniling niya na ipasara ang dumpsite. Talaga namang dapat nang magkaroon tayo ng bagong sistema sa pag-aasikaso ng basura. Basura ang sanhi ng maraming problema sa siyudad: masamang hangin, paglaganap ng sakit, trapik, at iba pa. Tapusin na natin ito. Inatasan ko ang Metro Manila Development Authority na bago makalipas ang isang taon, maglunsad ng programa upang ayusin ang problema ng basura.

Suyang-suya na rin tayong lahat, lalo na ang madla, sa trapiko ng Metro Manila. Babawasan ang trapik sa tulong ng mass transit. Nagtatayo tayo ng limang bagong linya ng mass transit para makapagbigay-ginhawa sa halos 4 na milyong pasahero. Tatlong linya matatapos sa 2004, isa sa 2005, at isa pa sa 2006. These five mass transit systems are being prioritized because they will add 119 kilometers of railway projects. During construction, I expect the MMDA to minimize the resulting congestion, and I expect it to minimize the current congestion within six months.

Masyadong masikip ang Metro Manila, kaya miserable ang buhay sa slum areas. Magkakaroon ng mabilis na transportasyong magdurugtong ng mga karatig-rehiyon sa Kamaynilaan. Ang nasisikipan na sa Maynila, makakalapat balang araw sa maaliwalas na lalawigan.

We will decongest Metro Manila by attracting communities north towards Subic-Clark, and south towards CALABARZON and Batangas port. We will achieve this not by demolishing shanties but by building commuter and transport systems to better homes.

Whether in Metro Manila or in the countryside, we will make microfinance a cornerstone in our fight against poverty. Ang ibig sabihin nito ay maliliit na paluwagan para sa maliliit na negosyo. Kakalisensiya lang ng opportunity microfinance bank, ang unang microlending program sa bansa na naging bangko. Bawat taon, dadagdagan natin ng 300,000 maralitang kababaihan ang makikinabang sa paluwagang programa ng microfinance.

Panahon na upang makinabang ang maliliit sa iniimpok ng bayan. At umasa kayo, nagbabayad ang masa. In microfinance, the repayment rate is 98 percent.

Wala pang kuryente ang marami nating barangay. Kaya araw-araw, gabi-gabi, magkakabit ng kuryente sa apat na barangay. Sa ganoon, 85 porsyento ng barangay ay magkakailaw na sa loob ng isang taon.

With exports slowing down due to the world downturn, we will strengthen the domestic market. We will intensify efforts to promote small and medium enterprises or SMEs especially in the countryside. Last Friday I inaugurated the SME board in the Philippine Stock Exchange. To help small and medium enterprises, I will restore the policy of providing government guarantee for their bank loans.

The fourth component of our national agenda is improving moral standards and the rule of law.

We need every ounce of resource to wage this war on poverty. We cannot afford to lose anything to waste or graft and corruption.

First we must strengthen justice and the enforcement of law and order.

This pertains to two levels. At the level of principle, this administration affirms its commitment to the principle that no one is above the law.

Thus, our policy is to support the fair and speedy trial of all the accused involved in the cases against Former President Joseph Estrada.

If there were times that I showed concern for the personal circumstances of the former president, it is not a sign of diminished determination to see justice done.

Rather, it is out of sensitivity to the feelings of the segments of our masa who have continued to identify with his personal circumstances.

But as I sometimes extend a hand covered by a velvet glove, inside it is an iron hand where justice and the rule of law are concerned.

As a sign of this, I will support legislation to amend the charter of the ombudsman so he can accept the services of private prosecutors.

The second level pertains to our sense that justice prevails and the rule of law works in our daily lives.

A reenergized police will stamp out the crimes that have plagued our businesses, terrorized the common folk, and embarrassed our country. In the economics of fighting crime, the more resources devoted to crime prevention, the less the amount of crime. Our administration will spend to modernize and professionalize the police. We will start with 1 billion pesos.

Although the numbers say that index crimes in the first semester were down 14 percent since a year ago, we are determined to stamp out violent crimes altogether. The ongoing reorganization of the police is part of the effort to add vigor to its anti-crime drive. The new national anti-crime commission will tighten coordination among law enforcement agencies as well as with the Chinese-Filipino community. We are giving special attention to the kidnap-for-ransom syndicates. I want the bulk of them to be behind bars before the year is over, so that every Filipino will at last feel safe in his home, in his workplace, and in his streets.

On the drug front, I ask Congress to enact a law reducing the amount of drugs in a suspect's possession for him to be charged with drug trafficking.

We will uphold law and order through a holistic response consisting of political, economic, psychosocial, and security components. We will meet the defense and security challenges of this era. To achieve this end, we have earmarked additional funding in several billions of pesos for the AFP modernization program.

We have given the Armed Forces and the police the leeway to fight a treacherous and elusive enemy in Basilan. But it must end, and it will end soon, for good. The leadership of the Abu Sayyaf has started to fall. The crackdown has neutralized 130 of them. Many of them have come down from their mountains because they have been abandoned by their leaders. Itaga ninyo sa bato: tatapusin natin ito.

On the peace process, while the AFP stands ready to protect our people at a moment's notice, we will continue to talk with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the National Democratic Front as long as all sides maintain good faith. Our ceasefire agreement with the MILF last month encouraged us in this.

To attain our full potential as a nation, let us come to terms with the fundamental issues in Mindanao. Let us forge consensus on a just, lasting, and honorable peace in one country. Peace and development are inseparable twins. But our framework must not compromise constitutionality, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Instead, let us recognize that we have a multiethnic society which should be founded on social justice for all and institutionalized

accommodation of ethnic traditions. This would finally introduce a new culture in our nation's attitude towards Mindanao.

We will also introduce a new culture in governance: a culture of plain talk and common sense.

Cabinet secretaries will do less cluster and interagency committee work so they can concentrate on running their departments. Less meetings, more action, more tangible results whether in generating jobs, improving peace and order, or fighting graft.

I throw full support behind BIR commissioner Rene Bañez. He has undertaken a mission many believe impossible: overhauling the BIR which accounts for 80 percent of our tax revenues.

Rene has been threatened. He has been blocked by restraining orders at every turn. After the Supreme Court ruled in his favor, he was accused of the very corruption he is stamping out.

This man needs friends, who share his goals, and I know he will find them in this young Congress.

The Bureau of Customs is exceeding collection targets. But the anti-smuggling drive must be relentless. So must the drive against the harassment of legitimate businessmen doing legitimate imports. I call on all concerned to help end the open drawer syndrome.

But the government cannot do it alone. It cannot do it alone in customs, it cannot do it alone in fighting graft, it cannot do it alone in fighting poverty. I'm not a miracle worker. All of us must do our share. We have to think Filipino, buy Filipino, invest Filipino. I invite the taipans and other business people all over the country to start pump-priming the economy by investing once again in the Philippines. I invite you to create jobs, accelerate progress, and thereby address the root causes of the crime and unrest that so much alarm us.

Sa madaling salita, mga kababayan, magkaisa tayo at magtulung-tulong upang labanan ang salot ng kahirapan at isulong ang kasaganaan, kapayapaan, at katarungan sa bayan. Magkaisa tayo. Labanan ang kahirapan.

Marami na akong sinabi tungkol sa gagawin ko. Subalit mabibigkas sa ilang salita lamang ang pakay ng lahat ng mga plano, programa, at panukalang tinukoy ko: trabaho, edukasyon, sariling tahanan, pagkain sa bawat mesa.

Sa lahat ng mabibigay ko sa bayan, kabuhayan, karunungan, tahanan, at pagkain para sa masa ang ipagmamalaki ko nang higit sa lahat.

Lahat ng ito ay para sa mga kabataang tulad nila Jayson, Jomar, at Erwin, at sa magiging anak nila dahil tungkulin natin ito sa mga darating na henerasyon.

Mga kababayan, nais ko pong ipakilala sa inyo ang mga anak ng Payatas. Eto sina Jason, Jomar, at Erwin.

Salamat sa inyo, Jayson, Jomar, at Erwin. Salamat at sumulat kayo sa akin ng mga liham na ginawa ninyong bangkang papel at pinalutang sa Pasig.

Jayson, Jomar, at Erwin, pakinggan niyo ako.

Paparamihin natin ang mga kababayang may trabaho. Paparamihin natin ang mga batang makapag-aaral sa kolehiyo. Paparamihin natin ang mga kababayang may sariling tahanan. Paparamihin natin ang pamilyang may pagkain sa mesa. Ang pangarap ninyo ay pangarap ko rin. Gagawin ko ang lahat upang matupad ang pangarap natin.

Mga kababayan: tulungan ninyo akong tuparin ang pangarap nila Jayson, Jomar, at Erwin. Magkaisa tayo upang lahat ng kabataan—kasama ang kanilang magulang—ay magkaroon ng bagong buhay at bagong pag-asa sa hinaharap.

Trabaho. Tahanan. Edukasyon. Pagkain sa bawat mesa.

Salamat, Jayson, Jomar, at Erwin, pinaalala ninyo sa akin ang napakahalagang tungkulin ko.

Pinaalala ninyo sa aming lahat kung bakit kami ay narito ngayon sa bulwagang ito.

Mga Senador at Kongresista: Ipangako natin sa kanila, sa harap at sa tulong ng Poong Maykapal, na sa mga susunod na araw, buwan, at taon, tayong mga hinalal, tayong may pananagutan sa kanilang kinabukasan ay handang magsakripisyo at magkaisa para sa kabutihan, kaunlaran, katatagan ng bayan, at sa kinabukasan ng kabataan.

Jayson, Jomar, at Erwin, hindi namin kayo bibiguin.

I am not a miracle worker. But I will do what is right and I will do my best. Let us all do what is right, let us all do what is best, and God will take care of the rest.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Second State of the Nation Address, July 22, 2002

**Second State of the Nation Address
By Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
14th President of the Philippines
Opening of the 2nd Regular Session of the 12th Congress**

[Delivered at Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City, on July 22, 2002]

Thank you, Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Senate President Franklin Drilon; the Justices of the Supreme Court; distinguished members of the Senate and the House of Representatives; His Excellency Archbishop Antonio Franco, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps; your excellencies of the diplomatic corps; members of the Cabinet; members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; members of the police; fellow workers in government; honored guests.

Mga minamahal kong kababayan.

In the corridors of power, in the Palace where I work, past presidents of the Republic sit in their portraits in judgment of me. In this gallery of the highest public servants, none sits in sterner judgment than the man who first led me by the hand into the Palace as a teenager.

In a country where a man's worth was measured by his property, he was born in a nipa hut, into a family that tilled less than a hectare of land.

After years of hard struggle and brilliant achievement, my father took his oath as President of the Philippines on ground made hallow by the martyrdom of our national hero. A hero whose name he would honor, and whose ideals he would pursue.

Indeed, in a democracy, a man may rise to the nation's highest service by dint of energy and intelligence alone, without regard to wealth and connections of which my father had none.

It was Jose Rizal who wrote: "A life not dedicated to a great ideal is useless; a mere pebble in the field that forms no part of an edifice."

The words of Diosdado Macapagal echoed this theme as he assumed the mantle of national leadership 40 years ago: "No President can build the whole edifice of a nation. All that he is called upon to do is add a fine stone to that edifice, so that those who shall come after him may add other fine stones that will go for a strong and enduring structure."

Modest words from a modest man who would yet change for all time how a feudal society would come to view a vital institution—land reform.

My countrymen, the fine stone I should like to add to the edifice of our nation, right above the stone of social justice that my father left behind, is a strong republic.

Two essential features mark out a strong republic. The first is independence from class and sectoral interests so that it stands for the interests of the people rather than of a powerful minority. The second is the capacity, represented through strong institutions and a strong bureaucracy, to execute good policy and deliver essential services—the things that only governments can do.

The results of these two features—good policies and empowered institutions—is faster economic development and social reform. A strong republic takes care of the people and takes care of their future. Thus, a strong republic is the bedrock of the victory we seek over poverty within the decade.

During these past 18 months, our efforts to build the strong republic have been difficult, with both domestic and global conditions extremely harsh. At home, the poor were pitted against the rich to further inflame our nation's social divisions. Abroad, the contracting economies of our main trading partners were further aggravated by the tensions generated by the global war against terrorism.

Meanwhile, one shocking corporate scandal after another severely eroded public faith in the most promising system for conducting economic activity—the free market.

These were the large long-term crises of social justice and the capitalist system itself, whose resolution awaits events well beyond one small nation's ability to influence in the short term.

But as I report on the state of the nation today, I can say this: The immediate crises have been resolved.

This resolution was achieved by focusing on three things.

First, by showing tangible results in the delivery of government services. Thus, in my State of the Nation Address last year, I did something never done before: I detailed a long list of measurable targets that would show a government on the move, marking progress by swift sure steps, despite the turbulent state of domestic and global affairs.

Halimbawa, target natin noong isang taon: 200,000 ektarya para sa land reform. Nakamit natin: 250,000 ektarya. *[Applause]* Congratulations sa mga probinsiyang topnotchers: Negros Occidental, at Sultan Kudarat, *[applause]* itong dalawang probinsiya bawat isa ay humigit ng 7,000 ektarya ng reporma sa lupa.

Target natin: 20 bilyong piso para sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura. Nakamit natin: 24 na bilyon. *[Applause]*

Target natin: 150,000 pamilyang maralitang tagalunsod na makatitiyak sa lupang tinitirikan. Nakamit natin: 180,000. *[Applause]*

Target natin: 150,000 pamilyang mahihirap na magkaroon ng pabahay. Nakamit natin: 150,000 na nga. *[Applause]*

Target natin: 1,000 rolling stores na magbebenta ng bigas sa P14 per kilo. Nakamit natin: 1,500 rolling stores. *[Applause]*

Target natin: ibaba sa kalahati ang presyo ng gamot na madalas bilhin ng mahihirap. Nakamit natin: Mahahanap ang mababang presyong gamot sa mga parmasya ng 80 ospital ng pamahalaan at sa mga outlet ng Unilab. *[Applause]* But sad to say, except for Unilab, the wider distribution of network of commercial drugstores—under pressure from the multinational drug companies—will not sell our cheaper medicines. We are studying punitive measures to correct this unfair, unjust, and heartless situation. *[Applause]*

Target natin: 500,000 maralita para sa health insurance. Nakamit natin: 4 na milyon. *[Applause]*

Target natin: pagdating ng 2004, may eskwela sa bawat barangay. May 1,612 na barangay na wala pang eskwela. Nakamit natin: 1,005 na malapit nang matapos, bukod pa sa 285 school buildings na humahalagang P100 million galing sa alokasyon ni Senate President Franklin Drilon. *[Applause]*

Target natin: kompletong libro sa pangunahing subjects sa grades 1 to 4 at sa 1st at 2nd year high school. Nakamit natin: Magkakaroon ngayong taon ng 54 million books para sa 16 na milyong estudyante. *[Applause]*

Target natin: pag-ibayuhin ang pagtuturo ng mathematics. Nakamit natin: dagdag na oras para sa Math sa bagong curriculum.

Target natin: mas maraming guro. Nakamit natin: 15,000 bagong guro. *[Applause]*

Target natin: dagliang trabaho para sa 20,000 out-of-school youth. Nakamit natin: 30,000. *[Applause]*

At noong isang taon, dinala ko ang tatlong batang kumatawan sa adhkain ng Payatas. Sabi nila, ang kailangan nila ay edukasyon, kabuhayan, pabahay. Higit na 400 na batang taga-Payatas ay iskolar na ngayon, kasama na si Jayson, Erwin, at Jomar. *[Applause]* Halos 800 pamilya ang nabigyan ng kabuhayan kasama ang pamilya nila. May 700 pamilyang binigyan ng karapatang bilhin ang lupang kanilang tinitirahan nila doon sa Payatas. Inaatasan ko ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources na apurahin ang pag-ayos ng natitirang problema sa lupa ng mga residente sa Payatas. *[Applause]*

This is just the tip of our accomplishments, all in just the first year of the 10-year fight I projected against poverty. I am submitting the entire iceberg to Congress in a comprehensive performance report. For good measure, it has been published and nationally circulated. These were our commitments. We delivered on them. A strong republic does what it says.

It takes care of the people and takes care of their future.

Our second focus to achieve the resolution of the immediate crises was the preservation and defense of the republic against forces that seek to destroy its unity and tear the fabric of its society, not least in the name of ideas that history has already passed by.

The turning points are clear.

This year, May 1 passed peacefully.

This year, our soldiers rescued Gracia Burnham and finished off her terrorist captor. *[Applause]*

This year, what used to be Camp Abubakar became an authentic community of new hopes and dreams, where our flag flies and our soldiers protect those who have returned to their homes.

Beyond the symbolic significance of these accomplishments, we have brought back interfaith solidarity, energized by the invaluable initiative of Speaker Jose de Venecia, *[applause]* and we have sealed peace agreements with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

We achieved all of these backed by the valor, professionalism, and restraint of our soldiers and police. I salute our men and women in uniform, at the forefront of our Republic's efforts to fight terror and enforce peace.

The third focus to resolve the crises and build a strong republic was to restore macroeconomic stability and win back investor confidence.

The linchpin was to control our fiscal deficit. If EDSA 2 had not happened, the government would simply have gone bankrupt with a deficit of P245 billion. *[Applause]* But we controlled the deficit, brought it down to P147 billion, and against all odds, turned our international credit rating from risky to stable. *[Applause]* It was hard work, here and abroad, to rekindle global interest in our country, but we did it. *[Applause]*

The adoption of strong administrative measures, including fighting smuggling and graft and corruption, will enable us to close the gap in our revenue targets for this year.

The basic macro signs indicate that things are under control. Inflation is at a low, driven down by stable food prices and now by declining power costs. *[Applause]*

Nang ako ay naging Pangulo, ang presyo ng galunggong ay 80 pesos ang kilo. Noong isang linggo, nakabili ako sa palengke ng 60 pesos lamang. *[Applause]* Ang presyo rin ng bigas na binibili ng mahihirap ay nananatiling P16 ang kilo sa palengke at P14 sa rolling store, gaya pa rin nang isang taon. *[Applause]*

Interest rates are also at a low, and our peso is stable. From P56 to the dollar, it is now a little over P50. *[Applause]*

Internationally, the Philippines is back on the map.

We are the third best performing economy in Asia and the best in southeast Asia. *[Applause]*

As a result of our decisive action after September 11, the Philippines is now a recognized player in world affairs. The President of the Philippines was the first head of government to emphasize the interconnection between the war against terrorism and the war against poverty. Now, nations large and small now embrace this interconnection. *[Applause]*

We have gained powerful allies in our domestic war against terrorism. I am certain that our increased international visibility will continue generating capital inflows for the Philippines.

Where we have fallen short of achieving what we intended, it has not been from misdirection or a lack of trying. After all, it has really been only one year and a half.

In any event, I promise to work even harder if that is possible, and do even better because I believe that there is always room for improvement. I cannot grow taller but I can always get better. *[Applause]*

My working agenda for the coming year will focus on creating and improving job opportunities. Citizens with rewarding jobs paying decent wages constitute not just a stone in the edifice but the very foundation of a strong republic.

We need investments to generate jobs, and to draw in investments, we will address certain problems in the short term: katiwalian, peace and order, and the cost of power. *[Applause]*

Bilang Pangulo, tinatanggap ko ang pahayag ng mga negosyante na dapat sugpuin ang katiwalian sa bansa.

Noong isang taon nga sa aking State of the Nation Address, sinabi ko na, na aalisin natin ang mga hadlang sa ating productivity, kagaya ng mahal na kuryente at katiwalian.

At dahil ako ay naluklok sa pagkapangulo dala ng malawakang galit sa anomaliya, alam kong kailangan wakasan ang katiwalian. *[Applause]* Naniniwala rin ako na pinahihina ng katiwalian ang daloy ng puhunan sa ating bansa.

Kaya noong isang taon, sinabi ko na ang kabinete ko ay kailangan gumawa ng konkreong resulta sa paglaban sa katiwalian. Pinapaalala ko sa kanila ngayon na sa mga sumusunod na araw, magbigay ng kanilang ulat sa naturang mga resulta.

But even now I can tell you that our new e-Procurement Program is saving billions and minimizing anomalies.

Even now, I can tell you that the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission [PAGC] is doing its best to ensure that good governance is carried out. Inaatasan ko ang PAGC na gumawa rin ng ulat sa kanilang trabaho.

Tungkol naman sa katiwalian sa mga korte, inaatasan ko ang Department of Justice [DOJ] na kasuhan yung prosecutor na tinuloy pa iyong kaso kontra sa Kimberly-Clark kahit nagkaroon na ng affidavit of desistance ang complainant. Kaya tuloy ang Kimberly-Clark ay dinala iyong kanyang Asia operations sa Thailand imbes na sa Pilipinas. Inaasahan ko ring kasuhan ng DOJ iyong prosecutor na ginawang accessory lamang embes na principal iyong ilang mga nagkidnap kay Rowena Tiu. At inaatasan ko rin ang DOJ na kasuhan pati na rin ang mga huwes na gumagawa ng katiwalian. *[Applause]*

Noong isang taon, sinabi ko na gagawin nating sample ang BIR at Customs sa paglaban sa katiwalian. This is still a continuing effort. Tax evasion is a white-collar crime and the response is a white collar response—systems improvement, audit, prosecution. Smuggling is something else. It is done by hoodlums and criminal gangs. But the punishment for both must be the same: blue-collar time. Kalaboso. *[Applause]*

Indeed, criminal gangs and homegrown terrorists have exploited the poisoned political atmosphere to spread poisons of their own: rampant smuggling, kidnapping, gambling, drug dealing, rampant smuggling.

You have seen political will in the harsh interpretation of command responsibility with regard to illegal gambling. That draconian application was a dress rehearsal for enforcing command responsibility in the even more difficult challenges of kidnapping, drug dealing, and smuggling. *[Applause]*

I am determined to build a strong republic by breaking the back of terrorism and criminality. *[Applause]*

In the year 2000, despite all the rampant efforts of rampant smuggling, only P16 million worth was confiscated. But last year, in a show of political will, my administration seized P1.2 billion worth of smuggled goods, *[applause]* including more than a million bags of smuggled rice, as compared to much less than a hundred thousand the year before. *[Applause]*

I congratulated the Commissioner of Customs but told him also: Go beyond getting smuggled goods and get me the big-time smugglers. *[Applause]* I have instructed the DOJ to charge these big-time smugglers not just with smuggling but also with economic sabotage—nonbailable capital offense. *[Applause]*

Criminal syndicates will be treated as what they are—direct threats to national security. Criminals are criminals, whether of the common kind or the kind that kill in the name of political advocacies. They will feel the full brunt of the arsenal of democracy. Freedom, too, is entitled to self-defense. *[Applause]*

I have given very clear orders to spare nothing in hunting down kidnapers.

We will go by scorecards and track progress by counting beans, if we have to.

Remember Mary Grace Rosagas of Uratex who was kidnapped from UP. Remember her aunt Connie Wong who was killed by the kidnapers. Remember Rowena Tiu who was kidnapped in La Union. Remember the owner of Liana Supermarket. Remember the whispers about the kidnapping of the granddaughter a big banker and the son of a steel magnate. We have taken down the syndicates responsible for kidnapping them and 52 other victims. *[Applause]* In the process, 170 kidnapers were either killed or captured.

The ideal response to kidnapping was in the case of Rowena Tiu. She was rescued in 8 days, the ransom money recovered, and her kidnapers were arrested and are now facing trial. That is why hers was the first but the last kidnapping to take place in Region I in my administration. *[Applause]*

I want to smash the other 21 syndicates in the same way. *[Applause]* We are getting a clearer picture of the leadership, membership, and area of operations of these syndicates. I now want their linkages and modus operandi. I am overseeing how they are being watched, tracked, and infiltrated. We will start with the two biggest syndicates, the Bucala and Fajardo gangs. I have challenged the Philippine National Police [PNP] to eliminate them within a year. *[Applause]*

I have told the PNP that they must start with the cleansing of their own ranks. You remember the front page photograph of that shootout last Saturday? In the front seat next to the driver was a PNP Academy Graduate but AWOL from the police force. He was the planner and the negotiator of that gang. The rascals among the police disgrace the uniform and unfortunately paint in the same broad brush the majority who do their duty well.

I salute the men and women of the police who scorned to be bribed and confiscated 500 kilograms of shabu in Quezon Province last year, and caught the biggest fish so far in the drug trade. [*Applause*]

I salute the men and women who raided the shabu factories in Batangas, Zambales, San Juan, Varsity Hills, and other places, seizing a total of P5 billion worth of illegal drugs and laboratory equipment in the largest drug busts ever in our history of crime fighting. [*Applause*]

Within a month, we shall organize the new Dangerous Drugs Board and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency which Congress has just created, and I thank Senator Barbers for sponsoring the bill in the Senate. With the drug menace now elevated to the level of a national security problem and no longer just a police problem, I am instructing the Armed Forces of the Philippines to field military resources for intelligence and to field soldiers in drug raids in support of civilian law enforcement. Drug lords will be treated as enemies of the State!

In this war with the drug trade there will be no compromise and no quarter, not for fear or favor.

Indeed, we are at war: at war with the terrorists, at war with the kidnappers, at war with the drug lords—and we are determined to win decisive victories on all fronts.

The global antiterrorist coalition is a historical watershed. This new global consensus helps us immensely in finally breaking the cycle of terrorism and criminality. To that end, we shall enhance our strategic relationship with the United States through continuing training exercises to sharpen our soldiers' capabilities to move and communicate, to fix and finish off their targets.

I am happy to let you know that yesterday we captured the mastermind of the General Santos bombings that killed and maimed 80 persons a few months ago. This man that they captured yesterday is considered the number one terrorist bomber.

We cannot afford to lose. Even a stalemate will be a defeat. For what is at stake is our country as a viable proposition in the world economy. And we must be viable if we are to win the most fundamental war, the war against poverty.

I ask the newly elected barangay captains to take an active role in this war. To be the frontliners in this fight in your communities.

And as with war in the past, so will it be with this war. As Commander in Chief, I am taking a direct hand in the war against the enemies of the Republic. This was how I did it with the Abu Sayyaf, leading to the death of Abu Sabaya. This is how I will do it with the criminal gangs.

Nakasalalay dito ang pamamayani ng ating Republika. Our strong republic.

At stake in this war is the very life of society, the very possibility of basic rights and liberties, which have been under attack for too long.

The right to work in peace is as basic as the right to life and liberty, and when both are in danger their preservation by all lawful means becomes not just a higher right but an overriding duty. And that duty I will discharge.

This is a war we will wage on behalf, and with the rage, of all the victims: those whose businesses were ruined by extortion, those held down by poverty in fear, those whose lives were snuffed out by addiction, and those taken hostage and killed. To them, I say: We shall redeem your pain; we shall redeem your loss.

I endorse to the collective wisdom of Congress, with a great sense of urgency, a new bill that will strengthen our legal armory in this war: the Anti-Terrorism Bill. When passed into law, this bill will plug the loopholes by which crimes spread and democracy is undermined. Congress will also note a reallocation of resources in this year's budget to enhance the Republic's crime-fighting capabilities.

There are a number of other critical bills linked closely to the overall run of social, economic, and political reform. I will hold more meetings with the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council, or LEDAC, to push this momentum of reform.

We must team up, as I said last year, to enact a law making farmland acceptable as loan collateral in order to remove a big deterrent to investments in agriculture.

We must pass the Special Purpose Vehicle Act in order to encourage asset management companies to put back into productive circulation assets now tied up in problematic loans.

We must pass a law to give overseas Filipinos the right to vote, consistent with the Constitution. We must pass the bill that will give equal respect and recognition to an overseas Filipino's dual citizenship, consistent with our national honor. This is the least return for the enormous contribution of our overseas Filipinos to the national welfare.

We must pass the Transco Franchise Bill to make our electric service more efficient and more reliable.

Everywhere I go, I ask people about their electric bill. This is not just a pet concern for the moment. I think about it all the time.

You have seen your recent electric bills. You know they have gone down. Because I brought down the PPA.

I did not invent the PPA. I merely inherited it. But my administration chose to confront and stare it in the face and find the solutions.

Before I became President, we had the second most expensive power rates in Asia. Now we have gone down to sixth. This is first fruit of a comprehensive 10-point plan we have put in place to reduce power costs.

We have brought electricity for the first time to the barangays of Balud, Masbate, of Lake Lanao, and 1,500 other barangays.

We have improved the electric service in Boracay by taking over the electric cooperative. To other electric cooperatives, I ask you: be efficient in your operations and improve your customer service.

To the electric utilities, I ask you: be transparent in your procurement and your contracts with your affiliates.

To NAPOCOR and Meralco I ask you: Stop bickering and instead work together to give price incentives to large users so that excess power can be utilized, economic activity can be encouraged, and jobs can be created.

The results of the review of the contracts of independent power producers are in. We have three months to carry out the concrete courses of action stemming from this review that will further ease the burden on our people.

Soon we shall have the first-ever wholesale electricity spot market in Asia, without the pitfalls of California. In due time, we will give electric consumers the power to choose their electricity suppliers. We are giving you the power of choice.

The power of choice will lead to lower prices and better service.

With cheaper power will come a more competitive economy, and more investors.

We know where we are going and how to get there; we are planting the milestones along the way to a strong republic and a prosperous country.

A republic does not exist by the mere fact of declaring itself to be so.

A republic must be so in fact, in reality, and especially in the difference it makes for the better in the lives of its citizens.

It is not a given but a task, a product undertaken by an entire society for its progress and preservation.

A republic is like a shield that needs a strong arm to hold it up.

A republic is a roof, and walls, that need to be constructed.

A republic is an edifice towards the building of which each must give the finest stone within their ability to shape. In the end, this stone is the only thing by which one will be remembered.

Like my father, I am working on my stone. The stone of the strong republic. I intend to be well remembered.

Legions of ordinary Filipinos, many of them students, came, stood, and clamored at EDSA, for a better government.

It is to them I look for validation.

I know that it is to me that those many Filipinos are looking for the vindication of their decision to go to EDSA. I shall not disappoint them.

It is for them that I am working hard on that stone that will fit just above my father's, adding security to social justice, and prosperity to the promise of social equality in which he believed so much.

Ang malakas na republika ay para sa mahihina, para sa mahihirap, para sa walang trabaho, para sa nagugutom, para sa nanganganib, para sa agrabyado, para sa mga api. 'Yan ang malakas na republika para sa kanila.

Toward the achievement of this strong republic, I shall bring to bear the full weight of the Executive, and call upon local government officials to add their own. This is our common struggle; it shall be our shared victory.

I hope to get from Congress at least the same cooperation it extended to me last year.

The judicial branch needs no reminder of its key role in the unspoken component of justice, fairness, integrity, and truth in the equation of law and order.

It has been 18 months of putting out small fires and soothing hurt feelings, while taking what I hope have been giant steps forward in the economy.

But now the time has come. Now we must devote ourselves entirely to taking more of those giant steps towards the achievement of the strong republic.

As I look back, down the road on which I came, I see, with some regret, the shards of broken friendships. But I console myself by looking forward to a time when these broken friendships will heal and grievances will be forgotten in the collective satisfaction of our common success.

For in the end, we are one nation under God, one people, with one aspiration: A country as good as it can get!

For a country to be as good as it can get, many of the right decisions are tough decisions. I have made some of the toughest. And I will make even more tough decisions in the year to come. Because the easy way out may postpone the pain but only prolong the problem. The tough decisions are the right decisions, because they serve the people, and are the source of our hope for the future.

In the last year and a half:

I led our nation in making the world recognize and respect our economic discipline.

I led our soldiers in defeating the Abu Sayyaf.

I led our government in meeting the targets we so bravely set for the welfare of our people.

Now I will lead our country towards the strong republic.

Stay with me. Samahan niyo ako! Itayo natin ang matatag at malakas na republika!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Third State of the Nation Address, July 28, 2003

**Third State of the Nation Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening of the 3rd Regular Session of the 12th Congress**

[Delivered at the Batasang Pambasa, Quezon City, on July 28, 2003]

Thank you Speaker de Venecia.

Vice President Guingona; President Ramos; Senate President Drilon; Chief Justice Davide and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court; distinguished members of the Senate and House of Representatives; His Excellency Archbishop Franco and excellencies of the diplomatic corps; members of the Cabinet; General Abaya and the officers of the Armed Forces; General Ebdane and the members of the police; fellow workers in government; ladies and gentlemen.

Yesterday, without bloodshed, without damage to property, and within a single day, we overcame an ill-conceived mutiny carried out by misguided military officers. Such actions are deplorable and will be met with the full force of the law, including their political component. Yet they signal an underlying problem that we must address.

I am constituting an independent commission to investigate the roots of the mutiny and the provocations that inspired it. At the request of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, I am also constituting an independent commission to investigate the Davao bombing.

These will be matched by a PNP Reform Commission. I thank the National Police for their solid support in yesterday's crisis, and I am sure they themselves welcome a comprehensive reform that will cure the organization not only of the failures of the scale of the Al-Ghozi escape, but also the daily devils that are the kotong cops.

By now, we should be at peace: at peace in the south, at peace in the countryside, safe in our homes and secure in our communities. But we remain at war—at war against terrorism; at war against corruption; at war against disease; at war against drugs—the greatest menace facing our country today.

Last five weeks, we've struck a major blow against the drug menace. Eight billion pesos in five weeks. It is a pity that a few days later after the penultimate success against the drug menace, we should find ourselves at war against destabilizers.

We cannot stay divided with so much we need to do together. I address myself not only to the joint houses here assembled, but to the nation-at-large.

I need you; we need each other.

Iyon ang aking sinabi nang naluklok ako bilang pangulo noong 2001. Sinabi ko noon na panahon na ng paghilom sa ating lipunan.

At sa aking unang State of the Nation Address, pinagdiin ko ang mga batayang hangarin ng karaniwang Pilipino: trabaho, pagkain sa bawat mesa, tahanan, edukasyon.

I gave my targets.

I am submitting to the Congress and to the nation a technical report of my government's performance. In sum I can say, we delivered in great part on our commitments. Hindi lumampas ang dalawang buwan pagkatapos noong State

of the Nation Address, noong 9/11, nagbago ang mundo. sa mga batayang hangaring trabaho, pagkain sa bawat mesa, tahanan, at edukasyon, ating idinagdag ang kapayapaan.

Ngunit dahil hindi pa matatag ang ating republika, hindi pa natin maaasahan na kung ang isang pangulo ay mag-uutos parang isang presidente ng isang korporasyon, ay maiintindihan at susunod kaagad ang mga institusyon at burokrasya. In a nation whose institutions are still fragile, a leader cannot run a developing country like a corporation.

For the practical purposes of most people, government exists to provide jobs, homes, education, peace, food on every table. And to do that adequately and dependably, government must possess the capacity to execute good policy and deliver basic services through strong and responsive institutions staffed by a competent and dedicated bureaucracy. In short, government must be the arm of a strong republic.

But a strong republic does not happen overnight; not even in two or three years. Nor does it happen once and for all.

In this setting, the first virtue of a modern leader is a constant sense of correct perspective, the capacity to retain her original focus, and plod on regardless. She must stick to priorities that were carefully chosen, rather than dump them at every first issue that is recklessly raised. I have stuck to my priorities: jobs, food on every table, homes, education, peace.

Many of our reforms have yet to bear fruit, but in the fullness of time our country will reap what was carefully picked, planted, and nurtured. And it will be a harvest of plenty.

The harvest has in fact started.

Sa kapayaan:

We have hit hard at terrorism and, with the help of Speaker Joe de Venecia, made advances towards a negotiated peace on two fronts: the MILF and the NDF.

Sa susunod na linggo, magsisimula na ang pag-uusap ng peace panels ng gobyerno at MILF tungo sa isang panghuling kasunduang pang-kapayapaan. We will avail of the good offices of Malaysia in the search of a political solution to the conflict with the MILF, while looking to the help of the United States in the rehabilitation of conflict areas and the eradication of the roots of war. We—all of us Filipinos—have to decide now, once and for all, whether we want peace or we want war. There is no way to peace. Peace is the way. Subalit kung ipagpipilitan ng ilang mga kaaway ng ating republika ang digmaan, wala akong magagawa kung hindi tapatan sila upang ipagtanggol ang ating mga kababayan.

I thank the senate for ratifying seven UN conventions against terrorism. I asked them to ratify the remaining five. Hinihingi ko rin sa kongreso na ipasa na ang Anti-Terrorism Law, at isama rito ang pagpataw ng mabigat na parusa sa kapabayaang pangangalaga ng mga pinaghihinahinalang terorista.

Kasama ng terorismo, ang problema ng droga, ang pinag-uugatan ng matinding pagkabahala ng mga mamamayan tungkol sa kanilang personal na kaligtasan. Ang katiwaliang nilikha ng kalakal sa droga ay malalim ang lagos at bumabagtas sa lahat ng sector. Dapat nating kapootan ang walang pakundangang pagsira sa buhay ng ating mga mamamayan na maaaring humantong sa pagkawasak ng ating mga institusyong demokratiko.

Kapag nakakausap ko ang mga magulang ng mga drug addict, nawawasak ang aking puso, ngunit lalong tumitibay ang loob ko na tama ang aking desisyong itaas ang antas ng ating paglaban sa bawal na gamot. Dadalhin ko ang labang ito sa bawat lalawigan at lungsod hanggang umabot sa mga barangay upang kumatok tayo sa mga pinto ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino. This is one fight I am taking everywhere, if we have to knock on every door. Maglulunsad tayo ng kampanya sa mga paaralan at mga komunidad para sagipin ang kabataan at bigyan ng bagong buhay ang mga drug users at tiyaking hindi sila malulong muli! Pipigain natin ang supply sa kalye sa paraang kahit

na ang masalapi ay mahihirapang sustentuhan ang kanilang bisyo. Pipilayan natin ang operasyon ng mga drug lords at ng kanilang mga padrino sa mga pasilyo ng kapangyarihan.

I thank Congress for passing the Anti-Money Laundering Law because it will help us interdict the money of the drug lords. I am now instructing the Secretary of Budget and Management to allocate a hundred million pesos for its implementation.

Ito ang ating laban at tayo ay magtatagumpay. Para sa mga big fish sa ilegal na droga, mahirap na ang mag-moratorium sa death penalty. Ngunit sa ibang bagay, pro-life pa rin ako. I will veto any bill that will try to smuggle in abortion.

Tungkol sa edukasyon:

In 2001, I said that our English literacy gives us a competitive edge in ICT. I also said that to prepare the youth to be the next generation of knowledge workers, we will upgrade math and science teaching in basic education. Kaya dinagdagan natin ang oras para sa math at English at pinag-ibayo ang laman ng science sa bagong curriculum. Nagtayo tayo ng eskwelahan sa 600 barangay na dati'y walang paaralan. Sinisimulan natin ang distance learning program o education TV para sa apat na raang pamayanang malayo at kulang ang guro.

At kagaya ni Senate President Franklin Drilon, samahan n'yo akong magtayo ng silid-aralan sa lahat ng paaralang lumalampas sa 100 mag-aaral bawat silid. In that way, we can once and for all close the perennial school building gap.

Tungkol sa tirahan:

Tayo ay nakapagtayo ng higit 100,000 bahay para sa mga maralita at halos 200,000 para sa mga manggagawa. Binigyan din natin ng katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan ang halos 300,000 na mahihirap na pamilya. Pinagtibay natin ang ancestral domain ng mga katutubo sa mahigit 360,000 hektarya ng lupain.

Tungkol sa pagkain sa bawat mesa:

Self-rated hunger according to the surveys has gone down to 6.6 percent compared to 12.7 percent just before I became president. Mayroon tayong pirmihang supply ng bigas sa halagang P16.00 bawat kilo para sa mahihirap.

At ayon sa masugid na pag-monitor ni Mar Roxas, ang ating Secretary of Trade, mula noong ako'y naging pangulo, nanatiling P8.50 ang halaga ng pangmasang sardinas, P11.00 ang mantikang lapad, P23.00 ang mantikang long neck, P28.00 ang puting asukal, P23.00 ang brown sugar, P28.00 ang kondensada, P115.00 ang baboy, P90.00 ang manok, at P160.00 ang baka. Matatag itong mga presyo mula nang ako'y naging pangulo. Dahil dito, ngayon pinakamababa ang ating inflation rate sa loob ng 20 taon. Malamang, ito ay dahil ang aking administrasyon sa tulong ng kongreso ay taun-taon gumugugol ng 20 bilyong piso para sa makataong modernisasyon ng agrikultura.

Namahagi tayo ng halos kalahating milyong hektarya sa ilalim ng reporma sa lupa. Mas marami pa tayong magagawa sa 38 bilyong pisong inilaan para dito ng desisyon ng Korte Suprema tungkol sa nakaw na yaman.

I congratulate the Supreme Court for finally granting what has taken much too long to materialize: authorizing the allocation and use of private loot for laudable public purposes.

Hinihiling ko sa Kongreso na maglaan ng bahagi nitong pondo bilang kabayaran sa mga naging biktima ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao noong Martial Law.

Mas malaki rin ang maitutulong ng gobyerno sa mga magsasaka ng niyog ngayon na naresolba na pabor sa magsasaka ang kaso ng coco levy. Uulitin ko ang sinabi ko noon pang 2001, sisiguruhin ko na makikinabang sa coco levy ay ang mga maliliit na magniyu-niyog. Hindi ko sila pababayaang madehado.

I said that there could be a million new jobs in agriculture and fisheries. We have provided more than half of that number two-thirds into my term.

Ngunit upang mabuo ang 1 milyon, kailangan isabatas natin ang panukalang gamitin ang bukirin bilang kolateral sa utang para lumawak ang daan sa rural credit at kapital. To the countless incentives that Congress has granted to business, I've matched similar programs to give a similar break to the worker in the factory and in the farm.

I do not subscribe to trickle down economics and social policy. Those who have less in life should not have to scramble for crumbs at the feet of those with too much on the table. Bilang pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga pinakamahirap ng ating bansa hinggil sa pinakamalubhang mga problema natin, dinalaw ko ang mga di kilalang barangay.

Nawasak ang aking puso nang narinig kong namatay ang Calisaan quadruplets. Lalong nakumbinsi akong pag-ibayuhin ang mga serbisyong pangkalusugan, gaya nang mabuti nating paglaban sa SARS. Ngayon, ang mga gamot na madalas gamitin ng mahihirap ay nabibili sa kalahating presyo sa mga ospital ng gobyerno.

Sa PhilHealth insurance naman, bago ako naging pangulo, isa't kalahating milyong maralita ang sakop. Ngayon, halos 7 milyon na. Gusto kong palawakin ang mga ito, ang murang gamot, at dapat hangarin natin na lahat ng dukha ay masakop sa PhilHealth. And to finance the universal coverage of PhilHealth, I ask Congress to pass the bill on the indexation of sin taxes.

Tungkol sa trabaho:

Sinabi ko noong 2001 na upang dumami ang trabaho, kailangang isaayos ang klima para sa pamumuhunan. Our economy grew by 4.4 percent GNP last year and 5.6 percent in the first quarter of this year. Only China and Vietnam did better.

Ang kahirapan ay unti-unting nagagapi. Self-rated poverty again according to the survey, is at its lowest percentage of the population in the last 16 years. Foreign investments rose 26 percent in the first quarter compared to the same period last year. But we need to reduce the risk of living, not to mention doing business here, which is why yesterday's rogues must go to jail.

We can reduce business costs by providing basic infrastructure: roads, transport, and a more efficient and rationalized power sector. Our road program is symbolized by the long-awaited expansion of the North Expressway.

On mass transport, towards the end of this year, we will complete the loop of the light railway system of Metro Manila—from Santolan in Pasig towards Aurora Boulevard in Cubao, and on to Quiapo to Blumentritt on to EDSA in Pasay and back to Cubao. Hindi tumaas ang pasahe mula noong una kong State of the Nation Address. Kaya mga jeepney drivers, nagpapasalamat ako; hindi ko kayo pababayaan.

To reduce transport costs from Mindanao to Luzon, we set up the nautical highway, a system where the cargo truck itself travels straight to its destination, making inter-island crossings on ferries, rather than loading and unloading at every port. This has reduced by 30 percent the transport costs of products from Mindanao like copra, rice, corn, and vegetables.

Nagbigay tayo ng kuryente sa mahigit 3,600 barangay. While in Metro Manila, a consumer using 100 kilowatt hour paid P526.48 last May. Today, he pays P423.20, a drop of over 100 pesos or 20 percent. His case is one of almost 2 million households benefiting from the lifeline rate program of the Energy Regulatory Commission. Another 119 electric cooperative franchise areas will also soon reduce their rates under the loan condonation program of the Electric Power Reform Act that you, Congress, passed in 2001. That is why, believe me when I say that from having the second most expensive power in Asia Pacific, we now rank seventh.

But we will need 6,000 megawatts more of power over the next 10 years. That is why we need to pass the Transco Bill to maintain a favorable ranking as we take on this added capacity. When we reduce business costs, the last should be wages, and the first should be red tape.

Kaya nagsasagawa ako ng sorpresang pagbisita sa mga tanggapan ng gobyerno, upang pasiglahin ang talagang nagsisikap at gisingin kung sino ang natutulog sa trabaho. Pinalakas natin ang pambansang ekonomiya—agrikultura, maliliit na negosyo, pabahay—upang anumang mangyari sa dayuhang ekonomiya, matatag pa rin ang Pilipinas.

Naglaan tayo ng 10 bilyong piso para sa murang pautang sa maliliit na negosyo. Nagamit na ito, kaya dadagdagan muli natin ng higit pa sa 10 bilyon.

Ang interest rates ay patuloy na bumababa. Good monetary policy and fiscal discipline and balance are the key. Our revenues surpassed the target by 21 billion pesos in the first five months of this year, driven by information technology, and helped by lifestyle checks, and 50 indictments and dismissals for graft and corruption. Thus, we held the budget deficit in check at 22 percent below ceiling.

I thank Congress for passing our e-Procurement Law because it helps us hold down expenditures. Now, I ask Congress to complete the passage of the bills on excise tax rationalization and the national revenue authority. But we must reduce corruption not only among appointive but also among elective officials.

With full financial support to my government, the registration, counting, and transmission of votes in the May 2004 elections will be completely computerized. Now, I ask congress to institute reforms in campaign finance to level the playing field and widen the choice of the electorate for worthy candidates. The strength of our investment climate also rests in great part on the realities of the global and regional environment and on how we turn those realities to our advantage.

Our country has come much closer to reattaining its strategic importance in geopolitics as an active and respected voice in international affairs. The Filipino is now recognized as a truly global worker, both at home and abroad. We have had the smallest number of strikes in the last 21 years. Increasingly, the Philippines is being recognized as an ideal site for critical operations requiring a high-quality, English-educated workforce. Eight million Filipinos live and work abroad, in jobs where they enjoy the unbeatable comparative advantages of an English-speaking education, advanced skills, and a uniquely caring nature.

The Filipino will work anywhere because he is not afraid. Like Manny Pacquiao, given the chance to compete, he will take it and he will win. It was only fitting that because of your work in Congress, overseas Filipino workers were given the overseas voting right. It was also fitting that I put in a new perspective on our relations with the United States, where three million Filipinos live and where I made a visit as their only state visitor for the year. The benefits of our engagement with the U.S. vastly outweigh any concerns about sovereign subordination. We should have the confidence to deal with other countries as equals—however rich, however strong, be they China, Japan, the members of the European Union or the United States.

We have reached out to good friends and neighbors—such as Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia and President Megawati of Indonesia—with the message that we must work together especially where democracy and security are concerned.

Ang panguluhan ay laging nahaharap sa mabibigat na suliranin. Terrorism, drugs, SARS, OFWs, Mindanao, poverty, corruption, investments, destabilization—these come to mind as we review the crises and opportunities of the past year. They sum up the problems we faced and the extraordinary responses that we made, surprising even ourselves and reviving faith in our future.

Barangay Vacante, Alcala, Pangasinan, got the SARS, took the hit, fought on, and valiantly overcame the crisis. Barangay Inug-ug, Pagalungan, Maguindanao, politely asked the MILF and the military to leave and take their fight elsewhere, thereby making their community a sanctuary of peace.

Si Sonny Ayao, umayaw sa giyera at naging community organizer kahit na s'ya ay naging MNLF sa edad na 12, at pagkatapos maging Mujahideen sa loob ng 27 taon.

The Filipinos of Kuwait, isolated by war but refusing to abandon their jobs, took care of themselves and the people around them during the Iraq conflict. Teacher Josette Biyo of Iloilo, world champion in science and math teaching, has a planet in the solar system named after her. Luz Lozada, 72 years old, ng San Isidro, Davao del Sur—hinirang na natatanging magsasaka. She is the image model of hybrid rice technology, the symbol of our agricultural modernization. Police officers Cayetano Gannaban and Raul Graza fought off 20 rebels in a firefight in Quinapondan, Eastern Samar. Police Colonel Boysie Rosales, kilabot ng mga drug lords, tumanggi sa suhol na P35 million. Hinahangaan ko ang gilás ng maraming Pilipino, ang malalim nating kaban ng kabayanihan at talino, ang ating matibay na kalooban upang mabuhay, maglingkod, at mangibabaw.

Ang ating pangarap ay walang kabawas-bawas—isang matatag na republikang hindi matitinag ng makasariling interes, yumayabong sa mga gumaganang institusyon ng pamamahala, naglilingkod sa isang masipag na lipi saan man ito kailangan upang maibigay sa kanila ang karapat-dapat nilang tanggapin.

A life of leadership is a difficult one, with few pauses for comfort and relief. These days, I find that rare moment of joy in the company of my family—especially my granddaughter, Mikaela. Just as I will do everything to make sure that the future will be kind to Mikaela and her generation, so must we all strive to turn our fears into a resolve to do right not just by ourselves, but by our children and grandchildren.

Nasa giyera tayo. giyera laban sa terorismo. giyera laban sa katiwalian. giyera laban sa kasakitan. giyera laban sa droga. giyera laban sa destabilisasyon. Sa ating sama-samang pakikipaglaban at pagtutulungan, tayo ay mangingibabaw at magwawagi.

No agtutunos tayo nga agtrabaho, agba leygi tayo.

Abe-abeng makilaban ampon mag-obra, mangibabo tamu.

Sa atong panaghiusa sa pagtrabaho ug pagbuntog sa mga kaaway, molampos gayod kita.

Sa aton pag-inupod sa mga ulubrahon kag sa pakipag-away, kita gid ang magpangibabaw.

Kasihan nawa ng Diyos ang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/gloria_macapagal_arroyo%27s_third_state_of_the_nation_address

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 2003 SONA Technical Report

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Fourth State of the Nation Address, July 26, 2004

**Fourth State of the Nation Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening of the 1st Regular Session of the 13th Congress**

[Delivered at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City, on July 26, 2004]

Thank you Speaker De Venecia; Vice President Noli de Castro; President Fidel Ramos; Senate President Drilon; Chief Justice Davide and the Justices of the Supreme Court; honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives; His Excellency Archbishop Franco and the excellencies of the diplomatic corps; members of the Cabinet; commanders of the Armed Forces; officers and members of the Philippine National Police; fellow workers in government; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Angelo de la Cruz is home.

We did it! Congratulations to the Filipino people. [*Applause*]

Samakatuwid, ipabatid sa lahat, mula sa pook at panahong ito, sa bawat Pilipino, saan man naroroon...

You have a government—indeed, you have a country—that cares. Your life is held more dearly than international acclaim. [*Applause*] And you have a President who is your friend. [*Applause*]

Why was Angelo de la Cruz saved? Because I stuck to my oath. Since I first became President in 2001, my declared foreign policy focus has been to protect the vital interests of the nation, including our 8 million overseas Filipinos.

And I cannot apologize for being a protector of my people. [*Applause*]

The difference of a few weeks, for a pullout already decided on, could not justify sacrifice of a human life.

Sacrificing Angelo de la Cruz would have been a pointless provocation; it would have put the lives of a million and a half Filipinos in the Middle East at risk, by making them part of the war.

Wars are for combatants. As I speak soldiers are being held hostage by communist insurgents, but they don't expect to be released except by the compassion of their captors or a military operation.

We have been fighting the longest-running communist insurgency in history. We have been coming to grips with fundamentalist terrorism long before 9/11.

As the leader of the nation, I say in behalf of the Filipino people to the world: We are strong and principled believers in democracy. Four generations of fighting Filipinos have ceaselessly struggled against totalitarians and terrorists for our freedom, for the freedom of our people and the people of the world.

We have fought the enemy, and taken as good as we gave—not from a safe distance but in close quarters. Bataan and Corregidor, Korea and Vietnam, East Timor, Kosovo, Liberia, to name a few.

When I opted to save Angelo de la Cruz, I was reflecting whether one life should be sacrificed for no pressing reason or saved by accelerating an ongoing pullout.

I did not sacrifice policy to save a human life. I applied policy for that purpose. *[Applause]* The Philippines has no policy that demands sacrifice of human lives.

Ask yourselves this: If Angelo de la Cruz had been sacrificed, what would change for the better in Iraq today?

Having saved one Filipino from a painful and pointless death, we must seize the unity we attained to improve our government and save our economy. *[Applause]*

Pinapangako ko ang isang bagong direksyon: mamamayan muna. Ang taong bayan ang pinakamalaki nating yaman. Ngunit madalas, kaunti lang ang atensyon na binibigay sa kanilang pag-unlad. Di tuloy matawid ang agwat ng mayaman at mahirap. Di tuloy mapa-abot sa lahat ang biyaya ng demokrasya.

I want to create economic opportunity at home and abroad. I don't want just one or the other. I want both.

But it can only be done with focus, with energy, and with a common purpose to do that which still lies within our power: put our economic house back in working order *[applause]* before it finds itself beyond hope of repair and doomed to share the fate of failed nations.

We made a head start in the last three years; we must take bolder steps forward in the next six.

Inflation is under control. The ordinary housewife has been buying her rice and fish at stable prices.

New investments, foreign and, better yet, domestic, were made. Three million more of our people found jobs in the last three years compared to half a million in the three years before that.

Malaki ang pag-unlad sa pangunahing pangangailangan—malinis na tubig, health insurance, tirahan, paaralan, aklat.

We beat down crime, we are breaking up the drug and kidnapping syndicates, we are mopping up the stragglers. The people are safer in the streets, in their homes, and in their places of work.

Every government in the world is at war with its own corruption; we have made lifestyle checks a lethal weapon, and adopted procurement reforms to take the fight forward.

Thanks to many of you, I emerged from the last election with more votes than any previous president. *[Applause]*

As a further sign of the people's overwhelming support, they gave me a huge majority in Congress, and a huge majority among the local governments.

This is a new day, with a new direction, and a renewed confidence in what we can achieve together.

I am determined to prove that this tremendous show of faith and confidence is well deserved.

The season of bitter partisanship is over; the season of service is upon us all—majority, minority, opposition, administration.

In my inaugural address, I laid down a 10-point agenda for the next six years—not utopia but something practical we can achieve and accomplish on time.

What I did promise was that my term would be the irreversible turning point.

Ipinangangako ko—iiwanan na natin ang ligalig at alinlangan.

At the end of my term, the question will not longer be whether we can compete but where else in the world shall we take an indisputable competitive advantage.

The next six years, we hope, is when we finally get things right.

Is there something about that goal we cannot all agree on? Is there a reason we cannot all work together?

All that's needed is to clear away a couple of obstacles, as I intend to do with five key reform packages: (1) job creation through economic growth; (2) anticorruption through good government; (3) social justice and basic needs; (4) education and youth opportunity; and (5) energy independence and savings.

Tough decisions will have to be made. It's going to be tough love from hereon. It must be tougher on those who've had it easy than on those who've had it tough already.

Humarap din sa problema ang mga karatig bansa.

Ang kanilang sikreto'y pagkakaisa ng mamamayan, suporta sa liderato, at sakripisyo ng bawat isa.

We must bear the pain and share the pain to enjoy the gain together.

Those with more must sacrifice more; those with less are already living lives of self-sacrifice.

Maraming magsasabi: matagal na silang nagsasakripisyo. Ngunit hinihingi ko sa inyo: konti pang sakripisyo.

We must wait with patience for the reforms to work. In the meantime, we must work more productively because world competition is keen and we want the jobs not only to come, but to stay.

Our most urgent problem is the budget deficit. Sometimes it's unavoidable; but chronic deficits are always bad.

Sometimes stamping out deficits too vigorously can slow down growth. But ignoring them can kill the economy. It sends the wrong signal that we don't understand our fiscal predicament and will not help ourselves. This will drive away investments, exacerbate the deficit, and hurt job growth.

Chronic deficits drastically reduce government's ability to make those infrastructure investments that business needs to grow and create jobs.

Chronic deficits mean undertaking less social services that private charity will never provide but without which social war is inevitable. This is a surefire formula for national failure.

So, we must raise revenues, expand government services, yet cut costs—all at the same time. It boils down to right priorities.

The beauty of the fiscal problem is that all the solutions are known, though applying the right ones is tricky.

All the solutions require: toughness on the part of government, cooperation on the part of business, patience on the part of our people, and active support on the part of Congress.

All the solutions require profound, even personal, changes. Politicians will need to focus on the job at hand rather than on their prospect of re-election.

The worst offender yet the hardest to pin down is corporate corruption. Businessmen must adopt an attitude of tax acceptance not tax avoidance. They must stop trying to outrun the tax collector. They must recognize that only a fiscally stronger government can create a more congenial business environment: [applause] greater security, better infrastructure, cheaper credit, more business.

My administration will undertake reforms to raise or save P100 billion. [Applause] I ask Congress to pass eight revenue measures that will collect P80 billion more.

Alam kong maaasahan ko ang mga mambabatas upang burahin ang deficit, upang ituloy ang magandang trabaho, at upang itaguyod ang saligan ng matapat na gobyerno at malakas na ekonomiya.

Investments in infrastructure and energy provide the greatest multiplier effect for growth and job creation. ‘Pag maganda ang imprastraktura gaya ng kalsada, tulay, pantalan, telepono, kuryente, maraming mamumuhunan. Maraming magkakaroon ng trabaho.

We must achieve sufficient, efficient, cheap energy in the near term. We must be sure to have the capacity to meet the demands of a growing economy, so as not to choke off growth when it comes, and thereby lose the opportunities that may not come again.

To this end, NAPOCOR power-generating plants and transmission lines must be privatized but not in a fire sale. [Applause] Delivering electricity to virtually an entire country as big as ours cannot possibly be worth nothing but the trouble of running it.

NAPOCOR’s transmission systems will be sold on terms that recognize the lucrative monopoly of its transmission grid. I ask Congress to pass the Transco bill that already passed the House in the 12th Congress. [Applause]

Our investments in social justice and basic needs are as vital to our future as fiscal and macroeconomic reforms. A nation deeply divided will not stand. And it certainly will not move forward.

Our nation is divided by social and economic faultlines. The tectonic plates may shift with unthinkable consequences.

Some say that is it cheaper to die than to get well from an illness, that it is impossible to find clean water in this rainfall country, that in this modern day and age, part of the country still sits in darkness. This is a terrible waste and a terrible shame.

Kaya ang aking agenda para sa maralita ay hanapbuhay; reporma sa lupa; tubig, gamot, at kuryente; pagtatanggol at kapangyarihan para sa mahina.

In fact, we will now be able to bring clean water to the entire country because during my previous term, you, Congress finally passed the Clean Water Act; because in my first days as president in 2001 I signed the Solid Waste Act—thank you also for giving me that opportunity—and because we are reforesting our watersheds.

The place to start now is livelihood, for 10 million Filipinos.

The growing industrial, service, and microenterprise sectors will take care of some, a thriving agribusiness sector will keep more in the countryside rather than burdening a Metro Manila that is already cracking under the weight of overpopulation.

Land reform covers agrarian reform, urban land reform, and ancestral domain land reform. I ask Congress to qualify farmland as bank collateral and reform the system of urban land titles.

Ang kapangyarihan ng taong bayan ay puso ng demokrasya. Dapat kasama sila sa paghugis ng kanilang kapalaran.

Dadalhin ko ang aking mga reporma sa taong bayan. Ako'y magpapaliwanag, ako'y makikinig.

I have shown that government does care even for a single Filipino life. Now we must show that we care for the rest of the Filipino people, especially the weakest among us. *[Applause]*

To adapt the words of Adam Smith to the information age, "The greatest improvement in the productive powers of labor seems to have been the effects of a modern education."

Economies have exhausted the possibilities of the division of labor; the way further forward now is a better-educated, more adaptable workforce.

We need to start early. And we need to maintain the highest educational standards. I ask Congress to legislate an extra year of studies not by adding a fifth year of high school but by standardizing what is taught in the barangay day care centers. *[Applause]*

To expand youth opportunity, we need to focus on technical and vocational education; on strengthening English, Science and Technology, and love of country. *[Applause]* As I said in my inaugural: It is not free markets but patriotism that makes countries strong. *[Applause]*

There is a sense in which as a society we have failed the youth in their formative years, in growing up normally and productively, in getting a good education, in learning the habits of honesty and citizenship and civic discipline.

I ask the educational system, the parents, the church, and pillars of the community to help shape a new culture of honesty, patriotism, respect, discipline, and service for young Filipinos. *[Applause]*

The roof cannot collapse when the value pillars of government and society are sound and strong.

I fervently support the judicial reforms being carried out by our Supreme Court. *[Applause]*

I ask Congress for a law making the ombudsman's function as effective as Hong Kong's independent commission against corruption. *[Applause]*

Bureaucratic corruption with its numerous leakages is bad. So is government incompetence. Unlike in the private sector, where the free market punishes mistakes, government incompetence punishes only the public.

We have to tear away layers of inefficiency piled on by decades of political accommodation: redundancy in the national service, waste in local governments, and pointless procedures for getting done what isn't needed anyway to secure the public welfare. Just how does paying off the health inspector banish bacteria from a dirty kitchen? *[Applause]*

By definition, public services are what the private sector will not do except for a price the public cannot pay.

Where the private sector can do it better and cheaper, government may have to step aside. *[Applause]* But the watchwords are better and cheaper. Where privatization only spells public pillage, government will continue to do the work. *[Applause]*

But that's no reason to spare public services from the test of competitive performance.

We will simplify procedures to eliminate fixers.

We will downsize the government, motivate excess employees to become entrepreneurs, and increase the pay of a lean and mean bureaucracy. *[Applause]*

I have abolished 80 offices under the Office of the President. I will abolish 30 more.

I ask Congress to pass a law on government reengineering, with silver parachutes for redundant offices.

Once we have proved to our people that we have done what we can within the present structure of government, we can move on to changing the system to one that enhances our freedom and flexibility to do more.

I expect that next year, Congress will start considering the resolutions for charter change. *[Applause]*

No one has a monopoly on right ideas. I am reaching out to all segments of society and all parties, be they with me or against me, to join me in those things that should be everyone's concern because they rise above politics to the level of patriotism. *[Applause]*

I do not want a honeymoon period after which we can forget the country and go after each other again. I want a marriage not of convenience but of conviction, across the spectrum of parties and groups, encompassing the range of intelligent political, religious, and economic views. *[Applause]* I want a marriage for at least the life of this Congress. *[Applause]*

I do not ask for unprincipled support because it will not hold.

I do ask for an end to unprincipled obstructionism because that always succeeds in defeating our best efforts. *[Applause]*

Tunay nga na kahirapan at kawalan ng katarungan ang sagabal sa ating pag-unlad. Ngunit ang mga nagsusulsol sa mahihirap para manggulo ang sumisira sa ating kinabukasan. *[Applause]*

So this must stop.

We must put a stop to that.

Every year, every President tells Congress that it is the last chance for meaningful change.

This time I will say it again, adding only that past presidents were right. And that each time change doesn't happen, makes change harder and less likely to happen the next time around.

The time for change is well past due.

This time, let me say, let's just do it!

Mabuhay ang Pilipino!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. *[Applause]* *[Standing ovation]*

Mabuhay ang Pilipino! Mabuhay!

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Fifth State of the Nation Address, July 25, 2005

**Fifth State of the Nation Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening of the 2nd Regular Session of the 13th Congress**

[Delivered at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City, on July 25, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you, Speaker de Venecia.

Vice President de Castro; President Ramos; Senate President Drilon and the members of the Senate; members of the House of Representatives; Chief Justice Davide and the members of the judiciary; Archbishop Franco and the excellencies of the diplomatic corps; fellow government workers whether elected, appointed, or civil servants; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Every year, we meet on this day in this great hall to celebrate democracy and take stock of the nation: the country and its condition; the government and its performance; the people and their well-being.

Ours is a country divided; the story of our nation is a tale of two Philippines; almost, as it were, two countries under the same name.

One is the Philippines whose economy, after long years of cumulative national endeavor, is now poised for take off. The other is the Philippines whose political system, after equally long years of degeneration, has become a hindrance to progress.

As a country on the verge of take off, our storyline would surprise many at home and abroad. The story includes an economy that grew more than 6% last year and that has continued to work in the teeth of the biggest oil price hikes in history, while generating 4 million jobs in the last four years. *[Applause]*

The story includes marked improvements in tax collections, infrastructure, housing construction, shelter security for the urban poor and indigenous peoples, and rice productivity. *[Applause]*

The story includes 69 million beneficiaries of health care insurance, including 30 million indigents, whose re-enrollment started early this year and is still ongoing. *[Applause]*

That same story, over four years, saw the drug menace cut in half, the rash of kidnappings become a thing of the past, and insurgency in the south abated.

This story should work itself out as one about an economy as resilient and full of potential as its people are patient and hardworking, guided by a government—with the executive and the legislative hand-in-hand—that is able to pass a no-nonsense budget and make the tough decisions to put our fiscal house in order. *[Applause]*

I especially refer to our recent titanic struggle to enact the three laws that comprised the biggest fiscal package in our history, the biggest revenue increase in a generation that will break the vicious cycle of financing development by borrowing and having to borrow again just to service those loans. This is the one reform that will snap the chain that

has bound our future to a profligate past and the debt-burdened present. *[Applause]* The Filipino's strong sense of family has given Congress a stronger resolve not to pass on today's debt, and bankrupt our children and grandchildren tomorrow. That struggle has done the House and the Senate great honor. Congratulations to you. *[Applause]*

Abroad, the story continues. We've worked long and hard to restore our country to the prominent place it once held as cofounder of the United Nations and the free world's first line of defense in the east. We won a seat in the UN security council, where we presided over the landmark resolution calling for democracy in Iraq. The Philippines chaired the historic conference on interfaith cooperation for peace at the UN, the fruit of a bold and creative initiative by your Speaker of the House. *[Applause]*

We head the APEC antiterrorism task force. Our victories in the war on terror have been acknowledged by no less than President Bush before the U.S. National Defense University. The Jemaah Islamiya and the Abu Sayyaf can only pick up the pieces of its broken backbone in Mindanao.

We've worked with the Organization of the Islamic Conference to forge peace with our Muslim brothers. Eighty percent of our peace talks with them have been completed. *[Applause]* Permanent peace in Mindanao is within reach. *[Applause]*

Indeed, our story as a country on the verge of take off is real. Analysts need only to look at our stock market, and even the peso-dollar exchange rate, to sense the strong anticipation of significant improvements, if only we would overcome the tendency to be our own worst enemy. *[Applause]*

Thus, with investors both here and abroad in mind, I invite you all to join me in sending them a strong message from this great hall: We will not waver in our commitment to economic reform and fiscal discipline, whatever the political cost. *[Applause]*

The other message to send is that we will address the burden that the other Philippine story imposes on our anticipated take off. I refer to the story of how our political system has now become a hindrance to our national progress.

Over the years, our political system has degenerated to the extent that it is difficult for anyone to make any headway yet keep his hands clean. To be sure, the system is still capable of achieving great reforms. But, by and large, our political system has betrayed its promise to each new generation of Filipinos, not a few of whom are voting with their feet, going abroad, and leaving that system behind.

Perhaps we politicians have done our best; but maybe our best is not enough, given the present system. Perhaps we have strained the present political system to its final limit.

It is time to turn to the people, bring them into government, and change the way that government is done. *[Applause]*

The people want government that works for them at every level. They want good government that begins at their doorstep in the barangay, and does not end before the closed door of a bureaucrat in Metro Manila. *[Applause]*

The system clearly needs fundamental change, and the sooner the better. *[Applause]* It's time to start the great debate on charter change. *[Applause]*

We must address such questions as how much more government is needed for the greater safety and economic security of our people, and how much less government is more conducive to free enterprise and economic progress.

The mode of charter change is the exclusive prerogative of Congress. But a constituent assembly may well give our people the quickest reforms. *[Applause]*

I shall work with Congress, civil society groups, and local government executives [applause] who are convinced that charter changes are needed to enable the country to surmount the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century. [Applause]

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the local government executives [applause] who have brought about an LGU power revolution through transformative leadership. [Applause]

The economic progress and social stability of the provinces, along with the increasing self-reliance and efficiency of political developments and public services there, make a compelling case for federalism. [Applause]

Perhaps it's time to take the power from the center to the countryside that feeds it. [Applause]

I recognize that our form of government will be the decision of the body constituted to undertake charter change. But we should consider that legislation could be quickened and laws made more responsive to the people under a parliamentary system, similar to that [applause] of our progressive neighbors in the region.

But even as we make a serious start in charter change, I hope we can still work together on other initiatives to the lasting benefit of our people. [Applause]

In the area of education, we've spent our increased resources on better-trained teachers in more classrooms, teaching students in more effective ways. We've laid a strong foundation by building almost 30,000 classrooms in the past four years, providing computer access to more than 3,000 high schools, and beginning a "healthy start" breakfast program for our young schoolchildren. [Applause]

I ask congress to pass the Pre-Need Code to rehabilitate, reform and regulate the pre-need educational programs that worked so well in the past as a major vehicle for youth education entitlement. [Applause]

College education is the great Filipino dream. But in a world of rapid technological change, getting a job or keeping it depends as much on how well one reasons as how well one uses his hands. I have issued E.O. 358 so that hours spent in vocational training can be credited towards a college degree. [Applause] That will combine job readiness with the dream of a college education while increasing the competitiveness of our nation.

But our competitiveness is greatly endangered today by the global oil crisis. I call on Congress to pass legislation encouraging renewable and indigenous energy. [Applause]

In the area of national security, I urge the swift passage of an antiterrorism law that will protect rather than subvert, enhance rather than weaken, the rights and liberties that terrorism precisely threatens with extinction. [Applause]

These examples serve to highlight that there is much work to be done.

Now is not the time for divisiveness, and while there's no avoiding partisan politics, there can be a determined effort by all sides to limit the collateral damage on a country poised for take-off. [Applause]

Let's call on the Lord to lead us. Let us ask him for the grace to make us worthy of his healing our land.

Alam kong tayong lahat ay naghahangad ng isang makabuluhang pagbabago para sa ating bayan. Tayong lahat ay nagsisikap para matamo ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Kung kaya't ako'y nakikiusap na tulungan ninyo ako, para sa kapakanan ng ating bayan. [Applause]

We may disagree among ourselves but let us never lose sight of that greater battle for one people, one country, one Philippines. [Applause]

Not the country of this or that president but the Philippines of our shared and passionate affections. [*Applause*]

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. [*Applause*] [*Standing ovation*]

Thank you.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Sixth State of the Nation Address, July 24, 2006

**Sixth State of the Nation Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening of the 3rd Regular Session of the 13th Congress**

[Delivered at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City, on July 24, 2006]

Thank you.

Thank you, Speaker de Venecia. Congratulations, Senate President Manny Villar; Vice President Noli de Castro; President Ramos; Chief Justice Panganiban; Members of the diplomatic corps; senators; congressmen and congresswomen; other officials, ladies and gentlemen.

Sa araw na ito, nakatuon ang isip natin sa ating mga kababayan sa Lebanon. Nasa kuko sila ngayon ng malagim na paglala ng digmaan. Kahapon lamang, sinalubong natin ang unang 200 na Pilipinong lumikas doon; 500 pa ang mauuwi natin sa susunod na apat na araw.

Sa ating mga OFW, tunay kayong mga bagong bayani. Sa inyong paglilingkod sa pamilya, sa ating bayan, at sa Diyos, maraming salamat.

Sa ating mga kababayan, a journey of a thousand miles does not begin with a single step. It starts with the first step, with gathering the means to complete it successfully. Those means are now at hand.

To my friends in Congress who, in the face of grave political consequences, championed and passed some of the most severe and critical fiscal reforms to save our economy, maraming salamat. You are the true friends of the Filipino people. For the real challenge has never been to blame but to fix what is wrong in our country and our economy.

Dahil sa inyo, sa wakas may pondo na tayo, hindi lamang para ibayad sa interes, kundi para sa edukasyon, mas mabuting tulay at kalsada, pagbigay kalinga sa kalusugan at higit na trabaho sa ating bansa. Now, we have the money to pay down our debt and to build up our country.

To the civil servants who rose to the challenge of turning a weakening economy to a strong republic, through more vigorous tax collection and more vigilant action against corruption, maraming salamat. We have achieved record revenue collections. We are lining up corrupt officials to face the consequences of their misdeeds. And finally earned the respect of the international community as a serious and viable state for our fiscal discipline and billions of pesos in annual interest savings that are now going into necessary public investments.

To our men and women in the armed services, the huge and deep core of your loyalty has earned the nation's accolade. The few mutineers have been condemned by the people. They and their partisan cohorts and funders are being brought to justice. Sa nakararaming kawal at pulis na nagtaguyod ng watawat at Saligang Batas, maraming salamat.

And at a time when we must each, as individuals and as communities, take greater responsibility, our local government officials man the frontline of change: change for greater accountability, for better service, and more responsiveness to their constituents. Sa inyong lahat, mga local government officials, maraming salamat.

Higit sa lahat, salamat sa sambayanang Pilipino, para sa inyong mga sakripisyo, sa inyong tiyaga, for believing, in the face of the greatest hardships, in our ability to surmount the obstacles to the future you deserve; you who have resisted persistent if not pathetic calls for despair instead of faith, for anarchy instead of harmony, salamat, salamat, taos-pusong pasasalamat.

So I stand before you today to deliver a state of the nation that is focused on what the people want; the people want to know the plan to put us on the path to prosperity.

I am not here to talk about politics; I am here to talk about what the people want; details on the state of the nation and what their government is doing to make progress every single day.

Sama-sama nating isusulong ang bansa patungo sa kinabukasang nagniningning.

Gaya ng nakikita sa graph na ito, dahil sa ating reporma sa ekonomiya, we now have the funds to address social inequity and economic disparity. Too many, masyadong marami, ang mamamayang nagugutom. Hindi ako hihinto hanggang magtagumpay ang ating laban sa kahirapan.

We now have the funds to stamp out terrorism and lawless violence.

May pondo na tayo para labanan ang katiwalian.

Our reforms have earned us P1 billion from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Account for more investigators, prosecutors, and new technology to fight corruption. We are matching this with another billion from our fiscal savings.

We now have the funds for constitutional and electoral changes. Sa kasalukuyang sistema, napakabagal ng proseso, at bukas sa labis na pagtutunggali, at sikil ang lalawigan at mamamayan sa paghahari ng Imperial Manila. Panahon nang ibalik ang kapangyarihan sa taumbayan at lalawigan. For surely, there must be a better way to do politics, so that those who lose elections do not make the country pay for their frustrated ambitions. There must be a better way so that those who win the nation's mandate to govern can work without delay and whimsical obstruction. There must be a better way.

Meanwhile, now we can fund the Medium Term Public Investment Program. Sumusulong na ang ating plano na may tatlong yugto. Una, ang makaahon sa mga dekada ng utang at kapos ng pondo. Nagawa na natin ito. Ikalawang yugto, ang pagbabalik sa taumbayan ng mas malaking kita ng pamahalaan: upang makapagpundar ng kalinga sa kalusugan, edukasyon, at trabaho na kailangang-kailangan ng mamamayan. Ginagawa na rin natin ito. And finally, phase three: to invest in the natural advantages and natural resources of each section of our nation so that when harnessed together, the major economic regions of the nation are larger than the sum of its parts.

We will enhance the competitive advantage of the natural "super regions" of the Philippines: the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, the Metro Luzon Urban Beltway, Central Philippines, Mindanao, and the Cyber Corridor.

In North Luzon, we will prioritize agribusiness investments. The agricultural and fisheries potential of the Cordilleras, Ilocandia, and Cagayan Valley can feed Luzon affordably. And nearness to North Asia holds the rich promise of agricultural exports and tourism.

My father built the Halsema Highway from Baguio to Bontoc, and the Bagabag airport in Nueva Vizcaya to access the Ifugao rice terraces, which by the way, the UNESCO has recently praised for the way we have carried out our heritage preservation policy. We have rehabilitated the Baguio to Mount Data leg of the highway and the rest of Halsema will now follow. We will upgrade the Bagabag airport and build a new one in Lallo, Cagayan, which will connect to Cordillera by upgrading the Tabuk-Tuguegarao Road.

Sa Tabuk, Kalinga, noong Abril, tumanggap ng titulo sa lupa ang ilang matatanda, pagkatapos nilang naghintay ng 20 taon mula noong napirmahan ang Mount Data Accord ng gobyerno at ng Cordillera People's Liberation Army. May isang matanda, suot ang lumang uniporme ng CPLA. Pumila, hila-hila ang isang binatilyo. Sabi niya, "This is not for me but for him." Agad inabot ang titulo sa apo. Narito ngayon si Ginoong Ama Balunggay at ang kaniyang apo si Jacob.

And our postharvest support shall continue, like the cold chain that we set up in 2004 for La Trinidad, Benguet, under Mayor Nestor Fongwan. It consisted of a refrigerated storage facility and refrigerated trucks to deliver vegetables to Metro Manila. Nais kong tumaas ang kita ng mga magsasaka, at ang ina ng bawat tahanan ay makabili ng mura at sariwang gulay para sa kaniyang mga anak.

So that the people will know how well their money is spent, Benguet and its towns of Bakun, Bokod, and Itogon have rolled out the new electronic government accounting system in their jurisdictions.

Ifugao was able to cut its poverty in half in the first three years of our administration, from 56% to 28%. Congratulations. We hope that through these programs, the other provinces can replicate the success of Ifugao. Hangad nating dumami ang mga taga-Cordillera sa mga propesyon na tinitingalaan ng bayan, gaya ng mga abogadong sina Maurice Domogan at Romeo Brawner. Ibig din nating makapaghanda ang Cordillera sa awtonomiya pagdating ng pederalismo, ayon nawa sa pagbabago ng Saligang Batas.

Sa Dagupan, inilunsad na ng mga kolehiyo gaya ng Northwestern Lyceum University ang ladderized system of education. Sa ganitong sistema, magagamit sa unibersidad and mga kursong kinuha sa vocational school at ang karanasan sa trabaho.

We will expand President Ramos' flagship San Roque Multipurpose Dam with the massive Agno River Project. Another major project is the Banaoang Irrigation. We allocate P200 million a month for small irrigation projects like those in the flood control plan of the Region II Development Council headed by Bishop Ramon Villena. Plus another P200 million a month for farm-to-market roads.

Also in the works is an international airport in Poro, La Union, and the improvement of the two airports in Batanes as recommended by Governor Vic Gato. Ilocos Sur will have a seaport in Salomague, while the Cagayan Zone Authority will better the one in Port Irene.

To save dollars, windmills in Batanes and Ilocos Norte turn megawinds into megawatts. When Army Commander Romy Tolentino was North Luzon commander, he became a soldier-farmer, planting jatropha as yet another alternative fuel.

The Metro Luzon Urban Beltway spans most of Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Mindoro, and Marinduque. It must be a globally competitive urban, industrial, and services center because it produces more than half of the country's GDP.

To be world-class we invest in five comprehensive strategies for global competitiveness: (1) Make food plentiful and affordable to keep our labor cost globally competitive; (2) Reduce the cost of electricity to make our factories regionally competitive; (3) Modernize infrastructure at least cost to efficiently transport goods and people; (4) Mobilize, upgrade, and disseminate knowledge and technologies for productivity; and (5) Reduce red tape in all agencies to cut business costs.

The most prohibitive red tape is in our outmoded Constitution. We need Constitutional change to bring our rules of investment into the new millennium.

The new public bidding process has been shortened to 45 days for infrastructure, and 26 days for supplies, as of today. Even before this, Metro Manila firms paying bribes for public contracts declined from 57% in 2003 to 46% today. Congratulations, Metro Manila.

Machine-readable electronic passports will enhance the credibility of Philippine travel documents, improve the mobility, and increase the prospects of Philippine business and labor.

Legitimate mobility is hampered by human trafficking. Through the support of the USAID, we have convicted human traffickers with the Tongco spouses who were sentenced in a Quezon City court last December. These accomplishments removed us from the from the priority antitrafficking watchlist.

To lower power costs we introduced the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market last month. Let's give it a chance to work. And we would like big power consumers like electronics, our number one export, to avail of lower power rates from the National Power Corporation. On coco-biodiesel, we now have enough capacity for the proposed 1% blend just waiting to be passed into law.

The Subic-Clark corridor is on its way to a competitive international logistics center. This will be my legacy to my cabalens, jointly with Lito and Mark Lapid, Rey Aquino, Ana Bondoc, Blue Boy Nepomuceno, my son Mikey and Tarzan Lazatin. We jumpstarted it with giant investments in the Subic Seaport, the Clark Airport, and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

And to bring the beltway to the west we will connect the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Road to Dingalan Port through Nueva Ecija, and the Marikina- Infanta Road to the port of Real.

Upang ibsan ang pagod ng mga empleyadong namamasahe sa trapiko sa Kalakhang Maynila, mangangapital tayo sa mga expressway at tren.

We will have a continuous highway from Clark to Metro Manila to Batangas Port. Tapos na iyong expressway mula Clark hanggang Maynila. Sa ngayon wala nang isang oras ang biyahe mula Clark hanggang Monumento. Ngayon iiwasan natin ang trapiko mula Monumento, dahil idudugtong natin ang North Expressway sa C-5. Tutulong si Sonny Belmonte sa right-of-way. Ang C-5 naman ay konektado na sa South Luzon Expressway. Ang South Luzon Expressway ay pinapalapat naman hanggang Calamba. Sa Agosto, pahahabain ito hanggang Batangas. We will also build the Coastal Road to Bacoar, which has become urban under Jesse Castillo.

Pagdurugtongin natin ang MRT at LRT mula Monumento hanggang North EDSA upang mabuo ang biyahe paikot sa Kamaynilaan, at maibsan ang trapik. We will construct the Northrail to Clark and the Southrail to Lucena and on to Bicol, and upgrade the link between them. We will also extend the LRT to Bacoar. Sa pagbilis ng biyahe patungo at palabas ng Metro Manila, makakatira ang manggagawa sa mas mura at maaliwalas na lalawigan.

Maayos na ang kapaligiran sa riles ng tren sa South Superhighway. Masaya ang mga pamilyang hinatid namin ni Vice President Noli de Castro sa kanilang bago at permanenteng relokasyon. Teddy Boy Locsin said it hadn't been done before, and couldn't be done at all. Well, Teddy?

Ngayon gagawin ito sa Maynila, si Lito Atienza ang bahala.

We thank China for agreeing to fund these housing needs. Huwaran ng ating programang pabahay para sa mahihirap ang mga proyekto ng Iglesia ni Kristo at Gawad Kalinga.

Ngunit kapos sa tubig ang mga taga-West Zone ng Kamaynilaan. Kaya bibigyan natin ng prayoridad hindi lamang ang edukasyon, kuryente, enerhiya, at kalusugan, kundi tubig din. We are setting up a 300 million liter per day pumping station for Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and Parañaque.

We will build a roll-on-roll-off port system to link Lucena, Quezon, to Boac, Marinduque, like the Batangas-Mindoro RORO.

Sa ganitong mga proyekto, palalakasin natin ang ekonomiya ng mga barangay at lalawigan. And we will end the long oppression of barangays by rebel terrorists who kill without qualms, even their own. Sa mga lalawigang sakop

ng 7th Division, nakikibaka sa paglaban si Jovito Palparan. Hindi siya aatras hanggang makawala sa gabi ng kilabot ang mga pamayanan at maka-ahon sa buwang-liwayway ng hustisya at kalayaan.

In the harshest possible terms I condemn political killings. We together stopped judicial executions with the abolition of the death penalty. We urge witnesses to come forward. Together we will stop extrajudicial executions.

Central Philippines has the competitive edge in tourism in its natural wonders and the extraordinary hospitality of its people. The area sweeps across Palawan and Romblon, the Visayas and Bicol, plus the northern Mindanao islands of Camiguin, Siargao, and Dapitan. Topbilled by Boracay, Cebu, Bohol, and Palawan, it attracts more than half of the foreign tourists to the Philippines. It is also the center of geothermal power in the country, which we continue to develop.

The priority here is tourism investments. Coming soon for superstar Boracay are an instrument landing system for the Kalibo airport and a P3 billion private investment in a San Jose, Romblon, airport, plus good roads to spillover destinations all over Panay.

In Cebu, Gwen Garcia is constructing a world-class convention center for the ASEAN and East Asian Summits in December.

Helping our infrastructure upgrading is the fall in bribery for public sector contracts in Metro Cebu, from 62% of companies in 2004 to 47% today. Congratulations to Cardinal Vidal for shepherding his flock and to Metro Cebu Mayors Osmeña, Ouano, and Fernandez, and Metro Cebu representatives del Mar, Cuenco, Gullas, and Soon-Ruiz.

Bohol became a destination distinct from Cebu since it defeated the terrorist insurgency with community initiatives led by the power tandem of Rico Aumentado and General Johnny Gomez, now the NCR Commander. It now merits its own international airport, just as our country deserves a world-class Constitution strongly supported by Governor Aumentado and the league of local authorities.

Tourism in Palawan requires the upgrading of the airports of Puerto Princesa, Busuanga, San Vicente (hometown of Congressman Alvarez that's why he's clapping) and the building of a new one in Balabac; as well as a continuous road backbone from El Nido to Bataraza.

We will lengthen the Dumaguete runway for tourism as well as electronics. Valencia, Negros Oriental, could attract semiconductor firms with power rates subsidized by the geothermal field of Palimpinon. Negros will also advance energy independence with ethanol projects in San Carlos City and Tamlang Valley once the biofuel law is passed. (You have done your part, Migs.)

We will serve Guimaras by the airport being built in Santa Barbara, Iloilo, and by a new RORO port in Sibunag. We will link Sipalay via Silay airport funded by the national government and Kabankalan airport being built by its local government. Thank you.

For Bicol's whale sharks, beaches and, of course, Mount Mayon, we have started acquiring the right of way for an international airport in Daraga, Albay. We will provide the means to the perfect surfs of the Pacific by upgrading the airports of Siargao, Guiuan, and Tacloban.

We will widen the road to Dakak in Dapitan, and RORO will connect Siquijor to Santander, Cebu; Camiguin to Jagna, Bohol; Ubay, Bohol, to Maasin, Southern Leyte, for diving in Limasawa.

We will bring Masbate and Biliran into the RORO Eastern Nautical Highway from Surigao through Leyte through Naval and Maripipi in Biliran through Esperanza, Aroroy, and Burias Island in Masbate and on to Bicol. The much-awaited 10-megawatt generator set arrived in Masbate last Saturday. It is ready to power up the province before the end of the month.

Camiguin, Romblon, and Camarines Norte got out of the list of poorest provinces in 2003. With tourism these provinces can become rich.

Also winning the war against poverty and calamity, undaunted by unimaginable catastrophe, the valiant people of Southern Leyte, under the leadership of Rosette Lerias and Oging Mercado (our Rudy Guliani) are rebuilding the lives of Saint Bernard and San Francisco from their tragic mudslides. Yesterday, I asked the Japanese government to help Southern Leyte implement an integrated management approach to deal with their critical ecosystem, like the one the World Bank has approved for the Bicol River Basin.

Mindanao is our priority for agribusiness investments in the south. Mindanao is mostly fertile and largely typhoon-free, exporting coconut products and high-value crops, and from its waters come 40% of the country's fish catch. Our investment priorities mirror those for North Luzon and more because Mindanao has the poorest regions and poorest provinces and because we have to spend on a logistics system linking it to the north.

In 2003 we introduced the RORO from Zamboanga del Norte through Negros, Panay, and Mindoro to Batangas. This system has slashed travel time from Mindanao to Luzon from 36 hours to 24 hours, and freight cost by 30%, so crucial to food shipments. Now we will develop more routes like the one from Cagayan de Oro through Camiguin, Bohol, Cebu, and Masbate to Bicol, the Central Nautical Highway.

Also in 2003, Sulu, Lanao del Sur, and Tawi-Tawi registered double-digit declines in poverty incidence from the year 2000. Congratulations.

Kitang-kita ang pag-ibayo ng mga isla ng Sulu, Basilan, at Tawi-Tawi. Nagbukas ang Jollibee sa Basilan. The Balikatan exercises with the United States, combined with the U.S. GEM program and other donor-assisted projects, have no doubt contributed to this.

Sa Sulu, isang araw ng Mayo, umuulan, nagwakas ang isang mahabang pagtutunggali nang pumasok ang mga kawal at sibilyan sa Kampong Bitan-ag sa Panamao na hawak ng mga rebelde. Nagyakapan at nagkamayan ang dalawang panig. Dahil sa matinding pagnanais para sa kapayapaan ni Marine General Ben Dolorfino, naganap ang pagkakasundo. Gayon natapos ang isang madugong kabanata. Congratulations, General Ben Dolorfino.

Susi sa anumang pag-ibayo ang malakas na suporta at ma-abilidad na liderato ng pamahalaang local. Halimbawa, iyong "from arms to farms" ni Governor Ben Loong ng Sulu, with his caravan of tractors literally invading former rebel camps in his province. Congratulations.

Mahigit isang linggong nakaraan, dumating sa "Eleven Islands" ang daan-daang rebeldeng at kanilang pamilya, sa pamumuno ng dating MNLF Commander na si Aribari Samson. Dito sa mga pulo na kilalang "no man's island" dati nagtatago ang mga rebelde at criminal. Ngayon sa tulong ng isang programa ng United Nations, nagtayo tayo ng 200 tahanan at panibagong buhay para sa pangkat ni Samson. Thank you for giving peace a chance. Congratulations, Commander Samson.

I take this occasion to express our gratitude to the donor community from the U.S., the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], and the European Union, Australia, Japan, our ASEAN neighbors, the multilaterals, and the rest of the world. Thank you for helping us in our peace process.

If we can harness the forces of good in our nation, the positive force at work here at home and those from abroad such as the U.S., Malaysia, the OIC, and others, we shall prevail in Mindanao with a peace agreement that brings freedom and hope to all Filipinos. With this peace, we would reap dividends in resources invested in agribusiness, not aggression, to build up, not tear down, the Philippine south.

Among the possible peace dividends would be pro-poor road projects like the Siocon-Sirawai-Sibuco-Baligyan Road in Zamboanga del Norte; the Lebak to Maguindanao which Sim Datumanong started when he was Secretary of Public Works; the Dinagat Island road network in Surigao Del Norte; the Hawilian-Salug-Sinakungan barangay road

in Agusan del Sur; the Pangil Bay Bridge; and the Surigao-Davao Road, which we want to be as beautiful as the Bukidnon Highway completed during the administration of Joe Zubiri and the term of Migs Zubiri.

Mindanao's number one export, coconuts, has been growing continuously for the last three years, at the rate of 10% a year. The coconut farmers deserve a portion of the peace dividend. I invite Congress and the Bishops-Ulama-Priests-Pastors-Farmer-Lumad Conference led by Archbishop Fernando Capalla to help me ensure their rightful share.

On top of peace and investment, progress also demands good governance. I congratulate Donkoy Emano for the drop in reports of corruption for public contracts in Cagayan de Oro from 65% of firms last year to 38 this year. Also Rudy Duterte and the other leaders of Metro Davao led by Majority Leader Boy Nograles for a similar drop, 57% last year to 49 now. Things are coming together for Mindanao, a prelude to their readiness for eventual federalism.

The Cyber Corridor will boost telecommunications, technology and education. The corridor runs the length of all the super regions, from Baguio to Cebu to Davao. The cities of Davao, Tagum and Samal Island Garden all operate electronic government accounting systems. There are many wings now to the corridor because enterprising local executives like L-Ray Villafuerte and Jerry Trenas have aggressively attracted call centers to their jurisdictions. (Congratulations, Jerry.) In this corridor, the English and information and communication technology [ICT] skills of the youth give them a competitive edge in call centers and other business process outsourcing [BPO].

In 2001, in this hall, we hailed ICT as a key growth sector. So we built up telecommunications infrastructure and opened the market for Internet phone calls. Today international calls cost 6 cents a minute, down from 40 cents. From 2,000 BPO workers in 2001, we now have 200,000.

I had coffee with some call center agents last Labor Day. Lyn, a new college graduate, told me, "Now I don't have to leave the country in order for me to help my family. Salamat po." I was so touched, Lyn, by your comments. With these structural reforms, we not only found jobs, but kept families intact. Thank God, I thought, or someone might also try to impeach me for violating Article 15 of the Constitution on the solidarity of the family as the foundation of the nation.

As Louie Villafuerte argues, to step into the future, a country that wants to be a player in the global economy needs bold and well-funded research and development initiatives of its own. To this end, we will continuously increase the budget for science and technology and education. For in today's global economy, knowledge is the greatest creator of wealth.

In summary, I named only a few priorities to illustrate that on many fronts, your government is working, and working well. Our economy is now growing over the longest period in the last quarter-century: 22 consecutive quarters of growth. Umakyat ng mahigit 30% ang kita ng pinakamahirap na pamilya sa unang tatlong taon ng ating panunungkulan, at bumaba ang dami ng maralita sa 25% ng mga pamilya, mula 28%, katumbas ng 2 milyong katao na lumaya sa kahirapan. According to Thornton and Punongbayan, 70% of medium-sized business owners are optimistic, the fifth most optimistic among 30 countries, just behind India, Ireland, South Africa, and China.

Bickering in politics may delay, but not derail, the initiatives that need to be taken on our pro-poor, pro-growth, and pro-peace agenda. Regardless of the fate of the national budget, we must automate our election process. Local governments must get their rightful share of revenues. I ask Congress to pass a supplemental budget to effect this.

We are a great people. We have honest students and honest cops. We have scaled the heights of Mount Everest, dominated the Southeast Asian games, we have won international beauty titles, and of course punched our way to triumph in the boxing world. Our people compete and win every day in every imaginable job throughout the world. Individually, we've taken the world on and won; together, we must take on the challenge of creating a new, peaceful, humane, and competitive nation and prevail.

For those who want to pick up old fights, we're game but what a waste of time. Why not join hands instead? Join hands in the biggest challenge of all, where we all win or we all lose: the battle for the survival and progress of our one and only country.

After 3 years, 11 months, and 6 days, I shall relinquish the Presidency, with much if not all that I have outlined completed. I do not want it said then that, in the end, I defeated my enemies. I would rather have it said that all of us, you and I, friends and foes today, achieved together a country progressive, prosperous, and united.

Thank you. Mabuhay!

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 2006 SONA Technical Report

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 2007 SONA Technical Report

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Seventh State of the Nation Address, July 23, 2007
**Seventh State of the Nation
Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening of the 1st Regular Session of the 14th Congress**

[Delivered at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City, on July 23, 2007]

Thank you. Thank you very much Speaker De Venecia; Senate President Villar; other newly elected leaders of both Houses, congratulations to you; Senators and Congressmen and Congresswomen. Vice President De Castro; former President Ramos; Chief Justice Puno; our host Mayor, Mayor Sonny Belmonte; other government officials; members of the diplomatic corps; ladies and gentlemen.

We meet here today to inaugurate a new Congress after a fresh election. I congratulate every elected official, from municipal to provincial to Congress on hard fought and successful campaigns. *[Applause]*

Tapos na ang halalan at pamumulitika; panahon na para maglingkod nang walang damot, *[applause]* mamuno nang walang pangamba maliban sa kagalingan ng bayan, and to govern with wisdom, compassion, vision, and patriotism.

Hangarin kong mapabilang ang Pilipinas sa mayayamang bansa sa loob ng dalawampung taon. By then, poverty shall have been marginalized; and the marginalized raised to a robust middle class.

We will have achieved the hallmarks of a modern society, where institutions are strong.

By 2010, the Philippines should be well on its way to achieving that vision.

With the tax reforms of the last Congress, and I thank the last Congress, we have turned around our macroeconomic condition through fiscal discipline, toward a balanced budget. Binabayaran ang utang, pababa ang interes, at paakyat ang pondo para sa progreso ng sambayanang Pilipino!!! Maraming salamat ulit sa nakaraang Congress. *[Applause]*

We have been investing hundreds of billions in human and physical infrastructure. The next three years will see record levels of well thought out and generous funding for the following priorities:

First, investments in physical, intellectual, legal, and security infrastructure to increase business confidence. Imprastraktura para sa negosyo at trabaho. Isang milyong trabaho taun-taon.

Second, investments in a stronger and wider social safety net—murang gamot, abot-kayang pabahay, eskwelang primera klase, mga gurong magaling at mas malaki ang kita, mga librong de-kalidad, more scholarships for gifted students, and language instruction to maintain our lead in English proficiency. Dunong at kalusugan ang susi sa kasaganaan.

Third, investments in bringing peace to Mindanao; in crushing terrorism wherever it threatens regardless of ideology; and in putting a stop to human rights abuses whatever the excuse.

We pay tribute to the fearless 14 who were savagely massacred at Tipo-Tipo trying to pursue a peaceful and progressive Philippines. We will not disappoint their hopes. We will not waste their sacrifice. We will not be swayed from the course we have set in this conflict for peace with justice throughout our land. *[Applause]*

We have created a Philippine model for reconciliation built on interfaith dialogue, expanded public works, and more responsive social services. These investments show both sides in the Mindanao conflict that they have more at stake in common; and a greater reason to be together than hang apart, including being together isolating the terrorists.

Imprastruktura ang haliging nagtitindig hindi lamang ng kapayapaan kundi ng ating buong makabagong ekonomiya: mga kalsada, tulay, paliparan, public parks, and power plants.

Last year I unveiled the Super Regions—Mindanao, Central Philippines, North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, Luzon Urban Beltway, and the Cyber Corridor—to spread development away from an inequitable concentration in Metro Manila. Hindi lamang Maynila ang Pilipinas. *[Applause]*

The Super Regions was not a gimmick for the occasion but a blueprint for building a future.

In Mindanao, our food basket, I said we would prioritize agribusiness investments. We have, and I am happy to see that the latest survey in June that the hunger rate has sharply gone down nationwide. *[Applause]*

The Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, and Environment and Natural Resources will devote 30 percent of their program budgets to Mindanao. *[Applause]* This was the recommendation articulated by Congressman Rufus Rodriguez during our peace and security summit in Cagayan de Oro. *[Applause]* The Department of Agrarian Reform will move to Davao.

Dapat maging daan sa tagumpay sa agribusiness ang reporma sa lupa. Done right, reform will democratize success, as Ramon Magsaysay and Diosdado Macapagal envisioned. We must reform agrarian reform so it can transform beneficiaries into agribusinessmen and other agribusinesswomen. *[Applause]*

Sa gayon, dadami pa ang mga tampok na magsasaka gaya ng mga nagwagi ng Gawad Saka, sina Ananias Cuado ng Comval at Demetrio Tabelon ng Butuan; at Nelson Taladhay ng Sultan Kudarat, pangunahing agrarian reform beneficiary ng 2007. We also have outstanding farmers from the other super regions, like Joseph Fernando and Heherson Pagulayan, Nestor Bautista, Joseph Lomibao, Arturo Marcaida, Peter Uy, Arturo Pasacas, and Glenn Saludar. *[Applause]* Congratulations to all of you!

Sa anim na taon nagtayo tayo at nag-ayos ng patubig para sa 1 milyong ektarya sa buong bansa—pinakamalaki sa matagal na panahon.

Magtatayo tayo ng mariculture o palaisdaan sa dagat. Isa rito ay ilalagay natin sa Sibutu, sa Tawi-Tawi. Hiling ito ni Nur Jaafar. *[Applause]*

Para sa buong bansa naglaan tayo ng P3 billion para sa 3,000 kilometro ng farm-to-market roads; 1,000 kilometro sa Mindanao. Gawa na ang 300.

The road and RORO network has cut the cost of bringing agribusiness products from Mindanao to Luzon. A 10-wheeler used to pay P32,000 from Dapitan to Batangas. Now it pays P11,000. Fresh fish that cost P20,000 a ton to move, now travels at P14,000. *[Applause]*

Construction is crisscrossing Mindanao: Dapitan-Dakak to bring Cely Carreon's paradise closer to civilization; Sibuco-Siraway-Siocon-Baliguian; Dinagat Island Network, a baptismal gift for Glenda Ecleo's new province; *[applause]* the 66-kilometer Manay-Mati section of Davao-Surigao; and Maguindanao-Lebak, Sim Datumanong's brainchild when he headed DPWH. *[Applause]*

We want better airports, new bridges, and ample energy for Mindanao's rising economy.

The Dipolog and Pagadian airports will be improved by year's end. Also the Cotabato airport. No doubt eagerly awaited by Au Cerilles, Rolando Yebes, Digs Dilangalen, Ros Labadlabad, and Victor Yu, and Mayors Evelyn Uy and Sammy Co. *[Applause]*

Last July 10 we inaugurated the P1.7 billion, 900-meter bridge in Butuan, built on the initiative of Mayor Boy Daku Plaza, *[applause]* near the P4 billion second-generation flood control project that we also built. The first was built by

my father after the great flood of Butuan in the 1960s. Kailangan ipagtanggol ang kapaligiran at mamamayan sa sakuna. *[Applause]*

In Agusan del Norte, I hope Edel Amante will be happy with our plans to pilot micro agribusiness in Jabonga. *[Applause]*

On July 8, Ozamis Airport opened, bankrolled partly by Leo Ocampos, Aldo Parojinog, and Hermie Ramiro's congressional fund. *[Applause]* Now, that's the kind of pork that has good cholesterol. *[Applause]*

At that occasion the MOU was signed for the Pangil Bay Bridge that will connect Ozamis to Lanao del Norte and Iligan. *[Applause]* As urged by Bobby Dimaporo, I declared Mt. Inayawan Range a protected nature park. On Mayor Lawrence Cruz's recommendation, I instruct DPWH to build the Iligan Circumferential Road. *[Applause]*

In 2001, we opened a solar plant in Cagayan de Oro. Still, Mindanao faced a 100-megawatt gap by 2009 but now a 210-megawatt clean coal plant in Phividec will fill that gap. We count on Oca Moreno and ex-congressman-now-city-mayor Tinex Jaraula to continue providing a good investment climate. *[Applause]*

We thank Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Migz Zubiri for sponsoring the Biofuels Law in the last Congress. *[Applause]* We now have 160,000 hectares of jatropha nurseries in Bukidnon and 30,000 in General Santos. Jatropha is a 100 percent substitute for diesel, with only 5 percent of its emission.

But Mindanao's energy challenge lies not in generating power but in power lines. Terrorists target transmission towers. We must resolutely apply the Human Security Act. This act was first filed by Johnny Enrile in 1996, three years after the first World Trade Center bombing, four years before the Rizal Day bombing, and five years before 9/11. He ably crafted the final Senate version with Senate President Manny Villar and Nene Pimentel. *[Applause]*

Let's now go to Central Philippines, our tourism super region:

- We protect its natural wonders and provide the means to travel to those wonders.
- For Boracay, the leading overall destination, the Kalibo Airport is now international with an instrument landing system as we said last year. Next is an P80 million terminal on request of Joben Miraflores. *[Applause]*
- The Aklan-Libertad-Pandan Road, waiting for Japan to approve the contractors, will connect Boracay to the nature park we declared in Northwest Panay Peninsula. We are improving other Panay roads and building the road from the Iloilo Airport which we inaugurated in Santa Barbara to Iloilo and the Metro Radial Road that Mayor Jerry Trenas asked for. *[Applause]* When we inaugurated the airport, I said that Art Defensor conceived the airport when he was governor, and Governor Neil Tupaz midwived it into delivery. *[Applause]*
- Iloilo connects to Guimaras via Jordan Wharf. For the P900 million oil spill calamity fund to save the environment of Guimaras, I thank once again the previous Congress. Thank you very much on behalf of the people of Guimaras, who are now back on their feet. *[Applause]* The other side of the island will connect to Bacolod soon because we started building the Sibunag RORO Airport last May on recommendation of governor-now-congressman, Rahman Nava.
- Bacolod-Silay Airport, near the nature park we declared in Northern Negros, is completed and just awaiting the access road requested by Monico Puentavella. *[Applause]*
- We awarded the contract for upgrading the Dumaguete airport as I reported to George Arnaiz last week.
- Boracay investors are expanding in Palawan, whose Tubbataha Reefs we declared a nature park. After the Puerto Princesa-Roxas Road last year, we opened Taytay-El Nido last March. The P1 billion Taytay-Roxas section is ongoing. San Vicente airstrip and Busuanga Airport are under construction, and Mayor Hagedorn is reminding us to work on the Puerto Princesa terminal.
- Under construction also are airport aprons of the surfing edens: Governor Ben Evardone's pet project in Guiuan and Lalo Matugas' home town in Siargao.

- A 100-megawatt energy gap looms in the Visayas in 2009. The Korea Electric plant in Cebu will plug in 200 megawatts only in 2010 so there's a one year gap. In the meantime three power barges will supply 100 megawatts, and the Panay diesel power plant will increase its run from 70 megawatts to 100 megawatts.
- In Central Cebu, we proclaimed a nature park. From Cebu, the top destination for foreign tourists, the tourists can easily radiate to other destinations. Optimism is infectious, and opportunity irresistible. Progress follows progress. Someone, even government, just has to get it started.
- Going south, Cebu connects to Tubigon and on to Ubay, Jagna, and Panglao through the Bohol Circumferential Road that we inaugurated last May 9. The local government has acquired 85 percent of the land for the international airport on Panglao Island, now a tourism destination of its own.
- Ubay links to Maasin RORO Port which was completed last October. Now I hope there will be more divers visiting the province of Mian Mercado.
- Jagna RORO port opened last May 9. It will connect to Loloy Romualdo's Mambajao in and Lansones, and on to Guinsiliban, the gateway to Mindanao.
- Going north from Cebu City, we take the North Coastal Road to Daanbantayan, which was recommended to us by Gwen Garcia. Heavy traffic will cease when the P1.2 billion Mandaue-Consolacion Bridge opens. This will be good not only for Malapascua tourism but also for Nitoy Durano's industrial city of Danao.
- Daanbantayan, Benhur Salimbangon's home port, connects to Naval, Maripipi, or Esperanza, which started construction last May. We aim to finish all three RORO ports next year. *[Applause]*
- Esperanza will link by road to Aroroy in 2009. I'll be there with Lina Seachon and Tony Kho for the inauguration. Please invite me. *[Applause]*
- Last May, I switched on the lights of Masbate in a Palace ceremony. But the long-term solution will come next year when a new power plant will serve half a million customers in the beautiful but isolated island of Masbate.
- From Aroroy we can go to Claveria, whose RORO ramp is under construction. On to Pasacao where RORO operations started in 2002. *[Applause]* That's Bong Bravo from Claveria. *[Applause]* This brings us to Bicol, including Mt. Isarog Park.
- Mt. Isarog feeds the Bicol River. For the next three years we are funding the Bicol River Basin and Watershed with the World Bank at \$15 million for irrigation, flood control, and water conservation. *[Applause]* For Bicol, we have given P7 billion out of the P10 billion Bicol Calamity and Rehabilitation Effort; that is the biggest one-time calamity fund release in our history. *[Applause]* At last, Bicol is getting its rightful share.

And, so is the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle:

- We are building 1,000 kilometers of farm-to-market roads; 200 are done. Ngayong tapos na ang election ban, pinapasasan ang trabaho para sa nalalabing target.
- Halsema Highway from Mount Data to Bontoc and the Tabuk-Tinglayan Road are being built. If you look at the chart, there is something incomplete in between.
- So that the Cordillera LGUs can also contribute to building more of their much-needed roads, I ask Congress to require companies to pay directly to the LGUs their share of the natural wealth. *[Applause]* I hope Governor Dalog hears that.
- Nagtatayo tayo ng mga paliparan para sa mga produkto ng agribusiness.
- Noong 2005 nagka-airport sa Baler. Sunod ang reconstruction, ang airport sa Casiguran. At kalsada sa pagitan.
- There were no takers in the bidding to upgrade the Batanes runway so ATO will get it done before the end of the year with the support of DPWH and Governor Telesforo Castillejos.
- Joe de Venecia and Mayor Nani Braganza are asking for an airport in Alaminos. Will do. *[Applause]*
- The Cagayan Economic Zone Authority and the private sector expanded the San Vicente naval airstrip, so we don't have need to build a Lallo airport.
- Pero sa Lallo naman mayroon tayong inaprobahan na agribusiness ecozone. Ang mga agribusiness ecozone ay payo ni Pangulong Ramos. *[Applause]* Chief Justice Puno, I am happy to see you here. It is the first time that a Chief Justice attended. *[Applause]*
- The Tarlac-La Union Toll Road will be advertised for private sector BOT bidding this August.

- Poro Point's international terminal started construction early this year. The Bagabag airport is being lengthened. We are spreading the cheer across the political spectrum from Vic Ortega to Caloy Padilla. Inuuna ang bansa, itinatabi ang politika. *[Applause]*
- Some towns in Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, and Isabela are included in the geohazard mapping we have done for 700 cities and towns all over the country to protect the environment.
- The Bangui Bay Wind Power Project which was put up when Bongbong Marcos was still governor, is now expanding. Sa paggamit ng hangin, nababawasan ang kailangang langis sa enerhiya. *[Applause]*

And now the Luzon Urban Beltway, our top magnet for industry and investment:

- This quarter we start the P5 billion Mt. Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation Project that will protect San Fernando City, Sasmuan, Guagua, and my hometown Lubao from flooding. *[Applause]*
- The Subic-Clark-Tarlac Express Road is in its final stages. This first-world road will cut travel time between Clark and Subic from 2 hours to 30 minutes. *[Applause]* Gagawa tayo ng interchange sa Porac, bayan ni Lito Lapid. *[Applause]*
- Last Thursday with Dick Gordon we inaugurated the container port that will make Subic together with Clark one of the best international service and logistics centers in the region. *[Applause]*
- Clark airport got its approach control radar in April. It now has 50 international flights and 50 cargo flights a week, the second busiest after NAIA. We want more airline service centers there. Now, speaking of NAIA, I'm sure everyone wants to know about Terminal 3. The ceiling that fell wasn't the only thing in danger of falling. There are more serious dangers from construction and structural defects. We cannot risk the grim consequences of a major earthquake. But NAIA is accelerating the remediation, completion, and opening of the terminal. Public safety comes first. *[Applause]*
- Because public safety comes first, and we have many more modern airports now, I ask Congress to create the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. *[Applause]*
- Last year, I said we would connect North and South Expressways through C-5. Ginagawa na ang C-5 bandang Katipunan. Kausap na ang UP para sa bagong daan patungong Commonwealth, na kasulukuyang pinapalapad, at North Avenue. Sa kabilang dulo ng Mindanao Avenue, binibili na ang lupa para sa bagong daan mula Barangay Talipapa hanggang Malinta at tuloy na ito sa NLEX. Sana bumawas ang trapik pa-North Metro Manila. *[Applause]*
- We just broke ground to continue the Skyway up to Alabang. *[Applause]* And in a year aside from that, the fast train from Caloocan to Alabang will be serving thousands daily. *[Applause]* From Alabang to Santo Tomas, the South Luzon Expressway is currently being widened. And by March, Vicky Reyes, SLEX will reach all the way up to Batangas Port. *[Applause]*
- The Coastal Road to Bong Revilla's province is finally under construction after so many groundbreaking ceremonies.
- Our investment in vital infrastructure is already bearing fruit, such as the \$1-billion Hanjin shipbuilding facility, said to be the largest in the world, and the \$1-billion Texas Instruments microchip plant in Clark. Maging ex-OFW o ex-tambay kapwang nakahanap ng trabaho sa mga malalaking puhunan na ito. *[Applause]*
- As we build industry, we must ensure people have clean air to breathe. We have closed 88 firms for polluting the environment. *[Applause]* Gaya ng sabi ko, una ang kaligtasan ng publiko.
- We proclaimed a critical habitat within the coastal lagoon of Las Piñas and Parañaque.
- Maynilad's new owners have invested P7 billion to bring clean and, at last, running water to Paranaque, Parola, and elsewhere. Manila Water did a similar P2 billion project for Antipolo. *[Applause]*
- Gumagawa tayo ng septage tank sa Antipolo sa halagang P600 million na maglilinis ng sewage bago ito dumaloy sa mga estero, gaya ng tinayo ng Manila Water sa Taguig at sa San Mateo.
- Matapos ang maraming taong usapan, ang ating administrasyon ang nakapagsimula ng Flood Control Project sa Kalookan, Malabon, Navotas, at Valenzuela (CAMANAVA). *[Applause]*
- On energy, Luzon needs 150 megawatts more by 2010. This is covered by the 350-megawatt, \$350 million expansion of the Pagbilao plant by Marubeni and Tokyo Electric, part of their \$4 billion that constitutes the biggest Japanese investment in Philippine history. *[Applause]* We count on Governor Raffy Nantes and the people of Quezon to take care of the investment climate. *[Applause]*

- Last year, I said we must reduce the cost of electricity. Some houses have reported paying less in their bills but it's still high. I ask Congress to amend the Electric Power Industry Reform Act for open access and more competition. *[Applause]*

The Cyber Corridor encompasses centers of technology and learning running the length of all the super regions, from Baguio to Clark to Metro Manila to Cebu to Davao and neighboring areas. *[Applause]*

The Philippines ranks among top off-shoring hubs in the world because of cost competitiveness and more importantly our highly trainable, English proficient, IT-enabled management and manpower.

IT ability won for Warren Ambat of Baguio City High the most innovative teacher and leadership award in Cambodia last February, topping contestants from 70 countries. Congratulations Baguio and Warren! *[Applause]*

Information technology will help the BIR bring in more taxes in the coming months. Its Revenue Watch Dashboard will monitor revenue collections in real time from the national level down to the examiners. Its LGU Revenue Assurance will share information between the BIR and the LGUs to uncover fraud and nonpayment, before heads would roll per Danny Suarez's Attrition Law. *[Applause]*

While our strength in contact centers is well established, we are now focused on growing the higher value-added services, including accounting, legal, human resources, and administrative services.

And, so that no Taiwan tremor can cut off our cyber services from their global clients, thanks to PLDT and Globe for investing P47 billion in new international broadband links through other regional hubs for redundancy in our cyberspace. *[Applause]*

The business services sector has become the fastest growing in the economy providing 400,000 jobs compared to 8,000 in 2000. By 2010 the forecast is 1 million jobs earning \$12 billion, the same amount remitted by our overseas Filipinos today. *[Applause]*

On Safety Net and Education

Last year I said that in today's global economy, knowledge is the greatest creator of wealth. Mahusay na edukasyon ang pinakamabuting pamana natin sa ating mga anak. Yun din ang tanging pamana na ayon sa batas kailangang ibigay sa bawat mamamayan.

This year, we are investing more for education: P150 billion, P29 billion more than last year.

And, last year government and private sector built 15,000 classrooms instead of the usual 6,000.

Noon, isang libro bawat limang mag-aaral. Ngayon, tig-isang aklat na bawat grade schooler. *[Applause]*

One third of our public high schools now have Internet access, with private sector support.

We have a scarcity of public high schools but a surplus of private high schools. So instead of building more high schools, we give more high school scholarships—600,000 scholars this year. *[Applause]*

For college, we launched a P4 billion fund for college loans, to increase beneficiaries from 40,000 to 200,000.

And for teachers, we have created more than 50,000 teaching positions. But we have to improve their training.

Benefits, too. Salamat, dating Senador Tessie Oreta at dating Congressman Dodong Gullas, na di na kailangan ng mga guro maghabol sa Maynila ng sweldo at pension. [Applause] Pinoproseso na sa rehiyon sa regionalization ng payroll.

Teachers and all other national government employees for that matter get a raise effective end of this month. [Applause]

Sa TESDA, bukod sa mga sariling kurso, nagbibigay ito ng mga scholarship sa vocational schools: P600 million noong isang taon, P1 billion ngayon. May P1 billion pa ang DOLE.

We are investing P3 billion in science and engineering research and development technology, including scholarships for masters and doctoral degrees in engineering in seven universities. Upgrade know-how and learning, and Filipino talent is unbeatable.

Proof is biochemist Baldomero Olivera of the University of Utah who was named Scientist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation. [Applause]

In the International Math and Science Olympiad 2006 in Jakarta, Robert Buendia of Cavite Central School and Wilson Alba of San Beda Alabang won the gold. Congratulations, guys! [Applause] Six Filipinos bagged the awards at the Intel Young Scientists Competition in New Mexico last May: Ivy Ventura, Mara Villaverde, Hester Mana Umayam, and Janine Santiago of Philippine Science High; [applause] Melvin Barroa of Capiz National High, congratulations, Melvin; [applause] and Luigi John Suarez of Benedicto National High. Congratulations naman. [Applause] Last week Filipino students topbilled by Amiel Sy of the Philippine Science High dominated the Mathematics World Contest in Hong Kong. Congratulations, Amiel. Congratulations Philippine Science High. [Applause] Earlier this month Diona Aquino of the Presidential Management Staff won with her team from UP the Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance in Shanghai. [Applause]

Ito ay malaking kunsuwelo sa atin. We have spent more on human capital formation than ever in the past. Why? Because if government of the people and by the people is not for them as well, it is a mockery of democracy. [Applause]

May malaking pag-angat ang kalagayan ng maralita, gaya ng trabaho, pag-aaral, at paggamot. Look at the chart about how fare the poor.

Sa unang pagkakataon, gumastos ang Philhealth ng higit P3 bilyon sa paospital ng maralita.

Noong 2001 sinabi kong hahatiin natin ang presyo ng gamot na madalas bilhin ng madla. Ngayon 10,000 Botika ng Barangay ang nagtitinda ng murang gamot. Ang paracetamol na tatlong piso sa labas ay piso lamang sa Botika ng Barangay. Ang antibiotic na binibenta ng mga pangunahing parmasya sa P20 ay P2 lamang.

Kaya sa isang survey, halos kalahati ang nagsabing abot-kaya ang gamot, kumpara sa 11 percent noong 1999.

So we can spread this even more, I ask Congress to pass the Cheaper Medicines Bill [applause] that was almost enacted in June. Almost is not good enough. Let's help Mar Roxas and Ferge Biron and Teddy Boy Locsin give our people meaningful, affordable choices, from abroad and here in the Philippines. [Applause]

I also ask Congress to pass legislation that brings improved long-term care for our senior citizens. Asahan natin si Ed Angara. [Applause]

Si Noli de Castro na isa pang kampeon ng senior citizens ay namumuno ng ating programa sa pabahay. Congratulations, Noli. The low interest rates for housing are unprecedented. [Applause] Naglaan ang Pag-IBIG ng P25 billion na pautang, six times the amount when we started it in 2001. At P50 billion pa ang ilalaan hanggang 2010. [Applause]

On Terrorism and Human Rights

We fight terrorism. It threatens our sovereign, democratic, compassionate, and decent way of life.

Therefore, in the fight against lawless violence, we must uphold these values. It is never right and always wrong to fight terror with terror.

And so I ask Congress ... I urge you to enact laws to transform state response to political violence: First, laws to protect witnesses from lawbreakers and law enforcers. *[Applause]* Second, laws to guarantee swift justice from more empowered special courts. *[Applause]* Third, laws to impose harsher penalties for political killings. *[Applause]* Fourth, laws reserving the harshest penalties for the rogue elements in the uniformed services who betray public trust and bring shame to the greater number of their colleagues who are patriotic. *[Applause]*

We must wipe this stain from our democratic record.

Ngunit pangunahing pakikibaka pa rin para sa karapatan ang pagpapalaya ng masa sa gutom at kahirapan.

Together with economic prosperity is the need to strengthen our institutions of government. Let's start with election reform. We have long provided funds for computerization. We look forward to the modernization of voting, counting, and canvassing. *[Applause]*

We can disagree on political goals but never on the conduct of democratic elections. I ask Congress to fund poll watchdogs, and to enact a stronger law against election-related violence. *[Applause]*

We must weed out corruption and build a strong system of justice that the people can trust. We have provided unprecedented billions for antigraft efforts. Thus the Ombudsman's conviction rate hit 77 percent this year, from 6 percent in 2002. *[Applause]* We implemented lifestyle checks, dormant for half a century. Taun-taon dose-dosenang opisyal ang nasususpinda, napapatsik, o kinakasuhan dahil labis-labis sa suweldo ang gastos at ari-arian nila.

Firms who were asked for bribes in taxes, permits, and licenses dropped to one-third from one-half. Contract bribes are also down. Graft won't be eliminated overnight but we are making progress. *[Applause]*

In Conclusion

What I have outlined today is just a sampler of our P1.7 trillion Medium Term Public Investment Program. How will we fund all these? P1 trillion from state revenues, with tax reforms and firm orders to BIR and Customs to hit their targets. P300 billion from state corporations. The balance from government financial institutions, private sector investments, local government equity, and our bilateral and multilateral partners.

Our new confidence and momentum for progress have imbued our foreign relations, with the ASEAN Summit last year and the coming ASEAN Regional Forum, with increased assistance from our allies and with continued support for our peace and security efforts in Mindanao.

We were able to strengthen our economy because of the fiscal reforms that we adopted at such great cost to me in public disapproval. But I would rather be right than popular. *[Applause]*

Our fundamentals are paying off in huge leaps in investment. Anim na milyong trabaho ang nalikha sa anim na taon, most in sustainable enterprises. Sa lakas ng piso, bumagal ang pagtaas ng bilihan. *[Applause]*

It is my ardent wish that most of the vision I have outlined will be fully achieved when I step down. It is my unshakable resolve that the fundamentals of this vision will by then be permanently rooted, its progress well advanced, and its direction firmly fixed with our reforms already bearing fruit. All that will remain for my successor is to gather the harvest. He or she will have an easier time of it than I did. *[Applause]*

They say the campaign for the next election started on May 15, the day after the last. Fine.

I stand in the way of no one's ambition. I only ask that no one stand in the way of the people's well-being and the nation's progress. [*Applause*]

The time for facing off is over. The time is here for facing forward to a better future our people so desperately want and richly deserve. [*Applause*]

Uulitin ko: Hindi ako sagabal sa ambisyon ninuman.

But make no mistake. I will not stand idly when anyone gets in the way of the national interest and tries to block the national vision. [*Applause*] From where I sit, I can tell you, a President is always as strong as she wants to be. [*Applause*] [*Standing ovation*]

Pagpalain tayo ng Diyos at ang dakilang gawaing hinaharap natin. The state of the nation is strong. [*Applause*]

Inyong lingkod, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, pangulo ng Republika ng Pilipinas. [*Applause*] [*Standing ovation*]

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 2008 SONA Technical Report

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Eighth State of the Nation Address, July 28, 2008

**Eighth State of the Nation Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening of the 2nd Regular Session of the 14th Congress**

[Delivered at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City, on July 28, 2008]

Thank you, Speaker Nograles. Senate President Villar. Senators and Representatives. Vice President de Castro, President Ramos, Chief Justice Puno, members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen:

I address you today at a crucial moment in world history.

Just a few months ago, we ended 2007 with the strongest economic growth in a generation. Inflation was low, the peso strong, and a million new jobs were created. We were all looking to a better, brighter future. *[Applause]*

Because tough choices were made, kumikilos na ang bayan sa wakas. Malapit na sana tayo sa pagbalanse ng budget. We were retiring debts in great amounts, reducing the drag on our country's development, habang namumuhunan sa taong bayan. *[Applause]*

Biglang-bigla, nabaligtad ang ekonomiya ng mundo. Ang pagtalon ng presyo ng langis at pagkain ay nagbunsod ng pandaigdigang krisis, the worst since the Great Depression and the end of World War II. Some blame speculators moving billions of dollars from subprime mortgages to commodities like fuel and food. Others point of the very real surge in demand as millions of Chinese and Indians move up to the middle class.

Whatever the reasons, we are on a roller coaster ride of oil price hikes, high food prices, and looming economic recession in the US and other markets. Uncertainty has moved like a terrible tsunami around the globe, wiping away gains, erasing progress.

This is a complex time that defies simple and easy solutions. For starters, it is hard to identify villains, unlike in the 1997 financial crisis. Everyone seems to be a victim, rich countries and poor, though certainly some can take more punishment than others.

To address these global challenges, we must go on building and buttressing bridges to allies around the world: to bring in the rice to feed our people; investments to create jobs; and to keep the peace and maintain stability in our country and the rest of the world. Yet even as we reach out to those who need, and who may need us, we strive for greater self-reliance. *[Applause]*

Because tough choices were made, the global crisis did not catch us helpless and unprepared. Through foresight, grit, and political will, we built a shield around our country that has slowed down and somewhat softened the worst effects of the global crisis. *[Applause]* We have the money to care for our people and pay for food when there are shortages; for fuel despite price spikes. *[Applause]*

Neither we nor anyone else in the world expected this day to come so soon but we prepared for it. For the guts not to flinch in the face of tough choices, I thank God. For the wisdom to recognize how needed you are, I thank you Congress. *[Applause]* For footing the bill, I thank the taxpayers. *[Applause]*

The result has been, on the one hand, ito ang nakasalba sa bayan; on the other, more unpopularity for myself in the opinion polls. Yet even unfriendly polls show self-rated poverty down to its 20-year low in 2007. *[Applause]*

My responsibility as President is to take care, to solve the problems we are facing now, and to provide a vision and direction for how our nation should advance in the future.

Many in this great hall live privileged lives and exert great influence in public affairs. I am accessible to you, but I spend time every day with the underprivileged and under represented who cannot get a grip on their lives in the daily, all-consuming struggle to make ends meet.

Nag-aalala ako para sa nakakaawang maybahay na pasan ang pananagutan para sa buong pamilya. Nag-aalala ako para sa magsasakang nasa unang hanay ng pambansang produksyon ng pagkain ngunit nagsisikap pakanin ang pamilya. I care for hardworking students soon to graduate and wanting to see hope of good job and a career prospect here at home.

Nag-aalala ako para sa 41-year old na padre de pamilya na di araw-araw ang trabaho, at nag-aabala sa asawa at tatlong anak, at dapat bigyan ng higit pang pagkakakitaan at dangal. I care for our teachers who gave the greatest gift we ever received—a good education—still trying to pass on the same gift to succeeding generations. I care for our OFWs, famed for their skill, integrity, and untiring labor, who send home their pay as the only way to touch loved ones so far away. *[Applause]* Nagpupugay ako ngayon sa kanilang mga karaniwang Pilipino. *[Applause]*

My critics say this is fiction, along with other facts and figures I cite today. I call it heroism though they don't need our praise. Each is already a hero to those who matter most—their families.

I said this is a global crisis where everyone is a victim. But only few can afford to avoid, or pay to delay, the worst effects.

Many more have nothing to protect them from the immediate blunt force trauma of the global crisis. Tulad ninyo, nag-aalala ako para sa kanila. Ito ang mga taong bayan na dapat samahan natin. Not only because of their sacrifices for our country but because they are our countrymen. *[Applause]*

How do we solve these many complex challenges?

Sa kanilang kalagayan, the answer must be special care and attention in this great hour of need.

First, we must have a targeted strategy with a set of precise prescriptions to ease the price challenges we are facing.

Second, food self-sufficiency; less energy dependence; greater self-reliance in our attitude as a people and in our posture as a nation. *[Applause]*

Third, short-term relief cannot be at the expense of long-term reforms. *[Applause]* These reforms will benefit not just the next generation of Filipinos, but the next President as well. *[Applause]*

Napakahalaga ang value-added tax [VAT] sa pagharap sa mga hamong ito.

Itong programa ang sagot sa mga problemang namana natin. *[Applause]*

Una, mabawasan ang ating mga utang and shore up our fiscal independence. *[Applause]*

Pangalawa, higit na pamumuhunan para mamamayan at imprastraktura. *[Applause]*

Pangatlo, sapat na pondo para sa mga programang pangmasa. *[Applause]*

Thus, the infrastructure links programmed for the our poorest provinces like Northern Samar: Lao-ang-Lapinig-Arteche, right now ay maputik; San Isidro-Lope de Vega; the rehabilitation of Maharlika in Samar. *[Applause]*

Take VAT away and you and I abdicate our responsibility as leaders and pull the rug from under our present and future progress, which may be compromised by the global crisis.

Lalong lumakas ang tiwala ng mga investor dahil sa VAT. Mula P56.50 kada dolyar, lumakas ang piso hanggang P40.20 bago bumalik sa P44 dahil sa mga pabigat ng pangdaigdigang ekonomiya. Kung alisin ang VAT, hihina ang kumpiyansa ng negosyo, lalong tataas ang interes, lalong bababa ang piso, lalong mamahal ang bilihan.

Kapag ibinasura ang VAT sa langis at kuryente, ang mas makikinabang ay ang mga maykaya na kumukonsumo ng 84% ng langis at 90% ng kuryente habang mas masasaktan ang mahihirap na mawawalan ng P80 billion para sa mga programang pinopondohan ngayon ng VAT. *[Applause]* Take away VAT and we strip our people of the means to ride out the world food and energy crisis. *[Applause]*

We have come too far and made too many sacrifices to turn back now on fiscal reforms. Leadership is not about doing the first easy thing that comes to mind; it is about doing what is necessary, however hard. *[Applause]*

The government has persevered, without flip-flops, in its much-criticized but irreplaceable policies, including oil and power VAT and oil deregulation.

Patuloy na gagamitin ng pamahalaan ang lumalago nating yaman upang tulungan ang mga pamilyang naghihirap sa taas ng bilihan at hampas ng bagyo, habang nagpupundar upang sanggahan ang bayan sa mga krisis sa hinaharap.

Para sa mga namamasada at namamasahang sa dyip, sinusugpo natin ang kotong at colorum upang mapataas ang kita ng mga tsuper. *[Applause]* Si Federico Alvarez kumikita ng P200 a day sa kaniyang rutang Cubao-Rosario. Tinaas ito ng anti-kotong, anti-colorum ngayon P500 na ang kita niya. *[Applause]* Iyan ang paraan kung paano napananatili ang dagdag-pasahe sa P1 lamang. Halaga lang ng isang text. *[Applause]*

Texting is a way of life. I asked the telecoms to cut the cost of messages between networks. They responded. It is now down to 50 centavos. *[Applause]*

Noong Hunyo, nagpalabas tayo ng 4 bilyong piso mula sa VAT sa langis—2 bilyong pambayad ng kuryente ng 4 milyong mahihirap, 1 bilyon para college scholarship o pautang sa 70,000 na estudyanteng maralita; *[applause]* kalahating bilyong pautang upang palitan ng mas matipid na LPG, CNG, o biofuel ang motor ng libu-libong jeepney; *[applause]* at kalahating bilyong pampalit sa fluorescent sa mga pampublikong lugar. *[Applause]*

Kung mapapalitan ng fluorescent ang lahat ng bumbilya, makatitipid tayo ng lampas P2 billion. *[Applause]*

Sa sunod na katas ng VAT, may P1 billion na pambayad ng kuryente ng mahihirap; kalahating bilyon para sa matatandang di sakop ng SSS o GSIS; kalahating bilyong kapital para sa pamilya ng mga namamasada; kalahating bilyon upang mapataas ang kakayahan at equipment ng mga munting ospital sa mga lalawigan. *[Applause]* At para sa mga kalamidad, angkop na halaga.

We released P1 billion for the victims of typhoon Frank. We support a supplemental Western Visayas calamity budget from VAT proceeds, *[applause]* as a tribute to the likes of Rodney Berdin, age 13, of Barangay Rombang, Belison, Antique, who saved his mother, brother, and sister from the raging waters of Sibalom River. *[Applause]*

Mula sa buwang ito, wala nang income tax ang sumusweldo ng P200,000 o mas mababa sa isang taon—P12 billion na bawas-buwis para sa maralita at middle class. Maraming salamat, Congress. *[Applause]*

Ngayong may P32 na commercial rice, natugunan na natin ang problema sa pagkain sa kasalukuyan. Nagtagumpay tayo dahil sa pagtutulongan ng buong bayan sa pagsasaka, bantay-presyo, at paghihigpit sa price manipulation, sa masipag na pamumuno ni Artie Yap. *[Applause]*

Sa mga LGU at religious groups na tumutulong dalhin ang NFA rice sa mahihirap, maraming salamat sa inyo. *[Applause]*

Dahil sa subsidy, NFA rice is among the region's cheapest. While we can take some comfort that our situation is better than many other nations, there is no substitute for solving the problem of rice and fuel here at home. In doing so, let us be honest and clear eyed—there has been a fundamental shift in global economics. The price of food and fuel will likely remain high. Nothing will be easy; the government cannot solve these problems over night. But we can work to ease the near-term pain while investing in long-term solutions. *[Applause]*

Since 2001, new irrigation systems for 146,000 hectares, including Malmar in Maguindanao and North Cotabato, Lower Agusan, Casecnan and Aulo in Nueva Ecija, Abulog-Apayao in Cagayan and Apayao, Addalam in Quirino and Isabela among others, and the restoration of old systems on another 980,000 hectares have increased our nation's irrigated land to a historic 1.5 million hectares. *[Applause]*

Edwin Bandila, 48 years old, of Ugalingan, Carmen, North Cotabato, cultivated 1 hectare and harvested 35 cavans. Thirteen years na ginawa iyong Malmar. In my first State of the Nation Address, sabi ko kung hindi matapos iyon sa Setyembre ay kakanselahin ko ang kontrata, papapasukin ko ang engineering brigade, natapos nila. With Malmar, now he cultivates 5 hectares *[applause]* and produces 97 cavans per hectare. Mabuhay, Edwin! VAT will complete the San Roque-Agno River project. *[Applause]*

The Land Bank has quadrupled loans for farmers and fisherfolk. That is fact not fiction. Check it. For more effective credit utilization, I instructed DA to revitalize farmers cooperatives. *[Applause]*

We are providing seeds at subsidized prices to help our farmers.

Incremental Malampaya national revenues of P4 billion will go to our rice self-sufficiency program. *[Applause]*

Rice production since 2000 increased an average of 4.07% a year, twice the population growth rate. By promoting natural planning and female education, we have curbed population growth to 2.04% during our administration, down from the 2.36% in the 1990s, when artificial birth control was pushed. *[Applause]* Our campaign spreads awareness of responsible parenthood regarding birth spacing. Long years of pushing contraceptives made it synonymous to family planning. Therefore, informed choice should mean letting more couples, who are mostly Catholics, know about natural family planning. *[Applause]*

From 1978 to 1981, nag-export tayo ng bigas. Hindi tumagal. But let's not be too hard on ourselves. Panahon pa ng Kastila bumibili na tayo ng bigas sa labas. While we may know how to grow rice well, topography doesn't always cooperate.

Nature did not gift us with a mighty Mekong like Thailand and Vietnam, with their vast and naturally fertile plains. Nature instead put our islands ahead of our neighbors in the path of typhoons from the Pacific. So, we import 10% of the rice we consume.

To meet the challenge of today, we will feed our people now, not later, and help them get through these hard times. To meet the challenges of tomorrow, we must become more self-reliant, self-sufficient, and independent, relying on ourselves more than on the world. *[Applause]*

Now we come to the future of agrarian reform.

There are those who say it is a failure, that our rice importations prove it. There are those who say it is a success—if only because anything is better than nothing. Indeed, people are happier owning the land they work, no matter what the difficulties.

Sa SONA noong 2001, sinabi ko, bawat taon, mamamahagi tayo ng 200,000 ektarya sa reporma sa lupa: 100,000 hectares of private farmland; and 100,000 of public farmland, including ancestral domains. Di hamak mahigit sa target ang naipamahagi natin sa nakaraang pitong taon: 854,000 hectares of private farmland, 797,000 of public farmland, and Certificates of Ancestral Domain for 525,000 hectares. [Applause] Including, over a 100,000 hectares for the Bugkalots in Quirino, Aurora, and Nueva Vizcaya. After the release of their CADT, Rosario Camma, Bugkalot chieftain, and now mayor of Nagtipunan, helped his 15,000-member tribe develop irrigation, plant vegetables and corn, and achieve food sufficiency. Mabuhay, Chief! [Applause]

Agrarian reform should not merely subdivide misery, it must raise living standards. Ownership raises the farmer from his knees but productivity will keep him on his feet.

Sinimula ng aking ama ang land reform noong 1963. Upang mabuo ito, the extension of CARP with reforms is top priority. [Applause] I will continue to do all I can for the rural as well as urban poor. Ayaw natin na paglaya ng tenant sa landlord, mapapasa-ilalim naman sa usurero. Former tenants must be empowered to become agribusinessmen by allowing their land to be used as collateral. [Applause]

Dapat mapalaya ng reporma sa lupa ang magsasaka sa pagiging alipin sa iba. Dapat bigyan ang magsasaka ng dangal bilang taong malaya at di hawak ninuman. We must curb the recklessness that gives land without the means to make it productive and bites off more than beneficiaries can chew. [Applause]

At the same time, I want the rackets out of agrarian reform: [applause] the threats to take and therefore undervalue land, the conspiracies to overvalue it.

Be with me on this. There must be a path where justice and progress converge. Let us find it before Christmas. [Applause] Dapat nating linisin ang landas para sa mga ibig magpursige sa pagsasaka, taglay ang pananalig na ang lupa ay sasagip sa atin sa huli kung gamitin natin ito nang maayos.

Along with massive rice production, we are cutting costs through more efficient transport. For our farm-to-market roads, we released P6 billion in 2007.

On our nautical highways. RORO boats carried 33 million metric tons of cargo and 31 million passengers in 2007. We have built 39 RORO ports during our administration, 12 more are slated to start within the next two years. In 2003, we inaugurated the Western Nautical Highway from Batangas through Mindoro, Panay and Negros to Mindanao. This year we launched the Central Nautical Highway from Bicol mainland through Masbate, Cebu, Bohol and Camiguin to Mindanao mainland. [Applause] These developments strengthen our competitiveness.

Leading multinational company Nestle cut transport costs and offset higher milk prices abroad. Salamat, RORO. [Applause] Transport costs have become so reasonable for bakeries like Gardenia, a loaf of its bread in Iloilo is priced the same as in Laguna and Manila. Salamat muli sa RORO. [Applause]

To the many LGUs who have stopped collecting fees from cargo vehicles, maraming, maraming salamat. [Applause]

We are repaving airports that are useful for agriculture, like Zamboanga City Airport. [Applause]

Producing rice and moving it cheaper addresses the supply side of our rice needs. On the demand side, we are boosting the people's buying power.

Ginagawa nating labor-intensive ang paggawa at pag-ayos ng kalsada at patubig. Noong SONA ng 2001, naglunsad tayo sa NCR ng patrabaho para sa 20,000 na out of school youth, na tinawag na OYSTER. Ngayon, mahigit 20,000 ang ineempleyo ng OYSTER sa buong bansa. [Applause] In disaster-stricken areas, we have a cash-for-work program.

In training, 7.74 million took technical and vocational courses over the last seven years, double the number in the previous 14 years. In 2007 alone, 1.7 million graduated. Among them are Jessica Barlomento now in Hanjin as supply officer, Shenve Catana, Marie Grace Comendador, and Marlyn Tusi, lady welders, congratulations. *[Applause]*

In microfinance, loans have reached P102 billion or 30 times more than the P3 billion we started with in 2001, with a 98% repayment record, congratulations! *[Applause]* Major lenders include the Land Bank with P69 billion, the Peoples' Credit and Finance Corporation P8 billion, the National Livelihood Support Fund P3 billion, DBP P1 billion, and the DSWD's SEA-K P800 million. For partnering with us to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit, thank you, Go Negosyo and Joey Concepcion. *[Applause]*

Upland development benefits farmers through agro-forestry initiatives. Rubber is especially strong in Zamboanga Sibugay and North Cotabato. *[Applause]* Victoria Mindoro, 56 years old, used to earn P5,000 a month as farmer and factory worker. Now she owns 10 hectares in the Goodyear Agrarian Reform Community in Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay, earning P10,000 a week. *[Applause]* With 1 hectare, Pedro and Concordia Faviolas of Makilala, North Cotabato, sent their six children to college, bought two more hectares, and earn P15,000 a month. Congratulations! *[Applause]*

Jatropha estates are starting in 900 hectares in and around Tamlang Valley in Negros Oriental; 200 in CamSur; 300 in GenSan, 500 in Fort Magsaysay near the Cordero Dam, and 700 in Samar, among others.

In our 2006 SONA, our food baskets were identified as North Luzon and Mindanao.

The sad irony of Mindanao as food basket is that it has some of the highest hunger in our nation. It has large fields of high productivity, yet also 6 of our 10 poorest provinces.

The prime reason is the endless Mindanao conflict. A comprehensive peace has eluded us for half a century. But last night, differences on the tough issue of ancestral domain were resolved. Yes, there are political dynamics among the people of Mindanao. Let us sort them out with the utmost sobriety, patience, and restraint. I ask Congress to act on the legislative and political reforms that will lead to a just and lasting peace during our term of office. *[Applause]*

The demands of decency and compassion urge dialogue. Better talk than fight, if nothing of sovereign value is anyway lost. Dialogue has achieved more than confrontation in many parts of the world. This was the message of the recent World Conference in Madrid organized by the King of Saudi Arabia, and the universal message of the Pope in Sydney.

Pope Benedict's encyclical Deus Caritas Est reminds us: "There will always be situations of material need where help in the form of concrete love for neighbour is indispensable."

Pinagsasama-sama natin ang mga programa ng DSWD, DOH, GSIS, SSS, at iba pang lumalaban sa kahirapan sa isang National Social Welfare Program para proteksyonan ang pinakamahihirap mula sa pandaigdigang krisis, and to help those whose earnings are limited by illness, disability, loss of job, age, and so on—through livelihood projects, microfinance, skills and technology transfer, emergency and temporary employment, pension funds, food aid and cash subsidies, child nutrition and adult health care, medical missions, salary loans, insurance, housing programs, educational and other savings schemes, and now cheaper medicine—thanks to Congress. *[Applause]*

The World Bank says that in Brazil, the income of the poorest 10% has grown 9% per year versus the 3% for the higher income levels due in large part to their family stipend program linking welfare checks to school attendance. We have introduced a similar program, Pantawid Pamilya.

Employers have funded the two increases in SSS benefits since 2005. Thank you, employers, for paying the premiums. *[Applause]*

GSIS pensions have been indexed to inflation and have increased every year since 2001. Its salary loan availments have increased from two months equivalent to 10 months, the highest of any system public or private—while repayments have been stretched out.

Pag-Ibig housing loans increased from P3.82 billion in 2001 to P22.6 billion in 2007. This year it experienced an 84% increase in the first four months alone. *[Applause]* Super heating na. Dapat dagdagan ng GSIS at buksan muli ng SSS ang pautang sa pabahay. I ask Congress to pass a bill allowing SSS to do housing loans beyond the present 10% limitation. *[Applause]*

Bago ako naging Pangulo, 1.5 milyong maralita lamang ang may health insurance. Noong 2001, sabi natin, dadagdagan pa ng kalahating milyon. Sa taong iyon, mahigit 1 milyon ang nabigyan natin. Ngayon, 65 milyong Pilipino na ang may health insurance, mahigit doble ng 2000, kasama ang 15 milyong maralita. *[Applause]* PhilHealth has paid P100 billion for hospitalization. The indigent beneficiaries largely come from Central and West Visayas, Central Luzon, and Ilocos. Patuloy nating palalawakin itong napaka-importanteng programa, lalo na sa Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga Norte, Maguindanao, Apayao, Dinagat, Lanao Sur, Northern Samar, Masbate, Abra, and Misamis Occidental. Lalo na sa kanilang mga magsasaka at mangingisda. *[Applause]*

In these provinces and in Agusan Sur, Kalinga, Surigao Sur, and calamity-stricken areas, we will launch a massive school feeding program at P10 per child every school day.

Bukod sa libreng edukasyon sa elementarya at high school, nadoble ang pondo para sa mga college scholarships, while private high school scholarship funds from the government have quadrupled.

I have started reforming and clustering the programs of the DepEd, CHED, and TESDA.

As with fiscal and food challenges, the global energy crunch demands better and more focused resource mobilization, conservation, and management.

Government agencies are reducing their energy and fuel bills by 10%, emulating Texas Instruments and Philippine Stock Exchange who did it last year. Congratulations, Justice Vitug and Francis Lim. *[Applause]*

To reduce power system losses, we count on government regulators and also on EPIRA amendments.

We are successful in increasing energy self-sufficiency—56%, the highest in our history. We promote natural gas and biofuel; geothermal fields, among the world's largest; windmills like those in Ilocos and Batanes; and the solar cells lighting many communities in Mindanao. The new Galoc oil field can produce 17,000 to 22,000 barrels per day, 1/12 of our crude consumption.

The Renewable Energy Bill has passed the House. Thank you, Congressmen and Congresswomen. *[Applause]*

Our costly commodity imports like oil and rice should be offset by hard commodities exports like primary products, and soft ones like tourism and cyberservices, at which only India beats us.

Our P350 million training partnership with the private sector should qualify 60,000 for call centers, medical transcription, animation, and software development, which have a projected demand of 1 million workers generating \$13 billion by 2010.

International finance agrees with our progress. Credit rating agencies have kept their positive or stable outlook on the country. Our world competitiveness ranking rose five notches. Congratulations to us. *[Applause]*

We are sticking to, and widening, the fiscal reforms that have earned us their respect.

To our investors, thank you for your valuable role in our development. *[Applause]* I invite you to invest not only in factories and services, but in profitable infrastructure, following the formula for the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway. *[Applause]*

I ask business and civil society to continue to work for a socially equitable, economically viable balance of interests. Mining companies should ensure that host communities benefit substantively from their investments, and with no environmental damage from operations. *[Applause]*

Our administration enacted the Solid Waste Management Act, Wildlife Act, Protection of Plant Varieties, Clean Water Act, Biofuels Act, and various laws declaring protected areas.

For reforestation, for next year we have budgeted P2 billion. *[Applause]* Not only do forests enhance the beauty of the land, they mitigate climate change, a key factor in increasing the frequency and intensity of typhoons and costing the country 0.5% of the GDP. *[Applause]*

We have set up over 100 marine and fish sanctuaries since 2001. In the whale shark sanctuary of Donsol [Sorsogon], Alan Amanse, a 40-year-old college undergraduate and father of two, was earning P100 a day from fishing and driving a tricycle. Now as whale shark-watching officer, he earns P1,000 a day, 10 times his former income. *[Applause]*

For clean water, so important to our health, there is P500 million this year and P1.5 billion for next year.

From just one sanitary landfill in 2001, we now have 21, with another 18 in the works.

We launched the Zero Basura Olympics to clear our communities of trash. Rather than more money, all that is needed is for each citizen to keep home and workplace clean, and for garbage officials to stop squabbling. *[Applause]*

Our investments also include essential ways to strengthen our institutions of governance in order to fight the decades-old scourge of corruption. I will continue to fight this battle every single day. *[Applause]* While others are happy with headlines through accusation without evidence and privilege speeches without accountability, we have allocated more than P3 billion—the largest anti-graft fund in our history—for real evidence gathering and vigorous prosecution. *[Applause]*

From its dismal past record, the Ombudsman's conviction rate has increased 500%. *[Applause]* Lifestyle checks, never seriously implemented before our time, have led to the dismissal and/or criminal prosecution of dozens of corrupt officials. *[Applause]*

I recently met with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. agency that provides grants to countries based on governance. They have commended our gains, contributed P1 billion to our fight against graft, and declared us eligible for more grants. Thank you! *[Applause]*

Last September, we created the Procurement Transparency Group in the DBM and linked it with business, academe, and the Church, to deter or catch anomalies in government contracts.

On my instruction, the BIR and Customs established similar government-civil society tie-ups for information gathering and tax evasion and smuggling monitoring.

More advanced corruption practices require a commensurate advances in legislative responses. Colleagues in Congress, we need a more stringent Anti-Graft Act. *[Applause]*

Sa pagmahal ng bilihin, hirap na ang mamimili—tapos, dadayain pa. Dapat itong mahinto. Hinihiling ko sa Kongreso na magpasa ng Consumer Bill of Rights laban sa price gouging, false advertising, at iba pang gawain kontra sa mamimili. *[Applause]*

I call on all our government workers at the national and local levels to be more responsive and accountable to the people. Panahon ito ng pagsubok. Kung saan kayang tumulong at dapat tumulong ang pamahalaan, we must be there with a helping hand. Where government can contribute nothing useful, stay away. Let's be more helpful, more courteous, more quick.

Kaakibat ng ating mga adhikain ang tuloy na pagkalinga sa kapakanan ng bawat Pilipino. Iisa ang ating pangarap—maunlad at mapayapang lipunan, kung saan ang magandang kinabukasan ay hindi pangarap lamang, bagkus natutupad. *[Applause]*

Sama-sama tayo sa tungkuling ito. May papel na gagampanan ang bawat mamamayan, negosyante, pinunong bayan, at simbahan, sampu ng mga nasa lalawigan.

We are three branches but one government. We have our disagreements; we each have hopes, and ambitions that drive and divide us, be they personal, ethnic, religious, and cultural. But we are one nation with one fate. *[Applause]*

As your President, I care too much about this nation to let anyone stand in the way of our people's well-being. Hindi ko papayagang humadlang ang sinuman sa pag-unlad at pagsagana ng taong bayan. *[Applause]* I will let no one—and no one's political plans—threaten our nation's survival. *[Applause]*

Our country and our people have never failed to be there for us. We must be there for them now. *[Applause]*

Maraming salamat. Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat. *[Applause]* *[Standing ovation]*

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 2009 SONA Technical Report

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Ninth State of the Nation Address, July 27, 2009

**Ninth State of the Nation Address
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening of the 3rd Regular Session of the 14th Congress**

[Delivered in the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City on July 27, 2009]

Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Before I begin my report to the nation, please join me first in a moment of prayer for President Aquino.

Senate President Enrile, Speaker Nograles, Senators, Representatives, Vice President de Castro, former President Ramos, Chief Justice Puno, Ambassadors, friends:

The past 12 months have been a year for the history books. Financial meltdown in the West spread throughout the world. Tens of millions lost their jobs; billions across the globe have been hurt—the poor always harder than the rich. No one was spared.

It has affected us already. But the story of the Philippines in 2008 is that the country weathered a succession of global crises in fuel, in food, then in finance and finally, economy in a global recession, never losing focus and with economic fundamentals intact. *[Applause]*

A few days ago, Moody's upgraded our credit rating, citing the resilience of our economy. The state of our nation is a strong economy. *[Applause]* Good news for our people, bad news for our critics. *[Applause]*

I did not become President to be popular. To work, to lead, to protect and preserve our country, our people, that is why I became President. *[Applause]* When my father left the Presidency, we were second to Japan. I want our Republic to be ready for the first world in 20 years.

Towards that vision, we made key reforms. Our economic plan centers on putting people first. Higit sa lahat, ang layunin ng ating patakaran ay tulungan ang masisipag na karaniwang Pilipino. *[Applause]* New tax revenues were put in place to help pay for better health care, more roads, and a strong education system. Housing policies were designed to lift up our poorer citizens so they can live and raise a family with dignity. Ang ating mga puhunan sa agrikultura ay naglalayong kilalanin ang ating mga magsasaka bilang backbone ng ating bansa, *[applause]* at bigyan sila ng mga modernong kagamitan to feed our nation and feed their own family.

Had we listened to the critics of those policies, had we not braced ourselves for the crisis that came, had we taken the easy road much preferred by politicians eyeing elections, this country would be flat on its back. *[Applause]* It would take twice the effort just to get it back again on its feet—to where we are now because we took the responsibility and paid the political price of doing the right thing. *[Applause]* For standing with me and doing the right thing, thank you, Congress.

The strong, bitter, and unpopular revenue measures of the past few years have spared our country the worst of the global financial shocks. They gave us the resources to stimulate the economy. Nabigyan nila ang pinakamalaking pagtaas ng IRA ng mga LGU na P40 billion itong taon, imparting strength throughout the country at every level of government.

Compared to the past, we have built more and better infrastructure, including those started by others but left unfinished. The Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway is a prime example of building better roads. *[Applause]* It creates wealth as the flagship of the Subic-Clark corridor.

We have built airports of international standard, upgraded domestic airports, built seaports and the Roll On/Roll Off system. I ask Congress for a Philippine Transport Security Law. *[Applause]*

Some say that after this SONA, it will be all politics. Sorry, but there's more work. *[Applause]*

Sa telecommunications naman, inatasan ko ang Telecommunications Commission na kumilos na tungkol sa mga sumbong na dropped calls at mga nawawalang load sa cell phone. *[Applause]* We need to amend the Commonwealth-era Public Service Law. And we need to do it now. *[Applause]*

Kung noong nakaraan, lumakas ang electronics, today we are creating wealth by developing the BPO and tourism sectors as additional engines of growth. Electronics and other manufactured exports rise and fall in accordance with the state of the world economy. But BPO remains resilient. With earnings of \$6 billion and employment of 600,000, the BPO phenomenon speaks eloquently of our competitiveness and productivity. *[Applause]* Let us have a Department of ICT. *[Applause]*

In the last four years, tourism almost doubled. *[Applause]* It is now a \$5 billion industry.

Our reforms gave us the resources to protect our people, our financial system, and our economy from the worst of shocks that the best in the West failed to anticipate. *[Applause]*

They gave us the resources to extend welfare support and enhance spending power.

For helping me raise government salaries through Joint Resolution 4, thank you, Congress. *[Applause]*

Cash handouts give the most immediate relief and produce the widest stimulating effect. Nakikinabang ang 700,000 na pinakamahihirap na pamilya sa programang Pantawid Pamilya. *[Applause]*

We prioritize projects with the same stimulus effects plus long-term contributions to progress.

Sa pagpapamahagi ng milyun-milyong hektaryang lupa, 700,000 na katutubo at mahigit 1 milyong benepisyaryo ng CARP ay taas-noong may-ari na ng sariling lupa. *[Applause]* Hinihiling ko sa Kongreso na ipasa agad ang pagpapalawig ng CARP, *[applause]* at dapat ma-condone ang P42 billion na land reform liabilities dahil 18% lamang ang nabayaran mula 1972. *[Applause]* Napapanahon, because it will unfreeze the rural property market. Ang mahal kong ama ang nag-emancipate ng mga magsasaka. Ii-mancipate naman natin ngayon ang titulo. *[Applause]*

Nakinabang ang pitong milyong entrepreneurs sa P165 billion in microfinance loans.

Nakinabang ang 100,000 sa Emergency Employment ng ating Economic Resiliency Plan. Kasama natin ngayon ang isa sa kanila, si Gigi Gabiola. Dating household service worker sa Dubai, ngayon siya ay nagtatrabaho sa DOLE. Good luck, Gigi. *[Applause]*

Nakinabang ang 1 milyong pamilya sa programang pabahay at palupa, mula Pag-Ibig, NHA, Community Mortgage Program, Certificates of Lot Award, at saka yung inyong Loan Condonation and Restructuring Act. Salamat. *[Applause]*

Our average inflation is the lowest since 1966. Last June, it dropped to 1.5%. *[Applause]* Paano?

Proper policies lowered interest rates, which lowered costs to business and consumers.

Dahil sa ating mga reporma, nakaya nating ibenta ang bigas NFA sa P18.25 per kilo, kahit tumaas ang presyo sa labas mula P17.50 hanggang P30 dahil sa kakulangan sa supply sa mundo. Habang, sa unang pagkakataon, naitaas ang pamimili ng palay sa mga magsasaka, P17 mula sa P11.

Dahil sa ating mga reporma, nakaya nating mamuhunan sa pagkain—anticipating an unexpected global food crisis. Nakagawa tayo ng libu-libong kilometro ng farm-to-market roads at, kasama ng pribadong sector, natubigan ang 2 milyong hektarya. *[Applause]* Mga Badjao gaya ni Tarnati Dannawi ay tinuruan ng modernong mariculture. Umabot na sa P180,000 ang kinita niya mula noong nakaraang taon. Congratulations, Tarnati. *[Applause]* We will help more fisherfolk shift to fish farming with a budget of P1 billion. *[Applause]*

Dahil dumarami na naman daw ang pamilyang nagugutom, mamumuhunan tayo ng panibago sa ating Hunger Mitigation Program na sa nakaraan ay napatunayang mabisa. Tulungan ninyo ako dito, Kongreso. *[Applause]*

Mula pa noong 2001, nanawagan na tayo ng mas murang gamot. Nagbebenta tayo ng gamot na kalahating presyo sa libu-libong Botika ng Bayan at Botika ng Barangay sa maraming dako ng bansa. Our efforts prodded the pharmaceutical companies to come up with low-cost generics and brands like RiteMed. I supported the tough version of the House of the Cheaper Medicine law. *[Applause]* I supported it over the weak version of my critics. *[Applause]* The result: the drug companies volunteered to bring down drug prices, slashing by half the prices of 16 drugs. Thank you, Congressmen Cua, Alvarez, Biron, Locsin. *[Applause]*

Pursuant to law, we are placing other drugs under a maximum retail price. To those who want to be President, this advice: If you really want something done, just do it. Do it hard, do it well. Don't pussyfoot. Don't pander. And don't say bad words in public. *[Applause]*

Sa health insurance, sakop na ng 86% ang ating populasyon.

Sa Rent Control Law ng 2005 hanggang 2008, di pwedeng lumampas ng 10% ang pagtaas ng upa taun-taon. Ayon sa kapipirma nating batas, may isang taong moratorium, tapos hanggang 7% lamang ang maaaring pagtaas. Salamat, Kongreso. *[Applause]*

Noong isang taon, nabiyayaan ng tig-P500 ang mahigit pitong milyong tahanan bilang Pantawid Kuryente sa mga small electricity users.

Yung presyo ng kuryente, ang EPIRA natin ang pangmatagalang sagot. EPIRA dismantled monopoly. Ngunit minana natin ang Power Purchase Agreements, kaya hindi pa natin nakakamtan yung buong intended effect. Pero happy na rin tayo, dahil isang taon na lamang iyan. The next generation will benefit from low prices from our EPIRA. Thank you. *[Applause]*

Samantala, umabot na sa halos lahat ng barangay ang elektrisidad. We increased indigenous energy from 48% to 58%. Nakatipid tayo ng dollars tapos malaki pa ang na-reduce na oil consumption. The huge reduction in fossil fuel is the biggest proof of energy independence and environmental responsibility. *[Applause]* Further reduction will come with the implementation of the Renewable Energy Act, and the Biofuels Act. Again, thank you. *[Applause]*

The next generation will also benefit from our lower public debt-to-GDP ratio. It declined from 78% in 2000 to 55% in 2008. We cut in half the debt of government corporations from 15% to 7%; likewise foreign debt from 73% to 32%. *[Applause]* Kung meron man tayong malaking kaaway na tinalo, walang iba kundi ang utang, iyong foreign debt. Those in the past conjured the demon of foreign debt. We exorcised it. *[Applause]*

The market grows economies. A free market, not a free-for-all.

To that end, we improved our banking system to complement its inherent conservatism. The Bangko Sentral has been prudent. Thank you, Governor Tetangco, *[applause]* for being so effective. The BSP will be even more effective if Congress will amend its Charter. *[Applause]*

We worked on the Special Purpose Vehicle Act, reducing nonperforming loans from 18% to 4% and improving loan-deposit ratios.

Our new Securitization Law did not encourage the recklessness that brought down giant banks and insurance companies elsewhere and laid their economies to waste. In fact, it monitors and regulates the newfangled financial schemes. Thank you, Congress. *[Applause]*

We will work to increase tax effort through improved collections and new sin taxes to further our capacity to reduce poverty and pursue growth. Revenue enhancement must come from the Department of Finance plugging leaks and catching tax and customs cheats. I call on tax-paying citizens and tax-paying businesses: help the BIR and customs stop those cheats. *[Applause]*

Taxes should come from alcohol and tobacco, and not from books. Tax hazards to lungs and livers, do not tax minds. *[Applause]* Ang kita mula sa buwis sa alak at sigarilyo ay dapat gamitin sa kalusugan at edukasyon. Pondo ang PhilHealth premiums ng pinakamahirap. Pondo ang mas maraming classroom at computers.

Pardon my partiality for the teaching profession. I was a teacher, *[applause]* kaya namuhunan tayo ng malaki sa education at skills training.

Ang magandang edukasyon ay susi sa mas magandang buhay, the great equalizer that allows every young Filipino a chance to realize their dreams.

Nagtayo tayo ng 95,000 na silid-aralan, nagdagdag ng 60,000 na guro, naglaan ng P1.5 billion para sa teacher training, especially for 100,000 English teachers. *[Applause]*

Isa sa pinakamahirap sa Millennium Development Goals ay iyong education para sa lahat pagdating ng 2015. Ibig sabihin, lahat ng nasa tamang edad ay dapat nasa primary school. Halos walang bansang nakakatupad nito, ngunit nagsisikap pa rin tayo. Nagtayo tayo ng mga paaralan sa higit 1,000 barangay na dati walang eskwelahan upang makatipid ng gastos sa pasahe ang mga bata. *[Applause]* Tinanggal natin ang miscellaneous fees para sa primary school. Hindi na kailangan ang uniporme sa estudyante sa public school.

In private high schools, we finance half of the students.

We have provided college and postgraduate education for over 600,000 scholars. One of them, Mylene Amerol-Macumbal, finished Accounting at MSU-IIT, *[applause]* then she went to law school, and placed second in the last bar exams *[applause]*—the first Muslim woman bar topnotcher. Congratulations! *[Applause]*

In technical education and skills training, we have invested three times that of three previous administrations combined. *[Applause]* Narito si Jennifer Silbor, isa sa 10 milyong trainee. Natuto siya ng medical transcription. Now, as an independent contractor and lecturer for transcriptions in Davao, kumikita siya ng P18,000 bawat buwan. Good job, Jennifer. *[Applause]*

The Presidential Task Force on Education, headed by Jesuit educator Father Bienvenido Nebres, has come out with the Main Education Highway towards a Knowledge-Based Economy. It envisions seamless education from basic to vocational school or college.

It seeks to mainstream early childhood development in basic education. Our children are our most cherished possession. In their early years we must make sure they get a healthy start in life. They must receive the right food for a healthy body, the right education for a bright and inquiring mind—and the equal opportunity for a meaningful job. *[Applause]*

For college admission, the Task Force recommends mandatory Scholastic Aptitude Tests. It also recommends that higher private education institutions and state universities and colleges should be harmonized, and also that CHED

should oversee local universities and colleges. For professions seeking international recognition—engineering, architecture, accountancy, pharmacy, and physical therapy—the Task Force recommends radical reform: 10 years of basic education, 2 years of pre-university, before 3 years of university.

Our educational system should make the Filipino fit not just for whatever jobs happen to be on offer today, but also for whatever economic challenge life will throw in their way.

Sa hirap at ginhawa, pinapatatag ang ating bansa ng ating overseas Filipinos. Iyong padala nilang \$16 billion noong isang taon ay record. Itong taon, mas mataas pa. *[Applause]*

I know that this is not a sacrifice joyfully borne. This is work where it can be found—in faraway places, among strangers with different cultures. It is lonely work, it is hard work.

Kaya nagsisikap tayong lumikha dito sa atin ng mga trabahong maganda ang sahod, so that overseas work will just be a career choice, not the only option for a hardworking Filipino. *[Applause]*

Meanwhile, we should make their sacrifices worthwhile. Dapat gumawa tayo ng mas epektibong proteksyon at pagpapalawak ng halaga ng kanilang pinagsikapang suweldo. That means stronger consumer protection for overseas Filipinos investing in property and products back home. Para sa kanila, pinapakilos natin ang Investors Protection Task Force. *[Applause]*

Hindi ako nag-aatubiling bisitahin ang ating taong bayan at kanilang mga host sa buong mundo—mula Hapon hanggang Brazil, mula Europa at Middle East hanggang sa American Midwest, nakikinig sa kanilang mga problema at pangangailangan, inaalam kung paano sila matutulungan ng ating pamahalaan—by working out better policies on migrant labor, or by saving lives and restoring liberty.

Pagpunta ko sa Saudi, pinatawad ni Haring Abdullah ang 700 OFW na nasa preso. *[Applause]* Pinuno nila ang isang buong eroplano at umuwi kasama ko. *[Applause]*

Mula sa ating State Visit sa Espanya, it has become our biggest European donor. *[Applause]* At si Haring Juan Carlos ay nakikipag-usap sa ibang mga bansa para sa ating mga namomroblemang OFW. Ganoon din si Sheikh Khalifa, ang Prime Minister ng Bahrain. *[Applause]*

Pagpunta ko sa Kuwait, Emir Al-Sabah commuted death sentences. *[Applause]* We thank all our leaders, all the world leaders, who have shown compassion for our overseas Filipino workers. Maraming salamat. *[Applause]*

Our vigorous international engagement has helped bring in foreign investment. Net foreign direct investments multiplied 15 times during our administration. Kasama ng ating mga OFWs, they more than doubled our foreign exchange reserves. Pinalakas ang ating piso at naiwasan ang lubhang pagtaas ng presyo. They upgraded our credit because while the reserves of our peers have shrunk this past year, our reserves grew by \$3 billion. *[Applause]*

Our international engagement has also corrected historical injustice. The day we visited Washington, Senator Daniel Inouye successfully sponsored benefits for our veterans as part of America's stimulus package.

I have accepted the invitation of President Obama to be the first Southeast Asian leader to meet him at the White House, later this week. *[Applause]*

That he sought out the Philippines testifies to our strong and deep ties.

High on our agenda will be peace and security issues. Terrorism: how to meet it, how to end it, how to address its roots in injustice and prejudice—and first and always how to protect lives.

We will discuss nuclear nonproliferation. The Philippines will chair the review of the Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty in New York in May 2010. The success of the talks will be a major diplomatic achievement for us.

There is a range of other issues we will discuss, including the global challenge of climate change, especially the threat to countries with long coastlines. And there is the global recession, its worse impact on poor people, and the options that can spare them from the worst.

In 2008 up to the first quarter of 2009, we stood among only a few economies in Asia Pacific that did not shrink. *[Applause]* Compare this to 2001, when some of my current critics were driven out by People Power. Asia was then surging but our country was on the brink of bankruptcy. *[Applause]*

Since then, our economy posted uninterrupted growth for 33 quarters; more than doubled its size from \$76 billion to \$186 billion. The average GDP growth from 2001 to the first quarter of 2009 is the highest in 43 years. *[Applause]*

Bumaba ang bilang ng mga nagsasabing mahirap sila sa 47% mula 59%. Maski lumaki ang ating populasyon, nabawasan ng 2 milyon ang bilang ng mahihirap. *[Applause]* GNP per capita rose from a Third World \$967 to \$2,000. Lumikha tayo ng 8 milyong trabaho, an average of a million a year—much, much more than at any other time. *[Applause]*

In sum:

First, we have a strong economy and a strong fiscal position to withstand political shocks.

Second, we built new and modern infrastructure and completed unfinished ones.

Third, the economy is more fair to the poor than ever before. *[Applause]*

Fourth, we are building a sound base for the next generation.

Fifth, international authorities have taken notice that we are safer from environmental degradation and man-made disasters.

As a country in the path of typhoons and in the Pacific Rim of Fire, we must be prepared as the latest technology permits to anticipate natural calamities when that is possible; to extend immediate and effective relief when it is not. The mapping of flood- and landslide-prone areas is almost complete. Early warning, forecasting, and monitoring systems have been improved, with weather tracking facilities in Subic, Tagaytay, Mactan, Mindanao, Pampanga.

We have worked on flood control infrastructure like those for Pinatubo, Agno, Laoag, and Abucay, which will pump the run off waters from Quezon City and Tondo flooding Sampaloc. This will help relieve hundreds of hectares in this old city of its age-old woe. *[Applause]*

Patuloy naman iyong sa Camanava, dagdag sa Pinatubo, Iloilo, Pasig-Marikina, Bicol River Basin, at mga river basin ng Mindanao.

The victims of typhoon Frank in Panay should receive their long-overdue assistance package. I ask Congress to pass the SNITS Law. *[Applause]*

Namana natin ang pinakamatagal na rebelyon ng Komunista sa buong mundo.

Si Leah de la Cruz isa sa labindalawang libong rebel returnee. Sixteen pa lang siya nang sumali sa NPA. Naging kasapi sa regional White Area Committee, napromote sa Leyte Party Committee Secretary. Nahuli noong 2006. She

is now involved in an LGU-supported handicraft livelihood training of former rebels. We love you, Leah! *[Applause]*

There is now a good prospect for peace talks with both the Communist Party of the Philippines and the MILF, with whom we are now on ceasefire. *[Applause]*

We inherited an age-old conflict in Mindanao, exacerbated by a politically popular but nearsighted policy of massive retaliation. This only provoked the other side to continue the war.

In these two internal conflicts, ang tanong ay hindi, “Sino ang mananalo?” kundi, “Bakit pa ba kailangang maglaban ang kapwa Pilipino tungkol sa mga isyu na alam naman nating lahat na di malulutas sa dahas, at maresolba lang sa paraang demokratiko?” *[Applause]*

There is nothing more that I would wish for than peace in Mindanao. It will be a blessing for all its people: Muslim, Christian, and Lumads. It will show other religiously divided communities that there can be common ground on which to live together in peace, harmony, and cooperation that respects each other’s religious beliefs. *[Applause]*

At sa lahat ng dako ng bansa, kailangan nating protektahan ang ating mga mamamayan kontra sa krimen—in their homes, in their neighborhoods, in their communities. How shall crime be fought? With the five pillars of justice, including crime fighters; we call on Congress to fund more policemen on the streets. *[Applause]*

Real government is about looking beyond the vested to the national interest, setting up the necessary conditions to enable the next, more enabled, and more empowered generation to achieve a country as prosperous, a people as content, as ours deserve to be. *[Applause]*

The noisiest critics of constitutional reform tirelessly and shamelessly attempted Cha-Cha when they thought they could take advantage of a shift in the form of government. Now that they feel they cannot benefit from it, they oppose it. *[Applause]*

As the seeds of fundamental political reform are planted, let us address the highest exercise of democracy—voting!

In 2001, I said we would finance fully automated elections. We got it, thanks to Congress. *[Applause]*

At the end of this speech I shall step down from this stage, but not from the Presidency. *[Applause]* My term does not end until next year. *[Applause]* Until then, I will fight for the ordinary Filipino. The nation comes first. There is much to do as Head of State—to the very last day. *[Applause]*

A year is a long time. Patuloy ang pamumuhunan sa tinatawag na three E’s ng ekonomiya, environment, at edukasyon. There are many perils that we must still guard against.

A man-made calamity is already upon us, global in scale. As I said earlier, so far we have been spared its worst effects but we cannot be complacent. We only know that we have generated more resources on which to draw, and thereby created options we could take. Thank God we did not let our critics stop us. *[Applause]*

As the campaign unfolds and the candidates take to the airwaves, I ask them to talk more about how they will build up the nation rather than tear down their opponents. *[Applause]* Give the electorate real choices and not just sweet talk. *[Applause]*

Meanwhile, I will keep a steady hand on the tiller, keeping the ship of state away from the shallows some prefer, and steering it straight on the course we set in 2001.

Ang ating taong bayan ay masipag at maka-Diyos. These qualities are epitomized in someone like Manny Pacquiao. *[Applause]* Manny trained tirelessly, by the book, with iron discipline, with the certain knowledge that he had to

fight himself, his weaknesses first, before he could beat his opponent. *[Applause]* That was the way to clinch his victories and his ultimate title: ang pinakadakilang boksingero sa kasaysayan. *[Applause]* Mabuhay ka, Manny! *[Applause]*

However much a President wishes it, a national problem cannot be knocked out with a single punch. A president must work with the problem as much as against it, turn it into a solution if she can.

There isn't a day I do not work at my job, or a waking moment when I do not think through a work-related problem. Even my critics cannot begrudge the long hours I put in. Our people deserve a government that works just as hard as they do. *[Applause]*

A President must be on the job 24/7, ready for any contingency, any crisis, anywhere, anytime.

Everything right can be undone by even a single wrong. Every step forward must be taken in the teeth of political pressures and economic constraints that could push you two steps back—if you flinch and falter. I have not flinched, I have not faltered. Hindi ako umatras sa hamon. *[Applause]*

And I have never done any of the things that scared my worst critics so much. They are frightened by their own shadows. *[Applause]*

In the face of attempted coups, I issued emergency proclamations just in case. But I was able to resolve these military crises with the ordinary powers of my office. My critics call it dictatorship. I call it determination. *[Applause]*

We know it as strong government, but I never declared martial law, *[applause]* though they are running scared as if I did. In truth, what they are really afraid of is their weakness in the face of this self-imagined threat. *[Applause]*

I say to them: Do not tell us what we all know, that democracy can be threatened. Tell us what you will do when it is attacked. *[Applause]*

I know what to do:

As I have shown, I will defend democracy with arms when it is threatened by violence; with firmness when it is weakened by division; with law and order when it is subverted by anarchy; and always, I will try to sustain it by wise policies of economic progress, so that a democracy means not just an empty liberty but a full life for all. *[Applause]*

I have never expressed the desire to extend myself beyond my term. *[Applause]* Many of those who accuse me of it tried to cling like nails to their posts. *[Applause]*

I am accused of misgovernance. Many of those who accuse me of it left me the problem of their misgovernance to solve. *[Applause]* And we did it.

I am falsely accused, without proof, of using my position for personal profit. Many who accuse me have lifestyles and spending habits that make them walking proofs of that crime. *[Applause]*

We can read their frustrations. They had the chance to serve this good country and they blew it by serving themselves. *[Applause]*

Those who live in glass houses should cast no stones. Those who should be in jail should not threaten it, especially if they have been there. *[Applause]*

Our administration, with the highest average rate of growth, recording multiple increases in investments, with the largest job creation in history, and which gets a credit upgrade at the height of a world recession, must be doing something right, *[applause]* even if some of those cocooned in corporate privilege refuse to recognize it. *[Applause]*

Governance, however, is not about looking back and getting even. It is about looking forward and giving more—to the people who gave us the greatest, hardest gift of all: the care of a country. *[Applause]*

From Bonifacio at Balintawak to Cory Aquino at EDSA and up to today, we have struggled to bring power to the people, and this country to the eminence it deserves.

Today the Philippines is weathering well the storm that is raging around the world. It is growing stronger with the challenge. When the weather clears, as it will, there is no telling how much farther forward it can go. Believe in it. I believe. *[Applause]*

We can and we must march forward with hope, optimism, and determination.

We must come together, work together, and walk together toward the future. *[Applause]*

Bagamat malaking hamon ang nasa ating harapan, nasa kamay natin ang malaking kakayahan. *[Applause]* Halina't pagtulungan nating tiyakin ang karapat-dapat na kinabukasan ng ating Inang Bayan. *[Applause]*

And to the people of our good country, for allowing me to serve as your President: Maraming salamat. *[Applause]*
[Standing ovation]

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! *[Applause]* *[Standing ovation]*

PRESS STATEMENTS

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a Press Conference

[Issued at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang, May 2, 2001]

Good afternoon.

First I'd just like to acknowledge the presence of our sure winner reelectionist Jun Magsaysay — together with his regionmates Governor Ding Roman, Governor Vic Magsaysay, Chairman Tong Payumo and Congressman Tony Roman — who are here to express support for what we've done and for the government in general. Thank you.

Unang-una'y gusto kong pasalamatang ang ating mga mamamayan sa kanilang tiwala sa aking liderato. Ang gobyerno ay hindi maaaring magtagal o manatili kung walang suporta ng taong-bayan. Ang pamahalaang ito ay pamahalaan ng Pilipino, ng bayan. Namayani ang pamahalaan at magpapatuloy ng pamamayani nito.

Pangalawa'y sinasaluduhan ko ang ating Armed Forces at ang ating Philippine National Police sa matagumpay na pagtatanggol sa inyong Pangulo at sa Malacañang, ang sentro ng pamahalaan. Ang inyong sakripisyo ay isang maningning na halimbawa ng katapangan, propesyonalismo at katapatan sa ating Konstitusyon.

Pangatlo, gusto kong batiin ang ating media sa kanilang pangunguna na mapahinahon ang isang mapanganib na sitwasyon. Ang coverage ng media ay balanse, maayos at matuwid. Ito'y nakatulong sa tamang pag-unawa sa mga pangyayari na naganap nitong mga nagdaang araw at sa kapayaan ng isipan ng taong-bayan.

Ang klima ng national security ay matatag at hindi nagbabago. Ang legalidad ng gobyerno ay nananatiling malinis. Ang mga institusyong politikal, pang-ekonomiya at sosyal ay ligtas sa ilalim ng pangangalaga ng mga mamamayan, ng AFP at ng PNP.

Ang isyu ay hindi si Gloria laban kay erap. Hindi rin ito simbahan laban sa kapwa simbahan. Lalo namang hindi ito laban ng mayaman sa mahirap. Ang isyu ay demokrasya laban sa abuso, Konstitusyon laban sa diktadura, hustisya laban sa paghamak sa batas.

Ang isyu ay tungkol sa isang kaso na isinampa sa husgado sa kasong plunder, laban sa isang taong malapit nang litisin sa ilalim ng ating batas. Ang nag-iisa nating tungkulin ay hayaan ang hustisya na mamayani at magbigay ng huling hatol.

Kailanman ay hindi tayo dapat matakot, kahit na tayo'y pahirapan o takutin ng isang rebelyon na atin nang dinurog, dahil ang diwa ng demokrasya at ng Konstitusyon ay hustisya para sa lahat: walang mayaman, walang mahirap.

Bilang Presidente, nalulungkot ako at kinakailangan kong gumamit ng puwersa para maipagtanggol ang Malacañang at ang bayan laban sa mga lumusob kahapon.

Alam natin na ang mga demonstrador ay ginamit lamang ng mga mapag-imbot at ambisyosong politiko para maisulong ang kanilang personal na political agenda. Maliwanag na ang kanilang tema ay pabagsakin ang isang lehitimong pamahalaan at magtatag ng isang mapanganib na "civilian-military junta."

Kaya naman magkahalong tuwa at lungkot ang aking naramdaman kahapon kahit nagtagumpay tayo laban sa mga "power grabber."

Bilang isang Pilipino, nalulungkot ako sa tuwing makikita ko sa telebisyon ang mga mukha ng mga maralita nating kababayan na walang kamuwang-muwang na sila pala ay ginagamit ng mga maiitim na puwersa ng ating lipunan.

Awa ang aking nararamdaman sa kanila. Kahit isang saglit ay wala akong naramdamang galit o sama ng loob sa mga dukha nating kababayan sa kabila ng kanilang paglusob sa Malacañang kahapon.

I know that most of those who stormed Malacañang yesterday were programmed to hate, to maim, even to kill, by the power grabbers. Medical tests showed that one-third of those who were tested were under the influence of drugs.

Saan nanggaling at sino ang namahagi ng drugs sa mga lumusob sa Malacañang? Sino ang nasa likod ng maitim na balak na isailalim muna sa droga ang mga demonstrador bago lumusob sa Malacañang? Hindi magtatagal, malalaman po natin ang lahat ng mga ito.

Patuloy ang imbestigasyon. Patuloy ang paghahanap sa mga nagtatago pang “power grabber.” pero hindi magtatagal, mahuhuli natin sila at pagbabayaran sa kanilang krimen sa taong-bayan, lalung-lalo na sa mga dukha.

Mula noong naisip ko na ako ay maaaring maging Presidente, isa sa aking pinakamatibay na palatuntunan ay kung paano matutulungan ang ating mga maralita. Naghahanda ako ng mga programa noon pa para sa mga magbubukid, mangingisda at sa marami pa nating mahihirap na kababayan.

Bagama’t ang aking programa para sa dukha ay nabalangkas na natin noon pa at unti-unti nang naipatutupad, marami sa ating mga kababayan ay naiinip na at parang hindi makapagtiis. Para sa kanila hindi katuwiran na hindi pa ako nagtatagal bilang Presidente. Hindi rin mahalaga sa kanila na 100 days pa lamang akong naging Presidente ng bayan.

Dahil dito, inaasahan ko ang iba’t-ibang sangay ng ating pamahalaan, tulad ng DSWD, na pabilisin at pag-ibayuhin ang pagtulong sa ating maralita. Ang aking instruksyon sa buong gobyerno ay doblehin ang kalinga sa mga kapus-palad.

Upang mapabilis ang panunumbalik ng kapayapaan at kaligtasan sa lipunan, nagdeklara ang inyong Pangulo ng State of Rebellion sa Metro Manila. Ito ay pinahihintulutan ng Konstitusyon upang ang gobyerno ay magkaroon ng kapangyarihan na supilin ang mga masasamang-loob na magsasamantala sa taong-bayan.

Wala akong lalabaging human rights, walang lalabaging human rights ang isang State of Rebellion. Ang karapatang pantao ng lahat ng Pilipino ay patuloy na igagalang. Ang uusigin ng batas ay iyong mga kilalang lider ng rebelyon.

Sa ngayon, ang hinihingi ko sa inyo ay ang ganap na pagtitiwala. Ang hanap ko sa bawat Pilipino — babae at lalake, matanda o bata, ano man ang estado sa buhay — ay makipagtulungan sa gobyerno sa panunumbalik ng normalidad sa lipunan.

Magtulong-tulong po tayo at magkapit-bisig bilang mga Pilipino, bilang anak nina Rizal at tagapagmana ng ating kinabukasan.

Salamat po.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA’s Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412235951/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8600&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the lifting of the proclamation declaring a State of Rebellion

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On the lifting of the proclamation declaring a State of Rebellion

[Issued at the Office of the President, Malacañang, May 6, 2001]

Effective at midnight, I am lifting the proclamation declaring a State of Rebellion in Metro Manila. Humupa na ang gulo. Bagamat mayroon pa ring banta sa ating republika, kontrolado na natin ang sitwasyon. Ang mga power grabber ay nagpo-Poncio Pilato na ngayon. Ang iba sa kanila ay nagtatago sa takot.

Kilala na namin ang mga utak sa likod ng rebelyon. Sila ay nagpagalit at nag-udyok sa mga demonstrador para salakayin ang malakanyang noong Mayo 1. Ipinaaresto na namin sila. Marami sa mga sumalakay ang naka-bilanggo na rin.

Iginagalang ko ang desisyon ng Korte Suprema na makapag-piyansa ang isa o dalawa sa kanila. Pero hindi ibig sabihin nito na ligtas na sila sa kasong rebelyon, ayon na rin sa desisyon ng Korte.

Ang proklamasyon ng State of Rebellion ay sang-ayon sa batas at binigay ng Konstitusyon sa Pangulo ng Pilipinas para iligtas ang bansa at ang kalayaan ng taong-bayan. Sa pamamagitan ng proklamasyon ay nasugpo agad ang paglusob sa Palasyo at nadakip agad ang mga arkitekto ng kasamaan.

Ang rebelyon ay nasugpo nang walang paglabag sa mga karapatang pantao. Ito'y isang katibayan sa katatagan ng ating Saligang Batas at ng makataong tanawin ng administrasyon. Higit sa lahat, ito ay isang tagumpay ng ating demokrasya.

Alam nating lahat kung bakit nagkaroon ng State of Rebellion. Mapayapa ang demonstrasyon ng ating mga maralita sa edsa para iHINGA ang kanilang damdamin. Noong una, ang akala natin ay wala silang lider at walang pagkakaisa.

Pero nang mga huling araw ay lumabas at lumitaw ang mga utak at lider na nagbalak itumba ang ating lihitimong pamahalaan. Ginalit at inudyukan nila ang maralitang nasa edsa na salakayin ang malakanyang — ibagsak ang Gobyerno at magtayo ng bagong kapangyarihan. Isang “junta” ang kanilang balak itayo.

Tuloy, lumusob ang may limampung libo demonstrador sa malakanyang. Nagkagulo sa kahabaan ng Mendiola. Sa kahabaan naman ng J.P. Laurel, sinagasaan ng libu-libong demonstrador ang mga “police checkpoint.” Nagtipon-tipon sila sa harap mismo ng “main gate” ng malakanyang at sa isang kumpas, ay sinimulan ang paglusob sa Palasyo.

Nanindigan ang ating mga magigiting na pulis at sundalo. Ipinagtanggol nila ang integridad ng ating Konstitusyon laban sa mga power grabber.

Nagkamatayan, nagkaduguan, nagkasakitan, nagka-nakawan.

Marami sa mga demonstrador ay lasing o durog ang utak sa droga. Nahulihan sila ng mga baril, patalim, sumpak, molotov cocktail, tear gas at paltik. Sa kanilang dami at dahas ay muntik na silang nakapasok sa loob ng Palasyo. Kung nagkataon, na-masaker sana kami sa loob ng malakanyang ng mga demonstrador. Ang kasunod ay ang pagbagsak ng ating pamahalaan.

Sa ating mga magigiting na pulis at sundalo, sa ngalan ng sambayanang Pilipino, pinasasalamatan ko kayo sa inyong pagtanggol sa ating Konstitusyon at demokrasya. Napanood ng buong Pilipinas at ng buong mundo ang inyong kagitingan. Ipinakita ninyo kung papaano hinarap ang panganib para maipagtanggol ang ating kalayaan.

Sa pamilya ng dalawang pulis na nagbuwis ng buhay, hindi ko kayo pababayaan. Tutulungan namin kayo. Tanggapin ninyo ang taus-pusong pasasalamat ng Sambayanang Pilipino.

Salamat din sa mga miyembro ng “civil society” na walang takot na dumagsa sa Mendiola at sa EDSA Shrine para ipadama sa bayan ang kanilang pakikipag-isa sa Konstitusyon at sa diwa ng EDSA.

Ginagawa ko ang lahat para magbalik ang kapayapaan at pagkakaisa sa ating bansa. Bukod sa aking pag-angat sa state of rebellion sa Metro Manila, dinalaw ko ang mga demonstrador na nakakulong para pakinggan ang kanilang mga hinaing laban sa gobyerno. Ginawa ko iyon para higit kong maunawaan ang kanilang damdamin.

Binisita ko ang sugatang pulis at tiniyak ko na marunong tumanaw ng utang na loob ang bansang Pilipinas.

Dinalaw ko ang dating pangulong Joseph Estrada sa Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, para alamin ang kanyang kalagayan at tiyakin namabuti ang kanyang kalusugan at kaligtasan.

Gagawin ko ang lahat para manumbalik ang kapayapaan sa mga lansangan, mga barangay, mga lungsod at mga parang ng bansa; para maging maayos ang halalan sa Mayo 14; para makatulong sa ating peace talks sa National Democratic Front at sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front; para bumilis ang martsa tungo sa kaunlaran; para tumibay lalo ang bigkis ng ating pagkakaisa; at para maipatupad natin nang mabilis ang ating mga programa para sa mga maralita at mga kapus-palad.

Panahon na para bigyan natin ng bagong buhay at bagong pag-asa ang nakararami sa ating mga mamamayan.

Araw-araw ay lumalakas ang daing ng mga walang trabaho, walang hanapbuhay, walang sapat na salapi para ipakain sa pamilya o para pag-aralin ang mga anak.

Iahon natin sila sa kanilang kahirapan para magkaroon sila ng bubong sa kanilang ulunan, sapat na pagkain sa bawat mesa at salapi para sa edukasyon ng kanilang mga anak. Bigyan natin sila ng bagong respeto sa sarili at kompiyansa sa kanilang hinaharap.

Senador at Bise Presidente pa lamang ay marami na akong binuong programa para sa mga maralita. Unti-unti nang (nagkakatatuo) ang programang ito pero kailangan pa natin ng panahon at dagdag na sipag para magtagumpay ang ating mga balak.

Ang ganap na pagsugpo sa rebelyon ay magaganap lamang kapag natalo na natin ang karalitaan at makapagtatag tayo ng isang mas malaki at masaganang middle class, ng isang lipunan na ang halos lahat ay may hanapbuhay o may sariling negosyo at may sapat na kita hindi lamang para sa mga pangangailangan kungdi para din makapag-impok.

May isandaang araw pa lamang akong nanunungkulan bilang Pangulo ng bansa. Bigyan niyo ako ng panahon.

Ibigay din ninyo sa pamahalaan ang patuloy ninyong suporta. Tangkilikin ang ating Armed Forces at National Police. Ipagpatuloy ang suporta sa proseso at diwa ng batas. Itaguyod ang malinis na halalan sa susunod na Lunes.

Tinatawagan ko ang buong burukrasya, ang executive branch ng pamahalaan na sabayan ako sa aking pagpupunyagi para manumbalik ang kapayapaan, mapalakas ang ekonomiya at maiangat ang buhay ng mga dukha.

Nakikiusap ako sa kongreso na magpasa ng makahulugang batas, maging ehemplo ng disiplina at maging katulong sa pagpapalakas ng bansa.

Nakikiusap ako sa mga hukuman na pairalin ang batas, pabilisin ang proseso ng hustisya, at ipanig ang batas sa mga maralita na may karamihan ay nagiging biktima ng mabagal na sistema ng hustisya.

Nakikiusap ako sa private business at sa mga unyon na magtulungan para lumakas ang industrial peace at magtatag ng isang klima para lumago ang investments.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa media sa mahalaga nilang papel sa pagbuo ng isang malusog na bansa at lipunan.

Ito ang aking hamon sa oposisyon: labanan ninyo ang administrasyon nang may prinsipyo at pananagutan. Huwag tumutol para tumutol lamang, magbigay ng alternatibo sa isang paraang malinis at sang-ayon sa batas.

Sa sambayanan, ipagpatuloy natin ang pagmamatyag. Maging alisto at nakabukas ang mata't taynga. Makipagtulungan sa mga may kapangyarihan. Ipagtanggol ang inyong mga kababayan.

Matatag ang gobyerno at ligtas ang sentro ng pamahalaan. Nasa likod natin ang nagkakaisang lakas ng Armed Forces at ng PNP. Malakas ang ating administrasyon dahil sa tulong at pagkakaisa ng mga mamamayan, ng simbahan, ng civil society, ng mga negosyante at ng mga manggagawa.

Maraming salamat. Mabuhay ang pilipinas. Mabuhay tayong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Statement on the Lifting of the Proclamation declaring a State of Rebellion. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412235920/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8589&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the rescue of some Abu Sayyaf captives [Filipino]

**Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Sa pagsagip sa ilan sa mga nabihag ng Abu Sayyaf**

[Ipinahayag sa Tanggapan ng Pangulo, Malacañang, ika 2 ng Hunyo, 2001]

Mayroon tayong dalawang magandang balita para sa ating mga kababayan. Anim sa mga na-kidnap ng Abu Sayyaf noong isang linggo sa isang beach resort sa Palawan ay nasa kamay na natin ngayon. Ganun din ang labing-apat na dinakip na mangingisda at may report na ang pinakamataas na lider ng mga terorista — si Khadaffy Janjalani ay napatay ng puwersa ng sundalo sa Tuburan, Isabela samantalang si Abu Sabaya naman ay nasugatan sa lamitan na nasa Isabela din. Kinokompirma po natin ito.

Kasama sa mga na-rescue ay sina Ginoong Regis Romero, isang kilalang negosyante, ang walong taong gulang na si Raul Recio at si Eldren Morales na security ng resort.

Si Janjalani ay kapatid ng founder ng Abu Sayyaf at kinikilalang numero unong lider. Sa kanyang pagkamatay, nawalan ng malaking haligi ang mga bandido.

Apat na mangingisda ay nasagip ng mga matapang na sundalo sa Cagayan de Tawi-tawi, sampung mangingisda naman at tatlong taga-beach resort, kasama si Morales ay nasagip sa Tuburan.

Si Morales ay nasagip habang papatayin na sana ng Abu Sayyaf. Ang tatlong hostage naman ay nasagip pagkaraan nang naglaban ang mga Armed Forces at Philippine National Police sa mga bandido sa lamitan.

Patuloy pa po ang labanan sa ngayon at hindi po tayo titigil hanggang hindi nakakalaya ang lahat ng hostage. Uubusin natin ang mga bandido kung hindi sila susuko sa lalong madaling panahon.

Ngunit nalulungkot akong ibalita sa inyo na may nagbuwis ng buhay sa hanay ng ating mga sundalo at Cafgu kapalit ang paglaya ng dalawampung hostages. Limang sundalo kasama ng Cafgu ang namatay. Tatlumpu't-anim naman ang nasugatan.

Nakikiramay po ako sa pamilya ng mga namatay nating sundalo at Cafgu. Tanggapin po ninyo ang pagkikilala ng ating bayan sa kabayanihan ng inyong mga mahal sa buhay. Hindi po kayo pababayaan ng isang bayang kumikilala ng isang malaking utang na loob.

Nais ko rin pong pasalamatang ang mga magigiting na kawal at pulis na patuloy na nakikipaglaban sa mga bandido para mabawi ang natitira pang mga hostage. Ngayon pa man, nakikita ko ang tagumpay ng ating military operation laban sa mga terorista.

Gayundin po sa mga butihing residente ng basilan at Cagayan de Tawi-tawi sa pagtutulong nila sa gobyerno. Marami pong salamat sa inyong lahat.

Nagpapasalamat din po ako sa media sa kanilang pagkakaisa sa pag-unawa sa ating “news blackout” policy. Kailangan pong ma-sorpreza natin ang mga Abu Sayyaf para maligtas ang mga hostage mula sa kamay ng mga bandido.

Samantala, desperado na po ang Abu Sayyaf. Nakabuntot sa kanila ang ating mga kawal at pulis. Na-korner ang isang malaking grupo ng Abu Sayyaf sa bayan ng Lamitan.

Sa kasalukuyan ay nagpipilit ang mga bandido na makalusot sa “lambat” ng ating mga sundalo at pulis. Bigo sila. Patuloy ang pagsukol sa kanila ng AFP at PNP.

May mga residente na naapektuhan ng kaguluhan. Dahil dito, inuutusan ko ang mga sangay ng ating pamahalaan, lalong-lalo na ang dswd na gumawa ng isang malawakang pagtulong sa mga apektadong residente ng Basilan at Cagayan de Tawi-tawi. Kailangan nating iligtas sa hamak ang mga residente.

Sa lahat ng mga Pilipino, magdasal po tayo para sa kaligtasan ng mga hostage, mga kawal at mga pulis.

Sa mga lider ng Abu Sayyaf, wala na kayong tatakbuhan. Kaya mabuti pa, pawalan na ninyo ang mga kinidnap ninyo at sumurender na kayo. Isang bala na lang kayo.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Statement on the rescue of some Abu Sayyaf captives. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412234529/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8656&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: Sa pres-konperensiya

[Ipinahayag sa Heroes Hall, Malacañang, ika 5 ng Hunyo, 2001]

Mga kababayan, nakakalungkot isipin na sa kabila ng mga personal na sakripisyo ng ating mga militar at pulis ay mayroon pa ring bumabatikos sa kanila.

Labing lima na sa kanila ang namatay, singkwenta'y uno naman ang nasugatan ng malubha.

Alam ko na punong-puno na tayo sa mga kalagimang dulot ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf. Alam ko rin na kailangang bigyan ng mabilis na solusyon ang "hostage crisis situation." Ginagawa po nating lahat ang ating magagawa para matapos na ang mga panggugulo ng mga Abu Sayyaf.

May mga pumupuna sa ating mga militar kung bakit daw nakalabas sa military cordon sa lamitan ang mga bandido. Naiintindihan ko ang tanong ng ating mga kababayan. Ubos na ang kanilang pasensya. Ganun din tayo.

Pakiusap ko po sa ating mga kababayan, kung maaari sana ay unawain po natin ang ating mga militar at pulis. Totoo, na-korner na nila ang isang bahagi ng Abu Sayyaf sa ospital at simbahan. Tutoo rin na kung gusto nilang ubusin ng mga oras na iyon ang mga na-korner na Abu Sayyaf maaaring natodas na ang mga bandido.

Pero gusto man nilang salakayin ang atin mga nasukol na bandido sa loob ng simbahan at ospital ay hindi nila magawa dahil sa mga hostages. Kung nagkataon, marami pa sa mga hostage ang namatay at nasugatan.

Mahalaga po ang kaligtasan ng mga hostages at sibilyan. Para sa akin, tatanggapin ko po na makatakas pansamantala ang mga bandido, kung ito ang kapalit ng kaligtasan ng kanilang bihag.

Pinagtali-tali ang mga hostage at ginawang human shields sa pagtakas ng mga bandido. Tinignan ng ating mga militar at pulis ang kaligtasan ng mga hostage. Hindi sila nagpaputok para hindi masaktan ang mga hostage. Dahil dito, nakatakas ang mga bandido, kasama ang mga hostage.

Dapat sana na nadurog na ang mga nakorner na miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf. Pero, hindi naman tama at hindi rin ako makakapayag kung ang kapalit naman ay masaktan o mamatay ang mga hostage.

Ganoon pa man, patuloy ang pag-atake ng ating mga militar at pulis. Sa tulong at pag-unawa ng ating mamamayan, tatapusin natin ito.

Hindi po tayo titigil hanggang maligtas ang lahat ng mga hostage. Lalo po tayong hindi titigil hanggang maubos ang mga Abu Sayyaf.

Kailangan po nating harapin ang panibagong hamon sa atin ng sama-sama tayong lahat. Hindi tayo dapat magkahati-hati sa harap ng lantarang insulto sa dangal ng ating bayan.

Nanawagan ako sa ating mga kababayan na magpakita ng pagkakaisa at bigyan ng suporta ang ating mga magigiting na sundalo at pulis. Magkaisa at magtulungan po tayo para mabigyan ng mabilis na solusyon ang hostage crisis.

Sa DSWD, ipinag-uutos ko na ituloy pa ang pagbibigay ng tulong at kalinga sa mga biktima, pamilya nila at sa mga komunidad na naaapektuhan ng gulo ng Abu Sayyaf. Inaasahan ko ang report mula sa larangan sa progreso ng operasyon araw-araw.

Magkaisa tayo, ang ating lipunan. Ang Abu Sayyaf ay dapat pagkaisahan ng lipunan at nang mawala na ang pesteng ito sa ating buhay. Magtulungan tayong maligtas ang mga hostage at tiyaking hindi na mauulit ang kanilang trahedya. Ililibing natin ang kasaysayan ng bandidong Abu Sayyaf.

Tayong mga ligtas at komportable sa ating bahay, opisina't eskwela, ay magdala sa ating katawan ng diwa ng isang kawal laban sa pesteng Abu Sayyaf. Gamitin natin ang ating mga dasal bilang armas laban sa kaaway at bilang tulong para sa magiting na militar at pulis.

Maraming salamat po.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412235859/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8654&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a Press Conference

[Issued at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, July 6, 2001]

Thank you.

I have four statements.

First, lubha akong nalulungkot na marami ang namatay at nawalan ng tirahan dahil sa kay Oferiað. Nakikiramay po ako at ang aking buong pamilya sa sinapit na trahedya ng mga pamilya ng mga biktima.

At ako'y nasisiyahan na ang DSWD at ang national disaster coordinating council ay ginagawa nila ang kailangang gawin para tumulong sa mga biktima ni Oferiað. Kasama ko nga si Secretary Reyes at saka si Secretary Soliman kanina doon sa Pangasinan, sa Bayambang kung saan mukhang iyon ang pinakamalaking natamaan. And I am confident that the disaster agencies will spare no effort to bring relief to the victims and their families.

Now, noong lumipad kami, nakita namin sa Manila mismo na bumaha na nang baha. Ito ay dahil ilang buwan nang nagkakaroon ng paglilinis ng mga estero. Ganoon pa man, naiinis pa rin ako sa mga report na aking tinatanggap na ang pagbaha sa, at least, ibang bahagi man ng Metro Manila ay dahil sa basura. At kung ano pa ang binabaha sa Manila ay dahil sa basura. Palagi na lang basura ang naririnig ko tuwing may baha. I have four statements.

First, lubha akong nalulungkot na marami ang namatay at nawalan ng tirahan dahil sa kay Oferiað. Nakikiramay po ako at ang aking buong pamilya sa sinapit na trahedya ng mga pamilya ng mga biktima.

At sana, natututo na tayo ngayon dahil kahit konting ulan lang, bumabaha na kapag hindi natin nililinis ang ating mga estero at hindi natin tinatanggal ang basura doon sa mga kanal, sa mga imburnal. Lalo na sa Malabon at Navotas, na iyon talaga ay mababa na, umambon lang, nagbabaha kaagad. Kanina nga noong kami ay lumilipad mula sa Pangasinan, halatang-halata mo yung border ng Navotas, Malabon at saka Maynila — yung kabila, wala ng baha, yung kabila, meroon pang baha. Kitang-kita mo. Kaya, meroon tayong long-term project — yung CAMANAVA — pero meroon ding long-term yung Manila, yung Metro Manila. Kaya kahit na hinihintay yung long-term, meron pa rin tayong pwedeng magawa sa short-term.

Kaya, nananawagan akong muli sa lahat ng kinauukulan: kailangan tayong magkaisa sa wastong pagtapon ng basura. Malaking perwisyo ang idinudulot ng basura.

Sa ating mga kababayan, nakikiusap ako na alagaan ang kalikasan, alagaan ang kalinisan sa ating kapaligiran. Itapon ang basura sa tamang lalagyan — huwag ikalat ang basura sa kalsada at lalo namang huwag gamiting tambakan ng basura ang ating mga ilog, dagat, estero at kanal.

Ngayon, ang DPWH ay matagal na naghahanda dito — naglilinis ng estero — ganoon din ang MMDA kaya inaasahan kong tutuloy po sila sa paggagawa nito sa paglilinis sa mga estero para maiwasan ang pagbaha. At pati na rin ang Armed Forces ay tutulong. Actually tumutulong na dati yung naval construction, yung CVS, pero pati ngayon yung ibang bahagi na ng Armed Forces ay tutulong din dito kasi gusto natin sustained effort ito para sa ganoon each time habang hinihintay natin dumating yung long-term flood control na matagal, yung doon sa pangasinan, itong phase II pinuntahan ko, under construction, 2006 magkakaroon sila ng ginhawa, kasi talagang long-term. So in the short term, yun talaga ang paglilinis ng estero ang importante.

Inaasahan ko na sa loob ng darating na araw ay mawawala na sana ang mga nakatambak na basura sa kalsada at mga naglulutang na basura sa mga estero at ilog. Kasi nga, ito pa lang ang unang malaking bagyo, pero siguro mayroon pang labing-isang darating na bagyo kasi on the average may 12 typhoons a year. So, dapat ngayon pa lang — nag-

umpisa na yung DPWH at ang MMDA noon — ngayon sana lahat ng mamamayan, lahat ng community ay magiging conscious dito.

Inaasahan ko rin na mawawala na ang mga potholes o lubak sa ating mga kalsada. Kailangan din gawin yun ng DPWH dahil pag umuulan at hindi maganda pagkagawa ng aspalto ay nagkakaroon ng potholes. So, this is very important for all of us to address.

Now, on the peso. The strength of the peso depends on the performance of the total economy and on external factors.

I know, I know what ails the economy, and there are no quick fixes for structural faults. It is also our misfortune that the Abu Sayyaf bandits attacked Dos Palmas resort in Palawan and took hostages. Add to that, the other pernicious events that took place recently that weighed down the peso.

Alam ko na na marami sa atin ay naiinip na pero inaasahan ko na hindi magtatagal, sisiglang muli ang ating kabuhayan.

Some bold measures will be undertaken in the coming days to overcome the internal problems that beset our economy.

So thank you for that particular statement.

Ngayon pangatlo, bukod sa hindi napapanahon at magastos — kasi marami ang nagtatanong sa akin tungkol sa charter change — ang usapang charter change ay makakaabala sa ating prayoridad. Kaya, actually, hindi ko naman mapipigil ang sinumang Congressman o Senador na gustong mag-file, hindi ko rin mapipigil kung i-schedule sa hearing, sa committee, hindi ko rin mapipigil kung i-schedule sa floor debate, at hindi ko rin mapipigil yung mga gustong bumoto o hindi gustong bumuto, ngunit meron akong karapatan na magbigay ng aking kuro-kuro dahil tinatanong sa akin. At para sa akin ay anumang balak na baguhin ang konstitusyon ay maghahati-hati sa bansa.

Mas maraming malalaking problema at major objectives na dapat nating tutukan. Kaya, yung mga politicians, at political parties, or politicians man, gaya ng sabi ko, meron silang karapatan. They have their right. The political parties, however, lalo na yung nasa aking coalition, siguro naman puwede akong magbigay ng aking kuro-kuro sa kanila.

And while I cannot stop the efforts of individual politicians to amend and rewrite the constitution, it is not the administration position. And speaking for the, as for a people power coalition, as I'm their head, and they have elected me to be their head, they have asked me to be their head, it is not also the coalition position.

Any effort to change the charter will be untimely, expensive, and divisive. It will distract us from our priorities and major goals.

Ang pag-amyenda ng Saligang Batas ay maghahati sa bansa dahil ang mga isyu tungkol sa gobyerno, pulitika at ekonomiya ay complex at may kani-kanyang tagatulak na may sariling interest.

Ang debate ay pag-amyenda ng konstitusyon ay makakaapekto sa ating kampanya na palakasin ang ekonomiya, patatagin ang lipunan at palusugin ang kapayapaan ng bansa.

Ito'y nagnanakaw ng ating pansin mula sa malalaking problema at mga mahahalagang proyekto na dapat nating harapin.

And so, as I said, I cannot stop individual leaders who are seeking to rewrite the constitution. They have their freedom to continue or to shelve their plans for the future but I believe that we should wait until the economy has strengthened and national stability and unity are stronger.

I believe we should focus on our more urgent priorities, addressing more pressing problems and continue to accomplish our major goals.

Mas lalo tayong makakatulong kung kalilimutan natin ang “Cha-Cha” at harapin ang mga problema ng bansa.

So, that is my third statement. Thank you.

And finally, I’ve been asked about divorce. I was asked last week and I’ve been asked again and again. So, I will give a statement.

Nanganganib ang pamilyang Pilipino dahil sa balak ng ilan na magkaroon ng divorce sa Pilipinas. Ito’y dapat tutulan.

Hindi ako kumporme sa divorce. Wawasakin ang pamilyang Pilipino kung magkakaroon ng divorce sa ating bayan. Hihina ang institusyon ng pamilya, hihina din ang ating lipunan.

And so I believe, we should resist divorce because it will weaken the Filipino family. It will enervate the home. It will erode society.

Ang pamilya ay isang mahalagang haligi ng lipunan. Ito ang kablesa ng pambansang pagkakaisa.

The family is the central unit of society. It is the basic source of our national bond and fraternity.

In the words of the constitution, the state “recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution”.

So I believe, we should protect the mandate of the constitution on the sanctity of the family. Dapat ipagtanggol natin ang atas ng saligang batas tungkol sa karangalan ng pamilya.

Sa mata ng ating Poon, banal din ang pamilya at ang mga kasapi nito. May espesyal silang grasya para sa mga nagbuklod ng mahabang panahon sa ilalim ng isang bubong.

Ang diborsyo ay isang banta sa kasal na maaari pang magtagal. Isang banta sa pamilya na maaari pang sagipin.

Ito’y isang salot sa buhay ng mga batang magiging biktima ng paghihiwalay ng mga magulang. Pangit at parang bangungot ang epekto ng diborsyo sa buhay ng mga bata.

Sa halip ng divorce, sana pairalin natin ang marriage counseling para sa mga kabataan bago sila magdesisyon magpakasal. Pairalin natin ang marriage counseling para sa mga mag-asawang nag-iisip na maghiwalay.

Sa halip na isang batas sa diborsyo, sana ang ating mga senador at kongresista ay mag-isip ng panukala na magpapalakas sa institusyon ng kasal at ng pamilya.

Ito’y para sa kabutihan ng ating kabataan. Ito’y para sa katatagan ng ating lipunan at ito’y para sa kinabukasan ng ating bansa.

So those are my four statements.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213413/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8665&Itemid=38

Arrival Statement: President Arroyo at Davao City

Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: At Davao City

[Issued in Davao City, August 9, 2001]

I am pleased to join the business leaders and local government and community leaders here in Mindanao. And to use this occasion to report to the Filipino people what my mission in Malaysia accomplished.

I would like to say that we accomplished everything that I originally set out to achieve — and much more. As you know, my state visit to Malaysia was my first abroad as president. I set out on this trip for the most fundamental requisites of a nation and people — peace and development. These requisites, I am sure, are also foremost in the minds of those participating in this forum.

I am glad to report our substantial achievements in the cause of peace and development as a result of the unstinting support of Prime Minister Dr. Seri Mahathir Muhammad, his government, and the Malaysian nation and people.

Let me say, therefore, when I went to Malaysia and I talked about peace, I talked about Mindanao. When I talked about trade, I talked about Mindanao. When I talked about investments, I talked about Mindanao. When I talked about EAGA, I talked about Mindanao. When I talked about coming back home, I talked about Mindanao. My visit to Malaysia was all about Mindanao.

In the course of our private talk with the prime minister, he exuded a deep affection for our people especially here in Mindanao. He upholds the vision that our respective nations and peoples should always be partners in peace, development, solidarity and progress. He explicitly and repeatedly stated for all to behold, that Malaysia shall only support a solution to the conflict in Mindanao that derives from the invariable standards of the Philippine constitution, our national sovereignty and our territorial integrity.

In the course of my state visit, the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed an agreement for unification, placing them firmly behind our common aspirations – peace, justice, equality, progress in sum, the advancement of human security among Filipino Muslims under these lofty and shared standards.

Also, while in Kuala Lumpur, our government and the MILF signed an agreement containing the detailed guidelines for a durable ceasefire. The agreement advances to a higher level the determination of both sides to stop the fighting on the ground, and enables the substantive issues of rehabilitation and development to take precedence on the negotiating table and, as far as I am concerned, on the ground. I have always felt — and I say once again here — that a peace agreement is a piece of paper unless we have development very clearly shown our Muslim brothers. And so I would like, now, that we have a ceasefire, to pursue development so they will be attracted to enter the mainstream not because we keep negotiating with them, but because they want to have a share in the development that peace is making available.

I have faith that our partnership with Malaysia for peace and development will move forward decisively after my state visit. We shall build more bridges of understanding and constructive endeavors as we tackle the issues of broader regional cooperation in security and investment. Reinforcing this mutual commitment is our common abhorrence of all forms of terrorism and extremism and the common vision of constitutional stability and collective security among all nations in this part of the world.

As the guns become silent, the pace of social and economic development must be quickened so that we can infuse the spaces of normalcy with the bounty of jobs and livelihood opportunities. Peace and development are but both sides of the same coin — the coin of national stability and progress.

On the economic front, Prime Minister Mahathir and I agreed to fully support the revitalization of BIMP-EAGA, consistent with the ASEAN initiative to link more closely its less developed regions with more economically progressive areas of ASEAN.

To achieve this, we agreed to strengthen the transportation and financial linkages among our areas. Specifically, we discussed the resumption of direct flights from Malaysia to Davao, as well as the improvement of port facilities to support the existing ferry services between Zamboanga and Sandakan.

I am glad that the former congressman from Davao del Norte, now secretary of transportation and communications is here, Bebot Alvarez. I don't have to give you a separate memo, this is already my notice to you. In addition, financial linkages between Malaysia and southern Philippines will be strengthened with the establishment of a branch office of Maybank, Malaysia's biggest commercial bank. And this branch will be established in Zamboanga City.

The purchase of equity in an Amanah bank by Malaysian investors is also in the final stages of confirmation by our monetary authorities and will significantly expand Islamic banking in the Philippines.

The two countries also agreed to explore collaborations in palm oil, combining the know-how and investment capital of Malaysia with a large pool of available labor in the Philippines. I told the Malaysian businessmen and officials that palm oil is one of our hopes for creating a million jobs in agriculture.

Taking off from the inputs of the private business sector of Mindanao and upon their recommendation, I told them that we hope to open 160,000 hectares of land for palm oil especially in Mindanao. This is intended not to displace our coconut industry but rather to supplement it.

The national agriculture and fisheries council of the department of agriculture represented by secretary of agriculture Leonardo Montemayor, entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Agusan plantations incorporated under its Malaysian chairman, Chan Chok Lim, who will invest in 13,000 new hectares for palm oil to be cultivated over the next three years in Agusan del Sur, Bohol and Cotabato Provinces.

Under this agreement, the NAPC will assist in locating suitable land and identifying participating farmers. The project is expected to generate about 4,000 jobs.

The Khadaffy International Charitable Foundation of Libya is ready, it's got its money and you know it has money, to invest in 35,000 hectares for palm oil in combination with Malaysian expertise. What they need for the Mindanao business community is the specific location of the available land, starting with the available 35,000 hectares.

In this particular case, they have specified that they would like you to be in the Muslim areas for this 35,000. So I urge the private sector, the Mindanao business community to do your part in helping all these investors find that specific hectareage where they can put their money and their expertise. After all, the figure of 160,000 hectares did not come from my magic hat; it came from the private sector of Mindanao. I now challenge you to follow up your words with actual delivery.

Tourism secretary Richard Gordon and his Malaysian counterpart signed a meaningful tourism agreement. Both countries will promote and sell each other's destination in tandem in third countries. This will bring about better awareness of, and more tourist arrivals to the Philippines. As prime minister Mahathir said, the agreement will encourage the 500,000 Chinese and 300,000 Indians who go to Malaysia, to fly from china or Delhi to KL, and then to manila or Cebu or Davao. The agreement also will encourage tourists and citizens within our countries to extend their visit to each others destination.

In other words, if there are tours that go to Kuala Lumpur, the tourism industry of Kuala Lumpur will encourage them to extend the trip to manila or Cebu or Davao, and vice-versa.

The minister of tourism and culture has already committed to bring the Malaysian association of travel agencies to the Philippines in October to implement the agreement with the department of tourism and our Philippine travel agencies. In addition, charter flights are already being organized by a Malaysian group to bring tourists from Shanghai to Clark, Sabah to Clark, and Shen-shen to Cebu, two times a week, or six flights a week, starting November. That is, if, the civil aeronautics board, again, under Bebot Alvarez, will facilitate the clearances for these charter flights. Dumadami ang specific objectives ni Bebot.

The B.O.T and DOLE have already started organizing, also last night, the overseas Filipinos in Malaysia to be tourism volunteers, and to aim for one Malaysian a month to travel to the Philippines. Dick Gordon will provide them the ammunition. Brochures, CD-ROMs and, of course, e-mail and websites, and we'll give a reward to the OFWs who bring the most number of tourists to the Philippines.

Dick may go back to Malaysia in September, to make sure that everything is already on stream. And I think if you get yourselves well-organized, even before the Malaysian tourism minister brings the Malaysian travel agents to the Philippines in September, if you can already organize a mission, Dick will bring the local travel agents to Malaysia for this arrangement. So I urge the private sector to seize this opportunity and join Dick in this exciting project. I Of course, with the Filipino community in the Gargatuan gathering of 1,800 that spilled over the foyer of the huge ballroom of Kuala Lumpur Shangrila hotel. Malaysia, perhaps, if you don't know, is host to the biggest number of overseas Filipino workers in Asia, currently estimated at 600,000 — more than Hongkong, more than Saudi Arabia, more than any country in Asia.

And during that dinner last night, these OFWs contributed P1 million to our poverty alleviation fund, because they said, eh, kung iyong mga foreigners maghihintay-hintay pa, kami na lang ang mag-i-invest sa Pilipinas. We have more than half a million Filipinos living in Sabah. Many of them are undocumented and are subject to periodic crackdowns by immigration authorities. Sometimes they end up becoming boat people for a few days. Because when they are sent out of Malaysia, because they don't have Malaysian papers and then they're sent back to Zamboanga. And Zamboanga says, we have no record that you're a Filipino citizen. So they're deported again from Zamboanga —and they're not going back to Saba. It's a very big irritant; not only an irritant in our relationship, but a great cause of inconvenience and suffering for ... those individuals themselves. It is time to stop the suffering of our brothers in Sabah. It is time to put up an office in Sabah to protect them. And I am asking Vice-President Guingona, who is also our secretary of foreign affairs, to set up an economic and cultural office in Sabah, similar to the one that we had in Taipei in order to protect our Filipino workers in Sabah.

In our one-on-one talks, I discussed with prime Mahathir our need to reopen the National Steel Corporation, Iligan plant, as soon as possible. Apart from this one-on-one discussion, Secretary Mar Roxas also met with the Chairman and Managing Director of Danaharta, which is a Malaysian government entity holding the ownership shares in NSC. Danaharta shares our objective of finding both And long term solutions to NSC. Accordingly, they have agreed to enter and participate in the joint government Philippine creditor banks and Malaysian owners process to receive proposals for the interim operation of national steel pending a more permanent solution. The process — led by DTI — is to invite prospective investors or operators of national steel to submit their proposals. And then the process will evaluate, negotiate, and award to the best-hatched proposal the mandate to operate national steel in the interim that a final solution is being sought for. So that while we are waiting for a final solution to be solved by all the creditors, liquidators, government courts, in the meantime, hopefully, national steel can be temporarily or interimly running, and the people in Iligan city can go back to their jobs. The agreed deadline for the submission of proposals is September 15 next month.

Mar Roxas also signed an agreement with the Malaysian multimedia cyber corridor corporation to enable Philippine software companies to undertake software designed work for Malaysia's smart card project. This agreement will also transfer know-how and technology to enable us to consider its applicability and desirability for better delivery of government service. Malaysia has its cyber corridor and this is the way by which we can participate in that cyber corridor. That is part of our promoting ICT in the Philippines.

The Asian Institute of Management was able to get additional business. It entered into an agreement that will enable it to expand its operations to Malaysia and Singapore by conducting master's degrees programs in entrepreneurship at the Academia. And RFM corporation was one of the many business organizations that were able to get into

joint ventures. RFM Corporation signed two joint venture agreements, bringing additional Malaysian markets and investments for the Philippines. One agreement was for the distribution of Selecta ice cream to the Southeast Asian ice cream market. The other is for the setting up of a cold storage facility and logistic services in the Philippines with Malaysian investment funds.

Energy secretary Vince Perez held extensive discussions with Malaysian energy officials. Petronas, for instance, expressed its strong interest in pursuing a Sabah Luzon subsigas pipeline. As you know, we have the Malampaya coming on stream very soon. And the idea is to have a pipeline that will go either from Sabah to Malampaya or from Sabah to Bataan, or from Sabah to Batangas. So that we will have this integration, and this is truly BIMP-EAGA. Petronas is also considering joining a NAFTA cracker project of the PNOC Petro Chemical Development Corporation. And there is a Malaysian consortium of power companies to be led by Tanaga, which may bid in the upcoming privatization of national power corporations.

According to the foreign minister of Malaysia, when we had our forum with the Malaysian business community, it was the best business forum he had ever attended in honor of a visiting head of government. And he said, it was well attended not only in number, but also in quality, because those who were in attendance were the leading captains of Malaysian industry and not just their managing directors.

The diplomatic and parliamentary welcome contingent that greeted me upon my arrival was also four times as large as the usual turnout for a visiting head of state. All these mean that Malaysia is, at the very least, curious about us. But I think, I hope, it means more than that, that it is bullish about the Philippines and considers Philippines an important neighbor to itself. Therefore, I ask you the business community, the local government units, let us seize this opportunity to vigorously work for peace and development. Let us seize the new curiosity and the new bullishness that our neighbors have for us to promote jobs, jobs, jobs, because that is what we need. We need to get them. And to get these jobs, we need investments. So let us all be investor friendly. And according to our Malaysian businessmen, when they talk about an investor-friendly national government, they talk about investor-friendly provincial and local governments. And they talked about transparency in transactions, approvals, and the issuances of permits. The investors want to see seamless efforts from the national to the local governments in transparency in investment promotion. They don't want to talk to too many people for too many licenses and permits. And for this reason, because they want a seamless effort from the national to the local governments, I also ask mar Roxas to expand its one-stop-shop for investment to include local government approvals. I ask the local government to cooperate in this important restructuring of the investment promotion machinery including the reduction of red tape by one-half, which is what I am requiring from the national government agencies and to the local governments, let me say this, it will be for your good. Because those local government units who cooperate most energetically with the cutting down of red tape. And the cutting down of the curtain that separates them from the processes of the national government, will be the favored destinations for incoming investment missions.

I, therefore, especially ask the people of Mindanao to take advantage of all of these doors that we opened up during my visit to Malaysia, after all, Mindanao should be the gateway to the ASEAN. Mindanao should be the gateway to that 21st century. I think I have not been remiss in doing my duty towards Mindanao as a daughter of Mindanao. From January to May, I spent one or two days every week here in Mindanao. I was here every week in Mindanao from January to May. After that, of course, I had to attend to the passage of the power sector reform bill, because it was very important for our investment climate. And I had to attend to the final putting together of the government program that I presented in the state of the nation address. But now we have done all that, we have consolidated and I can begin again my weekly visits to Mindanao. And this is my first of the resumption here in Davie.

So I believe that there is no cause for anyone to complain that I neglect Mindanao. And in return I ask, let us use this opportunity to make Mindanao the gateway to ASEAN, the gateway to the 21st century, the gateway to lasting peace and development for the people of the Philippines.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Arrival Statement at Davao City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213336/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8708&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the arrival of the Indonesia President Megawati Soekarnoputri

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the arrival of the Indonesia President Megawati Soekarnoputri

[Issued on August 21, 2001]

History traverses an important crossroad today. It is the death anniversary of the martyr Ninoy Aquino, a great freedom fighter. It is also a day when a champion of democracy, president Megawati, honors us for a state visit. As we honor her and the Indonesian people, we reminisce the common struggle that we share against poverty, oppression, and injustice.

I am glad to receive president Megawati at a time when we have just implemented the final stage of the 1996 peace accord between our government and the Moro National Liberation Front. Indonesia was highly instrumental in facilitating and hosting the negotiations that led to that agreement. And I would like to thank the Indonesian government and the people through president Megawati in helping us regain the peace in Mindanao.

Indonesia continues to be the chair of the committee of the eight of the organization of the Islamic conference, the committee which oversees the involvement of the world Islamic body in peace and development in Mindanao. I am glad that through all these years, Indonesia has exercised its leadership in this committee in keeping with the highest respect for Philippine sovereignty and constitutional processes. And I am very happy to hear from president Megawati that under her administration, Indonesia will continue to do its part in helping us in our peace and development in Mindanao.

It is also in this spirit that I wish to reciprocate by expressing our highest regard and our unrelenting support for Indonesia's quest for unity, peace and progress, under its inherent constitutional standard and lofty national ideas. Our global neighborhood increases in kinship from day to day. President Megawati and I agreed that since our fathers, President Sukarno and President Macapagal, were like brothers, we should also be like sisters supporting each other, as we seek solutions to problems that we inherited in our respective nations. The journey of leaders across the region marks a new dawn of partnerships for peace, development, harmony, and progress, such as that embodied in the East ASEAN Growth Area, or EAGA. With these partnerships, there will certainly emerge a sense of stronger collective security, greater bonds of friendship, and common enterprise, all of which will redound to the good of all our peoples and nations.

Thank you, president Megawati, for your endearing presence in our country.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Statement during the Arrival of the Indonesia President Megawati Soekarnoputri. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409213021/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8703&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During a Press Conference**

[Issued at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, February 8, 2002]

Maraming salamat. Thank you Bobi.

Our honorable Secretaries; ating mga awardees; ladies and gentlemen:

Una sa lahat, gusto kong magbigay ng aking pagbati sa lahat ng mga nanalo na mga outstanding local government units. At dahil kayo ay narito ginamit ko itong pagkakataon para magpahayag ng dalawang pahayag sa ating buong bansa sa pamamagitan ninyo.

Ang una ay tungkol sa edukasyon para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa Mindanao. Sa mga sandaling ito’y nagagalak akong ibalita ang isang bagong programa ng pamahalaan para sa kinabukasan ng Mindanao — ang edukasyon para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa Mindanao. ‘yan ang ating programa.

Hahanapin natin ang kaunlaran ng mindanao hindi lamang sa pagpapalusog ng ekonomiya at pagpapalakas sa kaayusan at katahimikan. Ang isang mahalagang susi sa hinaharap ng Mindanao, lalo na ng kabataan ay ang edukasyon o pag-aaral.

Sa pamamagitan ng edukasyon para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa Mindanao ay gagawin nating isang mahalagang bahagi ng pambansang edukasyon ang Madrasah education system.

Hihingin natin ang tulong ng mga eksperto mula sa Muslim communities para i-ambag ang kanilang karanasan at talino sa pagpapalakas ng edukasyon sa buong pulo ng Mindanao, sa Sulu at Basilan.

Isasama natin ang civil society, non-government organizations, ang business sector at iba pang bahagi ng private community sa pagbuo ng isang bagong agenda sa Mindanao.

Maglalagay tayo ng pondo para sa pagpapalakas ng mga paaralan, kalidad ng pagtuturo at pagtaas ng antas ng edukasyon sa katimugang Pilipinas.

Ang programang ito ay may 5-point agenda: information and communication technology; Madrasah education; peace education; Mindanao culture and history; at teacher training program.

Ang mag-iimplement ng programa ay ang tanggapan ng pangulo — at ang aking Presidential Assistant for education ay si Mona Valisno — ang Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education at Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Upang ilunsad ang programa, magkakaroon ng isang consultative conference sa susunod na buwan sa isang lungsod sa Mindanao. Hinihingi ko ang tulong ng lahat upang magtagumpay ang edukasyon para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa Mindanao.

Ang pangalawang aking pahayag naman ay tungkol din sa Mindanao.

Tayo ngayon ay naglalayag sa isang dakilang pakikipag- sapalaran sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa. We are now embarked on a great and grand adventure in the history of our nation.

Sa pulo ng Basilan at sa iba't-ibang dako ng Pilipinas ay nagsasanay ang mga magigiting na kawal ng dalawang dakilang bansa na may mahabang kasaysayan ng pagtutulungan at pagkakaibigan.

Sa loob ng anim na buwan ay magtutulungan ang dalawang hukbo sa pagpapalakas ng kapasidad at galing ng sarili nating Armed Forces of the Philippines, ang tagapagtanggol ng bansang Pilipinas sang-ayon sa ating Konstitusyon.

Sa loob at pagkatapos ng anim na buwan, lalong lalakas ang ating hukbo. lalong bubuti ang kanilang galing sa siyensya ng depensa at salakay. Lalong lalakas ang kanilang armas sa tema ng makabagong eroplano, barko, tangke, riple at iba pang kagamitan ng military.

Sa madaling salita, magkakaroon tayo ng makabagong Hukbong Sandatahan ng Pilipinas. At the end of this exercise, we shall have a new, improved and stronger Armed Forces of the Philippines.

At dahil dito ay lalong lalakas ang seguridad ng Pilipinas. Lalong lalakas ang katatagan ng bansa laban sa mga kaaway sa loob at mga kaaway sa labas. At kung malakas at matatag ang ating kaligtasan, kung malakas ang peace and order lalong bibilis ang ating kaunlaran.

Lalo nating mapapabilis ang ating kampanya na umunlad ang ekonomiya, magtatag ng maraming negosyo, lumikha ng maraming trabaho, pataasin ang sahod ng manggagawa, bawasan ang kahirapan at itaas ang kalidad ng buhay ng mga mamamayan.

Lalong bibilis ang pagbagsak ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf at bibilis ang pagbabalik ng katahimikan sa Basilan, Sulu at Mindanao. At dahil dito ay lalo nating matututukan ang pagpapalusog sa agrikultura at industriya sa Mindanao. Ang pagpapatayo ng maraming planta at pabrika. Ang paglikha ng maraming hanapbuhay sa mga lungsod, bukid at karagatan.

At lalong lalakas ang pagbalik ng tiwala ng mga negosyante sa ating bansa. investors' confidence in our economy and in our stability will grow and prosper.

Sino ang tutol sa pagpapalakas ng ating hukbong sandatahan? Sino ang laban sa alok na tulong at kaligtasan ng taong-bayan?

Hindi ka Pilipino kung salungat ka sa kapakanan ng sarili mong kawal. Hindi ka Pilipino kung tutol ka sa tulong na inaalok ng isang kaibigan. At hindi ka Pilipino kung tutol ka sa katahimikan at kaunlarang pangako ng Balikatan 2002.

Kung hindi ka Pilipino ay sino ka? Isang protektor ng mga terorista. Isang kasosyo ng mga mamamatay-tao. Isa kang Abu Sayyaf lover. Mas mahal mo ang mga terorista kaysa sa sarili mong kawal na nagtatanggol sa iyo. Mas mahal mo ang bandido at kampo ni Osama Bin Laden kaysa sa isang bansa ang hanap ay tulongan ka.

Panahon na para malaman kung sino ang nasa panig ng kaligtasan, kapayapaan at kaunlaran ng Pilipinas, at kung sino ang gustong mamalagi ang Abu Sayyaf at magpatuloy ang gulo sa Basilan at Mindanao.

Panahon na para makilala kung sino ang kampi ng demokrasya at pagtutulungan ng mga malayang bansa, at kung sino ang kampi ng terorismo at sa paghahari ng puwersa ni Osama Bin Laden.

Dapat makilala kung sino ang nasa panig ng kalayaan at kung sino ang nasa panig ng pananakot. Walang puwedeng miron lamang. You are either for or against democracy, freedom and prosperity. There can be no bystanders.

Nagpapasalamat ako na napakarami ang sumusuporta sa Balikatan at sa pagtutulungan ng Pilipinas at Amerika laban sa terorismo. Kayo'y nasa panig ng katwiran. Kayo'y nasa tamang landas ng kasaysayan.

Hindi tayo mabibigo. Hindi mabibigo ang taong-bayan. Pagkaraan ng anim na buwan magkakaroon tayo ng isang bago at malakas na armed forces na mas may malakas na kapasidad na durugin ang mga kaaway at ipagtanggol ang bansang Pilipinas.

As your President, I will not stop until the last of the Abu Sayyaf members is captured dead or alive.

Malaki ang aking tiwala kung tayo lamang ay magkakaisa at magtutulungan, maililibing natin ang perwisiyong Abu Sayyaf.

At sa oras na magpaalam na tayo sa galamay ng terorismo, magbabalik ang mga kapitalista at investors na ngayon pa lamang ay unti-unti ng bumabalik sa Pilipinas. Lalong dadagsa ang mga turista. Uunlad ang ekonomiya. Sisigla ang negosyo. Dadami ang hanapbuhay. Ang ating ekonomiya na lumakas ng 3.7 percent noong nakaraang taon sa kabila ng global economic downturn ay lalong magiging masagana at malusog.

At iyan ay dahil sa bagong rehimen ng pagtutulungan ng Pilipinas at Amerika, at iba pang ating mga kaibigan, sa tulong ng ating Kongreso, sa tulong ng civil society, sa tulong ng simbahan, at sa tulong ng mas maraming nakakarami sa ating taong-bayan.

Sa inyong lahat lalung-lalo na yung mga local government units, yung mga outstanding local government units natin, yung mga umaakyat dito, halos lahat kilala ko sila. Outstanding sila sa ginagawa nila. Pero alam ko rin na sila ay sumusuporta sa ating patakaran tungkol sa Balikatan.

Kaya sa inyong lahat na nakakuha ng awards itong araw na ito, Congratulations! At maraming salamat sa inyong tuloy na suporta.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230746/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7618&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the announcement of the discovery of natural gas in Victoria, Tarlac by the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC)

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

On the announcement of the discovery of natural gas in Victoria, Tarlac by the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC)

[Issued at the Reception Hall, Malacañang, February 12, 2002]

I'm happy to announce that the Philippine National Oil Company Consortium Drilling for Petroleum in Victoria, Tarlac successfully plowed out natural gas after two months of drilling.

The indigenous fuel find called the Victoria 3 was spotted last December 1st 2001 and drilled to a total depth of 9,000 feet. Natural gas flowed and flared at the depth of between 5,175 and 5,505 feet. The well has continuously been flowing since Friday, February 8, 2002.

While the total volume of the potential gas reserves has yet to be fully determined pending the conduct of further evaluation tests and drilling operations by our PNOC consortium, I am optimistic that this latest discovery will act as a catalyst that will spur exploration and drilling operations in the area and eventually generate economic activities in what is considered to be a basic agricultural region.

This new natural gas find may provide additional energy source for the country. It is also a good indication of the prospects of Central Luzon not only as a rice producing region but also as a petroleum basin.

The gas find is nestled in the foothills of the magnificent Mount Arayat in Central Luzon.

I believe that this find will generate much interest from exploration and power companies. I therefore call on Filipino and foreign companies with expertise in this sector to tie up with PNOC-EDC and PNOC-EC to fully develop this gas potential further.

Much has been said about increasing economic activities in Southern Luzon, I believe it's about time that we further develop Central Luzon as we introduce a new industry — the natural gas industry.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Statement to announce the discovery of Natural Gas in Victoria, Tarlac by the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230708/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7614&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a Press Conference

[Delivered at the Multi-purpose Bldg., Clark Field, Angeles City, Pampanga, April 4, 2002]

Good morning to everyone. Please sit down.

I'm happy to welcome the renowned U.S. business company United Parcel Service known as U.P.S. to the Philippines.

The U.P.S. is the biggest carrier service in the world today. And we are happy that they chose the Philippines to be their hub. The company is identified with efficient, dependable and quality service, and is known to bring progress to countries and cities that benefit from its operations.

I am pleased to note the U.P.S. comes to the Philippines not only to provide service here but to make our country its hub for its Asia-Pacific operations.

It is a business decision that honors the great Filipino worker. It is a business decision that reaffirms the Philippines' role as a center for corporate business in the region.

I had the pleasure last year, on my birthday, April 5th 2001, to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the government of the Philippines and the U.P.S. and now, we witness the fruition of that agreement and the inauguration of U.P.S.' services in the country and Southeast Asia.

Today, we are all witness also to the ceremonial landing of the U.P.S. corporate plane named Lipad Pag-asa or soaring hope that inaugurates this vital service to the business world and to private homes and citizens.

The U.P.S. operations are expected... And they have — yes, Mr. Wallace told us this morning — that this investment is worth 300 million dollars. And it is expected to grant better regionwide access to exporters and importers fortifying the Philippines' vital edge in East Asian transportation and logistics.

Most analysts agree that this venture will generate significant interest from locators across the world. This would also create additional investments and tremendous employment opportunities for Filipinos.

This development is a reaffirmation of the growing confidence of foreign investors in the Philippine government — the Philippine government, the health of its economy and the level of stability obtaining in the country today.

Speaking of confidence in the Philippine economy, in the health of the Philippine economy, in the sustainability of what we have done in this administration to gain back the Philippine economy on the path to sustainable growth, I am very happy to learn that just as Moody's last January upgraded our negative to stable, I am happy to learn that standard and poor is now also upgrading our credit rating from negative to stable.

Thus, U.P.S. is a microcosm of what the international business community now considers regarding the Philippines. This investment of U.P.S. — 300 million dollars — manifests the optimism of U.P.S in our future and the close economic ties between the Philippines and the United States.

I wish to reassure U.P.S., the community of businessmen who have come to the Philippines, and those who are about to participate in our national life, that this administration is committed to strengthening conditions that make investments profitable and welcome on our soil.

It is my pleasant task today — among other things — to receive a commemorative check from U.P.S. President Ron Wallace — this is for our Aeta community that was given earlier 30,000 dollars or 1.5 million pesos — and also to witness the arrival of the U.P.S Browntail, the official aircraft courier.

I was also honored to offer a toast to the health of U.P.S., its officials and workers. And to President Ron Wallace and the rest of the U.P.S. family, welcome to the Philippines! May you thrive and prosper, may you help bring Asia together, and may your services multiply our fortunes and blessings.

I would also like to pay the proper acknowledgment to those who made this 300 million dollars investment possible a reality today from our own shores. This investment has been worked on already for about two years by Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas. And when I became President, Secretary Roxas told me that one of the first things I must do is to constitute the new board of Clark because certainly an investor will want to constitute its business with a board that will not be changed the next day. So they wanted to know who is the new board of the new administration, and so we gave them an all Capampangan but all professional board — Roy Navarro, Manny Angeles and the rest of the highly professional board of CDC that they say U.P.S. tells us they have really found to be a professional team to do business with. And for all the licenses and permits from all of the agencies, U.P.S. tells me that they have found nothing but efficient service and they are especially impressed by the fact we just appointed Tony Bernardo as Commissioner. He lost no time in signing all the papers needed. He didn't need a learning curb. And that's what I expect from Tony in our anti-smuggling drive.

So, to all of those who made this investment a reality today I congratulate you and thank you. And to all those who will benefit because of more efficient logistics and therefore greater employment, I congratulate you too. And let us all work together to make the Philippines a good place to do business in and to hire the great Filipino worker.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230107/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7652&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on her State Visit to the Republic of Singapore, August 26, 2001

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On her State Visit to the Republic of Singapore**

[Released on August 26, 2001]

**FOSTERING CLOSER BILATERAL TIES WITH
BRUNEI AND SINGAPORE**

I have just arrived from my state visits to Negara Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore. I thank you for your support and prayers, which made those visits to our ASEAN neighbors successful.

During the visits, we reaffirmed our commitment to the goals and ideals of ASEAN. At the same time, we fostered closer bilateral ties with these two important countries in our region. Sultan Bolkiah, Prime Minister Goh and I reiterated our determination to project ASEAN as a united regional group that seeks to promote the prosperity of the individual member-states and to contribute to attaining regional and world stability. We reaffirmed our belief in the power of private enterprise and a market-based economy to achieve optimum trading arrangements among and between countries.

My delegation and I presented to the leadership of Brunei and Singapore the direction of Philippine policy in the economic and social spheres. I presented our policies and programs for winning the battle against poverty within the decade, and our efforts to attract investments and create jobs through prudent macro-economic management.

The leaders of Brunei and Singapore commended our briefing and pledged to support our aspirations. Our initiative to reenergize BIMP-EAGA received the warmest reception from the Sultan. We forged 9 (nine) agreements in Brunei.

One was a bilateral agreement on defense and security cooperation and another, accredited Filipino seafarers for service on Brunei registered vessels. The other seven were business arrangements including joint ventures of PNOG and Shell Philippines on oil and gas exploration, charter flights for Air Philippines between Manila and Brunei and international air services training for Cebu Pacific. Our biggest prospect was Brunei's willingness to participate in the \$500 billion petrochemical consortium being organized by the Department of Energy in Bataan.

With Singapore, we reached twenty-one (21) agreements. Nine of them were in information and communications technology, or ICT, with an investment value of almost Php2 billion. Aside from the outright investments, U.P. and MAPUA signed agreements with Sun Microsystems for certification programs for programmers, which are vital to our human resource development climate for promoting ICT.

Among the trade agreements, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines will be able to export products to Singapore. The Philippines and Singapore will promote tourism jointly. We signed an agreement which received banner headline in Singapore broadsheets, increasing air traffic seats between Singapore and the Philippines from 6,500 seats to 8,700. We also started talks on some new projects. One of them is an investment of the Kuok group in 20,000 housing units within the next two years, including a four-lane access road to the housing project. This will be in the Province of Cavite.

The other one, our prospects with the defense industries who will use and develop on a commercial basis some of our defense properties like the arsenal in Bataan and also Crow Valley in Clark Development Area.

I inaugurated a *bayanihan* center for our overseas Filipinos in Singapore where our countrymen can acquire skills for higher pay, and as in Brunei, we got our Filipino seamen accredited for Singaporean vessels. The tide of opportunity is flowing in our direction. Let us seize the day with hard work, diligence and integrity.

Thank you.

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

Arrival Statement: President Arroyo from her State Visit to the Republic of Singapore

Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: From her State Visit to the Republic of Singapore

[Delivered on August 26, 2001]

I have just arrived from my state visits to Negara Brunei Darussalem and the Republic of Singapore. I thank you for your support and prayers, which made those visits to our ASEAN neighbors successful.

During the visits, we reaffirmed our commitment to the goals and ideals of ASEAN. At the same time, we fostered closer bilateral ties with these two important countries in our region. Sultan Bolkiah, Prime Minister Goh and I reiterated our determination to project ASEAN as a united regional group that seeks to promote the prosperity of the individual member states and to contribute to attaining regional and world stability. We reaffirmed our belief in the power of private enterprise and a market-based economy to achieve optimum trading arrangements among and between countries.

My delegation and I presented to the leadership of Brunei and Singapore the direction of Philippine policy in the economic and social spheres. I presented our policies and programs for winning the battle against poverty within the decade, and our efforts to attract investments and create jobs through prudent macro-economic management.

The leaders of Brunei and Singapore commended our briefing and pledged to support our aspirations. Our initiative to reenergize BIMP-EAGA received the warmest reception from the sultan. We forged nine agreements in Brunei.

One, was a bilateral agreement on defense and security cooperation. Another, accredited Filipino seafarers for service on Brunei registered vessels. The other seven were business arrangements including joint ventures of PNOG and Shell Philippines on oil and gas exploration, charter flights for air Philippines between Manila and Brunei and international air services training for Cebu Pacific. Our biggest prospect was Brunei's willingness to participate in the 0 billion petrochemical consortium being organized by the department of energy in Bataan.

With Singapore, we reached 21 agreements. Nine of them were in information and communication technology, or I.C.T., with an investment value of almost P2 billion. Aside from the outright investments, U.P. and Mapua signed agreements with Sun Microsystems for certification programs for programmers which are vital to our human resource development climate for promoting I.C.T.

Among the trade agreements, the trade union congress of the Philippines will be able to export products to Singapore. The Philippines and Singapore will promote tourism jointly. We signed an agreement which received banner headline in Singapore broadsheets, increasing air traffic seats between Singapore and the Philippines from 6,500 seats to 8,700. We also started talks on some new projects. One of them is an investment of the Kuok Group in 20,000 housing units within the next two years, including a four-lane access road to the housing project. This will be in the province of Cavite.

The other one, our prospects with the defense industries who will use and develop on a commercial basis some of our defense properties like the arsenal in Bataan and also Crow Valley in Clark development area.

I inaugurated a Bayanihan center for our overseas Filipinos in Singapore where our countrymen can acquire skills for higher pay. And as in Brunei, we got our Filipino seamen accredited for Singaporean vessels. The tide of opportunity is flowing in our direction. Let us seize the day with hard work, diligence and integrity.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Arrival Statement from her State Visit to the Republic of Singapore. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212936/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8695&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo upon arrival from Shanghai, China, October 22, 2001

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Upon arrival from Shanghai, China

[Delivered at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Parañaque City, October 22, 2001]

**APEC AND THE CHALLENGES
OF THE NEW CENTURY**

My trip to Shanghai to attend the APEC Summit is a forerunner of my State Visit to China which will start next week. In the next four weeks in fact, I will travel from one end of the Pacific Rim to the other. From China, I shall return home for All Saints Day, then pack up for Brunei for the ASEAN Summit. Soon after, I will go on another State Visit to Indonesia, then to a visit to the United States and Mexico. All these trips are tied together by the common thread of our national interest for I consider it an urgent responsibility to consolidate our foreign relations during this period of conflict, crisis and uncertainty as the global economy continues to take a retarded course in the face of an escalating war against terrorism. At this moment, the world faces the dual imperative of heightened vigilance on one hand and of economic revitalization on the other.

The APEC Meeting in Shanghai defined the paths we now have to take in the face of these challenges, greater security in the face of the terrorist threat, promoting sustainable growth, sharing the benefits of globalization in the new economy, and supporting the multilateral trading system. These paths are amplified in two historic documents that came out of the meeting: the APEC Leaders' Declaration, entitled "Meeting New Challenges in the New Century", and the APLC Economic Leaders' Statement on Counter Terrorism which is considered to be the first political statement made by this world body since its inception. These statements signal the urgency of the moment which has been captured by the APEC Summit.

In our meetings with 20 leaders, we discussed terrorism in the light of the future of the open market, the macroeconomic horizon and the human capacity-building that has to be collectively mustered, both in defense of the global economy from current instabilities and in propelling it in the course of the new century. In behalf of our people, I carried the message to APEC, that while we stand foursquare behind the United Nations and the International Coalition Against Terrorism, we must now take active security measures to secure the ramparts of economic cooperation from further degradation. Most of these measures are obvious: those designed to combat money laundering and terrorist funds movement, as well as to improve aviation and port security, cybersecurity, energy security, and customs enforcement, among others. The less obvious yet equally vital measures relate to the security of our communities where the majority of our small and medium businesses, family farms and family life operations are based. We will further enable these operations, bring them into the regional and global economy and shore up their capacity to cope with economic shocks and to harness new technologies.

The summit was also an occasion for me to make a strong pitch for a regional initiative to bolster the international coalition against terrorism. In this light our government will continue discussions within our immediate neighborhood, with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand on closer exchanges of information and intelligence. The focus is on tightening security cooperation, an initiative that could move to a higher level during the ASEAN Summit next month. I took the opportunity to call for meaningful steps to ensure that the continuing penetration of cultures in the global milieu is rendered impervious to the influences of political and religious extremism. I explained to our APEC neighbors that our country has institutionalized the tools of autonomy, consensus and inter-faith dialogue to serve this end. I told them that our anti-poverty program is also closely focused on the communities vulnerable to fanaticism and irrational violence.

Traversing the multilateral meetings of the summit, I drove home the message that while our economy is prepared for a full and fair engagement with the world, we shall continue to support several key imperatives:

First, the next round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization or WTO must push through launching a new round of negotiations important to install global business confidence and momentum in the wake of the September 11 attacks. It is also a way to ensure that the WTO maintains its stature and credibility at this crucial time.

Second, to ensure the WTO itself does not lose credibility at this crucial time, our top priority is to ensure that the new round is truly a development round. The trade regime as a whole must accord developing countries sufficient flexibility to pursue vital development goals such as poverty alleviation, reinforced by human capacity-building and technical assistance from the WTO.

Third, our small and medium industries must be empowered by information and communications technology. Our rural entrepreneurs and urban business must be placed on-line. We cannot leave any sector out from agriculture to energy, from health to financial services, we need to integrate e-business and e-commerce technologies to streamline operations, access the global marketplace and increase productivity and efficiency.

Fifth, we have to develop an integrated regional market in ASEAN Plus 3 to create economies of scale because the market demand in the US, Japan and Europe is suffering from steady decline.

In the sidelines of the summit, I had the opportunity to preside over the signing of an agreement, among others between the government and Microsoft Corporation towards strengthening our electronic monitoring system in relation to the commitments contained in my first State of the Nation Address before Congress. Microsoft and Bill Gates visited me at a hotel just to demonstrate this. He is coming to the Philippines to provide e-learning, especially certification programs for programmers and bringing XML into our country. We also had the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest during our bilateral meeting with President Kim Dae-Jung of Korea, President Richard Lagos of Chile and Prime Minister Jean Chretien. On separate occasions, I met the leaders of ASEAN, addressed the APEC advisory council and the APEC CEO Summit and presided over the inauguration of Metro Bank Shanghai, the first Philippine bank in China. Before I left home, I also met with the Filipino community in Shanghai and I am glad to bring home their message of affection and concern for our people. A long road to consolidation lies ahead and I thank our people for their unrelenting support for and faith in the presidency.

Thank you.

Source: **University of the Philippines Diliman Library**

Statement: President Arroyo before the World Economic Forum Media Leaders

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Before the World Economic Forum Media Leaders**

[Delivered at the Drawing room, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong, October 30, 2001]

Thank you for inviting me to join you this evening. I greatly value my exchanges with the International Press, as you are important links to those around the world who have a stake in the success of the Philippine economic agenda.

In a recent exchange I had with some members of your distinguished profession, I said that I feel that there is an important story that is not being covered by the International media. That story is the convergence between the global war on terrorism and the efforts of countries like the Philippines to address another war – the war on poverty. To put it simply, the growth of terrorism is linked to the growth in poverty. Because of this, eradication of terrorism will allow for continued alleviation of poverty.

This is why the Philippines has entered the global war on terrorism. We have long been on the frontlines in the fight against terrorism in parts of our country and we know the cost in human lives and scarce resources of this ongoing engagement.

It is clear that one country alone cannot eliminate criminals like the Abu Sayyaf. The global coalition that has been formed to attack terrorism will help the Philippines in our battle with the Abu Sayyaf. Defeat of the Abu Sayyaf will allow long overdue resources to flow into those affected regions and stop the residents of those areas from being held hostage to terrorism.

This evening, I would like to talk briefly about our war on terrorism and our efforts to concurrently address the war on poverty through economic development, as I just said, these are two parts of the same battle.

First, I must stress that terrorism is essentially a political phenomenon, when terrorists attacked New York and Washington, they intended to create a perception of war, a world war between Islam and the West.

The civilized world, in its wisdom, has not played into this perception, we have succeeded in preserving the parameters of civility from threatened disintegration.

This success can be rightfully attributed, in a large measure, to the global media, which has met the situation in a manner that is fair, balanced and responsible. Media reportage and editorial content have provided the bases both for generating broad support for the war against terrorism, and for tempering the emotions and prejudices that could have otherwise aggravated ethnic and religious conflict.

I know that many of those with us here have contributed their share to this effort at responsible and enlightened journalism. I am honored to join you this evening.

Our global and regional priorities have undeniably changed since early September. We face new levels of uncertainty, both in terms of political, security and economic vitality. That was totally unforeseen just a few months ago.

After September 11, we realize just how closely global political and economic security have become intertwined, and how our respective national interests are woven into the overall fabric of counter-terrorism.

It is in this realization that the Philippines has taken a number of steps to assist in the global anti-terrorism campaign. Our decision to join this fight is a strategic terrorism.

We are aggressively pursuing terrorist groups such as the Abu Sayyaf and we are succeeding in capturing hundreds of members of this group as well as their supporters. We will continue the pursuit until this group has been brought to justice.

As a matter of policy, first, there can be no tolerance for kidnapping, no negotiations for ransom, and no backroom deals. This is often a painful choice where innocent lives are at stake. Second, there must be swift justice to those who engage in this kind of sub-human behavior. Third, we must become well-organized in the government in order to respond to this threat including cleaning house in our police, military and intelligence agencies as necessary.

As you know, this is a challenge with many causes. From bandits who hide behind religion – the Abu Sayyaf, to those who prey on their own people – Chinese gangs, to hard-core criminals. In all cases, we are putting the full force of our army and other security forces as well as our negotiation resources against this challenge and we are achieving significant success. We have recently arrested a large number involved in kidnap-for-ransom crimes and I am confident that more will follow as we continue. As you know, we have also signed ceasefire agreements with groups who have decided to give peace and development a chance. This is a clear sign that the war on terrorism is not just won through the barrel of a gun. I will also be signing three treaties on crime-fighting with Beijing in my upcoming state visit to the People's Republic of China: one on extradition, one on narcotics, and one on transnational crimes. These are but a few examples of our cooperation with neighboring countries to solve our common problems of criminality. And finally, we are working to address the root cause of crime, rampant poverty.

We have taken steps to carry out six specific measures, in support of U.N. Security council resolution no. 1368, to combat terrorism:

- To join the international counter terrorist coalition and to work with the United Nations;
- To work closely with the United States on intelligence and security matters concerning terrorism;
- To make available our air space and facilities when required as transit or staging points;
- To contribute logistical support in the form of food supply, medicines, and medical personnel;
- To provide, with Congress's consent, combat troops if there is an international call for such troops; and
- To step up our offensive against and prevent the flow of funds to terrorist groups in the Philippines by more aggressive military action and passing and implementing legislation against money laundering.

I am very pleased that we were recently able to pass Anti-money Laundering Bill that gives government the tools it needs to track financial transactions that may have links to terrorist groups. This is not a short-term initiative. This is now a permanent part of the process that we are taking to ensure the security of the people of the Philippines and our role in the battle that all nations must fight to eradicate terrorism wherever it might be found.

We have moved aggressively both within the Philippines and with the international community to root out of the terrorist tools and networks of course. You can appreciate, given the critical role that intelligence-gathering is playing in the war on terrorism, that I am not at liberty to disclose everything we are doing, but I can tell you that close cooperation between all members of the coalition in the war on terrorism is helping the investigation into all groups with links to terrorism.

Coupled with our participation in global efforts to stamp out terrorism, we are also working to promote cohesion and cooperation at the regional level. For example, we initiated an effort to create a tri-nation anti-terrorist coalition between the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. Through this coalition, we will work to share intelligence on terrorist activities, tighten border patrols and when necessary partake in joint peacekeeping operations. We are looking to do more at the asean summit meeting in Brunei.

We are pursuing broader interfaith dialogues to promote Christian and Muslim solidarity. Terrorists wish to instigate a religious war. We must make this an opportunity to forge religious understanding, ecumenism and solidarity.

I can only find comfort in the fact that the Philippine economy has proven remarkably resilient given the state of the regional and global economy. This was also true during the Asian financial crisis. Economic growth is at 3.4% better than most of our neighbors and trading partners. Inflation is down and our fiscal situation is stable. That said, the

global uncertainty that has resulted from the tragic events of September 11 makes economic planning for any country very difficult. It has also impacted an essential element of global economic growth-confidence. Until businesses and consumers regain confidence in the international economic system all countries remain affected by September 11. No country is truly insulated from the global economic slowdown, but fortunately our country with its heavy agricultural and service composition has fared better than most. Our economy is strong, our democracy stable, our role in the world becoming clearer. I am focused on what needs to be done to address the war on terrorism and on winning the battle against poverty in the Philippines. These two priorities are very linked as poverty fuels the willingness of some to support terrorist activities.

In the battle against terrorism:

At the recently concluded APEC Leaders' meeting in Shanghai, we agreed to take a strong stance against terrorism and discussed ways of prioritizing APEC's work to meet these challenges including money laundering, aviation and port safety and security, and cyber crime.

On the battle against poverty:

Our economic fundamentals remain stable despite an uncertain global environment and although immediate challenges remain, we have near-term fiscal and monetary measures to ensure stable prices, adequate liquidity and funding for our development initiatives.

Immediate contingency measures that we have put in place stand us in good stead to meet immediate needs for macroeconomic stability. We are confident that our GDP and our deficit ceiling targets for this year will be met and we already have funding options in place to meet next year's budget requirements.

We are committed to long-term structural reforms that will ensure continued strength in domestic demand, continued diversification of our GDP and strengthening of the Philippines as a location for foreign investment.

My administration is committed to good governance at all levels. We do not hesitate to investigate any serious allegation and we hold anyone accountable if corruption has been found to take place. This is an important part of our efforts to identify and prosecute those who are corrupt and to change the mindset of those who support this practice by making payments that feed corruption. Corruption is not a soft crime; it impacts our ability to meet our economic targets and it impacts our ability to attract investment. We are addressing these at all levels.

Even my husband is not above the law. I consider intrigues against him as an occupational hazard, but nonetheless I prefer them to a constitutionally independent body where the investigation will go wherever any evidence might take them. Let me assure that my administration is working hard to promote good governance at all levels and we are working diligently to ensure that the people of the Philippines are getting the professional and clean government they expect and deserve.

We face a rocky road ahead, that is certain. But I am confident that our economy, and indeed the global economy can, and will, pull through if we approach our economic uncertainties with the same measure and innovative approach that we have applied to the global anti-terrorism campaign.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Statement before the World Economic Forum Media Leaders. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212550/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8744&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on her arrival from Brunei Darussalam, November 6, 2001

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On her arrival from Brunei Darussalam**

[Delivered at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Parañaque City, November 6, 2001]

**TOWARDS COLLECTIVE SECURITY
AND ECONOMIC STABILITY**

In the face of the global crisis, we are steadily consolidating our vision of collective security and economic stability in the Pacific Rim in East Asia and in Southeast Asia.

This is important to our most vital interest as a nation and our people. The flurry of events over the past two weeks have focused on the elemental concerns of Philippine crisis diplomacy. From APEC to China to the 7th ASEAN Summit, the themes have followed a common thread of substance and urgency. These are greater political and economic security in the face of the terrorist threat, sustainable growth in the face of global recession, sharing the benefit of the new globalized economy and supporting the multilateral trading system in various levels of operation from the macro-regional scale to the small corridors of development and investment.

The 7th ASEAN Summit held in Brunei issued the Declaration on Joint Action on Counterterrorism. We are proud that the Philippines produced the first draft of this document. In it, we condemned the terrorist attacks in the United States, stepped up the cooperation in countering, preventing and suppressing all forms of terrorist acts, and affirmed our collective determination to stop terrorist organizations, delimit their support, infrastructure and funding, and bring terrorists to justice.

The ASEAN Declaration comes in synergy with the APEC Economic Leaders' Statement to Counterterrorism issued in Shanghai last October. Both pinpoint terrorism as a direct threat to peace, progress and prosperity. Both share unconditional adherence to the United Nations and International Law, and to all pertinent U.N. resolutions.

In operation, the ASEAN Declaration and the APEC Statement to Counterterrorism will bring together a broad array of alliances that will strengthen the global perimeters of political and economic security. These alliances will be implemented through joint and common actions against terrorism and transnational crime as we pursue a combined strategy of constriction against terrorists and their resources, while keeping open safe avenues for legitimate investment, trade, and labor migration.

APEC and ASEAN are not by themselves in this. Even before September 11, several regional groupings already concluded their own collective instruments against terrorism. I can cite the Association of American States, the European Union, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization of African Unity, and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

The areas of cooperation are already clear to every nation involved. From north to south, east to west, we are resolved to work more closely on border security cooperation, more active multilateral and bilateral exchanges of information intelligence and communication effective restraints on terrorist fund transfers, transportation, energy and health security, customs controls and generally ensuring a safe and stable environment for trade, investment, travel and tourism.

In the summit itself, I observed that the ASEAN Declaration itself was already an operational document and need not be followed up by a separate convention, thus, averting another debate on whether to have a second document. Instead, I proposed that five member nations, which have common borders experiencing terrorist threats — and these are the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore work — on a plurilateral operational agreement and hold simulation exercises on emergency response to terrorist threats. The Philippines offered to host the simulation exercises. So you've got work to do, Roilo Golez. But we must not forget that the global security

crisis rides in tandem with preventing economic uncertainty. The soundness of each nation's macroeconomic fundamentals across ASEAN is a prime imperative.

In the Summit, I expressed support to the conduct of a competitive study for the region, which would identify competitive advantages of certain industries vis-à-vis other regions of the world.

I commended the ASEAN economic ministers for the accelerated measures undertaken to implement the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement. I emphasized the need for political will to support and realize the e-ASEAN initiative.

The Philippines also expressed the need for greater coherence and convergence of policies between WTO and the international development institutions such as World Bank, IMF and regional development banks so that trade is mainstreamed in the development agenda of developing nations. Part of the Philippine position on WTO is our view of special and differential treatment to include capacity-building and achieving sufficient flexibility to pursue domestic development goals. Thus, before Secretary Manuel Roxas leaves for Doha, he will be giving a presentation to the Cabinet tomorrow on the Philippine position in WTO.

I believe that the entire regional pie of sustained growth must be cut into smaller manageable slices. On this score, I stress the importance of developing sub-regional growth areas especially the BIMP-EAGA where the Philippines is a member as an appropriate strategy for addressing our current economic challenges. This is also indispensable for stability and growth in Mindanao.

I proposed measures to revitalize BIMP-EAGA starting from closer security cooperation in the sub-region to restore investment confidence. In this context, I emphasize the urgency to fast-track the operational agreement on terrorism among our immediate neighbors, especially involving Indonesia and Malaysia. The reason why Singapore and Thailand got included was that Indonesia proposed that they be included because they are also her neighbors.

The BIMP-EAGA must also be reawakened from its relative dormancy to the resumption of air and sea transport services and joint development project in fisheries, power and energy. In fact, we already have a ferry service that just started recently from Zamboanga to Malaysia. And when I go to Indonesia next week, we will be working at a fisheries agreement between Indonesia and Mindanao.

I called for the acceleration of efforts to harmonize customs, immigration, quarantine and security procedures to ensure the freer flow of goods and services and promote tourism in this growth corridor. Farther down the road, the BIMP-EAGA could gain solid momentum through power and gas interconnections among member-countries. The promotion of EAGA food supply network for China and North Asia, joint tourism marketing and reestablishment of EAGA venture capital fund. All these were taken up in various levels of discussion.

I also raised the need for a more focused government intervention in the sub-region. This will hopefully attract more private sector investments. I batted for greater support for small and medium enterprises. These all would demand greater political will and a more proactive approach to stimulate economic enterprise at all levels.

I also suggested that ADB be tapped as the regional cooperation advisor to BIMP-EAGA and ASEAN accepted my recommendation about ADB. No sooner than ASEAN approved my proposal, Secretary Paul Dominguez already got in touch with ADB and on Monday, they will start the ball rolling on making this EAGA move operationally and in an accelerated manner.

This morning, when we were waiting for all the rest and we were sitting down together in the living room, Prime Minister Goh Tok Chong said, "We have so many good initiatives, I hope they get followed up soon." "Oh yeah, I said. The ADB thing? ADB has been contacted, and Monday, they're already having a meeting. That's the way the Philippines works."

We convened a session on HIV-AIDS and adopted the 7th ASEAN Declaration on HIV-AIDS to show our resolve in combating this scourge to mankind. There was a sharing of best practices about how to address AIDS. And I said,

“in our country, the best way to address AIDS is to have a high level of morality; and also, not to have prostitution.” And President Megawati said, “You have a law prohibiting prostitution?” And I said, “Yes.” She said, “That’s a good idea; maybe I’ll adopt that in Indonesia too.”

The second day of the meeting consisted of the meetings between the leaders of ASEAN on one hand, and leaders of China, Japan, and Korea on the other.

Terrorism was also the order of the day in the ASEAN Plus 3 Summit Meetings. The three nations of Northeast Asia joined us in condemning terrorism as we committed to strengthen the ramparts of East Asian interaction. The larger sphere of East Asia continues to engross the region as we look forward to a larger community of nations sharing goals and aspirations through a future East Asian Summit.

In a longer horizon, discussions are already afoot on the possible establishment of an ASEAN-China Free Trade Area. This will take place in ten years’ time. The modalities have yet to be worked out, but they will include capability-building and technical assistance which the Philippines should take advantage of. I proposed that China consider the BIMP-EAGA sub-region as a long-term supplier of fisheries products, coconut and palm oil, tropical fruits, and other food products. And so I call on agri-business industry to seize the opportunity and sell these tropical products to China because China is a temperate country, and it doesn’t really produce everything. There are many things that we produce because we’re a tropical country, and China can buy them.

During the ASEAN Summit Meeting with Japan, I welcomed increasing contributions to the security and development of the region — of Japan, even as Japan committed never to become a military power.

During the ASEAN Plus Korea Summit, I called for stronger economic cooperation between ASEAN and Korea. Two concrete measures are relevant: the establishment of an ASEAN-Korea promotion center for trade, tourism and ICT and the establishment of the ASEAN Korean Business Council

Since the Philippines is the coordinator of ASEAN-Korea Dialogues, then of course, we’re forced to good. I made those proposals, now we have to be the one to work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and Korea to look into the details and feasibility of these proposals. But that shouldn’t be too difficult because there’s already an ASEAN-Japan Center that we can replicate and we also have the ASEAN Business Council in different parts of the world.

I also expressed appreciation to China, Japan and Korea for their ICT initiatives. I arrived home with an abiding confidence that the major decisions of the summit will bode well for the economic, political and social welfare of ASEAN as an organization and its individual member countries. I should emphasize that ASEAN is our home, our community, our neighborhood. It has a GDP of more than \$800 billion a year.

Intra-ASEAN trade accounts for more than 25 percent of ASEAN’s total trade. Forty percent of tourism in ASEAN countries comes from ASEAN itself. ASEAN is an aggregate economic market of half a billion people. It is in our national interest to further integrate our aspirations and our future with this regional community. And with deeper integration, we pray we’ll have greater progress, prosperity and peace for our people.

We reiterated the need to enhance security cooperation, to restore investor confidence and improve the business climate. And so this is what we have done all this time: pursue the war against terrorism and the war against poverty in all these arenas. And we hope that the Philippines will flourish in a situation and a condition of peace and prosperity in the 21st century.

Thank you.

Source: **University of the Philippines Main Library**

Statement: President Arroyo on her arrival from Indonesia, November 13, 2001

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On her arrival from Indonesia**

[Delivered at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Parañaque City, November 13, 2001]

**PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA:
GREATER TRADE, WARMER RELATIONS,
AND MUTUAL UNDERTAKINGS**

In behalf of the Philippine delegation, I am glad to report to the Filipino people some results of a significant state visit to Indonesia.

Ako po ay nagpunta sa Indonesia, sa imbitasyon ni Pangulong Megawati Sukarnoputri. Nagagalak po ako na ipaabot sa inyo ang aking naging mabunga na pagbisita.

Sa overnight na pagdalaw ko ay marami tayong mga kasunduan na pinirmahan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor ng Pilipinas at Indonesia. Naniniwala po ako na ang mga kasunduang ito sa larangan ng pangingisda, enerhiya, kalakalan, ay higit na makapagpatibay ng pagtutulungan ng ating mga bansa.

My visit to Indonesia is part of a train of diplomacy that I followed after my State of the Nation Address. I went to Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. I sought to renew our bilateral ties in these countries, emphasizing initiatives that would lead to greater peace and development in the Philippines.

But aside from these bilateral initiatives, there is also a multilateral value in all these. Southeast Asia is our home, our community, our neighborhood.

ASEAN itself has a GDP of more than \$800 billion a year. Intra-ASEAN trade accounts for more than 25 percent of ASEAN's total trade. Forty percent of tourist arrivals in ASEAN countries comes from ASEAN itself. ASEAN is an aggregate economic market of half a billion people.

In Indonesia, my delegation and I were warmly received as family. We had substantive discussions with President Megawati and other officials of the Indonesian Government.

The topics we tackled ranged from political and security cooperation to ways to enhance two-way trade and investment consistent with Indonesia's pivotal role in facilitating the 1996 peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the MNLF. President Megawati assured me that Indonesia will continue to support our effort towards peace and development in Southern Philippines.

She likewise assured us that Indonesia, as chair of the OIC Committee on the Eight, could be counted on to support the GRP-MILF Peace Process.

Enforcing our common desire for stability and security in this part of the world, President Megawati and I agreed to pursue a plurilateral agreement against transnational crimes including terrorism, involving the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. Earnest discussions to flesh out this accord will take place in Manila by the 1st week of December. Through it, we can prevent the use of border territories, air space and waters for various forms of transnational crimes such as terrorism, smuggling, piracy, drug trafficking, trafficking women and children and the theft of marine resources.

Meanwhile, I instructed our National Security Adviser, Secretary Roilo Golez, to oversee the ASEAN Center for Transnational Crimes which is headed by the Philippines through its Executive Director, Police General Clyde Fernandez. This will be our coordinating point for regional plans and programs to check transnational crimes in

accordance with the plurilateral agreement. These plans and programs will help address the problem of arms trafficking across our borders.

I informed President Megawati that upon my instructions, the Department of National Defense created a task force to resolve the problems of arms trafficking. I asked her to designate an Indonesian counterpart so that the problems can be effectively checked through joint operations. She named the Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of Indonesia, so I shall therefore ask the Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Diomedio Villanueva, to work closely with his Indonesian counterpart on this problem.

I am confident that our partnership with Indonesia on these matters will result in a more conducive environment for social and economic development across our common frontiers. Peace and development are both sides of the same coin – the coin of national stability and progress.

On the economic fronts President Megawati reiterated her full support for the revitalization of BIMP-EAGA, thus, echoing Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir of Malaysia and Sultan Bolkiah of Brunei. On this score, President Megawati and I discussed the adoption of measures that will facilitate the freer mobility of people, goods and services in the east ASEAN corridor. This will include expanding air and sea transport between Mindanao and Sulawesi, which was suspended as a result of the Asian financial crisis of 1997. Sea transport will be resumed between General Santos City in Mindanao and Bitung in Sulawesi. And I understand that Cebu Pacific is poised to ply a route from Sulawesi to Japan with two Philippine stopovers.

During President Megawati's visit to the Philippines last August, I pushed for a fisheries agreement as an area of complementation. In this light, I am happy to report that as a first step, the Philippines and Indonesia signed yesterday an agreement on fisheries cooperation. This agreement aims to promote cooperation in the development of our respective fisheries industries. It covers such areas as marine fisheries, the prevention and combating of illegal fishing, aquaculture, marine fisheries conservation, research activities, education and training. I expect this development to bring concrete results particularly to a rapidly expanding fishing industry, again in General Santos City.

Relatedly, I assured president Megawati that the Philippines looks forward to continuing talks on maritime boundary delimitation. These talks were stalled for so many years. And she told me last August that now that the two of us are presidents, they can be resumed in an atmosphere of mutual trust and sincerity.

An agreement was forged for the steady supply of coal from Kalimantan to Philippine power plants at preferential prices in our favor. This will save us money. And for the long term, I agreed to the laying of gas pipelines connecting Mindanao to Kalimantan and Sumatra. Indonesia already has laid gas pipelines to Singapore and Malaysia, and is in the process of doing so to Thailand. We must not be left out in the cost-effective delivery of natural gas. But I think one of our major achievements is that after many years of aspiring, the Philippine National Oil Company will finally get a concession to explore and develop the geothermal resources of Indonesia.

In specific trade agreements, I noticed that the Philippines would be buying from Indonesia resource-based products like coal, natural gas, and fertilizer. On the other hand, the Philippines will be selling to Indonesia knowledge-based products such as the computerization of Indonesia's land registration system, the computerization of her passport system, the sale of Philippine movies, and the sale of Philippine patents and products like Splash skin whiteners.

This is consistent with the fact that Filipino ICT workers and other knowledge workers are ranked number one among knowledge workers around the world. The Philippines is poised to be one of the two developing countries that are most likely to be world centers for software development and data management, according to the studies of various international agencies. We can seize and maximize these opportunities by preparing our youth to be the next generation of knowledge workers. We are already training them at an early age by upgrading the math and science curricula in basic education.

Foremost also among the private sector agreements was a countertrade scheme defining payment arrangements. With so many countries experiencing a foreign exchange shortage, Thailand has been pushing for a countertrade as

the name of the game. And I instructed the head of the Philippine International Trading Corporation, Arthur Yap, to see whether this can work between the Philippines and Indonesia.

The revitalization of BIMP-EAGA and the overall enhancement of Philippine-Indonesia trade and investment depend heavily upon the harmonious interaction between the business communities of both countries. That is why I held a spirited meeting with the business leaders of Indonesia.

My visit to Indonesia also gave me an opportunity to call on the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. There I affirmed the Philippines' commitment to ASEAN as an institution, and acknowledged the great strides it has taken towards regional consolidation, especially under the stewardship of another Philippine human capital export, former Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino, who makes us proud with his admirable dedication and widely-acknowledged competence as Secretary General of ASEAN.

Ang isa pang mahalagang dahilan sa pagbisita ko sa Indonesia ay para makipagkita sa mga Filipino doon. Sa Indonesia, mayroong limang libong Filipinong nagtatrabaho at nakatira. Although, the Filipino community in Indonesia is smaller than in other countries like the U.S. Of 3 million in the Middle East, where Saudi Arabia alone has 800,000; and Malaysia with 700,000, I cannot help but feel proud that our *kababayans* in Indonesia are in the management echelons of their respective companies – mga directors, managers, supervisors, technical advisers, or consultants ng iba't ibang kompanya at institusyon na matatagpuan sa mahahalagang industriya at serbisyo sa Indonesia.

I am also impressed that quite a few are holding highly-skilled and professional jobs. Marami rin ay mga teachers sa international at local schools. In fact, they have a Philippine Teachers Association in Indonesia, at mga staff pa ng iba't-ibang international organizations, pinakamataas na nga doon ay si Rod Severino ng ASEAN. Siyempre hindi rin nawawala ang mga magagaling nating musiko na kahit saang parte ng mundo ay sikat ang kanilang kakaibang estilo at galing sa pagtugtog, pagkanta at pagsayaw.

At the Grand Hyatt Hotel where I was staying, there was a very good Philippine group that had been contracted to perform there from August to January. But I understand that they are so good and they bring in the crowd that they're going to be extended until May. So maybe you have another set of expats in that group.

Ang magandang halimbawa ng mga Filipino expatriates sa Indonesia ay isang matibay na pagpapatunay lamang na ang mga manggagawang Pilipino ay world-class at globally competitive. In fact, that is what I told the businessmen of Indonesia. We are neighbors, but we are not competitors.

Indonesia has vast natural resources like oil. We are not an oil-rich country, and so what we are rich in is human capital – educated, English-speaking, easily trainable, culturally adaptable workforce. And that is why we have many complementarities together. Ang katotohanang ito ay buong karangalan kong ipinagmamalaki sa buong mundo.

I had the opportunity to meet about 200 Filipino expats. And I thanked them for contributing \$6000 for a presidential scholarship for indigent students.

With so many doors open through these visits, as we fare the vicissitudes of the present, let us boldly step through this doorway and reach out across the seas for greater trade, warmer relations, mutual undertakings. This is the key to stability and security. This is the key to peace and development.

Thank you for your warm welcome.

Source: University of the Philippines Main Library

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Press Conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the Press Conference

[Issued at the Office of the Prime Minister, Centre Block, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Canada, January 29, 2002]

Thank you Mr. Prime Minister.

I am very pleased and honored to be here in Ottawa upon the invitation of Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

The Philippines and Canada share a deep historical friendship, based on common values and aspirations. I am glad that our bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister and his Cabinet have reaffirmed that spirit and reality.

There is also a global span in this relationship. Canada and the Philippines cooperate in international organizations such as the U.N., WTO, APEC, and as such, we are both committed to international endeavors to promote peace, prosperity and freedom all over the world.

Just now we witnessed the signing of three letters of intent involving projects to be funded by the Canadian international development agency, or CIDA:

One is a private enterprise accelerate resource linkages Project II or Pearl II, which will support the development of small and medium enterprises;

The second is the e-government for efficiency and effectiveness program (e times 3) which will facilitate the delivery of more efficient and effective public services; and,

And third the judicial reform support programme, which will assist in the improvement of the judiciary.

Also signed today it's my privilege to announce the reciprocal awards for higher education which will promote student exchanges between the Philippines and Canada. The Prime Minister said many schools in Canada are just as good if not better in the schools in the United States where many of our students go and I hope this exchange will enable more of our students to enjoy the benefits of Canadian excellent education. The Philippines ... In the other agreement that we signed, the Philippines will also host the seminar on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of action on small arms and light weapons in April of this year. This is going to help our agreement with our neighbors in Southeast Asia because we have agreed to find ways to stop smuggling of small arms within our common borders and common seas.

These agreements span a broad swath of political and socioeconomic concerns. They reflect the depth and detail, as well as the relevance and sense of practicality, that have infused our relations.

The Philippines stands squarely with Canada in our common determination to address the problem of terrorism and poverty. And I am truly very happy that the Canadian CIDA has made a very big difference in lives of many in the Philippines.

During this visit, as the Prime Minister said, I shall also meet the Canadian business community. More than ever, the Philippines promotes foreign investments particularly for human resource-intensive, skills-intensive service sectors and Canadians could do well to take a look at the many profitable opportunities in our country. Canada can be our outsourcing partner for I.T. services. We also invite investments in telecommunications, agribusiness, franchising, low-cost housing, environmental technology, energy and tourism development. And Canada is strong in all these areas.

Another commonality we have is our Canadian-Filipinos. Over 300,000 Filipinos are citizens or residents of Canada. We are proud that these Filipinos have contributed to the well-being, cultural diversity and economic prosperity of this great country. At the same time, they also look back to the Philippines as the sanctuary of their investments in their home communities and their hopes for the future.

Indeed our Filipinos here demonstrate that the Philippines is the home of the great Filipino worker, recognized worldwide for his talent and dedication and his love of the homeland.

All in all, we had very productive bilateral talks. Frank and candid but productive. I believe the goals which have been set on my visit here, on my mind at least, have been met and I am confident that the goodwill between Canadians and Filipinos will be steadfast in the years to come.

So in behalf of my delegation and the Filipino people, I thank you, Mr. Prime Minister and the Canadian people, for your warm hospitality, and your abiding commitment to our common goals.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Opening Statement During the Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230936/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7585&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Press Conference

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the Press Conference**

[Delivered at the Maeklong Ballroom, Oriental Hotel Bangkok, Thailand, May 8, 2002]

I would like to thank the National Press of Thailand, representatives of the regional and foreign media, and our reporters from the Philippines for joining us here. I value your role in strengthening regional solidarity and cooperation, which is the purpose of my trip.

Mine is a very short overnight trip, but its gains are far-reaching and significant. The form and process of diplomacy is rapidly changing. Where before, we would have had to have long meetings and ceremonies, now the atmosphere and conduct of foreign policy is much more straightforward and businesslike.

This is largely because leaders do not need much time to talk formally to mutually decide on solutions to problems. Sometimes we just agree to use the phone. There is a tone of informality but deep seriousness. This is the spirit of action and diplomacy today. This is the spirit of our relations with Prime Minister Thaksin as well as Prime Minister Mahathir, whom I have just visited in Kuala Lumpur.

In this light, my visits to Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur have been focused, constructive and rewarding. I will leave this evening satisfied that the national interest of the Philippines, the imperatives of regional security and progress, and the cause of global peace will have been served, in this quest I am proud to stand together with this great country. Thailand and the Philippines have a time-honored identity with the values of freedom. Centuries of bonding have made us one in facing historical challenges. Nobody must be surprised why we can come together on many concerns so smoothly and expeditiously.

I understand the necessary briefers on my trip have been distributed. So, I will not dwell on the details, and we can go on to your questions.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225629/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8290&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the Iraqi situation

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On the Iraqi situation**

[Issued at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, September 12, 2002]

I will give the formal Philippine statement on the Iraqi situation and take two questions afterwards.

The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to the global war against terrorism. We believe the world will never be secure unless terrorist lairs are exposed and destroyed, and terrorist supporters are brought to justice.

The Philippines has full confidence in the UN Security Council process. We believe the council will act in accord with the imperatives of world peace and security and find the most expeditious way, the most effective way to serve these imperatives. We support the UN Security Council resolutions on States aiding terrorism and the dismantling of weapons of mass destruction that are an overriding threat to humanity.

We join the United Nations in the most fervent wish for dialogue and peace, but we must say more in defense of our unique national interest.

We are victims of homegrown and regionally-based terrorism. The victims of terrorism cry out for justice. We have vowed to fight against terrorism at home and with our international allies until it is defeated.

The Philippines supports the case brought by the United States against Iraq before the UN General Assembly, before the UN Security Council rather. The UN Security Council should give these charges most urgent and serious consideration.

Consistent with our national interest and in accordance with our constitution, the Philippines is prepared to extend political, security and humanitarian assistance to the united states in the pursuit of its most vital interests, which coincide with our own vital interests, to defeat terrorism.

These policies have been conveyed officially by Secretary Blas Ople to us Secretary of State Colin Powell, and shall be the basis of our position which Secretary Ople will state before the United Nations General Assembly.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Statement on the Iraqi Situation. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409211449/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8381&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a Press Conference

[Issued at the Filipino Community Center Conference Room, Waipahu, Hawaii, October 24, 2002]

Good afternoon everyone.

Please sit down.

I arrived in Honolulu early this morning on a brief stop on my way to the APEC Leaders Economic Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico. I'm glad to meet the press here. Filipinos at home feel a special closeness to Hawaii. We were one of the first migrants here 96 years ago. And we are very proud to have a Filipino Governor of Hawaii. Where is he? In the person of Governor Ben Cayetano.

The history of the Filipinos in Hawaii is a mirror of the partnership of the Philippines and America. This partnership is firm on security and economics. It is molded by history and shared strategic interests. The current Philippine-U.S. alliance is a moral partnership, this is a partnership governed by the common belief in strong democratic institutions that will create peace and freedom for people everywhere. We are determined to fight terrorism to the end.

We have offered political, security and humanitarian assistance to the United States in the pursuit of her most vital interests against terrorism which coincide with our own. Strategic assessments point to a possible shift in Al Qaeda's center of gravity to Southeast Asia. America and the Philippines are sharing eyes and ears on this development.

We are also closely allied with Indonesia and Malaysia under our trilateral agreement to check terrorist movements across our common seas. After the Bali bombing, we had our own — though smaller attacks — in Zamboanga City in Western Mindanao.

But I would like to report that the suspects have been arrested. We won't let these incidents just take for long. Our local communities are enthusiastically helping the national government watch out for terrorists closely.

I am focused on what needs to be done to address the war on terrorism and to win the battle against poverty in the Philippines within the decade. Terrorism will never completely go away unless we root out the handmaiden of terrorism — poverty. We have put a face on terrorists and now we must put a face on the poor. We will eliminate terrorism and we must eliminate poverty. If we don't, the breeding ground of resentment will begin again to plague another generation.

The 21st century war against terrorism is a new kind of war that requires a new kind of peace. Part of this new kind of peace process is reconciling the concerns of developing countries with the perspective of developed economies. Thus, our partnership with America has also leaned much on the common belief that terrorism and poverty are a combined enemy.

I will meet president bush in Los Cabos, not only to take up security matters but also development initiatives striking at the very roots of poverty in our terrorism-prone areas.

Here in Hawaii, I am here in this newly built fantastic, fabulous Filipino Community Center. And tonight, I will meet with the Filipino community.

Earlier in Governor Cayetano's luncheon which included many of the top officials of Hawaii who are of Filipino descent; today here in the Philippine Community Center where I met the Sacadas, the veterans and the students; and tonight with the larger Philippine community, I am thanking them for their support in helping me improve and develop the Philippine economy.

I am also giving them the good news that the Absentee Voting Bill has been passed in both Houses of Congress on third and final reading. This is the farthest the bill has gone in all the administrations which attempted to enact it. I will ask the Filipinos here to join me in praying that the differing provisions of the house and senate versions will be ironed out soon in the bicameral conference committee so that it can be implemented soon. The Dual Citizenship Bill also has been passed in the Philippine senate on third and final reading.

Earlier today, I met Senator Inouye, a good friend of the Filipino people, Senator from Hawaii. We discussed issues of mutual interest and I thank him for his continued support and advocacy of Philippine interests in the American Congress.

After that I received Admiral Tom Fargo, the Commander-in-Chief of the U.D. Pacific Command. We took up matters concerning Philippine and American defense and security cooperation. The forces under Admiral Fargo's command having working very closely with their counterpart in the Philippines under training activities covered by our mutual defense treaty and the visiting forces agreement.

Tomorrow, I will proceed to Mexico. There, I will join the leaders in a collective bid to influence the direction of the global economy away from another threatening economic recession.

I will take a short swing through California to drum up investments in our large ICT industry. American firms are doing well in the Philippines and there is much more room for expansion and new investments.

Again, let me say, it is a very refreshing and rewarding experience for me to visit Hawaii at this time. I thank Governor Cayetano and the Hawaiian people for their warm hospitality.

Now, I will take your questions.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210750/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8407&Itemid=38a

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a Press Conference

[Issued at Imperial Room II, Hotel Inter-Continental, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, November 5, 2002]

Good evening.

I'm here in Cambodia at the ASEAN Leaders' Summit for the same reason I was in Mexico at the APEC Leaders' Meeting last week: to focus on the economy and security of the Philippines.

The ASEAN-China meeting underscored an achievement that is most significant for our country, namely: the signing of the ASEAN-China declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea.

This document should give our people peace of mind. It is also important to the stability and progress of Asia.

The South China Sea is a main artery of regional and global trade. The world press and strategic think tanks have called it a major flashpoint in Asia. With the ASEAN-China declaration, this is no longer so. It has become an avenue for shared prosperity.

The South China Sea has always been the nexus of our external defense concerns. Now, we can ease our anxieties. Under the declaration, all claimants are now committed to resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes through peaceful means without resorting to the threat or use of force in accordance with the recognized principles of the international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The claimants have also agreed to hold dialogues and exchanges of views among their defense and military officials. They will also step up coordinative activities to combat transnational crime and terrorism.

The Philippines has been avidly engaged in this issue ever since ASEAN promulgated the 1998 Hanoi plan of action which called for a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea.

Our government made a first draft of this code and shepherded it through various amendments and proposals. By 1999, ASEAN had submitted an initial draft to China. In January 2000, ASEAN adopted the Philippine proposal to establish a task team to work further on the code. By October of the same year, China and ASEAN had come up with three consolidated texts, each time narrowing the differences between them.

The defining moment came at the last ministerial meeting in Brunei, when ASEAN agreed in principle to adopt the declaration.

I am gratified to note that the heart and soul of the declaration – the principle of no new occupation — has gained acceptance from all the parties.

I am also proud that in recognition of the role played by the Philippines in moving this declaration to the point of signing, our fellow ASEAN claimant- countries nominated the Philippine senior officials meeting leader, Senior Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Lauro Baja — stand-up Larry and be recognized — to represent them in the initialling of the declaration. I'd like to commend him and the entire government team headed by the department of foreign affairs that worked on this issue for four long years. I would also like to commend Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople, under whose leadership on the part of the Philippines, this work of many years finally came into fruition.

Now, that we have a more comprehensive security framework in place, ASEAN and China can now shift their energies and resources towards broader cooperation in economic and social development. Because for the

Philippines, whether it's the defense of the nation's sovereignty or improving E-ASEAN, at the end of the day, it's always about the economy and improving the lives of our Philippine citizens.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210625/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8487&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a Press Conference

[Issued at Function Rooms 1 and 2, Mezzanine, Melia Hanoi Hotel, Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam,
November 6, 2002]

Good evening.

I'm glad to visit the Socialist Republic of Vietnam upon the invitation of his Excellency President Tran Duc Luong. The visit is timely as it comes after my trip from Mexico for the APEC Leaders Meeting and the ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh. It wraps up our comprehensive efforts to focus on two vital concerns — the economy and the security.

Vietnam and the Philippines are neighbors, separated only by a sea, the South China Sea.

I deeply appreciate Vietnam's support for the declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea, which was signed two days ago during the 8th ASEAN Summit, and which I consider most significant from the point of view of Philippine national interest.

Negotiations for the declaration started 4 years ago after ASEAN promulgated the 1998 Hanoi plan of action which called for a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea. Vietnam's unstinting cooperation in the 4 years that the declaration was being negotiated paved the way for the adoption of the declaration two days ago.

This document should give people, our peoples' peace of mind. It is also important to the stability and progress of Asia.

The South China Sea is a main artery of regional and global trade. The world press and strategic think tanks have called it a major flashpoint in Asia. In fact, President Tran told me that when he went to visit France, the president of France was asking him about the South China Sea. When he talked to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Prime Minister of Canada would asked him about the South China Sea. The world has been very concerned with the South China Sea. But with the ASEAN-China declaration, this should no longer be so. Now, the South China Sea has become instead an avenue for shared prosperity.

Under the declaration, all claimants commit to resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes through peaceful means without resorting to the threat or use of force in accordance with the recognized principles of international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

I'm gratified to note that the heart and soul of the declaration – the principle of no new occupation – has gained acceptance from all the parties.

The claimants have also agreed to hold dialogues and exchanges of views among their defense and military officials. They will also step up coordinative activities to combat transnational crime and terrorism.

I asked President Tran Duc Luong to consider acceding to the agreement on information exchange and establishment of communication procedures – a model tool for transnational cooperation in our common fight against terrorism. The government of Vietnam is considering my proposal sympathetically and we look forward to Vietnam's early accession on another occasion.

This leaders' agreement retains its significant at a time when the world is in a quandary over the uncertainty and instability in the Middle East and the recent terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia.

The bomb explosions appear to be part of a new global pattern of attacks which must be stopped. We must also continue to strengthen our common resolve to fight terrorism until it is defeated.

The pattern of terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia must be checked. Tensions arising from the Middle East aggravate the situation in our side of the world. In the Philippines, the battle is switching from a successful military operations against the Abu Sayyaf, to an intelligence manhunt covering a wider swath of suspects moving transnationally. Internal and regional focus is now required and we are working with our neighbors on this. Once again, a black cloud seemingly envelopes the world economy because global security is currently being threatened. And the fact that the world opinion is divided over the Middle East situation compounds the uncertainty and uneasiness which, in turn, fuels the uncertainty and uneasiness in the world economy.

That's why as steward of my nation's economy, I went to APEC, I went to ASEAN, and now I'm here in Vietnam — all of these trips with a mission to create jobs in the Philippines and to build on the regional and global cooperation in the war against terrorism. Only by working together can we stamp out the evil of terrorism and the scourge of poverty.

After September 11 last year, the Pacific economies crafted an initial response encompassing financial monitoring, aviation security, energy security and customs enforcement.

Our collective actions have constrained terrorists operations, but by how much and where, we don't know. But it is very clear we have to expand deterrent measures to include port security, travel documents, air cargo security and others.

We support measures to secure trade and movement of goods from port of origin to port of destination in the same manner that we support measures that will deter movement of terrorists across borders.

We support the principle of secure trade. Since developing countries, however, cannot as yet pay the cost of all the detailed component of secure trade, we have proposed, and many developed countries have agreed that capacity building in terms of training and acquisition of new technology be extended to developing economies to enable us to comply with rigid timetables and standards.

We must strengthen our cooperation in the global fight against terrorism. From an economic perspective, this is the best common response to the threat currently being posed to global security and prosperity.

But just as we are taking security measures to prevent terrorist acts, we should also address the poverty and hopelessness that provides recruits for terrorism.

The Philippines has repeatedly, therefore, called for a truly developmental round of globalization to level the playing field and bring relief to beleaguered economies. The gap between the developed and developing economies has not really narrowed. And even within our own developing economy, we have to be constantly mindful of the effects of each step we take on small communities and small enterprises.

Just as we search out and destroy terrorism, we must search out and destroy the terror of poverty. There is evil in being hungry just as there is evil in being a destructive terrorists. We must work together as a family of nations to alleviate both.

Whether it's the defense of the nation's sovereignty or fighting global terrorism, at the end of the day, it's always about the economy and improving the lives of our citizens.

I now welcome your questions.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210601/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8486&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference at the Japan National Press Club

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a Press Conference at the Japan National Press Club

[Issued at the Nippon Press Center, Tokyo, Japan, December 4, 2002]

Thank you very much, Chairman Sugita.

Managing Director Nabe; esteemed members of the Japan national press club; my friends: good afternoon.

I am grateful for the chance to address the Japan National Press Club again. Since I was here last year, several key events have occurred: the global war against terrorism, particularly given recent attacks in the region; the U.N. resolution and impending war with Iraq; and the emergence of China as a willing player with ASEAN.

The fight against terrorism is a global one and not the challenge of a single nation or region. We have seen from tragic events that terrorists know no geographical boundaries and are not guided by moral or religious convictions. They are nothing more than murderers of innocent people. They're driven by an ideology of mayhem that's why we must work together as nations around the world to fight terrorism.

We understand the challenge terrorism poses for all countries that value peace and order. From the moment I took office, I declared war on terrorism in the Philippines. That's why I immediately declared my solidarity with the global coalition and have joined the family of nations in the fight against terrorism. A few of my opponents have criticized my decision. But I have to tell you: I make no apologies for aggressively seeking to root out terrorism in the Philippines and to putting considerable effort into seeking regional consensus on fighting terrorism.

Terrorism drains human capital and economic resources, poverty fuels support for terrorist activities, and restoring security assists in enhancing the environment for business and the promotion of foreign direct investment.

Though the Abu Sayyaf remain a threat, they are a diminished threat. We have worked to crush their armed soldiers and break up their intelligence cells. Remember, though solitary acts of destruction are still possible, what is increasingly more difficult for Abu Sayyaf is extensive, coordinated military attacks.

My government is doing its best to restore lasting peace in Mindanao. My overall platform links the global war against terrorism with my vision of eliminating poverty. Thus, I appreciate Japan's fielding of an appraisal mission for the social fund project of the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao, which is a significant first step.

I consider my state visit as an opportunity to highlight the importance of Japan as the preeminent contributor to the economic security of the Philippines and the region. Japan plays a central role in helping the Philippines on both the economic and military security fronts. For the Philippine-Japanese bilateral relationship, this means that the vital component of the political security of the Philippines depends on the economic contribution of Japan as a source of aid, trade and investment.

We value the investments that the Japanese government and Japan businesses have made in the Philippines. As our partners, the Japanese are witnesses to the creativity, industriousness and skill of the great Filipino workers who are making important contributions in Japanese businesses. We aim to continue to harness this resource to bring change to our lives in the Philippines and increase prosperity to the region.

For example, Marubeni has built the majority of the power plants owned by the Philippine national power corporation and has just completed a 1.4 billion-dollar multi-purpose dam. Matsushita is expanding its air conditioner plant in the Philippines, and we are encouraging it to relocate its entire window-type air condition business to the Philippines.

The Philippines continues to work hard to strengthen our economic environment through continued enhancement of our infrastructure and an ongoing reform process and focus on good governance.

We are making important economic progress. Let's not forget that when my administration took office, we had an economy that was heading towards bankruptcy, and economic and political chaos strained our relations with the international financial community and created significant market instability.

Today, we still face many challenges but have the stability and strong relations with our global financial and economic partners that support implementation of the Philippine economic plan, our blueprint for sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

The economy is on track to achieve a growth this year of four to four-and-a-half percent GDP as evidenced by the better-than-expected performance of leading indicators in the first three quarters of this year. Inflation and interest rates are still at record lows. Export growth is at nine percent versus the original projection of zero growth so that international reserves are 1 billion dollars more than the target.

While the budget deficit remains a challenge, we are taking concrete steps to address it. We remain focused on responsibly managing expenditures and maximizing revenues. We are spending within budget but disbursing it more efficiently and implementing projects faster.

Several enforcement measures are already in place to increase revenue collections. We have put together a good team to increase our tax collections headed by a new commissioner of internal revenue, who is preceded by his impressive record as a successful commissioner of customs, and complemented by a new Anti-Smuggling Intelligence and Investigation Commission.

The team has been reforming the collection of the value-added tax, including cross-checking of importation data from the bureau of customs with that reported to the bureau of internal revenue. Last 15th of November, they closed and prosecuted 53 firms for underpayment of the value-added and other taxes. They are intensifying audit for both corporates and individuals even as they have made the option to pay taxes on-line widely available.

Aside from these immediate reforms, we are committed to long-term structural reforms. We've proposed legislation to corporatize the internal revenue agency into a national revenue authority. Meanwhile, I issued an executive order to restructure the agency.

To reform expenditure management, the Philippine senate has begun deliberating the procurement reform bill which will bring about an estimated savings of 30 percent on the budget. Meanwhile, I'm implementing e-government to electronically release funds to agencies automatically for a more efficient utilization of funds.

The power sector is our key reform area in order to assure adequate and reliable power supply to consumers and to industry. This program was initiated with the passage of the electric power industry reform act last year after a delay of 10 years. The answer to sourcing the huge capital requirements of our power sector is privatization. The first key to privatization is to create an investment climate that's attractive to both domestic and foreign investors. The second key to create a successful privatization process is one that is transparent and free of corruption.

With the reforms we are implementing, and which we hope congress will enact as soon as possible, we are confident we will achieve higher growth in 2003.

There is no more important benchmark of a developed nation than its engagement in the world trading system. But as developed and developing countries alike know to be true, the benefits of globalization and trade are not all apparent or all positive. As the Philippines comes down on the side of trade, we understand that at the same time, we must manage the transition well with our poor in order to gain their political support for additional political and economic reforms down the road.

We are committed to lifting our people out of poverty. We must put food not promises on the table today. Our economic plan will get us there — our trade policy is an integral part of our growth plan. But our price in achieving this vision must be sustainable.

Thus, we commend Japan's efforts to further deepen its ties in the region through economic partnership agreements. In our view, an ideal for the proposed agreement is to maximize the many areas of complementarity between our two economies. One such area is human resource development. One facet of our HRD complementarity involves the demographic realities between our two countries. Japan has an aging population while the Philippines has a young population which supplies some of the best-trained and compassionate health care workers in the world. In a similar vein, Japan is the acknowledged leader in the region in the field of advanced technology including ICT and capital-intensive industry. The Philippines, on the other hand, is well-acknowledged internationally for its top-quality knowledge workers. We can devise the right arrangements to take fuller advantage of these realities.

Japan's aid is important as a vital weapon for ensuring regional stability and security. Japanese leadership to sustain aid to the Philippine government in my efforts to reduce poverty and sustain economic recovery is every bit as important as military cooperation in ensuring regional security.

Economic security is the greatest defense against political instability, poverty and terrorism. Make no mistake: "the Yen is mightier than the sword." the economic role Japan has to play in the region cannot be overstated.

Japan, China and ASEAN form an economic sphere to rival Europe and North America. It is the dawn of a new age in Asia as Japan, China and ASEAN neighbors come together seeking greater economic cooperation and integration.

Japan, as an important development partner and donor for the Philippines and ASEAN is crucial in the regional fight against poverty, the recruiting ground for terrorism. It's only through economic partnership that as a region we will chart the security of Asia and the prosperity of our people. With Japan leading the way, I'm confident the region will flourish.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference at the Japan National Press Club. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409204920/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8519&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the departure ceremonies for a Visit to Bangkok, Thailand

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the departure ceremonies for a Visit to Bangkok, Thailand

[Issued at the Villamor Airbase, Pasay City, April 29, 2003]

The ASEAN SARS Summit in Bangkok today is an effort to gather our collective material and political resources in the region to fight the dreaded disease. The meeting hopefully will bring better results in terms of the identification, containment and treatment of cases as it will carry a strong statement of cohesion in the same way we took a common stand in the face of the Asian crisis in 1997 and the September 2001 tragedy in the United States.

By reaching across borders for common solutions, ASEAN is projecting a very strong message that we are prepared to close ranks for the world to fight this threat to the end.

ASEAN nations are already doing their best individually. But forging a common program will multiply our individual strengths and reduce our weaknesses.

I shall make a special appeal in behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Filipino workers spread across ASEAN. I shall seek protection within ASEAN not only for the health and safety but for the jobs of Filipinos.

I shall appeal to my colleagues to ensure the best treatment is extended to our nationals who are suspected to be or actually afflicted by SARS. And that all possible accommodations be granted to guarantee the security of their jobs in the face of the regional economic slowdown.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Statement during the Departure Ceremonies for a visit to Bangkok, Thailand. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201503/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6134&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during on the “Mindanao Punitive Operations”

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On the “Mindanao Punitive Operations”**

[Issued at the Laurel Room, Malacañang, May 16, 2003]

Today, I authorized the Armed Forces of the Philippines to employ selective aerial and artillery attacks to dislodge embedded terrorist cells that have attacked hapless civilian communities and murdered scores of innocent Filipinos in Mindanao.

This is in support of military operations that have been ongoing, in varying degrees of intensity, over the past week in the Zamboanga peninsula, the Lanao provinces and Maguindanao.

We’ve decided to use extraordinary punitive force not merely in view of tactical necessity, but to signify the determination of government to bring terrorists to justice.

I ask Congress to stand behind the people and the government in this action. The local government units in the areas affected have been informed and many of them have heightened their vigilance against reprisals.

This is a time for all Filipinos to stand together, to fight and sacrifice together.

The relief agencies of government are on alert for a possible surge of evacuees in the affected areas. We shall work with local communities to provide food, shelter and medicine to temporarily dislocated families.

I encourage the private sector to gather resources for humanitarian assistance.

We’ve seen that terrorism strikes anywhere, anytime, from the remotest barangays in Mindanao to the capitals of the world. The world in the post Iraq war period has achieved greater strategic stability, but this has driven militant cells to deeper desperation.

Our country has been under terrorist attack sporadic, intermittent but nevertheless, deadly. Davao city has been bombed twice. Siocon and Maigo have been assaulted with impunity. Koronadal has been attacked. Christians and Muslims have been killed.

Filipinos have also been killed and wounded in a terrorist attack in Riyadh. We’re victims in our own land and elsewhere. We must fight back now or face greater peril in the future.

All Filipinos must be vigilant wherever they are.

Secretary Renato de Villa, my adviser on strategic concerns, will help me coordinate the holistic approach to this campaign.

This holistic approach will encompass the political, diplomatic, military, cultural, economic, humanitarian, and information aspects of the campaign.

Regular information briefings on the tactical and humanitarian situation will be handled by the military division commanders teaming up with the regional directors of the DSWD.

I shall embark on a state visit to the United States tonight bearing in mind the need to bolster our strategic relationship with the United States as well as with our neighbors in the fight against terrorism as we face a new global horizon cast by post-war Iraq.

We have to continue to reach out to the Islamic nations through the OIC. To press our principled stand against a common enemy, while seeking consensus for the security and welfare of Muslim Filipinos. This is not simply a war of guns and bullets. It's a strategic war of will and vision. We shall tighten the noose of military operations, anti poverty programs and diplomatic initiatives until the threat of terrorism is beaten.

We will nurture the seeds of a principled, secure and enduring peace. We will banish despair and bring a new light of hope.

We shall build the ramparts of the strong republic in Mindanao.

I order our soldiers to carry on; I ask our people to stand behind them.

Thank you and may God bless us all.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Statement on "Mindanao Punitive Operations". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201237/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6307&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the arrival ceremonies at the White House

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the Joint Press Conference with U.S. President George W. Bush

[Issued at the East Room, the White House, Washington D. C., U.S.A., May 19, 2003]

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you once again for inviting me on this state visit. As I said earlier, this shows how warm is the relationship between our two countries. We have become closer because of the war on terror but our closeness is really rooted in our deep and long shared history.

We became closer with the war on terror because the Philippines is one of the first countries to join this war on terror. And the reason why we did it is that we, in the Philippines, know what it is to suffer from the hands of terrorism. We know the pain of terrorism. And we are with you in your leadership against terrorism wherever it may be found. There may be others whom I feel timid or hostile about U.S. leadership in the war against terrorism. We believe that U.S. leadership and engagement with the U.S. makes the world a safer place for all of us to live in.

But this trip is not just about terrorism, it's about fighting poverty. Poverty and terrorism are twin evils that we must fight. For the Philippines, we consider the U.S. a strategic partner not only in security matters but also in the economy, in the fight against poverty.

I appreciate the support president bush has announced with regard to our security assistance and also with regard to our economic assistance and economic cooperation with each other. And in other meetings that we will be having with American officials, with multilateral agencies that are based in Washington D.C., and with the U.S. private sector. There will be other developments related to this visit that I'm sure will enhance our relationship with each other even more.

There's been a lot of work in preparation for this state visit. I was supposed to come earlier. I was supposed to be here last March, and we've been working on what we can have together in this state visit. But because we postponed it and we did not know the date of the state visit because we didn't know the timetable for the war, there were many things that America already helped us with in preparation for this state visit even without a date.

So, I'd like to thank you, President Bush for what we have been able to achieve before the state visit, what we are achieving in this state visit, and what we will be achieving afterwards because of the deeper relationship that we have entered into culminated in this wonderful visit of ours to your country.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Joint Press Conference with U.S. Pres. George W. Bush. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201151/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6294&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint Press Conference with U.S. President George W. Bush

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the arrival ceremonies at the White House

[Issued at the South Lawn, the White House, Washington D. C., U.S.A., May 19, 2003]

The relationship of our two countries are deeper and warmer today than they have been in a very long time.

Today, our two countries have revitalized and maturing alliance. Rooted in shared history, shared values, a common interest in global peace and prosperity, and a real commitment to combating terrorism and advancing freedom. Our alliance abides strong as ever even as the world today requires a new perspective on political and economic security in Asia pacific. This new perspective must recognize that while Asia must take greater responsibility for its own political and economic security, it must also recognize that strong relations with the U.S. will contribute greatly to regional peace and prosperity, stability and security especially from terrorism. Thus, we, your friends, must find a way to support continued and active engagement with the U.S. at a time when there are some forces in my region working against such a relationship.

Although wisdom counts as commitment in the face of terror, the temptation to disengage is strong. We must fight that temptation because the answer to fear is confrontation. Indeed, we must close ranks and stand firm against terrorists threats however grave, however armed, and from whatever quarter.

To spare themselves some countries might prefer an accommodation with terrorism — the Philippines has chosen to fight terrorism. We compensate for such modest means as we command with an unshakeable resolve to defeat terrorism once and for all, and with faith in the justness of our cause and our friendship with the United States.

Our war on terrorism has made significant gains but the threat is far from over. The war is not yet won, that it will be won there can be no doubt, how long and at what cost are the only things in doubt as the terrorist attack in Riyadh which took both Filipino and American lives shows. For the Philippines, the new perspective on economic and political security in Asia pacific must take into account the over seven million of our men and women who in seeking a better life abroad contribute greatly to the development of economies around the world, not least that of the United States.

I am proud of these Filipino-Americans. I am proud of the contributions that Filipinos and Filipino-Americans make to the American economy and society in a quiet but equally substantive way we can compare it to the contribution made by Philippine World War II veterans to the defense of our common freedom and security. I also take pride in the robust economic and trade ties that bind the Philippines and the United States. The Philippines is pursuing long needed economic reforms. The current and continuing reforms will strengthen the Philippine republic. They will make easier Philippine and American economic cooperation, and they will promote the cause of fighting world poverty.

I appreciate the help of president bush in our work to alleviate poverty and other socio-economic ills from which terrorism draws its strength. Like the fear on which it feeds, terrorism can be contagious and it will not be contained unless we agree on a comprehensive approach for defeating it in Southeast Asia.

And so, in looking forward to discussing that comprehensive approach, I look forward to my talks with president bush and his officials in this administration. And I hope president bush reciprocates this visit by accepting a state visit to the Philippines towards the end of this year.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Statement during the Arrival Ceremonies at the White House. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201143/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6288&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a press conference with the Philippine media

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a press conference with the Philippine media

[Issued at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, U.S.A., May 21, 2003]

When I left the Philippines, when I left to come to the United States for the state visit, I said that we were going to explore a new framework of a strategic relationship with the United States for the 21st century.

Some features of that relationship, I think I can already explain as coming to light.

One, is the designation of the Philippines as a major non-NATO ally. I will ask Dick Gordon later ‘ to explain that in a... You know, in a more direct and a... I’ll expect Dick to explain that in a... In a more picturesque way or you know, in a more illustrative way. But let me just say that it recognizes the Philippines as a key global player in the fight against terrorism. And that it is a tribute to the proven vigilance of the Filipino people not only in this fight, but in upholding our shared values of democracy and freedom. And it paves the way for a stronger partnership for a more secure Philippines, a more secure region and a more secure world.

Another aspect of that new framework is that we have laid a strategic basis for Philippine-U.S. relations based on more trade rather than aid; reciprocity rather than mendicancy; mutuality rather than exclusivity. Our bonds of friendship and values have now grown into an overarching pragmatic alliance for security, peace and development. To illustrate, the alliance goes beyond fighting the Abu Sayaff to mopping up the pockets of poverty where the recruits of terrorism are taken.

You see, if the alliance were just about fighting the Abu Sayaff, we would have signed already the T.O.R. for Balikatan now. But, it is not just about the Abu Sayaff, the Abu Sayaff is incidental, they’re only 215 there on the run. It’s really defining the relationship between the two countries on security assistance and mutual support.

A third aspect of the work to define a framework, a longer term framework for the new relationship is that through this bolstered alliance, we’ve gained solid momentum for a more decisive engagement with the world. This underscores the key role played by our 8 million Filipinos spread across a 140 nations, who are collectively the pivot upon which our economic diplomacy turns. A major part of our foreign policy is the protection of the welfare of our overseas Filipinos. And eight million overseas Filipinos out of the population of 80 million — that’s 10 percent — means that they are a major part of our constituency. And because two-and-a-half million of them are here in the United States, they are a major part of our relationship with each other.

It is our duty to strengthen the political and economic security of our Filipinos in other countries and safeguard them against terrorist attacks in their places of work.

The shared future of Philippine-American relations now demands initiatives that should lend greater momentum to our achievements. This morning, I met with business organizations engaged in business process outsourcing, that is an area that has steady growth potentials in our country. This afternoon I met with U.S. companies projected to invest in the reconstruction of Iraq, that offers a broad range of opportunities for our workers.

Jobs after all are my main concern. We go worldwide with great zeal because we want to expand the quest for jobs through the greater market access that will come as a result of our closer economic engagement. For instance, the duty free status for one billion dollars worth of products under America’s GSP helps us to sustain and increase employment, including in the most depressed areas of Mindanao.

We must optimize economic thrusts that will have first and foremost an immediate effect on national security and peace and order. That is why I am anxious to go back home to apply the gains in our trip to the enhancement of peace and order in our country. That’s why when I return home I shall proceed to Mindanao to evaluate the national

security situation and to see how immediately we can apply the gains of this trip to addressing the issues of that security situation in Mindanao.

But speaking of Mindanao, let me salute the courage of our troops who have carried out the punitive actions against the enemy, and they have done it very successfully. And they've done this by attacking specific terrorists enclaves in Mindanao. I also thank the civilian communities that have supported our troops.

After the areas are cleared, we must now get on with holding and consolidating actions. The PNP must be ready to hold the areas cleared by the punitive operations while the national agencies and the local government units must consolidate relief and rehabilitation efforts.

I also commend the PNP for preempting a terrorist plot in metro Manila. This only stresses even more the need for preparedness not only of our law enforcement agencies but of our local governments in threatened communities. Even the United States has gone into heightened alert which they call orange alert. So, all communities must be on alert.

Well, since some members of the delegation will be leaving us tonight, I'd like to express my appreciation to those members especially those from the Cabinet and Congress, and the members... The delegation from Congress was led by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker de Venecia. I'm glad that Monico Puentevella is still with us. I thank him for his very very great support and vigorous and energetic participation in the various activities in this state visit.

I'd like to share that during our meeting at the White House, Speaker De Venecia proposed a dialogue of civilizations and inter-faith solidarity. He proposed the creation of a U.N. inter-religious council as a means to world peace. I also like to acknowledge that Senate President Drilon — oh! There's Joe. I was praising you without knowing you were there, ha! I would like to — Joe, why don't you come here to the front because they might ask you about your dialogue of civilizations now that I announced it. First time I announced it. Eh, kasi nga naman parating, magkano ba? Magkano ba? You know, but you see this great ideas are coming about and they really show the world view of our Philippine leaders.

I'd like to acknowledge that Senate President Drilon has been sharing his legal expertise to the work in progress on Balikatan 03-1 terms of reference.

While some of the delegates will leave us tonight, actually the trip is not yet over. I still have one more leg of my visit. Tomorrow, I shall go to San Francisco to meet with the President of Bechtel, a company which is expected to play a major role. A company projected to invest very largely in the reconstruction of Iraq.

So, two things will be going from tonight: the meeting, the Iraq-related meeting tomorrow and then after that the culmination will be my trip to Mindanao. And I will be making my arrival statement on Monday to report on the trip in Mindanao.

In the meantime, you may ask questions from me and from the cabinet members who are on the other side of this conference.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference with the Philippine Media. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201010/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6272&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a roundtable with U.S. media

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a roundtable with U.S. media

[Issued at the Carnegie Room, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, U.S.A., May 21, 2003]

Well, I don't want to give very formal opening remarks. I just want to begin saying a few things and I'd like to encourage you to interrupt if something I say propels you to ask a question. But this is my way of just breaking the ice and beginning to set the tone of what I think we should be talking about.

I'm very happy to be here and I feel that the country has been honored with a state visit that was prepared by President Bush. I think it's a good time to therefore characterize the relationship not only between the Philippines and the United States but also the relationship between the Philippines and the world as we are in our first years of the 21st century.

Towards the end of the last century, year 2000 and couple of years before that, the Philippines was a picture of great cynicism among the people and disengagement from the world among the officialdom. Today, the Philippines is emerging from that kind of scenario and I think this visit shows that we are back. We are back and that's the message that I'd like to give.

As far as the Philippines and the United States is concerned when I say we are back I say we are talking... We're renewing our good relations with the United States but not in the same old way. It's the 21st century now and it is time to define that alliance as a new and modern alliance suitable to this century. And this alliance is important especially for me as the president of my country because a new modern alliance with the United States is something that is important to our nation that it should cover a whole range of issues and concerns that characterize our 21st century. There is security, regional stability, trade and investment, economic reform, good governance measures, to name a few.

When I met with President Bush at the White House last Monday, one of the clearest things that emerged is that we do have a very strong relationship with each other today. I am very honored to have been so far the only Asian head of state to be given a state visit by the Bush presidency. I think that's a very strong statement about the relationship between our two countries and peoples. And in this strong relationship as I said, President Bush and I, have been developing a modern framework that should be guiding the relationship of our countries for the 21st century, for the decades to come. The relations between our two countries were adrift for awhile. But I think they are back on track and stronger than ever.

To me — all these redefining relationships, strengthening them, revitalizing them, making them more mature — to me, at the end of the day, all these is about my goal of fighting poverty in the Philippines. And of course, I cannot fulfill my goal of working to fight poverty without focusing on the economy. So at the end of all of these, the focus is really on the economy. The first two years of my administration were devoted to making fundamental reforms on the economy. They were devoted to strengthening the institutions of our republic, to strengthening our macro-economic fundamentals. And that's why I'm glad that Secretary of Finance Lito Camacho is here because he was the lead character in the strengthening of the economic fundamentals. We've moved to lower inflation because as far as the people of the Philippines are concerned the bottom line is how much do they have to pay for feeding themselves. We have moved to strengthen the peso. We've moved for macro-economic structural reforms which required legislations, we've achieved a number of them. We're moving more towards... We're moving further towards privatization because that's really the characteristic of a market economy, and more.

And that's what I've been doing on the purely economic area. But because the overriding concern is to fight poverty, which is basically an economy problem, even my foreign relations policy, my foreign policy is all about that, it's all about serving the fight against poverty in the Philippines. And that is why in the service of fighting poverty in the Philippines I strengthened Philippine alliances through aggressive diplomacy, such as what I did in Washington.

Part of my economic plan also is the recognition that we have to wipe out terrorism in the Philippines if we are to focus our resources to help in improving the lives of our poor. So, we don't fight for the sake of fighting. We are fighting because we want to ultimately free up our resources to fight poverty rather than some individual.

And in seeking to wipe out terrorism in the Philippines, the U.S. is an important ally in restoring peace and order on many levels. That's one part of my trip, the security part. But because poverty is my overarching concern, the other part of my trip is business and investment promotion. Every single trip that I take always includes a business... An investment promotion component, business and investment promotion component.

For today, what I did this morning was to launch a new business process outsource initiative, and Mar Roxas was in-charge of that, my Secretary of Trade and Industry. I think because you are business writers and editors many of you know that the Philippines is rapidly becoming a premier destination for outsourcing.

People are often surprised to know just how much the Philippines has evolved into something global — a global country, a global economy. I like to put it this way, I'm not just the head of state of over 80 million Filipinos, I'm also in some way the CEO of a global enterprise, a Philippine global enterprise of 8 million Philippine workers in over a 140 countries generating billions of dollars a year for themselves, their employers and also for their families in the Philippines. That said, I recognize that there are still many economic and social concerns that we have to deal with. Terrorism, of course, is something that the world has been living with for the last... For this first years of this new century. And if we talk about terrorism, what I can say is that we are coming to grips with terrorism in the Philippines. The threat of the Abu Sayaff diminishes by the day. Nonetheless, the world is still fertile ground for terrorists. The region is still fertile ground for terrorists. Some of their weapons are bombings like what they've done recently in Riyadh. Other weapons are kidnapping and that's of course something that makes businessmen very nervous. And so we continue to address the issue, the threat of terrorism very aggressively and proactively.

Another challenge is the budget deficit. But given the performance of our fiscal sector in the first one-third of this year, we're very bullish on the ability of our government to work towards our budget deficit moving quickly to an acceptable level as a percentage of GNP. Our vital signs... Well, all our vital signs are now strong. And these vital signs I'm sure will help generate the stability that we need to continue to tackle the deficit from a position of strength and sustainable development.

Another challenge is structural reform, longer term reform. We've had early successes as we are revamping our economic outlook including strengthening banking laws, money laundering legislation, a renewed stock exchange, revenue collection reform. But now we're going to be working on taxation and anti-corruption reforms.

In sum, what I'd like to say and communicate is that the Philippines has emerged as a stronger economy built on a more vibrant set of structural reforms. Yes, it has more to accomplish but certainly we know and we recognize that we must focus on the economy more than at any time in the past.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Opening Statement during a roundtable with U.S. Media. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201022/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6266&Itemid=38

Press Statement: President Arroyo on accidents at sea

**Press Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On accidents at sea**

[Issued at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, June 2, 2003]

The sinking of the MV San Nicolas, which caused the death of many of its passengers, was only the latest deadly accident involving passenger ships traversing our seas. As the painful stories of this tragedy move out of our front pages and headlines, we must dedicate ourselves to doing more to prevent similar accidents in the future. We will not allow our attention on other concerns to distract us from what we must do to improve maritime safety.

Inter-island travel by ship is a mode of transport favored by poor Filipinos. Maritime accidents disproportionately afflict the poor. Maritime safety, therefore, is an issue important to the welfare of our poorer citizens.

As the country that provides ships all over the world with thousands of Filipino seamen, the Philippines can't allow recurrence of maritime accidents at our home seas to erode our well-earned reputation for competent seafaring abroad. Lives of the poor and livelihoods of many Filipinos are at stake in maritime safety.

I've issued additional instructions to move ahead with other steps that could prevent future accidents at our seas.

I reiterate my 15-day deadline for the completion of the marine investigation into the MV San Nicolas accident. I expect to receive the findings and recommendations on June 9, upon my return from South Korea and Japan.

Even without the investigation results, however, I've asked DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza to undertake the following:

1. Prepare a policy recommendation governing the continued use of wooden-hulled vessels as passenger ships, including rules and regulations on classification implementation for passenger ships, particularly wooden-hulled ships. The MV San Nicolas was a wooden-hulled ship ferrying passengers from Palawan to Manila during stormy weather;
2. Organize a performance and capability assessment of the Philippine Coast Guard relative to this agency's functions of enforcing maritime safety standards and overloading rules, and undertaking rescue operations in sea accidents. We have to identify the most immediate, affordable and cost-effective measures to enable the coast guard to significantly reduce risks of accidents at sea and fatalities from these accidents;
3. Draft measures to improve safety in narrow inter-island passages and areas with heavy sea traffic where most accidents occur. Consideration should be given to delineating sea-lanes and implementing better monitoring and communications systems in these areas;
4. Submit recommendations on structural, functional, and personnel changes to improve the coordination and effectiveness of both marina and the coast guard in assuring our people access to safe, affordable and convenient sea travel;
5. Formulate a program of random drug and alcohol testing of shipping crews and officers, particularly those manning passenger vehicles;
6. Convene a task force for maritime safety that would include representation from government, shipping industry, maritime schools and other stakeholders. This task force shall formulate recommendations that I shall consider for inclusion among my legislative and executive priorities traditionally announced as part of the State of the Nation Address in July. I'd like to see a non-negotiable level of provisions and standards that assure minimum safety at sea.

Government shall require private shipping industry to comply with such standards, and shall provide assistance necessary for them to comply.

I've also instructed the Professional Regulation Commission to review the standards and implementation of training and licensing rules and regulations governing seamen and maritime professionals manning domestic ships. Smaller vessels like the MV San Nicolas are commanded by "major patrons" who don't have the formal training necessary to secure a license. There's a need to review their basic competence despite the absence of a license. There's also a need to eliminate further doubts about fraud attending the licensing of seamen and maritime professionals.

I expect to regularly update our people on the progress of these instructions. I will not allow the inexorable march of events to leave the issue of maritime safety behind. I'm determined to make my administration the point to end the long chain of deadly sea accidents that has marked inter island shipping in our country.

I've decided to turn my utter grief over the deaths of so many Filipinos in the accident last week into firm determination to do what must be done to prevent future deaths at sea.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Press Statement on accidents at sea. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200856/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6480&Itemid=38

Arrival Statement: President Arroyo in Mindanao

Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: In Mindanao

[Issued at the Departure Lounge, Davao City Airport, Davao City, Davao del Sur, June 10, 2003]

Maayong buntag sa tanan. Lingkod, palihog.

Good morning.

Please.

Officials of Mindanao, people of Mindanao, nalipay gyud ako nga dinhi sa inyong manindot nga lunsod diri sa Davao City gisugdan kining akong pagbisita karon sa nagka-laing-laing siyudad sa lunsod sa Mindanao diri sa Davao.

Today, I start one week of intense and focused attention on the priorities for peace and development in Mindanao. The concerns of Mindanao have always been among the most important matters of my administration. This coming week will be an opportunity to make headway on many issues facing Mindanao.

Sa pagsugod tignan ko gihapon ang mga prinsipyo sa atong Mindanao framework o ang tibuok gitukuran sa pagpa-uswag sa Mindanao. Usa ka prinsipyo maoy ang atong ultimo nga tuyo kinahanglan ang kalinaw ug kauswagan na nagkauban.

Ikaduha nga prinsipyo mao'y ang atong pilosopiya kinahanglan nakabase sa konstitusyon. Soberenidad ug atong nasud ug integridad ug atong teritoryo.

Ikatulo nga prinsipyo mao'y... Atong sosyedad mao'y multi ethnic na kinahanglan nakabase sa social justice alang sa tanan ug ang institutionalized accommodation of ethnic traditions. Kristiyano ug Muslim, intsik ug Tsinoy, Tagalog ug Cebuano, mao kini ang gamay ra nga mga ngalan nga gitubagan ug Pilipino sa usa ka gwapo nga testimonya sa akong dako ug laing-laing pamana isip nasud.

Sa nining tulo ka dako nga prinsipyo modagdag nato ug ika-upat. Sa atong pangitas ug kalingaw walay lugar ala sa terorismo ug brutalidad. Kini mga akto kinahanglan kondenado ug tanan. Ang mga elemento sa atong Mindanao framework ug tibug gitukuran sa pagpa-uswag sa Mindanao uban ang domestic o lokal na elemento ang diplomatic ug pang diplomasya nga elemento, ang security o pangseguridad ug ang development o pagpa-uswag.

Iyung mga elemento dunay pareho o kumon nga polisiya ug stratehiya manginuha kita aron makagamit ug puhunan bisan ug lokal o langyaw ang giginkanan ug kining tanang puhunan kinahanglan pang tipunon ug ibutang sa Mindanao.

Kining mga puhunan kinahanglan nga balansehon ta aron sakto ang pagkuyog ug pagsagol sa mga inisyatibo nga alang sa seguridad ug sa mga buluhaton sa pagpa-uswag aron mopaspas gayod ang taong pagkabot sa kalinaw ug modali dayon ang maki-angayon nga pagtaas sa atong ekonomiya sa Mindanao.

I come to Mindanao after a series of successful visits to America, Japan and South Korea. While the gains from these visits will benefit the whole country, I've tried my best to focus the benefits in favor of Mindanao. Much of the trade concessions will obtain benefits for many products coming from Mindanao. A considerable portion of new public and private investments we will mobilize will create more livelihood and employment opportunities for the people of Mindanao.

The bulk of military and law enforcement assistance we secured will provide better security and greater protection for the communities of Mindanao. Much of the grant and official development assistance we obtained will be targeted and focused on providing unmet needs of Mindanao's poorest and most vulnerable.

Members of my Cabinet headed by Secretary Romulo and senior government officials will further amplify on the concrete impact and specific benefits for implementing the agreements that were formalized and finalized during my foreign visits.

I regard the remaining year of my administration as a unique window of opportunity for building the foundations of an enduring framework for principled peace and development. Our government is committed to building an enduring and just peace in Mindanao within the framework of our constitution. Such a peace can be obtained and preserved through political solutions. But our government must have the means to fully guarantee on the ground eventual compliance with whatever might be the terms of a political settlement of the armed conflict in Mindanao. While we welcome and expect sincerity and discipline from those with whom we shall dialogue, the AFP and PNP must have the full capacity and adequate means to protect our communities and enforce our laws without depending solely on sincerity or strength of other parties.

Even as we talk, we will not allow terrorist attacks to go unpunished. Even as we talk patiently, we will not tolerate enclaves of terrorism to exist within our country's territory. Peace can be advanced by patient and sincere dialogue back by our government's capacity to enforce the legal authority of our constitution. Peace will also be needed to be sustained by concrete gains in the welfare and living standards of Mindanao's poor.

The remaining year of my administration will also be an opportunity to deliver these development gains that are crucial to building public confidence and popular demand for continued peace.

Sa sunod nga walo ka adlaw, natamo ako sa laing-laing nga mga aktibidades nga mao'y mga simbolo nining saad o commitments. Pangungahanon ko nga labao pa nga makusog ang pagtinabangay sa sektor sa mga negosyante ug ang mga ubang mga pumuluyo sa komunidad dinhi aron dayon nato malihog ang usa ka kumprehensibo ug balansyado nga programa sa pagpakusog sa ekonomiya ug pagpalambo sa mga maisog ug epektibong buluhaton aron masuklan ang terorismo samtang mauhag pa sab ang mga rebeldeng grupo ang kadtong mga nagasimpatiya sa kanila aron mubalik na sila sa kinabuhing naga sunod sa atong mga balahod.

During this week's work in Mindanao, my administration will focus on preparations for school opening; implementation of key infrastructure projects in transport, highways, communications; accelerating progress in our initiatives in agriculture, trade, industry, tourism and livelihood; securing improvements in law enforcement and police administration. We recognize that armed conflict in Mindanao has been a monster. Bred by injustice, neglect, underdevelopment, poverty, ignorance, disadvantage and economic exclusion. While we're committed to end the current armed conflict by dissuading its most ardent adherents, we are also dedicated in reducing and eliminating the main conditions that might continue to breed conflicts in the future. I realize that one week of effort even by the whole national government wouldn't solve the massive and long standing problems we face in Mindanao. But I'm hopeful that our many strong and committed partners in Mindanao's peace and development will vastly amplify our efforts.

I look to our provincial, city, municipal and barangay governments including the regional government of ARMM as the primary frontline agents for peace and development in our community.

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge these partners who are here with us today: our host mayor, Mayor Rudy Duterte; Congressman Dolfo del Rosario. Ay, Governor Dolfo del Rosario; Congressman Tony Florendo; Congressman Dimaporo; Congressman Ben Cruz of the farmers party or Butil; Region XI cord Bebot Alvarez; Mayor Roger Antalan; my Presidential Adviser for Strategic Concern, Rene De Villa; also my Senior Adviser for Mindanao Affairs, Paul Dominguez; my Presidential Assistant for Mindanao, Jess Dureza; my Consultant on local governments, Luis Santos; RDC XI Chair, Chito Ayala; Arena President, Dolly Castillo; ATO Manager, Felix San Felix.

And may I also recognize and introduce the members of the Cabinet who are joining me here today. I mentioned already Secretary Romulo; Secretary Afable of the Presidential Management Staff; Bobi Tiglao here? Mai Jimenez; Nani Braganza; Angie Reyes; and Chief AFP, Narciso Abaya; Chief PNP, Jun Ebdane; Deputy Chief PNP Virtus Gil; Southcom Commander Roy Kyamko; from the PNP, we have also general Oscar Calderon; and PNP Region XI head, General La Peña; from the Amed Forces Colonel Ubañana.

And I will also greet various city councilors, city department heads of Sangguniang Kabataan members all of whom are our partners, and head of the OMA, Sam Ampatuan.

I'm also optimistic that civil society in Mindanao including non-government and people's organizations, religious leaders and tribal chieftains would continue to provide the cause-oriented conscience in grassroots capacities for effective poverty reduction and outreach to the most disadvantaged.

And I'm sure that our business community in Mindanao will respond with entrepreneurial vigor in translating government's development policies and projects into sustainable production income and livelihood opportunities for the people.

I'd like to take this opportunity also to greet one of the generals of our industry, not captain of industry, Don Antonio Florendo for being here with us.

I know that the people of Mindanao themselves have the greatest stake and stronger commitment to a peace that they most fervently seek and a sustainable development they most surely want.

Nahibalo ko kay ako usa sa mga katawhan ug Mindanao. Isip bata nidako ko usahay sa lungsod sa San Juan, Rizal usahay sa pang-uuma ug akong lola sa Lanao. I have come sa gihapon to join the people of Mindanao secure for themselves and their children the blessings of peace and bounties of development. I come here, dili ra tungod kay ako isa sa mga bata ug Mindanao kundili sab because Mindanao is crucial to our nation's welfare.

May I also recognize Mayor Lopez of Lanao Del Sur and Mayor Barabag and other barangay captains. Ah, yes Mayor Barabag and I already I think recognized the barangay captains of Davao City. Daghang salamat sa mga barangay captains.

My administration has a sound strategy for peace and development in Mindanao. We're implementing this strategy that across many areas of action. From security to infrastructure, to education, to economic growth, to poverty reduction, to law enforcement. We're mobilizing local governments, civil society and the business community to achieve this strategy. Government is joining hands with the people themselves in attaining peace and development in Mindanao. May the almighty his name be praised bless our common undertaking.

"Mindanao muna tungo sa isang matatag na republika." unahon ug Mindanao paadto sa usa ka kusog nga republika.

Daghang salamat sa inyo tanan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Arrival Statement in Mindanao. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200755/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6473&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Panay Power Corp 40-Megawatt Expansion Project

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the groundbreaking ceremony of the Panay Power Corp 40-Megawatt Expansion Project

[Delivered in Ingore, La Paz District, Iloilo City, August 14, 2003]

I listened to him for one hour and a half. I really pity him. He's misguided and very angry. In any case, the truth and the lies are now surfacing for everyone to hear and see. For anyone to say that the Oakwood incident was a spontaneous mutiny is like saying that the Bali and the world trade center was an accident. No way.

The conspirators in the coup d' etat have no respect whatsoever for the intelligence of the Filipino people. One can only recall the antecedents days before the incident, the actuations of the leaders during the event itself, the words spoken and the means employed, as well as the evidence that is emerging, to see that this was a plain and simple attempt to overthrow the duly-constituted government by a civilian-military cabal.

I'm glad that the Feliciano commission, the Senate and the Congress decided to open the hearings to the public so that everyone who can see this arrogant and absurd attempt to cover up treason at the highest levels of the "buddy-buddy" politic. I assure the people that the wheels of justice will unravel and expose the full length and breadth of this conspiracy and exact full retribution from those who led it. Democracy will be redeemed and upheld over dictatorship.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Statement during the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Panay Power Corp 40-Megawatt Expansion Project. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194701/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6512&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo after a 5-day visit to the U.S.A. and Europe

Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

After a 5-day visit to the U.S.A. and Europe

[Delivered on September 30, 2003]

Deputy Speaker Gonzales, Deputy Speaker Espinosa, Secretary Romulo and the other Cabinet members, General Abaya and the other generals, fellow workers in government, mga minamahal kong kababayan.

First, I would like to thank Vice President Guingona for taking care of the government while I was gone. And I would like to report to you, the nation that I had a very productive trip, together with my delegation, we brought the cause of peace, security and development to important venues and events. I would like to thank my delegation, especially the legislative members – senators Nene Pimentel and Manny Villar, and congressmen Nograles, Nachura, Mitra, Bacani and Villar for contributing to the success of our visit to the United Nations to the Vatican and to the Unesco. I look forward to our continuing close partnership with the legislature in mapping out and undertaking Philippine foreign policy.

I will go to a Cabinet meeting straight from here where we shall thresh out the domestic measures necessary to exploit the opportunities we have gained. These opportunities are: first, rapidly consolidating international support for the peace and development process in Mindanao. Also, the firm global consensus against terrorism and transnational crime; the growing confidence in our political stability and our economy; and a surge in dynamism within the global community of Filipinos as a result of more jobs, more remittances and greater political empowerment.

My meeting with the Holy Father in Rome renews and strengthen my resolve to wage the peace and to help the poor of the Philippines uplift them and empower them.

Things are falling into place. Peace in Mindanao is within our grasp. Buoyed not only by the Pope's blessing but by a confluence of positive circumstances and events:

- We have the full support of the U.N. Secretary General;
- Malaysia will continue to spearhead the facilitation of the peace talks;
- The OIC countries are keenly awaiting developments with growing commitments of aid and investments;
- The U.S. Institute for Peace will work with Washington to put in concrete support for conflict-resolution.

We are paving the way for the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund that will cut in once a new Mindanao peace accord is forged. The fund is organized by the World Bank and the USAID with commitments from the Islamic Development Bank, the OPEC, the governments of Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia. We will push the envelope on this effort as we unleash massive public resources and official development assistance for infrastructure, socioeconomic programs and autonomous capacity-building in Mindanao.

Our quest of domestic security will also be enforced by our imminent seat in the U.N. Security Council. There I intend to push the principles of collective security, multilateral approach and the rule of law. We are ready to join U.N. law enforcement and humanitarian teams in Liberia. Our involvement in global peacekeeping is just as important as our participation in the global coalition against terrorism. The restoration of strong democratic institution is indispensable to our bid to marginalize and defeat terror everywhere.

Overseas remittances in the first half of the year have already overtaken the record of last year. We are having a boom in the deployment of caregivers, teachers and medical personnel. They're sending more resources homeward

as we are extending to them broader political rights and welfare programs. Filipinos are the best citizens of the world and the best citizens of the Philippines. We're a global enterprise and proud of it.

But being global doesn't simply mean business. I addressed the UNESCO conference in Paris together with the president of Italy and thanked the organization for its indispensable contributions to Philippine culture and heritage. UNESCO supports the restoration of the Banaue Rice Terraces – our Ifugao rice terraces rather – the preservation of Tubbataha reef and the documentation of the 1986 EDSA People Power revolution in the world's register of memory.

The political season seems to be in full tilt, unfortunately, and I hope it's not getting too much in the way of thinking straight about our priorities. I call on all quarters to transform the partisan flavor of current debates into something more constructive. We need everybody's contribution to the shaping of good policy, whether as a proponent or fiscalizer. Let's bring the level of discourse to policies and platforms so that our people can derive the best benefits from politics and governance.

I will continue to weave the right tapestry of foreign and domestic policies that will best serve our nation and people.

Thank You.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Arrival Statement after a 5-day Visit to the U.S.A. and Europe. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194205/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7093&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during coffee with Philippine media

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During coffee with Philippine media

[Issued at the Marque Royal, Hotel Sheraton Laguna, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, October 7, 2003]

Napunta kami dito sa ASEAN ngayon para hanapin para sa sambayanan yung biyaya ng seguridad sa ekonomiya saka pulitika. Ang isang importanteng nakamit dito ay dito sa Bali pinirmahan yung Bali Concord II. Kasi yung Bali Concord I 1976, yon ang unang ASEAN Summit, yon na nagsimula ng ASEAN at yon ang ginagamit na gabay hanggang ngayon. Ngunit ngayon meron na tayong bagong milenyo, may mga bagong hamon na wala noong 1976 kaya tamang-tama naman ginawa muli sa Bali. Kaya ito ang tutukoy ng sama-samang direksiyon ng ASEAN para sa kinabukasan.

At para sa Pilipinas ang pakay natin dito ay palakasin yung consensus ng rehiyon na labanan ang kahirapan at maisiguro ang ating bansa mula sa terorismo.

Isang pinag-usapan ko sa lahat ng pagkakataon sa ASEAN Business Summit, sa BIMP-EAGA at saka sa ASEAN Plus Three ay well... Para sa akin tatlo ang pinakaimportanteng hamon na kailangan asikasuhin dito sa miting na ito: yung patuloy na hamon ng terorismo, yung pagkakataon na magkaroon ng bagong anyo ng pangangalakal sa mundo dahil sa Cancun — congratulations! Secretary Mar Roxas — at saka yung mga bagong tensyon kagaya ng tensyon sa korean peninsula na malaki ang kinauukulan sa Pilipinas dahil Pilipinas ay malapit lamang doon. Sa lahat ng bansang ASEAN tayo ang pinakamalapit geographically sa Korea kaya tayo ang nag-aabala doon, although lahat sila nag-aabala rin. So, ito ang parati kong pinag-uusapan sa iba't-ibang forum.

Yung tungkol sa terorismo, inulit ko na anuman ang mga teoriya ng ibat-ibang mga lider kung saan nanggagaling ang terorismo alam natin na maraming recruit o pwedeng makuha ang terorista sa mga mahihirap. Kaya dapat kung lalabanan natin ang terorismo, lalabanan natin ang kahirapan. At isang paraan doon sa unang miting sinabi ko na nga na isang paraan kung papano malabanan ang terorismo ay labanan ang kahirapan. Isang paraan doon ay magsama-sama para labanan ang kahirapan. Yan ang economic community na noon pa nung 1976 yon na ang talagang unang intensyon ng ASEAN.

At yung BIMP-EAGA pinabubuhay natin. Yung BIMP-EAGA Pilipinas talaga ang tumulak noon noong 1994. Pero noong nagkaroon ng 1997 Asian crisis maraming mga programa ng mga ibat-ibang bansa ay napatigil, natigil ng panahon. At isa nga doon ay yon nawala ng momentum medyo yung BIMP-EAGA.

Pero noong ako naging pangulo ng 2001 ay doon pa sa unang miting ng ASEAN talagang isang aking pinanukala doon ay dapat buhayin muli yung BIMP-EAGA. At noong panahong iyon sabi ko para mabuhay uli yung BIMP-EAGA kailangan meron tayong financial advisor na tutulong kung papano uulong yon at pinanukala ko na kunin yung Asian Development Bank. At yon nga ang ginawa nila. Kaya marami na ring nagawa ang asian development bank lalong-lalo na sa pagpapairal ng small and medium enterprises sa BIMP-EAGA.

Pero para sa akin itong nangyari ngayon ay isang malaking hakbang na naman muli para umangat, para sumulong ang BIMP-EAGA at yon ay nagkaroon ng first summit on BIMP-EAGA. Kaya nung dumating kami noong monday nagkaroon ng summit yung apat na bansa ng bimp-eaga at lahat sila ay nagbigay sila ng kanilang paniniwala na dapat talaga buhayin muli ang BIMP-EAGA.

Kaya malaking bagay yon at pinanukala ko rin na para naman talagang umurong o sumulong...sumulong dapat meron silang senior official na ang ADB na talagang naka-focus doon magko-coordinate. Balak nga namin na i-recommend si Former ASEAN Director General Rod Severino kung libre siya. Of course, when he quit as Director General... I mean when he retired as Secretary General when his term ended, he had many opportunities. So, I don't know how tied up he is now but he would make a very good point-person for that.

Yung nakita namin na pwedeng magpabuhay sa BIMP-EAGA, unang-una yung transportation linkages: air and sea, passenger and cargo at saka... So, yon ang itutulak.

Ngayon, yung Bali Concord II, tatlo na ngayon ang pillar ng ASEAN. Noon ang pinakabinibigyan ng diin yung economic community. In fact, moving toward an economic community by the year 2020. Pero ngayon dahil sa mga bagong hamon ng panahon hindi lang economic community, security community at saka socio-cultural community. So, tatlo na ang pillars ng ASEAN. Yan ang isang napakaimportanteng pagbabago sa Bali Concord II

Yung economic security hindi naman ibig sabihin na may defense alliance yon. Yung ASEAN Regional Forum na para bang nag-evolve naturally before to discuss security issues and propose confidence-building measures, yon ang parang na-institutionalize dito sa Bali Concord II. At saka kung papano masegurado na within ourselves parating may kapayapaan. Kasi yon naman ang isang malaking naganap naman ng ASEAN all these years. Hindi nag-aaway. Hindi naglalabanan. Hindi naggi-giyera yung mga kasapi ng ASEAN.

And what makes this even more remarkable is that unlike Europe, which is quite homogeneous, ASEAN is every heterogeneous. Different religions; different cultures; different political systems; different social organizations; different historical backgrounds. And yet we've not had any wars among us all these years. Were able to settle irritants and differences very peacefully. Kaya magandang katangian yan. Kaya gusto natin ma-institutionalize yan. Kaya socio-cultural community yung understanding one another's cultures, looking for commonalities so that we can have an ASEAN spirit para mas lalong umiral yung kapayapaan. So, yon ang mga importanteng... Yon ang importansya ng Bali Concord II. At inaasahan ko na makakauwi nang tulong din sa ating laban sa kahirapan at saka laban kontra sa terorismo yung ating economic and political security.

Doon naman sa ASEAN Plus Three dahil nga sabi ko na... Ay, yung Cancun pala. That's one ano, yung fighting terrorists. Yung Cancun kasi nagkaroon ng bagong alyansa yung mga developing countries. Halos naman lahat ng ASEAN developing countries so sabi ko dapat ituloy natin itong alliance na ito. And then when we had the ASEAN Plus Three, of course, from the other side are the developed countries so we also asked them. I said, now we should reduce... They should reduce subsidies to their farm sector. They should bring down the barriers to our products.

At saka doon ko nga napag-usapan yung Korea dahil sa North Korea nag-aabala tayo sa nuclearization ng North Korea. Pero humahanap tayo ng mapayapang paraan kung papano mapigil yon at malaki ang papel ng China, Korea saka Japan doon sa six-way talks. Kaya siyempre nagpasalamat sa kanila at sana maituloy nila kahit na may tensyon ang America at saka North Korea. Kasi sila ang paraan kung papano maitutuloy ito. At sabi naman nila talagang desidido silang ituloy nang ituloy yung dialogue na yon.

Bilaterally, we had our meetings. First bilateral meeting was with Thaksin Shinawatra. And we are encouraging Thailand, because Thailand wants to set up a petroleum hub... Wants to be the petroleum hub of the region. Thailand has two coastlines. One coastline faces the middle east and the other coastline faces the south china sea. So, that's what they plan to do to build a pipeline from one coastline to another so that they will be the hub. And because of that, we said that they can have one of the spokes of their hub in Subic. So, we offered them that possible investment opportunity. And hopefully, they will be able to sign... Thailand and the Philippines will be able to sign an agreement regarding that by the APEC Summit.

And then we had a meeting with Singapore. We thanked Singapore because they agreed to the proposal that I asked Mar to work on the petrochemical industry because we had liberalized it... To my mind, in a way that will hamper the development of our petrochemical industry. So, we had to change the tariff regime and Mar had a very tough assignment there but he was able to... Because first Singapore was objecting and said we are like, like... Like we might be reversing the ASEAN direction but Mar was able to get it done and with very reasonable compensation from Singapore. So, we thank Singapore for that. You wanna elaborate?

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Opening Statement during Coffee with Philippine Media. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194134/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7400&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a press conference with local press

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a press conference with local press

[Issued at the Ballroom, Marco Polo Hotel Davao City, Davao del Sur, October 29, 2003]

Thank you, Claro.

I'd like to thank everyone who's here today in this press conference. I'm very happy to be in Davao again. According to Congressman Nograles, maybe this is the 12th time I'd been here as president. If you count before I became president, we cannot count the number of times I'd been here. That's how important Davao City is and that's how important it is to our administration.

I know that Davao is a very cosmopolitan city, and you are concerned not only with local issues but also with national issues. And I know that the number one national issue today is the issue of the impeachment raps against Supreme Court Justice Davide. Although the national media already heard my statement about that in Mati this morning, I shall reiterate my statement for the benefit of the local Davao media who were not in Mati today.

"I remain confident that the leaders of congress and the judiciary realize that this unabated controversy is causing our nation and our democratic system more harm than good.

I call for a covenant within the two branches of government to resolve this impasse under the principle that while the high court has the final authority to interpret the constitution and the laws of the land, we must also keep in mind the need for strong institutional checks and balances forged by the separation of powers among co equal branches of government.

The presidency stands for the separation of powers under the rule of law.

There is a solution to this issue and it does not lie in protracted bickering or partisan debates but in the will of everyone concerned to sacrifice personal interest or partisan concern for the supreme national interest.

Let's reach forth for the solution without blame or recrimination through principled consensus and with dignity for all concerned."

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference with Local Press. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141230/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7171&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a press conference in Misamis Oriental

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a press conference in Misamis Oriental

[Issued at the Port Management Office Conference Room Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, October 31, 2003]

I'm happy to be here again in Cagayan de Oro, for the second time in a few day's time. And today, the occasion of my coming, is the invitation to the Mindanao Business Conference which was held here and in Tagaloan. And I'm very happy to tie up my activity in the Mindanao Business Conference by highlighting the two ports: the Cagayan de Oro port and the Mindanao container port. Both of which the funds were made available for their upgrading, even construction, the funds were made available to make Cagayan de Oro a 21st century national and international transport hub. Both of the funds for the two projects were made available in my administration.

Now, I'm very happy to be here as well in Cagayan de Oro city because Cagayan de Oro being a hub for national and international commerce is not just a city that cares about parochial concerns but also national concerns.

If I may, therefore, I would like to address the nation through the media of Cagayan de Oro, and open the press conference with a statement not on local issues but on a national issue, namely the impeachment raps against Chief Justice Davide:

The executive shall firmly hold the middle ground in this controversy. But let this never be interpreted as weakness.

To be drawn wantonly to either side of this dispute will derail the chances of a principled compromise and further erode national stability.

I shall not overact to events, as I call upon our people not to be unduly alarmed. The presidency has the will, the authority and the resources to quell any disorder or attempts at destabilization.

And we shall not hesitate to move decisively against those who will exploit this interbranch impasse to foment violence. No one is above the law.

Our crisis mechanism are in place even if we have not reached a crisis point. There is hope in dialogue. And we shall continue to pursue it while keeping our options open. We have the flexibility to change track if called for by the imperatives of national security.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141210/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7165&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference with local media

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During a Press Conference with local media**

[Issued at the Green House, Polangui, Albay, November 5, 2003]

Good afternoon.

I'd like to begin by thanking the people of Albay headed by Governor Bichara and the people of Polangui and Pantao headed by Congressman Joey Salceda for their wonderful welcome that they gave me in my visit today.

I would like to thank also the governors of the various provinces of Bicol for coming here to express their support. And inasmuch as Joey Salceda, Congressman, talked not only about local matters in his original matters, in his statement, but also announced that he was withdrawing his signature in the impeachment raps against Chief Justice Davide, I would like to take this opportunity to open this conference with an update on my own efforts. Do we have a copy of the covenant?

I have tried a common solution but its meeting obstacles.

I remain hopeful of a principled way out of the impasse driven by the statesmanship of all concerned. We've made an initiative in the national interest, and we leave the house to thresh out its position under the leadership of the speaker.

Meanwhile, the executive branch will continue to take the cue from the Supreme Court on the exclusive interpretation of the law.

My focus on good governance and service is unrelenting.

I shall continue to be a unifier under the rule of law.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference with Local Media. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141127/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7529&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the resolved short-lived takeover of the NAIA Control Tower

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On the resolved short-lived takeover of the NAIA Control Tower

[Issued at the Press Briefing Room, Kalayaan Hall, Malacañang, November 8, 2003]

The situation in the Ninoy Aquino international airport has been resolved.

Nothing will ever justify the taking over of an international airport control tower and prejudice the lives of air passengers. There can be absolutely no excuse to terrorize the public in this manner.

I commend the swift and decisive response of our aviation security units to this incident. They acted firmly... They acted under firmly established contingency plans and procedures to protect our national security.

I'm glad that after a spate of high alarm, all passengers, guests and airport personnel are out of harm's way. I assure our people and the world that our airport is safe and sound.

Security and operational facilities and procedures are uninterrupted. Alternate control tower facilities have been set up, and inbound and outbound flights will proceed as scheduled.

The nature, course and magnitude of this incident show that it is not an attempt to take over the government. No unauthorized movements of troops have been detected as of this time anywhere in the country. No unusual threats directly or remotely related to the incident have been monitored.

As a precautionary measure, the people and military are on maximum alert. Checkpoints along the perimeter of metro manila have been established. Security monitoring posts are up in the provinces and key urban centers.

I ask the public to remain calm, cooperate with the authorities, and bear with the temporary inconveniences brought about by this incident.

There's no cause for alarm. The situation has been resolved. We will scale down our alerts quickly as complete normalcy is established.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Statement on the Resolved Short-Lived Takeover of the NAIA Control Tower. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141032/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7510&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference in Angono, Rizal

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo During a Press Conference in Angono, Rizal

[Delivered at the Municipal Bldg., Angono, Rizal, November 14, 2003]

Gusto ko lang ulitin yung dalawang mensaheng binigay ko itong araw na ito. Yung isang mensahe na ngayon ay sinabi ko na ang ating bansa ay sapat nang nagdusa sa lubhang pagwawatak-watak. Ako ay nanawagan sa rekonsilyasyon at paghilom bilang isang tungkuling moral. At ito ay itutuloy ko kahit na ako ay mabigo. Hinahanap ko ang linaw sa mga pag-iisip ng ating mga lider, sa ganun ay malampasan natin yung cynicism at saka yung hatred na naghahati sa ating bansa. At tuloy natatangalan sa ating taong bayan ang kapayapaan ng pag-iisip at oportunidad sa ekonomiya.

Ginagawa ko itong alok bago lumubha ang mga bagay. Dapat hindi natin maiwan na ang taumbayang pilipino ay nai-entrap sa gitna ng mga labanang pulitikal. Huwag nating kalimutan na ang taong bayan ang ating mga amo at inaasahan nilang higit na statesmanship at pagkakaisa mula sa kanilang mga lider.

Kanina naman dito sa angono, sinabi ko po ay ito: merong pattern ng panibagong destabilisasyon para sa ganun ay masabotahe ang parating na proseso ng halalan. Nananawagan ako sa taong bayan na manindigan para sa demokrasya. Rerespetuhin natin ang karapatan ng mga nagpo-protesta na ipahayag ang kanilang mga pananaw sa pulitika, mga daing ngunit iguguhit natin ang linya sa panig ng civility, lawful conduct at publikong katiwasayan.

Ako ay nananawagan para sa rekonsilyasyon ngunit pipigilan ko ang anarchy. Ako ay ibinibigay ko ang aking kamay sa mga nagbabatikos sa akin ngunit hindi ko pwedeng payagan silang pagtawanan ang batas. Ako ay hinihingi ko sa mga lider ng mga kilos protesta na sila ay idisiplina nila ang sarili nilang mga ranggo, sa kanilang mga... At maglagay ng disiplinang sa kanilang mga sumusunod sa kanila. Ang pulis, ang sundalo ay gumagawa ng maximum tolerance ngunit sila ay handa na ipatupad ang buong puwersa ng batas kung ito ay kailangan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference in Angono, Rizal. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140805/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7452&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Statement of the President: Re Lucena fire tragedy

Statement of the President: Re Lucena fire tragedy

I have the deepest sympathy for the families of the Lucena fire victims, but such tragedies could have been prevented if precautionary measures were observed.

I would like the DILG through the Bureau of Fire Protection to work with the LGUs in conducting thorough inspections of all vulnerable commercial or residential areas, especially in urban areas, to enforce compliance with fire safety measures under the law.

Let us start now and let us not relent until we can get rid of these fire traps and hazards that pose a threat to public safety.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Statement of the President: Re Betty Sy case

Statement of the President: Re Betty Sy case

I commend the NAKTAF and all its allied units for this latest accomplishment.

We are also grateful to the ordinary citizens in the community who provided information leading to the arrest of the mastermind behind the kidnapping and murder of Ms. Sy.

This bolsters the restoration of the public's faith in our quest for criminal justice.

That the arrest of Fernando Niegas came on New Year's Day is a sign and an assurance that the country's peace and order situation will continue to look up in 2004.

Statement of the President: Re Air marshals

Statement of the President: Re Air marshals

We are prepared to deploy air marshals in PAL planes entering US territory as requested, on the basis of reciprocity.

I would like the National Security Adviser to see to it that US commercial passenger aircraft entering the Philippines are similarly covered so that we can have a two-way mechanism to check terrorist incursions.

This is important for the safety of our own nationals as well as foreign travelers, and is part of our commitment to the global fight against terror.

We shall continue to provide seamless security to air travel on the ground and on air.

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Joint Press Conference with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Joint Press Conference with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia

[Released on January 20, 2004]

I am very happy and honored to welcome Prime Minister Abdullah of Malaysia to the Philippines. He's a very old friend of the Philippines. He has known the Philippines for more than 30 years, but it's an honor to welcome him for the First time as a Prime Minister.

And he's here and it is our great pleasure to have him here not only because as a person he is an old friend of the Philippines and he knows and loves the Philippines. But also because of the essential role that Malaysia plays in our efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the search and peace in Southern Philippines.

I am very honored and happy that Prime Minister Abdullah is committed to help us achieve that goal.

I am very happy that part of what we agreed on in our talks today is that we have agreed to hold a new round of exploratory talks in Kuala Lumpur by the second week of February this year.

The talks will strive to resolve outstanding issues and to advance the overall climate of peace. The Filipino people are grateful for Malaysia's unwavering support especially in providing the indispensable bridge of understanding between our government and the MILF.

Prime Minister Abdullah enjoys the trust and confidence of both sides of the domestic and global community.

The Philippines is also looking forward to the deepening of our relations between the two countries in many, many ways. And we are together not only as partners in the search for peace, we are also partners in the search for prosperity in our part of the world.

And I would also like therefore to take this opportunity to announce together with Prime Minister Abdullah that Petronas, the national oil company of Malaysia, has agreed to a joint venture with our PNOC to explore and drill for oil in offshore Mindoro. The investment is worth about 800 million pesos. This will be another fruit of our efforts to develop our indigenous energy resources

We are now, under my administration, we've been able to achieve 53 percent self-sufficiency in energy. And this exploration jointly with Petronas will help us to increase that self-sufficiency further.

I will not take much time to make any further statements because our honored guest is a precious guest, and I would like him to be the one to speak before the media today.

Excellency.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Joint Press Conference with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412091119/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5498&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on her Holy Week Message

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On her Holy Week Message**

[Delivered on April 5, 2004]

There is no more I can ask for on this day than for peace and solidarity among our people.

Let us celebrate the Holy Week in the tone of sacrifice, forgiveness and concern for one another.

Let us make it a time to contemplate the blessings that have come our way from the Almighty: the wholeness of our families, the peace of our communities and the unity of the Filipino despite the trials of a harsh and uncertain world.

Let us be thankful to God for the great gifts bestowed upon us.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). Statement of the President on her Holy Week Message. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412085735/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5671&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the National Elections, May 11, 2004

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On the National Elections**

[Released on May 11, 2004]

Good afternoon. Mga kababayan, binabati ko ang samabayanang Pilipino sa idinaos at katatapos na mapayapa, maayos at malinis na halalan. Ipinagkakapuri ko ang sambayanang Pilipino dahil sa pagbibigay ng tunay na kahulugan at pananalig sa demokrasya. Ito ay magandang ugaling namumukod sa puso ng bawat mamamayan, pamilya, pamayanan at sektor ng bansa natin. Nagpupugay din ako sa ating mga overseas workers sa pagbibigay-halaga sa bagong tuklas sa pananagutan sa pagboto, magkakasama nating pinatunayan sa daigdig na umaalingawngaw ang tunay na kalayaan sa lahat ng sulok ng ating Republika at sa buong daigdig.

Pinupuri ko ang lahat ng nagsakatuparan ng halalan— mga guro, mga kawal, mga pulis sa matagumpay na idinaos nating botohan kahapon. Bagaman, may ilan-ilang karahasang nangyari, ang ating mga alagad ng batas ay buong giting na nanindigan laban sa anumang uri ng pandaraya at paglabag sa mga batas, habang ang ating mga guro at mga katuwang sa pagdaraos ng halalan ay walang puknat na nagsikap mula madaling-araw hanggang hating-gabi upang magawa ng tuloy-tuloy ang halalan.

Dapat pa rin tayong magbantay hanggang mabilang ang kahuli-hulihang boto at paghahayag ng kinalabasan ng halalan. Nananawagan ako sa mga kandidatong lokal na igalang ang pasiya ng bayan. Bawat isa ay kailangan maging higit na maingat, mahinahon at lalo pang gumagalang sa diwa ng demokrasya. Ito ang maningning na saglit ng pambansagng luwalhati ng ating bayan na dapat nating ipagkapuri, mahalin at pangalagaan sa lahat ng saglit.

And now for the foreign media I will say it in English.

I must congratulate the entire nation over a generally peaceful, orderly and clean elections. I am proud of the Filipino's adherence to and faith in democracy. This is a worthy trait that stands out in every citizen, family, community and sector. I must also commend our overseas workers for upholding their new found responsibility of suffrage. Together, we have proven to the world that our freedom rings in all corners of the Republic and of the world.

I commend our electoral workers, our teachers, soldiers and our police officers for the successful conduct of yesterday's polls. While, there were isolated cases of election violence, the men and women in uniform held the line against fraud and lawlessness while our teachers and election workers insured an uninterrupted process from day till night. Everyone must continue to be vigilant until the last vote is counted and the last canvass is done.

I call on the local candidates to respect the decision of their constituents. Everyone must now conduct themselves with prudence, sobriety and respect for the democratic process. This is a moment of national glory that we must cherish and preserve.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's statement on the National Elections. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409175808/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5672&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the National Elections

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: On the National Elections

[Delivered on May 11, 2004]

Good afternoon. Mga kababayan, binabati ko ang samabayanang Pilipino sa idinaos at katatapos na mapayapa, maayos at malinis na halalan. Ipinagkakapuri ko ang sambayanang Pilipino dahil sa pagbibigay ng tunay na kahulugan at pananalig sa demokrasya. Ito ay magandang ugaling namumukod sa puso ng bawat mamamayan, pamilya, pamayanan at sektor ng bansa natin. Nagpupugay din ako sa ating mga overseas workers sa pagbibigay-halaga sa bagong tuklas sa pananagutan sa pagboto, magkakasama nating pinatunayan sa daigdig na umaalingawngaw ang tunay na kalayaan sa lahat ng sulok ng ating Republika at sa buong daigdig.

Pinupuri ko ang lahat ng nagsakatuparan ng halalan— mga guro, mga kawal, mga pulis sa matagumpay na idinaos nating botohan kahapon. Bagaman, may ilan-ilang karahasang nangyari, ang ating mga alagad ng batas ay buong giting na nanindigan laban sa anumang uri ng pandaraya at paglabag sa mga batas, habang ang ating mga guro at mga katuwang sa pagdaraos ng halalan ay walang puknat na nagsikap mula madaling-araw hanggang hating-gabi upang magawa ng tuloy-tuloy ang halalan.

Dapat pa rin tayong magbantay hanggang mabilang ang kahuli-hulihang boto at paghahayag ng kinalabasan ng halalan. Nananawagan ako sa mga kandidatong lokal na igalang ang pasiya ng bayan. Bawat isa ay kailangan maging higit na maingat, mahinahon at lalo pang gumagalang sa diwa ng demokrasya. Ito ang maningning na saglit ng pambansagng luwalhati ng ating bayan na dapat nating ipagkapuri, mahalin at pangalagaan sa lahat ng saglit.

And now for the foreign media I will say it in English.

I must congratulate the entire nation over a generally peaceful, orderly and clean elections. I am proud of the Filipino's adherence to and faith in democracy. This is a worthy trait that stands out in every citizen, family, community and sector. I must also commend our overseas workers for upholding their new found responsibility of suffrage. Together, we have proven to the world that our freedom rings in all corners of the Republic and of the world.

I commend our electoral workers, our teachers, soldiers and our police officers for the successful conduct of yesterday's polls. While, there were isolated cases of election violence, the men and women in uniform held the line against fraud and lawlessness while our teachers and election workers insured an uninterrupted process from day till night. Everyone must continue to be vigilant until the last vote is counted and the last canvass is done.

I call on the local candidates to respect the decision of their constituents. Everyone must now conduct themselves with prudence, sobriety and respect for the democratic process. This is a moment of national glory that we must cherish and preserve.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Statement on the National Elections. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133523/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5672&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Mid-Year Briefing with Columnists and Broadcasters (Joint MOPC and Tuesday Breakfast Club Forum) Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Mid-Year Briefing with Columnists and Broadcasters (Joint MOPC and Tuesday Breakfast Club Forum)

[Delivered at the La Dolce Fontana Restaurant, Greenhills, San Juan, September 7, 2004]

Greetings everyone!

For the first time in a long while, our people are united in common purpose to work together as patriots to contribute to the new Philippines. The road will not be easy but the bumps will lessen over time and the slope will be less steep.

This is a stark difference from the time I assumed the presidency three years ago — the country was on the edge, politically, economically and socially. My job at the time was to stabilize the nation and provide a calm platform from which to grow.

And growth we have had. The overall economy rose by 6.35 percent in the first half of 2004. It's the highest it's ever been I should note, in 16 years. At a time when there are many naysayers at home and abroad in the Philippines, it is important to understand that much is going right, and our resolve to make things even better is solid.

Today, I believe we are poised for the success that this nation truly deserves and our people are more than ready to call for change. Change for a new, hopeful and more modern nation.

The Philippines is ready for a 21st century economy, based on modern financial and transport systems, an open and transparent business environment, and a government that will live within its means.

We're a nation of remarkable resilience, endowed with deep natural resources, a young and motivated work force, a dynamic democracy and a growing economy.

I've always believed that the businessmen and women of the Philippines and our international stakeholders have been the backbone of this effort to build a new and prosperous Philippines.

And today, we are joined by the support of the entire nation. More than ever, the people understand the importance of the economy to their lives, and the need for fundamental reform, if we are to live up to our full potential as a nation, to offer hope to hardworking Filipino workers.

I'm therefore confident and optimistic. But I cannot do it alone. I need every single person, company and leader to continue to do their part with greater commitment to unlock the concealed wonders of this nation, create a new middle class, and eliminate poverty.

Indeed, it is a challenge and I don't underestimate the obstacles to change. We must pass vital legislation in congress to raise much needed fiscal revenues and to remove the obstacles to increased investments and growth.

To meet these challenges head on, I've put forward a series of sweeping reform packages that, taken together, will fundamentally strengthen what is weak and further invest in what is strong.

Every sector of the economy and society has been accounted for in my government's five reform packages that include job creation and economic growth; energy independence; social justice and basic needs; education and youth opportunity; and anti-corruption and good governance. Each of these initiatives includes a combination of cabinet department action, executive orders, legislation and public/private sector partnership. They are interconnected and

comprehensive but also open to suggestions for improvements from all entities, political or economic, who have a stake in our success.

To our strengths, I will bolster education, invest in infrastructure and encourage greater investments all over the country such as logistics investments in Clark and Subic economic zones; investments in expressways and railways in Luzon; business process outsourcing in Cebu and Davao; tourism investments in the Visayas and Palawan; agri-business investments in Mindanao and North Luzon; and ports throughout the archipelago, to name only a few.

To our weaknesses, I plan to provide more teeth to the enforcement capabilities of revenue agencies such as the bureau of internal revenue and regulatory institutions to create a truly modern, transparent and world-class revenue and financial systems.

In the area of endemic corruption, I'm adding values formation to the lifestyle checks that have been noted by the world bank as a commendable effort to weed out official corruption. I'm building an anti-corruption capability modeled on Hong Kong's ICAC. The national government has increased the budget of the office of the ombudsman to enable it to build capacity and train up its team of investigators who can stand up to the challenge of well-paid private attorneys.

I ask our citizens to unite in common purpose and change the culture of corruption that besets government and commercial enterprises alike. We must all work together as patriots and nationalists in our schools, places of worship and the workplace to build a culture of honesty and integrity by rewarding hard work over easy gain.

We will aggressively pursue restructuring and reforming the energy sector, which aims to: first, plug the big hole in our consolidated fiscal position; second, privatize the power generation and transmission operations of NAPOCOR; and third, lead the way to increase investments in new energy-related projects.

And most importantly, concerning sound fiscal management, I am paring back our government to live within its means by eliminating what is old and inefficient and reallocating funds into areas of vital investments that will build a strong foundation for the future. A consolidated fiscal budget by the time I step down as president in 2010 can only mean reduced spending for debt service and greater allocation for public services and infrastructure.

It's not easy to take on entrenched interests that can strangle government bureaucracy or selfishly propel private gain. There are many generations of neglect and abuse to be weeded out. Armed with patience and dogged persistence, I am peeling back the layers one by one, ever mindful for those who want to undermine my sincere efforts to bring our nation back into fighting form.

Let there be no mistake: I will move this nation forward and I will take on whatever vested interests stand in my way. If these interests believe they can destabilize or sabotage our efforts, they better think twice. Our people are behind me. I have their mandate, and I'm here to serve that mandate for our nation's best interest.

I'll continue to aggressively link the Philippines to the world of commerce and trade, and to bring the best practices of the world to the Philippines, just as the best products, services, and skilled human resources of the Philippines go out to the world.

I'm so proud of this nation, its people and our many friends around the world who continue to invest in our nation and believe in the promise of the Philippines.

With your help and determination, we, at long last, will bring forth a new modern nation that will lift up its people while reaching out to the world. Our time has come.

Thank you very much.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Mid-Year Briefing with Columnists and Broadcasters (Joint MOPC and Tuesday Breakfast Club Forum). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133217/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5697&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: At the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting

[Delivered on October 8, 2004]

Mr. Chairman:

It is timely for us to agree on the future of ASEM because the coming years will see the redefinition of the role of multilateral and inter-regional organizations like ASEM in promoting common interests. The initiative for ASEM was proposed by Singapore in 1994, adopted by ASEAN in 1995, and implemented in the Bangkok Summit in 1996. The objective was to establish and clear and open channels of dialogue between Europe and Asia – the “missing link” in the triangular global relations between Europe, America and Asia – complementing what Asia had already established with America within the APEC framework.

It is now 16 years since the Singapore initiative. I agree with our summit Chairman Prime Minister Khai’s proposal to further revitalize the ASEM and substantiate the ASEM process, moving towards enhanced cooperation with specific goals and results-programs and projects. What might some of these specific be? Let me express some ideas by way of the Philippines’ experience with ASEM.

Late last month in our financial district, I opened a beautiful state-of-the-art museum which featured among other treasures a rare and valuable exhibit of authentic antique Filipino costumes, never seen before, discovered in the storage boxes of European Museums under the auspices of ASEM, particularly through a commendable project of the Asia-Europe Museum network or ASEMUS called “Unearthing Philippine Past in European Museums”. ASEMUS is a model of ASEM cooperation to preserve national cultures. What I am saying is that ASEM has provided the Philippines with a forum where it can increase civil society and cultural networks with Asian and European interests. Similarly, ASEM can provide Asia and Europe with a forum where we can engage in substantive political dialogue on international issues of common concern, like a dialogue of civilizations in order to transform the threat of religious warfare and terrorism into an opportunity for interfaith understanding; or strengthen economic relations through trade and investment facilitation like what is envisioned in APEC for Asia and America, cooperation in sanitary and phytosanitary standards, customs procedures, dialogue on WTO issues and Small and Medium Enterprises promotion; or establish cooperation between our two economic blocs in various sectors which can facilitate human resource development, technology transfer, and capacity-building programs; or formulate initiatives which can further our respective countries’ strategic interests and promote a positive image for our respective countries and region, such as providing Myanmar with the opportunity to engage the rest of the world.

In order to coordinate, rationalize and sustain such cooperation, especially with our increased membership, a permanent ASEM Secretariat may be necessary. The Philippines is willing to host such a Secretariat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). THE FUTURE OF ASEM: Statement delivered by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133125/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5705&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During a Press Conference**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, November 11, 2004]

Good afternoon.

This morning at 2:00 a.m. the House of Representatives passed the Lateral Attrition Bill on second reading. This bill will allow the government to weed out scalawags and non-performers in the revenue agencies, and reward those who work hard to fill up our coffers and grow the economy.

The full cooperation and patriotic response of our legislators is the fulcrum that will allow our fiscal problem to be turned around. Senate President Drilon and Speaker De Venecia are spearheading this valiant effort through singleminded will and cooperation.

I thank Senator Ralph Recto and Congressman Jesli Lapus, chairs of the Senate and House committee on ways and means, respectively. I also thank Congressman Suarez, sponsor of the lateral attrition bill in the House. Senator Recto has given his assurance that he will report out the Alcohol and Cigarette Tax Bill on the floor by early next week, at about the same time Congressman Lapus will get out the House version of the fiscal incentives bill to the floor. Their committees are doing a gallant deed for our nation and our people.

In the meantime, I have asked Secretary Boncodin to allocate an amount of 100 million pesos to bolster our anti-smuggling campaign. We will continue to clean up the customs service, beef up its human resources, and sharpen its capability to bring smugglers to justice. I will take this fight down the road and allow no one to stand in the way.

With certainty and optimism, I declare, that our consolidated campaign for reforms in solidarity with Congress, the business community, the local governments and all other concerned sectors is inexorably moving forward. Our unity and teamwork will continue to shore up confidence in the economy and the cutting edge in the relentless fight against poverty.

Now, I've asked my economic managers: Secretary Neri, Boncodin and Amatong to be here. Secretary Purisima is out of the country on a BPO investment mission.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132957/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5748&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during her visit to the NDCC Headquarters

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During her visit to the NDCC Headquarters

[Delivered at the NDCC Headquarters, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, December 3, 2004]

I'd like to call this meeting to order. Can we have some silence please.

I'd like to begin with a soundbite that we can share for the whole country:

It's a time for the country to come together. For individuals to do heroic deeds together. For everyone to help in whatever way for all to reach out to those who need help. This tragedy will unite this country, together as one nation we will rise from the devastation.

I'm grateful to all those who've poured their hearts and energies into this effort – our government workers, volunteers, the media, the uniformed services and the unnamed heroes from all levels of the national community.

This is a time to show ourselves and to show the world the solidarity, resiliency and the self-reliance and communities that can clasp hands to meet misfortune.

The manpower and resources of government are stretched thinly, but I'm proud that volunteers and private resources have filled the gap.

We need one great heave to deliver the relief supplies, find the missing, rescue the isolated, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.

Let's do it now with unity of mind and purpose we can muster as one nation and one people.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Statement during her visit to the NDCC Headquarters. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132841/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5759&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the signing of Accountability Reform Law

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
During the signing of Accountability Reform Law

[Issued at the Ceremonial Hall, January 25, 2005]

Speaker De Venecia, Deputy Speaker Raul Del Mar, Majority Floor Leader Boy Nograles, Principal Authors and Sponsors of the Attrition Law from the Senate, Senator Recto, Senator Ponce Enrile, from the House, Congressman Suarez, Congressman Lapuz. I'd like to greet also Senator Lito Lapid and all the Congressmen and Congresswomen who are here today, Secretary Ermita, and the members of the Executive Branch, ladies and gentlemen.

I thank Congress and the Senate for passing the Attrition Law which I like to call the accountability reform law. I also congratulate those in the legislative and executive branch who did the complete staff work that is so important to the work of economic legislation.

I thank the economic community, local and international, for acknowledging our legislative-executive partnership for reform by their putting their money where their mouth is so that the peso has been strengthening and the stock market has been rallying, while Asian stocks are sliding, Philippine stocks are showing strength. And I thank the congressmen and the senators for that.

I hope that by tomorrow at the latest, the house will pass the VAT.

And I'd like to assure our revenue agencies that we are doing our best to help you meet and go beyond your targets upon the commendation of Senate President Drilon. Nitz Amatong, our representative in the monetary board put in a resolution which the Central Bank approved and that is to give forward-looking amnesty in the sense that those who will pay 20 percent more than last year's taxes will be exempted from audit. That should make BIR Willy Parayno and his whole crew very happy.

The buoyancy of the economy combined with an equitable revenue program and a strong fight against corruption are setting the stage for a decisive turn around that will bring in investments and jobs for our people. From the start, we have assiduously worked with Congress to build in the safety nets to cushion the impact of new tax measures on the poor, should there be any. We are willing to listen to all well-meaning proposals in this direction whether these come from administration allies or opposition or various groups that have the interest of the people in mind. There should be no divisions between pro-business or populist advocates. We must all be for one, united stable and prosperous nation.

Congratulations and thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Opening Statement During the Signing of Accountability Reform Law. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082401/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3061&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Press Conference

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During a Press Conference**

[Issued at the Heroes' Hall, February 11, 2005]

I'd like to thank the Senate for passing the people's budget that will continue to fuel our 10-point pro-poor agenda to create jobs, build the vital infrastructure to draw in more investments, and bring more basic services to the needy in communities far and wide. I'm confident that this budget will draw its full force from the revenue measures that are now on stream in the upper chamber. We're going full steam ahead in setting our fiscal house on firm foundations, from which we can boost business confidence and enterprise at all levels. Now is the time to strike out boldly in our reforms to notch up our gains every passing day.

We must break the back of corruption as our economic gains move forward. The anti-corruption campaign is a gate to economic confidence that must have the full support and participation of the people. This isn't only a matter of directly cleansing the bureaucracy but a campaign for moral values among the entire citizenry. We will match every ounce of political resolve to pass our fiscal measures with the equal resolve to challenge corruption in all levels. This is a strategic campaign that will be fought to the finish.

Nais ko magpasalamat sa senado sa kanilang pagpasa ng budget ng taong-bayan, na patuloy tutustusan ang ating sampung-puntong agenda para sa mahihirap na magbibigay ng trabaho, magtatayo ng kina-kailangang imprastrakturang aakit ng marami pang investment, at magdadala ng batayang serbisyo sa mga nangangailangan na komunidad kung saan-saan. Matibay ang aking paniniwala na palalakasin ang budget nito ng mga panukalang buwis na kumikilos ngayon sa senado. Walang pagod nating nilalatag ang matibay na pundasyon ng ating maayos na pananalaping publiko upang lumakas ang kumpiyansa at sigasig ng negosyo sa lahat ng antas. Panahon na upang ibayuhin ang ating mga reporma para humakbang tungo sa tagumpay sa bawat araw.

Kailangan sakalin natin ang katiwalian habang isinusulong natin ang ekonomiya. Ito ang mag-aangat sa loob ng mga investor na kailangan ang walang humpay na suporta ng taong-bayan. Kailangan dito hindi lamang ang paglilinis ng mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan, kundi pati ang pagbabagong-asal ng buong sambayanan. Tutumbasin natin ang sigasig sa pagsusulong ng mga panukalang buwis na walang tigil na pagtuligsa sa katiwalian sa lahat ng antas. Hindi tayo susuko sa ating pakikibaka.

Kaya itong araw na ito inimbata ko si Acting Secretary Manny Relampagos ng budget para kung kailangan may tanong kayo tungkol sa budget. At I've also asked Secretary Reyes, who is handling our anti-smuggling and our anti-drug campaign, to join us so you can ask him questions about those two campaigns against corruption.

I've asked incoming secretary of public works, Jun Ebdane to come and tell you if you'd like to hear from him what are his plans to fight corruption in the DPWH.

I've also asked retired General Al Dagudag of DENR, the task force on anti-illegal logging to come here to answer your questions, if you have any, on our fight against corruption in that area of forestry.

I'd like to extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Colonel Villanueva and the rest of the soldiers who've given up life and limb in the fight against terror and in restoring law and order for the people of Sulu. Their gallantry in combat brings deep pride and prestige to the command at a time that the Filipino soldier must be seen at his or her finest.

I also sympathize with the civilian families that have been displaced by this isolated conflict. A humanitarian partnership between our national and local governments is working on the ground to care for those displaced by hostilities. The peace of mind of the people is paramount even as we press on to dismantle the terrorist lairs.

Taus-puso akong nakikiramay sa pamilya ni Coronel Villanueva at sa mga mag-anak ng iba pang kawal na nasawi o nasugatan sa paglaban sa terorismo at pagtatanggol ng kapayapaan at batas para sa mga mamamayan ng Sulu. Nagdadala ang kagitingan nila sa labanan ng malaking karangalan at papuri sa mga sundalong Pilipino sa panahong ito na dapat siyang tingalain at igalang. Nakikiisa rin ako sa mga pamilyang sibilyan na napipilitang lumikas dahil sa labanan. Dudulog sa kanila ang mga ahensiya ng gobyernong pambansa at lokal na nagtutulungan alang-alang sa mga nag-alsa balutan. Pinakamahalaga ang mapanatag ang loob ng taong-bayan habang binubuwag natin ang mga lungga ng mga terorista.

So I've asked also Vice Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Aris Delos Santos to join — Delos Reyes, excuse me — to join us today to represent General Abu, who is inspecting troops in Lucena, so he can answer questions if you have any about the battle in Sulu.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082118/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3071&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the issue of the tape recordings

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On the issue of the tape recordings

[Issued at the Study Room, Malacañang, June 27, 2005]

Mga Minamahal kong Kababayan,

For the last several weeks, the issue of the tape recordings has spun out of control. Tonight, I want to set the record straight.

You deserve an explanation from me, because you are the people I was elected to serve.

As you recall, the election canvassing process was unnecessarily slow even after the election results were already in and the votes had been counted. I was anxious to protect my votes and during that time had conversations with many people, including a COMELEC official. My intent was not to influence the outcome of the election, and it did not. As I mentioned, the election had already been decided and the votes counted. And as you remember, the outcome had been predicted by every major public opinion poll, and adjudged free, fair and decisive by international election observers, and our own NAMFREL.

That said, let me tell you how I feel personally. I recognize that making any such call was a lapse in judgment. I am sorry. I also regret taking so long to speak before you on this matter. I take full responsibility for my actions, and to you and to all those good citizens who may have had their faith shaken by these events. I want to assure you that I have redoubled my efforts to serve the nation and earn your trust.

Nagagambala ako. Maliwanag na may kakulangan sa wastong pagpapasya ang nangyaring pagtawag sa telepono. Pinagsisisihan ko ito ng lubos. Pinananagutan ko nang lubusan ang aking mga ginawa at humihingi ako ng tawad sa inyo, sa lahat ng mga butihing mamamayan na nabawasan ng tiwala dahil sa mga pangyayaring ito. Ibig kong tiyakin sa inyo na lalo pa akong magsisikap upang maglingkod sa bayan at matamo ang inyong tiwala.

I took office with a mandate to carry out a plan for the nation. Since that time, I've focused on making the tough but necessary decisions to make up for years of economic neglect. We passed a comprehensive fiscally responsible national budget; raised new and necessary revenues to reinvest in the people, and implemented new anti-corruption measures that have led to the highest collection of taxes in history.

Nothing should stand in the way of this work, or the next phase of my reform agenda, which includes new investments in education and social services with our new revenues, and an expansion of our successful anti-corruption and lifestyle checks.

That is why I want to close this chapter and move on with the business of governing.

I ask each and every one of you to join hands with me in a show of unity, to help forge One Philippines, where everyone is equal under the law, and where everyone has the opportunity to use their God-given talents to make a better life.

Our nation is strong and getting stronger. The progress is steady and I ask you to walk with me on this journey to rebuild our great nation.

I remain your humble servant and promise you that I will fulfill my constitutional oath of office to serve the people to the best of my ability.

God Bless the Philippines!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Statement on the Issue of the Tape Recordings. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080530/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5068&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a press conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a press conference

[Issued at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 27, 2005]

Thank you.

Good morning everyone.

I'll make an opening statement and then I'll be happy to take some questions. So, magsisimula ako ng salitang pambukas, tapos noon sasagot ako ng ilang mga tanong.

In my State of the Nation Address, I made it clear that every man and woman should strive for one nation, one people, one Philippines. Sabi ko sana lahat ay magsikap para magkaroon tayo ng isang bansa, isang sambayanan, isang Pilipinas. And to achieve the full promise of one nation, we must deliver many things. Sabi ko nga meron tayong dalawang bahagi... Dalawang klaseng Pilipinas: 'yung Pilipinas na handa nang umangat ang ekonomiya, 'Yung Pilipinas na 'yung ating sistema ng pulitika ay lalung sumasama ng sumasama. 'Yung sa unang Pilipinas, the Philippines that's poised for take off, what I said is that we must deliver for the young of the nation — education. They're our hope and our inspiration, they're our tomorrow. And we must provide our youth with world class education. Help them get a decent paying job when they graduate or even before they graduate. And put in place a modern responsive government to help them succeed and to move the country forward, not hold it back.

Kaya sinabi ko isang malaking kailangan gawin natin ay para sa kinabukasan. At 'yung kinabukasan nga ng ating bansa ay ating mga kabataan na dapat tama ang kanilang edukasyon, 'yung magbibigay ng trabaho para sa kanila. At hindi lang yon at magaganap pa rin nila 'yung hangarin ng bawat pamilya na magtapos ang anak sa kolehiyo.

Dito nga sa isang Pilipinas, 'yung Pilipinas ng ekonomiya, Phase Two of my economic plan is underway and is designed to deliver on the education, jobs, and of course, 'yung beyond Phase 2, 'yung bagong sistema ng ating pulitika. 'Yung sinasabi kong edukasyon nga, sinabi ko na na gusto ko sana na maayos 'Yung ating pre-need industry dahil ito ay naging paraan na ng buhay sa ating bansa. Milyung pamilyang humahangad na ganun ang magiging susi nila sa edukasyon ng kanilang anak. Kaya kailangan ayusin natin ito. At saka 'yung kino-combine natin 'yung hangarin na magkaroon ng... magtapos sa kolehiyo sa vocational technical school para mas madaling makahanap ng trabaho. "Yung... pero 'yung sinasabi ko talaga na kailangan baguhin ang ating sistema kasi umaangat, Handa ng umangat 'yung isang Pilipinas. 'Yung isang Pilipinas naman ay lalung nagpapahirap sa ating bansa.

'Yung... babalik ako doon sa Phase 2 ng ating ekonomiya. It's built on the hard work of Phase One when we tackled the budget, fiscal restraint and new revenues. And I am thankful that we have already started to implement the alcohol and cigarette taxes. and I'm hoping that... I've asked Secretary Gary Teves to make sure that soon the rules for the lateral attrition law will be in place because that will give us a lot of improvements in our tax system.

'Yung ating mga gagawin dito sa ating bagong mga paraan para mapondohan ang ating pamahalaan ay sinabi ko na kung saan natin ilalagay dito sa Phase Two. 'Yung ating pag-ayos ng ating imprastruktura na kailangan ng mga namumuhunan para maganda ang negosyo at makakabigay ng mas maraming trabaho. At saka 'yung edukasyon, 'yung ating pagtayo ng paaralan ay mas malaki kaysa sa dati at itutuloy natin ito at ako ay... sa ating... compared to sa ginawa na natin talagang kaya natin maisarado 'yung ating classroom gap sa loob ng kasalukuyang administrasyon basta importante na double shift din ang ating eskuwela para full utilization. Doon naman sa high school, kaysa magtatayo ng mga bagong paaralan dahil meron naming excess capacity rin 'yung mga private high schools, eh voucher system ang mas mura kaysa pagtatayo ng mga bagong paaralan.

Ito ang nakikita nating paraan to make the best use of the resources that we have. Because even if we are able to collect more taxes now, it doesn't mean that we should be wasteful. We should still exercise fiscal restraint.

At 'yung mga trabaho, alam naman ni Bobi, 'no? 'Yung ating bagong microfinance funding. Meron tayong dagdag na microfinance funding. Three hundred million coming from the Quedancor, the Land Bank through the Quedancor, 100 million to the National Livelihood Support Fund, and those are ready. The one that's about to be ready is 600 million from the NDC. But I hope that our NGO and microfinance conduits can really already start sourcing from the initial 400 million available.

'Yung importante rin para sa ating trabaho ay 'yung two million new hectares of land for agri-business. So infrastructure so that big investors will come, and also reducing red tape and corruption that the businessmen encounter. And then the microfinance will still continue to develop three million new entrepreneurs and two million new hectares of land for agri-business, itutuloy natin yuon.

And I also ask Congress, as you know, 'yung pre-need at saka 'yung anti- terrorism law, yon ang hinihingi natin sa Kongreso. At siyempre kailangan ayusin din natin 'yung ating problema ng enerhiya at sama na doon 'yung kuryente. Kaya napakaimportante 'yung ating mga panukalang batas sa renewable and indigenous energy.

Sabi ng Central Bank, foreign direct investment for the first quarter was up 65 percent from last year. At tignan naman niyo 'yung stock market, it's still... today, I just pass my monitor, and the stock market is still doing well and as the last survey of employment showed — Bobi, hindi ba we had a reduction of 200,000 net unemployment? 'Yung talagang kailangan ayusin natin 'yung problema ng enerhiya dahil ito ay nanggagaling sa labas ng ating bansa. Kaya si Secretary Lotilla ay inaatasan ko na 'yung ating mga reporma para maging mas... meron tayong kasarinlan sa enerhiya ay gawin niya at kung papano maiwasan ang lubhang pagtaas ng presyo, kung papano bigyan ng ginhawa. ito ay importanteng-importante, 'yung energy conservation. Kaya pumunta ako doon sa isang neighborhood noong isang gabi para ipahayag 'yung isang malaking puwedeng panggalingan ng pag-iimpok. at yon na nga 'yung gagamit ng fluorescent kaysa incandescent lamps.

Iinaatasan ko rin ang ating bagong Secretary of Trade and Industry na apurahin na niya 'yung trade agreement sa Hapon at saka magsimula na ng negosasyon ng trade agreement sa Amerika.

Talagang napaka... gaya ng sabi ko sa aking State of the Nation Address, talagang napakahati ang ating bansa for a long time. The nation has been divided and there's the division between Metro Manila and the provinces. There's the division between the haves and the have nots. There's the division of a system of Justice. But the deepest division is the division between the Philippines that's poised for economic take off and the Philippines that is deteriorating in its political system.

So ito ang kailangan nating asikasuhin. 'Yung ituloy natin 'yung reporma sa ekonomiya pero ang pinakamabigat na reporma ay nagawa na. Pero ang mabigat na reporma sa sistema ng ating pulitika ito ay kailangan nating gawin. And I'd like to assure everyone that I am keeping the faith, applying the rule of law, depending our democratic way of life. We're poised to fly if we would only stop weighing down our wings with the burdens of our own making.

Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat. And now I will take a few question.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Opening Statement During a Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412063113/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5088&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during an Informal Meeting of Leaders of the Co-Sponsoring States on Inter-Religious, Inter-Cultural and Inter-Civilization Dialogue and Cooperation

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During an Informal Meeting of Leaders of the Co-Sponsoring States on Inter-Religious, Inter-Cultural and Inter-Civilization Dialogue and Cooperation (Inter-Faith Cooperation for Peace Dialogue)

[Delivered at the ECOSOC Chamber, U.N. Headquarters New York City, USA, September 13, 2005]

I thank your excellencies for accepting our invitation.

Your presence today demonstrate the importance we all give to the focus of our discussion today — the promotion of peace as well as to promote development.

I wish to thank the Honorable Koichiro Matsuura, Director General of the UNESCO and the Honorable Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Let me also welcome observer-delegation present here this afternoon. Excellencies, our meeting will have simultaneous translation in all U.N. languages. We will try to have two rounds of discussions time permitting. The first will be national statements and the second will be additional comments. If time also permits, we will invite delegates from our brother delegation to take part in our discussion.

Before we adjourn, we will adopt a declaration recommended to us by our senior of co-solidarity. Terrorists: ways to instigate a religious war. They camouflage their evil designs by invoking religious prejudice in the hope of heightening cultural conflict for a clash of civilizations. We must make this instead an opportunity to forge religious understanding, ecumenism and solidarity. In this scenario, religious leaders can speed up dialogue and reconciliation. We should invite them as partners in the peace-making process.

The role of inter-faith dialogue to restore peace in Southern Philippines is an experience we would like to share with the world. The Bishop Tulaga forum, our format for inter-faith dialogue, was gilded in good and mutual understanding and reconciliation between Christians and Muslims.

The Philippine government has adopted inter-faith dialogue as an official policy contained in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, our framework for governance. Indeed, in governance as well as in searching for peace, inter-faith understanding involves considering religious sensitivities in development policy. For instance, Muslims are sensitive about collecting interest on loans. Catholics are sensitive about artificial birth control. Such sensitivities will be addressed.

In the case of Muslim creditors of Muslim financing, understanding and promoting Islamic banking make it easier to fund economic endeavors in the Muslim areas of our country. Thus, we are undertaking efforts to rehabilitate the Pagalamatan in Muslim Mindanao so that there will be a bank catering to the sensitivities of our Muslim population. And speaking of population, understanding the deep Catholicism of the vast majority of our people, reduces the resistance to family planning of the poor for development.

Accordingly, the united nations funding given to the Philippine national government for reproductive health project will be dedicated to train our married couples in the biddings of the age of technology which the world health organization has found effective even compared to artificial contraceptives.

Indeed, excellencies, as we integrate inter-faith understanding in development policy, inter-faith dialogues becomes more effective in resolving conflict and promoting peace.

Now, excellencies, I go back to my role as presiding officer of this summit meeting. And first on my list of speakers is His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan.

You have the floor, Excellency.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Opening Statement during an Informal Meeting of Leaders of the Co-Sponsoring States on Inter-Religious, Inter-Cultural and Inter-Civilization Dialogue and Cooperation (Inter-Faith Cooperation for Peace Dialogue). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412062840/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5168&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the United Nations Security Council Summit

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo During the United Nations Security Council Summit

[Delivered at the UNSC Chamber, U.N Headquarters New York City, USA, September 14, 2005]

The 5,261st meeting of the security council is called to order.

The provisional agenda for this meeting is before the council in document S/ Agenda 5261 which reads “Threats to international peace and security.” Unless I hear any objection I shall consider the agenda adopted.

The agenda is adopted.

I am pleased to acknowledge the participation in the Summit Meeting of the Security Council of the heads of state or government, ministers for foreign affairs, and other distinguished representatives of the security council member-states.

We all greatly appreciate the spirit of cooperation which has motivated and imbued this very important meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest concerns and sympathies to the American people led by President Bush for the loss of lives and damage to properties inflicted by Hurricane ‘Katrina.’ we are all confident that America will overcome this natural disaster.

It is man-made disasters like terrorism and conflict that continue to elude a comprehensive solution.

The U.N. charter was born because of conflict. And its job continues to be to prevent conflict among other things. Although the charter did not foresee the threat of terror form today, it is adequate to provide appropriate means to meet this challenge through the security council.

In Madrid last March, the Secretary General acknowledged the need for a principled comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism globally.

Our job in this August body today is to pass a resolution to support that comprehensive strategy as well as a resolution to prevent conflict especially in Africa. Because we are the only body in the United Nations whose resolutions are binding on member-states, this high council must provide the leadership for effective solutions to the problems of terrorism and conflict.

The security council meeting at summit level will now begin its consideration of the questions of threats to international peace and security. Members of the council have before them documents S/2005/577 and S/2005/578 which contain the texts of the two draft resolutions prepared in the course of the council’s prior consultations.

In accordance with the understanding reached earlier among members, the Security Council will take action on the two draft resolutions before it prior to hearing statements from the Secretary General and council members. Accordingly, I shall put the draft resolutions to a vote one after the other.

Well, those in favor of the draft resolution contained in document S/2005/577 concerning the prevention of incitement to terrorism, please raise their hand.

The result of the voting is as follows: the draft resolution received 15 votes in favor. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1624 of 2005.

Well, those in favor of the draft resolution contained in document S/2005/578 concerning the prevention of conflict particularly in Africa, please raise their hand.

The result of the voting is as follows: the draft resolution received 15 votes in favor. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1625 of 2005.

I now invite the Secretary General, His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan to take the floor.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Opening Statement during the United Nations Security Council Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615132724/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5139&Itemid=38

Closing Statement: President Arroyo during the United Nations Security Council Summit

Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the United Nations Security Council Summit

[Delivered at the UNSC Chamber, U.N. Headquarters New York City, USA, September 14, 2005]

I thank Minister Matsimura for his statement.

Excellencies, as the secretary general said in Madrid last march, terrorism is a threat to all states, to all peoples which can strike anywhere, anytime. Like many countries, the Philippines has been struck by the pain of terror but we have fought back.

Since the international war on terror started in 2001 almost 4,000 terrorists in the Philippines had been killed or captured mostly from the New People's Army but also including about 300 Abu Sayyaf Group members and about 40 international terrorist personalities.

We have fought back with the vigilance of ordinary citizens, a strong bilateral and regional security network, our strategic alliance with the United States, and the tools of inter-faith dialogue.

A few days after 9/11, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia entered into an operational agreement to protect our common seas from terrorism.

Other ASEAN countries subsequently joined us in that agreement. We've been able to dissuade the rebels in Mindanao from choosing terrorism as a tactic to achieve their goals. We've isolated the insurgent formations from the terrorist cells, negotiating with the former and hunting down the latter without spawning collateral conflict.

Our peace process is perhaps the only one in the world that formally incorporates an anti-terrorism component. Alongside our ceasefire agreement, we have an agreement to cooperate in the interdiction of terrorist cells through the exchange of intelligence information and orders of battle. To deny terrorist the means to carry out their attacks, we have found it practical to recognize the leadership of the United States in the war against terror.

We work closely with the United States on intelligence and security matters and in intercepting clandestine fund transfers to the Anti-money Laundering Law which we enacted after 9/11.

To develop our state capacity to prevent terrorism, the Philippines has also found it practical to accept American assistance for our ongoing defense reforms and soon for Philippine law enforcement reforms.

Therefore, let me take this opportunity to declare Philippine support for the United States proliferation security initiative.

The United State is the natural leader in this war on terror. America was the first and remains the biggest victim of terrorism in this present era. It's the most motivated and the best equipped member-state in the fight against terrorism.

Thus, it would be practical for the Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee to undertake a special intelligence coordinating project with the united states to consolidate international sources of information relevant to the war against terrorism including an immediate inventory of private organizations that may be working as fronts for terrorist activities and a watch list of governments abetting or directly involved in terrorism and related criminal acts.

Those found culpable should face the full force of U.N. sanctions.

The fight against terror and the prevention of conflict must thrive on synergy, creativity, strategic alliances for peace and sturdy parameters of collective vigilance.

May God bless our work in our own countries and in this hall, and all of mankind that waits upon our courage and wisdom.

I wish to thank all the participants for joining together to make this meeting possible. My thanks go to all the heads of state or government and ministers of foreign affairs, as well as representatives of member-states, regional organizations and to the secretary general.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The security council has thus concluded its business for this meeting.

The meeting is adjourned.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Closing Statement during the United Nations Security Council Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412062607/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5163&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the Passage of the Committee Report on the Anti-Terrorism Bill in Congress

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on the Passage of the Committee Report on the Anti-Terrorism Bill in Congress

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 5, 2005]

Maraming salamat, Veronica.

Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa pagpasa ng kongreso sa committee report ng panukalang batas laban sa terorismo. Narito ngayon ang ating mga mambabatas. Narito ang chairman ng Committee on Foreign Relations, si Congressman Tony Cuenco, na ito kasama ng Committee on Justice ang mga komiteng namahala dito sa ating panukalang batas. Katabi niya ay si Congressman Nonoy Libanan at sa aking kanan naman ay nandito rin si Congressman Amado Espino at saka si Congressman Teddy Boy Locsin, pati na rin si Congressman Salacnib Bateria at saka si Congressman Roquito Ablan.

Hihilingin natin sa kanila na ipaliwanag nila ang ilang mga detalye ng sinabing panukalang batas. Ang pangalawang atake sa Bali at ang banta ng Al-Qaeda ng higit pang terorismo sa buong mundo sa panahon ng Ramadan ay sapat ng babala sa lahat. Sakop na rito lahat ng ating inisyatiba sa seguridad kasama ang calibrated preemptive response. Narito ang pinuno ng pulis, si Heneral Arturo Lomibao upang ipaliwanag ang peligro ng mga rally sa panahon ng terorismo. At narito rin ang pinuno ng Armed Forces of the Philippines, si Heneral Heneroso Senga, pati na rin ang chairman ng APEC Anti-Terrorism Task Force, si special envoy Benjamin Defensor.

So, Congressman Cuenco, dahil kayo ang pinuno ng Committee on Foreign Relations na kasama ng Committee on Justice siya ang namahala dito sa Committee report, pwede ho niyo ipaliwanag sa taong-bayan ano ang laman nitong panukalang batas at committee report ninyo.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Opening Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on the Passage of the Committee Report on the Anti-Terrorism Bill in Congress. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092427/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5221&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Emergency Meeting of the OCD-NDCC to assess the progress of the rescue and relief operations in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Emergency Meeting of the OCD-NDCC to assess the progress of the rescue and relief operations in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte

[Issued at Conference Room, NDMC Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, February 19, 2006]

After my statement, we will let the media... We'll excuse the media so we can have a closed door meeting.

Habang patuloy na nagluluksa ang bansa sa trahedyang ito, gusto kong pasalamatan ang lahat ng mga Pilipino at lahat ng ating mga kaibigan sa buong mundo sa bumubuhos na simpatiya at tulong. Lahat ng kakayahan ng ating pamahalaan ay patuloy at walang tigil na gagamitin habang patuloy tayong umaasa sa paghanap sa mga ligtas.

Kinikilala ko ang ating mga malakas na loob na mga nagtatrabaho sa paghanap at pagkakalinga — pulis, military, kawani ng pamahalaan at mamamayang nagmamalasakit sa pamayanan na pinapanatiling mataas ang ating pananampalataya na lahat ng mga biktima nitong trahedya ay mahahanap.

Ang bansa ay nagpapasalamat sa patuloy na pagdasal at malasakit na tulong mula sa ating mga pangmundong pang-alyado. Matinding nagkakaisa ang bansa dito sa trahedya habang kapwa pinagsama-sama ng mayaman at mahirap ang kanilang kakayahan at dasal. Magkapitbisig tayong lahat sa preserbasyon ng ating kapaligiran at proteksyonan ang nalalabi pa para sa mga darating na henerasyon.

I'll ask now the media to excuse us. Anyway, the other members of the NDCC can give a briefing after our meeting.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Statement during the Emergency Meeting of the OCD-NDCC to assess the progress of the rescue and relief operations in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215213/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2404&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo declaring a State of Emergency [Filipino]

**Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Sa pagdedeklara ng State of Emergency**

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 24 ng Pebrero, 2006]

Mga kababayan:

Nagdeklara ako ng State of Emergency dahil sa maliwanag at kasalukuyang banta sa Republika na ating napag-alaman at napigil.

May ilang sumubok lumihis sa Armed Forces chain of command, lumabag sa gobyernong sibil, at magtatag ng rehimen sa labas ng saligang batas.

Nabuwag natin ang pakanang ito. Kasama sa pagkilos natin ang pagdakip ng mga militar at sibilyang magkakasabwat. At hindi rin palalampasin ang mga nagbibigay ng salapi at suportang pulitika sa pag-aalsa.

Napigil na ng pamahalaan itong ilegal na pagkilos. Maliban sa ilang tumiwalag, nasa puwesto at matapat sa linya ng pamunuan ang lahat ng opisyal na militar hanggang sa mga batalyon. Bilang Commander-in-Chief kontrolado ko ang sitwasyon.

Katatapos ko lamang pulungin ang aking Gabinete na nagkakaisa at buo ang loob na ipagpatuloy ang serbisyo publiko sa kabila ng kalagayan ng seguridad. Nananawagan ako sa lahat ng ating mga pamahalaang lokal na patuloy ring maglingkod. Hindi dapat malagay sa alanganin ang kaligtasan at kabuhayan ng tao.

Samantala, ipinapaubaya ko sa pinuno ng AFP at hepe ng PNP ang mga nararapat na pagkilos. Mag-uulat sila sa media hinggil sa mga darating na pangyayari.

Mag-uulat naman ang Secretary of Foreign Affairs sa mga Embahador.

Ito ang babala ko sa mga nagbabalak laban sa bayan: babagsak sa inyong pagtataksil ang buong bigat ng batas. Ipinahahamak ninyo ang mahihirap sa inyong paghatak ng bansa palayo sa ating nararapat na antas sa daigdig bilang kuta ng pagkakaisa, pagsasakripisyo, pagmamalasakit at kahusayan sa mundo. Kinakalas din ninyo ang ekonomiya sa kaniyang mga tumatatag na saligan.

Mga kababayan, hinihiling ko naman sa inyong lahat na manatiling mahinahon. Nananawagan ako sa media na iulat ang mga pangyayari sang-ayon sa tungkulin sa bayan, at huwag palampasin ang mga nakakasamang alingasngas at maling balita.

Salamat sa inyong pananalig sa bayan at sa ating magandang hinaharap. Pagpalain nawa ng Diyos ang sambayanang Pilipino.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Statement on the lifting of Proclamation 1017. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215018/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2428&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the state of the economy and the peace and order situation [Filipino]

Panimula/Katapusang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa Roundtable Discussion ukol sa estado ng ekonomiya at sitwasyong pangkapayapaan at pangkaayusan

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 27 ng Pebrero, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Veronica.

Salamat sa Panginoon at tumaas kanina ang stock market ng mahigit labing-siyam na punto at ang piso ay lumakas ng fourteen centavos. Malamang dahil sa mahusay na pagtapos ng stand off sa marines kahapon.

Ngunit, gaya nang sabi ni Congressman Joey Salceda sa kanyang text message sa akin: “walang panahon para mag-congratulate sa sarili kung hindi magsaludo sa patriotismo ng mga sundalo sa integridad ng chain of command at sa patuloy-tuloy na pananampalataya ng taumbayan. Ang tanging makabuluhang tagumpay ay ang tagumpay laban sa kahirapan.

We can only claim credit once we get a credit upgrade. Ngayon ang ating pamahalaan ay tripleng kasigasig magtatrabaho para isigurado muli ang momentum at iwasan ang economic fallout sa mga... Halimbawa, nangyari sa mga nabigong coup mula noong 1989, dalawang porsyento nawala sa pagsulong. Ibig sabihin nito yung dalawang porsyento anong ibig sabihin ngayon? Yan ang ibig sabihin namimiligro ang 120 billion pesos sa aktibidad ng negosyo, 12 bilyong kita sa bansa — a steep price for political mischief. And that is the reason why we have to declare a state of national emergency.

At para mabawi itong namimiligrong mawala sa ating pagsulong, ngayon papataasin natin ang imprastruktura, mamumuhunan tayo sa edukasyon, at gagawin mas matindi ang koleksyon ng buwis.

Narito ngayon kasama natin ang ating Secretary of National Defense, si Secretary Nonong Cruz. Magandang hapon, Nonong. At narito rin si Secretary of Finance, si Secretary Gary Teves. Magandang hapon, Gary. At ang Secretary of Trade and Industry, si Secretary Peter Favila. Magandang hapon, Peter.

Well, nagbigay tayo nang konting update doon sa mga sukat ng ating ekonomiya, pero gaya nang sabi ni Veronica, itong pag-uusapan natin hindi lamang yung update sa ekonomiya, yung update din tungkol sa ating law and order. Nonong, kumusta na ngayon ang kalagayan ng ating law and order and peace and order sa ating bansa?

Closing statement:

Merong tayong pera, ang kailangan natin ngayon ay yung pumasa itong increase in pay doon po sa senado, yan ang importante. Kaya ito ay pangpataas ng suweldo ng sundalo, ng pulis at saka ng teachers at lahat ng mga national government employees.

Merong pa tayong isang biyaya, gumastos nga tayo ng... Gagastos ng one billion for housing pero sa ibabaw pa noon ay nagpapasalamat tayo sa Central Bank, Gary, Peter, Nonong dahil nagbigay sila ng dibidendo sa national government. Yung donacion en fago ng manila bank na 1,600 hectares sa San Miguel, Bulacan ay ginawang dibidendo ng Central Bank at yon ay gagawin natin ng government housing. Ang laki-laki ng 1,600 hectares, doble ng makati yung kalakihan noon. Kaya ihahati natin ito sa apat na development: one-fourth para sa sundalo; one-fourth para sa pulis; one-fourth para sa teachers; at one-fourth para sa ibang mga empleyado ng ibang mga ahensiya.

Kasi ganun naman more or less ang ating empleyado sa national government: half a million ay teachers, 250 ay soldiers and policemen, and the balance are the rest of the government's — more or less ganun. Kaya ito ang kailangan nating ituloy, itong paggastos sa imprastruktura kagaya ng housing, paggastos natin sa edukasyon, at pagpatindi ng pagkakubra ng buwis. Lahat nito ay hindi natin hahayaan na masira ng mga destabilizers.

Kaya maraming salamat sa lahat na nagsuporta. Maraming salamat sa mga matapat sa ating konstitusyon at sa ating chain of command. At maraming salamat din sa inyo Nonong, Gary at Peter.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on the State of the Economy and the Peace and Order Situation. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215049/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2391&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the lifting of Proclamation No. 1017 [Filipino]

**Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Sa kanyang pagbawi ng Proklamasyon Bilang 1017**

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 3 ng Marso, 2006]

Mga kababayan:

Inihalal ninyo ako upang ayusin ang ekonomiya, mamuhunan sa ating mamamayan, at tanggalin ang nakadudurog na bigat ng kahirapan. Nagtatagumpay ang plano; sumusulong na ang ekonomiya. Patibay nito ang malakas na piso, lumalagong investment mula sa ibayong dagat, at mas malaking koleksiyon ng buwis na siyang popondo sa mga serbisyo publiko gaya ng edukasyon, paggamot at imprastruktura.

Subalit sa gitna ng pagsigla ng ekonomiya, may mga elemento sa ating lipunan na sukat naglunsad ng pakanang pabagsakin ang ating pamahalaan.

Isang linggo nakaraan, nagsanib ang mga malisyosong destabilizer at ilang mga sundalo at pulis na ligaw upang samantalahin ang maramdaming pangyayari sa ika-dalawampung pagdiriwang ng EDSA. Wala silang ibang hangarin kundi ang sabotaje ng saligang batas at pagwasak sa ligal na gobyerno ng Pilipinas. Ayon sa mga pangyayari, bumuo ako ng paghusga na may clear and present danger sa republika dahil sa pagsasama ng mga puwersang ito. Bilang commander-in-chief ng sandatahang lakas at ayon sa kapangyarihang kaloob sa akin ng Konstitusyon, kumilos ako upang ipagtanggol ang katiwasayan ng mamamayan at sambayanan.

Napatibayan ang aking pagkabahala: maraming subersibo at ilang mga kawal at pulis ang naaresto natin. Bahala ang ating sistema ng hustisiya sa kanilang makatarungang paglilitis. At gaya nang nakita natin noong linggo ng gabi, nagpatuloy ang pakikibaka sa mga araw na sumunod. Kaya naman hindi ko binawi ang State of Emergency hanggang matiyak kong ligtas at maayos ang bayan.

Hindi ito hakbang basta ko ginawa; napakalaki ang nakataya upang kumilos nang kapos. Naniniwala ako na napalakas at nasanggahan ng aking ginawa ang ating mga karapatan at ang kalayaan ng media sa banta ng diktaturang leftist-rightist. At aking ipinagtanggol ang pagsulong ng ekonomiya na pinagsisikapan nating matamo.

Ngayon, matapos ang isang linggo, ikinagagalak kong sabihin na nawasak ang pagsasabwatan, at panahon na upang bumalik sa tunay na gawain ng pamahalaan. Matibay ang aking tiwala na nanumbalik ang kaayusan. Samakatwid, ayon sa kapangyarihang kaloob sa akin ng saligang batas, ipinapahayag ko na mula sa sandaling ito hindi na umiiral ang State of Emergency.

Ibig kong pasalamatan ang ating mga tauhang militar at pulis na hindi nagpadala sa hatak ng pulitika at nanatiling tapat sa kanilang kalooban at sa bayan na sumpa nilang ipagtanggol. Napakarami nilang pasanin alang-alang sa atin. Inatasan ko si Secretary of Defense Cruz na mamuno sa malawakang balik-tanaw upang alamin ang pananaw ng ating mga kawal sa larangan, tugunin ang kanilang mga hinaing at pangangailangan, at siguruhing magpapatuloy ang reporma ng sandatahang lakas tungo sa modernisasyon at katarungan. Ganoon din sa kapulisan.

Nagpapasalamat din ako sa ating mga pinunong lokal at pambansa na nanindigan sa panig ng demokrasya. At hindi ko mapupuri nang sapat ang dunong ng ating mga kababayan sa pag-unawa na nasa kasipagan ang magandang kinabukasan, wala sa pag-aalsa sa lansangan.

Napakahalaga ngayon na tumigil na ang ating mga kalaban sa pulitika at ang mga oportunista sa perhuwisyo sa ekonomiya at kahihiyan sa Pilipinas dulot ng mga walang kuwentang palabas.

Mas malakas ang bayan sa mabilis at buong loob nating pagtugon sa hamong ito. Hindi ko kailanman kukunsintihin ang ganitong uring adventurism. At kahit ilang ulit, kikilos ako nang may paninindigan at determinasyon tuwing mamimilit ang ating mga kaaway na alanganin sa bansa at pahamak sa ekonomiya.

Samantala, pinagpala tayong nakatira sa masiglang demokrasya na malakas, matatag at sumusulong.

Maraming salamat po.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Statement on the lifting of Proclamation 1017. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412215018/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2428&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the privatization efforts of Government and the successful sale of the Manila Gas property [Filipino]

Panimula/Katapusang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa Roundtable Discussion sa pagsisikap ng pribatisasyon ng Gobyerno at ang matagumpay na pagbenta ng ari-arian ng Manila Gas

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 8 ng Marso, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Veronica at Happy Women's Day sa iyo.

Napakahalaga ang kumpiyansa ng mga investor sa paglago ng kapital upang makalikha ng trabaho at tumaas ang suweldo. Kung maraming nagtatayo o nagpapalaki ng negosyo, mas maraming manggagawa ang makakapagtrabaho, tataas ang sahod upang makaakit ng mahusay na empleyado.

Kaya naman nagalak tayo sa more than a half a billion pesos na investment ng Robinson Group sa pagbili ng lupa ng Manila Gas mula sa pamahalaan. Hindi lamang ito pera para sa pamahalaan, kung hindi isa pa sa dumaraming senyas na palakas ang kumpiyansa ng mga investor sa Pilipinas.

Balak ng Robinson na magtayo ng mall sa lupang binili nila, at sa gayon marami ang makakapagtrabaho bilang trabahador sa construction, sales attendant sa mall, at mga namamasadang tsuper sa bagong komersiyo sa bagong mall. Ito ay magandang halimbawa ng mga biyayang nanggagaling sa privatization program ng ating pamahalaan.

At narito ngayon upang talakayin ang privatization program: to the far right, si Art Aguilar ng National Development Company. Sila yung may-ari dati ng Manila Gas. Ito ay kompaniya ng pamahalaan; at to my far left, si Pepito Bengzon ng Privatization Management Office; narito rin yung boss ni Pepito, si Undersecretary for Privatization Jay Singson ng Department of Finance; at sa aking kanan, si Agnes Devanadera, ang ating Government Corporate Counsel. Happy Women's Day din, Agnes.

Oh, eto. So, pag-usapan natin itong privatization dahil ang Undersecretary for Privatization ay si Jay Singson. Ay, nung araw kilala lang namin ito bilang anak ni Gabby Singson, yung dating Governor ng Central Bank. Anyway, Jay on your own ka na ngayon, ano ba itong privatization at saka ano ang mga patakaran mo sa privatization?

Closing statement:

When we say that we are not rushing, hindi ibig sabihin nuon na kahit na hindi mabenta mas masaya na tayo, hindi. Gusto na... Yung mga nilista natin dapat ibenta dahil either lugi tayo or hindi talaga kailangan ng gobyerno. Yes, balansiyado.

So, nagpapasalamat ako at congratulations on this latest privatization — matagumpay. At sana mas matagumpay pa ang mga darating na importanteng privatization natin.

So, sa inyong lahat, Agnes, congratulations! And Happy Women's Day. Thank you Art, congratulations! Thank you Jay, congratulations! Thank you, Pepito, congratulations!

And Happy Women's Day again and back to you, Veronica.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing statements during a roundtable discussion on the privatization efforts of government and the successful sale of the Manila Gas property. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214942/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2425&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during an Official Dinner in Honor of New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During an Official Dinner in Honor of New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark

[Issued at the Beach front, Bohol Beach Club Panglao Island, Bohol, March 14, 2006]

HER Excellency Prime Minister Clark, members of the New Zealand delegation, officials of the Philippine government, friends.

I wish to extend once again our warmest welcome to Prime Minister Helen Clark and her delegation to the very first state visit outside of Manila.

We're delighted by your presence, Prime Minister as the Philippines and New Zealand celebrate 40 years of diplomatic relations this year. And on this occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to pursue closer economic ties, more trade, and to seek complementarities in trade and also in environmental protection. We are so happy that you will spend your morning tomorrow with the whales and dolphins in Pamilakan Island.

Thank you for your partnership with the Philippines with our natural resource management and ecotourism, indigenous peoples welfare, governance, education and peace and development in Mindanao.

We acknowledge your leadership and unique contribution towards increased understanding and cooperation within and among communities of different faiths, ethnicities and race.

This year is our 40th year but in all of the 365 days on the 40th year of our anniversary as diplomatic partners, we have chosen the day when you could co-sponsor our interfaith dialogue in Cebu where we had 50 nations in Asia and Oceania and 185 leaders of the political and spiritual communities of those countries.

This year, we'll see the Philippines as incoming chair of ASEAN, of the ASEAN Regional Forum, and the East Asia Summit. We see this as an opportunity to strengthen our bonds with New Zealand brought together as we are by our common commitment to the good of mankind.

New Zealand has been a good partner of economic cooperation in the Philippines. And I do hope that under the leadership of the Philippines in the ASEAN, we will be able to work towards having New Zealand as a full partner of ASEAN Summit.

And so on this beautiful balmy evening, let me ask you all to join me in a toast to the warm friendship between our two countries, to the continued success and good health of Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Statement during an Official Dinner in Honor of New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214927/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2422&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statement: President Arroyo during the “Usapang Micronegosyo with the President” at the ‘Go Negosyo’ Micro-enterprise Fair [Filipino]

Panimula/Katapusang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa “Usapang Micronegosyo with the President” sa ‘Go Negosyo’ Micro-enterprise Fair

[Ipinahayag sa Philippine Army Wellness Center (Army Gym) Fort Bonifacio, Lungsod ng Taguig, Metro Manila, ika 1 ng Abril, 2006]

Maraming salamat sa kay Joey Concepcion at ang kanyang buong team na parating tumutulong sa pag-iral ng ating entrepreneurs. At nagpapasalamat tayo sa ating mga host ngayon, yung top brass ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ay narito lahat. Narito ang kanilang boss, si Secretary Nonong Cruz. At ayun! Nakikita ko yung lahat ng mga four and three-star generals: si General Senga, General Esperon, General Reyes, General Mayuga, General Romero and General Datu.

Sa lahat sa inyo, congratulations! At Joey, eto ay isang pagkwentu-kwentuhan tungkol sa mga karanasan ng ating mga entrepreneurs na mula sa community ng Philippine Army pati na rin yung questions they have always wanted to ask and it is time to answer, Joey.

* * *

CLOSING STATEMENT:

So, in other words ang ating mensahe sa mga pamilya ng mga sundalo na narito ngayon o nanonood sa atin, ang suggestions na pasukan ninyong mga negosyo ay yung ‘Tindahan Natin’ at saka yung agri-business doon sa mga lupa ng mga kampo na binubuksan natin para sa ganung bagay.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA’s Opening/Closing Statements during the “Usapang Micronegosyo with the President” at the ‘Go Negosyo’ Micro-enterprise Fair. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214313/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2455&Itemid=38

Post-Statement: President Arroyo on Labor Day 2006

Post-Statement on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: On Labor Day 2006 [Filipino]

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, May 2, 2006]

Binabati natin ang lahat ng ating manggagawa para sa makabuluhan at mapayapang pagdiriwang ng Araw ng Manggagawa, na naglalarawan ng political maturity ng pilipinong pinaninindigan ang pagkakaisa at kasipagan bilang solusyon sa problema ng bansa at hindi ang pansarili at walang tigil na hidwaan.

Nagpapasalamat din tayo sa inspiradong paninindigan ng ating pwersa ng manggagawa kontra sa mga tangkang destabilisasyon, na nagmamarka ng matatag na pakikipagbalikat ng pamahalaan at sektor ng manggagawa sa pag-ibayo ng klima para sa kaunlaran, pamumuhunan at trabaho.

Pinupuri ko ang PNP at AFP sa kanilang pagmamatyag katabi ng taumbayan sa pagmamantene ng batas at katiwasayan sa gitna ng paulit-ulit na mga banta ng mga kaguluhang pulitika. Higit na katatagan sa pulitika at kaunlarang pangkabuhayan ang magpapasulong sa ikabubuti at pakinabang ng ating mga manggagawa, habang tuloy nating dinadala ang manggagawang pilipino sa pinakamataas na punto ng pagbuo ng bansa at kagalingang pangmundo.

Payback time is here at nananawagan tayo sa ating taumbayan na higit pang magkaisa upang mabura ang ingay pulitika at i-angat ang sama-sama nating pakikibaka kontra sa kahirapan, katiwalian at karahasan na sila ang kalaban ng isang makatarungan at progresibong social order.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Post-Labor Day 2006 Statement. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213901/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2793&Itemid=38

Arrival Statement: President Arroyo after a 4-day State Visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

After a 4-day State Visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

[Delivered at the Bulwagang Kalayaan, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing Villamor Airbase, Pasay City, May 11, 2006]

I arrived home not just with those who left Manila a few days ago to Saudi Arabia with me. Following later, in a few hours, will be Filipinos who had been released from prison by His Majesty King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia as a gesture of friendship and compassion.

The King told me how he cherishes our workers. He ordered the immediate release and pardon from blood money, not of 50 Filipinos, not of 180 Filipinos, not of 200 Filipinos, but of more than 500 Filipinos.

This in addition to the 200 or so that had been released since February in anticipation of my visit. So all and all, it's about 700, nearly 700. And the first batch, because there are so many — 500 — they're coming in three batches. The first batch will be coming at 5:00 o'clock this afternoon. Ten of those coming this afternoon are homicide cases, and his majesty paid for their blood money. So, we are very happy about this.

Ako ay nagagalak na kasabay ng aking pagbabalik sa Saudi Arabia ang mga detainee na makakabalik na rin sa ating bansa, sa kanilang mga pamilya na matagal nang naghihintay sa kanilang pag-uwi. Ito ay mensahe sa ating mga kababayan na makakaasa kayo sa ating gobyerno na mas pag-iibayuhin pa ang pakikipagtulungan sa Saudi Arabia upang alagaan ang lahat, sa lahat ng pagkakataon, ang kapakanan ng ating mga kababayan doon.

Saudi Arabia is a strategic ally of the Philippines. Not only because it hosts more than a million Filipino workers, but also because it is our leading supplier of oil and a leading supporter of our peace process in Mindanao.

Alam naman natin na ang presyo ng langis sa buong mundo ay patuloy na tumataas. That is why I am glad to receive assurances from the Kingdom of a stable oil supply. I'm harnessing strategic diplomacy to protect the national interests and leverage the growing political stability to gain more investments to spur jobs in the Philippines and abroad.

And speaking of leveraging political stability, on one of the meetings that has not been reported yet to the media, is the meeting that took place when I was visited at the Palace by Prince Al Waleed, rank by Forbes as the number 5 richest person in the world. And Prince Al Waleed said that he's going to send a team as the first step in his investment in tourism in the Philippines. And he said, the reason why he is doing this is that he believes in my political will to bring about stability and economic continuity in our policies.

The Saudi Aramco through Petron will study the feasibility of refining oil in Mindanao. These days oil refineries cost a billion dollars. But even as they're doing this feasibility study, they are pushing through with their 300 million-dollar investment in the petrochemical pit stop in Bataan.

I also invited our friend from Saudi Arabia to join in the efforts to promote the rational exploration development utilization and conservation of our mineral resources, to enhance national growth in the Philippines in a way that effectively safeguards the environment and protects the rights of affected communities. We clarified to our Saudi Arabian investors that foreign investment is welcomed in our mining industry.

The Saudi business center was very receptive to my invitation to recycle their petrodollars to invest in the Philippines. I won't talk about all of them today because we will leave that to Peter Favila to give the creative details.

There is a connection between our challenges at home and our opportunities abroad, and that's why immediately I want to have a cabinet meeting here, so that we can address our challenges abroad.

The dollars we earn and the confidence we reap also come home to create jobs, educate our children and feed the hungry, which is one of the main topics of our agenda today.

I conveyed to the King our deepest appreciation for the Kingdom's unwavering support for peace and development in Southern Philippines. And in addition, the Crown Prince and I agreed to add security cooperation to the many facets of our bilateral relationship. The ties of friendship between the Filipinos and Saudis are stronger than ever.

Magpapatuloy tayo sa pag-unlad, magpapatuloy ang ating pagtutulungan.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Arrival Statement after a 4-day State Visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213337/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2776&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on Charter Change and other vital issues to be tackled during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) Meeting

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

On Charter Change and other vital issues to be tackled during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) Meeting

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, May 16, 2006]

Welcome! Everyone.

The signing into law of the juvenile justice and welfare act this morning is a fitting prelude to our meeting, because it shows that the executive-legislative working together is as good as ever when it comes to our future generations.

I hope that the same forward-looking spirit will pervade our discussions as we bring to fore our common agenda for the nation, and see through our shared resolve to drive the legislative mill along the most vital issues affecting the political, economic and social horizon.

Tough decisions are also in the offing as we take up proposals for the charter change. I trust and hope that each sincere thought shall pour out of this gathering with the paramount interest of the people in mind.

We need to talk about charter change or the pace of the world could overwhelm us. The time is now, and I must stress this even if it invites controversy, because I'm aware that we are a gathering of statespersons despite our disagreements. We can only mold consensus from challenge and ferment in the marketplace of ideas.

Indeed, we must consider our political options in the light of strong economic indicators that have brought the national enterprise to the threshold of take off. We shall have a briefing on key economic issues to see how we can shape the political-economic landscape to bring the people closer to their aspirations.

I open this meeting, therefore, with an open mind and a firm belief that principled politics will pervade our endeavors.

Thank you all for coming.

Thank you to the media.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Statement on Charter Change and other vital issues to be tackled during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213310/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2771&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Survey on Business Confidence

Opening/Closing Statements of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Survey on Business Confidence

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, May 22, 2006]

Nakasalalay ang masiglang pananaw ng negosyante sa lumalaking kompiyansa ng mga negosyante lalo na sa lakas at katatagan ng mga saligan ng ekonomiya at tumatatag na kalagayan ng pulitika.

Sinisigurado natin na inaasikaso ng pamahalaan ang lahat ng larangan ng kaunlaran at seguridad, habang hinahabol natin ang mga reporma ng saligang batas sa pamamagitan ng demokratikong kapangyarihan ng taongbayan at ng pagkakaunawaan ng ating mga institusyon.

Hinaharap natin ang nagkakaisang determinasyon ng lahat ng sektor, kabilang ang mga negosyante, upang samantalain ang sandaling ito upang ibalik ang Pilipinas sa mapa bilang masigasig na tagalahok sa ekonomiya ng Asya at ng mundo.

Bunga ng mahihirap kong desisyon ang kompiyansa ng mamumuhunan — mga desisyon hindi lamang sa larangan ng ekonomiya, kundi pati sa paglaban sa katiwalian, pagsusulong ng katarungang panlipunan, malayang pagnenegosyo, at pag-iral ng batas.

Sa nakikita ng mga eksperto at investor, palabas na ang Pilipinas sa ligalig ng pulitika at patungo sa higit pang paglago ng ekonomiya at pagtatag ng republika. Ito ang hudyat ng lalong pagganda ng buhay para sa ating taongbayan na siyang makikinabang sa mabisang pamumuno sa bansa.

Ngayong hapon makakasama natin mula sa Bangko Sentral na gumawa nung survey na yon ay si Diwa Guinigundo, deputy governor. Magandang hapon, Diwa. Sa kanyang kanan naman ang naging pangulo ng Philippine Stock Exchange, si Trina Kalaw. Magandang hapon, Trina. At sa aking kaliwa, another very important businesswoman, si Josephine Gotianun Yap, pangulo ng Filinvest Development Corporation. Magandang hapon, Josephine. At sa kanyang kaliwa, narito naman si Jess Arranza, ang pangulo ng Federation of Philippine Industries. Magandang hapon, Jess. And to his left, si Attorney Paul Santos ng Philippine Retailers Association. Magandang hapon, Paul.

Okay, unang-una yung Bangko Sentral, Diwa, itong survey na ginagawa ninyo papano yon ininterview niyo yung mga negosyante, ganun ba 'to?

* * *

Closing statement:

Sana mag-draft kayo ng executive order para madaan natin sa ating _____ pag-aralan ng mga legal experts natin kung wala tayong mga linalabag na batas or international agreement. Okay, so dapat unahin na natin bago tayo pumasok. Kung pwede kung yung association niyo mag-draft ng executive order. Very good, very good.

So, itong araw na ito starting with the Central Bank na gumawa nga nung survey na yon meron tayong mga kinatawan ng stock market, ng real estate, banking and agriculture, ng manufacturing saka ng retail and services. So nakikita natin masigla ang lahat ng sektor ng ating ekonomiya at sana ito ay matuloy.

Kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa inyong lahat hindi lamang sa inyong pagdalo ngayon kung hindi na rin pati sa inyong mga contributions sa ating ekonomiya.

So, thank you, thank you, Diwa. Salamat, Trina. Thank you, Joji. Jess, thank you very much. At Paul, maraming salamat din.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Survey on Business Confidence. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213240/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2760&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the DBM allocation for additional teachers and activities related to the opening of the school year 2006-2007

Opening/Closing Statements of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on the DBM allocation for additional teachers and activities related to the opening of the school year 2006-2007

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, May 29, 2006]

Sa paglapit ng pasukan, marapat alamin ang paghahanda ng pamahalaan at mga eskuwelahan para sa edukasyon ng ating kabataan. Kaya naman itong araw inanyayahan ko ang kalihim ng edukasyon at ng budget upang siguruhin na hindi kakapusin ang pondo at aksiyon ng mga programang pampaaralan.

Maganda naman ang mga ulat: may sampung libong guro ang magpapadagdag sa mga paaralan sa taong ito; may limang libong tatlong daan ang mga bagong item at anim na daang milyong piso ang nakalaan sa kanila mula Hunyo; may dagdag namang apat na libo at pitong-raan na posisyong tagasuporta o tagapangasiwa upang makabalik sa pagtuturo ang mga gurong gumagawa ng mga trabahong ito ngayon.

Samantala, nakapaglabas din nang mahigit limang bilyong piso para sa mga programang pang-eskuwela. Kasama rito ang dalawang bilyong piso para sa mga bagong silid-aralan, isang bilyon para sa mga aklat, halos anim na daang milyon para sa karagdagang pagsasanay ng mga guro, at kalahating bilyon bilang high school vouchers na tulong sa mga estudyanteng mag-aaral sa pribadong high school.

Sa panahon ng aking pagkapangulo ay una sa lahat — mamaya na lang ang mga numero. Sila na ang magbibigay kung ilan ang na-hire na natin mula ako ay naging pangulo — so, nandito ngayon, kasama natin para pag-usapan itong mga ito ay si Secretary Nonoy Andaya ng DBM. Hello! Nonoy; at kasama rin si Acting Secretary Fe Hidalgo ng DEPED. Magandang hapon, Fe; at kasama niya si Assistant Secretary Lilia Roces. Magandang hapon, Lilia; at mayroon tayong principal na narito, ang principal ng Pembo Elementary School, si Teresita Arreola. Magandang hapon, principal; at ang teacher sa Quezon City Science High School, si Ms. Nena Bongon. Magandang hapon, Nena.

Nonoy, sabi mo mula nung ako ay naging pangulo, ilan ang na-hire natin na mga teachers at school personnel?

* * *

Closing statement:

Okay, so we'd like to thank the teachers. We'd like to thank you because they mold our students, they mold their values, they also mold their skills, and therefore, they mold their future. Kaya maraming salamat sa ating mga guro.

At malapit na ang eskuwelahan. Sabi nga ni Fe, walang bakasyon ang mga guro. Tapos na ang training for the summer eh magtatrabaho na naman, maghahanda na naman sa pagbukas ng eskuwelahan. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

At maraming salamat din, Nonoy sa mabilis mong paglalabas ng kanilang budget. Maraming salamat, Fe sa pagdadala mo ng mga desisyon ng gabinete sa baba. Thank you very much, Lilia. Maraming salamat, principal. At maraming salamat, teacher.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on the DBM allocation for additional teachers and activities related to the opening of the school year 2006-2007. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213135/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2710&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on increasing exports and investments

Opening/Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During a Roundtable Discussion on increasing exports and investments

[Issued at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, June 14, 2006]

Mga kababayan:

Sa awa ng Diyos, patuloy ang pag-akyat ng export at pamumuhunan sa ating bansa. Mula Enero hanggang Abril mahigit labinlimang porsiyento ang itinaas ng export. Mga two billion dollars ang dagdag haming sa nung nakaraang taon. Mga pangunahing exports ng bansa umakyat ng 20.5 percent ang microchips at 15.7 percent ang garments.

Sa investment naman, maligaya nating tinatanggap ang plano ng International Finance Corporation ng World Bank na dadagdagan ng 32 percent ang kaniyang ilalagay sa Pilipinas bilang senyas ng lumalagong tiwala sa pamumuhunan kasama ng pagtaas ng exports ng Pilipinas at pagtaas ng 11.4 percent ng direct foreign investment sa unang tatlong buwan nitong taon.

At sa hapon ng ito, ibig kong bigyang-pugay at talakayin ang paglakas ng export at investment. Kasama natin ang kalihim ng DTI, si Secretary Peter Favila. Magandang hapon, Peter; at gayun din naman sa aking kaliwa, si Ginoong Roberto Amores. Siya ang pangulo ng HI-LAS Marketing Corporation at bahagi siya ng PHILFOODEX, yung samahan ng mga nag-e-export ng mga pagkain at yung Philippine Mango Exporter Foundation. Magandang hapon — Bobby, ba ang nickname mo? — okay, Bobby.

At sa kanan naman ni Peter, si Ginoong Henry Co, ang pangulo ng Ford Motors Philippines. Magandang hapon, Henry; at sa kaliwa naman ni Bobby, si Ernie Santiago, dating kasama ko sa DTI. Ngayon siya ang executive director ng SEIPI or Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Incorporated. Kinakatawan niya ang two-thirds ng ating exports, hindi ba? Magandang hapon, Ernie; at sa aking kanan naman ang isa sa ating mga present generation Taipans, si Lance Gokongwei, ang pangulo ng Robinsons Land Corporation. Good afternoon, Lance.

Una, Peter yung ating exports and investments, double digit ang pagtaas ng dalawa kung pag-uusapan natin muna yung exports gaya nang sabi ko, two-thirds ang electronics, tapos number two ang garments, tapos number three yung mineral products, tapos food products.

* * *

Closing statement:

Well, just to summarize before we go. In automobile, we have 20,000 direct workers. What about in your conglomerate alone, Lance, how many workers do you have? Thirty thousand. And then just in the mango export or food export industry alone, you have two-and-a-half... Mangga pa lang two-and-a-half million. Five million right in full exports. And then yung electronics, 400,000.

So we can see how kung gaano karami talaga ang trabahong nabibigay ng ilang mga halimbawa lang ng mga investment at saka export products. Kaya importante yung sinasabi ni Peter na parating inalam natin ano ang pinaka-importanteng tulong at suportang mabibigay ng pamahalaan at dapat sinasagot parati yon.

Kaya gusto kong magpasalamat sa lahat ng ating mga exporters, ating mga investors. Gusto kong batiin lahat ng mga nagtra-trabaho sa kanilang mga kumpanya at kailangan talaga lahat tayo nakikipagbalikat sa isat-isa para sa ganun ay lalong lumaki ang investments, lalong lumaki ang export, lalong dumami ang trabaho.

So, thank you very much gentlemen. Maraming salamat, Bobby. Thank you once again, Ernie. Thank you very much, Lance for joining us and Henry as well. And Peter, maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on Increasing Exports and Investments. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213008/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2806&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint RDC-Cabinet Meeting of the North Luzon Group

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the Joint RDC-Cabinet Meeting of the North Luzon Group

[Issued at the Isabela Hotel, Cauayan City, Isabela, June 16, 2006]

Well, Vice President de Castro and other members of the Cabinet; our Regional Development Council chairmen and other members of the RDC; governors; congressmen and other officials of the three regions that are meeting today and other local officials; ladies and gentlemen.

Despite obstacles thrown our way, we've remained steadfast in advancing reform and recover on a broad front, as we fight poverty with the same fervor as fighting destructive politics.

And thanking all of you involved in the people's initiative with its eight million plus signatures, the people's initiative made Charter Change a legitimate issue, and gave the initiative and the constituent assembly a life of its own.

On my part, I am concentrating on protecting our gains in many crucial areas, and aligning with the regions as opposed to "Imperial Metro Manila."

On protecting our gains... on protecting our gains: we have made great fiscal gains. Gary, we have a five billion surplus for the month of May. The first time there's ever been a surplus in the month of May which is not the income tax return. In twenty years, first time in twenty years. But we will continue to monitor BIR and Customs closely. In fact, next week, early next week, we will have a command conference of these revenue agencies.

Second, on the AFP-PNP against the left: while the revenues are the enabling mechanism for us to carry out our anti-poverty programs, the fight against the left remains the glue that binds. I'm instructing the national security group to work with the DBM on selected hardware and funding, aside from the five billion pesos per year modernization, that will give the decisive edge against the NPA. The timetable of six to ten years is too long.

We need to buy and we will buy surplus Hueys and other attack helicopters and control aircraft on soft terms. And I am instructing Secretary Andaya to release one billion pesos to the AFP and PNP to finance operations versus the NPA. This is an investment that will yield peace dividends to the economy.

On the international front: we have succeeded in putting the Philippines back on the global map. Stymied locally, the opposition-left is internationalizing regime change efforts, using the issue of human rights to demonize our administration in the international community.

And that's one reason why I'm doing my Spain visit, to thank the government of Spain because they have consistently supported us in our fight for security and stability in our country. The eve of my departure for Spain is the 24th of June. That's a good day to sign the death penalty abolition, not only is it on the eve of my departure but it is the feast of St. John the Baptist, who was a victim of the death penalty in his time.

On aligning with the regions: a very important vehicle for the national government and the administration aligning with the regions would be the ongoing revision of the Medium-Term Public Investment Program and the forthcoming State of the Nation Address, used in a novel way that is rather than discussing the administration's vision from the usual central/national point of view, we shall discuss the vision and program of government from the perspective of the regional development councils and other regional institutions. Recognizing the RDCs and other regional institutions as our administration's partner in development. And that's why we are all here today.

Today we begin a renewed partnership with regional leaders to bolster education all over the country, to invest in infrastructure and encourage greater investments also all over the country such as logistics investments, expressways

and ports in the urban beltway that extends from Subic-Clark, through Metro Manila to Calabarzon to Batangas port; business outsourcing in areas of the north like Baguio, in areas of the south like Cebu and Davao; tourism investments in the Visayas, Palawan and Bicol and agri-business in Mindanao and northern Luzon, to name a few.

And that's why I'd like to call this meeting of ours a meeting on agri-business north because the strength of Northern Luzon is agri-business. I said just to name a few because there are other sub-strengths in specific regions: tourism in the Cordilleras and the Ilocos, and also the BPO in Baguio. But by and large, if you look at the northern Luzon as a whole, the strongest way to fight poverty is to concentrate agri-business investments in this area.

So, I would like to thank all of you for being here today and for us to work together on the revision of the Medium-Term Public Investment program and the statement that we will all make together for the State of the Nation Address.

So, before I call on the different local government executives to make their statements, Mike Defensor, the Presidential Chief of Staff says that we should still let the media stay and listen to the report of NEDA Secretary Romy Neri. Romy?

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Joint RDC-Cabinet Meeting of the North Luzon Group. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212956/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2805&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Command Conference on the Millennium Challenge Account and on the Revenue

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Command Conference on the Millennium Challenge Account and on the Revenue

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, June 19, 2006]

I'd like to begin this command conference by thanking the United States for its grant of 200,685 million dollars — so, Gary that's more than one billion pesos, right? — to help us fight graft and corruption, making the Philippines one of a handful, only a handful of countries in the world to benefit from its Millennium Challenge Account. An account which is put up by President Bush at the turn of the millennium to reward countries that govern well.

A major goal of the project is to strengthen the Department of Finance and its two attached agencies, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. The project will develop an effective mechanism for gathering and validating tax collection data and invest in information technology, surveillance tools and a customs tracking system, so investigations are more thorough and efficient. Another major objective of the grant is to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman. Part of the U.S. funding will be used to attract more local investigators by providing them with just compensation under an employment contract with well-defined performance indicators.

This morning, I was talking to Secretary Andaya of the budget. I instructed him to allocate a counterpart of one billion pesos for an all-out war against graft and corruption with the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission on the helm of the executive efforts, cooperating with the constitutionally independent ombudsman: an intensified drive against tax cheats and smugglers by the BIR and the BOC; high-impact anti-illegal drugs operations by the PNP and the PDEA, including the transfer of the anti-drugs function from the PNP to the PDEA; and a values reorientation and moral recovery program through the Presidential Council on Values Formation in partnership with the religious sector, the educational institutions — DepEd and CHED and allied NGOs.

The Philippines has a strong, modern and confident relationship with the U.S. based on our shared democratic values, the fight against terrorism and strengthening the economy to liberate the poor.

Tough reforms in the economy are now converging with tough decisions in the security field. This command conference comes in the heels of a recent joint Cabinet and RDC meeting in North Luzon where we instructed the allocation of funds for a strong campaign against the threat posed by the CPP-NPA. Security and development must be bolstered by a solid fiscal footing if we are to fight terror and poverty.

The Philippine relationship with the U.S. has matured and grown under our administration. We brought the relationship back from the brink after the closure of Clark and Subic.

The Philippines is a staunch ally in the war against terror. Our administration believes fervently in democracy and we are sworn to uphold the rights and liberties of every Filipino. We bring these values and our deep religiosity as a people to our governance of the Philippines and to our relationship with the U.S. and all nations.

I commend the hardworking men and women of our revenue agencies for your contribution to these causes. Much more is to be done and I trust that you are ready to bring the effort to a higher level.

Growing the economy, fighting terror, getting rid of graft and corruption — all these goals will travel on parallel and related paths as we consolidate the nation.

So now I will ask the media to leave us now to our candid and frank discussions about how we can still improve an already very good revenue performance.

Thank you. Thank you to the media.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Command Conference on the Millennium Challenge Account and on the Revenue. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212948/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2803&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council meeting

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the Joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council meeting

[Issued at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang, June 20, 2006]

Cabinet members; officers of the different Regional Development Councils and local government officials of the different regions that are present here today; mga kababayan.

Sa ating pangalawang pulong sa Gabinete at mga Regional Development Council, babalangkas tayo ng mga estratehiya at proyekto para sa itong araw na ito, para sa urban beltway na nagsisimula sa Clark-Subic hanggang Batangas Port, ang bahagi ng bansa na pinanggagalingan ng mahigit kalahati ng produksiyon ng ating ekonomiya; pati na rin yung bahagi ng Central Luzon na lalagyan ng malaki pang dagdag sa puhunan ng agri-business; pati na rin kung papaano yung ibang mga pulong na malapit sa Calabarzon ay pwedeng makinabang at sa kaunlaran dito.

Kailangan ng investment ng pamahalaan at invesment ng negosyante. Kailangan nakakaakit ang reputasyon ng Pilipinas sa investment at financial community. Against the backdrop of the 'best borrower' award conferred to the country by Euro money along with the reported decline of debt in the month of March, we should bolster education over the country, invest in infrastructure and encourage greater investments such as logistics investment in Clark and Subic Economic Zones, investments in expressways and ports in the urban beltway as well as Aurora which requires support, and agri-business investments in Nueva Ecija, the country's number one rice producing province. And also investments that will make the island provinces — Mindoro and Marinduque — benefit from the development of Calabarzon.

Ayon sa Asian Development Bank, ang pangunahing institusyong pangkaunlaran ng Asya, kailangan lumago ang investment o capital stock sa bansa ng sampung porsiyento taun-taon. If our fiscal program goes as planned, we want to invest an additional 100 billion pesos a year in total public investment.

Kailangan mamuhunan ang gobyerno at negosyo sa imprastruktura at industriya, sa kalusugan at edukasyon, sa seguridad at pag-iral ng batas. At gayon ang gagawin natin gamit ang lumalagong kaban ng bayan.

Kaya tinawag natin itong miting na ito para sa ganun sabay-sabay nating pa-planuhin yung mga gastos at pamumuhunan sa mga aktibidad ng ekonomiya na nagkakaugnay sa isa't-isa.

So, welcome to all of you to this Joint Meeting of the Cabinet and the various RDCs involved: Region III, IV and Metro Manila. And we will begin by asking Romy Neri to make his regional economic and social report on what we call basically the urban beltway and the nearby provinces.

Okay, Romy.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212941/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2801&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Departure Ceremony for an Official Visit to the Vatican City, Italy and Spain

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Departure Ceremony for an Official Visit to the Vatican City, Italy and Spain

[Issued at the Centennial Terminal NAIA 2, Pasay City, June 25, 2006]

Kagalang-galang na Bise Presidente De Castro, mga kasapi ng Gabinete, mga sundalo at pulis, mga kababayan:

Buhay, pagkakaisa at kasaganaan ang tema ng aking lakbay.

Sa unang pagkakataon, makikipagkita ako sa Santo Papang Benedicto XVI sa Vaticano, upang ihatid sa kanya ang pagtangi at pagtataguyod ng ating sambayanan sa kanyang pagka-Papa. At nagpapasalamat ako sa Kongreso dahil meron akong madadalang magandang pasalubong sa kanya — ang ating abolition ng death penalty.

Sa Roma, kapulong sina Pangulong Napolitano at Prime Minister Romano Prodi, lalo nating palalakasin ang mga programa sa kalakal, investments, turismo at kultura sa pagitan ng Italya at Pilipinas.

Sa Madrid, makikipagkita ako kina Haring Juan Carlos at Pangulong Jose Rodriguez Zapatero at ang mga pinunong komersyal at lokal sa España.

Nagpapasalamat ang sambayanang Pilipino sa España dahil siya ang pinakamalapit na kaalyado at tagataguyod natin sa Europa. At dahil ang España ay yumaman sa turismo hahanap din tayo ng mga investors para sa turismo sa Pilipinas. At kapwa sa Italya at España, gagamitin ko ang aking mga pulong sa matataas na opisyal upang isulong ang kagalingan ng ating mga OFW.

Ipinaubaya ko ang gobyerno sa mga mahusay na kamay ni Bise Presidente Noli De Castro. Isusulong niya ang araw-araw nating pagsisikap upang mapanatiling matiwasay ang bansa.

As I leave, tropical depression ‘Domeng’ is now 20 kilometers east of Tacloban. It’s raining in the Bicol region, including Bulusan. The Armed Forces units in the area have shifted from counter-communist-terrorist operations to disaster and relief operations.

Right now the volcano is quiet. The summit is characterized by the emission of voluminous steam. Under these circumstances it is unlikely that the magma-driven eruption will take place in the next few days of rain. PHIVOLCS should be able to detect the possibility of such a magma-driven eruption in such an unlikely event. And if that should happen — though it is highly unlikely at this time — the NDCC is prepared to implement its contingency measures, plus the following which I have instructed this morning:

First, a Bulusan express which means: two C-130s, eight helicopters including the presidential helicopter, and a train whose coaches will be filled up with relief goods to be transported from manila to Bicol;

Second, the PSG shall send a medical contingent to the area;

Third, an NFA rice stockpile;

Fourth, donation of the recently seized customs ukay-ukay;

Fifth, Secretary Andaya of DBM, who is also Region V CORD, shall make available the appropriate calamity fund;

Sixth, GSIS, and PAG-IBIG shall grant emergency loans.

Inaasahan ko ang panalangin at suporta ng lahat. Manalangin tayo para itong mga contingency ay hindi na kailangan gawin dahil malamang hindi mag-e-erupt ang Bulusan sa panahon nitong ulan. Ah yung eruption at pinag-uusapan natin ay yung malaking eruption na magma-driven. At magdasal din tayo hindi lamang para sa gawain natin sa bansa, pati na rin sa misyon ko sa ibayong dagat.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Statement during the Departure Ceremony for an Official Visit to the Vatican City, Italy and Spain. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212844/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2796&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on North Korea's missile test-fire

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

On North Korea's missile test-fire during an inspection of brand new police patrol cars

[Issued at the Parade Grounds, Camp Crame, Quezon City, July 6, 2006]

Itong dalawandaang sasakyan ay bahagi ng isang bilyon na binigay natin sa PNP upang maging mas mabisa ang kanilang trabaho sa pagpapatupad ng kapayapaan at seguridad.

Gaya nang sabi ko kahapon, ang ating mga alagad ng batas ay napaka- importante sa pagtataguyod ng saligang batas at ng rule of law na napaka- importante naman sa ating demokrasya.

Importante rin sa kapayapaan at seguridad ang mga pangyayari sa ibayong dagat lalung-lalo na doon sa mga bansang malapit sa Pilipinas. Kaya hayaan niyong gamitin ko itong pagkakataon na magbigay ng ulat ukol sa North Korea.

In solidarity with the international community, the Philippines condemns the missile test of North Korea and urges that nation to refrain from further compromising the peace and security of the region and of the world. The world has had enough of weapons of mass destruction and it's high time to walk away from armed confrontation and lend more focus in addressing the welfare of every human being and the growing economic disparity among nations.

As a peace-loving nation and as a country who is geographically located near North Korea and the Korean peninsula, we shall continue to be at the forefront of supporting moves to ensure world security and peaceful co-existence among all nations.

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Statement on North Korea's missile test-fire during an inspection of brand new police patrol cars. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212802/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2837&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during her Joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council (RDC) meeting on Super Regions

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During her Joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council (RDC) meeting on Super Regions

[Issued at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang, July 11, 2006]

Vice President De Castro; Regional Development Council leaders; members of the Cabinet; Governors and City Mayors of Northern Luzon, Central Philippines and Mindanao; Mga kababayan.

Let me first congratulate all of you for the successful first round of Cabinet-RDC discussions for Northern Luzon, Central Philippines and Mindanao, and the frank deliberations... (we can have the Central Philippines governor sit over here in front. They were going to do changes in the seating arrangements but there's... Please, oo. Ric can you have them...? They can sit in front. Okay.)

Again, if I may still congratulate you all for the frank deliberations and broad-based perspective in our meetings which have showcased the close national and regional cooperation that makes for more responsive and effective governance and development planning as well as greater benefits to our people.

We are here today to prioritize the programs and projects for each super region or sub-economy — as we might also call them — for the next three years. We need to increase investments by 10 percent a year in order to catch up with the richer countries of Asia. And today, we will move towards a decision on the Medium-Term Public Investments in infrastructure, social development, security, and also more productive agriculture. That would be a further draw for investors, whose outlays would help propel the country to first world status within a generation.

We will bring vital money to investments to create truly super regions, from Luzon to Mindanao. Each will have its own natural competitive advantage — that's how we divided the country, the economy into this super regions or we can call them sub-economies because they were divided according to their natural competitive advantage — and we will build on that.

And so, in consultation with the Regional Development Councils, we will put forward a series of packages that if taken together will further invest in what is strong. To the strength of the regions, we will bolster education, especially in the poorer provinces of the regions; invest in infrastructure and encourage greater investments all over the country; and to repeat, speaking of landmark investments, for instance, logistics investments and investments in expressways and ports in the urban beltway which stretches from Clark and Subic Economic Zones through Metro Manila to Southern Tagalog; business process outsourcing in the cyber corridor which stretches from Baguio City through Cebu to Davao; tourism investments in Central Philippines; and agri-business investments in Mindanao and North Luzon. To name only a few though these are the flagship investments.

With the government's new planning and economic development mode of grouping the economy into four sub-economies, we shall build upon enlarged economies of scale and enhanced synergies and complementation.

Thus, we hope this massive decentralization of development from imperial Manila to the regions would unleash the creative vigor that not only breaks up the bureaucratic clog that impedes local progress, but also spell a quantum leap in investments and jobs.

And so, may I now turn over to Secretary Romy Neri for the discussion on the North Luzon super region. Romy.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212751/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2835&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during her Joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council (RDC) round 2 meeting for Metro Luzon (Urban Beltway)

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During her Joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council (RDC) round 2 meeting for Metro Luzon (Urban Beltway)

[Issued at the Clark Museum Function Hall, Clarkfield, Pampanga, July 13, 2006]

Mga gobernador at city mayor ng buong Region III, IV, Metro Manila and half of IV-A; mga Regional Development Council leaders; mga miyembro ng Gabinete; mga kababayan.

Salamat sa Diyos at sa pagsisikap at pananalig nating lahat, unti-unting umaayos ang mga mahalagang aspeto ng ating bansa sa paglakas ng pamumuhunan at pagsasagana ng kabuhayan.

Consider these: 5.5 percent increase in GDP for the first quarter of 2006, and we may be expecting even 6 percent for the second quarter; record high of 21 billion dollars in foreign exchange reserves, when we need only 16 billion dollars to be able to meet our foreign exchange needs, and therefore stability of the Philippine peso, and therefore, continuing slowdown of inflation inspite of the fact that world oil prices are soaring; we had a historic 18 billion-peso budget surplus in April and 5 billion pesos in May. The biggest in almost a decade and yet we're expected to balance our budget by 2008 or 2010 yet; we have a marked inflow in foreign direct investments at 500 million dollars for the first 4 months; we have a double-digit growth of our exports, 17 percent for May. Congratulations! Peter and all the exporters including the ones located here in Clark Economic Zone. Lumalago na ang kaban ng bayan. Salamat sa ating mga fiscal reforms. Napopondohan na ang mga proyekto at programang matagal nang hinihingi ng mga tao, mga negosyo pati na rin ng mga regions.

Sa wakas, puwede nang umarangkada ang investment ng gobyerno at negosyo. Ito ang susi sa pag-unlad ng bansa at pagpawi sa kahirapan, gaya ng ipinamalas ng mga maunlad na bansa sa Asya at iba pang dako ng mundo. Sa wakas, handa nang bumangon ang Pilipinas at lumahok sa liga ng kasaganaan, kapayapaan at tunay na kalayaan.

Today, we shall bring that day of national resurgence closer by unleashing the great strategic investment and development initiatives of the Metro Luzon Urban Beltway super region or sub-economy. As we have already done with North Luzon, Central Philippines, and Mindanao, we shall today have our final consultation in prioritizing projects so that we can input them in the revised Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and my State of the Nation Address on July 24th.

As I have said earlier, we will bring vital money to investments to create truly "super" regions in our sub-economies from Luzon to Mindanao. We envision this to change the economic landscape for the better because each super region or sub-economy has its own natural competitive advantage and we will build on that. And so in consultation with the Regional Development Councils, we're putting forward a series of packages that if taken together will invest in what is strong. To the strengths of the regions, we will bolster education, invest in infrastructure and encourage greater investments in the super regions or sub-economies such as — and I will repeat what I have said earlier — logistics investments here in the Clark-Subic Economic Zones; investments in expressways and ports in the urban beltway stretching from Clark and Subic Economic Zones through Metro Manila to Southern Tagalog; business process outsourcing in the cyber corridor which stretches from Baguio City through Clark, through Cebu to Davao; touristic investments in the Central Philippines; and agri-business investments in Mindanao and North Luzon, to name only a few.

The most important expressways in the Metro Luzon Urban Beltway are the North Luzon Expressway, which most of you passed today to come here; the South Luzon Expressway connecting to the Southern Tagalog arterial road; the 27 billion-peso Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway; and then, we are building also a highway from Clark to Dinggalan, right? So that the urban beltway is gonna be really like cross-shaped rather than just one belt. And now, speaking of the urban beltway's newest ongoing project which is the Clark-Subic, a lot of people have been asking what's the status. I understand that as of June 21 the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway is one-third complete.

Although, there's a 5 percent slippage, the contractor has assured the BCDA that the Clark-Tarlac package will be completed in August 2007 and the Subic-Clark in November 2007 as scheduled.

Earlier, there was a problem given to me, Gary. I told Gary Teves about this, that from 1,000 pesos the BIR raised the assessment of the land for the right-of-way in the Mabalacat interchange to 10,000 pesos. And I asked Gary to investigate this, but the mayor of Mabalacat heard about our problem and he said, he is talking to their constituents to tell them that they should just sell it at P1,000. So that's solve our problem. Otherwise, we would have to increase the value of the cost of what we have to pay from P100 million to P1 billion just for the right-of-way in Mabalacat interchange. Well, it's good that we're having this meetings now so that we can solve these problems.

We have to do this because we have to increase our capital stock by 10 percent a year to catch up with the richer countries of Asia. So we will undertake an additional 100 billion pesos in annual investments for the whole country because our tax reforms gave us P80 billion a year. And our administrative reforms are giving us at least P20 billion more. So that's P100 billion more that we will be investing. We will spend in public investments in infrastructure but also in social development, security, livelihood and enterprise facilities, and good governance. And this will in turn address the problem of employment, food and prices.

So, I'd like to thank all of you and on this last day of consultation for the Medium-Term Philippine Public Investment program. Where is Romy Neri? Oh, I thought you were not here. We will have no meeting without you. We will ask Romy now to take the floor.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement during her Joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council (RDC) round 2 meeting for Metro Luzon (Urban Beltway). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212732/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2833&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during 15th Cabinet Meeting and National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Board Meeting

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During 15th Cabinet Meeting and National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Board Meeting

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, August 1, 2006]

Before I go to the first item of the agenda which will be Nonoy Andaya's accounting of the SONA budget, I'd like to make a statement:

I continue to condemn media and leftist killings in the strongest terms, and I have ordered law enforcement to dig deeper into the motives involved. These cases could be personally or politically motivated, but whatever the score, it is the full intent of the government to check all criminal acts and uphold the rule of law.

I am giving a 10-week deadline for the Department of Justice and the Philippine National Police to jail suspects in at least ten media or leftist killings.

Thank you.

Can we go now to Nonoy Andaya. And the media is invited to listen to Nonoy's presentation.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement during 15th Cabinet Meeting and National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Board Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212316/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2923&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the Mount Mayon evacuation

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

On the Mount Mayon evacuation during a Joint NEDA Board and NAPC Cabinet Group Meeting

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, August 8, 2006]

I commend the local officials of Albay, the concerned agencies of the national government, the private sector and the affected communities for the successful evacuation of families exposed to the danger of an imminent eruption of Mount Mayon.

With the well-organized and effective handling of this crisis, we are confident of achieving a zero-casualty goal in this looming natural disaster.

We call on all the residents, local residents not to flirt with danger by going back to the declared danger zones and instead heed the advice of experts and disaster officials to stay out of harm's way.

We are sure those affected that we have enough resources to shoulder basic needs and services in the evacuation centers, and that the people will not be kept from their homes a minute longer than is necessary.

Our solidarity and cooperation are imperative in keeping our families safe and sound.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement on Mount Mayon Evacuation during a Joint NEDA Board and NAPC Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212226/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2912&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on improved tax collection and lowering of the inflation target to 3.5 – 4.0 percent

Opening/Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on improved tax collection and lowering of the inflation target to 3.5 – 4.0 percent along with the marked drop in poverty incidence in the different provinces of the country

[Issued at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, August 10, 2006]

Magandang hapon.

Habang abala tayo sa paglikas ng ating mga kababayan sa digmaan at bulkan maganda ring bigyan natin ng pansin ang mga tagumpay nating natatamo lalo na sa ekonomiya.

Kanina lamang nanggaling ako sa Clark kung saan may bagong call center na naman na tinatayo, isang libo siguro ang kanilang kukunin. Yung mga investor mula sa America kanina ay walang tigil nagpahayag ng kanilang kompiyansa sa mga patakaran at taong-bayan ng ating bansa. Importante ang ganitong kompiyansa upang lumago ang investment at trabaho at sumagana ang buhay ng lahat ng Pilipino.

Pangunahin sa mga pagsusog sa ekonomiya at kompiyansa ang pagkolekta ng buwis na kailangan para sa ating mga imprastruktura at mga serbisyo sa taong-bayan. At ako ay nasisiyahan at lampas sa target ng value-added tax ang nakubra natin sa unang anim na buwan ng kanyang implementasyon. Malaking naitutulong nito para mapondohan natin ang mga imprastrukturang nagpapaunlad sa mga super region at upang mapondohan natin ang kalusugan at edukasyon ng taong-bayan.

Isa pang good news: ang laki ng ating exports ngayon, Hunyo ngayon mula Hunyo nung isang taon, beinte porsiyento compare to anim na buwan nung isang taon ay 17 percent ang pagtaas ng export. At ang pinakamabilis umangat ay ang garments, ibig sabihin noon kahit na walang quota kaya na natin ang kumpetensya. Higit na exports, higit na trabaho, higit na pag-angat ng kabuhatan.

Isasalaysay ngayon ng ating economic team kung papano natin natamo ang mga tagumpay na ito at ang gagawin upang lalong sumulong ang ekonomiya, dumami ang trabaho at maiangat ang buhay ng buong sambayanan. Hindi lamang ating economic team kundi na rin ang economic team ng buong mundo na tumutulong sa atin.

So, narito ngayon katabi ko si Secretary Peter Favila ng Trade and Industry. Congratulations! Peter for the big growth in exports; sa aking kaliwa naman, si Secretary Romy Neri, ang ating chief economist, head ng NEDA. Congratulations! Romy for the good things happening in the economy.

Meron tayong dalawang panauhin: we have Mr. Joachim Von Amsberg, country director of the World Bank. Welcome to our show, Joachim! Joachim is what Joey Salceda likes to call you; and we have our new IMF representative, Mr. Reza Baqir. Welcome to the Philippines, Reza!

At si Gary Teves, ang ating Secretary of Finance ay nasa ospital. Magdasal tayo na makalabas siya kaagad. Liquid diet pa siya hanggang ngayon. Pero nandito ang Undersecretary ng Finance, si Gil Beltran. Good afternoon, Gil.

Okay. So Peter magsimula tayo doon sa exports. Congratulations! 20 percent June to June; 17 percent six months to six months.

* * *

Closing statement:

So, I'd like to thank everybody involved. First of all, our tax collectors, thank you for giving us the taxes to spend; our economic planners, thank you for helping us point out to the world where we're going to spend the money; our managers of our business community, thank you for the increase in exports which increases jobs; and to our friends from the international financial community, thank you also for your support to us.

So, I'd like to thank you all: Peter Favila, Romy Neri, Gil Beltran, Joachim Von Amsberg, and Reza Baqir, welcome to the Philippines once again!

To all of you, thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing statements during a roundtable discussion on improved tax collection and lowering of the inflation target to 3.5 – 4.0 percent along with the marked drop in poverty incidence in the different provinces of the country. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212208/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2883&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) meeting

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) meeting

[Issued at the Salvacion Elementary School, Brgy. Salvacion Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, August 26, 2006]

Good noon. Good noon.

I would like to call this National Disaster Coordinating Council meeting to order. We just came from Barangay La Paz in Nueva Valencia.

Indeed, this is a tragic accident. Our first order of business is to ensure the health and safety of our citizens who are in the path of the spill. We must make sure that the physical health and livelihood of our people are cared for today and in the days ahead.

Central to the care of our citizens is to clean up the spill as soon as possible to protect the health and well-being of our people, and make sure our pristine coastline is preserved and brought back to health.

I am personally pressing our government, Petron, the ship owner, and every responsible party to move quickly and decisively to clean up this eco mess. And we want to make sure the sunken tanker is secured, the fuel safely off-loaded, and this accident comes to a rapid conclusion.

I am instructing the meticulous and rapid assessment of the situation by the Department of Health, followed by prompt and sustained actions. Mobile hospitals shall be set up and evacuation procedures shall be undertaken as necessary to ease suffering and save lives. As to the need for coconut husks, bagas, rice straw, human hair and chicken feathers, Task Force Guimaras headed by Secretary Nonong Cruz, has been instructed to work with the private sector, including the media and the maritime industry, to put up drop off centers all over the country, and ensure speedy transport and deployment in the affected area. I have declared the Guimaras oil spill as a national calamity that demands the cooperation and solidarity of all Filipinos.

Moving forward, we can assure every single concerned citizen and group that there will be a full investigation of this entire matter to determine what happened, who is responsible and what steps we need to take to make sure that this type of accident doesn't happen again.

For this purpose, we shall be adding the Secretary of Justice to the Task Force Guimaras which is right now headed by Secretary Nonong Cruz and with members: the Secretary of Environment, the Secretary of Transportation and Communication, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Social Welfare and the Commanding Admiral of the Coast Guard.

We commend all of the volunteers who are working tirelessly to clean up this spill. This includes a heartfelt thanks to not only the men and women from the Philippines, but our international friends and partners from governments and the environmental community who are part of this clean up crusade. On behalf of the Filipino people, thank you.

This accident once again underscores the fragile nature of our environment and why we must, as a people, seek to do more to preserve our precious natural resources. In the months ahead, we will be revealing a comprehensive blueprint we have previously announced called the 'Berdeng Pilipinas' initiative.

We must as a nation move aggressively toward energy independence and protection of our land, air and sea. 'Berdeng Pilipinas' will be an ambitious but achievable plan for environmental protection consistent with our values as a nation.

On a personal note, let me express how saddened I am to see our beautiful beaches besmirched by this accident, and the pain I feel for the men and women who are in harm's way, and who have had their health and livelihood affected. We will do everything in our power to right the wrongs caused by this unfortunate accident.

So I would like to thank the media who covered this opening statement so that we can have a frank and candid discussion. I would request now that those who are not members of the NDCC be excused so that we can have an executive session.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement during the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212101/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2853&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) meeting

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) meeting

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, September 29, 2006]

I'd like to call this NDCC meeting to order.

Before anything, I would like to issue a statement:

Pinupuri natin ang lahat ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan sa kanilang mabilisang tugon at mahusay na koordinasyon sa kalamidad. Habang nagsisikap tayong aksiyonan ang landas ng nasira, sinisiguro natin sa publiko na wala tayong kakaligtaang pagkilos upang makabangon muli ang taumbayan at pamayanan.

Kagalingan ng sambayanan ang pangunahin nating layunin upang masagip ang mga buhay at tahanan, at tiyaking may sapat na pagkain, gamot at saklolo. Ako mismo ang nakikipa-ugnay sa mga pamahalaang lokal sa mga nasalantang lugar, at dapat silang manguna at mamuno bilang mga lider sa krisis. Tinutukoy natin hindi lamang ang Metro Manila kundi ang mga lalawigang malayo.

Ipinapaabot ko ang aking matinding pagmamalasakit sa mga pamilyang tinamaan nitong mabagsik na trahedya, at panata natin sa kanila na darating ang mga tulong mula sa pamahalaan. Pagkalinga sa mga biktima ang una nating tungkulin.

Samantala, inaatasan ko rin ang mga ahensiyang kinauukulan na subaybayan ang mga presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihin, upang maiwasan ang pagsasamantala, agad ibalik ang kuryente sa Luzon, at kagyat na linisin at hakutin ang mga nakakalat na bagay at mapanganib na sagabal. Inaatasan ko sa MMDA at DPWH na isumite sa akin ang kanilang mga detalyadong rekomendasyon ukol sa mga konkretong regulasyon para sa pagtatayo ng mga malalaking karatula.

Hangad natin makaahon ang buong bansa sa kalamidad na ito na nagkakaisa at buo ang loob upang maisaayos ang lahat ng pagkasalanta sa lalong madaling panahon.

Kasihan nawa tayo ng diyos.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement during the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412212052/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2926&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the 2007 National Budget [Filipino]

Panimula/Katapusang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Sa Roundtable Discussion ukol sa 2007 Pambansang Badyet

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 16 ng Oktubre, 2006]

Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Nagalak tayo sa pag-apruba ng Mababang Kapulungan sa ating budget sa susunod na taon. Ngayon naghihintay tayo sa pagsulong ng budget sa Senado para maisabatas na itong lalo sa madaling panahon at agad makinabang ang taong-bayan lalo na ang karaniwang mamamayan sa mga programa at proyektong nasa budget.

Makikita natin sa budget ng 2007 ang bunga ng ating mga reporma sa buwis. Lampas 1.1 trillion pesos ang halaga ng mga programa at proyektong papopondohan. Subalit magagawa pa rin natin hatiin ang budget deficit, yung bang kalabisan ng gastos sa kita ng gobyerno, dahil sa lumalaking koleksiyon ng buwis. Dahil bumaba ang deficit, bumababa rin ang interest na sinisingil ng mga nagkakautang sa pamahalaan. Kaya naman sa kauna-unang pagkakataon bababa ang interest na babayaran ng gobyerno. Ang matitipid natin sa interest ay 22 billion pesos at ito ay uukol natin sa serbisyo publiko.

Tignan niyo kung saan yung 22 billion pesos sa bayad ng interes pupunta. Tataas nang halos 16 billion pesos ang alokasyon para sa edukasyon; halos limang bilyon ang dagdag sa kagawaran ng kalusugan kasama ang 3.5 billion pesos sa PhilHealth. At ito ay more than four times the budget for this year. At samantala naman lalago ng higit isang bilyon ang budget ng DSWD. Di ngayon na-save natin 22 billion sa interest — tataas tuloy ng 16 sa edukasyon, five sa kalusugan, at one sa DSWD. Tamang-tama yung na-save nating 22 billion ay pupunta sa social services.

Narito ngayon upang ipaliwanag ang mga programang nasa 2007 budget, si Budget Secretary Nonoy Andaya. Magandang hapon, Nonoy; nandito rin si Assistant Secretary Lilia Roces ng Department of Education. Magandang hapon, Lilia; nandito yung aking kumadre si — Undersecretary na nga pala noon nakilala ko Regional Director pa lang — Undersecretary Ethelyn Nieto ng Department of Health. Magandang hapon, kumadre; at ang aking dating kasamahan sa DSWD, si Lulu Pablo. Magandang hapon, Lulu.

So Nonoy, congratulations! Sa magandang pag-allocate mo ng budget natin. At first time, Nonoy, di ba na mas malaki ang social services kaysa sa interest payments.

* * *

Closing statement:

Sa Luzon naman kasi dalawa lang ang province that belong to the ten poorest — Mt. Province at saka... No, pero ang pinakamahirap Mt. Province at saka Masbate. Dapat siguraduhin ninyo that you are upgrading the hospital in Mt. Province and Masbate.

Siyempre kaya ko minemorize yung ten poorest province eh dapat pina-prioritize talaga natin yon kasi gusto natin na maramdaman ng pinakamahirap. Susunod nating imemorize uli yung pangalan ng limang pinakamahirap na bayan.

Nonoy, yung itong ginawa mong budget for 2007 ay talagang makakaraniwang Pilipino dahil nga sa pag-increase ng budget ng DepEd, ng DOH at PhilHealth, at saka ng DSWD. Kaya ang importante ay sana pumasa sa Senado itong budget na ito nang hindi pinapalitan. Hindi ba, Nonoy? Kaya ito kung pumasa ito sa ganitong anyo masasabi natin na 2007 is the year that it all comes together. Mararamdaman ng karaniwang mamamayan ang biyaya ng ating mga reporma.

Kaya maraming salamat Nonoy sa iyong leadership sa budget. At good luck din Assistant Secretary Roces sa iyong mga bagong paaralan to close the classroom gap. At saka Undersecretary Nieto, congratulations! Din sa upgrade ng ating public health services. At Lulu, good luck! Din sa ating KALAHI.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on the 2007 National Budget. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412210852/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3012&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on infrastructures and how they affect the average Filipino [Filipino]

Panimula/Katapusang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa Roundtable Discussion ukol sa mga inprastruktura at kung papaano nakakaapekto ang mga ito sa karaniwang Pilipino

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 17 ng Oktubre, 2006]

Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Mga kalsada at tulay ang pag-uusapan natin ngayon, at mga pantalan, paliparan, tren at paaralan, patubig at kuryente. Sa madaling salita imprastruktura.

Sa napakatagal na panahon kapus na kapus ang ating ginugugol sa imprastruktura. Tuloy noong mga taon ng dekada 90 at saka 80s, araw-araw ang mahahabang brownout. At bago natin pinalawak ang patubig sa ating administrasyon, minsan lamang umani sa isang taon ang libo-libung magsasaka. Kaya naman sa ilalim ng planong pangkaunlaran na hinayag natin sa SONA noong Hulyo, sa State of the Nation Address noong Hulyo, dodoblehin natin ang porsiyento ng ekonomiya na inilalaan sa imprastruktura. Sa ganitong paraan lalakas ang kita ng karaniwang Pilipino lalo na ang nasa lalawigan, giginhawa ang buhay at dadami ang trabaho. Ano ang ating maitatayo at paano ito makakatulong sa karaniwang Pilipino? Itong tatalakayin natin ngayon kasama ang ilang miyembro ng pamahalaan na may kinalaman sa imprastruktura.

Narito ang Secretary ng Public Works, si Jun Ebdane. Magandang umaga, Jun; narito ang Secretary ng Transportasyon, si Larry Mendoza. Magandang umaga rin, Larry; narito ang Chairman ng Infrastructure Monitoring Task Force, si Arty Yap ng PMS. Magandang umaga, Arty; at narito ang bagong administrasyon ng irigasyon si Art Lomibao. Magandang umaga, Art.

So, magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat at pag-usapan na natin yung imprastruktura. Arty, bilang PMS Director General, ikaw ang namumuno sa nagmomonitor ng imprastruktura natin. So, yung sinasabi ko kanina ang imprastruktura kasama dito yung mga kalsada. Jun, ano-anung mga importanteng kalsadang tinatayo natin ngayon sa ating bansa?

* * *

Closing Statement:

Yung Instrument Landing System. Kasi yung Instrument Landing System kinakailangan ng foreign airlines para sa kanilang mga standards. So November lalagyan na ng... Mabubuo na ang Instrument Landing System ng Boracay. Darating na yung unang chartered flight kasi ayos na, handa na lahat ang mga chartered planes hinihintay na lamang ito. 'di mas lalong dadami ang turista na naman sa Aklan at makakatulong doon sa kahirapan or sa karaniwang Pilipino doon sa Panay Island.

Yes, magsisimula ng Cagayan de Oro, Camiguin, Bohol, Cebu, Masbate at saka abot ng Bicol. Yon ang Central Nautical Highway. Kaya pupunta tayo sa Camiguin sa Huwebes para anunsiyuhin yung ginagawa natin para sa Nautical Highway na combination ng pantalan at saka yung highway. Kaya ang imprastruktura ay nakakatulong talaga sa karaniwang Pilipino at nagiging mas madali ang negosyo, nagiging mas madali magkaroon ng trabaho.

Kaya maraming salamat sa ating mga infrastructure officials. Maraming salamat, Larry Mendoza. Maraming salamat, Jun Ebdane. Maraming salamat, Art Lomibao. At yung nagmomonitor para tuloy-tuloy at walang mga aksayang panahon ang pagtayo ng imprastruktura si Arty Yap, maraming salamat din.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on Infrastructures and how they affect the average Filipino. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412211007/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3011&Itemid=38

**Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on interfaith dialogue and collaboration
[Filipino]**

Panimula/Katapusang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa Roundtable Discussion ukol sa dayalogo at kolaborasyon sa pagitan ng iba't-ibang relihiyon

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 20 ng Oktubre, 2006]

Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Sa darating na Martes, ipagdidiriwang natin ang Eid Ul Fitre, ang katapusan ng Ramadan. Kaya minarapat nating talakayin ngayon ang mga pagkilos upang isulong ang kaunlaran ng mga Pilipinong Muslim.

Pangunahin sa mga pagkilos na ito ang masigasig na patuloy na pagpapatupad ng kasunduang pangkapayapaan ng ating republika at ng Moro National Liberation Front o MNLF. Kabilang dito ang agarang pag-apruba sa budget ng ARMM, ang pagtatayo ng mga Shariah Court, at ang patuloy na paghirang ng mga Muslim sa iba't-ibang matataas na tungkulin sa gobyerno kabilang na ang Cabinet secretary, walong undersecretary, tatlong commissioner at limang embahador.

Hangad natin makapagpatupad din ng kasunduang pangkapayapaan sa pagitan ng republika at ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front o MILF. Bilyun-bilyong piso ang naghihintay ng kapayapaan upang magpondo ng mga negosyo, imprastruktura at proyektong pangkaunlaran sa Muslim Mindanao pag nagkaroon na tayo ng peace agreement.

Ngunit kahit wala pang peace agreement, umaarangkada na ang ating proyekto at mga programa para sa Mindanao Super Region, na si Secretary Jess Dureza ang nakatalagang champion. Para sa mga magsasaka, halimbawa, naglaan tayo ng higit dalawang bilyong piso taun-taon para sa mga maliliit na patubig at gayon ding halaga para sa mga kalsada mula sakahan patungong pamilihan.

Isinusulong din natin ang pagkakaunawaan ng Muslim at Kristiyano, at ang paglago at pagsigla ng kulturang Muslim. At walang patid ang suporta natin sa kilusan ng mga Muslim na mapayapa at kontra sa karahasang bunga ng pagbaluktot ng mga paniniwala ng Islam.

Ito ang ating tatalakayin ngayon kaya kasama natin sina Archbishop Tony Ledesma na Archbishop ng Cagayan de Oro at siya rin ang Chairman ng Episcopal Commission for Inter-Religious Dialogue. Magandang hapon, Archbishop Ledesma; at narito rin si Assistant Secretary Cora Yap Bahjin, ang pinakabago nating Muslim na ambassador. Siya ay namamahala ngayon sa Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination for the Department of Foreign Affairs. Magandang hapon, Ambassador Bahjin; at sa aking kanan naman ay si Isabel Tobias, ang Secretary General ng Presidential Council for Values Formation at siya rin ang namamahala ng ating interfaith dialogue. Magandang hapon, Isabel; at sa ating kanan isang kilalang-kilalang leader ng ating mga Christian community, si Bishop Efraim Tendero, siya ang National Director ng Philippine Council for Evangelical Churches. Siya rin ang co-chairperson ng National Interfaith Council. Magandang hapon, Bishop Ten, ang tawag natin; at nandito naman din si Professor Taj Basman, siya ay Commissioner ng UNESCO at siya rin ay commissioner for the Presidential Center for Moderate Muslims. Magandang hapon, professor Basman.

Thank you. Umpisahan natin si Archbishop Ledesma. Archbishop, dito sa Episcopal Commission for Inter-Religious Dialogues, kumusta na ho ang ating Inter-Religious Dialogue kasi ito'y isang napakaimportanteng gawain na kinikilala ngayon pati ng United Nations dahil sa resolution na pinakilala ng Pilipinas doon sa U.N.

* * *

Closing statement:

So, on this occasion of Ramadan and Eid Ul Fitre, it is very important that we remember that we are multi-ethnic society. So whether you are Catholic, Christian, Evangelical, Muslim, indigenous people, you answer to the name Filipino. And on the day of Eid Ul Fitre, in advance we'd like to say, Eid Mubarak. And we hope that there will be even greater understanding for peace in our country.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat. Thank you very much for being with us. I'll start my thanks again now with Professor Basman, maraming salamat. Thank you for promoting moderate Muslim; and thank you also Bishop Tendero for bringing interfaith dialogue to the grassroots; salamat Isabel because you're the one that puts it altogether for me, thank you very much; and to Cora, congratulations! On a well-deserved promotion to the ambassadorship; and archbishop, thank you very much, and in behalf of the Philippine government and the Filipino people thank you for all that the Bishop-Ulama Conference has been doing for peace in our country.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on Interfaith Dialogue and Collaboration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409204444/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3009&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on top performing schools and students of the National Achievement Test for School Year 2005-2006 [Filipino]

Panimula/Katapusang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa Roundtable Discussion ukol sa pinakamagagaling na paaralan at mag-aaral sa National Achievement Test para sa Taon ng Paaralan 2005-2006

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 25 ng Oktubre, 2006]

Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Napakahalaga ang edukasyon sa ating hangad na wakasan ang kahirapan at ipaunlad ang bansa. Sa gayon makikibahagi at makikinabang ang bawat Pilipino sa lumalakas na ekonomiya.

Upang tingnan ang kagalingan ng ating mga estudyante, taun-taon nagkakaroon tayo ng National Achievement Test.

Ngayong umaga kukuha tayo ng mga balita tungkol sa mga nangungunang eskwelahan at estudyante sa kamakailan lamang ginanap na National Achievement Test. Sa alam ko sa mga mababang paaralan, nangunguna ang Balatero Elementary School ng Mindoro Oriental at Sindangan Elementary School at Tinago Elementary School ng Southern Leyte. Nakakuha sila ng average na marka ng lampas siyamnapu't-tatlong porsiyento.

Sa mga high school naman, kinikilala natin ang Calbayog City National High School at Sulat National High School, kapwa nasa Samar, at Giloctong National High School sa lalawigan ng Cebu. Halos walumpung porsiyento ang average nila.

Dalawa ang galing sa Southern Leyte at dalawa ang galing sa Samar Island. Nagmukhang napakagaling ng Eastern Visayas. Alamin natin ang kanilang sikreto. Pero meron naman tayong dalawang estudyante naka-100 sa math mula naman sa Bohol. Alamin din natin ang kanilang sikreto pati yung sikreto ng mga number one at number two na mga eskwelahan.

Sa umagang ito, kilalanin natin at pakinggan ang mga guro at mag-aaral ng mga nangungunang pampublikong paaralan sa ating bansa. Ipapakilala sila ng ating Kalihim ng Edukasyon, si Secretary Jesli Lapus. Magandang umaga, Jing.

Sec. Jesli Lapus: magandang umaga, ma'am. Ma'am, bisita natin ngayon ang dalawang number one at number two sa high school at elementary. Sa inyo pong kaliwa ay si Mr. Renato Cagamoc, ang principal ng Calbayog City High School.

Binati nga natin siya nung nandoon tayo sa Calbayog, kaya nga inisip ko na magkaron tayo nitong talakayang ito kasi yung ipinagmamalaki nga ng mayor ng Calbayog yung kanilang naganap.

Sec. Jesli Lapus: at sa kanan po naman, ma'am ay si Mr. Marcelino Abordo, ang head teacher 3 ng Giloctong National High School sa Boloboloc extension, Cebu. At ang number one naman na paaralan sa elementarya galing po sa Balatero Elementary School, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. Si Mrs. Emilie Marquez ang atin pong principal.

Hindi lang pala maganda ang baybay at ang diving ng Mindoro, magagaling na mga bata sa Puerto Galera.

Sec. Jesli Lapus: si Mrs. Virginia Cortina naman po ang teacher in charge ng Sindangan Elementary School sa Macrohon, Southern Leyte.

Malayo, malayung-malayong bayan...

Sec. Jesli Lapus: number two po sila.

....Pero ang tatalino ng mga bata at mga guro.

* * *

Closing statement:

Okay. What we are going to do is we're going to instruct the Chairman of CHED, Secretary Carlito Puno to provide both of you a scholarship. Our answer to your prayers. Siyempre naman 100 yata ang math. Dapat papasok kayo sa engineering na kailangan-kailangan ng ating bansa at yon ang ating kinabukasan.

So, Jing napakaganda yung inyong program, and we have all these very masabi nating very inspiring examples. Siyempre kailangan magaling ang guro, kailangan magaling ang administrators, kailangan magaling ang mga bata, madasalin, masipag at lalo nakakatulong kapag tumutulong yung buong pamayanan at yung mga business community kung tumutulong sila. Eto ang mga sikreto kung papano nagiging magaling ang ating mga paaralan. Eto na rin ang sikreto ng kagalingan ng ating buong sistema ng edukasyon.

So, ibig sabihin noon tama yung mga hakbang, ngayon ang importante i-upscale natin. Very good.

So, maraming salamat at congratulations! Ha. Congratulations! Julie; congratulations! Flores; congratulations! din kay Principal Marquez; congratulations! Kay Mr. Cagamoc; congratulations! Kay Virginia, teacher; at congratulations! Din kay teacher Marcelino. At sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Jing Lapus.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on Top Performing Schools and Students of the National Achievement Test for Schoolyear 2005-2006. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203838/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3003&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo for an Official Visit to the People's Republic of China

**Departure Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
For an Official Visit to the People's Republic of China**

[Issued on October 27, 2006]

There is nothing more important for our nation than peace and prosperity. My most sacred pledge as President is to keep our nation strong and secure and to promote the common welfare. The recent nuclear test in North Korea reminded us all of the importance of regional solidarity in the face of irrational aggression.

My trip to China to meet with the regional leaders of ASEAN and China is a step toward securing the peace and security we need. We are in a new era, and we must forge new alliances and new friendships to protect our way of life.

My trip to China is also to celebrate the role ASEAN has played in bringing China into the fold and integrating China into the world economy. China is now a powerhouse and I am proud that ASEAN and the Philippines have played a role in their success.

Our relationship with China will bring not only strengthened regional security, but it will also enhance our economic fortunes. Economic prosperity through new investments and new markets will help build a new, modern, more prosperous Philippines. We can and must continue to lift up our poor and improve our quality of life with good jobs and good wages. International engagement has helped us attain growth; it will continue to do so.

Meeting with ASEAN leaders and China is another strong step toward preparing the Philippines for greater prosperity. Promoting openness, extending cooperation and building friendship is a policy that clearly wins out over perpetuating a closed society, aiding alienation and seeking confrontation. We are on the right track in the region as we build solidarity among neighbors in pursuit of peace and economic development.

I am proud to represent the Philippines at this important moment in history. The Philippines is blessed with the honor of being the Chair of the ASEAN Leaders Summit and the host of the East Asian Leaders meeting, both in Cebu in December. This reflects great pride on the Philippines.

It is with pride that I depart for China to represent 85 million hardworking Filipinos. I look forward to a fruitful trip and, as always, I look forward to my return.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). President's Departure Statement for an Official Visit to the People's Republic of China. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203734/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3002&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Commemorative Summit marking the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Commemorative Summit marking the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations

[Released at the Multifunctional Hall, International Conference Centre, Li Yuan Hotel, Nanning, Guangxi, PROC, October 30, 2006]

Members of the media, ladies and gentlemen.

All of the ASEAN leaders are here in China to celebrate the 15th year of China 's partnership with ASEAN. As the chair of ASEAN this year, I would like to express how proud we are of the role that ASEAN has played in helping China integrate its economy and become an economic powerhouse. This role of China has helped ASEAN. Our trade is surging with China and we are starting to see more Chinese investment in ASEAN. We hope to see more.

China has surged onto the world stage and ASEAN has surged with it. The change has been profound. The leaders welcome the deepening of ties to the ASEAN – China free trade agreement. This agreement is built on respect, reciprocity and pragmatism. It will help all of our economies grow and strengthen peace and security in the region.

Going forward, the leaders agreed that we should continue to strengthen the ASEAN – China partnership. We agreed to promote confidence-building measures to further enhance mutual trust and understanding, to intensify interactions and to allocate adequate resources to steer the relations and cooperation for mutual benefit.

In the light of recent events in North Korea, regional peace and security has never been more important. Although ASEAN is not a security organization and it is focused on economic and regional integration, the meeting of ASEAN and Chinese leaders provides a significant forum for discussing economic and security issues. It helps tie the region together and strengthen solidarity in times of crisis.

We were impressed by the unanimity of every leader on the issue of North Korea and the resolve to work together as a region to seek a diplomatic solution through the resumption of the six-party talks. We were also impressed with the concern that was expressed by China and the hands on role it is playing to bring this issue to a positive conclusion.

We in ASEAN thank Premier Wen Jiabao and the government and people of China and Guangxi and Nanning for their excellent and magnificent hospitality. And I invite all of you to the ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines where we shall also hold the annual ASEAN + China Summit, the ASEAN + Three Summit and the East Asia Summit.

We also look forward to the opportunity of hosting a meeting among China, Korea and Japan.

We are confident that these series of meetings which started today here in Nanning will make a very significant contribution to our shared goals of regional peace, stability and prosperity.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Commemorative Summit Marking the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203701/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2997&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Commemorative Summit marking the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations

Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Commemorative Summit marking the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations

[Released at the Multifunctional Hall, International Conference Centre, Li Yuan Hotel Nanning, Guangxi, PROC, October 30, 2006]

Thank you, your Excellency Premier Wen Jiabao.

My fellow leaders in the ASEAN family:

I would like to begin by thanking Premier Wen Jiabao and the government of China for the magnificent hosting of this 15th anniversary of ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit.

This summit is more important than ever because open dialogue and trust between peoples and nations has never been more important than in today's world — all of the ASEAN leaders who travelled to China to celebrate this very important milestone for ASEAN, the region and the world.

We in ASEAN takes some amount of pride and satisfaction in helping China become an economic powerhouse as a result of economic, political and cultural collaboration between ASEAN and China.

China has surged onto the world stage and ASEAN has surged with it. The change has been profound. ASEAN welcomes the deepening of ties to the ASEAN-China free trade agreement. This agreement is built on respect, reciprocity and pragmatism. It will help all of our economies grow and strengthen peace and security in the region.

So it gives me great pleasure to declare today that we in ASEAN believe that relations between China and ASEAN have never been better or stronger. This is an important state of affairs that can only help the region and the world.

Yet, what is most important is not what has transpired between ASEAN and China or even between our individual countries and China. What is important is what happens next. What will our relationship look like 15 years from today? Will our economies not improve? Will there be less poverty and more prosperity? Will the world be safer and more secure?

In the light of recent events in North Korea, regional peace and security has never been more important. ASEAN is not a security organization. It is focused on economic and social integration.

Yet, this meeting of ASEAN and Chinese leaders provides a significant forum for discussing economic and security issues. It helps tie the region together and strengthen solidarity in times of crisis.

These are the issues that we must focus our attention on. These are the issues that should be the subject of our meeting here in China and later in the Philippines as we forge a vision of what the future will be like for the next generation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203715/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2998&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo after an Official Visit to the People's Republic of China

**Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
After an Official Visit to the People's Republic of China**

[Released at the Terminal 2, NAIA, Pasay City, November 3, 2006]

Good evening. Please sit down.

Vice President De Castro, Cabinet members, General Esperon, our officers of the Armed Forces, other government officials, ladies and gentlemen.

Umuwi ang inyong lingkod na may malaking pag-asa para sa Pilipinas ukol sa pagsulong ng ekonomiya at seguridad sa buong East Asia. Bilang chair ng ASEAN at co-chair ng ASEAN-China Summit, nadala natin sa pansin ng rehiyon ang mga adhikain ng mga Pilipino para sa sama-samang katatagan at kaunlaran sa ilalim ng pag-iral ng tunay na kalayaan at demokrasya.

Buong loob tayong mapabisa ang diplomasya para sa taumbayan maging sa paghandog ng higit na pangangalakal at pamumuhunan upang lumikha ng mga trabaho o humubog ng malakas na pagkakasundo sa rehiyon para sa kapayapaan at seguridad o proteksyunan ang interes at kinabubuti ng mga Pilipino saan man sila nagtrabaho at nakatira.

Moody's investor service raised our outlook in recognition of the huge progress we have made in the Philippines to reform our economy and take control of our economic future. I want to thank the millions of hardworking Filipinos including our overseas workers who have come together to help turn around our economic fortunes. The bandwagon of Filipino productivity and excellence is pulling us forward in the world. For the first time in a generation, we now had the money for long overdue investments in our people and our nation.

We have the first fruits of our reform, surplus money not debt, to invest in infrastructure, education and health care, and attract new investments to create good, high-paying jobs in the Philippines. This is another important step forward to help build up our great nation and raise the quality of life and help lift up our poor from the grip of poverty.

Maraming salamat. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Arrival Statement after an Official Visit to the People's Republic of China. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203636/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3043&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the Millennium Development Goals

**Opening/Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During a Roundtable Discussion on the Millennium Development Goals**

[Released at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, November 7, 2006]

Magandang umaga, mga kababayan.

Malakas ang piso at mataas ang stockmarket; gayon din ang rating ng bansa at pasok ng investment. Nakabalik na tayo sa mabilis na paglago ng ekonomiya noong dekada 60 — panahon ng aking ama — kung kailan nung panahon niya pangalawa sa Asya ang Pilipinas. Hindi na tayo pangalawa sa Asya dahil marami nang nakalampas sa atin mula nung panahong yon, pero at least yung mga growth rate natin ay umaabot na sa mga panahong yon.

Ngunit malamang tinatanong ng marami, ano ang biyaya sa masa nang pagsigla ng negosyo at ekonomiya? Sa pag-angat ang merkado at ekonomiya, kailangang makabangon ang karaniwang Pilipino.

Sa ating administrasyon, pinakamababa ang average na porsiyento ng mga tao nagsasabing mahirap sila. Yon ang tinatawag ng mga survey na 'average self-rated poverty.' nagmula itong survey nung panahon ni President Aquino. Nung panahong yon, 63 percent ang nagsabing mahirap sila on the average. Pababa ito bawat administrasyon: 62 kay Ramos, 60 kay Estrada, at nung Setyembre nitong taong ito malaking binaba, 51 percent ang nagsabing mahirap sila.

Isa sa mga pangunahing target natin sa pag-angat ng masa ang Millennium Development Goals na pinagkasunduan ng United Nations na sisikapin nating gawin mula taong 2000 hanggang 2015.

Labingdalawa ang Millennium Development Goals. Kasama dito... Well, first ano itong labingdalawa? — poverty, dietary energy requirement, gender equality and education, child mortality, HIV/AIDS, malaria, access to safe drinking water, nutrition, maternal health, elementary cohort survival rate, elementary participation rate, access to reproductive health services. Sa madaling panahon, sa madaling salita, itong pinag-uusapan nating mga Millennium Development Goals kasama dito yung hatiin ang dami ng maralita, labanan ang malaria at AIDS, ang pagkasawi ng mga bata, at paabutin sa lahat sa babae at lalaki ang pagkain, tubig at edukasyong kailangan para sa magandang buhay at kinabukasan.

Ngayong umaga, tatalakayin nating kung papano lalo nating mapapahusay ang ating pagsisikap para sa Millennium Development Goals, at sa gayon, mai-angat ang buhay at kabuhayan ng mamamayang Pilipino. Ginawa natin itong programang ito bilang pag-welcome sa ating National Anti-Poverty Commission Lead Convenor, si Secretary Ding Panganiban — congratulations! Ding — dahil yung National Anti-Poverty Commission na naghahangad na mabawasan natin ang kahirapan ay kasing-importante ng NEDA kaya nandito naman ang head ng NEDA, si Secretary Romy Neri. Magandang umaga, Romy.

At isa sa pinakamalaking dapat asikasuhin sa problema ni Ding Panganiban at tamang-tama dahil sa malawak niyang kasaysayan sa agrikultura ay yung sinasabi nila rin sa survey na marami ang nagugutom. Kaya itong kagutumang ito ay isa sa magiging malaking trabaho ng NAPC at ng National Nutrition Council na nasa ilalim ng Department of Health, kaya nandito rin ang ating Secretary of Health, si Pingkoy Duque. Magandang umaga, Pingkoy.

And of course, because we have internalized the Millennium Development Goals in our country, we are working very closely with the United Nations Development Program on monitoring our progress, and so here we have again the UNDP resident representative, Ms. Nileema Noble. Hello! Nileema.

Ding, maikuwento mo nga, sa nakita mo na yung challenges at saka yung scope ng trabaho ng NAPC Ding, ano. Ano ang gagawin natin para tuloy na bumaba yung ating poverty rate at saka itong hunger, itong very recent problem na lumalabas?

* * *

Closing statement:

Thank you, Nileema.

So, this is something that is very important to our economy, to make sure that the ordinary Filipinos feel the blessings of development. Pero siyempre kailangan din natin yung macro-economy, yung paglago ng ekonomiya para merong umaabot sa karaniwang Pilipino.

The growth of the economy, the opportunities for enterprise and the social payback of reforms — eto na nga, itong pinag-uusapan na natin ngayon — all are combining to boost our competitiveness in the international arena. We are making our mark in reaping confidence in Filipino excellence and enterprise operating in an environment of economic and political security.

Kailangan natin ang trabaho. Kailangan nating labanan ang kahirapan. Kailangan natin ang kakayahang makipagkompentensiya sa buong mundo. Kaya naman para maiwasan ang kahirapan or umangat mas lalo ang ating taong-bayan pinapaangat natin ang mga sektor na nagbibigay ng maraming trabaho, gaya ng call center at turismo, at lalo na ngayon umaangat ang medical tourism.

Medical tourism is one of the solid niches for the Philippines. We have among the best doctors, nurses and caregivers in the world. We've among the best medical facilities and we can have more in the tourist zones in our super regions. Cost is competitive and quality is high. Filipino professionals can serve the world right here at home, as we provide more jobs downstream and cut down poverty.

Kaya abangan ang susunod nating talakayan kung saan pag-uusapan natin ang medical tourism.

Until then, thank you so much, Nileema for joining us once again. Maraming salamat Pingkoy, good luck sa ating Anti-Hunger Campaign. Salamat Romy sa iyong framework na ginawa sa ating 'mitigating hunger plan.' and congratulations! And good luck! Ding sa iyong leadership sa National Anti-Poverty Commission.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on the Millennium Development Goals. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203607/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3041&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on medical tourism

Opening/Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During a Roundtable Discussion on medical tourism

[Released at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, Civic Drive, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, November 8, 2006]

Magandang umaga, mga kababayan.

Medical tourism is one of the solid niches for the Philippines. Nasa atin ang ilan sa pinakamagagaling na doktor, nurse at taga-alaga sa buong mundo. We've among the best doctors, nurses and caregivers in the world. We've among the best medical facilities kagaya nitong Asian hospital kung saan tayo narito ngayon. And we can have more in the tourist zones in our super regions. Cost is competitive and quality is high. Filipino professionals can serve the world right here at home as we provide more jobs downstream and cut down poverty.

Itong araw na ito, nandito nga tayo sa Asian hospital para magbigay ng halimbawa ng medical tourism. At kasama natin para sa talakayan ng medical tourism ang pinuno ng Department of Health, si Secretary Pingkoy Duque, magandang umaga, Pingkoy.

Ang medical tourism hindi lamang ibig sabihin mga doctor, ito ang pag-aalaga sa kalusugan ng mga maysakit o matatanda. At nandito rin ang namumuno ng ating Philippine Retirement Authority, si Former General Aglipay na siya ang namumuno ng Philippine Retirement Authority, para sa ganun magkakaroon din tayo ng mga nagpupunta dito para sa mga retirement villages. Magandang umaga, Egay.

And of course, one of the... Its the rich people who like to travel for medical reasons and among the things that they like to do is to have cosmetic surgery. We have here one of our cosmetic surgeons in our country, Dr. Manny Calayan of the Calayan Surgicenter Corporation. Good morning, Dr. Calayan.

And you know, Thailand is famous for medical tourism. Hindi naman tayo nahihya sa kumpetensiya ng Thailand dahil talaga namang number one ang Thailand sa tourism sa buong region. At sila naman ay hindi naman sila nagdadamot, pinapadala nila yung teknolohiya sa atin. Kaya itong Asian Hospital ay thirty percent ng Asian Hospital ang may-ari ay Thailand Medical Tourism, isang korporasyon ng Thailand na gumagawa nga ng medical tourism, and therefore, the CEO of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center is Pamela Robinson, president. Hello! Pamela, good morning. At ang medical director nitong Asian Hospital and Medical Center ay si Dr. Antonio Rivera. Magandang umaga, Dr. Rivera.

And we have another pioneer in medical tourism and cosmetic surgery tourism in the Philippines. We have David Bunevacz, president and founder and CEO of the Beverly Hills 6750 Cosmetic Surgery and Skin Institute. Good morning, David.

So, let's begin with Pingkoy. Nagpa-partner kayo ng Department of Tourism para sa medical tourism. So, gaano kalawak na ang ating mga facilities ng medical tourism dito sa ating bansa?

* * *

Closing Statement:

So, I hope that you'll all be very successful. So, thank you, David. I hope that you will be successful. Dr. Calayan, I hope you will continue to be successful. Dr. Rivera and Pamela, I hope that you will really bring the technology of successful practice here in the Philippines. And Egay, bring home all those balikbayan for their medical tourism here. At sa iyo rin Pingkoy, tuloy-tuloy na tulungan natin yung ospital at clinic para sa medical tourism.

The growth of the economy, the opportunities of our enterprise, and the social payback of reforms — all are combining to boost our competitiveness in the international arena. We are making our mark in reaping confidence in Filipino excellence and enterprise operating in an environment of economic and political security.

So, sa inyong lahat, congratulations!

Thank you very much, David. Thank you, Dr. Rivera. Thank you, Pamela. And thank you also Dr. Calayan. Thank you, Egay and thank you, Pingkoy.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on Medical Tourism. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203540/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3040&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the 10 percent increase across the board for Social Security System (SSS) pensioners

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on the 10 percent increase across the board for Social Security System (SSS) pensioners

[Released at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, November 13, 2006]

Magandang umaga, mga kababayan.

Bago sa lahat, we take this opportunity:

We salute Ronnie Alcano for making the Filipino people proud once again by dominating the World Pool Championship. This victory not only showcases the Filipino's master of the game, but the fact that we never run out of champions of excellence in all fields. This victory serves as an inspiration for our athletes who will compete in the forthcoming Asian games in Qatar, lalo na sa 2008 Beijing olympics, and for the younger generations to work hard in achieving our dreams for the greater good of the nation.

We join all Filipinos here and all over the world who continue to cheer for our victories in all fronts of world competition. And we join the nation in praying and hoping for a grand victory for Manny Pacquiao for his upcoming big fight.

Naisip kong pag-usapan ang mga atleta dahil ang ating mga atleta — at hindi lang ating mga atleta, atleta sa buong mundo — ay gaya ng maraming karaniwang Pilipino paglipas ng kanilang tumbok ng kalakasan, pag retired na sila, hindi na nakakahanap-buhay sa sariling kalakasan. Kaya kailangan-kailangan ng pensiyon. At dito naman sa ating bansa, bahagi ng ating reporma sa pananalapi ng gobyerno ang pagpapatibay ng Social Security System or SSS.

Dahil sa mga reporma sa ilalim ng ating administrasyon, inatasan ko hindi nagtatagal nakaraan si Chairman Thelmo Cunanan na dagdagan ang mga pensiyong ibinibigay ng SSS sa mga retiradong kasapi. Maagang Pasko ito mula sa inyong pamahalaang SSS.

Nagawa ito dahil ang SSS ay malakas ang mga reporma, mas malakas ang koleksiyon ng kontribusyon mula sa mga kompanya, lalo na sa mga hindi nagbabayad noon. Dahil din sa mga reporma, napahaba ang actuarial life ng SSS hanggang 2031 mula 2015 noon.

Alamin natin ngayong umaga kung paano napalakas ang SSS at kung anu-anong mas magandang serbisyo at benepisyo ang naging bunga ng ating mga reporma sa Social Security System. Kasama natin ngayon ang namuno ng mga reporma ng SSS, si Cora Dela Paz, ang pangulo at CEO ng SSS. Magandang umaga, Cora at congratulations! Sa mga reporma; nandito rin si May Catherine Ciriaco, siya ang Vice President ng Management Services Division. Magandang umaga, Catherine; at yung mga beneficiary natin, nandito si Errol Reburiano, ang Pangulo ng Philippine Retirees Club. Magandang umaga, Ginoong Errol; at si Pilar Racaza, ang Secretary ng SSS Pensioner's Club. Magandang umaga, Aling Pilar.

Okay. Ngayon, naalala ko noon pa, noon pang 2004 sinsabi ko na kay Cora, "Cora, itaas na natin ang pension, andami nagdadaing." At nung panahong yon sabi ni Cora hindi pa panahon kasi hindi pa matatag ang pondo ng SSS kaya sabi niya, hayaan niyo muna akong patatagin ito. At ngayon nga lately, matatag na. Naalala ko nung isang birthday ni Joey Salceda, yung ekonomista natin sa Kongreso at binigyan niya tayo ng lecture tungkol sa ekonomiya, isa sa mga sinabi niya bumaba na yung actuarial life ng SSS sa liderato ni Cora Dela Paz. Aba, sabi ko pwede ko nang kulinin uli yung SSS para mabigay na yung pension. Kaya nung nakita ko si Thelmo sabi ko, "Thelmo, panahon na."

Cora, anong mga ginawa mo mula nung 2004 noong kinukulit kita hanggang ngayon 2006 na ngayon nakaya na natin?

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement during a Roundtable Discussion on the 10 percent increase across the board for Social Security System (SSS) pensioners. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203441/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3036&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the successful outcome of the 14th APEC Leaders Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

On the successful outcome of the 14th APEC Leaders Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam during an informal interaction with media

[Released on board PAL flight bound for Singapore, November 19, 2006]

At the APEC meetings were a success. Anytime that world leaders come together to discuss regional and international problems, it's a positive.

Clearly, the world is changing. And in no time has there ever been such a need for greater and economic security than now.

APEC continues to make a contribution to peace, security and economic cooperation.

Siguro kung tatanungin mo ano'ng mga kontribusyon ko? Mabuti siguro pag-usapan natin, ano yung mga outcome?

Dalawa yung importanteng retreat ng APEC: yung isa tungkol sa ekonomiya, at yung isa tungkol sa seguridad.

Tungkol sa ekonomiya, ang pinaka-importanteng tanong: papaano natin ipapabalik ang usapan ng Doha Round? At yung pinagkasundo ng lahat ng mga leader, everybody should give more than when the talks fell, especially U.S., Europe and the G-20.

Ngayon sabi ko naman, kung gusto ng mga malalaking ekonomiya na sumama yung mga maliliit na ekonomiya, na kumbinsihin itong mga ito — U.S., Europe, the big economies of the G-20 — we should have a stake in making the Doha Round successful because many of our constituents don't have a clear view of the benefits of the Doha Round for them. Because in many of the developing countries that are still agricultural and industrial sectors that are not yet competitive. And so therefore, it's just convenient for them that the Doha Round is stalled.

So if you want Doha Round to go on, they must have a stake in the resumption of the Doha Round. And the way to do that I said is for WTO and the multilaterals help these sectors become competitive so that they will have a stake. They might even be able to export more under a globalized trading regime.

So, yon ang aking kontribusyon. Kasi lalo na sabi ko, ecotech... Because APEC is supposed to have three legs: the trade and investment liberalization; trade and investment facilitation; and ecotech (economic and technical cooperation) and... Improvement. And ecotech was born ten years ago in the Manila Summit. So it's ten years old. So we have... I mean, we also have a stake in making sure that ecotech has an important role to play in the APEC process not only in negotiating liberalization, facilitation but also economic and technical cooperation to make the developing countries competitive and therefore be able to convince their constituents that indeed there is a stake for everybody in making the Doha Round successful.

Ngayon doon naman doon sa second retreat, tungkol naman sa seguridad, security. At yung isang pinaka-importanteng pinag-usapan doon yung North Korea at ano ang gagawin para yung North Korea ay tigil-tigilin na itong kanyang nuclearization. Yung isang malaking pinag-kasunduan doon ay yung ano... Yung support for the Security Council Resolution 1718. Now, that that... The Security Council Resolution has not yet been unanimously adopted by all the members of the U.N. so there is an advocacy for that. And the Philippines was one of those who expressed strong support for that Security Council Resolution.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening Statement on the successful outcome of the 14th APEC Leaders Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam during an informal interaction with media. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203406/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3033&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Roundtable Discussion on lifting the poor through economic growth

Opening/Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the Roundtable Discussion on lifting the poor through economic growth

[Released at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, November 22, 2006]

Magandang hapon mga kababayan.

Sa pagsigla ng ating ekonomiya, hindi agad nakikita ang biyaya nito para sa mahihirap. Kung nagtatrabaho ang dating walang hanapbuhay, bihira sa kanila ang magtutungo sa media para magsabing gumanda ang buhay niya dahil sa paglakas ng negosyo, samantala pa ring nagrereklamo yung hindi pa nakakaahon sa kahirapan. At ito ang madalas nakikita.

Kaya naman mahalaga ang pagsusuri at istatistika mula sa mga... yung pinagkakatiwalaang eksperto at institusyon sa kanilang mga survey at pag-aaral, nakikita nila kapwa ang nakikinabang sa paglago ng ekonomiya at ang hindi pa nabibiyayaan.

Isa sa mga institusyong talagang tinitingala sa buong mundo ang World Bank. At nasisiyahan tayo na sa kanilang ulat kamakailan, yung East Asia Review, pinuri ng World Bank ang pagsulong sa ating ekonomiya dala ng ating mga reporma sa pananalapi ng gobyerno, kabilang nito ang paglakas ng kompiyansa at investment ang isang milyon at dalawang libong dagdag sa trabahong pasahod at ang mas mabagal na pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihin.

Makakasama natin ngayong hapon ang namumuno ng World Bank dito sa Pilipinas, our frequent guest, Country Director World Bank of the Philippines Joachim Von Amsberg, whom we call Joachim. Good afternoon, Joachim; at yung ating mga nag-aalaga ng ating mga mahihirap, ang Assistant Secretary ng Social Welfare and Development, si Mat Montaña. Magandang hapon, Mat; at yung Assistant Secretary Dolly Castillo ng National Anti-Poverty Commission. Magandang hapon, Dolly.

Meron din tayong mga karaniwang mamamayan na pwedeng magkuwento kung papaano gumanda ang kanilang buhay itong nakaraang panahon ng ating administrasyon, si Marilyn Pagunsan ng Barangay 639 sa San Miguel, Manila. Magandang hapon, Marilyn; at si Rogelio Amatorio, fisherfolk sectoral representative. Maayong hapon, Roger. Maayo nga hapon tungod kay ikaw ay isa nga Ilonggo, Ilonggo. Okay, halin sa Guimaras.

So, let's begin with Mr. Joachim Von Amsberg. You have your East Asia Review of the World Bank, thank you for the nice things you've said about the Philippines. And since you've said that we're having good... A good economic performance, and everybody accepts that there's good economic performance. The question is, how does it get to the poor in our country? And that's what the World Bank also can evaluate for us.

* * *

Closing statement:

And a lot of them live in those ten poorest provinces. So that's being monitored now by the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

So, I would like to thank the World Bank for pointing out where we have improved and also for giving us indications where we need to improve more to lift up the lives of our poor from poverty. And also the willingness to lend us funds to be able to meet the problem of poverty. So I'd like to thank you Joachim of the World Bank and thank you for being with us once again.

And I would like to thank also of course our representatives of the ordinary Filipinos who can explain to us how our policies have made their lives better. Maraming salamat, Marilyn, kapitbahay, sa iyong pagbisita ngayon. Damo gid

nga salamat Roger, ang atong supporter halin sa Guimaras, thank you very much. And I would like to thank our government senior officials for the work they're doing in order to make lives better for the poor. Thank you Mat for helping us with the local governments to lift up the lives of the poor, for your KALAHI-CIDSS which is a community development program of DSWD. And thank you Dolly for the work, the very important work that we will be counting on NAPC to do in the coming weeks and months under your new boss, Secretary Panganiban. So thank you for being here with us as well.

And to all of you, maraming salamat. Magdasal tayo na itong magandang mga istatistika natin ay talagang maramdaman ng ating mga mahihirap sa pinakamadaling panahon.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing statements during the roundtable discussion on lifting the poor through economic growth. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203050/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3030&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Joint National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, December 12, 2006]

The Philippines welcomes the sale of Mirant assets to a consortium led by Tokyo Electric Power Company and Marubeni Corporation of Japan. This is the peak of business confidence. It's clear proof that we're on the runway to economic take off on the back of growing political stability.

Moreover, this sale seals the stability of electric power in the Luzon area over the long-term. I thank Mirant for being a superb corporate citizen of the country, and I welcome our Japanese investors as true allies for progress and prosperity.

This happy development comes in the heels of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's commitment of huge development assistance to the Philippines. His commitment combines with investments such as this power venture to build a formidable alliance exemplified by the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement. Our tough economic decisions have driven investor confidence to the peak. This will continue to break the back of poverty. It will bring a windfall of jobs and grassroots enterprise.

Thank you.

Okay, thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Statement during the Joint National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141840/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3054&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on jeepney fare rollback [Filipino]

Panimula/Katapusang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa Roundtable Discussion ukol sa pagbaba ng pamasaha ng mga jeep

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, ika 13 ng Disyembre, 2006]

Mga mahal kong kababayan:

Noong Lunes, binawasan ang pasahe ng singkwenta sentimo sa Metro Manila, gitnang Luzon at timog katagalugan.

Sinimulan natin ang Linggong ito ng magandang balita. Napakagandang handog pamasko ang 50 sentimos kaltas.

Ang sunud-sunod na rollback sa presyo ng gasolina at krudo ang nagbigay daan para maipatupad natin ang kaltas pasahe. Dahil din sa pagmura ng gasolina at krudo, inaatas din natin na ang mga taxi operator ang kanilang hiling na pagdagdag sa flag down o unang singil sa taxi.

Kaya ngayong umaga, kasama natin sina Transportation Secretary Larry Mendoza. Magandang umaga, Larry; si LTFRB Chairman Tom Lantion. Magandang umaga, Tom; ang representative ng mga jeepney drivers at operators na si Olympio Vidallo. Magandang umaga, Olympio. Anong nickname mo? Olympio; at si Aling Sonia Mamaril na pasahero sa jeep araw-araw. Magandang umaga, Aling Sonia.

Okay. Sa una umpisahin natin kay Aling Sonia. Saan kayo sumasakay sa jeep araw-araw, Aling Sonia?

* * *

Closing statement:

Maganda talaga mapag-usapan ang ganitong magagandang balita para sa ating mga kababayan kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa ating masisipag at magigiting na tsuper sa kanilang tulong upang maipatupad ang bawas-pasahe sa diwa ng pasko.

Kaya mga kababayan, tulungan ninyong ikalat ang magandang balitang ito. Seven pesos na lang ang pamasaha sa pampublikong sasakyan sa Metro Manila, gitnang Luzon at timog katagalugan. At mas mababa pa kung kayo ay senior citizen o batang estudyante.

Maraming salamat Olympio sa iyo at sa lahat ng mga jeepney driver at sa iyong pagdalo sa araw na ito. Maraming salamat naman Ginang Sonia at sana manatili kayong may mga biyaya sa mga epekto ng ginagawang reporma ng ating pamahalaan. At maraming salamat din Tom. Congratulations! Sa iyong bagong pwesto bilang Chairman ng LTFRB. At maraming salamat din Secretary Mendoza. Ngayon asikasuhin natin naman yung ating closing the loop ng MRT-LRT.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on Jeepney fare rollback. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141809/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3053&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) Initial Public Offering (IPO)

Opening/Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on the Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corporation
(PNOC-EDC) Initial Public Offering (IPO)

[Issued at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, December 14, 2006]

Magandang araw mga mahal kong kababayan.

Una sa lahat, magsimula tayo tungkol sa Constituent Assembly:

I commend the decision of the House leadership as an act of statesmanship to unify not only the two chambers of the legislature but the whole nation around the issue of Charter change. I thank Speaker De Venecia and his valiant allies in the house for heeding the voice of national consolidation and unity without sacrificing the high vision of political renewal.

It's time to gather together all the energies of our people for the continuing work ahead, maintaining our economic strength, ensuring the social payback of economic reforms, and helping distressed communities back to their feet. Philippine democracy will find the proper time and opportunity for Charter reform at a time when the people deem it ripe and needful, and in the manner they deem proper.

The nation must consolidate now. I call upon all our institutions to stand as one for the country's future.

Sa larangan ng ekonomiya, kailangan tayo rin ay nagkakaisa. At sa larangan ng ekonomiya, nalalabi pa ang reporma ng kuryente. Kung magmahal ang elektrisidad, tataas din ang gastusin ng mga pamilya at ang presyo ng bilingin.

Kaya naman nagagalak tayo sa malaking pera na nalikom sa paglilista sa stock market ng ating PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, ang pinakamalaking kompanya sa Asya sa paglikha ng energy at kuryente mula sa singaw ng lupa o geothermal energy. Kumita ng halos labimpitong bilyong piso ang PNOC na magagamit upang maghanap at mag-develop ng marami pang geothermal energy.

Upang ipaliwanag ang magandang balitang ito, inanyayahan natin si Energy Secretary Popo Lotilla. Magandang hapon, Popo; ang presidente at CEO ng PNOC, si Paul Aquino. Magandang hapon, Paul; nandito rin si Mayor Giovani Ed Napari ng Kananga, Leyte. Maayong hapon, mayor; at nandito rin si Mr. Manuel Paete, ang PNOC Leyte manager. Maupay nga kulop; at si Mr. Bienvenido Napoles, isang beneficiary dahil siya ang barangay captain ng barangay Tongonan sa Kananga, kaya nandoon yung Tongonan geothermal plant ng Leyte.

Well, Paul you're the hero of the day because you had a very, very successful offering. So papaano natin mapapaliwanag 'to? Anong ibig sabihin nitong nakabenta ang PNOC-EDC sa stock market? Maraming bumili, sobra pa sa hiningi n'yong presyo. Tumaas ang presyo ng stock, hindi ng kuryente, ng stock. Oo.

* * *

Closing statement:

Kaya talagang nandito tayo sa virtuous cycle — maraming biyaya sa pamayanan, maraming biyaya rin sa lahat ng consumers dahil sa pagbawas ng kuryente maraming biyaya rin ang buong sambayanan dahil sa lumalakas ang kaban ng ating bansa.

Okay. Masigla ang tugon ng merkado sa initial public offering o IPO ng PNOC-EDC. Dahil dito mas lalong sumisigla ang ating ekonomiya. Kapag masigla ang ekonomiya, ang benepisyo ay bumababa sa mga kababayan

natin sa pamamagitan ng dagdag na trabaho, kabuhayan at serbisyong pampubliko. Mas matatag ang piso, mas pinalakas na social services at magagandang imprastraktura.

Kaya salamat Secretary Popo Lotilla sa buong energy family dahil sa mga ginagawa ninyo para mas guminhawa ang buhay ng taong-bayan. Maraming salamat din at congratulations! Paul for the very, very successful public offering. At Ginoong Paete, maraming salamat sa lahat ng official and staff ng PNOC dahil magandang korporasyon kayo kaya tuloy mabenta yung inyong stocks. Okay. Ug daghan salamat sab kan Mayor Napari and more power. Literally more power to the town of Kananga and may we have electronics companies going to invest in your town. Ug kan Barangay Captain Napoles, congratulations! To all of your constituents. At sana mas dumami ang Barangay Tongonan sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas na nakikinabang dito sa masigla at masigasig na public offering ng PNOC-EDC.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable discussion on the Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) Initial Public Offering (IPO). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141751/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3052&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on Social Reform, January 3, 2007

**Statement of President Arroyo:
On Social Reform**

[Delivered at Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 3, 2007]

The social payback of reform

We're grateful to all the sectors and to the Filipino people themselves who've worked hard to keep the economy humming. The strength of the peso will cut our debt payments and free up funds for greater social impact, uplifting more households, bringing more kids to school, extending better health services and feeding the hungry. In the meantime, we also acknowledge the growing anxieties of our exporters over this development but our economic team is on top of this issue, conducting the necessary consultations to deal with it fairly and equitably. We want a balanced economy with balanced benefits that would keep profits intact and generate more jobs while driving more resources to assisting the poorest of the poor.

Kung ipapasa ng Kongreso ang badyet, malaki ang i-aambag nito sa mga programang pangkabuhayan, pang-edukasyon, pangkalusugan, pabahay at pagkain, kasama na ang pagbibigay ng isang kilong bigas araw-araw sa mga nagugutom na pamilya. Bukod dito, lalo nating mapapabilis at mapapalawak ang rehabilitasyon ng mga nasalanta ng bagyo, baha, bulkan at iba pang kalamidad sa taong nagdaan.

Okay. So ano ang pinaka-kailangang gawin natin para masigurado maramdaman ng taong-bayan, ng karaniwang taong-bayan yung mga biyaya ng ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint AFP and PNP Command Conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the Joint AFP and PNP Command Conference

[Issued at the Conference Room, 104th Brigade Headquarters, Camp Gen. Teodulfo Bautista, Brgy. Busbus Jolo, Sulu, January 8, 2007]

Before we have the command conference, I would like to make a statement:

I commend the AFP for the successful operation against the Abu Sayyaf and the JI. This proves that these terrorists elements have nowhere to hide. They're in fact already doomed to annihilation. Our fight against terror goes hand in hand with the global and regional effort. As we face the ASEAN Summit, we would like to assure all our allies in East Asia and beyond that the Filipino soldiery and people are on watch every hour of the day. They are determined to do their share to defeat terror for a more secure and safer world. Our meetings in Cebu will sustain the momentum in our collective fight against terror and in mapping up all forms of instability that affect the run of trade, cooperation and people-to-people solidarity in this part of the world.

The Philippines will continue to be a strong player in security and trade, in fighting poverty and building prosperity. This is our commitment to the Filipino people, to all the peoples of East Asia and to all our allies like the United States represented here by Charge d' Affaires Paul Jones of the U.S. Embassy.

Earlier this morning, we were in the town of Parang, the hometown of Governor Loong — where is Governor Loong? — and we inaugurated the USAID project, the Parang-Indanan road, which brings the former far away town of Parang to within half an hour's drive of Jolo. In fact, General Esperon said, it used to take him one week.

So, these are some of the benefits of our strategic alliance with the United States. And indeed, we welcome everybody, we welcome this partnership. And once again congratulate the AFP for their stunning victory against the Abu Sayyaf and the JI.

Thank you.

* * *

Second statement:

I commend the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the successful operation against the Abu Sayyaf and the JI. This only proves that these terrorists elements have nowhere to hide. They're in fact already doomed to annihilation. Our fight against terror goes hand in hand with the global and regional effort. As we face the ASEAN Summit, we'd like to assure all our allies in East Asia and beyond that the Filipino soldiery and people are on watch every hour of the day. They are determined to do their share to defeat terror for a more secure and safer world. Our meetings in Cebu will sustain the momentum in our collective fight against terror and in mapping up all forms of instability that affect the run of trade, cooperation and people-to-people solidarity in this part of the world.

The Philippines will continue to be a strong player in security and trade, in fighting poverty and building prosperity. This is our commitment to the Filipino people, to all the peoples of East Asia and to all our allies like the United States. Speaking of the United States, earlier this morning, we were in Parang, which used to be a very remote town of Sulu. It used to take General Esperon and the other soldiers one week from Jolo to Parang Barring Ambuscades. Now, it only takes half an hour. And we thank our American allies for contributing that road through the growth with equity in Mindanao project of the USAID. This is only of the many examples of how our Filipino and American troops and officials have been working together and bringing prosperity to areas like this beautiful island of Sulu.

Once again, congratulations! To our men in the armed forces for their stunning victory against the Abu Sayyaf and the JI yesterday.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Joint AFP and PNP Command Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412173613/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1850&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statement: President Arroyo during the Roundtable Discussion on ecozone and Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Opening/Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Roundtable Discussion on ecozone and Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

[Issued at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 10, 2007]

Mga kababayan:

The Philippines hosts the ASEAN Summit at a time that the whole region is taking stock of the present and planning ahead for the future. Great stakes are involved in the continuing integration of the entire East Asia which is driven by strong centripetal forces, to close ranks for a safer and more secure community, more open and equitable trade cooperation in all fronts of energy development and the prosperity of diverse peoples.

We have a great future in East Asia as a caring and sharing community. This meeting of leaders will be another golden opportunity to carve out new directions of development across borders, fighting poverty, and building coalitions of technology. We stand at the threshold of great challenges and opportunities. Timely decisions will enable ASEAN and East Asia to seize the moment and the momentum to achieve broader human security, peace and prosperity at the grassroots of every village and community.

The Philippines is determined to exercise its leadership towards this noble end. The Filipino people are determined to play their role as good regional and global citizens to spread the message of goodwill, cooperation and consensus for the benefit of all. All roads lead to Cebu, all for one and one for all.

Sa pagsisikap nating ipa-abot sa karaniwang tao ang mga biyaya ng ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya, pati na rin ang ating liderato sa ASEAN itong taon, napakahalaga ang pag-akit ng investment at paglago ng negosyo upang lumikha ng anim hanggang sampung milyong dagdag na trabaho sa ating panunungkulan mula 2004.

Sa kabutihang palad, hindi lamang sa tumatalong stock market at lumalakas na piso umaagos ang puhunan na maaakit ng paghusay ng pananalapi ng gobyerno. Dumadagsa rin ang kapital sa mga pabrika, call center at iba pang industriya at serbisyo na nagbibigay hanapbuhay.

Kaya naman inanyayahan natin itong hapon si... Una sa lahat si Chairman ng Commission on Information Communications Technology, si Ramon Sales. Good afternoon, Mon; at sa aking kaliwa naman si Director General Lilia de Lima ng Philippine Economic Zone Authority. Good afternoon, Lilia; at to the left of Lilia is Mr. Greg Ricechow, the Managing Director of Sun Power Philippines which produces those solar panels, right? For our solar power; at sa kanan naman ni Chairman Sales ay si Mr. Victor Endaya, President and CEO ng Advanced Contact Solutions Incorporated, isa sa ating mga BPO firms, good afternoon.

So, pag-usapan natin muna yung mga investments sa economic zones kasi dito naglalagay ng mga pabrika yung mga malalaking mga investors. Lilia, kumusta na yung ating mga economic zones at kumusta naman yung trabahong binibigay nila?

* * *

Closing statement:

Right, because we put solar power in areas where the transmission line would be too long and the power would become too expensive. So, today we have solar power there in the remote barangays of Mindanao. Yes, thank you. And that directly benefits the people who are poor in those poor provinces and helps bring them towards prosperity. Thank you very much for your contribution to the electrification of our remote villages.

Yes, excellent, excellent. So that is interdependence which is also what ASEAN and East Asia are all about.

So, thank you so much for all the jobs, all the dollars, and all the energy that you have brought to our people up to the very farthest reaches of our country.

Thank you very much for being with us today. Thank you very much Greg, maraming salamat Vic and thank you so much Lilia, at maraming salamat Mon.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during the Roundtable Discussion on Ecozone and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412173248/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1848&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statement: President Arroyo during the Roundtable Discussion on ASEAN Regional security, migrant workers, energy and the environment

Opening/Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Roundtable Discussion on ASEAN Regional security, migrant workers, energy and the environment

[Issued at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 11, 2007]

Magandang araw sa inyong lahat:

The Philippines is proud to welcome the leaders of ASEAN and East Asia to Cebu. We believe in the collective power of the leaders and peoples of this region to make a difference in world security and economic prosperity, and we are privileged to take part in this quest through our hosting of the summits. All colors and creeds, peoples of diverse origins and social station are represented in this key meeting of the first decade of the new millennium.

We are charting a future that will bring stability and peace, comfort to the disaster-stricken and the sick, a safer environment, cheaper and more abundant energy, food for the poor and most of all, friendships among peoples that will endure into this century. The Philippines is not only a strategic hub for East Asia but a center of excellence and democracy streaming out the great Filipino worker while streaming in new friends each passing day. We lie at an equidistant point from the capitals of East Asia. We can be the crossroads of goodwill and change. This is the spirit of the ASEAN meeting. Let all our people put their best foot forward for the whole regional neighborhood for the sake of one caring and sharing community.

Kaya ngayong araw na ito, kapiling natin ang mga eksperto sa mga nabanggit na larangan na pag-uusapan sa ASEAN. Halimbawa, narito sa aking kanan ang Secretary of Energy, si Secretary Popo Lotilla. Magandang hapon, Popo; sa aking kaliwa naman si Ambassador Benjie Defensor, siya ang ating special envoy for anti-terrorism. Magandang hapon, Benjie; at sa kanyang kaliwa nandito si General Jun Esperon, ang Chief-of-Staff ng Armed Forces of the Philippines. Magandang hapon, Jun; sa kanan naman ni Popo Lotilla si Undersecretary Sonny Conejos, siya ang Foreign Affairs Undersecretary na nag-aalaga sa ating mga Overseas Filipino Workers, mga migrant workers natin. Maganda hapon, Undersecretary Conejos; at sa kanyang kanan naman si Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Magandang hapon, Demit.

Umpisahan natin si Popo kasi ako talaga pinilit ko na doon sa ating East Asian Summit dahil dalawang session yon, yung isang session ay tungkol lamang sa energy. So in effect it's going to be an energy summit. Popo, ano ang maaasahan ng karaniwang Pilipino na magkabiya sa kanya na resulta nitong ating energy summit sa East Asian Summit?

* * *

Closing statement:

So, we are winning the war against terrorism at mas lalong mananalo tayo kapag itong convention na ito ay mabubuo sa mga bansa ng ASEAN. Kaya talagang marami ang mga biyaya na makukuha ng karaniwang mamamayan ng Pilipino sa ating pagpulong sa asean. Kaya mga kababayan, binabagtas natin ang landas patungo sa kapayapaan at estabilidad, mura at saganang enerhiya, mas ligtas na komunidad para sa ating mga anak, at mas mayabong na pakikipagkaibigan sa ating mga kapit-bansa.

Ipinagmamalaki natin na ang ating bansa, dahil sa kagitingan ng bawa't Pilipino, ngayon ay kilala na bilang sentro ng kagalingan at demokrasya. Maraming magiging na Pilipino ang ikinakalat natin sa buong mundo kasama ng ASEAN countries upang tulungan ang ibang bansa. Kapalit dito, dumaring ang mga bagong kaibigan araw-araw maging sila ay turista, maging sila ay investors mula sa ibayong dagat.

So, therefore, let us put our best foot forward for the sake of one sharing and caring community that is the ASEAN.

Kaya maraming salamat sa 'yo Secretary Popo Lotilla at good luck sa energy summit. Maraming salamat Undersecretary Conejos at sana talaga yung dalawang nalalabing issue ay maayos. At congratulations! At maraming salamat Demit sa... At alagaan ninyo ng mabuti yung ating ASEAN center for bio-diversity. At good luck! Din sa 'yo Benjie sa ating convention on counter-terrorism. Very good. And congratulations! Jun Esperon, to all our troops and intelligence forces for wiining the war against terrorism. So, congratulations din sa ating mga PNP.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during the Roundtable Discussion on ASEAN Regional security, migrant workers, energy and the environment. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412173047/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1845&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the ASEAN HOS/G Meeting with the Eminent Persons Groups (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the ASEAN HOS/G Meeting with the Eminent Persons Groups (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter

[Issued at Room 102, CICC, Mandaue City, Cebu, January 12, 2007]

Good evening everyone.

Welcome to the leaders of ASEAN and welcome to the Eminent Persons!

Welcome to the Philippines! You are in the beautiful island of Cebu, the biggest, most populous province in our country. You are staying at the Mactan Island Shangri La. And Mactan Island is the island that has many beautiful resorts. We are in Mandaue City right now. This is the industrial center of Cebu. And we are staying in a convention center that was built by the people of the province of Cebu for Mandaue City but they timed it and designed it so that they could have the ASEAN Summit as their first event here. So we are very happy to have you here.

It is not only the people of Cebu but the people of the entire Philippines that are proud to host the ASEAN and related summits and the meeting with the eminent persons group. As we push forward in one heave of leadership to uplift the lives of the people in our region and preserve their safety, their greater safety and security. Let this summit be another opportunity for the world to witness the best of one caring and sharing community, carving out a united response in addressing problems of poverty, terrorism, environmental degradation, trade and energy, marking a vibrant market and a new phase of trade and development across borders.

The future looks brighter for the region, and in the collective stewardship of committed leaders reaching out to each other in the spirit of friendship and common purpose.

Tonight, with the eminent persons group, we talk not only about the world today and the region today but the world tomorrow and the ASEAN region tomorrow.

We would like to congratulate the eminent persons group, you have done an excellent job in consulting and working hard to come up with the blueprint for the ASEAN charter that we are looking forward to listening.

We have high hopes that your work will ensure that ASEAN gains deeper relevance to the people and the international community as a credible, cohesive and single-minded and economically competitive institution, and as one caring and sharing community.

On a personal note, I hope we can make progress on issues of energy independence, human rights, economic legislation and social justice.

So without further ado, may I call on the chairman of the Eminent Persons Group Ton Musa to present the blueprint of the ASEAN charter.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the ASEAN HOS/G Meeting with the Eminent Persons Groups (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412153012/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1842&Itemid=38

Closing Statement: President Arroyo during the ASEAN HOS/G Meeting with the Eminent Persons Groups (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter

Closing Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the ASEAN HOS/G Meeting with the Eminent Persons Groups (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter

[Issued at Room 102, CICC, Mandaue City, Cebu, January 12, 2007]

Alright. So if there's none, the leaders either endorse the report in whole or in very large part and it seems that indeed the next step is to draft the ASEAN charter.

I take it from the comments of the leaders that the ASEAN charter should be guided by the following principles. As the Prime Minister of Laos say, it should affirm the objectives contained in ASEAN's milestone declarations, agreements and treaties.

And as his majesty reminded us, the ASEAN economic community, we should retain the principles of an economic community as well as security community and the socio-cultural community. And also recognize the existing development gaps among and within the member countries as Prime Minister of Cambodia pointed out. The Prime Minister of Thailand dwelt on the people-centered character of ASEAN and that this means that we should conform to international principles and standards.

And I'd like to take this opportunity to make my own comment that we hope that therefore the human rights mechanism could be adopted when we work on the ASEAN charter.

The Prime Minister of Singapore has said that indeed we must make sure that we have a cohesive organization and this is the reason why we need an ASEAN charter. And there are very important organs for this organization — the counsel, the ministerial counsels, a stronger secretary general with enough funding to be able to carry out the work.

Most of our leaders talk about the ASEAN consensus and agree that we should retain an ASEAN consensus but consider that there may be some issues which need not be by consensus but can be decided upon through a vote.

Several of the leaders, also starting with Singapore and Thailand and Malaysia, have said that we should have appropriate monitoring compliance, enforcement and dispute settlement mechanisms, and of course, everybody agree that we should have a legal personality for ASEAN.

I would like to make an additional comment also about the reservations regarding the idea of a union. The ASEAN charter need not provide for a union but we believe that we should at least perpetuate it as aspiration in the future. So we need not spell out the rules of a union but rather the rules of a counsel in a community.

And therefore, the ASEAN charter which our eminent persons group has indeed helped in preparing for by providing the principles to guide it will help achieve in one vision, one identity, one community, and perhaps one day one union for ASEAN.

So we thank the eminent persons group for your outstanding work and we hope that you will indeed continue to guide the high level task force in the putting together of the ASEAN charter.

Thank you very much for your excellent work and we hope that you will have a very successful press conference announcing the work.

Thank you.

While the Eminent Persons will face the media, I invite the leaders to join our ministers for a working dinner.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Closing Statement during the ASEAN HOS/G Meeting with the Eminent Persons Groups (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412153020/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1835&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the 3rd Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the 3rd Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit

[Issued at the Mactan Ballroom 3, Shangri-La Hotel Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, January 12, 2007]

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

And your Majesty Excellencies, welcome to Cebu for this BIMP-EAGA Summit.

I hope that in this BIMP-EAGA Summit, we can make progress on issues of energy independence, humanitarian concerns, and economic integration. We want to welcome also our development partners.

On energy independence, we are looking forward to our continuing negotiations with Indonesia on the memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in the field of energy and mineral resources.

On humanitarian concerns, we recognize the vast importance of preserving the environment beyond borders by maintaining the delicate ecological balance of our region. For this, we should mention in the joint statement the declaration on the heart of Borneo project in which our three countries — Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam — have expressed interest in pursuing.

On economic integration, I think one of the important achievements of this BIMP-EAGA Summit is the signing of the memorandum of understanding on the expansion of air linkages granting freedom rights to one another in specific points of entry.

And also the economic integration, of course, we can do our air linkages by memorandum of understanding but in the end, it is the private sector of the region that plays a crucial role in economic integration.

And so in this summit, we hope that we can indeed urge the private sector to play a more proactive role in the implementation of BIMP-EAGA flagship programs and projects. I'd like to mention only one of the many — the Halal poultry project which we are pushing.

We're confident that with the support of the region's development partners such as the Asian Development Bank — sir, welcome — the GTZ, the People's Republic of China, the northern territory of Australia, we shall be able to harness the region's potentials and create an environment conducive to further trade and investments.

Finally, may I take this opportunity once again to thank our BIMP-EAGA leaders for your valuable support in the success of the Philippine model for dealing with the flash point in Mindanao.

Malaysia — our peace process facilitator and head of the Ceasefire Monitoring Team; Indonesia — chair of the Committee of the Eight; Brunei — member of the Ceasefire Monitoring Team and a host to our Madrasah scholars.

We had been able to meld together confidence-building measures grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness, investors and economic and basic infrastructure development, and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

So, I would like to therefore end this opening statement by saying that I'm sure I speak for President Ramos and our government officials, especially our officials from Mindanao for the Philippine force in the BIMP-EAGA in welcoming all of you to this very important and I believe fruitful summit.

May I now take this opportunity to ask Foreign Minister Albar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia to give the chairman's report on the accomplishment and recent developments in BIMP-EAGA.

There you are.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the 3rd Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412153028/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1839&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the dialogue between the ASEAN HOS/G and ASEAN-BAC members

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the dialogue between the ASEAN HOS/G and ASEAN-BAC members

[Issued at the Mactan Ballroom 4, Shangri-la Hotel Mactan Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, January 13, 2007]

Your Majesty, your Excellencies, fellow ASEAN leaders, officers of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, ASEAN's captains of industry and our partners in economic development, ladies and gentlemen.

I call this meeting to order. At a time when the Doha round is faltering, ASEAN wants to stand up and proclaim its support for keeping the doors of global trade open. And ASEAN is committed to expanding its trade area to create one of the worlds greatest trading blocs.

So I believe the future of ASEAN is bright indeed. But we, the leaders do policy; you, the business community actually create the wealth.

The leaders will be pleased to receive the report of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council chaired by Former Secretary of Trade of the Philippines, Jose Concepcion. And we may comment on or inquire into the progress of your report... Your projects.

On the other hand, we shall be pleased to receive your own questions about the ASEAN economic community and point out the areas where we will need further inputs from you.

So, now I invite the ABAC Chair, Mr. Concepcion, to deliver the ABAC report.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Dialogue between the ASEAN HOS/G and ASEAN-BAC Members. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152938/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1833&Itemid=38

Opening Statement of President Arroyo during the 12th ASEAN Summit

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the 12th ASEAN Summit

[Delivered at the Mactan Summit Hall, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, January 13, 2007]

Majesties, Excellencies, we now formally open this ASEAN Summit.

The Philippines is proud to be hosting ASEAN as such an important time. At the time when the DOHA Round is faltering, ASEAN wants to stand up and proclaim its support for keeping the doors of global trade open. And there is concern about nuclear proliferation, we have stood firm in our commitment on the issue of North Korea. And finally, ASEAN is committed to expanding its trade area to create one of the world's greatest trading blocks. So I believe the future of ASEAN is bright indeed.

It is vitally important at this time in world events that ASEAN is bringing so many nations and leaders together to discuss peace, security, and social justice and economic growth. The fact that leaders of 17 great nations will be here is a testament to the desire of leaders and their people for greater collaboration between nations.

I hope we can make progress on issues of energy independence, human rights, economic integration and social justice. As the theme of the Summit, "One Caring and Sharing Community" suggests, we want to advance the sense of community in our shared interest to look after each other in terms of social justice, economic development and common security.

From the Filipino point of view, I believe we bring that focus in our own peace model in Mindanao, as an example of how nations working together can make positive things happen.

I want to reiterate my thanks to the ASEAN leaders, who have been helping the success of the Philippines model for dealing with the flashpoint area of Mindanao. We have been able to meld together confidence building measures, grounded on strong interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness, investments in economic and basic infrastructure development and mutual security arrangements to keep the peace in Mindanao.

Perhaps most notably, we have worked to the broad spectrum with the broad range of international organizations and nations from across the spectrum including Sweden, European Union, Japan, Malaysia, the U.S., Libya, Indonesia, Brunei and other OIC countries. This broad-based coalition is working to keep the peace, isolate general security threats and promote the economic well-being of Muslim and Christian residents of Mindanao.

This is a model setting of positive example. It is something we all wish to share with the rest of the world. It will lead to a permanent peace in Mindanao. Once again, welcome to this Retreat.

Last night, we had a much longer discussion on the Eminent Persons Group's presentation and we discussed the ASEAN Charter already. So I believe that while we took longer last night than we had anticipated, we can therefore have a shorter session today than originally scheduled, because much of what we would have said today about the ASEAN Charter has been said yesterday. So, maybe we will have a shorter lunch.

So now, I would like to open our Retreat discussion this morning. This morning we will be talking about the future directions of ASEAN.

Before the coffee break, I hope we can talk about internal relations within ASEAN including the Charter, if anybody wishes to continue talking about that and also including the Eminent Persons Group report if anybody wishes to talk about that. And then after the coffee break, I hope that we can also continue talking about the future of ASEAN then talk about the external relations.

So I would like to open the floor now for discussion on the future of ASEAN especially, our internal relations with one another.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the 10th ASEAN-ROK (Republic of Korea) Summit

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the 10th ASEAN-ROK (Republic of Korea) Summit

[Issued at the Mactan Ballroom 3, Shangri-la Hotel Mactan Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, January 14, 2007]

Your Excellency President Roh Moo-Hyun, my fellow leaders in the ASEAN family:

This meeting is called to order on the review and future directions of ASEAN-Korea Cooperation and an exchange of views on regional and international issues.

This is our first formal gathering since former Foreign Minister of Korea, Ban Ki-Moon, assumed the top United Nations post to the pride of all of East Asia. We congratulate President Roh and the people of Korea.

In this summit, we in ASEAN also got the chance to express our solidarity with the Republic of Korea and the Korean people in their efforts to exhaust all peaceful means to keep the Korean peninsula nuclear-free and our region safe and secure.

Amidst the concern about nuclear proliferation, we in ASEAN have stood firm in our commitment to urge North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons. We have all and we continue to express our great concern about recent developments in the Korean peninsula.

I hope that we're all speaking with one voice in urging North Korea once again to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, and to work towards the expeditious implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution Nos. 1695 and 1718. I hope also that we are in one voice in urging North Korea to take concrete and effective steps towards the full implementation of the joint statement of September 19th of 2005.

And again, I hope that we can all be in one voice in urging North Korea to respond to other security and humanitarian concerns of the international community including abductions' abuse.

I invite President Roh to deliver his opening statement.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the 10th ASEAN-ROK (Republic of Korea) Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152829/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1826&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the 5th ASEAN-India Summit

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the 5th ASEAN-India Summit

[Issued at the Sugbu Summit Hall, Portofino Structural Unit, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, January 14, 2007]

Your Excellency, Mr. Co-chair; Your Majesty; Excellencies:

Once again, welcome!

We look forward to discussing the review and future direction of ASEAN-India cooperation and exchanging views on regional and international issues.

I invite His Excellency, Prime Minister Singh to deliver his opening statement.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the 5th ASEAN-India Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152854/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1823&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit**

[Issued at the Sugbu Summit Hall, Portofino Structural Unit, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, January 14, 2007]

Your Excellencies, Premier Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, President Roh Moo-Hyun, my fellow leaders in the ASEAN family:

I call this meeting to order to discuss the review and future directions of ASEAN plus three cooperation and exchange of views on regional and international issues.

First of all, we would like to congratulate our three dialogue partners from Northeast Asia for convening the China-Japan and ROK Summit here in Cebu. This is a positive development for the entire regional process.

ASEAN stands to benefit whenever our plus three partners hold dialogues among themselves. It was on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Manila in November 1999 that our three Northeast Asian partners had their first informal dialogue. It was also in the Manila Summit when the joint statement on East Asian Cooperation was adopted.

During our own retreat among the ASEAN leaders yesterday, it was pointed out that together Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia geographically comprise East Asia. The security of Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia are indeed intertwined.

This year's summits are set to break new ground towards greater solidarity, cohesiveness and cooperation in the whole of East Asia. The unequivocal commitment of the regional leaders to peace, stability and economic prosperity, for regional leaders, for their peoples will continue to mark one caring and sharing regional community, sailing through challenging seas.

The prospects are bright. The visions have become even grander with every meeting and discussion among the movers and shakers of ASEAN and East Asia.

All the leaders are at the proper time and place to make key decisions that will make a difference to the future course of the region and the world. This is the century of ASEAN and East Asia as the center of gravity of global trade and investments.

This year's co-chairman for the ASEAN Plus Three Summit is Premier Wen Jiabao, and I would like to invite His Excellency Premier Wen to deliver his opening statement.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152904/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1821&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the 10th ASEAN-China Summit

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the 10th ASEAN-China Summit

[Issued at the Mactan Ballroom 3, Shangri-la Hotel Mactan Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, January 14, 2007]

Excellency, Mr. Co-chair; Majesty; Excellencies:

This ASEAN-China Summit meeting is called to order. We gathered recently in Nanning last October to commemorate 15 years of ASEAN-China relations. The success of that summit is wonderfully fresh in our minds.

The ASEAN-China partnership remains one of the most dynamic and progressive in the East Asian region. When ASEAN and China first began relations in 1991, the focus was on cooperation in economic and trade relations.

Over the past 15 years, the ASEAN-China relationship has evolved to include cooperation on political security, development and other regional issues. Going forward, we should continue to strengthen the ASEAN-China partnership by promoting confidence-building measures, intensifying interactions, and allocating adequate resources to steer the relations and cooperation for mutual benefit.

China has an important and strategic role to play in the economic development and security situation of the Asia-Pacific region. We're hopeful that China will continue to pursue the foreign policy based on peaceful rise.

We also look to China to take the lead in promoting good neighborly relations and regional cooperation by handling sensitive issues with surrounding countries in a manner that is guided by the spirit of equality, respect, consultation and mutual benefit.

We are very happy to have China as our big brother in this region.

I now invite His Excellency Premier Wen Jiabao to deliver his opening statement.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the 10th ASEAN-China Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152918/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1819&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the 10th ASEAN-Japan Summit

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the 10th ASEAN-Japan Summit

[Issued at the Sugbu Summit Hall, Portofino Structural Unit, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, January 14, 2007]

Your Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

My colleagues in the ASEAN family, let us welcome Prime Minister Abe to his first ASEAN-Japan Summit.

Japan is the biggest source of ODA for ASEAN and one of the top trading partners, investors and source of tourists for most of our countries.

Here in this ASEAN-Japan Summit, we will be discussing the review and future direction of ASEAN-Japan cooperation, and exchange views on regional and international issues.

Your Excellency, we express our great concern about the recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, and we share your great concern. North Korea has just defied the international community by exploding again a nuclear device last October 9, 2006. North Korea has also been involved in abducting foreign nationals from Japan and countries in ASEAN, among others. We join you, Your Excellency, in urging North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, and to work towards the expeditious implementation of U.S. Security Council Resolutions 1695 and 1718.

We urge North Korea to take concrete and effective steps towards the full implementation of the joint statement of September 19th 2005. For those who recall, in that joint statement, the DPRK committed to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, and to return at an early date to the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the IAEA safeguards.

Excellency, speaking in behalf of our country — and I hope, in behalf of other countries as well in our region — we also urge North Korea to respond to other security and humanitarian concerns of the international community including the abductions' issue.

I now invite His Excellency Shinzo Abe to deliver his opening statement.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the 10th ASEAN-Japan Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152930/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1816&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Opening Session of the 2nd East Asia Summit

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the Opening Session of the 2nd East Asia Summit

[Delivered at the Summit Hall, Cebu International Convention Center (CICC), Mandaue City, Cebu, January 15, 2007]

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies:

I call this East Asia Summit meeting to order.

It's vitally important at this time in world events that ASEAN is bringing so many nations and leaders together to discuss peace, security and social justice and economic growth. The fact that the leaders of 16 great nations are here is a testament to the desire of leaders and their people for greater collaboration between nations.

I hope we make progress on the issues of energy independence, human rights, economic integration, and social justice.

And before we begin our first session, which is on energy security, we can now thank the media for being here in the opening of the session.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Opening Session of the 2nd East Asia Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152811/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1812&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Press Conference

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During the Press Conference

[Issued at the Main Briefing Room, Cebu International Convention Center (CICC), Mandaue City, Cebu, January 15, 2007]

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the media.

With the ASEAN moving forward towards firm accords on its own charter, security, overseas workers and trade, the prospect for the region becoming a formidable bloc in the world is well within our reach. From one caring and sharing community, we can become a dynamo as the hub and core of East Asia, immersed in robust, open trade from within the region and across the oceans, building security and prosperity in millions of communities from east to west.

The eminent persons group recommendations move ASEAN towards a firm accord on its own charter. We're inspired by the determination to establish one vision, one identity, one community and perhaps, in the future, one union within ASEAN. The eminent persons group recommendations are particularly useful in making the association a rules-based organization better prepared to face the challenges of one caring and sharing community in today's world.

As the theme of this summit "One Caring and Sharing Community" suggests, we want to advance the sense of community and our shared interests and look after each other in terms of social justice, economic development and common security.

The Cebu Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, and the mutual recognition arrangement on nursing services advance our shared interests in terms of social justice for our migrant workers, including nurses. The declaration on migrant workers is a commitment to promote decent, humane, productive, dignified and remunerative employment for migrant workers. It accords our overseas Filipino workers with employment protection, access to justice and welfare services, training and consular services. The arrangement on nursing gives Filipino nurses the opportunity to practice their profession in other ASEAN countries based on their professional licenses.

The ASEAN convention on counter-terrorism advances our shared interests in terms of common security. It provides for the framework for regional cooperation to counter, prevent and suppress terrorism. The Philippines will benefit from the convention in terms of training, intelligence sharing and networking with ASEAN member countries.

Speaking of security, we express our grave concern about the recent developments on the Korean peninsula. We urge North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, and to work towards the expeditious implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 1695 and 1718. We urge North Korea to take concrete and effective steps towards the full implementation of the joint statement of September 19th of 2005. We also urge North Korea to respond to other security and humanitarian concerns of the international community including the abductions' issue.

It's vitally important at this time in world events that ASEAN brought so many nations together to discuss peace, security and social justice, and economic growth. The fact that the leaders of 17 great nations — 17 because we have the 16 East Asia country and we had Timor Leste — the fact that leaders of 17 great nations were here is a testament to the desire of the leaders and their people for greater collaboration between nations.

We made progress on issues of energy independence, human rights, economic integration and social justice. The ASEAN-China agreement on trade in services of the framework on comprehensive economic cooperation inched us

closer to free trade in the region, cutting barriers on services such as telecommunications, transportation and tourism.

I also talked about the success of the Philippine model for dealing with the flashpoint area of Mindanao. In the East Asia summit, I pushed for the issue of energy independence and the signing of the Cebu Declaration on Energy Security.

The unequivocal commitment and common spirit of the leaders of the region have carved out an unprecedented road map of ASEAN community towards closer integration and greater heights of achievement by 2015, backed by enhanced economic, political and socio-cultural partnerships. Through thick and thin, we have sailed towards unity as one formidable alliance to stamp out poverty, address inequality in its varied dimensions, attend to the social impact of economic integration, guarantee social protection and sound environmental governance and focus on the welfare of our workers. For all of ASEAN 's great efforts, it is payback time for a region whose legacy to its people is within reach. This summit broke a new dawn as we continue to foster peace and stability, economic prosperity and claim our collective destiny.

The Philippines is proud to have welcomed the leaders of ASEAN and East Asia to Cebu. The Philippines is not only a strategic hub for East Asia but a center of excellence and democracy — streaming out the great Filipino worker while streaming in new friends each passing day. We lie at an equidistant point from the capitals of East Asia. We can be at the crossroads of goodwill and change. This was the spirit of the ASEAN meeting and our people put their best foot forward for the whole regional neighborhood, for the sake of one caring and sharing community. And I thank them, especially daghan salamat, Sugbu.

And in behalf of the Filipino people, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the leaders who attended the ASEAN and East Asia summits. We thank the leaders for the honor they have bestowed upon the Philippines and for working for one caring and sharing regional community. They've made the Filipino proud as we have emerged triumphant with all Asians from the agreements reached and signed. The peoples of Asia are the victors in these summits as we march forward in the collective spirit of hope within this century.

Along with all the leaders, we dedicate these accords to a safer world, a realm of human security and greater and deeper friendships within Asia bridging to all global capitals. We as a region have started to muster our vast human and material resources to broaden trade, tourism, energy security and political integration at a pace and scale never seen before. And we are out to capture the grand prize: more prosperous and safer communities, a region of peace and stability, and a world of goodwill and friendship of all creeds, cultures and colors.

I'm willing to answer a few questions.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Press Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152820/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1814&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on ASEAN and its benefits to Filipinos, January 16, 2007

**Press Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On ASEAN and its benefits to Filipinos**

[Released at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 16, 2007]

Ang tagumpay ng ASEAN at East Asia Summit ay di-mapipigilang pwersang magsusulong ng balangkas ng kaunlaran sa Pilipinas sa mga taong darating. Bukas ang abot-tanaw sa mga malalaking hamon at pagkakataon upang lumaganap ang galing ng pilipino sa lumalagong merkado sa mga serbisyo, sa pagpapalin ng teknolohiya sa ibang panggagalingan ng enerhiya sa pagtutulungan ng mga bansa laban sa mga banta sa kapayapaan, at sa pagtatanggol ng demokrasya at karapatang-tao.

Sa ating paghahanda upang ipatupad ang lahat ng mga kasunduang nabuo, hindi dapat mawala ang pagtutok ng taong-bayan sa pag-unlad ng bayan. Hindi dapat magpadala sa hangin ng pamumulitika. Dapat pandayin ang bakal habang nagbabaga at sumulong tayong lahat kasama ng buong ASEAN at Silangang Asya.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa lahat ng mga Pilipino, lalo na ang mga Cebuano, para sa matinding pagtanggap at pagmamagandang-loob na ipinakita sa ating mga panauhin. Pinupuri din natin ang sandatahang lakas at pambansang kapulisan sa pagtatanggol laban sa lahat ng banta sa kaligtasan at kapayapaan sa buong panahon ng summit.

Foreign affairs Sec. Alberto Romulo: magandang hapon sa inyo Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at bumabati ako sa ating mga nakikinig at dudugtungan ko lang yung nasabi ni Pangulong Arroyo among others na itong summit na ito malaki ang pagtulon nito sa kaunlaran at kabutihan ng mamamayang Pilipino sapagkat sasabihin namin kung anu-ano yung nagawa. But isang napakahalaga yung tinatawag nating Cebu Declaration for the Promotion and Protection of Migrant Workers. Alam natin, sabi sa akin ni Secretary Art Brion, na halos 10 million ng ating mga manggagawa all over the world. At itong ginawa ng ating summit at under the leadership of the president protects and enhances the welfare of our migrant workers.

Ano ang gagawin nilang magagawa diyan, unang-una, they recognize the overseas workers and their families. Importante yan sapagkat heretofore yung pamilya ay mukhang hindi kasama at yung pamilya kasama diyan ang women and children, husbands and wives. Ano ang mga binibigay niyan? May binibigay diyan access to health, to education, to social services, to the judicial system. Kanya malaki ang proteksyon at ito'y pinaglaban ni Pangulong Arroyo — kanya kami naman ang sundalo ni Pangulong Arroyo sinundan naming siya — at kinausap ni Pangulong Arroyo ang mga liderato ng East Asia kanyat napasa yan. At gusto ko lang sabihin sana itong liderato ni Pangulong Arroyo sa East Asia, alam ba ninyo that is probably the biggest bloc. Mahigit sa three billion people are represented in East Asia. And so that is one of the pillars of the success ng citing ASEAN Summit under the leadership of President Arroyo.

Labor Sec. Arturo Brian: Magandang hapon. Madame President. Dadagdagan ko lang po yung sinasabi kanina ni Secretary Romulo dahil dati po ay tayo punta nang punta sa iba't-ibang mga bansa upang magkaroon tayo ng mga agreements but this is the first time that we have a multilateral agreement on migrant worker. At nakakatuwa po sapagkat kasama nito ay meron tayong ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Nursing Services. Yon pong pag recognize nung ating mga nurses dito sa Pilipinas yung kanilang sertipiko.

At Madame President ayon po sa aming data sa Department of Labor na ang ating mga nurses ay pinadadala natin sa Middle East, pinadadala natin sa Amerika at saka sa Canada. Dito po sa atin sa Asya hindi masyado lalo na sa Southeast Asia. Sa Brunei po over the past three years, apat; Cambodia, wala; Singapore, 373; Thailand, wala; Japan, wala pa; Taiwan, siyam lamang po. Eh ngayon with this type of agreement ay marahil po ay hindi na magpapakalayo-layo ang ating mga nurses, dito lang sa malapit sa Pilipinas sila makakapunta.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Opening Statement: President Arroyo on the successful hosting of the ASEAN and East Asia Summits during the Joint NEDA and NAPC Cabinet Group Meeting

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

On the successful hosting of the ASEAN and East Asia Summits during the Joint NEDA and NAPC Cabinet Group Meeting

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, January 16, 2007]

The success of the ASEAN and East Asia Summits is an unstoppable force that will drive the Philippine agenda in the years to come. The horizon is open of great challenges and opportunities, in fielding Filipino excellence through a broader regional market of services, sharing technology in alternative energy sources, bringing collective resources to bear upon pockets of instability, and enforcing democracy and human rights.

A fitting sequel to the summits is the current visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Manila. It puts another milestone in our golden age of partnership with china. Yet another fitting sequel is our trip to the World Economic Forum in Davos that will gather the business moguls of the world in search of destinations of excellence and investments.

Japan and China provide indispensable leadership for our region, alongside the United States as a strategic partner in the fight against terror and poverty.

As we gear towards the realization and implementation of all the accords reached, we call the Filipino people to be focused on the ball. We call on the Filipino people not to be distracted by the wind of political partisanship. Let us strike while the iron is hot and move forward with the rest of ASEAN and East Asia.

I thank all the Filipinos, especially the Cebuanos for the deep warmth and hospitality extended to our guests.

I commend the AFP and PNP for keeping all threats to law and order at bay during the meetings. Let us all savour this monumental triumph of the Philippines.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement on the successful hosting of the ASEAN and East Asia Summits during the Joint NEDA and NAPC Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152756/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1807&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during the Roundtable Discussion on “The ASEAN Summit – How the benefits of the agreements reach the Filipino people”

Opening/Closing Statements of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Roundtable Discussion on “The ASEAN Summit – How the benefits of the agreements reach the Filipino people”

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 16, 2007]

Ang tagumpay ng ASEAN at East Asia Summit ay di-mapipigilang pwersang magsusulong ng balangkas ng kaunlaran sa Pilipinas sa mga taong darating. Bukas ang abot-tanaw sa mga malalaking hamon at pagkakataon upang lumaganap ang galing ng pilipino sa lumalagong merkado sa mga serbisyo, sa pagpapalitan ng teknolohiya sa ibang panggagalingan ng enerhiya, sa pagtutulungan ng mga bansa laban sa mga banta sa kapayapaan, at sa pagtatanggol ng demokrasya at karapatang-tao.

Tamang-tama namang kasunod ang pagdalaw sa Maynila ni Premier Wen Jiabao ng Tsina. Isa pa itong makasaysayang hakbang sa ginintuang panahon ng ating pakikipag-ugnayan sa bansang Tsina.

Isa pa ring naa-angkop na okasyon ang ating pagbiyahe sa World Economic Forum sa Davos, ang pagpupulong ng mga higitang pangdaigdigang kalakal at industriya na laging naghahanap ng natatanging kakayahan at paglalagyan ng kapital.

Di-matatawaran ang halaga ng pamumuno ng Hapon at Tsina sa ating rehiyon, kasama ng Estados Unidos bilang kabalikat sa ating pakikibaka sa terorismo at kahirapan.

Sa ating paghahanda upang ipatupad ang lahat ng mga kasunduang nabuo, hindi dapat mawala ang pagtutok ng taong-bayan sa pag-unlad ng bayan. Hindi dapat magpadala sa hangin ng pamumulitika. Dapat pandayin ang bakal habang nagbabaga at sumulong tayong lahat kasama ng buong ASEAN at Silangang Asya.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa lahat ng mga Pilipino, lalo na ang mga Cebuano, para sa matinding pagtanggap at pagmamagandang-loob na ipinakita sa ating mga panauhin. Pinupuri din natin ang sandatahang lakas at pambansang kapulisan sa pagtatanggol laban sa lahat ng banta sa kaligtasan at kapayapaan sa buong panahon ng summit.

Sama-sama nating ipagdiwang itong dakilang tagumpay ng bansang Pilipinas. At itong araw na ito ay inimbita natin ang mga opisyal na malaki ang pag-uugnay sa mga nagawa sa ASEAN at hingiin natin ang kanilang mensahe sa karaniwang Pilipino. At narito rin ang ilang karaniwang Pilipino, pakinggan din natin ang kanilang reaksiyon sa mga mensaheng ito. Una sa lahat, siyempre ang ASEAN ang nandoon ay yung lider ng pamahalaan, tapos nandoon ang foreign secretary at saka yung trade secretary. Kaya nandito si Secretary Romulo, ang namumuno sa ating mga Cabinet officials na pumunta doon sa ASEAN summit. Magandang hapon, Bert.

Foreign affairs Sec. Alberto Romulo: magandang hapon sa inyo Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at bumabati ako sa ating mga nakikinig at dudugtungan ko lang yung nasabi ni Pangulong Arroyo among others na itong summit na ito malaki ang pagtulong nito sa kaunlaran at kabutihan ng mamamayang Pilipino sapagkat sasabihin namin kung anu-ano yung nagawa. But isang napakahalaga yung tinatawag nating Cebu Declaration for the Promotion and Protection of Migrant Workers. Alam natin, sabi sa akin ni Secretary Art Brion, na halos 10 million ng ating mga manggagawa all over the world. At itong ginawa ng ating summit at under the leadership of the president protects and enhances the welfare of our migrant workers.

Ano ang gagawin nilang magagawa diyan, unang-una, they recognize the overseas workers and their families. Importante yan sapagkat heretofore yung pamilya ay mukhang hindi kasama at yung pamilya kasama diyan ang women and children, husbands and wives. Ano ang mga binibigay niyan? May binibigay diyan access to health, to education, to social services, to the judicial system. Kanya malaki ang proteksyon at ito’y pinaglaban ni Pangulong Arroyo — kanya kami naman mga sundalo ni Pangulong Arroyo sinundan namin siya — at kinausap ni Pangulong

Arroyo ang mga liderato ng East Asia kanyat napasa yan. At gusto ko lang sabihin sana itong liderato ni Pangulong Arroyo sa East Asia, alam ba ninyo that is probably the biggest bloc. Mahigit sa three billion people are represented in East Asia. And so that is one of the pillars of the success ng ating ASEAN Summit under the leadership of President Arroyo.

Maraming salamat, Bert. Kaya namumuno sa summit bukod sa pangulo ay yung foreign minister. At ang pangatlo naman sa namumuno ay yung trade minister. Kaya narito rin si Secretary Peter Favila. Magandang hapon, Peter.

Trade Sec. Peter Favila: Good afternoon, Mrs. President at nais ko lang po sana idagdag tulad nang nasabi ng ating mahal na pangulo at ang ating secretary ng foreign affairs si Secretary Romulo. Alam niyo po itong ASEAN, itong mga negosasyon isang malaking bagay ang nanatili sa aking kaisipan habang ako ay nakikipag-ugnayan sa aking mga katumbas na sekretaryo ng iba-ibang bansa at ito po yung sinasabi ng mahal na pangulo, ganunpaman din kakumplikado at kahirap ang negosasyon, ang sabi po niya is — dapat yan ang resulta niyan ay para sa benepisyo ng mamamayang Pilipino, mga pangkaraniwang Pilipino. Kaya dito po sa ating pagpupulong ngayon gagawin ko pong lahat ng aking magagawa na maipapaliwanag po sa inyo itong mga nangyari po sa ating summit sa Cebu.

Salamat, Peter. Gaya nang sabi ko usually yung Cabinet members na naroon at namumuno ay yung foreign secretary at saka yung trade secretary dahil ang pinag-uusapan ay foreign relations at saka trade relations. Ngunit itong taong ito sinabi natin hindi na lang... Ang ASEAN hindi lamang pangangalakal, ang ASEAN ay kasama rin yung socio-cultural community. Kaya kailangan social justice din kasama. At binigyan natin ng kabuuan yan, tinawag nating “One Caring and Sharing Community” ang ating tema. Kaya malaking papel ang binigay natin doon sa mga kasunduan tungkol sa mga manggagawang migrante kaya malaki rin ang papel ng Department of Labor kaya narito si Secretary Art Brion. Magandang hapon, secretary.

Labor Sec. Arturo Brion: Magandang hapon, Madame President. Dadagdagan ko lang po yung sinasabi kanina ni Secretary Romulo dahil dati po ay tayo punta nang punta sa ibat-ibang mga bansa upang magkaroon tayo ng mga agreements but this is the first time that we have a multilateral agreement on migrant worker. At nakakatuwa po sapagkat kasama nito ay meron tayong ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Nursing Services. Yon pong pag recognize nung ating mga nurses dito sa Pilipinas yung kanilang sertipiko.

At Madame President ayon po sa aming data sa Department of Labor na ang ating mga nurses ay pinadadala natin sa Middle East, pinadadala natin sa Amerika at saka sa Canada. Dito po sa atin sa Asya hindi masyado lalo na sa Southeast Asia. Sa Brunei po over the past three years, apat; Cambodia, wala; Singapore, 373; Thailand, wala; Japan, wala pa; Taiwan, siyam lamang po. Eh ngayon with this type of agreement ay marahil po ay hindi na magpapakalayo-layo ang ating mga nurses, dito lang sa malapit sa Pilipinas sila makakapunta.

At doon sa ating East Asian Summit pinilit natin, Pilipinas bilang chairman, na may isang session na bukod-tanging pag-uusapan ay enerhiya. Kaya naging importante rin ang papel ng ating Department of Energy doon kaya narito ang ating Secretary of Energy, si Secretary Popo Lotilla. Magandang hapon, Popo.

Energy Sec. Raphael ‘Popo’ Lotilla: Magandang hapon po Ginang Presidente. At dito siguro isa sa mga highlights ng session ninyo ay nagkaroon ng signing ng Declaration on East Asian Energy Security. At ang objective nito ay magkaroon tayo ng sapat na supply ng elektrisidad sa resonable na presyo. So ito ang kasunduan ng mga leaders ng East Asia at mukhang nahamon Mrs. President ang mga leaders at ang bansang hapon ay nagbigay ng kanilang pledge na two billion dollars in the next three years para mapababa yung walang access to electricity. So yung programa po ninyo sa rural electrification ay sinusuportahan dito ng bansang Hapon at ng iba pang mga leader, so at sa biofuels ay nagiging isang importante ding elemento nitong deklarasyon.

At doon sa ASEAN Summit ay pinagkasunduan na rin ng mga bansa ng Asya kung papano natin lalabanan ang terorismo. Noong araw nagdedeklara lang tayo na kontra tayo sa terorismo pero ngayon gumawa tayo ng kontrata. Ano ang mga obligasyon ng bawat bansa para labanan ang terorismo, kaya naging importante rin ang papel ng Department of National Defense. At narito rin ang ating Undersecretary ng National Defense, si Ric Blanciaflor. Magandang hapon, Ric.

National Defense Usec. Ric Blancaflor: Magandang hapon, Ma'am. Congratulations po sa pagbuo ng ASEAN Convention on Counter-terrorism. Sa totoo lang po Ma'am nabuo yon in less than three months. And malaking bagay yon dahil mula ngayon mahihirapan nang pumasok sa atin ang mga teroristang galing sa ibang bansa.

Very good, very good. Ngayon narito... Kasi ang ating mensahe ay itong ASEAN at East Asia Summit nung tayo ay namuno ay ginawa natin ito para sa karaniwang Pilipino. Ngayon meron tayong tatlong karaniwang Pilipino inimbata sa ating piling para makipagkuwentuhan sa kanila at maikuwento sa kanila at sila rin ay maikuwento rin ang impresyon tungkol sa summit na ito. Nandito si Maribel Danchez, isang manininda, hindi ba, Maribel? Saan ka nagtitinda? Magandang hapon. Saan ka nagtitinda, Maribel? Sa may St. Jude. Uy! Kapitbahay tayo, oo. Ikaw ba yung isa sa mga... Yung tindahan sa harap ng ano... Sa gilid. Ano ang binebenta mo? Okey. So ano, Peter. Ano ang magagawa ng ASEAN at East Asia para kay Maribel na nagbebenta siya ng mga sari-saring bagay doon sa gilid ng St. Jude Church.

Nandito rin si Joe Barsita, isang Overseas Filipino Worker. Doon ka nagtatrabaho sa Saudi Arabia, Joe? Bumalik ka na. Ikaw naman Joe, ano ang inaasahan mo sa ASEAN at East Asia?

Si Rolly Formanes naman. Magandang hapon, Rolly. Ikaw naman ay driver. Kasapi ka ng Piston? Toda, Toda. Okey, so ang menamaneho mo ay PUJ. Very good. So ang pinakamalaking problema mo ay yung gasolina, yung diesel. Kaya ito talagang... Kaya alam ko na maraming kagaya mo ay nagkakaproblema sa diesel. Kaya talagang sinabi ko bukod... Dapat mayron tayong isang yan lang ang pag-uusapan natin. Gaya nang sabi ni Popo na yung mga mayayamang bansa gaya ng Hapon ay two billion ang kanilang kontribusyon dito sa ating energy fund, hindi ba? So, Rolly bagong produkto yon. Oo, kaya mas maraming kapalit ng diesel na made-develop natin mas magaling para sa mga driver at operator ng mga jeepney.

* * *

Closing statement:

Sa pangangalakal. Yon bang sa pag-aayos natin sa ASEAN at East Asia meron tayong kasunduan, yung isang bahagi ng kotse dito gagawin, ang isang bahagi ng kotse diyaan gagawin, nasa baba. Kaya yung mayron tayong ibang economies of scale, so bawat isa naging mas mura yung kanyang produksiyon at kaya yung buong produkto ay mas mura. So iyon ang isang paraan kung papano makikinabang ang ating karaniwang tao dahil napakalaking bagay yung sasakyan at saka yung gasolina. Dahil hindi ba ang laki ng bagay ng transportasyon sa inyong hanapbuhay. So yon ang isang malaking resulta rin bukod doon sa proteksiyon ng ating manggagawa at yung proteksiyon ng ating kapayapaan.

Kaya ako'y nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng Pilipino na tumulong lalo na yung hospitality ipinakita sa ating mga bisita. At salamat sa ating mga Cabinet member sa inyong magandang homework na ginawa. At dahil karaniwang Pilipino ay malaking tinulong sa tagumpay ng ating pagho-host itong summit na ito karapatdapat naman na ang karaniwang pilipino rin ang makakatanggap ng biyaya.

Kaya ngayong hapon ako'y nagpapasalamat sa ating mga panauhin. Maraming salamat, Rolly. Salamat muli sa 50 centavos rollback na binigay ninyo sa inyong pasahe; maraming salamat din, Joe at nawa na yung mga bagong henerasyon ng OFW ay hindi kasing-hirap ang dadaanan haming sa dinaanan mo noong 1980s; salamat din Maribel bilang isang single parent sana itong mga bagay na ito ay mas bibigay ng higit na ginhawa sa inyong pamumuhay; at salamat Ric sa ating... Hindi lamang sa anti-terrorism convention, salamat din doon sa lahat ng mga sundalo na tumulong para sa ganun ay ligtas ang ating summit; maraming salamat Popo, marami ka pang gagawin para mas maraming magagawa, makukuha ang Pilipinas dito sa two billion dollars na hinandog ng ating mayayamang kapit-bansa; at maraming salamat din sa iyo Art Brion dahil yung mga nurses and other Overseas Filipino Workers ay kailangang ipahayag mo sa kanila ang mga biyayang makukuha nila sa ASEAN at East Asia para sa ganun ay magamit nila itong mga biyayang ito.

Yung trabaho mo ba noon Joe nagluluto ka? Very good, chef or sous chef. Very good, excellent. So, marami, marami tayong mga pagkakataon doon. At maraming salamat din Peter dahil talagang maganda ang iyong mga

pagkakaugnay sa ibang mga trade ministers ng buong ASEAN. And of course yung ating team leader, at hindi lamang sa dahil foreign minister dahil head tayo, siya rin ang chairman ng National Organizing Committee ng ating ASEAN and East Asia Summit. Congratulations! Bert sa tagumpay na ikaw ay namuno.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during the Roundtable Discussion on "The ASEAN Summit – How the benefits of the agreements reach the Filipino people". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152748/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1810&Itemid=38

Press Statement: President Arroyo on fighting terrorism, January 16, 2007

**Press Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On fighting terrorism**

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 16, 2007]

Fighting terrorism

At doon sa ASEAN Summit ay pinagkasunduan na rin ng mga bansa ng Asya kung papano natin lalabanan ang terorismo. Noong araw nagdedeklara lang tayo na kontra tayo sa terorismo pero ngayon gumuwa tayo ng kontrata. Ano ang mga obligasyon ng bawat bansa para labanan ang terorismo, kaya naging importante rin ang papel ng Department of National Defense. At narito rin ang ating Undersecretary ng National Defense, si Ric Blancaflor. Magandang hapon, Ric

Sa pangangalakal. Yon bang sa pag-aayos natin sa ASEAN at East Asia meron tayong kasunduan, yung isang bahagi ng kotse dito gagawin, ang isang bahagi ng kotse diyaan gagawin, nasa baba. Kaya yung mayron tayong ibang economies of scale, so bawat isa naging mas mura yung kanyang produksiyon at kaya yung buong produkto ay mas mura. So iyon ang isang paraan kung papano makikinabang ang ating karaniwang tao dahil napakalaking bagay yung sasakyan at saka yung gasolina. Dahil hindi ba ang laki ng bagay ng transportasyon sa inyong hanapbuhay. So yon ang isang malaking resulta rin bukod doon sa proteksiyon ng ating manggagawa at yung proteksiyon ng ating kapayapaan.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during the Roundtable Discussion on Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's Visit and the Signing of 12 Agreements with China

Opening/Closing Statements of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Roundtable Discussion on Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's Visit and the Signing of 12 Agreements with China

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 17, 2007]

Mga kababayan:

Kahapon tinalakay natin ang mga biyaya sa mamamayang Pilipino mula sa ASEAN Summit. Ngayon pag-uusapan natin ang pakinabang sa bayan mula sa mga kasunduang pinirmahan sa pagdalaw ng Punong Ministro ng Tsina, si Wen Jiabao, hanggang kahapon.

Ito ang bunga ng walang tigil nating pagsusulong ng kagalingan at kaunlaran ng bansa sa iba't-ibang larangan, kabilang ang ugnayang panlabas.

Ngayon, pakinggan natin ang ating mga panauhin. Nandito sa aking kaliwa si Secretary Peter Favila ng Department of Trade and Industry. Siya ang tinatawag nating Chinaman natin dahil siya ang namamahala sa ating mga bagay tungkol sa Tsina; sa aking kanan naman ay narito si Secretary Gary Teves at siya bilang Secretary of Finance ang namamahala sa mga pautang na binibigay sa atin ng iba't-ibang mga bansa sa ibabaw ng kanyang responsibilidad na magkubra ng mga buwis; at sa kanan naman yung tunay na Chinaman ng ating gabinete dahil siya ay Chinese descent, si Arthur Yap ng Department of Agriculture, na maraming napirmahan o napapirmahan na mga kasunduan sa Tsina kahapon; at sa kaliwa naman ni Peter Favila ay si Ginoong Lito Arenas, isang magsasaka mula sa Manaoag, Pangasinan. Magandang hapon, Lito.

Good afternoon to all of you: Peter, Gary, Arty at masantos siya ngaremed sikayo, Lito Arenas. Si Arty taga-Pangasinan din, si Peter tiga-Dagupan. O yon, pero si Gary bisaya.

Anyway, o Peter, ikaw gaya nang sabi ko ikaw ang ating Chinaman in the sense na ikaw ang namamahala sa bagay tungkol sa China. So, ano yung maikukwento mo kay Lito, ano ang biyaya ni Lito mula sa pagbisita ni Premier Wen Jiabao ng Tsina.

* * *

CLOSING STATEMENT:

Yes, outstanding farmer, outstanding seed grower. Congratulations! Okay, so dapat Arty gagastos ka ng 500 million pesos a month for the next three months, for the next six months pala. Okay.

Okay. So, maraming salamat Lito sa yong kontribusyon sa ating self-sufficiency na hinahangad natin sa bigas. At maraming salamat din arty doon sa mga kasunduan na trinabaho mo. Maraming salamat Gary doon sa magandang negosasyon ng mga pautang mula sa China at maraming salamat Peter sa pangkalahatang pagmamaneho mo ng ating relasyon sa Tsina.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152735/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1801&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the Dollar Surplus and RP named as Best Borrower

Opening/Closing Statements of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on the Dollar Surplus and RP named as Best Borrower

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 18, 2007]

Mga kababayan:

Bahagi ng ating paglaban sa kahirapan ang pag-akit ng investment upang makalikha ng sampung milyong trabaho sa panahon ng ating panungkulan. At sa hangarin nating ito importante na marami tayong dolyar sa ating kaban. Importante rin na tinuturing tayo ng mga bangko ng mundo bilang mabuting taga-hiram.

Paano magagamit ang ating mga dolyar at ang ating magandang pangalan sa mga bangko ng mundo sa sinasabi nating payback para sa bayan — ang pagbibigay sa mamamayan ng mga biyaya mula sa ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya.

Narito ngayon upang iliwanag ito kung paano ay sina Secretary Gary Teves ng Department of Finance. Magandang hapon, Gary; narito rin ang Deputy Governor ng Bangko Sentral, si Diwa Guinigundo. Magandang hapon, Diwa; at meron tayong karaniwang Pilipino, si Ronaldo Perez ang isang taxi driver, magandang hapon. Ronnie ka ba, Ronnie? Ronald. Ronald, magandang hapon.

Una sa lahat, Gary, congratulations! Dahil sabi ng mga international financiers tayo ang pinakamagaling na bond issuer or pinakamagaling na taga-hiram sa mga bangko ng mundo. Ano ang ibig sabihin nito para sa karaniwang Pilipino?

* * *

CLOSING STATEMENT:

Ikaw ba meron ka ng Philhealth card? O ayan, kasi, kasi yan ang isang gusto nating mangyari. Yung Philhealth kasi kapag... Ang siguradong may Philhealth yung mga employer at saka employee. Yung mga employer yung mga may pabrika o kumpanya, let's say taxi company na may suweldong binibigay. So, yung suweldong binibigay kasama na doon yung Philhealth. Pero ikaw parang self-employed ka. So ito naman ang isang puwede nating gawin. Puwede nating bigyan ng... Ikaw willing ka ba... Ikaw makakaya mo ba yung 100 pesos a month para sa health insurance? Dahil nga tumataas ang iyong kita dahil nagmumura yung gasolina, nagmumura yung spare parts. So, ang problema ay wala kang impormasyon tungkol sa kung papano. Kasi hindi ba medyo mura yon kung 100 pesos a month? Tapos nuon pag magkakasakit kayo, pag kayo ay maho-hospitalized libre ito hanggang 30,000 pesos yata. Malaking tulong yon. So, kung malaman mo kung saan mag-aaply ka? Hindi ba? Yon ang isa sa atin sigurong pwede pag-aralan sa ating pamahalaan ngayon dahil nga maraming lumalaki ang kanilang kita. Mas liliit ang inyong gastos dahil kung magkakasakit kayo ay sagot na ng Philhealth hanggang 30,000. So, for 1,200 a year na gagastusin ninyo pati yung mga anak mo sakop doon.

In fact, gumagawa tayo ng programa para pag merong Philhealth yung pamilya bibigyan na rin ng card yung bawat anak. Para halimbawa nandoon sila sa probinsya dadalhin na yung Philhealth card doon sa ospital sa probinsya.

So, ito ang isang mga gusto nating gawin para sa ganun yung mga biyaya ng ating mga magagandang rating ay pupunta sa ating taong-bayan. Kasi yung binabayad niyong 1,200 every year tapos marami sa inyo magkakaroon ng hospitalization na mas malaki keysa sa 1,200 ang gastos, di ba? Saan kinukuha ng Philhealth yung diperensya? Eh nanggagaling din yuon doon sa kita ng ating bansa. At isang dahilan kung bakit maganda nga ang ating rating ay lumalaki ang kita ng ating bansa, hindi ba Gary? Marami tayong tax collection pero bumababa ang bayad ng interes

dahil lumalakas ang piso. Hindi na rin umuutang so yung mga dating binabayad natin sa interes na dollar denominated kaya mahal ay pumupunta sa mga serbisyo gaya ng Philhealth.

So, Ronald, I hope one of these days maka-apply ka sa Philhealth. So, maraming salamat muli sa iyo, sa lahat ng mga taxi driver dahil hindi niyo itinataas ang inyong boundary.

At maraming salamat, diwa sa magandang pagmamaneho ng ating foreign exchange and dollars and monetary policy ng Central Bank. Kaya ang dami-dami nating dolyar ngayon.

At maraming salamat din Gary sa mga ginawa mo para lumakas ang ating pangalan sa mga bangko ng mundo dahil yon ay nakakapagbigay din ng biyaya sa pamamagitan ng... Nalilipat yung budget sa interest payment at nabibigay sa mga biyaya gaya ng dagdag na health services.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat din.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on the Dollar Surplus and RP named as Best Borrower. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152713/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1794&Itemid=38

Press Statement: President Arroyo on Philhealth, January 18, 2007

**Press Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On Philhealth**

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 18, 2007]

Philhealth card, anyone?

Ikaw ba meron ka ng Philhealth card? O ayan, kasi, kasi, yan ang isang gusto nating mangyari. Yung Philhealth kasi kapag ang siguradong may Philhealth yung mga employer at saka employee. Yung mga employer yung mga may pabrika o kumpanya, let's say taxi company na may suweldong binibigay. So, yung suweldong binibigay kasama na doon yung Philhealth. Pero ikaw parang self-employed ka. So ito naman ang isang puwede nating gawin. Puwede nating bigyan ng. . Ikaw willing ka ba. . . Ikaw makakaya mo ba yung 100 pesos a month para sa health insurance? Dahil nga tumataas ang iyong kita dahil nagmumura yung spare parts. So, ang problema ay wala kang impormasyon tungkol sa kung papano. Kasi hindi ba medyo mura yon kung 100 pesos a month? Tapos nuon pag magkakasakit kayo, pag kayo ay maho-hospitalized libre ito hanggang 30,000 pesos yata. Malaking tulong yon. So, kung malaman mo kung saan mag-aaply ka? Hindi ba? Yon ang isa sa atin sigurong pwede pag-aralan sa ating pamahalaan ngayon dahil nga maraming lumalaki ang kanilang kita. Mas maliliit ang inyong gastos dahil kung magkakasakit kayo ay sagot na ng Philhealth hanggang 30,000. So, for 1,200 a year na gagastusin ninyo pati yung mga anak mo sakop doon.

So, ito ang isang mga gusto nating gawin para sa ganun yung mga biyaya ng ating mga magagandang rating ay pupunta sa ating taong-bayan. Kasi yung binabayad ninyon 1,200 every year tapos marami sa inyo magkakaroon ng hospitalization na mas malaki keysa sa 1,200 ang gastos, di ba? Sana kinukuha ng Philhealth yung diperensya? Eh nanggagaling din yuon doon sa kita ng ating bansa. At isang dahilan kung bakit maganda nga ang ating rating ay lumalaki ang kita ng ating bansa, hindi ba Gary? Marami tayong tax collection pero bumababa ang bayad ng interes dahil lumalakas ang piso. Hindi na rin umuutang so yung mga dating binabayad natin sa interes na dollar denominated kaya mahal ay pumupunta sa mga serbisyo gaya ng Philhealth.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Opening and Closing Statements of President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the Dollar Surplus and RP named as Best Borrower

Opening/Closing Statements of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on the Dollar Surplus and RP named as Best Borrower

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 18, 2007]

Mga kababayan bahagi ng ating paglaban sa kahirapan ay ang pag-akit ng investments upang makalikha ng sampung milyong trabaho sa panahon ng ating panunungkulan. At sa hangarin nating ito importante na marami tayong dolyar sa ating kaban. Importante rin na tinuturing tayo ng mga bangko ng mundo bilang mabuting taga-hiram.

Paano magagamit ang ating mga dolyar at ang ating magandang pangalan sa mga bangko ng mundo sa sinasabi nating payback para sa bayan – ang pagbibigay sa mamamayan ng mga biyaya mula sa ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya.

Narito ngayon upang ipaliwanag ito kung paano ay sina Secretary Gary Teves ng Department of Finance at Deputy Governor ng Bangko Sentral, si Diwa Guinigundo. magandang hapon.

Una sa lahat, Gary, congratulations! Dahil sabi ng mga international financiers tayo ang pinakamagaling na bond issuer or pinakamagaling na taga-hiram sa mga bangko ng mundo. Ano ang ibig sabihin nito para sa karaniwang Pilipino?

Ikaw ba meron ka ng Philhealth card? O ayan, kasi yan ang isang gusto nating mangyari. Yung Philhealth kasi, ang siguradong may Philhealth yung mga employer at saka employee. Yung mga employer ay yaong mga may pabrika o kumpanya, let's say taxi company na may suweldong binibigay. So, yung suweldong binibigay kasama na doon yung Philhealth. Pero ikaw parang self-employed ka ito naman ang isang puwede nating gawin. Puwede nating bigyan ng... ikaw willing ka ba... Ikaw makakaya mo ba yung 100 pesos a month para sa health insurance? Dahil nga tumataas ang iyong kita dahil nagiging mura yung gasolina, yung smre parts. So, ang problema ay wala kang impormasyontungkol sakung papano. Kasi hindi ba medyo mura yon kung 100 pesos a month? Tapos nuon pag magkakasakit kayo, pag kayo ay mahohospitalized libre ito hanggang 30,000 pesos yata. Malaking tulong yon. So, kung malaman mo kung saan mag-aapply ka? Hindi ba? Yon ang isa sa atin sigurong pwede pag-aralan sa ating pamahalaan ngayon dahil nga maraming lumalaki ang kanilang kita. Mas liliit ang inyong gastos dahil kung magkakasakit kayo ay sagot na ng Philhealth hanggang 30,000. So, for 1,200 a year na gagastusin ninyo pati yung mga anak mo sakop doon.

In fact, gumagawa tayo ng programa para pag merong Philhealth yung pamilya bibigyan na rin ng card yung bawat anak. Para halimbawa nandoon sila sa probinsya dadalhin na yung Philhealth card doon sa ospital sa probinsya.

So, ito ang mga gusto nating gawin para sa ganun yung mga biyaya ng ating mga magagandang rating ay pupunta sa ating taong-bayan. Kasi yung binabayad niyong 1,200 every year tapos marami sa inyo magkakaroon ng hospitalization na mas malaki kesa sa 1,200 ang gastos, di ba? Saan kinukuha ng Philhealth yung diperensya? Manggagaling din iyon doon sa kita ng ating bansa. At isang dahilan kung bakit maganda nga ang ating rating ay lumalaki ang kita ng ating bansa, hindi ba Gary? Marami tayong tax collection pero bumababa ang bayad ng interes dahil lumalakas ang piso. Hindi na rin umuutang so yung mga dating binabayad natin sa interes na dollar denominated kaya mahal ay pumupunta sa mga serbisyo gaya ng Philhealth.

At maraming salamat, Dep. Governor Diwa Guinigundo sa magandang pagmamaneho ng ating foreign exchange and dollars and monetary policy ng Central Bank. Kaya ang damidami nating dolyar ngayon.

At maraming salamat din Gary sa mga ginawa mo para lumakas ang ating pangalan sa mga bangko ng mundo dahil yon ay nakakapagbigay din ng biyaya sa pamamagitan ng... Nalilipat yung budget sa interest payment at nabibigay sa mga biyaya gaya ng dagdag na health services.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat din.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the Benefits of the ASEAN in 2007 as ‘Boom Year’ line up

Opening/Closing Statements of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on the Benefits of the ASEAN in 2007 as ‘Boom Year’ line up

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 20, 2007]

My thought for today on this EDSA Dos Anniversary is the satisfaction of having done what I could for the good of the nation. The past has carried heavy trials but great triumphs for the people. I am but an instrument of their most ardent aspirations. I face the day sharing the hopes of those families who have been lifted from poverty and I promise to do better if I can.

I face the day sharing the dream of a Philippines mightily taking on the challenges of the world with excellence and pride. No more is our nation a basket case in the region or a weak link in the fight against terror. We’re rising above the specter of the past. We are crossing the threshold to an era of confidence and hope. The momentum is ours. We must keep and drive it forward with our solidarity and hard work, building peace and reconciliation along the way, in every nook and cranny of this great land.

Nagsisimula tayo ng taong 2007 ng maraming magandang balita. Bumagal ang inflation rate, ibig-sabihin dahan-dahan ang pag-akyat ng presyo haming sa mga panahong nakaraan. Tumalon din ang kapital na dumagsa sa bansa. Lumalago ang ating mga exports, lampas sa target. Matibay din ang paninindigan ng pamahalaan na ayusin ang ating pananalapi.

Tuloy-tuloy tayong binabati ng mga lider ng mundo sa tagumpay ng ASEAN Summit. Kaya sa panibagong taon, puno tayo ng pag-asang mapagpapatuloy natin ang pagsulong ng ekonomiya at makakaabot ang kaniyang biyaya sa karaniwang pamilyang Pilipino.

Sa 2007 pagtutuunan natin ng pansin ang tinatawag na “Social payback.” yon bang ipadama sa lahat ng mamamayan, lalo na sa maralita, ang biyaya ng kasiglaan ng ekonomiya at malakas na pananalapi ng pamahalaan. Panahon na upang makatanggap ang masa ng higit pang biyaya sa edukasyon, kalusugan, nutrisyon at hanapbuhay.

Pag-uusapan natin ngayon kung paano natin isisiguro ang “boom year” ng 2007. Pag-uusapan rin natin kung paano natin isusulong ang mga plano ng ASEAN at East Asia sa lahat ng larangan ng seguridad, kalakal at kaunlaran.

At ngayon tayo bilang mga panauhin natin narito ang ating undersecretary sa Department of Foreign Affairs, si Undersecretary Conejos. Magandang umaga, Undersecretary Conejos. Siya ang kampeon ng ating mga OFW lalo na pag may problema. Okay; at sa kaliwa ko naman ang NEDA Deputy Director — mabuti nasa pamahalaan siya ngayon, pero noong araw magaling na magaling na manunulat — si Director Dennis Arroyo. Magandang umaga, Dennis. Deputy, oh, Deputy Director, Deputy Director General, okay. Ah, no, Director. Okay, okay; at isang madalas nating panauhin, financial analyst, isang dalubhasa sa stock market, si Astro Del Castillo. Magandang umaga, Astro. Thank you for coming again; at meron tayong masasabi rin nating karaniwang Pilipino kasi may iba’t-ibang mga antas ng karaniwang Pilipino. Eto ay dalawang mga overseas Filipino workers na matataas ang kanilang kita sa kanilang pinagtrabahuan. Nandito sa kanan ni Undersecretary Conejos, si Esther Mangulabnan. Magandang umaga, Esther. At si Ginoong Eduardo Mangulabnan. Magandang umaga rin, Mr. Mangulabnan. Magandang umaga sa iyo. Kayo ay nasa Qatar nagtrabaho at dinig ko na ilang taon kayong nagpunta, many years ago, 27 years ago ba? Twenty five years ago, 1982, hand-to- mouth ang inyong pamumuhay.

* * *

CLOSING STATEMENT:

Sa pangangalakal naman pinapalaya natin ang pangangalakal. Halimbawa, yung biofuel, para maging mas mura yung gasolina natin ay puwedeng libre pangangalakal. Halimbawa, tayo nagpro-produce ng ethanol madali natin maibenta sa ibang bansa yun. O kaya kung magkukulang tayo ng ethanol madali tayong makakabili rin sa ibang bansa para ganun ay bababa ang presyo ng bilihin ng gasolina.

So, yun ang makakatulong din sa ating mga mamamayan, at yung kaunlaran. Yung kaunlaran doon sa East Asian Summit ay yung... Dahil kasama yung mayayaman na bansa gaya ng Japan, kaagad-agad nangako ang Japan ng two billion dollars para madvelop natin yung ating mga alternative sources of energy na makakatulong din sa ating mga mahihirap. Una sa lahat nga yung pagbaba ng presyo ng gasolina, yung pagbaba ng presyo ng jeepney, yung hindi tinataas ng taxi yung kanilang presyo — lahat nuon ay may biyaya para sa ating mga karaniwang mamamayan.

Kaya ako'y nagpapasalamat sa ating mga overseas Filipino workers dahil ang laki ng inyong kontribusyon, puwede maging seven percent ang growth rate dahil sa inyo; lumawak ang ating real estate, ang ating housing; at dumami ang ating investments sa mga iba't-ibang kumpanya na magbibigay ng dagdag na trabaho. Thank you, Mr. And Mrs. Mangulabnan.

Lalo na kasama yung ibang ASEAN countries ngayon sa pagtatanggol.

Palagay ko siguro kumikita kayo ngayong itong taong ito, ano? Oo, excellent, congratulations! And Astro, sana mas maging matagumpay pa ang stock market. Salamat dahil kayo ang PR natin, mataas ang credit rating agencies.

Yes, yes from Ing Barrings, one of the best investors. Ang dami naging milyonaryo sa stock market itong taong nakaraan.

Well, thank you very much, Dennis din dahil yung iyong kagalingan ay ginagamit mo paglingkod sa ating pamahalaan. And thank you also Undersecretary Conejos, ikaw talaga ang parating nagbibigay ng proteksyon sa ating mga overseas Filipino workers. And to you all, maraming salamat.

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on the Benefits of the ASEAN in 2007 as 'Boom Year' line up. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152608/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1790&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo on the Capture and Elimination of Key Figures of the Abu Sayyaf and J.I. Terrorists

Opening/Closing Statements of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On the Capture and Elimination of Key Figures of the Abu Sayyaf and J.I. Terrorists

[Delivered at the Ramos Room, Malacañang, January 23, 2007]

Congratulations! To our soldiers, our communities and our allies for the capture and elimination of key figures of the Abu Sayyaf and J.I. terrorists.

Our military has hit them hard and with success. This is in part due to the fact that their lair is becoming smaller because our grasp on peace in Mindanao and Southern Philippines has become wider. The natural outcome of peace is the defeat of extremism and violence perpetrated by these terrorist thugs.

At noon pa man, isa sa mga pangunahing saligan ng kapayapaan sa Pilipinas at sa buong rehiyon ang ugnayang panseguridad natin ng Estados Unidos. It becomes even more important as we push for strong collective security arrangements in ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific involving the U.S., China and Japan.

Ipinamalas ng ating mga panalo laban sa Abu Sayyaf ang tagumpay ng ating programa para sa pagsasanay at impormasyon kabalikat ang Estados Unidos. These are reinforced by broader programs for peace and development, trade and investment.

Saklaw ng ating aliansiya sa Amerika ang ating pagsanib sa lahat ng bansa sa Asya-Pasipiko para sa mas masagana at ligtas na mundo — a world that can secure the movement of people, goods and technology across borders while effectively checking terrorist persons, funds and materiel. This is a high point for global security based on strong and committed alliances to a comprehensive strategy against terror.

Once again, we salute our troops for their fighting mettle and we generously praise the communities involved.

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Statement on the Capture and Elimination of Key Figures of the Abu Sayyaf and J.I. Terrorists. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151905/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1788&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on the: Rollback of Oil Prices; Shrinking of the budget deficit; And drop in the interest rates of treasury bills

Opening/Closing Statements of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on the: Rollback of Oil Prices; Shrinking of the budget deficit; And drop in the interest rates of treasury bills

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 23, 2007]

Magandang araw mahal kong mga kababayan:

Bumagsak sa pinakamababang antas ang interes sa treasury bills sa auction kahapon dahil sa patuloy na pagtaas ng kumpiyansa ng merkado sa takbo ng ating ekonomiya. Inaasahang higit pang lalakas ang investments dahil sa patuloy na pagbaba ng interest rates.

Dahil din sa pagbaba ng interest rates, nababawasan ang kailangan nating isantabi para sa debt service at nadadagdagan ang pondo para sa pangangailangan ng taumbayan gaya ng social services at infrastructure.

Ang ating budget deficit sa nakaraang taon ay higit na mababa sa 125 billion na ceiling. Akala nga natin magkakaroon tayo ng depito na 125 billion. Eh, ayon kay Secretary Teves, isa sa ating panauhin ngayon — magandang hapon, Gary — ay kung isasama mo ang gobyerno at lahat ng korporasyon niya, meron pa tayong surplus. Congratulations! As of September.

Mayroon pang napipintong rollback sa presyo ng langis. Kaya ngayong hapon ay minarapat nating imbitahin hindi lang si Secretary Teves ng Department of Finance, narito rin si Secretary Nonoy Andaya ng Department of Budget and Management. Magandang hapon, Nonoy; si Secretary Lotilla ng Department of Energy. Magandang hapon, Popo; nandito rin si Francis Glenn Yu, President ng Independent Oil Players Group. Magandang hapon, good afternoon, Glenn; at si Mrs. Maura Alair, vendor and housewife. Magandang hapon, Maura.

Una sa lahat, yung interest rate, Gary. Ano'ng ibig sabihin nang bumaba yung treasury rates to the lowest... To historic level? Ano'ng ibig sabihin noon?

* * *

Closing Statement:

Alam mo, Maura dahil sa kumpiyansa nagpunta sa ating bansa — inumpisahan na natin dahil sa ating taxation, yung value-added tax — lumaki ang kumpiyansa. Ngayon mas malaki ang ginagastos natin sa social services keysa sa pagbayad ng utang.

Kaya yon ang dahilan kung bakit nararamdaman mo yung microfinance, mas mababa keysa... At merong microfinance keysa yung 5/6, tapos naramdaman mo ang pagbaba ng pasahe at saka yung Philhealth, yung Philhealth na pwedeng ma-renew. Kaya ito ang sinasabi nating mga bunga ng reporma para sa karaniwang mamamayan.

Dahil sa ating pagpupunyaging isulong ang mga reporma sa pananalapi at ekonomiya, nakikita natin na nagbubunga ito ng magandang buhay para sa ating mga mamamayan. Kaya muli inaasahan ko lalo pang gaganda ang mga numero na nagbabadya ng mga magandang bukas para sa ating lahat.

Muli, maraming salamat Maura sa iyong pagkuwento sa iyong buhay, kabuhatan at lahat. Thank you very much Glenn for the forthcoming third round of 50 centavos decrease. At saka thank you very much Popo Lotilla for always talking to the oil companies dahil deregulated ito, hindi mo sila mapipilit pero nape-persuade mo sila. And thank you very much Nonoy Andaya dahil sa magandang pagmaneho mo sa budget ay talagang tuloy-tuloy itong

pagbaba ng deficit natin at baka nga maka-balanced budget tayo ng maagang panahon. And of course thank you very much Secretary Teves for all of the very efficient tax collection.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Roundtable Discussion on the: Rollback of Oil Prices; Shrinking of the budget deficit; And drop in the interest rates of treasury bills. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152253/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1787&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion on: ASEAN-European Union talks, Ecozone Export, oil and LPG rollback, trade fairs

Opening/Closing Statements of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion on: ASEAN-European Union talks, Ecozone Export, oil and LPG rollback, trade fairs

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Press Briefing Room, Malacañang, January 24, 2007]

Magandang araw mga kababayan ko:

Natapos na ang ASEAN Summit, ngayon nagkakaroon naman ng mahalagang ugnayang pangangalakalan sa pagitan ng ASEAN at European Union. Makikinabang tayo dito, makikinabang ang marami nating produkto na proudly Philippine made na rumarampa ngayon sa mga pambansang merkado. Marami ditong mga produktong ito ay nandoon sa mga economic zones natin.

At lumalawak ang ating mga palengke dahil din sa pamamagitan ng trade fairs, pareho sa lokal at pandaigdigang merkado, mas napapamalas ang galing at husay ng Pilipino sa pamamagitan ng mga dekalidad na mga produkto.

Isa pang magandang balita ay ang napipintong rollback sa presyo ng langis at ng LPG na ginagamit ng ating mga maybahay sa pagluluto. At malaking kaugnayan dito ay dahil nalalaman na ng buong mundo na tayo ay gumagawa ng kilusang maging malaya o sa enerhiya nanggagaling sa langis.

Kaya kasama natin itong araw na ito, nandito una sa lahat, si Undersecretary ng Foreign Affairs, si Edsel Custodio. Magandang hapon, Edsel; at narito rin si Undersecretary Mar Salazar ng Energy. Magandang hapon din Mar; at narito ang Director General ng Philippine Economic Zone Authority, si Lilia de Lima. Magandang hapon, Lilia; at narito rin yung namamahala ng ating mga trade fairs, si Fe Agoncillo Reyes — magandang hapon, Fe — sa CITEM.

Umpisahan natin itong ASEAN-European Union, Edsel. Actually, supposed to be mapipirmahan sana natin ito noon pang... Itong summit natin ng January dahil, first of all, hindi kasama ito sa ating agenda nung December pa, dahil hindi pa handa. Pero in the meantime nang na-postpone to January, nung Christmas eve, handa na pala ang European Union. Nung tsini-check ko sa DFA, “ano, pwede pa tayong magpirmahan sa European Union?” I-check pa raw sa Cambodia dahil ang sistema ng ASEAN ay may sariling mga bansa-bansang namamahala doon.

So hindi nakahabol doon sa ating ASEAN Summit. Pero ngayon dahil chairman pa rin tayo hanggang hulyo, hanggang katapusan ng hulyo ay tinutuloy natin yon. So, ano na ang status nito Edsel, at ano’ng ibig sabihin kung makakapagsunduan tayo sa European Union sa karaniwang Pilipino?

* * *

CLOSING STATEMENT:

Basta gusto na nga natin eh custom-demand yung ano... Talagang kung may specific demand, yon ang tini-training ng TESDA. Hindi na sila nagpupunta doon sa mga pastillas making masyado kasi maghahanap pa tayo ng market. Yon dapat na may market na talaga yon ang ginagawa ng TESDA. At hindi sila mismo nagti-training, nagbibigay sila ng scholarships kung saan may mga dalubhasa nagti-training.

So, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat, sa ating mga tumutulong sa exports, Fe, congratulations! Sa inyong magandang trabaho sa trade fairs; Lilia, congratulations! At parating nagre-record breaking yung performance ng economic zone authority; at congratulations! Din Undersecretary Salazar dahil tayo ay patungo na talaga sa kasarinlan sa enerhiya; at congratulations! Din Edsel at good luck! Para mabuksan natin ang bagong palengke ng Europe.

At sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statement during a Roundtable Discussion on: ASEAN-European Union talks, Ecozone Export, oil and LPG rollback, trade fairs. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412151848/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1785&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo before the key officials and major national media management editors and senior journalists

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Before the key officials and major national media management editors and senior journalists

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, June 14, 2007]

Thank you.

Today, we are holding this meeting between the information and security officials of the government and the representatives of media to review our efforts to prosecute and prevent journalist killings.

First of all, let me once again deplore the killings of journalists. We have a sorry history in our nation for political violence. We aim to break this cycle of violence once and for all.

I happen to believe that 99 percent of our military and policemen and women are good, upstanding and loyal patriots fighting to protect our country everyday. But if rogue members of the military or police are involved, we have all agreed that they shall be punished.

Former Justice Melo has provided his initial report. We have made it public. We are in the process of following his recommendations. This includes: special courts, stronger witness protection measures, more money for prosecutors, and investigations of left and right to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice. As we have made tough choices to turn around our economy, we will also get a handle on these killings to end them once and for all.

Today, let us join hands in mutual trust and common purpose so that all the violence will be stopped. We will have two parts to this meeting. I will leave you first for half an hour. Of course, you may start your lunch. And then so that you can have some brainstorming or something candid that you might want to say to one another. And then I'll be back at about 1:00 o'clock so that then, probably you could give me a consensus of what you have agreed on in the first half hour and then we can move on from there, if that's alright with you.

So, I'd like to thank you once again until I see you in about half an hour's time. Please enjoy your lunch in the meantime.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo opening statement before the key officials and major national media management editors and senior journalists. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150013/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2028&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on rallying Pinoys abroad, June 26, 2007

**Policy Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On rallying Pinoys abroad**

[Delivered at the Equatorial Guinea, June 26, 2007]

Rallying Pinoys abroad

We are proud of the contribution of Filipino workers to the development of this country, particularly the 2,500 Filipinos employed in the banking, finance and oil sectors of Equatorial Guinea.

Sinisikap nating lalo pang mapabuti ang inyong kalagayan.

Pinararangalan ng pamahalaan at taumbayan ang mga Pilipinong manggagawa sa ibayong dagat sa inyong sakripisyo at malasakit sa inyong trabaho, inyong pamilya at inyong bansa. Tinatanggap nang buong loob ang inyong kontribusyon. Nguni't karangalan din nating sabihin na ang mga ganansya sa ekonomiya na nakikita natin ngayon sa Pilipinas ay inihahanda ang araw kung kailan hindi na kailangang mag-abroad pa ang mga Pilipino para sa trabaho, and the day when overseas work is just another option and not the only choice you have to earn a living.

Nasa landas ng permanenteng pagsulong at katatagan ng ekonomiya ang Pilipinas.

Inaasahan natin na magtatrabaho ang Senado at Kamara ng Pilipinas kasama nating siguraduhing isosostento natin ang ating mga biyaya sa ekonomiya. Nakalingingon tayo sa makabuluhang pag-uusap at pagtutulungan sa ating mga gumagawa ng mga patakarang masiguradong tuloy tayong sumulong sa reporma sa ekonomiya.

We have turned the corner on our economy.

Mayroon nang mga kapansin-pansin na tagumpay. Nguni't di-hamak na may higit pang magagawa at gagawin.

Sa unang pagkakataon sa isang henerasyon, binibigyan tayo ng kakayahan ng ating mga biyaya sa ekonomiya at kaban ng bayang gumawa ng malalakas na pamumuhunan sa ating bayan at ating taumbayan. Patungo doon, naglikha tayo ng estratehiyang pamumuhunang nakatukoy sa apat na pinaka-inisyatibo: 1) pag-ibayuhin ang ating imprastraktura upang lumikha ng kapaligiran kung saan may kumpyansa ang mga negosyong mag-expand at mag-employ ng higit pang tao, dahil kahulugan ng higit na trabaho ay bawas sa kahirapan; 2) pag-ibayuhin ang social services gaya ng health insurance subsidies para sa mga dukhang pamilya at nutrition programs para sa mga mag-aaral at kanilang mga pamilya; 3) pagpapalakas ng suporta sa edukasyon sa ating pagsisikap na bawasan ang kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng pamumuhunan sa mas mabuting school buildings, mga bagong libro at teaching materials, at training programs para sa mga guro at school administrators; at 4) pagputol ng red tape at pagpapatuloy na tanggalin ang katiwalian sa sistema.

Ito ang mga paraan upang mai-ahon ang mga mahihirap. Ginagawa natin ito sa unang pagkakataon sa isang henerasyon.

Kaakibat kayo at ang buong pamilyang Pilipino, maisusulong natin ang ating layunin.

Together, we will push forward and fulfill our common dreams of peace and prosperity.

Source: University of the Philippines Main Library

Statement: President Arroyo at the Mindanao Peace and Security Summit

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
At the Mindanao Peace and Security Summit**

[Issued in Cagayan De Oro City, July 10, 2007]

To my fellow Mindanaoans, daghang salamat sa inyong pagtambong dinhi.

We are here together because we must work together from day one to ensure that we respect the rights of our citizens.

We must invest in peace and order. Crime is down in the nation because we have made the investments to put more policemen on the street.

Our military must continue on its path to reform. They must become even more professional every day at the same time they fight to eliminate the armed terrorist threats to the nation from religious extremists or communist terrorists. Whatever ideology is being pursued that undermines our stability must be defeated.

Hand in hand with the need for economic prosperity is the need to strengthen our institutions of government to ensure that civil rights and social justice are available to all Filipinos, not just a privileged few. We must weed out corruption, stop political violence and build a strong system of justice that people can trust.

Political violence has been with this nation for way too long. Among our ranks here in this Summit, friends and colleagues have been gunned down in spurts of mindless violence. Spikes of election and political violence, while down, remain too high. Even one death is one death too many for the people who are fighting to be a part of our democratic society.

This violence extends to the men and women in the media who have put their lives on the line to do their job. We must protect our journalists from violence just as we must protect all innocent civilians.

The political terrorists who live outside the boundaries of human justice and who have marked the stability of our nation and the rule of law for extinction live by no moral code. They lack all humanity and concern for the people.

We must all band together as a people and as public servants to stop this violence once and for all. We plan to introduce into the new Congress sweeping legislation that will transform our nation's response to political violence and remove this stain from our nation. Legislation that will guarantee swift justice through more funding for special courts to prosecute human rights violators. We will strengthen the rights of victims, including more money for enforcement. We will impose tougher penalties for human rights violators and for anyone committing a crime with a firearm.

If you are armed and kill innocent civilians, you will be tracked down and prosecuted. If you are a communist terrorist, we will stop you. If you are a religious terrorist, we will stop you. If you are a rogue element of our own police or military, we will stop you.

I have the deepest respect for our military and police institutions as do most Filipinos. We want our nation safe. We trust our men and women who put their life on the line everyday to protect our nation and our communities. Ninety-nine percent of these hard working and patriotic men and women love this nation and abide by the rule of law.

Yet for our public servants in uniform, fidelity to the Constitution is a sacred duty. These public servants have a moral obligation to uphold the Constitution and to protect the innocent. For this reason, any violent crime that a member of the law enforcement or military community may commit against innocent people is even more wrong and must be stopped. No one is above the law.

We are entering a new era of civil and human rights. The front line of this effort is built on lifting up our poor and liberating them from poverty. That is the most fundamental human right – to live in dignity free from the fear of hunger and want.

No less important is to bring political stability to every region so that our people can live in peace, free from the fear of harassment, kidnapping and plunder that are so often part of the communist terrorists who flog a failed ideology. The civil rights of our people will be upheld as we tie down and eliminate enemies of peace and prosperity.

There is a fundamental difference between those who take up arms and those who take to the ballot box. Our government will protect the political rights of any person who wishes to participate in our democracy however we might disagree on philosophy and approach. We cannot stand idly by, however, and let the purveyors of violence cloak their agenda behind the innocent men and women they hold hostage to their failed ideology. We will wrestle with these failed terrorists to the ground and free the nation to live in peace and harmony.

This nation will not be complete until we bring peace to Mindanao. Our Muslim brothers and sisters have been working in good faith with our government for many years. We are on the cusp of a permanent peace. The process we have employed has been gaining the attention of the world. We have created a Philippine model for reconciliation that is built on interfaith dialogue, the building of roads, bridges and schools and investments to build up the local economy. The hard power of our military presence is merely to isolate the violent terrorists while our soft power of seeing to the people's needs is expanding the peace every day. Peace and order will prevail over violence and chaos in the Southern Philippines.

I am hereby ordering the increased security of vital power and transportation facilities in Mindanao. Let us begin the implementation of the Human Security Act by using it as a tool to prevent multi-billion-peso hydroelectric dams and power grids from being whacked by terrorists. The people have a civic and collective duty to protect essential infrastructure which their taxes paid for.

Our community assets are at stake. We will suffer blackouts or erratic cellphone signals if these conveniences are disrupted by terrorism. Pag walang koryente, walang trabaho. The Human Security Act is about defending our way of life.

Equal to our determination to eliminate violence and suppress the violent is our determination to lift up the nation to a brighter future.

Let us strive to create a mass movement of Mindanaoans actively engaged in fighting crime, terrorism and poverty.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement at the Mindanao Peace and Security Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145855/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2058&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the Central Philippines Infra Conference

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: At the Central Philippines Infra Conference

[Issued at the New Silay Airport, Silay City, Negros Occidental, July 13, 2007]

* We must invest in the vital infrastructure that is the backbone of a modern nation: mga bilyon sa mga bag-o nga kalsada, airports kag energy reliability, agod maka-kumpetensiya ang Pilipinas.

* Investing in the vital infrastructure includes building up our environment as a reflection of our commitment to our quality of life. People need to breathe clean air and swim in clean water while we also build manufacturing and bridges to span our waters.

* In last year's State of the Nation Address I unveiled the theme of the Super Regions that spread development from concentration in Manila. It was not just a State of the Nation gimmick. It is a concept that will be carried all the way to 2010. For instance:

* The majority of tourists visiting the Philippines go to Central Philippines. Boracay is the top overall destination while Cebu is the top destination for foreign tourists.

* Roads:

* Boracay beachcombers reach up to Libertad and Pandan in Antique. More so when the road awaiting Japan's approval of the bid documents is completed. Meanwhile, we are improving other Panay roads. The Iloilo-Santa Barbara Road and the Metro Iloilo Radial Road will be completed in 2009.

* From Metro Iloilo we go to Guimaras through the Jordan Wharf. In 2009 we will build the road from Jordan to Sibunag Roll-on, Roll-off (RORO) Port, which we started building last May. Governor now Congressman Rahman Nava chose Sibunag as the best connection to Bacolod Port.

* Investors in Boracay are expanding in Palawan. In March last year we opened the Puerto Princesa-Taytay Road, followed in March this year by the Taytay-El Nido. The Puerto Princesa-Bataraza Road will be completed by December 2009.

* Cebu tourism can spill over to other destinations through the road and roll-on-roll-off ferry system that we call the Central Nautical Highway:

* Going south, Cebu Port to Tubigon Port in Bohol, to Jagna RORO Port, opened last May 9 and Ubay Port through the Bohol Circumferential Road which we also inaugurated last May 9.

* Ubay to Maasin Port in Southern Leyte, completed last October, or Limawasa Port, to be completed in September. Governor Mian Mercado will have lots of scuba divers.

* Jagna to Mambajao Port in Camiguin, to be completed in November, then by road on to Guinsiliban Port, the gateway to the Mindanao mainland and Loloy Romualdo's Lanzones Festival.

* Going north from Cebu City, North Cebu Coastal Road, which will be delogged when the Mandaue-Consolacion Bridge is completed in 2009, to the Bogo Port.

* Bogo to Naval or Maripipi Port in Biliran, or Esperanza of Cawayan in Masbate. Naval Port will be finished in December; Maripipi, Esperanza and Cawayan next year.

* Esperanza or Cawayan to Aroroy Port by a road to be completed in 2009.

* Aroroy to Claveria, Burias Island whose RORO ramp will be finished next April.

* Claveria to the Pasacao Port, where RORO operations started in 2002, and onto the rest of Bicol.

* Airports:

* Last month we started operating the Iloilo International Airport, which was Art Defensor's dream ever since he was Governor of Iloilo.

* Kalibo Airport has likewise gone international with Asian Spirit operating direct flights from Korea. Hopefully by August Governor Carlito Marquez shall have completed the acquisition of the land for the instrument landing system. We will also build an P80 million passenger terminal building on the strong representation of Congressman Joben Miraflores to accommodate the hordes of Boracay fans.

* As we can see the new Bacolod Airport is also finished, but we will await the completion of the access road in November before opening it. I assure Congressman Monico Puentevella that the airport fees will stay the same.

* Other deadlines: September for Guian Airport in Eastern Samar so that Governor Ben Evardone will have more surfers. November for the San Vicente airstrip in Palawan. December for Siargao Airport in Surigao and, courtesy of KOICA of Korea, Busuanga Airport in Palawan. January for the runway overlay and shore protection of Tacloban Airport. February for the Puerto Princesa airport terminal. April for upgrading the Dumaguete runway which then Governor now Congressman George Arnaiz said should be done so that electronics firms can be encouraged to locate in Oriental Negros where electric power rates can be subsidized.

* We thank the local government of Kabankalan, Negros Occidental which will start civil works on its airport in October to access the Mediterranean ambience of the Sipalay beaches.

* The local government of Bohol will acquire the land for the Panglao International Airport by December.

* Last month in Legazpi, Albay, upon recommendation of Governor Joey Salceda I instructed the release of P85 million for the advanced engineering study for the international airport in Daraga, Albay, which will serve the whole Bicol peninsula.

* Energy Reliability:

* In the Visayas, an electric power gap of 100 megawatts will appear in 2009. The Korean Electric Power Company project in Cebu will come in only at 2010 with 200 megawatts. So five power barges of 100 megawatts will be on standby to fill in the gap.

* But the real solution is to privatize ASAP as is where is the geothermal power plants in Oriental Negros, Southern Leyte, Albay and Sorsogon so that the private sector can expand their capacity before 2009. With the successful privatization of PNOC-EDC, the development of new geothermal power resources has gained additional momentum. It is attractive enough for the private sector so that the government need not be the one to spend.

* Last May we turned on the lights in Masbate. But that was also temporary. The final solution will come in 2008, when a new 13-megawatt clean coal plant will increase customer coverage from 125,000 to 500,000. I hope to visit Representatives Lina Seacheon, Tony Kho and Bong Bravo on the ground when that happens.

* In Negros Occidental, the San Carlos bioethanol plant will start its commercial operation in October 2008. Let us create an ethanol corridor in Negros Island from San Carlos City to Tamlang Valley.

* Environment:

* As our investment in natural parks, since 2001, we have declared eight new protected areas in Central Philippines: Tubbataha Reefs and Rasa Island in Palawan, Mt. Isarog in Bicol, Northern Negros, Northwest Panay Peninsula in Antique, Panglao Island in Bohol, Samar Island and Central Cebu.

* We monitor water quality in 24 Central Philippines beaches, including Boracay, Panglao and El Nido.

* Two years ago, Southern Leyte suffered a deadly mudslide. Today it is back on its feet and implementing a \$3 million Japanese project to manage its fragile ecosystem.

* Guimaras has also made a dramatic comeback from last year's oil spill. Thank you, Congress, for allocating almost P900 million to address their calamity. For the long term, initiatives have started on studying their mangroves and replenishing the populations of the organisms living in their shores.

* Thank you also, Congress, for allocating P10 billion for the Bicol Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Effort. P7 billion has been released, the biggest single one-time calamity fund release in our history.

* Together with the World Bank, we are funding the Bicol River Basin and Watershed with \$15 million over the next three years for irrigation, flood control and water resources conservation.

* Together we shall make Central Philippines a haven for business and tourism. Let us push on with greater solidarity and focus.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Statement at the Central Philippines Infra Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145655/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2055&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the Central Philippines Infra Conference

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: At the Central Philippines Infra Conference

[Issued at the New Silay Airport, Silay City, Negros Occidental, July 13, 2007]

* We must invest in the vital infrastructure that is the backbone of a modern nation: mga bilyon sa mga bag-o nga kalsada, airports kag energy reliability, agod maka-kumpetensiya ang Pilipinas.

* Investing in the vital infrastructure includes building up our environment as a reflection of our commitment to our quality of life. People need to breathe clean air and swim in clean water while we also build manufacturing and bridges to span our waters.

* In last year's State of the Nation Address I unveiled the theme of the Super Regions that spread development from concentration in Manila. It was not just a State of the Nation gimmick. It is a concept that will be carried all the way to 2010. For instance:

* The majority of tourists visiting the Philippines go to Central Philippines. Boracay is the top overall destination while Cebu is the top destination for foreign tourists.

* Roads:

* Boracay beachcombers reach up to Libertad and Pandan in Antique. More so when the road awaiting Japan's approval of the bid documents is completed. Meanwhile, we are improving other Panay roads. The Iloilo-Santa Barbara Road and the Metro Iloilo Radial Road will be completed in 2009.

* From Metro Iloilo we go to Guimaras through the Jordan Wharf. In 2009 we will build the road from Jordan to Sibunag Roll-on, Roll-off (RORO) Port, which we started building last May. Governor now Congressman Rahman Nava chose Sibunag as the best connection to Bacolod Port.

* Investors in Boracay are expanding in Palawan. In March last year we opened the Puerto Princesa-Taytay Road, followed in March this year by the Taytay-El Nido. The Puerto Princesa-Bataraza Road will be completed by December 2009.

* Cebu tourism can spill over to other destinations through the road and roll-on-roll-off ferry system that we call the Central Nautical Highway:

* Going south, Cebu Port to Tubigon Port in Bohol, to Jagna RORO Port, opened last May 9 and Ubay Port through the Bohol Circumferential Road which we also inaugurated last May 9.

* Ubay to Maasin Port in Southern Leyte, completed last October, or Limawasa Port, to be completed in September. Governor Mian Mercado will have lots of scuba divers.

* Jagna to Mambajao Port in Camiguin, to be completed in November, then by road on to Guinsiliban Port, the gateway to the Mindanao mainland and Loloy Romualdo's Lanzones Festival.

* Going north from Cebu City, North Cebu Coastal Road, which will be delogged when the Mandaue-Consolacion Bridge is completed in 2009, to the Bogo Port.

* Bogo to Naval or Maripipi Port in Biliran, or Esperanza of Cawayan in Masbate. Naval Port will be finished in December; Maripipi, Esperanza and Cawayan next year.

* Esperanza or Cawayan to Aroroy Port by a road to be completed in 2009.

* Aroroy to Claveria, Burias Island whose RORO ramp will be finished next April.

* Claveria to the Pasacao Port, where RORO operations started in 2002, and onto the rest of Bicol.

* Airports:

* Last month we started operating the Iloilo International Airport, which was Art Defensor's dream ever since he was Governor of Iloilo.

* Kalibo Airport has likewise gone international with Asian Spirit operating direct flights from Korea. Hopefully by August Governor Carlito Marquez shall have completed the acquisition of the land for the instrument landing system. We will also build an P80 million passenger terminal building on the strong representation of Congressman Joben Miraflores to accommodate the hordes of Boracay fans.

* As we can see the new Bacolod Airport is also finished, but we will await the completion of the access road in November before opening it. I assure Congressman Monico Puentevella that the airport fees will stay the same.

* Other deadlines: September for Guian Airport in Eastern Samar so that Governor Ben Evardone will have more surfers. November for the San Vicente airstrip in Palawan. December for Siargao Airport in Surigao and, courtesy of KOICA of Korea, Busuanga Airport in Palawan. January for the runway overlay and shore protection of Tacloban Airport. February for the Puerto Princesa airport terminal. April for upgrading the Dumaguete runway which then Governor now Congressman George Arnaiz said should be done so that electronics firms can be encouraged to locate in Oriental Negros where electric power rates can be subsidized.

* We thank the local government of Kabankalan, Negros Occidental which will start civil works on its airport in October to access the Mediterranean ambience of the Sipalay beaches.

* The local government of Bohol will acquire the land for the Panglao International Airport by December.

* Last month in Legazpi, Albay, upon recommendation of Governor Joey Salceda I instructed the release of P85 million for the advanced engineering study for the international airport in Daraga, Albay, which will serve the whole Bicol peninsula.

* Energy Reliability:

* In the Visayas, an electric power gap of 100 megawatts will appear in 2009. The Korean Electric Power Company project in Cebu will come in only at 2010 with 200 megawatts. So five power barges of 100 megawatts will be on standby to fill in the gap.

* But the real solution is to privatize ASAP as is where is the geothermal power plants in Oriental Negros, Southern Leyte, Albay and Sorsogon so that the private sector can expand their capacity before 2009. With the successful privatization of PNOC-EDC, the development of new geothermal power resources has gained additional momentum. It is attractive enough for the private sector so that the government need not be the one to spend.

* Last May we turned on the lights in Masbate. But that was also temporary. The final solution will come in 2008, when a new 13-megawatt clean coal plant will increase customer coverage from 125,000 to 500,000. I hope to visit Representatives Lina Seacheon, Tony Kho and Bong Bravo on the ground when that happens.

* In Negros Occidental, the San Carlos bioethanol plant will start its commercial operation in October 2008. Let us create an ethanol corridor in Negros Island from San Carlos City to Tamlang Valley.

* Environment:

* As our investment in natural parks, since 2001, we have declared eight new protected areas in Central Philippines: Tubbataha Reefs and Rasa Island in Palawan, Mt. Isarog in Bicol, Northern Negros, Northwest Panay Peninsula in Antique, Panglao Island in Bohol, Samar Island and Central Cebu.

* We monitor water quality in 24 Central Philippines beaches, including Boracay, Panglao and El Nido.

* Two years ago, Southern Leyte suffered a deadly mudslide. Today it is back on its feet and implementing a \$3 million Japanese project to manage its fragile ecosystem.

* Guimaras has also made a dramatic comeback from last year's oil spill. Thank you, Congress, for allocating almost P900 million to address their calamity. For the long term, initiatives have started on studying their mangroves and replenishing the populations of the organisms living in their shores.

* Thank you also, Congress, for allocating P10 billion for the Bicol Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Effort. P7 billion has been released, the biggest single one-time calamity fund release in our history.

* Together with the World Bank, we are funding the Bicol River Basin and Watershed with \$15 million over the next three years for irrigation, flood control and water resources conservation.

* Together we shall make Central Philippines a haven for business and tourism. Let us push on with greater solidarity and focus.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Statement at the Central Philippines Infra Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145655/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2055&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the Luzon Urban Beltway Infrastructure Conference

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: At the Luzon Urban Beltway Infrastructure Conference

[Issued at the Subic Bay International Airport Terminal Lounge, Subic Freeport Zone, Zambales, July 19, 2007]

In last year's State of the Nation Address, I unveiled the Super Regions – Central Philippines, North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, Luzon Urban Beltway, Cyber Corridor and Mindanao – where development must spread, away from an unhealthy and inequitable concentration in Metro Manila.

It was not just a gimmick for the occasion but the blueprint of the only viable future.

Our Super Regions strategy is doing great for the Luzon Urban Beltway.

The Subic-Clark-Tarlac Express Road is in its final stages. This first-world motorway will cut travel time between Clark and Subic from two hours to 30 minutes. Clark Airport got its radar approach control in April. Although it will open its new passenger terminal in January, it already has 50 international flights a week, the second busiest after NAIA.

We just came from Cubi Point where we inaugurated a new world-class container port that will make the Subic Bay Freeport together with the Clark Freeport one of the best international service and logistics centers in the region.

In my State of the Nation Address last year, I said we would connect North Luzon and South Luzon Expressways through C-5.

Ginagawa na ang C-5 mula sa Katipunan. Kausap na ang UP para sa ibubutas na daan patungong Commonwealth, na kasalukuyang nilalapan. Sa kabila ng Mindanao Avenue (sa Quezon City), binibili na ang lupang daraan mula Barangay Talipapa (Novaliches) hanggang Malinta (Valenzuela City) kabit na ng NLEX.

On the South Expressway we are widening Alabang Viaduct up to Santo Tomas, Batangas. By March, SLEX will extend all the way to Batangas Port through the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road.

I'm sure everyone wants to know about NAIA Airport Terminal 3. The ceiling that fell wasn't the only thing in danger of falling. Intrusive inspection revealed that the airport cannot withstand an Intensity VI earthquake. The contractor took so long to start the remedial work that government sent a termination notice. Now it's back, taking responsibility for the structural defects. We have pinned them down to complete the work by this year's end. Or else.

More modern airports mean more work for the ATO (Air Transportation Office). I am submitting a priority administration measure creating the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. Public safety comes first.

With regard to energy and power, Luzon needs 150 megawatts additional by 2010. This will be covered by the announced 350-megawatt, \$350-million expansion of the Pagbilao plant by Marubeni and Tokyo Electric, part of their \$4 billion that constitutes the biggest Japanese investment in Philippine history.

Only four percent of Luzon's power comes from oil. Yet power rates are high. I will ask Congress to amend the Electric Power Industry Reform Act for open access and more competition.

Our resolve to provide the necessary infrastructure for growth and prosperity has heightened investors' confidence in our capability to slug it out in the global arena such as the US\$1.6-billion Hanjin Shipbuilding facility, considered to be the third largest in the world and the \$1-billion Texas Instruments chip plant in Clark.

People need to breathe clean air while we also build manufacturing. We have closed 88 firms for polluting the environment. Public safety first, as I said.

Nagtayo tayo ng mga tangkeng maglilinis ng maruming tubig sa halagang P300 milyon, para maalís ang panganib sa apat na milyong residente ng Kamaynilaan dahil sa marumi at baradong mga ilog at estero.

Earlier this year we proclaimed a critical habitat within the coastal lagoon of Las Piñas and Paranaque.

P7 billion in investments from Maynilad's new owners is bringing clean and, at last, running water in Paranaque and other parts of its franchise area. Manila Water just completed a similar P2 billion project for Antipolo.

Ang tubig ay nagbibigay-buhay, hindi pumapatay dahil sa baha. Matapos ang maraming taong usapan at malaking gastos sa nakaraan, sa wakas ginagawa sa ilalim natin ang KAMANAVA (Kalookan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela) Flood Control Project hanggang Septiyembre 2008.

Flood control in Central Luzon will continue with the P5 billion Mt. Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation Project that will protect San Fernando City, Sasmuan, Guagua, and, of course, Lubao. Who knows, I may run for Congress from my home town.

The Luzon Urban Beltway is oozing with prospects. This meeting is a testament to our seriousness and resolve to bring economic vibrancy to the super region.

To the local government units, I invite you to take an active part in the development of our Luzon Urban Beltway.

Together we shall make the Luzon Urban Beltway a globally competitive urban, industrial and services center. Let us push on with greater solidarity and focus.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Statement at the Luzon Urban Beltway Infrastructure Conference. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145559/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2049&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, August 7, 2007]

Welcome to the first LEDAC of the 14th Congress.

And once again, I want to congratulate every legislator for your service and dedication to the nation. The people are watching this council with high hopes that everyone is ready to work for the nation to move forward towards a modern nation; and that everyone is ready to work for economic progress, social justice and peace and order — the three main items in our legislative agenda.

Through the LEDAC (Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council), we hope that all parties and the two political branches of the government can work together to solve common problems.

Our senior deputy executive secretary for legislative liaison, Jake Lagonera, will present the framework of our proposed legislative agenda in terms of the three areas I mentioned: Economic progress, social justice, and peace and order. Then we will have presentations on the three topics related to the area of economic progress: the proposed budget, the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, and a proposed national strategy to conserve resources and help arrest climate change.

The first topic, the budget, will be presented by Nonoy Andaya; and of course it's an annual priority. The second topic, the JPEPA, is a leftover but urgent business from the last congress. And let me introduce the third topic in this way:

The present water and power shortages due to the dry spell deliver a wake-up call for our generation to urgently embark upon a determined, well-planned and well-funded wide ranging strategic initiative to conserve resources even as we strive for development.

Hence, I have instructed NEDA (National Economic and Development Authority), DOE (Department of Energy) and DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), to work with Congress and key sectors of society, to draw up a package of policies and programs designed to progressively reduce the usage of water and energy per unit of farm, factory and other economic output.

This is the direction the whole world will eventually have to go. It's our competitive advantage to race ahead in the inevitable imperative to maximize the growth we generate for every drop of water and spark of energy we use.

We must also build up the environment through forest conservation and expansion to absorb greenhouse gases warming the world, and to enhance our water resources while preventing flooding, erosion and siltation.

And we count on all sectors, starting with our congressional leaders, to work together towards this goal of resource-efficient, environmentally sound development.

So thank you once again. And now SDES Lagonera will begin his presentation. Please, although we will have our open forum at the end of the four presentations, Jake's and the three topics, please feel free to interrupt at anytime that you think you should interrupt.

Thank you.

Okay, Jake?

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's opening statement during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145329/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2137&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the National Security Council (NSC) meeting

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the National Security Council (NSC) meeting**

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, August 14, 2007]

We already have a quorum. So I'd like to call this National Security Council meeting in order.

I've called for this meeting of the National Security Council to brief our leaders on Basilan and Sulu, and to consult them on our unrelenting efforts to forge lasting peace with justice, harmony and security for all Mindanaoans and the rest of the Filipino people.

These efforts shall include protection of civilians in battle zones, strict adherence to ceasefire parameters, harnessing of all sectors and international support for peace and development initiatives, and fast-tracking of projects and programs for infrastructure, health, housing, livelihood, farming and fisheries upgrading, and Muslim education and culture in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

It's imperative that we all work together without selfish politicking to preserve the peace we have achieved so far and to advance it toward a final agreement and the massive development that will follow.

We ask the Lord God for His blessing on our collective efforts to accomplish His plan for peace, justice and progress in our land.

So I'd like to ask our new secretary of National Defense, Gilbert Teodoro, to lead the opening prayer.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during the National Security Council (NSC) meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145233/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2131&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the National Security Council (NSC) Cabinet Group meeting [Filipino]

**Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Sa pagpupulong ng Gabinete ng National Security Council (NSC)**

[Ipinahayag sa Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, ika 21 ng Agosto, 2007]

Mga minamahal kong kababayan:

May mahalaga akong sasabihin sa inyo para sa mapayapa at maayos na buhay ng ating mga pamilya at pamayanan, at para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran ng ating bansa. Sa ating panawagang magkaisa ang bayan sa pagsuporta sa ating mga kawal, ibig nating maging saksi at kapanalig ang pamunuan ng ating republika ng sandatahang lakas at ng pambansang kapulisan.

Una, parangalan natin ang mga kawal na lumaban, nasawi at nasugatan sa Basilan at Sulu. Hindi dapat maaksaya ang kanilang pagtaya ng buhay. Hindi tayo aatras sa pakikibaka upang mabigyan ng katarungan ang ating mga marines at upang mabigyan ng kapayapaan at kaunlaran ang bayan. Nauunawaan natin ang mga ibig ihinto ang labanan, subalit dapat nating tandaan: na hindi magkakaroon ng seguridad ang bansa kung ni hindi natin mabibigyan ng hustisya ang mga sundalong nagtatanggol ng ating republika. Sa halip, lalong lalakas ang loob ng mga terorista kung hindi sila pagbabayaran sa kanilang paglapastangan sa ating mga bayaning kawal.

Pangalawa, against terrorism, our principal weapon remains to be economic development, which we draw from the arsenal of democracy. Ongoing operations against rearguard actions of a despised and defeated group are meant to clear the path for these provinces journey to peace and progress which terror has delayed for so long.

Pangatlo, hindi rin tayo hihinto sa ating paghahangad ng kasunduang pangkapayapaan sa Mindanao, na siyang maglulunsad ng malawakang pag-unlad sa mga pamayananag Muslim sa pagdagsa ng investment at pondong pangkaunlaran. Inaasahan natin na sa susunod na buwan magpapatuloy ang pulong pangkapayapaan ng ating pamahalaan at MILF sa Malaysia; at sa Huwebes, a beinte tres ng Agosto, idaraos ang unang Regional Peace Assembly sa Bohol, na uulitin sa ibang rehiyon. Ito ang suporta ng pamahalaan sa mga pagkilos ng mga pinunong lokal para sa kapayapaan.

Pang-apat, sa pagwawagi ng ating mga kawal at pulis sa mga terorista sa Basilan at Sulu hindi malayong magtangka silang maghasik ng lagim sa ibang bahagi ng bansa, kaya naman inuutos natin sa ating pambansang kapulisan at sandatahang lakas na makipagtulungan sa mga gobyerno lokal at sa taong- bayan upang pagtibayin ang ating mga lungsod at pamayanan laban sa anumang pakana ng mga terorista.

Pang-lima, sa ating pakikibaka sa mga kalabang nagbabanta sa ating kapayapaan at kaunlaran, pinakamahalagang magkaisa tayo at huwag mapadala sa mga naghahangad hati-hatiin ang hukbo at sambayanan sa bisa ng mga mapalinlang at walang katotohanang propaganda.

Nahaharap sa ligalig ang tangi nating bansa. Huwag natin siyang isuko sa kalaban dahil lamang sa mapanira at makasariling pamumulitika.

At panghuli, bukod sa terorismo, nagbabanta rin sa atin ang bagyo at baha sa ilang bahagi ng bansa, at kakulangan ng ulan sa ibang lugar. Kailangan ng ating bayan ngayon ang kabayanihan mula sa bawat Pilipino.

Nananawagan ako sa lahat ng sektor at sa bawat mamamayan: huwag natin biguin ang ating inang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the National Security Council (NSC) Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412144941/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2129&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during Press Briefing on the Philippine Economic Performance and Direction

Opening/Closing Statements of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the Press Briefing on the Philippine Economic Performance and Direction

[Issued at the Rizal Hall, Malacanañg, August 30, 2007]

Magandang umaga.

Ang ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya ay nasa harapan ng ating kampanyang bawasan ang kahirapan. Ito ang ating pangkalahatang layunin. Ang pagbalansiyado ng kaban ng bayan ay unang hakbang lamang. Gumagawa tayo ng matagal nang dapat gawing pamumuhunan sa human at physical infrastructure.

Kasama rito ang bilyung-bilyong piso sa edukasyon, kalinga sa kalusugan at training. Kasama ng bilyun-bilyon sa mga bagong tulay, kalsada, pantalan to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines. This in turn attracts more investments at lumilikha ng dadag na trabaho. Mas maraming trabaho, mas konting kahirapan.

Hangang ngayon, mataas ang ating hinahangad. Naharap natin ang hamon. No one thought we could get more revenue, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. No one thought we could bring our budget into balance, pre-pay our debts at dagdagan ang trabaho – ngunit nagagawa natin.

Our newfound money for investments allows us to pick up the pace of growth. Umuobra ang ating plano sa ekonomiya.

Today we have the latest glowing indicators to show it. For the second quarter of the year, gross domestic product or GDP rose by 7.5 percent, (applause) the fastest in two decades, gross national product or GNP rose by 8.3 percent. (applause) This brings our first semester economic growth to 7.3 percent.

We're confident of meeting our full year growth forecast of 6.1 to 6.7 percent. Based on additional data, our statisticians have also revised the first quarter GDP growth. And that's why I said that GDP grew in the first semester by 7.3 percent.

Sa mga tagumpay na ito, pinupugay natin ang bawat Pilipino dito at sa ibayong dagat.

While our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with one of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in two decades, dapat hindi tayo magpahinga kundi sumulong at isustento ang momentum. Sa susunod na tatlong taon, ita-translate natin ang mga positibong resulta ng ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya sa mga tunay na biyaya para sa taong-bayan.

To sustain our expansion and global business uncertainties, we must undertake more efforts to boost the domestic economy. We call on the business leaders gathered here to join hands with our economic team in advancing crucial initiatives toward faster and faster growth.

First, we must achieve our revenue and deficit targets to maintain investor and creditor confidence and keep the flow of low interest capital strong. We have given strict marching orders to BIR and Customs in three meetings since July to hit their targets or else. And they have been meeting their targets. With resolute collection and payment of the right taxes, we shall all enjoy ample, cheap funds for business and development.

Second, with the world economy hitting some bumps due to dearer oil and market turmoil, we must intensify domestic growth and investment especially in micro, small and medium enterprises, exports and agri-business, tourism and infrastructure. That means addressing business concerns over power costs and red tape.

I have instructed Secretary (Peter) Favila, as chairman of the National Competitiveness Council, to work with the PCCI (Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and other leading business associations in focusing priority government action on their concerns so that we can report solid gains and solutions when the Philippine Business Conference comes around in a couple of months.

Peter, please slash more red tape, as well as the drag of power costs on our exporters and manufacturers.

Last week, we met with the Department of Energy precisely to ensure our power cost production strategy. DOE has committed to privatize half of months NAPOCOR's generating capacity in the months ahead, along with Transco which has attracted interest from nine consortia. We hope Congress can prioritize the bill to amend EPIRA and make open access a reality for industrial users of electricity.

Third, I instruct the Super Region champions, the infrastructure agencies and state corporations, and the infrastructure monitoring task force of the Presidential Management Staff to be merciless in ripping through undue obstacles in the way of long overdue priority infrastructure.

Let us end the days when our public works were held back by huge deficits and reenacted budgets. To this end, we also urge Congress to speedily enact next year's budget for hopefully even faster growth in 2008.

Meron pang trabaho ang PMS – si Cerge Remonde – itulak ang mga government at private financial institutions at NGOs na magpahiram sa mga macro, small at medium na negosyo. Ito ang mga saligan ng ating ekonomiya. Dapat palawakin natin sila sa sapat na pantang at technical assistance.

Salamat muli sa lahat sa sama-samang pagtatrabaho para gawing mas kahanga-hanga ang Pilipinas habang paspas tayo sa larangan ng progreso at prosperidad.

Sa pag-aani din ng debidendo ng ating mga pagsisikap sa kapayapaan at seguridad at sa mas malaking mga pondo ng ating mga programang panlipunan, nakakapamuhunan tayo sa paglikha ng trabaho. Mas mabuting kalinga sa kalusugan at higit na oportunidad sa edukasyon. Ito ang mga susi para umahon ang mahihirap.

Sa tulong ng Maykapal, magbalikatan tayo sa sama-sama nating trabaho.

Maraming salamat.

And now I ask Estrella Domingo, the Secretary General of the NSCB (National Statistical Coordination Board), to give a presentation that will open the press conference on economic issues.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening/Closing Statements during the Press Briefing on the Philippine Economic Performance and Direction. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412144525/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2126&Itemid=38

Departure Statement: President Arroyo on her visit to Malaysia

Departure Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: On her visit to Malaysia

[Issued on August 30, 2007]

As I leave for Malaysia to join the other ASEAN leaders in the 50th anniversary of Malaysia's independence from British rule, I am elated that for the second quarter of this year, our gross domestic product or GDP rose by 7.5 percent and gross national product or GNP by 8.3 percent bringing to 7.3 percent our economic growth in the first half of the year.

We bring this elation and pride to Malaysia, the third largest economy in the region, and second home to thousands of overseas Filipino workers. I will bring my thanks and congratulations to the Filipinos in Malaysia for their contribution to our GNP growth. Malaysia also plays an important role in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and in our peace process in Mindanao.

Since winning independence from Britain, Malaysia has transformed itself into one of the region's modernized countries, with a remarkable history of political stability and economic growth.

During our visit, I shall take the opportunity to reiterate to the government and people of Malaysia, our country's profound appreciation for their role in facilitating the peace process in Mindanao.

The Philippines and Malaysia have been co-founders, along with Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand, of the original five-member Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) in 1967. Today, ASEAN has grown into a dynamic regional bloc and much sought after trading partner across the world.

The Philippines and Malaysia are members of the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, which is holding their annual conference in Australia this September. Our participation in APEC has resulted in greater security for all due to stronger multilateral, regional, and bilateral partnerships between and among APEC members against terrorism.

We have made international relations a centerpiece of our government's political and economic reform agenda. Every diplomatic mission is an occasion to build stronger ties and preserve friendships that can be counted upon when most needed. Always at the heart of such visits is the welfare and future of our OFWs. In Kuala Lumpur, we shall make time to visit and chat with the vibrant and hardworking Filipino community. They, too, are part of this celebration as direct contributors to Malaysia's growth and our own national economy.

Our agenda for this trip is clear: to honor the invitation of a dear and well-respected neighbor; to thank the King and government of Malaysia for its help in our quest for peace; and to visit our workers who embody the resilient and industrious spirit of the Global Filipino.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Departure Statement on Her Visit to Malaysia. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412144716/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2117&Itemid=38

Arrival Statement: President Arroyo from her official visit to Malaysia

Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
From her official visit to Malaysia

[Issued on September 1, 2007]

It was an honor for the Philippines to witness the celebration of the Golden or 50th Anniversary of Malaysia's Merdeka or Independence Day.

In the Malaysian capital, we joined other heads of state and government of countries with long years of diplomatic relations with Malaysia.

I personally thanked Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah Badawi and other Malaysian government officials for their support in the Exploratory Talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and for the extension of the International Monitoring Team's tour of duty in the Philippines.

When I left Manila on Thursday afternoon, I brought with me very good news for our fellow Filipinos in Malaysia — the latest indicators showing that the Philippine economy registered its highest growth rate of 7.3 percent in two decades during the first half of this year.

Our kababayans in Malaysia expressed optimism that soon they can come home to a better country and a brighter future.

The statistics from our National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) shows that our economic roadmap is unfolding as it should, and right on schedule.

From Third World to First World, this is the only journey worth taking.

I call on our people and their representatives in Congress to work for progress and unite for peace, so that finally we can leave the chains of poverty and political instability behind us.

Malaysia and some of our other neighbors have shown us that this can be done. Our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth shows that we can prosper, and that in fact, we are on our way to better times, as long as we stay on course and fight poverty as Team Philippines.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's arrival statement from her official visit to Malaysia, September 1, 2007. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412135240/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2198&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the 50th anniversary Celebration of the Social Security System (SSS)

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
At the 50th anniversary Celebration of the Social Security System (SSS)

[Issued at the Social Security System (SSS) Building, Quezon City, September 3, 2007]

Happy Golden Anniversary, SSS! Thank you for half a century of service to the Filipino people.

We also congratulate Cora de la Paz for being the first Asian to be elected president of the International Social Security System!

Six and a half years ago, SSS was facing financial collapse and your funds were in danger of running dry by 2015.

We embarked on a radical reform program and now SSS is back on its feet, stronger and more resilient than ever, and with the credibility regained ranking 3rd in the polls of institutions effectively fighting corruption.

Our administration's anti-corruption advisor, Tony Kwok, the former anti-corruption czar in Hong Kong who was a key player in efforts to clean up corruption there, believes that perceptions cloud the reality of our progress in the Philippines. SSS is one shining example of the fact that we have undertaken in a strong and steady effort to curb graft through criminal justice, administrative controls and procedural reforms. This effort of the government focuses on the revenue agencies that, like SSS, have improved their performance in recent years; and agencies that are in the frontline of day-to-day public services. We take this issue very seriously and with the accomplishments of agencies like the SSS, we believe perception will match reality in a few short years. This is a problem that has plagued the Philippines, as it has plagued other countries, for generations; and, as the SSS experience has shown, it won't be eliminated overnight but progress is being made.

The reform of SSS was part of the hard-fought economic reform battles through which the Philippine economy has finally broken loose from its historic legacy of lethargy. New revenues, including increases in contributions for SSS, better collection and a crackdown on remittance cheats along with fiscal discipline has put the SSS and the Philippines on a path to permanent, sustainable economic growth and stability.

Thanks to the SSS and other outstanding institutions, the rate of poverty is down, unemployment is up and our education and healthcare services to the poor vastly improved. We have a long way to go, but only through a strong economy and strong institutions like the SSS can we improve the plight of the poor. We have turned the corner on our economy. New revenue sources are here to stay, for the national government and for the SSS: our national budget will be balanced next year, while SSS assets have risen to P248 billion and its investment income P15.58 billion in the last six months; the peso is strong. This allows us to invest in job creation, better healthcare and more educational opportunities. Most notably and most felt, this has allowed us to increase the SSS pensions twice in the last 12 months; 10% in September last year and another 10% last month, SSS 50th anniversary present to the Filipino people.

We have also condoned penalties and restructured housing loans, allowing 6,000 SSS members to keep their homes, enabling the speedy grant of housing loans to calamity victims and various loans for sickness and other personnel emergencies, and the fast-track processing and quicker delivery of retirement and disability pensions.

I ask Thelmo Cunanan and the SSS board to extend the condonation program for six more months. This is social payback.

We are proud of the discipline of SSS to focus on financing viability, sound investments, quality service, and corporate culture. We are committed to making sure we use the new resources these developments are generating to provide vital social and economic needs. It has been a tough road, both for the national government and for the SSS,

but long ago I made a decision not to sacrifice long term gains for short term political expediency. And Cora de la Paz long ago made the same decision for the SSS, backed up fully by Thelmo Cunanan and his board.

SSS reflects the new level of maturity and stability our economy has reached with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in two decades.

New social security schemes are imperative as we modernize our economy.

I encourage your strategic plans to expand your membership through mandatory coverage of all OFWs, especially seafarers and amend the SSS Charter, particularly to institutionalize actuarial standards and formulas.

Last week, I issued a directive to push government and private financial institutions and NGOs to increase lending to micro, small and medium enterprises which are the biggest job generators. Thank you for your recent announcement of a P1 billion special window for MSME lending in celebration of your fiftieth jubilee.

SSS at 50 has done a good job balancing your vital functions of capital build-up and support for national social programs along the mandate of providing a lifeline to your members. I am confident that you are up to the challenge of continuing to be financially viable and living up to your anniversary theme as our people's KAAGAPAY, KAIBIGAN AT KABALIKAT. MAGPAKAILANMAN. Thank you!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Statement at the 50th anniversary Celebration of the Social Security System (SSS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412144515/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2196&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the National Security Council-Cabinet Group Meeting [Filipino]

Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Sa pagpupulong ng Gabinete ng National Security Council

[Ipinahayag sa Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, ika 4 ng Setyembre, 2007]

Mga kababayan, hindi man gaanong nababalita, nagdaragsaan na ang mga positibong ulat ng mga eksperto tungkol sa kagila-gilalas na paglago ng ating ekonomiya, pinakamalakas sa dalawang dekada. Mangyari, nagaganap na sa Pilipinas ang uri ng growth rate na ipinamalas ng Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore at Tsina: mahigit 7% ang paglago ng ekonomiya at 10% ang pagtaas ng pamumuhunan o investment. Ito ang itinuro ng Asian Development Bank na susi sa paglaya ng bansa sa hirap. Sama-sama nating ituloy ito, at maaabot ng Pilipinas ang kasaganaan at kaunlaran, gaya ng ating mga kalapit-bansa.

Sa pagsisikap nating ito, mahalagang pag-ibayuhin ang ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya, lalo na ang pagkolekta ng tamang buwis, upang mabalanse ang budget, lalong mapalakas ang investment, at mapondohan ang imprastraktura, paaralan, pagamutan, pabahay, patubig at iba pang serbisyong bayan.

Mahalaga rin sa investment ang kapayapaan at katatagan ng bansa, upang mapanatag ang mga investor at lalo silang mamuhunan at lumikha ng trabaho. Kaya naman pinulong natin ngayon ang mga liga ng gobyernong lokal at ang ilang pinunong relihiyoso, kasama ang Gabinete, upang ilunsad ang plano para sa mga inisyatibong pangkapayapaan sa iba't ibang rehiyon ng bansa.

Kasama ng balangkas pangkapayapaan ang amnestiya at kabuhayan para sa mga rebeldeng ibig bumalik sa panig ng batas. Kalahating bilyong piso ang paunang pondo rito, upang mabilis na itanim ang matibay na kapayapaan at seguridad sa mga rehiyon, sa pangunguna ng mga pinunong lokal at relihiyoso, at katulong ang buong gobyerno ng bansa.

Sa mga dekadang nagdaan, nagkaroon din ng pagkakataong ganito ang ating bansa, subalit dahil sa mga ligalig sa politika, natakot ang mga investor at nahinto ang pag-unlad. Ngayon, bumabalik na ang capital at negosyo, at dapat tayong magkapit-bisig upang wakasan na ang hidwaan, ligalig at dahas na tumakot sa mga mamumuhunan noon.

Ito ang kailangan ng bayan ngayon: reporma sa ekonomiya, kapayapaan sa bansa at panatag na politika, upang isulong ang pamumuhunan ng gobyerno, negosyo at mundo sa sambayanang Pilipino.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Statement at the National Security Council-Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412144454/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2192&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a Roundtable Discussion with the country's Math and Science champions

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Roundtable Discussion with the country's Math and Science champions

[Issued at the Malacañang's Heroes Hall, September 4, 2007]

Nagagalak tayong makasama dito sa Malacañan bilang panauhing pangdangal sa Testimonial Merienda ang mga pangkat ng Science at Matematika na nagwagi ng mga medalya sa mga international competition na nabasa natin sa peryodiko dalawang buwan na ang nakaraan:

Ang ating mga Science champions mula sa Philippine Science High School: Paulo Miguel Manzanila at Lawrence Medina.

Ang ating mga Math champions mula sa Philippine Science High School: Amiel Sy, Arvin Alba at Joana Patricia Santelices.

Ang ating Math champion mula sa Chiang Kai Shek College: Henry Jefferson Morco.

Ang ating Math and Science champion mula sa Naic Central School: Robert Allan Buendia.

Bilang parangal sa kanila at upang dumami pa ang ating mga magagaling na estudyante, ibig nating gamitin itong pagkakataon na iulat ang sumusunod na mga programa para sa agham at teknolohiya sa 2008 budget:

Itataas ng 51% ang budget ng Department of Science and Technology mula P3.5 billion tungo sa P5.5 billion.

Sa dagdag na ito, maitataas ng DOST ang budget ng Philippine Science High School at iba pang Science High School ng 68%. siyanga pala, malaking karangalan sa aming pamilya na ang pangulong nagtayo ng Philippine Science High School ay ang aking ama si Diosdado Macapagal. kaya naman karangalan ko ring bigyang paraang lumago pa itong pugad ng mga magagaling.

May dalawang proyekto ng U.P. na nagkakahalaga ng P1.5 billion, upang magtayo ng cluster ng research at technology incubation facilities sa information technology zone ng pamantasan.

Kasama ito sa ating pamumuhunan sa human and physical infrastructure upang masostento ang ating paglago ng ekonomiya na lampas na sa pitong porsyento.

Uulitin ko ang sinabi ng mga dalubhasa tungkol sa ating ekonomiya:

Revisions in the first quarter 2007 data occurred mainly in construction. Public construction was the reason as it expanded 39.6 percent in second quarter 2007 from 24.6 percent the previous quarter. The huge increase in public investments shows the government is delivering on its ambitious medium term capital spending program that concentrates on physical infrastructure upgrades.

When investment, especially basic infrastructure, is one of the economy's growth engines, there can be little doubt of sustainability. This is relevant, in light of the U.S. subprime mortgage crisis. Public investment is possible due to fiscal reforms that hiked government revenues significantly. Spending increased even as the budget deficit narrowed. It will not be affected by the U.S. credit crunch. The success in implementing the government's spending program inclines us toward more optimism.

Hindi lamang physical infrastructure kundi pati human infrastructure ang pinagkakagastusan ng malaki ng ating pamahalaan.

May P1 billion para sa pagsasanay sa Matematika, Agham at Ingles. P700 million para sa maramihang paggawa ng mga equipment sa pag-aaral ng Math at Science. P55 million para sa bagong programa ng Department of Education upang magturo ng Engineering Science sa mga high school.

Lahat ng ito ay sa 2008 budget.

Makakaya natin ito dahil nakamit na naman ng Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) at Customs ang kanilang target para sa buwan ng Agosto. Congratulations sa kanila.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement during a round table discussion with the country's Math & Science champions. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412144322/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2194&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statement: President Arroyo during a Barangay Visit and Pulong Bayan with Officials of Quezon City District 2 Barangays [Filipino]

Panimula/Katapusang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa pagbisita sa Barangay at Pulong Bayan kasama ang mga opisyal ng Lungsod ng Quezon, Mga Barangay sa Ikalawang Distrito (Sauyo, Gulod, Talipapa, Bagbag at San Bartolome)

[Ipinahayag sa Colegio de San Bartolome de Novaliches covered Court Area, Brgy. San Bartolome, Lungsod ng Quezon, ika 5 ng Setyembre, 2007]

Magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat.

Narito tayo ngayon sa Colegio De San Bartolome De Novaliches dito sa Quezon City, ang pinakamalaking lungsod sa buong Pilipinas.

Binabati ko ang mga mahal kong kababayan at ang ating mga lider ng siyudad na narito ngayon. Narito si Congresswoman Annie Susano. Magandang tanghali, Annie. Si Annie ang Reyna ng Novaliches; at narito si Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, si Bistek; si Mayor Sonny Belmonte na parati nating kasama ay nasa Amerika sa ngayon. At nandito ang barangay captains ng limang barangay na makakausap natin itong araw na ito pati yung ibang mga national government officials.

Ginagamit natin itong pagkakataon upang talakayin ang peace and order. Kaya kapiling natin ngayon sa pagbisita sa Quezon City ang ating mga leader ng peace and order: nandiyan si Secretary Puno ng DILG; nandiyan si Chairman Bayani Fernando ng MMFA; nandiyan si Acting Secretary ng Justice, Agnes Devanadera; nandiyan ang Chief ng PNP, si Oscar Calderon; nandiyan ang namumuno ng Jail Management, si General Lamazares; at dahil parating pinag-uusapan natin kung ano ang biyaya ng mga programa natin para sa mahihirap nandyan ang ating Lead Convenor ng National Anti-Poverty Commission, si Secretary Ding Panganiban.

Sa paglaban sa krimen at pagpapairal ng batas at kaayusan, napakahalaga ang pagtutulungan ng mga pamahalaang lokal, pambansang kapulisan at taong- bayan. Dapat nating ipanatag ang kalooban ng mga pamilyang Pilipino tuwing lalabas sa tahanan. Mabuti na lamang at nakamit na naman ng BIR at Customs ang kanilang mga target para sa buwang Agosto. Congratulations sa kanila!

Kaya naman sa 2008 tataas ng mahigit eight billion pesos ang budget para sa public order and safety, mula 64.9 billion ngayong taon tungo sa 73.3 billion sa 2008, kung ipapasa nila Annie Susano ang ating budget. Kasama rito ang one billion pesos para sa pagpalakas ng PNP, kasama ang pagbili ng sasakyan at armas, pagkuha ng bagong tauhan, at pagbili ng mga makabagong kagamitan at pagsisiyasat.

Palapit na tayo sa ating target na magtalaga ng isang pulis bawat limangdaang katao pagsapit ng 2010. Sa dalawampung libong pulis na nadagdagan ngayong taon, may isang pulis na tayo para sa 620 na katao. Lalo pa dadami ang pulis sa susunod na taon, at may 500 pang patrol car na bibilhin. Pero dito sa Quezon City, salamat kay Mayor Belmonte at ang Quezon City ang pinakamaraming mga dino-donate na mga police car para hindi na lahat nakakarga sa national government. Kaya kanina doon sa likod natin nandiyan may mga bagong police car at motorsiklo na lumilibot sa mga barangay, limang barangay natin dito, pero meron din tayong dalang bagong multicab galing sa PAGCOR para makalibot naman dito sa station 4 na sinasakupan nitong mga limang barangay.

Sa paglaki ng kaban ng bayan dahil sa reporma sa buwis, nagiging mas panatag din ang sambayanan dahil sa mas malakas at makabagong Philippine National Police. Kaya ngayon, punta tayo kay Undersecretary Mel Rosales na tutulong kay Secretary Ronnie Puno ipapaliwanang sa atin ang budget ng peace and order related agencies para sa 2008. Budget presentation na rin ito para kay Congresswoman Annie Susano.

* * *

Closing statement:

Unti-unti nang naiibsan ang kapayapaan sa ating kapaligiran. Kasama rito ang tiwalang naibabalik na sa ating pulisya at militar.

Sa ikalawang quarter ng taon, lumago ng 7.5 percent ang ating ekonomiya, pinakamabilis sa dalawang dekada. Sabi nila aabot pa ito sa mahihirap. Kung hindi tayo aangat ng 7.5 percent walang aabot sa mahihirap, kaya yan ang unang kondisyon. It may not be a sufficient condition but it's a necessary condition para makapaggastos tayo para sa mahihirap. Isa rin itong bunga ng mas panatag na lipunan at ligtas na lansangan.

At sa bisa ng lumalagong ekonomiya at pondo ng gobyerno, lalo nating mapopondohan ang peace and order, upang mas lalong mapanatag ang sambayanan, lalo na't nakakamit na ng BIR at Customs ang kanilang target.

Kaya maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat. At sana tayo ay sama-sama para sa livelihood at para sa kapayapaan.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statement during a Barangay Visit and Pulong Bayan with Officials of Quezon City District 2 Barangays, namely: Sauyo, Gulod, Talipapa, Bagbag and San Bartolome. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412144219/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2190&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on her visit to Australia to attend the 15th APEC Leaders' Meeting

**Departure Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On her visit to Australia to attend the 15th APEC Leaders' Meeting**

[Released on September 6, 2007]

I leave today for Sydney, Australia to join other heads of economies in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting on September 8-9.

Pero bago ako umalis, ibig nating ipanatag ang loob ng mga pamilyang naapektuhan ng pagka-antala ng ani ng palay dahil sa tagtuyot sa Luzon.

Kumikilos na ang pamahalaan upang pigilan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng bigas, at ang kakulangan sa mga palengke ng bigas sa pangmasang halaga na P18 kada kilo.

Sa pulong ng Gabinete noong Martes, inatasan na natin ang Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka at ang National Food Authority na bilisan ang pagdadala ng bigas sa mga pamilihan kung saan tumataas ang presyo at walang mabiling bigas ng NFA sa halagang P18 isang kilo.

Inutusan natin si Secretary Arthur Yap na dagliang hakutin ang bigas na sagana sa Bisaya at Mindanao, at dalhin ito sa Metro Manila. Bukod dito, kukuha ang NFA sa kanilang mga bodega upang makapagbigay ng mahigit sa 30% ng bigas sa Kamaynilaan.

Titiyakin nating sapat at abot-kaya ang bigas para sa taong-bayan, at tututukan natin ito kahit na nasa APEC meeting ako.

At a time of uncertainty in the world, APEC remains a central pillar of global engagement and dialogue. We believe in strong global engagement for our country and our people to grow our economy, ensure peace and security and lift our nation out of poverty.

APEC presents another opportunity to engage allies in economic, political and security issues at a time when the world needs closer cooperation. We hope to see greater regional economic integration made possible with all twenty-one APEC economies agreeing to pursue the path of trade liberalization and a discussion on how the APEC can work together to address the global challenges of climate change through a renewed framework for cooperation as a follow up to the Kyoto Protocol.

Figuratively speaking, the more bridges we build, the more people can cross to new lands and new ideas. We must be open to the world and peoples and places other than our own. That is what the 21st century will be about. That is why APEC plays such a large role for the Philippines – it is one of the most important bridges we can build and cross together. We want the Philippines actively engaged in local, regional and global affairs because that is the future.

We believe in the power of the global trading system to alleviate poverty and modernize nations through market forces. That does not mean we believe that countries like the Philippines are ready to compete head-to-head today in every sector, but it does mean we cannot afford to be afraid of globalization. Poverty alleviation is the number one most important part of our agenda and our vision to lift the Philippines into modernized country status in 20 years. And the APEC, along with the ASEAN and other trading agreements, provides the opportunity for nations to work together to lift up our poor, not just in the Philippines but all over the world.

We will also be meeting with business leaders as well as our countrymen in Australia and we will bring to them the good news about our country. We have been focused like a laser beam on the economy. Our plan is bearing results: lower inflation, higher revenues, spectacular growth, robust stock market, fiscal discipline and so much more. Job

creation is significant – six million jobs since I have been President. APEC is part of our economic vision and thus is central to our strategic plan for the nation.

Sumusulong ang bayan, salamat sa ating sikap, reporma at pagkakaisa.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Departure Statement on Her Visit to Australia to Attend the 15th APEC Leaders' Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412144210/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2188&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Signing of the Executive Order on Generating Investments in Geothermal Areas

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Signing of the Executive Order on Generating Investments in Geothermal Areas

[Delivered in Kidapawan City, North Cotabato, September 10, 2007]

Gi-abi-bi ko si Pastor Quiboloy ug ang tanan nga mga apil sa Kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Name Above Every Name, ni-ining inyong anibersaryo. Gapasalamat ako sa oportunidad aron maka-apil sa inyong International Kingdom Leaders Convention dinhi sa syudad sa Davao.

Nagtipon kita sa ngalan sa kalinaw, pangahiusa ug rekonsilasyon, kay kini ang labing kinahanglan karon. Salamat sa kanunay ninyong suporta ug pag-ampo alang sa padayon ng kaayuhan sa atong nasod ug katawhan.

This morning we arrived from the APEC Summit which presented another opportunity to engage allies in economic, political and security issues at a time when the world needs closer cooperation: the US on our paradigm for peace in Mindanao using both soft and hard power, China on our Comprehensive Economic Cooperation, Japan and Brunei on the international team monitoring the ceasefire in Mindanao, Malaysia on our peace process with the MILF, Indonesia and New Zealand on our joint projects against the avian flu.

At the Summit meetings, we saw greater regional economic integration made possible with all twenty-one APEC economies agreeing to pursue the path of trade liberalization and a declaration on how the APEC can work together to address the global challenges of climate change through the UN renewed framework for cooperation.

We embrace sustainable development. We have move forward with an aggressive effort to create a Green Philippines, including reducing reliance on fossil fuels with our biofuels, wind and solar efforts and geothermal programs.

We take this opportunity of being in Davao City, the regional center near the geothermal field of Mount Apo, to sign an Executive Order to launch GIGA – G – I – G – A – Generating Investments in Geothermal Areas.

Kining E.O. usa ka dakong hakbang aron mopaspas pa ang pag-usbaw sa mga lunsod nga du-ol sa mga geothermal sites sa PNOC (Philippine National Oil Company).

Kining E.O. gahangyo sa mga local nga pamunuan o LGUs nga magpatindog ug economic zones sa mga lungsod na malapit sa mga planta ng enerhiya ng PNOC, aron labaw pa silang maka-bentaha sa ilahang royalties nga ginagamit nila sa pag-subsidize sa electric bill sa ilahang mga konstituente.

The acronym GIGA connotes bigness, which describes our geothermal fields as well as the potential in incubating businesses near them. What should lure investors to set up shop near geothermal plants is the same reason that led government to put in billions (of pesos) to build them; the availability of cheap and clean energy. It will be cheap because in these areas local governments have large bank accounts from geothermal project royalties that they use to subsidize the electric bill of their constituents.

But geothermal plants need not to only transform steam to power. They can also be harnessed to channel steam to jobs. We can do this by convincing investors to take advantage of cheap power in communities hosting geothermal plants. Cheap power by itself is already a powerful draw but we will make it more irresistible by throwing in other fiscal incentives which an ecozone is allowed to grant. Thus if we build them, they will come. The synergy of geothermal power and ecozones will power up progress.

So to the host communities, I urge you: full steam ahead.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Statement during the Signing of the Executive Order on Generating Investments in Geothermal Areas. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412143558/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2180&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the NEDA Board Meeting

**Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the NEDA Board Meeting**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Aguinaldo State Dining Room, September 18, 2007]

Mga kababayan, sa pagsulong ng ekonomiya at pag-angat ng kabuhayan, kailangan nating isulong ang pamumuhunan, lalo na sa imprastraktura at mga serbisyong bayan na lalong aakit ng investment at lilikha ng trabaho. Kaya naman pinulong natin ngayon ang neda board upang aprobahan at madaliin ang mga proyektong napakahalaga sa kaunlaran, kabilang ang expressway at tren, upang bumilis ang daloy ng tao at produkto sa kamaynilaan.

Kasama rin ng ating pagsusulong ng kaunlaran, kailangang pagtibayin ng pag-iral ng batas at panatag na politika. Ito ang hanap ng bawat investor. Nakita nila ito sa payapang pagtanggap ng bayan sa hatol ng sandiganbayan. Ngayon, batas din ang ating susundin sa paglutas ng iba pang usaping kaharap natin.

Iniaatas ko kay Secretary Mendoza ng DOTC na humarap at magpaliwanag sa Korte Suprema hinggil sa kaso ng National Broadband Network. Walang pamumulitika at batay sa ebidensiya ang mga proseso ng hukuman. Doon matitimbang nang wasto kung ayon sa batas at kapakanan ng bayan ang kasunduan.

Handa ring tumulong ang pamahalaan sa pagsisiyasat ng ombudsman sa mga paratang ng katiwalian na nakasampa na roon.

Sa demokrasya, natural lang ang magkatalong pananaw at posisyon. Ang mahalaga, may mga hukuman at proseso ng batas upang magdesisyon sa anumang di pagkakasundo sa payapang paraan ayon sa hustisya at ebidensiya nang walang pamumulitika.

Mahalaga rin sa pag-akit ng kapital at pag-unlad ng lahat ng mamamayan ang kapayapaan. Dapat wakasan ang mga atake at pangingikil sa mga negosyong nagbibigay ng trabaho at serbisyo sa taong bayan. Inaatasan ko ang ating sandatahang lakas na pag-ibayuhin ang depensa sa mga paninira at pagpaslang ng mga kaaway ng bayan. Sa pakikibakang ito ng ating mga kawal, marapat igalang ang kanilang pamunuan at mga lihim militar, na napakahalaga sa pagtatanggol ng ating bansa.

Samantala, kailangang isulong ang pagkilos ng mga gobyerno at pamayanang lokal upang magpundar ng kapayapaan sa mga lalawigan, sa ilalim ng amnestiya at pagbabalik-loob ng mga dating rebelde. Sa hangarin nating ito, nananawagan tayo sa kongreso na bigyan ng agarang aksiyon ang ating proklamasyon ng amnestiya.

Mga kababayan, sumusulong na ang bansa sa landas ng progreso, katatagan, pag-iral ng batas, at pagtingala ng sandaigdigan. Pag-ibayuhin nating lahat ang mga layuning ito, pag-unlad, serbisyong bayan, at katatagan ng bansa sa mapayapa at demokratikong paglutas ng mga suliranin alinsunod sa batas.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang demokrasya at pag-iral ng batas sa ating bansa.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the NEDA Board Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412143048/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2166&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during a visit to District 1 Quezon City Barangays and Pulong Bayan on Food Terminal/Tindahan Natin and the Resumption of the Food-for-School Program in NCR

**Opening/Closing Statements of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During a Visit to District 1 Quezon City Barangays and Pulong Bayan on Food Terminal/Tindahan Natin and the Resumption of the Food-for-School Program in NCR**

[Delivered at the Project 6 Elementary School, Road 2 cor. Road 7, Quezon City, September 21, 2007]

Yan ang tindahan natin outlets, so yung Food-For-School at Tindahan Natin ang dalawa sa pangunahing sandata ng ating administrasyon laban sa kahirapan at kagutuman. Sa pamamagitan nito, bumaba ang hunger incidence rate ng 14.7 percent ngayong second quarter mula sa dating 19 percent noong first quarter.

Naglaan na ng 2.75 bilyong piso ang pamahalaan ngayong taon at halos 3.3 bilyong piso sa 2008 upang maisakatuparan ang pagpapakain sa mga pamilya ng ating mga maliliit na batang pumapasok sa eskwela. Kaya ito, yung kanina pinakita natin yung mga bata pagpasok nila binibigyan sila ng bigas para maiuwi sila. Umaabot na sa 1.15 milyong mga maliliit na bata ang nakinabang sa Food- For-School programs na ginagawa ng Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development at National Food Authority.

Pero dito sa Quezon City dahil nung unang upo ni Mayor Belmonte ay gumawa na siya ng fiscal reforms kaya tuloy maraming pera ang Quezon City sa ibabaw ng mga bigas na binibigay natin sa mga bata pag pumapasok sila ay kanina kung may nakakita yung television dinaanan natin yung kanilang school feeding program. At sabi nga ni Mayor Belmonte ay gusto niya lahat ng eskwelahan sa Quezon City na public school maging mayaman ang barangay o mahirap o middle-class meron kayong Food-For-School program... Ah, meron kayong school feeding program, di ba, Sonny?

Umaabot na rin sa 6,583 tindahan natin outlets sa loob ng 52 na mahihirap na probinsya ang naipapatayo dito sa Pilipinas. Naglaan ang pamahalaan ng 181 milyong piso para sa bahagi ng hunger mitigation program na ito. At karagdagang 200 pa ang itatayo sa Metro Manila sa taong ito dahil ang karamihan — ito ang ating irony — ang Metro Manila ang pinakamayamang rehiyon nagkaroon dito ng napakaraming nagugutom. Tapos meron naman tayong 300 tindahan natin sa ating mga priority poor provinces.

Nagpupugay ako sa mga opisyal nating nagmamalasakit dito. Kasama natin ang ilan sa ating cabinet officials at officials ng Quezon City, nagpasalamat na ako kay Mayor Belmonte at saka kay Congressman Crisologo. Narito rin ang ating mga konsehala, narito rin yung ilang mga barangay captain sa isa namang talakayan dito sa project 6 elementary school.

Kaya magsimula tayo sa pagpapaliwanag ng budget sa darating na taon para dito sa... Unahin natin yung Tindahan Natin program. Sige, pwede ba, Arty? Ito si Secretary Yap para magpapaliwanag ng Tindahan Natin program. Ayun ang nakalagay sa background: “Bigas at Noodles sa Halagang Abot-kaya” kasi yan ang pinaka dinadala natin sa Tindahan Natin program.

* * *

Closing statement:

So, ang ganda naman nung ating souvenir video nung nandito tayo nung may dengue. So at least naayos na yung problema ninyo ng dengue at tuloy-tuloy na binabantayan na natin dito. In fact, dengue is one of the biggest killers. Noon natatakot ang tao sa SARS pero dengue is a bigger killer. Yung anak ko si Luli nagkaroon ng dengue nung 4 years old siya eh. At kaya tuloy-tuloy ang ating pagsusubaybay.

Kaya eto ang mga nakikita nating mga commonality sa mga barangay dito sa Quezon City. Yung isa sa mga depressed areas siyempre kailangan ng murang pagkain kaya meron tayong Food-For-School at saka meron tayong Tindahan Natin. At sa kabuuan naman ng Quezon City or maraming lugar sa Quezon City, hindi naman lahat, pero sa banda rito sa distrito ni Congressman Crisologo ay yung problema ng baha. Gagastusin ng administrasyon dito at naidadala sa mga mas mahihirap na probinsya.

Kaya muli maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Maraming salamat, Sonny; maraming salamat, Bingbong; mga kapitan; chairman; mga konsehala.

At gusto ko lang ulitin, layunin ng ating administrasyon na labanan ang problema sa kahirapan, alagaan ang kalusugan at nutrisyon sa ating bansa, kaya naglunsad tayo ng mga programang makatutulong sa ating mamamayan na makakain ng masustansiya at murang pagkain.

Ang Food-For-School program ay patuloy na naghahatid ng pagpapakain sa mga pamilya ng ating mga maliliit na batang pumapasok sa eskwela upang hindi magutom ang kanilang pamilya. Antabayan po niyo sila sa mga pinakamahirap na lalawigan sa ating bansa.

Murang halaga na bigas at noodles naman ang pinakahatid ng Tindahan Natin outlets. Iniimbata ang mga gipit na mamimili na magsadya sa pinakamalapit na tindahan natin kaakibat ng ating pamahalaan at ilang lokal na government units at pribadong sektor sa pagsasakatuparan ng tindahan natin.

Kaya maraming-maraming salamat po muli sa mga naging kapiling natin ngayon or hindi naging kapiling kundi naging host natin ngayon dahil tayo ang nagbisita sa kanilang lugar na walang humpay ang pagsusuporta sa mga programa ng ating administrasyon.

Huwag kayong magsasawa sa pagtunghay ng pulong bayan. Ito po si Pangulong Gloria, salamat, magkita tayo muli sa susunod na talakayan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Visit to District 1 Quezon City Barangays and Pulong Bayan on Food Terminal/Tindahan Natin and the Resumption of the Food-for-School Program in NCR. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412142936/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2156&Itemid=38

Departure Statement: President Arroyo on her visit to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly

**Departure Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On Her Visit to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly**

[Released on September 25, 2007]

Tonight we leave for New York to deliver our Country Report to the United Nations General Assembly, to actively participate in two international fora, to meet with US business leaders with present and potential investment in the Philippines, and to meet our kababayans in New York and environs. All these meetings are in pursuit of our policy of active global engagement.

In all these fora, I will bring to the our international audience and stakeholders the very important message that is threatened to be drowned by the chronic political noise.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in 20 years. We have aimed high and have met the challenge: six years ago, no one thought we could get more revenues, cut down on tax cheats, strengthen the peso and move the stock market. And no one thought I could bring our budget into balance, as we did last month, prepay our debts and raise employment, but we have.

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent economic growth and stability. Investments are pouring in, the peso is strong, our stock market has reached historic heights and we have created 6 million jobs in six years. And the world is taking notice: I believe the Philippines offers one of the best values in Asia for domestic and foreign investors.

The surge of investments has been anchored by the billion dollar investments I the Philippines of several major international companies, including Texas Instruments, Korea's Hanjin and Japan's Marubeni and Tokyo Electric and lately, America's AES. This is happening across the board in a number of industries. We are working to ensure this will be sustained. We are committed to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long overdue investments in human and physical infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, healthcare and training along with billions in new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines.

We take great pride in the discipline of our administration to focus on the economy and our overall economic health. I am personally proud of the fact that external debt is being prepaid at a rapid clip, optimistic that we will balance the budget in 2008, two years ahead of schedule, and that we are making sure to use the gains to invest in vital social and economic needs.

As an economist, I believe in the power of the global trading system to alleviate poverty and modernize nations through market forces. This does not mean that we believe that countries like the Philippines are ready to compete head-to-head today in every sector, but it does mean that we cannot afford to be afraid of globalization.

We have been aggressive in seeking multilateral and bilateral trade relations.

We have taken a personal and hands-on role in trying to move the Doha Round forward because I believe it is good for the Philippines. And I believe my faith in the marketplace both at home and abroad has been a boon to the Philippine economy.

Mabuhay. God bless the Philippines.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Departure Statement on Her Visit to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412142042/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2146&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint Pro-Performance Steering Committee and GPPB Procurement Transparency Board Meeting

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Joint Pro-Performance Steering Committee and GPPB Procurement Transparency Board Meeting

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, September 25, 2007]

Good afternoon.

I'd like to call this joint pro-performance steering committee and GPPB Procurement Transparency Board Meeting to order.

Please sit down while I give my opening statement.

We have suspended the National Broadband and Cyber Education projects in response to political criticisms.

When we learned of alleged bribery attempt in connection with the broadband project, we instructed that the matter be discreetly investigated. The results of the investigation were reported as uncorroborated.

We proceeded with the preliminary processes regarding the project because we need to keep our good relations with china, even as we consulted with our highest authorities about a possible deferment. We announced the deferment as soon as they indicated that they will try to understand our predicament.

China is the fastest growing country in the world and in the region. We see its rise as a significant opportunity for the Philippines. Our overall relations with china have become more confident, mature and comprehensive, punctuated with substantial and important projects aimed at deepening exchanges in a number of areas, including trade and official development assistance. China is currently our third largest trading partner with whom we have had a substantial trade surplus since 2002. Our framework agreement on expanding and deepening bilateral economic and trade cooperation is expected to further enhance bilateral merchandise trade with china.

I'm creating a special panel to oversee projects under the China Official Development Assistance Program. The China projects oversight panel shall be headed by Secretary Peter Favila as the overall coordinator of our framework agreement with China; with Secretary Rolando Andaya as the chairman of the Government Procurement Policy Board; Secretary Cerge Remonde as chairman of the Pro-Performance Group; a church leader whom we shall invite; and a representative of the union of local authorities as members.

Even as we defer the two China projects, this should not be construed as a precedent for every disgruntled project proponent and his backers to undermine undertakings that comply with the law and benefit the nation. All branches of government must ensure that vested interests do not exploit our democracy to block our development.

We also assure our hardworking, competent civil servants planning and doing the technical work that we appreciate their laudable work. Under our separation of powers, the executive shall continue to invest in our land and our people, subject to budgets and laws enacted by congress and rulings handed down by the courts.

In my inaugural address last 2004, I said: "Hangad kong makapasok sa eskuwela ang bawa't bata, may sapat na lugar sa silid-aralan at may computer sa bawat paaralan." because distance-learning is part of our ten-point program. I also shared the vision that by 2010 the network digital infrastructure on which our government had embarked will have linked the entire country.

The suspension of the said projects has created a gap in these aspects of our ten-point agenda. Government telecom savings of three billion pesos a year from broadband may not be forthcoming, slashing that much from funds for

social services. And world-class ICT might no longer reach 4th to 6th class municipalities and the least-endowed schools.

For this reason, I have asked Secretary Mendoza to discuss with the private telecom companies how government can cut its phone, fax and online expenses, so we can spend more on programs and projects.

The state remains committed to making long-overdue investments in our country and our people.

So, thank you. And I'd like to ask now Agnes Devanadera to lead our opening prayer.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Statement during the Joint Pro-Performance Steering Committee and GPPB Procurement Transparency Board Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141802/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2153&Itemid=38

Opening/Closing Statements: President Arroyo during a Barangay Visit and Pulong Bayan with Officials of Six Barangays of District 1 and 2 of Valenzuela City Opening/Closing Statements of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Barangay Visit and Pulong Bayan with Officials of Six Barangays of District 1 and 2 of Valenzuela City

[Delivered at the Covered area, Marulas Central Elementary School, Valenzuela City, Metro Manila, October 01, 2007]

Magandang araw sa inyong lahat.

Narito tayo ngayon sa Lungsod ng Valenzuela sa Barangay ng Marulas upang ating masaksihan ang pagtugon sa problema ng malinis na tubig.

Isa sa ating hangarin ay magkaroon nang malinis na tubig ang lahat ng bayan sa Pilipinas. Sa kamaynilaan naman ang mga lungsod ay kasinlaki ng probinsya at ang mga barangay ay kasinlaki ng bayan. Kaya hangarin nating may tubig sa lahat ng barangay sa Kamaynilaan.

Noong umupo ang inyong lingkod bilang pangulo, mayroon tayong problemang namana dahil yung may-ari ng concession ng tubig, ang Maynilad ay hindi napatupad yung kaniyang pangakong paglalagyan ng tubig. Kaya kinailangan binawi ng pamahalaan ang concession at pagkatapos binenta muli sa napakagandang bidding. Ngayon ang maynilad sa ilalim ng bagong may-ari ay tinutupad na ang kaniyang mga pangako.

Sa ating programa ng imprastraktura, hindi lahat ay tayo ng pamahalaan. Ang tubig sa kamaynilaan, dahil nababawi naman ang puhunan, ay ginagawa ng pribadong sektor. Ngunit mayroon ding mga gastos ang pamahalaan ukol sa tubig. Itong mga bagay and pag-uusapan nating ngayon. At tayo ay nagpapasalamat kay Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian sa kanyang pag host sa atin itong araw na ito, mayor ng Valenzuela. At itong Marulas ay distrito ni Maggy, Congressman Maggy Guinigundo. Maraming salamat Maggy na tinatanggap niyo kami sa inyong distrito. Narito rin yung congressman doon sa kabilang distrito naman, si Congressman Rex Gatchalian. Magandang hapon at narito ang mga barangay captain ng Marulas at iba pang mga malalapit na barangay. Mamaya ay maririnig niyo ang kanilang tinig at bilang mga kasama dito na makikipag-usap... Mag-uusap tungkol sa ating... Una yung tubig tapos yung ibang kung ano pang problema ng mga barangay, ay siguro bigyan natin nang upuan dito sa harap si Secretary Panganiban at saka si Mr. Babes Aingson ng Maynilad sa harap. Bigyan ng upuan sa harap. Okay.

Narito rin si Secretary Jun Ebdane dahil ang mwss ay nasa ilalim ng DPWH at siyempre narito si Chairman Bayani Fernando dahil Valenzuela ay bahagi ng Metro Manila. At si Secretary Panganiban naman ang nangunguna ng National Anti-Poverty Commission na sinusubaybayan at ino-oversee lahat ng proyektong makamahirap, at kasama nga rin dito yung tubig.

So, umpisahan natin kay Secretary Jun Ebdane na siguro tutulungan siya mamaya ni MWSS Deputy, si Macra Cruz. Ano ang nilalaang badyet nila Congressmen Guinigundo at saka Congressman Gatchalian para sa tubig sa darating na taon?

* * *

Closing statement:

So, yung distrito pala ni Maggy yun ang koneksiyon talaga between C-5 and Northrail. Yung distrito naman ni Rex yun ang Polo, yun ang puto, di ba? Yun ang dating bahagi ng Bulacan. Ayun, Polo, Bulacan. At silang dalawang bayan ay naging isang malaking siyudad, yung lungsod nga kung saan mayor si Sherwin Gatchalian. Kaya maraming salamat sa inyong pag-host sa amin.

At nakita natin ang problema sa Valenzuela — tubig. Either kulang ang tubig or sobra ang tubig kaya binabaha, kaya teknolohiya ang kailangan natin gamitin para yung sobra ay nawawala at yung kulang ay nagkakaroon.

Ang pagpahatid ng malinis na tubig sa bayan ng bansa at bawat barangay ng kamaynilaan ay makakatulong sa pagangat ng antas ng buhay ng ating mamamayan. Hindi lamang ito magbibigay ng proteksiyon sa ating mga kalusugan nguni't makapagdudulot din ito ng kaaya-ayang kapaligiran at magiging daan sa paghahanapbuhay. Biro niyo yung Tullahan River pala sinabi, kapitan, na dirtiest river on record. Siguro ngayon hindi na ganun. Hindi na ganun at lalo na pag natapos yung ating flood control project ng Camanava lalo nang gaganda.

For a booming city like Valenzuela, a city filled with vision, dream and hope, hindi maaaring pabayaang ng ating pamahalaan na di magkaroon ng sapat na supply ng serbisyo ng malinis na tubig ang mga barangay dito at sa iba pang lugar sa Metro Manila.

Kaya maraming salamat muli sa inyong pagtitiwala sa ating mga nakasama sa araw na ito, ang ating naging katuwang sa tubig. Maraming salamat din kay Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian, kay Congressman Maggy Guinigundo kung saang distrito tayo ngayon, si Congressman Rex Gatchalian, ang ating mga kapitan, presidente ng Maynilad si Babes Singson, ang ating mga Cabinet members: si Jun Ebdane, si Bayani Fernando at saka si Ding Panganiban, at lahat ng ating mga officials ng pamahalaan na narito ngayon.

Sa inyong lahat maraming salamat. Dahil dito sa ginagawa ng Maynilad na kung saan naibenta natin yung kalugiluging company noon hindi na magiging tuyo ang gripo ng maraming barangay ng kamaynilaan at bayan ng Pilipinas. Handa nating punan ang inyong mga balde, ang inyong mga pangangailangan sa tubig. At ngayon naman pag natapos yung ating Camanava Flood Control Project handa rin nating sabihin na yung tubig ay hindi na masasayang na magbibigay nang lubog at kasakitan at hindi lang yun kung minsan pa kamatayan.

Kaya maraming salamat sa lahat nang nagsisikap na ang tubig ay maglilingkod sa taong-bayan at hindi makakapinsala.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening/Closing Statements during a Barangay Visit and Pulong Bayan with Officials of Six Barangays of District 1 and 2 of Valenzuela City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141524/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2246&Itemid=38

Departure Statement: President Arroyo on Her Visits to China and India

Departure Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: On Her Visits to China and India

[Released on October 2, 2007]

Today, we leave for Shanghai on the first leg of a two-nation swing that will take us to China and India, two of the fastest growing countries in the region and in the world. Our visits underscore our country's continuing commitment to be regionally and globally engaged, politically, economically and diplomatically.

While in China, I will have bilateral meetings with President Hu Jintao, under whose leadership our overall relations have grown to become more confident, mature and comprehensive, punctuated with substantial and important projects aimed at deepening exchanges in a number of areas, including trade and investment. China is currently our third largest trading partner with whom we have had a substantial trade surplus since 2002 and our Framework Agreement on Expanding and Deepening Bilateral Economic and Trade Cooperation is expected to further enhance bilateral merchandise trade with China.

While in Shanghai, I shall also have the opportunity to keynote the Philippine Business and Investment Forum, organized by the Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the Shanghai Overseas Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

We will join President Hu in the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics. Philippine participation in this year's Special Olympics is organized and coordinated by the Special Olympics Philippines headed by its current President Mariano Ong Inductivo.

The Philippine delegation this year will be the largest so far and will include 52 athletes who will participate in nine events: basketball, football, badminton, gymnastics, power lifting, athletics, aquatics, table tennis, and soccer.

Afterwards, I shall speak at the Global Policy Summit on the Well-being of People with Intellectual Disabilities, a gathering of leaders from government, academia, health care, disability; business, philanthropy, sports, to discuss challenges and opportunities for full inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.

Following the inauguration of the Filipino joint venture at the container terminal in Shandong, we will be flying to India on a State Visit. We look forward to meeting with President Pratibha Patil, the first female President of India, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, their party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and other Indian political leaders.

India currently supplies our huge demand for half-priced medicine. It is the pioneer in Business Process Outsourcing, the fastest rising industry in the Philippines.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Departure Statement on Her Visits to China and India. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141238/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2244&Itemid=38

Arrival Statement: President Arroyo after Official visit to China and India

Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

After her Official visit to China and India

[Delivered at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Pasay City, October 6, 2007]

Good evening, everyone.

I'd like to report that in our visit to China, we followed up large investment prospects coming from the fastest growing economy in the world, networked for the well-being of persons with intellectual disabilities and addressed the fate of concessional China loans for the infrastructure our country needs.

In our visit to India, we addressed urgent concerns over the situation in Myanmar and put the Philippines on the radar screen of the fourth largest economy in the world.

China's hosting of the Special Olympics world games and the global policy summit on the well-being of persons with intellectual disabilities gave us the opportunity to network for that sector of our society. Doctor Timothy Kennedy Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics, offered to raise foundation money to support special education for children with intellectual disabilities. We accepted his offer with a counterpart to build the school buildings to house the special education programs.

And upon the recommendation of the Philippine NGOs, who were there in the special summit and the special games, the ones concerned with intellectual disabilities, we are making the following reforms in the administration of the welfare of the disabled: we are placing the Council for the Welfare of the Disabled under the Office of the President; appointing a representative nominated by the private sector, namely, Mrs. Lovely Romulo, as Chair; and appointing a person with disability, Mr. Mateo Lee, as Executive Director. However, the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall continue to oversee the council in my behalf, even though it's already part of the Office of the President. The Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and the Presidential Management Staff shall prepare the appropriate documentation to effect these changes.

Shanghai was our first of four stops, the only stop in China. It is the center of commerce of China which is the fastest growing economy in the world. Shanghai has been experiencing double-digit growth for 15 years and it is home to some of the wealthiest individual businessmen in China. We are nurturing concrete investment prospects from some of them. We will make the appropriate announcements when their plans are ready for disclosure.

We believe we have further strengthened our robust ties with China by clarifying recent developments related to the massive Chinese assistance for our infrastructure program. We are grateful that China remains committed to our confident, mature and comprehensive relations. We have asked for China's understanding on our decision not to continue the national broadband network project and they gave their understanding. The china projects oversight panel headed by Peter Favila, and which includes the private sector, should now begin working out procedures to protect the cyber education project from unnecessary controversy, so that world-class ICT would reach 4th to 6th class municipalities and least-endowed schools.

We're disappointed that with the broadband not being continued, telecom savings of three billion pesos a year from broadband may not be forthcoming. So we reiterate our instruction to Secretary Leandro Mendoza to discuss with private telecommunication companies how government can cut its phone, fax and online expenses, so we can spend more on programs and projects. And once again, we urge the private telecommunications companies to fill the gaps in telecommunication facilities and services, especially in depressed areas. Whether government or the private sector, we must invest in digital infrastructure to link the entire country all the way to the poorest villages.

Myanmar or Burma used to be part of India. And India has become one of Asia's most robust democracies. And so when we were in India, a lot of the discussions with the top officials was on Myanmar. We encouraged New Delhi

on their urging the rulers in Yangon toward dialogue with the democratic groups in the country, we carried this message as part of the global community of persons who see tolerance, restraint and consensus-building as the indispensable first steps toward a great future for Myanmar and its people.

We believe we have increased the economic potential of our ties with India. Our visit to Mumbai was highlighted by the commitment of Global Steel of Mittal to invest 1.6 billion dollars to build an integrated steel mill in Iligan City. Also leading Bollywood Producer Aditya Taj Kapoor, Raj Kapoor and two other producers have decided to film a movie and move their respective movies using the Philippines as location site. And I understand a mission will be coming this November.

We encourage the Iligan City government to provide a welcoming climate for the integrated steel mill, the way that Olongapo and Zambales governments provided a very welcoming climate for the billion-dollar Hanjin investment in Subic and the way that Angeles City and Pampanga province provided a very welcoming climate for the billion-dollar Texas Instruments investment in Clark. Hanjin and Texas instruments have reciprocated the very welcoming environment when they set up their business by providing thousands of jobs in their investment locations and we expect the steel mill will also provide about as many jobs at least or even more than Texas Instruments for the people of Iligan City and Lanao Del Norte.

Our massive spending on health care includes importing pharmaceuticals from India as part of our program to cut in half the price of medicines commonly bought by the poor. The main importer of medicines from India is the government-owned Philippine International Trading Corporation. But we wanted to stress that PITC need not be the exclusive agent. That is why we invited private drugstore owners, traders and local governments interested in acquiring affordable medicine to our state visit so that they can do business directly with Indian corporations.

When we were in India, we learned that the Senate passed their version on second reading, and that the House already reported out their version of the bill. Congressman Tony Alvarez, Chairman of the House Committee on Trade and Industry, is right. We can make *Botika ng Barangays* or BnBs the fastest growing drugstore chain in the country by increasing by 50 percent its branch expansion fund of P98 million for 2008 to a 150 million pesos. That augmentation would increase the number of Botika outlets to be established next year to 6,000 from the planned 3,913. If this target will be met, there will be 13,514 branches by the end of 2008. The common man's access to quality affordable medicine can only be made possible if Botika ng Barangays are spread throughout the land.

We should be putting up more of these community-owned pharmacies in anticipation of the passage of the affordable medicines bill and the participation of the private sector and local government units in the pharmaceutical trade with India. Drugs must not only be more affordable, they must be accessible. And there is no better way to guarantee the latter than by letting the people themselves own and run their own pharmacies.

The *Botika ng Barangay* is just one in the constellation of government dispensaries. There is the privately-owned but state-supplied Botika ng Bayan, of which there are 1,481 outlets at present. There are drugstores run by cooperatives. Some are in the military and the police commissary. Let us also clarify that the budget for Botika ng Bayan expansion, which we amended to P150 million is only a part of the total medicine purchase budget for next year. Just a part because there is PITC and PCSO, etc.. and only a part of the total medicine purchase budget for next year. So if we increase to 150 million, that will be an additional P52 million, that will be good for 2,000 branches.

So I'm now issuing the following directives which will accelerate the roll-out and widen the reach of this very vital health delivery mechanism:

Number one, to the extent allowed by law, the procurement service of the DBM shall sell PITC pharma products in its depots and commissaries. It shall serve as a drug central that will serve as a distribution point of cheap medicines. Henceforth, its inventory shall now include pharmaceuticals.

Number two, a variant of the Botika ng Barangay shall be set up in state universities and colleges or SUCs to be called *Botika ng Pamantasan* or BnP. This will allow students to buy medicines not only for themselves but for family members left at home. *Ang isang batang pumapasok sa isang SUC ay maaaring utusan ng kaniyang mga*

magulang na bumili ng murang gamot sa kaniyang eskwelahan. By locating these BnPs (Botika ng Pamantasan) in tertiary educational institutions, we're also educating our youth on the generic medicines, information which each can echo to his clan and community. By creating an army of generic drug converts out of the MTV generation, we're empowering them and indirectly their families, with rights they can exercise on matters that affect the health of their loved ones.

More than that, the Botika ng Pamantasan or BnPs can serve as laboratories for business courses. They can provide employment to students who wish to work there.

The viability of the Botika ng Pamantasan is secure as it has the financial backing of its host college because the host college has no business offering a commerce course if it cannot run a small enterprise. In these stores, presumably, our academics can practice what they preach. An ordinary SUC has a population bigger than an average barangay, so it has a customer base for a drugstore.

Yun ang mga bahagi sa mga hangarin natin sa pagdalaw sa Tsina at India: isulong ang payapang diyalogosa Myanmar, pag-ibayuhin ang patutulungan natin sa Tsina, at mapansin tayo ng mga napakagaling na negosyante sa India, at palawakin ang abot-kayang gamot.

Kalayaan, kaunlaran at kalinga – yon ang mga adhikain natin.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Arrival Statement: President Arroyo after an Official Visit to China and India

Arrival Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: After an Official Visit to China and India

[Delivered at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2, Pasay City, October 6, 2007]

Good evening, everyone.

I'd like to report that in our visit to China, we followed up large investment prospects coming from the fastest growing economy in the world, networked for the well-being of persons with intellectual disabilities and addressed the fate of concessional China loans for the infrastructure our country needs.

In our visit to India, we addressed urgent concerns over the situation in Myanmar and put the Philippines on the radar screen of the fourth largest economy in the world.

China's hosting of the Special Olympics world games and the global policy summit on the well-being of persons with intellectual disabilities gave us the opportunity to network for that sector of our society. Doctor Timothy Kennedy Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics, offered to raise foundation money to support special education for children with intellectual disabilities. We accepted his offer with a counterpart to build the school buildings to house the special education programs.

And upon the recommendation of the Philippine NGOs, who were there in the special summit and the special games, the ones concerned with intellectual disabilities, we are making the following reforms in the administration of the welfare of the disabled: we are placing the Council for the Welfare of the Disabled under the Office of the President; appointing a representative nominated by the private sector, namely, Mrs. Lovely Romulo, as chair; and appointing a person with disability, Mr. Mateo Lee, as executive director. However, the secretary of social welfare and development shall continue to oversee the council in my behalf, even though it's already part of the Office of the President. The Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and the Presidential Management Staff shall prepare the appropriate documentation to effect these changes.

Shanghai was our first of four stops, the only stop in China. It is the Center of Commerce of China which is the fastest growing economy in the world. Shanghai has been experiencing double-digit growth for 15 years and it is home to some of the wealthiest individual businessmen in China. We are nurturing concrete investment prospects from some of them. We will make the appropriate announcements when their plans are ready for disclosure.

We believe we have further strengthened our robust ties with China by clarifying recent developments related to the massive Chinese assistance for our infrastructure program. We are grateful that China remains committed to our confident, mature and comprehensive relations. We have asked for China's understanding on our decision not to continue the national broadband network project and they gave their understanding. The China projects oversight panel headed by Peter Favila, and which includes the private sector, should now begin working out procedures to protect the cyber education project from unnecessary controversy, so that world-class ICT would reach 4th to 6th class municipalities and least-endowed schools.

We're disappointed that with the broadband not being continued, telecom savings of three billion pesos a year from broadband may not be forthcoming. So we reiterate our instruction to Secretary Leandro Mendoza to discuss with private telecommunication companies how government can cut its phone, fax and online expenses, so we can spend more on programs and projects. And once again, we urge the private telecommunications companies to fill the gaps in telecommunication facilities and services, especially in depressed areas. Whether government or the private sector, we must invest in digital infrastructure to link the entire country all the way to the poorest villages.

Myanmar as Burma used to be part of India. And India has become one of Asia's most robust democracies. And so when we were in India, a lot of the discussions with the top officials was on Myanmar. We encouraged New Delhi

on their urging the rulers in Yangon toward dialogue with the democratic groups in the country. We carried this message as part of the global community of persons who see tolerance, restraint and consensus-building as the indispensable first steps toward a great future for Myanmar and its people.

We believe we have increased the economic potential of our ties with India.

Our visit to Mumbai was highlighted by the commitment of Global Steel of Mittal to invest 1.6 billion dollars to build an integrated steel mill in Iligan City. Also leading Bollywood Producer Aditya Taj Kapoor, Raj Kapoor and two other producers have decided to film a movie... Move their respective movies using the Philippines as location site. And I understand a mission will be coming this November.

We encourage the Iligan City government to provide a welcoming climate for the integrated steel mill, the way that Olongapo and Zambales governments provided a very welcoming climate for the billion-dollar Hanjin investment in Subic and the way that Angeles City and Pampanga province provided a very welcoming climate for the billion-dollar Texas Instruments investment in Clark. Hanjin and Texas instruments have reciprocated the very welcoming environment when they set up their business by providing thousands of jobs in their investment locations and we expect the steel mill will also provide about as many jobs at least or even more than Texas Instruments for the people of Iligan City and Lanao Del Norte.

Our massive spending on health care includes importing pharmaceuticals from India as part of our program to cut in half the price of medicines commonly bought by the poor. The main importer of medicines from India is the government-owned Philippine International Trading Corporation. But we wanted to stress that PITC need not be the exclusive agent. That is why we invited private drugstore owners, traders and local governments interested in acquiring affordable medicine to our state visit so that they can do business directly with Indian corporations.

When we were in India, we learned that the senate passed their version on second reading, and that the House already reported out their version of the bill. Congressman Tony Alvarez, Chairman of the House Committee on Trade and Industry, is right. We can make Botika ng Barangays or BnBs the fastest growing drugstore chain in the country by increasing by 50 percent its branch expansion fund of P98 million for 2008 to a 150 million pesos. That augmentation would increase the number of Botika outlets to be established next year to 6,000 from the planned 3,913. If this target will be met, there will be 13,514 branches by the end of 2008. The common man's access to quality affordable medicine can only be made possible if Botika ng Barangays are spread throughout the land.

We should be putting up more of these community-owned pharmacies in anticipation of the passage of the affordable medicines bill and the participation of the private sector and local government units in the pharmaceutical trade with India. Drugs must not only be more affordable, they must be accessible. And there is no better way to guarantee the latter than by letting the people themselves own and run their own pharmacies.

The Botika ng Barangay is just one in the constellation of government dispensaries. There is the privately-owned but state-supplied Botika ng Bayan, of which there are 1,481 outlets at present. There are drugstores run by cooperatives. Some are in the military and the police commissary. Let us also clarify that the budget for Botika ng Bayan expansion, which we amended to P150 million is only a part of the total medicine purchase budget for next year. Just a part because there is PITC and PCSO, etc. And etc., only a part of the total medicine purchase budget for next year. So if we increase to 150 million, that will be an additional p52 million, that will be good for 2,000 branches.

So I'm now issuing the following directives which will accelerate the roll-out and widen the reach of this very vital health delivery mechanism:

Number one, to the extent allowed by law, the procurement service of the DBM shall sell PITC pharma products in its depots and commissaries. It shall serve as a drug central that will serve as a distribution point of cheap medicines. Henceforth, its inventory shall now include pharmaceuticals.

Number two, a variant of the Botika ng Barangay shall be set up in state universities and colleges or SUCs to be called Botika ng Pamantasan or BnP. This will allow students to buy medicines not only for themselves but for family members left at home. Ang isang batang pumapasok sa isang SUC ay maaaring utusan ng kaniyang mga magulang na bumili ng murang gamot sa kaniyang eskwelahan. By locating these BnPs (Botika ng Pamantasan) in tertiary educational institutions, we're also educating our youth on the generic medicines, information which each can echo to his clan and community. By creating an army of generic drug converts out of the MTV generation, we're empowering them and indirectly their families, with rights they can exercise on matters that affect the health of their loved ones.

More than that, the Botika ng Pamantasan or BnPs can serve as laboratories for business courses. They can provide employment to students who wish to work there. The viability of the Botika ng Pamantasan is secure as it has the financial backing of its host college because the host college has no business offering a commerce course if it cannot run a small enterprise. In these stores, presumably, our academics can practice what they preach. An ordinary SUC has a population bigger than an average barangay, so it has a customer base for a drugstore.

Yon ang mga bahagi sa mga hangarin natin sa pagdalaw sa Tsina at India: isulong ang payapang diyalogo sa Myanmar, pag-ibayuhin ang pagtutulungan natin sa Tsina, at mapansin tayo ng mga napakagaling na negosyante sa India, at palawakin ang abot ng abot-kayang gamot.

Kalayaan, kaunlaran at kalinga — yon ang mga adhikain natin.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Arrival Statement after an Official Visit to China and India. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141051/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2239&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the National Security Council – NEDA Meeting

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: At the National Security Council – NEDA Meeting

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, October 09, 2007]

Mga kababayan, magpupulong ngayon ang dalawang pangkat ng Gabinete, ang National Security Council-Cabinet Group, at mamaya ang NEDA Cabinet Group, upang tutukan ang ilang napakahalagang programa na maaaring nakaligtaan nitong nagdaang mga linggo.

Una, isusulong natin ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa mga lalawigang sinasalanta ng mga rebeldeng komunista. Sa susunod na linggo, magkakaroon ng kapulungang pangkayapaan sa Butuan, kasunod ng matagumpay na peace assembly sa Bohol noong Agosto. At pag-uusapan sa National Security Council-Cabinet meeting ang plano ni Gov. (Erico) Aumentado para sa tigil-putukan at mas masigasig na mga programang pangkaunlaran sa Bohol. Dapat matigil ang karahasan sa bansa upang mabigyang-daan ang kaunlaran ng taong-bayan.

Pangalawa, hindi dapat mahinto ang imprastraktura at investment dahil sa mga batikos. Kaya naman iniatas ko sa China Projects Oversight Panel sa ilalim ni Secretary (Peter) Favila na siguruhing walang balakid ang napakahalagang proyekto ng Cyber Education para sa karunungan ng milyun-milyon nating mag-aaral. Kokonsultahin nila rito ang Education Task Force sa ilalim ni Fr. Ben Nebres ng Ateneo, upang matiyak na alinsunod sa pangangailangan ng edukasyon ang proyekto. Kabalik din ang Procurement Transparency Group, kasama ang Civil Society Organizations for Procurement Reform, upang maging bukas at transparent ang pagproseso ng proyekto.

Mahalaga rin sa negosyo at trabaho ang lumalawak at lumalalim na ugnayan sa kalakal at kapital sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at ibang bansa. Dalawang bilyong dolyar ng investment ang nakuha natin sa pagbiyahe ko sa Tsina at India noong isang linggo, at lilikha ito ng libu-libong trabaho. Tatalakayin naman ng NEDA Cabinet Group ang napakahalagang Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement o JPEPA, na lalong magpapalago ng kalakal at investment mula sa bansang Hapon. Gaya ng sabi ni Gov. Joey Salceda noong isang linggo, hindi tayo dapat mahuli sa ating mga karatig-bansa sa pagbuo ng kasunduang pangkalakal sa Japan. Kailangan ang JPEPA para sa trabaho at kaunlaran.

Kabilang sa NEDA Cabinet Group ang Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council o HUDCC, sa ilalim ni Vice President Noli de Castro. Masigasig na isinusulong ni Noli ang pinalawak na programang pabahay. Hinihiling ko sa ating Bise Presidente na ilahok ang mga pamahalaang lokal, ang Simbahan at ang lipunang sibil sa pagbalangkas ng mga programa at proyekto sa pabahay, sa kahilingan ng ating mga obispo.

Nanawagan si dating pangulong Fidel Ramos na itutok ng pambansang pamunuan ang pansin at panahon sa pagpapalago ng ekonomiya. Ito mismo ang pangunahing adhikain ng pamahalaan at hangarin ng taong-bayan: ang pag-angat ng kabuhayan, karunungan, kalakalan, at sambayanan. Napakahalaga rito ang pagsulong ng mga panukalang batas, lalo na ang budget at ang priority legislation gaya ng Cheaper Medicines Bill at pag-amyenda sa EPIRA (Electric Power Industry Reform Act) para sa mas mababang singil sa koryente. At sa pagdepensa ng budget, inuulit ko sa Gabinete ang atas na ipakita sa Kongreso, media at sambayanan ang mga nagawa ng pamahalaan para sa bayan. Sa kabila ng mga panira at pamumulitika, patuloy tayong sumusulong sa landas ng kaunlaran.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Statement at the National Security Council – NEDA Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412141024/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2237&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a meeting on the SONA/MTPIP priority projects and oathtaking of the Interim National Executive board of the ULAP and officers of LMP Pangasinan Chapter Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a meeting on the SONA/MTPIP priority projects and oathtaking of the Interim National Executive board of the ULAP and officers of LMP Pangasinan Chapter

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, October 11, 2007]

Good afternoon everyone.

Thank you for coming to this meeting with the Union of Local Authorities and the Regional Development Councils. May I ask Ramon Guico to lead the opening prayer.

Thank you, thank you. Please sit down.

Leaders of the local government leagues, local government officials, leaders of the Regional Development Councils, mga kabalikat sa kaunlaran ng Pamahalaang Bansa at ng sambayanang Pilipino.

Sa patuloy na paglakas ng ekonomiya, ng piso at ng stock market, the world and the markets acknowledge our gains in economic reform and political stability, bagaman kabaligtaran ang pilit pinalalabas ng mga ilan.

Sa panahong ito, lalong dapat isustento ang paglago ng ekonomiya at pag-akit ng investment. Napakahalaga rito ang pagbibilis ng mga proyekto ng mga superregion. Kailangan ding ipasa sa oras ang budget para sa 2008.

Tama na sana ang pamumulitika.

Upang dumami rin ang investment at trabaho, kailangan ding isulong ang katahimikan at kapayapaan, lalo na sa mga lugar ng insureksiyon, through amnesty and local peace initiatives, as being undertaken in Bohol and Agusan. Hindi papasok ang negosyo kung patuloy ang pangangikil, pagpaslang at paninira ng mga rebelde.

Higit sa lahat, lalo nating palakasin ang pagkakaisa at pagkakapit-bisig ng pamunuang pambansa at lokal, na siyang nagdulot ng katatagan at kaunlaran sa kabila ng mga ligalig at hamon ng mga nagdaang mga taon, lalo na ang ulap at ang iba-ibang mga liga, na siyang nagdulot sa tagumpay at kaunlaran.

Kaya, inilalahok natin ang ulap sa China Projects Oversight Panel, upang mabigyan kayo ng tinig sa pagbalangkas sa mga proyekto na pinopondohan ng mga concessional funding mula sa Tsina. Isasama rin natin ang ULAP sa pro-performance system, na siya ang nagsusubaybay ng ating mga pangunahing proyekto.

Sa ating pagkakaisa laban sa pamumulitika, karahasan at iba pang balakid sa kaunlaran, ihahatid natin ang mga biyaya ng makabago at makataong pamayanan sa lahat ng superregion at bawat mamamayan.

So, I'd like to thank you all for coming here today.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement during a meeting on the SONA/MTPIP priority projects and oathtaking of the Interim National Executive board of the ULAP and officers of LMP Pangasinan Chapter . Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140259/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2235&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo at the National Security Council Meeting

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: At the National Security Council Meeting

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, October 23, 2007]

Mga kababayan, magpupulong tayo ngayon kasama sina Vice President Noli de Castro, dating Pangulong Fidel V. Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia, at Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan na kumatawan kay Senate President Villar na wala sa Maynila ngayon, kasama ang National Security Cabinet group.

Rerepasuhin natin ang kampanya kontra terorismo at iba pang programang panseguridad. Bagaman hindi pa tapos ang pagsisiyasat sa Glorietta (blast), kailangan pa ring pagtibayin ang ating mga pagkilos para sa kaligtasan ng bayan.

Kabilang dito ang pagpapalakas ng Kapulisan at Santadahang Lakas, pagsusulong ng kapayapaan at pagkakasundo sa mga rebelde, pagtutulungan ng mamamayan, sundalo, pulis at pamahalaan, at pagpapatibay ng ating balikatan sa mga kaalyadong bansa.

Magpupulong din mamaya ang Anti-Poverty at Economic and Development Cabinet group upang pabilisin ang ating programa para sa pagsasaka ng dalawang milyong bagong ektarya upang lumikha ng dalawang milyong bagong trabaho sa sakahan.

Mag-uulat din ang Kagawaran ng Paggawa tungkol sa tulong natin sa mga overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) sa panahon ng pagtaas ng piso, including the series of Bangko Sentral investment incentives and programs for overseas Filipino remittances to be invested into capital enterprises. Inaatasan din natin ang Gabinete na ireport tuwina ang ating mga ginagawa sa seguridad at karapatang tao, paglaban sa kahirapan, at pagsulong ng ekonomiya at kanayunan.

Akala ng mga kaaway ng bayan na madali tayong susuko sa mga pwersa ng takot, gulo at hidwaan. Nagkakamali sila. Sama-sama nating itataguyod ang kaunlaran, kapayapaan at katatagan ng bayan, at mas magandang buhay para sa bawat Pilipino. Sumusulong na ang Pilipinas, huwag nating payagang pigilin tayo.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement at the National Security Council Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140156/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2217&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) and Export Development Council (EDC) meeting [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa pagpupulong ng National Competitiveness Council (NCC) at Export Development Council (EDC) Meeting

[Ipinahayag sa Heroes Hall ng Malacañang, ika 6 ng Nobyembre, 2007]

Mga kababayan, sa paglapit ng langis sa presyong sandaang dolyar bawat bariles, kailangan kumilos ang bansa, lalo na ang mga liderato ng pamahalaan at ekonomiya, upang mabawasan ang hampas sa tao ng krudo, gasolina at LPG. Pinakamalakas ang tama ng pagtaas ng presyo sa mga mababa ang kinikita at hindi makahabol sa pagtaas ng presyo ng bilingin.

Sa ganitong panahon, hindi katawad-tawad ang pag-aaksaya ng panahon sa pamumulitika samantalang nakabinbin ang mga panukalang kailangan upang mabawasan ang gastos ng pamilyang Pilipino at dagdagan ang kita at hanapbuhay. Kaya naman hinihiling natin sa Kongreso na agad ipasa ang batas para sa Murang Gamot, at ang amyenda sa Electric Power Industry Reform Act na makababawas ng singil sa koryente. Hindi rin dapat mahuli ang budget para sa susunod na taon, upang agad makinabang ang sambayanan sa mga proyekto para sa maralita, lalo na ang patubig, farm to market roads, pabahay at pagamot.

Para rin tutukan ang problema ng langis, bilingin at hanapbuhay, pinulong natin ngayon ang National Competitiveness Council, Export Development Council at mga labor federation. Babalangkas tayo ng mga aksyon upang maagapan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng petrolyo, at lalong mapalakas ang productivity. Sa pagtaas ng productivity, mas makalalaban ang Pilipino sa dayuhang mga produkto dito at sa ibayong dagat, at hindi gaanong tataas ang presyo ng bilinging gawa sa ating bansa.

Bukod sa productivity at presyo, kailangan ding magsulong ng mga panukala, programa at proyekto upang maihatid sa karaniwang Pilipino ang mga biyaya ng lumalagong ekonomiya. Kabalikat ng kalakal at industriya ang manggagawang Pilipino sa pagsulong ng kaunlaran, at marapat lamang na magtamasa din sila ng mga bunga ng pagod nating lahat. Bibigyan din ito ng pansin ngayon, at sa iba pang pulong ng mga organisasyong ito, na aking inaatasang magpulong bawat buwan upang subaybayan, isulong at dagdagan pa ang mga inisyatibo upang ipaabot sa masang Pilipino ang mga biyaya ng ating lumalakas na ekonomiya.

Unti-unti nang umaabot sa karaniwang tao ang pag-angat sa ibang bahagi ng lipunan. Ayon sa poverty survey na inilabas kahapon, bumaba na ang porsyento ng nagsasabing mahirap sila mula noong unang bahagi ng 2006. Isang dahilan ang mga reporma sa buwis na nagpalakas ng piso at investment, at nagdagdag sa pondong pangkaunlaran. Ito rin ang rerepasuhin sa BIR command conference ngayong hapon.

Hindi na tayo dapat mag-aksaya ng panahon at pagod sa mga bagay na malayo sa mga pangunahing pangangailangan at pasanin ng sambayanan: presyo, trabaho at benepisyo. Pagtulungan na nating lahat ito – ang gobyerno, Kongreso, negosyo at manggagawa – sa ikabubuti ng taong bayan.

Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement at the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) and Export Development Council (EDC) Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140059/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2293&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo for the NSC-NAPC Cabinet Meeting

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
For the NSC-NAPC Cabinet Meeting**

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, November 13, 2007]

Maraming idadahilan sa mga trahedyang nina Mariannet at Dalaig, at isa ang ibig nating tutukan: ang mga kalabisan ng politika.

Maraming naghihirap dahil may mga pinuno na pamumulitika at pansariling hangarin ang binibigyang halaga, higit sa pag-angat ng bayan.

Samantala, may mga politiko at grupo na walang puso at budhi, at handang gumamit ng dahas upang makamit ang ambisyon at layunin.

The preoccupation with politics, past and present, does not promote the stability, policy continuity, security and peace and order that we will need to continue to move our country forward.

The people want results, not rhetoric, action not political posturing. Let us get on with the people's work.

The people of the Philippines are tired of negative political rhetoric that does nothing to bring about legislation that will create a new future for our people.

We call on legislators to stop political wrangling and start legislating. Congress has demonstrated that when it sets aside self interest it can produce legislation that improves the quality of life of all Filipinos. The most notable recent example is the bill that reduces the cost of medicines commonly needed by the poor and the 2008 budget especially for healthcare and education.

But much more needs to be done to improve human rights, invest more in peace and order and to advance our national interests with other nations on trade, economy and security issues.

Kailangang pagtulungan ng buong sambayanan, simula sa ating liderato, na malabanan ang mga kalabisan ng politika: ang karahasan, katiwalian, at pagbale-wala sa karaingan ng maralita.

Hindi ito madali, subalit dapat nating pagsikapan ito upang hindi mas lumala ang kahirapan, karahasan at hidwaan sa ating bansa.

It is time for the nation to move on and focus on the issues that are important to our future: creating more jobs, lowering prices, providing affordable housing, and providing access to education for all our children.

Sa araw na ito, magpupulong ang Gabinete upang isulong ang kapayapaan, at maghatid ng serbisyo sa mahihirap, lalo na ang malinis na tubig, mahusay na edukasyon, at isang bilyong piso para sa mga programang kontra sa gutom.

At sa mga linggong darating, makikipag-ugnay tayo sa iba't-ibang pinuno ng politika, relihiyon, at iba pang sektor upang labanan nating lahat ang karahasan sa politika, at isulong ang kapayapaan at mas masigasig na pagsaklolo sa maralita.

Mapalad tayong patuloy ang paglago ng ekonomiya. Sabi ng Standard and Poors, na tinitingalang tagasuri ng mga ekonomiya sa buong mundo: "The Philippines [is] apparently shifting to higher growth trajectories. Political stability, microeconomic reforms, and a dramatic improvement in the fiscal position, are now translating into better growth prospects, underpinned by increased infrastructure spending."

Ngayong naituwid na natin ang ekonomiya, panahon namang isulong ang reporma sa politika. Bawasan ang hidwaan, labanan ang katiwalian, itigil ang karahasan, at unahin ang kapakanan ng karaniwang mamamayan.

Alang-alang sa bayan, ipagdasal at pagtulungan natin ito.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement for the NSC-NAPC Cabinet Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135944/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2282&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on her departure for the ASEAN Leaders Summit

**Departure Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
For the ASEAN Leaders Summit**

[Released on November 18, 2007]

We are departing for Singapore and the ASEAN Leaders Summit committed to advancing the interests of the Philippine people in three key areas: human rights, environmental protection and economic development.

The interests of the people of the Philippines come first. Their agenda is my agenda in Singapore: energy independence, environmental stewardship, a strong economy and a commitment to human rights.

ASEAN is increasingly important as our region becomes more integrated economically, socially and politically. ASEAN is becoming a more cohesive regional powerhouse that will enhance the interests of each member nation and provide balance to the rise of China as well as to our traditional relationship with North America and Europe.

At the successful ASEAN Summit in Cebu which we chaired last year, we launched several key initiatives, most notably the pursuit of the ASEAN Charter for the purpose of strengthening our economic clout and regional self-sufficiency. At that time, we also called for stronger environmental standards, energy self-sufficiency and insisted upon an ASEAN Human Rights body.

We are proud to announce that ASEAN is making progress on each and every initiative we started in Cebu – and this is good news for the Philippines. We are determined to complete in Singapore what we started in Cebu. We are committed to advance our commitment to human rights, propel our commitment to a healthy environment led by energy self sufficiency and continue to strengthen our economic comeback.

Our nation is moving forward on the strength of the Philippine worker, our willingness to engage the world and the work of our administration to bring peace, order and stability to our nation. ASEAN is part of our plan to achieve these goals.

In this holiday season, it is important to be connected to peoples and nations abroad just as we are focused on our friends, neighbors and families at home. We must all stand together to advance the interests of humanity and lift up the fortunes of the poor and dispossessed.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Departure Statement. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135918/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2276&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo after the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) Meeting in Iligan City

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

After the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) Meeting in Iligan City

[Delivered in Iligan City, November 22, 2007]

We return to the Philippines ahead of schedule from the ASEAN Summit saddened about the onslaught of typhoon “Lando” in Regions V, VII, VIII, X and Caraga. We sympathize with the affected families, especially those that lost loved ones. We have directed the authorities to find the missing and treat the wounded with dispatch.

Here in our city of Iligan is the largest number of families displaced. We need to get them back home and on their feet as soon as possible.

The damage to lives and property would have been worse were it not for the timely action of the Government. Congratulations to the NDCC, the LGUs of affected areas and all related agencies for their quick response.

In behalf of our fellow Iliganons, we thanked all those who helped in the rescue efforts and set relief goods, especially those from outside Iligan.

In countless times in the past, we have united in the face of calamities. We will show that unity once again.

Even as we are saddened about typhoon “Lando,” we are satisfied that as a result of our efforts in Singapore, the Philippines will benefit from greater security, stronger economic growth and enhanced solidarity to make progress to protect our environment.

The fact that ASEAN has signed a Charter that is legally binding and that will create a more powerful bloc is an important milestone in the history of our region. It sends a signal that ASEAN nations are determined to play a larger, more strategic role to move our region and each member nation forward.

The Philippine economy and our people have benefited from economic growth due to global engagement. Increased trade between ASEAN nations will continue to accelerate our economic growth, foreign investment and the creation of good jobs for our people.

And while we are pleased that we have incorporated language in the Charter that advances human rights and democracy, we remain concerned that the forces of authoritarianism still move rather slowly towards democracy in Myanmar. Let me be clear: We embrace the advances of ASEAN but remain concerned about the pace of progress of Myanmar on the issue of human rights. We particularly deplore the treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi. She must be released. Now.

We will not rest, in representation of the political leadership and constituency of the Philippines and as a member of ASEAN, in the pursuit of justice and reconciliation in Myanmar. We must be active in advocating peaceful reforms in that nation. It is good for Myanmar, for ASEAN and the world.

We are both sad and happy to return home to press forward with the agenda and focus on the needs of the victims of the recent as well as the incoming typhoons and also the needs of poorest among us during this holiday season.

In this era of climate change, the world is divided into climate makers and climate takers. Climate makers are those responsible for large emissions of greenhouse gases that warm the globe. Climate takers are those who do not emit large amounts of greenhouse gas but nonetheless suffer the consequences of climate change because climate change is global. Climate makers are responsible for mitigating global warming, while climate takers must undertake adaptation measures.

The Philippines belongs to the category of climate takers. We emit less than one percent of greenhouse gases but we suffer the consequences of global warming, including disasters like typhoon “Lando.”

Being a climate taker rather than climate maker, we cannot prevent disasters but certainly we can undertake adaptation measures to prevent the loss of lives and reduce damage to property. We instruct the Department of Science and Technology to fast track the purchase of Mindanao’s Doppler radar.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA’s Statement after the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) Meeting in Iligan City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409190301/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2275&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo after the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) Meeting in Surigao City

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

After the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) Meeting in Surigao City

[Delivered in Surigao City, November 22, 2007]

We return to the Philippines ahead of schedule from the ASEAN Summit saddened about the onslaught of typhoon “Lando” in Regions V, VII, VIII, X and Caraga.

We sympathize with the affected families, especially those that lost loved ones in Taganaan, Placer and Surigao City. We have directed the authorities to find the missing and treat the wounded with dispatch.

We need to get the displaced families back home and on their feet as soon as possible.

The damage to lives and property would have been worse were it not for the timely action of the Government. Congratulations to the NDCC, the LGUs of affected areas and all related agencies for their quick response.

The NDCC shall continue to coordinate the efforts of the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other agencies to prevent the outbreak of diseases and deliver assistance. I understand the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Department of Agriculture (DA) and other agencies have commenced repair and rehabilitation works.

Even as we are saddened about typhoon “Lando,” we are satisfied that as a result of our efforts in Singapore, the Philippines will benefit from greater security, stronger economic growth and enhanced solidarity to make progress to protect our environment.

The fact that ASEAN has signed a Charter that is legally binding and that will create a more powerful regional bloc is an important milestone in the history of our region. It sends a signal that ASEAN nations are determined to play a larger, more strategic role to move our region and each member nation forward.

The Philippine economy and our people have benefited from economic growth due to global engagement.

China is one of the world’s biggest consumers of metal so for the Philippine mining industry, this represents significant opportunity in terms of mining exploration, development and mineral exports, particularly at a time when we are looking to develop our US\$1 trillion worth of mineral reserves across the country. China’s Jinchuan, CITIC and Jilin Nickel are some of the investors who have expressed interest in nickel mining projects of Surigao. We hope to see these nickel projects and others come to fruition soon.

Increased trade between ASEAN nations will continue to accelerate our economic growth, foreign investment and the creation of good jobs for our people.

Banyan Tree, the Singaporean tourism giant that developed Phuket in Thailand, just bought a 55-hectare island in Coron, Palawan to put up a resort. But in addition, they are looking for a 300-hectare property with

a beach to develop a total tourism estate the way they did in Phuket, Maldives and Seychelles and the way they are doing now in Vietnam.

And while we are pleased that we have incorporated language in the Charter that advances human rights and democracy, we remain concerned that the forces of authoritarianism still move rather slowly towards democracy in Myanmar. Let me be clear: We embrace the advances of ASEAN but remain concerned about the pace of progress

of Myanmar on the issue of human rights. We particularly deplore the treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi. She must be released. Now.

At the ASEAN Summit, I also said that in this era of climate change, the world is divided into climate makers and climate takers. Climate makers are those responsible for large emissions of greenhouse gases that warm the globe. Climate takers are those who do not emit large amounts of greenhouse gas but nonetheless suffer the consequences of climate change because climate change is global. Climate makers are responsible for mitigating global warming, while climate takers must undertake adaptation measures.

The Philippines belongs to the category of climate takers. We emit less than one percent of greenhouse gases but we suffer the consequences of global warming, including landslides such as the ones that hit Surigao now and a few years ago.

Being a climate taker rather than a climate maker, we cannot prevent disasters, but certainly we can undertake adaptation measures to prevent the loss of lives and reduce damage to property. We instruct the Department of Science and Technology to fast track the purchase of Doppler radar of Cebu and South Cotabato which combined will serve the more detailed weather forecast needs of Caraga.

In countless times in the past, we have united in the face of calamities. We will show that unity once again.

We are both sad and happy to return home to press forward with our agenda and focus on the needs of the victims of the recent as well as the incoming typhoons and also the needs of the poorest among us during this holiday season.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Statement after the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) Meeting in Surigao City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135912/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2272&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during an informal interaction with officials of Barangay 20, District 1, Manila [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa impormal na interaksyon kasama ang mga opisyal ng Barangay 20, District 1, Manila

[Ipinahayag sa Manila Parola Basketball Court, Purok 4, Brgy. 20, District 1 Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, ika 26 ng Nobyembre, 2007]

Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

At nagpapasalamat ako kay Mayor Lim sa pag-host nitong ating barangay visit ngayon at sa ating bagong congressman asilo, magandang umaga din sa inyo. At gusto kong batiin ang bagong barangay chairman at ang ating outgoing barangay chairman, magpasalamat sa kanyang paglilingkod sa barangay.

Gusto ko lang sabihin na pag-angat ng mahihirap ang pangunahing layunin ng ating pamahalaan at lipunan. Malapit na ang pasko. Itong darating na linggo ay first Sunday of Advent na. Marapat lamang na tumulong ang maykaya sa nangangailangan at gagawin ng pamahalaan ang makakaya upang isulong ang ganitong pagtulong. Hindi lamang pangunahing pagkain ang bigas, kundi tanda ng ating kakayahang magbigay ng sapat na makakain sa nagugutom. Buo ang loob natin upang tiyaking may sapat at abot-kayang bigas ang mahihirap sa napakahalagang pagdiriwang ng pasko.

Hindi natin masasabing nakahakbang tayo nang malayo bilang isang bayan kung hindi natin mai-aangat ang nagugutom at naghihirap sa ating lipunan. Dapat nating pangatawanan ang ating pinaniniwalaan at pananampalataya.

Pang-matagalan nating hangarin na mabilang ang bansa sa mga maunlad na bansa sa loob ng dalawampung taon. Upang matupad ito, kailangan magkaroon tayo ng malakas na middle-class, imprastrakturang kapantay ang mundo, at matatag na mga institusyon ng pamahalaan. Subalit sa panahong ito mismo, kailangan nating aksyunan ang mga hamon ng kahirapan at gutom na hinaharap natin ngayon.

Nabawasan na ang porsiyento ng naghihirap, subalit dapat nating pagsikapan nang lalong masigasig ang lubusang pagkawala ng kahirapan. Kaya naman ngayong kapaskuhan at sa panahong darating, gagawin natin ang lahat ng makakaya upang makapagdala ng bigas sa walang makain at magawang abot-kaya ang presyo ng bilihan.

Ito ang ating handog ng pamahalaan sa mamamayang Pilipino.

Kaya itong araw na ito ay kinatawan ng department of agriculture ang unang tatawagin natin upang ipaliwanag ang programa ng pamahalaan na... Para maka-abot ang abot-kayang bigas sa nakararami na taumbayan.

By the way Mayor, regards mula... Galing kay Arty Yap kaya lang... Nandoon pa ba siya sa Amerika, si Arty o nakabalik na? Ah, tumuloy ng Europe, ano? Nagpunta siya sa Amerika gawa ng 'yung Worldwide Life Fund ay merong pondo para sa agricultural component, yung fisheries component ng ating coral triangle, itong coral ng Sulu-Sulawesi sea at pagkatapos tumuloy sa Food and Agriculture Organization... Sa Rome for the food and agriculture organization. Tapos noon ay tutuloy siya ng España, makikipag-kita sa inyong lingkod dahil may malaking investments ng agri-business na darating. At hindi na natin iuulat yun, doon na lang iuulat sa España.

Pero binabanggit ko ito Mayor kasi gustong-gusto ni Arty na kasama siya kapag nagbibisita sa inyo. Gawa nang si Arty ay malapit na malapit kay Mayor Lim. Inaanak, 'di ba?

So, anyway, yun ang makakasiguro naman na... Isang bagay na makakasiguro na talagang ang bibigyan ng pansin, ng malaking pansin ng D.A. ang Maynila. Hindi dahil Maynila ang panggagalingan ng tinatanim na agrikultura,

dahil urban naman ang Maynila, kung hindi yung distribution ng mga produktong agricultural na kinakain ng taong-bayan.

Kaya we'll call the D.A. now to make the presentation kung papano natin sinisigurado na may sapat at abot-kayang bigas ang taong-bayan. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's opening statement during an informal interaction with officials of Barangay 20, District 1, Manila. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135855/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2270&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the National Security Council-Cabinet Group Meeting [Filipino]

Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Sa pagpupulong ng Gabinete ng National Security Council

[Ipinahayag sa Aguinaldo State Dining Room ng Malacañang, ika 27 ng Nobyembre, 2007]

Mga kababayan, nagpapasalamat at nagpupugay tayo sa lahat ng mamamayang nagtaya ng buhay at nag-alay ng puyat at pagod upang saklolohan at tulungan ang ating mga kapwa Pilipino na nasalanta ng bagyo at baha sa iba't ibang dako ng bansa. Bukod nating pinupuri ang mga sundalo, pulis, manggagamot, mga pinuno at kawaning lokal, at iba pang tauhan ng pamahalaan at mga pribadong organisasyon. Sa kanilang kagitingan, sinagip nila ang libu-libong tao sa malaking tubig, matinding gutom at karamdamang nakamamatay.

Ganitong kabayanihan ang kailangan tuwina ng ating bayan: paglilingkod sa nagigipit at naghihirap nang walang atubili at buong pagkalinga. Ito rin ang hangad natin sa mga pulong ng Gabinete ngayon: pagsusulong ng mga proyekto at programa upang ipadama sa karaniwang mamamayan ngayong Pasko at Bagong Taon ang mga biyaya ng lumalagong ekonomiya at kaban ng bayan. Kabilang dito ang bigas para sa pamilya, tulong sa nagkakasakit, patrabaho, patubig at pabahay.

Tatalakayin din ngayon ang mga pagkilos ng mga ahensiya ng buwis upang lalong pagbutihin ang paglikom ng salapi para sa mga programa ng pamahalaan at katamtaman gastos sa mga malaking imprastraktura. Sa gayon, lalo nating mapondohan at mapalalakas ang mga serbisyo sa maralita. Bahagi rin ito ng ating pamaskong handog sa taong bayan.

Nagpapasalamat din tayo sa ating mga kapwa lingkod bayan sa Kongreso sa kanilang pagtutok sa budget at iba pang panukalang kailangang-kailangan sa kanilang huling buwan ng pagpupulong sa taong ito. Milyun-milyong kababayan ang naghihintay ng kinakailangang panukala sa murang gamot, mas mababang singil sa koryente, amnestiya sa rebelde, at ang mga programang pangkaunlaran at pangmasa sa budget sa 2008. Importante rin ang nakabinbing batas laban sa mga ilegal na pasabog, gaya ng nakamatay at nakapinsala sa Batasang Pambansa.

These measures are also crucial to business expansion. The 2008 budget will fund major infrastructure that would boost industrial and agricultural productivity and competitiveness. JPEPA (Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement) will boost investment and trade from Japan, while the EPIRA (Electric Power Industry Reform Act) amendment will give relief to firms struggling with rising power costs.

Upang mas madali ang mga panukalang ito, pupulungin natin ang Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council or LEDAC pagbalik natin mula sa Europa, upang maresolba na ang anumang sagabal sa mga panukalang kailangang-kailangan ng bayan.

Ito ang kailangan ng bayan ngayon. Tutukan at pagtulungan natin.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Statement at the National Security Council-Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135844/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2264&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the National Security Cabinet Group meeting

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
At the National Security Cabinet Group meeting**

[Released via Videoconferencing from London, December 7, 2007]

Mga kababayan, magandang araw. Minarapat kong magbigay ng pahayag mula sa biyahe upang siguruhing nakatutok ang pamahalaan sa mga mahalagang pagkilos para sa bayan at ekonomiya.

Unang-una, marapat maging masigasig ang buong kapulisan at sandatahan sa pagtugis ng ilang nalalabing tauhan na sangkot sa pag-aalsa, upang hindi na muling magambala ang bayan. Kaya naman pinupulong natin ngayon ang National Security Cabinet Group sa pamamagitan ng video conferencing, upang repasuhin ang ating seguridad.

The people are grateful to our loyal soldiers and police for defending our democracy and constitution.

We must remain vigilant against groups exploiting grievances to grab power for their own selfish ambitions.

Pangalawa, ipinapa-alaala natin sa gabinete na isulong ang mga pagkilos na aking itinakda sa mga pulong kamakailan upang aksyunan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng langis, at maghatid ng abot-kayang bigas at iba pang handog sa masa. Mahalaga ring tumugon sa mga hinaing ng maralita, kabilang ang mga magsasakang nangangailangan ng tulong para sa kabuhayan at katarungan. Dapat ding bilisan ang mahalagang imprastraktura, ipuno ang kaban ng bayan, at tulungan ang mga kompanya at mangagawang nai-ipit ng malakas na piso.

Pangatlo, nagpapasalamat tayo sa Klongreso na patuloy na magtuon ng pansin sa mga kinakailangang panukala, lalo na ang budget. Cheaper medicines bill, amyenda sa epira para sa murang singil sa koryente, at amnestiya para sa maraming rebelde na ibig magbalik-loob. Sa ating biyahe rin, kapakanan ng taong bayan ang tanging adhikain. Bago ako umuwi, daraan ako sa kuwait sa linggo upang maki-usap sa Emir alang-alang sa buhay ni Marilou Ranario. Mahalaga sa bayan at pamahalaan ang buhay at laya ng bawat Pilipino.

Sa pakikipag-usap sa mga pinuno, mga investor at mga kababayan sa Europe, maliwanag na buo pa rin ang kanilang tiwala at pag-asa sa ating bansa. Sabi nila, basta patuloy tayong magkakaisa at magsisikap para sa masiglang ekonomiya at panatag ng bansa, lalo silang magdadala ng investment sa bansa, lilikha ng trabaho, at magsusulong ng pag-unlad.

Our adherence to democracy is winning kudos and boosting confidence around the world for our nation.

Pagkakaisa, pag-unlad, kapayapaan at kasaganaan para sa lahat — ito ang susi ng pangarap natin. Mabuhay ang bayang Pilipino.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement at the National Security Cabinet Group meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135707/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2336&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Statement: President Arroyo during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council Meeting [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
Sa pagpupulong ng Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council

[Ipinahayag sa Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, ika 11 ng Disyembre, 2007]

Mga kababayan, magandang araw. Sa pagsapit ng Pasko at Bagong Taon, marapat itutok natin ang pansin at pagsisikap sa mga panukalang hinihintay at kinakailangan ng taong bayan. Sa panig ng gobyerno, inaatasan ko ang Gabinete na ilunsad sa mga araw at linggong darating ang pamamahagi ng bigas, pagkakabit ng kuryente at tubig, pagbubukas ng mga tindahang abot-kaya, at iba pang programang pang-masa na siyang Pamaskong Handog natin sa taong bayan.

Sa pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihin dahil sa pagmahal ng halaga ng langis, hindi tayo dapat mag-aksaya ng panahon sa paghahatid ng murang pagkain at gamot at libreng serbisyo sa maralita.

Samantala, pinupulong natin ngayon ang Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council o LEDAC, upang isulong ang mga napakahalagang panukalang batas sa Kongreso. Kabilang dito ang 2008 budget na magpopondo sa mga serbisyo publiko at imprastrakturang matagal nang hinihiling ng mamamayan at negosyo. Ibig din nating maipasa bago magpahinga ang Kongreso sa a-beinte uno ng Disyembre ang Cheaper Medicines Bill na lalong makakabawas sa presyo ng gamot at amyenda sa EPIRA (Electric Power Industry Reform Act), upang maibaba ang singil sa kuryente.

Pag-uusapan din ngayon ang proklamasyon ng amnestiya sa mga rebeldeng komunista. Marami sa kanila ang ibig nang bumalik sa panig ng batas, kaya nagproklama tayo ng amnestiya para sa mga susuko, at kinakailangan ngayon ang pagsang-ayon ng Kongreso.

Sa paglapit ng Bagong Taon, ilulunsad din natin ang mga pagkilos para sa mas murang kuryente, tulong sa mga manggagawa, mga exporters at mga OFWs, at patuloy na paglago ng kaban ng bayan upang mabalanse ang budget. Magsisikap din tayo upang patuloy na aksiyunan ang mga ligalig sa ating kapayapaan at mga usapin ng karapatang-tao, at palakasin ang suporta sa edukasyon, na pagpupulungan mamaya ng mga stakeholder ng sector ng edukasyon sa ilalim ni Fr. Bienvenido Nebres ng Ateneo.

Sa Pilipinas man, sa Kuwait at iba pang bansa, laging nakatutok ang inyong pinuno at gobyerno sa kagalingan ng bayan. Taus-pusong pasasalamat sa ating pagkakaisa at pagbabalikatan para sa kaunlaran, kapayapaan, at magandang kinabukasan ng bawat mamamayan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening Statement during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135640/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2327&Itemid=38

Arrival Statement: President Arroyo on her Visits to Spain, UK and Kuwait

Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: On her Visits to Spain, UK and Kuwait

[Issued on December 11, 2007]

Mga kababayan, magandang umaga.

Nagbabalik ako mula sa pag-bisita sa Espanya, Loudres at Kuwait at nagagalak ako para sa bayan at sa mga ibinunga ng biyahe.

Nagtungo ako sa Europa upang isulong ang patakarang panlabas ng Pilipinas sa ating mga pulong sa matataas na opisyal ng mga kaalyado nating bansa.

Nagtungo ako sa Espanya sa imbitasyon ng Kanilang Mahestad, si Haring Juan Carlos at Reyna Sofia, upang magamit ang mga bentaha ng ating pinagsamahang kasaysayan sa mga masigasig na pagbalikat para sa prosperidad. Sa mga miting ko sa Hari at kay Pangulong Zapatero, inulit natin ang pananaw na napakahalaga ang seguridad ng bayan sa pag-unlad ng ating bansa. Dahil ang Kastila ay umangat muli ngayon bilang isang pangunahing lenggwahe ng mundo, ipinaalam natin sa kanila ang ating balak na ipairal ang pagtuturo at pag-aaral ng lenggwaheng Kastila sa Pilipinas upang palawakin ang bentaha ng ating mga manggagawa sa kumpetensiya sa mundo. Ito rin ay kinukumpirmang muli ang ating malalim na koneksyon ng kasaysayan at kultura sa Espanya.

Sa Loudres, nakipagkita ako kay Reyna Elizabeth Pangalawa upang makipag-usap sa kanya tungkol sa malusog na kalagayan ng relasyon ng ating dalawang bansa. Nagkaroon din tayo ng pagkakataong nakipagkita sa dating Prime Minister Tony Blair, na nagtrabaho para sa proseso ng kapayapaan sa Northern Ireland, at ngayon ay nagtatrabaho sa proseso ng kapayapaan sa Middle East, upang makipagpalitan ng mga pananaw sa mga pangmundong pangyayari at posibilidad na matuto tayo sa kaniya ukol sa ating proseso ng kapayapaan sa Mindanao.

Isa pang haligi ng ating seguridad ang katatagan ng ekonomiya — sa pag-akit ng investments, paglikha ng trabaho, at paglaganap ng oportunidad sa hanapbuhay sa bawat lalawigan ng ating dakilang kapuluan. Para rito, masigasig tayong nagsisikap upang himukin ang mga negosyanteng mamuhunan sa ating bansa.

Pinataas natin ang kaalaman ng komunidad ng Kastilang negosyante tungkol sa maaaring pagkakataon sa negosyo at puhunan sa Pilipinas. Nagsalita ako sa pulong ng mahigit isang daang mga negosyante ng Espanya. Nasiyahan tayong marinig ang kanilang tiwala sa mga kaunlaran na nangyari sa paglago ng ating ekonomiya. Sa mga hiwalay na miting natin sa kanila, may kumpanya tayo na ang tiwala ay magiging kongkretong pamumuhunan at pagkakataon ng paglikha ng trabaho, lalo sa renewable energy, imprastraktura at logistics.

Today, the Philippines is on a path to permanent growth and stability. Investments are pouring in. The peso is strong. The stock market has reached historic heights. We have created six (6) million jobs in six years. And the world is taking notice.

Sa pagsisikap ni Albay Governor Joey Salceda na kasama sa ating delegasyon ng mga negosyante, ang Bangko Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, ang pinakamalaking bangko ng Espanya, ay inaprobahan ang pasilidad ng walong daang milyong Euro para sa mga Espanyol na pamuhunan at suppliers' credit sa Pilipinas. Sakop nito ang renewable energy, particular sa hangin at solar, at mga modular na pantalan at tulay. Sa pagsisikap naman ni Congressman Dodo Mandanas, pinuntahan tayo ni Adnan Kashoggi at ng Abu Dhabi Investment Company dahil sila ay magpapasok ng panukalang BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) project na nagkakahalaga ng \$500 million para sa economic zone sa pantalan ng Batangas at paliparan ng Lipa. Ang Indra, isa sa pinakakilalang kompanya sa

Espanya, ay papalakihin ang kanilang kumpanyang IT sa Pilipinas at sasama sa mga bidding sa pag-ibayo ng air traffic control system ng ating paliparan upang makabalik ito sa pinakamataas na kategorya.

Bionor Transformacion is part of the INSECC and CIE Automotive Group, Spain's leading producer of biodiesel. It signed an agreement with the Philippine Agricultural Development and Commercial Corporation to develop at least 100,000 hectares of jatropha plantations in Palawan.

Ganoon din ang tiwala at kumpyansa ng komunidad ng negosyante sa Londres habang nakipagkita tayo sa tatlong hiwa-hiwalay na grupo upang magpabatid sa kanila ng ating mahahalagang hakbang dito sa Pilipinas. Halimbawa, inulit ng grupong Mittal na nakabase sa Londres ang kaniyang planong maglagay ng integrated steel mill sa Iligan City na may halagang \$1.6 billion. Ang CEO naman ng Anglo-American, na itinuturing bilang flagship British Company, ay nagpahayag ng kanilang patuloy na importanteng pamumuhunan sa industriya ng minahan sa Pilipinas.

Malaking halaga ang ibinibigay ng Pilipinas sa ating mga responsibilidad sa mundo, mula sa Kumbensiyon ukol sa Climate Change hanggang sa pagkampanya kontra sa death penalty sa daigdig. Matibay ang ating paniniwala sa ating mga kompromiso bilang tunay na mamamayan ng mundo, upang isulong ang karapatang tao, kaunlaran ng ekonomiya, at seguridad ng mga bansa para sa kapayapaan ng daigdig.

Kasama ng ating kasaysayan ang mga kaalyado natin sa Europa, at kalahok din ng ating kinabukasan. Dapat tayong makipagbalikatan sa kanila. Ang mga OFWs ang ating mga sugo araw-araw sa maraming bahagi ng mundo, at kabilang sa aking agenda sa bawat bansa. Ipinagmamalaki natin ang kanilang kontribusyon sa maganda nating pangalan sa daigdig.

Ipinahayag natin sa Hari at Pangulo ng Espanya ang ating taus-pusong pagpapasalamat sa napakagandang tratong ibinibigay sa mga Pilipino sa Espanya sa matagal na panahon. Nagpasalamat tayo sa Reyna ng United Kingdom para sa mabuting pagtrato sa ating mga OFWs doon.

Ang kapakanan ng ating taumbayan ang ating pangunahing agenda sa aking pagbisita sa Kuwait. Nagpapasalamat ako sa pangunawa ng Emir, na dahil sa ating tiling, sa unang pangyayari sa kanilang kaharian, ay nangakong hindi itutuloy ang pagpataw ng parusang kamatayan kay Marilou Ranario. Tininyak din niya sa akin na sa tamang panahon, titingnan niya kung maaaring bawasan ang kaniyang panahon sa bilangguan. Nagagalak din ako na makatagpo ang ating masisipag na OFW sa Kuwait.

Tungkol sa adventurism ng ilang tao, it is clear that the actions of these few desperate men reveal just how out of touch they are with the hopes and dreams of the average Filipino. Filipinos want political stability, a bright economic future and social justice. The actions of these misguided men undermine each and every one of the genuine aspirations of real Filipinos. Instead of working to bring the nation together by working within our democratic process, their actions merely are fuel for selfish motives for personal gain.

In the end, nanaig ang rule of law. The transgressors will not hold our nation hostage with impunity. Parurusahan sila nang buong higpit ng bansa. Justice shall be served and the interests of the people upheld.

Napakahalaga ang seguridad ng bayan sa pag-unlad ng ating bansa. Ang patuloy na pagbuo ng malapit na alyansa sa Espanya, Inglatera at Kuwait ay nagpapalakas ng seguridad natin at sa ating bansa.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the National Security Council (NSC) Cabinet Group Executive Committee Meeting [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa pagpupulong ng Ehekutibong Komite ng Gabinete ng National Security Council (NSC)

[Ipinahayag sa Ramos Music Conference Room, Malacañang, ika 18 ng Disyembre, 2007]

I'd like to call this NSC cabinet group Executive Committee meeting to order.

Can we ask Jess Dureza to give the opening prayer.

Mga kababayan:

Kasama tayong nakikiramay sa tatlong marines na pinaslang ng npa bagaman walang armas dahil sa unilateral ceasefire na idineklara ng pamahalaan at sandatahang lakas ngayong pasko. Bilang Commander-in-Chief, iniutos ko sa ating hukbo at sa kapulisan na higpitan ang seguridad ng kanilang mga pangkat, kampo at gusali laban sa mga rebeldeng nagsasamantala sa tigil-putukan.

At pag-uusapan din natin itong ceasefire na ito dahil yung mga rebelde ay hindi tinatanggap yung ceasefire. Isusulong din natin ang kapayapaan at seguridad sa mindanao. Dito sa NSC Executive Committee meeting ngayon, pag-uusapan ang prosesong pangkapayapaan at kung paano ito makakasulong alinsunod sa saligang batas, kasarinlan at integridad ng teritoryo ng ating republika.

Pilipino lahat tayo, Muslim man o Kristiyano. Hindi natin dapat payagang maaksaya itong pagkakataon para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa ilalim ng isang bandila, konstitusyon at republika.

Kailangan din tayong magtulung-tulong upang aksyunan ang pagtaas ng presyo at paglakas ng piso. Bunga ito ng malakas na paglago ng ekonomiya ng bansa at mundo, na siyang nagsusulong pataas kapwa ng presyo ng langis at palitan ng piso at dolyar. Upang tulungan ang masa sa nagtataasang bilihin, iniutos nating pabilisan ang pamimigay ng bigas, pagtatayo ng murang tindahan natin at bagsakan sa barangay, gayon din ang mga bagong botika ng barangay, mga koryente at tubig.

Bukod dito, dapat higpitan ng kagawaran ng kalakalan at industriya ang bantay-presyo sa mga palengke katulong ang mga pamahalaang lokal. At nagagalak tayo sa pagkilos ng kagawaran ng enerhiya, kasama ng sgv, na suriin ang kinikita ng mga kompanya ng langis at siguruhing hindi ito labis-labis. Sama-sama tayo magmamatyag para sa presyong abot-kaya.

Para naman sa pagtaas ng piso, nananawagan tayo sa mga bangko na gawin ang paraang maibaba ang singil sa remittance. At upang mapigilan ang paglakas ng piso, inuutos natin sa kagawaran ng pananalapi o dof na pag-aralan mabuting bawasan o ihinto muna ang paghiram sa ibayong dagat.

At upang maprotektahan ang kita ng mga OFW, dapat higpitan ng Kagawaran ng Paggawa or DOLE ang mga panukala at pagkilos laban sa nangingikil na recruiter at madayang employer. Para dito, ibig nating mag-anunsiyo ang DOLE ng isang numero para sa tawag o text ng OFW na kailangan ng tulong saan man sa mundo. Gamitin natin ang galing ng Pinoy sa call center para tulungan ang mga bagong bayani ng bansa.

Sa pagsapit ng Pasko at bagong taon, pinakamagandang handog sa bayan ang pagsusulong ng kapayapaan, kasaganaan, at tulong sa lahat ng mamamayan, lalo na ang nangangailangan. Ito ang handog ng inyong gobyerno.

Maraming salmat sa pagtitiwala ninyo.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during the National Security Council (NSC) Cabinet Group Executive Committee Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135535/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2308&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo at the Year-End National Economic and Development (NEDA)-Cabinet Group Meeting [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa pagpupulong sa katapusan ng taon ng mga Gabinete ng National Economic Development Authority

[Ipinahayag sa Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, ika 27 ng Disyembre, 2007]

Mga kababayan, puno tayo ng pag-asa sa pagwawakas ng kasalukuyang taon at pagbubukas ng bagong taon.

Ngayong Pasko, nakikitang matatag, malakas at mapayapa ang Pilipinas. Masigla ang ekonomiya, tumatalon ang stock market, at umaagos ang investment. Patuloy ang pagsulong ng ating mga programa at imprastraktura para sa kaunlaran at kasaganaan ng sambayanan.

Sa taong darating, dapat lamang na lalo nating palawakin ang biyaya mula sa lumalago nating ekonomiya at kaban ng bayan.

Kaya naman sa huling pulong ng Gabinete sa taong ito, ibig nating balangkasin at palakasin ang mga programa para sa kaunlaran at pamumuhunan sa lalawigan, at para sa edukasyon sa magandang kabuhayan at kinabukasan ng mamamayan.

Paaabutin natin sa nayon ang kapital, kaalaman, imprastraktura at teknolohiya na mabilis magpasagana sa lungsod. At pag-iibayuhin natin ang pagtuturo ng wikang Ingles at mga kasanayan sa mga trabahong agad makukuha ng may sapat na kaalaman.

At the same time, we shall redouble revenue efforts to ensure that we balance the budget next year while accelerating our infrastructure projects. These include the transfer or attrition of poor-performing Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Customs personnel, and more intensive anti-smuggling operations.

And lest we forget the environment in our rush for development, we shall also survey the condition of water, land and air in and around Laguna de Bay. We must build up our environment as a reflection of our commitment to our quality of life. People need to breath clean air and swim in clean water while we also build manufacturing and bridges to span our waters.

Maliwanang ang ating mga gawain sa taong darating. Magdiwang tayo sa gumagandang hinaharap ng bayan, at ating balikating sama-sama ang kaunlaran ng bawat mamamayan, sa lungsod man o bukid, sa bisa ng dunong, imprastraktura at puhunan para sa taong bayan.

Maraming salamat po!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement at the Year-End National Economic and Development (NEDA)-Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135442/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2300&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo at the Joint National Economic Development Authority Board and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NEDA-NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa magkasamang pagpupulong ng mga Gabinete ng National Economic Development Authority Board at ng National Anti-Poverty Commission (NEDA-NAPC)

[Ipinahayag sa Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, ika 8 ng Enero, 2008]

Sa kabila ng tumataas na presyo ng langis, maganda pa rin ang takbo ng ekonomiya sa pagtapos ng kapaskuhan. Kaya naman maganda ang pag-asa sa taong ito ng higit nobeinta porsiyento ng mga Pilipino. At sa tatlong taong sunud-sunod mula 2006, una ang Pilipinas sa pandaigdigang survey ng mga negosyante na ginawa ng international auditing firm Grant Thornton.

Ibig sabihin, maganda ang mga panukala at palakad natin sa ekonomiya, kabilang ang ating mga reporma sa buwis na nagpalakas ng kumpiyansa at investment sa bansa, at nagpalago ng kaban ng bayan para sa imprastraktura at tulong sa masa.

Gagamitin natin ngayon ang patuloy na lumalagong kita ng gobyerno upang bigyan ng tulong ang mga sektor na pinakamahirap sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at iba pang bilingin. Bahagi ito ng mga pagkilos na isusulong sa Energy Summit na balalangkasin sa pulong ng NAPC at NEDA cabinet groups ngayon.

Daragdagan din natin ang pondo para iangat ang magsasaka, mangingisda at iba pang nabubuhay sa bukid, bundok at dagat. Paplanuhin ngayon ang mga proyekto para sa rural development upang pawin ang kahirapan at gawing abot-kaya ang pagkain. Sa lahat ng ito at ng iba pang programa ng gobyerno, poverty alleviation is our overarching goal. Isinulong natin ang reporma sa ekonomiya at buwis upang lumakas ang negosyo, dumami ang trabaho at lumago ang kaban ng bayan para sa mga programang direktong tumutulong sa mahihirap sa halip ng mga panukalang nakakabawas daw ng gastos ngunit mas pabor sa may-kaya.

Walang patid nating isusulong ang reporma at mga programang pangkaunlaran tungo sa malawakang pag-angat ng maralita na siyang layunin ng ating Millennium Development Goals sa ilalim ng United Nations, ang isa pa nating paksain ngayon.

Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability, salamat sa ating mga reporma. Now we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement During the Joint National Economic Development Authority Board and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NEDA-NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412124239/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a press conference on oil price hike [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: Sa pres-konpirensiya ukol sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis

[Ipinahayag sa Presidential Broadcast Studio, Kalayaan Hall, Malacañang, ika 8 ng Enero, 2008]

Magandang hapon, mga kababayan.

Upang aksyunan ang pagmahal ng langis sa buong mundo, iniatas natin sa gabinete na agad ipatupad ang mga kagyat na tulong sa masa.

Una, ibababa natin ang taripa sa langis at mga produktong petrolyo. Hihilingin natin sa mga kompanya ng langis na gamitin ang bawas upang ibaba ang presyo ng diesel. Ilalabas natin ang executive order nito bukas.

Pangalawa, pinapaspasan ang mga programa upang mapalakas ang produksyon at pagmudmod ng pagkain. Sa produksyon, kasama ang patubig, farm-to-market roads, post-harvest facilities. Bukod dito, magtatayo rin ng maraming bagsakan sa mga barangay ng urban areas lalo na nagbebenta ng murang bigas, gulay at karne at tindahan natin na magbebenta ng murang bigas.

Pangatlo, magpepetisyon ang gobyerno sa Energy Regulatory Commission upang palawakin ang mga diskwento sa kuryente para sa pinakamahihirap na pamilya, yung mga pinakamaliliit na gumagamit ng kuryente, yung lifeline rates.

Pang-apat, iniatas natin sa DPWH na dagdagan ang pag-empleyo ng out-of-school youth sa pagmantene ng kalsada, ito yung OYSTER program. Papalawakin natin lalo na dito sa urban areas kung saan matatamaan ang pinakamalaking bahagi ng ating mga mamamayan.

Panlima, palalawakin ng TESDA ang kursong pagtrabaho. Actually, sa ngayon pinalawak na nga ng TESDA yung kanilang programa sa welding — dahil Hanjin, siya lang mag-isa 40,000 na ang hinahanap na welders — mga butchering at saka call centers. Pero ngayon papalawakin din natin yung pagkakarapintero, kasi mukhang kailangan na kailangan ng ating lumalagong konstruksyon. Gayon din yung mga trabahong hinahanap sa Middle East, dahil sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis, lalong lalago ang mga ekonomiya ng Middle East. Kaya lalong hahanap sila ng mga manggagawa at paborito nila ang pilipino. Kaya upang makapagsamantala tayo sa ganung hahanapin nila yung mga skills na kailangan doon ay papalawakin natin sa TESDA. At patuloy ang ating pagproteksyon sa karapatan ng ating mga manggagawa. Halimbawa, tinaas na nga natin ang minimum wage para sa mga katulong sa bahay. Noong araw 200 dollars, ngayon 400 dollars na.

Gayon din papalawakin natin ang trabaho sa mga call center at business process outsourcing. Papalawakin natin ang training dahil sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa America, at kahit na sa Europe, lalong dadalhin niya sa labas ang ilang trabaho para mas lumaki ang kita nila or mamenos ang kanilang losses. At dadalhin sa labas ang pangangailangan nilang serbisyo ng mga call center at BPO at paborito ang Pilipinas kasama ng India. In fact, kung sa call center or BPO lamang ang pag-uusapan natin number one na talaga ang Pilipinas kaya papalawakin natin ang training doon.

Pang-anim, daragdagan din ang microfinance at pautang sa mga munting negosyo, upang dumami ang kabuhayan at trabaho.

Pampito, magbubukas ng marami pang murang Botika ng Barangay at Botika ng Bayan. Mamamahagi ng libu-libo pang PhilHealth card para sa pagamot ng mahihirap. Wala dito ngayon si Secretary Duque dahil nandoon siya sa Kalinga inaasikaso yung ating mga mahihirap doon para sa Kalinga. Pero dapat icongratulate natin si Secretary Duque at saka yung National Nutrition Council dahil bumaba yung hunger rate from 21% to 16%.

Ito ang mga mabilis na aksyon ng inyong pamahalaan para tulungan ang mamamayan at pamilyang Pilipino. At narito ang mga opisyal na magpapatupad nito ang kulang lang yata dito si Secretary Ebdane saka si Secretary Cerge Remonde. Si Ebdane para sa OYSTER saka si Remonde para sa microfinance. Maybe we can call Remonde naman holds office somewhere here, okay. So, anyway these are the gentlemen who will carry out the actions that I outlined and you may ask details from any of them.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during a press conference on Oil Price Hike. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412124338/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=943&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the opening of the meeting of the National Security Council – National Anti-Poverty Commission – Cabinet Group [Filipino]

Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa pagbubukas ng pulong ng National Security Council – National Anti-Poverty Commission – Cabinet Group

[Ipinahayag sa Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, ika 15 ng Enero, 2008]

Mga kababayan, sa bisa ng lumalago nating ekonomiya at kaban ng bayan, masigasig na ang takbo ng mga proyekto ng pamahalaan sa imprastraktura, tulong sa masa, at paglaban sa katiwalian. Sa araw na ito, susuriin ng National Security Council-Cabinet Group at National Anti-Poverty Commission-Cabinet Group ang mga programa kontra sa kurakot at para sa kabuhayan, pagpaplano ng pamilya, ang pag-aalaga ng ating mga mamamayan sa ibayong dagat.

Upang di maantala ang mahahalagang proyekto at programa, nananawagan tayo sa Kongreso na agad makabuo ng kasunduan sa pagitan ng Senado at Kamara, at ipasa ang budget sa lalong madaling panahon. Ito ang pondong makapagpapalawak ng tulong sa maralitang nahihirapan kapag tumataas ang presyo ng pagunahing bilihin dahil sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa buong mundo. Kailangan din ito upang matapos ang mga patubig at farm-to-market roads bago dumating ang susunod na taniman. Sa gayon, aangat ang kita ng magsasaka at dadami ang pagkaing abot-kaya. Ito ang mabisang tugon sa pagtaas ng bilihin dala ng tumatalong presyo ng langis sa mundo.

Samantala, rerepasuhin natin ang mga programa ng Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, Department of Finance at Department of Budget and Management upang maging mas malinis ang palakad ng pamahalaan at masigurong mapupunta sa taong bayan ang lahat ng biyaya mula sa lumalagong ekonomiya at kaban ng bayan. Kasama rito ang mas masigasig na pag-iimbestiga at pagtanggap sa mga tiwaling opisyal, at ang pagmamasid ng mga samahang civil society sa pagkokontrata ng mga ahensiya sa pamahalaan.

Sa lahat ng ating pagsisikap para sa kaunlaran at investment, napakahalaga ang katatagan ng lipunan, na kailangan upang makasulong ng mabilis ang mga programa ng gobyerno, at makaakit ng pribadong investment para sa dagdag trabaho.

Magkapit-bisig tayo, mga kababayan, at sama-samang isulong ang pag-unlad ng sambayanan.

Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Pahayag ng Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sa Pagbubukas ng Pulong ng National Security Council – National Anti-Poverty Commission – Cabinet Group. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412124202/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=938&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on her arrival

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On her arrival

[Issued on January 29, 2008]

Magandang umaga mga kababayan. Nagagalak akong makabalik at makasama kayong muli.

Global engagement remains a corner stone of our administration in order to ensure our security, advance our economy and promote our social advancement. In each area we made progress on our trip to Europe and the Middle East this past week. The trip has yielded benefits in terms of new trade and investment opportunities, friends and relations with multilateral agencies and donor agencies to support our development program, better working conditions for our overseas Filipinos and increase level of cooperation with countries around the world. This trip was an important part of that engagement process.

Pinapalakpakan ng mundo amg pagsulong ng ating ekonomiya na pinagpaguran natin. Sabi ng pinuno ng CityCorp, ang pinakamalaking bangko sa Amerika, everyone is positive about the Philippines. Ganoon nga ang sabi ng mga pinuno ng Hong Kong-Shanghai Bank, Credit Swiss, United Bank of Switzerland, Dubai Investment Authority, Dubai World, Dubai Holdings, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, at Qatar Investment Authority. It's clear that the world is taking notice of the success our country has achieved in turning our economy around and in generating some of the highest economic growth levels in a generation. Its because of that international recognition that the number of current foreign investors told us of their plans to expand their operations in the Philippines, a new investor confirmed intentions to establish operations here. These investment commitments came during our meeting to the Switzerland at the World Economic Forum in Davos and at the meeting with members of all international board of advisers in Zurich as well as the meetings in Dubai.

The fact that the international rating agency Moody's allowed its upgrade of its ... credit outlook in the Philippines from stable to positive during our attendance at the World Economic Forum only serves to confirm what we've already been telling the assemblies of this important event that the Philippines has some of the best economic fundamentals in Asia and we have created a new business environment that offers one of the best values for investment in the world – at least in Asia.

Maraming bunga ang maikling dalaw natin sa Dubai. In meeting with senior government officials including the UAE Prime Minister and ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and leaders in that nation's business community we carried our message that no location offers better value for investment than the Philippines. The message was received and there will be new investments from Dubai entering into the Philippines beginning this year. For one, we are happy that Dubai Ports (?) World was already has a big operation in Manila signed an agreement, a memorandum of understanding with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and expressed its intention also for investing Cebu as well as in tourism.

Isa pang mahalagang layunin ng pagdalaw natin sa Dubai ang paghatid ng biyaya sa ating mga overseas Filipinos. Mga tatlong daang libong nagtatrabaho sa pitong bahagi ng United Arab Emirates kabilang ang Dubai. We use that session to announce measures that are designed to ease the impact of a strong peso on our overseas Filipinos no matter where they are in the world. This includes a new deposit instrument of the Development Bank of the Philippines designed to ease the impact of fluctuations in currency rates on the remittances of overseas Filipinos.

Dahil sa paglakas ng piso inutos natin na gumawa ng paraang mabawasan ang gastos sa remittance. Inilunsad ang Land Bank card upang makapag-remit sa cellphones sa mababang singil at upang magproteksiyon ng ating mga overseas Filipinos may ipinaliwanag (?) ang Land Bank tungkol sa OFW funds na ilulunsad sa Marso. Sa Dubai, inilunsad natin ang Tindahang Pinoy project ng Department of Trade and Industry upang magkaroon ng karagdagang kita ang mga overseas Filipinos. That project would enable overseas Filipinos to earn income, extra income as franchise holders in the sale of Filipino products under the One Town-One Product program of the DTI in

their host countries. Bahagi rin ito ng programa ng Overseas Workers Welfare Administration upang maturuan ang mga overseas Filipinos sa pagnenegosyo bago sila bumalik sa Pilipinas.

In conclusion is as clear as everyone who knows our country agrees that we are in a better position today than ever to withstand and be resilient when confounded with international economic uncertainty. While we are confident and optimistic about the long term process of our economy we are also cautious about the current state of the world economy.

As such, we assure everyone we went abroad and we say to our people here at home we are not complacent. We remain vigilant in pursuing economic reform and maintaining our fiscal discipline just as we are working hard at home to mitigate the impact of any economic slow down on our people. At bagaman pinakamababa sa buong kasaysayan ang Filipino nagsasabing mahirap sila sa kanilang kinakain, walang tigil pa rin ang ating programa kontra sa gutom at kahirapan. Ito ang bahagi ng pagpupulong natin ngayon sa Kabinete. Sa ibayong dagat man o dito sa bayan walang tigil ang pagsisikap natin para sa magandang buhay at kinabukasan ng buong sambayanan. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Arrival Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123706/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=927&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo at the Cabinet meeting [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: Sa pagpupulong ng Gabinete

[Inilabas noong ika 12 ng Pebrero, 2008]

Mga kababayan, mahalagang tutukan natin ang nagbabantang paghina ng ekonomiya ng mundo. Ito ang babala ng mga ministro ng ekonomiya at pananalapi ng pinakamalaking mga ekonomiya ng mundo sa kanilang pulong sa Tokyo.

Dahil sa pagsama ng ekonomiya ng Amerika, ma-a-aring tamaan ang ating exports, investments, turismo at padalang pera ng mga OFW. Kaya naman dapat tayong kumilos upang pagtibayin ang ating ekonomiya at isulong ang patuloy nitong paglago at paglikha ng trabaho at hanapbuhay para sa taong bayan.

Maliwanag ang dapat nating gawin. Una, papaspasan natin ang mga proyektong imprastraktura at mga programang pangmasa sa mga buwang darating, upang kargahan ang paglago ng ekonomiya at palakasin ang negosyo at agrikultura. Ganitong mga proyekto ang mismong pag-uusapan at pabibilisin sa pulong ng Gabinete ngayon.

Pangalawa, daragdagan pa natin ang pamumuhunan sa taong bayan, sa pamamagitan ng edukasyon at pagsasanay, lalo na sa mga trabahong kailangang-kailangan dito at sa ibayong dagat, gaya ng konstruksiyon at call center. Importante ring tugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng OFW na inilapit sa atin ni dating Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban.

Pangatlo, isusulong natin ang reporma upang mapabilis ang mga proseso sa gobyerno at mabawasan ang katiwalian at kabagalang inirereklamo ng karaniwang mamamayan at mga investor. Iniaatas ko sa Anti-Red Tape Task Force ni Secretary Peter Favila at sa Procurement Transparency Group ni Secretary Nonoy Andaya na makipagtulungan sa pribadong business sector, academe at simbahan para sa reporma ng mga sistema ng pamahalaan.

Sa ating pagkakapit-bisig upang isulong ang ekonomiya, mahalagang pagtibayin ang panatag at payapang lipunan na napakahalaga sa mga turista, investor at bumibili ng ating mga produkto. Sa gitna ng mga ligalig sa mundo, gawin nating isla ng matatag at malakas na ekonomiya ang Pilipinas. Pagtulungan natin ito para sa ating mga komunidad at pamilya. Maraming salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). PGMA's Opening Statement: Cabinet meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412123501/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=986&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a meeting of the National Price Coordinating Council with the NEDA-Cabinet Group

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a meeting of the National Price Coordinating Council with the NEDA-Cabinet Group

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, March 25, 2008]

I'd like to call this National Price Coordinating Council and NEDA-Cabinet Group meeting to order.

Please sit down so I can make a few opening remarks for this and for the next meeting.

Nalulungkot tayo, ang sambayanang Pilipino, sa karamdaman ni dating Pangulong Aquino. Siya ang nanguna sa ating bansa sa mapayapang pagbabago. Ipinanalalangin natin siya, ang paggaling niya at ang katatagan ng kaniyang pamilya.

Mga kababayan, matapos ang dalangin at sakripisyo ng Mahal na Araw, kailangan bumalik agad tayong lahat sa trabaho. Ngayong umaga, magpupulong ang NEDA-Cabinet Group kasama ang National Price Coordinating Council upang lalong paigtingin ang mga pagkilos mula pa noong isang taon upang mabawasan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihan.

The global economy is facing significant challenges. These global forces are putting more strain on our working poor as prices for commodities like rice and fuel increase. We are a price-sensitive nation.

Kaya naman pinulong natin agad ang Gabinete at Price Coordinating Council para sa anumang aksiyong kailangan pa upang laging sapat ang pagkain. Hinihiling natin sa mga tindero na huwag magtaas ng presyo dahil lamang may nagsasabing may krisis.

The Secretary of Agriculture is staking out all NFA warehouses so he can follow the big 10-wheeler trucks and see where they are bringing rice. I'm instructing the NBI to assist him in doing this.

He's investigating all warehouses, watching them, re-licensing them. He shall hit the hoarders.

Patuloy ang iba pa nating pagkilos upang pigilin ang pagtaas ng gastusin. Nagpapasalamat tayo sa Manila Water, Maynilad at Meralco sa kamakailan pagsunod sa ating panawagan na bawasan ang singil sa mahihirap na pamilya. At nagagalak tayo sa paghinto ng welga at taas-pasahe ng pampublikong sasakyan matapos nating iutos na huwag paulit-ulit na tikitan ang mga tsuper ng mga local governments. Dapat magtulungan tayong lahat laban sa pagmahal ng bilihan.

Magpupulong din mamaya ang National Security Cabinet Group, kasama ng NEDA, Bureau of Customs at BIR upang pataasin ang koleksiyon ng buwis at sugpuin ang smuggling.

Our revenue target for this year according to Secretary Teves is P1.236 trillion broken down as follows: BIR P845 billion, BOC P254 billion, Treasury P57 billion, and other offices P80 billion, P30 billion of which is privatization.

We recently signed a letter of instructions to the DOF, the BIR and Customs to propose a government-civil society body similar to the Procurement Transparency Group, to monitor collection efforts, gather lifestyle and corruption information, and follow up major evasion or smuggling cases, the latter in close coordination with the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group.

The PTG version in Customs shall be called PORTAL or Ports Transparency Alliance. The mode for partnership shall be defined by a Framework of Cooperation to Undermine Smuggling or FOCUS which will define the duties and responsibilities of the Bureau of Customs and the partner trade, businessmen, church, civil society groups which

will monitor a particular smuggling-prone commodity like oil, which shall be called OilWatch and foodstuffs under AgriWatch.

The alliance should follow product lines as there exist a bilateral anti-smuggling relationship between the BOC and the likes of PHILSUCOM and the Sugar Alliance on sugar led by Governor Joe Zubiri; the tile manufacturers of ceramics; there's a petrochemical alliance on resins; PHILCEMCOR on cement. The idea is to build on these institutional linkages but give them a shot in the arm by expanding membership to include churchmen, fair trade advocates, and proponents of trade facilitation or anti-red tape.

These alliances shall be federated into the overarching PORTAL without, however, losing the independence and the initiative of the anti-smuggling compact of the BOC and trade associations. What is important is to provide civil society a peephole into Customs operations but in a way that won't disrupt the main job of raising revenues which might be disrupted if excessive oversight powers are delegated to the private sector. Selection of outside lifestyle checkers shall be done carefully to avert witchhunt.

PORTAL shall also undertake downstream activities by plugging smuggling from the demand side, by asking consumers to boycott smuggled goods — "When the buying stops, the smuggling does, too." This shall dovetail with the Buy Philippine Made Campaign by domestic manufacturers. PORTAL shall highlight technology-aided revenue enhancement measures, such as X-ray and computerization, and other interventions that reduce personal contacts in transactions which in turn give discretionary powers to revenue officers.

The PORTAL program shall be for immediate implementation.

The PTG-like formation for BIR shall be called Partnership for a Transparent and Efficient Revenue Service or PARTNERS, a name that captures our vision for a principled and productive collaboration between the government and those that provide the lifeblood for its operations. If we believe that taxation without representation is tyranny, we likewise believe that citizen representation in taxation is also a democratic ideal.

We count on our civil society partners to help us remind our people that taxes are the membership dues of citizens. In return, taxes paid shall be rebated in the form of public services. The citizens will get their rebates in kind, in terms of new infrastructure, peace and order, and education for all. But this can only proceed from voluntary tax obedience, which we encourage by ensuring that every one pays their share as fixed by laws and not fixed by men.

Ito ang landas na ating lalakaran sa mga taong darating. Tututukan natin ang mga programang pang-imprastruktura at pangmasa, at hindi magpapalihis sa pamumulitika. Samantala, kikilos ang mga institusyon ng hustisya — ang Ombudsman, ang Kagawaran ng Katarungan, ang mga hukuman, upang siyasatin at hatulan ang mga paratang ayon sa katibayan at bantay ng taong bayan. Sa ganitong paraan matatamo natin ang kaunlaran, kapayapaan, katotohanan at katarungan sa ating bayan.

Maraming salamat at Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino! (applause)

*Source: **www.op.gov.ph***

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during a meeting of the National Price Coordinating Council with the NEDA-Cabinet Group. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122721/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1060&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during a meeting of the National Price Coordinating Council with the NEDA-Cabinet Group, March 25, 2008

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a Meeting of the National Price Coordinating Council with the NEDA-Cabinet Group

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, Manila, Philippines, March 25, 2008]

I'd like to call this National Price Coordinating Council and NEDA-Cabinet Group meeting to order.

Please sit down so I can make a few opening remarks for this and for the next meeting.

Nalulungkot tayo, ang sambayanang Pilipino, sa karamdaman ni dating Pangulong Aquino. Siya ang nanguna sa ating bansa sa mapayapang pagbabago. Ipinanalalangin natin siya, ang paggaling niya at ang katatagan ng kaniyang pamilya.

Mga kababayan, matapos ang dalangin at sakripisyo ng Mahal na Araw, kailangan bumalik agad tayong lahat sa trabaho. Ngayong umaga, magpupulong ang NEDA-Cabinet Group kasama ang National Price Coordinating Council, upang lalong paigtingin ang mga pagkilos mula pa noong isang taon upang mabawasan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng bilingin.

The global economy is facing significant challenges. These global forces are putting more strain on our working poor, as prices for commodities like rice and fuel increase. We are a price-sensitive nation.

Kaya naman pinulong natin agad ang Gabinete at Price Coordinating Council para sa anumang aksiyong kailangan pa upang laging sapat ang pagkain. Hinihiling natin sa mga tindero na huwag magtaas ng presyo dahil lamang may nagsasabing may krisis.

The Secretary of Agriculture is staking out all NFA warehouses so he can follow the big 10-wheeler trucks and see where they are bringing rice. I'm instructing the NBI to assist him in doing this. He's investigating all warehouses, watching them, re-licensing them. He shall hit the hoarders.

Patuloy ang iba pa nating pagkilos upang pigilin ang pagtaas ng gastusin. Nagpapasalamat tayo sa Manila Water, Maynilad at Meralco sa kamakailan pagsunod sa ating panawagan na bawasan ang singil sa mahihirap na pamilya. At nagagalak tayo sa paghinto ng welga at taas-pasahe ng pampublikong sasakyan matapos nating iutos na huwag paulit-ulit na tikitan ang mga tsuper ng mga local governments. Dapat magtulungan tayong lahat laban sa pagmahal ng bilingin.

Magpupulong din mamaya ang National Security Cabinet Group, kasama ng NEDA, Bureau of Customs at BIR upang pataasin ang koleksiyon ng buwis at sugpuin ang smuggling.

Our revenue target for this year according to Secretary Teves is P1.236 trillion broken down as follows: BIR P845 billion, BOC P254 billion, Treasury P57 billion, and other offices P80 billion, P30 billion of which is privatization.

We recently signed a letter of instructions to the DOF, the BIR and Bureau of Customs to propose a government-civil society body similar to the Procurement Transparency Group, to monitor collection efforts, gather lifestyle and corruption information, and follow up major evasion or smuggling cases, the latter in close coordination with the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group.

The PTG version in Customs shall be called PORTAL or Ports Transparency Alliance. The mode for partnership shall be defined by a Framework of Cooperation to Undermine Smuggling or FOCUS which will define the duties and responsibilities of the Bureau of Customs and the partner trade, businessmen, church, civil society groups which

will monitor a particular smuggling-prone commodity like oil, which shall be called OilWatch and foodstuffs under AgriWatch.

The alliance should follow product lines as there exist a bilateral anti-smuggling relationship between the BOC and the likes of PHILSUCOM and the Sugar Alliance on Sugar led by Governor Joe Zubiri; the tile manufacturers of ceramics; there's a petrochemical alliance on resins; PHILCEMCOR on cement. The idea is to build on these institutional linkages but give them a shot in the arm by expanding membership to include churchmen, fair trade advocates, and proponents of trade facilitation or anti-red tape.

These alliances shall be federated into the overarching PORTAL without, however, losing the independence and the initiative of the anti-smuggling compact of the BOC and trade associations. What is important is to provide civil society a peephole into Customs operations, but in a way that won't disrupt the main job of raising revenues which might be disrupted, if excessive oversight powers are delegated to the private sector. Selection of outside lifestyle checkers shall be done carefully to avert witchhunt.

PORTAL shall also undertake downstream activities by plugging smuggling from the demand side, by asking consumers to boycott smuggled goods—"When the buying stops, the smuggling does, too." This shall dovetail with the Buy Philippine Made Campaign by domestic manufacturers. PORTAL shall highlight technology-aided revenue enhancement measures, such as X-ray and computerization, and other interventions that reduce personal contacts in transactions which in turn give discretionary powers to revenue officers. The PORTAL program shall be for immediate implementation.

The PTG-like formation for BIR shall be called Partnership for a Transparent and Efficient Revenue Service or PARTNERS, a name that captures our vision for a principled and productive collaboration between the government and those that provide the lifeblood for its operations. If we believe that taxation without representation is tyranny, we likewise believe that citizen representation in taxation is also a democratic ideal.

We count on our civil society partners, to help us remind our people that taxes are the membership dues of citizens. In return, taxes paid shall be rebated in the form of public services. The citizens will get their rebates in kind, in terms of new infrastructure, peace and order, and education for all. But this can only proceed from voluntary tax obedience, which we encourage by ensuring that every one pays their share as fixed by laws and not fixed by men.

Ito ang landas na ating lalakaran sa mga taong darating. Tututukan natin ang mga programang pang-imprastruktura at pangmasa, at hindi magpapalihis sa pamumulitika. Samantala, kikilos ang mga institusyon ng hustisya — ang Ombudsman, ang Kagawaran ng Katarungan, ang mga hukuman, upang siyasatin at hatulan ang mga paratang ayon sa katibayan at bantay ng taong bayan. Sa ganitong paraan matatamo natin ang kaunlaran, kapayapaan, katotohanan at katarungan sa ating bayan.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a Cabinet Meeting

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: During a Cabinet Meeting

[Delivered at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2, Pasay City, April 01, 2008]

Our trip to Hong Kong was dedicated to meeting with our strong OFW contingent in Hong Kong and to meeting with business leaders to encourage them to continue to make strong investments in the Philippines.

At a time when the Philippine economy is at its strongest in over 30 years, it is imperative that we stay focused on continuing to strengthen our economy through aggressive outreach to investors and to enhance our cooperation with governments in the region like Hong Kong.

One central component of our economic plan has been steady and consistent investment by our government in strengthening our regional economic engagement.

Taken together, all of these efforts – our economic plan at home and our foreign engagement abroad – have helped prepare us for the global economic forces that are affecting the Philippines today.

Our trip to Hong Kong is another action we took to continue to bolster our economy through more investments and to confer with vital business leaders on cooperative steps we can take to cushion ourselves in Asia against these global issues. We also took the opportunity to meet with our precious OFWs and introduce a series of programs we are taking to mitigate the strengthening of the peso against the dollar.

The fact that I have been asked to deliver the keynote address at the Asia investment conference in Hong Kong to over a thousands investors and fund managers underscores the interest the outside world has in the growing stability and economic fortunes of the Philippines.

We are proud to once again having carried the banner of our nation and led the charge for even more investments in our great nation.

Bahagi rin ng ating pagsisikap na umakit ng investment are palakasin ang ekonomiya, magpupulong ngayon ang NEDA Board upang talakayin ang ASEAN-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement na kasalukuyang binubuo ng mga ministro ng kalakal sa ASEAN. Gaya ng ginagawa natin sa Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement o JPEPA, sisiguruhin natin na makikinabang ang Pilipinas sa kasunduang binabalangkas ng ASEAN, lalo na ang mga manggagawa at maralita na umaasa sa investment para sa dagdag kita at trabaho.

Mag-uulat din sa NEDA Board si Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap tungkol sa ating mga pagkilos to crack down on price gouging; increase the supply of rice where necessary; and invest more in planting and agricultural modernization. Nagagalak tayo sa ulat ng Department of Justice at NBI na malapit na silang maghabla sa mga mangangalakal ng bigas na negbebenta ng bigas NFA na mahal.

Sa ating mga programa para sa abot-kayang pagkain, kailangan magtulungan ang lahat – gobyerno, mga pamahalaang local, pribadong sector, at mga samahang bayan. Noong isang lingo, pinulong natin ang mga negosyante sa ilalim ng National Price Coordinating Council, at hinirang si Bise-Presidente Noli de Castro upang subaybayan ang mga pagkilos para sa abot-kayang bilihan. Ngayon, nananawagan tayo sa mga pamahalaang local at mga korporasyon at institusyon ng gobyerno.

Inaatasan ko ang DA at DTI na makipagtulungan sa mga gobyernong local sa pagmamatyang sa mga bodega at palengke, at sa pagpapalakas ng ani ng bigas sa bansa. Dapat siguruhing ngay nagbebenta ng bigas NFA malapit sa mga maralitang barangay, at ipaalam sa tao kung nasaan sila sa mge sentro ng barangay at simbahan ng parokya. Inaatasan ko rin ang DA na gumawa ng programa upang makapagtanim ng palay ang mga LGU at ibenta ito sa

NFA. Maraming lupain ang mga lalawigan at lungsod na pwede bungkalin, at sa local government code devolved ang Department of Agriculture sa mga local government. May pera sila upang pondohan ang pagsasaka – mga P32 billion surplus noong isang taon.

Maglalabas din tayo ng administrative order upang gamitin ng mga korporasyon at institusyon ng gobyerno ang limang porsyento ng kanilang surplus na mahigit sandaang bilyong piso sa pagsasaka ng palay at iba pang programang pangmaralita, alinsunod sa batas. Dapat silang sumangguni sa da at DSWD sa pagbabalangkas ng mga proyekto at simulang ang mga ito sa loob ng tatlong buwan. Dapat magtulungan tayong lahat upang labanan ang kahirapan.

We look forward to key allies among LGU leaders and top GOCCs, GFIs and SSIs (PAGCOR, PCSO, SSS, GSIS, NPC and PNOC) to immediately and prominently respond to this call. We invite them to present their initial plans to the cabinet on April 8, and begin implementation within three months.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during a Cabinet Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122239/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1364&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Live Reports from the Field of Palay Harvest at the NAPC-NEDA Cabinet Group Meeting

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Live Reports from the Field of Palay Harvest at the NAPC-NEDA Cabinet Group Meeting

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, April 8, 2008]

Mga kababayan:

Our near-term objective is to focus on putting food on the table for our people. The global rise in the price of basic commodities like fuel and rice is putting a strain on all hardworking Filipinos, particularly on our very poor.

We aim to prevent these strains on individuals and their families from becoming a crisis by taking decisive action. Concerning rice, it is essential for the people of the nation understand what the situation exactly is and what we are doing about it. It would be unfortunate if panic overtook logic, for we will endure and survive this moment and come through it stronger. In the meantime, however, it will take unity and hard work. *Gaya ng dalangin natin, kailangan magtulungan tayong lahat upang mailahad ang pagkain sa bawat mesa.* We must all pull together including the government, the private sector, civil society and our faith community to help the poor and see us through this challenging time.

Overall, our strengthened economic situation gives us the ability and flexibility to respond forcefully to make sure we maintain control of the situation. Specific to the rice issue, we have an Action Plan comprising of three phases to make sure our rice situation remains stable: First, is to secure supply; second, to ensure proper distribution; third, is to guarantee enforcement of laws to protect our people against gouging and corruption.

We can report that our supply is secure for the foreseeable future. Our program of fertilizers, irrigation and infrastructure, equipment, education and expansion, loans, dryers and post-harvest facilities and seeds have allowed us to increase our rice production by more than the population growth rate of 2.04 percent. And as far as the historical gap between production and consumption in our country, 500,000 metric tons (70 percent from Vietnam, 30 percent from Thailand) have arrived. Seven hundred thousand metric tons are arriving in April, May and June (at least 80 percent from Vietnam, the balance from Thailand and about 30,000 metric tons from Pakistan). There is a public bidding on April 17 for 500,000 metric tons arriving in May, June and July. Another bidding is set in May for rice deliveries in June, July and August for the balance of 500,000 metric tons.

Ihaharap ngayon sa Gabinete ang ulat ng Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka tungkol sa sitwasyon sa bigas at mga pagkilos natin upang madala ang ating inaani ngayon mula sa bukid patungo sa merkado nang walang labis na gastos at pagka-antala.

Concerning distribution, the government is sparing no effort to ensure that our supplies of rice get from the source to the tables of Filipinos throughout our nation. But to improve the ability of government to deliver rice to those most in need, we are going to enlist the aid of the faith-based community — our churches and mosques — to bring relief to our poor in terms of essential supplies of rice and other basic commodities. We are also harnessing the power of our government to use our schools, where it is needed most, to deliver rice to our poorest children, for they must not be hungry. They must remain healthy and strong and ready to get the education that will ensure their future and the future of our country.

Concerning enforcement of laws against gouging and corruption, we have already taken steps to protect our consumers from rice bandits and unscrupulous traders who would hold our citizens hostage to their own selfish and corrupt practices. Those who seek to take advantage of our people must be stopped. I am leading the charge to crack down on any form of corruption by public and private officials who would divert supplies or pervert the price of this essential commodity in any way.

Anyone caught stealing rice from the people, we will seek to throw in jail. In order to reinforce this, we will be submitting a Consumers Bill of Rights to Congress that will help strengthen the protection and defense of consumers while strengthening penalties against those individuals or entities that abuse the right of our people to this basic commodity.

Sa lahat ng mga pagsisikap nating ito, pinakamahalaga ang pagtutulungan at pagkakaisa, gaya ng ating dalangin kanina. Magkapit-bisig tayo para sa kaunlaran at laban sa kahirapan.

Maraming salamat at pagpalain nawa tayo ng Poong Maykapal.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement During the Live Reports from the Field of Palay Harvest at the NAPC-NEDA Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122210/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1356&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during a meeting with the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) with the NEDA Cabinet Group

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During a meeting with the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) with the NEDA Cabinet Group

[Delivered at the Multi-purpose Hall, DOJ Bldg., Padre Faura St., Manila, April 15, 2008]

Mga Kababayan:

Magpupulong muli ngayon ang NEDA Cabinet Group at ang National Price Coordinating Council upang lalong paigtingin ang mga pagkilos para sa sapat at abot-kayang bigas.

The global rise in the price of basic commodities like fuel and rice is putting a strain on all hardworking Filipinos, particularly on our very poor.

Our strengthened economic situation gives us the ability and flexibility to respond forcefully to make sure we maintain control of the situation. Specific to the rice issue, we have an Action Plan, comprising three phases: First, is to secure supply; second, to ensure proper distribution; third, to guarantee enforcement of the law to protect our people against price gouging and corruption. That is why we are here in the DOJ today because cases were filed this morning and we may be discussing some of these cases later on.

Supply is secure for the foreseeable future. Total contracted quantity of NFA rice from the December 2007 to March 2008 bidding is 1.2 million metric tons. Fifty percent of the quantity has arrived. Quantity in transit is 66,000 metric tons. Rice being loaded at roadports is 30,600 metric tons. NFA is set to bid for additional rice stocks on May 2, subject to the approval of the Government Policy Procurement Board which will meet today, I understand. This is for rice for arrival in June, July and August.

Matagal nang sinisikap ng bansang maipantay and produksiyon ng bigas sa ating pangangailangan. Tuloy pa rin ang ating pagsisikap. Dapat ding siguruhin na sapat ang kikitain ng magsasaka. Kaya hanggang Mayo 17 pesos ang bili ng NFA sa palay.

Concerning distribution, the government is sparing no effort to ensure that our supplies of rice get from the source to the tables of Filipinos throughout our nation. But to improve the ability of government to deliver rice to those most in need, we are going to enlist the aid of the faith-based community — our churches and mosques — and perhaps the local governments as well. Nakikipagtulungan ang pamahalaan sa Simbahan, mga gobyernong lokal, mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan, kabilang ang Sandatahang Lakas at Pambansang Pulis, upang maihatid sa taong-bayan ang bigas at iba pang pagkain.

Concerning enforcement of our laws against price gouging and corruption, we have already taken steps to protect our consumers from rice and even bread bandits and unscrupulous traders together with their accomplices in the bureaucracy who would hold our citizens hostage to their own selfish and corrupt practices. Those who seek to take advantage of our people will be stopped.

I am leading the charge to crack-down on any form of corruption by public or private persons who would divert supplies or pervert the price of the essential commodity of rice in any way. Anyone caught stealing rice from the people must be thrown in jail.

This morning cases were filed in the DOJ and DOJ will be issuing subpoenas today and the respondents will be given ten days to respond to the subpoena. Part of the Rules of Court.

In order to reinforce all of these, we will be submitting a Consumers Bill of Rights to Congress.

I call on all our leaders — political, civic, religious — to join hands and close ranks to meet this challenge.

Thank you. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during a meeting with the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) with the NEDA Cabinet Group. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412122105/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1346&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) and the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) Meeting

Opening Statement of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Joint Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) and the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) Meeting

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, April 22, 2008]

I call this LEDAC Meeting to order.

And for today we have invited also the members of the Price Coordinating Council. Can we ask Secretary Peter Favila to lead the opening prayer.

Mr. Vice President and the other members of the Cabinet, Mr. Senate President and the other members of the Senate, Mr. Speaker and the other members of the House, other members of LEDAC, members of the Price Coordinating Council, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to this LEDAC Meeting.

Today is Earth Day and in our Cabinet meeting earlier we took up the theme of DENR for this year which is "Clean Water."

The environment has a great deal to do with the high fuel prices, the global climate change and the lessen production of food in the world today. So, what we will be discussing with the Price Coordinating Council yesterday is also very much a result of the events that have happened to the environment over the past several years.

Our vision is based on a strong and growing economy. It's the central pillar that we have labored to create to help guarantee peace, order and stability in our country.

The results of our efforts come none too soon. There are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice. Thankfully, with the support of previous legislation and with Executive Action and with the good work of our business sector, our workers, our farmers, we are now in a position to weather this storm.

But this is a global problem and we must work together to resolve this.

We are totally sensitive to the fact that a large segment of the Philippine population is price sensitive.

Sa buong kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, sama-samang pagkakabalikatan ang laging nagpapatibay at nagdadala ng ating sambayanan lampas ng mga ligalig, kalamidad at pagtutulungan sumagabal sa bansa.

Pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan din ang ating pakay sa mahalagang pulong sa araw na ito.

Paiigtingin ang ating pagsisikap na maipasa ang kinakailangang mga batas, lalo na para sa abot-kayang gamot, kaltas-buwis sa mga manggagawa, proteksyon ng mga mamimili, reporma sa lupa, mga panukala para sa ating kalikasan at mga panukala upang umakit ng negosyo at lumikha ng trabaho.

Dinig natin ang panawagan ng mamamayan na magkapit-bisig ang lahat, anuman ang partido, upang sama-sama nating maihatid sa abot-kayang halaga ang pagkain, paggamot, at iba pang biyaya ng kaunlaran sa bawat Pilipino.

During the entire administration, we have have been focused on our economy and modernizing every aspect of the economic underpinnings of the Philippines. This includes agriculture, from development of new hybrids to bringing

irrigated land to 1.4 million hectares — the largest irrigated area ever in our history — to investments in best agricultural practices, to increases in loans to help our farmers purchase the best equipment, among other activities. What is happening now with rice and global prices despite all these efforts is a once in a millennium global crisis.

Because we must work together to resolve this, together with other countries but most of all, among ourselves, we have invited the Price Coordinating Council, leaders of the private sector to join our meeting.

Once again, welcome to all!

And as we excuse the media we can now go to Secretary Jake Lagonera who will start us with the briefing on the common legislative agenda.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during the Joint Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) and the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121947/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1339&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement creating the Judiciary, Executive and Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council (JELAC)

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement creating the Judiciary, Executive and Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council (JELAC)

[Issued at the Reception Hall Area, Malacañang, May 13, 2008]

Thank you Secretary Bunye.

Magandang umaga mga Kababayan:

Today, we witnessed a historic moment in our constitutional democracy — the creation of the Judiciary, Executive, Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council or JELAC. With us now are the highest officials of our land, representing the three co-equal branches of government to affix our signatures to the agreement institutionalizing consultation, cooperation and coordination in pursuit of the rule of law and the advancement of our nation.

Sa ating pagharap sa maraming hamon sa ating bayan pagbabalikatan at pag-uunawaan ang pinakamahalaga kaya naman inilulunsad natin ngayon ang Judiciary, Executive, Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council o JELAC.

Ang kapulungan ng mga pinuno ng sangay ng pamahalaan, hukuman, panguluhan at batasan. The separation of power into three co-equal independent branches of government lies at the foundation of our constitutional system, with the division of labor in promulgating the rule of law.

Congress enacts legislation. The Executive implements it. And the Courts interpret it. Our different functions and duties serve to circumscribe our powers and enhance the liberties and interests of citizens.

At the same time, separation does not mean isolation, rather, among our co-equal branches there should be consultation and cooperation to advance shared priorities in the national interest and welfare of all Filipinos.

We envision JELAC to be the venue where representatives of the three branches can identify issues pertaining to the primacy of the rule of law and formulate and undertake solutions to strengthen due process and the institutions of justice, and implement our laws better for the betterment of every Filipino.

Maraming maitutulong ang JELAC upang mas makatugon ang pamahalaan sa mga pangangailangan ng bayan. Nang palakpakan ng United Nations Human Rights Council and ulat ni Secretary Eduardo Ermita sa Geneva noon Abril, ang tatlong sangay ng gobyerno, and the independent bodies like the Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the Ombudsman, ay binigyang puri sa ating sama-samang pagkilos upang pagtibayin at igalang ang karapatang pantao sa ating bansa.

We need Judicial-Executive-Legislative cooperation in other priority thrusts. Our fiscal efforts, cheered by global investors, are built on new tax legislation, stricter tax collection, and swift justice for violators of tax laws. In bringing adequate, affordable rice to our people, we harness the procurement law and the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, and we charge price manipulators in court.

Most crucial of all, our drive towards development will grind to a halt without the rule of law as its foundation. The JELAC's mandate is centered on the rule of law.

Tulong-tulong sa pag-unlad ng sambayanan at pag-iral ng batas — ito ang layunin ng JELAC.

Maraming salamat at Mabuhay ang tatlong magkapantay na sangay.

Maraming salamat, thank you. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during the Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement Creating the Judiciary, Executive and Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council (JELAC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121748/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1409&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Department Of Education Command Conference “Oplan Balik Eskwela 2008” and simultaneous oath taking of the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC)

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Department Of Education Command Conference “Oplan Balik Eskwela 2008” and simultaneous oath taking of the Professional Regulatory Commission’s (PRC)

[Released at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Dept. of Education complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, May 26, 2008]

Thank you.

Before we go to the subject matter of the presentations, I just want to congratulate the teachers who already got the 13th month pay earlier, a few days ago and... (Applause) half, I mean half of the 13th month pay. And we’ve also been releasing the chalk allowance, and I asked Secretary Lapus because the chalk allowance was increased this year, I asked Secretary Lapus because he is still preparing the budget for next year to increase the chalk allowance further for next year. (Applause)

And then, I’d like to make an announcement related to CHED because it’s still related to education before we go to the DepEd proper if I may:

The non-stop increase in oil prices and the unprecedented food price shock now roiling the world are adversely affecting household incomes and forcing families to cut back on spending if not do away altogether with certain necessities.

At an average of 450 pesos per unit parents are spending about 10,000 for their children with 21 unit loads in college, an expense that eats up the sizable amount of the hard-earned income of ordinary Filipinos. Hence any adjustment in school fees is an added burden most of them can ill-afford during this belt-tightening times.

For us to keep producing highly skilled graduates who will lead our country in its leap to first world status in decades time, government must reverse the drop out rate and set off an environment conducive for our parents to provide quality tertiary education for their children. Be it in private institutions or in our state colleges and universities.

With this in mind, I have directed the Commission on Higher Education... I’m directing the Commission on Higher Education to put off any increase in tuition fees for state universities and colleges this coming school year 2008 and 2009. (Applause)

I’m also directing the CHED to communicate my appeal to private higher education institutions to reconsider and freeze plans to increase tuition fees and other fees this school year. (Applause)

The last thing that our parents need at this point to keep their children striving for college diplomas is another round of adjustment in tuition fees and other school expenses.

The CHED should also do an extensive study on the extent of compliance of past tuition fee increases with what the law provides, which is for school administrators to set aside 70 percent of the new fees for salaries and other benefits of their faculty and non-academic personnel and 20 percent for modernizing their facilities.

Although government cannot deny private business the fruits of its legitimate investments, especially in lofty causes such as higher learning, it must nonetheless balance this interest with that of the rest of our people who regard college education the lasting legacy to future generations.

Moreover, this move is in keeping with the Constitutional mandate for the State to protect and promote the right of its citizens to education for all from the primary to tertiary levels.

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Statement during the Department Of Education Command Conference "Oplan Balik Eskwela 2008" and simultaneous oath taking of the Professional Regulatory Commission's (PRC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121649/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1389&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the joint NEDA and NAPC Cabinet group meeting

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the joint NEDA and NAPC Cabinet group meeting

[Released at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Bldg., May 27, 2008]

Thank you. Please sit down.

Naimbag nga aldaw yo amin, kakailayak gapo San Fernando, La Union.

Pansamantalang tayo huminto sa paglilibot sa mga lalawigang nasalanta ng bagyong 'Cosme' upang makipagpulong sa Gabinete.

Noong isang linggo pinakilos natin ang National Disaster Coordinating Council upang maghatid ng tulong sa mga tinamaan ng kalamidad, katulong ang mga pinunong mga lokal sa Hilaga at Gitnang Luzon. Sa susunod na linggo mag-iinspeksyon tayo upang tiyakin na dumarating ang tulong sa tao.

Besides relief and rehabilitation, we must take urgent action on the continued escalation of world oil prices and school opening preparations. The NEDA and NAPC Cabinet Groups will deliberate on these concerns today, so we can undertake appropriate responses.

The high price of gasoline and everyday commodities hits our poor the hardest. While the high price of oil is a global issue outside the control of government, we have nevertheless taken and will continue to take actions to reduce the pain on our people of these high prices. We have cut tariffs. We are providing cash payments to the poorest of the poor to help them cope. We will be introducing in Congress a Consumer Bill of Rights to protect our citizens from price gouging, false advertising and other scams that prey on our people.

In addition, we're accelerating infrastructure, energy and transport projects to reduce the costs of consumers and companies while generating more employment and investment. Implementing agencies are now being pressed to fast-track these undertakings. Led by Secretary Bunye and later by Secretary Dureza, they shall be giving media briefings on them until the State of the Nation Address in late July. The answer to expensive oil is more development.

The stability of our macroeconomic fundamentals is aided by the increasing diversity of our export picture. For instance, our reliance on the U.S. market has dramatically reduced and our access to China and other markets in the region much stronger.

Sa pagsimula naman ng klase, inaatasan natin ang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno na paspasin ang pagtatayo at pagkumpuni ng mga paaralan, ang pagpapadala ng mga aklat at iba pang materyales sa lahat ng eskwela sa bansa, at ang paglalabas ng kinakailangang pondo para sa mga scholarship at pautang sa mga estudyante sa mataas na paaralan, pamantasan at eskwelang technical-vocational.

Inaatasan din natin ang DPWH na maglagay ng mga tawiran sa harap ng mga paaralan, at ang DOE at DILG na maglagay ng ilaw sa mga eskwelang may klase sa gabi. May programa rin tayo para sa mga mag-aaral na ibig magbisikleta patungo sa klase. Edukasyon ang magbibigay ng kasaganaan at kaunlaran para sa lahat ng mamamayan, at ito ang lagi nating tinututukan.

Let me emphasize again the indispensable role of local governments in driving development and bringing needed goods and services to our people, especially the poor. Magkabalikat para sa kaunlaran ang mga pamahalaan ng bansa, mga lalawigan, lungsod at bayan, kasama ang mga kinakatawan sa Kongreso, sampu ng pribadong sektor, mga samahang bayan at lahat ng mamamayan.

Dios ti agngina kada kayo amin, apo. Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Opening Statement during the joint NEDA and NAPC Cabinet group meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121629/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1377&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on World Environment Day

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On World Environment Day**

[Issued on June 5, 2008]

Saving fuel and electricity is an economic imperative, moral duty and global obligation.

Everyone in this nation, public and private, has an obligation to meet the needs of the nation on vital services like energy.

Starting today, all government agencies and entities, including government-owned and controlled corporations, are directed to start electricity and fuel-saving measures, using widely accepted practices and creative and innovative ways that can be employed to substantially lower fuel and electricity consumption.

We are also appealing to the local government units to undertake similar energy-saving measures.

The era of cheap and plentiful fossil fuel, the source of much of our fuel, and a major generator of electricity in the Visayas and Mindanao, is definitely over. In this context, cutting down on fuel and electricity consumption is an economic imperative, a moral duty and a global obligation. Much of the world has adopted stringent measures to cut down the consumption of fuel and electricity.

In celebrating World Environment Day today (June 5), we can add that reducing our use of fossil fuel is also a direct boost to our environmental programs, specifically efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Adhering to this directive, or going the extra mile to be creative and innovative in cutting down fuel and electricity use, will have its rewards.

The savings, translated into peso value, shall be given back to the personnel of the complying agencies in the form of additional rice and transportation subsidies. This will provide immediate relief from the rising price of rice and the adjusted transport fares.

A breakdown of the household expenditures of employees — public or private — shows that a sizable portion of a family's household expense goes to rice and transport fares.

I have directed the Chairman of the Philippine National Oil Company- Development and Management Corporation (PNOC-DMC) and the Department of Budget and Management to monitor the compliance of government entities with this directive.

The PNOC-DMC and the DBM have been tasked to submit quarterly reports on the compliance of government agencies so that the additional rice and transport subsidies can be released to their employees every quarter.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Statement of President on World Environment Day. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121515/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1569&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Cabinet Group with the National Food and Energy Council and the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) Meeting

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Cabinet Group with the National Food and Energy Council and the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) Meeting

[Issued at the Malacañang Golf Club, Malacañang Park, June 10, 2008]

I would like to open this NEDA Cabinet Group, National Price Coordinating Council and National Food and Energy Council Meeting to order.

Welcome to one of the buildings in Malacañang that we have retrofitted to become more energy efficient.

Today, we're going to discuss exactly the subject matter of the Council we invited — the prices and food and energy.

Pandaigdigang problema ang mataas na presyo ng langis at pagkain na apektado ang maralita at middle-class sa buong mundo. Masipag na kumikilos ang pamahalaang Pilipino upang lutasin ang mga isyu sa bigas at presyong kaharap ng ating bansa at taong-bayan.

Mahalagang maunawaan ng taong-bayan na may sapat na tayong bigas para sa ating kasalukuyang pangangailangan. Bibili pa ng bigas sa ibang bansa kapag maganda ang presyo at mga kondisyon upang i-ambag ang ating buffer stock.

Sa mga panahong parating, napakahalaga ring malaman ng tao na gagawin natin ang lahat ng ating makakaya upang mapatatag o mapababa ang presyo, at hulihin ang mga nagsasamantala sa bigas. At dapat malaman ng mamamayan na kumikilos tayo upang mapanghawakan ang ating supply ng bigas, at magiging sapat sa ating pangangailangan ang ating produksiyon sa loob ng limang taon o 2013.

Una, tungkol sa sapat na supply at pagkilos patungo sa self-sufficiency, tugon sa bagong ekonomiya ng pangmundong seguridad sa pagkain:

Isinigurado na natin ang sapat na bigas para sa taong ito galing sa ating produksiyon at saangkat ng bigas. Dagdag ngangkat ang gagawin kung katanggap-tanggap ang mga presyo at kondisyon habang ipinalalawak natin ang buffer stock. Sang-ayon ito sa ating patakaran tungkol sa buffer stock sa dati pa nating kasaysayan.

Dahil sa bagong kalakaran ng pandaigdigang katiyakan ng pagkain, kailangan ngayon nating mapanghawakan ang ating katayuan pagdating sa bigas. Nakikipagtulungan tayo sa lahat ng antas ng gobyerno sa ating bansa, sa mga pandaigdigang organisasyon, sa iba pang kabalikat sa kaunlaran, at sa pribadong sektor upang matamo ang sariling kasapatan ng bigas sa 2013.

Tungkol sa pagpapatatag at pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas:

Iba't-ibang bansa sa mundo ang naliligalig ng tumatalong presyo ng bigas. Ang ating pagsisikap na tugon sa hamong ito ay nakatutok na gawin ang lahat ng posibleng magawa upang tiyaking makakabiling sapat na bigas sa abot-kayang halaga ang lahat ng Pilipino. Kasama sa ating aksiyon ang pagbebenta ng bigas NFA sa presyong may subsidiyo, sa mga kasapi ng ating lipunan na pinaka-maaaring tamaan saan man naroon. Kasama rin ang pakikipagtulungan sa mga gobyernong lokal, mga pangkat relihiyoso, at iba pang grupo upang maipa-abot ang bigas ng NFA sa mga tinutukoy.

Nakatutok tayo sa makatuwirang presyo ngayon at makatuwirang presyo sa hinaharap. Ang ating pangmatagalang pagsisikap sa pamamahala ng kagawaran ng pagsasaka na isulong ang rice self-sufficiency ay titiyakin din na hindi

na tayo aasa sa mamahaling importasyon ng bigas upang punan ang pangangailangan ng ating bayan sa napakahalagang biliing ito. Kabilang sa ating mga aksiyon para sa kasapatan ng pambansang produksiyon ang paglalaan ng pinakamalaking pondo sa kasaysayan para sa fertilizer, irigasyon at iba pang imprastraktura, agricultural education, extension and equipment, dryers and other post-harvest facilities, loans and seeds.

Pangatlo, tungkol sa mamatyang at walang urong na pagtugon doon sa mga gumagawa ng kontra-Pilipinong nagmamanipla sa presyo at hoarding:

Mga kriminal ang sinumang mangangalakal ng bigas at iba pang nagmamanipla ng presyo at nagtatago ng bigas, na maliwanag sa kanilang asal na wala silang malasakit sa kanilang kababayan. Patuloy tayong magpupursige upang matunton at maipasakdal sila hanggang mahinto ang ganitong pagtataksil sa bayan. Kabilang sa ating mga pagkilos ang filing of charges against two NFA Regional Directors, three NFA Provincial Managers, one Assistant Provincial Manager, two NFA Operations Assistants, four grains buyers, two Irrigators Associations presidents, one Grecon president, and three retailers.

In addition, administrative and criminal charges have been filed against 63 grains business establishments for violation of PD No. 4 and the Price Act with regard to grains hoarding, profiteering, and re-bagging of NFA rice.

Nawa'y makipagkapit-bisig ang mamamayan sa ating mga pagkilos upang labanan ang kahirapan ngayon at maka-abot sa antas ng mayayamang bansa sa loob ng dalawampung taon.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Cabinet Group with the National Food and Energy Council and the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121417/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1564&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the joint National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group and National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Cabinet Group Meeting [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa magkasamang pulong ng mga Gabinete ng National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) at ng National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)

[Ipinahayag sa Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, ika 17 ng Hunyo, 2008]

Mga kababayan:

Sumusulong na ang ating daglian at pansamantalang tulong sa mga pamilyang Pilipino na nagigipit ng pandaigdigang presyo ng langis at bigas.

Kanina pinirmahan natin ang batas na hindi na kailangang magbayad ng income tax ang mga sumasahod lamang ng minimum wage.

Mula naman sa value-added tax sa langis na kinokolekta sa mga maykayang de-kotse, naglaan tayo ng apat na bilyong piso upang pondohan ang iba't-ibang programang pangmahihirap na tinatawag nating Katas ng VAT.

Sa mga nakalipas na linggo, sinimulan natin ang unang Katas ng VAT sa paglunsad ng Pantawid Kuryente, ang limangdaang pisong tulong sa kumokonsumo ng hindi hihigit sa 100 kilowatts. Apat na milyong pamilya ang mabibigyan ng dalawang bilyong pisong nakalaan sa programang ito.

Nagbigay rin tayo ng Katas ng VAT para sa mga estudyante sa halagang isang bilyong piso — kalahating bilyon para sa scholarships sa mahihirap, at kalahating bilyon bilang pautang sa malapit nang magtapos. Nakalaan ang mga scholarship sa nag-aaral sa mga kurso kailangan sa pagpapalago ng pagkain tulad ng agrikultura. Samantala, sa ilalim ng programang SAFE 4 SR (Student Assistance Fund for Education for a Strong Republic), makakahiram ng hanggang walong libong piso sa isang semestre ang estudyanteng nasa third, fourth o fifth year.

Kahapon, inilunsad ang isang bilyong pisong pautang sa mga namamasada sa jeepney at iba pang pampublikong sasakyan upang magpalit ng makina para magamit ang LPG, CNG, biofuel, at iba pang alternatibong pangkarga sa sasakyan na malaking mura kaysa sa gasolina at diesel.

Sa darating na buwan, maglalaan tayo ng kalahating bilyon piso para sa mga bombilyang fluorescent na mababa ang konsumo ng kuryente.

Pero ngayon, kailangan namang bigyan aksiyon ang mga pangmatagalang pagkilos upang pagtibayin ang seguridad sa pagkain at enerhiya para sa hinaharap. Ito ang pagpupulong ngayon ng National Food and Energy Council at NEDA. Papaksain ng DOST, na nagdidiriwang ng kanyang ikalimampung anibersaryo itong buwan, ang teknolohiya para mapalakas ang produksyon ng pagkain. Titiyakin natin na todo-todo ang suporta para sa pagtanim ng palay sa Hulyo, kasama rito ang paggamit ng mabisang teknolohiya, upang todo-todo rin ang ating aanihin.

Rerepasuhin din natin ngayon, sa pangunguna ng PMS, ang mga mahalagang proyekto sa imprastraktura at programang pangmasa na iniatas nating noong mga nakaraang SONA. Bagamat abala ang gobyerno sa kasalukuyang mga problema ng langis at bigas, hindi natin kinakaligtaan ang mga kalsada, daungan, paliparan, patubig, paggamot at paaral na kailangan ng bayan. Mahalaga ang ganitong mga proyekto sa imprastraktura at serbisyo publiko upang maabot-kaya ng lahat ang sapat na pagkain bunga ng murang transportasyon, malawakang patubig at modernong kaalaman at pautang sa hanay ng magsasaka at pangangisda.

Maraming salamat. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during the joint National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group and National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121323/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1558&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on her preliminary departure

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On her preliminary departure

[Issued on June 21, 2008]

The United States is the Philippines' strongest friend and ally. Filipinos love America, its people and culture. We may be separated by an ocean, but we are bound by a shared history and common values of economic prosperity and a strong democracy. The relations between the US and the Philippines are stable, strong and mature.

Our friendship goes well beyond simple diplomatic relations between nations. Over 4 million American citizens are of Filipino heritage and over 250,000 Americans live and work in the Philippines. We are more than allies; we are family.

During my West Coast visit, I will meet with our FilAm and OFW community to discuss their needs and concerns. Not a day goes by that my administration is not fighting for the interests of our OFWs somewhere in the world.

In Washington, I will be meeting with President Bush and members of his administration as well as political leaders of both parties in the US Congress. We share many issues that are of global concern, beginning with the price of food and fuel and food security. As such, discussions will focus on food security, defense cooperation, environmental protection and economic assistance.

And I will personally thank those members of the US Senate who voted 96-1 to support our Philippine veterans who served valiantly in WWII. This strong vote is an indication of the long overdue desire to bring equity and justice to Filipino veterans who fought under the American flag. The Philippine veteran provision is part of a much larger bill and is currently caught up in domestic US politics. And while its immediate fate remains unknown, I will meet with Congressional leaders to fight for passage to ensure equity for Philippine veterans of WWII.

And finally, in New York I will meet with numerous investors and business leaders to promote more investment and job creation in the Philippines. I will also be meeting with officials from the United Nations about issues related to food security food and to champion the candidacy of Senator Santiago to the Court of Justice. And no trip to New York is complete without meeting with our strong and lively OFW community there.

The Philippine-US relationship is essential for a strong, growing and stable Philippines. I am looking forward to my talks in order to advance the interests of the Philippines and further deepen our historic ties.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Preliminary Departure Statement of the President. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412120831/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1548&Itemid=38

Departure Statement: President Arroyo on her visit to the U.S.

Departure Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On her visit to the U.S.

[Issued on June 21, 2008]

Before we leave home tonight for the United States, we called a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) this noon wherein we issued the following instructions:

1. Put the whole Department of National Defense (DND) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) into a relief-and-rescue standby mode.
2. We ordered the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) into a repair-and-rehabilitation footing so work on damaged infrastructure can begin once the weather clears up.
3. The Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall forward-deploy resources to areas on typhoon path. By law, Calamity Funds have been advanced to DND, DPWH and DSWD, which means that the tools to provide care and comfort have been pre-positioned in our first responders.
4. The Philippine Air Force (PAF), including the Presidential Airlift Wing (PAW), are under orders to fly mercy missions, when the need arises.
5. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap has been ordered to ensure stable rice supply in affected areas. If Typhoon 'Frank' will bring flood, Art will respond by flooding these areas with rice. If they will exploit the situation, hoarders will soon find themselves in hot water, a certainty Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales will guarantee.
6. I have also instructed the Pink Brigade of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to rush to areas that might be damaged by the storm. Army engineers, with their heavy equipment, will roll out and join the 'bayanis' of Bayani Fernando in their mercy caravan.
7. We dropped by Villamor Air Base (VAB) and inspected the aircraft and the airmen on standby. We designated VAB as operations center, a springboard for help.
8. With or without the typhoon, but the latter would make it urgent, the distribution of power subsidies will commence in areas the typhoon will hit, in a manner that will not overburden government officials attending to relief work.

The United States is the Philippines' strongest friend and ally. Filipinos love America, its people and culture. We may be separated by an ocean, but we are bound by a shared history and common values of economic prosperity and a strong democracy. The relations between the US and the Philippines are stable, strong and mature.

Our friendship goes well beyond simple diplomatic relations between nations. Over four (4) million American citizens are of Filipino heritage. Over 250,000 Americans live and work in the Philippines. We are more than allies — we are family.

During our West Coast visit, we will meet with our Fil-Am and OFW community to discuss their needs and concerns. Not a day goes by that our administration is not fighting for the interests of our OFWs somewhere in the world.

In Washington, we will be meeting with President Bush and members of his administration as well as political leaders of both parties in the US Congress. We share many issues that are of global concern, beginning with the

price of food and fuel and food security. As such, discussions will focus on food security, defense cooperation, environmental protection and economic assistance.

On food security, the agreement between our two governments will lay the groundwork for securing the following:

- a) hastening phyto-sanitary protocols that will open the way for fresh banana and mango exports from the Philippines to the US starting with an initial shipment of \$5 million, then \$15 million, and growing in the years to come;
- b) biotechnology cooperation especially in the development of disease- tolerant rice seeds varieties through a \$1.5 million grant;
- c) accelerated dairy development program which plans to infuse 10,000 dairy animals in the next five years worth \$25 million;
- d) increased rice supply purchase agreements through the Public Law 480 of at least \$20 million and General Services Manager 102 Program of at least \$70 million;
- e) a proposed surplus equipment program of \$50 million, extension service capacity building program of \$25 million, and accelerated livestock genetic resource improvement program of \$25 million.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Departure Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on her visit to the US. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121012/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1552&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa pagpupulong ng mga Gabinete ng National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC)

[Ipinahayag sa Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, ika 8 ng Hulyo, 2008]

I'd like to call this National Food and Energy Council Meeting first to order.

Mga kababayan:

Tatlo ang pulong ngayon ng Gabinete.

Una, magpupulong ang National Food and Energy Council upang repasuhin ang takbo ng pagtanim ng palay, upang mapalakas ang produksyon ng bigas hanggang katapusan ng taon. Titiyakin nating masigasig at malawakan ang pagtanim ng palay, kasama ang FIELDS Program – fertilizer; irrigation and other infrastructure; extension, equipment and education; loans; dryers and other post-harvest facilities; and seeds.

Pagkatapos, babalangkasin ng National Anti-Poverty Commission Cabinet Group ang pambansang programa para sa kagalingang panlipunan. The existing programs of DSWD, DOH, GSIS, SSS and other agencies providing social welfare services shall be clustered into a National Social Welfare Program that directly addresses the impact of the adverse global environment.

Samantala, patuloy ang mga programa natin sa pamamahagi ng bigas sa mga paaralan, pagbibigay ng tulong pantawid sa mahihirap na pamilya, at kooperasyon sa mga pangkat ng namamasadang bus at jeepney, upang hindi gaanong tumaas ang pabigat sa ating mananakay. Nagagawa nating lahat ito sa bisa ng lumalagong kaban ng bayan mula sa buwis na galing sa mga may-kayang antas ng lipunan.

Panghuli, susuriin ng NEDA Cabinet Group ang datos sa kalakal sa mundo. If on the liability side of the national balance sheet we sustain a loss from rising prices of commodities we import like oil and rice, then we should endeavor to generate compensating gains from the asset side through commodities we can export. This asset consists of “hard” commodities such primary products, supplemented by “soft” commodities such as tourism and outsourced business processing.

Sa ating pagkakapit-bisig, sama-sama nating lampasan ang mga hamon ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya.

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Cabinet Group Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115952/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1614&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the NDCC Meeting [Filipino]

Panimulang Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: Sa pagpupulong kasama ng NDCC

[Ipinahayag sa Placer, Masbate, ika 15 ng Hulyo, 2008]

Mga kaibigan, sa ulat ng PAG-ASA, labing-apat pang bagyo ang baka dumaan sa Pilipinas hanggang katapusan ng taon. Our disaster management consists of four phases: mitigation, preparation, response and rehabilitation. Kaya rerepasuhin ngayon ng National Disaster Coordinating Council ang mga pagkilos para sa rehabilitasyon matapos ang mga Bagyong Cosme at Frank, at ang kahandaan ng ating mga binabagyang rehiyon.

Sa ating paghahanda at pagsaklolo sa panahon ng bagyo, pati na rin sa araw-araw nating pag-ayuda sa mga pamilyang nahihirapan sa pagmahal ng bilihin, kailangan ang todong tutok sa trabaho ang taong bayan. Walang panahon para sa pamumulitika, at laging magkapit-bisig sa lahat ng handang tumutulong sa nagigipit at nahihirapan.

Importante din ang may sapat na pondo upang maghatid ng biyaya sa masa. Mabuti na lamang at lumalago ang kaban ng bayan, salamat sa ating mga reporma sa buwis. Dapat pag-igihin ang paglikom ng buwis, upang makakilos ang pamahalaan para sa taong bayan nang hindi kinakapos.

Bilyun-bilyong piso ang nasalanta sa Typhoon Frank, at bilyun-bilyon din ang kailangan upang maibangon ang mga magsasaka, mangingisda, at tagalunsod na binaha at binagyo. Samantala, patuloy ang paglalaan ng pondo para sa mga sector na lubhang nahihirapan sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis.

Noong isang buwan, nagpalabas tayo ng apat na bilyong piso mula sa koleksyon ng value added tax sa langis—dalawang bilyon para sa pambayad ng koryente ng apat na milyong mahihirap at isang bilyon bilang college scholarship at pautang sa 70,000 na estudyanteng maralita.

Mayroon kalahating bilyon ding pautang upang palitan ang motor ng mga apat na libong jeepney sa mas matipid na makinang LPG, at sa July 16 ilulunsad natin ang kalahating bilyon upang palitan ang makonsumong bumbilya sa mas matipid na fluorescent para sa mga palengke, paaralan, ospital, gusali ng pamahalaan, kalsada, tahanan, at traffic lights.

Sa sunod na KATAS ng VAT na nakolekta mula Abril hanggan Hunyo, may karagdagang P1 billion na pambayad ng koryente ng mahihirap; at P1 billion ng capital na ipauutang sa mga maybahay at kapamilya ng mga namamasadang tsuper at konduktor.

May kalahating bilyon ding halaga upang mapataas ang kakayahan at kasangkapan ng mga munting ospital sa lalawigan. Para sa mga kalamidad, maglalagay tayo ng bumabagay na halaga para sa tinatawag na Panay and Other Islands Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation. Ang Masbate ay kasama doon sa mga other islands.

Bukod sa pagkilos at pangangailangan ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaang pambansa, diringgin din ng NDCC ang mga gobyernong lokal, ang mga pagkilos nila at ng pangangailangan ng kanilang mga nasasakupan. Ganitong pagtutulungan ng mga lider ng bansa ang kailangan sa panahong ito. Hindi mawawala ang mga di-pinagkakaunawaan at di-pagkakasundo. Subalit sa wakas, dapat itabi ang mga ito at magbalikatan para sa sambayanan.

Ito ang ating kailangan ngayon—tutok sa trabaho at taong bayan, gamit ang lumalagong kaban ng bansa, at kabalikat ang mga pinuno ng sambayanan.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the NDCC Meeting.
Retrieved
from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115918/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1611&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during an Official Banquet in Honor of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During an Official Banquet in Honor of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,
Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait

[Issued at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, August 15, 2008]

His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamu alaikum and welcome to the Philippines!

This is to reciprocate the warm and cordial reception we received when we visited Kuwait last December and other visits to Kuwait prior to this. So, we hope that Your Highness has had a very good stay here in the Philippines since yesterday.

That visit of mine to Kuwait, Your Highness, was a humanitarian mission. It was to ask His Royal Highness the Emir for clemency for two Filipinos sentenced to death by Kuwait's courts. And the Filipinos thanked His Royal Highness and your government, Your Highness, for commuting the death sentences on Marilou Ranario and May Decena. And so it is with joy that we now receive His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait.

Earlier today, His Highness and his delegation and our delegation had a very good and candid discussion on areas of bilateral engagement. And we witnessed the signing of three cooperative agreements in the fields of oil and gas, tourism and health. And we are very grateful that we will be issuing a joint statement as well on the transfer of sentenced persons.

Other agreements will be forthcoming because His Highness has said that we must move very fast and make decisions very quickly in order to heighten our relationship with each other.

Kuwait hosts the third largest Filipino community in the Middle East. There are over a thousand Filipinos there. And we thank His Highness for saying that there's actually no quota on Filipinos going to Kuwait because we have all skills, from domestic helpers to scientists, and I think we can have one million Filipinos in Kuwait and they will still be very happy with the presence of our compatriots there. Thus, we look forward to the Implementing Guidelines of our Memorandum of Understanding on labor and manpower development. Kuwait has started investment in the Philippines. The Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company has made enrobes in oil and gas exploration in the Philippines together with Shell. The Kuwaiti KGL Investment Company recently ventured into logistics as the latest member to our billion-dollar club. We welcome Kuwait's continued interest and trust in our economy. And today, His Highness, talked about many other areas of investment and joint ventures between our two countries.

Kuwait was the first Arab country to extend a developmental loan to the Philippines. It's biggest project is the 115 kilometers of road from Pagadian City through Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao to Cotabato City. And tonight, we have the presence of some of the congressmen through whose district this very long road passes.

Your Excellency, your visit gives a boost to our efforts to bring about long lasting peace in Mindanao, just as our brothers in the Middle East look forward to a long lasting peace in the Middle East. Yes, there are political dynamics. We are working to sort them out.

The government will assume a supporting role and let non-government organizations supportive of the peace effort spearhead the discussions on the problematic concerns. We want to end the conflict that has claimed more than a 120,000 lives on both sides over the last four decades. This progress will be good for the people of Mindanao because in bringing peace and order to the island, it will create an environment that will attract much needed development assistance as well as foreign investment such as those from Kuwait that will create jobs and generate

revenues that can be used to invest in new infrastructure, increase agricultural programs for which His Highness has expressed a very great deal of interest in behalf of the Kuwaiti business community and improve social services for the people including health services for which the Kuwaiti fund will now be one of our sources, a very important assistance. We thank Kuwait and all our friends and allies around the world who are already committed to helping us refocus local communities away from security issues and towards their economic future.

Once again, Your Highness, welcome and thank you on your mission to bring us good tidings of friendship and brotherhood.

Welcome to the Philippines! Mabuhay! (applause)

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Statement during an Official Banquet in Honor of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115539/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1638&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the 63rd UN General Assembly General Debate

**National Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
At the 63rd UN General Assembly General Debate**

[Released at the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, New York City, USA, September 23, 2008]

Senior Don Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann. His Excellency the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon, friends.

The developing world is at a tipping point. In the Philippines, we feel the pain of high prices of food, fuel and rice.

Our people pursue the universal dream of a better life for themselves and their children: better education, better health-care, higher wages, a dignified retirement. We are proving the value of a new paradigm for self-reliance through the use of:

First, a targeted strategy with a set of precise prescriptions to ease our price challenges;

Second, food self-sufficiency and more energy independence; and Third, long term reforms.

This is a positive example we wish to share with the rest of the world.

Our gains in the last seven years were hard-earned. We made tough and sometimes painful decisions to reset our economy — tax increases, banking reforms, crackdown on smugglers and tough fiscal discipline, to name a few. Thankfully, these reforms have given us some running room to weather the first wave of global price shocks that reverberated across the world earlier this year.

It hasn't been easy, but Filipinos are tough and resilient. We have pulled together. We have been able to draw on additional revenues to provide targeted investments in food and fuel to keep our poor afloat until a better day.

But we are also realistic that we cannot do it alone. We need a strong UN as never before. We need rigorous international cooperation as never before.

Economic uncertainty has moved like a terrible tsunami around the globe, wiping away gains, erasing progress — not just here in Manhattan Island, but also in the many islands of the Philippines.

Just when we thought the worst had passed, the light at the end of the tunnel became an oncoming train hurtling forward with new shocks to the global financial system. The setbacks from these global shocks of the past year, and the past weeks, are real and profound. It will take time and perseverance to put the pieces back together.

To address these global challenges, we must go on building bridges among allies around the world. To bring rice to where it is needed to feed the people, investments to create jobs and keep the peace and stability in the world.

It is, therefore, timely that our Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has organized this year's agenda around the impact of the global economy on the poor. He deserves our highest praise for his quick and decisive action on the global food crisis. His Comprehensive Framework for Action involving the UN, donor countries, civil society and the private sector seeks to achieve food security through the right combination of policies, technologies and investments. This is a model of the United Nations in action.

Since the volatile global economies became apparent in its situation many months ago, in the Philippines we have increased and stabilized the supply of rice, and delivered targeted subsidies to the poor. We have reached out to our

neighbors like Vietnam and others in ASEAN and elsewhere to ensure a stable supply and affordable prices. We have clamped down on price gouging and invested more billions in planting and agricultural modernization.

We have increased our energy independence by 17% through greater use of geothermal, biofuel and other renewables. We expect to attain 60% energy independence in two years.

Biofuels have been cited for being a positive factor for clean energy. At the same time, they have also been cited as a negative factor that contributes to high food prices. We are pursuing a policy of using non-food biofuel sources planted on land unusable for food production purposes. We see this approach as a way for countries to seek a sustainable balance between food and energy needs.

For food self-sufficiency, our food baskets are North Luzon in our largest island and the southern island of Mindanao.

Mindanao has fields of the highest productivity, yet also the majority of our poorest provinces. It is a sad irony that our food basket has some of the highest hunger in our nation.

The prime reason is the endless Mindanao conflict.

Our archipelago of 7,000 islands has had its share of religious strife, ethnic tension and violence.

For years we have worked to achieve peace in Mindanao. Much progress was made until violent elements within the Moro Islamic Liberation Front decided to take the law into their own hands. We will restart the dialogue when the area is secure, our people are safe and responsible elements in the MILF regain control.

There is no alternative to peace. I stand before you today to declare loud and clear that we are committed to the process of peace in Mindanao.

We gratefully acknowledge here today the central role of so many friends and allies, like the UN; Brunei, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and others in the Organization of the Islamic Conference; Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the US and other bilateral ODA partners; the EU and Sweden. All have played a big role in advancing peace and development in Mindanao.

We will refocus the peace talks from one that is centered on dialogues with rebels to one of authentic dialogues with the communities. The context of our engagement with all armed groups shall subscribe to the UN-recognized principle of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration.

We maintain high hopes in interfaith dialogue as a means to build bridges rather than barriers between communities of different cultures and ethnicity.

In continuation of this effort, the Philippines will host the first-ever Special Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue for Cooperation and Development in May next year. We will also cooperate with the Alliance of Civilizations.

We are also pleased that our Secretary General will join us in Manila during the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development. Our overseas Filipino workers are true global pioneers. There isn't a ship abroad that doesn't have a Filipino crew or a nation without highly skilled Filipino workers. The movement of people from one country to another will surely increase as globalization continues to erase borders.

This should be recognized as having implications on the growth and development of both sending and receiving countries.

Mr. President, in many troubled places of our world, the U.N. is the last great hope for peace and security. For this reason, the Philippines contributes one of the largest police contingents to U.N. Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. President, your leadership is more vital than ever. The Philippines will fully support you as you lead our General Assembly for the coming year.

In conclusion, Mr. President and friends, there are hundreds of millions of good people across this globe who are struggling as never before. We must hear their cry for help. It is within the collective power of the leaders at this UN Assembly to fulfill the universal dream of better education, better health, food on the table, and a dignified life.

Thank you. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's National Statement at the 63rd UN General Assembly General Debate. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135254/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1664&Itemid=38

National Statement: President Arroyo at the 63rd UN General Assembly General Debate, September 23, 2008

**National Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
At the 63rd UN General Assembly General Debate**

[Released at the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, New York City, USA, September 23, 2008]

The developing world is at a tipping point. In the Philippines, we feel the pain of high prices of food, fuel and rice.

Our people pursue the universal dream of a better life for themselves and their children: better education, better health-care, higher wages, a dignified retirement. We are proving the value of a new paradigm for self-reliance through the use of:

First, a targeted strategy with a set of precise prescriptions to ease our price challenges;

Second, food self-sufficiency and more energy independence; and,

Third, long term reforms.

This is a positive example we wish to share with the rest of the world.

Our gains in the last seven years were hard-earned. We made tough and sometimes painful decisions to reset our economy — tax increases, banking reforms, crackdown on smugglers and tough fiscal discipline, to name a few. Thankfully, these reforms have given us some running room to weather the first wave of global price shocks that reverberated across the world earlier this year.

It hasn't been easy, but Filipinos are tough and resilient. We have pulled together. We have been able to draw on additional revenues to provide targeted investments in food and fuel to keep our poor afloat until a better day.

But we are also realistic that we cannot do it alone. We need a strong UN as never before. We need rigorous international cooperation as never before.

Economic uncertainty has moved like a terrible tsunami around the globe, wiping away gains, erasing progress — not just here in Manhattan Island, but also in the many islands of the Philippines.

Just when we thought the worst had passed, the light at the end of the tunnel became an oncoming train hurtling forward with new shocks to the global financial system. The setbacks from these global shocks of the past year, and the past weeks, are real and profound. It will take time and perseverance to put the pieces back together.

To address these global challenges, we must go on building bridges among allies around the world. To bring rice to where it is needed to feed the people, investments to create jobs and keep the peace and stability in the world.

It is, therefore, timely that our Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has organized this year's agenda around the impact of the global economy on the poor. He deserves our highest praise for his quick and decisive action on the global food crisis. His Comprehensive Framework for Action involving the UN, donor countries, civil society and the private sector seeks to achieve food security through the right combination of policies, technologies and investments. This is a model of the United Nations in action.

Since the volatile global economies became apparent in its situation many months ago, in the Philippines we have increased and stabilized the supply of rice, and delivered targeted subsidies to the poor. We have reached out to our neighbors like Vietnam and others in ASEAN and elsewhere to ensure a stable supply and affordable prices. We have clamped down on price gouging and invested more billions in planting and agricultural modernization.

We have increased our energy independence by 17% through greater use of geothermal, biofuel and other renewables. We expect to attain 60% energy independence in two years.

Biofuels have been cited for being a positive factor for clean energy. At the same time, they have also been cited as a negative factor that contributes to high food prices. We are pursuing a policy of using non-food biofuel sources planted on land unusable for food production purposes. We see this approach as a way for countries to seek a sustainable balance between food and energy needs.

For food self-sufficiency, our food baskets are North Luzon in our largest island and the southern island of Mindanao.

Mindanao has fields of the highest productivity, yet also the majority of our poorest provinces. It is a sad irony that our food basket has some of the highest hunger in our nation.

The prime reason is the endless Mindanao conflict.

Our archipelago of 7,000 islands has had its share of religious strife, ethnic tension and violence.

For years, we have worked to achieve peace in Mindanao. Much progress was made until violent elements within the Moro Islamic Liberation Front decided to take the law into their own hands. We will restart the dialogue when the area is secure, our people are safe and responsible elements in the MILF regain control.

There is no alternative to peace. I stand before you today to declare loud and clear that we are committed to the process of peace in Mindanao.

We gratefully acknowledge here today the central role of so many friends and allies, like the UN; Brunei, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and others in the Organization of the Islamic Conference; Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the US and other bilateral ODA partners; the EU and Sweden. All have played a big role in advancing peace and development in Mindanao.

We will refocus the peace talks from one that is centered on dialogues with rebels to one of authentic dialogues with the communities. The context of our engagement with all armed groups shall subscribe to the UN-recognized principle of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration.

We maintain high hopes in interfaith dialogue, as a means to build bridges rather than barriers between communities of different cultures and ethnicity.

In continuation of this effort, the Philippines will host the first-ever Special Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue for Cooperation and Development in May next year. We will also cooperate with the Alliance of Civilizations.

We are also pleased that our Secretary General will join us in Manila during the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development. Our overseas Filipino workers are true global pioneers. There isn't a ship abroad that doesn't have a Filipino crew or a nation without highly skilled Filipino workers. The movement of people from one country to another will surely increase as globalization continues to erase borders.

This should be recognized as having implications on the growth and development of both sending and receiving countries.

Mr. President, in many troubled places of our world, the U.N. is the last great hope for peace and security. For this reason, the Philippines contributes one of the largest police contingents to UN Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. President, your leadership is more vital than ever. The Philippines will fully support you as you lead our General Assembly for the coming year.

In conclusion, Mr. President and friends, there are hundreds of millions of good people across the globe that are struggling as never before. We must hear their cry for help. It is within the collective power of the leaders at this UN Assembly to fulfill the universal dream of better education, better health, food on the table, and a dignified life.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Statement: President Arroyo during the session of the Women Leaders' Working Group

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the session of the Women Leaders' Working Group

[Released at The Empire Room, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York, USA, September 25, 2008]

One of our greatest achievements as a country under the MDG, the Millennium Developing Goals, is improving gender equality.

In that meeting, it was revealed that the Philippines is among the top six in the world and the top rated in Asia in terms of gender parity. And I would like to congratulate again President Halonen because the Philippines being number six ranked behind Finland, three other Scandinavian countries and New Zealand, and we were number six.

And we are number one among several... we're number one in the world in gender equality in terms of the literacy rate. In fact, females in the Philippines have a slight edge in both simple and functional literacy over males.

We are also number one in the world together with several others in the number one slot in enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary education. There are more females than males who enrolled in school and there are fewer females who drop out.

So, I believe that we have made important gains not only in the Philippines but also all over the world as far as gender parity is concerned, but more needs to be done to ensure that we all meet our MDG goals by 2015, one of which is gender parity.

In every corner of the world, we must attain today when all men and women are truly treated with equality. Meaning, equal before the law, equal in terms of pay and equal in terms of opportunity.

And now we face the most significant global economic and financial crisis in a generation, and women especially suffer from that. The poor feel this crisis the most, but women in particular take a harder hit even in the best of times. Women bear a heavier burden when it comes to economic equality. So, it is unfortunate that a disproportionate number of women live in poverty. Many of them are single heads of households and many of them receive less health care. So, what more now during the hard times that the world is experiencing.

With soaring prices of food and fuel, the poor women the world over are on the frontlines because they have to be the ones to manage the strains of this uncertain economic times on their families and also on their communities.

We have said traditionally women have a double burden. For instance, in the Philippines, we have many career women but at the same time, they must be the housewives as well. Now, there's a triple burden when we have a global fuel, food and financial crises.

So, as women leaders, we must be champions of women in this special hour of need. It is now, more than ever, that we need women's voices to be heard to fight for the rights and opportunities of women both in our respective nations and in the whole world.

Earlier, Secretary Rice talked about a great gain of women empowerment within the U.N. organization.

I would like to add, therefore, that hopefully, we can have another great gain after this particular year session of ours. Because right here at the U.N., we can have another small but significant blow for women that can be struck if we secure, if we continue to secure a seat for a woman in the International Court of Justice. There is only one woman in the International Court of Justice now and she is the presiding officer but she is ending her term. Among the eight candidates for five seats, where you can elect at large, there is only one woman nominee and that is the candidate from the Republic of the Philippines, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, an eminently qualified woman.

So, if she is selected, we continue to have one even if it's only one woman in the Court of International Justice. But if she's not selected then a woman's voice will not be represented on that very important court and that would be a shame.

So, it is important that within the U.N. we all fight for women's empowerment. And beyond the U.N., we must also pledge here today, that we should pursue justice, dignity and equality for women the world over. And we must make sure that the burdens of a sagging economy do not weigh disproportionately on the poor and particularly women.

That's why, I thank Secretary Rice for launching this group together with originally 18 women leaders, and we hope that this will be one of her legacies and that the work will continue as Secretary Rice becomes, hopefully, our senior adviser on the Women's Working Group in the years to come.

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's statement during the session of the Women Leaders' Working Group. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135230/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1661&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Session of the Women Leaders' Working Group, September 25, 2008

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the Session of the Women Leaders' Working Group

[Delivered at the Empire Room, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York, USA, September 25, 2008]

One of our greatest achievements as a country under the MDG, the Millennium Developing Goals, is improving gender equality.

In that meeting, it was revealed that the Philippines is among the top six in the world and the top rated in Asia in terms of gender parity. And I would like to congratulate again President Halonen, because the Philippines being number six ranked behind Finland, three other Scandinavian countries and New Zealand, and we were number six.

And we are number one in the world in gender equality in terms of the literacy rate. In fact, females in the Philippines have a slight edge in both simple and functional literacy over males.

We are also number one in the world together with several others in the number one slot in enrollment in primary, secondary and tertiary education. There are more females than males who enrolled in school and there are fewer females who drop out.

So, I believe that we have made important gains not only in the Philippines but also all over the world as far as gender parity is concerned, but more needs to be done to ensure that we all meet our MDG goals by 2015, one of which is gender parity.

In every corner of the world, we must attain today when all men and women are truly treated with equality. Meaning, equal before the law, equal in terms of pay and equal in terms of opportunity.

And now we face the most significant global economic and financial crisis in a generation, and women especially suffer from that. The poor feel this crisis the most, but women in particular take a harder hit even in the best of times. Women bear a heavier burden when it comes to economic equality. So, it is unfortunate that a disproportionate number of women live in poverty. Many of them are single heads of households and many of them receive less health care. So, what more now during the hard times that the world is experiencing.

With soaring prices of food and fuel, the poor women the world over are on the frontlines because they have to be the ones to manage the strains of this uncertain economic times on their families and also on their communities.

We have said traditionally women have a double burden. For instance, in the Philippines, we have many career women but at the same time, they must be housewives as well. Now, there's a triple burden when we have a global fuel, food and financial crises.

So, as women leaders, we must be champions of women in this special hour of need. It is now, more than ever, that we need women's voices to be heard to fight for the rights and opportunities of women both in our respective nations and in the whole world.

Earlier, Secretary Rice talked about a great gain of women empowerment within the U.N. organization.

I would like to add, therefore, that hopefully, we can have another great gain after this particular year session of ours. Because right here at the United Nation, we can have another small but significant blow for women that can be struck if we secure, if we continue to secure a seat for a woman in the International Court of Justice. There is only one woman in the International Court of Justice now and she is the presiding officer but she is ending her term.

Among the eight candidates for five seats, where you can elect at large, there is only one woman nominee and that is the candidate from the Republic of the Philippines, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, an eminently qualified woman. So, if she is selected, we continue to have one even if it's only one woman in the Court of International Justice. But if she's not selected then a woman's voice will not be represented on that very important court and that would be a shame.

So, it is important that within the UN we all fight for women's empowerment. And beyond the UN, we must also pledge here today, that we should pursue justice, dignity and equality for women the world over. And we must make sure that the burdens of a sagging economy do not weigh disproportionately on the poor and particularly women.

That's why, I thank Secretary Rice for launching this group together with originally 18 women leaders, and we hope that this will be one of her legacies and that the work will continue as Secretary Rice becomes, hopefully, our senior adviser on the Women's Working Group in the years to come.

Thank you.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Statement: President Arroyo during the Working Dinner of the Leaders at the 7th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo:
During the Working Dinner of the Leaders at the 7th ASEM Summit

[Delivered at the Great Hall of the People, People's Republic of China, October 24, 2008]

All eyes are glued to the world's stock and financial markets. But we must never lose sight of the impact of the global credit crunch on the poor. We congratulate President Sarkozy in bringing G-7 together to seek common ground on ways to coordinate assistance in this once-in-a-century financial turmoil. We call on G-7 to do so in a way that puts the interest of the poor and dispossessed ahead of the rich and powerful.

The problem is sweeping every part of the globe, from the tropic to the arctic.

Therefore, we count on the G-7 members of ASEM, to consider the emerging economies in the bold actions and extraordinary measures that they plan to undertake, to ease in crisis in the global financial system.

The emerging economies are part of the solution.

We must instill confidence in our market economies, but we must also take action to provide hope for those who need it most.

We should inject equity where it is needed. We all have agreed that coordinated action among nations is the better path than going it alone. Our global financial system must learn from its mistakes and as called for PM Wen Jiabao and other leaders, our global financial system must embrace fundamental reforms so that this global storm does not turn into a tidal wave of despair again.

In doing fundamental reforms, we urge the developed economies to establish giant tools of money for our major financial institutions, and that they also set aside funds to ensure that developing nations and their people also have access to lifelines if required.

We count on the developed economies to do this in a way that offers a global solution to a global challenge.

Thus, we also support the summit to be held in Washington of world leaders to address the common and shared challenges. This global summit complements our efforts to gather consensus among our respective regional group on ways to deal with the crisis.

As recounted earlier, last night and this morning, ASEAN, under the chairmanship of PM Somchai and ASEAN +3 under the Chairmanship of PM Wen Jiabao, agreed to strengthen the Chiang Mai Initiative into a liquidity fund large enough and very important, quick disbursing enough.

Finally, while serious measures have taken to address the global credit crunch, I echo the reminders of the other Leaders that the fundamental principles of free and fair trade, as well as the specific challenges facing developing nations, should be properly recognized.

Therefore, we believe an ASEAN-European Union trade deal and a new WTO deal would do more to ease the possible global recession than all bailouts we can make, because they could optimize the impacts of stimulus packages and thus, prepare the stage for eventual recovery. The ASEAN and EU countries should work towards the ASEAN-EU trade agreement, and we should also work for the immediate resumption and successful conclusion of WTO talks.

Source: **Adamson University Library**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). *A Compilation of selected presidential speeches [of] Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2008*. [Manila : Office of the Press Secretary, Bureau of Communications Services].

Statement: President Arroyo during the Working Dinner of the Leaders at the 7th ASEM Summit

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the Working Dinner of the Leaders at the 7th ASEM Summit

[Released at the Great Hall of the People, October 24, 2008]

All eyes are glued to the world's stock and financial markets. But we must never lose sight of the impact of the global credit crunch on the poor. We congratulate President Sarkozy in bringing G-7 together to seek common ground on ways to coordinate assistance in this once-in-a-century financial turmoil. We call on G-7 to do so in a way that puts the interest of the poor and dispossessed ahead of the rich and powerful.

The problem is sweeping every part of the globe, from the tropic to the arctic.

Therefore, we count on the G-7 members of ASEM to consider the emerging economies in the bold actions and extraordinary measures that they plan to undertake to ease in crisis in the global financial system.

The emerging economies are part of the solution.

We must instill confidence in our market economies, but we must also take action to provide hope for those who need it most.

We should inject equity where it is needed. We all have agreed that coordinated action among nations is the better path than going it alone. Our global financial system must learn from its mistakes and as called for PM Wen Jiabao and other leaders, our global financial system must embrace fundamental reforms so that this global storm does not turn into a tidal wave of despair again.

In doing fundamental reforms we urge the developed economies to establish giant tools of money for our major financial institutions, and that they also set aside funds to ensure that developing nations and their people also have access to lifelines if required.

We count on the developed economies to do this in a way that offers a global solution to a global challenge.

Thus we also support the summit to be held in Washington of world leaders to address the common and shared challenges. This global summit complements our efforts to gather consensus among our respective regional group on ways to deal with the crisis.

As recounted earlier, last night and this morning, ASEAN, under the chairmanship of PM Somchai and ASEAN +3 under the Chairmanship of PM Wen Jiabao agreed to strengthen the Chiang Mai Initiative into a liquidity fund large enough and very important, quick disbursing enough.

Finally, while serious measures have taken to address the global credit crunch, I echo the reminders of the other Leaders that the fundamental principles of free and fair trade, as well as the specific challenges facing developing nations, should be properly recognized.

Therefore, we believe an ASEAN-EU trade deal and a new WTO deal would do more to ease the possible global recession than all bailouts we can make, because they could optimize the impacts of stimulus packages and thus prepare the stage for eventual recovery. The ASEAN and EU countries should work towards the ASEAN-EU trade agreement, and we should also work for the immediate resumption and successful conclusion of WTO talks.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's statement during the Working Dinner of the Leaders at the 7th ASEM Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134851/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1718&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the 24th Cabinet Meeting

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the 24th Cabinet Meeting**

[Issued at the Macaraeg-Macapagal Ancestral House, Brgy. Buru-un, Timoga, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, January 6, 2009]

Please sit down everyone. Welcome to my childhood home! (laughter)

Today is our first Cabinet meeting for the New Year 2009.

This is the year that the overwhelming majority of our people have greeted with hope in their hearts — 92 percent they say — despite the perils of a global economy in crisis and the importunings of the usual critics and fault-finders.

We who are privileged to lead our country, especially through times of global crisis like this, are blessed by the spiritual strength of our millions of countrymen for whom and to whom we are accountable.

Let us not squander this blessing. Let us put this blessing to good account and multiply it into the daily good works of our office, the uncounted fruits of our leadership that our people have a right to demand from us.

The start of 2009 should also mark the renewal of sustained, intense and vigorous efforts to ensure the fulfillment of the government's Mindanao Agenda. An agenda of two main planks and anchored on two Ps — Peace Talks for All and Projects for Peace.

First, in Peace Talks for All, we should put in place lasting peace — stilling the guns of war, drawing from the biblical theme of turning swords into plowshares. This shall be an all-inclusive effort. All Mindanao stakeholders are welcome to join in the peace process — LGUs, NGOs, religious groups, separatists and federalists.

Those in the negotiating table shall bring one mindset — a passion for peace. The second plank is Projects for Peace, which means a surge in government investments in Mindanao and the accelerated pace of implementation for its development programs.

The Projects for Peace, for example, shall create agri-business processing zones that shall fully exploit the awesome asset of Mindanao — its being typhoon-free.

The worth of this asset is incalculable.

We will undertake a crash program against illiteracy and poverty in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and the other provinces of Mindanao that belong to the ten poorest.

Our objective is to realize the century-old quest for lasting peace from the wreckage of war we will fashion implements for progress and lasting peace. And that will be a big part of our subject matter for the Cabinet meeting today.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement during the 24th Cabinet Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105802/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17870&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the National Security Council Cabinet Meeting

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the National Security Council Cabinet Meeting**

[Issued at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, January 13, 2009]

Good morning, everyone. Please sit down.

First, naka-leave of absence na ang lahat ng mga opisyal ng DOJ na ipinautos natin sa

Kalihim ng Katarungan. Ang hakbang na ito ay upang ipakita sa lahat kung gaano

kaseryoso ang pamahalaan sa kampanya laban sa suliranin ng droga.

Contemporary events are instructive. No other criminal activity does a better and faster job of tearing apart the social and security fabric of a nation than the trade of illegal drugs. Ang mga nagbebenta ng mga bawal na droga sa ating mga kabataan ay mistulang anay na sumisira hindi lamang ng ating pamilya kundi pati na ng ating lipunan.

Governments that delay action against illegal drugs or regard it as a routine police matter do so at their own peril.

A country awash with illegal drugs is a country compromised; its law and order institutions tainted and corrupted.

It is in this tragic context that the government should map out its all-out war, an unyielding and unrelenting war against illegal drugs and their devil merchants. The war shall be waged from three fronts, a trinity against illegal drugs:

Law enforcement is the first component.

Judicial action is the second.

Policy-making will make up the third front of this all-out war, a comprehensive policy consisting of prevention, enforcement, rehabilitation and after-care.

I will temporarily act as the czar or overseer of the war against illegal drugs. Then, after a short while, I will turn the job over back to the tandem of Tito Sotto and Dionex Santiago.

We should not allow this menace to spread its tentacles, ruin our youth and gnaw on the integrity of our law enforcement institutions and our judicial system.

The case of the so-called ‘Alabang Boys’ should jolt us into action. Not with temporizing and tentativeness but with the resoluteness and grit of a government fighting a just and moral war.

I also call on the LGUs, the academe, the church, NGOs, and all other sectors to intensify their anti-drug campaigns. The LGUs that can declare a barangay, municipality, city and province a “drug-free zone” will be rewarded with development projects to sustain their efforts and ensure a bright future for our children and communities.

Kinakailangan na makamit natin ang pagkakaisa ng iba’t-ibang sektor ng ating lipunan upang matagumpay nating mapaglabanan ang paglalaganap ng mga bawal na gamot.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's opening statement during the National Security Council Cabinet Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105727/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17864&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the LAKAS Expanded Executive Committee Meeting

**Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the LAKAS Expanded Executive Committee Meeting**

[Issued at the Molave Function Room, Holiday Inn Resort Hotel, Mimosa Leisure Estate, Clark Freeport Zone, Angeles City, Pampanga, January 29, 2009]

Thank you. Please sit down.

Thank you, Speaker Nograles and party president for your introduction.

President Ramos, our Emeritus, who continues to be a beacon of wisdom, guidance and inspiration to many of our partymates but not only partymates but also fellow Filipinos; (Applause) members of this expanded Executive Committee of our great party LAKAS-CMD; dear partymates:

First of all, welcome to my province, the province of Lito and the province of Tarzan and everybody else, the Kapampangans and I hope you enjoyed our beautiful new SCTEX entrance into Clark. And to the Executive Committee of the Party, headed by our Party President Boy Nograles, for bringing us together auspiciously at the start of the new year, thank you very much and thank you for all being here. Thank you for being also punctual.

As President Ramos said, we meet at a very auspicious time in world history, a crucial moment in world history. The global financial turmoil has spread and jeopardized the well-being of people across the globe. Two-thirds of the world is in recession. But I think we should all be proud that we, our country is growing at 6.0 percent GNP and 4.6 percent GDP for 2008. (Applause) Congratulations to our administration!

Keeping the global crisis from consuming our nation has been a great accomplishment of our party. Despite the recession in two-thirds of the world, nine out of ten Filipinos or 92 out of 100 Filipinos look forward with hope to this new year. This is because the global crisis did not catch us unprepared or without reserves, thank God and again thank our party. We were able to do this because half of the country's elected officials, including the President of the Philippines and the Speaker of the House, the Deputy Speakers, the Majority Leaders of both the House and the Senate, are LAKAS-CMD members. The leaders of all the local government leagues are LAKASCMD.

So, indeed, we have leadership in the country and we have exercised that leadership not only to achieve sustainable growth but to show that sustainability by being resilient in this current global economic crisis. And I'd like to thank you and congratulate you all for that. (Applause) Certainly, congratulations are in order because it wasn't a picnic.

Together, we had to make hard decisions. Hard on the people at the time we made them, unpopular with some big businessmen, but as events have shown good for the country. Our preparations have so far shielded the nation from the worst effects of the global crisis. But had we acted differently, had we been populist, had we been scared or timid, all would be lost today. And we would be part of the two-thirds of the world. But moving forward: we shouldn't be complacent.

Our administration must harness all the resources and the unity we can muster to provide job creation and economic stimulus at a time when it is most needed, while still pursuing needed investments in people and infrastructure; to aid our people today, while building a better tomorrow. And our administration must establish such conditions on the ground as well facilitate the peace process with the MILF.

For these purposes, the unification and merger of LAKAS and KAMPI must now proceed in earnest and with deliberate speed. Separately, LAKAS-CMD and KAMPI are the country's most dominant and strongest political parties. There is basically no ideological difference in our platforms. Merging LAKAS-CMD and KAMPI will keep us on track and firmly focused on our vision of getting the country by 2010 well on the road to first world in 20 years.

Our working together has been one of the major factors that have put the Philippines on the path of sustained growth and resiliency. Our working together is one of the major reasons why we have the resources to absorb the current global shocks. With our unity institutionalized in a merger, our proven political resilience and reform agenda will position the nation to sustain its gains.

As intended, such a merger will result in an effective consolidation of political support for government's programs for economic stability and social equity, now when it is most needed. And aside from that, it will also ensure that we fight side by side in 2010. With other groups and parties, let us also strengthen alliances where they have proven to be of benefit to our Party and the nation.

Even as we strengthen our ranks, let us also commit ourselves to the holding of orderly and credible elections in 2010 principally by ensuring the successful automation of our electoral processes.

Guided by a common vision and united by a sense of purpose, with the best interest of the people at heart, I now ask you our expanded executive committee to work on the merger with KAMPI and fortify the ramparts of our merged party so that we may face the electoral challenge of 2010 with righteousness and confidence.

In this context, I hereby direct the creation of a National Consolidation and Unification Committee, to be chaired by the Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs, Gabby Claudio. This Committee shall pursue the merger with KAMPI and such alliances with other political parties and groups as are in the interest of the administration coalition and which, with our merged party, shall be responsible for determining and activating the criteria and mechanism for choosing our candidates for 2010.

Let the findings and recommendations of that Committee of Gabby reflect the mind and voice of our membership down to the grassroots level. Let us look to our members in the grassroots. Let us look to our people for inspiration. Let the cause of the Filipino people be our motive for working, for striving and for winning in 2010.

Mabuhay ang LAKAS-CMD! At magandang umaga.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Opening Statement during the LAKAS Expanded Executive Committee Meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105649/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19343&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the celebration of the signing of the U.S. Economic Stimulus Bill

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the celebration of the signing of the U.S. Economic Stimulus Bill which includes cash benefits for the Filipino veterans of World War II

[Issued at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, February 23, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you Secretary Romulo for your introduction, and thank you also for all the hard work that you have been doing for veterans' benefits way back when you were still a senator. Thank you.

Ambassador Kristie Kenney and our other friends in the United States, Senator Lito Lapid representing the Senate, our various congressmen and congresswomen who are here with us today led by our deputy speakers, members of the Cabinet, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and of course, our honorees today and our honorees in the special provision in the stimulus package — the veterans, the Filipino World War II veterans: (Applause)

Our long battle for justice for our Filipino World War II veterans has achieved a great victory. And I would like to join Secretary Romulo and Colonel de Ocampo in thanking the U.S. Congress for passing the bill and President Barack Obama for signing into law the Stimulus Package that grants cash benefits for Filipino World War II veterans in payment of damages for human suffering that they endured in their military service during the Second World War.

And I might add, when I thanked the senators and congressmen who worked very hard for this bill, they said, "please, make sure to remind everybody that this is in addition to the present benefits they're already getting not in replacement of." In other words, any addition to the recognition of their military service and the lump-sum payments, that are now forthcoming, those enjoying the supplementary security income will be able to continue with that benefit.

With the passage of the bill and the stroke of a pen, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. President recognized, as Secretary Romulo said, more than 60 years of struggle endured by surviving Filipino veterans for World War II.

And Secretary Romulo and Colonel de Ocampo have mentioned some of the legislators, the leading legislators to whom we owe this very important recognition and benefits aside from President Obama, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, and I might also add Senator Richard Lugar, and we have already mentioned Congressman Bob Filner, I should add also Congressman Darrel Issa and Mike Honda and former Senator Ted Stevens, and many other Senators and Congressmen who have been staunch supporters of Filipino veterans all these years.

These are the congressmen and senators that we have been working with all these years every time we go to Washington, everytime we go to California and every time they come to the Philippines.

We look forward to the speedy implementation of the provisions for Filipino veterans in the Stimulus Bill. We will continue working with the U.S. government in ensuring that benefits and recognition are given to our veterans. In order to speed up these benefits, I already told Secretary Teodoro about this yesterday. Today, I am directing the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office to put up temporary processing centers in provinces with a large number of World War II veterans to speed up the processing of the benefits.

The temporary centers shall be called "PVAO Fast-Track Centers". The roster of surviving World War II veterans now with PVAO and the updated data base of government agencies that have records of living veterans will be the basis for where the PVAO FTCs shall be located.

This will spare the veterans, who have served our country in the cause of freedom, from the physical torture and cost of going to Metro Manila to have their claims processed. (Applause)

The dispersal of the PVAO staffers to carry out outreach program in the provinces will also help them develop a keener understanding of the problems faced by our war veterans.

The PVAO staffers to be assigned to the temporary processing centers are hereby instructed to coordinate with the Regional Offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the local government leaders in their areas of assignment to fast-track centers.

Our PVAO staffers should also need to communicate, in simple and easy-to-understand language, the entire processing exercise.

In their old age and in the winter of their lives, the veterans need more than ever, the tender and caring hand of government.

Speaking of old age, I'd like to spend this day remembering those who did not live to see this day. There was my father, who is in the guerilla movement in charge of holding the funds of the guerillas in his area in San Juan, and that's where he earned the term 'Macapagal, the incorruptible.'

I'd like to remember my uncle, his brother, Congressman Angel Macapagal who was in the death march; but because the death march passed through our hometown of Lubao, Pampanga when he was drinking water, he noticed that nobody noticed him. So he was able to get out, escape from the death march as many others were able to do during that march from Bataan to Capas. Of course, more were not able to find a way to escape. They did not pass through their hometowns. They did not know. They were not familiar with the areas in which they were.

I even want to remember our family chauffeur, Osias Navarro, who had to leave his family, our cook and his children, one of whom now works with us and one of who married an American and lived in the United States. He had to leave them in the Philippines so he could live in the United States so he could earn, he could receive the monthly veterans pensions. And you have to live in the U.S. to be eligible for that. And I remember his getting his visa in the U.S. Embassy and working for his green card. I remember my daughter rehearsing him for his interview in the U.S. Embassy. I remember all of them, and I think they're happy for all of you who are still alive here today. (applause)

We also congratulate President Obama for his keen leadership that led to the passage of the Stimulus Bill as a whole.

In all of our calculations, the world must take the poorest people into account at the same time that we are looking at ways to help developed economies. We observe that the welfare of the poorest people and the poorest economies are not yet a priority as the world searches for solutions to the global crisis.

And we urge that it must be made a priority moving forward.

The inclusion in the Stimulus Bill of payments of Filipino World War II veterans is an example of what we had been advocating for — that is, in looking for solutions to the crisis. We must not neglect the hardships of those most hurt by the global downturn including our Filipino veterans.

I hope the payments to Filipino World War II veterans as included in the Stimulus Package will be followed by other measures all over the world to help the downtrodden during this world crisis.

In closing, Ambassador Kenney, please convey to President Obama that we join the rest of the world in supporting his efforts to bring financial recovery to the U.S. and to the whole world.

Congratulations! Good luck and thank you. (applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's statement during the celebration of the signing of the U.S. Economic Stimulus Bill which includes cash benefits for the Filipino veterans of World War II. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105218/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21085&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo at the opening of the 2009 Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA) National Games [Filipino]

Pahayag ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa panimulang seremonya ng 2009 Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA) National Games

[Ipinahayag sa University of Nueva Caceres (UNC) Sports Palace, Lungsod ng City, Camarines Sur, ika 20 ng Abril, 2009

Maraming salamat Chairman Angeles at ibang mga Cabinet members na narito: si Nonoy Andaya at saka si Cerge Remonde.

Maraming salamat rin sa welcome remarks, Mayor Robredo and the other officials of Bicol, kasama na si Congressman Alfelor at saka si Congressman Dato Arroyo.

Maraming salamat din sa mga officials ng PRISAA sa pamumuno ni Gon Duque at saka ni President Villanueva. Congratulations! sa ating mga atleta pati yung ating mga scholar na atleta, congratulations sa inyong lahat! (Applause)

Sa aton mga officials, officiating officials, (applause) una sa lahat, congratulations dahil for the first time in PRISAA's history lahat ng 17 regions ay dumalo. Congratulations sa atleta at sa inyong lahat! (Applause)

Napakaimportante ito sa panahong ganito meron tayong world economic crisis. Kailangan magkaroon tayo ng mga ensayo kung papano magkaisa, kung papano magkaroon ng teamwork. At inaasahan ko ang mga kabataan na narito ngayon pagbalik niyo sa eskwela o kahit na diay summer ay gagawin kayo ng mga volunteer teams para tumulong sa inyong pamayanan at para nga sa pag ensayo ng teamwork kailangan ang mga kumpetensya gaya ng PRISAA.

And so, in my capacity as President of the Philippines, I hereby declare the PRISAA Games 2009 open! (Applause)

Dios mabalos sa indo gabos.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's statement during the opening ceremony of the 2009 Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA) National Games. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104044/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23659&Itemid=38

Departure Statement: President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on her visit to the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation

**Departure Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On her visit to the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation**

[Issued on May 30, 2009]

Upon the invitation of President Lee Myung bak, I am going to the Republic of Korea to highlight our strong and productive partnership with Korea as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. Our relations with Korea has thrived through the years to become one of our most enduring, dynamic and mutually beneficial.

In Seoul, I will have a bilateral meeting with President Lee to discuss with him the state of our bilateral relations and chart a new direction for a more strategic and prosperous region, especially in the fields of economic and trade cooperation, development cooperation and people-to-people linkages. We will also witness the signing of several official agreements with Korea in our efforts to promote the interests of our country and our people. These agreements pertain to labor cooperation, agriculture, energy, scientific and technical cooperation, sister-city arrangements, and environment conservation.

After my bilateral visit to Seoul, I will proceed to Jeju to attend the ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of ASEAN-Korea dialogue relations. This will be the first summit that Korea will host for the ten ASEAN member-countries. At the Summit, we will tackle different pressing issues with the aim of strengthening ASEAN-Korea cooperation to effectively address regional and global challenges, such as the financial crisis, energy security and climate change.

While in Korea, I will meet with Korean businessmen and investors to promote the Philippines as the best value investment and tourism destination in Asia. I will also meet with our Filipino community to discuss their needs and concerns, and to reiterate to them the support and assistance of the Philippine government.

After the Commemorative Summit in Jeju, I will proceed to Russia to meet with President Dmitry Medvedev and other officials of the Russian government. Then, on 5 June, I will speak at the 13th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, the first time that a Head of State from Asia to be able to do so, and I will put forward the Philippines' ideas and contributions in resolving the global financial crisis.

In my bilateral meeting with President Medvedev, I hope to discuss with him various initiatives that could enhance our bilateral relations, especially in the fields of defense and energy cooperation, and trade and investment. My visit to Russia will undoubtedly enhance the growing engagement of Russia in Asia, especially with regional organizations like the ASEAN and APEC.

As I begin my visit to Korea and Russia, I carry with me the hopes and aspirations of our people in attaining peace, security and prosperity. Together, we can look forward to a strong and prosperous nation.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). Departure Statement of PGMA on her visit to the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412102427/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25219&Itemid=38

Departure Statement: President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on her visit to Japan and Brazil

Departure Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: On her visit to Japan and Brazil

[Issued on June 17, 2009]

I will leave for Japan today to continue to intensify our robust and vibrant partnership with Japan, and to sustain the momentum resulting from the historic entry into force and implementation of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) last December.

Japan is the Philippines' biggest source of official development assistance (ODA), the top export market for Philippine goods and products, the second top trading partner, and one of the major sources of investment and tourist arrivals.

In Tokyo, I will have an audience with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan. I will also have a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Taro Aso and other top officials of the Japanese Government to discuss the state of our bilateral relations. I will also meet with Japanese businessmen and investors to invite them to take advantage of the many trade and investment opportunities in the Philippines. I also look forward to meeting the Filipino community in Japan, including some of our medical workers who have started their intensive training in Japan under JPEPA.

From Tokyo, I will go on a State Visit to Brazil upon the invitation of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. As the first Philippine President to visit Brazil, I have high hopes that my visit will provide the impetus for enhanced relations with Brazil, the largest economy in Latin America and an emerging major global player.

In Brasilia, I will meet with President Lula to discuss ways and means to enhance our bilateral cooperation and people-to-people linkages. We will also witness the signing of official agreements in the fields of agriculture and bio-energy, as well as an agreement to develop stronger and better linkages between Philippine and Brazilian business communities.

I am very optimistic that my visit to Japan and Brazil will mark another milestone in our quest to further deepen and widen our cooperation with two of the world's economic powerhouses.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). Departure Statement of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on her visit to Japan and Brazil. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101547/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25372&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the 15th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit General Debate

Country Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the 15th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit General Debate

[Delivered at the Maritim Congress Center, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, July 15, 2009]

Mr. Chairman:

We reiterate our congratulations on the assumption by Egypt and President Mubarak of the chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement. We are confident that His Excellency's stewardship will bear significant results for our Movement. And we assure that Egypt can count on the full cooperation of the Philippines.

We also thank His Excellency President Fidel Castro and his successor, President Raul Castro, for having ably steered our Movement during the past three years.

Mr. Chairman:

We must halt the divisions in international relations that work against our common effort to promote peace, stability, development and progress.

For this noble purpose, we, the more than 100 NAM members, are partners working together to advance the family of nations. Global cooperation is the only means of securing lasting peace and progress. Our Movement must continue to work with others towards this crucial end.

Mr. Chairman:

There are five key areas where NAM can take the lead in forging international solidarity for peace and development.

First, the international community must take decisive and sustained actions to address the worst global economic crisis in the post-war era. The past twelve months have been a year for the history books. The global financial turmoil spread and jeopardized the well-being of billions of people across the globe.

This is also a crisis that have taught us all many lessons that will serve us well as we work together to restructure the global economic system. The most important thing we have learned is that our economies are closely interconnected. We sink or swim as one. In the face of this grave situation, we need to strengthen South-South cooperation. We need to enhance regional and sub-regional efforts.

Amidst the dark clouds of the global economic crisis are silver linings that will redound to our mutual benefit. Not the least of which is the increasing acknowledgement that all nations and regions of the world must now take the place at the table. No longer can a few lead the many. We need to make the G-20 or even a G-30 the norm, and not revert to simply viewing the world through the eyes of the G-7. We must create greater stronger global oversight and greater transparency in the financial system. We must all have a voice and help supply the vision of the world economy in the next generation.

The second area NAM should address relates to the crucial negotiations leading to the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held this December in Copenhagen.

The Philippines is active in the preparatory discussions and negotiations. We have been designated as the overall coordinator of the Group of 77 and China for the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action.

NAM, through its participation in the G77 and China, must remain actively involved in negotiations concerning carbon emission reduction targets, financing and technology. If we are going to impact the climate change dialogue, we must carry a message from NAM to the ongoing meetings of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The industrialized countries must decide, before the Copenhagen meeting, on the range of their carbon emission reduction targets.

The announced aggregate targets will enable us to determine whether or not we can keep the global temperature rise to less than two percent. Beyond that point, the developing world, with its poor technologies and inefficient resources that restrict their ability to adapt or to mitigate the impacts of climate change, would experience adverse climate change impacts of unmanageable proportions.

And we must call on all countries, but most importantly the major industrialized nations and the rest of the developed world, to live up to their UNFCCC obligations, particularly those related to access to affordable and appropriate technology and funding for climate change management programs.

Third, interfaith dialogue is essential if we are to end the disagreements between faiths and between cultures that are killing so many innocent people in so many countries around the world.

The Philippines is pleased to host the Special NAM Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace in Manila from December 1 to 3 this year. This will mark the first time that NAM will harness the great potentials of interfaith dialogue and cooperation to advance our concerns for a durable and lasting peace and sustainable development.

The Philippines has long been an advocate of peace and the promotion of an open dialogue among various faiths and religions to foster understanding and cooperation for peace and development. We are a predominantly Catholic country. However, we recognize the importance of reaching out to our Muslim brothers through continuous engagement and to put aside differences and to bring together the people of different faiths for a common good. We value the opportunity to share insights from our unique paradigm for peace, which has been a mix of both soft and hard power in dealing with insurgencies, and to learn from the invaluable experiences of other NAM member countries on their respective interfaith programs that have helped bridge their religious and cultural divides.

We look forward to welcoming all the NAM delegations in Manila. This will blaze a new landmark in our Movement's quest for international solidarity.

Fourth, as we look at international security of regions, we cannot overlook the important issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Philippines stands with all peace-loving nations against dangerous experimentations with nuclear weapons. We support the decisions of the United Nations Security Council in this regard. We are grateful to the NAM membership for your trust in the Philippines for endorsing the Philippines' presidency of the 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty — the NPT 2010.

Fifth, let us focus our collective action on our migrant workers, a group whose labors benefit both their home and their host nations. Despite their contributions to the global economy, many migrant workers are our unsung heroes, often vulnerable to exploitation.

In the U.N., the Philippines has been one of the foremost advocates for the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families. I urge all our NAM partners that have not yet done so, to accede to this important Convention.

Of immediate concern is our migrant workers who are falling victim to kidnapping and piracy while working on board international vessels. We call on the member states of NAM to do everything in your power to help protect those vulnerable workers from pirates and other non-state actors who would do harm.

Mr. Chairman:

Indeed, NAM brings together nations to address global challenges such as the global economic crisis, climate change, nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, interfaith understanding, and the welfare and development of migrant workers particularly as the global economy becomes more integrated.

These are the areas in which we hope to see greater levels of cooperation among NAM members because if the developing world speaks as one, we have the power to move toward faster solution to these challenges.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the 15th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit General Debate. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100800/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25675&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the pre-SONA Task Force on Education meeting

Opening Statement President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
During the pre-SONA Task Force on Education meeting

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, July 26, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you all for joining us on a Sunday.

I value weekends with my family and I know you also do. I wouldn't have called you here if it weren't so important. As you know, we will be delivering our State of the Nation Address or SONA tomorrow. We've been working night and day and through this weekend to get ready. As part of our presentation, we have convened experts from across government on subjects that will be discussed in the SONA — national security, the economy, social service, infrastructure and more, all will be part of our SONA.

All have been crucial to my priorities as President. We take the SONA very seriously. Our people deserve to know what their government is doing, how the money is spent, and what our priorities for the nation are. Nothing is more sacred or more valuable to enhancing the dignity of every Filipino than a good education. So, no issue is more important to us than education. Our children, the children of our nation, are our most precious to us and we must lead on every opportunity to use their God-given talents to lift themselves up. Education is their ticket to a better life.

So, today we have also taken up valuable family time of our education experts who came here to report about the state of education — our progress, our challenges, our aspirations. Their advice and findings will be the inputs for our SONA tomorrow.

So, we thank them for coming out today to brief us. And we also thank everyone for taking time out of your day of rest to join us for this important subject.

So, if I may excuse the members of the media so we can receive the report of the Task Force on Education.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's opening statement during the pre-SONA Task Force on Education meeting. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100629/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25789&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Departure Honors for her visit to the United States of America

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Departure Honors for her visit to the United States of America

[Delivered at the Pre-departure area, NAIA Terminal 2, July 29, 2009]

Good afternoon everyone.

We are pleased to accept the invitation of President Obama to be the first Southeast Asian Leader to meet with him at the White House.

The fact that President Obama sought out the Philippines for this opportunity is a testament to the strong and deep ties between our two nations. It also reflects the ongoing relationship we have built through a series of phone conversations and correspondence reaching back to when he was a candidate for President.

My expectations for the trip are straightforward: to meet the new U.S. President and advance the interests of the Philippines with our strongest friend and ally. The U.S. is essential to our economic, diplomatic and national security. We plan to ensure that these objectives remain front and center and on track between our two nations.

High on our agenda will be peace and security issues, including ways to continue to strengthen regional cooperation on anti-terrorism, particularly in the light of the recent Jakarta bombings. The Oval Office meeting with President Obama comes at a pivotal time for U.S. relations in Asia.

I am very hopeful that the Obama Administration will once again put America back on the radar screen in Asia. The visit to the region by Secretary Clinton and the early outreach by President Obama sends strong signals that the U.S. is committed to a new, more robust engagement with the region.

Closer to home, we will discuss how best to advance the peace process in Mindanao. The U.S. has helped train our military to be more professional and effective. Just as important, the U.S. has been a key ally in advancing “soft” power by helping build schools, roads and bridges, and building up our economy through U.S. development assistance in Mindanao and across the nation.

We will discuss the global economic crisis that has swept the world and what we can do to mitigate the impact on the poor everywhere, especially in Asia and the Philippines.

There are a range of other issues we plan to discuss including climate change. We applaud President Obama’s leadership on climate change. President Obama understands the pressing need for the U.S. to step up and take action.

As an island nation, the Philippines is particularly vulnerable to dramatic changes in our weather and rising seas. We will do everything in our power to work with the U.S. on this vital issue that confronts the Philippines and the entire human race.

Finally, we will convey our deep appreciation for the payment of a 190 million dollars by the U.S. for Philippine veterans of World War II. This long overdue recognition will go a long way to rewarding those patriotic Filipinos who fought side-by-side with Americans, under U.S. command, during the heroic days of World War II.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's statement during the Departure Honors for her visit to the United States of America. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615172458/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25788&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the official dinner in honor of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva of the Kingdom of Thailand

Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the official dinner in honor of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva of the Kingdom of Thailand

[Released at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, August 14, 2009]

His Excellency Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Vice President de Castro, Speaker Nograles, members of the Thai delegation and officials of the Philippine government, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

In behalf of the Filipino people, it's my great pleasure to welcome His Excellency Prime Minister Abhisit.

Your Excellency, your visit is a fitting celebration of our 60 years of diplomatic relations this year.

This afternoon, you gave me a book commemorating our anniversary and the book is entitled, "Thailand-Philippines — Ties Beyond Times." What an appropriate title.

The book puts together historical photographs and documents of important events such as the state visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand to the Philippines when my father was President. But the ties are truly beyond times because while formal diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Thailand go back to 1949, our relations go back to the 11th century as evidenced by Thai ceramics from Sawankalok kilns found in Philippine archaeological sites. In other words, trade with Thailand goes back almost a thousand years.

Before the Philippines was born as a nation in 1898, our relationship with Thailand were explored by various embassies sent from the Spanish Manila. History records a gift of elephants from Siam by the Spanish Governor General in Manila in the 18th century. So indeed, our trade and friendly relations go back a long way in history and we are resolved that they should also go forward to the future.

Our trade, economic and socio-cultural links are even more valuable during the current global economic crisis. When the world faces unprecedented economic challenges, countries must work together to forge stronger relations, to continue to trade and to make greater strides in integrating the global economy so that we emerged stronger from the global crisis and so that we instill global systems that ensure such a global crisis does not happen again.

On the part of ASEAN, such systems include the forthcoming Chiang Mai Initiative on Multilateralization under the able leadership of Thailand as chair of ASEAN this year. On our part, as the coordinator for U.S. relations as designated by ASEAN, we congratulate His Excellency for the success of the recent ASEAN Regional Forum where the active reengagement in our region of the world's most powerful nation and largest economy was launched.

We look forward to a similar success of the ASEAN and related summits in Thailand later this year. On this note, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to join me in a toast to the continued health and success of His Majesty, Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand, and to our distinguished guest Prime Minister Abhisit, and to the enduring friendship between the peoples of the Philippines and Thailand.

Mabuhay! (Toast)

Mabuhay! Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100310/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25959&Itemid=38

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Statement: President Arroyo during the briefing on Climate Change and Solid Waste Management with the Barangay Captains of Baguio City

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the briefing on Climate Change and Solid Waste Management with the Barangay Captains of Baguio City

[Delivered at the Mansion Conference Hall, Baguio City, August 28, 2009]

Naimbag a malem yo amin, Apo.

I don't know if you waited very long for us, but you would have waited longer if the weather were bad, because we almost landed in La Union. But thank goodness, there was a clearing in the sky, a big part of it was blue even though there were many clouds, so here we are.

Every Friday is Climate Change Day for the Office of the President. Because on this day, we devote ourselves to discussing how to mitigate and to adopt to climate change because of the different parts of the country. And this is in accordance with the practice that was carried out in my Executive Order that created the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change headed by the President.

Under this Task Force, there are 17 task groups. And one of the task groups is DENR on Solid Waste Management. Another task which is also DENR on reforestation. So between December and June, we went around every Friday, where Lito would talk about Solid Waste Management in a given area. But after six months from my Executive Order, we would add reforestation to the topic of the presentation.

Now what Lito Atienza and I do every Friday is done by Sonny Alvarez everyday as Presidential Adviser on Climate Change. But every Friday, he give us a report on the activities of the Presidential Adviser on Climate Change whether it is going abroad and sharing the participating and policy making on climate change in the world or also going around and propagating the requirements of the law among Local Government Units with regard to climate change.

So I thank Congressman Domogan and Mayor Bautista for helping us to organize all the barangay officials of the City of Baguio which is a very, very important city in our country, and especially in as much as we are now celebrating our Centennial of Baguio City.

So without much ado, I will call on Secretary Lito Atienza to make his presentation.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's opening statement during the briefing on Climate Change and Solid Waste Management with the Barangay Captains of Baguio City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100140/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26197&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint NEDA-NAPC Cabinet Group Meeting with the Pro-Performance System Steering Committee

Opening statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Joint NEDA-NAPC Cabinet Group Meeting with the Pro-Performance System Steering Committee

[Released at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, November 24, 2009]

Before we convene the Cabinet Meeting, I just like to inform everyone that I have directed the AFP through Secretary Bert Gonzales and Acting Chief of Staff General Maclang and the Police through Secretary Puno and Chief PNP Verzosa to order their units to conduct immediate and relentless pursuit of the perpetrators to secure the affected areas in Maguindanao.

I asked them to proceed to Maguindanao today to personally oversee military action against the perpetrators of the dastardly acts that occurred yesterday. No effort will be spared to bring justice to the victims and hold the perpetrators accountable to the full limit of the law.

The Chief of Staff has ordered the establishment of check points and choke points, and as of last night the military elements were in place to preserve peace in the areas. Additional troops have also been deployed to the area last night to further secure the area.

I'd like to call now the Cabinet Meeting to order. Can we ask Secretary Ermita to lead the opening prayer?

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's opening statement during the Joint NEDA-NAPC Cabinet Group Meeting with the Pro-Performance System Steering Committee. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133800/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26928&Itemid=38

Statement: President Arroyo on the Mindanao massacre

**Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:
On the Mindanao massacre**

[Released at the Porac Interchange of the SCTEX, Porac, Pamapanga, November 25, 2009]

Ako'y nagdedeklara ng Araw ng Pagluluksa para sa mga biktima ng nangyaring maramihang pagpapaslang sa Mindanao. Hindi makakatakas ang mga may kagagawan ng karumal-dumal na krimeng ito. Hahabulin sila ng batas hanggang sila ay mapaparusahan.

I am outraged as is everyone at this crime. It is a travesty of our pledge to uphold the basic humanity of every Filipino. The perpetrators will not escape justice. The law will haunt them until they are caught. Commitment to human rights and human dignity shall prevail in the Philippines.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's statement on the Mindanao massacre. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133745/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26957&Itemid=38

National Statement: President Arroyo during the Joint High-Level Segment of Conference of the Parties (COP) and CMP of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on behalf of constituencies

National Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the Joint High-Level Segment of Conference of the Parties (COP) and CMP of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on behalf of constituencies

[Issued at the Plenary Hall, Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark, December 17, 2009]

Thank you, Madame President.

The people of the Philippines look upon these negotiations in Copenhagen with a critical sense of urgency. The average world per capita CO₂ equivalent emission of six tons must be brought down to three tons to stabilize at 450 parts per million in 2050. The Philippines is already doing better than that. Our emission is only 1.6 tons per capita, and we are further committed to deviate by 20 percent from our business as usual emissions growth path.

Yet, though our country has a good carbon footprint, we are disproportionately vulnerable to the devastation of Mother Nature, accelerated by the mistreatment of the fragile environment by human beings all over the world. This vulnerability is due in large part to the fact that we are an archipelago of 7,000 islands, with the majority of our people living in low-lying areas prone to climate hazards.

The UN reports that the Philippines is one of the top 12 countries at the greatest risk from climate change. In fact, we topped the list of nations most in danger of facing more frequent and more intense storms as the impact of climate change intensifies.

Tropical storms of historical scale have inflicted devastation and tragic loss of lives upon our country. Two recent typhoons cost our people four billion dollars or 2.7 percent of our GDP. Our major food regions lost 8 to 10 percent of their GDP because over 600,000 hectares of farmland were destroyed, while the industrial areas lost 6 to 8 percent. These same typhoons affected more than nine million people and killed 900. Over 200,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. Our nation was already struggling against the headwinds of the global economic storm when we were forced to confront these natural disasters.

Thank God that we pulled together as a nation. We have begun to rebuild the affected areas of our country. We thank our international friends and development partners who assisted us in our moment of need over the past few months.

We come to Copenhagen in partnership with other nations to find a way to meet the harsh impacts of climate change and avert a global climate crisis. It is time to harmonize economic development with environmental protection in a new global order where they are not mutually exclusive, but rather synonymous. It is time all countries of the world owned up to our collective responsibilities. Solving this problem will certainly take years, but we need to start the process now.

We cannot afford to leave Copenhagen without a deal, and a deal based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. For an equitable outcome, developed countries need to lead in reducing emissions. A robust financial mechanism must also be established to meet the needs of the costs of adaptation for developing countries and for effective development and transfer of technologies. We applaud Secretary Clinton's groundbreaking announcement that the United States is "prepared to work with other countries toward a goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion a year by 2020 to address the climate change needs of developing countries." It is essential that this augmentation of global funds should include the replenishment of existing global grant facilities.

Madame President, colleagues, humans started the problem of climate change; humans can certainly solve it.

Thank you.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's National Statement during the Joint High-Level Segment of Conference of the Parties (COP) and CMP of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on behalf of constituencies. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133628/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27163&Itemid=38

Opening Statement: President Arroyo during the event on “Climate Finance: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing Countries”

Opening Statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

During the event on “Climate Finance: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing Countries”

[Issued at the Liva Weel Room, Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark, December 17, 2009]

Thank you.

Thank you very much Mr. De Boer. Thank you for organizing this event. And thank you for inviting me to be here.

The people of the Philippines attached a critical sense of urgency to our negotiations here in Copenhagen. Our country, I'm proud to say, has a good carbon footprint. Our per capita CO2 equivalent emission is only 1.6 tons compared to the world average of six tons. To stabilize at 450 parts per million in 2050, the world average must be brought down to three tons per capita, but we've already gone beyond that. The Philippines is already doing better than that and yet we are committed to further deviate by 20 percent from our business as usual emissions growth path. Yet the Philippines is a country, but I'm sad to say, demonstrates disproportionate vulnerability to the devastation of Mother Nature accelerated by the mistreatment of the fragile environment by human beings all over the world. And maybe that's why I'm a fellow keynote speaker to demonstrate what happens to a climate taker not a climate maker.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change paints a stark picture of the challenges we face due to climate change. Consistent with the global findings with the IBCC, our Philippine Weather Bureau says that the temperature in our country increased at an average of 0.61 degrees Celsius from 1951 to 2006. The U.N. reported that the Philippines is one of the top twelve countries at the greatest risk from climate change. In fact, we topped the list of nations most in danger of facing more frequent and more intense storms as the impact of climate change intensifies. The western part of the Pacific where we belong sees more tropical cyclones than any of the five other ocean basins. And among Southeast Asian countries, the Philippines is the most exposed and the most sensitive to climate hazards due to our geographical, geophysical and socio-economic circumstances.

We're always the first ones to be hit because the Philippines fronts the ocean basin. We often experience the brunt of the typhoon intensity and rainfall which has been increasing. In the last two decades alone the Philippines suffered damages that caused the death of 25,000 people. Twenty-two storms have hit the Philippines this year. The typhoons are becoming more horrific, the rains more violent, the seas more savage.

We are highly susceptible to flooding. This is due in large part to the fact that we are an archipelago of over 7,000 islands with the majority of our people living in low-lying areas exposed to sea level rises. Seventy percent of our cities and towns are coastal areas.

The change in global environment is already dramatically and negatively affecting the Philippines. Tropical storms of historic scale have inflicted devastation and tragic loss of lives in our country. Two recent typhoons, Ketsana and Parma, caused our people four billion dollars or 2.7 percent of our GDP. Our major food regions lost eight to ten percent of their GDP because over 600,000 hectares of farmland were destroyed, while industrial areas lost six to eight percent. These same typhoons affected more than nine million people and killed more than 900. Over 200,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. Ketsana recorded the highest rainfall in Philippine history — 17.9 inches — meaning, a foot and a half in 24 hours last September 26.

Our nation was already struggling against the headwinds of the global economic storm when we were forced to confront these natural disasters. Thank God that we pulled together as a nation. We have begun to rebuild the affected areas of our country due in part to the international assistance we received over the past few months. In behalf of a grateful Filipino nation, we thank our friends and development partners in our moment of need.

And apart from typhoons, global warming is also affecting our agriculture, our fishing stocks, our forests and our cities. Climate change impacts on our ecosystems such as the increase of sea temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius. This causes coral bleaching. In some areas about half of the corals have died. Even in an ideal world with successful economic development and efficient energy technologies, temperatures are still projected to increase beyond sustainable targets and beyond the threshold of highly vulnerable, low-lying archipelagos like the Philippines.

Our ecosystems can only be sustainable if we enhance their integrity. That is why even if we already have a good carbon footprint, we are still committed to further protect our natural systems and ecological processes by vigorously implementing our very progressive environmental laws, such as: the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act; the Clean Water Act; the Clean Air Act; the Renewable Energy Act, considered the best in the world; the Bio-Fuels Act; the National Integrated Protected Areas Act; the Fisheries Code; and now most recently, the Climate Change Act.

That is also why vulnerable developing nations like us, the countries represented in this forum for instance, have come to Copenhagen in partnership with others to find a way to meet the harsh impacts of climate change and avert a global climate crisis. It is time to harmonize economic development with environmental protection in a new global order where they are not mutually exclusive but they should be synonymous. It is time all countries of the world own up to our collective responsibilities. Solving this problem will certainly take years but we need to start the process now. To avert the most dangerous climate change, global emissions must decline by 2020. For an equitable outcome, developed countries need to lead in reducing emissions.

We cannot afford to leave Copenhagen without a deal. And our subject matter here: a robust financial mechanism must also be established to meet the cost of adaptation for developing countries and for effective development and transfer of technologies. That is why we appreciate the UNFCCC Secretariat for providing technical assistance to conduct the National Economic Environment Development Study or NEEDS for climate change in the Philippines and the other countries participating in this event. And that is also why we appreciate the UNFCCC Secretariat for organizing this event, and that is also why we applaud Secretary Clinton's groundbreaking breakthrough announcement that the U.S. is prepared to work with other countries toward the goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion a year by 2020 to address the climate needs of developing countries. This augmentation of global funds will include the replenishment of existing global grant facilities. And it should also encourage each and every government to take steps to solve the climate change crisis.

Colleagues, climate takers — I think most of us here in this hall are that — humans started the problem of climate change, humans can certainly solve it. And I hope this event tonight will contribute to that solution.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's opening statement during the event on "Climate Finance: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing Countries". Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133637/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27162&Itemid=38

HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

Remarks of President Arroyo during the 2002 Chinese New Year celebration of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Incorporated (FCCCII)

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 2002 Chinese New Year celebration of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce
and Industry, Incorporated (FCCCII)**

[Delivered at the Main Theater, Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, February 12, 2002]

Last night as many of you were either in the streets of Binondo or in your New Year's parties or in the temple, I was watching television watching the many events related to the coming of the Chinese New Year, and I was listening to the analysis and the geomancers and I heard several of them say that the Year of the Water Horse is good for some bad for some but it is best for those who were born during the year of the pig. And I was born in the Year of the Pig.

So on this occasion I thank you, I thank you for inviting me to be part of your beautiful celebration tonight to learn more about the culture of the Filipino-Chinese. I thank you also for what you will be doing for our Manians. And I thank you for the lovely horse that you gave tonight.

And I ask you to help me indeed, being as your President, lucky during this year. And I ask you to help me make whatever good luck I have from the Year of the Horse spread out to you and to the rest of the Filipino people.

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Remarks during the 2002 Chinese New Year Celebration of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Incorporated (FCCCII). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230655/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7615&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the 4th Charter Anniversary of Valenzuela City [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa ika-4 na anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela**

[Ipinahayag sa Valenzuela City Hall, Lungsod ng Valenzuela, ika 14 ng Pebrero, 2002]

Maraming salamat Congressman Sherwin Gatchalian sa iyong magandang pagpakilala sa akin. At puwede na po kayong lahat maupo.

Si Mayor at Mrs. Bobbit Carlos, Happy Anniversary at congratulations; pati na rin kay Vice Mayor Espiritu at lahat ng mga officials sa lungsod ng Valenzuela, at lahat ng ating mga mamamayan sa lungsod ng Valenzuela. Happy 4th Anniversary at saka Happy Valentines sa inyong lahat.

Ako ho ay nasisiyahan na pumunta muli sa inyong Valentine at Anniversary kasi naalala ko two years ago noong ako ay Vice President, ako rin ang inyong Guest of Honor sa Valentine Anniversary. At naalala ko noong ako'y outside the kulambo dahil nandoon na tayo sa panahon ng mga impeachment ay ako rin ang ginawang Guest of Honor ni Mayor Bobbit Carlos sa kanyang birthday celebration.

Kaya po alam n'yo dito sa Metro Manila, lalung-lalo na iyong mga ibang lugar na maraming urban poor at maraming nagpunta sa Edsa tres na tinatawag nila, 'pag ako pumupunta nagdadala ako ng mensahe na healing — magkaisa na tayo, ganon — pero dito pagdating ko sa Valenzuela, hindi ako kailangang magdala ng ganoong klaseng mensahe kasi kayo sa halip na pumunta kayo sa Edsa tres, nandoon kayo sa Mendiola at binabantayan ninyo iyung Malacañang noong April 30. Kasi naalala ninyo noong sinabi ko may plot, na iyung gabi ay pupunta sila kaya kayo ay nagpunta doon para ma-gwardya. Kaya salamat dahil ang ganda ng inyong pagsuporta at handa kayong magproteksyon sa katawan ninyo at buhay ninyo sa Pangulo at sa Republika. Kaya sa halip na ang message of healing, ang aking message ay maraming salamat sa inyong suporta.

Kaya naman sabi ni Sherwin na bibigyan na lang daw niya ako ng opisina dito sa kadalasan kong pagpunta ngayong last 45 days na tatlong beses akong pumunta rito, at pumunta para sa maghahanap tayo ng mga kung papano maresolba ang mga iba't-ibang mga problema ng maralitang taga-lungsod.

Halimbawa, para sa kaalaman ng lahat, iyung ating grupo na nagpapasalamat ay iyung ating ginawang problem solving ay nagresulta, iyung kinuwento ni Congressman Gatchalian, iyung sa dike na matagal na nating hinahangad doon. Kaya ako nag-contribute, City of Valenzuela, Congressional district, Malacañang ay nagsama-sama para ganon matayo na natin iyung dikeng 'yon kasi 20 million iyung gastos, 'di ba? So nag-combine si Congressman saka Si Mayor sa Ten million at Malacañang naman ang nagbigay ng ten million. Puwede nang magsimula ngayon.

Kaya nasisiyahan ako doon sa scroll na binigay sa akin ng urban poor na sinabi na nakikita ninyo na 'pag akoy nagpupunta dito hindi para mamulitika kung hindi para umupo at hanapan ng solusyon ang mga problema. At dahil dun sa ang sinasabi ng scroll kaya dahil doon kayo ay nagpapasalamat, gusto niyong magsuporta at handa kayong gawin kung ano ang kailangan para sa suporta ninyo.

Ako'y nagpapasalamat doon, nakita ko na handa niyong gawin kung ano ang kailangan kasi noong gabi ng April 30, noong kailangan ko ng suporta sa Malacañang dahil sa May 1 ng madaling araw, papunta na sila, nandoon nga kayo. Kaya nakita ko na na handa kayong magsuporta.

At kung noon ay narinig lang niyo na may problema ako, tumakbo na kayo doon para tumulong, ngayon nagpapahayag naman kayo muli na handa kayong sumuporta. Anong klaseng suporta naman ngayon ang kailangan ng inyong lingkod sa inyo? Siguro iyung ipahayag ninyo iyung ginagawa ng ating administrasyon para sa maralita

dahil iyun ay nararamdaman ninyo. Kasi ang daming nagsasabi, maganda raw iyung statistics ko pero hindi raw nararamdaman ng taong-bayan. Eh, dito sa pinahayag ninyo sa scroll, Sinasabi ninyong nararamdaman ninyo ang ginagawa ng ating administrasyon.

Kaya ang suportang hinihingi ko sa inyo, ipahayag niyo at ikwento ninyo hindi lamang dito sa Valenzuela dahil kayo ay pinaka-northernmost part ng Metro Manila, ipahayag na rin ninyo doon sa iba't-ibang mga mamamayan sa iba't-ibang mga probinsya. Halimbawa, kayo ay dating Bulacan, eh ipahayag na ninyo doon sa mga kilala niyo sa Bulacan. Sabi nga ni Bobbit Carlos ay ito ay nabuo, isang Valenzuela, naalala niya — salamat iyung tulong ng tatay ko — kaya ngayon ang Valenzuela ay, hanggang ngayon alam mo Bobbit 'pag ako ay pupunta dito kinukwento sa akin, pag tinatanong ako doon sa Malacañang saan ako pupunta bukas, ay doon ho sa Bulacan, iyun pala Valenzuela. Uy, sabi ko Valenzuela ay bukod na Lungsod ng Metro Manila, highly urbanized city; at sa mahigit na 150 cities na yata kayo, number 25 sa most urbanized city ang Valenzuela.

Iyon ho ang nangyari, kaya kinukwento ni Bobbit kung pano nagdoble ang income ng Valenzuela. At iyung ating binigyan ng mga sobre dito, kumbinasyon 'yon iyung mga pinakamahihirap na pamilya ng Valenzuela na hinanap ng National Anti-Poverty Commission at iyung mga nag-training sa micro-finance para sa mga kariton, 'di ba? At iyun ay nagpapalawak ng mga negosyo, maliliit na negosyo, malalaking negosyo dito sa Valenzuela.

Iyung isa sa pagbisita ko dito in the last 45 days nga, ay nagpunta ako doon sa 200 million expansion ng Splash na binebenta sa iba't-ibang lugar. saan ba 'yong ... ay number one tax payer pa 'yung Splash kaya dapat bigyan natin special na recognition. At iyung kanilang Skin Whitener, hanggang doon sa, ano, sa Indonesia 'di ba? Hanggang sa ibang mga karatig bansa ay binibili iyung produktong gawa ng Valenzuela.

Kaya sa Valenzuela meron tayong malalaking negosyo, kagaya ng Splash, kagaya noong plastic ng pamilya ni Sherwin. Malalaking negosyo nasa Valenzuela. Nandoon din iyung maliliit na negosyo, iyung microfinance na binigyan natin ng mga sobre kanina. Kaya from the giant to the smallest, ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino ay nakikita dito sa lungsod ng Valenzuela.

Kaya naman ba't hindi kayo bibisitahing madalas. 'Pag pumupunta ako dito, nagkakaroon ako muli ng pag-asa. Kasi sa katotohanan, ako ay tao rin. Kahit na, siyempre 'pag araw-araw nagtatrabaho, 16 hours a day, 6 days a week, Sunday lang ang binibigay sa pamilya tapos sasabihing hindi nararamdaman, parang ang feeling mo parang throw in the towel na lang, wala ng pag-asa; just serve out the rest of my term, just coast along. Pero 'pag pumupunta ako sa Valenzuela, then I get hope again dahil kayo ay nagbibigay sa akin ng pag-asa. At sana iyung pag-asa ay mamumudmod sa buong Pilipinas.

At iyung aking kadalasan ng pagpunta dito sa kinagugulat ko ang nagresulta tuloy ay ako pala sabi ni Bobbit, ang unang Pangulo na nakapunta sa Valenzuela bilang Pangulo. Balik-balik ako dito, dito sa entabladong ito mula pa noong 1992, kandidato akong Senador, kandidatong Vice Mayor si Bobbit Carlos — magkasama na kami noon. Tapos, nung nagkampanya ako — '95 ba 'yun o 98? — sumayaw pa ako dito sa entabladong ito. Tapos nga, noong anibersaryo noong ako ay Bise Presidente at ngayon bilang Presidente. My first time sa entabladong ito as President pero hindi my first time sa buong bayan ng Valenzuela.

Kaya hindi ba tamang-tama na pinagdiriwang ko ang bahagi ng Valentine's day ko dito kasi, all these years, all these months, napatunayan, nararamdaman ko ang pagmamahal ng Valenzuela sa akin at siguro nararamdaman din niyo ang pagmamahal ng Pangulo at pamahalaan ng Pilipinas sa lungsod ng Valenzuela.

Kaya muli mga kaibigan, salamat sa inyong pag-imbata muli. Happy 4th Anniversary. Happy Valentines. And may we have many more valentines together for the good of the people of Valenzuela and the people of the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Remarks during the 4th Charter Anniversary of Valenzuela City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230643/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7613&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during an urban poor visit [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagbisita sa mga maralitang taga-lungsod**

[Ipinahayag sa Halik Alon Compound, Barangay Sto. Nino, Lungsod ng Parañaque, ika 18 ng Pebrero, 2002]

Itong pagpunta po natin dito, pagpulong po natin dito ay bahagi po ng pagdiriwang ng People Power 1 at People Power 2. Kasi po yung People Power 1 ay nagkaroon ng culmination nung February 25, 1986, yung People Power 2 naman ay nagsimula ng January 16, 2001. From January 16 po hanggang February 25 — 40 days po yon. Eh hindi ba sa ating kultura meron tayong novena, 9 days, meron din tayong kuwaresma 40 days. So parang ang panginoon siya naman ang pinanggalingan ng People Power eh at talagang sinadya niya na between January 16 and February 25 talagang 40 days.

Parang binibigyan niya tayo ng mensahe na yung dalawang pangyayari sa ating kasaysayan ay isa lang ang diwa at dapat pinagdiriwang sa pamamagitan ng dasal; at hindi lamang dasal kung hindi pagkakaisa. Kasi ‘pag nagkaroon ng kuwaresma o novena usually nagsasama-sama tayo. Alam n’yo yon dahil sa Parañaque, dito sa oy saka si father saka hindi dito sa, oo sa St. Andrews at saka doon sa Baclaran napakauso ng talagang kilalang-kilala natin ang nobena na mga nagdarasal tayong sabay-sabay.

Anong gusto ng Panginoon para sa atin? Ang gusto naman niya talaga ay tayo ay magtrabaho sa kinabubuti lalung-lalo na ng mga pinakamahirap na anak niya.

Ngayon ho ang ating pagdiriwang kasi nung darating na yung January 20 ‘yun nga usually January 20 — one year na ako naging pangulo — so gagawin yan dapat meron malaking celebration sa EDSA, sasabihin kay Mayor Marquez magdala ka nga ng mga tiga-Parañaque doon sa EDSA para makinig sa diskurso ni President Arroyo. Hindi ganoon ang aking ginawa. Sa halip na everybody, hundreds of thousands may mapagpupulong sa EDSA in one day dahil dinala ng mga Mayor doon, ang ginawa ay ginawang 40 days at ang pumupunta ay hindi kayo sa pamahalaan sa EDSA kundi ang pamahalaan ang pumupunta sa inyo.

At sa halip na ako magdidiskurso ng medya hora mas mabuti pang makinig sa inyo tapos tayo magkuwento-kuwentuhan ang paghanap ng mga solusyon. Tignan n’yo ang ating buong meeting ngayon 30 minutes lamang pero hindi ba nakahanap tayo ng mga solusyon sa mga suliranin na siguro lalo na yung lupa dekadang hinintay ninyo ang solusyon pero dahil ginawa nating pag-uusap nakahanap tayo ng solusyon sa tatlung minuto. Eh biro niyo makakahanap ba tayo ng solusyon. So mas mabuti ito, hindi ba, ito ang tunay na pagdiriwang ng People Power dahil kayo ang People Power, kayo ang pinanggagalingan ng People Power.

At ito ay itutuloy, nagsimula nga ho ito ng January 16 doon nga sa payatas nung gabing yon. At doon din tiga-payatas dumating yung solusyon na kung maraming claimants yung bayad doon sa nanalo so yung nanggaling. Kasi nakahanap siya ng solusyon nung sinabi niya yung solusyon na tinawagan ko si Nonong Cruz, doon mismo sa cellular, yung aking Presidential Legal Council at sinabi ko nonong people power at ito nga ang talagang yan ang aking isang leksyon na nakukuha dito sa ating paglilibot: marami kang matututunan mismo sa taong-bayan. Ang kaalaman ay hindi isang monopoliya ng mga mataas na pinag-aralan dahil maraming common sense ang taong-bayan mismo ‘di ba.

So yung pagkatapos ng February 21 kasi sinu-survey pa, sinusukat pa kung ano ‘yung mga na ang people power ay talagang nanggagaling sa sambayanan, sa taong-bayan.

Sa ating pagdiriwang ng people power. Itong January 20 kaya yun piyesta ninyo pero hindi na kami nakarating at sana nga sa darating na panahon ay tuluy-tuloy itong ating pagsisikap na sabay-sabay, sama-sama maghahanap ng solusyon sa mga problema ng taong-bayan.

Kaya muli maraming salamat at happy EDSA anniversary sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Remarks during an Urban Poor Visit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412230633/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7612&Itemid=38

Note verbale of Filipino Ambassador to Indonesian Foreign Minister

**Note Verbale of Filipino Ambassador to
Indonesian Foreign Minister**

No. 147-01

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines presents its compliments to the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and further to its Note no. 110.01 of 08 March 2001 on the ongoing case between Indonesia and Malaysia in the International Court of Just: over Pulau Sipadan and Pulau Ligitan has the honor to inform the latter that the Government the Republic of the Philippines wishes to reassure the Government of the Republic of Indonesia that it does not have any territorial interest on Sipadan and Ligitan islands.

The Philippine Government's motion to file for a petition to intervene proceeds from the desire and obligation to safeguard its national interest, which may be affected by the proceedings and outcome of the case. Furthermore, the decision to intervene should not be interpreted as a sign that the Philippine Government wants to be a party to the case. The Embassy appeals to the Indonesian Government's support and understanding on this matter.

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia the assurances of its high consideration.

Jakarta, 05 April 2001

Source: **The Philippine Claim to a Portion of North Borneo**

Remarks of President Arroyo before the Philippines-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee (PHILJECC)

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
Before the Philippines-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee (PHILJECC)**

[Delivered at the Hotel New Otani, Tokyo, Japan, September 13, 2001]

Distinguished participants, friends, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Let me begin by thanking the Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Committee and PHILJECC for jointly hosting this luncheon and thanking as well the leaders of the Japanese business community for sharing their valuable time for this forum.

I am honored that you have chosen to come even at a time when our meeting is being held under a large global cloud of fear and anxiety. The horrible terrorist attacks launched in the United States two days ago threaten not only Americans, but the very stability of the international community.

However, we must not yield to terror. Rather we must demonstrate our resolve by continuing our work unhindered by the understandable grief that all humanity bears at this time. This is the way to maintain the foundation of our civilization and also maintain the course of our economic development.

Japanese companies play a major role in the economic development, export promotion, and job generation of the Philippines. Many of your companies in the Philippines are processing goods for exports to foreign markets such as the United States, Japan and other neighboring countries.

However, allow me to take this opportunity to point out to you that it is not only the product export market that you should invest in, in the Philippines. Let me point out two additional areas for your doing business in the Philippines: One is the domestic market of the Philippines itself, and the other is made up of the changing demographic characteristics of Japan.

On the domestic market of the Philippines: The Philippines has a large domestic market of 75 million people whose income and purchasing power are growing. In spite of the global economic weakness, I am very proud that the Philippine GDP is growing at a rate of 3.3% while its GNP is growing at the rate of 3.4%. This growth rate comes from increase in consumption, construction, and remittances from overseas Filipinos, which all mean that there is a good market for your investments right in the Philippines.

On the demographic changes in Japan, Japan is the fastest aging society in Asia, while the Philippines has a young population. By the year 2025, more than ¼ of the Japanese will be above 65 years old and will need all kinds of services for older persons. On the other hand, by that year more than 90% of the Filipinos will be less than 65 years old and many of them will have the training to take care of older persons. This complementarity is in itself an investment opportunity that I hope the Japanese business community will be looking at starting today.

But even if our domestic market and our young population are attractive investment areas in themselves, we will make further efforts to improve our investment conditions for the export market.

We are determined to improve our competitiveness both in cost and quality of producing goods. Our starting point is our workforce who speak English and are IT literate.

Filipino workers are ranked number one among knowledge workers. They provide a rich minefield for collaboration in information and communications technology or ICT between Japan and the Philippines. I am very proud that 1

million Filipinos know how to do the Internet. The collaboration therefore could combine the Philippines' strong human base for software and content development with Japan's prowess in hardware development.

We are also determined to improve our competitiveness by providing a stable peace and order climate. We are exerting every effort to break up the kidnapping syndicates, neutralize terrorist groups and ensure the safety of businessmen as well as ordinary citizens.

The Philippine National Police has increased its police visibility by doubling the number of policemen in every beat. It has also increased the number of police investigators and intensified its investigations on police officers suspected to be supporting criminal syndicates.

The board of investments and the department of the interior have launched an investor hotline to ensure quick response to threat situations, in addition to the patrol 117 available to the entire community.

I have created a national anti-crime commission or N.A.C.C. to tighten coordination among law enforcement agencies. Under the N.A.C.C., it is not only the police but also the armed forces who worked out and help the police in fighting crime.

I have created an anti-kidnaping task force under this N.A.C.C.

And with the cooperation and support of the many volunteer anti-crime groups as well as the general public, there are now better prospects for improving the solution efficiency of kidnap for ransom. I have noticed statistics that people are now more predisposed to report crimes to the police compared to recent times.

Thus, so far this year, because of the support of the community as well as the improvements in our investigative capability the majority of the kidnap cases have been solved.

So far this year also, the crime rate is 10% lower than last year.

And the index crime rate, which is considered a better indicator of the crime situation, also reflects a 4% decrease. We are determined to improve our competitiveness also by minimizing labor disputes. The Department of Labor and the Department of Trade have formed quick reaction teams to pro-actively assist in settling labor-management disputes before they develop into confrontational situations. Because of this conciliation and mediation services of the DTI and the Department of Labor, more than 400 announced strikes did not actually take place because reconciliation was made by the intervention of the government. Recently, our arbitration court resolved a labor dispute in favor of Toyota Philippines management. We are likewise adopting innovative approaches to promote good relations within management and labor such as seminars on labor-relations and productivity enhancement for our workforce. The first seminar was conducted last August 22nd by the Department of Trade and the Department of Labor together with the Japanese chamber.

We are also determined to improve our competitiveness by maintaining stable rules of investment. The executive branch of government consistently interprets investment laws in favor of the investor. The courts of course are independent of the executive, just as they are here in Japan, but nonetheless whenever the solicitor general can get involved in a commercial litigation, he consistently takes the position of providing consistency of rules in favor of the investor.

We are also determined to improve our competitiveness by attending to infrastructure. And so here therefore infrastructure serves a double purpose:

First it improves competitiveness, and second in itself it is also an investment opportunity.

In attending to infrastructure, what we wanted to do for example is to bring down the cost post power, and we did this in the first five months of my administration because congress passed a power sector reform law reforming our

power sector a law that was pending for nearly a decade. And I am very happy that in this delegation with me is the author and sponsor of that law that we structure our power sector after more but after almost a decade of seeking to make that reform and that is senator John Osmeña. In power and other infrastructure sectors, there are many investment opportunities under the build-operate-and-transfer scheme.

Our priorities include the following for build operate and transfer:

Telecommunications facilities for high-speed connectivity.

At low cost; roads to target tourist destinations; infrastructure for the modernization of agriculture; Light Rail Transit to reduce traffic in Metro Manila; and transport systems to decongest Manila North towards Subic-Clark and south towards Calabarzon and Batangas port.

To reduce traffic in Metro Manila for instance, we shall build 5 new mass Transit lines in order to give relief to four million passengers. These systems will add 119 kilometers of railway projects and I hope that of those kilometers will be built by Japanese companies.

Aside from mass transit, we shall also build four highspeed expressway projects across the Metro Manila area nearby provinces, as well as interchanges at major intersections of EDSA and C5. We have also programmed the short-term and medium-term improvement of the drainage system especially in floodprone areas and streets. Hopefully these reforms will improve the traffic situation for your convenience in doing business coz at the same time this provide investment opportunities for you to engage in.

We are also determined to improve our competitiveness by continuing to liberalize the airline industry, and further, we will develop Clark for cargo and passenger operations, construct new airports in the Visayas and Mindanao and modernize the country's major ports.

In the area of telecommunications, aside from promoting investments in physical infrastructure for high-speed connectivity at low cost, we are also establishing municipal telecenters. Government is also working out for the mobile phone providers to disperse cell sites to make their services available all over the country. The Philippines with its 7,000 islands certainly is a good investment opportunities for wireless or wired telecommunications infrastructure.

And to make your business more convenient and competitive we are determined to eradicate corruption and reduce red tape, and this effort is led by my Cabinet members for men and women of integrity and competence recruited on the basis of track record, good reputation, and dedication. My Cabinet members are a blend of youth and experience.

Their dynamic and state-of-the-art brand of technocracy is further strengthening the financial sector and simplifying and clarifying the system of incentives.

Under their leadership to increase transparency and reduce red tape, government agencies are implementing measures to cut in half the number of signatures required for the delivery of services such as licenses, permits, registration and franchises.

Our local government officials have likewise agreed to streamline and slash the red tape, in order to provide continuity between national and local governments in their efforts to be investor-friendly.

When I became President last January, I told the Filipino people and the world about winning the war against poverty within the decade, and with Congress open last July 1, I said that in order to succeed, our national agenda must revolve around four components:

- First, an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate to the 21st century;
- Second, a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity;

- Third, a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance our economic development plan; and
- Fourth, raising of the moral standards of government and society.

We call on the Japanese companies, especially those already in the Philippines, to be with us as the new government embarks on our journey into the new economy of the new century.

For many Japanese companies, you have been there for so long and The Philippines is a second home. Many of you were there since the time when my father was President of the Philippines since the time when the Imperial Majesties then at that time crowned prince and princess of Japan visited the Philippines as state guest of my father. You have been there since and we hope that you will continue to be there.

We want you to be successful. We want you to be globally competitive.

We will do what we need to do in order to make you successful and globally competitive because we want you to stay with us.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Remarks before the Philippines-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee (PHILJECC). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212833/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8715&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI) Muslim Community Day

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI) Muslim Community Day**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Mosque, Malacañang, October 5, 2001]

Maraming salamat Dinky.

Maraming salamat din Congressman Harry Angpin. Akala ko Congressman si Harry ng Chinatown, Congressman pala ng Chinatown at ng Muslim town.

Ang inyong distrito ang nagpapatunay na ang ating lipunang Pilipinas ay isang multi-ethnic society at dapat galangin natin lahat ng kultura sa ating bansa.

Salamat rin kay Cecille Alvarez, asawa ni Secretary Sonny Alvarez at iyong ibat-ibang mga Congressional spouses. Si Dr. Dayrit nandito, dalawa ang papel nya — bilang NCR Director ng Health at saka bilang asawa ni Secretary Manuel Dayrit sa Cabinet spouse din po sya.

At salamat kay Percy at lahat ng mga Commissioners, si Commissioner Alonto, salamat. Salamat din kay Ginoong Alonto ng NGO at lahat ng mga naririto.

At ako ay nasisiyahan dito sa ating pagkakataon na tayo ay magkasama sa isat-isa. Sabi ni Dinky, ako iyong Presidente galing sa Mindanao — siguro marami sa inyo, alam nyo iyon — dahil sa panig ng nanay ko, ako ay lumaki doon sa lupa ng aking lola sa Iligan City sa Timog. Pero meron din akong ikikwento tungkol sa panig ng tatay ko.

Kanina ikinukwento ni Commissioner Alonto si Raja Sulayman. Si Raja Sulayman ay may kamag-anak na si Lakandula. Si Lakandula ay ninuno ng aking tatay, Diosdado Macapagal. May lahing Muslim.

Dalawang panig ha: nanay at tatay. Nanay dahil nakatira ako doon, tatay medyo sa dugo. At talagang tayong lahat ay talagang kalahi.

At iyong itong ating pagkakasama dito, iniimbitahan ko ho kayo dito sa Mosque ng Malacañang at para itong araw na ito, itong Biyernes na ito, magkasama-sama tayo at sana tuluy-tuloy na magsasama-sama tayo sa kaunlaran ng mga Muslim hindi lamang sa Mindanao kundi na rin dito sa Maynila.

Iyong kanina kinukwento ko, iyong kaninang nakikinig ako doon sa mga hiling ninyo. Halimbawa iyong doon sa eskwelahan, iyong paghingi nyo na magkaroon sana ng isang Muslim school. Ang sabi nga ni Secretary Bacani, may mga batas na nagli-limit noon ano: hindi pwedeng magkaroon ng Muslim school na maging government school. Pero iyong eskwelahan kung saan napakarami iyong mga Muslim, iyon ang pwede nilang i-convert sa Muslim schools. Ano bang gusto niyong matuto doon? Iyong Arabic, sabi ko nga kay Dinky Soliman, humingi tayo ng tulog sa Saudi Arabian Embassy para magkaroon ng Arabic teacher doon sa inyong Muslim schools.

At dahil dapat ipagmalaki natin na ang ating bansa ay maraming kultura — hindi iyong Chinese kayo Filipino kami, hindi. Kasi Chinese or Muslim, tisoy, Tagalog, Cebuano, lahat noon Pilipino. And so we should have institutionalized accomodation of different ethnic divisions at dapat magkaroon tayo ng social justice para sa lahat.

Kaya salamat sa inyong pagdalo itong Biyernes na ito at sana magkaroon tayo ng kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Sana parati nating ginagalang ang ating konstitusyon at ginagalang natin ang ibat-ibang kultura na lahat iyon ay tinatawag na Filipino culture.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Remarks during the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI) Muslim Community Day. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212728/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8753&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the 67th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 67th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)**

[Delivered at the PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City, October 26, 2001]

Una sa lahat, gusto kong I-congratulate ang PCSO for 67 years of public service to the poor and the indigent and the sick.

Siguro importanteng maalala natin ano yung mandate ng PCSO. Hindi lahat ng charity mandate ng PCSO. Ang number one mandate, Honey Girlie di ba, ay yung mga may sakit – health. Health ang pinaka-mandate ng PCSO. At dahil sinabi ko doon sa aking SONA na sa health ang gusto natin ay yung ma-enroll yung mas nakararaming urban poor sa Philhealth, at saka pangalawa, gusto natin na mahati yung presyo ng gamot na binibili ng karaniwang mahihirap — yon ang hinihingi natin sa PCSO na gawing priority ng kanilang projects.

Ngayon kung titingnan din natin ang mandate ng PCSO, doon sa batas ng CISFAP — yung Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Financing Program — doon meron ding sinasabi ang batas na mag-contribute ang PCSO ng ... How much total? Okay ... For five years kaya dahil 10 percent of the charity fund from Lotto for five years. Kaya dahil doon merong pang utang ang PCSO ng 200 million pesos para sa housing. Kaya sabi ko kay Honey Girl, kung iimbitahin mo ako para mag-diskurso di na ako pupunta; pero kung iimbitahin mo ako dahil ibibigay mo yung utang ng PCSO sa housing pupunta ako.

Meron pang isang utang ang PCSO, ewan ko ba kung anong porsiyento ng net earnings ng Lotto operations ng PCSO ay dapat pumunta sa Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation. So sana yon din ang maitupad.

Kaya huwag nating kalilimutan: ang priority ay tingnan kung anong batas at saan nilalagay dapat yung kuwarta ng PCSO.

Ngayon narinig nating sangkot ang PCSO sa maraming eskandalo. Una sa lahat, yung pag-aaway-away ng mga Board at saka Officers. Kaya sabi ko kung sinong makikipagaway-away ay mas mabuti pang — well hindi ko na sasabihin yon — pero kailangan dapat nagkakaisa tayo.

At pangalawa, sa pag-uusap ko kay Honey Girl, kung anuman daw ang sumbong sa pagtatakbo ng PCSO ay handa raw siyang ilantad ang mga papeles ng PCSO. Halimbawa, kanina ay may nagtanong sa aking reporter: meron daw 250 million na binigay sa Ilocos Sur. So sabi ko ... Ano raw ang gagawin ko doon. Eh sabi ko, una sa lahat, titingnan ko kung totoo at sinabi ko na kay Honey Girl yon at sabi nga ni Honey Girl ibibigay niya ang yung papales kung saan pupunta lahat na mga Charity Projects ng PCSO — ibibigay sa Office of the President para magkaroon ng accounting — at saka sabi niya sa Ilocos Sur may four projects of ... Four towns ... So 30,000, so sa Oral Report ni Honey Girl na I'm sure ibibigay niya ang accounting ang lahat ng pinagdalhan ng charity ng PCSO ay mukhang 120,000 at hindi 250 million ang pupunta sa Ilocos Sur.

Anyway, ang pinabubuti rin natin is that, ang lesson dito is government officials should always be on their toes. In other words, people are always watching and it is important that when people watch and ask questions we are able to answer because we know that we are accountable. So yan ang pinakaimportanteng leksyon ng lahat ng mga kung anu-anong controversies na inaabutan ng PCSO dito sa mga araw na ito.

Kaya ako'y nagpapasalamat sa pagkakataon. And I would like to remind everyone that one of the four pillars of our government is that we want to improve moral standards in government and in society at PCSO ay inaasahan ko ay mangunguna doon.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2001). PGMA's Remarks during the 67th Anniversary Celebration of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409212618/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8747&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Awarding of Projects to Leyte Beneficiaries

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Awarding of Projects to Leyte Beneficiaries**

[Delivered at the Leyte Park Convention B, Tacloban City, Leyte, May 10, 2002]

Thank you for your hospitality.

Matagal na si Governor Petilla ay nag-iimbita sa akin para dalhin iyung Cabinet meeting dito para magkaroon ng Cabinet meeting. Ang ginagawa natin itong araw na ito ay joint meeting ng Regional Development Council and the Regional Peace and Order Council. Dahil itong dalawang council na ito ay Cabinet level council. Kaya kasama ko dito ang ilang mga Cabinet members. Nandito si... Anak ng Region VIII, Gabby Claudio. Gabby is the Cabinet officer for regional development for Region VIII. Kaya siya ang pupuntahan ninyo whether you are congressman, governor or any other local government official; and thank you very much, Matin for your beautiful welcome remarks.

I would also like to greet the other governors who are here. I came from Samar now with Governor Mila Tan, so she is here; and I would like to greet also my phone pal, Governor Raul Daza; and the governor I have been visiting very frequently, Governor Rosette Lerias; the other members of my cabinet who are here, I would like to introduce them to you — ang ating DAR secretary, si Nani Braganza; yung ating secretary who provided for the rice dryer, the mechanical dryer and then the other materials for our farmers, Secretary Leony Montemayor of Agriculture.

Yung Philhealth na dini-distribute pa hanggang ngayon dahil ang dami-daming tumatanggap. Ano ba itong Philhealth na ito? Yan ay health insurance para pag magkasakit kayo, hindi na kayo ang maggagastos ng buong gastos, ang gobyerno ang makiki-parte sa inyong mga bill, yan. At iyan ay sa ilalim ng programa ng Department of Health, at nandito si Secretary Manolito Dayrit.

Yung Regional Peace and Order Council ang nagpi-preside noon pag wala yung pangulo ay si Secretary ng Interior and Local Government, si Joey Lina. Iyung shirt niya katerno nung aking pantalon, no. Katerno naman nung blouse ni Governor Petilla; tumutulong naman sa akin para makahanap ng one million jobs sa agrikultura, at isang malaking paraan ay para ma-distribute natin iyung chinese hybrid rice na umaabot sa 40,000 pesos per hectare ang kita ng mga magsasaka, si Secretary Cito Lorenzo.

At dahil maraming official development assistance ang pumupunta dito sa Region VIII, pero hindi ibig sabihin noon porket may foreign loan ay magagamit kaagad, maraming mga... Kung minsan hindi nagagamit. Kaya mayroon tayong... Si Presidential Adviser Marita Jimenez para makatulong na magamit ng husto iyung ating mga foreign assistance.

Dahil marami ang ating mga department na tumutulong para mag-modernize ang ating agriculture, dahil ito ay isa sa pangunahing programa ng ating pamahalaan, mayroon akong presidential adviser na siya ang tumutulong sa akin para ma-coordinate ang trabaho ng lahat ng department tungkol sa agricultural modernization, si Presidential Adviser Lito Sarmiento; kilala rin ninyo iyung anak ng Leyte na masyado na siyang big shot ngayon, si President ng PNOC-EDC, si Serge Apostol; batiin ko siyempre ang ating mga congressmen at congresswomen ng Region VIII na narito — nandito si... Iyung asawa nga ni Serge, si Egie Apostol; iyung congresswoman doon sa bandang baybay, si Congresswoman Cari; saan si Ed Nachura, nandiyan? Nandiyan ba si Ed Nachura? Ayun, nasa likod si Congressman Ed Nachura; iyung napanood natin sa telebisyon kahapon na nag-gigitar, regional champion pala sa classical guitar, si Congressman Libanan; at ito ay isang kaibigang matalik ng aking tatay. My father considered him one of his proteges, si Congressman Gerry Espina; si Congressman Ed Veloso; ay, eto dumating na si Sonny

Alvarez. Hinahanap ko kanina pa. Siyempre tumabi sa mga congressmen para mapasa siya sa Commission on Appointments.

So sa inyong lahat, mga kaibigan, hindi ako masyadong magtatagal sa aking pagdidiskurso, kasi pumunta ako dito para makinig kaysa para magsalita.

Kaya magkakaroon tayo ng meeting ng regional development council para pakinggan through the regional development council iyung mga priority hangarin ng Region VIII. At makinig din through the regional peace and order council ang mga problema at kung papaano natin gawing mas malakas ang kapayapaan sa Region VIII. Dito nagbigay tayo ng mga projects para sa magsasaka, para sa kalusugan itong health card, at iyung mga project ng Department of Social Welfare and Development para sa mga pinakamahihirap na bayan ng Leyte.

Pero gusto kong sabihin sa inyong lahat — hindi ba Gabby, hindi ba matin? — ang Region VIII talagang number one is coconut, right? Kaya ang talagang susi ng pag-aangat ng buhay ng mga mahihirap sa Region VIII ay iyung magagamit na natin iyung coconut levy sa madaling panahon. Kaya bukod kay Secretary Montemayor nandito rin si Danny Coronacion ng Philippine Coconut Authority para sa — ayan, si Danny nandoon, kasama ninyo — dahil kailangan na ibuo na natin. Danny, what? Lalabas next month? Hopefully raw in the month of June, puwede nang magsimula magamit iyung pondo ng coconut levy sa kapakanan ng mga magnyuniyog ng Region VIII. Kaya ang mga programa ay una sa lahat, magkakaroon ng micro-finance sa mga magnyuniyog para makatulong magkaroon kayo ng pangalawang hanapbuhay. Siguro itatanim o mga palalakiing mga hayop sa ilalim ng coconut trees. Pangalawang importante ay iaakyat yung inyong insurance kasi importanteng importante ang insurance sa mga magniniyog dahil nagpapalit-palit ang presyo ng niyog.

Pero narinig ko minsan... Meron akong radio program, may tumawag na mangniniyog mula raw dito sa Leyte. Sabi niya, salamat at umaakyat na yung presyo ng niyog. Salamat na lamang sa panginoon. Sabi niya ang problema na lamang iyung PPA. Kaya iyung ppa naman ay iyon naman ang ating hinahanap ng sagot dito ngayon.

Ah, nandito na rin si Congressman Erning Uy ng — kanina ko pa kasama, I'm sorry — ayun, si Congressman Uy ng Samar at si Governor Salazar ng Eastern Samar. Kaya... Well, iyung PPA, gusto kong ikuwento lamang sa inyo na ako ay nagpapasalamat. Kasi yung problema ng PPA, unang nagbigay sa akin ng pansin na namomobrelema ang karaniwang magsasaka sa PPA ay si Vic Domingo, iyung Presidential Assistant ko for Region VIII noon pang last year. Kaya last year, sinuspende natin sandali iyung PPA. Ngayon ay sinuspendi muli dahil iyung ating mga Congressmen at Senators ay gagawa ng batas para makahanap tayo ng mas matagalang solusyon sa problema ng PPA. Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat dahil pag ako ay nakikinig sa mga taga-Region VIII ay nakakahanap ng solusyon sa problema ng ating bansa.

Muli mga kaibigan, salamat sa inyong napakaganda at napakainit — humid talaga ngayon — pero not only physically but also in your warmth. Salamat sa inyong magandang pagtanggap sa inyong lingkod at sa aking mga kasama, mula pa sa Cabinet, at sana magtagumpay ang ating State of the Region Consultation sa Region VIII.

Binabati ko hindi lamang iyung mga Governors at Congressmen na nandito sa entablado, binabati ko rin iyung mga mayors and all the other officials of Region VIII and all of the people and the various beneficiaries of our outreach programs for the government here in Region VIII.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Remarks during the Awarding of Projects to Leyte Beneficiaries. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412225538/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8286&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during a meeting with volunteer lawyers [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagpupulong kasama ang mga boluntaryong abogado**

[Ipinahayag sa Premier Guest House, Malacañang, ika 8 ng Agosto, 2002]

Mabilis na pagsagot doon sa inihain namin ni Nani at saka ni Rene Bañez na imbitasyon na iyong mga abugado, lalo na iyong kagaya ninyo, ay sana ay mag-volunteer para tumulong sa napakaraming kasong kailangang pasukan ngayon. Nagsimula itong panawagan sa ating mga volunteer lawyers noong napag-usapan iyong 300, 'di ba Nani? Iyong 300 cases ng, under declaration of at dahil 300 iyon ... Saka napakakonti lang ang abugado ng BIR, dalawa lang ang pwedeng mag-file sa isang beses. So, sabi ko papaano natin mapapabilis? So, hiningi ko kay Nani na mag-allocate siya ng 12 lawyers from the OJCC, pero 12 pa rin iyon, pero sabi ko pupunta naman tayo doon sa ... Humingi na rin tayo ng volunteers.

Ako ay nasiyahan, kami ni Nani ay nag-attend kami, pati si Rene Bañez, una si Rene dumating tapos si Nani, by the time I went there ang dami ding nag-volunteer. At talagang nasisiyahan kami dito sa inyong pagmamalasakit sa ating sinisikap na gawin para makobra natin ang tamang buwis at para na ring matigil na iyong mga katiwalian dito sa ating pagkukubra ng buwis maging iyong mga customs duties dahil ang sabi ni Nani, blue collar crime. Iyong tax evasion, white collar crime iyong dahil sa papeles ginagawa. Iyong smuggling ay blue collar crime dahil may mga kasama mga goons. Pero sa pareho doon dapat blue collar ang parusa, ibig sabihin noon preso.

Di nagsimula nga ito doon sa BIR pero dumating rin itong problema ng smuggling at ngayon ay masigasig na iyong ating paghuhuli. Halimbawa, ilang beses nang natakasan tayo ng barko pero may bagong seizure doon sa Northern Samar na hindi na natakasan dahil pinagsama-sama natin yung Maritime Command ng pulis at saka yung Coast Guard na tumutulong sa Customs. Pero gaya ng sabi ni Nani, isang dahilan kung bakit natatakasan tayo noong araw ay nabibigyan ng tro na mga huwes. Kaya pag ganoon ang kalaban talagang kailangan mahigpit ang ating mga abugado at matitino at magagaling kaya mahalaga ang inyong pagtulong.

So, nasama na tuloy sa pagka-volunteer ninyo hindi lamang iyong 300 cases and more, and counting ng under the declaration, kundi na rin pati yung mga smuggling cases. At kahapon, nagpunta ako sa dpwh, 41 cases, 41 individuals charged with corruption dahil yung repair, yung tinatawag na repair scam — 41 individuals kasama ng tatlong bureau director. Kaya ito ay in-assign ko rin sa OGCC para i-supervise niya.

Yung OGCC nga yun doon nagsimula yung pagkukuha rin ng mga volunteers. So kung meron din kayong makakatulong doon sa mga kaso doon sa 41 na erring employees ng DPWH kasama ang tatlong bureau director ay inaasahan ko rin na maga-assign si Nani ng mga kaso sa ting mga volunteers.

So tatlo na iyan: BIR, Customs at saka DPWH. Pinakamabibigat na mga ahensiya sa ating paglaban kontra sa katiwalian.

Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan na itong araw na ito pitumpu yung narito, but this less than one-half of the volunteers so far. Kaya yung mga volunteers natin or at least 150 so far at hindi makaksama dito yung U.P. dahil magkakaroon ako ng ibang meeting sa U.P. kaya ako'y nasisiyahan sa inyong pag-response at nasisiyahan din ako sa nakita ko kanina sa peryodiko na yung business sector ay talagang nasa likod nitong ating drive against criminality; at kayo hindi lamang sa pagpapahayag, kayo ay magbibigay din ng inyong dunong at oras. Kaya maraming salamat at alam ko sa pamamagitan ninyo ay makakatayo tayo ng matatag na republika ng Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Remarks during a Meeting with Volunteer Lawyers. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224817/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8378&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during a visit to the Quezon Power Plant

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a visit to the Quezon Power Plant

[Delivered in Brgy. Cagsiay 1, Mauban, Quezon, August 19, 2002]

I came here to see for myself the security preparations done by the military and police to protect our power plant here, and the outlying distribution lines. After being briefed by both the management of the plant and the military and the police, I am satisfied with these preparations. And I commend the management, our Armed Forces and law enforcers and the community for their sustained vigilance. We are doing this in view of fresh threats from the new people's army to attack our power facilities. This is a barefaced terrorist threat where the communists are once more showing their true colors. Let me repeat, there are communists and communists. The communists who do not have armed element — we recognize them, we debate with them, but we don't run after them. The communists with the armed component are the ones that are considered the enemies of the state because of their terroristic acts.

The CPP-NPA has engaged in terrorist acts against civilian targets such as extortion and arson, the destruction of public utilities and infrastructure, communication and power lines, and public transport facilities, and assassination of both political leaders and ordinary individuals. These are all part of the overall aim to overthrow the duly constituted government and the democratic system and establish a dictatorship in our country.

I am informed by General Tiangco, the Southern Luzon Commander, that pursuant to the heightened security patrols in this area, our troops encountered a band of NPAs in Pagbilao two days ago. These NPA were attempting to attack the Pagbilao power plant. And our troops were victorious. And I am glad to know therefore that our security plans are not static and are aimed to actively seek out terrorists across a wider swathe of operations.

Through this pro-active stance, we shall continue to prevent further NPA depredations. Those who sought to attack the Pagbilao power plant last Saturday were repelled and the military now is in hot pursuit against them. They fled to the Quezon reservation, the forest park in the mountains of Pagbilao. There was one fatality on their side, and also we recovered firearms. The attack on the Pagbilao plant which was repelled prompted me to look at the security preparations in other plants like the plants here in Mauban.

What struck me about last Saturday's encounter in Pagbilao is that it resulted from information provided by civilians in the area. We have a growing number of voluntary informers who were telling us where the enemies lie.

I know the people here harbor terrorism as much as we do. The people hate the disruption of the transport, communications and power facilities that disrupt the conduct of business and livelihood.

Here in Mauban, we also have an NPA threat. Cagsiay 1 which is where this barangay is, considered an area that is infiltrated by the NPA. Six kilometers away is Cagsiay 2, which is an area considered as influenced by the NPA, which means the NPA has a functioning organization.

That is why after the Pagbilao attack, two attempted attacks, Secretary Reyes and I decided to come here to make sure that this is secure. And I'm glad from our briefing that this is secure.

I am here to tell everybody that your government, the armed forces and the police are prepared to protect public safety and security at all times.

I am also here to encourage our communities to get together with the uniformed services, to work together in effective and responsive security plans that will preclude acts of terrorism.

To all our local officials and community leaders, thank you for your support and assistance.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Remarks during a Visit to the Quezon Power Plant. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412224546/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8365&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the meeting with Fil-Am veterans, SAKADAS and Fil-Am students

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the meeting with Fil-Am veterans, SAKADAS and Fil-Am students**

[Delivered at the Filipino Community Center Waipahu, Hawaii, U.S.A., October 24, 2002]

Thank you very much.

Gusto kong batiin yung mga nagtayo at nagpapatakbo nitong napakagandang Philippine Community Center dito. Inimbata nila ako dahil ang aking longtime crime drive pero sabi ko sa unang panahon... Pagkakataon ay pupunta ako, well, ngayon narito naman ako dito ngayon, congratulations.

Gusto kong batiin kayong lahat. Unang-una, batiin ko 'yung mga Sakada, 'yung mga originals na Filipino ang marami sa inyo. Kasaysayan na ng hawaii at alam natin 'yung hirap na dinanas nung unang mga pumunta ritong Pilipino nagtrabaho doon sa mga sugar fields. 'Yung tatay nga ni Ben Cayetano ay isang pumunta rito para magtrabaho doon sa sugarcane fields. Noon hirap na hirap sila. Pero tingnan ninyo, isa sa kanilang anak ay naging gobernador ng State of Hawaii.

At sa ating mga beterano naman ay gusto ko lamang na i-report nga sa inyo na talagang kinukulit ko at kinulit ko 'yung mga officials, hindi lamang si President Bush pati na rin 'yung mga Department of Veterans Affairs at ang status ng... At pagkatapos nga noon ay nagkaroon ng House bill para mag-allocate ng 65 million dollars para sa Veterans health benefits dito sa Amerika para sa mga Pilipino lamang. Ito ay pumasa na sa House of Representatives. Ang sponsor nito sa senado ay ang Hawaiian State... Senator from Hawaii na si Senator Inouye. Kaya magdasal tayo na magtagumpay si sSenator Inouye pag ito ay pinapagtanggol na niya doon sa Senado.

In the meantime, si President Bush ay nagbibigay ng 500,000 dollars a year para sa health benefits ng mga beteranong nasa Pilipinas naman. At yung unang release ay lalabas before the end of this month of October.

Sa mga kabataan naman, kahit na kayo ay narito na sa inyong bagong tahanan, sa mga darating na panahon siguro kagaya nang unang mga sakadang dumating, kayo rin ay magiging bahagi pa rin ng ating bansa dahil ako ay nasisiyahan na just before I came here to Hawaii 'yung Senate at saka 'yung House of Representatives para meron akong madalang baon sa inyo ay pinasa on third reading 'yung Overseas Voters Bill. Sa madaling panahon mapipirmahan ko na kaagad para makaboto 'yung ating mga bata hindi lamang dito sa Hawaii kungdi pati na rin doon sa Pilipinas.

Kaya muli in the past, the present and the future of Philippine-Hawaii relations.

Aloha and mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2002). PGMA's Remarks during the Meeting with Fil-Am Veterans, SAKADAS and Fil-Am Students. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409210757/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8409&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the State Dinner hosted by H. E. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the State Dinner hosted by H. E. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush**

[Delivered at the White House Washington D. C., U.S.A., May 19, 2003]

Thank you, President Bush and Mrs. Bush.

Thank you in behalf of the 80 million Filipinos for honoring our country with this State Visit.

The bonds between our two countries run deep. We've stood side-by-side at every crucial point in modern history — World War the second, the cold war, Korea, Vietnam, and now, the war against terrorism.

I visit you at a time of great change — change in the way economies work; change in the way wars are fought; change in the way countries organize or disintegrate. But in two things, there must be no change — in the way governments treat people, and in the manner by which friends stand by each other. In the first case, with care and justice; and in the second case, with courage and steadfastness. In a time of crisis, friends do not ask, why; they ask, how.

The Philippines and America are friends. To guide our friendship in the 21st century, our meeting today was essential, so that we can develop a strategic framework for this century based on mutual respect and mutual help. Our talks focused on stopping terrorism, fighting poverty, and undertaking economic reform on both sides. Meaning, offering more markets to each other, and less resistance to mutual trade and investment.

My fundamental concern in the Philippines is the need to lick mass poverty. Central to this concern is the task of building a strong republic. A republic able to keep crime and terrorism totally at bay; a republic free from vested and corrupt interests that subvert free markets; a strong republic empowered to execute good policy and provide essential services to all our people.

In this task, we value America as a partner. A partner in our common desire to create the kind of world in which we want both our countries to exist — a world of progress and ever-widening prosperity; a world of justice, freedom and peace. These are within the grasp of modern economies and modern technology, and men and women of firm resolve and goodwill.

And how do we define a man or a woman of firm resolve and goodwill? It was once thought difficult to take a firm stand against tyranny, and nearly impossible to cope with terrorism. Now, the world knows better especially after march 20th. Indeed, it's not easy but clearly it can be done, with fearless leadership and iron resolve, combined with a bold strategic vision and an unfailing sense of justice. I'm describing President Bush.

Only a strong and steadfast partnership, such as that between our two countries, can respond to the manifold threats and challenges that the world working towards freedom and prosperity must face. I hope ever more countries join this partnership. Two are better than one. Three are harder to break. Four and more, nothing can prevail against them.

On that note of hope for an ever-widening partnership of the good to complete the greater task of the coalition of the willing. I invite you all to join me in a toast for the continued success and good health of President and Mrs. Bush, and the relations between our two countries.

Mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the State Dinner Hosted by H. E. Pres. George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201201/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6292&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Reception for members of the Philippine Friendship Caucus

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Reception for members of the Philippine Friendship Caucus

[Delivered at the Capitol Bldg., Washington, D.C., U.S.A., May 20, 2003]

Thank you very much, Congressman Filner for your wonderful introduction and thank you for confirming what President Bush said yesterday that it has been one administration measure of his to have the Veterans Bill passed this year. So, congratulations to all the veterans, and thank you to the congressmen who...

I'd like, of course, to thank you all for being here today. And I am very very grateful that there exist a Philippine Caucus. This gives institutional expression to the abiding friendship between the Philippines and the United States, and it could impart the needed continuity to the bipartisan support that the Philippines should enjoy in Capitol Hill. I say, should enjoy, because as we've been shown when the chips are down they are there for you.

The Philippine Caucus shores up the strengthened bilateral alliance between our two countries what has been generated by this state visit and a great honor conferred thereby by the President of the United States. The Philippines is grateful to the congressmen who put together this Caucus. And let me say that my compatriots back home appreciate your efforts in behalf of the Philippines.

The growing Philippine-American communities — some of you are here — feels increasingly empowered by working with you. In particular, I thank you for supporting increased levels of security and economic assistance for the Philippines aiding our counter-terrorism campaign, supporting our Mindanao peace process and our anti-terrorism campaign with the recent emergency war time supplemental budget. Ambassador Del Rosario is it right that...? Is it correct that the 30-million dollar supplemental budget was the only item that named the Philippines...? The only add on named that specified the Philippines. And thank you very much for that.

I also thank you for protecting access of Philippine tuna to the American market. And now for your advocacy on the Philippine veterans issues that touches deeply your fellow Americans of Filipino descent. These are very important matters for millions of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans. Your understanding and your help are of great importance and value to them. May I ask you: help them, they've always been ready to help you.

The Philippines has always been there for the United States. Most recently, it has been an unhesitating ally of the U.S. in the war against terrorism. Much of the world hesitated, the Philippines stepped forward to stand by the United States and its decision to confront the strongest inspiration and encouragement of international terrorism represented by the tyrant in Iraq.

Those who have been hit and suffered greatly from its attacks cannot wait for terrorism to grow stronger and vicious before taking decisive action together with those who are not afraid to come to the same conclusion.

My White House meeting with president bush signals a new era in Philippine-U.S. relations based on a modern framework of strategic diplomatic and economic engagement. The relationship between the Philippines and the U.S. has come of age, the evidence is you — the members of Congress who make up this newly established Philippine friendship caucus. For the first time, the special relationship between our two countries has been given the institutional expression and continuing support it deserves because of you, congressmen of the Philippine caucus.

The war against terrorism is of central importance to the Philippines and abroad. At home, a just and lasting peace will free up government resources for the greater war on poverty.

Abroad, I must be concerned about the security of 8 million Filipinos who live and work in over a 140 countries around the world including over 1.5 million in the Middle East.

In the aftermath of the victory in Iraq, we must make sure that we win the peace as decisively as the war that was waged. We must work together... We must work together in a wider global coalition on two important fronts: one, is finishing the fight against terrorism; and two, is stamping out mass poverty because many of the poor are easily recruited by terrorists.

We must show that peace, progress and advocacy are the surest way to achieve those ends that terrorism so dishonestly promises.

The Philippines is working to extend perhaps its greatest asset, a highly skilled global workforce, to the reconstruction of Iraq. Building is what we do best. Behind the headlines about terrorist attacks is the reality of a country still going forward out of the Asian crisis and back to the vast potential for growth and prosperity of a nation committed to freedom and free markets, the same principles that guide United States democracy.

The Philippine caucus could not come at a better time to get that message across in the United States and throughout the world. I invite all members of the caucus to feel at home with the Philippine Embassy in Washington. I've with me as you know Ambassador Albert Del Rosario who's available to you and to your constituents who have an interest in the Philippines. For example, the embassy will process requests for Philippine campaigns for World War II. We do not want to forget anymore than you do that Americans and Filipinos fought the common foe in World War II.

In closing, let me invite each and everyone of you to visit the Philippines. Some of you had been there and wanted to visit the Philippines again. Some of you have not. Eye witness and personal experience give the best proof of what I've been saying. You have established a caucus to foster friendship with a country that after all is America's best friend. Come to our country and you will feel that you have come home. Thank you.

Before I give up the microphone, let me introduce the members of my delegation. From the Senate, Senate President Franklin Drilon; for one of your counterpart in the House of Representatives, Speaker Joe De Venecia; and by here, the beautiful lady is a Congresswoman from Bulacan; next to her... Ah, this is Congresswoman Silverio; next to her is the Congressman from Bataan who you already knew and your constituents caught, Congressman Roman; Congressman Abaya; Congressman of Bacolod City, Congressman Puentevella; our Secretary of Foreign Affairs Blas Ople.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the Reception for Members of the Philippine Friendship Caucus. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201041/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6278&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo at the State Arrival Ceremony

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the State Arrival Ceremony

[Delivered at the South Lawn, White House, Washington D.C., May 20, 2003]

President Bush, Mrs. Bush, Vice President Cheney, Mrs. Cheney, Secretary Powell, Mrs. Powell, Secretary Rumsfeld, General Myers, officials of the U.S. government, excellencies of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you, President Bush, for inviting me to this state visit. It only confirms that relations between our two countries are deeper and warmer today than they have been in a very long time.

Today our two countries have a revitalized and maturing alliance, rooted in shared history, shared values, a common interest in global peace and prosperity, and a real commitment to combating terrorism and advancing freedom.

Our alliance abides strong as ever, even as the world today requires a new perspective on political and economic security in Asia Pacific. This new perspective must recognize that while Asia must take greater responsibility for its own political and economic security, it must also recognize that strong relations with the U.S. will contribute greatly to regional peace and prosperity, stability and security, especially from terrorism.

Thus we, your friends, must find a way to support continued and active engagement with the U.S. at a time when there are some forces in my region working against such a relationship. Although wisdom counsels commitment, in the face of terror the temptation to disengage is strong. We must fight that temptation, because the answer to fear is confrontation. Indeed, we must close ranks and stand firm against terrorist threats, however grave, however armed, and from whatever quarter.

To spare themselves, some countries might prefer an accommodation with terrorism. The Philippines has chosen to fight terrorism. We compensate for such modest means as we command with an unshakable resolve to defeat terrorism once and for all, and with faith in the justice of our cause and our friendship with the United States.

Our war on terrorism has made significant gains, but the threat is far from over. The war is not yet won. But it will be won, there can be no doubt. How long and at what cost are the only things in doubt. As the terrorist attack in Riyadh, which took both Filipino and American lives, shows, for the Philippines, the new perspective on economic and political security in Asia Pacific must take into account the over seven million of our men and women who, in seeking a better life abroad, contribute greatly to the development of economies around the world, not least that of the United States.

I am proud of these Filipino Americans. I am proud of the contributions that Filipinos and Filipino Americans make to the American economy and society. In a quiet, but equally substantive way, we can compare it to the contribution made by Philippine World War II veterans to the defense of our common freedom and security.

I also take pride in the robust economic and trade ties that bind the Philippines and the United States. The Philippines is pursuing long-needed economic reforms. The current and continuing reforms will strengthen the Philippine republic. They will make easier Philippine and American economic cooperation, and they will promote the cost of fighting world poverty.

I appreciate the help of President Bush in our work to alleviate poverty and other socio-economic ills from which terrorism draws its strength. Like the fear on which it feeds, terrorism can be contagious, and it will not be contained unless we agree on a comprehensive approach for defeating it in Southeast Asia.

And so, in looking forward to discussing that comprehensive approach, I look forward to my talks with President Bush and his officials in this administration. And I hope President Bush reciprocates this visit by accepting a state visit to the Philippines towards the end of this year. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). Remarks by President Gloria Macapagal – Arroyo at the state arrival ceremony. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412201052/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6280&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) CEO Session

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) CEO Session

[Delivered at the Metropolitan Suite, Waldorf Astoria, New York City, U.S.A., May 21, 2003]

Thank you very much, Ambassador Romulo, my senior presidential adviser on international competitiveness.

Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas; Ernie Bower, President of the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council; Alfred Madrid, President of the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce; Ramon Del Rosario, RP-U.S. Business Council; Julie Kelly Chan, Asia society; members of the business community; ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome to this BPO initiative. I'm not going to make a long speech because others will. Not very long I hope.

But I just want to stress that the Philippines is well-positioned for the business that you are in. We have a comparative advantage in customer contact centers, business process outsourcing, software development, animation, and data transcription and conversion.

Today, in fact, the Philippines is one of the leading outsourcing destinations for call center services. We have a specific curriculum in our education system for customer relations management. We have call center academies available for graduates who want to improve their English-speaking or rather American-speaking skills. We have a growing reputation for Filipino e-service providers for competency and reliability. The Philippines can therefore provide a cost-effective alternative because of the following advantages:

First, the quality of our human resources;

Second, we are very open. We are very open economy and our culture is very well adapted to western business practices;

And third, we have an advanced and reliable telecommunications infrastructure — Manny Pangilinan can attest to that — which can support end to end high speed transfer between the Philippines and the U.S. over fiber optic cables;

And fourth, of course, and I'm here to say that, this business has strong government support.

Therefore, I hope that at the end of the day, you will have concluded that you must keep the Philippines at the top of your mind when you make your decision to engage in business process outsourcing.

Thank you. And in advance, welcome to the Philippines.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) CEO Session. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200959/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6275&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during an informal interaction with the town people

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During an informal interaction with the town people**

[Delivered at the Cagayan de Oro City Public Plaza, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, June 16, 2003]

Mayor Emano salamat sa inyong mainit na pagdawat sa akon. Ug sa akong biyahe nakuha na niya ang... Ng lahi na nabilin nga pondo, 9 million dollars, aron masugod na ang airport sa Laguindingan. Unya, sa akon miting didto sa restaurant kauban ang mga opisyaes sa Region X pirmahon ko ang Executive Order aron makasugod ang Roll-on/Roll-off ferry boat gikan sa Cagayan de Oro hangtod sa Batangas. Aron ang inyohang mga produkto gikan diri ug gikan sa tibuok Mindanao, gikan sa Bukidnon, gikan sa Davao mosakay sa usa ka truck, ang truck ang mosakay sa ferry boat. Dili na kinahanglan ang loading ug unloading nga mahal kaayo ang gastos makadiretso na sa Luzon kon asa nia ang 60 percent sa merkado sa atong nasud. Busa mamenos ang gastos sa transportasyon sa inyo nga produkto ug ang mga mang-uuma diri unta mahimo motaas ang ilahang income.

Distance learning alang sa mga nalisod sa pag-aral tungod kay layo ang eskwela o walay teacher o nalampas na sa edad sa pag-graduate ang aton education by television, ang distance learning inyo ma- enroll karon.

Gamay lang nga mga ehemplo ang ‘Mindanao Natin’ o ang Mindanao National Initiative aron ang kalinaw ug kauswagan gyud madayon diri sa Mindanao.

Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA’s Remarks during an Informal Interaction with the Town People. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412200625/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6465&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during her visit to Kabuntalan, Maguindanao

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During her visit to Kabuntalan, Maguindanao

[Delivered at the Makeshift hut, Marshland area, Kabuntalan, Maguindanao, August 14, 2003]

I came to Kabuntalan to signify that we must now refocus our energies on the fight against terrorism. I also came to Mindanao to thank our soldiers here for your loyalty to the flag and the constitution.

One enters the military profession knowing full well the dangers and sacrifices entailed, and I was surprised when a group of traitors withdrew their allegiance to the constitution at a time when their comrades in arms were in the thick of the fight against terrorism.

You, the soldiers here, I thank you, you were not with the Magdalo group and I know you will never be. Here, we can see our soldiers doing your job quietly and without flinching, and you were not noisily crying out your problems because you know we are trying our best to reform the armed forces and to bring the benefits of the command down to the combat soldier in the field.

I thank you for putting a dragnet in place for the recapture of Al-Ghozi and I hope that we have the full cooperation of the local government units and the communities — governor, vice governor, mayor, barangay captain. We also look forward to the cooperation of the MILF under its commitments to the peace process. I want you to continue the hunt for Al-Ghozi without let up as this is vital to the fight against transnational terrorism.

And to the gentlemen whom we awarded today for your achievement in capturing Edris, congratulations! And may you continue to have more successes until we get Al-Ghozi and until we win over terrorism in Mindanao and in the Philippines.

Congratulations! And thank you!

Oh, mayor, I have news for you, also vice governor and the barangay captain and the regional governor, a week ahead, but if I had come next week — I called it a week ahead because I wanted to check on the operations and, you know, and encourage you on — but if I had come next week, I would have come to inaugurate the Tabiran bridge in Kabuntalan, which will open next week and which will therefore connect Kabuntalan to Cotabato City. That is under the President's bridge program. And when this is completed next week, then Kabuntalan's isolation will be over. And I hope that peace and order will be the one to reign here rather than the kidnappers because Kabuntalan, sad to say, is known as the "kidnappers' haven." So many kidnapped victims were recovered here in Kabuntalan. And with the soldiers in the process of cleaning up the place, in the process of running after Al-Ghozi, and hopefully, with the support of the community and with that bridge, that will therefore make this easier to access rather than be an enclave where you can keep people you want to keep from the law. I hope that Kabuntalan will soon, after next week, become a more peaceful place.

Good luck! Ha, mayor.

Okay, thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during Her Visit to Kabuntalan, Maguindanao. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194711/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6513&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during a media briefing on gasoline stations offering special pricing incentives to the public transport sector

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a media briefing on gasoline stations offering special pricing incentives to the public transport sector**

[Delivered at the UNIOIL Baclaran Retail Station, Airport Road cor. Roxas Blvd., Parañaque City, September 8, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Vince Perez.

Undersecretary Art Valdez ng DOTC; Congressman Ed Zialcita ng Paranaque; nandito rin si Vice Mayor ng Paranaque, si Vice Mayor Jun Bernabe at ang mga namumuno ng mga transport group: ang pangulo ng FEDJODAP, si Zeny Maranan; ang pangulo ng IMBOA si Claire Dela Fuente; ang pangulo ng ALTODAP, si Boy Vargas; ang pangulo ng MJODA, si Lando Marquez; iba't-ibang mga kasapi ng transport group ng public utility; siyempre 'yung ating host company itong araw na ito, ang pangulo ng Unioil, President David Co; at 'yung pinaka-host natin dito sa partikular na gasolinahan na ito, Union Refill Station dealer Dennis Co; other gasoline company; ladies and gentlemen:

Gaya ng sabi ni Vince Perez, as of today, there are 43 gasoline stations, just like this one, offering special pricing incentives to the public transport sector. These are located, as Vince showed, along the strategic thoroughfares in Metro Manila. Kaya napakaimportante itong gasolinahan na ito. Kasama ng mahigit apatnapu pang ibang gasolinahan, sila ay nagbibigay ng espesyal na diskwento sa mga bus at jeepney upang hindi tumaas ang presyo ng pasahe para sa mahihirap. Salamat, mga gasolinahan, salamat mga bus at jeepney operators.

Ang programang ito ay tugon sa kasalukuyang pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at ng dolyar. Maliban dito ay talagang marami tayong sinisikap na gawin para maiwasan ang taas ng presyo ng pasahe. This special price incentive comes in the form of either outright price discount or discount coupon systems. Dito, 40 centavos ang diskwento. Dito sa ibat-ibang 40 plus gasoline stations iba-iba ang diskwento — from 20 to 50 centavos for public utility jeepneys. Ang mga hakbanging ito ay makakatulong sa pangangailangan ng drivers at maiwasan ang pagtaas ng pasahe at sa pangmalawakang epekto sa ating ekonomiya.

Gusto kong batiin 'yung ating mga new players dahil sa sila ay nanguna dito sa sistemang ito — Unioil, thank you; Seaoil, thank you; City Oil, thank you; USA 88, thank you. And of course, we also thank the big three established players for doing the same — thank you, Petron; thank you, Caltex; thank you, Shell. Salamat din sa Flying V dahil meron silang special assistance program para sa Piston at PCDO-ACTO members. Salamat din sa Total Pina Elf dahil nagbibigay sila ng diskwento sa bus operators sa ilang lugar sa Edsa pati na rin sa mga probinsya. Inaasahan ko na itong ating mga oil players ay papalawakin ang kanilang sakop sa programang ito para kasama 'yung public buses at saka mga tricycle na sila ang ginagamit ng ating karaniwang Pilipino.

Nakita na ninyo 'yung iba't-ibang lugar kung saan meron itong mga diskwento lalo na para sa jeep. Itong mga lokasyong ito ay makukuha ng diesel sa mas mababang halaga para sa mga kasapi ng samahang FEJODAP, PERCODA, PISTON, PCDO-ACTO, PASANG MASDA at iba pang PUJ.

The metro bus operators submitted to me several proposals — this is one of them. Another one is a proposal that the price of gasoline could be adjusted to subsidize the price of diesel since the latter is the poor man's fuel and any support to keep its price down will have an impact on the cost of living. I instructed Vince Perez to make a study of this proposal as we believe that all feasible means must be explored to alleviate the effect of oil price increases on the day-to-day lives of the most marginal sectors. The department of energy will come up with the government's position in due time based on social balance and fairness to all concerned.

Ito ang mga bagay na ating dapat asikasuhin, hindi ang pamumulitika.

Premature politics punishes people. Maagang pamumulitika nakakasama sa masa. Premature politics causes divisiveness, which feed perceptions of instability. Premature politics repels investments, attracts criminals, and distracts government from public service. The main victims are ordinary Filipinos. Ordinary Filipinos whose jobs are placed at risk. Ordinary Filipinos whose incomes are eroded. Ordinary Filipinos whose welfare gets to be neglected. I want to take care of ordinary Filipinos. I will not join in the mudslinging that others want to start this early. I have too much to do for our national security and economy which are the important factors serving our people's interests.

Sa inyong mga tumutulong sa akin asikasuhin itong importanteng trabaho, mabuhay kayong lahat!

Mabuhay ang nagmamalasakit sa mahihirap! Mabuhay ang mga nagpapatakbo ng bus at jeepney companies na umiiwas itaas ang pasahe! Mabuhay ang mga gasolinahang nagbibigay ng diskwento upang tumulong sa mga jeepney at sa ating mga bus!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during a Media Briefing on Gasoline Stations Offering Special Pricing Incentives to the Public Transport Sector. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194445/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7125&Itemid=38

Prayer of President Arroyo during the prayer meeting/rally for peace, unity and democracy

**Prayer
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the prayer meeting/rally for peace, unity and democracy**

[Delivered at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila, September 12, 2003]

Mahal naming Panginoon, kami ay nagtitipon-tipon ngayon bilang patunay ng matibay na pananalig ng Pilipino sa Poong Maykapal. At sa matinding hangarin ng sambayanan na maghari ang kapayapaan, pagkakaisa at demokrasya sa aming bansa.

Nakakabahala na Panginoon ang mga kaganapan nitong mga nakaraang buwan na nagbabanta ng kaguluhan sa aming pamumuhay, pagkawasak ng aming demokratikong lipunan at paghina ng aming pambansang ekonomiya.

Panginoon, alam ninyo, the roots of the crisis are ambition, hatred and greed. Panginoon, sa tulong ninyo, we shall overcome these by unity, peace and democracy.

Lord, I have submerged my leadership in the profound yearnings of your people, for food on the table, a roof over their heads, and peace in their homes. Panginoon, palinawan ninyo ang mga ambisyoso. The few that are impatient for power must wait for the constitutional opportunities to vie for it.

Panginoon, sa proteksyon ninyo, we shall not give them an inch of the people's sovereignty that they intend to usurp by force. Panginoon, sa utos ninyo, I shall continue to spend my day in the uplift of the poor and underprivileged, and in caring for the dispossessed. Panginoon, sa grasya ninyo, I have no time for pleasing despots.

Panginoon, naniniwala kami na ang panalangin ay mabisang hakbang tungo sa kapayapaan at pagkakaisa ng sambayanan. Sa pamamagitan ng aming taimtim na panalangin, sana ay palakasin mo ang aming loob upang maharap namin ang maraming hamon sa aming pambansang katatagan.

Hinihiling ng pansakalukuyang panahon na kaming mga Pilipino ay magpamalas ng pagka-makabayan at manindigan para sa kapayapaan, pagkakaisa at demokrasya. Tulungan ninyo kaming maipakita na kami ay may kakayahang lampasan ang mga pagsubok na aming kinahaharap at magtulong-tulong para sa pambansang kapakanan. Bigyan ninyo kami ng pagkakataong magkaisa para mapanatili ang demokrasya sa aming bansa at para sa kinabukasan ng aming mga anak at mga susunod pang henerasyon.

Ang aming panalangin ay patunay na nangingibabaw pa rin ang pambansang interes sa nakararami sa amin. Higit sa lahat, patnubayan ninyo ang hanay ng kabataan na kapiling namin ngayon. Mahalaga na namumulat sila sa ganitong uri ng pagkilos upang maging matatag sa kanilang pagkatao ang matuwid na paglilingkod sa Diyos at bayan.

Panginoon, bilang pangulo, handa akong gawin ang lahat upang isulong ang katatagan at kaunlaran ng aming republika. Paminsan-minsan ay nakadarama rin ako ng pagod at pag-aalinlangan, pero ang iyong pagpapala, Panginoon, ang gumagabay sa akin upang maging matibay sa gitna ng unos at manatiling nakatutok sa makabubuti para sa aming bayan. Sa lahat ng aking pagkilos at mahalagang desisyon, bagama't ginagawa ko lagi ang abot ng aking makakaya, sumasangguni ako sa inyo, Panginoon, sa pamamagitan ng panalangin.

Mga kababayan, lahat ng ating gawin ay para sa kaluwalhatian sana ng ating Panginoon. Basbasan tayo ng ating Panginoon at tayo ay parating sumangga sa kanya.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Prayer during the Prayer Meeting/Rally for Peace, Unity and Democracy. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194419/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7123&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the flag raising ceremony at the PNP National Headquarters

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the flag raising ceremony at the PNP National Headquarters

[Delivered at the PNP Headquarters, Camp Crame, Quezon City, September 15, 2003]

Ladies and gentlemen:

Una sa lahat, salamat sa suportang ipinahayag n'yo sa pamamagitan ng manifestong binasa ni General Ebdane. Ang masasabi ko, ang pulis ng Pilipinas hindi lamang sa manifesto pinapakita ang katapatan sa ating watawat, sa ating Republika, at sa inyong Commander-in-Chief, napakita na ninyo ito sa inyong gawain, kaya maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Secondly, I congratulate you on this Memorandum of Agreement on Anti-Highway Robbery on Commodities. This just goes to show that the PNP is sensitive and responsive to the feedback coming from its citizens. Marami tayong hamon sa kapayapaan. Sabi nga noong ating basal, ang PNP ay dedikado sa labanan ang lahat ng klaseng kriminalidad. At talagang napakarami pa nating banta sa ating kapayapaan at katiwasayan na dapat ayusin. Sabi noong basal, we must maintain our strong republic. Ang sabi ko naman, wala pa nga tayo sa maintenance stage. We still have to build a strong republic. And we can only say that we have achieved a strong republic that can be maintained if the people feel that they are safe in their homes and in the streets.

Kaya sa kabila ng... Sa ibabaw ng highway robbery o hijacking, marami pa tayong ibang klaseng kailangan asikasuhin — mga krimen sa ordinaryong lansangan, mga krimen sa highway, mga krimen na napaka-high profile sa ating mga pahayagan.

Yung mga pag-hold up sa mga bangko. We must now train our sights on the linkages between the underworld and those holding political power. This is a bane to many nations, especially in the developing world, and a threat to democratic societies. The people must be aware of this threat and our people must not glorify rogue leaders masquerading as paragons of reform or good performance.

Sa taong bayan, gusto kong sabihin sa inyo, the PNP is now doing its best to pin down the masterminds of recent crimes to see if there are any politico underworld linkages at work. Sabihin ko naman sa PNP, we have to gather the evidence for this and avoid witch hunting.

Tungkol naman doon sa pagnanakaw doon sa Quezon City KTV. It's already bad for the police image that a high profile night spot is robbed. And it is worse that this place is being tagged as a hangout of police officials. The PNP must not only get to the bottom of this crime but discipline its ranks with regard to night life. Police officers frequenting night spots smack of protection and corruption. Police officers must serve as models not only for others in the organization but also the community they serve.

Ang pulis din ay inaasahan sa ating laban kontra sa terorismo lalong-lalo na't yung lider ng pinakamakapangyarihang bansa sa buong mundo na lider din sa laban sa terorismo ay malapit nang magbisita sa ating bansa.

Maximum security measures are set for President Bush's visit. Ito ay gusto kong ipahayag sa buong sambayanan. This is being handled jointly by Philippine and U.S. authorities. We're taking pro-active steps and beefing up intelligence gathering and surveillance. We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that his stay in our country will be safe, fruitful and rewarding.

Sa ating mga pulis, importanteng-importante ang organisasyon ng pulis para sa isang malakas na republika. Marami tayong kailangang gawin pero marami ding dapat ibati tungkol sa inyo. Halimbawa nga gaya nang sabi ko, yung inyong buong katapatan sa mga banta sa ating Republika at yung inyong tagumpay din sa ating laban kontra sa droga. Thirty million pesos pa lamang ang nagagastos ng PNP para sa laban kontra sa droga pero eight billion pesos na ang nahuli n'yong droga at ilang libo na ang nahuli n'yong mga pushers kasama yung mga malalaking isda ng Triad na noong araw ay hindi mahuli-huli kaya naman ngayon doble na ang presyo ng shabu sa palengke. Kaya congratulations sa ating mga pulis na naglalaban sa droga.

Kung ano ang kagalingan ninyo sa laban kontra sa droga, iyon din ang inaasahan natin sa laban kontra sa hijacking, sa laban kontra sa bank robbery at iba pang robbery. At kung nahuhuli n'yo iyung big fish na international syndicates sa shabu ay inaasahan kong mahuhuli din ninyo iyung mga big fish dito sa mga pagnanakaw o paghold up ng mga bangko kahit na sila ay mga makapangyarihang pulitiko.

Congratulations PNP! Continue the good work and improve on it some more.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the Flag Raising Ceremony at the PNP National Headquarters. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194352/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7115&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of Bayaning Tulong sa Bayaning Kawal Program

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of Bayaning Tulong sa Bayaning Kawal Program**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, September 21, 2003]

Thank you very much, Secretary Romulo.

And of course, Atty. Antonio Meer, thank you for spearheading Bayaning Tulong sa Bayaning Kawal.

General Narciso Abaya, General Camiling, the other representatives of the major service commanders, members of the Cabinet— we have here Roy Golez, Mai Jimenez, Ed Ermita, Ging Deles, Dinky Soliman.

The other representatives of the various components of this coalition put together by Attorney Meer, may I just mention some of them — Mrs. Maria Elena Forbes, Atty. Jay Castro, Atty. Gina Heraldez, Atty. Boy Lazatin, Ishmael Benado, Karen Tañada. And earlier, Atty. Meer acknowledged Mayor Aro Mendoza. And I'd like to greet my father's dear friend, Joe Villegas.

Today is an important day in our country. Today we remember a day that must never happen again — the declaration of martial law in the Philippines.

The scars of the nightmare that followed for forty years after that date — September 21, 1972 — are still apparent in our national life. And I'm glad that, as enunciated by Atty. Meer, the silent majority is reawakening to the call of democracy, as it did in EDSA one and EDSA two.

Our people's relentless defense of democracy has not retreated an inch. And I thank you for that.

But the soldiers' loyalty and courage have been tested not only by these great events but soldiers everyday make the supreme sacrifice so that communities may thrive in peace and development.

Kailangan harapin natin paminsan-minsan itong mga epidemya ng tsismis at spekulasyon, ngunit ang katotohanan ay buo ang sandatahang lakas mula sa pinakamataas hanggang sa mga pinakailalim na kinatawan ng ating mga enlisted personnel na narito ngayon — mula sa mga batang opisyal hanggang sa mga retiradong heneral na kinakatawan ni General Ed Ermita at ni General Nes Isleta itong araw na ito.

Ang mga retiradong heneral, mga pangulo ng kanilang mga organisasyon, ang mga bata at nasa gitnang mga opisyal, maging sa mga mataas na opisyal ay nagbigay ng walang alinlangang suporta sa chain of command, nagpahayag ng suporta sa chain of command, at ako ay naniniwala sa kanila.

It is incumbent upon our people to give soldiers the faith, confidence, respect and support they need to perform their duty.

That's why I thank the coalition of the various foundations and civic organizations and historic clans who responded to the call of Atty. Meer. We have the Malvar families, the Rizal family, the Philippine Jaycees, the U.P. Alumni, the Sigma Rho, the ABS-CBN Foundation, the Ahon movement, the SM foundation among others. To you I say, yours is also an act of heroism in behalf of our republic.

Ang mga sundalo ang nag-aalaga sa seguridad ng ating bansa, nagpapanatili ng katahimikan sa kanayunan, at nagbabantay sa ating demokrasya.

Ganyan na lang kabigat ang kanilang responsibilidad kaya naman kailangang dugtungan natin ang kabayanihan nilang ibinibigay para sa ating bansa. As already presented by Admiral Mayuga long before the Oakwood caper, we had taken several steps to bring the AFP into the 21st century in terms of doctrine development, material and benefits, the men and women in uniform.

But just as important as these benefits is the moral support that can only spring from the sincerity of people like those in this hall today. And in behalf of the soldiers I thank you for that. Indeed, the pressure and stress that bear upon our soldiers does not only come from the nature of their job — as described by Ed Ermita, as described by Atty. Meer — sometimes this is aggravated by the feeling that their sacrifices are not appreciated.

It is in this light that I appreciate your noble gesture, which is even more meaningful because it is being extended from the descendants of the foremost soldiers and martyrs of our republic — Malvar, Bonifacio, Rizal.

Now that the Oakwood mutiny is behind us, it is time to refocus on pushing our country forward. We must now direct our people's energies away from too much poison politics and towards what else we must do to sustain peace and development, solidarity and progress.

Thank you once again for this project, and I appreciate that we are all joining together — government, citizens — to continue to show our soldiers that we respect them, and love them, and appreciate their work in defending our democratic way of life.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Speech during the Launching Ceremony of Bayaning Tulong sa Bayaning Kawal Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194309/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7108&Itemid=38

**Remarks of President Arroyo during the distribution of checks for the KALAH! Program in Luuk, Sulu
[Filipino]**

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pamamahagi ng mga tseke para sa KALAH! Program ng Luuk, Sulu**

[Ipinahayag sa Camp Andres Central Elem. School, Luuk, Sulu, ika 22 ng Setyembre, 2003]

Batang-bata ngunit respetadong Congressman, si Congressman Arbison at ang kanyang tatay na matagal ko hinahangaan, si Mayor Arbison. Kasama ko ngayon ang iba't-ibang mga Cabinet member — nandito si Secretary Dinky Soliman, kaya bahagi sa ating ipinabigay ngayon ay 'yung tulong para sa day care center; kasama rin natin si Secretary Ging Deles, siya ang Secretary ng National Anti-Poverty Commission at siya ang namamahala doon sa programang tinatawag nating KALAH! (Kabalikat Laban sa Kahirapan). At alam n'yo, kung tayo ay nilalabanan natin ang kalaban sa giyera kailangan nilalabanan din natin ang kahirapan at 'yan ang trabaho ni Ging Deles.

Narito rin ang Chief-of-Staff ng Armed Forces, si General Narciso Abaya at ang iba't-ibang mga heneral na kasama natin na sinisigurado ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa probinsya ng Sulu maging dito sa bayan ng Luuk. Uy! Dumating na pala. Ayun! Itong aking... Kung mayron kayong batang-batang congressman, meron din akong batang-batang Cabinet member, si Secretary Mike Defensor.

Alam ho n'yo, ako ay ini-schedule na bago ako pumunta sa United Nations dahil ang aking pakay doon ay makipag-usap kay Prime Minister Mahathir, makipag-usap sa mga Ambahador ng Islamic Conference ay talaga ho naka-schedule na pupunta ako dito sa sulu para sa ganun maka-report ako sakanila 'yung mga magandang nagagawa natin dito sa Sulu. Ngunit sinabi ko, pagpunta ko sa Sulu hindi pwedeng jolo lamang ang pupuntahan, kailangan pupuntahan ang Luuk. Matagal ko na kasing hinahangaan ang Luuk. Marami ang nagagawa ng Luuk sa kinabubuti hindi lamang ng bayan n'yo kung hindi ng probinsya at ng buong Pilipinas.

Naalala ko na noong... Isang una sa tagumpay ng aking laban kontra sa terorismo ay 'yung pagsagip kay Jeffrey Schilling. At saan naganap 'yung pagsagip kay Jeffrey Schilling? Wala iba kung hindi sa mababait na taong bayan ng bayan ng Luuk. Siya ay nasagip dahil kayo mga taga-Luuk ay nagbibigay ng suporta at kooperasyon sa pamahalaan. At naalala ko rin noong nabigyan ng Gantimpala Award si Mayor Arbison sa Armed Forces, naalala n'yo mayor? Dahil nga sa kanyang malaking tulong at tulong ng taong bayan ng Luuk sa ating mga sundalo sa paglaban sa mga terorista at pagsagip ng kanilang mga biktima. Pinaalala ni Mayor Arbison sa akin, hindi lamang tumutulong sa laban kontra sa terorista, tumutulong din sa ating pagpapamahala kasi binigyan n'yo ng 13-0 'yung aking mga kandidato noong 2001. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

At hindi lamang 'yon, 'yung pamamahala dito mismo sa Luuk. Napag-alaman ko kay Secretary Dinky Soliman na noong pinairal natin na dapat magkaroon ng gun ban, isa sa mga unang nakatupad ng gun ban sa sariling sikap ng bayan ay ang bayan ng Luuk. Kaya congratulations sa inyo.

Noong nagkaroon ng mga laban nga doon sa Abu Sayyaf at lahat. At sinabi natin na kung gusto natin masugpo ang kalaban, hindi lamang 'yung pwersa ng militar ang kailangan, kung hindi na rin 'yung pwersa ng laban sa kahirapan. Kaya doon sa mga lugar na 'yung mga 'yon kung saan dahil sa kahirapan nila ay sumasali sa Abu Sayyaf, sabi ang programa ng gobyerno ang magdadala ng kaunlaran para wala na silang dahilan na sumama sa mga Abu Sayyaf. Ngunit sabi ko, kung ano man ang programang ilalagay ninyo sa mga lugar na pinapaiwas natin sumali sila sa abu sayyaf, ilalagay dito sa Luuk dahil pinatunay na nila na nasusugpo nila 'yung mga Abu Sayyaf dito sa Luuk.

Kaya itong ating pagpunta rito, mga bagong mga tulong lamang 'yan — kuryente, tanim, day care at lahat... Mula pa noon, matagal na, dalawang taon na ang nakaraan, kung ano ang nilalagay sa ibang bayan, nilalagay sa bayan ng Luuk dahil sa pagmamahal ninyo sa ating pamahalaan at sa ating konstitusyon.

Kaya 'yon ang aking gustong ipahayag sa inyo. Ang Luuk hindi nakakataka na sa labas ng Jolo kayo na ang pinakamaunlad sa Sulu. Hindi nakakapagtaka dahil kayo ay tapat sa Konstitusyon, tumutulong sa pamahalaang nasyonal. Punong lungsod ninyo at ang kanyang anak ngayon na congressman ay magagaling magpatakbo ng bayan kaya swerte si Governor Parouk Hussin ng ARMM na meron siyang mga bayan kagaya ng luuk sa kanyang autonomiya, sa kanyang jurisdiction.

Kaya ako ay narito para personal na ipahayag sa inyo na ang dahilan kung bakit siguro nararamdaman n'yo ang ilang mga biyayang dumarating dito 'yon ay senyas ng pagpapasalamat at pagmamahal sa inyo ng inyong pambansang pamahalaan.

Maraming salamat muli sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the Distribution of Checks for the KALAHI Program in Luuk, Sulu. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412194259/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7106&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the opening ceremony of the exhibits at the WOW Northern Philippines Hilaga Village [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa seremonya ng pagbubukas ng mga tanghal sa WOW Northern Philippines Hilaga Village (dating
Paskuhan Village)**

[Ipinahayag sa Hilaga Village, Lungsod ng San Fernando, Pampanga, ika 11 ng Oktubre, 2003]

Maraming salamat, Dick. Wow Dick Gordon! Di ba!

Batiin ko muna caring Cabalen kung Capampangan lalo na que catang governor, Governor Lito Lapid. Que catang congresswoman, Congresswoman Zeny Ducot. Batiin ko rin si Congressman Bong Gordon at saka si City Mayor ng Olongapo, si Kate Gordon. At saka yung kinatawan din ng city of San Fernando, si Vice Mayor Tigel Lagman. Gusto ko ring batiin ang ating mga gobernador bukod kay Lito narito si Governor Ong ng Aurora at saka si Vice Governor Plamenco ng Bulacan. Caring que catang aliwang opisyal na Ging board members Ging mayors at saka yung mga Cabinet member kong kasama ngayon, nandyan si Mai Jimenez, si Dante Soriquez, si Didi Domingo, si Rene Diaz. Dagiti nga duma-duma nga mayors ken nga duma-duma opisyal na ti amianan, Cabalen kong Capampangan, mga taga-tagalog ng Balagtas ng Central Luzon, balagtasang tagalog. At siyempre mga tourism officials sa buong Pilipinas, WOW Department of Tourism!

Alam n'yo vice president pa ako ay talagang hinayag ko na yung magiging plataporma ko kung ako ay maging pangulo. At noon pa sinabi ko ang kinabukasan ng Pilipinas, the growth sectors of the future are the skills intensive service sectors gaya ng I.C.T. or I.T. at saka Tourism. Kaya noong ako ay naging pangulo para piliin sino ang hahawak ng I.C.T., sino ang hahawak ng tourism. Oo, gumawa yung search committee, nagbigay ng ilang-ilang mga pangalan, mostly mga technical people. Pero sabi ko para dito sa growth sectors of the future kailangan beyond just technical competence, kailangan super cheerleader. Kaya sa tourism kinuha ko si Dick Gordon kahit na hindi siya kasama sa Search Committee.

Kasi naalala ko nakikipag-usap ako sa ilang mga negosyante na gustong pumasok sa turismo o meron nang mga gawaing turismo. At pinag-uusapan namin sino ang magandang maging tourism secretary. Binibigay ko yung ilang mga nominee ng search committee. Sabi nila, alam mo, ang kukunin mo dapat yung tipong Dick Gordon. eh sabi ko, kung tipong Dick Gordon, eh si Dick Gordon na ang kukunin ko. Kaya yan, eto ang nangyari. Anong growth rate last year, 40 percent. Noong isang taon pagkatapos ng 9-11 humina ang turismo sa buong mundo pero ang pilipinas 40 percent ang growth rate ng tourism noong isang taon. Kaya talagang meron tayong masasabi sa ating turismo.

Ako ay nanggaling sa Bali. Dala ko ilang congressmen, dala ko ilang peryodista. Pinalibot ko lahat sila sa magagandang lugar ng bali habang ako ay nagkakaroon ng leaders meeting. Noong gabi nagkaroon kami ng coffee, late coffee. Tinanong ko, o ano, ano nagustuhan ninyo? Magandang-maganda ba? Sabi nila, maganda pero hindi naiwan ang likas na ganda ng Pilipinas. Kaya ang kailangan natin imprastraktura at saka promotion dahil likas nang ganda ay nariyan na.

Kaya noong ako'y naging pangulo sinabi ko, na yung secretary na hahawak ng turismo, secretary na hahawak ng I.C.T. magkakaroon ng ranggo ng super cabinet member para yung ibang mga official kagaya ng DPWH ay hindi gagawa ng kusang plano. Susunod lamang sila sa plano ng Department of Tourism at saka yung plano ng department of information technology. Kaya yan ang ating ginagawa. Dito sa North Luzon, itong paskuhan dati-dati ang tawag paskuhan village kasi ang Pampanga at San Fernando kilala sa christmas lanterns. Eto ay isang village para ipakita ang kagandahan at produkto ng Pampanga. Ngunit ginawa nating Hilaga Village para hindi lamang Pampanga aking probinsiya ang ina-advertise natin kung hindi lahat ng napakagandang probinsiya ng North Luzon, kaya Hilaga Village.

Kung ano yung ginawa ni Dick Gordon sa Intramuros, yan ang balak nating gawin dito sa Hilaga Village. Ang Intramuros, dalawa ang kanyang silbi: showcase ng Philippine history and culture and the tourism activities. And secondly, bilang sariling attraction. Eto rin, dalawa ang ating pakay: sariling attraction ang Hilaga Village at pangalawa, showcase ng history, culture and touristic beauties ng buong hilagang Pilipinas.

Yung turismo, yung turismo mismo sa intramuros kanina sinabi ni Dick, doon lamang sa Intramuros apat na libong trabaho ang nagawa. Dito sa Hilaga Village, sikapin din natin na ganun kadami ang magiging trabaho dito. Hindi pa bilang yung mga magagawang trabaho dahil naalok ang mga turista pumunta sa iba't-ibang mga probinsya natin. Kaya ito ang ating mga nasimulaan at bago natin nagawa itong tourism village na ito pinag-aralan muna, plinano, market study, engineering study. In other words, hindi biglaan ang mga achievements. Plano muna, learning curve. Itong bunga na ginawa natin ay bunga ng dalawang taong karanasan para pag-aralan ang turismo, lalo na sa kahirapang buhay ngayon ng mundo na ang ibang bansa nawawalaan ng turismo. Yan ang ating kailangan yung karanasan. At ang isa pang nakita ko, isang dahilan yung bali ay maraming turista, merong international airport diretso sa Bali. Kaya itong international airport natin sa Clark, yang Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, yan ang magiging susi rin ng turismo sa Central and Northern Luzon.

Actually, nandiyan na yung airport officially. Pero kailangan i-alok pumunta yung mga eroplano doon. Kaya pinapaganda ang radar, pinapaganda yung carousel para yung luggage hindi mainip yung mga turista. Lahat noon kailangan ng pag-aaral, karanasan. Hinahanda yon hindi bigla-biglaan.

At akala ko nga, sa birthday ng tatay ko — na wala naman ako dito dahil nandoon ako sa United Nations — dadating na yung unang international airline, yung Aseana. Pagbalik ko hindi pa dumating. Nalaman ko meron palang mga objection doon sa Civil Aeronautics Board para mag-landing sila sa Clark, may mga red tape pa. Tinawagan ko si Larry Mendoza, Larry, putulin mo na lahat yang red tape na yan para makapunta na yung international airlines dito sa ating Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

Yan po ang mga bunga ng karanasan. Kasi sa ating bansa na bata pa lang ang ating republika ay hindi porke't sinabi mong maganda ang patakaran mangyayari na sa baba. Yan ang isang kailangan natututunan, natututunan na makakuha ng... Masasabi mong kooperasyon ng burokrasya.

At naalala ko si Dick, nahirapan din noong unang pasok sa dot pero tingnan mo ngayon lahat kayo WOW Philippines! Na nagkakaisa.

Pagkakaisa at karanasan, yon ang ating kailangan para sa ganun, sa pamamagitan ng turismo, buong pilipinas, buong hilagang Luzon ay makikinabang. At sabi nga ni Dick, tourism means jobs. Kaya magkaisa tayo. Gawin natin itong bagay na ito para sa ganun dadami ang trabaho, uunlad ang Pilipinas.

Congratulations! WOW tourism! WOW Hilaga Pilipinas!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the Opening Ceremony of the Exhibits at the WOW Northern Philippines Hilaga Village (Formerly Paskuhan Village). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412193330/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7387&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the distribution of Parcelized Land Titles to urban poor beneficiaries of Quezon City [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa pamamahagi ng mga Titulo ng Sinukat na Lupa sa mga maralitang taga-lungsod ng Lungsod ng Quezon sa pagdiriwang ng ika-64 na Taon ng Pagkakatatag ng Lungsod Quezon

[Ipinahayag sa Amoranto Stadium, Lungsod ng Quezon, ika 13 ng Oktubre, 2003]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat kay Secretary Mike Defensor na siya na nga dating konsehal, dating congressman ng Quezon City pero kinuha ko mulasa lahat ng maralitang taga-lungsod ng buong Pilipinas.

Batiin ko ang mga official ng Quezon City: mga..Councilor Francisco, Councilor Herrera; Councilor Susano na kasama ko pa kanina pa at saka yung dating konsehal na ngayon ay congresswoman na ng Quezon City, si Nanette Castelo-Daza. Kayong lahat, mga Belmonte, congratulations dahil Quezon City ay pinakamabisang magkubra ng buwis, pinakamayaman — 5.4 billion pesos ang kita ng Quezon City mula sa buwis na binabayad ng mga mamamayan — congratulations! Kaya tuloy ang dami-daming nagagawa na ng Quezon City.

Magandang-maganda ang pagkakaisa ng Quezon City at national government, hindi lang kay Mike Defensor at yung mga officials niya sa mga housing agencies, si Mai Jimenez din na siya ang nag-aalaga ng ating mga pinakastrategic na proyekto maging ang proyekto na nanggagaling sa tulong mula sa iba't-ibang bansa.

Isa na sa mga nagawa ni Sonny Belmonte hindi lamang yung ang ganda ng pagkubra ng buwis kundi na rin yung ang ganda ng pagbigay ng mga serbisyo sa ating mga mamamayan. Eh sa Quezon City, di ba Herbert, sabi ng statistics 51 percent ng taga-Quezon City ay maralita. Kaya inalagaan ni Sonny, ni Herbert, yung konseho, yung mga congressmen niya yung maralitang taga-lungsod ng Quezon City kaya tuloy yung matagal nang mga papeles na hindi naayos ay naayos. Kaya sabi ni Mike Defensor, kayo ay makakatiyak na sa inyong tinitirirang lupa. At ito ay isang magandang partnership ni Sonny at ng inyong lingkod dahil kung ganun o kung ano ang record ni Sonny sa Quezon City ganun din ang record ng inyong lingkod sa buong Pilipinas, pinakamalawak na pagmamahagi ng lupang tinitirikan, pinakamalawak na pagbenta ng murang pabahay sa ating maralitang lungsod sa Quezon City maging sa buong Pilipinas.

At yan ang nanggagaling sa karanasan. Ako vice president pa sa aking paglilibot sa maralitang taga-lungsod nakikita ko na na ang pangangailangan ay kasiguraduhan sa lupang tinitirikan at nagkikita nga kami ni Mike Defensor noon sa paglibot sa maralitang taga-lungsod. Kaya nung ako'y naging pangulo agad-agad hiningi ko si mike na ituloy yung kanyang trabaho sa Quezon City, hindi lamang sa quezon city kundi sa buong Pilipinas. At yung dalawang taon at kalahati nakaabot sa karanasang nararapat para maputol-putol lahat yang mga red tape na deka-dekada, henehenerasyon ay nabuo at yun ang nagiging sagabal para kayo ay mabili ang lupang tinitirahan ninyo.

Mahalaga ang karanasan dahil yung mga sikut-sikot sa mga papeles kailangan ang karanasan para putulin. Kaya sa karanasan ni Sonny Belmonte, sa karanasan ng inyong lingkod, sa karanasan ni Mike ay naayos natin itong mga problema ng inyong mga lupa. Kaya nagpapasalamat sa pagkakataon — nakita kong may nagwawagayway ng President GMA, maraming salamat po sa lupa — naway yung iba pa na naghihintay ay makikinabang sa sinimulan na nating gawing pagtratrabaho sa mga papeles dahil mahaba ang mga papeles. Kailangan ng karanasan para umabot, daanan sila lahat parang bulldozer. Yung bulldozer, hindi yung bulldozer sisira ng inyong mga tirahan — yung kinatatakutan n'yo — yung bulldozer ay yung bulldozer ng ating pagpuputol sa red tape. Yung ginawa ni Mai na one-stop-shop para sa isang lugar na lang kayo pupunta para kumpletuhin ang papeles ninyo at kayo ay masasabi na nating hoeowner at hindi squatter sa sariling bayan.

Kanina, nanggaling ako sa Novaliches kasama ni Councilor Susano dahil siya ang councilor ng Novaliches. Ano naman ang ginawa namin? Inobserbahan namin yung Meralco na nagbibigay ng refund ng electric bill na nakuha sa Supreme Court ruling. Kayo ba nakuha na ninyo ang refund sa inyong electric bill? ha? Hindi pa? aba, kung kayo ay... Ang inyo nga... Dapat pumunta kayo sa Meralco. I-check n'yo kung kailan, kung kailan ang inyong schedule dahil ongoing ngayon ang mga refund.

Pinapanood ko yung mga kumukuha ng refund kanina. May naka-refund ng apat na libo. May naka-refund ng anim na daan. Yung anim na daan lumabas ng Meralco, nandoon yung rolling store kung saan may kalahating presyong gamot at nandoon yung nfa store kung saan may murang bigas. Kaya puntahan na ninyo ang Meralco. Sabi nga nila sa apat na bilyong costumers sa meralco, 3.2 million ay nakakuha na ng refund. Kaya kayo baka bahagi sa 800,000. Ay! O tama, sa 800,000 na hindi pa pumupunta para kunin ang inyong refund. Kaya marami rin kayong mabibili sa refund na ibabalik sa inyo ng Meralco. Yon ang bahagi sa ginhawa ng mahihirap na sinisikap ng ating administrasyon.

Mula rito, bakit ako pupunta sa Mindanao? Dahil siguro narinig na ninyo yung magandang balita. Napatay na si Al-Ghozi. At pupunta ako doon para batiin yung mga gumawa nitong magaling na paghahanap sa kanya at nung inaaresto siya, nag-resist siya kaya nagkaroon ng encounter. At yung 67 tracker teams na naghanap sa kanya ibabalik ko dito sa metro manila para yung mga kidnapper, saka mga drug lord, mga squatting syndicate na nag-aabuso sa inyo sila naman ngayon ang sasagutin nitong mga tracker team na ito.

Kaya mga kaibigan, salamat na tayo'y nagkasama nitong dalawang taon at kalahati. Maganda ang rinesulta nitong ating pagmamahagi ng lupa sa mga dating squatter, ngayon hindi na squatter. Dapat talagang gawin na natin yung talagang batayang pagpapalit ng sistema para yang red tape na naranasan namin, yang mga bagay na yan ay mas iibayo ang pagpapatakbo ng ating pamahalaan. Sa inyong lahat, congratulations!

Sa Quezon City officials, maraming salamat at Happy 64th Anniversary sa Quezon City.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the Distribution of Parcelized Land Titles to Urban Poor Beneficiaries of Quezon City in Celebration of Quezon City's 64th Foundation Day. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412193320/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7386&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the presentation to the media of 2 high-ranking leaders captured in Butuan City

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the presentation to the media of 2 high-ranking leaders of communist terrorist movement NPA Front
Committee 88 captured in Brgy. Buhangin, Butuan City**

[Delivered at the Philippine Army 4th Division Headquarters, Camp Evangelista Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, October 25, 2003]

To the Armed Forces and officers of the police and also the civilian partners of our law enforcers and our peacekeepers, I would like to congratulate you for this very momentous and strategic victory that you have gained.

And I here about how you have been working in a holistic manner in order to defeat the insurgency. The counter-insurgency campaign of the Philippines is a holistic campaign. It has a left hand approach which as General Boac says includes fighting poverty, bringing the peace of government to the areas of recruitment to drain the ponds of recruitment of the insurgents in this region and in our country. The right hand approach is the strong arm of the law. And they have presented to us, and probably it could be said is a decimation of the insurgent movement here in this region.

I'm very happy to be able to come and visit you once again here in the 4th Division and congratulate you for the good work you're doing. You keep up the tradition that the 4th Division has been known for ever since I entered public service. And I just want to take this opportunity also to say how happy I am to see an old friend.

When I was vice president our soldiers rescued a child combatant from the insurgents. There was a very very big battle over her by supposed human rights groups. But she chose to stay with the department of social welfare and development. They took care of her like family. When she was eighteen, then she was like many other young people under adulthood then, she was allowed to move on outside of the center where she was being taken cared of. And I am very happy to see her here again, Delyn Dayun, now a grown up lady and about to finish the regular course for enlisting in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. She is the product of the left hand and the right hand working together and producing a good citizen of our country from the mountains of the insurgency.

This is what we need to do in our country. We need to have deep reforms so that there will be no cause for insurgency. And we need to have reconciliation so that those who want to embrace the law will again be allowed to do so.

And if I may take this opportunity once again to repeat a statement I made earlier in Tubod, in Lanao del Norte about reconciliation and reform. And this is about Chief Justice Davide. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the unprecedented reform program of the judiciary that was initiated by Chief Justice Davide. This reform program is unprecedented in its comprehensiveness and its far-ranging character. It is a bold and revolutionary reform effort that will bring our judicial system to the 21st century.

In the administration and in congress, we are proud to have contributed to this reform by passing an administration measure, the judicial reform law, that increases the pay of the judges. This is following the increase in pay of the soldiers, which follow the increase in pay of the policemen, which follow the increase in pay of the teachers.

And we hope that as our budget allows us, we will also be increasing the pay of other sectors of government that show an acute shortage of those who are working in those sectors.

The judicial reform of Chief Justice Davide — as I said to which we contributed by increasing the pay of the judges — is a vital effort that will strengthen our democracy and satisfy our people's demand for reliable and speedy justice.

I've always believed in the moral integrity and professionalism of Chief Justice Davide.

My fervent hope is that we shall be able to overcome the divisions and wounds that continue to divide us as exemplified by the impeachment case filed against him.

I will ensure and uphold both the integrity of the institutions of the Supreme Court and the House of Representatives.

We shall overcome this conflict. We shall overcome the conflict with the insurgents. We shall overcome the conflict with the secessionists. We shall overcome the conflict with the terrorists. We shall overcome the conflict with the Jemaah Islamiyah.

And I bring tonight also a reiteration of the guidance I gave yesterday to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, the Jemaah Islamiyah is at the top of our priority list of public enemies.

And I would like the southern command to work on an order of battle and a campaign plan together with our allies in our neighboring countries, together with our allies in our security assistance partnerships so that we will be able to help and contribute to the effort of our region to rid our region and the world of terrorists. But at the same time, I welcome and congratulate the internalization by the 4th Division and the south command of the philosophy that if we will end terrorism, if we will end insurgency, it is a twin battle — a battle against the forces of evil and a battle against the people's poverty.

Congratulations!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the Presentation to the Media of 2 high-ranking leaders of Communist Terrorist Movement NPA Front Committee 88 captured in Brgy. Buhangin, Butuan City. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141330/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7376&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Opening Program of the Philippine Association of School Superintendents (PASS) National Conference or 2003 PASS Congress

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Program of the Philippine Association of School Superintendents (PASS) National
Conference or 2003 PASS Congress**

[Delivered at the Coral Ballroom, Manila Pavilion, Manila, November 17, 2003]

The idea was for me to sit in and listen to what Secretary de Jesus is conveying to you regarding the road map and what will be done next year. And it's a good opportunity for me to observe your reactions because that way I can see what's the most important thing to you. And looking at your faces, listening to what you applauded and also listening to the leaders of the association, and I had found out that their most important problem right now is the MOOE.

So, I could hardly wait to get to my car so I can call up Secretary Emi Boncodin to find out what we can do about it. I had to find out from her the state of our budget deficit and then we will see, considering those constraints, probably what we can do perhaps somehow you can have your light and your water from the rest of the year.

For next year, you can see we have made efforts to make it less difficult for you to provide the good education to the children of the Philippines that they expect from us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you because all of us in government are working under the severest budget constraints. And I would like to thank the education department, the teachers make up one-half of all our national government employees, therefore, the quality of our teachers reflects the quality of the entire government bureaucracy. Thank you for doing so well.

And I hope as we improve our economy it will also be much better for the teachers and for the students that you are teaching.

Congratulations and thank you very much.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2003). PGMA's Remarks during the Opening Program of the Philippine Association of School Superintendents (PASS) National Conference or 2003 PASS Congress. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140710/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7449&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during a political rally in Calamba City, Laguna [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa politikal na pagkilos na ginanap sa Lungsod ng Calamba, Laguna**

[Ipinahayag sa Calamba City Plaza, Laguna, ika 10 ng Pebrero, 2004]

Una sa lahat, nagpapasalamat ako sa mga taga-laguna sa napaka-init na pagtanggap ninyo sa akin, sa aking mga kaalyado buong araw, mula sa Cavinti, sa lahat ng kalsada sa ibat-ibang bayan, nandoon kayo sa mga kalsada, nandoon kayo sa mga bayan-bayan, kumakaway, nagbabati at nagpapakita ng inyong suporta.

Kanina Kris, doon sa napaka-makapal na crowd doon sa Sta. Rosa, kumakaway lahat, ang sabi, Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Pero meron akong isang narinig, yan pala si Gloria, ang liit, liit pala well, binanggit ko pagdating ko sa Sta. Rosa yung sinabi niya. At totoo nga, ang liit-liit ko, yan ang dahilan kung bakit nauunawaan ko ang damdamin ng maliit na Pilipino.

Kaya lahat ng aking ginagawa sa aking maikling panguluhan ay para sa kapakanan ng maliliit na Pilipino. Ano ang hangarin ng maliliit na Pilipino — trabaho, presyo, hanapbuhay. Yan ang ating hinahanap.

Halimbawa po, bago ako naging pangulo, tatlong taon, ang nagawa lamang na trabaho, ang nalikhang trabaho sa Pilipinas ay one million lamang po. Kaya sabi ni Kris, parang nawawalaan ng pag-asa. Pero sa aking maikling pamunuan, panguluhan, ang trabahong nalikha natin ay mahigit tatlong milyong trabaho. At marami doon ay dito mismo sa Calamba, sa mga pabrika, sa mga industrial estate.

Kaya yang malakas na pagsimula nating pagbabago para sa maliliit na Pilipino, down payment lamang yan. At iyan ang nagpapakita sa ating karanasan at sana, kayo mga kababayan, mga taga-Laguna, pagbibigyan ninyo kami — ako, si Noli at mga senador — ng pagkakataon ng susunod na down payment para lalong lalaganap ang trabaho sa Laguna at saka sa Pilipinas.

Kaya po, huwag nyong kalilimutan vice president, Noli Kabayan De Castro. Mga senador na kasama ko. Merong apat na reelektionista: nandiyaan si Bobby Barbers, nandiyaan si Pong Biazon, nandiyaan si Bobby Jaworski, nandiyaan si John Osmeña. Meron pang dalawang balik senador: nandiyaan si Orly Mercado, nandiyaan si Miriam Santiago. At merong dalawang Cabinet member. Iyung isa ay ang galing sa Department of Tourism, si Dick Gordon; at iyung isa, yung nagdala ng maraming trabaho sa Calamba, sa mga industrial estate, si Mar Roxas. Meron tayong pinuno ng mga Muslim, si Parouk Hussin. Meron tayong galing sa local government, si Lito Lapid ng Pampanga. Si Bong Revilla ng Cavite. At meron tayong kinatawan ng kabataan, kababaihan, propesyonal, si compaÑera Pia Cayetano.

Kami ang inyong mga kasama, inyong mga kandidato sa koalisyon ng katapatan at karanasan para sa kinabukasan. Dahil kung gusto natin sigurado ang kinabukasan ng mga industriya dito sa Calamba, ang kinabukasan ng Pilipinas, walang magpapalit sa karanasan. At itong ating koalisyon, ang K4, karanasan ang inaalok sa inyong lahat.

Maraming salamat at inaasahan namin ang inyong suporta.

Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Remarks during a Political Rally in Calamba City, Laguna. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090638/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5650&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Awarding and Distribution Ceremonies of Projects [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Seremonya ng Paggawad at Pamamahagi ng mga Proyekto**

[Ipinahayag sa Aplayo Elementary School, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, ika 10 ng Pebrero, 2004]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat kay Mayor Leon Arcillas, ang Leon ng mga punongbayan.

Sabi ko nga kay mayor, mayor ang galing-galing mong mag-alok nang taumbayan na magsama-sama at makinig sa iyung mga kandidato. sabi niya, hindi lamang yon lahat niyan ay translated sa boto para sa inyo, para sa K4. sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat.

Batiin ko ang ibat-ibang mga opisyal ng Sta. Rosa, maging ng buong lalawigang Laguna sa pangunguna ni Governor Ningning Lazaro. At hindi siya kandidato ngunit siya ay nakatira sa Sta. Rosa kaya nandito si Senator Kiko Pangilinan. Hindi rin siya kandidato ngunit siya ay dating ama ng Laguna na hanggang ngayon ay minamahal pa rin, nandito rin si Secretary Joey Lina. Ito naman ay kandidato at ang daming dala-dalang investments sa bayan ng Sta. Rosa, si Senator Mar Roxas.

At ako naman po ay si Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo na tumatakbo bilang pangulo. Ay, dumating na, dumating na ang panauhing pandangal doon sa ating ginawa kanina, yung pagsumpa ng barangay Anti- Drug Abuse Committee dahil ang ama ng Anti-Drug Law sa Pilipinas, isa sa pinakamabisa sa buong mundo, nandito na si Senator Bobby Barbers. Bobby, nakakagulat, di ba? Nakakataba nang puso, yon bang sambayanan na pinulong ni Mayor Leon Arcillas para makinig sa ating lahat.

Kanina, kanina sa dami ng tao sa buong kalsada ng Sta. Rosa hanggang dito, ang daming kumakaway, ang daming humihyaw pero meron akong konting narinig, yan pala si Gloria, ang liit-liit pala. pero totoo po yon, maliit lamang ako kaya alam ko ang damdamin ng mga maliliit.

Kaya sa aking maikling panguluhan, nagsimula ako ng mga pagbabagong hangad ng mga maliliit tungkol sa pangkabuhayan, gaya ng trabaho, presyo, hanapbuhay, tahanan, kalusugan, edukasyon, kapayapaan. Di ba yon ang hangarin ng mga maliliit?

Tungkol sa trabaho: sa tatlong taon bago ako naging pangulo, isang milyong trabaho lamang ang nalikha. Kaya naman apat na milyong walang trabaho ang aking namana. Mismong Sta. Rosa noon naramdaman ang mga pabrikang nahirapan at nawalaan ng trabaho. Ngunit sa aking maikling panguluhan, nakalikha tayo ng higit tatlong milyong trabaho. At ang dami noon ay dito mismo sa Sta. Rosa, ang Detroit ng Pilipinas.

Naalala ko noon, nung bagong halal akong senador nung 1992, inimbita ako dito sa Sta. Rosa ng Rotary. Napakaliit na bayan pa noon pero ngayon 14 years later sa ilalim nang pamumuno ni Leon Arcillas, ang leon ng Sta. Rosa, yang mga investors sa mga kotse, yang Ford, Toyota, anu-ano pa ay dito gustong maglagay. At sa aking administrasyon, dahil si Mar Roxas ang aking katulong magdala ng investors, katakut-takot ang expansion ng industriya sa bayan ng Sta. Rosa.

Para maganda ang trabaho kailangan maraming namumuhunan. Para dumami ang namumuhunan kailangan ang kapayapaan. At isa sa kailangan natin ay sugpuin ang salot ng droga dahil galing doon nanggagaling ang 70 percent sa mga krimen na nagaganap. Kaya naman si Bobby Barbers sa Senado ay gumawa nitong batas, na noong araw kasi ang dali-dali makapiyansa kahit na ikaw ay druglord. Ngayon hindi na, mabagsik ang batas ng droga kaya ang dami

na nating nakuhang druglord. Si Joey Lina, na hindi kandidato, ay chairman ng Dangerous Drugs Board. Ang daming shabu ang na-confiscate, ang daming pabrika ang na-raid, ang daming druglord ang napreso, pati yung number one druglord, si William Gan. At yon ay dahil sa mabagsik na batas na ginawa ni Bobby Barbers.

Kaya ngayong gabi ipinagdidiriwang natin dalawang importanteng bahagi para sa kapayapaan ng Sta. Rosa, para mas lalong dumami ang investments, dumami ang trabaho, mas lalong maging Detroit ng Pilipinas ang Sta. Rosa, yung ating mga motorsiklo para sa ating bantay-barangay, yung ating balak para ganun mawala ang krimen hindi lamang sa Sta. Rosa, maging halimbawa sana sa Laguna, buong Pilipinas. Mabuhay ang Sta. Rosa! Mabuhay ang Leon ng Sta. Rosa! Huwag nyong kalimutang iboto yung mga kandidato nya kagaya ni Gloria, Noli, Mar, Bobby at lahat ng ibang senador ng Koalisyon ng Katapatan at Karanasan para sa Kinabukasan. Dahil walang kapalit ang karanasan. Nakita natin yon sa karanasan ni Leon Arcillas.

Kaya magsama-sama tayo sa Mayo sa Koalisyon ng Katapatan at Karanasan sa Kinabukasan, K4 ang Sta Rosa.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2004). PGMA's Remarks during an Awarding and Distribution Ceremonies of Projects. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412090653/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5649&Itemid=38

Prayer/Remarks of President Arroyo during the prayer gathering of evangelical leaders led by the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches

**Prayer/Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the prayer gathering of evangelical leaders led by the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches**

[Delivered at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, January 4, 2005]

Thank you very much, Bishop.

Una sa lahat gusto ko lang magpasalamat sa inyong suporta at inyong mga panalangin para sa akin.

And I would like to continue to ask you to pray that I will have the wisdom of Solomon to govern rightly. I need your prayers to be able to allow me to discern the perfect will of God for our country.

Kahapon, dineklara ko na Biyernes ay oras ng Araw ng Panalangin at Pagluluksa para sa mga biktima ng tsunamis.

And God is a God of perfect timing. He timed our prayer for today because today is the eve of my departure for Jakarta. Tomorrow, I depart for Jakarta so that we can work on a response, a global response to the disaster that has occurred in the Indian ocean.

Kasama sa gusto kong panalangin ay hindi lamang panalangin para sa Biyernes kasi panalangin ng pagluluksa doon sa mga nasawi at natamaan ng tsunami sa Indian Ocean. At itong araw na ito gusto ko namang gawing panalangin ng pagpasalamat dahil iniligtas ng Panginoon ang Pilipinas doon sa tsunami.

Nung ôyung ating apat na bagyo, 30 to 40,000 families lost their homes; 1,000 people lost their lives. But we know in the tsunamis in the Indian Ocean about a 150,000 families have already lost their lives compared to our 1,000.

Indonesia gave us a planeload of relief goods and now 100,000 Indonesians lost their lives. So, in our own way, we are assisting them with a medical mission.

Thailand sent us a warehouse load of relief goods and now about 2,000 or more Thailanders have lost their lives. And while they have enough doctors for their medical team, we are sending them a... we sent them a forensic team to be able to help them identify their dead more quickly.

‘Yung Sri Lanka, hindi pa organize yung kanilang receiving mechanism, pero pag-organize na sila magpapadala rin tayo ng ating medical team.

At bukas dahil kung mapag-usapan nila... Well, tomorrow and the next day — tomorrow is the ministerial meeting, the next day is the summit meeting — ay dahil kung magpapadala ang U.N. o ang U.S. ng kanilang sariling malalawak na missions they have to put together money and talent. Well, we don’t have much money but we have talent. We have medical talent. We have ordinary people who will do the driving and other things like that for the teams. So, we will contribute what God has given us, and that is our human resource.

Kaya gusto kong magpasalamat sa Panginoon na bagamat akala natin na napakasama ang nangyari sa atin, tatlumpung libong nawalan ng tahanan; isang libong nawalaan ng buhay, eh naligtas tayo doon sa mas malaking sakuna. At biro niyo kung nangyari ito pagkatapos ng tsunami, walang tutulong sa atin dahil lahat ay tumutulong sa iba.

Kaya ngayon, maraming tumulong sa atin. Doon sa ating pangyayari at ngayon aside from contributing our human resources and some modest monetary contributions, one way by which we can contribute to the victims of tsunamis is that we will now have to attend to our own rehabilitation without depending on the world to help us.

‘Yung mga nag-commit itutuloy nila ang commitment nila. Pero hindi na tayo dapat umasa sa dagdag na commitment, tayo na yon ang gagawa noon.

Kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa house of hope dahil 30 to 40,000 Filipinos are looking now for a house of hope. Nakita naman niyo napaka-modest yung bahay, 25,000 pesos worth...

So, this is a message of hope. And I pray that as we give our brethrens that hope that goes with the house of hope, I hope also and pray that there will be hope in the country. And I ask you to help me pray to the Lord that he will send away, banish the demon of skepticism that is stalking our country.

Muli, salamat sa Panginoon na tayo ay naligtas sa tsunami at manalangin tayo para lumawak ang ating pananampalataya.

Maraming salamat.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Prayer/Remarks During the Prayer Gathering of Evangelical Leaders led by the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412082524/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3066&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Barangay Consultative Assembly with barangay officials of the City of Manila [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa Barangay Consultative Assembly kasama ang mga opisyal ng barangay ng Lungsod ng Maynila**

[Ipinahayag sa San Andres Sports Complex, Brgy. San Andres Bukid, Maynila, ika 6 ng Hulyo, 2005]

Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat kay Mayor Lito Atienza sa iyong parating suporta sa akin, Lito, maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat kay Madame Beng Atienza. Maraming salamat kay Congressman Miles Roces. maraming salamat kay Kim Atienza. Maraming salamat kay ating pangulong Caloy Castañeda. lahat ng mga barangay captains at barangay officials, nubenta porsiento ng lahat ng officials ng Metro Manila ay narito. Maraming salamat sa inyong malaking pagdalo.

Nagpapasalamat ako kay Lito, kay Beng, sa inyong lahat dahil mahal na mahal ako ni Lito at saka ni Beng, at minamahal ninyo yung mga minamahal ni Lito at ni Beng, kaya maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Bagamat marami tayong mga ingay-ingay sa pulitika, gusto kong ipasiguro sa inyo na hindi tayo tumitigil sa ating mga reporma. Reporma sa pagpaganda ng pamamahala, reporma para umangat ang buhay ng mga mahihirap. Bibigyan ko kayo ng scoop — dahil siyempre kayo mga kandidato, importante sa inyo ang COMELEC — gusto kong ipahayag sa inyo, iulat sa inyo na hiningi ko sa presiding justice ng Court of Appeals si Justice Brawner na siya ang magiging susunod na Commissioner sa COMELEC.

Ito naman ang pahayag na... kahapon, gusto kong ipaalam sa inyo na doon sa Land Bank at saka doon sa National Development Company may bagong six hundred million pesos para sa microfinance. marami sa inyo, hindi ba nagma-microfinance? Merong mga sampung conduit yung PCFC, ginagamit ba ninyo yung sampung conduit na yon? O kaya yung DSWD, yung social worker ni Lito, dahil may... yung DSWD ay pwedeng conduit, pwedeng dadaan sa DSWD yung DSWD ni Lito para yung DSWD doon kayo hihiram nung ipapahiram ng Land Bank at saka National Development Company sa kanila, six hundred million pesos. Siguro naman mararamdaman ng mahihirap yang malaking halagang yan kaya mag-ayos na kayo kung papano manghihiram sa pondong ito sa kinabubuti ng inyong mga pangkabuhayan.

Mga Manila youth, maraming salamat. Dati pang sumusuporta kayo sa akin. Salamat sa tuloy niyong suporta. Lahat ng ginagawa ko ay sa kinabubuti ng inyong kinabukasan.

Kaya salamat Lito sa pagkakataon. Salamat sa pulong na ito. Pwede ko bang asahan ang mga barangay ng Maynila.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Remarks during the Barangay Consultative Assembly with Barangay Officials of the City of Manila. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412080325/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5100&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Call by the Provincial and City Treasurers Association of the Philippines (PACTAP)

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Call by the Provincial and City Treasurers Association of the Philippines (PACTAP)**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 20, 2005]

Maraming salamat sa inyong paghahain ng pagsuporta sa aking liderato. Maraming salamat sa inyong pagpahayag ng inyong kagustuhang maging tunay na kagabay ng Department of Finance sa ating revenue generation.

Itong mga sinasabi ninyong pakikipag-ugnay sa BIR para mas maganda naman siguro ang tax mapping at malaman kung sino ang dapat nagbabayad ng mas malaking buwis. Ito sa katotohanan matagal na itong pinapanukala ni Congressman Gary Teves noon. At nung siya ay pangulo ng Land Bank humihingi rin ako sa kanilang payo tungkol sa kung papaano natin papaibayuhin yung ating pagkubra ng buwis. Kasi dapat yang mga taxes tapos na yan eh. Pero ang kailangan yung pag hitting new taxes tapos na yung Phase One. Kaya ngayon kailangan yung pagganda ng mga programa at maraming ideya si Secretary Gary Teves. Pati yung tatay niya, si Congressman Herminio Teves ay maraming ideya at malaking bahagi ng kaniyang ideya mga treasurers ay makikipag-ugnay sa BIR, kaya ngayon matutupad ni Secretary Gary Teves.

Kaya ako'y nasisiyahan na ito na nga yung sinabi ninyo at dahil pareho ang pag-iisip niyo ni Secretary Gary Teves ako ay malaki ang aking tiwala na magtatagumpay dito tayo sa effort na ito.

Yon namang... Gusto ko rin na magpasalamat kay Secretary Teves dahil nakumbinsi niya ako — pwede ko na bang i-anunsiyo? — na yung DBP at saka itong Land Bank ay magbibigay ng advance dividend. Pang buena mano sa ating tax collection. Dahil marami tayo kailangang paggastusan. Microfinance kailangan nating paggastusan, yung half-priced medicine. At kailangan natin pag-gastusan yung health insurance. Gusto kong ipahayag din na sabi ni Secretary Pinggoy Duque, dahil nung isang taon nakaabot tayo ng 85 percent coverage ng health insurance. In any country that's already universal health insurance. Ang nagbigay ng karamihan ng dibidendo nung isang taon, ng premium nung isang taon ay yung national government. Pero ang usapan, for the second year, papasok na yung mga local governments. Dahil liliit ang papel ng national government, lalaki ang papel ng local government.

Salamat naman sa maraming local governments ay nakapag-enroll tayo ng 2.5 but now ire-enroll. Pero last year, more than four million. So ngayon gusto kong ipahayag, binibigyan na ako ng clearance ni Secretary Duque na ipahayag, na yung mga nalalabing 2.5 dahil ang mga local governments sila ay hindi nakayanan yung kanilang premium ay pwede nating i-renew for another year bago binibigyan ang local government nang mas panahon to develop their capability to pay the premium.

So, makakaasa yung mga cardholders na kahit na nag... Yung mga na-expire last March na hindi nabayaran ng local government ay pwede na nilang ituloy muli. So ito ay renewal ng kanilang health insurance enrollment. So, balik tayo uli sa almost universal health insurance. At lahat ito ay dahil inaasahan natin itong magagandang pagkubra ng buwis na manggagaling sa kooperasyon ng treasurers at saka ng BIR.

Tapos nito gusto ko ring ipahayag na sabi ng GSIS na pwede sila magbigay... Meron silang pondo for additional dividend — about one billion. At sinabi ko kay Secretary Gary Teves itong one billion na ito ay gamitin natin para tulungan yung mga state universities and colleges na magtatanggap ng mga pre-need victims. Di ba yung mga nag... Merong pre-need holders pero may problema ang ating pre-need companies, so matutulungan natin sila basta hindi naman masyado mabigat sa national government dahil mga sa exclusive schools. Pero yung pumunta sila sa mga state universities and colleges, ang gagawin natin sa halip na nagbabayad sila ng malalaking tuition o pag babayaran natin yung tuition nila, susuportahan na lang natin yung SUCS sa kanilang operation expenses. Ang kapalit tatanggapin nila yung mga scholars ng mga pre-need victims.

So, inaayos natin ang mga problemang nararamdaman ng karaniwang taumbayan: ang problema ng edukasyon; problema ng scholarship; yung problema ng kalusugan, eto na ang Philhealth insurance; yung problema ng hanapbuhay, yung microfinance na salamat din kay Gary mula sa Land Bank siya 300 million ang dinagdag basically for Metro Manila but not exclusively. Kaya lang dahil kulang ang microfinance sa Metro Manila at yon ang irony eh mayron tayong microfinance sa Metro Manila. Pero yon talaga ang kailangan, ayuda for the poor at saka yung... So ito nga yung finance na ito so meron tayong microfinance.

Actually, magiging one billion yan kasi may 300 million from NDC, may one hundred million from INSF, meron pang additional 300 million from NDC ulit. Pero ang pinakamalinis na talaga yung Land Bank, yung Land Bank ni President Gary Teves noon. Kaya microfinance, health at saka yung scholarship ng pre-need holders. At saka yung isa pang asikasuhin natin naman yung half-priced medicine. Sa madaling panahon lalabas yung mga advertisements kung saan mabibili ng taumbayan yung half-priced medicine.

Lahat nito ay dahil sa mga fiscal reforms na nagawa natin nung isang taon. At dahil sa inaasahan nating improvement in revenue collection sa ilalim ng sistemang ipinahayag ngayon sa akin itong araw na ito.

Sa inyong lahat maraming salamat sa suporta sa aking liderato.

Maraming salamat sa suporta at pagmamahalan.

Thank you so much.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Remarks during the call by the Provincial and City Treasurers Association of the Philippines (PACTAP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412075245/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5091&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during an Official Dinner in Honor of H.E. Lee Hae Chan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During an Official Dinner in Honor of H.E. Lee Hae Chan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea**

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, August 5, 2005]

Vice President De Castro; other officials of the Philippine government; members of the Philippine-Korean business community; ladies and gentlemen.

The Filipino people deeply appreciate your visit. We value our relations with the Republic of Korea. Ambassador Yu Myung-hwan pointed out in his farewell call last Wednesday that economic relations between our two countries have never been better. Overall trade relations have improved. Foreign direct investments from Korea have increased significantly, particularly in energy — thanks to KEPCO — as well as in manufacturing and ship building and mining contributing to the job so badly needed by the Filipino people. KEPCO will have an investment in Cebu province — which you've visited as a tourist in 2001, excellency — of about 250 million dollars. It plans to expand its plant in Batangas, already one of the biggest at 1,000 megawatts, with another 600 million-dollar investment.

And we thank your government and your business community, Excellency, because of the important electrification that you have contributed to our various villages.

During my administration, we have lighted an unprecedented number of barangays or villages. We have about 4,000 more to go of the 45,000 villages all over the country. And I'm very grateful that your government and your people including your business community have offered an initial 500 new villages to be electrified, and perhaps eventually another 2,000.

In Subic, in north of Manila, Hanjin is establishing a ship component fabrication facility starting with 50 million dollars, to ramp up to 500 million dollars and eventually a ship building facility of 1 billion dollars.

We are grateful that you came as a tourist three years ago, Excellency. Korean tourists are number one in the Philippines. Of the 2.4 or so million tourists in our country last year, almost 400,000 were Koreans, and we expect that to be about half a million this year.

We are true friends and allies. We sent Philippine troops to Korea in the early 1950s in accordance with the resolution that my father was very honored to author when he was congressman. And now, we look forward to the peaceful solution of the situation in the Korean peninsula and the success of the six party talks.

Our country looks forward to the visit of President Roh (Roh Moo-hyun) in Manila this December. Truly, it's a very great honor for us that the president and the prime minister of the Republic of Korea both visit us in this year of our great friendship.

I'm sure our vice president and the other officials wish to join me in a toast to the relations between our two countries, to the good health of your president and to your good health as well.

Mabuhay!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Remarks during an Official Dinner in Honor of H.E. Lee Hae Chan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412063041/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5112&Itemid=38

**Remarks of President Arroyo during the occasion in honor of Filipino World Champions in the Performing Arts, the Entertainment Industry and in Sports Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the occasion in honor of Filipino World Champions in the Performing Arts, the Entertainment Industry and in Sports**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, September 21, 2005]

Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you, Cerge.

Our three incoming justices of the Court of Appeals and all the others who are going to take their oaths today, members of the government, leaders of the entertainment industry, our world class champions, ladies and gentlemen:

Today , indeed, we celebrate the global triumph of the Filipino.

Well, I'm very proud of our incoming justices of the Court of Appeals. Very well chosen. Very difficult time choosing the best among the best. And I congratulate you for them.

You and I, congressmen and governor who are here today, thank you also for being here and for supporting us.

The global triumph of the Filipinos — Cerge, mentioned already — the President of the U.N. Security Council.

Then, there's Manny Pacquiao, Boom Boom Bautista and Brian Viloria. We congratulate them too. And we also have Dottie Ardina who won the 2005 U.S. Kids World Golf Championship.

And earlier, we had the presentation of the two Filipino films who garnered best awards in their category. And we congratulate them too.

We congratulate the makers of "Masagista" at the Locarno International Film Festival and "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" at the Montreal International Film Festival.

We heard Jed Madela and Rizza Navales, and we know why they won best in the performing arts in what is considered as the Official Talent Olympics of the world held in Hollywood.

I congratulate Ida Henares for choosing these two singers who created a record in the eleven-year history of the competition — one country' sweeping all the awards. Congratulations!

These achievements mark the excellence and leadership of the Filipino in the world.

Now, we must seal our niche in sports, in entertainment. We're doing quite well in sports. But in entertainment, I think we still need a lot of help. And so, therefore, I am directing the MMDA and the Film Development Council to update the rules of the Metro Manila Film Festival to conform to international standards starting next year.

We have Congressman Singson here and Congressman Bateria together with Governor Chavit. We have two congressmen and Congressmen, I'd like to let you know that the industry is asking for exemption from amusement

taxes, and these are for movies filmed in the Philippines whether Filipino or foreign, and also live performances of Filipino artists.

The long and short of it is let's work for the Philippines to be the center for entertainment in Asia.

We have our talents. We have our technical expertise in film and sound production. We have competitive pricing. Let's work together and congratulations! To the members of the entertainment industry and the members of the sports community for being so outstanding.

And of course to help govern so that the policy environment will be good for entertainment and for sports, we have to have the right officials.

Let me therefore take this opportunity to segue into our oath taking. I ask for these events to be done together so that we will have an audience who will listen to our young singers.

So, thank you very much for coming to Malacañang for this celebration. And I think we should celebrate just as well the difficult but finally I think the very good choices of our inductees today.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Remarks during the occasion in honor of Filipino World Champions in the Performing Arts, the Entertainment Industry and in Sports. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092731/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5134&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during a Call by Philippine Boxing Champions: Manny Pacquiao, Brian Viloria and Rey ‘Boom Boom’ Bautista

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Call by Philippine Boxing Champions: Manny Pacquiao, Brian Viloria and Rey ‘Boom Boom’
Bautista**

[Delivered at the Kalayaan grounds, Malacañang, October 3, 2005]

Maraming salamat, Mayor Lito Atienza.

Mabuhay si Manny, Brian at Boom Boom!

Mabuhay! Ang atong kababayang Boholano, si Boom Boom Bautista, ang bagong WBO Asia-Pacific Bantamweight Champion. Boom Boom, siguradong layo ang imong adtoan tungod kay dise-nuebe ka pa lang kampiyon na. Congratulations!

Mabuhay! Si Brian Viloria na dugong Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, ang ating WBC Light Flyweight Champion. Congratulations!

Thank you, Brian for keeping faith in the Filipino flag.

Kadagiti kailian tayo nga ilokano, agpayso nga maipannakel tayo ni Brian. Congratulations!

Alam niyo nakilala ko si Brian nung state visit ko sa America. Nakaupo si Brian sa presidential table in the dinner given to me by President Bush. Doon ko siya nakilala dahil inimbata ni President Bush, hinanap niya lahat ng mga pinakasikat na Filipino-Americans at inimbata niya sa White House State Dinner, at doon niya inupo doon sa presidential table. At nakilala ko si Brian bilang “Hawaiian Punch” pero si Brian ay Hawaiian punch at Filipino punch din. Maraming salamat.

At siyempre, mabuhay muli ang matagal nang idolo natin, si Manny Pacquiao, WBC International Super Featherweight Champion. Congratulations muli, Manny!

Si Manny, 6 rounds lang; si Boom Boom, 3 rounds lang; si Brian, one round lang! Congratulations muli!

At kasabay ng kanilang tagumpay kamakailan lang, ang iba pang mga Pilipino — si Alex Pagulayan na U.S. Open Billiards Champion at si Precious Lara Quigaman, ang Miss International — kayong lima binigyan ninyo ng panibagong dahilan upang maging taas-noo ang Pilipino sa buong mundo. Dahil sa mga katulad ninyo tumingkad ang dangal ng bawat Filipino.

Kaya sa inyo, malaking karangalan ang binigay niyo sa ating bansa, malaking pagmamahal at pagpapasalamat ang pinapahayag sa inyo ng buong sambayanang Pilipino.

Mabuhay! Ang ating mga kampiyon sa boxing.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Remarks during a Call by Philippine Boxing Champions: Manny Pacquiao, Brian Vitoria and Rey 'Boom Boom' Bautista. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092522/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5227&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Dinner Reception for the Participants of the 6th Asia-Pacific Mining Conference and Exhibition

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Dinner Reception for the Participants of the 6th Asia-Pacific Mining Conference and Exhibition**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, October 13, 2005]

Thank you very much, Secretary Defensor.

First of all, I'd like to congratulate all of you and to welcome all of you, and to thank you for choosing the Philippines for your meeting.

Secondly, I'd like to greet Philip Romualdez and congratulate him for his reelection as president of the ASEAN Federation of the Chamber of Mines. Congratulations, Philip!

I'd like to thank the members of the diplomatic corps who are here tonight, as well as our various government officials, and also the important leaders and movers and shakers of our business community.

I'm glad you're all here tonight because it shows that you all recognize that mining is the next wave of prosperity for the Philippines coming up after information technology which has been growing by leaps and bounds over the last four years. I hope that mining will also grow by leaps and bounds in the same percentage terms that our I.T. industry has been growing like double every year.

The debate on whether mining is a boon or a bane to a developing economy has long been resolved. Mining countries fare better than other countries in their respective regions, provided there is institutional stability and good economic management.

The challenge clearly lies in transforming our mineral endowments into economic assets that will help liberate our people from the bondage of persistent poverty.

I won't give another long speech — you've had speeches for the last four days — except to share with you that I hope we will have four to six billion dollars in mining investments before the end of my term. And I hope they will come from some of you gentlemen and ladies who are here tonight.

Two days ago, I signed executive order 469 creating the minerals development council whose responsibility shall be to advance the sustainable and responsible development of our mineral resources. And I hope that with this executive order, indeed, you will all find the Philippines a good place to do mining business in.

Let's all move forward in promoting the minerals industry towards growth and development — conscious and sensitive to environmental concerns, and pro-actively institutionalizing mechanisms to ensure the equitable sharing of benefits from our rich mineral resources.

Once again, to all of you, welcome! Mabuhay! Bon a'petit!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092343/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5205&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Launching of the 1st Seafood Market Link

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Launching of the 1st Seafood Market Link

[Delivered at the Eagles' Hall, Officers Club, Airforce City, Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga, October 21, 2005]

Dacal a salamat, Anna. Ampong mayap a oras king pamag-organize kaniting my First Seafood Market Link lalo na king 4th district ning Pampanga.

I'd like to greet Mrs. Gina De Venecia and the other national officials; Id like to greet the various mayors of the province of Pampanga; the various officials of the Philippine government; our Cabinet as well as the Department of Agriculture; I'd like to greet especially Mr. Ong and Director Ontangco. Ong and Ontangco, this is a good show.

Karing bisita, karing participants, the participants of the launching of the First Seafood Market Link, karing kaluguran kong kabalen keting ang Pampanga.

Bayu ing sabla, buri ku batian ampong pasalamatan ding menatag kaniting mumunang diling Seafood Market Link keti king rehiyon tres. Not only the first in Region IV, in district 4, but I think the first in Region III. Congratulations! Kekongan.

Iting okasyon a ini, metung yang angkop a pamagkataun ban makapanintun tamung paralan para mitaguyud ing kekayung agricultural commodities, lalu na deng tilapia, karing manyali king luwal na ning rehiyon. And Im very glad that Pampanga tilapia is making its way now into the major market. Congratulations! For the 25 buyers and the 60 producers who forged their agreements today. Congratulations to all of you!

Abala kayu king pamanintun solusyon karing problemang harapan yu, habang ding aliwa karing kekatamung kabalen king metro manila, ala lang patugut king pamanggulu a labis a maka-apekto king kalakalan king mabilug kapuluan. I would like to express my sympathies to the six policemen and women who were hurt in today's rally including one policewoman who is very seriously hurt and we will go and visit her tonight.

Metung ya iti karing mumunang rason bakit buri kung dinan karagdagang upaya ding kekatamung kanayunan ban mas maragul ing asaup da king pambansang kanawan. You are the source of food for the center of the Philippines. You should be the source of power rather than the center because there's more production happening here in the countryside.

Nung misundu la ding pamagbayu king kekatamung saligang batas and that is what we're pushing. At matagumpe tayang apatupad ing batas ning bayung buwis, thank you to Anna and to all the other congressman who have helped with our revenue measures. A mamie kekatamung karagdagan a pondo ban agamit karing programang pang-ekonomiya daratang ing mangasanting a pamagbayu, ali mu king kanayunan nune karing apat a suluk ning kekatamung balen. And as Anna was saying, one big problem is the lack of capital. I was just talking with Undersecretary Salacup and I confirmed that the instructions of Secretary Ding Panganiban that there should be in Quedancor a particular program for aquaculture.

Iyabe naman tala pa ding tutuki:

Ing patuluy a pamagtas ning hulaga ning peso at uling king patuluy a tiwala da ding negosyante dala ning matatag a kabilyang pinansiyal ning bansa.

Ing mitas ing koleksiyon tamu king buwis ampo ing pamagbawas ning korupsiyon, kay kanita pang-adwa tamo king asya king korupsiyon ngeni pang-apat mu. At kanita dating pang-adwa pin king asya at kanita... At ngeni ing kekatamung ranking king kabilugang mundo pang-atlumpulu't anam kanita pang-labing metung. So we are going down, down, down in the ranking of the most corrupt country in the world and in the region. And I thank you all for helping me with good governance.

Any pin, anyawaran ku kekayu na isundu yula ding programang panyulung a kalupa na niti. In fact, Anna was surprised why I accepted her invitation. Why not. First of all, we want to open 2 million hectares of land for agri-business and that includes aquaculture land. secondly, this is a way of making food cheaper for the whole population. In fact, I've been saying kanita kasi ing galunggong ing supposedly ordinary man's fish but we've been saying for many years now dapat ing tilapia. Uling ing galunggong imported ya. Ing tilapia we can grow right in our own backyard and in our plantation aquaculture. Kaya importante ini, and of course because I want to thank Anna and the other congressmen for their great support for me in congress so consistent. Dacal a salamat anna ampu aliwang congressmen.

Eyu paburen a siran nala ning marinat a pulitika ding kekayung mangasanting a a-umpisan.

Our stand from day one has been to halt the degeneration of Philippine politics and attend to the duty of alleviating the suffering of the Filipino people. And the most important thing they need is food, food, food. And tilapia should be the ordinary Filipino's fish. The ordinary Filipino's viand.

We reiterate our commitment to peace, order, security. We must minimize disturbances to our students and commuting public as we continue to lay down clear cut rules of engagement on handling mass actions, and the LGUs identifying freedom parks for this purpose. These are elements of a strong republic that we need in order for our economic take-off not to be sabotaged by a degenerated political system. As we work towards a stronger state, I thank the lord for the resiliency of the economy, the heroism and loyalty to service shown by the civil servants, like our D.A. and BFAR officials who have put together this particular market link together with the private sector. The assiduosity shown by the local government executives, thank you dacal a salamat karing local executive, Governor Ngening Aldo, and the heroic flooding of dollar remittances by overseas Filipinos to the country. Usually, we have 8 million dollars, 8 billion dollars in remittances from our overseas Filipinos. I think this year we will get 10 billion dollars, thanks to all of them many of whom are relatives of the people here in this room.

And so, I thank you all for being her lalo na karing kabalen kong kapampangan and of course the buyers from the big organizations of Metro Manila. To all of you, let's continue to bring food at affordable prices to the Filipino people. Let's continue to open up 2 million new hectares of land for agri-business including aquaculture.

Dacal a salamat at mabuhay tayong lahat!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Remarks during the Launching of the 1st Seafood Market Link. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092312/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5200&Itemid=38

Inspirational Remarks President Arroyo during the Mass for the Members of the Philippine Contingent to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games the Country is hosting from November 27 to December 5, 2005

**Inspirational Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Mass for the Members of the Philippine Contingent to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games the
Country is hosting from November 27 to December 5, 2005**

[Delivered at the Philsports Arena, ULTRA, Pasig City, November 4, 2005]

Thank you very much, father.

Congressman Cojuangco, Chairman Ramirez, Congressman Puentevella, mga atleta, mga opisyal, mga fans, magandang gabi sa inyong lahat at mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino!

Narito tayo dahil tayo ay atleta o kaya dahil ipinagmamalaki natin ang ating mga atletang makikipagkumpetensiya sa Southeast Asian games. And we are proud of our athletes the way we are proud of the fighting spirit of the Filipinos in the four corners of the world.

Pagkita-kita ng mga iba't-ibang atleta galing sa iba't-ibang bansa sa arena ng kumpetensiya, bawat pangkat nila ay magdadala ng kanilang bandila at kulay. Ngunit lahat sila ikakatawan ang isang masiglang bahagi ng mundo na nangangakong magiging lider ng pacific century.

Kabit-kabit tayo sa seryoso at tahimik na giyera kontra sa terorismo at kahirapan. Naalala ko noong ang aking kapatid si art, nag-compete sa Munic olympics noong 1972, yung mga tagumpay natin doon o tagumpay kahit na nila Mark Spitz ay ang nangyari doon ay nabura doon sa pangyayari dahil nagkaroon ng malaking attack ng terorismo at maraming namatay.

Kung ganun ng 1972, ilang beses na ganun kalaki ang banta dito sa ating mundo ngayon at sa ating bahagi ng mundo. Kaya magpasalamat tayo sa ating mga pulis, mga local government officials, lahat ng mga mamamayan na handang magtanggol sa ating mga atleta at ating mga bisita mula sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng ating rehiyon.

Sa rehiyong ito maraming mayamang bansa, maraming middle-class na bansa — kasama tayo doon — maraming mahihirap na bansa. Ngunit kahit na sa mga middle-class na bansa maraming mahihirap, kaya sa mga panahong ito tayo'y nagkakaisa sa sports para matuto tayong magkaisa laban sa terorismo at laban sa kahirapan. At kung mapatunayan natin ang pagkakaisa sa sports, tuloy-tuloy tayong magtatagumpay sa pamamagitan ng pagkakaisa, at tuloy-tuloy tayong magtatayo ng kinabukasan na may pinagsamahan na mga aspirasyon at sakripisyo.

Ang atleta hindi nagtatagumpay kung hindi nagsasakripisyo. Hindi porke't ikaw ay napanganak na masigla, magaling, skillfull ay magtatagumpay ka. Kailangan maghirap sa training, sa diet, sa self-discipline. At yung mga ganung bagay ay kailangan din natin upang magtagumpay kontra sa terorismo at kontra sa kahirapan.

Ang iba't-ibang mga gagampanan ng mga laro ay punong-puno ng sigla at ospitalidad. Yung mga local governments — ayun! Si Monico doon sa Bacolod – iba't-ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas, lahat sila ay handang-handa na tanggapin kayong mga atletang Pilipino at mga atletang nanggagaling sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng ating rehiyon. Magpasalamat tayo sa kanila sa kanilang paghahanda.

At siyempre pa dahil tayo ang host, binabati rin natin ang lahat ng mga bansa ng Southeast Asia sa kanilang suporta kagaya ng suporta ng ating mga local government units sa kanilang sigla, at kailangan magpasalamat tayo sa napakaraming volunteer na hindi na natin mapangalan mula sa lahat ng dako ng buhay who are ensuring that every event will proceed forward without any hitches. Hindi malaki ang budget na binigay ng gobyerno. Ang ating

committee ay naghanap ng mga sponsors kasi ito ay isang sasabihin nating pagkakabalikat ng public sector, private sector, business community, mga atleta, mga volunteer. Ilan diyan ay nagtatrabaho halos full time. Tanungin magkano ang kanilang... Ang bayad sa kanila — wala. Por la patria, ginagawa para sa bansa. Ang sukli lamang nila ay ang ating pagpapasalamat at yung kagalingan ng paglaro at pagkumpitensya ng ating mga atleta.

Pagpunta ng ating mga atleta at atleta ng ibang bansa sa iba't-ibang lugar, Maynila at ibang lugar sa labas ng Maynila, hinihiling ko ang lahat ng Pilipino na buksan ang kanilang puso sa mga sumasalang mga teams.

At siyempre, higit sa lahat yung fighting spirit ng ating mga atleta ay dapat malarawan sa bawat pamilya at tahananang Pilipino, sa pakikibaka at mga sakripisyo to bear the burdens not only of winning a sports competition but the burdens of building and nurturing a strong nation.

Hayaan niyo akong mag-usap sandali ukol sa pagtayo ng malakas na bansa. While the best path to uplift the poor is through a strong economy, we must consider direct mitigating measures to ease the pain. Tinaas na ng mga wage board ang mga sweldo noon pang Mayo. Sa apat na taon na ako ay pangulo apat na beses tinaas ang mga sweldo. And now I ask labor and business to find a middle ground on a legislated minimum wage, with the participation of congress and the executive branch through the Department of Labor. A quadripartite dialogue is in order, and we must consider the full range of social, economic and political implications. Ito ay hiniling ko kay Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas kanina na siya ay tumawag nitong quadripartite meeting upang isigurado na ang ating mga manggagawa ay tuloy-tuloy na makikinabang sa kaunlaran at hindi mapinsala sa mga sakripisyong kinakailangang gawin nating lahat.

We need to maintain our economic gains while engaging full social cohesion and political stability. All are necessary to maintain economic confidence and the investments and jobs that go along with it. Let us have a strong nation tempered by compassion so that the less fortunate can weather tough times in the knowledge that the spirit of sacrifice is shared by all sectors across the nation.

Kayong mga atleta ay inspirasyon para sa lahat ng mga Filipino to excel, to triumph, to win in a world of challenge and opportunity. Nananalo ang mga atleta dahil sa disiplina, dahil sa teamwork, dahil sa fair play, rules of the game. At gamitin natin ang ating disiplina, gamitin natin ang ating teamwork.

Filipino athletes go for the gold now in the Philippines and in 2008 in Beijing!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2005). PGMA's Inspirational Remarks during the Mass for the Members of the Philippine Contingent to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games the Country is hosting from November 27 to December 5, 2005. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615092117/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5406&Itemid=38

**Remarks of President Arroyo during the inauguration and awarding of the Kawal Kalinga Housing Project:
“Pangkabuhayang Gawad sa Makabagong Army (PGMA)”**

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration and awarding of the Kawal Kalinga Housing Project: “Pangkabuhayang Gawad sa
Makabagong Army (PGMA)”**

[Delivered at the Fort Magsaysay Village, Sitio Pinaltakan, Brgy. Caballero, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, March 13, 2006]

Salamat at gusto kong batiin lahat ng ating mga sundalo at mga opisyal ng civilian dito sa magandang proyekto, pati yung ating mga ngos, congratulations! Sa ating pagkakaisa dito sa pabahay para sa mga sundalo.

At ako ay nasisiyahan na meron tayong donations for 600 houses, noli, para dito yung inenumerate ni General Esperon. At meron din tayong 600 hectares para sa pagtanim ng jatropa para sa ating energy self-sufficiency at pati na rin para sa extra income ng mga pamilya ng ating mga sundalo.

Itong ginagawa natin dito ay ginagawa sa buong Pilipinas. At ito nga na hiniwalay natin ang ilang bahagi ng mga ektarya ng mga malalaking kampo. Pero ito... Ay, naku! Malaking-malaki pero kung ihahambing natin doon sa ating isang bonus, yung manila bank na binayaran yang kanyang utang sa central bank ng 1,200 hectares, na ang Central Bank naman — ito ay sa San Miguel, malapit sa Camp Tecson — na ang Central Bank naman ay dinonate sa national government bilang dibidendo, ito ay magiging pabahay ng lahat ng ating mga manggagawa sa pamahalaan: one-fourth sa military; one-fourth sa police; one-fourth sa teachers dahil sila ang nakararami sa ating mga empleyado; at one-fourth to the other government employees.

Ganito ang gagawin pareho nito at magkakasya doon, sabi ni Tony Meloto, ay mga 30,000 houses magkakasya doon para sa ating mga empleyado government, teachers, police at sundalo.

At nagpapasalamat nga ako sa lahat ng mga nagdo-donate ng mga materyales at tinuturuan na magbigay naman ng “sweat equity” yung mga beneficiaries. Doon nga sa Southern Leyte kung saan tayo ay tumutulong para mabuhay muli, magkaroon muli ng bagong buhay yung mga pamayanan doon. Nung makalawa lamang sinabi ni Secretary Espy Cabral na kailangan ng 1,800 houses. Eh si Tony Meloto na namumuno doon sa ibat-ibang mga ngo na nagbubuo ng mga donations ay sabi may 2,000 houses for donation na sa Southern Leyte. Kaya maraming salamat doon.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa lahat ng nagtutulungan sa Southern Leyte. Naalala ko nga habang tayo ay nagsasama-sama para asikasuhin ang kailangang kalinga ng mga biktima ng landslide ay yon yung ating mga destabilizer doon sila kumikilos para buwagin ang ating pamahalaan. Ni anino nila nakita natin para tumulong sa Southern Leyte.

Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng hindi nadala. Nagpapasalamat ako sa ating mga sundalo at pulis na hindi nadala. At eto nga nandito tayo para sa kinabukasang maganda kaysa sa magsu-surrender sa mga gustong magbuwag ng ating kinabukasan.

Narito na rin ako, yung aking ipapahayag sanang atas mamaya pag nagkaron kami ng meeting ng ating mga top brass ng armed forces ay siguro babasahin ko na ngayon. Ito ang aking anunsiyo at atas sa ating mga pwersa:

Ang katatagan ng piso at stock market sa gitna ng lubhang pamumolitika ay patuloy na senyas na sa kabilang nananatili ang ekonomiya sa pinakaharap ng ating mga inaasikaso kailangan isustento natin ang pagbuwag sa mga pailalim na pagsasabwatan hanggang ito ay buong nalinis at nabura na.

We are determined to clean out residual threats of destabilization with the heaviest arsenal of constitutional measures we can muster. Anuman ang sabihin o gawin ng ating mga kritiko upang pilipitin ang kahulugan, ang pagkalehitimo ng ating mga kilos. Tama na ang pagdurusang taumbayan at hindi na ako papayag mamuno sa tuloy-tuloy na destabilisasyong nagkukunwaring makabatas na kilos pulitika. One comprehensive, continuing sweep will deal with rightist coup plotters and left wing insurgents, and there will be no longer any ifs or buts about it.

The choice is either — to keep this nation up and about in its business or to allow it to wallow and fester under intensive care. Ginawa ko na ang desisyong tuluyang tanggalin na ang pilipinas sa sick bay. At aasikasuhin natin yung mga naghaharag sa malakas na kamay ng batas. Ang malakas na ekonomiyang pinapatakbo ng malakas na pamahalaan ay ating ticket sa higit na mabuting kinabukasan.

Kaya salamat sa lahat ng hindi nadadala sa mga nagsasabwat. Salamat ng mga nananatiling tumulong sa ating magagandang gawain para sa kinabukasan gaya nang ginagawa natin dito.

Salamat kay Vice President Noli de Castro, kay General Senga at buong militar sa inyong pagkakaisa sa ating mga layunin at sa katapatan sa ating bandila, sa ating konstitusyon, sa commander-in-chief.

Maraming salamat at congratulations sa inyong lahat!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the Inauguration and Awarding of the Kawal Kalinga Housing Project: "Pangkabuhayang Gawad sa Makabagong Army (PGMA). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214935/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2424&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the new call center facility of Sutherland Global Services

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of the new call center facility of Sutherland Global Services**

[Delivered at the ExportBank Bldg., Pasong Tamo cor. Buendia Ave. Makati City, March 27, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Favila.

And the other Cabinet members and officials of the Philippine government, several of whom are here with us today; general de lima and the other officials of Sutherland; our young call center personnel for making Sutherland what it is today here in the Philippines. Congratulations! To all of you. and of course to their clients, congratulations! And for what they offer for the world for Sutherland.

I'm very happy to hear about your expansion. I'm very happy to hear that you are going to double your work force this year much much beyond what you anticipated you would do. I'm very happy indeed to let you know that the call center and the BPO industry in the Philippines, Mr. Chairman has been doubling every year. From less than 2,000 workers in 2001, we now have a 125,000 this year. And if we're doubling that means we ought to be leading at least around a hundred thousand more.

I'm happy to hear about your plans on the Sutherland University which is mono... What I would like to have — the finishing schools for call centers. And in fact, I have asked the chairman of the Technical Education Skills Development Authority that he should develop a scholarship program for the call center finishing schools to be able to benefit 100,000 young Filipinos. so that there'll be a continuing pool of the world-class Filipino personnel that you have found in our country.

Once again, congratulations! Thank you for giving us employment. And thank you for contributing to the billion-dollar industry that is the BPO industry in the Philippines.

Mabuhay! Thank you!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the inauguration of the new call center facility of Sutherland Global Services. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214356/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2416&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the 10th Year Anniversary of the Asian Spirit Airlines

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the 10th Year Anniversary of the Asian Spirit Airlines**

[Delivered at the Harbour Garden, The Hotel Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Pasay City, March 31, 2006]

Just to wish Asian Spirit happy 10th anniversary and thank you for using your 10th anniversary to expand some more. Congratulations! On your first international flight to Palau.

And I would like to thank Asian Spirit also for being aggressive enough to go to those missionary routes by being conservative enough to invest only from your retained earnings. I think the bank should lend you more money because there's so much liquidity.

Congratulations! And good luck!

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the 10th Year Anniversary of the Asian Spirit Airlines. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214327/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2413&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Thanksgiving Dinner in Honor of His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Thanksgiving Dinner in Honor of His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, April 1, 2006]

Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales; Speaker De Venecia and other government officials; your Eminence Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal; your excellencies archbishops and bishops of the Philippine church; other friends in Jesus Christ.

Salamat sa Diyos para sa maluwalhati at maligayang parangal mula nang ika-24th ng Marso, may tatlong Cardinal na naman ang ating bansa. Nandoon sa Roma si Cardinal Sanchez at dito sa Pilipinas si Cardinal Vidal at ngayon si Cardinal Rosales. Congratulations to all of you!

This gathering is our way of sharing with his eminence the joy and pride of the entire Filipino catholic community. Cardinal Rosales, indeed, deserves the great honor bestowed upon him by Pope Benedict XVI for his outstanding and enlightened pastoral leadership. And we know that all through his priesthood, Cardinal Rosales has been ever so humble. We celebrate his holiness as recognition of Cardinal Rosales' virtues, as well as the most recognition of the Philippines as a beacon of Christianity in Asia and a great center of unparalleled catholic devotion in the world.

Nakakakilabot yung kuwento ni Cardinal kanina. Yung paulit-ulit na sinabi ni Santo Papa kay Cardinal Rosales na ang Pilipinas ay may malaking papel sa evangelization ng silangan. Lalo kailangan sa ganun ang ating pagkakapit-bisig para matupad natin itong mahalagang obligasyon.

Indeed, as our newly-ordained cardinal stepped off his plane the other night to ride in Manila, he reiterated his call on all Filipinos to unite. And like Cardinal Rosales, we, too in the government have made a call for unity many times.

Paumanhin po ninyong gamitin ko itong pagkakataon na ipahayag ang ninanais ng pamahalaang masigasig at malawakang pakikipag-tulungan sa mga gawain ng simbahang katoliko gaya ng magandang inisyatibo ng ating bagong Cardinal lalo na sa kanyang kahanga-hangang 'Pondong Pinoy', sa iba't-ibang programa ng simbahan para sa pag-angat ng mahihirap, paglakas ng pamilya, pagtanggol sa buhay at pagkakasundo sa buong kapuluan.

In the gospel of St. John, our Lord Jesus Christ asked St. Peter three times, "do you love me?" And three times our first pope said, "yes." And Jesus told Peter, "feed my sheep." We, in the government want to make this divine dictum the most urgent imperative in our cooperative endeavors with the church. We want to devote the dividends of our tax reforms to bring down hunger and poverty among our people.

Ngayon at merong pondo ang pamahalaan mula sa reporma sa buwis, gagastos tayo sa mga programang para sa pagkain, paggamot at paaral. At kung mamarapatin ninyo, mga minamahal na obispo at arsobispo, mga minamahal na Cardinal, makikipag-konsulta at makikipag-tulungan ang gabinete sa ating mga butihing Cardinal at obispo upang maituro ninyo sa amin kung sino at kung saan nangangailangan ng tulong.

I pray, the Lord will bless our cooperative efforts to keep his sheep. I pray, he will bless our efforts to bring unity to our social relations so we can all pull together to move this nation in the right direction.

Once again, in behalf of the Filipino people, the lay Filipino people, let me express once again our nation's deep gratitude and boundless joy at your incoming cardinal, beloved Archbishop Rosales, in our desire to strengthen our bonds in the government with our spiritual leaders to realize god's loving will for the Philippines.

Muli, mabuhay! Ang ating bagong Cardinal, His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales. At maraming salamat sa inyo.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the Thanksgiving Dinner in Honor of His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214257/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2457&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during a Fiesta Picnic in Mapandan, Pangasinan on the eve of her 59th birthday and in celebration of the Town's Fiesta

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During a Fiesta Picnic in Mapandan, Pangasinan on the eve of her 59th birthday and in celebration of the
Town's Fiesta**

[Delivered at the Mapandan People's Park, Mapandan, Pangasinan, April 4, 2006]

Thank you. Maraming salamat.

Maraming salamat, Ferdie sa iyong napakagandang pagbati sa akin. And to you and to all the people of Mapandan, happy fiesta! Ed sikayon amin.

Gusto ko rin batiin ang ibat-ibang mga napakaimportanteng mga official na narito ngayon: ang first lady ng ating kongreso, si Ma'am Gina de Venecia; kasama ko ngayon siyempre ang namumuno ng ating probinsiya, si Governor Agbayani at saka si Vice Governor Lambino at ang dami-daming ibang mga mayor na narito ngayon sa buong lalawigan ng Pangasinan; ang ating congressman sa distrito, si Congressman Tulagan. at binalita ni Congressman Tulagan sa akin na not only did Mapandan give me 70 percent of the vote in the 2004 election, sa initiative 60 percent of the voters ang nagpirma ng people's initiative — pinakamataas sa Pangasinan. Congratulations!

At ako ay nasisiyahan na narito nga muli gaya nang sabi ni Ferdie, 1993 pa, about the same day as today, namiesta rin ako. You made me your adopted daughter and you've treated me like a daughter ever since kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat.

I remember nung 2004 namiesta rin ako rito, and I'm glad to see... Nuon nagbigay ako ng police car, ngayon hindi lang police car police station. and thanks also to General Lomibao, isa pang anak ng Pangasinan na siya ang namumuno sa ating police ngayon. And speaking of chief of police kasama ko rin yung dating chief of police na siya ngayon ay secretary ng Public Works at yan ay si General Ebdane. At siyempre binabati ko rin yung ama ng ama ng Mapandan at yung anak nung gumawa sa aking adopted daughter ng Mapandan, si General Calimlim na napakalaki ang tulong sa akin sa SBMA.

Ang dami nating dapat pasalamat na lalo na ang ganda-ganda na nitong inyong park, bago ito. Ginagawa pa ito nung nagpunta ako rito nung 2004, ngayon ang ganda-ganda. At ang daming balikbayan na pumunta ngayon dito sa fiestang ito. Ay! By the way, batiin ko rin isa pang importanteng taga-Pangasinan, ang namumuno ng ating immigration, si Al Fernandez. at saka ang member of the Board ng Land Bank, si Albert Balingit, tiga-Pangasinan din.

Dapat magpasalamat din tayo sa Panginoon because today Al Fernandez ends his one-month sick leave, magpasalamat tayo. nagkaron siya ng slight stroke, pinilit ko siya, "Al, kay gusto mo o hindi one month ka magleave." Pero time flies, nandito na siya uli reporting for duty. First day of work namiesta dito, nakipag-picnic sa Mapandan.

Ang dami talagang dapat pasalamat, nabanggit ko yung mga balikbayan. I think 200 balikbayans came today. Naalala ko nga nung nagbisita ako kay late Mayor Calimlim nung... Gabi yon, gabi yung fiesta at sabi nga niya maraming mga Mapandan ay balikbayan. At nung panahong yon pati si General Calimlim OFW. He was the Defense Attache in Washington. Ngayon, nagpapasalamat ako sa mga balikbayan ng Mapandan at through you, sa lahat ng mga OFW natin dahil you have sent record remittances to our country, 11 billion dollars. Kaya ang lakas-lakas ng ating piso dahil sa inyo.

And I would like to let you know na dahil sa liderato rin naman ni Speaker De Venecia at saka yung ating mga congressman gaya ni Congressman Tulagan, marami tayong mga taxes ngayon kaya mapopondohan natin yung Postal Bank with one billion pesos para maging Overseas Filipino Bank. So that you can send your remittances through the post offices of other countries through that Postal Bank to the post offices in the Philippines kaya bababa nang bababa ang cost of remittance ninyo. Kaya siguro kung mangyari yon ay lalong marami pa kayong mapapadala dito.

Alam niyo para magawa natin ito para makapag-negotiate sa ibat-ibang mga post office sa buong mundo kung nasaan marami ang Filipino at para mapondohan natin yung makinarya, yung mga computerization and lahat-lahat, at saka yung palakas ng bangko para you will feel safe in putting your deposit there to be sent to your families nadagdagan natin ng one billion pesos ang capitalization ng Postal Bank. Salamat sa ating mga economic reforms.

At dito rin ay dahil kayo ay maraming mga bata, malalaki ang mga pamilya, ang hinahanap ng mga pamilya ay kalusugan. And as part of our fiesta picnic merong 1,500 na PhilHealth cards that will be coming after holy week para sa mga mahihirap dito sa Mapandan.

So, thank you so much once again for your constant support to me since 1993 at sama-sama tayong ipaunlad natin ang ating minamahal na bansang Pilipinas.

Balbaleg ya salamat ed sikayon amin tan santos ya fiesta.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during a Fiesta Picnic in Mapandan, Pangasinan on the eve of her 59th Birthday and in celebration of the town's fiesta. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214247/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2453&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Thanksgiving Mass in celebration of her 59th birthday

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Thanksgiving Mass in celebration of her 59th birthday**

[Delivered at the St. Augustine Parish Church, Brgy. San Nicolas 1st Lubao, Pampanga, April 5, 2006]

Dacal a salamat quing kekatang Masaleseng choir, congratulations!

Quing kekatang malugud Arsobispo Apo Ceto, dacal a salamat; quing kekatang bayung auxiliary bishop, Bishop Mallari; kekatang parish priest, Monsignor De Guzman; our visiting monsignor, Monsignor Cris, karing ali-aliwang mong quetiking pampanga who said mass this morning; Speaker De Venecia and Mrs. De Venecia and our distinguished guests to our hometown; Senator Lito Lapid and our other provincemates and townmates; karing cabaleng kong capampangan and all of those who came to join us today for my annual mass here in Lubao on my birthday. Thank you very much for your wonderful attendance and greetings.

Maraming nagtatanong sa akin kahapon pa at makalawa pa, ano ba ang aking birthday wish. Ang aking ninanais dito sa aking birthday itong taon ay sana magkaroon ng marami at magandang trabaho, edukasyon at kalusugan para sa ating mga kapatid na mamamayan.

Kanina nga sinimulan na nga ni Secretary Ace Durano ng Tourism yung kanyang tourism jobs fair dahil gusto nga natin ng maraming trabaho, isa sa pinanggagalingang trabaho ngayon, maraming trabaho kagaya ng call centers ay ang turismo. At kaninang umaga nung binati ako ni Ace sa aking cell phone, sa aking text, ang kanyang birthday gift sa akin ay so far 11.9 percent ang increase ng ating turismo sa ating bansa. At kung tutuloy yung trend na yon di halos tatlung milyong turista ang magbibisita sa ating bansa itong taon — pinakamalaki sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa.

Yung kalusugan naman, kanina tinawagan ko si Secretary Andaya at sinabi ko sa kanya na bilang pagdiriwang sana ng aking birthday mag-release pa siya ng panibagong 500 million pesos para sa philhealth. Ayan nandiyaan si Secretary Duque, yung kagaya kong kalahating capampangan at kalahating Pangasinan, para mas dumami ang mga mahihirap na merong PhilHealth insurance. At kakambal naman ng Philhealth yung ating half-priced medicines. Ayan si Secretary Chairman ng PITC, si Obet Pagdanganan. Kakagaling lang sa Pakistan para maghanap pa ng mga medisnang mababa ang presyo. At dito sa ating taon meron tayong mga 700 million pesos para maging puhunan ng ating half-priced medicine program. In fact, Obet tama nga ba yon na pwede kong anunsyuhin na mahigit 5,000 na ang ating mga botika na nagbebenta ng half-priced medicines.

Pag pinag-uusapan natin ang kalusugan kasama na rin ang kalusugan ng nanay, anak, pamilya, pamayanan. At siyempre tuwing ako ay nandito sa pampanga at nakikita ko si Apo Ceto ay naaalala ko yung kanyang isa pang importanteng papel sa ating simbahan sa ibabaw nang siya ay ating arsobispo ng Pampanga ay siya rin ang namumuno sa katawan ng simbahan na nag-aalaga ng ating mga patakaran tungkol sa pamilya at saka sa populasyon. And a few days ago in a cabinet meeting, Apo Ceto, I would like to let you know that I have instructed a release of another 30 million pesos for our natural family planning program.

Nakakaya natin itong mga release na ito dahil — salamat sa ating mga kongresista, ang daming nandito, sa pamumuno ni Speaker De Venecia — ay napasa yung mga importanteng buwis. Salamat na rin kay Senator Lapid na trinabaho rin yung mga importanteng buwis na ngayon nagpopondo sa mga pangangailangan ng ating taong-bayan.

And I take this opportunity to thank the speaker and the congressmen who are here today — you must have had very little sleep dahil kaninang madaling araw ang daming congressmen nagte-text sa akin ng happy birthday dahil gising

pa sila. Dahil kapapasa pa lang nila yung budget for 2006 at saka yung Anti-Terrorism Bill, at ang dami-dami pang ibang batas. Nagtrabaho hanggang madaling araw. Nung kausap ko nga si Speaker kagabi, almost midnight, sabi nga ni Joe, in half an hour we will pass this bill; in one hour we'll pass this bill para sa birthday mo maraming batas na napasa ang House of Representatives. Thank you very much Speaker for that.

And siyempre ngayon at nagagawa natin itong mga importanteng reporma para sa ating ekonomiya ang susunod nang dapat gawin nating reporma ay para naman sa sistema ng pulitika para mas mabilis ang mga batas na mapasa at mas mabilis din matupad sa ating hinahangad na parliamentary system of government.

Gusto kong gamitin itong pagkakataon na magpasalamat sa ating mga Cabalen quetiking pangaduang distrito naning Pampanga uling quetiking pangaduang distrito naning Pampanga ing pangaduang peka maragul a porsiyento dening memalen registered voters aming boto quing inisyatibo para quing bayung constitution.

And so once again, to all of you, thank you for joining me in our annual pilgrimage to pray here in Lubao church during my birthday.

Dacal pong salamat quekonggan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the thanksgiving mass in celebration of her 59th birthday. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214225/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2450&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the distribution of PhilHealth cards for Caloocan and Quezon City beneficiaries [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa pamamahagi ng PhilHealth cards para sa mga benepisyaryo ng Lungsod ng Caloocan at Quezon sa okasyon ng kanyang ika-59 na kaarawan

[Ipinahayag sa Amoranto Stadium, Roces Ave., Lungsod ng Quezon, ika 5 ng Abril, 2006]

Maraming salamat, Secretary Duque sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin. Ikaw ang kasama ko ngayon dahil itong araw na ito ang ipinagdidiriwang natin ay kalusugan ng ating mamamayan.

Binabati ko ang ating mga opisyal na narito ngayon: ang Chairman ng MMDA, si Bayani Fernando; ang Punong Lungsod ng Quezon City at napakaraming official ng Lungsod ng Quezon na narito ngayon in full force; si Mayor Fernando ng Marikina dahil kasama dito sa ating pagdiriwang ngayon ibat-ibang mga bayan ng Metro Manila; ang mga official ng Caloocan na narito; sa inyong lahat — ay, nandito na ba. Uy, ngayon. Hindi ko nakita si Mayor Jun Bernabe na dumating habang ako ay nagsasalita — maraming salamat, Jun sa iyong pagsama-sama dito sa selebrasyon ng aking kaarawan.

Ako ay nasisiyahan na narito ngayon. Nanggaling ako sa Lubao, sa aking bayan, hometown kung saan taun-taon ako ay nagmimisa kapag aking kaarawan. At mula doon ako ay nasisiyahan na narito sa Quezon City dahil alam naman ninyo yung pribadong tahanan namin ng pamilya ay nandito naman sa Quezon City. At kaninang umaga nagsimula sa aming kapitbahay doon sa Hospicio De San Jose. Itong araw na ito ay binibigyan natin ng pansin ang kalusugan dahil iyan ay isa sa aking mga birthday wishes — trabaho, edukasyon at kalusugan para sa ating mga mamamayan.

Kanina nga sa Pampanga pumunta muna ako doon sa aming hospital sa Lubao, yung Escolastica Romero na pinangalan sa aking lola sa tuhod na isang komadrona para tignan kung ano ang kailangan doong ayusin dahil hindi matagal nang nangyari ay nagkaroon ng malaking baha at maraming nasira. Pagkatapos pumunta ako doon sa regional hospital, yung Jose B. Lingad sa San Fernando kung saan ini-naugurate ko yung inayos na building na ipinareho sa istilo ng lumang building.

Dito sa Metro Manila hindi kailangan ang pera ng national government para magtayo ng mga hospital or gumawa ng malaking repair gawa na ang yayaman ng ating mga local government units at sila naman ay nagbibigay ng malaking pansin sa kalusugan ng kanilang mamamayan.

Kaya ang gusto natin ay makinabang ang marami, magkaroon ng pagkakataon na pag nagkakasakit makapasok sa napakaraming magagandang at magagaling na ospital dito sa Metro Manila. Kaya yon ang dahilan kung bakit PhilHealth cards ang pinagbibigay natin itong araw na ito.

Ayon sa batas itong PhilHealth — yung mga nagtatrabaho kasama kayo sa medicare, kasama na kayo sa PhilHealth, kasama yung tinatangal sa sweldo ninyo ng SSS — yung mga walang trabaho, yung mga madla, yung mga mahihirap doon ayon sa batas ang local government ang nagbabayad ng premium ng mga mahihirap. At nagpapasalamat ako sa mga local government ng Metro Manila dahil talagang very generous sila sa pagbayad ng premium ng PhilHealth ng kanilang mga mahihirap na mamamayan. Salamat sa inyong lahat mga mayor dito.

Pero sa dami ng mga mahihirap tumutulong rin ang national government kaya kaninang umaga lamang tinawagan ko ang Secretary of the Budget, si Nonoy Andaya na dating congressman kasama ni Annie Susano at saka ni Nanette Daza pero ngayon ay Secretary of Budget, para maglabas ng 500 million pesos para makatulong rin magbayad ng PhilHealth Premium ng mahihirap natin sa buong Pilipinas.

Dito sa Quezon City sa pagkaintindi ko — tama ba ito, Sonny? — mahigit pitonglibong pamilya na ang miyembro ng PhilHealth. Ibig sabihin nuon mahigit tatlonglibong katao ang natutulungan ng PhilHealth.

At doon naman sa Caloocan City ay sa pagkaalam ko meron na tayong tatlong libong pamilyang miyembro. Ibig sabihin nuon may labinlimang libong kataong nakikinabang sa PhilHealth.

Ang kapartner naman ng PhilHealth ay yung mahigit limanglibong botika ng barangay sa buong Pilipinas, at ilan na ang naseremonya natin Sonny na nabubuksan, hindi ba dito sa Quezon City. Yung botika ng barangay na nagbebenta ng kalahating presyong gamot. Kaya ito ay importante rin para sa kalusugan. Nakakalabas tayo ng pondong ito katulong ng local government sa kalusugan dahil salamat sa ating mga congressmen, salamat Nanette at salamat annie sa inyong pagmamalasakit sa reporma sa ating buwis, kaya nakakaya natin itong mga release mula sa ating budget. In fact, si Annie at saka si Nnanette puyat na puyat yang dalawa gawa ng kagabi... Ay, kaninang umaga nga natapos ang kanilang session dahil pinasa nila yung budget natin para sa 2006. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

At hindi lamang yon pinasa rin nila yung anti-terror bill para maligtas ang Quezon City, Metro Manila, buong Pilipinas sa banta nitong mga teroristang nagsasagabal sa ating kapayapaan.

Ngayon natapos ang ating mga reporma sa ekonomiya patungo naman tayo sa reporma sa pulitika. At ako ay nagpapasalamat sa ating mga local government na masigasig na nag-advocate ng pagbago ng ating konstitusyon. Salamat sa mga mamamayan at community leader ng Quezon City, Caloocan at buong Metro Manila doon sa mga nagpirma sa inisyatibang dapat baguhin na ang ating konstitusyon. Kapag natupad ang bagong konstitusyon mas mabilis pang kikilos ang mga batas gawa ng magkakaisa na ang Kongreso at saka executive, at mas mabilis din ang pagtupad sa mga batas na ginagawa, at mas lalawak ang kapangyarihan ng ating mga local governments na karapat dapat naman.

Kaya ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat. At kanina pinakita sa akin ni Sonny Belmonte yung — kasi April 5 ngayon. Seven months ago was September 5 — at pinakita niya sa akin sa magandang parchment paper yung napakagandang expression of support ng lahat ng leader ng Quezon City sa aking pamamahala at aking administrasyon.

Salamat sa inyong lahat at tuloy-tuloy tayong magkasama hindi lamang para sugpuin yung mga terorista kung hindi na rin para pigilin natin yung mga nagtatangkang madestabilize ang ating pamahalaan at ating lipunan.

Salamat sa sinabi ni Sonny kaninang malawak na suporta ng Quezon City para sa inyong lingkod. Salamat sa ibat-ibang mga leader ng Metro Manila na dumalaw itong araw na ito dito sa Amoranto sa pagdiriwang ng aking kaarawan at ang ating pagdiriwang na umangat at umunlad at sumulong ang kalusugan ng ating mga mamamayan sa Quezon City, Caloocan, buong Metro Manila.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the distribution of PhilHealth cards for Caloocan and Quezon City beneficiaries on the occasion of her 59th birthday. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214238/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2451&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Inauguration of the newly-renovated NEAP building and the soft launching of the Summer Training Programs of the Department of Education

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Inauguration of the newly-renovated National Educators' Academy of the Philippines (NEAP)
building and the soft launching of the Summer Training Programs of the Department of Education**

[Delivered at the Teachers' Camp, Baguio City, April 17, 2006]

Thank you very much.

Thank you, Secretary Afael and congratulations by the way to the son of Baguio for your very successful ongoing peace process with the MILF.

Secretary Hidalgo and all the officials of DepEd; Congressman Domogan, Mayor Yaranon, Governor Melchor and the other officials of the entire Cordillera who are here today; Secretary Mike Defensor, my Presidential Chief-of-Staff and Secretary Duque and Secretary Ebdane and other members of the Cabinet who are here today; ladies and gentlemen, fellow teachers.

I spent from 1972 up to 1997 in a career as a teacher and I always felt benefited by the various teacher training programs that I underwent. And so therefore we consider it a very essential part of education to continue to educate our teachers. I was going to announce today but I already saw it in a streamer, it said, "Thank you, President Arroyo for the 500 plus million for upgrading the skills of our teachers." Yes, we have 581 million pesos. Of course, thank you to Congressman Domogan and all of the congressmen not only for putting it in the budget but also for enabling the value-added tax that enables us now to make such big allocation for education.

And the important thing now, because our budget deficit is 7.7 billion below the ceiling for January to February, it's not only that we can allocate 581 million, we can release 500 million pesos right now. And if Fe Hidalgo's training program will use up all the 500 million for this summer, we can augment it after summer.

Especially, of course, as you all know because way back in 2001 in my State of the Nation Address, I already said that our purpose, one of our... The unique thrust of this administration's program is to strengthen math, science and english, so that our young people can survive and flourish in the world of the 21st century. I have asked Fe Hidalgo to make the training program for this summer especially emphatic with regard to math, science and english.

The enrichment seminars of course will be conducted all year round in colleges and universities because we encourage our teachers to continue with your education. But the bulk of the refresher courses will take place this summer and that's why Fe tells me that 37,000 teachers will be undergoing refresher courses this summer. And let's make sure Fe that we're concentrating on math, science and english.

So that's why we're launching this program today at Teachers' Camp because especially with this important center that we have renovated and are inaugurating today, this is the traditional summer school venue of our mentors — Teachers' Camp — and we would like it to be remembered that way. That's why I took the opportunity to inaugurate this renovation today so that I can also inspect the facilities of teachers' camp to make sure it's ready for the summertime seminars of our public school teachers. And I'm glad to see you all...

I'm glad to see you all starting your seminar today. But my instructions towards this enhancement of teacher training do not stop with the Department of Education nor even with the Department of Budget only. I have also instructed the state universities and colleges to offer a discount to teachers who want to enroll this summer for short courses or graduate studies provided it's in math, science or english. In fact, I called up CHED Chairman Puno today and I

asked him to enforce this instruction this summer, and he said he will do that. So I'm asking Secretary Hidalgo to make sure that he does that and to make sure that they do offer these discounts for math, science and english.

Aside from that, I have also instructed the NBN — Channel 4 as we know it in Manila, I don't know what channel it's here in Baguio — in conjunction with the DepEd to televise the math, science and english courses so that more teachers can benefit via remote learning and not just the 37,000 teachers who will be training on campus this year. Each prototype class for each subject can be recorded or beamed live from U.P. — depends on how you want to find what technically efficient, recorded or beamed live — because U.P. is very close geographically to the studios of NBN. This way our teachers learn from the comforts of their own living room, if for some reason or other, they find it inconvenient to go to a classroom setting. And we already have a name for it. We will call this "Teleserye Para kay Ma'am." sorry, mga sirs.

Because what we want is that this will not only be educational but entertaining as well. And we've seen a lot of E-TV programs, haven't we? Not only educational but very entertaining and that's the kind of production I'd like DepEd and NBN to do. So, we have plenty of things to do but we have the money to do it at last. So let's use that money well and efficiently so that when our students go to school in June they will have teachers who will teach them very well in math, science and english, and they will be ready for the challenges of the 21st century.

Congratulations and good luck! To all our trainors.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the Inauguration of the newly-renovated National Educators' Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) building and the soft launching of the Summer Training Programs of the Department of Education. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214129/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2438&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Inauguration of the two newly-constructed building of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Inauguration of the two newly-constructed building of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center**

[Delivered at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Baguio City, April 17, 2006]

Well, let me take this opportunity to thank Senator Johnny Flavir for his wonderful legacy. Nakalagay... Babasahin ko ha,” This building, Baguio General Hospital Medical Center has been built for the delivery of quality health care services to the people of Baguio City, the Cordilleras and the rest of Northern Luzon. It was constructed under the direct supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways’ Special Building Project Management Office through the initiative of Senator Juan Flavir.”

Manong Johnny, the people of Baguio and the Cordilleras are so lucky. Inaugurated this 17th day of April in the year of our Lord 2006 Baguio City, Philippines. Gloria Macagapal-Arroyo, President. Juan Flavir, Senator.

Congratulations! Congratulations sa ating lahat.

And can I take this opportunity to congratulate also the people of Benguet because Benguet is now declared malaria-free.

Thank you, Manong Johnny. Wonderful! Wonderful!

Salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA’s Remarks during the Inauguration of the two newly-constructed building of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412214136/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2437&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the turnover ceremony of one of the six newly overhauled C-130 aircraft units

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the turnover ceremony of one of the six newly overhauled C-130 aircraft units**

[Delivered at the Fixed Wing Hangar, 250th Presidential Airwing Villamor Airbase, Pasay City, April 28, 2006]

Thank you very much, Secretary Cruz.

Ambassador Kenney and our other friends from the United States, General Senga, General Reyes and the other officers and men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Mr. Rodriguez and the other members of the private sector and the business community who put together what we are looking at here today.

In behalf of the Filipino people, I wish to express my appreciation to the United States for what you have done to this aircraft.

I was asking Secretary Nonong Cruz what exactly have they done. I wanted to know the term, and the official term is progressive depot maintenance. As I asked him to explain what it entails, for us the layman it means overhauling and souping up. So thank you Ambassador Kenney for overhauling and souping up this lovely important aircraft for us.

And as you have said, this is yet another of the many symbols of the deep friendship and strategic partnership between the Philippines and America reflected in the generous economic and military assistance granted to the Philippines that is now positively impacting on the lives of our people not to mention our vibrant trade and investment ties. The payback of U.S. military assistance is lasting peace and sustainable economic growth.

We are proud of this aircraft has been repaired, overhauled and souped up. Thanks, courtesy of the United States, but in the Philippines and by Filipinos right in Clark. Congratulations, Peter!

This overhauled, souped up C-130 represents Filipino technological expertise as much as it represents a deep friendship between the Philippines and the United States. It demonstrates yet another dimension of our country on the verge of a take-off in sweeping economic, security and political reforms, building on the strengths of the great Filipino worker, including the great Filipino engineer and mechanic as well as the great Filipino soldier.

Our soldiers have shown their worth as defenders of democracy. They fight terrorists and insurgents fearlessly in the field. They deserve the best support the Philippine government can afford and the best support our allies can spare for us.

The Philippines indeed is a partner of the United States, and it supports the leadership of the United States in the fight against terror. This is an opportune time for us to reiterate that we shall not relent until every terrorist cell is captured, until our porous borders are fully secured, and until the spawning grounds of terrorist recruits are cleaned up by fighting poverty in those areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend once again our law enforcers for averting yet another terror plot by uncovering the would-be bombers of the forthcoming May 1 celebration. The foiled terrorist plot to bomb crowds commemorating Labor Day shows our steadfast vigilance which we assure our friends that we shall relentlessly be pursuing to protect the people from evil. Terrorist cells will not be allowed to creep into the metropolis, and we shall flush them out with the support of our friends from the U.S. through equipment such as this and other training. We

shall flush out these terrorists from their lairs in the urban centers and in the far-flung jungles because now it will be quicker to take them there, to take our soldiers there.

The threat does not sleep and so must our alertness be constant and unrelenting. But even as we must not step back from our daily chores, communities must undertake extra precautions for the collective safety of their members working closely with our soldiers, our policemen, standing guard to keep the jobs and livelihood of the people unsullied against terror. We will never be cowed by the disciples of anarchy as we uphold constitutional order and the rule of law at all times.

The soldier, the Filipino soldier stands by the flag and the Filipino people. And what we are doing here today, the blessing of this overhauled, souped up C-130 represents the friendship between the Philippines and the United States in supporting the great Filipino soldier.

Congratulations! Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the turnover ceremony of one of the six newly overhauled C-130 aircraft units. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213926/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2430&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Job and Livelihood Fair for Persons with Disability

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Job and Livelihood Fair for Persons with Disability

[Delivered at the Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Ave., QC, May 27, 2006]

Hindi ako magdidiskurso ng mahaba, meron lang akong panawagan na gagawin. Pero una sa lahat, nandito na rin ako sa entablado, gusto kong batiin yung mga kasama natin sa pag-organize nitong jobs fair na ito para sa mga may kapansanan. Una kay Secretary Pat Sto Tomas ng DOLE. Thank you, Pat; si Secretary Cabral ng DSWD. Thank you, Espie; ang Director General ng Presidential Management Staff dahil siya ang nagsusubaybay sa mga job creation activities ng pamahalaan, si Arty Yap; ang Chairman ng TESDA, si Boboy Syjuco; at saka batiin ko rin ang ating host, yung Executive Director ng Occupational Safety and Health Center, si Executive Director Dulce Gust.

Salamat at narito kayo at salamat sa ating mga employer na naghahandog ng trabaho sa ating mga persons with disabilities. At congratulations! Doon sa mga maaga pa lamang, sa unang oras pa lamang tayo ng jobs fair nakahanap na kayo ng trabaho. Congratulations! Sa mga instant hire.

At gusto ko lang sabihin na nauunawaan ko at ng buong administrasyon ng inyong lingkod na yung dalawang pinaka-importanteng pinag-aabalahan ng taumbayan ay trabaho at saka presyo ng bilingin. At itong dalawang ito ang pinakabinibigyan natin ng pansin. Kaya itong trabahong jobs fair na ito ginawa natin specifically dahil noong pinagdiriwang natin yung week of the disabled ay sinabi natin na tutulungan natin ang mga disabled sa training, bibigyan ng scholarship — kaya may mga binigay na scholarship si Boboy kanina — at special na trabaho gawa namang marami namang trabaho na bagay na bagay pa rin sa mga persons with disabilities. Ang binigay ko ngang ideya noong araw nung hindi pa uso ang call center, yung mga telephone operator maging sa telephone company or sa mga kumpanya na may mga trunkline, maraming nakakapagbigay ng trabaho sa mga yung mga hindi makalakad or mga pilay kasi hindi naman kailangan maglakad-lakad para sa isang operator.

Eh ngayon yung mga operators natin eh high-tech na, in other words, yung mga call center agents na. Hindi lamang operator kung hindi very... Nagbebenta ng mga produkto or sumasagot sa mga complaints, nagbibigay ng instruction papano gumamit ng isang appliance. Eh malaki ang sweldo doon pero physically ganun din ang environment. Naka-upo kayo at meron kayong headphone pero ang ginagawa rin ninyo yung computer. Yon ang inyong parang resource base. Di kung pwede nung araw yung disabled sa telephone operator, di pwedeng-pwede rin as call center agents. So yan ang inisip natin dahil 100,000 ang job availability sa call center industry. Kaya sabi natin, ba't hindi natin isama yung mga persons with disabilities. Kaya nangyari ito.

At doon naman whether you are disabled or whether you are not disabled gusto ko rin ipahayag na yung DBM, nandoon sa peryodiko kanina, nag-approve na ng mga 5,000 items for teachers. Kaya whether you are disabled or not disabled kung kayo ay merong teacher's license dahil taun-taon nag-e-examine ang mga education graduates maging teacher, kung wala kayong trabaho, mag-apply na kayo sa DEPED.

Yon namang presyo, ako ay nagpapasalamat na ayon sa mga focus groups, naiintindihan naman ng nakararami na yung pagtataas ng presyo ang malaking pinanggagalingan ay yung presyo ng langis sa buong mundo. Kaya yon din ang ating kailangang hanapan ng pagkaginhawa sa abot ng ating kakayahan dahil yung presyo sa buong mundo hindi lahat ay nasa kamay natin.

And so, the reason why I asked for this platform is to make an appeal to the oil companies: in the interest and welfare of our people who are bearing the brunt of the global surge in prices, I'm appealing to all the oil companies to extend every possible assistance to the public transport sector which is a heavy user of diesel. Meanwhile, the government is doing all it can to ease the public burden, including my issuance of executive order no. 527 reducing tariff on crude and refined products, whose full implementation will soon be carried out.

Sana sa iba't-ibang mga ginagawa natin kagaya ng jobs fair ngayon at yung ating pagbaba ng tariff sa pag-import ng krudo, sana makatulong tayo magkaroon ng ginhawa doon sa mga naaabala sa trabaho at saka presyo ng bilingin.

Sa inyong lahat muli, good luck to all our applicants! At maraming salamat sa lahat ng ating mga employer.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the Job and Livelihood Fair for Persons with Disability. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213148/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2714&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Courtesy Call and Presentation to the Media of the Two Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Teams

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Courtesy Call and Presentation to the Media of the Two Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Teams**

[Delivered at the Kalayaan Grounds, Malacañang, May 31, 2006]

Maraming salamat.

President Ramos, na isang malaking nagsuporta sa First Philippine Expedition to the Mount Everest. Yung ating mga ibat-ibang official, mga tagahanga na narito ngayon sa ating buong team na sumuporta sa ating mga bayani ng Mount Everest.

Sa ngalan ng buong sambayanang Pilipino, ibig kong batiin kayong lahat, lalung-lalo na si Leo, si Pastour at saka si Romi, sa inyong kongkista ng Mount Everest. Congratulations muli sa inyong lahat sa ngalan ng buong sambayanang Pilipino!

Sa ngalan din ng buong sambayang Pilipino ulitin ko ang sinasabi ng lahat na ang inyong nakamit ay nagpapakita na ang Pilipino ay kayang maakyat ang pinakamataas na tuktok ng mundo sa inyong pagpursige at fighting spirit. At kaya ng Pilipino ito napatunayan niyo maging sa pag-akyat ng mundo, sa kagalingan ng trabaho and standing proud for the nation.

Maraming salamat na ang simbolo ng inyong pagkongkista ng Mount Everest, yung bandilang tinanim niyo doon at saka yung mga banner ng mga dasal ay ibinigay niyo dito sa inyong lingkod at ilalagay natin ito sa museo ng Malacañang bilang tanda ng inyong malaking nagawa para sa ating bansa.

Let me say also in behalf of the Filipino people what they have been saying in the streets, everywhere, that you're an inspiration of courage and daring, hindi lamang para magtagumpay ang ating taumbayan sa sports and adventure kung hindi na rin sa lahat ng larangan ng pagtatayo ng bansa.

Maraming bundok ng hamon ang humaharap sa atin, but your achievement inspires us to believe that our nation can overcome the strongest and most ferocious winds of adversity to cross over to deliver the good life to our people.

Sabi nga ni Art Valdez, ang head ng expedition, itong ating mga bayani na umabot sa tuktok ay nagawa nila dahil sa teamwork, hindi lamang sa teamwork nilang dalawa, nilang tatlo kung hindi yung grupo doon sa base camp. Yung ating ibat-ibang mga kasapi ng dalawang expedition, kaya congratulations sa inyo. You share the honor of giving a great example of what teamwork can achieve.

Buena mano talaga ang pagbalik ng ating mga Mount Everest climbers para sa ating bansa, kasi ngayon habang nag-uusap tayo at nagpapahayag ng ating congratulations sa kanila, ang NEDA naman ay kasalukuyang nagbibigay ng kanilang quarterly press conference. At President Ramos, ating mga bayani ng Everest, bigyan ho niyo ako ng pagkakataon na gamitin naman ito panahon para iulat ang inuulat din ng NEDA na iulat ang paglago ng ating ekonomiya itong first quarter: 5.5 percent sa loob ng bansa; 5.8 percent kung isasama ang kita ng ating manggagawa sa ibayong dagat — 5.5 ang GDP, 5.8 ang GNP. At pansin natin ang paglaki ng mga pangunahing sektor gaya ng pabrika, konstruksiyon, export, at paggastos ng pamilyang Pilipino. Pinatutunayan ng mga ito na ang kumpiyansa ng negosyante at mamimili ay nananatili sa kabila ng mahihirap na hamon.

Kung yung ating mga climbers ay may hamon ng pagkulang ng oxygen, malalakas na hangin, napakalamig — sabi ni Art parang nasa freezer sila nung buong panahon — tayo rin ay maraming hamon itong first quarter nga yung

pagtataas ng presyo ng langis, yung nagsimula yung mga bagong buwis at saka yung la niña, pero matatag pa rin ang ekonomiya.

Nagpapakita sa mga ganansya ng mga repormang pangkabuhayan natupad. At kasunod sa gumagandang nakamit sa kaban ng bayan, nakita natin ang panibagong kumpiyansa ng ating mga namumuhunan sa ating ekonomiya. Sa mas mabuting paglakad ng kaban ng bayan, ngayon mapopondohan ng pamahalaan ang pangunahing programa ng imprastruktura magkokonekta sa buong bansa na mabubuksan ang gawaing pangkabuhayan pati na rin mapopondohan ang mga masusing serbisyon batayan at panlipunan.

Gaya nang sabi ko, buena mano ang pagbalik ng ating mga bayani ng Mount Everest. Pagbalik nila lumabas itong mga magandang balita tungkol sa ating paglago ng ekonomiya. At lalong pinapakita, pinapatunay in a very graphic way ng ating mga bayani ng Everest na kaya nating malampasan ang hamon sa ating angking katatagan at determinasyon na marating ang tugatog ng tagumpay.

Muli mga bayani ng Everest, ipinagmamalaki kayo ng buong bansa at nawa'y kayo maging inspirasyon para magkaisa, magkaroon ng teamwork, at harapin ang lahat ng hamon para makaabot sa tuktok ng kabutihan ng kabuhayan ng ating bansa.

Congratulations! We are so proud of all of you.

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the Courtesy Call and Presentation to the Media of the Two Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Teams. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412213111/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2705&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Luncheon hosted by Temasek Holdings

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the Luncheon hosted by Temasek Holdings

[Delivered at the State Room, Shangri-la Hotel, Singapore, November 20, 2006]

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Thank you very much for asking me to say a few words and thank you. And Madame Ho Ching, thank you for hosting this very delightful and I hope very fruitful luncheon.

Well, as you all know, I just came from the APEC meetings and I was saying to Madame Ho Ching that Premier Lee Hsien Loong had many words of wisdom for us. But I would like to say in general that that meeting was very hopeful. Anytime that the world leaders get together to discuss global and regional problems, it's a positive. And I think that APEC has been a good process for bringing into focus Asia which is such an important and dynamic player in the world today.

The Philippines hopes to become part of that dynamism, more than we have been in recent years. And that's the reason why I've come here to Singapore now because I think now we're ready to give you good news. I think because many of you have an interest in the Philippines, I think you will not disagree with me when I say that the Philippine economy has arrived and there's no looking back.

The days of huge deficits, stagnation and poor economic growth are gone. We had a very hard fought first phase of our economic reforms, and that was raising the revenues that we needed to invest in infrastructure and in human development. But that hard fought war has been won and the results are in.

Our deficit is under control and the country is on its way to a balance budget in 2008; the stock market is up; the peso is strong; investments are coming in; growth is robust; the poverty rate is down; the per capita income is up; new revenues can be invested in long overdue repairs in infrastructure, health care, education and job creation.

And because we are spending in new revenues... In fact, I said, we're spending our new revenues in infrastructure, I announced recently in my State of the Nation Address that we have now a one trillion-peso public investment program. This investment program will be funded — of course, the majority of it by our government revenues — but because we have a comprehensive and consistent program of investment in infrastructure, we also have room for private sector investors who want to take on some of the more lucrative aspects of the infrastructure program. We're talking here about railways, seaports, roads, airports, energy, and so on.

And so what we want to do therefore is to invite the business community of Singapore to look at these opportunities, first of all, in infrastructure. But noting the wide range of businesses under Temasek's portfolio, we would ask you to partner with us in developing major infrastructure projects to make our companies competitive, to lower electricity cost, to develop alternative sources of energy, to lower our dependence on imported fuel.

We also want to see the benefits of these competitiveness raising efforts to benefit retail services like in tourism, I.C.T., B.P.O. services, banking and telecommunications. And I hope that you will look at these opportunities because they will be good for our country. We need them for our investments and for our competitiveness, but they are also in themselves very important areas for investment.

I'd like to say something about our energy independence program because we are inviting investors in our energy independence program. Actually now, we are now around only about 30 percent dependent on imported oil. That's

because we have been very aggressive in promoting alternative sources of energy like biofuel which has taken off. There's already a biofuel company that is listing in the stock exchange. And the same thing can be said of our solar energy, wind energy and geothermal energy. So we have a lot of these kinds of sources of energy and they are important in areas for investment as well.

We're also firmly committed to attracting investors in our mining industry. We are probably the 5th mining power in the world as far as natural resources are concerned. But in regard to their having been extracted or processed, we are somewhat the new kid in town because it was only recently that the Supreme Court ruled that 100 percent investment in... Foreign investment in mining is in accordance with our constitution. So this is a very big area for investments now. And we invite and we will approve mining projects that are ecologically responsible.

Then there is the business process outsourcing sector. Five years ago when I had just assumed the presidency, there were only 2,000 workers in the B.P.O. industry. Today, there are 200,000 workers. That's a one hundred-fold increase in that industry in the last five years. And there's much more room for that because there's so much of a demand for B.P.O. services, and we are making sure that we can still continue to grow fast by training more and more of our young people in the English skills and the competency base skills that are required by the B.P.O. industry.

We have been growing a hundred-fold in five years. It really means that we have already established ourselves in this industry. What we are doing now is to increase value-added. We are working on growing the value-added segment of this industry including accounting, legal, personnel and administrative services. And this year alone, this higher value B.P.O. is expected to grow by almost 40 percent. And this is really very exciting for our I.C.T. industry.

I really thought that I should come here to Singapore to ask the Singapore business community to invest more in the Philippines. We have already been experiencing big surges in foreign investment in our country. Peter, October, gave us a 30 percent increase in investments, and we are very happy about that. And we'd like to have more of course because we would like to catch up with the rest of this very dynamic region.

We're always striving to make our economy more competitive for both domestic and foreign investors. Recently, we had a National Competitiveness Summit. And we, together with the business sector, worked on and discussed how can we make our country more competitive as far as the business climate is concerned. And there were very, very concrete measures that were proposed by the business community. And we have formed a private sector-public sector task force to work on the resolutions made then. So Peter Favila heads it together with the member of the private sector. And it's a very, very small group so that they can work together and Bobby Romulo is also a member of that because he is my senior adviser on competitiveness. And part of the competitiveness move is to work on cutting red tape. Peter is also the head of our Anti-Red Tape Task Force. And we have drastically reduced the time associated with the bidding process, for instance, on government projects. But later on, Peter can tell you other things if you are interested in things that we have done to cut down on red tape. And with red tape comes corruption. We have also made progress against corruption. For instance, under Gary's administration and started by Lito Camacho when he was still Secretary of Finance, we've been cleaning up Customs and as a result we have increased revenue collections. Isn't it right, Gary? I've read in the papers that we are collecting more from the vat than we expected. So the increment of that would be a result of the clean up we've been doing in the Customs.

We clean up in at least two ways: one is by the technology that will reduce opportunities for corruption; and then the other one is running after tax cheats and smugglers. We take this issue very seriously.

So, I'm happy that the international market has responded. Since the reforms that I announced in the State of the Nation Address last July, and it is now November and the markets are still responding. So I think it means that the market sees that what we said in July we're actually carrying out.

So we remain confident that we will be able to meet our target this year of 5.5 percent growth. That is what the World Bank says we will achieve. The World Bank has been praising what we've been doing so as the I.M.F., so

have our credit rating agencies. And that's why we felt that this time it is right for us to come and tell the good news to the Singaporean business community.

Now that we have done our reforms in revenue and we're well underway in our reforms and infrastructure, we can now work on the third phase which is truly to set our sights on becoming a first world country in 2020.

Of course, Singapore is very much a first world country, the first of the ASEAN countries to be in the first world. We have a lot to learn from Singapore and I'm very happy about our conversation with Madame Ho Ching earlier, not only because I now have an idea of what are the specific areas of investment that Temasek will be interested in, but because of the innovations and the decision-making process that Temasek goes through in doing its economic decisions something that we have a lot to learn about in our quest to become a first world nation by 2020.

So, I'd like to thank you again for this opportunity to be able to speak before the captains of the business community. Madame Ho Ching and Mr. Lim, thank you so much for this opportunity. And I hope, indeed, that we will enhance our partnership in the months and years to come.

Thank you.

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the Luncheon hosted by Temasek Holdings. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100409203332/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3031&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the send-off of Bicol Mercy Mission Caravan [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa paghahatid sa Bicol Mercy Mission Caravan**

[Ipinahayag sa Central Business Park, Diosdado Macapagal Ave., Pasay City, ika 12 ng Disyembre, 2006]

Maraming salamat sa lahat nang tumulong sa nagpahandog ng 230 truckloads of relief goods and reconstruction equipment and personnel.

At saka merong gustong ipaabot si Secretary Nonoy Andaya na tayo ay susulat sa kongreso at senado dahil ginagawa pa nila yung budget para sa 2007. Kung naalala ninyo, kung naalala ng marami, nung si Bert Romulo at ako'y nasa senado pa ay... Noong nagkaroon ng Mount Pinatubo eruption at saka yung aftermath, yung mga lahar flow, ay nagkaroon ng 10 billion pesos para sa rehabilitation at — well, hindi lang rehabilitation — para sa response to Mt. Pinatubo. Kaya hihingi rin tayo ngayon sa kongreso at senado ng 10 billion pesos para sa Bicol. That is for the... Itong disaster response, relief and reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Okay. Well, it's supposed to be for the 2007 budget pero dapat 2007 paplanuhin na lahat para ma-obligate na lahat. Okay

Okay. Anything else?

Okay. Thank you, Glen. Congratulations! Sa nag-coordinate lahat itong effort na ito.

Thank you. Sabi nga ni Vice President Noli de Castro, initial lang yan dahil kahapon lang sila sumagot sa ating panawagan noong weekend. Pero papunta pa naman ito sa Bicol at umaasa tayo na habang papunta sa Bicol meron ding mga madadaan na tutulong rin. Kaya... At pagdating naman sa Bicol, yung mga natamaan na from Camarines Norte pati sa Quezon hindi ba, magbababa na rin ng mga relief at saka reconstruction personnel.

So, thank you at good luck!

And happy trip to all of you!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the Send-Off of Bicol Mercy Mission Caravan. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141829/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3055&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the inauguration ceremony of Ina Healing Center and Eucharistic celebration

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration ceremony of Ina Healing Center and Eucharistic celebration**

[Delivered at the DSWD Compound, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, December 16, 2006]

Joe and Gina, Tita Nene, the other members of the De Venecia and Vera Perez families, Espie Cabral and our other fellow workers in government, members of INA, lahat ng mga nandito na nagmamahal kay KC — happy birthday in heaven — yan ang ating sasabihin because the day that KC died was the day she was born in heaven.

Kanina yung ating first reading tungkol kay Elijah, Monsignor Laban, at sinabi that Elijah was brought to heaven in a chariot of fire. KC was brought to heaven in a chariot of fire. And KC is there with us and all the children of the INA are here with us because as Monsignor Laban reminds us, we, who believe in the communion of saints, believe that they never leave us.

Naalala ko noong minsang kami ni Gina magkasama at may typhoon signal tungkol sa Bicol, pinag-usapan ni Gina itong affair na ito. Tapos sabi niya, “Naku! Dadami na yung ating alaga,” yung mga inang mauulila ng anak doon sa Bicol pagdating ng typhoon. At yon na nga ang nangyari, pagdating ng typhoon lalo na yung Reming doon sa maipon sa Albay ay napakaraming inang naulila sa anak. At tamang-tama rin na nung December 1 nung ako ay naging Secretary of Defense at naging Chairman ng National Disaster Coordinating Council, ginawa natin si Gina bilang consultant ng NDCC.

Kaya ngayon maraming alaga si Gina not only as the leader of INA but also as our new consultant. And tamang-tama yung sinabi ni Monsignor Laban, he remembers now the many other INAs there in Bicol, and there are indeed so many of them. At nung pinag-uusapan natin yung mga outreach, yung magagawa ng mga ina na makikidalamhati kayo at makakatulong kayo sa kanilang healing dahil naramdaman din ninyo ito, siguro unang-unang outreach natin kahit na wala pang building ay mag-outreach ang INA kasama ng NDCC at DSWD doon mismo sa Guinobatan sa Albay.

And while the cameras are on me, I’d also like to take the opportunity to say that, “Yes, so much destruction and so much loss of life happened in Bicol these past few weeks, but there are also appeals from islands outside Bicol who were also devastated.” Kahapon magkasama kami ni Girlie sa Mindoro Occidental, yung kanyang probinsiya. Nandoon din ako, bago ako pumunta doon kasama ni Girlie, nanggaling din ako sa Marinduque. At itong mga lugar na ito bagamat hindi buhay ang pinag-uusapan hanapbuhay naman ang nawala doon sa Mindoro Occidental lalo na yung mga nasa baybay. Yung mga mangingisda na kunting-konti lang ang kita nila, yung konting kita nila ay nawala pa dahil sa bagyo.

At doon naman sa Marinduque lalo na dahil napakaliit na island province, ang kinukuhanan lang nila halos ng hanapbuhay ay yung kanilang niyugan. Halos lahat ng niyog ay nahulog na kaya wala silang naasahan sa mga darating na taon at umaasa at naghahanap pa sila kung ano’ng aasahan sa mga darating na linggo. And that is why they have asked me to make this appeal that those island provinces like Marinduque and Mindoro should also be the subject of humanitarian assistance from the Philippines and from all over the world. Talagang maraming kailangang gawin.

At siyempre hindi naman matatanggal, gaya nang sabi ni Monsignor Laban, ang... Yung scar, yung scar ng kalungkutan dahil nawala ang mahal na mahal na anak. Ngunit yon na nga ang ginawa ni KC when she went up in a chariot of fire, KC was really a fiery young lady and she did not want her mother or the other mothers here to be defeated by tragedy. She wants her whole message all these two years in many manifestations are always been — “Use your grief to make life better for other people.”

Gaya itong araw higit sa lahat nagpapasalamat tayo kay KC at nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng mga anak ng mga ina at sa ganun ay habang sila ay nandito sa kapaligiran natin kahit hindi natin sila nakikita makikita ninyo muli sila sa mga ibat-ibang ina na magiging bagong anak rin ninyo.

Maraming salamat. And once again, happy birthday in heaven to KC!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2006). PGMA's Remarks during the Inauguration Ceremony of Ina Healing Center and Eucharistic Celebration. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615141742/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3051&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the inaugural opening of Lateral-A Irrigation Canal of the Casecnan Multi-purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP) [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa pagbubukas at inagurasyon ng Lateral-A Irrigation Canal of the Casecnan Multi-purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP)

[Ipinahayag sa Brgy. Magtanggol, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, ika 2 ng Enero, 2007]

Maraming salamat po.

Ating mga kaibigan ng Nueva Ecija, happy new year sa inyong lahat! Governor Tommy Joson, Congressman Violago, Vice Governor Joson, Mayor Alvarez, ibat-ibang mga punong-bayan ng Nueva Ecija, Presidential Assistant Rene Diaz, Secretary Arty Yap ng Agriculture, Administrator Art Lomibao ng Irrigation, si General Johnny Gomez ng Armed Forces of the Philippines, si General Rafanan ng PNP, lahat ng mga magsasaka at Irrigators Association na makikinabang dito sa binuksan nating patubig. Happy new year sa inyong lahat!

Ito ang first working day ng 2007 at ako'y nasisiyahan na itong umaga nag-inaugurate tayo ng dalawang napaka-importanteng super region projects natin. Kung naalala ninyo nung aking State of the Nation Address sinabi ko na ang North Luzon agri-business quadrangle ay mabubuo ng Region I, Region II, Cordillera at yung northern part ng Region III.

Kanina, nanggaling ako sa Nueva Vizcaya dahil binuksan na natin yung Baguio-Aritao road na nasarado nuong nagkaron ng lindol nung 1991. Ngayon pwede ng three-and-a-half hours na magbiyahe mula sa Baguio paabot sa Banaue rice terraces. Yan ang tinatawag nating Baguio-Aritao super region road dahil nag cro-cross sa Cordillera at Region II dahil lahat nito ay isang rehiyon lamang kung pag-uusapan natin ang ekonomiya.

Mabuti tayo ay nandito sa Muñoz eto naman ang sentro ng agrikultura sa buong norte. Lahat ng research na ginagawa para dumami ang produkto ng palay ay narito; para dumami ang produkto ng pangingisda ay narito; para dumami ang produkto ng gulay ay naririto; para dumami at lumaki yung mga baka at kalabaw ay naririto rin. Kaya eto ang sentro ng agricultural science ng North Luzon agri-business. At napaka meaningful na dito natin ginawa itong inauguration ng ating irrigation component ng Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project.

Kung naalala ninyo, yung unang biyaya ng Casecnan ay kuryente. Ngayon ang biyaya ng Casecnan ay patubig. At itong araw na ito yung binuksan natin na gripo ay nagbukas ng sampung hektarya... Sa sampung libong hektarya sa Muñoz, sa Guimba at saka sa Talugtug. Uy! Congressman Violago, hindi ko nabanggit kanina ang mga constituent ni Congressman Violago ang makikinabang doon dahil ito ay distrito niya. At pagkatapos nito ang susunod naman na iko-construct na irrigation canal ay 16,000 hectares naman na Guimba — dahil umaabot sa Guimba ngayon — mula Guimba abot sa Victoria sa Tarlac.

Kaya ang buong irrigation project na ito ang sakop niya ay 26,000 hectares. Ang ininaugurate natin ngayon ay 10,000 hectares. Ngayon magsisimula naman ang construction ng susunod na 16,000 hectares. At hindi lamang yon, yon pang kalsada kasi ang ginawa natin sa tabi nito yung mga dike ay linagyan natin ng kalsada, road dike. So ilang kilometro ito ng farm-to-market road, Rene? Itong ginagawa natin ngayon ay 600 kilometers ng farm-to-market roads. Kaya ito ay ginagawa natin para naman ang probinsiya ng Nueva Ecija ay manatiling number one producer ng palay sa buong Pilipinas. Meron pa tayong nire-repair, ito mga construction ito. Itong 26,000 na ito ay bagong lupa na mai-irrigate. Sa ibabaw pa noon meron pa tayong repair and rehabilitation — 55,000 hectares yung mga nasiraang irrigation ay aayos natin muli. Kaya eto ang isang malaking super region project natin — yung irrigation component ng Casecnan dam.

Kaya sa inyong lahat, Merry Christmas at Happy New Year! Lalo na sa ating mga Irrigators Association ng Nueva Ecija.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Remarks during the Inaugural Opening of Lateral-A Irrigation Canal of the Casecnan Multi-purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412173819/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1858&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the inauguration of Pingkian Bridge

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the inauguration of Pingkian Bridge

[Delivered in Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya, January 2, 2007]

Congressman Agbayani, Governor Cuaresma, Mayor Dupiano, Ken amin nga opisyaales iti probinsiya ti Nueva Vizcaya ken ili ti kayapa, Secretary Ebdane and all the other officials of the Philippine government.

My husband and I, ni Attorney Mike Arroyo ken siak, maragsak nga umay. Siyak, maragragasakanak nga umayak manen iti ili ti kayapa. Ta idi senadorak pay nagpiyestaak kadakayo kaduwa ni Commissioner Espino ti Commission on Indigenous Peoples ken idi haan ko malipatan, we drove, rabii idi, remember? Yes. Okay. We drove from... Well, ni papang ko, ni mamang ko, immayak idi met. But where did we drive from that night? From Manila? Yes, nag-drive ako, I pass through the Aritao-Kayapa road, very steep, very difficult in the middle of the night ngem itatta, napintasen ti kalsada tayo.

Idi kalman, I was telling everybody that I was going to come here today. Tapno ma-inaugurate tayo ti Pingkian bridge ti Baguio-Aritao road. Nagsaludsod dagidiay kaduwak nga... You mean, the Baguio-Aritao road is finally going to be completed? Ta kunada, thirty years in the making toy kalsada, agpayso? Thirty years in the making.

So maragsakanak nga idtoy administrasyon ko, iso ti nagaramid ti panagkongkreto ti Baguio-Aritao road. Ken the only portion that is missing now is the Ambuklao-Kayapa road nga malpas into no Oktubre 2006. Ammo ni Secretary Ebdane. Iso nga we will be able to say nga maysa dagiti legacy ko, kas presidente, iso garud dagiti super regions nga kalsada. Ta ti Region II ken Cordillera adda diay maysa nga super region laeng ti North Luzon agribusiness quadrangle ken importante nga adda kalsada nga agkonekta ti Nueva Vizcaya ken Cordillera ta kuna garud ni Secretary Ebdane, this is also known as the Bangbang-Baguio beans road. Ta dagiti Baguio beans ti agpayso naggapo ti Baguio. Iso garud nga we are connecting therefore Region II and Cordillera with a very beautiful road because its only part of one super region. Iso nga idtoy... Datoy Baguio-Aritao road itatta nga konkreton, maysa dagiti super region roads tayo.

So this is the one I was talking about in my State of the Nation Address. Remember, Congressman Agbayani? In my State of the Nation Address nga adda tayo nga super regions and we will connect it as one economy. Iso nga haan yo liplipatan nga malpas ti thirty years nakauray kayo, ti katapusan nga malpasen ti Baguio-Aritao road. And it's our great pleasure to come here to inaugurate the second to the last installment and hopefully, indeed, the progress of Nueva Vizcaya and region ii will become even greater and your products will go to the markets more easily.

Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin apo.

And then ti airport diay Bagabag, the team has already gone there to do the technical work, to do the technical survey. Iso nga agrugin manen ti Bagabag airport. Ni papang ko, iso ti nagaramid ti immuna nga Bagabag airport. Iso nagdakkell, nagdayaw para kanyak nga siyak ti ag-rehabilitate ti Bagabag airport ta no ti rice terraces ti Ifugao, all those who want to go and see it don't need to go by land from Baguio wenno from Manila, they can fly to Bagabag and then Bagabag will also enjoy the benefits of the Ifugao tourism.

So, hopefully all of these will redound to a social payback para dagiti um-umili ti Nueva Vzcaya tapno kaduwa kayo ti entero nga progreso ti entero nga Pilipinas.

Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin ken happy new year!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Remarks during the Inauguration of Pingkian Bridge. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412174018/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1855&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Joint Courtesy Call of the RP-U.S Philippine Defense Reform Executive Steering Committee

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Joint Courtesy Call of the RP-U.S. Philippine Defense Reform Executive Steering Committee**

[Delivered at the Office of the Secretary of National Defense, DND Bldg. Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, January 18, 2007]

Ambassador Kenney and our friends from the United States, General Esperon, our undersecretaries of defense, Secretary Gonzales of the National Security Council and the other officials from the Philippine side, ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome! To this very important meeting of the Philippine-U.S. Defense Reform Executive Steering Committee. This meeting starts off with great news — the killing of the notorious Abu Sayyaf Leader Abu Solaiman. This strategic victory is proof of the success of the Philippine-U.S. partnership in the war against terror. We thank the United States for your leadership and support. And of course I commend the armed forces for another milestone in the campaign against terror. This caps with glory the signing of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. We are resolved to work with our strategic allies in the region and with the united states to tighten the dragnet and stop the movement of terrorists, their finances, and the deadly materiel across the seas and borders.

We mark every high point in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and the JI with greater resolve to move forward in strengthening domestic, regional and global security. The Philippines has a stake in a safer world where eight million Filipinos work and reside. We have a stake in an Asia-Pacific region that builds shared prosperity on stability and peace. The relentless pressure we have applied in the field from the 25th day of General Esperon's tenure as chief of staff is taking its toll. We will keep it up until all the terrorists and their clandestine cells are accounted for.

The government is determined to finish the job with a hand of steel against evil. We are determined to usher in a durable peace through economic development, interfaith dialogue and international cooperation. Once again, congratulations! To the armed forces and many thanks to our American allies.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Remarks during the Joint Courtesy Call of the RP-U.S. Philippine Defense Reform Executive Steering Committee. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412152650/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1798&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the bell ringing for the opening of the stock market

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the bell ringing for the opening of the stock market**

[Delivered at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) Trading Floor Ayala Ave., Makati City, May 22, 2007]

Thank you, Secretary Favila.

Thank you Justice Vitug, officials of PSE, employees, traders, brokers, ladies and gentlemen.

I came here this morning not to launch any IPO or new issue but to congratulate the Philippine Stock Exchange for all-time high index, congratulations to all of you! But let's also applaud our people whose sacrifices in reducing the budget deficit step the stage for the market leaps.

Mga kababayan, ipagdiwang natin ang pag-akyat ng stock market na umakit ng bilyun-bilyong dollar para sa paglakas ng ekonomiya at pagdami ng trabaho. Dahil sa pagdagsa ng dolyar sa merkado, lumalakas ang piso, napipigil ang lubhang pagtaas ng bilihin.

And we thank the investor community for acknowledging the nation's hard-won advances in fiscal consolidation, economic growth and political stability.

Philippine democracy has been renewed after a vigorous by-election. Now it's time to come together to forge a common path forward among all parties and all political leaders here at home. Even as the national election is still being canvassed, the outcome of the local elections strengthens our nation's collective resolve to create a modern, booming society through pro-growth, pro-poor and pro-modernization policies.

And in the months and years to come, or the weeks, months and years to come, I believe we can look forward to further run of the bulls to many more unheard-of heights.

Isulong natin ang reporma sa ekonomiya at katatagan ng pulitika, upang lumahok ang Pilipinas sa unang mundo ng mga maunlad na bansa sa loob ng dalawampung taon.

Mabuhay ang stock exchange!

Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Remarks during the Bell Ringing for the Opening of the Stock Market. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412150555/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2012&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha-Transnational Diversified Group (NYK-TDG) Maritime Academy

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha-Transnational Diversified Group (NYK-TDG)
Maritime Academy**

[Delivered at the Carmeltown, Canlubang Calamba City, Laguna, July 6, 2007]

Thank you very much, Chairman Puno.

Other members of the Philippine government, Ambassador Yamazaki, other members of the diplomatic corps, Chairperson Sto. Tomas, President Miyahara, Chairman Delgado and other officials of NYK-TDG, Congressman Chipeco, City Mayor Chipeco, Secretary Brion, ladies and gentlemen.

[We all congratulate NYK lines and its partner in the Philippines, the transnational diversified group or the Delgado group — as it is easier for us to remember — headed by Robbie Delgado for setting up this world-class investment, this NYK-TDG maritime academy.

As pat said, last year, we did the groundbreaking event for this school, and now here it is. And two years ago, we handed to NYK line the presidential award of distinction for preferring Filipino seafarers for the past several years.

I also want to thank NYK President, Mr. Miyahara, for continuing to provide our seafarers with beneficial and ideal working conditions.

I understand that these young men are fresh recruits and they are on a “study now, pay later plan.” they will pay for their tuition when they are already employed with those very high salaries that they’re going to have. But even now they already have a very good allowance. This is already the start of your employment, young men.

This NYK-TDG Maritime Academy, indeed, as Mr. Miyahara said is a milestone. And for us, it is a bedrock, it will be a bedrock of our hopes for a better future.

The one million plus seafarers deployed in international ongoing vessels have among them 250,000 Filipinos. Twenty eight percent of the workforce in the international maritime industry.

Our seafarers are also a formidable source of foreign exchange earnings — 800 dollars entry point once you graduate; 300 dollars allowance even today. This adds more spark to our economy that is slowly making waves in the world.

The strong peso, inspiring rating outlook upgrades, improving budget deficit figures, the bullish stock market, the stable interest rate, the soaring tourism, the increased investment inflows including the very large investment in this academy which will have a payback period of a very long 20 years. All these are strong drivers of an economy getting more bullish by the day.

People know things are getting better. I hope our 120 young men here in front of us feel that things are getting better for you. People are optimistic and hopeful. Yet we must not abuse the optimism of the hardworking Filipino. They want to see the rising economy lift their boat, too.

So private and public sector alike, we are all challenged to focus on the people’s agenda.

Let's all sail together on a path of economic growth, political stability and social justice.

Let's work together to ensure that our economic turnaround continues, that prices remain stable, and that we invest in the people through spending for vital human and physical infrastructure projects like the expressway coming here, and more education and training like the academy that we are inaugurating today.

Once again, congratulations! To NYK and TDG. And thank you for helping us realize the leadership of these bright, competent and promising Filipino officers — the future captains of the maritime world.

Thank you for helping them acquire an enviable niche in the seven seas.

And to you, future officers, Mabuhay!

Thank you.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Remarks during the Inauguration of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha-Transnational Diversified Group (NYK-TDG) Maritime Academy. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412145912/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2061&Itemid=38

Opening and Closing Remarks of President Arroyo during a Heroes' Welcome for Manny Pacquiao

Opening and Closing Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a Heroes' Welcome for Manny Pacquiao

[Delivered with Question and Answer at the Kalayaan Grounds, October 11, 2007]

OPENING STATEMENT

Nagdiriwang ang sambayanang Pilipino sa muling pagkapanalo sa boksing ng ating Pambansang Kamao. Sa pagkapanalo ni Manny Laban kay Barrera ng Mexico, muling pinatunayan ni Manny Pacquiao na ang husay at tibay ng loob ng Pilipino ay naihananay sa pinakamagaling sa buong daigdig—world class Filipino, si Manny Pacquiao at tayong lahat.

Kaya bilang pasalamat sa kanyang pagbibigay-dangal sa lahing Pilipino, interviewin natin nang sandali ang ating people's boxing champ ng buong mundo, ang kampeon na nasa puso nating lahat, si Manny Pacquiao.

Manny yung binabanggit pati nung mga komentarista yung sign of the cross mo tapos nun nagluluhod ka pagkatapos pero gano katagal na yung kostumbre mong ganun?

M. PACQUIAO: Yun po bawat laban ko ginagawa ko po yun para hindi ako madisgrasya o maknockout o mabugbog sa kalaban para manalo ako sana bigyan ako ng lakas ng katawan at manalo ako sa fight.

Relihiyoso ka na ba bago ka pumasok ng boksing?

M. PACQUIAO: Opo, kasi nung bata po ako naging sakristan po ako dun sa amin.

Ah ganun o bagong detalye sa buhay ni Manny Pacquiao na nalaman natin ngayon. O ngayon nananlo ka na naman muli, magpapahinga ka na muna ngayon, I suppose...

M. PACQUIAO: Magpapahinga po ng konti.

Okay, so kailan ang sunod na laban mo?

M. PACQUIAO: Hinahanapan pa po marami pong naka line up at nag plano pa kami kung sino ang susunod na makakalaban kasi yung mga susunod namang makakalaban ko may mga laban sila this coming November.

Ah okay yung mga anak mo gusto mo ba maging ano din sila boksingero sila?

M. PACQUIAO: Ah yung mga ... Actually po kung ako lang ayaw ko maging boksingero yung mga anak ko kasi mahirap po talaga maging boxer. Ang gusto ko makapagtapos sila sa pag-aaral.

Yung araw ng laban mo lumabas sa the headlines "AFP, puts down their guns for Manny Pacquiao fight." Kasi nga walang naglalaban. Yung panahon ng laban mo at hindi lang yun yung crime rate ay bumababa sabi nila. So napakaganda ang sinabi mo rin na lalaban ka kahit araw araw kung ganun ang epekto sa taumbayan.

CLOSING REMARKS

Kaya maraming salamat doon at may gusto ka bang sabihin sa ating mga kababayan.

M. PACQUIAO: Unang-una po, nagpapasalamat ako sa mahal na Panginoon sa binigay niyang lakas ng katawan sa akin at nanalo ako nung nakaraang sabado. At marami pa rin pong salamat sa walang pagsuporta niyo po mula noon hanggang ngayon. At sa laha po ng mga fans ko na talagang nagdasal alam niyo po ang dasal niyo ay napakaimportante at napakahalaga para sa tagumpay ng ating bayan, para sa tagumpay, karangalan ng bansa at masaya po ako sa tuwing ako po ay lamalaban nagkakaisa po kayong lahat. Masayang-masaya po ako nun at kung kinakailangan po na araw araw akong lalaban para sa pagkakaisa ng sambayanang Pilipino kasi ayaw ko pong magulo ang ating bansa, gusto ko po nagkaisa tayong lahat, nagkakaintindihan.

Okay, maraming salamat Manny sa inspirasyon na ibinibigay mo sa ating mga kababayan. At nananalangin tayong lahat di ba na laging tagumpay si Manny. At n away ipagpatulong ang iyong nagiging maka-Diyos, maka-Pilipino, makapagkakaisa at syempre maka-sports. So, talagang ipinagkakapuri ka ng bansang Pilipinas!

Maraming salamat at Manny, tanggapin mo pwede ba yung cake tanda ng pasasalamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). PGMA's Opening and Closing Remarks with Question and Answer during a Heroes' Welcome for Manny Pacquiao. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615140259/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2235&Itemid=38

Pardon granting executive clemency to Joseph Ejercito Estrada, October 25, 2007

**MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA**

By the President of the Philippines

PARDON

WHEREAS this Administration has a policy of releasing inmates who have reached the age of seventy (70),

WHEREAS, Joseph Ejercito Estrada has been under detention for six and a half years,

WHEREAS, Joseph Ejercito Estrada has publicly committed to no longer seek any elective position or office,

*IN VIEW HEREOF and pursuant to the authority conferred upon me by the Constitution, I hereby grant executive clemency to **JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA**, convicted by the Sandiganbayan of Plunder and imposed a penalty of Reclusion Perpetua, He is hereby restored, to his civil and political rights.*

The forfeitures imposed by the Sandiganbayan remain in force and in full, including all writs and processes issued by the Sandiganbayan in pursuance hereof, except for the bank account(s) he owned before his tenure as President.

Upon acceptance of this pardon by **JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA**, *this pardon shall take effect.*

*Given under my hand at the City of Manila, this 25th
Day of October, in the year of Our Lord, two
thousand and seven.*

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) IGNACIO R. BUNYE
Acting Executive Secretary

*Source: **Malacañang Records Office***

Remarks of President Arroyo during her visit to Madrid City Hall [Spanish and English]

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During her visit to Madrid City Hall

[Delivered at the Plaza de la Villa, Madrid, Spain, December 3, 2007]

Señor alcalde de Madrid Don Alberto Luis Gallardon, distingos miembros del municipal, señors y señores, members of the Philippine delegation.

Es un placer para mi estar con ustedes otra vez. Gracias por este bonito llave a la ciudad de Madrid otra vez. Y muchas gracias Señor Alcalde por este recibimiento especial que dispensa a los miembros de la delegacion Filipina.

Apreciamos su iniciativo sobre la tribuna España-Filipinas y quisieramos dar gracias tambien por la ayuda viene de usted cuando tuvimos porblemas por los tifones.

Desde nuestra llegada ayer aqui en Madrid, la delegacion y yo, hemos recibido tanto carino y tantas sonrisas de los Madrilenos. No es de extranarse que tantos Filipinos han hecho Madrid su segundo hogar. Ayer, por la tarde y por la noche, hemos visto con los Filipinos y me mandaron decir a usted que son muy alegres aqui en Madrid. Tampoco es de extrenarse que los dos capitales, Madrid y Manila, son ciudades hermandadas por que compartimos mucho en el encanto y la nostalgia. Mi visita recuerda la profundidad y la extension de la historia y de la cultura que comparten los Filipinos yu Españoles.

En el siglo 19, Madrid atrajo a los grandes pensadores y talentos Filipinos del tiempo. Aqui en el ambiente liberal de la capital Española, nuestros jovenes patriotas se reunieron para trabajar para el bien de su tierra maternal mismo aqui en el sede de madre España. Entre ellos fue Jose Rizal que mas tarde iba a ser el heroe nacional. Fue en Madrid donde Rizal comenzo su novela "Noli Me Tangere" que dio la inspiracion a la revolucion Filipina. Fue aqui tambien en Madrid que nuestros grandes artistas Juan Luna y Felix Resureccion Hidalgo llevaron el prestigio a los Filipinos cuando fueron desconocidos durante la celebracion de la expocision nacional de bellas artes en esta ciudad. Como resultado, el Senado Español encargo a Luna la obra maestra titulada, "La Batalla de Lepanto" que hoy dia lo vimos adornando el sagrado pasillo del Senado Español junto con las obras maestras de los grandes artistas de este pais.

La ciudad de Madrid tambien alberga unos sitios historicos relacionados con el movimiento reformista encabezado por algunos mas brillantes patriotas. He mencionado ya a Jose Rizal y los otros. El mas notable de estos es la replica exacta del Monumento de Rizal en el Parque de Luneta en Manila que ahora se ha levantado con orgullo en La Avenida de Filipinas en el barrio de la Moncloa. Gracias al pleno apoyo de la ciudad de Madrid.

Senor alcalde, como Filipina, tengo el mas profundo afecto por el maravilloso patrimonio de su ilustre ciudad. Todos me dicen que usted es un bien alcalde. Bajo su habil liderazgo se ha puesto perfectamente el equilibrio, la tradicional y el contemporaneo en Madrid. Esta union del pasado y del presente y del futuro hace que Madrid sea un verdadero lugar especial en los coraciones de sus ciudadanos y sus turistas tambien de los Filipinos que viven aqui en Madrid. Y para mi delegacion, cuando volvemos a Manila llevaremos con nosotros su amabilidad, y tengo la confianza de que la buena voluntad que existe entre Filipinos y Españoles vivera para siempre en nuestros corazones.

Gracias por su recibimiento.

* * *

(ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

Mr. Alberto Luis Gallardon, Mayor of Madrid, distinguished members of the municipal, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Philippine delegation.

It's a pleasure for me to be here again. Thank you for this beautiful key to the city of Madrid. And thank you very much, Mr. Mayor for this special welcome showered to the members of the Philippine delegation.

We appreciate your initiative over the Spain-Philippine forum and we would like to thank you for your help during the times of calamities.

From the time of our arrival yesterday in Madrid, the delegation and I, we received much love and a lot of smiles from the people of Madrid. It is not a wonder that a lot of Filipinos have made Madrid its second home. Yesterday afternoon and yesterday evening, we have met with the Filipino community and they wanted me to tell you how happy they are living here in Madrid. Also, it is undeniable that the two capital cities, Madrid and Manila, are sister cities which share a lot of charm and nostalgia. My visit reminds me of the deepness of historical and cultural connection shared by Filipinos and Spanish people.

In the 19th century, Madrid attracted great thinkers and talented Filipinos of that time. Here in this liberal environment of the Spanish capital, our young patriots met to work for the welfare of the motherland, right here in the heart of mother Spain. Among others, Jose Rizal, who would later be the national hero. It was here in Madrid where Rizal started his novel "Noli Me Tangere" which was the inspiration of the Philippine revolution. It was also here in Madrid that our great artists, Juan Luna and Felix Resureccion Hidalgo brought honor to the Filipinos when they were still unknowns during the celebration of the national fine arts exposition. As a result, the Spanish senate took care of the masterpiece of Juan Luna, "La Batalla de Lepanto", which today, we saw it adorning the august halls of the Spanish Senate alongside with the masterpieces of great artists of this country.

The city of Madrid also houses several historic sites related to the reform movement headed by the most brilliant patriots. I have already mentioned Rizal, among others. The most notable is the exact replica of the Rizal Monument in Luneta Park in Manila which is now proudly standing in the Avenida de Filipinas in the district of Moncloa. Thanks for the full support of the city of Madrid.

Mr. Mayor, as a Filipina, I have the deepest affection for the wonderful heritage of your illustrious city. Everybody tells me that you are a good mayor. Under your skilled leadership, you have put a perfect balance between the traditional the contemporary in Madrid. This union of the past, the present and of the future makes Madrid a special place in the hearts of its people and of its visitors. Also, in the hearts of the Filipinos who live here in Madrid. When we go back to Manila, we will be bringing with us your kindness. And I am very confident that this goodwill which exists between the Filipinos and the Spanish people will last in our hearts forever.

Thank you for your warm welcome.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's remarks during her visit to Madrid City Hall. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135753/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2341&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Tribuna España-Filipinas [Spanish and English]

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Tribuna España-Filipinas**

[Delivered at the Casa Asia, Palacio del Patio de Miraflores, December 4, 2007]

Muchas gracias. El Ministro Moratinos. Otros oficiales del gobierno Español. Secretary Romulo and the other members of the delegation. Senor Sanz, el director de Casa Asia, Señor Cobo, Vice-Presidente de Madrid, amigos de Filipinas y del pueblo Filipinos, Ambassador Bernardo, señoras y señores, buenos días.

Ruego que acepten mi mas sincero agradecimiento por esta invitación para inaugurar esta tercera edición de la tribuna España-Filipinas. Agradezco a Casa Asia, al Ministro de Asuntos exteriores y cooperacion, al Ayuntamiento de Madrid, a la Embajada de Filipinas en Madrid y todas las entidades que hicieron posible esta ocasion que coincide con mi visita de estado a España.

Tengo confianza en mi nación y en el resultado de mi viaje en España.

He venido a España para rendir homenaje a la calurosa amistad y hermandad entre nuestras dos naciones. He venido a España tambien para reafirmar nuestros profundos vinculos histórico-culturales y la importancia de nuestro pasado común; un rico pasado que nos permite mirar hacia un futuro dinamico.

He venido a España tambien para avanzar la política extranjera de Filipinas a través de consultas de alto nivel, el mismo su majestad, el Rey Juan Carlos con nuestros aliados en España. Nuestra seguridad nacional está muy importante en el corazón de nuestro desarrollo como una nación y seguir forjando estrechas alianzas con España fortalece nuestra seguridad interna. Porque España es un país que siempre suporta a mi gobierno y en el ultimo problema que tuvimos, era España y EU que mandaron su apoyo a nuestro gobierno.

He rogado que su majestad el Rey de España acepte mi mas profundo agradecimiento por la reitaración del apoyo del gobierno Español al gobierno legitimo de Filipinas que representa el orden constitucional. Ciertamente, reunimos en una ocasion propia. Este año marca el sexagesimo aniversario del establecimiento de las relaciones diplomaticas entre España y Filipinas. Asimismo celebramos el quinto centenario del nacimiento de andres de urdaneta, una importante personalidad histo?rica de profundo significado para nuestros dos países y para el mundo.

Queridos amigos de Filipinas.

Estas fechas de anniversaries son testimonios a los calurosos y cordiales vinculos que unirán a nuestros pueblos para siempre.

Aprovechando nuestras afinades en el idioma, en la fe y en la cultura, podemos anticipar oportunidades cada vez mas extensas para la acción conjunta entre nuestros gobiernos y directamente entre nuestros pueblos.

Otra pilar de nuestra seguridad nacional es nuestra seguridad economica – para generar inversiones extranjeras, inversiones Españolas, crear empleos y extender la oportunidad economica a cada provincia de nuestra gran nacion. Con este fin, trato de convencer a los empresarios y empresarias a que inviertan en nuestro país.

Nuestros aliados Españoles son parte de nuestra historia y parte de nuestro futuro, y debemos comunicarles los grandes avances que hemos conseguido en Filipinas. Nuestros trabajadores imigrantes son nuestros embajadores en

España además de nuestro Embajador Bernardo y son parte de mi agenda en esta visita. Me da mucho orgullo su contribución a nuestra imagen en España y me gustó mucho mi encuentro con nuestros trabajadores tan aplicados en este viaje el último domingo.

El proceso tribuna, iniciado en noviembre de dos mil cinco, es una importante inversión en el desarrollo progresivo de los vínculos bilaterales entre España y Filipinas. La primera tribuna, celebrada aquí en Madrid, inició un nuevo diálogo que intensificó nuestra interacción y nuestro interés mutuo. El intercambio de opiniones entre los representantes del gobierno, el sector privado, el mundo académico y la sociedad civil de ambos países nos da una riqueza de opiniones e ideas para los nuevos programas cooperativos. Este gran esfuerzo elevará nuestras relaciones a nuevos niveles más altos.

Al irse delante, la tercera tribuna celebrará una reunión especial sobre la intensificación de los intercambios comerciales económicos entre España y Filipinas. Contamos con nuestros respectivos líderes empresariales para tomar la iniciativa de llevar a cabo la plena potencialidad de nuestra cooperación económica.

No faltan las áreas en que podemos aprovechar colaboraciones comerciales. Algunos de los sectores en los que podríamos asociarnos son la agricultura, la energía limpia y el turismo.

Asimismo, permítame alabar a la tribuna por su agenda de cooperación sobre la recuperación del valioso patrimonio Español en Filipinas. Intramuros, por ejemplo, podría ser un foco de este esfuerzo. Intramuros es el símbolo de la vieja Manila Española, pero ha sufrido los estragos de la guerra y de la naturaleza. Con un plano comprensivo para la restauración, podríamos trabajar juntos para devolver a Intramuros todo su glorioso pasado. Tal proyecto sería un verdadero monumento a la duradera amistad entre Españoles y Filipinos.

Más aún, deseamos sinceramente fomentar la enseñanza del idioma Español en Filipinas. Un número creciente de jóvenes en Filipinas aprende de nueva la hermosa lengua Española. Muchos estudiantes ahora están matriculados en las clases de Español en el Instituto Cervantes en Manila. Mucho más estudiantes asisten a los cursos de Español en Universidades Filipinas.

He mandado ahora un orden memorando dirigiendo nuestro departamento de educación, nuestra comisión de educación superior y nuestra autoridad de educación técnica y desarrollo de habilidades a promover la enseñanza del Español en nuestras escuelas e instituciones de educación en el país. Esperamos trabajar estrechamente con el gobierno Español en este esfuerzo de promover la enseñanza del idioma Español en Filipinas.

Me alegro que Filipinas siga siendo un país prioritario para España. Nuestros antepasados tuvieron un vínculo singular que ha profundizado nuestra historia y enriquecido nuestra cultura. Hoy, vamos a asegurar que, siendo los descendientes de los grandes hombres y mujeres del pasado, emplearemos nuestra herencia valiosa para la misma manera construir modo el futuro.

Confío que en los próximos años la tribuna seguirá jugando un papel importante y decisivo en la promoción de las actividades y proyectos que contribuyen a fortalecer más nuestros vínculos amistosos. Acepten mis mejores votos para el éxito de la tercera tribuna y espero darles una cálida bienvenida en Filipinas el próximo año para la cuarta tribuna España-Filipinas.

Muchas gracias y mabuhay!

* * *

(ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

Thank you very much, Minister Moratinos, government officials of Spain, Secretary Romulo and the other members of the delegation, Mr. Sanz, Director of Casa Asia, Mr. Cobo, Vice-president of Madrid, friends of the Philippines and the Filipino people, Ambassador Bernardo, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Please accept my sincerest thanks for this invitation to inaugurate the third edition of Spain-Philippines forum. I would also like to thank Casa Asia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cooperation, the City Hall of Madrid, the Embassy of the Philippines in Madrid and to all entities which made this occasion coincide with my state visit in Spain.

I have faith in my country and I am confident that my visit here in Spain will have a good result.

I have come to Spain to pay homage to the warm friendship and the sisterhood between our two nations. I have come to Spain also to reaffirm our deep historical-cultural links and the importance of our common past; a rich past that permits us to look towards a dynamic future.

I have come to Spain to strengthen the foreign policy of the Philippines through high level coordination with our allies in Spain. Our national security is in the heart of our development as a nation and continues to widen our alliance with Spain, making our internal security stronger. Because Spain always supports my government and in the last problem that we had, Spain and the US were the first to send their support to our government.

I have asked your majesty, the King of Spain to accept my deepest thanks for the continued support of the Spanish government to the legitimate government of the Philippines that represents the constitution.

Certainly, as we gather in this occasion, this year marks the 16th anniversary of the establishment of the Diplomatic Relationship between Spain and the Philippines. Also, we celebrate the 500th year of the birth of Andres de Urdaneta, an important historical personality with profound significance to our two countries and to the whole world.

My dear friends,

These significant dates are testimonies of the warm and cordial links that will unite our people forever.

We take advantage of our affinity in the language, in faith, in culture, and we can anticipate opportunities that are once more extensive to do our part along with our governments and directly among our people.

Another pillar of our national security is our national economic security. To generate foreign investments, create employment and extend economic opportunity to every province of our great nation. With this, I will try to convince businessmen and women to invest in our country.

Our Spanish allies are part of our history and part of our future, and we should relay to them the great advancements that we achieved in the Philippines. Our immigrant workers are our ambassadors in Spain and are part of my agenda in this visit. I am very proud for their contribution to our image in Spain and I am very pleased in my meeting with our workers in this trip.

The forum, founded in November 2005, is an important investment in the progressive development of the bilateral links between Spain and the Philippines, the first forum, held here in Madrid, initiated a new dialogue that intensified our interaction and our mutual interest. The exchange of opinions among the representatives of the government, the private sector, the academic world and the civil society from both countries gave us a myriad of opinions and ideas for our new programs of cooperation. This big effort will elevate our relation to a higher new level.

Moving on, the third forum will celebrate a special meeting to intensify trade and commerce between Spain and the Philippines. We are counting on our respective business leaders to take the initiative to bring our economic cooperation to its full potential.

We should not miss the areas in which we can take advantage of commercial cooperation especially in agricultural, clean energy and tourism sectors.

Please permit me to praise the forum for its cooperation agenda to restore the valuable Spanish heritage in the Philippines. Intramuros, for example, could be a focus of this effort. Intramuros is the symbol of the old Spanish Manila, but had suffered from the wrath of war and natural calamities. With a comprehensive plan for the restoration, we could work together to bring Intramuros back to its glory past. Such project would be a true manifestation of the lasting friendship between the Spanish and the Filipino people.

Moreover, we sincerely wish to encourage the teaching of the Spanish language in the Philippines. An increasing number of young people in the Philippines are learning this beautiful Spanish language. Today, a lot of students are taking up Spanish classes at the Insituto Cervantes in Manila. Much more students have enrolled in Spanish classes at the University of the Philippines.

I have ordered a memorandum directing our department of education, our commission of higher education and our technical education authority and skills development to promote the teaching of Spanish in our schools and educational institutions in the country. We hope to work hard with the Spanish government in this effort to promote the Spanish language in the Philippines.

I am happy that the Philippines continue being a priority country for Spain. Our ancestors had a unique link that has deepened our history and has enriched our culture. Today, we are going to ensure that, being the descendants of the great men and women of the past, we will employ our valuable heritage in the same manner that we build our future.

I am confident that in the next years the forum will continue playing an important and decisive role in promoting various activities and projects that contribute in strengthening our friendship. Please accept my best vows for the success of the third edition of the forum and I hope to give you a warm welcome to the Philippines next year for the fourth edition of Spain-Philippines forum in the Philippines.

Thank you very much and mabuhay!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2007). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Remarks During the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Tribuna España-Filipinas. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615135743/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2340&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the Send-Off Ceremony of the Philippine Humanitarian Mission and Aid for Myanmar [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa seremonya ng paghahatid ng Philippine Humanitarian Mission and Aid for Myanmar**

[Ipinahayag sa Kalayaan Lounge, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing, Villamor Airbase, Lungsod ng Pasay, ika 26 ng Mayo, 2008]

Thank you very much Secretary Romulo.

Other officials, Honorable Charge d'affairs of the Embassy of Myanmar, ladies and gentlemen.

Labis-labis ang ating pagkabahala sa kahabag-habag na krisis sa Myanmar na dala ng malakas na cyclone.

The Philippines knows by heart the tragedy that such calamities bring. We also know how the kindness of the international community and private individuals can positively assist and uplift the spirit of the people in the affected area.

Bilang kalapit-bahay sa ASEAN, tungkulin natin sa ngayon ang tunay na pangangailangan ng mga taong-bayan ng Myanmar. Hangarin natin maging bahagi sa saklolo, tulong at ginhawa para sa mga taga Myanmar sa mga araw na darating.

Nagagalak ako na tinanggap ng gobyerno ng Myanmar na makarating sa kanilang mga nagdurusang mamamayan ang tulong.

Nagpapadala tayo ng batikang grupo ng mga doktor at medical personnel kabilang ang nars mula sa Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, kasama ang mga bagay na kailangan ng mga nasalanta, na galing naman sa Department of Social Welfare and Development. Aided by our Air Force pilots, they depart in a few minutes to Yangon, on board this C-30 aircraft to deliver our assistance and extend our medical expertise. Patuloy tayong makikipag-ugnay sa ating mga kalapit-bansa tungkol sa tulong na kailangang ipadala sa Myanmar ng bawat isa sa atin.

Bahagi ang ginagawa nating ito ng pagiging komunidad ng mga bansa na ibig nating maitatag sa ASEAN — the community of ASEAN nations. Walang dudang kailangan ang pagkakaisa ng mga bayan sa Asya. Hangad natin ang masigla at matipunong ASEAN.

Sa diwa ng kapatiran sa ASEAN, dalangin natin na maka-ahon ang Myanmar sa kalamidad na dinaranas nila.

Congratulations to all of our Humanitarian Mission! Good luck! Maraming salamat. Thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). PGMA's Remarks during the Send-Off Ceremony of the Philippine Humanitarian Mission and Aid for Myanmar. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412124613/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1386&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the distribution of cash grant to beneficiaries of the “Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program”

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the distribution of cash grant to beneficiaries of the “Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program” during
a school visit to a Madrasah school**

[Delivered at the Datu Halun Laboratory Elementary School (DHLES), Brgy. Tubig Mampalam, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, May 29, 2008]

Assalam Alaikum! Tawi-Tawi, Bongao. Good noon to all of you. (applause)

I would like to explain what this project is all about. It is a pro-poor project where 3,000 families, the poorest families of Bongao — not the whole Tawi-Tawi yet — for the 3,000 poorest families of Bongao will receive a monthly allowance from the national government in return for certain conditions. One of the conditions is you have to make sure your children go to school. If your children stop going to school, you stop getting your allowance also, okay?

So, we will be spreading this to the other towns of Tawi-Tawi when the survey has been done to identify the poorest families of the province.

So, in the meantime, to our 3,000 families in Bongao who will be receiving this allowance starting this month, Congratulations to all of you! And please send your children to school. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Remarks during the distribution of cash grant to beneficiaries of the “Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program” during a school visit to a Madrasah school. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121548/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1370&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the launching ceremony of the Electricity Subsidy for Low-Consumption Households' Project "Katas ng VAT: Pantawid Kuryente"

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the launching ceremony of the electricity zSubsidy for Low-Consumption Households' Project "Katas
ng VAT: Pantawid Kuryente"**

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañang, June 3, 2008]

Good morning everyone. Before we start the Cabinet meeting, we'd like to have make an announcement.

We have made tough and politically unpopular decisions to raise revenues and crack-down on tax cheats so that we could invest in our physical infrastructure and in our people.

Dahil sa malaking koleksiyon ng value-added tax sa langis at kuryente na mahigit walumpung porsiyento nanggagaling sa maykaya, may magagastos tayong bilyun-bilyong piso para sa mga programa at proyektong pangmasa.

Kung hindi natin nareporma ang buwis, lalo na ang pagkolekta ng value-added tax sa langis at kuryente na kinokonsumo lalo na ng maykaya, hindi sana natin nadagdagan ng mahigit na 100 billion pesos ang pondo para sa mga serbisyong pangmasa at imprastrakturang pangkaunlaran mula 2006. At hindi sana lumakas ang piso at napigil ang lubhang pagtaas ng presyo ng langis. Kung 55 pesos kada dolyar pa ang palitan gaya noon, mas mahal sana nang limang piso o higit pa ang gasolina at diesel. Ito ang katas ng VAT.

Ngayon, may bagong biyaya mula sa VAT na ilulunsad natin ngayon. Mula sa value-added tax sa mga produktong petrolyo ng mga pamilyang maykaya ang pinakamalaking kumokonsumo, sila ang nagbabayad ng VAT, halos nakapaglaan tayo ng two billion pesos para sa 'Pantawid Kuryente' gamit ang VAT na kinokolekta sa produktong petrolyo na kinokolekta sa gasolina, diesel at iba pang produktong petrolyo na mahigit walumpung porsiyento ay nanggagaling sa maykaya, direktong tulong sa mga mahihirap na mag-anak. Gaya nang sabi ko katas ng VAT para sa masa.

Hangad nating una mabigyang benepisyo ang mga apat na milyong pamilya na kumokonsumo ng hindi hihigit sa 100 kilowatt-hour o walongdaang piso buwan-buwan. Magsisimula tayo sa Metro Manila.

The high price of gasoline and everyday commodities hits our poor the hardest. While the high price of oil is a global issue outside the control of the government, we have nevertheless taken and will continue to take actions to reduce the pain on our people of these high prices.

Several months ago, we cut tariffs. Now, we will be providing targeted cash payments to the poorest of our poor to help them cope with their electric bills. So, Espie?

Okay, thank you. Thank you very much, thank you.

We thank the media for joining us. We'll proceed now to our Cabinet meeting. We ask Dodie Limcaoco to lead the opening prayer.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Remarks during the launching ceremony of the Electricity Subsidy for Low-Consumption Households' Project "Katas ng VAT: Pantawid Kuryente". Retrieved

from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121535/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1577&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during a visit to Amherst Laboratories

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During a visit to Amherst Laboratories

[Delivered at Amherst Laboratories, Biñan, Laguna, June 6, 2008]

Let me make a... I'd like to thank everyone and everybody else here at Amherst for their very warm welcome.

And I'd like to explain... (audio cut)... and the hospitality of Governor Lazaro, Congressman Fernandez, Congresswoman Arago. And we have Mayor Alonte, thank you for being here representing Congress; Peter Favila and Pingkoy Duque are here together with us.

I'd like to begin by thanking, of course, the UNILAB Group of Companies because you have helped so much not only in what you produce but you've helped us in infrastructure. For instance, in the SLEX you built a very important interchange and save the government a lot of money.

A strong infrastructure network is the backbone of a modern nation, that's why this year we're spending 200 billion pesos in infrastructure. This is part of our Medium-Term Public Investment Program to invest not only in physical infrastructure but also in social infrastructure. This includes billions of pesos in education, in healthcare — like the Philhealth cards that we distributed earlier in Sta. Cruz, also like our contribution to the Laguna Provincial Hospital upgrading — also training, and along with billions of new bridges, roads and ports to upgrade the competitiveness of the Philippines.

All these is in line with what we did earlier in the hospital currently being upgraded in Laguna Provincial Hospital. The signing of the “Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicine Act of 2008,” that was what we signed earlier today.

In my State of the Nation Address in 2001, I said, bababa din ang presyo ng gamot. Hahatiin natin ang presyo ng gamot na madalas bilhin ng madla. And not very long after that, Ritemed belonging to UNILAB Group, invited me to inaugurate their Ritemed half-priced medicine. So you were a pioneer after I made my call and I'd like to thank you very much for that. (applause)

Of course, it was an uphill battle save for some very, very supportive members of the business community like the UNILAB Group at that time and up to this minute, but hopefully no longer beyond the date of effectivity of the law that we just signed, the following are the industry facts:

Ninety plus percent of all medicines are now off patent, yet 90 percent of all medicines sold are still branded and more expensive than generics. Explanation it is said the multinational cartel with 70 percent market share controls the marketing channels. Thus, the typical consumer is unaware that doctors can and if asked by the patient will prescribe cheaper generics or cheaper brands that are available in the market and at the same quality. Since in the region the high quality of Philippine manufactured pharmaceuticals such as those manufactured by Amherst is acknowledged.

PITC was making headway in its program through temporary parallel imports and the government's Botika ng Barangay and Botika ng Bayan outlet. Now we have RA 9502 to institutionalize our efforts. With RA 9502 to reduce the cost of medicine, and that is a success story in the making.

Before we signed the bill into law, we inspected the upgrading of the Laguna Provincial Hospital. Then, we signed the Cheaper Medicines Bill into law. Then, we distributed Philhealth cards, a continuing activity of the government.

And now we're here to let you know that we haven't forgotten that at the very beginning of the struggle Amherst was there already producing half-priced medicines.

Maraming salamat sa inyo. (applause)

Source: [**www.op.gov.ph**](http://www.op.gov.ph)

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Remarks during a visit to Amherst Laboratories. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412121446/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1567&Itemid=38

Memorandum of Agreement – Ancestral Domain, Bangsamoro Juridical Entity, August 5, 2008

Signed on August 5, 2008, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, by representatives of the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. It was deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court on October 14, 2008.

Remarks of President Arroyo during the 57th birthday celebration of Representative Rodolfo Antonino (4th District, Nueva Ecija) and the Renaming of the Cabiao Bridge to Gaudencio E. Antonino Bridge [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas**

Sa ika-57 na selebrasyon ng kaarawan ni Rep. Rodolfo Antonino (4th District, Nueva Ecija) at pagpapalit ng pangalan ng Cabiao Bridge na maging Gaudencio E. Antonino Bridge

[Ipinahayag sa Open Area, Brgy. Langla, Jaen, Nueva Ecija, ika 12 ng Setyembre, 2008]

Maraming salamat Congressman Rody sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin at happy, happy birthday, Cong Rody! (Applause)

Ang saya-saya nitong ating okasyon na ito, ano, ang daming sayawan, kantahan, andaming panauhin mga kasama ko sa pamahalaang nasyonal. Nandito rin sina Vice Governor Joson at iba't-ibang mga mayor na narito, mga taga Maynila, siyempre mga taga distrito. At ako ay nasisiyahan na tayo'y magkasama sa okasyon ng birthday ni Cong Rody. Kanina pa kami magkasama doon sa Cabiao at doon naman sa Cabiao ay nagkaroon tayo ng blessing at pagpangalan sa Cabiao bridge sa ngalan ni Senator Gaudencio Antonino. (Applause)

Itong tulay na ito, ang kuwento ni Rody, ay apat na administrasyong nakatiwangwang. 1990 sinimulaan noong si Rody ay umupo at ako ay pangulo, 30 percent pa lang nakumpleto mula nung 1990. Pero natapos na natin yung additional 70 percent, natapos nung isang taon, November, at ngayon ay nagkaroon ng blessing sa okasyon ng birthday ni Rody at pinangalan sa kanyang ama na minamahal ng Nueva Ecija. (Applause)

Ang tatay ni Rody at ang aking tatay ay nagkasama sa pulitika. Unang takbo ni Senador Gaudencio para senador ay kasama siya sa line up ni Diosdado Macapagal. Nung siya ay tumakbo bilang reelection, hindi na pangulo ang aking tatay, at ilang araw lamang bago... no, one day before elections ay nagkaaksidente at namatay pero humalili sa kanya si Tita Magnolia, at nanalong number three senator. (Applause)

Senator Gaudencio Antonino was not an ordinary politician. He was a statesman. He waged a campaign against increasing Congressional allowances.

At kinatutuwa ko naman na ngayon for the second generation magkaalyado muli ang Antonino at Macapagal. (Applause) Kaya lalong makabuluhan itong ating pagsasama-sama sa pagdiriwang ng birthday ni Congressman Rody. Hindi lang dahil sa wakas nabuksan na natin yung tulay na laging kulang ng pondo mula 1990 hanggang nakatapos sa ating administrasyon. At ito ay natapos natin sa ating administrasyon, una sa lahat dahil nagkaroon na tayo ng pondo mula rin naman sa mga reporma ng buwis na sila Congressman Rody rin, pinaglaban nila kasama ng ibang mga congressmen na narito ngayon. And we want to welcome Congresswoman Minia Roman of Bataan (applause) and Congressman Go of Sultan Kudarat. (Applause) At hindi lang yun dahil natapos ito dahil sa walang pagod na pagpa-follow up ni Congressman Rody. Kaya naman (Applause) karapat-dapat na ang tulay na yan ay tatawagin nating Antonino Bridge.

Nawa'y yang tulay na yan at yung ibang proyekto na dinistribute natin kanina mula... karamihan noon mula sa PDAF ni Congressman Rody ay sana maging paalaala hindi lamang sa magandang pamana ni Senador Gaudencio Antonino sa bansa at sa probinsiya ng Nueva Ecija kundi na rin para ipaalaala sa taongbayan tungkol sa mga mahihirap na desisyon na kinailangang gawin natin para magbigay daan sa umangat ang kita ng bayan para naman makaraos ang ating bansa lalo na sa mga kasalukuyang mahihirap na panahon. At papano tayo nakakaraos? Dahil sa tagumpay ng kita ng bayan na nagbibigay daan para higit na pamumuhunan sa imprastraktura gaya ng tulay na itinayo natin sa wakas pagkatapos ng ilang dekada.

At yung ating puhunan sa taong-bayan gaya nang pinamudmod kanina sa training, sa livelihood, sa health services, sa peace and order, at napakaimportante yung mga serbisyong yun sa mga panahon ng paghihirap.

Ang pagsipa ng pandaigdigang presyo ay talagang nagkaroon ng hindi kanais-nais na epekto sa Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng tumaas ang presyo ng pagkain, langis, bigas, kaya tumaas ang inflation rate at malalim ang nararamdaman ng ating mahihirap.

Kaya salamat muli kay Rody at sa iba't-ibang mga congressmen dahil nagkaroon tayo ng foresight para magplano para sa mga araw na ganito, yun nga yung mahihirap na desisyon gaya ng tax reform pero rin yung magiginhawang desisyon gaya ng tax exemption na ginawa ng Kongreso basta ang kita ninyo ay 200,000 a year or below income tax exempt na kayo. Salamat sa ating mga congressmen. (Applause)

Yung inangat ang buwis, lalo na sa Value Added Tax, ito ay nagbigay sa atin ng pondo para mamuhunan sa imprastraktura para magbigay ng ginhawa sa pinakamahihirap sa pamamagitan ng mga programa na nakakabigay sa atin ng ginhawa sa pagtaas ng presyo ng enerhiya at pagkain.

Itong presyo ng enerhiya at pagkain talagang natatamaan ang taong-bayan, pero ang ating foresight ay pinapayagan na palawakin pa natin itong programa para ang ating bansa ay makakaraos sa mahirap na panahon hanggang mag turnaround ang pandaigdigang ekonomiya. Yung mataas ang presyo ng enerhiya, mataas na presyo ng pagkain nagsasama-sama yun dahil yung fertilizer ay oil-based, at mahal ang fertilizer nagiging mahal ang pagkain.

Nueva Ecija number one rice producer sa buong bansa pero nagkakaroon ng kamahalan dahil mahal ang fertilizer. (Applause) Kaya sa araw sa kaarawan ni Rody, sa ibabaw ng mga regalong ibinigay ni Rody kanina sa mga taga-distrto ay dadagdagan natin. (Applause) Para sa isang libong magsasaka sa distrto ni Rody ay magbibigay tayo ng 1,000-peso subsidy bawa't isa sa kanila para sa fertilizer. (Applause) Sana yang isang libong magsasaka na magsasaka sa more or less 1,000 hectares kung magiging mas mura ang fertilizer nila dahil sa ating subsidy siguro naman mas lalaki ang kita at sa ganun mas magkakaroon din ng ginhawa ang ating mga mamimili ng bigas.

Kaya yun ang ating dagdag regalo para sa mga magsasaka sa distrto ni Rody sa araw ng kanyang happy, happy birthday! (Applause) At salamat sa iyong katang 'Walang iwanan'.

Maraming salamat. Happy birthday, Rody! (Applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2008). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Remarks during the 57th birthday celebration of Representative Rodolfo Antonino (4th District, Nueva Ecija) and the Renaming of the Cabiao Bridge to Gaudencio E. Antonino Bridge. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412115228/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1686&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the State Banquet in Honor of HRH Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the State Banquet in Honor of HRH Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of the Sultanate of Brunei
Darussalam**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, January 30, 2009]

Your Majesty, the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness, Excellencies, Highnesses, distinguished guests:

It is our honor and pleasure to have His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei once again on a state visit to the Philippines. And we also welcome Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness on their first visit to our country. We are honored that His Majesty's first state visit on this year of the National Silver Jubilee of Brunei Darussalam is to the Philippines. His Majesty is a good friend for peace of the Philippines and a good brother for ASEAN.

Brunei has shown unwavering commitment to our efforts to realize lasting peace, stability and progress in Mindanao. The Brunei contingent to the international monitoring team has been with us since 2004. They continue to carry out their mission admirably including civic work to help our brothers and sisters in Mindanao. His Majesty has been providing scholarships for Pilipino Madrasa teachers and school administrators. This is important for us so that orthodox moderate Islam will be the norm in our Madrasas rather than the twisted radical Islam which breeds religious conflict. This year, we are looking forward to the completion of the grand mosque in Cotabato City donated by His Majesty.

In Brunei, His Majesty has been a benevolent and gracious host to some 22,000 Filipinos and their dependents. And this morning, he agreed to commute death sentence of a Filipino named Edgar Puson. Thank you very much, Your Majesty!

His Majesty and I will see each other again in Thailand later this month at the ASEAN Summit. We will be joining other leaders of the region to discuss national, regional and global issues that are of importance in these critical times—part of the solution to the current global economic crisis lies in expanded regional cooperation. In that regard, we have been working with ASEAN, and with ASEAN's dialogue partners China, Japan, Republic of Korea to enhance cooperation and coordination in our region. This includes efforts on financial surveillance and economic monitoring and to address credit tightening.

Among the efforts is a short term funding arrangement proposed by the Philippines that would help countries with liquidity challenges. And we are very grateful for His Majesty for this enthusiastic support of our proposal. In this global economic crisis, we are not only talking macroeconomics. There are people's lives at stake. In looking for a solution, the first thing we must do is to make sure that we don't inflict more damage or neglect the hardships of those most hurt by the global downturn. We thank Brunei for helping the poor in Mindanao through the lean global times with its role in seeking peace, which is a prerequisite for progress and by making the Brunei market more accessible thru development of Halal trade and transport linkages.

The Brunei market will help the Mindanao component of our administration's economic stimulus program. In this program, we have allocated funds for such priority areas as job creation and poverty reduction, agri-business and rural development, infrastructure spending, micro-economic reform, hunger mitigation and social development.

We are able to fund them because we took our economic medicine years ago thru fundamental economic reform that included raising taxes. In the spirit of gratitude for Brunei's commitment to our peace process and encouragement to

our economic aspirations, we welcome His Majesty's proposal for cooperation and agriculture especially rice production.

We wish His Majesty, Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness, all the best and all the success in the future. We wish Brunei Darussalam continued prosperity and progress in the next 25 years and beyond. Happy silver jubilee of your independent state and mabuhay!

Thank you. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's remarks during the State Banquet in Honor of HRH Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412105642/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19422&Itemid=38

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Remarks of President Arroyo during an informal interaction with former NPA rebels of Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales after the distribution of Certificates of Livelihood Assistance Awards (CLAWs)

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During an informal interaction with former NPA rebels of Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales after the
distribution of Certificates of Livelihood Assistance Awards (CLAWs)**

[Delivered at the Enrique Bacani covered court area, Natividad Elementary School, Brgy. Natividad, Guagua, Pampanga, March 4, 2009]

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

At gusto ko lang sabihin sa lahat muna, salamat pasibayu king pamimisanmetung tamu ngening aldo at samalat karing migbalik king lub ning kekatang lipunan.

Kailangan natin ang kapayapaan upang umunlad at magkaroon ng tuloy na progreso ang ating bansa.

Peace is an essential ingredient for progress and development. Today, we embrace our rebel brothers in the fold of unity and reconciliation. We will work together in ensuring that your gesture today will not be in vain.

Kung para sa bansa ay nilalaan ninyo ang inyong buhay at sarili, ngayon magtulong-tulong tayo para isulong ang kapakanan ng inyong pamilya at kinabukasan ng sambayanan. (Applause)

You do not need to sacrifice your lives for the future of your families and the nation. The sacrifice of hard work and persistence is what we, together, will undertake – tayo lahat.

Our economy has continuously grown in the last eight years — 36 quarters of positive growth never been achieved in past decades. We have accomplished infrastructure projects that in the past, were just dreams and aspirations by us Kapampangans and the people of Central Luzon, gaya ng constituents ni Congressman Alvarado at yung mga taga-Bataan, na kasama natin ngayon: the expansion and improvement of the North Luzon Expressway, the SCTEX, the Clark-Subic highway.

Mga daan at highways na dati ay pangarap lang natin ay ngayon atin nang dinadaan. (Applause)

But we can do more. The return of our brothers, who are here with us today, and the peace we endeavor for the entire nation are pillars we need to build in making a prosperous nation.

Ang pakikiisa ng ating mga kapatid na nandito sa araw na ito at ang kapayapaan na ating minimithi ang pundasyon ng bayan sa tuluyang pagkakaisa at kaunlaran.

Muli sa ating mga balik-loob, welcome back!

Sa ating mga Heneral at mga sundalo, maraming salamat.

Sa ating mga local officials, ay kayo na ang bahala sa ating mga nagbabalik.

Maraming salamat, dakal a salamat kekongan. (Applause)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's remarks during an informal interaction with former NPA rebels of Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales after the distribution of Certificates of Livelihood Assistance Awards (CLAWs). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412104358/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21774&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the 2009 Palarong Pambansa Opening Program [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa 2009 Panimulang Programa ng Palarong Pambansa**

[Ipinahayag sa Leyte Sports Development Center, Tacloban City, Leyte, April 28, 2009]

Maraming salamat Secretary Lapus at congratulations sa iyo at sa lahat ng mga opisyal ng DepEd (drum rolls) — thank you, thank you — sa lahat ng opisyal ng DepEd; sa mga opisyal ng Leyte; ating mga estudyante na nanggaling sa iba't-ibang lugar ng Pilipinas kasama nang kanilang coach, kasama nang kanilang mga opisyal; Vice President Noli de Castro at lahat ng mga national government officials na narito.

Maupay na aga ha iyo tanan. (applause) At congratulations sa probinsya ng Leyte sa pinakamalaking event sa Leyte sa nakaraang 25 years. (applause) Ang Palarong Pambansa ay programang preyoridad kaya narito tayo lahat ngayon, kaya narito ang pangulo at bise pangulo na karaniwang for security reasons hindi nagkakasama sa isang event. (applause) At ito ay para ipakita kung gaano kahalaga ang sports sa ating bansa.

Gaya nang sabi ng mga nagdasal ang sports... sports developed our youth hindi lamang sa kalusugan kundi na rin sa karakter, yung displina, yung kompiyansa sa sarili, yung pag-iisip kung sila'y tatalunin kailangan utakan mo ang kalaban mo at higit sa lahat ang teamwork. These are qualities that we need as a nation. At itong mga kalidad na ito ay din develop natin sa ating mga estudyante na mag-eensayo sa sports. Ito ay bahagi din ng isang komprehensibong programa na tutulong para magkaroon ang ating bansa ng mga katangian na pwedeng humarap sa mga immediate challenges sa ating bansa na nanggagaling sa krisis ng buong mundo kundi na rin ang ating saligang pag-unlad ng bansa na ikabubuti naman para sa ating kabataan ngayon.

Ang ating mga pinupuhunan sa imprastraktura gaya ng mga kalsada, airport at pantalan na dinaanan ninyo mga estudyante para pumunta rito pati na rin ang ating puhunan sa human capital kasama ang edukasyon, ang kalusugan kasama ang sports doon, ito ay sumusuporta sa programa ng ating bansa.

Working together as one nation and people, I am confident that we will not only survive but prosper in this time of global crisis. (applause)

Nawa'y itong Palarong Pambansa 2009 ay ipaiiral ang teamwork ng ating mga estudyante para na rin ipairal ang ating pagsama-sama bilang isang taongbayan. In this spirit, I NOW DECLARE THE 2009 PALARONG PAMBANSA OPEN. (applause)

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during the 2009 Palarong Pambansa Opening Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412103938/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24881&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the awarding ceremonies of the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service (COPS)

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the awarding ceremonies of the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service (COPS)**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, July 7, 2009]

Thank you very much Chito.

Vice President de Castro and other Cabinet members, Justice Corona and other members of the Board of Judges, Ambassador Desjardins of Canada, the members and officers of the Metrobank Foundation and Mr. Bongat and Mr. Garcia representing the other sponsors, our awardees. First of all, Congratulations!

I don't usually make a speech during this event because I want our Most Outstanding Cop to be the ones to make the speech. And I will not make one today. I just want to make an announcement, and I think it's very good that we do it here today especially considering the opening remarks of President Chito Sobrepeña about the challenges of peace and order today, which is not only in the Philippines but in the whole world. In fact, I have attended many conferences about the global economic crisis and many of them have said that with an economic crisis often comes a major challenge in peace and order.

In times of uncertainty it's important that our citizens feel safe and secure in their homes, in the neighborhoods, in their communities.

That is why I am taking this opportunity, as our valedictorian said about cops on the street. I am instructing General Versoza, the head of our PNP, to make sure that as you prepare, General, your budget proposal — and we have members of Congress here with us today whom I'm sure will support it — funds for putting 10,000 more cops on the street to increase public service.

And I hope our 10,000 new cops that will be funded by this budget will be able to find in our Ten Outstanding Policemen and Women models that they can emulate.

Once again, congratulations! and thank you.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during the awarding ceremonies of the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service (COPS). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101204/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25551&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during an inspection visit of the proposed hospital for the Dr. Eva Macaraeg Macapagal National Center for Geriatric Health [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pag-inspeksiyon ng panukalang ospital ng Dr. Eva Macaraeg Macapagal National Center for Geriatric Health**

[Ipinahayag sa Tahanan ng Masa, Malacañang complex, Manila, ika 8 ng Hulyo, 2009]

Thank you

Maraming salamat Pingkoy sa iyong pagpaliwanag.

At maraming salamat din Congressman Benny Abante sa ideya na ibinigay mo sa akin at advance Happy Birthday para sa July 15. (applause) Gusto ko sana July 15 natin gagawin ito pero nandoon ako sa Egypt on that day dahil sa Summit ng Non-Aligned Movement kaya ginawa na natin ito bago ng birthday ni Benny.

At gusto kong gamitin ang pagkakataon na magpasalamat sa lahat ng tumulong sa ating administrasyon dahil itong nakaraang walong taon ay nakapaghandog tayo ng serbisyo ng para sa kalusugan sa milyun-milyong mga mamamayan na hindi maka-abot sa mga ganitong serbisyo noong araw. Halimbawa, kaka-report lang ni Secretary Pingkoy Duque na 85 percent na ng ating mamamayan ay nakasakop na sa health insurance. (applause) Di ba kayo meron na kayo? Okay.

At saka bukod sa bagong hospital na sisimulain natin ngayon ay meron tayong tatlumput apat na ibang hospital na pinag-ibayo, major hospital na pinagibayo ng DOH. Ngunit para sa akin mas importante pa yung higit na isang daang maliliit na hospital at higit dalawang daang klinika sa probinsya na pinag-ibayo rin para sa ganun magkakaroon sila ng tinatawag na secondary care services gaya nang yung pwede kang manganak doon at pwede kang magkaroon ng simpleng operasyon doon kasi noong araw wala yuon. Yun ang isang makakapagpa-abot ng serbsiyo na dati wala noong araw.

At isa pang importante, nahati natin ang presyo ng gamot na madalas bilhin ng madla gaya nang hiniling ko nung aking SONA noong 2001 pa kaya para doon maraming, maraming salamat din kay Congressman Benny Abante (applause) at yung ibang ating mga kinatawan na nagpasa ng Cheaper Medicine Bill.

Kay para sa ating mga lolo at lola, congratulations dito sa regalo ni Benny sa kanyang birthday, at (applause) doon naman sa mga Office of the President at TELOF na nakatira dito or nag-oopisina dito meron naman tayong ibang paglilipatan. Yung halimbawa si Relie Fajardo na aking... — ayan nandoon si Ching Vargas ikaw ang mag-a-allocate sa kanila — at saka si Mona Valisno etong ating mga Presidential Assistants ay pwede naman doon sa Mabini at saka sa Arlegui o yun sa Gamma Building, yung Arlegui yung pinaglipatan nung buong OPS dahil lumipat sila sa Borloday ay maraming lugar pa doon. At yung dating bahay ni Dr. Basilio Valdez na sana ito nga ang gagawing ospital na sabi na huwag naman daw gibain dahil national treasure na yun halos ay yun nung araw Malacañang Clinic yun pero lumipat na ang Malacañang Clinic sa PSG Hospital, maliban sa dialysis, kaya meron ding lugar doon bukod sa lugar na binigay natin sa mga barangay captain dito na walang Barangay Hall dahil wala nang lugar, wala nang lupa, kaya merong paglilipatan.

Kaya ang importante yung dating tinayo bilang ospital ay gamitin natin muli bilang ospital, (applause) at yun na nga ang ospital para sa ating mga lolo at lola na inaalagaan ni Congressman Benny Abante.

Maraming salamat.

Congratulations at Happy Birthday muli, Benny!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during an inspection visit of the proposed hospital for the Dr. Eva Macaraeg Macapagal National Center for Geriatric Health. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412101117/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25574&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the closing program of the Pampanga Barangay Summit

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the closing program of the Pampanga Barangay Summit

[Delivered at the Bren Guiao Convention Center, Brgy. Lourdes, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, July 20, 2009]

Maraming salamat Secretary Puno sa iyong pagpakilala sa atin.

King kekatang Presidente naning ABC king probinsya y Board member Joel Simpauco (applause) at karing ali-aliwang opisyaales ning ABC ning Pampanga; king kekatang host congressman, Congressman Dong Gonzales (applause) y Congresswoman Anna York Bondoc (applause) ampo y congressman ning BUTIL y Congressman Guanlao (applause) y Dennis ampo karing ali-aliwang mayors keti king kekatang probinsya at siyempre karing kekatang opisyaales ning barangay keti pung king Pampanga.

Dakal a salamat keng imbitasyon yu kanaku. Matula ku miyabe tangan. Maulaga ya iting summit uling paintulutan na la ding barangay ning kekatamung probinsiya a makipag-ugnayan karing officials ning kekatamung gubyrno, makanyan mu naman karing kekayung mayors among opisyaales ning probinsiya, ban kanita, apasanting yu pa ing pamagserbisyu yu karing kekatang memalen.

Balu ye karing milabas a labing aduang bulan metung yang banwa para karing history books. Financial meltdown in the West linadlad king kabilugang yatu. Financial systems in the West mesira la agyang karing conservative financial systems keti king East were shaken to their foundations. Karing mararagul a lagyu king international finance, they fell into disrepute, they vanished overnight. Unbelievable and unprecedented amounts of money have been thrown at the problem. King kabilugan yatu tens of millions have lost their jobs; billions across the globe have been hurt, at karing nakalulu always hurt harder than the rich, oneng no one has been spared.

Keti king kekatamung bansa, mas masalese tamukumpara karing keraklan da ring aliwang bansa. Oneng apektado naman tamu. Ing kekatang economic growth meging mas mabaga, but as long as I have the people of Pampanga behind me, I don't have to be popular to do my work to be president. (applause) Because I became president not to be popular but to protect and to preserve our country and our people lalu na ngeni, lalu na from the full brunt of the global recession.

At uli ning suporta yu kanaku we were able to position ourselves to do that. Ding kekatamung reporma makasakit la oneng ing memie kakatamung atlumpu't atlung quarters alang patad a panyulung; at manibat king milukluk kung antimong presidente, our economy has more than doubled its size. Kanitang 2001 ing kekatamung ekonomiya 76 billion dollars ing produksyun na, ngeni 186 billion dollars. (applause) The poverty rate was brought down. Ing GNP it rose kanita aniang 2001 third world tamu, 967 dollars ing kekatang capita income, ngeni 2,000 dollars middle-class natamu. (applause) At mekasuporta tamu deng 7 million entrepreneurs at ating entrepreneurs kayabe keti kekatang probinsya Pampanga. We reversed our balance of payments deficit inyang linukluk ku atin tang deficit ngeni atin tang surplus atin tang more or less about 40 billion dollars as part of our reserves.

Makananu kasi we increased taxes in good times. Salamat karing kekatang Congresspersons alayupa kanita y Dong Gonzales atsu ne y Anna York Bondoc when he did the very difficult reforms. (applause) We raised taxes in good times and now we can increase spending in bad global times. Deng kakatamung reporma megdalang panakitan a pemuhunan king kekatamung bansa, bayung pera para karing dalan, ikit yu naman ing kekatang Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, ikit yu naman karing ali-aliwang barangay roads, karing barangay yu ding farm-to-market roads, karing tete, karing pantalan at bayung investments king serbisyung pangkalusugan, edukasyon among social services, ikit yu naman karing bayung eskwela tamu.

And ing masanting keti ikayu, the local governments are enjoying this year the biggest increase in internal revenue, 40 billion pesos (applause) for all the local governments. Sana ramdam yu king barangay yu ing meging mas maragul ing IRA yu king barangay. Makananu milyari ita? Kasi king batas atin atlung banuang lag para king computation ning share yu. Iniang 2006 megumpisa tamu meging mas maragul ing taxes tamu, king value added tax 100 billion pesos a year. Kaya three years later ing computation kayabe naku, kayabe na ning local governments, 40 percent of 40 billion pesos kayabe karing barangay.

Kaya aduan ku kekayu ngeni — let us provide stimulus to the economy, and what we're doing atin kung dagdag a pondo, atin kung priorities yu king national government among the things we're doing, extending welfare support to our people, expanding their spending power.

Yapin ing talagang gagawan tamu ngeni. Ing gubyerno, national government, gagawa yang targeted stimulus programs ampong magpalatag a masikan a safety net ban saupan ding peka-kalulu tamung memalen a lubhang magdusa king pamanghina na ning ekonomiya ning yatu. bat karing karagdagang penakitan tamu menibat karing kekatamung reporma, ginawa tamung Economic Resiliency Program, a memie mabilisang kapanintunan ampong oportunidad karing talapagobrang milako king obra ampong ding aliwa pang sektor antimo ding kayanakan a kailangan maging produktibo. Ing tutu na niti, keti king Pampanga ya milunsad ing national Youth Service Corps, a mamie karing kayanakang edad disiotso anggang beinte kwatro tsansang makasaup king panyulung na ning bansa kabang manakitan la. Sana ikit yuna kaniting programa king karing barangay yu.

Tatabi ta la ding peka-mabayat a epekto na ning kasalukuyang pamanghina ning ekonomiya ning yatu, kabang tatalakad ta ya in metung a bansang buri tamu para karing kekatamu ampong para karing anak tamu. Patuloy tamung gawan iti. King panig ku naman, bibie ku ngan ing agyu ku. At balu ku a mag-obra kayung masalese ban makabenepisyu ing bansa ustung mibawi ya ing yatu. (applause) Kanakung kabalen na Barangay officials, manalig ku kekayu. Uling palagi yung bibie kanaku ing kekayung todung suporta, dakal a salamat king suporta yu.

Kaya minsan pa, manalig ku king kekatamung pamisanmetung ampong kasipagan y ban patuloy yeng gawan ing Pampanga bilang maragul a contributor king panyulung na ning Pilipinas. (applause) Ing Pampanga dapat ipagmaragul tamu, milyari ing Pinatubo kekatamu, oneng agyang milyari ing Pinatubo kekatamu, itamu pa kayabe karing top 10 provinces ning kekatang bansa (applause) kaya itamu ing gubyerno nasyonal ampo ding gubyerno lokal kayabe da ring taga barangay palagi tamung masasaupan masalese.

Kaya dakal a salamat king lagi yung suporta at keti naman ing suportaning kekatang gobyerno para kekayu.

Dakal pong salamat kekongan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the closing program of the Pampanga Barangay Summit. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615090630/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25718&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the new building of the Cagayan State University (CSU)

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of the new building of the Cagayan State University (CSU)**

[Delivered at the Tuguegarao campus, Cagayan State University, August 28, 2009]

Dios agngina unay, Apo Pari Rannie, agyamanak ti introduction yo kanyak. Ken congratulations ta sika ti maysa dagiti brightest legal minds in our country today.

Apo Governor Antonio ken amin nga opisyaes ti probinsiya ti Cagayan; Apo Congressman Manny Mamba; Apo Mayor Ting ken amin nga opisyaes ti syudad ti Tuguegarao; Apo Perez ken amin nga opisyaes, maestras, maestros ken estudyante ti Cagayan State University; (applause) Apo Bishop Villena; Apo Secretary Bebot Bello ken amin kaduwa ko gapo Malacañang, dagiti kakailyan, naimbag nga aldaw yo amin ken agyamanak ti napudot nga pag-welcome yo kanyak.

Napudot konak not only because you have been so kind in your welcome ngem diay lugan itattay, nagsarita kami ni Governor, Congressman ken City Mayor nga ti Cagayan iso ti kinapudutan nga probinsiya ti intero nga pagilyan. Apay? Kunada, because Cagayan is between two very high mountain ranges and so the mountain ranges keep the cooling wind away from this valley. Ngem uray napudot, napintas unay, very fertile ti Great Cagayan River Valley.

Dagiti maysa aldaw, napanak diay Mindanao, diay Mindanao River Basin. Ken kunada, we must be proud of the Mindanao River Basin because it is the second greatest river basin in the country. And I said, “Yes, next only to the Cagayan River Basin.”

Iso nga napintas nga siyak, nga ti center of excellence ti Cagayan State University, iso ngarud diay Fisheries, diay Marine Science ken sapay kuma, diay Agri-Business. Ta importante ta no anya ti inted ni Apo Dios kadatayo, of natural resources, we should develop them with our human resources, our talent and our capital.

Kuna ngarud ni President Perez nga haan agpayso nga kurang ti suporta ti national government dagidiay State Universities and Colleges. There is a study of the Task Force on Education that says that in fact although State Universities and Colleges charged less than Private Universities and Colleges, the actual cost per student is higher in the State Universities and Colleges. That is why your low fees mean that it is the government paying for the rest of the expenses.

Iso nga haan laeng ti no anya ti ited ni Dios kadakayo, of the natural resources of the Great Cagayan River Valley but also no anya ti ited ti national government kadakayo, sapay kuma that our students, our outstanding students as evidence by all the topnotchers you have produced, that the students will use all of these bounties — natural and financial — for the good of the Great Cagayan River Valley and the Great Republic of the Philippines.

Dios agngina kadakayo amin ken congratulations!

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s speech during the inauguration of the new building of the Cagayan State University (CSU). Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412100212/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26196&Itemid=38

Meeting of President Arroyo with NIC Commissioner Eduardo Malinis and Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera

**Meeting
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
With NIC Commissioner Eduardo Malinis and Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera**

[Held in Malacañang, October 11, 2009]

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered an immediate processing of insurance claims of victims of typhoons “Ondoy and Pepeng” with corresponding legal assistance from the Department of Justice.

In a meeting in Malacañang with National Insurance Commission (NIC) Chairman Eduardo Malinis and Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera, the president asked for quick payment of all insurance claims of victims of typhoons.

The President also directed Justice Sec. Devanadera to create a taskforce that will assist the victims in whatever legal problems they might encounter in the processing of the claims.

Malinis had stated in a press briefing that NIC had already talked to insurance companies last week and they gave assurances that they will cooperate with the government for the speedy settlement of claims. An estimate of about P11 billion worth of property claims are expected from the victims of typhoons “Ondoy and Pepeng” and another P1 billion from motor vehicles.

Sec. Devanadera, on the other hand, said that they will increase the number of National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents deployed in the National Capital Region and Northern Luzon to monitor the prices of commodities and apprehend violators.

The DOJ will also see to it that those caught violating the price ceiling of goods set by the Department of Trade and Industry will be punished to the full extent of the law.(MDF)

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). Meeting with NIC Commissioner Eduardo Malinis and Justice Sec. Agnes Devanadera. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134140/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26446&Itemid=38

Obligatory Prayer of President Arroyo

Obligatory Prayer of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines

[Delivered on October 21, 2009]

ORATIO IMPERATA

Almighty Father, we raise our hearts to You in gratitude for the wonders of creation of which we are part, for Your Divine Providence in sustaining our needs, and for Your Wisdom that guides the course of the universe.

As we face typhoons, floods, volcanic and other calamities we trustingly seek Your help, aware that You are the Master of Creation.

We acknowledge that as an entire humanity we have not been good stewards of Nature. We have confused Your command to subdue the earth.

The environment is made to suffer our wrongdoing, and now we reap the harvest of abuse and indifference.

Global warming is upon us. Natural calamities occur in increasing numbers and intensity.

We turn to You, our loving Father, and beg forgiveness for our sins.

We humbly beg that we be spared from the dire consequences of calamities.

We beseech You to inspire us all to grow into responsible stewards of Your creation, and generous neighbors to those in need.

Amen.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). Oratio Imperata. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615134040/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26594&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the awarding of the 2009 ‘Go Negosyo’ Most Inspiring Bataeno Entrepreneurs and Microentrepreneurs [Filipino]

**Pangungusap
ng
Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa paggagawad ng parangal sa 2009 ‘Go Negosyo’ Most Inspiring Bataeno Entrepreneurs and Microentrepreneurs**

[Ipinahayag sa Bataan People’s Center, Balanga City, Bataan, ika 6 ng Nobyembre, 2009]

Maraming salamat.

Thank you very much, Joey Concepcion for your very kind introduction. Magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat. Maupo na kayo, tanghali na, hindi ho ako magtatagal.

Una sa lahat, gusto kong batiin ang ating mga opisyal dito sa Bataan: si Governor Tet Garcia; si Congressman Abet Garcia; ang nagwagi lately sa PCCI ng Most Outstanding Business-Friendly City sa ating bansa, si Mayor Joet Garcia; yung iba’t-ibang mga mayor na narito; si Vice Governor Apeng Roman na isang entrepreneur din doon sa aking bayan ng Lubao pati sa Amerika; ang aking kasamahan sa DTI, si Merly Cruz; ang ating mga nagwagi na mga Outstanding Micro- Entrepreneurs and Small Entrepreneurs who became big, congratulations sa inyo; ang Bataan Chamber na nagco-sponsor nitong inyong gawain at ako ay nasisiyahan na makita ang Bataan Chamber na napakalaki na ngayon, kasi noong ako ay nasa DTI, noong yung puwesto ko yung puwesto ni Merly Cruz, at nung ang boss ko ay si Secretary Joe Concepcion — ay! Mrs. Garcia, good... — yung tatay ni Joey Concepcion, doon sa Cindy’s sa Balanga, sinimulaan namin yung Bataan Chamber of Commerce and Industry kaya ako’y nasisiyahan na narito ngayon.

At ang ganda-ganda ng mga negosyo nung mga nagwagi ng premyo, congratulations sa inyong lahat! At dahil tuwing Biyernes ay Climate Change Day, I cannot help but add na sana magkaroon tayo ng mga negosyante at entrepreneur lalo na yung mga nagsisimulang maliliit na sinusubaybayan ng Go Negosyo ng mga iba’t-ibang mga maliliit na negosyo na puwedeng lumaki pagkatapos na nagsasagip sa ating kalikasan kontra sa climate change.

Isa na dito halimbawa, ayaw natin yung nagtotroso, so dapat meron tayong mga negosyo na panghalip sa pagtotroso, sa pagkakaintindi ko, isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit merong mga small-scale logging or even medium-scale logging ay ginagamit para sa charcoal, yuong basura ay puwedeng gawing charcoal. Ang puhunan mga P200 to P500,000 lamang. At may teknolohiya ang DOST at DENR para makatulong dito. Sana yung Go Negosyo ay katulong natin, kabalikat natin para nga magkaroon tayo ng mga maliliit na negosyo sa organic or charcoal from waste, charcoal briquetting machine.

Pagkatapos isa pa ang puwedeng mangyari, kailangan natin ng maraming housing ngayon dahil kailangan ilipat yung mga nakatira sa mga mapanganib na lugar na laging binabaha na ngayon dahil sa climate change. Meron ding puwedeng panggalingan ng basura, yung recyclable plastic, yung plastic — ano bang pangalan doon? — yung makina, yung recycled plastic ay puwedeng gawing construction materials, puwedeng gawing — tawag doon — yung mga imbes na hollow blocks, yung mga plastic blocks para sa pavement, para sa dingding at yun ay half a million pesos lamang ang puhunan. At ang kabutihan nito ay makakatulong ito sa mabawasan natin ang basura dahil basura rin ang isang malaking pinanggagalingan ng ating baha. At yun ding isang importante ay dapat ay yung ating mga daanan ng tubig, dinadaluyan ng tubig ay very clear. Kanina noong papunta kami rito, meron akong nakitang senyas doon sa isang restaurant, tabi ng ilog, na “alagaan natin ang ating ilog, huwag magtapon ng basura,” ang ganda-ganda nung ganong klaseng paalala.

At yung water lily, masamang-masama yun para sa ating water waste pero puwedeng gawing handicraft ang waterlily. Kaya itong mga ganitong klaseng negosyo, makakaiwas sa climate change, makakaiwas sa baha,

makakatulong sa mga napipinsala ng baha. Kaya sana sa mga darating na panahon, ang magwawagi ng mga gantimpala ay kasama yung mga pumasok sa ganitong klaseng maliliit na negosyo.

Muli, sa ating mga outstanding negosyante ng Bataan, whether small, big or micro, congratulations muli sa inyong lahat!

Maraming salamat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's remarks during the awarding of the 2009 'Go Negosyo' Most Inspiring Bataeno Entrepreneurs and Microentrepreneurs. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100615133915/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26764&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the formal turnover ceremony of the Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMax) Internet Connection under the Smart Schools Program

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the formal turnover ceremony of the Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMax)
Internet Connection under the Smart Schools Program**

[Delivered at the Paguiruan High School, Brgy. Paguiruan, Floridablanca, Pampanga, November 11, 2009]

Dakal a salamat Jing. Ing kekatang Kapampangan a Secretary of Education.

At siyempre ali yaku ing guest of honor yu ngening aldo, ing kekatang guest of honor ing chairman ning Smart ampo ning PLDT, Chairman Manny Pangilinan. Kapampangan ya naman taga Apalit. At siyempre salamat kang Mayor Guerrero keng masanting a sinabi na nandin. And we would also like to welcome the chairman of the National Telecommunications Commission Liel Cordova, at ing representative na keti king Region III atyu keti y Director Sichon, at ing mayor ning Masantol y Mayor Tito Flores and our neighbor from Bataan the colleague of Manny Pangilinan in Smart, si Ginong Doy Vera.

Muna pu pasalamatan taya y Manny Pangilinan, ene akalingwan ing probinsiya na, laging sasaup kekatamu. At ngeni ing saup na ngening aldo, iti na pin ing Internet connection, ing WiMax connection keti pu king Paguiruan at ampo king San Basilio king Sta. Rita, maraming, maraming salamat, Manny. Dakal a salamat kekayu.

Dakal a salamat Smart, king Smart Schools program kalupa ning sinabi nang Manny Pangilinan there are now 270 schools under the Smart Schools programs all over the country. And this is a God-send contribution and aspiration, kalupa ning sinabi ng Secretary Jesli Lapuz nandin, to provide computer connectivity in every high school.

Lagi kung ulit-ulitan, buri tamu ing ICT, ing Technology ya ing maging pundasyon ning kekatang progreso. Inya pang 2001 sa aking unang State of the Nation Address, sinabi ko na ito, dapat teknolohiya ang basehan ng ating kaunlaran. At sinabi ko pa noon ang magiging bagong mga industriya na magdadala sa atin ng kaunlaran sa mga darating na mga panahon ay iyong Skills Intensive Service Sectors gaya ng ICT at ng tourism. At sa ICT ang unang-unang kailangan, the first step to achieve this, is to build up telecommunications infrastructure, and all from the market for internet calls, connectivity is a must. Kaya pin ing kekatang programa kesa dakal a computer king balang eskwela, importante at de agyang ditak mu keng computers konektadu la keng internet. And I hope that in times when there is no internet café, I hope that the internet facilities in the public high schools can also serve as a community tele center aside from being a computer lab.

We also thank Manny for many things that he has done to promote ICT. Kanita anyang earthquake king Taiwan, atin tang interruption king kekatang internet services, pero si Manny ing PLDT, yung Smart, yung iba conglomerate hindi ko na alam which company, ay gumawa sila ng gateway, telecommunications gateway mula sa La Union para anuman mangyari sa ibang lugar, ibang bansa, magkaroon ng tsunami, magkaroon ng earthquake, magkaroon ng bagyo, tuluy-tuloy pa rin ang ating communications sa labas ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng internet at international telecommunications.

At y Manny ay Kapampangan dakal pin ing asaup na kekatamu, ngeni ena kailangan maggamit pa king helicopter, nung bisa tang maranun miras king Pampanga, uling kasanting na ning NLEX ampong SCTEX. Ing NLEX gobyerno ya oneng ing NLEX ing mikibandi ninu iya alang aliwa nung y Manny Pangilinan. Ketu balu ku ding kayanakan ing magbenepisyo king WiMax, midinan inspirasyon king gawa nang Manny, kaya Manny thank you so much. Dakal a salamat Manny Pangilinan, maraming salamat Smart at talagang hindi kayo makalilimutan ng ating susunod na henerasyon.

Maraming salamat, dakal a salamat kekongan, at mayap a oras kekongan.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2009). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during the formal turnover ceremony of the Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMax) Internet Connection under the Smart Schools Program. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100412092419/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26806&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the Ifugao State University

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the inauguration of the Ifugao State University

[Delivered at the Ifugao State University Gymnasium, Brgy. Nayon, Lamut, Ifugao, January 6, 2010]

Dios ti agngina unay.

Apo Vice Governor Dinamling ken ti intero nga Provincial Board. Dios ti agngina unay, agyamanak ti resolution nga siyak ket maysa nga anak ti Ifugao.

Apo Congressman Chungalao; Apo Governor Baguilat; amin nga opisyaales ti Ifugao; Chairman Angeles and the other officials of CHED; President Ngohayon ken amin nga administrasyon, faculty ken estudyante ti baro nga Ifugao State University. Congratulations kada kayo amin!

Agyamanak nga akas maysa nga anak ti Ifugao, kaduwak ti panang-convert ti Ifugao State College iti maysa nga university. Maysa kadagiti naaramid tayo, kakaduwa tayo, tano matuloy ti progreso ti probinsiya ti Ifugao.

Siguro maysa nga rason apay siyak ket maysa nga anak ti Ifugao tatta, ta kanayon agbisita ak ti Ifugao, almost every year — agbisita ak ti Ifugao, agbisita ak ti Rice Terraces. Siyak ket maysa nga tourist guide dagiti naduma-duma nga VIPs ta kayat da nga makita dagiti Rice Terraces tayo. And in fact, last May, last Holy Week, umayak kuma but as you all very well know, my advance party, my senior staff had a fatal accident ken agyamanak dagiti opisyaales ken dagiti umili ti Ifugao nga nakatulong tano marecover the cadavers early enough to be able to have a decent burial for my beloved senior staff. Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin manen.

Idi Mayo, idi Holy Week, kayat ko koma nga umay haan laeng tano makita dagidiay Rice Terraces manen kadua dagidiay balikbayan koma nga bisitak, no di ket kayat ko met nga ma-inspect ti Halsema Highway ta iso ti maysa nga paboritok nga proyekto ti intero nga pagilyan. And I'm very happy, iso ket maysa nga para kanyak maysa nga paboritok nga kalsada nga infrastructure project ta ti papang ko, ni Presidente Diosdado Macapagal, iso ti immuna nga nagaramid ti Halsema Highway idi Presidente na. Ken itatta, kayat ko nga it will be repaired, upgraded, rehabilitated and reach all the way to the Rice Terraces. Meaning, all the way up to Ifugao. Siyempre sabali nga kalsada para makaasideg diay Rice Terraces. Ngem uray haanak nakaumay idi Holy Week ta instead of coming here, napan kami diay Manila to bury our... to pay respects to the dead for the wake, para kanyak, agyamanak ken maragsakanak nga maamuwan that the Ifugao portion of the Halsema Highway has been completed, and I'm very happy and I congratulate you all for that.

Iso laeng ti maysa ngem importante nga maysa dagiti sab-sabali nga proyekto tayo, iso ngarud para dagiti umili ti Ifugao. And I'm very happy that the tourists are appreciating our beautiful Rice Terraces and I have been told that they find it much more convenient now to come to visit ta napipintasen dagidiay kalsada.

Ken siyempre importante no nasiyaat dagidiay kalsada, nasiyaat met haan laeng ti physical infrastructure no di ket met ti human infrastructure. Ken iso ket importante ti edukasyon. Idtoy Cordillera idi pay, napintasen ti tradisyon ti edukasyon ti intero nga Cordillera. And ti namnamak nga idtoy baro nga university tayo, iso ti mangitulong tano matuloy ti tradisyon of excellent education in the Cordilleras and the province of Ifugao.

Dios ti agngina ken congratulations met kada kayo amin.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during the inauguration of the Ifugao State University. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100410090049/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27233&Itemid=38

Activities of President Arroyo at the Vin d' Honneur

Activities of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines At the Vin d' Honneur

[Held at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, January 20, 2010]

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo received the members of the Diplomatic Corps as the annual New Year's Vin d' Honneur was celebrated at the Rizal Hall in Malacanang Palace this afternoon.

The President started her statement with a silent prayer dedicated for the late Press Secretary Cerge Remonde. She also offered her sympathies to the people devastated by the Haiti earthquake.

Her administration's achievements were the highlight of President Arroyo's speech. The President began with the economic resilience of the country through the height of global recession. She said that the country achieved the lowest average inflation and reached the highest average GDP growth and average annual job creation despite the economic crisis.

Furthermore, President Arroyo said that her government concentrated on providing jobs and investment on human and physical infrastructure. Thus, her nine years of governance reached the highest average annual job creation. She also mentioned that health care services were improved, electricity and potable water were supplied to unreachable areas of the country, more schools were built for the Filipino youth and internal transportation system was constructed. She continued with the accomplishments of her administration with the evident increase in tourism and BPO industry.

Towards the end of her speech, President Arroyo expressed the importance of education to the Filipino youth thus boosted education investments. The President called for the youth to help in creating a safer and lesser violent Philippines.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). Vin d' Honneur. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100410085932/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27320&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the eulogy and conferment (posthumous) of the Order of Lakandula, Rank of Bayani on the late Press Secretary Cerge Remonde

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the eulogy and conferment (posthumous) of the Order of Lakandula, Rank of Bayani on the late Press
Secretary Cerge Remonde**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang, January 21, 2010]

It is my very sad honor to welcome to Malacañan Palace for the last time our dear friend and colleague, the late Secretary Cerge Remonde, who passed away last Tuesday as the peak of his second career — the first career in journalism and the second career in public service. He reached the peak of journalism; he reached the peak of public service as a Cabinet member. And so he deserved it all.

Cerge gave fully of himself for the sake of our country both in government for the last nine years and in media since he was 18 years old. I remember Cerge interviewing me frequently over the phone in Cebuano when I was still a new senator. That exposure helped me because it made many people in the Visayas and Mindanao realize that I spoke Cebuano and that culminated in my landslides in 1995 and 1998 and in 2004 in the Visayan speaking provinces of Visayas and Mindanao.

Also when I was a senator, not in politics but in our governance work. When we would discuss in caucus proposed measures that involve media Cerge was always quoted, was always consulted, was considered a leader among stakeholders whose opinion we should always take into account.

I learned early then to take Cerge's opinion into account and that was carried on not only in my work as senator but in my work as president with Cerge beside me. So, I looked at him that way in his various capacities in our government. He came in as Press undersecretary, then head of Channel 13, then head of Channel 9, then head of all government media, then head of PMS, and finally press secretary.

He was a very sensitive person. When he would be hurt, he would let me know about it, and we'd always make up. But he was also a person of very wise counsel. His questions even in Cabinet meetings, in discussions and debates, were questions that a journalist would ask. He always brought the journalist perspective into our discussions. And that made us the better for the decisions that we made.

We've been talking about Cerge for days now and, indeed, I could see how loved he was. But I had a glimpse of that already when he was leaving the PMS to become press secretary, the PMS Senior staff were telling me how sad they were to see him go. And he himself was feeling so fulfilled in PMS that he hesitated to become press secretary but then as we said in the beginning he had given his life for his country and it was also for his country and for me that he decided to accept to be press secretary.

Now, he is here with us for the last time in Malacañang. We mourn the loss of this faithful and talented mediaman and public servant. Many of you here, I am sure, remember him for his charm. He always had a great sense of humor. His wit and his solicitude for individuals as well as for his ideals. His love for people as well as his principles.

Cerge, we will miss you. But as you have Señor Sto. Niño beside you, and as Marit said last night, Sto. Niño and Sinulog have played such important parts in the milestones in Cerge's life. We pray that you are now singing "Pit Señor" in heaven.

Goodbye, Cerge. Rest in Peace.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during the eulogy and conferment (posthumous) of the Order of Lakandula, Rank of Bayani on the late Press Secretary Cerge Remonde. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100407235336/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27350&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the inauguration of the Alphaland Southgate Tower and Mall

Remarks of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President of the Philippines During the inauguration of the Alphaland Southgate Tower and Mall

[Delivered at Chino Roces Ave. (Pasong Tamo Ext.) cor. EDSA, Makati City, January 21, 2010]

Thank you, thank you.

Thank you very much Mr. President, whom we used to call Baby Oreta when we were teenagers.

Bobby and the Alphaland and Ashmore team, Alphaland Corporation and the partner Ashmore Investment Limited, for seeing the potential of a decrepit shell of a building in a prime site. Thank you for doing together Alphaland and Ashmore. Thank you to Bobby. Thank you to Eric. Thank you to Mario. Thank you to Mr. Dawes and the rest of the Ashmore team. Thank you and congratulations because today's inauguration of Alphaland Southgate Tower and Mall is a testament to the bold vision of your management matched with the strong will to produce results. And thank you to Ashmore, for being part of the Billion- Dollar Club of the Philippines.

You are putting into the country so far more than a billion dollars, in fact, three billion in investments not including the enumeration that Bobby made during his remarks, is a testament to your foresight and your strong will to increase wealth in the world.

But I'm also proud to say that what you have done is a testimony on how the level of economic activity in this country has improved, as highlighted by the expansion of various Philippine conglomerates like Ayala Corporation, whose development we see all around us; San Miguel Corporation, we have Ramon Ang here; the Gokongwei companies, and I'm glad that JG Summit is one of your forthcoming partners; Jollibee Foods; SM of Henry Sy who will be your neighbor when you have your development in Alphaland Bay City; and now Ashmore.

But even as the top 1,000 corporations to the Philippines have increased their income from 100 billion pesos in year 2000 to 700 billion last year. Prosperity is not by no means limited to the top because more mediumsize businesses have also flourished, and the rate of houses being built in our administration surpasses that of other administrations.

Two million have graduated from extreme poverty. The size of the middleclass has also increased considerably. This increases the demand and the production for consumer goods and other items, and I hope that this increase in the middle-class augurs well for the Alphaland Mall because they will be your tenants.

Alphaland is showing other investors how commitment should be matched by action; how vision can be transformed into tangible and fruitful projects.

Yes, thank you for making this symbol of uselessness become a symbol of hope. Together, let us all work in common purpose to get back on the path of sustainable growth, not only for the Philippines but to our world partner for the whole world.

So, thank you, Alphaland and Ashmore for helping us show the way. And congratulations once again!

Salamat.

Source: www.op.gov.ph

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during the inauguration of the Alphaland Southgate Tower and Mall. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100410085823/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27363&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the inauguration of Sagñay-Tiwi Road and inspection of the parish operated Botika ng Barangay

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the inauguration of Sagñay-Tiwi Road and inspection of the parish operated Botika ng Barangay**

[Delivered in Sagñay, Camarines Sur, May 31, 2010]

Thank you.

Maraming salamat Secretary Cabral sa iyong pagpakilala. Umupo na kayo lahat.

Maraming salamat din Congressman Fuentebella at lahat ng mga opisyal ng Partido at Sagñay sa inyong mainit na pagtanggap sa aming grupo, si Secretary Cabral at saka si Secretary Vic Domingo ng DPWH.

Gaya nang sabi ni Congressman Fuentebella para sa akin parang tinuturing ko ang aking sarili bilang bahagi ng nakalikha ng Partido. Gawa nang ginawa ni Congressman Fuentebella ang batas sa House ng Partido Development Authority ako po ang author ng Partido Development Authority sa Senado po kaya po ako ang partner.

At nung nga ako ay naging pangulo at yung potensyal ng PDA. Naalala ko ang kalsadang ito na ininaugurate natin ngayon yan ay merong pautang sana nung hindi pa ako nakaupo kaya lang ang problema yung mga nakaraan pag utang akala nila hindi na kailangan ilagay sa budget pero kailangan pa rin. Kasi ang prinsipyo ng budget doon kung halimbawa one trillion ang budget eh ang pera natin ay P700 billion lamang, P300 billion ay pautang pero kailangan nasa budget pa rin. Kaya dahil ako ay ekonomista nung ako'y umupo bilang pangulo, alam ko yun, na kahit na utang hindi yun over and above the budget kailangan bahagi ng budget, kailangan isama sa budget. Kaya sinama natin ito itong Sagñay-Tiwi Road doon sa budget kaya meron kayong kalsada ngayon.

At isang importanteng dahilan din kung bakit importante itong kalsadang ito ay bahagi doon sa tinatawag kong programa ng Super Regions. Yung Super Regions po ay kasi meron tayong 16 regions sa ating bansa pero kung tutuusin mo meron tayong mga limang Super Region na may sariling likas na katangian para yun ang magiging pangagalingan ng kaunlaran. At ang Bicol ay sinasama natin sa Central Philippines Super Region dahil ang kinabukasan ninyo ay ang turismo. Ang gaganda ng inyong mga baybay meron kayong Atulayan dito eh nung araw pa nung anak ko ay estudyante sa Ateneo de Naga pinupuntahan na nila yun. So ibig sabihin wala pang advertisement dinadayo na lalo na kung ituloy sana yung tinatawag nating Super Region para sa ganun yang Atulayan ay maging sanhi ng kaunlaran ng Sagñay at ibang bahagi ng Southern Partido District. Kaya importante itong kalsada, itong kalsadang ay patungo doon sa Atulayan.

Ngayon po importante rin na kung meron tayong economic activity gaya ng turismo kailangan din naman merong mga serbisyo para sa pinakamahirap. At itong serbisyo na ginawa ng ating pamahalaan ay yung para sa kalusugan yung murang gamot. Nung hinahanda ko ang pagbisita ko dito nalaman ko na wala na pala kayong Botika ng Barangay dito pero meron dati tinayo ng Parish Pastoral Council pero ang nangyari ay nagkakulang ng pondo at dahil una hindi nakakuha ng lisensya sa Department of Health. Bakit hindi nakakuha ng lisensya sa Department of Health? Dahil kailangan para magkaroon ng parmasya dapat may pharmacist, eh wala palang pharmacist so hindi nabigyan ng lisensya. Kaya ngayon ang sabi ko eh kung wala sila ng Botika ng Barangay o Bayan na nagbebenta ng murang gamot maglagay tayo at nalaman nga yung mga problemang yun.

Kaya itong araw na ito pupuhunan natin muli ng panibago — di ba, Espie itong Botika ng Barangay? — at bibigyan ng pharmacist. Pero ang pharmacist ay hindi lamang para dito kasi siyempre naman hindi rin makakaya bayaran yung pharmacist baka malugi na naman kayo muli Father kaya ang pharmacist ay magpepwesto sa probinsya bayad ng national government pero nakaupo sa probinsya sa kapitolyo para lumibot sa mga bayan na walang pharmacist para magko-comply sa requirement na may pharmacist kayo.

So, yun sa ekonomiya yung kalsada. Sa pagkalinga yung parmasyang murang gamot.

Kanina sinabi ni Congressman Fuentebella, congratulations sa ating DPWH sa pamumuno ng inyong district engineer. Nagpasalamat na tayo sa namumuno, magpasalamat naman tayo doon sa mga nagtrabaho sa kanilang kamay. Magpasalamat tayo sa manggagawa tawagin natin isa sa kanila, si Salvador Gacer bilang magpasalamat sa kanya at magkaroon ng ating kwento kung papano ang imprastraktura, ang pagtayo ng imprastraktura ay nakakatulong sa pagbigay ng trabaho. Ano, kamusta ka?

PGMA interacts with Salvador Gacer.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during the inauguration of Sagñay-Tiwi Road and inspection of the parish operated Botika ng Barangay. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609075943/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28005&Itemid=38

Remarks of President Arroyo during the ceremonial pledge of the New Career Executive Service Officers and presentation of the Career Executive Service Digest

**Remarks
of
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines
During the ceremonial pledge of the New Career Executive Service Officers and presentation of the Career Executive Service Digest**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang, April 5, 2010]

Good afternoon, everyone.

(Attendees singing “Happy Birthday” to the President who is celebrating her 63rd Birthday)

Thank you, thank you.

Thank you very much for your birthday greetings.

As I told the... first of all, congratulations for the launching of your digest and as I told the members of your Board, while I was launching the digest, well, I thank you for your birthday greetings. This is my only birthday event aside from the mass, my birthday mass in Lubao.

I had many invitations especially to inaugurate flagship infrastructure projects but I felt that we have been already highlighting many projects related to physical capital and on my birthday, I want to highlight that we have not only develop physical capital, we have develop human capital especially in our civil service.

Today, we are congratulating the CESOs that I appointed between November and March 10. But I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the CESOs not only that I appointed between November last year and March 10 this year but also those that I appointed from the beginning of my administration. I want to congratulate all our CESOs that we appointed in government for your unprecedented rise during our administration.

Ric Saludo, the predecessor of Pingkoy Duque is not here now, but he sent me some statistics. He said before 2001, one-third of CESO positions went to CESOs, but during our administration now CESOs occupy the majority of CESO positions. So, that's a very big increase, not only that many CESOs have been appointed as Cabinet members and heads of agencies. For instance, we had the late Emy Boncodin as Secretary of DBM; we have Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, Secretary of DOLE and now chairman of the DBP. We have Secretary Nitoy Roque, who rose from the ranks starting as a Labor Attache, Deputy of OWWA in my administration, OWWA Head, and now Secretary of Labor. We have Celia Yangco of DSWD. He's not here because he is not at my beck and call being independent of the national government; we have the Central Bank Governor Say Tetangco. And looking here on the front row, we have Horace Ramos of DENR; (applause) we have Vic Domingo of DPWH although his CESO was in the DTI. And then we have Anne Lontoc who just took her oath as CESO, one of those who became CESO over the past five months and now she is the Secretary of Transportation.

We have heads of agencies, for instance, Jeremy Barns, the new Head of the National Museum, is a CESO. So, Mona, our new Secretary of Education, is also a CESO. And we have Nina Alabastro, our Secretary of Science and Technology is also a CESO. We have Mai Jimenez who is our representative in the Asian Development Bank, she's also a CESO.

So, from the Cabinet, all the way down to undersecretaries to heads of agencies everywhere, I have tried to make it really a policy that which is prescriptive because many presidents have really not followed it, but as long as there is

a CESO who is applying for a given position, that CESO always has the priority. That's why now majority of the positions have come from CESOs.

So, I'm very glad to have this birthday, and I want to thank all of you for spending my birthday with me. I want to say, thank you but in return, Mabuhay ang ating mga CESO sa gobyerno!

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Source: **www.op.gov.ph**

Macapagal-Arroyo, G. (2010). President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's remarks during the ceremonial pledge of the New Career Executive Service Officers and presentation of the Career Executive Service Digest. Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20100609080210/http://www.op.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27782&Itemid=38

